

How many Au atoms in a nanoparticle?

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Solution: First, we need to calculate the volume of the sphere. The diameter is 10 nm so the radius is 5 nm.

$$V = \frac{4\pi r^3}{3} = \frac{4\pi(5 \times 10^{-9} \text{ m})^3}{3} = 5.235 \times 10^{-25} \text{ m}^3$$

Then we use the density to determine the mass and the molar mass to determine the number of moles. Finally, use Avagadro's number of convert to a number of atoms.

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We can write out these steps in symbolic form. First, we calculate the mass

$$m = \rho V$$

and then the number of moles

$$n = \frac{\rho V}{M_m}$$

and then the number of molecules

$$N = \frac{N_A \rho V}{M_m}$$

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and then the number of molecules

$$N = \frac{N_A \rho V}{M_m}$$

We can plug in the values:

$$N = \frac{(6.022 \times 10^{23})(19000)(5.235 \times 10^{-25})(1000)}{79}$$

which gives $N = 75,000$.

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The unit analysis is:

$$N = \frac{\left(\frac{\text{molecules}}{\text{mole}}\right) \left(\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}\right) (\text{m}^3) \left(1000 \frac{\text{gm}}{\text{kg}}\right)}{\frac{\text{gm}}{\text{mol}}}$$

The units are the only tricky part here. When using M_m

We often need to use the factor of 1000 to convert to kg in order to be compatible with MKS units.