

How many C atoms in a SAM?

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Solution: This problem has one tricky aspect. You need assume an area. Let's assume that the area is 1 cm².

Then we calculate the volume (in m³ is probably best)

$$\begin{aligned} V &= A\ell = (10^{-2} \text{ m})^2 (1.4 \times 10^{-9} \text{ m}) \\ &= 1.4 \times 10^{-13} \text{ m}^3 \end{aligned}$$

Now we do exactly the same set of steps we used for the Au nanoparticle with one difference. We use CH₂.

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The CH₂ as a unit means that we will use its molar mass, the number of CH₂ units will equal the number of C atoms. 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:

$$N = \frac{(6.022 \times 10^{23})(1250)(1.4 \times 10^{-13})(1000)}{14}$$

which gives $N = 7.52 \times 10^{15}$. This seems like a large number, but recall that we are calculating the number in a square centimeter. This is reasonable.



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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.

