

Periodical

Earth, air,
 fire and water: just the four –
 but the chemists need many more.
 The top of the table is sparse, but every second period or layer,
 like the bard from Japan whose verses never would scan, adds an extra list.
 As we* reach the sixth and seventh periods, short of horizontal space,
 we must** resort to footnotes just to keep a healthy handle on the case.

* following the example of the chemists and their sort
 ** because the margin is too narrow for a full report

Turns out† that the seventh layer consists mostly of ones that do not exist
 but need‡ to be synthesised. Some of them do not even have proper names.
 The eighth layer has not been started yet, so the only thing to do about
 it is to turn back and traverse the table from the bottom to the top
 so that the same period games
 allow the lines to peter out
 and stop.

† as we step through the double-starred list of the actinoids
 ‡ by means of reactors or colliders or other toys

Unfootnotemarked footnotes:

1 There was a young bard from Japan
 Whose verses never would scan.
 When asked to explain
 He replied “It’s quite plain:
 I always try to fit as many syllables into the last line as ever I possibly can.”

2

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|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Hydrogen 1 H | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Helium 2 He |
| Lithium 3 Li | Boron 5 B | Carbon 6 C | Nitrogen 7 N | Oxygen 8 O | Fluorine 9 F | Neon 10 Ne | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sodium 11 Na | Magnesium 12 Mg | Aluminum 13 Al | Silicon 14 Si | Phosphorus 15 P | Sulfur 16 S | Chlorine 17 Cl | Argon 18 Ar | | | | | | | | | | |
| Potassium 19 K | Calcium 20 Ca | Scandium 21 Sc | Titanium 22 Ti | Vanadium 23 V | Chromium 24 Cr | Manganese 25 Mn | Iron 26 Fe | Cobalt 27 Co | Nickel 28 Ni | Copper 29 Cu | Zinc 30 Zn | Gallium 31 Ga | Germanium 32 Ge | Arsenic 33 As | Selenium 34 Se | Bromine 35 Br | Krypton 36 Kr |
| Rubidium 37 Rb | Sr 38 | Yttrium 39 Y | Zirconium 40 Zr | Niobium 41 Nb | Molybdenum 42 Mo | Technetium 43 Tc | Ruthenium 44 Ru | Rhodium 45 Rh | Palladium 46 Pd | Silver 47 Ag | Cadmium 48 Cd | Indium 49 In | Tin 50 Sn | Antimony 51 Sb | Tellurium 52 Te | Iodine 53 I | Xenon 54 Xe |
| Cesium 55 Cs | Ba 56 | * Lu 71 | Hf 72 | Ta 73 | W 74 | Re 75 | Os 76 | Ir 77 | Pt 78 | Au 79 | Hg 80 | Tl 81 | Pb 82 | Bi 83 | Po 84 | At 85 | Rn 86 |
| Francium 87 Fr | Ra 88 | ** Lr 103 | Rf 104 | Db 105 | Sg 106 | Bh 107 | Hs 108 | Mt 109 | Uun 110 | Uub 111 | Uuq 112 | Uup 114 | | | | | |

* Lanthanide series

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|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| La | Ce | Pr | Nd | Pm | Sm | Eu | Gd | Tb | Dy | Ho | Er | Tm | Yb |
| 138.91 | 140.12 | 140.91 | 144.24 | 144.91 | 150.36 | 151.96 | 157.25 | 158.93 | 162.50 | 164.93 | 167.26 | 168.93 | 173.04 |

 ** Actinide series

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|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Ac | Th | Pa | U | Np | Pu | Am | Cm | Bk | Cf | Es | Fm | Md | No |
| 227.03 | 232.04 | 231.04 | 238.03 | 237.05 | 244.06 | 243.06 | 247.07 | 247.07 | 251.08 | 252.08 | 257.10 | 258.10 | 262.11 |