Atomic and Ionic Radius



Trends in ionic radius

Cations are smaller than their atomic counterpart. This is because; as the atoms lose electrons, the positive charge (Z_{eff}) gets larger. The more positivity the electrons feel, the closer the electrons pull in.

Anions are larger than their atomic counterparts. This is because; as the atoms gain electrons, the greater the negativity felt (smaller Z_{eff}). The increased negativity causes the electrons to repel one another – pushing each other further apart.

- 1. Arrange the following in order of increasing size
 - a. Ba, F, Si

Ba is in the 6^{th} row. F is in the 2^{nd} row. Si is in the 3^{rd} row. Atomic size increases going down the periodic table so F< Si<Ba

2. K, Br, Ni

K, Br and Ni are all in the 4th row. Thus we will arrange these knowing that the radius decreases going from group 1 \rightarrow group 8. Thus Br < Ni < K

1.

2.

3. Order in terms of increasing radius

Na⁻, Na, Na⁺

Remember that because of positive/negative attraction – cations are smaller than the neutral atom and because of negative/negative repulsion - anions are larger than the neutral atom.

This leads to: $Na^+ < Na < Na^-$