

Ion Formation

- When the number of protons in an atom is **not equal** to the number of electrons, ions develop.
- If there are more protons than electrons, the ion is referred to as a **cation**; if there are more electrons, the ion is referenced as an **anion**.
- Ions are **extremely reactive** molecules.
- They are mostly found in **gaseous conditions** and aren't plentiful on Earth.

Effects Of Ionization On Size

- The **size of an atom is determined by its electron cloud**; more electrons (anions) **enhance electron repulsion**, resulting in a larger ion, whereas cations (with fewer electrons) are smaller than the atom as there are **fewer electrons** in the cloud to repel one another.

