SCIENCE

INTRODUCTION OF CHEMICAL EFFECTS OF ELECTRIC CURRENT

Electrical charges

Atoms are the building blocks of the universe. Whatever you see around you can be divided into smaller and smaller parts until you finally reach a part you cannot divide further. This building block is what we call an Atom. Inside an atom are protons, electrons and neutrons. Out of the three, electrons and protons fit the definition of an electric charge. The protons are positively charged, the electrons are negatively charged, and the neutrons are neutral. A majority of the mass of the atom is concentrated in a very tiny space in the centre called the nucleus and the electrons revolve around this heavy nucleus.

This means that electrons are held very loosely compared to protons. Therefore, the movement of charges here will be restricted to the movement of electrons. Since the atoms are made up of protons and electrons, we can safely conclude that all things are made up of electric charges. The charge of one proton is equal in strength to the charge of one electron. When the number of protons in an atom equals the number of electrons, the atom itself has no overall charge, it is neutral.