

THE INNER TRANSITION ELEMENTS

The f block encompasses two distinct series: the lanthanoids and the actinoids. Lanthanum exhibits a close resemblance to the lanthanoids and is typically included in discussions involving this group, often denoted by the general symbol Ln. Similarly, discussions regarding the actinoids incorporate actinium alongside the fourteen elements comprising the series.

Lanthanoids demonstrate a higher degree of similarity amongst themselves compared to the members of conventional transition element series. They possess only one stable oxidation state, offering a valuable avenue to explore the influence of small size and nuclear charge along a series of otherwise similar elements in their chemistry.