

This “Pairs & Squares” colored rendering of the Periodic Table seems most intuitive in view of quadratic number of orbitals at each atomic energy level.

3 Li 6.94	Lithium
<hr/>	
4 Be 9.012	Beryllium

1 H 1.008	Hydrogen
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2 He 4.003	Helium

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5 B 10.81	Boron
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6 C 12.011	Carbon

7 N 14.007	Nitrogen
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8 O 15.999	Oxygen

13 Al 26.982	Aluminium
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14 Si 28.085	Silicon

15 P 30.974	Phosphorus
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16 S 32.06	Sulfur

11 Na 22.990	Sodium
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12 Mg 24.31	Magnesium

9 F 18.998	Fluorine
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10 Ne 20.180	Neon

19 K 39.098	Potassium
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20 Ca 40.078	Calcium

17 Cl 35.45	Chlorine
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18 Ar 39.948	Argon

21 Sc 44.956	Scandium
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22 Ti 47.867	Titanium

23 V 50.942	Vanadium
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24 Cr 51.996	Chromium

25 Mn 54.94	Manganese
<hr/>	
26 Fe 55.845	Iron

31 Ga 69.723	Gallium
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32 Ge 72.630	Germanium

33 As 74.922	Arsenic
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34 Se 78.971	Selenium

27 Co 58.933	Cobalt
<hr/>	
28 Ni 58.693	Nickel

37 Rb 46.8	Rubidium
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38 Sr 87.62	Strontium

35 Br 79.904	Bromine
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36 Kr 83.798	Krypton

29 Cu 63.546	Copper
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30 Zn 65.38	Zinc

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39 Y 88.906	Yttrium
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40 Zr 91.224	Zirconium

41 Nb 92.906	Niobium
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42 Mo 95.95	Molybdenum

43 Tc 96.91	Technetium
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44 Ru 101.07	Ruthenium

49 In 114.82	Indium
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50 Sn 118.71	Tin

51 Sb 121.76	Antimony
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52 Te 127.60	Tellurium

45 Rh 102.91	Rhodium
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46 Pd 106.42	Palladium

55 Cs 132.91	Caesium
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56 Ba 137.33	Barium

53 I 126.90	Iodine
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54 Xe 131.29	Xenon

47 Ag 107.87	Silver
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48 Cd 112.41	Cadmium

57 La 138.91	Lanthanum
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58 Ce 140.12	Cerium

59 Pr 140.91	Praseodymium
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60 Nd 144.24	Neodymium

61 Pm 144.9	Promethium
<hr/>	
62 Sm 150.4	Samarium

63 Eu 151.96	Europium
<hr/>	
64 Gd 157.2	Gadolinium

71 Lu 174.97	Lutetium
<hr/>	
72 Hf 178.49	Hafnium

73 Ta 180.95	Tantalum
<hr/>	
74 W 183.84	Tungsten

75 Re 186.21	Rhenium
<hr/>	
76 Os 190.23	Osmium

81 Tl 204.38	Thallium
<hr/>	
82 Pb 207.2	Lead

83 Bi 208.98	Bismuth
<hr/>	
84 Po 208.98	Polonium

77 Ir 192.22	Iridium
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78 Pt 195.08	Platinum

79 Au 196.97	Gold
<hr/>	
80 Hg 200.59	Mercury

85 At 209.99	Astatine
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86 Rn 222.02	Radon

67 Ho 164.9	Holmium
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68 Er 167.26	Erbium

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113 Nh 286	Nihonium
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114 Fl 289	Flerovium

115 Mc 2

“Pairs and Squares” Periodic Table

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Abstract

I present a new “Pairs and Squares” rendering of the Periodic Table.

It takes advantage of the number of orbitals at each atomic energy level being a whole square.

This makes the table very regular and intuitive in contrast with its currently used presentations.

In a century and a half since [1], a huge number of forms of the Periodic Table have been designed (see, e.g., [2]). However, they all share a problem: Their irregularity overwhelms their periodicity. This is especially bothersome at one’s early exposures to this icon of science.

Yet, there is one great numeric pattern that none of these renditions of the table seem to exploit for a full effect. The number of orbitals in each electron shell is a whole square. And so is the number of orbitals at each energy level (that by Madelung rule is roughly the sum of the first two quantum numbers). And those squares are each the sum of the first several odd integers, representing the numbers of orbitals on the respective sub-shells. (These sub-shells at each energy level reflect the traditional grouping of elements indicated by colors in most representations of the Periodic Table.)

This pattern allows a completely regular rendering of the table with a very intuitive look. Each period fills a square, with each cell of the square holding a pair of consecutive elements. Squares are composed of colored 7-shaped stripes representing elements of each type. If squares are stapled together, similar elements fall at the same place in the respective layers. If all periods are placed on one page, the pattern of similar elements is quite apparent, too.

Of course one may question the need to add one more form of the Periodic Table to the huge number of those already designed. But I think one look at this Table (see the next page, in color) may convince that the extra comfort given by its perfect¹ regularity comes as some justification.

References

- [1] D. I. Mendeleev. 1871. The natural system of elements and its application to the indication of the properties of undiscovered elements. *J. Russian Chemical Soc.* **3**:25–56. (in Russian.)
- [2] Mark R. Leach. 1999-. *The Internet Database of Periodic Tables*.
https://www.meta-synthesis.com/webbook/35_pt/pt_database.php
- [3] N. N. Semenov. 1969. *100 лет периодического закона химических элементов. 1869-1969. = 100 years of the periodic law of chemical elements. 1869-1969*. Nauka, Moscow. (In Russian.)

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¹Admittedly, a really perfect pattern would start with two pink 1-cell periods.

However the H/He period is special, suggesting a yellow color.

So, the small imperfection of merging the two into one 2-cell yellow/pink period seems more revealing.