

# Determination of valence of nonmetals in acids: oxidation number

What is the valence of nonmetal elements?

Element	Oxidation number
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Hydrogen	+1
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Oxygen	-2
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Nonmetal	x
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Molecule	0
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Examples



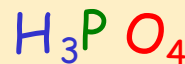
H	+1
O <sub>3</sub>	-6
N	x
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HNO <sub>3</sub>	0

$\text{N} = +5$



H <sub>2</sub>	+2
O <sub>4</sub>	-8
S	x
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H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	0

$\text{S} = +6$



H <sub>3</sub>	+3
O <sub>4</sub>	-8
P	x
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H <sub>3</sub> PO <sub>4</sub>	0

$\text{P} = +5$