

Greenwood & Earnshaw

2nd Edition

Chapter 25

Group 8

Iron, Ruthenium & Osmium

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- Iron bears greater similarities to Cobalt & Nickel than to Ru & Os.
- Ru/Os bear greater similarities to Rh-Pd/Ir-Pt than to iron.
- Electronegativities – large increase in 5th & 6th periods.
- Burning in O₂ yields Fe(III); Ru(IV) and Os(VIII) oxides.
- MPs Iron higher than Mn; Ru ~ Tc; Os ~ Re.
- Enthalpies of atomization Fe higher than Mn; Os greater than Re.
- Density of Osmium highest of all elements.
- Iron is the first transition element to not attain its group oxidation state. The highest is [FeO₄]²⁻ or Fe(VI).
- Trends in the d-block are smooth if the anomalous behavior of the Group 7 elements are neglected, a consequence of their d⁵ e config. A factor also seen in the metal electrical resistivities.

Iron, Ruthenium & Osmium

- Iron is technologically very important. The control of carbon content is extremely important to the properties of iron & steel. Steel < 2% carbon < cast iron. Heat and mechanical history play crucial roles in malleability, hardness, strength and corrosion resistance. Iron is electropositive, pyrophoric as a fine powder and burns in air if fine threads. Bulk iron oxidizes readily in air especially if moisture is present, reacts readily with dilute acids but is rendered passive by concentrated oxidizing acids such as nitric. Fe₂O₃ is used as a pigment (RR red) and abrasive (jewelers rouge).
- Ru and Os are stable to atmospheric attack, but are susceptible to halogen oxidation. Finely divided Os however gives of the characteristic odor of OsO₄. They react with strong alkali when air is present but are unaffected by non-oxidizing acids. Ru & Os have no oxides below M(IV).




