

Since one molecule of chlorine consist of two atoms of chlorine (Chlorine is diatomic molecule), then
average atomic mass = $\frac{1}{2} \times$ Average molecular mass

$$= \frac{1}{2} \times 71. \text{ m. u} = 35.5 \text{ a. m. u}$$

Thus average atomic mass is 35.5 a.m.u

Let % abundance of ^{35}Cl be y that of ^{37}Cl be x.

Then $x+y = 100$ (Total % abundances must be 100)

From which, $x = 100 - y$

So using $A_r = \frac{\Sigma(\text{isotopic mass} \times \text{percentage abundance})}{100}$

$$\text{Then } 35.5 = \frac{35y + 37(100-y)}{100}$$

$$\text{Or } 3550 = 35y + 3700 - 37y$$

$$\text{From which } 2y = 150; y = 75 \text{ and } x = 100 - y = 100 - 75 = 25$$

Thus the relative abundance of ^{35}Cl is 75%

The relative abundance of ^{37}Cl is 25%

The above alternative solution is given for purpose of expanding your knowledge but it is **incorrect** according to the given instructions because of the word '**hence**' Hence we find relative abundances before calculating the average atomic mass and not vice-versa.

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