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# Gravimetric Analysis

## *Introduction*

### 1.) **Gravimetric Analysis:**

- (i) A technique in which the amount of an analyte in a sample is determined by converting the analyte to some product
  - *Mass of product can be easily measured*
- (ii) Analyte: the compound or species to be analyzed in a sample
- (iii) Overall, gravimetry sounds simple.
  - Advantages - when done correctly is highly accurate (most accurate of all time); requires minimal equipment
  - Disadvantage - requires skilled operator, slow.

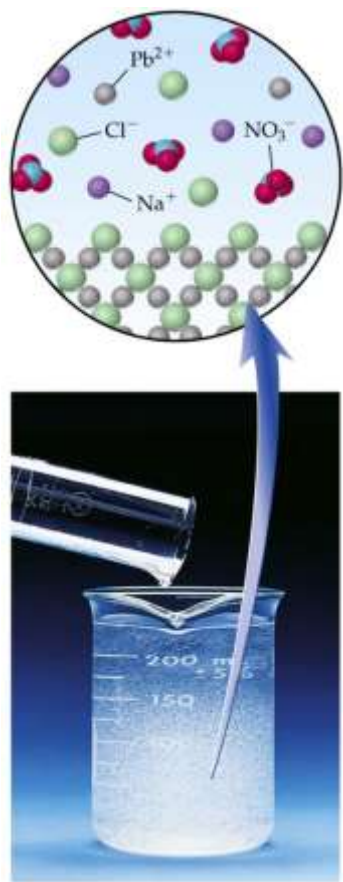
*Convert analyte into a solid, filter, weigh, calculate via a mole map*

# Gravimetric Analysis

## Introduction

### 1.) Gravimetric Analysis:

(iii) Example:



- Determination of lead ( $\text{Pb}^{+2}$ ) in water



- By adding excess  $\text{Cl}^{-}$  to the sample, essentially all of the  $\text{Pb}^{+2}$  will precipitate as  $\text{PbCl}_2$ .
- Mass of  $\text{PbCl}_2$  is then determined.
  - *used to calculate the amount of  $\text{Pb}^{+2}$  in original solution*

# Gravimetric Analysis

## *Introduction*

### 1.) **Gravimetric Analysis:**

(v) Example:

- What is the %KCl in a solid if 5.1367 g of solid gives rise to 0.8246 g AgCl?



# Gravimetric Analysis

## *Types of Gravimetric Analysis*

- 1.) Combustion Analysis
- 2.) Precipitation

## *Combustion Analysis*

- **Common method used to determine the amount of carbon and hydrogen**
- **One modified method (Dumas Method) can also determine the amount of nitrogen in a sample**
- **Technique is accurate and usable with a wide range of compounds.**
  - Often one of the first methods used to characterize a new compound

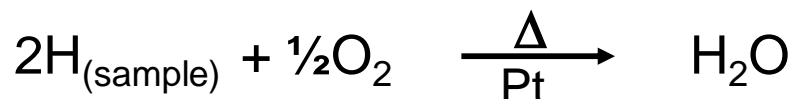
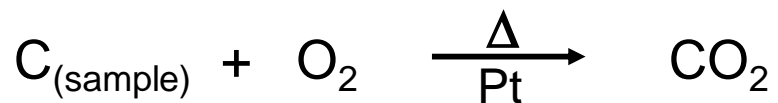
# Gravimetric Analysis

## Combustion Analysis

### 1.) **Principals:**

(i) Sample is heated in presence of Oxygen (O<sub>2</sub>)

- Converts carbon in sample to CO<sub>2</sub>
- Converts hydrogen in sample to H<sub>2</sub>O



- Pt, CuO, PbO<sub>2</sub>, or MnO<sub>2</sub> is used as a catalyst in this process

(ii) As CO<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>O form, leave the sample and flow through a series of chambers

- Chambers contain chemicals that bind one or both of these products
- Example:

- P<sub>4</sub>O<sub>10</sub> can be used to absorb H<sub>2</sub>O

- Ascarite can be used to absorb CO<sub>2</sub>

- Ascarite - Sodium Hydroxide Coated Non-Fibrous Silicate

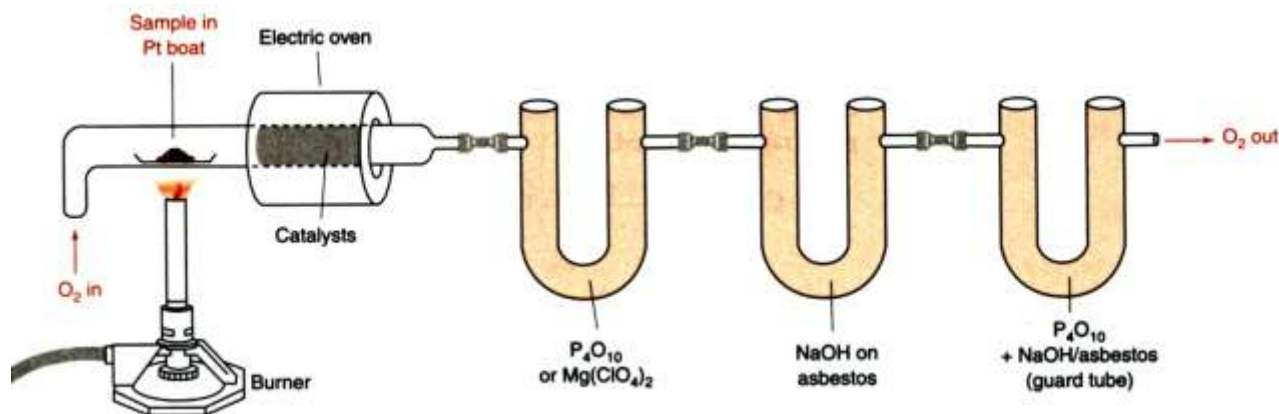


Ascarite

# Gravimetric Analysis

## Combustion Analysis

### 2.) Apparatus:



- (i) After the sample is completely burned:
  - Remove P<sub>4</sub>O<sub>10</sub> and Ascarite cartridges and weigh
  - If C and H are present in sample, both cartridges will increase in mass
- (ii) Amount of C and H in the original sample is determined from:
  - Knowing the amount of sample burned
  - Change in weight in each cartridge

# Gravimetric Analysis

## *Combustion Analysis*

### 2.) **Example Calculation:**

A mixture weighing 7.290 mg contained only cyclohexane,  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_{12}$  (FM 84.159), and oxirane,  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_4\text{O}$  (FM 44.053). When the mixture was analyzed by combustion analysis, 21.999 mg of  $\text{CO}_2$  (FM 44.010) was produced.

Find the weight percent of oxirane in the mixture.



# Gravimetric Analysis

## *Precipitation Analysis*

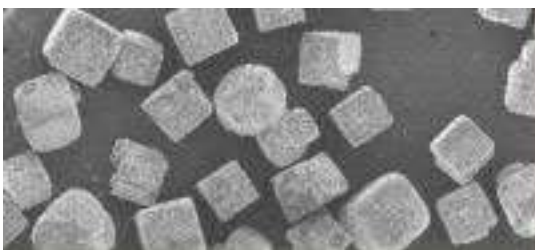
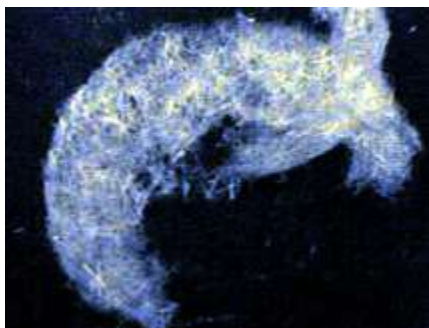
### 1.) **Principals:**

(i)

Reagent + Analyte  $\longrightarrow$  Solid Product (collect and measure mass)

(ii) Desired Properties of Solid Product

- Should be very insoluble
- Easily filterable (i.e., large crystals)
- Very Pure
- Known and constant composition



***Few precipitates have all of these properties, but in most cases appropriate techniques can help optimize these qualities***

# Gravimetric Analysis

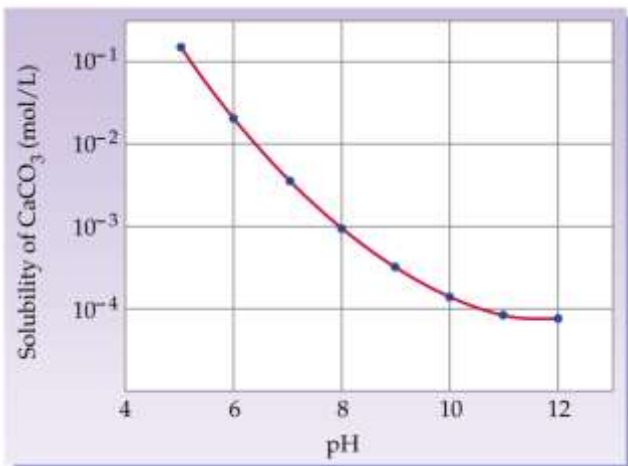
## Precipitation Analysis

### 2.) Solubility:

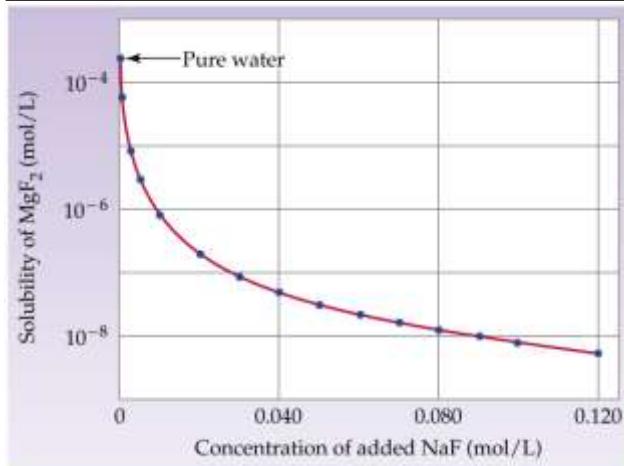
(i) The solubility of a precipitate can be decreased by:

- Decreasing temperature of solution
- Using a different solvent
  - usually a less polar or organic solvent (*like dissolves like*)

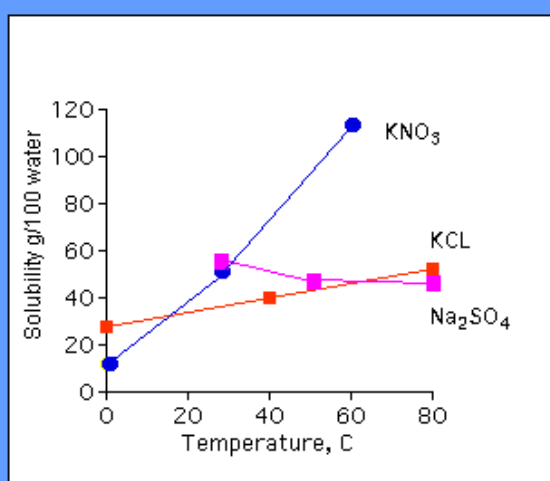
Solubility vs. pH



Solubility vs. Common Ion Effect



Solubility vs. Temperature



# Gravimetric Analysis

## *Precipitation Analysis*

### 1.) **Gravimetric Analysis:**

(vi) Governed by equilibrium:  $\text{AgCl } K_{\text{sp}} = 1.8 \times 10^{-10}$

Solubility of  $\text{AgCl} = [\text{Ag}^+] + [\text{AgCl}] + [\text{AgCl}^{2-}]$



$$S = \frac{[\text{AgCl}]}{[\text{Cl}^-]} K_o + K_i + \frac{[\text{AgCl}]}{[\text{Cl}^-]} K_f = \frac{K_o}{[\text{Cl}^-] K_o} + K_i + K_f K_o [\text{Cl}^-]$$

# Gravimetric Analysis

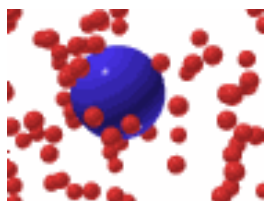
## *Precipitation Analysis*

### 3.) **Filterability:**

(i) Want product to be large enough to collect on filter:

- Doesn't clog filter
- Doesn't pass through filter

(ii) Best Case: Pure Crystals



Worst Case: Colloidal suspension

- Difficult to filter due to small size
  - Tend to stay in solution indefinitely → suspended by Brownian motion
- usually 1-100 nm in size

Brownian Motion

***Whether crystals or colloids are obtained depends on conditions used in the precipitation***

# Gravimetric Analysis

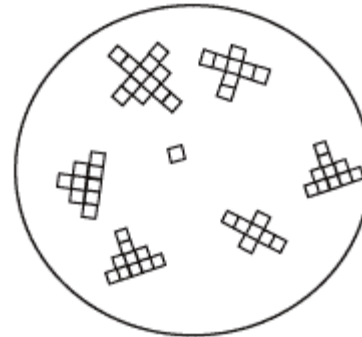
## *Precipitation Analysis*

### 4.) **Process of Crystal Growth:**

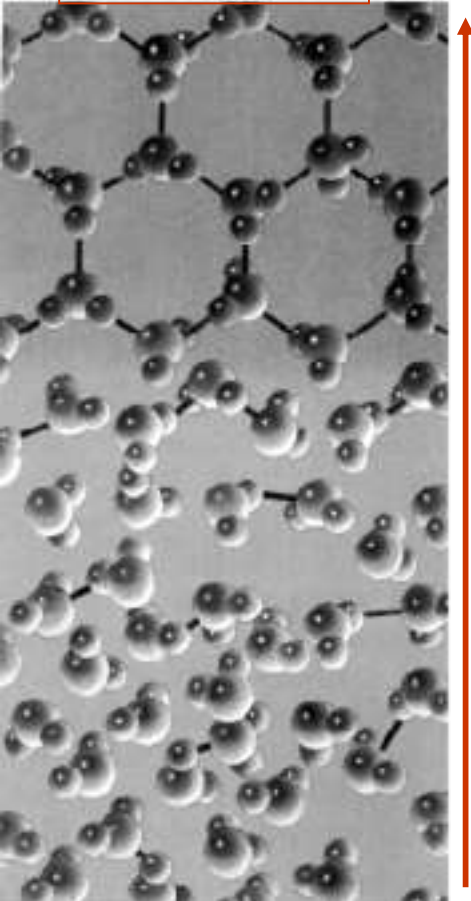
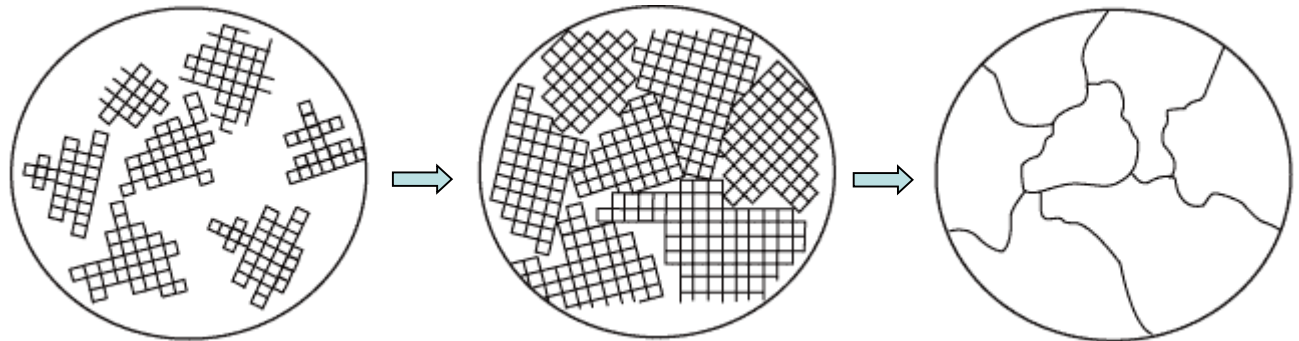
(i) Two Phases in Crystal Growth

**Crystal Growth**

Nucleation – molecules in solution come together randomly and form small aggregates



Particle growth – addition of molecules to a nucleus to form a crystal



# Gravimetric Analysis

## *Precipitation Analysis*

### 4.) **Process of Crystal Growth:**

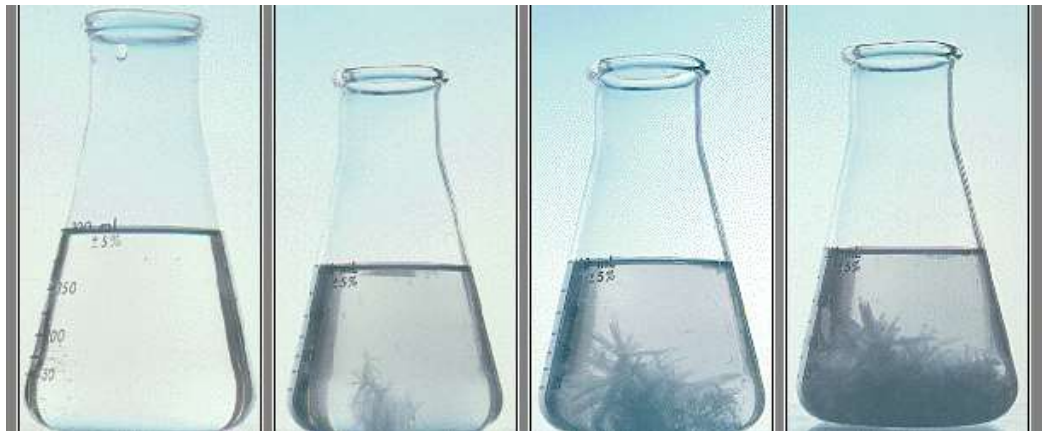
(ii) Nucleation and Particle growth always compete for molecules/ions being precipitated.

- If nucleation is faster than particle growth:
  - **a large number of small aggregates occur giving colloidal suspensions**
- If particle growth is faster than nucleation:
  - **only a few, large particles form giving pure crystals**



Want to  
→  
Convert to

Colloidal suspension



Crystal formation

# Gravimetric Analysis

## Precipitation Analysis

### 4.) Process of Crystal Growth:

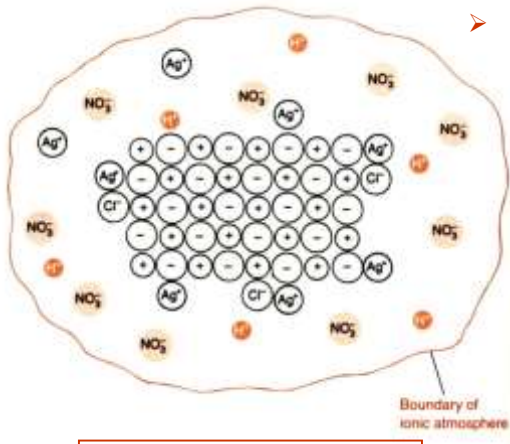
(iii) Rates of nucleation vs. particle growth depends on:

- Amount of precipitation solute present
- Described by a quantity known as the Relative Supersaturation (R)

$$R = (Q - S) / S$$

$S$  = concentration of solute in solution at equilibrium

$Q$  = actual concentration of solute added to solution



**Colloidal Particle**

(iv) If  $R$  is large,

- Large relative amount of solute in solution
- Favors nucleation and colloid formation

(v) In gravimetry based on precipitations, a small value of  $R$  ( $\sim 1.0$ ) is desired in order to favor large crystal growth



# Gravimetric Analysis

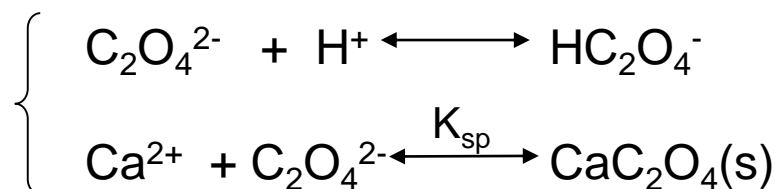
## *Precipitation Analysis*

### 4.) **Process of Crystal Growth:**

(vi) Methods for Minimizing  $R$

1. Increase temperature of solution
  - **increases  $S$**
  - **increase amount of solute that can be in solution at equilibrium**
2. Add precipitating reagent (precipitant) slowly while vigorously mixing solution
  - **avoids local high concentrations of solution**
  - **avoid nucleation and colloid formation**
3. Keep volume of solution large
  - **keep concentration of analyte and precipitating reagent low**
4. Control  $S$  through chemical means
  - **by adjusting pH**
  - **adding complexing agents**
  - **example: precipitation of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  with  $\text{C}_2\text{O}_4^{2-}$**

Note: As pH ( $[\text{H}^+]$ ) changes, the solubility of  $\text{CaC}_2\text{O}_4$  changes





# Gravimetric Analysis

## *Precipitation Analysis*

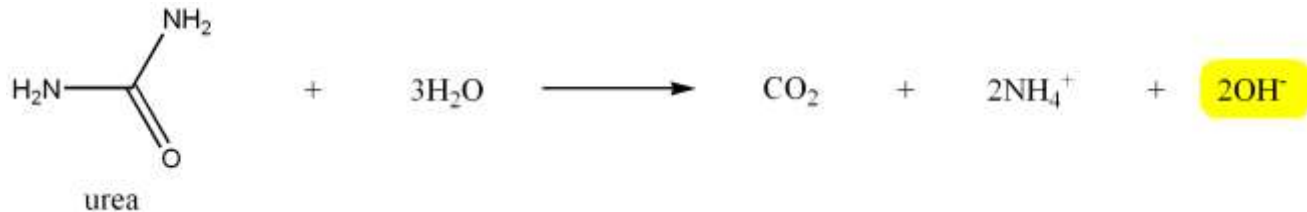
### 5.) **Homogeneous Precipitation:**

(i) Precipitating agent is generated directly in solution by means of a chemical reaction.

➤ Ideal case for precipitations

- agent is generated uniformly throughout the solution
- excess are avoided

➤ Example:



As  $\text{OH}^-$  is produced, pH gradually increases  $\rightarrow$  precipitates a number of compounds ( $\text{CaC}_2\text{O}_4$ )

# Gravimetric Analysis

## *Precipitation Analysis*

### 5.) **Miscellaneous Notes on Precipitation:**

(i) Most ionic compounds are precipitated in the presence of some added electrolyte

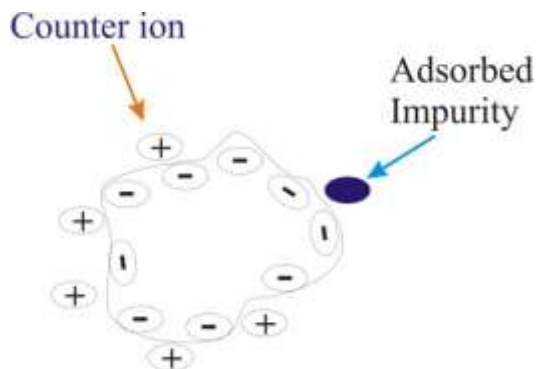
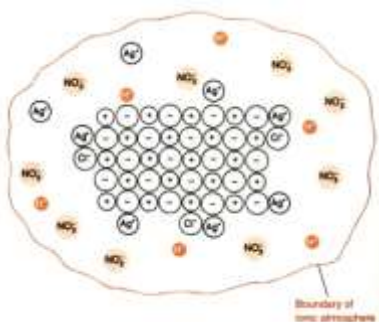
- e.g. 0.1 M  $\text{HNO}_3$
- Allows the small nucleation aggregates to better overcome any charge repulsion and promotes particle growth

(ii) Impurities may also be present in the crystal

- Known as co-precipitation
- Creates errors in gravimetric analysis

(iii) Types of Impurities

- Impurities adsorbed to crystal surface



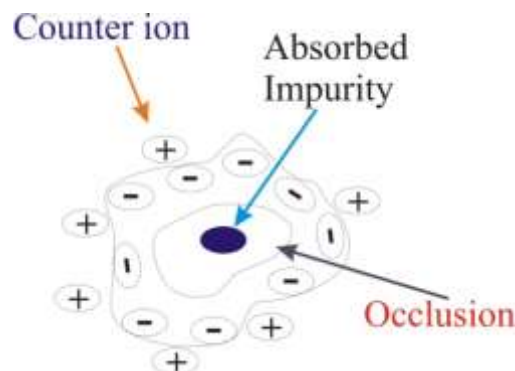
# Gravimetric Analysis

## *Precipitation Analysis*

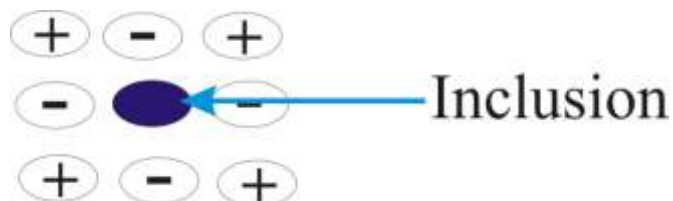
### 5.) **Miscellaneous Notes on Precipitation:**

#### (iii) Types of Impurities

- Impurities absorbed or trapped within pockets in the crystal
- Occlusion



- Impurities similar to the analyte or reagent
- Impurities placed in the crystal instead of analyte



# Gravimetric Analysis

## Precipitation Analysis

### 5.) Miscellaneous Notes on Precipitation:

(iv) Impurities are undesirable

- Change the chemical composition of the precipitate
- Causes errors in the analysis

(v) Ways to Minimize Impurities

1. Keep  $R$  small

- large pure crystals decrease occlusions and adsorbed impurities

2. Digestion allowing precipitate to stand in mother liquor (precipitating solution), usually while being heated

- promotes removal of impurities from crystal

- increases size of crystals

3. Wash precipitate, redissolve the precipitate in fresh solvent and reprecipitate

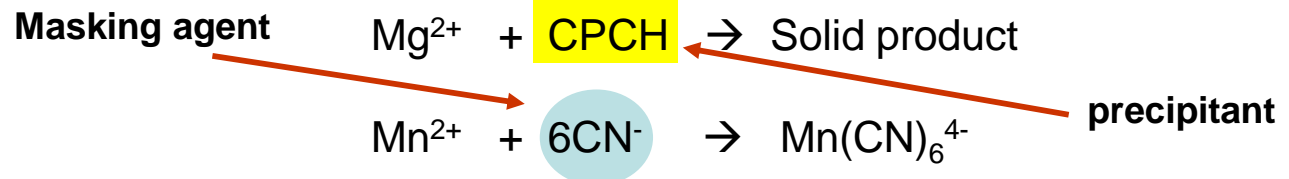
- helps decrease all types of impurities

4. Add a masking agent to solution

- keeps impurities from precipitating, but not analyte



Color → Impurity



# Gravimetric Analysis

## Precipitation Analysis

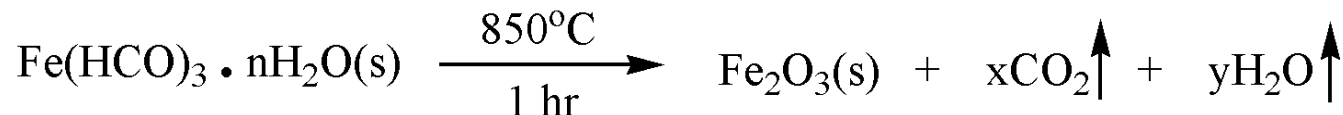
### 5.) Miscellaneous Notes on Precipitation:

#### (vi) Washing Precipitates

- Precipitates from ionic compounds
  - need electrolyte in wash solution
  - keep precipitate from breaking up and redissolving (peptization)
- Electrolyte should be volatile
  - removed by drying
  - $\text{HNO}_3$ ,  $\text{HCl}$ ,  $\text{NH}_4$ ,  $\text{NO}_3$ , etc.
- Example:  
 $\text{AgCl(s)}$  should not be washed with  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , instead wash with dilute  $\text{HNO}_3$

#### (vii) Drying/Igniting Precipitates

- Many precipitates contain varying amounts of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ 
  - adsorbed from the air (i.e. **hygroscopic**)
- Precipitates are dried for accurate, stable mass measurements
- Precipitates are also ignited to convert to a given chemical form



# Gravimetric Analysis

## Scope of Gravimetric Analysis

- 1.) **Accurate**
- 2.) **Inexpensive**
  - Only major equipment is balance
- 3.) **Method is more tedious than other approaches**
  - must carefully consider how to minimize potential interferences

| Species analyzed              | Precipitated form  | Form weighed   | Interfering species   |
|-------------------------------|--|--|---|
| K <sup>+</sup>                | KB(C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub> ) <sub>4</sub>                | KB(C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub> ) <sub>4</sub>                      | NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup> , Ag <sup>+</sup> , Hg <sup>2+</sup> , Tl <sup>+</sup> , Rb <sup>+</sup> , Cs <sup>+</sup>   |
| Mg <sup>2+</sup>              | Mg(NH <sub>4</sub> )PO <sub>4</sub> ·6H <sub>2</sub> O         | Mg <sub>2</sub> P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>7</sub>                        | Many metals except Na <sup>+</sup> and K <sup>+</sup>   |
| Ca <sup>2+</sup>              | CaC <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub> ·H <sub>2</sub> O              | CaCO <sub>3</sub> or CaO   | Many metals except Mg <sup>2+</sup> , Na <sup>+</sup> , K <sup>+</sup>  |
| Ba <sup>2+</sup>              | BaSO <sub>4</sub>  | BaSO <sub>4</sub>  | Na <sup>+</sup> , K <sup>+</sup> , Li <sup>+</sup> , Ca <sup>2+</sup> , Al <sup>3+</sup> , Cr <sup>3+</sup> , Fe <sup>3+</sup> , Sr <sup>2+</sup> , Pb <sup>2+</sup> , NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>                               |
| Ti <sup>4+</sup>              | TiO(5,7-dibromo-8-hydroxyquinoline) <sub>2</sub>               | Same   | Fe <sup>3+</sup> , Zr <sup>4+</sup> , Cu <sup>2+</sup> , C <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> , citrate, HF  |
| VO <sub>3</sub> <sup>3-</sup> | Hg <sub>3</sub> VO <sub>4</sub>                                | V <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>  | Cl <sup>-</sup> , Br <sup>-</sup> , I <sup>-</sup> , SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> , CrO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> , AsO <sub>4</sub> <sup>3-</sup> , PO <sub>4</sub> <sup>3-</sup>  |
| Cr <sup>3+</sup>              | PbCrO <sub>4</sub>   | PbCrO <sub>4</sub>   | Ag <sup>+</sup> , NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup>  |
| Mn <sup>2+</sup>              | Mn(NH <sub>4</sub> )PO <sub>4</sub> ·H <sub>2</sub> O          | Mn <sub>2</sub> P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>7</sub>                        | Many metals   |
| Fe <sup>3+</sup>              | Fe(HCO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub>                             | Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>                                       | Many metals   |
| Co <sup>2+</sup>              | Co(1-nitroso-2-naphtholate) <sub>2</sub>                       | CoSO <sub>4</sub> (by reaction with H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> ) | Fe <sup>3+</sup> , Pd <sup>2+</sup> , Zr <sup>4+</sup>  |
| Ni <sup>2+</sup>              | Ni(dimethylglyoximate) <sub>2</sub>                            | Same   | Pd <sup>2+</sup> , Pt <sup>2+</sup> , Bi <sup>3+</sup> , Au <sup>3+</sup>   |
| Cu <sup>2+</sup>              | CuSCN  | CuSCN  | NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup> , Pb <sup>2+</sup> , Hg <sup>2+</sup> , Ag <sup>+</sup>  |
| Zn <sup>2+</sup>              | Zn(NH <sub>4</sub> )PO <sub>4</sub> ·H <sub>2</sub> O          | Zn <sub>2</sub> P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>7</sub>                        | Many metals   |
| Ce <sup>4+</sup>              | Ce(IO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>4</sub>                              | CeO <sub>2</sub>   | Th <sup>4+</sup> , Ti <sup>4+</sup> , Zr <sup>4+</sup>  |
| Al <sup>3+</sup>              | Al(8-hydroxyquinolate) <sub>3</sub>                            | Same   | Many metals   |
| Sn <sup>4+</sup>              | Sn(cupferron) <sub>4</sub>                                     | SnO <sub>2</sub>   | Cu <sup>2+</sup> , Pb <sup>2+</sup> , As(III)   |
| Pb <sup>2+</sup>              | PbSO <sub>4</sub>  | PbSO <sub>4</sub>  | Ca <sup>2+</sup> , Sr <sup>2+</sup> , Ba <sup>2+</sup> , Hg <sup>2+</sup> , Ag <sup>+</sup> , HCl, HNO <sub>3</sub>   |
| NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup>  | NH <sub>4</sub> B(C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub> ) <sub>4</sub> | NH <sub>4</sub> B(C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub> ) <sub>4</sub>       | K <sup>+</sup> , Rb <sup>+</sup> , Cs <sup>+</sup>  |
| Cl <sup>-</sup>               | AgCl   | AgCl   | Br <sup>-</sup> , I <sup>-</sup> , SCN <sup>-</sup> , S <sup>2-</sup> , S <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> <sup>2-</sup> , CN <sup>-</sup>   |
| Br <sup>-</sup>               | AgBr   | AgBr   | Cl <sup>-</sup> , I <sup>-</sup> , SCN <sup>-</sup> , S <sup>2-</sup> , S <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> <sup>2-</sup> , CN <sup>-</sup>   |
| I <sup>-</sup>                | AgI  | AgI  | Cl <sup>-</sup> , Br <sup>-</sup> , SCN <sup>-</sup> , S <sup>2-</sup> , S <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> <sup>2-</sup> , CN <sup>-</sup>  |
| SCN <sup>-</sup>              | CuSCN  | CuSCN  | NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup> , Pb <sup>2+</sup> , Hg <sup>2+</sup> , Ag <sup>+</sup>  |
| CN <sup>-</sup>               | AgCN   | AgCN   | Cl <sup>-</sup> , Br <sup>-</sup> , I <sup>-</sup> , SCN <sup>-</sup> , S <sup>2-</sup> , S <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> <sup>2-</sup>   |
| F <sup>-</sup>                | (C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> SnF              | (C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> SnF                    | Many metals (except alkali metals), SiO <sub>4</sub> <sup>4-</sup> , CO <sub>3</sub> <sup>2-</sup>  |
| ClO <sub>4</sub> <sup>-</sup> | KClO <sub>4</sub>  | KClO <sub>4</sub>  |   |
| SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> | BaSO <sub>4</sub>  | BaSO <sub>4</sub>  | Na <sup>+</sup> , K <sup>+</sup> , Li <sup>+</sup> , Ca <sup>2+</sup> , Al <sup>3+</sup> , Cr <sup>3+</sup> , Fe <sup>3+</sup> , Sr <sup>2+</sup> , Pb <sup>2+</sup> , NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>                               |
| PO <sub>4</sub> <sup>3-</sup> | Mg(NH <sub>4</sub> )PO <sub>4</sub> ·6H <sub>2</sub> O         | Mg <sub>2</sub> P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>7</sub>                        | Many metals except Na <sup>+</sup> , K <sup>+</sup>   |
| NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>  | Nitron nitrate   | Nitron nitrate   | ClO <sub>4</sub> <sup>-</sup> , I <sup>-</sup> , SCN <sup>-</sup> , CrO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> , ClO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> , NO <sub>2</sub> <sup>-</sup> , Br <sup>-</sup> , C <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> |
| CO <sub>3</sub> <sup>2-</sup> | CO <sub>2</sub> (by acidification)                             | CO <sub>2</sub>  | (The liberated CO <sub>2</sub> is trapped with Ascarite and weighed)  |

# Gravimetric Analysis

## *Calculations in Gravimetric Analysis*

### Example

A mixture containing only  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  (FM 101.96) and  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$  (FM 159.69) weighs 2.019 g. When heated under a stream of  $\text{H}_2$ ,  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  is unchanged, but  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$  is converted into metallic Fe plus  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (g).

If the residue weighs 1.774 g, what is the weight percent of  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$  in the original mixture?