

Demonstrate understanding of equilibrium principles in aqueous systems

Collated Questions 2013 – 2025

Solubility Product calculations and Predicting Precipitation.

Solubility of solids in water and in solutions already containing one of the ions A or B (a common ion) or due to the formation of a complex ion, or the reaction of a basic anion with added acid.

(2025:1)

- (a) (i) Write the equation for the equilibrium occurring in a saturated solution of iron(II) hydroxide, $\text{Fe}(\text{OH})_2$.
- (ii) Write the expression for $K_s(\text{Fe}(\text{OH})_2)$.
- (iii) Calculate the solubility product, K_s , of $\text{Fe}(\text{OH})_2$ in water at 25 °C, given $\text{Fe}(\text{OH})_2$ has a solubility of $1.01 \times 10^{-5} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$.
- (iv) Some dilute hydrochloric acid, $\text{HCl}(\text{aq})$, is added to a saturated solution of $\text{Fe}(\text{OH})_2$. Justify what will happen to the solubility of the $\text{Fe}(\text{OH})_2$ in solution. Include relevant equation(s) in your answer. *No calculations are necessary.*
- (b) Nickel hydroxide, $\text{Ni}(\text{OH})_2$, is another sparingly soluble solid.

- (i) A student makes a green precipitate of $\text{Ni}(\text{OH})_2$ in a test tube by mixing sodium hydroxide, $\text{NaOH}(\text{aq})$, and nickel chloride, $\text{NiCl}_2(\text{aq})$. When the student then adds excess sodium cyanide, $\text{NaCN}(\text{aq})$, the green precipitate dissolves.

Explain why the green precipitate of $\text{Ni}(\text{OH})_2$ dissolves, using equilibrium principles and any relevant equation(s).

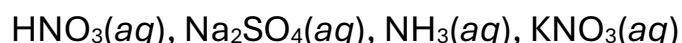
- (ii) Determine whether a precipitate of $\text{Ni}(\text{OH})_2$ will form when 55.0 mL of 0.130 mol L^{-1} nickel sulfate, NiSO_4 , is added to 35.0 mL of potassium hydroxide, KOH , solution of pH 11.7. $K_s(\text{Ni}(\text{OH})_2) = 6 \times 10^{-16}$

(2024:1)

- (a) (i) Write the equation for the equilibrium occurring in a saturated solution of silver sulfate, Ag_2SO_4 .
- (ii) Write the expression for $K_s(\text{Ag}_2\text{SO}_4)$.
- (iii) Calculate the solubility of Ag_2SO_4 in water at 25°C, and give $[\text{Ag}^+]$ and $[\text{SO}_4^{2-}]$.

$$K_s(\text{Ag}_2\text{SO}_4) = 1.20 \times 10^{-5}$$

- (b) Below is a list of solutions of the same concentration available for a student to add to a saturated solution of Ag_2SO_4 :



Select and justify, including any relevant equations, an appropriate solution the student could add to:

- (i) increase the solubility of Ag_2SO_4
 - (ii) decrease the solubility of Ag_2SO_4
- (c) Predict, by calculation, whether a precipitate of silver sulfate, Ag_2SO_4 , will form when 20.0 mL of $0.0188 \text{ mol L}^{-1}$ silver nitrate, AgNO_3 , is added to 30.0 mL of $0.0146 \text{ mol L}^{-1}$ aluminium sulfate, $\text{Al}_2(\text{SO}_4)_3$. $K_s(\text{Ag}_2\text{SO}_4) = 1.20 \times 10^{-5}$.

(2023:1)

- (a) (i) Write the equation for the equilibrium occurring in a saturated solution of lead hydroxide, $\text{Pb}(\text{OH})_2$.
- (ii) Write the expression for $K_s(\text{Pb}(\text{OH})_2)$.
- (iii) Calculate the solubility of $\text{Pb}(\text{OH})_2$ in a solution of pH 9.55 at 25°C .
 $K_s(\text{Pb}(\text{OH})_2) = 8.00 \times 10^{-17}$
- (iv) Explain, using equilibrium principles, what would happen to the solubility of $\text{Pb}(\text{OH})_2$ in solution when the pH is decreased below 3.
 Include relevant equation(s) in your answer. *No calculations are necessary.*

- (b) (i) Show, by calculation, that a precipitate of lead iodide, PbI_2 , will form when 25.0 mL of $0.00741 \text{ mol L}^{-1}$ lead nitrate, $\text{Pb}(\text{NO}_3)_2$, is added to 35.0 mL of $0.00613 \text{ mol L}^{-1}$ potassium iodide, KI . $K_s(\text{PbI}_2) = 8.00 \times 10^{-9}$
- (ii) One of the following solutions could be added to the mixture in part (i) to cause the PbI_2 to further precipitate.

sodium iodide, NaI sodium chloride, NaCl

Circle the correct solution and explain why more solid PbI_2 would form.

(2022:1)

- (a) (i) Write the equation for the equilibrium occurring in a saturated solution of silver chromate, Ag_2CrO_4 .
- (ii) Write the expression for $K_s(\text{Ag}_2\text{CrO}_4)$.
- (iii) Calculate the solubility product, K_s , of Ag_2CrO_4 in water at 25°C , given Ag_2CrO_4 has a solubility of $6.50 \times 10^{-5} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$.

- (b) Explain, using equilibrium principles, the effect of the following on the solubility of Ag_2CrO_4 in water. Include relevant equation(s) in your answer. No calculations are necessary.
- (i) Dilute silver nitrate, $\text{AgNO}_3(\text{aq})$, is added
 - (ii) Dilute sodium cyanide, $\text{NaCN}(\text{aq})$, is added
- (c) Show, by calculation, that a precipitate of silver chloride, AgCl , will form when 30.0 mL of $0.0686 \text{ mol L}^{-1}$ calcium chloride, CaCl_2 , is added to 50.0 mL of $0.00154 \text{ mol L}^{-1}$ silver nitrate, AgNO_3 . $K_s(\text{AgCl}) = 1.80 \times 10^{-10}$

(2021:1)

- (a) (i) Write the equation for the equilibrium occurring in a saturated solution of magnesium hydroxide, $\text{Mg}(\text{OH})_2$.
- (ii) Write the expression for $K_s(\text{Mg}(\text{OH})_2)$.
- (iii) Calculate the solubility of $\text{Mg}(\text{OH})_2$ in water at 25°C , and give $[\text{Mg}^{2+}]$ and $[\text{OH}^-]$.
 $K_s(\text{Mg}(\text{OH})_2) = 7.10 \times 10^{-12}$
- (b) When dilute sodium hydroxide, NaOH , is added to a saturated solution of $\text{Mg}(\text{OH})_2$, the concentration of Mg^{2+} ions in the saturated solution decreases.
- (i) Explain, using equilibrium principles, why the concentration of Mg^{2+} ions in the saturated solution decreases upon the addition of NaOH .
 - (iii) Calculate the concentration of Mg^{2+} ions in a solution after 30.0 mL of 0.120 mol L^{-1} NaOH is added to 20.0 mL of a saturated $\text{Mg}(\text{OH})_2$ solution. Assume the concentration of OH^- ions in the original saturated solution of $\text{Mg}(\text{OH})_2$ is insignificant.
- (c) Determine whether a precipitate of $\text{Mg}(\text{OH})_2$ will form when 65.0 mL of 0.240 mol L^{-1} magnesium nitrate, $\text{Mg}(\text{NO}_3)_2$, is added to 40.0 mL of NaOH solution of pH 12.8.

(2020:2)

- (a) (i) Write the equation for the equilibrium occurring in a saturated solution of lead bromide, PbBr_2 .
- (ii) Write the expression for $K_s(\text{PbBr}_2)$.
- (iv) Calculate the solubility of PbBr_2 in water at 25°C . $K_s(\text{PbBr}_2) = 2.10 \times 10^{-6}$
- (b) Determine whether a precipitate of lead bromide, PbBr_2 , will form when 125 mL of $0.0365 \text{ mol L}^{-1}$ lead nitrate, $\text{Pb}(\text{NO}_3)_2$, is added to 175 mL of $0.00262 \text{ mol L}^{-1}$ magnesium bromide, MgBr_2

- (c) (i) Explain the effect of the following on the solubility of nickel hydroxide, $\text{Ni}(\text{OH})_2$, in water. Include relevant equation(s) in your answer. No calculations are necessary.
- Ammonia solution, $\text{NH}_3(\text{aq})$, is added:
 - The pH is decreased below 4:
- (ii) Calculate the solubility of a saturated solution of nickel hydroxide at pH 8.25. $K_s(\text{Ni}(\text{OH})_2) = 6.00 \times 10^{-16}$

(2019:1)

- (a) (i) Write the equation for the equilibrium occurring in a saturated solution of zinc hydroxide, $\text{Zn}(\text{OH})_2$.
- (ii) Write the expression for $K_s(\text{Zn}(\text{OH})_2)$.
- (iii) Calculate the solubility of $\text{Zn}(\text{OH})_2$ in water at 25°C , and give the $[\text{Zn}^{2+}]$ and $[\text{OH}^-]$ in the solution. $K_s(\text{Zn}(\text{OH})_2) = 3.80 \times 10^{-17}$
- (v) The presence of a common ion decreases the solubility of a sparingly soluble solid, such as $\text{Zn}(\text{OH})_2$. Calculate the concentration of the hydroxide ions, OH^- , in solution after 25.0 mL of 0.210 mol L^{-1} zinc chloride, ZnCl_2 , solution was added to 25.0 mL of a saturated $\text{Zn}(\text{OH})_2$ solution.
- (b) Use equilibrium principles to explain why the solubility of $\text{Zn}(\text{OH})_2$ increases when an excess of dilute sodium hydroxide, NaOH , is added. Include relevant equation(s) in your answer.
- (c) Determine whether a precipitate of $\text{Zn}(\text{OH})_2$ will form when 30.0 mL of sodium hydroxide solution, NaOH , at pH 13.1 is added to 20.0 mL of $0.0242 \text{ mol L}^{-1}$ zinc nitrate, $\text{Zn}(\text{NO}_3)_2$.

(2018: 1)

- (b) (i) Write the equation for the equilibrium occurring in a saturated solution of calcium fluoride, CaF_2 .
- (ii) Calculate the solubility of CaF_2 in water at 25°C . $K_s(\text{CaF}_2) = 3.20 \times 10^{-11}$
- (c) Explain the effect of the following on the solubility of iron(III) hydroxide, $\text{Fe}(\text{OH})_3$, in water. Include relevant equation(s) in your answer. No calculations are necessary.
- (i) pH lowered below 4

(ii) Potassium thiocyanate, KSCN, solution added

(2018:3)

- (a) (i) Write the solubility product expression, K_s , for silver chloride, AgCl.
(ii) Why does the solubility of AgCl decrease when a small volume of silver nitrate, AgNO₃, solution is added to a saturated solution of AgCl? Explain your answer.
(iii) Show by calculation whether a precipitate of AgCl will form when 70.0 mL of 0.0220 mol L⁻¹ AgNO₃ is added to 50.0 mL of 0.0550 mol L⁻¹ sodium chloride, NaCl. $K_s(\text{AgCl}) = 1.80 \times 10^{-10}$

(2017:1)

- (b) 40.0 mL of 0.150 mol L⁻¹ HBr solution was added to 25.0 mL of a saturated silver bromide, AgBr, solution.
(i) Write an equation for the equilibrium occurring in a saturated solution of AgBr.
(ii) Explain the changes that occur to the concentrations of the species in the saturated solution of AgBr on the addition of the HBr solution.
(iii) Calculate the concentration of the silver ions, Ag⁺, after the HBr solution has been added. $K_s(\text{AgBr}) = 5.00 \times 10^{-13}$. Assume the concentration of Br⁻ in the original saturated solution of AgBr is insignificant.

(2017:2)

- (b) (i) Write the equation for the equilibrium occurring in a saturated solution of copper(II) hydroxide, Cu(OH)₂.
(ii) Write the expression for $K_s(\text{Cu(OH)}_2)$
(vi) Calculate the solubility of Cu(OH)₂ in water at 25°C.
$$K_s(\text{Cu(OH)}_2) = 4.80 \times 10^{-20}.$$

(c) Explain why the solubility of Cu(OH)₂ increases when dilute hydrochloric acid is added.

(2016:1)

Silver carbonate, Ag_2CO_3 , is a sparingly soluble salt. $K_s(\text{Ag}_2\text{CO}_3) = 8.10 \times 10^{-12}$ at 25°C
 $M(\text{Ag}_2\text{CO}_3) = 276 \text{ g mol}^{-1}$

- (a) Write the solubility product expression, K_s , for silver carbonate (Ag_2CO_3).
- (b) Calculate the mass of Ag_2CO_3 that will dissolve in 50 mL of water to make a saturated solution at 25°C .
- (c) Explain how the solubility of Ag_2CO_3 will change if added to 50 mL of a 1.00 mol L^{-1} ammonia, NH_3 , solution. Support your answer with balanced equations. *No calculations are necessary.*
- (d) Show by calculation whether a precipitate of Ag_2CO_3 will form when 20.0 mL of 0.105 mol L^{-1} silver nitrate, AgNO_3 , solution is added to 35.0 mL of a 0.221 mol L^{-1} sodium carbonate, Na_2CO_3 , solution. $K_s(\text{Ag}_2\text{CO}_3) = 8.10 \times 10^{-12}$ at 25°C

(2015:2)

Sufficient calcium carbonate, $\text{CaCO}_3(\text{s})$, is dissolved in water to make a saturated solution.

- (a)
 - (i) Write the equation for the equilibrium occurring in a saturated solution of CaCO_3 .
 - (ii) Write the expression for $K_s(\text{CaCO}_3)$.
 - (iii) Calculate the solubility product of CaCO_3 , $K_s(\text{CaCO}_3)$. The solubility of CaCO_3 is $5.74 \times 10^{-5} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$.
- (b) Some marine animals use calcium carbonate to form their shells. Increased acidification of the oceans poses a problem for the survival of these marine animals. Explain why the solubility of CaCO_3 is higher in an acidic solution. Use an equation to support your explanation.
- (c) Show, by calculation, that a precipitate of lead(II) hydroxide, $\text{Pb}(\text{OH})_2$, will form when 25.0 mL of a sodium hydroxide solution, NaOH , at pH 12.6 is added to 25.0 mL of a $0.00421 \text{ mol L}^{-1}$ lead(II) nitrate, $\text{Pb}(\text{NO}_3)_2$, solution.
 $K_s(\text{Pb}(\text{OH})_2) = 8.00 \times 10^{-17}$ at 25°C

(2014:2)

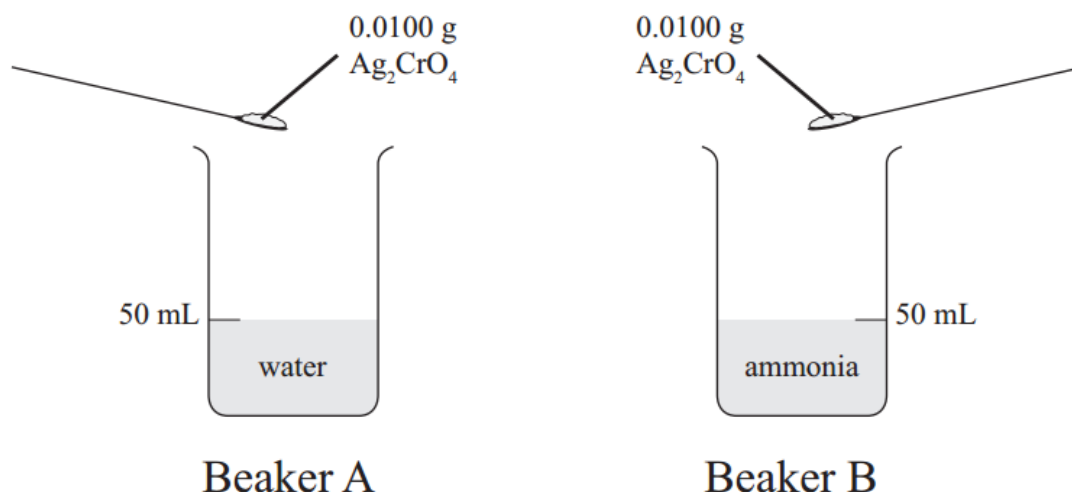
A flask contains a saturated solution of PbCl_2 in the presence of undissolved PbCl_2 .

- (a) (i) Write the equation for the dissolving equilibrium in a saturated solution of PbCl_2 .
- (ii) Write the expression for $K_s(\text{PbCl}_2)$.
- (iii) Calculate the solubility (in mol L^{-1}) of lead(II) chloride in water at 25°C , and give the $[\text{Pb}^{2+}]$ and $[\text{Cl}^-]$ in the solution. $K_s(\text{PbCl}_2) = 1.70 \times 10^{-5}$ at 25°C
- (b) A sample of seawater has a chloride ion concentration of 0.440 mol L^{-1} . Determine whether a precipitate of lead(II) chloride will form when a 2.00 g sample of lead(II) nitrate is added to 500 mL of the seawater. $K_s(\text{PbCl}_2) = 1.70 \times 10^{-5}$. $M(\text{Pb}(\text{NO}_3)_2) = 331 \text{ g mol}^{-1}$.
- (c) The solubility of zinc hydroxide, $\text{Zn}(\text{OH})_2$, can be altered by changes in pH. Some changes in pH may lead to the formation of complex ions, such as the zincate ion, $[\text{Zn}(\text{OH})_4]^{2-}$. Use equilibrium principles to explain why the solubility of zinc hydroxide increases when the pH is less than 4 or greater than 10. *No calculations are necessary.*

(2013)

In an experiment, a saturated solution was made by dissolving $1.44 \times 10^{-3} \text{ g}$ of Ag_2CrO_4 in water and making it up to a volume of 50.0 mL . $M(\text{Ag}_2\text{CrO}_4) = 332 \text{ g mol}^{-1}$.

- (a) Write the K_s expression for $\text{Ag}_2\text{CrO}_4(\text{s})$.
- (b) (i) Calculate the solubility of $\text{Ag}_2\text{CrO}_4(\text{s})$, and hence give the $[\text{Ag}^+]$ and $[\text{CrO}_4^{2-}]$ in the solution.
- (ii) Determine the $K_s(\text{Ag}_2\text{CrO}_4)$.
- (c) In another experiment, 0.0100 g of Ag_2CrO_4 in beaker A was made up to a volume of 50.0 mL with water. In beaker B, 0.0100 g of Ag_2CrO_4 was made up to a volume of 50.0 mL with 0.100 mol L^{-1} ammonia solution.



Compare and contrast the solubility of Ag_2CrO_4 in beaker A and beaker B. No calculations are necessary.

From expired AS 90700

(2012)

Iron(II) hydroxide, $\text{Fe}(\text{OH})_2$, has a K_s of 4.10×10^{-15} at 25°C .

- (a) (i) Write the equation for $\text{Fe}(\text{OH})_2$ dissolving in water.
 - (ii) Write the expression for K_s ($\text{Fe}(\text{OH})_2$).
 - (b) Calculate the solubility (in mol L^{-1}) of iron(II) hydroxide in water at 25°C .
 - (c) (i) Determine whether a precipitate of iron(III) hydroxide, $\text{Fe}(\text{OH})_3$, will form when $\text{Fe}(\text{NO}_3)_3$ is dissolved in water. $[\text{Fe}(\text{NO}_3)_3] = 1.05 \times 10^{-4} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$. Assume the pH of the water is 7.
- $K_s (\text{Fe}(\text{OH})_3) = 2.00 \times 10^{-39}$.

(2011)

Zinc hydroxide, $\text{Zn}(\text{OH})_2$, has a K_s of 3.00×10^{-17} at 25°C .

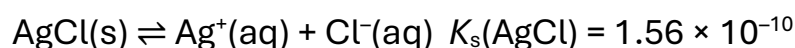
- (a) (i) Write an equation for zinc hydroxide dissolving in water.
 - (ii) Write the K_s expression for zinc hydroxide.
 - (b) Calculate the solubility (in mol L^{-1}) of zinc hydroxide at 25°C .
 - (c) A saturated solution of zinc hydroxide, $\text{Zn}(\text{OH})_2$, contains a small amount of solid $\text{Zn}(\text{OH})_2$ at the bottom of the container. The pH of the solution is increased. Discuss the effect of increasing the pH on the amount of solid present, and also on the nature and concentration of the species present in the solution.
- No calculations are necessary.*

(2010)

- (a) Sufficient Ag_2CrO_4 is dissolved in water to form a saturated solution.
- Write the equation for the equilibrium present in a saturated solution of Ag_2CrO_4 .
 - Write the expression for K_s (Ag_2CrO_4).
- (d) Calculate the solubility of Ag_2CrO_4 in a saturated solution in mol L^{-1} .
 $K_s (\text{Ag}_2\text{CrO}_4) = 3.00 \times 10^{-12}$
- (c) Discuss how the solubility of Ag_2CrO_4 will change if it is dissolved in the following solutions. *No calculations are necessary.*
- $0.1 \text{ mol L}^{-1} \text{ K}_2\text{CrO}_4$
 - $0.1 \text{ mol L}^{-1} \text{ NH}_3$

(2009)

Addition of chloride ions to a solution of silver nitrate often results in the formation of a white precipitate of silver chloride (AgCl).



- Calculate the concentration, in mol L^{-1} , of silver ions in a saturated solution of silver chloride at 25°C .
- Solid sodium chloride is added to 5.00 L of 0.100 mol L^{-1} silver nitrate solution. Calculate the minimum mass of sodium chloride that would be needed to produce a saturated solution of AgCl . Assume that there is no change in volume when the sodium chloride is added. $M(\text{NaCl}) = 58.5 \text{ g mol}^{-1}$
- Discuss reasons for the fact that a precipitate of silver chloride dissolves on the addition of excess aqueous ammonia.

(2008,3)

- Write an equation for the sparingly soluble salt lead(II) chloride (PbCl_2) dissolving in water.
 - Write the solubility product expression for lead(II) chloride.
- Calculate the solubility, in mol L^{-1} , of PbCl_2 in water at 25°C .
 $K_s (\text{PbCl}_2) = 1.60 \times 10^{-5}$ at 25°C
- Sea water contains many dissolved salts. The chloride ion concentration in a sample of sea water is 0.440 mol L^{-1} . Determine whether a precipitate of lead(II) chloride will form when a 1.00 g sample of lead(II) nitrate is added to 500 mL of the sea water. Your answer must be clearly justified. $M(\text{Pb}(\text{NO}_3)_2) = 331 \text{ g mol}^{-1}$.

(2008,4)

The K_s of aluminium hydroxide, $\text{Al}(\text{OH})_3$, at 25°C , is 3×10^{-34} , indicating that it has very low solubility. The solubility may be altered by changes in pH (due to acidic or basic properties) and formation of complex ions such as the aluminate ion, $[\text{Al}(\text{OH})_4]^-$.

Discuss why aluminium hydroxide becomes more soluble in aqueous solutions that have a pH less than 4, or a pH greater than 10. In your answer include:

- the equation for the reaction that relates to K_s ($\text{Al}(\text{OH})_3$)
- equations for the reactions that relate to changes in the solubility of aluminium hydroxide at pH less than 4 or greater than 10
- a discussion of the equilibrium principles involved.

(2007)

Magnesium hydroxide (known as milk of magnesia) is another substance that the patient consumed to control the acidity of the solution in the stomach. K_s ($\text{Mg}(\text{OH})_2$) = 1.25×10^{-11}

(b) (i) Calculate the solubility of magnesium hydroxide in water in mol L^{-1} .

(2006)

Sea-water contains appreciable amounts of ions other than Na^+ and Cl^- . One substance that is less soluble than sodium chloride is calcium sulfate. This is precipitated in the first stage of the purification process used to produce table salt (sodium chloride).

$$K_s (\text{CaSO}_4) = 2.45 \times 10^{-5}$$

- (a) (i) Write the equation for the equilibrium reaction in a saturated solution of calcium sulfate.
- (ii) Calculate the solubility of CaSO_4 in water.

Evaporating the sea-water to dryness would produce a mixture of salts including NaCl . However, precipitation of NaCl occurs if concentrated hydrochloric acid is added to a saturated NaCl solution.

(b) Explain why this precipitation occurs.

As part of the process for extracting table salt from sea-water, sodium hydroxide is added to the seawater to precipitate the magnesium ions as magnesium hydroxide. The concentration of Mg^{2+} ions at this stage is 0.555 mol L^{-1} .

- (c) Calculate the minimum hydroxide ion concentration and hence the pH of the solution needed for precipitation to occur. $K_s(\text{Mg}(\text{OH})_2) = 7.10 \times 10^{-12}$.

(2005)

- (a) Describe what is meant by the term ‘solubility’.
- (b) The solubility product, K_s , of AgCl has a value of 1.56×10^{-10} at 25°C and this value increases to 2.15×10^{-8} at 100°C . Explain why K_s is higher at 100°C . Include reference to the relevant equilibrium equation in your answer.

The chloride ion concentration in sea water can be determined by titrating a sample with aqueous silver nitrate (AgNO_3) using potassium chromate (K_2CrO_4) as the indicator. As the silver nitrate is added, a precipitate of silver chloride, (AgCl) forms. When most of the AgCl has precipitated, the $\text{Ag}^+(\text{aq})$ concentration becomes high enough for a red precipitate of Ag_2CrO_4 to form.

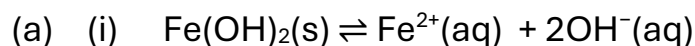
- (c) Show that the solubility of Ag_2CrO_4 in pure water at 25°C is higher than that of AgCl .

$$K_s(\text{AgCl}) = 1.56 \times 10^{-10} \quad K_s(\text{Ag}_2\text{CrO}_4) = 1.30 \times 10^{-12}$$

- (d) If the concentration of chromate ions is $6.30 \times 10^{-3} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$ at the point when the Ag_2CrO_4 starts to precipitate, calculate the concentration of Ag^+ ions in the solution.

Answers

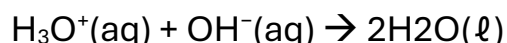
(2025:1)



(ii) $K_s = [\text{Fe}^{2+}][\text{OH}^{-}]^2$

(iii) $K_s = (1.01 \times 10^{-5}) \times (2 \times 1.01 \times 10^{-5})^2$ $K_s = 4.12 \times 10^{-15}$

(iv) When HCl is added, the $[\text{H}_3\text{O}^{+}]$ increases. The H_3O^{+} react with the OH^{-} (in an acid-base reaction). The equation for this reaction is:



This decreases $[\text{OH}^{-}]$ in the system, so the rate of the forward reaction increases to replace the OH^{-} ions. This causes more $\text{Fe}(\text{OH})_2(\text{s})$ to dissolve and hence $\text{Fe}(\text{OH})_2$ becomes more soluble.

(b) (i) When NaCN is added, the Ni^{2+} ions form a complex with the added CN^{-} ions:
 $\text{Ni}^{2+}(\text{aq}) + 4\text{CN}^{-}(\text{aq}) \rightarrow [\text{Ni}(\text{CN})_4]^{2-}(\text{aq})$

This decreases $[\text{Ni}^{2+}]$ in the system, so the rate of the $\text{Ni}(\text{OH})_2$ dissolving reaction increases to replace the Ni^{2+} ions. This causes the precipitate to dissolve/solubility increases. Because an excess of cyanide ions is added and the complex ion is water soluble, eventually all of the $\text{Ni}(\text{OH})_2$ dissolves.

(ii)

$$[\text{Ni}^{2+}] \text{ in mixture} = \frac{0.130 \times 55.0}{90.0}$$

$$= 0.0794 \text{ mol L}^{-1}$$

$$[\text{OH}^{-}] \text{ in mixture} = \frac{1 \times 10^{-14}}{10^{-11.7}} \times \frac{35.0}{90.0}$$

$$= 1.95 \times 10^{-3} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$$

$$\text{In the mixture: IP} = [\text{Ni}^{2+}][\text{OH}^{-}]^2$$

$$= 0.0794 \times (1.95 \times 10^{-3})^2$$

$$= 3.02 \times 10^{-7}$$

Since $\text{IP} > K_s$, a precipitate forms.

(2024:1)



(ii) $K_s = [\text{Ag}^{+}]^2[\text{SO}_4^{2-}]$

(iii) Let solubility be s: $[\text{Ag}^{+}] = 2s$ $[\text{SO}_4^{2-}] = s$

$$K_s = 1.20 \times 10^{-5} = 4s^3$$

$$s = 0.0144 \text{ mol L}^{-1}$$

$$[\text{Ag}^{+}] = 0.0288 \text{ mol L}^{-1}$$

$$[\text{SO}_4^{2-}] = 0.0144 \text{ mol L}^{-1}$$

- (b) (i) Add NH_3 . The NH_3 reacts with the Ag^+ from the equilibrium to form a complex ion: $\text{Ag}^+ + 2\text{NH}_3 \rightarrow [\text{Ag}(\text{NH}_3)_2]^+$

This causes a decrease in $[\text{Ag}^+]$. As a result, the rate of the forward reaction speeds up to replace some of the Ag^+ . This causes more solid Ag_2SO_4 to dissolve, so the solubility increases.

- (ii) Add Na_2SO_4 . The SO_4^{2-} ion is a common ion.

The increase in $[\text{SO}_4^{2-}]$ causes the rate of the reverse reaction to speed up to use up some of the extra SO_4^{2-} . This produces more solid Ag_2SO_4 , so the solubility decreases.

- (c) $[\text{Ag}^+] = 20/50 \times 0.0188 = 7.52 \times 10^{-3} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$

$$[\text{SO}_4^{2-}] = 30/50 \times 3 \times 0.0146 = 0.02628 \text{ mol L}^{-1}$$

$$\text{IP} = [\text{Ag}^+]^2[\text{SO}_4^{2-}] = (7.52 \times 10^{-3})^2 \times (0.02628) = 1.49 \times 10^{-6}$$

Since $\text{IP} < K_s$, a precipitate of Ag_2SO_4 will not form.

(2023:1)

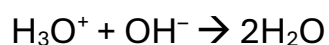
- (a) (i) $\text{Pb}(\text{OH})_2 \rightleftharpoons \text{Pb}^{2+} + 2\text{OH}^-$

(ii) $K_s = [\text{Pb}^{2+}][\text{OH}^-]^2$

(iii) $[\text{H}_3\text{O}^+] = 10^{-9.55}$ $[\text{OH}^-] = 10^{-14}/10^{-9.55} = 3.55 \times 10^{-5} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$

$$8 \times 10^{-17} = [\text{Pb}^{2+}] \times (3.55 \times 10^{-5})^2 \quad [\text{Pb}^{2+}] = 6.35 \times 10^{-8} \text{ mol L}^{-1} = \text{solubility}$$

- (iv) When the pH is decreased, $[\text{H}_3\text{O}^+]$ increases. The H_3O^+ removes OH^- from the equilibrium and neutralises it according to the following equation:



Since $[\text{OH}^-]$ decreases, the equilibrium will speed up the rate of the forward reaction to replace some of the OH^- . As a result, more solid $\text{Pb}(\text{OH})_2$ will dissolve, so solubility increases.

- (b) (i) $\text{IP} = [\text{Pb}^{2+}][\text{I}^-]^2 = (25/60 \times 0.00741) \times (35/60 \times 0.00613)^2$
 $(= 0.00309 \times (0.00358)^2) = 3.95 \times 10^{-8}$

Since $\text{IP} > K_s$, a precipitate of PbI_2 will form.

- (ii) NaI circled. The addition of NaI would increase the concentration of the common ion, I^- . This would cause an increase in the rate of the reverse reaction to use up some of the I^- . As a result, more solid PbI_2 would form, so the solubility of PbI_2 would decrease.

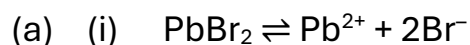
(2022:1)

- (a) (i) $\text{Ag}_2\text{CrO}_4 \rightleftharpoons 2\text{Ag}^+ + \text{CrO}_4^{2-}$
 (ii) $K_s = [\text{Ag}^+]^2[\text{CrO}_4^{2-}]$
 (iii) $K_s = (2 \times 6.50 \times 10^{-5})^2 \times (6.50 \times 10^{-5}) = 1.10 \times 10^{-12}$
- (b) (i) When AgNO_3 is added, $[\text{Ag}^+]$ increases. Since Ag^+ is a common ion, this causes the reverse reaction of the equilibrium to speed up to use up some of the extra Ag^+ . As a result, more solid Ag_2CrO_4 is formed, i.e. the solubility of Ag_2CrO_4 decreases.
- (ii) When NaCN is added, the CN^- ions form a complex ion with the Ag^+ ions:
 $\text{Ag}^+ + 2\text{CN}^- \rightarrow [\text{Ag}(\text{CN})_2]^-$
 Since the Ag^+ ions are removed from the equilibrium, the forward reaction speeds up to replace some of the Ag^+ . This causes more solid Ag_2CrO_4 to dissolve, i.e. the solubility of Ag_2CrO_4 increases.
- (c) $\text{IP} = (50/80 \times 0.00154) \times (2 \times 30/80 \times 0.0686) = 4.95 \times 10^{-5}$
 Since $\text{IP} > K_s$, a precipitate of AgCl will form.

(2021:1)

- (a) (i) $\text{Mg}(\text{OH})_2 \rightleftharpoons \text{Mg}^{2+} + 2\text{OH}^-$
 (ii) $K_s = [\text{Mg}^{2+}][\text{OH}^-]^2$
 (iii) Let solubility be s : $[\text{Mg}^{2+}] = s$ $[\text{OH}^-] = 2s$ $4s^3 = 7.10 \times 10^{-12}$ $s = 1.21 \times 10^{-4}$ mol L⁻¹
 $[\text{Mg}^{2+}] = 1.21 \times 10^{-4}$ mol L⁻¹ $[\text{OH}^-] = 2 \times 1.21 \times 10^{-4}$ mol L⁻¹
- (b) (i) $\text{Mg}(\text{OH})_2 \rightleftharpoons \text{Mg}^{2+} + 2\text{OH}^-$
 Addition of dilute NaOH causes an increase in $[\text{OH}^-]$ (OH^- is a common ion). As a result, the equilibrium favours the reverse reaction / speeds up the rate of the reverse reaction to consume some of the OH^- . This causes more solid $\text{Mg}(\text{OH})_2$ to be produced, so $[\text{Mg}^{2+}]$ in solution decreases.
- (ii) $K_s = [\text{Mg}^{2+}][\text{OH}^-]^2$ $7.10 \times 10^{-12} = [\text{Mg}^{2+}] \times (30/50 \times 0.120)^2$
 $[\text{Mg}^{2+}] = 1.37 \times 10^{-9}$ mol L⁻¹
- (c) $[\text{Mg}^{2+}] = 65/105 \times 0.240 = 0.149$ mol L⁻¹
 $[\text{OH}^-] = 40/105 \times (1 \times 10^{-14}/10^{-12.8}) = 0.0240$ mol L⁻¹
 $\text{IP} = [\text{Mg}^{2+}][\text{OH}^-]^2 = 0.149 \times (0.0240)^2 = 8.58 \times 10^{-5}$. Since $\text{IP} > K_s$, a precipitate of $\text{Mg}(\text{OH})_2$ will form.

(2020:2)



(ii) $K_s = [\text{Pb}^{2+}][\text{Br}^-]^2$

(iii) Let solubility be s: $K_s = 4s^3$ $s = \sqrt[3]{\frac{2.10 \times 10^{-6}}{4}}$ $s = 8.07 \times 10^{-3} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$

(b) $[\text{Pb}^{2+}] = 125/300 \times 0.0365 = 1.52 \times 10^{-2} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$.

$[\text{Br}^-] = 175/300 \times 2 \times 0.00262 = 3.06 \times 10^{-3} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$.

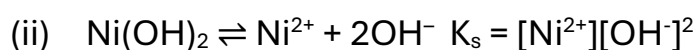
$\text{IP} = [\text{Pb}^{2+}][\text{Br}^-]^2 = 1.42 \times 10^{-7}$. Since $\text{IP} < K_s$, no PbBr_2 precipitate will form.

(c) (i) $\text{Ni}(\text{OH})_2 \rightleftharpoons \text{Ni}^{2+} + 2\text{OH}^-$ When ammonia solution is added, the Ni^{2+} ions are removed from the saturated solution to form a complex ion, as shown below:

$\text{Ni}^{2+} + 6\text{NH}_3 \rightleftharpoons [\text{Ni}(\text{NH}_3)_6]^{2+}$ To restore the equilibrium, more solid $\text{Ni}(\text{OH})_2$ dissolves to replace some of the Ni^{2+} / increase $[\text{Ni}^{2+}]$. Therefore the solubility of $\text{Ni}(\text{OH})_2$ increases.

When the pH is decreased below pH 4, $[\text{H}_3\text{O}^+]$ increases. The H_3O^+ remove the OH^- from the equilibrium according to the neutralisation equation below:

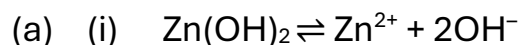
$\text{H}_3\text{O}^+ + \text{OH}^- \rightarrow 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ To restore the equilibrium, more solid $\text{Ni}(\text{OH})_2$ dissolves to replace some of the OH^- / increase $[\text{OH}^-]$. Therefore the solubility of $\text{Ni}(\text{OH})_2$ increases.



$K_s = [\text{Ni}^{2+}][\text{OH}^-]^2$ $[\text{OH}^-] = 1 \times 10^{-14} / 10^{-8.25} = 1.78 \times 10^{-6} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$

$6.00 \times 10^{-16} = [\text{Ni}^{2+}] \times (1.78 \times 10^{-6})^2$ $[\text{Ni}^{2+}] = 1.90 \times 10^{-4} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$

(2019:1)



(ii) $K_s = [\text{Zn}^{2+}][\text{OH}^-]^2$

(iii) Let solubility be 's': $[\text{Zn}^{2+}] = s$, $[\text{OH}^-] = 2s$, $K_s = 4s^3$

$$4s^3 = 3.80 \times 10^{-17} \quad s = 2.12 \times 10^{-6} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$$

$$[\text{Zn}^{2+}] = 2.12 \times 10^{-6} \text{ mol L}^{-1}, [\text{OH}^-] = 4.24 \times 10^{-6} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$$

(iv) $K_s = [\text{Zn}^{2+}][\text{OH}^-]^2$

$$3.80 \times 10^{-17} = (0.210/2) \times [\text{OH}^-]^2 \quad [\text{OH}^-] = 1.90 \times 10^{-8} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$$

Note: 0.210/2 due to dilution factor from adding two solutions together.

(b) $\text{Zn(OH)}_2 \rightleftharpoons \text{Zn}^{2+} + 2\text{OH}^-$ When the OH^- ions are in excess, the Zn^{2+} ions can form a complex ion: $\text{Zn}^{2+} + 4\text{OH}^- \rightarrow [\text{Zn(OH)}_4]^{2-}$ A decrease in $[\text{Zn}^{2+}]$ will result in the forward reaction being favoured, to restore equilibrium / minimise the change.

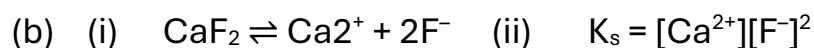
This causes more solid Zn(OH)_2 to dissolve / the solubility of Zn(OH)_2 increases / so that $[\text{Zn}^{2+}][\text{OH}^-]^2$ will again equal K_s .

(c) $[\text{Zn}^{2+}] = 20/50 \times 0.0242 = 9.68 \times 10^{-3} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$

$$[\text{OH}^-] = 30/50 \times 1 \times 10^{-14}/10^{-13.1} = 0.0755 \text{ mol L}^{-1}$$

$\text{IP} = [\text{Zn}^{2+}][\text{OH}^-]^2 = 9.68 \times 10^{-3} \times (0.0755)^2 = 5.52 \times 10^{-5}$ (5.53×10^{-5}). Since $\text{IP} > K_s$, a precipitate of Zn(OH)_2 will form.

(2018:1)

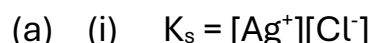


Let solubility be 's': $[\text{Ca}^{2+}] = s$, $[\text{F}^-] = 2s$, $K_s = 4s^3$ $s = 2.00 \times 10^{-4} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$

(c) (i) In a saturated solution: $\text{Fe}(\text{OH})_3 \rightleftharpoons \text{Fe}^{3+} + 3\text{OH}^-$. As the pH is lowered, $[\text{H}_3\text{O}^+]$ increases. The H_3O^+ will remove and neutralise OH^- / $\text{H}_3\text{O}^+ + \text{OH}^- \rightarrow 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$. A decrease in $[\text{OH}^-]$ will result in the forward reaction being favoured, to restore equilibrium / minimise the change. This causes more solid $\text{Fe}(\text{OH})_3$ to dissolve, i.e. the solubility of $\text{Fe}(\text{OH})_3$ increases / so that $[\text{Fe}^{3+}][\text{OH}^-]^3$ will again equal K_s .

(ii) The SCN^- ions can form a complex ion with Fe^{3+} ions: $\text{Fe}^{3+} + \text{SCN}^- \rightarrow [\text{FeSCN}]^{2+}$. Since the Fe^{3+} are removed from the equilibrium, more $\text{Fe}(\text{OH})_3$ dissolves to replace some of the Fe^{3+} , i.e. equilibrium will shift towards the products / speed up the forward reaction. As a result, the solubility of $\text{Fe}(\text{OH})_3$ increases.

(2018:3)



(ii) The Ag^+ is a common ion. By increasing $[\text{Ag}^+]$, the equilibrium will shift towards the reactants to use up some of the extra Ag^+ , so more solid AgCl will form, i.e. the solubility of AgCl will decrease.

(iii) Final $[\text{Ag}^+] = 70/120 \times 0.0220 = 0.0128 \text{ mol L}^{-1}$.

Final $[\text{Cl}^-] = 50/120 \times 0.0550 = 0.0229 \text{ mol L}^{-1}$.

$Q = [\text{Ag}^+][\text{Cl}^-] = 0.0128 \times 0.0229 = 2.94 \times 10^{-4}$. Since $Q > K_s$, AgCl will form a precipitate.

(2017)

(b) 40.0 mL of 0.150 mol L^{-1} HBr solution was added to 25.0 mL of a saturated silver bromide, AgBr , solution.

(i) Write an equation for the equilibrium occurring in a saturated solution of AgBr .



(ii) Explain the changes that occur to the concentrations of the species in the saturated solution of AgBr on the addition of the HBr solution.

Br^- is a common ion / added to solution. An increase in $[\text{Br}^-]$ will result in the reverse reaction being favoured, to restore equilibrium / minimise the change.

This results in a decrease in $[Ag^+]$ (since Ag^+ reacts with some of the added Br^- to help use it up) / $AgBr$ becomes less soluble, (until $[Ag^+][Br^-]$ is again equal to K_s .)

- (iii) Calculate the concentration of the silver ions, Ag^+ , after the HBr solution has been added. $K_s(AgBr) = 5.00 \times 10^{-13}$. Assume the concentration of Br^- in the original saturated solution of $AgBr$ is insignificant.



$$5 \times 10^{-13} = [Ag^+] \times \frac{0.150 \times 40}{65} \quad [Ag^+] = 5.42 \times 10^{-12} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$$

(2017:2)

- (b) (i) Write the equation for the equilibrium occurring in a saturated solution of copper(II) hydroxide, $Cu(OH)_2$.



- (ii) Write the expression for K_s ($Cu(OH)_2$)

$$K_s = [Cu^{2+}][OH^-]^2$$

- (iii) Calculate the solubility of $Cu(OH)_2$ in water at $25^\circ C$. $K_s(Cu(OH)_2) = 4.80 \times 10^{-20}$

$$\text{Let } s = \text{solubility } [Cu^{2+}] = s$$

$$[OH^-]^2 = (2s)^2$$

$$K_s = 4s^3$$

$$4s^3 = 4.80 \times 10^{-20} \text{ So; } s = 2.29 \times 10^{-7} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$$

- (c) Explain why the solubility of $Cu(OH)_2$ increases when dilute hydrochloric acid is added.

$Cu(OH)_2 \rightleftharpoons Cu^{2+} + 2OH^-$ When copper(II) hydroxide is dissolved in an acidic solution, the H_3O^+ ions neutralise the OH^- ions / $H_3O^+ + OH^- \rightarrow 2H_2O$

A decrease in $[OH^-]$ will result in the forward reaction being favoured, to restore equilibrium / minimise the change. This causes more solid $Cu(OH)_2$ to dissolve, i.e. the solubility of $Cu(OH)_2$ increases / so that $[Cu^{2+}][OH^-]$ will again equal K_s .

(2016)

Silver carbonate, Ag_2CO_3 , is a sparingly soluble salt. $K_s(\text{Ag}_2\text{CO}_3) = 8.10 \times 10^{-12}$ at 25°C

$M(\text{Ag}_2\text{CO}_3) = 276 \text{ g mol}^{-1}$

- (a) Write the solubility product expression, K_s , for silver carbonate (Ag_2CO_3).

$$K_s = [\text{Ag}^+]^2[\text{CO}_3^{2-}]$$

- (b) Calculate the mass of Ag_2CO_3 that will dissolve in 50 mL of water to make a saturated solution at 25°C .

Let s = solubility

$$[\text{Ag}^+] = 2s \quad [\text{CO}_3^{2-}] = s \quad K_s = 4s^3$$

$$s = 1.27 \times 10^{-4} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$$

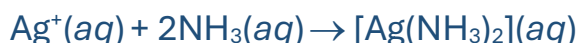
$$n = c \times v = 6.33 \times 10^{-6} \text{ mol}$$

$$m = n \times M = 1.75 \times 10^{-3} \text{ g}$$

$$\text{OR } \text{g L}^{-1} = c \times M = 0.0349 \text{ g L}^{-1}$$

$$\text{so mass in 50 mL} = (0.0349 \times 50) / 1000 = 1.75 \times 10^{-3} \text{ g}$$

- (c) Explain how the solubility of Ag_2CO_3 will change if added to 50 mL of a 1.00 mol L^{-1} ammonia, NH_3 , solution. Support your answer with balanced equations. No calculations are necessary.



The equilibrium responds by favouring the forward reaction and thus more dissolves.

- (d) Show by calculation whether a precipitate of Ag_2CO_3 will form when 20.0 mL of 0.105 mol L^{-1} silver nitrate, AgNO_3 , solution is added to 35.0 mL of a 0.221 mol L^{-1} sodium carbonate, Na_2CO_3 , solution. $K_s(\text{Ag}_2\text{CO}_3) = 8.10 \times 10^{-12}$ at 25°C

$$\text{AgNO}_3 \text{ dilution: } (20/55) \times 0.105 = 0.0382$$

$$\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3 \text{ dilution: } (35/55) \times 0.221 = 0.141$$

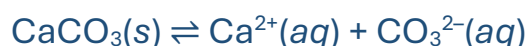
$$Q / \text{I.P.} = [0.03818]^2 [0.1406] = 2.06 \times 10^{-4}$$

As $Q / \text{I.P.} > K_s$, a precipitate will form.

(2015)

Sufficient calcium carbonate, $\text{CaCO}_3(\text{s})$, is dissolved in water to make a saturated solution.

- (a) (i) Write the equation for the equilibrium occurring in a saturated solution of CaCO_3 .



- (ii) Write the expression for $K_s(\text{CaCO}_3)$.

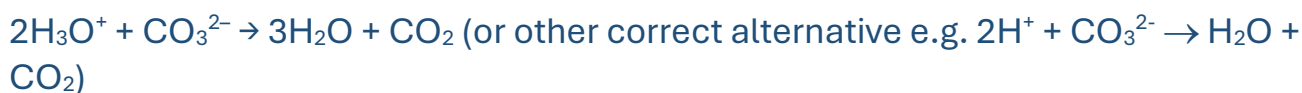
$$K_s = [\text{Ca}^{2+}][\text{CO}_3^{2-}]$$

- (iii) Calculate the solubility product of CaCO_3 , $K_s(\text{CaCO}_3)$. The solubility of CaCO_3 is $5.74 \times 10^{-5} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$.

$$K_s(\text{CaCO}_3) = (5.74 \times 10^{-5})^2 = 3.29 \times 10^{-9}$$

- (b) Some marine animals use calcium carbonate to form their shells. Increased acidification of the oceans poses a problem for the survival of these marine animals. Explain why the solubility of CaCO_3 is higher in an acidic solution. Use an equation to support your explanation.

The H_3O^+ from the acidic solution reacts with the CO_3^{2-} . This reduces $[\text{CO}_3^{2-}]$, causing the equilibrium to shift towards the products / RHS to replace some of the lost CO_3^{2-} . Therefore more solid CaCO_3 will dissolve.



- (c) Show, by calculation, that a precipitate of lead(II) hydroxide, $\text{Pb}(\text{OH})_2$, will form when 25.0 mL of a sodium hydroxide solution, NaOH , at pH 12.6 is added to 25.0 mL of a $0.00421 \text{ mol L}^{-1}$ lead(II) nitrate, $\text{Pb}(\text{NO}_3)_2$, solution.

$$K_s(\text{Pb}(\text{OH})_2) = 8.00 \times 10^{-17} \text{ at } 25^\circ\text{C}$$

$$\text{pH} = 12.6, \text{pOH} = 1.4 \text{ and so } [\text{OH}^-] = 0.0398$$



$$Q = [\text{Pb}^{2+}][\text{OH}^-]^2$$

$$[\text{Pb}^{2+}] = 0.5 \times 0.00421 = 2.105 \times 10^{-3} \quad [\text{OH}^-] = 0.5 \times 0.0398 = 1.99 \times 10^{-2}$$

$$Q = (2.105 \times 10^{-3}) \times (1.99 \times 10^{-2})^2 \quad Q = 8.34 \times 10^{-7}$$

Since $Q > K_s$, a precipitate of $\text{Pb}(\text{OH})_2$ will form.

(2014)



(ii) $K_s = [\text{Pb}^{2+}][\text{Cl}^-]^2$

(iii) $[\text{Pb}^{2+}] = x \quad [\text{Cl}^-] = 2x \quad K_s = 4x^3 \quad x = \sqrt[3]{K_s/4} \quad x = \sqrt[3]{\frac{1.70 \times 10^{-5}}{4}} = 1.62 \times 10^{-2} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$

$$[\text{Pb}^{2+}] = 1.62 \times 10^{-2} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$$

$$[\text{Cl}^-] = 3.24 \times 10^{-2} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$$

(b) $n(\text{Pb}(\text{NO}_3)_2) = 2.00 / 331 = 6.04 \times 10^{-3} \text{ mol}$

$$\therefore [\text{Pb}^{2+}] = 6.04 \times 10^{-3} \text{ mol} / 0.500 \text{ L} = 1.21 \times 10^{-2} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$$

$$Q = (1.21 \times 10^{-2}) \times (0.440)^2 = 2.34 \times 10^{-3}$$

As $Q > K_s$, a precipitate will form.

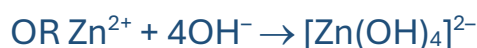


When pH is less than 4 / low, $[\text{OH}^{-}]$ is decreased due to the reaction with H_3O^{+} to form water,



So equilibrium shifts to the right to produce more $[\text{OH}^{-}]$, therefore more $\text{Zn}(\text{OH})_2$ will dissolve.

When pH is greater than 10 / high, then more OH^{-} is available and the complex ion (zincate ion) will form.



This decrease in $[\text{Zn}^{2+}]$ causes the position of equilibrium to shift further to the right, therefore more $\text{Zn}(\text{OH})_2$ dissolves.

(2013)

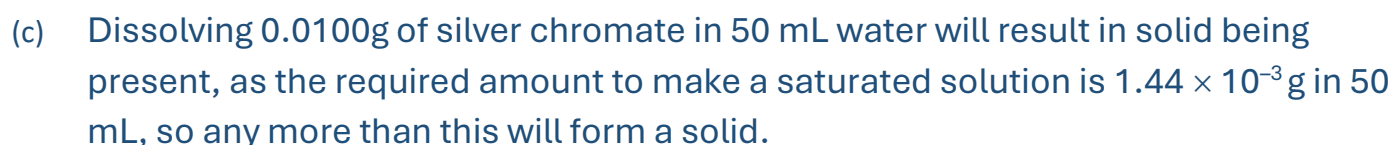


$$[\text{Ag}_2\text{CrO}_4] = 4.33 \times 10^{-6} / 50 \times 10^{-3} = 8.67 \times 10^{-5} \text{ mol L}^{-1}.$$

$$[\text{Ag}^{+}] = 8.67 \times 10^{-5} \times 2 = 1.73 \times 10^{-4} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$$

$$[\text{CrO}_4^{2-}] = 8.67 \times 10^{-5} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$$

(ii) $K_s = (1.73 \times 10^{-4})^2 \times 8.67 \times 10^{-5} = 2.61 \times 10^{-12}$



If the same mass is added to 50 mL of ammonia, more will dissolve and less solid will be present due to the formation of a complex ion.

The Ag_2CrO_4 will dissociate completely and form an equilibrium.



The silver ion will then react further with NH_3 , removing it from the above equilibrium. Thus, more Ag_2CrO_4 will dissolve to re-establish equilibrium.

(2012)

Iron(II) hydroxide, $\text{Fe}(\text{OH})_2$, has a K_s of 4.10×10^{-15} at 25°C .

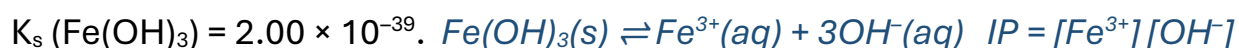
- (a) (i) Write the equation for $\text{Fe}(\text{OH})_2$ dissolving in water.



- (ii) Write the expression for K_s ($\text{Fe}(\text{OH})_2$). $K_s = [\text{Fe}^{2+}][\text{OH}^{-}]^2$

- (b) Calculate the solubility (in mol L^{-1}) of iron(II) hydroxide in water at 25°C . *Let s be the solubility: $[\text{Fe}^{2+}] = s$ $[\text{OH}^{-}] = 2s$ $K_s = s \times (2s)^2$ $4.10 \times 10^{-15} = 4s^3$ $s = 1.01 \times 10^{-5} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$ Solubility of $\text{Fe}(\text{OH})_2(\text{s}) = 1.01 \times 10^{-5} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$*

- (c) (i) Determine whether a precipitate of iron(III) hydroxide, $\text{Fe}(\text{OH})_3$, will form when $\text{Fe}(\text{NO}_3)_3$ is dissolved in water. $[\text{Fe}(\text{NO}_3)_3] = 1.05 \times 10^{-4} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$. Assume the pH of the water is 7.



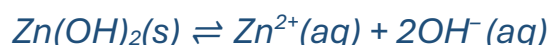
$$^3 \text{ At pH 7, } [\text{OH}^{-}] = 1 \times 10^{-7} \text{ mol L}^{-1} \quad IP = [1.05 \times 10^{-4}][1 \times 10^{-7}]^3 = 1.05 \times 10^{-25}$$

Since $IP > K_s$, $\text{Fe}(\text{OH})_3$ will form a precipitate

(2011)

Zinc hydroxide, $\text{Zn}(\text{OH})_2$, has a K_s of 3.00×10^{-17} at 25°C .

- (a) (i) Write an equation for zinc hydroxide dissolving in water.



- (ii) Write the K_s expression for zinc hydroxide. $K_s = [\text{Zn}^{2+}][\text{OH}^{-}]^2$

- (b) Calculate the solubility (in mol L^{-1}) of zinc hydroxide at 25°C . *Let s be solubility $K_s = 4s^3$ $s = 1.96 \times 10^{-6} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$*

- (c) A saturated solution of zinc hydroxide, $\text{Zn}(\text{OH})_2$, contains a small amount of solid $\text{Zn}(\text{OH})_2$ at the bottom of the container. The pH of the solution is increased.

Discuss the effect of increasing the pH on the amount of solid present, and also on the nature and concentration of the species present in the solution.

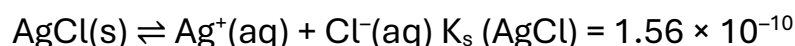
No calculations are necessary. Raising the pH will increase the concentration of OH^{-} ions. This will initially cause additional precipitate to form. Once the pH has been increased sufficiently (enough OH^{-} has been added) the formation of a complex ion with Zn^{2+} will occur, lowering OH^{-} ion concentration in solution. Thus the precipitate will redissolve as a complex ion and less precipitate will be at the bottom of the test tube.

(2010)

- (a) Sufficient Ag_2CrO_4 is dissolved in water to form a saturated solution.
- (i) Write the equation for the equilibrium present in a saturated solution of Ag_2CrO_4 . $\text{Ag}_2\text{CrO}_4(s) \rightleftharpoons 2\text{Ag}^+(aq) + \text{CrO}_4^{2-}(aq)$
- (ii) Write the expression for K_s (Ag_2CrO_4). $K_s = [\text{Ag}^+]^2 [\text{CrO}_4^{2-}]$
- (d) Calculate the solubility of Ag_2CrO_4 in a saturated solution in mol L^{-1} .
 $K_s (\text{Ag}_2\text{CrO}_4) = 3.00 \times 10^{-12}$ *Let Solubility = s* $K_s = 4s^3$ $s = 9.09 \times 10^{-5} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$
- (c) Discuss how the solubility of Ag_2CrO_4 will change if it is dissolved in the following solutions. *No calculations are necessary.*
- (i) $0.1 \text{ mol L}^{-1} \text{ K}_2\text{CrO}_4$ $\text{Ag}_2\text{CrO}_4(s) \rightleftharpoons 2\text{Ag}^+(aq) + \text{CrO}_4^{2-}(aq)$ *Less silver chromate dissolves. Silver chromate is in equilibrium. More chromate ions shift this to the left.*
- (ii) $0.1 \text{ mol L}^{-1} \text{ NH}_3$ *Ammonia complexes with silver ions. $\text{Ag}^+ + 2\text{NH}_3 \rightarrow [\text{Ag}(\text{NH}_3)_2]^+$ This removes silver ions from the equilibrium mixture. The silver chromate equilibrium will shift to the RHS.*

(2009)

Addition of chloride ions to a solution of silver nitrate often results in the formation of a white precipitate of silver chloride (AgCl).



- (a) Calculate the concentration, in mol L^{-1} , of silver ions in a saturated solution of silver chloride at 25°C . $K_s = [\text{Ag}^+][\text{Cl}^-]$ *Let s = solubility = $1.56 \times 10^{-10} = s^2$ $s = 1.25 \times 10^{-5} [\text{Ag}^+] = 1.25 \times 10^{-5} (\text{mol L}^{-1})$*
- (b) Solid sodium chloride is added to 5.00 L of 0.100 mol L^{-1} silver nitrate solution. Calculate the minimum mass of sodium chloride that would be needed to produce a saturated solution of AgCl . Assume that there is no change in volume when the sodium chloride is added. $M(\text{NaCl}) = 58.5 \text{ g mol}^{-1}$. $K_s = [\text{Ag}^+][\text{Cl}^-]$ $1.56 \times 10^{-10} = [0.100][\text{Cl}^-]$ $[\text{Cl}^-] = 1.56 \times 10^{-9}$ $n = c \times V = 1.56 \times 10^{-9} \times 5.00 \text{ mol} = 7.80 \times 10^{-9} \text{ mol}$ $m = n \times M = 7.80 \times 10^{-9} \text{ mol} \times 58.5 \text{ g mol}^{-1} = 4.56 \times 10^{-7} \text{ g}$
- (c) Discuss reasons for the fact that a precipitate of silver chloride dissolves on the addition of excess aqueous ammonia. *Dilute NH_3 will react with Ag^+ to produce the complex ion $[\text{Ag}(\text{NH}_3)_2]^+$. $\text{Ag}^+ + 2\text{NH}_3 \rightarrow [\text{Ag}(\text{NH}_3)_2]^+$ This decreases $[\text{Ag}^+]$. This moves the solubility equilibrium below to the right $\text{AgCl}(s) \rightleftharpoons \text{Ag}^+(aq) + \text{Cl}^-(aq)$ increasing the solubility of AgCl / causing more AgCl to dissolve, therefore the precipitate disappears.*

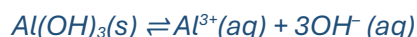
(2008:3)

- (a) (i) Write an equation for the sparingly soluble salt lead(II) chloride (PbCl_2) dissolving in water. $\text{PbCl}_2(\text{s}) \rightleftharpoons \text{Pb}^{2+}(\text{aq}) + 2\text{Cl}^{-}(\text{aq})$
- (ii) Write the solubility product expression for lead(II) chloride. $K_s(\text{PbCl}_2) = [\text{Pb}^{2+}][\text{Cl}^{-}]^2$
- (b) Calculate the solubility, in mol L^{-1} , of PbCl_2 in water at 25°C .
 $K_s(\text{PbCl}_2) = 1.60 \times 10^{-5}$ at 25°C *Let s be the solubility $K_s = s(2s)^2$ $1.60 \times 10^{-5} = 4s^3$
 $s = 0.0159 \text{ mol L}^{-1}$ solubility of $\text{PbCl}_2(\text{s}) = 0.0159 \text{ mol L}^{-1}$ (allow 0.0160 or 0.016)*
- (c) Sea water contains many dissolved salts. The chloride ion concentration in a sample of sea water is 0.440 mol L^{-1} . Determine whether a precipitate of lead(II) chloride will form when a 1.00 g sample of lead(II) nitrate is added to 500 mL of the sea water. Your answer must be clearly justified. $M(\text{Pb}(\text{NO}_3)_2) = 331 \text{ g mol}^{-1}$.
 $n(\text{Pb}(\text{NO}_3)_2) = 1.00 \text{ g} / 331 \text{ g mol}^{-1} = 3.02 \times 10^{-3} \text{ mol}$. If the lead nitrate is dissolved in the 500 mL , then $[\text{Pb}^{2+}] = 6.04 \times 10^{-3} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$ $Q = [\text{Pb}^{2+}][\text{Cl}^{-}]^2 = 6.04 \times 10^{-3} \times (0.440)^2 = 1.17 \times 10^{-3}$. As $Q (1.17 \times 10^{-3})$ exceeds $K_s (1.60 \times 10^{-5})$, a precipitate will form.

(2008:4)

The K_s of aluminium hydroxide, $\text{Al}(\text{OH})_3$, at 25°C , is 3×10^{-34} , indicating that it has very low solubility. The solubility may be altered by changes in pH (due to acidic or basic properties) and formation of complex ions such as the aluminate ion, $[\text{Al}(\text{OH})_4]^{-}$. Discuss why aluminium hydroxide becomes more soluble in aqueous solutions that have a pH less than 4, or a pH greater than 10. In your answer include:

- the equation for the reaction that relates to $K_s(\text{Al}(\text{OH})_3)$
- equations for the reactions that relate to changes in the solubility of aluminium hydroxide at pH less than 4 or greater than 10
- a discussion of the equilibrium principles involved.



Acidic conditions When the pH is less than 4, $[\text{H}_3\text{O}^{+}] > [\text{OH}^{-}]$ and the $[\text{H}_3\text{O}^{+}]$ ions react with OH^{-} ions from $\text{Al}(\text{OH})_3$. ie $\text{H}_3\text{O}^{+} + \text{OH}^{-} \rightarrow 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (OR $\text{Al}(\text{OH})_3(\text{s}) + 3\text{H}_3\text{O}^{+} \rightarrow \text{Al}^{3+}(\text{aq}) + 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$) The decrease in $[\text{OH}^{-}]$ from the solubility equilibrium causes the position of equilibrium to shift further to the right so that more $\text{Al}(\text{OH})_3$ is dissolved.

Basic conditions When the pH is greater than 10, $[\text{H}_3\text{O}^{+}] < [\text{OH}^{-}]$ and the OH^{-} ions react with Al^{3+} ions from $[\text{Al}(\text{OH})_4]^{-}$ ie $\text{Al}^{3+} + 4\text{OH}^{-} \rightarrow [\text{Al}(\text{OH})_4]^{-}$ (OR $\text{Al}(\text{OH})_3(\text{s}) + \text{OH}^{-} \rightarrow [\text{Al}(\text{OH})_4]^{-}$) The decrease in $[\text{Al}^{3+}]$ from the solubility equilibrium causes the position of equilibrium to shift further to the right so that more $\text{Al}(\text{OH})_3$ is dissolved.

(2007)

Magnesium hydroxide (known as milk of magnesia) is another substance that the patient consumed to control the acidity of the solution in the stomach. $K_s(\text{Mg}(\text{OH})_2) = 1.25 \times 10^{-11}$

- (b) (i) Calculate the solubility of magnesium hydroxide in water in mol L^{-1} .

$$\text{Mg}(\text{OH})_2(\text{s}) \rightleftharpoons \text{Mg}^{2+}(\text{aq}) + 2\text{OH}^{-}(\text{aq}) \quad K_s = 4s^3 = 1.25 \times 10^{-11} \quad s^3 = 3.125 \times 10^{-12} \quad s = 1.46 \times 10^{-4}$$

solubility is $1.46 \times 10^{-4} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$

(2006)

Sea-water contains appreciable amounts of ions other than Na^{+} and Cl^{-} . One substance that is less soluble than sodium chloride is calcium sulfate. This is precipitated in the first stage of the purification process used to produce table salt (sodium chloride). $K_s(\text{CaSO}_4) = 2.45 \times 10^{-5}$

- (a) (i) Write the equation for the equilibrium reaction in a saturated solution of calcium sulfate. $\text{CaSO}_4(\text{s}) \rightleftharpoons \text{Ca}^{2+}(\text{aq}) + \text{SO}_4^{2-}(\text{aq})$
- (ii) Calculate the solubility of CaSO_4 in water. $K_s(\text{CaSO}_4) = [\text{Ca}^{2+}][\text{SO}_4^{2-}] = 2.45 \times 10^{-5}$
 $s = 4.95 \times 10^{-3} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$

Evaporating the sea-water to dryness would produce a mixture of salts including NaCl. However, precipitation of NaCl occurs if concentrated hydrochloric acid is added to a saturated NaCl solution.

- (b) Explain why this precipitation occurs. *The added Cl^{-} reduces the solubility of the NaCl. For the saturated solution: $\text{NaCl}(\text{s}) \rightleftharpoons \text{Na}^{+}(\text{aq}) + \text{Cl}^{-}(\text{aq})$. The addition of Cl^{-} causes the equilibrium to favour the reactants and hence a precipitate will begin to form.*

As part of the process for extracting table salt from sea-water, sodium hydroxide is added to the seawater to precipitate the magnesium ions as magnesium hydroxide. The concentration of Mg^{2+} ions at this stage is 0.555 mol L^{-1} .

- (c) Calculate the minimum hydroxide ion concentration and hence the pH of the solution needed for precipitation to occur. $K_s(\text{Mg}(\text{OH})_2) = 7.10 \times 10^{-12}$. $[\text{Mg}^{2+}][\text{OH}^{-}]^2 > 7.10 \times 10^{-12}$ $0.555 \times [\text{OH}^{-}]^2 > 7.10 \times 10^{-12}$ $[\text{OH}^{-}] > 3.58 \times 10^{-6}$ Minimum pH = 8.55

(2005)

- (a) Describe what is meant by the term 'solubility'.

Solubility is the amount of substance that will dissolve in a given volume to form a saturated solution (at that temperature).

- (b) The solubility product, K_s , of AgCl has a value of 1.56×10^{-10} at 25°C and this value increases to 2.15×10^{-8} at 100°C. Explain why K_s is higher at 100°C. Include reference to the relevant equilibrium equation in your answer.

K_s is an equilibrium constant for the reaction $\text{AgCl(s)} \rightleftharpoons \text{Ag}^+(\text{aq}) + \text{Cl}^-(\text{aq})$ and $K_s = [\text{Ag}^+][\text{Cl}^-]$. More solid dissolves when the temperature is increased as equilibrium shifts in the endothermic direction, which means it shifts to the right and increases the concentration of ions in solution. This increases K_s .

The chloride ion concentration in sea water can be determined by titrating a sample with aqueous silver nitrate (AgNO_3) using potassium chromate (K_2CrO_4) as the indicator.

As the silver nitrate is added, a precipitate of silver chloride, (AgCl) forms. When most of the AgCl has precipitated, the $\text{Ag}^+(\text{aq})$ concentration becomes high enough for a red precipitate of Ag_2CrO_4 to form.

- (c) Show that the solubility of Ag_2CrO_4 in pure water at 25°C is higher than that of AgCl.

$$K_s(\text{AgCl}) = 1.56 \times 10^{-10}, K_s(\text{Ag}_2\text{CrO}_4) = 1.30 \times 10^{-12}$$

$$[\text{Ag}^+] = [\text{Cl}^-] = \text{solubility}, s \quad s = 1.25 \times 10^{-5} \text{ mol L}^{-1} \quad K_s = [\text{Ag}^+]^2[\text{CrO}_4^{2-}] \quad s = 6.88 \times 10^{-5} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$$

- (d) If the concentration of chromate ions is $6.30 \times 10^{-3} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$ at the point when the Ag_2CrO_4 starts to precipitate, calculate the concentration of Ag^+ ions in the solution.

$$K_s(\text{Ag}_2\text{CrO}_4) = [\text{Ag}^+]^2[\text{CrO}_4^{2-}] = 1.30 \times 10^{-12}$$

$$[\text{Ag}^+]^2 = 2.06 \times 10^{-10}$$

$$[\text{Ag}^+] = 1.44 \times 10^{-5} \text{ mol L}^{-1}.$$