

# Inorganic nomenclature

- overview -

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## Binary compounds

(= compounds composed of two different elements)

GROUP NAME	CATION	ANION <span style="border: 1px solid yellow; padding: 2px;">-ide</span>
oxides	metal or nonmetal	$O^{-II}$
peroxides	$H^{+I}$ or $s^1$ or $s^2$ metal	$O_2^{-I}$
oxygen-free acids / salts	$H^{+I}$ / metal	$S^{-II}$ $F^{-I}, Cl^{-I}, Br^{-I}, I^{-I}$

## Ternary compounds

(= compounds composed of three different elements)

GROUP NAME	CATION	ANION
hydroxides	metal or $\text{NH}_4^+$	$(\text{OH})^{-1}$ <b>-ide</b>
acids	$\text{H}^{\text{I}}$	$\text{XO}_n$ (X = central atom)
salts	metal (or $\text{NH}_4^+$ )	$\text{XO}_n$ (X = central atom)

# Naming inorganic compounds

= name of cation + name of anion

NaCl

= sodium chloride

KOH

= potassium hydroxide

## Memorize:

- 1) classification of elements
- 2) symbols and English names of elements
- 3) Latin names of elements
- 4) names of common cations and anions
- 5) common names of selected compounds

# Periodic Table of Elements

1 H																	2 He
3 Li	4 Be											5 B	6 C	7 N	8 O	9 F	10 Ne
11 Na	12 Mg	III B	IV B	V B	VIB	VII B	VIII			IB	II B	13 Al	14 Si	15 P	16 S	17 Cl	18 Ar
19 K	20 Ca	21 Sc	22 Ti	23 V	24 Cr	25 Mn	26 Fe	27 Co	28 Ni	29 Cu	30 Zn	31 Ga	32 Ge	33 As	34 Se	35 Br	36 Kr
37 Rb	38 Sr	39 Y	40 Zr	41 Nb	42 Mo	43 Tc	44 Ru	45 Rh	46 Pd	47 Ag	48 Cd	49 In	50 Sn	51 Sb	52 Te	53 I	54 Xe
55 Cs	56 Ba	*La	72 Hf	73 Ta	74 W	75 Re	76 Os	77 Ir	78 Pt	79 Au	80 Hg	81 Tl	82 Pb	83 Bi	84 Po	85 At	86 Rn
87 Fr	88 Ra	+Ac	104 Rf	105 Ha	106	107	108	109	110								

**Memorize:** symbols and names of elements:  
 IA, IIA, IIIA, IVA, VA, VIA, VIIA, O  
 (all except crossed elements) and marked elements from groups „B“  
 ⇒ use flash cards

- |                |                     |                    |                       |
|----------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>H - gas</b> | <b>Li - solid</b>   | <b>Br - liquid</b> | <b>Tc - synthetic</b> |
| Non-Metals     | Transition Metals   | Rare Earth Metals  | Halogens              |
| Alkali Metals  | Alkali Earth Metals | Other Metals       | Inert Elements        |

The figure is found at [http://www.corrosionsource.com/handbook/periodic/periodic\\_table.gif](http://www.corrosionsource.com/handbook/periodic/periodic_table.gif) (September 2007)

Symbol	Latin name	English name
Na	Natrium	sodium
K	Kalium	potassium
Sn	Stannum	tin
Pb	Plumbum	lead
Sb	Stibium	antimony
W	Wolframium	tungsten
Fe	Ferrum	iron
Cu	Cuprum	copper
Ag	Argentum	silver
Au	Aurum	gold
Hg	Hydrargyrum	mercury

# Names of **CATIONS**

## 1. cations found only in one oxidation state

name of the cation = name of the element

- H, Li, Na, K, Ag                    **+I**
- Be, Mg, Ca, Sr, Ba, Zn            **+II**
- B, Al                                    **+III**

*see position of the elements in the Periodic table*







## Names of ANIONS

	ACID	<u>anion</u>
oxygen-free	hydro-.....-ic acid	-ide
oxo-acid <i>lower ox.state</i>	-ous acid	-ite
oxo-acid <i>higher ox.state</i>	-ic acid	-ate

# Names of ANIONS

## 1. one oxidation state

a) root of Latin name + suffix: **-ide**

- halogen → halide      F, Cl, Br, I      -I
- hydrogen → hydride      H      -I
- oxygen → oxide      O      -II
- sulfur → sulfide      S      -II
- hydroxide      OH      -1
- cyanide      CN      -1

# Names of ANIONS

## 1. one oxidation state of a central atom

b) root of Latin name + suffix: **-ate**

➤ carbonate	$\text{CO}_3^{-2}$	$\text{C}^{\text{IV}}$
➤ silicate	$\text{SiO}_3^{-2}$	$\text{Si}^{\text{IV}}$
➤ chromate	$\text{CrO}_4^{-2}$	$\text{Cr}^{\text{VI}}$
➤ borate	$\text{BO}_3^{-3}$	$\text{B}^{\text{III}}$

*oxidation state of oxygen in anions is always -II  
(exception: in peroxides = -I)*

## Names of ANIONS

### 2. two oxidation states of a central atom

root of Latin name + two suffixes:

• *lower oxidative state:*

**-ite**

• *higher oxidative state:*

**-ate**

- **nitrite** / **nitrate**       $\text{NO}_2^-/\text{NO}_3^-$        $\text{N}^{+III/+V}$
- **phosphite**/phosph**ate**       $\text{PO}_3^{-3}/\text{PO}_4^{-3}$        $\text{P}^{+III/+V}$
- **sulfite** / **sulfate**       $\text{SO}_3^{-2}/\text{SO}_4^{-2}$        $\text{S}^{+IV/+VI}$
- **selenite**/selen**ate**       $\text{SeO}_3^{-2}/\text{SeO}_4^{-2}$        $\text{Se}^{+IV/+VI}$

## Names of ANIONS

### 3. more oxidative states of a central atom

root of Latin name + prefixes and suffixes:

- *the lowest oxidative state:* **hypo- -ite**
- *lower oxidative state:* **-ite**
- *higher oxidative state:* **-ate**
- *the highest oxidative state:* **hyper- -ate**

➤ Cl, Br, I, Mn

(**hypochlorite**, **chlorite**, **chlorate**, **perchlorate**)



## Compounds called by their common names

- $\text{H}_2\text{O}$       water       $\text{H}_3\text{O}^+$       hydronium
- $\text{NH}_3$       ammonia       $\text{NH}_4^+$       ammonium
- $\text{NO}$       nitric oxide
- $\text{NaCl}$       salt
- $\text{HCO}_3^-$       bicarbonate

# Types of compounds

- ionic compounds are composed of:  
**cation and anion**
  - cation is positively charged
  - anion is negatively charged
- } **molecule:  
its total  
charge is  
ZERO**
- naming the compounds: **cation name + anion name**



1 H																	2 He
3 Li	4 Be											5 B	6 C	7 N	8 O	9 F	10 Ne
11 Na	12 Mg											13 Al	14 Si	15 P	16 S	17 Cl	18 Ar
19 K	20 Ca	21 Sc	22 Ti	23 Y	24 Cr	25 Mn	26 Fe	27 Co	28 Ni	29 Cu	30 Zn	31 Ga	32 Ge	33 As	34 Se	35 Br	36 Kr
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55 Cs	56 Ba	57 *La	72 Hf	73 Ta	74 W	75 Re	76 Os	77 Ir	78 Pt	79 Au	80 Hg	81 Tl	82 Pb	83 Bi	84 Po	85 At	86 Rn
87 Fr	88 Ra	89 +Ac	104 Rf	105 Ha	106 Sg	107 Ns	108 Hs	109 Mt	110 110	111 111	112 112	113 113					

58 Ce	59 Pr	60 Nd	61 Pm	62 Sm	63 Eu	64 Gd	65 Tb	66 Dy	67 Ho	68 Er	69 Tm	70 Yb	71 Lu
90 Th	91 Pa	92 U	93 Np	94 Pu	95 Am	96 Cm	97 Bk	98 Cf	99 Es	100 Fm	101 Md	102 No	103 Lr

	<b>Non-metals</b>
	<b>Metals</b>
	<b>Metalloids</b>

The figure is found at [http://www.windows.ucar.edu/earth/geology/images/periodic\\_table.gif](http://www.windows.ucar.edu/earth/geology/images/periodic_table.gif) (September 2007)

## *Important prefixes*

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
mono	di	tri	tetra	penta	hexa	hepta	octa	nona	deca	un-deca	do-deca

# Inorganic Compounds

## Oxides

anion:  $O^{-II}$

- acid-forming: **nonmetal / oxygen**
  - use multiple prefixes (mono, di, tri,...)
- base-forming: **metal / oxygen**
  - use suffixes -ous / -ic or (oxidation state)
- amphoteric

*MnO<sub>2</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>O, BaO, CO, K<sub>2</sub>O, SO<sub>2</sub>, FeO, Cu<sub>2</sub>O, CaO*

# Inorganic Compounds

**Peroxides**      anion:  $O_2^{-2}$        $\Rightarrow$        $O^{-I}$

- $s^1$  elements (hydrogen and alkali metals):  $M_2O_2$
- $s^2$  elements (alkali earth metals):  $MO_2$

*sodium peroxide*

*magnesium peroxide*

*barium peroxide*

*potassium peroxide*

*hydrogen peroxide*

*lithium peroxide*

# Inorganic Compounds

## Hydroxides

anion:  $(\text{OH})^{-1}$

- basic properties ( $\text{pH} > 7$ )
- strong or weak hydroxides
- metal / hydroxide anion
  - use suffixes -ous / -ic or (oxidation state)
- ammonium / hydroxide anion

*$\text{NaOH}$ ,  $\text{LiOH}$ ,  $\text{NH}_4\text{OH}$ ,  $\text{Fe}(\text{OH})_3$ ,  $\text{Cu}(\text{OH})_2$ ,  $\text{Ca}(\text{OH})_2$*

# Inorganic Compounds

Acids

cation:  $H^+$

(pH < 7)

a) oxygen free acids

hydro-.....-ic acid

HF, HCl, HBr, HI,  $H_2S$ , HCN (in aqueous solutions)

anion: -ide

- monoprotic / diprotic acids

# Inorganic Compounds

Acids

cation:  $H^+$

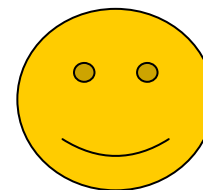
## b) oxoacids

- the highest oxidative state      per-....-ic acid
- higher (or only) oxidative state      **-ic acid**
- lower oxidative state      -ous acid
- the lowest oxidative state      hypo-...-ous acid

anion:

-ic acid      →      -ate

-ous acid      →      -ite



# Inorganic Compounds

## The most important oxoacids:

$H_2CO_3$	carbonic acid	→ carbonate
$H_2SiO_3$	silicic acid	→ silicate
$H_2CrO_4$	chromic acid	→ chromate
$H_3BO_3$	boric acid	→ borate
$H_3PO_4$	phosphoric acid	→ phosphate
$H_2SO_3$	<u>sulfurous</u> acid	→ <u>sulfite</u>
$H_2SO_4$	sulfuric acid	→ sulfate
$HNO_2$	<u>nitrous</u> acid	→ <u>nitrite</u>
$HNO_3$	nitric acid	→ nitrate



# Inorganic Compounds

## The most important oxoacids:

$\text{HClO}$	<u>hypochlorous</u> acid	→ <u>hypochlorite</u>
$\text{HClO}_2$	chlorous acid	→ chlorite
$\text{HClO}_3$	chloric acid	→ chlorate
$\text{HClO}_4$ (or Br, I)	<u>perchloric</u> acid	→ <u>perchlorate</u>
$\text{HMnO}_4$	<u>permanganic</u> acid	→ <u>permanganate</u>

## Important suffixes

	<b>ACID</b>	<b><u>anion</u></b>
<b>oxygen-free</b>	hydro-.....-ic acid	-ide
<b>oxo-acid</b> <i>lower ox.state</i>	-ous acid	-ite
<b>oxo-acid</b> <i>higher ox.state</i>	-ic acid	-ate

# Inorganic Compounds

## Salts

are formed by neutralization:



cation: metal or  $\text{NH}_4^+$

*derived from the hydroxide (= cation of the hydroxide)*

anion: oxygen-free or polyatomic anion

*derived from the acid (= anion of the acid)*



# Inorganic Compounds

## acidic salts of ACIDS

➤ „cation hydrogen anion“

$\text{KH}_2\text{PO}_4$  potassium dihydrogen phosphate

$\text{K}_2\text{HPO}_4$  (di)potassium hydrogen phosphate

$\text{K}_3\text{PO}_4$  *(tri)potassium phosphate (not acidic)*

$\text{NH}_4\text{HCO}_3$  ammonium hydrogen carbonate

$\text{Ca}(\text{HS})_2$  calcium hydrogen sulfide

# Other types of compounds

basic salts of ACIDS

➤ „cation hydroxy anion“

$\text{Mg}(\text{OH})\text{Cl}$           magnesium hydroxychloride

$\text{Sb}(\text{OH})_2(\text{NO}_3)$       antimony(III) dihydroxynitrate

Total charge of molecule is ZERO

## Other types of compounds

double salts of ACIDS

a) „cation1 cation2 anion“

$\text{KMgF}_3$       potassium magnesium fluoride

$\text{KLiSO}_4$       potassium lithium sulfate

Total charge of molecule is ZERO

## Other types of compounds

double salts of ACIDS

b) „cation anion1 anion2“

$\text{CaCl}(\text{ClO})$           calcium chloride hypochlorite

$\text{Cu}_3(\text{CO}_3)_2\text{F}_2$       copper(II) carbonate fluoride

Total charge of molecule is ZERO

# Other types of compounds

## HYDRATES OF SALTS

➤ „cation anion *multiple prefix hydrate*“

$\text{MgCl}_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$       magnesium chloride hexahydrate

$\text{CaHPO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$       calcium hydrogen phosphate  
dihydrate



# Other types of compounds

## THIOACIDS AND THIOSALTS

### ➤ „thio.... acid“

$H_2S_2O_3$       thiosulfuric acid      ( $H_2SO_4$  = sulfuric acid)

$HSCN$       thiocyanic acid      ( $HOCN$  = cyanic acid)

### ➤ „cation thio....anion“

$K_2S_2O_3$       potassium thiosulfate

$KSCN$       potassium thiocyanate

# Other types of compounds

## POLYACIDS AND SALTS

➤ „*multiple prefix*.... acid“

$H_2B_4O_7$       tetraboric acid

$H_2Cr_2O_7$       dichromic acid

➤ „*cation multiple prefix*....anion“

$Na_2B_4O_7$       sodium tetraborate

$K_2Cr_2O_7$       potassium dichromate

## Keep in mind the rules:

1. **names of compounds** are derived from the names of cations, anions and polyatomic ions: *cation anion (NaCl = sodium chloride)*
2. **all binary compounds** end in -ide  
CaO, H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, NaCl, HF(g), ZnS
3. **binary compounds** composed of two **nonmetals**: *Greek prefixes*  
SO<sub>2</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>, CO

## Keep in mind the rules:

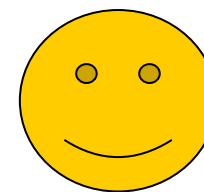
4. **binary compounds** composed of a **metal ion** with fixed or variable oxidation numbers and nonmetal ion: no Greek prefixes
- a) -ous / -ic suffix system
  - b) Stock system (preferred), *e.g. iron(II) oxide*



## Keep in mind the rules:

### 5. ternary compounds:

- hydrogen cation  $H^+$  (= acid)
- or metal cation (= salt or hydroxide)  
(fixed or variable oxidation number)
- and a polyatomic anion (e.g.  $SO_4^{2-}$  or  $OH^{1-}$ )



Total charge of a molecule = 0

# Inorganic Compounds

Make groups of compounds:

$\text{Na}_2\text{O}$ ,  $\text{HCl}$ ,  $\text{CO}_2$ ,  $\text{Na}_2\text{O}_2$ ,  $\text{Ca}(\text{OH})_2$ ,  $\text{KClO}$ ,  $\text{HCN}$ ,  $\text{HNO}_2$ ,

$\text{H}_2\text{S}$ ,  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ ,  $\text{BaO}_2$ ,  $\text{PbO}_2$ ,  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_3$ ,  $\text{KOH}$ ,  $\text{MgSO}_4$ ,  $\text{NaF}$ ,

$\text{NH}_4\text{HCO}_3$ ,  $\text{HI}$ ,  $\text{Al}(\text{OH})_3$ ,  $\text{HIO}_4$ ,  $\text{CdS}$ ,  $\text{MgO}_2$ ,  $\text{NaH}_2\text{PO}_4$

? oxides    hydroxides    peroxides    acids    salts

## Solution: Inorganic Compounds

Make groups of compounds:

$\text{Na}_2\text{O}$ ,  $\text{HCl}$ ,  $\text{CO}_2$ ,  $\text{Na}_2\text{O}_2$ ,  $\text{Ca}(\text{OH})_2$ ,  $\text{KClO}$ ,  $\text{HCN}$ ,  $\text{HNO}_2$ ,

$\text{H}_2\text{S}$ ,  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ ,  $\text{BaO}_2$ ,  $\text{PbO}_2$ ,  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_3$ ,  $\text{KOH}$ ,  $\text{MgSO}_4$ ,  $\text{NaF}$ ,

$\text{NH}_4\text{HCO}_3$ ,  $\text{HI}$ ,  $\text{Al}(\text{OH})_3$ ,  $\text{HIO}_4$ ,  $\text{CdS}$ ,  $\text{MgO}_2$ ,  $\text{NaH}_2\text{PO}_4$

**NAME THESE COMPOUNDS**

? **oxides**   **hydroxides**   **peroxides**   **acids**   **salts**

# Inorganic Nomenclature

## Solution:

$\text{Na}_2\text{O}$  / sodium oxide,  $\text{HCl}$  / hydrochloric acid or hydrogen chloride,  $\text{CO}_2$  / carbon dioxide,  $\text{Na}_2\text{O}_2$  / sodium peroxide,  $\text{Ca}(\text{OH})_2$  / calcium hydroxide,  $\text{KClO}$  / potassium hypochlorite,  $\text{HCN}$  / hydrocyanic acid or hydrogen cyanide,  $\text{HNO}_2$  / nitrous acid,  $\text{H}_2\text{S}$  / hydrosulfuric acid or hydrogen sulfide,  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  / hydrogen peroxide,  $\text{BaO}_2$  / barium peroxide,  $\text{PbO}_2$  / lead(IV) oxide or plumbic oxide,  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_3$  / sulfurous acid,  $\text{KOH}$  / potassium hydroxide,  $\text{MgSO}_4$  / magnesium sulfate,  $\text{NaF}$  / sodium fluoride,  $\text{NH}_4\text{HCO}_3$  / ammonium hydrogen carbonate,  $\text{HI}$  / hydroiodic acid or hydrogen iodide,  $\text{Al}(\text{OH})_3$  / aluminium hydroxide,  $\text{HIO}_4$  / periodic acid or hyperiodic acid,  $\text{CdS}$  / cadmium sulfide,  $\text{MgO}_2$  / magnesium peroxide,  $\text{NaH}_2\text{PO}_4$  / sodium dihydrogen phosphate



## Problems - *add formulas*

- sodium sulfite
- potassium phosphate
- ammonium hydrogen phosphate
- lithium dihydrogen phosphate
- calcium hydrogen carbonate
- silver sulfide
- zinc sulfate
- potassium permanganate
- sodium hypobromite
- barium nitrate
- hydrargyric chloride

## Problems - *add formulas*

- sodium tetraborate decahydrate
- potassium aluminium sulfate
- sodium aluminium sulfate dodecahydrate
- ammonium carbonate
- calcium sulfate hemihydrate (*hemi =  $\frac{1}{2}$* )
- zinc sulfate heptahydrate
- potassium dichromate
- potassium magnesium fluoride
- ammonium magnesium phosphate
- lead(II) chloride fluoride
- cupric bicarbonate difluoride (*bis = twice*)

