

Solubility and Common Ion Effects

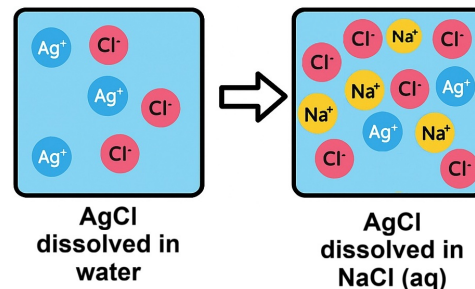
Read from Lesson 1c: [Solubility and Common Ion Effects](#) in the Chemistry Tutorial Section, Chapter 16 of The Physics Classroom:

What Is a Common Ion?

- A **common ion** is an ion shared between two salts.
- Example: In a solution of AgCl and NaCl, Cl^- is the common ion.

The Common Ion Effect

- Adding a common ion to a solution containing an insoluble salt **reduces the salt's solubility**.

 K_{sp} Remains Constant

- The **solubility product constant (K_{sp})** does not change.
- What changes is the **amount of salt that dissolves** before equilibrium is reached.

Simplifying Common Ion Problems - Assumption

- Assume the common ion's concentration is **dominated by the soluble salt**.
- If the soluble salt provides 0.10 M of the ion, the small contribution from the insoluble salt is negligible:
($0.10 + x$ is approx. 0.10)

Step-by-Step Guide to Solve Common Ion Problems

- **Write the dissociation equation** for the insoluble salt.
- **Write the K_{sp} expression**.
- **Identify the common ion** and its initial concentration.
- **Set up an ICE table** (Initial, Change, Equilibrium).
- **Apply the simplifying assumption** to reduce algebraic complexity.
- **Solve for x** , which represents the solubility.

Example: Copper(II) carbonate is an insoluble salt with a K_{sp} value of 2.5×10^{-10} . Determine its solubility in a 0.10 M solution of Na_2CO_3 .

$$K_{sp} = 2.5 \times 10^{-10} = [\text{Cu}^{2+}] * [\text{CO}_3^{2-}]$$

The CuCO_3 is being dissolved in a solution of Na_2CO_3 . This solution contains CO_3^{2-} ions; it is the common ion. The concentration of the CO_3^{2-} in this solution is initially 0.10 M.

	$\text{CuCO}_3(\text{s})$	$\rightleftharpoons$	$\text{Cu}^{2+}(\text{aq})$	+	$\text{CO}_3^{2-}(\text{aq})$
Initial	Does not matter		0		0.10
Change	-x		+ x		+ x
Equilibrium	Does not matter		x		0.10 + x

$$K_{sp} = 2.5 \times 10^{-10} = [\text{Cu}^{2+}] * [\text{CO}_3^{2-}] = (x) * (0.10)$$

$$x = 2.5 \times 10^{-9}, \text{ so the solubility of } \text{CuCO}_3 \text{ in a solution of } \text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3 \text{ is } 2.5 \times 10^{-9} \text{ M.}$$

Solution Equilibria

Questions

1. Why does the solubility product constant (K_{sp}) remain unchanged when a common ion is present?

2. How does Le Chatelier's Principle explain the shift in equilibrium when a common ion is added to a solution?



3. Consider a saturated solution of silver iodate.

a. What is the molar solubility of this solution in water at 25°C? The K_{sp} of silver iodate is 3.2×10^{-8} .

b. Silver iodate is now added to a 0.250 M solution of silver chlorate.

- Identify the common ion and its initial molar concentration.
- Calculate the molar solubility of silver iodate in this solution.

Solution Equilibria

c. Silver iodate is now added to a 0.480 M solution of potassium iodate.

- Identify the common ion and its initial molar concentration.
- Calculate the molar solubility of silver iodate in this solution.

4. Consider a saturated solution of cobalt(II) hydroxide.

a. What is the molar solubility of this solution in water at 25°C? The K_{sp} of cobalt(II) hydroxide is 5.9×10^{-15} .

b. Cobalt(II) hydroxide is now added to a 0.525 M solution of sodium hydroxide.

- Identify the common ion and its initial molar concentration.
- Calculate the molar solubility of cobalt(II) hydroxide in this solution.

c. Cobalt(II) hydroxide is now added to a 0.314 M solution of cobalt(II) chloride.

- Identify the common ion and its initial molar concentration.
- Calculate the molar solubility of cobalt(II) hydroxide in this solution.