



Topic #2: The Chemical Alphabet Fall 2020 Dr. Susan Findlay See Exercises 6.1 to 6.5 and 7.1





Forms of Carbon



Lithim 6941 Li Sodium 22,9898 Na 11 Potassium 39.0983 K 19 Rubidium 85,4678 Rb 37 Cesium 132,905 Cs 55 Francium (223)Fr 87

What is an alkali metal?

- Any element in Group 1 <u>except</u> hydrogen
- A soft silvery metal that has a relatively low melting point, boiling point and density (for a metal):

	-	-	
3	-	1	
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1.50		Phil.	5



- Melting Boiling Density Point Point (at 20 °C) Lithium 180.54 °C 1347 °C 0.534 g/cm<sup>3</sup> 97.81 °C 883.0 °C 0.971 g/cm<sup>3</sup> Sodium 63.65 °C 773.9 °C 0.862 g/cm<sup>3</sup> Potassium Rubidium 39.05 °C 687.9 °C  $1.532 \text{ g/cm}^3$ 678.5 °C Cesium 28.4 °C  $1.873 \text{ g/cm}^3$
- Typically stored under oil because it reacts with air (both oxygen and water vapour)

- Lithim 6941 Li Sodium 22,9898 Na 11 Potassium 39.0983 K 19 Rubidium 85,4678 Rb 37 Cesium 132,905 Cs 55 Francium (223) $\mathbf{Fr}$ 87
- What is an alkali metal?
  - Only forms one cation (+1) and no anions
  - Has only one valence electron (electron configuration [N.G.]ns<sup>1</sup>) and a low first ionization energy
  - An excellent reducing agent (good at losing electrons so that other elements can be reduced)

	First Ionization Energy (kJ/mol)	<b>Standard Reduction</b> <b>Potential</b> (V = J/C)		
Lithium	520.2	-3.040		
Sodium	495.8	-2.713		
Potassium	418.8	-2.924		
Rubidium	403.0	-2.924		
Cesium	375.7	-2.923		

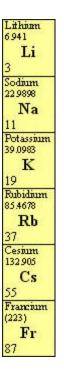
Lithim 6941 Li Sodium 22,9898 Na 11 Potassium 39.0983 K 19 Rubidium 85,4678 Rb 37 Cesium 132,905 Cs 55 Francium (223) $\mathbf{Fr}$ 87

How can I distinguish between the alkali metals?

- Flame test. All of the alkali metal cations give positive flame tests.
   Complete the table below after doing the Metals Lab.
- Reactivity with water. All of the alkali metals react exothermically with water to give the corresponding hydroxide and hydrogen gas. For safety reasons, you will only test small amounts of sodium and potassium in the Metals Lab.

	Flame Colour	Strength of Reaction with Water*
Lithium		
Sodium		
Potassium		
Rubidium	Bluish red	
Cesium	Blue	

\*Video: <u>http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ft4E1eCUItI&mode=related&search=</u> 4



That explains the "keep away from humidity" safety regulation. How does an alkali metal react with the oxygen in air?

- That depends on the alkali metal.
  - Lithium reacts with excess oxygen to give lithium oxide:
  - The other alkali metals all react with excess oxygen to give more complex salts called peroxides and superoxides (reactions we won't address in detail in CHEM 1000).
- Alkali metals also react vigorously with halogens:

In each of these reactions of alkali metals, the alkali metal has formed an ionic compound. In fact, pure alkali metals are so reactive that they do not exist in nature. Alkali metals are only found naturally in ionic compounds (aka salts).



## An Aside: Solving Stoichiometry Problems

Best plan for solving any stoichiometry problem:

1. Get to moles.

Lithium 6941 Li

Rubidium 85.4678

 Rb

 37

 Cessium

 132.905

 Cs

 55

 Francium

 (223)

 Fr

 87

3 Sodium 22.9898 Na 11 Potassium 39.0983 K 19

2. Identify limiting reactant (where applicable), and use mole ratio to find moles of what you're being asked about.

3. Answer question!

#### An Aside: Solving Stoichiometry Problems

Lithim 6941 Li 3 Sodium 22,9898 Na 11 Potassium 39.0983 K 19 Rubidium 85,4678 Rb 37 Cesium 132,905 Cs 55 Francium (223) $\mathbf{Fr}$ 87

A 3 mm cube of sodium metal is added to 100 mL of distilled water in a beaker. When the reaction has completed, what is the concentration of the resulting sodium hydroxide solution? *Assume that no water evaporates.* 

### Another Aside: Naming Ionic Compounds

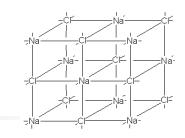
You may have noticed that all of the ionic compounds we've seen so far were named similarly:

- All ionic compounds are named by listing the cation followed by the anion. All monoatomic anions end in **ide**, so the anion formed from chlor**ine** is chlor**ide**, sulf**ur** becomes sulf**ide**, etc. You are expected to know the anions listed on the "Master List for Nomenclature" posted on the class website.
- Name the following:
  - KF
  - Li<sub>3</sub>N
  - RbI

#### Another Aside: Naming Ionic Compounds

When there is only one possible charge for the cation (e.g. an alkali metal is always +1), it is not listed in the name. If an element can form more than one cation (e.g. iron can be +2 or +3), it is necessary to list the charge as part of the name. This is normally necessary for transition metal cations.

- Name the following:
  - TiCl<sub>3</sub>
  - CuO
  - Cu<sub>2</sub>O
  - CaBr<sub>2</sub>



- Opposites attract. When a cation meets an anion, the electrostatic force of attraction pulls them together to make an ionic bond.
  - The force each ion applies on the other can be calculated using **Coulomb's law**:  $1 (7^+ a)(7^- a)$

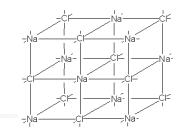
$$F = \frac{1}{4\pi\varepsilon_0} \times \frac{(Z^+ e)(Z^- e)}{d^2}$$

where  $\varepsilon_0$  is permittivity  $(1/4\pi\varepsilon_0 = 8.988 \times 10^9 \text{ N} \cdot \text{m}^2 \cdot \text{C}^{-2}$  in a vacuum), Z is the charge of the ion  $(\pm 1, \pm 2, \text{ etc.})$ , *e* is the charge of an electron  $(1.602 \times 10^{-19} \text{ C})$ , and *d* is the internuclear distance. Note that negative forces are attractive; positive forces are repulsive.

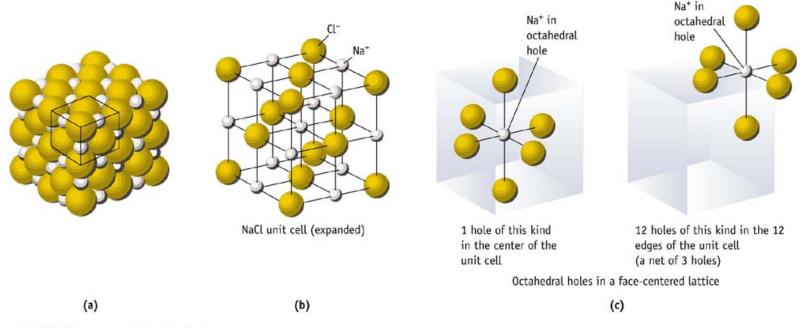
• The energy of formation of an ionic bond can be calculated using a related formula:  $1 - (7^+ a)(7^- a)$ 

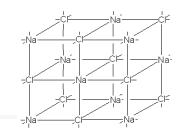
$$E = \frac{1}{4\pi\varepsilon_0} \times \frac{(Z^+ e)(Z^- e)}{d}$$

This formula calculates the energy of bond formation for one gaseous molecule. *Note that a negative energy for bond formation corresponds to a <u>release</u> of energy when the bond is formed! 10* 



- Like most metals, ionic compounds exist as lattices under standard conditions. Since cations are usually smaller than anions, it is easier to think of the anions forming a lattice with the cations filling "holes".
- The lattice for solid NaCl is shown below:



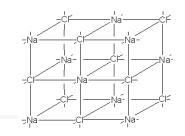


- The energy required to fully break an ionic lattice into gaseous ions is its lattice energy.
  - Lattice energy not only accounts for the energy of attraction between adjacent ions of opposite charge, it accounts for energies of attraction and repulsion between <u>all</u> ions in the lattice. (Each cation is surrounded by anions which are surrounded by more cations which are surrounded by more anions, etc.)

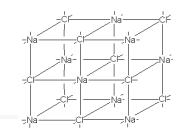
$$E_{lattice} = -A \times \frac{N_A}{4\pi\varepsilon_0} \times \frac{(Z^+e)(Z^-e)}{d} \times \left(1 - \frac{1}{n}\right)$$

where A is the Madelung constant (which depends on the geometry of the lattice),  $N_A$  is Avogadro's number and n is an integer dependent on (but not equal to) the highest energy shell of electrons in the ions.

- Values for the Madelung constant (A) range from 1.6 to 4.0.
   For the NaCl lattice, A = 1.74756.
- Values for n range from 5 (if the nearest noble gas is He) to 12 (if the nearest noble gas is Xe)



Based on these equations, what factors would you expect to lead to a large lattice energy for an ionic compound?



Compound	E <sub>lattice</sub> (kJ/mol)	Compound	E <sub>lattice</sub> (kJ/mol)	Compound	E <sub>lattice</sub> (kJ/mol)	Compound	E <sub>lattice</sub> (kJ/mol)
LiF	1049	MgF <sub>2</sub>	2978	AIF <sub>3</sub>	6252	Li <sub>2</sub> O	2814
LiCl	864	MgCl <sub>2</sub>	2540	AICl <sub>3</sub>	5513	Na <sub>2</sub> O	2478
LiBr	820	MgBr <sub>2</sub>	2451	AlBr <sub>3</sub>	5360	K <sub>2</sub> O	2232
LiI	764	MgI <sub>2</sub>	2340	AlI <sub>3</sub>	5227		
NaF	930	CaF <sub>2</sub>	2651	GaF <sub>3</sub>	6238	MgO	3791
NaCl	790	CaCl <sub>2</sub>	2271	GaCl <sub>3</sub>	5665	CaO	3401
NaBr	754	SrF <sub>2</sub>	2513	GaBr <sub>3</sub>	5569	SrO	3223
NaI	705	SrCl <sub>2</sub>	2170	GaI <sub>3</sub>	5496	BaO	3054
KF	829	BaF <sub>2</sub>	2373				
KCI	720	BaCl <sub>2</sub>	2069	TiF <sub>4</sub>	9908	Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	15916*
KBr	691			TiBr <sub>4</sub>	9059		
KI	650			TiI <sub>4</sub>	8918	ScN	7506

\*This is a theoretical value. The rest were determined via Born Haber Cycle (values from CRC Handbook).

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What do we know about the ionic compounds of alkali metals?

They are all soluble in water. A solution of sodium chloride in water is often written as NaCl<sub>(aq)</sub>, but that's a bit misleading. When table salt is dissolved in water, the following occurs:

All the ionic Na-Cl bonds are broken, and the sodium cation is **solvated** by water molecules (as is the chloride anion):

To indicate this solvation, we can write  $Na(OH_2)_{6+(aq)}^+$  or  $Na_{(aq)}^+$ .

 Alkali metals have large hydration enthalpies. (The beaker gets hot when NaOH is dissolved in H<sub>2</sub>O!)

 The lithium cation is particularly well stabilized by solvation with water. In other words, it has an unusually large enthalpy of hydration:

Lithim

Sodium 22.9898 **Na** 11 Potassium

39.0983 K

85.4678 **Rb** 

19 Rubidium

37 Cesium 132 905 Cs 55 Francium (223) Fr

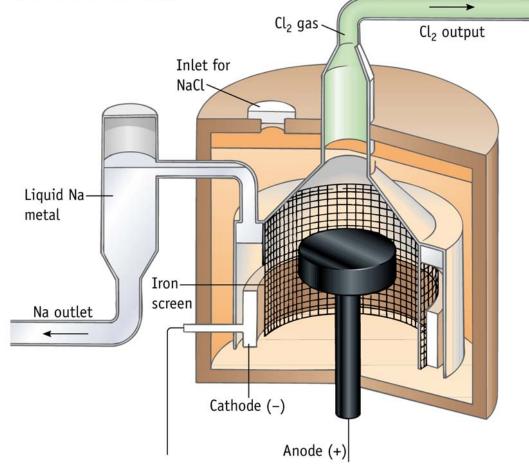
6941 Li

The reason for this is the lithium cation's small size (only 59 pm – remember that the electron configuration of Li<sup>+</sup> is \_\_\_\_\_) which allows the oxygen atoms of the surrounding water molecules to approach more closely than they could for a larger cation:

 This unusually large enthalpy of hydration is the reason that lithium gives up its electron more easily in aqueous solution than any other alkali metal (hence the most negative standard reduction potential) despite having the highest first ionization energy.

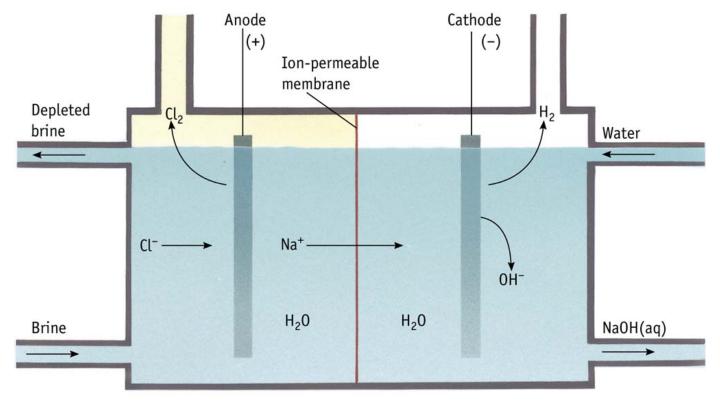
- Pure alkali metals don't exist in nature, so how are they made?
  - Pure sodium is obtained by electrolysis of NaCl in a **Downs cell**.
    - Because sodium is so reactive, it is difficult to convert sodium salts to sodium metal. To do so requires a significant input of energy. Industrially, this is accomplished by electrolysis (application of a potential to "force" a reaction to go in the unfavourable direction).
    - Because H<sup>+</sup> is more easily reduced than Na<sup>+</sup>, there can be no water present in the electrolysis. Instead, the sodium salt is melted. (NaOH melts at 318 °C; NaCl melts at 808 °C; adding BaCl<sub>2</sub> or CaCl<sub>2</sub> lowers the melting point of NaCl to ~600 °C; Ba<sup>2+</sup> and Ca<sup>2+</sup> are more difficult to reduce than Na<sup>+</sup>)
    - Pure sodium is insoluble in molten NaCl and less dense than it. As such, it can be removed from the cell. It must, of course, be kept separate from the other product of the Downs cell – chlorine gas!
  - Lithium is obtained in a similar fashion (electrolysis of LiCl).

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- If aqueous NaCl is electrolyzed (instead of molten NaCl), NaOH is obtained instead of sodium metal. This is the main way in which sodium hydroxide and chlorine gas are prepared industrially.
  - As in the Downs cell, the reaction at the anode is:
  - In an aqueous electrolysis of NaCl, the reaction at the cathode is:
  - Why does this result in NaOH?

• It is important to keep the NaOH and chlorine gas separate. If they are allowed to react, they will make bleach (NaOCI):



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