

IONIC COMPOUNDS

- formed when atoms TRANSFER ELECTRONS between each other forming charged atoms, called IONS.

Two kinds of ions:

cation

① CATIONS: formed when an atom LOSES one or more electrons.

- overall, a cation has a POSITIVE charge, because it has more protons in the nucleus than electrons in the electron cloud

- usually formed by METALS, but occasionally hydrogen will also form a cation

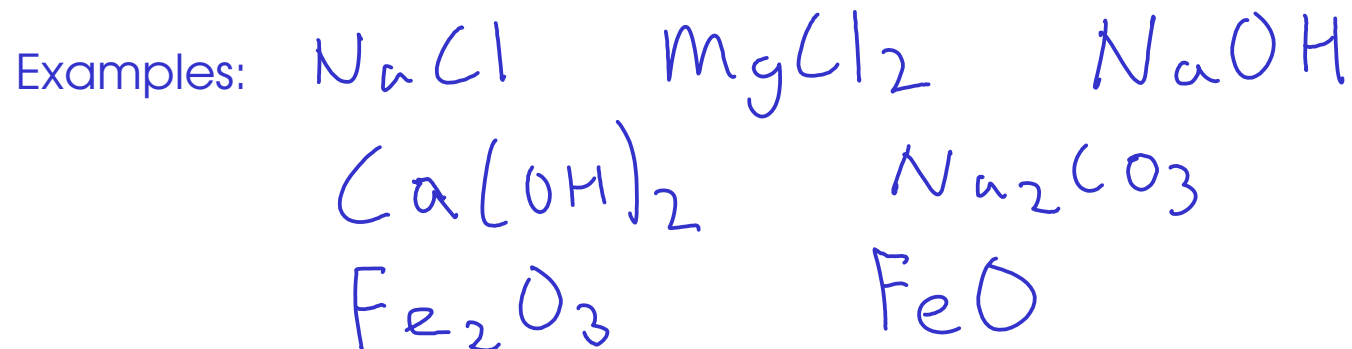
② ANIONS: formed when an atom GAINS one or more electrons

- overall, an anion has a NEGATIVE charge, because it has more electrons in the electron cloud than protons in the nucleus

- usually formed by NONMETALS

IONIC COMPOUNDS

- USUALLY form from metals combining with nonmetals, or from metals combining with metalloids



- almost always solid at room temperature, and usually have relatively high melting points

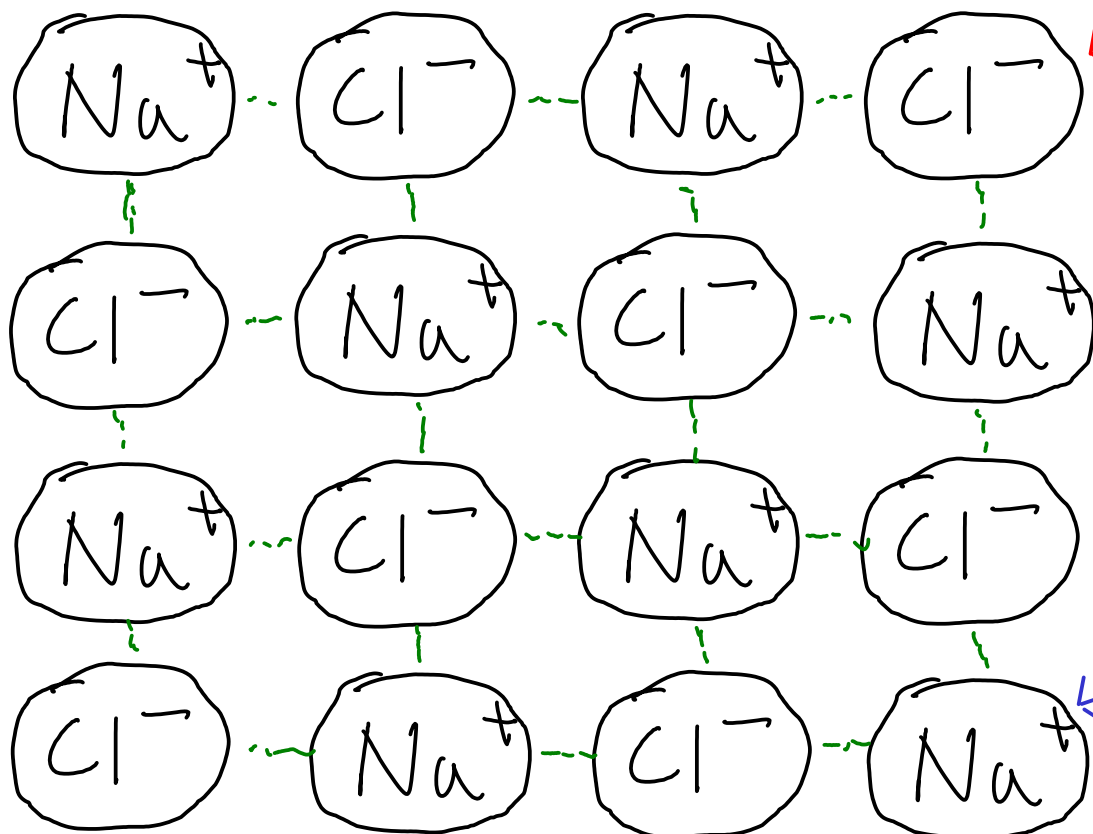
All of the above are solids at room temperature. NaCl has a melting point of 801°C .

- as solids, do not conduct electricity. If dissolved in water (some do not dissolve significantly in water), will form a solution that conducts electricity.

IONIC COMPOUNDS

- ionic compounds are held together by ELECTROSTATIC INTERACTIONS

(in other words, the attraction between oppositely charged ions!)



Each chloride ion is strongly attracted to ALL of the sodium ions surrounding it!

Each sodium ion is strongly attracted to ALL of the chlorine atoms surrounding it!

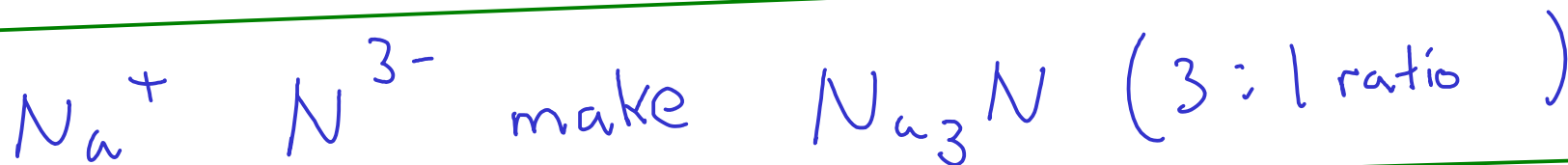
There are no "molecules" in ionic compounds - in the sense that you can't point to a discrete unit of atoms that are connected to only each other

IONIC FORMULAS

- since there are no "molecules", an ionic formula cannot describe how many and what kinds of atoms are in a molecule!

- all ionic compounds are observed to be (overall) electrically neutral, so the IONS they contain must be present in such a way that the charges BALANCE EACH OTHER

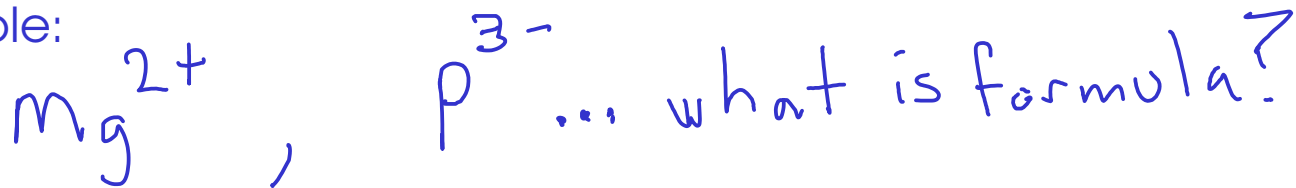
- an ionic formula gives the SMALLEST WHOLE NUMBER RATIO OF CATION TO ANION in the ionic compound



WRITING AN IONIC FORMULA

- if you know the ions that make up a compound, all you need to do is find the smallest ratio of cation to anion the compound needs to have an overall charge of zero

Example:



← more - than +, so add more Mg^{2+} !



← more + than -, so add P^{3-}



← more - than +, so add Mg^{2+}



In the final formula, don't write the charges on the ions!

* Remember, ionic compounds are written with the SMALLEST whole-number ratio!

Ionic formulas are ALWAYS written with the cation first, and the anion second!

Cross method:

