IONIC COMPOUNDS

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

Two kinds of ions:



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



- 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

Examples: NaCl MgCl2 NaOH

(a(OH)2 Nazco3

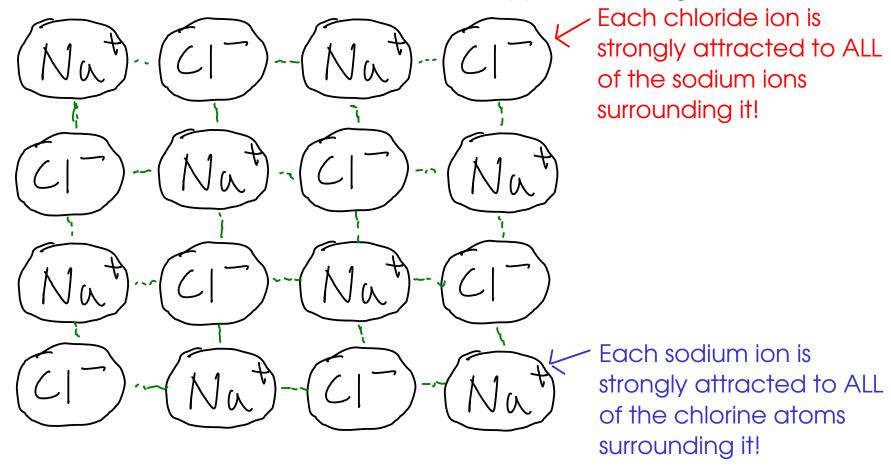
FezO3 FeO

- 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 are held together by ELECTROSTATIC INTERACTIONS (in other words, the attraction between oppositely charged ions!)



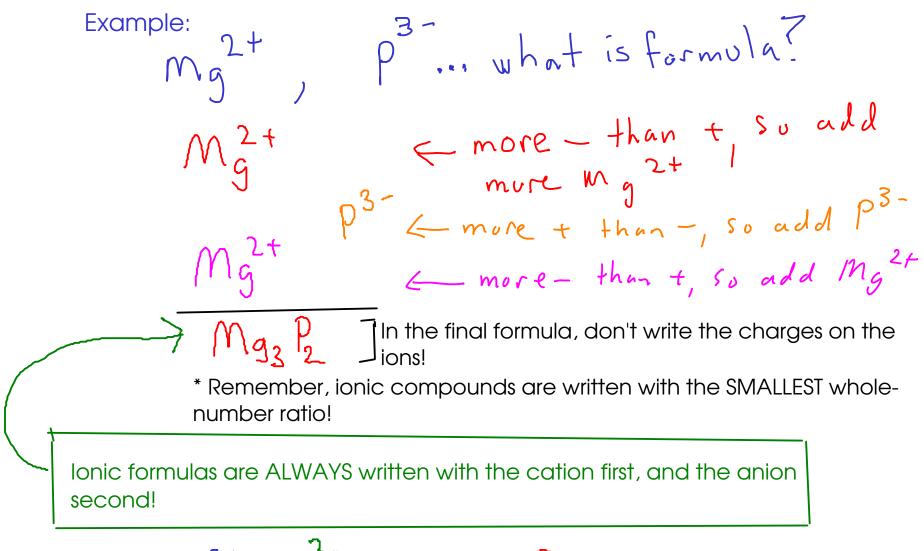
There are no "molecules" in ionic compounds - in the sense that you can't point to a discrete unit of atoms that are connected to only each other

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

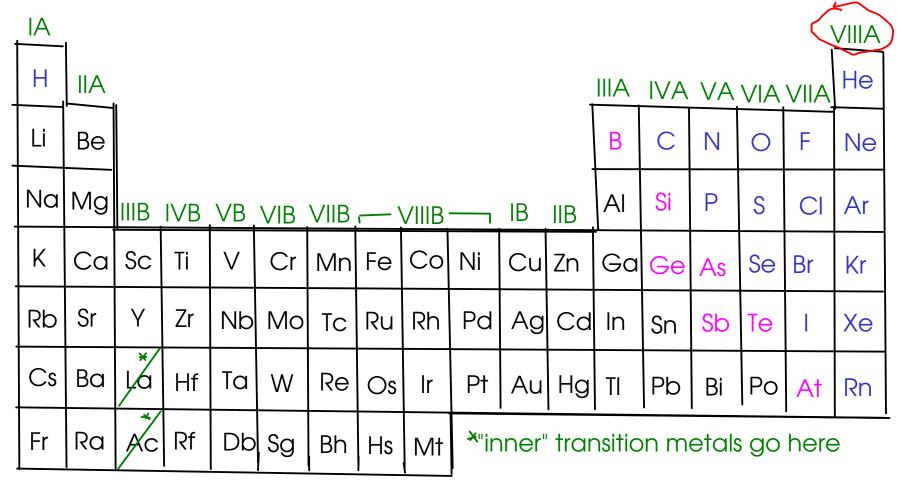
- if you know the ions that make up a compound, all you need to do is find the smallest ratio of cation to anion the compound needs to have an overall charge of zero



Cross method: $Mg^{2+} \longrightarrow Mg_3$

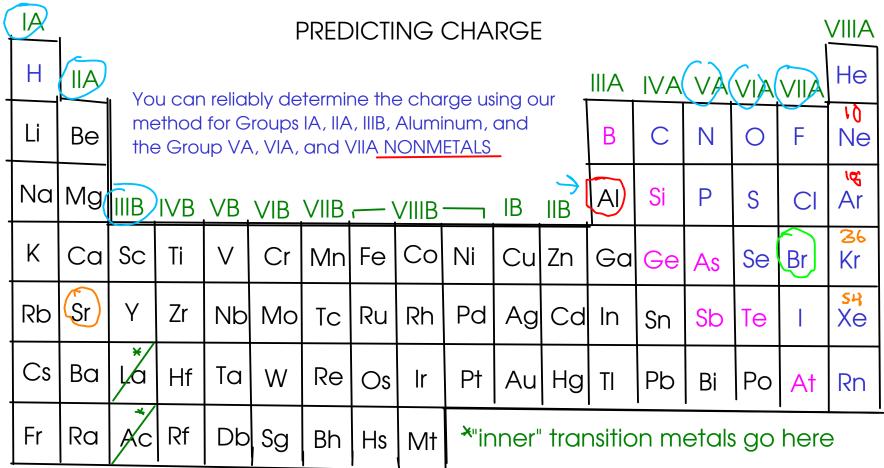
More examples: You can also use the "cross method", as described in your textbook, to write formulas. Use caution, as the "cross method" will sometimes give you the wrong formula! It would give you the wrong answer for this one!

- how do you figure out the charge that an element might take when it becomes an ion?
- for many main group elements, you can predict the charge using the periodic table!



Elements in group VIIIA - the "noble gases" - do not form ions!

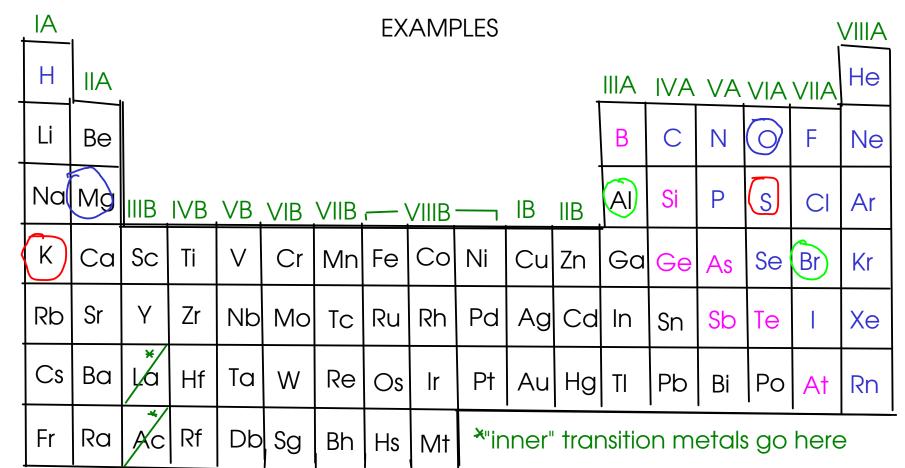
Many OTHER main-group elements form either anions or cations that have the same overall number of electrons as the NEAREST (in terms of atomic number) noble gas!



Aluminum (Al): At atomic number 13, it is three electrons away from neon (Ne), and 5 electrons away from argon (Ar). Prediction: Aluminum will lose three electrons to form the cation Al³¹

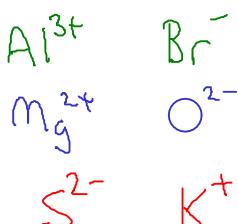
Bromine (Br): At atomic number 35, bromine is one electron away from krypton (Kr). Prediction: Bromine will gain one electron to form the anion Br

Strontium (Sr): At atomic number 38, strontium is two electrons away from krypton. Prediction: Strontium will lose two electrons to form the cation Sr



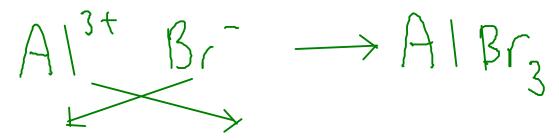
Find the formulas of:

- (1) an ionic compound containing AI and Br
- (2) an ionic compound containing Mg and O
- (3) an ionic compound containing S and K



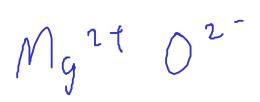
Find the formula of:

* an ionic compound containing AI and Br



Find the formula of:

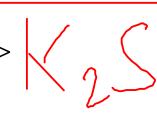
* an ionic compound containing Mg and O

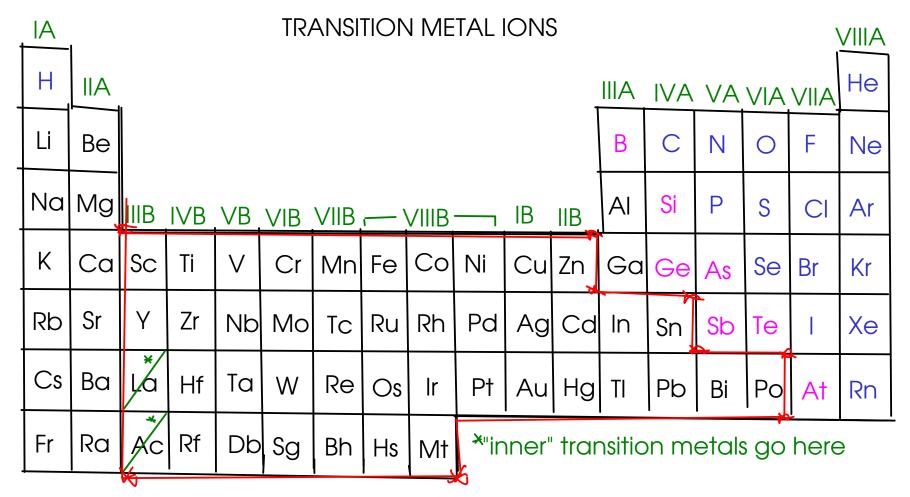


Find the formula of:

* an ionic compound containing S and K

Reminder: Write CATIONS (+ ions) first in ionic formulas ---->





The transition metals always form CATIONS!

However, many transition metals are capable of forming SEVERAL DIFFERENT CATIONS!

Example: Iron (Fe) forms two cations, depending on the situation: Fe or Fe

- So how do you know which cation you're dealing with? For now, you'll have to be told
- Either the chemical formula of an ionic compound or the name of an ionic compound can tell you what charge is on the transition metal cation.

Examples:

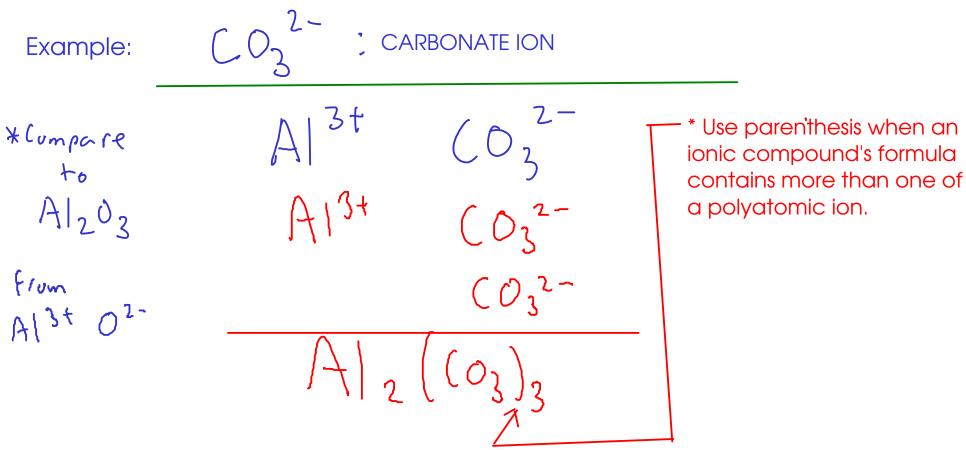
Fe 3 N 2 - Fe 2 + N 3 - Fe 2 + Fe 2 +

* This form of iron ion is called "iron(III)", pronounced "iron three". This compound is "iron(III) nitride"

^{*} This form of iron ion is called "iron(II)", pronounced "iron two". This compound is "iron(II) nitride"

POLYATOMIC IONS

- Some MOLECULES can gain or lose electrons to form CATIONS or ANIONS. These are called POLYATOMIC IONS
- Polyatomic ions form ionic compounds in the same way that single-element ions do.



See the web site or page 63 - table 2.5 (9th ed) or table 2.6 (10th ed) - for a list of common polyatomic ions!