# What kinds of compounds are electrolytes?

## MOLECULAR COMPOUNDS

- Most molecular compounds are NONELECTROLYTES - they don't ionize in water

-ACIDS and BASES will ionize in water.  Most of these are WEAK ELECTROLYTES, but there are a few STRONG ACIDS and STRONG BASES.

$C_{12}H_{22}O_{11}(s) \xrightarrow{H_2O} C_{12}H_{22}O_{11}(aq)$ ... nonelectroiyte

$HC_2H_3O_2(l) \xrightarrow{H_2O} H^+(aq) + C_2H_3O_2^-(aq)$

... acetic acid (electrolyte)

## IONIC COMPOUNDS

- SOLUBLE ionic compounds are STRONG ELECTROLYTES - they completely ionize in water.

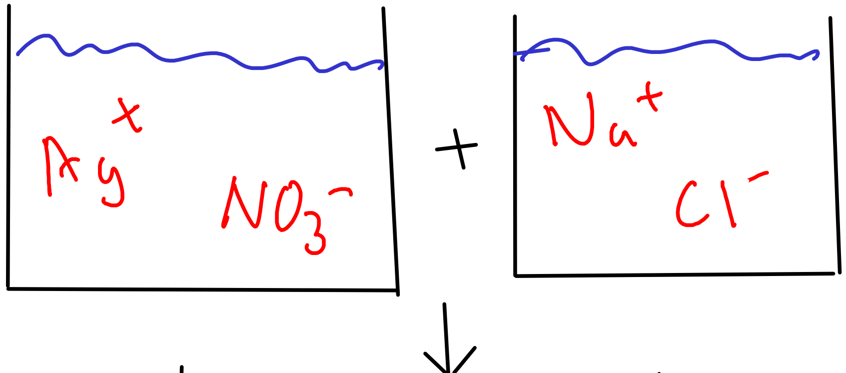
- Not all ionic compounds are water soluble, however!

$NaCl(s) \xrightarrow{H_2O} Na^+(aq) + Cl^-(aq)$

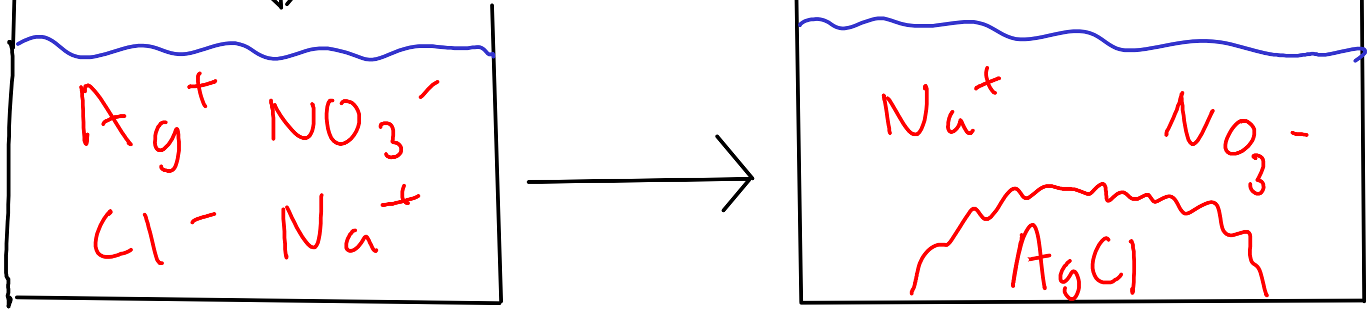
## - What good is ionic theory?

- provides an easy-to-understand MECHANISM for certain kinds of chemical reactions.
  - "Exchange" reactions. (a.k.a "double replacement" reactions)

$$AgNO_3(aq) + NaCl(aq) \longrightarrow AgCl(s) + NaNO_3(aq)$$



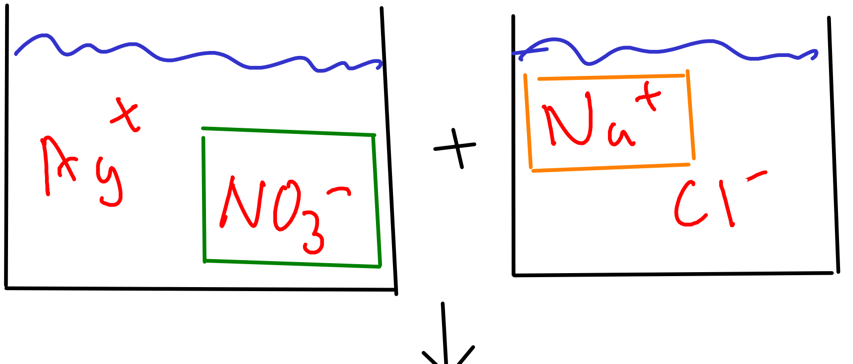
These free ions mix and can interact with each other!



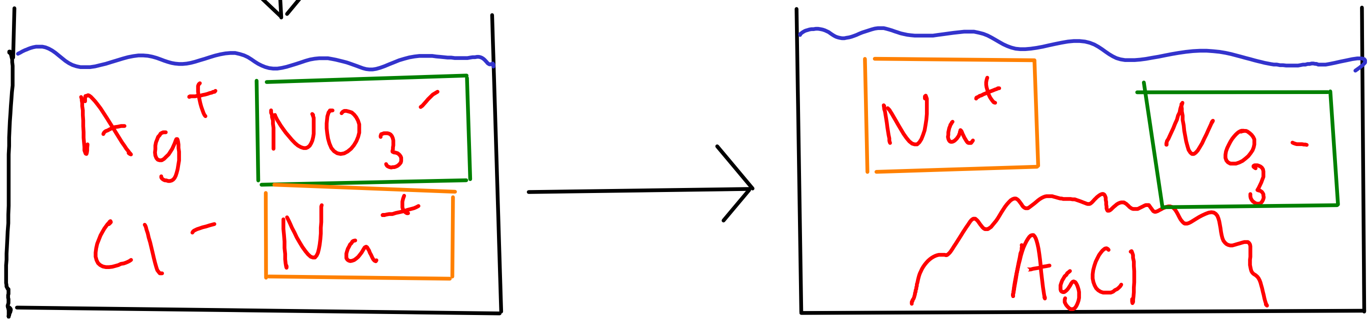
"ion soup"!

Insoluble AgCl falls out of solution as it is formed - "precipitation"

# Looking a bit more closely...



The nitrate and sodium ions do not really participate in this reaction. They start and end in exactly the same state. We call them "SPECTATOR IONS".



$$AgNO_3(aq) + NaCl(aq) \rightarrow AgCl(s) + NaNO_3(aq)$$

"Molecular equation"

$$Ag^+(aq) + Cl^-(aq) \longrightarrow AgCl(s)$$

"Net ionic equation"

(The net ionic equation shows only ions and substances that change during the course of the reaction!)

- The net ionic equation tells us that any source of aqueous silver and chloride ions will exhibit this same chemistry, not just silver nitrate and sodium chloride!

# A bit more about molecular, ionic, and net ionic equations

- molecular equations: Represent all substances (even ionic substances) as if they were molecules. Include spectator ions, and do not show charges on ions. Traditional chemical equations.

- ionic equations: Show all free ions - including spectators - in a chemical reaction. Molecules and WEAK electrolytes are shown as molecules. STRONG electrolytes (like HCl) are shown as ions. Ions that are part of undissolved ionic compounds are shown as molecules.

- NET ionic equation: An ionic equation that leaves out spectator ions. Intended to show only things that actually change in a reaction.

$$AgNO_3(aq) + NaCl(aq) \rightarrow AgCl(s) + NaNO_3(aq)$$

$$Ag^+(aq) + NO_3^-(aq) + Na^+(aq) + Cl^-(aq) \rightarrow \underline{AgCl(s)} + Na^+(aq) + NO_3^-(aq) \; ^*$$

$$Ag^+(aq) + Cl^-(aq) \rightarrow AgCl(s)$$

* You can get from the complete ionic equation to the net ionic equation by crossing out the spectator ions on both sides.

## "Undissolved ionic compounds":

How can I tell if an ionic compound dissolves in water?

- consult experimental data: "solubility rules"!

A few of the "rules"...

- Compounds that contain a Group IA cation (or ammonium) are soluble
- Nitrates and acetates are soluble
- Carbonates, phosphates, and hydroxides tend to be insoluble

See p 129 9th edition (10th ed: p131)

... or see the web site for a solubility chart.

$Fe(OH)_3$

#8 - hydroxides generally insoilulble, except Group IA, ammonium, calcium strontium, barium

Conclusion: iron(III) hydroxide is insoluble.

$Ca(C_2H_3O_2)_2$

#2 - acetates are soluble, no common exceptions.

Conclusion: calcium acetate is soluble.

$AgI$

#3 - Iodides usually dissolve, exceptions are silver, mercury, lead

Conclusion: silver(I) iodide is INSOLUBLE

$BaCO_3$

#5 - Most carbonates are insoluble

Conclusion - barium carbonate is insoluble.

# Exchange Chemistry

- Three kinds of exchange chemistry.

① PRECIPITATION ← Formation of IONIC SOLID

② ACID/BASE or NEUTRALIZATION

③ GAS FORMATION (formation of unstable molecules)

SOME (but not all) reactions that form gases are examples of exchange chemistry.

Formation of MOLECULES!

Just because you mix together two ionic compounds does NOT mean that a reaction will occur. You need a DRIVING FORCE for a reaction.

# PRECIPITATION REACTIONS

- driving force is the formation of an insoluble ionic compound.

$$3MgCl_2(aq) + 2Na_3PO_4(aq) \rightarrow 6NaCl(aq) + Mg_3(PO_4)_2(s)$$

ions: $Mg^{2+}$ $Cl^-$ $Na^+$ $PO_4^{3-}$

This reaction is driven by the PRECIPITATION of magnesium phosphate solid!

When you're trying to complete a precipitation reaction:

① Write the IONS that form when the reactants are dissolved.

② Make NEW compounds by pairing up cations with anions. Don't forget that the positive and negative charges must balance each other out!

③ Use the solubility rules to determine the PHASE of each new compound - solid or aqueous.

④ Balance the overall equation.

$MgCl_2(aq) + NaC_2H_3O_2(aq) \rightarrow$ NO REACTION!*

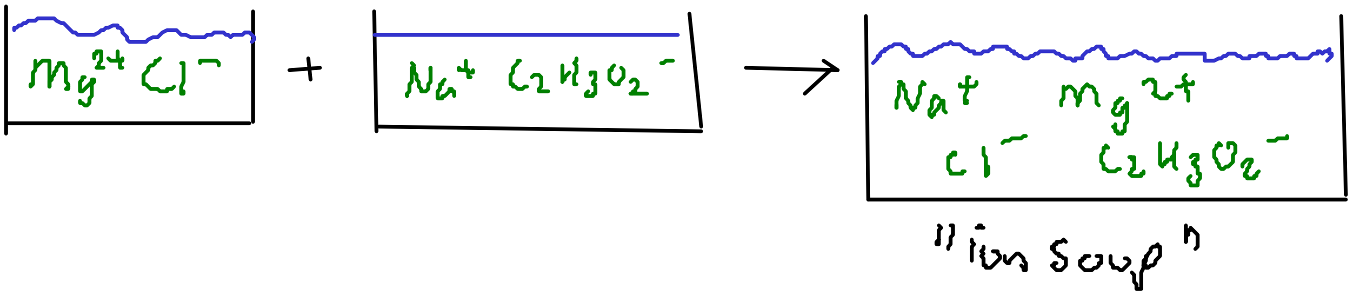
ions: $Mg^{2+}$ $Cl^-$ $Na^+$ $C_2H_3O_2^-$

"exchange"

$Mg(C_2H_3O_2)_2$ ... dissolves in water

$NaCl$ ... dissolves in water

So, no solid forms here. All possible combinations of these four ions result in compounds that dissolve readily in water.



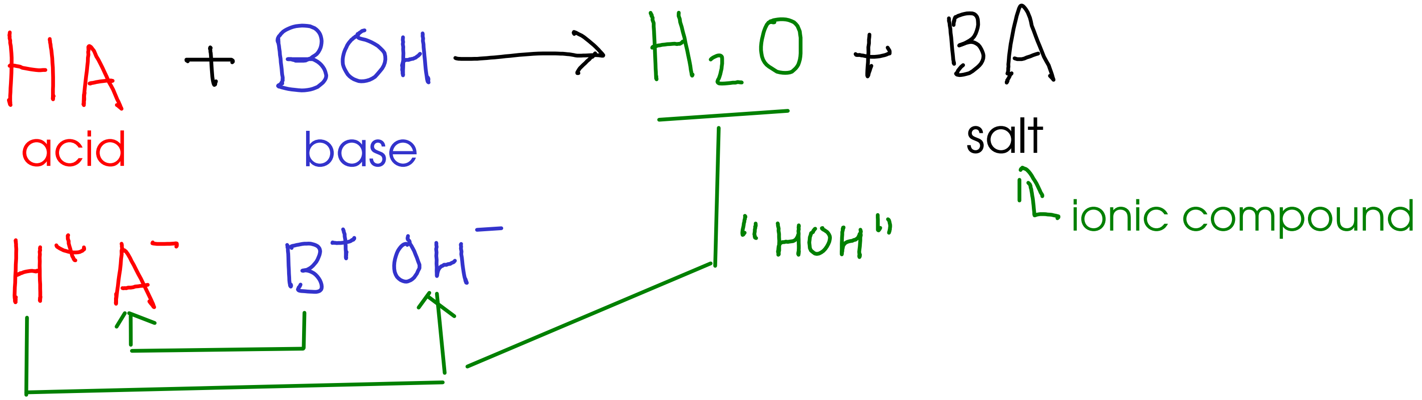
NO CHANGE, therefore
NO DRIVING FORCE,
and NO REACTION

*We will learn about other driving forces than the formation of solid, but these driving forces do not apply to this reaction

# ACID/BASE REACTIONS (also called NEUTRALIZATION REACTIONS)

- There are several stable molecules that may be formed in double replacement reactions, but the most common is WATER!

- Double replacement reactions that form water are also called "neutralizations"



* To make water ( $H_2O$ ), you need a source of hydrogen ion ( $H^+$ ) and hydroxide ion ( $OH^-$ )

$$\underbrace{H^+(aq) + OH^-(aq)}_{\text{... assumes you're reacting STRONG acid with STRONG base!}} \rightarrow H_2O(l)$$

This is the NET IONIC EQUATION for many neutralizations

# ACIDS

- compounds that release hydrogen ion ($H^+$), when dissolved in water.

## Properties of acids:

- Corrosive: React with most metals to give off hydrogen gas
- Cause chemical burns on contact
- Taste sour (like citrus - citric acid!)
- Changes litmus indicator to RED

# BASES

- Substances that release hydroxide ion ($OH^-$) when dissolved in water

## Properties of bases:

- Caustic: Attack and dissolve organic matter (think lye, which is NaOH)
- Cause skin/eye damage on contact
- Taste bitter
- changes litmus indicator to BLUE

Due to the dissolving action of base on your skin, bases will feel "slippery". The base ITSELF is not particularly slippery, but what's left of your skin IS!