

# Chemistry Qualitative Analysis

Analytical chemistry deals with qualitative and quantitative analysis of the substances. In qualitative analysis, the given compound is analyzed for the radicals, i.e., cation and the anion, that it contains. Physical procedures like noting the colour, smell or taste of the substance have very limited scope because of the corrosive, poisonous nature of the chemical compounds. Therefore, what one has to resort to is the chemical analysis of the substance that has to be carried out along with the physical examination of the compound under consideration.

The common procedure for testing any unknown sample is to make its solution and then test this solution for the ions present in it. There are separate procedures for detecting cations and anions, therefore qualitative analysis is studied under cation analysis and anion analysis. The systematic procedure for qualitative analysis of an inorganic salt involves the following steps:

(a) Preliminary tests

1. Physical appearance (colour and smell).
2. Dry heating test.
3. Charcoal cavity test.
4. Charcoal cavity and cobalt nitrate test.
5. Flame test.
6. Borax bead test.
7. Dilute acid test.
8. Potassium permanganate test.
9. Concentrated sulphuric acid test.
10. Tests for sulphate, phosphate and borate.

(b) Wet tests for acid radical.

(c) Wet tests (group analysis) for basic radical.

## Physical examination of the salt

The physical examination of the unknown salt involves the study of colour, smell and density. The test is not much reliable, but is certainly helpful in identifying some coloured cations. Characteristic smell helps to identify some ions such as ammonium, acetate and sulphide. (See Table 12.1 on next page)

### Note:

1. If you have touched any salt, wash your hands at once. It may be corrosive to skin.
2. Never taste any salt, it may be poisonous. Salts of arsenic and mercury are highly poisonous.

3. Salts like sodium sulphide, sodium nitrite, potassium nitrite, develop a yellow colour.

**Table 12.1. Physical Examination**

<b>Experiment</b>	<b>Observations</b>	<b>Inference</b>
1. <i>Colour</i>	Blue or Bluish green Greenish Light green Dark brown Pink Light pink, flesh colour or earthy colour White	$\text{Cu}^{2+}$ or $\text{Ni}^{2+}$ $\text{Ni}^{2+}$ $\text{Fe}^{2+}$ $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ $\text{Co}^{2+}$ $\text{Mn}^{2+}$  Shows the absence of $\text{Cu}^{2+}$ , $\text{Ni}^{2+}$ , $\text{Fe}^{2+}$ , $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ , $\text{Mn}^{2+}$ , $\text{Co}^{2+}$
2. <i>Smell</i> Take a pinch of the salt between your fingers and rub with a drop of water	Ammoniacal smell Vinegar like smell Smell like that of rotten eggs	$\text{NH}_4^+$ $\text{CH}_3\text{COO}^-$ $\text{S}^{2-}$
3. <i>Density</i>	(i) Heavy (ii) Light fluffy powder	Salt of $\text{Pb}^{2+}$ , or $\text{Ba}^{2+}$ Carbonate
4. <i>Deliquescence</i>	Salt absorbs moisture and becomes paste like	(i) If coloured, may be $\text{Cu}(\text{NO}_3)_2$ , $\text{FeCl}_3$ (ii) If colourless, may be $\text{Zn}(\text{NO}_3)_2$ , chlorides of $\text{Zn}^{2+}$ , $\text{Mg}^{2+}$ etc.

### Dry heating test

This test is performed by heating a small amount of salt in a dry test tube. Quite valuable information can be gathered by carefully performing and noting the observations here. On heating, some salts undergo decomposition, thus, evolving the gases or may undergo characteristic changes in the colour of residue. These observations are tabulated in Table 12.2 along with the inferences that you can draw.

Table 12.2. Dry Heating Test

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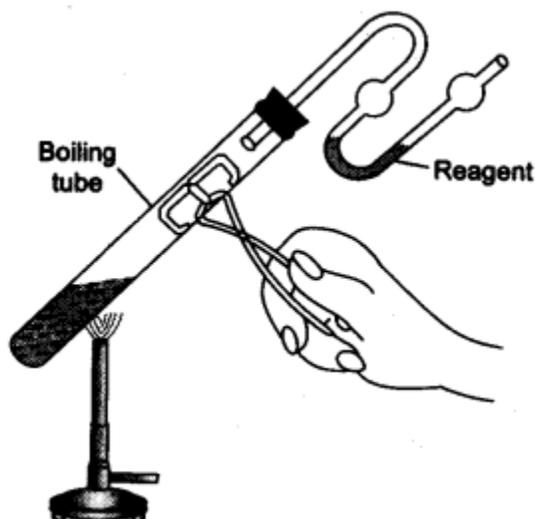
<b>Observations</b>	<b>Inference</b>
1. Gas evolved (a) <b>Colourless and odourless gas</b> $CO_2$ gas—turns lime water milky	$CO_3^{2-}$ or $C_2O_4^{2-}$ present
<b>Observations</b>	<b>Inference</b>
(b) <b>Colourless gas with odour</b> (i) $H_2S$ gas—Smells like rotten eggs, turns lead acetate paper black. (ii) $SO_2$ gas—characteristics suffocating smell, turns acidified potassium dichromate paper (or solution) green. (iii) $HCl$ gas—Pungent smell, white fumes with ammonia, white ppt with silver nitrate solution. (iv) <i>Acetic acid vapours</i> —Characteristic vinegar like smell. (v) $NH_3$ gas—Characteristic smell, gives white fumes when a glass rod dipped in dilute HCl is brought near the mouth of the test tube, turns Nessler's solution brown.	Hydrated $S^{2-}$  $SO_3^{2-}$  $Cl^-$  $CH_3COO^-$  $NH_4^+$
(c) <b>Coloured gases</b> —Pungent smell (i) $NO_2$ gas—Reddish brown, turns ferrous sulphate solution black. (ii) $Cl_2$ gas—Greenish yellow, turns starch-iodide paper blue. (iii) $Br_2$ vapours—Reddish brown, turns starch paper orange yellow. (iv) $I_2$ vapours—Dark violet, turns starch paper blue.	$NO_2^-$ or $NO_3^-$  $Cl^-$  $Br^-$  $I^-$

<p><b>2. Sublimate formed</b></p> <p>(a) White sublimate</p> <p>(b) Black sublimate accompanied by violet vapours</p> <p><b>3. Decrepitation</b></p> <p>The salt decrepitates.</p> <p><b>4. Swelling</b></p> <p>The salt swells up into voluminous mass.</p> <p><b>5. Residue</b></p> <p>(i) Yellow when hot white when cold</p> <p>(ii) Brown when hot and yellow when cold</p> <p>(iii) White salt becomes black on heating</p> <p>(iv) White residue, glows on heating</p>	<p><math>\text{NH}_4^+</math></p> <p><math>\text{I}^-</math></p> <p>A salt having no water of crystallisation. For example, <math>\text{Pb}(\text{NO}_3)_2</math>, <math>\text{NaCl}</math>, <math>\text{KBr}</math>.</p> <p><math>\text{PO}_4^{3-}</math> indicated</p> <p><math>\text{Zn}^{2+}</math></p> <p><math>\text{Pb}^{2+}</math></p> <p><math>\text{CH}_3\text{COO}^-</math> indicated</p> <p><math>\text{Ba}^{2+}</math>, <math>\text{Sr}^{2+}</math>, <math>\text{Ca}^{2+}</math>, <math>\text{Mg}^{2+}</math>, <math>\text{Al}^{3+}</math>, etc.</p>
<b>Observations</b>	<b>Inference</b>
<p>(v) Original salt blue becomes white on heating</p> <p>(vi) Coloured salt becomes brown or black on heating.</p>	<p>Hydrated <math>\text{CuSO}_4</math> indicated</p> <p><math>\text{Co}^{2+}</math>, <math>\text{Cu}^{2+}</math>, <math>\text{Mn}^{2+}</math> indicated.</p>

**Note:**

1. Use a perfectly dry test-tube for performing this test. While drying a test-tube, keep it in slanting position with its mouth slightly downwards so that the drops of water which condense on the upper cooler parts, do not fall back on the hot bottom, as this may break the tube.
2. For testing a gas, a filter paper strip dipped in the appropriate reagent is brought near the mouth of the test tube or alternatively the reagent is taken in a gas-detector and the gas is passed through it.

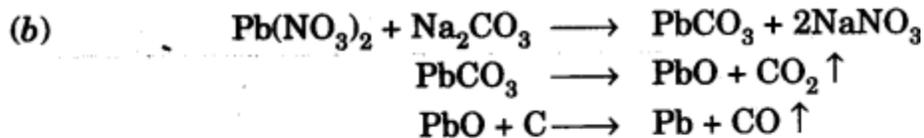
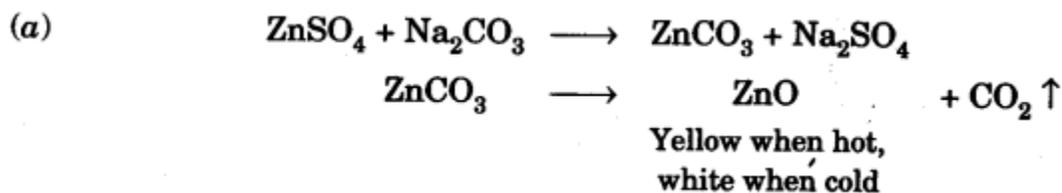
3. Do not heat the tube strongly at one point as it may break.



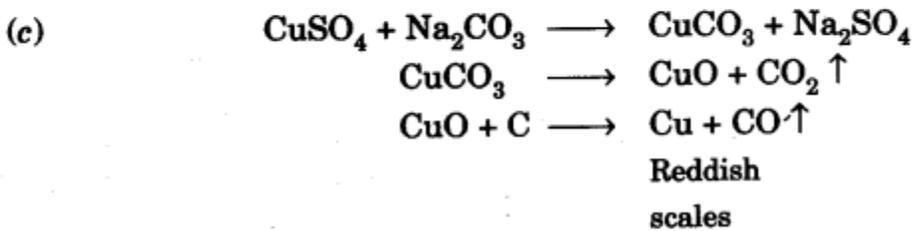
### Charcoal cavity test

This test is based on the fact that metallic carbonates when heated in a charcoal cavity decompose to give corresponding oxides. The oxides appear as coloured incrustation or residue in the cavity. In certain cases, the oxides formed partially undergo reduction to the metallic state producing metallic beads or scales.

#### Examples:

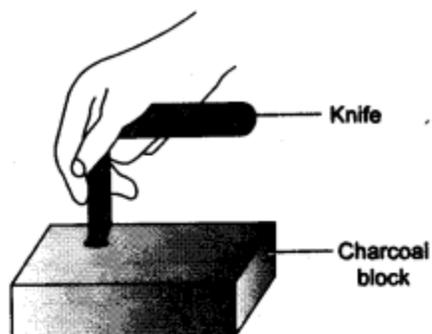


Bead

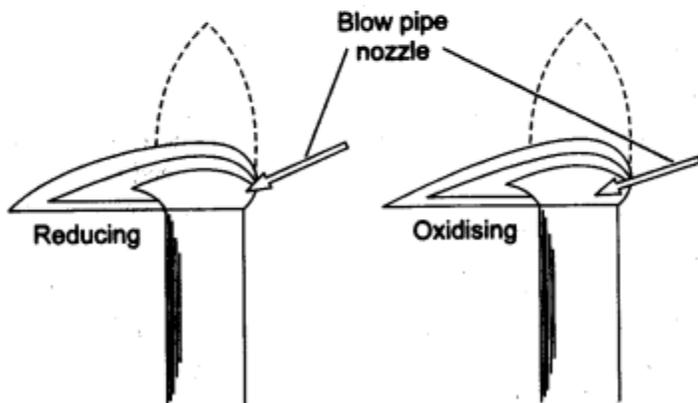


## Procedure

While performing charcoal cavity test, make a small cavity on a charcoal block with the help of borer as shown in Fig. 12.2. Mix small amount of salt with double its quantity of sodium carbonate. Place it in the cavity made on the block of charcoal. Moisten with a drop of water and direct the reducing flame of the bunsen burner on the cavity by means of a mouth blowpipe as shown in Fig. 12.3. Heat strongly for sometime and draw inference according to the Table 12.3.



**Fig. 12.2.** Making bore on a charcoal block.



**Fig. 12.3.** Directing flame with blow pipe.

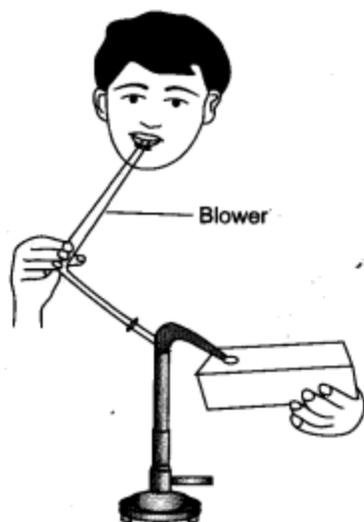


Fig. 12.4. Blowing flame on the cavity.

Table 12.3. Charcoal Cavity Test

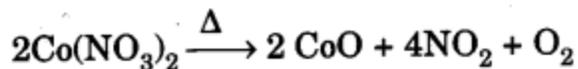
<i>Observations</i>			<i>Inference</i>
<i>Incrustation or Residue</i>		<i>Metallic bead</i>	
<i>Hot</i>	<i>Cold</i>		
Yellow	White	None	$Zn^{2+}$
Brown	Yellow	Grey bead which marks the paper	$Pb^{2+}$
None	None	Red beads or scales	$Cu^{2+}$
White residue which glows	None	None	$Ba^{2+}, Ca^{2+}, Mg^{2+}$
Black	None	None	Nothing definite—generally coloured salt

To obtain a reducing flame with the help of a mouth blow pipe, make the bunsen burner flame luminous by closing the air holes of the burner. Keep the nozzle of the blow pipe just outside the flame (Fig. 12.4) and blow gently on to the cavity.

### Cobalt nitrate test

This test is applied to those salts which leave white residue in charcoal cavity test. The test is based on the fact that cobalt nitrate decomposes on heating to give cobalt oxide,  $CoO$ . This combines with the metallic-oxides, present as white residue in the charcoal cavity forming coloured compounds. For example, when a magnesium salt undergoes charcoal cavity test, a white residue of  $MgO$  is left behind. This on treatment with cobalt

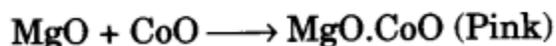
nitrate and subsequent heating forms a double salt of the formula  $\text{MgO} \cdot \text{CoO}$  which is pink in colour. In addition to metallic oxides, phosphates and borates also react with cobalt oxide to form  $\text{Co}_3(\text{PO}_4)_2$  and  $\text{Co}_3(\text{BO}_3)_2$  which are blue in colour. Some of the reactions involved are given below:



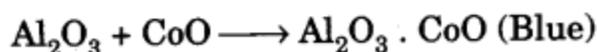
(i) *Zinc salt:*



(ii) *Magnesium salt:*



(iii) *Aluminium salt:*



### Procedure

Put one or two drops of cobalt nitrate solution on the white residue left after charcoal cavity test. Heat for one or two minutes by means of a blow pipe in oxidising flame. Observe the colour of the residue and draw inferences

**Table 12.4. Cobalt Nitrate-Charcoal Cavity Test**

<i>Colour of the residue</i>	<i>Inference</i>
Green	$\text{Zn}^{2+}$
Pink	$\text{Mg}^{2+}$
Blue	$\text{Al}^{3+}$ or $\text{PO}_4^{3-}$
Black	It is due to the formation of $\text{CoO}$ . No definite indication.

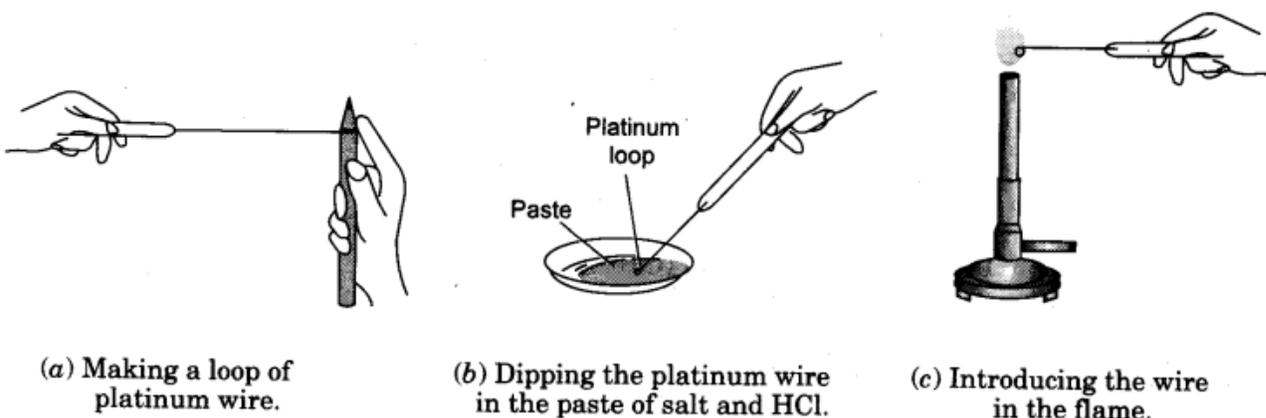
### Note:

1. Perform this test only if the residue in the charcoal cavity test is white.
2. Do not put more than 2 drops of cobalt nitrate on the white residue. Excess cobalt nitrate may decompose to give cobalt oxide which is black in colour.
3. Use dilute solution of cobalt nitrate.

### Flame test

Certain salts on reacting with cone. HCl from their chlorides, that are volatile in non-luminous flame. Their vapours impart characteristic colour to the flame. This colour can give reliable information of the presence of certain basic radicals.

For proceeding to this test, the paste of the mixture with cone. HCl is introduced into the flame with the help of platinum wire (Fig. 12.5).



**Fig. 12.5.** Flame test.

### Procedure

Clean the platinum wire by dipping it in some cone. HCl taken on a watch glass and then heating strongly in the flame. This process is repeated till the wire imparts no colour to the flame. Now prepare a paste of the mixture with cone. HCl on a deem watch glass. Place small amount of this paste on platinum wire loop and introduce it into the flame. Note the colour imparted to the flame.

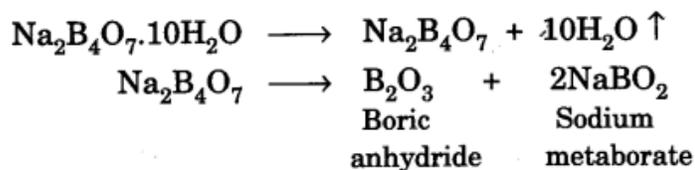
**Table 12.5. Flame Test**

<i>Colour of the flame</i>	<i>Inference</i>
1. Brick-red (not persistent)	$\text{Ca}^{2+}$
2. Crimson-red (persistent)	$\text{Sr}^{2+}$
3. Persistent grassy-green (appears after prolonged heating)	$\text{Ba}^{2+}$
4. Golden yellow	$\text{Na}^+$
5. Pink-violet	$\text{K}^+$
6. Bright-bluish green	$\text{Cu}^{2+}$
7. Green flashes	$\text{Zn}^{2+}$ or $\text{Mn}^{2+}$
8. Dull bluish-white	$\text{Pb}^{2+}$

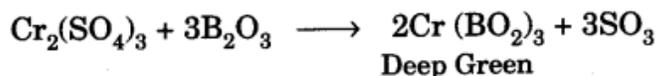
### Borax bead test

This test is performed only for coloured salts.

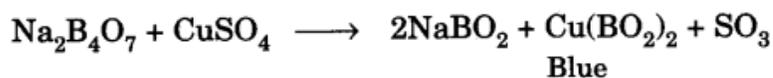
Borax,  $\text{Na}_2\text{B}_4\text{O}_7 \cdot 10\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , on heating gets fused and loses water of crystallisation. It swells up into a fluffy white porous mass which then melts into a colourless liquid which later forms, a clear transparent glassy bead consisting of boric anhydride and sodium metaborate.



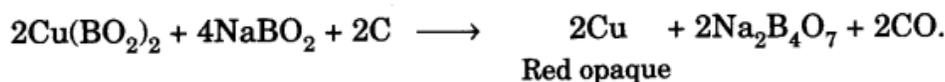
Boric anhydride is non-volatile. When it is reacted with coloured metallic salt, a characteristic coloured bead of metal metaborate is formed.



In the cases where different coloured beads are obtained in the oxidising and reducing flames, metaborates in various oxidation states of metals are formed. For example, in oxidising flame, copper forms blue copper metaborate.

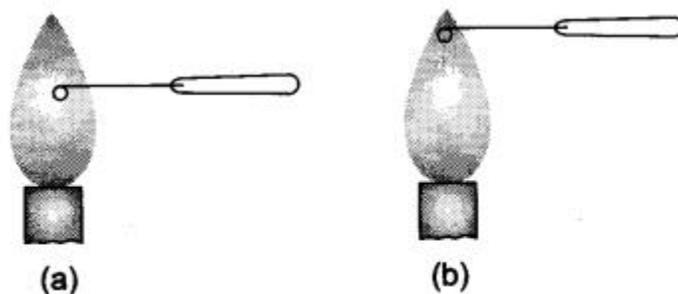


In reducing flame cupric metaborate is reduced to metallic copper, which is red and opaque.



### Procedure

Borax,  $\text{Na}_2\text{B}_4\text{O}_7 \cdot 10\text{H}_2\text{O}$  is heated in the loop of platinum wire, it swells and forms transparent colourless glassy bead. When this hot bead is touched with small amount of coloured salt and is heated again, it acquires a characteristic colour. The colour of bead gives indication of the type of the cation present. The colour of the bead is noted separately in oxidising and in reducing flame (Fig. 12.6).

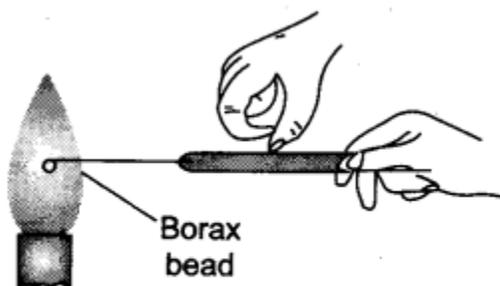


**Fig. 12.6.** Borax bead test (a) Heating in reducing flame, (b) Heating in oxidising flame.

Table 12.6. Borax Bead Test

<i>Colour of the bead</i>		<i>Inference</i>
<i>In Oxidising flame</i>	<i>In Reducing flame</i>	
1. Green when hot, light blue when cold.	Colourless when hot, opaque red when cold.	$\text{Cu}^{2+}$
2. Yellowish brown when hot, pale yellow when cold	Green, hot and cold.	$\text{Fe}^{2+}$ or $\text{Fe}^{3+}$
3. Amethyst (pinkish violet) in both hot and cold.	Colourless, hot and cold.	$\text{Mn}^{2+}$
4. Brown when hot, pale brown when cold.	Grey or black when hot and opaque when cold	$\text{Ni}^{2+}$
5. Deep blue in both hot and cold	Deep blue in both hot and cold.	$\text{Co}^{2+}$

To remove the head from platinum wire, heat the head to redness. Tap the rod with finger stroke, till the bead jumps off (Fig. 12.7).



**Fig. 12.7.** Removing bead from platinum wire.

The identification of the acid radicals is first done on the basis of preliminary tests. Dry heating test is one of the preliminary tests performed earlier which may give some important information about the acid radical present. The other preliminary tests are based upon the fact that:

- $\text{CO}_3^{2-}$ ,  $\text{S}^{2-}$ ,  $\text{NO}_2^-$  and  $\text{SO}_3^{2-}$  react with dil.  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  to give out  $\text{CO}_2$ ,  $\text{H}_2\text{S}$ ,  $\text{NO}_2$  and  $\text{SO}_2$  gases respectively which can be identified by certain tests.
- $\text{Cl}^-$ ,  $\text{Br}^-$ ,  $\text{I}^-$ ,  $\text{NO}_3^-$ ,  $\text{C}_2\text{O}_4^{2-}$  and  $\text{CH}_3\text{COO}^-$  react with conc.  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  but not with dil.  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  to produce characteristic gases.
- $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  and  $\text{PO}_4^{3-}$  react neither with dil.  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  nor with conc.  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$ . These are therefore, identified by individual tests.

Thus, the acid radicals may be identified by performing the following tests in the order given below:

- (i) **Dil.  $H_2SO_4$  test.** Treat a pinch of the salt with dil.  $H_2SO_4$  and identify the gas evolved.
- (ii) **Conc.  $H_2SO_4$  test.** If no action takes place with dil.  $H_2SO_4$ , warm a pinch of the salt with conc.  $H_2SO_4$  and identify the gas evolved.
- (iii) **Independent Group.** ( $SO_4^{2-}$  and  $PO_4^{3-}$ ). If the salt does not react with dil.  $H_2SO_4$  as well as with conc.  $H_2SO_4$ , test for  $SO_4^{2-}$  and  $PO_4^{3-}$  by performing their individual tests.

Let us now discuss these tests in detail one by one.

Take a small quantity of the salt in a test-tube and add 1-2 ml of dilute sulphuric acid. Identify the gas and draw

**Table 12.7. Dilute Sulphuric Acid Test**

<b>Observations</b>	<b>Inference</b>	
	<b>Gas</b>	<b>Radical</b>
1. Colourless, odourless gas with <i>brisk effervescence</i> , turns lime water milky.	$CO_2$	$CO_3^{2-}$
2. Colourless gas, pungent smell, turns acidified potassium dichromate paper or solution green.	$SO_2$	$SO_3^{2-}$
2. Colourless gas with smell like that of rotten eggs, turns lead acetate paper black.	$H_2S$	$S^{2-}$
3. Reddish brown gas, pungent smell, turns ferrous sulphate solution black.	$NO_2$	$NO_2^-$
4. No gas is evolved.	—	$CO_3^{2-}$ , $SO_3^{2-}$ , $S^{2-}$ $NO_2^-$ absent

**Note:**

1. Do not treat the salt with a large quantity of dilute acid.
2. Do not heat the salt with dilute acid.

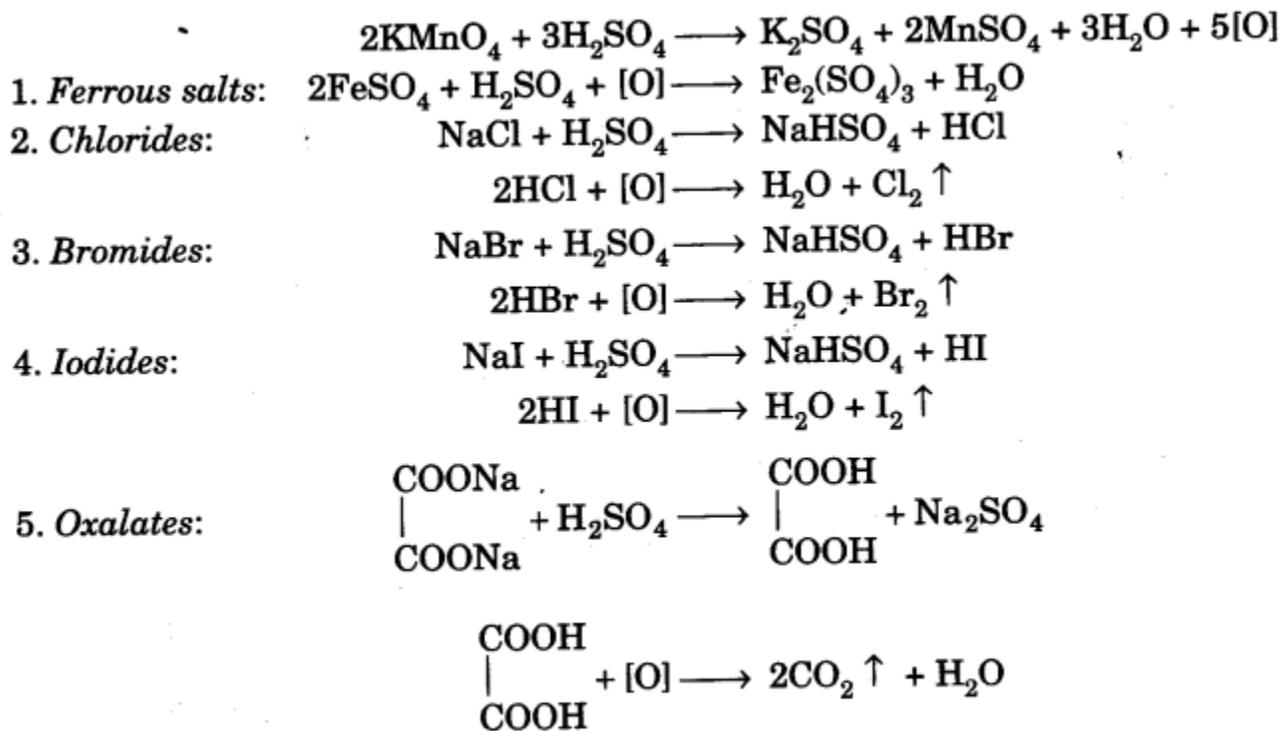
#### **Chemical Reactions Involved in Dil. $H_2SO_4$ Test**

Dilute  $H_2SO_4$  (or dilute HCl) decomposes carbonates, sulphides and nitrites in cold to give gases. These gases on identification indicate the nature of the acid radical present in the salt.



2. Potassium permanganate oxidises Fe<sup>2+</sup> salts in cold. Dil H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> acid is added to the salt and heated till sulphides, sulphites and nitrites are completely decomposed. Then KMnO<sub>4</sub> is added dropwise to cold solution.

### Chemical Reactions Involved



### Concentrated sulphuric acid test

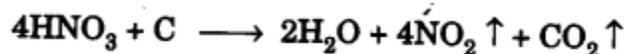
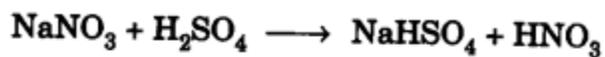
This test is performed by treating small quantity of salt with cone. sulphuric acid (2-3 ml) in a test tube. Identify the gas evolved in cold and then on heating. Draw inferences from Table 12.9

**Table 12.9. Conc. Sulphuric Acid Test**

<b>Observations</b>	<b>Inference</b>	
	<b>Gas</b>	<b>Radical</b>
1. Colourless gas with pungent smell, white fumes with aqueous ammonia (NH <sub>4</sub> OH), white ppt. with AgNO <sub>3</sub> solution.	HCl	Cl <sup>-</sup>
2. Reddish brown vapours with pungent smell, turns starch paper yellow. It does not turn FeSO <sub>4</sub> solution black.	Br <sub>2</sub>	Br <sup>-</sup>
3. Deep violet vapours with pungent smell, turns starch paper blue. A sublimate is formed on the sides of the tube.	I <sub>2</sub> vapours	I <sup>-</sup>
4. Reddish brown gas with pungent smell, turns FeSO <sub>4</sub> solution black.	NO <sub>2</sub>	NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>
5. Colourless vapours, vinegar smell, turns blue litmus red.	CH <sub>3</sub> COOH vapours,	CH <sub>3</sub> COO <sup>-</sup>
6. A colourless gas which turns lime water milky and also a gas which burns with pale-bluish flame	CO <sub>2</sub> + CO	C <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup>
7. No gas/vapours evolved.	—	Cl <sup>-</sup> , Br <sup>-</sup> , I <sup>-</sup> , NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> , CH <sub>3</sub> COO <sup>-</sup> absent

**Note:**

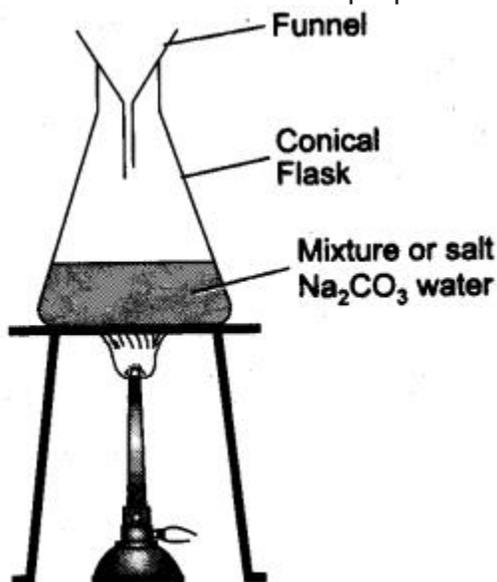
1. Do not boil the salt with cone, sulphuric acid. On boiling, the acid may decompose to give SO<sub>2</sub> gas.
2. Nitrates give vapours of nitric acid (colourless) when heated with cone, sulphuric acid. When a paper pellet or copper chips is added, dense brown fumes evolve. Paper pellet acts as a reducing agent and reduces nitric acid to NO<sub>2</sub> (Reddish brown gas).



(From  
paper  
pellet)



1. **Aqueous solution or 'water extract':** Shake a little of the salt with water. If the salt dissolves, this aqueous solution obtained is used for the wet tests of acid radical and is called 'water extract' or 'W.E.'. If the salt is not completely soluble in water, the salt is shaken with water and is filtered. The filtrate is treated as water extract.
2. **Sodium carbonate extract:** This is prepared only if the salt is insoluble in water.



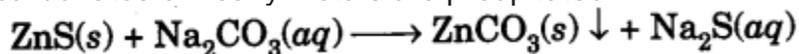
**Fig. 12.8. Preparation of sodium carbonate extract.**

Preparation of Sodium Carbonate Extract. Mix about 1 g of the salt with about 2 g of pure sodium carbonate and boil it for 10-15 minutes with 20-25 ml of distilled water in a small conical flask having a funnel in its mouth (Fig. 12.8). The funnel acts as a condenser. This arrangement prevents the loss of water due to evaporation. Filter the solution, cool it and label it as sodium carbonate extract or S.E.

Alternatively, sodium carbonate extract can be prepared in a test tube. A pinch of salt is mixed with double the amount of sodium carbonate and is boiled with distilled water for sometime. The suspension obtained is filtered. The filtrate is sodium carbonate extract. p.g 12 8. Preparation of sodium carbonate extract.

Theory of Preparation of Sodium Carbon-ate Extract.

When the salts are boiled with strong solution of sodium carbonate, double decompo-sition takes place resulting in the formation of the carbonates of heavy metallic radicals and sodium salts of the acid radicals. The sodium salts of corresponding add radicals being soluble in water pass into the solution and carbonates of heavy metals are predepitated



### How to Use Sodium Carbonate Extract

Sodium carbonate extract always contains unreacted sodium carbonate in solution which has to be destroyed before using the extract for various tests. To do this, the extract is addified with some suitable acid and is boiled to expel carbon dioxide. The

selection of add used for destroying excess  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$  depends upon the radical to be identified.

Now we describe in detail the confirmatory tests for various add radicals discussed so far.

### Confirmation of Carbonate, $\text{CO}_3^{2-}$

(Indicated in dilute acid test by occurrence of brisk effervescence and evolution of carbon dioxide).

<i>Confirmation of soluble carbonate</i>	<i>Confirmation of insoluble carbonate</i>
<p>If the salt dissolves, soluble carbonate is indicated.</p> <p>1. <b>Dil HCl test</b></p> <p>To one portion of the solution, add dil. HCl.</p> <p><b>Brisk effervescence and evolution of carbon dioxide</b> which turns lime water milky confirms the presence of soluble carbonate.</p> <p>2. <b>Magnesium sulphate test</b></p> <p>To another portion of the solution, add magnesium sulphate solution.</p> <p>Formation of <b>white precipitate</b> in the cold confirms the presence of <b>soluble carbonate</b>.</p>	<p>If the salt remains insoluble, the presence of insoluble carbonate is indicated.</p> <p>To the salt add dil. HCl.</p> <p><b>Brisk effervescence and evolution of carbon dioxide</b> which turns lime water milky confirms the presence of <b>insoluble carbonate</b>.</p>

#### Note:

1. Do not use sodium carbonate extract for performing the tests of carbonates because it contains sodium carbonate.
2. Perform magnesium sulphate test only in case of soluble carbonates.

### Confirmation of Sulphide, $\text{S}^{2-}$

(Indicated in dilute acid test by the evolution of hydrogen sulphide).

<i>Experiment</i>	<i>Observations</i>
<p>1. <b>Barium chloride test</b></p> <p>Take a portion of aqueous solution (or sodium carbonate extract and dil. acetic acid and boil off CO<sub>2</sub>). Add barium chloride solution to it. Filter.</p> <p>To a portion of the above ppt. add dil. HCl.</p>	<p>A white ppt. is formed.</p> <p>The ppt. dissolves with the evolution of sulphur dioxide.</p>
<p>2. <b>KMnO<sub>4</sub> test</b></p> <p>To a second part of the ppt. from (1) add a few drops of acidified potassium permanganate solution.</p>	<p>The pink colour is discharged.</p>
<p>3. <b>K<sub>2</sub>Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub> test</b></p> <p>To a portion of aqueous solution or sodium carbonate extract add potassium dichromate solution acidified with dil. H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>.</p>	<p>A green colour is obtained.</p>

### Confirmation of Sulphide, S<sup>2-</sup>

(Indicated in dilute acid test by the evolution of hydrogen sulphide).

<i>Experiment</i>	<i>Observations</i>
<p>1. <b>Sodium nitroprusside test</b></p> <p>Take a portion of aqueous solution (or sodium carbonate extract) in a test tube and add a few drops of <i>sodium nitroprusside solution</i>.</p>	<p><b>Purple or violet colouration</b> is obtained.</p>
<p>2. <b>Lead acetate test</b></p> <p>To a portion of aqueous solution (or sodium carbonate extract acidified with dil. acetic acid) add lead acetate solution.</p>	<p>A <b>black ppt.</b> is obtained.</p>
<p>3. <b>Cadmium carbonate test</b></p> <p>To a portion of aqueous solution (or <i>sodium carbonate extract</i>) add a suspension of <i>cadmium carbonate in water</i>.</p>	<p>A <b>yellow ppt.</b> is formed.</p>

### Confirmation of Nitrite, NO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>

(Indicated in dilute acid test by the evolution of brown vapours of nitrogen peroxide)

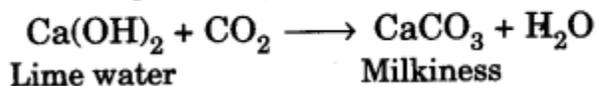
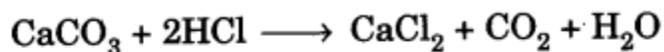
<i>Experiment</i>	<i>Observations</i>
<b>1. Ferrous sulphate test</b> To a portion of aqueous solution, add some dil. acetic acid and ferrous sulphate solution.	<b>A dark brown or black colouration is obtained.</b>
<b>2. Starch-iodide test</b> To a portion of aqueous solution add a few drops of dil. H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> and a few drops of potassium iodide solution followed by freshly prepared starch solution.	<b>A blue solution is obtained.</b>
<b>3. Diphenylamine test</b> To a portion of aqueous solution, add a few drops of diphenylamine.	<b>A deep blue colouration is obtained.</b>

### Chemical Reactions Involved in the Confirmation of Carbonate, Sulphide and Nitrite

#### Carbonate (CO<sub>3</sub><sup>2-</sup>)

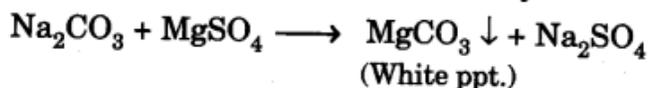
##### 1. Reaction with dil. HCl

Carbonates on reaction with dil. HCl give CO<sub>2</sub> gas which turns lime water milky. In case of soluble carbonates this test is performed with water extract and in case of insoluble carbonates this test is performed with the solid salt.



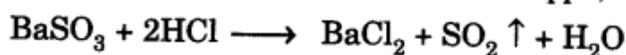
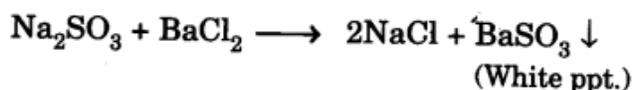
## 2. Magnesium sulphate test

This test is performed in case of soluble carbonates only

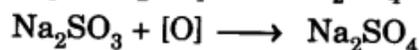


## Sulphite ( $\text{SO}_3^{2-}$ )

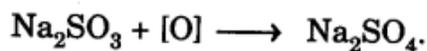
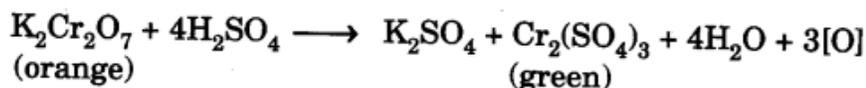
### 1. Barium chloride test



### 2. Potassium permanganate test

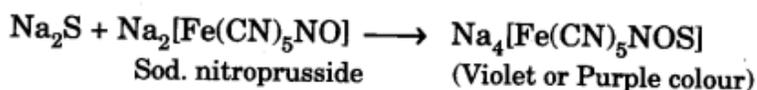


### 3. Potassium dichromate test

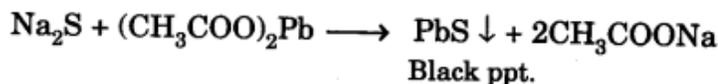


## Sulphide ( $\text{S}^{2-}$ )

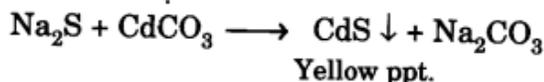
### 1. Sod. nitroprusside test



### 2. Lead acetate test

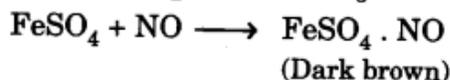
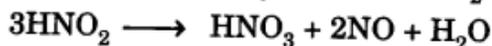
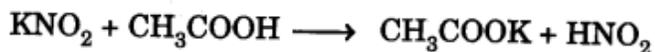


### 3. Cadmium carbonate test

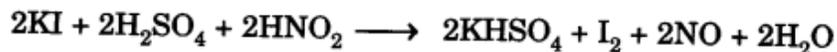


## Nitrite ( $\text{NO}_2^-$ )

### 1. Ferrous sulphate test



### 2. Potassium iodide test



$\text{I}_2$  turns starch paper blue.

### Confirmation of Chloride, Cl<sup>-</sup>

(No action with dilute H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> but decomposed by cone. H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> with the evolution of HCl gas).

<i>Experiment</i>	<i>Observations</i>
<p>1. <b>Silver nitrate test</b> Acidify a portion of aqueous solution (or sodium carbonate extract) with dil. HNO<sub>3</sub>. Boil for some time, cool and add AgNO<sub>3</sub> solution.</p>	<p>A <b>white ppt.</b> is formed which is soluble in ammonium hydroxide.</p>
<p>2. <b>Manganese dioxide test</b> Heat a pinch of the salt with a small quantity of MnO<sub>2</sub> and conc. H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>.</p>	<p>Evolution of <b>greenish yellow gas</b> having a pungent irritating smell. It turns moist starch-iodide paper blue.</p>
<p>3. <b>Chromyl chloride test</b> Mix a small quantity of the salt with a small amount of powdered potassium dichromate. Take the mixture in a test tube and add conc. H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>.  Heat the tube and pass the red vapours evolved into the gas detector containing NaOH solution. To the yellow solution thus obtained, add dil. CH<sub>3</sub>COOH and lead acetate solution.</p>	<p>A <b>yellow ppt.</b> is formed.</p>

### Confirmation of Bromide, Br<sup>-</sup>

(No action with dilute H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> but decomposed by cone. H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> with the evolution of bromine vapours).

<i>Experiment</i>	<i>Observations</i>
<p>1. <b>Silver nitrate test</b> Acidify a portion of aqueous solution (or sodium carbonate extract) with dil. <math>\text{HNO}_3</math>. Boil, cool and add <math>\text{AgNO}_3</math> solution.</p> <p>2. <b>Manganese dioxide test</b> Heat a small quantity of the salt with solid <math>\text{MnO}_2</math> and conc. <math>\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4</math>.</p> <p>3. <b>Chlorine water test</b> Acidify a portion of aqueous solution (or sodium carbonate extract) with dil. <math>\text{HCl}</math> and add 1–2 ml of carbon disulphide and then chlorine water. Shake vigorously and allow to stand.</p>	<p>A <b>light yellow ppt.</b> is obtained which is partially soluble in <math>\text{NH}_4\text{OH}</math>.</p> <p>Evolution of <b>yellowish brown vapours</b> of bromine which turn starch paper yellow.</p> <p>Carbon disulphide layer acquires orange colouration.</p>

**Note.** Chlorine water is prepared by adding dropwise conc.  $\text{HCl}$  to a small volume of  $\text{KMnO}_4$  solution till the pink colour is just discharged, the resulting solution is chlorine water.

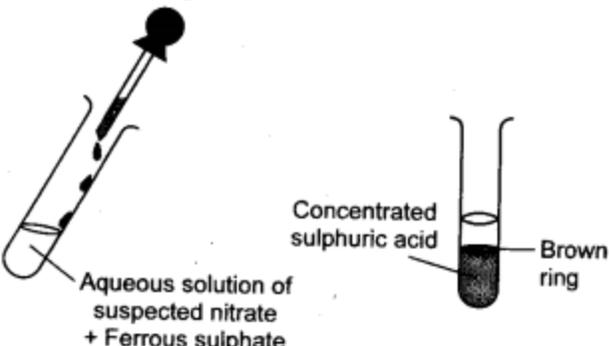
#### Confirmation of Iodide, $\text{I}^-$

(No action with dilute  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  but decomposed by conc.  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  with the evolution of vapours of iodine).

<i>Experiment</i>	<i>Observations</i>
<p>1. <b>Silver nitrate test</b> Acidify a portion of aqueous solution (or sodium carbonate extract) with dil. <math>\text{HNO}_3</math>. Boil, cool and add <math>\text{AgNO}_3</math> solution.</p> <p>2. <b>Manganese dioxide test</b> Heat a small quantity of the salt with a little <math>\text{MnO}_2</math> and conc. <math>\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4</math>.</p> <p>3. <b>Chlorine water test</b> Acidify a part of the aqueous solution (or sodium carbonate extract) with dil. <math>\text{HCl}</math>, add 1-2 ml of carbon disulphide and then chlorine water. Shake vigorously and allow to stand.</p>	<p>A <b>yellow ppt.</b> is formed which is insoluble in <math>\text{NH}_4\text{OH}</math>.</p> <p>Evolution of <b>violet vapours of iodine</b> which turn starch paper blue.</p> <p>Carbon disulphide layer acquires a violet colouration.</p>

#### Confirmation of Nitrate, $\text{NO}_3^-$

(No action with dilute acids but decomposed by conc.  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  with the evolution of brown vapours of nitrogen peroxide).

Experiment	Observations
<p>1. <b>Diphenylamine test</b> Add a few drops of diphenylamine to a part of aqueous solution of the salt.</p> <p>2. <b>Copper chips test</b> Heat a small quantity of the original salt with concentrated sulphuric acid and a few copper chips.</p> <p>3. <b>Ring Test</b> Add a small quantity of freshly prepared solution of ferrous sulphate to a part of the aqueous solution and then pour concentrated sulphuric acid slowly along the sides of the test tube as shown in Fig. 12.9.</p>  <p><b>Fig. 12.9.</b> The brown ring test for nitrates.</p>	<p><b>A deep blue colouration</b> is obtained.</p> <p><b>Dark brown fumes</b> of nitrogen dioxide are evolved.</p> <p><b>A dark brown ring</b> is formed at the junction of the layers of the acid and the solution.</p>

### Confirmation of Acetate, $\text{CH}_3\text{COO}^-$

(No action with dilute acids but decomposed by cone.  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  with the evolution of  $\text{CH}_3\text{COOH}$  vapours)

<i>Experiment</i>	<i>Observations</i>
<p>1. Oxalic acid test</p> <p>Take a small quantity of the salt on a watch glass. Mix it with solid oxalic acid. Prepare paste of it with a few drops of water. Rub the paste and smell.</p>	Smell like that of vinegar.
<p>2. Ester test</p> <p>Take a small quantity of the salt in a test-tube. Add conc. <math>H_2SO_4</math> (2 ml) and heat. Now add ethyl alcohol (1 ml). Shake. Pour the contents of the tube in a beaker full of water. Stir.</p>	Pleasant fruity smell of ester.
<p>3. Ferric chloride test</p> <p>Take water extract of the salt. Add <i>neutral</i> ferric chloride solution. Filter. Divide the filtrate into two portions.</p> <p>(i) To one part, add dil. HCl.</p> <p>(ii) To second part, add water and boil.</p>	<p>Reddish coloured filtrate.</p> <p>Reddish colour disappears.</p> <p>Reddish brown ppt.</p>

### Confirmation of Oxalate, $C_2O_4^-$

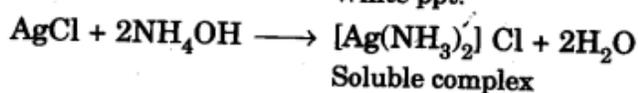
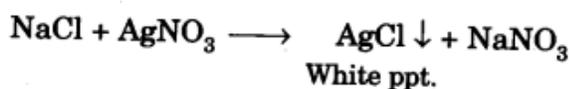
(No action with dilute acids but decomposed by cone.  $H_2SO_4$  with the evolution of  $CO_2$  and CO gas)

<i>Experiment</i>	<i>Observations</i>
<p>1. Calcium chloride test</p> <p>Take water extract (or soda extract if salt is insoluble in water). Add small amount dil acetic acid and boil off <math>CO_2</math>. Add calcium chloride solution.</p> <p>Add dil <math>HNO_3</math> to the white ppt and warm.</p>	<p>A <b>white ppt.</b> is formed.</p> <p>The ppt. dissolves.</p>
<p>2. Potassium permanganate test</p> <p>Take a pinch of the salt in test tube and add dil sulphuric acid. Warm to <math>60-70^\circ C</math> and add 2-3 drops of <math>KMnO_4</math> solution.</p>	The pink colour of $KMnO_4$ solution is decolourized with the evolution of $CO_2$ gas.

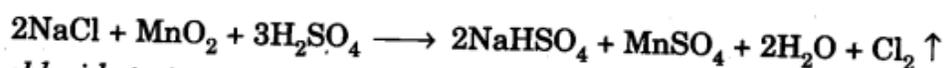
**Chemical Reactions Involved in the Confirmation of Chloride, Bromide, Iodide, Nitrate Acetate and Oxalate**

## Chloride (Cl<sup>-</sup>)

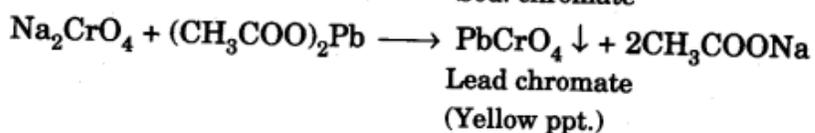
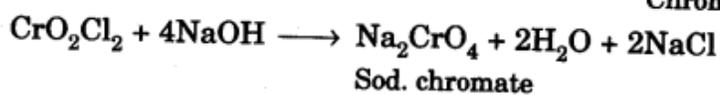
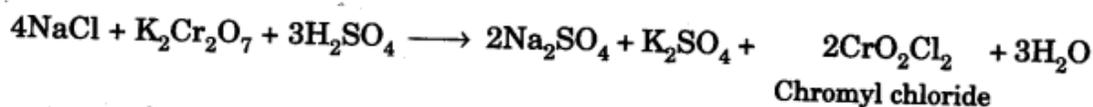
### 1. Silver nitrate test



### 2. MnO<sub>2</sub> test

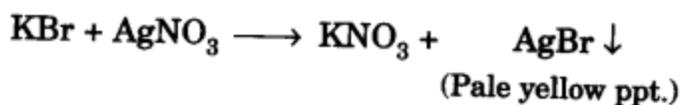


### 3. Chromyl chloride test



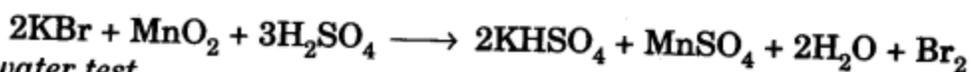
## Bromide (Br<sup>-</sup>)

### 1. Silver nitrate test



Pale yellow ppt. of silver bromide are sparingly soluble in ammonium hydroxide.

### 2. MnO<sub>2</sub> test



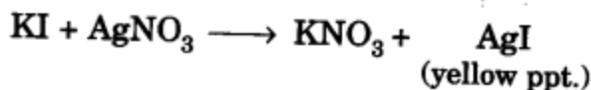
### 3. Chlorine water test



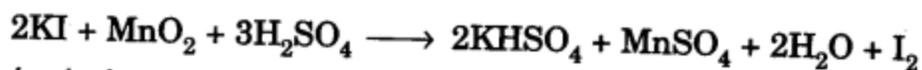
Bromine being soluble in CCl<sub>4</sub> imparts an orange colour to the CCl<sub>4</sub> layer.

## Iodide (I<sup>-</sup>)

### 1. Silver nitrate test



### 2. MnO<sub>2</sub> test



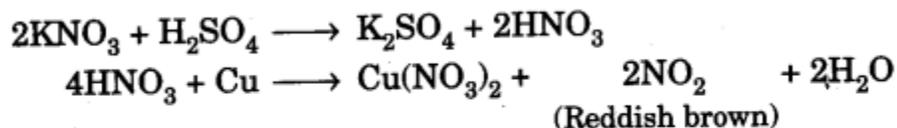
### 3. Chlorine water test



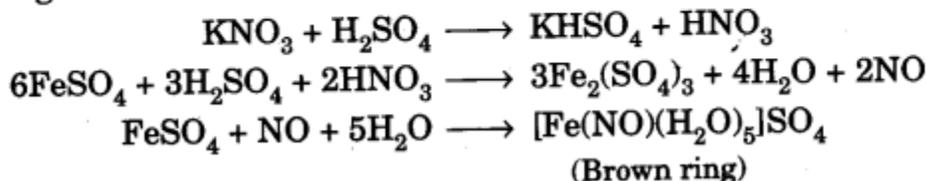
Iodine being soluble in CCl<sub>4</sub> imparts a violet colour to the CCl<sub>4</sub> layer.

## Nitrate ( $\text{NO}_3^-$ )

### 1. Copper test

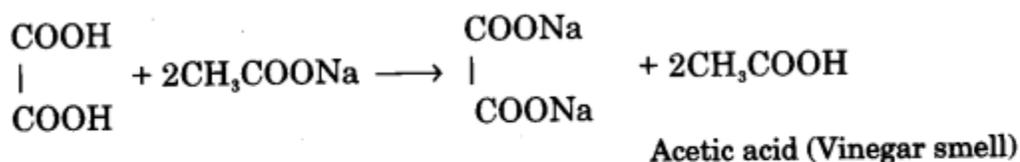


### 2. Ring test

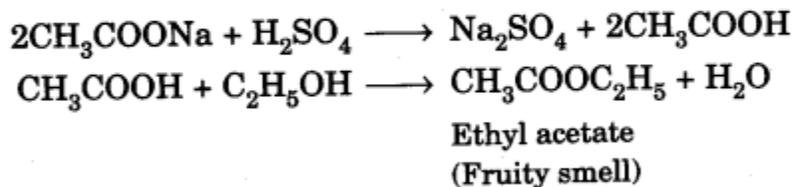


## Acetate ( $\text{CH}_3\text{COO}^-$ )

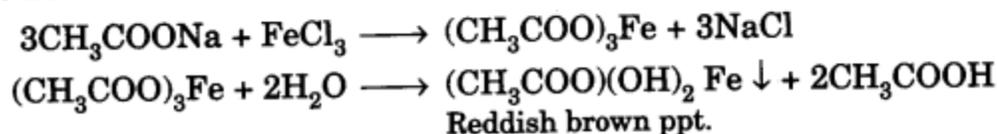
### 1. Oxalic acid test



### 2. Ester test

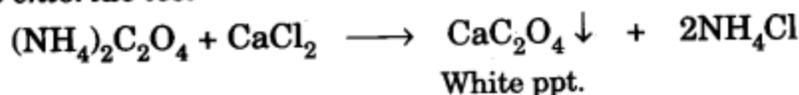


### 3. Ferric chloride test

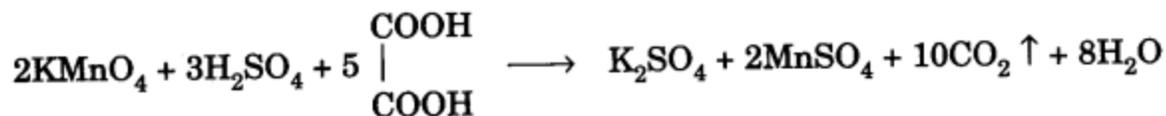


## Oxalate ( $\text{C}_2\text{O}_4^{2-}$ )

### 1. Calcium chloride test



### 2. Potassium permanganate test



## Confirmation of Sulphate, $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$

(Not indicated in dilute and concentrated  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  acid tests).

<i>Experiment</i>	<i>Observations</i>
<p>1. <b>Barium chloride test</b> To a part of the aqueous solution of the salt add barium chloride solution.</p> <p>2. <b>Match stick test</b> Mix a small amount of the salt with sodium carbonate and a little powdered charcoal so as to get a paste. Take some of this paste on one end of a wooden splinter and heat in the reducing flame till the mass fuses. Dip the fused mass into sodium nitroprusside solution taken in a china dish.</p> <p>3. <b>Lead acetate test</b> To a part of aqueous solution of the salt add lead acetate solution.</p>	<p>A <b>white ppt.</b> is formed which is insoluble in dil HCl.</p> <p><b>Violet streaks</b> are produced.</p> <p>A <b>white ppt.</b> is formed which is soluble in excess of hot ammonium acetate solution.</p>

### Confirmation of Phosphate, $\text{PO}_4^{3-}$

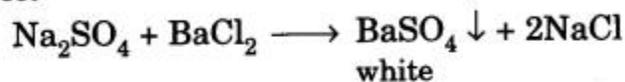
(Not indicated in dilute and concentrated  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  acid test).

<i>Experiment</i>	<i>Observations</i>
<p>1. <b>Ammonium molybdate test</b> To the aqueous solution or sodium carbonate extract (or the original salt) add concentrated nitric acid and boil. Add ammonium molybdate solution in excess and again boil.</p> <p>2. <b>Magnesia mixture test</b> Take a portion of aqueous solution (or a part of sodium carbonate extract, add hydrochloric acid to acidify it and boil off <math>\text{CO}_2</math>). Add magnesia mixture (to prepare it, add solid <math>\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}</math> to magnesium chloride solution. Boil, cool and add <math>\text{NH}_4\text{OH}</math> till a strong smell of ammonia is obtained) and allow to stand.</p>	<p>A <b>deep yellow ppt.</b> or colouration is obtained.</p> <p>A <b>white ppt.</b> is obtained.</p>

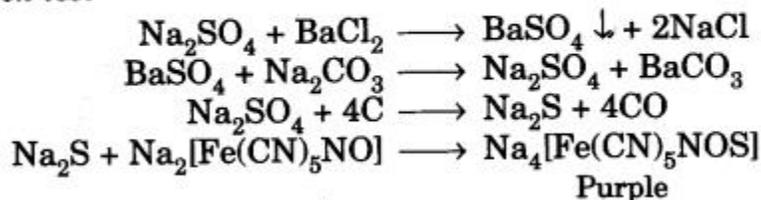
Chemical reactions involved in the confirmation of  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  and  $\text{PO}_4^{3-}$

### Sulphate ( $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ )

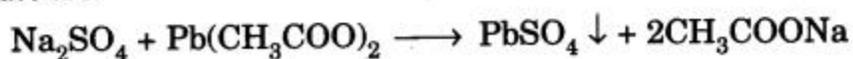
#### 1. Barium chloride test



#### 2. Match-stick test

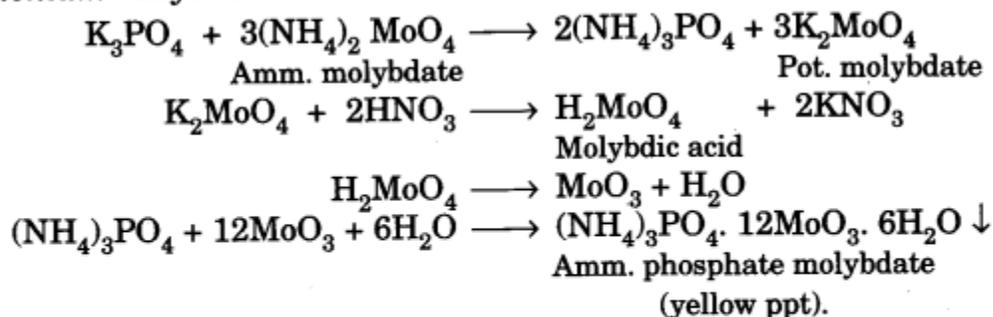


#### 3. Lead acetate test

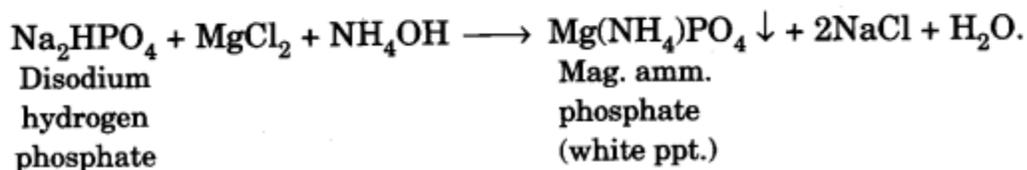


### Phosphate ( $\text{PO}_4^{3-}$ )

#### 1. Ammonium molybdate test



#### 2. Magnesia mixture test



### Wet tests for basic (cations)

Preliminary tests such as dry heating test, charcoal cavity test, flame test and borax bead test may give us some indication about the cation present in the salt. However, the cation is finally detected and confirmed through a systematic analysis involving wet tests. For the sake of qualitative analysis the cations are classified into the following groups (Table 12.10).

**Table 12.10. Classification of Cations**

<b>Group</b>	<b>Cations</b>
Group zero	$\text{NH}_4^+$
Group I	$\text{Pb}^{2+}$
Group IIA	$\text{Pb}^{2+}, \text{Cu}^{2+}$
Group IIB	$\text{As}^{3+}$

<b>Group</b>	<b>Cations</b>
Group III	$\text{Fe}^{3+}$
Group IV	$\text{Co}^{2+}, \text{Ni}^{2+}, \text{Mn}^{2+}, \text{Zn}^{2+}$
Group V	$\text{Ba}^{2+}, \text{Sr}^{2+}, \text{Ca}^{2+}$
Group VI	$\text{Mg}^{2+}$

Before carrying out the wet tests for the analysis of cation, the salt has to be dissolved in some suitable solvent to prepare its solution.

#### **Preparation of solution for wet tests of basic radicals**

The very first essential step is to prepare a clear and transparent solution of the salt under investigation. For this purpose, the under noted solvents are tried one after another in a systematic order. In case the salt does not dissolve in a particular solvent even on heating, try the next solvent. The following solvents are tried:

1. Distilled water (cold or hot).
2. Dilute HCl (cold or hot).
3. Cone. HCl (cold or hot).

#### **Procedure for the preparation of solution**

Take a small quantity of the given salt in a test tube. Add some suitable solvent into it and shake. If it does not dissolve even after heating for sometime, take the fresh quantity of the salt again and treat it in a similar manner with next solvent. The clear solution thus obtained is labelled as Original Solution (O.S.).

#### **Important Notes:**

1. In case some gas is evolved during the preparation of solution, let the reaction cease. Gas must be completely expelled by heating.
2. In case solution is prepared in dilute HCl, group I is absent. Proceed with group II.
3. If the salt is soluble in hot water, and on cooling white precipitates appear, lead chloride is indicated.
4. It is necessary to dilute the solution if it is made in concentrated acid before proceeding with the analysis.

The following table will help the students in the choice of a suitable solvent:

<b>Solvent</b>	<b>Salts which dissolve</b>
1. Cold water	(a) All $\text{NH}_4^+$ , $\text{Na}^+$ and $\text{K}^+$ salts. (b) All nitrites, nitrates and acetates. (c) Most of the sulphates except those of Pb, Ba, Ca, Sr. (d) All chlorides except that of lead.
2. Hot water	Lead chloride, lead nitrate.
3. Dil. HCl	All carbonates which do not dissolve in water <i>i.e.</i> , Carbonates of Ca, Ba, Sr, Mg, Zn, Al, Cu, Ni, Mn, Fe etc., but not of Pb.

The separation of cations into various groups by making use of suitable reagents (known as group reagents) is based on the differences in chemical properties of cations. For example, if hydrochloric acid is added to a solution containing all cations, only the chlorides of lead, silver and mercury (ous) will precipitate, since all other chlorides are soluble. Thus, these cations form a group of ions which may be precipitated from solution by addition of group reagent HCl. Similarly,  $\text{H}_2\text{S}$  is a group reagent for group II. The following Table 12.11 clearly shows the group reagents for different groups and the form in which cations of the particular group are precipitated out.

**Table 12.11. Group Reagents**

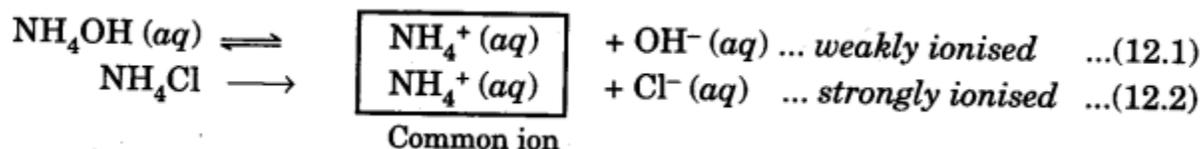
<b>Group</b>	<b>Group reagent</b>	<b>Cations</b>	<b>Form in which cations are precipitated</b>
Group zero	No	—	—
Group I	Dilute HCl	$\text{Pb}^{2+}$	Chlorides
Group II	$\text{H}_2\text{S}$ in the presence of dilute HCl	$\text{Pb}^{2+}$ $\text{Cu}^{2+}$ , $\text{As}^{3+}$	Sulphides
Group III	$\text{NH}_4\text{OH}$ in the presence of $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$	$\text{Fe}^{3+}$ , $\text{Al}^{3+}$	Hydroxides
Group IV	$\text{H}_2\text{S}$ in the presence of $\text{NH}_4\text{OH}$	$\text{Ni}^{2+}$ , $\text{Mn}^{2+}$ , $\text{Zn}^{2+}$ , $\text{Co}^{2+}$	Sulphides
Group V	$(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{CO}_3$ in the presence of $\text{NH}_4\text{OH}$	$\text{Ca}^{2+}$ , $\text{Ba}^{2+}$ , $\text{Sr}^{2+}$	Carbonates
Group VI	No	$\text{Mg}^{2+}$	—

## Theory of precipitation of different groups

The classification of cations into different groups in the inorganic qualitative analysis is based upon the knowledge of solubility products of salts of these basic radicals. For example, chlorides of  $\text{Hg}_2^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Ag}^+$  have very low solubility products. On the basis of this knowledge these radicals are grouped together in group-I and are precipitated as their chlorides by adding dilute HCl to their solutions. For adjusting the conditions for precipitation, another concept called common ion effect plays very important role. Before we consider the precipitation of radicals of other groups, let us discuss in brief the concept of common ion effect.

## Common ion effect

Weak acids and weak bases are ionised only to small extent in their aqueous solutions. In their solutions, unionised molecules are in dynamic equilibrium with ions. The degree of ionisation of a weak electrolyte (weak acid or weak base) is further suppressed if some strong electrolyte which can furnish some ion common with the ions furnished by weak electrolyte, is added to its solution. This effect is called common ion effect. For example, degree of ionisation of  $\text{NH}_4\text{OH}$  (a weak base) is suppressed by the addition of  $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$  (a strong electrolyte). The ionisation of  $\text{NH}_4\text{OH}$  and  $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$  in solution is represented as follows:

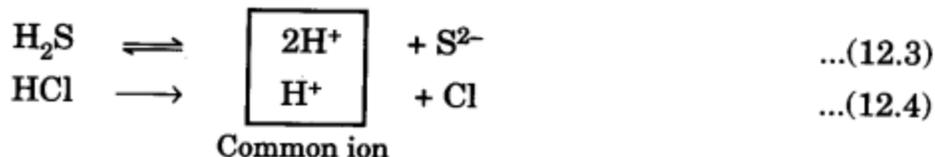


Due to the addition of  $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$ , which is strongly ionised in the solution, concentration of  $\text{NH}_4^+$  ions increases in the solution. Therefore, according to Le-Chatelier's principle equilibrium in equation (12.1) shifts in the backward direction in favour of unionised  $\text{NH}_4\text{OH}$ . In this way, addition of  $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$  suppresses the degree of ionisation of  $\text{NH}_4\text{OH}$ . Thus, the concentration of  $\text{OH}^-$  ions in the solution is considerably reduced and the weak base  $\text{NH}_4\text{OH}$  becomes a still weaker base.

The suppression of the degree of ionisation of a weak electrolyte (weak acid or weak base) by the addition of some strong electrolyte having a common ion, is called the common ion effect.

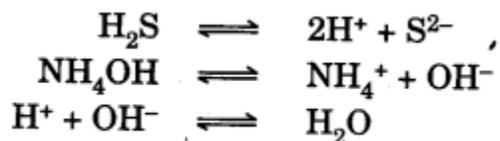
Application of concept of common ion effect in the qualitative analysis is illustrated as follows:

The cations of group II ( $\text{Pb}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{AS}^{3+}$ ) are precipitated as their sulphides. Solubility products of sulphides of group II radicals are very low. Therefore, even with low concentration of  $\text{S}^{2-}$  ions, the ionic products ( $Q_{\text{sp}}$ ) exceed the value of their solubility products ( $K_{\text{sp}}$ ) and the radicals of group II get precipitated. The low concentration of  $\text{S}^{2-}$  ions is obtained by passing  $\text{H}_2\text{S}$  gas through the solution of the salts in the presence of dil. HCl which suppresses degree of ionisation of  $\text{H}_2\text{S}$  by common ion effect.

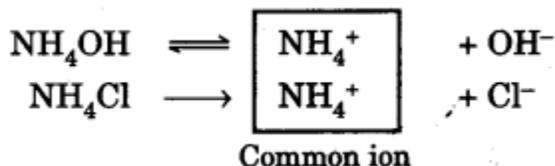


It is necessary to suppress the concentration of  $\text{S}^{2-}$  ions, otherwise radicals of group IV will also get precipitated along with group II radicals.

Radicals of group IV ( $\text{Ni}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{CO}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Zn}^{2+}$ ) are also precipitated as their sulphides. But solubility products of their sulphides are quite high. In order that ionic products exceed solubility products, concentration of  $\text{S}^{2-}$  ions should be high in this case. High concentration of sulphide ions is achieved by passing  $\text{H}_2\text{S}$  gas through the solutions of the salts in the presence of  $\text{NH}_4\text{OH}$ . Hydroxyl ions from  $\text{NH}_4\text{OH}$  combine with  $\text{H}^+$  ions from  $\text{H}_2\text{S}$ . Due to the removal of  $\text{H}^+$  ions the equilibrium of  $\text{H}_2\text{S}$  shifts in favour of ionised form.

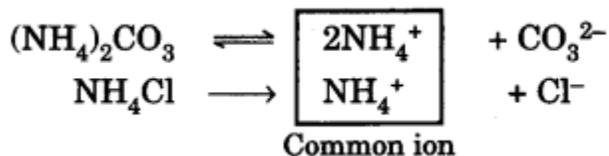


Hence, concentration of  $\text{S}^{2-}$  ions increases. With this increased concentration of  $\text{S}^{2-}$  ions ionic products exceed solubility products and radicals of group IV get precipitated. Radicals of group III ( $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ ,  $\text{Al}^{3+}$ ) are precipitated as their hydroxides by  $\text{NH}_4\text{OH}$  in the presence of  $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$ . The purpose of  $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$  is to suppress the degree of ionisation of  $\text{NH}_4\text{OH}$  by common ion effect in order to decrease the concentration of  $\text{OH}^-$  ions.



The solubility products of hydroxides of group III radicals are quite low. Therefore, even with this suppressed concentration of  $\text{OH}^-$  ions their ionic products exceed solubility products and hence they get precipitated. If the concentration of  $\text{OH}^-$  ions is not suppressed, the radicals of groups IV, V and  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$  will also be precipitated along with radicals of group III.

Radicals of group V ( $\text{Ba}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Sr}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ ) are precipitated as their carbonates by the addition of  $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{CO}_3$  in the presence of  $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$  and  $\text{NH}_4\text{OH}$ .  $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$  suppresses the degree of ionisation of  $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{CO}_3$  by common ion effect and hence decreases the concentration of  $\text{CO}_3^{2-}$  ions.



But solubility products of carbonates of group V radicals are quite low and hence even with the suppressed concentration of  $\text{CO}_3^{2-}$  ions their ionic products exceed solubility products and they get precipitated whereas  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$  and other radicals of group VI having relatively high solubility products are not precipitated.

### Analysis of group Zero( $\text{NH}_4^+$ )

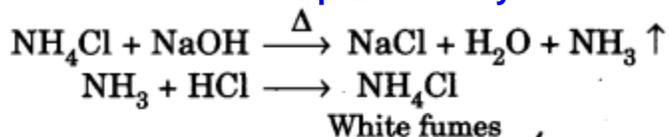
This group includes  $\text{NH}_4^+$  cation. During the analysis of cations  $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$  and  $\text{NH}_4\text{OH}$  are added in many steps. Therefore,  $\text{H}_4^+$  ion is detected in the beginning using solid salt.

### Procedure

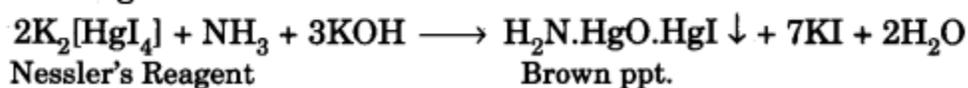
The solid salt is heated with concentrated solution of sodium hydroxide. In case, ammonia gas is evolved,  $\text{NH}_4^+$  is present. Evolution of  $\text{NH}_3$  gas is confirmed by the following tests:

1. Characteristic ammoniacal smell.
2. The gas gives white fumes when a glass rod dipped in dil.  $\text{HCl}$  is brought near the mouth of the test tube.
3. When the gas is passed through Nessler's reagent, it would give brown ppt. in case of  $\text{NH}_3$ .

### Chemical Reactions Involved in Group-Zero Analysis



### Nessler's Reagent Test



### Analysis of group I (Silver Group)

This group includes  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Ag}^+$  and  $\text{Hg}_2^{2+}$ . But in the present context, we shall study only  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$ . Group reagent for this group is dil. hydrochloric acid.

### Procedure

1. To the original solution add dil. hydrochloric acid. If a white precipitate is formed, first group ( $\text{Pb}^{2+}$ ) is present.
2. Filter and wash the ppt. with cold water and examine as in Table 12.12.



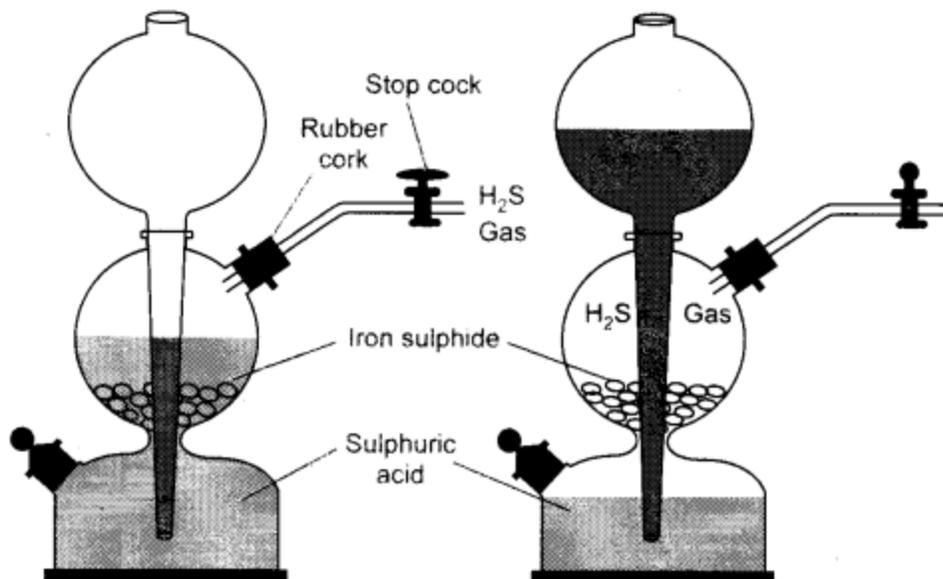


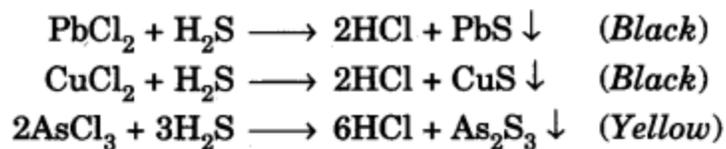
Fig. 12.10. Kipp's apparatus for  $H_2S$  gas.

Identification of IIA and IIB Groups. Note the colour of the precipitate. If the precipitate is black in colour, it indicates  $Pb^{2+}$  or  $Cu^{2+}$ . If the colour of precipitate is yellow this indicates  $As^{3+}$ .

Table 12.13. Analysis of Group II

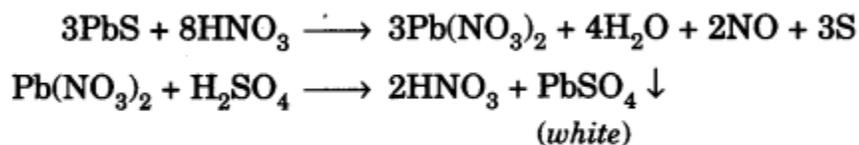
<p><b>Black ppt.</b> (<math>Pb^{2+}</math> or <math>Cu^{2+}</math>)</p> <p>Heat the black ppt. with minimum quantity (1-2 ml) of 50% <math>HNO_3</math>, ppt. dissolves. To one part of the above solution, add dil. <math>H_2SO_4</math> and alcohol.</p>		<p><b>Yellow ppt.</b> <math>As^{3+}</math></p>
<p><b>White ppt.</b> (<math>Pb^{2+}</math>)</p> <p><b>Confirmation</b> Dissolve the ppt. in hot ammonium acetate solution. Divide the solution into two parts :</p> <p>1. <b>Potassium iodide test</b> To one part add pot. iodide solution. <b>Yellow ppt.</b> is formed. The ppt. dissolves in boiling water and on cooling recrystallises.</p> <p>2. <b>Potassium chromate test</b> To another part add pot. chromate solution. <b>Yellow ppt.</b> is formed which dissolves in NaOH solution.</p>	<p><b>No white ppt.</b> To rest of the solution add <math>NH_4OH</math> in excess</p> <p>Blue coloured solution (<math>Cu^{2+}</math>)</p> <p><b>Confirmation</b> 1. <b>Potassium ferrocyanide test</b> To one part of the blue solution add acetic acid and pot. ferrocyanide solution. <b>A chocolate brown ppt.</b> is formed.</p> <p>2. <b>Potassium iodide test</b> To another part add acetic acid and pot. iodide solution. A <b>white ppt.</b> is formed in brown coloured solution.</p>	<p><b>Confirmation</b></p> <p>Dissolve the yellow ppt. in conc. <math>HNO_3</math> and divide it into two parts.</p> <p>1. <b>Ammonium molybdate test.</b> To a part of the solution, add ammonium molybdate solution and heat—<b>A yellow ppt.</b></p> <p>2. <b>Magnesia mixture test.</b> Make the second part of the solution alkaline with <math>NH_4OH</math> solution and add magnesia mixture (contains solutions of <math>MgSO_4</math>, <math>NH_4Cl</math> and <math>NH_4OH</math> mixed in equal volumes)—<b>A white ppt.</b></p>

## Chemical Reactions Involved in the Analysis of Group II

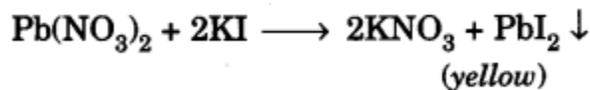


### Lead ( $\text{Pb}^{2+}$ )

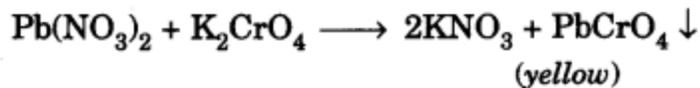
Black ppt. of PbS dissolves in 50% nitric acid. On adding sulphuric acid, lead sulphate precipitates.



#### 1. Potassium iodide test:

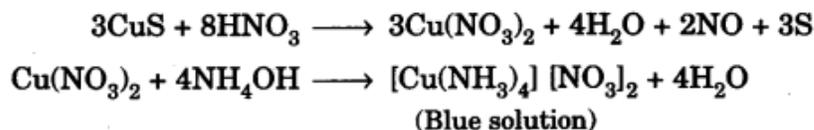


#### 2. Potassium chromate test:

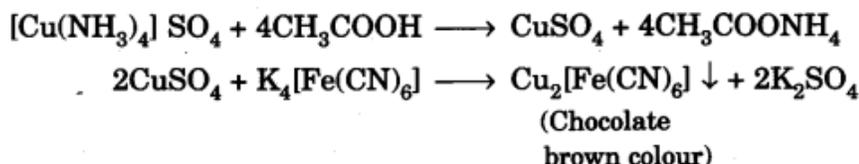


## Copper (Cu<sup>2+</sup>)

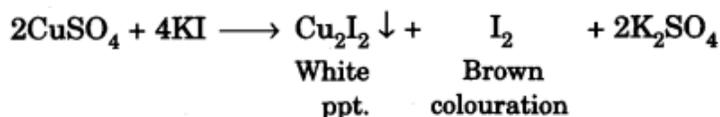
Black ppt. of CuS dissolves in 50% nitric acid and a blue solution is obtained on addition of excess of NH<sub>4</sub>OH.



### 1. Potassium ferrocyanide test:

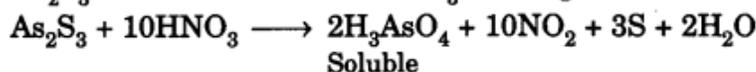


### 2. Potassium iodide test:

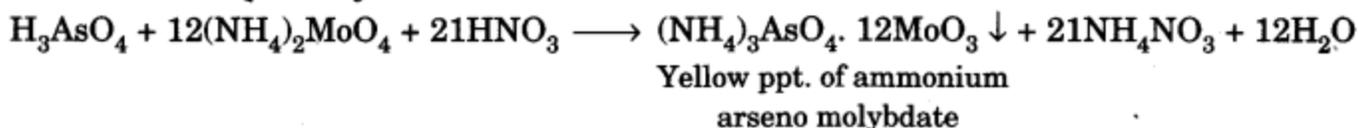


## Arsenic (As<sup>3+</sup>)

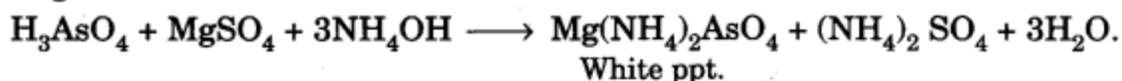
The yellow residue of As<sub>2</sub>S<sub>3</sub> is dissolved in conc. HNO<sub>3</sub> forming arsenic acid.



### 1. Ammonium molybdate test:



### 2. Magnesia mixture test:



## Analysis of group III (iron group)

The cations present in this group are Fe<sup>2+</sup>, Fe<sup>3+</sup>, Cr<sup>3+</sup> and Al<sup>3+</sup>. Only Fe<sup>2+</sup>/Fe<sup>3+</sup> and Al<sup>3+</sup> are included in the syllabus of this class. These cations are precipitated as hydroxides by adding ammonium hydroxide in presence of ammonium chloride. Thus, group reagent for this group is NH<sub>4</sub>OH in the presence of NH<sub>4</sub>Cl.

Procedure. In case, first and second groups are absent proceed for group III with the original solution. Take about 5 ml of the original solution and add 4-5 drops of conc. nitric acid. Boil the solution for sometime. Add to it about 2 g of solid NH<sub>4</sub>Cl and boil again. Cool the solution under tap water. Add excess of ammonium hydroxide to it and shake. A ppt. shows the presence of some cation of group III. Filter the ppt. and wash with water. Note the colour of the ppt. If the ppt. is reddish brown in colour, it indicates the presence of Fe<sup>3+</sup> and if the colour is white, it indicates the presence of Al<sup>3+</sup>. Analyse

the ppt. and draw inferences as in Table 12.14.

**Table 12.14. Analysis of Group III ( $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  and  $\text{Al}^{3+}$ )**

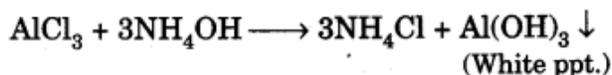
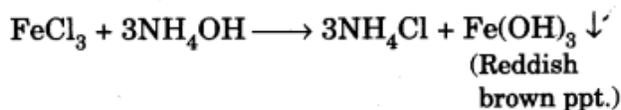
<b><math>\text{Fe}^{3+}</math> (Reddish brown ppt.)</b>	<b><math>\text{Al}^{3+}</math> (White ppt.)</b>
<p>Dissolve the reddish brown ppt. in dilute HCl, and divide the solution into two parts.</p> <p><b>Confirmation</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. <b>Potassium ferrocyanide test.</b> To one part of the above solution add potassium ferrocyanide solution. <b>Prussian blue colouration.</b></li><li>2. <b>Potassium sulphocyanide test.</b> To the second part, add a little potassium sulphocyanide solution. <b>Blood red colouration.</b></li></ol>	<p><b>Confirmation</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. <b>Lake test.</b> Dissolve the white ppt. in dilute hydrochloric acid. Add to it two drops of blue litmus solution. To this, add <math>\text{NH}_4\text{OH}</math> dropwise till blue colour develops. <b>Blue ppt. floating in the colourless solution.</b></li><li>2. <b>Cobalt nitrate test.</b> Perform charcoal cavity/Cobalt nitrate test with the salt. <b>Blue mass.</b></li></ol>

**Note:**

1. Test of  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$ . The addition of conc. nitric acid in the analysis of group III serves to oxidise  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$  ions to  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  ions. Add conc. nitric acid only if the cation is  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$  otherwise the addition of nitric acid may be avoided. To test this, add a few drops of potassium ferricyanide solution to the original salt solution. A deep blue colouration shows  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$ .
2. Use sufficient quantity of ammonium chloride, otherwise the hydroxides of higher group may be precipitated along with the radicals of third group.
3. Add  $\text{NH}_4\text{OH}$  until the solution gives the smell of ammonia.

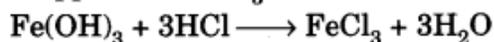
### Chemical Reactions Involved in the Analysis of Group III

The group III cations are precipitated as hydroxides on the addition of excess of ammonium hydroxide.

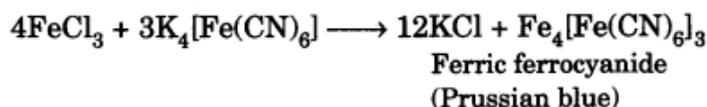


#### Iron ( $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ )

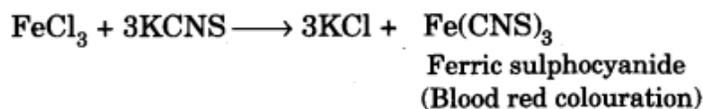
The reddish brown ppt. of  $\text{Fe}(\text{OH})_3$  is dissolved in HCl.



1. *Potassium ferrocyanide test:*

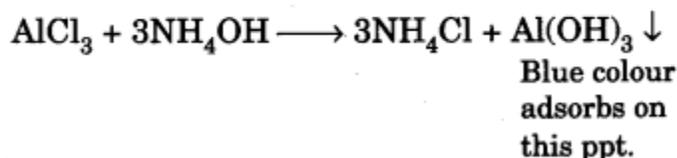
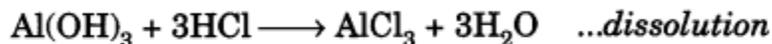


2. *Potassium sulphocyanide test:*



#### Aluminium ( $\text{Al}^{3+}$ )

1. *Lake test:*



### Analysis of group IV (Zinc group)

The radicals present in this group are  $\text{CO}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Ni}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Zn}^{2+}$ . These are precipitated as sulphides by passing  $\text{H}_2\text{S}$  gas through the ammonical solution of the salt.

The group reagent for this group is  $\text{H}_2\text{S}$  gas in the presence of  $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$  and  $\text{NH}_4\text{OH}$ .

#### Procedure

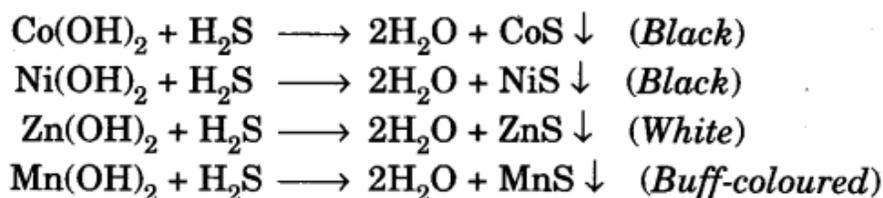
If there is no ppt. in the third group, then use the same ammonical solution for the fourth group. Pass  $\text{H}_2\text{S}$  gas through the solution. If some ppt. is formed, presence of some radical of group IV is indicated. Filter the ppt. and wash it with water. Note the colour of the ppt. and analyse the ppt. according to the Table 12.15.

**Table 12.15. Analysis of Group IV Radicals ( $\text{Co}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Ni}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Zn}^{2+}$ )**

<b>Black ppt. (<math>\text{Co}^{2+}</math> or <math>\text{Ni}^{2+}</math>)</b> <i>Observe the colour of the original salt. If the salt is purple or deep violet in colour perform confirmatory tests for <math>\text{Co}^{2+}</math> and if it is greenish perform confirmatory tests for <math>\text{Ni}^{2+}</math> with the original solution.</i>		<b>Buff (flesh) coloured ppt. <math>\text{Mn}^{2+}</math></b>	<b>Dull white ppt. <math>\text{Zn}^{2+}</math></b>
<p><b>Confirmation of <math>\text{Co}^{2+}</math></b></p> <p>1. Potassium nitrite test</p> <p>To one part of the O.S. add ammonium hydroxide to neutralise the solution. Add acetic acid and a crystal of potassium nitrite. Warm. A <b>yellow ppt.</b> is formed.</p> <p>2. Amm. thiocyanate ether test</p> <p>To another part add ether (1 ml). Add a crystal of amm. thiocyanate, shake. Allow to settle. <b>Blue colour</b> in ethereal layer confirms <math>\text{Co}^{2+}</math>.</p> <p>3. Borax bead test</p> <p>Perform borax bead test with the salt. A <b>blue bead</b> is formed.</p>	<p><b>Confirmation of <math>\text{Ni}^{2+}</math></b></p> <p>1. Dimethyl glyoxime test</p> <p>To one part of O.S. add amm. hydroxide soln. and few drops of dimethyl glyoxime. <b>Bright rose red ppt.</b> is obtained.</p> <p>2. Sodium hydroxide-<math>\text{Br}_2</math> test</p> <p>To another part add sodium hydroxide (in excess) and bromine water. Boil. A <b>black ppt.</b> is formed.</p> <p>3. Borax bead test</p> <p>Perform borax bead test with the salt. <b>Brown bead</b> in oxidizing and <b>grey bead</b> in reducing flame is obtained.</p>	<p><b>Confirmation of <math>\text{Mn}^{2+}</math></b></p> <p>1. Sodium hydroxide-<math>\text{Br}_2</math> test</p> <p>To the O.S. add NaOH soln. Shake. A <b>white ppt.</b> is formed. Add <math>\text{Br}_2</math> water to <i>white ppt.</i> It <b>turns black or brown.</b></p> <p>2. Lead peroxide test</p> <p>To black ppt. obtained in above test add conc. <math>\text{HNO}_3</math> and lead peroxide. Boil, cool and allow to settle. <b>Pink-coloured soln.</b> is formed.</p> <p>3. Borax bead test</p> <p>Perform borax bead test with the salt. <b>Pinkish bead</b> in oxidizing flame and <b>colourless bead</b> in reducing flame.</p>	<p><b>Confirmation of <math>\text{Zn}^{2+}</math></b></p> <p>1. Sodium hydroxide test</p> <p>To one part of O.S. add sodium hydroxide solution dropwise. A <b>white ppt.</b> is formed. Add more of NaOH. The white ppt. dissolves.</p> <p>2. Pot. ferrocyanide test</p> <p>To another part, add pot. ferrocyanide soln. <b>White or bluish white ppt.</b> is formed.</p> <p>3. Charcoal Cavity/Cobalt Nitrite Test</p> <p>Perform Charcoal Cavity/Cobalt Nitrate test with the salt. <b>Greenish residue</b> is obtained.</p>

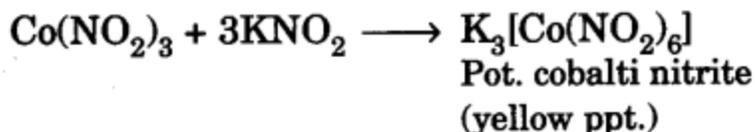
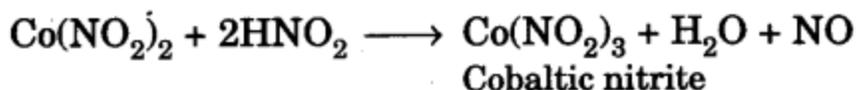
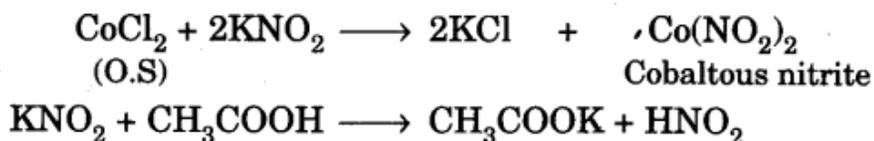
### Chemical Reactions Involved in the Analysis of Group IV

Passing of  $\text{H}_2\text{S}$  gas through the group III solution will precipitate the radicals  $\text{Co}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Ni}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Zn}^{2+}$  as their sulphides. Formation of black ppt. ( $\text{CoS}$  or  $\text{NiS}$ ) indicates cobalt or nickel. Formation of buff-coloured ppt. ( $\text{MnS}$ ) indicates manganese and dirty white ppt. ( $\text{ZnS}$ ) indicates zinc



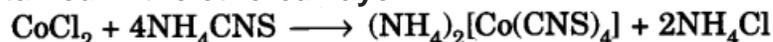
## Cobalt (Co<sup>2+</sup>)

### 1. Potassium nitrite test



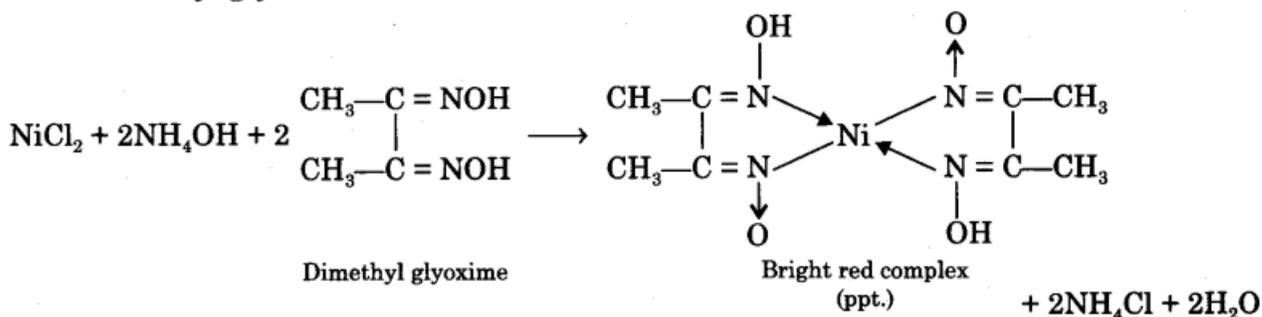
### 2. Ammonium thiocyanate ether test

On addition of ether and a crystal of ammonium thiocyanate (shaking and allowing to stand), a blue colour due to the formation of ammonium cobalti thiocyanate, is obtained in the ethereal layer.

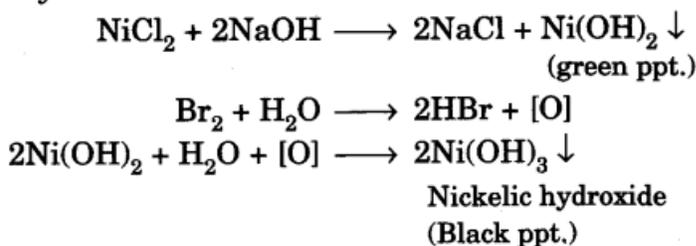


## Nickel (Ni<sup>2+</sup>)

### 1. Dimethyl glyoxime test: (with O.S.)



### 2. Sodium hydroxide-bromine water test



## Manganese (Mn<sup>2+</sup>)



**Table 12.16. Analysis of Group V ( $Ba^{2+}$ ,  $Sr^{2+}$ ,  $Ca^{2+}$ )**

$Ba^{2+}$	$Sr^{2+}$	$Ca^{2+}$
<p><b>1. Potassium chromate test</b> To one part of the solution, add a few drops of potassium chromate solution. <b>Yellow ppt.</b></p> <p><b>2. Flame test</b> Perform flame test with the original salt. <b>Grassy green flame.</b></p>	<p><b>Test for <math>Sr^{2+}</math> only if <math>Ba^{2+}</math> is absent.</b></p> <p><b>1. Amm. sulphate test</b> To the second part of the solution, add 1 ml of amm. sulphate solution and warm. <b>White ppt.</b></p> <p><b>2. Flame test</b> Perform flame test with the original salt. <b>Crimson red flame.</b></p>	<p><b>Test for <math>Ca^{2+}</math> only if <math>Ba^{2+}</math> and <math>Sr^{2+}</math> are absent.</b></p> <p><b>1. Amm. oxalate test</b> To the third portion of the solution, add 1–2 ml of amm. oxalate solution. Add a little amm. hydroxide to it and scratch the sides. <b>White ppt.</b></p> <p><b>2. Flame test</b> Perform flame test with the original salt. <b>Brick red flame.</b></p>

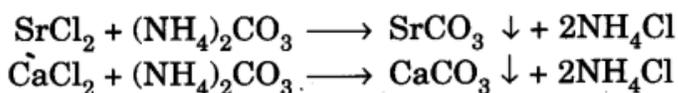
Note:

1. Proceed to test for group V cations in the order,  $Ba^{2+}$ ,  $Sr^{2+}$  and  $Ca^{2+}$ . If  $Ba^{2+}$  is confirmed, do not test for  $Sr^{2+}$  or  $Ca^{2+}$ . Similarly if  $Sr^{2+}$  is confirmed, do not test for  $Ca^{2+}$ .
2. Original solution can be preferably used for testing  $Sr^{2+}$  and  $Ca^{2+}$ .

### Chemical Reactions Involved in the Analysis of Group V Radicals

When  $(NH_4)_2CO_3$  is added to a salt solution containing  $NH_4Cl$  and  $NH_4OH$ , the carbonates of  $Ba^{2+}$ ,  $Sr^{2+}$  and  $Ca^{2+}$  are precipitated.

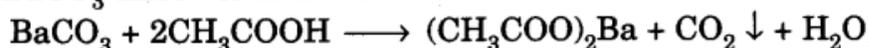




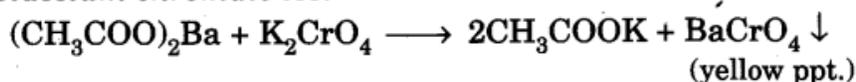
This insoluble carbonate dissolves in acetic acid due to formation of soluble acetate.

### Barium ( $\text{Ba}^{2+}$ )

White ppt. of  $\text{BaCO}_3$  dissolves in hot dilute acetic acid.



#### 1. Potassium chromate test

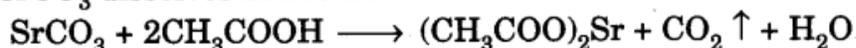


#### 2. Flame test

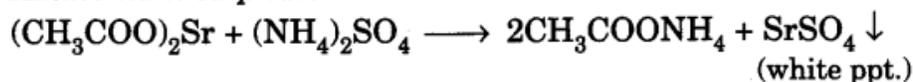
Barium imparts grassy green colour to the flame.

### Strontium ( $\text{Sr}^{2+}$ )

White ppt. of  $\text{SrCO}_3$  dissolves in hot dilute acetic acid.



#### 1. Ammonium sulphate test

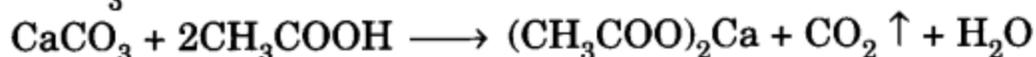


#### 2. Flame test

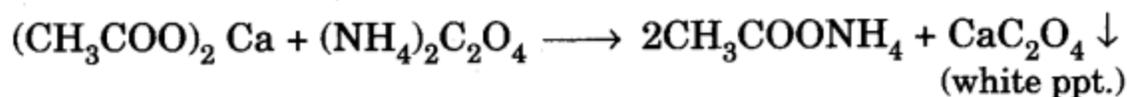
Strontium produces crimson red flame

### Calcium ( $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ )

White ppt. of  $\text{CaCO}_3$  dissolves in hot dil. acetic acid.



#### 1. Ammonium oxalate test



#### 2. Flame test

Calcium imparts brick red colour to the flame.

When  $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{CO}_3$  is added to a salt solution containing  $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$  and  $\text{NH}_4\text{OH}$ , the carbonates of  $\text{Ba}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Sr}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  are precipitated.

## Analysis of group VI (Magnesium group)

Table 12.17. Analysis of Group VI ( $Mg^{2+}$ )

$Mg^{2+}$
<p>1. <b>Ammonium phosphate test</b> To a part of the <b>original solution</b> add some <b>solid <math>NH_4Cl</math></b> and <b><math>NH_4OH</math></b> in slight excess. Then add <b>ammonium phosphate solution</b> and rub the sides of the test-tube with a glass rod. <b>A white ppt. confirms <math>Mg^{2+}</math>.</b></p> <p>2. <b>Charcoal cavity cobalt nitrate test.</b> Perform charcoal cavity cobalt nitrate test with the original salt. <b>A pink mass is obtained.</b></p>

## Chemical Reactions Involved in Confirmation of $Mg^{2+}$

### 1. Ammonium phosphate test

