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Solution Chemistry


Dealing with mixtures



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Solutions



A **solution** is a homogenous mixture consisting of a **solvent** and at least one **solute**.


The solvent is the most prevalent species.

The solute is the less prevalent species.

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Examples of Solutions



Saline (salt water) is a solution. The solvent is water, the solute is salt.

Wet salt is also a solution. The solvent is salt, the solute is water.

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160 proof Vodka

What is the solvent?

Alcohol – It is 80% alcohol.

What is the solute?

Water – It is 20% water.




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Aqueous Solutions

Aqueous solutions are specifically solutions where water is the solvent.

Aqueous solutions are a very common medium for performing chemical reactions.




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Advantages of Aqueous Solutions

1. Mixing – you can stir the solution.
2. Ability to dissipate heat (or cold) – the mass of the solvent allows it to absorb significant amounts of heat (or cold).
3. "Universal solvent" – water dissolves many different materials, especially ionic materials.




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Converting units

Typically speaking, you can convert any of the concentration units into any of the others as long as you have the Molar Mass and the Density!



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Density – your critical judgment

For a solution, sometimes you know the density, sometimes you don't.

There are tables, but they are not all inclusive.

You might, for example, find in a table that:
Density (30% HCl) = 1.12 g/mL
Density (40% HCl) = 1.23 g/mL
Density (36% HCl) = ???




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Interpolate or Assume

Density (30% HCl) = 1.12 g/mL
Density (40% HCl) = 1.23 g/mL
Density (36% HCl) = ???

You could assume that 36% is closest to 40% and use 1.23 g/mL. This is legitimate, although not 100% accurate. Results may vary, depending on how good the assumption is.



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Interpolate or Assume

Density (30% HCl) = 1.12 g/mL Density (40% HCl) = 1.23 g/mL
Density (36% HCl) = ???

You could assume that density changes linearly with concentration (it doesn't, but it is pseudo-linear for small changes). In that case, you would "linearly interpolate" the density.

$$\frac{1.23 \text{ g/mL} - 1.12 \text{ g/mL}}{40\% \text{ HCl} - 30\% \text{ HCl}} = \frac{0.011 \text{ g/mL}}{\%} = \frac{0.011 \text{ g}}{\text{mL}\%}$$
$$1.12 \text{ g/mL} + 0.011 \text{ g/mL}\% * 6\% = 1.186 \text{ g/mL} = 1.19 \text{ g/mL}$$

This is legitimate, although still not 100% accurate, but probably better than the previous assumption.




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If I don't have Density tables...

For dilute solutions, you can get pretty close by assuming the density of the solution is the same as the density of pure water.

For concentrated solutions (like 36%), this is probably not a good assumption, but it is better than nothing!




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Some Other Examples

Have an aqueous solution of carbon dioxide that is 1.1 % by mass. What is the Molarity of this solution?

$$\frac{1.1 \text{ g CO}_2}{100 \text{ g solut}} * \frac{1 \text{ mol CO}_2}{44.01 \text{ g CO}_2} * \frac{1.0 \text{ g sol}}{1.0 \text{ mL sol}} * \frac{1000 \text{ mL}}{1 \text{ L}} = 0.25 \text{ M CO}_2$$
$$M = \frac{\text{mol}}{\text{L}}$$

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Limiting Reagent Problem

What's the first thing you need?

A balanced equation!

$$(NH_4)_2SO_4 + FeCl_3 \rightarrow Fe_2(SO_4)_3 + NH_4Cl$$

How do you know this is the right products?

Charges! This is an example of a double replacement reaction.
The cations get switched (or the anions, if you prefer).

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Limiting Reagent Problem

We still need to balance it!

$$(NH_4)_2SO_4 + FeCl_3 \rightarrow Fe_2(SO_4)_3 + NH_4Cl$$
$$3 (NH_4)_2SO_4 + 2 FeCl_3 \rightarrow Fe_2(SO_4)_3 + 6 NH_4Cl$$

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Armed with Stoichiometry!

56.50 mL of a 2.15 M ammonium sulfate solution is mixed with 36.0 g of iron (III) chloride. If the reaction proceeds with a 65% yield, how much iron (III) sulfate would be acquired?

$$3 (NH_4)_2SO_4 + 2 FeCl_3 \rightarrow Fe_2(SO_4)_3 + 6 NH_4Cl$$

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$\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4 + 2 \text{AgCl} \rightarrow 2 \text{NaCl} + \text{Ag}_2\text{SO}_4$

$1\text{L} \cdot \frac{1000 \text{ mL}}{1\text{L}} \cdot \frac{1.085 \text{ g}}{1 \text{ mL}} \cdot \frac{5.4 \text{ g Na}_2\text{SO}_4}{100 \text{ g solution}} = 58.59 \text{ g Na}_2\text{SO}_4$

$58.59 \text{ g Na}_2\text{SO}_4 \cdot \frac{1 \text{ mol Na}_2\text{SO}_4}{142 \text{ g Na}_2\text{SO}_4} = 0.4126 \text{ mol Na}_2\text{SO}_4$

$0.4126 \text{ mol Na}_2\text{SO}_4 \cdot \frac{2 \text{ mol AgCl}}{1 \text{ mol Na}_2\text{SO}_4} = 0.825 \text{ mol AgCl}$

$0.825 \text{ mol AgCl} \cdot \frac{143 \text{ g AgCl}}{1 \text{ mol AgCl}} = 118 \text{ g AgCl}$




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Question

When 50.00 mL of 0.125 M silver (I) nitrate is mixed with 50.00 mL of 0.250 M sodium sulfate a greyish solid forms. If I recover 0.813 g of solid, what is the yield of the reaction?



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