

3.6 K_{sp} and Solubility

In the last sections, we were able to qualitatively identify which salts were soluble or not soluble.

What about salts that are slightly soluble?

Now, we want to quantify (attach a numerical value) the degree of solubility of the slightly soluble salts.

a) The Solubility Product

i) Salts that are only slightly soluble will form an equilibrium when they dissolve:

ii) We can write an equilibrium expression for the solubility of salt
(_____)

iii) Example: Write the K_{sp} expression for Na₂SO_{4(s)}

b) Meaning of K_{sp}

i)

ii)

iii)

iv)

c) Experimentally Finding K_{sp}

Method 1: ① Simply take $MgF_{2(s)}$ and add to water until solution is saturated.

② If we know mass of MgF_2 added and water volume we can find $[MgF_2]$ and then we know that:

$$[Mg^{+2}] = [MgF_2] \quad \text{and} \quad [F^-] = 2 \times [MgF_2]$$

③ $K_{sp} =$

Method 2: ① Mix together a source of Mg^{+2} such as $MgSO_{4(aq)}$ and a source of F^- such as $NaF_{(aq)}$.

② Let ppt. of $MgF_{2(s)}$ form and “analyze” solution to find $[Mg^{+2}]$ and $[F^-]$.

d) K_{sp} Calculations

Type 1 (Find K_{sp} from ion concentrations)

What is the K_{sp} for $PbCl_2$ if $[Pb^{+2}]$ is $1.1 \times 10^{-4} M$ and $[Cl^-]$ is $0.33 M$?

What is the K_{sp} for $AgBr$ if the solubility of $AgBr$ is $8.8 \times 10^{-7} M$?

If $1.64 \times 10^{-6} g$ of $Zn(OH)_2$ can dissolve in $1.0 mL$ of water, what is the K_{sp} ?

Type 2 (Find ion concentrations from Ksp value)

What is the concentration of Ca^{+2} and CO_3^{-2} ions if the Ksp for CaCO_3 is 4.8×10^{-9} ?

The Ksp for MgF_2 is 6.4×10^{-9} .

a) What is the $[\text{Mg}^{+2}]$ and $[\text{F}^-]$?

b) What is the molar solubility of MgF_2 ?

c) What is the solubility of MgF_2 in g/L?

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