

S-Block

Alkali Metals

ns<sup>1</sup>

- H
- Li → [He] 2s<sup>1</sup>
- Na → [Ne] 3s<sup>1</sup>
- K → [Ar] 4s<sup>1</sup>
- Rb → [Kr] 5s<sup>1</sup>
- Cs → [Xe] 6s<sup>1</sup>
- Fr → [Rn] 7s<sup>1</sup>

- \* occurs in the form of comp.
- \* highly reactive
- \* one e<sup>-</sup> in outermost shell (Na & K store in kerosene)

General Characteristics

- ① Electronic Configuration
- ② Li → [He] 2s<sup>1</sup>

Atomic Size

largest size

- \* Down the grp, size inc
- Reason → Due to dec. in Z<sub>eff</sub>

- ③ Ionisation Energy

lowest I.E

- \* I.E dec down the grp.
- \* I.E<sub>1</sub> ⇒ low value
- I.E<sub>2</sub> ⇒ very high
- I.E<sub>2</sub> > I.E<sub>1</sub>

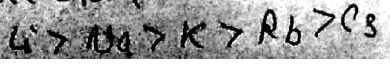
Physical Properties

- ① M.P & B.P

(soft metals)

- \* weak interatomic bonds are due to their large atomic radii & presence of only one v.e.

\* Dec. order



Reason in

Atomic size  $\propto \frac{1}{\text{strength of M.B}}$   $\propto$  softness  $\propto \frac{1}{\text{M.P \& B.P}}$

- ② Metallic & electropositive character

\* inc down the grp.

Reason

I.E dec

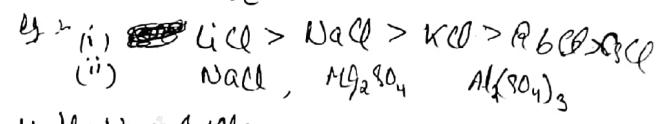
\* Cs is the most metallic

- ③ Photoelectric effect

due to low I.E

- ④ Lattice Energy

$L.E \propto \frac{1}{r^2}$



- ⑤ Hydration Energy

$H.E \propto \frac{1}{r^2}$

Chemical Properties

- ⑥ flame test

Alkali metals & their salts give characteristic colour to bunsen flame. flame is due to the excitation of outermost e<sup>-</sup> which reverts to its ground state & emits energy whose  $\lambda$  in visible region.

- Li → Carmine red
- Na → Golden yellow
- K → violet
- Rb → Red violet
- Cs → Blue

Reason → They have largest size & lowest I.E. Energy bunsen flame easily excites valence e<sup>-</sup> to higher energy level. when these excited e<sup>-</sup> revert to their ground state, they emit energy which fall in visible region & hence they appear colour.

Chemical Properties

show high chemical reactivity

Reason

\* low I.E

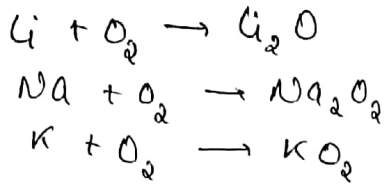
\* low enthalpy of atomisation

- ① Oxidation st

+1 in their ~~native~~ combine form & 0 in native form

- ② Reactivity towards Air

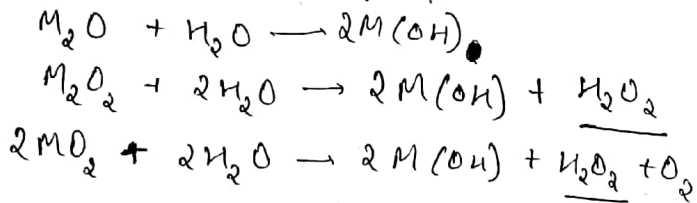
formation of oxides, peroxides, superoxide  
 $O^{2-}$        $O_2^{2-}$        $O_2^-$



Down the grp, the ~~reactivity~~ stability of peroxide & superoxide  $\uparrow$

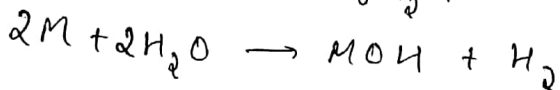
Reason: the increasing stability of peroxide or superoxide, as the size of the metal ion  $\uparrow$  is due to the stabilisation of large anions by larger cations through L.E. effect.

Note: these oxides are easily hydrolysed by water to form their corresponding hydroxide.



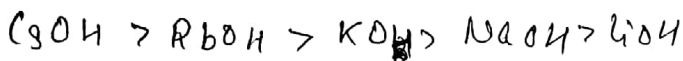
### ③ Reactivity towards $H_2O$ is

Alkali metals react vigorously with water forming hydroxides & with liberation of  $H_2$ .



Reactivity  $\uparrow$  down the grp.

Basic strength order



Note: they also react with proton donor such as alcohol, ~~and~~ gaseous ammonia & terminal alkynes.

### ④ Reactivity towards $H_2$

Stability	(Hydrides)	
	ionic	Red. character
LiH	Yes	Yes
NaH	Yes	Yes
KH	Yes	Yes
RbH	Yes	Yes

Note: All metal hydrides are ionic sol. with high M.P.

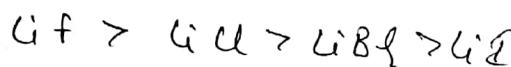
### ⑤ Reactivity towards Halogens

MX

\* Reactivity of alkali metals with halogens to form halides  $\uparrow$  on moving down the grp. due to  $\uparrow$  in electropositive nature.



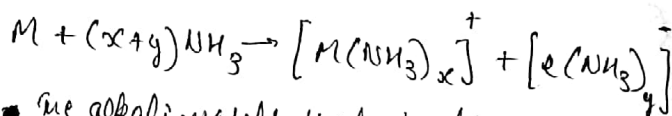
\* Reactivity of halogens with alkali metals to form halides  $\downarrow$  on moving down the grp. due to  $\downarrow$  in electronegative nature of halide.



### ⑥ Reducing power

they ~~are~~ strong reducing power lithium being the most. because its hydration energy is high which accounts for its high -ve  $E^\circ$  value.

### ⑦ sol<sup>n</sup> in liq. $NH_3$



\* The alkali metals dissolve in liq.  $NH_3$  giving deep blue sol<sup>n</sup> which are conducting in nature.

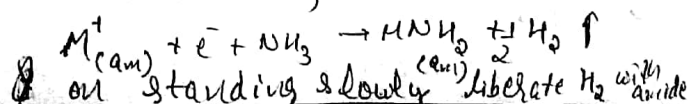
~~When white light falls on~~

\* The blue colour of sol<sup>n</sup> is due to ammoniated  $e^-$  which absorbs energy in visible region & thus imparts blue colour to the sol<sup>n</sup>.

\* The sol<sup>n</sup> are paramagnetic in nature due to presence of large no. of unpaired ammoniated  $e^-$ .

\* Conducting in nature due to presence of ammoniated cations &  $e^-$ .

\* In conc. sol<sup>n</sup>,



# Anomalous Properties of Li

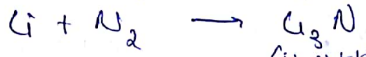
Because of exceptionally small size

- (i) small size
- (ii) High polarising power
- (iii) High I.E

~~absence of vacant~~

## \* Diff. b/w Li & other alkali metals

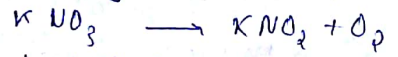
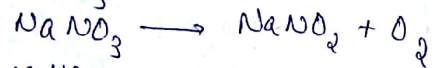
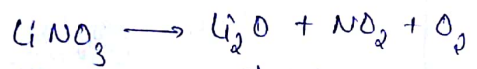
- (i) Li is much harder, its M.P & B.P is higher than other alkali metals.
- (ii) Li is the strongest reducing agent.
- (iii) Li reacts with air to form monoxide & nitride unlike other alkali metals



(iv) LiCl is deliquescent & crystallises as a hydrate  $LiCl \cdot 2H_2O$  whereas other alkali metal chlorides do not form hydrates.

(v)  $LiHCO_3$  is not obtained in solid form whereas other ~~metals~~ form solid  $MHCO_3$ .

(vi)  $LiNO_3$  gives  $Li_2O$  on ~~heat~~ heated but other nitrates gives nitrites as

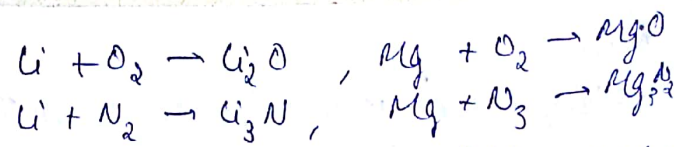


(vii)  $LiF$  &  $Li_2O$  comparatively less soluble in water than the other corresponding alkali metals.

## \* Parallel similarities b/w Li & Mg

It arises due to their similar size.

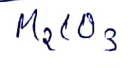
- (i) Both Li & Mg are harder & lighter.
- (ii)  $LiOH$  &  $Mg(OH)_2$  are weaker base & decompose on heating
- (iii) Both only form monoxides & nitrides



- (iv)  $MgCl_2$  &  $LiCl$  are deliquescent & crystallise as a hydrate  $MgCl_2 \cdot 6H_2O$
- (v) solid  $LiNO_3$  &  $Mg(HCO_3)_2$  is not formed.

## Chemical Properties

### (8) Carbonates

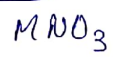


Order of stability  
 $Li_2CO_3 < Na_2CO_3 < K_2CO_3 < Rb_2CO_3 < Cs_2CO_3$

$Li_2CO_3$  is unstable towards heat as  
 $Li_2CO_3 \xrightarrow{\Delta} Li_2O + CO_2$

while others are stable

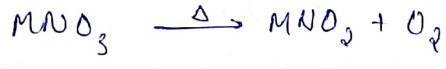
### (9) Nitrates



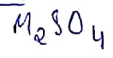
stability order  
 $LiNO_3 < NaNO_3 < KNO_3 < RbNO_3 < CsNO_3$

$LiNO_3$  on heating,  
 $LiNO_3 \rightarrow Li_2O + NO_2 + O_2$

& other nitrates as



### (10) Sulphates



stability order

$Li_2SO_4 < Na_2SO_4 < K_2SO_4 < Rb_2SO_4 < Cs_2SO_4$   
 ionic character ↑

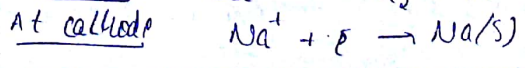
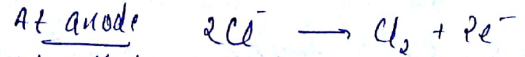
\*  $Li_2SO_4$  least soluble in water due to more covalent character.

## (11) Comps. of alkali metals

### (i) Sodium

Prep. by Dow's process

By electrolysis of fused  $NaCl + CaCl_2 + NaF$



Note  
 \*  $(CaCl_2 + NaCl)$  is used to lower M.P (800°C) of NaCl to about 600°C.  
 \* Aq. NaCl cannot be used because  $H_2$  will be liberated at cathode.

Properties

- \* Crystalline soft metal
- \* Highly reactive, so kept in kerosene.
- \* Na dissolves in liq.  $NH_3$  to give blue sol<sup>n</sup>.

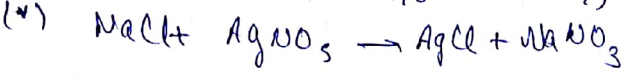
② Sodium chloride (NaCl)

Prep. in

By evaporation of sea water

Properties

- (i) white crystalline solid
- (ii) M.P = 1081 K
- (iii) soluble in  $H_2O$
- (iv) hygroscopic in water (tendency to absorb moisture from the air)

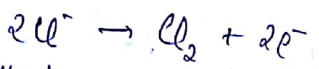


③ Sodium Hydroxide (NaOH)

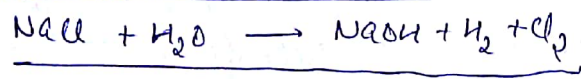
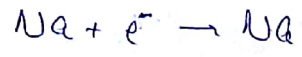
By electrolysis

1) Nelson Cell or Diaphragm Cell  
 (Cathode  $\rightarrow$  perforated steel)

At anode

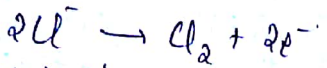


At cathode

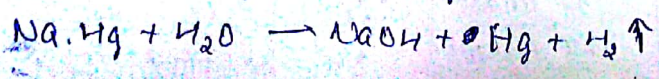
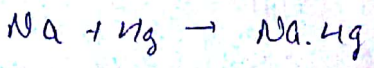
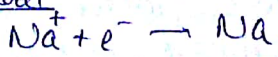


2) Castner-Kellner Cell (Hg-cathode process)

At anode

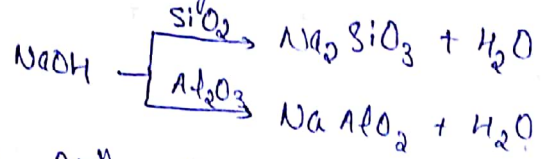


At cathode



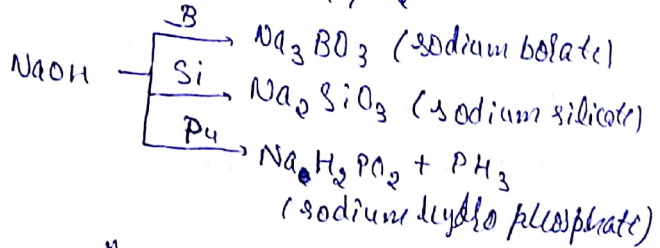
Properties

- (i) It is deliquescent white crystalline solid.
- (ii) It absorbs  $CO_2$  from air forming  $Na_2CO_3$ .
- (iii) strongly base

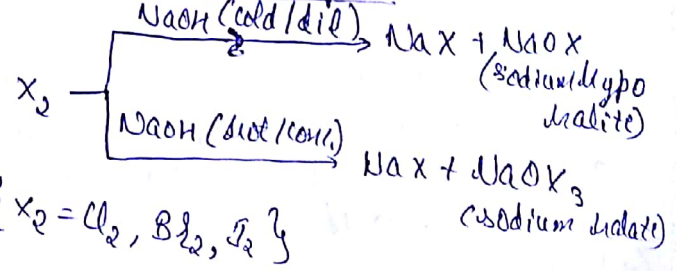


(iv) Rea<sup>n</sup> with non-metals

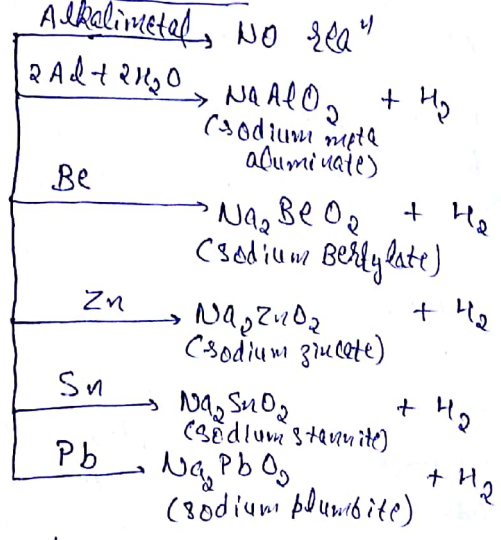
no rea<sup>n</sup> with  $H_2, N_2$  & C



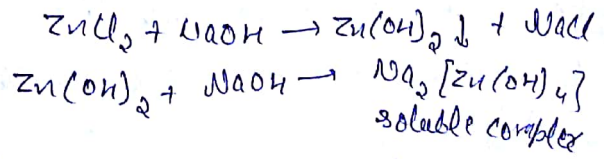
(v) Rea<sup>n</sup> with halogens



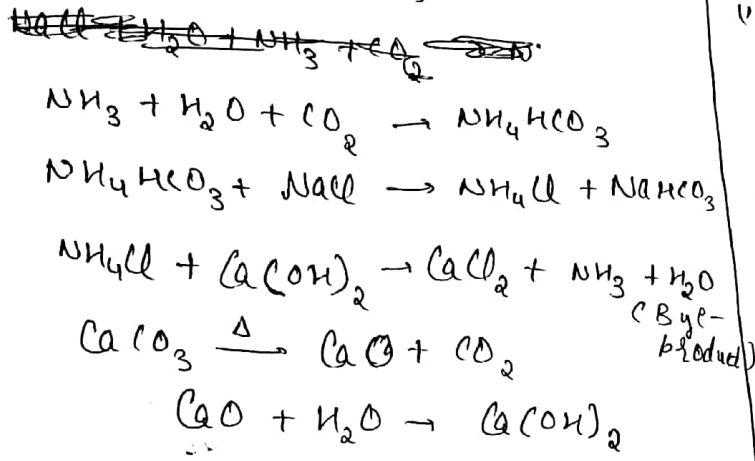
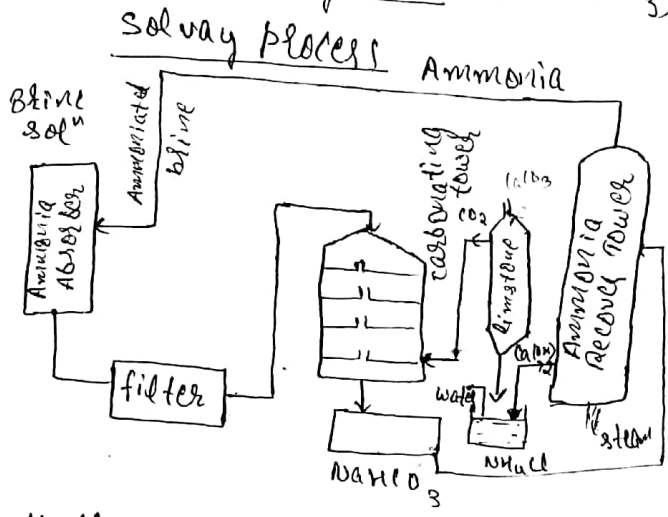
(vi) Rea<sup>n</sup> with Metal



(vii) Rea<sup>n</sup> with  $ZnCl_2$  or  $ZnSO_4$



Sodium bicarbonate OR 'baking soda' ( $\text{NaHCO}_3$ )



Properties

- (i) Hydrolysis
 
$$\text{NaHCO}_3 + \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightleftharpoons \text{NaOH} + \text{H}_2\text{CO}_3$$
- (ii) Effect of heat ( $T > 100^\circ\text{C}$ )
 
$$2\text{NaHCO}_3 \xrightarrow{\Delta} \text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3 + \text{H}_2\text{O} + \text{CO}_2 \uparrow$$

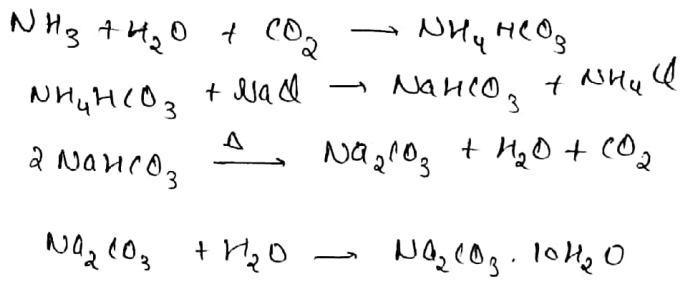
↓  
basic in nature

\* some tartaric acid is used to neutralise  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$ , otherwise bitter in taste
- (iii) Rea<sup>n</sup> with acids

$$\text{NaHCO}_3 + \text{HCl} \rightarrow \text{NaCl} + \text{H}_2\text{O} + \text{CO}_2$$
- (iv) Rea<sup>n</sup> with base

$$\text{NaHCO}_3 + \text{NaOH} \rightarrow \text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3 + \text{H}_2\text{O}$$

② Sodium carbonate OR washing soda ( $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3 \cdot 10\text{H}_2\text{O}$ )



Properties :-

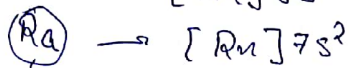
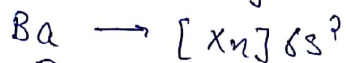
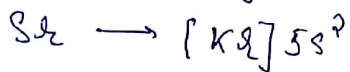
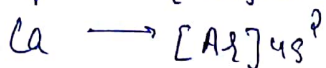
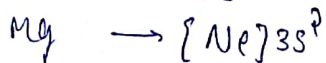
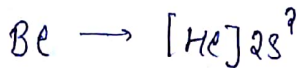
- (i) white crystalline solid
- (ii) soluble in  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$
- (iii) On heating
 
$$\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3 \cdot 10\text{H}_2\text{O} \xrightarrow{\Delta} \text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O} + 9\text{H}_2\text{O}$$

$$\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O} \xrightarrow{\Delta} \text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3 + \text{H}_2\text{O}$$

soda ash

~~Rea<sup>n</sup> with~~

# Alkaline Earth Metals



Radioactive

## General Characteristics

① Electronic Configuration

② Atomic & Ionic Radii

\*  $\text{Group I} > \text{Group II}$

Reason  $\rightarrow$  Due to 1es in 2es across the period

\*  $\text{Be} < \text{Mg} < \text{Ca} < \text{Sr} < \text{Ba}$  (size)

Reason  $\rightarrow$  Down the grp, 2es dec

③ Ionisation Energy  $\rightarrow$

$$\text{I.E} \propto \frac{1}{\text{At. size}}$$

\*  $\text{I.E. (Group I)} < \text{I.E. (Group II)}$

Reason  $\rightarrow$  Due to buddy filled e.c

\*  $\text{I.E}_2 (\text{Group I}) \gg \text{I.E}_2 (\text{Group II})$

Reason  $\rightarrow$  Group I requires the noble gas configuration.

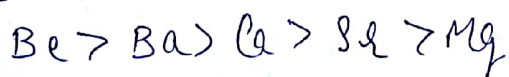
## Physical Properties

Exceptional

① M.P



B.P

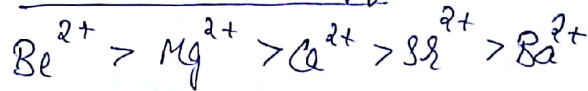


② Metallic & Electropositive character

metallic character  $\propto \frac{1}{\text{I.E}}$

③ Lattice Energy

④ Hydration Energy



\*  $\text{MgCl}_2$  &  $\text{CaCl}_2$  exist as  $\text{MgCl}_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$  &  $\text{CaCl}_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$  while  $\text{NaCl}$  &  $\text{KCl}$  do not form such hydrates.

⑤ Flame test

\* Be & Mg atom, due to high I.E & small size, do not able to give colour to flame.

& other element give flame test.

Ca  $\rightarrow$  Brick red

Sr  $\rightarrow$  Crimson red

Ba  $\rightarrow$  Apple green

⑥ Softness

These metals are slightly harder than IA group because of

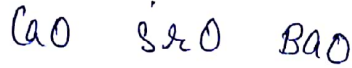
- (i) smaller atomic size
- (ii) stronger metallic bond due to presence of two val.
- (iii) Be is the hardest metal in s-block.

## Chemical Properties

\* Chemical reactivity increases down the group.

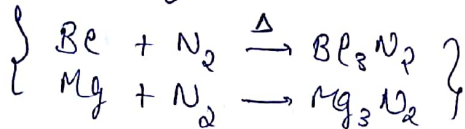
Reason → Due to decrease in I.E.

① Reaction with air  
formation of oxide type 'MO'



\* Be & Mg are inert to oxygen

Reason → Due to formation of oxide film on their surface.



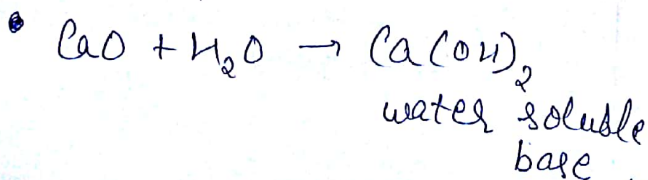
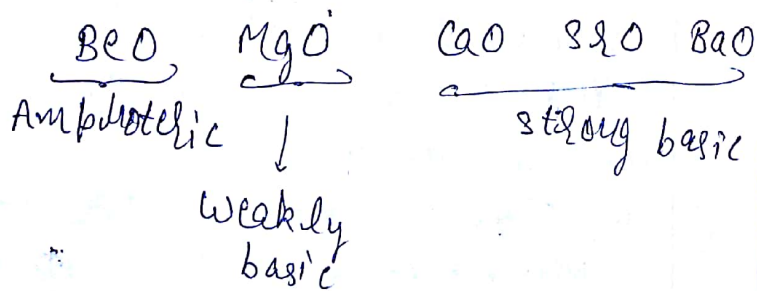
Note

\* Reactivity of  $\text{O}_2$  increases as we go down the group because of increase in electropositive character as a result of decrease in I.E.

\* Ca, Ba & Sr are stored in paraffin but Be & Mg are not because they form protective layer on their surface.

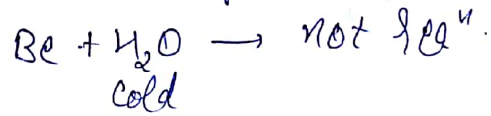
\* Basic character of MO increases down the group.

Reason → electropositive character

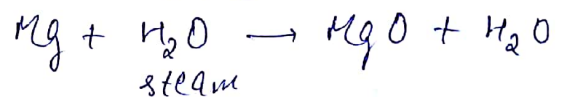
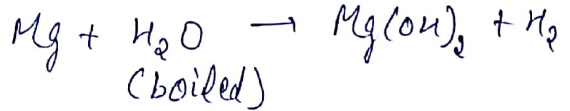


② Reactivity towards  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$

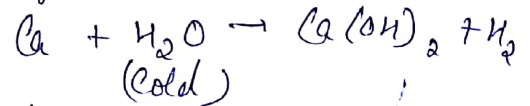
\* On moving down the group, reactivity increases towards  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$



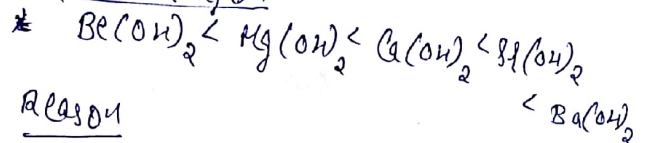
Mg → reacts with boiled water & steam as



\* Ca, Sr & Ba even reacts with cold water to form hydroxide as



Basic strength



Reason

Basic strength increases down the group.

→ B.Z increases

→ B.E decreases

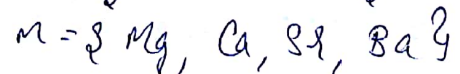
→ tendency to release  $\text{OH}^-$  increases

→ hence basic strength increases

③ formation of peroxide

On moving down the group, the tendency to form peroxide increases.

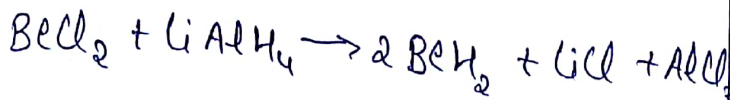
④ Reactivity towards hydrogen  
(formation of hydrides)



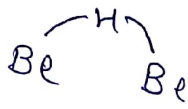
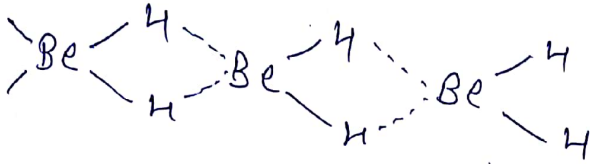
ionic in nature

\* Except Be, all the elements combine with  $\text{H}_2$  to form hydrides  $\text{MH}_2$ .

## Formation of $BeH_2$

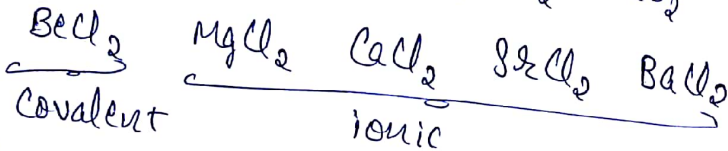
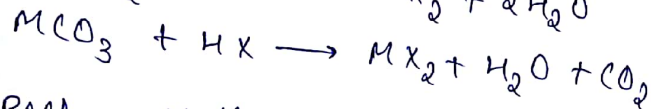
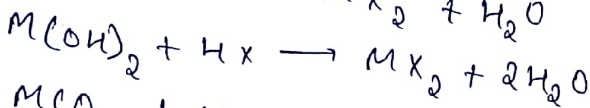
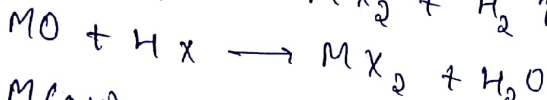
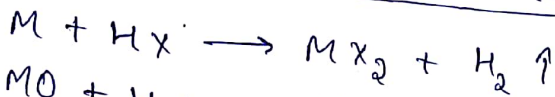


\*  $BeH_2$  is polymeric in nature due to formation of 3 centered-2e<sup>-</sup> bond i.e. banana bond.



Note:  $CaH_2$  is known as hydride.

## ⑤ Reactivity towards Acid



Be → amphoteric

## ⑥ Reactivity towards halogens

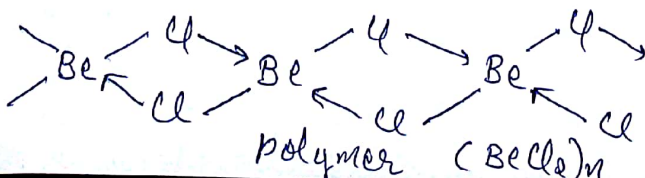


\*  $BeCl_2$  in solid phase

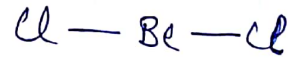
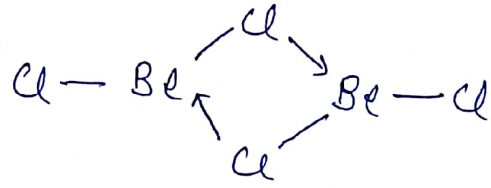
\* polymeric straight chain

\* Be is bonded to 4 chlorine,

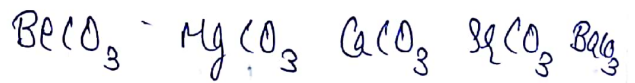
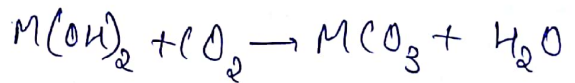
2 by covalent bond & 2 by co-ordinate bond.



\*  $BeCl_2$  in gaseous phase exist as dimer  $(BeCl_2)_2$



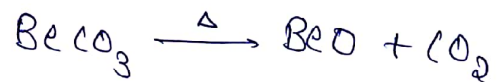
## ⑦ Carbonates



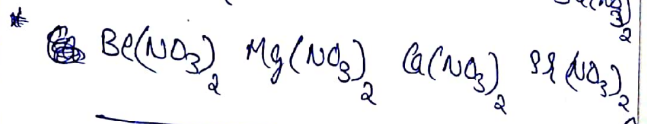
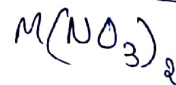
Thermal stability ↑

solubility ↓ due to ↓ in hydration energy

\*  $BeCO_3$  is unstable towards heat.

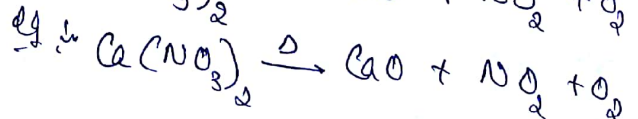
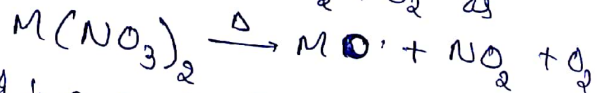


## ⑧ Nitrates



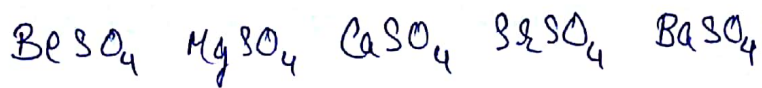
Thermal stability ↑

\* All alkaline earth metal nitrates on heating gives oxides &  $NO_2 + O_2$  as





## ⑨ Sulphates



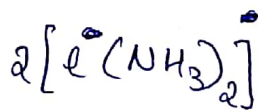
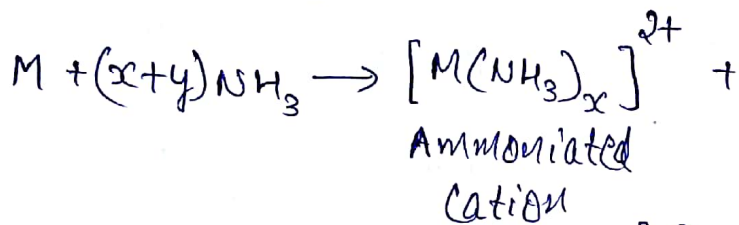
→ thermal stability ↑

→ solubility ↓

→ ionic character ↑

## ⑩ Solution in liq. $\text{NH}_3$

Only Ca, Sr & Ba gives blue sol<sup>n</sup> of ammoniated es.



ammoniated es  
(blue colour)

\* Be & Mg do not ~~give~~ react with  $\text{NH}_3$ .

## # Anamolous behaviour of Be is

### # Diagonal Relationship between Be & Mg is

- (i) Al & Be forms covalent comps.
- (ii) The hydroxide<sup>& oxides</sup> of Be & Al are amphoteric in nature
- (iii) Like Al, Be is not readily attacked by acids because of the presence of an oxide film
- (iv)  $\text{BeH}_2$  is a electron deficient & exist as polymeric form with multicentre bonding, just like ~~aluminium~~ aluminium hydride.

## Important Comps. of Ca

Calcium Oxide  $\rightarrow$  CaO  
(Quick lime)

Preparation

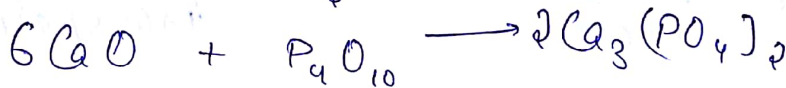


## Properties

- (i) white amorphous solid
- (ii) It has a tendency to absorb water
- $$\text{CaO} + \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow \text{Ca(OH)}_2 + \text{heat}$$
- slaked lime



- (iii) Being a basic oxide, it combines with acidic oxides at high temp.



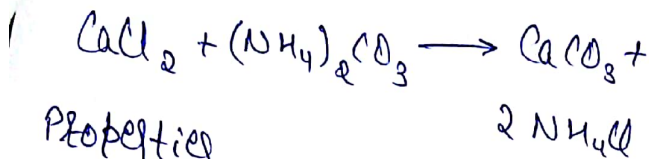
## Uses

- (i) It is the cheapest form of alkali
- (ii) It is used in the manufacturing washing soda ( $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3 \cdot 10\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ) & caustic soda ( $\text{NaOH}$ )
- (iii) It is used in purification of sugar
- (iv) in drying gases & alcohol (as dehydrating agent)



③ Calcium Carbonate  
(CaCO<sub>3</sub>)

Preparation



Properties

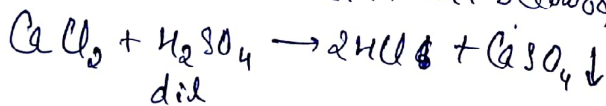
- (i)  $CaCO_3 \xrightarrow{\Delta} CaO + CO_2$
- (ii)  $CaCO_3 + H_2O + CO_2 \xrightleftharpoons{\text{boiling}} Ca(HCO_3)_2$

Uses

④ Calcium sulphate (CaSO<sub>4</sub> · 2H<sub>2</sub>O)  
(Gypsum)

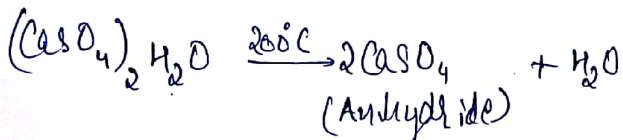
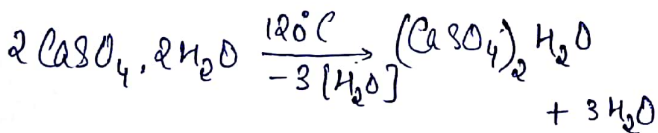
Prep.

CaSO<sub>4</sub> · 2H<sub>2</sub>O is naturally occurring calcium sulphate. It can be obtained by the action of dil H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> on a soluble calcium salt below:

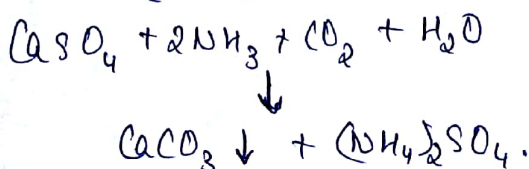


Prep.

- (i) Action of heat



- (ii) It forms an important fertilizer  
(NH<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>

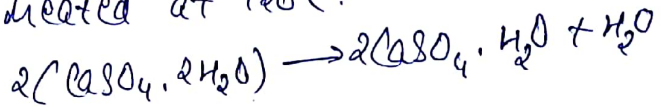


Uses

⑤ Plaster of Paris  
(2CaSO<sub>4</sub> · H<sub>2</sub>O)

Prep.

It is obtained when gypsum is heated at 120°C.



Properties

- (i) It is a white powder.
- (ii) When it is heated at 200°C, anhydrous CaSO<sub>4</sub> is formed.