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The Lanthanide and actinides Elements

د / صــــــفاء النحاس

محتوى المقرر

 دراسة بعض خواص الجدول الدورى دراسة خواص عناصر الفئة P,S دراسة خواص عناصر مجموعات الفئة S (مجموعتين(دراسة خواص عناصر مجموعات الفئة P (5مجموعات(دراسة خواص عناصر مجموعة الغازات النبيلة.

Representative elements: Groups 1A – 8A (filling *s* and *p* orbitals)

- Inorganic chemistry deals with many compounds formed by many Elements.
- It involves the study of the chemistry of more than 100 element that can form compounds such as gases, liquids or solids.
- The oldest and still most meaningful relies on the periodic table of the elements

The periodic table is the most important tool in the chemist's toolbox! **الجدول الدورى هو أهم أداة فى شنطة أدوات الكيميائيين**

Why is the Periodic Table important to me?

- The periodic table is the most useful tool to a chemist.
- You get to use it on every test.
- **It organizes lots of information about all the known elements**.

The History of the Modern Periodic Table

• **The periodic table is depend on:**

- 1- the electron structure of the gaseous atoms of different elements.
- 2- chemical properties of the elements
- 3- physical properties of the elements

Dmitri Mendeleev (1834-1907)

- Russian Chemist
- Published the first version of the period table in 1869
- Arranged elements according to increasing atomic mass
- His periodic table had gaps

Dmitri Mendeleev The Father of the Table

HOW HIS WORKED…

- Put elements in rows by increasing atomic weight.
- Put elements in columns by the way they reacted.

SOME PROBLEMS…

- He left blank spaces for what he said were undiscovered elements. (Turned out he was right!)
- He broke the pattern of increasing atomic weight to keep similar reacting elements together.

Henry Moseley (1887-1915)

- Made improvements to Mendeleev's Periodic Table
- Arranged elements by **atomic number** instead of mass
- Realized that there were undiscovered elements

The Current Periodic Table

- Mendeleev wasn't too far off.
- **Now** the elements are put in rows by increasing

ATOMIC NUMBER!!

- The horizontal rows are called periods and are labeled from 1 to 7.
- The vertical columns are called groups are labeled from 1 to 18.

Atomic Number (Z)

Atomic Number (Z): is the number of protons in the nucleus of the atom.

Z= p

- **Atomic Number (Z)** determine the identity of an element.
- the number of protons must = the number of electrons inside the atom.

Atomic Mass

is the weighted average mass of all the naturally occurring isotopes of that element.

The Modern Periodic Table

Periodic Table

LONG FORM OF PERIODIC TABLE

Values are taken from Lange's Handbook of Chemistry 12th Edition, McGraw Hill Book Company, New York Edited by: John A. Dean

The elements of the periodic table can be divided into three main categories: Metals, Non-Metals, and Metalloids.

The physical properties for metal

- 1- high reflectivity
- 2- high electrical conductance
- 3- high thermal conductance
- 4- mechanical properties (strength, ductility,.....)

Metals vs. Nonmetals

- Metals tend to lose valence electrons to form cations
- Nonmetals tend to gain valence electrons to form anions
- Metallic character increases going down a group (I.E. Decreases going down a group)

Non-Transition **Elements**

 \cdot o 9.012

 $\frac{12}{Mg}$

 $rac{20}{C_8}$ 40.078

 $38 \n5r$

 $\frac{56}{8}$ 137.327 $rac{88}{R_2}$

87.62

 $\frac{11}{N_0}\Box$ 22.990

39.09 $\frac{37}{8b}$

85.468

 $rac{55}{55}$

Actinide Series

o

Transition Elements

- Groups 1-2 & 13-18
- Alkali Metals
- Alkaline Earth **Metals**
- **The Boron Family**
- The Carbon Group
- The Nitrogen Group
- The Oxygen Group
- **The Halogens**
- **The Noble Gases**
- Groups 3-12
- All transition elements are metals.
- Group 11 (The Coinage Metals)
- The Lanthanides
- The Actinides

التركيب الكترونى للدورات االفقية

Table 5.5 Electron configuration of each period

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and .

Electron Orbits ملئ الاروبيتالات

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Valence Electrons الكتر ونات التكافؤ

- **Valence electrons are the electrons in the outer energy level of an atom.**
- **These are the electrons that are transferred or shared when atoms bond together.**
- **الكترونات التكافؤ هى تلك الكترونات الموجودة فى الغالف االخير فى الذرة .**
- **التكافؤ هو عدد الكترونات التى تفقدها أو تكتسبها أو تشارك بها الذرة فى الترابط عند تكوين مركبات.**

Orbitals Being Filled كيفية ملئ الاروبيتالات

Order in which subshells are filled with electrons

 $1s^{2}2s^{2}2p^{6}3s^{2}3p^{6}4s^{2}3d^{10}4p^{6}5s^{2}4d^{10}...$

Energy

1s²2s²2p⁶3s²3p⁶4s²3d¹⁰4p⁶5s²4d¹⁰...

Some factors

هو نصف المسافة بين مركزى ذرتين متماثلتين متجاورتين للعنصر

أو هو المسافة بين مركز النواة و اخر الكترون فى غالف التكافؤ

Atomic Radii: Half the distance between the centers of neighboring atoms in a solid or a homonuclear molecule.

Why: Going across a period the effective nuclear charge increases therefore the pull on the electrons increases and the atomic radii decrease. Going down a group the effective nuclear charge decreases therefore the atomic radii increases.

هو أقل طاقة لازمة لانتزاع الكترون من الذرة فى الحالة المستقرة لتتحول الى أيون هناك جهد التأين االول و الثانى و الثالث

First Ionization Energy: The minimum energy required to remove the first electron from the ground state of a gaseous atom, molecule, or ion.

Why: Going across a period the effective nuclear charge increases therefore it is harder to remove an electron and the first ionization energy increases. However, going down a group the effective nuclear charge decreases causing the first ionization energy to also decrease.

ما هى العوامل التى تؤثر على جهد التأين؟

- **الحجم الذرى أو نصف قطر الذرة**
	- **الشحنة النووية داخل النواة**
- **عدد الكترونات فى األغلفة و بالتالى نوع المدار S,P,D,F**
	- **التشبع النصفى والكامل للمدارات الداخلية**

Period

هى الطاقة المنطلقة عند اكتساب الذرة لألكترون

Electron Affinity: (E_{ca}) The energy released when an electron is added to a gas-phase atom.

Why: Going across a period the effective nuclear charge increases therefore the atom has a larger positive charge and releases more energy when an electron is added to the atom. Going down a group the effective nuclear charge decreases and therefore the atom has a smaller positive charge and the electron affinity decreases.

هى قدرة الذرة على جذب الكترونات عندما تكون جزء من مركب

Electronegativity: (χ) The ability of an atom to attract electrons to itself when it is part of a compound.

Why: Going across a period the effective nuclear charge increases therefore the atom has a larger positive charge and attracts more electrons to itself in a compound causing the electronegativity to increase. Going down a group the effective nuclear charge decreases and therefore the atom has a smaller positive charge causing the electronegativity to decrease.

خاصية اللون

- معظم مركبات عناصر الفئة P ,S تكون غير ملونة
- يعزى لون أيون الى اثارة الكتر ونات المستويات الداخليةf,d داخل نفس المستوى (d-d), (f-f) بانتقاالت يعرف

Summary of Periodic Trends

Hydrogen

- Hydrogen belongs to a family of its own.
- Hydrogen is a diatomic, reactive gas.
- Hydrogen was involved in the explosion of the Hindenberg.
- Hydrogen is promising as an alternative fuel source for automobiles

Alkali Metals

- 1st column on the periodic table (Group 1) not including hydrogen.
- Very reactive metals, always combined with something else in nature (like in salt).
- Soft enough to cut with a butter knife

Alkaline Earth Metals

- Second column on the periodic table. (Group 2)
- Reactive metals that are always combined with nonmetals in nature.
- Several of these elements are important mineral nutrients (such as Mg and Ca

Transition Metals

- Elements in groups 3-12
- Less reactive harder metals
- Includes metals used in jewelry and construction.
- Metals used "as metal."

Boron Family

- Elements in group 13
- Aluminum metal was once rare and expensive, not a "disposable metal."

Carbon Family

- Elements in group 14
- Contains elements important to life and computers.
- Carbon is the basis for an **entire branch** of chemistry.
- Diamond and Graphite are two forms of carbon.
- Silicon and Germanium are important semiconductors.

Nitrogen Family

- Elements in group 15
- Nitrogen makes up over ¾ of the atmosphere.
- Nitrogen and phosphorus are both important in living things.
- Most of the world's nitrogen is not available to living things.
- The red stuff on the tip of matches is phosphorus.

Oxygen Family

- Elements in group 16
- Oxygen is necessary for respiration.
- Many things that stink, contain sulfur (rotten eggs, garlic, skunks,etc.)

Halogens

- Elements in group 17
- Very reactive, volatile, diatomic, nonmetals
- Always found combined with other element in nature .
- Used as disinfectants and to strengthen teeth.
- Fluorine is an active ingredient in toothpaste

The Noble Gases

- Elements in group 18
- VERY unreactive, monatomic gases
- Used in lighted "neon" signs
- Have a full valence shell.
- Helium is used to fill balloons

Lanthanides & Actinides

The f - block elements are also called as inner transition elements.

(N.B. This is the arrangement indicatedby Werner inhis 1905 Periodic Table!)

La as first 5d transition element Ac as first 6d transition element

 $1s_2^22s_4^22p_{10}^63s_{12}^23p_{18}^64s_{20}^23d_{30}^{10}4p_{36}^65s_{38}^24d_{48}^{10}5p_{54}^66s_{56}^24f_{70}^{14}5d_{80}^{10}6p_{86}^67s_{88}^25f_{102}^{14}6d_{112}^{10}7p_{118}^6$

Inner Transition Elements

- \Box The elements in which the additional electrons enters (n-2)f orbitals are called **inner transition elements**.
- \Box The valence shell electronic configuration of these elements can be represented as $(n - 2)f^{0-14}(n - 1)d^{0-1}ns^2$.
	- 4f inner transition metals are known **as lanthanides** because they come immediately after lanthanum.
	- \checkmark 5f inner transition metals are known as actinoids because they come immediately after actinium.

Periodic Table

4f-block elements (lanthanides)

Valence shell electronic Configuration 4f^{0,2 to 14} 5d^{0,1} 6s²

4f-block elements (lanthanides)

Valence shell electronic Configuration 4f^{0,2 to 14} 5d^{0,1} 6s²

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lanthanide series Rare-earth series

The f - block elements

(inner transition elements).

The f - block elements are also called as inner transition elements.

(N.B. This is the arrangement indicated by Werner
in his 1905 Periodic Table!)

La as first 5d transition element Ac as first 6d transition element

- تم اكتشاف عناصر الالنثانيدات في اواخر القرن الثامن عشر عند اكتشاف مادتي(اليتريا)و(السيريا.
	- **حيث يحتوي خامة اكسيدالسيريا علي العناصر التالية**-:
		- La) اللانثانيوم \log
		- Ce)- االسيريوم
		- Nd)- النيوديوم
		- Pr)- البراسيديوم
		- Sm)- السماريوم
		- Gd)- الجادلينيوم
			- Eu)- اليوربيوم
		- **يحتوي خامة اكسيداليتريا علي العناصر التالية-:**
			- Y)- اليتريوم
			- Sc)- السكانديوم
				- Tb)- التربيوم
			- Dy)- الديسبروسيوم
				- Gd)- الجادلينيوم
					- Ho)- الهولميوم
					- Lu)- اللوتيتيوم
					- Yb)- ليتربيوم
					- Tm)- الثاليوم
						- E الأربيوم Er)

Position of Lanthanides

- **The lanthanides belongs to III B group of the periodic table in the sixth period.**
- **These elements interrupt the third transition series of d- block elements in the sixth period.**
- **Only for the sake of convenience these elements are shown at the bottom of the periodic table.**
- **Their actual position is in between La (Z=57) and Hf (Z=72)together at one place.**

Periodic Table of Elements

Lr.

Series + Actinide Series

LONG FORM OF PERIODIC TABLE

Vertical Columns

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GROUPS

Values are taken from Lange's Handbook of Chemistry 12th Edition, McGraw Hill Book Company, New York Edited by: John A. Dean

The lanthanides series elements

- **Lanthanides are the elements in which the last electron enters into 4f - orbital.**
- **These elements are also called as Lanthanones or lanthanoids or 4fblock elements.**
- **Usually the symbol Ln is used to represent the lanthanide elements.**

lanthanide series

Rare-earth series

- o At one time, the lanthanides were called the rare earth elements.
- **o** The name suggests that chemists once thought that the elements were present in Earth's crust in only very small amounts.

That is NOT True.

- o The point of interest about the lanthanides, then, is not that they are so rare, **but that they are so much alike.**
- o Most of the lanthanides **occur together in nature**,
- **o** and they are very difficult to separate from each other.

Applications of lanthanides

Uses of Rare Earth Elements

Application of lanthanides elements

- **o** One of the earliest uses involved an alloy of cerium and iron, called **Auer metal**, which produced a brilliant spark when struck.
- This has been widely used as a "flint" in cigarette and gas lighters.
- Auer metal is one of a series of mixed lanthanide alloys called misch metals (**cerium mischmetal**,) that have a variety of metallurgical applications.
- o They have been used to impart strength, hardness, and inertness to structural materials. They have also been used to remove oxygen and sulfur impurities from systems.
- **o** high coercivity magnets used in motorization (electric cars, wind turbines, hard diskdrives)
- **o** lasers and telecommunications,
- **o** biomedical analyses and imaging, and agriculture.
- **o** They are classified as strategic materials by the military and several governments.

Application of lanthanides elements

The lanthanides are now used in a greater variety of applications.

- **1. One such application is as catalysts in the refining industry, for example, the conversion of crude oil into gasoline, kerosene, diesel.**
- **2. The lanthanides are also used as phosphors in color television sets.**
- **3. Phosphors are chemicals that glow with various colors when struck by electrons.**
- **4. For example, oxides of europium and yttrium are used to produce the red colors on a television screen.**
- **5. Other lanthanide compounds are used in streetlights, searchlights, and in the highintensity lighting present in sports stadiums.**
- **6. The ceramics industry uses lanthanide oxides to color ceramics and glasses.**
- **7. Optical lenses made with lanthanum oxide are used in cameras and binoculars.**
- **8. Compounds of praseodymium and neodymium are used in glass, such as in television screens, to reduce glare.**
- **9. Cerium oxide has been used to polish glass.**
- **10. The lanthanides also have a variety of nuclear applications. Because they absorb neutrons, they have been employed in control rods**
- **11. They have also been used as shielding materials and as structural components in reactors.**
- **12. Some lanthanides have unusual magnetic properties. For instance, cobalt-samarium magnets are very strong permanent magnets.**

Electron Configuration

Z **Electronic configuration** 57 $[Xe]4f^05d^16s^2$ $[Xe]4f^26s^2$ 58 $[Xe]4f^36s^2$ 59 60 $[Xe]4f^46s^2$ $[Xe]4f^56s^2$ 61 $[Xe]4f^66s^2$ 62 [Xe] $4f^76s^2$ 63 [Xe] $4f^75d^16s^2$ 64 65 $[Xe]4f^96s^2$ $[Xe]4f^{10}6s^2$ 66 $[Xe]4f^16s^2$ 67 $[Xe]4f^{12}6s^2$ 68 69 $[Xe]4f^{13}6s^2$ $[Xe]4f^{14}6s^2$ 70 [Xe] $4f^{14}5d^{1}6s^{2}$ 71

- **Lanthanum has the electron configuration [Xe],4f0,5d1,6s2. It does not possess any 4f electron. This is definite.**
- **The next electron after lanthanum does not enter the expected 5d sublevel but enters 4f sublevel.**
- **Successive filling of electrons In 4f orbital takes place in the 14 elements which follow lanthanum, i.e. cerium onwards.**
- **Strictly speaking lanthanum is not a member of this series. The 14 elements from cerium (Z=58) to lutetium (Z=71) constitute lanthanides.**
- **These elements are called Lanthanides because many physical and chemical properties of these elements are similar to those of lanthanum.**

Oxidation States

- **Lanthanides exhibit different oxidation states like +2, +3 and +4.**
- **Among these +3 is the most stable oxidation state.**
- **The elements that attain stable electronic configuration by losing 2 or 4 electrons exhibit +2 and +4 oxidation states.**
- **Example: Europium and ytterbium exhibits +2 and +3 oxidation states –**
- **cerium exhibits +4 oxidation state.**

3. Oxidation States

*Lanthanides
Properties

*lanthanide contraction

* االنكماش الالنثانيدي هو تناقص أكثر مما هو متوقع في نصف القطر األيوني للعناصر في سـلسَـلةَ اللاَنثانيدات انطلاقاً من العنصر ذي العدد الذري 57 النثانوم إلى العنصر 71 لوتيشيوم.

- *As the atomic number increases, each succeeding element contains one more electron in the 4f orbital and one proton in the nucleus.
- * The 4f electrons are ineffective in screening the outer electrons from the nucleus causing imperfect shielding.
- *As a result, there is a gradual increase in the nucleus attraction for the outer electrons.
- *Consequently gradual decrease in size occur.
- *This is called lanthanide contraction

Lanthanide Contraction

Lanthanide contraction is the successive decrease in the ionic
radius of lanthanide elements.

Poor shielding of the 6s electrons from nuclear charge by the 4f electrons makes the atoms smaller than expected.

* The reason of lanthanoid contraction

*The reason of lanthanoid contraction is:

***The poor shielding effect of f-electrons is cause of lanthanoid contraction.**

*Two consequences of lanthanoid contraction

- 1. There is close resemblance between 4d and 5d transition series.
- *Ionization energy of 5d transition series is higher than 3d and 4d transition series.
- 2. Difficulty in separation of lanthanides

* **Explain why the Size of trivalent lanthanoid cation decreases with increase in atomic number.**

□ It is due to poor shielding effect of f-electrons, Q valance electrons are strongly attracted towards nucleus, \Box therefore, effective nuclear charge increases, **Q** hence ionic size decreases.

*Colours in lanthanoid

- *Colours of these ions may be attributed to the presence of f electrons.
- *Absorption bands are narrow, probably because of the excitation within f level.
- *Neither La3+ nor Lu3+ ion shows any colour but the rest do so.
- *Lanthanum [Xe]6s ²5d¹ [Xe]4f $[Xe]$ 4 $f⁰$ $*$ Lutetium [Xe] 4f¹⁴6s²5d¹ [Xe]4f¹⁴

Colour in lanthanide

Colour due to f to f transition. The lanthanide metals are silvery white. The trivalent lanthanide ions are coloured both in the solid state and in aqueous solution. The colours are unchanged even on alteration of the anions indicating that they are characteristic of the cations.

Approximate colors of lanthanide ions in aqueous solution

Table \sim Colour of Ln³⁺ ions

COLOUR OF IONS

Lanthanides ions can have electrons in f-orbital and also empty orbitals like the d-block elements.

When a frequency of light is absorbed, the light transmitted *exhibit a colour* complementary to the frequency absorbed.

Vertile The President respective to the *frequency in the visible region* ↓ to use it for f-f electron transition and produce visible colour.

escence of lanthanoid **complexes**

Irradiation of some Lanthanide(III) complexes with UV light causes them to fluoresce

The origin of fluorescence is 4*f*-4*f* transitions.

–the excited state produced decays to the ground state with emission of energy.

Some examples are Eu^{3+} (red) and Tb^{3+} (green)

They can be used as phosphors in television sets and fluorescent lighting.

These applications are specific to lanthanoid ions because of the sharp transitions observed.

***Magnetic properties**

Magnetic property -

Ions which contain all paired electrons are diamagnetic while those containing unpaired electrons are paramagnetic. Among the lanthanides, La^{3+} [4f 0] & Lu^{3+} [4f¹⁴] are diamagnetic. All trivalent lanthanide ions are paramagnetic due to unpaired electrons.

- *Lanthanides have very high magnetic susceptibilities due to their large numbers of unpaired f-electrons.
- *The strongest known magnets contain lanthanides (eg. Nd-Fe-B, Sm-Fe-N, and Sm-Co).
- *Lanthanide complexes are used in MRI (medical *resonance imaging), eg. [Gd(III)(dtpa)]2-

***Magnetic properties**

- *Another interesting feature of lanthanides is the magnetic properties of some of their ions,
- *which makes them useful as contrast agents in Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) applications.
- *MRI is an imaging technique widely used in the clinid for the diagnosis of disease and visualisation of injuries,
- *which utilises magnetic fields and electromagnetic radiation to create images of the physiology within the body.
- *Contrast agents are normally needed to enhance the signal obtained from MRI and improve the quality of the images obtained, and the most popular contrast agent currently used is **the lanthanide ion gadolinium(III).**

COMMON OXIDATION STATES

Lanthanides exhibits a principal oxidation state of $+3$ which contain an outer shell containing 8 electrons and an underlying layer containing up to 14 electrons. The $+3$ ions of La, Gd and Lu which contain respectively an empty, a half-filled, and a completely filled 4f level are especially stable. Ce can exhibit an oxidation state of $+4$ in which it has the same electronic structure with La⁺³ i.e. an empty 4f level-noble gas configuration). Also, Tb⁴⁺ exists which has the same electronic structure as Gd³⁺ i.e. a half-filled 4f level. An empty, a halffilled and a completely filled 4f shell confers some extra stability on a particular oxidation state.

Also, Eu⁺² is isoelectronic with Gd⁺³ i.e. half-filled 4f level and Yb⁺² is isoelectronic with Lu⁺³

lf-filled 4f level) mpletely filled 4f level)

COMMON OXIDATION STATES

In addition, $+2$ and $+4$ states exist for elements that are close to these states. For example, Sm²⁺ and Tm²⁺occur with f^6 and f^{13} arrangements and Pr⁴⁺ and Nd⁴⁺ have f^1 and f^2 arrangements.

The most stable oxidation state is Ln^{3+} and Ln^{2+} and Ln^{4+} are less stable. Ce⁴⁺ is strongly oxidizing and Sm^{2+} is strongly reducing:

 $Ce^{4+} + Fe^{2+} \rightarrow Ce^{3+} + Fe^{3+}$ $2Sm^{2+} + 2H_2O \rightarrow 2Sm^{3+} + 2OH^- + H_2$

 ${Ce⁴⁺}$ and Sm²⁺are converted to +3 state, showing that it is the most stable oxidation state}

Oxidation State $(+4)$

This oxidation state is most important to cerium and a little to praseodymium and terbium $Ce(4+)$ is the only $Ln(4+)$ that exists in solution.

Chemistry of +2 state:

This is an anomalous oxidation state. The lanthanides showing oxidation state can be divided into +2 two categories:

(a) Sm, Eu, and Yb : The dipositive ions of these lanthanides (i.e. Sm⁺²,Eu⁺² and Yb⁺²) exist in solution. The standard oxidation potentials at 25[°]C, in acid solution, of these cations are given below:

 Sm^{+3} _(ag) + e⁺ \leftrightarrow Sm^{+2} _(ag) – 1.55 volts

 Eu^{+3} _(ag) + $\mathsf{e}^{\cdot} \leftrightarrow \mathsf{Eu}^{+2}$ _(ag) – 0.43 volts

 Yb^{+3} _(ag) + e $\leftrightarrow Yb^{+2}$ _(ag) - 1.15 volts

These values indicate that Sm^{+2} , Eu⁺² and Yb^{+2} ions are strong reducing agents and their reducing strength is in the order: $Sm^{+2} > Yb^{+2} > Eu^{+2}$

 Sm^{+2} and Yb⁺² ions are rapidly oxidised by H_3O^+ ion, while Eu⁺² ion is fairly stable and is only slowly oxidized by H₃O⁺ ion.

 $25m^{+2}$ (or Yb⁺²) + $2H_3O^+$ \rightarrow $25m^{+3}$ (or $2Yb^{+3}$) + $2H_2O$ + H_2

All these cations are rapidly oxidized in presence of oxygen.

e.g. 4Ln^{+2} + $4\text{H}_3\text{O}^+$ + O_2 \rightarrow 4Ln^{+3} + $6\text{H}_2\text{O}$, where Ln^{+2} may be Sm^{+2} . Eu⁺² or Yb⁺².

The compounds of Sm⁺², Eu⁺² and Yb⁺² which are insoluble in H₂O are not oxidized by H₂O, while hydrated water soluble compounds of Sm⁺² and Yb⁺² are oxidized by their water. Hydrated water soluble compounds of Eu⁺² are more stable.

(b) Ce, Nd and Tm: The compounds having these elements in +2 oxidation state are known only as solid halides. These are immediately oxidized with air.

Of the divalent compounds of lanthanides, those of Eu⁺² ion are more stable. The compounds of Ln⁺² ion are not stable in solution. All the Ln^{-2} compounds decompose water with evolution of H_2 .

 $2Ln^{+2} + 2H_2O \rightarrow 2Ln^{+3} + 2OH + H_2 \uparrow$

Chemistry of +4 state:

This oxidation state is also an anomalous oxidation state. Double salts like Ce(NO₃)₄.2NH₄NO₃ and $Ce(SO₄)₂$.2(NH₄)2SO₄.2H₂O have also been prepared.

The standard oxidation potentials at 25^oC, in acid solution, of Ce⁺⁴ and Pr^{+4} ions are given as under:

 $Ce^{+4} + e^{-} \leftrightarrow Ce^{+3} + 1.74$ volts

 Pr^{+4} + $e^{-} \leftrightarrow Pr^{+3}$ + 2.86 volts

There values show that Ce(IV) and Pr(IV) are strong oxidizing agents. Ce(SO₄)₂ is generally used in volumetric analysis. Ce⁺⁴ ion is readily reduce to Ce⁺³ ion.

The tetravalent ions of Ce are stable in the solid state as well as in solution. Pr^{IV} , Nd^{IV}, Tb^{IV} and Dy^{IV} are stable only in solution.

Chemistry of +3 state:

All known anion form compounds with Ln⁺³ cation. These compounds are stable in solid as well as in solution state. Compounds of Ln⁺³ with anions such at OH, CO_3^2 , SO_4^2 etc. decompose on heating gives first basic salt and finally oxides.

Compounds of Ln^{+3} cation with the anions Cl, Br, I, NO₃, CH₃COO, BO₃³ are generally soluble in H₂O, While of F,OH,O²,C₂O₄ etc. are generally insoluble in H₂O.

OXIDES: The oxides Ln₂O₃ are formed by heating the metal in O₂ or by decomposition of Ln(OH)₃ or oxy salts like Ln₂(CO₃)₃ and Ln(NO₃)₃. Oxides are similar to alkaline earth oxides. All are insoluble in water. They absorb CO₂ and H₂O from air to form carbonates and hydroxides respectively.

Hydroxides[Ln(OH)₃]: The hydroxides are precipitated as gelatinous precipitates from aqueous solution by the addition by ammonia of dilute alkali to soluble salts of Ln⁺³ ion in solution.

The hydroxides are not amphoteric. They have hexagonal structure. They absorb CO₂ to give carbonate. Oxides and hydroxides are basic. The basicity decreases with increasing atomic number. La₂O₃ and La(OH)₃ are most basic, while Lu₂O₃ and Lu(OH)₃ are least basic.

Carbonates (Ln₂(CO₃)₃): The normal carbonates can be prepared by passing CO₂ into aq. solution of Ln(OH)₃. They can be prepared by adding Na₂CO₃ solution to Ln⁺³ salt solution. The CO₃⁻² are insoluble in H₂O but dissolve in acids with liberation of $CO₂$ and forming $Ln⁴³$ salts.

Halides (LnX₃): Fluorides are pptd. by the addition of HF to Ln⁺³ salt solution. The fluorides of heavier lanthanides are sparingly soluble in HF to Ln⁺³ salt solutions. The fluorides of heavier lanthanides are sparingly soluble in HF due to formation of fluoro complexes.

Chlorides are obtained by direct combination of element on heating. It is obtained by heating oxides with COCI, or NH₄CI.

 $Ln₂O₃ + 3COCl₂ \longrightarrow 2LnCl₃ + 3CO₂$

 $Ln_2O_3 + 6NH_4Cl$ $\frac{300C}{2}$ 2LnCl₃ + 3H₂O + 6NH₃

PHYSICAL PROPERTIES

Because of their close size, they have similar properties.

Physical Properties

- The metals are silvery white in colour. $1.$
- They generally have high melting and boiling points and are very hard $2.$
- They are good conductors of heat and electricity. 3.
- Many of the lanthanide ions form coloured ions 4.
- The lanthanides exhibit a principal oxidation state of $+3$ in which the M⁺³ ion contains an 5. outer shell containing 8 electrons and an underlying layer containing up to 14 4f electrons.
- 6. They exhibit paramagnetism because of the presence of unpaired electrons

CHEMICAL PROPERTIES

- \checkmark Metal combines with hydrogen when gently heated in the gas.
- \checkmark The carbides, Ln₃C, Ln₂C₃ and $LnC₂$ are formed when the metals are heated with carbon.
- \checkmark They liberate hydrogen from dilute acids and burn in halogens to form halides.
- \checkmark They form oxides and hydroxides, M_2O_3 and $M(OH)_{3}$, basic like alkaline earth metal oxides and hydroxides.

الهيدريدات HYDRIDES

1- Ionic (salt like) hydrides

Hydrogen combines with many elements to form binary hydrides – **(contain H and one other element)**

- **Hydrogen gains an electron to form ionic hydrides containing H- (s-block elements except Be and Mg)**
- **مثال: ويكون هيدريدات ايونية block-sيكتسب الهيدروجين الكترون واحد من عناصر الفئة**

 $2Li(s) + H_2(g) \rightarrow 2LiH(s)$

2-Covalent hydrides

Hydrogen shares electrons in the covalent hydrides (p-block elements)

ويكون هيدريدات تساهمية مثل block-pكما يمكن للهيدروجين ان يشارك بالكترون مع عناصر الفئة $:$ CH₄ NH₃ H₂O HF

 $N_2(g)$ + $3H_2(g)$ \rightarrow $2NH_3(g)$

3- **Metallic (interstitial) hydrides**

Hydrogen is involved in metallic bonding in the interstitial or metallic hydrides (transition metals)

أيضا يكون الهيدروجين هيدريدات فلزية مع العناصر االنتقالية

CHEMICAL PROPERTIES

• lanthanoids (Ln)

• They liberate hydrogen from dilute acids.

Δ $2Ln$ $2LnX_3$ + $3H_2$ ^{\uparrow} 6HX \rightarrow $\ddot{}$

الكربيدات

هى مركبات الكربون مع عناصر أخرى أقل منة فى السالبية الكهربية) X, P, S, O, N **تتضمن وليس) تنقسم الكربيدات الى ثالثة انواع: الكربيدات األيونية : التى تتكون من اتحاد الكربون بعناصر المجموعات األولى و الثانية و الثالثة** $\text{CaC}_{2}(\text{s}) + 2\text{H}_{2}\text{O}(\text{g}) \rightarrow \text{Ca}(\text{OH})_{2}(\text{aq}) + \text{C}_{2}\text{H}_{2}(\text{g})$ **الكربيدات البينية: التى تتكون غالبا بواسطة العناصر االنتقالية و خاصة الكروم الكربيدات التساهمية: مثل كربيد السليكون و كربيد البورون**

CHEMICAL PROPERTIES

Chemical Properties

In chemical reactivity, they resemble calcium.

- They readily tarnish in air and burn to give oxides (all give trioxides except Ce which forms $1.$ $CeO₂$).
- They also combine with the following non-metals -N, S, halogens, H. 2.
- The hydrides are non-stoichiometric but have a composition of MH₃. These hydrides liberate 3. hydrogen from water.
- 4. The lanthanides also liberate hydrogen from water as does their hydrides and a vigorous evolution of same gas from dilute non-oxidizing acids.

$$
2\text{Ln}_{(s)} + 6\text{H}_2\text{O}_{(l)} \xrightarrow{\qquad} 2\text{Ln}(\text{OH})_{3(aq)} + 3\text{H}_{2(g)}
$$

Lanthanide compounds are generally predominantly ionic and usually contain lanthanide 5. metal in its $+3$ oxidation states.

OXO SALTS

Oxo salts:

Oxo salts of lanthanides also exist which includes nitrates, sulphates, phosphates, carbonates, oxalates etc. Examples are the hydrated salts of common acids which contain the ions $[Ln(H₂O)_n]^{3+}$, which are readily obtained by dissolving the oxide in acid and crystallizing.

Others are double salts which are very common such as $2Ln(NO₃)$ ₃.3Mg(NO₃)₂.24H₂O, $Ln(NO₃)₃$.2NH₄NO₃.4H₂O and $Ln_2(SO₄)₃$.3Na₂SO₄.12H₂O.

LANTHANIDE OCCURRENCE IN NATURE

- Each known Lanthanide mineral contains all the members of the series.
- However, each mineral contains different concentrations of the individual Lanthanides.
- **The three main mineral sources are the following:**
- 1. Monazite: contains mostly the lighter Lanthanides.
- 2. Xenotime: contains mostly the heavier Lanthanides
- 3. Euxenite: contains a fairly even distribution of the Lanthanides

MONAZITE

- \checkmark Monazite is a primarily reddish-brown phosphate mineral that contains rare-earth elements. Due to variability in composition, monazite is considered a group of minerals.[
- \checkmark The most common species of the group is monazite-(Ce):
- \checkmark monazite-(Ce), (Ce,La,Nd,Th) PO4 (the most common member),
- \checkmark monazite-(La), (La,Ce,Nd)PO4,
- \checkmark monazite-(Nd), (Nd,La,Ce)PO4,
- \checkmark monazite-(Sm), (Sm,Gd,Ce,Th)PO4,
- \checkmark monazite-(Pr), (Pr,Ce,Nd,Th)PO4.

MONAZITE OCCURRENCE IN NATURE

- \cdot The most important source of the lanthanides is monazite,
- ❖ The heavy dark sand found in Brazil, India, Australia, South Africa, and the United States.
- The composition of monazite varies depending on its location,
- but it generally contains about 50 percent of lanthanide compounds by weight.
- ❖ Because of the similarity of their properties and their occurrence together in nature, the lanthanides can be separated from each other and purified only with considerable effort.
- Consequently, commercial production of the lanthanides tends to be expensive.
- ◆ Monazite: A mineral that constitutes the major source of the lanthanides. ī

XENOTIME

- Xenotime is used chiefly as a source of yttrium
- and heavy lanthanide metals (dysprosium, ytterbium, erbium and gadolinium).
- the major component of which is yttrium orthophosphate $(YPO₄)$ $(YPO₄)$ $(YPO₄)$ $(YPO₄)$ $(YPO₄)$.

EUXENITE

It contains calcium, niobium, tantalum, cerium, titanium, yttrium, and typically uranium and thorium, with some other metals. The chemical formula is (Y, Ca, Ce, U, Th)(Nb, Ta, Ti) ₂O₆. It is commonly partially amorphous due to radiation damage.

Euxenite forms a continuous series with the titanium rich polycrase-(Y) having the formula (Y,Ca,Ce,U,Th)(Ti,Nb,Ta)₂O₆.

EXTRACTION OF LANTHANIDES FROM MONAZITE MINERAL

- \Box Monazite is the chief mineral from which lanthanides are extracted.
- \Box While extracting thorium from monazite, the lanthanides are obtained as byproducts.

Following operations are carried out in the extraction:

1) Concentration of mineral:

- \circ The concentration of monazite is started with gravity separation using Wilfley tables.
- \circ The monazite sand being heavier gets caught up on the riffles while the remaining lighter material gets washed off.
- \circ This heavier portion is then subjected to magnetic separator whereby the monazite being less magnetic gets separated from other magnetic material.
- \circ At the end of this operation, a refined monazite with a rough composition of ThO2 $=7.5\%$, Ce2O3 =30%, P2O5=29%, SiO2 = 1.5% and 32% of other rare earths is obtained.

EXTRACTION OF LANTHANIDES FROM MONAZITE MINERAL

2)Cracking/ processing or opening up of the mineral:

This chemical treatment may be applied by either

- (a) Acidic method using H2SO4 or
- (b) (b) Alkaline method using NaOH.

EXTRACTION OF LANTHANIDES FROM MONAZITE MINERAL

(a) Acidic method using H2SO4:

- First of all the refined monazite obtained from the concentration process is heated with 93% H2SO4 at 2100C in cast iron vessels having mechanical stirrers. After about four hours, a viscous paste is obtained. This paste contains sulfates of lanthanides and thorium.
- This paste is leached with water for about 15 hours when all these sulfates go into solution.
- Only insoluble SiO2, unreacted mineral and traces of TiO2 and ZrSiO4 are left behind. This residue is then crushed and returned for recycle.
- The leached solution is acidic because of formation of phosphoric acid.

P2O5 + 3H2O → 2H3PO4 → 2H+ + 2H2PO4

- This solution is treated with sodium pyrophosphate(Na2P2O7) to precipitate thorium as Th(P2O7)2.
- The remaining filtrate is treated with oxalic acid to precipitate a mixture of oxalates of lanthanides and little amount of thorium and zirconium oxalates.
- This mixture is then boiled with ammonium oxalates to dissolve the thorium and zirconium oxalate.
- The residue is then ignited carefully with concentrated sulfuric acid. Sodium sulfate is added to the clear solution of sulfates of lanthanides so that the lighter lanthanides (La 57 to Eu 63) precipitate as double sulfates while the heavier ones remain in the solution as single sulfates.
- The addition of hot sodium hydroxide to the precipitates yields a mixture of hydrated oxides.
- Upon drying this mixture in air at 100 0C mixture of oxides of lighter lanthanides with a rough composition of La2O3 = 17%, CeO2 = 5%, Pr2O3 = 8% Nd2O3= 20%, Sm2O3=5% and little Eu2O3 is obtained.

EXTRACTION OF CERIUM :

- Upon treatment of this mixture with dilute nitric acid, all the lanthanide oxides except that of Ce gets dissolved.
- The residual CeO2 is dissolved in 85% nitric acid to make crude Ce(NO3)4 which is further converted into red basic nitrate Ce(OH)(NO3)3∙3H2O by reacting with dilute sulfuric acid.
- **The solution containing nitrates of the remaining lanthanides is then subjected to**

different methods for further separation.

 The solution containing heavier lanthanides is also similarly subjected to different methods for separation of individual lanthanides

(B) ALKALINE METHOD USING SOD. HYDROXIDE

(b) Alkaline method using NaOH:

Alternatively, the cracking of monazite sand to obtain lanthanides can also be carried out by an alkaline method using sodium hydroxide. This process is described as shown in the following flow sheet.

METHODS USED FOR THE SEPARATION OF LANTHANIDES:

The methods of separation of lanthanides are broadly classified into two classes:

(a) old classical methods:

- (i) Fractional crystallization (ii) Fractional precipitation method
- (ii) (iii) Fractional thermal decomposition of oxy- salts
- (iii) (iv) Change of oxidation states by selective oxidation or reduction procedures.

(b) Modern methods:

- 1. Ion exchange method
- 2. Solvent (liquid-liquid) extraction method
- 3. Paper chromatography
- 4. Gas chromatography
- 5. Thin layer chromatography
- 6. Complex formation

LANTHANIDES SEPARATION

- \triangleright In all the ores, the atoms with a even atomic number are more abundant.
- \triangleright This allows for more nuclear stability, as explained in the Oddo-Harkins rule.
- \triangleright The Oddo-Harkins rule simply states that the abundance of elements with an even atomic number is greater than the abundance of elements with an odd atomic number.
- \triangleright In order to obtain these elements, the minerals must go through a separating process, known as separation chemistry.
- \triangleright This can be done with selective reduction or oxidation. Another possibility is an ion-exchange method.

Oddo-Harkins

rule

SEPARATION OF LANTHANIDES:

Except promethium, they occur together in earth's crust in various forms and very difficult to separate from each other because all the lanthanides have the same size and charge (of $+3$ unit). The chemical properties of these elements which depend on the size and charge are, therefore, almost identical. Hence, their isolation from one another is quite difficult. However, the following methods have been used to separate them from one another.

LANTHANIDES SEPARATION

Methods of separation of **LANTHANIDES**

• * By precipitation method.

- By fractional distillation.
- * By complex formation.
	- * By ion exchange method.
- * SOLVENT EXTRACTION METHOD

LANTHANIDES SEPARATION

Valency change: The different properties of the various oxidation states makes separation very easy [ie the properties of Ln^{+4} and Ln^{+2} are very different from that of Ln^{+3}]. Cerium can be separated from Ln mixtures because it is the only one which has a Ln⁺⁴ ions stable in aqueous solution. A solution containing mixture of Ln+3 ions can be oxidized with NaOCl under alkaline conditions to produce Ce^{+4} . Because of the higher charge, Ce^{+4} is much smaller and less basic than Ce^{+3} or any other Ln⁺³.The Ce⁺⁴ is separated by carefully controlled precipitation of CeO₂ or Ce(IO₃)₄, leaving the trivalent ions in solution. Also, Eu $2+$ can be separated from a mixture of Ln+3. If a solution of Ln+3 ions

is reduced electrolytically using a Hg cathode or Zn amalgam, then Eu^{2+} is produced. If H_2SO_4 is present, EuSO₄ which is insoluble will be precipitate. This can be filtered off.

Other methods are Solvent Extraction, Precipitation, Thermal reaction, Fractional erystallization, Complex formation.

ROLES FOR LANTHANIDES SEPARATION

- o They are extracted from the earlier mentioned ores.
- o Monazite is treated with hot concentratedH2SO4.
- \circ Th, La and the Ln dissolve as sulphates and are separated from insoluble material.
- \circ Th is precipitated as ThO2 by partial neutralization with NH4OH.
- \circ Na2SO4 is used to salt out La and the lighter Ln as sulphates, leaving the heavy lanthanides in solution.
- \circ The light Ln are oxidized with bleaching powder Ca(OCI)2. Ce2+ is oxidized to Ce4+ which is precipitated as Ce(IO3)4 and removed.
- \circ The extraction process from bastnaesite is slightly simpler since it does not contain Th.

ION-EXCHANGE DISPLACEMENT COLUMN

Ion exchange: The basis of the lanthanide series separation on an ion exchange column is their ability to form complex ions. All lanthanides form $+3$ ions, M^{+3} whose ionic radii decrease progressively with increasing atomic number from Ce^{+3} to Lu⁺³. As a solution containing $+3$ lanthanides ions is placed at the top of a column of cation exchange resin[e.g. is Dowex-50 made of a sulphonated polystyrene and contains functional groups $-SO₃H$.] The Ln⁺³ ions are absorbed into the resin and an equivalent amount of hydrogen ions are released from the column;

$$
\begin{array}{ccc}\n\text{Ln}^{+3}_{(aq)} + 3\text{H}^{+}\text{R}^{-}_{(s)} & \longrightarrow & \text{Ln}^{+3}(\text{R}^{-})_{(s)} + 3\text{H}^{+}_{(aq)} \\
\text{Cation Exchange} & & \\
\end{array}
$$

A citrate buffer (citric acid/ammonium citrate) solution (which complexes with the lanthanide ions) is slowly run down the column and the cations partition themselves between the column itself and the moving citrate solution. Since the smaller ions show a greater preference for complexing with the citrate solution, these ions are the first to emerge from the column. By the correct choice of conditions the lutetium ion, Lu^{+3} _(ag), emerges first from the column, followed by the cations ytterbium, thulium, erbium, etc, in order of increasing ionic radius. By using a long ion-exchange column, the elements may be obtained at 99.9% with one pass.

(1) ION – EXCHANGE METHOD:

- \cdot This is the most modern method for the separation of lanthanide elements.
- \cdot In this method synthetic cation resins are used. These resins contain –SO3H or –COOH groups, the hydrogen of which are replaced by cations.
- \cdot The aqueous solution containing a mixture of trivalent positive Lanthanide ions, Ln+3 is allowed to pass down a column filled with cation – exchange resin. The Ln+3 ions replaced H+ ions of –SO3H or –COOH group of the resin and get fixed on the resin.

Ln+3 (aq) + 3HR (solid) \leftrightarrow LnR3(solid) + 3H+ (aq)

- \cdot In order to remove Ln+3 ions fixed as LnR3(solid) on the resin, the column is leached with a complexing agent in aqueous solution like buffer solution of Ammonium citrate- citric acid (PH= 4 to 7).
- Such complexing agents called eluants or eluates or eluating agents. During eluation process NH4+ ions of the eluating agent replace Ln+3 ions from LnR3(solid) to give Ln+3 ions which reacts with citrate ion to form the Ln-citrate complex.

 $LnR3 + NH4+$ \rightarrow NH4R + Ln+3

Ln+3 + citrate ion \rightarrow Ln-citrate complex

- We have seen that since La+3 (aq) is attached to resin with maximum and Lu+3 (aq) with minimum firmness, Lu-citrate complex comes out of the column first and La-citrate complex comes out last.
- † In actual practice the process of elution is to be repeated several times by careful control of concentration of Ammonium Citrate- Citric Acid solutions.
- \cdot By using this method 99.99% pure rare-earth elements can be isolated.

ION-EXCHANGE DISPLACEMENT COLUMN

 \triangleright Ln3+(aq) are strongly adsorbed by a cationexchange resin

 \blacktriangleright

- add an *eluant* ligand typically *chelating* ligands *e.g.* EDTA , or 2-hydroxy-EDTA *e.g.* HIB{[[alpha]]-hydroxyisobutyric acid}
- Ligand binds most strongly to smallest ion *e.g.* the binding constants of the Ln(EDTA) complexes

THE PROCESS OF SEPARATION IS INDICATED

LANTHANIDES SEPARATION

- **2/3 of world production is actually used mixed in the proportions occurring naturally in the ore**
- **1. Cerium & Europium may be extracted Chemically:**
- **Oxidize only Ce to M4+ by HOCl or KMnO4, then precipitate as CeO2 or Ce(IO3)4**
- **On action of Zn/Hg only Eu forms a stable M2+ that doesn't reduce H2O, then isolate by precipitation as EuSO4.**

SEPARATION BY FRACTIONATION:

Small Scale methods used originally:

- Fractional Crystallization of *e.g.* Ln(NO3)3.2NH4NO3.4H2O or Ln(BrO3)3
- Fractional Thermal Decomposition of *e.g.* Ln(NO3)3

Current Small Scale Lab. Separation:

(2) SOLVENTS (LIQUID-LIQUID) EXTRACTION METHOD:

- \circ This method was first reported by fischer. The method is based on the difference in the solubility of Lanthanides salts in water and immiscible organic solvents.
- o These organic solvents are called extracting solvent. This method is used on both tracer and micro scales. In this process the aqueous solution of lanthanide salts pass through the organic solution, in which lanthanide extract from water.
- \circ The most widely used extracting solvent is tri-n-butyl phosphate (TBP), in an inert medium like kerosene or xylene to extract the lanthanides from nitric acid solutions.
- \circ TBP forms complexes with Ln+3 (aq) ions in presence of NO3 ions.

Ln+3(aq) + 3 NO3- (aq) +3TBP (org) \leftrightarrow Ln(NO3)3(TBP)3(org)

Complex

- o Kilogram quantities of 95% pure lanthanides have been prepared by solvent extraction technique.
- \circ Another organic solvent which is a better extractant than TBP is Di-(2-ethyl hexyl) phosphoric acid.

The major uses of solvent extraction process for separation of Ln+3 from Ln+4, ions such as Ce+4

and Th+4 and in the purification of Ce, Th, and La.

Solvent extraction method: Separation of Lanthanides

What is Solvent Extraction?

Solvent Extraction, also known as liquid-liquid extraction, is a method to separate compounds based on their relative solubilities in two different immiscible liquids, usually water and an organic solvent.

SOLVENT EXTRACTION

This method is based on the difference in partition co-effecients of lanthanide salts between water and organic solvents. The solvents employed in this method of extraction of the lanthanides are usually tri n-butyl phosphate (TBP) and di (2-ethylhexy) phosphoricacid. For eg. Gd(NO3)3 can be separated from La $(NO₃)₃$ by continuous extraction with water from a solution of these salts in TBP.

Decreases in ionic radius will increases complexation.

SOLVENT EXTRACTION

Ln3+(aq) is extracted in a continuous counter-current process into a non-polar organic liquid (*e.g.* kerosene) the kerosene contains ca. 10% of **bis(2-ethylhexyl)phosphinic acid (DEHPA)**

or tri-*n*-butylphosphine oxide (TBPO) (nBu3O)3PO

solubility of Ln3+ in organic solvent increases with its RAM separation factor for adjacent rare earths = 2.5 automatic multistep, counter-current conditions Æ 99.9% purity Ln

SOLVENT EXTRACTION PROCESS

EXTRACTION PLANT

EXTRACTION PLANT

LANTHANIDES SEPARATION

The different lanthanides elements can be separated by various methods;

Reduction of their Trihalides: La, Ce, Pr, Nd and Gd may be obtained by reduction of their trichlorides with calcium at about 1000°C in an argon filled vessel e.g.

 $2PrCl_3 + 3Ca \rightarrow 3CaCl_2 + 2Pr$

The heavier Ln like Tb, Dy, Ho, Er and Tm can also be obtained by this method but the trifluorides is used, since their trichloride is volatile. Also since the heavier Ln have higher melting points and so require a temperature of 1400^oC. At this temperature CaCl₂ boils. Li is sometimes used instead of Ca.

 $2HoF_1 + 3Ca \rightarrow 3CaF_2 + 2Ho$

Eu, Sm and Yb are obtained by chemical reduction of their trioxides.

Introduction of **Actinides**

Actinides Elements

 $C₃$

- •Only **Actinium**, **Thorium**, **Protactinium** &**Uranium** occur naturally (*i.e.*Z=<92) in Uranium minerals.
- •all the remaining actinides are unstable and made artificially by nuclear transmutations.
- •The actinides elements lying **beyond Uranium,** are called **trans-uranium** or **trans-Uranic** elements
- •All the actinides are **radioactive.**

4.1 Decay Series

radioactive transmutation and decay are \bullet synonymous expressions

4 main series

Comparison of Lanthanides and Actinides

 $C₃$

- Lanthanides and actinides involve filling of f-orbitals and thus are similar in many respects.
- \Box The most common oxidation state is $+3$ for both lanthanides and actinides.
- \Box Both are electropositive in nature and thus very reactive.
	- \Box Magnetic and spectral properties are exhibited by both lanthanides and actinides.
	- \Box Actinides exhibit actinide contraction just like lanthanides.

Differences

- \checkmark Besides +3, lanthanides also show oxidation states of +2 and +4 while actinides show higher oxidation states of $+4$, $+5$, $+6$ and $+7$ as well.
- as well.

V Lanthanide ions are colourless while most of the actinide ions are coloured.
- \checkmark Actinides have a greater tendency towards complex formation as compared to lanthanides.
- \checkmark Lanthanide compounds are less basic while actinide compounds have appreciable basicity
- \checkmark Actinides form few important oxocations such as UO_2^{2+} , PuO₂²⁺, etc, while such oxocations are not known for lanthanides.
- \checkmark Almost all actinides are radioactive while lanthanides, except promethium, are non-radioactive.
- \checkmark The magnetic properties of actinides can be easily explained while it is difficult to do so in the case of lanthanides.

Actinoids

- 7 period and actinide series.
- Electron enter in 5f orbital.
- Many physical and chemical property are similar to actinium(actinoids).
- Second inner transition element.
- Outermost and penultimate shell remain the same.
- General E.C 5f¹⁻¹⁰ 6d⁰⁻¹ 7s²
	- First 4 member occur in nature.
	- Others are made artificially.
	- All are toxic to humans.

Table : electronic configuration of actinoids

Electronic Configuration

- **The electron configurations of the actinides are due to** $\frac{1}{2}$ **the following:**
- 1. The energy in the 6d orbitals is lower in energy than in the 5f orbitals.
- 2. They fill 5f orbital, 6d orbital, then 7s orbital.
- 3. The 5f orbitals are not shielded by the filled 6s and 6p subshells.
- 4. There is a small energy gap between the $5fⁿ 7s²$ and $5fⁿ⁻¹ 6d 7s²$ configurations.
- 5. The 5f orbitals do not shield each other from the nucleus effectively.
- 6. The energies of the 5f orbital drop rapidly with increasing atomic number.

Electronic Configuration

- As there is not much difference between 5f and 6d, it becomes difficult to know whether the electron has entered 5f or 6d. This makes predicting electronic configuration difficult.
- •The ground state electronic configuration of actinium, **[Rn]6d¹7s 2** is identical to that of lanthanum and certainly the two elements possess alike chemical properties.
- •The difference in energy between 5f and 6d orbitals in the starting of the actinide series is less than that between the 4f and 5d orbitals for the lanthanides.
- •Thus, both 5f and 6d orbitals are comprised in accommodating successive electrons.
- α Therefore the filling of 5f orbitals in actinides is not quite so regular as the filling of 4f orbitals in case of the lanthanides.
- •By the time plutonium and following members of the series are reached, the 5f orbitals seem evidently to be of lower energy than the 6d orbitals, and therefore the electrons preferably fill the former.
- Actinides show higher oxidation states than Lanthanides

Oxidation State of Actinoids

Oxidation state of Actinoids

They have an oxidation state of $+3$. However, this is not always the most stable oxidation state in them.

• The most stable oxidation states for the first four elements are: $Th(+4)$, $Pa(+5)$, $U(+6)$ and Np(+5).

Different Oxidation States

- We can observe from the table which almost all the actinides show **at least two stable oxidation states**
- and **oxidation states higher than +3 are simply accessible** in the early actinides.
- For thorium, protactinium and uranium **the highest accessible oxidation state is the most stable** one as well in aqueous solution.
- ∞ This might be as 5f orbitals extend further from the nucleus than the 4f orbitals
- a and 5f electrons are more efficiently shielded from the nuclear charge than are the 4f electrons of the corresponding lanthanides.
- As the **5f electrons are less firmly held**, they are **all available for bonding in the early actinides.**
- Though, as the later actinides are approached, the build-up of nuclear charge **causes-contraction of the 5f orbitals** in such a way that the metal-ligands overlap reduces and the **+3 state becomes predominant**.
- Interestingly, the +2 state that is achievable in case of mendelevium and nobelium is more stable than Eu²⁺.

Oxidation States

- Up to Uranium, stable oxidation states of the elements is the one involving all the valence electrons.
- ∞ Neptunium forms the +7 state using all the valence electrons but this is oxidizing and **the most stable state is +5**.
- α Plutonium also shows states up to +7 and Americium up to +6 but the **most stable state drops to Pu (+4) and Am(+3).**
- •**Berkeliumin+4 state is strongly oxidizing** but is more stable than curium and americium in +4 stated up to f7 configuration.
- •Similarly, nobelium is **markedly stable in +2** stated up to its f14 configuration

Ionic Radius

Actinide Contraction

- The size of atoms or M^{3+} ions decrease regularly along the actinides series with increase in atomic number from Th to Lr.
- The steady decrease in ionic radii with increase in atomic number is referred to as actinide contraction just like lanthanide contraction.

Magnetic properties

 $C₃$

- All actinides are **paramagnetic** in nature which depends on the presence of unpaired electrons.
- •Magnetic properties are more complex than those of lanthanoids.
- •Ligand field effects are expected where 5f orbitals are involved in bonding.
- ∞ 5f electrons are closer to the surface of the atom and is simply affected by the chemical environment; however not to the similar extent as do the d electrons.
- •The less sharply stated distinctions between the 5f and 6d electrons as compared by 4f and 5d electrons.

on The magnetic properties of actinide ions are more complex than those of the lanthanide ions.

 $C₃$

- •5 f electrons are closer to the surface of the atom and is simply affected by the chemical environment; however not to the similar extent as do the d electrons.
- •The less sharply stated distinctions between the 5f and 6d electrons as compared by 4f and 5d electrons.

- The ions of lanthanides and actinides are colored in the solid state and also in aqueous solution, as is the case with the ions of transition metals.
- We know that the colours of transition metal ions occur due to absorption of light because of d-d electronic transitions.
- As there are no electrons in the d-orbitals, the colours of lanthanide and actinide ions occur because of electronic transitions in the 4f and 5f orbitals.
- The colours of hydrated lanthanide and actinide ions are illustrated in the first and second table, correspondingly.

Common Properties

Actinides share the following properties:
 All are radioactive. These elements have no stable i

- α All are radioactive. These elements have no stable isotopes.
- Actinides are highly electropositive.
- ∞ The metals tarnish readily in air. These elements are pyrophoric (spontaneously ignite in the air), particularly as finely divided powders.
- Actinides are very dense metals with distinctive structures. Numerous allotropes can be formed—plutonium has at least six allotropes. The exception is actinium, which has fewer crystalline phases.
- ∞ They react with boiling water or dilute acid to release hydrogen gas.
- α Actinide metals tend to be fairly soft. Some can be cut with a knife.
- ∞ These elements are [malleable](https://www.thoughtco.com/definition-of-malleable-604562) and [ductile.](https://www.thoughtco.com/definition-of-ductile-and-examples-605051)
- ∞ All the actinides are [paramagnetic](https://www.thoughtco.com/definition-of-paramagnetism-605894).
- All these elements are silver-colored metals that are solid at room temperature and pressure.

Uses

- Reference for the most part, we don't often encounter these radioactive elements in daily life.
- Americium is found in smoke detectors.
- Thorium is found in gas mantles.
- Actinium is used in scientific and medical research as a neutron source, indicator, and gamma source.
- Actinides may be used as dopants to make glass and crystals luminescent.
- The bulk of actinide use goes to energy production and defense operations.
- The primary use of the actinide elements is as nuclear reactor fuel and in the production of nuclear weapons.
- The actinides are favored for these reactions because they readily undergo nuclear reactions, releasing incredible amounts of energy.
- on If the conditions are right, the nuclear reactions can become chain reactions.

Neutron sources

- Isotopic neutron sources $(^{252}Cf, ^{242}Am)$
- Neutron generators
- Nuclear reactors
- At FLNP the pulsed fast reactor IBR-2 is used

ACTINIDES CHEMISTRY

CHEMISTRY ACTINIDE METALS

Preparation

- General method for all Actinides:
- 1. Reduction of AnF_3 or AnF_4 with vapours of Li, Mg, Ca or Ba at 1100 - 1400°C
- 2. Highly **Electropositive**.
- 3. Typically react with:
- 4. air \rightarrow tarnishing
- 5. boiling water or dilute acid \rightarrow releasing Hydrogen
- 6. most non-metals in direct combination

Structures

Very dense metals (e.g. $U = 19$ g cm⁻³) with distinctive structures, e.g. Plutonium has at least 6 allotropes and forms numerous alloys.

NATURALLY OCCURRING ACTINIDES

- **Only Actinium, Thorium, Protactinium & Uranium occur** naturally (i.e. $Z \leq 92$).
- **Example 2 Actinium A. Protactinium** occur only in trace amounts.
- **Neptunium & Plutonium** occur in uranium minerals in minute amounts - not appreciated
- until after they had been synthesized that the synthesis route might occur naturally!
- **All isotopes of all the actinides are radioactive.**
- Most of the longer-lived isotopes decay by α -emission.
- **Both Thorium and Uranium are far from rare.**

NATURALLY OCCURRING ACTINIDES

Thorium

Th

- Widely dispersed, accounts for > 3ppm of the earth's crust.
- Natural Thorium is essentially 100% ²³²Th.
- Occurs in **monazite** [with the rare earths] and in **uranothorite** [a mixed Th, U silicate].
- **Obtained as ThO2, Thoria, from mineral extraction process.**
- **Thorianite** is a rare [thorium](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thorium) [oxide mineral](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oxide_mineral),
- Used as 99% ThO₂ $/$ 1% CeO2 in thoria gas mantles.

Uranium

- Widely distributed found scattered in the faults of old igneous rocks.
- **Natural Uranium is 99.27% 238U & 0.72% 235U.**
- **Obtained usually as UO2.**
- Used for nuclear fuel, and on a smaller scale for colouring glass/ceramics.

- **Unusual** oxidation state.
- **EXCOMMON ONLY for the heaviest elements.**
- Nobelium ($No²⁺$) & Mendelevium (Md²⁺) are more stable than Lanthanide element (Eu²⁺)

Actinide (An²⁺)ions have similar properties to Lanthanide Ln²⁺ and to Ba²⁺ ions.

The most common oxidation state.

- **The most stable oxidation state for all trans-Americium elements** (except No).
- Of marginal stability for early actinides Th, Pa, U (But: Group oxidation state for Ac).
- General properties resemble Ln3+ and are size-dependent.
- Stability constants of complex formation are similar for same size An3+ & Ln3+.
- **E** Isomorphism is common.
- Later An3+ & Ln3+ must be separated by ion-exchange/solvent extraction.
- Binary Halides, MX3 easily prepared, & easily hydrolysed to MOX.
- Binary Oxides, M2O3 known for Ac, Th and trans-Am elements.

Principal oxidation state for Th.

- **Th⁴⁺ chemistry shows resemblance to Zr⁴⁺/Hf⁴⁺ like a** transition metal.
- <u>Very important, stable state for Pa, U, Pu.</u>
- Am, Cm, Bk & Cf are increasingly easily reduced only stable in certain complexes, e.g.
- \blacksquare Bk⁴⁺ is more oxidizing than Ce⁴⁺.
- **MO₂ known from Th to Cf (fluorite structure).**
- \blacksquare MF₄ are isostructural with lanthanide tetrafluorides.
- MCI₄ only known for Th, Pa, U & Np.
- \blacksquare Hydrolysis / Complexation / Disproportionation are all important in (aq).

- **Principal state for Pa.**
- **Pa⁵⁺** chemistry resembles that of $Nb⁵⁺ / Ta⁵⁺$ like a transition metal.
- For U, Np, Pu and Am the $AnO₂⁺$ ion is known (i.e. quite unlike Nb/Ta).
- Comparatively few other An(V) species are known.e.g. fluorides, PaF $_5$, NbF $_5$, UF $_5$; fluoro-anions, (AnF $_6$)⁻, (AnF $_7$)²⁻, $(AnF_8)^3$.
- e.g. oxochlorides, PaOCl₃, UOCl₃; uranates, NaUO₃

- \blacksquare (AnO₂)²⁺ ions are important for U, Np, Pu, Am.
- **uranyl ion** $(UO_2)^{2+}$ is the most stable.
- Few other compounds e.g. AnF_6 (An = U, Np, Pu), UCI₆, UOF₄ etc..., U(OR)₆.

OXIDATION STATE *+7*

Only the marginally stable oxo-anions of Np and Pu, e.g. $($ AnO₅ $)$ ³⁻.

ACTINIDE AQUEOUS CHEMISTRY

- Latimer & Frost Diagrams for elements in acid & alkaline (aq) indicate actinides are quite electropositive.
- Pa Pu show significant redox chemistry, e.g. all 4 oxidation states of Pu can co-exist in appropriate conditions in (aq).
- Stability of high oxidation states peaks at U (Np).
- An³⁺ is the maximum oxidation state for $(Cf)Es Lr$.
- $No^{2+(}aq)$ is especially stable \sim most stable state for No in (aq).
- Redox potentials show strong dependence on pH (data for Ac Cm).
- High oxidation states are more stable in basic conditions.
- Even at low pH hydrolysis occurs formation of polymeric ions. When hydrolysis leads to precipitation measurement of potentials is difficult, e.g. Pa5+ hydrolyses easily; potentials that indicate it to be the most <u>stable oxidation state are recorded in presence of F⁻ or (C₂O₄)²-.</u>
- Tendency to disproportionation is particularly dependent on pH, e.g. at high pH

 $3Pu^{4+} + 2H_2O \rightarrow (PuO_2)^{2+} + 2Pu^{3+} + 4H^+.$

- Early actinides have a tendency to form complexes complex formation influences reduction potentials, e.g. $Am^{4+}(aq)$ only exists when complexed by fluoride $(15 M NH₄F(aq))$.
- Radiation-induced solvent decomposition produces H^o and OH^o radicals, which lead to reduction of higher oxidation states e.g. Pu V/VI , Am IV/VI

5. Color

- Actinides ions are usually colored.
- The color depends upon the number of 5f electrons,
- . ions with 5f⁰ electrons and 5f¹⁴ electrons are colorless.
- . The color is due to f-f electronic transitions.
- Most of the tri positive and tetra positive (3+ and 4+) ions are colored.

Example: $Ac³⁺-colorless,$ Np^{3+} - Purple, $Am³⁺ - pink,$ \textsf{Cm}^{3+} - colorless, U⁴⁺ -Green, Np⁴⁺ - Yellow-green.

Approximate colors of actinide ions in aqueous solution[82]

6. Complex formation

- . The degree of complex formation decreases in the following order: $M^{4+} > MO₂²⁺ > MO²⁺$
- . The complexing power of different singly charged and doubly charged anions following order.

 $F > NO₃ > Cl$ (mono-dentate ligands)

 $CO_3^2 > C_2O_4^2 > SO_4^2$ (bi-dentate ligands)

COMPLEXES & COMPOUNDS

- **A** wide range of complexes with monodentate and chelating ligands.
- **Complexing ability:-** $[M^{5+}] > M^{4+} > (MO_2)^{2+} > M^{3+} > MO^{2+}$
- Geometry may be strongly influenced by covalent bonding effects, e.g. MO $_{\rm 2}^{\rm 2+}$ unit is always linear
- **UO₂(η2-NO₃)₂(H2O)₂** is hexagonal bipyramidal.

Compounds

■ Actinide Hydrides, Halides, Oxides, Oxyhalides ...

Uranium

Uranium Chemistry

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Chemical properties of uranium metal and alloys

- Reacts with most elements on periodic table
	- Corrosion by O_2 , air, water vapor, CO, CO₂
- Dissolves in HCl
	- Also forms hydrated $UO₂$ during dissolution ш
- Non-oxidizing acid results in slow dissolution
	- **Sulfuric, phosphoric, HF** U,
- **Exothermic reaction with powered U metal and** \bullet nitric
- Dissolves in base with addition of peroxide
	- peroxyuranates

Chemical reaction of Uranium

- Uranium metal reacts with almost all non-metal elements (with the exception of the [noble gases](https://thereaderwiki.com/en/Noble_gas)) and their [compounds](https://thereaderwiki.com/en/Chemical_compound), with reactivity increasing with temperature.
- **o** [Hydrochloric](https://thereaderwiki.com/en/Hydrochloric_acid) and [nitric acids](https://thereaderwiki.com/en/Nitric_acid) dissolve uranium,
- **o** but non-oxidizing acids other than hydrochloric acid attack the element very slowly.
- **o** When finely divided, it can react with cold water.
- in air, uranium metal becomes coated with a dark layer of [uranium oxide.](https://thereaderwiki.com/en/Uranium_oxide)
- **o** Uranium in ores is extracted chemically and converted into [uranium dioxide](https://thereaderwiki.com/en/Uranium_dioxide) or other chemical forms usable in industry.

Chemical reactions

Halides

Fluorides

UF6 - the most important fluoride.

Preparation:

0 UO2 + 4HF → UF₄ + 2H2O.

3UF4 + 2ClF3 → 3UF⁶ + Cl² .

Properties:

- o mp. 64° C, vapour pressure = 115 mmHg at 25° C.
- **Made on a large scale to separate uranium isotopes**.
- **6** Gas diffusion or centrifugation separates ²³⁵UF₆ from ²³⁸UF₆.
- Uranium richer in 235-U is termed enriched, richer in 238-U is depleted.
- Powerful **fluorinating** agent.

Other Fluorides

$UE6 + Me_3$ SiCl \rightarrow Me₃SiF + $\frac{1}{2}$ Cl₂ + UF₅

- **o** (melts to an electrically-conducting liquid).
- $\textsf{UF6} + \textsf{2Me}_3\textsf{SiCl} \rightarrow \textsf{2Me}_3\textsf{SiF} + \textsf{Cl2} + \textsf{UF}_4 \rightarrow \textsf{500-600}^\circ\textsf{C}$ gives $\textsf{UO}_2 + \textsf{CFCI}_2\textsf{CFCI}_2.$
- Mixed-Valence fluorides such as U2F9 also form.
- \circ Reduction of UF4 $+$ 1/₂H₂ \rightarrow UF₃.

Halides

Chlorides

 \bullet UCI₄ – is the usual starting material for the synthesis of other U(IV) compounds.

Preparation:

o Liquid-phase chlorination of UO3 by refluxing hexachloropropene.

Properties:

- **o** Soluble in polar organic solvents & in water.
- Forms various adducts (2 7 molecules) with O and N donors.

0 UCl₃

- Usually encountered as UCl3(thf)x (a rather intractable material). *THF* = *tetrahydrofuran*)
- Unsolvated binary gives its name to the UCl3 structure!
- **•** Actinide trihalides form a group with strong similarities (excepting redox behaviour) to the Lanthanides.

UCI_{6}

- **o** From chlorination of U_3O_8 + C.
- \bullet **Highly oxidising.**
- **Moisture-sensitive :**
	- **UCl⁶ + 2H2O → UO2Cl² (Uranyl Chloride) + 4HCl.**
- **In CH2Cl² solution UCl⁶ decomposes to U2Cl¹⁰**

Oxides

- **o** Many binary phases UO_x have been reported.
- **o** Many are not genuine phases.
- Genuine phases show range of O-content.
- o The most important genuine phases are **UO² , U4O⁹ , U3O⁸ , UO³** .

Oxides

 UO² (black-brown) has the Fluorite structure. Stoichiometric material is best obtained from:

> H_2 or CO $UO_2 + H_2O$ (or CO_2) UO_{3} $300 - 600$ °C

 conveniently made by heating uranyl nitrate or ethanoate in air.

$$
3UO_2(NO_3)_2 \xrightarrow[650-800^{\circ}C]{} U_3O_8 + 6NO_2 + 2O_2
$$

UO³ is orange-yellow.

U3O⁸ is dark green.

o Produced by a variety of methods:

$$
UO_2(NO_3)_2 \xrightarrow{O_2} UO_3
$$
 UO_3 $OH_4)_2U_2O \xrightarrow{O_2} UO_3$
Uranates

- Fusion of uranium oxides with alkali or alkaline earth carbonates
- o [chemical formula](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chemical_formula) is **MxUyO^z**
- o orange/yellow/brown mixedoxides,

Uranates:

o Na₂UO_{4……oxidation state+6} o CaU₂O₇......oxidation state+4 \bullet $Ca_3\text{UO}_6$ oxidation state+4 o NaUO₃......oxidation state+5 o Ca_3UO_6 oxidation state+6

Aqueous Chemistry of uranium

- Complex aqueous chemistry due to extensive possibilities for complexation, hydrolytic reactions,
- o often leading to polymeric ion species.
- **o** Reduction Potentials appropriate for 1M HClO4 indicate:

$$
UO_2^{2+} \xrightarrow{0.06 \text{ V}} UO_2^{+} \xrightarrow{0.6 \text{ V}} U^{4+} \xrightarrow{-0.63 \text{ V}} U^{3+} \xrightarrow{-1.74 \text{ V}} U^{3+}
$$

- o Uranium-235 was the first isotope that was found to be fissile.
- o Other naturally occurring isotopes are fissionable, but not fissile.
- **o** On bombardment with slow neutrons, its uranium-235 isotope will most of the time divide into two smaller nuclei, releasing nuclear binding energy and more neutrons.

Modern Nuclear Reactors

- \bullet Current nuclear reactors use UO₂ fuel less reactive than U metal.
- **o** Enrichment is by fractional gaseous centrifugation of UF₆ (easily sublimed).
- **o** Neutron capture by ²³⁸U results in formation of ²³⁹Pu, which is fissile. Significant amounts of Pu will only be produced in an unmoderated reactor (fuel reprocessing more dangerous!

$$
{}^{238}U_{23.45m} \xrightarrow{(\textit{n},\textit{y})} {}^{239}U \xrightarrow{0^-} {}^{239}Np \xrightarrow{\beta^-} {}^{239}Pu_{2.411\times10^4y}
$$

USES OF URANIUM

- · Nuclear weapons
- · Nuclear fuel
- Nuclear plants
- · Nuclear Submarines

Uranium Fuel Cycle

Preparation of Yellow Cake, U_3O_8 (s) Uranite or Pitchblende $(UO₂ + UO₃)$

- Extraction of uranium is often difficult and the metallurgical procedures vary with the geological environment of the ore. The ore is first crushed and ground to liberate mineral particles.
- The amphoteric oxide (UD_3) is then leached with sulphuric acid.

 $UO_3 + 2H^+$ (aq) \longrightarrow UO_2^{2+} (aq) + H₂O UO_2^{2+} (aq) + 3SO₄²⁻ (aq) \longrightarrow $UO_2(SO_4)_3^{4-}$ (aq)

- The basic oxide is converted by a similar process to that of a water soluble $UO_2(CO_3)_3^4$ (aq) ion.
- Two methods are used to concentrate and purify the uranium (ion exchange and solvent extraction). The common method is solvent extraction, uses tertiary amines in an organic kerosene solvent in a continuous process.
- First the amines, R_3N , react with sulfuric acid: $2R_3N$ (org) + H₂SO₄ (aq) \longrightarrow $(R_3NH)_2SO_4$ (org)
- Then the amine sulphate extracts the uranyl ions into the organic phase while the impurities remain in the aqueous phase. In the case of the uranyl sulfate ion, the following reactions occur:

 $2(R_3NH)_2SO_4$ (org) + $UO_2(SO_4)_3^4$ ⁻⁽aq) $(R_3NH)_4 UO_2(SO_4)_3$ (org) + 2SO₄²⁻ (aq)

• The solvents are removed by evaporating in a vacuum and ammonium di-uranate, $(NH_4)_2U_2O_7$, is precipitated by adding ammonia to neutralize the solution. The diuranate is then heated to yield a purified, solid U_3O_8 , known as yellow cake.

Converting UO_3 to UF_6

- The UO_3 is reduced with hydrogen to UO_2
- \bullet UO₃(s) + H₂(g) \longrightarrow UO₂(s) + H₂O(g)
- UO₂ (s) + 4HF (g) \longrightarrow UF₄(s) + 4H₂O (g)
- The tetrafluoride is then fed into a fluidized bed reactor to react with gaseous fluorine gas: $UF_4(s) + F_2(g) \longrightarrow UF_6(g)$
- The hexafluoride is now suitable feedstock for the gaseous diffusion process (Enrichment), i.e., to increase the percentage of 235 U in uranium.

Refining and Converting U_3O_8 to UF_6

