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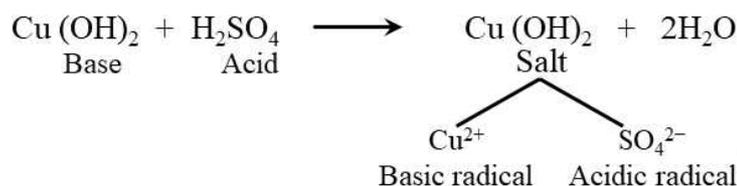
# Salt Analysis

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## 01. Introduction

The positively charged part of a salt (cation) which has been derived from a base is termed basic radical and the negatively charged part of the salt (anion) which has been derived from an acid is termed acidic radical.



A mixture may have two or more salts; thus qualitative inorganic analysis consists in identifying the presence of various cations and anions in it.

## 02. Identification of Acidic Radicals

**Group I :** This group consists of radicals which are detected by dilute  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  or dilute  $\text{HCl}$ . These are (i) carbonate, (ii) sulphite, (iii) sulphide, (iv) nitrite and (v) acetate

**Group II :** This group consists of radicals which are detected by concentrated  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$ . These are (i) chloride, (ii) bromide, (iii) iodide, (iv) nitrate and (v) oxalate

**Group III :** These radicals which do not give any characteristic gas with dilute and concentrated  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$ . These are (i) sulphate, (ii) phosphate, (iii) borate and (iv) fluoride.

### Group I

Take 0.2 g of the substance in a test tube and add 2mL or dilute  $\text{HCl}$  or dilute  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$ . Observe the reaction in cold, warm gently the contents and infer as follows :

S.NO.	Observation	Inference	Confirmatory tests
(i)	Brisk effervescence in cold with evolution of colourless and odourless gas.	$\text{CO}_3^{2-}$ (Carbonate)	Pass the gas in a test tube containing small quantity of lime water. It turns milky
(ii)	A colourless gas with suffocating odour having smell of burning sulphur.	$\text{SO}_3^{2-}$ (Sulphite)	Moisten a piece of filter paper with acidified potassium dichromate and put it on the mouth of the test tube. It turns green.
(iii)	A colourless gas with smell of rotten eggs.	$\text{S}^{2-}$ (Sulphide)	Moisten a piece of filter paper with lead acetate solution and place it on the mouth of the test tube. It turns black.
(iv)	A light brown gas.	$\text{NO}_2^-$ (Nitrite)	Pass the evolved gas through ferrous sulphate solution. It turns brown. Mix the given salt or mixture with a little or $\text{KI}$ and add dilute $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$ . Evolution of violet vapours. Place the piece of filter paper on the mouth of test tube moistened with solutions of starch, potassium iodide and acetic acid. It turns blue.
(v)	Colourless vapours with smell of vinegar.	$\text{CH}_3\text{COO}^-$ (Acetate)	To the aqueous solution of substance add neutral $\text{FeCl}_3$ solution $\rightarrow$ blood red colour. Rub the moistened salt or mixture with dry oxalic acid $\rightarrow$ smell or vinegar.

## Group II

Take 0.2 g of the substance and add 2mL of concentrated  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$ . warm gently, Observe the changes and draw inference as follows :

**Note :** With concentrated  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$ , carbonates, sulphites, sulphides, nitrites and acetates also behave in the same way as with dilute  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$ .

S.NO.	Observation	Inference	Confirmatory tests
(i)	Colourless gas with pungent smell which fumes in air. [Add a pinch of $\text{MnO}_2$ in the solution $\rightarrow$ pale green gas is evolved.]	$\text{Cl}^-$ (Chloride)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bring a glass rod dipped in <math>\text{NH}_4\text{OH}</math> on the mouth of test tube; white fumes are formed.</li> <li>Bring a glass rod dipped in silver nitrate solution on the mouth of the test tube; white curdy ppt. is formed on the rod.</li> <li><b>Chromyl chloride test :</b> To the substance in a dry test tube add three times its weight of powdered <math>\text{K}_2\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_7</math> and conc. <math>\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4</math>. Heat the contents. Red vapours are evolved. Pass the vapours in a test tube containing <math>\text{NaOH}</math> solution. Now add acetic acid and lead acetate solution. A yellow precipitate appears.</li> </ul>
(ii)	Raddish brown fumes which intensify on addition of $\text{MnO}_2$ . Vapour passed in water, make it yellow.	$\text{Br}^-$ (Bromide)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Take aqueous extract of the substance (or extract with dilute <math>\text{HNO}_3</math>) and add silver nitrate solution. A light yellow precipitate appears.</li> <li>To a small amount of the substance add dilute <math>\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4</math>. Warm and cool. Add 1 mL chloroform or carbon tetrachloride and then chlorine water with constant shaking. The chloroform layer becomes orange-brown.</li> </ul>
(iii)	Violet pungent fumes evolved which may condense as black specks on the cooler parts of the test tube. [The violet fumes intensify on addition of $\text{MnO}_2$ .]	$\text{I}^-$ (Iodide)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Place a piece of filter paper moistened with starch solution on the mouth of the test tube. The paper turns blue.</li> <li>Take aqueous extract of the substance (or extract with dilute <math>\text{HNO}_3</math>) and add <math>\text{AgNO}_3</math> solution. Yellow precipitate is formed which is insoluble in <math>\text{NH}_4\text{OH}</math> solution.</li> <li>To the small amount of the substance add dil. <math>\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4</math>. and 1 mL of either chloroform or carbon tetrachloride and then chlorine water, shake. Chloroform layer attains violet colouration.</li> </ul>
(iv)	Light brown vapours having pungent smell. Intensify on adding copper turnings.	$\text{NO}_3^-$ (Nitrate)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Take and aqueous extract of the substance in a test tube and add freshly prepared <math>\text{FeSO}_4</math> solution. Add conc. <math>\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4</math>. by the side of the test tube without disturbing the solution-a brown ring is formed at the junction of two liquids.</li> </ul>
(v)	Colourless, odourless gas which burns with blue flame at the mouth of the test tube and turns lime water milky.	$\text{C}_2\text{O}_4^{2-}$ (Oxalate)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Take the substance, add dil. <math>\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4</math> and heat till there are no more effervescences. Now add <math>\text{MnO}_2</math> (solid)-brisk effervescences.</li> </ul>