

SCROLL TO BOTTOM FOR ANSWERS

K_{sp}=Equilibrium Constant for Solubility Products

The K_{sp} is specifically used for an equilibrium between an undissolved solid and its ions in solution.

How to interpret K_{sp}



$$K_{sp} =$$

Low K_{sp}	
High K_{sp}	

Example 1 Solid silver chromate is added to pure water at 25 °C. Some of the solid remains undissolved Ag₂CrO_{4(s)} at the bottom of the flask. The mixture is stirred for several days to ensure that equilibrium is achieved between the undissolved and the solution. Analysis of the equilibrated solution shows that its silver ion concentration is 1.3 X10⁻⁴ moles/L. Assuming that Ag₂CrO₄ dissociates completely in water and that there are no other important equilibria involving the Ag⁺ or CrO₄⁻² ions in the solution, calculate K_{sp} for this compound.

Example 2 The K_{sp} for CaF₂ is 3.9 X 10⁻¹¹ at 25 °C. Assuming that CaF₂ dissociates completely upon dissolving and that there are no other important equilibria affecting its solubility, calculate the solubility of CaF₂ in grams per liter.

$$1.1 \times 10^{-12}$$

$$1.6 * 10^{-2} \text{ g CaF}_2/\text{L soln}$$

Homework for K_{sp}

1. Calculate the solubility in grams per liter of silver sulfide (Ag₂S) in order to decide whether it is accurately labeled when described as an insoluble salt. (Ag₂S: $K_{sp} = 6.3 \times 10^{-50}$)
2. Determine which salt — CaCO₃ or Ag₂CO₃ — is more soluble in water in units of moles per liter?

$$\text{CaCO}_3: K_{sp} = 2.8 \times 10^{-9}$$

$$\text{Ag}_2\text{CO}_3: K_{sp} = 8.1 \times 10^{-12}$$

3. In a saturated solution of MgF₂ at 18°C, the concentration of Mg²⁺ is 1.21 × 10⁻³ moles/L. The equilibrium is represented by $\text{MgF}_2(s) \rightleftharpoons \text{Mg}^{2+}(aq) + 2 \text{F}^{-}(aq)$
 - a) Write the expression for the solubility-product constant, K_{sp} , and calculate its value at 18°C.
 - b) How could you raise the solubility of magnesium fluoride?
 - c) How could you lower it?
4. Determine the K_{sp} of Ca(OH)₂ if 0.0105 moles dissolves in 1 kg of water.
5. Use the graph in your notes and list two substances for which K_{sp} will increase with increasing temperature.

Homework for Ksp

- Calculate the solubility in grams per liter of silver sulfide (Ag_2S) in order to decide whether it is accurately labeled when described as an insoluble salt. (Ag_2S : $K_{sp} = 6.3 \times 10^{-50}$)

	$\text{Ag}_2\text{S}_{(s)}$	$2 \text{Ag}^+_{(aq)}$	$\text{S}^{2-}_{(aq)}$
I moles/L	We don't care	0	0
C moles/L	x = solubility in moles/L	2x	x
E moles/L	We don't care - x	2x	x

$$K_{sp} = [\text{Ag}^+]^2[\text{S}^{2-}]$$

$$6.3 \times 10^{-50} = (2x)^2(x)$$

$$6.3 \times 10^{-50} = 4x^3$$

$$x = (6.3 \times 10^{-50} / 4)^{1/3} = 2.5 \times 10^{-16} \text{ moles/L}$$

$$\text{solubility} = 2.5 \times 10^{-16} \text{ moles/L} (2 \times 108 + 32) = \mathbf{6.2 \times 10^{-15} \text{ g of Ag}_2\text{S}_{(s)} / \text{L}}$$

That's not much so it is correctly labeled as insoluble.

- Determine which salt — CaCO_3 or Ag_2CO_3 — is more soluble in water in units of moles per liter?

CaCO_3 :

$$K_{sp} = 2.8 \times 10^{-9}$$

Ag_2CO_3 :

$$K_{sp} = 8.1 \times 10^{-12}$$

Use a chart like in #1	Use a chart like in #1
CaCO_3	Ag_2CO_3
$K_{sp} = 2.8 \times 10^{-9} = [\text{Ca}^{+2}][\text{CO}_3^{-2}]$ $2.8 \times 10^{-9} = x(x)$ $2.8 \times 10^{-9} = x^2$ $x = 5.3 \times 10^{-5} \text{ moles/L}$	$K_{sp} = 8.1 \times 10^{-12} = [\text{Ag}^+]^2[\text{CO}_3^{-2}]$ $8.1 \times 10^{-12} = (2x)^2(x)$ $8.1 \times 10^{-12} = 4x^3$ $x = (8.1 \times 10^{-12} / 4)^{1/3} = 1.3 \times 10^{-4} \text{ moles/L}$ <p>So Ag_2CO_3 is more soluble even though it's K_{sp} is smaller</p>

3. In a saturated solution of MgF_2 at 18°C , the concentration of Mg^{2+} is 1.21×10^{-3} moles/L. The equilibrium is represented by $\text{MgF}_2(s) \rightleftharpoons \text{Mg}^{2+}(aq) + 2 \text{F}^-(aq)$

- a) Write the expression for the solubility-product constant, K_{sp} , and calculate its value at 18°C .

$$K_{sp} = [\text{Mg}^{2+}][\text{F}^-]^2$$

	$\text{MgF}_2(s)$	$\text{Mg}^{2+}(aq)$	$2 \text{F}^-(aq)$
I moles/L	We don't care	0	0
C moles/L	1.21×10^{-3}	1.21×10^{-3}	$2 * 1.21 \times 10^{-3}$
E moles/L	We don't care - 1.21×10^{-3}	1.21×10^{-3}	2.42×10^{-3}

$$K_{sp} = [1.21 \times 10^{-3}][2.42 \times 10^{-3}]^2$$

$$= 7.1 \times 10^{-9}$$

- b) How could you raise the solubility of magnesium fluoride?

Remove fluoride or magnesium ion by precipitating it with the appropriate ion.

- c) How could you lower it?

Add fluoride or magnesium ion from another source.

4. Determine the K_{sp} of $\text{Ca}(\text{OH})_2$ if 0.0105 moles dissolves in 1 kg of water.

	$\text{Ca}(\text{OH})_2(s)$	$\text{Ca}^{2+}(aq)$	$2 \text{OH}^-(aq)$
I moles/L	We don't care	0	0
C moles/L	0.0105 moles/L 1kg = 1L for water	0.0105	$2 * 0.0105$
E moles/L	We don't care - 0.0105	0.0105	0.021

$$K_{sp} = [0.0105][0.021]^2 = 4.6 \times 10^{-6}$$

5. Use the graph in your notes and list two substances for which K_{sp} will increase with increasing temperature.

Choose any two that are increasing functions.

6. 2.0×10^{-5}

7. 3.2×10^{-11} moles/L