

Starting Materials for Solid State Chemistry

Groups																																															
1	2											13	14	15	16	17	18																														
1 H																		2 He	1																												
3 Li	4 Be											5 B	6 C	7 N	8 O	9 F	10 Ne	2																													
11 Na	12 Mg	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13 Al	14 Si	15 P	16 S	17 Cl	18 Ar	3																													
19 K	20 Ca	21 Sc	22 Ti	23 V	24 Cr	25 Mn	26 Fe	27 Co	28 Ni	29 Cu	30 Zn	31 Ga	32 Ge	33 As	34 Se	35 Br	36 Kr	4																													
37 Rb	38 Sr	39 Y	40 Zr	41 Nb	42 Mo	43 Tc	44 Ru	45 Rh	46 Pd	47 Ag	48 Cd	49 In	50 Sn	51 Sb	52 Te	53 I	54 Xe	5																													
55 Cs	56 Ba	57 La	72 Hf	73 Ta	74 W	75 Re	76 Os	77 Ir	78 Pt	79 Au	80 Hg	81 Tl	82 Pb	83 Bi	84 Po	85 At	86 Rn	6																													
87 Fr	88 Ra	89 Ac	104 Rf	105 Db	106 Sg	107 Bh	108 Hs	109 Mt	110 Ds	111 Rg	112 Cn	113 Nh	114 Fl	115 Mc	116 Lv	117 Ts	118 Og	7																													
			<table border="1"> <tbody> <tr> <td>58 Ce</td> <td>59 Pr</td> <td>60 Nd</td> <td>61 Pm</td> <td>62 Sm</td> <td>63 Eu</td> <td>64 Gd</td> <td>65 Tb</td> <td>66 Dy</td> <td>67 Ho</td> <td>68 Er</td> <td>69 Tm</td> <td>70 Yb</td> <td>71 Lu</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>90 Th</td> <td>91 Pa</td> <td>92 U</td> <td>93 Np</td> <td>94 Pu</td> <td>95 Am</td> <td>96 Cm</td> <td>97 Bk</td> <td>98 Cf</td> <td>99 Es</td> <td>100 Fm</td> <td>101 Md</td> <td>102 No</td> <td>103 Lr</td> <td>7</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>															58 Ce	59 Pr	60 Nd	61 Pm	62 Sm	63 Eu	64 Gd	65 Tb	66 Dy	67 Ho	68 Er	69 Tm	70 Yb	71 Lu	6	90 Th	91 Pa	92 U	93 Np	94 Pu	95 Am	96 Cm	97 Bk	98 Cf	99 Es	100 Fm	101 Md	102 No	103 Lr	7
58 Ce	59 Pr	60 Nd	61 Pm	62 Sm	63 Eu	64 Gd	65 Tb	66 Dy	67 Ho	68 Er	69 Tm	70 Yb	71 Lu	6																																	
90 Th	91 Pa	92 U	93 Np	94 Pu	95 Am	96 Cm	97 Bk	98 Cf	99 Es	100 Fm	101 Md	102 No	103 Lr	7																																	

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Lithium Li

Li: [He]2s¹

Atomic number	3
Rel. atomic mass	6.941 g/mol
Melting point	181 °C
Boiling point	1342 °C
Density	0.53 g/cm ³

Chemical composition

LiAl[SiO₃]₂

Mineral name

Spodumene



Starting materials

Properties relevant for solid state chemistry

Li (metal)	hard to handle, prone to oxidation
LiClO ₄	explosive
Li ₂ C ₂ O ₄	decomposes to Li ₂ O, CO, and CO ₂
Li ₂ CO ₃	decomposes to Li ₂ O and CO ₂
LiCl	water soluble, fluxing
LiF	water insoluble, fluxing
LiNO ₃	water soluble, may take up some water
Li ₂ O	take up of H ₂ O and CO ₂
Li ₂ O ₂	instable
Li ₃ PO ₄	water insoluble
Li ₂ SO ₄	water soluble, may take up some water

Beryllium Be

Be: [He]2s²

Atomic number	4
Rel. atomic mass	9.012 g/mol
Melting point	1287 °C
Boiling point	2469 °C
Density	1.85 g/cm ³

Chemical composition



Mineral name

Beryl



Starting materials

Be (metal)

BeO

Be(OH)₂

Be(NO₃)₂

BeF₂

BeCl₂

BeCO₃

BeSO₄

Be(acac)₃

Properties relevant for solid state chemistry

very toxic, prone to oxidation

take up of H₂O and CO₂

amphoteric and thus dissolves in diluted acids and bases

water soluble, decomposes to Be₄O(NO₃)₆

water soluble upon forming BeF₂(H₂O)₂

hygroscopic

decomposes to BeO and CO₂

water soluble

very toxic

Comment: Beryllium and its compounds are highly toxic!

Boron B

B: $[\text{He}]2s^22p^1$

Atomic number	5
Rel. atomic mass	10.811 g/mol
Melting point	2076 °C
Boiling point	3927 °C
Density	2.35 g/cm ³

Chemical composition

$\text{Na}_2[\text{B}_4\text{O}_6(\text{OH})_2] \cdot 3 \text{H}_2\text{O}$

Mineral name

Kernit



Starting materials

α -B (semimetal)

B_2H_6	low reactivity
H_3BO_3	reactive, toxic, and colourless gas, condenses at -92.5 °C
B_2O_3	heating yields HBO_2 and then B_2O_3 at 500 °C, flux and melt salt
BF_3	take up of H_2O and CO_2
BCl_3	gas, high reactivity
BBr_3	hygroscopic
$\text{BF}_3\text{O}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_2$	hygroscopic
NaBH_4	reacts violently with H_2O
SmB_6	white powder, stable up to 600 °C in dry air, reductive agent
	melts at 2400 °C, Kondo insulator

Carbon C

C: $[\text{He}]2s^22p^2$

Atomic number	6
Rel. atomic mass	12.0107 g/mol
Melting point	3550 °C (d)
Boiling point	4800 °C (d)
Density	3.51 g/cm ³ (d)

Chemical composition

C

Mineral name

activated carbon

Starting materials

Activated carbon
Amorphous carbon
Charcoal
Graphite
Sugar

Problem areas in solid state chemistry

reaction with strong oxidants
flameable in air
flameable in air
rather inreactive
decomposes to water and carbon



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Nitrogen N

N: $[\text{He}]2s^22p^3$

Atomic number	7
Rel. atomic mass	14.007 g/mol
Melting point	-210 °C
Boiling point	-196 °C
Density	1.12 g/dm ³

Chemical composition

Si_3N_4

Mineral name

Silicon nitride



Micro crystalline powder of Si_3N_4
(Source: Jan-Niklas Keil, RG TOM)

Starting materials

N_2 (gas)

LiN_3

NaN_3

Mg_3N_2

NH_3

NH_4Cl

NH_4NO_2

NH_4NO_3

Si_3N_4

$\text{Si}_2\text{N}_2\text{O}$

Problem areas in solid state chemistry

low reactivity up to 1800 °C, inert gas

instable, decomposes to Li and N_2

instable, decomposes to Na and N_2

yellow, water sensitive, decomposes to form $\text{Mg}(\text{OH})_2$ and NH_3

decomposes to N_2 and H_2

easily soluble in water, dissociates at 338 °C to NH_3 and HCl

explosive $\rightarrow \text{N}_2 + 2 \text{H}_2\text{O}$

explosive $\rightarrow \text{N}_2\text{O} + 2 \text{H}_2\text{O}$

rather low reactivity

very low reactivity „Impact mineral“

Oxygen O

O: [He]2s²2p⁴

Atomic number	8
Rel. atomic mass	15.999 g/mol
Melting point	-218 °C
Boiling point	-183 °C
Density	1.33 g/dm ³

Chemical composition

β -PbO₂

Mineral name

Plattnerite



Starting materials

O₂ (gas)

O₃

Li₂O₂

Na₂O₂

KO₂

SrO₂

BaO₂

Problem areas in solid state chemistry

low reactivity at RT

low stability, strong oxidiser

reacts with CO₂ to Li₂CO₃ and O₂

reacts with CO₂ to Na₂CO₃ and O₂

decomposes in water to KOH and O₂

decomposes at 215 °C

melts at 450 °C, decomposes at >700 °C

soluble in water upon decomposition to Ba(OH)₂ and O₂

Fluorine F

O: $[\text{He}]2s^22p^5$

Atomic number	9
Rel. atomic mass	18.998 g/mol
Melting point	-220 °C
Boiling point	-188 °C
Density	1.58 g/cm ³

Chemical composition

CaF₂

Mineral name

Fluorite



Starting materials

F₂ (gas)

CF₄

LiF

MnF₄

NaF

NaHF₂

NH₄F

KF

RbF

CsF

Problem areas in solid state chemistry

high reactivity towards furnace materials

decomposes at high temp. to CF₂ and F₂

somewhat hygroscopic

decomposes at high temp. to MnF₂ and F₂

somewhat hygroscopic

decomposes at high temp. to NaF and HF

decomposes at high temp. to NH₃ and HF

hygroscopic

very hygroscopic

very hygroscopic

Sodium Na

Na: [Ne]3s¹

Atomic number	11
Rel. atomic mass	22.989769 g/mol
Melting point	97.72 °C
Boiling point	890.0 °C
Density	0.968 g/cm ³

Chemical composition

Na[AlSi₃O₈]

Mineral name

Albit



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Starting materials

Na (metal)

NaH

NaF

NaCl

NaBr

NaI

Na₂CO₃

NaNO₃

Na₂O

Na₂O₂

Na₂SiO₃

Problem areas in solid state chemistry

reacts violently with H₂O, flammable

sensitive to moisture, intolerant with alcohol, acids and oxygen

reactive, little water soluble, flux

water soluble

water soluble

air sensitive, incompatible with strong acids

soluble in H₂O

oxidant, water soluble, may take up some water

reacts with H₂O to form NaOH

reacts with H₂O to form H₂O₂ and NaOH

incompatible with Tin, Lead and Zinc

Magnesium Mg

Mg: [Ne]3s²

Atomic number	12
Rel. atomic mass	24.305 g/mol
Melting point	650 °C
Boiling point	1110 °C
Density	1.738 g/cm ³

Chemical composition

CaMg[CO₃]₂

Mineral name

Dolomite



Starting materials

Mg (metal)

MgO

MgCO₃

MgF₂

MgCl₂·6H₂O

MgBr₂

MgI₂

Mg(NO₃)₂·6H₂O

MgSO₄·7H₂O

Mg₃N₂

Problem areas in solid state chemistry

reacts violently with H₂O, avoidable conditions are high temperatures and open flames

insoluble in H₂O, air sensitive

rather soluble in water, decomposes to MgO at 540 °C

low solubility in water ~ 0.076 g/l, useful flux

hygroscopic

instable

instable

oxidant, water soluble, may take up some water

hygroscopic

decomposes in water to Mg(OH)₂ and NH₃

Aluminum Al

Al: [Ne]3s²3p¹

Atomic number	13
Rel. atomic mass	26.9815385 g/mol
Melting point	660.32 °C
Boiling point	2470 °C
Density	2.70 g/cm ³

Chemical composition

γ -Al(OH)₃, γ/α -AlO(OH)

Mineral name

Bauxite



Nanocrystalline powder of Al₂O₃

(Source: Mike Broxtermann, RG TOM)

Starting materials

Al (metal)

Al₂O₃

Al(OH)₃

AlF₃

AlCl₃

AlN

Al₂(SO₄)₃

Al(NO₃)₃

Al(acetate)₃

Problem areas in solid state chemistry

oxidizes to Al₂O₃ → surface passivation

water insoluble, irreconcilability with strong acids and bases

with bases converted to aluminates, insoluble in neutral water, incompatibility with strong acids

soluble in H₂O

soluble in H₂O, incompatibility with alcohol and strong oxidizers

caustic, sensitive to hydrolysis

irritant, soluble in water

soluble in water

decomposes at 200 °C

Phosphorus P

P: $[\text{Ne}]3s^23p^3$

Atomic number	15
Rel. atomic mass	30.974 g/mol
Melting point	317.3 °C (white mod.)
Boiling point	553.2 °C (white mod.)
Density	1.83 g/cm ³ (white mod.)

Chemical composition

$\text{Ca}_5(\text{PO}_4)_3\text{Cl}$
 LnPO_4 (Ln = La-Lu)

Mineral name

Apatite
Monazite



Starting materials

P_4 (red phase)

PCl_3

P_4O_{10}

NaH_2PO_4

Na_2HPO_4

Na_3PO_4

$\text{Mg}_3(\text{PO}_4)_2$

$\text{Ca}_3(\text{PO}_4)_2$

$\text{Ca}_5(\text{PO}_4)_3(\text{OH})$

$\text{Ca}_2\text{P}_2\text{O}_7$

Problem areas in solid state chemistry

toxic and high vapour pressure

low boiling point, highly reactive towards water,
 irreconcilability with strong acids and bases

strong exotherm reaction with water $\rightarrow \text{H}_3\text{PO}_4$

decomposes at 170 °C

decomposes at 250 °C

Sulphur S

S: $[\text{Ne}]3s^23p^4$

Atomic number	16
Rel. atomic mass	32.065 g/mol
Melting point	119.6 °C
Boiling point	444.6 °C
Density	2.07 g/cm ³

Chemical composition

CaSO₄·H₂O
SrSO₄
BaSO₄
ZnS
FeS₂

Mineral name

Gypsum
Strontianite
Baryte
Zinc blende
Pyrite

Starting materials

S₈ (solid)
SCl₂

S₂Cl₂
SO₂
SOCl₂
KHSO₄
Na₂SO₄
Li₂SO₄
K₂SO₄
KAl(SO₄)₂·12H₂O

Problem areas in solid state chemistry

rather toxic and high vapour pressure
highly reactive towards water,
forms mustard gas → S(C₂H₄Cl)₂
used for the vulcanisation of rubber
gaseous, useful for gas reactions in a tube furnace
liquid, decomposes in water to SO₂ and HCl
flux
flux
flux
flux
highly soluble in water, melts at 92.5 °C



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Chlorine Cl

Cl: $[\text{Ne}]3s^23p^5$

Atomic number	17
Rel. atomic mass	35.453 g/mol
Melting point	-7.0 °C
Boiling point	-34.04 °C
Density	3.215 g/cm ³ at 273 K

Chemical composition

KCl

NaCl

Mineral name

Sylvin

Rock salt

Starting materials

Cl₂ (gas)

NH₄Cl

LiCl

NaCl

KCl

RbCl

CsCl

MgCl₂

CaCl₂

SrCl₂

BaCl₂

Problem areas in solid state chemistry

toxic, very reactive

sublimes at 340 °C

melts at 605 °C

melts at 801 °C

melts at 770 °C

melts at 715 °C

melts at 646 °C

melts at 714 °C

melts at 782 °C

melts at 875 °C

melts at 963 °C



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Potassium K

K: [Ar]4s¹

Atomic number	19
Rel. atomic mass	39.0983 g/mol
Melting point	63.38 °C
Boiling point	774 °C
Density	1.83 g/cm ³

Chemical composition

KCl

Mineral name

Sylvine

Starting materials

K (metal)

KF

KCl

KBr

K₂CO₃

K₂SO₄

KNO₃

KOH

KSCN

KClO₄

Problem areas in solid state chemistry

reacts violently with H₂O

hygroscopic

soluble in H₂O, hygroscopic

soluble in H₂O, hygroscopic

soluble in H₂O

soluble in H₂O

oxidant

exothermic reaction with H₂O, reacts violently with metals and halogens

soluble in H₂O

strong oxidiser, decomposes to KCl and O₂ upon heating



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Calcium Ca

Ca: [Ar]4s²

Atomic number	20
Rel. atomic mass	40.078 g/mol
Melting point	842 °C
Boiling point	1484 °C
Density	1.55 g/cm ³

Chemical composition

CaCO₃

Mineral name

Calcite



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Starting materials

Ca (metal)

CaO

Ca(OH)₂

CaCO₃ (calcite)

CaCl₂·6H₂O

CaF₂

Ca(NO₃)₂·4H₂O

CaSO₄·2H₂O

Problem areas in solid state chemistry

intense reaction with water, prone to oxidation

reacts with water to Ca(OH)₂, picks up CO₂

reacts with CO₂ to form CaCO₃

insoluble in water, decomposes to CaO at 900 °C

soluble in water

prone to defect formation

oxidant

hygroscopic, little soluble in water

Scandium Sc

Sc: $[\text{Ar}]3d^14s^2$

Atomic number	21
Rel. atomic mass	44.955908 g/mol
Melting point	1541 °C
Boiling point	2730 °C
Density	2.985 g/cm ³

Chemical composition

$(\text{Sc},\text{Y})_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_7$

Mineral name

Thortveitite



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Starting materials

Problem areas in solid state chemistry

Sc (metal)	flammable
Sc_2O_3	low reactivity
ScF_3	toxic
ScCl_3	hygroscopic
$\text{Sc}(\text{NO}_3)_3 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$	oxidant
$\text{Sc}_2(\text{SO}_4)_3 \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$	soluble in water
$\text{Sc}_2(\text{C}_2\text{O}_4)_3 \cdot x\text{H}_2\text{O}$	-

Titanium Ti

Ti: $[\text{Ar}]3d^24s^2$

Atomic number	22
Rel. atomic mass	47.867 g/mol
Melting point	1668 °C
Boiling point	3260 °C
Density	4.50 g/cm ³

Chemical composition

FeTiO_3

Mineral name

Ilmenit



Starting materials

Problem areas in solid state chemistry

Ti (metal)

insoluble in water

TiO_2 (anatase)

low reactivity

TiBr_4

reacts violently with water

$\text{Ti}(\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3)_4$

flammable, irritand (Titanium(IV)-butoxide)

TiCl_2

spontaneously combustable, heavy reaction with water,
to handle under inter gas

TiCl_3

flammable, avoid the contact with air, high reactivity

Vanadium V

V: $[\text{Ar}]3d^34s^2$

Atomic number	23
Rel. atomic mass	50.9415 g/mol
Melting point	1910 °C
Boiling point	3407 °C
Density	6.11 g/cm ³

Chemical composition

$\text{Pb}_5(\text{VO}_4)_3\text{Cl}$

Mineral name

Vanadinite



Source: Didier Descouens

Starting materials

V (metal)

V_2O_5

KVO_3

NH_4VO_3

VCl_3

$\text{VOSO}_4 \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$

Problem areas in solid state chemistry

oxidises slowly to green vanadium oxide

water soluble, incompatible with strong acids

water soluble, decomposes to V_2O_5

water soluble, decomposes to V_2O_5

hydrolysis in water

soluble in water, melts at 105 °C



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Chromium Cr

Cr: [Ar]3d⁴4s²

Atomic number	24
Rel. atomic mass	51.9961 g/mol
Melting point	1907 °C
Boiling point	2482 °C
Density	7.14 g/cm³

Chemical composition

PbCrO₄

Mineral name

Crocoite



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Starting materials

Problem areas in solid state chemistry

Cr (metal)	oxidises slowly to green chromium oxide
CrO₂ (Chrom(IV)-oxide)	water soluble, toxic, instable, irritant
CrO₃ (Chrome(VI)-oxide)	water soluble, toxic, instable, irritant
Cr₂O₃ (Chrome(III)-oxide)	insoluble in water and diluted acids, melting point 2435 °C
Cr₂(SO₄)₃·H₂O	corrosive
CrCl₃·6H₂O	corrosive
Cr(NO₃)₃·9H₂O	oxidising material, not compliable to reducing agents, inaccurate composition

Manganese Mn

Mn: $[\text{Ar}]3d^54s^2$

Atomic number	25
Rel. atomic mass	54.938044 g/mol
Melting point	1246 °C
Boiling point	2100 °C
Density	7.43 g/cm ³

Chemical composition

$\gamma\text{-MnO}(\text{OH})_2$

Mineral name

Manganite



Starting materials

Problem areas in solid state chemistry

Mn (metal)

oxidises slowly to green manganese oxide Micro crystalline powder of MnO₂
(Source: Jan-Niklas Keil, RG TOM)

MnO₂

decomposes chlorides and reducing agents

MnO

insoluble in water, dissolves in acids and NH₄Cl

Mn₂O₃

irritant

Mn₃O₄

insoluble in water, melts at 1705 °C

MnCl₂·4H₂O

soluble in water, not compliable to alkaline materials

MnCO₃

decomposes in acids

Mn(ClO₄)·xH₂O

strong oxidiser, explosive

Iron Fe

Fe: [Ar]3d⁶4s²

Atomic number	26
Rel. atomic mass	55.845 g/mol
Melting point	1538 °C
Boiling point	2862 °C
Density	7.874 g/cm ³

Chemical composition

Fe₃O₄

Mineral name

Magnetite

Starting materials

Fe (metal)

FeO

Fe₃O₄

Fe₂O₃

FeF₃

FeCl₂

FeCl₃

Problem areas in solid state chemistry

flammable, insoluble in water

non-stoichiometric

intolerance with strong acids and peroxides

intolerance with strong acids and peroxides

intolerance with strong bases, corrosive

air-sensitive, intolerance with strong oxidants and sodium/potassium

intolerance with alkali metals and strong oxidants



Cobalt Co

Co: $[\text{Ar}]3d^74s^2$

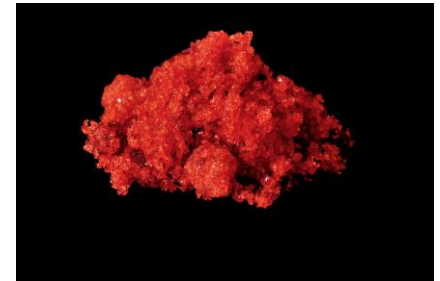
Atomic number	27
Rel. atomic mass	58.933194 g/mol
Melting point	1495 °C
Boiling point	2900 °C
Density	8.9 g/cm ³

Chemical composition

CoAsS

Mineral name

Cobaltite



Micro crystalline powder of
 $\text{Co}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$

(Source: Danuta Dutczak, RG TOM)

Starting materials

Problem areas in solid state chemistry

Co (metal)

flammable, reacts facilitated with acids (hydrogen created)

CoO

low solubility in water, toxic, intolerance with strong oxidants

Co₃O₄

low solubility in water, toxic, intolerance with reducing agents

CoF₃

corrosive, intolerance to organic materials and reductive agents

Co(NO₃)₂·6H₂O

soluble in water, oxidising

Co(CH₃COO)₂

soluble in water, toxic

Nickel Ni

Ni: $[\text{Ar}]3d^84s^2$

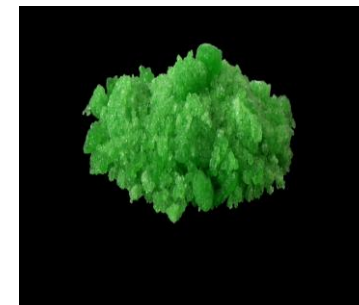
Atomic number	28
Rel. atomic mass	58.6934 g/mol
Melting point	1455 °C
Boiling point	2730 °C
Density	8.908 g/cm ³

Chemical composition

$(\text{Ni,Fe})_9\text{S}_8$

Mineral name

Pentlandite



Micro crystalline powder of NiCl_2
(Source: Danuta Dutczak, RG TOM)

Starting materials

Ni (metal)

NiO

$\text{Ni}(\text{OH})_2$

NiCl_2

NiBr_2

$\text{Ni}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$

Problem areas in solid state chemistry

toxic, intolerance with oxygen, hydrogen, acids, fluor,
org. solvents and aluminium

toxic, insoluble in water, intolerance with strong acids

toxic, intolerance with strong acids

toxic, soluble in water, intolerance with peroxides

toxic, intolerance with strong acids and oxidising agents

toxic, intolerance with org. materials, metal powder strong
reducing agents

Copper Cu

Cu: [Ar]3d¹⁰4s¹

Atomic number	29
Rel. atomic mass	63.546 g/mol
Melting point	1455 °C
Boiling point	2730 °C
Density	8.92 g/cm ³

Chemical composition

CuFeS₂

Mineral name

Chalcopyrite

Starting materials

Problem areas in solid state chemistry

Cu (metal)	soft metal, difficult to mill
Cu ₂ O	toxic, instable in water
CuO	toxic, insoluble in water
Cu(OH) ₂	toxic, intolerance with strong acids
CuCl ₂	toxic, soluble in water
Cu(NO ₃) ₂ ·6H ₂ O	toxic, decomposes to CuO upon heating
CuSO ₄	emetic, decomposes to CuO and SO ₃ above 340 °C
CuSO ₄ ·5H ₂ O	decomposes to CuSO ₄ ·3H ₂ O at 95 °C & to CuSO ₄ ·H ₂ O at 116 °C



Zinc Zn

Zn: [Ar]3d¹⁰4s²

Atomic number	30
Rel. atomic mass	65.38 g/mol
Melting point	420 °C
Boiling point	907 °C
Density	7.14 g/cm ³

Chemical composition

ZnS

Mineral name

Sphalerite



Starting materials

Problem areas in solid state chemistry

Zn (metal)

prone to oxidation

ZnO

dissolves in strong acids and bases

Zn(OH)₂

dissolves in strong bases

ZnS

decomposes in strong acids

Zn(NO₃)₂

decomposes to ZnO upon heating

ZnSO₄

decomposes to ZnO, O₂, and SO₃ above 680 °C

ZnSO₄·7H₂O

decomposes to ZnSO₄·6H₂O at 39 °C, to CuSO₄·H₂O at 70 °C, and then to ZnSO₄ at 240 °C

Gallium Ga

Ga: [Ar]3d¹⁰4s²4p¹

Atomic number	31
Rel. atomic mass	69.723 g/mol
Melting point	30 °C
Boiling point	2204 °C
Density	5.91 g/cm ³

Chemical composition

Ga(OH)₃

Mineral name

Soehngeite

Starting materials

Ga (metal)

Ga₂O₃

Ga(OH)₃

GaF₃

GaCl₃

Ga(NO₃)₃

Ga₂(SO₄)₃

Problem areas in solid state chemistry

prone to oxidation melts at 30 °C

dissolves in strong acids and bases

decomposes to GaO(OH) at 170 °C

insoluble in water, sublimates at 800 °C

reacts heavily with water

decomposes to Ga₂O₃ at 110 °C

decomposes to Ga₂O₃ and SO₃



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Germanium Ge

Ge: $[\text{Ar}]3d^{10}4s^24p^2$

Atomic number	32
Rel. atomic mass	72.64 g/mol
Melting point	938 °C
Boiling point	2820 °C
Density	5.32 g/cm ³

Chemical composition

$\text{Cu}_{26}\text{Fe}_4\text{Ge}_4\text{S}_3$

Mineral name

Germanite



Starting materials

Problem areas in solid state chemistry

Ge (metal)

prone to oxidation

GeO_2

dissolves in strong bases

GeF_4

gaseous compound

GeCl_4

colourless liquid, reacts heavily with water

K_2GeF_6

soluble in hot water

$\text{Bi}_4\text{Ge}_3\text{O}_{12}$

insoluble, very stable oxide, shows strong scintillation

Arsenic As

As: $[\text{Ar}]3d^{10}4s^24p^3$

Atomic number	33
Rel. atomic mass	77.92 g/mol
Melting point	615 °C (sublimes)
Triple point	817 °C (at 3.63 MPa)
Density	5.73 g/cm ³

Chemical composition

As_4S_4

Mineral name

Realgar



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Starting materials

Problem areas in solid state chemistry

As

As_4

sublimes at moderate temperature

As_2O_3

hydrolysis to arsenious acid

AsH_3

highly toxic gas (precursor for MOCVD of semiconductors)

As_2S_3

melts at 320 °C

As_2S_5

decomposes to As_2S_3 and Sulphur at 100 °C

Selenium Se

Se: [Ar]3d¹⁰4s²4p⁴

Atomic number	34
Rel. atomic mass	78.97 g/mol
Melting point	221 °C
Boiling point	685 °C
Density	4.19 g/cm ³ (grey Se)

Chemical composition

CuSe₂

Mineral name

Krutaite

Starting materials

Se (grey)

SeO₂

SeO₃

K₂SeO₄

Problem areas in solid state chemistry

-

dissolves in water to form selenous acid H₂SeO₃

dissolves in water to form selenic acid H₂SeO₄

dissolves in water



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Bromine Br

Br: $[\text{Ar}]3d^{10}4s^24p^5$

Atomic number	35
Rel. atomic mass	79.904 g/mol
Melting point	-7 °C
Boiling point	59 °C
Density	3.14 g/cm ³

Chemical composition

$\text{MgBr}_2 \cdot \text{KBr} \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$

Mineral name

Bromine carnallite

Starting materials

Br_2 (liquid)

NaBr

KBr

RbBr

CsBr

KBrO_3

Problem areas in solid state chemistry

smelly liquid, high vapor pressure

melts at 755 °C

melts at 732 °C

melts at 682 °C, hygroscopic

melts at 636 °C, hygroscopic

strong oxidiser, melts at 350 °C, decomposes at 370 °C



Source: Pavel M. Kartashov

Rubidium Rb

Rb: [Kr]5s¹

Atomic number	37
Rel. atomic mass	85.468 g/mol
Melting point	39 °C
Boiling point	688 °C
Density	1.53 g/cm ³

Chemical composition

RbCl

Mineral name

by-component
in Carnallite



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Starting materials

Rb (metal)

RbCl

Rb₂CO₃

Rb₂SO₄

RbNO₃

RbOH

RbClO₄

Problem areas in solid state chemistry

reacts violently with H₂O

soluble in H₂O, hygroscopic

soluble in H₂O

soluble in H₂O

oxidant, soluble in H₂O

exothermic reaction with H₂O, reacts violently with
metals and halogens

strong oxidiser, decomposes to RbCl and O₂ upon heating

Strontium Sr

Sr: [Kr]5s²

Atomic number	38
Rel. atomic mass	87.62 g/mol
Melting point	777 °C
Boiling point	1412 °C
Density	2.63 g/cm ³

Chemical composition

SrCO₃

Mineral name

Strontianite

Starting materials

Sr (metal)

SrCO₃

SrCl₂·6H₂O

SrF₂

Sr(NO₃)₂·4H₂O

SrO

SrSO₄

Problem areas in solid state chemistry

intense reaction with water, prone to oxidation

insoluble in water, decomposes to SrO at 1270 °C

soluble in water

prone to defect formation

oxidant, may pick up some water

reacts with water to Sr(OH)₂, picks up CO₂, melts at 2430 °C

insoluble in water, decomposes to SrO, SO₂ and O₂ at 1300 °C



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Yttrium Y

Y: [Kr]4d¹5s²

Atomic number	39
Rel. atomic mass	88.62 g/mol
Melting point	1523 °C
Boiling point	3337 °C
Density	4.47 g/cm ³

Chemical composition

YPO₄

Mineral name

Xenotime



Micro crystalline powder of YPO₄:Bi
(Source: FH Münster, RG TOM)

Starting materials

Problem areas in solid state chemistry

Y (metal)

reaction with water to Y(OH)₃, prone to oxidation

Y₂O₃

insoluble in water and diluted acids, refractive index n_D = 1.93

YF₃

prone to defect formation

YCl₃

water soluble and hydrolysis towards [Y(H₂O)₈]³⁺

YBr₃

water soluble and hydrolysis towards [Y(H₂O)₈]³⁺

Y(NO₃)₃·6H₂O

oxidant, may pick up additional water

Y(acetate)₃

decomposes at 400 °C to Y₂O₃

Y₂(C₂O₄)₃·xH₂O

decomposes at 400 °C to Y₂O₃

Zirconium Zr

Zr: [Kr]4d²5s²

Atomic number	40
Rel. atomic mass	91.224 g/mol
Melting point	1855 °C
Boiling point	4377 °C
Density	6.52 g/cm ³

Chemical composition

ZrSiO₄

Mineral name

Zircon



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Starting materials

Zr (metal)
ZrO₂
ZrF₄
ZrCl₄
ZrBr₄
Zr(SO₄)₂·4H₂O
Zr(NO₃)₄·5H₂O
ZrSiO₄
ZrOCl₂·8H₂O
(ZrO)₂(OH)₂CO₃

Problem areas in solid state chemistry

dissolves in HCl and H₂SO₄, especially if fluoride is present
insoluble in water and conc. acids, high melting point ~ 2715 °C
hydrolysis in water, prone to defect formation
hydrolysis readily to give ZrOCl₂
hydrolysis readily to give ZrOBr₂
decomposes to give Zr(SO₄)₂ at 380 °C
soluble in water and ethanol
insoluble, highly refractive and shows birefringence
soluble in water and ethanol
soluble in water and ethanol

Niobium Nb

Nb: [Kr]4d⁴5s¹

Atomic number	41
Rel. atomic mass	92.91 g/mol
Melting point	2477 °C
Boiling point	4744 °C
Density	8.57 g/cm ³

Chemical composition

(Fe,Mn)Nb₂O₆

Mineral name

Columbit



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Starting materials

Nb (metal)

Nb₂O₅

NbF₅

NbCl₅

NbBr₅

NbC

Nb(OC₂H₅)₅

Problem areas in solid state chemistry

stable due to passivation but dissolves in HNO₃ and conc. H₂SO₄

insoluble in water

hydrolysis in water, prone to defect formation

hydrolysis readily to give Nb₂O₅, decomposes at 208 °C

dissolves in EtOH, hydrolysis readily to give Nb₂O₅

oxidation at temperatures higher than 800 °C

decomposes to give Nb₂O₅

Molybdenum Mo

Mo: [Kr]4d⁵5s¹

Atomic number	42
Rel. atomic mass	95.951 g/mol
Melting point	2617 °C
Boiling point	4825 °C
Density	10.28 g/cm ³

Chemical composition

CaMoO₄

Mineral name

Powellite



Source: Wikipedia, Rob Lavinsky

Starting materials

Mo (metal)

MoO₃

MoS₂

MoCl₄

MoCl₅

CaMoO₄

(NH₄)₂MoO₄

Problem areas in solid state chemistry

oxidation begins at 300 °C

little soluble in water and starts to sublime at 700 °C

stable in inert atmosphere, oxidises in air at 315 °C to MoO₃

hydrolysis readily to give MoO₂

very hygroscopic solid

little soluble in water

decomposes to polymolybdates upon NH₃ loss

Ruthenium Ru

Ru: [Kr]4d⁷5s¹

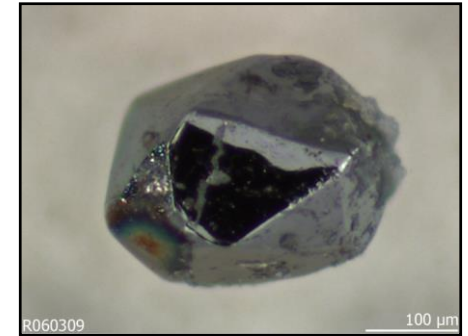
Atomic number	44
Rel. atomic mass	101.07 g/mol
Melting point	2310 °C
Boiling point	4150 °C
Density	12.37 g/cm ³

Chemical composition

RuS₂

Mineral name

Laurite



Source: Mindat.org

Starting materials

Ru (metal)

RuO₂

RuO₄

RuS₂

RuSe₂

RuCl₂

RuCl₃

[Ru(dmsO)₄Cl₂]

Problem areas in solid state chemistry

oxidation begins at 300 °C → RuO₂

very little soluble, little reactivity

instable gas, strong oxidizer → RuO₂ + O₂

stable

catalytically active, reduces oxygen

yields acidic solutions due to hydrolysis

soluble in acetonitrile, acetone, nitromethane



Rhodium Rh

Rh: [Kr]4d⁸5s¹

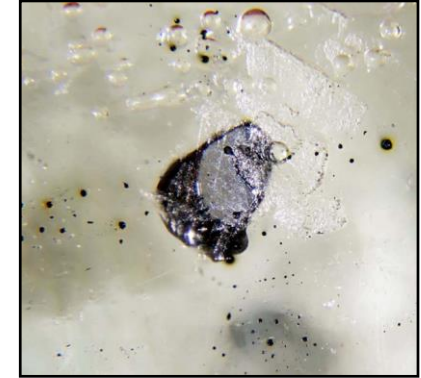
Atomic number	45
Rel. atomic mass	102.9055 g/mol
Melting point	1964 °C
Boiling point	3727 °C
Density	12.38 g/cm ³

Chemical composition

Rh₁₇S₂₅

Mineral name

MIASSITE



Source: Wikipedia, David Hospital

Starting materials

Problem areas in solid state chemistry

Rh (metal)	oxidation begins at 300 °C → RuO ₂
Rh ₂ O ₃	very little soluble, little reactivity
RhO ₂	instable gas, strong oxidizer → RuO ₂ + O ₂
Rh ₂ S ₃	stable
RhF ₃	very reactive solid
RhF ₆	strongly oxidising, attacks glass
RhCl ₃	decomposes at 800 °C to Rh and Cl ₂
Rh ₂ (acetate) ₄	catalytically active, soluble in polar solvents, also in water

Palladium Pd

Pd: [Kr]4d⁸5s²

Atomic number	46
Rel. atomic mass	106.42 g/mol
Melting point	1555 °C
Boiling point	2960 °C
Density	11.99 g/cm ³

Chemical composition

PdSe₂

Mineral name

Verbeekite



Source: Natural History Museum

Starting materials

Problem areas in solid state chemistry

Pd (metal)	stable, dissolves in HNO ₃ and O ₂ containing HCl
PdO	black powder, decomposes at 750 °C to yield Pd metal
PdO ₂	decomposes at 200 °C to yield PdO
PdS	brown and insoluble powder
PdS ₂	contains disulphide bonds
PdF ₂	insoluble powder
PdF ₄	strongly oxidising and undergoes rapid hydrolysis in moist air
Pd(NO ₃) ₂	oxidative agent

Silver Ag

Ag: [Kr]4d¹⁰5s¹

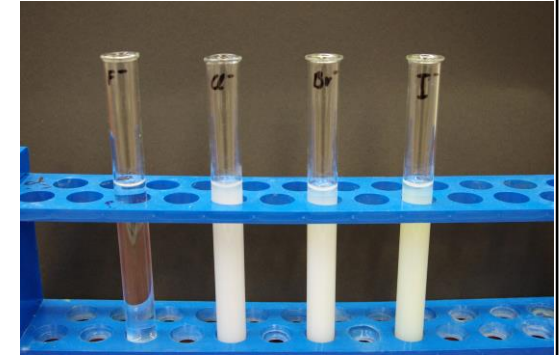
Atomic number	47
Rel. atomic mass	107.87 g/mol
Melting point	962 °C
Boiling point	2210 °C
Density	10.49 g/cm ³

Chemical composition

Ag₂S

Mineral name

Argentite



Source: Elke Ungruhe, RG TOM

Starting materials

Problem areas in solid state chemistry

Ag (metal)	stable, can be dissolved in HNO ₃ or O ₂ containing cyanid solution
AgNO ₃	oxidative agent, easily soluble in water
AgCl	white powder, darkens on exposure to light due to Ag formation
AgBr	bright yellow powder, darkens on exposure to light
AgI	yellow powder, darkens on exposure to light
Ag ₂ S	black powder, very insoluble
Ag ₂ O	dark brown powder, decomposes at 280 °C, not light sensitive
AgN ₃	instable, explosive

Cadmium Cd

Cd: [Kr]4d¹⁰5s²

Atomic number	48
Rel. atomic mass	112.41 g/mol
Melting point	321 °C
Boiling point	765 °C
Density	8.65 g/cm ³

Chemical composition

CdO

Mineral name

Monteponite



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Micro crystalline powder of CdSe

Starting materials

Problem areas in solid state chemistry

Cd (metal)

surface oxidises, insoluble in alkaline solution, soluble in HNO₃

Cd(NO₃)₂

white, hygroscopic powder, decomposes upon heating to CdO

CdO

yellow to black powder, insoluble in water, soluble in ammonia

CdF₂

highly toxic, cancerogenous, decomposes at 1000 °C

CdCl₂

hygroscopic, easily soluble in water, absorbs H₂S

CdBr₂

very hygroscopic, forms a mono and tetrahydrate

CdI₂

stable white platelets

CdSO₄

decomposes at 827 °C

Indium In

In: [Kr]4d¹⁰5s²5p¹

Atomic number	49
Rel. atomic mass	114.82 g/mol
Melting point	157 °C
Boiling point	2072 °C
Density	7.31 g/cm ³

Chemical composition

In₂O₃

Mineral name

-



Micro crystalline powder of In₂O₃
(Source: Jan-Niklas Keil, RG TOM)

Starting materials

Problem areas in solid state chemistry

In (metal)

passivation by the formation of an In₂O₃ layer

In₂O₃

yellow insoluble semiconductor

In(OH)₃

little soluble in water, decomposes at 150 °C

InF₃

insoluble in water, melts at 1170 °C

InCl₃

soluble in water and ethanol, melts at 586 °C

InN

decomposes at 300 °C

Tin Sn

Sn: $[\text{Kr}]4d^{10}5s^25p^2$

Atomic number	50
Rel. atomic mass	118.71 g/mol
Melting point	232 °C
Boiling point	2620 °C
Density	7.27 g/cm ³ (β-Sn)

Chemical composition

SnO₂

Mineral name

Kassiterite



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Starting materials

Problem areas in solid state chemistry

Sn (metal)

passivation by the formation of a stable SnO₂ layer

Sn pellets

SnO

insoluble in water, melts at 1080 °C

SnO₂

very insoluble, melts at 1630 °C

SnF₂

well soluble in water, melts at 213 °C

SnCl₂

well soluble in water, melts at 246 °C

SnCl₄

hydrolysis in water

SnSO₄

well soluble in water, decomposes at 378 °C

Antimony Sb

Sb: [Kr]4d¹⁰5s²5p³

Atomic number	51
Rel. atomic mass	121.76 g/mol
Melting point	631 °C
Boiling point	1635 °C
Density	6.7 g/cm ³

Chemical composition

Sb₂S₃

Mineral name

Stibnite



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Starting materials

Problem areas in solid state chemistry

Sb (metal)

stable against air and water

Sb₂O₃

insoluble in water, melts at 655 °C

Sb₂O₅

insoluble in water, decomposes at 380 °C

Sb₂S₃

insoluble in water, melts at 550 °C

SbF₃

highly soluble in water, melts at 292 °C

SbCl₃

well soluble in water, melts at 73 °C

SbBr₃

decomposes in water, melts at 97 °C

SbI₃

decomposes in water, melts at 170 °C

Tellurium Te

Te: [Kr]4d¹⁰5s²5p⁴

Atomic number	52
Rel. atomic mass	127.60 g/mol
Melting point	722.66 °C
Boiling point	1261 °C
Density	6.24 g/cm ³

Chemical composition

Ag₃AuTe₂
AgAuTe₄

Mineral name

Petzite
Sylvanite



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Starting materials

Te (metal)

TeO₂

Te(OH)₆

H₂TeO₃

Problem areas in solid state chemistry

stable against air and water

barely soluble in water, soluble in strong acids and hydroxides

decomposes to β-TeO₃

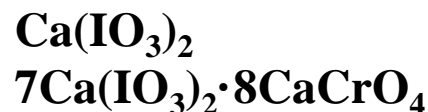
metastable

Iodine I

I: $[\text{Kr}]4d^{10}5s^25p^5$

Atomic number	53
Rel. atomic mass	126.90 g/mol
Melting point	113.7 °C
Boiling point	184.3 °C
Density	4.93 g/cm ³

Chemical composition



Mineral name

Lautarite
Dietzeite



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Starting materials

I_2 (solid)

LiI

NaI

KI

MgI_2

Problem areas in solid state chemistry

highly volatiel, reacts with metals to volatile iodides

solid state electrolyte, soluble in water, ethanol propanol, ammonia, ethanediol

hygroscopi, soluble in water, ethanol and acetone

slowly oxidises in O_2/CO_2 to K_2CO_3 , forms with Iodine KI_3

soluble in water, methanol, ether, ammonia

Xenon Xe

Xe: [Xe]

Atomic number	54
Rel. atomic mass	131.29 g/mol
Melting point	-111.7 °C
Boiling point	-108 °C
Density	5.898 kg/m ³ at 273.15 K

Chemical composition

XeF₂

Mineral name

-



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White crystals of XeF₂

Starting materials

Xe (gas)

XeF₂

XeF₄

XeF₆

XeO₂

XeO₃

XeO₄

Problem areas in solid state chemistry

inert, reacts in discharges with halides or oxygen

hydrolysis in H₂O, etchant for Si

hydrolysis in H₂O to XeO₃ and Xe

hydrolysis in H₂O to XeO₃

very instable, present in Martian quartz crystals

strong oxidant, prone to violent explosion

strong oxidant, very prone to explosion

Caesium Cs

Cs: [Xe]6s¹

Atomic number	55
Rel. atomic mass	132.91 g/mol
Melting point	28.5 °C
Boiling point	671 °C
Density	1.93 g/cm ³

Chemical composition

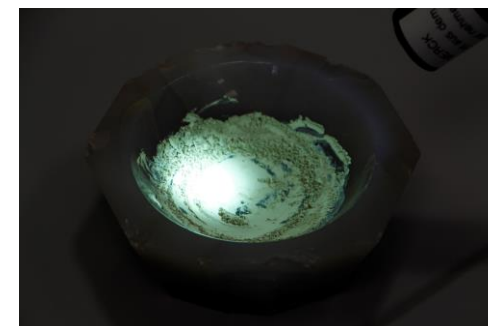
Mineral name

Cs

Starting materials

Problem areas in solid state chemistry

Cs (metal)	reacts explosive with H ₂ O
CsF	well soluble in H ₂ O
CsCl	soluble in H ₂ O, hygroscopic
Cs ₂ CO ₃	soluble in H ₂ O
Cs ₂ SO ₄	soluble in H ₂ O
CsNO ₃	oxidant, soluble in H ₂ O
CsOH	exothermic reaction with H ₂ O, reacts violently with metals and halogens
CsClO ₄	strong oxidiser, decomposes to CsCl and O ₂ upon heating



Micro crystalline powder of CsVO₃ upon 395 nm excitation (Source: Dr. David Enseling, RG TOM)

Barium Ba

Ba: [Xe]6s²

Atomic number	56
Rel. atomic mass	137.33 g/mol
Melting point	727 °C
Boiling point	1897 °C
Density	3.62 g/cm ³

Chemical composition

BaCO₃
BaSO₄

Mineral name

Witherite
Baryte

Starting materials

Ba (metal)

BaF₂

BaCl₂

BaCO₃

BaSO₄

Ba(NO₃)₂

Ba(OH)₂

BaO₂

Problem areas in solid state chemistry

reacts lively with H₂O

somewhat soluble in H₂O

soluble in H₂O, hygroscopic

insoluble in H₂O, soluble in acids

insoluble in H₂O (white standard)

oxidant, well soluble in H₂O

exothermic reaction with H₂O, yields strongly alkaline solution

strong oxidiser, decomposes to BaO and O₂ upon heating



Micro crystalline powder of BaSO₄
(Dr. Danuta Dutczak, RG TOM)

Lanthanum La

La: [Xe]6s²5d¹

Atomic number	57
Rel. atomic mass	138.91 g/mol
Melting point	920 °C
Boiling point	3470 °C
Density	6.17 g/cm ³

Chemical composition

(Ce,La,Th,Nd,Y)PO₄
(Ce,La,Y)CO₃F

Mineral name

Monazite
Bastnäsite

Starting materials

La (metal)

LaF₃

LaCl₃

LaBr₃

La₂O₃

La₂(CO₃)₃

La(NO₃)₃·6H₂O

La(OH)₃

LaB₆

Problem areas in solid state chemistry

reacts lively with H₂O

insoluble in H₂O, HCl or HNO₃

well soluble in H₂O, hygroscopic

well soluble in H₂O, hygroscopic

reacts with water to form La(OH)₃

insoluble in H₂O, reacts with phosphate to LaPO₄

mild oxidant, well soluble in H₂O, forms tetrahydrate at 126 °C

exothermic reaction with H₂O, yields strongly alkaline solution

insoluble in water, low work function, thus use as electron emitter



Micro crystalline powder of La₂O₃
(Dr. Danuta Dutczak, RG TOM)

Cerium Ce

Ce: [Xe]6s²5d¹4f¹

Atomic number	58
Rel. atomic mass	140.12 g/mol
Melting point	795 °C
Boiling point	3470 °C
Density	6.77 g/cm ³

Chemical composition

(Ce,La,Th,Nd,Y)PO ₄	Monazite
(Ce,La,Y)CO ₃ F	Bastnäsite
(Ca,Ce,La,Y) ₂ (Al,Fe) ₃ (SiO ₄) ₃ (OH)	Allanite

Mineral name

Starting materials

Ce (metal)

CeF₃

CeCl₃

CeBr₃

Ce₂O₃

CeO₂

Ce(NO₃)₃·6H₂O

Ce(OH)₃

Ce(SO₄)₂

Problem areas in solid state chemistry

reacts with H₂O and ethanol

insoluble in H₂O, soluble in strong acids

well soluble in H₂O, hygroscopic, forms CeCl₃·7H₂O

well soluble in H₂O, ethanol and acetone, hygroscopic

insoluble in water, soluble in acids upon formation of Ce(OH)₃

reacts with CO to form Ce₂O₃

mild oxidant, well soluble in H₂O, forms tetrahydrate at 126 °C

exothermic reaction with H₂O, yields strongly alkaline solution

slightly soluble in water, yellow powder, strong oxidiser



Micro crystalline powder of CeO₂
(Dr. Danuta Dutczak, RG TOM)

Praseodymium Pr

Pr: [Xe]6s²4f³

Atomic number	59
Rel. atomic mass	140.91 g/mol
Melting point	935 °C
Boiling point	3130 °C
Density	6.475 g/cm ³

Chemical composition

(Ce,La,Ca)₉(Fe,Mg)[(OH)₃|SiO₃(OH)|(SiO₄)₆]

Mineral name

Cerite

(Ce,La,Th,Nd,Y)PO₄

Monazite

(Ce,La,Y)CO₃F

Bastnäsite



Micro crystalline powder of Pr₆O₁₁
(Dr. Jan-Niklas Keil, RG TOM)

Starting materials

Problem areas in solid state chemistry

Pr (metal)

reacts with H₂O to form Pr(OH)₃

PrF₃

insoluble in H₂O, soluble in strong acids

PrCl₃

well soluble in H₂O, hygroscopic, forms PrCl₃·7H₂O

PrBr₃

well soluble in H₂O, ethanol and acetone, hygroscopic

Pr₂O₃

insoluble in water, hygroscopic, reacts to Pr(OH)₃

Pr₆O₁₁

insoluble in water, soluble in acids upon formation of Pr(OH)₃

Pr(NO₃)₃·H₂O

80 g/l in in water

Pr₂(SO₄)₃·8H₂O

170 g/l in water

Neodymium Nd

Nd: [Xe]6s²4f⁴

Atomic number	60
Rel. atomic mass	144.24 g/mol
Melting point	1024 °C
Boiling point	3074 °C
Density	7.01 g/cm ³

Chemical composition

(Ce,La,Th,Nd,Y)PO₄
(Ce,La,Y)CO₃F

Mineral name

Monazite
Bastnäsite



Micro crystalline powder of Nd₂O₃
(Dr. Jan-Niklas Keil, RG TOM)

Starting materials

Nd (metal)

NdF₃

NdCl₃

NdBr₃

Nd₂O₃

Nd₂(CO₃)₃·8H₂O

Nd(CH₃COO)₃·4H₂O

Nd₂(SO₄)₃·8H₂O

Problem areas in solid state chemistry

reacts slowly with cold H₂O to
form Pr(OH)₃

insoluble in H₂O, used for the manufacture of fluoride glasses

well soluble in H₂O & ethanol, forms in H₂O upon heating NdOCl

well soluble in H₂O, hygroscopic to form NdBr₃·6H₂O

3 mg/l in water

insoluble in water, dissolves in diluted acids

7.77 g/l in in water, decomposes at 320-430 °C to Nd₂O₂(CO₃)

8 g/l in water, decomposes at 40 °C to Nd₂(SO₄)₃·5H₂O

Samarium Sm

Sm: [Xe]6s²4f⁶

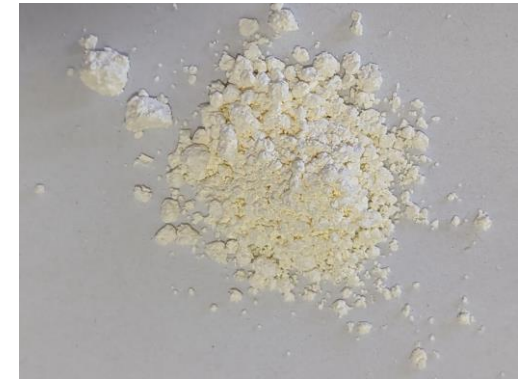
Atomic number	62
Rel. atomic mass	150.36 g/mol
Melting point	1072 °C
Boiling point	1900 °C
Density	7.52 g/cm ³

Chemical composition

(Ce,La,Th,Nd,Y)PO₄
(Ce,La,Y)CO₃F

Mineral name

Monazite
Bastnäsite



Micro crystalline powder of Sm₂O₃
(Dr. Jan-Niklas Keil, RG TOM)

Starting materials

Sm (metal)

Problem areas in solid state chemistry

reacts slowly with cold, quickly with hot H₂O to form Sm(OH)₃

SmF₃

insoluble in H₂O

SmCl₃

well soluble in H₂O & ethanol, hygroscopic

SmBr₃

well soluble in H₂O, hygroscopic, decomposes in water

Sm₂O₃

insoluble in water

Sm(OH)₃

insoluble in water, decomposes to SmO(OH) upon heating

SmB₆

insoluble in water, moderator in fission reactors

Sm(NO₃)₃·6H₂O

well soluble in water, decomposes to SmO(NO₃) at 460 °C

Europium Eu

Eu: [Xe]6s²4f⁷

Atomic number	63
Rel. atomic mass	151.96 g/mol
Melting point	826 °C
Boiling point	1440 °C
Density	5.245 g/cm ³

Chemical composition

YPO₄
(Ce,La,Y)CO₃F

Mineral name

Xenotime
Bastnäsite



Starting materials

Problem areas in solid state chemistry

Eu (metal)

reacts with H₂O to form H₂ and Eu(OH)₃,
oxidises in air to Eu₂O₃

EuF₃

insoluble in H₂O

EuCl₃

well soluble in H₂O, hygroscopic

EuBr₃

well soluble in H₂O, hygroscopic

Eu₂O₃

insoluble in water, can be reduced to Eu₃O₄ and then EuO

Eu(OH)₃

insoluble in water, decomposes to Eu₂O₃ upon heating

Eu₂(SO₄)₃

well soluble in water

Eu(NO₃)₃·6H₂O

well soluble in water

Gadolinium Gd

Gd: [Xe]6s²5d¹4f⁷

Atomic number	64
Rel. atomic mass	157.25 g/mol
Melting point	1312 °C
Boiling point	3000 °C
Density	7.886 g/cm ³

Chemical composition

YPO₄
(Ce,La,Th,Nd,Y)PO₄

Mineral name

Xenotime
Monazite



Starting materials

Problem areas in solid state chemistry

Gd (metal)

reacts with H₂O to form H₂ and Gd(OH)₃^{3'} oxidises in air to Gd₂O₃

Micro crystalline powder of Gd₂O₃
(Dr. Danuta Dutczak, RG TOM)

GdF₃

insoluble in H₂O

GdCl₃

well soluble in H₂O, hygroscopic

GdBr₃

well soluble in H₂O, hygroscopic

GdI₃

well soluble in H₂O, hygroscopic

Gd₂O₃

insoluble in water, decomposes to Gd₂O₃ upon heating

Gd(OH)₃

insoluble in water

Gd(NO₃)₃·6H₂O

well soluble in water

Terbium Tb

Tb: [Xe]6s²4f⁹

Atomic number

65

Rel. atomic mass

158.93 g/mol

Melting point

1356 °C

Boiling point

3123 °C

Density

8.253 g/cm³

Chemical composition

(Y,Ca,Er,La,Ce,U,Th)(Nb,Ta,Ti)₂O₆

(Ce,La,Th,Nd,Y)PO₄

Mineral name

Euxenite

Monazite



Starting materials

Tb (metal)

TbF₃

TbCl₃

TbBr₃

TbI₃

Tb₄O₇

Tb₂(SO₄)₃·8H₂O

Tb(NO₃)₃·6H₂O

Problem areas in solid state chemistry

reacts with H₂O to form H₂ and Tb(OH)₃

insoluble in H₂O

well soluble in H₂O, hygroscopic

well soluble in H₂O, hygroscopic

well soluble in H₂O, hygroscopic

insoluble in water, reacts with atomic Oxygen to dark red TbO₂

well soluble in water

well soluble in water

Micro crystalline powder of Tb₄O₇
(Dr. Danuta Dutczak, RG TOM)

Dysprosium Dy

Dy: [Xe]6s²4f¹⁰

Atomic number	66
Rel. atomic mass	162.50 g/mol
Melting point	1407 °C
Boiling point	2600 °C
Density	8.559 g/cm ³

Chemical composition

(Ce,La,Y)CO₃F
(Ce,La,Th,Nd,Y)PO₄

Mineral name

Bastnäsite
Monazite



Micro crystalline powder of Dy₂O₃
(Dr. Danuta Dutczak, RG TOM)

Starting materials

Dy(metal)

DyF₃

DyCl₃

DyBr₃

DyI₃

Dy₂O₃

Dy₂(SO₄)₃·8H₂O

Dy(NO₃)₃·6H₂O

Problem areas in solid state chemistry

reacts with H₂O to form H₂ and Dy(OH)₃

insoluble in H₂O

well soluble in H₂O, hygroscopic

well soluble in H₂O, hygroscopic

well soluble in H₂O, hygroscopic

insoluble in water

well soluble in water

well soluble in water

Holmium Ho

Ho: [Xe]6s²4f¹¹

Atomic number	67
Rel. atomic mass	164.93 g/mol
Melting point	1461 °C
Boiling point	2600 °C
Density	8.78 g/cm ³

Chemical composition

(Y,Ln)₂FeBe₂O₂(SiO₄)₂
(Ce,La,Th,Nd,Y)PO₄

Mineral name

Gadolinite
Monazite



Starting materials

Problem areas in solid state chemistry

Ho(metal)

reacts with H₂O to form H₂ and Ho(OH)₃

HoF₃

insoluble in H₂O

HoCl₃

well soluble in H₂O, hygroscopic

HoBr₃

well soluble in H₂O, hygroscopic

HoI₃

well soluble in H₂O, hygroscopic

Ho₂O₃

insoluble in water

Ho₂(SO₄)₃·8H₂O

well soluble in water

Ho(NO₃)₃·6H₂O

well soluble in water

Ho(ClO₄)₃

strong oxidiser

Micro crystalline powder of Ho₂O₃
(Dr. Danuta Dutczak, RG TOM)

Erbium Er

Er: [Xe]6s²4f¹²

Atomic number	68
Rel. atomic mass	167.26 g/mol
Melting point	1529 °C
Boiling point	2900 °C
Density	9.07 g/cm ³

Chemical composition

(Y,Ln)₂FeBe₂O₂(SiO₄)₂
(Ce,La,Th,Nd,Y)PO₄

Mineral name

Gadolinite
Monazite



Micro crystalline powder of Er₂O₃
(Dr. Danuta Dutczak, RG TOM)

Starting materials

Er(metal)
ErF₃
ErCl₃
ErBr₃
ErI₃
Er₂O₃
Er₂(SO₄)₃·8H₂O
Er(NO₃)₃·5H₂O
Er₂(C₂O₄)₃

Problem areas in solid state chemistry

reacts with H₂O to form H₂ and Er(OH)₃
insoluble in H₂O
well soluble in H₂O, hygroscopic
well soluble in H₂O, hygroscopic
well soluble in H₂O, hygroscopic
insoluble in water
well soluble in water
well soluble in water
decomposes to form Er₂O₃

Thulium Tm

Tm: [Xe]6s²4f¹³

Atomic number	69
Rel. atomic mass	168.93 g/mol
Melting point	1545 °C
Boiling point	1950 °C
Density	9.32 g/cm ³

Chemical composition

YPO₄
(Ce,La,Th,Nd,Y)PO₄

Mineral name

Xenotime
Monazite



Starting materials

Tm(metal)
TmF₃
TmCl₃
TmBr₃
TmI₃
Tm₂O₃
Tm₂(SO₄)₃·8H₂O
Tm(NO₃)₃·5H₂O
Tm₂(C₂O₄)₃·6H₂O

Problem areas in solid state chemistry

reacts with H₂O to form H₂ and Tm(OH)₃
insoluble in H₂O
well soluble in H₂O, hygroscopic
well soluble in H₂O, hygroscopic
well soluble in H₂O, hygroscopic
insoluble in water
well soluble in water
well soluble in water
decomposes to form Tm₂O₃

Micro crystalline powder of Tm₂O₃
(Dr. Danuta Dutczak, RG TOM)

Ytterbium Yb

Yb: [Xe]6s²4f¹⁴

Atomic number	70
Rel. atomic mass	173.05 g/mol
Melting point	824 °C
Boiling point	1430 °C
Density	6.97 g/cm ³

Chemical composition

(Y,Ln)₂FeBe₂O₂(SiO₄)₂
YPO₄

Mineral name

Gadolinite
Xenotime



Starting materials

Problem areas in solid state chemistry

Yb(metal)

reacts with H₂O to form H₂ and Yb(OH)₃

Micro crystalline powder of Yb₂O₃
(Dr. Danuta Dutczak, RG TOM)

YbF₃

insoluble in H₂O

YbCl₃

well soluble in H₂O, hygroscopic

YbBr₃

well soluble in H₂O, hygroscopic

YbI₃

well soluble in H₂O, hygroscopic

Yb₂O₃

insoluble in water

Yb₂(SO₄)₃·8H₂O

well soluble in water

Yb(NO₃)₃·5H₂O

well soluble in water

Yb₂(C₂O₄)₃·6H₂O

decomposes to form Yb₂O₃

Lutetium Lu

Lu: [Xe]6s²5d¹4f¹⁴

Atomic number	71
Rel. atomic mass	177.97 g/mol
Melting point	1652 °C
Boiling point	3330 °C
Density	9.84 g/cm ³

Chemical composition

(Y,Ln)₂FeBe₂O₂(SiO₄)₂
YPO₄

Mineral name

Gadolinite
Xenotime



Micro crystalline powder of Lu₂O₃
(Dr. Danuta Dutczak, RG TOM)

Starting materials

Problem areas in solid state chemistry

Lu(metal)	reacts with H ₂ O to form H ₂ and Lu(OH) ₃
LuF ₃	insoluble in H ₂ O
LuCl ₃	well soluble in H ₂ O, hygroscopic
LuBr ₃	well soluble in H ₂ O, hygroscopic
LuI ₃	well soluble in H ₂ O, hygroscopic
Lu ₂ O ₃	insoluble in water
Lu ₂ (SO ₄) ₃ ·8H ₂ O	well soluble in water
Lu(NO ₃) ₃ ·5H ₂ O	well soluble in water
Lu(acac) ₃	reacts with bpy/phen to form [Lu(acac) ₃ (bpy)] / [Lu(acac) ₃ (phen)]

Hafnium Hf

Hf: [Xe]6s²5d²4f¹⁴

Atomic number	72
Rel. atomic mass	178.49 g/mol
Melting point	2233 °C
Boiling point	4603 °C
Density	13.28 g/cm ³

Chemical composition

HfSiO₄
ZrSiO₄

Mineral name

Hafnon
Zirkon



Micro crystalline powder of HfO₂
(Julia Exeler, RG TOM)

Starting materials

Problem areas in solid state chemistry

Hf(metal)	reacts upon heating to form HfO ₂
HfO ₂	insoluble in H ₂ O
HfC	insoluble in H ₂ O, very hard, oxidation sets in at about 500 °C
HfN	insoluble in H ₂ O, very hard
HfB ₂	insoluble in H ₂ O, oxidation stable up to 1500 °C
HfF ₄	insoluble in water
HfCl ₄	volatile
HfI ₄	volatile
Ta ₄ HfC ₅	compound with highest melting point ~ 3990 °C

Tantalum Ta

Ta: [Xe]6s²5d³4f¹⁴

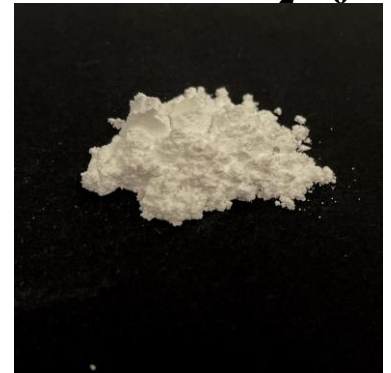
Atomic number	73
Rel. atomic mass	180.95 g/mol
Melting point	3017 °C
Boiling point	5420 °C
Density	16.65 g/cm ³

Chemical composition

Columbit
Tantalit

Mineral name

(Fe,Mn)Nb₂O₆
(Fe,Mn)Ta₂O₆



Micro crystalline powder of Ta₂O₅
(Julia Exeler, RG TOM)

Starting materials

Ta(metal)

Ta₂O₅

LaTaO₄

TaC

TaN

TaF₅

TaCl₅

K₂TaF₇

Problem areas in solid state chemistry

reacts upon heating to form Ta₂O₅

insoluble in H₂O and acids

insoluble in H₂O and acids

insoluble in H₂O, very hard, soluble in conc. HF or H₂SO₄

insoluble in H₂O, very hard, thin film insulator

insoluble in water

volatile, hydrolysis to form TaOCl₃

little soluble in water

Tungsten W

W: [Xe]6s²5d⁴4f¹⁴

Atomic number	74
Rel. atomic mass	183,84 g/mol
Melting point	3422 °C
Boiling point	5930 °C
Density	19.25 g/cm ³

Chemical composition

Scheelite
Wolframite

Mineral name

CaWO₄
(Mn,Fe)WO₄



Micro crystalline powder of WO₃
(Dr. Jan-Niklas Keil, RG TOM)

Starting materials

Problem areas in solid state chemistry

W(metal)	reacts upon heating to form WO ₃
WO ₃	insoluble in H ₂ O
Na ₂ WO ₄	insoluble in H ₂ O
CaWO ₄	insoluble in H ₂ O
PbWO ₄	insoluble in H ₂ O
ZrW ₂ O ₈	insoluble in H ₂ O, very hard, negative thermal expansion
WF ₆	reacts with water to form HF and H ₂ WO ₄
WS ₂	insoluble in H ₂ O
WC	insoluble in H ₂ O, extremely hard