

- A mixture of NaCl (5.0 g) and AgNO₃ (5.0 g) was added to 1.0 L of water. What are the concentrations of Ag⁺(aq), Cl⁻(aq) and Na⁺(aq) ions in solution after equilibrium has been established? $K_{sp}(\text{AgCl}) = 1.8 \times 10^{-10}$.

Marks
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The molar masses of the two salts are:

$$M_{\text{NaCl}} = (22.99 (\text{Na}) + 35.45 (\text{Cl})) \text{ g mol}^{-1} = 58.44 \text{ g mol}^{-1}$$

$$M_{\text{AgNO}_3} = (107.87 (\text{Ag}) + 14.01 (\text{N}) + 3 \times 16.00) \text{ g mol}^{-1} = 169.88 \text{ g mol}^{-1}$$

The number of moles of salt added to the solution are therefore:

$$\text{number of moles of NaCl} = \frac{\text{mass}}{\text{molar mass}} = \frac{5.0}{58.44 \text{ g mol}^{-1}} = 0.0855 \text{ mol}$$

$$\text{number of moles of AgNO}_3 = \frac{5.0}{169.88 \text{ g mol}^{-1}} = 0.0294 \text{ mol}$$

As 1.0 L of water is present, the initial concentrations of the ions are [Na⁺(aq)] = 0.086 M, [Cl⁻(aq)] = 0.086 M and [Ag⁺(aq)] = 0.029 mol. The Na⁺(aq) will form any precipitate with the ions present: [Na⁺(aq)] = 0.086 M.

The ionic product for the precipitation of AgCl(s) is given by:

$$Q_{sp} = [\text{Ag}^+(\text{aq})][\text{Cl}^-(\text{aq})] = (0.029)(0.086) = 0.0025$$

As $Q_{sp} \gg K_{sp}$, precipitation of AgCl(s) will occur. As [Ag⁺(aq)] < [Cl⁻(aq)], the silver ion concentration is limiting and so:

$$[\text{Cl}^-(\text{aq})] = (0.086 - 0.029) \text{ M} = 0.056 \text{ M}$$

As AgCl(s) is present, [Ag⁺(aq)] is given by the solubility product:

$$K_{sp} = [\text{Ag}^+(\text{aq})][\text{Cl}^-(\text{aq})] = 1.8 \times 10^{-10}$$

$$[\text{Ag}^+(\text{aq})] = (1.8 \times 10^{-10}) / (0.056) \text{ M} = 3.2 \times 10^{-9} \text{ M}$$

$$[\text{Ag}^+(\text{aq})] = 3.2 \times 10^{-9} \text{ M}$$

$$[\text{Cl}^-(\text{aq})] = 0.056 \text{ M}$$

$$[\text{Na}^+(\text{aq})] = 0.086 \text{ M}$$