

#### Alais Meteorite (CI chondrite)

### Solid Earth materials: minerals

What is a mineral?

-- a naturally occurring, solid material with a repeating crystal structure and restricted composition

What minerals are there?

- -- 1000's, but most are very rare.
- -- Most abundant at Earth's surface are silicates, salts and oxides



Salts – ionic bonding of cations and anions:

	Simple halides		Halite	≥ Na⁺Cl <sup>_</sup>	
	Complex salts Ca	arbonates	Calcite Aragonite Dolomite	Ca <sup>2+</sup> [CO <sub>3</sub> ] <sup>2-</sup> Ca <sup>2+</sup> [CO <sub>3</sub> ] <sup>2-</sup> Ca <sup>2+</sup> Mg <sup>2+</sup> [CO <sub>3</sub> ] <sup>2-</sup> <sub>2</sub>	
	Su	ulfates	Anhydrite Gypsum	Ca <sup>2+</sup> [SO <sub>4</sub> ] <sup>2–</sup> Ca <sup>2+</sup> [SO <sub>4</sub> ] <sup>2–</sup> .2H <sub>2</sub> O	
Oxides – most common tend to have X <sup>3+</sup> and X <sup>4+</sup> cations (why?):					
	Iron oxides Iron oxy-hydroxi	des	Hematite Goethite	Fe <sup>3+</sup> <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> Fe <sup>3+</sup> O(OH)	
	Aluminum oxy-hydroxides		Diaspore Gibbsite	Al <sup>3+</sup> O(OH) Al <sup>3+</sup> (OH) <sub>3</sub>	
	Manganese oxid	les	Birnessite	X <sup>+,2+</sup> Mn <sup>3+,4+</sup> O <sub>2</sub> .nH <sub>2</sub> O	
Phosphates – rare but important source of nutrient					
	Calcium phosphates		Apatite	Ca <sub>5</sub> [PO <sub>4</sub> ] <sup>3–</sup> <sub>3</sub> (F,OH,Cl)	C C



### Goldich's weathering series



Notice a pattern?

Diagram from Wikipedia

## Solvation and solubility



image from Taxman, Wikimedia

+1, +2, -1 charged ions, & polar molecules participate in polar, Hbonded network of liquid water



image from Railsback, U. Ga.

What happens to elements with stronger ionic potential?

# Solubility "rules" from Introductory Chemistry

### **Solubility Rules**

The following are the solubility rules for common ionic solids. If two rules appear to contradict each other, the preceding rule takes precedence.

1.Salts containing Group I elements (Li<sup>+</sup>, Na<sup>+</sup>, K<sup>+</sup>, Cs<sup>+</sup>, Rb<sup>+</sup>) are soluble. There are few exceptions to this rule. Salts containing the ammonium ion (NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>) are also soluble.

2.Salts containing nitrate ion  $(NO_{3})$  are generally soluble.

3.Salts containing Cl<sup>-</sup>, Br<sup>-</sup>, or l<sup>-</sup> are generally soluble. Important exceptions to this rule are halide salts of Ag<sup>+</sup>, Pb<sup>2+</sup>, and (Hg<sub>2</sub>)<sup>2+</sup>. Thus, AgCl, PbBr<sub>2</sub>, and Hg<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> are insoluble.

4.Most silver salts are insoluble. AgNO<sub>3</sub> and Ag( $C_2H_3O_2$ ) are common soluble salts of silver; virtually all others are insoluble.

5. Most sulfate salts are soluble. Important exceptions to this rule include  $CaSO_4$ ,  $BaSO_4$ ,  $PbSO_4$ ,  $Ag_2SO_4$  and  $SrSO_4$ .

6.Most hydroxide salts are only slightly soluble. Hydroxide salts of Group I elements are soluble. Hydroxide salts of Group II elements(Ca, Sr, and Ba) are slightly soluble. Hydroxide salts of transition metals and Al<sup>3+</sup> are insoluble. Thus, Fe(OH)<sub>3</sub>, Al(OH)<sub>3</sub>, Co(OH)<sub>2</sub> are not soluble.

7.Most oxide salts are insoluble. Important exceptions include Group 1 element oxides (Na<sup>+</sup>, K<sup>+</sup>, etc.) 8.Most sulfides of transition metals are highly insoluble, including CdS, FeS, ZnS, and Ag<sub>2</sub>S. Arsenic, antimony, bismuth, and lead sulfides are also insoluble.

9.Carbonates are frequently insoluble. Group II carbonates (CaCO<sub>3</sub>, SrCO<sub>3</sub>, and BaCO<sub>3</sub>) are insoluble, as are FeCO<sub>3</sub> and PbCO<sub>3</sub>.

10.Chromates are frequently insoluble. Examples include PbCrO<sub>4</sub> and BaCrO<sub>4</sub>.

11.Phosphates such as  $Ca_3(PO_4)_2$  and  $Ag_3PO_4$  are frequently insoluble.

12.Fluorides such as BaF<sub>2</sub>, MgF<sub>2</sub>, and PbF<sub>2</sub> are frequently insoluble.

Also see Monroe and Abrams (1984) A perspective on solubility rules. J. Chem. Ed. V.61 p. 885.



### They tend to disrupt the water – splitting it or agglomerating into separate clusters

Very high ionic potentials can lead to formation of oxy-ions, where the ion "steals" oxygen atoms from water to make its own sheath, e.g.,  $S^{6+} \rightarrow SO_4^{2-}$ 

These oxyions tend to be larger, and have lower charge, and so can be highly soluble (sulfate) or sparingly soluble (phosphate, silicic acid)





Railsback, U. Ga.



EDTA chelate of a metal cation "M"