

4.5: Ionic Compounds

Ionic compounds are formed by balancing charges of ions. In order to determine the formulas of ionic compounds, we need to understand the charges of ions as well as how to balance them when they come together. In a later chapter we will learn why the charges are what they are (in some cases), but for now we want to understand how to determine those charges from some portions of the periodic table, and recognize when a group of atoms has a charge (which is called a polyatomic ion). And for any ionic compound, how to determine the correct formula once you know what the charges are.

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