# The *d*-Block Elements. General properties

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### Why Study Descriptive Chemistry of Transition Metals

- Transition metals are found in nature
  - Rocks and minerals contain transition metals
  - The color of many gemstones is due to the presence of transition metal ions
    - Rubies are red due to Cr
    - Sapphires are blue due to presence of Fe and Ti

 Many biomolecules contain transition metals that are involved in the functions of these biomolecules

- Vitamin B12 contains Co
- Hemoglobin, myoglobin, and cytochrome C contain Fe

### Why Study Descriptive Chemistry of Transition Metals

- Transition metals and their compounds have many useful applications
  - Fe is used to make steel and stainless steel
  - Ti is used to make lightweight alloys
  - Transition metal compounds are used as pigments
    - $TiO_2$  = white
    - $PbCrO_4 = yellow$
    - Fe<sub>4</sub>[Fe(CN)<sub>6</sub>]<sub>3</sub> (prussian blue)= blue
  - Transition metal compounds are used in many industrial processes

## Myoglobin, a protein that stores O<sub>2</sub> in cells



### **Coordination Environment of Fe<sup>2+</sup> in Oxymyoglobin and Oxyhemoglobin**



## Ferrichrome (Involved in Fe transport in bacteria)



# **Periodic Table**



# d-Block Transition Elements



Most have partially occupied d subshells in common oxidation states

| Energy |   |    | <b>4</b> p |    |    |    |  |                |  |
|--------|---|----|------------|----|----|----|--|----------------|--|
|        | 4s  |    |            |    | 3d | 1  |  |                |  |
|        |   |    | Зр         | 11 | 1↓ | 11 |  |                |  |
|        | 3s  | 1↓ |            |    |    |    |  |                |  |
|        |   |    | 2р         | 1↓ | 11 | 1↓ |  |                |  |
|        | 2s  | 1↓ |            | Sc |    |    |  |                |  |
|        | 1s $\uparrow \downarrow$ 1s <sup>2</sup> 2s <sup>2</sup> 2p <sup>6</sup> 3s <sup>2</sup> 3p <sup>6</sup> 3d <sup>1</sup> 4s |    |            |    |    |    |  | s <sup>2</sup> |  |

## **Electronic Configurations**

| Element | Configuration                       |  |  |  |  |
|---------|-------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Sc      | [Ar]3d <sup>1</sup> 4s <sup>2</sup> |  |  |  |  |
| Ti      | [Ar]3d <sup>2</sup> 4s <sup>2</sup> |  |  |  |  |
| V       | [Ar]3d <sup>3</sup> 4s <sup>2</sup> |  |  |  |  |
| Cr      | [Ar]3d <sup>5</sup> 4s <sup>1</sup> |  |  |  |  |
| Mn      | [Ar]3d <sup>5</sup> 4s <sup>2</sup> |  |  |  |  |

# $[Ar] = 1s^2 2s^2 2p^6 3s^2 3p^6$

## **Electronic Configurations**

| Element | Configuration                        |
|---------|--------------------------------------|
| Fe      | [Ar] 3d <sup>6</sup> 4s <sup>2</sup> |
| Со      | [Ar] 3d <sup>7</sup> 4s <sup>2</sup> |
| Ni      | [Ar] 3d <sup>8</sup> 4s <sup>2</sup> |
| Cu      | [Ar]3d <sup>10</sup> 4s <sup>1</sup> |
| Zn      | [Ar]3d <sup>10</sup> 4s <sup>2</sup> |

## $[Ar] = 1s^2 2s^2 2p^6 3s^2 3p^6$

# General Properties of the *d*-Block Elements and Their Trends

- Fourth-period *d*-block elements form ionic bonds with somewhat less ionic character than do the metals of the *s*-block.
- Lower oxidation states (+2, +3) usually correspond to ionic character.
- For Co through Zn, relative energies of the 4s and 3d subshells are such that few (or no) 3d electrons are lost in forming ions.



| Table 22.1 Selected Properties of the d-Block Elements of the Fourth Period |                |            |                |                |                 |                |                |                |               |               |  |
|---|----------------|------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|--|
|   | Sc             | Ti         | V              | Cr             | Mn              | Fe             | Co             | Ni             | Cu            | Zn            |  |
| Atomic number   | 21             | 22         | 23             | 24             | 25              | 26             | 27             | 28             | 29            | 30            |  |
| Electron configuration <sup>a</sup>   | $3d^{1}4s^{2}$ | $3d^24s^2$ | $3d^{3}4s^{2}$ | $3d^{5}4s^{1}$ | $3d^{5}4s^{2}$  | $3d^{6}4s^{2}$ | $3d^{7}4s^{2}$ | $3d^{8}4s^{2}$ | $3d^{10}4s^1$ | $3d^{10}4s^2$ |  |
| Electronegativity   | 1.4            | 1.5        | 1.6            | 1.7            | 1.6             | 1.8            | 1.9            | 1.9            | 1.9           | 1.7           |  |
| Common cations  | 3+             | 2+, 3+     | 2+,3+          | 2+, 3+         | 2+, 3+          | 2+, 3+         | 2+, 3+         | 2 +            | 1+, 2+        | 2+            |  |
| Common positive<br>oxidation numbers <sup>b</sup>                           | 3              | 2, 3, 4    | 2, 3, 4        | 2, 3, 6        | 2, 3, 4<br>6, 7 | 2, 3, 6        | 2, 3           | <b>2</b> , 3   | 1, 2          | 2             |  |
| Atomic radius, pm   | 161            | 145        | 132            | 125            | 124             | 124            | 125            | 125            | 128           | 133           |  |
| $E^{\circ}, V^{c}$  | -2.03          | -1.63      | -1.13          | -0.90          | -1.18           | -0.440         | -0.277         | -0.257         | +0.340        | -0.763        |  |
| Melting point, °C   | 1397           | 1672       | 1710           | 1900           | 1244            | 1530           | 1495           | 1455           | 1083          | 420           |  |
| Density, $g/cm^3$   | 3.00           | 4.50       | 6.11           | 7.14           | 7.43            | 7.87           | 8.90           | 8.91           | 8.95          | 7.14          |  |
| Electrical conductivity <sup>d</sup>  | 3              | 4          | 6              | 12             | 1               | 16             | 25             | 23             | 95            | 27            |  |
| Thermal conductivity <sup>d</sup>   | 4              | 5          | 7              | 22             | 2               | 19             | 23             | 21             | 93            | 27            |  |

<sup>a</sup> Each atom has an argon core configuration.

<sup>b</sup> The most important oxidation numbers are printed in red.

<sup>c</sup> For the reduction  $M^{2+}(aq) + 2e^{-} \longrightarrow M(s)$  [except for Sc, where the ion is  $Sc^{3+}(aq)$ ].

<sup>d</sup> Electrical and thermal conductivities are on an arbitrary scale relative to 100 for silver, the best metallic conductor.

# Some Properties of the Fourth Period *d*-Block

- In the fourth-period *d*-block, only scandium is active enough to displace H<sub>2</sub> from H<sub>2</sub>O.
- These elements have moderate to high melting points and moderately high densities.
- Electrical and thermal conductivities of these elements ar very high. Copper is second only to silver in electrical conductivity.



Fig. 8.1: Trends in melting points of transition elements

# Atomic Radii of the *d*-Block Elements

- Size does not appear to increase significantly between fifth and sixth period elements.
- The electrons in 4*f* orbitals are not very good at screening valence electrons from the nucleus.
- Thus, the strength of attraction of valence electrons to the nucleus is greater than expected in the sixth period. The phenomenon is known as the *lanthanide contraction*.



## **Characteristic properties:**

- <u>Color:</u> The complexes of the d-block metal ions are usually colored, except, very often, those of d<sup>0</sup> and d<sup>10</sup> metal ions. The colors are due to:
  - a) electronic transitions of d-electrons within the d subshell. These are known as  $d \rightarrow d$  transitions.  $d^0$  and  $d^{10}$ metal ions do not show these transitions.
  - b) electronic transitions from the metal ion to the ligand  $(M \rightarrow L \text{ transitions})$  or ligand to the metal ion  $(L \rightarrow M \text{ transitions})$ , which are known as charge-transfer transitions, and these can occur for d<sup>0</sup> to d<sup>10</sup> metal ions.
  - c) The ligands themselves may be colored, and this color may contribute to the color of the complex.

#### **Characteristic properties:**

**Paramagnetism:** When there are unpaired electrons in the d sub-shell, these will lead to paramagnetism. Thus, in  $[Cr(H_2O)_6]^{3+}$  the three d electrons (it is d<sup>3</sup>) are unpaired. Thus, like the O<sub>2</sub> molecule which is paramagnetic, Cr(III) is paramagnetic. A d<sup>10</sup> metal ion (e.g. Zn(II)) has a filled d sub-shell, and a d<sup>0</sup> metal ion (e.g. Ti(IV)) has no d-electrons, so neither of these can be paramagnetic.

Variable oxidation states: Most d-block metal ions display variable oxidation states. Thus, for example, Mn displays oxidation states from Mn(-III) (in  $[Mn(CO)(NO)_3]$ ) through Mn(0) (in  $[Mn_2(CO)_{10}]$ ) to Mn(VII) (in  $[MnO_4]^-$ ).

#### **Oxidation states of first-row d-block ions:**



#### **Oxidation States of Transition Elements**



#### **Electronic Configurations of Transition Metal Ions**

• Electronic configuration of Fe<sup>3+</sup>

- Electronic configuration of Fe<sup>2+</sup>
- $Fe 2e^- \rightarrow Fe^{2+}$  valence ns e<sup>-</sup>'s removed [Ar]3d<sup>6</sup>4s<sup>2</sup> [Ar]3d<sup>6</sup> first

### **Characteristic properties:**

<u>Complex-formation</u>: The d-block metal ions form a wide variety of complexes, of generally high stability, with ligands such as EDTA or F<sup>-</sup>, Cl<sup>-</sup>, and OH<sup>-</sup>, or ethylene diamine (en), as well as many others, much as was the case for the main group metal cations. Many of the d-block metal ions are powerful Lewis acids, as can be seen by comparison with some main group element cations:

| metal ion:                 |     | <b>Al</b> <sup>3+</sup> | <b>Co</b> <sup>3+</sup> |     | Mg <sup>2+</sup> | Zn <sup>2+</sup> |
|----------------------------|-----|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----|------------------|------------------|
| <u>ionic radius (Å):</u>   |     | 0.54                    | 0.55                    |     | 0.74             | 0.74             |
| log K <sub>1</sub> (EDTA): |     | 16.4                    | 41.4                    |     | 8.8              | 16.5             |
| log K₁(OH⁻):               | 8.5 | 13.5                    |                         | 2.6 | 5.0              |                  |

The reason why the d-block cations are such strong Lewis acids will become clear as the course proceeds.

#### **Coordination geometries:**



