NAME_____ SECTION_____

Chemistry 118 Laboratory
University of Massachusetts, Boston

STOICHIOMETRY - LIMITING REAGENT

LEARNING GOALS

1) Obtain hands on experience with the limiting reagent problem
2) Learn how to use a filter to isolate a solid product
3) Appreciate the importance of drying your sample, to obtain an accurate weight of a product
4) Interpret the meaning of an experimentally measured percent yield.

OBJECTIVE

Solutions of calcium chloride and sodium carbonate will be combined in four different ratios and the amount of calcium carbonate produced will be measured. The limiting reagent in each case will be determined and the percent yield calculated.

INTRODUCTION

This experiment is designed to illustrate the relationship between quantities of reactants and the amount of products produced by a chemical reaction. The principles of stoichiometry and limiting reagents will be used to predict the amount of product that should be produced when mixing two solutions to produce an insoluble product. The reaction to be studied is:

$$CaCl_{2(aq)} + Na_2CO_{3(aq)} \rightarrow 2\ NaCl_{(aq)} + CaCO_{3(s)}$$

The balanced chemical equation for this reaction can be expressed in net ionic form as:

$$Ca^{2+}_{(aq)} + CO_3^{2-}{}_{(aq)} \rightarrow CaCO_{3(s)}$$

Because $CaCl_2$ contains one mole of calcium ions per mole of calcium chloride and Na_2CO_3 contains one mole of carbonate ions per mole of sodium carbonate, the reagent with the fewest number of moles will be limiting. Theoretically, for every mole of limiting reagent, a mole of product, $CaCO_3$, should be formed because there is a 1:1 mol ratio between both reactants and $CaCO_3$ in the balance reaction above. This is called the theoretical yield (in

NAME_____ SECTION_____

moles). The theoretical yield (in grams) is obtained by multiplying the theoretical yield in moles by the molar mass of calcium carbonate.

The actual yield of product, obtained by weighing the product, can be compared to the theoretical yield. This comparison, called the percent yield, is calculated as follows:

$$\% \text{ yield} = \frac{\text{actual yield (in grams)}}{\text{theoretical yield (grams)}} \times 100\%$$

PROCEDURE

1. Label four 100 mL beakers which are to hold your reaction mixtures.

2. Using two 250 mL Erlenmeyer flasks, obtain about 100 mL each of the two stock solutions. Label the beakers. Be sure to record the concentrations on the attached data sheet.

3. Rinse a burette with the calcium chloride solution. Fill the burette to between 0.00 and 3.00 mL with the solution. Purging any air bubbles in the tip by draining a small amount of the solution into a beaker. Record the initial burette reading to the hundredths place on the data sheet. Using the approximate volumes listed in Table 1, fill each reaction beaker with solution. Record the actual volume on the data sheet.

4. Rinse the burette with water and then with the sodium carbonate solution. (What happens if you do not first rinse with water?) As above, fill the burette to between 0.00 and 3.00 mL with the solution, purging any air bubbles. Record this value to the hundredths place on the data sheet. Using the approximate volumes listed in Table 1, fill each reaction flask with solution. Record the actual volume on the data sheet. Rinse the burette with water before proceeding.

Table 1

	$CaCl_2$	Na_2CO_3
Reaction #1	25 mL	25 mL
Reaction #2	28 mL	25 mL
Reaction #3	10 mL	25 mL
Reaction #4	25 mL	10 mL

NAME_____ SECTION_____

5. Stir each reaction mixture with a stirring rod. Rinse the rod using a wash bottle containing deionized water, collecting rinsings in the beaker, before transferring to another beaker.

6. The next step will be carried out four times, once for each reaction mixture.

   a) Pre-weigh a piece of filter paper on a watch glass using an analytical balance. Place the watch glasses on a piece of labeled paper so that you can distinguish them. Record the masses on the data sheet.

   b) Using a Buchner funnel and one of your pre-weighed pieces of filter paper, filter the contents of a beaker. Use the spatula and wash bottle to transfer all of the solid into the funnel.

   c) Transfer the filter paper and its contents to the watch glass and dry them under the heat lamp. Place a piece of paper with your name and reaction number under the glass for identification. Check the sample often **making sure the sample doesn't scorch**. While the sample is drying, filter another reaction mixture.

   d) When the contents of the watch glass have dried, weigh the watch glass, paper, and reaction product on the analytical balance previously used. Record all masses on the data sheet. If the product yield exceeds 100%, repeat steps 6c and 6d.

7. Clean all glassware before proceeding with calculations.

8. Complete all calculations and submit them to your laboratory instructor.

NAME_____ SECTION_____

DATA (record units)

for $CaCl_2$	Reaction #1	Reaction #2	Reaction #3	Reaction #4
Concentration **M**				
initial burette reading **mL**				
final burette reading **mL**				
volume delivered **mL**				
for Na_2CO_3	Reaction #1	Reaction #2	Reaction #3	Reaction #4
Concentration **M**				
initial burette reading **mL**				
final burette reading **mL**				
volume delivered **mL**				
	Reaction #1	Reaction #2	Reaction #3	Reaction #4
mass of watchglass + filter paper **(g)**				
mass of watchglass + filter paper + product **(g)**				
mass of product **(g)**				
volumes and masses summary	Reaction #1	Reaction #2	Reaction #3	Reaction #4
Volume of $CaCl_2$				
Volume of Na_2CO_3				
mass of product (actual yield)				

Calculations

	Reaction #1	Reaction #2	Reaction #3	Reaction #4
Moles of Na_2CO_3				
Moles of $CaCl_2$				
Limiting Reagent				
Theoretical Yield (moles)				
Theoretical Yield (mass) **g**				
Percent yield				
Moles of Ca^{2+} in excess				
Moles of CO_3^{2-} in excess				

NAME_____ SECTION_____

THE LAB REPORT

Your lab report will consist of your data sheet (pg 4), a written abstract and answers the two questions that follow. The data sheet is worth 30 pts. Each question is worth 5 points. The abstract is worth 20 points. The following is a grading rubric for the abstract.

Content

- 2 pts All of the key pieces of data discussed.
- 2 pts The data is interpreted correctly.
- 2 pts The conclusions drawn from the data are correct.
- 2 pts It is evident that the student understands the main points of the laboratory experiment.
- 2 pts It is evident that the student was able to connect the learning goals of the experiment with data obtained in the experiment.

Quality of your writing

- 2 pts It is written in complete sentence(s).
- 2 pts The sentences are comprehendible to the reader.
- 2 pts It summarizes the experiment and the result and puts the results in context of the learning goals.
- 2 pts It is an appropriate length; 3-6 sentences.
- 2 pts It is written in the passive voice with no pronouns or phrases such as “In this lab we”.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. This reaction goes to completion and there are no undesirable side reactions that form other products. Given this and based on your percent yields and perhaps some observations made during the course of the experiment, postulate the likely sources of errors that had the most significant impact on your results. (5 pts)

2. How could these errors be minimized if you were to repeat the experiment? (5 pts)