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The general characteristic physical and chemical properties of these compounds are

- (i) They have high melting points which are higher than those of pure metals.
- (ii) They retain metallic conductivity i.e. of pure metals.
- (iii) They are very hard and some borides have hardness as that of diamond.
- (iv) They are chemically inert

Catalytic properties

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Many transition metals and their compounds act as good catalysts for various reactions. Of these, the use of Fe, Co, Ni, V, Cr, Mn, Pt, etc. are very common.

The catalytic property of transition metals is due to their tendency to form reaction intermediates with suitable reactants. These intermediates give reaction paths of lower activation energy and, therefore increase the rate of the reaction.

These reaction intermediates readily decompose yielding the products and regenerating the original substance. The transition metals form these reaction intermediates due to the presence of vacant orbitals or their tendency to form variable oxidation states.

In some cases, the transition metal ions can change their oxidation states and become more effective as catalysts. For example, cobalt salts catalyse decomposition of bleaching powder as cobalt can easily change oxidation state from +2 to +3 as:

$$Co^{2+} + OCl^{-} + H_2O \longrightarrow Co^{3+} + Cl^{-} + 2OH^{-}$$

 $2Co^{3+} + 2OH^{-} \longrightarrow 2Co^{2+} + H_2O + \frac{1}{2}O_2$

Iron (III) also catalyses the reaction between iodide and persulphate ions (S₂O₈²⁻).

Recording

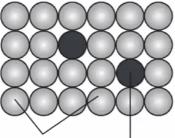
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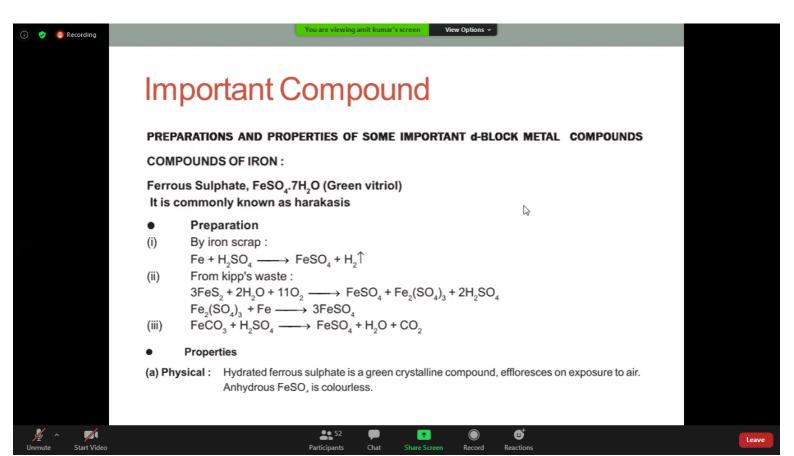
Alloy Formation

Alloys are homogeneous solid solutions in which the atoms of one metal are distributed randomly among the atoms of the other metal. The alloys are generally formed by those atoms which have metallic radii within about 15% of each other. Transition metals form a large number of alloys. The transition metals are quite similar in size and, therefore, the atoms of one metal can substitute the atoms of other metal in its crystal lattice. Thus, on cooling a mixture solution of two or more transition metals, solid alloys are formed. Such alloys are hard, have high melting points and are more resistant to corrosion than parent metals.

For example, the most common known alloys are ferrous alloys. Chromium, manganese, vanadium, tungsten, molybdenum etc. are used to press ESC or double-click to exit full screen mode. Alloys of transition metals with non-transition metals such as bronze (copper-tin), brass (copper-zinc) are also industrially important alloys.



Atoms of metal M Atoms of different metal



Colour of Metal ions

lon	Outer Configuration	Colour of the ion
Sc (III), Ti (IV)	3d ⁰	Colourless
Ti (III)	3d ¹	Purple
V (IV)	3d ¹	Blue
V (III)	3d ²	Green
Cr (III)	3d ³	Green
Mn (III)	3d⁴	Violet
Cr (II)	3d⁴	Blue
Mn (II)	3d⁵	Pink
Fe (III)	3d ⁵	Yellow
Fe (II)	3d ⁶	Green
Co (III)	3d ⁶	Blue
Co (II)	3d ⁷	Pink
Ni (II)	3d ⁸	Green
Cu (II)	3d ⁹	Blue
Cu (I)	3d ¹⁰	Colourless
Zn (II)	3d ¹⁰	Colourless