Using package mhchem we can write chemical formulas like this:  ${\rm SO_4}^{2-},$   ${\rm Na_2\,SO_4}^{2-},$   ${\rm PO_4}^{3-}$ 

 $From \ http://tex.stackexchange.com/questions/52722/can-you-make-chemical-structure-diagrams-in-latex$