

Empirical Formulas of Hydrates

Question One

Cupric chloride, CuCl_2 , when heated to 100°C is dehydrated. If 0.235 g of $\text{CuCl}_2 \cdot x\text{H}_2\text{O}$ gives 0.185 g of CuCl_2 on heating, what is the value of x ?

Molar Masses



CuCl_2 134.452 g/mol

H_2O 18.015 g/mol

Question Two

If potassium aluminum sulfate hydrate, $\text{KAl}(\text{SO}_4)_2 \cdot x \text{H}_2\text{O}$, is heated to 100°C it leaves only $\text{KAl}(\text{SO}_4)_2$. Assume you start with 4.74 g of the hydrated compound and that the sample loses 2.16 g of water.

What is the value of x ?

Molar Masses



$\text{KAl}(\text{SO}_4)_2$ 258.21 g/mol

H_2O 18.015 g/mol

Question Three

If "Epsom salt," $\text{MgSO}_4 \cdot x \text{H}_2\text{O}$ is heated to 250°C , all the water of hydration is lost. Upon heating a 1.687 g sample of the hydrate, 0.824 g of MgSO_4 remains. What is the formula of Epsom salt?

Molar Masses



MgSO_4 120.37 g/mol

H_2O 18.015 g/mol