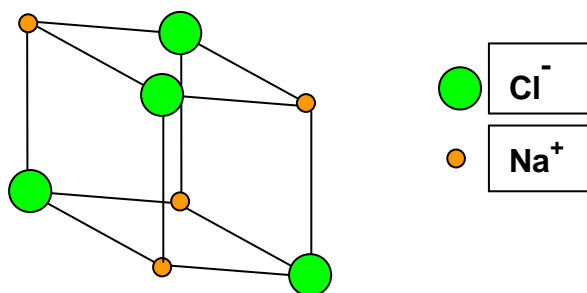


**Formula weight (FW)**, in chemistry, the sum of the atomic weights of all atoms appearing in a given chemical formula. This term is generally applied to a substance that does not consist of individual molecules, such as the ionic compound sodium chloride. Ionic compounds are represented by a chemical formula that describes the simplest ratio of the number of atoms of the constituent elements. Therefore, the difference is not in numerical value but merely terminology.

**Example of an ionic compound:** You are not able to distinguish an individual molecule of NaCl in a part of the crystal.



The NaCl crystal is face centered cubic (fcc) unit cell with the counter ion filling the octahedral holes in the structure.

