## Question:

Magnesium nitride is formed in the reaction of magnesium metal with nitrogen gas in this reaction:

3 Mg(s) + N2(g) Mg3N2(s)

How many grams of product are formed from 2.0 mol of N2 (g) and 8.0 mol of Mg(s)?

## Solution:

$$3Mg(s) + N_2(g) \rightarrow Mg_3N_2(s)$$

1. Determine the limiting reagent:

Actual ratio =  $\frac{8.0 \text{ mol Mg(s)}}{2.0 \text{ mol N}_2} = \frac{4.0}{1.0}$ 

Stoichiometric ratio =  $\frac{3 \mod Mg(s)}{1 \mod N_2(g)} = \frac{3}{1}$ 

Actual ratio is greater than stoichiometric ratio, so N<sub>2</sub>(g) is limiting reagent and Mg(s) is in excess.

2. Find how many moles of the product are formed:

 $n(Mg_3N_2) = n(N_2) = 2.0 \text{ mol}$ 

3. Find how many mass of the product are formed:

 $m(Mg_3N_2) = n(Mg_3N_2) \times M(Mg_3N_2) = 2.0 \text{ mol} \times 100.95 \frac{g}{mol} = 201.9 \text{ g} = 2.0 \times 10^2 \text{g}$ 

## **Explanation of significant digits:**

Moles of  $N_2$  are given with two significant digits (**2.0** mol of  $N_2$  (g)), so the answer have to have two significant digits as well.

201.9 g has four significant digits

 $2.0\times 10^2 {\rm g}$  has two significant digits.

## Answer:

 $2.0 \times 10^2 g Mg_3 N_2$