GENERAL CHEMISTRY II, CEM 1B



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General Chemistry II, Cem 1B

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Detailed Licensing

Licensing

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CHAPTER OVERVIEW

1: Kinetics

Chemical kinetics is the study of rates of chemical processes and includes investigations of how different experimental conditions can influence the speed of a chemical reaction and yield information about the reaction's mechanism and transition states, as well as the construction of mathematical models that can describe the characteristics of a chemical reaction.

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1.1: Introduction

The lizard in the photograph is not simply enjoying the sunshine or working on its tan. The heat from the sun's rays is critical to the lizard's survival. A warm lizard can move faster than a cold one because the chemical reactions that allow its muscles to move occur more rapidly at higher temperatures. A cold lizard is a slower lizard and an easier meal for predators.



Figure 1.1.1: An agama lizard basks in the sun. As its body warms, the chemical reactions of its metabolism speed up.

From baking a cake to determining the useful lifespan of a bridge, rates of chemical reactions play important roles in our understanding of processes that involve chemical changes. Two questions are typically posed when planning to carry out a chemical reaction. The first is: "Will the reaction produce the desired products in useful quantities?" The second question is: "How rapidly will the reaction occur?" A third question is often asked when investigating reactions in greater detail: "What specific molecular-level processes take place as the reaction occurs?" Knowing the answer to this question is of practical importance when the yield or rate of a reaction needs to be controlled.

The study of chemical kinetics concerns the second and third questions—that is, the rate at which a reaction yields products and the molecular-scale means by which a reaction occurs. This chapter examines the factors that influence the rates of chemical reactions, the mechanisms by which reactions proceed, and the quantitative techniques used to describe the rates at which reactions occur.

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1.2: Chemical Reaction Rates

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Define chemical reaction rate
- Derive rate expressions from the balanced equation for a given chemical reaction
- Calculate reaction rates from experimental data

A *rate* is a measure of how some property varies with time. Speed is a familiar rate that expresses the distance traveled by an object in a given amount of time. Wage is a rate that represents the amount of money earned by a person working for a given amount of time. Likewise, the rate of a chemical reaction is a measure of how much reactant is consumed, or how much product is produced, by the reaction in a given amount of time.

The **rate of reaction** is the change in the amount of a reactant or product per unit time. Reaction rates are therefore determined by measuring the time dependence of some property that can be related to reactant or product amounts. Rates of reactions that consume or produce gaseous substances, for example, are conveniently determined by measuring changes in volume or pressure. For reactions involving one or more colored substances, rates may be monitored via measurements of light absorption. For reactions involving aqueous electrolytes, rates may be measured via changes in a solution's conductivity.

For reactants and products in solution, their relative amounts (concentrations) are conveniently used for purposes of expressing reaction rates. For example, the concentration of hydrogen peroxide, H_2O_2, in an aqueous solution changes slowly over time as it decomposes according to the equation:

$$2H_2O_2(aq) \longrightarrow 2H_2O(l) + O_2(g)$$

The rate at which the hydrogen peroxide decomposes can be expressed in terms of the rate of change of its concentration, as shown here:

Erroneous nesting of equation structures

This mathematical representation of the change in species concentration over time is the **rate expression** for the reaction. The brackets indicate molar concentrations, and the symbol delta (Δ) indicates "change in." Thus, $[H_2O_2]_{t_1}$ represents the molar concentration of hydrogen peroxide at some time t_1; likewise, $[H_2O_2]_{t_2}$ represents the molar concentration of hydrogen peroxide at a later time t2; and Δ[H2O2] represents the change in molar concentration of hydrogen peroxide during the time interval Δt (that is, $t_2 - t_1$). Since the reactant concentration decreases as the reaction proceeds, $\Delta [H_2O_2]$ is a negative quantity. Reaction rates are, by convention, positive quantities, and so this negative change in concentration is multiplied by −1. Figure 1.2.1 provides an example of data collected during the decomposition of H_2O_2.

Time (h)	$[H_2O_2]$ (mol L^{-1})	$\Delta[H_2O_2]$ (mol L^{-1})	Δt (h)	Rate of Decomposition, (mol L^{-1} h^{-1})
0.00	1.000			
		−0.500	6.00	0.0833
6.00	0.500			
		−0.250	6.00	0.0417
12.00	0.250			
		−0.125	6.00	0.0208
18.00	0.125			
		−0.062	6.00	0.010
24.00	0.0625			

Figure 1.2.1: The rate of decomposition of H_2O_2 in an aqueous solution decreases as the concentration of H_2O_2 decreases.

To obtain the tabulated results for this decomposition, the concentration of hydrogen peroxide was measured every 6 hours over the course of a day at a constant temperature of 40 °C. Reaction rates were computed for each time interval by dividing the change in concentration by the corresponding time increment, as shown here for the first 6-hour period:

$$\frac{-\Delta\left[H_2O_2\right]}{\Delta t} = \frac{-(0.500mol/L - 1.000mol/L)}{(6.00h - 0.00h)} = 0.0833molL^{-1}h^{-1}$$

Notice that the reaction rates vary with time, decreasing as the reaction proceeds. Results for the last 6-hour period yield a reaction rate of:

$$\frac{-\Delta\left[H_2O_2\right]}{\Delta t} = \frac{-(0.0625mol/L - 0.125mol/L)}{(24.00h - 18.00h)} = 0.010molL^{-1}h^{-1}$$

This behavior indicates the reaction continually slows with time. Using the concentrations at the beginning and end of a time period over which the reaction rate is changing results in the calculation of an **average rate** for the reaction over this time interval. At any specific time, the rate at which a reaction is proceeding is known as its **instantaneous rate**. The instantaneous rate of a reaction at "time zero," when the reaction commences, is its **initial rate**. Consider the analogy of a car slowing down as it approaches a stop sign. The vehicle's initial rate—analogous to the beginning of a chemical reaction—would be the speedometer reading at the moment the driver begins pressing the brakes (t_0). A few moments later, the instantaneous rate at a specific moment—call it t_1—would be somewhat slower, as indicated by the speedometer reading at that point in time. As time passes, the instantaneous rate will continue to fall until it reaches zero, when the car (or reaction) stops. Unlike instantaneous speed, the car's average speed is not indicated by the speedometer; but it can be calculated as the ratio of the distance traveled to the time required to bring the vehicle to a complete stop (Δt). Like the decelerating car, the average rate of a chemical reaction will fall somewhere between its initial and final rates.

The instantaneous rate of a reaction may be determined one of two ways. If experimental conditions permit the measurement of concentration changes over very short time intervals, then average rates computed as described earlier provide reasonably good approximations of instantaneous rates. Alternatively, a graphical procedure may be used that, in effect, yields the results that would be obtained if short time interval measurements were possible. In a plot of the concentration of hydrogen peroxide against time, the instantaneous rate of decomposition of H_2O_2 at any time t is given by the slope of a straight line that is tangent to the curve at that time (Figure 1.2.2). These tangent line slopes may be evaluated using calculus, but the procedure for doing so is beyond the scope of this chapter.

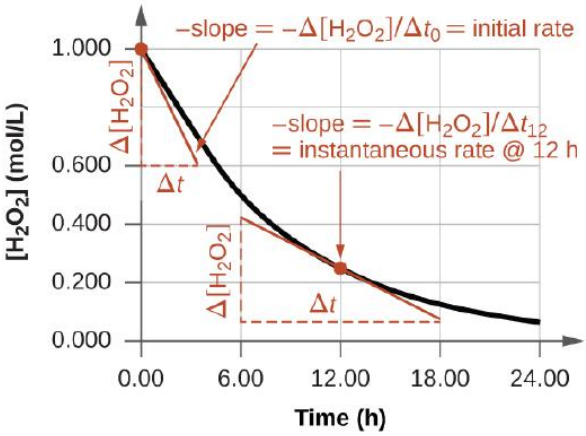


Figure 1.2.2: This graph shows a plot of concentration versus time for a 1.000 *M* solution of H_2O_2. The rate at any time is equal to the negative of the slope of a line tangent to the curve at that time. Tangents are shown at t = 0 h ("initial rate") and at t = 12 h ("instantaneous rate" at 12 h).

Chemistry in Everyday Life: Reaction Rates in Analysis: Test Strips for Urinalysis

Physicians often use disposable test strips to measure the amounts of various substances in a patient's urine (Figure 1.2.3). These test strips contain various chemical reagents, embedded in small pads at various locations along the strip, which undergo changes in color upon exposure to sufficient concentrations of specific substances. The usage instructions for test strips often stress that proper read time is critical for optimal results. This emphasis on read time suggests that kinetic aspects of the chemical reactions occurring on the test strip are important considerations.

The test for urinary glucose relies on a two-step process represented by the chemical equations shown here:

$$C_6H_{12}O_6 + O_2 \overset{\text{catalyst}}{\longrightarrow} C_6H_{10}O_6 + H_2O_2$$

$$2H_2O_2 + 2I^- \overset{\text{catalyst}}{\longrightarrow} I_2 + 2H_2O + O_2$$

The first equation depicts the oxidation of glucose in the urine to yield glucolactone and hydrogen peroxide. The hydrogen peroxide produced subsequently oxidizes colorless iodide ion to yield brown iodine, which may be visually detected. Some strips include an additional substance that reacts with iodine to produce a more distinct color change.

The two test reactions shown above are inherently very slow, but their rates are increased by special enzymes embedded in the test strip pad. This is an example of *catalysis*, a topic discussed later in this chapter. A typical glucose test strip for use with urine requires approximately 30 seconds for completion of the color-forming reactions. Reading the result too soon might lead one to conclude that the glucose concentration of the urine sample is lower than it actually is (a *false-negative* result). Waiting too long to assess the color change can lead to a *false positive* due to the slower (not catalyzed) oxidation of iodide ion by other substances found in urine.

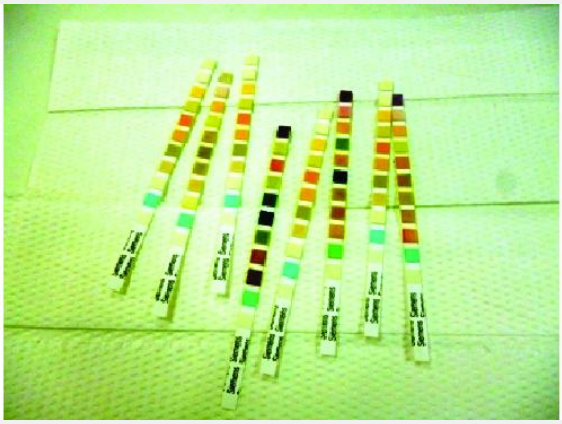


Figure 1.2.3: Test strips are commonly used to detect the presence of specific substances in a person's urine. Many test strips have several pads containing various reagents to permit the detection of multiple substances on a single strip. (credit: Iqbal Osman)

Relative Rates of Reaction

The rate of a reaction may be expressed as the change in concentration of any reactant or product. For any given reaction, these rate expressions are all related simply to one another according to the reaction stoichiometry. The rate of the general reaction

$$A \longrightarrow B \tag{1.2.1}$$

can be expressed in terms of the decrease in the concentration of A or the increase in the concentration of B. These two rate expressions are related by the stoichiometry of the reaction:

$$\text{rate } = -\left(\frac{1}{a}\right)\left(\frac{\Delta A}{\Delta t}\right) = \left(\frac{1}{b}\right)\left(\frac{\Delta B}{\Delta t}\right)$$

Consider the reaction represented by the following equation:

$$2NH_3(g) \longrightarrow N_2(g) + 3H_2(g)$$

The relation between the reaction rates expressed in terms of nitrogen production and ammonia consumption, for example, is:

$$-\frac{\Delta mol\ NH_3}{\Delta t} \times \frac{1 mol\ N_2}{2 mol\ NH_3} = \frac{\Delta mol\ N_2}{\Delta t}$$

This may be represented in an abbreviated format by omitting the units of the stoichiometric factor:

$$-\frac{1}{2}\frac{\Delta mol\ NH_3}{\Delta t} = \frac{\Delta mol\ N_2}{\Delta t}$$

Note that a negative sign has been included as a factor to account for the opposite signs of the two amount changes (the reactant amount is decreasing while the product amount is increasing). For homogeneous reactions, both the reactants and products are

present in the same solution and thus occupy the same volume, so the molar amounts may be replaced with molar concentrations:

$$-\frac{1}{2}\frac{\Delta\left[NH_3\right]}{\Delta t}=\frac{\Delta\left[N_2\right]}{\Delta t}$$

Similarly, the rate of formation of H_2 is three times the rate of formation of N_2 because three moles of H_2 are produced for each mole of N_2 produced.

$$\frac{1}{3}\frac{\Delta\left[H_2\right]}{\Delta t}=\frac{\Delta\left[N_2\right]}{\Delta t}$$

Figure 1.2.4: illustrates the change in concentrations over time for the decomposition of ammonia into nitrogen and hydrogen at 1100 °C. Slopes of the tangent lines at t = 500 s show that the instantaneous rates derived from all three species involved in the reaction are related by their stoichiometric factors. The rate of hydrogen production, for example, is observed to be three times greater than that for nitrogen production:

$$\frac{2.91\times10^{-6}M/s}{9.70\times10^{-7}M/s}\approx3$$

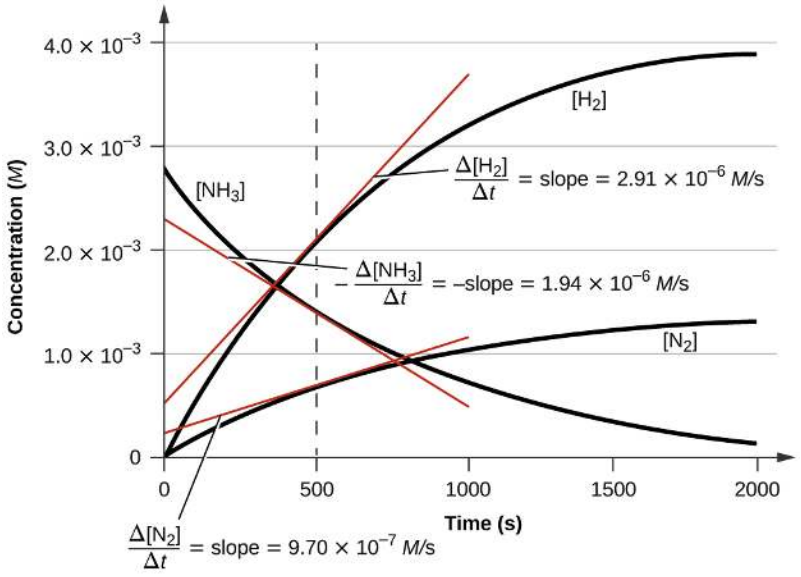


Figure 1.2.4: Changes in concentrations of the reactant and products for the reaction $2\,NH_3 \longrightarrow N_2 + 3\,H_2$. The rates of change of the three concentrations are related by the reaction stoichiometry, as shown by the different slopes of the tangents at t = 500 s.

Example 1.2.1: Expressions for Relative Reaction Rates

The first step in the production of nitric acid is the combustion of ammonia:

$$4NH_3(g)+5O_2(g)\longrightarrow4NO(g)+6H_2O(g) \tag{1.2.2}$$

Write the equations that relate the rates of consumption of the reactants and the rates of formation of the products.

Solution

Considering the stoichiometry of this homogeneous reaction, the rates for the consumption of reactants and formation of products are:

$$-\frac{1}{4}\frac{\Delta\left[NH_3\right]}{\Delta t}=-\frac{1}{5}\frac{\Delta\left[O_2\right]}{\Delta t}=\frac{1}{4}\frac{\Delta[NO]}{\Delta t}=\frac{1}{6}\frac{\Delta\left[H_2O\right]}{\Delta t}$$

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Exercise 1.2.1

The rate of formation of Br_2 is 6.0 10^{-6} mol/L/s in a reaction described by the following net ionic equation:

$$5Br^- + BrO_3^- + 6H^+ \longrightarrow 3Br_2 + 3H_2O$$

Write the equations that relate the rates of consumption of the reactants and the rates of formation of the products.

Answer

$$-\frac{1}{5}\frac{\Delta\left[Br^-\right]}{\Delta t} = -\frac{\Delta\left[BrO_3^-\right]}{\Delta t} = -\frac{1}{6}\frac{\Delta\left[H^+\right]}{\Delta t} = \frac{1}{3}\frac{\Delta\left[Br_2\right]}{\Delta t} = \frac{1}{3}\frac{\Delta\left[H_2O\right]}{\Delta t}$$

Example 1.2.2: Reaction Rate Expressions for Decomposition of H_2O_2

The graph in Figure 1.2.2: shows the rate of the decomposition of H_2O_2 over time:

$$2H_2O_2 \longrightarrow 2H_2O + O_2$$

Based on these data, the instantaneous rate of decomposition of H_2O_2 at t = 11.1 h is determined to be 3.20 10^{-2} mol/L/h, that is:

$$-\frac{1}{2}\frac{\Delta\left[\mathrm{H_2O_2}\right]}{\Delta t} = \frac{1}{2}\frac{\Delta\left[\mathrm{H_2O}\right]}{\Delta t} = \frac{\Delta\left[\mathrm{O_2}\right]}{\Delta t} \tag{1.2.3}$$

What is the instantaneous rate of production of $\mathrm{H_2O}$ and $\mathrm{O_2}$?

Solution

The reaction stoichiometry shows that

$$-\frac{1}{2}\frac{\Delta\left[\mathrm{H_2O_2}\right]}{\Delta t} = \frac{1}{2}\frac{\Delta\left[\mathrm{H_2O}\right]}{\Delta t} = \frac{\Delta\left[\mathrm{O_2}\right]}{\Delta t} \tag{1.2.4}$$

Therefore:

$$\frac{1}{2} \times 3.20 \times 10^{-2} molL^{-1}h^{-1} = \frac{\Delta\left[O_2\right]}{\Delta t}$$

and

$$\frac{\Delta\left[O_2\right]}{\Delta t} = 1.60 \times 10^{-2} molL^{-1}h^{-1}$$

Exercise 1.2.2

If the rate of decomposition of ammonia, NH_3, at 1150 K is 2.10 10^{-6} mol/L/s, what is the rate of production of nitrogen and hydrogen?

Answer

1.05 10^{-6} mol/L/s, N_2 and 3.15 10^{-6} mol/L/s, H_2.

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1.3: Factors Affecting Reaction Rates

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Describe the effects of chemical nature, physical state, temperature, concentration, and catalysis on reaction rates

The rates at which reactants are consumed and products are formed during chemical reactions vary greatly. Five factors typically affecting the rates of chemical reactions will be explored in this section: the chemical nature of the reacting substances, the state of subdivision (one large lump versus many small particles) of the reactants, the temperature of the reactants, the concentration of the reactants, and the presence of a catalyst.

The Chemical Nature of the Reacting Substances

The rate of a reaction depends on the nature of the participating substances. Reactions that appear similar may have different rates under the same conditions, depending on the identity of the reactants. For example, when small pieces of the metals iron and sodium are exposed to air, the sodium reacts completely with air overnight, whereas the iron is barely affected. The active metals calcium and sodium both react with water to form hydrogen gas and a base. Yet calcium reacts at a moderate rate, whereas sodium reacts so rapidly that the reaction is almost explosive.

The Physical States of the Reactants

A chemical reaction between two or more substances requires intimate contact between the reactants. When reactants are in different physical states, or phases (solid, liquid, gaseous, dissolved), the reaction takes place only at the interface between the phases. Consider the heterogeneous reaction between a solid phase and either a liquid or gaseous phase. Compared with the reaction rate for large solid particles, the rate for smaller particles will be greater because the surface area in contact with the other reactant phase is greater. For example, large pieces of iron react more slowly with acids than they do with finely divided iron powder (Figure 1.3.1). Large pieces of wood smolder, smaller pieces burn rapidly, and saw dust burns explosively.



Figure 1.3.1: (a) Iron powder reacts rapidly with dilute hydrochloric acid and produces bubbles of hydrogen gas: $2Fe(s) + 6HCl(aq) \rightarrow 2FeCl_3(aq) + 3H_2(g)$. (b) An iron nail reacts more slowly because the surface area exposed to the acid is much less.

Link to Learning

Watch this video to see the reaction of cesium with water in slow motion and a discussion of how the state of reactants and particle size affect reaction rates.

Temperature of the Reactants

Chemical reactions typically occur faster at higher temperatures. Food can spoil quickly when left on the kitchen counter. However, the lower temperature inside of a refrigerator slows that process so that the same food remains fresh for days. Gas burners, hot

plates, and ovens are often used in the laboratory to increase the speed of reactions that proceed slowly at ordinary temperatures. For many chemical processes, reaction rates are approximately doubled when the temperature is raised by 10 °C.

Concentrations of the Reactants

The rates of many reactions depend on the concentrations of the reactants. Rates usually increase when the concentration of one or more of the reactants increases. For example, calcium carbonate ($CaCO_3$) deteriorates as a result of its reaction with the pollutant sulfur dioxide. The rate of this reaction depends on the amount of sulfur dioxide in the air (Figure 1.3.2). An acidic oxide, sulfur dioxide combines with water vapor in the air to produce sulfurous acid in the following reaction:

$$\mathrm{SO_2\,(g) + H_2O\,(g) \longrightarrow H_2SO_3\,(aq)}$$

Calcium carbonate reacts with sulfurous acid as follows:

$$\mathrm{CaCO_3\,(s) + H_2SO_3\,(aq) \longrightarrow CaSO_3\,(aq) + CO_2\,(g) + H_2O\,(l)}$$

In a polluted atmosphere where the concentration of sulfur dioxide is high, calcium carbonate deteriorates more rapidly than in less polluted air. Similarly, phosphorus burns much more rapidly in an atmosphere of pure oxygen than in air, which is only about 20% oxygen.



Figure 1.3.2: Statues made from carbonate compounds such as limestone and marble typically weather slowly over time due to the actions of water, and thermal expansion and contraction. However, pollutants like sulfur dioxide can accelerate weathering. As the concentration of air pollutants increases, deterioration of limestone occurs more rapidly. (credit: James P Fisher III)

Link to Learning

Phosphorus burns rapidly in air, but it will burn even more rapidly if the concentration of oxygen is higher. Watch this video to see an example.

The Presence of a Catalyst

Relatively dilute aqueous solutions of hydrogen peroxide, H_2O_2, are commonly used as topical antiseptics. Hydrogen peroxide decomposes to yield water and oxygen gas according to the equation:

$$\mathrm{2\,H_2O_2\,(aq) \longrightarrow 2\,H_2O\,(l) + O_2\,(g)}$$

Under typical conditions, this decomposition occurs very slowly. When dilute $H_2O_2\,(aq)$ is poured onto an open wound, however, the reaction occurs rapidly and the solution foams because of the vigorous production of oxygen gas. This dramatic difference is caused by the presence of substances within the wound's exposed tissues that accelerate the decomposition process. Substances that function to increase the rate of a reaction are called **catalysts**, a topic treated in greater detail later in this chapter.

Link to Learning

Chemical reactions occur when molecules collide with each other and undergo a chemical transformation. Before physically performing a reaction in a laboratory, scientists can use molecular modeling simulations to predict how the parameters discussed earlier will influence the rate of a reaction. Use the PhET Reactions & Rates interactive to explore how temperature, concentration, and the nature of the reactants affect reaction rates.

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1.4: Rate Laws

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Explain the form and function of a rate law
- Use rate laws to calculate reaction rates
- Use rate and concentration data to identify reaction orders and derive rate laws

As described in the previous module, the rate of a reaction is often affected by the concentrations of reactants. Rate laws (sometimes called *differential rate laws*) or rate equations are mathematical expressions that describe the relationship between the rate of a chemical reaction and the concentration of its reactants. As an example, consider the reaction described by the chemical equation

$$aA + bB \longrightarrow \text{ products}$$

where a and b are stoichiometric coefficients. The rate law for this reaction is written as:

$$\text{rate } = k[A]^m[B]^n$$

in which [*A*] and [*B*] represent the molar concentrations of reactants, and *k* is the **rate constant**, which is specific for a particular reaction at a particular temperature. The exponents *m* and *n* are the **reaction orders** and are typically positive integers, though they can be fractions, negative, or zero. The rate constant *k* and the reaction orders *m* and *n* must be determined experimentally by observing how the rate of a reaction changes as the concentrations of the reactants are changed. The rate constant *k* is independent of the reactant concentrations, but it does vary with temperature.

The reaction orders in a rate law describe the mathematical dependence of the rate on reactant concentrations. Referring to the generic rate law above, the reaction is *m* order with respect to *A* and *n* order with respect to *B*. For example, if *m* = 1 and *n* = 2, the reaction is first order in *A* and second order in *B*. The overall reaction order is simply the sum of orders for each reactant. For the example rate law here, the reaction is third order overall (1 + 2 = 3). A few specific examples are shown below to further illustrate this concept.

The rate law:

$$\text{rate } = k\left[H_2O_2\right]$$

describes a reaction that is first order in hydrogen peroxide and first order overall. The rate law:

$$\text{rate } = k\left[\mathrm{C_4H_6}\right]^2$$

describes a reaction that is second order in $\mathrm{C_4H_6}$ and second order overall. The rate law:

$$\text{rate } = k\left[\mathrm{H^+}\right]\left[\mathrm{OH^-}\right]$$

describes a reaction that is first order in $\mathrm{H^+}$, first order in $\mathrm{OH^-}$, and second order overall.

Example 1.4.1: Writing Rate Laws from Reaction Orders

An experiment shows that the reaction of nitrogen dioxide with carbon monoxide:

$$\mathrm{NO_2\,(g) + CO\,(g) \longrightarrow NO\,(g) + CO_2\,(g)}$$

is second order in $\mathrm{NO_2}$ and zero order in CO at 100 °C. What is the rate law for the reaction?

Solution

The reaction will have the form:

$$\text{rate } = k\left[\mathrm{NO_2}\right]^m\left[\mathrm{CO}\right]^n$$

The reaction is second order in NO_2; thus $m = 2$. The reaction is zero order in CO; thus $n = 0$. The rate law is:

$$\text{rate} = k\,[NO_2]^2\,[CO]^0 = k\,[NO_2]^2$$

Remember that a number raised to the zero power is equal to 1, thus $[CO]^0 = 1$, which is why the CO concentration term may be omitted from the rate law: the rate of reaction is solely dependent on the concentration of NO_2. A later chapter section on reaction mechanisms will explain how a reactant's concentration can have no effect on a reaction rate despite being involved in the reaction.

? Exercise 1.4.1*A*

The rate law for the reaction:

$$H_2\,(g) + 2\,NO\,(g) \longrightarrow N_2O\,(g) + H_2O\,(g)$$

has been determined to be rate = $k[NO]^2[H_2]$. What are the orders with respect to each reactant, and what is the overall order of the reaction?

Answer

order in NO = 2; order in H_2 = 1; overall order = 3

? Exercise 1.4.1*B*

In a transesterification reaction, a triglyceride reacts with an alcohol to form an ester and glycerol. Many students learn about the reaction between methanol (CH_3OH) and ethyl acetate ($CH_3CH_2OCOCH_3$) as a sample reaction before studying the chemical reactions that produce biodiesel:

$$CH_3OH + CH_3CH_2OCOCH_3 \longrightarrow CH_3OCOCH_3 + CH_3CH_2OH$$

The rate law for the reaction between methanol and ethyl acetate is, under certain conditions, determined to be:

$$\text{rate} = k\,[CH_3OH]$$

What is the order of reaction with respect to methanol and ethyl acetate, and what is the overall order of reaction?

Answer

order in CH_3OH = 1; order in $CH_3CH_2OCOCH_3$ = 0; overall order = 1

A common experimental approach to the determination of rate laws is the **method of initial rates**. This method involves measuring reaction rates for multiple experimental trials carried out using different initial reactant concentrations. Comparing the measured rates for these trials permits determination of the reaction orders and, subsequently, the rate constant, which together are used to formulate a rate law. This approach is illustrated in the next two example exercises.

✓ Example 1.4.2: Determining a Rate Law from Initial Rates

Ozone in the upper atmosphere is depleted when it reacts with nitrogen oxides. The rates of the reactions of nitrogen oxides with ozone are important factors in deciding how significant these reactions are in the formation of the ozone hole over Antarctica (Figure 1.4.1). One such reaction is the combination of nitric oxide, NO, with ozone, O_3:

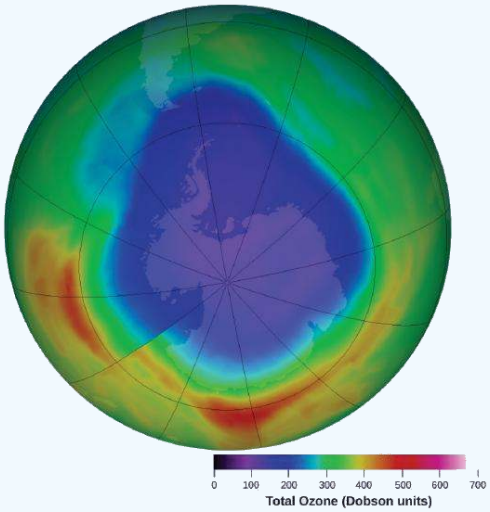


Figure 1.4.1: A contour map showing stratospheric ozone concentration and the “ozone hole” that occurs over Antarctica during its spring months. (credit: modification of work by NASA)

$$\mathrm{NO\,(g)} + \mathrm{O_3\,(g)} \longrightarrow \mathrm{NO_2\,(g)} + \mathrm{O_2\,(g)}$$

This reaction has been studied in the laboratory, and the following rate data were determined at 25 °C.

Trial	[NO] (mol/L)	[O_3] (mol/L)	$\frac{\Delta[\mathrm{NO_2}]}{\Delta t}(\mathrm{molL^{-1}s^{-1}})$
1	1.00×10^{-6}	3.00×10^{-6}	6.60×10^{-5}
2	1.00×10^{-6}	6.00×10^{-6}	1.32×10^{-4}
3	1.00×10^{-6}	9.00×10^{-6}	1.98×10^{-4}
4	2.00×10^{-6}	9.00×10^{-6}	3.96×10^{-4}
5	3.00×10^{-6}	9.00×10^{-6}	5.94×10^{-4}

Determine the rate law and the rate constant for the reaction at 25 °C.

Solution

The rate law will have the form:

$$\text{rate } = k[NO]^m\,[O_3]^n$$

Determine the values of *m*, *n*, and *k* from the experimental data using the following three-part process:

Step 1:

Determine the value of m *from the data in which [NO] varies and [O_3] is constant.* In the last three experiments, [NO] varies while [O_3] remains constant. When [NO] doubles from trial 3 to 4, the rate doubles, and when [NO] triples from trial 3 to 5, the rate also triples. Thus, the rate is also directly proportional to [NO], and *m* in the rate law is equal to 1.

Step 2:

Determine the value of n *from data in which [O_3] varies and [NO] is constant.* In the first three experiments, [NO] is constant and [O_3] varies. The reaction rate changes in direct proportion to the change in [O_3]. When [O_3] doubles from trial 1 to 2, the rate doubles; when [O_3] triples from trial 1 to 3, the rate increases also triples. Thus, the rate is directly proportional to [O_3], and *n* is equal to 1.The rate law is thus:

$$\text{rate } = k[NO]^1\,[O_3]^1 = k[NO]\,[O_3]$$

Step 3:

Determine the value of k *from one set of concentrations and the corresponding rate*. The data from trial 1 are used below:

$$\begin{aligned} k &= \frac{\text{rate}}{[\text{NO}]\,[\text{O}_3]} \\ &= \frac{6.60 \times 10^{-5}\ \text{mol L}^{-1}\text{s}^{-1}}{\left(1.00 \times 10^{-6}\ \text{mol L}^{-1}\right)\left(3.00 \times 10^{-6}\ \text{mol L}^{-1}\right)} \\ &= 2.20 \times 10^{7}\ \text{L mol}^{-1}\text{s}^{-1} \end{aligned}$$

Exercise 1.4.2

Acetaldehyde decomposes when heated to yield methane and carbon monoxide according to the equation:

$$\text{CH}_3\text{CHO}\,(\text{g}) \longrightarrow \text{CH}_4\,(\text{g}) + \text{CO}\,(\text{g})$$

Determine the rate law and the rate constant for the reaction from the following experimental data:

Trial	$[CH_3CHO]$ (mol/L)	$-\frac{\Delta[\text{CH}_3\text{CHO}]}{\Delta t}(\text{mol L}^{-1}\text{s}^{-1})$
1	1.75×10^{-3}	2.06×10^{-11}
2	3.50×10^{-3}	8.24×10^{-11}
3	7.00×10^{-3}	3.30×10^{-10}

Answer

rate $= k\,[\text{CH}_3\text{CHO}]^2$ with k = 6.7310^{-6} L/mol/s

Example 1.4.3: Determining Rate Laws from Initial Rates

Using the initial rates method and the experimental data, determine the rate law and the value of the rate constant for this reaction:

$$2NO(g) + Cl_2(g) \longrightarrow 2NOCl(g)$$

Trial	[NO] (mol/L)	$[Cl_2]$ (mol/L)	$-\frac{\Delta[\text{CO}]}{\Delta t}(\text{mol } L^{-1}\text{s}^{-1})$
1	0.10	0.10	0.00300
2	0.10	0.15	0.00450
3	0.15	0.10	0.00675

Solution

The rate law for this reaction will have the form:

$$\text{rate} = k[NO]^m\,[Cl_2]^n$$

As in Example 1.4.2, approach this problem in a stepwise fashion, determining the values of *m* and *n* from the experimental data and then using these values to determine the value of *k*. In this example, however, an explicit algebraic approach (vs. the implicit approach of the previous example) will be used to determine the values of *m* and *n*:

Step 1

Determine the value of m from the data in which [NO] varies and $[Cl_2]$ is constant. Write the ratios with the subscripts x and y to indicate data from two different trials:

$$\frac{\text{rate}_x}{\text{rate}_y} = \frac{k[NO]_x^m\,[Cl_2]_x^n}{k[NO]_y^m\,[Cl_2]_y^n}$$

Using the third trial and the first trial, in which $[Cl_2]$ does not vary, gives:

$$\frac{\text{rate 3}}{\text{rate 1}} = \frac{0.00675}{0.00300} = \frac{k(0.15)^m(0.10)^n}{k(0.10)^m(0.10)^n}$$

Canceling equivalent terms in the numerator and denominator leaves:

$$\frac{0.00675}{0.00300} = \frac{(0.15)^m}{(0.10)^m}$$

which simplifies to:

$$2.25 = (1.5)^m$$

Use logarithms to determine the value of the exponent *m*:

$$\ln(2.25) = m\ln(1.5)$$

$$\frac{\ln(2.25)}{\ln(1.5)} = m$$

$$2 = m$$

Confirm the result

$$1.5^2 = 2.25$$

Step 2

Determine the value of n from data in which $[Cl_2]$ varies and $[NO]$ is constant.

$$\frac{\text{rate 2}}{\text{rate 1}} = \frac{0.00450}{0.00300} = \frac{k0.10)^m(0.15)^n}{k(0.10)^m(0.10)^n}$$

Cancelation gives:

$$\frac{0.0045}{0.0030} = \frac{(0.15)^n}{(0.10)^n}$$

which simplifies to:

$$1.5 = (1.5)^n$$

Thus n must be 1, and the form of the rate law is:

$$\text{rate } = k[NO]^m\,[Cl_2]^n = k[NO]^2\,[Cl_2]$$

Step 3.

Determine the numerical value of the constant with appropriate units. The units for the rate of a reaction are mol/L/s. The units for are whatever is needed so that substituting into the rate law expression affords the appropriate units for the rate. In this example, the concentration units are mol^3/L^3. The units for *k* should be mol^- L/s so that the rate is in terms of mol/L/s.

To determine the value of *k* once the rate law expression has been solved, simply plug in values from the first experimental trial and solve for *k*:

$$0.00300 \text{ mol L}^{-1}\text{s}^{-1} = k\left(0.10 \text{ mol L}^{-1}\right)^2\left(0.10 \text{ mol L}^{-1}\right)^1$$

$$k = 3.0 \text{ mol}^{-2}\text{L}^2\text{s}^{-1}$$

? Exercise 1.4.3

Use the provided initial rate data to derive the rate law for the reaction whose equation is:

$$\text{OCl}^-(\text{aq}) + \text{I}^-(\text{aq}) \longrightarrow \text{OI}^-(\text{aq}) + \text{Cl}^-(\text{aq})$$

Trial	[OCl^-] (mol/L)	[I^-] (mol/L)	Initial Rate (mol/L/s)
1	0.0040	0.0020	0.00184
2	0.0020	0.0040	0.00092
3	0.0020	0.0020	0.00046

Determine the rate law expression and the value of the rate constant k with appropriate units for this reaction.

Answer

$$\frac{\text{rate 2}}{\text{rate 3}} = \frac{0.00092}{0.00046} = \frac{k(0.0020)^x(0.0040)^y}{k(0.0020)^x(0.0020)^y}$$

$$2.00 = 2.00^y$$

$$y = 1$$

$$\frac{\text{rate 1}}{\text{rate 2}} = \frac{0.00184}{0.00092} = \frac{k(0.0040)^x(0.0020)^y}{k(0.0020)^x(0.0040)^y}$$

$$2.00 = \frac{2^x}{2^y}$$

$$2.00 = \frac{2^x}{2^1}$$

$$4.00 = 2^x$$

$$x = 2$$

Substituting the concentration data from trial 1 and solving for k yields:

$$\text{rate} = k\left[OCl^-\right]^2\left[I^-\right]^1$$

$$0.00184 = k(0.0040)^2(0.0020)^1$$

$$k = 5.75 \times 10^4 mol^{-2}L^2s^{-1}$$

Reaction Order and Rate Constant Units

In some of our examples, the reaction orders in the rate law happen to be the same as the coefficients in the chemical equation for the reaction. This is merely a coincidence and very often not the case.

Rate laws may exhibit fractional orders for some reactants, and negative reaction orders are sometimes observed when an increase in the concentration of one reactant causes a decrease in reaction rate. A few examples illustrating these points are provided:

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathrm{NO_2 + CO \longrightarrow NO + CO_2} &\qquad \text{rate} = k\left[NO_2\right]^2 \\
\mathrm{CH_3\ CHO \longrightarrow CH_4 + CO} &\qquad \text{rate} = k\left[CH_3CHO\right]^2 \\
\mathrm{2\,N_2\ O_5 \longrightarrow NO_2 + O_2} &\qquad \text{rate} = k\left[N_2O_5\right] \\
\mathrm{2\,NO_2 + F_2 \longrightarrow 2\,NO_2\ F} &\qquad \text{rate} = k\left[NO_2\right]\left[F_2\right] \\
\mathrm{2\,NO_2\ Cl \longrightarrow 2\,NO_2 + Cl_2} &\qquad \text{rate} = k\left[NO_2Cl\right]
\end{aligned}$$

Note

It is important to note that *rate laws are determined by experiment only and are not reliably predicted by reaction stoichiometry.*

The units for a rate constant will vary as appropriate to accommodate the overall order of the reaction. The unit of the rate constant for the second-order reaction described in Example 1.4.2 was determined to be k was derived to be $\mathrm{L\ mol^{-1}s^{-1}}$. For the third-order reaction, k was derived to be $\mathrm{L^2mol^{-2}s^{-1}}$. Dimensional analysis requires the rate constant unit for a reaction whose overall order is x to be $\mathrm{L^{x-1}\ mol^{1-x}s^{-1}}$. Table 1.4.1 summarizes the rate constant units for common reaction orders.

Table 1.4.1: Rate Constant Units for Common Reaction Orders

Overall Reaction Order (x)	Rate Constant Unit ($L^{x-1}\ mol^{1-x}\ s^{-1}$)
0 (zero)	$mol\ L^{-1}\ s^{-1}$
1 (first)	s^{-1}
2 (second)	$L\ mol^{-1}\ s^{-1}$
3 (third)	$L^2\ mol^{-2}\ s^{-1}$

Note that the units in this table were derived using specific units for concentration (mol/L) and time (s), though any valid units for these two properties may be used.

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1.5: Integrated Rate Laws

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Explain the form and function of an integrated rate law
- Perform integrated rate law calculations for zero-, first-, and second-order reactions
- Define half-life and carry out related calculations
- Identify the order of a reaction from concentration/time data

The rate laws discussed thus far relate the rate and the concentrations of reactants. We can also determine a second form of each rate law that relates the concentrations of reactants and time. These are called **integrated rate laws**. We can use an integrated rate law to determine the amount of reactant or product present after a period of time or to estimate the time required for a reaction to proceed to a certain extent. For example, an integrated rate law is used to determine the length of time a radioactive material must be stored for its radioactivity to decay to a safe level.

Using calculus, the differential rate law for a chemical reaction can be integrated with respect to time to give an equation that relates the amount of reactant or product present in a reaction mixture to the elapsed time of the reaction. This process can either be very straightforward or very complex, depending on the complexity of the differential rate law. For purposes of discussion, we will focus on the resulting integrated rate laws for first-, second-, and zero-order reactions.

First-Order Reactions

Integration of the rate law for a simple first-order reaction (rate = $k[A]$) results in an equation describing how the reactant concentration varies with time:

$$[A]_t = [A]_0 e^{-kt}$$

where $[A]t$ is the concentration of A at any time t, $[A]_0$ is the initial concentration of A, and k is the first-order rate constant.

For mathematical convenience, this equation may be rearranged to other formats, including direct and indirect proportionalities:

$$\ln\left(\frac{[A]_t}{[A]_0}\right) = -kt$$

or

$$\ln\left(\frac{[A]_0}{[A]_t}\right) = kt$$

and a format showing a linear dependence of concentration in time:

$$\ln [A]_t = \ln [A]_0 - kt$$

Example 1.5.1: The Integrated Rate Law for a First-Order Reaction

The rate constant for the first-order decomposition of cyclobutane, C_4H_8 at 500 °C is 9.2 10^{-3} s^{-1}:

$$C_4H_8 \longrightarrow 2\,C_2H_4$$

How long will it take for 80.0% of a sample of C_4H_8 to decompose?

Solution

Since the relative change in reactant concentration is provided, a convenient format for the integrated rate law is:

$$\ln\left(\frac{[A]_0}{[A]_t}\right) = kt$$

The initial concentration of C_4H_8, $[A]_0$, is not provided, but the provision that 80.0% of the sample has decomposed is enough information to solve this problem. Let *x* be the initial concentration, in which case the concentration after 80.0% decomposition is 20.0% of *x* or 0.200*x*. Rearranging the rate law to isolate *t* and substituting the provided quantities yields:

$$\begin{aligned} t &= \ln \frac{[x]}{[0.200x]} \times \frac{1}{k} \\ &= \ln 5 \times \frac{1}{9.2 \times 10^{-3}\ \text{s}^{-1}} \\ &= 1.609 \times \frac{1}{9.2 \times 10^{-3}\ \text{s}^{-1}} \\ &= 1.7 \times 10^{2}\ \text{s} \end{aligned}$$

? Exercise 1.5.1

Iodine-131 is a radioactive isotope that is used to diagnose and treat some forms of thyroid cancer. Iodine-131 decays to xenon-131 according to the equation:

$$\text{I-131} \longrightarrow \text{Xe-131} + \text{electron}$$

The decay is first-order with a rate constant of 0.138 d^{-1}. How many days will it take for 90% of the iodine−131 in a 0.500 *M* solution of this substance to decay to Xe-131?

Answer

16.7 days

In the next example exercise, a linear format for the integrated rate law will be convenient:

$$\begin{aligned} \ln [A]_t &= (-k)(t) + \ln [A]_0 \\ y &= mx + b \end{aligned}$$

A plot of $\ln[A]_t$ versus *t* for a first-order reaction is a straight line with a slope of $-k$ and a *y*-intercept of $\ln[A]_0$. If a set of rate data are plotted in this fashion but do *not* result in a straight line, the reaction is not first order in *A*.

✓ Example 1.5.2: Graphical Determination of Reaction Order and Rate Constant

Show that the data in Figure 1.5.1 can be represented by a first-order rate law by graphing $\ln[H_2O_2]$ versus time. Determine the rate constant for the decomposition of H_2O_2 from these data.

Solution

The data from Figure 1.5.1 are tabulated below, and a plot of $\ln[H_2O_2]$ is shown in Figure 1.5.1.

Time (h)	$[H_2O_2]$ (*M*)	$\ln[H_2O_2]$
0.00	1.000	0.000
6.00	0.500	−0.693
12.00	0.250	−1.386
18.00	0.125	−2.079
24.00	0.0625	−2.772

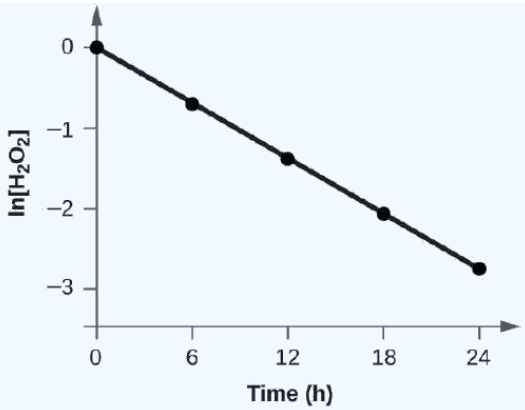


Figure 1.5.1: A linear relationship between $\ln[H_2O_2]$ and time suggests the decomposition of hydrogen peroxide is a first-order reaction.

The plot of $\ln[H_2O_2]$ versus time is linear, indicating that the reaction may be described by a first-order rate law.

According to the linear format of the first-order integrated rate law, the rate constant is given by the negative of this plot's slope.

$$\text{slope } = \frac{\text{change in } y}{\text{change in } x} = \frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x} = \frac{\Delta \ln [H_2O_2]}{\Delta t}$$

The slope of this line may be derived from two values of $\ln[H_2O_2]$ at different values of t (one near each end of the line is preferable). For example, the value of $\ln[H_2O_2]$ when t is 0.00 h is 0.000; the value when t = 24.00 h is −2.772

$$\begin{aligned} \text{slope } &= \frac{-2.772 - 0.000}{24.00 - 0.00h} \\ &= \frac{-2.772}{24.00h} \\ &= -0.116h^{-1} \\ k = -\text{ slope } &= -\left(-0.116h^{-1}\right) = 0.116h^{-1} \end{aligned}$$

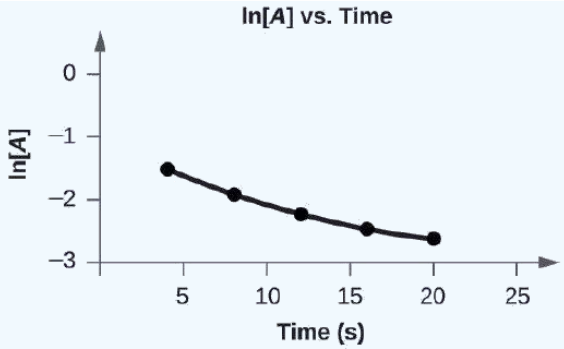
Exercise 1.5.2

Graph the following data to determine whether the reaction $A \longrightarrow B + C$ is first order.

Time (s)	[A]
4.0	0.220
8.0	0.144
12.0	0.110
16.0	0.088
20.0	0.074

Answer

The plot of $\ln[A]_t$ vs. t is not linear, indicating the reaction is not first order:



Second-Order Reactions

The equations that relate the concentrations of reactants and the rate constant of second-order reactions can be fairly complicated. To illustrate the point with minimal complexity, only the simplest second-order reactions will be described here, namely, those whose rates depend on the concentration of just one reactant. For these types of reactions, the differential rate law is written as:

$$\text{rate } = k[A]^2$$

For these second-order reactions, the integrated rate law is:

$$\frac{1}{[A]_t} = kt + \frac{1}{[A]_0}$$

where the terms in the equation have their usual meanings as defined earlier.

Example 1.5.3: The Integrated Rate Law for a Second-Order Reaction

The reaction of butadiene gas (C_4H_6) to yield C_8H_{12} gas is described by the equation:

$$2C_4H_6(g) \longrightarrow C_8H_{12}(g)$$

This "dimerization" reaction is second order with a rate constant equal to 5.76 10^{-2} L mol^{-1} min^{-1} under certain conditions. If the initial concentration of butadiene is 0.200 *M*, what is the concentration after 10.0 min?

Solution

For a second-order reaction, the integrated rate law is written

$$\frac{1}{[A]_t} = kt + \frac{1}{[A]_0}$$

We know three variables in this equation: $[A]_0$ = 0.200 mol/L, k = 5.76 10^{-2} L/mol/min, and t = 10.0 min. Therefore, we can solve for [*A*], the fourth variable:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{1}{[A]_t} &= \left(5.76 \times 10^{-2} L mol^{-1} min^{-1}\right)(10 min) + \frac{1}{0.200 mol^{-1}} \\ &= \left(5.76 \times 10^{-1} L mol^{-1}\right) + 5.00 L mol^{-1} \\ &= 5.58 L mol^{-1} \\ [A]_t &= 1.79 \times 10^{-1} mol L^{-1}\end{aligned}$$

Therefore 0.179 mol/L of butadiene remain at the end of 10.0 min, compared to the 0.200 mol/L that was originally present.

Exercise 1.5.3

If the initial concentration of butadiene is 0.0200 *M*, what is the concentration remaining after 20.0 min?

Answer

0.0195 mol/L

The integrated rate law for second-order reactions has the form of the equation of a straight line:

$$\frac{1}{[A]_t} = kt + \frac{1}{[A]_0}$$
$$y = mx + b$$

A plot of $\frac{1}{[A]_t}$ versus t for a second-order reaction is a straight line with a slope of k and a y-intercept of $\frac{1}{[A]_0}$. If the plot is not a straight line, then the reaction is not second order.

Example 1.5.4: Graphical Determination of Reaction Order and Rate Constant

The data below are for the same reaction described in Example 1.5.3. Prepare and compare two appropriate data plots to identify the reaction as being either first or second order. After identifying the reaction order, estimate a value for the rate constant.

Solution

Time (s)	$[C_4H_6]$ (M)
0	1.00×10^{-2}
1600	5.04×10^{-3}
3200	3.37×10^{-3}
4800	2.53×10^{-3}
6200	2.08×10^{-3}

In order to distinguish a first-order reaction from a second-order reaction, prepare a plot of $\ln[C_4H_6]_t$ versus t and compare it to a plot of $\frac{1}{[C_4H_6]_t}$ versus t. The values needed for these plots follow.

Time (s)	$\frac{1}{[C_4H_6]}\,(M^{-1})$	$\ln[C_4H_6]$
0	100	−4.605
1600	198	−5.289
3200	296	−5.692
4800	395	−5.978
6200	481	−6.175

The plots are shown in Figure 1.5.2, which clearly shows the plot of $\ln [C_4H_6]_t$ versus t is not linear, therefore the reaction is not first order. The plot of $\frac{1}{[C_4H_6]_t}$ versus t is linear, indicating that the reaction is second order.

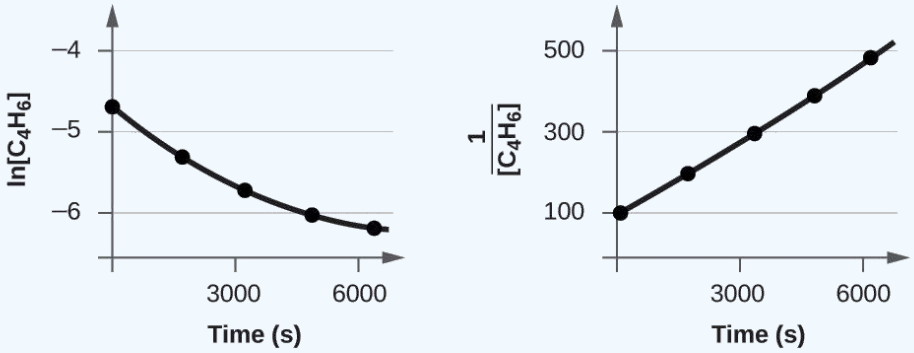


Figure 1.5.2: These two graphs show first- and second-order plots for the dimerization of C_4H_6. The linear trend in the second-order plot (right) indicates that the reaction follows second-order kinetics.

According to the second-order integrated rate law, the rate constant is equal to the slope of the versus t plot. Using the data for t = 0 s and t = 6200 s, the rate constant is estimated as follows:

$$k = \text{ slope } = \frac{(481M^{-1} - 100M^{-1})}{(6200s - 0s)} = 0.0614M^{-1}s^{-1}$$

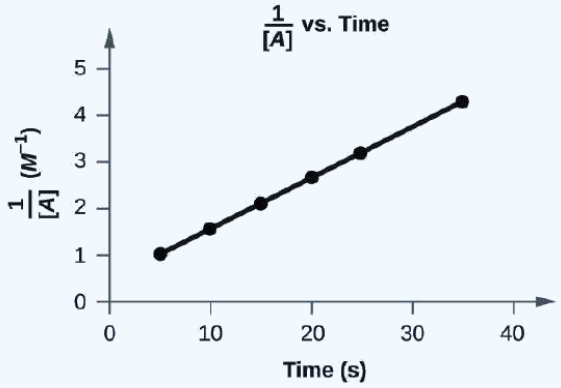
Exercise 1.5.4

Do the following data fit a second-order rate law?

Time (s)	[A] (M)
5	0.952
10	0.625
15	0.465
20	0.370
25	0.308
35	0.230

Answer

Yes. The plot of $\frac{1}{[A]_t}$ vs. t is linear:



Zero-Order Reactions

For zero-order reactions, the differential rate law is:

$$\text{rate } = k$$

A zero-order reaction thus exhibits a constant reaction rate, regardless of the concentration of its reactant(s). This may seem counterintuitive, since the reaction rate certainly can't be finite when the reactant concentration is zero. For purposes of this introductory text, it will suffice to note that zero-order kinetics are observed for some reactions only under certain specific conditions. These same reactions exhibit different kinetic behaviors when the specific conditions aren't met, and for this reason the more prudent term *pseudo-zero-order* is sometimes used.

The integrated rate law for a zero-order reaction is a linear function:

$$[A]_t = -kt + [A]_0$$
$$y = mx + b$$

A plot of [A] versus t for a zero-order reaction is a straight line with a slope of $-k$ and a y-intercept of $[A]_0$. Figure 1.5.3: shows a plot of [NH_3] versus t for the thermal decomposition of ammonia at the surface of two different heated solids. The decomposition

reaction exhibits first-order behavior at a quartz (SiO_2) surface, as suggested by the exponentially decaying plot of concentration versus time. On a tungsten surface, however, the plot is linear, indicating zero-order kinetics.

Example 1.5.5: Graphical Determination of Zero-Order Rate Constant

Use the data plot in Figure 1.5.3 to graphically estimate the zero-order rate constant for ammonia decomposition at a tungsten surface.

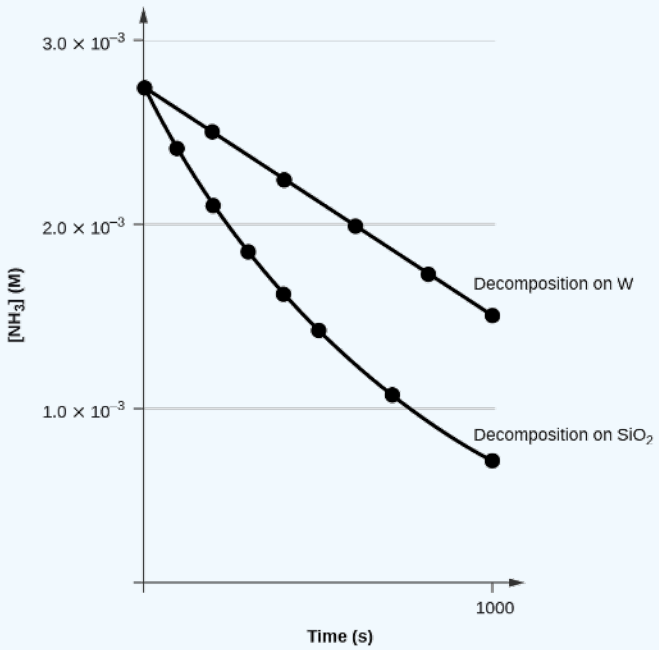


Figure 1.5.3: The decomposition of NH_3 on a tungsten (W) surface is a zero-order reaction, whereas on a quartz (SiO_2) surface, the reaction is first order.

Solution

The integrated rate law for zero-order kinetics describes a linear plot of reactant concentration, $[A]_t$, versus time, t, with a slope equal to the negative of the rate constant, $-k$. Following the mathematical approach of previous examples, the slope of the linear data plot (for decomposition on W) is estimated from the graph. Using the ammonia concentrations at t = 0 and t = 1000 s:

$$k = -\text{ slope } = -\frac{(0.0015 molL^{-1} - 0.0028 molL^{-1})}{(1000s - 0s)} = 1.3 \times 10^{-6} molL^{-1}s^{-1}$$

Exercise 1.5.5

The zero-order plot in Figure 1.5.3 shows an initial ammonia concentration of 0.0028 mol L^{-1} decreasing linearly with time for 1000 s. Assuming no change in this zero-order behavior, at what time (min) will the concentration reach 0.0001 mol L^{-1}?

Answer

35 min

The Half-Life of a Reaction

The half-life of a reaction ($t_{1/2}$) is the time required for one-half of a given amount of reactant to be consumed. In each succeeding half-life, half of the remaining concentration of the reactant is consumed. Using the decomposition of hydrogen peroxide (Figure 1.5.1) as an example, we find that during the first half-life (from 0.00 hours to 6.00 hours), the concentration of H_2O_2 decreases from 1.000 *M* to 0.500 *M*. During the second half-life (from 6.00 hours to 12.00 hours), it decreases from 0.500 *M* to 0.250 *M*;

during the third half-life, it decreases from 0.250 *M* to 0.125 *M*. The concentration of H_2O_2 decreases by half during each successive period of 6.00 hours. The decomposition of hydrogen peroxide is a first-order reaction, and, as can be shown, the half-life of a first-order reaction is independent of the concentration of the reactant. However, half-lives of reactions with other orders depend on the concentrations of the reactants.

First-Order Reactions

An equation relating the half-life of a first-order reaction to its rate constant may be derived from the integrated rate law as follows:

$$\ln \frac{[A]_0}{[A]_t} = kt$$

$$t = \ln \frac{[A]_0}{[A]_t} \times \frac{1}{k}$$

Invoking the definition of half-life, symbolized requires that the concentration of *A* at this point is one-half its initial concentration: $t = t_{1/2}$, $[A]_t = \frac{1}{2}[A]_0$

Substituting these terms into the rearranged integrated rate law and simplifying yields the equation for half-life:

$$t_{1/2} = \ln \frac{[A]_0}{\frac{1}{2}[A]_0} \times \frac{1}{k}$$

$$= \ln 2 \times \frac{1}{k} = 0.693 \times \frac{1}{k}$$

$$t_{1/2} = \frac{0.693}{k}$$

This equation describes an expected inverse relation between the half-life of the reaction and its rate constant, *k*. Faster reactions exhibit larger rate constants and correspondingly shorter half-lives. Slower reactions exhibit smaller rate constants and longer half-lives.

Example 1.5.6: Calculation of a First-order Rate Constant using Half-Life

Calculate the rate constant for the first-order decomposition of hydrogen peroxide in water at 40 °C, using the data given in Figure 1.5.4.



Figure 1.5.4: The decomposition of H_2O_2 at 40 °C is illustrated. The intensity of the color symbolizes the concentration of H_2O_2 at the indicated times; H_2O_2 is actually colorless.

Solution

Inspecting the concentration/time data in Figure 1.5.4 shows the half-life for the decomposition of H_2O_2 is 2.16×10^4 s:

$$t_{1/2} = \frac{0.693}{k}$$

$$k = \frac{0.693}{t_{1/2}} = \frac{0.693}{2.16 \times 10^4 s} = 3.21 \times 10^{-5} s^{-1}$$

Exercise 1.5.1

The first-order radioactive decay of iodine-131 exhibits a rate constant of 0.138 d^{-1}. What is the half-life for this decay?

Answer

5.02 d.

Second-Order Reactions

Following the same approach as used for first-order reactions, an equation relating the half-life of a second-order reaction to its rate constant and initial concentration may be derived from its integrated rate law:

$$\frac{1}{[A]_t} = kt + \frac{1}{[A]_0}$$

or

$$\frac{1}{[A]} - \frac{1}{[A]_0} = kt$$

Restrict t to $t_{1/2}$

$$t = t_{1/2}$$

define $[A]_t$ as one-half $[A]_0$

$$[A]_t = \frac{1}{2}[A]_0$$

and then substitute into the integrated rate law and simplify:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{\frac{1}{2}[A]_0} - \frac{1}{[A]_0} &= kt_{1/2} \\ \frac{2}{[A]_0} - \frac{1}{[A]_0} &= kt_{1/2} \\ \frac{1}{[A]_0} &= kt_{1/2} \\ t_{1/2} &= \frac{1}{k[A]_0} \end{aligned}$$

For a second-order reaction, $t_{1/2}$ is inversely proportional to the concentration of the reactant, and the half-life increases as the reaction proceeds because the concentration of reactant decreases. Unlike with first-order reactions, the rate constant of a second-order reaction cannot be calculated directly from the half-life unless the initial concentration is known.

Zero-Order Reactions

As for other reaction orders, an equation for zero-order half-life may be derived from the integrated rate law:

$$[A] = -kt + [A]_0$$

Restricting the time and concentrations to those defined by half-life: and Substituting these terms into the zero-order integrated rate law yields:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{[A]_0}{2} &= -kt_{1/2} + [A]_0 \\ kt_{1/2} &= \frac{[A]_0}{2} \\ t_{1/2} &= \frac{[A]_0}{2k} \end{aligned}$$

As for all reaction orders, the half-life for a zero-order reaction is inversely proportional to its rate constant. However, the half-life of a zero-order reaction increases as the initial concentration increases.

Equations for both differential and integrated rate laws and the corresponding half-lives for zero-, first-, and second-order reactions are summarized in Table 1.5.1.

Table 1.5.1: Summary of Rate Laws for Zero-, First-, and Second-Order Reactions

	Zero-Order	First-Order	Second-Order
rate law	rate = k	rate = $k[A]$	rate = $k[A]^2$
units of rate constant	M s^{-1}	s^{-1}	M^{-1} s^{-1}
integrated rate law	$[A] = -kt + [A]_0$	$\ln[A] = -kt + \ln[A]_0$	$\frac{1}{[A]} = kt + \left(\frac{1}{[A]_0}\right)$
plot needed for linear fit of rate data	$[A]$ vs. t	ln$[A]$ vs. t	vs. t
relationship between slope of linear plot and rate constant	k = −slope	k = −slope	k = slope
half-life	$t_{1/2} = \frac{[A]_0}{2k}$	$t_{1/2} = \frac{0.693}{k}$	$t_{1/2} = \frac{1}{[A]_0 k}$

Example 1.5.7: Half-Life for Zero-Order and Second-Order Reactions

What is the half-life for the butadiene dimerization reaction described in Example 1.5.3?

Solution

The reaction in question is second order, is initiated with a 0.200 mol L^{-1} reactant solution, and exhibits a rate constant of 0.0576 L mol^{-1} min^{-1}. Substituting these quantities into the second-order half-life equation:

$$t_{1/2} = \frac{1}{[(0.0576 L mol^{-1} min^{-1})\,(0.200 mol L^{-1})]} = 86.8 \text{ min}$$

Exercise 1.5.7

What is the half-life (min) for the thermal decomposition of ammonia on tungsten (see Figure 1.5.3)?

Answer

87 min

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1.6: Collision Theory

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Use the postulates of collision theory to explain the effects of physical state, temperature, and concentration on reaction rates
- Define the concepts of activation energy and transition state
- Use the Arrhenius equation in calculations relating rate constants to temperature

We should not be surprised that atoms, molecules, or ions must collide before they can react with each other. Atoms must be close together to form chemical bonds. This simple premise is the basis for a very powerful theory that explains many observations regarding chemical kinetics, including factors affecting reaction rates.

Collision theory is based on the following postulates:

1. The rate of a reaction is proportional to the rate of reactant collisions:

$$\text{reaction rate} \propto \frac{\#\text{ collisions}}{\text{time}}$$

2. The reacting species must collide in an orientation that allows contact between the atoms that will become bonded together in the product.
3. The collision must occur with adequate energy to permit mutual penetration of the reacting species' valence shells so that the electrons can rearrange and form new bonds (and new chemical species).

We can see the importance of the two physical factors noted in postulates 2 and 3, the orientation and energy of collisions, when we consider the reaction of carbon monoxide with oxygen:

$$2\,CO\,(g) + O_2\,(g) \longrightarrow 2\,CO_2\,(g)$$

Carbon monoxide is a pollutant produced by the combustion of hydrocarbon fuels. To reduce this pollutant, automobiles have catalytic converters that use a catalyst to carry out this reaction. It is also a side reaction of the combustion of gunpowder that results in muzzle flash for many firearms. If carbon monoxide and oxygen are present in sufficient amounts, the reaction will occur at high temperature and pressure.

The first step in the gas-phase reaction between carbon monoxide and oxygen is a collision between the two molecules:

$$CO\,(g) + O_2\,(g) \longrightarrow CO_2\,(g) + O\,(g)$$

Although there are many different possible orientations the two molecules can have relative to each other, consider the two presented in Figure 1.6.1. In the first case, the oxygen side of the carbon monoxide molecule collides with the oxygen molecule. In the second case, the carbon side of the carbon monoxide molecule collides with the oxygen molecule. The second case is clearly more likely to result in the formation of carbon dioxide, which has a central carbon atom bonded to two oxygen atoms (\ce{O=C=O}\). This is a rather simple example of how important the orientation of the collision is in terms of creating the desired product of the reaction.

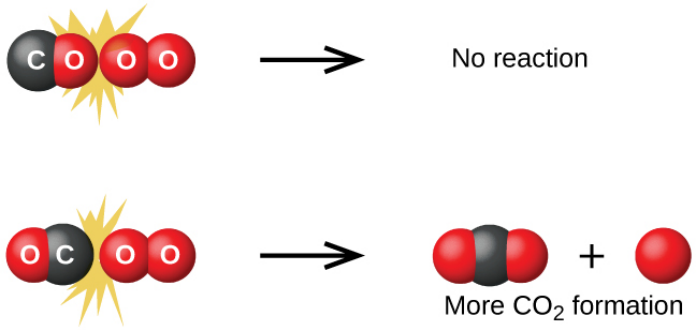


Figure 1.6.1: Illustrated are two collisions that might take place between carbon monoxide and oxygen molecules. The orientation of the colliding molecules partially determines whether a reaction between the two molecules will occur.

If the collision does take place with the correct orientation, there is still no guarantee that the reaction will proceed to form carbon dioxide. In addition to a proper orientation, the collision must also occur with sufficient energy to result in product formation. When reactant species collide with both proper orientation and adequate energy, they combine to form an unstable species called an **activated complex** or a **transition state**. These species are very short lived and usually undetectable by most analytical instruments. In some cases, sophisticated spectral measurements have been used to observe transition states.

Collision theory explains why most reaction rates increase as concentrations increase. With an increase in the concentration of any reacting substance, the chances for collisions between molecules are increased because there are more molecules per unit of volume. More collisions mean a faster reaction rate, assuming the energy of the collisions is adequate.

Activation Energy and the Arrhenius Equation

The minimum energy necessary to form a product during a collision between reactants is called the **activation energy** (E_a). How this energy compares to the kinetic energy provided by colliding reactant molecules is a primary factor affecting the rate of a chemical reaction. If the activation energy is much larger than the average kinetic energy of the molecules, the reaction will occur slowly since only a few fast-moving molecules will have enough energy to react. If the activation energy is much smaller than the average kinetic energy of the molecules, a large fraction of molecules will be adequately energetic and the reaction will proceed rapidly.

Figure 1.6.2 shows how the energy of a chemical system changes as it undergoes a reaction converting reactants to products according to the equation

$$\mathrm{A^+B} \longrightarrow \mathrm{C^+D}$$

These reaction diagrams are widely used in chemical kinetics to illustrate various properties of the reaction of interest. Viewing the diagram from left to right, the system initially comprises reactants only, $\mathrm{A + B}$. Reactant molecules with sufficient energy can collide to form a high-energy activated complex or transition state. The unstable transition state can then subsequently decay to yield stable products, $C + D$. The diagram depicts the reaction's activation energy, E_a, as the energy difference between the reactants and the transition state. Using a specific energy, the *enthalpy* (see chapter on thermochemistry), the enthalpy change of the reaction, ΔH, is estimated as the energy difference between the reactants and products. In this case, the reaction is exothermic ($\Delta H < 0$) since it yields a decrease in system enthalpy.

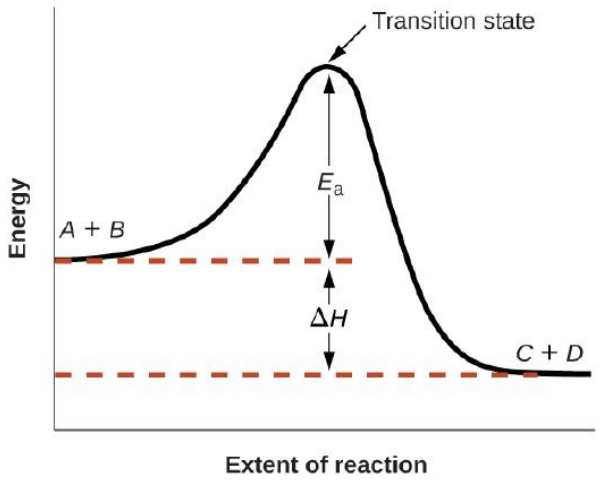


Figure 1.6.2: Reaction diagram for the exothermic reaction

The **Arrhenius equation** relates the activation energy and the rate constant, *k*, for many chemical reactions:

$$k = Ae^{-E_a/RT}$$

In this equation, R is the ideal gas constant, which has a value 8.314 J/mol/K, T is temperature on the Kelvin scale, E_a is the activation energy in joules per mole, *e* is the constant 2.7183, and *A* is a constant called the **frequency factor**, which is related to the frequency of collisions and the orientation of the reacting molecules.

Postulates of collision theory are nicely accommodated by the Arrhenius equation. The frequency factor, *A*, reflects how well the reaction conditions favor properly oriented collisions between reactant molecules. An increased probability of effectively oriented collisions results in larger values for *A* and faster reaction rates.

The exponential term, $e^{-Ea/RT}$, describes the effect of activation energy on reaction rate. According to kinetic molecular theory (see chapter on gases), the temperature of matter is a measure of the average kinetic energy of its constituent atoms or molecules. The distribution of energies among the molecules composing a sample of matter at any given temperature is described by the plot shown in Figure 1.6.3*a*. Two shaded areas under the curve represent the numbers of molecules possessing adequate energy (*RT*) to overcome the activation barriers (E_a). A lower activation energy results in a greater fraction of adequately energized molecules and a faster reaction.

The exponential term also describes the effect of temperature on reaction rate. A higher temperature represents a correspondingly greater fraction of molecules possessing sufficient energy (*RT*) to overcome the activation barrier (E_a), as shown in Figure 1.6.3*b*. This yields a greater value for the rate constant and a correspondingly faster reaction rate.

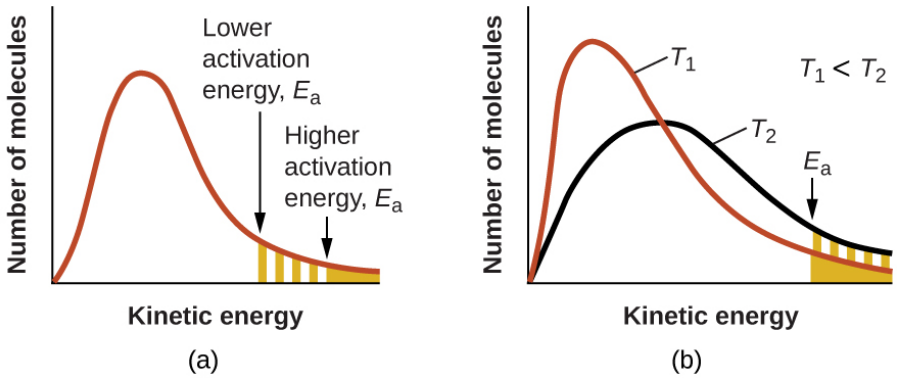


Figure 1.6.3: Molecular energy distributions showing numbers of molecules with energies exceeding (a) two different activation energies at a given temperature, and (b) a given activation energy at two different temperatures.

A convenient approach for determining E_a for a reaction involves the measurement of *k* at two or more different temperatures and using an alternate version of the Arrhenius equation that takes the form of a linear equation

$$\ln k = \left(\frac{-E_a}{R}\right)\left(\frac{1}{T}\right) + \ln A$$

$$y = mx + b$$

A plot of $\ln k$ versus $\frac{1}{T}$ is linear with a slope equal to $\frac{-E_a}{R}$ and a y-intercept equal to $\ln A$.

Example 1.6.1: Determination of E_a

The variation of the rate constant with temperature for the decomposition of $HI(g)$ to $H_2(g)$ and $I_2(g)$ is given here. What is the activation energy for the reaction?

$$2\,HI(g) \longrightarrow H_2(g) + I_2(g)$$

T (K)	k (L/mol/s)
555	3.52×10^{-7}
575	1.22×10^{-6}
645	8.59×10^{-5}
700	1.16×10^{-3}
781	3.95×10^{-2}

Solution

Use the provided data to derive values of $\frac{1}{T}$ and $\ln k$:

$\frac{1}{T}$	$\ln k$
1.80×10^{-3}	−14.860
1.74×10^{-3}	−13.617
1.55×10^{-3}	−9.362
1.43×10^{-3}	−6.759
1.28×10^{-3}	−3.231

Figure 1.6.4 is a graph of $\ln k$ versus $\frac{1}{T}$. In practice, the equation of the line (slope and *y*-intercept) that best fits these plotted data points would be derived using a statistical process called regression. This is helpful for most experimental data because a perfect fit of each data point with the line is rarely encountered. For the data here, the fit is nearly perfect and the slope may be estimated using any two of the provided data pairs. Using the first and last data points permits estimation of the slope.

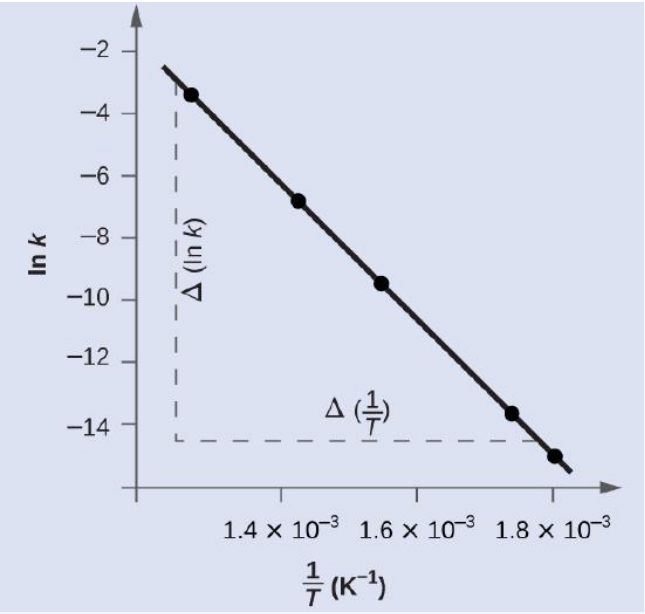


Figure 1.6.4: This graph shows the linear relationship between $\ln k$ versus $\frac{1}{T}$ for the reaction $2HI \longrightarrow H_2 + I_2$ according to the Arrhenius equation.

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Slope} &= \frac{\Delta(\ln k)}{\Delta\left(\frac{1}{T}\right)} \\ &= \frac{(-14.860)-(-3.231)}{\left(1.80\times10^{-3}K^{-1}\right)-\left(1.28\times10^{-3}K^{-1}\right)} \\ &= \frac{-11.629}{0.52\times10^{-3}K^{-1}} = -2.2\times10^{4}K \\ &= -\frac{E_a}{R} \\ E_a &= -\ \text{slope}\ \times R = -\left(-2.2\times10^{4}K\times8.314Jmol^{-1}K^{-1}\right) \\ &\quad 1.8\times10^{5}Jmol^{-1}\ \text{or}\ 180kJmol^{-1}\end{aligned}$$

Alternative approach: A more expedient approach involves deriving activation energy from measurements of the rate constant at just two temperatures. In this approach, the Arrhenius equation is rearranged to a convenient two-point form:

$$\ln\frac{k_1}{k_2} = \frac{E_a}{R}\left(\frac{1}{T_2}-\frac{1}{T_1}\right)$$

Rearranging this equation to isolate activation energy yields:

$$E_a = -R\left(\frac{\ln k_2 - \ln k_1}{\left(\frac{1}{T_2}\right)-\left(\frac{1}{T_1}\right)}\right)$$

Any two data pairs may be substituted into this equation—for example, the first and last entries from the above data table:

$$E_a = -8.314Jmol^{-1}K^{-1}\left(\frac{-3.231-(-14.860)}{1.28\times10^{-3}K^{-1}-1.80\times10^{-3}K^{-1}}\right)$$

and the result is E_a = 1.8 10^5 J mol^{-1} or 180 kJ mol^{-1}

This approach yields the same result as the more rigorous graphical approach used above, as expected. In practice, the graphical approach typically provides more reliable results when working with actual experimental data.

Exercise 1.6.1

The rate constant for the rate of decomposition of N_2O_5 to NO and O_2 in the gas phase is 1.66 L/mol/s at 650 K and 7.39 L/mol/s at 700 K:

$$2\,N_2O_5\,(g) \longrightarrow 4\,NO\,(g) + 3\,O_2\,(g)$$

Assuming the kinetics of this reaction are consistent with the Arrhenius equation, calculate the activation energy for this decomposition.

Answer

$1.1\ 10^5$ J mol^{-1} or 110 kJ mol^{-1}

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1.7: Reaction Mechanisms

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Distinguish net reactions from elementary reactions (steps)
- Identify the molecularity of elementary reactions
- Write a balanced chemical equation for a process given its reaction mechanism
- Derive the rate law consistent with a given reaction mechanism

Chemical reactions very often occur in a step-wise fashion, involving two or more distinct reactions taking place in sequence. A balanced equation indicates what is reacting and what is produced, but it reveals no details about how the reaction actually takes place. The reaction mechanism (or reaction path) provides details regarding the precise, step-by-step process by which a reaction occurs.

The decomposition of ozone, for example, appears to follow a mechanism with two steps:

$$O_3(g) \longrightarrow O_2(g) + O$$
$$O + O_3(g) \longrightarrow 2O_2(g)$$

Each of the steps in a reaction mechanism is an **elementary reaction**. These elementary reactions occur precisely as represented in the step equations, and they must sum to yield the balanced chemical equation representing the overall reaction:

$$2O_3(g) \longrightarrow 3O_2(g)$$

Notice that the oxygen atom produced in the first step of this mechanism is consumed in the second step and therefore does not appear as a product in the overall reaction. Species that are produced in one step and consumed in a subsequent step are called intermediates.

While the overall reaction equation for the decomposition of ozone indicates that two molecules of ozone react to give three molecules of oxygen, the mechanism of the reaction *does not involve the direct collision and reaction of two ozone molecules*. Instead, one O_3 decomposes to yield O_2 and an oxygen atom, and a second O_3 molecule subsequently reacts with the oxygen atom to yield two additional O_2 molecules.

Unlike balanced equations representing an overall reaction, the equations for elementary reactions are explicit representations of the chemical change taking place. The reactant(s) in an elementary reaction's equation undergo only the bond-breaking and/or making events depicted to yield the product(s). For this reason, *the rate law for an elementary reaction may be derived directly from the balanced chemical equation describing the reaction*. This is not the case for typical chemical reactions, for which rate laws may be reliably determined only via experimentation.

Unimolecular Elementary Reactions

The molecularity of an elementary reaction is the number of reactant species (atoms, molecules, or ions). For example, a unimolecular reaction involves the reaction of a *single* reactant species to produce one or more molecules of product:

$$A \longrightarrow \text{ products}$$

The rate law for a unimolecular reaction is first order:

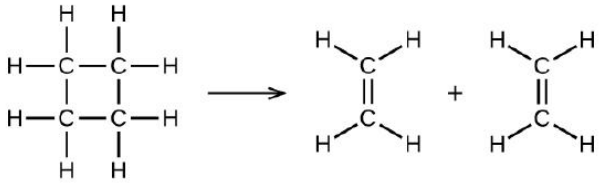
$$\text{rate } = k[A]$$

A unimolecular reaction may be one of several elementary reactions in a complex mechanism. For example, the reaction:

$$O_3 \longrightarrow O_2 + O$$

illustrates a unimolecular elementary reaction that occurs as one part of a two-step reaction mechanism as described above. However, some unimolecular reactions may be the only step of a single-step reaction mechanism. (In other words, an "overall"

reaction may also be an elementary reaction in some cases.) For example, the gas-phase decomposition of cyclobutane, C_4H_8, to ethylene, C_2H_4, is represented by the following chemical equation:



This equation represents the overall reaction observed, and it might also represent a legitimate unimolecular elementary reaction. The rate law predicted from this equation, assuming it is an elementary reaction, turns out to be the same as the rate law derived experimentally for the overall reaction, namely, one showing first-order behavior:

$$\text{rate } = -\frac{\Delta\,[C_4H_8]}{\Delta t} = k\,[C_4H_8]$$

This agreement between observed and predicted rate laws is interpreted to mean that the proposed unimolecular, single-step process is a reasonable mechanism for the butadiene reaction.

Bimolecular Elementary Reactions

A bimolecular reaction involves two reactant species, for example:

$$A + B \longrightarrow \text{ products}$$

and

$$2A \longrightarrow \text{ products}$$

For the first type, in which the two reactant molecules are different, the rate law is first-order in *A* and first order in *B* (second-order overall):

$$\text{rate } = k[A][B]$$

For the second type, in which two identical molecules collide and react, the rate law is second order in *A*:

$$\text{rate } = k[A][A] = k[A]^2$$

Some chemical reactions occur by mechanisms that consist of a single bimolecular elementary reaction. One example is the reaction of nitrogen dioxide with carbon monoxide:

$$NO_2(g) + CO(g) \longrightarrow NO(g) + CO_2(g)$$

(see Figure 1.7.1)



Figure 1.7.1: The probable mechanism for the reaction between NO_2 and CO to yield NO and CO_2.

Bimolecular elementary reactions may also be involved as steps in a multistep reaction mechanism. The reaction of atomic oxygen with ozone is the second step of the two-step ozone decomposition mechanism discussed earlier in this section:

$$O(g) + O_3(g) \longrightarrow 2O_2(g)$$

Termolecular Elementary Reactions

An elementary termolecular reaction involves the simultaneous collision of three atoms, molecules, or ions. Termolecular elementary reactions are uncommon because the probability of three particles colliding simultaneously is less than one one-

thousandth of the probability of two particles colliding. There are, however, a few established termolecular elementary reactions. The reaction of nitric oxide with oxygen appears to involve termolecular steps:

$$2NO + O_2 \longrightarrow 2NO_2$$
$$\text{rate } = k[NO]^2\,[O_2]$$

Likewise, the reaction of nitric oxide with chlorine appears to involve termolecular steps:

$$2NO + Cl_2 \longrightarrow 2NOCl$$
$$\text{rate } = k[NO]^2\,[Cl_2]$$

Relating Reaction Mechanisms to Rate Laws

It's often the case that one step in a multistep reaction mechanism is significantly slower than the others. Because a reaction cannot proceed faster than its slowest step, this step will limit the rate at which the overall reaction occurs. The slowest step is therefore called the rate-limiting step (or rate-determining step) of the reaction Figure 1.7.2.



Figure 1.7.2: A cattle chute is a nonchemical example of a rate-determining step. Cattle can only be moved from one holding pen to another as quickly as one animal can make its way through the chute. (credit: Loren Kerns)

As described earlier, rate laws may be derived directly from the chemical equations for elementary reactions. This is not the case, however, for ordinary chemical reactions. The balanced equations most often encountered represent the overall change for some chemical system, and very often this is the result of some multistep reaction mechanisms. In every case, the rate law must be determined from experimental data and the reaction mechanism subsequently deduced from the rate law (and sometimes from other data). The reaction of NO_2 and CO provides an illustrative example:

$$NO_2(g) + CO(g) \longrightarrow CO_2(g) + NO(g)$$

For temperatures above 225 °C, the rate law has been found to be:

$$\text{rate } = k\,[NO_2]\,[CO]$$

The reaction is first order with respect to NO_2 and first-order with respect to CO. This is consistent with a single-step bimolecular mechanism and it is *possible* that this is the mechanism for this reaction at high temperatures.

At temperatures below 225 °C, the reaction is described by a rate law that is second order with respect to NO_2:

$$\text{rate } = k\,[NO_2]^2$$

This rate law is not consistent with the single-step mechanism, but is consistent with the following two-step mechanism:

$$NO_2(g) + NO_2(g) \longrightarrow NO_3(g) + NO(g)\ \text{(slow)}$$
$$NO_3(g) + CO(g) \longrightarrow NO_2(g) + CO_2(g)\ \text{(fast)}$$

The rate-determining (slower) step gives a rate law showing second-order dependence on the NO_2 concentration, and the sum of the two equations gives the net overall reaction.

In general, when the rate-determining (slower) step is the first step in a mechanism, the rate law for the overall reaction is the same as the rate law for this step. However, when the rate-determining step is preceded by a step involving a rapidly reversible reaction the rate law for the overall reaction may be more difficult to derive.

As discussed in several chapters of this text, a reversible reaction is at *equilibrium* when the rates of the forward and reverse processes are equal. Consider the reversible elementary reaction in which NO dimerizes to yield an intermediate species N_2O_2.

$$NO + NO \rightleftharpoons N_2O_2$$

When this reaction is at equilibrium:

$$\text{rate}_{\text{ forward}} = \text{rate}_{\text{ reverse}}$$
$$k_1[NO]^2 = k_{-1}\,[N_2O_2]$$

This expression may be rearranged to express the concentration of the intermediate in terms of the reactant NO:

$$\left(\frac{k_1[NO]^2}{k_{-1}}\right) = [N_2O_2]$$

Since intermediate species concentrations are not used in formulating rate laws for overall reactions, this approach is sometimes necessary, as illustrated in the following example exercise.

Example 1.7.1: Deriving a Rate Law from a Reaction Mechanism

The two-step mechanism below has been proposed for a reaction between nitrogen monoxide and molecular chlorine:

$$\text{Step 1:} \quad \text{NO}\,(\text{g}) + \text{Cl}_2\,(\text{g}) \rightleftharpoons \text{NOCl}_2\,(\text{g}) \qquad \text{(fast)}$$
$$\text{Step 2:} \quad \text{NOCl}_2\,(\text{g}) + \text{NO}\,(\text{g}) \rightleftharpoons 2\,\text{NOCl}\,(\text{g}) \qquad \text{(slow)}$$

Use this mechanism to derive the equation and predicted rate law for the overall reaction.

Solution

The equation for the overall reaction is obtained by adding the two elementary reactions:

$$2NO(g) + Cl_2(g) \longrightarrow 2NOCl(g)$$

To derive a rate law from this mechanism, first write rates laws for each of the two steps.

$$\text{rate}_{\ 1} = k_1[NO]\,[Cl_2] \text{ for the forward reaction of step 1}$$
$$\text{rate}_{\ -1} = k_{-1}\,[NOCl_2] \text{ for the reverse reaction of step 1}$$
$$\text{rate}_{\ 2} = k_2\,[NOCl_2]\,[NO] \text{ for step 2}$$

Step 2 is the rate-determining step, and so the rate law for the overall reaction should be the same as for this step. However, the step 2 rate law, as written, contains an intermediate species concentration, [$NOCl_2$]. To remedy this, use the first step's rate laws to derive an expression for the intermediate concentration in terms of the reactant concentrations.

Assuming step 1 is at equilibrium:

$$\text{rate}_{\ 1} = \text{rate}_{\ -1}$$
$$k_1[NO]\,[Cl_2] = k_{-1}\,[NOCl_2]$$
$$[NOCl_2] = \left(\frac{k_1}{k_{-1}}\right)[NO]\,[Cl_2]$$

Substituting this expression into the rate law for step 2 yields:

$$\text{rate}_{\ 2} = \text{rate}_{\text{ overall}} = \left(\frac{k_2k_1}{k_{-1}}\right)[NO]^2\,[Cl_2]$$

Exercise 1.7.1

The first step of a proposed multistep mechanism is:

\[\ce{F2(g) <=> 2 F(g) \tag{fast} \]

Derive the equation relating atomic fluorine concentration to molecular fluorine concentration.

Answer

$$[\mathrm{F}] = \left(\frac{k_1 [F_2]}{k_{-1}}\right)^{1/2}$$

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1.8: Catalysis

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Explain the function of a catalyst in terms of reaction mechanisms and potential energy diagrams
- List examples of catalysis in natural and industrial processes

Among the factors affecting chemical reaction rates discussed earlier in this chapter was the presence of a *catalyst*, a substance that can increase the reaction rate without being consumed in the reaction. The concepts introduced in the previous section on reaction mechanisms provide the basis for understanding how catalysts are able to accomplish this very important function.

Figure 1.8.1 shows reaction diagrams for a chemical process in the absence and presence of a catalyst. Inspection of the diagrams reveals several traits of these reactions. Consistent with the fact that the two diagrams represent the same overall reaction, both curves begin and end at the same energies (in this case, because products are more energetic than reactants, the reaction is endothermic). The reaction mechanisms, however, are clearly different. The uncatalyzed reaction proceeds via a one-step mechanism (one transition state observed), whereas the catalyzed reaction follows a two-step mechanism (two transition states observed) with *a notably lesser activation energy*. This difference illustrates the means by which a catalyst functions to accelerate reactions, namely, by providing an alternative reaction mechanism with a lower activation energy. Although the catalyzed reaction mechanism for a reaction needn't necessarily involve a different number of steps than the uncatalyzed mechanism, it must provide a reaction path whose rate determining step is faster (lower E_a).

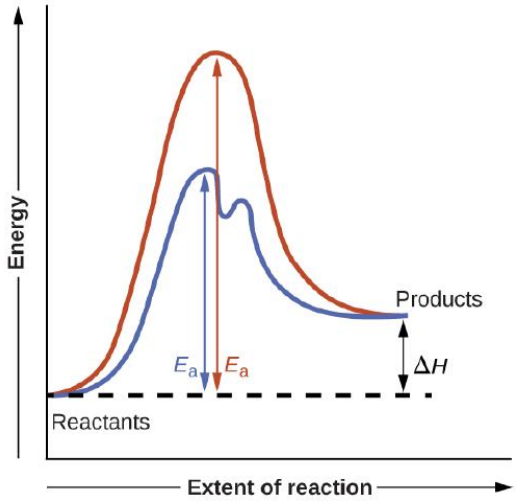
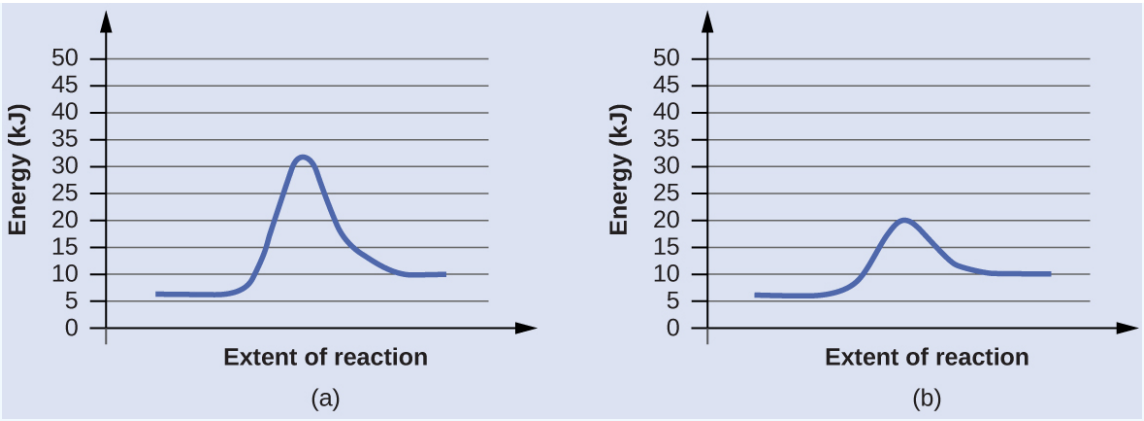


Figure 1.8.1: Reaction diagrams for an endothermic process in the absence (red curve) and presence (blue curve) of a catalyst. The catalyzed pathway involves a two-step mechanism (note the presence of two transition states) and an intermediate species (represented by the valley between the two transitions states).

Example 1.8.1: Reaction Diagrams for Catalyzed Reactions

The two reaction diagrams here represent the same reaction: one without a catalyst and one with a catalyst. Estimate the activation energy for each process, and identify which one involves a catalyst.



Solution

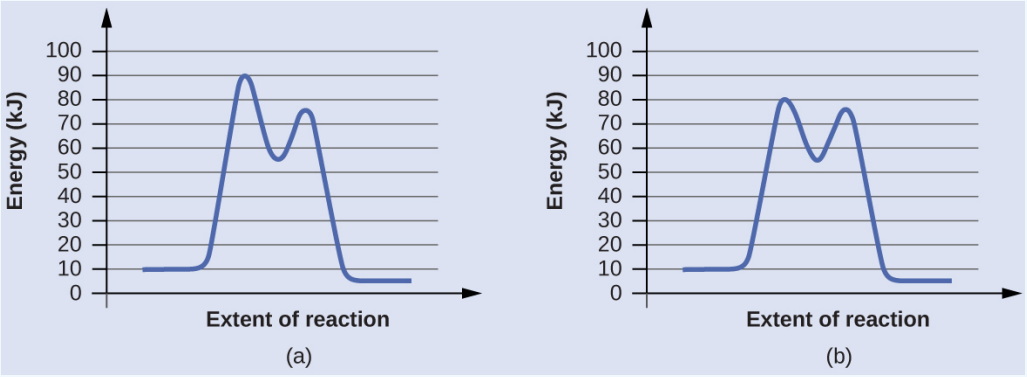
Activation energies are calculated by subtracting the reactant energy from the transition state energy.

$$\text{diagram}(a): E_a = 32kJ - 6kJ = 26kJ$$
$$\text{diagram}(b): E_a = 20kJ - 6kJ = 14kJ$$

The catalyzed reaction is the one with lesser activation energy, in this case represented by diagram b.

? Exercise 1.8.1

Reaction diagrams for a chemical process with and without a catalyst are shown below. Both reactions involve a two-step mechanism with a rate-determining first step. Compute activation energies for the first step of each mechanism, and identify which corresponds to the catalyzed reaction. How do the second steps of these two mechanisms compare?



Answer

For the first step, E_a = 80 kJ for (a) and 70 kJ for (b), so diagram (b) depicts the catalyzed reaction. Activation energies for the second steps of both mechanisms are the same, 20 kJ.

Homogeneous Catalysts

A homogeneous catalyst is present in the same phase as the reactants. It interacts with a reactant to form an intermediate substance, which then decomposes or reacts with another reactant in one or more steps to regenerate the original catalyst and form product.

As an important illustration of homogeneous catalysis, consider the earth's ozone layer. Ozone in the upper atmosphere, which protects the earth from ultraviolet radiation, is formed when oxygen molecules absorb ultraviolet light and undergo the reaction:

$$3O_2(g) \xrightarrow{h\nu} 2O_3(g)$$

Ozone is a relatively unstable molecule that decomposes to yield diatomic oxygen by the reverse of this equation. This decomposition reaction is consistent with the following two-step mechanism:

$$O_3 \longrightarrow O_2 + O$$
$$O + O_3 \longrightarrow 2O_2$$

A number of substances can catalyze the decomposition of ozone. For example, the nitric oxide–catalyzed decomposition of ozone is believed to occur via the following three-step mechanism:

$$NO(g) + O_3(g) \longrightarrow NO_2(g) + O_2(g)$$
$$O_3(g) \longrightarrow O_2(g) + O(g)$$
$$NO_2(g) + O(g) \longrightarrow NO(g) + O_2(g)$$

As required, the overall reaction is the same for both the two-step uncatalyzed mechanism and the three-step NO-catalyzed mechanism:

$$2O_3(g) \longrightarrow 3O_2(g)$$

Notice that NO is a reactant in the first step of the mechanism and a product in the last step. This is another characteristic trait of a catalyst: Though it participates in the chemical reaction, it is not consumed by the reaction.

Portrait of a Chemist: Mario J. Molina

The 1995 Nobel Prize in Chemistry was shared by Paul J. Crutzen, Mario J. Molina (Figure 1.8.2), and F. Sherwood Rowland "for their work in atmospheric chemistry, particularly concerning the formation and decomposition of ozone."[1] Molina's initial discovery of stratospheric depletion of ozone by chlorine atoms was done at the University of California Irvine, he later moved to the NASA/Jet Propulsion Laboratory, MIT and the University of California, San Diego. At the time of his death in 2020 Molina, a Mexican citizen had established a new center for the study of energy and the environment in Mexico City.

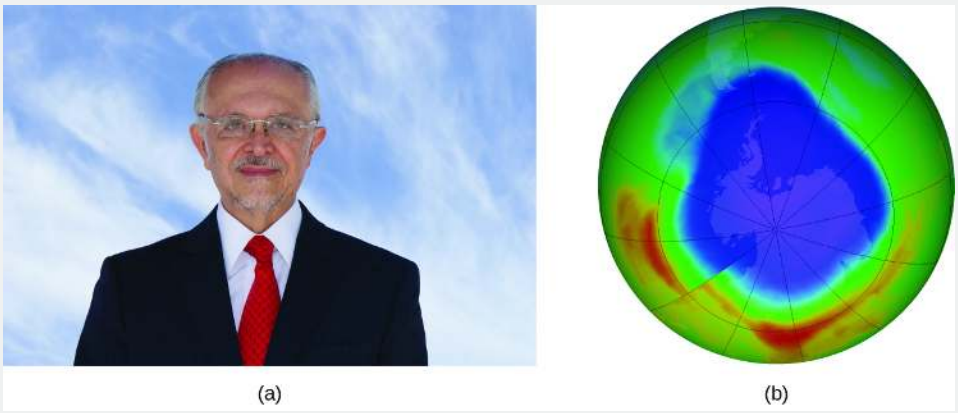


Figure 1.8.2: (a) Mexican chemist Mario Molina (1943 –) shared the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1995 for his (b) early research on stratospheric depletion of ozone and later the Antarctic ozone hole. (credit a: courtesy of Mario Molina; credit b: modification of work by NASA)

In 1974, Molina and Rowland published a paper in the journal *Nature* detailing the threat of chlorofluorocarbon gases to the stability of the ozone layer in earth's upper atmosphere. The ozone layer protects earth from solar radiation by absorbing ultraviolet light. As chemical reactions deplete the amount of ozone in the upper atmosphere, a measurable "hole" forms above Antarctica, and an increase in the amount of solar ultraviolet radiation— strongly linked to the prevalence of skin cancers—reaches earth's surface. The work of Molina and Rowland was instrumental in the adoption of the Montreal Protocol, an international treaty signed in 1987 that successfully began phasing out production of chemicals linked to ozone destruction.

Molina and Rowland demonstrated that chlorine atoms from human-made chemicals can catalyze ozone destruction in a process similar to that by which NO accelerates the depletion of ozone. Chlorine atoms are generated when chlorocarbons or chlorofluorocarbons—once widely used as refrigerants and propellants—are photochemically decomposed by ultraviolet light or react with hydroxyl radicals. A sample mechanism is shown here using methyl chloride:

$$CH_3Cl + OH \longrightarrow Cl + \text{ other products} \tag{1.8.1}$$

Chlorine radicals break down ozone and are regenerated by the following catalytic cycle:

$$Cl + O_3 \longrightarrow ClO + O_2$$
$$ClO + O \longrightarrow Cl + O_2$$

overall Reaction: $O_3 + O \longrightarrow 2O_2$ \nonumber \]

A single monatomic chlorine can break down thousands of ozone molecules. Luckily, the majority of atmospheric chlorine exists as the catalytically inactive forms Cl_2 and $ClONO_2$.

Enzymes in the human body act as catalysts for important chemical reactions in cellular metabolism. As such, a deficiency of a particular enzyme can translate to a life-threatening disease. G6PD (glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase) deficiency, a genetic condition that results in a shortage of the enzyme glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase, is the most common enzyme deficiency in humans. This enzyme, shown in Figure 12.21, is the rate-limiting enzyme for the metabolic pathway that supplies NADPH to cells (Figure 1.8.4).

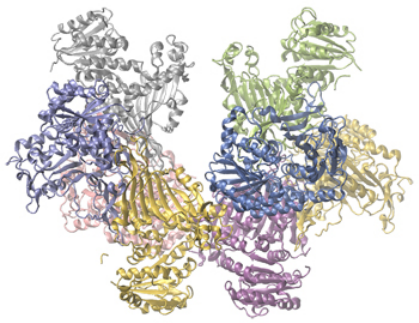


Figure 12.21 Glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase is a rate-limiting enzyme for the metabolic pathway that supplies NADPH to cells.

A disruption in this pathway can lead to reduced glutathione in red blood cells; once all glutathione is consumed, enzymes and other proteins such as hemoglobin are susceptible to damage. For example, hemoglobin can be metabolized to bilirubin, which leads to jaundice, a condition that can become severe. People who suffer from G6PD deficiency must avoid certain foods and medicines containing chemicals that can trigger damage their glutathione-deficient red blood cells.

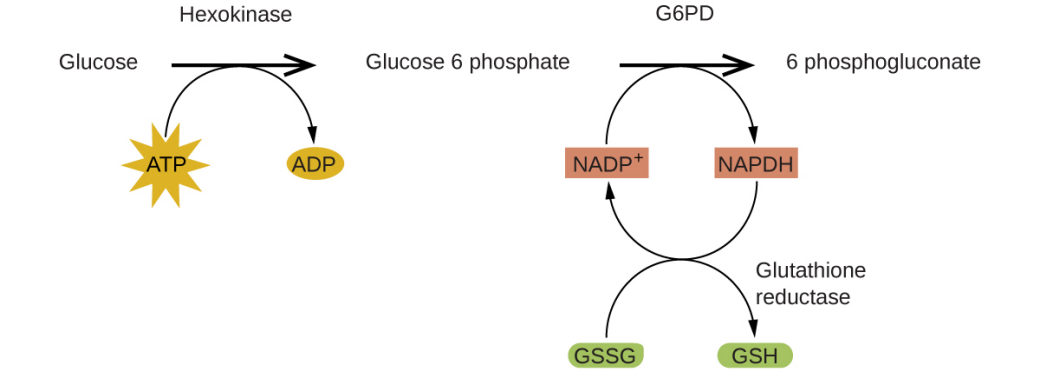


Figure 1.8.4: In the mechanism for the pentose phosphate pathway, G6PD catalyzes the reaction that regulates NADPH, a co-enzyme that regulates glutathione, an antioxidant that protects red blood cells and other cells from oxidative damage.

Heterogeneous Catalysts

A heterogeneous catalyst is a catalyst that is present in a different phase (usually a solid) than the reactants. Such catalysts generally function by furnishing an active surface upon which a reaction can occur. Gas and liquid phase reactions catalyzed by heterogeneous catalysts occur on the surface of the catalyst rather than within the gas or liquid phase.

Heterogeneous catalysis typically involves the following processes:

1. Adsorption of the reactant(s) onto the surface of the catalyst
2. Activation of the adsorbed reactant(s)
3. Reaction of the adsorbed reactant(s)

Figure 1.8.5: illustrates the steps of a mechanism for the reaction of compounds containing a carbon–carbon double bond with hydrogen on a nickel catalyst. Nickel is the catalyst used in the hydrogenation of polyunsaturated fats and oils (which contain several carbon–carbon double bonds) to produce saturated fats and oils (which contain only carbon–carbon single bonds).

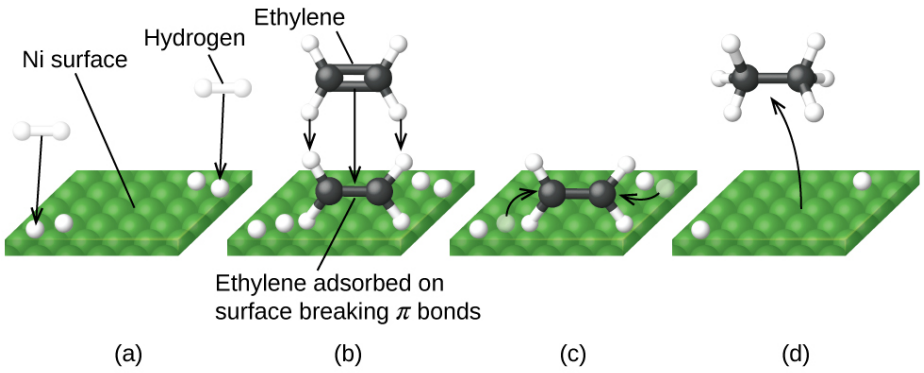


Figure 1.8.5: Mechanism for the Ni-catalyzed reaction $C_2H_4 + H_2 \longrightarrow C_2H_6$. (a) Hydrogen is adsorbed on the surface, breaking the H–H bonds and forming Ni–H bonds. (b) Ethylene is adsorbed on the surface, breaking the C–C π-bond and forming Ni–C bonds. (c) Atoms diffuse across the surface and form new C–H bonds when they collide. (d) C_2H_6 molecules desorb from the Ni surface.

Many important chemical products are prepared via industrial processes that use heterogeneous catalysts, including ammonia, nitric acid, sulfuric acid, and methanol. Heterogeneous catalysts are also used in the catalytic converters found on most gasoline-powered automobiles (Figure 1.8.6).

Chemistry in Everyday Life: Automobile Catalytic Converters

Scientists developed catalytic converters to reduce the amount of toxic emissions produced by burning gasoline in internal combustion engines. By utilizing a carefully selected blend of catalytically active metals, it is possible to effect complete combustion of all carbon-containing compounds to carbon dioxide while also reducing the output of nitrogen oxides. This is particularly impressive when we consider that one step involves adding more oxygen to the molecule and the other involves removing the oxygen (Figure 1.8.6).

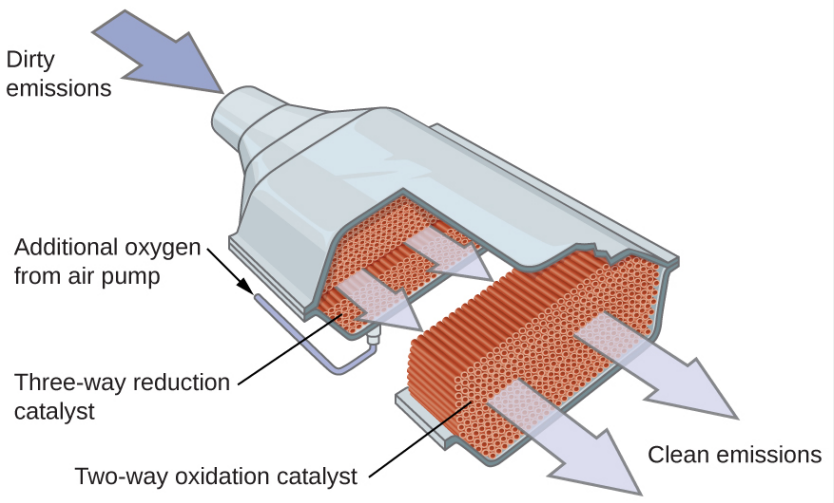


Figure 1.8.6: A catalytic converter allows for the combution of all carbon-containing compounds to carbon dioxide, while at the same time reducing the output of nitrogen oxide and other pollutants in emissions from gasoline-burning engines.

Most modern, three-way catalytic converters possess a surface impregnated with a platinum-rhodium catalyst, which catalyzes the conversion of nitric oxide into dinitrogen and oxygen as well as the conversion of carbon monoxide and hydrocarbons such as octane into carbon dioxide and water vapor:

$$2NO_2(g) \longrightarrow N_2(g) + 2O_2(g)$$
$$2CO(g) + O_2(g) \longrightarrow 2CO_2(g)$$
$$2C_8H_{18}(g) + 25O_2(g) \longrightarrow 16CO_2(g) + 18H_2O(g)$$

In order to be as efficient as possible, most catalytic converters are preheated by an electric heater. This ensures that the metals in the catalyst are fully active even before the automobile exhaust is hot enough to maintain appropriate reaction temperatures.

Link to Learning

The LibreTexts provides a thorough explanation of how catalytic converters work.

How Sciences Interconnect: Enzyme Structure and Function

The study of enzymes is an important interconnection between biology and chemistry. Enzymes are usually proteins (polypeptides) that help to control the rate of chemical reactions between biologically important compounds, particularly those that are involved in cellular metabolism. Different classes of enzymes perform a variety of functions, as shown in Table 1.8.1.

Table 1.8.1: Classes of Enzymes and Their Functions

Class	Function
oxidoreductases	redox reactions
transferases	transfer of functional groups
hydrolases	hydrolysis reactions
lyases	group elimination to form double bonds
isomerases	isomerization
ligases	bond formation with ATP hydrolysis

Enzyme molecules possess an active site, a part of the molecule with a shape that allows it to bond to a specific substrate (a reactant molecule), forming an enzyme-substrate complex as a reaction intermediate. There are two models that attempt to explain

how this active site works. The most simplistic model is referred to as the lock-and-key hypothesis, which suggests that the molecular shapes of the active site and substrate are complementary, fitting together like a key in a lock. The induced fit hypothesis, on the other hand, suggests that the enzyme molecule is flexible and changes shape to accommodate a bond with the substrate. This is not to suggest that an enzyme's active site is completely malleable, however. Both the lock-and-key model and the induced fit model account for the fact that enzymes can only bind with specific substrates, since in general a particular enzyme only catalyzes a particular reaction (Figure 1.8.7).

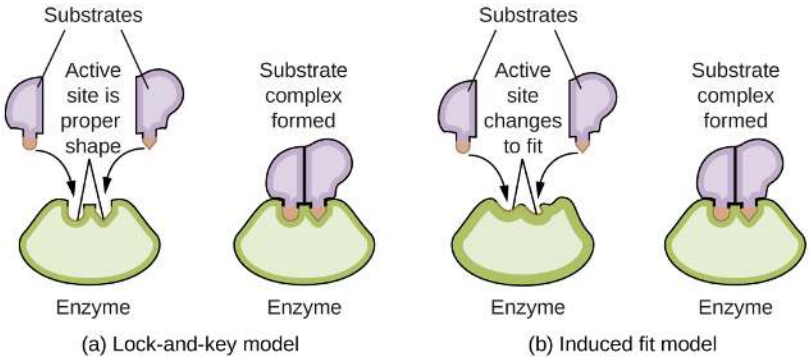


Figure 1.8.7: (a) According to the lock-and-key model, the shape of an enzyme's active site is a perfect fit for the substrate. (b) According to the induced fit model, the active site is somewhat flexible, and can change shape in order to bond with the substrate.

Link to Learning

The Royal Society of Chemistry provides an excellent introduction to enzymes for students and teachers.

Footnotes

- 1"The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 1995," Nobel Prize.org, accessed February 18, 2015, http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_priz...aureates/1995/.

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1.9: Key Terms

activated complex | (also, transition state) unstable combination of reactant species formed during a chemical reaction

activation energy (E_a) | minimum energy necessary in order for a reaction to take place

Arrhenius equation | mathematical relationship between a reaction's rate constant, activation energy, and temperature

average rate | rate of a chemical reaction computed as the ratio of a measured change in amount or concentration of substance to the time interval over which the change occurred

bimolecular reaction | elementary reaction involving two reactant species

catalyst | substance that increases the rate of a reaction without itself being consumed by the reaction

collision theory | model that emphasizes the energy and orientation of molecular collisions to explain and predict reaction kinetics

elementary reaction | reaction that takes place in a single step, precisely as depicted in its chemical equation

frequency factor (A) | proportionality constant in the Arrhenius equation, related to the relative number of collisions having an orientation capable of leading to product formation

half-life of a reaction ($t_{1/2}$) | time required for half of a given amount of reactant to be consumed

heterogeneous catalyst | catalyst present in a different phase from the reactants, furnishing a surface at which a reaction can occur

homogeneous catalyst | catalyst present in the same phase as the reactants

initial rate | instantaneous rate of a chemical reaction at $t = 0$ s (immediately after the reaction has begun)

instantaneous rate | rate of a chemical reaction at any instant in time, determined by the slope of the line tangential to a graph of concentration as a function of time

integrated rate law | equation that relates the concentration of a reactant to elapsed time of reaction

intermediate | species produced in one step of a reaction mechanism and consumed in a subsequent step

method of initial rates | common experimental approach to determining rate laws that involves measuring reaction rates at varying initial reactant concentrations

molecularity | number of reactant species involved in an elementary reaction

overall reaction order | sum of the reaction orders for each substance represented in the rate law

rate constant (k) | proportionality constant in a rate law

rate expression | mathematical representation defining reaction rate as change in amount, concentration, or pressure of reactant or product species per unit time

rate law | (also, rate equation) (also, differential rate laws) mathematical equation showing the dependence of reaction rate on the rate constant and the concentration of one or more reactants

rate of reaction | measure of the speed at which a chemical reaction takes place

rate-determining step | (also, rate-limiting step) slowest elementary reaction in a reaction mechanism; determines the rate of the overall reaction

reaction diagram | used in chemical kinetics to illustrate various properties of a reaction

reaction mechanism | stepwise sequence of elementary reactions by which a chemical change takes place

reaction order | value of an exponent in a rate law (for example, zero order for 0, first order for 1, second order for 2, and so on)

termolecular reaction | elementary reaction involving three reactant species

unimolecular reaction | elementary reaction involving a single reactant species

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1.10: Key Equations

integrated rate law for zero-order reactions:
half-life for a zero-order reaction
integrated rate law for first-order reactions:
half-life for a first-order reaction
integrated rate law for second-order reactions:
half-life for a second-order reaction

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1.11: Summary

The rate of a reaction can be expressed either in terms of the decrease in the amount of a reactant or the increase in the amount of a product per unit time. Relations between different rate expressions for a given reaction are derived directly from the stoichiometric coefficients of the equation representing the reaction.

The rate of a chemical reaction is affected by several parameters. Reactions involving two phases proceed more rapidly when there is greater surface area contact. If temperature or reactant concentration is increased, the rate of a given reaction generally increases as well. A catalyst can increase the rate of a reaction by providing an alternative pathway with a lower activation energy.

Rate laws (*differential rate laws*) provide a mathematical description of how changes in the concentration of a substance affect the rate of a chemical reaction. Rate laws are determined experimentally and cannot be predicted by reaction stoichiometry. The order of reaction describes how much a change in the concentration of each substance affects the overall rate, and the overall order of a reaction is the sum of the orders for each substance present in the reaction. Reaction orders are typically first order, second order, or zero order, but fractional and even negative orders are possible.

Integrated rate laws are mathematically derived from differential rate laws, and they describe the time dependence of reactant and product concentrations.

The half-life of a reaction is the time required to decrease the amount of a given reactant by one-half. A reaction's half-life varies with rate constant and, for some reaction orders, reactant concentration. The half-life of a zero-order reaction decreases as the initial concentration of the reactant in the reaction decreases. The half-life of a first-order reaction is independent of concentration, and the half-life of a second-order reaction decreases as the concentration increases.

Chemical reactions typically require collisions between reactant species. These reactant collisions must be of proper orientation and sufficient energy in order to result in product formation. Collision theory provides a simple but effective explanation for the effect of many experimental parameters on reaction rates. The Arrhenius equation describes the relation between a reaction's rate constant, activation energy, temperature, and dependence on collision orientation.

The sequence of individual steps, or elementary reactions, by which reactants are converted into products during the course of a reaction is called the reaction mechanism. The molecularity of an elementary reaction is the number of reactant species involved, typically one (unimolecular), two (bimolecular), or, less commonly, three (termolecular). The overall rate of a reaction is determined by the rate of the slowest in its mechanism, called the rate-determining step. Unimolecular elementary reactions have first-order rate laws, while bimolecular elementary reactions have second-order rate laws. By comparing the rate laws derived from a reaction mechanism to that determined experimentally, the mechanism may be deemed either incorrect or plausible.

Catalysts affect the rate of a chemical reaction by altering its mechanism to provide a lower activation energy. Catalysts can be homogenous (in the same phase as the reactants) or heterogeneous (a different phase than the reactants).

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1.12: Exercises

1.

What is the difference between average rate, initial rate, and instantaneous rate?

2.

Ozone decomposes to oxygen according to the equation Write the equation that relates the rate expressions for this reaction in terms of the disappearance of O_3 and the formation of oxygen.

3.

In the nuclear industry, chlorine trifluoride is used to prepare uranium hexafluoride, a volatile compound of uranium used in the separation of uranium isotopes. Chlorine trifluoride is prepared by the reaction Write the equation that relates the rate expressions for this reaction in terms of the disappearance of Cl_2 and F_2 and the formation of ClF_3.

4.

A study of the rate of dimerization of C_4H_6 gave the data shown in the table:

Time (s)	0	1600	3200	4800	6200
$[C_4H_6]$ (M)	$1.00\ 10^{-2}$	$5.04\ 10^{-3}$	$3.37\ 10^{-3}$	$2.53\ 10^{-3}$	$2.08\ 10^{-3}$

a. Determine the average rate of dimerization between 0 s and 1600 s, and between 1600 s and 3200 s.
b. Estimate the instantaneous rate of dimerization at 3200 s from a graph of time versus $[C_4H_6]$. What are the units of this rate?
c. Determine the average rate of formation of C_8H_{12} at 1600 s and the instantaneous rate of formation at 3200 s from the rates found in parts (a) and (b).

5.

A study of the rate of the reaction represented as gave the following data:

Time (s)	0.0	5.0	10.0	15.0	20.0	25.0	35.0
[A] (M)	1.00	0.775	0.625	0.465	0.360	0.285	0.230

a. Determine the average rate of disappearance of A between 0.0 s and 10.0 s, and between 10.0 s and 20.0 s.
b. Estimate the instantaneous rate of disappearance of A at 15.0 s from a graph of time versus [A]. What are the units of this rate?
c. Use the rates found in parts (a) and (b) to determine the average rate of formation of B between 0.00 s and 10.0 s, and the instantaneous rate of formation of B at 15.0 s.

6.

Consider the following reaction in aqueous solution:

If the rate of disappearance of $Br^-(aq)$ at a particular moment during the reaction is $3.5\ 10^{-4}$ mol L^{-1} s^{-1}, what is the rate of appearance of $Br_2(aq)$ at that moment?

7.

Describe the effect of each of the following on the rate of the reaction of magnesium metal with a solution of hydrochloric acid: the molarity of the hydrochloric acid, the temperature of the solution, and the size of the pieces of magnesium.

8.

Explain why an egg cooks more slowly in boiling water in Denver than in New York City. (Hint: Consider the effect of temperature on reaction rate and the effect of pressure on boiling point.)

9.

Go to the PhET Reactions & Rates interactive. Use the Single Collision tab to represent how the collision between monatomic oxygen (O) and carbon monoxide (CO) results in the breaking of one bond and the formation of another. Pull back on the red

plunger to release the atom and observe the results. Then, click on “Reload Launcher” and change to “Angled shot” to see the difference.

a. What happens when the angle of the collision is changed?
b. Explain how this is relevant to rate of reaction.

10.

In the PhET Reactions & Rates interactive, use the “Many Collisions” tab to observe how multiple atoms and molecules interact under varying conditions. Select a molecule to pump into the chamber. Set the initial temperature and select the current amounts of each reactant. Select “Show bonds” under Options. How is the rate of the reaction affected by concentration and temperature?

11.

In the PhET Reactions & Rates interactive, on the Many Collisions tab, set up a simulation with 15 molecules of A and 10 molecules of BC. Select “Show Bonds” under Options.

a. Leave the Initial Temperature at the default setting. Observe the reaction. Is the rate of reaction fast or slow?
b. Click “Pause” and then “Reset All,” and then enter 15 molecules of A and 10 molecules of BC once again. Select “Show Bonds” under Options. This time, increase the initial temperature until, on the graph, the total average energy line is completely above the potential energy curve. Describe what happens to the reaction.

12.

How do the rate of a reaction and its rate constant differ?

13.

Doubling the concentration of a reactant increases the rate of a reaction four times. With this knowledge, answer the following questions:

a. What is the order of the reaction with respect to that reactant?
b. Tripling the concentration of a different reactant increases the rate of a reaction three times. What is the order of the reaction with respect to that reactant?

14.

Tripling the concentration of a reactant increases the rate of a reaction nine-fold. With this knowledge, answer the following questions:

a. What is the order of the reaction with respect to that reactant?
b. Increasing the concentration of a reactant by a factor of four increases the rate of a reaction four-fold. What is the order of the reaction with respect to that reactant?

15.

How will the rate of reaction change for the process: if the rate law for the reaction is

a. Decreasing the pressure of NO_2 from 0.50 atm to 0.250 atm.
b. Increasing the concentration of CO from 0.01 *M* to 0.03 *M*.

16.

How will each of the following affect the rate of the reaction: if the rate law for the reaction is ?

a. Increasing the pressure of NO_2 from 0.1 atm to 0.3 atm
b. Increasing the concentration of CO from 0.02 *M* to 0.06 *M*.

17.

Regular flights of supersonic aircraft in the stratosphere are of concern because such aircraft produce nitric oxide, NO, as a byproduct in the exhaust of their engines. Nitric oxide reacts with ozone, and it has been suggested that this could contribute to depletion of the ozone layer. The reaction is first order with respect to both NO and O_3 with a rate constant of $2.20\ 10^7$ L/mol/s. What is the instantaneous rate of disappearance of NO when [NO] = $3.3\ 10^{-6}$ *M* and [O_3] = $5.9\ 10^{-7}$ *M*?

18.

Radioactive phosphorus is used in the study of biochemical reaction mechanisms because phosphorus atoms are components of many biochemical molecules. The location of the phosphorus (and the location of the molecule it is bound in) can be detected from the electrons (beta particles) it produces:

rate = $4.85\ 10^{-2}$

What is the instantaneous rate of production of electrons in a sample with a phosphorus concentration of 0.0033 *M*?

19.

The rate constant for the radioactive decay of ^{14}C is $1.21\ 10^{-4}$ $year^{-1}$. The products of the decay are nitrogen atoms and electrons (beta particles):

What is the instantaneous rate of production of N atoms in a sample with a carbon-14 content of $6.5\ 10^{-9}$ *M*?

20.

The decomposition of acetaldehyde is a second order reaction with a rate constant of $4.71\ 10^{-8}$ L mol^{-1} s^{-1}. What is the instantaneous rate of decomposition of acetaldehyde in a solution with a concentration of $5.55\ 10^{-4}$ *M*?

21.

Alcohol is removed from the bloodstream by a series of metabolic reactions. The first reaction produces acetaldehyde; then other products are formed. The following data have been determined for the rate at which alcohol is removed from the blood of an average male, although individual rates can vary by 25–30%. Women metabolize alcohol a little more slowly than men:

[C_2H_5OH] (*M*)	$4.4\ 10^{-2}$	$3.3\ 10^{-2}$	$2.2\ 10^{-2}$
Rate (mol L^{-1} h^{-1})	$2.0\ 10^{-2}$	$2.0\ 10^{-2}$	$2.0\ 10^{-2}$

Determine the rate law, the rate constant, and the overall order for this reaction.

22.

Under certain conditions the decomposition of ammonia on a metal surface gives the following data:

[NH_3] (*M*)	$1.0\ 10^{-3}$	$2.0\ 10^{-3}$	$3.0\ 10^{-3}$
Rate (mol L^{-1} h^{-1})	$1.5\ 10^{-6}$	$1.5\ 10^{-6}$	$1.5\ 10^{-6}$

Determine the rate law, the rate constant, and the overall order for this reaction.

23.

Nitrosyl chloride, NOCl, decomposes to NO and Cl_2.

Determine the rate law, the rate constant, and the overall order for this reaction from the following data:

[NOCl] (*M*)	0.10	0.20	0.30
Rate (mol L^{-1} h^{-1})	$8.0\ 10^{-10}$	$3.2\ 10^{-9}$	$7.2\ 10^{-9}$

24.

From the following data, determine the rate law, the rate constant, and the order with respect to *A* for the reaction

[*A*] (*M*)	$1.33\ 10^{-2}$	$2.66\ 10^{-2}$	$3.99\ 10^{-2}$
Rate (mol L^{-1} h^{-1})	$3.80\ 10^{-7}$	$1.52\ 10^{-6}$	$3.42\ 10^{-6}$

25.

Nitrogen monoxide reacts with chlorine according to the equation:

The following initial rates of reaction have been observed for certain reactant concentrations:

[NO] (mol/L)	$[Cl_2]$ (mol/L)	Rate (mol L^{-1} h^{-1})
0.50	0.50	1.14
1.00	0.50	4.56
1.00	1.00	9.12

What is the rate law that describes the rate's dependence on the concentrations of NO and Cl_2? What is the rate constant? What are the orders with respect to each reactant?

26.

Hydrogen reacts with nitrogen monoxide to form dinitrogen monoxide (laughing gas) according to the equation:

Determine the rate law, the rate constant, and the orders with respect to each reactant from the following data:

[NO] (*M*)	0.30	0.60	0.60
$[H_2]$ (*M*)	0.35	0.35	0.70
Rate (mol L^{-1} s^{-1})	2.835 10^{-3}	1.134 10^{-2}	2.268 10^{-2}

27.

For the reaction the following data were obtained at 30 °C:

[*A*] (*M*)	0.230	0.356	0.557
Rate (mol L^{-1} s^{-1})	4.17 10^{-4}	9.99 10^{-4}	2.44 10^{-3}

a. What is the order of the reaction with respect to [*A*], and what is the rate law?
b. What is the rate constant?

28.

For the reaction the following data were obtained at 30 °C:

$[Q]_{initial}$ (*M*)	0.170	0.212	0.357
Rate (mol L^{-1} s^{-1})	6.68 10^{-3}	1.04 10^{-2}	2.94 10^{-2}

a. What is the order of the reaction with respect to [*Q*], and what is the rate law?
b. What is the rate constant?

29.

The rate constant for the first-order decomposition at 45 °C of dinitrogen pentoxide, N_2O_5, dissolved in chloroform, $CHCl_3$, is 6.2 10^{-4} min^{-1}.

What is the rate of the reaction when $[N_2O_5]$ = 0.40 *M*?

30.

The annual production of HNO_3 in 2013 was 60 million metric tons Most of that was prepared by the following sequence of reactions, each run in a separate reaction vessel.

a. The first reaction is run by burning ammonia in air over a platinum catalyst. This reaction is fast. The reaction in equation (c) is also fast. The second reaction limits the rate at which nitric acid can be prepared from ammonia. If equation (b) is second order

in NO and first order in O_2, what is the rate of formation of NO_2 when the oxygen concentration is 0.50 *M* and the nitric oxide concentration is 0.75 *M*? The rate constant for the reaction is 5.8 10^{-6} L^2 mol^{-2} s^{-1}.

31.

The following data have been determined for the reaction:

	1	2	3
(*M*)	0.10	0.20	0.30
(*M*)	0.050	0.050	0.010
Rate (mol L^{-1} s^{-1})	3.05 10^{-4}	6.20 10^{-4}	1.83 10^{-4}

Determine the rate law and the rate constant for this reaction.

32.

Describe how graphical methods can be used to determine the order of a reaction and its rate constant from a series of data that includes the concentration of *A* at varying times.

33.

Use the data provided to graphically determine the order and rate constant of the following reaction:

Time (s)	0	5.00 10^3	1.00 10^4	1.50 10^4
[SO_2Cl_2] (*M*)	0.100	0.0896	0.0802	0.0719
Time (s)	2.50 10^4	3.00 10^4	4.00 10^4	
[SO_2Cl_2] (*M*)	0.0577	0.0517	0.0415	

34.

Pure ozone decomposes slowly to oxygen, Use the data provided in a graphical method and determine the order and rate constant of the reaction.

Time (h)	0	2.0 10^3	7.6 10^3	1.00 10^4
[O_3] (*M*)	1.00 10^{-5}	4.98 10^{-6}	2.07 10^{-6}	1.66 10^{-6}
Time (h)	1.23 10^4	1.43 10^4	1.70 10^4	
[O_3] (*M*)	1.39 10^{-6}	1.22 10^{-6}	1.05 10^{-6}	

35.

From the given data, use a graphical method to determine the order and rate constant of the following reaction:

Time (s)	5.0	10.0	15.0	20.0	25.0	30.0	35.0	40.0
[*X*] (*M*)	0.0990	0.0497	0.0332	0.0249	0.0200	0.0166	0.0143	0.0125

36.

What is the half-life for the first-order decay of phosphorus-32? The rate constant for the decay is 4.85 10^{-2} day^{-1}.

37.

What is the half-life for the first-order decay of carbon-14? The rate constant for the decay is 1.21 10^{-4} $year^{-1}$.

38.

What is the half-life for the decomposition of NOCl when the concentration of NOCl is 0.15 *M*? The rate constant for this second-order reaction is 8.0 10^{-8} L mol^{-1} s^{-1}.

39.

What is the half-life for the decomposition of O_3 when the concentration of O_3 is 2.35 10^{-6} *M*? The rate constant for this second-order reaction is 50.4 L mol^{-1} h^{-1}.

40.

The reaction of compound *A* to give compounds *C* and *D* was found to be second-order in *A*. The rate constant for the reaction was determined to be 2.42 L mol^{-1} s^{-1}. If the initial concentration is 0.500 mol/L, what is the value of $t_{1/2}$?

41.

The half-life of a reaction of compound *A* to give compounds *D* and *E* is 8.50 min when the initial concentration of *A* is 0.150 M. How long will it take for the concentration to drop to 0.0300 M if the reaction is (a) first order with respect to *A* or (b) second order with respect to *A*?

42.

Some bacteria are resistant to the antibiotic penicillin because they produce penicillinase, an enzyme with a molecular weight of 3 10^4 g/mol that converts penicillin into inactive molecules. Although the kinetics of enzyme-catalyzed reactions can be complex, at low concentrations this reaction can be described by a rate law that is first order in the catalyst (penicillinase) and that also involves the concentration of penicillin. From the following data: 1.0 L of a solution containing 0.15 µg (0.15 10^{-6} g) of penicillinase, determine the order of the reaction with respect to penicillin and the value of the rate constant.

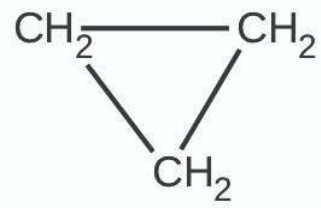
[Penicillin] (*M*)	Rate (mol L^{-1} min^{-1})
2.0 10^{-6}	1.0 10^{-10}
3.0 10^{-6}	1.5 10^{-10}
4.0 10^{-6}	2.0 10^{-10}

43.

Both technetium-99 and thallium-201 are used to image heart muscle in patients with suspected heart problems. The half-lives are 6 h and 73 h, respectively. What percent of the radioactivity would remain for each of the isotopes after 2 days (48 h)?

44.

There are two molecules with the formula C_3H_6. Propene, is the monomer of the polymer polypropylene, which is used for indoor-outdoor carpets. Cyclopropane is used as an anesthetic:



When heated to 499 °C, cyclopropane rearranges (isomerizes) and forms propene with a rate constant of 5.95 10^{-4} s^{-1}. What is the half-life of this reaction? What fraction of the cyclopropane remains after 0.75 h at 499 °C?

45.

Fluorine-18 is a radioactive isotope that decays by positron emission to form oxygen-18 with a half-life of 109.7 min. (A positron is a particle with the mass of an electron and a single unit of positive charge; the equation is Physicians use ^{18}F to study the brain by injecting a quantity of fluoro-substituted glucose into the blood of a patient. The glucose accumulates in the regions where the brain is active and needs nourishment.

a. What is the rate constant for the decomposition of fluorine-18?

b. If a sample of glucose containing radioactive fluorine-18 is injected into the blood, what percent of the radioactivity will remain after 5.59 h?

c. How long does it take for 99.99% of the ^{18}F to decay?

46.

Suppose that the half-life of steroids taken by an athlete is 42 days. Assuming that the steroids biodegrade by a first-order process, how long would it take for of the initial dose to remain in the athlete's body?

47.

Recently, the skeleton of King Richard III was found under a parking lot in England. If tissue samples from the skeleton contain about 93.79% of the carbon-14 expected in living tissue, what year did King Richard III die? The half-life for carbon-14 is 5730 years.

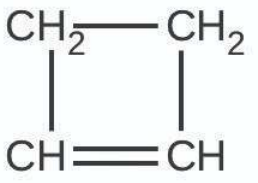
48.

Nitroglycerine is an extremely sensitive explosive. In a series of carefully controlled experiments, samples of the explosive were heated to 160 °C and their first-order decomposition studied. Determine the average rate constants for each experiment using the following data:

Initial $[C_3H_5N_3O_9]$ (M)	4.88	3.52	2.29	1.81	5.33	4.05	2.95	1.72
t (s)	300	300	300	300	180	180	180	180
% Decomposed	52.0	52.9	53.2	53.9	34.6	35.9	36.0	35.4

49.

For the past 10 years, the unsaturated hydrocarbon 1,3-butadiene has ranked 38th among the top 50 industrial chemicals. It is used primarily for the manufacture of synthetic rubber. An isomer exists also as cyclobutene:



The isomerization of cyclobutene to butadiene is first-order and the rate constant has been measured as 2.0 10^{-4} s^{-1} at 150 °C in a 0.53-L flask. Determine the partial pressure of cyclobutene and its concentration after 30.0 minutes if an isomerization reaction is carried out at 150 °C with an initial pressure of 55 torr.

50.

Chemical reactions occur when reactants collide. What are two factors that may prevent a collision from producing a chemical reaction?

51.

When every collision between reactants leads to a reaction, what determines the rate at which the reaction occurs?

52.

What is the activation energy of a reaction, and how is this energy related to the activated complex of the reaction?

53.

Account for the relationship between the rate of a reaction and its activation energy.

54.

Describe how graphical methods can be used to determine the activation energy of a reaction from a series of data that includes the rate of reaction at varying temperatures.

55.

How does an increase in temperature affect rate of reaction? Explain this effect in terms of the collision theory of the reaction rate.

56.

The rate of a certain reaction doubles for every 10 °C rise in temperature.

a. How much faster does the reaction proceed at 45 °C than at 25 °C?
b. How much faster does the reaction proceed at 95 °C than at 25 °C?

57.

In an experiment, a sample of $NaClO_3$ was 90% decomposed in 48 min. Approximately how long would this decomposition have taken if the sample had been heated 20 °C higher? (Hint: Assume the rate doubles for each 10 °C rise in temperature.)

58.

The rate constant at 325 °C for the decomposition reaction is 6.1 10^{-8} s^{-1}, and the activation energy is 261 kJ per mole of C_4H_8. Determine the frequency factor for the reaction.

59.

The rate constant for the decomposition of acetaldehyde, CH_3CHO, to methane, CH_4, and carbon monoxide, CO, in the gas phase is 1.1 10^{-2} L mol^{-1} s^{-1} at 703 K and 4.95 L mol^{-1} s^{-1} at 865 K. Determine the activation energy for this decomposition.

60.

An elevated level of the enzyme alkaline phosphatase (ALP) in human serum is an indication of possible liver or bone disorder. The level of serum ALP is so low that it is very difficult to measure directly. However, ALP catalyzes a number of reactions, and its relative concentration can be determined by measuring the rate of one of these reactions under controlled conditions. One such reaction is the conversion of p-nitrophenyl phosphate (PNPP) to p-nitrophenoxide ion (PNP) and phosphate ion. Control of temperature during the test is very important; the rate of the reaction increases 1.47 times if the temperature changes from 30 °C to 37 °C. What is the activation energy for the ALP–catalyzed conversion of PNPP to PNP and phosphate?

61.

In terms of collision theory, to which of the following is the rate of a chemical reaction proportional?

a. the change in free energy per second
b. the change in temperature per second
c. the number of collisions per second
d. the number of product molecules

62.

Hydrogen iodide, HI, decomposes in the gas phase to produce hydrogen, H_2, and iodine, I_2. The value of the rate constant, *k*, for the reaction was measured at several different temperatures and the data are shown here:

Temperature (K)	*k* (L mol^{-1} s^{-1})
555	6.23 10^{-7}
575	2.42 10^{-6}
645	1.44 10^{-4}
700	2.01 10^{-3}

What is the value of the activation energy (in kJ/mol) for this reaction?

63.

The element Co exists in two oxidation states, Co(II) and Co(III), and the ions form many complexes. The rate at which one of the complexes of Co(III) was reduced by Fe(II) in water was measured. Determine the activation energy of the reaction from the following data:

T (K)	k (s^{-1})
293	0.054
298	0.100

64.

The hydrolysis of the sugar sucrose to the sugars glucose and fructose,

follows a first-order rate law for the disappearance of sucrose: rate = $k[C_{12}H_{22}O_{11}]$ (The products of the reaction, glucose and fructose, have the same molecular formulas but differ in the arrangement of the atoms in their molecules.)

a. In neutral solution, $k = 2.1\ 10^{-11}\ s^{-1}$ at 27 °C and $8.5\ 10^{-11}\ s^{-1}$ at 37 °C. Determine the activation energy, the frequency factor, and the rate constant for this equation at 47 °C (assuming the kinetics remain consistent with the Arrhenius equation at this temperature).
b. When a solution of sucrose with an initial concentration of 0.150 *M* reaches equilibrium, the concentration of sucrose is $1.65\ 10^{-7}$ *M*. How long will it take the solution to reach equilibrium at 27 °C in the absence of a catalyst? Because the concentration of sucrose at equilibrium is so low, assume that the reaction is irreversible.
c. Why does assuming that the reaction is irreversible simplify the calculation in part (b)?

65.

Use the PhET Reactions & Rates interactive simulation to simulate a system. On the “Single collision” tab of the simulation applet, enable the “Energy view” by clicking the “+” icon. Select the first reaction (A is yellow, B is purple, and C is navy blue). Using the “straight shot” default option, try launching the *A* atom with varying amounts of energy. What changes when the Total Energy line at launch is below the transition state of the Potential Energy line? Why? What happens when it is above the transition state? Why?

66.

Use the PhET Reactions & Rates interactive simulation to simulate a system. On the “Single collision” tab of the simulation applet, enable the “Energy view” by clicking the “+” icon. Select the first reaction (A is yellow, B is purple, and C is navy blue). Using the “angled shot” option, try launching the *A* atom with varying angles, but with more Total energy than the transition state. What happens when the *A* atom hits the *BC* molecule from different directions? Why?

67.

Why are elementary reactions involving three or more reactants very uncommon?

68.

In general, can we predict the effect of doubling the concentration of *A* on the rate of the overall reaction ? Can we predict the effect if the reaction is known to be an elementary reaction?

69.

Define these terms:

a. unimolecular reaction
b. bimolecular reaction
c. elementary reaction
d. overall reaction

70.

What is the rate law for the elementary termolecular reaction For

71.

Given the following reactions and the corresponding rate laws, in which of the reactions might the elementary reaction and the overall reaction be the same?

72.

Write the rate law for each of the following elementary reactions:

a.
b.
c.
d.
e.

73.

Nitrogen monoxide, NO, reacts with hydrogen, H_2, according to the following equation:

What would the rate law be if the mechanism for this reaction were:

74.

Experiments were conducted to study the rate of the reaction represented by this equation.[2]

Initial concentrations and rates of reaction are given here.

Experiment	Initial Concentration [NO] (mol L^{-1})	Initial Concentration, [H_2] (mol L^{-1} min^{-1})	Initial Rate of Formation of N_2 (mol L^{-1} min^{-1})
1	0.0060	0.0010	$1.8\ 10^{-4}$
2	0.0060	0.0020	$3.6\ 10^{-4}$
3	0.0010	0.0060	$0.30\ 10^{-4}$
4	0.0020	0.0060	$1.2\ 10^{-4}$

Consider the following questions:

a. Step 3:

75.

The reaction of CO with Cl_2 gives phosgene ($COCl_2$), a nerve gas that was used in World War I. Use the mechanism shown here to complete the following exercises:
(fast, k_1 represents the forward rate constant, k_{-1} the reverse rate constant)
(slow, k_2 the rate constant)
(fast, k_3 the rate constant)

a. Write the overall reaction.
b. Identify all intermediates.
c. Write the rate law for each elementary reaction.
d. Write the overall rate law expression.

76.

Account for the increase in reaction rate brought about by a catalyst.

77.

Compare the functions of homogeneous and heterogeneous catalysts.

78.

Consider this scenario and answer the following questions: Chlorine atoms resulting from decomposition of chlorofluoromethanes, such as CCl_2F_2, catalyze the decomposition of ozone in the atmosphere. One simplified mechanism for the decomposition is:

(a) Explain why chlorine atoms are catalysts in the gas-phase transformation:

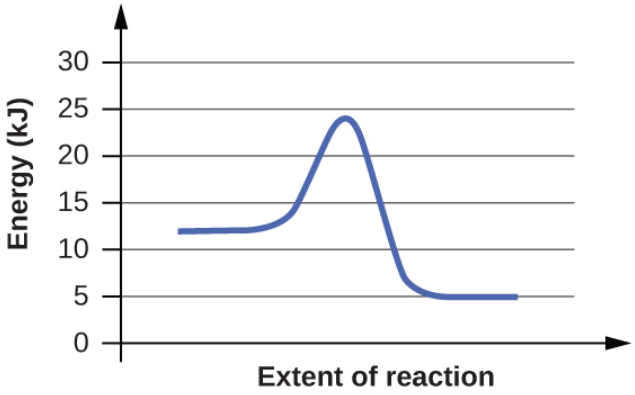
(b) Nitric oxide is also involved in the decomposition of ozone by the mechanism:

Is NO a catalyst for the decomposition? Explain your answer.

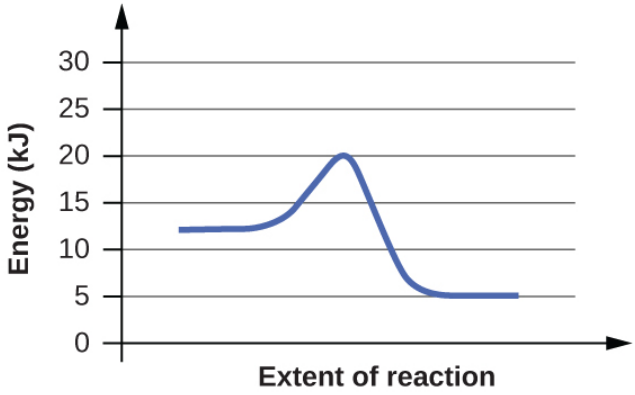
79.

For each of the following pairs of reaction diagrams, identify which of the pair is catalyzed:

(a)

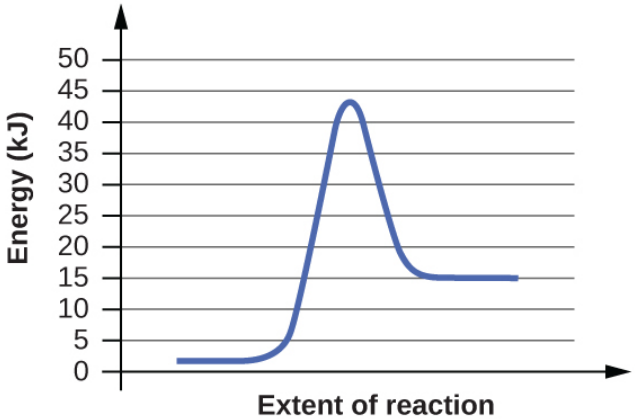


(a)

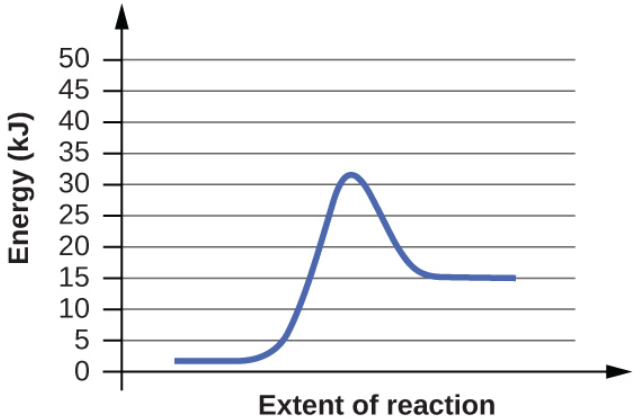


(b)

(b)



(a)

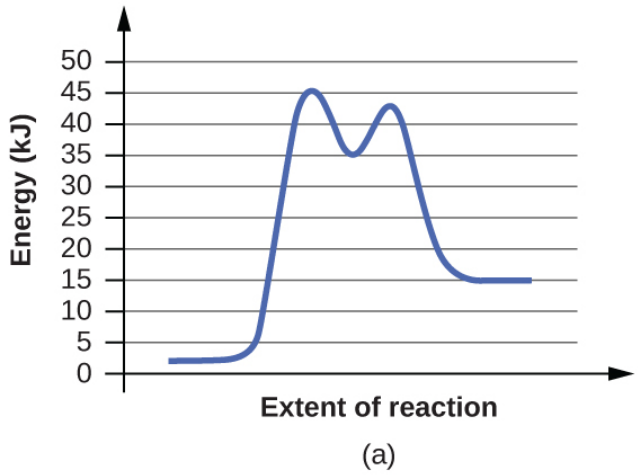


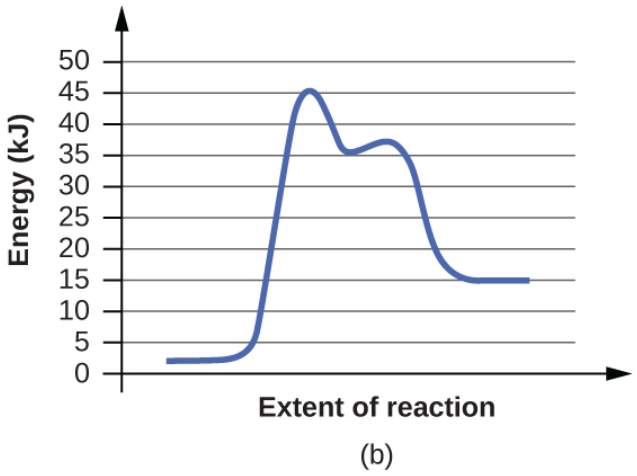
(b)

80.

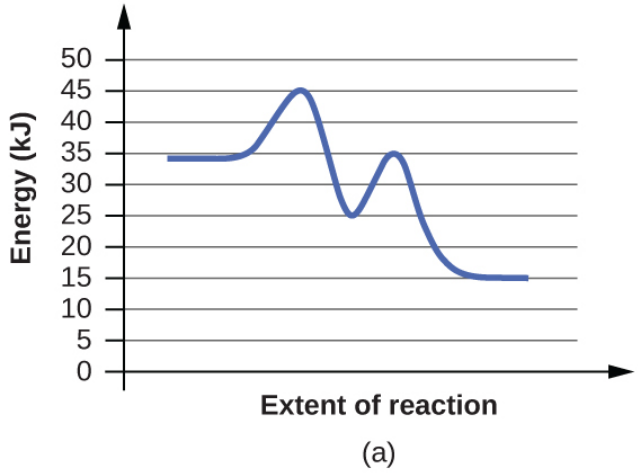
For each of the following pairs of reaction diagrams, identify which of the pairs is catalyzed:

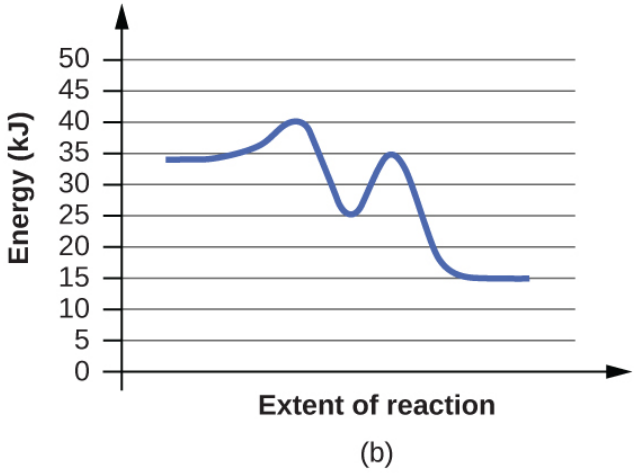
(a)





(b)

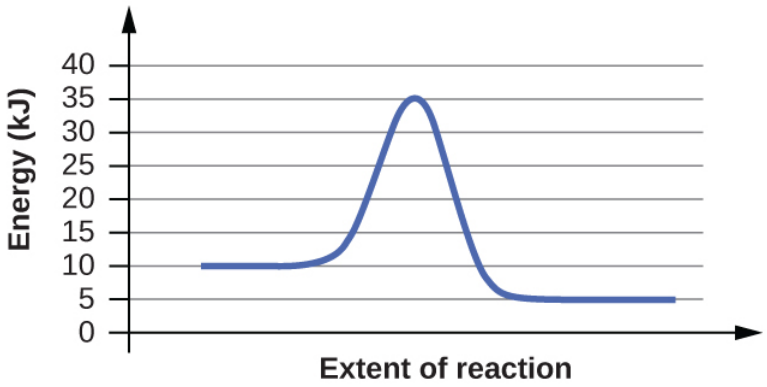




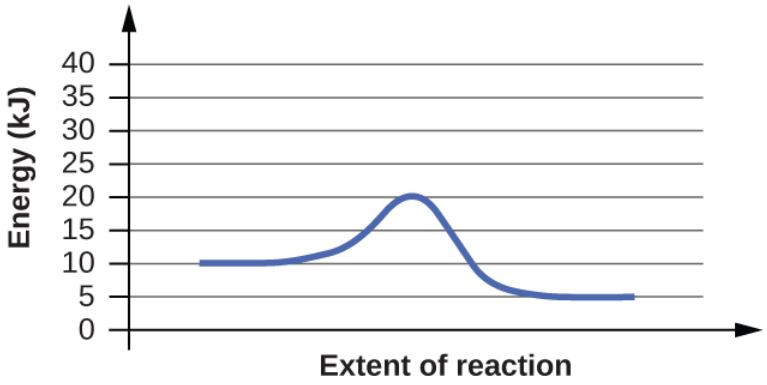
81.

For each of the following reaction diagrams, estimate the activation energy (E_a) of the reaction:

(a)



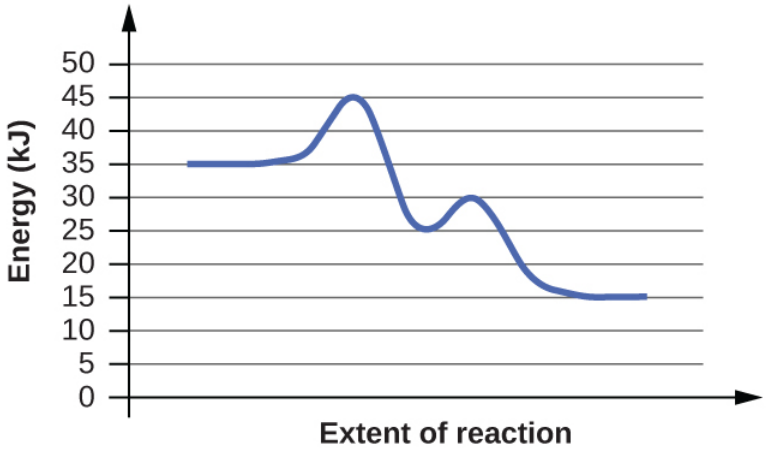
(b)



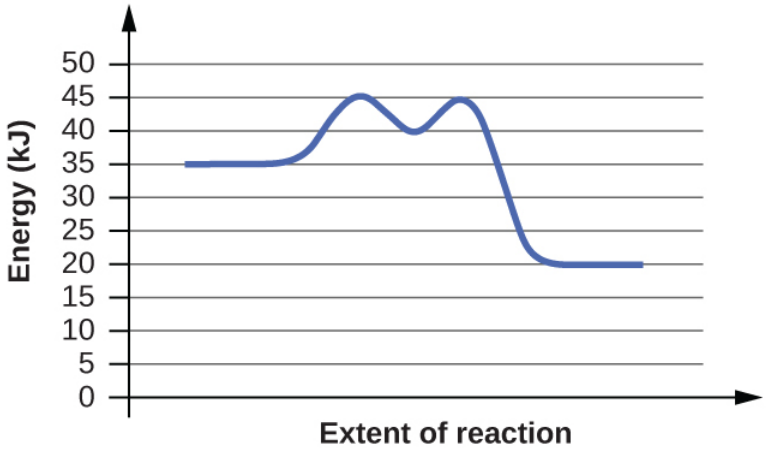
82.

For each of the following reaction diagrams, estimate the activation energy (E_a) of the reaction:

(a)



(b)



83.

Assuming the diagrams in Exercise 12.81 represent different mechanisms for the same reaction, which of the reactions has the faster rate?

84.

Consider the similarities and differences in the two reaction diagrams shown in Exercise 12.82. Do these diagrams represent two different overall reactions, or do they represent the same overall reaction taking place by two different mechanisms? Explain your answer.

Footnotes

- 2This question is taken from the Chemistry Advanced Placement Examination and is used with the permission of the Educational Testing Service.

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CHAPTER OVERVIEW

2: Fundamental Equilibrium Concepts

In this chapter, you will learn how to predict the position of the balance and the yield of a product of a reaction under specific conditions, how to change a reaction's conditions to increase or reduce yield, and how to evaluate an equilibrium system's reaction to disturbances.

2.1: Introduction
2.2: Chemical Equilibria
2.3: Equilibrium Constants
2.4: Shifting Equilibria - Le Chatelier’s Principle
2.5: Equilibrium Calculations
2.6: Key Terms
2.7: Key Equations
2.8: Summary
2.9: Exercises

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2.1: Introduction

Imagine a beach populated with sunbathers and swimmers. As those basking in the sun get too hot, they enter the surf to swim and cool off. As the swimmers tire, they return to the beach to rest. If the rate at which sunbathers enter the surf were to equal the rate at which swimmers return to the sand, then the numbers (though not the identities) of sunbathers and swimmers would remain constant. This scenario illustrates a dynamic phenomenon known as *equilibrium*, in which opposing processes occur at equal rates. Chemical and physical processes are subject to this phenomenon; these processes are at equilibrium when the forward and reverse reaction rates are equal. Equilibrium systems are pervasive in nature; the various reactions involving carbon dioxide dissolved in blood are examples (see Figure 2.1.1). This chapter provides a thorough introduction to the essential aspects of chemical equilibria.

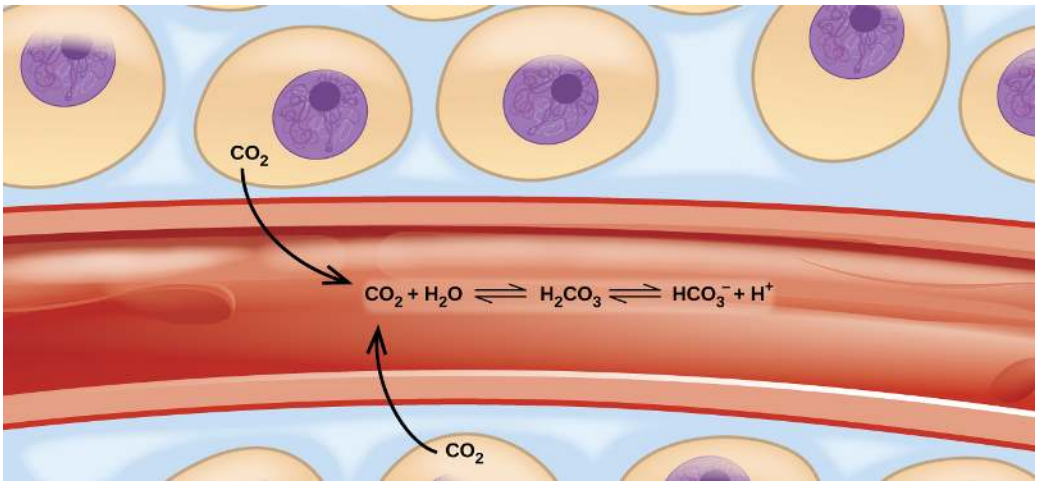


Figure 2.1.1: Transport of carbon dioxide in the body involves several reversible chemical reactions, including hydrolysis and acid ionization (among others).

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2.2: Chemical Equilibria

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Describe the nature of equilibrium systems
- Explain the dynamic nature of a chemical equilibrium
- Relate the magnitude of an equilibrium constant to properties of the chemical system

The convention for writing chemical equations involves placing reactant formulas on the left side of a reaction arrow and product formulas on the right side. By this convention, and the definitions of "reactant" and "product," a chemical equation represents the reaction in question as proceeding from left to right. **Reversible reactions**, however, may proceed in both forward (left to right) and reverse (right to left) directions. When the rates of the forward and reverse reactions are equal, the concentrations of the reactant and product species remain constant over time and the system is at **equilibrium**. The relative concentrations of reactants and products in equilibrium systems vary greatly; some systems contain mostly products at equilibrium, some contain mostly reactants, and some contain appreciable amounts of both.

Figure 2.2.1 illustrates fundamental equilibrium concepts using the reversible decomposition of colorless dinitrogen tetroxide to yield brown nitrogen dioxide, an elementary reaction described by the equation:

$$N_2O_4(g) \rightleftharpoons 2NO_2(g)$$

Note that a special double arrow is used to emphasize the reversible nature of the reaction.

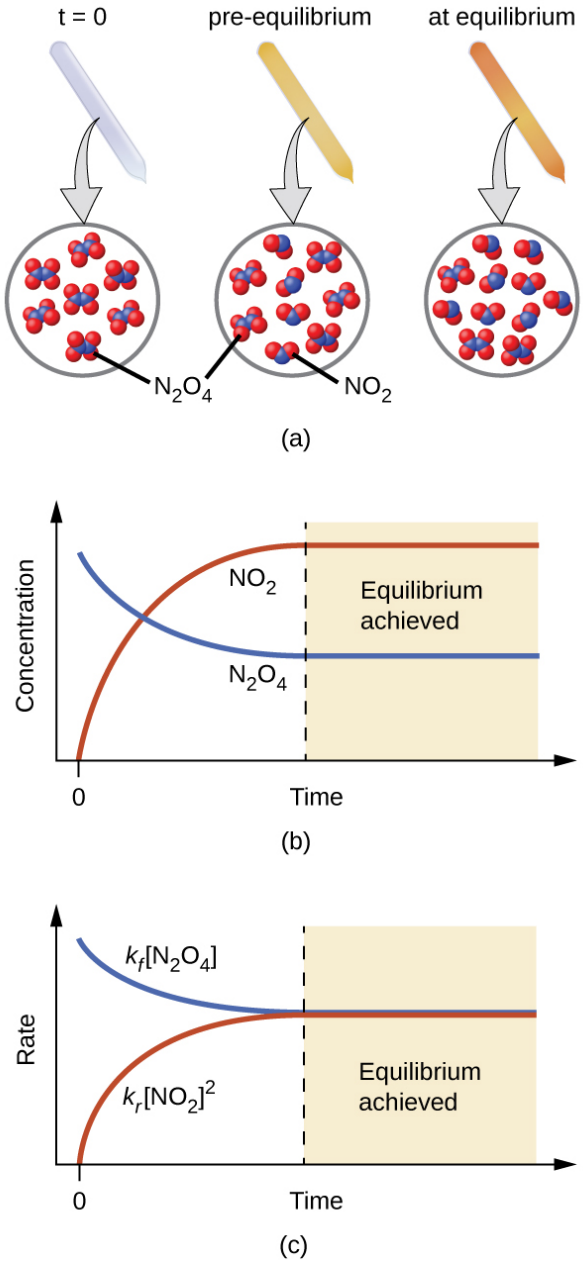


Figure 2.2.1: (a) A sealed tube containing colorless N_2O_4 darkens as it decomposes to yield brown NO_2. (b) Changes in concentration over time as the decomposition reaction achieves equilibrium. (c) At equilibrium, the forward and reverse reaction rates are equal.

For this elementary process, rate laws for the forward and reverse reactions may be derived directly from the reaction stoichiometry:

$$\text{rate}_f = k_f\,[N_2O_4]$$

$$\text{rate }_r = k_r\,[NO_2]^2$$

As the reaction begins (t = 0), the concentration of the N_2O_4 reactant is finite and that of the NO_2 product is zero, so the forward reaction proceeds at a finite rate while the reverse reaction rate is zero. As time passes, N_2O_4 is consumed and its concentration falls, while NO_2 is produced and its concentration increases (Figure 2.2.1b). The decreasing concentration of the reactant slows the forward reaction rate, and the increasing product concentration speeds the reverse reaction rate (Figure 2.2.1c). This process continues until *the forward and reverse reaction rates become equal*, at which time the reaction has reached equilibrium, as characterized by constant concentrations of its reactants and products (shaded areas of Figure 2.2.1b and Figure 2.2.1c). It's

important to emphasize that chemical equilibria are dynamic; a reaction at equilibrium has not “stopped,” but is proceeding in the forward and reverse directions at the same rate. This dynamic nature is essential to understanding equilibrium behavior as discussed in this and subsequent chapters of the text.



Figure 2.2.2: A two-person juggling act illustrates the dynamic aspect of chemical equilibria. Each person is throwing and catching clubs at the same rate, and each holds a (approximately) constant number of clubs.

Physical changes, such as phase transitions, are also reversible and may establish equilibria. This concept was introduced in another chapter of this text through discussion of the vapor pressure of a condensed phase (liquid or solid). As one example, consider the vaporization of bromine:

$$\mathrm{Br_2\,(l)} \rightleftharpoons \mathrm{Br_2\,(g)}$$

When liquid bromine is added to an otherwise empty container and the container is sealed, the forward process depicted above (vaporization) will commence and continue at a roughly constant rate as long as the exposed surface area of the liquid and its temperature remain constant. As increasing amounts of gaseous bromine are produced, the rate of the reverse process (condensation) will increase until it equals the rate of vaporization and equilibrium is established. A photograph showing this phase transition equilibrium is provided in Figure 2.2.3.



Figure 2.2.3: A sealed tube containing an equilibrium mixture of liquid and gaseous bromine. (credit: http://images-of-elements.com/bromine.php)

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2.3: Equilibrium Constants

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Derive reaction quotients from chemical equations representing homogeneous and heterogeneous reactions
- Calculate values of reaction quotients and equilibrium constants, using concentrations and pressures
- Relate the magnitude of an equilibrium constant to properties of the chemical system

The status of a reversible reaction is conveniently assessed by evaluating its reaction quotient (Q). For a reversible reaction described by

$$mA + nB + \rightleftharpoons xC + yD$$

the reaction quotient is derived directly from the stoichiometry of the balanced equation as

$$Q_c = \frac{[C]^x[D]^y}{[A]^m[B]^n}$$

where the subscript c denotes the use of molar concentrations in the expression. If the reactants and products are gaseous, a reaction quotient may be similarly derived using partial pressures:

$$Q_p = \frac{P_C^x P_D^y}{{P_A}^m {P_B}^n}$$

Note that the reaction quotient equations above are a simplification of more rigorous expressions that use *relative* values for concentrations and pressures rather than *absolute* values. These relative concentration and pressure values are dimensionless (they have no units); consequently, so are the reaction quotients. For purposes of this introductory text, it will suffice to use the simplified equations and to disregard units when computing Q. In most cases, this will introduce only modest errors in calculations involving reaction quotients.

Example 2.3.1: Writing Reaction Quotient Expressions

Write the concentration-based reaction quotient expression for each of the following reactions:

a. $3\,O_2\,(g) \rightleftharpoons 2\,O_3\,(g)$
b. $N_2\,(g) + 3\,H_2\,(g) \rightleftharpoons 2\,NH_3\,(g)$
c. $4\,NH_3\,(g) + 7\,O_2\,(g) \rightleftharpoons 4\,NO_2\,(g) + 6\,H_2O\,(g)$

Solution

a. $$Q_c = \frac{[O_3]^2}{[O_2]^3}$$

b. $$Q_c = \frac{[NH_3]^2}{[N_2]\,[H_2]^3}$$

c. $$Q_c = \frac{[NO_2]^4\,[H_2O]^6}{[NH_3]^4\,[O_2]^7}$$

Exercise 2.3.1

Write the concentration-based reaction quotient expression for each of the following reactions:

a. $2\,SO_2\,(g) + O_2\,(g) \rightleftharpoons 2\,SO_3\,(g)$
b. $C_4H_8\,(g) \rightleftharpoons 2\,C_2H_4\,(g)$
c. $2\,C_4H_{10}\,(g) + 13\,O_2\,(g) \rightleftharpoons 8\,CO_2\,(g) + 10\,H_2O\,(g)$

Answer

a. $$Q_c = \frac{[SO_3]^2}{[SO_2]^2\,[O_2]}$$

b. $$Q_c = \frac{[C_2H_4]^2}{[C_4H_8]}$$

c. $$Q_c = \frac{[CO_2]^8\,[H_2O]^{10}}{[C_4H_{10}]^2\,[O_2]^{13}}$$

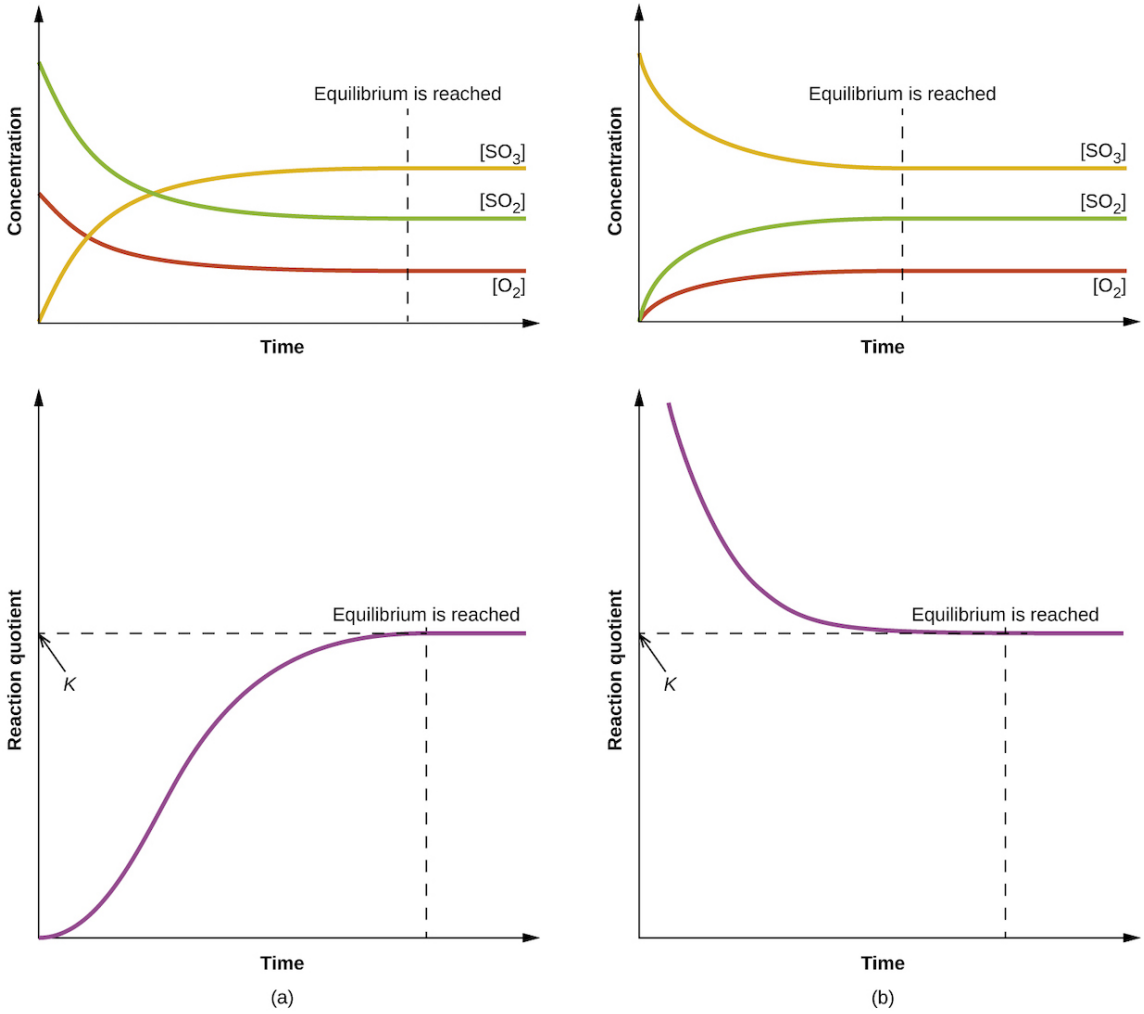


Figure 2.3.1 Changes in concentrations and Q_c for a chemical equilibrium achieved beginning with (a) a mixture of reactants only and (b) products only.

The numerical value of Q varies as a reaction proceeds towards equilibrium; therefore, it can serve as a useful indicator of the reaction's status. To illustrate this point, consider the oxidation of sulfur dioxide:

$$2\,SO_2\,(g) + O_2\,(g) \rightleftharpoons 2\,SO_3\,(g)$$

Two different experimental scenarios are depicted in Figure 2.3.1, one in which this reaction is initiated with a mixture of reactants only, SO_2 and O_2, and another that begins with only product, SO_3. For the reaction that begins with a mixture of reactants only, Q is initially equal to zero:

$$Q_c = \frac{[SO_3]^2}{[SO_2]^2\,[O_2]} = \frac{0^2}{[SO_2]^2\,[O_2]} = 0$$

As the reaction proceeds toward equilibrium in the forward direction, reactant concentrations decrease (as does the denominator of Q_c), product concentration increases (as does the numerator of Q_c), and the reaction quotient consequently increases. When equilibrium is achieved, the concentrations of reactants and product remain constant, as does the value of Q_c.

If the reaction begins with only product present, the value of Q_c is initially undefined (immeasurably large, or infinite):

$$Q_c = \frac{[SO_3]^2}{[SO_2]^2\,[O_2]} = \frac{[SO_3]^2}{0} \rightarrow \infty$$

In this case, the reaction proceeds toward equilibrium in the reverse direction. The product concentration and the numerator of Q_c decrease with time, the reactant concentrations and the denominator of Q_c increase, and the reaction quotient consequently decreases until it becomes constant at equilibrium.

The constant value of Q exhibited by a system at equilibrium is called the equilibrium constant, K:

$$K \equiv Q \text{ at equilibrium}$$

Comparison of the data plots in Figure 2.3.1 shows that both experimental scenarios resulted in the same value for the equilibrium constant. This is a general observation for all equilibrium systems, known as the **law of mass action**.

Definition: Law of Mass Action

At a given temperature, the reaction quotient for a system at equilibrium is constant.

Example 2.3.2: Evaluating a Reaction Quotient

Gaseous nitrogen dioxide forms dinitrogen tetroxide according to this equation:

$$2\,NO_2\,(g) \rightleftharpoons N_2O_4\,(g)$$

When 0.10 mol NO_2 is added to a 1.0-L flask at 25 °C, the concentration changes so that at equilibrium, [NO_2] = 0.016 *M* and [N_2O_4] = 0.042 *M*.

a. What is the value of the reaction quotient before any reaction occurs?
b. What is the value of the equilibrium constant for the reaction?

Solution

As for all equilibrium calculations in this text, use the simplified equations for Q and K and disregard any concentration or pressure units, as noted previously in this section.

(a) Before any product is formed

$$[NO_2] = \frac{0.10\text{ mol}}{1.0\text{ L}} = 0.10\text{ M}$$

$$[N_2O_4] = 0\text{ M}$$

Thus

$$Q_c = \frac{[N_2O_4]}{[NO_2]^2} = \frac{0}{0.10^2} = 0$$

(b) At equilibrium,

$$K_c = Q_c = \frac{[N_2O_4]}{[NO_2]^2} = \frac{0.042}{0.016^2} = 1.6 \times 10^2.$$

The equilibrium constant is 1.6×10^2.

Exercise 2.3.2

For the reaction

$$2\,SO_2\,(g) + O_2\,(g) \rightleftharpoons 2\,SO_3\,(g)$$

the equilibrium concentrations are $[SO_2]$ = 0.90 *M*, $[O_2]$ = 0.35 *M*, and $[SO_3]$ = 1.1 *M*. What is the value of the equilibrium constant, K_c?

Answer

K_c = 4.3

By its definition, the magnitude of an equilibrium constant explicitly reflects the composition of a reaction mixture at equilibrium, and it may be interpreted with regard to the extent of the forward reaction. A reaction exhibiting a large *K* will reach equilibrium when most of the reactant has been converted to product, whereas a small *K* indicates the reaction achieves equilibrium after very little reactant has been converted. It's important to keep in mind that the magnitude of *K* does *not* indicate how rapidly or slowly equilibrium will be reached. Some equilibria are established so quickly as to be nearly instantaneous, and others so slowly that no perceptible change is observed over the course of days, years, or longer.

The equilibrium constant for a reaction can be used to predict the behavior of mixtures containing its reactants and/or products. As demonstrated by the sulfur dioxide oxidation process described above, a chemical reaction will proceed in whatever direction is necessary to achieve equilibrium. Comparing *Q* to *K* for an equilibrium system of interest allows prediction of what reaction (forward or reverse), if any, will occur.

To further illustrate this important point, consider the reversible reaction shown below:

$$CO\,(g) + H_2O\,(g) \rightleftharpoons CO_2\,(g) + H_2\,(g) \quad K_c = 0.640 \quad T = 800^\circ C$$

The bar charts in Figure 2.3.2 represent changes in reactant and product concentrations for three different reaction mixtures. The reaction quotients for mixtures 1 and 3 are initially lesser than the reaction's equilibrium constant, so each of these mixtures will experience a net forward reaction to achieve equilibrium. The reaction quotient for mixture 2 is initially greater than the equilibrium constant, so this mixture will proceed in the reverse direction until equilibrium is established.

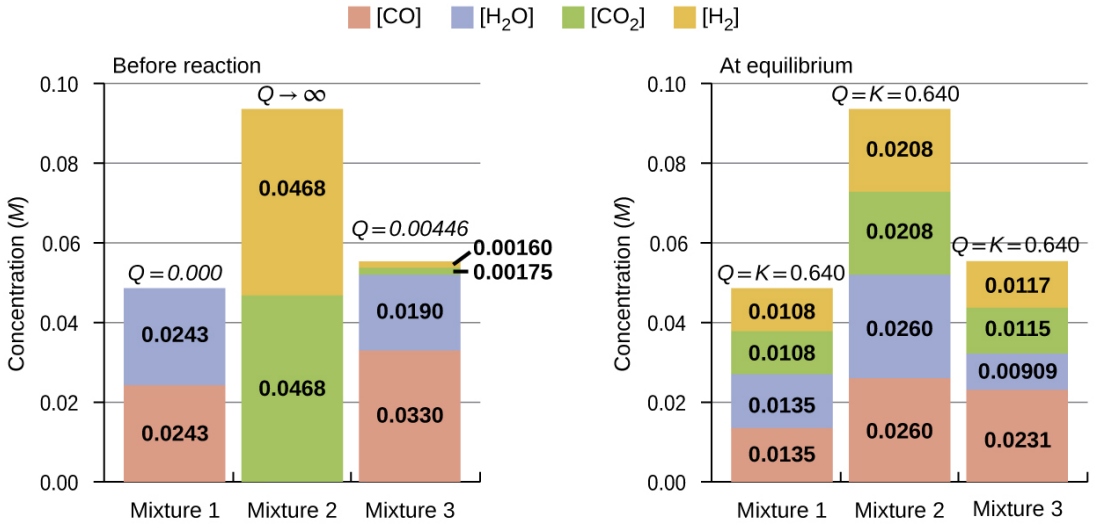


Figure 2.3.2: Compositions of three mixtures before ($Q_c \neq K_c$) and after ($Q_c = K_c$) equilibrium is established for the reaction

Example 2.3.3: Predicting the Direction of Reaction

Given here are the starting concentrations of reactants and products for three experiments involving this reaction:

$$CO\,(g) + H_2O\,(g) \rightleftharpoons CO_2\,(g) + H_2\,(g) \quad K_c = 0.64$$

Determine in which direction the reaction proceeds as it goes to equilibrium in each of the three experiments shown.

Reactants/Products	Experiment 1	Experiment 2	Experiment 3
$[CO]_i$	0.020 *M*	0.011 *M*	0.0094 *M*
$[H_2O]_i$	0.020 *M*	0.0011 *M*	0.0025 *M*
$[CO_2]_i$	0.0040 *M*	0.037 *M*	0.0015 *M*
$[H_2]_i$	0.0040 *M*	0.046 *M*	0.0076 *M*

Solution

Experiment 1:

$$Q_c = \frac{[CO_2]\,[H_2]}{[CO]\,[H_2O]} = \frac{(0.0040)(0.0040)}{(0.020)(0.020)} = 0.040$$

$Q_c < K_c$ (0.040 < 0.64)

The reaction will proceed in the forward direction.

Experiment 2:

$$Q_c = \frac{[CO_2]\,[H_2]}{[CO]\,[H_2O]} = \frac{(0.037)(0.046)}{(0.011)(0.0011)} = 1.4 \times 10^2$$

$Q_c > K_c$ (140 > 0.64)

The reaction will proceed in the reverse direction.

Experiment 3:

$$Q_c = \frac{[CO_2]\,[H_2]}{[CO]\,[H_2O]} = \frac{(0.0015)(0.0076)}{(0.0094)(0.0025)} = 0.48$$

$Q_c < K_c$ (0.48 < 0.64)

The reaction will proceed in the forward direction.

? Exercise 2.3.3

Calculate the reaction quotient and determine the direction in which each of the following reactions will proceed to reach equilibrium.

a. A 1.00-L flask containing 0.0500 mol of NO(g), 0.0155 mol of Cl_2(g), and 0.500 mol of NOCl:

$$2\,NO\,(g) + Cl_2\,(g) \rightleftharpoons 2\,NOCl\,(g) \quad K_c = 4.6 \times 10^4$$

b. A 5.0-L flask containing 17 g of NH_3, 14 g of N_2, and 12 g of H_2:

$$N_2\,(g) + 3\,H_2\,(g) \rightleftharpoons 2\,NH_3\,(g) \quad K_c = 0.060$$

c. A 2.00-L flask containing 230 g of SO_3(g):

$$2\,SO_3\,(g) \rightleftharpoons 2\,SO_2\,(g) + O_2\,(g) \quad K_c = 0.230$$

Answer

(a) Q_c = 6.45 \times 10^{3} DELMAR, forward. (b) Q_c = 0.23, reverse. (c) Q_c = 0, forward.

Homogeneous Equilibria

A homogeneous equilibrium is one in which all reactants and products (and any catalysts, if applicable) are present in the same phase. By this definition, homogeneous equilibria take place in *solutions*. These solutions are most commonly either liquid or gaseous phases, as shown by the examples below:

$$\mathrm{C_2H_2\,(aq) + 2\,Br_2\,(aq) \rightleftharpoons C_2H_2Br_4\,(aq)} \qquad K_c = \frac{[C_2H_2Br_4]}{[C_2H_2]\,[Br_2]^2}$$

$$\mathrm{I_2\,(aq) + I^-\,(aq) \rightleftharpoons I_3{}^-\,(aq)} \qquad K_c = \frac{[I_3-}{[I_2]\,[I^-]}$$

$$\mathrm{HF\,(aq) + H_2O\,(l) \rightleftharpoons H_3O^+\,(aq) + F^-\,(aq)} \qquad K_c = \frac{[H_3O^+]\,[F^-]}{[HF]}$$

$$\mathrm{NH_3\,(aq) + H_2O\,(l) \rightleftharpoons NH_4{}^+\,(aq) + OH^-\,(aq)} \qquad K_c = \frac{[NH_4^+]\,[OH^-]}{[NH_3]}$$

These examples all involve aqueous solutions, those in which water functions as the solvent. In the last two examples, water also functions as a reactant, but its concentration is *not* included in the reaction quotient. The reason for this omission is related to the more rigorous form of the *Q* (or *K*) expression mentioned previously in this chapter, in which *relative concentrations for liquids and solids are equal to 1 and needn't be included*. Consequently, reaction quotients include concentration or pressure terms only for gaseous and solute species.

Note

It is a common error to claim that the molar concentration of the solvent is in some way involved in the equilibrium law. This error is a result of a misunderstanding of solution thermodynamics. For example, it is often claimed that $K_a = K_{eq}[H_2O]$ for aqueous solutions. This equation is incorrect because it is an erroneous interpretation of the correct equation $K_a = K_{eq}(a_{H_2O})$. Because $a_{H_2O} = 1$ for a dilute solution, $K_a = K_{eq}(1)$, or $K_a = K_{eq}$.

The equilibria below all involve gas-phase solutions:

$$\mathrm{C_2H_6\,(g) \rightleftharpoons C_2H_4\,(g) + H_2\,(g)} \qquad K_c = \frac{[C_2H_4]\,[H_2]}{[C_2H_6]}$$

$$\mathrm{3\,O_2\,(g) \rightleftharpoons 2\,O_3\,(g)} \qquad K_c = \frac{[O_3]^2}{[O_2]^3}$$

$$\mathrm{N_2\,(g) + 3\,H_2\,(g) \rightleftharpoons 2\,NH_3\,(g)} \qquad K_c = \frac{[NH_3]^2}{[N_2]\,[H_2]^3}$$

$$\mathrm{C_3H_8\,(g) + 5\,O_2\,(g) \rightleftharpoons 3\,CO_2\,(g) + 4\,H_2O\,(g)} \qquad K_c = \frac{[CO_2]^3\,[H_2O]^4}{[C_3H_8]\,[O_2]^5}$$

For gas-phase solutions, the equilibrium constant may be expressed in terms of either the molar concentrations (K_c) or partial pressures (K_p) of the reactants and products. A relation between these two *K* values may be simply derived from the ideal gas equation and the definition of molarity:

$$\begin{aligned} PV &= nRT \\ P &= \left(\frac{n}{V}\right) RT \\ &= MRT \end{aligned}$$

where P is partial pressure, V is volume, n is molar amount, R is the gas constant, T is temperature, and M is molar concentration.

For the gas-phase reaction

$$aA + bB \rightleftharpoons cC + dD$$

$$
\begin{aligned}
K_P &= \frac{(P_C)^c\,(P_D)^d}{(P_A)^a\,(P_B)^b} \\
&= \frac{([C]\times RT)^c([D]\times RT)^d}{([A]\times RT)^a([B]\times RT)^b} \\
&= \frac{[C]^c[D]^d}{[A]^a[B]^b} \times \frac{(RT)^{c+d}}{(RT)^{a+b}} \\
&= K_c(RT)^{(c+d)-(a+b)} \\
&= K_c(RT)^{\Delta n}
\end{aligned}
$$

And so, the relationship between K_c and K_P is

$$K_P = K_c(RT)^{\Delta n}$$

where Δn is the difference in the molar amounts of product and reactant gases, in this case:

$$\Delta n = (c+d) - (a+b)$$

Example 2.3.4: Calculation of K_P

Write the equations relating K_c to K_P for each of the following reactions:

a. $\mathrm{C_2H_6\,(g) \rightleftharpoons C_2H_4\,(g) + H_2\,(g)}$
b. $\mathrm{CO\,(g) + H_2O\,(g) \rightleftharpoons CO_2\,(g) + H_2\,(g)}$
c. $\mathrm{N_2\,(g) + 3\,H_2\,(g) \rightleftharpoons 2\,NH_3\,(g)}$
d. K_c is equal to 0.28 for the following reaction at 900 °C:

$$\mathrm{CS_2\,(g) + 4\,H_2\,(g) \rightleftharpoons CH_4\,(g) + 2\,H_2S\,(g)}$$

What is K_P at this temperature?

Solution

a. $\Delta n = (2) - (1) = 1$

$$K_P = K_c(RT)^{\Delta n} = K_c(RT)^1 = K_c(RT)$$

b. $\Delta n = (2) - (2) = 0$

$$K_P = K_c(RT)^{\Delta n} = K_c(RT)^0 = K_c$$

c. $\Delta n = (2) - (1+3) = -2$

$$K_P = K_c(RT)^{\Delta n} = K_c(RT)^{-2} = \frac{K_c}{(RT)^2}$$

d. $$K_P = K_c(RT)^{\Delta n} = (0.28)[(0.0821)(1173)]^{-2} = 3.0\times10^{-5}$$

Exercise 2.3.4

Write the equations relating K_c to K_P for each of the following reactions:

a. $\mathrm{2\,SO_2\,(g) + O_2\,(g) \rightleftharpoons 2\,SO_3\,(g)}$
b. $\mathrm{N_2O_4\,(g) \rightleftharpoons 2\,NO_2\,(g)}$
c. $\mathrm{C_3H_8\,(g) + 5\,O_2\,(g) \rightleftharpoons 3\,CO_2\,(g) + 4\,H_2O\,(g)}$
d. At 227 °C, the following reaction has K_c = 0.0952:

$$\mathrm{CH_3OH\,(g) \rightleftharpoons CO\,(g) + 2\,H_2\,(g)}$$

What would be the value of K_P at this temperature?

Answer

(a) $K_P = K_c\,(RT)^{-1}$; (b) $K_P = K_c\,(RT)$; (c) $K_P = K_c\,(RT)$; (d) 160 or 1.6 \times 10^{2} DELMAR

Heterogeneous Equilibria

A heterogeneous equilibrium involves reactants and products in two or more different phases, as illustrated by the following examples:

$$\mathrm{PbCl_2\,(s) \rightleftharpoons Pb^{2+}\,(aq) + 2\,Cl^{-}\,(aq)} \qquad K_c = \left[\mathrm{Pb^{2+}}\right]\left[\mathrm{Cl^{-}}\right]^2$$

$$\mathrm{CaO\,(s) + CO_2\,(g) \rightleftharpoons CaCO_3\,(s)} \qquad K_c = \frac{1}{[\mathrm{CO_2}]}$$

$$\mathrm{C\,(s) + 2\,S\,(g) \rightleftharpoons CS_2\,(g)} \qquad K_c = \frac{[CS_2]}{[\mathrm{S}^2}$$

$$\mathrm{Br_2\,(l) \rightleftharpoons Br_2\,(g)} \qquad K_c = [\mathrm{Br_2\,(g)}]$$

Again, note that concentration terms are only included for gaseous and solute species, as discussed previously.

Two of the above examples include terms for gaseous species only in their equilibrium constants, and so K_p expressions may also be written:

$$\mathrm{CaO\,(s) + CO_2\,(g) \rightleftharpoons CaCO_3\,(s)} \qquad K_P = \frac{1}{P_{\mathrm{CO_2}}}$$

$$\mathrm{C\,(s) + 2\,S\,(g) \rightleftharpoons CS_2\,(g)} \qquad K_P = \frac{P_{\mathrm{CS_2}}}{\left(P_{\mathrm{S}}\right)^2}$$

Coupled Equilibria

The equilibrium systems discussed so far have all been relatively simple, involving just single reversible reactions. Many systems, however, involve two or more *coupled* equilibrium reactions, those which have in common one or more reactant or product species. Since the law of mass action allows for a straightforward derivation of equilibrium constant expressions from balanced chemical equations, the K value for a system involving coupled equilibria can be related to the K values of the individual reactions. Three basic manipulations are involved in this approach, as described below.

1. Changing the direction of a chemical equation essentially swaps the identities of “reactants” and “products,” and so the equilibrium constant for the reversed equation is simply the reciprocal of that for the forward equation.

$$A \rightleftharpoons B \quad K_c = \frac{[B]}{[A]}$$

$$B \rightleftharpoons A \quad K_{c'} = \frac{[A]}{[B]}$$

$$K_{c'} = \frac{1}{K_c}$$

2. Changing the stoichiometric coefficients in an equation by some factor x results in an exponential change in the equilibrium constant by that same factor:

$$A \rightleftharpoons B \qquad K_c = \frac{[B]}{[A]}$$

$$xA \rightleftharpoons xB \quad K_c = \frac{[B]^x}{[A]^x}$$

$$K_{c'} = {K_c}^x$$

3. Adding two or more equilibrium equations together yields an overall equation whose equilibrium constant is the mathematical product of the individual reaction’s K values:

$$A \rightleftharpoons B \quad K_{c1} = \frac{[B]}{[A]}$$

$$B \rightleftharpoons C \quad K_{c2} = \frac{[C]}{[B]}$$

The net reaction for these coupled equilibria is obtained by summing the two equilibrium equations and canceling any redundancies:

$$A + B \rightleftharpoons B + C$$
$$A + B \rightleftharpoons B + C$$
$$A \rightleftharpoons C$$

$$K_{c'} = \frac{[C]}{[A]}$$

Comparing the equilibrium constant for the net reaction to those for the two coupled equilibrium reactions reveals the following relationship:

$$K_{c1}K_{c2} = \frac{[B]}{[A]} \times \frac{[C]}{[B]} = \frac{\cancel{[B]}\,[C]}{[A]\,\cancel{[B]}} = \frac{[C]}{[A]} = K_{c'}$$

$$K_{c'} = K_{c1}K_{c2}$$

Example 2.3.5 demonstrates the use of this strategy in describing coupled equilibrium processes.

Example 2.3.5: Equilibrium Constants for Coupled Reactions

A mixture containing nitrogen, hydrogen, and iodine established the following equilibrium at 400 °C:

$$2\,NH_3\,(g) + 3\,I_2\,(g) \rightleftharpoons N_2\,(g) + 6\,HI\,(g)$$

Use the information below to calculate Kc for this reaction.

$$N_2\,(g) + 3\,H_2\,(g) \rightleftharpoons 2\,NH_3\,(g) K_{c1} = 0.50 \text{ at } 400^\circ C$$
$$H_2\,(g) + I_2\,(g) \rightleftharpoons 2\,HI\,(g) K_{c2} = 50 \text{ at } 400^\circ C$$

Solution

The equilibrium equation of interest and its K value may be derived from the equations for the two coupled reactions as follows.

Reverse the first coupled reaction equation:

$$2NH_3(g) \rightleftharpoons N_2(g) + 3H_2(g) \quad K_{c1}{}' = \frac{1}{K_{c1}} = \frac{1}{0.50} = 2.0$$

Multiply the second coupled reaction by 3:

$$3H_2(g) + 3I_2(g) \rightleftharpoons 6HI(g) \quad K_{c2}{}' = K_{c2}^3 = 50^3 = 1.2 \times 10^5$$

Finally, add the two revised equations:

$$2\,NH_3\,(g) + 3\,H_2\,(g) + 3\,I_2\,(g) \rightleftharpoons N_2\,(g) + 3\,H_2\,(g) + 6\,HI\,(g)$$
$$2\,NH_3\,(g) + 3\,I_2\,(g) \rightleftharpoons N_2\,(g) + 6\,HI\,(g)$$

$$K_c = K_{c1}, K_{c2}, = (2.0)\left(1.2 \times 10^5\right) = 2.5 \times 10^5$$

Exercise 2.3.5

Use the provided information to calculate Kc for the following reaction at 550 °C:

$$H_2\,(g) + CO_2\,(g) \rightleftharpoons CO\,(g) + H_2O\,(g) \qquad K_c = ?$$
$$CoO\,(s) + CO\,(g) \rightleftharpoons Co(s)^+\ CO_2\,(g) \qquad K_{c1} = 490$$
$$CoO\,(s) + H_2\,(g) \rightleftharpoons Co(s)^+\ H_2O\,(g) \qquad K_{c1} = 67$$

Answer

$K_c = 0.14$

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2.5: Equilibrium Calculations

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Identify the changes in concentration or pressure that occur for chemical species in equilibrium systems
- Calculate equilibrium concentrations or pressures and equilibrium constants, using various algebraic approaches

Having covered the essential concepts of chemical equilibria in the preceding sections of this chapter, this final section will demonstrate the more practical aspect of using these concepts and appropriate mathematical strategies to perform various equilibrium calculations. These types of computations are essential to many areas of science and technology—for example, in the formulation and dosing of pharmaceutical products. After a drug is ingested or injected, it is typically involved in several chemical equilibria that affect its ultimate concentration in the body system of interest. Knowledge of the quantitative aspects of these equilibria is required to compute a dosage amount that will solicit the desired therapeutic effect.

Many of the useful equilibrium calculations that will be demonstrated here require terms representing changes in reactant and product concentrations. These terms are derived from the stoichiometry of the reaction, as illustrated by decomposition of ammonia:

$$2\,\mathrm{NH_3\,(g)} \rightleftharpoons \mathrm{N_2\,(g)} + 3\,\mathrm{H_2\,(g)}$$

As shown earlier in this chapter, this equilibrium may be established within a sealed container that initially contains either NH_3 only, or a mixture of any two of the three chemical species involved in the equilibrium. Regardless of its initial composition, a reaction mixture will show the same relationships between changes in the concentrations of the three species involved, as dictated by the reaction stoichiometry (see also the related content on expressing reaction rates in the chapter on kinetics). For example, if the nitrogen concentration increases by an amount *x*:

$$\Delta\,[N_2] = +x$$

the corresponding changes in the other species concentrations are

$$\Delta\,[\mathrm{H_2}] = \Delta\,[\mathrm{N_2}]\left(\frac{3\text{ mol }\mathrm{H_2}}{1\text{ mol }\mathrm{N_2}}\right) = +3x$$

$$\Delta\,[\mathrm{NH_3}] = -\Delta\,[\mathrm{N_2}]\left(\frac{2\text{ mol }\mathrm{NH_3}}{1\text{ mol }\mathrm{N_2}}\right) = -2x$$

where the negative sign indicates a decrease in concentration.

Example 2.5.1: Determining Relative Changes in Concentration

Derive the missing terms representing concentration changes for each of the following reactions.

a. $\underset{x}{\mathrm{C_2H_2\,(g)}} + 2\,\underset{?}{\mathrm{Br_2\,(g)}} \rightleftharpoons \underset{?}{\mathrm{C_2H_2Br_4\,(g)}}$

b. $\underset{?}{\mathrm{I_2\,(aq)}} + \underset{?}{\mathrm{I^-\,(aq)}} \rightleftharpoons \underset{x}{\mathrm{I_3^-\,(aq)}}$

c. $\underset{x}{\mathrm{C_3H_8\,(g)}} + 5\,\underset{?}{\mathrm{O_2\,(g)}} \rightleftharpoons 3\,\underset{?}{\mathrm{CO_2\,(g)}} + 4\,\underset{?}{\mathrm{H_2O\,(g)}}$

Solution

a. $\underset{x}{\mathrm{C_2H_2\,(g)}} + 2\,\underset{2x}{\mathrm{Br_2\,(g)}} \rightleftharpoons \underset{-x}{\mathrm{C_2H_2Br_4\,(g)}}$

b. $\underset{-x}{\mathrm{I_2\,(aq)}} + \underset{-x}{\mathrm{I^-\,(aq)}} \rightleftharpoons \underset{x}{\mathrm{I_3^-\,(aq)}}$

c. $\underset{x}{\mathrm{C_3H_8\,(g)}} + 5\,\underset{5x}{\mathrm{O_2\,(g)}} \rightleftharpoons 3\,\underset{-3x}{\mathrm{CO_2\,(g)}} + 4\,\underset{-4x}{\mathrm{H_2O\,(g)}}$

Exercise 2.5.1

Complete the changes in concentrations for each of the following reactions:

a. $\underset{?}{2\,SO_2\,(g)} + \underset{x}{O_2\,(g)} \rightleftharpoons \underset{?}{2\,SO_3\,(g)}$

b. $\underset{?}{C_4H_8\,(g)} \rightleftharpoons \underset{-2x}{2\,C_2H_4\,(g)}$

c. $\underset{?}{4\,NH_3\,(g)} + \underset{x}{7\,O_2\,(g)} \rightleftharpoons \underset{?}{4\,NO_2\,(g)} + \underset{?}{6\,H_2O\,(g)}$

Answer

(a) 2*x*, *x*, −2*x;* (b) *x*, −2*x;* (c) 4*x*, 7*x*, −4*x*, −6*x* or −4*x*, −7*x*, 4*x*, 6*x*

Calculation of an Equilibrium Constant

The equilibrium constant for a reaction is calculated from the equilibrium concentrations (or pressures) of its reactants and products. If these concentrations are known, the calculation simply involves their substitution into the K expression, as was illustrated by Example 2.5.1. A slightly more challenging example is provided next, in which the reaction stoichiometry is used to derive equilibrium concentrations from the information provided. The basic strategy of this computation is helpful for many types of equilibrium computations and relies on the use of terms for the reactant and product concentrations *initially* present, for how they *change* as the reaction proceeds, and for what they are when the system reaches *equilibrium*. The acronym ICE is commonly used to refer to this mathematical approach, and the concentrations terms are usually gathered in a tabular format called an ICE table.

Example 2.5.2: Calculation of an Equilibrium Constant

Iodine molecules react reversibly with iodide ions to produce triiodide ions.

$$I_2\,(aq) + I^-\,(aq) \rightleftharpoons I_3^-\,(aq)$$

If a solution with the concentrations of I_2 and I^- both equal to 1.000×10^{-3} M before reaction gives an equilibrium concentration of I_2 of 6.61×10^{-4} M, what is the equilibrium constant for the reaction?

Solution

To calculate the equilibrium constants, equilibrium concentrations are needed for all the reactants and products:

$$K_C = \frac{[I_3^-]}{[I_2]\,[I^-]}$$

Provided are the initial concentrations of the reactants and the equilibrium concentration of the product. Use this information to derive terms for the equilibrium concentrations of the reactants, presenting all the information in an ICE table.

	I_2 + I^- ⇌ I_3^-		
Initial concentration (*M*)	1.000×10^{-3}	1.000×10^{-3}	0
Change (*M*)	$-x$	$-x$	$+x$
Equilibrium concentration (*M*)	$1.000 \times 10^{-3} - x$	$1.000 \times 10^{-3} - x$	x

At equilibrium the concentration of I_2 is 6.61×10^{-4} M so that

$$1.000 \times 10^{-3} - x = 6.61 \times 10^{-4}$$

$$x = 1.000 \times 10^{-3} - 6.61 \times 10^{-4}$$

$$= 3.39 \times 10^{-4} M$$

The ICE table may now be updated with numerical values for all its concentrations:

	I_2 + I^- ⇌ I_3^-		
Initial concentration (*M*)	1.000×10^{-3}	1.000×10^{-3}	0
Change (*M*)	-3.39×10^{-4}	-3.39×10^{-4}	$+3.39 \times 10^{-4}$
Equilibrium concentration (*M*)	6.61×10^{-4}	6.61×10^{-4}	3.39×10^{-4}

Finally, substitute the equilibrium concentrations into the *K* expression and solve:

$$K_c = \frac{[I_3^-]}{[I_2]\,[I^-]}$$

$$= \frac{3.39 \times 10^{-4} M}{\left(6.61 \times 10^{-4} M\right)\left(6.61 \times 10^{-4} M\right)} = 776$$

Exercise 2.5.2

Ethanol and acetic acid react and form water and ethyl acetate, the solvent responsible for the odor of some nail polish removers.

$$C_2H_5OH + CH_3CO_2H \rightleftharpoons CH_3CO_2C_2H_5 + H_2O$$

When 1 mol each of C_2H_5OH and CH_3CO_2H are allowed to react in 1 L of the solvent dioxane, equilibrium is established when $\frac{1}{3}$ mol of each of the reactants remains. Calculate the equilibrium constant for the reaction. (Note: Water is a solute in this reaction.)

Answer

$K_c = 4$

Calculation of a Missing Equilibrium Concentration

When the equilibrium constant and all but one equilibrium concentration are provided, the other equilibrium concentration(s) may be calculated. A computation of this sort is illustrated in the next example exercise.

Example 2.5.3: Calculation of a Missing Equilibrium Concentration

Nitrogen oxides are air pollutants produced by the reaction of nitrogen and oxygen at high temperatures. At 2000 °C, the value of the K_c for the reaction,

$$N_2(g) + O_2(g) \rightleftharpoons 2\,NO(g)$$

is 4.1×10^{-4}. Calculate the equilibrium concentration of NO(*g*) in air at 1 atm pressure and 2000 °C. The equilibrium concentrations of N_2 and O_2 at this pressure and temperature are 0.036 M and 0.0089 M, respectively.

Solution

Substitute the provided quantities into the equilibrium constant expression and solve for [NO]:

$$K_c = \frac{[NO]^2}{[N_2]\,[O_2]}$$

$$[NO]^2 = K_c\,[N_2]\,[O_2]$$

$$[NO] = \sqrt{K_c\,[N_2]\,[O_2]}$$

$$= \sqrt{\left(4.1 \times 10^{-4}\right)(0.036)(0.0089)}$$

$$= \sqrt{1.31 \times 10^{-7}}$$

$$= 3.6 \times 10^{-4}$$

Thus [NO] is 3.6×10^{-4} mol/L at equilibrium under these conditions.

To confirm this result, it may be used along with the provided equilibrium concentrations to calculate a value for *K*:

$$K_c = \frac{[NO]^2}{[N_2]\,[O_2]}$$

$$= \frac{\left(3.6 \times 10^{-4}\right)^2}{(0.036)(0.0089)}$$

$$= 4.0 \times 10^{-4}$$

This result is consistent with the provided value for *K* within nominal uncertainty, differing by just 1 in the least significant digit's place.

? Exercise 2.5.3

The equilibrium constant K_c for the reaction of nitrogen and hydrogen to produce ammonia at a certain temperature is 6.00×10^{-2}. Calculate the equilibrium concentration of ammonia if the equilibrium concentrations of nitrogen and hydrogen are 4.26 *M* and 2.09 *M*, respectively.

Answer

1.53 mol/L

Calculation of Equilibrium Concentrations from Initial Concentrations

Perhaps the most challenging type of equilibrium calculation can be one in which equilibrium concentrations are derived from initial concentrations and an equilibrium constant. For these calculations, a four-step approach is typically useful:

1. Identify the direction in which the reaction will proceed to reach equilibrium.
2. Develop an ICE table.
3. Calculate the concentration changes and, subsequently, the equilibrium concentrations.
4. Confirm the calculated equilibrium concentrations.

The last two example exercises of this chapter demonstrate the application of this strategy.

✓ Example 2.5.4: Calculation of Equilibrium Concentrations

Under certain conditions, the equilibrium constant K_c for the decomposition of $PCl_5\,(g)$ into $PCl_3\,(g)$ and $Cl_2\,(g)$ is 0.0211. What are the equilibrium concentrations of PCl_5, PCl_3, and Cl_2 in a mixture that initially contained only PCl_5 at a concentration of 1.00 *M*?

Solution

Use the stepwise process described earlier.

Step 1.

Determine the direction the reaction proceeds.

The balanced equation for the decomposition of PCl_5 is

$$PCl_5\,(g) \rightleftharpoons PCl_3\,(g) + Cl_2\,(g)$$

Because only the reactant is present initially $Q_c = 0$ and the reaction will proceed to the right.

Step 2:

Develop an ICE table.

	PCl_5 ⇌	PCl_3	+ Cl_2
Initial concentration (*M*)	1.00	0	0
Change (*M*)	$-x$	$+x$	$+x$
Equilibrium concentration (*M*)	$1.00 - x$	x	x

Step 3.

Solve for the change and the equilibrium concentrations.

Substituting the equilibrium concentrations into the equilibrium constant equation gives

$$\begin{aligned} K_c = \frac{[PCl_3]\,[Cl_2]}{[PCl_5]} &= 0.0211 \\ &= \frac{(x)(x)}{(1.00 - x)} \\ 0.0211 &= \frac{(x)(x)}{(1.00 - x)} \\ 0.0211(1.00 - x)7 &= x^2 \\ x^2 + 0.0211x - 0.0211 &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

Appendix B shows an equation of the form $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$ can be rearranged to solve for x:

$$x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

In this case, $a = 1$, $b = 0.0211$, and $c = -0.0211$. Substituting the appropriate values for a, b, and c yields:

$$\begin{aligned} x &= \frac{-0.0211 \pm \sqrt{(0.0211)^2 - 4(1)(-0.0211)}}{2(1)} \\ &= \frac{-0.0211 \pm \sqrt{\left(4.45 \times 10^{-4}\right) + \left(8.44 \times 10^{-2}\right)}}{2} \\ &= \frac{-0.0211 \pm 0.291}{2} \end{aligned}$$

The two roots of the quadratic are, therefore,

$$x = \frac{-0.0211 + 0.291}{2} = 0.135$$

and

$$x = \frac{-0.0211 - 0.291}{2} = -0.156$$

For this scenario, only the positive root is physically meaningful (concentrations are either zero or positive), and so $x = 0.135$ *M*.

The equilibrium concentrations are

$$[PCl_5] = 1.00 - 0.135 = 0.87\ M$$
$$[PCl_3] = x = 0.135\ M =$$
$$[Cl_2] = x = 0.135\ M$$

Step 4.

Confirm the calculated equilibrium concentrations.

Substitution into the expression for K_c (to check the calculation) gives

$$K_c = \frac{[PCl_3]\,[Cl_2]}{[PCl_5]} = \frac{(0.135)(0.135)}{0.87} = 0.021$$

The equilibrium constant calculated from the equilibrium concentrations is equal to the value of K_c given in the problem (when rounded to the proper number of significant figures).

Exercise 2.5.4A

Acetic acid, CH_3CO_2H, reacts with ethanol, C_2H_5OH, to form water and ethyl acetate, $CH_3CO_2C_2H_5$.

$$CH_3CO_2H + C_2H_5OH \rightleftharpoons CH_3CO_2C_2H_5 + H_2O$$

The equilibrium constant for this reaction with dioxane as a solvent is 4.0. What are the equilibrium concentrations for a mixture that is initially 0.15 *M* in CH_3CO_2H, 0.15 *M* in C_2H_5OH, 0.40 *M* in $CH_3CO_2C_2H_5$, and 0.40 *M* in H_2O?

Answer

$[CH_3CO_2H]$ = 0.18 *M*, $[C_2H_5OH]$ = 0.18 *M*, $[CH_3CO_2C_2H_5]$ = 0.37 *M*, $[H_2O]$ = 0.37 *M*

Exercise 2.5.4B

A 1.00-L flask is filled with 1.00 mole of H_2 and 2.00 moles of I_2. The value of the equilibrium constant for the reaction of hydrogen and iodine reacting to form hydrogen iodide is 50.5 under the given conditions. What are the equilibrium concentrations of H_2, I_2, and HI in moles/L?

$$H_2\,(g) + I_2\,(g) \rightleftharpoons 2\,HI\,(g)$$

Answer

$[H_2]$ = 0.06 *M*, $[I_2]$ = 1.06 *M*, [HI] = 1.88 *M*

Example 2.5.5: Calculation of Equilibrium Concentrations Using an Algebra-Simplifying Assumption

What are the concentrations at equilibrium of a 0.15 *M* solution of HCN?

$$HCN\,(aq) \rightleftharpoons H^+\,(aq) + CN^-\,(aq) \qquad K_c = 4.9 \times 10^{-10}$$

Solution

Using "*x*" to represent the concentration of each product at equilibrium gives this ICE table.

	HCN(*aq*) $\rightleftharpoons$	H^+(*aq*)	+ CN^-(*aq*)
Initial concentration (*M*)	0.15	0	0
Change (*M*)	−*x*	+*x*	+*x*
Equilibrium concentration (*M*)	0.15 − *x*	*x*	*x*

Substitute the equilibrium concentration terms into the K_c expression

$$K_c = \frac{(x)(x)}{0.15 - x}$$

rearrange to the quadratic form and solve for *x*

$$x^2 + 4.9 \times 10^{-10} - 7.35 \times 10^{-11} = 0$$
$$x = 8.56 \times 10^{-6} M (3 \text{ sig. figs. }) = 8.6 \times 10^{-6} M (2 \text{ sig. figs. })$$

Thus $[\mathrm{H^+}] = [\mathrm{CN^-}] = x = 8.6 \times 10^{-6}$ M and $[\mathrm{HCN}] = 0.15 – x = 0.15$ M.

Note in this case that the change in concentration is significantly less than the initial concentration (a consequence of the small *K*), and so the initial concentration experiences a negligible change:

$$\text{if } x \ll 0.15M, \text{ then } (0.15 - x) \approx 0.15$$

This approximation allows for a more expedient mathematical approach to the calculation that avoids the need to solve for the roots of a quadratic equation:

$$K_c = \frac{(x)(x)}{0.15 - x} \approx \frac{x^2}{0.15}$$
$$4.9 \times 10^{-10} = \frac{x^2}{0.15}$$
$$x^2 = (0.15)\left(4.9 \times 10^{-10}\right)$$
$$= 7.4 \times 10^{-11}$$
$$x = \sqrt{7.4 \times 10^{-11}}$$
$$= 8.6 \times 10^{-6} \text{ M}$$

The value of x calculated is, indeed, much less than the initial concentration

$$8.6 \times 10^{-6} \ll 0.15$$

and so the approximation was justified. If this simplified approach were to yield a value for *x* that did *not* justify the approximation, the calculation would need to be repeated without making the approximation.

? Exercise 2.5.5

What are the equilibrium concentrations in a 0.25 *M* NH_3 solution?

$$\mathrm{NH_3\,(aq) + H_2O\,(l) \rightleftharpoons NH_4^+\,(aq) + OH^-\,(aq)} \quad K_c = 1.8 \times 10^{-5}$$

Answer

$[\mathrm{OH^-}] = [\mathrm{NH_4^+}] = 0.0021$ M

$[\mathrm{NH_3}] = 0.25$ M

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2.6: Key Terms

equilibrium | state of a reversible reaction in which the forward and reverse processes occur at equal rates

equilibrium constant (*K*) | value of the reaction quotient for a system at equilibrium; may be expressed using concentrations (K_c) or partial pressures (K_p)

heterogeneous equilibria | equilibria in which reactants and products occupy two or more different phases

homogeneous equilibria | equilibria in which all reactants and products occupy the same phase

law of mass action | when a reversible reaction has attained equilibrium at a given temperature, the reaction quotient remains constant

Le Chatelier's principle | an equilibrium subjected to stress will shift in a way to counter the stress and re-establish equilibrium

reaction quotient (*Q*) | mathematical function describing the relative amounts of reactants and products in a reaction mixture; may be expressed in terms of concentrations (Q_c) or pressures (Q_p)

reversible reaction | chemical reaction that can proceed in both the forward and reverse directions under given conditions

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2.7: Key Equations

$P = MRT$
$K_c = Q_c$ at equilibrium
$K_p = Q_p$ at equilibrium
$K_P = K_c\,(RT)^{\Delta n}$

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2.8: Summary

A reversible reaction is at equilibrium when the forward and reverse processes occur at equal rates. Chemical equilibria are dynamic processes characterized by constant amounts of reactant and product species.

The composition of a reaction mixture may be represented by a mathematical function known as the reaction quotient, Q. For a reaction at equilibrium, the composition is constant, and Q is called the equilibrium constant, K.

A homogeneous equilibrium is an equilibrium in which all components are in the same phase. A heterogeneous equilibrium is an equilibrium in which components are in two or more phases.

Systems at equilibrium can be disturbed by changes to temperature, concentration, and, in some cases, volume and pressure. The system's response to these disturbances is described by Le Chatelier's principle: An equilibrium system subjected to a disturbance will shift in a way that counters the disturbance and re-establishes equilibrium. A catalyst will increase the rate of both the forward and reverse reactions of a reversible process, increasing the rate at which equilibrium is reached but not altering the equilibrium mixture's composition (K does not change).

Calculating values for equilibrium constants and/or equilibrium concentrations is of practical benefit to many applications. A mathematical strategy that uses initial concentrations, changes in concentrations, and equilibrium concentrations (and goes by the acronym ICE) is useful for several types of equilibrium calculations.

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2.9: Exercises

1.

What does it mean to describe a reaction as “reversible”?

2.

When writing an equation, how is a reversible reaction distinguished from a nonreversible reaction?

3.

If a reaction is reversible, when can it be said to have reached equilibrium?

4.

Is a system at equilibrium if the rate constants of the forward and reverse reactions are equal?

5.

If the concentrations of products and reactants are equal, is the system at equilibrium?

6.

Explain why there may be an infinite number of values for the reaction quotient of a reaction at a given temperature but there can be only one value for the equilibrium constant at that temperature.

7.

Explain why an equilibrium between $Br_2(l)$ and $Br_2(g)$ would not be established if the container were not a closed vessel shown in Figure 13.4.

8.

If you observe the following reaction at equilibrium, is it possible to tell whether the reaction started with pure NO_2 or with pure N_2O_4?

9.

Among the solubility rules previously discussed is the statement: All chlorides are soluble except Hg_2Cl_2, AgCl, $PbCl_2$, and CuCl.

a. Write the expression for the equilibrium constant for the reaction represented by the equation Is $K_c > 1$, < 1, or ≈ 1? Explain your answer.
b. Write the expression for the equilibrium constant for the reaction represented by the equation Is $K_c > 1$, < 1, or ≈ 1? Explain your answer.

10.

Among the solubility rules previously discussed is the statement: Carbonates, phosphates, borates, and arsenates—except those of the ammonium ion and the alkali metals—are insoluble.

a. Write the expression for the equilibrium constant for the reaction represented by the equation Is $K_c > 1$, < 1, or ≈ 1? Explain your answer.
b. Write the expression for the equilibrium constant for the reaction represented by the equation Is $K_c > 1$, < 1, or ≈ 1? Explain your answer.

11.

Benzene is one of the compounds used as octane enhancers in unleaded gasoline. It is manufactured by the catalytic conversion of acetylene to benzene: Which value of K_c would make this reaction most useful commercially? $K_c \approx 0.01$, $K_c \approx 1$, or $K_c \approx 10$. Explain your answer.

12.

Show that the complete chemical equation, the total ionic equation, and the net ionic equation for the reaction represented by the equation give the same expression for the reaction quotient. KI_3 is composed of the ions K^+ and

13.

For a titration to be effective, the reaction must be rapid and the yield of the reaction must essentially be 100%. Is $K_c > 1$, < 1, or ≈ 1 for a titration reaction?

14.

For a precipitation reaction to be useful in a gravimetric analysis, the product of the reaction must be insoluble. Is $K_c > 1$, < 1, or ≈ 1 for a useful precipitation reaction?

15.

Write the mathematical expression for the reaction quotient, Q_c, for each of the following reactions:

a.
b.
c.
d.
e.
f.
g.
h.

16.

Write the mathematical expression for the reaction quotient, Q_c, for each of the following reactions:

a.
b.
c.
d.
e.
f.
g.
h.

17.

The initial concentrations or pressures of reactants and products are given for each of the following systems. Calculate the reaction quotient and determine the direction in which each system will proceed to reach equilibrium.

a. (f) NO = 10.0 atm, $N_2 = O_2 = 5$ atm

18.

The initial concentrations or pressures of reactants and products are given for each of the following systems. Calculate the reaction quotient and determine the direction in which each system will proceed to reach equilibrium.

a. (f) $[N_2] = 0.100\ M$, $[O_2] = 0.200\ M$, $[NO] = 1.00\ M$

19.

The following reaction has $K_P = 4.50 \times 10^{-5}$ DELMAR at 720 K.

If a reaction vessel is filled with each gas to the partial pressures listed, in which direction will it shift to reach equilibrium? $P(NH_3) = 93$ atm, $P(N_2) = 48$ atm, and $P(H_2) = 52$ atm

20.

Determine if the following system is at equilibrium. If not, in which direction will the system need to shift to reach equilibrium?

$[SO_2Cl_2] = 0.12\ M$, $[Cl_2] = 0.16\ M$ and $[SO_2] = 0.050\ M$. K_c for the reaction is 0.078.

21.

Which of the systems described in Exercise 13.15 are homogeneous equilibria? Which are heterogeneous equilibria?

22.

Which of the systems described in Exercise 13.16 are homogeneous equilibria? Which are heterogeneous equilibria?

23.

For which of the reactions in Exercise 13.15 does K_c (calculated using concentrations) equal K_P (calculated using pressures)?

24.

For which of the reactions in Exercise 13.16 does K_c (calculated using concentrations) equal K_P (calculated using pressures)?

25.

Convert the values of K_c to values of K_P or the values of K_P to values of K_c.

a.

b.

c.

d.

26.

Convert the values of K_c to values of K_P or the values of K_P to values of K_c.

a.

b.

c.

d.

27.

What is the value of the equilibrium constant expression for the change

28.

Write the expression of the reaction quotient for the ionization of HOCN in water.

29.

Write the reaction quotient expression for the ionization of NH_3 in water.

30.

What is the approximate value of the equilibrium constant K_P for the change at 25 °C. (The equilibrium vapor pressure for this substance is 570 torr at 25 °C.)

31.

The following equation represents a reversible decomposition:

Under what conditions will decomposition in a closed container proceed to completion so that no $CaCO_3$ remains?

32.

Explain how to recognize the conditions under which changes in volume will affect gas-phase systems at equilibrium.

33.

What property of a reaction can we use to predict the effect of a change in temperature on the value of an equilibrium constant?

34.

The following reaction occurs when a burner on a gas stove is lit:

Is an equilibrium among CH_4, O_2, CO_2, and H_2O established under these conditions? Explain your answer.

35.

A necessary step in the manufacture of sulfuric acid is the formation of sulfur trioxide, SO_3, from sulfur dioxide, SO_2, and oxygen, O_2, shown here. At high temperatures, the rate of formation of SO_3 is higher, but the equilibrium amount (concentration or partial pressure) of SO_3 is lower than it would be at lower temperatures.

a. Does the equilibrium constant for the reaction increase, decrease, or remain about the same as the temperature increases?

b. Is the reaction endothermic or exothermic?

36.

Suggest four ways in which the concentration of hydrazine, N_2H_4, could be increased in an equilibrium described by the following equation:

37.

Suggest four ways in which the concentration of PH_3 could be increased in an equilibrium described by the following equation:

38.

How will an increase in temperature affect each of the following equilibria? How will a decrease in the volume of the reaction vessel affect each?

a.
b.
c.
d.

39.

How will an increase in temperature affect each of the following equilibria? How will a decrease in the volume of the reaction vessel affect each?

a.
b.
c.
d.

40.

Methanol can be prepared from carbon monoxide and hydrogen at high temperature and pressure in the presence of a suitable catalyst.

(a) Write the expression for the equilibrium constant (K_c) for the reversible reaction

(b) What will happen to the concentrations of H_2, CO, and CH_3OH at equilibrium if more H_2 is added?

(c) What will happen to the concentrations of H_2, CO, and CH_3OH at equilibrium if CO is removed?

(d) What will happen to the concentrations of H_2, CO, and CH_3OH at equilibrium if CH_3OH is added?

(e) What will happen to the concentrations of H_2, CO, and CH_3OH at equilibrium if the temperature of the system is increased?

(f) What will happen to the concentrations of H_2, CO, and CH_3OH at equilibrium if more catalyst is added?

41.

Nitrogen and oxygen react at high temperatures.

(a) Write the expression for the equilibrium constant (K_c) for the reversible reaction

(b) What will happen to the concentrations of N_2, O_2, and NO at equilibrium if more O_2 is added?

(c) What will happen to the concentrations of N_2, O_2, and NO at equilibrium if N_2 is removed?

(d) What will happen to the concentrations of N_2, O_2, and NO at equilibrium if NO is added?

(e) What will happen to the concentrations of N_2, O_2, and NO at equilibrium if the volume of the reaction vessel is decreased?

(f) What will happen to the concentrations of N_2, O_2, and NO at equilibrium if the temperature of the system is increased?

(g) What will happen to the concentrations of N_2, O_2, and NO at equilibrium if a catalyst is added?

42.

Water gas, a mixture of H_2 and CO, is an important industrial fuel produced by the reaction of steam with red hot coke, essentially pure carbon.

(a) Write the expression for the equilibrium constant for the reversible reaction

(b) What will happen to the concentration of each reactant and product at equilibrium if more C is added?

(c) What will happen to the concentration of each reactant and product at equilibrium if H_2O is removed?

(d) What will happen to the concentration of each reactant and product at equilibrium if CO is added?

(e) What will happen to the concentration of each reactant and product at equilibrium if the temperature of the system is increased?

43.

Pure iron metal can be produced by the reduction of iron(III) oxide with hydrogen gas.

(a) Write the expression for the equilibrium constant (K_c) for the reversible reaction

(b) What will happen to the concentration of each reactant and product at equilibrium if more Fe is added?

(c) What will happen to the concentration of each reactant and product at equilibrium if H_2O is removed?

(d) What will happen to the concentration of each reactant and product at equilibrium if H_2 is added?

(e) What will happen to the concentration of each reactant and product at equilibrium if the volume of the reaction vessel is decreased?

(f) What will happen to the concentration of each reactant and product at equilibrium if the temperature of the system is increased?

44.

Ammonia is a weak base that reacts with water according to this equation:

Will any of the following increase the percent of ammonia that is converted to the ammonium ion in water?

a. Addition of NaOH
b. Addition of HCl
c. Addition of NH_4Cl

45.

Acetic acid is a weak acid that reacts with water according to this equation:

Will any of the following increase the percent of acetic acid that reacts and produces ion?

a. Addition of HCl
b. Addition of NaOH
c. Addition of $NaCH_3CO_2$

46.

Suggest two ways in which the equilibrium concentration of Ag^+ can be reduced in a solution of Na^+, Cl^-, Ag^+, and in contact with solid AgCl.

47.

How can the pressure of water vapor be increased in the following equilibrium?

48.

A solution is saturated with silver sulfate and contains excess solid silver sulfate:

A small amount of solid silver sulfate containing a radioactive isotope of silver is added to this solution. Within a few minutes, a portion of the solution phase is sampled and tests positive for radioactive Ag^+ ions. Explain this observation.

49.

When equal molar amounts of HCl and HOCl are dissolved separately in equal amounts of water, the solution of HCl freezes at a lower temperature. Which compound has the larger equilibrium constant for acid ionization?

a. HCl

b. $H^+ + Cl^-$
c. HOCl
d. $H^+ + OCl^-$

50.

A reaction is represented by this equation:

a. Write the mathematical expression for the equilibrium constant.
b. Using concentrations ≤1 *M*, identify two sets of concentrations that describe a mixture of A, B, and C at equilibrium.

51.

A reaction is represented by this equation:

a. Write the mathematical expression for the equilibrium constant.
b. Using concentrations of ≤1 *M*, identify two sets of concentrations that describe a mixture of W, X, and Y at equilibrium.

52.

What is the value of the equilibrium constant at 500 °C for the formation of NH_3 according to the following equation?

An equilibrium mixture of $NH_3(g)$, $H_2(g)$, and $N_2(g)$ at 500 °C was found to contain 1.35 *M* H_2, 1.15 *M* N_2, and 4.12 \times 10^{−1} DELMAR *M* NH_3.

53.

Hydrogen is prepared commercially by the reaction of methane and water vapor at elevated temperatures.

What is the equilibrium constant for the reaction if a mixture at equilibrium contains gases with the following concentrations: CH_4, 0.126 *M*; H_2O, 0.242 *M*; CO, 0.126 *M*; H_2 1.15 *M*, at a temperature of 760 °C?

54.

A 0.72-mol sample of PCl_5 is put into a 1.00-L vessel and heated. At equilibrium, the vessel contains 0.40 mol of $PCl_3(g)$ and 0.40 mol of $Cl_2(g)$. Calculate the value of the equilibrium constant for the decomposition of PCl_5 to PCl_3 and Cl_2 at this temperature.

55.

At 1 atm and 25 °C, NO_2 with an initial concentration of 1.00 *M* is 0.0033% decomposed into NO and O_2. Calculate the value of the equilibrium constant for the reaction.

56.

Calculate the value of the equilibrium constant K_P for the reaction from these equilibrium pressures: NO, 0.050 atm; Cl_2, 0.30 atm; NOCl, 1.2 atm.

57.

When heated, iodine vapor dissociates according to this equation:

At 1274 K, a sample exhibits a partial pressure of I_2 of 0.1122 atm and a partial pressure due to I atoms of 0.1378 atm. Determine the value of the equilibrium constant, K_P, for the decomposition at 1274 K.

58.

A sample of ammonium chloride was heated in a closed container.

At equilibrium, the pressure of $NH_3(g)$ was found to be 1.75 atm. What is the value of the equilibrium constant K_P for the decomposition at this temperature?

59.

At a temperature of 60 °C, the vapor pressure of water is 0.196 atm. What is the value of the equilibrium constant K_P for the vaporization equilibrium at 60 °C?

60.

Complete the following partial ICE tables.

(a)

(b)

(c)

(d)

(e)

(f)

61.

Complete the following partial ICE tables.

(a)

(b)

(c)

(d)

(e)

(f)

62.

Why are there no changes specified for Ni in Exercise 13.60, part (f)? What property of Ni does change?

63.

Why are there no changes specified for NH_4HS in Exercise 13.61, part (e)? What property of NH_4HS does change?

64.

Analysis of the gases in a sealed reaction vessel containing NH_3, N_2, and H_2 at equilibrium at 400 °C established the concentration of N_2 to be 1.2 *M* and the concentration of H_2 to be 0.24 *M*.

Calculate the equilibrium molar concentration of NH_3.

65.

Calculate the number of moles of HI that are at equilibrium with 1.25 mol of H_2 and 1.25 mol of I_2 in a 5.00−L flask at 448 °C.

66.

What is the pressure of BrCl in an equilibrium mixture of Cl_2, Br_2, and BrCl if the pressure of Cl_2 in the mixture is 0.115 atm and the pressure of Br_2 in the mixture is 0.450 atm?

67.

What is the pressure of CO_2 in a mixture at equilibrium that contains 0.50 atm H_2, 2.0 atm of H_2O, and 1.0 atm of CO at 990 °C?

68.

Cobalt metal can be prepared by reducing cobalt(II) oxide with carbon monoxide.

What concentration of CO remains in an equilibrium mixture with $[CO_2] = 0.100$ *M*?

69.

Carbon reacts with water vapor at elevated temperatures.

Assuming a reaction mixture initially contains only reactants, what is the concentration of CO in an equilibrium mixture with $[H_2O] = 0.500$ *M* at 1000 °C?

70.

Sodium sulfate 10−hydrate, $Na_2SO_4 \cdot 10H_2O$, dehydrates according to the equation

What is the pressure of water vapor at equilibrium with a mixture of $Na_2SO_4 \cdot 10H_2O$ and $NaSO_4$?

71.

Calcium chloride 6−hydrate, $CaCl_2 \cdot 6H_2O$, dehydrates according to the equation

What is the pressure of water vapor at equilibrium with a mixture of $CaCl_2 \cdot 6H_2O$ and $CaCl_2$ at 25 °C?

72.

A student solved the following problem and found the equilibrium concentrations to be $[SO_2]$ = 0.590 *M*, $[O_2]$ = 0.0450 *M*, and $[SO_3]$ = 0.260 *M*. How could this student check the work without reworking the problem? The problem was: For the following reaction at 600 °C:

73.

A student solved the following problem and found $[N_2O_4]$ = 0.16 *M* at equilibrium. How could this student recognize that the answer was wrong without reworking the problem? The problem was: What is the equilibrium concentration of N_2O_4 in a mixture formed from a sample of NO_2 with a concentration of 0.10 *M*?

74.

Assume that the change in concentration of N_2O_4 is small enough to be neglected in the following problem.

(a) Calculate the equilibrium concentration of both species in 1.00 L of a solution prepared from 0.129 mol of N_2O_4 with chloroform as the solvent.

in chloroform

(b) Confirm that the change is small enough to be neglected.

75.

Assume that the change in concentration of $COCl_2$ is small enough to be neglected in the following problem.

(a) Calculate the equilibrium concentration of all species in an equilibrium mixture that results from the decomposition of $COCl_2$ with an initial concentration of 0.3166 *M*.

(b) Confirm that the change is small enough to be neglected.

76.

Assume that the change in pressure of H_2S is small enough to be neglected in the following problem.

(a) Calculate the equilibrium pressures of all species in an equilibrium mixture that results from the decomposition of H_2S with an initial pressure of 0.824 atm.

(b) Confirm that the change is small enough to be neglected.

77.

What are all concentrations after a mixture that contains $[H_2O]$ = 1.00 *M* and $[Cl_2O]$ = 1.00 *M* comes to equilibrium at 25 °C?

78.

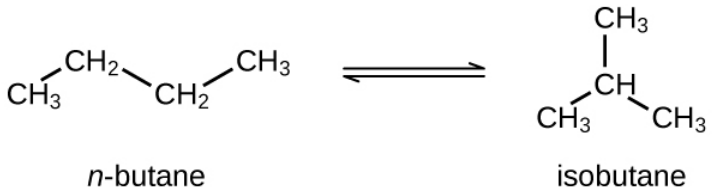
What are the concentrations of PCl_5, PCl_3, and Cl_2 in an equilibrium mixture produced by the decomposition of a sample of pure PCl_5 with $[PCl_5]$ = 2.00 *M*?

79.

Calculate the number of grams of HI that are at equilibrium with 1.25 mol of H_2 and 63.5 g of iodine at 448 °C.

80.

Butane exists as two isomers, *n*−butane and isobutane.



n-butane isobutane

K_P = 2.5 at 25 °C

What is the pressure of isobutane in a container of the two isomers at equilibrium with a total pressure of 1.22 atm?

81.

What is the minimum mass of $CaCO_3$ required to establish equilibrium at a certain temperature in a 6.50-L container if the equilibrium constant (K_c) is 0.50 for the decomposition reaction of $CaCO_3$ at that temperature?

82.

The equilibrium constant (K_c) for this reaction is 1.60 at 990 °C:

Calculate the number of moles of each component in the final equilibrium mixture obtained from adding 1.00 mol of H_2, 2.00 mol of CO_2, 0.750 mol of H_2O, and 1.00 mol of CO to a 5.00-L container at 990 °C.

83.

In a 3.0-L vessel, the following equilibrium partial pressures are measured: N_2, 190 torr; H_2, 317 torr; NH_3, 1.00 \times 10^{3} DELMAR torr.

a. How will the partial pressures of H_2, N_2, and NH_3 change if H_2 is removed from the system? Will they increase, decrease, or remain the same?
b. Hydrogen is removed from the vessel until the partial pressure of nitrogen, at equilibrium, is 250 torr. Calculate the partial pressures of the other substances under the new conditions.

84.

The equilibrium constant (K_c) for this reaction is 5.0 at a given temperature.

a. On analysis, an equilibrium mixture of the substances present at the given temperature was found to contain 0.20 mol of CO, 0.30 mol of water vapor, and 0.90 mol of H_2 in a liter. How many moles of CO_2 were there in the equilibrium mixture?
b. Maintaining the same temperature, additional H_2 was added to the system, and some water vapor was removed by drying. A new equilibrium mixture was thereby established containing 0.40 mol of CO, 0.30 mol of water vapor, and 1.2 mol of H_2 in a liter. How many moles of CO_2 were in the new equilibrium mixture? Compare this with the quantity in part (a), and discuss whether the second value is reasonable. Explain how it is possible for the water vapor concentration to be the same in the two equilibrium solutions even though some vapor was removed before the second equilibrium was established.

85.

Antimony pentachloride decomposes according to this equation:

An equilibrium mixture in a 5.00-L flask at 448 °C contains 3.85 g of $SbCl_5$, 9.14 g of $SbCl_3$, and 2.84 g of Cl_2. How many grams of each will be found if the mixture is transferred into a 2.00-L flask at the same temperature?

86.

Consider the equilibrium

a. What is the expression for the equilibrium constant (K_c) of the reaction?
b. How must the concentration of NH_3 change to reach equilibrium if the reaction quotient is less than the equilibrium constant?
c. If the reaction were at equilibrium, how would an increase in the volume of the reaction vessel affect the pressure of NO_2?
d. If the change in the pressure of NO_2 is 28 torr as a mixture of the four gases reaches equilibrium, how much will the pressure of O_2 change?

87.

The binding of oxygen by hemoglobin (Hb), giving oxyhemoglobin (HbO_2), is partially regulated by the concentration of H_3O^+ and dissolved CO_2 in the blood. Although the equilibrium is complicated, it can be summarized as

a. Write the equilibrium constant expression for this reaction.
b. Explain why the production of lactic acid and CO_2 in a muscle during exertion stimulates release of O_2 from the oxyhemoglobin in the blood passing through the muscle.

88.

Liquid N_2O_3 is dark blue at low temperatures, but the color fades and becomes greenish at higher temperatures as the compound decomposes to NO and NO_2. At 25 °C, a value of K_P = 1.91 has been established for this decomposition. If 0.236 moles of N_2O_3 are placed in a 1.52-L vessel at 25 °C, calculate the equilibrium partial pressures of $N_2O_3(g)$, $NO_2(g)$, and $NO(g)$.

89.

A 1.00-L vessel at 400 °C contains the following equilibrium concentrations: N_2, 1.00 *M*; H_2, 0.50 *M*; and NH_3, 0.25 *M*. How many moles of hydrogen must be removed from the vessel to increase the concentration of nitrogen to 1.1 *M*? The equilibrium reaction is

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CHAPTER OVERVIEW

3: Acid-Base Equilibria

This chapter will illustrate the chemistry of acid-base reactions and equilibria, and provide you with tools for quantifying the concentrations of acids and bases in solutions.

3.1: Introduction
3.2: Brønsted-Lowry Acids and Bases
3.3: pH and pOH
3.4: Relative Strengths of Acids and Bases
3.5: Hydrolysis of Salt Solutions
3.6: Polyprotic Acids
3.7: Buffers
3.8: Acid-Base Titrations
3.9: Key Terms
3.10: Key Equations
3.11: Summary
3.12: Exercises

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3.1: Introduction

Liquid water is essential to life on our planet, and chemistry involving the characteristic ions of water, H^+ and OH^-, is widely encountered in nature and society. As introduced in another chapter of this text, acid-base chemistry involves the transfer of hydrogen ions from donors (acids) to acceptors (bases). These H^+ transfer reactions are reversible, and the equilibria established by acid-base systems are essential aspects of phenomena ranging from sinkhole formation (Figure 3.1.1) to oxygen transport in the human body. This chapter will further explore acid-base chemistry with an emphasis on the equilibrium aspects of this important reaction class.



Figure 3.1.1: Sinkholes such as this are the result of reactions between acidic groundwaters and basic rock formations, like limestone. (credit: modification of work by Emil Kehnel)

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3.2: Brønsted-Lowry Acids and Bases

Learning Objectives

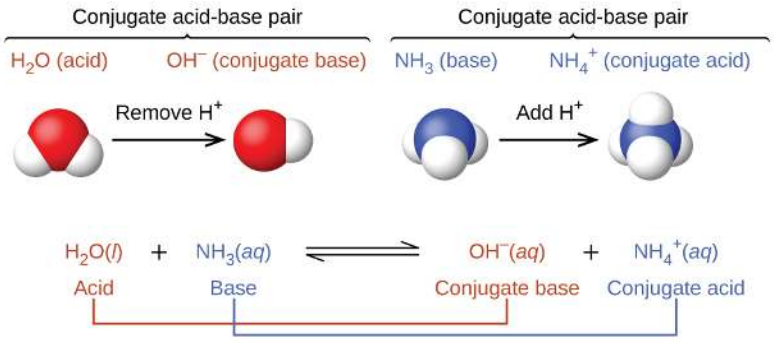
By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Identify acids, bases, and conjugate acid-base pairs according to the Brønsted-Lowry definition
- Write equations for acid and base ionization reactions
- Use the ion-product constant for water to calculate hydronium and hydroxide ion concentrations
- Describe the acid-base behavior of amphiprotic substances

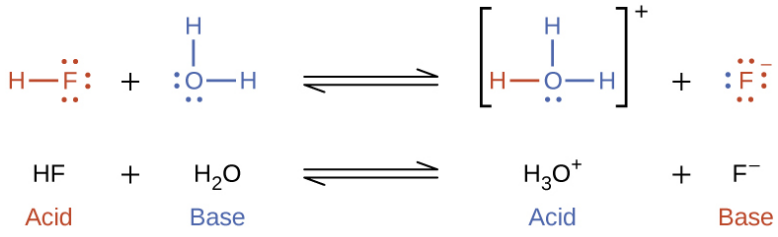
The acid-base reaction class has been studied for quite some time. In 1680, Robert Boyle reported traits of acid solutions that included their ability to dissolve many substances, to change the colors of certain natural dyes, and to lose these traits after coming in contact with alkali (base) solutions. In the eighteenth century, it was recognized that acids have a sour taste, react with limestone to liberate a gaseous substance (now known to be CO_2), and interact with alkalis to form neutral substances. In 1815, Humphry Davy contributed greatly to the development of the modern acid-base concept by demonstrating that hydrogen is the essential constituent of acids. Around that same time, Joseph Louis Gay-Lussac concluded that acids are substances that can neutralize bases and that these two classes of substances can be defined only in terms of each other. The significance of hydrogen was reemphasized in 1884 when Svante Arrhenius defined an acid as a compound that dissolves in water to yield hydrogen cations (now recognized to be hydronium ions) and a base as a compound that dissolves in water to yield hydroxide anions.

Johannes Brønsted and Thomas Lowry proposed a more general description in 1923 in which acids and bases were defined in terms of the transfer of hydrogen ions, H^+. (Note that these hydrogen ions are often referred to simply as *protons*, since that subatomic particle is the only component of cations derived from the most abundant hydrogen isotope, ^1H.) A compound that donates a proton to another compound is called a Brønsted-Lowry acid, and a compound that accepts a proton is called a Brønsted-Lowry base. An acid-base reaction is, thus, the transfer of a proton from a donor (acid) to an acceptor (base).

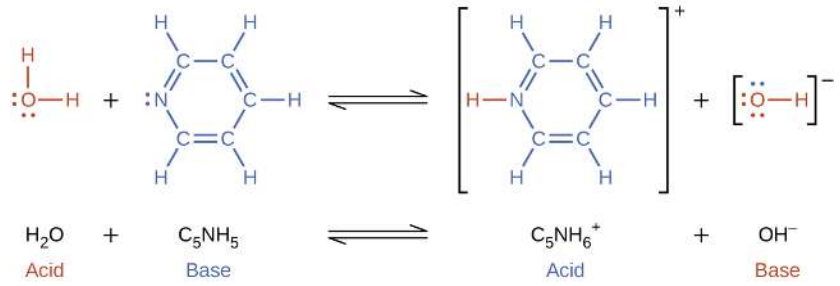
The concept of *conjugate pairs* is useful in describing Brønsted-Lowry acid-base reactions (and other reversible reactions, as well). When an acid donates H^+, the species that remains is called the **conjugate base** of the acid because it reacts as a proton acceptor in the reverse reaction. Likewise, when a base accepts H^+, it is converted to its **conjugate acid**. The reaction between water and ammonia illustrates this idea. In the forward direction, water acts as an acid by donating a proton to ammonia and subsequently becoming a hydroxide ion, OH^-, the conjugate base of water. The ammonia acts as a base in accepting this proton, becoming an ammonium ion, NH_4^+, the conjugate acid of ammonia. In the reverse direction, a hydroxide ion acts as a base in accepting a proton from ammonium ion, which acts as an acid.



The reaction between a Brønsted-Lowry acid and water is called acid ionization. For example, when hydrogen fluoride dissolves in water and ionizes, protons are transferred from hydrogen fluoride molecules to water molecules, yielding hydronium ions and fluoride ions:



Base ionization of a species occurs when it accepts protons from water molecules. In the example below, pyridine molecules, C_5NH_5, undergo base ionization when dissolved in water, yielding hydroxide and pyridinium ions:



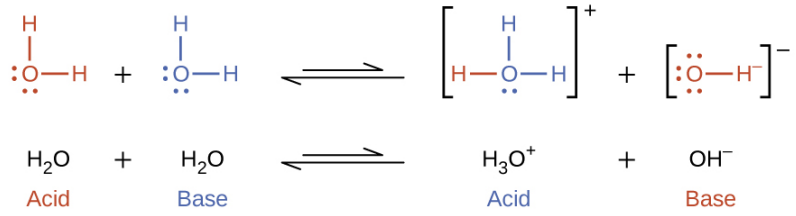
The preceding ionization reactions suggest that water may function as both a base (as in its reaction with hydrogen fluoride) and an acid (as in its reaction with ammonia). Species capable of either donating or accepting protons are called amphiprotic, or more generally, amphoteric, a term that may be used for acids and bases per definitions other than the Brønsted-Lowry one. The equations below show the two possible acid-base reactions for two amphiprotic species, bicarbonate ion and water:

$$\mathrm{HCO_3^-\,(aq) + H_2O\,(l) \rightleftharpoons CO_3^{2-}\,(aq) + H_3O^+\,(aq)}$$

$$\mathrm{HCO_3^-\,(aq) + H_2O\,(l) \rightleftharpoons H_2CO_3\,(aq) + OH^-\,(aq)}$$

The first equation represents the reaction of bicarbonate as an acid with water as a base, whereas the second represents reaction of bicarbonate as a base with water as an acid. When bicarbonate is added to water, both these equilibria are established simultaneously and the composition of the resulting solution may be determined through appropriate equilibrium calculations, as described later in this chapter.

In the liquid state, molecules of an amphiprotic substance can react with one another as illustrated for water in the equations below:



The process in which like molecules react to yield ions is called autoionization. Liquid water undergoes autoionization to a very slight extent; at 25 °C, approximately two out of every billion water molecules are ionized. The extent of the water autoionization process is reflected in the value of its equilibrium constant, the ion-product constant for water, K_w:

$$\mathrm{2\,H_2O\,(l) \rightleftharpoons H_3O^+\,(aq) + OH^-\,(aq)} \tag{3.2.1}$$

with

$$K_w = [\mathrm{H_3O^+}][\mathrm{OH^-}] \tag{3.2.2}$$

The slight ionization of pure water is reflected in the small value of the equilibrium constant; at 25 °C, K_w has a value of 1.0×10^{-14}. The process is endothermic, and so the extent of ionization and the resulting concentrations of hydronium ion and

hydroxide ion increase with temperature. For example, at 100 °C, the value for K_w is about 5.6×10^{-13}, roughly 50 times larger than the value at 25 °C.

Example 3.2.1: Ion Concentrations in Pure Water

What are the hydronium ion concentration and the hydroxide ion concentration in pure water at 25 °C?

Solution

The autoionization of water yields the same number of hydronium and hydroxide ions. Therefore, in pure water, $[H_3O^+] = [OH^-] = x$. At 25 °C:

$$K_w = [H_3O^+]\,[OH^-] = (x)(x) = x^2 = 1.0 \times 10^{-14}$$

So:

$$x = [H_3O^+] = [OH^-] = \sqrt{1.0 \times 10^{-14}} = 1.0 \times 10^{-7} M$$

The hydronium ion concentration and the hydroxide ion concentration are the same, $1.0 \times 10^{-7}\,M$.

Exercise 3.2.1

The ion product of water at 80 °C is 2.4 \times 10^{−13}. What are the concentrations of hydronium and hydroxide ions in pure water at 80 °C?

Answer

$$[\mathrm{H_3O^+}] = [\mathrm{OH^-}] = 4.9 \times 10^{-7}\,M$$

Example 3.2.2: The Inverse Relation between $[H_3O^+]$ and $[OH^-]$

A solution of an acid in water has a hydronium ion concentration of $2.0 \times 10^{-6} M$. What is the concentration of hydroxide ion at 25 °C?

Solution

Use the value of the ion-product constant for water at 25 °C (Equations 3.2.1 and 3.2.2) to calculate the missing equilibrium concentration.

$$2\,\mathrm{H_2O\,(l)} \rightleftharpoons \mathrm{H_3O^+\,(aq)} + \mathrm{OH^-\,(aq)}$$

with $K_w = [\mathrm{H_3O^+}][\mathrm{OH^-}]$.

Rearrangement of the K_w expression shows that $[OH^-]$ is inversely proportional to $[H_3O^+]$:

$$K_w = [\mathrm{H_3O^+}]\,[\mathrm{OH^-}] = \left(2.0 \times 10^{-6}\right)\left(5.0 \times 10^{-9}\right) = 1.0 \times 10^{-14}$$

Compared with pure water, a solution of acid exhibits a higher concentration of hydronium ions (due to ionization of the acid) and a proportionally lower concentration of hydroxide ions. This may be explained via Le Chatelier's principle as a left shift in the water autoionization equilibrium resulting from the stress of increased hydronium ion concentration.

Substituting the ion concentrations into the K_w expression confirms this calculation, resulting in the expected value:

$$K_w = [\mathrm{H_3O^+}][\mathrm{OH^-}] = (2.0 \times 10^{-6})(5.0 \times 10^{-9}) = 1.0 \times 10^{-14}$$

Exercise 3.2.2

What is the hydronium ion concentration in an aqueous solution with a hydroxide ion concentration of 0.001 *M* at 25 °C?

Answer

$$[\mathrm{H_3O^+}] = 1 \times 10^{-11}\ \mathrm{M}$$

Example 3.2.3: Representing the Acid-Base Behavior of an Amphoteric Substance

Write separate equations representing the reaction of $\mathrm{HSO_3^-}$

a. as an acid with $\mathrm{OH^-}$
b. as a base with HI

Solution

a. $\mathrm{HSO_3^-(aq) + OH^-(aq) \rightleftharpoons SO_3^{2-}(aq) + H_2O(l)}$
b. $\mathrm{HSO_3^-(aq) + HI(aq) \rightleftharpoons H_2SO_3(aq) + I^-(aq)}$

Exercise 3.2.3

Write separate equations representing the reaction of $\mathrm{H_2PO_4^-}$

a. as a base with HBr
b. as an acid with $\mathrm{OH^-}$

Answer

a. $\mathrm{H_2PO_4^-(aq) + HBr(aq) \rightleftharpoons H_3PO_4(aq) + Br^-(aq)}$
b. $\mathrm{H_2PO_4^-(aq) + OH^-(aq) \rightleftharpoons HPO_4^{2-}(aq) + H_2O(l)}$

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3.3: pH and pOH

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Explain the characterization of aqueous solutions as acidic, basic, or neutral
- Express hydronium and hydroxide ion concentrations on the pH and pOH scales
- Perform calculations relating pH and pOH

As discussed earlier, hydronium and hydroxide ions are present both in pure water and in all aqueous solutions, and their concentrations are inversely proportional as determined by the ion product of water (K_w). The concentrations of these ions in a solution are often critical determinants of the solution's properties and the chemical behaviors of its other solutes, and specific vocabulary has been developed to describe these concentrations in relative terms. A solution is neutral if it contains equal concentrations of hydronium and hydroxide ions; acidic if it contains a greater concentration of hydronium ions than hydroxide ions; and basic if it contains a lesser concentration of hydronium ions than hydroxide ions.

A common means of expressing quantities that may span many orders of magnitude is to use a logarithmic scale. One such scale that is very popular for chemical concentrations and equilibrium constants is based on the p-function, defined as shown where "X" is the quantity of interest and "log" is the base-10 logarithm:

$$pX = -\log X$$

The pH of a solution is therefore defined as shown here, where $[H_3O^+]$ is the molar concentration of hydronium ion in the solution:

$$pH = -\log\left[H_3O^+\right]$$

Rearranging this equation to isolate the hydronium ion molarity yields the equivalent expression:

$$\left[H_3O^+\right] = 10^{-pH}$$

Likewise, the hydroxide ion molarity may be expressed as a p-function, or pOH:

$$pOH = -\log\left[OH^-\right]$$

or

$$\left[OH^-\right] = 10^{-pOH}$$

Finally, the relation between these two ion concentration expressed as p-functions is easily derived from the K_w expression:

$$\begin{aligned} K_w &= \left[\mathrm{H_3O^+}\right]\left[\mathrm{OH^-}\right] \\ -\log K_w &= -\log\left(\left[\mathrm{H_3O^+}\right]\left[\mathrm{OH^-}\right]\right) \\ &= -\log\left[\mathrm{H_3O^+}\right] + -\log\left[\mathrm{OH^-}\right] \\ pK_w &= pH + pOH \end{aligned} \tag{3.3.1}$$

At 25 °C, the value of K_w is 1.0×10^{-14}, and so:

$$14.00 = pH + pOH$$

As was demonstrated previously, the hydronium ion molarity in pure water (or any neutral solution) is 1.0×10^{-7} M at 25 °C. The pH and pOH of a neutral solution at this temperature are therefore:

$$pH = -\log\left[H_3O^+\right] = -\log\left(1.0 \times 10^{-7}\right) = 7.00$$

$$pOH = -\log\left[OH^-\right] = -\log\left(1.0 \times 10^{-7}\right) = 7.00$$

And so, *at this temperature*, acidic solutions are those with hydronium ion molarities greater than 1.0×10^{-7} M and hydroxide ion molarities less than 1.0×10^{-7} M (corresponding to pH values less than 7.00 and pOH values greater than 7.00). Basic solutions are

those with hydronium ion molarities less than 1.0×10^{-7} M and hydroxide ion molarities greater than 1.0×10^{-7} M (corresponding to pH values greater than 7.00 and pOH values less than 7.00).

Since the autoionization constant K_w is temperature dependent, these correlations between pH values and the acidic/neutral/basic adjectives will be different at temperatures other than 25 °C. For example, Exercise 3.3.1 showed the hydronium molarity of pure water at 80 °C is 4.9×10^{-7} M, which corresponds to pH and pOH values of:

$$pH = -\log\left[H_3O^+\right] = -\log\left(4.9 \times 10^{-7}\right) = 6.31$$

$$pOH = -\log\left[OH^-\right] = -\log\left(4.9 \times 10^{-7}\right) = 6.31$$

At this temperature, then, neutral solutions exhibit pH = pOH = 6.31, acidic solutions exhibit pH less than 6.31 and pOH greater than 6.31, whereas basic solutions exhibit pH greater than 6.31 and pOH less than 6.31. This distinction can be important when studying certain processes that occur at other temperatures, such as enzyme reactions in warm-blooded organisms at a temperature around 36–40 °C. Unless otherwise noted, references to pH values are presumed to be those at 25 °C (Table 3.3.1).

Table 3.3.1: Summary of Relations for Acidic, Basic and Neutral Solutions

Classification	Relative Ion Concentrations	pH at 25 °C
acidic	$[H_3O^+] > [OH^-]$	pH < 7
neutral	$[H_3O^+] = [OH^-]$	pH = 7
basic	$[H_3O^+] < [OH^-]$	pH > 7

Figure 3.3.1: shows the relationships between $[H_3O^+]$, $[OH^-]$, pH, and pOH for solutions classified as acidic, basic, and neutral.

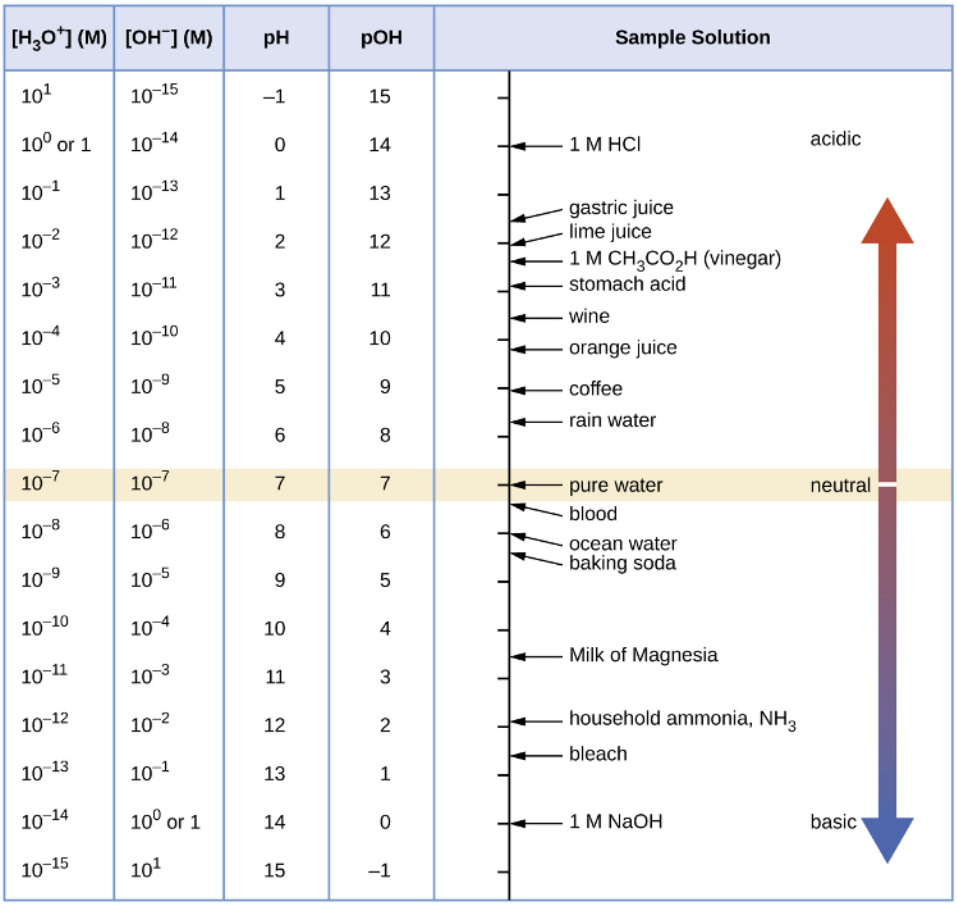


Figure 3.3.1: The pH and pOH scales represent concentrations of H_3O^+ and OH^-, respectively. The pH and pOH values of some common substances at 25 °C are shown in this chart.

Example 3.3.1: Calculation of pH from $[H_3O^+]$

What is the pH of stomach acid, a solution of HCl with a hydronium ion concentration of $1.2 \times 10^{-3}\ M$?

Solution

$$\begin{aligned} pH &= -\log\left[H_3O^+\right] \\ &= -\log\left(1.2 \times 10^{-3}\right) \\ &= -(-2.92) = 2.92 \end{aligned}$$

(The use of logarithms is explained in Appendix B. When taking the log of a value, keep as many decimal places in the result as there are significant figures in the value.)

Exercise 3.3.1

Water exposed to air contains carbonic acid, H_2CO_3, due to the reaction between carbon dioxide and water:

$$CO_2\,(aq) + H_2O\,(l) \rightleftharpoons H_2CO_3\,(aq)$$

Air-saturated water has a hydronium ion concentration caused by the dissolved CO_2 of 2.0×10^{-6} M, about 20-times larger than that of pure water. Calculate the pH of the solution at 25 °C.

Answer

5.70

Example 3.3.2: Calculation of Hydronium Ion Concentration from pH

Calculate the hydronium ion concentration of blood, the pH of which is 7.3.

Solution

$$\begin{aligned} pH = -\log\left[H_3O^+\right] &= 7.3 \\ \log\left[H_3O^+\right] &= -7.3 \\ \left[H_3O^+\right] &= 10^{-7.3} \end{aligned}$$

or

$$\begin{aligned} \left[H_3O^+\right] &= \text{antilog of } -7.3 \\ &= 5 \times 10^{-8} M \end{aligned}$$

(On a calculator take the antilog, or the "inverse" log, of −7.3, or calculate $10^{-7.3}$.)

Exercise 3.3.2

Calculate the hydronium ion concentration of a solution with a pH of −1.07.

Answer

12 *M*

How Sciences Interconnect: Environmental Science

Normal rainwater has a pH between 5 and 6 due to the presence of dissolved CO_2 which forms carbonic acid:

$$H_2O\,(l) + CO_2\,(g) \longrightarrow H_2CO_3\,(aq)$$
$$H_2CO_3\,(aq) \rightleftharpoons H^+\,(aq) + HCO_3^-\,(aq)$$

Acid rain is rainwater that has a pH of less than 5, due to a variety of nonmetal oxides, including CO_2, SO_2, SO_3, NO, and NO_2 being dissolved in the water and reacting with it to form not only carbonic acid, but sulfuric acid and nitric acid. The formation and subsequent ionization of sulfuric acid are shown here:

$$H_2O\,(l) + SO_3\,(g) \longrightarrow H_2SO_4\,(aq)$$
$$H_2SO_4\,(aq) \longrightarrow H^+\,(aq) + HSO_4{}^-\,(aq)$$

Carbon dioxide is naturally present in the atmosphere because most organisms produce it as a waste product of metabolism. Carbon dioxide is also formed when fires release carbon stored in vegetation or fossil fuels. Sulfur trioxide in the atmosphere is naturally produced by volcanic activity, but it also originates from burning fossil fuels, which have traces of sulfur, and from the process of "roasting" ores of metal sulfides in metal-refining processes. Oxides of nitrogen are formed in internal combustion engines where the high temperatures make it possible for the nitrogen and oxygen in air to chemically combine.

Acid rain is a particular problem in industrial areas where the products of combustion and smelting are released into the air without being stripped of sulfur and nitrogen oxides. In North America and Europe until the 1980s, it was responsible for the destruction of forests and freshwater lakes, when the acidity of the rain actually killed trees, damaged soil, and made lakes uninhabitable for all but the most acid-tolerant species. Acid rain also corrodes statuary and building facades that are made of marble and limestone (Figure 3.3.2). Regulations limiting the amount of sulfur and nitrogen oxides that can be released into the atmosphere by industry and automobiles have reduced the severity of acid damage to both natural and manmade environments in North America and Europe. It is now a growing problem in industrial areas of China and India.

For further information on acid rain, visit this website hosted by the US Environmental Protection Agency.



(a) (b)

Figure 3.3.2: (a) Acid rain makes trees more susceptible to drought and insect infestation, and depletes nutrients in the soil. (b) It also is corrodes statues that are carved from marble or limestone. (credit a: modification of work by Chris M Morris; credit b: modification of work by "Eden, Janine and Jim"/Flickr)

✔ Example ✔ 3.3.3: Calculation of pOH

What are the pOH and the \(\text{pH} of a 0.0125-*M* solution of potassium hydroxide, KOH?

Solution

Potassium hydroxide is a highly soluble ionic compound and completely dissociates when dissolved in dilute solution, yielding $[OH^-] = 0.0125\ M$:

$$\text{pOH} = -\log\,[OH^-] = -\log 0.0125$$
$$= -(-1.903) = 1.903$$

The pH can be found from the pOH:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathrm{pH} + \mathrm{pOH} &= 14.00 \\ pH &= 14.00 - pOH \\ &= 14.00 - 1.903 = 12.10 \end{aligned}$$

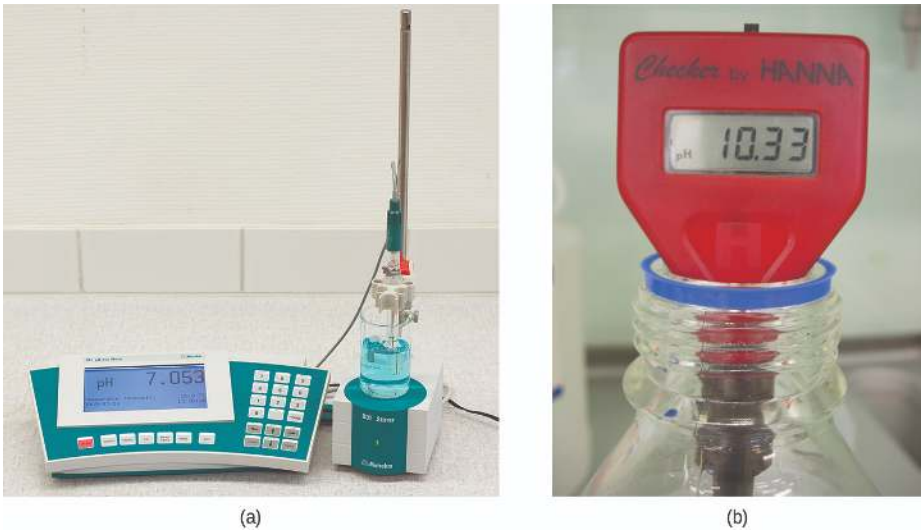
? Exercise 3.3.3

The hydronium ion concentration of vinegar is approximately 4×10^{-3} M. What are the corresponding values of pOH and pH?

Answer

pOH = 11.6, pH = 2.4

The acidity of a solution is typically assessed experimentally by measurement of its pH. The pOH of a solution is not usually measured, as it is easily calculated from an experimentally determined pH value. The pH of a solution can be directly measured using a pH meter (Figure 3.3.3).



(a) (b)

Figure 3.3.3: (a) A research-grade pH meter used in a laboratory can have a resolution of 0.001 pH units, an accuracy of ± 0.002 pH units, and may cost in excess of $1000. (b) A portable pH meter has lower resolution (0.01 pH units), lower accuracy (± 0.2 pH units), and a far lower price tag. (credit b: modification of work by Jacopo Werther)

The pH of a solution may also be visually estimated using colored indicators (Figure 3.3.4). The acid-base equilibria that enable use of these indicator dyes for pH measurements are described in a later section of this chapter.



(a) (b)

Figure 3.3.4: (a) A solution containing a dye mixture, called universal indicator, takes on different colors depending upon its pH. (b) Convenient test strips, called pH paper, contain embedded indicator dyes that yield pH-dependent color changes on contact with aqueous solutions.(credit: modification of work by Sahar Atwa)

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3.4: Relative Strengths of Acids and Bases

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Assess the relative strengths of acids and bases according to their ionization constants
- Rationalize trends in acid–base strength in relation to molecular structure
- Carry out equilibrium calculations for weak acid–base systems

Acid and Base Ionization Constants

The relative strength of an acid or base is the extent to which it ionizes when dissolved in water. If the ionization reaction is essentially complete, the acid or base is termed *strong*; if relatively little ionization occurs, the acid or base is weak. As will be evident throughout the remainder of this chapter, there are many more weak acids and bases than strong ones. The most common strong acids and bases are listed in Figure 3.4.1.

6 Strong Acids		6 Strong Bases	
$HClO_4$	perchloric acid	LiOH	lithium hydroxide
HCl	hydrochloric acid	NaOH	sodium hydroxide
HBr	hydrobromic acid	KOH	potassium hydroxide
HI	hydroiodic acid	$Ca(OH)_2$	calcium hydroxide
HNO_3	nitric acid	$Sr(OH)_2$	strontium hydroxide
H_2SO_4	sulfuric acid	$Ba(OH)_2$	barium hydroxide

Figure 3.4.1: Some of the common strong acids and bases are listed here.

The relative strengths of acids may be quantified by measuring their equilibrium constants in aqueous solutions. In solutions of the same concentration, stronger acids ionize to a greater extent, and so yield higher concentrations of hydronium ions than do weaker acids. The equilibrium constant for an acid is called the acid-ionization constant, K_a. For the reaction of an acid HA:

$$\mathrm{HA\,(aq) + H_2O\,(l) \rightleftharpoons H_3O^+\,(aq) + A^-\,(aq)}$$

the acid ionization constant is written

$$K_a = \frac{[\mathrm{H_3O^+}][\mathrm{A^-}]}{[\mathrm{HA}]}$$

where the concentrations are those at equilibrium. Although water is a reactant in the reaction, it is the solvent as well, so we do not include $[\mathrm{H_2O}]$ in the equation.

Note

Equilibrium constant expressions are actually ratios of activities, and the value of K is determined at the limit of infinite dilution of the solutes. In these very dilute solutions, the activity of the solvent has a value of unity (1) and the activity of each solute can be approximated by its molar concentration.

The larger the K_a of an acid, the larger the concentration of $\mathrm{H_3O^+}$ and $\mathrm{A^-}$ relative to the concentration of the nonionized acid, HA, in an equilibrium mixture, and the stronger the acid. An acid is classified as “strong” when it undergoes complete ionization, in which case the concentration of HA is zero and the acid ionization constant is immeasurably large ($K_a \approx \infty$). Acids that are partially ionized are called “weak,” and their acid ionization constants may be experimentally measured. A table of ionization constants for weak acids is provided in Appendix H.

To illustrate this idea, three acid ionization equations and K_a values are shown below. The ionization constants increase from first to last of the listed equations, indicating the relative acid strength increases in the order:

$$CH_3CO_2H < HNO_2 < HSO_4^-$$

as demonstrated with the equations below:

$$CH_3CO_2H\,(aq) + H_2O\,(l) \rightleftharpoons H_3O^+\,(aq) + CH_3CO_2^-\,(aq) \qquad K_a = 1.8 \times 10^{-5}$$

$$HNO_2\,(aq) + H_2O\,(l) \rightleftharpoons H_3O^+\,(aq) + NO_2^-\,(aq) \qquad K_a = 4.6 \times 10^{-4}$$

$$HSO_4^-\,(aq) + H_2O\,(aq) \rightleftharpoons H_3O^+\,(aq) + SO_4^{2-}\,(aq) \qquad K_a = 1.2 \times 10^{-2}$$

Another measure of the strength of an acid is its percent ionization. The percent ionization of a weak acid is defined in terms of the composition of an equilibrium mixture:

$$\%\text{ ionization } = \frac{[H_3O^+]_{eq}}{[HA]_0} \times 100$$

where the numerator is equivalent to the concentration of the acid's conjugate base (per stoichiometry, $[A^-] = [H_3O^+]$). Unlike the K_a value, the percent ionization of a weak acid varies with the initial concentration of acid, typically decreasing as concentration increases. Equilibrium calculations of the sort described later in this chapter can be used to confirm this behavior.

Example 3.4.1: Calculation of Percent Ionization from pH

Calculate the percent ionization of a 0.125-*M* solution of nitrous acid (a weak acid), with a pH of 2.09.

Solution

The percent ionization for an acid is:

$$\frac{[H_3O^+]_{eq}}{[HNO_2]_0} \times 100$$

Converting the provided pH to hydronium ion molarity yields

$$[H_3O^+] = 10^{-2.09} = 0.0081M$$

Substituting this value and the provided initial acid concentration into the percent ionization equation gives

$$\frac{8.1 \times 10^{-3}}{0.125} \times 100 = 6.5\%$$

(Recall the provided pH value of 2.09 is logarithmic, and so it contains just two significant digits, limiting the certainty of the computed percent ionization.)

Exercise 3.4.1

Calculate the percent ionization of a 0.10-*M* solution of acetic acid with a pH of 2.89.

Answer

1.3% ionized

Link to Learning

View the simulation of strong and weak acids and bases at the molecular level.

Just as for acids, the relative strength of a base is reflected in the magnitude of its base-ionization constant (K_b) in aqueous solutions. In solutions of the same concentration, stronger bases ionize to a greater extent, and so yield higher hydroxide ion concentrations than do weaker bases. A stronger base has a larger ionization constant than does a weaker base. For the reaction of a base, B:

$$\mathrm{B\,(aq) + H_2O\,(l)\ \rightleftharpoons HB^+\,(aq) + OH^-\,(aq)},$$

the ionization constant is written as

$$K_b = \frac{[\mathrm{HB^+}]\,[\mathrm{OH^-}]}{[\mathrm{B}]}$$

Inspection of the data for three weak bases presented below shows the base strength increases in the order: $\mathrm{NO_2^-} < \mathrm{CH_2CO_2^-} < \mathrm{NH_3}$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathrm{NO_2^-\,(aq) + H_2O\,(l) \rightleftharpoons HNO_2\,(aq) + OH^-\,(aq)} \qquad & K_b = 2.17 \times 10^{-11} \\ \mathrm{CH_3\ CO_2^-\,(aq) + H_2O\,(l) \rightleftharpoons CH_3\ CO_2\ H\,(aq) + OH^-\,(aq)} \qquad & K_b = 5.6 \times 10^{-10} \\ \mathrm{NH_3\,(aq) + H_2O\,(l) \rightleftharpoons NH_4^+\,(aq) + OH^-\,(aq)} \qquad & K_b = 1.8 \times 10^{-5} \end{aligned}$$

A table of ionization constants for weak bases appears in Appendix I. As for acids, the relative strength of a base is also reflected in its percent ionization, computed as

$$\%\ \text{ionization} = \left(\frac{[\mathrm{OH^-}]_{eq}}{[\mathrm{B}]_0}\right) \times 100\%$$

but will vary depending on the base ionization constant and the initial concentration of the solution.

Relative Strengths of Conjugate Acid-Base Pairs

Brønsted-Lowry acid-base chemistry is the transfer of protons; thus, logic suggests a relation between the relative strengths of conjugate acid-base pairs. The strength of an acid or base is quantified in its ionization constant, K_a or K_b, which represents the extent of the acid or base ionization reaction. For the conjugate acid-base pair HA / $\mathrm{A^-}$, ionization equilibrium equations and ionization constant expressions are

$$\mathrm{HA\,(aq) + H_2O\,(l)\ \rightleftharpoons H_3O^+\,(aq) + A^-\,(aq)}$$

with

$$K_a = \frac{[H3O^+][A^-]}{[HA]}$$

and

$$\mathrm{A^-\,(aq) + H_2O\,(l)\ \rightleftharpoons OH^-\,(aq) + HA\,(aq)}$$

with

$$K_b = \frac{[HA][OH-]}{[A-]}$$

Adding these two chemical equations yields the equation for the autoionization for water:

$$\begin{gathered} \cancel{HA(aq)} + \mathrm{H_2O\,(l)} + \cancel{A^-(aq)} + \mathrm{H_2O\,(l)} \rightleftharpoons \mathrm{H_3O^+\,(aq)} + \cancel{A^-(aq)} + \mathrm{OH^-\,(aq)} + \cancel{HA(aq)} \\ \mathrm{2\,H_2O\,(l) \rightleftharpoons H_3O^+\,(aq) + OH^-\,(aq)} \end{gathered}$$

As discussed in another chapter on equilibrium, the equilibrium constant for a summed reaction is equal to the mathematical product of the equilibrium constants for the added reactions, and so

$$K_a \times K_b = \frac{[\mathrm{H_3O^+}][\mathrm{A^-}]}{[\mathrm{HA}]} \times \frac{[\mathrm{HA}][\mathrm{OH^-}]}{[\mathrm{A^-}]} = [\mathrm{H_3O^+}][\mathrm{OH^-}] = K_w$$

This equation states the relation between ionization constants for any conjugate acid-base pair, namely, their mathematical product is equal to the ion product of water, K_w. By rearranging this equation, a reciprocal relation between the strengths of a conjugate acid-base pair becomes evident:

$$K_a = \frac{K_w}{K_b}$$

or

$$K_b = \frac{K_w}{K_a}$$

The inverse proportional relation between K_a and K_b means the stronger the acid or base, the weaker its **conjugate partner**. Figure 3.4.2: illustrates this relation for several conjugate acid-base pairs.

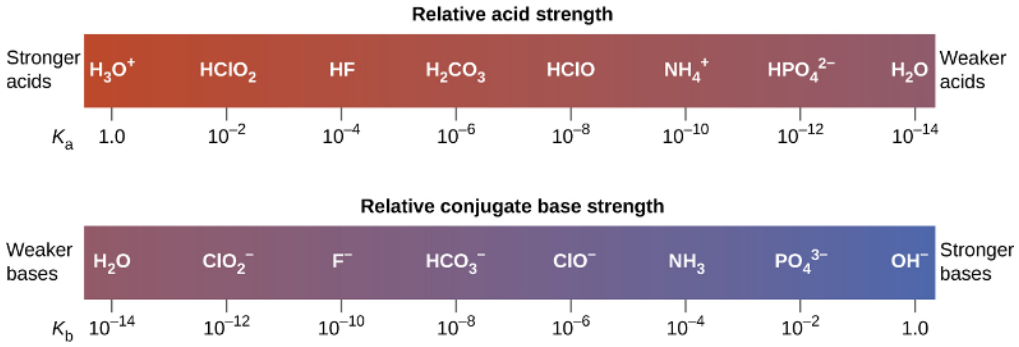


Figure 3.4.2: Relative strengths of several conjugate acid-base pairs are shown.

The listing of conjugate acid–base pairs shown in Figure 3.4.3: is arranged to show the relative strength of each species as compared with water, whose entries are highlighted in each of the table's columns. In the acid column, those species listed below water are weaker acids than water. These species do not undergo acid ionization in water; they are not Bronsted-Lowry acids. All the species listed above water are stronger acids, transferring protons to water to some extent when dissolved in an aqueous solution to generate hydronium ions. Species above water but below hydronium ion are *weak acids*, undergoing partial acid ionization, wheres those above hydronium ion are *strong acids* that are completely ionized in aqueous solution.

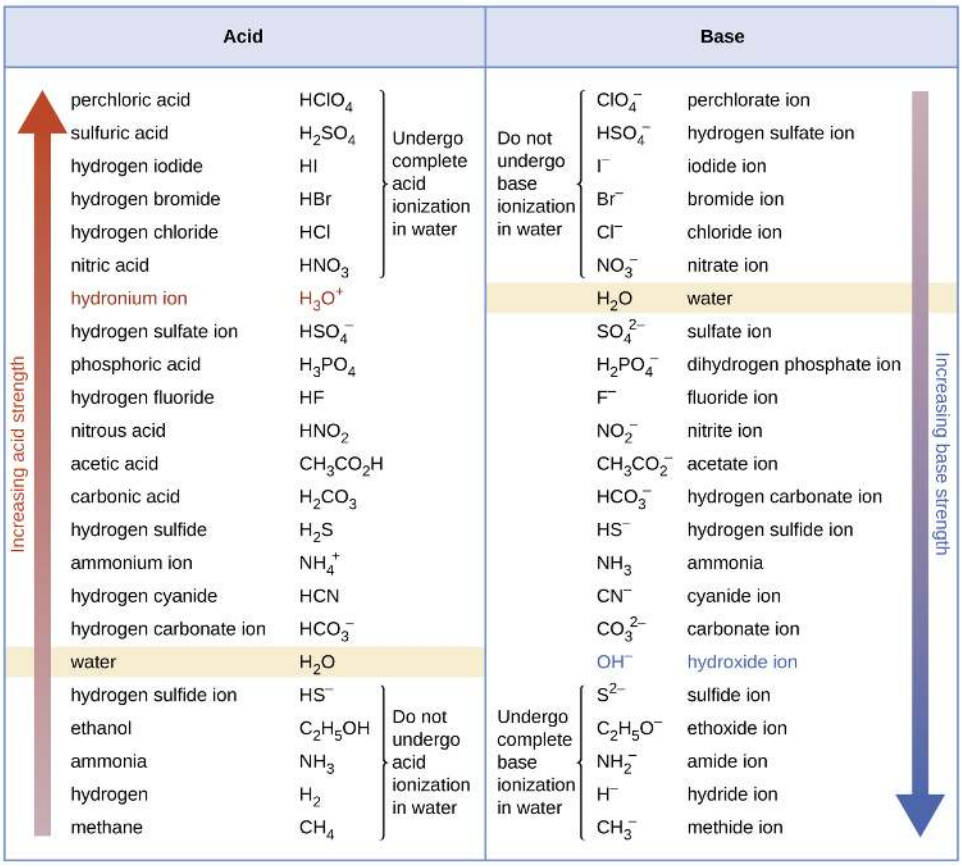


Figure 3.4.3: This figure shows strengths of conjugate acid-base pairs relative to the strength of water as the reference substance.

If all these strong acids are completely ionized in water, why does the column indicate they vary in strength, with nitric acid being the weakest and perchloric acid the strongest? Notice that the sole acid species present in an aqueous solution of any strong acid is $H_3O^+(aq)$, meaning that hydronium ion is the strongest acid that may exist in water; any stronger acid will react completely with water to generate hydronium ions. This limit on the acid strength of solutes in a solution is called a **leveling effect**. To measure the differences in acid strength for "strong" acids, the acids must be dissolved in a solvent that is *less basic* than water. In such solvents, the acids will be "weak," and so any differences in the extent of their ionization can be determined. For example, the binary hydrogen halides HCl, HBr, and HI are strong acids in water but weak acids in ethanol (strength increasing HCl < HBr < HI).

The right column of Figure 3.4.3 lists a number of substances in order of increasing base strength from top to bottom. Following the same logic as for the left column, species listed above water are weaker bases and so they don't undergo base ionization when dissolved in water. Species listed between water and its conjugate base, hydroxide ion, are weak bases that partially ionize. Species listed below hydroxide ion are strong bases that completely ionize in water to yield hydroxide ions (i.e., they are *leveled* to hydroxide). A comparison of the acid and base columns in this table supports the reciprocal relation between the strengths of conjugate acid-base pairs. For example, the conjugate bases of the strong acids (top of table) are all of negligible strength. A strong acid exhibits an immeasurably large K_a, and so its conjugate base will exhibit a K_b that is essentially zero:

- strong acid: $K_a \approx \infty$
- conjugate base: $K_b = K_w/K_a = K_w/\infty \approx 0$

A similar approach can be used to support the observation that conjugate acids of strong bases ($K_b \approx \infty$) are of negligible strength ($K_a \approx 0$).

Example 3.4.2: Calculating Ionization Constants for Conjugate Acid-Base Pairs

Use the K_b for the nitrite ion, NO_2^-, to calculate the K_a for its conjugate acid.

Solution

K_b for NO_2^- is given in this section as 2.17×10^{-11}. The conjugate acid of NO_2^- is HNO_2; K_a for HNO_2 can be calculated using the relationship:

$$K_a \times K_b = 1.0 \times 10^{-14} = K_w$$

Solving for K_a yields

$$K_a = \frac{K_w}{K_b} = \frac{1.0 \times 10^{-14}}{2.17 \times 10^{-11}} = 4.6 \times 10^{-4}$$

This answer can be verified by finding the Ka for HNO_2 in Appendix H.

Exercise 3.4.2

Determine the relative acid strengths of NH_4^+ and HCN by comparing their ionization constants. The ionization constant of HCN is given in Appendix H as 4.9×10^{-10}. The ionization constant of NH_4^+ is not listed, but the ionization constant of its conjugate base, NH_3, is listed as 1.8×10^{-5}.

Answer

NH_4^+ is the slightly stronger acid (K_a for NH_4^+ is 5.6×10^{-10}).

Acid-Base Equilibrium Calculations

The chapter on chemical equilibria introduced several types of equilibrium calculations and the various mathematical strategies that are helpful in performing them. These strategies are generally useful for equilibrium systems regardless of chemical reaction class, and so they may be effectively applied to acid-base equilibrium problems. This section presents several example exercises involving equilibrium calculations for acid-base systems.



Litmus paper in action

Example 3.4.3: Determination of K_a from Equilibrium Concentrations

Acetic acid is the principal ingredient in vinegar (Figure 3.4.4) that provides its sour taste. At equilibrium, a solution contains $[CH_3CO_2H] = 0.0787\ M$: and $H_3O^+] = [CH_3CO_2^-] = 0.00118\ M$. What is the value of K_a for acetic acid?



Figure 3.4.4: Vinegar contains acetic acid, a weak acid. (credit: modification of work by "HomeSpot HQ"/Flickr)

Solution

The relevant equilibrium equation and its equilibrium constant expression are shown below. Substitution of the provided equilibrium concentrations permits a straightforward calculation of the Ka for acetic acid.

$$\mathrm{CH_3CO_2H\,(aq) + H_2O\,(l) \rightleftharpoons H_3O^+\,(aq) + CH_3CO_2{}^-\,(aq)}$$

$$K_a = \frac{[\mathrm{H_3O^+}]\,[\mathrm{CH_3CO_2{}^-}]}{[\mathrm{CH_3CO_2H}]} = \frac{(0.00118)(0.00118)}{0.0787} = 1.77 \times 10^{-5}$$

Exercise 3.4.3

The $\mathrm{HSO_4{}^-}$ ion, weak acid used in some household cleansers:

$$\mathrm{HSO_4{}^-\,(aq) + H_2O\,(l) \rightleftharpoons H_3O^+\,(aq) + SO_4{}^{2-}\,(aq)}$$

What is the acid ionization constant for this weak acid if an equilibrium mixture has the following composition: $[\mathrm{H_3O^+}] = 0.027\ M$; $[\mathrm{HSO_4{}^-}] = 0.29\ M$; $[\mathrm{HSO_4{}^-}] = 0.29\ M$; and $[\mathrm{SO_4{}^{2-}}] = 0.13\ M$?

Answer

K_a for $\mathrm{HSO_4{}^-} = 1.2 \times 10^{-2}$

Example 3.4.4: Determination of K_b from Equilibrium Concentrations

Caffeine, $\mathrm{C_8H_{10}N_4O_2}$ is a weak base. What is the value of K_b for caffeine if a solution at equilibrium has $[\mathrm{C_8H_{10}N_4O_2}] = 0.050$ M, $[\mathrm{C_8H_{10}N_4O_2H^+}] = 5.0 \times 10^{-3}$ M, and $[\mathrm{OH^-}] = 2.5 \times 10^{-3}$ M?

Solution

The relevant equilibrium equation and its equilibrium constant expression are shown below. Substitution of the provided equilibrium concentrations permits a straightforward calculation of the K_b for caffeine.

$$\mathrm{C_8H_{10}N_4O_2\,(aq) + H_2O\,(l) \rightleftharpoons C_8H_{10}N_4O_2H^+\,(aq) + OH^-\,(aq)}$$

$$\begin{aligned} K_b &= [\mathrm{C_8H_{10}N_4O_2H^+}][\mathrm{OH^-}][\mathrm{C_8H_{10}N_4O_2}] \\ &= (5.0 \times 10^{-3})(2.5 \times 10^{-3})(0.050) \\ &= 2.5 \times 10^{-4} \end{aligned}$$

Exercise 3.4.4

What is the equilibrium constant for the ionization of the HPO_4^{2-} ion, a weak base

$$HPO_4^{2-}(aq) + H_2O(l) \rightleftharpoons H_2PO_4^{-}(aq) + OH^{-}(aq)$$

if the composition of an equilibrium mixture is as follows: Extra close brace or missing open brace; $H_2PO_4^{-}] = 0.042\ M$; and $[HPO_4^{2-}] = 0.341\ M$?

Answer

K_b for HPO_4^{2-} is 1.6×10^{-7}

Example 3.4.5: Determination of K_a or K_b from pH

The pH of a 0.0516-M solution of nitrous acid, HNO_2, is 2.34. What is its K_a?

$$HNO_2(aq) + H_2O(l) \rightleftharpoons H_3O^{+}(aq) + NO_2^{-}(aq)$$

Solution

The nitrous acid concentration provided is a *formal* concentration, one that does not account for any chemical equilibria that may be established in solution. Such concentrations are treated as "initial" values for equilibrium calculations using the ICE table approach. Notice the initial value of hydronium ion is listed as *approximately* zero because a small concentration of H_3O^+ is present ($1 \times \times 10^{-7}$ M) due to the autoprotolysis of water. In many cases, such as all the ones presented in this chapter, this concentration is much less than that generated by ionization of the acid (or base) in question and may be neglected.

The pH provided is a logarithmic measure of the hydronium ion concentration resulting from the acid ionization of the nitrous acid, and so it represents an "equilibrium" value for the ICE table:

$$[H_3O^+] = 10^{-2.34} = 0.0046\ \text{M}$$

The ICE table for this system is then

	HNO_2	+ H_2O ⇌	H_3O^+	+ NO_2^-
Initial concentration (*M*)	0.0516		~0	0
Change (*M*)	–0.0046		+0.0046	+0.0046
Equilibrium concentration (*M*)	0.0470		0.0046	0.0046

Finally, calculate the value of the equilibrium constant using the data in the table:

$$K_a = \frac{[H_3O^+]\,[NO_2^-]}{[HNO_2]} = \frac{(0.0046)(0.0046)}{(0.0470)} = 4.6 \times 10^{-4}$$

Exercise 3.4.5

The pH of a solution of household ammonia, a 0.950-M solution of NH_3, is 11.612. What is K_b for NH_3.

Answer

$K_b = 1.8 \times 10^{-5}$

Example 3.4.6: Calculating Equilibrium Concentrations in a Weak Acid Solution

Formic acid, HCO_2H, is one irritant that causes the body's reaction to some ant bites and stings (Figure 3.4.5).



Figure 3.4.5: The pain of some ant bites and stings is caused by formic acid. (credit: John Tann)

What is the concentration of hydronium ion and the pH of a 0.534-*M* solution of formic acid?

$$\mathrm{HCO_2H\,(aq) + H_2O\,(l)} \rightleftharpoons \mathrm{H_3O^+\,(aq) + HCO_2^-\,(aq)} \quad K_a = 1.8 \times 10^{-4}$$

Solution

The ICE table for this system is

	HCO_2H	+	H_2O	$\rightleftharpoons$	H_3O^+	+	HCO_2^-
Initial concentration (*M*)	0.534				~0		0
Change (*M*)					+*x*		+*x*
Equilibrium concentration (*M*)	0.534 −*x*				*x*		*x*

Substituting the equilibrium concentration terms into the K_a expression gives

$$K_a = 1.8 \times 10^{-4} = \frac{[\mathrm{H_3O^+}]\,[\mathrm{HCO_2^-}]}{[\mathrm{HCO_2H}]}$$

$$= \frac{(x)(x)}{0.534 - x} = 1.8 \times 10^{-4}$$

The relatively large initial concentration and small equilibrium constant permits the simplifying assumption that *x* will be much lesser than 0.534, and so the equation becomes

$$K_a = 1.8 \times 10^{-4} = \frac{x^2}{0.534}$$

Solving the equation for x yields

$$x^2 = 0.534 \times \left(1.8 \times 10^{-4}\right) = 9.6 \times 10^{-5}$$

$$x = \sqrt{9.6 \times 10^{-5}}$$

$$= 9.8 \times 10^{-3} M$$

To check the assumption that *x* is small compared to 0.534, its relative magnitude can be estimated:

$$\frac{x}{0.534} = \frac{9.8 \times 10^{-3}}{0.534} = 1.8 \times 10^{-2} (1.8\% \text{ of } 0.534)$$

Because *x* is less than 5% of the initial concentration, the assumption is valid.

As defined in the ICE table, *x* is equal to the equilibrium concentration of hydronium ion:

$$x = [\mathrm{H_3O^+}] = 0.0098 \text{ M}$$

Finally, the pH is calculated to be

$$\text{pH} = -\log\left[\text{H}_3\text{O}^+\right] = -\log(0.0098) = 2.01$$

Exercise 3.4.6

Only a small fraction of a weak acid ionizes in aqueous solution. What is the percent ionization of a 0.100-*M* solution of acetic acid, CH_3CO_2H?

$$\text{CH}_3\text{CO}_2\text{H}\,(\text{aq}) + \text{H}_2\text{O}\,(\text{l}) \rightleftharpoons \text{H}_3\text{O}^+\,(\text{aq}) + \text{CH}_3\text{CO}_2{}^-\,(\text{aq}) \quad K_a = 1.8 \times 10^{-5}$$

Answer

percent ionization = 1.3%

Example 3.4.7: Calculating Equilibrium Concentrations in a Weak Base Solution

Find the concentration of hydroxide ion, the pOH, and the pH of a 0.25-*M* solution of trimethylamine, a weak base:

$$(\text{CH}_3)_3\text{N}\,(\text{aq}) + \text{H}_2\text{O}\,(\text{l}) \rightleftharpoons (\text{CH}_3)_3\text{NH}^+\,(\text{aq}) + \text{OH}^-\,(\text{aq}) \quad K_b = 6.3 \times 10^{-5}$$

Solution

The ICE table for this system is

	$(CH_3)_3N$ + H_2O ⇌		$(CH_3)_3NH^+$ +	OH^-
Initial concentration (*M*)	0.25		0	~0
Change (*M*)	−*x*		*x*	*x*
Equilibrium concentration (*M*)	0.25 + (−*x*)		0 + *x*	~0 + *x*

Substituting the equilibrium concentration terms into the K_b expression gives

$$K_b = \frac{\left[(\text{CH}_3)_3\text{NH}^+\right]\left[\text{OH}^-\right]}{\left[(\text{CH}_3)_3\text{N}\right]} = \frac{(x)(x)}{0.25 - x} = 6.3 \times 10^{-5}$$

Assuming $x \ll 0.25$ and solving for x yields

$$x = 4.0 \times 10^{-3}\ \text{M}$$

This value is less than 5% of the initial concentration (0.25), so the assumption is justified. As defined in the ICE table, x is equal to the equilibrium concentration of hydroxide ion:

$$\begin{aligned}\left[OH^-\right] &=\sim 0 + x \\ &= x = 4.0 \times 10^{-3} M\end{aligned}$$

The pOH is calculated to be

$$\text{pOH} = -\log\left(4.0 \times 10^{-3}\right) = 2.40$$

Using the relation introduced in the previous section of this chapter:

$$\text{pH} + \text{pOH} = pK_w = 14.00$$

permits the computation of pH:

$$\text{pH} = 14.00 - \text{pOH} = 14.00 - 2.40 = 11.60$$

Exercise 3.4.7

Calculate the hydroxide ion concentration and the percent ionization of a 0.0325-*M* solution of ammonia, a weak base with a K_b of 1.76×10^{-5}.

Answer

7.56×10^{-4} M, 2.33%

In some cases, the strength of the weak acid or base and its formal (initial) concentration result in an appreciable ionization. Though the ICE strategy remains effective for these systems, the algebra is a bit more involved because the simplifying assumption that *x* is negligible cannot be made. Calculations of this sort are demonstrated in Example 3.4.8 below.

Example 3.4.8: Calculating Equilibrium Concentrations without Simplifying Assumptions

Sodium bisulfate, NaHSO4, is used in some household cleansers as a source of the HSO_4^- ion, a weak acid. What is the pH of a 0.50-M solution of HSO_4^-?

$$HSO_4^-(aq) + H_2O(l) \rightleftharpoons H_3O^+(aq) + SO_4^{2-}(aq) \quad K_a = 1.2 \times 10^{-2}$$

Solution

The ICE table for this system is

	HSO_4^- + H_2O ⇌	H_3O^+ +	SO_4^{2-}
Initial concentration (*M*)	0.50	~0	0
Change (*M*)	−*x*	+*x*	+*x*
Equilibrium concentration (*M*)	0.50 − *x*	*x*	*x*

Substituting the equilibrium concentration terms into the K_a expression gives

$$K_a = 1.2 \times 10^{-2} = \frac{[H_3O^+]\,[SO_4^{2-}]}{[HSO_4^-]} = \frac{(x)(x)}{0.50 - x}$$

If the assumption that $x \ll 0.5$ is made, simplifying and solving the above equation yields

$$x = 0.077 \text{ M}$$

This value of x is clearly not significantly less than 0.50 *M*; rather, it is approximately 15% of the initial concentration: When we check the assumption, we calculate:

$$\frac{x}{[HSO_4^-]_i}$$

$$\frac{x}{0.50} = \frac{7.7 \times 10^{-2}}{0.50} = 0.15(15\%)$$

Because the simplifying assumption is not valid for this system, the equilibrium constant expression is solved as follows:

$$K_a = 1.2 \times 10^{-2} = \frac{(x)(x)}{0.50 - x}$$

Rearranging this equation yields

$$6.0 \times 10^{-3} - 1.2 \times 10^{-2}x = x^2$$

Writing the equation in quadratic form gives

$$x^2 + 1.2 \times 10^{-2}x - 6.0 \times 10^{-3} = 0$$

Solving for the two roots of this quadratic equation results in a negative value that may be discarded as physically irrelevant and a positive value equal to *x*. As defined in the ICE table, x is equal to the hydronium concentration.

$$x = [H3O^+] = 0.072 \text{ M}$$

$$\text{pH} = -\log\left[\text{H}_3\text{O}^+\right] = -\log(0.072) = 1.14$$

? Exercise 3.4.8

Calculate the pH in a 0.010-*M* solution of caffeine, a weak base:

$$\text{C}_8\text{H10N}_4\text{O}_2\,(\text{aq}) + \text{H}_2\text{O}\,(\text{l}) \rightleftharpoons \text{C}_8\text{H10N}_4\text{O}_2\text{H}^+\,(\text{aq}) + \text{OH}^-\,(\text{aq}) \quad K_b = 2.5 \times 10^{-4}$$

Answer

pH = 11.16

Effect of Molecular Structure on Acid-Base Strength

Binary Acids and Bases

In the absence of any leveling effect, the acid strength of binary compounds of hydrogen with nonmetals (A) increases as the H-A bond strength decreases down a group in the periodic table. For group 17, the order of increasing acidity is

$$\text{HF} < \text{HCl} < \text{HBr} < \text{HI}.$$

Likewise, for group 16, the order of increasing acid strength is

$$\text{H}_2\text{O} < \text{H}_2\text{S} < \text{H}_2\text{Se} < \text{H}_2\text{Te}\,.$$

Across a row in the periodic table, the acid strength of binary hydrogen compounds increases with increasing electronegativity of the nonmetal atom because the polarity of the H-A bond increases. Thus, the order of increasing acidity (for removal of one proton) across the second row is $\text{CH}_4 < \text{NH}_3 < \text{H}_2\text{O} < \text{HF}$; across the third row, it is $\text{SiH}_4 < \text{PH}_3 < \text{H}_2\text{S} < \text{HCl}$ (see Figure 3.4.6).

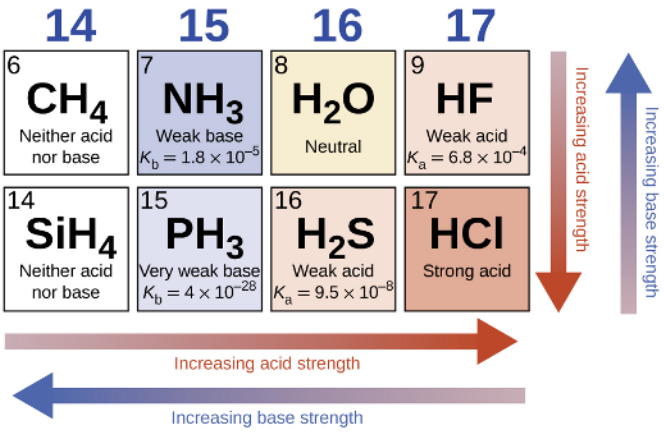
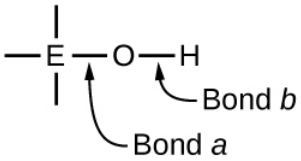


Figure 3.4.6: The figure shows trends in the strengths of binary acids and bases.

Ternary Acids and Bases

Ternary compounds composed of hydrogen, oxygen, and some third element (“E”) may be structured as depicted in the image below. In these compounds, the central E atom is bonded to one or more O atoms, and at least one of the O atoms is also bonded to an H atom, corresponding to the general molecular formula $\text{O}_\text{m}\text{E(OH)}_\text{n}$. These compounds may be acidic, basic, or amphoteric depending on the properties of the central E atom. Examples of such compounds include sulfuric acid, $\text{O}_2\text{S(OH)}_2$, sulfurous acid, OS(OH)_2, nitric acid, O_2NOH, perchloric acid, O_3ClOH, aluminum hydroxide, Al(OH)_3, calcium hydroxide, Ca(OH)_2, and potassium hydroxide, KOH:



If the central atom, E, has a low electronegativity, its attraction for electrons is low. Little tendency exists for the central atom to form a strong covalent bond with the oxygen atom, and bond *a* between the element and oxygen is more readily broken than bond *b* between oxygen and hydrogen. Hence bond *a* is ionic, hydroxide ions are released to the solution, and the material behaves as a base—this is the case with $Ca(OH)_2$ and KOH. Lower electronegativity is characteristic of the more metallic elements; hence, the metallic elements form ionic hydroxides that are by definition basic compounds.

If, on the other hand, the atom E has a relatively high electronegativity, it strongly attracts the electrons it shares with the oxygen atom, making bond *a* relatively strongly covalent. The oxygen-hydrogen bond, bond *b*, is thereby weakened because electrons are displaced toward E. Bond *b* is polar and readily releases hydrogen ions to the solution, so the material behaves as an acid. High electronegativities are characteristic of the more nonmetallic elements. Thus, nonmetallic elements form covalent compounds containing acidic −OH groups that are called oxyacids.

Increasing the oxidation number of the central atom E also increases the acidity of an oxyacid because this increases the attraction of E for the electrons it shares with oxygen and thereby weakens the O-H bond. Sulfuric acid, H_2SO_4, or $O_2S(OH)_2$ (with a sulfur oxidation number of +6), is more acidic than sulfurous acid, H_2SO_3, or $OS(OH)_2$ (with a sulfur oxidation number of +4). Likewise nitric acid, HNO_3, or O_2NOH (N oxidation number = +5), is more acidic than nitrous acid, HNO_2, or ONOH (N oxidation number = +3). In each of these pairs, the oxidation number of the central atom is larger for the stronger acid (Figure 3.4.7).

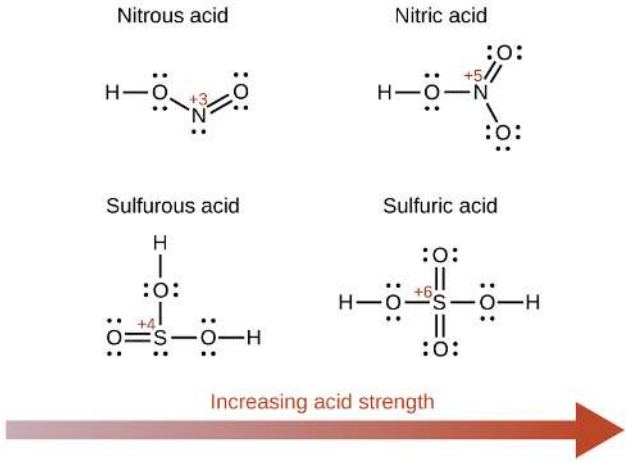


Figure 3.4.7: As the oxidation number of the central atom E increases, the acidity also increases.

Hydroxy compounds of elements with intermediate electronegativities and relatively high oxidation numbers (for example, elements near the diagonal line separating the metals from the nonmetals in the periodic table) are usually amphoteric. This means that the hydroxy compounds act as acids when they react with strong bases and as bases when they react with strong acids. The amphoterism of aluminum hydroxide, which commonly exists as the hydrate $Al(H_2O)_3(OH)_3$, is reflected in its solubility in both strong acids and strong bases. In strong bases, the relatively insoluble hydrated aluminum hydroxide, $Al(H_2O)_3(OH)_3$, is converted into the soluble ion, $[Al(H_2O)_2(OH)_4]^-$, by reaction with hydroxide ion:

$$Al(H_2O)_3(OH)_3\,(aq) + OH^-\,(aq) \rightleftharpoons H_2O\,(l) + [Al(H_2O)_2(OH)_4]^-\,(aq)$$

In this reaction, a proton is transferred from one of the aluminum-bound H2O molecules to a hydroxide ion in solution. The $Al(H_2O)_3(OH)_3$ compound thus acts as an acid under these conditions. On the other hand, when dissolved in strong acids, it is converted to the soluble ion $[Al(H_2O)_6]^{3+}$ by reaction with hydronium ion:

$$3\,H_3O^+\,(aq) + Al(H_2O)_3(OH)_3\,(aq) \rightleftharpoons Al(H_2O)_6{}^{3+}\,(aq) + 3\,H_2O\,(l)$$

In this case, protons are transferred from hydronium ions in solution to $Al(H_2O)_3(OH)_3$, and the compound functions as a base.

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3.5: Hydrolysis of Salt Solutions

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Predict whether a salt solution will be acidic, basic, or neutral
- Calculate the concentrations of the various species in a salt solution
- Describe the acid ionization of hydrated metal ions

Salts with Acidic Ions

Salts are ionic compounds composed of cations and anions, either of which may be capable of undergoing an acid or base ionization reaction with water. Aqueous salt solutions, therefore, may be acidic, basic, or neutral, depending on the relative acid-base strengths of the salt's constituent ions. For example, dissolving ammonium chloride in water results in its dissociation, as described by the equation

$$\mathrm{NH_4Cl\,(s)} \rightleftharpoons \mathrm{NH_4{}^+\,(aq)} + \mathrm{Cl^-\,(aq)}$$

The ammonium ion is the conjugate acid of the base ammonia, NH_3; its acid ionization (or acid hydrolysis) reaction is represented by

$$\mathrm{NH_4{}^+\,(aq)} + \mathrm{H_2O\,(l)} \rightleftharpoons \mathrm{H_3O^+\,(aq)} + \mathrm{NH_3\,(aq)} \quad K_a = K_w/K_b$$

Since ammonia is a weak base, K_b is measurable and $K_a > 0$ (ammonium ion is a weak acid).

The chloride ion is the conjugate base of hydrochloric acid, and so its base ionization (or *base hydrolysis*) reaction is represented by

$$\mathrm{Cl^-\,(aq)} + \mathrm{H_2O\,(l)} \rightleftharpoons \mathrm{HCl\,(aq)} + \mathrm{OH^-\,(aq)} \quad K_b = K_w/K_a$$

Since HCl is a strong acid, K_a is immeasurably large and $K_b \approx 0$ (chloride ions don't undergo appreciable hydrolysis).

Thus, dissolving ammonium chloride in water yields a solution of weak acid cations (NH_4^+) and inert anions (Cl^-), resulting in an acidic solution.

Example 3.5.1: Calculating the pH of an Acidic Salt Solution

Aniline is an amine that is used to manufacture dyes. It is isolated as anilinium chloride, a salt prepared by the reaction of the weak base aniline and hydrochloric acid. What is the pH of a 0.233 *M* solution of anilinium chloride

$$\mathrm{C_6H_5NH_3{}^+\,(aq)} + \mathrm{H_2O\,(l)} \rightleftharpoons \mathrm{H_3O^+\,(aq)} + \mathrm{C_6H_5NH_2\,(aq)}$$

Solution

The K_a for anilinium ion is derived from the K_b for its conjugate base, aniline (see Appendix H):

$$K_a = \frac{K_w}{K_b} = \frac{1.0 \times 10^{-14}}{4.3 \times 10^{-10}} = 2.3 \times 10^{-5}$$

Using the provided information, an ICE table for this system is prepared:

	$C_6H_5NH_3^+$	+ H_2O ⇌	$C_6H_5NH_2$	+ H_3O^+
Initial concentration (*M*)	0.233		0	~0
Change (*M*)	$-x$		$+x$	$+x$
Equilibrium concentration (*M*)	$0.233 - x$		x	x

Substituting these equilibrium concentration terms into the K_a expression gives

$$K_a = \frac{[C_6H_5NH_2]\,[H_3O^+]}{[C_6H_5NH_3^+]}$$

$$2.3 \times 10^{-5} = \frac{(x)(x)}{0.233 - x}$$

Assuming $x \ll 0.233$, the equation is simplified and solved for x:

$$2.3 \times 10^{-5} = \frac{x^2}{0.233}$$

$$x = 0.0023 \text{ M}$$

The ICE table defines x as the hydronium ion molarity, and so the pH is computed as

$$\text{pH} = -\log\left[H_3O^+\right] = -\log(0.0023) = 2.64$$

? Exercise 3.5.1

What is the hydronium ion concentration in a 0.100-*M* solution of ammonium nitrate, NH_4NO_3, a salt composed of the ions NH_4^+ and NO_3^- and.

Which is the stronger acid $C_6H_5NH_3^+$ or NH_4^+?

Answer

$[H_3O^+] = 7.5 \times 10^{-6}$ M; is the stronger acid.

Salts with Basic Ions

As another example, consider dissolving sodium acetate in water:

$$NaCH_3CO_2\,(s) \rightleftharpoons Na^+\,(aq) + CH_3CO_2^-\,(aq)$$

The sodium ion does not undergo appreciable acid or base ionization and has no effect on the solution pH. This may seem obvious from the ion's formula, which indicates no hydrogen or oxygen atoms, but some dissolved metal ions function as weak acids, as addressed later in this section.

The acetate ion, $CH_3CO_2^-\,(aq)$, is the conjugate base of acetic acid, CH_3CO_2H, and so its base ionization (or *base hydrolysis*) reaction is represented by

$$CH_3CO_2^-\,(aq) + H_2O\,(l) \rightleftharpoons CH_3\ CO_2\ H\,(aq) + OH\,-(aq) \quad K_b = K_w/K_a$$

Because acetic acid is a weak acid, its K_a is measurable and $K_b > 0$ (acetate ion is a weak base).

Dissolving sodium acetate in water yields a solution of inert cations (Na^+) and weak base anions $(CH_3CO_2^-)$, resulting in a basic solution.

✓ Example 3.5.2: Equilibrium in a Solution of a Salt of a Weak Acid and a Strong Base

Determine the acetic acid concentration in a solution with and $[OH^-] = 0.050$ M and $[OH^-] = 2.5 \times 10^{-6} M$ at equilibrium. The reaction is:

$$CH_3CO_2^-\,(aq) + H_2O\,(l) \rightleftharpoons CH_3CO_2H\,(aq) + OH^-\,(aq)$$

Solution

The provided equilibrium concentrations and a value for the equilibrium constant will permit calculation of the missing equilibrium concentration. The process in question is the base ionization of acetate ion, for which

$$CH_3CO_2^-\,(aq) + H_2O\,(l) \rightleftharpoons CH_3CO_2H\,(aq) + OH^-\,(aq)$$

Substituting the available values into the K_b expression gives

$$K_b = \frac{[CH_3CO_2H]\,[\mathrm{OH^-}]}{[\mathrm{CH_3CO_2^-}]} = 5.6 \times 10^{-10}$$

$$= \frac{[\mathrm{CH_3CO_2H}]\,(2.5 \times 10^{-6})}{(0.050)} = 5.6 \times 10^{-10}$$

Solving the above equation for the acetic acid molarity yields $[\mathrm{CH_3CO_2H}] = 1.1 \times 10^{-5}$ M.

? Exercise 3.5.2

What is the pH of a 0.083-*M* solution of NaCN?

Answer

11.11

Salts with Acidic and Basic Ions

Some salts are composed of both acidic and basic ions, and so the pH of their solutions will depend on the relative strengths of these two species. Likewise, some salts contain a single ion that is amphiprotic, and so the relative strengths of this ion's acid and base character will determine its effect on solution pH. For both types of salts, a comparison of the K_a and K_b values allows prediction of the solution's acid-base status, as illustrated in the following example exercise.

✔ Example 3.5.3: Determining the Acidic or Basic Nature of Salts

Determine whether aqueous solutions of the following salts are acidic, basic, or neutral:

a. KBr
b. $NaHCO_3$
c. Na_2HPO_4
d. NH_4F

Solution

Consider each of the ions separately in terms of its effect on the pH of the solution, as shown here:

(a) The K^+ cation is inert and will not affect pH. The bromide ion is the conjugate base of a strong acid, and so it is of negligible base strength (no appreciable base ionization). The solution is neutral.

(b) The Na^+ cation is inert and will not affect the pH of the solution; while the HCO_3^- anion is amphiprotic. The K_a of HCO_3^- is 4.7×10^{-11}, and its K_b is:

$$\frac{1.0 \times 10^{-14}}{4.3 \times 10^{-7}} = 2.3 \times 10^{-8}$$

Since $K_b \gg K_a$, the solution is basic.

(c) The Na^+ cation is inert and will not affect the pH of the solution, while the HPO_4^{2-} anion is amphiprotic. The K_a of HPO_4^{2-} is 4.2×10^{-13}, and its K_b is:

$$\frac{1.0 \times 10^{-14}}{6.2 \times 10^{-8}} = 1.6 \times 10^{-7}$$

Because $K_b \gg K_a$, the solution is basic.

(d) The NH_4^+ ion is acidic (see above discussion) and the F^- ion is basic (conjugate base of the weak acid HF). Comparing the two ionization constants: K_a of NH_4^+ is 5.6 × 10−10 and the K_b of F^- is 1.6×10^{-11}, so the solution is acidic, since $K_a > K_b$.

? Exercise 3.5.3

Determine whether aqueous solutions of the following salts are acidic, basic, or neutral:

a. K_2CO_3
b. $CaCl_2$
c. KH_2PO_4
d. $(NH_4)_2CO_3$

Answer

(a) basic; (b) neutral; (c) acidic; (d) basic

The Ionization of Hydrated Metal Ions

Unlike the group 1 and 2 metal ions of the preceding examples (Na^+, Ca^{2+}, etc.), some metal ions function as acids in aqueous solutions. These ions are not just loosely solvated by water molecules when dissolved, instead they are covalently bonded to a fixed number of water molecules to yield a complex ion (see chapter on coordination chemistry). As an example, the dissolution of aluminum nitrate in water is typically represented as

$$Al(NO_3)_3\,(s) \rightleftharpoons Al^{3+}\,(aq) + 3\,NO_3{}^-\,(aq)$$

However, the aluminum(III) ion actually reacts with six water molecules to form a stable complex ion, and so the more explicit representation of the dissolution process is

$$Al(NO_3)_3\,(s) + 6\,H_2O\,(l) \rightleftharpoons Al(H_2O)_6{}^{3+}\,(aq) + 3\,NO_3{}^-\,(aq)$$

As shown in Figure 3.5.1, the ions involve bonds between a central Al atom and the O atoms of the six water molecules. Consequently, the bonded water molecules' O–H bonds are more polar than in nonbonded water molecules, making the bonded molecules more prone to donation of a hydrogen ion:

$$Al(H_2O)_6{}^{3+}\,(aq) + H_2O\,(l) \rightleftharpoons H_3O^+\,(aq) + Al(H_2O)_5(OH)^{2+}\,(aq) \qquad K_a = 1.4 \times 10^{-5}$$

The conjugate base produced by this process contains five other bonded water molecules capable of acting as acids, and so the sequential or step-wise transfer of protons is possible as depicted in few equations below:

$$Al(H_2O)_6{}^{3+}\,(aq) + H_2O\,(l) \rightleftharpoons H_3O^+\,(aq) + Al(H_2O)_5(OH)^{2+}\,(aq)$$
$$Al(H_2O)_5(OH)^{2+}\,(aq) + H_2O\,(l) \rightleftharpoons H_3O^+\,(aq) + Al(H_2O)_4(OH)_2{}^+\,(aq)$$
$$Al(H_2O)_4(OH)_2{}^+\,(aq) + H_2O\,(l) \rightleftharpoons H_3O^+\,(aq) + Al(H_2O)_3(OH)_3\,(aq)$$

This is an example of a polyprotic acid, the topic of discussion in a later section of this chapter.

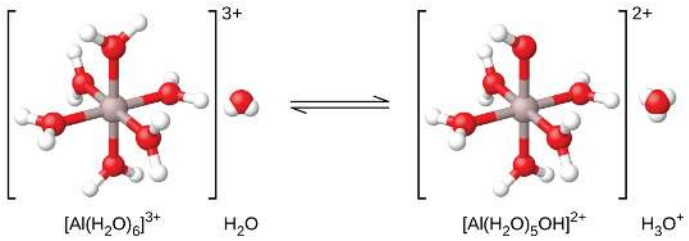


Figure 3.5.1: When an aluminum ion reacts with water, the hydrated aluminum ion becomes a weak acid.

Aside from the alkali metals (group 1) and some alkaline earth metals (group 2), most other metal ions will undergo acid ionization to some extent when dissolved in water. The acid strength of these complex ions typically increases with increasing charge and decreasing size of the metal ions. The first-step acid ionization equations for a few other acidic metal ions are shown below:

$$Fe(H_2O)_6{}^{3+}\,(aq) + H_2O\,(l) \rightleftharpoons H_3O^+\,(aq) + Fe(H_2O)_5(OH)^{2+}\,(aq) \qquad pK_a = 2.74$$
$$Cu(H_2O)_6{}^{2+}\,(aq) + H_2O\,(l) \rightleftharpoons H_3O^+\,(aq) + Cu(H_2O)_5(OH)^{+}\,(aq) \qquad pK_a = \sim 6.3$$
$$Zn(H_2O)_4{}^{2+}\,(aq) + H_2O\,(l) \rightleftharpoons H_3O^+\,(aq) + Zn(H_2O)_3(OH)^{+}\,(aq) \qquad pK_a = 9.6$$

Example 3.5.4: Hydrolysis of $[Al(H_2O)_6]^{3+}$

Calculate the pH of a 0.10-*M* solution of aluminum chloride, which dissolves completely to give the hydrated aluminum ion ($[Al(H_2O)_6]^{3+}$) in solution.

Solution

The equation for the reaction and K_a are:

$$Al(H_2O)_6{}^{3+}(aq) + H_2O(l) \rightleftharpoons H_3O^+(aq) + Al(H_2O)_5(OH)^{2+}(aq) \quad K_a = 1.4 \times 10^{-5}$$

An ICE table with the provided information is

	$Al(H_2O)_6{}^{3+} + H_2O \rightleftharpoons H_3O^+ + Al(H_2O)_5(OH)^{2+}$		
Initial concentration (*M*)	0.10	~0	0
Change (*M*)	$-x$	$+x$	$+x$
Equilibrium concentration (*M*)	$0.10 - x$	x	x

Substituting the expressions for the equilibrium concentrations into the equation for the ionization constant yields:

$$K_a = \frac{[H_3O^+]\,[Al(H_2O)_5(OH)^{2+}]}{[Al(H_2O)_6{}^{3+}]}$$

$$= \frac{(x)(x)}{0.10 - x} = 1.4 \times 10^{-5}$$

Assuming $x \ll 0.10$ and solving the simplified equation gives:

$$x = 1.2 \times 10^{-3}\ \text{M}$$

The ICE table defined x as equal to the hydronium ion concentration, and so the pH is calculated to be

$$[H_3O^+] = 0 + x = 1.2 \times 10^{-3}\ \text{M}$$

$$\text{pH} = -\log[H_3O^+] = 2.92$$

Therefore this is an acidic solution.

Exercise 3.5.4

What is $[Al(H_2O)_5(OH)^{2+}]$ in a 0.15-M solution of $Al(NO_3)_3$ that contains enough of the strong acid HNO_3 to bring $[H_3O^+]$ to 0.10 *M*?

Answer

$2.1 \times 10^{-5} M$

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3.6: Polyprotic Acids

Learning Objectives

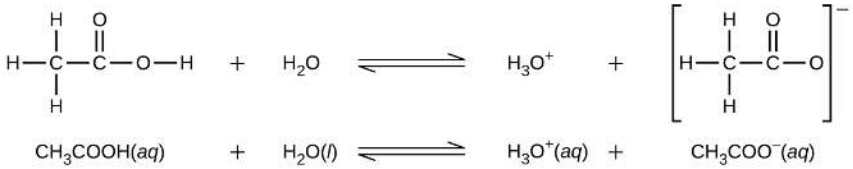
By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Extend previously introduced equilibrium concepts to acids and bases that may donate or accept more than one proton

Acids are classified by the number of protons per molecule that they can give up in a reaction. Acids such as HCl, $\mathrm{HNO_3}$, and HCN that contain one ionizable hydrogen atom in each molecule are called **monoprotic acids**. Their reactions with water are:

$$\mathrm{HCl\,(aq) + H_2\,O\,(l) \longrightarrow H_3O^+\,(aq) + Cl^-\,(aq)}$$
$$\mathrm{HNO_3\,(aq) + H_2\,O\,(l) \longrightarrow H_3O^+\,(aq) + NO_3^-\,(aq)}$$
$$\mathrm{HCN\,(aq) + H_2\,O\,(l) \rightleftharpoons H_3O^+\,(aq) + CN^-\,(aq)}$$

Even though it contains four hydrogen atoms, acetic acid, $\mathrm{CH_3CO_2H}$, is also monoprotic because only the hydrogen atom from the carboxyl group ($-\mathrm{COOH}$) reacts with bases:



Similarly, monoprotic bases are bases that will accept a single proton.

Diprotic acids contain two ionizable hydrogen atoms per molecule; ionization of such acids occurs in two steps. The first ionization always takes place to a greater extent than the second ionization. For example, sulfuric acid, a strong acid, ionizes as follows:

$$\mathrm{H_2\,SO_4\,(aq) + H_2O\,(l) \rightleftharpoons H_3O^+\,(aq) + HSO_4^-\,(aq)} \qquad \text{(First ionization)}$$

with $K_{a1} > 10^2$.

$$\mathrm{HSO_4^-\,(aq) + H_2\,O\,(l) \rightleftharpoons H_3O^+\,(aq) + SO_4^{2-}\,(aq)} \qquad \text{(Second ionization)}$$

with $K_{a2} = 1.2 \times 10^{-2}$.

This stepwise ionization process occurs for all polyprotic acids. Carbonic acid, $\mathrm{H_2CO_3}$, is an example of a weak diprotic acid. The first ionization of carbonic acid yields hydronium ions and bicarbonate ions in small amounts.

$$\mathrm{H_2\,CO_3\,(aq) + H_2\,O\,(l) \rightleftharpoons H_3O^+\,(aq) + HCO_3^-\,(aq)} \qquad \text{(First ionization)}$$

with

$$K_{H_2CO_3} = \frac{[\mathrm{H_3O^+}]\,[\mathrm{HCO_3^-}]}{[\mathrm{H_2CO_3}]} = 4.3 \times 10^{-7}$$

The bicarbonate ion can also act as an acid. It ionizes and forms hydronium ions and carbonate ions in even smaller quantities.

$$\mathrm{HCO_3^-\,(aq) + H_2\,O\,(l) \rightleftharpoons H_3O^+\,(aq) + CO_3^{2-}\,(aq)} \qquad \text{(Second ionization)}$$

with

$$K_{\mathrm{HCO_3^-}} = \frac{[\mathrm{H_3O^+}]\,[\mathrm{CO_3^{2-}}]}{[\mathrm{HCO_3^-}]} = 4.7 \times 10^{-11}$$

$K_{\mathrm{H_2CO_3}}$ is larger than $K_{\mathrm{HCO_3^-}}$ by a factor of 10^4, so $\mathrm{H_2CO_3}$ is the dominant producer of hydronium ion in the solution. This means that little of the formed by the ionization of $\mathrm{H_2CO_3}$ ionizes to give hydronium ions (and carbonate ions), and the concentrations of $\mathrm{H_3O^+}$ and are practically equal in a pure aqueous solution of $\mathrm{H_2CO_3}$.

If the first ionization constant of a weak diprotic acid is larger than the second by a factor of at least 20, it is appropriate to treat the first ionization separately and calculate concentrations resulting from it before calculating concentrations of species resulting from subsequent ionization. This approach is demonstrated in the following example and exercise.

Example 3.6.1: Ionization of a Diprotic Acid

"Carbonated water" contains a palatable amount of dissolved carbon dioxide. The solution is acidic because CO_2 reacts with water to form carbonic acid, H_2CO_3. What are and in a saturated solution of CO_2 with an initial $[H_2CO_3] = 0.033\,M$?

$$H_2\,CO_3\,(aq) + H_2\,O\,(l) \rightleftharpoons H_3O^+\,(aq) + HCO_3^-\,(aq) \quad K_{a1} = 4.3 \times 10^{-7}$$

$$HCO_3^-\,(aq) + H_2\,O\,(l) \rightleftharpoons H_3O^+\,(aq) + CO_3^{2-}\,(aq) \quad K_{a2} = 4.7 \times 10^{-11}$$

Solution

As indicated by the ionization constants, H_2CO_3 is a much stronger acid than so the stepwise ionization reactions may be treated separately.

The first ionization reaction is

$$H_2\,CO_3\,(aq) + H_2\,O\,(l) \rightleftharpoons H_3O^+\,(aq) + HCO_3^-\,(aq) \quad K_{a1} = 4.3 \times 10^{-7}$$

Using provided information, an ICE table for this first step is prepared:

	H_2CO_3	+	H_2O	$\rightleftharpoons$	H_3O^+	+	HCO_3^-
Initial concentration (*M*)	0.033				~0		0
Change (*M*)	$-x$				$+x$		$+x$
Equilibrium concentration (*M*)	$0.033 - x$				x		x

Substituting the equilibrium concentrations into the equilibrium equation gives

$$K_{H_2CO_3} = \frac{[H3O^+]\,[HCO_3^-]}{[H_2CO_3]} = \frac{(x)(x)}{0.033 - x} = 4.3 \times 10^{-7}$$

Assuming $x \ll 0.033$ and solving the simplified equation yields

$$x = 1.2 \times 10^{-4}$$

The ICE table defined *x* as equal to the bicarbonate ion molarity and the hydronium ion molarity:

$$[H_2CO_3] = 0.033M$$

$$[H3O^+] = [HCO_3^-] = 1.2 \times 10^{-4}M$$

Using the bicarbonate ion concentration computed above, the second ionization is subjected to a similar equilibrium calculation:

$$HCO_3^-\,(aq) + H_2\,O\,(l) \rightleftharpoons H_3O^+\,(aq) + CO_3^{2-}\,(aq)$$

$$K_{HCO_3^-} = \frac{[H3O^+]\,[CO_3^{2-}]}{[HCO_3^-]} = \frac{(1.2 \times 10^{-4})\,[CO_3^{2-}]}{1.2 \times 10^{-4}}$$

$$[CO_3^{2-}] = \frac{(4.7 \times 10^{-11})\,(1.2 \times 10^{-4})}{1.2 \times 10^{-4}} = 4.7 \times 10^{-11}M$$

To summarize: at equilibrium $[H_2CO_3] = 0.033M$; $[H_3O^+] = 1.2 \times 10^{-4}$; $[HCO_3^-] = 1.2 \times 10^{-4}\,M$; $[CO_{32}^-] = 4.7 \times 10^{-11}\,M$.

? Exercise 3.6.1

The concentration of H_2S in a saturated aqueous solution at room temperature is approximately 0.1 M. Calculate, H_3O^+, $[HS^-]$, and $[S^{2-}]$ in the solution:

$$H_2\,S\,(aq) + H_2\,O\,(l) \rightleftharpoons H_3O^+\,(aq) + HS^-\,(aq) \quad K_{a1} = 8.9 \times 10^{-8}$$

$$HS^-\,(aq) + H_2\,O\,(l) \rightleftharpoons H_3O^+\,(aq) + S^{2-}\,(aq) \quad K_{a2} = 1.0 \times 10^{-19}$$

Answer

$[H_2S] = 0.1\,M$

$[H_3O^+] = [HS^-] = 0.000094\,M$

$[S^{2-}] = 1 \times 10^{-19}\,M$

A **triprotic acid** is an acid that has three ionizable H atoms. Phosphoric acid is one example:

$$H_3PO_4\,(aq) + H_2O\,(l) \rightleftharpoons H_3O^+\,(aq) + H_2\,PO_4^-\,(aq) \quad \text{(First ionization)}$$
$$K_{a1} = 7.5 \times 10^{-3}$$

$$H_2PO_4^-\,(aq) + H_2O\,(l) \rightleftharpoons H_3O^+\,(aq) + HPO_4^{2-}\,(aq) \quad \text{(Second ionization)}$$
$$K_{a2} = 6.2 \times 10^{-8}$$

$$HPO_4^{2-}\,(aq) + H_2O\,(l) \rightleftharpoons H_3O^+\,(aq) + PO_4^{3-}\,(aq) \quad \text{(Third ionization)}$$
$$K_{a3} = 4.2 \times 10^{-13}$$

As for the diprotic acid examples, each successive ionization reaction is less extensive than the former, reflected in decreasing values for the stepwise acid ionization constants. This is a general characteristic of polyprotic acids and successive ionization constants often differ by a factor of about 10^5 to 10^6.

This set of three dissociation reactions may appear to make calculations of equilibrium concentrations in a solution of H_3PO_4 complicated. However, because the successive ionization constants differ by a factor of 10^5 to 10^6, large differences exist in the small changes in concentration accompanying the ionization reactions. This allows the use of math-simplifying assumptions and processes, as demonstrated in the examples above.

Polyprotic bases are capable of accepting more than one hydrogen ion. The carbonate ion is an example of a **diprotic base**, because it can accept two protons, as shown below. Similar to the case for polyprotic acids, note the ionization constants decrease with ionization step. Likewise, equilibrium calculations involving polyprotic bases follow the same approaches as those for polyprotic acids.

$$H_2\,O\,(l) + CO_3^{2-}\,(aq) \rightleftharpoons HCO_3^-\,(aq) + OH^-\,(aq) \quad K_{b1} = 2.1 \times 10^{-4}$$

$$H_2\,O\,(l) + HCO_3^-\,(aq) \rightleftharpoons H_2\,CO_3\,(aq) + OH^-\,(aq) \quad K_{b2} = 2.3 \times 10^{-8}$$

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3.7: Buffers

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Describe the composition and function of acid–base buffers
- Calculate the pH of a buffer before and after the addition of added acid or base

A solution containing appreciable amounts of a weak conjugate acid-base pair is called a buffer solution, or a **buffer**. Buffer solutions resist a change in pH when small amounts of a strong acid or a strong base are added (Figure 3.7.1). A solution of acetic acid and sodium acetate (CH_3COOH + CH_3COONa) is an example of a buffer that consists of a weak acid and its salt. An example of a buffer that consists of a weak base and its salt is a solution of ammonia and ammonium chloride ($NH_3(aq)$ + $NH_4Cl(aq)$).

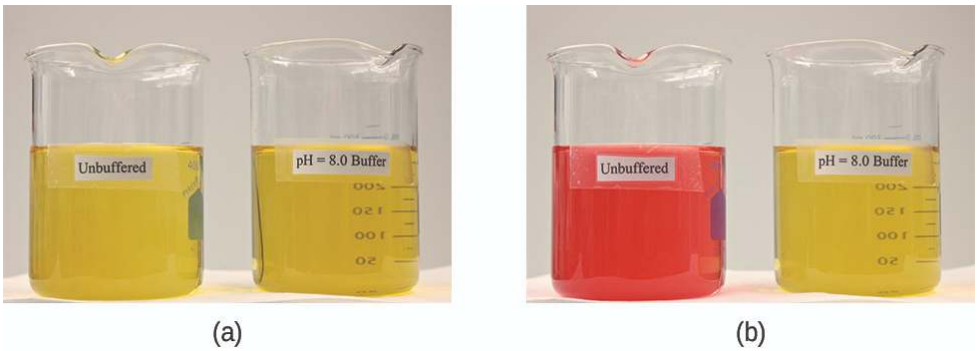


Figure 3.7.1: (a) The unbuffered solution on the left and the buffered solution on the right have the same pH (pH 8); they are basic, showing the yellow color of the indicator methyl orange at this pH. (b) After the addition of 1 mL of a 0.01-*M* HCl solution, the buffered solution has not detectably changed its pH but the unbuffered solution has become acidic, as indicated by the change in color of the methyl orange, which turns red at a pH of about 4. (credit: modification of work by Mark Ott)

How Buffers Work

To illustrate the function of a buffer solution, consider a mixture of roughly equal amounts of acetic acid and sodium acetate. The presence of a weak conjugate acid-base pair in the solution imparts the ability to neutralize modest amounts of added strong acid or base. For example, strong base added to this solution will neutralize hydronium ion, causing the acetic acid ionization equilibrium to shift to the right and generate additional amounts of the weak conjugate base (acetate ion):

$$\mathrm{CH_3\ CO_2\ H\,(aq) + H_2O\,(l) \rightleftharpoons H_3O^+\,(aq) + CH_3\ CO_2^-\,(aq)}$$

Likewise, strong acid added to this buffer solution will shift the above ionization equilibrium left, producing additional amounts of the weak conjugate acid (acetic acid). Figure 3.7.2 provides a graphical illustration of the changes in conjugate-partner concentration that occur in this buffer solution when strong acid and base are added. The buffering action of the solution is essentially a result of the added strong acid and base being converted to the weak acid and base that make up the buffer's conjugate pair. The weaker acid and base undergo only slight ionization, as compared with the complete ionization of the strong acid and base, and the solution pH, therefore, changes much less drastically than it would in an unbuffered solution.

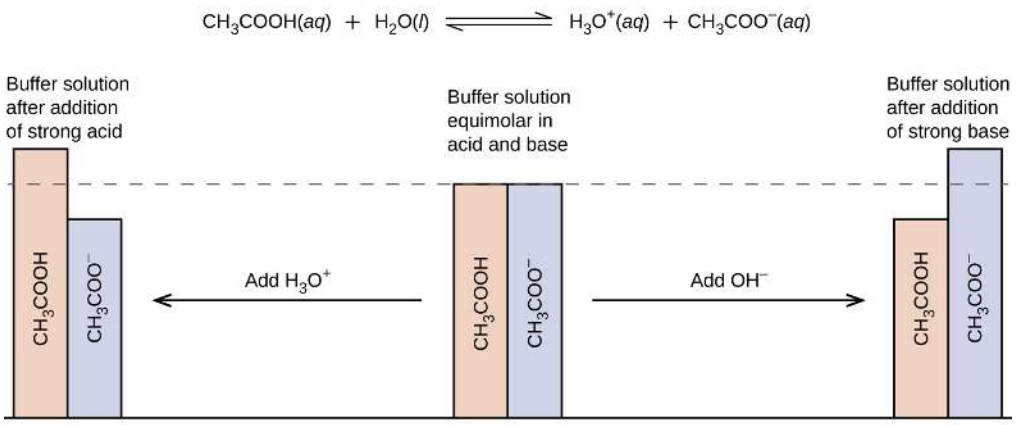


Figure 3.7.2: Buffering action in a mixture of acetic acid and acetate salt.

Example 14.20: pH Changes in Buffered and Unbuffered Solutions

Acetate buffers are used in biochemical studies of enzymes and other chemical components of cells to prevent pH changes that might affect the biochemical activity of these compounds.

a. Calculate the pH of an acetate buffer that is a mixture with 0.10 *M* acetic acid and 0.10 *M* sodium acetate.
b. Calculate the pH after 1.0 mL of 0.10 NaOH is added to 100 mL of this buffer.
c. For comparison, calculate the pH after 1.0 mL of 0.10 *M* NaOH is added to 100 mL of a solution of an unbuffered solution with a pH of 4.74.

Solution

(a) Following the ICE approach to this equilibrium calculation yields the following:

	CH_3CO_2H +	H_2O ⇌	H_3O^+ +	$CH_3CO_2^-$
Initial concentration (*M*)	0.10		~0	0.10
Change (*M*)	$-x$		$+x$	$+x$
Equilibrium concentration (*M*)	$0.10 - x$		x	$0.10 + x$

Substituting the equilibrium concentration terms into the K_a expression, assuming $x \ll 0.10$, and solving the simplified equation for x yields

$$x = 1.8 \times 10^{-5}\ \text{M}$$

$$[\text{H}_3\text{O}^+] = 0 + x = 1.8 \times 10^{-5}\ \text{M}$$

$$\begin{aligned} pH &= -\log[\text{H}_3\text{O}^+] \\ &= -\log\left(1.8 \times 10^{-5}\right) \\ &= 4.74 \end{aligned}$$

(b) Calculate the pH after 1.0 mL of 0.10 *M* NaOH is added to 100 mL of this buffer.

Adding strong base will neutralize some of the acetic acid, yielding the conjugate base acetate ion. Compute the new concentrations of these two buffer components, then repeat the equilibrium calculation of part (a) using these new concentrations.

$$0.0010\ \cancel{\text{L}} \times \left(\frac{0.10\ \text{mol NaOH}}{1\ \cancel{\text{L}}}\right) = 1.0 \times 10^{-4}\ \text{mol NaOH}$$

The initial molar amount of acetic acid is

$$0.100 \cancel{L} \times \left(\frac{0.100 \text{ mol } CH_3CO_2H}{1 \cancel{L}} \right) = 1.00 \times 10^{-2} \text{ mol } CH_3CO_2H$$

The amount of acetic acid remaining after some is neutralized by the added base is

$$\left(1.0 \times 10^{-2}\right) - \left(0.01 \times 10^{-2}\right) = 0.99 \times 10^{-2} \text{ mol } CH_3CO_2H$$

The newly formed acetate ion, along with the initially present acetate, gives a final acetate concentration of

$$\left(1.0 \times 10^{-2}\right) + \left(0.01 \times 10^{-2}\right) = 1.01 \times 10^{-2} \text{ mol } NaCH_3CO_2$$

Compute molar concentrations for the two buffer components:

$$[CH_3CO_2H] = \frac{9.9 \times 10^{-3} \text{ mol}}{0.101 \text{ L}} = 0.098 \text{ M}$$

$$[NaCH_3CO_2] = \frac{1.01 \times 10^{-2} \text{ mol}}{0.101 \text{ L}} = 0.100 \text{ M}$$

Using these concentrations, the pH of the solution may be computed as in part (a) above, yielding pH = 4.75 (only slightly different from that prior to adding the strong base).

(c) For comparison, calculate the pH after 1.0 mL of 0.10 *M* NaOH is added to 100 mL of a solution of an unbuffered solution with a pH of 4.74.

The amount of hydronium ion initially present in the solution is

$$[H_3O^+] = 10^{-4.74} = 1.8 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M}$$

$$\text{mol } H_3O^+ = (0.100 \text{ L})\left(1.8 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M}\right) = 1.8 \times 10^{-6} \text{ mol } H_3O^+$$

The amount of hydroxide ion added to the solution is

$$molOH^- = (0.0010L)(0.10M) = 1.0 \times 10^{-4} molOH^-$$

The added hydroxide will neutralize hydronium ion via the reaction

$$H_3O^+(aq) + OH^-(aq) \rightleftharpoons 2\,H_2O(l)$$

The 1:1 stoichiometry of this reaction shows that an excess of hydroxide has been added (greater molar amount than the initially present hydronium ion).

The amount of hydroxide ion remaining is

$$1.0 \times 10^{-4} mol - 1.8 \times 10^{-6} mol = 9.8 \times 10^{-5} molOH^-$$

corresponding to a hydroxide molarity of

$$\frac{9.8 \times 10^{-5} \text{ mol } OH^-}{0.101 \text{ L}} = 9.7 \times 10^{-4} M$$

The pH of the solution is then calculated to be

$$pH = 14.00 - pOH = 14.00 - -\log\left(9.7 \times 10^{-4}\right) = 10.99$$

In this unbuffered solution, addition of the base results in a significant rise in pH (from 4.74 to 10.99) compared with the very slight increase observed for the buffer solution in part (b) (from 4.74 to 4.75).

? Exercise 3.7.1

Show that adding 1.0 mL of $0.10 \text{ M } HCl$ changes the pH of 100 mL of a $1.8 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M } HCl$ solution from 4.74 to 3.00.

Answer

Initial pH of $1.8 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M } HCl$;

$$\text{pH} = -\log[\text{H}_3\text{O}^+] = -\log[1.8 \times 10^{-5}] = 4.74$$

Moles of H_3O^+ in 100 mL 1.8×10^{-5} M HCl;

$$(1.8 \times 10^{-5} \text{ moles/L}) \times (0.100 \text{ L} = 1.8 \times 10^{-6} \text{ mol}$$

Moles of H_3O^+ added by addition of 1.0 mL of 0.10 *M* HCl:

$$(0.10 \text{ moles/L}) \times (0.0010 \text{ L}) = 1.0 \times 10^{-4} \text{ mol}$$

Final pH after addition of 1.0 mL of 0.10 *M* HCl:

$$pH = -\log\left[\text{H}_3\text{O}^+\right] = -\log\left(\frac{\text{total moles } \text{H}_3\text{O}^+}{\text{total volume}}\right) = -\log\left(\frac{1.0 \times 10^{-4} mol + 1.8 \times 10^{-6} \text{ mol}}{101 \text{ mL}\left(\frac{1 \text{ L}}{1000 \text{ mL}}\right)}\right) = 3.00$$

Buffer Capacity

Buffer solutions do not have an unlimited capacity to keep the pH relatively constant (Figure 3.7.3). Instead, the ability of a buffer solution to resist changes in pH relies on the presence of appreciable amounts of its conjugate weak acid-base pair. When enough strong acid or base is added to substantially lower the concentration of either member of the buffer pair, the buffering action within the solution is compromised.



Figure 3.7.3: The indicator color (methyl orange) shows that a small amount of acid added to a buffered solution of pH 8 (beaker on the left) has little affect on the buffered system (middle beaker). However, a large amount of acid exhausts the buffering capacity of the solution and the pH changes dramatically (beaker on the right). (credit: modification of work by Mark Ott)

The buffer capacity is the amount of acid or base that can be added to a given volume of a buffer solution before the pH changes significantly, usually by one unit. Buffer capacity depends on the amounts of the weak acid and its conjugate base that are in a buffer mixture. For example, 1 L of a solution that is 1.0 *M* in acetic acid and 1.0 *M* in sodium acetate has a greater buffer capacity than 1 L of a solution that is 0.10 *M* in acetic acid and 0.10 *M* in sodium acetate even though both solutions have the same pH. The first solution has more buffer capacity because it contains more acetic acid and acetate ion.

Selection of Suitable Buffer Mixtures

There are two useful rules of thumb for selecting buffer mixtures:

1. A good buffer mixture should have about equal concentrations of both of its components. A buffer solution has generally lost its usefulness when one component of the buffer pair is less than about 10% of the other. Figure 3.7.4 shows how pH changes for an acetic acid-acetate ion buffer as base is added. The initial pH is 4.74. A change of 1 pH unit occurs when the acetic acid concentration is reduced to 11% of the acetate ion concentration.

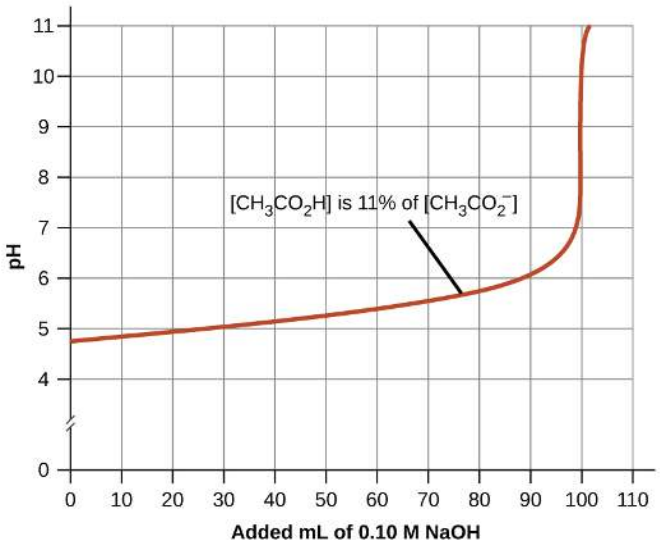


Figure 3.7.4: Change in pH as an increasing amount of a 0.10-*M* NaOH solution is added to 100 mL of a buffer solution in which, initially, $[CH_3CO_2H]$ = 0.10 *M* and Note the greatly diminished buffering action occurring after the buffer capacity has been reached, resulting in drastic rises in pH on adding more strong base.

2. Weak acids and their salts are better as buffers for pHs less than 7; weak bases and their salts are better as buffers for pHs greater than 7.

Blood is an important example of a buffered solution, with the principal acid and ion responsible for the buffering action being carbonic acid, H_2CO_3, and the bicarbonate ion, HCO_3^-. When a hydronium ion is introduced to the blood stream, it is removed primarily by the reaction:

$$H_3O^+(aq) + HCO_3^-(aq) \longrightarrow H_2\ CO_3(aq) + H_2O(l)$$

An added hydroxide ion is removed by the reaction:

$$OH^-(aq) + H_2CO_3(aq) \longrightarrow HCO_3^-(aq) + H_2O(l)$$

The added strong acid or base is thus effectively converted to the much weaker acid or base of the buffer pair (H_3O^+ is converted to H_2CO_3 and OH^- is converted to HCO_3^-). The pH of human blood thus remains very near the value determined by the buffer pairs pKa, in this case, 7.35. Normal variations in blood pH are usually less than 0.1, and pH changes of 0.4 or greater are likely to be fatal.

The Henderson-Hasselbalch Equation

The ionization-constant expression for a solution of a weak acid can be written as:

$$K_a = \frac{[H_3O^+]\,[A^-]}{[HA]}$$

Rearranging to solve for $[H_3O^+]$ yields:

$$[H_3O^+] = K_a \times \frac{[HA]}{[A^-]}$$

Taking the negative logarithm of both sides of this equation gives

$$-\log[H_3O^+] = -\log K_a - \log\frac{[HA]}{[A^-]}$$

which can be written as

$$pH = pK_a + \log\frac{[A^-]}{[HA]}$$

where pK_a is the negative of the logarithm of the ionization constant of the weak acid (pK_a = −log K_a). This equation relates the pH, the ionization constant of a weak acid, and the concentrations of the weak conjugate acid-base pair in a buffered solution. Scientists often use this expression, called the Henderson-Hasselbalch equation, to calculate the pH of buffer solutions. It is important to note that the "*x* is small" assumption must be valid to use this equation.

Portrait of a Chemist: Lawrence Joseph Henderson and Karl Albert Hasselbalch

Lawrence Joseph Henderson (1878–1942) was an American physician, biochemist and physiologist, to name only a few of his many pursuits. He obtained a medical degree from Harvard and then spent 2 years studying in Strasbourg, then a part of Germany, before returning to take a lecturer position at Harvard. He eventually became a professor at Harvard and worked there his entire life. He discovered that the acid-base balance in human blood is regulated by a buffer system formed by the dissolved carbon dioxide in blood. He wrote an equation in 1908 to describe the carbonic acid-carbonate buffer system in blood. Henderson was broadly knowledgeable; in addition to his important research on the physiology of blood, he also wrote on the adaptations of organisms and their fit with their environments, on sociology and on university education. He also founded the Fatigue Laboratory, at the Harvard Business School, which examined human physiology with specific focus on work in industry, exercise, and nutrition.

In 1916, Karl Albert Hasselbalch (1874–1962), a Danish physician and chemist, shared authorship in a paper with Christian Bohr in 1904 that described the Bohr effect, which showed that the ability of hemoglobin in the blood to bind with oxygen was inversely related to the acidity of the blood and the concentration of carbon dioxide. The pH scale was introduced in 1909 by another Dane, Sørensen, and in 1912, Hasselbalch published measurements of the pH of blood. In 1916, Hasselbalch expressed Henderson's equation in logarithmic terms, consistent with the logarithmic scale of pH, and thus the Henderson-Hasselbalch equation was born.

How Sciences Interconnect: Medicine: The Buffer System in Blood

The normal pH of human blood is about 7.4. The carbonate buffer system in the blood uses the following equilibrium reaction:

$$\mathrm{CO_2\,(g) + 2\,H_2O\,(l) \rightleftharpoons H_2CO_3\,(aq) \rightleftharpoons HCO_3^-\,(aq) + H_3O^+\,(aq)}$$

The concentration of carbonic acid, $\mathrm{H_2CO_3}$ is approximately 0.0012 *M*, and the concentration of the hydrogen carbonate ion, is around 0.024 *M*. Using the Henderson-Hasselbalch equation and the pK_a of carbonic acid at body temperature, we can calculate the pH of blood:

$$pH = pK_a + \log\frac{[\text{ base }]}{[\text{ acid }]} = 6.4 + \log\frac{0.024}{0.0012} = 7.7$$

The fact that the $\mathrm{H_2CO_3}$ concentration is significantly lower than that of the $\mathrm{HCO_3^-}$ ion may seem unusual, but this imbalance is due to the fact that most of the by-products of our metabolism that enter our bloodstream are acidic. Therefore, there must be a larger proportion of base than acid, so that the capacity of the buffer will not be exceeded.

Lactic acid is produced in our muscles when we exercise. As the lactic acid enters the bloodstream, it is neutralized by the ion, producing H_2CO_3. An enzyme then accelerates the breakdown of the excess carbonic acid to carbon dioxide and water, which can be eliminated by breathing. In fact, in addition to the regulating effects of the carbonate buffering system on the pH of blood, the body uses breathing to regulate blood pH. If the pH of the blood decreases too far, an increase in breathing removes CO_2 from the blood through the lungs driving the equilibrium reaction such that [H_3O^+] is lowered. If the blood is too alkaline, a lower breath rate increases CO_2 concentration in the blood, driving the equilibrium reaction the other way, increasing [H^+] and restoring an appropriate pH.

Link to Learning

View information on the buffer system encountered in natural waters.

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3.8: Acid-Base Titrations

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Interpret titration curves for strong and weak acid-base systems
- Compute sample pH at important stages of a titration
- Explain the function of acid-base indicators

As seen in the chapter on the stoichiometry of chemical reactions, titrations can be used to quantitatively analyze solutions for their acid or base concentrations. In this section, we will explore the underlying chemical equilibria that make acid-base titrimetry a useful analytical technique.

Titration Curves

A titration curve is a plot of some solution property versus the amount of added titrant. For acid-base titrations, solution pH is a useful property to monitor because it varies predictably with the solution composition and, therefore, may be used to monitor the titration's progress and detect its end point. The following example exercise demonstrates the computation of pH for a titration solution after additions of several specified titrant volumes. The first example involves a strong acid titration that requires only stoichiometric calculations to derive the solution pH. The second example addresses a weak acid titration requiring equilibrium calculations.

Example 3.8.1: Calculating pH for Titration Solutions: Strong Acid/Strong Base

A titration is carried out for 25.00 mL of 0.100 *M* HCl (strong acid) with 0.100 *M* of a strong base NaOH (the titration curve is shown in Figure 3.8.1). Calculate the pH at these volumes of added base solution:

a. 0.00 mL
b. 12.50 mL
c. 25.00 mL
d. 37.50 mL

Solution

(a) Titrant volume = 0 mL. The solution pH is due to the acid ionization of HCl. Because this is a strong acid, the ionization is complete and the hydronium ion molarity is 0.100 *M*. The pH of the solution is then

$$\mathrm{pH} = -\log(0.100) = 1.000$$

(b) Titrant volume = 12.50 mL. Since the acid sample and the base titrant are both monoprotic and equally concentrated, this titrant addition involves less than a stoichiometric amount of base, and so it is completely consumed by reaction with the excess acid in the sample. The concentration of acid remaining is computed by subtracting the consumed amount from the initial amount and then dividing by the solution volume:

$$[\mathrm{H_3O^+}] = \frac{n\,(\mathrm{H^+})}{V} = \frac{0.002500\ \mathrm{mol} \times \left(\frac{1000\ mL}{1\ L}\right) - 0.100\ M \times 12.50\ mL}{25.00\ mL + 12.50\ mL} = 0.0333\ M$$

(c) Titrant volume = 25.00 mL. This titrant addition involves a stoichiometric amount of base (the *equivalence point*), and so only products of the neutralization reaction are in solution (water and NaCl). Neither the cation nor the anion of this salt undergo acid-base ionization; the only process generating hydronium ions is the autoprotolysis of water. The solution is neutral, having a pH = 7.00.

(d) Titrant volume = 37.50 mL. This involves the addition of titrant in excess of the equivalence point. The solution pH is then calculated using the concentration of hydroxide ion:

$$n\,(OH^-)_0 > n\,(H^+)_0$$

$$[\mathrm{OH}^-] = \frac{n(\mathrm{OH}^-)}{\mathrm{V}} = \frac{0.100\ \mathrm{M} \times 37.50\ \mathrm{mL} - 0.002500\ \mathrm{mol} \times \left(\frac{1000\ \mathrm{mL}}{1\ \mathrm{L}}\right)}{25.00\ \mathrm{mL} + 37.50\ \mathrm{mL}} = 0.0200\ \mathrm{M}$$

$$\mathrm{pH} = 14 - \mathrm{pOH} = 14 + \log([\mathrm{OH}^-]) = 14 + \log(0.0200) = 12.30$$

Exercise 3.8.1

Calculate the pH for the strong acid/strong base titration between 50.0 mL of 0.100 *M* $HNO_3(aq)$ and 0.200 *M* NaOH (titrant) at the listed volumes of added base: 0.00 mL, 15.0 mL, 25.0 mL, and 40.0 mL.

Answer

0.00: 1.000; 15.0: 1.5111; 25.0: 7; 40.0: 12.523

Example 3.8.2: Titration of a Weak Acid with a Strong Base

Consider the titration of 25.00 mL of 0.100 *M* CH_3CO_2H with 0.100 *M* NaOH. The reaction can be represented as:

$$\mathrm{CH_3CO_2H} + \mathrm{OH}^- \longrightarrow \mathrm{CH_3CO_2}^- + \mathrm{H_2O}$$

Calculate the pH of the titration solution after the addition of the following volumes of NaOH titrant:

a. 0.00 mL
b. 25.00 mL
c. 12.50 mL
d. 37.50 mL

Solution

(a) The initial pH is computed for the acetic acid solution in the usual ICE approach:

$$K_a = \frac{[H3O^+]\,[CH_3CO_2^-]}{[CH_3CO_2H]} \approx \frac{[H3O^+]^2}{[CH_3CO_2H]_0}$$

and

$$[H3O^+] = \sqrt{K_a \times [CH_3CO_2H]} = \sqrt{1.8 \times 10^{-5} \times 0.100} = 1.3 \times 10^{-3}$$

$$pH = -\log\left(1.3 \times 10^{-3}\right) = 2.87$$

(b) The acid and titrant are both monoprotic and the sample and titrant solutions are equally concentrated; thus, this volume of titrant represents the equivalence point. Unlike the strong-acid example above, however, the reaction mixture in this case contains a weak conjugate base (acetate ion). The solution pH is computed considering the base ionization of acetate, which is present at a concentration of

$$\frac{0.00250\ \mathrm{mol}}{0.0500\ \mathrm{L}} = 0.0500\ \mathrm{M}\ \mathrm{CH_3CO_2}^-$$

Base ionization of acetate is represented by the equation

$$\mathrm{CH_3CO_2}^-(\mathrm{aq}) + \mathrm{H_2O}(\mathrm{l}) \rightleftharpoons \mathrm{CH_3CO_2H}(\mathrm{aq}) + \mathrm{OH}^-(\mathrm{aq})$$

$$K_b = \frac{[H^+]\,[OH^-]}{K_a} = \frac{K_w}{K_a} = \frac{1.0 \times 10^{-14}}{1.8 \times 10^{-5}} = 5.6 \times 10^{-10}$$

Assuming $x \ll 0.0500$, the pH may be calculated via the usual ICE approach:

$$K_b = \frac{x^2}{0.0500M}$$

$$x = [OH^-] = 5.3 \times 10^{-6}$$

$$\text{pOH} = -\log\left(5.3 \times 10^{-6}\right) = 5.28$$
$$\text{pH} = 14.00 - 5.28 = 8.72$$

Note that the pH at the equivalence point of this titration is significantly greater than 7, as expected when titrating a weak acid with a strong base.

(c) Titrant volume = 12.50 mL. This volume represents one-half of the stoichiometric amount of titrant, and so one-half of the acetic acid has been neutralized to yield an equivalent amount of acetate ion. The concentrations of these conjugate acid-base partners, therefore, are equal. A convenient approach to computing the pH is use of the Henderson-Hasselbalch equation:

$$pH = pK_a + \log\frac{[\text{ Base }]}{[\text{ Acid }]} = -\log\left(K_a\right) + \log\frac{[\text{CH}_3\text{CO}_2^-]}{[\text{CH}_3\text{CO}_2\text{H}]} = -\log\left(1.8 \times 10^{-5}\right) + \log(1)$$

$$pH = -\log\left(1.8 \times 10^{-5}\right) = 4.74$$

(pH = pK_a at the half-equivalence point in a titration of a weak acid)

(d) Titrant volume = 37.50 mL. This volume represents a stoichiometric excess of titrant, and a reaction solution containing both the titration product, acetate ion, and the excess strong titrant. In such solutions, the solution pH is determined primarily by the amount of excess strong base:

$$[\text{OH}^-] = \frac{(0.003750mol - 0.00250mol)}{0.06250L} = 2.00 \times 10^{-2}M$$

$$\text{pOH} = -\log\left(2.00 \times 10^{-2}\right) = 1.70$$
$$\text{pH} = 14.00 - 1.70 = 12.30$$

? Exercise 3.8.1

Calculate the pH for the weak acid/strong base titration between 50.0 mL of 0.100 *M* HCOOH(*aq*) (formic acid) and 0.200 *M* NaOH (titrant) at the listed volumes of added base: 0.00 mL, 15.0 mL, 25.0 mL, and 30.0 mL.

Answer

0.00 mL: 2.37; 15.0 mL: 3.92; 25.00 mL: 8.29; 30.0 mL: 12.097

Performing additional calculations similar to those in the preceding example permits a more full assessment of titration curves. A summary of pH/volume data pairs for the strong and weak acid titrations is provided in Table 3.8.1 and plotted as titration curves in Figure 3.8.1. A comparison of these two curves illustrates several important concepts that are best addressed by identifying the four stages of a titration:

- initial state (added titrant volume = 0 mL): pH is determined by the acid being titrated; because the two acid samples are equally concentrated, the weak acid will exhibit a greater initial pH
- pre-equivalence point (0 mL < *V* < 25 mL): solution pH increases gradually and the acid is consumed by reaction with added titrant; composition includes unreacted acid and the reaction product, its conjugate base
- equivalence point (*V* = 25 mL): a drastic rise in pH is observed as the solution composition transitions from acidic to either neutral (for the strong acid sample) or basic (for the weak acid sample), with pH determined by ionization of the conjugate base of the acid
- postequivalence point (*V* > 25 mL): pH is determined by the amount of excess strong base titrant added; since both samples are titrated with the same titrant, both titration curves appear similar at this stage.

Table 3.8.1: pH Values in the Titrations of a Strong Acid and of a Weak Acid

Volume of 0.100 *M* NaOH Added (mL)	Moles of NaOH Added	pH Values 0.100 *M* HCl[1]	pH Values 0.100 *M* CH_3CO_2H[2]
0.0	0.0	1.00	2.87
5.0	0.00050	1.18	4.14
10.0	0.00100	1.37	4.57
15.0	0.00150	1.60	4.92
20.0	0.00200	1.95	5.35
22.0	0.00220	2.20	5.61
24.0	0.00240	2.69	6.13
24.5	0.00245	3.00	6.44
24.9	0.00249	3.70	7.14
25.0	0.00250	7.00	8.72
25.1	0.00251	10.30	10.30
25.5	0.00255	11.00	11.00
26.0	0.00260	11.29	11.29
28.0	0.00280	11.75	11.75
30.0	0.00300	11.96	11.96
35.0	0.00350	12.22	12.22
40.0	0.00400	12.36	12.36
45.0	0.00450	12.46	12.46
50.0	0.00500	12.52	12.52

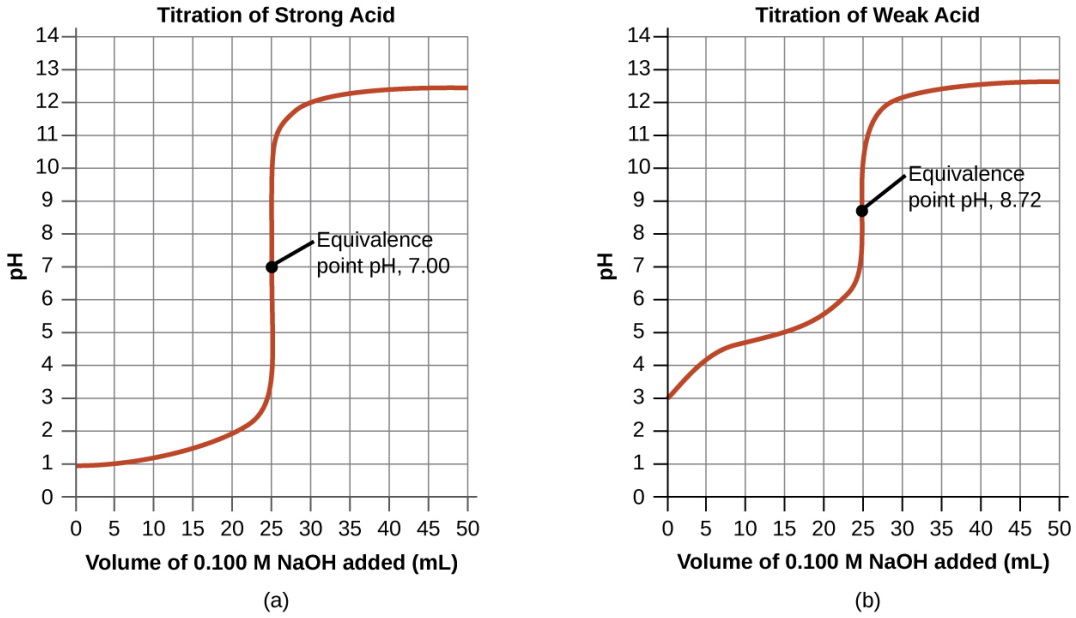


Figure 3.8.1: (a) The titration curve for the titration of 25.00 mL of 0.100 *M* HCl (strong acid) with 0.100 *M* NaOH (strong base) has an equivalence point of 7.00 pH. (b) The titration curve for the titration of 25.00 mL of 0.100 *M* acetic acid (weak acid) with 0.100 *M* NaOH (strong base) has an equivalence point of 8.72 pH.

Acid-Base Indicators

Certain organic substances change color in dilute solution when the hydronium ion concentration reaches a particular value. For example, phenolphthalein is a colorless substance in any aqueous solution with a hydronium ion concentration greater than 5.0×10^{-9} M (pH < 8.3). In more basic solutions where the hydronium ion concentration is less than 5.0×10^{-9} M (pH > 8.3), it is red or pink. Substances such as phenolphthalein, which can be used to determine the pH of a solution, are called **acid-base indicators**. Acid-base indicators are either weak organic acids or weak organic bases.

The equilibrium in a solution of the acid-base indicator methyl orange, a weak acid, can be represented by an equation in which we use HIn as a simple representation for the complex methyl orange molecule:

$$\underset{\text{red}}{\mathrm{HIn\,(aq)}} + \mathrm{H_2O\,(l)} \rightleftharpoons \underset{\text{yellow}}{\mathrm{H_3O^+\,(aq)}} + In^-(aq)$$

$$K_a = \frac{[\mathrm{H_3O^+}]\,[\mathrm{In^-}]}{[\mathrm{HIn}]} = 4.0 \times 10^{-4}$$

The anion of methyl orange, $\mathrm{In^-}$, is yellow, and the nonionized form, HIn, is red. When we add acid to a solution of methyl orange, the increased hydronium ion concentration shifts the equilibrium toward the nonionized red form, in accordance with Le Chatelier's principle. If we add base, we shift the equilibrium towards the yellow form. This behavior is completely analogous to the action of buffers.

The perceived color of an indicator solution is determined by the ratio of the concentrations of the two species $\mathrm{In^-}$ and HIn. If most of the indicator (typically about 60−90% or more) is present as $\mathrm{In^-}$, the perceived color of the solution is yellow. If most is present as HIn, then the solution color appears red. The Henderson-Hasselbalch equation is useful for understanding the relationship between the pH of an indicator solution and its composition (thus, perceived color):

$$pH = pKa + \log\left(\frac{[\mathrm{In^-}]}{[\mathrm{HIn}]}\right)$$

In solutions where pH > pK_a, the logarithmic term must be positive, indicating an excess of the conjugate base form of the indicator (yellow solution). When pH < pK_a, the log term must be negative, indicating an excess of the conjugate acid (red solution). When the solution pH is close to the indicator pKa, appreciable amounts of both conjugate partners are present, and the solution color is that of an additive combination of each (yellow and red, yielding orange). The **color change interval** (or *pH interval*) for an acid-

base indicator is defined as the range of pH values over which a change in color is observed, and for most indicators this range is approximately pK_a ± 1.

There are many different acid-base indicators that cover a wide range of pH values and can be used to determine the approximate pH of an unknown solution by a process of elimination. Universal indicators and pH paper contain a mixture of indicators and exhibit different colors at different pHs. Figure 3.8.2 presents several indicators, their colors, and their color-change intervals.

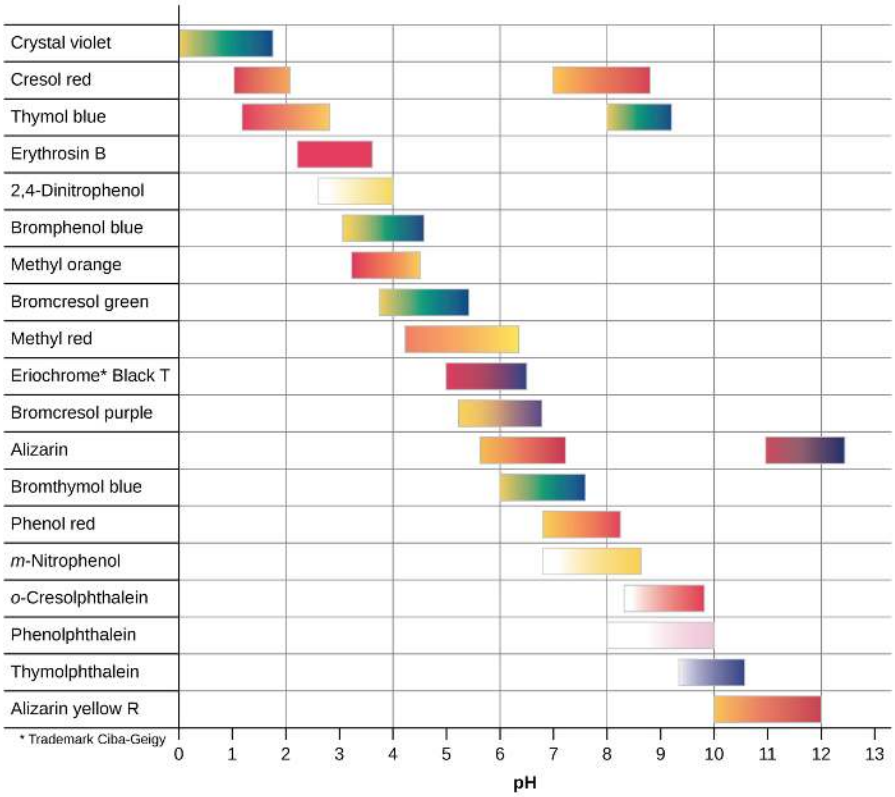


Figure 3.8.2: This chart illustrates the color change intervals for several acid-base indicators.

The titration curves shown in Figure 3.8.3 illustrate the choice of a suitable indicator for specific titrations. In the strong acid titration, use of any of the three indicators should yield reasonably sharp color changes and accurate end point determinations. For this titration, the solution pH reaches the lower limit of the methyl orange color change interval after addition of ~24 mL of titrant, at which point the initially red solution would begin to appear orange. When 25 mL of titrant has been added (the equivalence point), the pH is well above the upper limit and the solution will appear yellow. The titration's end point may then be estimated as the volume of titrant that yields a distinct orange-to-yellow color change. This color change would be challenging for most human eyes to precisely discern. More-accurate estimates of the titration end point are possible using either litmus or phenolphthalein, both of which exhibit color change intervals that are encompassed by the steep rise in pH that occurs around the 25.00 mL equivalence point.

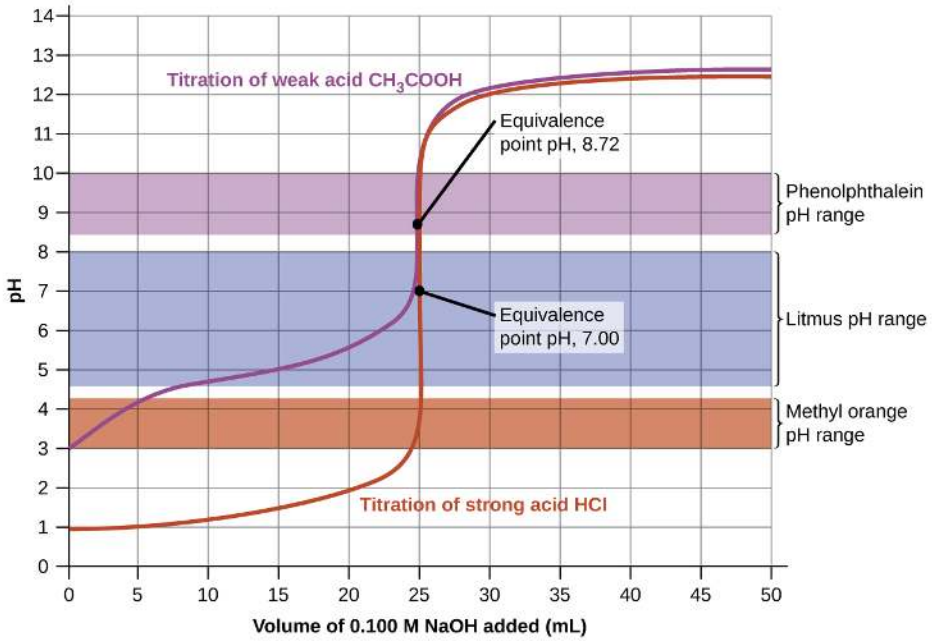


Figure 3.8.3: Titration curves for strong and weak acids illustrating the proper choice of acid-base indicator. Any of the three indicators will exhibit a reasonably sharp color change at the equivalence point of the strong acid titration, but only phenolphthalein is suitable for use in the weak acid titration.

The weak acid titration curve in Figure 3.8.3 shows that only one of the three indicators is suitable for end point detection. If methyl orange is used in this titration, the solution will undergo a gradual red-to-orange-to-yellow color change over a relatively large volume interval (0–6 mL), completing the color change well before the equivalence point (25 mL) has been reached. Use of litmus would show a color change that begins after adding 7–8 mL of titrant and ends just before the equivalence point. Phenolphthalein, on the other hand, exhibits a color change interval that nicely brackets the abrupt change in pH occurring at the titration's equivalence point. A sharp color change from colorless to pink will be observed within a very small volume interval around the equivalence point.

Footnotes

- 1Titration of 25.00 mL of 0.100 *M* HCl (0.00250 mol of HCI) with 0.100 *M* NaOH.
- 2Titration of 25.00 mL of 0.100 *M* CH_3CO_2H (0.00250 mol of CH_3CO_2H) with 0.100 *M* NaOH.

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3.9: Key Terms

acid ionization | reaction involving the transfer of a proton from an acid to water, yielding hydronium ions and the conjugate base of the acid

acid ionization constant (K_a) | equilibrium constant for an acid ionization reaction

acid-base indicator | weak acid or base whose conjugate partner imparts a different solution color; used in visual assessments of solution pH

acidic | a solution in which $[H_3O^+] > [OH^-]$

amphiprotic | species that may either donate or accept a proton in a Bronsted-Lowry acid-base reaction

amphoteric | species that can act as either an acid or a base

autoionization | reaction between identical species yielding ionic products; for water, this reaction involves transfer of protons to yield hydronium and hydroxide ions

base ionization | reaction involving the transfer of a proton from water to a base, yielding hydroxide ions and the conjugate acid of the base

base ionization constant (K_b) | equilibrium constant for a base ionization reaction

basic | a solution in which $[H_3O^+] < [OH^-]$

Brønsted-Lowry acid | proton donor

Brønsted-Lowry base | proton acceptor

buffer | mixture of appreciable amounts of a weak acid-base pair the pH of a buffer resists change when small amounts of acid or base are added

buffer capacity | amount of an acid or base that can be added to a volume of a buffer solution before its pH changes significantly (usually by one pH unit)

color-change interval | range in pH over which the color change of an indicator is observed

conjugate acid | substance formed when a base gains a proton

conjugate base | substance formed when an acid loses a proton

diprotic acid | acid containing two ionizable hydrogen atoms per molecule

diprotic base | base capable of accepting two protons

Henderson-Hasselbalch equation | logarithmic version of the acid ionization constant expression, conveniently formatted for calculating the pH of buffer solutions

ion-product constant for water (K_w) | equilibrium constant for the autoionization of water

leveling effect | observation that acid-base strength of solutes in a given solvent is limited to that of the solvent's characteristic acid and base species (in water, hydronium and hydroxide ions, respectively)

monoprotic acid | acid containing one ionizable hydrogen atom per molecule

neutral | describes a solution in which $[H_3O^+] = [OH^-]$

oxyacid | ternary compound with acidic properties, molecules of which contain a central nonmetallic atom bonded to one or more O atoms, at least one of which is bonded to an ionizable H atom

percent ionization | ratio of the concentration of ionized acid to initial acid concentration expressed as a percentage

pH | logarithmic measure of the concentration of hydronium ions in a solution

pOH | logarithmic measure of the concentration of hydroxide ions in a solution

stepwise ionization | process in which a polyprotic acid is ionized by losing protons sequentially

titration curve | plot of some sample property (such as pH) versus volume of added titrant

triprotic acid | acid that contains three ionizable hydrogen atoms per molecule

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3.10: Key Equations

$K_w = [H_3O^+][OH^-] = 1.0 \times 10^{-14}$ (at 25 °C)

$pOH = -\log[OH^-]$
$[H_3O^+] = \times 10^{-pH}$
$[OH^-] = \times 10^{-pOH}$
$pH + pOH = pK_w = 14.00$ at 25 °C

$K_a K_b = 1.0 \times 10^{-14} = K_w$

$pK_a = -\log K_a$
$pK_b = -\log K_b$

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3.11: Summary

A compound that can donate a proton (a hydrogen ion) to another compound is called a Brønsted-Lowry acid. The compound that accepts the proton is called a Brønsted-Lowry base. The species remaining after a Brønsted-Lowry acid has lost a proton is the conjugate base of the acid. The species formed when a Brønsted-Lowry base gains a proton is the conjugate acid of the base. Thus, an acid-base reaction occurs when a proton is transferred from an acid to a base, with formation of the conjugate base of the reactant acid and formation of the conjugate acid of the reactant base. Amphiprotic species can act as both proton donors and proton acceptors. Water is the most important amphiprotic species. It can form both the hydronium ion, H_3O^+, and the hydroxide ion, OH^- when it undergoes autoionization:

The ion product of water, K_w is the equilibrium constant for the autoionization reaction:

Concentrations of hydronium and hydroxide ions in aqueous media are often represented as logarithmic pH and pOH values, respectively. At 25 °C, the autoprotolysis equilibrium for water requires the sum of pH and pOH to equal 14 for any aqueous solution. The relative concentrations of hydronium and hydroxide ion in a solution define its status as acidic ($[H_3O^+] > [OH^-]$), basic ($[H_3O^+] < [OH^-]$), or neutral ($[H_3O^+] = [OH^-]$). At 25 °C, a pH < 7 indicates an acidic solution, a pH > 7 a basic solution, and a pH = 7 a neutral solution.

The relative strengths of acids and bases are reflected in the magnitudes of their ionization constants; the stronger the acid or base, the larger its ionization constant. A reciprocal relation exists between the strengths of a conjugate acid-base pair: the stronger the acid, the weaker its conjugate base. Water exerts a leveling effect on dissolved acids or bases, reacting completely to generate its characteristic hydronium and hydroxide ions (the strongest acid and base that may exist in water). The strengths of the binary acids increase from left to right across a period of the periodic table ($CH_4 < NH_3 < H_2O < HF$), and they increase down a group ($HF < HCl < HBr < HI$). The strengths of oxyacids that contain the same central element increase as the oxidation number of the element increases ($H_2SO_3 < H_2SO_4$). The strengths of oxyacids also increase as the electronegativity of the central element increases [$H_2SeO_4 < H_2SO_4$].

The ions composing salts may possess acidic or basic character, ionizing when dissolved in water to yield acidic or basic solutions. Acidic cations are typically the conjugate partners of weak bases, and basic anions are the conjugate partners of weak acids. Many metal ions bond to water molecules when dissolved to yield complex ions that may function as acids.

An acid that contains more than one ionizable proton is a polyprotic acid. These acids undergo stepwise ionization reactions involving the transfer of single protons. The ionization constants for polyprotic acids decrease with each subsequent step; these decreases typically are large enough to permit simple equilibrium calculations that treat each step separately.

Solutions that contain appreciable amounts of a weak conjugate acid-base pair are called buffers. A buffered solution will experience only slight changes in pH when small amounts of acid or base are added. Addition of large amounts of acid or base can exceed the buffer capacity, consuming most of one conjugate partner and preventing further buffering action.

The titration curve for an acid-base titration is typically a plot of pH versus volume of added titrant. These curves are useful in selecting appropriate acid-base indicators that will permit accurate determinations of titration end points.

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3.12: Exercises

1.

Write equations that show NH_3 as both a conjugate acid and a conjugate base.

2.

Write equations that show acting both as an acid and as a base.

3.

Show by suitable net ionic equations that each of the following species can act as a Brønsted-Lowry acid:

a. (f)

4.

Show by suitable net ionic equations that each of the following species can act as a Brønsted-Lowry acid:

a. (f) HS^-

5.

Show by suitable net ionic equations that each of the following species can act as a Brønsted-Lowry base:

a. (f)

6.

Show by suitable net ionic equations that each of the following species can act as a Brønsted-Lowry base:

a. (f)

7.

What is the conjugate acid of each of the following? What is the conjugate base of each?

a. OH^-
b. H_2O
c.
d. NH_3
e.
f. H_2O_2
g. HS^-
h.

8.

What is the conjugate acid of each of the following? What is the conjugate base of each?

a. H_2S
b.
c. PH_3
d. HS^-
e.
f.
g. H_4N_2
h. CH_3OH

9.

Identify and label the Brønsted-Lowry acid, its conjugate base, the Brønsted-Lowry base, and its conjugate acid in each of the following equations:

a. (f)

10.

Identify and label the Brønsted-Lowry acid, its conjugate base, the Brønsted-Lowry base, and its conjugate acid in each of the following equations:

a. (f)

11.

What are amphiprotic species? Illustrate with suitable equations.

12.

State which of the following species are amphiprotic and write chemical equations illustrating the amphiprotic character of these species:

a. H_2O
b.
c. S^{2-}
d.
e.

13.

State which of the following species are amphiprotic and write chemical equations illustrating the amphiprotic character of these species.

a. NH_3
b.
c. Br^-
d.
e.

14.

Is the self-ionization of water endothermic or exothermic? The ionization constant for water (K_w) is 2.9 \times 10^{−14} at 40 °C and 9.3 \times 10^{−14} at 60 °C.

15.

Explain why a sample of pure water at 40 °C is neutral even though $[H_3O^+]$ = 1.7 \times 10^{−7} *M*. K_w is 2.9 \times 10^{−14} at 40 °C.

16.

The ionization constant for water (K_w) is 2.9 \times 10^{−14} at 40 °C. Calculate $[H_3O^+]$, $[OH^-]$, pH, and pOH for pure water at 40 °C.

17.

The ionization constant for water (K_w) is 9.311 \times 10^{−14} at 60 °C. Calculate $[H_3O^+]$, $[OH^-]$, pH, and pOH for pure water at 60 °C.

18.

Calculate the pH and the pOH of each of the following solutions at 25 °C for which the substances ionize completely:

a. 0.200 *M* HCl
b. 0.0143 *M* NaOH
c. 3.0 *M* HNO_3
d. 0.0031 *M* $Ca(OH)_2$

19.

Calculate the pH and the pOH of each of the following solutions at 25 °C for which the substances ionize completely:

a. 0.000259 *M* $HClO_4$
b. 0.21 *M* NaOH

c. 0.000071 *M* $Ba(OH)_2$
d. 2.5 *M* KOH

20.

What are the pH and pOH of a solution of 2.0 M HCl, which ionizes completely?

21.

What are the hydronium and hydroxide ion concentrations in a solution whose pH is 6.52?

22.

Calculate the hydrogen ion concentration and the hydroxide ion concentration in wine from its pH. See Figure 14.2 for useful information.

23.

Calculate the hydronium ion concentration and the hydroxide ion concentration in lime juice from its pH. See Figure 14.2 for useful information.

24.

The hydronium ion concentration in a sample of rainwater is found to be 1.7 \times 10^{−6} *M* at 25 °C. What is the concentration of hydroxide ions in the rainwater?

25.

The hydroxide ion concentration in household ammonia is 3.2 \times 10^{−3} *M* at 25 °C. What is the concentration of hydronium ions in the solution?

26.

Explain why the neutralization reaction of a strong acid and a weak base gives a weakly acidic solution.

27.

Explain why the neutralization reaction of a weak acid and a strong base gives a weakly basic solution.

28.

Use this list of important industrial compounds (and Figure 14.8) to answer the following questions regarding: $Ca(OH)_2$, CH_3CO_2H, HCl, H_2CO_3, HF, HNO_2, HNO_3, H_3PO_4, H_2SO_4, NH_3, NaOH, Na_2CO_3.

a. Identify the strong Brønsted-Lowry acids and strong Brønsted-Lowry bases.
b. Identify the compounds that can behave as Brønsted-Lowry acids with strengths lying between those of H_3O^+ and H_2O.
c. Identify the compounds that can behave as Brønsted-Lowry bases with strengths lying between those of H_2O and OH^-.

29.

The odor of vinegar is due to the presence of acetic acid, CH_3CO_2H, a weak acid. List, in order of descending concentration, all of the ionic and molecular species present in a 1-*M* aqueous solution of this acid.

30.

Household ammonia is a solution of the weak base NH_3 in water. List, in order of descending concentration, all of the ionic and molecular species present in a 1-*M* aqueous solution of this base.

31.

Explain why the ionization constant, K_a, for H_2SO_4 is larger than the ionization constant for H_2SO_3.

32.

Explain why the ionization constant, K_a, for HI is larger than the ionization constant for HF.

33.

Gastric juice, the digestive fluid produced in the stomach, contains hydrochloric acid, HCl. Milk of Magnesia, a suspension of solid $Mg(OH)_2$ in an aqueous medium, is sometimes used to neutralize excess stomach acid. Write a complete balanced equation for the neutralization reaction, and identify the conjugate acid-base pairs.

34.

Nitric acid reacts with insoluble copper(II) oxide to form soluble copper(II) nitrate, $Cu(NO_3)_2$, a compound that has been used to prevent the growth of algae in swimming pools. Write the balanced chemical equation for the reaction of an aqueous solution of HNO_3 with CuO.

35.

What is the ionization constant at 25 °C for the weak acid the conjugate acid of the weak base CH_3NH_2, K_b = 4.4 \times 10^{−4}.

36.

What is the ionization constant at 25 °C for the weak acid the conjugate acid of the weak base $(CH_3)_2NH$, K_b = 5.9 \times 10^{−4}?

37.

Which base, CH_3NH_2 or $(CH_3)_2NH$, is the stronger base? Which conjugate acid, or , is the stronger acid?

38.

Which is the stronger acid, or HBrO?

39.

Which is the stronger base, $(CH_3)_3N$ or

40.

Predict which acid in each of the following pairs is the stronger and explain your reasoning for each.

a. H_2O or HF
b. $B(OH)_3$ or $Al(OH)_3$
c. or
d. NH_3 or H_2S
e. H_2O or H_2Te

41.

Predict which compound in each of the following pairs of compounds is more acidic and explain your reasoning for each.

a. or
b. NH_3 or H_2O
c. PH_3 or HI
d. NH_3 or PH_3
e. H_2S or HBr

42.

Rank the compounds in each of the following groups in order of increasing acidity or basicity, as indicated, and explain the order you assign.

a. acidity: HCl, HBr, HI
b. basicity: H_2O, OH^-, H^-, Cl^-
c. basicity: $Mg(OH)_2$, $Si(OH)_4$, $ClO_3(OH)$ (Hint: Formula could also be written as $HClO_4$.)
d. acidity: HF, H_2O, NH_3, CH_4

43.

Rank the compounds in each of the following groups in order of increasing acidity or basicity, as indicated, and explain the order you assign.

a. (f) basicity: BrO^-,

44.

Both HF and HCN ionize in water to a limited extent. Which of the conjugate bases, F^- or CN^-, is the stronger base?

45.

The active ingredient formed by aspirin in the body is salicylic acid, $C_6H_4OH(CO_2H)$. The carboxyl group ($-CO_2H$) acts as a weak acid. The phenol group (an OH group bonded to an aromatic ring) also acts as an acid but a much weaker acid. List, in order of descending concentration, all of the ionic and molecular species present in a 0.001-*M* aqueous solution of $C_6H_4OH(CO_2H)$.

46.

Are the concentrations of hydronium ion and hydroxide ion in a solution of an acid or a base in water directly proportional or inversely proportional? Explain your answer.

47.

What two common assumptions can simplify calculation of equilibrium concentrations in a solution of a weak acid or base?

48.

Which of the following will increase the percent of NH_3 that is converted to the ammonium ion in water?

a. addition of NaOH
b. addition of HCl
c. addition of NH_4Cl

49.

Which of the following will increase the percentage of HF that is converted to the fluoride ion in water?

a. addition of NaOH
b. addition of HCl
c. addition of NaF

50.

What is the effect on the concentrations of HNO_2, and OH^- when the following are added to a solution of KNO_2 in water:

a. HCl
b. HNO_2
c. NaOH
d. NaCl
e. KNO

51.

What is the effect on the concentration of hydrofluoric acid, hydronium ion, and fluoride ion when the following are added to separate solutions of hydrofluoric acid?

a. HCl
b. KF
c. NaCl
d. KOH
e. HF

52.

Why is the hydronium ion concentration in a solution that is 0.10 *M* in HCl and 0.10 *M* in HCOOH determined by the concentration of HCl?

53.

From the equilibrium concentrations given, calculate K_a for each of the weak acids and K_b for each of the weak bases.

(a) CH_3CO_2H: = 1.34 \times 10^{−3} *M*;
= 1.34 \times 10^{−3} *M*;

$[CH_3CO_2H]$ = 9.866 \times 10^{−2} *M*;

(b) ClO^-: $[OH^-] = 4.0 \times 10^{-4}$ *M*;

$[HClO] = 2.38 \times 10^{-4}$ *M*;

$[ClO^-] = 0.273$ *M*;

(c) HCO_2H: $[HCO_2H] = 0.524$ *M*;
$= 9.8 \times 10^{-3}$ *M*;
$= 9.8 \times 10^{-3}$ *M*;

(d) = 0.233 *M*;

$[C_6H_5NH_2] = 2.3 \times 10^{-3}$ *M*;
$= 2.3 \times 10^{-3}$ *M*

54.

From the equilibrium concentrations given, calculate K_a for each of the weak acids and K_b for each of the weak bases.

(a) NH_3: $[OH^-] = 3.1 \times 10^{-3}$ *M*;
$= 3.1 \times 10^{-3}$ *M*;

$[NH_3] = 0.533$ *M*;

(b) HNO_2: = 0.011 *M*;
= 0.0438 *M*;

$[HNO_2] = 1.07$ *M*;

(c) $(CH_3)_3N$: $[(CH_3)_3N] = 0.25$ *M*;
$[(CH_3)_3NH^+] = 4.3 \times 10^{-3}$ *M*;

$[OH^-] = 3.7 \times 10^{-3}$ *M*;

(d) = 0.100 *M*;

$[NH_3] = 7.5 \times 10^{-6}$ *M*;
$[H_3O^+] = 7.5 \times 10^{-6}$ *M*

55.

Determine K_b for the nitrite ion, In a 0.10-*M* solution this base is 0.0015% ionized.

56.

Determine K_a for hydrogen sulfate ion, In a 0.10-*M* solution the acid is 29% ionized.

57.

Calculate the ionization constant for each of the following acids or bases from the ionization constant of its conjugate base or conjugate acid:

a. (f) (as a base)

58.

Calculate the ionization constant for each of the following acids or bases from the ionization constant of its conjugate base or conjugate acid:

a. (f) (as a base)

59.

Using the K_a value of 1.4

60.

Calculate the concentration of all solute species in each of the following solutions of acids or bases. Assume that the ionization of water can be neglected, and show that the change in the initial concentrations can be neglected.

a. 0.0092 *M* HClO, a weak acid
b. 0.0784 *M* $C_6H_5NH_2$, a weak base
c. 0.0810 *M* HCN, a weak acid
d. 0.11 *M* $(CH_3)_3N$, a weak base
e. 0.120 *M* a weak acid, $K_a = 1.6 \times 10^{-7}$

61.

Propionic acid, $C_2H_5CO_2H$ ($K_a = 1.34 \times 10^{-5}$), is used in the manufacture of calcium propionate, a food preservative. What is the pH of a 0.698-*M* solution of $C_2H_5CO_2H$?

62.

White vinegar is a 5.0% by mass solution of acetic acid in water. If the density of white vinegar is 1.007 g/cm^3, what is the pH?

63.

The ionization constant of lactic acid, $CH_3CH(OH)CO_2H$, an acid found in the blood after strenuous exercise, is 1.36×10^{-4}. If 20.0 g of lactic acid is used to make a solution with a volume of 1.00 L, what is the concentration of hydronium ion in the solution?

64.

Nicotine, $C_{10}H_{14}N_2$, is a base that will accept two protons ($K_{b1} = 7 \times 10^{-7}$, $K_{b2} = 1.4 \times 10^{-11}$). What is the concentration of each species present in a 0.050-*M* solution of nicotine?

65.

The pH of a 0.23-*M* solution of HF is 1.92. Determine K_a for HF from these data.

66.

The pH of a 0.15-*M* solution of is 1.43. Determine K_a for from these data.

67.

The pH of a 0.10-*M* solution of caffeine is 11.70. Determine K_b for caffeine from these data:

68.

The pH of a solution of household ammonia, a 0.950 M solution of NH_3, is 11.612. Determine K_b for NH_3 from these data.

69.

Determine whether aqueous solutions of the following salts are acidic, basic, or neutral:

a. $Al(NO_3)_3$
b. RbI
c. $KHCO_2$
d. CH_3NH_3Br

70.

Determine whether aqueous solutions of the following salts are acidic, basic, or neutral:

a. $FeCl_3$
b. K_2CO_3
c. NH_4Br
d. $KClO_4$

71.

Novocaine, $C_{13}H_{21}O_2N_2Cl$, is the salt of the base procaine and hydrochloric acid. The ionization constant for procaine is 7×10^{-6}. Is a solution of novocaine acidic or basic? What are $[H_3O^+]$, $[OH^-]$, and pH of a 2.0% solution by mass of novocaine, assuming that the density of the solution is 1.0 g/mL.

72.

Which of the following concentrations would be practically equal in a calculation of the equilibrium concentrations in a 0.134-*M* solution of H_2CO_3, a diprotic acid: [OH^-], [H_2CO_3], No calculations are needed to answer this question.

73.

Calculate the concentration of each species present in a 0.050-*M* solution of H_2S.

74.

Calculate the concentration of each species present in a 0.010-*M* solution of phthalic acid, $C_6H_4(CO_2H)_2$.

75.

Salicylic acid, $HOC_6H_4CO_2H$, and its derivatives have been used as pain relievers for a long time. Salicylic acid occurs in small amounts in the leaves, bark, and roots of some vegetation (most notably historically in the bark of the willow tree). Extracts of these plants have been used as medications for centuries. The acid was first isolated in the laboratory in 1838.

a. Both functional groups of salicylic acid ionize in water, with K_a = 1.0 \times 10^{−3} for the—CO_2H group and 4.2 \times 10^{−13} for the −OH group. What is the pH of a saturated solution of the acid (solubility = 1.8 g/L).
b. Aspirin was discovered as a result of efforts to produce a derivative of salicylic acid that would not be irritating to the stomach lining. Aspirin is acetylsalicylic acid, $CH_3CO_2C_6H_4CO_2H$. The $-CO_2H$ functional group is still present, but its acidity is reduced, K_a = 3.0 \times 10^{−4}. What is the pH of a solution of aspirin with the same concentration as a saturated solution of salicylic acid (See Part a).

76.

The ion HTe^- is an amphiprotic species; it can act as either an acid or a base.

a. What is K_a for the acid reaction of HTe^- with H_2O?
b. What is K_b for the reaction in which HTe^- functions as a base in water?
c. Demonstrate whether or not the second ionization of H_2Te can be neglected in the calculation of [HTe^-] in a 0.10 M solution of H_2Te.

77.

Explain why a buffer can be prepared from a mixture of NH_4Cl and NaOH but not from NH_3 and NaOH.

78.

Explain why the pH does not change significantly when a small amount of an acid or a base is added to a solution that contains equal amounts of the acid H_3PO_4 and a salt of its conjugate base NaH_2PO_4.

79.

Explain why the pH does not change significantly when a small amount of an acid or a base is added to a solution that contains equal amounts of the base NH_3 and a salt of its conjugate acid NH_4Cl.

80.

What is [H_3O^+] in a solution of 0.25 *M* CH_3CO_2H and 0.030 *M* $NaCH_3CO_2$?

81.

What is [H_3O^+] in a solution of 0.075 *M* HNO_2 and 0.030 *M* $NaNO_2$?

82.

What is [OH^-] in a solution of 0.125 *M* CH_3NH_2 and 0.130 *M* CH_3NH_3Cl?

83.

What is [OH^-] in a solution of 1.25 *M* NH_3 and 0.78 *M* NH_4NO_3?

84.

What is the effect on the concentration of acetic acid, hydronium ion, and acetate ion when the following are added to an acidic buffer solution of equal concentrations of acetic acid and sodium acetate:

a. HCl

b. KCH_3CO_2
c. NaCl
d. KOH
e. CH_3CO_2H

85.

What is the effect on the concentration of ammonia, hydroxide ion, and ammonium ion when the following are added to a basic buffer solution of equal concentrations of ammonia and ammonium nitrate:

a. KI
b. NH_3
c. HI
d. NaOH
e. NH_4Cl

86.

What will be the pH of a buffer solution prepared from 0.20 mol NH_3, 0.40 mol NH_4NO_3, and just enough water to give 1.00 L of solution?

87.

Calculate the pH of a buffer solution prepared from 0.155 mol of phosphoric acid, 0.250 mole of KH_2PO_4, and enough water to make 0.500 L of solution.

88.

How much solid $NaCH_3CO_2 \cdot 3H_2O$ must be added to 0.300 L of a 0.50-*M* acetic acid solution to give a buffer with a pH of 5.00? (Hint: Assume a negligible change in volume as the solid is added.)

89.

What mass of NH_4Cl must be added to 0.750 L of a 0.100-*M* solution of NH_3 to give a buffer solution with a pH of 9.26? (Hint: Assume a negligible change in volume as the solid is added.)

90.

A buffer solution is prepared from equal volumes of 0.200 *M* acetic acid and 0.600 *M* sodium acetate. Use 1.80 \times 10^{−5} as K_a for acetic acid.

a. What is the pH of the solution?
b. Is the solution acidic or basic?
c. What is the pH of a solution that results when 3.00 mL of 0.034 *M* HCl is added to 0.200 L of the original buffer?

91.

A 5.36–g sample of NH_4Cl was added to 25.0 mL of 1.00 *M* NaOH and the resulting solution

diluted to 0.100 L.

a. What is the pH of this buffer solution?
b. Is the solution acidic or basic?
c. What is the pH of a solution that results when 3.00 mL of 0.034 *M* HCl is added to the solution?

92.

Explain how to choose the appropriate acid-base indicator for the titration of a weak base with a strong acid.

93.

Explain why an acid-base indicator changes color over a range of pH values rather than at a specific pH.

94.

Calculate the pH at the following points in a titration of 40 mL (0.040 L) of 0.100 *M* barbituric acid (K_a = 9.8 \times 10^{−5}) with 0.100 *M* KOH.

a. no KOH added
b. 20 mL of KOH solution added
c. 39 mL of KOH solution added
d. 40 mL of KOH solution added
e. 41 mL of KOH solution added

95.

The indicator dinitrophenol is an acid with a K_a of 1.1 \times 10^{−4}. In a 1.0 \times 10^{−4}-*M* solution, it is colorless in acid and yellow in base. Calculate the pH range over which it goes from 10% ionized (colorless) to 90% ionized (yellow).

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CHAPTER OVERVIEW

4: Equilibria of Other Reaction Classes

We previously learned about aqueous solutions and their importance, as well as about solubility rules. While this gives us a picture of solubility, that picture is not complete if we look at the rules alone. Solubility equilibrium, which we will explore in this chapter, is a more complex topic that allows us to determine the extent to which a slightly soluble ionic solid will dissolve, and the conditions under which precipitation.

4.1: Introduction
4.2: Precipitation and Dissolution
4.3: Lewis Acids and Bases
4.4: Coupled Equilibria
4.5: Key Terms
4.6: Key Equations
4.7: Summary
4.8: Exercises

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4.1: Introduction

The mineral fluorite, CaF_2 Figure 4.1.1: , is commonly used as a semiprecious stone in many types of jewelry because of its striking appearance. Deposits of fluorite are formed through a process called hydrothermal precipitation in which calcium and fluoride ions dissolved in groundwater combine to produce insoluble CaF_2 in response to some change in solution conditions. For example, a decrease in temperature may trigger fluorite precipitation if its solubility is exceeded at the lower temperature. Because fluoride ion is a weak base, its solubility is also affected by solution pH, and so geologic or other processes that change groundwater pH will also affect the precipitation of fluorite. This chapter extends the equilibrium discussion of other chapters by addressing some additional reaction classes (including precipitation) and systems involving coupled equilibrium reactions.

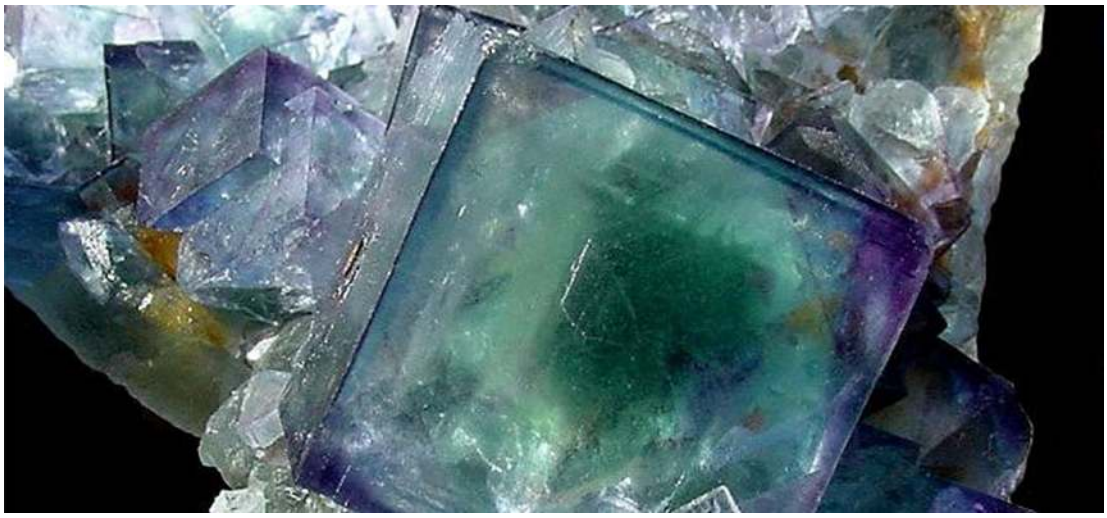


Figure 4.1.1: The mineral fluorite (CaF_2) is formed when dissolved calcium and fluoride ions precipitate from groundwater within the Earth's crust. Note that pure fluorite is colorless, and that the color in this sample is due to the presence of other metal ions in the crystal.

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4.2: Precipitation and Dissolution

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Write chemical equations and equilibrium expressions representing solubility equilibria
- Carry out equilibrium computations involving solubility, equilibrium expressions, and solute concentrations

Solubility equilibria are established when the dissolution and precipitation of a solute species occur at equal rates. These equilibria underlie many natural and technological processes, ranging from tooth decay to water purification. An understanding of the factors affecting compound solubility is, therefore, essential to the effective management of these processes. This section applies previously introduced equilibrium concepts and tools to systems involving dissolution and precipitation.

The Solubility Product

Recall from the chapter on solutions that the solubility of a substance can vary from essentially zero (*insoluble* or *sparingly soluble*) to infinity (*miscible*). A solute with finite solubility can yield a *saturated* solution when it is added to a solvent in an amount exceeding its solubility, resulting in a heterogeneous mixture of the saturated solution and the excess, undissolved solute. For example, a saturated solution of silver chloride is one in which the equilibrium shown below has been established.

$$\mathrm{AgCl\,(s)} \underset{\text{precipitation}}{\overset{\text{dissolution}}{\rightleftharpoons}} \mathrm{Ag^+\,(aq) + Cl^-\,(aq)}$$

In this solution, an excess of solid AgCl dissolves and dissociates to produce aqueous $\mathrm{Ag^+}$ and $\mathrm{Cl^-}$ ions at the same rate that these aqueous ions combine and precipitate to form solid AgCl (Figure 4.2.1). Because silver chloride is a sparingly soluble salt, the equilibrium concentration of its dissolved ions in the solution is relatively low.

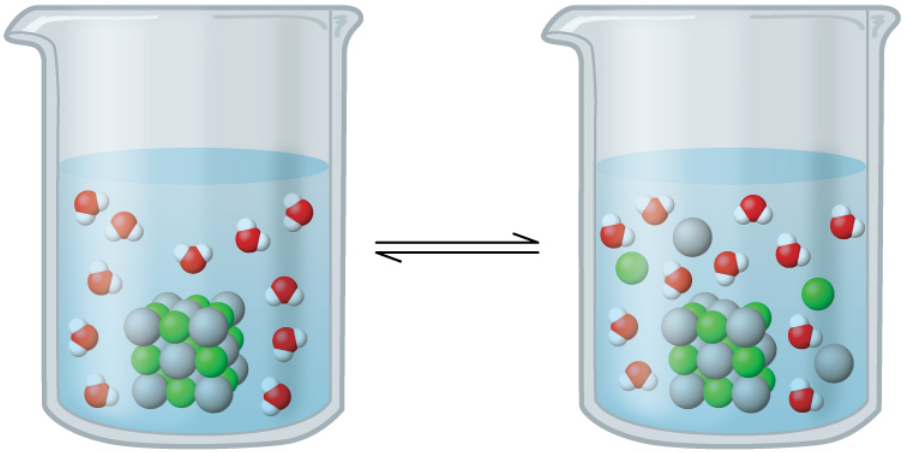


Figure 4.2.1: Silver chloride is a sparingly soluble ionic solid. When it is added to water, it dissolves slightly and produces a mixture consisting of a very dilute solution of $\mathrm{Ag^+}$ and $\mathrm{Cl^-}$ ions in equilibrium with undissolved silver chloride.

The equilibrium constant for solubility equilibria such as this one is called the **solubility product constant, K_{sp},** in this case

$$\mathrm{AgCl\,(s) \rightleftharpoons Ag^+\,(aq) + Cl^-\,(aq)} \qquad K_{sp} = [\mathrm{Ag^+\,(aq)}]\,[\mathrm{Cl^-\,(aq)}]$$

Recall that only gases and solutes are represented in equilibrium constant expressions, so the K_{sp} does not include a term for the undissolved AgCl. A listing of solubility product constants for several sparingly soluble compounds is provided in Appendix J.

Example 4.2.1: Writing Equations and Solubility Products

Write the dissolution equation and the solubility product expression for each of the following slightly soluble ionic compounds:

a. AgI, silver iodide, a solid with antiseptic properties
b. $CaCO_3$, calcium carbonate, the active ingredient in many over-the-counter chewable antacids
c. $Mg(OH)_2$, magnesium hydroxide, the active ingredient in Milk of Magnesia
d. $Mg(NH_4)PO_4$, magnesium ammonium phosphate, an essentially insoluble substance used in tests for magnesium
e. $Ca_5(PO_4)_3OH$, the mineral apatite, a source of phosphate for fertilizers

Solution

a. $AgI(s) \rightleftharpoons Ag^+(aq) + I^-(aq)$

$$K_{sp} = [Ag^+][I^-]$$

b. $CaCO_3(s) \rightleftharpoons Ca^{2+}(aq) + CO_3{}^{2-}(aq)$

$$K_{sp} = [Ca^{2+}][CO_3{}^{2-}]$$

c. $Mg(OH)_2(s) \rightleftharpoons Mg^{2+}(aq) + 2\,OH^-(aq)$

$$K_{sp} = [Mg^{2+}][OH^-]^2$$

d. $Mg(NH_4)PO_4(s) \rightleftharpoons Mg^{2+}(aq) + NH_4{}^+(aq) + PO_4{}^{3-}(aq)$

$$K_{sp} = [Mg^{2+}][NH_4{}^+][PO_4{}^{3-}]$$

e. $Ca_5(PO_4)\ 3\,OH(s) \rightleftharpoons 5\,Ca^{2+}(aq) + 3\,PO_4{}^{3-}(aq) + OH^-(aq)$

$$K_{sp} = [Ca^{2+}]^5[PO_4{}^{3-}]^3[OH^-]$$

Exercise 4.2.1

Write the dissolution equation and the solubility product for each of the following slightly soluble compounds:

a. $BaSO_4$
b. Ag_2SO_4
c. $Al(OH)_3$
d. Pb(OH)Cl

Answer

a. $BaSO_4(s) \rightleftharpoons Ba^{2+}(aq) + SO_4{}^{2-}(aq)$

$$K_{sp} = [Ba^{2+}][SO_4{}^{2-}]$$

b. $Ag_2SO_4(s) \rightleftharpoons 2\,Ag^+(aq) + SO_4{}^{2-}(aq)$

$$K_{sp} = [Ag^+]^2[SO_4{}^{2-}]$$

c. $Al(OH)_3(s) \rightleftharpoons Al^{3+}(aq) + 3\,OH^-(aq)$

$$K_{sp} = [Al^{3+}][OH^-]^3$$

d. $Pb(OH)Cl(s) \rightleftharpoons Pb^{2+}(aq) + OH^-(aq) + Cl^-(aq)$

$$K_{sp} = [Pb^{2+}][OH^-][Cl^-]$$

K_{sp} and Solubility

The K_{sp} of a slightly soluble ionic compound may be simply related to its measured solubility provided the dissolution process involves only dissociation and solvation, for example:

$$\mathrm{M}_p\mathrm{X}_q\,(\mathrm{s}) \rightleftharpoons \mathrm{p}\ \mathrm{M}^{m+}\,(\mathrm{aq}) + \mathrm{q}\ \mathrm{X}^{n-}\,(\mathrm{aq})$$

For cases such as these, one may derive K_{sp} values from provided solubilities, or vice-versa. Calculations of this sort are most conveniently performed using a compound's molar solubility, measured as moles of dissolved solute per liter of saturated solution.

Example 4.2.2: Calculation of K_{sp} from Equilibrium Concentrations

Fluorite, $\mathrm{CaF_2}$, is a slightly soluble solid that dissolves according to the equation:

$$\mathrm{CaF_2\,(s)} \rightleftharpoons \mathrm{Ca^{2+}\,(aq) + 2\,F^-\,(aq)}$$

The concentration of $\mathrm{Ca^{2+}}$ in a saturated solution of $\mathrm{CaF_2}$ is 2.15×10^{-4} M. What is the solubility product of fluorite?

Solution

According to the stoichiometry of the dissolution equation, the fluoride ion molarity of a $\mathrm{CaF_2}$ solution is equal to twice its calcium ion molarity:

$$[F^-] = \left(2\ \mathrm{mol\ F^-}/1\ \mathrm{mol\ Ca^{2+}}\right) = (2)\left(2.15 \times 10^{-4} M\right) = 4.30 \times 10^{-4} M$$

Substituting the ion concentrations into the K_{sp} expression gives

$$K_{sp} = \left[\mathrm{Ca^{2+}}\right]\left[\mathrm{F^-}\right]^2 = \left(2.15 \times 10^{-4}\right)\left(4.30 \times 10^{-4}\right)^2 = 3.98 \times 10^{-11}$$

Exercise 4.2.2

In a saturated solution of $\mathrm{Mg(OH)_2}$, the concentration of $\mathrm{Mg^{2+}}$ is 1.31×10^{-4} M. What is the solubility product for $\mathrm{Mg(OH)_2}$?

$$\mathrm{Mg(OH)_2\,(s)} \rightleftharpoons \mathrm{Mg^{2+}\,(aq) + 2\,OH^-\,(aq)}$$

Answer

8.99×10^{-12}

Example 4.2.3: Determination of Molar Solubility from K_{sp}

The K_{sp} of copper(I) bromide, CuBr, is 6.3×10^{-9}. Calculate the molar solubility of copper bromide.

Solution

The dissolution equation and solubility product expression are

$$\mathrm{CuBr\,(s)} \rightleftharpoons \mathrm{Cu^+(aq)^+\ Br^-\,(aq)}$$

with

$$K_{sp} = \left[\mathrm{Cu^+}\right]\left[\mathrm{Br^-}\right]$$

Following the ICE approach to this calculation yields the table

	CuBr (*s*) $\rightleftharpoons$	Cu^+ (*aq*)	+ Br^- (*aq*)
Initial concentration (*M*)		0	0
Change (*M*)		+*x*	+*x*
Equilibrium concentration (*M*)		*x*	*x*

Substituting the equilibrium concentration terms into the solubility product expression and solving for x yields

$$\begin{aligned} K_{sp} &= [\mathrm{Cu}^+]\,[\mathrm{Br}^-] \\ 6.3 \times 10^{-9} &= (x)(x) = x^2 \\ x &= \sqrt{6.3 \times 10^{-9}} \\ &= 7.9 \times 10^{-5}\,\mathrm{M} \end{aligned}$$

Since the dissolution stoichiometry shows one mole of copper(I) ion and one mole of bromide ion are produced for each moles of Br dissolved, the molar solubility of CuBr is 7.9×10^{-5} M.

? Exercise 4.2.3

The K_{sp} of AgI is 1.5×10^{-16}. Calculate the molar solubility of silver iodide.

Answer

1.2×10^{-8} M

✔ Example 4.2.4: Determination of Molar Solubility from K_{sp}

The K_{sp} of calcium hydroxide, $Ca(OH)_2$, is 1.3×10^{-6}. Calculate the molar solubility of calcium hydroxide.

Solution

The dissolution equation and solubility product expression are

$$\mathrm{Ca(OH)_2\,(s)} \rightleftharpoons \mathrm{Ca^{2+}\,(aq)} + 2\,\mathrm{OH^-\,(aq)}$$

with

$$K_{sp} = \left[\mathrm{Ca^{2+}}\right]\left[\mathrm{OH^-}\right]^2$$

The ICE table for this system is

	$Ca(OH)_2$ (s) $\rightleftharpoons$ Ca^{2+} (*aq*)	+	$2OH^-$ (*aq*)
Initial concentration (*M*)		0	0
Change (*M*)		+*x*	+2*x*
Equilibrium concentration (*M*)		*x*	2*x*

Substituting terms for the equilibrium concentrations into the solubility product expression and solving for x gives

$$\begin{aligned} K_{sp} &= \left[\mathrm{Ca^{2+}}\right]\left[\mathrm{OH^-}\right]^2 \\ 1.3 \times 10^{-6} &= (x)(2x)^2 = (x)\left(4x^2\right) = 4x^3 \\ x &= \sqrt[3]{\frac{1.3 \times 10^{-6}}{4}} \\ &= 6.9 \times 10^{-3}\,\mathrm{M} \end{aligned}$$

As defined in the ICE table, x is the molarity of calcium ion in the saturated solution. The dissolution stoichiometry shows a 1:1 relation between moles of calcium ion in solution and moles of compound dissolved, and so, the molar solubility of $Ca(OH)_2$ is 6.9×10^{-3} M.

Exercise 4.2.4

The K_{sp} of PbI_2 is 1.4×10^{-8}. Calculate the molar solubility of lead(II) iodide.

Answer

1.5×10^{-3} M

Example 4.2.5: Determination of K_{sp} from Gram Solubility

Many of the pigments used by artists in oil-based paints (Figure 4.2.2) are sparingly soluble in water. For example, the solubility of the artist's pigment chrome yellow, $PbCrO_4$, is 4.6×10^{-6} g/L. Determine the solubility product for $PbCrO_4$.



Figure 4.2.2: Oil paints contain pigments that are very slightly soluble in water. In addition to chrome yellow ($PbCrO_4$), examples include Prussian blue ($Fe_7(CN)_{18}$), the reddish-orange color vermilion (HgS), and green color veridian (Cr_2O_3). (credit: Sonny Abesamis)

Solution

Before calculating the solubility product, the provided solubility must be converted to molarity:

$$[PbCrO_4] = \frac{4.6 \times 10^{-6}\ \text{g PbCrO4}}{1\ \text{L}} \times \frac{1\ \text{mol PbCrO}_4}{323.2\ \text{g PbCrO}_4}$$

$$= \frac{1.4 \times 10^{-8}\ \text{mol PbCrO}_4}{1\,\text{L}}$$

$$= 1.4 \times 10^{-8}\,\text{M}$$

The dissolution equation for this compound is

$$PbCrO_4\,(s) \rightleftharpoons Pb^{2+}\,(aq) + {CrO_4}^{2-}\,(aq)$$

The dissolution stoichiometry shows a 1:1 relation between the molar amounts of compound and its two ions, and so both $[Pb^{2+}]$ and $[{CrO_4}^{2-}]$ are equal to the molar solubility of $PbCrO_4$:

$$[Pb^{2+}] = [{CrO_4}^{2-}] = 1.4 \times 10^{-8}\ \text{M}$$

Therefore

$$K_{sp} = [Pb^{2+}][{CrO_4}^{2-}] = (1.4 \times 10^{-8})(1.4 \times 10^{-8}) = 2.0 \times 10^{-16}$$

Exercise 4.2.5

The solubility of TlCl [thallium(I) chloride], an intermediate formed when thallium is being isolated from ores, is 3.12 grams per liter at 20 °C. What is its solubility product?

Answer

1.69×10^{-4}

Example 4.2.6: Calculating the Solubility of Hg_2Cl_2

Calomel, Hg_2Cl_2, is a compound composed of the diatomic ion of mercury(I), and chloride ions, Cl^-. Although most mercury compounds are now known to be poisonous, eighteenth-century physicians used calomel as a medication. Their patients rarely suffered any mercury poisoning from the treatments because calomel has a very low solubility, as suggested by its very small K_{sp}:

$$Hg_2Cl_2\,(s) \rightleftharpoons {Hg_2}^{2+}\,(aq) + 2\,Cl^-\,(aq) \quad K_{sp} = 1.1 \times 10^{-18}$$

Calculate the molar solubility of Hg_2Cl_2.

Solution

The dissolution stoichiometry shows a 1:1 relation between the amount of compound dissolved and the amount of mercury(I) ions, and so the molar solubility of Hg_2Cl_2 is equal to the concentration of ions

Following the ICE approach results in

	$Hg_2Cl_2\,(s) \rightleftharpoons {Hg_2}^{2+}\,(aq)$	+	$2Cl^-\,(aq)$
Initial concentration (*M*)		0	0
Change (*M*)		$+x$	$+2x$
Equilibrium concentration (*M*)		x	$2x$

Substituting the equilibrium concentration terms into the solubility product expression and solving for x gives

$$\begin{aligned} K_{sp} &= \left[{Hg_2}^{2+}\right]\left[Cl^-\right]^2 \\ 1.1 \times 10^{-18} &= (x)(2x)^2 \\ 4x^3 &= 1.1 \times 10^{-18} \\ x &= \sqrt[3]{\left(\frac{1.1 \times 10^{-18}}{4}\right)} \\ &= 6.5 \times 10^{-7}\ \text{M} \end{aligned}$$

Therefore

$$\begin{aligned} \left[{Hg_2}^{2+}\right] &= 6.5 \times 10^{-7}\ \text{M} \\ &= 6.5 \times 10^{-7}\ \text{M} \\ \left[Cl^-\right] &= 2x = 2\left(6.5 \times 10^{-7}\ \text{M}\right) \\ &= 1.3 \times 10^{-6} M \end{aligned}$$

The dissolution stoichiometry shows the molar solubility of Hg_2Cl_2 is equal to $\left[{Hg_2}^{2+}\right]$ or 6.5×10^{-7} M.

Exercise 4.2.6

Determine the molar solubility of MgF_2 from its solubility product: $K_{sp} = 6.4 \times 10^{-9}$.

Answer

1.2×10^{-3} M

How Sciences Interconnect: Using Barium Sulfate for Medical Imaging

Various types of medical imaging techniques are used to aid diagnoses of illnesses in a noninvasive manner. One such technique utilizes the ingestion of a barium compound before taking an X-ray image. A suspension of barium sulfate, a chalky powder, is ingested by the patient. Since the K_{sp} of barium sulfate is 2.3×10^{-8}, very little of it dissolves as it coats the lining of the patient's intestinal tract. Barium-coated areas of the digestive tract then appear on an X-ray as white, allowing for greater visual detail than a traditional X-ray (Figure 4.2.3).



Figure 4.2.3: A suspension of barium sulfate coats the intestinal tract, permitting greater visual detail than a traditional X-ray. (credit modification of work by "glitzy queen00"/Wikimedia Commons)

Medical imaging using barium sulfate can be used to diagnose acid reflux disease, Crohn's disease, and ulcers in addition to other conditions.

Visit this website for more information on how barium is used in medical diagnoses and which conditions it is used to diagnose.

Predicting Precipitation

The equation that describes the equilibrium between solid calcium carbonate and its solvated ions is:

$$\mathrm{CaCO_3\,(s)} \rightleftharpoons \mathrm{Ca^{2+}\,(aq)} + \mathrm{{CO_3}^{2-}\,(aq)}$$

with

$$K_{sp} = \left[\mathrm{Ca^{2+}}\right]\left[\mathrm{{CO_3}^{2-}}\right] = 8.7 \times 10^{-9}$$

It is important to realize that this equilibrium is established in any aqueous solution containing Ca^{2+} and CO_3^{2-} ions, not just in a solution formed by saturating water with calcium carbonate. Consider, for example, mixing aqueous solutions of the soluble compounds sodium carbonate and calcium nitrate. If the concentrations of calcium and carbonate ions in the mixture do not yield a reaction quotient, Q_{sp}, that exceeds the solubility product, K_{sp}, then no precipitation will occur. If the ion concentrations yield a reaction quotient greater than the solubility product, then precipitation will occur, lowering those concentrations until equilibrium is established ($Q_{sp} = K_{sp}$). The comparison of Q_{sp} to K_{sp} to predict precipitation is an example of the general approach to predicting the direction of a reaction first introduced in the chapter on equilibrium. For the specific case of solubility equilibria:

- $Q_{sp} < K_{sp}$: the reaction proceeds in the forward direction (solution is not saturated; no precipitation observed)
- $Q_{sp} > K_{sp}$: the reaction proceeds in the reverse direction (solution is supersaturated; precipitation will occur)

This predictive strategy and related calculations are demonstrated in the next few example exercises.

Example 4.2.7: Precipitation of $Mg(OH)_2$

The first step in the preparation of magnesium metal is the precipitation of $Mg(OH)_2$ from sea water by the addition of lime, $Ca(OH)_2$, a readily available inexpensive source of OH^- ion:

$$\mathrm{Mg(OH)_2\,(s) \rightleftharpoons Mg^{2+}\,(aq) + 2\,OH^-\,(aq)} \quad K_{sp} = 8.9 \times 10^{-12}$$

The concentration of $Mg^{2+}(aq)$ in sea water is 0.0537 *M*. Will $Mg(OH)_2$ precipitate when enough $Ca(OH)_2$ is added to give a $[OH^-]$ of 0.0010 *M*?

Solution

Calculation of the reaction quotient under these conditions is shown here:

$$Q = \left[\mathrm{Mg^{2+}}\right]\left[\mathrm{OH^-}\right]^2 = (0.0537)(0.0010)^2 = 5.4 \times 10^{-8}$$

Because *Q* is greater than K_{sp} (\(Q = 5.4 \times 10^{–8}\) is larger than $K_{sp} = 8.9 \times 10^{-12}$), the reverse reaction will proceed, precipitating magnesium hydroxide until the dissolved ion concentrations have been sufficiently lowered, so that $Q_{sp} = K_{sp}$.

Exercise 4.2.7

Predict whether $\mathrm{CaHPO_4}$ will precipitate from a solution with $[Ca^{2+}]$ = 0.0001 *M* and = 0.001 *M*.

Answer

No precipitation of $\mathrm{CaHPO_4}$; $Q = 1 \times 10^{-7}$, which is less than K_{sp} (7×10^{-7})

Example 4.2.8: Precipitation of AgCl

Does silver chloride precipitate when equal volumes of a 2.0×10^{-4}-M solution of AgNO3 and a 2.0×10^{-4}-M solution of NaCl are mixed?

Solution

The equation for the equilibrium between solid silver chloride, silver ion, and chloride ion is:

$$\mathrm{AgCl\,(s) \rightleftharpoons Ag^+\,(aq) + Cl^-\,(aq)}$$

The solubility product is 1.6×10^{-10} (see appendix J).

AgCl will precipitate if the reaction quotient calculated from the concentrations in the mixture of $AgNO_3$ and NaCl is greater than K_{sp}. Because the volume doubles when equal volumes of $AgNO_3$ and NaCl solutions are mixed, each concentration is reduced to half its initial value

$$\frac{1}{2}\left(2.0 \times 10^{-4}\right) M = 1.0 \times 10^{-4}\ \mathrm{M}$$

The reaction quotient, *Q*, is greater than K_{sp} for AgCl, so a supersaturated solution is formed:

$$Q = \left[\mathrm{Ag^+}\right]\left[\mathrm{Cl^-}\right] = \left(1.0 \times 10^{-4}\right)\left(1.0 \times 10^{-4}\right) = 1.0 \times 10^{-8} > K_{sp}$$

AgCl will precipitate from the mixture until the dissolution equilibrium is established, with *Q* equal to K_{sp}.

Exercise 4.2.8

Will $KClO_4$ precipitate when 20 mL of a 0.050-*M* solution of K^+ is added to 80 mL of a 0.50-*M* solution of ClO_4^-? (Hint: Use the dilution equation to calculate the concentrations of potassium and perchlorate ions in the mixture.)

Answer

No, $Q = 4.0 \times 10^{-3}$, which is less than $K_{sp} = 1.05 \times 10^{-2}$

Example 4.2.9: Precipitation of Calcium Oxalate

Blood will not clot if calcium ions are removed from its plasma. Some blood collection tubes contain salts of the oxalate ion, $C_2O_4^{2-}$, for this purpose (Figure 4.2.4). At sufficiently high concentrations, the calcium and oxalate ions form solid, $CaC_2O_4 \cdot H_2O$ (calcium oxalate monohydrate). The concentration of Ca^{2+} in a sample of blood serum is $2.2 \times 10^{-3} M$. What concentration of $C_2O_4^{2-}$ ion must be established before $CaC_2O_4 \cdot H_2O$ begins to precipitate?



Figure 4.2.4: Anticoagulants can be added to blood that will combine with the Ca^{2+} ions in blood serum and prevent the blood from clotting. (credit: modification of work by Neeta Lind)

Solution

The equilibrium expression is:

$$CaC_2O_4(s) \rightleftharpoons Ca^{2+}(aq) + C_2O_4^{2-}(aq)$$

For this reaction:

$$K_{sp} = [Ca^{2+}]\,[C_2O_4^{2-}] = 1.96 \times 10^{-9}$$

(see Appendix J)

Substitute the provided calcium ion concentration into the solubility product expression and solve for oxalate concentration:

$$\begin{aligned} Q = K_{sp} = [Ca^{2+}]\,[C_2O_4^{2-}] &= 1.96 \times 10^{-9} \\ (2.2 \times 10^{-3})\,[C_2O_4^{2-}] &= 1.96 \times 10^{-9} \\ [C_2O_4^{2-}] &= \frac{1.96 \times 10^{-9}}{2.2 \times 10^{-3}} \\ &= 8.9 \times 10^{-7}\ \text{M} \end{aligned} \tag{4.2.1}$$

A concentration of $[C_2O_4^{2-}] = 8.9 \times 10^{-7}$ M is necessary to initiate the precipitation of CaC_2O_4 under these conditions.

Exercise 4.2.9

If a solution contains 0.0020 mol of CrO_4^{2-} per liter, what concentration of Ag^+ ion must be reached by adding solid $AgNO_3$ before Ag_2CrO_4 begins to precipitate? Neglect any increase in volume upon adding the solid silver nitrate.

Answer

$6.7\time10^{-5}$ M

Example 4.2.10: Concentrations Following Precipitation

Clothing washed in water that has a manganese $[Mn^{2+}(aq)]$ concentration exceeding 0.1 mg/L (1.8×10^{-6} M) may be stained by the manganese upon oxidation, but the amount of Mn^{2+} in the water can be decreased by adding a base to precipitate $Mn(OH)_2$. What pH is required to keep $[Mn^{2+}]$ equal to 1.8×10^{-6} M?

Solution

The dissolution of $Mn(OH)_2$ is described by the equation:

$$Mn(OH)_2(s) \rightleftharpoons Mn^{2+}(aq) + 2\,OH^-(aq) \qquad K_{sp} = 2 \times 10^{-13}$$

At equilibrium:

$$K_{sp} = \left[Mn^{2+}\right]\left[OH^-\right]^2$$

or

$$\left(1.8 \times 10^{-6}\right)\left[OH^-\right]^2 = 2 \times 10^{-13}$$

so

$$\left[OH^-\right] = 3.3 \times 10^{-4} M$$

Calculate the pH from the pOH:

$$\begin{aligned} pOH &= -\log\left[OH^-\right] \\ &= -\log(3.3 \times 10^{-4}) = 3.48 \\ pH &= 14.00 - pOH \\ &= 14.00 - 3.48 \\ &= 10.52 \end{aligned}$$

(final result rounded to one significant digit, limited by the certainty of the K_{sp})

Exercise 4.2.10

The first step in the preparation of magnesium metal is the precipitation of $Mg(OH)_2$ from sea water by the addition of $Ca(OH)_2$. The concentration of $Mg^{2+}(aq)$ in sea water is 5.37×10^{-2} M. Calculate the pH at which $[Mg^{2+}]$ is decreased to 1.0×10^{-5} M

Answer

10.97

In solutions containing two or more ions that may form insoluble compounds with the same counter ion, an experimental strategy called selective precipitation may be used to remove individual ions from solution. By increasing the counter ion concentration in a controlled manner, ions in solution may be precipitated individually, assuming their compound solubilities are adequately different. In solutions with equal concentrations of target ions, the ion forming the least soluble compound will precipitate first (at the lowest concentration of counter ion), with the other ions subsequently precipitating as their compound's solubilities are reached. As an

illustration of this technique, the next example exercise describes separation of a two halide ions via precipitation of one as a silver salt.

Chemistry in Everyday Life: The Role of Precipitation in Wastewater Treatment

Solubility equilibria are useful tools in the treatment of wastewater carried out in facilities that may treat the municipal water in your city or town (Figure 4.2.5). Specifically, selective precipitation is used to remove contaminants from wastewater before it is released back into natural bodies of water. For example, phosphate ions are often present in the water discharged from manufacturing facilities. An abundance of phosphate causes excess algae to grow, which impacts the amount of oxygen available for marine life as well as making water unsuitable for human consumption.



Figure 4.2.5: Wastewater treatment facilities, such as this one, remove contaminants from wastewater before the water is released back into the natural environment. (credit: “eutrophication&hypoxia”/Wikimedia Commons)

One common way to remove phosphates from water is by the addition of calcium hydroxide, or lime, $Ca(OH)_2$. As the water is made more basic, the calcium ions react with phosphate ions to produce hydroxylapatite, $Ca_5(PO4)_3OH$, which then precipitates out of the solution:

$$5\,Ca^{2+} + 3\,PO_4{}^{3-} + OH^- \rightleftharpoons Ca_5\,(PO_4)_3\,\cdot OH\,(s)$$

Because the amount of calcium ion added does not result in exceeding the solubility products for other calcium salts, the anions of those salts remain behind in the wastewater. The precipitate is then removed by filtration and the water is brought back to a neutral pH by the addition of CO_2 in a recarbonation process. Other chemicals can also be used for the removal of phosphates by precipitation, including iron(III) chloride and aluminum sulfate.

View this site for more information on how phosphorus is removed from wastewater.

Example 4.2.11: Precipitation of Silver Halides

A solution contains 0.00010 mol of KBr and 0.10 mol of KCl per liter. $AgNO_3$ is gradually added to this solution. Which forms first, solid AgBr or solid AgCl?

Solution

The two equilibria involved are:

$$AgCl\,(s) \rightleftharpoons Ag^+\,(aq) + Cl^-\,(aq) \qquad K_{sp} = 1.6 \times 10^{-10}$$
$$AgBr\,(s) \rightleftharpoons Ag^+\,(aq) + Br^-\,(aq) \qquad K_{sp} = 5.0 \times 10^{-13}$$

If the solution contained about *equal* concentrations of Cl^- and Br^-, then the silver salt with the smaller K_{sp} (AgBr) would precipitate first. The concentrations are not equal, however, so the $[Ag^+]$ at which AgCl begins to precipitate and the $[Ag^+]$ at which AgBr begins to precipitate must be calculated. The salt that forms at the lower $[Ag^+]$ precipitates first.

AgBr precipitates when Q equals K_{sp} for AgBr

$$Q_{sp} = K_{sp} = [\mathrm{Ag^+}]\,[\mathrm{Br^-}] = [\mathrm{Ag^+}]\,(0.00010) = 5.0 \times 10^{-13}$$

$$[\mathrm{Ag^+}] = \frac{5.0 \times 10^{-13}}{0.00010}$$

$$= 5.0 \times 10^{-9}\ \mathrm{M}$$

AgBr begins to precipitate when $[\mathrm{Ag^+}]$ is 5.0×10^{-9} M.

For AgCl: AgCl precipitates when Q equals K_{sp} for AgCl (1.6×10^{-10}). When $[\mathrm{Cl^-}]$ = 0.10 *M*:

$$Q_{sp} = K_{sp} = [\mathrm{Ag^+}]\,[\mathrm{Cl^-}] = [\mathrm{Ag^+}]\,(0.10) = 1.6 \times 10^{-10}$$

$$[\mathrm{Ag^+}] = \frac{1.6 \times 10^{-10}}{0.10}$$

$$= 1.6 \times 10^{-9}\ \mathrm{M}$$

AgCl begins to precipitate when $[\mathrm{Ag^+}]$ is 1.6×10^{-9} M.

AgCl begins to precipitate at a lower $[\mathrm{Ag^+}]$ than AgBr, so AgCl begins to precipitate first. Note the chloride ion concentration of the initial mixture was significantly greater than the bromide ion concentration, and so silver chloride precipitated first despite having a K_{sp} greater than that of silver bromide.

? Exercise 4.2.11

If silver nitrate solution is added to a solution which is 0.050 *M* in both $\mathrm{Cl^-}$ and $\mathrm{Br^-}$ ions, at what $[\mathrm{Ag^+}]$ would precipitation begin, and what would be the formula of the precipitate?

Answer

$[\mathrm{Ag^+}] = 1.0 \times 10^{-11}$ M; AgBr precipitates first

Common Ion Effect

Compared with pure water, the solubility of an ionic compound is less in aqueous solutions containing a *common ion* (one also produced by dissolution of the ionic compound). This is an example of a phenomenon known as the **common ion effect**, which is a consequence of the law of mass action that may be explained using Le Chatelier's principle. Consider the dissolution of silver iodide:

$$\mathrm{AgI\,(s)} \rightleftharpoons \mathrm{Ag^+\,(aq)} + \mathrm{I^-\,(aq)}$$

This solubility equilibrium may be shifted left by the addition of either silver(I) or iodide ions, resulting in the precipitation of AgI and lowered concentrations of dissolved $\mathrm{Ag^+}$ and $\mathrm{I^-}$. In solutions that already contain either of these ions, less AgI may be dissolved than in solutions without these ions.

This effect may also be explained in terms of mass action as represented in the solubility product expression:

$$K_{sp} = [\mathrm{Ag^+}]\,[\mathrm{I^-}]$$

The mathematical product of silver(I) and iodide ion molarities is constant in an equilibrium mixture *regardless of the source of the ions*, and so an increase in one ion's concentration must be balanced by a proportional decrease in the other.

Link to Learning

View this simulation to explore various aspects of the common ion effect.

Example 4.2.12: Common Ion Effect on Solubility

What is the effect on the amount of solid $Mg(OH)_2$ and the concentrations of Mg^{2+} and OH^- when each of the following are added to a saturated solution of $Mg(OH)_2$?

a. $MgCl_2$
b. KOH
c. $NaNO_3$
d. $Mg(OH)_2$

Solution

The solubility equilibrium is

$$\mathrm{Mg(OH)_2\,(s) \rightleftharpoons Mg^{2+}\,(aq) + 2\,OH^-\,(aq)}$$

a. Adding a common ion, Mg^{2+}, will increase the concentration of this ion and shift the solubility equilibrium to the left, decreasing the concentration of hydroxide ion and increasing the amount of undissolved magnesium hydroxide.
b. Adding a common ion, OH^-, will increase the concentration of this ion and shift the solubility equilibrium to the left, decreasing the concentration of magnesium ion and increasing the amount of undissolved magnesium hydroxide.
c. The added compound does not contain a common ion, and no effect on the magnesium hydroxide solubility equilibrium is expected.
d. Adding more solid magnesium hydroxide will increase the amount of undissolved compound in the mixture. The solution is already saturated, though, so the concentrations of dissolved magnesium and hydroxide ions will remain the same.

$$Q = \left[Mg^{2+}\right]\left[OH^-\right]^2$$

Thus, changing the amount of solid magnesium hydroxide in the mixture has no effect on the value of Q, and no shift is required to restore Q to the value of the equilibrium constant.

Exercise 4.2.12

What is the effect on the amount of solid $NiCO_3$ and the concentrations of Ni^{2+} and CO_3^{2-} when each of the following are added to a saturated solution of $NiCO_3$

a. $Ni(NO_3)_2$
b. $KClO_4$
c. $NiCO_3$
d. K_2CO_3

Answer

(a) mass of $NiCO_3(s)$ increases, $[Ni^{2+}]$ increases, CO_3^{2-} decreases; (b) no appreciable effect; (c) no effect except to increase the amount of solid $NiCO_3$; (d) mass of $NiCO_3(s)$ increases, $[Ni^{2+}]$ decreases, CO_3^{2-} increases;

Example 4.2.13: Common Ion Effect

Calculate the molar solubility of cadmium sulfide (CdS) in a 0.010-*M* solution of cadmium bromide ($CdBr_2$). The K_{sp} of CdS is 1.0×10^{-28}.

Solution

This calculation can be performed using the ICE approach:

$$\mathrm{CdS\,(s) \rightleftharpoons Cd^{2+}\,(aq) + S^{2-}\,(aq)}$$

	$CdS(s) \rightleftharpoons Cd^{2+}(aq) + S^{2-}(aq)$		
Initial concentration (*M*)		0.010	0
Change (*M*)		$+x$	$+x$
Equilibrium concentration (*M*)		$0.010 + x$	x

$$K_{sp} = [Cd^{2+}][S^{2-}] = 1.0 \times 10^{-28}$$
$$(0.010 + x)(x) = 1.0 \times 10^{-28}$$

Because Ksp is very small, assume $x \ll 0.010$ and solve the simplified equation for x:

$$(0.010)(x) = 1.0 \times 10^{-28}$$
$$x = 1.0 \times 10^{-26}\ \text{M}$$

The molar solubility of CdS in this solution is 1.0×10^{-26} M.

Exercise 4.2.13

Calculate the molar solubility of aluminum hydroxide, $Al(OH)_3$, in a 0.015-*M* solution of aluminum nitrate, $Al(NO_3)_3$. The K_{sp} of $Al(OH)_3$ is 2×10^{-32}.

Answer

4×10^{-11} M

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4.3: Lewis Acids and Bases

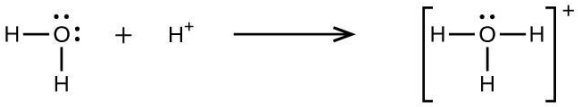
Learning Objectives

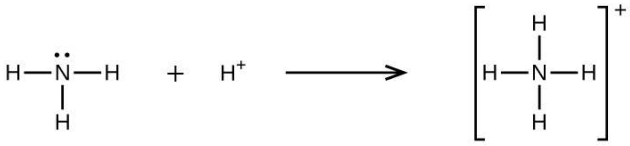
By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Explain the Lewis model of acid-base chemistry
- Write equations for the formation of adducts and complex ions

In 1923, G. N. Lewis proposed a generalized definition of acid-base behavior in which acids and bases are identified by their ability to accept or to donate a pair of electrons and form a coordinate covalent bond.

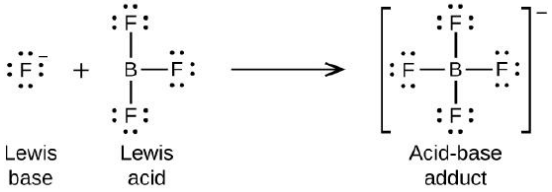
A **coordinate covalent bond** (or dative bond) occurs when one of the atoms in the bond provides both bonding electrons. For example, a coordinate covalent bond occurs when a water molecule combines with a hydrogen ion to form a hydronium ion. A coordinate covalent bond also results when an ammonia molecule combines with a hydrogen ion to form an ammonium ion. Both of these equations are shown here.



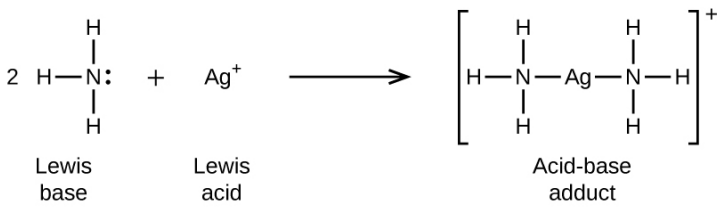


Reactions involving the formation of coordinate covalent bonds are classified as **Lewis acid-base chemistry**. The species donating the electron pair that compose the bond is a **Lewis base**, the species accepting the electron pair is a **Lewis acid**, and the product of the reaction is a **Lewis acid-base adduct**. As the two examples above illustrate, Brønsted-Lowry acid-base reactions represent a subcategory of Lewis acid reactions, specifically, those in which the acid species is H^+. A few examples involving other Lewis acids and bases are described below.

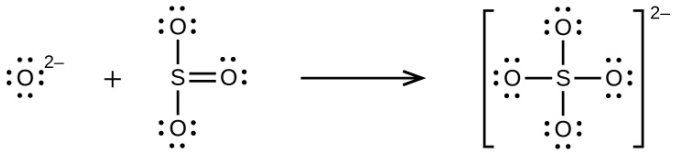
The boron atom in boron trifluoride, BF_3, has only six electrons in its valence shell. Being short of the preferred octet, BF_3 is a very good Lewis acid and reacts with many Lewis bases; a fluoride ion is the Lewis base in this reaction, donating one of its lone pairs:



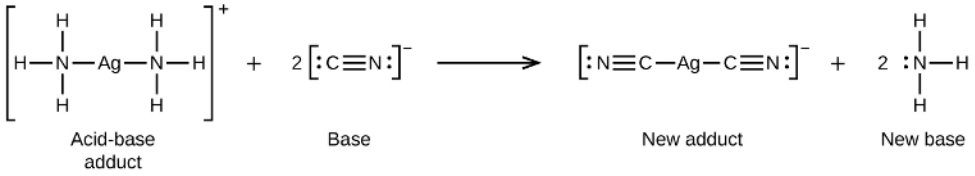
In the following reaction, each of two ammonia molecules, Lewis bases, donates a pair of electrons to a silver ion, the Lewis acid:

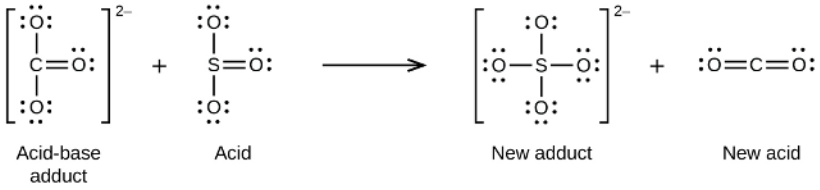


Nonmetal oxides act as Lewis acids and react with oxide ions, Lewis bases, to form oxyanions:



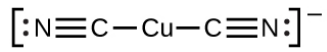
Many Lewis acid-base reactions are displacement reactions in which one Lewis base displaces another Lewis base from an acid-base adduct, or in which one Lewis acid displaces another Lewis acid:





Another type of Lewis acid-base chemistry involves the formation of a complex ion (or a coordination complex) comprising a central atom, typically a transition metal cation, surrounded by ions or molecules called **ligands**. These ligands can be neutral molecules like H_2O or NH_3, or ions such as CN^- or OH^-. Often, the ligands act as Lewis bases, donating a pair of electrons to the central atom. These types of Lewis acid-base reactions are examples of a broad subdiscipline called *coordination chemistry*—the topic of another chapter in this text.

The equilibrium constant for the reaction of a metal ion with one or more ligands to form a coordination complex is called a **formation constant** (K_f) (sometimes called a stability constant). For example, the complex ion



is produced by the reaction

$$\mathrm{Cu^+\,(aq) + 2\,CN^-\,(aq) \rightleftharpoons Cu(CN)_2{}^-\,(aq)}$$

The formation constant for this reaction is

$$K_f = \frac{[\mathrm{Cu(CN)_2{}^-}]}{[\mathrm{Cu^+}]\,[\mathrm{CN^-}]^2}$$

Alternatively, the reverse reaction (decomposition of the complex ion) can be considered, in which case the equilibrium constant is a dissociation constant (K_d). Per the relation between equilibrium constants for reciprocal reactions described, the dissociation constant is the mathematical inverse of the formation constant, $K_d = K_f^{-1}$. A tabulation of formation constants is provided in Appendix K.

As an example of dissolution by complex ion formation, let us consider what happens when we add aqueous ammonia to a mixture of silver chloride and water. Silver chloride dissolves slightly in water, giving a small concentration of Ag^+ ($[\mathrm{Ag^+}] = 1.3 \times 10^{-5}$ M):

$$\mathrm{AgCl\,(s) \rightleftharpoons Ag^+\,(aq) + Cl^-\,(aq)}$$

However, if NH_3 is present in the water, the complex ion, $\mathrm{Ag(NH_3)_2{}^+}$ can form according to the equation:

$$\mathrm{Ag^+\,(aq) + 2\,NH_3\,(aq) \rightleftharpoons Ag(NH_3)_2{}^+\,(aq)}$$

with

$$K_f = \frac{[Ag(NH_3)_2{}^+]}{[Ag^+][NH_3]^2} = 1.7 \times 10^7$$

The large size of this formation constant indicates that most of the free silver ions produced by the dissolution of AgCl combine with NH_3 to form $Ag(NH_3)_2{}^+$. As a consequence, the concentration of silver ions, $[Ag^+]$, is reduced, and the reaction quotient for the dissolution of silver chloride, $[Ag^+][Cl^-]$, falls below the solubility product of AgCl:

$$Q = [Ag^+]\,[Cl^-] < K_{sp}$$

More silver chloride then dissolves. If the concentration of ammonia is great enough, all of the silver chloride dissolves.

Example 4.3.1: Dissociation of a Complex Ion

Calculate the concentration of the silver ion in a solution that initially is 0.10 *M* with respect to $Ag(NH_3)_2{}^+$).

Solution

Applying the standard ICE approach to this reaction yields the following:

	$Ag^+ + 2NH_3 \rightleftharpoons Ag(NH_3)_2{}^+$		
Initial concentration (*M*)	0	0	0.10
Change (*M*)	$+x$	$+2x$	$-x$
Equilibrium concentration (*M*)	x	$2x$	$0.10 - x$

Substituting these equilibrium concentration terms into the K_f expression gives

$$K_f = \frac{[Ag(NH_3)_2{}^+]}{[Ag^+][NH_3]^2}$$

$$1.7 \times 10^7 = \frac{0.10 - x}{(x)(2x)^2}$$

The very large equilibrium constant means the amount of the complex ion that will dissociate, x, will be very small. Assuming $x \ll 0.1$ permits simplifying the above equation:

$$1.7 \times 10^7 = \frac{0.10}{(x)(2x)^2}$$

$$x^3 = \frac{0.10}{4\left(1.7 \times 10^7\right)} = 1.5 \times 10^{-9}$$

$$x = \sqrt[3]{1.5 \times 10^{-9}} = 1.1 \times 10^{-3}$$

Because only 1.1% of the $Ag(NH_3)_2{}^+$) dissociates into Ag^+ and NH_3, the assumption that x is small is justified.

Using this value of x and the relations in the above ICE table allows calculation of all species' equilibrium concentrations:

$$[Ag^+] = 0 + x = 1.1 \times 10^{-3}\ \text{M}$$

$$[NH_3] = 0 + 2x = 2.2 \times 10^{-3}\ \text{M}$$

$$[Ag(NH_3)_2{}^+] = 0.10 - x = 0.10 - 0.0011$$

$$= 0.099\ \text{M}$$

The concentration of free silver ion in the solution is 0.0011 *M*.

Exercise 4.3.1

Calculate the silver ion concentration, $[Ag^+]$, of a solution prepared by dissolving 1.00 g of $AgNO_3$ and 10.0 g of KCN in sufficient water to make 1.00 L of solution. (Hint: Because K_f is very large, assume the reaction goes to completion then calculate the $[Ag^+]$ produced by dissociation of the complex.)

Answer

2.9×10^{-22} M

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4.4: Coupled Equilibria

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Describe examples of systems involving two (or more) coupled chemical equilibria
- Calculate reactant and product concentrations for coupled equilibrium systems

As discussed in preceding chapters on equilibrium, *coupled equilibria* involve two or more separate chemical reactions that share one or more reactants or products. This section of this chapter will address solubility equilibria coupled with acid-base and complex-formation reactions.

An environmentally relevant example illustrating the coupling of solubility and acid-base equilibria is the impact of ocean acidification on the health of the ocean's coral reefs. These reefs are built upon skeletons of sparingly soluble calcium carbonate excreted by colonies of corals (small marine invertebrates). The relevant dissolution equilibrium is

$$\mathrm{CaCO_3\,(s)} \rightleftharpoons \mathrm{Ca^{2+}\,(aq)} + \mathrm{CO_3{}^{-2}\,(aq)} \quad K_{\mathrm{sp}} = 8.7 \times 10^{-9}$$

Rising concentrations of atmospheric carbon dioxide contribute to an increased acidity of ocean waters due to the dissolution, hydrolysis, and acid ionization of carbon dioxide:

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathrm{CO_2\,(g)} &\rightleftharpoons \mathrm{CO_2\,(aq)} \\
\mathrm{CO_2\,(aq) + H_2O\,(l)} &\rightleftharpoons \mathrm{H_2\ CO_3\,(aq)} \\
\mathrm{H_2\ CO_3\,(aq) + H_2O\,(l)} &\rightleftharpoons \mathrm{HCO_3{}^{-}\,(aq) + H_3O^{+}\,(aq)} \quad K_{a1} = 4.3 \times 10^{-7} \\
\mathrm{HCO_3{}^{-}\,(aq) + H_2O\,(l)} &\rightleftharpoons \mathrm{CO_3{}^{2-}\,(aq) + H_3O^{+}\,(aq)} \quad K_{a2} = 4.7 \times 10^{-11}
\end{aligned}$$

Inspection of these equilibria shows the carbonate ion is involved in the calcium carbonate dissolution and the acid hydrolysis of bicarbonate ion. Combining the dissolution equation with the reverse of the acid hydrolysis equation yields

$$\mathrm{CaCO_3\,(s) + H_3O^{+}\,(aq)} \rightleftharpoons \mathrm{Ca^{2+}\,(aq) + HCO_3{}^{-}\,(aq) + H_2O\,(l)} \qquad K = K_{\mathrm{sp}}\,/K_{a2} = 180$$

The equilibrium constant for this net reaction is much greater than the K_{sp} for calcium carbonate, indicating its solubility is markedly increased in acidic solutions. As rising carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere increase the acidity of ocean waters, the calcium carbonate skeletons of coral reefs become more prone to dissolution and subsequently less healthy (Figure 4.4.1).

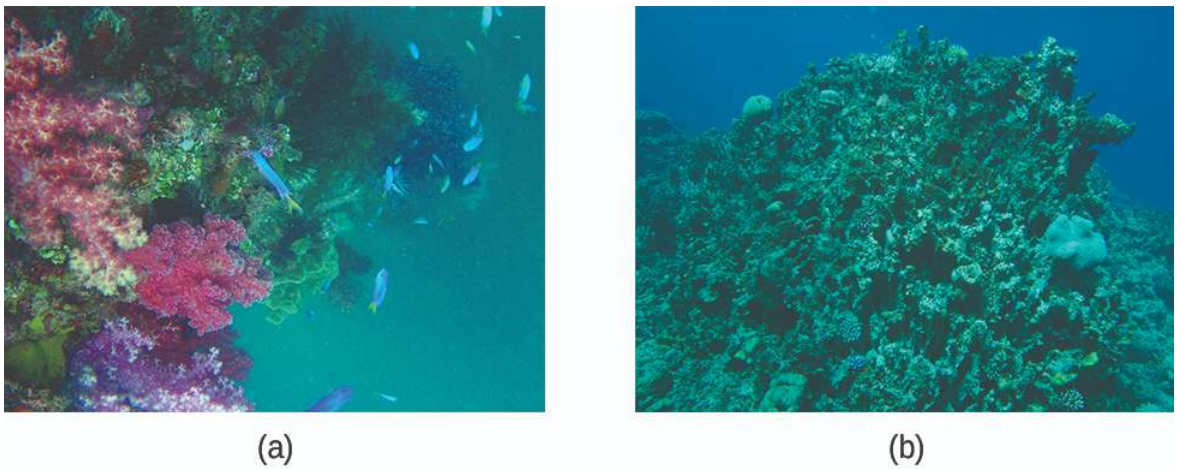


Figure 4.4.1: Healthy coral reefs (a) support a dense and diverse array of sea life across the ocean food chain. But when coral are unable to adequately build and maintain their calcium carbonate skeletons because of excess ocean acidification, the unhealthy reef (b) is only capable of hosting a small fraction of the species as before, and the local food chain starts to collapse. (credit a: modification of work by NOAA Photo Library; credit b: modification of work by "prilfish"/Flickr)

Link to Learning

Learn more about ocean acidification and how it affects other marine creatures.

This site has detailed information about how ocean acidification specifically affects coral reefs.

The dramatic increase in solubility with increasing acidity described above for calcium carbonate is typical of salts containing basic anions (e.g., carbonate, fluoride, hydroxide, sulfide). Another familiar example is the formation of dental cavities in tooth enamel. The major mineral component of enamel is calcium hydroxyapatite (Figure 4.4.2), a sparingly soluble ionic compound whose dissolution equilibrium is

$$Ca_5(PO_4)_3OH\,(s) \rightleftharpoons 5\,Ca^{2+}\,(aq) + 3\,{PO_4}^{3-}\,(aq) + OH^-\,(aq)$$



Figure 4.4.2: Crystal of the mineral hydroxyapatite, $Ca_5(PO_4)_3OH$, is shown here. The pure compound is white, but like many other minerals, this sample is colored because of the presence of impurities.

This compound dissolved to yield two different basic ions: triprotic phosphate ions

$$\begin{aligned} {PO_4}^{3-}\,(aq) + H_3O^+\,(aq) &\longrightarrow H_2\,{PO_4}^{2-}\,(aq) + H_2O\,(l) \\ H_2\,{PO_4}^{2-}\,(aq) + H_3O^+\,(aq) &\longrightarrow H_2\,{PO_4}^{-}\,(aq) + H_2O\,(l) \\ H_2\,{PO_4}^{-}\,(aq) + H_3O^+\,(aq) &\longrightarrow H_3\,PO_4\,(aq) + H_2O\,(l) \end{aligned}$$

and monoprotic hydroxide ions:

$$OH^-\,(aq) + H_3O^+ \longrightarrow 2\,H_2O$$

Of the two basic productions, the hydroxide is, of course, by far the stronger base (it's the strongest base that can exist in aqueous solution), and so it is the dominant factor providing the compound an acid-dependent solubility. Dental cavities form when the acid waste of bacteria growing on the surface of teeth hastens the dissolution of tooth enamel by reacting completely with the strong base hydroxide, shifting the hydroxyapatite solubility equilibrium to the right. Some toothpastes and mouth rinses contain added NaF or SnF_2 that make enamel more acid resistant by replacing the strong base hydroxide with the weak base fluoride:

$$NaF + Ca_5(PO_4)_3OH \rightleftharpoons Ca_5(PO_4)_3F + Na^+ + OH^-$$

The weak base fluoride ion reacts only partially with the bacterial acid waste, resulting in a less extensive shift in the solubility equilibrium and an increased resistance to acid dissolution. See the Chemistry in Everyday Life feature on the role of fluoride in preventing tooth decay for more information.

Chemistry in Everyday Life: Role of Fluoride in Preventing Tooth Decay

As we saw previously, fluoride ions help protect our teeth by reacting with hydroxylapatite to form fluorapatite, $Ca_5(PO_4)_3F$. Since it lacks a hydroxide ion, fluorapatite is more resistant to attacks by acids in our mouths and is thus less soluble, protecting our teeth. Scientists discovered that naturally fluorinated water could be beneficial to your teeth, and so it became

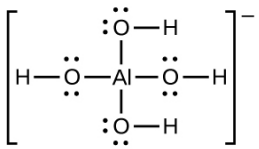
common practice to add fluoride to drinking water. Toothpastes and mouthwashes also contain amounts of fluoride (Figure 4.4.3).



Figure 4.4.3: Fluoride, found in many toothpastes, helps prevent tooth decay (credit: Kerry Ceszyk).

Unfortunately, excess fluoride can negate its advantages. Natural sources of drinking water in various parts of the world have varying concentrations of fluoride, and places where that concentration is high are prone to certain health risks when there is no other source of drinking water. The most serious side effect of excess fluoride is the bone disease, skeletal fluorosis. When excess fluoride is in the body, it can cause the joints to stiffen and the bones to thicken. It can severely impact mobility and can negatively affect the thyroid gland. Skeletal fluorosis is a condition that over 2.7 million people suffer from across the world. So while fluoride can protect our teeth from decay, the US Environmental Protection Agency sets a maximum level of 4 ppm (4 mg/L) of fluoride in drinking water in the US. Fluoride levels in water are not regulated in all countries, so fluorosis is a problem in areas with high levels of fluoride in the groundwater.

The solubility of ionic compounds may also be increased when dissolution is coupled to the formation of a complex ion. For example, aluminum hydroxide dissolves in a solution of sodium hydroxide or another strong base because of the formation of the complex ion



The equations for the dissolution of aluminum hydroxide, the formation of the complex ion, and the combined (net) equation are shown below. As indicated by the relatively large value of K for the net reaction, coupling complex formation with dissolution drastically increases the solubility of $Al(OH)_3$.

$$\mathrm{Al(OH)_3(s) \rightleftharpoons Al^{3+}(aq) + 3\,OH^-(aq)} \qquad K_{sp} = 2 \times 10^{-32}$$

$$\mathrm{Al^{3+}(aq) + 4\,OH^-(aq) \rightleftharpoons Al(OH)_4^-(aq)} \qquad K_f = 1.1 \times 10^{33}$$

$$\mathrm{Net:\ Al(OH)_3(s) + OH^-(aq) \rightleftharpoons Al(OH)_4^-(aq)} \qquad K = K_{sp}K_f = 22$$

Example 4.4.1: Increased Solubility in Acidic Solutions

Compute and compare the molar solubilities for aluminum hydroxide, $Al(OH)_3$, dissolved in (a) pure water and (b) a buffer containing 0.100 *M* acetic acid and 0.100 *M* sodium acetate.

Solution

(a) The molar solubility of aluminum hydroxide in water is computed considering the dissolution equilibrium only as demonstrated in several previous examples:

\[\ce{Al(OH)_3(s) <=> Al^{3+}(aq) +3 OH^{-}(aq)} \quad \quad K_{ sp }=2 \times 10^{-32} \nonumber]

$$\text{molar solubility in water} = \left[Al^{3+}\right] = \left(\frac{2 \times 10^{-32}}{27}\right)^{1/4} = 5 \times 10^{-9}\ \text{M}$$

(b) The concentration of hydroxide ion of the buffered solution is conveniently calculated by the Henderson-Hasselbalch equation:

$$\text{pH} = pK_a + \log \frac{[\text{CH}_3\text{COO}^-]}{[\text{CH}_3\text{COOH}]}$$
$$= 4.74 + \log\left(\frac{0.100}{0.100}\right) = 4.74$$

At this pH, the concentration of hydroxide ion is

$$\text{pOH} = 14.00 - 4.74 = 9.26$$
$$[\text{OH}^-] = 10^{-9.26} = 5.5 \times 10^{-10}$$

The solubility of Al(OH)_3 in this buffer is then calculated from its solubility product expression:

$$K_{sp} = \left[\text{Al}^{3+}\right]\left[\text{OH}^-\right]^3$$

Via

$$\begin{aligned}\text{molar solubility in buffer} &= \left[\text{Al}^{3+}\right] \\ &= \frac{K_{sp}}{\left[\text{OH}^-\right]^3} \\ &= \frac{2 \times 10^{-32}}{(5.5 \times 10^{-10})^3} \\ &= 1.2 \times 10^{-4}\ \text{M}\end{aligned}$$

Compared to pure water, the solubility of aluminum hydroxide in this mildly acidic buffer is approximately ten million times greater (though still relatively low).

Exercise 4.4.1

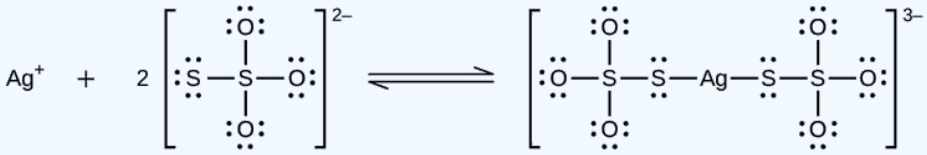
What is the solubility of aluminum hydroxide in a buffer comprised of 0.100 *M* formic acid and 0.100 *M* sodium formate?

Answer

0.1 *M*

Example 4.4.2: Multiple Equilibria

Unexposed silver halides are removed from photographic film when they react with sodium thiosulfate ($\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3$, called hypo) to form the complex ion $\text{Ag}(\text{S}_2\text{O}_3)_2{}^{3-}$ with $K_f = 4.7 \times 10^{13}$.



What mass of $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3$ is required to prepare 1.00 L of a solution that will dissolve 1.00 g of AgBr by the formation of $\text{Ag}(\text{S}_2\text{O}_3)_2{}^{3-}$

Solution

Two equilibria are involved when silver bromide dissolves in an aqueous thiosulfate solution containing the ion:

- **dissolution**:

$$\text{AgBr}\,(\text{s}) \rightleftharpoons \text{Ag}^+\,(\text{aq}) + \text{Br}^-\,(\text{aq}) \qquad K_{sp} = 5.0 \times 10^{-13}$$

- **complexation**:

$$\text{Ag}^+\,(\text{aq}) + 2\,\text{S}_2\text{O}_3{}^{2-}\,(\text{aq}) \rightleftharpoons \text{Ag}\,(\,\text{S}_2\text{O}_3)_2{}^{3-}\,(\text{aq}) \qquad K_f = 4.7 \times 10^{13}$$

Combining these two equilibrium equations yields

$$\mathrm{AgBr\,(s) + 2\,S_2O_3{}^{2-}\,(aq) \rightleftharpoons Ag(S_2O_3)_2{}^{3-}\,(aq) + Br^-\,(aq)}$$

with

$$K = \frac{[\mathrm{Ag(S_2O_3)_2{}^3}]\,[\mathrm{Br^-}]}{[\mathrm{S_2O_3{}^{-2}}]^2} = K_{sp}K_f = 24$$

The concentration of bromide resulting from dissolution of 1.00 g of AgBr in 1.00 L of solution is

$$[Br^-] = \frac{1.00\text{ g AgBr} \times \frac{1\text{ mol AgBr}}{187.77\text{ g / mol}} \times \frac{1\text{ mol Br}^-}{1\text{ mol AgBr}^-}}{1.00\text{ L}} = 0.00532\text{ M}$$

The stoichiometry of the dissolution equilibrium indicates the same concentration of aqueous silver ion will result, 0.00532 M, and the very large value of ensures that essentially all the dissolved silver ion will be complexed by thiosulfate ion:

$$\mathrm{[Ag(S_2O_3)_2{}^{3-}]} = 0.00532\text{ M}$$

Rearranging the K expression for the combined equilibrium equations and solving for the concentration of thiosulfate ion yields

$$\mathrm{[S_2O_3{}^{2-}]} = \frac{\mathrm{[Ag(S_2O_3)_2{}^{3-}]\,[Br^-]}}{K} = \frac{(0.00532M)(0.00532\text{ M})}{24} = 0.0011\text{ M}$$

Finally, the total mass of $\mathrm{Na_2S_2O_3}$ required to provide enough thiosulfate to yield the concentrations cited above can be calculated.

Mass of $\mathrm{Na_2S_2O_3}$ required to yield 0.00532 M $\mathrm{Ag(2\,S_2O_3)_2{}^{3-}}$

$$0.00532\frac{\text{mol Ag(S}_2\text{O}_3)_2{}^{3-}}{1.00\text{ L}} \times \frac{2\text{ mol S}_2\text{O}_3{}^{2-}}{1\text{ mol Ag(S}_2\text{O}_3)_2{}^{3-}} \times \frac{1\text{ mol Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3}{1\text{ mol S}_2\text{O}_3{}^{2-}} \times \frac{158.1\text{ g Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3}{1\text{ mol Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3} = 1.68\text{ g}$$

Mass of $\mathrm{Na_2S_2O_3}$ required to yield 0.00110 M $\mathrm{S_2O_3{}^{2-}}$

$$0.0011\frac{\text{mol S}_2\text{O}_3{}^{2-}}{1.00\text{ L}} \times \frac{1\text{ mol S}_2\text{O}_3{}^{2-}}{1\text{ mol Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3} \times \frac{158.1\text{ g Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3}{1\text{ mol Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3} = 0.17\text{ g}$$

The mass of required to dissolve 1.00 g of AgBr in 1.00 L of water is thus 1.68 g + 0.17 g = 1.85 g

? Exercise 4.4.2

AgCl(*s*), silver chloride, has a very low solubility:

$$\mathrm{AgCl\,(s) \rightleftharpoons Ag^+\,(aq) + Cl^-\,(aq)} \qquad K_{so} = 1.6 \times 10^{-10}$$

Adding ammonia significantly increases the solubility of AgCl because a complex ion is formed:

$$\mathrm{Ag^+\,(aq) + 2\,NH_3\,(aq) \rightleftharpoons Ag(NH_3)_2{}^+\,(aq)} \qquad K_f = 1.7 \times 10^7$$

What mass of $\mathrm{NH_3}$ is required to prepare 1.00 L of solution that will dissolve 2.00 g of AgCl by formation of $\mathrm{Ag(NH_3)^{2+}}$?

Answer

1.00 L of a solution prepared with 4.81 g $\mathrm{NH_3}$ dissolves 2.0 g of AgCl.

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4.5: Key Terms

common ion effect | effect on equilibrium when a substance with an ion in common with the dissolved species is added to the solution; causes a decrease in the solubility of an ionic species, or a decrease in the ionization of a weak acid or base

complex ion | ion consisting of a central atom surrounding molecules or ions called ligands via coordinate covalent bonds

coordinate covalent bond | (also, dative bond) covalent bond in which both electrons originated from the same atom

coupled equilibria | system characterized the simultaneous establishment of two or more equilibrium reactions sharing one or more reactant or product

dissociation constant | (K_d) equilibrium constant for the decomposition of a complex ion into its components

formation constant | (K_f) (also, stability constant) equilibrium constant for the formation of a complex ion from its components

Lewis acid | any species that can accept a pair of electrons and form a coordinate covalent bond

Lewis acid-base adduct | compound or ion that contains a coordinate covalent bond between a Lewis acid and a Lewis base

Lewis acid-base chemistry | reactions involving the formation of coordinate covalent bonds

Lewis base | any species that can donate a pair of electrons and form a coordinate covalent bond

ligand | molecule or ion acting as a Lewis base in complex ion formation; bonds to the central atom of the complex

molar solubility | solubility of a compound expressed in units of moles per liter (mol/L)

selective precipitation | process in which ions are separated using differences in their solubility with a given precipitating reagent

solubility product constant (K_{sp}) | equilibrium constant for the dissolution of an ionic compound

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4.7: Summary

The equilibrium constant for an equilibrium involving the precipitation or dissolution of a slightly soluble ionic solid is called the solubility product, K_{sp}, of the solid. For a heterogeneous equilibrium involving the slightly soluble solid M_pX_q and its ions M^{m+} and X^{n-}:

the solubility product expression is:

The solubility product of a slightly soluble electrolyte can be calculated from its solubility; conversely, its solubility can be calculated from its K_{sp}, provided the only significant reaction that occurs when the solid dissolves is the formation of its ions.

A slightly soluble electrolyte begins to precipitate when the magnitude of the reaction quotient for the dissolution reaction exceeds the magnitude of the solubility product. Precipitation continues until the reaction quotient equals the solubility product.

A Lewis acid is a species that can accept an electron pair, whereas a Lewis base has an electron pair available for donation to a Lewis acid. Complex ions are examples of Lewis acid-base adducts and comprise central metal atoms or ions acting as Lewis acids bonded to molecules or ions called ligands that act as Lewis bases. The equilibrium constant for the reaction between a metal ion and ligands produces a complex ion called a formation constant; for the reverse reaction, it is called a dissociation constant.

Systems involving two or more chemical equilibria that share one or more reactant or product are called coupled equilibria. Common examples of coupled equilibria include the increased solubility of some compounds in acidic solutions (coupled dissolution and neutralization equilibria) and in solutions containing ligands (coupled dissolution and complex formation). The equilibrium tools from other chapters may be applied to describe and perform calculations on these systems.

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4.8: Exercises

1.

Complete the changes in concentrations for each of the following reactions:

(a)

(b)

(c)

(d)

(e)

2.

Complete the changes in concentrations for each of the following reactions:

(a)

(b

(c)

(d)

(e)

3.

How do the concentrations of Ag^+ and in a saturated solution above 1.0 g of solid Ag_2CrO_4 change when 100 g of solid Ag_2CrO_4 is added to the system? Explain.

4.

How do the concentrations of Pb^{2+} and S^{2-} change when K_2S is added to a saturated solution of PbS?

5.

What additional information do we need to answer the following question: How is the equilibrium of solid silver bromide with a saturated solution of its ions affected when the temperature is raised?

6.

Which of the following slightly soluble compounds has a solubility greater than that calculated from its solubility product because of hydrolysis of the anion present: $CoSO_3$, CuI, $PbCO_3$, $PbCl_2$, Tl_2S, $KClO_4$?

7.

Which of the following slightly soluble compounds has a solubility greater than that calculated from its solubility product because of hydrolysis of the anion present: AgCl, $BaSO_4$, CaF_2, Hg_2I_2, $MnCO_3$, and ZnS?

8.

Write the ionic equation for dissolution and the solubility product (K_{sp}) expression for each of the following slightly soluble ionic compounds:

a. $PbCl_2$
b. Ag_2S
c. $Sr_3(PO_4)_2$
d. $SrSO_4$

9.

Write the ionic equation for the dissolution and the K_{sp} expression for each of the following slightly soluble ionic compounds:

a. LaF_3
b. $CaCO_3$

c. Ag_2SO_4
d. $Pb(OH)_2$

10.

The *Handbook of Chemistry and Physics* gives solubilities of the following compounds in grams per 100 mL of water. Because these compounds are only slightly soluble, assume that the volume does not change on dissolution and calculate the solubility product for each.

a. $BaSiF_6$, 0.026 g/100 mL (contains ions)
b. $Ce(IO_3)_4$, 1.5 10^{-2} g/100 mL
c. $Gd_2(SO_4)_3$, 3.98 g/100 mL
d. $(NH_4)_2PtBr_6$, 0.59 g/100 mL (contains ions)

11.

The *Handbook of Chemistry and Physics* gives solubilities of the following compounds in grams per 100 mL of water. Because these compounds are only slightly soluble, assume that the volume does not change on dissolution and calculate the solubility product for each.

a. $BaSeO_4$, 0.0118 g/100 mL
b. $Ba(BrO_3)_2 \cdot H_2O$, 0.30 g/100 mL
c. $NH_4MgAsO_4 \cdot 6H_2O$, 0.038 g/100 mL
d. $La_2(MoO_4)_3$, 0.00179 g/100 mL

12.

Use solubility products and predict which of the following salts is the most soluble, in terms of moles per liter, in pure water: CaF_2, Hg_2Cl_2, PbI_2, or $Sn(OH)_2$.

13.

Assuming that no equilibria other than dissolution are involved, calculate the molar solubility of each of the following from its solubility product:

a. $KHC_4H_4O_6$
b. PbI_2
c. $Ag_4[Fe(CN)_6]$, a salt containing the ion
d. Hg_2I_2

14.

Assuming that no equilibria other than dissolution are involved, calculate the molar solubility of each of the following from its solubility product:

a. Ag_2SO_4
b. $PbBr_2$
c. AgI
d. $CaC_2O_4 \cdot H_2O$

15.

Assuming that no equilibria other than dissolution are involved, calculate the concentration of all solute species in each of the following solutions of salts in contact with a solution containing a common ion. Show that changes in the initial concentrations of the common ions can be neglected.

a. AgCl(*s*) in 0.025 *M* NaCl
b. CaF_2(*s*) in 0.00133 *M* KF
c. Ag_2SO_4(*s*) in 0.500 L of a solution containing 19.50 g of K_2SO_4
d. $Zn(OH)_2$(*s*) in a solution buffered at a pH of 11.45

16.

Assuming that no equilibria other than dissolution are involved, calculate the concentration of all solute species in each of the following solutions of salts in contact with a solution containing a common ion. Show that changes in the initial concentrations of the common ions can be neglected.

a. $TlCl(s)$ in 1.250 *M* HCl
b. $PbI_2(s)$ in 0.0355 *M* CaI_2
c. $Ag_2CrO_4(s)$ in 0.225 L of a solution containing 0.856 g of K_2CrO_4
d. $Cd(OH)_2(s)$ in a solution buffered at a pH of 10.995

17.

Assuming that no equilibria other than dissolution are involved, calculate the concentration of all solute species in each of the following solutions of salts in contact with a solution containing a common ion. Show that it is not appropriate to neglect the changes in the initial concentrations of the common ions.

a. $TlCl(s)$ in 0.025 *M* $TlNO_3$
b. $BaF_2(s)$ in 0.0313 *M* KF
c. MgC_2O_4 in 2.250 L of a solution containing 8.156 g of $Mg(NO_3)_2$
d. $Ca(OH)_2(s)$ in an unbuffered solution initially with a pH of 12.700

18.

Explain why the changes in concentrations of the common ions in Exercise 15.17 can be neglected.

19.

Explain why the changes in concentrations of the common ions in Exercise 15.18 cannot be neglected.

20.

Calculate the solubility of aluminum hydroxide, $Al(OH)_3$, in a solution buffered at pH 11.00.

21.

Refer to Appendix J for solubility products for calcium salts. Determine which of the calcium salts listed is most soluble in moles per liter and which is most soluble in grams per liter.

22.

Most barium compounds are very poisonous; however, barium sulfate is often administered internally as an aid in the X-ray examination of the lower intestinal tract (Figure 15.4). This use of $BaSO_4$ is possible because of its low solubility. Calculate the molar solubility of $BaSO_4$ and the mass of barium present in 1.00 L of water saturated with $BaSO_4$.

23.

Public Health Service standards for drinking water set a maximum of 250 mg/L ($2.60\ 10^{-3}$ *M*) of because of its cathartic action (it is a laxative). Does natural water that is saturated with $CaSO_4$ (“gyp” water) as a result or passing through soil containing gypsum, $CaSO_4{\cdot}2H_2O$, meet these standards? What is the concentration of in such water?

24.

Perform the following calculations:

a. Calculate $[Ag^+]$ in a saturated aqueous solution of AgBr.
b. What will $[Ag^+]$ be when enough KBr has been added to make $[Br^-] = 0.050$ *M*?
c. What will $[Br^-]$ be when enough $AgNO_3$ has been added to make $[Ag^+] = 0.020$ *M*?

25.

The solubility product of $CaSO_4{\cdot}2H_2O$ is $2.4\ 10^{-5}$. What mass of this salt will dissolve in 1.0 L of 0.010 *M*

26.

Assuming that no equilibria other than dissolution are involved, calculate the concentrations of ions in a saturated solution of each of the following (see Appendix J for solubility products).

a. TlCl

b. BaF_2
c. Ag_2CrO_4
d. $CaC_2O_4 \cdot H_2O$
e. the mineral anglesite, $PbSO_4$

27.

Assuming that no equilibria other than dissolution are involved, calculate the concentrations of ions in a saturated solution of each of the following (see Appendix J for solubility products):

a. AgI
b. Ag_2SO_4
c. $Mn(OH)_2$
d. $Sr(OH)_2 \cdot 8H_2O$
e. the mineral brucite, $Mg(OH)_2$

28.

The following concentrations are found in mixtures of ions in equilibrium with slightly soluble solids. From the concentrations given, calculate K_{sp} for each of the slightly soluble solids indicated:

a. AgBr: $[Ag^+] = 5.7\ 10^{-7}\ M$, $[Br^-] = 5.7\ 10^{-7}\ M$
b. $CaCO_3$: $[Ca^{2+}] = 5.3\ 10^{-3}\ M$, $= 9.0\ 10^{-7}\ M$
c. PbF_2: $[Pb^{2+}] = 2.1\ 10^{-3}\ M$, $[F^-] = 4.2\ 10^{-3}\ M$
d. Ag_2CrO_4: $[Ag^+] = 5.3\ 10^{-5}\ M$, $3.2\ 10^{-3}\ M$
e. InF_3: $[In^{3+}] = 2.3\ 10^{-3}\ M$, $[F^-] = 7.0\ 10^{-3}\ M$

29.

The following concentrations are found in mixtures of ions in equilibrium with slightly soluble solids. From the concentrations given, calculate K_{sp} for each of the slightly soluble solids indicated:

a. TlCl: $[Tl^+] = 1.21\ 10^{-2}\ M$, $[Cl^-] = 1.2\ 10^{-2}\ M$
b. $Ce(IO_3)_4$: $[Ce^{4+}] = 1.8\ 10^{-4}\ M$, $= 2.6\ 10^{-13}\ M$
c. $Gd_2(SO_4)_3$: $[Gd^{3+}] = 0.132\ M$, $= 0.198\ M$
d. Ag_2SO_4: $[Ag^+] = 2.40\ 10^{-2}\ M$, $= 2.05\ 10^{-2}\ M$
e. $BaSO_4$: $[Ba^{2+}] = 0.500\ M$, $= 4.6\ 10^{-8}\ M$

30.

Which of the following compounds precipitates from a solution that has the concentrations indicated? (See Appendix J for K_{sp} values.)

a. $KClO_4$: $[K^+] = 0.01\ M$, $= 0.01\ M$
b. K_2PtCl_6: $[K^+] = 0.01\ M$, $= 0.01\ M$
c. PbI_2: $[Pb^{2+}] = 0.003\ M$, $[I^-] = 1.3\ 10^{-3}\ M$
d. Ag_2S: $[Ag^+] = 1\ 10^{-10}\ M$, $[S^{2-}] = 1\ 10^{-13}\ M$

31.

Which of the following compounds precipitates from a solution that has the concentrations indicated? (See Appendix J for K_{sp} values.)

a. $CaCO_3$: $[Ca^{2+}] = 0.003\ M$, $= 0.003\ M$
b. $Co(OH)_2$: $[Co^{2+}] = 0.01\ M$, $[OH^-] = 1\ 10^{-7}\ M$
c. $CaHPO_4$: $[Ca^{2+}] = 0.01\ M$, $= 2\ 10^{-6}\ M$
d. $Pb_3(PO_4)_2$: $[Pb^{2+}] = 0.01\ M$, $= 1\ 10^{-13}\ M$

32.

Calculate the concentration of Tl^+ when TlCl just begins to precipitate from a solution that is 0.0250 M in Cl^-.

33.

Calculate the concentration of sulfate ion when $BaSO_4$ just begins to precipitate from a solution that is 0.0758 *M* in Ba^{2+}.

34.

Calculate the concentration of Sr^{2+} when $SrCrO_4$ starts to precipitate from a solution that is 0.0025 *M* in CrO_4^{2-}.

35.

Calculate the concentration of when Ag_3PO_4 starts to precipitate from a solution that is 0.0125 *M* in Ag^+.

36.

Calculate the concentration of F^- required to begin precipitation of CaF_2 in a solution that is 0.010 *M* in Ca^{2+}.

37.

Calculate the concentration of Ag^+ required to begin precipitation of Ag_2CO_3 in a solution that is $2.50\ 10^{-6}$ *M* in

38.

What $[Ag^+]$ is required to reduce to $8.2\ 10^{-4}$ *M* by precipitation of Ag_2CO_3?

39.

What $[F^-]$ is required to reduce $[Ca^{2+}]$ to $1.0\ 10^{-4}$ *M* by precipitation of CaF_2?

40.

A volume of 0.800 L of a $2\ 10^{-4}$-*M* $Ba(NO_3)_2$ solution is added to 0.200 L of $5\ 10^{-4}$ *M* Li_2SO_4. Does $BaSO_4$ precipitate? Explain your answer.

41.

Perform these calculations for nickel(II) carbonate. (a) With what volume of water must a precipitate containing $NiCO_3$ be washed to dissolve 0.100 g of this compound? Assume that the wash water becomes saturated with $NiCO_3$ ($K_{sp} = 1.36\ 10^{-7}$).

(b) If the $NiCO_3$ were a contaminant in a sample of $CoCO_3$ ($K_{sp} = 1.0\ 10^{-12}$), what mass of $CoCO_3$ would have been lost? Keep in mind that both $NiCO_3$ and $CoCO_3$ dissolve in the same solution.

42.

Iron concentrations greater than $5.4\ 10^{-6}$ *M* in water used for laundry purposes can cause staining. What $[OH^-]$ is required to reduce $[Fe^{2+}]$ to this level by precipitation of $Fe(OH)_2$?

43.

A solution is 0.010 *M* in both Cu^{2+} and Cd^{2+}. What percentage of Cd^{2+} remains in the solution when 99.9% of the Cu^{2+} has been precipitated as CuS by adding sulfide?

44.

A solution is 0.15 *M* in both Pb^{2+} and Ag^+. If Cl^- is added to this solution, what is $[Ag^+]$ when $PbCl_2$ begins to precipitate?

45.

What reagent might be used to separate the ions in each of the following mixtures, which are 0.1 *M* with respect to each ion? In some cases it may be necessary to control the pH. (Hint: Consider the K_{sp} values given in Appendix J.)

a. (f) and OH^-

46.

A solution contains $1.0\ 10^{-5}$ mol of KBr and 0.10 mol of KCl per liter. $AgNO_3$ is gradually added to this solution. Which forms first, solid AgBr or solid AgCl?

47.

A solution contains $1.0\ 10^{-2}$ mol of KI and 0.10 mol of KCl per liter. $AgNO_3$ is gradually added to this solution. Which forms first, solid AgI or solid AgCl?

48.

The calcium ions in human blood serum are necessary for coagulation (Figure 15.5). Potassium oxalate, $K_2C_2O_4$, is used as an anticoagulant when a blood sample is drawn for laboratory tests because it removes the calcium as a precipitate of $CaC_2O_4·H_2O$. It is necessary to remove all but 1.0% of the Ca^{2+} in serum in order to prevent coagulation. If normal blood serum with a buffered pH of 7.40 contains 9.5 mg of Ca^{2+} per 100 mL of serum, what mass of $K_2C_2O_4$ is required to prevent the coagulation of a 10 mL blood sample that is 55% serum by volume? (All volumes are accurate to two significant figures. Note that the volume of serum in a 10-mL blood sample is 5.5 mL. Assume that the K_{sp} value for CaC_2O_4 in serum is the same as in water.)

49.

About 50% of urinary calculi (kidney stones) consist of calcium phosphate, $Ca_3(PO_4)_2$. The normal mid range calcium content excreted in the urine is 0.10 g of Ca^{2+} per day. The normal mid range amount of urine passed may be taken as 1.4 L per day. What is the maximum concentration of phosphate ion that urine can contain before a calculus begins to form?

50.

The pH of normal urine is 6.30, and the total phosphate concentration

51.

Magnesium metal (a component of alloys used in aircraft and a reducing agent used in the production of uranium, titanium, and other active metals) is isolated from sea water by the following sequence of reactions:

Sea water has a density of 1.026 g/cm^3 and contains 1272 parts per million of magnesium as $Mg^{2+}(aq)$ by mass. What mass, in kilograms, of $Ca(OH)_2$ is required to precipitate 99.9% of the magnesium in 1.00 10^3 L of sea water?

52.

Hydrogen sulfide is bubbled into a solution that is 0.10 *M* in both Pb^{2+} and Fe^{2+} and 0.30 *M* in HCl. After the solution has come to equilibrium it is saturated with H_2S ($[H_2S] = 0.10$ *M*). What concentrations of Pb^{2+} and Fe^{2+} remain in the solution? For a saturated solution of H_2S we can use the equilibrium:

(Hint: The changes as metal sulfides precipitate.)

53.

Perform the following calculations involving concentrations of iodate ions:

a. The iodate ion concentration of a saturated solution of $La(IO_3)_3$ was found to be 3.1 10^{-3} mol/L. Find the K_{sp}.
b. Find the concentration of iodate ions in a saturated solution of $Cu(IO_3)_2$ (K_{sp} = 7.4 10^{-8}).

54.

Calculate the molar solubility of AgBr in 0.035 *M* NaBr (K_{sp} = 5 10^{-13}).

55.

How many grams of $Pb(OH)_2$ will dissolve in 500 mL of a 0.050-*M* $PbCl_2$ solution (K_{sp} = 1.2 10^{-15})?

56.

Use the simulation from the earlier Link to Learning to complete the following exercise. Using 0.01 g CaF_2, give the K_{sp} values found in a 0.2-*M* solution of each of the salts. Discuss why the values change as you change soluble salts.

57.

How many grams of Milk of Magnesia, $Mg(OH)_2$ (*s*) (58.3 g/mol), would be soluble in 200 mL of water. K_{sp} = 7.1 10^{-12}. Include the ionic reaction and the expression for K_{sp} in your answer. (K_w = 1 10^{-14} = $[H_3O^+][OH^-]$)

58.

Two hypothetical salts, LM_2 and LQ, have the same molar solubility in H_2O. If K_{sp} for LM_2 is 3.20 10^{-5}, what is the K_{sp} value for LQ?

59.

The carbonate ion concentration is gradually increased in a solution containing equal concentrations of the divalent cations of magnesium, calcium, strontium, barium, and manganese. Which of the following carbonates will precipitate first? Which will precipitate last? Explain.

a.

b.

c.

d.

e.

60.

How many grams of $Zn(CN)_2(s)$ (117.44 g/mol) would be soluble in 100 mL of H_2O? Include the balanced reaction and the expression for K_{sp} in your answer. The K_{sp} value for $Zn(CN)_2(s)$ is $3.0\ 10^{-16}$.

61.

Even though $Ca(OH)_2$ is an inexpensive base, its limited solubility restricts its use. What is the pH of a saturated solution of $Ca(OH)_2$?

62.

Under what circumstances, if any, does a sample of solid AgCl completely dissolve in pure water?

63.

Explain why the addition of NH_3 or HNO_3 to a saturated solution of Ag_2CO_3 in contact with solid Ag_2CO_3 increases the solubility of the solid.

64.

Calculate the cadmium ion concentration, $[Cd^{2+}]$, in a solution prepared by mixing 0.100 L of 0.0100 *M* $Cd(NO_3)_2$ with 0.150 L of 0.100 $NH_3(aq)$.

65.

Explain why addition of NH_3 or HNO_3 to a saturated solution of $Cu(OH)_2$ in contact with solid $Cu(OH)_2$ increases the solubility of the solid.

66.

Sometimes equilibria for complex ions are described in terms of dissociation constants, K_d. For the complex ion the dissociation reaction is:

and

Calculate the value of the formation constant, K_f, for

67.

Using the value of the formation constant for the complex ion calculate the dissociation constant.

68.

Using the dissociation constant, $K_d = 7.8\ 10^{-18}$, calculate the equilibrium concentrations of Cd^{2+} and CN^- in a 0.250-*M* solution of

69.

Using the dissociation constant, $K_d = 3.4\ 10^{-15}$, calculate the equilibrium concentrations of Zn^{2+} and OH^- in a 0.0465-*M* solution of

70.

Using the dissociation constant, $K_d = 2.2\ 10^{-34}$, calculate the equilibrium concentrations of Co^{3+} and NH_3 in a 0.500-*M* solution of

71.

Using the dissociation constant, $K_d = 1\ 10^{-44}$, calculate the equilibrium concentrations of Fe^{3+} and CN^- in a 0.333 M solution of

72.

Calculate the mass of potassium cyanide ion that must be added to 100 mL of solution to dissolve $2.0\ 10^{-2}$ mol of silver cyanide, AgCN.

73.

Calculate the minimum concentration of ammonia needed in 1.0 L of solution to dissolve 3.0 10^{-3} mol of silver bromide.

74.

A roll of 35-mm black and white photographic film contains about 0.27 g of unexposed AgBr before developing. What mass of $Na_2S_2O_3 \cdot 5H_2O$ (sodium thiosulfate pentahydrate or hypo) in 1.0 L of developer is required to dissolve the AgBr as (K_f = 4.7 10^{13})?

75.

We have seen an introductory definition of an acid: An acid is a compound that reacts with water and increases the amount of hydronium ion present. In the chapter on acids and bases, we saw two more definitions of acids: a compound that donates a proton (a hydrogen ion, H^+) to another compound is called a Brønsted-Lowry acid, and a Lewis acid is any species that can accept a pair of electrons. Explain why the introductory definition is a macroscopic definition, while the Brønsted-Lowry definition and the Lewis definition are microscopic definitions.

76.

Write the Lewis structures of the reactants and product of each of the following equations, and identify the Lewis acid and the Lewis base in each:

a.
b.
c.
d. (use Al-Cl single bonds)
e.

77.

Write the Lewis structures of the reactants and product of each of the following equations, and identify the Lewis acid and the Lewis base in each:

a.
b.
c.
d.
e.

78.

Using Lewis structures, write balanced equations for the following reactions:

a.
b.
c.
d.

79.

Calculate in a solution prepared by adding 0.0200 mol of NaCl to 0.250 L of a 0.100-*M* $HgCl_2$ solution.

80.

In a titration of cyanide ion, 28.72 mL of 0.0100 *M* $AgNO_3$ is added before precipitation begins. [The reaction of Ag^+ with CN^- goes to completion, producing the complex.] Precipitation of solid AgCN takes place when excess Ag^+ is added to the solution, above the amount needed to complete the formation of How many grams of NaCN were in the original sample?

81.

What are the concentrations of Ag^+, CN^-, and in a saturated solution of AgCN?

82.

In dilute aqueous solution HF acts as a weak acid. However, pure liquid HF (boiling point = 19.5 °C) is a strong acid. In liquid HF, HNO_3 acts like a base and accepts protons. The acidity of liquid HF can be increased by adding one of several inorganic fluorides

that are Lewis acids and accept F^- ion (for example, BF_3 or SbF_5). Write balanced chemical equations for the reaction of pure HNO_3 with pure HF and of pure HF with BF_3.

83.

The simplest amino acid is glycine, $H_2NCH_2CO_2H$. The common feature of amino acids is that they contain the functional groups: an amine group, $–NH_2$, and a carboxylic acid group, $–CO_2H$. An amino acid can function as either an acid or a base. For glycine, the acid strength of the carboxyl group is about the same as that of acetic acid, CH_3CO_2H, and the base strength of the amino group is slightly greater than that of ammonia, NH_3.

a. Write the Lewis structures of the ions that form when glycine is dissolved in 1 *M* HCl and in 1 *M* KOH.
b. Write the Lewis structure of glycine when this amino acid is dissolved in water. (Hint: Consider the relative base strengths of the $–NH_2$ and groups.)

84.

Boric acid, H_3BO_3, is not a Brønsted-Lowry acid but a Lewis acid.

a. Write an equation for its reaction with water.
b. Predict the shape of the anion thus formed.
c. What is the hybridization on the boron consistent with the shape you have predicted?

85.

A saturated solution of a slightly soluble electrolyte in contact with some of the solid electrolyte is said to be a system in equilibrium. Explain. Why is such a system called a heterogeneous equilibrium?

86.

Calculate the equilibrium concentration of Ni^{2+} in a 1.0-*M* solution $[Ni(NH_3)_6](NO_3)_2$.

87.

Calculate the equilibrium concentration of Zn^{2+} in a 0.30-*M* solution of

88.

Calculate the equilibrium concentration of Cu^{2+} in a solution initially with 0.050 *M* Cu^{2+} and 1.00 *M* NH_3.

89.

Calculate the equilibrium concentration of Zn^{2+} in a solution initially with 0.150 *M* Zn^{2+} and 2.50 *M* CN^-.

90.

Calculate the Fe^{3+} equilibrium concentration when 0.0888 mole of $K_3[Fe(CN)_6]$ is added to a solution with 0.0.00010 *M* CN^-.

91.

Calculate the Co^{2+} equilibrium concentration when 0.010 mole of $[Co(NH_3)_6](NO_3)_2$ is added to a solution with 0.25 *M* NH_3. Assume the volume is 1.00 L.

92.

Calculate the molar solubility of $Sn(OH)_2$ in a buffer solution containing equal concentrations of NH_3 and

93.

Calculate the molar solubility of $Al(OH)_3$ in a buffer solution with 0.100 *M* NH_3 and 0.400 *M*

94.

What is the molar solubility of CaF_2 in a 0.100-*M* solution of HF? K_a for HF = $6.4\ 10^{-4}$.

95.

What is the molar solubility of $BaSO_4$ in a 0.250-*M* solution of $NaHSO_4$? K_a for = $1.2\ 10^{-2}$.

96.

What is the molar solubility of $Tl(OH)_3$ in a 0.10-*M* solution of NH_3?

97.

What is the molar solubility of $Pb(OH)_2$ in a 0.138-*M* solution of CH_3NH_2?

98.

A solution of 0.075 *M* $CoBr_2$ is saturated with H_2S ($[H_2S] = 0.10$ *M*). What is the minimum pH at which CoS begins to precipitate?

99.

A 0.125-*M* solution of $Mn(NO_3)_2$ is saturated with H_2S ($[H_2S] = 0.10$ *M*). At what pH does MnS begin to precipitate?

100.

Both AgCl and AgI dissolve in NH_3.

a. What mass of AgI dissolves in 1.0 L of 1.0 *M* NH_3?
b. What mass of AgCl dissolves in 1.0 L of 1.0 *M* NH_3?

101.

The following question is taken from a Chemistry Advanced Placement Examination and is used with the permission of the Educational Testing Service.

Solve the following problem:

In a saturated solution of MgF_2 at 18 °C, the concentration of Mg^{2+} is $1.21\ 10^{-3}$ *M*. The equilibrium is represented by the preceding equation.

a. Write the expression for the solubility-product constant, K_{sp}, and calculate its value at 18 °C.
b. Calculate the equilibrium concentration of Mg^{2+} in 1.000 L of saturated MgF_2 solution at 18 °C to which 0.100 mol of solid KF has been added. The KF dissolves completely. Assume the volume change is negligible.
c. Predict whether a precipitate of MgF_2 will form when 100.0 mL of a $3.00\ 10^{-3}$-*M* solution of $Mg(NO_3)_2$ is mixed with 200.0 mL of a $2.00\ 10^{-3}$-*M* solution of NaF at 18 °C. Show the calculations to support your prediction.
d. At 27 °C the concentration of Mg^{2+} in a saturated solution of MgF_2 is $1.17\ 10^{-3}$ *M*. Is the dissolving of MgF_2 in water an endothermic or an exothermic process? Give an explanation to support your conclusion.

102.

Which of the following compounds, when dissolved in a 0.01-*M* solution of $HClO_4$, has a solubility greater than in pure water: CuCl, $CaCO_3$, MnS, $PbBr_2$, CaF_2? Explain your answer.

103.

Which of the following compounds, when dissolved in a 0.01-*M* solution of $HClO_4$, has a solubility greater than in pure water: AgBr, BaF_2, $Ca_3(PO_4)_2$, ZnS, PbI_2? Explain your answer.

104.

What is the effect on the amount of solid $Mg(OH)_2$ that dissolves and the concentrations of Mg^{2+} and OH^- when each of the following are added to a mixture of solid $Mg(OH)_2$ and water at equilibrium?

a. $MgCl_2$
b. KOH
c. $HClO_4$
d. $NaNO_3$
e. $Mg(OH)_2$

105.

What is the effect on the amount of $CaHPO_4$ that dissolves and the concentrations of Ca^{2+} and when each of the following are added to a mixture of solid $CaHPO_4$ and water at equilibrium?

a. $CaCl_2$
b. HCl
c. $KClO_4$

d. NaOH

e. $CaHPO_4$

106.

Identify all chemical species present in an aqueous solution of $Ca_3(PO_4)_2$ and list these species in decreasing order of their concentrations. (Hint: Remember that the ion is a weak base.)

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CHAPTER OVERVIEW

5: Thermodynamics

Among the many capabilities of chemistry is its ability to predict if a process will occur under specified conditions. Thermodynamics, the study of relationships between the energy and work associated with chemical and physical processes, provides this predictive ability. Previous chapters in this text have described various applications of thermochemistry, an important aspect of thermodynamics concerned with the heat flow accompanying chemical reactions and phase transitions. This chapter will introduce additional thermodynamic concepts, including those that enable the prediction of any chemical or physical changes under a given set of conditions.

5.1: Introduction
5.2: Spontaneity
5.3: Entropy
5.4: The Second and Third Laws of Thermodynamics
5.5: Free Energy
5.6: Key Terms
5.7: Key Equations
5.8: Summary
5.9: Exercises
5.10: Electrochemistry

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5.1: Introduction

Among the many capabilities of chemistry is its ability to predict if a process will occur under specified conditions. Thermodynamics, the study of relationships between the energy and work associated with chemical and physical processes, provides this predictive ability. Previous chapters in this text have described various applications of thermochemistry, an important aspect of thermodynamics concerned with the heat flow accompanying chemical reactions and phase transitions. This chapter will introduce additional thermodynamic concepts, including those that enable the prediction of any chemical or physical changes under a given set of conditions.



Figure 5.1.1: Geysers are a dramatic display of thermodynamic principles in nature. Water deep within the underground channels of the geyser is under high pressure and heated to high temperature by magma. When a pocket of water near the surface reaches boiling point and is expelled, the resulting drop in pressure causes larger volumes of water to flash boil, forcefully ejecting steam and water in an impressive eruption. (credit: modification of work by Yellowstone National Park)

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5.2: Spontaneity

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Distinguish between spontaneous and nonspontaneous processes
- Describe the dispersal of matter and energy that accompanies certain spontaneous processes

Processes have a natural tendency to occur in one direction under a given set of conditions. Water will naturally flow downhill, but uphill flow requires outside intervention such as the use of a pump. Iron exposed to the earth's atmosphere will corrode, but rust is not converted to iron without intentional chemical treatment. A **spontaneous process** is one that occurs naturally under certain conditions. A **nonspontaneous process**, on the other hand, will not take place unless it is "driven" by the continual input of energy from an external source. A process that is spontaneous in one direction under a particular set of conditions is nonspontaneous in the reverse direction. At room temperature and typical atmospheric pressure, for example, ice will spontaneously melt, but water will not spontaneously freeze.

The spontaneity of a process is *not* correlated to the speed of the process. A spontaneous change may be so rapid that it is essentially instantaneous or so slow that it cannot be observed over any practical period of time. To illustrate this concept, consider the decay of radioactive isotopes, a topic more thoroughly treated in the chapter on nuclear chemistry. Radioactive decay is by definition a spontaneous process in which the nuclei of unstable isotopes emit radiation as they are converted to more stable nuclei. All the decay processes occur spontaneously, but the rates at which different isotopes decay vary widely. Technetium-99m is a popular radioisotope for medical imaging studies that undergoes relatively rapid decay and exhibits a half-life of about six hours. Uranium-238 is the most abundant isotope of uranium, and its decay occurs much more slowly, exhibiting a half-life of more than four billion years (Figure 5.2.1).

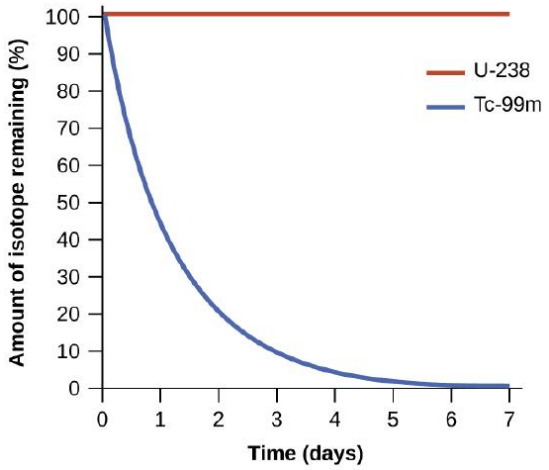


Figure 5.2.1: Both U-238 and Tc-99m undergo spontaneous radioactive decay, but at drastically different rates. Over the course of one week, essentially all of a Tc-99m sample and none of a U-238 sample will have decayed.

As another example, consider the conversion of diamond into graphite (Figure 5.2.2).

$$C(s,\text{ diamond }) \longrightarrow C(s,\text{ graphite })$$

The phase diagram for carbon indicates that graphite is the stable form of this element under ambient atmospheric pressure, while diamond is the stable allotrope at very high pressures, such as those present during its geologic formation. Thermodynamic calculations of the sort described in the last section of this chapter indicate that the conversion of diamond to graphite at ambient pressure occurs spontaneously, yet diamonds are observed to exist, and persist, under these conditions. Though the process is spontaneous under typical ambient conditions, its rate is extremely slow; so, for all practical purposes diamonds are indeed "forever." Situations such as these emphasize the important distinction between the thermodynamic and the kinetic aspects of a

process. In this particular case, diamonds are said to be *thermodynamically unstable* but *kinetically stable* under ambient conditions.

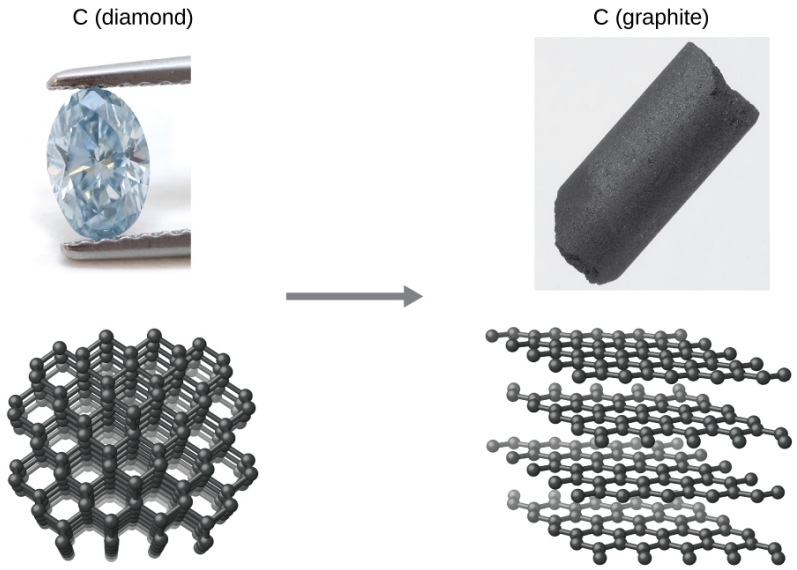


Figure 5.2.2: The conversion of carbon from the diamond allotrope to the graphite allotrope is spontaneous at ambient pressure, but its rate is immeasurably slow at low to moderate temperatures. This process is known as *graphitization*, and its rate can be increased to easily measurable values at temperatures in the 1000–2000 K range. (credit "diamond" photo: modification of work by "Fancy Diamonds"/Flickr; credit "graphite" photo: modification of work by images-of-elements.com/carbon.php)

Dispersal of Matter and Energy

Extending the discussion of thermodynamic concepts toward the objective of predicting spontaneity, consider now an isolated system consisting of two flasks connected with a closed valve. Initially there is an ideal gas in one flask and the other flask is empty ($P = 0$) (Figure 5.2.3). When the valve is opened, the gas spontaneously expands to fill both flasks equally. Recalling the definition of pressure-volume work from the chapter on thermochemistry, note that no work has been done because the pressure in a vacuum is zero.

\[w=-P \Delta V=0 \quad \quad (P=0 \text { in a vacuum })|]

Note as well that since the system is isolated, no heat has been exchanged with the surroundings (q = 0). The *first law of thermodynamics* confirms that there has been no change in the system's internal energy as a result of this process.

$$\Delta U = q + w = 0 + 0 = 0$$

The spontaneity of this process is therefore not a consequence of any change in energy that accompanies the process. Instead, the driving force appears to be related to the *greater, more uniform dispersal of matter* that results when the gas is allowed to expand. Initially, the system was comprised of one flask containing matter and another flask containing nothing. After the spontaneous expansion took place, the matter was distributed both more widely (occupying twice its original volume) and more uniformly (present in equal amounts in each flask).

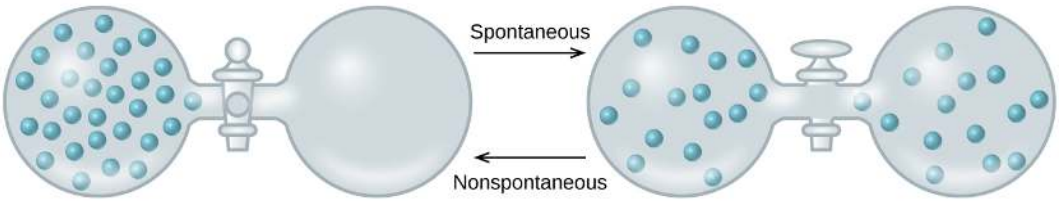


Figure 5.2.3: An isolated system consists of an ideal gas in one flask that is connected by a closed valve to a second flask containing a vacuum. Once the valve is opened, the gas spontaneously becomes evenly distributed between the flasks.

Now consider two objects at different temperatures: object X at temperature T_X and object Y at temperature T_Y, with $T_X > T_Y$ (Figure 5.2.4). When these objects come into contact, heat spontaneously flows from the hotter object (X) to the colder one (Y).

This corresponds to a loss of thermal energy by X and a gain of thermal energy by Y.

$$q_X < 0 \quad \text{and} \quad q_Y = -q_X > 0$$

From the perspective of this two-object system, there was no net gain or loss of thermal energy, rather the available thermal energy was redistributed among the two objects. This spontaneous process resulted in a *more uniform dispersal of energy*.



Figure 5.2.4: When two objects at different temperatures come in contact, heat spontaneously flows from the hotter to the colder object.

As illustrated by the two processes described, an important factor in determining the spontaneity of a process is the extent to which it changes the dispersal or distribution of matter and/or energy. In each case, a spontaneous process took place that resulted in a more uniform distribution of matter or energy.

Example 5.2.1: Redistribution of Matter during a Spontaneous Process

Describe how matter is redistributed when the following spontaneous processes take place:

a. A solid sublimes.
b. A gas condenses.
c. A drop of food coloring added to a glass of water forms a solution with uniform color.

Solution



Figure 5.2.5: (credit a: modification of work by Jenny Downing; credit b: modification of work by "Fuzzy Gerdes"/Flickr; credit c: modification of work by Paul A. Flowers)

a. Sublimation is the conversion of a solid (relatively high density) to a gas (much lesser density). This process yields a much greater dispersal of matter, since the molecules will occupy a much greater volume after the solid-to-gas transition.
b. Condensation is the conversion of a gas (relatively low density) to a liquid (much greater density). This process yields a much lesser dispersal of matter, since the molecules will occupy a much lesser volume after the gas-to-liquid transition.
c. The process in question is diffusion. This process yields a more uniform dispersal of matter, since the initial state of the system involves two regions of different dye concentrations (high in the drop of dye, zero in the water), and the final state of the system contains a single dye concentration throughout.

Exercise 5.2.1

Describe how energy is redistributed when a spoon at room temperature is placed in a cup of hot coffee.

Answer

Heat will spontaneously flow from the hotter object (coffee) to the colder object (spoon), resulting in a more uniform distribution of thermal energy as the spoon warms and the coffee cools.

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5.3: Entropy

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Define entropy
- Explain the relationship between entropy and the number of microstates
- Predict the sign of the entropy change for chemical and physical processes

In 1824, at the age of 28, Nicolas Léonard Sadi Carnot (Figure 5.3.1) published the results of an extensive study regarding the efficiency of steam heat engines. A later review of Carnot's findings by Rudolf Clausius introduced a new thermodynamic property that relates the spontaneous heat flow accompanying a process to the temperature at which the process takes place. This new property was expressed as the ratio of the *reversible* heat (q_{rev}) and the kelvin temperature (T). In thermodynamics, a **reversible process** is one that takes place at such a slow rate that it is always at equilibrium and its direction can be changed (it can be "reversed") by an infinitesimally small change in some condition. Note that the idea of a reversible process is a formalism required to support the development of various thermodynamic concepts; no real processes are truly reversible, rather they are classified as *irreversible*.

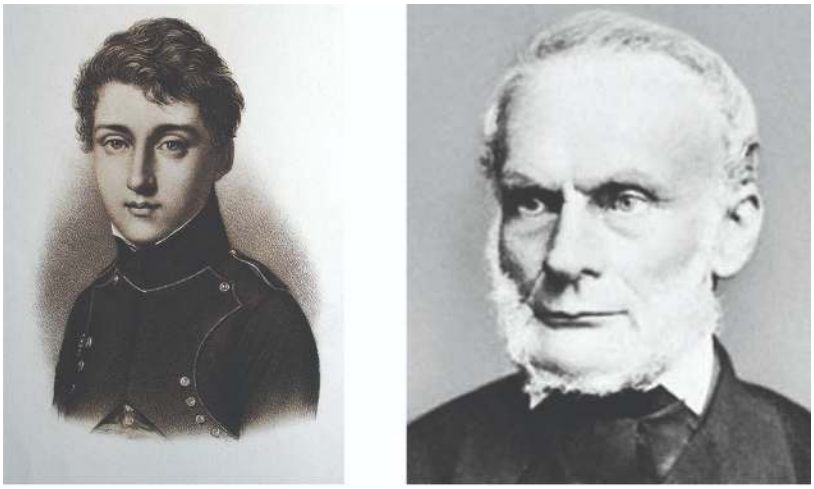


Figure 5.3.1: (a) Nicholas Léonard Sadi Carnot's research into steam-powered machinery and (b) Rudolf Clausius's later study of those findings led to groundbreaking discoveries about spontaneous heat flow processes.

Similar to other thermodynamic properties, this new quantity is a state function, so its change depends only upon the initial and final states of a system. In 1865, Clausius named this property entropy (S) and defined its change for any process as the following:

$$\Delta S = \frac{q_{rev}}{T}$$

The entropy change for a real, irreversible process is then equal to that for the theoretical reversible process that involves the same initial and final states.

Entropy and Microstates

Following the work of Carnot and Clausius, Ludwig Boltzmann developed a molecular-scale statistical model that related the entropy of a system to the *number of microstates* (W) possible for the system. A **microstate** is a specific configuration of all the locations and energies of the atoms or molecules that make up a system. The relation between a system's entropy and the number of possible microstates is

$$S = k \ln W$$

where k is the Boltzmann constant, 1.38 10^{-23} J/K.

As for other state functions, the change in entropy for a process is the difference between its final (S_f) and initial (S_i) values:

$$\Delta S = S_f - S_i = k \ln W_f - k \ln W_i = k \ln \frac{W_f}{W_i}$$

For processes involving an increase in the number of microstates, $W_f > W_i$, the entropy of the system increases and $\Delta S > 0$. Conversely, processes that reduce the number of microstates, $W_f < W_i$, yield a decrease in system entropy, $\Delta S < 0$. This molecular-scale interpretation of entropy provides a link to the probability that a process will occur as illustrated in the next paragraphs.

Consider the general case of a system comprised of N particles distributed among n boxes. The number of microstates possible for such a system is n^N. For example, distributing four particles among two boxes will result in $2^4 = 16$ different microstates as illustrated in Figure 5.3.2. Microstates with equivalent particle arrangements (not considering individual particle identities) are grouped together and are called *distributions*. The probability that a system will exist with its components in a given distribution is proportional to the number of microstates within the distribution. Since entropy increases logarithmically with the number of microstates, *the most probable distribution is therefore the one of greatest entropy*.

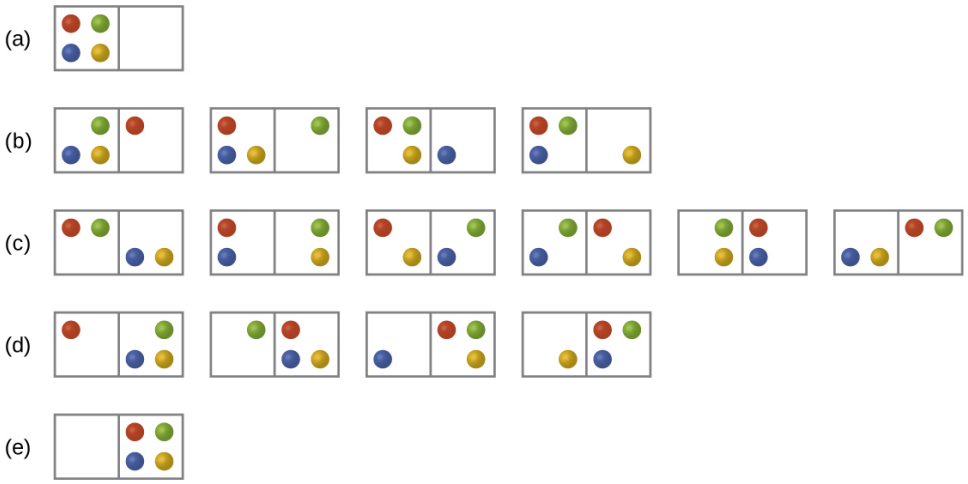


Figure 5.3.2: The sixteen microstates associated with placing four particles in two boxes are shown. The microstates are collected into five distributions—(a), (b), (c), (d), and (e)—based on the numbers of particles in each box.

For this system, the most probable configuration is one of the six microstates associated with distribution (c) where the particles are evenly distributed between the boxes, that is, a configuration of two particles in each box. The probability of finding the system in this configuration is $\frac{6}{16}$ or $\frac{3}{8}$ The least probable configuration of the system is one in which all four particles are in one box, corresponding to distributions (a) and (e), each with a probability of The probability of finding all particles in only one box (either the left box or right box) is then or

$$\left(\frac{1}{16} + \frac{1}{16}\right) = \frac{2}{16} \text{ or } \frac{1}{8}$$

As you add more particles to the system, the number of possible microstates increases exponentially (2^N). A macroscopic (laboratory-sized) system would typically consist of moles of particles ($N \sim 10^{23}$), and the corresponding number of microstates would be staggeringly huge. Regardless of the number of particles in the system, however, the distributions in which roughly equal numbers of particles are found in each box are always the most probable configurations.

This matter dispersal model of entropy is often described qualitatively in terms of the *disorder* of the system. By this description, microstates in which all the particles are in a single box are the most ordered, thus possessing the least entropy. Microstates in which the particles are more evenly distributed among the boxes are more disordered, possessing greater entropy.

The previous description of an ideal gas expanding into a vacuum (Figure 16.4) is a macroscopic example of this particle-in-a-box model. For this system, the most probable distribution is confirmed to be the one in which the matter is most uniformly dispersed or distributed between the two flasks. Initially, the gas molecules are confined to just one of the two flasks. Opening the valve between the flasks increases the volume available to the gas molecules and, correspondingly, the number of microstates possible for the system. Since $W_f > W_i$, the expansion process involves an increase in entropy ($\Delta S > 0$) and is spontaneous.

A similar approach may be used to describe the spontaneous flow of heat. Consider a system consisting of two objects, each containing two particles, and two units of thermal energy (represented as "*") in Figure 5.3.3. The hot object is comprised of particles **A** and **B** and initially contains both energy units. The cold object is comprised of particles **C** and **D**, which initially has no energy units. Distribution (a) shows the three microstates possible for the initial state of the system, with both units of energy contained within the hot object. If one of the two energy units is transferred, the result is distribution (b) consisting of four microstates. If both energy units are transferred, the result is distribution (c) consisting of three microstates. Thus, we may describe this system by a total of ten microstates. The probability that the heat does not flow when the two objects are brought into contact, that is, that the system remains in distribution (a), is $\frac{3}{10}$. More likely is the flow of heat to yield one of the other two distribution, the combined probability being $\frac{7}{10}$. The most likely result is the flow of heat to yield the uniform dispersal of energy represented by distribution (b), the probability of this configuration being $\frac{4}{10}$. This supports the common observation that placing hot and cold objects in contact results in spontaneous heat flow that ultimately equalizes the objects' temperatures. And, again, this spontaneous process is also characterized by an increase in system entropy.

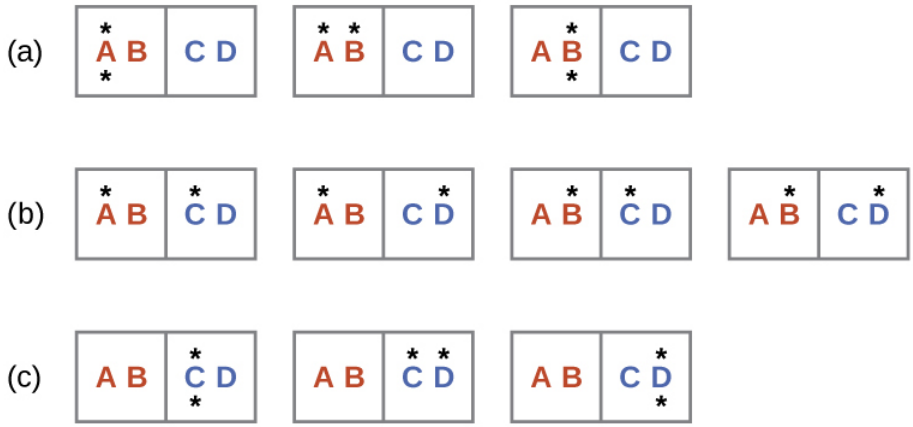
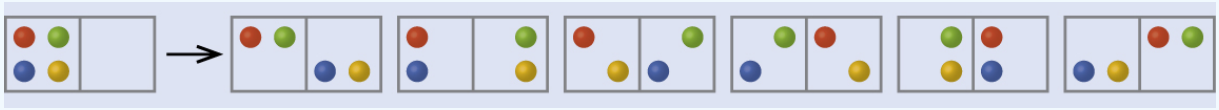


Figure 5.3.3: This shows a microstate model describing the flow of heat from a hot object to a cold object. (a) Before the heat flow occurs, the object comprised of particles **A** and **B** contains both units of energy and as represented by a distribution of three microstates. (b) If the heat flow results in an even dispersal of energy (one energy unit transferred), a distribution of four microstates results. (c) If both energy units are transferred, the resulting distribution has three microstates.

✔ Example 5.3.1: Determination of ΔS

Calculate the change in entropy for the process depicted below.



Solution

The initial number of microstates is one, the final six:

$$\Delta S = k \ln \frac{W_c}{W_a} = 1.38 \times 10^{-23} J/K \times \ln \frac{6}{1} = 2.47 \times 10^{-23} J/K$$

The sign of this result is consistent with expectation; since there are more microstates possible for the final state than for the initial state, the change in entropy should be positive.

? Exercise 5.3.1

Consider the system shown in Figure 5.3.3. What is the change in entropy for the process where *all* the energy is transferred from the hot object (**AB**) to the cold object (**CD**)?

Answer

0 J/K

Predicting the Sign of ΔS

The relationships between entropy, microstates, and matter/energy dispersal described previously allow us to make generalizations regarding the relative entropies of substances and to predict the sign of entropy changes for chemical and physical processes. Consider the phase changes illustrated in Figure 5.3.4. In the solid phase, the atoms or molecules are restricted to nearly fixed positions with respect to each other and are capable of only modest oscillations about these positions. With essentially fixed locations for the system's component particles, the number of microstates is relatively small. In the liquid phase, the atoms or molecules are free to move over and around each other, though they remain in relatively close proximity to one another. This increased freedom of motion results in a greater variation in possible particle locations, so the number of microstates is correspondingly greater than for the solid. As a result, $S_{liquid} > S_{solid}$ and the process of converting a substance from solid to liquid (melting) is characterized by an increase in entropy, $\Delta S > 0$. By the same logic, the reciprocal process (freezing) exhibits a decrease in entropy, $\Delta S < 0$.

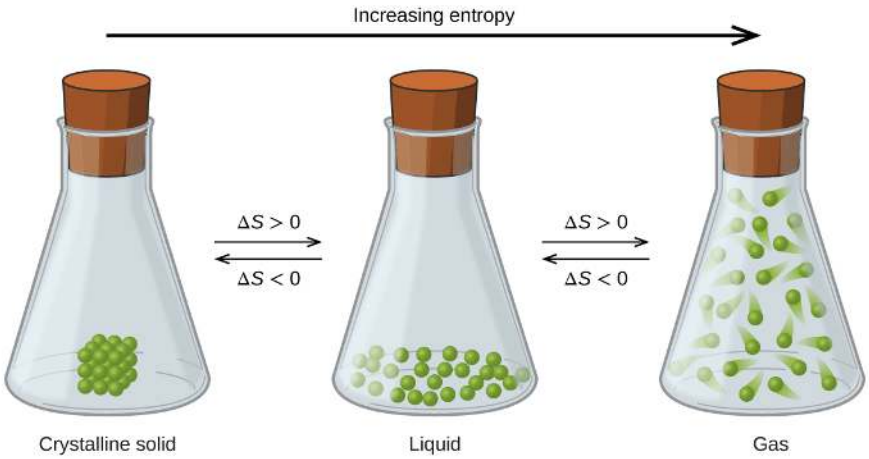


Figure 5.3.4: The entropy of a substance increases ($\Delta S > 0$) as it transforms from a relatively ordered solid, to a less-ordered liquid, and then to a still less-ordered gas. The entropy decreases ($\Delta S < 0$) as the substance transforms from a gas to a liquid and then to a solid.

Now consider the gaseous phase, in which a given number of atoms or molecules occupy a *much* greater volume than in the liquid phase. Each atom or molecule can be found in many more locations, corresponding to a much greater number of microstates. Consequently, for any substance, $S_{gas} > S_{liquid} > S_{solid}$, and the processes of vaporization and sublimation likewise involve increases in entropy, $\Delta S > 0$. Likewise, the reciprocal phase transitions, condensation and deposition, involve decreases in entropy, $\Delta S < 0$.

According to kinetic-molecular theory, the temperature of a substance is proportional to the average kinetic energy of its particles. Raising the temperature of a substance will result in more extensive vibrations of the particles in solids and more rapid translations of the particles in liquids and gases. At higher temperatures, the distribution of kinetic energies among the atoms or molecules of the substance is also broader (more dispersed) than at lower temperatures. Thus, the entropy for any substance increases with temperature (Figure 5.3.5).

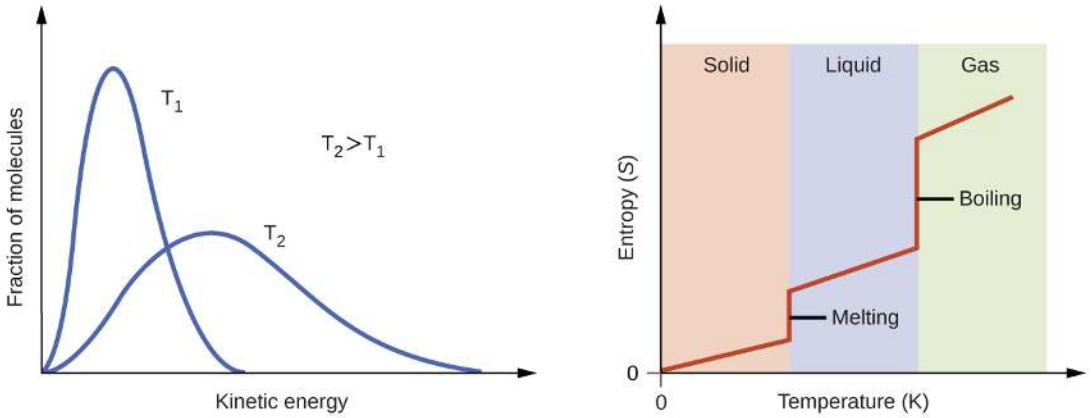


Figure 5.3.5: Entropy increases as the temperature of a substance is raised, which corresponds to the greater spread of kinetic energies. When a substance undergoes a phase transition, its entropy changes significantly.

Link to Learning

Try this simulator with interactive visualization of the dependence of particle location and freedom of motion on physical state and temperature.

The entropy of a substance is influenced by the structure of the particles (atoms or molecules) that comprise the substance. With regard to atomic substances, heavier atoms possess greater entropy at a given temperature than lighter atoms, which is a consequence of the relation between a particle's mass and the spacing of quantized translational energy levels (a topic beyond the scope of this text). For molecules, greater numbers of atoms increase the number of ways in which the molecules can vibrate and thus the number of possible microstates and the entropy of the system.

Finally, variations in the types of particles affects the entropy of a system. Compared to a pure substance, in which all particles are identical, the entropy of a mixture of two or more different particle types is greater. This is because of the additional orientations and interactions that are possible in a system comprised of nonidentical components. For example, when a solid dissolves in a liquid, the particles of the solid experience both a greater freedom of motion and additional interactions with the solvent particles. This corresponds to a more uniform dispersal of matter and energy and a greater number of microstates. The process of dissolution therefore involves an increase in entropy, $\Delta S > 0$.

Considering the various factors that affect entropy allows us to make informed predictions of the sign of ΔS for various chemical and physical processes as illustrated in Example 5.3.2.

Example 5.3.2: Predicting the Sign of ΔS

Predict the sign of the entropy change for the following processes. Indicate the reason for each of your predictions.

a. One mole liquid water at room temperature one mole liquid water at 50 °C
b. $Ag^+(aq) + Cl^-(aq) \longrightarrow AgCl(s)$
c. \(C_6 H_6(l)+\frac{15}{2} O_2(g) \longrightarrow 6 CO_2(g)+3 H_2O(l))
d. $NH_3(s) \longrightarrow NH_3(l)$

Solution

a. positive, temperature increases
b. negative, reduction in the number of ions (particles) in solution, decreased dispersal of matter
c. negative, net decrease in the amount of gaseous species
d. positive, phase transition from solid to liquid, net increase in dispersal of matter

Exercise 5.3.1

Predict the sign of the entropy change for the following processes. Give a reason for your prediction.

a. $NaNO_3(s) \longrightarrow Na^+(aq) + NO_3{}^-(aq)$
b. the freezing of liquid water
c. $CO_2(s) \longrightarrow CO_2(g)$
d. $CaCO_3(s) \longrightarrow CaO(s) + CO_2(g)$

Answer

(a) Positive; The solid dissolves to give an increase of mobile ions in solution.

(b) Negative; The liquid becomes a more ordered solid.

(c) Positive; The relatively ordered solid becomes a gas.

(d) Positive; There is a net increase in the amount of gaseous species.

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5.4: The Second and Third Laws of Thermodynamics

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- State and explain the second and third laws of thermodynamics
- Calculate entropy changes for phase transitions and chemical reactions under standard conditions

The Second Law of Thermodynamics

In the quest to identify a property that may reliably predict the spontaneity of a process, a promising candidate has been identified: entropy. Processes that involve an increase in entropy *of the system* ($\Delta S > 0$) are very often spontaneous; however, examples to the contrary are plentiful. By expanding consideration of entropy changes to include *the surroundings*, we may reach a significant conclusion regarding the relation between this property and spontaneity. In thermodynamic models, the system and surroundings comprise everything, that is, the universe, and so the following is true:

$$\Delta S_{\text{univ}} = \Delta S_{\text{sys}} + \Delta S_{\text{surr}}$$

To illustrate this relation, consider again the process of heat flow between two objects, one identified as the system and the other as the surroundings. There are three possibilities for such a process:

1. The objects are at different temperatures, and heat flows from the hotter to the cooler object. *This is always observed to occur spontaneously.* Designating the hotter object as the system and invoking the definition of entropy yields the following:

   $$\Delta S_{sys} = \frac{-q_{rev}}{T_{sys}} \quad \text{and} \quad \Delta S_{surr} = \frac{q_{rev}}{T_{surr}}$$

   The magnitudes of $-q_{\text{rev}}$ and q_{rev} are equal, their opposite arithmetic signs denoting loss of heat by the system and gain of heat by the surroundings. Since $T_{\text{sys}} > T_{\text{surr}}$ in this scenario, the entropy *decrease* of the system will be less than the entropy *increase* of the surroundings, and so *the entropy of the universe will increase*:

   $$|\Delta S_{\text{sys}}| < |\Delta S_{\text{surr}}|$$
   $$\Delta S_{\text{univ}} = \Delta S_{\text{sys}} + \Delta S_{\text{surr}} > 0$$

2. The objects are at different temperatures, and heat flows from the cooler to the hotter object. *This is never observed to occur spontaneously.* Again designating the hotter object as the system and invoking the definition of entropy yields the following:

   $$\Delta S_{sys} = \frac{q_{rev}}{T_{sys}} \quad \text{and} \quad \Delta S_{surr} = \frac{-q_{rev}}{T_{surr}}$$

   The arithmetic signs of q_{rev} denote the gain of heat by the system and the loss of heat by the surroundings. The magnitude of the entropy change for the surroundings will again be greater than that for the system, but in this case, the signs of the heat changes (that is, *the direction of the heat flow*) will yield a negative value for ΔS_{univ}. *This process involves a decrease in the entropy of the universe.*
3. The objects are at essentially the same temperature, $T_{\text{sys}} \approx T_{\text{surr}}$, and so the magnitudes of the entropy changes are essentially the same for both the system and the surroundings. In this case, the entropy change of the universe is zero, and the system is *at equilibrium*.

   $$|\Delta S_{\text{sys}}| \approx |\Delta S_{\text{surr}}|$$
   $$\Delta S_{\text{univ}} = \Delta S_{\text{sys}} + \Delta S_{\text{surr}} = 0$$

These results lead to a profound statement regarding the relation between entropy and spontaneity known as the second law of thermodynamics: *all spontaneous changes cause an increase in the entropy of the universe.* A summary of these three relations is provided in Table 5.4.1.

Table 5.4.1: The Second Law of Thermodynamics

$\Delta S_{univ} > 0$	spontaneous
$\Delta S_{univ} < 0$	nonspontaneous (spontaneous in opposite direction)
$\Delta S_{univ} = 0$	at equilibrium

For many realistic applications, the surroundings are vast in comparison to the system. In such cases, the heat gained or lost by the surroundings as a result of some process represents a very small, nearly infinitesimal, fraction of its total thermal energy. For example, combustion of a fuel in air involves transfer of heat from a system (the fuel and oxygen molecules undergoing reaction) to surroundings that are infinitely more massive (the earth's atmosphere). As a result, q_{surr} is a good approximation of q_{rev}, and the second law may be stated as the following:

$$\Delta S_{univ} = \Delta S_{sys} + \Delta S_{surr} = \Delta S_{sys} + \frac{q_{surr}}{T}$$

We may use this equation to predict the spontaneity of a process as illustrated in Example 5.4.1.

Example 5.4.1: Will Ice Spontaneously Melt?

The entropy change for the process

$$H_2O(s) \longrightarrow H_2O(l)$$

is 22.1 J/K and requires that the surroundings transfer 6.00 kJ of heat to the system. Is the process spontaneous at −10.00 °C? Is it spontaneous at +10.00 °C?

Solution

We can assess the spontaneity of the process by calculating the entropy change of the universe. If ΔS_{univ} is positive, then the process is spontaneous. At both temperatures, ΔS_{sys} = 22.1 J/K and q_{surr} = −6.00 kJ.

At −10.00 °C (263.15 K), the following is true:

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta S_{univ} &= \Delta S_{sys} + \Delta S_{surr} = \Delta S_{sys} + \frac{q_{surr}}{T} \\ &= 22.1 J/K + \frac{-6.00 \times 10^3 J}{263.15 K} = -0.7 J/K\end{aligned}$$

$S_{univ} < 0$, so melting is nonspontaneous (*not* spontaneous) at −10.0 °C.

At 10.00 °C (283.15 K), the following is true:

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta S_{univ} &= \Delta S_{sys} + \frac{q_{surr}}{T} \\ &= 22.1 J/K + \frac{-6.00 \times 10^3 J}{283.15 K} = +0.9 J/K\end{aligned}$$

$S_{univ} > 0$, so melting *is* spontaneous at 10.00 °C.

Exercise 5.4.1

Using this information, determine if liquid water will spontaneously freeze at the same temperatures. What can you say about the values of S_{univ}?

Answer

Entropy is a state function, so $\Delta S_{freezing} = -\Delta S_{melting}$ = −22.1 J/K and q_{surr} = +6.00 kJ. At −10.00 °C spontaneous, +0.7 J/K; at +10.00 °C nonspontaneous, −0.9 J/K.

The Third Law of Thermodynamics

The previous section described the various contributions of matter and energy dispersal that contribute to the entropy of a system. With these contributions in mind, consider the entropy of a pure, perfectly crystalline solid possessing no kinetic energy (that is, at a temperature of absolute zero, 0 K). This system may be described by a single microstate, as its purity, perfect crystallinity and complete lack of motion means there is but one possible location for each identical atom or molecule comprising the crystal (W = 1). According to the Boltzmann equation, the entropy of this system is zero.

$$S = k \ln W = k \ln(1) = 0$$

This limiting condition for a system's entropy represents the third law of thermodynamics: *the entropy of a pure, perfect crystalline substance at 0 K is zero.*

Careful calorimetric measurements can be made to determine the temperature dependence of a substance's entropy and to derive absolute entropy values under specific conditions. **Standard entropies** ($S°$) are for one mole of substance under standard conditions (a pressure of 1 bar and a temperature of 298.15 K; see details regarding standard conditions in the thermochemistry chapter of this text). The **standard entropy change** ($\Delta S°$) for a reaction may be computed using standard entropies as shown below:

$$\Delta S^\circ = \sum \nu S^\circ(\text{ products }) - \sum \nu S^\circ(\text{ reactants })$$

where ν represents stoichiometric coefficients in the balanced equation representing the process. For example, $\Delta S°$ for the following reaction at room temperature

$$mA + nB \longrightarrow xC + yD$$

is computed as:

$$= [xS^\circ(C) + yS^\circ(D)] - [mS^\circ(A) + nS^\circ(B)]$$

A partial listing of standard entropies is provided in Table 5.4.2, and additional values are provided in Appendix G. The example exercises that follow demonstrate the use of $S°$ values in calculating standard entropy changes for physical and chemical processes.

Table 5.4.2: Standard entropies for selected substances measured at 1 atm and 298.15 K. (Values are approximately equal to those measured at 1 bar, the currently accepted standard state pressure.)

Substance	($J\ mol^{-1}\ K^{-1}$)
carbon	
C(*s*, graphite)	5.740
C(*s*, diamond)	2.38
CO(*g*)	197.7
$CO_2(g)$	213.8
$CH_4(g)$	186.3
$C_2H_4(g)$	219.5
$C_2H_6(g)$	229.5
$CH_3OH(l)$	126.8
$C_2H_5OH(l)$	160.7
hydrogen	
$H_2(g)$	130.57
H(*g*)	114.6
$H_2O(g)$	188.71
$H_2O(l)$	69.91
HCI(*g*)	186.8
$H_2S(g)$	205.7
oxygen	
$O_2(g)$	205.03

Example 5.4.2: Determination of ΔS°

Calculate the standard entropy change for the following process:

$$H_2O(g) \longrightarrow H_2O(l)$$

Solution

Calculate the entropy change using standard entropies as shown above:

$$\Delta S^\circ = (1mol)\left(70.0Jmol^{-1}K^{-1}\right) - (1mol)\left(188.8Jmol^{-1}K^{-1}\right) = -118.8J/K$$

The value for ΔS° is negative, as expected for this phase transition (condensation), which the previous section discussed.

Exercise 5.4.2

Calculate the standard entropy change for the following process:

$$H_2(g) + C_2H_4(g) \longrightarrow C_2H_6(g)$$

Answer

−120.6 J K^{-1} mol^{-1}

Example 5.4.3: Determination of ΔS°

Calculate the standard entropy change for the combustion of methanol, CH_3OH:

$$2CH_3OH(l) + 3O_2(g) \longrightarrow 2CO_2(g) + 4H_2O(l)$$

Solution

Calculate the entropy change using standard entropies as shown above:

$$\Delta S^\circ = \sum \nu S^\circ(\text{ products }) - \sum \nu S^\circ(\text{ reactants })$$

$$[2mol \times S^\circ(CO_2(g)) + 4mol \times S^\circ(H_2O(l))] - [2mol \times S^\circ(CH_3OH(l)) + 3mol \times S^\circ(O_2(g))]$$

$$= \{[2(213.8) + 4 \times 70.0] - [2(126.8) + 3(205.2)]\} = -161.6J/K$$

Exercise 5.4.3

Calculate the standard entropy change for the following reaction:

$$Ca(OH)_2(s) \longrightarrow CaO(s) + H_2O(l)$$

Answer

24.7 J/K

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5.5: Free Energy

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Define Gibbs free energy, and describe its relation to spontaneity
- Calculate free energy change for a process using free energies of formation for its reactants and products
- Calculate free energy change for a process using enthalpies of formation and the entropies for its reactants and products
- Explain how temperature affects the spontaneity of some processes
- Relate standard free energy changes to equilibrium constants

One of the challenges of using the second law of thermodynamics to determine if a process is spontaneous is that it requires measurements of the entropy change for the system *and* the entropy change for the surroundings. An alternative approach involving a new thermodynamic property defined in terms of system properties only was introduced in the late nineteenth century by American mathematician Josiah Willard Gibbs. This new property is called the **Gibbs free energy** (G) (or simply the *free energy*), and it is defined in terms of a system's enthalpy and entropy as the following:

$$G = H - TS$$

Free energy is a state function, and at constant temperature and pressure, the free energy change (ΔG) may be expressed as the following:

$$\Delta G = \Delta H - T\Delta S$$

(For simplicity's sake, the subscript "sys" will be omitted henceforth.)

The relationship between this system property and the spontaneity of a process may be understood by recalling the previously derived second law expression:

$$\Delta S_{\text{univ}} = \Delta S + \frac{q_{\text{surr}}}{T}$$

The first law requires that $q_{surr} = -q_{sys}$, and at constant pressure $q_{sys} = \Delta H$, so this expression may be rewritten as:

$$\Delta S_{\text{univ}} = \Delta S - \frac{\Delta H}{T}$$

Multiplying both sides of this equation by $-T$, and rearranging yields the following:

$$-T\Delta S_{\text{univ}} = \Delta H - T\Delta S$$

Comparing this equation to the previous one for free energy change shows the following relation:

$$\Delta G = -T\Delta S_{\text{univ}}$$

The free energy change is therefore a reliable indicator of the spontaneity of a process, being directly related to the previously identified spontaneity indicator, ΔS_{univ}. Table 5.5.1 summarizes the relation between the spontaneity of a process and the arithmetic signs of these indicators.

Table 5.5.1: Relation between Process Spontaneity and Signs of Thermodynamic Properties

$\Delta S_{univ} > 0$	$\Delta G < 0$	moves spontaneously in the forward direction, as written, to reach equilibrium
$\Delta S_{univ} < 0$	$\Delta G > 0$	nonspontaneous in the forward direction, as written, but moves spontaneously in the reverse direction, as written, to reach equilibrium
$\Delta S_{univ} = 0$	$\Delta G = 0$	reversible (at equilibrium)

What's "Free" about ΔG?

In addition to indicating spontaneity, the free energy change also provides information regarding the amount of useful work (w) that may be accomplished by a spontaneous process. Although a rigorous treatment of this subject is beyond the scope of an introductory chemistry text, a brief discussion is helpful for gaining a better perspective on this important thermodynamic property.

For this purpose, consider a spontaneous, exothermic process that involves a decrease in entropy. The free energy, as defined by

$$\Delta G = \Delta H - T\Delta S$$

may be interpreted as representing the difference between the energy produced by the process, Δ*H*, and the energy lost to the surroundings, *T*Δ*S*. The difference between the energy produced and the energy lost is the energy available (or "free") to do useful work by the process, Δ*G*. If the process somehow could be made to take place under conditions of thermodynamic reversibility, the amount of work that could be done would be maximal:

$$\Delta G = w_{max}$$

where w_{max} refers to all types of work except expansion (pressure-volume) work.

However, as noted previously in this chapter, such conditions are not realistic. In addition, the technologies used to extract work from a spontaneous process (e.g., batteries) are never 100% efficient, and so the work done by these processes is always less than the theoretical maximum. Similar reasoning may be applied to a nonspontaneous process, for which the free energy change represents the *minimum* amount of work that must be done *on* the system to carry out the process.

Calculating Free Energy Change

Free energy is a state function, so its value depends only on the conditions of the initial and final states of the system. A convenient and common approach to the calculation of free energy changes for physical and chemical reactions is by use of widely available compilations of standard state thermodynamic data. One method involves the use of standard enthalpies and entropies to compute **standard free energy changes**, ΔG^o, according to the following relation.

$$\Delta G^\circ = \Delta H^\circ - T\Delta S^\circ$$

It is important to understand that for phase changes, ΔG^o tells you if the phase change is spontaneous or not; will it happen, or not happen. For chemical reactions, ΔG^o tells you the **extent** of a reaction. In other words, ΔG^o for a reaction tells you how much product will be present at equilibrium. A reaction with $\Delta G^o < 0$ is considered **product-favored at equilibrium**; there will be more products than reactants when the reaction reaches equilibrium. A reaction with $\Delta G^o > 0$ is considered **reactant-favored at equilibrium**; there will be more reactants than products when the reaction reaches equilibrium.

Example 5.5.1: Using Standard Enthalpy and Entropy Changes to Calculate ΔG°

Use standard enthalpy and entropy data from Appendix G to calculate the standard free energy change for the vaporization of water at room temperature (298 K). What does the computed value for ΔG^o say about the spontaneity of this process?

Solution

The process of interest is the following:

$$\mathrm{H_2O\,(l)} \longrightarrow \mathrm{H_2O\,(g)}$$

The standard change in free energy may be calculated using the following equation:

$$\Delta G^\circ = \Delta H^\circ - T\Delta S^\circ$$

From Appendix G:

Substance	$\Delta H_f^\circ (\mathrm{kJ/mol})$	$S^\circ (\mathrm{kJ/K\ mol})$
$H_2O(l)$	−285.83	70.0
$H_2O(g)$	−241.82	188.8

Using the appendix data to calculate the standard enthalpy and entropy changes yields:

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta H^\circ &= \Delta H_f^\circ\left(\mathrm{H_2O\,(g)}\right) - \Delta H_f^\circ\left(\mathrm{H_2O\,(l)}\right)\\ &= [-241.82\ \mathrm{kJ/mol} - (-285.83)]\ \mathrm{kJ/mol} = 44.01\ \mathrm{kJ/mol}\\ \Delta S^\circ &= 1\ \mathrm{mol} \times S^\circ\left(\mathrm{H_2O\,(g)}\right) - 1\ \mathrm{mol} \times S^\circ\left(\mathrm{H_2O\,(l)}\right)\\ &= (1\ \mathrm{mol})\ 188.8 J/mol \cdot K - (1\ \mathrm{mol})\ 70.0\ \mathrm{J/mol\ K} = 118.8\ \mathrm{J\ /\ K}\\ \Delta G^\circ &= \Delta H^\circ - T\Delta S^\circ\end{aligned}$$

Substitution into the standard free energy equation yields:

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta G^\circ &= \Delta H^\circ - T\Delta S^\circ\\ &= 44.01\ \mathrm{kJ} - (298K \times 118.8\ \mathrm{J/K}) \times \frac{1\ \mathrm{kJ}}{1000\ \mathrm{J}}\\ &= 44.01\ \mathrm{kJ} - 35.4\ \mathrm{kJ}\\ &= 8.6\ \mathrm{kJ}\end{aligned}$$

At 298 K (25 °C) so boiling is nonspontaneous (*not* spontaneous).

? Exercise 5.5.1

Use standard enthalpy and entropy data from Appendix G to calculate the standard free energy change for the reaction shown here (298 K). What does the computed value for Δ*G*° say about the spontaneity of this process?

$$\mathrm{C_2H_6\,(g)} \longrightarrow \mathrm{H_2\,(g)} + \mathrm{C_2H_4\,(g)}$$

Answer

the reaction is nonspontaneous (*not* spontaneous) at 25 °C.

The standard free energy change for a reaction may also be calculated from **standard free energy of formation** ΔG_f^o values of the reactants and products involved in the reaction. The standard free energy of formation is the free energy change that accompanies the formation of one mole of a substance from its elements in their standard states. Similar to the standard enthalpy of formation, ΔG_f^o is by definition zero for elemental substances in their standard states. The approach used to calculate ΔG^o for a reaction from ΔG_f^o values is the same as that demonstrated previously for enthalpy and entropy changes. For the reaction

$$mA + nB \longrightarrow xC + yD$$

the standard free energy change at room temperature may be calculated as

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta G^\circ &= \sum \nu \Delta G^\circ(\text{ products }) - \sum \nu \Delta G^\circ(\text{ reactants })\\ &= \left[x\Delta G_f^\circ(C) + y\Delta G_f^\circ(D)\right] - \left[m\Delta G_f^\circ(A) + n\Delta G_f^\circ(B)\right].\end{aligned}$$

✓ Example 5.5.2: Using Standard Free Energies of Formation to Calculate ΔG°

Consider the decomposition of yellow mercury(II) oxide.

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Calculate the standard free energy change at room temperature, using (a) standard free energies of formation and (b) standard enthalpies of formation and standard entropies. Do the results indicate the reaction to be spontaneous or nonspontaneous under standard conditions?

Solution

The required data are available in Appendix G and are shown here.

Compound	ΔG_f°(kJ / mol)	ΔH_f°(kJ / mol)	S°(kJ / K mol)
HgO (*s*, yellow)	−58.43	−90.46	71.13
Hg(*l*)	0	0	75.9
O_2(*g*)	0	0	205.2

(a) Using free energies of formation:

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta G^\circ &= \sum \nu G_f^\circ(\text{ products }) - \sum \nu \Delta G_f^\circ(\text{ reactants }) \\ &= \left[1\Delta G_f^\circ\ \mathrm{Hg\,(l)} + \frac{1}{2}\Delta G_f^\circ\ \mathrm{O_2\,(g)}\right] - 1\Delta G_f^\circ\ \mathrm{HgO\,(s, yellow)} \\ &= \left[1\text{ mol}(0\text{ kJ / mol}) + \frac{1}{2}\text{ mol}(0\text{ kJ / mol})\right] - 1\text{ mol}(-58.43\text{ kJ / mol}) = 58.43\text{ kJ / mol}\end{aligned}$$

(b) Using enthalpies and entropies of formation:

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta H^\circ &= \sum \nu \Delta H_f^\circ(\text{ products }) - \sum \nu \Delta H_f^\circ(\text{ reactants }) \\ &= \left[1\Delta H_f^\circ\ \mathrm{Hg\,(l)} + \frac{1}{2}\Delta H_f^\circ\ \mathrm{O_2\,(g)}\right] - 1\Delta H_f^\circ\ \mathrm{HgO\,(s, yellow)} \\ &= \left[1\text{ mol}(0\text{ kJ / mol}) + \frac{1}{2}\text{ mol}(0\text{ kJ / mol})\right] - 1\text{ mol}(-90.46\text{ kJ / mol}) = 90.46\text{ kJ / mol}\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta S^\circ &= \sum \nu \Delta S^\circ(\text{ products }) - \sum \nu \Delta S^\circ(\text{ reactants }) \\ &= \left[1\ \Delta S^\circ\ \mathrm{Hg\,(l)} + \frac{1}{2}\Delta S^\circ\ \mathrm{O_2\,(g)}\right] - 1\Delta S^\circ\ \mathrm{HgO\,(s, yellow)} \\ &= \left[1\text{ mol}(75.9\text{ J / mol K}) + \frac{1}{2}\text{ mol}(205.2\text{ J / mol K})\right] - 1\text{mol}(71.13\text{ J / mol K}) \\ &\quad = 107.4\ \ \text{J / mol K}\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta G^\circ &= \Delta H^\circ - T\Delta S^\circ = 90.46\text{ kJ} - 298.15\text{ K} \times 107.4\text{ J / K} \cdot \text{mol} \times \frac{1\ \ \text{kJ}}{1000\text{ J}} \\ &= (90.46 - 32.01)\text{ kJ / mol} = 58.45\text{ kJ / mol}\end{aligned}$$

Both ways to calculate the standard free energy change at 25 °C give the same numerical value (to three significant figures), and both predict that the process is nonspontaneous (*not* spontaneous) at room temperature.

? Exercise 5.5.1

Calculate Δ*G*° using (a) free energies of formation and (b) enthalpies of formation and entropies (Appendix G). Do the results indicate the reaction to be spontaneous or nonspontaneous at 25 °C?

$$\mathrm{C_2H_4\,(g)} \longrightarrow \mathrm{H_2\,(g) + C_2H_2\,(g)}$$

Answer

a. 140.8 kJ/mol, nonspontaneous
b. 141.5 kJ/mol, nonspontaneous

Free Energy Changes for Coupled Reactions

The use of free energies of formation to compute free energy changes for reactions as described above is possible because ΔG is a state function, and the approach is analogous to the use of Hess' Law in computing enthalpy changes (see the chapter on thermochemistry). Consider the vaporization of water as an example:

$$\mathrm{H_2O\,(l)} \longrightarrow \mathrm{H_2O\,(g)}$$

An equation representing this process may be derived by adding the formation reactions for the two phases of water (necessarily reversing the reaction for the liquid phase). The free energy change for the sum reaction is the sum of free energy changes for the two added reactions:

$$\begin{array}{ll} \mathrm{H_2\,(g)} + \frac{1}{2}\,\mathrm{O_2\,(g)} \longrightarrow \mathrm{H_2O\,(g)} & \Delta G_f^\circ \text{ gas} \\ \mathrm{H_2O\,(l)} \longrightarrow \mathrm{H_2\,(g)} + \frac{1}{2}\,\mathrm{O_2\,(g)} & -\Delta G_f^o \text{ liquid} \\ \hline \mathrm{H_2O\,(l)} \longrightarrow \mathrm{H_2O\,(g)} & \Delta G^\circ = \Delta G_f^\circ \text{ gas} - \Delta G_f^\circ \text{ liquid} \end{array}$$

This approach may also be used in cases where a nonspontaneous reaction is enabled by coupling it to a spontaneous reaction. For example, the production of elemental zinc from zinc sulfide is thermodynamically unfavorable, as indicated by a positive value for ΔG^o:

$$\mathrm{ZnS\,(s)} \rightarrow \mathrm{Zn\,(s)} + \mathrm{S\,(s)} \quad \Delta G_1^\circ = 201.3kJ$$

The industrial process for production of zinc from sulfidic ores involves coupling this decomposition reaction to the thermodynamically favorable oxidation of sulfur:

$$\mathrm{S\,(s)} + \mathrm{O_2\,(g)} \rightarrow \mathrm{SO_2\,(g)} \quad \Delta G_2^\circ = -300.1kJ$$

The coupled reaction exhibits a negative free energy change and is spontaneous:

$$\mathrm{ZnS\,(s)} + \mathrm{O_2\,(g)} \rightarrow \mathrm{Zn\,(s)} + \mathrm{SO_2\,(g)}$$

$$\Delta G^\circ = 201.3\ \mathrm{kJ} + -300.1\ \mathrm{kJ} = -98.8\ \mathrm{kJ}$$

This process is typically carried out at elevated temperatures, so this result obtained using standard free energy values is just an estimate. The gist of the calculation, however, holds true.

Example 5.5.3: Calculating Free Energy Change for a Coupled Reaction

Is a reaction coupling the decomposition of ZnS to the formation of $\mathrm{H_2S}$ expected to be spontaneous under standard conditions?

Solution

Following the approach outlined above and using free energy values from Appendix G:

$$\begin{array}{lll} \text{Decomposition of zinc sulfide:} & \mathrm{ZnS\,(s)} \rightarrow \mathrm{Zn\,(s)} + \mathrm{S\,(s)} & \Delta G_1^\circ = 201.3\ \mathrm{kJ} \\ \text{Formation of hydrogen sulfide:} & \mathrm{S\,(s)} + \mathrm{H_2\,(g)} \rightarrow \mathrm{H_2S\,(g)} & \Delta G_1^\circ = -33.4\ \mathrm{kJ} \\ \hline & \mathrm{ZnS\,(s)} + \mathrm{H_2\,(g)} \rightarrow \mathrm{Zn\,(s)} & \Delta G^\circ = 201.3\ \mathrm{kJ} + -33.4\ \mathrm{kJ} \\ \text{Coupled reaction:} & + \mathrm{H_2S\,(g)} & = 167.9\ \mathrm{kJ} \end{array}$$

The coupled reaction exhibits a positive free energy change and is thus nonspontaneous.

Exercise 5.5.3

What is the standard free energy change for the reaction below? Is the reaction expected to be spontaneous under standard conditions?

$$\mathrm{FeS\,(s)} + \mathrm{O_2\,(g)} \rightarrow \mathrm{Fe\,(s)} + \mathrm{SO_2\,(g)}$$

Answer

−199.7 kJ; spontaneous

Temperature Dependence of Spontaneity and Extent of Reaction

As was previously demonstrated in this chapter's section on entropy, the spontaneity of a process may depend upon the temperature of the system. Phase transitions, for example, will proceed spontaneously in one direction or the other depending upon the temperature of the substance in question. In a similar, but not identical fashion, some chemical reactions can switch from being product-favored at equilibrium, to being reactant-favored at equilibrium, depending on the temperature.

Note

The numerical value of ΔG^o is always dependent on the temperature. In this section we are determining whether or not the **sign** of ΔG^o is dependent on the temperature.

To illustrate this concept, the equation relating free energy change to the enthalpy and entropy changes for the process is considered:

$$\Delta G^o = \Delta H^o - T\Delta S^o$$

The extent of a process, as reflected in the arithmetic sign of its standard free energy change, is then determined by the signs of the enthalpy and entropy changes and, in some cases, the absolute temperature. Since T is the absolute (Kelvin) temperature, it can only have positive values. Four possibilities therefore exist with regard to the signs of the enthalpy and entropy changes:

1. **Both ΔH^o and ΔS^o are positive.** This condition describes an endothermic process that involves an increase in system entropy. In this case, ΔG^o will be negative if the magnitude of the $T\Delta S^o$ term is greater than ΔH^o. If the $T\Delta S^o$ term is less than ΔH^o, the free energy change will be positive. Such a process is *product-favored at equilibrium at high temperatures and reactant-favored at equilibrium at low temperatures.*
2. **Both ΔH^o and ΔS^o are negative.** This condition describes an exothermic process that involves a decrease in system entropy. In this case, ΔG^o will be negative if the magnitude of the $T\Delta S^o$ term is less than ΔH^o. If the $T\Delta S^o$ term's magnitude is greater than ΔH^o, the free energy change will be positive. Such a process is *product-favored at equilibrium at low temperatures* and *reactant-favored at equilibrium at high temperatures.*
3. **ΔH^o is positive and ΔS^o is negative.** This condition describes an endothermic process that involves a decrease in system entropy. In this case, ΔG^o will be positive regardless of the temperature. Such a process is *reactant-favored at equilibrium at all temperatures.*
4. **ΔH^o is negative and ΔS^o is positive.** This condition describes an exothermic process that involves an increase in system entropy. In this case, ΔG^o will be negative regardless of the temperature. Such a process is *product-favored at equilibrium at all temperatures.*

These four scenarios are summarized in Table 5.5.1

Table 5.5.1

Sign of ΔH^o	Sign of ΔS^o	Sign of ΔG^o	Temperature Dependence of ΔG^o
-	+	-	The sign of ΔG^o does not depend on the temperature.The reaction is product-favored at equilibrium at all temperatures.
+	-	+	The sign of ΔG^o does not depend on the temperature.The reaction is reactant-favored at equilibrium at all temperatures.
-	-	- or +	The sign of ΔG^o **does** depend on the temperature. The reaction will be product-favored at equilibrium at lower temperatures.
+	+	- or +	The sign of ΔG^o **does** depend on the temperature. The reaction will be product-favored at equilibrium at lower temperatures.

Example 5.5.3: Predicting the Temperature Dependence of Spontaneity

The incomplete combustion of carbon is described by the following equation:

$$2\,\mathrm{C}(s) + \mathrm{O}_2(g) \longrightarrow 2\,\mathrm{CO}(g)$$

Does the sign of ΔG° of this process depend upon temperature?

Solution

Combustion processes are exothermic ($\Delta H^{\circ} < 0$). This particular reaction involves an increase in entropy due to the accompanying increase in the amount of gaseous species (net gain of one mole of gas, $\Delta S^{\circ} > 0$). The reaction is therefore product-favored at equilibrium ($\Delta G^{\circ} < 0$) at all temperatures.

Exercise 5.5.3

Popular chemical hand warmers generate heat by the air-oxidation of iron:

$$4\,\mathrm{Fe}(s) + 3\,\mathrm{O}_2(g) \longrightarrow 2\,\mathrm{Fe_2O_3}(s)$$

Does the sign of ΔG^{o} of this process depend upon temperature?

Answer

ΔH^{o} and ΔS^{o} are both negative; the reaction is product-favored at equilibrium at low temperatures.

When considering the conclusions drawn regarding the temperature dependence of the sign of ΔG^{o}, it is important to keep in mind what the terms “high” and “low” mean. Since these terms are adjectives, the temperatures in question are deemed high or low relative to some reference temperature. A process that is reactant-favored at equilibrium at one temperature but product-favored at equilibrium at another temperature will necessarily undergo a change in “extent” (as reflected by its ΔG^{o}) as temperature varies. This is clearly illustrated by a graphical presentation of the free energy change equation, in which ΔG^{o} is plotted on the *y* axis versus *T* on the *x* axis:

$$\Delta G^{\circ} = \Delta H^{\circ} - T\Delta S^{\circ}$$

$$y = b + mx$$

Such a plot is shown in Figure 5.5.2. A process whose enthalpy and entropy changes are of the same arithmetic sign will exhibit a temperature-dependence for the sign of ΔG^{o} as depicted by the two yellow lines in the plot. Each line crosses from one spontaneity domain (positive or negative ΔG^{o}) to the other at a temperature that is characteristic of the process in question. This temperature is represented by the *x*-intercept of the line, that is, the value of *T* for which ΔG^{o} is zero:

$$\Delta G^{\circ} = 0 = \Delta H^{\circ} - T\Delta S^{\circ}$$

$$T = \frac{\Delta H^{\circ}}{\Delta S^{\circ}}$$

Thus, saying a process is product-favored at equilibrium at “high” or “low” temperatures means the temperature is above or below, respectively, that temperature at which ΔG^{o} for the process is zero.

Note

In this discussion, we have used two different descriptions for the meaning of the sign of ΔG^{o}. You should be aware of the meaning of each description.

a) **Extent of Reaction:** This description is used to predict the ratio of the product and reactant concentrations at equilibrium. In this description, we use the thermodynamic term ΔG^{o} to tell us the same information as the equilibrium constant, K. When $\Delta G^{o} < 0$, K > 1, and the reaction will be product-favored at equilibrium. When $\Delta G^{o} > 0$, K< 1, and the reaction is

reactant-favored at equilibrium. When $\Delta G^o = 0$, K =1, and the reaction will have roughly equal amounts of products and reactants at equilibrium. In all cases, the reaction will form a mixture of products and reactants at equilibrium. We use the sign and magnitude of ΔG^o to tell us how much product will be made if the reaction is allowed to reach equilibrium.

b) **Spontaneity:** This description is much more complicated because it involves two different interpretations of how a reaction at standard state occurs. One interpretation involves the hypothetical process in which the reaction proceeds from a starting point of pure reactants to a finishing point of pure products, with all substances isolated in their own containers under standard state conditions. In the second, more realistic interpretation, the reaction starts with all reactants and all products in their standard state in one container. We then allow this specific mixture to react an infinitesimally small amount so that we can obtain a rate of change in free energy with respect to the extent of reaction when all reactants and products are mixed and (essentially) in their standard states. Although each interpretation describes a different reaction scenario, the value of the difference in free energy and the value of the rate of change in free energy are the same number. If $\Delta G^o < 0$, we say that the reaction is spontaneous, meaning that the reaction would proceed in the forward direction, as written, to form pure products in their standard state. If $\Delta G^o > 0$, we say that the reaction is nonspontaneous, meaning that the reaction would proceed in the reverse direction, as written, to form pure reactants in their standard state. If $\Delta G^o = 0$, we say that the neither the reactants nor the products are favored to be formed.

A detailed treatment of the meaning of ΔGº can be found in the paper, "Free Energy versus Extent of Reaction" by Richard S. Treptow, Journal of Chemical Education, **1996**, Volume 73 (1), 51-54.

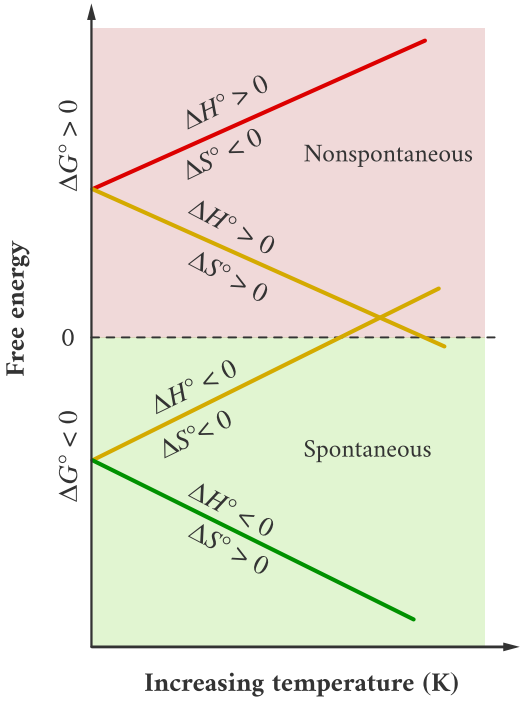


Figure 5.5.2: These plots show the variation in ΔGº with temperature for the four possible combinations of arithmetic sign for ΔHº and ΔSº. Note that in this graph of ΔGº, "spontaneous" is synonymous with "product-favored at equilibrium", and "nonspontaneous" is synonymous with "reactant-favored at equilibrium".

Example 5.5.4: Equilibrium Temperature for a Phase Transition

As defined in the chapter on liquids and solids, the boiling point of a liquid is the temperature at which its solid and liquid phases are in equilibrium (that is, when vaporization and condensation occur at equal rates). Use the information in Tables T1 or T2 to estimate the boiling point of water.

Solution

The process of interest is the following phase change:

$$\mathrm{H_2O}(l) \longrightarrow \mathrm{H_2O}(g)$$

When this process is at equilibrium, $\Delta G = 0$, so the following is true:

$$0 = \Delta H° - T\Delta S° \qquad \text{or} \qquad T = \frac{\Delta H°}{\Delta S°}$$

Using the standard thermodynamic data from Tables T1 or T2,

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta H° &= \Delta H_f°(\mathrm{H_2O}(g)) - \Delta H_f°(\mathrm{H_2O}(l)) \\ &= -241.82\ \mathrm{kJ/mol} - (-285.83\ \mathrm{kJ/mol}) = 44.01\ \mathrm{kJ/mol}\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta S° &= \Delta S°_{298}(\mathrm{H_2O}(g)) - \Delta S°_{298}(\mathrm{H_2O}(l)) \\ &= 188.8\ \mathrm{J/K \cdot mol} - 70.0\ \mathrm{J/K \cdot mol} = 118.8\ \mathrm{J/K \cdot mol}\end{aligned}$$

$$T = \frac{\Delta H°}{\Delta S°} = \frac{44.01 \times 10^3\ \mathrm{J/mol}}{118.8\ \mathrm{J/K \cdot mol}} = 370.5\ \mathrm{K} = 97.3\ °\mathrm{C}$$

The accepted value for water's normal boiling point is 373.2 K (100.0 °C), and so this calculation is in reasonable agreement. Note that the values for enthalpy and entropy changes data used were derived from standard data at 298 K (Tables T1 or T2.). If desired, you could obtain more accurate results by using enthalpy and entropy changes determined at (or at least closer to) the actual boiling point.

? Exercise 5.5.4

Use the information in Tables T1 or T2 to estimate the boiling point of CS_2.

Answer

313 K (accepted value 319 K).

Free Energy and Equilibrium

The free energy change for a process may be viewed as a measure of its driving force. A negative value for ΔG represents a driving force for the process in the forward direction, while a positive value represents a driving force for the process in the reverse direction. When ΔG is zero, the forward and reverse driving forces are equal, and the process occurs in both directions at the same rate (the system is at equilibrium).

In the chapter on equilibrium the *reaction quotient*, Q, was introduced as a convenient measure of the status of an equilibrium system. Recall that Q is the numerical value of the mass action expression for the system, and that you may use its value to identify the direction in which a reaction will proceed in order to achieve equilibrium. When Q is lesser than the equilibrium constant, K, the reaction will proceed in the forward direction until equilibrium is reached and $Q = K$. Conversely, if $Q > K$, the process will proceed in the reverse direction until equilibrium is achieved.

The free energy change for a process taking place with reactants and products present under *nonstandard conditions* (pressures other than 1 bar; concentrations other than 1 M) is related to the standard free energy change according to this equation:

$$\Delta G = \Delta G° + RT \ln Q$$

R is the gas constant (8.314 J/K mol), T is the kelvin or absolute temperature, and Q is the reaction quotient. For gas phase equilibria, the pressure-based reaction quotient, Q_P, is used. The concentration-based reaction quotient, Q_C, is used for condensed phase equilibria. This equation may be used to predict the spontaneity for a process under any given set of conditions as illustrated in Example 5.5.6.

Example 5.5.6: Calculating ΔG under Nonstandard Conditions

What is the free energy change for the process shown here

$$2NH_3(g) \longrightarrow 3H_2(g) + N_2(g)$$

under the specified conditions?

- $T = 25°C$,
- $P_{N_2} = 0.870$ atm
- $P_{H_2} = 0.250$ atm
- $P_{NH_3} = 12.9$ atm

$$\Delta G° = 33.0 kJ/mol$$

Solution

The equation relating free energy change to standard free energy change and reaction quotient may be used directly:

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta G &= \Delta G° + RT \ln Q \\ &= 33.0 \frac{\text{kJ}}{\text{mol}} + \left(8.314 \frac{\text{J}}{\text{mol K}} \times 298 K \times \ln \frac{(0.250^3) \times 0.870}{12.9^2} \right) \\ &= 9680 \frac{\text{J}}{\text{mol}} \text{ or } 9.68 \text{ kJ/mol}\end{aligned}$$

Since the computed value for Δ*G* is positive, the reaction is nonspontaneous under these conditions.

Exercise 5.5.6

Calculate the free energy change for this same reaction at 875 °C in a 5.00 L mixture containing 0.100 mol of each gas. Is the reaction spontaneous under these conditions?

Answer

Δ*G* = –123.5 kJ/mol; yes

For a system at equilibrium, *Q* = *K* and Δ*G* = 0, and the previous equation may be written as

$$0 = \Delta G° + RT \ln K \quad \text{(at equilibrium)}$$

$$\Delta G° = -RT \ln K$$

or

$$K = e^{-\frac{\Delta G}{RT}}$$

This form of the equation provides a useful link between these two essential thermodynamic properties, and it can be used to derive equilibrium constants from standard free energy changes and vice versa. The relations between standard free energy changes and equilibrium constants are summarized in Table 5.5.2.

Table 5.5.2: Relations between Standard Free Energy Changes and Equilibrium Constants

K	Δ*G*°	Composition of an Equilibrium Mixture
> 1	< 0	Products are more abundant
< 1	> 0	Reactants are more abundant
= 1	= 0	Reactants and products are comparably abundant

Example 5.5.7: Calculating an Equilibrium Constant using Standard Free Energy Change

Given that the standard free energies of formation of $Ag^+(aq)$, $Cl^-(aq)$, and AgCl(*s*) are 77.1 kJ/mol, −131.2 kJ/mol, and −109.8 kJ/mol, respectively, calculate the solubility product, K_{sp}, for AgCl.

Solution

The reaction of interest is the following:

$$AgCl(s) \rightleftharpoons Ag^+(aq) + Cl^-(aq) \quad K_{sp} = [Ag^+]\,[Cl^-]$$

The standard free energy change for this reaction is first computed using standard free energies of formation for its reactants and products:

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta G^\circ &= \left[\Delta G_f^\circ\left(\mathrm{Ag^+\,(aq)}\right) + \Delta G_f^\circ\left(\mathrm{Cl^-\,(aq)}\right)\right] - \left[\Delta G_f^\circ(\mathrm{AgCl\,(s)})\right] \\ &= [77.1\ \mathrm{kJ/mol} - 131.2\ \mathrm{kJ/mol}] - [-109.8\ \mathrm{kJ/mol}] = 55.7\ \mathrm{kJ/mol}\end{aligned}$$

The equilibrium constant for the reaction may then be derived from its standard free energy change:

$$\begin{aligned}K_{sp} = e^{-\frac{\Delta G^\circ}{RT}} &= \exp\left(-\frac{\Delta G^\circ}{RT}\right) = \exp\left(-\frac{55.7\times10^3 J/mol}{8.314 J/mol\cdot K\times 298.15 K}\right) \\ &= \exp(-22.470) = e^{-22.470} = 1.74\times10^{-10}\end{aligned}$$

This result is in reasonable agreement with the value provided in Appendix J.

Exercise 5.5.7

Use the thermodynamic data provided in Appendix G to calculate the equilibrium constant for the dissociation of dinitrogen tetroxide at 25 °C.

$$2NO_2(g) \rightleftharpoons N_2O_4(g)$$

Answer

K = 3.1

To further illustrate the relation between these two essential thermodynamic concepts, consider the observation that reactions spontaneously proceed in a direction that ultimately establishes equilibrium. As may be shown by plotting the free energy versus the extent of the reaction (for example, as reflected in the value of *Q*), equilibrium is established when the system's free energy is minimized (Figure 5.5.3). If a system consists of reactants and products in nonequilibrium amounts ($Q \neq K$), the reaction will proceed spontaneously in the direction necessary to establish equilibrium.

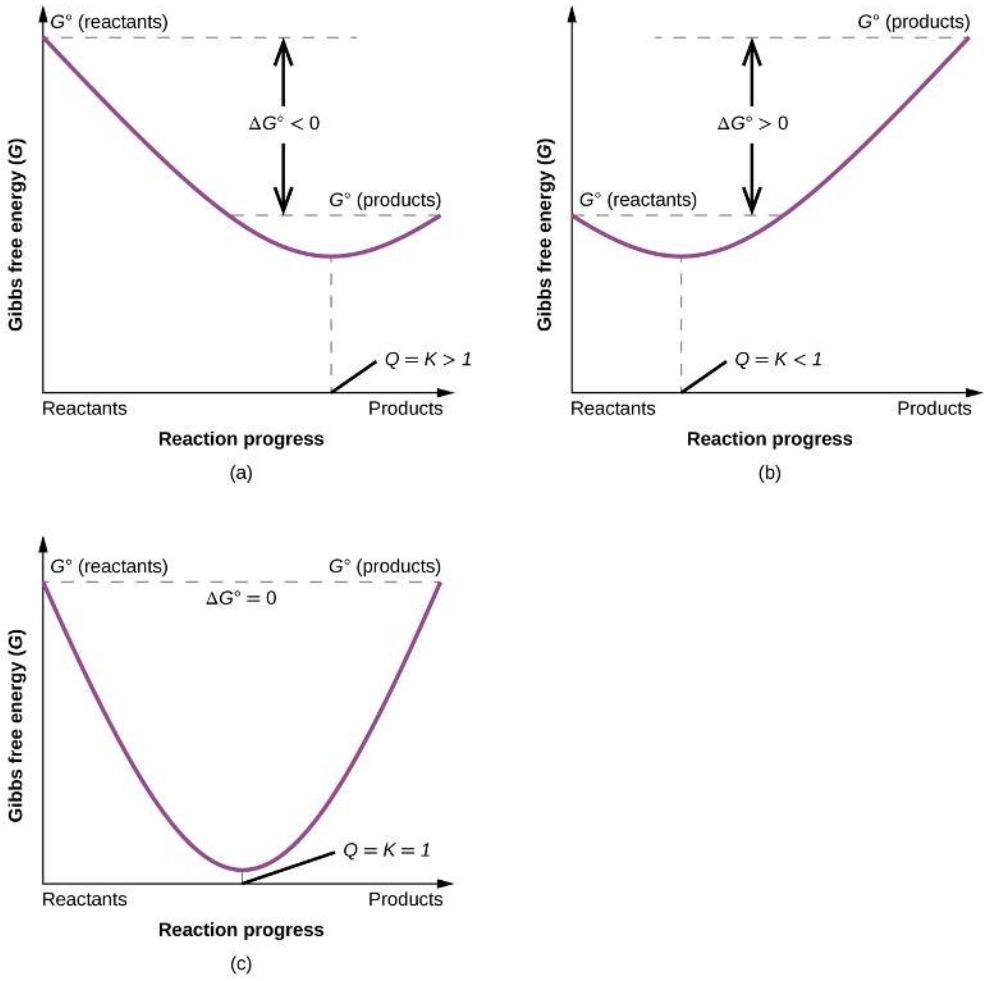


Figure 5.5.3: These plots show the free energy versus reaction progress for systems whose standard free energy changes are (a) negative, (b) positive, and (c) zero. Nonequilibrium systems will proceed spontaneously in whatever direction is necessary to minimize free energy and establish equilibrium.

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5.6: Key Terms

entropy (*S*) | state function that is a measure of the matter and/or energy dispersal within a system, determined by the number of system microstates; often described as a measure of the disorder of the system

Gibbs free energy change (*G*) | thermodynamic property defined in terms of system enthalpy and entropy; all spontaneous processes involve a decrease in *G*

microstate | possible configuration or arrangement of matter and energy within a system

nonspontaneous process | process that requires continual input of energy from an external source

reversible process | process that takes place so slowly as to be capable of reversing direction in response to an infinitesimally small change in conditions; hypothetical construct that can only be approximated by real processes

second law of thermodynamics | all spontaneous processes involve an increase in the entropy of the universe

spontaneous change | process that takes place without a continuous input of energy from an external source

standard entropy ($S°$) | entropy for one mole of a substance at 1 bar pressure; tabulated values are usually determined at 298.15 K

standard entropy change ($\Delta S°$) | change in entropy for a reaction calculated using the standard entropies

standard free energy change ($\Delta G°$) | change in free energy for a process occurring under standard conditions (1 bar pressure for gases, 1 M concentration for solutions)

standard free energy of formation | change in free energy accompanying the formation of one mole of substance from its elements in their standard states

third law of thermodynamics | entropy of a perfect crystal at absolute zero (0 K) is zero

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5.7: Key Equations

$$S = k \ln W$$

$$\Delta S_{univ} = \Delta S_{sys} + \Delta S_{surr}$$

$$\Delta G = \Delta H - T\Delta S$$

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5.8: Summary

Chemical and physical processes have a natural tendency to occur in one direction under certain conditions. A spontaneous process occurs without the need for a continual input of energy from some external source, while a nonspontaneous process requires such. Systems undergoing a spontaneous process may or may not experience a gain or loss of energy, but they will experience a change in the way matter and/or energy is distributed within the system.

Entropy (S) is a state function that can be related to the number of microstates for a system (the number of ways the system can be arranged) and to the ratio of reversible heat to kelvin temperature. It may be interpreted as a measure of the dispersal or distribution of matter and/or energy in a system, and it is often described as representing the “disorder” of the system.

For a given substance, entropy depends on phase with $S_{solid} < S_{liquid} < S_{gas}$. For different substances in the same physical state at a given temperature, entropy is typically greater for heavier atoms or more complex molecules. Entropy increases when a system is heated and when solutions form. Using these guidelines, the sign of entropy changes for some chemical reactions and physical changes may be reliably predicted.

The second law of thermodynamics states that a spontaneous process increases the entropy of the universe, $S_{univ} > 0$. If $\Delta S_{univ} < 0$, the process is nonspontaneous, and if $\Delta S_{univ} = 0$, the system is at equilibrium. The third law of thermodynamics establishes the zero for entropy as that of a perfect, pure crystalline solid at 0 K. With only one possible microstate, the entropy is zero. We may compute the standard entropy change for a process by using standard entropy values for the reactants and products involved in the process.

Gibbs free energy (G) is a state function defined with regard to system quantities only and may be used to predict the spontaneity of a process. A negative value for ΔG indicates a spontaneous process; a positive ΔG indicates a nonspontaneous process; and a ΔG of zero indicates that the system is at equilibrium. A number of approaches to the computation of free energy changes are possible.

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5.9: Exercises

1.

What is a spontaneous reaction?

2.

What is a nonspontaneous reaction?

3.

Indicate whether the following processes are spontaneous or nonspontaneous.

a. (f) Iron rusting in a moist atmosphere

4.

A helium-filled balloon spontaneously deflates overnight as He atoms diffuse through the wall of the balloon. Describe the redistribution of matter and/or energy that accompanies this process.

5.

Many plastic materials are organic polymers that contain carbon and hydrogen. The oxidation of these plastics in air to form carbon dioxide and water is a spontaneous process; however, plastic materials tend to persist in the environment. Explain.

6.

In Figure 16.8 all possible distributions and microstates are shown for four different particles shared between two boxes. Determine the entropy change, ΔS, if the particles are initially evenly distributed between the two boxes, but upon redistribution all end up in Box (b).

7.

In Figure 16.8 all of the possible distributions and microstates are shown for four different particles shared between two boxes. Determine the entropy change, ΔS, for the system when it is converted from distribution (b) to distribution (d).

8.

How does the process described in the previous item relate to the system shown in Figure 16.4?

9.

Consider a system similar to the one in Figure 16.8, except that it contains six particles instead of four. What is the probability of having all the particles in only one of the two boxes in the case? Compare this with the similar probability for the system of four particles that we have derived to be equal to What does this comparison tell us about even larger systems?

10.

Consider the system shown in Figure 16.9. What is the change in entropy for the process where the energy is initially associated only with particle A, but in the final state the energy is distributed between two different particles?

11.

Consider the system shown in Figure 16.9. What is the change in entropy for the process where the energy is initially associated with particles A and B, and the energy is distributed between two particles in different boxes (one in A-B, the other in C-D)?

12.

Arrange the following sets of systems in order of increasing entropy. Assume one mole of each substance and the same temperature for each member of a set.

a. $H_2(g)$, $HBrO_4(g)$, $HBr(g)$
b. $H_2O(l)$, $H_2O(g)$, $H_2O(s)$
c. $He(g)$, $Cl_2(g)$, $P_4(g)$

13.

At room temperature, the entropy of the halogens increases from I_2 to Br_2 to Cl_2. Explain.

14.

Consider two processes: sublimation of $I_2(s)$ and melting of $I_2(s)$ (Note: the latter process can occur at the same temperature but somewhat higher pressure).

Is ΔS positive or negative in these processes? In which of the processes will the magnitude of the entropy change be greater?

15.

Indicate which substance in the given pairs has the higher entropy value. Explain your choices.

a. $C_2H_5OH(l)$ or $C_3H_7OH(l)$
b. $C_2H_5OH(l)$ or $C_2H_5OH(g)$
c. $2H(g)$ or $H(g)$

16.

Predict the sign of the entropy change for the following processes.

a. An ice cube is warmed to near its melting point.
b. Exhaled breath forms fog on a cold morning.
c. Snow melts.

17.

Predict the sign of the entropy change for the following processes. Give a reason for your prediction.

a.
b.
c.

18.

Write the balanced chemical equation for the combustion of methane, $CH_4(g)$, to give carbon dioxide and water vapor. Explain why it is difficult to predict whether ΔS is positive or negative for this chemical reaction.

19.

Write the balanced chemical equation for the combustion of benzene, $C_6H_6(l)$, to give carbon dioxide and water vapor. Would you expect ΔS to be positive or negative in this process?

20.

What is the difference between ΔS and $\Delta S°$ for a chemical change?

21.

Calculate for the following changes.

a. (f)

22.

Determine the entropy change for the combustion of liquid ethanol, C_2H_5OH, under the standard conditions to give gaseous carbon dioxide and liquid water.

23.

Determine the entropy change for the combustion of gaseous propane, C_3H_8, under the standard conditions to give gaseous carbon dioxide and water.

24.

“Thermite” reactions have been used for welding metal parts such as railway rails and in metal refining. One such thermite reaction is Is the reaction spontaneous at room temperature under standard conditions? During the reaction, the surroundings absorb 851.8 kJ/mol of heat.

25.

Using the relevant values listed in Appendix G, calculate for the following changes:

a.

b.

26.

From the following information, determine for the following:

27.

By calculating ΔS_{univ} at each temperature, determine if the melting of 1 mole of NaCl(s) is spontaneous at 500 °C and at 700 °C.

What assumptions are made about the thermodynamic information (entropy and enthalpy values) used to solve this problem?

28.

Use the standard entropy data in Appendix G to determine the change in entropy for each of the following reactions. All the processes occur at the standard conditions and 25 °C.

a. (f)

29.

Use the standard entropy data in Appendix G to determine the change in entropy for each of the following reactions. All the processes occur at the standard conditions and 25 °C.

a. (f)

30.

What is the difference between ΔG and $\Delta G°$ for a chemical change?

31.

A reaction has = 100 kJ/mol and Is the reaction spontaneous at room temperature? If not, under what temperature conditions will it become spontaneous?

32.

Explain what happens as a reaction starts with $\Delta G < 0$ (negative) and reaches the point where $\Delta G = 0$.

33.

Use the standard free energy of formation data in Appendix G to determine the free energy change for each of the following reactions, which are run under standard state conditions and 25 °C. Identify each as either spontaneous or nonspontaneous at these conditions.

a. (f)

34.

Use the standard free energy data in Appendix G to determine the free energy change for each of the following reactions, which are run under standard state conditions and 25 °C. Identify each as either spontaneous or nonspontaneous at these conditions.

a. (f)

35.

Given:

a. Determine the standard free energy of formation, for phosphoric acid.
b. How does your calculated result compare to the value in Appendix G? Explain.

36.

Is the formation of ozone ($O_3(g)$) from oxygen ($O_2(g)$) spontaneous at room temperature under standard state conditions?

37.

Consider the decomposition of red mercury(II) oxide under standard state conditions.

a. Is the decomposition spontaneous under standard state conditions?

b. Above what temperature does the reaction become spontaneous?

38.

Among other things, an ideal fuel for the control thrusters of a space vehicle should decompose in a spontaneous exothermic reaction when exposed to the appropriate catalyst. Evaluate the following substances under standard state conditions as suitable candidates for fuels.

a. Ammonia:
b. Diborane:
c. Hydrazine:
d. Hydrogen peroxide:

39.

Calculate $\Delta G°$ for each of the following reactions from the equilibrium constant at the temperature given.

a. (f)

40.

Calculate $\Delta G°$ for each of the following reactions from the equilibrium constant at the temperature given.

a. (f)

41.

Calculate the equilibrium constant at 25 °C for each of the following reactions from the value of $\Delta G°$ given.

a.
b.
c.
d.
e.

42.

Calculate the equilibrium constant at 25 °C for each of the following reactions from the value of $\Delta G°$ given.

a.
b.
c.
d.
e.

43.

Calculate the equilibrium constant at the temperature given.

a.
b.
c.
d.
e.

44.

Calculate the equilibrium constant at the temperature given.

a.
b.
c.
d.
e.

45.

Consider the following reaction at 298 K:

What is the standard free energy change at this temperature? Describe what happens to the initial system, where the reactants and products are in standard states, as it approaches equilibrium.

46.

Determine the normal boiling point (in kelvin) of dichloromethane, CH_2Cl_2. Find the actual boiling point using the Internet or some other source, and calculate the percent error in the temperature. Explain the differences, if any, between the two values.

47.

Under what conditions is spontaneous?

48.

At room temperature, the equilibrium constant (K_w) for the self-ionization of water is 1.00 10^{-14}. Using this information, calculate the standard free energy change for the aqueous reaction of hydrogen ion with hydroxide ion to produce water. (Hint: The reaction is the reverse of the self-ionization reaction.)

49.

Hydrogen sulfide is a pollutant found in natural gas. Following its removal, it is converted to sulfur by the reaction What is the equilibrium constant for this reaction? Is the reaction endothermic or exothermic?

50.

Consider the decomposition of $CaCO_3(s)$ into $CaO(s)$ and $CO_2(g)$. What is the equilibrium partial pressure of CO_2 at room temperature?

51.

In the laboratory, hydrogen chloride ($HCl(g)$) and ammonia ($NH_3(g)$) often escape from bottles of their solutions and react to form the ammonium chloride ($NH_4Cl(s)$), the white glaze often seen on glassware. Assuming that the number of moles of each gas that escapes into the room is the same, what is the maximum partial pressure of HCl and NH_3 in the laboratory at room temperature? (Hint: The partial pressures will be equal and are at their maximum value when at equilibrium.)

52.

Benzene can be prepared from acetylene. Determine the equilibrium constant at 25 °C and at 850 °C. Is the reaction spontaneous at either of these temperatures? Why is all acetylene not found as benzene?

53.

Carbon dioxide decomposes into CO and O_2 at elevated temperatures. What is the equilibrium partial pressure of oxygen in a sample at 1000 °C for which the initial pressure of CO_2 was 1.15 atm?

54.

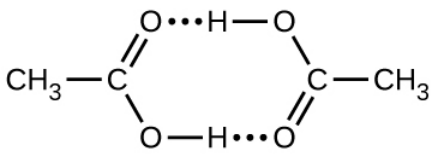
Carbon tetrachloride, an important industrial solvent, is prepared by the chlorination of methane at 850 K.

What is the equilibrium constant for the reaction at 850 K? Would the reaction vessel need to be heated or cooled to keep the temperature of the reaction constant?

55.

Acetic acid, CH_3CO_2H, can form a dimer, $(CH_3CO_2H)_2$, in the gas phase.

The dimer is held together by two hydrogen bonds with a total strength of 66.5 kJ per mole of dimer.



At 25 °C, the equilibrium constant for the dimerization is 1.3 10^3 (pressure in atm). What is $\Delta S°$ for the reaction?

56.

Determine $\Delta G°$ for the following reactions.

(a) Antimony pentachloride decomposes at 448 °C. The reaction is:

An equilibrium mixture in a 5.00 L flask at 448 °C contains 3.85 g of $SbCl_5$, 9.14 g of $SbCl_3$, and 2.84 g of Cl_2.

(b) Chlorine molecules dissociate according to this reaction:

1.00% of Cl_2 molecules dissociate at 975 K and a pressure of 1.00 atm.

57.

Given that the for $Pb^{2+}(aq)$ and $Cl^{-}(aq)$ is −24.3 kJ/mole and −131.2 kJ/mole respectively, determine the solubility product, K_{sp}, for $PbCl_2(s)$.

58.

Determine the standard free energy change, for the formation of $S^{2-}(aq)$ given that the for $Ag^{+}(aq)$ and $Ag_2S(s)$ are 77.1 kJ/mole and −39.5 kJ/mole respectively, and the solubility product for $Ag_2S(s)$ is 8 10^{-51}.

59.

Determine the standard enthalpy change, entropy change, and free energy change for the conversion of diamond to graphite. Discuss the spontaneity of the conversion with respect to the enthalpy and entropy changes. Explain why diamond spontaneously changing into graphite is not observed.

60.

The evaporation of one mole of water at 298 K has a standard free energy change of 8.58 kJ.

a. Is the evaporation of water under standard thermodynamic conditions spontaneous?
b. Determine the equilibrium constant, K_P, for this physical process.
c. By calculating ΔG, determine if the evaporation of water at 298 K is spontaneous when the partial pressure of water, is 0.011 atm.
d. If the evaporation of water were always nonspontaneous at room temperature, wet laundry would never dry when placed outside. In order for laundry to dry, what must be the value of in the air?

61.

In glycolysis, the reaction of glucose (Glu) to form glucose-6-phosphate (G6P) requires ATP to be present as described by the following equation:

In this process, ATP becomes ADP summarized by the following equation:

Determine the standard free energy change for the following reaction, and explain why ATP is necessary to drive this process:

62.

One of the important reactions in the biochemical pathway glycolysis is the reaction of glucose-6-phosphate (G6P) to form fructose-6-phosphate (F6P):

a. Is the reaction spontaneous or nonspontaneous under standard thermodynamic conditions?
b. Standard thermodynamic conditions imply the concentrations of G6P and F6P to be 1 *M*, however, in a typical cell, they are not even close to these values. Calculate ΔG when the concentrations of G6P and F6P are 120 μ*M* and 28 μ*M* respectively, and discuss the spontaneity of the forward reaction under these conditions. Assume the temperature is 37 °C.

63.

Without doing a numerical calculation, determine which of the following will reduce the free energy change for the reaction, that is, make it less positive or more negative, when the temperature is increased. Explain.

a.
b.

c.
d.

64.

When ammonium chloride is added to water and stirred, it dissolves spontaneously and the resulting solution feels cold. Without doing any calculations, deduce the signs of ΔG, ΔH, and ΔS for this process, and justify your choices.

65.

An important source of copper is from the copper ore, chalcocite, a form of copper(I) sulfide. When heated, the Cu_2S decomposes to form copper and sulfur described by the following equation:

a. Determine for the decomposition of $Cu_2S(s)$.
b. The reaction of sulfur with oxygen yields sulfur dioxide as the only product. Write an equation that describes this reaction, and determine for the process.
c. The production of copper from chalcocite is performed by roasting the Cu_2S in air to produce the Cu. By combining the equations from Parts (a) and (b), write the equation that describes the roasting of the chalcocite, and explain why coupling these reactions together makes for a more efficient process for the production of the copper.

66.

What happens to (becomes more negative or more positive) for the following chemical reactions when the partial pressure of oxygen is increased?

a.
b.
c.

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SECTION OVERVIEW

5.10: Electrochemistry

Electrochemistry deals with chemical reactions that produce electricity and the changes associated with the passage of electrical current through matter. The reactions involve electron transfer, and so they are oxidation-reduction (or redox) reactions. Many metals may be purified or electroplated using electrochemical methods. Devices such as automobiles, smartphones, electronic tablets, watches, pacemakers, and many others use batteries for power. Batteries use chemical reactions that produce electricity spontaneously and that can be converted into useful work. All electrochemical systems involve the transfer of electrons in a reacting system. In many systems, the reactions occur in a region known as the cell, where the transfer of electrons occurs at electrodes.

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CHAPTER OVERVIEW

6: Electrochemistry

Electrochemistry deals with chemical reactions that produce electricity and the changes associated with the passage of electrical current through matter. The reactions involve electron transfer, and so they are oxidation-reduction (or redox) reactions. Many metals may be purified or electroplated using electrochemical methods. Devices such as automobiles, smartphones, electronic tablets, watches, pacemakers, and many others use batteries for power. Batteries use chemical reactions that produce electricity spontaneously and that can be converted into useful work. All electrochemical systems involve the transfer of electrons in a reacting system. In many systems, the reactions occur in a region known as the cell, where the transfer of electrons occurs at electrodes.

6.1: Introduction
6.2: Review of Redox Chemistry
6.3: Galvanic Cells
6.4: Electrode and Cell Potentials
6.5: Potential, Free Energy, and Equilibrium
6.6: Batteries and Fuel Cells
6.7: Corrosion
6.8: Electrolysis
6.9: Key Terms
6.10: Key Equations
6.11: Summary
6.12: Exercises

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6.1: Introduction

Another chapter in this text introduced the chemistry of reduction-oxidation (redox) reactions. This important reaction class is defined by changes in oxidation states for one or more reactant elements, and it includes a subset of reactions involving the transfer of electrons between reactant species. Around the turn of the nineteenth century, chemists began exploring ways these electrons could be transferred *indirectly* via an external circuit rather than directly via intimate contact of redox reactants. In the two centuries since, the field of *electrochemistry* has evolved to yield significant insights on the fundamental aspects of redox chemistry as well as a wealth of technologies ranging from industrial-scale metallurgical processes to robust, rechargeable batteries for electric vehicles (Figure 6.1.1). In this chapter, the essential concepts of electrochemistry will be addressed.



Figure 6.1.1: Electric vehicles are powered by batteries, devices that harness the energy of spontaneous redox reactions. (credit: modification of work by Robert Couse-Baker)

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6.2: Review of Redox Chemistry

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Describe defining traits of redox chemistry
- Identify the oxidant and reductant of a redox reaction
- Balance chemical equations for redox reactions using the half-reaction method

Since reactions involving electron transfer are essential to the topic of electrochemistry, a brief review of redox chemistry is provided here that summarizes and extends the content of an earlier text chapter (see chapter on reaction stoichiometry). Readers wishing additional review are referred to the text chapter on reaction stoichiometry.

Oxidation Numbers

By definition, a redox reaction is one that entails changes in *oxidation number* (or *oxidation state*) for one or more of the elements involved. The oxidation number of an element in a compound is essentially an assessment of how the electronic environment of its atoms is different in comparison to atoms of the pure element. By this description, *the oxidation number of an atom in an element is equal to zero*. For an atom in a compound, *the oxidation number is equal to the charge the atom would have in the compound if the compound were ionic*. Consequential to these rules, *the sum of oxidation numbers for all atoms in a molecule is equal to the charge on the molecule*. To illustrate this formalism, examples from the two compound classes, ionic and covalent, will be considered.

Simple ionic compounds present the simplest examples to illustrate this formalism, since by definition the elements' oxidation numbers are numerically equivalent to ionic charges. Sodium chloride, NaCl, is comprised of Na^+ cations and Cl^- anions, and so oxidation numbers for sodium and chlorine are, +1 and −1, respectively. Calcium fluoride, CaF_2, is comprised of Ca^{2+} cations and F^- anions, and so oxidation numbers for calcium and fluorine are, +2 and −1, respectively.

Covalent compounds require a more challenging use of the formalism. Water is a covalent compound whose molecules consist of two H atoms bonded separately to a central O atom via polar covalent O−H bonds. The shared electrons comprising an O−H bond are more strongly attracted to the more electronegative O atom, and so it acquires a partial negative charge in the water molecule (relative to an O atom in elemental oxygen). Consequently, H atoms in a water molecule exhibit partial positive charges compared to H atoms in elemental hydrogen. The sum of the partial negative and partial positive charges for each water molecule is zero, and the water molecule is neutral.

Imagine that the polarization of shared electrons within the O−H bonds of water were 100% complete—the result would be *transfer* of electrons from H to O, and water would be an ionic compound comprised of O^{2-} anions and H^+ cations. And so, the oxidations numbers for oxygen and hydrogen in water are −2 and +1, respectively. Applying this same logic to carbon tetrachloride, CCl_4, yields oxidation numbers of +4 for carbon and −1 for chlorine. In the nitrate ion, NO_3^-, the oxidation number for nitrogen is +5 and that for oxygen is −2, summing to equal the 1− charge on the molecule:

$$(1N \text{ atom}) \left(\frac{+5}{N \text{ atom}} \right) + (3O \text{ atoms}) \left(\frac{-2}{O \text{ atom}} \right) = +5 + -6 = -1$$

Balancing Redox Equations

The unbalanced equation below describes the decomposition of molten sodium chloride:

$$\mathrm{NaCl\,(l)} \longrightarrow \mathrm{Na\,(l)} + \mathrm{Cl_2\,(g)} \qquad \text{(unbalanced)}$$

This reaction satisfies the criterion for redox classification, since the oxidation number for Na is decreased from +1 to 0 (it undergoes *reduction*) and that for Cl is increased from −1 to 0 (it undergoes *oxidation*). The equation in this case is easily balanced by inspection, requiring stoichiometric coefficients of 2 for the NaCl and Na:

$$\mathrm{2\,NaCl\,(l)} \longrightarrow \mathrm{2\,Na\,(l)} + \mathrm{Cl_2\,(g)} \qquad \text{(balanced)}$$

Redox reactions that take place in aqueous solutions are commonly encountered in electrochemistry, and many involve water or its characteristic ions, $H^+(aq)$ and $OH^-(aq)$, as reactants or products. In these cases, equations representing the redox reaction can be very challenging to balance by inspection, and the use of a systematic approach called the *half-reaction method* is helpful.

Balancing REDOX reactions via the half-reaction Method

This approach involves the following steps:

1. Write skeletal equations for the oxidation and reduction half-reactions.
2. Balance each half-reaction for all elements except H and O.
3. Balance each half-reaction for O by adding H_2O.
4. Balance each half-reaction for H by adding H^+.
5. Balance each half-reaction for charge by adding electrons.
6. If necessary, multiply one or both half-reactions so that the number of electrons consumed in one is equal to the number produced in the other.
7. Add the two half-reactions and simplify.
8. If the reaction takes place in a basic medium, add OH^- ions the equation obtained in step 7 to neutralize the H^+ ions (add in equal numbers to both sides of the equation) and simplify.

The examples below demonstrate the application of this method to balancing equations for aqueous redox reactions.

Example 6.2.1: Balancing Equations for Redox Reactions in Acidic Solutions

Write the balanced equation representing reaction between solid copper and nitric acid to yield aqueous copper(II) ions and nitrogen monoxide gas.

Solution

Following the steps of the half-reaction method:

Step 1: Write skeletal equations for the oxidation and reduction half-reactions.

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{oxidation:} && \mathrm{Cu\,(s) \longrightarrow Cu^{2+}\,(aq)} \\ &\text{reduction:} && \mathrm{HNO_3\,(aq) \longrightarrow NO\,(g)} \end{aligned}$$

Step 2: Balance each half-reaction for all elements except H and O.

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{oxidation:} && \mathrm{Cu\,(s) \longrightarrow Cu^{2+}\,(aq)} \\ &\text{reduction:} && \mathrm{HNO_3\,(aq) \longrightarrow NO\,(g)} \end{aligned}$$

Step 3: Balance each half-reaction for O by adding H_2O.

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{oxidation:} && \mathrm{Cu\,(s) \longrightarrow Cu^{2+}\,(aq)} \\ &\text{reduction:} && \mathrm{HNO_3\,(aq) \longrightarrow NO\,(g) + \mathbf{2H2O(l)}} \end{aligned}$$

Step 4: Balance each half-reaction for H by adding H^+.

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{oxidation:} && \mathrm{Cu\,(s) \longrightarrow Cu^{2+}\,(aq)} \\ &\text{reduction:} && \mathrm{\mathbf{3H^+(aq)} + HNO_3\,(aq) \longrightarrow NO\,(g) + 2\,H_2O\,(l)} \end{aligned}$$

Step 5: Balance each half-reaction for charge by adding electrons.

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{oxidation:} && \mathrm{Cu\,(s) \longrightarrow Cu^{2+}\,(aq) + \mathbf{2e^-}} \\ &\text{reduction:} && \mathrm{\mathbf{3e^-} + 3\,H^+\,(aq) + HNO_3\,(aq) \longrightarrow NO\,(g) + 2\,H_2O\,(l)} \end{aligned}$$

Step 6: If necessary, multiply one or both half-reactions so that the number of electrons consumed in one is equal to the number produced in the other.

$$\text{oxidation } (\times 3): \quad \mathbf{3}\ \mathrm{Cu(s)} \longrightarrow \mathbf{3}\ \mathrm{Cu^{2+}(aq)} + \mathbf{6}\ \cancel{\mathbf{2}}\ \mathrm{e^-}$$

$$\text{reduction } (\times 2): \quad \mathbf{6}\ \cancel{\mathbf{3}}\ \mathrm{e^-} + \mathbf{6}\ \cancel{\mathbf{3}}\ \mathrm{H^+(aq)} + \mathbf{2}\ \mathrm{HNO_3(aq)} \longrightarrow \mathbf{2}\ \mathrm{NO(g)} + \mathbf{4}\ \cancel{\mathbf{2}}\ \mathrm{H_2O(l)}$$

Step 7: Add the two half-reactions and simplify.

$$3\,\mathrm{Cu(s)} + \cancel{6e^-} + 6\,\mathrm{H^+(aq)} + 2\,\mathrm{HNO_3(aq)} \longrightarrow 3\,\mathrm{Cu^{2+}(aq)} + \cancel{6e^-} + 2\,\mathrm{NO(g)} + 4\,\mathrm{H_2O(l)}$$

$$3\,\mathrm{Cu(s)} + 6\,\mathrm{H^+(aq)} + 2\,\mathrm{HNO_3(aq)} \longrightarrow 3\,\mathrm{Cu^{2+}(aq)} + 2\,\mathrm{NO(g)} + 4\,\mathrm{H_2O(l)}$$

Step 8: If the reaction takes place in a basic medium, add $\mathrm{OH^-}$ ions the equation obtained in step 7 to neutralize the $\mathrm{H^+}$ ions (add in equal numbers to both sides of the equation) and simplify.

This step not necessary since the solution is stipulated to be acidic.

The balanced equation for the reaction in an acidic solution is then

$$3\,\mathrm{Cu(s)} + 6\,\mathrm{H^+(aq)} + 2\,\mathrm{HNO_3(aq)} \longrightarrow 3\,\mathrm{Cu^{2+}(aq)} + 2\,\mathrm{NO(g)} + 4\,\mathrm{H_2O(l)}$$

? Exercise 6.2.1

The reaction above results when using relatively diluted nitric acid. If concentrated nitric acid is used, nitrogen dioxide is produced instead of nitrogen monoxide. Write a balanced equation for this reaction.

Answer

$$\mathrm{Cu(s)} + 2\,\mathrm{H^+(aq)} + 2\,\mathrm{HNO_3(aq)} \longrightarrow \mathrm{Cu^{2+}(aq)} + 2\,\mathrm{NO_2(g)} + 2\,\mathrm{H_2O(l)}$$

✔ Example 6.2.2: Balancing Equations for Redox Reactions in Basic Solutions

Write the balanced equation representing reaction between aqueous permanganate ion, , and solid chromium(III) hydroxide, $Cr(OH)_3$, to yield solid manganese(IV) oxide, MnO_2, and aqueous chromate ion, The reaction takes place in a basic solution.

Solution

Step 1: Write skeletal equations for the oxidation and reduction half-reactions.

$$\text{oxidation:} \quad \mathrm{Cr(OH)_3(s)} \longrightarrow \mathrm{CrO_4^{2-}(aq)}$$

$$\text{reduction:} \quad \mathrm{MnO_4^-(aq)} \longrightarrow \mathrm{MnO_2(s)}$$

Step 2: Balance each half-reaction for all elements except H and O.

$$\text{oxidation:} \quad \mathrm{Cr(OH)_3(s)} \longrightarrow \mathrm{CrO_4^{2-}(aq)}$$

$$\text{reduction:} \quad \mathrm{MnO_4^-(aq)} \longrightarrow \mathrm{MnO_2(s)}$$

Step 3: Balance each half-reaction for O by adding H_2O.

$$\text{oxidation:} \quad \mathbf{H2O(l)} + \mathrm{Cr(OH)_3(s)} \longrightarrow \mathrm{CrO_4^{2-}(aq)}$$

$$\text{reduction:} \quad \mathrm{MnO_4^-(aq)} \longrightarrow \mathrm{MnO_2(s)} + \mathbf{2H2O(l)}$$

Step 4: Balance each half-reaction for H by adding H^+.

$$\text{oxidation:} \quad \mathrm{H_2O(l)} + \mathrm{Cr(OH)_3(s)} \longrightarrow \mathrm{CrO_4^{2-}(aq)} + \mathbf{5H^+(aq)}$$

$$\text{reduction:} \quad \mathbf{4H^+(aq)} + \mathrm{MnO_4^-(aq)} \longrightarrow \mathrm{MnO_2(s)} + 2\,\mathrm{H_2O(l)}$$

Step 5: Balance each half-reaction for charge by adding electrons.

$$\text{oxidation:} \quad \mathrm{H_2O(l)} + \mathrm{Cr(OH)_3(s)} \longrightarrow \mathrm{CrO_4^{2-}(aq)} + 5\,\mathrm{H^+(aq)} + \mathbf{3e^-}$$

$$\text{reduction:} \quad \mathbf{3e^-} + 4\,\mathrm{H^+(aq)} + \mathrm{MnO_4^-(aq)} \longrightarrow \mathrm{MnO_2(s)} + 2\,\mathrm{H_2O(l)}$$

Step 6: If necessary, multiply one or both half-reactions so that the number of electrons consumed in one is equal to the number produced in the other.

This step is not necessary since the number of electrons is already in balance.

Step 7: Add the two half-reactions and simplify.

$$\begin{aligned} &\cancel{H2O(l)} + \mathrm{Cr(OH)_3\,(s)} \longrightarrow \mathrm{CrO_4{}^{2-}\,(aq)} + \cancel{5}^{1}\,\mathrm{H^+\,(aq)} + \cancel{3e^-} \\ + \quad &\cancel{3e^-} + \cancel{4H^+(aq)} + \mathrm{MnO_4{}^-\,(aq)} \longrightarrow \mathrm{MnO_2\,(s)} + \cancel{2}^{1}\,\mathrm{H_2O\,(l)} \\ \hline &\mathrm{Cr(OH)_3\,(s) + MnO_4{}^-\,(aq) \longrightarrow CrO_4{}^{2-}\,(aq) + MnO_2\,(s) + H^+\,(aq) + H_2O\,(l)} \end{aligned}$$

Step 8: If the reaction takes place in a basic medium, add $\mathrm{OH^-}$ ions the equation obtained in step 7 to neutralize the $\mathrm{H^+}$ ions (add in equal numbers to both sides of the equation) and simplify.

$$\begin{aligned} &\mathrm{OH^-\,(aq) + Cr(OH)_3\,(s) + MnO_4{}^-\,(aq) \longrightarrow CrO_4{}^{2-}\,(aq) + MnO_2\,(s)} \\ &\quad + \cancel{H^+(aq)} + \mathrm{H_2O\,(l)} + \cancel{OH^-(aq)} \end{aligned}$$

after neutralizing the $\mathrm{H^+}$, we get the balanced equation for the reaction in a basic solution

$$\mathrm{OH^-\,(aq) + Cr(OH)_3\,(s) + MnO_4{}^-\,(aq) \longrightarrow CrO_4{}^{2-}\,(aq) + MnO_2\,(s) + 2\,H_2O\,(l)}$$

? Exercise 6.2.2

Aqueous permanganate ion may also be reduced using aqueous bromide ion, $\mathrm{Br^-}$, the products of this reaction being solid manganese(IV) oxide and aqueous bromate ion, $\mathrm{BrO_3{}^-}$. Write the balanced equation for this reaction occurring in a basic medium.

Answer

$$\mathrm{H_2O\,(l) + 2\,MnO_4{}^-\,(aq) + Br^-\,(aq) \longrightarrow 2\,MnO_2\,(s) + BrO_3{}^-\,(aq) + 2\,OH^-\,(aq)}$$

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6.3: Galvanic Cells

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Describe the function of a galvanic cell and its components
- Use cell notation to symbolize the composition and construction of galvanic cells

As demonstration of spontaneous chemical change, Figure 6.3.1: shows the result of immersing a coiled wire of copper into an aqueous solution of silver nitrate. A gradual but visually impressive change spontaneously occurs as the initially colorless solution becomes increasingly blue, and the initially smooth copper wire becomes covered with a porous gray solid.

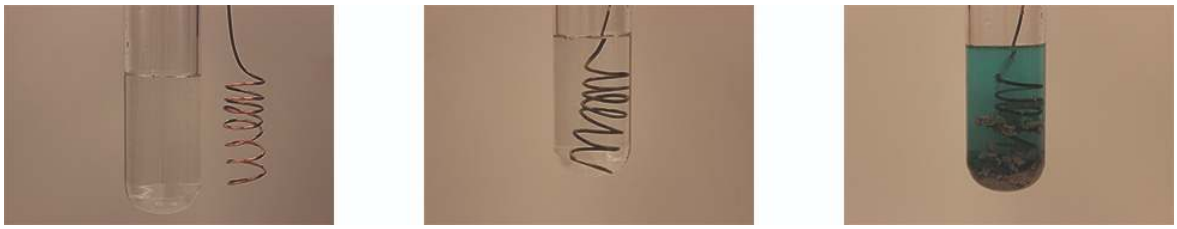


Figure 6.3.1: A copper wire and an aqueous solution of silver nitrate (left) are brought into contact (center) and a spontaneous transfer of electrons occurs, creating blue $Cu^{2+}(aq)$ and gray Ag(*s*) (right).

These observations are consistent with (i) the oxidation of elemental copper to yield copper(II) ions, $Cu^{2+}(aq)$, which impart a blue color to the solution, and (ii) the reduction of silver(I) ions to yield elemental silver, which deposits as a fluffy solid on the copper wire surface. And so, *the direct transfer of electrons from the copper wire to the aqueous silver ions is spontaneous* under the employed conditions. A summary of this redox system is provided by these equations:

Consider the construction of a device that contains all the reactants and products of a redox system like the one here, but prevents physical contact between the reactants. Direct transfer of electrons is, therefore, prevented; transfer, instead, takes place indirectly through an external circuit that contacts the separated reactants. Devices of this sort are generally referred to as *electrochemical cells*, and those in which a spontaneous redox reaction takes place are called galvanic cells (or voltaic cells).

A galvanic cell based on the spontaneous reaction between copper and silver(I) is depicted in Figure 6.3.2. The cell is comprised of two half-cells, each containing the redox conjugate pair (“couple”) of a single reactant. The half-cell shown at the left contains the Cu(0)/Cu(II) couple in the form of a solid copper foil and an aqueous solution of copper nitrate. The right half-cell contains the Ag(I)/Ag(0) couple as solid silver foil and an aqueous silver nitrate solution. An external circuit is connected to each half-cell at its solid foil, meaning the Cu and Ag foil each function as an *electrode*. By definition, the anode of an electrochemical cell is the electrode at which oxidation occurs (in this case, the Cu foil) and the cathode is the electrode where reduction occurs (the Ag foil). The redox reactions in a galvanic cell occur only at the interface between each half-cell’s reaction mixture and its electrode. To keep the reactants separate while maintaining charge-balance, the two half-cell solutions are connected by a tube filled with inert electrolyte solution called a salt bridge. The spontaneous reaction in this cell produces Cu^{2+} cations in the anode half-cell and consumes Ag^{+} ions in the cathode half-cell, resulting in a compensatory flow of inert ions from the salt bridge that maintains charge balance. Increasing concentrations of Cu^{2+} in the anode half-cell are balanced by an influx of NO_3^{-} from the salt bridge, while a flow of Na^{+} into the cathode half-cell compensates for the decreasing Ag^{+} concentration.

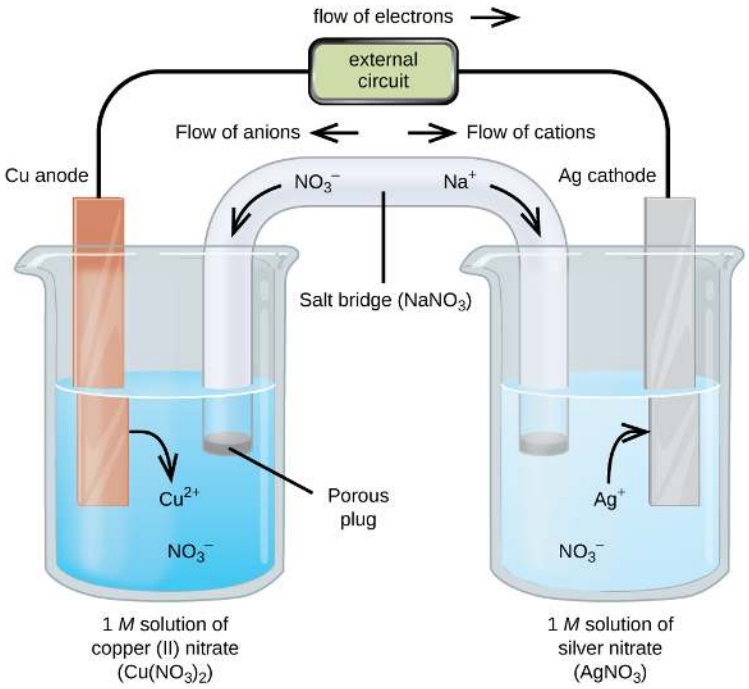


Figure 6.3.2: A galvanic cell based on the spontaneous reaction between copper and silver(I) ions.

Cell Notation

Abbreviated symbolism is commonly used to represent a galvanic cell by providing essential information on its composition and structure. These symbolic representations are called cell notations or cell schematics, and they are written following a few guidelines:

- The relevant components of each half-cell are represented by their chemical formulas or element symbols
- All interfaces between component phases are represented by vertical parallel lines; if two or more components are present in the same phase, their formulas are separated by commas
- By convention, the schematic begins with the anode and proceeds left-to-right identifying phases and interfaces encountered within the cell, ending with the cathode

A verbal description of the cell as viewed from anode-to-cathode is often a useful first-step in writing its schematic. For example, the galvanic cell shown in Figure 6.3.2: consists of a solid copper anode immersed in an aqueous solution of copper(II) nitrate that is connected via a salt bridge to an aqueous silver(I) nitrate solution, immersed in which is a solid silver cathode. Converting this statement to symbolism following the above guidelines results in the cell schematic:

Consider a different galvanic cell (see Figure 6.3.3) based on the spontaneous reaction between solid magnesium and aqueous iron(III) ions:

In this cell, a solid magnesium anode is immersed in an aqueous solution of magnesium chloride that is connected via a salt bridge to an aqueous solution containing a mixture of iron(III) chloride and iron(II) chloride, immersed in which is a platinum cathode. The cell schematic is then written as

Notice the cathode half-cell is different from the others considered thus far in that its electrode is comprised of a substance (Pt) that is neither a reactant nor a product of the cell reaction. This is required when neither member of the half-cell's redox couple can reasonably function as an electrode, which must be electrically conductive and in a phase separate from the half-cell solution. In this case, both members of the redox couple are solute species, and so Pt is used as an inert electrode that can simply provide or accept electrons to redox species in solution. Electrodes constructed from a member of the redox couple, such as the Mg anode in this cell, are called active electrodes.

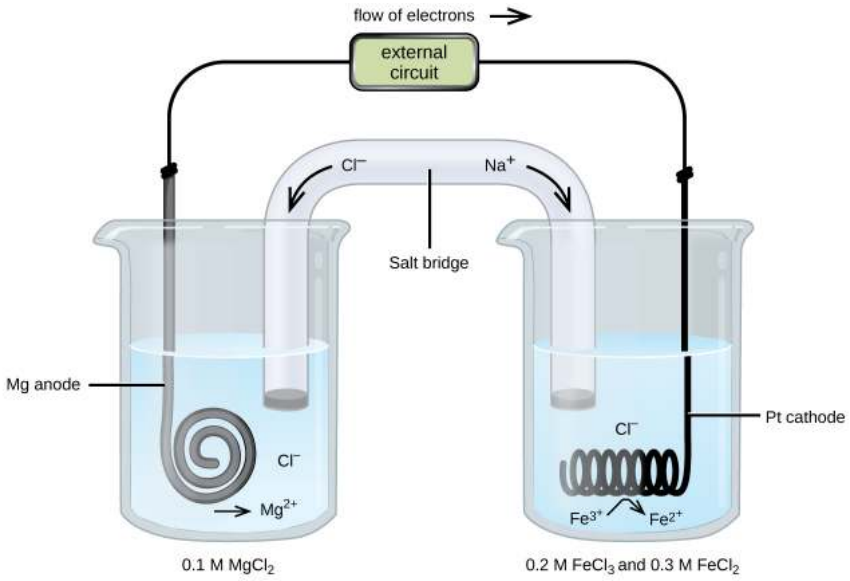


Figure 6.3.3: A galvanic cell based on the spontaneous reaction between magnesium and iron(III) ions.

Example 6.3.1: Writing Galvanic Cell Schematics

A galvanic cell is fabricated by connecting two half-cells with a salt bridge, one in which a chromium wire is immersed in a 1 M $CrCl_3$ solution and another in which a copper wire is immersed in 1 M $CuCl_2$. Assuming the chromium wire functions as an anode, write the schematic for this cell along with equations for the anode half-reaction, the cathode half-reaction, and the overall cell reaction.

Solution

Since the chromium wire is stipulated to be the anode, the schematic begins with it and proceeds left-to-right, symbolizing the other cell components until ending with the copper wire cathode:

The half-reactions for this cell are

Multiplying to make the number of electrons lost by Cr and gained by Cu^{2+} equal yields

Adding the half-reaction equations and simplifying yields an equation for the cell reaction:

Exercise 6.3.1

Omitting solute concentrations and spectator ion identities, write the schematic for a galvanic cell whose net cell reaction is shown below.

Answer

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6.4: Electrode and Cell Potentials

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Describe and relate the definitions of electrode and cell potentials
- Interpret electrode potentials in terms of relative oxidant and reductant strengths
- Calculate cell potentials and predict redox spontaneity using standard electrode potentials

Unlike the spontaneous oxidation of copper by aqueous silver(I) ions described previously, immersing a copper wire in an aqueous solution of lead(II) ions yields no reaction. The two species, $Ag^+(aq)$ and $Pb^{2+}(aq)$, thus show a distinct difference in their redox activity towards copper: the silver ion spontaneously oxidized copper, but the lead ion did not. Electrochemical cells permit this relative redox activity to be quantified by an easily measured property, *potential*. This property is more commonly called *voltage* when referenced in regard to electrical applications, and it is a measure of energy accompanying the transfer of charge. Potentials are measured in the volt unit, defined as one joule of energy per one coulomb of charge, V = J/C.

When measured for purposes of electrochemistry, a potential reflects the driving force for a specific type of charge transfer process, namely, the transfer of electrons between redox reactants. Considering the nature of potential in this context, it is clear that the potential of a single half-cell or a single electrode can't be measured; "transfer" of electrons requires both a donor and recipient, in this case a reductant and an oxidant, respectively. Instead, a half-cell potential may only be assessed relative to that of another half-cell. It is only the *difference in potential* between two half-cells that may be measured, and these measured potentials are called cell potentials, E_{cell}, defined as

$$E_{\text{cell}} = E_{\text{cathode}} - E_{\text{anode}}$$

where $E_{cathode}$ and E_{anode} are the potentials of two different half-cells functioning as specified in the subscripts. As for other thermodynamic quantities, the standard cell potential, $E°_{cell}$, is a cell potential measured when both half-cells are under standard-state conditions (1 *M* concentrations, 1 bar pressures, 298 K):

$$E^\circ_{\text{cell}} = E^\circ_{\text{cathode}} - E^\circ_{\text{anode}}$$

To simplify the collection and sharing of potential data for half-reactions, the scientific community has designated one particular half-cell to serve as a universal reference for cell potential measurements, assigning it a potential of exactly 0 V. This half-cell is the **standard hydrogen electrode** (SHE) and it is based on half-reaction below:

$$2\,\mathrm{H^+(aq)} + 2\,\mathrm{e^-} \longrightarrow \mathrm{H_2(g)}$$

A typical SHE contains an inert platinum electrode immersed in precisely 1 *M* aqueous H^+ and a stream of bubbling H_2 gas at 1 bar pressure, all maintained at a temperature of 298 K (see Figure 6.4.1).

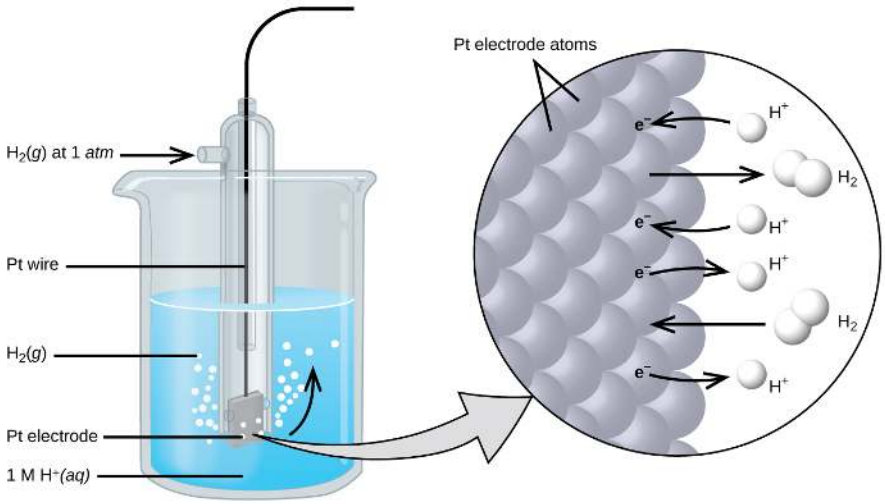


Figure 6.4.1: A standard hydrogen electrode (SHE).

The assigned potential of the SHE permits the definition of a conveniently measured potential for a single half-cell. The electrode potential (E_X) for a half-cell *X* is defined as *the potential measured for a cell comprised of X acting as cathode and the SHE acting as anode*:

$$E_{\text{cell}} = E_X - E_{SHE}$$
$$E_{SHE} = 0V \text{ (defined)}$$
$$E_{\text{cell}} = E_X$$

When the half-cell *X* is under standard-state conditions, its potential is the standard electrode potential, $E°_X$. Since the definition of cell potential requires the half-cells function as cathodes, these potentials are sometimes called *standard reduction potentials*.

This approach to measuring electrode potentials is illustrated in Figure 6.4.2: , which depicts a cell comprised of an SHE connected to a copper(II)/copper(0) half-cell under standard-state conditions. A voltmeter in the external circuit allows measurement of the potential difference between the two half-cells. Since the Cu half-cell is designated as the cathode in the definition of cell potential, it is connected to the red (positive) input of the voltmeter, while the designated SHE anode is connected to the black (negative) input. These connections insure that the sign of the measured potential will be consistent with the sign conventions of electrochemistry per the various definitions discussed above. A cell potential of +0.337 V is measured, and so

$$E°_{\text{cell}} = E°_{\text{Cu}} = +0.337V$$

Tabulations of E° values for other half-cells measured in a similar fashion are available as reference literature to permit calculations of cell potentials and the prediction of the spontaneity of redox processes.

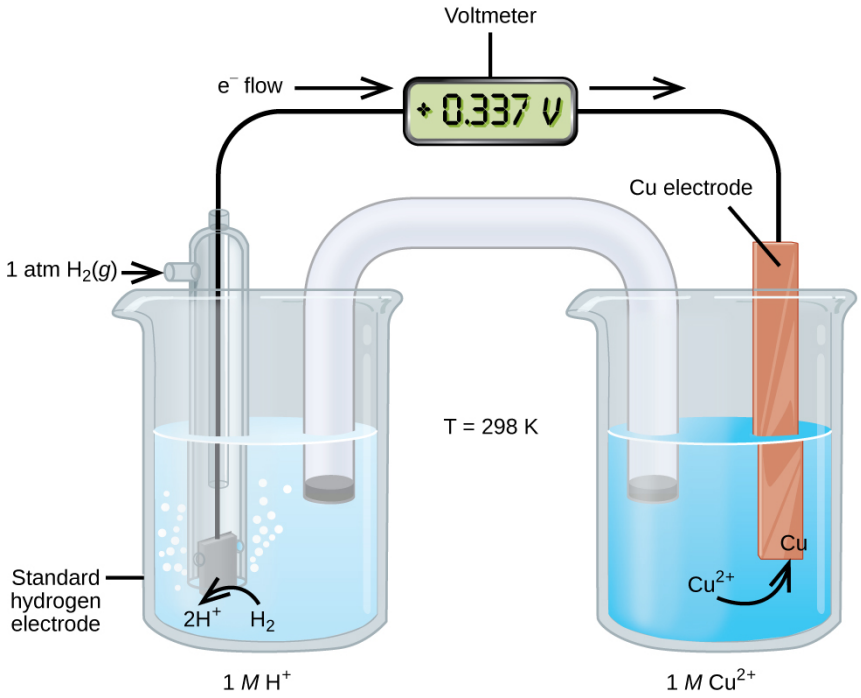


Figure 6.4.2: A cell permitting experimental measurement of the standard electrode potential for the half-reaction

Table 6.4.1 provides a listing of standard electrode potentials for a selection of half-reactions in numerical order, and a more extensive alphabetical listing is given in Appendix L.

Table 6.4.1: Selected Standard Reduction Potentials at 25 °C

Half-Reaction	$E°$ (V)
$F_2(g) + 2e^- \longrightarrow 2F^-(aq)$	+2.866
$PbO_2(s) + SO_4^{2-}(aq) + 4H^+(aq) + 2e^- \longrightarrow PbSO_4(s) + 2H_2O(l)$	+1.69
$MnO_4^-(aq) + 8H^+(aq) + 5e^- \longrightarrow Mn^{2+}(aq) + 4H_2O(l)$	+1.507
$Au^{3+}(aq) + 3e^- \longrightarrow Au(s)$	+1.498
$Cl_2(g) + 2e^- \longrightarrow 2Cl^-(aq)$	+1.35827
$O_2(g) + 4H^+(aq) + 4e^- \longrightarrow 2H_2O(l)$	+1.229
$Pt^{2+}(aq) + 2e^- \longrightarrow Pt(s)$	+1.20
$Br_2(aq) + 2e^- \longrightarrow 2Br^-(aq)$	+1.0873
$Ag^+(aq) + e^- \longrightarrow Ag(s)$	+0.7996
$Hg_2^{2+}(aq) + 2e^- \longrightarrow 2Hg(l)$	+0.7973
$Fe^{3+}(aq) + e^- \longrightarrow Fe^{2+}(aq)$	+0.771
$MnO_4^-(aq) + 2H_2O(l) + 3e^- \longrightarrow MnO_2(s) + 4OH^-(aq)$	+0.558
$I_2(s) + 2e^- \longrightarrow 2I^-(aq)$	+0.5355
$NiO_2(s) + 2H_2O(l) + 2e^- \longrightarrow Ni(OH)_2(s) + 2OH^-(aq)$	+0.49
$Cu^{2+}(aq) + 2e^- \longrightarrow Cu(s)$	+0.34
$Hg_2Cl_2(s) + 2e^- \longrightarrow 2Hg(l) + 2Cl^-(aq)$	+0.26808
$AgCl(s) + e^- \longrightarrow Ag(s) + Cl^-(aq)$	+0.22233
$Sn^{4+}(aq) + 2e^- \longrightarrow Sn^{2+}(aq)$	+0.151
$2H^+(aq) + 2e^- \longrightarrow H_2(g)$	0.00
$Pb^{2+}(aq) + 2e^- \longrightarrow Pb(s)$	-0.1262
$Sn^{2+}(aq) + 2e^- \longrightarrow Sn(s)$	-0.1375
$Ni^{2+}(aq) + 2e^- \longrightarrow Ni(s)$	-0.257
$Co^{2+}(aq) + 2e^- \longrightarrow Co(s)$	-0.28
$PbSO_4(s) + 2e^- \longrightarrow Pb(s) + SO_4^{2-}(aq)$	-0.3505
$Cd^{2+}(aq) + 2e^- \longrightarrow Cd(s)$	-0.4030
$Fe^{2+}(aq) + 2e^- \longrightarrow Fe(s)$	-0.447
$Cr^{3+}(aq) + 3e^- \longrightarrow Cr(s)$	-0.744
$Mn^{2+}(aq) + 2e^- \longrightarrow Mn(s)$	-1.185
$Zn(OH)_2(s) + 2e^- \longrightarrow Zn(s) + 2OH^-(aq)$	-1.245
$Zn^{2+}(aq) + 2e^- \longrightarrow Zn(s)$	-0.7618
$Al^{3+}(aq) + 3e^- \longrightarrow Al(s)$	-1.662
$Mg_2(aq) + 2e^- \longrightarrow Mg(s)$	-2.372
$Na^+(aq) + e^- \longrightarrow Na(s)$	-2.71

Half-Reaction	$E°$ (V)
$Ca^{2+}(aq) + 2e^- \longrightarrow Ca(s)$	-2.868
$Ba^{2+}(aq) + 2e^- \longrightarrow Ba(s)$	-2.912
$K^+(aq) + e^- \longrightarrow K(s)$	-2.931
$K^+(aq) + e^- \longrightarrow K(s)$	-3.04

Example 6.4.1: Calculating Standard Cell Potentials

What is the standard potential of the galvanic cell shown in Figure 17.3?

Solution

The cell in Figure 17.3 is galvanic, the spontaneous cell reaction involving oxidation of its copper anode and reduction of silver(I) ions at its silver cathode:

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{anode:} & Cu(s) \longrightarrow Cu^{2+} + 2e^- \\ \text{cathode:} & 2Ag^+(aq) + 2e^- \longrightarrow 2Ag(s) \\ \hline \text{cell:} & Cu(s) + 2Ag^+(aq) \longrightarrow Cu^{2+} + 2Ag(s) \qquad E^o_{\text{cell}} = 0\,V \end{array}$$

The standard cell potential computed as

$$\begin{aligned} E^\circ_{\text{cell}} &= E^\circ_{\text{cathode}} - E^\circ_{\text{anode}} \\ &= E^\circ_{Ag} - E^\circ_{Cu} \\ &= 0.7996V - 0.34V \\ &= +0.46V \end{aligned}$$

6.4.1? Exercise

What is the standard cell potential expected if the silver cathode half-cell in Figure 17.3 is replaced with a lead half-cell:

$$Pb^{2+}(aq) + 2e^- \longrightarrow Pb(s)$$

Answer

−0. 47 V

Intrepreting Electrode and Cell Potentials

Thinking carefully about the definitions of cell and electrode potentials and the observations of spontaneous redox change presented thus far, a significant relation is noted. The previous section described the spontaneous oxidation of copper by aqueous silver(I) ions, but no observed reaction with aqueous lead(II) ions. Results of the calculations in Example 6.4.1 have just shown *the spontaneous process is described by a positive cell potential* while *the nonspontaneous process exhibits a negative cell potential*. And so, with regard to the relative effectiveness ("strength") with which aqueous Ag^+ and Pb^{2+} ions oxidize Cu under standard conditions, *the stronger oxidant is the one exhibiting the greater standard electrode potential*, $E°$. Since by convention electrode potentials are for reduction processes, an increased value of E^o corresponds to an increased driving force behind the reduction of the species (hence increased effectiveness of its action as an *oxidizing agent* on some other species). Negative values for electrode potentials are simply a consequence of assigning a value of 0 V to the SHE, indicating the reactant of the half-reaction is a weaker oxidant than aqueous hydrogen ions.

Applying this logic to the numerically ordered listing of standard electrode potentials in Table 6.4.1 shows this listing to be likewise in order of the oxidizing strength of the half-reaction's reactant species, decreasing from strongest oxidant (most positive $E°$) to weakest oxidant (most negative $E°$). Predictions regarding the spontaneity of redox reactions under standard state conditions can

then be easily made by simply comparing the relative positions of their table entries. By definition, $E°_{\text{cell}}$ is positive when $E^o_{\text{cathode}} > E^o_{\text{anode}}$, and so any redox reaction in which the oxidant's entry is above the reductant's entry is predicted to be spontaneous.

Reconsideration of the two redox reactions in Example 6.4.1 provides support for this fact. The entry for the silver(I)/silver(0) half-reaction is above that for the copper(II)/copper(0) half-reaction, and so the oxidation of Cu by Ag^+ is predicted to be spontaneous ($E°_{\text{cathode}} > E°_{\text{anode}}$ and so $E°_{\text{cell}} > 0$). Conversely, the entry for the lead(II)/lead(0) half-cell is beneath that for copper(II)/copper(0), and the oxidation of Cu by Pb^{2+} is nonspontaneous ($E°_{\text{cathode}} < E°_{\text{anode}}$ and so $E°_{\text{cell}} < 0$).

Recalling the chapter on thermodynamics, the spontaneities of the forward and reverse reactions of a reversible process show a reciprocal relationship: if a process is spontaneous in one direction, it is non-spontaneous in the opposite direction. As an indicator of spontaneity for redox reactions, the potential of a cell reaction shows a consequential relationship in its arithmetic sign. The spontaneous oxidation of copper by lead(II) ions is *not* observed,

$$\text{Cu}\,(\text{s}) + \text{Pb}^{2+}\,(\text{aq}) \longrightarrow \text{Cu}^{2+}\,(\text{aq}) + \text{Pb}\,(\text{s}) \quad E°_{\text{forward}} = -0.47\ \text{V}(\text{negative, non} - \text{spontaneous})$$

and so the reverse reaction, the oxidation of lead by copper(II) ions, is predicted to occur spontaneously:

$$\text{Pb}\,(\text{s}) + \text{Cu}^{2+}\,(\text{aq}) \longrightarrow \text{Pb}^{2+}\,(\text{aq}) + \text{Cu}\,(\text{s}) \quad E°_{\text{forward}} = +0.47\ \text{V}(\text{positive, spontaneous})$$

Note that reversing the direction of a redox reaction effectively interchanges the identities of the cathode and anode half-reactions, and so the cell potential is calculated from electrode potentials in the reverse subtraction order than that for the forward reaction. In practice, a voltmeter would report a potential of −0.47 V with its red and black inputs connected to the Pb and Cu electrodes, respectively. If the inputs were swapped, the reported voltage would be +0.47 V.

✔ Example 6.4.2: Predicting Redox Spontaneity

Are aqueous iron(II) ions predicted to spontaneously oxidize elemental chromium under standard state conditions? Assume the half-reactions to be those available in Table 6.4.1.

Solution

Referring to the tabulated half-reactions, the redox reaction in question can be represented by the equations below:

$$\text{Cr}\,(\text{s}) + \text{Fe}^{2+}\,(\text{aq}) \longrightarrow \text{Cr}^{3+}\,(\text{aq}) + \text{Fe}\,(\text{s})$$

The entry for the putative oxidant, Fe^{2+}, appears *above* the entry for the reductant, Cr, and so a spontaneous reaction is predicted per the quick approach described above. Supporting this predication by calculating the standard cell potential for this reaction gives

$$\begin{aligned} E°_{\text{cell}} &= E°_{\text{cathode}} - E°_{\text{anode}} \\ &= E°_{\text{Fe(II)}} - E°_{\text{Cr}} \\ &= -0.447V - -0.744V = +0.297V \end{aligned}$$

The positive value for the standard cell potential indicates the process is spontaneous under standard state conditions.

6.4.2? Exercise

Use the data in Table 6.4.1 to predict the spontaneity of the oxidation of bromide ion by molecular iodine under standard state conditions, supporting the prediction by calculating the standard cell potential for the reaction. Repeat for the oxidation of iodide ion by molecular bromine.

Answer

$$\begin{aligned} \text{I}_2\,(\text{s}) + 2\,\text{Br}^-\,(\text{aq}) &\longrightarrow 2\,\text{I}^-\,(\text{aq}) + \text{Br}_2\,(\text{l}) \qquad E_{\text{cell}} = -0.5518\ \text{V}\ (\text{nonspontaneous}) \\ \text{Br}_2\,(\text{s}) + 2\,\text{I}^-\,(\text{aq}) &\longrightarrow 2\,\text{Br}^-\,(\text{aq}) + \text{I}_2\,(\text{l}) \qquad E°_{\text{cell}} = +0.5518\ \text{V}\ (\text{spontaneous}) \end{aligned}$$

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6.5: Potential, Free Energy, and Equilibrium

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Explain the relations between potential, free energy change, and equilibrium constants
- Perform calculations involving the relations between cell potentials, free energy changes, and equilibrium
- Use the Nernst equation to determine cell potentials under nonstandard conditions

So far in this chapter, the relationship between the cell potential and reaction *spontaneity* has been described, suggesting a link to the free energy change for the reaction (see chapter on thermodynamics). The interpretation of potentials as measures of oxidant *strength* was presented, bringing to mind similar measures of acid-base strength as reflected in equilibrium constants (see the chapter on acid-base equilibria). This section provides a summary of the relationships between potential and the related thermodynamic properties ΔG and K.

E° and ΔG°

The standard free energy change of a process, ΔG°, was defined in a previous chapter as the maximum work that could be performed by a system, w_{max}. In the case of a redox reaction taking place within a galvanic cell under standard state conditions, essentially all the work is associated with transferring the electrons from reductant-to-oxidant, w_{elec}:

$$\Delta G^\circ = w_{\text{max}} = w_{\text{elec}}$$

The work associated with transferring electrons is determined by the total amount of charge (coulombs) transferred and the cell potential:

$$\Delta G^\circ = w_{\text{elec}} = -nFE^\circ_{\text{cell}}$$

where n is the number of moles of electrons transferred, F is **Faraday's constant**, and E°_{cell} is the standard cell potential. The relation between free energy change and standard cell potential confirms the sign conventions and spontaneity criteria previously discussed for both of these properties: spontaneous redox reactions exhibit positive potentials and negative free energy changes.

E° and K

Combining a previously derived relation between ΔG° and K (see the chapter on thermodynamics) and the equation above relating ΔG° and $E°_{\text{cell}}$ yields the following:

$$\Delta G^\circ = -RT \ln K = -nFE^\circ_{\text{cell}} \tag{6.5.1}$$

with

$$E^\circ_{\text{coll}} = \left(\frac{RT}{nF}\right) \ln K$$

This equation indicates redox reactions with large (positive) standard cell potentials will proceed far towards completion, reaching equilibrium when the majority of reactant has been converted to product. A summary of the relations between $E°$, $\Delta G°$ and K is depicted in Figure 6.5.1, and a table correlating reaction spontaneity to values of these properties is provided in Table 6.5.1.

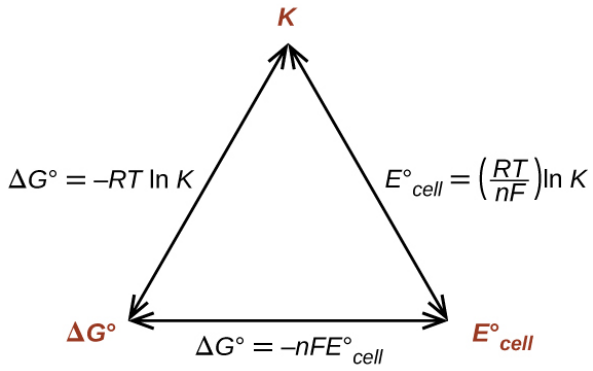


Figure 6.5.1: Graphic depicting the relation between three important thermodynamic properties.

Table 6.5.1

K	$\Delta G°$	$E°_{cell}$	Comment
> 1	< 0	> 0	Reaction is spontaneous under standard conditions Products more abundant at equilibrium
< 1	> 0	< 0	Reaction is non-spontaneous under standard conditions Reactants more abundant at equilibrium
= 1	= 0	= 0	Reaction is at equilibrium under standard conditions Reactants and products equally abundant

Example 6.5.1: Equilibrium Constants, Standard Cell Potentials, and Standard Free Energy Changes

Use data from Appendix L to calculate the standard cell potential, standard free energy change, and equilibrium constant for the following reaction at 25 °C. Comment on the spontaneity of the forward reaction and the composition of an equilibrium mixture of reactants and products.

$$2\,Ag^+(aq) + Fe(s) \rightleftharpoons 2\,Ag(s) + Fe^{2+}(aq)$$

Solution

The reaction involves an oxidation-reduction reaction, so the standard cell potential can be calculated using the data in Appendix L.

anode:	$Fe(s) \longrightarrow Fe^{2+}(aq) + 2\,e^-$	$E^o_{Fe^{2+}/Fe} = -0.447\,V$
cathode:	$2 \times (Ag^+(aq) + e^- \longrightarrow Ag(s))$	$E^o_{Ag^+/Ag} = +0.7996\,V$
cell:	$Fe(s) + 2\,Ag^+(aq) \longrightarrow Fe^{2+}(aq) + 2\,Ag(s)$	$E^o_{cell} = +1.2247\,V$

with

$$E^\circ_{cell} = E^\circ_{cathode} - E^\circ_{anode} = E^o_{Fe^{2+}/Fe} - E^o_{Ag^+/Ag} = +1.2247\,V$$

With $n = 2$, the equilibrium constant is then

$$E^\circ_{\text{cell}} = \frac{0.0592V}{n}\log K$$

$$K = 10^{n\times E^\circ_{\text{cal}}/0.0592V}$$

$$= 10^{2\times 1.247V/0.0592V}$$

$$= 10^{42.128}$$

$$= 1.3\times 10^{42}$$

The standard free energy is then Equation 6.5.1

$$\Delta G^\circ = -nFE^\circ_{\text{cell}}$$

$$= -2\times 96,485\frac{C}{mol}\times 1.247\frac{J}{C} = -240.6\frac{kJ}{mol}$$

The reaction is spontaneous, as indicated by a negative free energy change and a positive cell potential. The *K* value is very large, indicating the reaction proceeds to near completion to yield an equilibrium mixture containing mostly products.

? Exercise 6.5.1

What is the standard free energy change and the equilibrium constant for the following reaction at room temperature? Is the reaction spontaneous?

$$\text{Sn}\,(\text{s}) + 2\,\text{Cu}^{2+}\,(\text{aq}) \rightleftharpoons \text{Sn}^{2+}\,(\text{aq}) + 2\,\text{Cu}^{+}\,(\text{aq})$$

Answer

Spontaneous

$n = 2$

$E^\circ_{\text{cell}} = +0.291V$

$[\Delta G^\circ = -56.2\frac{kJ}{mol}$

K = 6.8 10^9.

Potentials at Nonstandard Conditions: The Nernst Equation

Most of the redox processes that interest science and society do not occur under standard state conditions, and so the potentials of these systems under nonstandard conditions are a property worthy of attention. Having established the relationship between potential and free energy change in this section, the previously discussed relation between free energy change and reaction mixture composition can be used for this purpose.

$$\Delta G = \Delta G^\circ + RT\ln Q$$

Notice the reaction quotient, *Q*, appears in this equation, making the free energy change dependent upon the composition of the reaction mixture. Substituting the equation relating free energy change to cell potential yields the **Nernst equation**:

$$-nFE_{\text{cell}} = -nFE^\circ_{\text{cell}} + RT\ln Q$$

$$E_{\text{cell}} = E^\circ_{\text{cell}} - \frac{RT}{nF}\ln Q$$

This equation describes how the potential of a redox system (such as a galvanic cell) varies from its standard state value, specifically, showing it to be a function of the number of electrons transferred, *n*, the temperature, *T*, and the reaction mixture composition as reflected in *Q*. A convenient form of the Nernst equation for most work is one in which values for the fundamental constants (R and F) and standard temperature (298) K), along with a factor converting from natural to base-10 logarithms, have been included:

$$E_{\text{cell}} = E^\circ_{\text{cell}} - \frac{0.0592V}{n}\log Q \tag{6.5.2}$$

Example 6.5.2: Predicting Redox Spontaneity Under Nonstandard Conditions

Use the Nernst equation to predict the spontaneity of the redox reaction shown below at room temperature.

$$\mathrm{Co\,(s) + Fe^{2+}(aq,\ 1.94\ M) \longrightarrow Co^{2+}(aq,\ 0.15\ M) + Fe\,(s)}$$

Solution

Collecting information from Appendix L and the problem,

anode:	$\mathrm{Co\,(s) \longrightarrow Co^{2+}\,(aq) + 2\,e^-}$	$E^o_{\mathrm{Co^{2+}/Co}} = -0.28\,\mathrm{V}$
cathode:	$\mathrm{Fe^{2+}\,(aq) + 2\,e^- \longrightarrow Fe\,(s)}$	$E^o_{\mathrm{Fe^{+}/Fe}} = -0.447\,\mathrm{V}$
cell:	$\mathrm{Co\,(s) + Fe^{2+}(Aq) \longrightarrow Fe\,(s) + Co^{2+}\,(aq)}$	$E^o_{\mathrm{cell}} = -0.17\,\mathrm{V}$

with

$$E^\circ_{\mathrm{cell}} = E^\circ_{\mathrm{cathode}} - E^\circ_{\mathrm{anode}} = -0.447V - (-0.28V) = -0.17V$$

Notice the negative value of the standard cell potential indicates the process is not spontaneous under standard conditions. Substitution of the Nernst equation terms for the nonstandard conditions requires calculating the reaction quotient Q

$$Q = \frac{[\mathrm{Co^{2+}}]}{[\mathrm{Fe^{2+}}]} = \frac{0.15M}{1.94M} = 0.077$$

them Q and n are substituted into Equation \red{Nernst at room temperature}

$$\begin{aligned} E_{\mathrm{cell}} &= E^\circ_{\mathrm{cell}} - \frac{0.0592\,\mathrm{V}}{n}\log Q \\ &= -0.17\,\mathrm{V} - \frac{0.0592\,\mathrm{V}}{2}\log 0.077 \\ &= -0.17\,\mathrm{V} + 0.033\,\mathrm{V} \\ &= -0.14\,\mathrm{V} \end{aligned}$$

The cell potential remains negative (slightly) under the specified conditions, and so the reaction remains nonspontaneous.

Exercise 6.5.2

For the cell schematic below at room temperature, identify values for *n* and *Q*, and calculate the cell potential, E_{cell}.

$$\mathrm{Al\,(s)|Al^{3+}(aq,\ 0.15\ M)|Cu^{2+}(aq,\ 0.025\ M)|Cu\,(s)}$$

Answer

n = 6; *Q* = 1440; E_{cell} = +1.97 V, spontaneous.

A **concentration cell** is constructed by connecting two nearly identical half-cells, each based on the same half-reaction and using the same electrode, varying only in the concentration of one redox species. The potential of a concentration cell, therefore, is determined only by the difference in concentration of the chosen redox species. The example problem below illustrates the use of the Nernst equation in calculations involving concentration cells.

Example 6.5.3: Concentration Cells

What is the cell potential of the concentration cell operating at room temperature described by

$$\mathrm{Zn\,(s)|Zn^{2+}(aq,\ 0.10\ M)|Zn^{2+}(aq,\ 0.50\ M)|Zn\,(s)}$$

Solution

From the information given:

anode:	$\mathrm{Zn(s)} \longrightarrow \mathrm{Zn^{2+}(aq,\ 0.10\ M)} + 2\,\mathrm{e^-}$	$E^o_{\mathrm{Co^{2+}/Co}} = -0.7618\,\mathrm{V}$
cathode:	$\mathrm{Zn^{2+}(aq,\ 0.50\ M)} + 2\,\mathrm{e^-} \longrightarrow \mathrm{Zn(s)}$	$E^o_{\mathrm{Fe^{+}/Fe}} = -0,7618\,\mathrm{V}$
cell:	$\cancel{\mathrm{Zn(s)}} + \mathrm{Zn^{2+}(aq,\ 0.50\ M)} \longrightarrow \mathrm{Zn^{2+}(aq,\ 0.10\ M)} + \cancel{\mathrm{Zn(s)}}$	$E^o_{\mathrm{cell}} = 0\,\mathrm{V}$

Substituting into the Nernst equation (Equation 6.5.2),

$$E_{\mathrm{cell}} = 0.000\,\mathrm{V} - \frac{0.0592\,\mathrm{V}}{2}\log\frac{0.10}{0.50} = +0.021\,\mathrm{V}$$

The positive value for cell potential indicates the overall cell reaction (see above) is spontaneous. This spontaneous reaction is one in which the zinc ion concentration in the cathode falls (it is reduced to elemental zinc) while that in the anode rises (it is produced by oxidation of the zinc anode). A greater driving force for zinc reduction is present in the cathode, where the zinc(II) ion concentration is greater ($E_{\mathrm{cathode}} > E_{\mathrm{anode}}$).

Exercise 6.5.1

The concentration cell above was allowed to operate until the cell reaction reached equilibrium at room temperature. What are the cell potential and the concentrations of zinc(II) in each half-cell for the cell now?

Answer

E_{cell} = 0.000 V; $[\mathrm{Zn^{2+}}]_{\mathrm{cathode}} = [\mathrm{Zn^{2+}}]_{\mathrm{anode}}$ = 0.30 *M*

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6.6: Batteries and Fuel Cells

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Describe the electrochemistry associated with several common batteries
- Distinguish the operation of a fuel cell from that of a battery

There are many technological products associated with the past two centuries of electrochemistry research, none more immediately obvious than the battery. A **battery** is a galvanic cell that has been specially designed and constructed in a way that best suits its intended use a source of electrical power for specific applications. Among the first successful batteries was the *Daniell cell*, which relied on the spontaneous oxidation of zinc by copper(II) ions (Figure 6.6.1):

$$\mathrm{Zn\,(s) + Cu^{2+}\,(aq) \longrightarrow Zn^{2+}\,(aq) + Cu\,(s)}$$

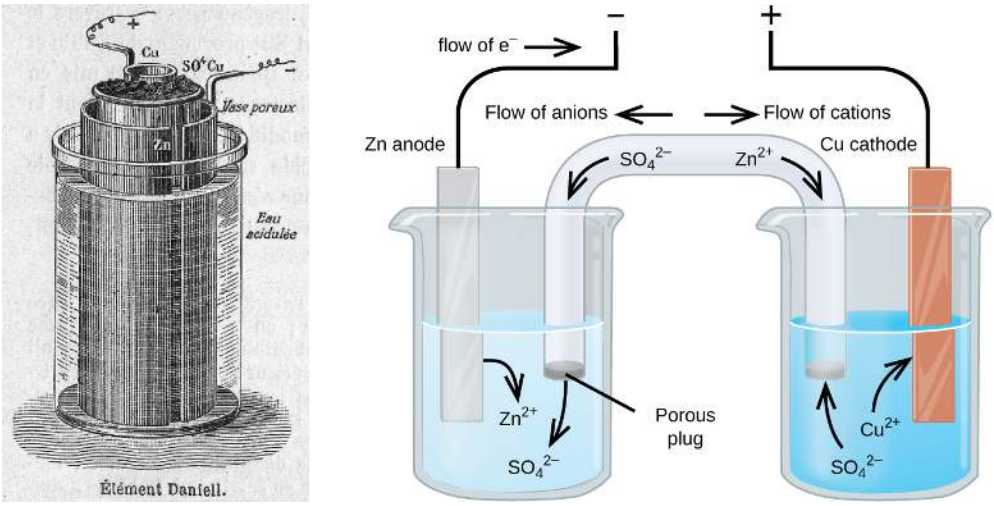


Figure 6.6.1: Illustration of a Daniell cell taken from a 1904 journal publication (left) along with a simplified illustration depicting the electrochemistry of the cell (right). The 1904 design used a porous clay pot to both contain one of the half-cell's content and to serve as a salt bridge to the other half-cell.

Modern batteries exist in a multitude of forms to accommodate various applications, from tiny button batteries that provide the modest power needs of a wristwatch to the very large batteries used to supply backup energy to municipal power grids. Some batteries are designed for single-use applications and cannot be recharged (primary cells), while others are based on conveniently reversible cell reactions that allow recharging by an external power source (secondary cells). This section will provide a summary of the basic electrochemical aspects of several batteries familiar to most consumers, and will introduce a related electrochemical device called a *fuel cell* that can offer improved performance in certain applications.

Link to Learning

Visit this site to learn more about batteries.

Single-Use Batteries

A common primary battery is the dry cell, which uses a zinc can as both container and anode ("–" terminal) and a graphite rod as the cathode ("+" terminal). The Zn can is filled with an electrolyte paste containing manganese(IV) oxide, zinc(II) chloride, ammonium chloride, and water. A graphite rod is immersed in the electrolyte paste to complete the cell. The spontaneous cell reaction involves the oxidation of zinc:

$$\mathrm{Zn\,(s) \longrightarrow Zn^{2+}\,(aq) + 2\,e^-} \qquad \text{(anode)}$$

and the reduction of manganese(IV)

$$2\,MnO_2\,(s) + 2\,NH_4Cl\,(aq) + 2\,e^- \longrightarrow Mn_2O_3\,(s) + 2\,NH_3\,(aq) + H_2O\,(l) + 2\,Cl^- \qquad \text{(cathode)}$$

which together yield the cell reaction:

$$\begin{aligned} &2\,MnO_2\,(s) + 2\,NH_4Cl\,(aq) + Zn\,(s) \longrightarrow Zn^{2+}\,(aq) \\ &\quad + Mn_2O_3\,(s) + 2\,NH_3\,(aq) + H_2O\,(l) + 2\,Cl^- \end{aligned} \qquad \text{(cell)}$$

The voltage (*cell potential*) of a dry cell is approximately 1.5 V. Dry cells are available in various sizes (e.g., D, C, AA, AAA). All sizes of dry cells comprise the same components, and so they exhibit the same voltage, but larger cells contain greater amounts of the redox reactants and therefore are capable of transferring correspondingly greater amounts of charge. Like other galvanic cells, dry cells may be connected in series to yield batteries with greater voltage outputs, if needed.

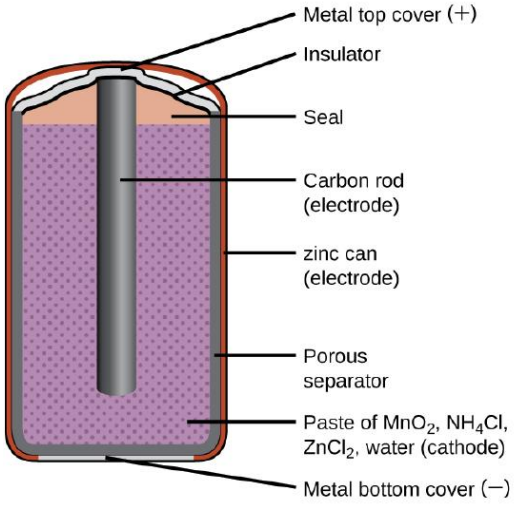


Figure 6.6.2: A schematic diagram shows a typical dry cell.

Link to Learning

Visit this site to learn more about zinc-carbon batteries.

Alkaline batteries (Figure 6.6.3) were developed in the 1950s to improve on the performance of the dry cell, and they were designed around the same redox couples. As their name suggests, these types of batteries use alkaline electrolytes, often potassium hydroxide. The reactions are

anode:	$Zn\,(s) + 2\,OH^-\,(aq) \longrightarrow ZnO\,(s) + H_2O\,(l) + 2\,e^-$	
cathode:	$2\,MnO_2\,(s) + H_2O\,(l) + 2\,e^- \longrightarrow Mn_2O_3\,(s) + 2\,OH^-\,(aq)$	
cell:	$Zn\,(s) + 2\,MnO_2\,(s) \longrightarrow ZnO\,(s) + Mn_2O_3\,(s)$	$E_{cell} = +1.43\,V$

An alkaline battery can deliver about three to five times the energy of a zinc-carbon dry cell of similar size. Alkaline batteries are prone to leaking potassium hydroxide, so they should be removed from devices for long-term storage. While some alkaline batteries are rechargeable, most are not. Attempts to recharge an alkaline battery that is not rechargeable often leads to rupture of the battery and leakage of the potassium hydroxide electrolyte.

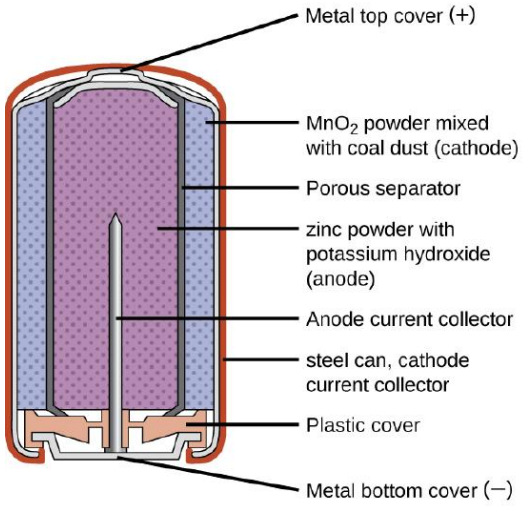


Figure 6.6.3: Alkaline batteries were designed as improved replacements for zinc-carbon (dry cell) batteries.

Link to Learning

Visit this site to learn more about alkaline batteries.

Rechargeable (Secondary) Batteries

Nickel-cadmium, or NiCd, batteries (Figure 6.6.4) consist of a nickel-plated cathode, cadmium-plated anode, and a potassium hydroxide electrode. The positive and negative plates, which are prevented from shorting by the separator, are rolled together and put into the case. This is a "jelly-roll" design and allows the NiCd cell to deliver much more current than a similar-sized alkaline battery. The reactions are

$$\begin{array}{lll} \text{anode:} & \mathrm{Cd\,(s) + 2\,OH^-\,(aq) \longrightarrow Cd(OH)_2\,(s) + 2\,e^-} & \\ \text{cathode:} & \mathrm{NiO_2\,(s) + 2\,H_2O\,(l) + 2\,e^- \longrightarrow Ni(OH)_2\,(s) + 2\,OH^-\,(aq)} & \\ \hline \text{cell:} & \mathrm{Cd\,(s) + NiO_2\,(s) + 2\,H_2O\,(l) \longrightarrow Cd(OH)_2\,(s) + Ni(OH)_2\,(s)} & E_{\text{cell}} \approx +1.2\,\text{V} \end{array}$$

When properly treated, a NiCd battery can be recharged about 1000 times. Cadmium is a toxic heavy metal so NiCd batteries should never be ruptured or incinerated, and they should be disposed of in accordance with relevant toxic waste guidelines.

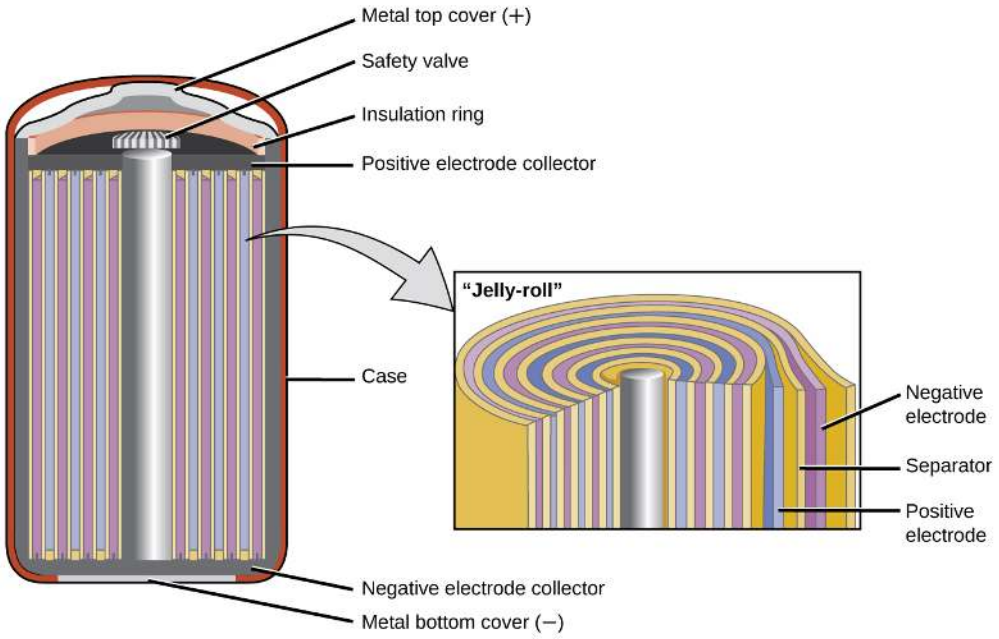


Figure 6.6.4: NiCd batteries use a "jelly-roll" design that significantly increases the amount of current the battery can deliver as compared to a similar-sized alkaline battery.

Link to Learning

Visit this site for more information about nickel cadmium rechargeable batteries.

Lithium ion batteries (Figure 6.6.5) are among the most popular rechargeable batteries and are used in many portable electronic devices. The reactions are

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{anode:} & \mathrm{LiCoO_2 \longrightarrow Li_{1-x}CoO_2 + x\ Li^+ + x\ e^-} \\ \text{cathode:} & \mathrm{x\ Li^+ + x\ e^- + x\ C_6 \longrightarrow x\ LiC_6} \\ \hline \text{cell:} & \mathrm{LiCoO_2 + x\ C_6 \longrightarrow Li_{1-x}CoO_2 + x\ LiC_6} \qquad E_{\text{cell}} \approx +3.7\,\text{V} \end{array}$$

The variable stoichiometry of the cell reaction leads to variation in cell voltages, but for typical conditions, x is usually no more than 0.5 and the cell voltage is approximately 3.7 V. Lithium batteries are popular because they can provide a large amount current, are lighter than comparable batteries of other types, produce a nearly constant voltage as they discharge, and only slowly lose their charge when stored.

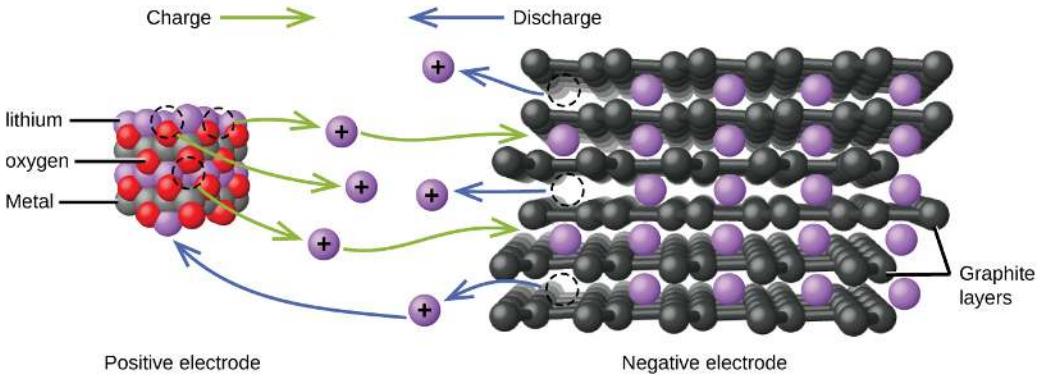


Figure 6.6.5: In a lithium ion battery, charge flows as the lithium ions are transferred between the anode and cathode.

Link to Learning

Visit this site for more information about lithium ion batteries.

The lead acid battery (Figure 6.6.6) is the type of secondary battery commonly used in automobiles. It is inexpensive and capable of producing the high current required by automobile starter motors. The reactions for a lead acid battery are

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{anode:} & \mathrm{Pb\,(s) + HSO_4^-\,(aq) \longrightarrow PbSO_4\,(s) + H^+\,(aq) + 2\,e^-} \\ \text{cathode:} & \mathrm{PbO_2\,(s) + HSO_4^-\,(aq) + 3\,H^+\,(aq) + 2\,e^- \longrightarrow PbSO_4\,(s) + 2\,H_2O\,(l)} \\ \hline \text{cell:} & \mathrm{Pb\,(s) + PbO_2\,(s) + 2\,H_2SO_4\,(aq) \longrightarrow 2\,PbSO_4\,(s) + 2\,H_2O\,(l)} \qquad E_{\text{cell}} \approx +2\,\text{V} \end{array}$$

Each cell produces 2 V, so six cells are connected in series to produce a 12-V car battery. Lead acid batteries are heavy and contain a caustic liquid electrolyte, $H_2SO_4(aq)$, but are often still the battery of choice because of their high current density. Since these batteries contain a significant amount of lead, they must always be disposed of properly.

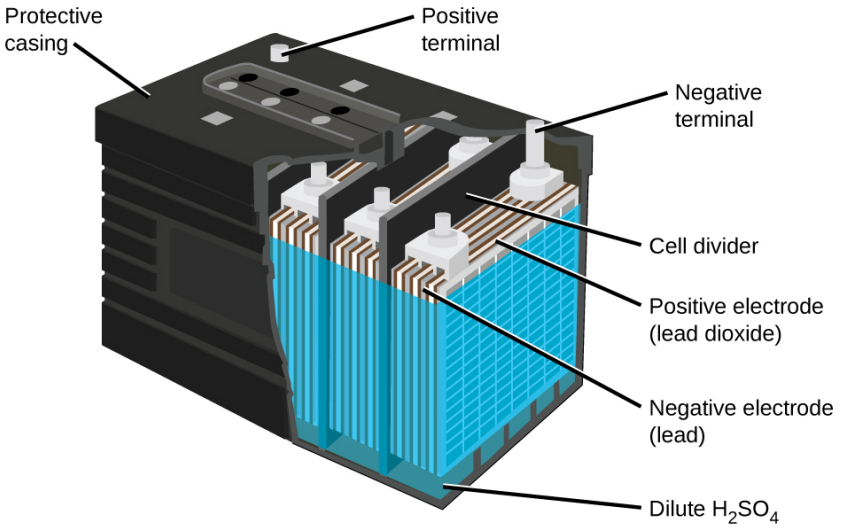


Figure 6.6.6: The lead acid battery in your automobile consists of six cells connected in series to give 12 V.

Link to Learning

Visit this site for more information about lead acid batteries.

Fuel Cells

A fuel cell is a galvanic cell that uses traditional combustive fuels, most often hydrogen or methane, that are continuously fed into the cell along with an oxidant. (An alternative, but not very popular, name for a fuel cell is a *flow battery*.) Within the cell, fuel and oxidant undergo the same redox chemistry as when they are combusted, but via a catalyzed electrochemical that is significantly more efficient. For example, a typical hydrogen fuel cell uses graphite electrodes embedded with platinum-based catalysts to accelerate the two half-cell reactions:

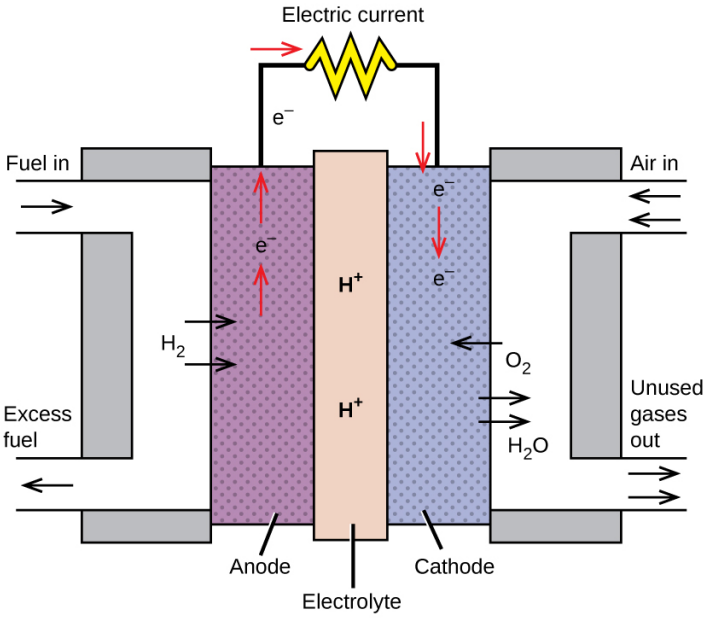


Figure 6.6.7: In this hydrogen fuel cell, oxygen from the air reacts with hydrogen, producing water and electricity.

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{anode:} & 2\,H_2\,(g) \longrightarrow 4\,H^+\,(aq) + 4\,e^- \\ \text{cathode:} & O_2\,(g) + 4\,H^+\,(aq) + 4\,e^- \longrightarrow 2\,H_2O\,(g) \\ \hline \text{cell:} & 2\,H_2\,(g) + O_2\,(g) \longrightarrow 2\,H_2O\,(g) \qquad E_{\text{cell}} \approx +1.2\,V \end{array}$$

These types of fuel cells generally produce voltages of approximately 1.2 V. Compared to an internal combustion engine, the energy efficiency of a fuel cell using the same redox reaction is typically more than double (~20%–25% for an engine versus ~50%–75% for a fuel cell). Hydrogen fuel cells are commonly used on extended space missions, and prototypes for personal vehicles have been developed, though the technology remains relatively immature.

Link to Learning

Check out this link to learn more about fuel cells.

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6.7: Corrosion

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Define corrosion
- List some of the methods used to prevent or slow corrosion

Corrosion is usually defined as the degradation of metals by a naturally occurring electrochemical process. The formation of rust on iron, tarnish on silver, and the blue-green patina that develops on copper are all examples of corrosion. The total cost of corrosion remediation in the United States is significant, with estimates in excess of half a trillion dollars a year.

Chemistry in Everyday Life: Statue of Liberty: Changing Colors

The Statue of Liberty is a landmark every American recognizes. The Statue of Liberty is easily identified by its height, stance, and unique blue-green color (Figure 6.7.1). When this statue was first delivered from France, its appearance was not green. It was brown, the color of its copper "skin." So how did the Statue of Liberty change colors? The change in appearance was a direct result of corrosion. The copper that is the primary component of the statue slowly underwent oxidation from the air. The oxidation-reduction reactions of copper metal in the environment occur in several steps. Copper metal is oxidized to copper(I) oxide (Cu_2O), which is red, and then to copper(II) oxide, which is black

$$2\,Cu\,(s) + \tfrac{1}{2}\,O_2\,(g) \longrightarrow Cu_2\,O\,(s) \qquad \text{(red)}$$

$$2\,Cu_2O\,(s) + \tfrac{1}{2}\,O_2\,(g) \longrightarrow 2\,CuO\,(s) \qquad \text{(black)}$$

Coal, which was often high in sulfur, was burned extensively in the early part of the last century. As a result, atmospheric sulfur trioxide, carbon dioxide, and water all reacted with the CuO:

$$2\,CuO\,(s) + CO_2\,(g) + H_2O\,(l) \longrightarrow Cu_2CO_3(OH)_2\,(s) \qquad \text{(green)}$$

$$3\,CuO\,(s) + 2\,CO_2\,(g) + H_2O\,(l) \longrightarrow Cu_2(CO_3)_2(OH)_2\,(s) \qquad \text{(blue)}$$

$$4\,CuO\,(s) + SO_3\,(g) + 3\,H_2O\,(l) \longrightarrow Cu_4SO_4(OH)_6\,(s) \qquad \text{(green)}$$

These three compounds are responsible for the characteristic blue-green patina seen on the Statue of Liberty (and other outdoor copper structures). Fortunately, formation of patina creates a protective layer on the copper surface, preventing further corrosion of the underlying copper. The formation of the protective layer is called *passivation*, a phenomenon discussed further in another chapter of this text.



(a) (b)

Figure 6.7.1: (a) The Statue of Liberty is covered with a copper skin, and was originally brown, as shown in this painting. (b) Exposure to the elements has resulted in the formation of the blue-green patina seen today.

Perhaps the most familiar example of corrosion is the formation of rust on iron. Iron will rust when it is exposed to oxygen and water. Rust formation involves the creation of a galvanic cell at an iron surface, as illustrated in Figure 6.7.1. The relevant redox reactions are described by the following equations:

$$\begin{array}{lrl} \text{anode:} & \mathrm{Fe\,(s)} \longrightarrow \mathrm{Fe^{2+}\,(aq)} + 2\,\mathrm{e^-} & E^\circ_{\mathrm{Fe^{2+}\,/\,Fe}} = -0.44\,\mathrm{V} \\ \text{cathode:} & \mathrm{O_2\,(g)} + 4\,\mathrm{H^+\,(aq)} + 4\,\mathrm{e^-} \longrightarrow 2\,\mathrm{H_2O\,(l)} & E^\circ_{\mathrm{O_2\,/O^{2-}}} = +1.23\,\mathrm{V} \\ \hline \text{overall:} & 2\,\mathrm{Fe\,(s)} + \mathrm{O_2\,(g)} + 4\,\mathrm{H^+\,(aq)} \longrightarrow 2\,\mathrm{Fe^{2+}\,(aq)} + 2\,\mathrm{H_2O\,(l)} & E^\circ_{\mathrm{cell}} = +1.67\,\mathrm{V} \end{array}$$

Further reaction of the iron(II) product in humid air results in the production of an iron(III) oxide hydrate known as rust:

$$4\,\mathrm{Fe^{2+}\,(aq)} + \mathrm{O_2\,(g)} + (4+2\,\mathrm{x})\ \ \mathrm{H_2O\,(l)} \longrightarrow 2\,\mathrm{Fe_2O_3}\ \cdot \mathrm{x}\ \ \mathrm{H_2O\,(s)} + 8\,\mathrm{H^+\,(aq)}$$

The stoichiometry of the hydrate varies, as indicated by the use of *x* in the compound formula. Unlike the patina on copper, the formation of rust does not create a protective layer and so corrosion of the iron continues as the rust flakes off and exposes fresh iron to the atmosphere.

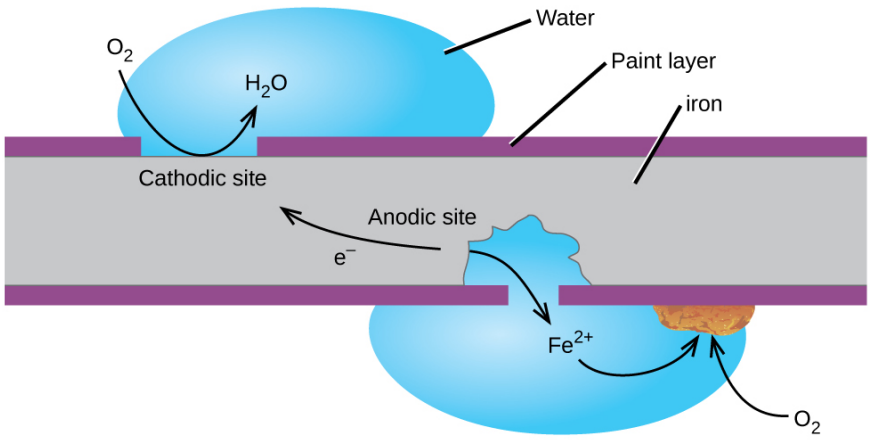


Figure 6.7.2: Corrosion can occur when a painted iron or steel surface is exposed to the environment by a scratch through the paint. A galvanic cell results that may be approximated by the simplified cell schematic Fe(*s*) | Fe^{2+}(*aq*) ||O_2(*aq*), H_2O(*l*) | Fe(*s*).

One way to keep iron from corroding is to keep it painted. The layer of paint prevents the water and oxygen necessary for rust formation from coming into contact with the iron. As long as the paint remains intact, the iron is protected from corrosion.

Other strategies include alloying the iron with other metals. For example, stainless steel is an alloy of iron containing a small amount of chromium. The chromium tends to collect near the surface, where it corrodes and forms a passivating an oxide layer that protects the iron.

Iron and other metals may also be protected from corrosion by **galvanization**, a process in which the metal to be protected is coated with a layer of a more readily oxidized metal, usually zinc. When the zinc layer is intact, it prevents air from contacting the underlying iron and thus prevents corrosion. If the zinc layer is breached by either corrosion or mechanical abrasion, the iron may still be protected from corrosion by a *cathodic protection* process, which is described in the next paragraph.

Another important way to protect metal is to make it the cathode in a galvanic cell. This is **cathodic protection** and can be used for metals other than just iron. For example, the rusting of underground iron storage tanks and pipes can be prevented or greatly reduced by connecting them to a more active metal such as zinc or magnesium (Figure 6.7.3). This is also used to protect the metal parts in water heaters. The more active metals (lower reduction potential) are called **sacrificial anodes** because as they get used up as they corrode (oxidize) at the anode. The metal being protected serves as the cathode for the reduction of oxygen in air, and so it simply serves to conduct (not react with) the electrons being transferred. When the anodes are properly monitored and periodically replaced, the useful lifetime of the iron storage tank can be greatly extended.

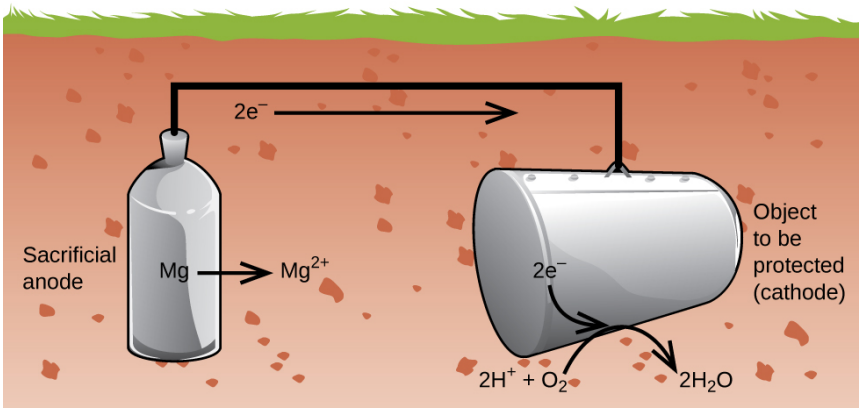


Figure 6.7.3: Cathodic protection is a useful approach to electrochemically preventing corrosion of underground storage tanks.

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6.8: Electrolysis

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Describe the process of electrolysis
- Compare the operation of electrolytic cells with that of galvanic cells
- Perform stoichiometric calculations for electrolytic processes

Electrochemical cells in which spontaneous redox reactions take place (*galvanic cells*) have been the topic of discussion so far in this chapter. In these cells, *electrical work is done by a redox system on its surroundings* as electrons produced by the redox reaction are transferred through an external circuit. This final section of the chapter will address an alternative scenario in which *an external circuit does work on a redox system* by imposing a voltage sufficient to drive an otherwise nonspontaneous reaction, a process known as **electrolysis**. A familiar example of electrolysis is recharging a battery, which involves use of an external power source to drive the spontaneous (discharge) cell reaction in the reverse direction, restoring to some extent the composition of the half-cells and the voltage of the battery. Perhaps less familiar is the use of electrolysis in the refinement of metallic ores, the manufacture of commodity chemicals, and the *electroplating* of metallic coatings on various products (e.g., jewelry, utensils, auto parts). To illustrate the essential concepts of electrolysis, a few specific processes will be considered.

The Electrolysis of Molten Sodium Chloride

Metallic sodium, Na, and chlorine gas, Cl_2, are used in numerous applications, and their industrial production relies on the large-scale electrolysis of molten sodium chloride, NaCl(l). The industrial process typically uses a *Downs cell* similar to the simplified illustration shown in Figure 6.8.1. The reactions associated with this process are:

Extra close brace or missing open brace

The cell potential for the above process is negative, indicating the reaction as written (decomposition of liquid NaCl) is not spontaneous. To force this reaction, *a positive potential of magnitude greater than the negative cell potential* must be applied to the cell.

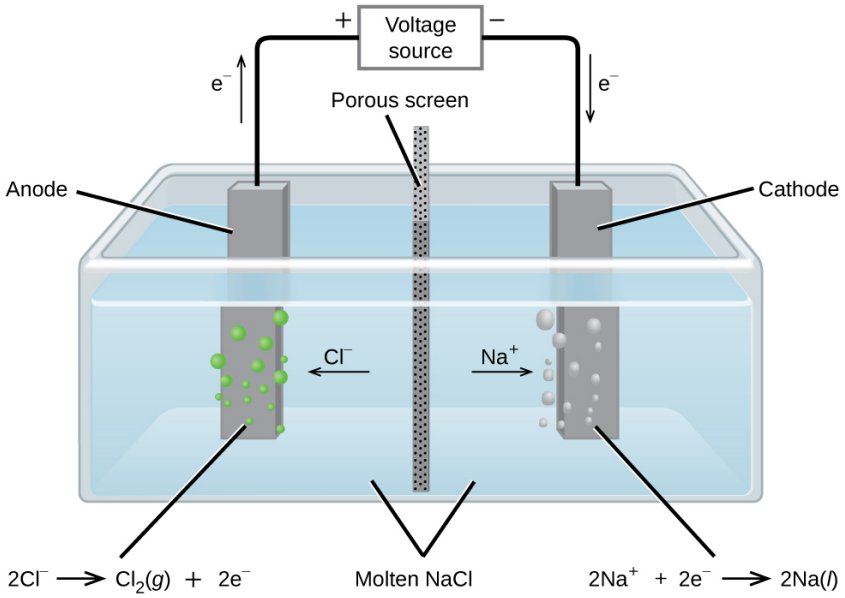


Figure 6.8.1: Cells of this sort (a cell for the electrolysis of molten sodium chloride) are used in the *Downs process* for production of sodium and chlorine, and they typically use iron cathodes and carbon anodes.

The Electrolysis of Water

Water may be electrolytically decomposed in a cell similar to the one illustrated in Figure 6.8.2. To improve electrical conductivity without introducing a different redox species, the hydrogen ion concentration of the water is typically increased by addition of a strong acid. The redox processes associated with this cell are

Extra close brace or missing open brace

Again, the cell potential as written is negative, indicating a nonspontaneous cell reaction that must be driven by imposing a cell voltage greater than +1.229 V. Keep in mind that *standard* electrode potentials are used to inform thermodynamic predictions here, though the cell is *not* operating under standard state conditions. Therefore, at best, calculated cell potentials should be considered ballpark estimates.

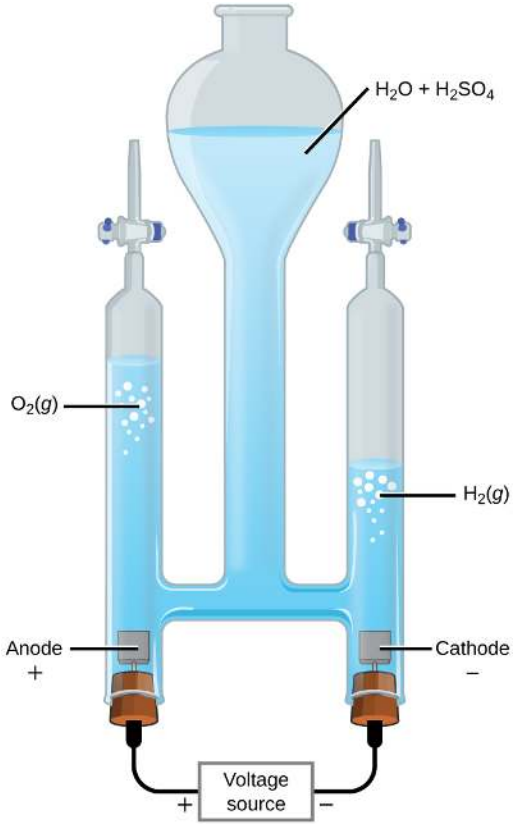


Figure 6.8.2: The electrolysis of water produces stoichiometric amounts of oxygen gas at the anode and hydrogen at the anode.

The Electrolysis of Aqueous Sodium Chloride

When aqueous solutions of ionic compounds are electrolyzed, the anode and cathode half-reactions may involve the electrolysis of either water species (H_2O, H^+, OH^-) or solute species (the cations and anions of the compound). As an example, the electrolysis of aqueous sodium chloride could involve either of these two anode reactions:

$$2\,\mathrm{Cl^-\,(aq)} \longrightarrow \mathrm{Cl_2\,(g)} + 2\,\mathrm{e^-} \quad E^\circ_{\text{anode}} = +1.35827\,\mathrm{V} \tag{i}$$

or

$$2\,\mathrm{H_2O\,(l)} \longrightarrow \mathrm{O_2\,(g)} + 4\,\mathrm{H^+\,(aq)} + 4\,\mathrm{e^-} \quad E^\circ_{\text{anode}} = +1.229\,\mathrm{V} \tag{ii}$$

The standard electrode (*reduction*) potentials of these two half-reactions indicate water may be *oxidized* at a less negative/more positive potential (–1.229 V) than chloride ion (–1.358 V). Thermodynamics thus predicts that water would be more readily oxidized, though in practice it is observed that both water and chloride ion are oxidized under typical conditions, producing a mixture of oxygen and chlorine gas.

Turning attention to the cathode, the possibilities for reduction are:

$$2\,H^+(aq) + 2\,e^- \longrightarrow H_2(g) \quad E^\circ_{anode} = 0\,V \tag{iii}$$

or

$$2\,H_2O(l) + 2\,e^- \longrightarrow H_2(g) + 4\,OH^-(aq) \quad E^\circ_{anode} = -0.8277\,V \tag{iv}$$

or

$$Na^+(aq) + e^- \longrightarrow Na(s) \quad E^\circ_{anode} = -2.71\,V \tag{v}$$

Comparison of these *standard* half-reaction potentials suggests the reduction of hydrogen ion is thermodynamically favored. However, in a neutral aqueous sodium chloride solution, the concentration of hydrogen ion is far below the standard state value of 1 *M* (approximately 10^{-7} *M*), and so the observed cathode reaction is actually reduction of water. The net cell reaction in this case is then

$$2\,H_2O(l) + 2\,Cl^-(aq) \longrightarrow H_2(g) + Cl_2(g) + 2\,OH^-(aq) \quad E^\circ_{cell} = -2.186\,V$$

This electrolysis reaction is part of the *chlor-alkali process* used by industry to produce chlorine and sodium hydroxide (lye).

Chemistry in Everyday Life: Electroplating

An important use for electrolytic cells is in electroplating. Electroplating results in a thin coating of one metal on top of a conducting surface. Reasons for electroplating include making the object more corrosion resistant, strengthening the surface, producing a more attractive finish, or for purifying metal. The metals commonly used in electroplating include cadmium, chromium, copper, gold, nickel, silver, and tin. Common consumer products include silver-plated or gold-plated tableware, chrome-plated automobile parts, and jewelry. The silver plating of eating utensils is used here to illustrate the process. (Figure 6.8.3).

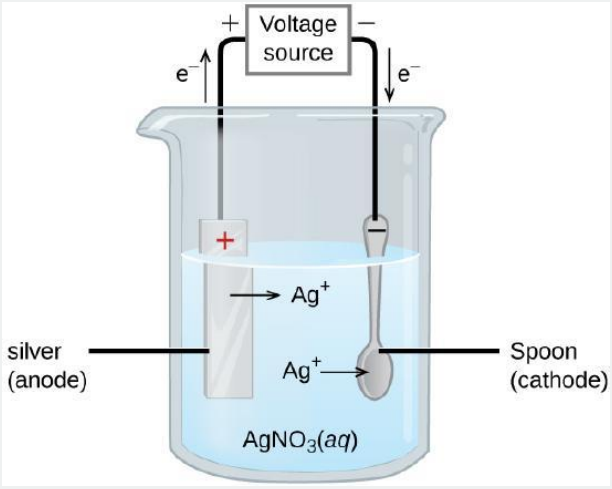


Figure 6.8.3: This schematic shows an electrolytic cell for silver plating eating utensils.

In the figure, the anode consists of a silver electrode, shown on the left. The cathode is located on the right and is the spoon, which is made from inexpensive metal. Both electrodes are immersed in a solution of silver nitrate. Applying a sufficient potential results in the oxidation of the silver anode

$$Ag(s) \longrightarrow Ag^+(aq) + e^- \qquad (anode)$$

and reduction of silver ion at the (spoon) cathode:

$$Ag^+(aq) + e^- \longrightarrow Ag(s) \qquad (cathode)$$

The net result is the transfer of silver metal from the anode to the cathode. Several experimental factors must be carefully controlled to obtain high-quality silver coatings, including the exact composition of the electrolyte solution, the cell voltage applied, and the rate of the electrolysis reaction (electrical current).

Quantitative Aspects of Electrolysis

Electrical current is defined as the rate of flow for any charged species. Most relevant to this discussion is the flow of electrons. Current is measured in a composite unit called an ampere, defined as one coulomb per second (A = 1 C/s). The charge transferred, *Q*, by passage of a constant current, *I*, over a specified time interval, *t*, is then given by the simple mathematical product

$$Q = It$$

When electrons are transferred during a redox process, the stoichiometry of the reaction may be used to derive the total amount of (electronic) charge involved. For example, the generic reduction process

$$\mathrm{M}^{n+}\,(\mathrm{aq}) + \mathrm{n\,e}^- \longrightarrow \mathrm{M}\,(\mathrm{s})$$

involves the transfer of n mole of electrons. The total charge transferred is, therefore,

$$Q = nF$$

where F is Faraday's constant, the charge in coulombs for one mole of electrons. If the reaction takes place in an electrochemical cell, the current flow is conveniently measured, and it may be used to assist in stoichiometric calculations related to the cell reaction.

✔ Example 6.8.1: Converting Current to Moles of Electrons

In one process used for electroplating silver, a current of 10.23 A was passed through an electrolytic cell for exactly 1 hour. How many moles of electrons passed through the cell? What mass of silver was deposited at the cathode from the silver nitrate solution?

Solution

Faraday's constant can be used to convert the charge (*Q*) into moles of electrons (*n*). The charge is the current (*I*) multiplied by the time

$$n = \frac{Q}{F} = \frac{\frac{10.23C}{s} \times 1hr \times \frac{60min}{hr} \times \frac{60s}{\text{min}}}{96,485C/mole^-} = \frac{36,830C}{96,485C/mole^-} = 0.3817mole^-$$

From the problem, the solution contains $AgNO_3$, so the reaction at the cathode involves 1 mole of electrons for each mole of silver

$$\mathrm{Ag}^+\,(\mathrm{aq}) + \mathrm{e}^- \longrightarrow \mathrm{Ag}\,(\mathrm{s}) \qquad (\text{cathode})$$

The atomic mass of silver is 107.9 g/mol, so

$$\text{mass } Ag = 0.3817\,\text{mol e}^- \times \frac{1\,\text{mol Ag}}{1\,\text{mol e}^-} \times \frac{107.9\,\text{g Ag}}{1\,\text{mol Ag}} = 41.19\,\text{g Ag}$$

? Exercise 6.8.1

Aluminum metal can be made from aluminum(III) ions by electrolysis. What is the half-reaction at the cathode? What mass of aluminum metal would be recovered if a current of 25.0 A passed through the solution for 15.0 minutes?

Answer

$$Al^{3+}(aq) + 3e^- \longrightarrow Al(s)$$

0.0777 mol Al = 2.10 g Al.

✔ Example 6.8.2: Time Required for Deposition

In one application, a 0.010-mm layer of chromium must be deposited on a part with a total surface area of 3.3 m^2 from a solution of containing chromium(III) ions. How long would it take to deposit the layer of chromium if the current was 33.46

A? The density of chromium (metal) is 7.19 g/cm^3.

Solution

First, compute the volume of chromium that must be produced (equal to the product of surface area and thickness):

$$\text{volume } = \left(0.010mm \times \frac{1cm}{10mm}\right) \times \left(3.3m^2 \times \left(\frac{10,000cm^2}{1m^2}\right)\right) = 33cm^3$$

Use the computed volume and the provided density to calculate the molar amount of chromium required:

$$\text{mass } = \text{ volume } \times \text{ density } = 33cm^3 \times \frac{7.19g}{cm^3} = 237gCr$$

$$molCr = 237gCr \times \frac{1molCr}{52.00gCr} = 4.56molCr$$

The stoichiometry of the chromium(III) reduction process requires three moles of electrons for each mole of chromium(0) produced, and so the total charge required is:

$$Q = 4.56molCr \times \frac{3mole^-}{1molCr} \times \frac{96485C}{mole^-} = 1.32 \times 10^6C$$

Finally, if this charge is passed at a rate of 33.46 C/s, the required time is:

$$t = \frac{Q}{I} = \frac{1.32 \times 10^6C}{33.46C/s} = 3.95 \times 10^4s = 11.0hr$$

Exercise 6.8.2

What mass of zinc is required to galvanize the top of a 3.00 m 5.50 m sheet of iron to a thickness of 0.100 mm of zinc? If the zinc comes from a solution of $Zn(NO_3)_2$ and the current is 25.5 A, how long will it take to galvanize the top of the iron? The density of zinc is 7.140 g/cm^3.

Answer

11.8 kg Zn requires 382 hours.

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6.9: Key Terms

active electrode | electrode that participates as a reactant or product in the oxidation-reduction reaction of an electrochemical cell; the mass of an active electrode changes during the oxidation-reduction reaction

alkaline battery | primary battery similar to a *dry cell* that uses an alkaline (often potassium hydroxide) electrolyte; designed to be an improved replacement for the dry cell, but with more energy storage and less electrolyte leakage than typical dry cell

anode | electrode in an electrochemical cell at which oxidation occurs

battery | single or series of galvanic cells designed for use as a source of electrical power

cathode | electrode in an electrochemical cell at which reduction occurs

cathodic protection | approach to preventing corrosion of a metal object by connecting it to a *sacrificial anode* composed of a more readily oxidized metal

cell notation (schematic) | symbolic representation of the components and reactions in an electrochemical cell

cell potential (E_{cell}) | difference in potential of the cathode and anode half-cells

concentration cell | galvanic cell comprising half-cells of identical composition but for the concentration of one redox reactant or product

corrosion | degradation of metal via a natural electrochemical process

dry cell | primary battery, also called a zinc-carbon battery, based on the spontaneous oxidation of zinc by manganese(IV)

electrode potential (E_X) | the potential of a cell in which the half-cell of interest acts as a cathode when connected to the standard hydrogen electrode

electrolysis | process using electrical energy to cause a nonspontaneous process to occur

electrolytic cell | electrochemical cell in which an external source of electrical power is used to drive an otherwise nonspontaneous process

Faraday's constant (F) | charge on 1 mol of electrons; F = 96,485 C/mol e^-

fuel cell | devices similar to galvanic cells that require a continuous feed of redox reactants; also called a *flow battery*

galvanic (voltaic) cell | electrochemical cell in which a spontaneous redox reaction takes place; also called a *voltaic cell*

galvanization | method of protecting iron or similar metals from corrosion by coating with a thin layer of more easily oxidized zinc.

half cell | component of a cell that contains the redox conjugate pair ("couple") of a single reactant

inert electrode | electrode that conducts electrons to and from the reactants in a half-cell but that is not itself oxidized or reduced

lead acid battery | rechargeable battery commonly used in automobiles; it typically comprises six galvanic cells based on Pb half-reactions in acidic solution

lithium ion battery | widely used rechargeable battery commonly used in portable electronic devices, based on lithium ion transfer between the anode and cathode

Nernst equation | relating the potential of a redox system to its composition

nickel-cadmium battery | rechargeable battery based on Ni/Cd half-cells with applications similar to those of lithium ion batteries

primary cell | nonrechargeable battery, suitable for single use only

sacrificial anode | electrode constructed from an easily oxidized metal, often magnesium or zinc, used to prevent corrosion of metal objects via cathodic protection

salt bridge | tube filled with inert electrolyte solution

secondary cell | battery designed to allow recharging

standard cell potential | the cell potential when all reactants and products are in their standard states (1 bar or 1 atm or gases; 1 M for solutes), usually at 298.15 K

standard electrode potential () | electrode potential measured under standard conditions (1 bar or 1 atm for gases; 1 M for solutes) usually at 298.15 K

standard hydrogen electrode (SHE) | half-cell based on hydrogen ion production, assigned a potential of exactly 0 V under standard state conditions, used as the universal reference for measuring electrode potential

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6.10: Key Equations

$$\Delta G = -nFE_{\text{cell}}$$

$$Q = I\,t = n\,F$$

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6.11: Summary

Redox reactions are defined by changes in reactant oxidation numbers, and those most relevant to electrochemistry involve actual transfer of electrons. Aqueous phase redox processes often involve water or its characteristic ions, H^+ and OH^-, as reactants in addition to the oxidant and reductant, and equations representing these reactions can be challenging to balance. The half-reaction method is a systematic approach to balancing such equations that involves separate treatment of the oxidation and reduction half-reactions.

Galvanic cells are devices in which a spontaneous redox reaction occurs indirectly, with the oxidant and reductant redox couples contained in separate half-cells. Electrons are transferred from the reductant (in the anode half-cell) to the oxidant (in the cathode half-cell) through an external circuit, and inert solution phase ions are transferred between half-cells, through a salt bridge, to maintain charge neutrality. The construction and composition of a galvanic cell may be succinctly represented using chemical formulas and others symbols in the form of a cell schematic (cell notation).

The property of potential, E, is the energy associated with the separation/transfer of charge. In electrochemistry, the potentials of cells and half-cells are thermodynamic quantities that reflect the driving force or the spontaneity of their redox processes. The cell potential of an electrochemical cell is the difference in between its cathode and anode. To permit easy sharing of half-cell potential data, the standard hydrogen electrode (SHE) is assigned a potential of exactly 0 V and used to define a single electrode potential for any given half-cell. The electrode potential of a half-cell, E_X, is the cell potential of said half-cell acting as a cathode when connected to a SHE acting as an anode. When the half-cell is operating under standard state conditions, its potential is the standard electrode potential, $E°_X$. Standard electrode potentials reflect the relative oxidizing strength of the half-reaction's reactant, with stronger oxidants exhibiting larger (more positive) $E°_X$ values. Tabulations of standard electrode potentials may be used to compute standard cell potentials, $E°_{cell}$, for many redox reactions. The arithmetic sign of a cell potential indicates the spontaneity of the cell reaction, with positive values for spontaneous reactions and negative values for nonspontaneous reactions (spontaneous in the reverse direction).

Potential is a thermodynamic quantity reflecting the intrinsic driving force of a redox process, and it is directly related to the free energy change and equilibrium constant for the process. For redox processes taking place in electrochemical cells, the maximum (electrical) work done by the system is easily computed from the cell potential and the reaction stoichiometry and is equal to the free energy change for the process. The equilibrium constant for a redox reaction is logarithmically related to the reaction's cell potential, with larger (more positive) potentials indicating reactions with greater driving force that equilibrate when the reaction has proceeded far towards completion (large value of K). Finally, the potential of a redox process varies with the composition of the reaction mixture, being related to the reactions standard potential and the value of its reaction quotient, Q, as described by the Nernst equation.

Galvanic cells designed specifically to function as electrical power supplies are called batteries. A variety of both single-use batteries (primary cells) and rechargeable batteries (secondary cells) are commercially available to serve a variety of applications, with important specifications including voltage, size, and lifetime. Fuel cells, sometimes called flow batteries, are devices that harness the energy of spontaneous redox reactions normally associated with combustion processes. Like batteries, fuel cells enable the reaction's electron transfer via an external circuit, but they require continuous input of the redox reactants (fuel and oxidant) from an external reservoir. Fuel cells are typically much more efficient in converting the energy released by the reaction to useful work in comparison to internal combustion engines.

Spontaneous oxidation of metals by natural electrochemical processes is called corrosion, familiar examples including the rusting of iron and the tarnishing of silver. Corrosion process involve the creation of a galvanic cell in which different sites on the metal object function as anode and cathode, with the corrosion taking place at the anodic site. Approaches to preventing corrosion of metals include use of a protective coating of zinc (galvanization) and the use of sacrificial anodes connected to the metal object (cathodic protection).

Nonspontaneous redox processes may be forced to occur in electrochemical cells by the application of an appropriate potential using an external power source—a process known as electrolysis. Electrolysis is the basis for certain ore refining processes, the industrial production of many chemical commodities, and the electroplating of metal coatings on various products. Measurement of the current flow during electrolysis permits stoichiometric calculations.

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6.12: Exercises

1.

Identify each half-reaction below as either oxidation or reduction.

a.
b.
c.
d.

2.

Identify each half-reaction below as either oxidation or reduction.

a.
b.
c.
d.

3.

Assuming each pair of half-reactions below takes place in an acidic solution, write a balanced equation for the overall reaction.

a.
b.
c.
d.

4.

Balance the equations below assuming they occur in an acidic solution.

a.
b.
c.

5.

Identify the oxidant and reductant of each reaction of the previous exercise.

6.

Balance the equations below assuming they occur in a basic solution.

a.
b.
c.
d.

7.

Identify the oxidant and reductant of each reaction of the previous exercise.

8.

Why don’t hydroxide ions appear in equations for half-reactions occurring in acidic solution?

9.

Why don’t hydrogen ions appear in equations for half-reactions occurring in basic solution?

10.

Why must the charge balance in oxidation-reduction reactions?

11.

Write cell schematics for the following cell reactions, using platinum as an inert electrode as needed.

a.

b.

c.

d.

12.

Assuming the schematics below represent galvanic cells as written, identify the half-cell reactions occurring in each.

a.

b.

13.

Write a balanced equation for the cell reaction of each cell in the previous exercise.

14.

Balance each reaction below, and write a cell schematic representing the reaction as it would occur in a galvanic cell.

a.

b.

c.

d.

15.

Identify the oxidant and reductant in each reaction of the previous exercise.

16.

From the information provided, use cell notation to describe the following systems:

a. In one half-cell, a solution of $Pt(NO_3)_2$ forms Pt metal, while in the other half-cell, Cu metal goes into a $Cu(NO_3)_2$ solution with all solute concentrations 1 *M*.
b. The cathode consists of a gold electrode in a 0.55 *M* $Au(NO_3)_3$ solution and the anode is a magnesium electrode in 0.75 *M* $Mg(NO_3)_2$ solution.
c. One half-cell consists of a silver electrode in a 1 *M* $AgNO_3$ solution, and in the other half-cell, a copper electrode in 1 *M* $Cu(NO_3)_2$ is oxidized.

17.

Why is a salt bridge necessary in galvanic cells like the one in Figure 17.3?

18.

An active (metal) electrode was found to gain mass as the oxidation-reduction reaction was allowed to proceed. Was the electrode an anode or a cathode? Explain.

19.

An active (metal) electrode was found to lose mass as the oxidation-reduction reaction was allowed to proceed. Was the electrode an anode or a cathode? Explain.

20.

The masses of three electrodes (A, B, and C), each from three different galvanic cells, were measured before and after the cells were allowed to pass current for a while. The mass of electrode A increased, that of electrode B was unchanged, and that of electrode C decreased. Identify each electrode as active or inert, and note (if possible) whether it functioned as anode or cathode.

21.

Calculate the standard cell potential for each reaction below, and note whether the reaction is spontaneous under standard state conditions.

a.

b.

c.

d.

22.

Calculate the standard cell potential for each reaction below, and note whether the reaction is spontaneous under standard state conditions.

a.

b.

c.

d.

23.

Write the balanced cell reaction for the cell schematic below, calculate the standard cell potential, and note whether the reaction is spontaneous under standard state conditions.

24.

Determine the cell reaction and standard cell potential at 25 °C for a cell made from a cathode half-cell consisting of a silver electrode in 1 *M* silver nitrate solution and an anode half-cell consisting of a zinc electrode in 1 *M* zinc nitrate. Is the reaction spontaneous at standard conditions?

25.

Determine the cell reaction and standard cell potential at 25 °C for a cell made from an anode half-cell containing a cadmium electrode in 1 *M* cadmium nitrate and a cathode half-cell consisting of an aluminum electrode in 1 *M* aluminum nitrate solution. Is the reaction spontaneous at standard conditions?

26.

Write the balanced cell reaction for the cell schematic below, calculate the standard cell potential, and note whether the reaction is spontaneous under standard state conditions.

27.

For each pair of standard cell potential and electron stoichiometry values below, calculate a corresponding standard free energy change (kJ).

a. 0.000 V, n = 2
b. +0.434 V, n = 2
c. −2.439 V, n = 1

28.

For each pair of standard free energy change and electron stoichiometry values below, calculate a corresponding standard cell potential.

a. 12 kJ/mol, n = 3
b. −45 kJ/mol, n = 1

29.

Determine the standard cell potential and the cell potential under the stated conditions for the electrochemical reactions described here. State whether each is spontaneous or nonspontaneous under each set of conditions at 298.15 K.

a.

b. The cell made from an anode half-cell consisting of an aluminum electrode in 0.015 *M* aluminum nitrate solution and a cathode half-cell consisting of a nickel electrode in 0.25 *M* nickel(II) nitrate solution.

c. The cell comprised of a half-cell in which aqueous bromine (1.0 *M*) is being oxidized to bromide ion (0.11 *M*) and a half-cell in which Al^{3+} (0.023 *M*) is being reduced to aluminum metal.

30.

Determine ΔG and $\Delta G°$ for each of the reactions in the previous problem.

31.

Use the data in Appendix L to calculate equilibrium constants for the following reactions. Assume 298.15 K if no temperature is given.

a.
b.
c.
d.

32.

Consider a battery made from one half-cell that consists of a copper electrode in 1 *M* $CuSO_4$ solution and another half-cell that consists of a lead electrode in 1 *M* $Pb(NO_3)_2$ solution.

a. What is the standard cell potential for the battery?
b. What are the reactions at the anode, cathode, and the overall reaction?
c. Most devices designed to use dry-cell batteries can operate between 1.0 and 1.5 V. Could this cell be used to make a battery that could replace a dry-cell battery? Why or why not.
d. Suppose sulfuric acid is added to the half-cell with the lead electrode and some $PbSO_4(s)$ forms. Would the cell potential increase, decrease, or remain the same?

33.

Consider a battery with the overall reaction:

a. What is the reaction at the anode and cathode?
b. A battery is “dead” when its cell potential is zero. What is the value of *Q* when this battery is dead?
c. If a particular dead battery was found to have $[Cu^{2+}] = 0.11$ *M*, what was the concentration of silver ion?

34.

Why do batteries go dead, but fuel cells do not?

35.

Use the Nernst equation to explain the drop in voltage observed for some batteries as they discharge.

36.

Using the information thus far in this chapter, explain why battery-powered electronics perform poorly in low temperatures.

37.

Which member of each pair of metals is more likely to corrode (oxidize)?

a. Mg or Ca
b. Au or Hg
c. Fe or Zn
d. Ag or Pt

38.

Consider the following metals: Ag, Au, Mg, Ni, and Zn. Which of these metals could be used as a sacrificial anode in the cathodic protection of an underground steel storage tank? Steel is an alloy composed mostly of iron, so use −0.447 V as the standard reduction potential for steel.

39.

Aluminum is more easily oxidized than iron and yet when both are exposed to the environment, untreated aluminum has very good corrosion resistance while the corrosion resistance of untreated iron is poor. What might explain this observation?

40.

If a sample of iron and a sample of zinc come into contact, the zinc corrodes but the iron does not. If a sample of iron comes into contact with a sample of copper, the iron corrodes but the copper does not. Explain this phenomenon.

41.

Suppose you have three different metals, A, B, and C. When metals A and B come into contact, B corrodes and A does not corrode. When metals A and C come into contact, A corrodes and C does not corrode. Based on this information, which metal corrodes and which metal does not corrode when B and C come into contact?

42.

Why would a sacrificial anode made of lithium metal be a bad choice

43.

If a 2.5 A current flows through a circuit for 35 minutes, how many coulombs of charge moved through the circuit?

44.

For the scenario in the previous question, how many electrons moved through the circuit?

45.

Write the half-reactions and cell reaction occurring during electrolysis of each molten salt below.

a. $CaCl_2$
b. LiH
c. $AlCl_3$
d. $CrBr_3$

46.

What mass of each product is produced in each of the electrolytic cells of the previous problem if a total charge of 3.33 10^5 C passes through each cell?

47.

How long would it take to reduce 1 mole of each of the following ions using the current indicated?

a. Al^{3+}, 1.234 A
b. Ca^{2+}, 22.2 A
c. Cr^{5+}, 37.45 A
d. Au^{3+}, 3.57 A

48.

A current of 2.345 A passes through the cell shown in Figure 17.19 for 45 minutes. What is the volume of the hydrogen collected at room temperature if the pressure is exactly 1 atm? (Hint: Is hydrogen the only gas present above the water?)

49.

An irregularly shaped metal part made from a particular alloy was galvanized with zinc using a $Zn(NO_3)_2$ solution. When a current of 2.599 A was used, it took exactly 1 hour to deposit a 0.01123-mm layer of zinc on the part. What was the total surface area of the part? The density of zinc is 7.140 g/cm^3.

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CHAPTER OVERVIEW

7: Representative Metals, Metalloids, and Nonmetals

The development of the periodic table in the mid-1800s came from observations that there was a periodic relationship between the properties of the elements. Chemists, who have an understanding of the variations of these properties, have been able to use this knowledge to solve a wide variety of technical challenges. For example, silicon and other semiconductors form the backbone of modern electronics because of our ability to fine-tune the electrical properties of these materials. This chapter explores important properties of representative metals, metalloids, and nonmetals in the periodic table.

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7.2: Periodicity
7.3: Occurrence and Preparation of the Representative Metals
7.4: Structure and General Properties of the Metalloids
7.5: Structure and General Properties of the Nonmetals
7.6: Occurrence, Preparation, and Compounds of Hydrogen
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7.11: Occurrence, Preparation, and Properties of Sulfur
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7.1: Introduction

The development of the periodic table in the mid-1800s came from observations that there was a periodic relationship between the properties of the elements. Chemists, who have an understanding of the variations of these properties, have been able to use this knowledge to solve a wide variety of technical challenges. For example, silicon and other semiconductors form the backbone of modern electronics because of our ability to fine-tune the electrical properties of these materials. This chapter explores important properties of representative metals, metalloids, and nonmetals in the periodic table.



Figure 7.1.1: Purity is extremely important when preparing silicon wafers. Technicians in a cleanroom prepare silicon without impurities (left). The CEO of VLSI Research, Don Hutcheson, shows off a pure silicon wafer (center). A silicon wafer covered in Pentium chips is an enlarged version of the silicon wafers found in many electronics used today (right). (credit middle: modification of work by “Intel Free Press”/Flickr; credit right: modification of work by Naotake Murayama)

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7.2: Periodicity

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Classify elements
- Make predictions about the periodicity properties of the representative elements

We begin this section by examining the behaviors of representative metals in relation to their positions in the periodic table. The primary focus of this section will be the application of periodicity to the representative metals.

It is possible to divide elements into groups according to their electron configurations. The **representative elements** are elements where the *s* and *p* orbitals are filling. The transition elements are elements where the *d* orbitals (groups 3–11 on the periodic table) are filling, and the inner transition metals are the elements where the *f* orbitals are filling. The *d* orbitals fill with the elements in group 11; therefore, the elements in group 12 qualify as representative elements because the last electron enters an *s* orbital. Metals among the representative elements are the **representative metals**. Metallic character results from an element's ability to lose its outer valence electrons and results in high thermal and electrical conductivity, among other physical and chemical properties. There are 20 nonradioactive representative metals in groups 1, 2, 3, 12, 13, 14, and 15 of the periodic table (the elements shaded in yellow in Figure 7.2.1). The radioactive elements copernicium, flerovium, polonium, and livermorium are also metals but are beyond the scope of this chapter.

In addition to the representative metals, some of the representative elements are metalloids. A **metalloid** is an element that has properties that are between those of metals and nonmetals; these elements are typically semiconductors.

The remaining representative elements are nonmetals. Unlike metals, which typically form cations and ionic compounds (containing ionic bonds), nonmetals tend to form anions or molecular compounds. In general, the combination of a metal and a nonmetal produces a salt. A salt is an ionic compound consisting of cations and anions.

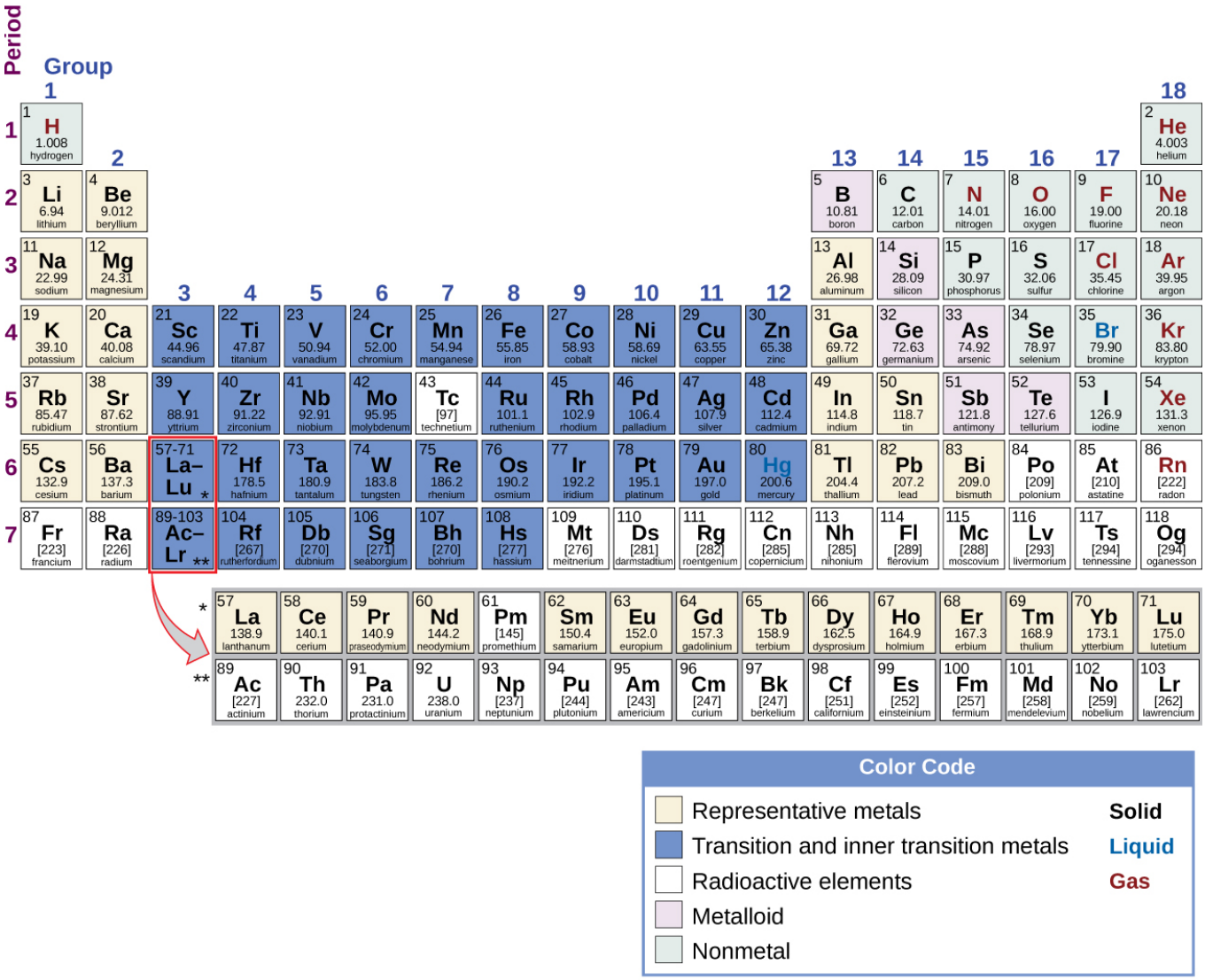


Figure 7.2.1: The location of the representative metals is shown in the periodic table. Nonmetals are shown in green, metalloids in purple, and the transition metals and inner transition metals in blue.

Most of the representative metals do not occur naturally in an uncombined state because they readily react with water and oxygen in the air. However, it is possible to isolate elemental beryllium, magnesium, zinc, cadmium, mercury, aluminum, tin, and lead from their naturally occurring minerals and use them because they react very slowly with air. Part of the reason why these elements react slowly is that these elements react with air to form a protective coating. The formation of this protective coating is passivation. The coating is a nonreactive film of oxide or some other compound. Elemental magnesium, aluminum, zinc, and tin are important in the fabrication of many familiar items, including wire, cookware, foil, and many household and personal objects. Although beryllium, cadmium, mercury, and lead are readily available, there are limitations in their use because of their toxicity.

Group 1: The Alkali Metals

The alkali metals lithium, sodium, potassium, rubidium, cesium, and francium constitute group 1 of the periodic table. Although hydrogen is in group 1 (and also in group 17), it is a nonmetal and deserves separate consideration later in this chapter. The name alkali metal is in reference to the fact that these metals and their oxides react with water to form very basic (alkaline) solutions.

The properties of the alkali metals are similar to each other as expected for elements in the same family. The alkali metals have the largest atomic radii and the lowest first ionization energy in their periods. This combination makes it very easy to remove the single electron in the outermost (valence) shell of each. The easy loss of this valence electron means that these metals readily form stable cations with a charge of 1+. Their reactivity increases with increasing atomic number due to the ease of losing the lone valence

electron (decreasing ionization energy). Since oxidation is so easy, the reverse, reduction, is difficult, which explains why it is hard to isolate the elements. The solid alkali metals are very soft; lithium, shown in Figure 7.2.2, has the lowest density of any metal (0.5 g/cm^3).

The alkali metals all react vigorously with water to form hydrogen gas and a basic solution of the metal hydroxide. This means they are easier to oxidize than is hydrogen. As an example, the reaction of lithium with water is:

$$2\,Li\,(s) + 2\,H_2O\,(l) \longrightarrow 2\,LiOH\,(aq) + H_2\,(g)$$

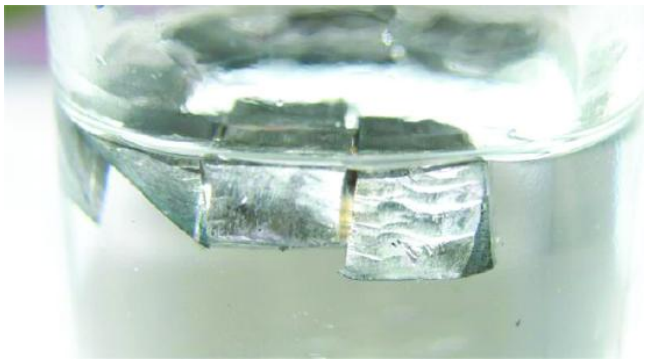


Figure 7.2.2: Lithium floats in paraffin oil because its density is less than the density of paraffin oil.

Alkali metals react directly with all the nonmetals (except the noble gases) to yield binary ionic compounds containing 1+ metal ions. These metals are so reactive that it is necessary to avoid contact with both moisture and oxygen in the air. Therefore, they are stored in sealed containers under mineral oil, as shown in Figure 7.2.3, to prevent contact with air and moisture. The pure metals never exist free (uncombined) in nature due to their high reactivity. In addition, this high reactivity makes it necessary to prepare the metals by electrolysis of alkali metal compounds.



Figure 7.2.3: To prevent contact with air and water, potassium for laboratory use comes as sticks or beads stored under kerosene or mineral oil, or in sealed containers. (credit: http://images-of-elements.com/potassium.php)

Unlike many other metals, the reactivity and softness of the alkali metals make these metals unsuitable for structural applications. However, there are applications where the reactivity of the alkali metals is an advantage. For example, the production of metals such as titanium and zirconium relies, in part, on the ability of sodium to reduce compounds of these metals. The manufacture of many organic compounds, including certain dyes, drugs, and perfumes, utilizes reduction by lithium or sodium.

Sodium and its compounds impart a bright yellow color to a flame, as seen in Figure 7.2.4. Passing an electrical discharge through sodium vapor also produces this color. In both cases, this is an example of an emission spectrum as discussed in the chapter on

electronic structure. Streetlights sometime employ sodium vapor lights because the sodium vapor penetrates fog better than most other light. This is because the fog does not scatter yellow light as much as it scatters white light. The other alkali metals and their salts also impart color to a flame. Lithium creates a bright, crimson color, whereas the others create a pale, violet color.

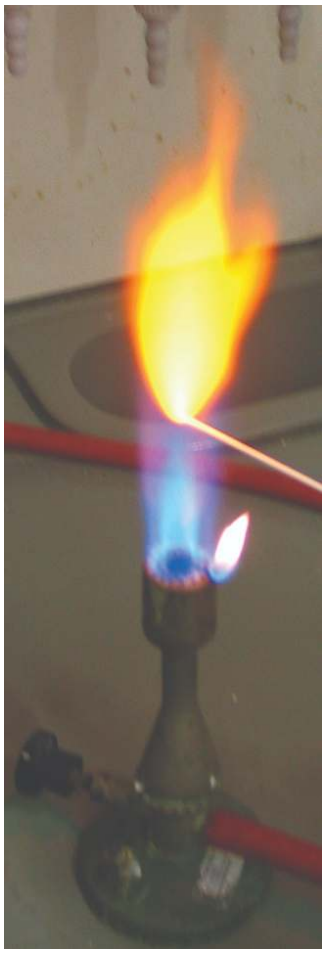


Figure 7.2.4: Dipping a wire into a solution of a sodium salt and then heating the wire causes emission of a bright yellow light, characteristic of sodium.

Link to Learning

This video demonstrates the reactions of the alkali metals with water.

Group 2: The Alkaline Earth Metals

The **alkaline earth metals** (beryllium, magnesium, calcium, strontium, barium, and radium) constitute group 2 of the periodic table. The name alkaline metal comes from the fact that the oxides of the heavier members of the group react with water to form alkaline solutions. The nuclear charge increases when going from group 1 to group 2. Because of this charge increase, the atoms of the alkaline earth metals are smaller and have higher first ionization energies than the alkali metals within the same period. The higher ionization energy makes the alkaline earth metals less reactive than the alkali metals; however, they are still very reactive elements. Their reactivity increases, as expected, with increasing size and decreasing ionization energy. In chemical reactions, these metals readily lose both valence electrons to form compounds in which they exhibit an oxidation state of 2+. Due to their high reactivity, it is common to produce the alkaline earth metals, like the alkali metals, by electrolysis. Even though the ionization energies are low, the two metals with the highest ionization energies (beryllium and magnesium) do form compounds that exhibit some covalent characters. Like the alkali metals, the heavier alkaline earth metals impart color to a flame. As in the case of the alkali metals, this is part of the emission spectrum of these elements. Calcium and strontium produce shades of red, whereas barium produces a green color.

Magnesium is a silver-white metal that is malleable and ductile at high temperatures. Passivation decreases the reactivity of magnesium metal. Upon exposure to air, a tightly adhering layer of magnesium oxycarbonate forms on the surface of the metal and inhibits further reaction. (The carbonate comes from the reaction of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.) Magnesium is the lightest of the widely used structural metals, which is why most magnesium production is for lightweight alloys.

Magnesium (shown in Figure 7.2.5), calcium, strontium, and barium react with water and air. At room temperature, barium shows the most vigorous reaction. The products of the reaction with water are hydrogen and the metal hydroxide. The formation of hydrogen gas indicates that the heavier alkaline earth metals are better reducing agents (more easily oxidized) than is hydrogen. As expected, these metals react with both acids and nonmetals to form ionic compounds. Unlike most salts of the alkali metals, many of the common salts of the alkaline earth metals are insoluble in water because of the high lattice energies of these compounds, containing a divalent metal ion.

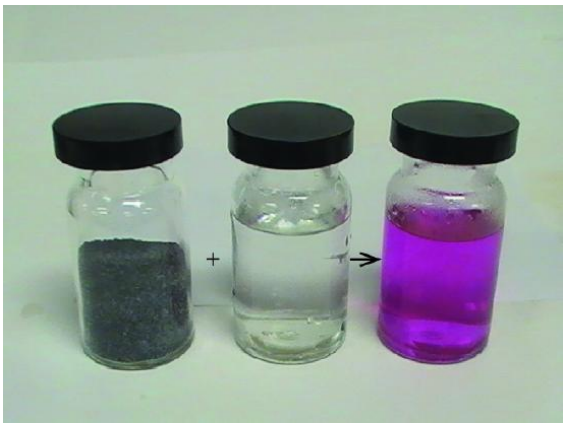


Figure 7.2.5: From left to right: Mg(s), warm water at pH 7, and the resulting solution with a pH greater than 7, as indicated by the pink color of the phenolphthalein indicator. (credit: modification of work by Sahar Atwa)

The potent reducing power of hot magnesium is useful in preparing some metals from their oxides. Indeed, magnesium's affinity for oxygen is so great that burning magnesium reacts with carbon dioxide, producing elemental carbon:

$$2\,\mathrm{Mg\,(s)} + \mathrm{CO_2\,(g)} \longrightarrow 2\,\mathrm{MgO\,(s)} + \mathrm{C\,(s)}$$

For this reason, a CO_2 fire extinguisher will not extinguish a magnesium fire. Additionally, the brilliant white light emitted by burning magnesium makes it useful in flares and fireworks.

Group 12

The elements in group 12 are transition elements; however, the last electron added is not a *d* electron, but an *s* electron. Since the last electron added is an *s* electron, these elements qualify as representative metals, or post-transition metals. The group 12 elements behave more like the alkaline earth metals than transition metals. Group 12 contains the four elements zinc, cadmium, mercury, and copernicium. Each of these elements has two electrons in its outer shell (ns^2). When atoms of these metals form cations with a charge of 2+, where the two outer electrons are lost, they have pseudo-noble gas electron configurations. Mercury is sometimes an exception because it also exhibits an oxidation state of 1+ in compounds that contain a diatomic ion. In their elemental forms and in compounds, cadmium and mercury are both toxic.

Zinc is the most reactive in group 12, and mercury is the least reactive. (This is the reverse of the reactivity trend of the metals of groups 1 and 2, in which reactivity increases down a group. The increase in reactivity with increasing atomic number only occurs for the metals in groups 1 and 2.) The decreasing reactivity is due to the formation of ions with a pseudo-noble gas configuration and to other factors that are beyond the scope of this discussion. The chemical behaviors of zinc and cadmium are quite similar to each other but differ from that of mercury.

Zinc and cadmium have lower reduction potentials than hydrogen, and, like the alkali metals and alkaline earth metals, they will produce hydrogen gas when they react with acids. The reaction of zinc with hydrochloric acid, shown in Figure 7.2.6, is:

$$\mathrm{Zn\,(s)} + 2\,\mathrm{H_3O^+\,(aq)} + 2\,\mathrm{Cl^-\,(aq)} \longrightarrow \mathrm{H_2\,(g)} + \mathrm{Zn^{2+}\,(aq)} + 2\,\mathrm{Cl^-\,(aq)} + 2\,\mathrm{H_2O\,(l)}$$



Figure 7.2.6: Zinc is an active metal. It dissolves in hydrochloric acid, forming a solution of colorless Zn^{2+} ions, Cl^- ions, and hydrogen gas.

Zinc is a silvery metal that quickly tarnishes to a blue-gray appearance. This change in color is due to an adherent coating of a basic carbonate, $Zn_2(OH)_2CO_3$, which passivates the metal to inhibit further corrosion. Dry cell and alkaline batteries contain a zinc anode. Brass (Cu and Zn) and some bronze (Cu, Sn, and sometimes Zn) are important zinc alloys. About half of zinc production serves to protect iron and other metals from corrosion. This protection may take the form of a sacrificial anode (also known as a galvanic anode, which is a means of providing cathodic protection for various metals) or as a thin coating on the protected metal. Galvanized steel is steel with a protective coating of zinc.

Chemistry in Everyday Life: Sacrificial Anodes

A sacrificial anode, or galvanic anode, is a means of providing cathodic protection of various metals. Cathodic protection refers to the prevention of corrosion by converting the corroding metal into a cathode. As a cathode, the metal resists corrosion, which is an oxidation process. Corrosion occurs at the sacrificial anode instead of at the cathode.

The construction of such a system begins with the attachment of a more active metal (more negative reduction potential) to the metal needing protection. Attachment may be direct or via a wire. To complete the circuit, a *salt bridge* is necessary. This salt bridge is often seawater or ground water. Once the circuit is complete, oxidation (corrosion) occurs at the anode and not the cathode.

The commonly used sacrificial anodes are magnesium, aluminum, and zinc. Magnesium has the most negative reduction potential of the three and serves best when the salt bridge is less efficient due to a low electrolyte concentration such as in freshwater. Zinc and aluminum work better in saltwater than does magnesium. Aluminum is lighter than zinc and has a higher capacity; however, an oxide coating may passivate the aluminum. In special cases, other materials are useful. For example, iron will protect copper.

Mercury is very different from zinc and cadmium. Mercury is the only metal that is liquid at 25 °C. Many metals dissolve in mercury, forming solutions called amalgams (see the feature on Amalgams), which are alloys of mercury with one or more other metals. Mercury, shown in Figure 7.2.7, is a nonreactive element that is more difficult to oxidize than hydrogen. Thus, it does not displace hydrogen from acids; however, it will react with strong oxidizing acids, such as nitric acid:

$$\mathrm{Hg\,(l) + HCl\,(aq) \longrightarrow \text{ no reaction}}$$

$$\mathrm{3\,Hg\,(l) + 8\,HNO_3\,(aq) \longrightarrow 3\,Hg(NO_3)_2\,(aq) + 4\,H_2O\,(l) + 2\,NO\,(g)}$$

The clear NO initially formed quickly undergoes further oxidation to the reddish brown NO_2.

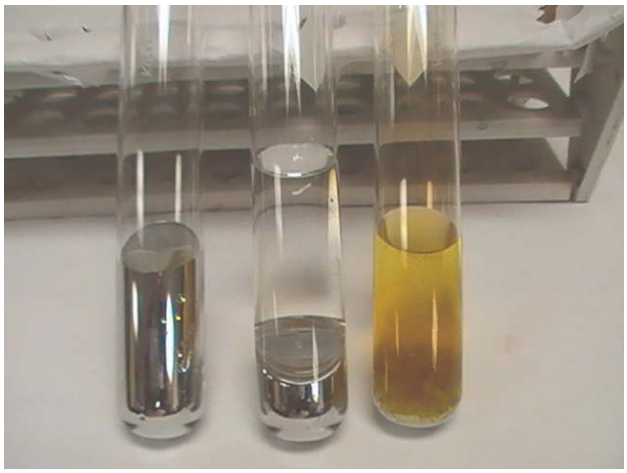


Figure 7.2.7: From left to right: Hg(*l*), Hg + concentrated HCl, Hg + concentrated HNO_3. (credit: Sahar Atwa)

Most mercury compounds decompose when heated. Most mercury compounds contain mercury with a 2+-oxidation state. When there is a large excess of mercury, it is possible to form compounds containing the ion. All mercury compounds are toxic, and it is necessary to exercise great care in their synthesis.

Chemistry in Everyday Life: Amalgams

An amalgam is an alloy of mercury with one or more other metals. This is similar to considering steel to be an alloy of iron with other metals. Most metals will form an amalgam with mercury, with the main exceptions being iron, platinum, tungsten, and tantalum.

Due to toxicity issues with mercury, there has been a significant decrease in the use of amalgams. Historically, amalgams were important in electrolytic cells and in the extraction of gold. Amalgams of the alkali metals still find use because they are strong reducing agents and easier to handle than the pure alkali metals.

Prospectors had a problem when they found finely divided gold. They learned that adding mercury to their pans collected the gold into the mercury to form an amalgam for easier collection. Unfortunately, losses of small amounts of mercury over the years left many streams in California polluted with mercury.

Dentists use amalgams containing silver and other metals to fill cavities. There are several reasons to use an amalgam including low cost, ease of manipulation, and longevity compared to alternate materials. Dental amalgams are approximately 50% mercury by weight, which, in recent years, has become a concern due to the toxicity of mercury.

After reviewing the best available data, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) considers amalgam-based fillings to be safe for adults and children over six years of age. Even with multiple fillings, the mercury levels in the patients remain far below the lowest levels associated with harm. Clinical studies have found no link between dental amalgams and health problems. Health issues may not be the same in cases of children under six or pregnant women. The FDA conclusions are in line with the opinions of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Centers for Disease Control (CDC). The only health consideration noted is that some people are allergic to the amalgam or one of its components.

Group 13

Group 13 contains the metalloid boron and the metals aluminum, gallium, indium, and thallium. The lightest element, boron, is semiconducting, and its binary compounds tend to be covalent and not ionic. The remaining elements of the group are metals, but their oxides and hydroxides change characters. The oxides and hydroxides of aluminum and gallium exhibit both acidic and basic behaviors. A substance, such as these two, that will react with both acids and bases is amphoteric. This characteristic illustrates the combination of nonmetallic and metallic behaviors of these two elements. Indium and thallium oxides and hydroxides exhibit only basic behavior, in accordance with the clearly metallic character of these two elements. The melting point of gallium is unusually low (about 30 °C) and will melt in your hand.

Aluminum is amphoteric because it will react with both acids and bases. A typical reaction with an acid is:

$$2\,Al\,(s) + 6\,HCl\,(aq) \longrightarrow 2\,AlCl_3\,(aq) + 3\,H_2\,(g)$$

The products of the reaction of aluminum with a base depend upon the reaction conditions, with the following being one possibility:

$$2\,Al\,(s) + 2\,NaOH\,(aq) + 6\,H_2O\,(l) \longrightarrow 2\,Na[Al(OH)_4]\,(aq) + 3\,H_2\,(g)$$

With both acids and bases, the reaction with aluminum generates hydrogen gas.

The group 13 elements have a valence shell electron configuration of ns^2np^1. Aluminum normally uses all of its valence electrons when it reacts, giving compounds in which it has an oxidation state of 3+. Although many of these compounds are covalent, others, such as AlF_3 and $Al_2(SO_4)_3$, are ionic. Aqueous solutions of aluminum salts contain the cation $[Al(H_2O)_6]^{3+}$ abbreviated as $Al^{3+}(aq)$. Gallium, indium, and thallium also form ionic compounds containing M^{3+} ions. These three elements exhibit not only the expected oxidation state of 3+ from the three valence electrons but also an oxidation state (in this case, 1+) that is two below the expected value. This phenomenon, the inert pair effect, refers to the formation of a stable ion with an oxidation state two lower than expected for the group. The pair of electrons is the valence *s* orbital for those elements. In general, the inert pair effect is important for the lower *p*-block elements. In an aqueous solution, the $Tl^+(aq)$ ion is more stable than is $Tl^{3+}(aq)$. In general, these metals will react with air and water to form 3+ ions; however, thallium reacts to give thallium(I) derivatives. The metals of group 13 all react directly with nonmetals such as sulfur, phosphorus, and the halogens, forming binary compounds.

The metals of group 13 (Al, Ga, In, and Tl) are all reactive. However, passivation occurs as a tough, hard, thin film of the metal oxide forms upon exposure to air. Disruption of this film may counter the passivation, allowing the metal to react. One way to disrupt the film is to expose the passivated metal to mercury. Some of the metal dissolves in the mercury to form an amalgam, which sheds the protective oxide layer to expose the metal to further reaction. The formation of an amalgam allows the metal to react with air and water.

Link to Learning

Although easily oxidized, the passivation of aluminum makes it very useful as a strong, lightweight building material. Because of the formation of an amalgam, mercury is corrosive to structural materials made of aluminum. This video demonstrates how the integrity of an aluminum beam can be destroyed by the addition of a small amount of elemental mercury.

The most important uses of aluminum are in the construction and transportation industries, and in the manufacture of aluminum cans and aluminum foil. These uses depend on the lightness, toughness, and strength of the metal, as well as its resistance to corrosion. Because aluminum is an excellent conductor of heat and resists corrosion, it is useful in the manufacture of cooking utensils.

Aluminum is a very good reducing agent and may replace other reducing agents in the isolation of certain metals from their oxides. Although more expensive than reduction by carbon, aluminum is important in the isolation of Mo, W, and Cr from their oxides.

Group 14

The metallic members of group 14 are tin, lead, and flerovium. Carbon is a typical nonmetal. The remaining elements of the group, silicon and germanium, are examples of semimetals or metalloids. Tin and lead form the stable divalent cations, Sn^{2+} and Pb^{2+}, with oxidation states two below the group oxidation state of 4+. The stability of this oxidation state is a consequence of the inert pair effect. Tin and lead also form covalent compounds with a formal 4+-oxidation state. For example, $SnCl_4$ and $PbCl_4$ are low-boiling covalent liquids.



Figure 7.2.8: (a) Tin(II) chloride is an ionic solid; (b) tin(IV) chloride is a covalent liquid.

Tin reacts readily with nonmetals and acids to form tin(II) compounds (indicating that it is more easily oxidized than hydrogen) and with nonmetals to form either tin(II) or tin(IV) compounds (shown in Figure 7.2.8), depending on the stoichiometry and reaction conditions. Lead is less reactive. It is only slightly easier to oxidize than hydrogen, and oxidation normally requires a hot concentrated acid.

Many of these elements exist as allotropes. **Allotropes** are two or more forms of the same element in the same physical state with different chemical and physical properties. There are two common allotropes of tin. These allotropes are grey (brittle) tin and white tin. As with other allotropes, the difference between these forms of tin is in the arrangement of the atoms. White tin is stable above 13.2 °C and is malleable like other metals. At low temperatures, gray tin is the more stable form. Gray tin is brittle and tends to break down to a powder. Consequently, articles made of tin will disintegrate in cold weather, particularly if the cold spell is lengthy. The change progresses slowly from the spot of origin, and the gray tin that is first formed catalyzes further change. In a way, this effect is similar to the spread of an infection in a plant or animal body, leading people to call this process tin disease or tin pest.

The principal use of tin is in the coating of steel to form tin plate-sheet iron, which constitutes the tin in tin cans. Important tin alloys are bronze (Cu and Sn) and solder (Sn and Pb). Lead is important in the lead storage batteries in automobiles.

Group 15

Bismuth, the heaviest member of group 15, is a less reactive metal than the other representative metals. It readily gives up three of its five valence electrons to active nonmetals to form the tri-positive ion, Bi^{3+}. It forms compounds with the group oxidation state of 5+ only when treated with strong oxidizing agents. The stability of the 3+-oxidation state is another example of the inert pair effect.

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7.3: Occurrence and Preparation of the Representative Metals

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Identify natural sources of representative metals
- Describe electrolytic and chemical reduction processes used to prepare these elements from natural sources

Because of their reactivity, we do not find most representative metals as free elements in nature. However, compounds that contain ions of most representative metals are abundant. In this section, we will consider the two common techniques used to isolate the metals from these compounds—electrolysis and chemical reduction.

These metals primarily occur in minerals, with lithium found in silicate or phosphate minerals, and sodium and potassium found in salt deposits from evaporation of ancient seas and in silicates. The alkaline earth metals occur as silicates and, with the exception of beryllium, as carbonates and sulfates. Beryllium occurs as the mineral beryl, $Be_3Al_2Si_6O_{18}$, which, with certain impurities, may be either the gemstone emerald or aquamarine. Magnesium is in seawater and, along with the heavier alkaline earth metals, occurs as silicates, carbonates, and sulfates. Aluminum occurs abundantly in many types of clay and in bauxite, an impure aluminum oxide hydroxide. The principle tin ore is the oxide cassiterite, SnO_2, and the principle lead and thallium ores are the sulfides or the products of weathering of the sulfides. The remaining representative metals occur as impurities in zinc or aluminum ores.

Electrolysis

Ions of metals in of groups 1 and 2, along with aluminum, are very difficult to reduce; therefore, it is necessary to prepare these elements by electrolysis, an important process discussed in the chapter on electrochemistry. Briefly, electrolysis involves using electrical energy to drive unfavorable chemical reactions to completion; it is useful in the isolation of reactive metals in their pure forms. Sodium, aluminum, and magnesium are typical examples.

The Preparation of Sodium

The most important method for the production of sodium is the electrolysis of molten sodium chloride; the set-up is a Downs cell, shown in Figure 7.3.1. The reaction involved in this process is:

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The electrolysis cell contains molten sodium chloride (melting point 801 °C), to which calcium chloride has been added to lower the melting point to 600 °C (a colligative effect). The passage of a direct current through the cell causes the sodium ions to migrate to the negatively charged cathode and pick up electrons, reducing the ions to sodium metal. Chloride ions migrate to the positively charged anode, lose electrons, and undergo oxidation to chlorine gas. The overall cell reaction comes from adding the following reactions:

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{at the cathode:} & 2\,Na^+ + 2\,e^- \longrightarrow 2\,Na\,(l) \\ \text{at the anode:} & 2\,Cl^- \longrightarrow Cl_2\,(g) + 2\,e^- \\ \hline \text{overall change:} & 2\,Na^+ + 2\,Cl^- \longrightarrow 2\,Na\,(l) + Cl_2\,(g) \end{array}$$

Separation of the molten sodium and chlorine prevents recombination. The liquid sodium, which is less dense than molten sodium chloride, floats to the surface and flows into a collector. The gaseous chlorine goes to storage tanks. Chlorine is also a valuable product.

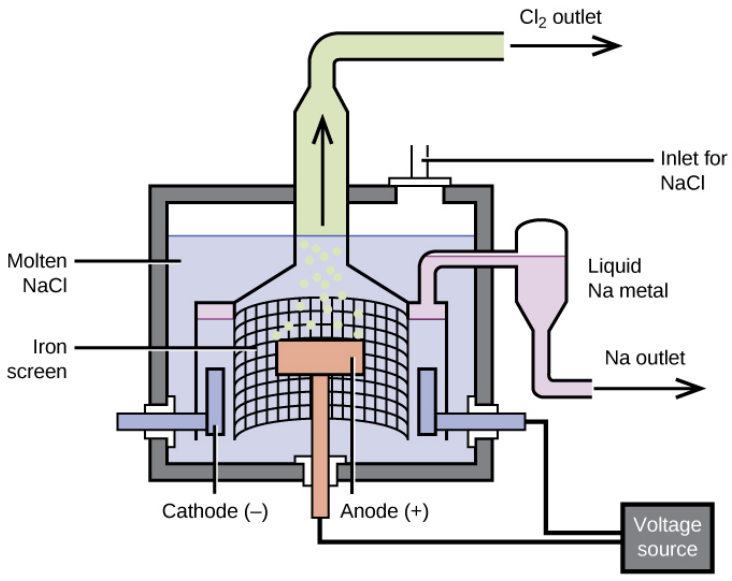


Figure 7.3.1: Pure sodium metal is isolated by electrolysis of molten sodium chloride using a Downs cell. It is not possible to isolate sodium by electrolysis of aqueous solutions of sodium salts because hydrogen ions are more easily reduced than are sodium ions; as a result, hydrogen gas forms at the cathode instead of the desired sodium metal. The high temperature required to melt NaCl means that liquid sodium metal forms.

The Preparation of Aluminum

The preparation of aluminum utilizes a process invented in 1886 by Charles M. Hall, who began to work on the problem while a student at Oberlin College in Ohio. Paul L. T. Héroult discovered the process independently a month or two later in France. In honor to the two inventors, this electrolysis cell is known as the Hall–Héroult cell. The Hall–Héroult cell is an electrolysis cell for the production of aluminum. Figure 7.3.2: illustrates the Hall–Héroult cell.

The production of aluminum begins with the purification of bauxite, the most common source of aluminum. The reaction of bauxite, AlO(OH), with hot sodium hydroxide forms soluble sodium aluminate, while clay and other impurities remain undissolved:

$$\mathrm{AlO(OH)\,(s) + NaOH\,(aq) + H_2O\,(l) \longrightarrow Na[Al(OH)_4]\,(aq)}$$

After the removal of the impurities by filtration, the addition of acid to the aluminate leads to the reprecipitation of aluminum hydroxide:

$$\mathrm{Na[Al(OH)_4]\,(aq) + H_3O^+\,(aq) \longrightarrow Al(OH)_3\,(s) + Na^+\,(aq) + 2\,H_2O\,(l)}$$

The next step is to remove the precipitated aluminum hydroxide by filtration. Heating the hydroxide produces aluminum oxide, Al_2O_3, which dissolves in a molten mixture of cryolite, Na_3AlF_6, and calcium fluoride, CaF_2. Electrolysis of this solution takes place in a cell like that shown in Figure 7.3.2. Reduction of aluminum ions to the metal occurs at the cathode, while oxygen, carbon monoxide, and carbon dioxide form at the anode.

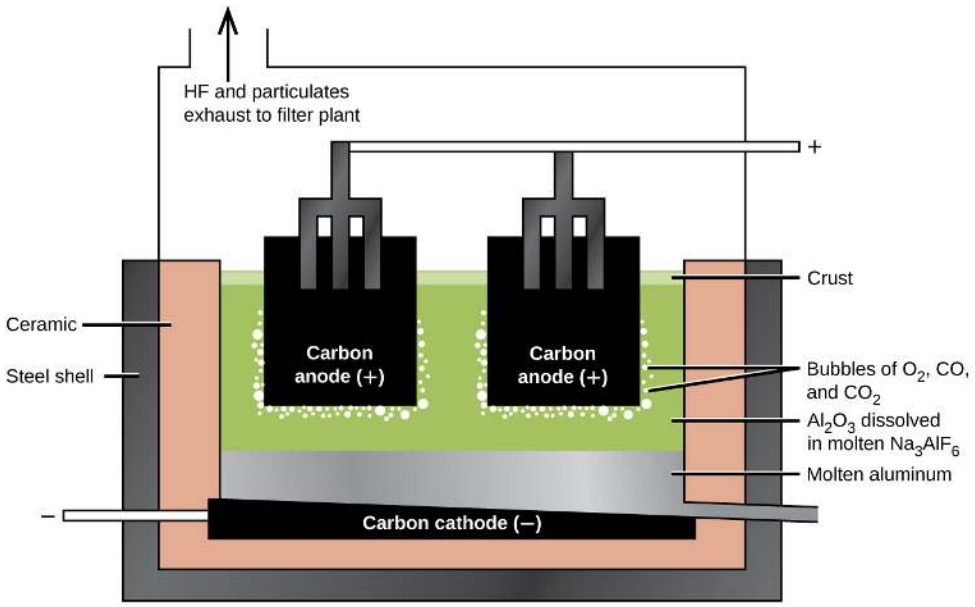


Figure 7.3.2: An electrolytic cell is used for the production of aluminum. The electrolysis of a solution of cryolite and calcium fluoride results in aluminum metal at the cathode, and oxygen, carbon monoxide, and carbon dioxide at the anode.

The Preparation of Magnesium

Magnesium is the other metal that is isolated in large quantities by electrolysis. Seawater, which contains approximately 0.5% magnesium chloride, serves as the major source of magnesium. Addition of calcium hydroxide to seawater precipitates magnesium hydroxide. The addition of hydrochloric acid to magnesium hydroxide, followed by evaporation of the resultant aqueous solution, leaves pure magnesium chloride. The electrolysis of molten magnesium chloride forms liquid magnesium and chlorine gas:

$$\mathrm{MgCl_2\,(aq) + Ca(OH)_2\,(aq) \longrightarrow Mg(OH)_2\,(s) + CaCl_2\,(aq)}$$
$$\mathrm{Mg(OH)_2\,(s) + 2\,HCl\,(aq) \longrightarrow MgCl_2\,(aq) + 2\,H_2O\,(l)}$$
$$\mathrm{MgCl_2\,(l) \longrightarrow Mg\,(l) + Cl_2\,(g)}$$

Some production facilities have moved away from electrolysis completely. In the next section, we will see how the Pidgeon process leads to the chemical reduction of magnesium.

Chemical Reduction

It is possible to isolate many of the representative metals by chemical reduction using other elements as reducing agents. In general, chemical reduction is much less expensive than electrolysis, and for this reason, chemical reduction is the method of choice for the isolation of these elements. For example, it is possible to produce potassium, rubidium, and cesium by chemical reduction, as it is possible to reduce the molten chlorides of these metals with sodium metal. This may be surprising given that these metals are more reactive than sodium; however, the metals formed are more volatile than sodium and can be distilled for collection. The removal of the metal vapor leads to a shift in the equilibrium to produce more metal (see how reactions can be driven in the discussions of Le Chatelier's principle in the chapter on fundamental equilibrium concepts).

The production of magnesium, zinc, and tin provide additional examples of chemical reduction.

The Preparation of Magnesium

The Pidgeon process involves the reaction of magnesium oxide with elemental silicon at high temperatures to form pure magnesium:

$$\mathrm{Si\,(s) + 2\,MgO\,(s) \xrightarrow{\Delta} SiO_2\,(s) + 2\,Mg\,(g)}$$

Although this reaction is unfavorable in terms of thermodynamics, the removal of the magnesium vapor produced takes advantage of Le Chatelier's principle to continue the forward progress of the reaction. Over 75% of the world's production of magnesium, primarily in China, comes from this process.

The Preparation of Zinc

Zinc ores usually contain zinc sulfide, zinc oxide, or zinc carbonate. After separation of these compounds from the ores, heating in air converts the ore to zinc oxide by one of the following reactions:

$$2\,\mathrm{ZnS\,(s)} + 3\,\mathrm{O_2\,(g)} \xrightarrow{\Delta} 2\,\mathrm{ZnO\,(s)} + 2\,\mathrm{SO_2\,(g)}$$

$$\mathrm{ZnCO_3\,(s)} \xrightarrow{\Delta} \mathrm{ZnO\,(s)} + \mathrm{CO_2\,(g)}$$

Carbon, in the form of coal, reduces the zinc oxide to form zinc vapor:

$$\mathrm{ZnO\,(s)} + \mathrm{C\,(s)} \longrightarrow \mathrm{Zn\,(g)} + \mathrm{CO\,(g)}$$

The zinc can be distilled (boiling point 907 °C) and condensed. This zinc contains impurities of cadmium (767 °C), iron (2862 °C), lead (1750 °C), and arsenic (613 °C). Careful redistillation produces pure zinc. Arsenic and cadmium are distilled from the zinc because they have lower boiling points. At higher temperatures, the zinc is distilled from the other impurities, mainly lead and iron.

The Preparation of Tin

The ready reduction of tin(IV) oxide by the hot coals of a campfire accounts for the knowledge of tin in the ancient world. In the modern process, the roasting of tin ores containing SnO_2 removes contaminants such as arsenic and sulfur as volatile oxides. Treatment of the remaining material with hydrochloric acid removes the oxides of other metals. Heating the purified ore with carbon at temperature above 1000 °C produces tin:

$$\mathrm{SnO_2\,(s)} + 2\,\mathrm{C\,(s)} \xrightarrow{\Delta} \mathrm{Sn\,(s)} + 2\,\mathrm{CO\,(g)}$$

The molten tin collects at the bottom of the furnace and is drawn off and cast into blocks.

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7.4: Structure and General Properties of the Metalloids

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Describe the general preparation, properties, and uses of the metalloids
- Describe the preparation, properties, and compounds of boron and silicon

A series of six elements called the metalloids separate the metals from the nonmetals in the periodic table. The metalloids are boron, silicon, germanium, arsenic, antimony, and tellurium. These elements look metallic; however, they do not conduct electricity as well as metals so they are semiconductors. They are semiconductors because their electrons are more tightly bound to their nuclei than are those of metallic conductors. Their chemical behavior falls between that of metals and nonmetals. For example, the pure metalloids form covalent crystals like the nonmetals, but like the metals, they generally do not form monatomic anions. This intermediate behavior is in part due to their intermediate electronegativity values. In this section, we will briefly discuss the chemical behavior of metalloids and deal with two of these elements—boron and silicon—in more detail.

The metalloid boron exhibits many similarities to its neighbor carbon and its diagonal neighbor silicon. All three elements form covalent compounds. However, boron has one distinct difference in that its $2s^2 2p^1$ outer electron structure gives it one less valence electron than it has valence orbitals. Although boron exhibits an oxidation state of 3+ in most of its stable compounds, this electron deficiency provides boron with the ability to form other, sometimes fractional, oxidation states, which occur, for example, in the boron hydrides.

Silicon has the valence shell electron configuration $3s^2 3p^2$, and it commonly forms tetrahedral structures in which it is sp^3 hybridized with a formal oxidation state of 4+. The major differences between the chemistry of carbon and silicon result from the relative strength of the carbon-carbon bond, carbon's ability to form stable bonds to itself, and the presence of the empty $3d$ valence-shell orbitals in silicon. Silicon's empty d orbitals and boron's empty p orbital enable tetrahedral silicon compounds and trigonal planar boron compounds to act as Lewis acids. Carbon, on the other hand, has no available valence shell orbitals; tetrahedral carbon compounds cannot act as Lewis acids. Germanium is very similar to silicon in its chemical behavior.

Arsenic and antimony generally form compounds in which an oxidation state of 3+ or 5+ is exhibited; however, arsenic can form arsenides with an oxidation state of 3−. These elements tarnish only slightly in dry air but readily oxidize when warmed.

Tellurium combines directly with most elements. The most stable tellurium compounds are the tellurides—salts of Te^{2-} formed with active metals and lanthanides—and compounds with oxygen, fluorine, and chlorine, in which tellurium normally exhibits an oxidation state 2+ or 4+. Although tellurium(VI) compounds are known (for example, TeF_6), there is a marked resistance to oxidation to this maximum group oxidation state.

Structures of the Metalloids

Covalent bonding is the key to the crystal structures of the metalloids. In this regard, these elements resemble nonmetals in their behavior.

Elemental silicon, germanium, arsenic, antimony, and tellurium are lustrous, metallic-looking solids. Silicon and germanium crystallize with a diamond structure. Each atom within the crystal has covalent bonds to four neighboring atoms at the corners of a regular tetrahedron. Single crystals of silicon and germanium are giant, three-dimensional molecules. There are several allotropes of arsenic with the most stable being layer like and containing puckered sheets of arsenic atoms. Each arsenic atom forms covalent bonds to three other atoms within the sheet. The crystal structure of antimony is similar to that of arsenic, both shown in Figure 7.4.1. The structures of arsenic and antimony are similar to the structure of graphite, covered later in this chapter. Tellurium forms crystals that contain infinite spiral chains of tellurium atoms. Each atom in the chain bonds to two other atoms.

Link to Learning

Explore a cubic diamond crystal structure.

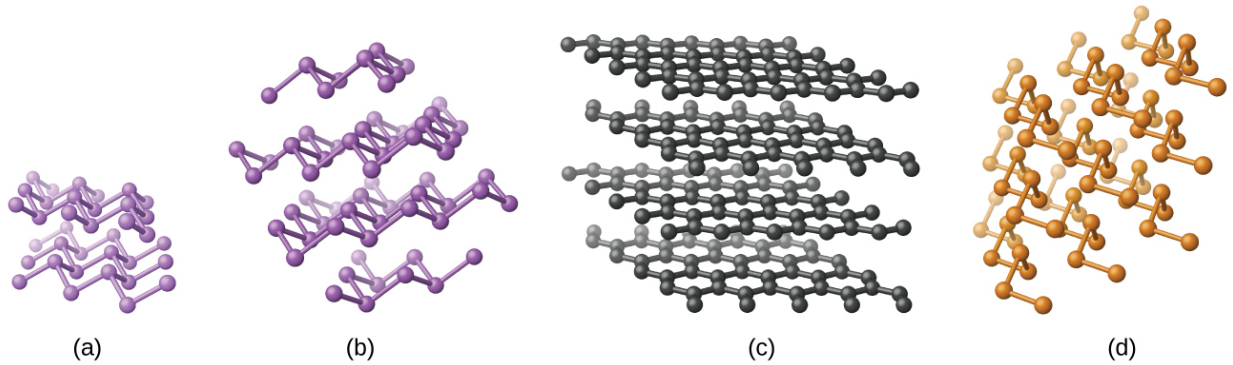


Figure 7.4.1: (a) Arsenic and (b) antimony have a layered structure similar to that of (c) graphite, except that the layers are puckered rather than planar. (d) Elemental tellurium forms spiral chains.

Pure crystalline boron is transparent. The crystals consist of icosahedra, as shown in Figure 7.4.2, with a boron atom at each corner. In the most common form of boron, the icosahedra pack together in a manner similar to the cubic closest packing of spheres. All boron-boron bonds within each icosahedron are identical and are approximately 176 pm in length. In the different forms of boron, there are different arrangements and connections between the icosahedra.

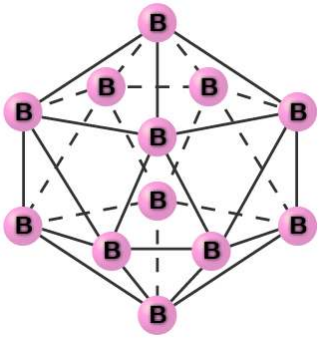


Figure 7.4.2: An icosahedron is a symmetrical, solid shape with 20 faces, each of which is an equilateral triangle. The faces meet at 12 corners.

The name silicon is derived from the Latin word for flint, *silex*. The metalloid silicon readily forms compounds containing Si-O-Si bonds, which are of prime importance in the mineral world. This bonding capability is in contrast to the nonmetal carbon, whose ability to form carbon-carbon bonds gives it prime importance in the plant and animal worlds.

Occurrence, Preparation, and Compounds of Boron and Silicon

Boron constitutes less than 0.001% by weight of the earth's crust. In nature, it only occurs in compounds with oxygen. Boron is widely distributed in volcanic regions as boric acid, $B(OH)_3$, and in dry lake regions, including the desert areas of California, as borates and salts of boron oxyacids, such as borax, $Na_2B_4O_7{\cdot}10H_2O$.

Elemental boron is chemically inert at room temperature, reacting with only fluorine and oxygen to form boron trifluoride, BF_3, and boric oxide, B_2O_3, respectively. At higher temperatures, boron reacts with all nonmetals, except tellurium and the noble gases, and with nearly all metals; it oxidizes to B_2O_3 when heated with concentrated nitric or sulfuric acid. Boron does not react with nonoxidizing acids. Many boron compounds react readily with water to give boric acid, $B(OH)_3$ (sometimes written as H_3BO_3).

Reduction of boric oxide with magnesium powder forms boron (95–98.5% pure) as a brown, amorphous powder:

$$B_2\ O_3\,(s) + 3\,Mg\,(s) \longrightarrow 2\,B\,(s) + 3\,MgO\,(s)$$

An amorphous substance is a material that appears to be a solid, but does not have a long-range order like a true solid. Treatment with hydrochloric acid removes the magnesium oxide. Further purification of the boron begins with conversion of the impure boron

into boron trichloride. The next step is to heat a mixture of boron trichloride and hydrogen:

$$2\,BCl_3\,(g) + 3\,H_2\,(g) \xrightarrow{1500^\circ C} 2\,B\,(s) + 6\,HCl\,(g) \qquad \Delta H^\circ = 253.7kJ$$

Silicon makes up nearly one-fourth of the mass of the earth's crust—second in abundance only to oxygen. The crust is composed almost entirely of minerals in which the silicon atoms are at the center of the silicon-oxygen tetrahedron, which connect in a variety of ways to produce, among other things, chains, layers, and three-dimensional frameworks. These minerals constitute the bulk of most common rocks, soil, and clays. In addition, materials such as bricks, ceramics, and glasses contain silicon compounds.

It is possible to produce silicon by the high-temperature reduction of silicon dioxide with strong reducing agents, such as carbon and magnesium:

$$SiO_2\,(s) + 2\,C\,(s) \xrightarrow{\Delta} Si\,(s) + 2\,CO\,(g)$$

$$SiO_2\,(s) + 2\,Mg\,(s) \xrightarrow{\Delta} Si\,(s) + 2\,MgO\,(s)$$

Extremely pure silicon is necessary for the manufacture of semiconductor electronic devices. This process begins with the conversion of impure silicon into silicon tetrahalides, or silane (SiH_4), followed by decomposition at high temperatures. Zone refining, illustrated in Figure 7.4.3, completes the purification. In this method, a rod of silicon is heated at one end by a heat source that produces a thin cross-section of molten silicon. Slowly lowering the rod through the heat source moves the molten zone from one end of the rod to other. As this thin, molten region moves, impurities in the silicon dissolve in the liquid silicon and move with the molten region. Ultimately, the impurities move to one end of the rod, which is then cut off.

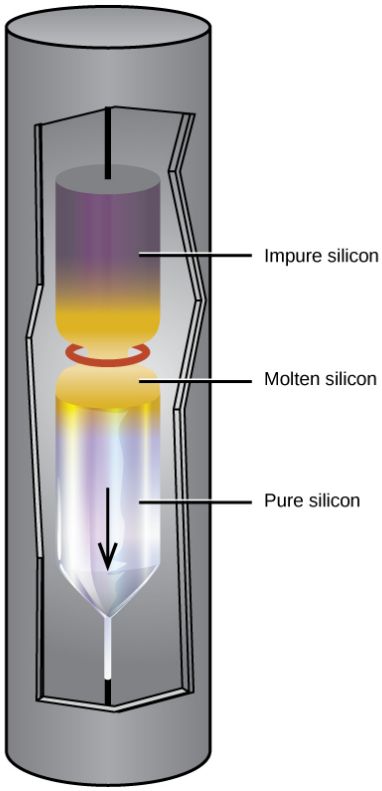


Figure 7.4.3: A zone-refining apparatus used to purify silicon.

This highly purified silicon, containing no more than one part impurity per million parts of silicon, is the most important element in the computer industry. Pure silicon is necessary in semiconductor electronic devices such as transistors, computer chips, and solar cells.

Like some metals, passivation of silicon occurs due the formation of a very thin film of oxide (primarily silicon dioxide, SiO_2). Silicon dioxide is soluble in hot aqueous base; thus, strong bases destroy the passivation. Removal of the passivation layer allows the base to dissolve the silicon, forming hydrogen gas and silicate anions. For example:

$$\mathrm{Si\,(s) + 4\,OH^-\,(aq) \longrightarrow SiO_4{}^{4-}\,(aq) + 2\,H_2\,(g)}$$

Silicon reacts with halogens at high temperatures, forming volatile tetrahalides, such as SiF_4.

Unlike carbon, silicon does not readily form double or triple bonds. Silicon compounds of the general formula SiX_4, where X is a highly electronegative group, can act as Lewis acids to form six-coordinate silicon. For example, silicon tetrafluoride, SiF_4, reacts with sodium fluoride to yield $Na_2[SiF_6]$, which contains the octahedral ion in which silicon is sp^3d^2 hybridized:

$$\mathrm{2\,NaF\,(s) + SiF_4\,(g) \longrightarrow Na_2\ SiF_6\,(s)}$$

Antimony reacts readily with stoichiometric amounts of fluorine, chlorine, bromine, or iodine, yielding trihalides or, with excess fluorine or chlorine, forming the pentahalides SbF_5 and $SbCl_5$. Depending on the stoichiometry, it forms antimony(III) sulfide, Sb_2S_3, or antimony(V) sulfide when heated with sulfur. As expected, the metallic nature of the element is greater than that of arsenic, which lies immediately above it in group 15.

Boron and Silicon Halides

Boron trihalides—BF_3, BCl_3, BBr_3, and BI_3—can be prepared by the direct reaction of the elements. These nonpolar molecules contain boron with sp^2 hybridization and a trigonal planar molecular geometry. The fluoride and chloride compounds are colorless gasses, the bromide is a liquid, and the iodide is a white crystalline solid.

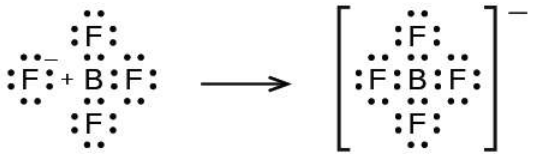
Except for boron trifluoride, the boron trihalides readily hydrolyze in water to form boric acid and the corresponding hydrohalic acid. Boron trichloride reacts according to the equation:

$$\mathrm{BCl_3\,(g) + 3\,H_2O\,(l) \longrightarrow B(OH)_3\,(aq) + 3\,HCl\,(aq)}$$

Boron trifluoride reacts with hydrofluoric acid, to yield a solution of fluoroboric acid, HBF_4:

$$\mathrm{BF_3\,(aq) + HF\,(aq) + H_2O\,(l) \longrightarrow H_3O^+\,(aq) + BF_4{}^-\,(aq)}$$

In this reaction, the BF_3 molecule acts as the Lewis acid (electron pair acceptor) and accepts a pair of electrons from a fluoride ion:



All the tetrahalides of silicon, SiX_4, have been prepared. Silicon tetrachloride can be prepared by direct chlorination at elevated temperatures or by heating silicon dioxide with chlorine and carbon:

$$\mathrm{SiO_2\,(s) + 2\,C\,(s) + 2\,Cl_2\,(g) \xrightarrow{\Delta} SiCl_4\,(g) + 2\,CO\,(g)} \tag{7.4.1}$$

Silicon tetrachloride is a covalent tetrahedral molecule, which is a nonpolar, low-boiling (57 °C), colorless liquid.

It is possible to prepare silicon tetrafluoride by the reaction of silicon dioxide with hydrofluoric acid:

$$\mathrm{SiO_2\,(s) + 4\,HF\,(g) \longrightarrow SiF_4\,(g) + 2\,H_2O\,(l)} \qquad \Delta H^\circ = -191.2\ \mathrm{kJ}$$

Hydrofluoric acid is the only common acid that will react with silicon dioxide or silicates. This reaction occurs because the silicon-fluorine bond is the only bond that silicon forms that is stronger than the silicon-oxygen bond. For this reason, it is possible to store all common acids, other than hydrofluoric acid, in glass containers.

Except for silicon tetrafluoride, silicon halides are extremely sensitive to water. Upon exposure to water, $SiCl_4$ reacts rapidly with hydroxide groups, replacing all four chlorine atoms to produce unstable orthosilicic acid, $Si(OH)_4$ or H_4SiO_4, which slowly decomposes into SiO_2.

Boron and Silicon Oxides and Derivatives

Boron burns at 700 °C in oxygen, forming boric oxide, B_2O_3. Boric oxide is necessary for the production of heat-resistant borosilicate glass, like that shown in Figure 7.4.4 and certain optical glasses. Boric oxide dissolves in hot water to form boric acid, $B(OH)_3$:

$$B_2O_3\,(s) + 3\,H_2O\,(l) \longrightarrow 2\,B(OH)_3\,(aq)$$



Figure 7.4.4: Laboratory glassware, such as Pyrex and Kimax, is made of borosilicate glass because it does not break when heated. The inclusion of borates in the glass helps to mediate the effects of thermal expansion and contraction. This reduces the likelihood of thermal shock, which causes silicate glass to crack upon rapid heating or cooling. (credit: "Tweenk"/Wikimedia Commons)

The boron atom in $B(OH)_3$ is sp^2 hybridized and is located at the center of an equilateral triangle with oxygen atoms at the corners. In solid $B(OH)_3$, hydrogen bonding holds these triangular units together. Boric acid, shown in Figure 7.4.5, is a very weak acid that does not act as a proton donor but rather as a Lewis acid, accepting an unshared pair of electrons from the Lewis base OH^-:

$$B(OH)_3\,(aq) + 2\,H_2O\,(l) \rightleftharpoons B(OH)_4{}^-\,(aq) + H_3O^+\,(aq) \qquad K_a = 5.8 \times 10^{-10}$$

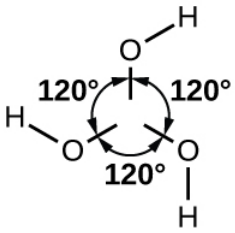


Figure 7.4.5: Boric acid has a planar structure with three –OH groups spread out equally at 120° angles from each other.

Heating boric acid to 100 °C causes molecules of water to split out between pairs of adjacent –OH groups to form metaboric acid, HBO_2. At about 150 °C, additional B-O-B linkages form, connecting the BO_3 groups together with shared oxygen atoms to form tetraboric acid, $H_2B_4O_7$. Complete water loss, at still higher temperatures, results in boric oxide.

Borates are salts of the oxyacids of boron. Borates result from the reactions of a base with an oxyacid or from the fusion of boric acid or boric oxide with a metal oxide or hydroxide. Borate anions range from the simple trigonal planar $_2[B_4O_5(OH)_4]\cdot 8H_2O$, which is an important component of some laundry detergents. Most of the supply of borax comes directly from dry lakes, such as Searles Lake in California, or is prepared from kernite, $Na_2B_4O_7\cdot 4H_2O$.

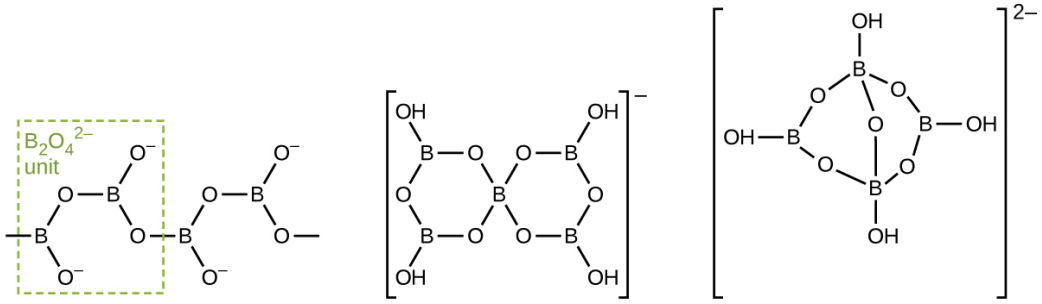


Figure 7.4.6: The borate anions are (a) CaB_2O_4, (b) $KB_5O_8\cdot 4H_2O$, and (c) $Na_2B_4O_7\cdot 10H_2O$. The anion in CaB_2O_4 is an "infinite" chain.

Silicon dioxide, silica, occurs in both crystalline and amorphous forms. The usual crystalline form of silicon dioxide is quartz, a hard, brittle, clear, colorless solid. It is useful in many ways—for architectural decorations, semiprecious jewels, and frequency control in radio transmitters. Silica takes many crystalline forms, or **polymorphs**, in nature. Trace amounts of Fe^{3+} in quartz give amethyst its characteristic purple color. The term *quartz* is also used for articles such as tubing and lenses that are manufactured from amorphous silica. Opal is a naturally occurring form of amorphous silica.

The contrast in structure and physical properties between silicon dioxide and carbon dioxide is interesting, as illustrated in Figure 7.4.7. Solid carbon dioxide (dry ice) contains single CO_2 molecules with each of the two oxygen atoms attached to the carbon atom by double bonds. Very weak intermolecular forces hold the molecules together in the crystal. The volatility of dry ice reflect these weak forces between molecules. In contrast, silicon dioxide is a covalent network solid. In silicon dioxide, each silicon atom links to four oxygen atoms by single bonds directed toward the corners of a regular tetrahedron, and SiO_4 tetrahedra share oxygen atoms. This arrangement gives a three dimensional, continuous, silicon-oxygen network. A quartz crystal is a macromolecule of silicon dioxide. The difference between these two compounds is the ability of the group 14 elements to form strong π bonds. Second-period elements, such as carbon, form very strong π bonds, which is why carbon dioxide forms small molecules with strong double bonds. Elements below the second period, such as silicon, do not form π bonds as readily as second-period elements, and when they do form, the π bonds are weaker than those formed by second-period elements. For this reason, silicon dioxide does not contain π bonds but only σ bonds.



Figure 7.4.7: Because carbon tends to form double and triple bonds and silicon does not, (a) carbon dioxide is a discrete molecule with two C=O double bonds and (b) silicon dioxide is an infinite network of oxygen atoms bridging between silicon atoms with each silicon atom possessing four Si-O single bonds. (credit a photo: modification of work by Erica Gerdes; credit b photo: modification of work by Didier Descouens)

At 1600 °C, quartz melts to yield a viscous liquid. When the liquid cools, it does not crystallize readily but usually supercools and forms a glass, also called silica. The SiO_4 tetrahedra in glassy silica have a random arrangement characteristic of supercooled liquids, and the glass has some very useful properties. Silica is highly transparent to both visible and ultraviolet light. For this reason, it is important in the manufacture of lamps that give radiation rich in ultraviolet light and in certain optical instruments that operate with ultraviolet light. The coefficient of expansion of silica glass is very low; therefore, rapid temperature changes do not cause it to fracture. CorningWare and other ceramic cookware contain amorphous silica.

Silicates are salts containing anions composed of silicon and oxygen. In nearly all silicates, sp^3-hybridized silicon atoms occur at the centers of tetrahedra with oxygen at the corners. There is a variation in the silicon-to-oxygen ratio that occurs because silicon-oxygen tetrahedra may exist as discrete, independent units or may share oxygen atoms at corners in a variety of ways. In addition, the presence of a variety of cations gives rise to the large number of silicate minerals.

Many ceramics are composed of silicates. By including small amounts of other compounds, it is possible to modify the physical properties of the silicate materials to produce ceramics with useful characteristics.

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7.5: Structure and General Properties of the Nonmetals

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Describe structure and properties of nonmetals

The nonmetals are elements located in the upper right portion of the periodic table. Their properties and behavior are quite different from those of metals on the left side. Under normal conditions, more than half of the nonmetals are gases, one is a liquid, and the rest include some of the softest and hardest of solids. The nonmetals exhibit a rich variety of chemical behaviors. They include the most reactive and least reactive of elements, and they form many different ionic and covalent compounds. This section presents an overview of the properties and chemical behaviors of the nonmetals, as well as the chemistry of specific elements. Many of these nonmetals are important in biological systems.

In many cases, trends in electronegativity enable us to predict the type of bonding and the physical states in compounds involving the nonmetals. We know that electronegativity decreases as we move down a given group and increases as we move from left to right across a period. The nonmetals have higher electronegativities than do metals, and compounds formed between metals and nonmetals are generally ionic in nature because of the large differences in electronegativity between them. The metals form cations, the nonmetals form anions, and the resulting compounds are solids under normal conditions. On the other hand, compounds formed between two or more nonmetals have small differences in electronegativity between the atoms, and covalent bonding—sharing of electrons—results. These substances tend to be molecular in nature and are gases, liquids, or volatile solids at room temperature and pressure.

In normal chemical processes, nonmetals do not form monatomic positive ions (cations) because their ionization energies are too high. All monatomic nonmetal ions are anions; examples include the chloride ion, Cl^-, the nitride ion, N^{3-}, and the selenide ion, Se^{2-}.

The common oxidation states that the nonmetals exhibit in their ionic and covalent compounds are shown in Figure 7.5.1. Remember that an element exhibits a positive oxidation state when combined with a more electronegative element and that it exhibits a negative oxidation state when combined with a less electronegative element.

H	C	N	O	F	
1+	4+	5+	1–	1–	
1–	To	To	2–		
	4–	3–			
		P, As	S, Se	Cl, Br, I	Xe
		5+	6+	7+	8+
		3+	4+	5+	6+
		3–	2–	3+	4+
				1+	2+
				1–	

Figure 7.5.1: Nonmetals exhibit these common oxidation states in ionic and covalent compounds.

The first member of each nonmetal group exhibits different behaviors, in many respects, from the other group members. The reasons for this include smaller size, greater ionization energy, and (most important) the fact that the first member of each group has only four valence orbitals (one 2*s* and three 2*p*) available for bonding, whereas other group members have empty *d* orbitals in their valence shells, making possible five, six, or even more bonds around the central atom. For example, nitrogen forms only NF_3, whereas phosphorus forms both PF_3 and PF_5.

Another difference between the first group member and subsequent members is the greater ability of the first member to form π bonds. This is primarily a function of the smaller size of the first member of each group, which allows better overlap of atomic orbitals. Nonmetals, other than the first member of each group, rarely form π bonds to nonmetals that are the first member of a group. For example, sulfur-oxygen π bonds are well known, whereas sulfur does not normally form stable π bonds to itself.

The variety of oxidation states displayed by most of the nonmetals means that many of their chemical reactions involve changes in oxidation state through oxidation-reduction reactions. There are five general aspects of the oxidation-reduction chemistry:

1. Nonmetals oxidize most metals. The oxidation state of the metal becomes positive as it undergoes oxidation and that of the nonmetal becomes negative as it undergoes reduction. For example:

$$\overset{0}{4\mathrm{Fe}}(s) + \overset{0}{3\mathrm{O_2}}(g) \longrightarrow \overset{+3\ -2}{2\mathrm{Fe_2O_3}}(s)$$

2. With the exception of nitrogen and carbon, which are poor oxidizing agents, a more electronegative nonmetal oxidizes a less electronegative nonmetal or the anion of the nonmetal:

$$\overset{0}{\mathrm{S}}(s) + \overset{0}{3\mathrm{O_2}}(g) \longrightarrow \overset{+4-2}{2\,\mathrm{S\ O_2}}(s)$$

$$\overset{0}{\mathrm{Cl_2}}(\mathrm{s}) + 2\mathrm{I^-}(\mathrm{aq}) \longrightarrow \overset{0}{\mathrm{I_2}}(\mathrm{s}) + 2\mathrm{Cl^-}(\mathrm{aq})$$

3. Fluorine and oxygen are the strongest oxidizing agents within their respective groups; each oxidizes all the elements that lie below it in the group. Within any period, the strongest oxidizing agent is in group 17. A nonmetal often oxidizes an element that lies to its left in the same period. For example:

$$\overset{0}{2\mathrm{As}}(s) + \overset{0}{3\mathrm{Br_2}}(l) \longrightarrow \overset{+3\ -1}{2\mathrm{As_2Br_3}}(s)$$

4. The stronger a nonmetal is as an oxidizing agent, the more difficult it is to oxidize the anion formed by the nonmetal. This means that the most stable negative ions are formed by elements at the top of the group or in group 17 of the period.
5. Fluorine and oxygen are the strongest oxidizing elements known. Fluorine does not form compounds in which it exhibits positive oxidation states; oxygen exhibits a positive oxidation state only when combined with fluorine. For example:

$$\overset{0}{2\mathrm{F_2}}(\mathrm{s}) + 2\mathrm{OH^-}(\mathrm{aq}) \longrightarrow \overset{+2}{\mathrm{O}}\mathrm{F_2}(\mathrm{s}) + \overset{-1}{2\mathrm{F^-}}(\mathrm{aq}) + \mathrm{H_2O}(\mathrm{l})$$

With the exception of most of the noble gases, all nonmetals form compounds with oxygen, yielding covalent oxides. Most of these oxides are acidic, that is, they react with water to form oxyacids. Recall from the acid-base chapter that an oxyacid is an acid consisting of hydrogen, oxygen, and some other element. Notable exceptions are carbon monoxide, CO, nitrous oxide, N_2O, and nitric oxide, NO. There are three characteristics of these acidic oxides:

1. Oxides such as SO2 and N2O5, in which the nonmetal exhibits one of its common oxidation states, are acid anhydrides and react with water to form acids with no change in oxidation state. The product is an oxyacid. For example:
2. Those oxides such as NO_2 and ClO_2, in which the nonmetal does not exhibit one of its common oxidation states, also react with water. In these reactions, the nonmetal is both oxidized and reduced. For example:
   Reactions in which the same element is both oxidized and reduced are called disproportionation reactions.
3. The acid strength increases as the electronegativity of the central atom increases. To learn more, see the discussion in the chapter on acid-base chemistry.

The binary hydrogen compounds of the nonmetals also exhibit an acidic behavior in water, although only HCl, HBr, and HI are strong acids. The acid strength of the nonmetal hydrogen compounds increases from left to right across a period and down a group. For example, ammonia, NH_3, is a weaker acid than is water, H_2O, which is weaker than is hydrogen fluoride, HF. Water, H_2O, is also a weaker acid than is hydrogen sulfide, H_2S, which is weaker than is hydrogen selenide, H_2Se. Weaker acidic character implies greater basic character.

Structures of the Nonmetals

The structures of the nonmetals differ dramatically from those of metals. Metals crystallize in closely packed arrays that do not contain molecules or covalent bonds. Nonmetal structures contain covalent bonds, and many nonmetals consist of individual molecules. The electrons in nonmetals are localized in covalent bonds, whereas in a metal, there is delocalization of the electrons throughout the solid.

The noble gases are all monatomic, whereas the other nonmetal gases—hydrogen, nitrogen, oxygen, fluorine, and chlorine—normally exist as the diatomic molecules H_2, N_2, O_2, F_2, and Cl_2. The other halogens are also diatomic; Br_2 is a liquid and I_2 exists as a solid under normal conditions. The changes in state as one moves down the halogen family offer excellent examples of the increasing strength of intermolecular London forces with increasing molecular mass and increasing polarizability.

Oxygen has two allotropes: O_2, dioxygen, and O_3, ozone. Phosphorus has three common allotropes, commonly referred to by their colors: white, red, and black. Sulfur has several allotropes. There are also many carbon allotropes. Most people know of diamond, graphite, and charcoal, but fewer people know of the recent discovery of fullerenes, carbon nanotubes, and graphene.

Descriptions of the physical properties of three nonmetals that are characteristic of molecular solids follow.

Carbon

Carbon occurs in the uncombined (elemental) state in many forms, such as diamond, graphite, charcoal, coke, carbon black, graphene, and fullerene.

Diamond, shown in Figure 7.5.2, is a very hard crystalline material that is colorless and transparent when pure. Each atom forms four single bonds to four other atoms at the corners of a tetrahedron (sp^3 hybridization); this makes the diamond a giant molecule. Carbon-carbon single bonds are very strong, and, because they extend throughout the crystal to form a three-dimensional network, the crystals are very hard and have high melting points (~4400 °C).

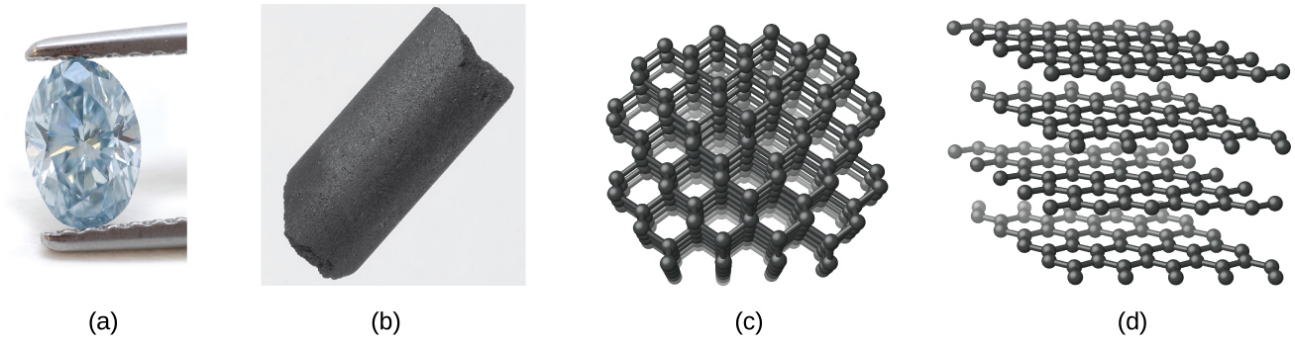


Figure 7.5.2: (a) Diamond and (b) graphite are two forms of carbon. (c) In the crystal structure of diamond, the covalent bonds form three-dimensional tetrahedrons. (d) In the crystal structure of graphite, each planar layer is composed of six-membered rings. (credit a: modification of work by “Fancy Diamonds”/Flickr; credit b: modification of work from http://images-of-elements.com/carbon.php)

Graphite, also shown in Figure 7.5.2, is a soft, slippery, grayish-black solid that conducts electricity. These properties relate to its structure, which consists of layers of carbon atoms, with each atom surrounded by three other carbon atoms in a trigonal planar arrangement. Each carbon atom in graphite forms three σ bonds, one to each of its nearest neighbors, by means of sp^2-hybrid orbitals. The unhybridized *p* orbital on each carbon atom will overlap unhybridized orbitals on adjacent carbon atoms in the same layer to form π bonds. Many resonance forms are necessary to describe the electronic structure of a graphite layer; Figure 7.5.3: illustrates two of these forms.

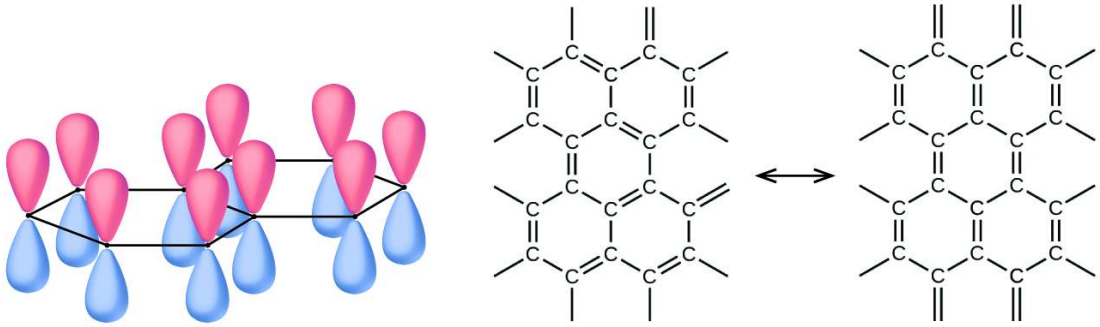


Figure 7.5.3: (a) Carbon atoms in graphite have unhybridized *p* orbitals. Each *p* orbital is perpendicular to the plane of carbon atoms. (b) These are two of the many resonance forms of graphite necessary to describe its electronic structure as a resonance hybrid.

Atoms within a graphite layer are bonded together tightly by the σ and π bonds; however, the forces between layers are weak. London dispersion forces hold the layers together. To learn more, see the discussion of these weak forces in the chapter on liquids and solids. The weak forces between layers give graphite the soft, flaky character that makes it useful as the so-called “lead” in

pencils and the slippery character that makes it useful as a lubricant. The loosely held electrons in the resonating π bonds can move throughout the solid and are responsible for the electrical conductivity of graphite.

Other forms of elemental carbon include carbon black, charcoal, and coke. Carbon black is an amorphous form of carbon prepared by the incomplete combustion of natural gas, CH_4. It is possible to produce charcoal and coke by heating wood and coal, respectively, at high temperatures in the absence of air.

Recently, new forms of elemental carbon molecules have been identified in the soot generated by a smoky flame and in the vapor produced when graphite is heated to very high temperatures in a vacuum or in helium. One of these new forms, first isolated by Professor Richard Smalley and coworkers at Rice University, consists of icosahedral (soccer-ball-shaped) molecules that contain 60 carbon atoms, C_{60}. This is buckminsterfullerene (often called bucky balls) after the architect Buckminster Fuller, who designed domed structures, which have a similar appearance (Figure 7.5.4).

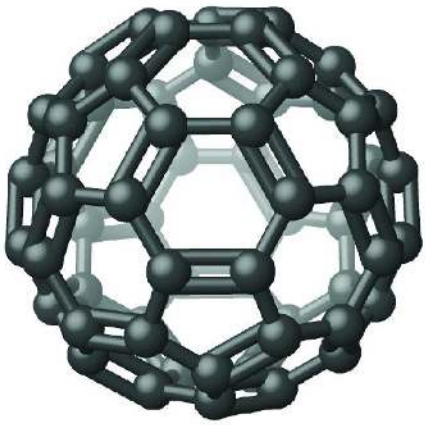


Figure 7.5.4: The molecular structure of C_{60}, buckminsterfullerene, is icosahedral.

Chemistry in Everyday Life: Nanotubes and Graphene

Graphene and carbon nanotubes are two recently discovered allotropes of carbon. Both of the forms bear some relationship to graphite. Graphene is a single layer of graphite (one atom thick), as illustrated in Figure 7.5.5, whereas carbon nanotubes roll the layer into a small tube, as illustrated in Figure 7.5.5.

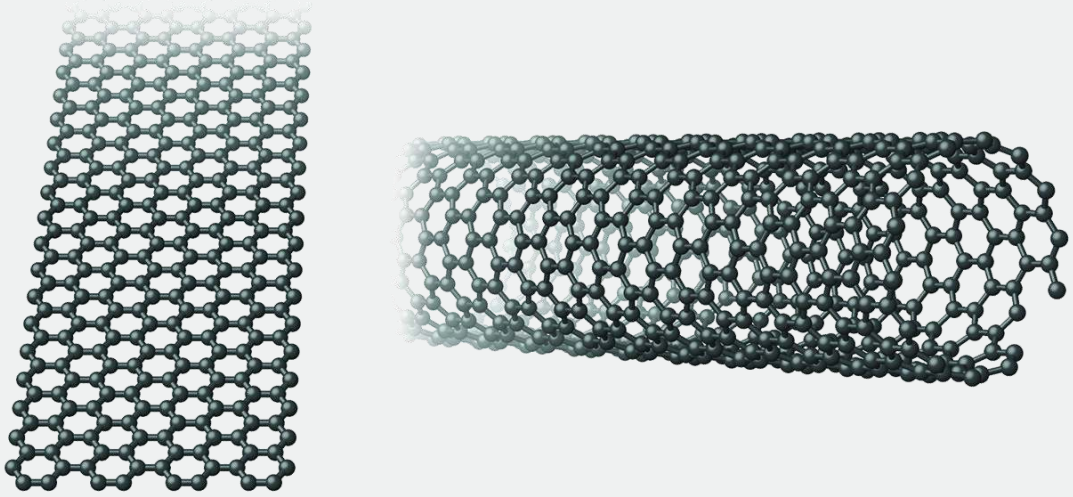


Figure 7.5.5: (a) Graphene and (b) carbon nanotubes are both allotropes of carbon.

Graphene is a very strong, lightweight, and efficient conductor of heat and electricity discovered in 2003. As in graphite, the carbon atoms form a layer of six-membered rings with sp^2-hybridized carbon atoms at the corners. Resonance stabilizes the system and leads to its conductivity. Unlike graphite, there is no stacking of the layers to give a three-dimensional structure.

Andre Geim and Kostya Novoselov at the University of Manchester won the 2010 Nobel Prize in Physics for their pioneering work characterizing graphene.

The simplest procedure for preparing graphene is to use a piece of adhesive tape to remove a single layer of graphene from the surface of a piece of graphite. This method works because there are only weak London dispersion forces between the layers in graphite. Alternative methods are to deposit a single layer of carbon atoms on the surface of some other material (ruthenium, iridium, or copper) or to synthesize it at the surface of silicon carbide via the sublimation of silicon.

There currently are no commercial applications of graphene. However, its unusual properties, such as high electron mobility and thermal conductivity, should make it suitable for the manufacture of many advanced electronic devices and for thermal management applications.

Carbon nanotubes are carbon allotropes, which have a cylindrical structure. Like graphite and graphene, nanotubes consist of rings of sp^2-hybridized carbon atoms. Unlike graphite and graphene, which occur in layers, the layers wrap into a tube and bond together to produce a stable structure. The walls of the tube may be one atom or multiple atoms thick.

Carbon nanotubes are extremely strong materials that are harder than diamond. Depending upon the shape of the nanotube, it may be a conductor or semiconductor. For some applications, the conducting form is preferable, whereas other applications utilize the semiconducting form.

The basis for the synthesis of carbon nanotubes is the generation of carbon atoms in a vacuum. It is possible to produce carbon atoms by an electrical discharge through graphite, vaporization of graphite with a laser, and the decomposition of a carbon compound.

The strength of carbon nanotubes will eventually lead to some of their most exciting applications, as a thread produced from several nanotubes will support enormous weight. However, the current applications only employ bulk nanotubes. The addition of nanotubes to polymers improves the mechanical, thermal, and electrical properties of the bulk material. There are currently nanotubes in some bicycle parts, skis, baseball bats, fishing rods, and surfboards.

Phosphorus

The name *phosphorus* comes from the Greek words meaning *light bringing.* When phosphorus was first isolated, scientists noted that it glowed in the dark and burned when exposed to air. Phosphorus is the only member of its group that does not occur in the uncombined state in nature; it exists in many allotropic forms. We will consider two of those forms: white phosphorus and red phosphorus.

White phosphorus is a white, waxy solid that melts at 44.2 °C and boils at 280 °C. It is insoluble in water (in which it is stored—see Figure 7.5.6), is very soluble in carbon disulfide, and bursts into flame in air. As a solid, as a liquid, as a gas, and in solution, white phosphorus exists as P_4 molecules with four phosphorus atoms at the corners of a regular tetrahedron, as illustrated in Figure 7.5.6. Each phosphorus atom covalently bonds to the other three atoms in the molecule by single covalent bonds. White phosphorus is the most reactive allotrope and is very toxic.



(a) (b) (c) (d)

Figure 7.5.6: (a) Because white phosphorus bursts into flame in air, it is stored in water. (b) The structure of white phosphorus consists of P_4 molecules arranged in a tetrahedron. (c) Red phosphorus is much less reactive than is white phosphorus. (d) The structure of red phosphorus consists of networks of P_4 tetrahedra joined by P-P single bonds. (credit a: modification of work from http://images-of-elements.com/phosphorus.php)

Heating white phosphorus to 270–300 °C in the absence of air yields red phosphorus. Red phosphorus (shown in Figure 7.5.6) is denser, has a higher melting point (~600 °C), is much less reactive, is essentially nontoxic, and is easier and safer to handle than is

white phosphorus. Its structure is highly polymeric and appears to contain three-dimensional networks of P_4 tetrahedra joined by P-P single bonds. Red phosphorus is insoluble in solvents that dissolve white phosphorus. When red phosphorus is heated, P_4 molecules sublime from the solid.

Sulfur

The allotropy of sulfur is far greater and more complex than that of any other element. Sulfur is the brimstone referred to in the Bible and other places, and references to sulfur occur throughout recorded history—right up to the relatively recent discovery that it is a component of the atmospheres of Venus and of Io, a moon of Jupiter. The most common and most stable allotrope of sulfur is yellow, rhombic sulfur, so named because of the shape of its crystals. Rhombic sulfur is the form to which all other allotropes revert at room temperature. Crystals of rhombic sulfur melt at 113 °C. Cooling this liquid gives long needles of monoclinic sulfur. This form is stable from 96 °C to the melting point, 119 °C. At room temperature, it gradually reverts to the rhombic form.

Both rhombic sulfur and monoclinic sulfur contain S_8 molecules in which atoms form eight-membered, puckered rings that resemble crowns, as illustrated in Figure 7.5.7. Each sulfur atom is bonded to each of its two neighbors in the ring by covalent S-S single bonds.

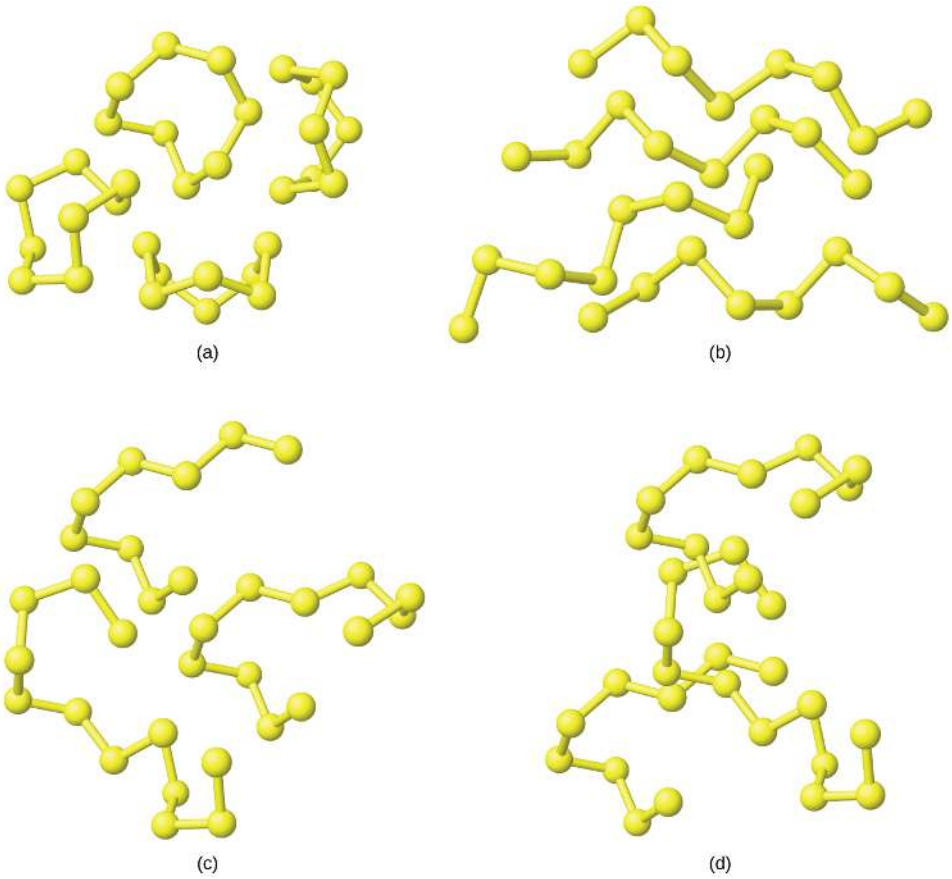


Figure 7.5.7: These four sulfur allotropes show eight-membered, puckered rings. Each sulfur atom bonds to each of its two neighbors in the ring by covalent S-S single bonds. Here are (a) individual S_8 rings, (b) S_8 chains formed when the rings open, (c) longer chains formed by adding sulfur atoms to S_8 chains, and (d) part of the very long sulfur chains formed at higher temperatures.

When rhombic sulfur melts, the straw-colored liquid is quite mobile; its viscosity is low because S_8 molecules are essentially spherical and offer relatively little resistance as they move past each other. As the temperature rises, S-S bonds in the rings break, and polymeric chains of sulfur atoms result. These chains combine end to end, forming still longer chains that tangle with one another. The liquid gradually darkens in color and becomes so viscous that finally (at about 230 °C) it does not pour easily. The dangling atoms at the ends of the chains of sulfur atoms are responsible for the dark red color because their electronic structure differs from those of sulfur atoms that have bonds to two adjacent sulfur atoms. This causes them to absorb light differently and results in a different visible color. Cooling the liquid rapidly produces a rubberlike amorphous mass, called plastic sulfur.

Sulfur boils at 445 °C and forms a vapor consisting of S_2, S_6, and S_8 molecules; at about 1000 °C, the vapor density corresponds to the formula S_2, which is a paramagnetic molecule like O_2 with a similar electronic structure and a weak sulfur-sulfur double bond.

As seen in this discussion, an important feature of the structural behavior of the nonmetals is that the elements usually occur with eight electrons in their valence shells. If necessary, the elements form enough covalent bonds to supplement the electrons already present to possess an octet. For example, members of group 15 have five valence electrons and require only three additional electrons to fill their valence shells. These elements form three covalent bonds in their free state: triple bonds in the N_2 molecule or single bonds to three different atoms in arsenic and phosphorus. The elements of group 16 require only two additional electrons. Oxygen forms a double bond in the O_2 molecule, and sulfur, selenium, and tellurium form two single bonds in various rings and chains. The halogens form diatomic molecules in which each atom is involved in only one bond. This provides the electron required necessary to complete the octet on the halogen atom. The noble gases do not form covalent bonds to other noble gas atoms because they already have a filled outer shell.

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7.6: Occurrence, Preparation, and Compounds of Hydrogen

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Describe the properties, preparation, and compounds of hydrogen

Hydrogen is the most abundant element in the universe. The sun and other stars are composed largely of hydrogen. Astronomers estimate that 90% of the atoms in the universe are hydrogen atoms. Hydrogen is a component of more compounds than any other element. Water is the most abundant compound of hydrogen found on earth. Hydrogen is an important part of petroleum, many minerals, cellulose and starch, sugar, fats, oils, alcohols, acids, and thousands of other substances.

At ordinary temperatures, hydrogen is a colorless, odorless, tasteless, and nonpoisonous gas consisting of the diatomic molecule H_2. Hydrogen is composed of three isotopes, and unlike other elements, these isotopes have different names and chemical symbols: protium, ^1H, deuterium, ^2H(or "D"), and tritium ^3H(or "T"). In a naturally occurring sample of hydrogen, there is one atom of deuterium for every 7000 H atoms and one atom of radioactive tritium for every 10^{18} H atoms. The chemical properties of the different isotopes are very similar because they have identical electron structures, but they differ in some physical properties because of their differing atomic masses. Elemental deuterium and tritium have lower vapor pressure than ordinary hydrogen. Consequently, when liquid hydrogen evaporates, the heavier isotopes are concentrated in the last portions to evaporate. Electrolysis of heavy water, D_2O, yields deuterium. Most tritium originates from nuclear reactions.

Preparation of Hydrogen

Elemental hydrogen must be prepared from compounds by breaking chemical bonds. The most common methods of preparing hydrogen follow.

From Steam and Carbon or Hydrocarbons

Water is the cheapest and most abundant source of hydrogen. Passing steam over coke(an impure form of elemental carbon) at 1000 °C produces a mixture of carbon monoxide and hydrogen known as water gas:

$$\mathrm{C(s) + H_2O(g) \xrightarrow{1000^\circ\ C} \underset{\text{water gas}}{CO(g) + H_2(g)}}$$

Water gas is as an industrial fuel. It is possible to produce additional hydrogen by mixing the water gas with steam in the presence of a catalyst to convert the CO to CO_2. This reaction is the water gas shift reaction.

It is also possible to prepare a mixture of hydrogen and carbon monoxide by passing hydrocarbons from natural gas or petroleum and steam over a nickel-based catalyst. Propane is an example of a hydrocarbon reactant:

$$\mathrm{C_3H_8(g) + 3\,H_2O(g) \xrightarrow[\text{catalyst}]{900^\circ\ C} 3\,CO(g) + 7\,H_2(g)}$$

Electrolysis

Hydrogen forms when direct current electricity passes through water containing an electrolyte such as H_2SO_4, as illustrated in Figure 7.6.1. Bubbles of hydrogen form at the cathode, and oxygen evolves at the anode. The net reaction is:

$$\mathrm{2\,H_2O(l) + electrical\ energy \longrightarrow 2\,H_2(g) + O_2(g)}$$

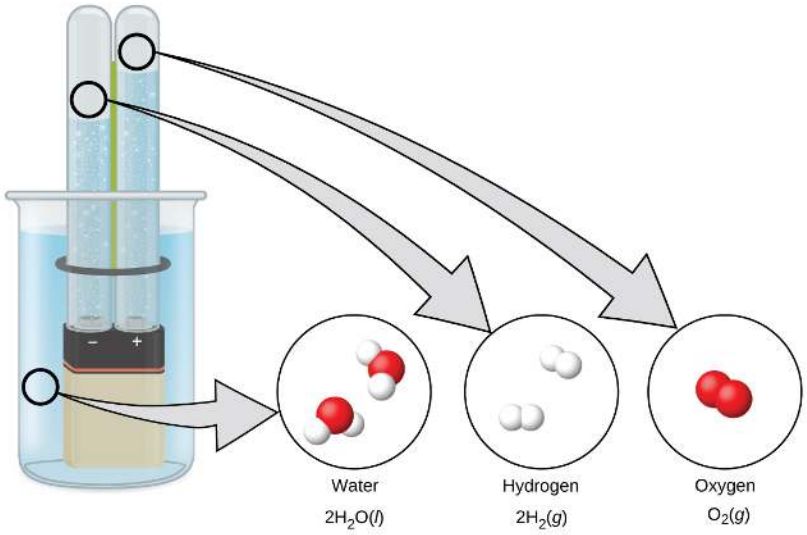


Figure 7.6.1: The electrolysis of water produces hydrogen and oxygen. Because there are twice as many hydrogen atoms as oxygen atoms and both elements are diatomic, there is twice the volume of hydrogen produced at the cathode as there is oxygen produced at the anode.

Reaction of Metals with Acids

This is the most convenient laboratory method of producing hydrogen. Metals with lower reduction potentials reduce the hydrogen ion in dilute acids to produce hydrogen gas and metal salts. For example, as shown in Figure 7.6.2, iron in dilute hydrochloric acid produces hydrogen gas and iron(II) chloride:

$$\mathrm{Fe\,(s) + 2\,H_3O^+\,(aq) + 2\,Cl^-\,(aq) \longrightarrow Fe^{2+}\,(aq) + 2\,Cl^-\,(aq) + H_2\,(g) + 2\,H_2O\,(l)}$$



Figure 7.6.2: The reaction of iron with an acid produces hydrogen. Here, iron reacts with hydrochloric acid.(credit: Mark Ott)

Reaction of Ionic Metal Hydrides with Water

It is possible to produce hydrogen from the reaction of hydrides of the active metals, which contain the very strongly basic H^- anion, with water:

$$\mathrm{CaH_2\,(s) + 2\,H_2O\,(l) \longrightarrow Ca^{2+}\,(aq) + 2\,OH^-\,(aq) + 2\,H_2\,(g)}$$

Metal hydrides are expensive but convenient sources of hydrogen, especially where space and weight are important factors. They are important in the inflation of life jackets, life rafts, and military balloons.

Reactions

Under normal conditions, hydrogen is relatively inactive chemically, but when heated, it enters into many chemical reactions.

Two thirds of the world's hydrogen production is devoted to the manufacture of ammonia, which is a fertilizer and used in the manufacture of nitric acid. Large quantities of hydrogen are also important in the process of **hydrogenation**, discussed in the

chapter on organic chemistry.

It is possible to use hydrogen as a nonpolluting fuel. The reaction of hydrogen with oxygen is a very exothermic reaction, releasing 286 kJ of energy per mole of water formed. Hydrogen burns without explosion under controlled conditions. The oxygen-hydrogen torch, because of the high heat of combustion of hydrogen, can achieve temperatures up to 2800 °C. The hot flame of this torch is useful in cutting thick sheets of many metals. Liquid hydrogen is also an important rocket fuel (Figure 7.6.3).



Figure 7.6.3: Before the fleet's retirement in 2011, liquid hydrogen and liquid oxygen were used in the three main engines of a space shuttle. Two compartments in the large tank held these liquids until the shuttle was launched.(credit: "reynermedia"/Flickr)

An uncombined hydrogen atom consists of a nucleus and one valence electron in the 1*s* orbital. The $n = 1$ valence shell has a capacity for two electrons, and hydrogen can rightfully occupy two locations in the periodic table. It is possible to consider hydrogen a group 1 element because hydrogen can lose an electron to form the cation, H^+. It is also possible to consider hydrogen to be a group 17 element because it needs only one electron to fill its valence orbital to form a hydride ion, H^-, or it can share an electron to form a single, covalent bond. In reality, hydrogen is a unique element that almost deserves its own location in the periodic table.

Reactions with Elements

When heated, hydrogen reacts with the metals of group 1 and with Ca, Sr, and Ba(the more active metals in group 2). The compounds formed are crystalline, ionic hydrides that contain the hydride anion, H^-, a strong reducing agent and a strong base, which reacts vigorously with water and other acids to form hydrogen gas.

The reactions of hydrogen with nonmetals generally produce *acidic* hydrogen compounds with hydrogen in the 1+ oxidation state. The reactions become more exothermic and vigorous as the electronegativity of the nonmetal increases. Hydrogen reacts with nitrogen and sulfur only when heated, but it reacts explosively with fluorine(forming HF) and, under some conditions, with chlorine(forming HCl). A mixture of hydrogen and oxygen explodes if ignited. Because of the explosive nature of the reaction, it is necessary to exercise caution when handling hydrogen(or any other combustible gas) to avoid the formation of an explosive mixture in a confined space. Although most hydrides of the nonmetals are acidic, ammonia and phosphine(PH_3) are very, very weak acids and generally function as bases. There is a summary of these reactions of hydrogen with the elements in Table 7.6.1.

Table 7.6.1: Chemical Reactions of Hydrogen with Other Elements

General Equation	Comments
$\mathrm{MH\ or\ MH_2 \longrightarrow MOH\ or\ M(OH)_2 + H\ 2}$	ionic hydrides with group 1 and Ca, Sr, and Ba
$\mathrm{H_2 + C \longrightarrow (no\ reaction)}$	
$\mathrm{3\,H_2 + N_2 \longrightarrow 2\,NH_3}$	requires high pressure and temperature; low yield
$\mathrm{2\,H_2 + O_2 \longrightarrow 2\,H_2O}$	exothermic and potentially explosive
\[\ce{H2 + S \longrightarrow H2S}\]	requires heating; low yield
$\mathrm{H_2{}^+\ X_2 \longrightarrow 2\,HX}$	X = F, Cl, Br, and I; explosive with F_2; low yield with I_2

Reaction with Compounds

Hydrogen reduces the heated oxides of many metals, with the formation of the metal and water vapor. For example, passing hydrogen over heated CuO forms copper and water.

Hydrogen may also reduce the metal ions in some metal oxides to lower oxidation states:

$$\mathrm{H_2\,(g) + MnO_2\,(s) \xrightarrow{\Delta} MnO\,(s) + H_2O\,(g)}$$

Hydrogen Compounds

Other than the noble gases, each of the nonmetals forms compounds with hydrogen. For brevity, we will discuss only a few hydrogen compounds of the nonmetals here.

Nitrogen Hydrogen Compounds

Ammonia, NH_3, forms naturally when any nitrogen-containing organic material decomposes in the absence of air. The laboratory preparation of ammonia is by the reaction of an ammonium salt with a strong base such as sodium hydroxide. The acid-base reaction with the weakly acidic ammonium ion gives ammonia, illustrated in Figure 7.6.4. Ammonia also forms when ionic nitrides react with water. The nitride ion is a much stronger base than the hydroxide ion:

$$\mathrm{Mg_3N_2\,(s) + 6\,H_2O\,(l) \longrightarrow 3\,Mg(OH)_2\,(s) + 2\,NH_3\,(g)}$$

The commercial production of ammonia is by the direct combination of the elements in the **Haber process**:

$$\mathrm{N_2\,(g) + 3\,H_2\,(g) \xrightarrow{catalyst} 2\,NH_3\,(g)} \qquad \Delta H^\circ = -92\ \mathrm{kJ}$$

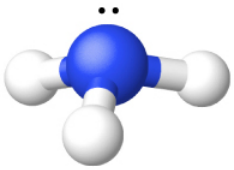
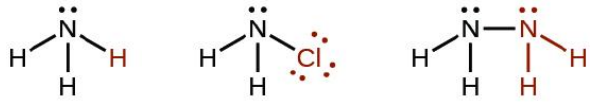


Figure 7.6.4: The structure of ammonia is shown with a central nitrogen atom and three hydrogen atoms.

Ammonia is a colorless gas with a sharp, pungent odor. Smelling salts utilize this powerful odor. Gaseous ammonia readily liquefies to give a colorless liquid that boils at −33 °C. Due to intermolecular hydrogen bonding, the enthalpy of vaporization of liquid ammonia is higher than that of any other liquid except water, so ammonia is useful as a refrigerant. Ammonia is quite soluble in water(658 L at STP dissolves in 1 L H_2O).

The chemical properties of ammonia are as follows:

1. Ammonia acts as a Brønsted base, as discussed in the chapter on acid-base chemistry. The ammonium ion is similar in size to the potassium ion; compounds of the two ions exhibit many similarities in their structures and solubilities.
2. Ammonia can display acidic behavior, although it is a much weaker acid than water. Like other acids, ammonia reacts with metals, although it is so weak that high temperatures are necessary. Hydrogen and(depending on the stoichiometry) amides(salts of NH_2^-), imides(salts of NH^{2-}), or nitrides(salts of N^{3-}) form.
3. The nitrogen atom in ammonia has its lowest possible oxidation state(3−) and thus is not susceptible to reduction. However, it can be oxidized. Ammonia burns in air, giving NO and water. Hot ammonia and the ammonium ion are active reducing agents. Of particular interest are the oxidations of ammonium ion by nitrite ion, to yield pure nitrogen and by nitrate ion to yield nitrous oxide, N_2O.
4. There are a number of compounds that we can consider derivatives of ammonia through the replacement of one or more hydrogen atoms with some other atom or group of atoms. Inorganic derivations include chloramine, NH_2Cl, and hydrazine, N_2H_4:



(a) (b) (c)

Chloramine, NH_2Cl, results from the reaction of sodium hypochlorite, NaOCl, with ammonia in basic solution. In the presence of a large excess of ammonia at low temperature, the chloramine reacts further to produce hydrazine, N_2H_4:

$$\mathrm{NH_3\,(aq) + OCl^-\,(aq) \longrightarrow NH_2Cl\,(aq) + OH^-\,(aq)}$$

$$[4pt]\mathrm{NH_2Cl\,(aq) + NH_3\,(aq) + OH^-\,(aq) \longrightarrow N_2H_4\,(aq) + Cl^-\,(aq) + H_2O\,(l)}$$

Anhydrous hydrazine is relatively stable in spite of its positive free energy of formation:

$$\mathrm{N_2\,(g) + 2\,H_2\,(g) \longrightarrow N_2H_4\,(l)} \qquad \Delta G_f^\circ = 149.2 kJmol^{-1}$$

Hydrazine is a fuming, colorless liquid that has some physical properties remarkably similar to those of H_2O(it melts at 2 °C, boils at 113.5 °C, and has a density at 25 °C of 1.00 g/mL). It burns rapidly and completely in air with substantial evolution of heat:

$$\mathrm{N_2H_4\,(l) + O_2\,(g) \longrightarrow N_2\,(g) + 2\,H_2O\,(l)} \qquad \Delta H^\circ = -621.5 kJmol^{-1}$$

Like ammonia, hydrazine is both a Brønsted base and a Lewis base, although it is weaker than ammonia. It reacts with strong acids and forms two series of salts that contain the and ions, respectively. Some rockets use hydrazine as a fuel.

Phosphorus Hydrogen Compounds

The most important hydride of phosphorus is phosphine, PH_3, a gaseous analog of ammonia in terms of both formula and structure. Unlike ammonia, it is not possible to form phosphine by direct union of the elements. There are two methods for the preparation of phosphine. One method is by the action of an acid on an ionic phosphide. The other method is the disproportionation of white phosphorus with hot concentrated base to produce phosphine and the hydrogen phosphite ion:

$$\mathrm{AlP\,(s) + 3\,H_3O^+\,(aq) \longrightarrow PH_3\,(g) + Al^{3+}\,(aq) + 3\,H_2O\,(l)}$$

$$[4pt]\mathrm{P_4\,(s) + 4\,OH^-\,(aq) + 2\,H_2O\,(l) \longrightarrow 2\,HPO_3{}^{2-}\,(aq) + 2\,PH_3\,(g)}$$

Phosphine is a colorless, very poisonous gas, which has an odor like that of decaying fish. Heat easily decomposes phosphine ($\mathrm{4\,PH_3 \longrightarrow P_4 + 6\,H_2}$) and the compound burns in air. The major uses of phosphine are as a fumigant for grains and in semiconductor processing. Like ammonia, gaseous phosphine unites with gaseous hydrogen halides, forming phosphonium compounds like PH_4Cl and PH_4I. Phosphine is a much weaker base than ammonia; therefore, these compounds decompose in water, and the insoluble PH_3 escapes from solution.

Sulfur Hydrogen Compounds

Hydrogen sulfide, H_2S, is a colorless gas that is responsible for the offensive odor of rotten eggs and of many hot springs. Hydrogen sulfide is as toxic as hydrogen cyanide; therefore, it is necessary to exercise great care in handling it. Hydrogen sulfide is particularly deceptive because it paralyzes the olfactory nerves; after a short exposure, one does not smell it.

The production of hydrogen sulfide by the direct reaction of the elements(H_2 + S) is unsatisfactory because the yield is low. A more effective preparation method is the reaction of a metal sulfide with a dilute acid. For example:

$$\mathrm{FeS\,(s) + 2\,H_3O^+\,(aq) \longrightarrow Fe^{2+}\,(aq) + H_2\ S\,(g) + 2\,H_2O\,(l)}$$

It is easy to oxidize the sulfur in metal sulfides and in hydrogen sulfide, making metal sulfides and H_2S good reducing agents. In acidic solutions, hydrogen sulfide reduces Fe^{3+} to Fe^{2+}, to Mn^{2+}, to Cr^{3+}, and HNO_3 to NO_2. The sulfur in H_2S usually oxidizes to elemental sulfur, unless a large excess of the oxidizing agent is present. In which case, the sulfide may oxidize to or(or to SO_2 or SO_3 in the absence of water):

$$\mathrm{2\,H_2\ S\,(g) + O_2\,(g) \longrightarrow 2\,S\,(s) + 2\,H_2O\,(l)}$$

This oxidation process leads to the removal of the hydrogen sulfide found in many sources of natural gas. The deposits of sulfur in volcanic regions may be the result of the oxidation of H_2S present in volcanic gases.

Hydrogen sulfide is a weak diprotic acid that dissolves in water to form hydrosulfuric acid. The acid ionizes in two stages, yielding hydrogen sulfide ions, HS^-, in the first stage and sulfide ions, S^{2-}, in the second. Since hydrogen sulfide is a weak acid, aqueous solutions of soluble sulfides and hydrogen sulfides are basic:

$$S^{2-}(aq) + H_2O(l) \rightleftharpoons HS^-(aq) + OH^-(aq)$$
$$[4pt] HS^-(aq) + H_2O(l) \rightleftharpoons H_2S(g) + OH^-(aq)$$

Halogen Hydrogen Compounds

Binary compounds containing only hydrogen and a halogen are **hydrogen halides**. At room temperature, the pure hydrogen halides HF, HCl, HBr, and HI are gases.

In general, it is possible to prepare the halides by the general techniques used to prepare other acids. Fluorine, chlorine, and bromine react directly with hydrogen to form the respective hydrogen halide. This is a commercially important reaction for preparing hydrogen chloride and hydrogen bromide.

The acid-base reaction between a nonvolatile strong acid and a metal halide will yield a hydrogen halide. The escape of the gaseous hydrogen halide drives the reaction to completion. For example, the usual method of preparing hydrogen fluoride is by heating a mixture of calcium fluoride, CaF_2, and concentrated sulfuric acid:

$$CaF_2(s) + H_2SO_4(aq) \longrightarrow CaSO_4(s) + 2\,HF(g)$$

Gaseous hydrogen fluoride is also a by-product in the preparation of phosphate fertilizers by the reaction of fluoroapatite, $Ca_5(PO_4)_3F$, with sulfuric acid. The reaction of concentrated sulfuric acid with a chloride salt produces hydrogen chloride both commercially and in the laboratory.

In most cases, sodium chloride is the chloride of choice because it is the least expensive chloride. Hydrogen bromide and hydrogen iodide cannot be prepared using sulfuric acid because this acid is an oxidizing agent capable of oxidizing both bromide and iodide. However, it is possible to prepare both hydrogen bromide and hydrogen iodide using an acid such as phosphoric acid because it is a weaker oxidizing agent. For example:

$$H_3PO_4(l) + Br^-(aq) \longrightarrow HBr(g) + H_2PO_4{}^-(aq)$$

All of the hydrogen halides are very soluble in water, forming hydrohalic acids. With the exception of hydrogen fluoride, which has a strong hydrogen-fluoride bond, they are strong acids. Reactions of hydrohalic acids with metals, metal hydroxides, oxides, or carbonates produce salts of the halides. Most chloride salts are soluble in water. AgCl, $PbCl_2$, and Hg_2Cl_2 are the commonly encountered exceptions.

The halide ions give the substances the properties associated with $X^-(aq)$. The heavier halide ions(Cl^-, Br^-, and I^-) can act as reducing agents, and the lighter halogens or other oxidizing agents will oxidize them:

$$Cl_2(aq) + 2\,e^- \rightleftharpoons 2\,Cl^-(aq) \qquad E^\circ = 1.36V$$
$$[4pt] Br_2(aq) + 2\,e^- \rightleftharpoons 2\,Br^-(aq) \qquad E^\circ = 1.09V$$
$$[4pt] I_2(aq) + 2\,e^- \rightleftharpoons 2\,I^-(aq) \qquad E^\circ = 0.54V$$

For example, bromine oxidizes iodine:

$$Br_2(aq) + 2\,HI(aq) \longrightarrow 2\,HBr(aq) + I_2(aq) \qquad E^\circ = 0.55V$$

Hydrofluoric acid is unique in its reactions with sand(silicon dioxide) and with glass, which is a mixture of silicates:

$$SiO_2(s) + 4\,HF(aq) \longrightarrow SiF_4(g) + 2\,H_2O(l)$$
$$[4pt] CaSiO_3(s) + 6\,HF(aq) \longrightarrow CaF_2(s) + SiF_4(g) + 3\,H_2O(l)$$

The volatile silicon tetrafluoride escapes from these reactions. Because hydrogen fluoride attacks glass, it can frost or etch glass and is used to etch markings on thermometers, burets, and other glassware.

The largest use for hydrogen fluoride is in production of hydrochlorofluorocarbons for refrigerants, in plastics, and in propellants. The second largest use is in the manufacture of cryolite, Na_3AlF_6, which is important in the production of aluminum. The acid is also important in the production of other inorganic fluorides(such as BF_3), which serve as catalysts in the industrial synthesis of certain organic compounds.

Hydrochloric acid is relatively inexpensive. It is an important and versatile acid in industry and is important for the manufacture of metal chlorides, dyes, glue, glucose, and various other chemicals. A considerable amount is also important for the activation of oil wells and as pickle liquor—an acid used to remove oxide coating from iron or steel that is to be galvanized, tinned, or enameled. The amounts of hydrobromic acid and hydroiodic acid used commercially are insignificant by comparison.

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7.7: Occurrence, Preparation, and Properties of Carbonates

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Describe the preparation, properties, and uses of some representative metal carbonates

The chemistry of carbon is extensive; however, most of this chemistry is not relevant to this chapter. The other aspects of the chemistry of carbon will appear in the chapter covering organic chemistry. In this chapter, we will focus on the carbonate ion and related substances. The metals of groups 1 and 2, as well as zinc, cadmium, mercury, and lead(II), form ionic **carbonates**—compounds that contain the carbonate anions, The metals of group 1, magnesium, calcium, strontium, and barium also form **hydrogen carbonates**—compounds that contain the hydrogen carbonate anion, $\mathrm{HCO_3^-}$, also known as the **bicarbonate anion**.

With the exception of magnesium carbonate, it is possible to prepare carbonates of the metals of groups 1 and 2 by the reaction of carbon dioxide with the respective oxide or hydroxide. Examples of such reactions include:

$$\mathrm{Na_2\ O\,(s) + CO_2\,(g) \longrightarrow Na_2CO_3\,(s)}$$

$$[4pt]\mathrm{Ca(\ OH\ )_2\,(s) + CO_2\,(g) \longrightarrow CaCO_3\,(s) + H_2O\,(l)}$$

The carbonates of the alkaline earth metals of group 12 and lead(II) are not soluble. These carbonates precipitate upon mixing a solution of soluble alkali metal carbonate with a solution of soluble salts of these metals. Examples of net ionic equations for the reactions are:

$$\mathrm{Ca^{2+}\,(aq) + {CO_3}^{2-}\,(aq) \longrightarrow CaCO_3\,(s)}$$

$$[4pt]\mathrm{Pb^{2+}\,(aq) + {CO_3}^{2-}\,(aq) \longrightarrow PbCO_3\,(s)}$$

Pearls and the shells of most mollusks are calcium carbonate. Tin(II) or one of the trivalent or tetravalent ions such as Al^{3+} or Sn^{4+} behave differently in this reaction as carbon dioxide and the corresponding oxide form instead of the carbonate.

Alkali metal hydrogen carbonates such as $NaHCO_3$ and $CsHCO_3$ form by saturating a solution of the hydroxides with carbon dioxide. The net ionic reaction involves hydroxide ion and carbon dioxide:

$$\mathrm{OH^-\,(aq) + CO_2\,(aq) \longrightarrow HCO_3^-\,(aq)}$$

It is possible to isolate the solids by evaporation of the water from the solution.

Although they are insoluble in pure water, alkaline earth carbonates dissolve readily in water containing carbon dioxide because hydrogen carbonate salts form. For example, caves and sinkholes form in limestone when $CaCO_3$ dissolves in water containing dissolved carbon dioxide:

$$\mathrm{CaCO_3\,(s) + CO_2\,(aq) + H_2O\,(l) \longrightarrow Ca^{2+}\,(aq) + 2\,HCO_3^-\,(aq)}$$

Hydrogen carbonates of the alkaline earth metals remain stable only in solution; evaporation of the solution produces the carbonate. Stalactites and stalagmites, like those shown in Figure 7.7.1: , form in caves when drops of water containing dissolved calcium hydrogen carbonate evaporate to leave a deposit of calcium carbonate.



Figure 7.7.1:(a) Stalactites and(b) stalagmites are cave formations of calcium carbonate.(credit a: modification of work by Arvind Govindaraj; credit b: modification of work by the National Park Service.)

The two carbonates used commercially in the largest quantities are sodium carbonate and calcium carbonate. In the United States, sodium carbonate is extracted from the mineral trona, $Na_3(CO_3)(HCO_3)(H_2O)_2$. Following recrystallization to remove clay and other impurities, heating the recrystallized trona produces Na_2CO_3:

$$2\,Na_3(CO_3)(HCO_3)(H_2O)_2\,(s) \longrightarrow 3\,Na_2CO_3\,(s) + 5\,H_2O\,(l) + CO_2\,(g)$$

Carbonates are moderately strong bases. Aqueous solutions are basic because the carbonate ion accepts hydrogen ion from water in this reversible reaction:

$$CO_3{}^{2-}\,(aq) + H_2O\,(l) \rightleftharpoons HCO_3{}^{-}\,(aq) + OH^{-}\,(aq)$$

Carbonates react with acids to form salts of the metal, gaseous carbon dioxide, and water. The reaction of calcium carbonate, the active ingredient of the antacid Tums, with hydrochloric acid(stomach acid), as shown in Figure 7.7.2, illustrates the reaction:

$$CaCO_3\,(s) + 2\,HCl\,(aq) \longrightarrow CaCl_2\,(aq) + CO_2\,(g) + H_2O\,(l)$$

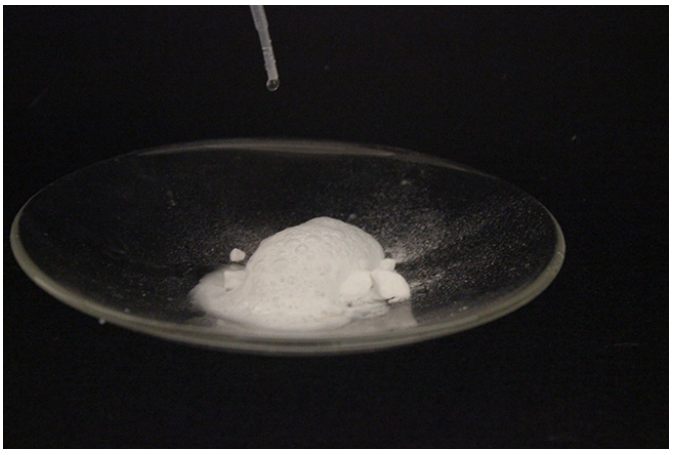


Figure 7.7.2: The reaction of calcium carbonate with hydrochloric acid is shown.(credit: Mark Ott)

Other applications of carbonates include glass making—where carbonate ions serve as a source of oxide ions—and synthesis of oxides.

Hydrogen carbonates are amphoteric because they act as both weak acids and weak bases. Hydrogen carbonate ions act as acids and react with solutions of soluble hydroxides to form a carbonate and water:

$$\mathrm{KHCO_3\,(aq) + KOH\,(aq) \longrightarrow K_2\ CO_3\,(aq) + H_2O\,(l)}$$

With acids, hydrogen carbonates form a salt, carbon dioxide, and water. Baking soda(bicarbonate of soda or sodium bicarbonate) is sodium hydrogen carbonate. Baking powder contains baking soda and a solid acid such as potassium hydrogen tartrate(cream of tartar), $KHC_4H_4O_6$. As long as the powder is dry, no reaction occurs; immediately after the addition of water, the acid reacts with the hydrogen carbonate ions to form carbon dioxide:

$$\mathrm{HC_4\ H_4\ O_6{}^-\,(aq) + HCO_3{}^-\,(aq) \longrightarrow C_4\ H_4\ O_6{}^{2-}\,(aq) + CO_2\,(g) + H_2O\,(l)}$$

Dough will trap the carbon dioxide, causing it to expand during baking, producing the characteristic texture of baked goods.

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7.8: Occurrence, Preparation, and Properties of Nitrogen

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Describe the properties, preparation, and uses of nitrogen

Most pure nitrogen comes from the fractional distillation of liquid air. The atmosphere consists of 78% nitrogen by volume. This means there are more than 20 million tons of nitrogen over every square mile of the earth's surface. Nitrogen is a component of proteins and of the genetic material (DNA/RNA) of all plants and animals.

Under ordinary conditions, nitrogen is a colorless, odorless, and tasteless gas. It boils at 77 K and freezes at 63 K. Liquid nitrogen is a useful coolant because it is inexpensive and has a low boiling point. Nitrogen is very unreactive because of the very strong triple bond between the nitrogen atoms. The only common reactions at room temperature occur with lithium to form Li_3N, with certain transition metal complexes, and with hydrogen or oxygen in nitrogen-fixing bacteria. The general lack of reactivity of nitrogen makes the remarkable ability of some bacteria to synthesize nitrogen compounds using atmospheric nitrogen gas as the source one of the most exciting chemical events on our planet. This process is one type of nitrogen fixation. In this case, nitrogen fixation is the process where organisms convert atmospheric nitrogen into biologically useful chemicals. Nitrogen fixation also occurs when lightning passes through air, causing molecular nitrogen to react with oxygen to form nitrogen oxides, which are then carried down to the soil.

Chemistry in Everyday Life: Nitrogen Fixation

All living organisms require nitrogen compounds for survival. Unfortunately, most of these organisms cannot absorb nitrogen from its most abundant source—the atmosphere. Atmospheric nitrogen consists of N_2 molecules, which are very unreactive due to the strong nitrogen-nitrogen triple bond. However, a few organisms can overcome this problem through a process known as nitrogen fixation, illustrated in Figure 7.8.1.

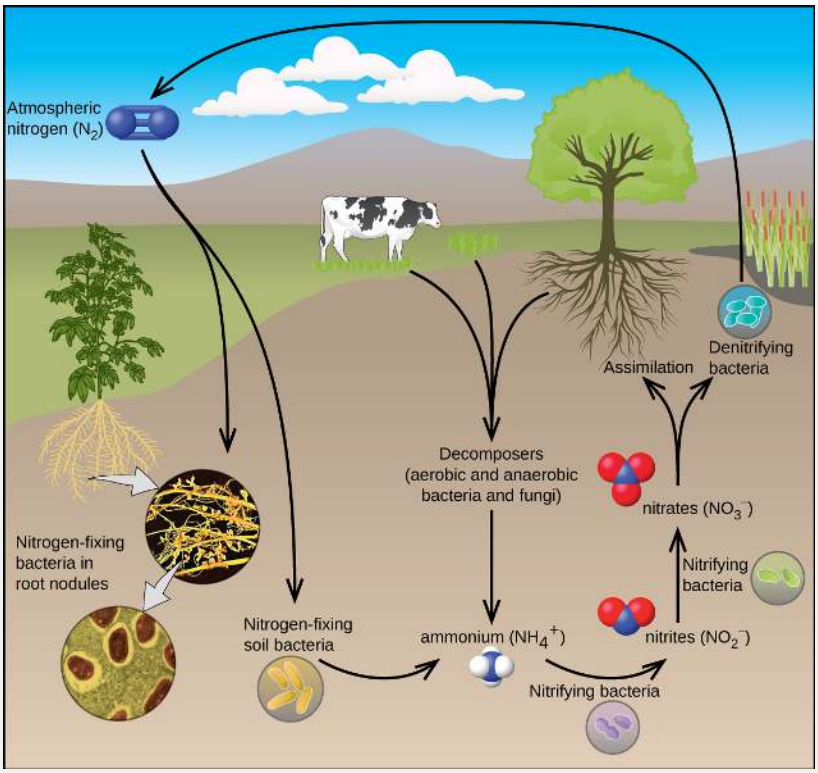


Figure 7.8.1: All living organisms require nitrogen. A few microorganisms are able to process atmospheric nitrogen using nitrogen fixation. (credit “roots”: modification of work by the United States Department of Agriculture; credit “root nodules”: modification of work by Louisa Howard)

Nitrogen fixation is the process where organisms convert atmospheric nitrogen into biologically useful chemicals. To date, the only known kind of biological organisms capable of nitrogen fixation are microorganisms. These organisms employ enzymes called nitrogenases, which contain iron and molybdenum. Many of these microorganisms live in a symbiotic relationship with plants, with the best-known example being the presence of rhizobia in the root nodules of legumes.

Large volumes of atmospheric nitrogen are necessary for making ammonia—the principal starting material used for preparation of large quantities of other nitrogen-containing compounds. Most other uses for elemental nitrogen depend on its inactivity. It is helpful when a chemical process requires an inert atmosphere. Canned foods and luncheon meats cannot oxidize in a pure nitrogen atmosphere, so they retain a better flavor and color, and spoil less rapidly, when sealed in nitrogen instead of air. This technology allows fresh produce to be available year-round, regardless of growing season.

There are compounds with nitrogen in all of its oxidation states from 3− to 5+. Much of the chemistry of nitrogen involves oxidation-reduction reactions. Some active metals (such as alkali metals and alkaline earth metals) can reduce nitrogen to form metal nitrides. In the remainder of this section, we will examine nitrogen-oxygen chemistry.

There are well-characterized nitrogen oxides in which nitrogen exhibits each of its positive oxidation numbers from 1+ to 5+. When ammonium nitrate is carefully heated, nitrous oxide (dinitrogen oxide) and water vapor form. Stronger heating generates nitrogen gas, oxygen gas, and water vapor. No one should ever attempt this reaction—it can be very explosive. In 1947, there was a major ammonium nitrate explosion in Texas City, Texas, and, in 2013, there was another major explosion in West, Texas. In the last 100 years, there were nearly 30 similar disasters worldwide, resulting in the loss of numerous lives. In this oxidation-reduction reaction, the nitrogen in the nitrate ion oxidizes the nitrogen in the ammonium ion. Nitrous oxide, shown in Figure 7.8.2: , is a colorless gas possessing a mild, pleasing odor and a sweet taste. It finds application as an anesthetic for minor operations, especially in dentistry, under the name “laughing gas.”

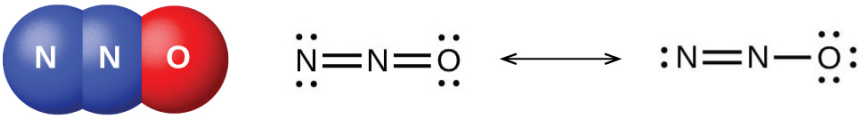


Figure 7.8.2: Nitrous oxide, N_2O, is an anesthetic that has these molecular (left) and resonance (right) structures.

Low yields of nitric oxide, NO, form when heating nitrogen and oxygen together. NO also forms when lightning passes through air during thunderstorms. Burning ammonia is the commercial method of preparing nitric oxide. In the laboratory, the reduction of nitric acid is the best method for preparing nitric oxide. When copper reacts with dilute nitric acid, nitric oxide is the principal reduction product:

$$3\,\mathrm{Cu\,(s)} + 8\,\mathrm{HNO_3\,(aq)} \longrightarrow 2\,\mathrm{NO\,(g)} + 3\,\mathrm{Cu(NO_3)_2\,(aq)} + 4\,\mathrm{H_2O\,(l)}$$

Gaseous nitric oxide is the most thermally stable of the nitrogen oxides and is the simplest known thermally stable molecule with an unpaired electron. It is one of the air pollutants generated by internal combustion engines, resulting from the reaction of atmospheric nitrogen and oxygen during the combustion process.

At room temperature, nitric oxide is a colorless gas consisting of diatomic molecules. As is often the case with molecules that contain an unpaired electron, two molecules combine to form a dimer by pairing their unpaired electrons to form a bond. Liquid and solid NO both contain N_2O_2 dimers, like that shown in Figure 7.8.3. Most substances with unpaired electrons exhibit color by absorbing visible light; however, NO is colorless because the absorption of light is not in the visible region of the spectrum.

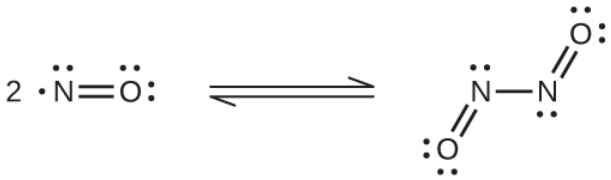


Figure 7.8.3: This shows the equilibrium between NO and N_2O_2. The molecule, N_2O_2, absorbs light.

Cooling a mixture of equal parts nitric oxide and nitrogen dioxide to −21 °C produces dinitrogen trioxide, a blue liquid consisting of N_2O_3 molecules (shown in Figure 7.8.4). Dinitrogen trioxide exists only in the liquid and solid states. When heated, it reverts to a mixture of NO and NO_2.

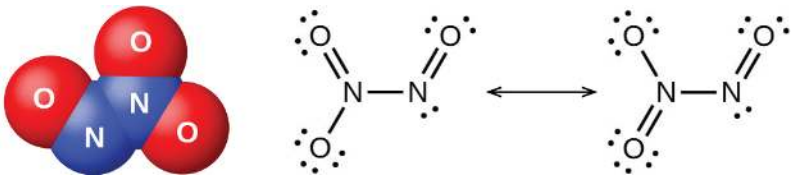


Figure 7.8.4: Dinitrogen trioxide, N_2O_3, only exists in liquid or solid states and has these molecular (left) and resonance (right) structures.

It is possible to prepare nitrogen dioxide in the laboratory by heating the nitrate of a heavy metal, or by the reduction of concentrated nitric acid with copper metal, as shown in Figure 7.8.5. Commercially, it is possible to prepare nitrogen dioxide by oxidizing nitric oxide with air.

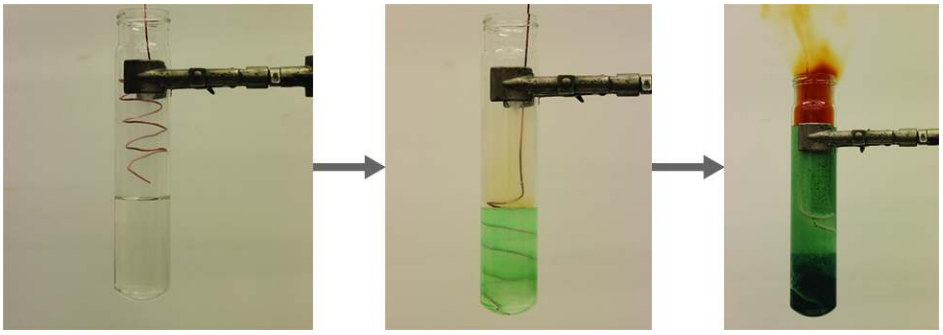


Figure 7.8.5: The reaction of copper metal with concentrated HNO_3 produces a solution of $Cu(NO_3)_2$ and brown fumes of NO_2. (credit: modification of work by Mark Ott)

The nitrogen dioxide molecule (illustrated in Figure 7.8.6) contains an unpaired electron, which is responsible for its color and paramagnetism. It is also responsible for the dimerization of NO_2. At low pressures or at high temperatures, nitrogen dioxide has a deep brown color that is due to the presence of the NO_2 molecule. At low temperatures, the color almost entirely disappears as dinitrogen tetraoxide, N_2O_4, forms. At room temperature, an equilibrium exists:

$$2\,\mathrm{NO_2\,(g)} \rightleftharpoons \mathrm{N_2O_4\,(g)} \qquad K_P = 6.86$$

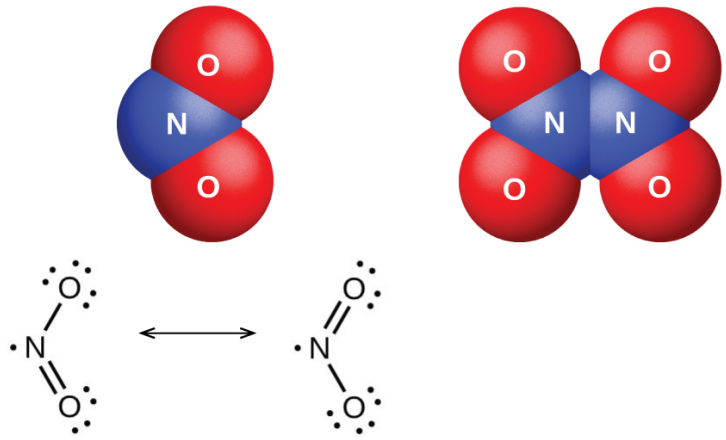


Figure 7.8.6: The molecular and resonance structures for nitrogen dioxide (NO_2, left) and dinitrogen tetraoxide (N_2O_4, right) are shown.

Dinitrogen pentaoxide, N_2O_5 (illustrated in Figure 7.8.7), is a white solid that is formed by the dehydration of nitric acid by phosphorus(V) oxide (tetraphosphorus decoxide):

$$P_4O_{10}\,(s) + 4\,HNO_3\,(l) \longrightarrow 4\,HPO_3\,(s) + 2\,N_2O_5\,(s)$$

It is unstable above room temperature, decomposing to N_2O_4 and O_2.

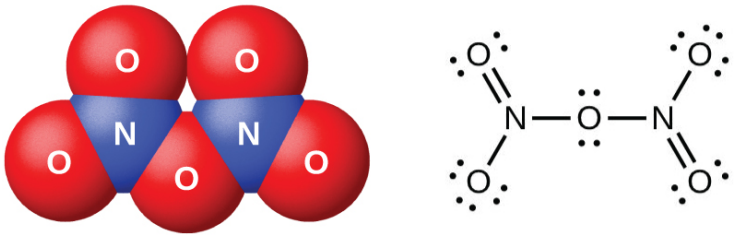


Figure 7.8.7: This image shows the molecular structure and one resonance structure of a molecule of dinitrogen pentaoxide, N_2O_5.

The oxides of nitrogen(III), nitrogen(IV), and nitrogen(V) react with water and form nitrogen-containing oxyacids. Nitrogen(III) oxide, N_2O_3, is the anhydride of nitrous acid; HNO_2 forms when N_2O_3 reacts with water. There are no stable oxyacids containing nitrogen with an oxidation state of 4+; therefore, nitrogen(IV) oxide, NO_2, disproportionates in one of two ways when it reacts with water. In cold water, a mixture of HNO_2 and HNO_3 forms. At higher temperatures, HNO_3 and NO will form. Nitrogen(V) oxide, N_2O_5, is the anhydride of nitric acid; HNO_3 is produced when N_2O_5 reacts with water:

$$N_2O_5\,(s) + H_2O\,(l) \longrightarrow 2\,HNO_3\,(aq)$$

The nitrogen oxides exhibit extensive oxidation-reduction behavior. Nitrous oxide resembles oxygen in its behavior when heated with combustible substances. N_2O is a strong oxidizing agent that decomposes when heated to form nitrogen and oxygen. Because one-third of the gas liberated is oxygen, nitrous oxide supports combustion better than air (one-fifth oxygen). A glowing splinter bursts into flame when thrust into a bottle of this gas. Nitric oxide acts both as an oxidizing agent and as a reducing agent. For example:

$$\text{oxidizing agent:} \qquad P_4\,(s) + 6\,NO\,(g) \longrightarrow P_4O_6\,(s) + 3\,N_2\,(g)$$

$$[4pt]\text{reducing agent:} \qquad Cl_2\,(g) + 2\,NO\,(g) \longrightarrow 2\,ClNO\,(g)$$

Nitrogen dioxide (or dinitrogen tetraoxide) is a good oxidizing agent. For example:

$$NO_2\,(g) + CO\,(g) \longrightarrow NO\,(g) + CO_2\,(g)$$

$$[4pt]NO_2\,(g) + 2\,HCl\,(aq) \longrightarrow NO\,(g) + Cl_2\,(g) + H_2O\,(l)$$

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7.9: Occurrence, Preparation, and Properties of Phosphorus

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Describe the properties, preparation, and uses of phosphorus

The industrial preparation of phosphorus is by heating calcium phosphate, obtained from phosphate rock, with sand and coke:

$$2\,Ca_3(PO_4)_2\,(s) + 6\,SiO_2\,(s) + 10\,C\,(s) \xrightarrow{\Delta} 6\,CaSiO_3\,(l) + 10\,CO\,(g) + P_4\,(g)$$

The phosphorus distills out of the furnace and is condensed into a solid or burned to form P_4O_{10}. The preparation of many other phosphorus compounds begins with P_4O_{10}. The acids and phosphates are useful as fertilizers and in the chemical industry. Other uses are in the manufacture of special alloys such as ferrophosphorus and phosphor bronze. Phosphorus is important in making pesticides, matches, and some plastics. Phosphorus is an active nonmetal. In compounds, phosphorus usually occurs in oxidation states of 3−, 3+, and 5+. Phosphorus exhibits oxidation numbers that are unusual for a group 15 element in compounds that contain phosphorus-phosphorus bonds; examples include diphosphorus tetrahydride, $H_2P\text{-}PH_2$, and tetraphosphorus trisulfide, P_4S_3, illustrated in Figure 7.9.1.

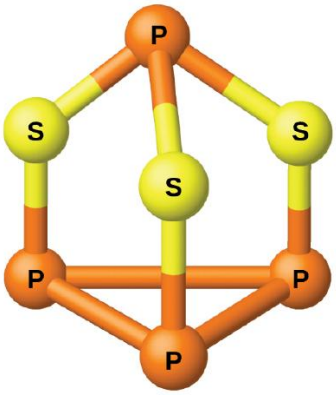


Figure 7.9.1: P_4S_3 is a component of the heads of strike-anywhere matches.

Phosphorus Oxygen Compounds

Phosphorus forms two common oxides, phosphorus(III) oxide (or tetraphosphorus hexaoxide), P_4O_6, and phosphorus(V) oxide (or tetraphosphorus decaoxide), P_4O_{10}, both shown in Figure 7.9.2. Phosphorus(III) oxide is a white crystalline solid with a garlic-like odor. Its vapor is very poisonous. It oxidizes slowly in air and inflames when heated to 70 °C, forming P_4O_{10}. Phosphorus(III) oxide dissolves slowly in cold water to form phosphorous acid, H_3PO_3.

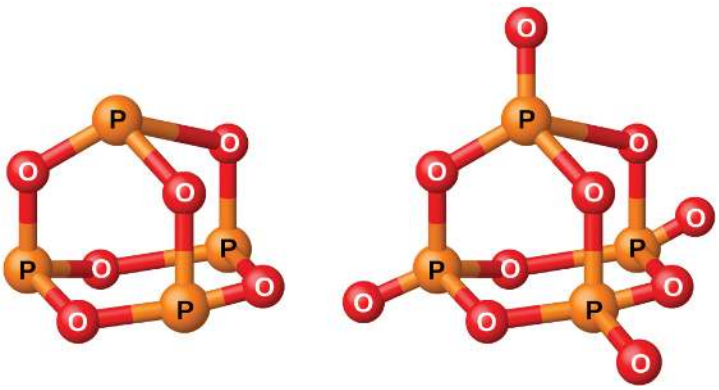


Figure 7.9.2: This image shows the molecular structures of P_4O_6 (left) and P_4O_{10} (right).

Phosphorus(V) oxide, P_4O_{10}, is a white powder that is prepared by burning phosphorus in excess oxygen. Its enthalpy of formation is very high (−2984 kJ), and it is quite stable and a very poor oxidizing agent. Dropping P_4O_{10} into water produces a hissing sound, heat, and orthophosphoric acid:

$$\mathrm{P_4\ O_{10}\,(s) + 6\,H_2O\,(l)\ \longrightarrow 4\,H_3\ PO_4\,(aq)}$$

Because of its great affinity for water, phosphorus(V) oxide is an excellent drying agent for gases and solvents, and for removing water from many compounds.

Phosphorus Halogen Compounds

Phosphorus will react directly with the halogens, forming trihalides, PX_3, and pentahalides, PX_5. The trihalides are much more stable than the corresponding nitrogen trihalides; nitrogen pentahalides do not form because of nitrogen's inability to form more than four bonds.

The chlorides PCl_3 and PCl_5, both shown in Figure 7.9.3: , are the most important halides of phosphorus. Phosphorus trichloride is a colorless liquid that is prepared by passing chlorine over molten phosphorus. Phosphorus pentachloride is an off-white solid that is prepared by oxidizing the trichloride with excess chlorine. The pentachloride sublimes when warmed and forms an equilibrium with the trichloride and chlorine when heated.

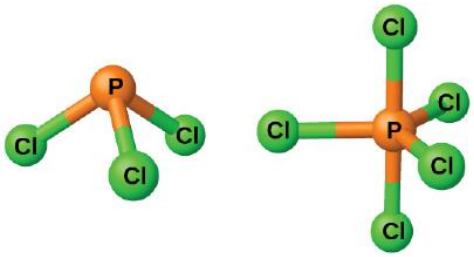


Figure 7.9.3: This image shows the molecular structure of PCl_3 (left) and PCl_5 (right) in the gas phase.

Like most other nonmetal halides, both phosphorus chlorides react with an excess of water and yield hydrogen chloride and an oxyacid: PCl_3 yields phosphorous acid H_3PO_3 and PCl_5 yields phosphoric acid, H_3PO_4.

The pentahalides of phosphorus are Lewis acids because of the empty valence d orbitals of phosphorus. These compounds readily react with halide ions (Lewis bases) to give the anion $\mathrm{PX_6^-}$. Whereas phosphorus pentafluoride is a molecular compound in all states, X-ray studies show that solid phosphorus pentachloride is an ionic compound, $\mathrm{[PCl_4^+][PCl_6^-]}$ as are phosphorus pentabromide, $\mathrm{[PBr_4^+][Br^-]}$, and phosphorus pentaiodide, $\mathrm{[[PI_6^+][I^-]}$.

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7.10: Occurrence, Preparation, and Compounds of Oxygen

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Describe the properties, preparation, and compounds of oxygen
- Describe the preparation, properties, and uses of some representative metal oxides, peroxides, and hydroxides

Oxygen is the most abundant element on the earth's crust. The earth's surface is composed of the crust, atmosphere, and hydrosphere. About 50% of the mass of the earth's crust consists of oxygen (combined with other elements, principally silicon). Oxygen occurs as O_2 molecules and, to a limited extent, as O_3 (ozone) molecules in air. It forms about 20% of the mass of the air. About 89% of water by mass consists of combined oxygen. In combination with carbon, hydrogen, and nitrogen, oxygen is a large part of plants and animals.

Oxygen is a colorless, odorless, and tasteless gas at ordinary temperatures. It is slightly denser than air. Although it is only slightly soluble in water (49 mL of gas dissolves in 1 L at STP), oxygen's solubility is very important to aquatic life.

Most of the oxygen isolated commercially comes from air and the remainder from the electrolysis of water. The separation of oxygen from air begins with cooling and compressing the air until it liquefies. As liquid air warms, oxygen with its higher boiling point (90 K) separates from nitrogen, which has a lower boiling point (77 K). It is possible to separate the other components of air at the same time based on differences in their boiling points.

Oxygen is essential in combustion processes such as the burning of fuels. Plants and animals use the oxygen from the air in respiration. The administration of oxygen-enriched air is an important medical practice when a patient is receiving an inadequate supply of oxygen because of shock, pneumonia, or some other illness.

The chemical industry employs oxygen for oxidizing many substances. A significant amount of oxygen produced commercially is important in the removal of carbon from iron during steel production. Large quantities of pure oxygen are also necessary in metal fabrication and in the cutting and welding of metals with oxyhydrogen and oxyacetylene torches.

Liquid oxygen is important to the space industry. It is an oxidizing agent in rocket engines. It is also the source of gaseous oxygen for life support in space.

As we know, oxygen is very important to life. The energy required for the maintenance of normal body functions in human beings and in other organisms comes from the slow oxidation of chemical compounds. Oxygen is the final oxidizing agent in these reactions. In humans, oxygen passes from the lungs into the blood, where it combines with hemoglobin, producing oxyhemoglobin. In this form, blood transports the oxygen to tissues, where it is transferred to the tissues. The ultimate products are carbon dioxide and water. The blood carries the carbon dioxide through the veins to the lungs, where the blood releases the carbon dioxide and collects another supply of oxygen. Digestion and assimilation of food regenerate the materials consumed by oxidation in the body; the energy liberated is the same as if the food burned outside the body.

Green plants continually replenish the oxygen in the atmosphere by a process called **photosynthesis**. The products of photosynthesis may vary, but, in general, the process converts carbon dioxide and water into glucose (a sugar) and oxygen using the energy of light:

$$\underset{\substack{\text{carbon}\\[4pt]\text{dioxide}}}{6\,CO_2\,(g)} + \underset{\text{water}}{6\,H_2O\,(l)} \xrightarrow[\text{light}]{\text{chlorophyll}} \underset{\text{glucose}}{C_6H_{12}O_6\,(aq)} + \underset{\text{oxygen}}{6\,O_2\,(g)}$$

Thus, the oxygen that became carbon dioxide and water by the metabolic processes in plants and animals returns to the atmosphere by photosynthesis.

When dry oxygen is passed between two electrically charged plates, **ozone** (O_3, illustrated in Figure 7.10.1), an allotrope of oxygen possessing a distinctive odor, forms. The formation of ozone from oxygen is an endothermic reaction, in which the energy comes from an electrical discharge, heat, or ultraviolet light:

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The sharp odor associated with sparking electrical equipment is due, in part, to ozone.

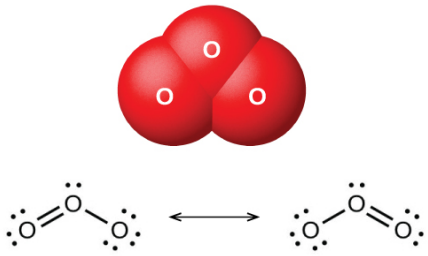


Figure 7.10.1: The image shows the bent ozone (O_3) molecule and the resonance structures necessary to describe its bonding.

Ozone forms naturally in the upper atmosphere by the action of ultraviolet light from the sun on the oxygen there. Most atmospheric ozone occurs in the stratosphere, a layer of the atmosphere extending from about 10 to 50 kilometers above the earth's surface. This ozone acts as a barrier to harmful ultraviolet light from the sun by absorbing it via a chemical decomposition reaction:

$$\mathrm{O_3\,(g)} \xrightarrow{\text{ultraviolet light}} \mathrm{O\,(g) + O_2\,(g)}$$

The reactive oxygen atoms recombine with molecular oxygen to complete the ozone cycle. The presence of stratospheric ozone decreases the frequency of skin cancer and other damaging effects of ultraviolet radiation. It has been clearly demonstrated that chlorofluorocarbons, CFCs (known commercially as Freons), which were present as aerosol propellants in spray cans and as refrigerants, caused depletion of ozone in the stratosphere. This occurred because ultraviolet light also causes CFCs to decompose, producing atomic chlorine. The chlorine atoms react with ozone molecules, resulting in a net removal of O_3 molecules from stratosphere. This process is explored in detail in our coverage of chemical kinetics. There is a worldwide effort to reduce the amount of CFCs used commercially, and the ozone hole is already beginning to decrease in size as atmospheric concentrations of atomic chlorine decrease. While ozone in the stratosphere helps protect us, ozone in the troposphere is a problem. This ozone is a toxic component of photochemical smog.

The uses of ozone depend on its reactivity with other substances. It can be used as a bleaching agent for oils, waxes, fabrics, and starch: It oxidizes the colored compounds in these substances to colorless compounds. It is an alternative to chlorine as a disinfectant for water.

Reactions

Elemental oxygen is a strong oxidizing agent. It reacts with most other elements and many compounds.

Reaction with Elements

Oxygen reacts directly at room temperature or at elevated temperatures with all other elements except the noble gases, the halogens, and few second- and third-row transition metals of low reactivity (those with higher reduction potentials than copper). Rust is an example of the reaction of oxygen with iron. The more active metals form peroxides or superoxides. Less active metals and the nonmetals give oxides. Two examples of these reactions are:

$$\mathrm{2\,Mg\,(s) + O_2\,(g) \longrightarrow 2\,MgO\,(s)}$$

$$[4pt]\mathrm{P_4\,(s) + 5\,O_2\,(g) \longrightarrow P_4O_{10}\,(s)}$$

The oxides of halogens, at least one of the noble gases, and metals with higher reduction potentials than copper do not form by the direct action of the elements with oxygen.

Reaction with Compounds

Elemental oxygen also reacts with some compounds. If it is possible to oxidize any of the elements in a given compound, further oxidation by oxygen can occur. For example, hydrogen sulfide, H_2S, contains sulfur with an oxidation state of $2-$. Because the sulfur does not exhibit its maximum oxidation state, we would expect H_2S to react with oxygen. It does, yielding water and sulfur dioxide. The reaction is:

$$\mathrm{2\,H_2S\,(g) + 3\,O_2\,(g) \longrightarrow 2\,H_2O\,(l) + 2\,SO_2\,(g)}$$

It is also possible to oxidize oxides such as CO and P_4O_6 that contain an element with a lower oxidation state. The ease with which elemental oxygen picks up electrons is mirrored by the difficulty of removing electrons from oxygen in most oxides. Of the elements, only the very reactive fluorine can oxidize oxides to form oxygen gas.

Oxides, Peroxides, and Hydroxides

Compounds of the representative metals with oxygen fall into three categories:

1. **oxides** containing oxide ions, O^{2-},
2. **peroxides** containing peroxides ions, ${O_2}^{2-}$ with oxygen-oxygen covalent single bonds and a very limited number of superoxides, containing superoxide ions, ${O_2}^{-}$ with oxygen-oxygen covalent bonds that have a bond order of $\frac{3}{2}$,
3. **hydroxides** containing hydroxide ions, OH^-. All representative metals form oxides. Some of the metals of group 2 also form peroxides, MO_2, and the metals of group 1 also form peroxides, M_2O_2, and superoxides, MO_2.

Oxides

It is possible to produce the oxides of most representative metals by heating the corresponding hydroxides (forming the oxide and gaseous water) or carbonates (forming the oxide and gaseous CO_2). Equations for example reactions are:

$$2\,Al(OH)_3\,(s) \xrightarrow{\Delta} Al_2O_3\,(s) + 3\,H_2O\,(g)$$

$$[4pt]CaCO_3\,(s) \xrightarrow{\Delta} CaO\,(s) + CO_2\,(g)$$

However, alkali metal salts generally are very stable and do not decompose easily when heated. Alkali metal oxides result from the oxidation-reduction reactions created by heating nitrates or hydroxides with the metals. Equations for sample reactions are:

$$2\,KNO_3\,(s) + 10\,K\,(s) \xrightarrow{\Delta} 6\,K_2O\,(s) + N_2\,(g)$$

$$[4pt]2\,LiOH\,(s) + 2\,Li\,(s) \xrightarrow{\Delta} 2\,Li_2O\,(s) + H_2\,(g)$$

With the exception of mercury(II) oxide, it is possible to produce the oxides of the metals of groups 2–15 by burning the corresponding metal in air. The heaviest member of each group, the member for which the inert pair effect is most pronounced, forms an oxide in which the oxidation state of the metal ion is two less than the group oxidation state (inert pair effect). Thus, Tl_2O, PbO, and Bi_2O_3 form when burning thallium, lead, and bismuth, respectively. The oxides of the lighter members of each group exhibit the group oxidation state. For example, SnO_2 forms from burning tin. Mercury(II) oxide, HgO, forms slowly when mercury is warmed below 500 °C; it decomposes at higher temperatures.

Burning the members of groups 1 and 2 in air is not a suitable way to form the oxides of these elements. These metals are reactive enough to combine with nitrogen in the air, so they form mixtures of oxides and ionic nitrides. Several also form peroxides or superoxides when heated in air.

Ionic oxides all contain the oxide ion, a very powerful hydrogen ion acceptor. With the exception of the very insoluble aluminum oxide, Al_2O_3, tin(IV), SnO_2, and lead(IV), PbO_2, the oxides of the representative metals react with acids to form salts. Some equations for these reactions are:

$$Na_2O + 2\,HNO_3\,(aq) \longrightarrow 2\,NaNO_3\,(aq) + H_2O\,(l)$$

$$[4pt]CaO\,(s) + 2\,HCl\,(aq) \longrightarrow CaCl_2\,(aq) + H_2O\,(l)$$

$$[4pt]SnO\,(s) + 2\,HClO_4\,(aq) \longrightarrow Sn(ClO_4)_2\,(aq) + H_2O\,(l)$$

The oxides of the metals of groups 1 and 2 and of thallium(I) oxide react with water and form hydroxides. Examples of such reactions are:

$$Na_2O\,(s) + H_2O\,(l) \longrightarrow NaOH\,(aq)$$

$$[4pt]CaO\,(s) + H_2O\,(l) \longrightarrow Ca(OH)_2\,(aq)$$

$$[4pt]Tl_2O\,(s) + H_2O\,(aq) \longrightarrow 2\,TlOH\,(aq)$$

The oxides of the alkali metals have little industrial utility, unlike magnesium oxide, calcium oxide, and aluminum oxide. Magnesium oxide is important in making firebrick, crucibles, furnace linings, and thermal insulation—applications that require chemical and thermal stability. Calcium oxide, sometimes called *quicklime* or lime in the industrial market, is very reactive, and its

principal uses reflect its reactivity. Pure calcium oxide emits an intense white light when heated to a high temperature (as illustrated in Figure 7.10.2). Blocks of calcium oxide heated by gas flames were the stage lights in theaters before electricity was available. This is the source of the phrase “in the limelight.”

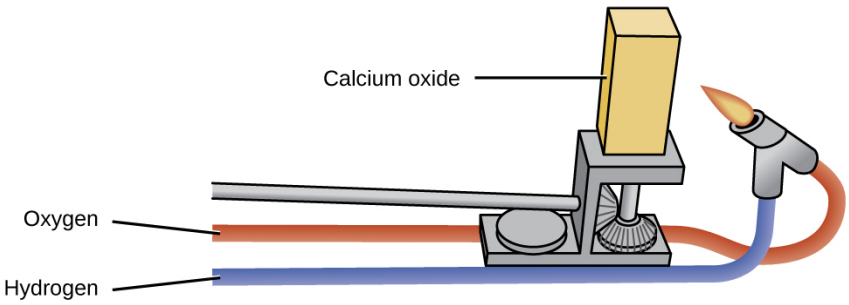


Figure 7.10.2: Calcium oxide has many industrial uses. When it is heated at high temperatures, it emits an intense white light.

Calcium oxide and calcium hydroxide are inexpensive bases used extensively in chemical processing, although most of the useful products prepared from them do not contain calcium. Calcium oxide, CaO, is made by heating calcium carbonate, $CaCO_3$, which is widely and inexpensively available as limestone or oyster shells:

$$CaCO_3\,(s) \longrightarrow CaO\,(s) + CO_2\,(g)$$

Although this decomposition reaction is reversible, it is possible to obtain a 100% yield of CaO by allowing the CO_2 to escape. It is possible to prepare calcium hydroxide by the familiar acid-base reaction of a soluble metal oxide with water:

$$CaO\,(s) + H_2O\,(l) \longrightarrow Ca(OH)_2\,(s)$$

Both CaO and $Ca(OH)_2$ are useful as bases; they accept protons and neutralize acids.

Alumina (Al_2O_3) occurs in nature as the mineral corundum, a very hard substance used as an abrasive for grinding and polishing. Corundum is important to the jewelry trade as ruby and sapphire. The color of ruby is due to the presence of a small amount of chromium; other impurities produce the wide variety of colors possible for sapphires. Artificial rubies and sapphires are now manufactured by melting aluminum oxide (melting point = 2050 °C) with small amounts of oxides to produce the desired colors and cooling the melt in such a way as to produce large crystals. Ruby lasers use synthetic ruby crystals.

Zinc oxide, ZnO, was a useful white paint pigment; however, pollutants tend to discolor the compound. The compound is also important in the manufacture of automobile tires and other rubber goods, and in the preparation of medicinal ointments. For example, zinc-oxide-based sunscreens, as shown in Figure 7.10.3, help prevent sunburn. The zinc oxide in these sunscreens is present in the form of very small grains known as nanoparticles. Lead dioxide is a constituent of charged lead storage batteries. Lead(IV) tends to revert to the more stable lead(II) ion by gaining two electrons, so lead dioxide is a powerful oxidizing agent.



Figure 7.10.3: Zinc oxide protects exposed skin from sunburn. (credit: modification of work by "osseous"/Flickr)

Peroxides and Superoxides

Peroxides and superoxides are strong oxidizers and are important in chemical processes. Hydrogen peroxide, H_2O_2, prepared from metal peroxides, is an important bleach and disinfectant. Peroxides and superoxides form when the metal or metal oxides of groups

1 and 2 react with pure oxygen at elevated temperatures. Sodium peroxide and the peroxides of calcium, strontium, and barium form by heating the corresponding metal or metal oxide in pure oxygen:

$$2\,\mathrm{Na\,(s)} + \mathrm{O_2\,(g)} \xrightarrow{\Delta} \mathrm{Na_2O_2\,(s)}$$

$$[4pt] 2\,\mathrm{Na_2O\,(s)} + \mathrm{O_2\,(g)} \xrightarrow{\Delta} 2\,\mathrm{Na_2O_2\,(s)}$$

$$[4pt] 2\,\mathrm{SrO\,(s)} + \mathrm{O_2\,(g)} \xrightarrow{\Delta} 2\,\mathrm{SrO_2\,(s)}$$

The peroxides of potassium, rubidium, and cesium can be prepared by heating the metal or its oxide in a carefully controlled amount of oxygen:

$$2\,\mathrm{K\,(s)} + \mathrm{O_2\,(g)} \longrightarrow \mathrm{K_2O_2\,(s)} \qquad (2\text{ mol K per mol } \mathrm{O_2})$$

With an excess of oxygen, the superoxides KO_2, RbO_2, and CsO_2 form. For example:

$$\mathrm{K\,(s)} + \mathrm{O_2\,(g)} \longrightarrow \mathrm{KO_2\,(s)} \qquad (1\text{ mol K per mol } \mathrm{O_2})$$

The stability of the peroxides and superoxides of the alkali metals increases as the size of the cation increases.

Hydroxides

Hydroxides are compounds that contain the OH^- ion. It is possible to prepare these compounds by two general types of reactions. Soluble metal hydroxides can be produced by the reaction of the metal or metal oxide with water. Insoluble metal hydroxides form when a solution of a soluble salt of the metal combines with a solution containing hydroxide ions.

With the exception of beryllium and magnesium, the metals of groups 1 and 2 react with water to form hydroxides and hydrogen gas. Examples of such reactions include:

$$2\,\mathrm{Li\,(s)} + 2\,\mathrm{H_2O\,(l)} \longrightarrow 2\,\mathrm{LiOH\,(aq)} + \mathrm{H_2\,(g)}$$

$$[4pt] \mathrm{Ca\,(s)} + 2\,\mathrm{H_2O\,(l)} \longrightarrow \mathrm{Ca\,(\,OH\,)_2\,(aq)} + \mathrm{H_2\,(g)}$$

However, these reactions can be violent and dangerous; therefore, it is preferable to produce soluble metal hydroxides by the reaction of the respective oxide with water:

$$\mathrm{Li_2O\,(s)} + \mathrm{H_2O\,(l)} \longrightarrow 2\,\mathrm{LiOH\,(aq)}$$

$$[4pt] \mathrm{CaO\,(s)} + \mathrm{H_2O\,(l)} \longrightarrow \mathrm{Ca(OH)_2\,(aq)}$$

Most metal oxides are **base anhydrides**. This is obvious for the soluble oxides because they form metal hydroxides. Most other metal oxides are insoluble and do not form hydroxides in water; however, they are still base anhydrides because they will react with acids.

It is possible to prepare the insoluble hydroxides of beryllium, magnesium, and other representative metals by the addition of sodium hydroxide to a solution of a salt of the respective metal. The net ionic equations for the reactions involving a magnesium salt, an aluminum salt, and a zinc salt are:

$$\mathrm{Mg^{2+}\,(aq)} + 2\,\mathrm{OH^-\,(aq)} \longrightarrow \mathrm{Mg(OH)_2\,(s)}$$

$$[4pt] \mathrm{Al^{3+}\,(aq)} + 3\,\mathrm{OH^-\,(aq)} \longrightarrow \mathrm{Al(OH)_3\,(s)}$$

$$[4pt] \mathrm{Zn^{2+}\,(aq)} + 2\,\mathrm{OH^-\,(aq)} \longrightarrow \mathrm{Zn(OH)_2\,(s)}$$

An excess of hydroxide must be avoided when preparing aluminum, gallium, zinc, and tin(II) hydroxides, or the hydroxides will dissolve with the formation of the corresponding complex ions: $\mathrm{Al(OH)_4^-}$, $\mathrm{Ga(OH)_4^-}$, $\mathrm{Zn(OH)_4^{2-}}$, and $\mathrm{Sn(OH)_3^-}$ (Figure 7.10.4). The important aspect of complex ions for this chapter is that they form by a Lewis acid-base reaction with the metal being the Lewis acid.

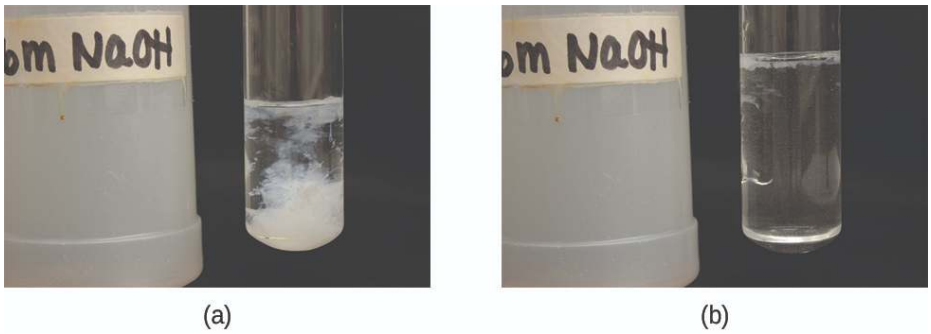


Figure 7.10.4: (a) Mixing solutions of NaOH and $Zn(NO_3)_2$ produces a white precipitate of $Zn(OH)_2$. (b) Addition of an excess of NaOH results in dissolution of the precipitate. (credit: modification of work by Mark Ott)

Industry uses large quantities of sodium hydroxide as a cheap, strong base. Sodium chloride is the starting material for the production of NaOH because NaCl is a less expensive starting material than the oxide. Sodium hydroxide is among the top 10 chemicals in production in the United States, and this production was almost entirely by electrolysis of solutions of sodium chloride. This process is the chlor-alkali process, and it is the primary method for producing chlorine.

Sodium hydroxide is an ionic compound and melts without decomposition. It is very soluble in water, giving off a great deal of heat and forming very basic solutions: 40 grams of sodium hydroxide dissolves in only 60 grams of water at 25 °C. Sodium hydroxide is employed in the production of other sodium compounds and is used to neutralize acidic solutions during the production of other chemicals such as petrochemicals and polymers.

Many of the applications of hydroxides are for the neutralization of acids (such as the antacid shown in Figure 7.10.5) and for the preparation of oxides by thermal decomposition. An aqueous suspension of magnesium hydroxide constitutes the antacid milk of magnesia. Because of its ready availability (from the reaction of water with calcium oxide prepared by the decomposition of limestone, $CaCO_3$), low cost, and activity, calcium hydroxide is used extensively in commercial applications needing a cheap, strong base. The reaction of hydroxides with appropriate acids is also used to prepare salts.



Figure 7.10.5: Calcium carbonate, $CaCO_3$, can be consumed in the form of an antacid to neutralize the effects of acid in your stomach. (credit: "Midnightcomm"/Wikimedia Commons)

Chemistry in Everyday Life: The Chlor-Alkali Process

Although they are very different chemically, there is a link between chlorine and sodium hydroxide because there is an important electrochemical process that produces the two chemicals simultaneously. The process known as the chlor-alkali process, utilizes sodium chloride, which occurs in large deposits in many parts of the world. This is an electrochemical process to oxidize chloride ion to chlorine and generate sodium hydroxide.

Passing a direct current of electricity through a solution of NaCl causes the chloride ions to migrate to the positive electrode where oxidation to gaseous chlorine occurs when the ion gives up an electron to the electrode:

$$2\,Cl^-(aq) \longrightarrow Cl_2(g) + 2\,e^- \qquad \text{(at the positive electrode)}$$

The electrons produced travel through the outside electrical circuit to the negative electrode. Although the positive sodium ions migrate toward this negative electrode, metallic sodium does not form because sodium ions are too difficult to reduce under the conditions used. (Recall that metallic sodium is active enough to react with water and hence, even if produced, would immediately react with water to produce sodium ions again.) Instead, water molecules pick up electrons from the electrode and undergo reduction to form hydrogen gas and hydroxide ions:

$$2\,H_2O\,(l) + 2\,e^-(\text{from the negative electrode}) \longrightarrow H_2\,(g) + 2\,OH^-\,(aq)$$

The overall result is the conversion of the aqueous solution of NaCl to an aqueous solution of NaOH, gaseous Cl_2, and gaseous H_2:

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Nonmetal Oxygen Compounds

Most nonmetals react with oxygen to form nonmetal oxides. Depending on the available oxidation states for the element, a variety of oxides might form. Fluorine will combine with oxygen to form fluorides such as OF_2, where the oxygen has a 2+-oxidation state.

Sulfur Oxygen Compounds

The two common oxides of sulfur are sulfur dioxide, SO_2, and sulfur trioxide, SO_3. The odor of burning sulfur comes from sulfur dioxide. Sulfur dioxide, shown in Figure 7.10.6, occurs in volcanic gases and in the atmosphere near industrial plants that burn fuel containing sulfur compounds.

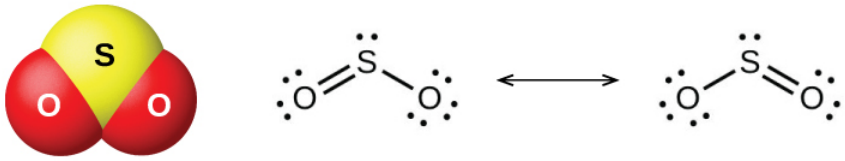


Figure 7.10.6: This image shows the molecular structure (left) and resonance forms (right) of sulfur dioxide.

Commercial production of sulfur dioxide is from either burning sulfur or roasting sulfide ores such as ZnS, FeS_2, and Cu_2S in air. (Roasting, which forms the metal oxide, is the first step in the separation of many metals from their ores.) A convenient method for preparing sulfur dioxide in the laboratory is by the action of a strong acid on either sulfite salts containing the SO_3^{2-} ion or hydrogen sulfite salts containing HSO_3^-. Sulfurous acid, H_2SO_3, forms first, but quickly decomposes into sulfur dioxide and water. Sulfur dioxide also forms when many reducing agents react with hot, concentrated sulfuric acid. Sulfur trioxide forms slowly when heating sulfur dioxide and oxygen together, and the reaction is exothermic:

$$2\,SO_2\,(g) + O_2\,(g) \longrightarrow 2\,SO_3\,(g) \qquad \Delta H^\circ = -197.8kJ$$

Sulfur dioxide is a gas at room temperature, and the SO_2 molecule is bent. Sulfur trioxide melts at 17 °C and boils at 43 °C. In the vapor state, its molecules are single SO_3 units (shown in Figure 7.10.7), but in the solid state, SO_3 exists in several polymeric forms.

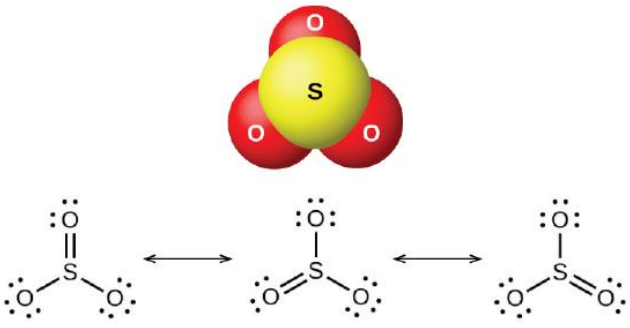


Figure 7.10.7: This image shows the structure (top) of sulfur trioxide in the gas phase and its resonance forms (bottom).

The sulfur oxides react as Lewis acids with many oxides and hydroxides in Lewis acid-base reactions, with the formation of **sulfites** or **hydrogen sulfites**, and **sulfates** or **hydrogen sulfates**, respectively.

Halogen Oxygen Compounds

The halogens do not react directly with oxygen, but it is possible to prepare binary oxygen-halogen compounds by the reactions of the halogens with oxygen-containing compounds. Oxygen compounds with chlorine, bromine, and iodine are oxides because oxygen is the more electronegative element in these compounds. On the other hand, fluorine compounds with oxygen are fluorides because fluorine is the more electronegative element.

As a class, the oxides are extremely reactive and unstable, and their chemistry has little practical importance. Dichlorine oxide, formally called dichlorine monoxide, and chlorine dioxide, both shown in Figure 7.10.8, are the only commercially important compounds. They are important as bleaching agents (for use with pulp and flour) and for water treatment.

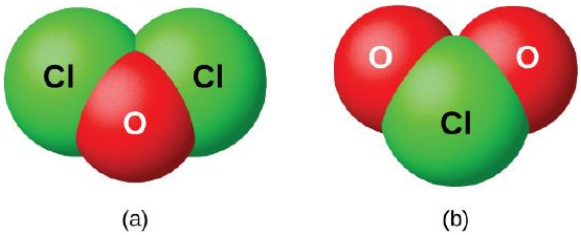


Figure 7.10.8: This image shows the structures of the (a) Cl_2O and (b) ClO_2 molecules.

Nonmetal Oxyacids and Their Salts

Nonmetal oxides form acids when allowed to react with water; these are acid anhydrides. The resulting oxyanions can form salts with various metal ions.

Nitrogen Oxyacids and Salts

Nitrogen pentaoxide, N_2O_5, and NO_2 react with water to form nitric acid, HNO_3. Alchemists, as early as the eighth century, knew nitric acid (shown in Figure 7.10.9) as *aqua fortis* (meaning "strong water"). The acid was useful in the separation of gold from silver because it dissolves silver but not gold. Traces of nitric acid occur in the atmosphere after thunderstorms, and its salts are widely distributed in nature. There are tremendous deposits of Chile saltpeter, $NaNO_3$, in the desert region near the boundary of Chile and Peru. Bengal saltpeter, KNO_3, occurs in India and in other countries of the Far East.

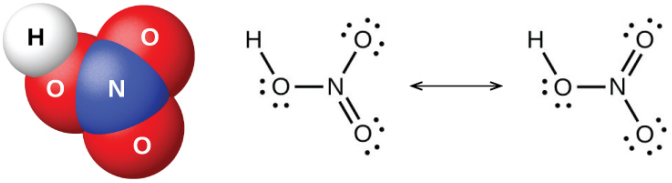


Figure 7.10.9: This image shows the molecular structure (left) of nitric acid, HNO_3 and its resonance forms (right).

In the laboratory, it is possible to produce nitric acid by heating a nitrate salt (such as sodium or potassium nitrate) with concentrated sulfuric acid:

$$NaNO_3\,(s) + H_2SO_4\,(l) \xrightarrow{\Delta} NaHSO_4\,(s) + HNO_3\,(g)$$

The **Ostwald process** is the commercial method for producing nitric acid. This process involves the oxidation of ammonia to nitric oxide, NO; oxidation of nitric oxide to nitrogen dioxide, NO_2; and further oxidation and hydration of nitrogen dioxide to form nitric acid:

$$4\,NH_3\,(g) + 5\,O_2\,(g) \longrightarrow 4\,NO\,(g) + 6\,H_2O\,(g)$$
$$[4pt]2\,NO\,(g) + O_2\,(g) \longrightarrow 2\,NO_2\,(g)$$
$$[4pt]3\,NO_2\,(g) + H_2O\,(l) \longrightarrow 2\,HNO_3\,(aq) + NO\,(g)$$

Or

$$4\,NO_2\,(g) + O_2\,(g) + 2\,H_2O\,(g) \longrightarrow 4\,HNO_3\,(l)$$

Pure nitric acid is a colorless liquid. However, it is often yellow or brown in color because NO_2 forms as the acid decomposes. Nitric acid is stable in aqueous solution; solutions containing 68% of the acid are commercially available concentrated nitric acid. It

is both a strong oxidizing agent and a strong acid.

The action of nitric acid on a metal rarely produces H_2 (by reduction of H^+) in more than small amounts. Instead, the reduction of nitrogen occurs. The products formed depend on the concentration of the acid, the activity of the metal, and the temperature. Normally, a mixture of nitrates, nitrogen oxides, and various reduction products form. Less active metals such as copper, silver, and lead reduce concentrated nitric acid primarily to nitrogen dioxide. The reaction of dilute nitric acid with copper produces NO. In each case, the nitrate salts of the metals crystallize upon evaporation of the resultant solutions.

Nonmetallic elements, such as sulfur, carbon, iodine, and phosphorus, undergo oxidation by concentrated nitric acid to their oxides or oxyacids, with the formation of NO_2:

$$\mathrm{S\,(s) + 6\,HNO_3\,(aq) \longrightarrow H_2SO_4\,(aq) + 6\,NO_2\,(g) + 2\,H_2O\,(l)}$$

$$[4pt]\mathrm{C\,(s) + 4\,HNO_3\,(aq) \longrightarrow CO_2\,(g) + 4\,NO_2\,(g) + 2\,H_2O\,(l)}$$

Nitric acid oxidizes many compounds; for example, concentrated nitric acid readily oxidizes hydrochloric acid to chlorine and chlorine dioxide. A mixture of one part concentrated nitric acid and three parts concentrated hydrochloric acid (called *aqua regia*, which means royal water) reacts vigorously with metals. This mixture is particularly useful in dissolving gold, platinum, and other metals that are more difficult to oxidize than hydrogen. A simplified equation to represent the action of *aqua regia* on gold is:

$$\mathrm{Au\,(s) + 4\,HCl\,(aq) + 3\,HNO_3\,(aq) \longrightarrow HAuCl_4\,(aq) + 3\,NO_2\,(g) + 3\,H_2O\,(l)}$$

Link to Learning

Although gold is generally unreactive, you can watch a video of the complex mixture of compounds present in *aqua regia* dissolving it into solution.

Nitrates, salts of nitric acid, form when metals, oxides, hydroxides, or carbonates react with nitric acid. Most nitrates are soluble in water; indeed, one of the significant uses of nitric acid is to prepare soluble metal nitrates.

Nitric acid finds extensive use in the laboratory and in chemical industries as a strong acid and strong oxidizing agent. It is important in the manufacture of explosives, dyes, plastics, and drugs. Salts of nitric acid (nitrates) are valuable as fertilizers. Gunpowder is a mixture of potassium nitrate, sulfur, and charcoal.

The reaction of N_2O_3 with water gives a pale blue solution of nitrous acid, HNO_2. However, HNO_2 (shown in Figure 7.10.10) is easier to prepare by the addition of an acid to a solution of nitrite; nitrous acid is a weak acid, so the nitrite ion is basic in aqueous solution:

$$\mathrm{{NO_2}^-\,(aq) + {H_3O}^+\,(aq) \longrightarrow HNO_2\,(aq) + H_2O\,(l)}$$

Nitrous acid is very unstable and exists only in solution. It disproportionates slowly at room temperature (rapidly when heated) into nitric acid and nitric oxide. Nitrous acid is an active oxidizing agent with strong reducing agents, and strong oxidizing agents oxidize it to nitric acid.

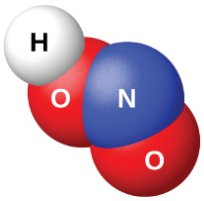


Figure 7.10.10: This image shows the molecular structure of a molecule of nitrous acid, HNO_2.

Sodium nitrite, $NaNO_2$, is an additive to meats such as hot dogs and cold cuts. The nitrite ion has two functions. It limits the growth of bacteria that can cause food poisoning, and it prolongs the meat's retention of its red color. The addition of sodium nitrite to meat products is controversial because nitrous acid reacts with certain organic compounds to form a class of compounds known as nitrosamines. Nitrosamines produce cancer in laboratory animals. This has prompted the FDA to limit the amount of $NaNO_2$ in foods.

The nitrites are much more stable than the acid, but nitrites, like nitrates, can explode. Nitrites, like nitrates, are also soluble in water ($AgNO_2$ is only slightly soluble).

Phosphorus Oxyacids and Salts

Pure orthophosphoric acid, H_3PO_4 (shown in Figure 7.10.11), forms colorless, deliquescent crystals that melt at 42 °C. The common name of this compound is phosphoric acid, and is commercially available as a viscous 82% solution known as syrupy phosphoric acid. One use of phosphoric acid is as an additive to many soft drinks.

One commercial method of preparing orthophosphoric acid is to treat calcium phosphate rock with concentrated sulfuric acid:

$$Ca_3(PO_4)_2\,(s) + 3\,H_2SO_4\,(aq) \longrightarrow 2\,H_3PO_4\,(aq) + 3\,CaSO_4\,(s)$$

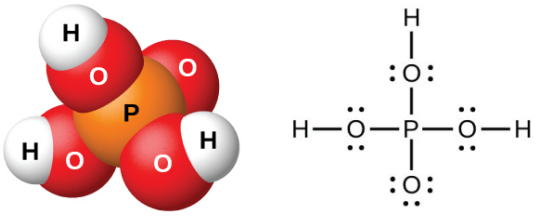


Figure 7.10.11: Orthophosphoric acid, H_3PO_4, is colorless when pure and has this molecular (left) and Lewis structure (right).

Dilution of the products with water, followed by filtration to remove calcium sulfate, gives a dilute acid solution contaminated with calcium dihydrogen phosphate, $Ca(H_2PO_4)_2$, and other compounds associated with calcium phosphate rock. It is possible to prepare pure orthophosphoric acid by dissolving P_4O_{10} in water.

The action of water on P_4O_6, PCl_3, PBr_3, or PI_3 forms phosphorous acid, H_3PO_3 (shown in Figure 7.10.12). The best method for preparing pure phosphorous acid is by hydrolyzing phosphorus trichloride:

$$PCl_3\,(l) + 3\,H_2O\,(l) \longrightarrow H_3\ PO_3\,(aq) + 3\,HCl\,(g)$$

Heating the resulting solution expels the hydrogen chloride and leads to the evaporation of water. When sufficient water evaporates, white crystals of phosphorous acid will appear upon cooling. The crystals are deliquescent, very soluble in water, and have an odor like that of garlic. The solid melts at 70.1 °C and decomposes at about 200 °C by disproportionation into phosphine and orthophosphoric acid:

$$4\,H_3PO_3\,(l) \longrightarrow PH_3\,(g) + 3\,H_3\ PO_4\,(l)$$

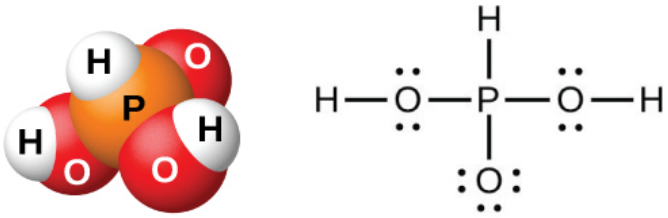


Figure 7.10.12: In a molecule of phosphorous acid, H_3PO_3, only the two hydrogen atoms bonded to an oxygen atom are acidic.

Phosphorous acid forms only two series of salts, which contain the dihydrogen phosphite ion, $H_2PO_3^-$, or the hydrogen phosphate ion, HPO_3^{2-} respectively. It is not possible to replace the third atom of hydrogen because it is not very acidic, as it is not easy to ionize the P-H bond.

Sulfur Oxyacids and Salts

The preparation of sulfuric acid, H_2SO_4 (shown in Figure 7.10.13), begins with the oxidation of sulfur to sulfur trioxide and then converting the trioxide to sulfuric acid. Pure sulfuric acid is a colorless, oily liquid that freezes at 10.5 °C. It fumes when heated because the acid decomposes to water and sulfur trioxide. The heating process causes the loss of more sulfur trioxide than water, until reaching a concentration of 98.33% acid. Acid of this concentration boils at 338 °C without further change in concentration (a constant boiling solution) and is commercially concentrated H_2SO_4. The amount of sulfuric acid used in industry exceeds that of any other manufactured compound.

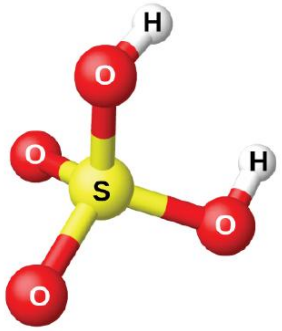


Figure 7.10.13: Sulfuric acid has a tetrahedral molecular structure.

The strong affinity of concentrated sulfuric acid for water makes it a good dehydrating agent. It is possible to dry gases and immiscible liquids that do not react with the acid by passing them through the acid.

Sulfuric acid is a strong diprotic acid that ionizes in two stages. In aqueous solution, the first stage is essentially complete. The secondary ionization is not nearly so complete, and HSO_4^- is a moderately strong acid (about 25% ionized in solution of a HSO_4^- salt (Extra close brace or missing open brace).

Being a diprotic acid, sulfuric acid forms both sulfates, such as Na_2SO_4, and hydrogen sulfates, such as $NaHSO_4$. Most sulfates are soluble in water; however, the sulfates of barium, strontium, calcium, and lead are only slightly soluble in water.

Among the important sulfates are $Na_2SO_4 \cdot 10H_2O$ and Epsom salts, $MgSO_4 \cdot 7H_2O$. Because theHSO_4^- ion is an acid, hydrogen sulfates, such as $NaHSO_4$, exhibit acidic behavior, and this compound is the primary ingredient in some household cleansers.

Hot, concentrated sulfuric acid is an oxidizing agent. Depending on its concentration, the temperature, and the strength of the reducing agent, sulfuric acid oxidizes many compounds and, in the process, undergoes reduction to SO_2, HSO_3^-, SO_3^{2-}, S, H_2S, or S^{2-}.

Sulfur dioxide dissolves in water to form a solution of sulfurous acid, as expected for the oxide of a nonmetal. Sulfurous acid is unstable, and it is not possible to isolate anhydrous H_2SO_3. Heating a solution of sulfurous acid expels the sulfur dioxide. Like other diprotic acids, sulfurous acid ionizes in two steps: The hydrogen sulfite ion, HSO_3^- and the sulfite ion, SO_3^{2-}, form. Sulfurous acid is a moderately strong acid. Ionization is about 25% in the first stage, but it is much less in the second ($K_{a1} = 1.2 \times 10^{-2}$ and $K_{a2} = 6.2 \times 10^{-8}$).

In order to prepare solid sulfite and hydrogen sulfite salts, it is necessary to add a stoichiometric amount of a base to a sulfurous acid solution and then evaporate the water. These salts also form from the reaction of SO_2 with oxides and hydroxides. Heating solid sodium hydrogen sulfite forms sodium sulfite, sulfur dioxide, and water:

$$2\,NaHSO_3\,(s) \xrightarrow{\Delta} Na_2SO_3\,(s) + SO_2\,(g) + H_2O\,(l)$$

Strong oxidizing agents can oxidize sulfurous acid. Oxygen in the air oxidizes it slowly to the more stable sulfuric acid:

$$2\,H_2\ SO_3\,(aq) + O_2\,(g) + 2\,H_2O\,(l) \xrightarrow{\Delta} 2\,H_3O^+\,(aq) + 2\,HSO_4^-\,(aq)$$

Solutions of sulfites are also very susceptible to air oxidation to produce sulfates. Thus, solutions of sulfites always contain sulfates after exposure to air.

Halogen Oxyacids and Their Salts

The compounds HXO, HXO_2, HXO_3, and HXO_4, where X represents Cl, Br, or I, are the hypohalous, halous, halic, and perhalic acids, respectively. The strengths of these acids increase from the hypohalous acids, which are very weak acids, to the perhalic acids, which are very strong. Table 7.10.1 lists the known acids, and, where known, their pK_a values are given in parentheses.

Table 7.10.1: Oxyacids of the Halogens

Name	Fluorine	Chlorine	Bromine	Iodine
hypohalous	HOF	HOCl (7.5)	HOBr (8.7)	HOI (11)
halous		$HClO_2$ (2.0)		
halic		$HClO_3$	$HBrO_3$	HIO_3 (0.8)
perhalic		$HClO_4$	$HBrO_4$	HIO_4 (1.6)
paraperhalic				H_5IO_6 (1.6)

The only known oxyacid of fluorine is the very unstable hypofluorous acid, HOF, which is prepared by the reaction of gaseous fluorine with ice:

$$F_2\,(g) + H_2O\,(s) \longrightarrow HOF\,(g) + HF\,(g)$$

The compound is very unstable and decomposes above −40 °C. This compound does not ionize in water, and there are no known salts. It is uncertain whether the name hypofluorous acid is even appropriate for HOF; a more appropriate name might be hydrogen hypofluorite.

The reactions of chlorine and bromine with water are analogous to that of fluorine with ice, but these reactions do not go to completion, and mixtures of the halogen and the respective hypohalous and hydrohalic acids result. Other than HOF, the hypohalous acids only exist in solution. The hypohalous acids are all very weak acids; however, HOCl is a stronger acid than HOBr, which, in turn, is stronger than HOI.

The addition of base to solutions of the hypohalous acids produces solutions of salts containing the basic hypohalite ions, OX^-. It is possible to isolate these salts as solids. All of the hypohalites are unstable with respect to disproportionation in solution, but the reaction is slow for hypochlorite. Hypobromite and hypoiodite disproportionate rapidly, even in the cold:

$$3\,XO^-\,(aq) \longrightarrow 2\,X^-\,(aq) + XO_3{}^-\,(aq)$$

Sodium hypochlorite is an inexpensive bleach (Clorox) and germicide. The commercial preparation involves the electrolysis of cold, dilute, aqueous sodium chloride solutions under conditions where the resulting chlorine and hydroxide ion can react. The net reaction is:

$$Cl^-\,(aq) + H_2O\,(l) \xrightarrow{\text{electrical energy}} ClO^-\,(aq) + H_2\,(g)$$

The only definitely known halous acid is chlorous acid, $HClO_2$, obtained by the reaction of barium chlorite with dilute sulfuric acid:

$$Ba\,(ClO_2)_2\,(aq) + H_2\,SO_4\,(aq) \longrightarrow BaSO_4\,(s) + 2\,HClO_2\,(aq)$$

Filtering the insoluble barium sulfate leaves a solution of $HClO_2$. Chlorous acid is not stable; it slowly decomposes in solution to yield chlorine dioxide, hydrochloric acid, and water. Chlorous acid reacts with bases to give salts containing the chlorite ion (shown in Figure 7.10.14). Sodium chlorite finds an extensive application in the bleaching of paper because it is a strong oxidizing agent and does not damage the paper.

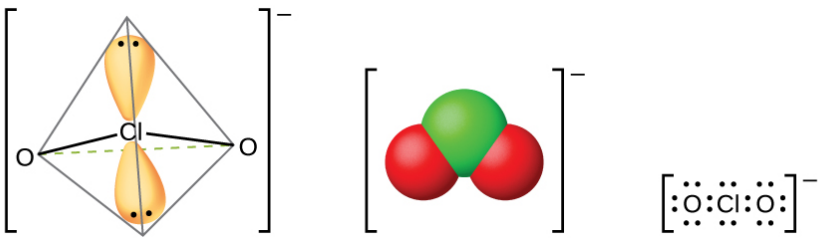


Figure 7.10.14: Chlorite ions, are produced when chlorous acid reacts with bases.

Chloric acid, $HClO_3$, and bromic acid, $HBrO_3$, are stable only in solution. The reaction of iodine with concentrated nitric acid produces stable white iodic acid, HIO_3:

$$I_2\,(s) + 10\,HNO_3\,(aq) \longrightarrow 2\,HIO_3\,(s) + 10\,NO_2\,(g) + 4\,H_2O\,(l)$$

It is possible to obtain the lighter halic acids from their barium salts by reaction with dilute sulfuric acid. The reaction is analogous to that used to prepare chlorous acid. All of the halic acids are strong acids and very active oxidizing agents. The acids react with bases to form salts containing chlorate ions (shown in Figure 7.10.15). Another preparative method is the electrochemical oxidation of a hot solution of a metal halide to form the appropriate metal chlorates. Sodium chlorate is a weed killer; potassium chlorate is used as an oxidizing agent.

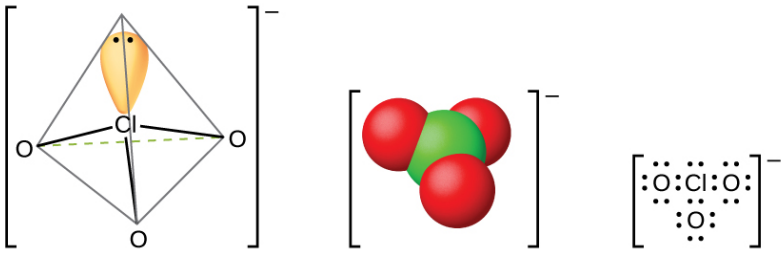


Figure 7.10.15: Chlorate ions, are produced when halic acids react with bases.

Perchloric acid, $HClO_4$, forms when treating a perchlorate, such as potassium perchlorate, with sulfuric acid under reduced pressure. The $HClO_4$ can be distilled from the mixture:

$$KClO_4\,(s) + H_2\ SO_4\,(aq) \longrightarrow HClO_4\,(g) + KHSO_4\,(s)$$

Dilute aqueous solutions of perchloric acid are quite stable thermally, but concentrations above 60% are unstable and dangerous. Perchloric acid and its salts are powerful oxidizing agents, as the very electronegative chlorine is more stable in a lower oxidation state than 7+. Serious explosions have occurred when heating concentrated solutions with easily oxidized substances. However, its reactions as an oxidizing agent are slow when perchloric acid is cold and dilute. The acid is among the strongest of all acids. Most salts containing the perchlorate ion (shown in Figure 7.10.16) are soluble. It is possible to prepare them from reactions of bases with perchloric acid and, commercially, by the electrolysis of hot solutions of their chlorides.

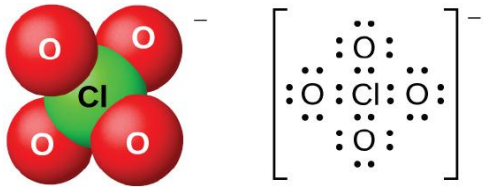


Figure 7.10.16: Perchlorate ions, can be produced when perchloric acid reacts with a base or by electrolysis of hot solutions of their chlorides.

Perbromate salts are difficult to prepare, and the best syntheses currently involve the oxidation of bromates in basic solution with fluorine gas followed by acidification. There are few, if any, commercial uses of this acid or its salts.

There are several different acids containing iodine in the 7+-oxidation state; they include metaperiodic acid, HIO_4, and paraperiodic acid, H_5IO_6. These acids are strong oxidizing agents and react with bases to form the appropriate salts.

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7.11: Occurrence, Preparation, and Properties of Sulfur

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Describe the properties, preparation, and uses of sulfur

Sulfur exists in nature as elemental deposits as well as sulfides of iron, zinc, lead, and copper, and sulfates of sodium, calcium, barium, and magnesium. Hydrogen sulfide is often a component of natural gas and occurs in many volcanic gases, like those shown in Figure 7.11.1. Sulfur is a constituent of many proteins and is essential for life.



Figure 7.11.1: Volcanic gases contain hydrogen sulfide. (credit: Daniel Julie/Wikimedia Commons)

The Frasch process, illustrated in Figure 7.11.2: , is important in the mining of free sulfur from enormous underground deposits in Texas and Louisiana. Superheated water (170 °C and 10 atm pressure) is forced down the outermost of three concentric pipes to the underground deposit. The hot water melts the sulfur. The innermost pipe conducts compressed air into the liquid sulfur. The air forces the liquid sulfur, mixed with air, to flow up through the outlet pipe. Transferring the mixture to large settling vats allows the solid sulfur to separate upon cooling. This sulfur is 99.5% to 99.9% pure and requires no purification for most uses.

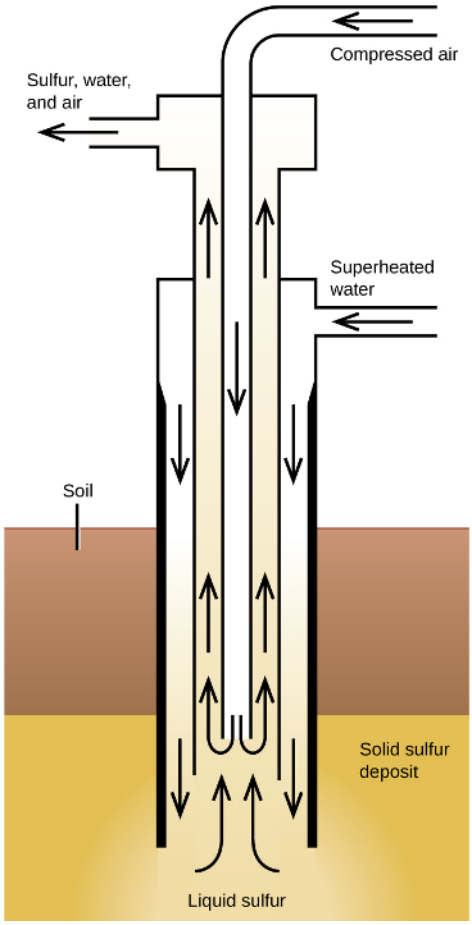


Figure 7.11.2: The Frasch process is used to mine sulfur from underground deposits.

Larger amounts of sulfur also come from hydrogen sulfide recovered during the purification of natural gas.

Sulfur exists in several allotropic forms. The stable form at room temperature contains eight-membered rings, and so the true formula is S_8. However, chemists commonly use S to simplify the coefficients in chemical equations; we will follow this practice in this book.

Like oxygen, which is also a member of group 16, sulfur exhibits a distinctly nonmetallic behavior. It oxidizes metals, giving a variety of binary sulfides in which sulfur exhibits a negative oxidation state (2−). Elemental sulfur oxidizes less electronegative nonmetals, and more electronegative nonmetals, such as oxygen and the halogens, will oxidize it. Other strong oxidizing agents also oxidize sulfur. For example, concentrated nitric acid oxidizes sulfur to the sulfate ion, with the concurrent formation of nitrogen(IV) oxide:

$$\mathrm{S\,(s) + 6\,HNO_3\,(aq) \longrightarrow 2\,H_3O^+\,(aq) + {SO_4}^{2-}\,(aq) + 6\,NO_2\,(g)}$$

The chemistry of sulfur with an oxidation state of 2− is similar to that of oxygen. Unlike oxygen, however, sulfur forms many compounds in which it exhibits positive oxidation states.

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7.12: Occurrence, Preparation, and Properties of Halogens

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Describe the preparation, properties, and uses of halogens
- Describe the properties, preparation, and uses of halogen compounds

The elements in group 17 are the halogens. These are the elements fluorine, chlorine, bromine, iodine, and astatine. These elements are too reactive to occur freely in nature, but their compounds are widely distributed. Chlorides are the most abundant; although fluorides, bromides, and iodides are less common, they are reasonably available. In this section, we will examine the occurrence, preparation, and properties of halogens. Next, we will examine halogen compounds with the representative metals followed by an examination of the interhalogens. This section will conclude with some applications of halogens.

Occurrence and Preparation

All of the halogens occur in seawater as halide ions. The concentration of the chloride ion is 0.54 *M*; that of the other halides is less than 10^{-4} *M*. Fluoride also occurs in minerals such as CaF_2, $Ca(PO_4)_3F$, and Na_3AlF_6. Chloride also occurs in the Great Salt Lake and the Dead Sea, and in extensive salt beds that contain NaCl, KCl, or $MgCl_2$. Part of the chlorine in your body is present as hydrochloric acid, which is a component of stomach acid. Bromine compounds occur in the Dead Sea and underground brines. Iodine compounds are found in small quantities in Chile saltpeter, underground brines, and sea kelp. Iodine is essential to the function of the thyroid gland.

The best sources of halogens (except iodine) are halide salts. It is possible to oxidize the halide ions to free diatomic halogen molecules by various methods, depending on the ease of oxidation of the halide ion. Fluoride is the most difficult to oxidize, whereas iodide is the easiest.

The major method for preparing fluorine is electrolytic oxidation. The most common electrolysis procedure is to use a molten mixture of potassium hydrogen fluoride, KHF_2, and anhydrous hydrogen fluoride. Electrolysis causes HF to decompose, forming fluorine gas at the anode and hydrogen at the cathode. It is necessary to keep the two gases separated to prevent their explosive recombination to reform hydrogen fluoride.

Most commercial chlorine comes from the electrolysis of the chloride ion in aqueous solutions of sodium chloride; this is the chlor-alkali process discussed previously. Chlorine is also a product of the electrolytic production of metals such as sodium, calcium, and magnesium from their fused chlorides. It is also possible to prepare chlorine by the chemical oxidation of the chloride ion in acid solution with strong oxidizing agents such as manganese dioxide (MnO_2) or sodium dichromate ($Na_2Cr_2O_7$). The reaction with manganese dioxide is:

$$MnO_2(s) + 2\,Cl^-(aq) + 4\,H_3O^+(aq) \longrightarrow Mn^{2+}(aq) + Cl_2(g) + 6\,H_2O(l)$$

The commercial preparation of bromine involves the oxidation of bromide ion by chlorine:

$$2\,Br^-(aq) + Cl_2(g) \longrightarrow Br_2(l) + 2\,Cl^-(aq)$$

Chlorine is a stronger oxidizing agent than bromine. This method is important for the production of essentially all domestic bromine.

Some iodine comes from the oxidation of iodine chloride, ICl, or iodic acid, HIO_3. The commercial preparation of iodine utilizes the reduction of sodium iodate, $NaIO_3$, an impurity in deposits of Chile saltpeter, with sodium hydrogen sulfite:

$$2\,IO_3^-(aq) + 5\,HSO_3^-(aq) \longrightarrow 3\,HSO_4^-(aq) + 2\,SO_4^{2-}(aq) + H_2O(l) + I_2(s)$$

Properties of the Halogens

Fluorine is a pale yellow gas, chlorine is a greenish-yellow gas, bromine is a deep reddish-brown liquid, and iodine is a grayish-black crystalline solid. Liquid bromine has a high vapor pressure, and the reddish vapor is readily visible in Figure 7.12.1. Iodine

crystals have a noticeable vapor pressure. When gently heated, these crystals sublime and form a beautiful deep violet vapor.

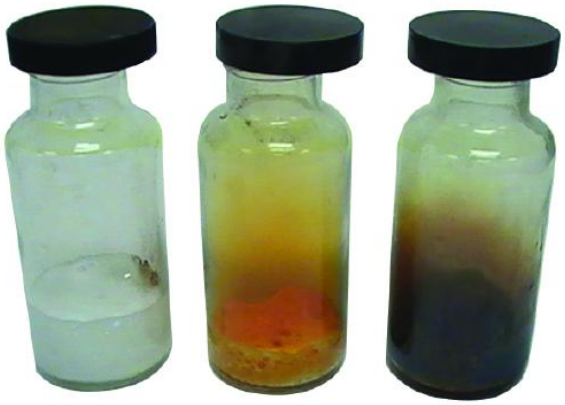


Figure 7.12.1: Chlorine is a pale yellow-green gas (left), gaseous bromine is deep orange (center), and gaseous iodine is purple (right). (Fluorine is so reactive that it is too dangerous to handle.) (credit: Sahar Atwa)

Bromine is only slightly soluble in water, but it is miscible in all proportions in less polar (or nonpolar) solvents such as chloroform, carbon tetrachloride, and carbon disulfide, forming solutions that vary from yellow to reddish-brown, depending on the concentration.

Iodine is soluble in chloroform, carbon tetrachloride, carbon disulfide, and many hydrocarbons, giving violet solutions of I_2 molecules. Iodine dissolves only slightly in water, giving brown solutions. It is quite soluble in aqueous solutions of iodides, with which it forms brown solutions. These brown solutions result because iodine molecules have empty valence *d* orbitals and can act as weak Lewis acids towards the iodide ion. The equation for the reversible reaction of iodine (Lewis acid) with the iodide ion (Lewis base) to form triiodide ion, is:

$$\mathrm{I_2\,(s) + I^-\,(aq) \longrightarrow I_3^-\,(aq)}$$

The easier it is to oxidize the halide ion, the more difficult it is for the halogen to act as an oxidizing agent. Fluorine generally oxidizes an element to its highest oxidation state, whereas the heavier halogens may not. For example, when excess fluorine reacts with sulfur, SF_6 forms. Chlorine gives SCl_2 and bromine, S_2Br_2. Iodine does not react with sulfur.

Fluorine is the most powerful oxidizing agent of the known elements. It spontaneously oxidizes most other elements; therefore, the reverse reaction, the oxidation of fluorides, is very difficult to accomplish. Fluorine reacts directly and forms binary fluorides with all of the elements except the lighter noble gases (He, Ne, and Ar). Fluorine is such a strong oxidizing agent that many substances ignite on contact with it. Drops of water inflame in fluorine and form O_2, OF_2, H_2O_2, O_3, and HF. Wood and asbestos ignite and burn in fluorine gas. Most hot metals burn vigorously in fluorine. However, it is possible to handle fluorine in copper, iron, or nickel containers because an adherent film of the fluoride salt passivates their surfaces. Fluorine is the only element that reacts directly with the noble gas xenon.

Although it is a strong oxidizing agent, chlorine is less active than fluorine. Mixing chlorine and hydrogen in the dark makes the reaction between them to be imperceptibly slow. Exposure of the mixture to light causes the two to react explosively. Chlorine is also less active towards metals than fluorine, and oxidation reactions usually require higher temperatures. Molten sodium ignites in chlorine. Chlorine attacks most nonmetals (C, N_2, and O_2 are notable exceptions), forming covalent molecular compounds. Chlorine generally reacts with compounds that contain only carbon and hydrogen (hydrocarbons) by adding to multiple bonds or by substitution.

In cold water, chlorine undergoes a disproportionation reaction:

$$\mathrm{Cl_2\,(aq) + 2\,H_2O\,(l) \longrightarrow HOCl\,(aq) + H_3O^+\,(aq) + Cl^-\,(aq)}$$

Half the chlorine atoms oxidize to the 1+ oxidation state (hypochlorous acid), and the other half reduce to the 1− oxidation state (chloride ion). This disproportionation is incomplete, so chlorine water is an equilibrium mixture of chlorine molecules, hypochlorous acid molecules, hydronium ions, and chloride ions. When exposed to light, this solution undergoes a photochemical decomposition:

$$2\,HOCl\,(aq) + 2\,H_2O\,(l) \xrightarrow{\text{sunlight}} 2\,H_3O^+\,(aq) + 2\,Cl^-\,(aq) + O_2\,(g)$$

The nonmetal chlorine is more electronegative than any other element except fluorine, oxygen, and nitrogen. In general, very electronegative elements are good oxidizing agents; therefore, we would expect elemental chlorine to oxidize all of the other elements except for these three (and the nonreactive noble gases). Its oxidizing property, in fact, is responsible for its principal use. For example, phosphorus(V) chloride, an important intermediate in the preparation of insecticides and chemical weapons, is manufactured by oxidizing the phosphorus with chlorine:

$$P_4\,(s) + 10\,Cl_2\,(g) \longrightarrow 4\,PCl_5\,(l)$$

A great deal of chlorine is also used to oxidize, and thus to destroy, organic or biological materials in water purification and in bleaching.

The chemical properties of bromine are similar to those of chlorine, although bromine is the weaker oxidizing agent and its reactivity is less than that of chlorine.

Iodine is the least reactive of the halogens. It is the weakest oxidizing agent, and the iodide ion is the most easily oxidized halide ion. Iodine reacts with metals, but heating is often required. It does not oxidize other halide ions.

Compared with the other halogens, iodine reacts only slightly with water. Traces of iodine in water react with a mixture of starch and iodide ion, forming a deep blue color. This reaction is a very sensitive test for the presence of iodine in water.

Halides of the Representative Metals

Thousands of salts of the representative metals have been prepared. The binary halides are an important subclass of salts. A salt is an ionic compound composed of cations and anions, other than hydroxide or oxide ions. In general, it is possible to prepare these salts from the metals or from oxides, hydroxides, or carbonates. We will illustrate the general types of reactions for preparing salts through reactions used to prepare binary halides.

The binary compounds of a metal with the halogens are the **halides**. Most binary halides are ionic. However, mercury, the elements of group 13 with oxidation states of 3+, tin(IV), and lead(IV) form covalent binary halides.

The direct reaction of a metal and a halogen produce the halide of the metal. Examples of these oxidation-reduction reactions include:

$$Cd\,(s) + Cl_2\,(g) \longrightarrow CdCl_2\,(s)$$

$$[4pt]2\,Ga\,(l) + 3\,Br_2\,(l) \longrightarrow 2\,GaBr_3\,(s)$$

Link to Learning

Reactions of the alkali metals with elemental halogens are very exothermic and often quite violent. Under controlled conditions, they provide exciting demonstrations for budding students of chemistry. You can view the initial heating of the sodium that removes the coating of sodium hydroxide, sodium peroxide, and residual mineral oil to expose the reactive surface. The reaction with chlorine gas then proceeds very nicely.

If a metal can exhibit two oxidation states, it may be necessary to control the stoichiometry in order to obtain the halide with the lower oxidation state. For example, preparation of tin(II) chloride requires a 1:1 ratio of Sn to Cl_2, whereas preparation of tin(IV) chloride requires a 1:2 ratio:

$$Sn\,(s) + Cl_2\,(g) \longrightarrow SnCl_2\,(s)$$

$$[4pt]Sn\,(s) + 2\,Cl_2\,(g) \longrightarrow SnCl_4\,(l)$$

The active representative metals—those that are easier to oxidize than hydrogen—react with gaseous hydrogen halides to produce metal halides and hydrogen. The reaction of zinc with hydrogen fluoride is:

$$Zn\,(s) + 2\,HF\,(g) \longrightarrow ZnF_2\,(s) + H_2\,(g)$$

The active representative metals also react with solutions of hydrogen halides to form hydrogen and solutions of the corresponding halides. Examples of such reactions include:

$$\mathrm{Cd\,(s) + 2\,HBr\,(aq) \longrightarrow CdBr_2\,(aq) + H_2\,(g)}$$

$$[4pt]\mathrm{Sn\,(s) + 2\,HI\,(aq) \longrightarrow SnI_2\,(aq) + H_2\,(g)}$$

Hydroxides, carbonates, and some oxides react with solutions of the hydrogen halides to form solutions of halide salts. It is possible to prepare additional salts by the reaction of these hydroxides, carbonates, and oxides with aqueous solution of other acids:

$$\mathrm{CaCo_3\,(s) + 2\,HCl\,(aq) \longrightarrow CaCl_2\,(aq) + CO_2\,(g) + H_2O\,(l)}$$

$$[4pt]\mathrm{TlOH\,(aq) + HF\,(aq) \longrightarrow TlF\,(aq) + H_2O\,(l)}$$

A few halides and many of the other salts of the representative metals are insoluble. It is possible to prepare these soluble salts by metathesis reactions that occur when solutions of soluble salts are mixed (see Figure 7.12.2). Metathesis reactions are examined in the chapter on the stoichiometry of chemical reactions.



Figure 7.12.2: Solid HgI_2 forms when solutions of KI and $Hg(NO_3)_2$ are mixed. (credit: Sahar Atwa)

Several halides occur in large quantities in nature. The ocean and underground brines contain many halides. For example, magnesium chloride in the ocean is the source of magnesium ions used in the production of magnesium. Large underground deposits of sodium chloride, like the salt mine shown in Figure 7.12.3, occur in many parts of the world. These deposits serve as the source of sodium and chlorine in almost all other compounds containing these elements. The chlor-alkali process is one example.



Figure 7.12.3: Underground deposits of sodium chloride are found throughout the world and are often mined. This is a tunnel in the Kłodawa salt mine in Poland. (credit: Jarek Zok)

Interhalogens

Compounds formed from two or more different halogens are interhalogens. Interhalogen molecules consist of one atom of the heavier halogen bonded by single bonds to an odd number of atoms of the lighter halogen. The structures of IF_3, IF_5, and IF_7 are

illustrated in Figure 7.12.4. Formulas for other interhalogens, each of which comes from the reaction of the respective halogens, are in Table 7.12.1.

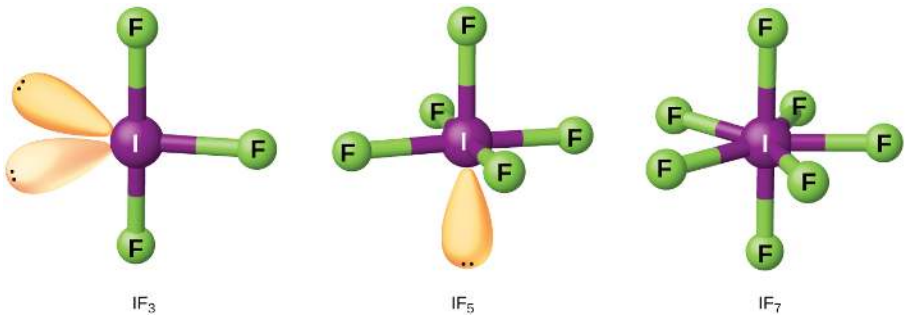


Figure 7.12.4: The structure of IF_3 is T-shaped (left), IF_5 is square pyramidal (center), and IF_7 is pentagonal bipyramidal (right).

Note from Table 7.12.1 that fluorine is able to oxidize iodine to its maximum oxidation state, 7+, whereas bromine and chlorine, which are more difficult to oxidize, achieve only the 5+-oxidation state. A 7+-oxidation state is the limit for the halogens. Because smaller halogens are grouped about a larger one, the maximum number of smaller atoms possible increases as the radius of the larger atom increases. Many of these compounds are unstable, and most are extremely reactive. The interhalogens react like their component halides; halogen fluorides, for example, are stronger oxidizing agents than are halogen chlorides.

The ionic polyhalides of the alkali metals, such as KI_3, $KICl_2$, $KICl_4$, $CsIBr_2$, and $CsBrCl_2$, which contain an anion composed of at least three halogen atoms, are closely related to the interhalogens. As seen previously, the formation of the polyhalide I_3^- anion is responsible for the solubility of iodine in aqueous solutions containing an iodide ion.

Table 7.12.1: Interhalogens

YX	YX_3	YX_5	YX_7
ClF(*g*)	ClF_3(*g*)	ClF_5(*g*)	
BrF(*g*)	BrF_3(*l*)	BrF_5(*l*)	
BrCl(*g*)			
IF(*s*)	IF_3(*s*)	IF_5(*l*)	IF_7(*g*)
ICl(*l*)	ICl_3(*s*)		
IBr(*s*)			

Applications

The fluoride ion and fluorine compounds have many important uses. Compounds of carbon, hydrogen, and fluorine are replacing Freons (compounds of carbon, chlorine, and fluorine) as refrigerants. Teflon is a polymer composed of $–CF_2CF_2–$ units. Fluoride ion is added to water supplies and to some toothpastes as SnF_2 or NaF to fight tooth decay. Fluoride partially converts teeth from $Ca_5(PO_4)_3(OH)$ into $Ca_5(PO_4)_3F$.

Chlorine is important to bleach wood pulp and cotton cloth. The chlorine reacts with water to form hypochlorous acid, which oxidizes colored substances to colorless ones. Large quantities of chlorine are important in chlorinating hydrocarbons (replacing hydrogen with chlorine) to produce compounds such as tetrachloride (CCl_4), chloroform ($CHCl_3$), and ethyl chloride (C_2H_5Cl), and in the production of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) and other polymers. Chlorine is also important to kill the bacteria in community water supplies.

Bromine is important in the production of certain dyes, and sodium and potassium bromides are used as sedatives. At one time, light-sensitive silver bromide was a component of photographic film.

Iodine in alcohol solution with potassium iodide is an antiseptic (tincture of iodine). Iodide salts are essential for the proper functioning of the thyroid gland; an iodine deficiency may lead to the development of a goiter. Iodized table salt contains 0.023%

potassium iodide. Silver iodide is useful in the seeding of clouds to induce rain; it was important in the production of photographic film and iodoform, CHI_3, is an antiseptic.

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7.13: Occurrence, Preparation, and Properties of the Noble Gases

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Describe the properties, preparation, and uses of the noble gases

The elements in group 18 are the noble gases (helium, neon, argon, krypton, xenon, and radon). They earned the name “noble” because they were assumed to be nonreactive since they have filled valence shells. In 1962, Dr. Neil Bartlett at the University of British Columbia proved this assumption to be false.

These elements are present in the atmosphere in small amounts. Some natural gas contains 1–2% helium by mass. Helium is isolated from natural gas by liquefying the condensable components, leaving only helium as a gas. The United States possesses most of the world’s commercial supply of this element in its helium-bearing gas fields. Argon, neon, krypton, and xenon come from the fractional distillation of liquid air. Radon comes from other radioactive elements. More recently, it was observed that this radioactive gas is present in very small amounts in soils and minerals. Its accumulation in well-insulated, tightly sealed buildings, however, constitutes a health hazard, primarily lung cancer.

The boiling points and melting points of the noble gases are extremely low relative to those of other substances of comparable atomic or molecular masses. This is because only weak London dispersion forces are present, and these forces can hold the atoms together only when molecular motion is very slight, as it is at very low temperatures. Helium is the only substance known that does not solidify on cooling at normal pressure. It remains liquid close to absolute zero (0.001 K) at ordinary pressures, but it solidifies under elevated pressure.

Helium is used for filling balloons and lighter-than-air craft because it does not burn, making it safer to use than hydrogen. Helium at high pressures is not a narcotic like nitrogen. Thus, mixtures of oxygen and helium are important for divers working under high pressures. Using a helium-oxygen mixture avoids the disoriented mental state known as nitrogen narcosis, the so-called rapture of the deep. Helium is important as an inert atmosphere for the melting and welding of easily oxidizable metals and for many chemical processes that are sensitive to air.

Liquid helium (boiling point, 4.2 K) is an important coolant to reach the low temperatures necessary for cryogenic research, and it is essential for achieving the low temperatures necessary to produce superconduction in traditional superconducting materials used in powerful magnets and other devices. This cooling ability is necessary for the magnets used for magnetic resonance imaging, a common medical diagnostic procedure. The other common coolant is liquid nitrogen (boiling point, 77 K), which is significantly cheaper.

Neon is a component of neon lamps and signs. Passing an electric spark through a tube containing neon at low pressure generates the familiar red glow of neon. It is possible to change the color of the light by mixing argon or mercury vapor with the neon or by utilizing glass tubes of a special color.

Argon was useful in the manufacture of gas-filled electric light bulbs, where its lower heat conductivity and chemical inertness made it preferable to nitrogen for inhibiting the vaporization of the tungsten filament and prolonging the life of the bulb. Fluorescent tubes commonly contain a mixture of argon and mercury vapor. Argon is the third most abundant gas in dry air.

Krypton-xenon flash tubes are used to take high-speed photographs. An electric discharge through such a tube gives a very intense light that lasts only of a second. Krypton forms a difluoride, KrF_2, which is thermally unstable at room temperature.

Stable compounds of xenon form when xenon reacts with fluorine. Xenon difluoride, XeF_2, forms after heating an excess of xenon gas with fluorine gas and then cooling. The material forms colorless crystals, which are stable at room temperature in a dry atmosphere. Xenon tetrafluoride, XeF_4, and xenon hexafluoride, XeF_6, are prepared in an analogous manner, with a stoichiometric amount of fluorine and an excess of fluorine, respectively. Compounds with oxygen are prepared by replacing fluorine atoms in the xenon fluorides with oxygen.

When XeF_6 reacts with water, a solution of XeO_3 results and the xenon remains in the 6+-oxidation state:

$$\mathrm{XeF_6\,(s) + 3\,H_2O\,(l) \longrightarrow XeO_3\,(aq) + 6\,HF\,(aq)}$$

Dry, solid xenon trioxide, XeO_3, is extremely explosive—it will spontaneously detonate. Both XeF_6 and XeO_3 disproportionate in basic solution, producing xenon, oxygen, and salts of the perxenate ion, in which xenon reaches its maximum oxidation sate of 8+.

Radon apparently forms RnF_2—evidence of this compound comes from radiochemical tracer techniques.

Unstable compounds of argon form at low temperatures, but stable compounds of helium and neon are not known.

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7.14: Key Terms

acid anhydride | compound that reacts with water to form an acid or acidic solution

alkaline earth metal | any of the metals (beryllium, magnesium, calcium, strontium, barium, and radium) occupying group 2 of the periodic table; they are reactive, divalent metals that form basic oxides

allotropes | two or more forms of the same element, in the same physical state, with different chemical structures

amorphous | solid material such as a glass that does not have a regular repeating component to its three-dimensional structure; a solid but not a crystal

base anhydride | metal oxide that behaves as a base towards acids

bicarbonate anion | salt of the hydrogen carbonate ion,

bismuth | heaviest member of group 15; a less reactive metal than other representative metals

borate | compound containing boron-oxygen bonds, typically with clusters or chains as a part of the chemical structure

carbonate | salt of the anion often formed by the reaction of carbon dioxide with bases

chemical reduction | method of preparing a representative metal using a reducing agent

chlor-alkali process | electrolysis process for the synthesis of chlorine and sodium hydroxide

disproportionation reaction | chemical reaction where a single reactant is simultaneously reduced and oxidized; it is both the reducing agent and the oxidizing agent

Downs cell | electrochemical cell used for the commercial preparation of metallic sodium (and chlorine) from molten sodium chloride

Frasch process | important in the mining of free sulfur from enormous underground deposits

Haber process | main industrial process used to produce ammonia from nitrogen and hydrogen; involves the use of an iron catalyst and elevated temperatures and pressures

halide | compound containing an anion of a group 17 element in the 1− oxidation state (fluoride, F^-; chloride, Cl^-; bromide, Br^-; and iodide, I^-)

Hall–Héroult cell | electrolysis apparatus used to isolate pure aluminum metal from a solution of alumina in molten cryolite

hydrogen carbonate | salt of carbonic acid, H_2CO_3 (containing the anion in which one hydrogen atom has been replaced; an acid carbonate; also known as *bicarbonate ion*

hydrogen halide | binary compound formed between hydrogen and the halogens: HF, HCl, HBr, and HI

hydrogen sulfate | ion

hydrogen sulfite | ion

hydrogenation | addition of hydrogen (H_2) to reduce a compound

hydroxide | compound of a metal with the hydroxide ion OH^- or the group −OH

interhalogen | compound formed from two or more different halogens

metal (representative) | atoms of the metallic elements of groups 1, 2, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16, which form ionic compounds by losing electrons from their outer *s* or *p* orbitals

metalloid | element that has properties that are between those of metals and nonmetals; these elements are typically semiconductors

nitrate | ion; salt of nitric acid

nitrogen fixation | formation of nitrogen compounds from molecular nitrogen

Ostwald process | industrial process used to convert ammonia into nitric acid

oxide | binary compound of oxygen with another element or group, typically containing O^{2-} ions or the group –O– or =O

ozone | allotrope of oxygen; O_3

passivation | metals with a protective nonreactive film of oxide or other compound that creates a barrier for chemical reactions; physical or chemical removal of the passivating film allows the metals to demonstrate their expected chemical reactivity

peroxide | molecule containing two oxygen atoms bonded together or as the anion,

photosynthesis | process whereby light energy promotes the reaction of water and carbon dioxide to form carbohydrates and oxygen; this allows photosynthetic organisms to store energy

Pidgeon process | chemical reduction process used to produce magnesium through the thermal reaction of magnesium oxide with silicon

polymorph | variation in crystalline structure that results in different physical properties for the resulting compound

representative element | element where the *s* and *p* orbitals are filling

representative metal | metal among the representative elements

silicate | compound containing silicon-oxygen bonds, with silicate tetrahedra connected in rings, sheets, or three-dimensional networks, depending on the other elements involved in the formation of the compounds

sulfate | ion

sulfite | ion

superoxide | oxide containing the anion

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7.15: Summary

This section focuses on the periodicity of the representative elements. These are the elements where the electrons are entering the *s* and *p* orbitals. The representative elements occur in groups 1, 2, and 12–18. These elements are representative metals, metalloids, and nonmetals. The alkali metals (group 1) are very reactive, readily form ions with a charge of 1+ to form ionic compounds that are usually soluble in water, and react vigorously with water to form hydrogen gas and a basic solution of the metal hydroxide. The outermost electrons of the alkaline earth metals (group 2) are more difficult to remove than the outer electron of the alkali metals, leading to the group 2 metals being less reactive than those in group 1. These elements easily form compounds in which the metals exhibit an oxidation state of 2+. Zinc, cadmium, and mercury (group 12) commonly exhibit the group oxidation state of 2+ (although mercury also exhibits an oxidation state of 1+ in compounds that contain Aluminum, gallium, indium, and thallium (group 13) are easier to oxidize than is hydrogen. Aluminum, gallium, and indium occur with an oxidation state 3+ (however, thallium also commonly occurs as the Tl^+ ion). Tin and lead form stable divalent cations and covalent compounds in which the metals exhibit the 4+-oxidation state.

Because of their chemical reactivity, it is necessary to produce the representative metals in their pure forms by reduction from naturally occurring compounds. Electrolysis is important in the production of sodium, potassium, and aluminum. Chemical reduction is the primary method for the isolation of magnesium, zinc, and tin. Similar procedures are important for the other representative metals.

The elements boron, silicon, germanium, arsenic, antimony, and tellurium separate the metals from the nonmetals in the periodic table. These elements, called metalloids or sometimes semimetals, exhibit properties characteristic of both metals and nonmetals. The structures of these elements are similar in many ways to those of nonmetals, but the elements are electrical semiconductors.

Nonmetals have structures that are very different from those of the metals, primarily because they have greater electronegativity and electrons that are more tightly bound to individual atoms. Most nonmetal oxides are acid anhydrides, meaning that they react with water to form acidic solutions. Molecular structures are common for most of the nonmetals, and several have multiple allotropes with varying physical properties.

Hydrogen is the most abundant element in the universe and its chemistry is truly unique. Although it has some chemical reactivity that is similar to that of the alkali metals, hydrogen has many of the same chemical properties of a nonmetal with a relatively low electronegativity. It forms ionic hydrides with active metals, covalent compounds in which it has an oxidation state of 1− with less electronegative elements, and covalent compounds in which it has an oxidation state of 1+ with more electronegative nonmetals. It reacts explosively with oxygen, fluorine, and chlorine, less readily with bromine, and much less readily with iodine, sulfur, and nitrogen. Hydrogen reduces the oxides of metals with lower reduction potentials than chromium to form the metal and water. The hydrogen halides are all acidic when dissolved in water.

The usual method for the preparation of the carbonates of the alkali and alkaline earth metals is by reaction of an oxide or hydroxide with carbon dioxide. Other carbonates form by precipitation. Metal carbonates or hydrogen carbonates such as limestone ($CaCO_3$), the antacid Tums ($CaCO_3$), and baking soda ($NaHCO_3$) are common examples. Carbonates and hydrogen carbonates decompose in the presence of acids and most decompose on heating.

Nitrogen exhibits oxidation states ranging from 3− to 5+. Because of the stability of the N≡N triple bond, it requires a great deal of energy to make compounds from molecular nitrogen. Active metals such as the alkali metals and alkaline earth metals can reduce nitrogen to form metal nitrides. Nitrogen oxides and nitrogen hydrides are also important substances.

Phosphorus (group 15) commonly exhibits oxidation states of 3− with active metals and of 3+ and 5+ with more electronegative nonmetals. The halogens and oxygen will oxidize phosphorus. The oxides are phosphorus(V) oxide, P_4O_{10}, and phosphorus(III) oxide, P_4O_6. The two common methods for preparing orthophosphoric acid, H_3PO_4, are either the reaction of a phosphate with sulfuric acid or the reaction of water with phosphorus(V) oxide. Orthophosphoric acid is a triprotic acid that forms three types of salts.

Oxygen is one of the most reactive elements. This reactivity, coupled with its abundance, makes the chemistry of oxygen very rich and well understood.

Compounds of the representative metals with oxygen exist in three categories (1) oxides, (2) peroxides and superoxides, and (3) hydroxides. Heating the corresponding hydroxides, nitrates, or carbonates is the most common method for producing oxides. Heating the metal or metal oxide in oxygen may lead to the formation of peroxides and superoxides. The soluble oxides dissolve in water to form solutions of hydroxides. Most metals oxides are base anhydrides and react with acids. The hydroxides of the representative metals react with acids in acid-base reactions to form salts and water. The hydroxides have many commercial uses.

All nonmetals except fluorine form multiple oxides. Nearly all of the nonmetal oxides are acid anhydrides. The acidity of oxyacids requires that the hydrogen atoms bond to the oxygen atoms in the molecule rather than to the other nonmetal atom. Generally, the strength of the oxyacid increases with the number of oxygen atoms bonded to the nonmetal atom and not to a hydrogen.

Sulfur (group 16) reacts with almost all metals and readily forms the sulfide ion, S^{2-}, in which it has as oxidation state of 2−. Sulfur reacts with most nonmetals.

The halogens form halides with less electronegative elements. Halides of the metals vary from ionic to covalent; halides of nonmetals are covalent. Interhalogens form by the combination of two or more different halogens.

All of the representative metals react directly with elemental halogens or with solutions of the hydrohalic acids (HF, HCl, HBr, and HI) to produce representative metal halides. Other laboratory preparations involve the addition of aqueous hydrohalic acids to compounds that contain such basic anions, such as hydroxides, oxides, or carbonates.

The most significant property of the noble gases (group 18) is their inactivity. They occur in low concentrations in the atmosphere. They find uses as inert atmospheres, neon signs, and as coolants. The three heaviest noble gases react with fluorine to form fluorides. The xenon fluorides are the best characterized as the starting materials for a few other noble gas compounds.

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7.16: Exercises

1.

How do alkali metals differ from alkaline earth metals in atomic structure and general properties?

2.

Why does the reactivity of the alkali metals decrease from cesium to lithium?

3.

Predict the formulas for the nine compounds that may form when each species in column 1 of the table reacts with each species in column 2.

1	2
Na	I
Sr	Se
Al	O

4.

Predict the best choice in each of the following. You may wish to review the chapter on electronic structure for relevant examples.

a. the most metallic of the elements Al, Be, and Ba
b. the most covalent of the compounds NaCl, $CaCl_2$, and $BeCl_2$
c. the lowest first ionization energy among the elements Rb, K, and Li
d. the smallest among Al, Al^+, and Al^{3+}
e. the largest among Cs^+, Ba^{2+}, and Xe

5.

Sodium chloride and strontium chloride are both white solids. How could you distinguish one from the other?

6.

The reaction of quicklime, CaO, with water produces slaked lime, $Ca(OH)_2$, which is widely used in the construction industry to make mortar and plaster. The reaction of quicklime and water is highly exothermic:

a. What is the enthalpy of reaction per gram of quicklime that reacts?
b. How much heat, in kilojoules, is associated with the production of 1 ton of slaked lime?

7.

Write a balanced equation for the reaction of elemental strontium with each of the following:

a. oxygen
b. hydrogen bromide
c. hydrogen
d. phosphorus
e. water

8.

How many moles of ionic species are present in 1.0 L of a solution marked 1.0 *M* mercury(I) nitrate?

9.

What is the mass of fish, in kilograms, that one would have to consume to obtain a fatal dose of mercury, if the fish contains 30 parts per million of mercury by weight? (Assume that all the mercury from the fish ends up as mercury(II) chloride in the body and that a fatal dose is 0.20 g of $HgCl_2$.) How many pounds of fish is this?

10.

The elements sodium, aluminum, and chlorine are in the same period.

a. Which has the greatest electronegativity?

b. Which of the atoms is smallest?

c. Write the Lewis structure for the simplest covalent compound that can form between aluminum and chlorine.

d. Will the oxide of each element be acidic, basic, or amphoteric?

11.

Does metallic tin react with HCl?

12.

What is tin pest, also known as tin disease?

13.

Compare the nature of the bonds in $PbCl_2$ to that of the bonds in $PbCl_4$.

14.

Is the reaction of rubidium with water more or less vigorous than that of sodium? How does the rate of reaction of magnesium compare?

15.

Write an equation for the reduction of cesium chloride by elemental calcium at high temperature.

16.

Why is it necessary to keep the chlorine and sodium, resulting from the electrolysis of sodium chloride, separate during the production of sodium metal?

17.

Give balanced equations for the overall reaction in the electrolysis of molten lithium chloride and for the reactions occurring at the electrodes. You may wish to review the chapter on electrochemistry for relevant examples.

18.

The electrolysis of molten sodium chloride or of aqueous sodium chloride produces chlorine.

Calculate the mass of chlorine produced from 3.00 kg sodium chloride in each case. You may wish to review the chapter on electrochemistry for relevant examples.

19.

What mass, in grams, of hydrogen gas forms during the complete reaction of 10.01 g of calcium with water?

20.

How many grams of oxygen gas are necessary to react completely with 3.01 10^{21} atoms of magnesium to yield magnesium oxide?

21.

Magnesium is an active metal; it burns in the form of powder, ribbons, and filaments to provide flashes of brilliant light. Why is it possible to use magnesium in construction?

22.

Why is it possible for an active metal like aluminum to be useful as a structural metal?

23.

Describe the production of metallic aluminum by electrolytic reduction.

24.

What is the common ore of tin and how is tin separated from it?

25.

A chemist dissolves a 1.497-g sample of a type of metal (an alloy of Sn, Pb, Sb, and Cu) in nitric acid, and metastannic acid, H_2SnO_3, is precipitated. She heats the precipitate to drive off the water, which leaves 0.4909 g of tin(IV) oxide. What was the

percentage of tin in the original sample?

26.

Consider the production of 100 kg of sodium metal using a current of 50,000 A, assuming a 100% yield.

a. How long will it take to produce the 100 kg of sodium metal?
b. What volume of chlorine at 25 °C and 1.00 atm forms?

27.

What mass of magnesium forms when 100,000 A is passed through a $MgCl_2$ melt for 1.00 h if the yield of magnesium is 85% of the theoretical yield?

28.

Give the hybridization of the metalloid and the molecular geometry for each of the following compounds or ions. You may wish to review the chapters on chemical bonding and advanced covalent bonding for relevant examples.

a. (i) TeF_6

29.

Write a Lewis structure for each of the following molecules or ions. You may wish to review the chapter on chemical bonding.

a. H_3BPH_3
b.
c. BBr_3
d. $B(CH_3)_3$
e. $B(OH)_3$

30.

Describe the hybridization of boron and the molecular structure about the boron in each of the following:

a. H_3BPH_3
b.
c. BBr_3
d. $B(CH_3)_3$
e. $B(OH)_3$

31.

Using only the periodic table, write the complete electron configuration for silicon, including any empty orbitals in the valence shell. You may wish to review the chapter on electronic structure.

32.

Write a Lewis structure for each of the following molecules and ions:

a. $(CH_3)_3SiH$
b.
c. Si_2H_6
d. $Si(OH)_4$
e.

33.

Describe the hybridization of silicon and the molecular structure of the following molecules and ions:

a. $(CH_3)_3SiH$
b.
c. Si_2H_6
d. $Si(OH)_4$
e.

34.

Describe the hybridization and the bonding of a silicon atom in elemental silicon.

35.

Classify each of the following molecules as polar or nonpolar. You may wish to review the chapter on chemical bonding.

a. SiH_4
b. Si_2H_6
c. $SiCl_3H$
d. SiF_4
e. $SiCl_2F_2$

36.

Silicon reacts with sulfur at elevated temperatures. If 0.0923 g of silicon reacts with sulfur to give 0.3030 g of silicon sulfide, determine the empirical formula of silicon sulfide.

37.

Name each of the following compounds:

a. TeO_2
b. Sb_2S_3
c. GeF_4
d. SiH_4
e. GeH_4

38.

Write a balanced equation for the reaction of elemental boron with each of the following (most of these reactions require high temperature):

a. F_2
b. O_2
c. S
d. Se
e. Br_2

39.

Why is boron limited to a maximum coordination number of four in its compounds?

40.

Write a formula for each of the following compounds:

a. silicon dioxide
b. silicon tetraiodide
c. silane
d. silicon carbide
e. magnesium silicide

41.

From the data given in Appendix G, determine the standard enthalpy change and the standard free energy change for each of the following reactions:

a.
b.
c.

42.

A hydride of silicon prepared by the reaction of Mg_2Si with acid exerted a pressure of 306 torr at 26 °C in a bulb with a volume of 57.0 mL. If the mass of the hydride was 0.0861 g, what is its molecular mass? What is the molecular formula for the hydride?

43.

Suppose you discovered a diamond completely encased in a silicate rock. How would you chemically free the diamond without harming it?

44.

Carbon forms a number of allotropes, two of which are graphite and diamond. Silicon has a diamond structure. Why is there no allotrope of silicon with a graphite structure?

45.

Nitrogen in the atmosphere exists as very stable diatomic molecules. Why does phosphorus form less stable P_4 molecules instead of P_2 molecules?

46.

Write balanced chemical equations for the reaction of the following acid anhydrides with water:

a. SO_3
b. N_2O_3
c. Cl_2O_7
d. P_4O_{10}
e. NO_2

47.

Determine the oxidation number of each element in each of the following compounds:

a. HCN
b. OF_2
c. $AsCl_3$

48.

Determine the oxidation state of sulfur in each of the following:

a. SO_3
b. SO_2
c.

49.

Arrange the following in order of increasing electronegativity: F; Cl; O; and S.

50.

Why does white phosphorus consist of tetrahedral P_4 molecules while nitrogen consists of diatomic N_2 molecules?

51.

Why does hydrogen not exhibit an oxidation state of $1-$ when bonded to nonmetals?

52.

The reaction of calcium hydride, CaH_2, with water can be characterized as a Lewis acid-base reaction:

Identify the Lewis acid and the Lewis base among the reactants. The reaction is also an oxidation-reduction reaction. Identify the oxidizing agent, the reducing agent, and the changes in oxidation number that occur in the reaction.

53.

In drawing Lewis structures, we learn that a hydrogen atom forms only one bond in a covalent compound. Why?

54.

What mass of CaH_2 is necessary to react with water to provide enough hydrogen gas to fill a balloon at 20 °C and 0.8 atm pressure with a volume of 4.5 L? The balanced equation is:

55.

What mass of hydrogen gas results from the reaction of 8.5 g of KH with water?

56.

Carbon forms the ion, yet silicon does not form an analogous ion. Why?

57.

Complete and balance the following chemical equations:

(a) hardening of plaster containing slaked lime

(b) removal of sulfur dioxide from the flue gas of power plants

(c) the reaction of baking powder that produces carbon dioxide gas and causes bread to rise

58.

Heating a sample of $Na_2CO_3 \cdot xH_2O$ weighing 4.640 g until the removal of the water of hydration leaves 1.720 g of anhydrous Na_2CO_3. What is the formula of the hydrated compound?

59.

Write the Lewis structures for each of the following:

a. NH^{2-}
b. N_2F_4
c.
d. NF_3
e.

60.

For each of the following, indicate the hybridization of the nitrogen atom (for the central nitrogen).

a. N_2F_4
b.
c. NF_3
d.

61.

Explain how ammonia can function both as a Brønsted base and as a Lewis base.

62.

Determine the oxidation state of nitrogen in each of the following. You may wish to review the chapter on chemical bonding for relevant examples.

a. (i) HNO_2

63.

For each of the following, draw the Lewis structure, predict the ONO bond angle, and give the hybridization of the nitrogen. You may wish to review the chapters on chemical bonding and advanced theories of covalent bonding for relevant examples.

a. NO_2
b.
c.

64.

How many grams of gaseous ammonia will the reaction of 3.0 g hydrogen gas and 3.0 g of nitrogen gas produce?

65.

Although PF_5 and AsF_5 are stable, nitrogen does not form NF_5 molecules. Explain this difference among members of the same group.

66.

The equivalence point for the titration of a 25.00-mL sample of CsOH solution with 0.1062 *M* HNO_3 is at 35.27 mL. What is the concentration of the CsOH solution?

67.

Write the Lewis structure for each of the following. You may wish to review the chapter on chemical bonding and molecular geometry.

a. PH_3
b.
c. P_2H_4
d.
e. PF_5

68.

Describe the molecular structure of each of the following molecules or ions listed. You may wish to review the chapter on chemical bonding and molecular geometry.

a. PH_3
b.
c. P_2H_4
d.

69.

Complete and balance each of the following chemical equations. (In some cases, there may be more than one correct answer.)

a. (f)

70.

Describe the hybridization of phosphorus in each of the following compounds: P_4O_{10}, P_4O_6, PH_4I (an ionic compound), PBr_3, H_3PO_4, H_3PO_3, PH_3, and P_2H_4. You may wish to review the chapter on advanced theories of covalent bonding.

71.

What volume of 0.200 *M* NaOH is necessary to neutralize the solution produced by dissolving 2.00 g of PCl_3 is an excess of water? Note that when H_3PO_3 is titrated under these conditions, only one proton of the acid molecule reacts.

72.

How much $POCl_3$ can form from 25.0 g of PCl_5 and the appropriate amount of H_2O?

73.

How many tons of $Ca_3(PO_4)_2$ are necessary to prepare 5.0 tons of phosphorus if the yield is 90%?

74.

Write equations showing the stepwise ionization of phosphorous acid.

75.

Draw the Lewis structures and describe the geometry for the following:

a.
b. PF_5
c.
d. POF_3

76.

Why does phosphorous acid form only two series of salts, even though the molecule contains three hydrogen atoms?

77.

Assign an oxidation state to phosphorus in each of the following:

a. (f) $Na_4P_2O_7$

78.

Phosphoric acid, one of the acids used in some cola drinks, is produced by the reaction of phosphorus(V) oxide, an acidic oxide, with water. Phosphorus(V) oxide is prepared by the combustion of phosphorus.

a. Write the empirical formula of phosphorus(V) oxide.
b. What is the molecular formula of phosphorus(V) oxide if the molar mass is about 280.
c. Write balanced equations for the production of phosphorus(V) oxide and phosphoric acid.
d. Determine the mass of phosphorus required to make 1.00 10^4 kg of phosphoric acid, assuming a yield of 98.85%.

79.

Predict the product of burning francium in air.

80.

Using equations, describe the reaction of water with potassium and with potassium oxide.

81.

Write balanced chemical equations for the following reactions:

a. zinc metal heated in a stream of oxygen gas
b. zinc carbonate heated until loss of mass stops
c. zinc carbonate added to a solution of acetic acid, CH_3CO_2H
d. zinc added to a solution of hydrobromic acid

82.

Write balanced chemical equations for the following reactions:

a. cadmium burned in air
b. elemental cadmium added to a solution of hydrochloric acid
c. cadmium hydroxide added to a solution of acetic acid, CH_3CO_2H

83.

Illustrate the amphoteric nature of aluminum hydroxide by citing suitable equations.

84.

Write balanced chemical equations for the following reactions:

a. metallic aluminum burned in air
b. elemental aluminum heated in an atmosphere of chlorine
c. aluminum heated in hydrogen bromide gas
d. aluminum hydroxide added to a solution of nitric acid

85.

Write balanced chemical equations for the following reactions:

a. sodium oxide added to water
b. cesium carbonate added to an excess of an aqueous solution of HF
c. aluminum oxide added to an aqueous solution of $HClO_4$
d. a solution of sodium carbonate added to solution of barium nitrate
e. titanium metal produced from the reaction of titanium tetrachloride with elemental sodium

86.

What volume of 0.250 *M* H_2SO_4 solution is required to neutralize a solution that contains 5.00 g of $CaCO_3$?

87.

Which is the stronger acid, $HClO_4$ or $HBrO_4$? Why?

88.

Write a balanced chemical equation for the reaction of an excess of oxygen with each of the following. Remember that oxygen is a strong oxidizing agent and tends to oxidize an element to its maximum oxidation state.

a. Mg
b. Rb
c. Ga
d. C_2H_2
e. CO

89.

Which is the stronger acid, H_2SO_4 or H_2SeO_4? Why? You may wish to review the chapter on acid-base equilibria.

90.

Explain why hydrogen sulfide is a gas at room temperature, whereas water, which has a lower molecular mass, is a liquid.

91.

Give the hybridization and oxidation state for sulfur in SO_2, in SO_3, and in H_2SO_4.

92.

Which is the stronger acid, $NaHSO_3$ or $NaHSO_4$?

93.

Determine the oxidation state of sulfur in SF_6, SO_2F_2, and KHS.

94.

Which is a stronger acid, sulfurous acid or sulfuric acid? Why?

95.

Oxygen forms double bonds in O_2, but sulfur forms single bonds in S_8. Why?

96.

Give the Lewis structure of each of the following:

a. SF_4
b. K_2SO_4
c. SO_2Cl_2
d. H_2SO_3
e. SO_3

97.

Write two balanced chemical equations in which sulfuric acid acts as an oxidizing agent.

98.

Explain why sulfuric acid, H_2SO_4, which is a covalent molecule, dissolves in water and produces a solution that contains ions.

99.

How many grams of Epsom salts ($MgSO_4 \cdot 7H_2O$) will form from 5.0 kg of magnesium?

100.

What does it mean to say that mercury(II) halides are weak electrolytes?

101.

Why is $SnCl_4$ not classified as a salt?

102.

The following reactions are all similar to those of the industrial chemicals. Complete and balance the equations for these reactions:

(a) reaction of a weak base and a strong acid

(b) preparation of a soluble silver salt for silver plating

(c) preparation of strontium hydroxide by electrolysis of a solution of strontium chloride

103.

Which is the stronger acid, $HClO_3$ or $HBrO_3$? Why?

104.

What is the hybridization of iodine in IF_3 and IF_5?

105.

Predict the molecular geometries and draw Lewis structures for each of the following. You may wish to review the chapter on chemical bonding and molecular geometry.

a. IF_5
b.
c. PCl_5
d. SeF_4
e. ClF_3

106.

Which halogen has the highest ionization energy? Is this what you would predict based on what you have learned about periodic properties?

107.

Name each of the following compounds:

a. BrF_3
b. $NaBrO_3$
c. PBr_5
d. $NaClO_4$
e. KClO

108.

Explain why, at room temperature, fluorine and chlorine are gases, bromine is a liquid, and iodine is a solid.

109.

What is the oxidation state of the halogen in each of the following?

a. H_5IO_6
b.
c. ClO_2
d. ICl_3
e. F_2

110.

Physiological saline concentration—that is, the sodium chloride concentration in our bodies—is approximately 0.16 *M*. A saline solution for contact lenses is prepared to match the physiological concentration. If you purchase 25 mL of contact lens saline solution, how many grams of sodium chloride have you bought?

111.

Give the hybridization of xenon in each of the following. You may wish to review the chapter on the advanced theories of covalent bonding.

a. XeF_2
b. XeF_4
c. XeO_3
d. XeO_4
e. $XeOF_4$

112.

What is the molecular structure of each of the following molecules? You may wish to review the chapter on chemical bonding and molecular geometry.

a. XeF_2
b. XeF_4
c. XeO_3
d. XeO_4
e. $XeOF_4$

113.

Indicate whether each of the following molecules is polar or nonpolar. You may wish to review the chapter on chemical bonding and molecular geometry.

a. XeF_2
b. XeF_4
c. XeO_3
d. XeO_4
e. $XeOF_4$

114.

What is the oxidation state of the noble gas in each of the following? You may wish to review the chapter on chemical bonding and molecular geometry.

a. XeO_2F_2
b. KrF_2
c.
d.
e. XeO_3

115.

A mixture of xenon and fluorine was heated. A sample of the white solid that formed reacted with hydrogen to yield 81 mL of xenon (at STP) and hydrogen fluoride, which was collected in water, giving a solution of hydrofluoric acid. The hydrofluoric acid solution was titrated, and 68.43 mL of 0.3172 *M* sodium hydroxide was required to reach the equivalence point. Determine the empirical formula for the white solid and write balanced chemical equations for the reactions involving xenon.

116.

Basic solutions of Na_4XeO_6 are powerful oxidants. What mass of $Mn(NO_3)_2{\cdot}6H_2O$ reacts with 125.0 mL of a 0.1717 *M* basic solution of Na_4XeO_6 that contains an excess of sodium hydroxide if the products include Xe and solution of sodium permanganate?

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CHAPTER OVERVIEW

8: Transition Metals and Coordination Chemistry

Transition metals are defined as those elements that have (or readily form) partially filled *d* orbitals. These include the *d*-block (groups 3–11) and f-block element elements. The variety of properties exhibited by transition metals is due to their complex valence shells. Unlike most main group metals where one oxidation state is normally observed, the valence shell structure of transition metals means that they usually occur in several different stable oxidation states. In addition, electron transitions in these elements can correspond with absorption of photons in the visible electromagnetic spectrum, leading to colored compounds. Because of these behaviors, transition metals exhibit a rich and fascinating chemistry.

8.1: Introduction

8.2: Occurrence, Preparation, and Properties of Transition Metals and Their Compounds

8.3: Coordination Chemistry of Transition Metals

8.4: Spectroscopic and Magnetic Properties of Coordination Compounds

8.5: Key Terms

8.6: Summary

8.7: Exercises

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8.1: Introduction

We have daily contact with many transition metals. Iron occurs everywhere—from the rings in your spiral notebook and the cutlery in your kitchen to automobiles, ships, buildings, and in the hemoglobin in your blood. Titanium is useful in the manufacture of lightweight, durable products such as bicycle frames, artificial hips, and jewelry. Chromium is useful as a protective plating on plumbing fixtures and automotive detailing.

In addition to being used in their pure elemental forms, many compounds containing transition metals have numerous other applications. Silver nitrate is used to create mirrors, zirconium silicate provides friction in automotive brakes, and many important cancer-fighting agents, like the drug cisplatin and related species, are platinum compounds.

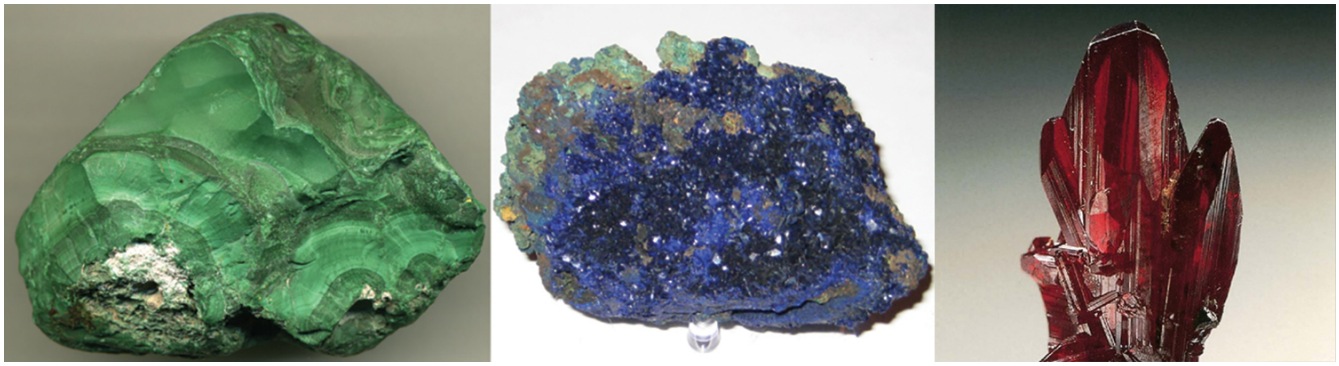


Figure 8.1.1: Transition metals often form vibrantly colored complexes. The minerals malachite (green), azurite (blue), and proustite (red) are some examples. (credit left: modification of work by James St. John; credit middle: modification of work by Stephanie Clifford; credit right: modification of work by Terry Wallace)

The variety of properties exhibited by transition metals is due to their complex valence shells. Unlike most main group metals where one oxidation state is normally observed, the valence shell structure of transition metals means that they usually occur in several different stable oxidation states. In addition, electron transitions in these elements can correspond with absorption of photons in the visible electromagnetic spectrum, leading to colored compounds. Because of these behaviors, transition metals exhibit a rich and fascinating chemistry.

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8.2: Occurrence, Preparation, and Properties of Transition Metals and Their Compounds

Transition metals are defined as those elements that have (or readily form) partially filled *d* orbitals. As shown in Figure 8.2.1, the *d*-block elements in groups 3–11 are transition elements. The *f*-block elements, also called *inner transition metals* (the lanthanides and actinides), also meet this criterion because the *d* orbital is partially occupied before the *f* orbitals. The *d* orbitals fill with the copper family (group 11); for this reason, the next family (group 12) are technically not transition elements. However, the group 12 elements do display some of the same chemical properties and are commonly included in discussions of transition metals. Some chemists do treat the group 12 elements as transition metals.

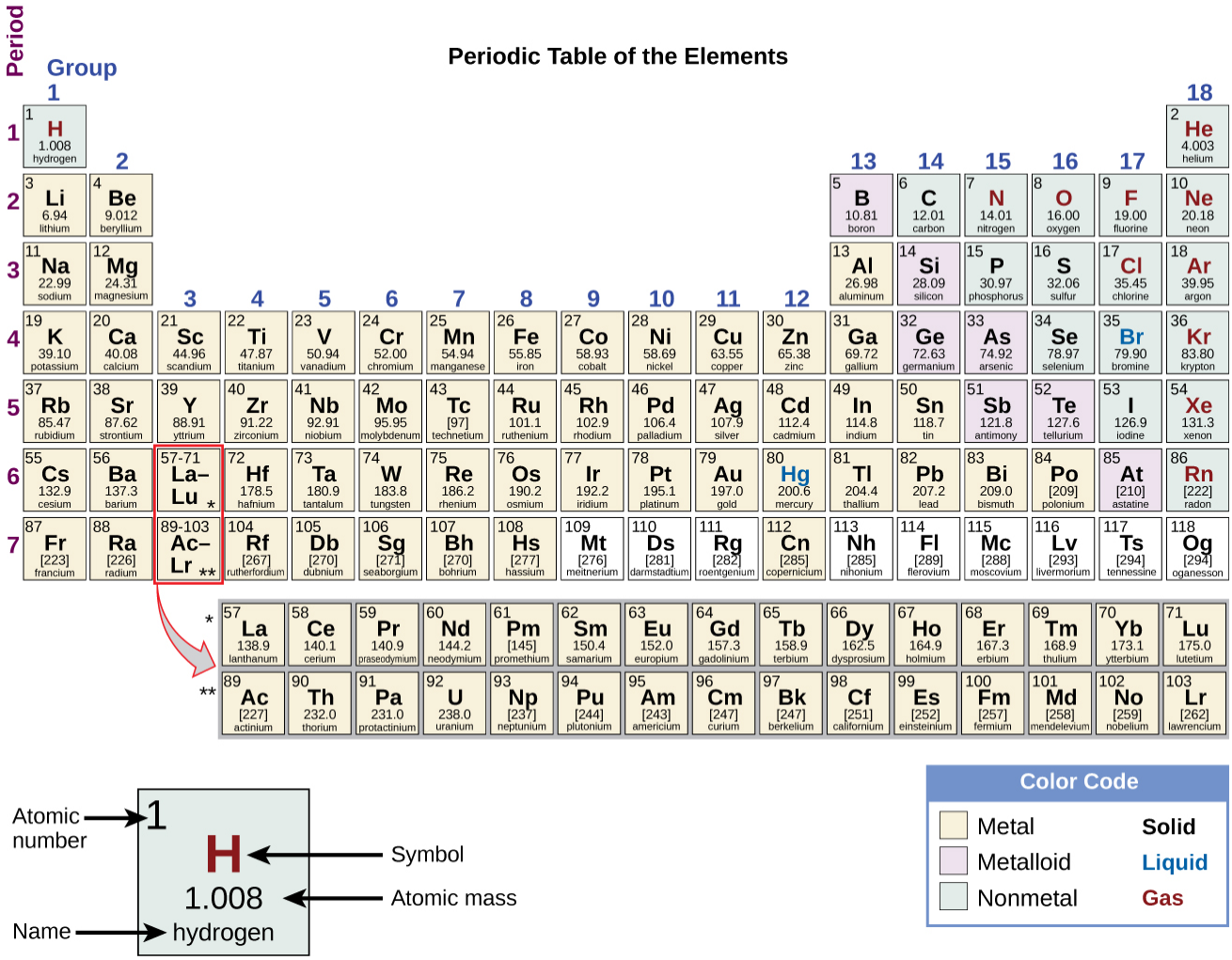


Figure 8.2.1: The transition metals are located in groups 3–11 of the periodic table. The inner transition metals are in the two rows below the body of the table.

The *d*-block elements are divided into the first transition series (the elements Sc through Cu), the second transition series (the elements Y through Ag), and the third transition series (the element La and the elements Hf through Au). Actinium, Ac, is the first member of the fourth transition series, which also includes Rf through Rg.

The *f*-block elements are the elements Ce through Lu, which constitute the lanthanide series (or lanthanoid series), and the elements Th through Lr, which constitute the actinide series (or actinoid series). Because lanthanum behaves very much like the lanthanide elements, it is considered a lanthanide element, even though its electron configuration makes it the first member of the third transition series. Similarly, the behavior of actinium means it is part of the actinide series, although its electron configuration makes it the first member of the fourth transition series.

Example 8.2.1: Valence Electrons in Transition Metals

Review how to write electron configurations, covered in the chapter on electronic structure and periodic properties of elements. Recall that for the transition and inner transition metals, it is necessary to remove the *s* electrons before the *d* or *f* electrons. Then, for each ion, give the electron configuration:

a. cerium(III)
b. lead(II)
c. Ti^{2+}
d. Am^{3+}
e. Pd^{2+}

For the examples that are transition metals, determine to which series they belong.

Solution

For ions, the *s*-valence electrons are lost prior to the *d* or *f* electrons.

a. $Ce^{3+}[Xe]4f^1$; Ce^{3+} is an inner transition element in the lanthanide series.
b. $Pb^{2+}[Xe]6s^25d^{10}4f^{14}$; the electrons are lost from the *p* orbital. This is a main group element.
c. titanium(II) $[Ar]3d^2$; first transition series
d. americium(III) $[Rn]5f^6$; actinide
e. palladium(II) $[Kr]4d^8$; second transition series

Exercise 8.2.1

Give an example of an ion from the first transition series with no *d* electrons.

Answer

V^{5+} is one possibility. Other examples include Sc^{3+}, Ti^{4+}, Cr^{6+}, and Mn^{7+}.

Chemistry in Everyday Life: Uses of Lanthanides in Devices

Lanthanides (elements 57–71) are fairly abundant in the earth's crust, despite their historic characterization as rare earth elements. Thulium, the rarest naturally occurring lanthanoid, is more common in the earth's crust than silver (4.5×10^{-5} % versus 0.79×10^{-5} % by mass). There are 17 rare earth elements, consisting of the 15 lanthanoids plus scandium and yttrium. They are called rare because they were once difficult to extract economically, so it was rare to have a pure sample; due to similar chemical properties, it is difficult to separate any one lanthanide from the others. However, newer separation methods, such as ion exchange resins similar to those found in home water softeners, make the separation of these elements easier and more economical. Most ores that contain these elements have low concentrations of all the rare earth elements mixed together.

The commercial applications of lanthanides are growing rapidly. For example, europium is important in flat screen displays found in computer monitors, cell phones, and televisions. Neodymium is useful in laptop hard drives and in the processes that convert crude oil into gasoline (Figure 8.2.2). Holmium is found in dental and medical equipment. In addition, many alternative energy technologies rely heavily on lanthanoids. Neodymium and dysprosium are key components of hybrid vehicle engines and the magnets used in wind turbines.

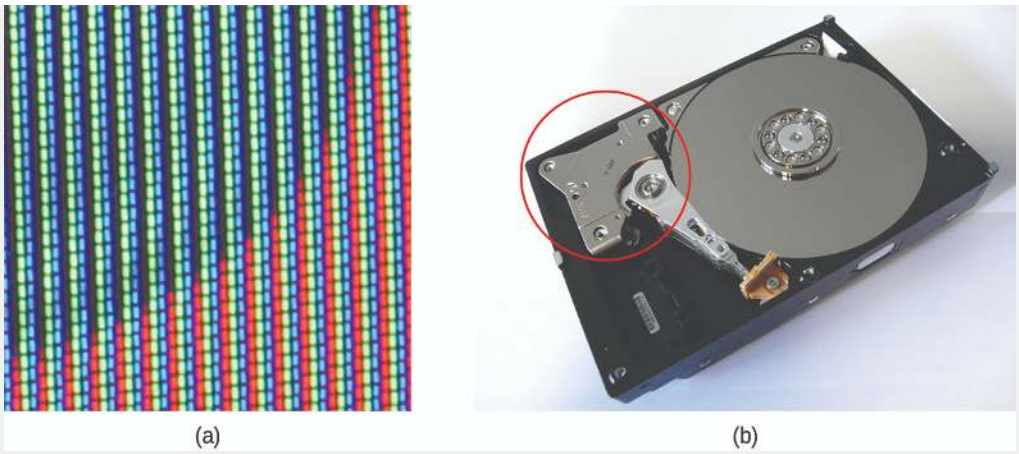


Figure 8.2.2: (a) Europium is used in display screens for televisions, computer monitors, and cell phones. (b) Neodymium magnets are commonly found in computer hard drives. (credit b: modification of work by "KUERT Datenrettung"/Flickr)

As the demand for lanthanide materials has increased faster than supply, prices have also increased. In 2008, dysprosium cost $110/kg; by 2014, the price had increased to $470/kg. Increasing the supply of lanthanoid elements is one of the most significant challenges facing the industries that rely on the optical and magnetic properties of these materials.

The transition elements have many properties in common with other metals. They are almost all hard, high-melting solids that conduct heat and electricity well. They readily form alloys and lose electrons to form stable cations. In addition, transition metals form a wide variety of stable **coordination compounds**, in which the central metal atom or ion acts as a Lewis acid and accepts one or more pairs of electrons. Many different molecules and ions can donate lone pairs to the metal center, serving as Lewis bases. In this chapter, we shall focus primarily on the chemical behavior of the elements of the first transition series.

Properties of the Transition Elements

Transition metals demonstrate a wide range of chemical behaviors. As can be seen from their reduction potentials (see Appendix H), some transition metals are strong reducing agents, whereas others have very low reactivity. For example, the lanthanides all form stable 3+ aqueous cations. The driving force for such oxidations is similar to that of alkaline earth metals such as Be or Mg, forming Be^{2+} and Mg^{2+}. On the other hand, materials like platinum and gold have much higher reduction potentials. Their ability to resist oxidation makes them useful materials for constructing circuits and jewelry.

Ions of the lighter *d*-block elements, such as Cr^{3+}, Fe^{3+}, and Co^{2+}, form colorful hydrated ions that are stable in water. However, ions in the period just below these (Mo^{3+}, Ru^{3+}, and Ir^{2+}) are unstable and react readily with oxygen from the air. The majority of simple, water-stable ions formed by the heavier *d*-block elements are oxyanions such as and

Ruthenium, osmium, rhodium, iridium, palladium, and platinum are the **platinum metals**. With difficulty, they form simple cations that are stable in water, and, unlike the earlier elements in the second and third transition series, they do not form stable oxyanions.

Both the *d*- and *f*-block elements react with nonmetals to form binary compounds; heating is often required. These elements react with halogens to form a variety of halides ranging in oxidation state from 1+ to 6+. On heating, oxygen reacts with all of the transition elements except palladium, platinum, silver, and gold. The oxides of these latter metals can be formed using other reactants, but they decompose upon heating. The *f*-block elements, the elements of group 3, and the elements of the first transition series except copper react with aqueous solutions of acids, forming hydrogen gas and solutions of the corresponding salts.

Transition metals can form compounds with a wide range of oxidation states. Some of the observed oxidation states of the elements of the first transition series are shown in Figure 8.2.3. As we move from left to right across the first transition series, we see that the number of common oxidation states increases at first to a maximum towards the middle of the table, then decreases. The values in the table are typical values; there are other known values, and it is possible to synthesize new additions. For example, in 2014, researchers were successful in synthesizing a new oxidation state of iridium (9+).

21 Sc	22 Ti	23 V	24 Cr	25 Mn	26 Fe	27 Co	28 Ni	29 Cu	30 Zn
								1+	
		2+	2+	2+	2+	2+	2+	2+	2+
3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	
	4+	4+	4+	4+					
		5+							
			6+	6+	6+				
				7+					

Figure 8.2.3: Transition metals of the first transition series can form compounds with varying oxidation states.

For the elements scandium through manganese (the first half of the first transition series), the highest oxidation state corresponds to the loss of all of the electrons in both the *s* and *d* orbitals of their valence shells. The titanium(IV) ion, for example, is formed when the titanium atom loses its two 3*d* and two 4*s* electrons. These highest oxidation states are the most stable forms of scandium, titanium, and vanadium. However, it is not possible to continue to remove all of the valence electrons from metals as we continue through the series. Iron is known to form oxidation states from 2+ to 6+, with iron(II) and iron(III) being the most common. Most of the elements of the first transition series form ions with a charge of 2+ or 3+ that are stable in water, although those of the early members of the series can be readily oxidized by air.

The elements of the second and third transition series generally are more stable in higher oxidation states than are the elements of the first series. In general, the atomic radius increases down a group, which leads to the ions of the second and third series being larger than are those in the first series. Removing electrons from orbitals that are located farther from the nucleus is easier than removing electrons close to the nucleus. For example, molybdenum and tungsten, members of group 6, are limited mostly to an oxidation state of 6+ in aqueous solution. Chromium, the lightest member of the group, forms stable Cr^{3+} ions in water and, in the absence of air, less stable Cr^{2+} ions. The sulfide with the highest oxidation state for chromium is Cr_2S_3, which contains the Cr^{3+} ion. Molybdenum and tungsten form sulfides in which the metals exhibit oxidation states of 4+ and 6+.

✔ Example 8.2.2: Activity of the Transition Metals

Which is the strongest oxidizing agent in acidic solution: dichromate ion, which contains chromium(VI), permanganate ion, which contains manganese(VII), or titanium dioxide, which contains titanium(IV)?

Solution

First, we need to look up the reduction half reactions (in Appendix L) for each oxide in the specified oxidation state:

$$\begin{aligned} Cr_2O_7^{2-} + 14H^+ + 6e^- &\longrightarrow 2Cr^{3+} + 7H_2O \quad +1.33V \\ MnO_4^- + 8H^+ + 5e^- &\longrightarrow Mn^{2+} + H_2O \quad +1.51V \\ TiO_2 + 4H^+ + 2e^- &\longrightarrow Ti^{2+} + 2H_2O \quad -0.50V \end{aligned}$$

A larger reduction potential means that it is easier to reduce the reactant. Permanganate, with the largest reduction potential, is the strongest oxidizer under these conditions. Dichromate is next, followed by titanium dioxide as the weakest oxidizing agent (the hardest to reduce) of this set.

? Exercise 8.2.2

Predict what reaction (if any) will occur between HCl and Co(*s*), and between HBr and Pt(*s*). You will need to use the standard reduction potentials from Appendix L.

Answer

$$\mathrm{Co\,(s) + 2\,HCl \longrightarrow H_2 + CoCl_2\,(aq)}$$

no reaction because Pt(*s*) will not be oxidized by H^+

Preparation of the Transition Elements

Ancient civilizations knew about iron, copper, silver, and gold. The time periods in human history known as the Bronze Age and Iron Age mark the advancements in which societies learned to isolate certain metals and use them to make tools and goods. Naturally occurring ores of copper, silver, and gold can contain high concentrations of these metals in elemental form (Figure 8.2.4). Iron, on the other hand, occurs on earth almost exclusively in oxidized forms, such as rust (Fe_2O_3). The earliest known iron implements were made from iron meteorites. Surviving iron artifacts dating from approximately 4000 to 2500 BC are rare, but all known examples contain specific alloys of iron and nickel that occur only in extraterrestrial objects, not on earth. It took thousands of years of technological advances before civilizations developed iron **smelting**, the ability to extract a pure element from its naturally occurring ores and for iron tools to become common.



Figure 8.2.4: Transition metals occur in nature in various forms. Examples include (a) a nugget of copper, (b) a deposit of gold, and (c) an ore containing oxidized iron. (credit a: modification of work by http://images-of-elements.com/copper-2.jpg; credit c: modification of work by http://images-of-elements.com/iron-ore.jpg)

Generally, the transition elements are extracted from minerals found in a variety of ores. However, the ease of their recovery varies widely, depending on the concentration of the element in the ore, the identity of the other elements present, and the difficulty of reducing the element to the free metal.

In general, it is not difficult to reduce ions of the *d*-block elements to the free element. Carbon is a sufficiently strong reducing agent in most cases. However, like the ions of the more active main group metals, ions of the *f*-block elements must be isolated by electrolysis or by reduction with an active metal such as calcium.

We shall discuss the processes used for the isolation of iron, copper, and silver because these three processes illustrate the principal means of isolating most of the *d*-block metals. In general, each of these processes involves three principal steps: preliminary treatment, smelting, and refining.

1. Preliminary treatment. In general, there is an initial treatment of the ores to make them suitable for the extraction of the metals. This usually involves crushing or grinding the ore, concentrating the metal-bearing components, and sometimes treating these substances chemically to convert them into compounds that are easier to reduce to the metal.
2. Smelting. The next step is the extraction of the metal in the molten state, a process called smelting, which includes reduction of the metallic compound to the metal. Impurities may be removed by the addition of a compound that forms a slag—a substance with a low melting point that can be readily separated from the molten metal.
3. Refining. The final step in the recovery of a metal is refining the metal. Low boiling metals such as zinc and mercury can be refined by distillation. When fused on an inclined table, low melting metals like tin flow away from higher-melting impurities. Electrolysis is another common method for refining metals.

Isolation of Iron

The early application of iron to the manufacture of tools and weapons was possible because of the wide distribution of iron ores and the ease with which iron compounds in the ores could be reduced by carbon. For a long time, charcoal was the form of carbon used in the reduction process. The production and use of iron became much more widespread about 1620, when coke was introduced as the reducing agent. Coke is a form of carbon formed by heating coal in the absence of air to remove impurities.

The first step in the metallurgy of iron is usually roasting the ore (heating the ore in air) to remove water, decomposing carbonates into oxides, and converting sulfides into oxides. The oxides are then reduced in a blast furnace that is 80–100 feet high and about

25 feet in diameter (Figure 8.2.5) in which the roasted ore, coke, and limestone (impure $CaCO_3$) are introduced continuously into the top. Molten iron and slag are withdrawn at the bottom. The entire stock in a furnace may weigh several hundred tons.

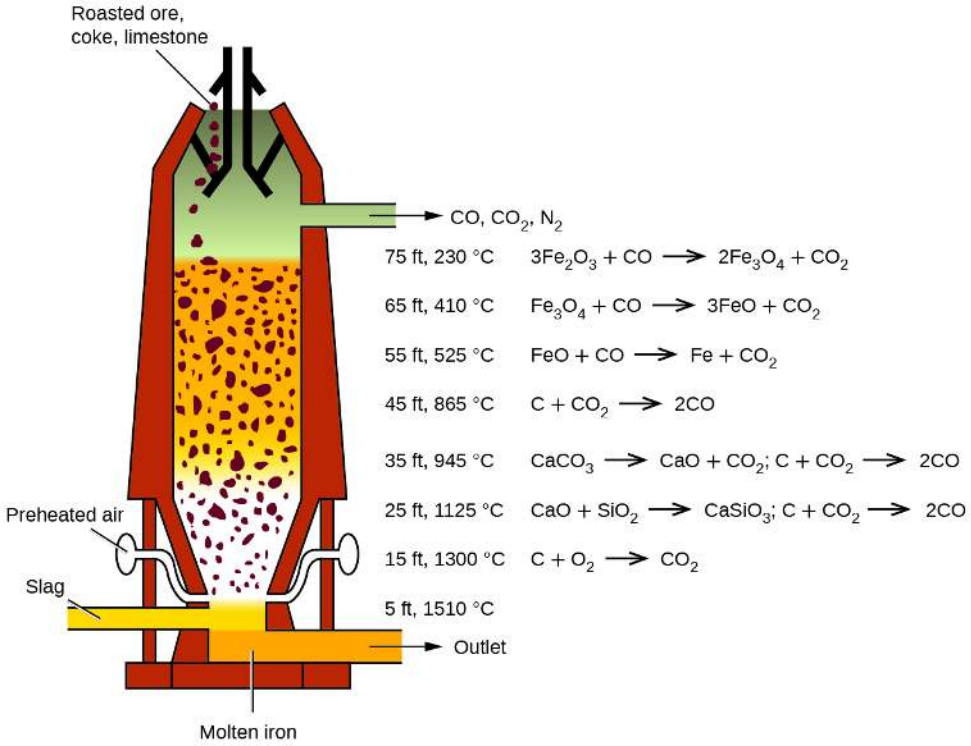


Figure 8.2.5: Within a blast furnace, different reactions occur in different temperature zones. Carbon monoxide is generated in the hotter bottom regions and rises upward to reduce the iron oxides to pure iron through a series of reactions that take place in the upper regions.

Near the bottom of a furnace are nozzles through which preheated air is blown into the furnace. As soon as the air enters, the coke in the region of the nozzles is oxidized to carbon dioxide with the liberation of a great deal of heat. The hot carbon dioxide passes upward through the overlying layer of white-hot coke, where it is reduced to carbon monoxide:

$$\mathrm{CO_2\,(g) + C\,(s) \longrightarrow 2\,CO\,(g)}$$

The carbon monoxide serves as the reducing agent in the upper regions of the furnace. The individual reactions are indicated in Figure 8.2.5.

The iron oxides are reduced in the upper region of the furnace. In the middle region, limestone (calcium carbonate) decomposes, and the resulting calcium oxide combines with silica and silicates in the ore to form slag. The slag is mostly calcium silicate and contains most of the commercially unimportant components of the ore:

$$\mathrm{CaO\,(s) + SiO_2\,(s) \longrightarrow CaSiO_3\,(l)}$$

Just below the middle of the furnace, the temperature is high enough to melt both the iron and the slag. They collect in layers at the bottom of the furnace; the less dense slag floats on the iron and protects it from oxidation. Several times a day, the slag and molten iron are withdrawn from the furnace. The iron is transferred to casting machines or to a steelmaking plant (Figure 8.2.6).



Figure 8.2.6: Molten iron is shown being cast as steel. (credit: Clint Budd)

Much of the iron produced is refined and converted into steel. **Steel** is made from iron by removing impurities and adding substances such as manganese, chromium, nickel, tungsten, molybdenum, and vanadium to produce alloys with properties that make the material suitable for specific uses. Most steels also contain small but definite percentages of carbon (0.04%–2.5%). However, a large part of the carbon contained in iron must be removed in the manufacture of steel; otherwise, the excess carbon would make the iron brittle.

Link to Learning

You can watch an animation of steelmaking that walks you through the process.

Isolation of Copper

The most important ores of copper contain copper sulfides (such as covellite, CuS), although copper oxides (such as tenorite, CuO) and copper hydroxycarbonates [such as malachite, $Cu_2(OH)_2CO_3$] are sometimes found. In the production of copper metal, the concentrated sulfide ore is roasted to remove part of the sulfur as sulfur dioxide. The remaining mixture, which consists of Cu_2S, FeS, FeO, and SiO_2, is mixed with limestone, which serves as a flux (a material that aids in the removal of impurities), and heated. Molten slag forms as the iron and silica are removed by Lewis acid-base reactions:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathrm{CaCO_3\,(s) + SiO_2\,(s) &\longrightarrow CaSiO_3\,(l) + CO_2\,(g)} \\ \mathrm{FeO\,(s) + SiO_2\,(s) &\longrightarrow FeSiO_3\,(l)} \end{aligned}$$

In these reactions, the silicon dioxide behaves as a Lewis acid, which accepts a pair of electrons from the Lewis base (the oxide ion).

Reduction of the Cu_2S that remains after smelting is accomplished by blowing air through the molten material. The air converts part of the Cu_2S into Cu_2O. As soon as copper(I) oxide is formed, it is reduced by the remaining copper(I) sulfide to metallic copper:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathrm{2\,Cu_2S\,(l) + 3\,O_2\,(g) &\longrightarrow 2\,Cu_2O\,(l) + 2\,SO_2\,(g)} \\ \mathrm{2\,Cu_2O\,(l) + Cu_2S\,(l) &\longrightarrow 6\,Cu\,(l) + SO_2\,(g)} \end{aligned}$$

The copper obtained in this way is called blister copper because of its characteristic appearance, which is due to the air blisters it contains (Figure 8.2.7). This impure copper is cast into large plates, which are used as anodes in the electrolytic refining of the metal (which is described in the chapter on electrochemistry).



Figure 8.2.7: Blister copper is obtained during the conversion of copper-containing ore into pure copper. (credit: "Tortie tude"/Wikimedia Commons)

Isolation of Silver

Silver sometimes occurs in large nuggets (Figure 8.2.8) but more frequently in veins and related deposits. At one time, panning was an effective method of isolating both silver and gold nuggets. Due to their low reactivity, these metals, and a few others, occur in deposits as nuggets. The discovery of platinum was due to Spanish explorers in Central America mistaking platinum nuggets for silver. When the metal is not in the form of nuggets, it often useful to employ a process called **hydrometallurgy** to separate silver from its ores. Hydrology involves the separation of a metal from a mixture by first converting it into soluble ions and then extracting and reducing them to precipitate the pure metal. In the presence of air, alkali metal cyanides readily form the soluble dicyanoargentate(I) ion, from silver metal or silver-containing compounds such as Ag_2S and AgCl. Representative equations are:

$$4\,Ag\,(s) + 8\,CN^-\,(aq) + O_2\,(g) + 2\,H_2O\,(l) \longrightarrow 4\,[\,Ag(CN)_2\,]^-\,(aq) + 4\,OH^-\,(aq)$$
$$2\,Ag_2S\,(s) + 8\,CN^-\,(aq) + O_2\,(g) + 2\,H_2O\,(l) \longrightarrow 4\,[\,Ag(CN)_2\,]^-\,(aq) + 2\,S\,(s) + 4\,OH^-\,(aq)$$
$$AgCl\,(s) + 2\,CN^-\,(aq) \longrightarrow [\,Ag(CN)_2\,]^-\,(aq) + Cl^-\,(aq)$$

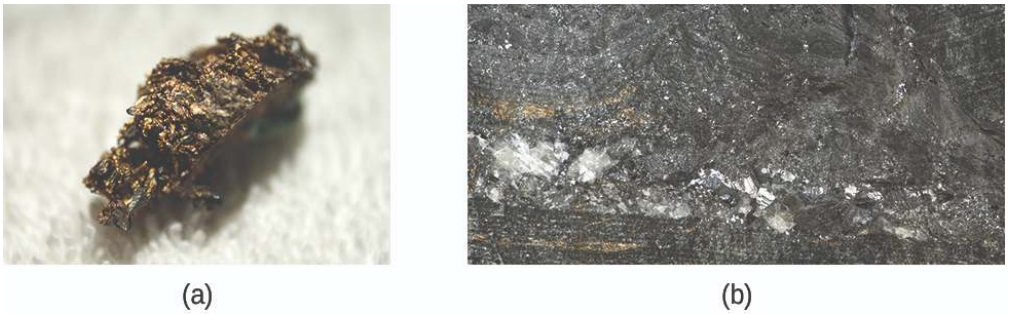


Figure 8.2.8: Naturally occurring free silver may be found as nuggets (a) or in veins (b). (credit a: modification of work by "Teravolt"/Wikimedia Commons; credit b: modification of work by James St. John)

The silver is precipitated from the cyanide solution by the addition of either zinc or iron(II) ions, which serves as the reducing agent:

$$2\,[\,Ag(CN)_2]^-\,(aq) + Zn\,(s) \longrightarrow 2\,Ag\,(s) + [\,Zn(CN)_4]^{2-}\,(aq)$$

Example 8.2.3: Refining Redox

One of the steps for refining silver involves converting silver into dicyanoargenate(I) ions:

$$4\,Ag\,(s) + 8\,CN^-\,(aq) + O_2\,(g) + 2\,H_2O\,(l) \longrightarrow 4\,[\,Ag(CN)_2\,]^-\,(aq) + 4\,OH^-\,(aq)$$

Explain why oxygen must be present to carry out the reaction. Why does the reaction not occur as:

$$4\,Ag\,(s) + 8\,CN^-\,(aq) \longrightarrow 4\,[\,Ag(CN)_2]^-\,(aq)?$$

Solution

The charges, as well as the atoms, must balance in reactions. The silver atom is being oxidized from the 0 oxidation state to the 1+ state. Whenever something loses electrons, something must also gain electrons (be reduced) to balance the equation. Oxygen is a good oxidizing agent for these reactions because it can gain electrons to go from the 0 oxidation state to the 2− state.

Exercise 8.2.3

During the refining of iron, carbon must be present in the blast furnace. Why is carbon necessary to convert iron oxide into iron?

Answer

The carbon is converted into CO, which is the reducing agent that accepts electrons so that iron(III) can be reduced to iron(0).

Transition Metal Compounds

The bonding in the simple compounds of the transition elements ranges from ionic to covalent. In their lower oxidation states, the transition elements form ionic compounds; in their higher oxidation states, they form covalent compounds or polyatomic ions. The variation in oxidation states exhibited by the transition elements gives these compounds a metal-based, oxidation-reduction chemistry. The chemistry of several classes of compounds containing elements of the transition series follows.

Halides

Anhydrous halides of each of the transition elements can be prepared by the direct reaction of the metal with halogens. For example:

$$2\,Fe\,(s) + 3\,Cl_2\,(g) \longrightarrow 2\,FeCl_3\,(s)$$

Heating a metal halide with additional metal can be used to form a halide of the metal with a lower oxidation state:

$$Fe\,(s) + 2\,FeCl_3\,(s) \longrightarrow 3\,FeCl_2\,(s)$$

The stoichiometry of the metal halide that results from the reaction of the metal with a halogen is determined by the relative amounts of metal and halogen and by the strength of the halogen as an oxidizing agent. Generally, fluorine forms fluoride-containing metals in their highest oxidation states. The other halogens may not form analogous compounds.

In general, the preparation of stable water solutions of the halides of the metals of the first transition series is by the addition of a hydrohalic acid to carbonates, hydroxides, oxides, or other compounds that contain basic anions. Sample reactions are:

$$NiCO_3\,(s) + 2\,HF\,(aq) \longrightarrow NiF_2\,(aq) + H_2O\,(l) + CO_2\,(g)$$
$$Co(OH)_2\,(s) + 2\,HBr\,(aq) \longrightarrow CoBr_2\,(aq) + 2\,H_2O\,(l)$$

Most of the first transition series metals also dissolve in acids, forming a solution of the salt and hydrogen gas. For example:

$$Cr\,(s) + 2\,HCl\,(aq) \longrightarrow CrCl_2\,(aq) + H_2\,(g)$$

The polarity of bonds with transition metals varies based not only upon the electronegativities of the atoms involved but also upon the oxidation state of the transition metal. Remember that bond polarity is a continuous spectrum with electrons being shared

evenly (covalent bonds) at one extreme and electrons being transferred completely (ionic bonds) at the other. No bond is ever 100% ionic, and the degree to which the electrons are evenly distributed determines many properties of the compound. Transition metal halides with low oxidation numbers form more ionic bonds. For example, titanium(II) chloride and titanium(III) chloride ($TiCl_2$ and $TiCl_3$) have high melting points that are characteristic of ionic compounds, but titanium(IV) chloride ($TiCl_4$) is a volatile liquid, consistent with having covalent titanium-chlorine bonds. All halides of the heavier *d*-block elements have significant covalent characteristics.

The covalent behavior of the transition metals with higher oxidation states is exemplified by the reaction of the metal tetrahalides with water. Like covalent silicon tetrachloride, both the titanium and vanadium tetrahalides react with water to give solutions containing the corresponding hydrohalic acids and the metal oxides:

$$\mathrm{SiCl_4\,(l) + 2\,H_2O\,(l) \longrightarrow SiO_2\,(s) + 4\,HCl\,(aq)}$$
$$\mathrm{TiCl_4\,(l) + 2\,H_2O\,(l) \longrightarrow TiO_2\,(s) + 4\,HCl\,(aq)}$$

Oxides

As with the halides, the nature of bonding in oxides of the transition elements is determined by the oxidation state of the metal. Oxides with low oxidation states tend to be more ionic, whereas those with higher oxidation states are more covalent. These variations in bonding are because the electronegativities of the elements are not fixed values. The electronegativity of an element increases with increasing oxidation state. Transition metals in low oxidation states have lower electronegativity values than oxygen; therefore, these metal oxides are ionic. Transition metals in very high oxidation states have electronegativity values close to that of oxygen, which leads to these oxides being covalent.

The oxides of the first transition series can be prepared by heating the metals in air. These oxides are Sc_2O_3, TiO_2, V_2O_5, Cr_2O_3, Mn_3O_4, Fe_3O_4, Co_3O_4, NiO, and CuO.

Alternatively, these oxides and other oxides (with the metals in different oxidation states) can be produced by heating the corresponding hydroxides, carbonates, or oxalates in an inert atmosphere. Iron(II) oxide can be prepared by heating iron(II) oxalate, and cobalt(II) oxide is produced by heating cobalt(II) hydroxide:

$$\mathrm{FeC_2O_4\,(s) \longrightarrow FeO\,(s) + CO\,(g) + CO_2\,(g)}$$
$$\mathrm{Co(OH)_2\,(s) \longrightarrow CoO\,(s) + H_2O\,(g)}$$

With the exception of CrO_3 and Mn_2O_7, transition metal oxides are not soluble in water. They can react with acids and, in a few cases, with bases. Overall, oxides of transition metals with the lowest oxidation states are basic (and react with acids), the intermediate ones are amphoteric, and the highest oxidation states are primarily acidic. Basic metal oxides at a low oxidation state react with aqueous acids to form solutions of salts and water. Examples include the reaction of cobalt(II) oxide accepting protons from nitric acid, and scandium(III) oxide accepting protons from hydrochloric acid:

\[

$$\mathrm{CoO\,(s) + 2\,HNO_3\,(aq) \longrightarrow Co(NO_3)_2\,(aq) + H_2O\,(l)}$$
$$\mathrm{Sc_2O_3\,(s) + 6\,HCl\,(aq) \longrightarrow 2\,ScCl_3\,(aq) + 3\,H_2O\,(l)}$$

]

The oxides of metals with oxidation states of 4+ are amphoteric, and most are not soluble in either acids or bases. Vanadium(V) oxide, chromium(VI) oxide, and manganese(VII) oxide are acidic. They react with solutions of hydroxides to form salts of the oxyanions and \(\ce{VO4^{3−}\), \(\ce{CrO4^{2−}\), and MnO_4^-. For example, the complete ionic equation for the reaction of chromium(VI) oxide with a strong base is given by:

$$\mathrm{CrO_3\,(s) + 2\,Na^+\,(aq) + 2\,OH^-\,(aq) \longrightarrow 2\,Na^+\,(aq) + {CrO_4}^{2-}\,(aq) + H_2O\,(l)}$$

Chromium(VI) oxide and manganese(VII) oxide react with water to form the acids H_2CrO_4 and $HMnO_4$, respectively.

Hydroxides

When a soluble hydroxide is added to an aqueous solution of a salt of a transition metal of the first transition series, a gelatinous precipitate forms. For example, adding a solution of sodium hydroxide to a solution of cobalt sulfate produces a gelatinous pink or blue precipitate of cobalt(II) hydroxide. The net ionic equation is:

$$Co^{2+}(aq) + 2OH^{-}(aq) \longrightarrow Co(OH)_2(s)$$

In this and many other cases, these precipitates are hydroxides containing the transition metal ion, hydroxide ions, and water coordinated to the transition metal. In other cases, the precipitates are hydrated oxides composed of the metal ion, oxide ions, and water of hydration:

$$4Fe^{3+}(aq) + 6OH^{-}(aq) + nH_2O(l) \longrightarrow 2Fe_2O_3 \cdot (n+3)H_2O(s)$$

These substances do not contain hydroxide ions. However, both the hydroxides and the hydrated oxides react with acids to form salts and water. When precipitating a metal from solution, it is necessary to avoid an excess of hydroxide ion, as this may lead to complex ion formation as discussed later in this chapter. The precipitated metal hydroxides can be separated for further processing or for waste disposal.

Carbonates

Many of the elements of the first transition series form insoluble carbonates. It is possible to prepare these carbonates by the addition of a soluble carbonate salt to a solution of a transition metal salt. For example, nickel carbonate can be prepared from solutions of nickel nitrate and sodium carbonate according to the following net ionic equation:

$$Ni^{2+}(aq) + {CO_3}^{2-} \longrightarrow NiCO_3(s)$$

The reactions of the transition metal carbonates are similar to those of the active metal carbonates. They react with acids to form metals salts, carbon dioxide, and water. Upon heating, they decompose, forming the transition metal oxides.

Other Salts

In many respects, the chemical behavior of the elements of the first transition series is very similar to that of the main group metals. In particular, the same types of reactions that are used to prepare salts of the main group metals can be used to prepare simple ionic salts of these elements.

A variety of salts can be prepared from metals that are more active than hydrogen by reaction with the corresponding acids: Scandium metal reacts with hydrobromic acid to form a solution of scandium bromide:

$$2Sc(s) + 6HBr(aq) \longrightarrow 2ScBr_3(aq) + 3H_2(g)$$

The common compounds that we have just discussed can also be used to prepare salts. The reactions involved include the reactions of oxides, hydroxides, or carbonates with acids. For example:

$$Ni(OH)_2(s) + 2H_3O^{+}(aq) + 2ClO_4^{-}(aq) \longrightarrow Ni^{2+}(aq) + 2ClO_4^{-}(aq) + 4H_2O(l)$$

Substitution reactions involving soluble salts may be used to prepare insoluble salts. For example:

$$Ba^{2+}(aq) + 2Cl^{-}(aq) + 2K^{+}(aq) + CrO_4^{2-}(aq) \longrightarrow BaCrO_4(s) + 2K^{+}(aq) + 2Cl^{-}(aq)$$

In our discussion of oxides in this section, we have seen that reactions of the covalent oxides of the transition elements with hydroxides form salts that contain oxyanions of the transition elements.

How Sciences Interconnect: High Temperature Superconductors

A **superconductor** is a substance that conducts electricity with no resistance. This lack of resistance means that there is no energy loss during the transmission of electricity. This would lead to a significant reduction in the cost of electricity.

Most currently used, commercial superconducting materials, such as NbTi and Nb_3Sn, do not become superconducting until they are cooled below 23 K (−250 °C). This requires the use of liquid helium, which has a boiling temperature of 4 K and is expensive and difficult to handle. The cost of liquid helium has deterred the widespread application of superconductors.

One of the most exciting scientific discoveries of the 1980s was the characterization of compounds that exhibit superconductivity at temperatures above 90 K. (Compared to liquid helium, 90 K is a high temperature.) Typical among the high-temperature superconducting materials are oxides containing yttrium (or one of several rare earth elements), barium, and copper in a 1:2:3 ratio. The formula of the ionic yttrium compound is $YBa_2Cu_3O_7$.

The new materials become superconducting at temperatures close to 90 K (Figure 8.2.9), temperatures that can be reached by cooling with liquid nitrogen (boiling temperature of 77 K). Not only are liquid nitrogen-cooled materials easier to handle, but the cooling costs are also about 1000 times lower than for liquid helium.

Further advances during the same period included materials that became superconducting at even higher temperatures and with a wider array of materials. The DuPont team led by Uma Chowdry and Arthur Sleight identified Bismouth-Strontium-Copper-Oxides that became superconducting at temperatures as high as 110 K and, importantly, did not contain rare earth elements. Advances continued through the subsequent decades until, in 2020, a team led by Ranga Dias at University of Rochester announced the development of a room-temperature superconductor, opening doors to widespread applications. More research and development is needed to realize the potential of these materials, but the possibilities are very promising.

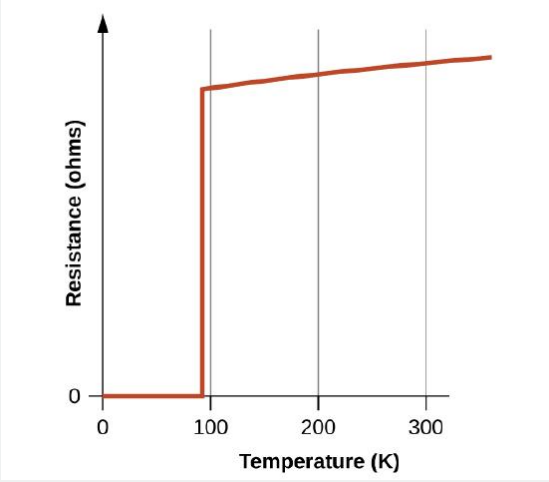


Figure 8.2.9: The resistance of the high-temperature superconductor $YBa_2Cu_3O_7$ varies with temperature. Note how the resistance falls to zero below 92 K, when the substance becomes superconducting.

Although the brittle, fragile nature of these materials presently hampers their commercial applications, they have tremendous potential that researchers are hard at work improving their processes to help realize. Superconducting transmission lines would carry current for hundreds of miles with no loss of power due to resistance in the wires. This could allow generating stations to be located in areas remote from population centers and near the natural resources necessary for power production. The first project demonstrating the viability of high-temperature superconductor power transmission was established in New York in 2008.

Researchers are also working on using this technology to develop other applications, such as smaller and more powerful microchips. In addition, high-temperature superconductors can be used to generate magnetic fields for applications such as medical devices, magnetic levitation trains, and containment fields for nuclear fusion reactors (Figure 8.2.10).



Figure 8.2.10: (a) This magnetic levitation train (or maglev) uses superconductor technology to move along its tracks. (b) A magnet can be levitated using a dish like this as a superconductor. (credit a: modification of work by Alex Needham; credit b: modification of work by Kevin Jarrett)

Link to Learning

Watch how a high-temperature superconductor levitates around a magnetic racetrack in the video.

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8.3: Coordination Chemistry of Transition Metals

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- List the defining traits of coordination compounds
- Describe the structures of complexes containing monodentate and polydentate ligands
- Use standard nomenclature rules to name coordination compounds
- Explain and provide examples of geometric and optical isomerism
- Identify several natural and technological occurrences of coordination compounds

The hemoglobin in your blood, the chlorophyll in green plants, vitamin B-12, and the catalyst used in the manufacture of polyethylene all contain coordination compounds. Ions of the metals, especially the transition metals, are likely to form complexes. Many of these compounds are highly colored (Figure 8.3.1). In the remainder of this chapter, we will consider the structure and bonding of these remarkable compounds.



Figure 8.3.1: Metal ions that contain partially filled *d* subshell usually form colored complex ions; ions with empty *d* subshell (d^0) or with filled *d* subshells (d^{10}) usually form colorless complexes. This figure shows, from left to right, solutions containing $[M(H_2O)_6]^{n+}$ ions with M = Sc^{3+}(d^0), Cr^{3+}(d^3), Co^{2+}(d^7), Ni^{2+}(d^8), Cu^{2+}(d^9), and Zn^{2+}(d^{10}). (credit: Sahar Atwa)

Remember that in most main group element compounds, the valence electrons of the isolated atoms combine to form chemical bonds that satisfy the octet rule. For instance, the four valence electrons of carbon overlap with electrons from four hydrogen atoms to form CH_4. The one valence electron leaves sodium and adds to the seven valence electrons of chlorine to form the ionic formula unit NaCl (Figure 8.3.2). Transition metals do not normally bond in this fashion. They primarily form coordinate covalent bonds, a form of the Lewis acid-base interaction in which both of the electrons in the bond are contributed by a donor (Lewis base) to an electron acceptor (Lewis acid). The Lewis acid in coordination complexes, often called a **central metal** ion (or atom), is often a transition metal or inner transition metal, although main group elements can also form **coordination compounds**. The Lewis base donors, called **ligands**, can be a wide variety of chemicals—atoms, molecules, or ions. The only requirement is that they have one or more electron pairs, which can be donated to the central metal. Most often, this involves a **donor atom** with a lone pair of electrons that can form a coordinate bond to the metal.

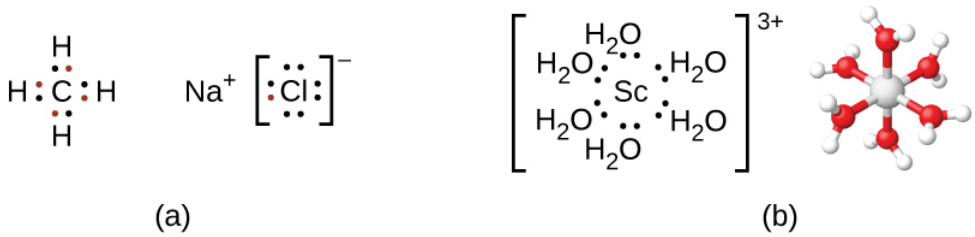


Figure 8.3.2: (a) Covalent bonds involve the sharing of electrons, and ionic bonds involve the transferring of electrons associated with each bonding atom, as indicated by the colored electrons. (b) However, coordinate covalent bonds involve electrons from a Lewis base being donated to a metal center. The lone pairs from six water molecules form bonds to the scandium ion to form an octahedral complex. (Only the donated pairs are shown.)

The coordination sphere consists of the central metal ion or atom plus its attached ligands. Brackets in a formula enclose the coordination sphere; species outside the brackets are not part of the coordination sphere. The coordination number of the central metal ion or atom is the number of donor atoms bonded to it. The coordination number for the silver ion in $[Ag(NH_3)_2]^+$ is two (Figure 8.3.3). For the copper(II) ion in $[CuCl_4]^{2-}$, the coordination number is four, whereas for the cobalt(II) ion in $[Co(H_2O)_6]^{2+}$ the coordination number is six. Each of these ligands is monodentate, from the Greek for "one toothed," meaning that they connect with the central metal through only one atom. In this case, the number of ligands and the coordination number are equal.

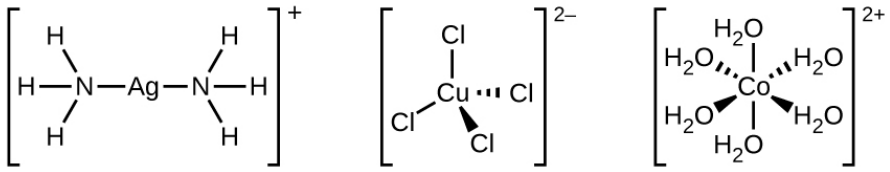


Figure 8.3.3: The complexes (a) $[Ag(NH_3)_2]^+$, (b) $[Cu(Cl)_4]^{2-}$, and (c) $[Co(H_2O)_6]^{2+}$ have coordination numbers of two, four, and six, respectively. The geometries of these complexes are the same as we have seen with VSEPR theory for main group elements: linear, tetrahedral, and octahedral.

Many other ligands coordinate to the metal in more complex fashions. **Bidentate ligands** are those in which two atoms coordinate to the metal center. For example, ethylenediamine (en, $H_2NCH_2CH_2NH_2$) contains two nitrogen atoms, each of which has a lone pair and can serve as a Lewis base (Figure 8.3.4). Both of the atoms can coordinate to a single metal center. In the complex $[Co(en)_3]^{3+}$, there are three bidentate en ligands, and the coordination number of the cobalt(III) ion is six. The most common coordination numbers are two, four, and six, but examples of all coordination numbers from 1 to 15 are known.

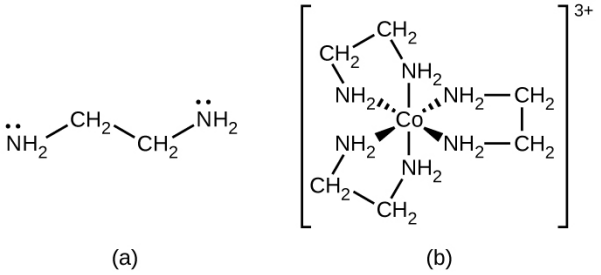


Figure 8.3.4: (a) The ethylenediamine (en) ligand contains two atoms with lone pairs that can coordinate to the metal center. (b) The cobalt(III) complex contains three of these ligands, each forming two bonds to the cobalt ion.

Any ligand that bonds to a central metal ion by more than one donor atom is a **polydentate ligand** (or "many teeth") because it can bite into the metal center with more than one bond. The term **chelate** (pronounced "KEY-late") from the Greek for "claw" is also used to describe this type of interaction. Many polydentate ligands are chelating ligands, and a complex consisting of one or more of these ligands and a central metal is a chelate. A **chelating ligand** is also known as a chelating agent. A chelating ligand holds the metal ion rather like a crab's claw would hold a marble. Figure 8.3.4: showed one example of a chelate. The heme complex in hemoglobin is another important example (Figure 8.3.5). It contains a polydentate ligand with four donor atoms that coordinate to iron.

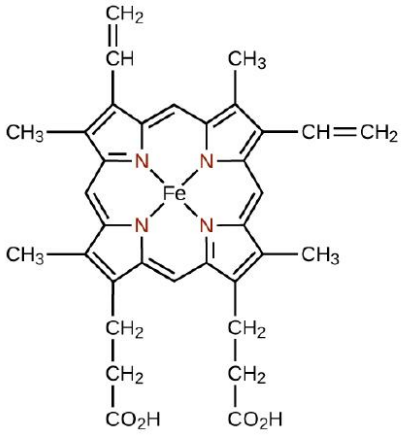


Figure 8.3.5: The single ligand heme contains four nitrogen atoms that coordinate to iron in hemoglobin to form a chelate.

Polydentate ligands are sometimes identified with prefixes that indicate the number of donor atoms in the ligand. As we have seen, ligands with one donor atom, such as NH_3, Cl^-, and H_2O, are monodentate ligands. Ligands with two donor groups are bidentate ligands. Ethylenediamine, \cE*H*2*NCH*2*CH*2*NH*2, and the anion of the acid glycine, $NH_2CH_2CO_2^-$ (Figure 8.3.6) are examples of bidentate ligands. Tridentate ligands, tetradentate ligands, pentadentate ligands, and hexadentate ligands contain three, four, five, and six donor atoms, respectively. The ligand in heme (Figure 8.3.5) is a tetradentate ligand.

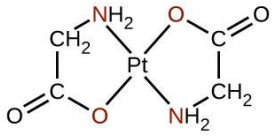


Figure 8.3.6: Each of the anionic ligands shown attaches in a bidentate fashion to platinum(II), with both a nitrogen and oxygen atom coordinating to the metal.

The Naming of Complexes

The nomenclature of the complexes is patterned after a system suggested by Alfred Werner, a Swiss chemist and Nobel laureate, whose outstanding work more than 100 years ago laid the foundation for a clearer understanding of these compounds. The following five rules are used for naming complexes:

1. If a coordination compound is ionic, name the cation first and the anion second, in accordance with the usual nomenclature.
2. Name the ligands first, followed by the central metal. Name the ligands alphabetically. Negative ligands (anions) have names formed by adding *-o* to the stem name of the group. For examples, see Table 8.3.1. For most neutral ligands, the name of the molecule is used. The four common exceptions are *aqua* (H_2O), *ammine* (NH_3), *carbonyl* (CO), and *nitrosyl* (NO). For example, name $[Pt(NH_3)_2Cl_4]$ as diamminetetrachloroplatinum(IV).

Table 8.3.1: Examples of Anionic Ligands

Anionic Ligand	Name
F^-	fluoro
Cl^-	chloro
Br^-	bromo
I^-	iodo
CN^-	cyano
	nitrato
OH^-	hydroxo
O^{2-}	oxo
	oxalato
	carbonato

3. If more than one ligand of a given type is present, the number is indicated by the prefixes *di-* (for two), *tri-* (for three), *tetra-* (for four), *penta-* (for five), and *hexa-* (for six). Sometimes, the prefixes *bis-* (for two), *tris-* (for three), and *tetrakis-* (for four) are used when the name of the ligand already includes *di-*, *tri-*, or *tetra-*, or when the ligand name begins with a vowel. For example, the ion bis(bipyridyl)osmium(II) uses bis- to signify that there are two ligands attached to Os, and each bipyridyl ligand contains two pyridine groups (C_5H_4N).

When the complex is either a cation or a neutral molecule, the name of the central metal atom is spelled exactly like the name of the element and is followed by a Roman numeral in parentheses to indicate its oxidation state (Table 8.3.2 and Table 8.3.3). When the complex is an anion, the suffix -ate is added to the stem of the name of the metal, followed by the Roman numeral designation of its oxidation state (Table 8.3.4). Sometimes, the Latin name of the metal is used when the English name is clumsy. For example, *ferrate* is used instead of *ironate*, *plumbate* instead *leadate*, and *stannate* instead of *tinate*. The oxidation state of the metal is

determined based on the charges of each ligand and the overall charge of the coordination compound. For example, in $[Cr(H_2O)_4Cl_2]Br$, the coordination sphere (in brackets) has a charge of 1+ to balance the bromide ion. The water ligands are neutral, and the chloride ligands are anionic with a charge of 1− each. To determine the oxidation state of the metal, we set the overall charge equal to the sum of the ligands and the metal: $+1 = -2 + x$, so the oxidation state (x) is equal to 3+.

Table 8.3.2: Examples in Which the Complex Is a Cation

$[Co(NH_3)_6]Cl_3$	hexaamminecobalt(III) chloride
$[Pt(NH_3)_4Cl_2]^{2+}$	tetraamminedichloroplatinum(IV) ion
$[Ag(NH_3)_2]^+$	diamminesilver(I) ion
$[Cr(H_2O)_4Cl_2]Cl$	tetraaquadichlorochromium(III) chloride
$[Co(H_2NCH_2CH_2NH_2)_3]_2(SO_4)_3$	tris(ethylenediamine)cobalt(III) sulfate

Table 8.3.3: Examples in Which the Complex Is Neutral

$[Pt(NH_3)_2Cl_4]$	diamminetetrachloroplatinum(IV)
$[Ni(H_2NCH_2CH_2NH_2)_2Cl_2]$	dichlorobis(ethylenediamine)nickel(II)

Table 8.3.4: Examples in Which the Complex Is an Anion

$[PtCl_6]^{2-}$	hexachloroplatinate(IV) ion
$Na_2[SnCl_6]$	sodium hexachlorostannate(IV)

Link to Learning

Do you think you understand naming coordination complexes? You can look over more examples and test yourself with online quizzes at the University of Sydney's site.

Example 8.3.1: Coordination Numbers and Oxidation States

Determine the name of the following complexes and give the coordination number of the central metal atom.

a. $Na_2[PtCl_6]$
b. $K_3[Fe(C_2O_4)_3]$
c. $[Co(NH_3)_5Cl]Cl_2$

Solution

(a) There are two Na^+ ions, so the coordination sphere has a negative two charge: $[PtCl_6]^{2-}$. There are six anionic chloride ligands, so $-2 = -6 + x$, and the oxidation state of the platinum is 4+. The name of the complex is sodium hexachloroplatinate(IV), and the coordination number is six.

(b) The coordination sphere has a charge of 3− (based on the potassium) and the oxalate ligands each have a charge of 2−, so the metal oxidation state is given by $-3 = -6 + x$, and this is an iron(III) complex. The name is potassium trisoxalatoferrate(III) (note that tris is used instead of tri because the ligand name starts with a vowel). Because oxalate is a bidentate ligand, this complex has a coordination number of six.

(c) In this example, the coordination sphere has a cationic charge of 2+. The NH_3 ligand is neutral, but the chloro ligand has a charge of 1−. The oxidation state is found by $+2 = -1 + x$ and is 3+, so the complex is pentaamminechlorocobalt(III) chloride and the coordination number is six.

Exercise 8.3.1

The complex potassium dicyanoargenate(I) is used to make antiseptic compounds. Give the formula and coordination number.

Answer

$K[Ag(CN)_2]$; coordination number two

The Structures of Complexes

For transition metal complexes, the coordination number determines the geometry around the central metal ion. The most common structures of the complexes in coordination compounds are square planar, tetrahedral, and octahedral, corresponding to coordination numbers of four, four, and six, respectively. Coordination numbers greater than six are less common and yield a variety of structures (see Figure 8.3.7 and Table 8.3.5):

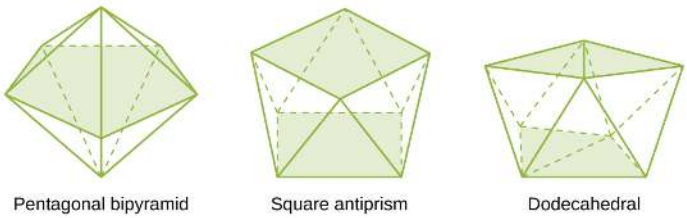


Figure 8.3.7: These are geometries of some complexes with coordination numbers of seven and eight.

Table 8.3.5: Coordination Numbers and Molecular Geometry

Coordination Number	Molecular Geometry	Example
2	linear	$[Ag(NH_3)_2]^+$
3	trigonal planar	$[Cu(CN)_3]^{2-}$
4	tetrahedral(d^0 or d^{10}), low oxidation states for M	$[Ni(CO)_4]$
4	square planar (d^8)	$[Ni(CN)_4]^{2-}$
5	trigonal bipyramidal	$[CoCl_5]^{2-}$
5	square pyramidal	$[VO(CN)_4]^{2-}$
6	octahedral	$[CoCl_6]^{3-}$
7	pentagonal bipyramid	$[ZrF_7]^{3-}$
8	square antiprism	$[ReF_8]^{2-}$
8	dodecahedron	$[Mo(CN)_8]^{4-}$
9 and above	more complicated structures	$[ReH_9]^{2-}$

Unlike main group atoms in which both the bonding and nonbonding electrons determine the molecular shape, the nonbonding *d*-electrons do not change the arrangement of the ligands. Octahedral complexes have a coordination number of six, and the six donor atoms are arranged at the corners of an octahedron around the central metal ion. Examples are shown in Figure 8.3.8. The chloride and nitrate anions in $[Co(H_2O)_6]Cl_2$ and $[Cr(en)_3](NO_3)_3$, and the potassium cations in $K_2[PtCl_6]$, are outside the brackets and are not bonded to the metal ion.

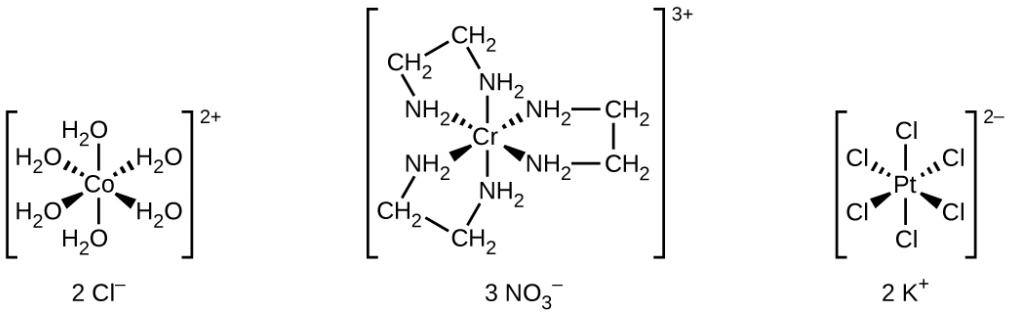


Figure 8.3.8: Many transition metal complexes adopt octahedral geometries, with six donor atoms forming bond angles of 90° about the central atom with adjacent ligands. Note that only ligands within the coordination sphere affect the geometry around the metal center.

For transition metals with a coordination number of four, two different geometries are possible: tetrahedral or square planar. Unlike main group elements, where these geometries can be predicted from VSEPR theory, a more detailed discussion of transition metal orbitals (discussed in the section on Crystal Field Theory) is required to predict which complexes will be tetrahedral and which will be square planar. In tetrahedral complexes such as $[Zn(CN)_4]^{2-}$ (Figure 8.3.9), each of the ligand pairs forms an angle of 109.5°. In square planar complexes, such as $[Pt(NH_3)_2Cl_2]$, each ligand has two other ligands at 90° angles (called the *cis* positions) and one additional ligand at an 180° angle, in the *trans* position.

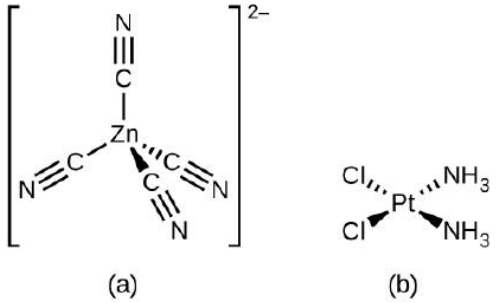


Figure 8.3.9: Transition metals with a coordination number of four can adopt a tetrahedral geometry (a) as in $K_2[Zn(CN)_4]$ or a square planar geometry (b) as shown in $[Pt(NH_3)_2Cl_2]$.

Isomerism in Complexes

Isomers are different chemical species that have the same chemical formula. Transition metal complexes often exist as **geometric isomers**, in which the same atoms are connected through the same types of bonds but with differences in their orientation in space. Coordination complexes with two different ligands in the *cis* and *trans* positions from a ligand of interest form isomers. For example, the octahedral $[Co(NH_3)_4Cl_2]^+$ ion has two isomers. In the ***cis* configuration**, the two chloride ligands are adjacent to each other (Figure 8.3.10). The other isomer, the ***trans* configuration**, has the two chloride ligands directly across from one another.

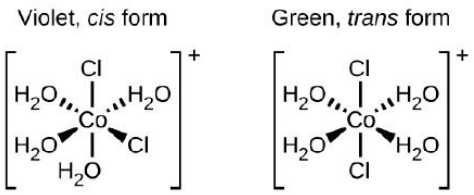


Figure 8.3.10: The *cis* and *trans* isomers of $[Co(H_2O)_4Cl_2]^+$ contain the same ligands attached to the same metal ion, but the spatial arrangement causes these two compounds to have very different properties.

Different geometric isomers of a substance are different chemical compounds. They exhibit different properties, even though they have the same formula. For example, the two isomers of $[Co(NH_3)_4Cl_2]NO_3$ differ in color; the *cis* form is violet, and the *trans* form is green. Furthermore, these isomers have different dipole moments, solubilities, and reactivities. As an example of how the arrangement in space can influence the molecular properties, consider the polarity of the two $[Co(NH_3)_4Cl_2]NO_3$ isomers. Remember that the polarity of a molecule or ion is determined by the bond dipoles (which are due to the difference in electronegativity of the bonding atoms) and their arrangement in space. In one isomer, *cis* chloride ligands cause more electron

density on one side of the molecule than on the other, making it polar. For the *trans* isomer, each ligand is directly across from an identical ligand, so the bond dipoles cancel out, and the molecule is nonpolar.

Example 8.3.2: Geometric Isomers

Identify which geometric isomer of $[Pt(NH_3)_2Cl_2]$ is shown in Figure 8.3.9. Draw the other geometric isomer and give its full name.

Solution

In the Figure 8.3.9, the two chlorine ligands occupy *cis* positions. The other form is shown in Figure 8.3.11. When naming specific isomers, the descriptor is listed in front of the name. Therefore, this complex is *trans*-diamminedichloroplatinum(II).

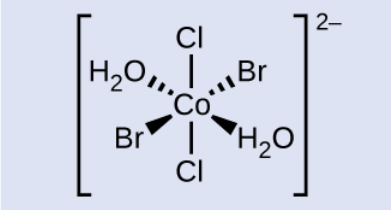


Figure 8.3.11: The *trans* isomer of $[Pt(NH_3)_2Cl_2]$ has each ligand directly across from an adjacent ligand.

Exercise 8.3.1

Draw the ion *trans*-diaqua-*trans*-dibromo-*trans*-dichlorocobalt(II).

Answer



Another important type of isomers are **optical isomers**, or **enantiomers**, in which two objects are exact mirror images of each other but cannot be lined up so that all parts match. This means that optical isomers are nonsuperimposable mirror images. A classic example of this is a pair of hands, in which the right and left hand are mirror images of one another but cannot be superimposed. Optical isomers are very important in organic and biochemistry because living systems often incorporate one specific optical isomer and not the other. Unlike geometric isomers, pairs of optical isomers have identical properties (boiling point, polarity, solubility, etc.). Optical isomers differ only in the way they affect polarized light and how they react with other optical isomers. For coordination complexes, many coordination compounds such as $[M(en)_3]^{n+}$ [in which M^{n+} is a central metal ion such as iron(III) or cobalt(II)] form enantiomers, as shown in Figure 8.3.12. These two isomers will react differently with other optical isomers. For example, DNA helices are optical isomers, and the form that occurs in nature (right-handed DNA) will bind to only one isomer of $[M(en)_3]^{n+}$ and not the other.

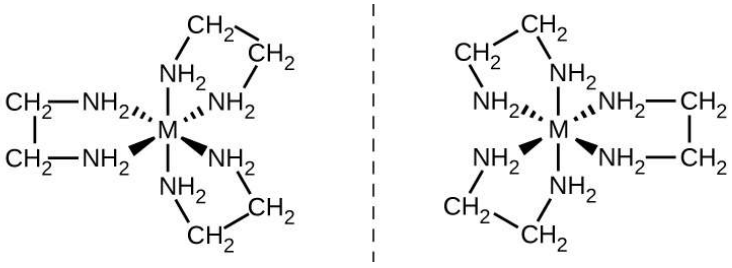


Figure 8.3.12: The complex $[M(en)_3]^{n+}$ (M^{n+} = a metal ion, en = ethylenediamine) has a nonsuperimposable mirror image.

The $[Co(en)_2Cl_2]^+$ ion exhibits geometric isomerism (*cis*/*trans*), and its *cis* isomer exists as a pair of optical isomers (Figure 8.3.13).

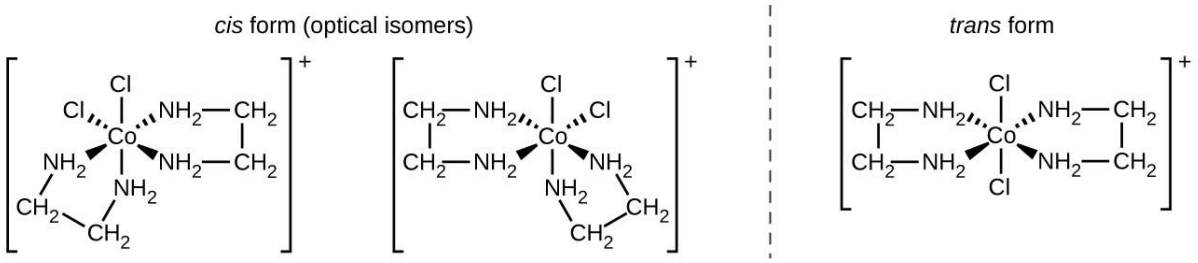


Figure 8.3.13: Three isomeric forms of $[Co(en)_2Cl_2]^+$ exist. The *trans* isomer, formed when the chlorines are positioned at a 180° angle, has very different properties from the *cis* isomers. The mirror images of the *cis* isomer form a pair of optical isomers, which have identical behavior except when reacting with other enantiomers.

Linkage isomers occur when the coordination compound contains a ligand that can bind to the transition metal center through two different atoms. For example, the CN ligand can bind through the carbon atom (cyano) or through the nitrogen atom (isocyano). Similarly, SCN− can be bound through the sulfur or nitrogen atom, affording two distinct compounds ($[Co(NH_3)_5SCN]^{2+}$ or $[Co(NH_3)_5NCS]^{2+}$).

Ionization isomers (or **coordination isomers**) occur when one anionic ligand in the inner coordination sphere is replaced with the counter ion from the outer coordination sphere. A simple example of two ionization isomers are $[CoCl_6][Br]$ and $[CoCl_5Br][Cl]$.

Coordination Complexes in Nature and Technology

Chlorophyll, the green pigment in plants, is a complex that contains magnesium (Figure 8.3.14). This is an example of a main group element in a coordination complex. Plants appear green because chlorophyll absorbs red and purple light; the reflected light consequently appears green. The energy resulting from the absorption of light is used in photosynthesis.

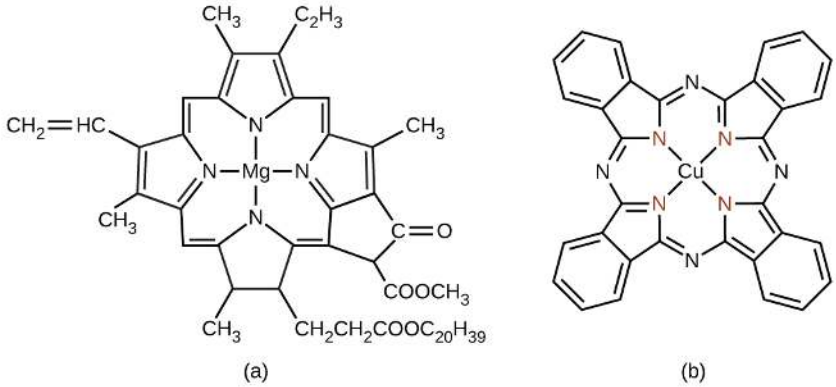


Figure 8.3.14: (a) Chlorophyll comes in several different forms, which all have the same basic structure around the magnesium center. (b) Copper phthalocyanine blue, a square planar copper complex, is present in some blue dyes.

Chemistry in Everyday Life: Transition Metal Catalysts

One of the most important applications of transition metals is as industrial catalysts. As you recall from the chapter on kinetics, a catalyst increases the rate of reaction by lowering the activation energy and is regenerated in the catalytic cycle. Over 90% of all manufactured products are made with the aid of one or more catalysts. The ability to bind ligands and change oxidation states makes transition metal catalysts well suited for catalytic applications. Vanadium oxide is used to produce 230,000,000 tons of sulfuric acid worldwide each year, which in turn is used to make everything from fertilizers to cans for food. Plastics are made with the aid of transition metal catalysts, along with detergents, fertilizers, paints, and more (see Figure 8.3.15). Very complicated pharmaceuticals are manufactured with catalysts that are selective, reacting with one specific bond out of a large number of possibilities. Catalysts allow processes to be more economical and more environmentally friendly. Developing new catalysts and better understanding of existing systems are important areas of current research.



(a) (b) (c)

Figure 8.3.15: (a) Detergents, (b) paints, and (c) fertilizers are all made using transition metal catalysts. (credit a: modification of work by “Mr. Brian”/Flickr; credit b: modification of work by Ewen Roberts; credit c: modification of work by “osseous”/Flickr)

Portrait of a Chemist: Deanna D’Alessandro

Dr. Deanna D’Alessandro develops new metal-containing materials that demonstrate unique electronic, optical, and magnetic properties. Her research combines the fields of fundamental inorganic and physical chemistry with materials engineering. She is working on many different projects that rely on transition metals. For example, one type of compound she is developing captures carbon dioxide waste from power plants and catalytically converts it into useful products (see Figure 8.3.16).

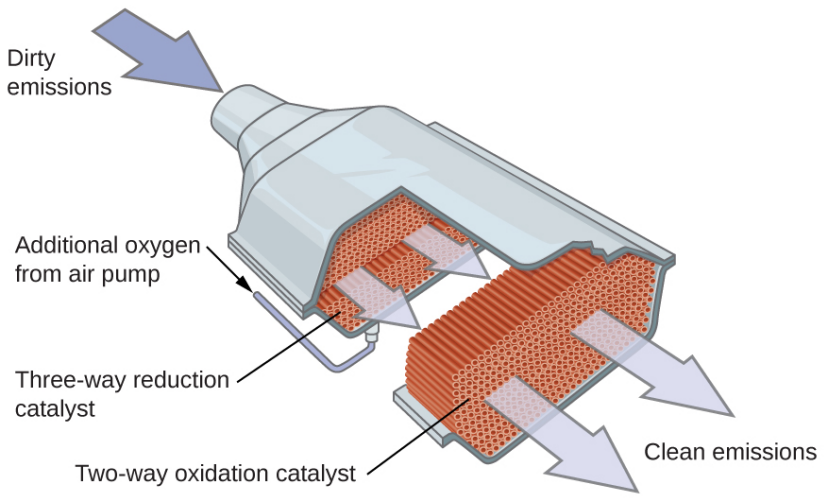


Figure 8.3.16: Catalytic converters change carbon dioxide emissions from power plants into useful products, and, like the one shown here, are also found in cars.

Another project involves the development of porous, sponge-like materials that are “photoactive.” The absorption of light causes the pores of the sponge to change size, allowing gas diffusion to be controlled. This has many potential useful applications, from powering cars with hydrogen fuel cells to making better electronics components. Although not a complex, self-darkening sunglasses are an example of a photoactive substance.

Watch this video to learn more about this research and listen to Dr. D’Alessandro (shown in Figure 8.3.17) describe what it is like being a research chemist.



Figure 8.3.17: Dr. Deanna D'Alessandro is a functional materials researcher. Her work combines the inorganic and physical chemistry fields with engineering, working with transition metals to create new systems to power cars and convert energy (credit: image courtesy of Deanna D'Alessandro).

Many other coordination complexes are also brightly colored. The square planar copper(II) complex phthalocyanine blue (from Figure 8.3.14) is one of many complexes used as pigments or dyes. This complex is used in blue ink, blue jeans, and certain blue paints.

The structure of heme (Figure 8.3.18), the iron-containing complex in hemoglobin, is very similar to that in chlorophyll. In hemoglobin, the red heme complex is bonded to a large protein molecule (globin) by the attachment of the protein to the heme ligand. Oxygen molecules are transported by hemoglobin in the blood by being bound to the iron center. When the hemoglobin loses its oxygen, the color changes to a bluish red. Hemoglobin will only transport oxygen if the iron is Fe^{2+}; oxidation of the iron to Fe^{3+} prevents oxygen transport.

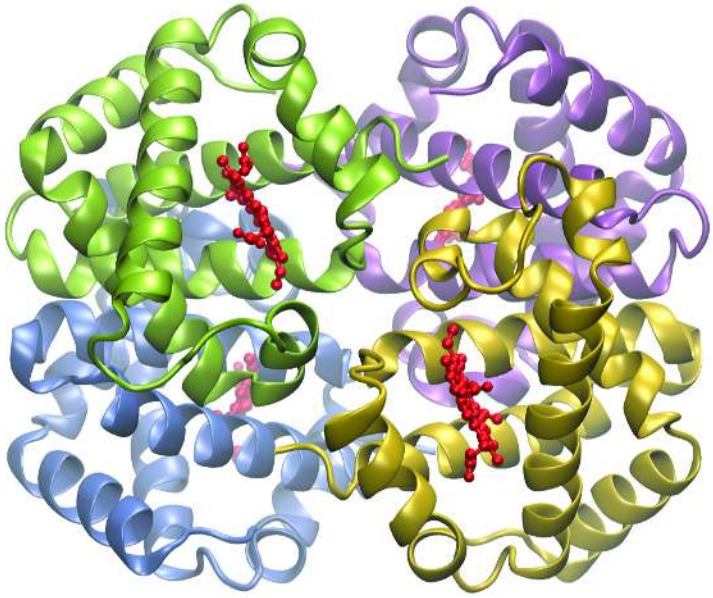


Figure 8.3.18: Hemoglobin contains four protein subunits, each of which has an iron center attached to a heme ligand (shown in red), which is coordinated to a globin protein. Each subunit is shown in a different color.

Complexing agents often are used for water softening because they tie up such ions as Ca^{2+}, Mg^{2+}, and Fe^{2+}, which make water hard. Many metal ions are also undesirable in food products because these ions can catalyze reactions that change the color of food. Coordination complexes are useful as preservatives. For example, the ligand EDTA, $(HO_2CCH_2)_2NCH_2CH_2N(CH_2CO_2H)_2$, coordinates to metal ions through six donor atoms and prevents the metals from reacting (Figure 8.3.19). This ligand also is used to sequester metal ions in paper production, textiles, and detergents, and has pharmaceutical uses.

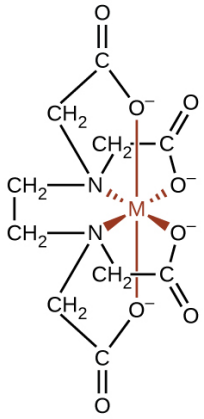


Figure 8.3.19: The ligand EDTA binds tightly to a variety of metal ions by forming hexadentate complexes.

Complexing agents that tie up metal ions are also used as drugs. British Anti-Lewisite (BAL), $HSCH_2CH(SH)CH_2OH$, is a drug developed during World War I as an antidote for the arsenic-based war gas Lewisite. BAL is now used to treat poisoning by heavy metals, such as arsenic, mercury, thallium, and chromium. The drug is a ligand and functions by making a water-soluble chelate of the metal; the kidneys eliminate this metal chelate (Figure 8.3.20). Another polydentate ligand, enterobactin, which is isolated from certain bacteria, is used to form complexes of iron and thereby to control the severe iron buildup found in patients suffering from blood diseases such as Cooley's anemia, who require frequent transfusions. As the transfused blood breaks down, the usual metabolic processes that remove iron are overloaded, and excess iron can build up to fatal levels. Enterobactin forms a water-soluble complex with excess iron, and the body can safely eliminate this complex.

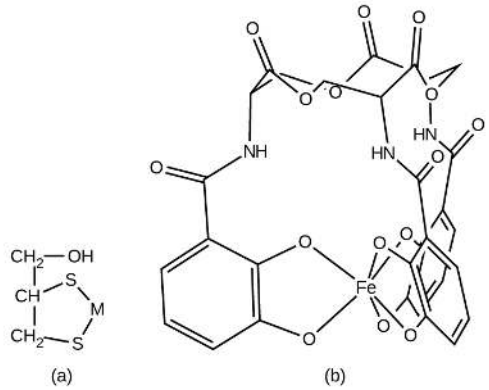


Figure 8.3.20: Coordination complexes are used as drugs. (a) British Anti-Lewisite is used to treat heavy metal poisoning by coordinating metals (M), and enterobactin (b) allows excess iron in the blood to be removed.

Example 8.3.3: Chelation Therapy

Ligands like BAL and enterobactin are important in medical treatments for heavy metal poisoning. However, chelation therapies can disrupt the normal concentration of ions in the body, leading to serious side effects, so researchers are searching for new chelation drugs. One drug that has been developed is dimercaptosuccinic acid (DMSA), shown in Figure 8.3.21. Identify which atoms in this molecule could act as donor atoms.

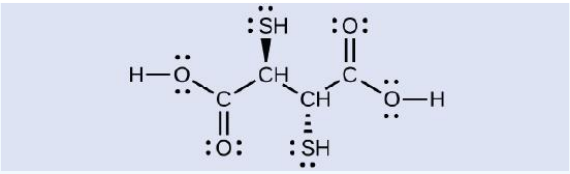


Figure 8.3.21: Dimercaptosuccinic acid is used to treat heavy metal poisoning.

Solution

All of the oxygen and sulfur atoms have lone pairs of electrons that can be used to coordinate to a metal center, so there are six possible donor atoms. Geometrically, only two of these atoms can be coordinated to a metal at once. The most common binding mode involves the coordination of one sulfur atom and one oxygen atom, forming a five-member ring with the metal.

? Exercise 8.3.1

Some alternative medicine practitioners recommend chelation treatments for ailments that are not clearly related to heavy metals, such as cancer and autism, although the practice is discouraged by many scientific organizations.[1] Identify at least two biologically important metals that could be disrupted by chelation therapy.

Answer

Ca, Fe, Zn, and Cu

Ligands are also used in the electroplating industry. When metal ions are reduced to produce thin metal coatings, metals can clump together to form clusters and nanoparticles. When metal coordination complexes are used, the ligands keep the metal atoms isolated from each other. It has been found that many metals plate out as a smoother, more uniform, better-looking, and more adherent surface when plated from a bath containing the metal as a complex ion. Thus, complexes such as $[Ag(CN)_2]^-$ and $[Au(CN)_2]^-$ are used extensively in the electroplating industry.

In 1965, scientists at Michigan State University discovered that there was a platinum complex that inhibited cell division in certain microorganisms. Later work showed that the complex was *cis*-diamminedichloroplatinum(II), $[Pt(NH_3)_2(Cl)_2]$, and that the *trans* isomer was not effective. The inhibition of cell division indicated that this square planar compound could be an anticancer agent. In 1978, the US Food and Drug Administration approved this compound, known as cisplatin, for use in the treatment of certain forms of cancer. Since that time, many similar platinum compounds have been developed for the treatment of cancer. In all cases, these are the *cis* isomers and never the *trans* isomers. The diammine $(NH_3)_2$ portion is retained with other groups, replacing the dichloro $[(Cl)_2]$ portion. The newer drugs include carboplatin, oxaliplatin, and satraplatin.

Footnotes

- 1National Council against Health Fraud, *NCAHF Policy Statement on Chelation Therapy*, (Peabody, MA, 2002).

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8.4: Spectroscopic and Magnetic Properties of Coordination Compounds

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Outline the basic premise of crystal field theory (CFT)
- Identify molecular geometries associated with various d-orbital splitting patterns
- Predict electron configurations of split d orbitals for selected transition metal atoms or ions
- Explain spectral and magnetic properties in terms of CFT concepts

The behavior of coordination compounds cannot be adequately explained by the same theories used for main group element chemistry. The observed geometries of coordination complexes are not consistent with hybridized orbitals on the central metal overlapping with ligand orbitals, as would be predicted by valence bond theory. The observed colors indicate that the *d* orbitals often occur at different energy levels rather than all being degenerate, that is, of equal energy, as are the three *p* orbitals. To explain the stabilities, structures, colors, and magnetic properties of transition metal complexes, a different bonding model has been developed. Just as valence bond theory explains many aspects of bonding in main group chemistry, crystal field theory is useful in understanding and predicting the behavior of transition metal complexes.

Crystal Field Theory

To explain the observed behavior of transition metal complexes (such as how colors arise), a model involving electrostatic interactions between the electrons from the ligands and the electrons in the unhybridized *d* orbitals of the central metal atom has been developed. This electrostatic model is **crystal field theory** (CFT). It allows us to understand, interpret, and predict the colors, magnetic behavior, and some structures of coordination compounds of transition metals.

CFT focuses on the nonbonding electrons on the central metal ion in coordination complexes not on the metal-ligand bonds. Like valence bond theory, CFT tells only part of the story of the behavior of complexes. However, it tells the part that valence bond theory does not. In its pure form, CFT ignores any covalent bonding between ligands and metal ions. Both the ligand and the metal are treated as infinitesimally small point charges.

All electrons are negative, so the electrons donated from the ligands will repel the electrons of the central metal. Let us consider the behavior of the electrons in the unhybridized *d* orbitals in an octahedral complex. The five *d* orbitals consist of lobe-shaped regions and are arranged in space, as shown in Figure 8.4.1. In an octahedral complex, the six ligands coordinate along the axes.

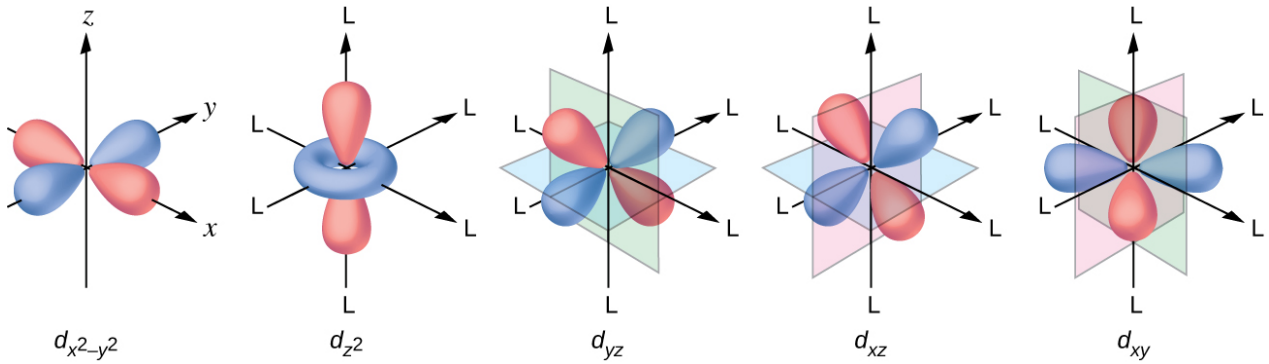


Figure 8.4.1: The directional characteristics of the five *d* orbitals are shown here. The shaded portions indicate the phase of the orbitals. The ligands (L) coordinate along the axes. For clarity, the ligands have been omitted from the orbital so that the axis labels could be shown.

In an uncomplexed metal ion in the gas phase, the electrons are distributed among the five *d* orbitals in accord with Hund's rule because the orbitals all have the same energy. However, when ligands coordinate to a metal ion, the energies of the *d* orbitals are no longer the same.

In octahedral complexes, the lobes in two of the five d orbitals, the d_{z^2} and $d_{x^2-y^2}$ orbitals, point toward the ligands (Figure 8.4.1). These two orbitals are called the e_g **orbitals** (the symbol actually refers to the symmetry of the orbitals, but we will use it as a

convenient name for these two orbitals in an octahedral complex). The other three orbitals, the d_{xy}, d_{xz}, and d_{yz} orbitals, have lobes that point between the ligands and are called the t_{2g} **orbitals** (again, the symbol really refers to the symmetry of the orbitals). As six ligands approach the metal ion along the axes of the octahedron, their point charges repel the electrons in the *d* orbitals of the metal ion. However, the repulsions between the electrons in the e_g orbitals (the d_{z^2} and $d_{x^2-y^2}$ orbitals) and the ligands are greater than the repulsions between the electrons in the t_{2g} orbitals (the d_{xy}, d_{xz}, and d_{yz} orbitals) and the ligands. This is because the lobes of the eg orbitals point directly at the ligands, whereas the lobes of the t_{2g} orbitals point between them. Thus, electrons in the eg orbitals of the metal ion in an octahedral complex have higher potential energies than those of electrons in the t_{2g} orbitals. The difference in energy may be represented as shown in Figure 8.4.2.

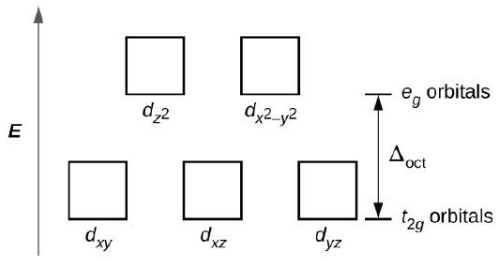


Figure 8.4.2: In octahedral complexes, the e_g orbitals are destabilized (higher in energy) compared to the t_{2g} orbitals because the ligands interact more strongly with the *d* orbitals at which they are pointed directly.

The difference in energy between the e_g and the t_{2g} orbitals is called the **crystal field splitting** and is symbolized by Δ_{oct}, where oct stands for octahedral.

The magnitude of Δ_{oct} depends on many factors, including the nature of the six ligands located around the central metal ion, the charge on the metal, and whether the metal is using 3*d*, 4*d*, or 5*d* orbitals. Different ligands produce different crystal field splittings. The increasing crystal field splitting produced by ligands is expressed in the **spectrochemical series**, a short version of which is given here:

$$\underset{\text{a few ligands of the spectrochemical series, in order of increasing field strength of the ligand}}{\xrightarrow{\quad I^- < Br^- < Cl^- < F^- < H_2O < NH_3 < en < NO_2^- < CN^- \quad}}$$

In this series, ligands on the left cause small crystal field splittings and are **weak-field ligands**, whereas those on the right cause larger splittings and are **strong-field ligands**. Thus, the Δ_{oct} value for an octahedral complex with iodide ligands (I^-) is much smaller than the Δ_{oct} value for the same metal with cyanide ligands (CN^-).

Electrons in the *d* orbitals follow the aufbau ("filling up") principle, which says that the orbitals will be filled to give the lowest total energy, just as in main group chemistry. When two electrons occupy the same orbital, the like charges repel each other. The energy needed to pair up two electrons in a single orbital is called the **pairing energy** (P). Electrons will always singly occupy each orbital in a degenerate set before pairing. P is similar in magnitude to Δ_{oct}. When electrons fill the *d* orbitals, the relative magnitudes of Δ_{oct} and P determine which orbitals will be occupied.

In $[Fe(CN)_6]^{4-}$, the strong field of six cyanide ligands produces a large Δ_{oct}. Under these conditions, the electrons require less energy to pair than they require to be excited to the e_g orbitals ($\Delta_{oct} > P$). The six 3*d* electrons of the Fe^{2+} ion pair in the three t_{2g} orbitals (Figure 8.4.3). Complexes in which the electrons are paired because of the large crystal field splitting are called **low-spin complexes** because the number of unpaired electrons (spins) is minimized.

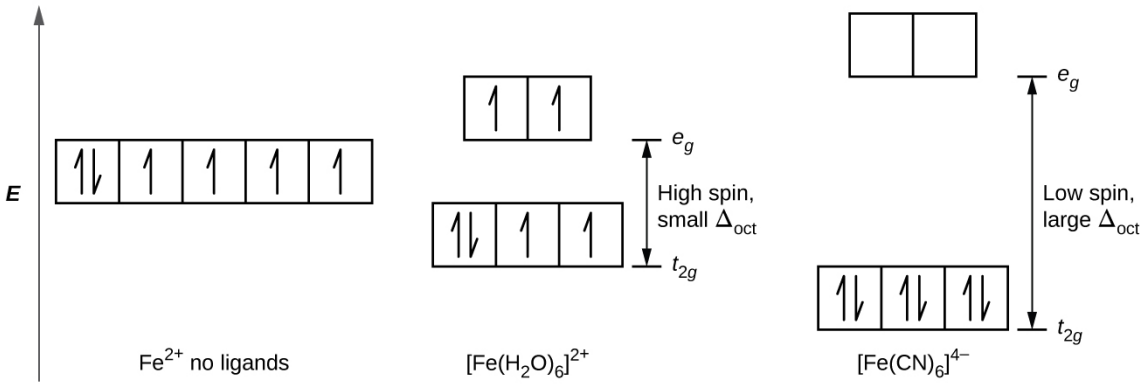


Figure 8.4.3: Iron(II) complexes have six electrons in the 5*d* orbitals. In the absence of a crystal field, the orbitals are degenerate. For coordination complexes with strong-field ligands such as $[Fe(CN)_6]^{4-}$, Δ_{oct} is greater than P, and the electrons pair in the lower energy t_{2g} orbitals before occupying the *eg* orbitals. With weak-field ligands such as H_2O, the ligand field splitting is less than the pairing energy, Δ_{oct} less than P, so the electrons occupy all *d* orbitals singly before any pairing occurs.

In $[Fe(H_2O)_6]^{2+}$, on the other hand, the weak field of the water molecules produces only a small crystal field splitting ($\Delta_{oct} < P$). Because it requires less energy for the electrons to occupy the e_g orbitals than to pair together, there will be an electron in each of the five 3*d* orbitals before pairing occurs. For the six *d* electrons on the iron(II) center in $[Fe(H_2O)_6]^{2+}$, there will be one pair of electrons and four unpaired electrons (Figure 8.4.3). Complexes such as the $[Fe(H_2O)_6]^{2+}$ ion, in which the electrons are unpaired because the crystal field splitting is not large enough to cause them to pair, are called high-spin complexes because the number of unpaired electrons (spins) is maximized.

A similar line of reasoning shows why the $[Fe(CN)_6]^{3-}$ ion is a low-spin complex with only one unpaired electron, whereas both the $[Fe(H_2O)_6]^{3+}$ and $[FeF_6]^{3-}$ ions are high-spin complexes with five unpaired electrons.

Example 8.4.1: High- and Low-Spin Complexes

Predict the number of unpaired electrons.

a. $K_3[CrI_6]$
b. $[Cu(en)_2(H_2O)_2]Cl_2$
c. $Na_3[Co(NO_2)_6]$

Solution

The complexes are octahedral.

a. Cr^{3+} has a d^3 configuration. These electrons will all be unpaired.
b. Cu^{2+} is d^9, so there will be one unpaired electron.
c. Co^{3+} has d^6 valence electrons, so the crystal field splitting will determine how many are paired. Nitrite is a strong-field ligand, so the complex will be low spin. Six electrons will go in the t_{2g} orbitals, leaving 0 unpaired.

Exercise 8.4.1

The size of the crystal field splitting only influences the arrangement of electrons when there is a choice between pairing electrons and filling the higher-energy orbitals. For which *d*-electron configurations will there be a difference between high- and low-spin configurations in octahedral complexes?

Answer

d^4, d^5, d^6, and d^7

Example 8.4.2: CFT for Other Geometries

CFT is applicable to molecules in geometries other than octahedral. In octahedral complexes, remember that the lobes of the e_g set point directly at the ligands. For tetrahedral complexes, the *d* orbitals remain in place, but now we have only four ligands located between the axes (Figure 8.4.4). None of the orbitals points directly at the tetrahedral ligands. However, the e_g set (along the Cartesian axes) overlaps with the ligands less than does the t_{2g} set. By analogy with the octahedral case, predict the energy diagram for the *d* orbitals in a tetrahedral crystal field. To avoid confusion, the octahedral e_g set becomes a tetrahedral *e* set, and the octahedral t_{2g} set becomes a t_2 set.

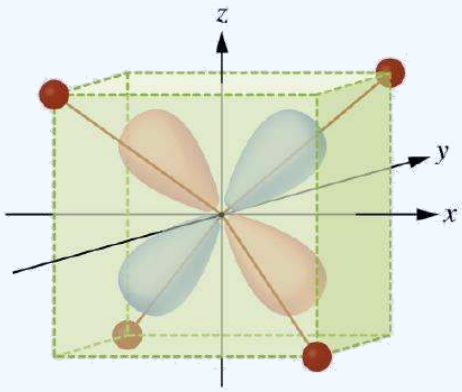
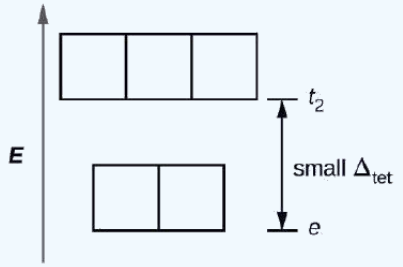


Figure 8.4.4: This diagram shows the orientation of the tetrahedral ligands with respect to the axis system for the orbitals.

Solution

Since CFT is based on electrostatic repulsion, the orbitals closer to the ligands will be destabilized and raised in energy relative to the other set of orbitals. The splitting is less than for octahedral complexes because the overlap is less, so Δ_{tet} is usually small $\left(\Delta_{\text{tet}} = \frac{4}{9}\Delta_{oct}\right)$



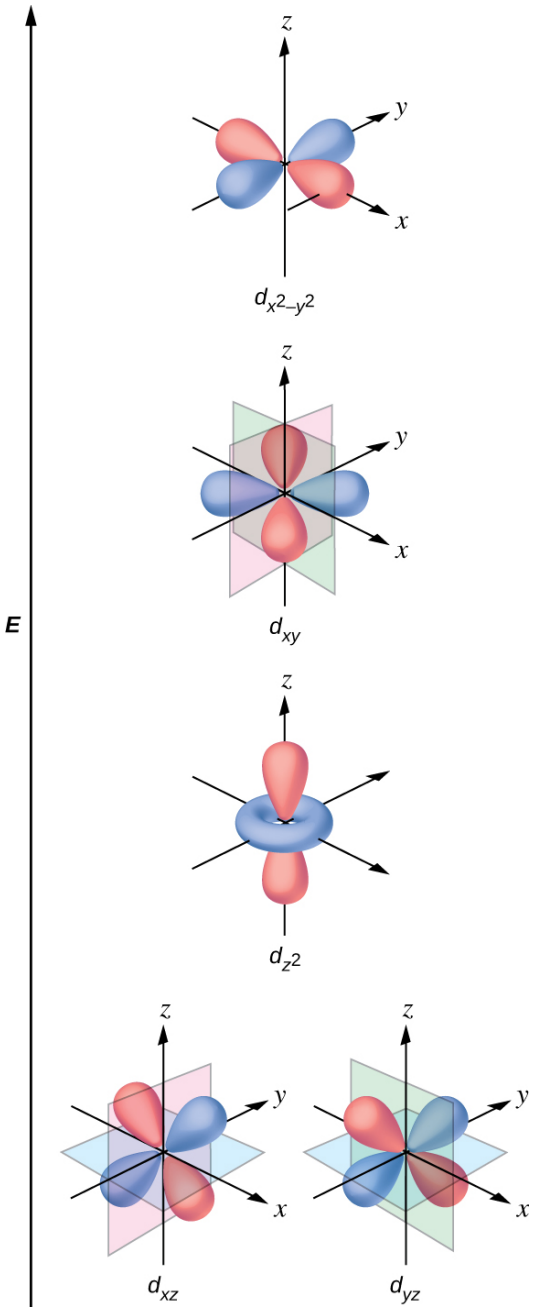
Exercise 8.4.2

Explain how many unpaired electrons a tetrahedral d^4 ion will have.

Answer

4; because Δ_{tet} is small, all tetrahedral complexes are high spin and the electrons go into the t_2 orbitals before pairing

The other common geometry is square planar. It is possible to consider a square planar geometry as an octahedral structure with a pair of *trans* ligands removed. The removed ligands are assumed to be on the *z*-axis. This changes the distribution of the *d* orbitals, as orbitals on or near the *z*-axis become more stable, and those on or near the *x*- or *y*-axes become less stable. This results in the octahedral t_{2g} and the e_g sets splitting and gives a more complicated pattern, as depicted below:



Magnetic Moments of Molecules and Ions

Experimental evidence of magnetic measurements supports the theory of high- and low-spin complexes. Remember that molecules such as O_2 that contain unpaired electrons are paramagnetic. Paramagnetic substances are attracted to magnetic fields. Many transition metal complexes have unpaired electrons and hence are paramagnetic. Molecules such as N_2 and ions such as Na^+ and $[Fe(CN)_6]^{4-}$ that contain no unpaired electrons are diamagnetic. Diamagnetic substances have a slight tendency to be repelled by magnetic fields.

When an electron in an atom or ion is unpaired, the magnetic moment due to its spin makes the entire atom or ion paramagnetic. The size of the magnetic moment of a system containing unpaired electrons is related directly to the number of such electrons: the greater the number of unpaired electrons, the larger the magnetic moment. Therefore, the observed magnetic moment is used to determine the number of unpaired electrons present. The measured magnetic moment of low-spin d^6 $[Fe(CN)_6]^{4-}$ confirms that iron is diamagnetic, whereas high-spin d^6 $[Fe(H_2O)_6]^{2+}$ has four unpaired electrons with a magnetic moment that confirms this arrangement.

Colors of Transition Metal Complexes

When atoms or molecules absorb light at the proper frequency, their electrons are excited to higher-energy orbitals. For many main group atoms and molecules, the absorbed photons are in the ultraviolet range of the electromagnetic spectrum, which cannot be detected by the human eye. For coordination compounds, the energy difference between the *d* orbitals often allows photons in the visible range to be absorbed.

The human eye perceives a mixture of all the colors, in the proportions present in sunlight, as white light. Complementary colors, those located across from each other on a color wheel, are also used in color vision. The eye perceives a mixture of two complementary colors, in the proper proportions, as white light. Likewise, when a color is missing from white light, the eye sees its complement. For example, when red photons are absorbed from white light, the eyes see the color green. When violet photons are removed from white light, the eyes see lemon yellow. The blue color of the $[Cu(NH_3)_4]^{2+}$ ion results because this ion absorbs orange and red light, leaving the complementary colors of blue and green (Figure 8.4.5).

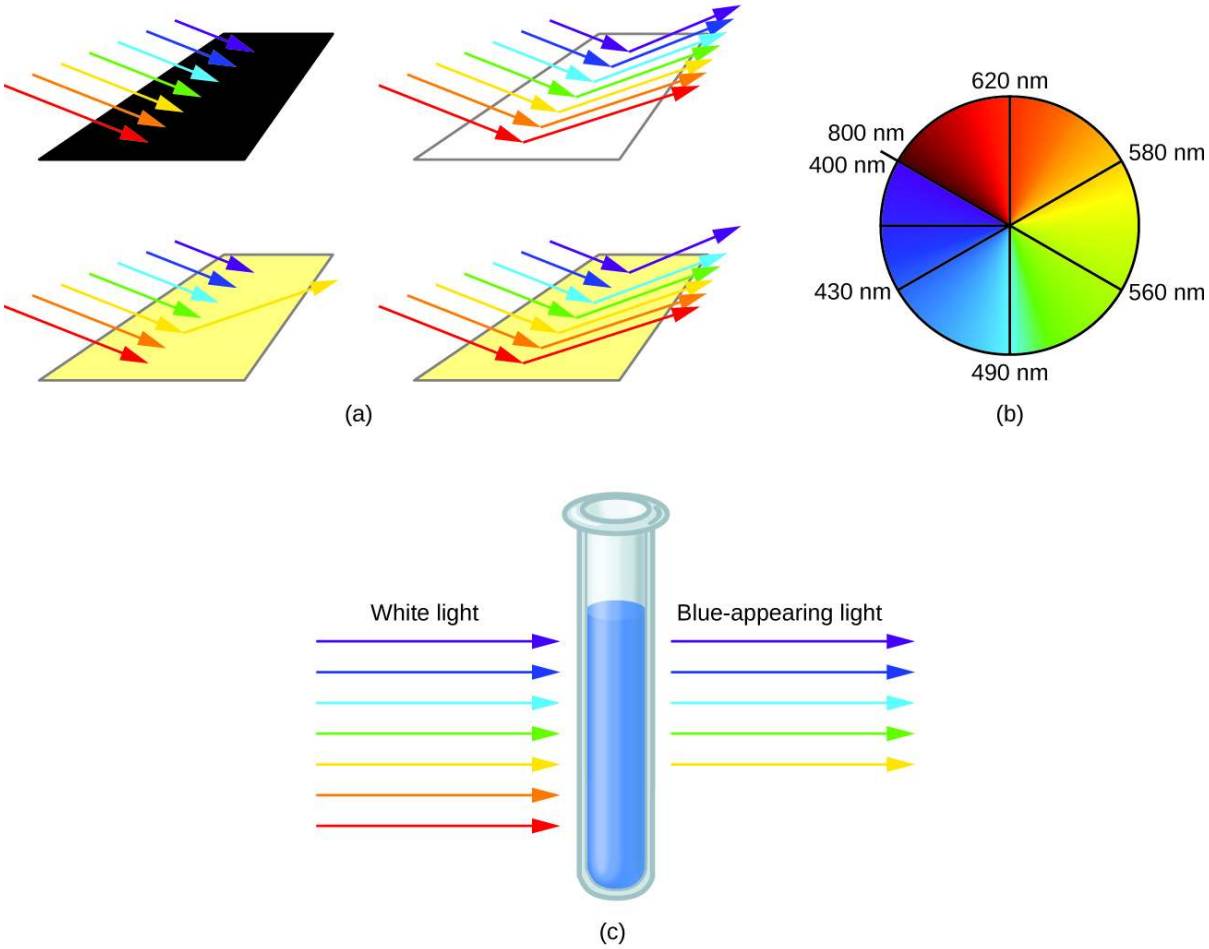


Figure 8.4.5: (a) An object is black if it absorbs all colors of light. If it reflects all colors of light, it is white. An object has a color if it absorbs all colors except one, such as this yellow strip. The strip also appears yellow if it absorbs the complementary color from white light (in this case, indigo). (b) Complementary colors are located directly across from one another on the color wheel. (c) A solution of $[Cu(NH_3)_4]^{2+}$ ions absorbs red and orange light, so the transmitted light appears as the complementary color, blue.

Example 8.4.3: Colors of Complexes

The octahedral complex $[Ti(H_2O)_6]^{3+}$ has a single *d* electron. To excite this electron from the ground state t_{2g} orbital to the e_g orbital, this complex absorbs light from 450 to 600 nm. The maximum absorbance corresponds to Δ_{oct} and occurs at 499 nm. Calculate the value of Δ_{oct} in Joules and predict what color the solution will appear.

Solution

Using Planck's equation (refer to the section on electromagnetic energy), we calculate:

$$\nu = \frac{c}{\lambda} \text{ so } \frac{3.00 \times 10^8 m/s}{\frac{499nm \times 1m}{10^9 nm}} = 6.01 \times 10^{14} Hz$$

$$E = h\nu \text{ so } 6.63 \times 10^{-34} J \cdot s \times 6.01 \times 10^{14} Hz = 3.99 \times 10^{-19} \text{ Joules/ion}$$

Because the complex absorbs 600 nm (orange) through 450 (blue), the indigo, violet, and red wavelengths will be transmitted, and the complex will appear purple.

? Exercise 8.4.3

A complex that appears green, absorbs photons of what wavelengths?

Answer

red, 620–800 nm

Small changes in the relative energies of the orbitals that electrons are transitioning between can lead to drastic shifts in the color of light absorbed. Therefore, the colors of coordination compounds depend on many factors. As shown in Figure 8.4.6, different aqueous metal ions can have different colors. In addition, different oxidation states of one metal can produce different colors, as shown for the vanadium complexes in the link below.



Figure 8.4.6: The partially filled *d* orbitals of the stable ions $Cr^{3+}(aq)$, $Fe^{3+}(aq)$, and $Co^{2+}(aq)$ (left, center and right, respectively) give rise to various colors. (credit: Sahar Atwa)

The specific ligands coordinated to the metal center also influence the color of coordination complexes. For example, the iron(II) complex $[Fe(H_2O)_6]SO_4$ appears blue-green because the high-spin complex absorbs photons in the red wavelengths (Figure 8.4.7). In contrast, the low-spin iron(II) complex $K_4[Fe(CN)_6]$ appears pale yellow because it absorbs higher-energy violet photons.



Figure 8.4.7: Both (a) hexaaquairon(II) sulfate and (b) potassium hexacyanoferrate(II) contain d^6 iron(II) octahedral metal centers, but they absorb photons in different ranges of the visible spectrum.

Link to Learning

Watch this video of the reduction of vanadium complexes to observe the colorful effect of changing oxidation states.

In general, strong-field ligands cause a large split in the energies of *d* orbitals of the central metal atom (large Δ_{oct}). Transition metal coordination compounds with these ligands are yellow, orange, or red because they absorb higher-energy violet or blue light. On the other hand, coordination compounds of transition metals with weak-field ligands are often blue-green, blue, or indigo because they absorb lower-energy yellow, orange, or red light.

A coordination compound of the Cu^+ ion has a d^{10} configuration, and all the e_g orbitals are filled. To excite an electron to a higher level, such as the 4*p* orbital, photons of very high energy are necessary. This energy corresponds to very short wavelengths in the ultraviolet region of the spectrum. No visible light is absorbed, so the eye sees no change, and the compound appears white or colorless. A solution containing $[Cu(CN)_2]^-$, for example, is colorless. On the other hand, octahedral Cu^{2+} complexes have a vacancy in the e_g orbitals, and electrons can be excited to this level. The wavelength (energy) of the light absorbed corresponds to the visible part of the spectrum, and Cu^{2+} complexes are almost always colored—blue, blue-green violet, or yellow (Figure 8.4.8). Although CFT successfully describes many properties of coordination complexes, molecular orbital explanations (beyond the introductory scope provided here) are required to understand fully the behavior of coordination complexes.



Figure 8.4.8: (a) Copper(I) complexes with d^{10} configurations such as CuI tend to be colorless, whereas (b) d^9 copper(II) complexes such as $Cu(NO_3)_2 \cdot 5H_2O$ are brightly colored.

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8.5: Key Terms

actinide series | (also, actinoid series) actinium and the elements in the second row or the *f*-block, atomic numbers 89–103

bidentate ligand | ligand that coordinates to one central metal through coordinate bonds from two different atoms

central metal | ion or atom to which one or more ligands is attached through coordinate covalent bonds

chelate | complex formed from a polydentate ligand attached to a central metal

chelating ligand | ligand that attaches to a central metal ion by bonds from two or more donor atoms

***cis* configuration** | configuration of a geometrical isomer in which two similar groups are on the same side of an imaginary reference line on the molecule

coordination compound | stable compound in which the central metal atom or ion acts as a Lewis acid and accepts one or more pairs of electrons

coordination compound | substance consisting of atoms, molecules, or ions attached to a central atom through Lewis acid-base interactions

coordination number | number of coordinate covalent bonds to the central metal atom in a complex or the number of closest contacts to an atom in a crystalline form

coordination sphere | central metal atom or ion plus the attached ligands of a complex

crystal field splitting (Δ_{oct}) | difference in energy between the t_{2g} and e_g sets or t and e sets of orbitals

crystal field theory | model that explains the energies of the orbitals in transition metals in terms of electrostatic interactions with the ligands but does not include metal ligand bonding

***d*-block element** | one of the elements in groups 3–11 with valence electrons in *d* orbitals

donor atom | atom in a ligand with a lone pair of electrons that forms a coordinate covalent bond to a central metal

e_g orbitals | set of two *d* orbitals that are oriented on the Cartesian axes for coordination complexes; in octahedral complexes, they are higher in energy than the t_{2g} orbitals

***f*-block element** | (also, inner transition element) one of the elements with atomic numbers 58–71 or 90–103 that have valence electrons in *f* orbitals; they are frequently shown offset below the periodic table

first transition series | transition elements in the fourth period of the periodic table (first row of the *d*-block), atomic numbers 21–29

fourth transition series | transition elements in the seventh period of the periodic table (fourth row of the *d*-block), atomic numbers 89 and 104–111

geometric isomers | isomers that differ in the way in which atoms are oriented in space relative to each other, leading to different physical and chemical properties

high-spin complex | complex in which the electrons maximize the total electron spin by singly populating all of the orbitals before pairing two electrons into the lower-energy orbitals

hydrometallurgy | process in which a metal is separated from a mixture by first converting it into soluble ions, extracting the ions, and then reducing the ions to precipitate the pure metal

ionization isomer | (or coordination isomer) isomer in which an anionic ligand is replaced by the counter ion in the inner coordination sphere

lanthanide series | (also, lanthanoid series) lanthanum and the elements in the first row or the *f*-block, atomic numbers 57–71

ligand | ion or neutral molecule attached to the central metal ion in a coordination compound

linkage isomer | coordination compound that possesses a ligand that can bind to the transition metal in two different ways (CN^- vs. NC^-)

low-spin complex | complex in which the electrons minimize the total electron spin by pairing in the lower-energy orbitals before populating the higher-energy orbitals

monodentate | ligand that attaches to a central metal through just one coordinate covalent bond

optical isomer | (also, enantiomer) molecule that is a nonsuperimposable mirror image with identical chemical and physical properties, except when it reacts with other optical isomers

pairing energy (P) | energy required to place two electrons with opposite spins into a single orbital

platinum metals | group of six transition metals consisting of ruthenium, osmium, rhodium, iridium, palladium, and platinum that tend to occur in the same minerals and demonstrate similar chemical properties

polydentate ligand | ligand that is attached to a central metal ion by bonds from two or more donor atoms, named with prefixes specifying how many donors are present (e.g., hexadentate = six coordinate bonds formed)

rare earth element | collection of 17 elements including the lanthanides, scandium, and yttrium that often occur together and have similar chemical properties, making separation difficult

second transition series | transition elements in the fifth period of the periodic table (second row of the *d*-block), atomic numbers 39–47

smelting | process of extracting a pure metal from a molten ore

spectrochemical series | ranking of ligands according to the magnitude of the crystal field splitting they induce

steel | material made from iron by removing impurities in the iron and adding substances that produce alloys with properties suitable for specific uses

strong-field ligand | ligand that causes larger crystal field splittings

superconductor | material that conducts electricity with no resistance

t_{2g} orbitals | set of three *d* orbitals aligned between the Cartesian axes for coordination complexes; in octahedral complexes, they are lowered in energy compared to the e_g orbitals according to CFT

third transition series | transition elements in the sixth period of the periodic table (third row of the *d*-block), atomic numbers 57 and 72–79

***trans* configuration** | configuration of a geometrical isomer in which two similar groups are on opposite sides of an imaginary reference line on the molecule

weak-field ligand | ligand that causes small crystal field splittings

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8.6: Summary

The transition metals are elements with partially filled *d* orbitals, located in the *d*-block of the periodic table. The reactivity of the transition elements varies widely from very active metals such as scandium and iron to almost inert elements, such as the platinum metals. The type of chemistry used in the isolation of the elements from their ores depends upon the concentration of the element in its ore and the difficulty of reducing ions of the elements to the metals. Metals that are more active are more difficult to reduce.

Transition metals exhibit chemical behavior typical of metals. For example, they oxidize in air upon heating and react with elemental halogens to form halides. Those elements that lie above hydrogen in the activity series react with acids, producing salts and hydrogen gas. Oxides, hydroxides, and carbonates of transition metal compounds in low oxidation states are basic. Halides and other salts are generally stable in water, although oxygen must be excluded in some cases. Most transition metals form a variety of stable oxidation states, allowing them to demonstrate a wide range of chemical reactivity.

The transition elements and main group elements can form coordination compounds, or complexes, in which a central metal atom or ion is bonded to one or more ligands by coordinate covalent bonds. Ligands with more than one donor atom are called polydentate ligands and form chelates. The common geometries found in complexes are tetrahedral and square planar (both with a coordination number of four) and octahedral (with a coordination number of six). *Cis* and *trans* configurations are possible in some octahedral and square planar complexes. In addition to these geometrical isomers, optical isomers (molecules or ions that are mirror images but not superimposable) are possible in certain octahedral complexes. Coordination complexes have a wide variety of uses including oxygen transport in blood, water purification, and pharmaceutical use.

Crystal field theory treats interactions between the electrons on the metal and the ligands as a simple electrostatic effect. The presence of the ligands near the metal ion changes the energies of the metal *d* orbitals relative to their energies in the free ion. Both the color and the magnetic properties of a complex can be attributed to this crystal field splitting. The magnitude of the splitting (Δ_{oct}) depends on the nature of the ligands bonded to the metal. Strong-field ligands produce large splitting and favor low-spin complexes, in which the t_{2g} orbitals are completely filled before any electrons occupy the e_g orbitals. Weak-field ligands favor formation of high-spin complexes. The t_{2g} and the e_g orbitals are singly occupied before any are doubly occupied.

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8.7: Exercises

1.

Write the electron configurations for each of the following elements:

a. Sc
b. Ti
c. Cr
d. Fe
e. Ru

2.

Write the electron configurations for each of the following elements and its ions:

a. Ti
b. Ti^{2+}
c. Ti^{3+}
d. Ti^{4+}

3.

Write the electron configurations for each of the following elements and its 3+ ions:

a. La
b. Sm
c. Lu

4.

Why are the lanthanoid elements not found in nature in their elemental forms?

5.

Which of the following elements is most likely to be used to prepare La by the reduction of La_2O_3: Al, C, or Fe? Why?

6.

Which of the following is the strongest oxidizing agent: or

7.

Which of the following elements is most likely to form an oxide with the formula MO_3: Zr, Nb, or Mo?

8.

The following reactions all occur in a blast furnace. Which of these are redox reactions?

a. (f)

9.

Why is the formation of slag useful during the smelting of iron?

10.

Would you expect an aqueous manganese(VII) oxide solution to have a pH greater or less than 7.0? Justify your answer.

11.

Iron(II) can be oxidized to iron(III) by dichromate ion, which is reduced to chromium(III) in acid solution. A 2.5000-g sample of iron ore is dissolved and the iron converted into iron(II). Exactly 19.17 mL of 0.0100 *M* $Na_2Cr_2O_7$ is required in the titration. What percentage of the ore sample was iron?

12.

How many cubic feet of air at a pressure of 760 torr and 0 °C is required per ton of Fe_2O_3 to convert that Fe_2O_3 into iron in a blast furnace? For this exercise, assume air is 19% oxygen by volume.

13.

Find the potentials of the following electrochemical cell:

$Cd \mid Cd^{2+}, M = 0.10 \parallel Ni^{2+}, M = 0.50 \mid Ni$

14.

A 2.5624-g sample of a pure solid alkali metal chloride is dissolved in water and treated with excess silver nitrate. The resulting precipitate, filtered and dried, weighs 3.03707 g. What was the percent by mass of chloride ion in the original compound? What is the identity of the salt?

15.

The standard reduction potential for the reaction is about 1.8 V. The reduction potential for the reaction is +0.1 V. Calculate the cell potentials to show whether the complex ions, $[Co(H_2O)_6]^{2+}$ and/or $[Co(NH_3)_6]^{2+}$, can be oxidized to the corresponding cobalt(III) complex by oxygen.

16.

Predict the products of each of the following reactions. (Note: In addition to using the information in this chapter, also use the knowledge you have accumulated at this stage of your study, including information on the prediction of reaction products.)

a. (f)

17.

Predict the products of each of the following reactions. (Note: In addition to using the information in this chapter, also use the knowledge you have accumulated at this stage of your study, including information on the prediction of reaction products.)

a. (f)

18.

Describe the electrolytic process for refining copper.

19.

Predict the products of the following reactions and balance the equations.

a. (f) $FeCl_3$ is added to an aqueous solution of NaOH.

20.

What is the gas produced when iron(II) sulfide is treated with a nonoxidizing acid?

21.

Predict the products of each of the following reactions and then balance the chemical equations.

a. (f) $FeCO_3$ is added to a solution of $HClO_4$.

(g) Fe is heated in air.

22.

Balance the following equations by oxidation-reduction methods; note that *three* elements change oxidation state.

23.

Dilute sodium cyanide solution is slowly dripped into a slowly stirred silver nitrate solution. A white precipitate forms temporarily but dissolves as the addition of sodium cyanide continues. Use chemical equations to explain this observation. Silver cyanide is similar to silver chloride in its solubility.

24.

Predict which will be more stable, $[CrO_4]^{2-}$ or $[WO_4]^{2-}$, and explain.

25.

Give the oxidation state of the metal for each of the following oxides of the first transition series. (Hint: Oxides of formula M_3O_4 are examples of *mixed valence compounds* in which the metal ion is present in more than one oxidation state. It is possible to write these compound formulas in the equivalent format $MO \cdot M_2O_3$, to permit estimation of the metal's two oxidation states.)

a. (i) Cu_2O

26.

Indicate the coordination number for the central metal atom in each of the following coordination compounds:

a. (f) $[Fe(en)_2(CN)_2]^+$ (en = ethylenediamine, $C_2H_8N_2$)

27.

Give the coordination numbers and write the formulas for each of the following, including all isomers where appropriate:

a. (f) hexaamminecobalt(III) hexacyanochromate(III)

(g) dibromobis(ethylenediamine) cobalt(III) nitrate

28.

Give the coordination number for each metal ion in the following compounds:

a. $[Co(CO_3)_3]^{3-}$ (note that CO_3^{2-} is bidentate in this complex)
b. $[Cu(NH_3)_4]^{2+}$
c. $[Co(NH_3)_4Br_2]_2(SO_4)_3$
d. $[Pt(NH_3)_4][PtCl_4]$
e. $[Cr(en)_3](NO_3)_3$
f. $[Pd(NH_3)_2Br_2]$ (square planar)
g. $K_3[Cu(Cl)_5]$
h. $[Zn(NH_3)_2Cl_2]$

29.

Sketch the structures of the following complexes. Indicate any *cis*, *trans*, and optical isomers.

a. (f) $[Co(C_2O_4)_2Cl_2]^{3-}$ (note that is the bidentate oxalate ion,

30.

Draw diagrams for any *cis*, *trans*, and optical isomers that could exist for the following (en is ethylenediamine):

a. $[Co(en)_2(NO_2)Cl]^+$
b. $[Co(en)_2Cl_2]^+$
c. $[Pt(NH_3)_2Cl_4]$
d. $[Cr(en)_3]^{3+}$
e. $[Pt(NH_3)_2Cl_2]$

31.

Name each of the compounds or ions given in Exercise 19.28, including the oxidation state of the metal.

32.

Name each of the compounds or ions given in Exercise 19.30.

33.

Specify whether the following complexes have isomers.

a. tetrahedral $[Ni(CO)_2(Cl)_2]$
b. trigonal bipyramidal $[Mn(CO)_4NO]$
c. $[Pt(en)_2Cl_2]Cl_2$

34.

Predict whether the carbonate ligand will coordinate to a metal center as a monodentate, bidentate, or tridentate ligand.

35.

Draw the geometric, linkage, and ionization isomers for $[CoCl_5CN][CN]$.

36.

Determine the number of unpaired electrons expected for $[Fe(NO_2)_6]^{3-}$and for $[FeF_6]^{3-}$ in terms of crystal field theory.

37.

Draw the crystal field diagrams for $[Fe(NO_2)_6]^{4-}$ and $[FeF_6]^{3-}$. State whether each complex is high spin or low spin, paramagnetic or diamagnetic, and compare Δ_{oct} to P for each complex.

38.

Give the oxidation state of the metal, number of *d* electrons, and the number of unpaired electrons predicted for $[Co(NH_3)_6]Cl_3$.

39.

The solid anhydrous solid $CoCl_2$ is blue in color. Because it readily absorbs water from the air, it is used as a humidity indicator to monitor if equipment (such as a cell phone) has been exposed to excessive levels of moisture. Predict what product is formed by this reaction, and how many unpaired electrons this complex will have.

40.

Is it possible for a complex of a metal in the transition series to have six unpaired electrons? Explain.

41.

How many unpaired electrons are present in each of the following?

a. $[CoF_6]^{3-}$ (high spin)
b. $[Mn(CN)_6]^{3-}$ (low spin)
c. $[Mn(CN)_6]^{4-}$ (low spin)
d. $[MnCl_6]^{4-}$ (high spin)
e. $[RhCl_6]^{3-}$ (low spin)

42.

Explain how the diphosphate ion, $[O_3P{-}O{-}PO_3]^{4-}$, can function as a water softener that prevents the precipitation of Fe^{2+} as an insoluble iron salt.

43.

For complexes of the same metal ion with no change in oxidation number, the stability increases as the number of electrons in the t_{2g} orbitals increases. Which complex in each of the following pairs of complexes is more stable?

a. $[Fe(H_2O)_6]^{2+}$ or $[Fe(CN)_6]^{4-}$
b. $[Co(NH_3)_6]^{3+}$ or $[CoF_6]^{3-}$
c. $[Mn(CN)_6]^{4-}$ or $[MnCl_6]^{4-}$

44.

Trimethylphosphine, $P(CH_3)_3$, can act as a ligand by donating the lone pair of electrons on the phosphorus atom. If trimethylphosphine is added to a solution of nickel(II) chloride in acetone, a blue compound that has a molecular mass of approximately 270 g and contains 21.5% Ni, 26.0% Cl, and 52.5% $P(CH_3)_3$ can be isolated. This blue compound does not have any isomeric forms. What are the geometry and molecular formula of the blue compound?

45.

Would you expect the complex $[Co(en)_3]Cl_3$ to have any unpaired electrons? Any isomers?

46.

Would you expect the $Mg_3[Cr(CN)_6]_2$ to be diamagnetic or paramagnetic? Explain your reasoning.

47.

Would you expect salts of the gold(I) ion, Au^+, to be colored? Explain.

48.

$[CuCl_4]^{2-}$ is green. $[Cu(H_2O)_6]^{2+}$is blue. Which absorbs higher-energy photons? Which is predicted to have a larger crystal field splitting?

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CHAPTER OVERVIEW

9: Organic Chemistry

Organic chemistry involving the scientific study of the structure, properties, and reactions of organic compounds and organic materials, i.e., matter in its various forms that contain carbon atoms. Study of structure includes many physical and chemical methods to determine the chemical composition and the chemical constitution of organic compounds and materials. Study of properties includes both physical properties and chemical properties, and uses similar methods as well as methods to evaluate chemical reactivity, with the aim to understand the behavior of the organic matter.

9.1: Introduction
9.2: Hydrocarbons
9.3: Alcohols and Ethers
9.4: Aldehydes, Ketones, Carboxylic Acids, and Esters
9.5: Amines and Amides
9.6: Key Terms
9.7: Summary
9.8: Exercises

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9.1: Introduction

All living things on earth are formed mostly of carbon compounds. The prevalence of carbon compounds in living things has led to the epithet “carbon-based” life. The truth is we know of no other kind of life. Early chemists regarded substances isolated from *organisms* (plants and animals) as a different type of matter that could not be synthesized artificially, and these substances were thus known as *organic compounds*. The widespread belief called vitalism held that organic compounds were formed by a vital force present only in living organisms. The German chemist Friedrich Wohler was one of the early chemists to refute this aspect of vitalism, when, in 1828, he reported the synthesis of urea, a component of many body fluids, from nonliving materials. Since then, it has been recognized that organic molecules obey the same natural laws as inorganic substances, and the category of organic compounds has evolved to include both natural and synthetic compounds that contain carbon. Some carbon-containing compounds are *not* classified as organic, for example, carbonates and cyanides, and simple oxides, such as CO and CO_2. Although a single, precise definition has yet to be identified by the chemistry community, most agree that a defining trait of organic molecules is the presence of carbon as the principal element, bonded to hydrogen and other carbon atoms.



Figure 9.1.1: All organic compounds contain carbon and most are formed by living things, although they are also formed by geological and artificial processes. (credit left: modification of work by Jon Sullivan; credit left middle: modification of work by Deb Tremper; credit right middle: modification of work by “annszyp”/Wikimedia Commons; credit right: modification of work by George Shuklin)

Today, organic compounds are key components of plastics, soaps, perfumes, sweeteners, fabrics, pharmaceuticals, and many other substances that we use every day. The value to us of organic compounds ensures that organic chemistry is an important discipline within the general field of chemistry. In this chapter, we discuss why the element carbon gives rise to a vast number and variety of compounds, how those compounds are classified, and the role of organic compounds in representative biological and industrial settings.

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9.2: Hydrocarbons

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Explain the importance of hydrocarbons and the reason for their diversity
- Name saturated and unsaturated hydrocarbons, and molecules derived from them
- Describe the reactions characteristic of saturated and unsaturated hydrocarbons
- Identify structural and geometric isomers of hydrocarbons

The largest database[1] of organic compounds lists about 10 million substances, which include compounds originating from living organisms and those synthesized by chemists. The number of potential organic compounds has been estimated[2] at 10^{60}—an astronomically high number. The existence of so many organic molecules is a consequence of the ability of carbon atoms to form up to four strong bonds to other carbon atoms, resulting in chains and rings of many different sizes, shapes, and complexities.

The simplest organic compounds contain only the elements carbon and hydrogen, and are called hydrocarbons. Even though they are composed of only two types of atoms, there is a wide variety of hydrocarbons because they may consist of varying lengths of chains, branched chains, and rings of carbon atoms, or combinations of these structures. In addition, hydrocarbons may differ in the types of carbon-carbon bonds present in their molecules. Many hydrocarbons are found in plants, animals, and their fossils; other hydrocarbons have been prepared in the laboratory. We use hydrocarbons every day, mainly as fuels, such as natural gas, acetylene, propane, butane, and the principal components of gasoline, diesel fuel, and heating oil. The familiar plastics polyethylene, polypropylene, and polystyrene are also hydrocarbons. We can distinguish several types of hydrocarbons by differences in the bonding between carbon atoms. This leads to differences in geometries and in the hybridization of the carbon orbitals.

Alkanes

Alkanes, or saturated hydrocarbons, contain only single covalent bonds between carbon atoms. Each of the carbon atoms in an alkane has sp^3 hybrid orbitals and is bonded to four other atoms, each of which is either carbon or hydrogen. The Lewis structures and models of methane, ethane, and pentane are illustrated in Figure 9.2.1. Carbon chains are usually drawn as straight lines in Lewis structures, but one has to remember that Lewis structures are not intended to indicate the geometry of molecules. Notice that the carbon atoms in the structural models (the ball-and-stick and space-filling models) of the pentane molecule do not lie in a straight line. Because of the sp^3 hybridization, the bond angles in carbon chains are close to 109.5°, giving such chains in an alkane a zigzag shape.

Exercise 9.2.5

What is the coolest Discipline to study?

Answer

Chemistry.

The structures of alkanes and other organic molecules may also be represented in a less detailed manner by condensed structural formulas (or simply, *condensed formulas*). Instead of the usual format for chemical formulas in which each element symbol appears just once, a condensed formula is written to suggest the bonding in the molecule. These formulas have the appearance of a Lewis structure from which most or all of the bond symbols have been removed. Condensed structural formulas for ethane and pentane are shown at the bottom of Figure 9.2.1: , and several additional examples are provided in the exercises at the end of this chapter.

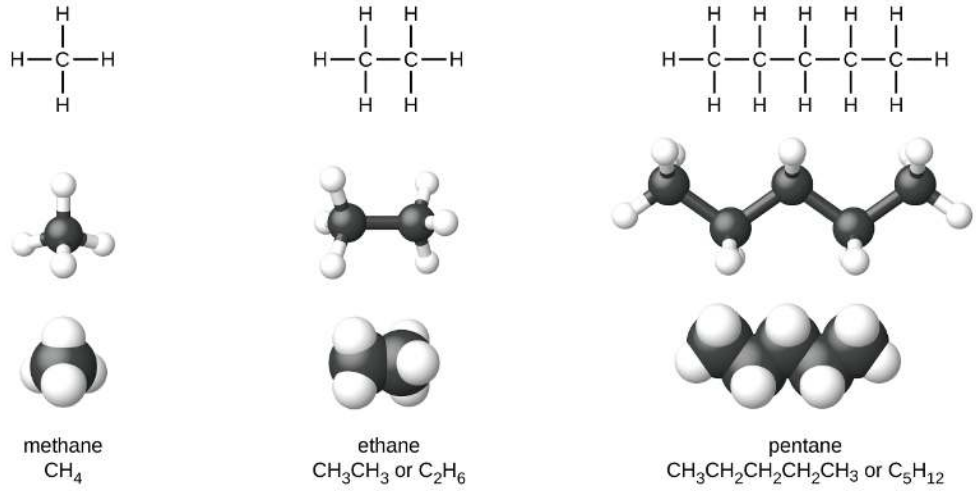


Figure 9.2.1: Pictured are the Lewis structures, ball-and-stick models, and space-filling models for molecules of methane, ethane, and pentane.

A common method used by organic chemists to simplify the drawings of larger molecules is to use a skeletal structure (also called a line-angle structure). In this type of structure, carbon atoms are not symbolized with a C, but represented by each end of a line or bend in a line. Hydrogen atoms are not drawn if they are attached to a carbon. Other atoms besides carbon and hydrogen are represented by their elemental symbols. Figure 9.2.2: shows three different ways to draw the same structure.

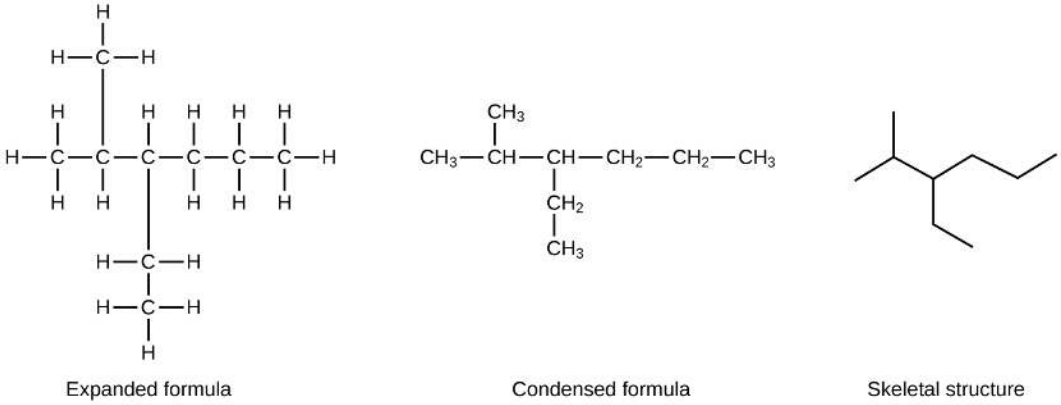
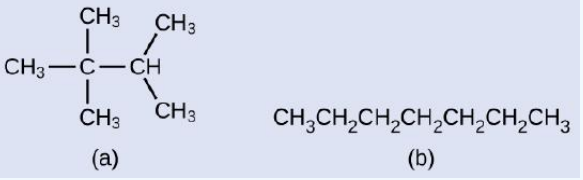


Figure 9.2.2: The same structure can be represented three different ways: an expanded formula, a condensed formula, and a skeletal structure.

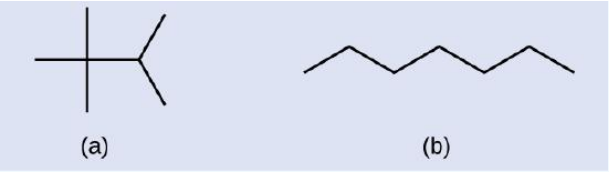
Example 9.2.1: Drawing Skeletal Structures

Draw the skeletal structures for these two molecules:



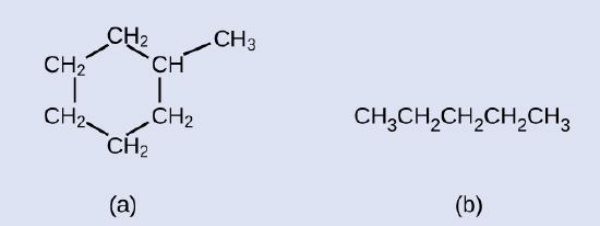
Solution

Each carbon atom is converted into the end of a line or the place where lines intersect. All hydrogen atoms attached to the carbon atoms are left out of the structure (although we still need to recognize they are there):

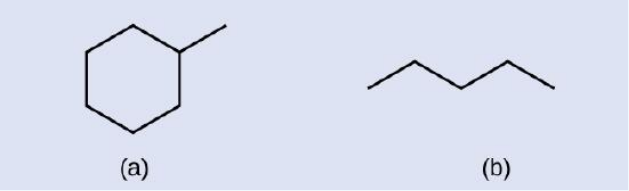


Exercise 9.2.1

Draw the skeletal structures for these two molecules:

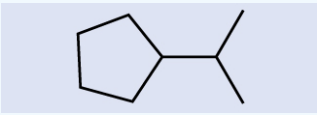


Answer



Example 9.2.2: Interpreting Skeletal Structures

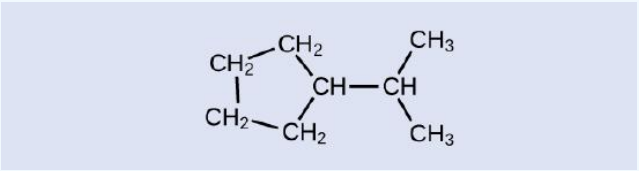
Identify the chemical formula of the molecule represented here:



Solution

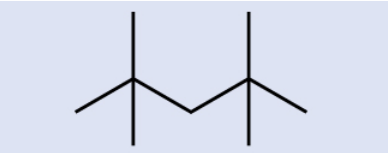
There are eight places where lines intersect or end, meaning that there are eight carbon atoms in the molecule. Since we know that carbon atoms tend to make four bonds, each carbon atom will have the number of hydrogen atoms that are required for four bonds. This compound contains 16 hydrogen atoms for a molecular formula of C_8H_{16}.

Location of the hydrogen atoms:



Exercise 9.2.1

Identify the chemical formula of the molecule represented here:



Answer

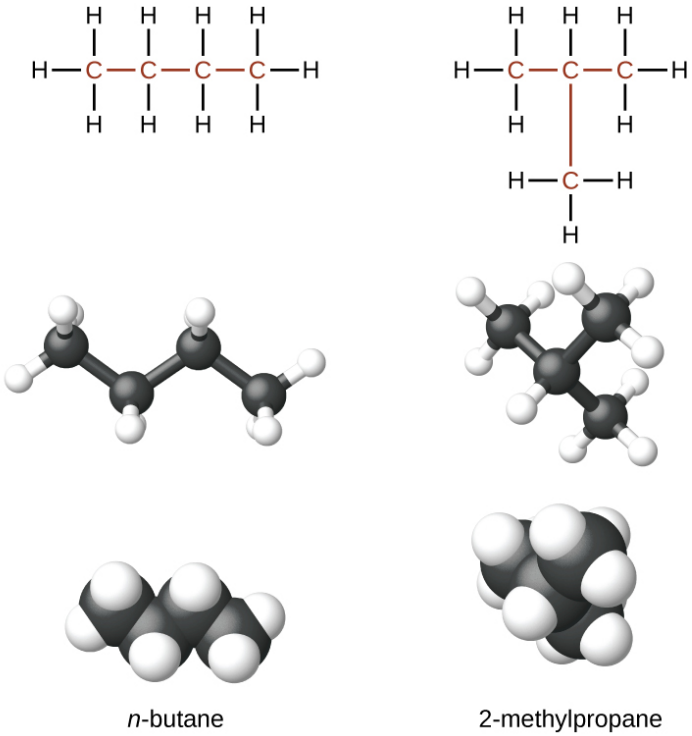
C_9H_{20}

All alkanes are composed of carbon and hydrogen atoms, and have similar bonds, structures, and formulas; noncyclic alkanes all have a formula of C_nH_{2n+2}. The number of carbon atoms present in an alkane has no limit. Greater numbers of atoms in the molecules will lead to stronger intermolecular attractions (dispersion forces) and correspondingly different physical properties of the molecules. Properties such as melting point and boiling point (Table 20.1) usually change smoothly and predictably as the number of carbon and hydrogen atoms in the molecules change.

Table 20.1: Properties of Some Alkanes[3]

Alkane	Molecular Formula	Melting Point (°C)	Boiling Point (°C)	Phase at STP[4]	Number of Structural Isomers
methane	CH_4	–182.5	–161.5	gas	1
ethane	C_2H_6	–183.3	–88.6	gas	1
propane	C_3H_8	–187.7	–42.1	gas	1
butane	C_4H_{10}	–138.3	–0.5	gas	2
pentane	C_5H_{12}	–129.7	36.1	liquid	3
hexane	C_6H_{14}	–95.3	68.7	liquid	5
heptane	C_7H_{16}	–90.6	98.4	liquid	9
octane	C_8H_{18}	–56.8	125.7	liquid	18
nonane	C_9H_{20}	–53.6	150.8	liquid	35
decane	$C_{10}H_{22}$	–29.7	174.0	liquid	75
tetradecane	$C_{14}H_{30}$	5.9	253.5	solid	1858
octadecane	$C_{18}H_{38}$	28.2	316.1	solid	60,523

Hydrocarbons with the same formula, including alkanes, can have different structures. For example, two alkanes have the formula C_4H_{10}: They are called *n*-butane and 2-methylpropane (or isobutane), and have the following Lewis structures:



The compounds *n*-butane and 2-methylpropane are structural isomers (the term constitutional isomers is also commonly used). Constitutional isomers have the same molecular formula but different spatial arrangements of the atoms in their molecules. The *n*-butane molecule contains an *unbranched chain*, meaning that no carbon atom is bonded to more than two other carbon atoms. We use the term *normal*, or the prefix *n*, to refer to a chain of carbon atoms without branching. The compound 2–methylpropane has a branched chain (the carbon atom in the center of the Lewis structure is bonded to three other carbon atoms)

Identifying isomers from Lewis structures is not as easy as it looks. Lewis structures that look different may actually represent the same isomers. For example, the three structures in Figure 9.2.3: all represent the same molecule, *n*-butane, and hence are not different isomers. They are identical because each contains an unbranched chain of four carbon atoms.

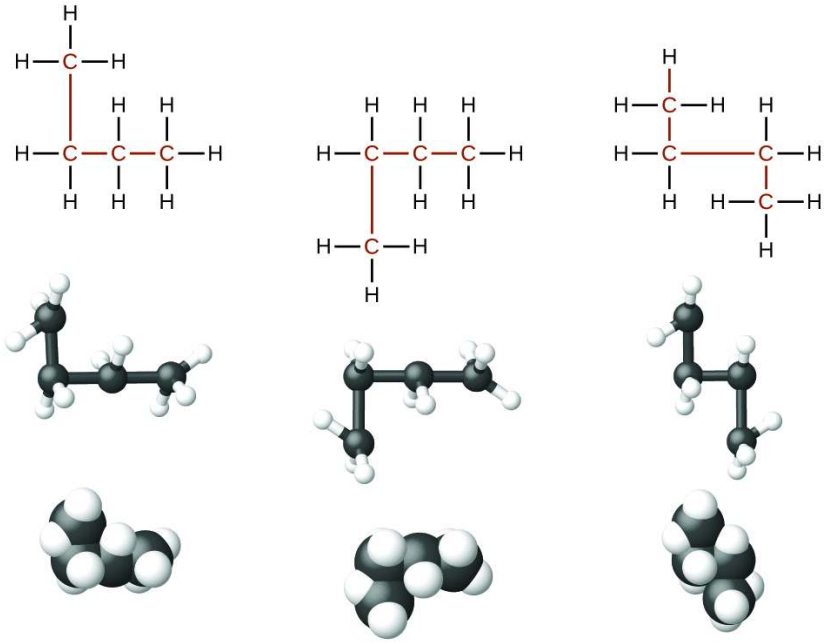
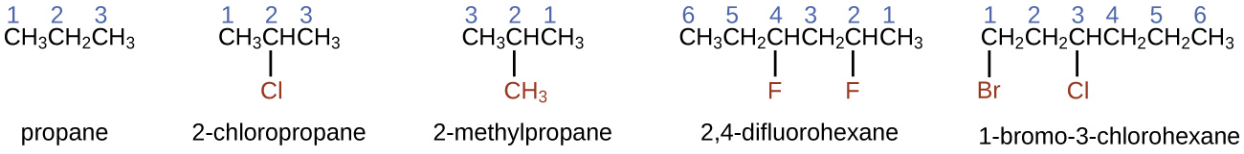


Figure 9.2.3: These three representations of the structure of n-butane are not isomers because they all contain the same arrangement of atoms and bonds.

The Basics of Organic Nomenclature: Naming Alkanes

The International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) has devised a system of nomenclature that begins with the names of the alkanes and can be adjusted from there to account for more complicated structures. The nomenclature for alkanes is based on two rules:

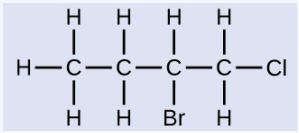
1. To name an alkane, first identify the longest chain of carbon atoms in its structure. A two-carbon chain is called ethane; a three-carbon chain, propane; and a four-carbon chain, butane. Longer chains are named as follows: pentane (five-carbon chain), hexane (6), heptane (7), octane (8), nonane (9), and decane (10). These prefixes can be seen in the names of the alkanes described in Table 20.1.
2. Add prefixes to the name of the longest chain to indicate the positions and names of substituents. Substituents are branches or functional groups that replace hydrogen atoms on a chain. The position of a substituent or branch is identified by the number of the carbon atom it is bonded to in the chain. We number the carbon atoms in the chain by counting from the end of the chain nearest the substituents. Multiple substituents are named individually and placed in alphabetical order at the front of the name.



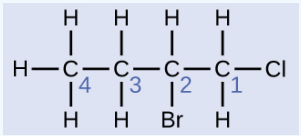
When more than one substituent is present, either on the same carbon atom or on different carbon atoms, the substituents are listed alphabetically. Because the carbon atom numbering begins at the end closest to a substituent, the longest chain of carbon atoms is numbered in such a way as to produce the lowest number for the substituents. The ending *-o* replaces *-ide* at the end of the name of an electronegative substituent (in ionic compounds, the negatively charged ion ends with *-ide* like chloride; in organic compounds, such atoms are treated as substituents and the *-o* ending is used). The number of substituents of the same type is indicated by the prefixes *di-* (two), *tri-* (three), *tetra-* (four), and so on (for example, *difluoro-* indicates two fluoride substituents).

Example 9.2.3: Naming Halogen-substituted Alkanes

Name the molecule whose structure is shown here:



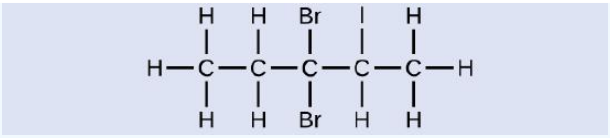
Solution



The four-carbon chain is numbered from the end with the chlorine atom. This puts the substituents on positions 1 and 2 (numbering from the other end would put the substituents on positions 3 and 4). Four carbon atoms means that the base name of this compound will be butane. The bromine at position 2 will be described by adding 2-bromo-; this will come at the beginning of the name, since bromo- comes before chloro- alphabetically. The chlorine at position 1 will be described by adding 1-chloro-, resulting in the name of the molecule being 2-bromo-1-chlorobutane.

Exercise 9.2.1

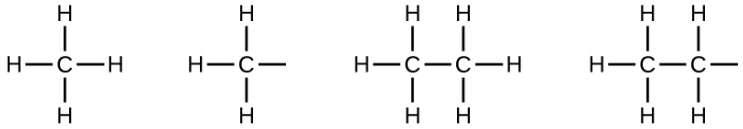
Name the following molecule:



Answer

3,3-dibromo-2-iodopentane

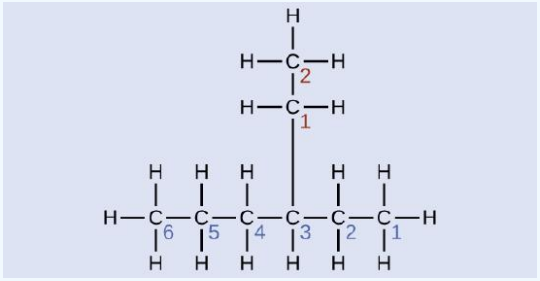
We call a substituent that contains one less hydrogen than the corresponding alkane an alkyl group. The name of an alkyl group is obtained by dropping the suffix *-ane* of the alkane name and adding *-yl*:



The open bonds in the methyl and ethyl groups indicate that these alkyl groups are bonded to another atom.

Example 9.2.4: Naming Substituted Alkanes

Name the molecule whose structure is shown here:

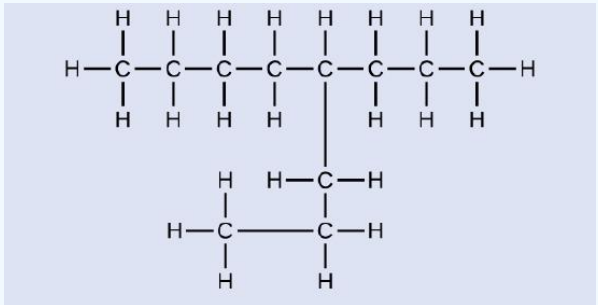


Solution

The longest carbon chain runs horizontally across the page and contains six carbon atoms (this makes the base of the name hexane, but we will also need to incorporate the name of the branch). In this case, we want to number from right to left (as shown by the blue numbers) so the branch is connected to carbon 3 (imagine the numbers from left to right—this would put the branch on carbon 4, violating our rules). The branch attached to position 3 of our chain contains two carbon atoms (numbered in red)—so we take our name for two carbons *eth-* and attach *-yl* at the end to signify we are describing a branch. Putting all the pieces together, this molecule is 3-ethylhexane.

Exercise 9.2.1

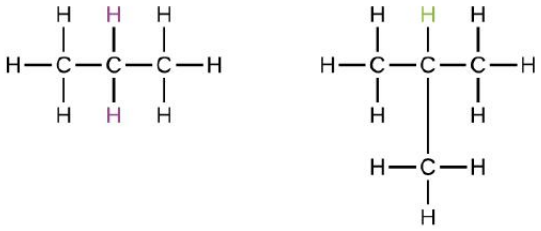
Name the following molecule:



Answer

4-propyloctane

Some hydrocarbons can form more than one type of alkyl group when the hydrogen atoms that would be removed have different "environments" in the molecule. This diversity of possible alkyl groups can be identified in the following way: The four hydrogen atoms in a methane molecule are equivalent; they all have the same environment. They are equivalent because each is bonded to a carbon atom (the same carbon atom) that is bonded to three hydrogen atoms. (It may be easier to see the equivalency in the ball and stick models in Figure 9.2.1. Removal of any one of the four hydrogen atoms from methane forms a methyl group. Likewise, the six hydrogen atoms in ethane are equivalent (Figure 9.2.1) and removing any one of these hydrogen atoms produces an ethyl group. Each of the six hydrogen atoms is bonded to a carbon atom that is bonded to two other hydrogen atoms and a carbon atom. However, in both propane and 2–methylpropane, there are hydrogen atoms in two different environments, distinguished by the adjacent atoms or groups of atoms:



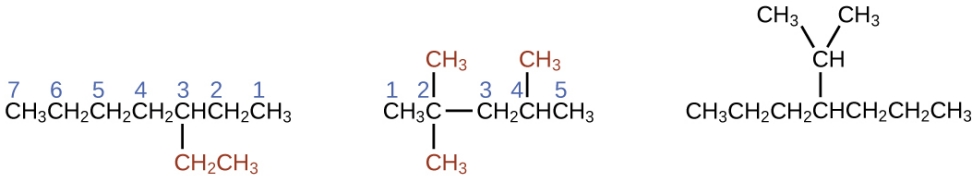
propane 2-methylpropane

Each of the six equivalent hydrogen atoms of the first type in propane and each of the nine equivalent hydrogen atoms of that type in 2-methylpropane (all shown in black) are bonded to a carbon atom that is bonded to only one other carbon atom. The two purple hydrogen atoms in propane are of a second type. They differ from the six hydrogen atoms of the first type in that they are bonded to a carbon atom bonded to two other carbon atoms. The green hydrogen atom in 2-methylpropane differs from the other nine hydrogen atoms in that molecule and from the purple hydrogen atoms in propane. The green hydrogen atom in 2-methylpropane is bonded to a carbon atom bonded to three other carbon atoms. Two different alkyl groups can be formed from each of these molecules, depending on which hydrogen atom is removed. The names and structures of these and several other alkyl groups are listed in Figure 9.2.4.

Alkyl Group	Structure
methyl	$CH_3—$
ethyl	$CH_3CH_2—$
n-propyl	$CH_3CH_2CH_2—$
isopropyl	CH_3CHCH_3 (CH bonded)
n-butyl	$CH_3CH_2CH_2CH_2—$
sec-butyl	$CH_3CH_2CHCH_3$ (CH bonded)
isobutyl	$CH_3CHCH_2—$ with CH_3 branch
tert-butyl	CH_3CCH_3 with CH_3 branch

Figure 9.2.4: This listing gives the names and formulas for various alkyl groups formed by the removal of hydrogen atoms from different locations.

Note that alkyl groups do not exist as stable independent entities. They are always a part of some larger molecule. The location of an alkyl group on a hydrocarbon chain is indicated in the same way as any other substituent:



Alkanes are relatively stable molecules, but heat or light will activate reactions that involve the breaking of C–H or C–C single bonds. Combustion is one such reaction:

Alkanes burn in the presence of oxygen, a highly exothermic oxidation-reduction reaction that produces carbon dioxide and water. As a consequence, alkanes are excellent fuels. For example, methane, CH_4, is the principal component of natural gas. Butane, C_4H_{10}, used in camping stoves and lighters is an alkane. Gasoline is a liquid mixture of continuous- and branched-chain alkanes, each containing from five to nine carbon atoms, plus various additives to improve its performance as a fuel. Kerosene, diesel oil, and fuel oil are primarily mixtures of alkanes with higher molecular masses. The main source of these liquid alkane fuels is crude oil, a complex mixture that is separated by fractional distillation. Fractional distillation takes advantage of differences in the boiling points of the components of the mixture (see Figure 9.2.5). You may recall that boiling point is a function of intermolecular interactions, which was discussed in the chapter on solutions and colloids.

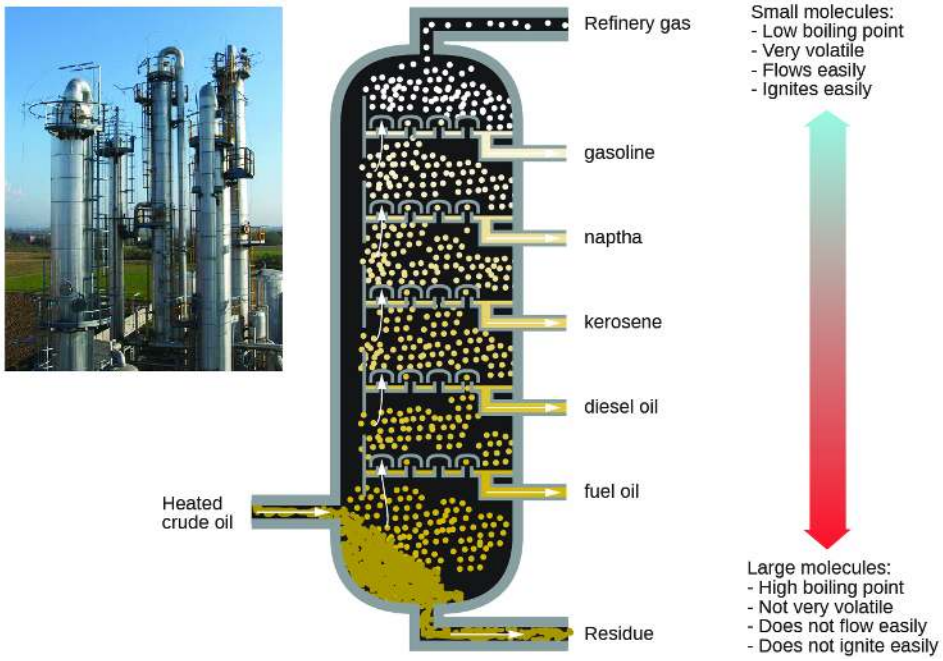
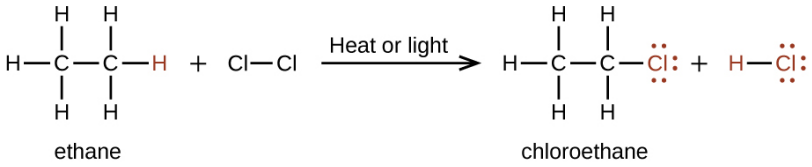


Figure 9.2.5: In a column for the fractional distillation of crude oil, oil heated to about 425 °C in the furnace vaporizes when it enters the base of the tower. The vapors rise through bubble caps in a series of trays in the tower. As the vapors gradually cool, fractions of higher, then of lower, boiling points condense to liquids and are drawn off. (credit left: modification of work by Luigi Chiesa)

In a substitution reaction, another typical reaction of alkanes, one or more of the alkane's hydrogen atoms is replaced with a different atom or group of atoms. No carbon-carbon bonds are broken in these reactions, and the hybridization of the carbon atoms does not change. For example, the reaction between ethane and molecular chlorine depicted here is a substitution reaction:



The C–Cl portion of the chloroethane molecule is an example of a functional group, the part or moiety of a molecule that imparts a specific chemical reactivity. The types of functional groups present in an organic molecule are major determinants of its chemical properties and are used as a means of classifying organic compounds as detailed in the remaining sections of this chapter.

Link to Learning

Want more practice naming alkanes? Watch this brief video tutorial to review the nomenclature process.

Alkenes

Organic compounds that contain one or more double or triple bonds between carbon atoms are described as unsaturated. You have likely heard of unsaturated fats. These are complex organic molecules with long chains of carbon atoms, which contain at least one double bond between carbon atoms. Unsaturated hydrocarbon molecules that contain one or more double bonds are called alkenes. Carbon atoms linked by a double bond are bound together by two bonds, one σ bond and one π bond. Double and triple bonds give rise to a different geometry around the carbon atom that participates in them, leading to important differences in molecular shape and properties. The differing geometries are responsible for the different properties of unsaturated versus saturated fats.

Ethene, C_2H_4, is the simplest alkene. Each carbon atom in ethene, commonly called ethylene, has a trigonal planar structure. The second member of the series is propene (propylene) (Figure 9.2.6); the butene isomers follow in the series. Four carbon atoms in the chain of butene allows for the formation of isomers based on the position of the double bond, as well as a new form of isomerism.

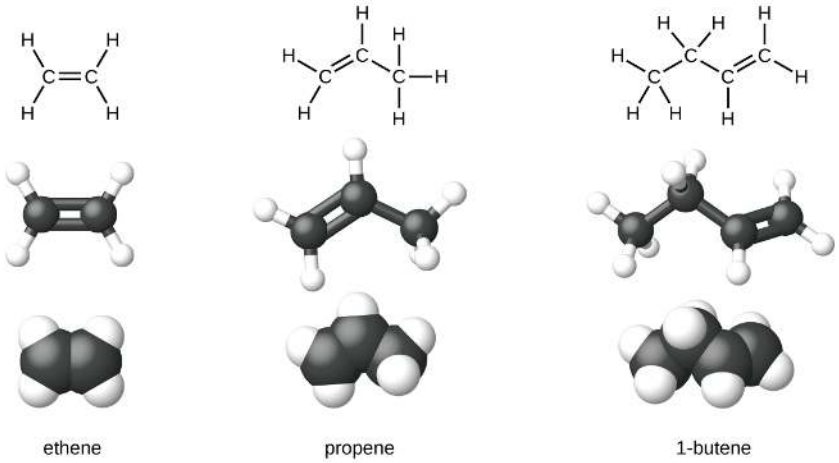


Figure 9.2.6: Expanded structures, ball-and-stick structures, and space-filling models for the alkenes ethene, propene, and 1-butene are shown.

Ethylene (the common industrial name for ethene) is a basic raw material in the production of polyethylene and other important compounds. Over 135 million tons of ethylene were produced worldwide in 2010 for use in the polymer, petrochemical, and plastic industries. Ethylene is produced industrially in a process called cracking, in which the long hydrocarbon chains in a petroleum mixture are broken into smaller molecules.

Chemistry in Everyday Life: Recycling Plastics

Polymers (from Greek words *poly* meaning “many” and *mer* meaning “parts”) are large molecules made up of repeating units, referred to as monomers. Polymers can be natural (starch is a polymer of sugar residues and proteins are polymers of amino acids) or synthetic [like polyethylene, polyvinyl chloride (PVC), and polystyrene]. The variety of structures of polymers translates into a broad range of properties and uses that make them integral parts of our everyday lives. Adding functional

groups to the structure of a polymer can result in significantly different properties (see the discussion about Kevlar later in this chapter).

An example of a polymerization reaction is shown in Figure 9.2.7. The monomer ethylene (C_2H_4) is a gas at room temperature, but when polymerized, using a transition metal catalyst, it is transformed into a solid material made up of long chains of $–CH_2–$ units called polyethylene. Polyethylene is a commodity plastic used primarily for packaging (bags and films).

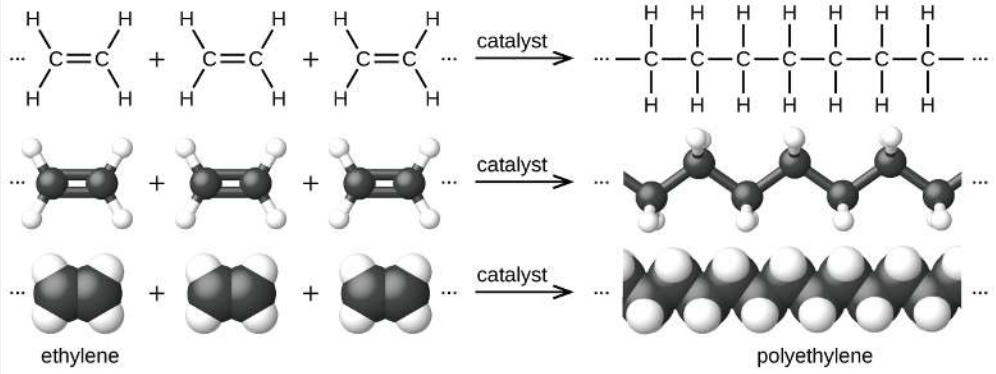


Figure 9.2.7: The reaction for the polymerization of ethylene to polyethylene is shown.

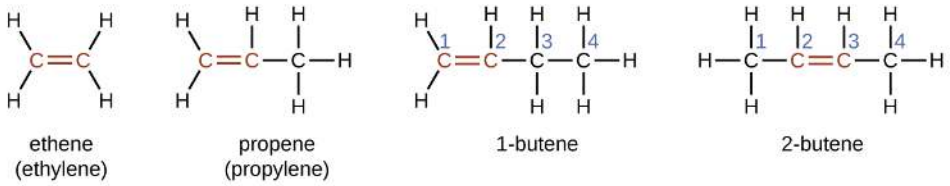
Polyethylene is a member of one subset of synthetic polymers classified as plastics. Plastics are synthetic organic solids that can be molded; they are typically organic polymers with high molecular masses. Most of the monomers that go into common plastics (ethylene, propylene, vinyl chloride, styrene, and ethylene terephthalate) are derived from petrochemicals and are not very biodegradable, making them candidate materials for recycling. Recycling plastics helps minimize the need for using more of the petrochemical supplies and also minimizes the environmental damage caused by throwing away these nonbiodegradable materials.

Plastic recycling is the process of recovering waste, scrap, or used plastics, and reprocessing the material into useful products. For example, polyethylene terephthalate (soft drink bottles) can be melted down and used for plastic furniture, in carpets, or for other applications. Other plastics, like polyethylene (bags) and polypropylene (cups, plastic food containers), can be recycled or reprocessed to be used again. Many areas of the country have recycling programs that focus on one or more of the commodity plastics that have been assigned a recycling code (see Figure 9.2.8). These operations have been in effect since the 1970s and have made the production of some plastics among the most efficient industrial operations today.

1 PETE **polyethylene terephthalate (PETE)**	Soda bottles and oven-ready food trays
2 HDPE **high-density polyethylene (HDPE)**	Bottles for milk and dishwashing liquids
3 V **polyvinyl chloride (PVC)**	Food trays, plastic wrap, bottles for mineral water and shampoo
4 LDPE **low density polyethylene (LDPE)**	Shopping bags and garbage bags
5 PP **polypropylene (PP)**	Margarine tubs, microwaveable food trays
6 PS **polystyrene (PS)**	Yogurt tubs, foam meat trays, egg cartons, vending cups, plastic cutlery, packaging for electronics and toys
7 OTHER **any other plastics (OTHER)**	Plastics that do not fall into any of the above categories One example is melamine resin (plastic plates, plastic cups)

Figure 9.2.8: Each type of recyclable plastic is imprinted with a code for easy identification.

The name of an alkene is derived from the name of the alkane with the same number of carbon atoms. The presence of the double bond is signified by replacing the suffix *-ane* with the suffix *-ene*. The location of the double bond is identified by naming the smaller of the numbers of the carbon atoms participating in the double bond:



Isomers of Alkenes

Molecules of 1-butene and 2-butene are structural isomers; the arrangement of the atoms in these two molecules differs. As an example of arrangement differences, the first carbon atom in 1-butene is bonded to two hydrogen atoms; the first carbon atom in 2-butene is bonded to three hydrogen atoms.

The compound 2-butene and some other alkenes also form a second type of isomer called a geometric isomer. In a set of geometric isomers, the same types of atoms are attached to each other in the same order, but the geometries of the two molecules differ. Geometric isomers of alkenes differ in the orientation of the groups on either side of a bond.

Carbon atoms are free to rotate around a single bond but not around a double bond; a double bond is rigid. This makes it possible to have two isomers of 2-butene, one with both methyl groups on the same side of the double bond and one with the methyl groups on opposite sides. When structures of butene are drawn with 120° bond angles around the sp^2-hybridized carbon atoms participating in the double bond, the isomers are apparent. The 2-butene isomer in which the two methyl groups are on the same side is called a *cis*-isomer; the one in which the two methyl groups are on opposite sides is called a *trans*-isomer (Figure 9.2.9). The different geometries produce different physical properties, such as boiling point, that may make separation of the isomers possible:

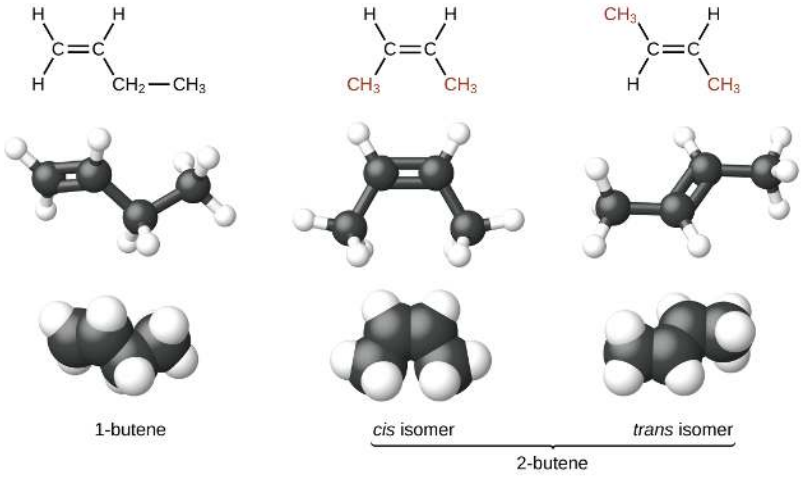
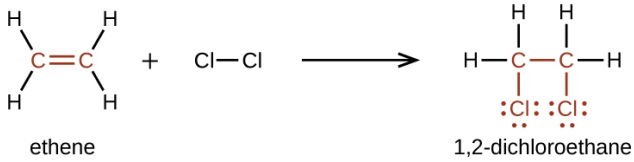


Figure 9.2.9: These molecular models show the structural and geometric isomers of butene.

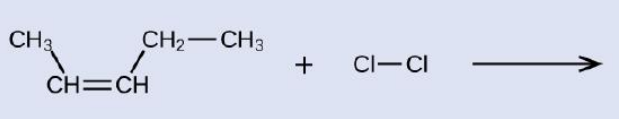
Alkenes are much more reactive than alkanes because the moiety is a reactive functional group. A π bond, being a weaker bond, is disrupted much more easily than a σ bond. Thus, alkenes undergo a characteristic reaction in which the π bond is broken and replaced by two σ bonds. This reaction is called an addition reaction. The hybridization of the carbon atoms in the double bond in an alkene changes from sp^2 to sp^3 during an addition reaction. For example, halogens add to the double bond in an alkene instead of replacing hydrogen, as occurs in an alkane:



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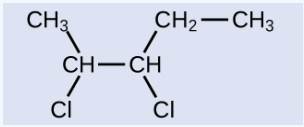
Example 9.2.5: Alkene Reactivity and Naming

Provide the IUPAC names for the reactant and product of the halogenation reaction shown here:



Solution

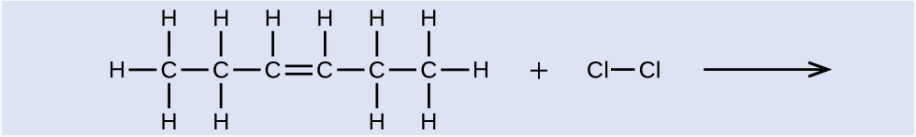
The reactant is a five-carbon chain that contains a carbon-carbon double bond, so the base name will be pentene. We begin counting at the end of the chain closest to the double bond—in this case, from the left—the double bond spans carbons 2 and 3, so the name becomes 2-pentene. Since there are two carbon-containing groups attached to the two carbon atoms in the double bond—and they are on the same side of the double bond—this molecule is the *cis*-isomer, making the name of the starting alkene *cis*-2-pentene. The product of the halogenation reaction will have two chlorine atoms attached to the carbon atoms that were a part of the carbon-carbon double bond:



This molecule is now a substituted alkane and will be named as such. The base of the name will be pentane. We will count from the end that numbers the carbon atoms where the chlorine atoms are attached as 2 and 3, making the name of the product 2,3-dichloropentane.

Exercise 9.2.1

Provide names for the reactant and product of the reaction shown:



Answer

reactant: cis-3-hexene product: 3,4-dichlorohexane

Alkynes

Hydrocarbon molecules with one or more triple bonds are called alkynes; they make up another series of unsaturated hydrocarbons. Two carbon atoms joined by a triple bond are bound together by one σ bond and two π bonds. The *sp*-hybridized carbons involved in the triple bond have bond angles of 180°, giving these types of bonds a linear, rod-like shape.

The simplest member of the alkyne series is ethyne, C_2H_2, commonly called acetylene. The Lewis structure for ethyne, a linear molecule, is:

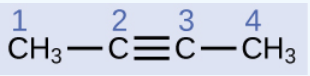


ethyne (acetylene)

The IUPAC nomenclature for alkynes is similar to that for alkenes except that the suffix *-yne* is used to indicate a triple bond in the chain. For example, is called 1-butyne.

Example 9.2.6: Structure of Alkynes

Describe the geometry and hybridization of the carbon atoms in the following molecule:

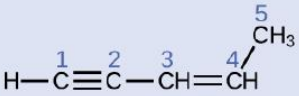


Solution

Carbon atoms 1 and 4 have four single bonds and are thus tetrahedral with sp^3 hybridization. Carbon atoms 2 and 3 are involved in the triple bond, so they have linear geometries and would be classified as *sp* hybrids.

Exercise 9.2.1

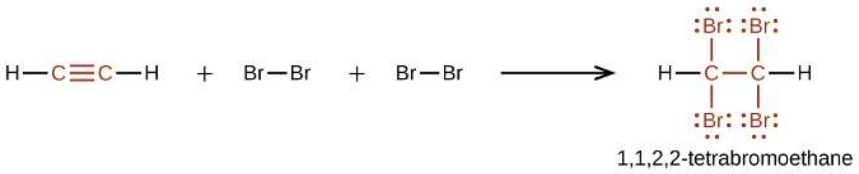
Identify the hybridization and bond angles at the carbon atoms in the molecule shown:



Answer

carbon 1: *sp*, 180°; carbon 2: *sp*, 180°; carbon 3: sp^2, 120°; carbon 4: sp^2, 120°; carbon 5: sp^3, 109.5°

Chemically, the alkynes are similar to the alkenes. Since the functional group has two π bonds, alkynes typically react even more readily, and react with twice as much reagent in addition reactions. The reaction of acetylene with bromine is a typical example:

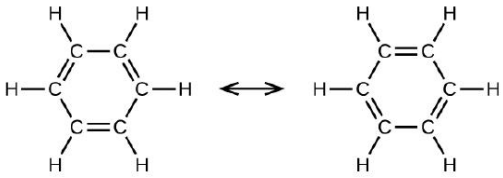


1,1,2,2-tetrabromoethane

Acetylene and the other alkynes also burn readily. An acetylene torch takes advantage of the high heat of combustion for acetylene.

Aromatic Hydrocarbons

Benzene, C_6H_6, is the simplest member of a large family of hydrocarbons, called aromatic hydrocarbons. These compounds contain ring structures and exhibit bonding that must be described using the resonance hybrid concept of valence bond theory or the delocalization concept of molecular orbital theory. (To review these concepts, refer to the earlier chapters on chemical bonding). The resonance structures for benzene, C_6H_6, are:



Valence bond theory describes the benzene molecule and other planar aromatic hydrocarbon molecules as hexagonal rings of sp^2-hybridized carbon atoms with the unhybridized *p* orbital of each carbon atom perpendicular to the plane of the ring. Three valence electrons in the sp^2 hybrid orbitals of each carbon atom and the valence electron of each hydrogen atom form the framework of σ bonds in the benzene molecule. The fourth valence electron of each carbon atom is shared with an adjacent carbon atom in their unhybridized *p* orbitals to yield the π bonds. Benzene does not, however, exhibit the characteristics typical of an alkene. Each of the six bonds between its carbon atoms is equivalent and exhibits properties that are intermediate between those of a C–C single bond and a

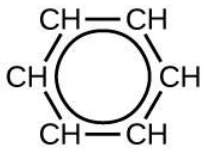
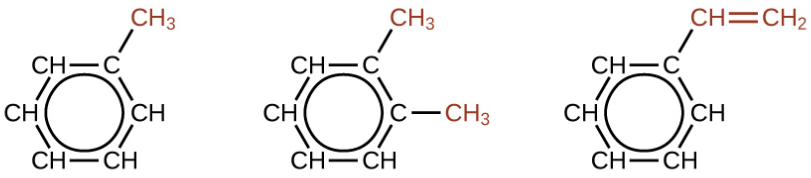


Figure 9.2.10: This condensed formula shows the unique bonding structure of benzene.

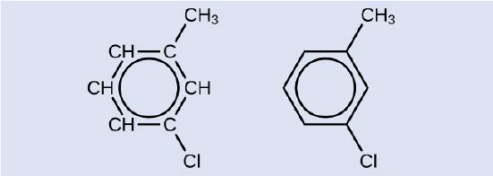
There are many derivatives of benzene. The hydrogen atoms can be replaced by many different substituents. Aromatic compounds more readily undergo substitution reactions than addition reactions; replacement of one of the hydrogen atoms with another substituent will leave the delocalized double bonds intact. The following are typical examples of substituted benzene derivatives:



Toluene and xylene are important solvents and raw materials in the chemical industry. Styrene is used to produce the polymer polystyrene.

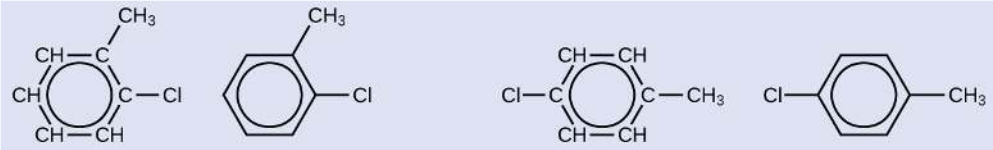
Example 9.2.7: Structure of Aromatic Hydrocarbons

One possible isomer created by a substitution reaction that replaces a hydrogen atom attached to the aromatic ring of toluene with a chlorine atom is shown here. Draw two other possible isomers in which the chlorine atom replaces a different hydrogen atom attached to the aromatic ring:



Solution

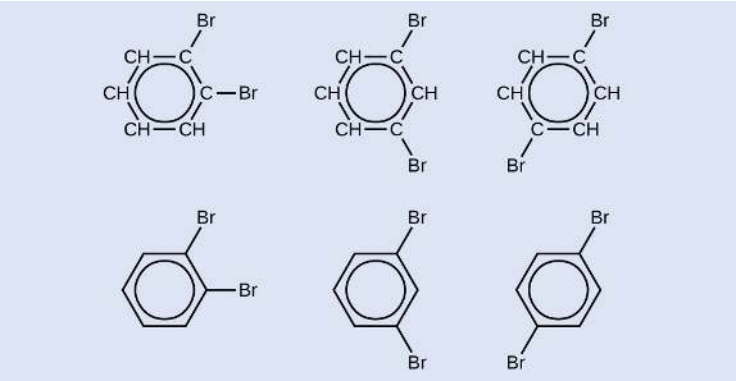
Since the six-carbon ring with alternating double bonds is necessary for the molecule to be classified as aromatic, appropriate isomers can be produced only by changing the positions of the chloro-substituent relative to the methyl-substituent:



Exercise 9.2.1

Draw three isomers of a six-membered aromatic ring compound substituted with two bromines.

Answer



Footnotes

- 1This is the Beilstein database, now available through the Reaxys site (www.elsevier.com/online-tools/reaxys).
- 2Peplow, Mark. “Organic Synthesis: The Robo-Chemist,” *Nature* 512 (2014): 20–2.
- 3Physical properties for C_4H_{10} and heavier molecules are those of the *normal isomer*, *n*-butane, *n*-pentane, etc.
- 4STP indicates a temperature of 0 °C and a pressure of 1 atm.

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9.3: Alcohols and Ethers

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Describe the structure and properties of alcohols
- Describe the structure and properties of ethers
- Name and draw structures for alcohols and ethers

In this section, we will learn about alcohols and ethers.

Alcohols

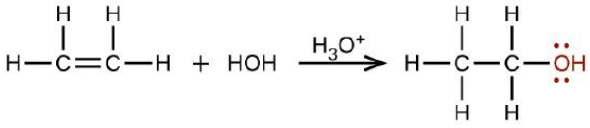
Incorporation of an oxygen atom into carbon- and hydrogen-containing molecules leads to new functional groups and new families of compounds. When the oxygen atom is attached by single bonds, the molecule is either an alcohol or ether.

Alcohols are derivatives of hydrocarbons in which an –OH group has replaced a hydrogen atom. Although all alcohols have one or more hydroxyl (–OH) functional groups, they do not behave like bases such as NaOH and KOH. NaOH and KOH are ionic compounds that contain OH^- ions. Alcohols are covalent molecules; the –OH group in an alcohol molecule is attached to a carbon atom by a covalent bond.

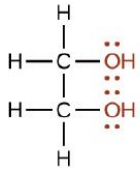
Ethanol, CH_3CH_2OH, also called ethyl alcohol, is a particularly important alcohol for human use. Ethanol is the alcohol produced by some species of yeast that is found in wine, beer, and distilled drinks. It has long been prepared by humans harnessing the metabolic efforts of yeasts in fermenting various sugars:

$$\underset{\text{glucose}}{C_6H_{12}O_6(aq)} \xrightarrow{\text{Yeast}} \underset{\text{ethanol}}{2C_2H_5OH(aq)} + 2CO_2(g)$$

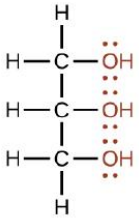
Large quantities of ethanol are synthesized from the addition reaction of water with ethylene using an acid as a catalyst:



Alcohols containing two or more hydroxyl groups can be made. Examples include 1,2-ethanediol (ethylene glycol, used in antifreeze) and 1,2,3-propanetriol (glycerine, used as a solvent for cosmetics and medicines):



1,2-ethanediol



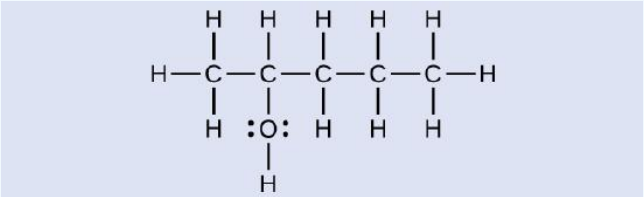
1,2,3-propanetriol

Naming Alcohols

The name of an alcohol comes from the hydrocarbon from which it was derived. The final *-e* in the name of the hydrocarbon is replaced by *-ol*, and the carbon atom to which the –OH group is bonded is indicated by a number placed before the name.[5]

Example 9.3.1: Naming Alcohols

Consider the following example. How should it be named?

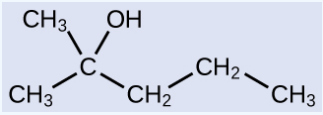


Solution

The carbon chain contains five carbon atoms. If the hydroxyl group was not present, we would have named this molecule pentane. To address the fact that the hydroxyl group is present, we change the ending of the name to *-ol*. In this case, since the –OH is attached to carbon 2 in the chain, we would name this molecule 2-pentanol.

Exercise 9.3.1

Name the following molecule:

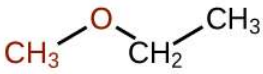


Answer

2-methyl-2-pentanol

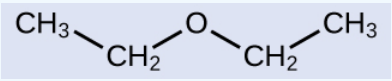
Ethers

Ethers are compounds that contain the functional group –O–. Ethers do not have a designated suffix like the other types of molecules we have named so far. In the IUPAC system, the oxygen atom and the smaller carbon branch are named as an alkoxy substituent and the remainder of the molecule as the base chain, as in alkanes. As shown in the following compound, the red symbols represent the smaller alkyl group and the oxygen atom, which would be named “methoxy.” The larger carbon branch would be ethane, making the molecule methoxyethane. Many ethers are referred to with common names instead of the IUPAC system names. For common names, the two branches connected to the oxygen atom are named separately and followed by “ether.” The common name for the compound shown in Example 9.3.2 is ethylmethyl ether:



Example 9.3.2: Naming Ethers

Provide the IUPAC and common name for the ether shown here:



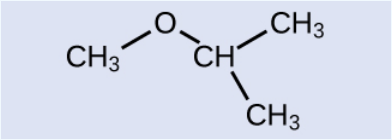
Solution

IUPAC: The molecule is made up of an ethoxy group attached to an ethane chain, so the IUPAC name would be ethoxyethane.

Common: The groups attached to the oxygen atom are both ethyl groups, so the common name would be diethyl ether.

Exercise 9.3.1

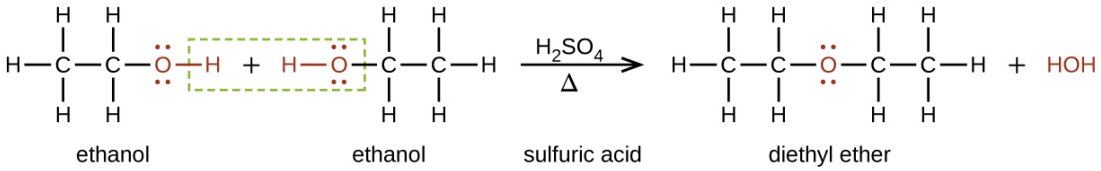
Provide the IUPAC and common name for the ether shown:



Answer

IUPAC: 2-methoxypropane; common: isopropylmethyl ether

Ethers can be obtained from alcohols by the elimination of a molecule of water from two molecules of the alcohol. For example, when ethanol is treated with a limited amount of sulfuric acid and heated to 140 °C, diethyl ether and water are formed:



In the general formula for ethers, R—**O**—R, the hydrocarbon groups (R) may be the same or different. Diethyl ether, the most widely used compound of this class, is a colorless, volatile liquid that is highly flammable. It was first used in 1846 as an anesthetic, but better anesthetics have now largely taken its place. Diethyl ether and other ethers are presently used primarily as solvents for gums, fats, waxes, and resins. *Tertiary*-butyl methyl ether, $C_4H_9OCH_3$ (abbreviated MTBE—italicized portions of names are not counted when ranking the groups alphabetically—so butyl comes before methyl in the common name), is used as an additive for gasoline. MTBE belongs to a group of chemicals known as oxygenates due to their capacity to increase the oxygen content of gasoline.

Link to Learning

Want more practice naming ethers? This brief video review summarizes the nomenclature for ethers.

Chemistry in Everyday Life: Carbohydrates and Diabetes

Carbohydrates are large biomolecules made up of carbon, hydrogen, and oxygen. The dietary forms of carbohydrates are foods rich in these types of molecules, like pastas, bread, and candy. The name “carbohydrate” comes from the formula of the molecules, which can be described by the general formula $C_m(H_2O)_n$, which shows that they are in a sense “carbon and water” or “hydrates of carbon.” In many cases, *m* and *n* have the same value, but they can be different. The smaller carbohydrates are generally referred to as “sugars,” the biochemical term for this group of molecules is “saccharide” from the Greek word for sugar (Figure 20.12). Depending on the number of sugar units joined together, they may be classified as monosaccharides (one sugar unit), disaccharides (two sugar units), oligosaccharides (a few sugars), or polysaccharides (the polymeric version of sugars—polymers were described in the feature box earlier in this chapter on recycling plastics). The scientific names of sugars can be recognized by the suffix *-ose* at the end of the name (for instance, fruit sugar is a monosaccharide called “fructose” and milk sugar is a disaccharide called lactose composed of two monosaccharides, glucose and galactose, connected together). Sugars contain some of the functional groups we have discussed: Note the alcohol groups present in the structures and how monosaccharide units are linked to form a disaccharide by formation of an ether.

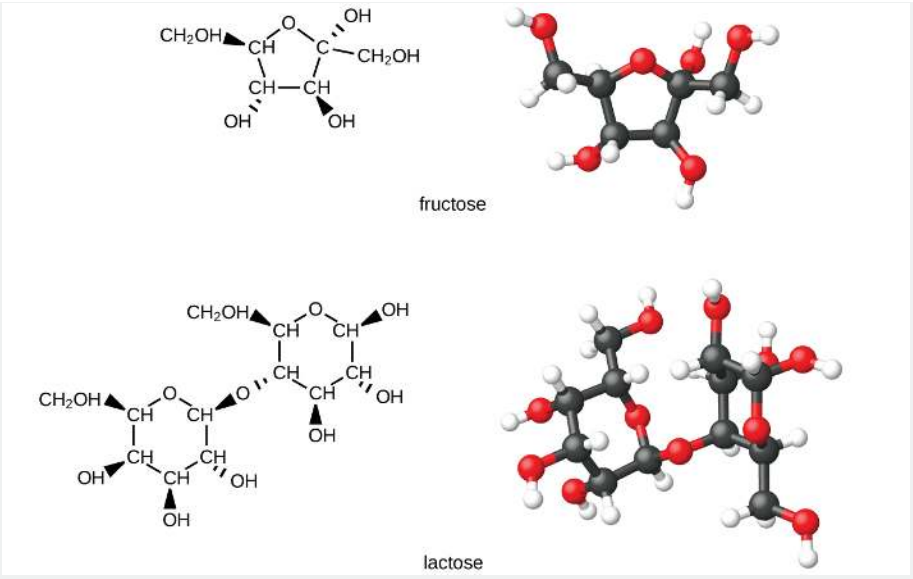


Figure 20.12 The illustrations show the molecular structures of fructose, a five-carbon monosaccharide, and of lactose, a disaccharide composed of two isomeric, six-carbon sugars.

Organisms use carbohydrates for a variety of functions. Carbohydrates can store energy, such as the polysaccharides glycogen in animals or starch in plants. They also provide structural support, such as the polysaccharide cellulose in plants and the modified polysaccharide chitin in fungi and animals. The sugars ribose and deoxyribose are components of the backbones of RNA and DNA, respectively. Other sugars play key roles in the function of the immune system, in cell-cell recognition, and in many other biological roles.

Diabetes is a group of metabolic diseases in which a person has a high sugar concentration in their blood (Figure 9.3.1). Diabetes may be caused by insufficient insulin production by the pancreas or by the body's cells not responding properly to the insulin that is produced. In a healthy person, insulin is produced when it is needed and functions to transport glucose from the blood into the cells where it can be used for energy. The long-term complications of diabetes can include loss of eyesight, heart disease, and kidney failure.

In 2013, it was estimated that approximately 3.3% of the world's population (~380 million people) suffered from diabetes, resulting in over a million deaths annually. Prevention involves eating a healthy diet, getting plenty of exercise, and maintaining a normal body weight. Treatment involves all of these lifestyle practices and may require injections of insulin.

Even after treatment protocols were introduced, the need to continually monitor their glucose levels posed a challenge for people with diabetes. The first tests required a doctor or lab, and therefore limited access and frequency. Eventually, researchers developed small tablets that would react to the presence of glucose in urine, but these still required a relatively complex process. Chemist Helen Free, who was working on improvements to the tablets, conceived a simpler device: a small test strip. With her husband and research partner, Alfred Free, she produced the first such product for measuring glucose; soon after, she expanded the technology to provide test strips for other compounds and conditions. While very recent advances (such as breath tests, discussed earlier in the text) have shown promise in replacing test strips, they have been widely used for decades and remain a primary method today.



Figure 9.3.1: Diabetes is a disease characterized by high concentrations of glucose in the blood. Treating diabetes involves making lifestyle changes, monitoring blood-sugar levels, and sometimes insulin injections. (credit: “Blausen Medical Communications”/Wikimedia Commons)

Footnotes

- 5The IUPAC adopted new nomenclature guidelines in 2013 that require this number to be placed as an “infix” rather than a prefix. For example, the new name for 2-propanol would be propan-2-ol. Widespread adoption of this new nomenclature will take some time, and students are encouraged to be familiar with both the old and new naming protocols.

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9.4: Aldehydes, Ketones, Carboxylic Acids, and Esters

Learning Objectives

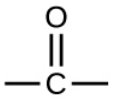
By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Describe the structure and properties of aldehydes, ketones, carboxylic acids and esters

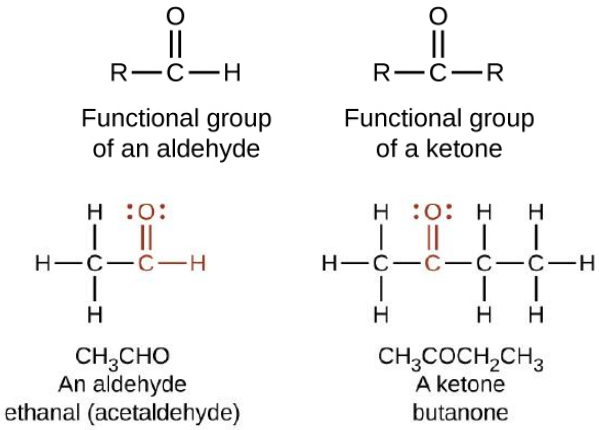
Another class of organic molecules contains a carbon atom connected to an oxygen atom by a double bond, commonly called a carbonyl group. The trigonal planar carbon in the carbonyl group can attach to two other substituents leading to several subfamilies (aldehydes, ketones, carboxylic acids and esters) described in this section.

Aldehydes and Ketones

Both aldehydes and ketones contain a carbonyl group, a functional group with a carbon-oxygen double bond. The names for aldehyde and ketone compounds are derived using similar nomenclature rules as for alkanes and alcohols, and include the class-identifying suffixes *-al* and *-one*, respectively:



In an aldehyde, the carbonyl group is bonded to at least one hydrogen atom. In a ketone, the carbonyl group is bonded to two carbon atoms:



As text, an aldehyde group is represented as –CHO; a ketone is represented as –C(O)– or –CO–.

In both aldehydes and ketones, the geometry around the carbon atom in the carbonyl group is trigonal planar; the carbon atom exhibits sp^2 hybridization. Two of the sp^2 orbitals on the carbon atom in the carbonyl group are used to form σ bonds to the other carbon or hydrogen atoms in a molecule. The remaining sp^2 hybrid orbital forms a σ bond to the oxygen atom. The unhybridized *p* orbital on the carbon atom in the carbonyl group overlaps a *p* orbital on the oxygen atom to form the π bond in the double bond.

Like the

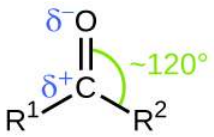
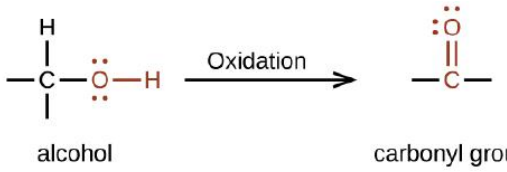


Figure 9.4.1: The carbonyl group is polar, and the geometry of the bonds around the central carbon is trigonal planar.

The importance of molecular structure in the reactivity of organic compounds is illustrated by the reactions that produce aldehydes and ketones. We can prepare a carbonyl group by oxidation of an alcohol—for organic molecules, oxidation of a carbon atom is said to occur when a carbon-hydrogen bond is replaced by a carbon-oxygen bond. The reverse reaction—replacing a carbon-

oxygen bond by a carbon-hydrogen bond—is a reduction of that carbon atom. Recall that oxygen is generally assigned a –2 oxidation number unless it is elemental or attached to a fluorine. Hydrogen is generally assigned an oxidation number of +1 unless it is attached to a metal. Since carbon does not have a specific rule, its oxidation number is determined algebraically by factoring the atoms it is attached to and the overall charge of the molecule or ion. In general, a carbon atom attached to an oxygen atom will have a more positive oxidation number and a carbon atom attached to a hydrogen atom will have a more negative oxidation number. This should fit nicely with your understanding of the polarity of C–O and C–H bonds. The other reagents and possible products of these reactions are beyond the scope of this chapter, so we will focus only on the changes to the carbon atoms:



Example 9.4.1: Oxidation and Reduction in Organic Chemistry

Methane represents the completely reduced form of an organic molecule that contains one carbon atom. Sequentially replacing each of the carbon-hydrogen bonds with a carbon-oxygen bond would lead to an alcohol, then an aldehyde, then a carboxylic acid (discussed later), and, finally, carbon dioxide:

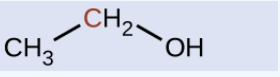
What are the oxidation numbers for the carbon atoms in the molecules shown here?

Solution

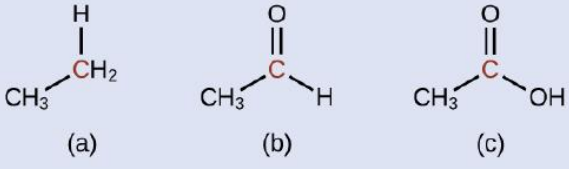
In this example, we can calculate the oxidation number (review the chapter on oxidation-reduction reactions if necessary) for the carbon atom in each case (note how this would become difficult for larger molecules with additional carbon atoms and hydrogen atoms, which is why organic chemists use the definition dealing with replacing C–H bonds with C–O bonds described). For CH_4, the carbon atom carries a –4 oxidation number (the hydrogen atoms are assigned oxidation numbers of +1 and the carbon atom balances that by having an oxidation number of –4). For the alcohol (in this case, methanol), the carbon atom has an oxidation number of –2 (the oxygen atom is assigned –2, the four hydrogen atoms each are assigned +1, and the carbon atom balances the sum by having an oxidation number of –2; note that compared to the carbon atom in CH_4, this carbon atom has lost two electrons so it was oxidized); for the aldehyde, the carbon atom's oxidation number is 0 (–2 for the oxygen atom and +1 for each hydrogen atom already balances to 0, so the oxidation number for the carbon atom is 0); for the carboxylic acid, the carbon atom's oxidation number is +2 (two oxygen atoms each at –2 and two hydrogen atoms at +1); and for carbon dioxide, the carbon atom's oxidation number is +4 (here, the carbon atom needs to balance the –4 sum from the two oxygen atoms).

Exercise 9.4.1

Indicate whether the marked carbon atoms in the three molecules here are oxidized or reduced relative to the marked carbon atom in ethanol:



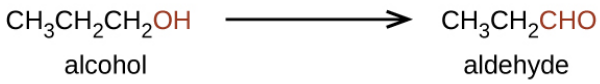
There is no need to calculate oxidation states in this case; instead, just compare the types of atoms bonded to the marked carbon atoms:



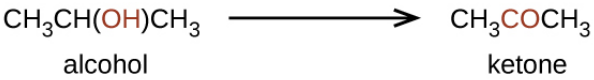
Answer

(a) reduced (bond to oxygen atom replaced by bond to hydrogen atom); (b) oxidized (one bond to hydrogen atom replaced by one bond to oxygen atom); (c) oxidized (2 bonds to hydrogen atoms have been replaced by bonds to an oxygen atom)

Aldehydes are commonly prepared by the oxidation of alcohols whose –OH functional group is located on the carbon atom at the end of the chain of carbon atoms in the alcohol:



Alcohols that have their –OH groups in the middle of the chain are necessary to synthesize a ketone, which requires the carbonyl group to be bonded to two other carbon atoms:



An alcohol with its –OH group bonded to a carbon atom that is bonded to no or one other carbon atom will form an aldehyde. An alcohol with its –OH group attached to two other carbon atoms will form a ketone. If three carbons are attached to the carbon bonded to the –OH, the molecule will not have a C–H bond to be replaced, so it will not be susceptible to oxidation.

Formaldehyde, an aldehyde with the formula HCHO, is a colorless gas with a pungent and irritating odor. It is sold in an aqueous solution called formalin, which contains about 37% formaldehyde by weight. Formaldehyde causes coagulation of proteins, so it kills bacteria (and any other living organism) and stops many of the biological processes that cause tissue to decay. Thus, formaldehyde is used for preserving tissue specimens and embalming bodies. It is also used to sterilize soil or other materials. Formaldehyde is used in the manufacture of Bakelite, a hard plastic having high chemical and electrical resistance.

Dimethyl ketone, CH_3COCH_3, commonly called acetone, is the simplest ketone. It is made commercially by fermenting corn or molasses, or by oxidation of 2-propanol. Acetone is a colorless liquid. Among its many uses are as a solvent for lacquer (including fingernail polish), cellulose acetate, cellulose nitrate, acetylene, plastics, and varnishes; as a paint and varnish remover; and as a solvent in the manufacture of pharmaceuticals and chemicals.

Carboxylic Acids and Esters

The odor of vinegar is caused by the presence of acetic acid, a carboxylic acid, in the vinegar. The odor of ripe bananas and many other fruits is due to the presence of esters, compounds that can be prepared by the reaction of a carboxylic acid with an alcohol. Because esters do not have hydrogen bonds between molecules, they have lower vapor pressures than the alcohols and carboxylic acids from which they are derived (see Figure 9.4.2).

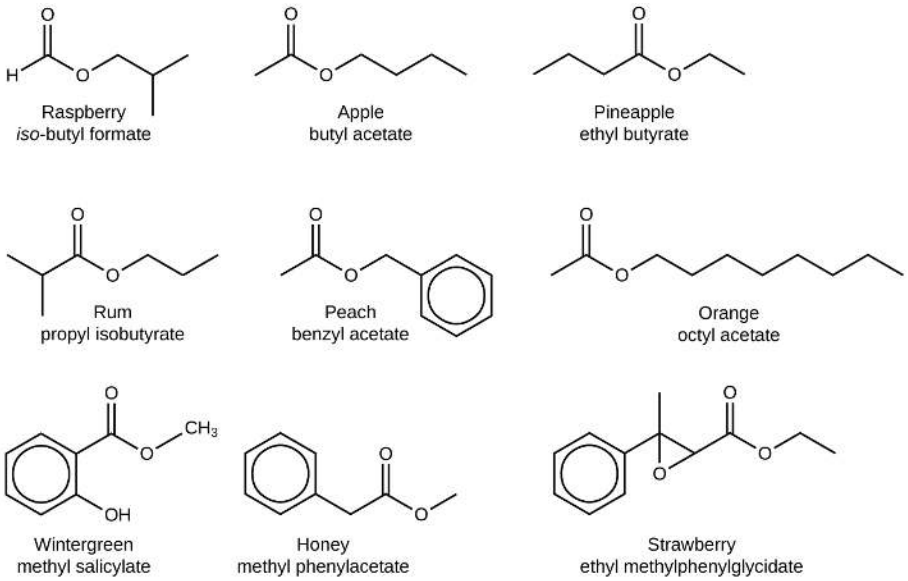
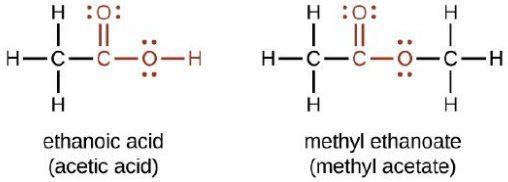


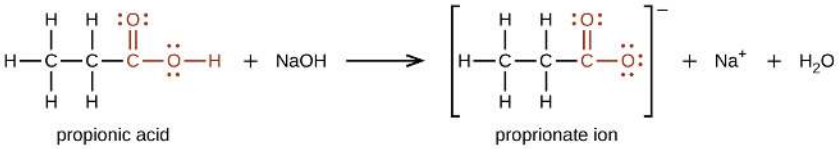
Figure 9.4.2: Esters are responsible for the odors associated with various plants and their fruits.

Both carboxylic acids and esters contain a carbonyl group with a second oxygen atom bonded to the carbon atom in the carbonyl group by a single bond. In a carboxylic acid, the second oxygen atom also bonds to a hydrogen atom. In an ester, the second oxygen atom bonds to another carbon atom. The names for carboxylic acids and esters include prefixes that denote the lengths of the carbon chains in the molecules and are derived following nomenclature rules similar to those for inorganic acids and salts (see these examples):



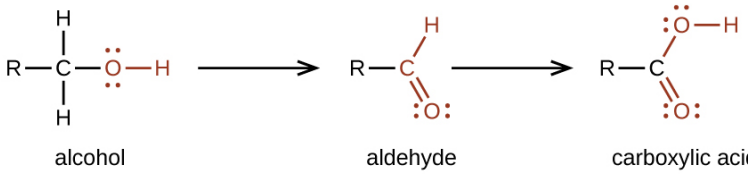
The functional groups for an acid and for an ester are shown in red in these formulas.

The hydrogen atom in the functional group of a carboxylic acid will react with a base to form an ionic salt:

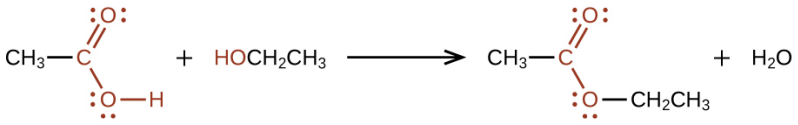


Carboxylic acids are weak acids (see the chapter on acids and bases), meaning they are not 100% ionized in water. Generally only about 1% of the molecules of a carboxylic acid dissolved in water are ionized at any given time. The remaining molecules are undissociated in solution.

We prepare carboxylic acids by the oxidation of aldehydes or alcohols whose –OH functional group is located on the carbon atom at the end of the chain of carbon atoms in the alcohol:



Esters are produced by the reaction of acids with alcohols. For example, the ester ethyl acetate, $CH_3CO_2CH_2CH_3$, is formed when acetic acid reacts with ethanol:



acetic acid ethanol ethyl acetate

The simplest carboxylic acid is formic acid, HCO_2H, known since 1670. Its name comes from the Latin word *formicus*, which means “ant”; it was first isolated by the distillation of red ants. It is partially responsible for the pain and irritation of ant and wasp stings, and is responsible for a characteristic odor of ants that can be sometimes detected in their nests.

Acetic acid, CH_3CO_2H, constitutes 3–6% vinegar. Cider vinegar is produced by allowing apple juice to ferment without oxygen present. Yeast cells present in the juice carry out the fermentation reactions. The fermentation reactions change the sugar present in the juice to ethanol, then to acetic acid. Pure acetic acid has a penetrating odor and produces painful burns. It is an excellent solvent for many organic and some inorganic compounds, and it is essential in the production of cellulose acetate, a component of many synthetic fibers such as rayon.

The distinctive and attractive odors and flavors of many flowers, perfumes, and ripe fruits are due to the presence of one or more esters (Figure 9.4.3). Among the most important of the natural esters are fats (such as lard, tallow, and butter) and oils (such as linseed, cottonseed, and olive oils), which are esters of the trihydroxyl alcohol glycerine, $C_3H_5(OH)_3$, with large carboxylic acids, such as palmitic acid, $CH_3(CH_2)_{14}CO_2H$, stearic acid, $CH_3(CH_2)_{16}CO_2H$, and oleic acid, Oleic acid is an unsaturated acid; it contains a double bond. Palmitic and stearic acids are saturated acids that contain no double or triple bonds.



Figure 9.4.3: Over 350 different volatile molecules (many members of the ester family) have been identified in strawberries. (credit: Rebecca Siegel)

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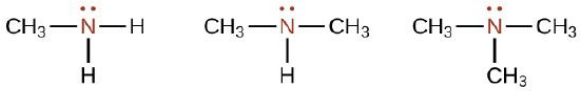
9.5: Amines and Amides

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Describe the structure and properties of an amine
- Describe the structure and properties of an amide

Amines are molecules that contain carbon-nitrogen bonds. The nitrogen atom in an amine has a lone pair of electrons and three bonds to other atoms, either carbon or hydrogen. Various nomenclatures are used to derive names for amines, but all involve the class-identifying suffix *–ine* as illustrated here for a few simple examples:



In some amines, the nitrogen atom replaces a carbon atom in an aromatic hydrocarbon. Pyridine (Figure 9.5.1) is one such heterocyclic amine. A heterocyclic compound contains atoms of two or more different elements in its ring structure.

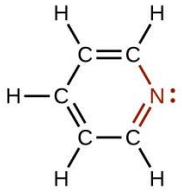


Figure 9.5.1: The illustration shows one of the resonance structures of pyridine.

How Sciences Interconnect: DNA in Forensics and Paternity

The genetic material for all living things is a polymer of four different molecules, which are themselves a combination of three subunits. The genetic information, the code for developing an organism, is contained in the specific sequence of the four molecules, similar to the way the letters of the alphabet can be sequenced to form words that convey information. The information in a DNA sequence is used to form two other types of polymers, one of which are proteins. The proteins interact to form a specific type of organism with individual characteristics.

A genetic molecule is called DNA, which stands for deoxyribonucleic acid. The four molecules that make up DNA are called nucleotides. Each nucleotide consists of a single- or double-ringed molecule containing nitrogen, carbon, oxygen, and hydrogen called a nitrogenous base. Each base is bonded to a five-carbon sugar called deoxyribose. The sugar is in turn bonded to a phosphate group PO43−)Figure 9.5.2).

It probably makes sense that the sequence of nucleotides in the DNA of a cat differs from those of a dog. But it is also true that the sequences of the DNA in the cells of two individual pugs differ. Likewise, the sequences of DNA in you and a sibling differ (unless your sibling is an identical twin), as do those between you and an unrelated individual. However, the DNA sequences of two related individuals are more similar than the sequences of two unrelated individuals, and these similarities in sequence can be observed in various ways. This is the principle behind DNA fingerprinting, which is a method used to determine whether two DNA samples came from related (or the same) individuals or unrelated individuals.

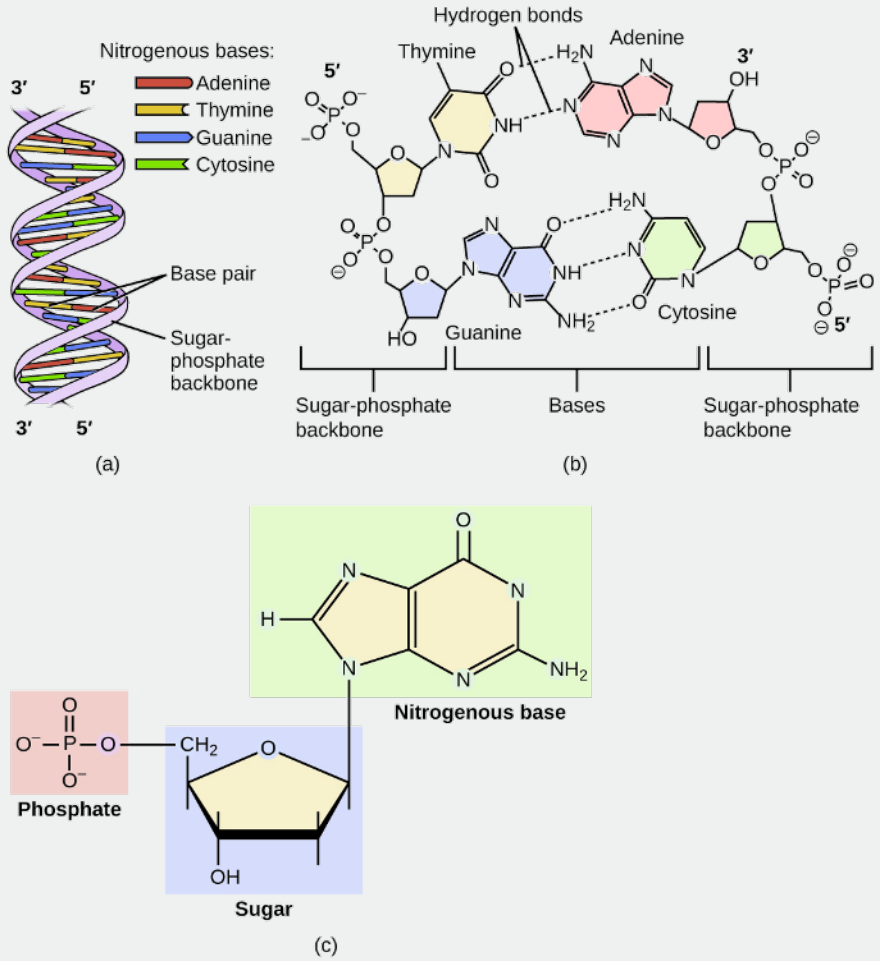


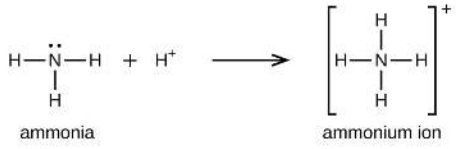
Figure 9.5.2: DNA is an organic molecule and the genetic material for all living organisms. (a) DNA is a double helix consisting of two single DNA strands hydrogen bonded together at each nitrogenous base. (b) This detail shows the hydrogen bonding (dotted lines) between nitrogenous bases on each DNA strand and the way in which each nucleotide is joined to the next, forming a backbone of sugars and phosphate groups along each strand. (c) This detail shows the structure of one of the four nucleotides that makes up the DNA polymer. Each nucleotide consists of a nitrogenous base (a double-ring molecule, in this case), a five-carbon sugar (deoxyribose), and a phosphate group.

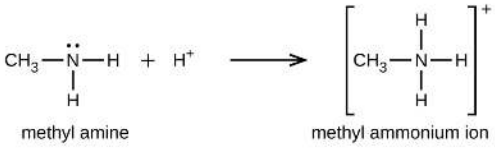
Using similarities in sequences, technicians can determine whether a man is the father of a child (the identity of the mother is rarely in doubt, except in the case of an adopted child and a potential birth mother). Likewise, forensic geneticists can determine whether a crime scene sample of human tissue, such as blood or skin cells, contains DNA that matches exactly the DNA of a suspect.

Link to Learning

Watch this video animation of how DNA is packaged for a visual lesson in its structure.

Like ammonia, amines are weak bases due to the lone pair of electrons on their nitrogen atoms:





The basicity of an amine's nitrogen atom plays an important role in much of the compound's chemistry. Amine functional groups are found in a wide variety of compounds, including natural and synthetic dyes, polymers, vitamins, and medications such as penicillin and codeine. They are also found in many molecules essential to life, such as amino acids, hormones, neurotransmitters, and DNA.

How Sciences Interconnect: Addictive Alkaloids

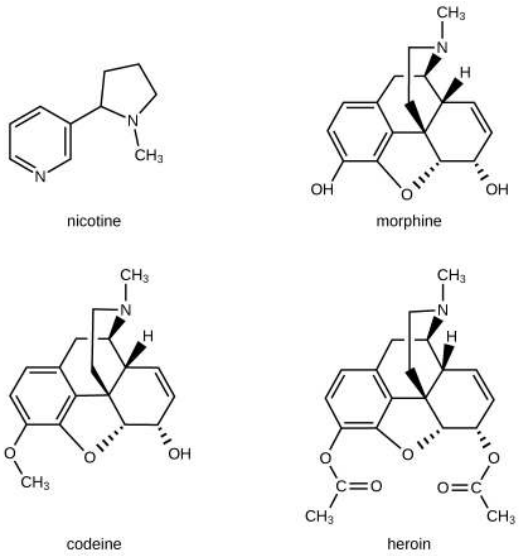
Since ancient times, plants have been used for medicinal purposes. One class of substances, called *alkaloids*, found in many of these plants has been isolated and found to contain cyclic molecules with an amine functional group. These amines are bases. They can react with H_3O^+ in a dilute acid to form an ammonium salt, and this property is used to extract them from the plant:

R3N+H3O++Cl−⟶[R3NH+]Cl−+H2OR3N+H3O++Cl−⟶[R3NH+]Cl−+H2O

The name alkaloid means "like an alkali." Thus, an alkaloid reacts with acid. The free compound can be recovered after extraction by reaction with a base:

R3NH+]Cl−+OH−⟶R3N+H2O+Cl−[R3NH+]Cl−+OH−⟶R3N+H2O+Cl−

The structures of many naturally occurring alkaloids have profound physiological and psychotropic effects in humans. Examples of these drugs include nicotine, morphine, codeine, and heroin. The plant produces these substances, collectively called secondary plant compounds, as chemical defenses against the numerous pests that attempt to feed on the plant:



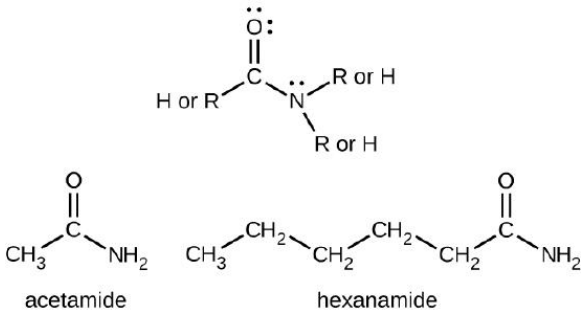
In these diagrams, as is common in representing structures of large organic compounds, carbon atoms in the rings and the hydrogen atoms bonded to them have been omitted for clarity. The solid wedges indicate bonds that extend out of the page. The dashed wedges indicate bonds that extend into the page. Notice that small changes to a part of the molecule change the properties of morphine, codeine, and heroin. Morphine, a strong narcotic used to relieve pain, contains two hydroxyl functional groups, located at the bottom of the molecule in this structural formula. Changing one of these hydroxyl groups to a methyl ether group forms

codeine, a less potent drug used as a local anesthetic. If both hydroxyl groups are converted to esters of acetic acid, the powerfully addictive drug heroin results (Figure 9.5.3).

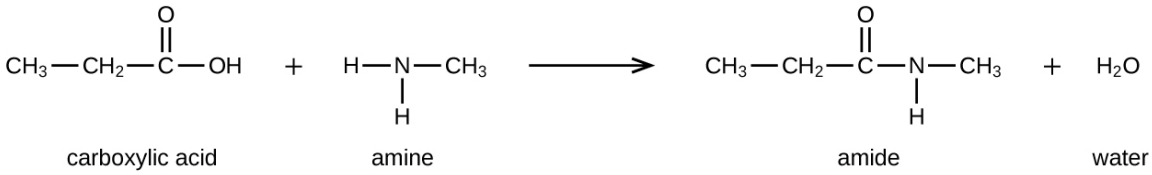


Figure 9.5.3: Poppies can be used in the production of opium, a plant latex that contains morphine from which other opiates, such as heroin, can be synthesized. (credit: Karen Roe)

Amides are molecules that contain nitrogen atoms connected to the carbon atom of a carbonyl group. Like amines, various nomenclature rules may be used to name amides, but all include use of the class-specific suffix *-amide*:



Amides can be produced when carboxylic acids react with amines or ammonia in a process called amidation. A water molecule is eliminated from the reaction, and the amide is formed from the remaining pieces of the carboxylic acid and the amine (note the similarity to formation of an ester from a carboxylic acid and an alcohol discussed in the previous section):



The reaction between amines and carboxylic acids to form amides is biologically important. It is through this reaction that amino acids (molecules containing both amine and carboxylic acid substituents) link together in a polymer to form proteins.

How Sciences Interconnect: Proteins and Enzymes

Proteins are large biological molecules made up of long chains of smaller molecules called amino acids. Organisms rely on proteins for a variety of functions—proteins transport molecules across cell membranes, replicate DNA, and catalyze metabolic reactions, to name only a few of their functions. The properties of proteins are functions of the combination of amino acids that compose them and can vary greatly. Interactions between amino acid sequences in the chains of proteins result in the folding of the chain into specific, three-dimensional structures that determine the protein's activity.

Amino acids are organic molecules that contain an amine functional group ($–NH_2$), a carboxylic acid functional group (–COOH), and a side chain (that is specific to each individual amino acid). Most living things build proteins from the same 20 different amino acids. Amino acids connect by the formation of a peptide bond, which is a covalent bond formed between two amino acids when the carboxylic acid group of one amino acid reacts with the amine group of the other amino acid. The

formation of the bond results in the production of a molecule of water (in general, reactions that result in the production of water when two other molecules combine are referred to as condensation reactions). The resulting bond—between the carbonyl group carbon atom and the amine nitrogen atom is called a peptide link or peptide bond. Since each of the original amino acids has an unreacted group (one has an unreacted amine and the other an unreacted carboxylic acid), more peptide bonds can form to other amino acids, extending the structure. (Figure 9.5.4) A chain of connected amino acids is called a polypeptide. Proteins contain at least one long polypeptide chain.

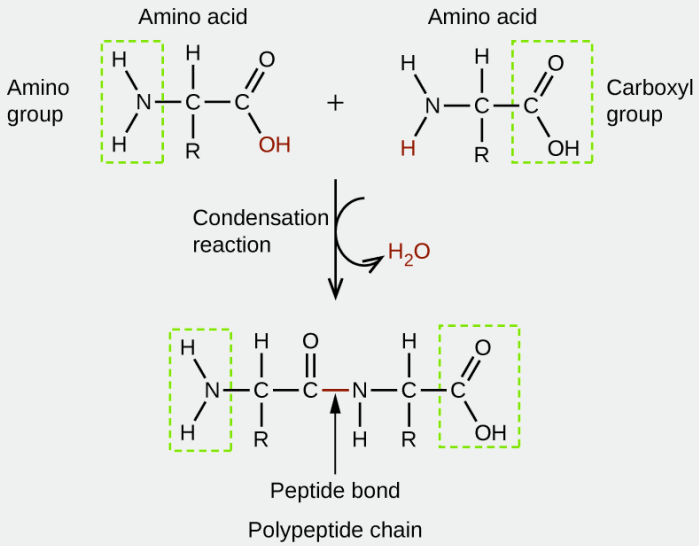


Figure 9.5.4: This condensation reaction forms a dipeptide from two amino acids and leads to the formation of water.

Enzymes are large biological molecules, mostly composed of proteins, which are responsible for the thousands of metabolic processes that occur in living organisms. Enzymes are highly specific catalysts; they speed up the rates of certain reactions. Enzymes function by lowering the activation energy of the reaction they are catalyzing, which can dramatically increase the rate of the reaction. Most reactions catalyzed by enzymes have rates that are millions of times faster than the noncatalyzed version. Like all catalysts, enzymes are not consumed during the reactions that they catalyze. Enzymes do differ from other catalysts in how specific they are for their substrates (the molecules that an enzyme will convert into a different product). Each enzyme is only capable of speeding up one or a few very specific reactions or types of reactions. Since the function of enzymes is so specific, the lack or malfunctioning of an enzyme can lead to serious health consequences. One disease that is the result of an enzyme malfunction is phenylketonuria. In this disease, the enzyme that catalyzes the first step in the degradation of the amino acid phenylalanine is not functional (Figure 9.5.5). Untreated, this can lead to an accumulation of phenylalanine, which can lead to intellectual disabilities.

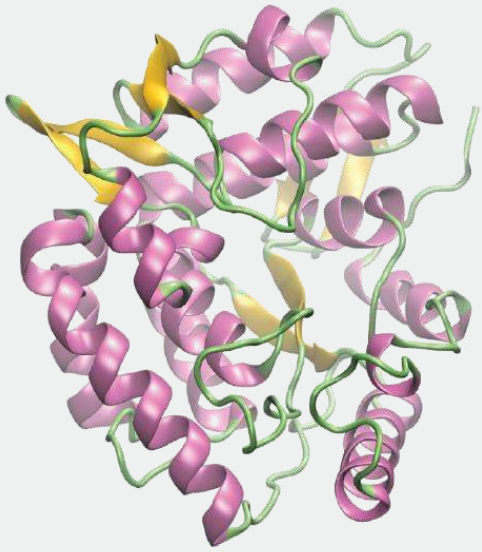


Figure 9.5.5: A computer rendering shows the three-dimensional structure of the enzyme phenylalanine hydroxylase. In the disease phenylketonuria, a defect in the shape of phenylalanine hydroxylase causes it to lose its function in breaking down phenylalanine.

Chemistry in Everyday Life: Kevlar

Kevlar (Figure 9.5.6) is a synthetic polymer made from two monomers 1,4-phenylene-diamine and terephthaloyl chloride (Kevlar is a registered trademark of DuPont). The material was developed by Susan Kwolek while she worked to find a replacement for steel in tires. Kwolek's work involved synthesizing polyamides and dissolving them in solvents, then spinning the resulting solution into fibers. One of her solutions proved to be quite different in initial appearance and structure. And once spun, the resulting fibers were particularly strong. From this initial discovery, Kevlar was created. The material has a high tensile strength-to-weight ratio (it is about 5 times stronger than an equal weight of steel), making it useful for many applications from bicycle tires to sails to body armor.

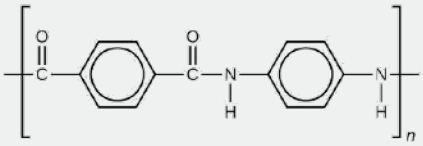


Figure 9.5.6: This illustration shows the formula for polymeric Kevlar.

The material owes much of its strength to hydrogen bonds between polymer chains (refer back to the chapter on intermolecular interactions). These bonds form between the carbonyl group oxygen atom (which has a partial negative charge due to oxygen's electronegativity) on one monomer and the partially positively charged hydrogen atom in the N–H bond of an adjacent monomer in the polymer structure (see dashed lines in Figure 9.5.7). There is additional strength derived from the interaction between the unhybridized *p* orbitals in the six-membered rings, called aromatic stacking.

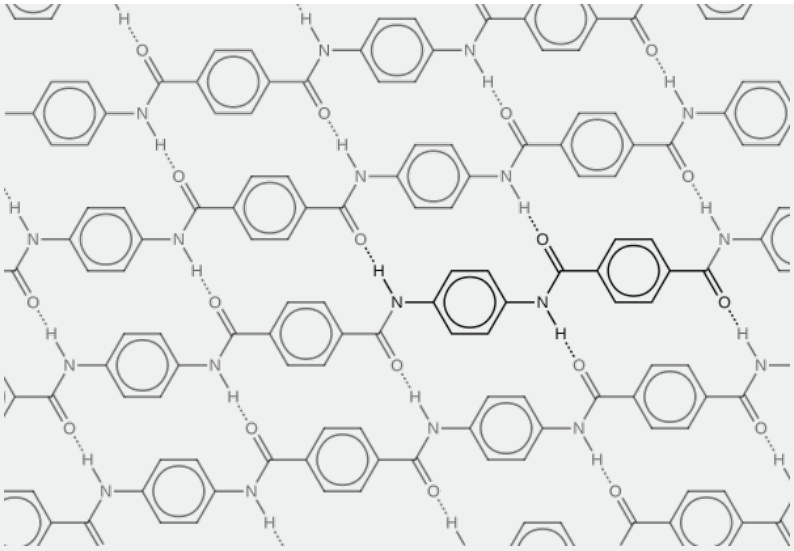


Figure 9.5.7: The diagram shows the polymer structure of Kevlar, with hydrogen bonds between polymer chains represented by dotted lines.

Kevlar may be best known as a component of body armor, combat helmets, and face masks. Since the 1980s, the US military has used Kevlar as a component of the PASGT (personal armor system for ground troops) helmet and vest. Kevlar is also used to protect armored fighting vehicles and aircraft carriers. Civilian applications include protective gear for emergency service personnel such as body armor for police officers and heat-resistant clothing for fire fighters. Kevlar based clothing is considerably lighter and thinner than equivalent gear made from other materials (Figure 9.5.8). Beyond Kevlar, Susan Kwolek was instrumental in the development of Nomex, a fireproof material, and was also involved in the creation of Lycra. She became just the fourth woman inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame, and received a number of other awards for her significant contributions to science and society.

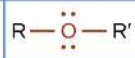
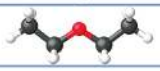
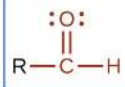
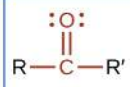
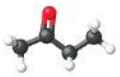
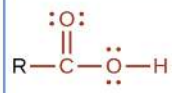
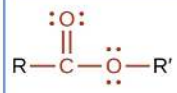
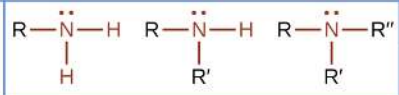
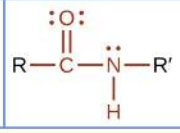


(a) (b) (c)

Figure 9.5.8: (a) These soldiers are sorting through pieces of a Kevlar helmet that helped absorb a grenade blast. Kevlar is also used to make (b) canoes and (c) marine mooring lines. (credit a: modification of work by “Cla68”/Wikimedia Commons; credit b: modification of work by “OakleyOriginals”/Flickr; credit c: modification of work by Casey H. Kyhl)

In addition to its better-known uses, Kevlar is also often used in cryogenics for its very low thermal conductivity (along with its high strength). Kevlar maintains its high strength when cooled to the temperature of liquid nitrogen (–196 °C).

The table here summarizes the structures discussed in this chapter:

Compound Name	Structure of Compound and Functional Group (red)	Example	
		Formula	Name
alkene		C_2H_4 	ethene
alkyne		C_2H_2 	ethyne
alcohol		CH_3CH_2OH 	ethanol
ether		$(C_2H_5)_2O$ 	diethyl ether
aldehyde		CH_3CHO 	ethanal
ketone		$CH_3COCH_2CH_3$ 	methyl ethyl ketone
carboxylic acid		CH_3COOH 	acetic acid
ester		$CH_3CO_2CH_2CH_3$ 	ethyl acetate
amine		$C_2H_5NH_2$ 	ethylamine
amine			
amide		CH_3CONH_2 	acetamide

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9.6: Key Terms

addition reaction | reaction in which a double carbon-carbon bond forms a single carbon-carbon bond by the addition of a reactant. Typical reaction for an alkene.

alcohol | organic compound with a hydroxyl group (–OH) bonded to a carbon atom

aldehyde | organic compound containing a carbonyl group bonded to two hydrogen atoms or a hydrogen atom and a carbon substituent

alkane | molecule consisting of only carbon and hydrogen atoms connected by single (σ) bonds

alkene | molecule consisting of carbon and hydrogen containing at least one carbon-carbon double bond

alkyl group | substituent, consisting of an alkane missing one hydrogen atom, attached to a larger structure

alkyne | molecule consisting of carbon and hydrogen containing at least one carbon-carbon triple bond

amide | organic molecule that features a nitrogen atom connected to the carbon atom in a carbonyl group

amine | organic molecule in which a nitrogen atom is bonded to one or more alkyl group

aromatic hydrocarbon | cyclic molecule consisting of carbon and hydrogen with delocalized alternating carbon-carbon single and double bonds, resulting in enhanced stability

carbonyl group | carbon atom double bonded to an oxygen atom

carboxylic acid | organic compound containing a carbonyl group with an attached hydroxyl group

ester | organic compound containing a carbonyl group with an attached oxygen atom that is bonded to a carbon substituent

ether | organic compound with an oxygen atom that is bonded to two carbon atoms

functional group | part of an organic molecule that imparts a specific chemical reactivity to the molecule

ketone | organic compound containing a carbonyl group with two carbon substituents attached to it

organic compound | natural or synthetic compound that contains carbon

saturated hydrocarbon | molecule containing carbon and hydrogen that has only single bonds between carbon atoms

skeletal structure | shorthand method of drawing organic molecules in which carbon atoms are represented by the ends of lines and bends in between lines, and hydrogen atoms attached to the carbon atoms are not shown (but are understood to be present by the context of the structure)

substituent | branch or functional group that replaces hydrogen atoms in a larger hydrocarbon chain

substitution reaction | reaction in which one atom replaces another in a molecule

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9.7: Summary

Strong, stable bonds between carbon atoms produce complex molecules containing chains, branches, and rings. The chemistry of these compounds is called organic chemistry. Hydrocarbons are organic compounds composed of only carbon and hydrogen. The alkanes are saturated hydrocarbons—that is, hydrocarbons that contain only single bonds. Alkenes contain one or more carbon-carbon double bonds. Alkynes contain one or more carbon-carbon triple bonds. Aromatic hydrocarbons contain ring structures with delocalized π electron systems.

Many organic compounds that are not hydrocarbons can be thought of as derivatives of hydrocarbons. A hydrocarbon derivative can be formed by replacing one or more hydrogen atoms of a hydrocarbon by a functional group, which contains at least one atom of an element other than carbon or hydrogen. The properties of hydrocarbon derivatives are determined largely by the functional group. The –OH group is the functional group of an alcohol. The –R–O–R– group is the functional group of an ether.

Functional groups related to the carbonyl group include the –CHO group of an aldehyde, the –CO– group of a ketone, the $–CO_2H$ group of a carboxylic acid, and the $–CO_2R$ group of an ester. The carbonyl group, a carbon-oxygen double bond, is the key structure in these classes of organic molecules: Aldehydes contain at least one hydrogen atom attached to the carbonyl carbon atom, ketones contain two carbon groups attached to the carbonyl carbon atom, carboxylic acids contain a hydroxyl group attached to the carbonyl carbon atom, and esters contain an oxygen atom attached to another carbon group connected to the carbonyl carbon atom. All of these compounds contain oxidized carbon atoms relative to the carbon atom of an alcohol group.

The addition of nitrogen into an organic framework leads to two families of molecules. Compounds containing a nitrogen atom bonded in a hydrocarbon framework are classified as amines. Compounds that have a nitrogen atom bonded to one side of a carbonyl group are classified as amides. Amines are a basic functional group. Amines and carboxylic acids can combine in a condensation reaction to form amides.

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9.8: Exercises

1.

Write the chemical formula and Lewis structure of the following, each of which contains five carbon atoms:

a. an alkane
b. an alkene
c. an alkyne

2.

What is the difference between the hybridization of carbon atoms' valence orbitals in saturated and unsaturated hydrocarbons?

3.

On a microscopic level, how does the reaction of bromine with a saturated hydrocarbon differ from its reaction with an unsaturated hydrocarbon? How are they similar?

4.

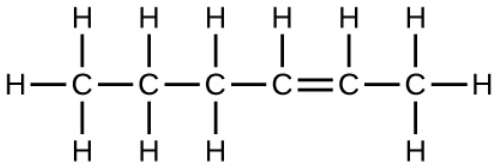
On a microscopic level, how does the reaction of bromine with an alkene differ from its reaction with an alkyne? How are they similar?

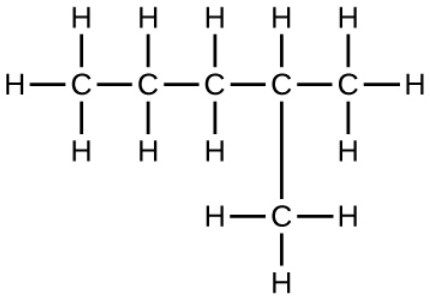
5.

Explain why unbranched alkenes can form geometric isomers while unbranched alkanes cannot. Does this explanation involve the macroscopic domain or the microscopic domain?

6.

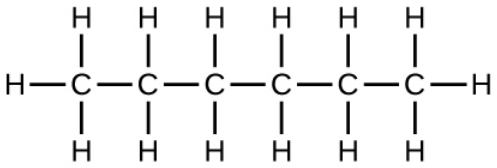
Explain why these two molecules are not isomers:

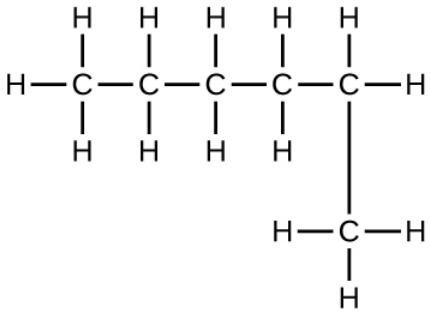




7.

Explain why these two molecules are not isomers:





8.

How does the carbon-atom hybridization change when polyethylene is prepared from ethylene?

9.

Write the Lewis structure and molecular formula for each of the following hydrocarbons:

a. (f) 4-methyl-2-pentyne

10.

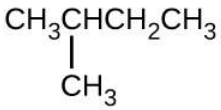
Write the chemical formula, condensed formula, and Lewis structure for each of the following hydrocarbons:

a. (f) 3,4-dimethyl-1-pentyne

11.

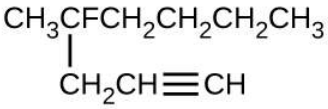
Give the complete IUPAC name for each of the following compounds:

a. (c)

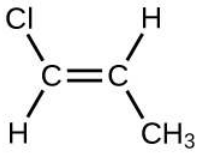


(d)

(e)



(f)

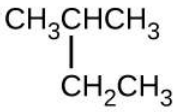


(g)

12.

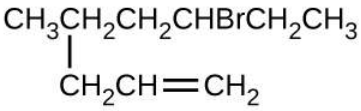
Give the complete IUPAC name for each of the following compounds:

a. (c)



(d)

(e)



(f)

13.

Butane is used as a fuel in disposable lighters. Write the Lewis structure for each isomer of butane.

14.

Write Lewis structures and name the five structural isomers of hexane.

15.

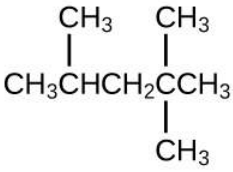
Write Lewis structures for the *cis–trans* isomers of

16.

Write structures for the three isomers of the aromatic hydrocarbon xylene, $C_6H_4(CH_3)_2$.

17.

Isooctane is the common name of the isomer of C_8H_{18} used as the standard of 100 for the gasoline octane rating:



a. What is the IUPAC name for the compound?
b. Name the other isomers that contain a five-carbon chain with three methyl substituents.

18.

Write Lewis structures and IUPAC names for the alkyne isomers of C_4H_6.

19.

Write Lewis structures and IUPAC names for all isomers of C_4H_9Cl.

20.

Name and write the structures of all isomers of the propyl and butyl alkyl groups.

21.

Write the structures for all the isomers of the $–C_5H_{11}$ alkyl group.

22.

Write Lewis structures and describe the molecular geometry at each carbon atom in the following compounds:

a. *cis*-3-hexene
b. *cis*-1-chloro-2-bromoethene
c. 2-pentyne
d. *trans*-6-ethyl-7-methyl-2-octene

23.

Benzene is one of the compounds used as an octane enhancer in unleaded gasoline. It is manufactured by the catalytic conversion of acetylene to benzene:

Draw Lewis structures for these compounds, with resonance structures as appropriate, and determine the hybridization of the carbon atoms in each.

24.

Teflon is prepared by the polymerization of tetrafluoroethylene. Write the equation that describes the polymerization using Lewis symbols.

25.

Write two complete, balanced equations for each of the following reactions, one using condensed formulas and one using Lewis structures.

a. 1 mol of 1-butyne reacts with 2 mol of iodine.
b. Pentane is burned in air.

26.

Write two complete, balanced equations for each of the following reactions, one using condensed formulas and one using Lewis structures.

a. 2-butene reacts with chlorine.
b. benzene burns in air.

27.

What mass of 2-bromopropane could be prepared from 25.5 g of propene? Assume a 100% yield of product.

28.

Acetylene is a very weak acid; however, it will react with moist silver(I) oxide and form water and a compound composed of silver and carbon. Addition of a solution of HCl to a 0.2352-g sample of the compound of silver and carbon produced acetylene and 0.2822 g of AgCl.

a. What is the empirical formula of the compound of silver and carbon?
b. The production of acetylene on addition of HCl to the compound of silver and carbon suggests that the carbon is present as the acetylide ion, . Write the formula of the compound showing the acetylide ion.

29.

Ethylene can be produced by the pyrolysis of ethane:

How many kilograms of ethylene is produced by the pyrolysis of 1.000 10^3 kg of ethane, assuming a 100.0% yield?

30.

Why do the compounds hexane, hexanol, and hexene have such similar names?

31.

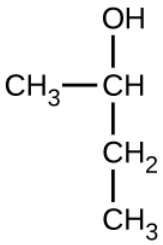
Write condensed formulas and provide IUPAC names for the following compounds:

a. ethyl alcohol (in beverages)
b. methyl alcohol (used as a solvent, for example, in shellac)
c. ethylene glycol (antifreeze)
d. isopropyl alcohol (used in rubbing alcohol)
e. glycerine

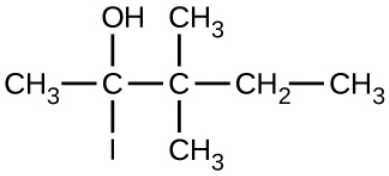
32.

Give the complete IUPAC name for each of the following compounds:

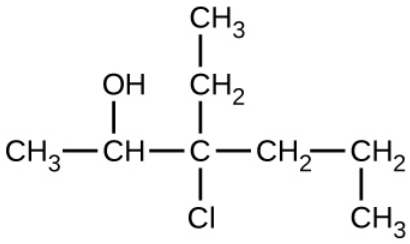
(a)



(b)



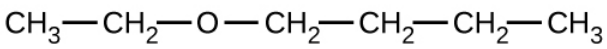
(c)



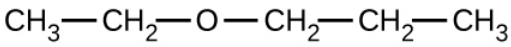
33.

Give the complete IUPAC name and the common name for each of the following compounds:

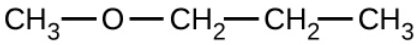
(a)



(b)



(c)



34.

Write the condensed structures of both isomers with the formula C_2H_6O. Label the functional group of each isomer.

35.

Write the condensed structures of all isomers with the formula $C_2H_6O_2$. Label the functional group (or groups) of each isomer.

36.

Draw the condensed formulas for each of the following compounds:

a. dipropyl ether
b. 2,2-dimethyl-3-hexanol
c. 2-ethoxybutane

37.

MTBE, Methyl *tert*-butyl ether, $CH_3OC(CH_3)_3$, is used as an oxygen source in oxygenated gasolines. MTBE is manufactured by reacting 2-methylpropene with methanol.

a. Using Lewis structures, write the chemical equation representing the reaction.
b. What volume of methanol, density 0.7915 g/mL, is required to produce exactly 1000 kg of MTBE, assuming a 100% yield?

38.

Write two complete balanced equations for each of the following reactions, one using condensed formulas and one using Lewis structures.

a. propanol is converted to dipropyl ether
b. propene is treated with water in dilute acid.

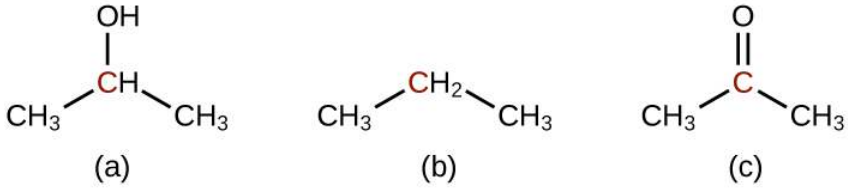
39.

Write two complete balanced equations for each of the following reactions, one using condensed formulas and one using Lewis structures.

a. 2-butene is treated with water in dilute acid
b. ethanol is dehydrated to yield ethene

40.

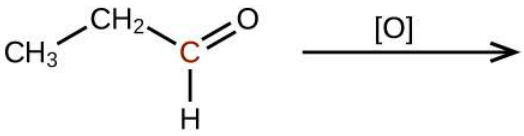
Order the following molecules from least to most oxidized, based on the marked carbon atom:



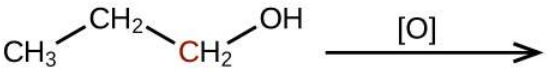
41.

Predict the products of oxidizing the molecules shown in this problem. In each case, identify the product that will result from the minimal increase in oxidation state for the highlighted carbon atom:

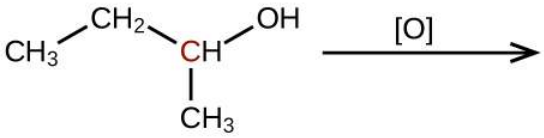
(a)



(b)



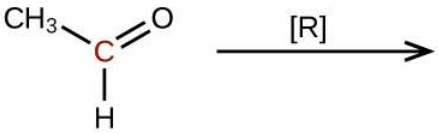
(c)



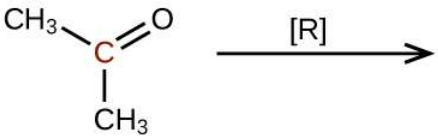
42.

Predict the products of reducing the following molecules. In each case, identify the product that will result from the minimal decrease in oxidation state for the highlighted carbon atom:

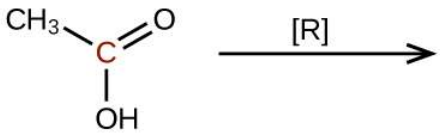
(a)



(b)



(c)



43.

Explain why it is not possible to prepare a ketone that contains only two carbon atoms.

44.

How does hybridization of the substituted carbon atom change when an alcohol is converted into an aldehyde? An aldehyde to a carboxylic acid?

45.

Fatty acids are carboxylic acids that have long hydrocarbon chains attached to a carboxylate group. How does a saturated fatty acid differ from an unsaturated fatty acid? How are they similar?

46.

Write a condensed structural formula, such as CH_3CH_3, and describe the molecular geometry at each carbon atom.

a. (f) formaldehyde

47.

Write a condensed structural formula, such as CH_3CH_3, and describe the molecular geometry at each carbon atom.

a. 2-propanol
b. acetone
c. dimethyl ether
d. acetic acid
e. 3-methyl-1-hexene

48.

The foul odor of rancid butter is caused by butyric acid, $CH_3CH_2CH_2CO_2H$.

a. Draw the Lewis structure and determine the oxidation number and hybridization for each carbon atom in the molecule.
b. The esters formed from butyric acid are pleasant-smelling compounds found in fruits and used in perfumes. Draw the Lewis structure for the ester formed from the reaction of butyric acid with 2-propanol.

49.

Write the two-resonance structures for the acetate ion.

50.

Write two complete, balanced equations for each of the following reactions, one using condensed formulas and one using Lewis structures:

a. ethanol reacts with propionic acid
b. benzoic acid, $C_6H_5CO_2H$, is added to a solution of sodium hydroxide

51.

Write two complete balanced equations for each of the following reactions, one using condensed formulas and one using Lewis structures.

a. 1-butanol reacts with acetic acid
b. propionic acid is poured onto solid calcium carbonate

52.

Yields in organic reactions are sometimes low. What is the percent yield of a process that produces 13.0 g of ethyl acetate from 10.0 g of CH_3CO_2H?

53.

Alcohols A, B, and C all have the composition $C_4H_{10}O$. Molecules of alcohol A contain a branched carbon chain and can be oxidized to an aldehyde; molecules of alcohol B contain a linear carbon chain and can be oxidized to a ketone; and molecules of alcohol C can be oxidized to neither an aldehyde nor a ketone. Write the Lewis structures of these molecules.

54.

Write the Lewis structures of both isomers with the formula C_2H_7N.

55.

What is the molecular structure about the nitrogen atom in trimethyl amine and in the trimethyl ammonium ion, $(CH_3)_3NH^+$? What is the hybridization of the nitrogen atom in trimethyl amine and in the trimethyl ammonium ion?

56.

Write the two resonance structures for the pyridinium ion, $C_5H_5NH^+$.

57.

Draw Lewis structures for pyridine and its conjugate acid, the pyridinium ion, $C_5H_5NH^+$. What are the hybridizations, electron domain geometries, and molecular geometries about the nitrogen atoms in pyridine and in the pyridinium ion?

58.

Write the Lewis structures of all isomers with the formula C_3H_7ON that contain an amide linkage.

59.

Write two complete balanced equations for the following reaction, one using condensed formulas and one using Lewis structures.

Methyl amine is added to a solution of HCl.

60.

Write two complete, balanced equations for each of the following reactions, one using condensed formulas and one using Lewis structures.

Ethylammonium chloride is added to a solution of sodium hydroxide.

61.

Identify any carbon atoms that change hybridization and the change in hybridization during the reactions in Exercise 20.26.

62.

Identify any carbon atoms that change hybridization and the change in hybridization during the reactions in Exercise 20.39.

63.

Identify any carbon atoms that change hybridization and the change in hybridization during the reactions in Exercise 20.51.

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CHAPTER OVERVIEW

10: Nuclear Chemistry

The chemical reactions that we have considered in previous chapters involve changes in the *electronic* structure of the species involved, that is, the arrangement of the **electrons** around atoms, ions, or molecules. *Nuclear* structure, the numbers of protons and neutrons within the nuclei of the atoms involved, remains unchanged during chemical reactions. This chapter will introduce the topic of nuclear chemistry, which began with the discovery of radioactivity in 1896 by French physicist Antoine Becquerel and has become increasingly important during the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, providing the basis for various technologies related to energy, medicine, geology, and many other areas.

10.1: Introduction
10.2: Nuclear Structure and Stability
10.3: Nuclear Equations
10.4: Radioactive Decay
10.5: Transmutation and Nuclear Energy
10.6: Uses of Radioisotopes
10.7: Biological Effects of Radiation
10.8: Key Terms
10.9: Key Equations
10.10: Summary
10.11: Exercises

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10.1: Introduction

The chemical reactions that we have considered in previous chapters involve changes in the *electronic* structure of the species involved, that is, the arrangement of the electrons around atoms, ions, or molecules. *Nuclear* structure, the numbers of protons and neutrons within the nuclei of the atoms involved, remains unchanged during chemical reactions.

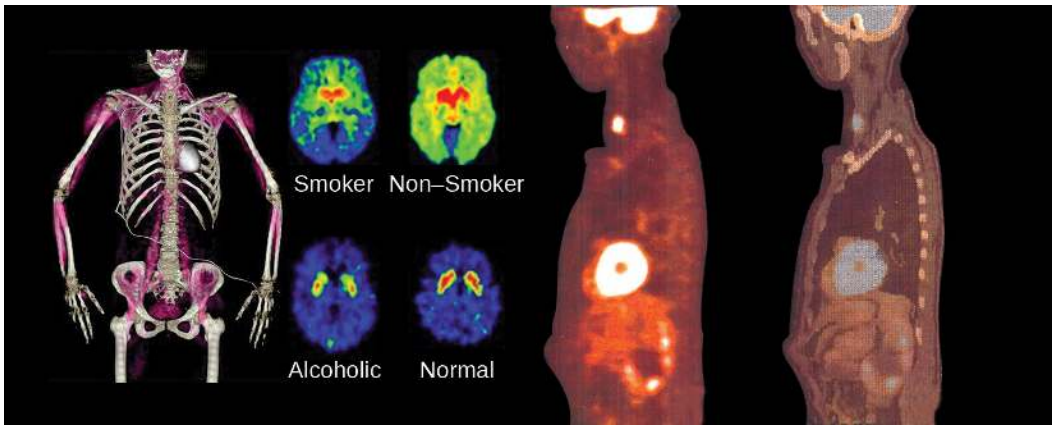


Figure 10.1.1: Nuclear chemistry provides the basis for many useful diagnostic and therapeutic methods in medicine, such as these positron emission tomography (PET) scans. The PET/computed tomography scan on the left shows muscle activity. The brain scans in the center show chemical differences in dopamine signaling in the brains of addicts and nonaddicts. The images on the right show an oncological application of PET scans to identify lymph node metastasis.

This chapter will introduce the topic of nuclear chemistry, which began with the discovery of radioactivity in 1896 by French physicist Antoine Becquerel and has become increasingly important during the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, providing the basis for various technologies related to energy, medicine, geology, and many other areas.

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10.2: Nuclear Structure and Stability

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Describe nuclear structure in terms of protons, neutrons, and electrons
- Calculate mass defect and binding energy for nuclei
- Explain trends in the relative stability of nuclei

Nuclear chemistry is the study of reactions that involve changes in nuclear structure. The chapter on atoms, molecules, and ions introduced the basic idea of nuclear structure, that the nucleus of an atom is composed of protons and, with the exception of ${}^{1}_{1}\text{H}$.

Recall that the number of protons in the nucleus is called the atomic number (Z) of the element, and the sum of the number of protons and the number of neutrons is the mass number (A). Atoms with the same atomic number but different mass numbers are isotopes of the same element. When referring to a single type of nucleus, we often use the term **nuclide** and identify it by the notation ${}^{Z}_{A}\text{X}$, where X is the symbol for the element, A is the mass number, and Z is the atomic number (for example, ${}^{14}_{6}\text{C}$). Often a nuclide is referenced by the name of the element followed by a hyphen and the mass number. For example, ${}^{14}_{6}\text{C}$ is called "carbon-14."

Protons and neutrons, collectively called **nucleons**, are packed together tightly in a nucleus. With a radius of about 10^{-15} meters, a nucleus is quite small compared to the radius of the entire atom, which is about 10^{-10} meters. Nuclei are extremely dense compared to bulk matter, averaging 1.8×10^{14} grams per cubic centimeter. For example, water has a density of 1 gram per cubic centimeter, and iridium, one of the densest elements known, has a density of 22.6 g/cm3. If the earth's density were equal to the average nuclear density, the earth's radius would be only about 200 meters (earth's actual radius is approximately 6.4×10^{6} meters, 30,000 times larger). Example $10.2.1$ demonstrates just how great nuclear densities can be in the natural world.

Example 10.2.1: Density of a Neutron Star

Neutron stars form when the core of a very massive star undergoes gravitational collapse, causing the star's outer layers to explode in a supernova. Composed almost completely of neutrons, they are the densest-known stars in the universe, with densities comparable to the average density of an atomic nucleus. A neutron star in a faraway galaxy has a mass equal to 2.4 solar masses (1 solar mass = $M_{\odot}$ = mass of the sun = $1.99 \times 10^{30}\ kg$) and a diameter of 26 km.

a. What is the density of this neutron star?
b. How does this neutron star's density compare to the density of a uranium nucleus, which has a diameter of about 15 fm (1 fm = 10^{-15} m)?

Solution

We can treat both the neutron star and the U-235 nucleus as spheres. Then the density for both is given by:

$$d = \frac{m}{V} \quad \text{with} \quad V = \frac{4}{3}\pi r^3$$

a. The radius of the neutron star is so the density of the neutron star is:

$$d = \frac{m}{V} = \frac{m}{\frac{4}{3}\pi r^3} = \frac{2.4\left(1.99 \times 10^{30}\,\text{kg}\right)}{\frac{4}{3}\pi\left(1.3 \times 10^{4} m\right)^3} = 5.2 \times 10^{17}\,\text{kg/m}^3$$

b. The radius of the U-235 nucleus is so the density of the U-235 nucleus is:

$$d = \frac{m}{V} = \frac{m}{\frac{4}{3}\pi r^3} = \frac{235\,\text{amu}\left(\frac{1.66 \times 10^{-27}\,\text{kg}}{1\,\text{amu}}\right)}{\frac{4}{3}\pi\left(7.5 \times 10^{-15}\,\text{m}\right)^3} = 2.2 \times 10^{17}\,\text{kg/m}^3$$

These values are fairly similar (same order of magnitude), but the neutron star is more than twice as dense as the U-235 nucleus.

? Exercise 10.2.1

Find the density of a neutron star with a mass of 1.97 solar masses and a diameter of 13 km, and compare it to the density of a hydrogen nucleus, which has a diameter of $1.75\,\text{fm}$ ($1\,\text{fm} = 1 \times 10^{-15}\,\text{m}$).

Answer

The density of the neutron star is $3.4 \times 10^{18}\,\text{kg/m}^3$. The density of a hydrogen nucleus is Extra close brace or missing open brace. The neutron star is 5.7 times denser than the hydrogen nucleus.

To hold positively charged protons together in the very small volume of a nucleus requires very strong attractive forces because the positively charged protons repel one another strongly at such short distances. The force of attraction that holds the nucleus together is the strong nuclear force. (The strong force is one of the four fundamental forces that are known to exist. The others are the electromagnetic force, the gravitational force, and the nuclear weak force.) This force acts between protons, between neutrons, and between protons and neutrons. It is very different from the electrostatic force that holds negatively charged electrons around a positively charged nucleus (the attraction between opposite charges). Over distances less than 10^{-15} meters and within the nucleus, the strong nuclear force is much stronger than electrostatic repulsions between protons; over larger distances and outside the nucleus, it is essentially nonexistent.

Link to Learning

Visit this website for more information about the four fundamental forces.

Nuclear Binding Energy

As a simple example of the energy associated with the strong nuclear force, consider the helium atom composed of two protons, two neutrons, and two electrons. The total mass of these six subatomic particles may be calculated as:

$$\underbrace{(2 \times 1.0073\,\text{amu})}_{\text{protons}} + \underbrace{(2 \times 1.0087\,\text{amu})}_{\text{neutrons}} + \underbrace{(2 \times 0.00055\,\text{amu})}_{\text{electrons}} = 4.0331\,\text{amu}$$

However, mass spectrometric measurements reveal that the mass of an atom is 4.0026 amu, less than the combined masses of its six constituent subatomic particles. This difference between the calculated and experimentally measured masses is known as the mass defect of the atom. In the case of helium, the **mass defect** indicates a “loss” in mass of 4.0331 amu – 4.0026 amu = 0.0305 amu. The loss in mass accompanying the formation of an atom from protons, neutrons, and electrons is due to the conversion of that mass into energy that is evolved as the atom forms. The **nuclear binding energy** is the energy produced when the atoms’ nucleons are bound together; this is also the energy needed to break a nucleus into its constituent protons and neutrons. In comparison to chemical bond energies, nuclear binding energies are *vastly* greater, as we will learn in this section. Consequently, the energy changes associated with nuclear reactions are vastly greater than are those for chemical reactions.

The conversion between mass and energy is most identifiably represented by the **mass-energy equivalence equation** as stated by Albert Einstein:

$$E = mc^2 \tag{10.2.1}$$

where E is energy, m is mass of the matter being converted, and c is the speed of light in a vacuum. This equation can be used to find the amount of energy that results when matter is converted into energy. Using this mass-energy equivalence equation, the nuclear binding energy of a nucleus may be calculated from its mass defect, as demonstrated in Example 10.2.2. A variety of units are commonly used for nuclear binding energies, including electron volts (eV), with 1 eV equaling the amount of energy necessary to the move the charge of an electron across an electric potential difference of 1 volt, making 1 eV = 1.602 10^{-19} J.

Example 10.2.2: Calculation of Nuclear Binding Energy

Determine the binding energy for the nuclide in:

a. joules per mole of nuclei
b. joules per nucleus
c. MeV per nucleus

Solution

The mass defect for a $^{4}_{2}\mathrm{He}$ nucleus is 0.0305 amu, as shown previously. Determine the binding energy in joules per nuclide using the mass-energy equivalence equation. To accommodate the requested energy units, the mass defect must be expressed in kilograms (recall that 1 J = 1 kg m^2/s^2).

a. First, express the mass defect in g/mol. This is easily done considering the *numerical equivalence* of atomic mass (amu) and molar mass (g/mol) that results from the definitions of the amu and mole units (refer to the previous discussion in the chapter on atoms, molecules, and ions if needed). The mass defect is therefore 0.0305 g/mol. To accommodate the units of the other terms in the mass-energy equation, the mass must be expressed in kg, since 1 J = 1 kg m^2/s^2. Converting grams into kilograms yields a mass defect of $3.05 \times 10^{-5}\,\mathrm{kg/mol}$. Substituting this quantity into the mass-energy equivalence equation yields:

$$E = mc^2 = \frac{3.05 \times 10^{-5} kg}{mol} \times \left(\frac{2.998 \times 10^{8} m}{s}\right)^2 = 2.74 \times 10^{12}\,\mathrm{kg\ m^2 s^{-2} mol^{-1}}$$
$$= 2.74 \times 10^{12}\mathrm{J\ mol^{-1}} = 2.74\,\mathrm{TJ\,mol^{-1}}$$

Note that this tremendous amount of energy is associated with the conversion of a very small amount of matter (about 30 mg, roughly the mass of typical drop of water).

b. The binding energy for a single nucleus is computed from the molar binding energy using Avogadro's number:

$$E = 2.74 \times 10^{12}\,\mathrm{J\ mol^{-1}} \times \frac{1\,\mathrm{mol}}{6.022 \times 10^{23}\ \mathrm{nuclei}}$$
$$= 4.55 \times 10^{-12}\,\mathrm{J} = 4.55\,\mathrm{pJ}$$

c. Recall that $1\,\mathrm{eV} = 1.602 \times 10^{-19}\,\mathrm{J}$. Using the binding energy computed in part (b):

$$E = 4.55 \times 10^{-12}\,\mathrm{J} \times \frac{1\,\mathrm{eV}}{1.602 \times 10^{-19}\,\mathrm{J}} = 2.84 \times 10^{7}\,\mathrm{eV} = 28.4\,\mathrm{MeV}$$

Exercise 10.2.1

What is the binding energy for the $^{19}_{9}\mathrm{F}$ nuclide (atomic mass: $18.9984\,\mathrm{amu}$) in MeV per nucleus?

Answer

148.4 MeV

Because the energy changes for breaking and forming bonds are so small compared to the energy changes for breaking or forming nuclei, the changes in mass during all ordinary chemical reactions are virtually undetectable. As described in the chapter on thermochemistry, the most energetic chemical reactions exhibit enthalpies on the order of *thousands* of kJ/mol, which is equivalent to mass differences in the nanogram range (10^{-9} g). On the other hand, nuclear binding energies are typically on the order of *billions* of kJ/mol, corresponding to mass differences in the milligram range (10^{-3} g).

Nuclear Stability

A nucleus is stable if it cannot be transformed into another configuration without adding energy from the outside. Of the thousands of nuclides that exist, about 250 are stable. A plot of the number of neutrons versus the number of protons for stable nuclei reveals that the stable isotopes fall into a narrow band. This region is known as the **band of stability** (also called the belt, zone, or valley of stability). The straight line in Figure 10.2.1 represents nuclei that have a 1:1 ratio of protons to neutrons (n:p ratio). Note that the

lighter stable nuclei, in general, have equal numbers of protons and neutrons. For example, nitrogen-14 has seven protons and seven neutrons. Heavier stable nuclei, however, have increasingly more neutrons than protons. For example: iron-56 has 30 neutrons and 26 protons, an n:p ratio of 1.15, whereas the stable nuclide lead-207 has 125 neutrons and 82 protons, an n:p ratio equal to 1.52. This is because larger nuclei have more proton-proton repulsions, and require larger numbers of neutrons to provide compensating strong forces to overcome these electrostatic repulsions and hold the nucleus together.

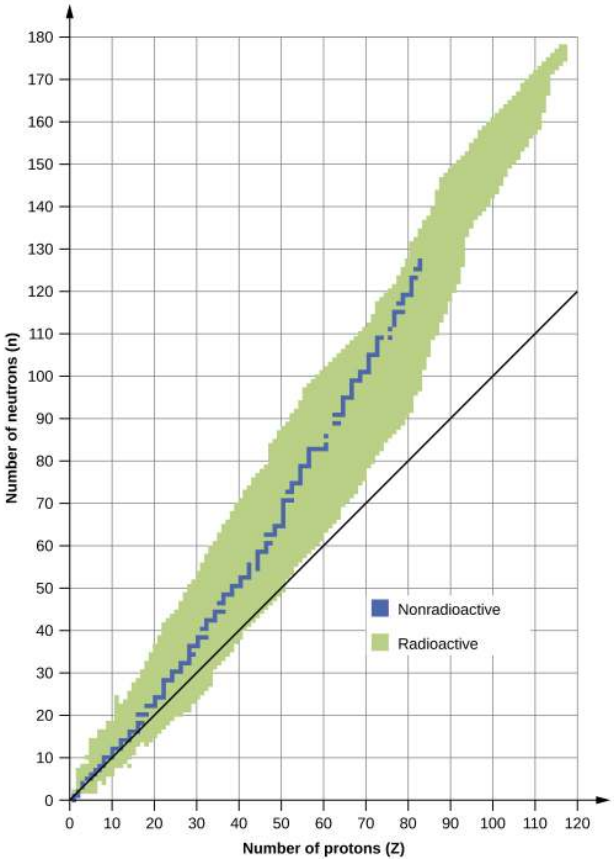


Figure 10.2.1: This plot shows the nuclides that are known to exist and those that are stable. The stable nuclides are indicated in blue, and the unstable nuclides are indicated in green. Note that all isotopes of elements with atomic numbers greater than 83 are unstable. The solid line is the line where n = Z.

The nuclei that are to the left or to the right of the band of stability are unstable and exhibit **radioactivity**. They change spontaneously (decay) into other nuclei that are either in, or closer to, the band of stability. These nuclear decay reactions convert one unstable isotope (or **radioisotope**) into another, more stable, isotope. We will discuss the nature and products of this radioactive decay in subsequent sections of this chapter.

Several observations may be made regarding the relationship between the stability of a nucleus and its structure. Nuclei with even numbers of protons, neutrons, or both are more likely to be stable (see Table 10.2.1). Nuclei with certain numbers of nucleons, known as **magic numbers**, are stable against nuclear decay. These numbers of protons or neutrons (2, 8, 20, 28, 50, 82, and 126) make complete shells in the nucleus. These are similar in concept to the stable electron shells observed for the noble gases. Nuclei that have magic numbers of both protons and neutrons, such as and are called “double magic” and are particularly stable. These trends in nuclear stability may be rationalized by considering a quantum mechanical model of nuclear energy states analogous to that used to describe electronic states earlier in this textbook. The details of this model are beyond the scope of this chapter.

Table 10.2.1: Stable Nuclear Isotopes

Number of Stable Isotopes	Proton Number	Neutron Number
157	even	even
53	even	odd
50	odd	even
5	odd	odd

The relative stability of a nucleus is correlated with its **binding energy per nucleon**, the total binding energy for the nucleus divided by the number or nucleons in the nucleus. For instance, we saw in Example 10.2.2 that the binding energy for a $^{4}_{2}\mathrm{He}$ nucleus is 28.4 MeV. The *binding energy per nucleon* for a $^{4}_{2}\mathrm{He}$ nucleus is therefore:

In Example 10.2.3, we learn how to calculate the binding energy per nucleon of a nuclide on the curve shown in Figure 10.2.2.

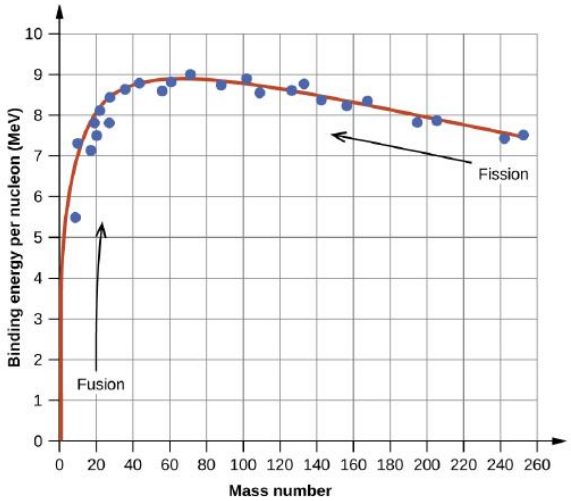


Figure 10.2.2: The binding energy per nucleon is largest for nuclides with mass number of approximately 56.

Example 10.2.3: Calculation of Binding Energy per Nucleon

The iron nuclide atom $^{56}_{26}\mathrm{Fe}$ lies near the top of the binding energy curve (Figure 10.2.2) and is one of the most stable nuclides. What is the binding energy per nucleon (in MeV) for the nuclide $^{56}_{26}\mathrm{Fe}$ (atomic mass of 55.9349 amu)?

Solution

As in Example 10.2.2, we first determine the mass defect of the nuclide, which is the difference between the mass of 26 protons, 30 neutrons, and 26 electrons, and the observed mass of an $^{56}_{26}\mathrm{Fe}$ atom:

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Mass defect} &= [(26 \times 1.0073\,\text{amu}) + (30 \times 1.0087\,\text{amu}) + (26 \times 0.00055\,\text{amu})] - 55.9349 amu \\ &= 56.4651\,\text{amu} - 55.9349\,\text{amu} \\ &= 0.5302\,\text{amu}\end{aligned}$$

We next calculate the binding energy for one nucleus from the mass defect using the mass-energy equivalence equation:

$$\begin{aligned}E = mc^2 &= 0.5302\,\text{amu} \times \left(\frac{1.6605 \times 10^{-27}\,\text{kg}}{1\,\text{amu}}\right) \times \left(2.998 \times 10^{8}\,\text{m/s}\right)^2 \\ &= 7.913 \times 10^{-11}\,\text{kg} \cdot \text{m/s}^2 \\ &= 7.913 \times 10^{-11}\,\text{J}\end{aligned}$$

We then convert the binding energy in joules per nucleus into units of MeV per nuclide:

$$7.913 \times 10^{-11}\,\text{J} \times \frac{1\,\text{MeV}}{1.602 \times 10^{-13}\,\text{J}} = 493.9\,\text{MeV}$$

Finally, we determine the binding energy per nucleon by dividing the total nuclear binding energy by the number of nucleons in the atom:

Note that this is almost 25% larger than the binding energy per nucleon for $^{4}_{2}\mathrm{He}$.

$$\text{Binding energy per nucleon} = \frac{493.9\,\text{MeV}}{56} = 8.820\,\text{MeV/ nucleon}$$

(Note also that this is the same process as in Example 10.2.1, but with the additional step of dividing the total nuclear binding energy by the number of nucleons.)

? Exercise 10.2.1

What is the binding energy per nucleon in $^{19}_{9}\mathrm{F}$ (atomic mass, 18.9984 amu)?

Answer

$7.810\,\text{MeV/nucleon}$

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10.3: Nuclear Equations

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Identify common particles and energies involved in nuclear reactions
- Write and balance nuclear equations

Changes of nuclei that result in changes in their atomic numbers, mass numbers, or energy states are nuclear reactions. To describe a nuclear reaction, we use an equation that identifies the nuclides involved in the reaction, their mass numbers and atomic numbers, and the other particles involved in the reaction.

Types of Particles in Nuclear Reactions

Many entities can be involved in nuclear reactions. The most common are protons, neutrons, alpha particles, beta particles, positrons, and gamma rays, as shown in Figure 10.3.1. Protons ($_1^1\text{p}$, also represented by the symbol $_1^1\text{H}$) and neutrons ($_0^1\text{n}$) are the constituents of atomic nuclei, and have been described previously. **Alpha particles** ($_2^4\text{He}$, also represented by the symbol $_2^4\alpha$) are high-energy helium nuclei. **Beta particles** ($_{-1}^0\beta$, also represented by the symbol $_1^0\text{e}$) are high-energy electrons, and gamma rays are photons of very high-energy electromagnetic radiation. **Positrons** ($_{+1}^0\text{e}$, also represented by the symbol $_1^0\beta$) are positively charged electrons ("anti-electrons"). The subscripts and superscripts are necessary for balancing nuclear equations, but are usually optional in other circumstances. For example, an alpha particle is a helium nucleus (He) with a charge of +2 and a mass number of 4, so it is symbolized $_2^4\text{He}$. This works because, in general, the ion charge is not important in the balancing of nuclear equations.

Name	Symbol(s)	Representation	Description
Alpha particle	$_2^4\text{He}$ or $_2^4\alpha$		(High-energy) helium nuclei consisting of two protons and two neutrons
Beta particle	$_{-1}^0\text{e}$ or $_{-1}^0\beta$		(High-energy) electrons
Positron	$_{+1}^0\text{e}$ or $_{+1}^0\beta$		Particles with the same mass as an electron but with 1 unit of positive charge
Proton	$_1^1\text{H}$ or $_1^1\text{p}$		Nuclei of hydrogen atoms
Neutron	$_0^1\text{n}$		Particles with a mass approximately equal to that of a proton but with no charge
Gamma ray	γ		Very high-energy electromagnetic radiation

Figure 10.3.1: Although many species are encountered in nuclear reactions, this table summarizes the names, symbols, representations, and descriptions of the most common of these.

Note that positrons are exactly like electrons, except they have the opposite charge. They are the most common example of **antimatter**, particles with the same mass but the opposite state of another property (for example, charge) than ordinary matter. When antimatter encounters ordinary matter, both are annihilated and their mass is converted into energy in the form of **gamma rays** (γ)—and other much smaller subnuclear particles, which are beyond the scope of this chapter—according to the mass-energy equivalence equation $E = mc^2$, seen in the preceding section. For example, when a positron and an electron collide, both are annihilated and two gamma ray photons are created:

$$_{-1}{}^0\text{e} + {}_{+1}{}^0\text{e} \longrightarrow \gamma^+\gamma$$

As seen in the chapter discussing light and electromagnetic radiation, gamma rays compose short wavelength, high-energy electromagnetic radiation and are (much) more energetic than better-known X-rays that can behave as particles in the wave-particle duality sense. Gamma rays are a type of high energy electromagnetic radiation produced when a nucleus undergoes a transition

from a higher to a lower energy state, similar to how a photon is produced by an electronic transition from a higher to a lower energy level. Due to the much larger energy differences between nuclear energy shells, gamma rays emanating from a nucleus have energies that are typically millions of times larger than electromagnetic radiation emanating from electronic transitions.

Balancing Nuclear Reactions

A balanced chemical reaction equation reflects the fact that during a chemical reaction, bonds break and form, and atoms are rearranged, but the total numbers of atoms of each element are conserved and do not change. A balanced nuclear reaction equation indicates that there is a rearrangement during a nuclear reaction, but of nucleons (subatomic particles within the atoms' nuclei) rather than atoms. Nuclear reactions also follow conservation laws, and they are balanced in two ways:

1. The sum of the mass numbers of the reactants equals the sum of the mass numbers of the products.
2. The sum of the charges of the reactants equals the sum of the charges of the products.

If the atomic number and the mass number of all but one of the particles in a nuclear reaction are known, we can identify the particle by balancing the reaction. For instance, we could determine that ${}^{17}_{8}\mathrm{O}$ is a product of the nuclear reaction of ${}^{14}_{7}\mathrm{N}$ and ${}^{4}_{2}\mathrm{He}$ if we knew that a proton, ${}^{1}_{1}\mathrm{H}$, were one of the two products. Example 10.3.1 shows how we can identify a nuclide by balancing the nuclear reaction.

Example 10.3.1: Balancing Equations for Nuclear Reactions

The reaction of an α particle with magnesium-25 (${}^{25}_{12}\mathrm{Mg}$) produces a proton and a nuclide of another element. Identify the new nuclide produced.

Solution

The nuclear reaction can be written as:

$$ {}^{25}_{12}\mathrm{Mg} + {}^{4}_{2}\mathrm{He} \longrightarrow {}^{1}_{1}\mathrm{H} + {}^{A}_{Z}\mathrm{X} $$

where A is the mass number and Z is the atomic number of the new nuclide, X. Because the sum of the mass numbers of the reactants must equal the sum of the mass numbers of the products:

$$ 25 + 4 = A + 1 $$

or $A = 28$.

Similarly, the charges must balance, so:

$$ 12 + 2 = Z + 1 $$

and $Z = 13$.

Check the periodic table: The element with nuclear charge = +13 is aluminum. Thus, the product is ${}^{28}_{13}\mathrm{Al}$

Exercise 10.3.1

The nuclide ${}^{125}_{53}\mathrm{I}$ combines with an electron and produces a new nucleus and no other massive particles. What is the equation for this reaction?

Answer

$$ {}^{125}_{53}\mathrm{I} + {}^{0}_{-1}\mathrm{e} \longrightarrow {}^{125}_{52}\mathrm{Te} $$

Following are the equations of several nuclear reactions that have important roles in the history of nuclear chemistry:

- The first naturally occurring unstable element that was isolated, polonium, was discovered by the Polish scientist Marie Curie and her husband Pierre in 1898. It decays, emitting α particles:

$$ {}^{212}_{84}\mathrm{Po} \longrightarrow {}^{208}_{82}\mathrm{Pb} + {}^{4}_{2}\mathrm{He} $$

- The first nuclide to be prepared by artificial means was an isotope of oxygen, ^{17}O. It was made by Ernest Rutherford in 1919 by bombarding nitrogen atoms with α particles:

$$^{14}_{7}\mathrm{N} + {}^{4}_{2}\mathrm{He} \longrightarrow {}^{17}_{8}\mathrm{O} + {}^{1}_{1}\mathrm{H}$$

- James Chadwick discovered the neutron in 1932, as a previously unknown neutral particle produced along with ^{12}C by the nuclear reaction between ^{9}Be and ^{4}He:

$$^{9}_{4}\mathrm{Be} + {}^{4}_{2}\mathrm{He} \longrightarrow {}^{12}_{6}\mathrm{C} + {}^{1}_{0}\mathrm{n}$$

- The first element to be prepared that does not occur naturally on the earth, technetium, was created by bombardment of molybdenum by deuterons (heavy hydrogen, $^{2}_{1}H$), by Emilio Segre and Carlo Perrier in 1937:

$$^{2}_{1}\mathrm{H} + {}^{97}_{42}\mathrm{Mo} \longrightarrow 2{}^{1}_{0}\mathrm{n} + {}^{97}_{43}\mathrm{Tc}$$

- The first controlled nuclear chain reaction was carried out in a reactor at the University of Chicago in 1942. One of the many reactions involved was:

$$^{235}_{92}\mathrm{U} + {}_{0}{}^{1}\ \mathrm{n} \longrightarrow {}^{87}_{35}\mathrm{Br} + {}^{146}_{57}\mathrm{La} + 3{}^{1}_{0}\mathrm{n}$$

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10.4: Radioactive Decay

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Recognize common modes of radioactive decay
- Identify common particles and energies involved in nuclear decay reactions
- Write and balance nuclear decay equations
- Calculate kinetic parameters for decay processes, including half-life
- Describe common radiometric dating techniques

Following the somewhat serendipitous discovery of radioactivity by Becquerel, many prominent scientists began to investigate this new, intriguing phenomenon. Among them were Marie Curie (the first woman to win a Nobel Prize, and the only person to win two Nobel Prizes in different sciences—chemistry and physics), who was the first to coin the term "radioactivity," and Ernest Rutherford (of gold foil experiment fame), who investigated and named three of the most common types of radiation. During the beginning of the twentieth century, many radioactive substances were discovered, the properties of radiation were investigated and quantified, and a solid understanding of radiation and nuclear decay was developed.

The spontaneous change of an unstable nuclide into another is **radioactive decay**. The unstable nuclide is called the **parent nuclide**; the nuclide that results from the decay is known as the **daughter nuclide**. The daughter nuclide may be stable, or it may decay itself. The radiation produced during radioactive decay is such that the daughter nuclide lies closer to the band of stability than the parent nuclide, so the location of a nuclide relative to the band of stability can serve as a guide to the kind of decay it will undergo (Figure 10.4.1).

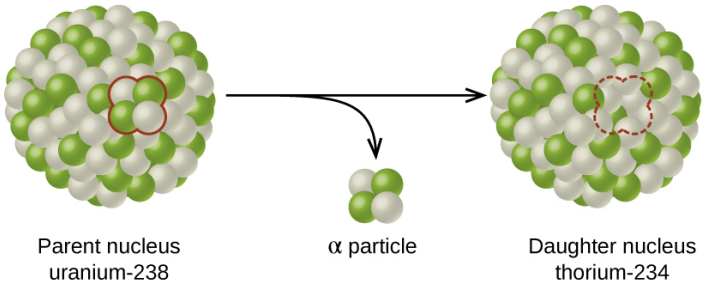


Figure 10.4.1: A nucleus of uranium-238 (the parent nuclide) undergoes α decay to form thorium-234 (the daughter nuclide). The alpha particle removes two protons (green) and two neutrons (gray) from the uranium-238 nucleus.

Link to Learning

Although the radioactive decay of a nucleus is too small to see with the naked eye, we can indirectly view radioactive decay in an environment called a cloud chamber. Click here to learn about cloud chambers and to view an interesting Cloud Chamber Demonstration from the Jefferson Lab.

Types of Radioactive Decay

Ernest Rutherford's experiments involving the interaction of radiation with a magnetic or electric field (Figure 10.4.2) helped him determine that one type of radiation consisted of positively charged and relatively massive α particles; a second type was made up of negatively charged and much less massive β particles; and a third was uncharged electromagnetic waves, γ rays. We now know that α particles are high-energy helium nuclei, β particles are high-energy electrons, and γ radiation compose high-energy electromagnetic radiation. We classify different types of radioactive decay by the radiation produced.

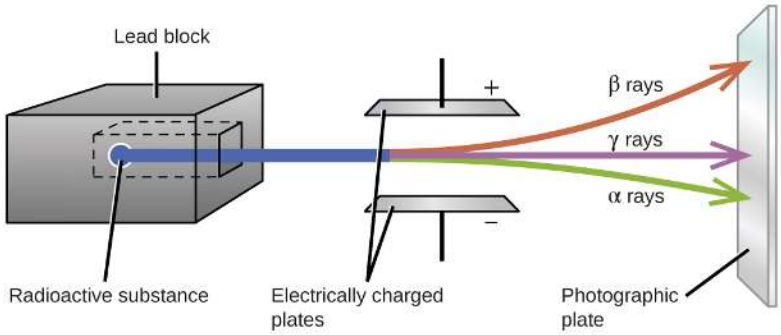


Figure 10.4.2: Alpha particles, which are attracted to the negative plate and deflected by a relatively small amount, must be positively charged and relatively massive. Beta particles, which are attracted to the positive plate and deflected a relatively large amount, must be negatively charged and relatively light. Gamma rays, which are unaffected by the electric field, must be uncharged.

Alpha (α) decay is the emission of an α particle from the nucleus. For example, polonium-210 undergoes α decay:

$$^{210}_{84}\text{Po} \longrightarrow {}^{4}_{2}\text{He} + {}^{206}_{82}\text{Pb}$$

or

$$^{210}_{84}\text{Po} \longrightarrow {}^{4}_{2}\alpha^{+}_{82}{}^{206}\ \text{Pb}$$

Alpha decay occurs primarily in heavy nuclei ($A > 200$, $Z > 83$). Because the loss of an α particle gives a daughter nuclide with a mass number four units smaller and an atomic number two units smaller than those of the parent nuclide, the daughter nuclide has a larger n:p ratio than the parent nuclide. If the parent nuclide undergoing α decay lies below the band of stability (refer to Figure 21.2), the daughter nuclide will lie closer to the band.

Beta (β) decay is the emission of an electron (i.e., a β particle) from a nucleus. Iodine-131 is an example of a nuclide that undergoes β decay:

$$^{131}_{53}\text{I} \longrightarrow {}_{-1}{}^{0}\ \text{e} + {}^{131}_{54}\text{Xe}$$

or

$$^{131}_{53}\text{I} \longrightarrow {}^{0}_{-1}\beta^{+}_{54}{}^{131}\ \text{Xe}$$

Beta decay, which can be thought of as the conversion of a neutron into a proton and a β particle, is observed in nuclides with a large n:p ratio. The beta particle (electron) emitted is from the atomic nucleus and is not one of the electrons surrounding the nucleus. Such nuclei lie above the band of stability. Emission of an electron does not change the mass number of the nuclide but does increase the number of its protons and decrease the number of its neutrons. Consequently, the n:p ratio is decreased, and the daughter nuclide lies closer to the band of stability than did the parent nuclide.

Gamma emission (γ emission) is observed when a nuclide is formed in an excited state and then decays to its ground state with the emission of a γ ray, a quantum of high-energy electromagnetic radiation. The presence of a nucleus in an excited state is often indicated by an asterisk (*). Cobalt-60 emits γ radiation and is used in many applications including cancer treatment:

$$^{60}_{27}\text{Co}^{*} \longrightarrow {}^{0}_{0}\gamma^{+}_{27}{}^{60}\ \text{Co}$$

There is no change in mass number or atomic number during the emission of a γ ray unless the γ emission accompanies one of the other modes of decay.

Positron emission (β^{+} decay) is the emission of a positron from the nucleus. Oxygen-15 is an example of a nuclide that undergoes positron emission:

$$^{15}_{8}\text{O} \longrightarrow {}_{+1}{}^{0}\ \text{e} + {}^{15}_{7}\text{N}$$

or

$$^{15}_{8}\text{O} \longrightarrow {}^{0}_{+1}\beta^{+}_{7}{}^{15}\ \text{N}$$

Positron emission is observed for nuclides in which the n:p ratio is low. These nuclides lie below the band of stability. Positron decay is the conversion of a proton into a neutron with the emission of a positron. The n:p ratio increases, and the daughter nuclide lies closer to the band of stability than did the parent nuclide.

Electron capture occurs when one of the inner electrons in an atom is captured by the atom's nucleus. For example, potassium-40 undergoes electron capture:

$$^{40}_{19}\mathrm{K} + {}_{-1}{}^{0}\mathrm{e} \longrightarrow {}^{40}_{18}\mathrm{Ar}$$

Electron capture occurs when an inner shell electron combines with a proton and is converted into a neutron. The loss of an inner shell electron leaves a vacancy that will be filled by one of the outer electrons. As the outer electron drops into the vacancy, it will emit energy. In most cases, the energy emitted will be in the form of an X-ray. Like positron emission, electron capture occurs for "proton-rich" nuclei that lie below the band of stability. Electron capture has the same effect on the nucleus as does positron emission: The atomic number is decreased by one and the mass number does not change. This increases the n:p ratio, and the daughter nuclide lies closer to the band of stability than did the parent nuclide. Whether electron capture or positron emission occurs is difficult to predict. The choice is primarily due to kinetic factors, with the one requiring the smaller activation energy being the one more likely to occur.

Figure 10.4.3 summarizes these types of decay, along with their equations and changes in atomic and mass numbers.

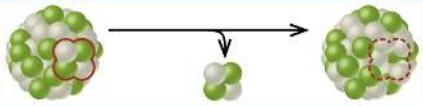
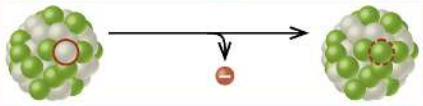
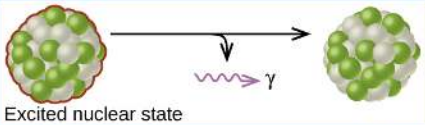
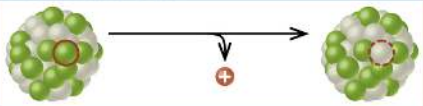
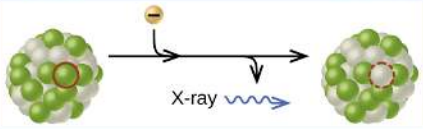
Type	Nuclear equation	Representation	Change in mass/atomic numbers
Alpha decay	${}^{A}_{Z}\mathrm{X} \rightarrow {}^{4}_{2}\mathrm{He} + {}^{A-4}_{Z-2}\mathrm{Y}$		A: decrease by 4 Z: decrease by 2
Beta decay	${}^{A}_{Z}\mathrm{X} \rightarrow {}^{0}_{-1}\mathrm{e} + {}^{A}_{Z+1}\mathrm{Y}$		A: unchanged Z: increase by 1
Gamma decay	${}^{A}_{Z}\mathrm{X} \rightarrow {}^{0}_{0}\gamma + {}^{A}_{Z}\mathrm{Y}$		A: unchanged Z: unchanged
Positron emission	${}^{A}_{Z}\mathrm{X} \rightarrow {}^{0}_{+1}\mathrm{e} + {}^{A}_{Y-1}\mathrm{Y}$		A: unchanged Z: decrease by 1
Electron capture	${}^{A}_{Z}\mathrm{X} \rightarrow {}^{0}_{-1}\mathrm{e} + {}^{A}_{Y-1}\mathrm{Y}$		A: unchanged Z: decrease by 1

Figure 10.4.3: This table summarizes the type, nuclear equation, representation, and any changes in the mass or atomic numbers for various types of decay.

Chemistry in Everyday Life: PET Scan

Positron emission tomography (PET) scans use radiation to diagnose and track health conditions and monitor medical treatments by revealing how parts of a patient's body function (Figure 10.4.4). To perform a PET scan, a positron-emitting radioisotope is produced in a cyclotron and then attached to a substance that is used by the part of the body being investigated. This "tagged" compound, or radiotracer, is then put into the patient (injected via IV or breathed in as a gas), and how it is used by the tissue reveals how that organ or other area of the body functions.

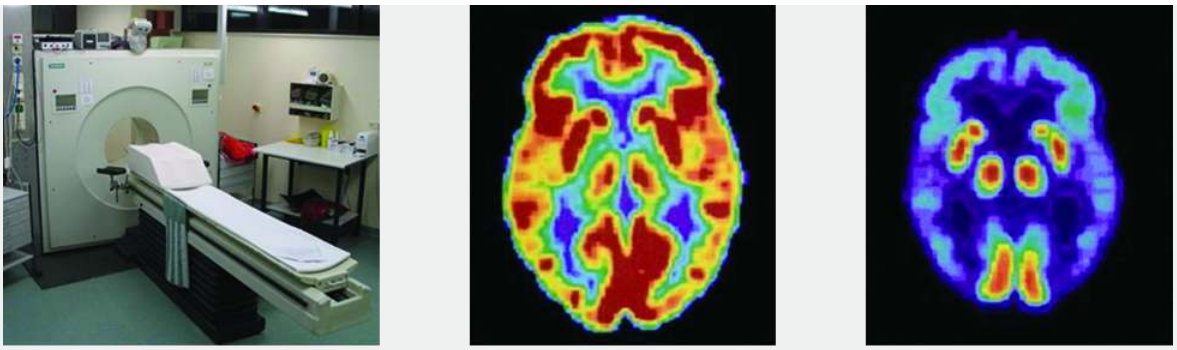


Figure 10.4.4: A PET scanner (a) uses radiation to provide an image of how part of a patient's body functions. The scans it produces can be used to image a healthy brain (b) or can be used for diagnosing medical conditions such as Alzheimer's disease (c). (credit a: modification of work by Jens Maus)

For example, F-18 is produced by proton bombardment of $^{18}\mathrm{O}$

$$^{18}_{8}\mathrm{O} + {}_{1}{}^{1}\mathrm{p} \longrightarrow {}^{18}_{9}\mathrm{F} + {}_{0}{}^{1}\mathrm{n}$$

and incorporated into a glucose analog called fludeoxyglucose (FDG). How FDG is used by the body provides critical diagnostic information; for example, since cancers use glucose differently than normal tissues, FDG can reveal cancers. The $^{18}\mathrm{F}$ emits positrons that interact with nearby electrons, producing a burst of gamma radiation. This energy is detected by the scanner and converted into a detailed, three-dimensional, color image that shows how that part of the patient's body functions. Different levels of gamma radiation produce different amounts of brightness and colors in the image, which can then be interpreted by a radiologist to reveal what is going on. PET scans can detect heart damage and heart disease, help diagnose Alzheimer's disease, indicate the part of a brain that is affected by epilepsy, reveal cancer, show what stage it is, and how much it has spread, and whether treatments are effective. Unlike magnetic resonance imaging and X-rays, which only show how something looks, the big advantage of PET scans is that they show how something functions. PET scans are now usually performed in conjunction with a computed tomography scan.

Radioactive Decay Series

The naturally occurring radioactive isotopes of the heaviest elements fall into chains of successive disintegrations, or decays, and all the species in one chain constitute a radioactive family, or **radioactive decay series**. Three of these series include most of the naturally radioactive elements of the periodic table. They are the uranium series, the actinide series, and the thorium series. The neptunium series is a fourth series, which is no longer significant on the earth because of the short half-lives of the species involved. Each series is characterized by a parent (first member) that has a long half-life and a series of daughter nuclides that ultimately lead to a stable end-product—that is, a nuclide on the band of stability (Figure 10.4.5). In all three series, the end-product is a stable isotope of lead. The neptunium series, previously thought to terminate with bismuth-209, terminates with thallium-205.

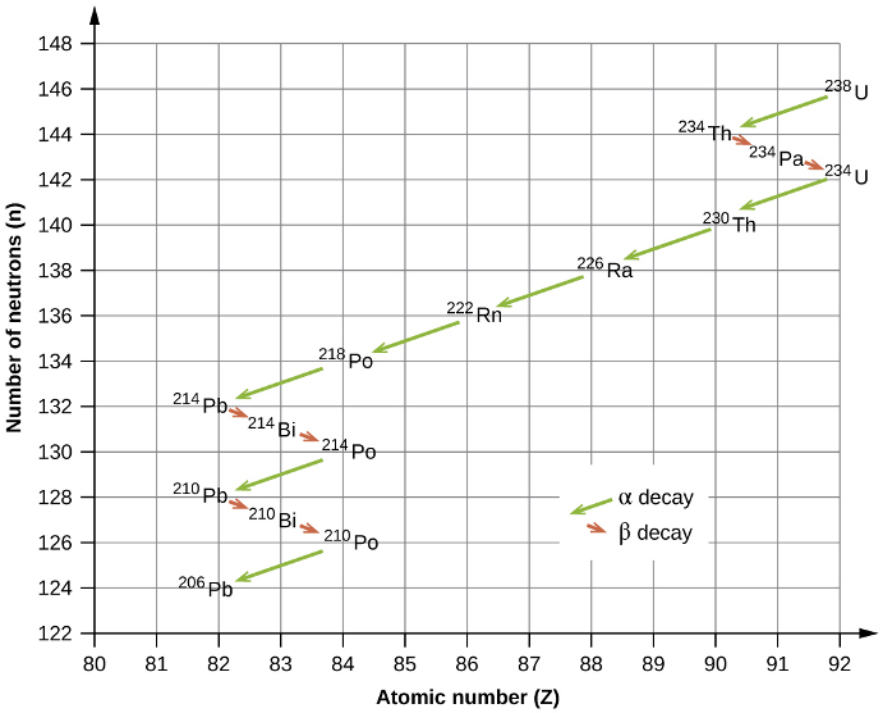


Figure 10.4.5: Uranium-238 undergoes a radioactive decay series consisting of 14 separate steps before producing stable lead-206. This series consists of eight α decays and six β decays.

Radioactive Half-Lives

Radioactive decay follows first-order kinetics. Since first-order reactions have already been covered in detail in the kinetics chapter, we will now apply those concepts to nuclear decay reactions. Each radioactive nuclide has a characteristic, constant **half-life** ($t_{1/2}$), the time required for half of the atoms in a sample to decay. An isotope's half-life allows us to determine how long a sample of a useful isotope will be available, and how long a sample of an undesirable or dangerous isotope must be stored before it decays to a low-enough radiation level that is no longer a problem.

For example, coba source, since half of the nuclei decay every 5.27 years, both the amount of material and the intensity of the radiation emitted is cut in half every 5.27 years. (Note that for a given substance, the intensity of radiation that it produces is directly proportional to the rate of decay of the substance and the amount of the substance.) This is as expected for a process following first-order kinetics. Thus, a cobalt-60 source that is used for cancer treatment must be replaced regularly to continue to be effective.

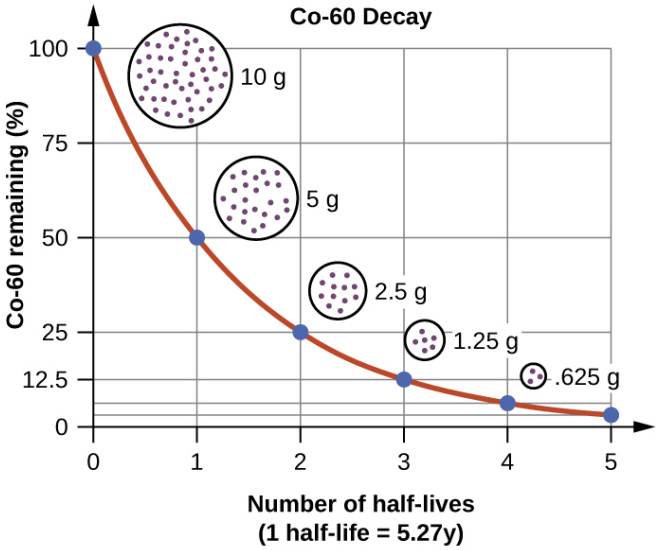


Figure 10.4.6: For cobalt-60, which has a half-life of 5.27 years, 50% remains after 5.27 years (one half-life), 25% remains after 10.54 years (two half-lives), 12.5% remains after 15.81 years (three half-lives), and so on.

Since nuclear decay follows first-order kinetics, we can adapt the mathematical relationships used for first-order chemical reactions. We generally substitute the number of nuclei, N, for the concentration. If the rate is stated in nuclear decays per second, we refer to it as the **activity** of the radioactive sample. The rate for radioactive decay is:

$$\text{decay rate} = \lambda N$$

with λ = the decay constant for the particular radioisotope.

The decay constant, λ, which is the same as a rate constant discussed in the kinetics chapter. It is possible to express the decay constant in terms of the half-life, $t_{1/2}$:

$$\lambda = \frac{\ln 2}{t_{1/2}} = \frac{0.693}{t_{1/2}}$$

or

$$t_{1/2} = \frac{\ln 2}{\lambda} = \frac{0.693}{\lambda}$$

The first-order equations relating amount, N, and time are:

$$N_t = N_0 e^{-\lambda t} \tag{10.4.1}$$

or

$$t = -\frac{1}{\lambda} \ln \left(\frac{N_t}{N_0} \right)$$

Example 10.4.1: Rates of Radioactive Decay

$^{60}_{27}\text{Co}$ decays with a half-life of 5.27 years to produce $^{60}_{28}\text{Co}$

a. What is the decay constant for the radioactive disintegration of cobalt-60?
b. Calculate the fraction of a sample of the $^{60}_{27}\text{Co}$ isotope that will remain after 15 years.
c. How long does it take for a sample of $^{60}_{27}\text{Co}$ to disintegrate to the extent that only 2.0% of the original amount remains?

Solution a

The value of the rate constant is given by:

$$\lambda = \frac{\ln 2}{t_{1/2}} = \frac{0.693}{5.27y} = 0.132y^{-1}$$

Solution b

The fraction of $^{60}_{27}\text{Co}$ that is left after time t is given by $\frac{N_t}{N_0}$. Rearranging the first-order relationship in Equation 10.4.1 ($N_t = N_0 e^{-\lambda t}$ to solve for this ratio yields:

$$\frac{N_t}{N_0} = e^{-\lambda t} = e^{-(0.132/\text{y})(15\ \text{y})} = 0.138$$

The fraction of $^{60}_{27}\text{Co}$ that will remain after 15.0 years is 0.138. Or put another way, 13.8% of the original $^{60}_{27}\text{Co}$ present will remain after 15 years.

Solution c

2.00% of the original amount of $^{60}_{27}\text{Co}$ is equal to 0.0200 N_0. Substituting this into the equation for time for first-order kinetics, we have:

$$t = -\frac{1}{\lambda}\ln\left(\frac{N_t}{N_0}\right) = -\frac{1}{0.132\,\text{y}^{-1}}\ln\left(\frac{0.0200 \times N_0}{N_0}\right) = 29.6y$$

? Exercise 10.4.1

Radon-222, $^{222}_{86}\text{Rn}$ has a half-life of 3.823 days. How long will it take a sample of radon-222 with a mass of 0.750 g to decay into other elements, leaving only 0.100 g of radon-222?

Answer

11.1 days

Because each nuclide has a specific number of nucleons, a particular balance of repulsion and attraction, and its own degree of stability, the half-lives of radioactive nuclides vary widely. For example: the half-life of $^{209}_{83}\text{Bi}$ is 1.9×10^{19} years; $^{239}_{94}\text{Ra}$ is 24,000 years; $^{222}_{86}\text{Rn}$ is 3.82 days; and element-111 (Rg for roentgenium) is 1.5×10^{-3} seconds. The half-lives of a number of radioactive isotopes important to medicine are shown in Table 10.4.1, and others are listed in Appendix M.

Table 10.4.1: Half-lives of Radioactive Isotopes Important to Medicine

Type[1]	Decay Mode	Half-Life	Uses
F-18	β^+ decay	110. minutes	PET scans
Co-60	β decay, γ decay	5.27 years	cancer treatment
Tc-99m	γ decay	8.01 hours	scans of brain, lung, heart, bone
I-131	β decay	8.02 days	thyroid scans and treatment
Tl-201	electron capture	73 hours	heart and arteries scans; cardiac stress tests

Radiometric Dating

Several radioisotopes have half-lives and other properties that make them useful for purposes of “dating” the origin of objects such as archaeological artifacts, formerly living organisms, or geological formations. This process is **radiometric dating** and has been responsible for many breakthrough scientific discoveries about the geological history of the earth, the evolution of life, and the history of human civilization. We will explore some of the most common types of radioactive dating and how the particular isotopes work for each type.

Radioactive Dating Using Carbon-14

The radioactivity of carbon-14 provides a method for dating objects that were a part of a living organism. This method of radiometric dating, which is also called **radiocarbon dating** or carbon-14 dating, is accurate for dating carbon-containing substances that are up to about 30,000 years old, and can provide reasonably accurate dates up to a maximum of about 50,000 years old.

Naturally occurring carbon consists of three isotopes: ${}^{12}_{6}\text{C}$ which constitutes about 99% of the carbon on earth; ${}^{13}_{6}\text{C}$, about 1% of the total; and trace amounts of ${}^{14}_{6}\text{C}$. Carbon-14 forms in the upper atmosphere by the reaction of nitrogen atoms with neutrons from cosmic rays in space:

$$ {}^{14}_{7}\text{N} + {}^{1}_{0}\text{n} \longrightarrow {}^{14}_{6}\text{C} + {}^{1}_{1}\text{H} $$

All isotopes of carbon react with oxygen to produce CO_2 molecules. The ratio of ${}^{14}_{6}\text{CO}_2$ to ${}^{12}_{6}\text{CO}_2$ depends on the ratio of ${}^{14}_{6}\text{CO}$ to ${}^{12}_{6}\text{CO}$ in the atmosphere. The natural abundance of ${}^{14}_{6}\text{CO}$ in the atmosphere is approximately 1 part per trillion; until recently, this has generally been constant over time, as seen is gas samples found trapped in ice. The incorporation of ${}^{14}_{6}\text{CO}_2$ and ${}^{14}_{6}\text{CO}_2$ into plants is a regular part of the photosynthesis process, which means that the ${}^{14}_{6}\text{C} : {}^{12}_{6}\text{C}$ ratio found in a living plant is the **same** as the ${}^{14}_{6}\text{C} : {}^{12}_{6}\text{C}$ ratio in the atmosphere. But when the plant dies, it no longer traps carbon through photosynthesis. Because ${}^{12}_{6}\text{C}$ is a stable isotope and does not undergo radioactive decay, its concentration in the plant does not change. However, carbon-14 decays by β emission with a half-life of 5730 years:

$$ {}^{14}_{6}\text{C} \longrightarrow {}^{14}_{7}\text{N} + {}_{-1}{}^{0}\text{ e} $$

Thus, the ratio gradually decreases after the plant dies. The decrease in the ratio with time provides a measure of the time that has elapsed since the death of the plant (or other organism that ate the plant). Figure 10.4.7: visually depicts this process.

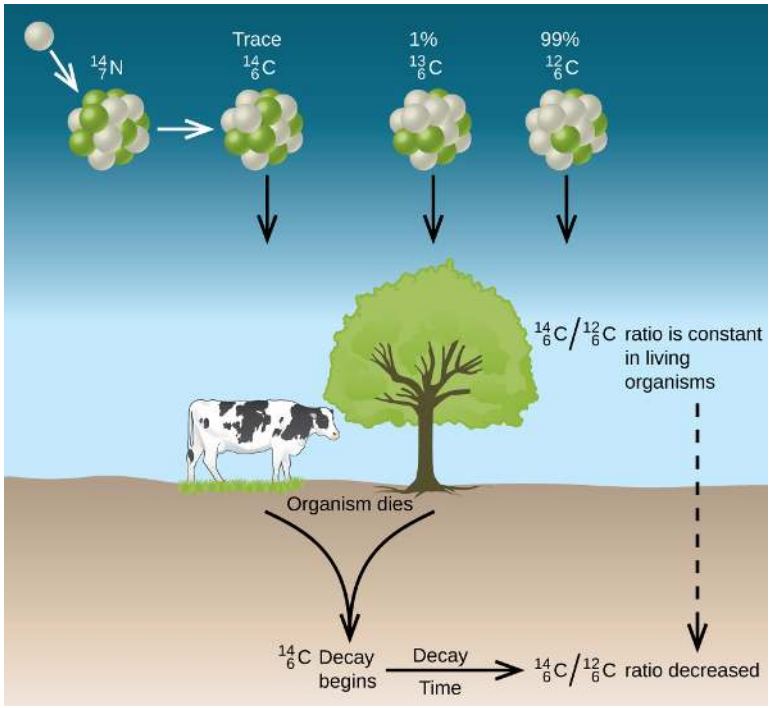


Figure 10.4.7: Along with stable carbon-12, radioactive carbon-14 is taken in by plants and animals, and remains at a constant level within them while they are alive. After death, the C-14 decays and the C-14:C-12 ratio in the remains decreases. Comparing this ratio to the C-14:C-12 ratio in living organisms allows us to determine how long ago the organism lived (and died).

For example, with the half-life of being 5730 years, if the ratio in a wooden object found in an archaeological dig is half what it is in a living tree, this indicates that the wooden object is 5730 years old. Highly accurate determinations of ratios can be obtained from very small samples (as little as a milligram) by the use of a mass spectrometer.

Link to Learning

Visit this website to perform simulations of radiometric dating.

Example 10.4.2: Radiocarbon Dating

A tiny piece of paper (produced from formerly living plant matter) taken from the Dead Sea Scrolls has an activity of 10.8 disintegrations per minute per gram of carbon. If the initial C-14 activity was 13.6 disintegrations/min/g of C, estimate the age of the Dead Sea Scrolls.

Solution

The rate of decay (number of disintegrations/minute/gram of carbon) is proportional to the amount of radioactive C-14 left in the paper, so we can substitute the rates for the amounts, N, in the relationship:

$$t = -\frac{1}{\lambda}\ln\left(\frac{N_t}{N_0}\right) \longrightarrow t = -\frac{1}{\lambda}\ln\left(\frac{\text{Rate }_t}{\text{Rate }_0}\right)$$

where the subscript 0 represents the time when the plants were cut to make the paper, and the subscript t represents the current time.

The decay constant can be determined from the half-life of C-14, 5730 years:

$$\lambda = \frac{\ln 2}{t_{1/2}} = \frac{0.693}{5730\,\text{y}} = 1.21 \times 10^{-4}\,\text{y}^{-1}$$

Substituting and solving, we have:

$$t = -\frac{1}{\lambda}\ln\left(\frac{\text{Rate }_t}{\text{Rate }_0}\right) = -\frac{1}{1.21 \times 10^{-4}\,\text{y}^{-1}}\ln\left(\frac{10.8\ \cancel{\text{dis/min/g C}}}{13.6\ \cancel{\text{dis/min/g C}}}\right) = 1910\,\text{y}$$

Therefore, the Dead Sea Scrolls are approximately 1900 years old (Figure 10.4.8).



Figure 10.4.8: Carbon-14 dating has shown that these pages from the Dead Sea Scrolls were written or copied on paper made from plants that died between 100 BC and AD 50.

Exercise 10.4.1

More accurate dates of the reigns of ancient Egyptian pharaohs have been determined recently using plants that were preserved in their tombs. Samples of seeds and plant matter from King Tutankhamun's tomb have a C-14 decay rate of 9.07 disintegrations/min/g of C. How long ago did King Tut's reign come to an end?

Answer

about 3350 years ago, or approximately 1340 BC

There have been some significant, well-documented changes to the ${}^{14}_{6}\text{C} : {}^{12}_{6}\text{C}$ ratio. The accuracy of a straightforward application of this technique depends on the ${}^{14}_{6}\text{C} : {}^{12}_{6}\text{C}$ ratio in a living plant being the same now as it was in an earlier era, but this is not always valid. Due to the increasing accumulation of CO_2 molecules (largely ${}^{12}_{6}\text{C}$) in the atmosphere caused by combustion of fossil fuels (in which essentially all of the ${}^{14}_{6}\text{C}$ has decayed), the ratio of ${}^{14}_{6}\text{C} : {}^{12}_{6}\text{C}$ in the atmosphere may be changing. This manmade increase in ${}^{12}_{6}\text{C}$ in the atmosphere causes the ${}^{14}_{6}\text{C} : {}^{12}_{6}\text{C}$ ratio to decrease, and this in turn affects the ratio in currently living organisms on the earth. Fortunately, however, we can use other data, such as tree dating via examination of annual growth rings, to calculate

correction factors. With these correction factors, accurate dates can be determined. In general, radioactive dating only works for about 10 half-lives; therefore, the limit for carbon-14 dating is about 57,000 years.

Radioactive Dating Using Nuclides Other than Carbon-14

Radioactive dating can also use other radioactive nuclides with longer half-lives to date older events. For example, uranium-238 (which decays in a series of steps into lead-206) can be used for establishing the age of rocks (and the approximate age of the oldest rocks on earth). Since U-238 has a half-life of 4.5 billion years, it takes that amount of time for half of the original U-238 to decay into Pb-206. In a sample of rock that does not contain appreciable amounts of Pb-208, the most abundant isotope of lead, we can assume that lead was not present when the rock was formed. Therefore, by measuring and analyzing the ratio of U-238:Pb-206, we can determine the age of the rock. This assumes that all of the lead-206 present came from the decay of uranium-238. If there is additional lead-206 present, which is indicated by the presence of other lead isotopes in the sample, it is necessary to make an adjustment. Potassium-argon dating uses a similar method. K-40 decays by positron emission and electron capture to form Ar-40 with a half-life of 1.25 billion years. If a rock sample is crushed and the amount of Ar-40 gas that escapes is measured, determination of the Ar-40:K-40 ratio yields the age of the rock. Other methods, such as rubidium-strontium dating (Rb-87 decays into Sr-87 with a half-life of 48.8 billion years), operate on the same principle. To estimate the lower limit for the earth's age, scientists determine the age of various rocks and minerals, making the assumption that the earth is older than the oldest rocks and minerals in its crust. As of 2014, the oldest known rocks on earth are the Jack Hills zircons from Australia, found by uranium-lead dating to be almost 4.4 billion years old.

Example 10.4.3: Radioactive Dating of Rocks

An igneous rock contains 9.58×10^{-5} g of U-238 and 2.51×10^{-5} g of Pb-206, and much, much smaller amounts of Pb-208. Determine the approximate time at which the rock formed.

Solution

The sample of rock contains very little Pb-208, the most common isotope of lead, so we can safely assume that all the Pb-206 in the rock was produced by the radioactive decay of U-238. When the rock formed, it contained all of the U-238 currently in it, plus some U-238 that has since undergone radioactive decay.

The amount of U-238 currently in the rock is:

$$9.58 \times 10^{-5} \cancel{\text{ g U}} \times \left(\frac{1 \text{ mol U}}{238 \cancel{\text{ g U}}} \right) = 4.03 \times 10^{-7} \text{ mol U}$$

Because when one mole of U-238 decays, it produces one mole of Pb-206, the amount of U-238 that has undergone radioactive decay since the rock was formed is:

$$2.51 \times 10^{-5} \cancel{\text{ g Pb}} \times \left(\frac{1 \cancel{\text{ mol Pb}}}{206 \cancel{\text{ g Pb}}} \right) \times \left(\frac{1 \text{ mol U}}{1 \cancel{\text{ mol Pb}}} \right) = 1.22 \times 10^{-7} \text{ mol U}$$

The total amount of U-238 originally present in the rock is therefore:

$$4.03 \times 10^{-7} \text{ mol U} + 1.22 \times 10^{-7} \text{ mol U} = 5.25 \times 10^{-7} \text{ mol U}$$

The amount of time that has passed since the formation of the rock is given by:

$$t = -\frac{1}{\lambda} \ln \left(\frac{N_t}{N_0} \right)$$

with N_0 representing the original amount of U-238 and N_t representing the present amount of U-238.

U-238 decays into Pb-206 with a half-life of 4.5×10^9 y, so the decay constant λ is:

$$\lambda = \frac{\ln 2}{t_{1/2}} = \frac{0.693}{4.5 \times 10^9 \text{ y}} = 1.54 \times 10^{-10} \text{ y}^{-1}$$

Substituting and solving, we have:

$$t = -\frac{1}{1.54 \times 10^{-10}\ \text{y}^{-1}} \ln\left(\frac{4.03 \times 10^{-7}\ \cancel{\text{mol U}}}{5.25 \times 10^{-7}\ \cancel{\text{mol U}}}\right) = 1.7 \times 10^{9}\ \text{y}$$

Therefore, the rock is approximately 1.7 billion years old.

? Exercise 10.4.1

A sample of rock contains 6.14×10^{-4} g of Rb-87 and $3.51 \times 10^{-5} g$ of Sr-87. Calculate the age of the rock. (The half-life of the β decay of Rb-87 is 4.7×10^{10} y.)

Answer

3.7 10^{9} y

Footnotes

- 1The “m” in Tc-99m stands for “metastable,” indicating that this is an unstable, high-energy state of Tc-99. Metastable isotopes emit γ radiation to rid themselves of excess energy and become (more) stable.

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10.5: Transmutation and Nuclear Energy

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Describe the synthesis of transuranium nuclides
- Explain nuclear fission and fusion processes
- Relate the concepts of critical mass and nuclear chain reactions
- Summarize basic requirements for nuclear fission and fusion reactors

After the discovery of radioactivity, the field of nuclear chemistry was created and developed rapidly during the early twentieth century. A slew of new discoveries in the 1930s and 1940s, along with World War II, combined to usher in the Nuclear Age in the mid-twentieth century. Scientists learned how to create new substances, and certain isotopes of certain elements were found to possess the capacity to produce unprecedented amounts of energy, with the potential to cause tremendous damage during war, as well as produce enormous amounts of power for society's needs during peace.

Synthesis of Nuclides

Nuclear transmutation is the conversion of one nuclide into another. It can occur by the radioactive decay of a nucleus, or the reaction of a nucleus with another particle. The first manmade nucleus was produced in Ernest Rutherford's laboratory in 1919 by a transmutation reaction, the bombardment of one type of nuclei with other nuclei or with neutrons. Rutherford bombarded nitrogen atoms with high-speed α particles from a natural radioactive isotope of radium and observed protons resulting from the reaction:

$$^{14}_{7}\mathrm{N} + {}^{4}_{2}\mathrm{He} \longrightarrow {}^{17}_{8}\mathrm{O} + {}^{1}_{1}\mathrm{H}$$

The $^{17}_{8}\mathrm{O}$ and $^{14}_{7}\mathrm{N}$ nuclei that are produced are stable, so no further (nuclear) changes occur.

To reach the kinetic energies necessary to produce transmutation reactions, devices called **particle accelerators** are used. These devices use magnetic and electric fields to increase the speeds of nuclear particles. In all accelerators, the particles move in a vacuum to avoid collisions with gas molecules.

When neutrons are required for transmutation reactions, they are usually obtained from radioactive decay reactions or from various nuclear reactions occurring in nuclear reactors. The Chemistry in Everyday Life feature that follows discusses a famous particle accelerator that made worldwide news.

Chemistry in Everyday Life: CERN Particle Accelerator

Located near Geneva, the CERN ("Conseil Européen pour la Recherche Nucléaire," or European Council for Nuclear Research) Laboratory is the world's premier center for the investigations of the fundamental particles that make up matter. It contains the 27-kilometer (17 mile) long, circular Large Hadron Collider (LHC), the largest particle accelerator in the world (Figure 10.5.1). In the LHC, particles are boosted to high energies and are then made to collide with each other or with stationary targets at nearly the speed of light. Superconducting electromagnets are used to produce a strong magnetic field that guides the particles around the ring. Specialized, purpose-built detectors observe and record the results of these collisions, which are then analyzed by CERN scientists using powerful computers.



Figure 10.5.1: A small section of the LHC is shown with workers traveling along it. (credit: Christophe Delaere)

In 2012, CERN announced that experiments at the LHC showed the first observations of the Higgs boson, an elementary particle that helps explain the origin of mass in fundamental particles. This long-anticipated discovery made worldwide news and resulted in the awarding of the 2013 Nobel Prize in Physics to François Englert and Peter Higgs, who had predicted the existence of this particle almost 50 years previously.

Link to Learning

Famous physicist Brian Cox talks about his work on the Large Hadron Collider at CERN, providing an entertaining and engaging tour of this massive project and the physics behind it.

View a short video from CERN, describing the basics of how its particle accelerators work.

Prior to 1940, the heaviest-known element was uranium, whose atomic number is 92. Now, many artificial elements have been synthesized and isolated, including several on such a large scale that they have had a profound effect on society. One of these—element 93, neptunium (Np)—was first made in 1940 by McMillan and Abelson by bombarding uranium-238 with neutrons. The reaction creates unstable uranium-239, with a half-life of 23.5 minutes, which then decays into neptunium-239. Neptunium-239 is also radioactive, with a half-life of 2.36 days, and it decays into plutonium-239. The nuclear reactions are:

$$\begin{gathered} {}^{238}_{92}\mathrm{U} + {}_{0}{}^{1}\,\mathrm{n} \longrightarrow {}^{239}_{92}\mathrm{U} \\ {}^{239}_{92}\mathrm{U} \longrightarrow {}^{239}_{93}\,\mathrm{Np} + {}^{0}_{-1}\mathrm{e} \quad \text{half-life } = 23.5 \text{ min} \\ {}^{239}_{93}\,\mathrm{Np} \longrightarrow {}^{239}_{94}\mathrm{Pu} + {}^{0}_{-1}\mathrm{e} \quad \text{half-life } = 2.36 \text{ days} \end{gathered} \tag{10.5.1}$$

Plutonium is now mostly formed in nuclear reactors as a byproduct during the fission of U-235. Additional neutrons are released during this fission process (see the next section), some of which combine with U-238 nuclei to form uranium-239; this undergoes β decay to form neptunium-239, which in turn undergoes β decay to form plutonium-239 as illustrated in the preceding three equations. These processes are summarized in the equation:

$$ {}^{238}_{92}\mathrm{U} + {}^{1}_{0}\mathrm{n} \longrightarrow {}^{239}_{92}\mathrm{U} \xrightarrow{\beta^-} {}^{239}_{93}\,\mathrm{Np} \xrightarrow{\beta^-} {}^{239}_{94}\mathrm{Pu} \tag{10.5.2}$$

Heavier isotopes of plutonium—Pu-240, Pu-241, and Pu-242—are also produced when lighter plutonium nuclei capture neutrons. Some of this highly radioactive plutonium is used to produce military weapons, and the rest presents a serious storage problem because they have half-lives from thousands to hundreds of thousands of years.

Although they have not been prepared in the same quantity as plutonium, many other synthetic nuclei have been produced. Nuclear medicine has developed from the ability to convert atoms of one type into other types of atoms. Radioactive isotopes of several dozen elements are currently used for medical applications. The radiation produced by their decay is used to image or treat various organs or portions of the body, among other uses.

The elements beyond element 92 (uranium) are called **transuranium elements**. As of this writing, 22 transuranium elements have been produced and officially recognized by IUPAC; several other elements have formation claims that are waiting for approval. Some of these elements are shown in Table 21.3.

Table 21.3: Preparation of Some of the Transuranium Elements

Name	Symbol	Atomic Number	Reaction
americium	Am	95	$^{239}_{94}\text{Pu} + {}^{1}_{0}\text{n} \longrightarrow {}^{240}_{95}\text{Am} + {}^{0}_{-1}\text{e}$
curium	Cm	96	$^{239}_{94}\text{Pu} + {}^{4}_{2}\text{He} \longrightarrow {}^{242}_{96}\text{Cm} + {}^{1}_{0}\text{n}$
californium	Cf	98	$^{242}_{96}\text{Cm} + {}^{4}_{2}\text{He} \longrightarrow {}^{245}_{98}\text{Cf} + {}^{1}_{0}\text{n}$
einsteinium	Es	99	$^{242}_{96}\text{Cm} + {}^{4}_{2}\text{He} \longrightarrow {}^{245}_{98}\text{Cf} + {}^{1}_{0}\text{n}$
mendelevium	Md	101	$^{253}_{99}\text{Es} + {}^{4}_{2}\text{He} \longrightarrow {}^{256}_{101}\text{Md} + {}^{1}_{0}\text{n}$
nobelium	No	102	$^{246}_{96}\text{Cm} + {}^{12}_{6}\text{C} \longrightarrow {}^{254}_{102}\text{No} + 4{}^{1}_{0}\text{n}$
rutherfordium	Rf	104	$^{249}_{98}\text{Cf} + {}^{12}_{6}\text{C} \longrightarrow {}^{257}_{104}\text{Rf} + 4{}^{1}_{0}\text{n}$ $^{249}_{98}\text{Cf} + {}^{18}_{8}\text{O} \longrightarrow {}^{263}_{106}\text{Sg} + 4{}^{1}_{0}\text{n}$
seaborgium	Sg	106	$^{206}_{82}\text{Pb} + {}^{54}_{24}\text{Cr} \longrightarrow {}^{257}_{106}\text{Sg} + 3{}^{1}_{0}\text{n}$
meitnerium	Mt	107	$^{209}_{83}\text{Bi} + {}^{58}_{26}\text{Fe} \longrightarrow {}^{266}_{109}\text{Mt} + {}^{1}_{0}\text{n}$

Nuclear Fission

Many heavier elements with smaller binding energies per nucleon can decompose into more stable elements that have intermediate mass numbers and larger binding energies per nucleon—that is, mass numbers and binding energies per nucleon that are closer to the "peak" of the binding energy graph near 56 (see Figure 21.3). Sometimes neutrons are also produced. This decomposition is called fission, the breaking of a large nucleus into smaller pieces. The breaking is rather random with the formation of a large number of different products. Fission usually does not occur naturally, but is induced by bombardment with neutrons. The first reported nuclear fission occurred in 1939 when three German scientists, Lise Meitner, Otto Hahn, and Fritz Strassman, bombarded uranium-235 atoms with slow-moving neutrons that split the U-238 nuclei into smaller fragments that consisted of several neutrons and elements near the middle of the periodic table. Since then, fission has been observed in many other isotopes, including most actinide isotopes that have an odd number of neutrons. A typical nuclear fission reaction is shown in Figure 10.5.2.

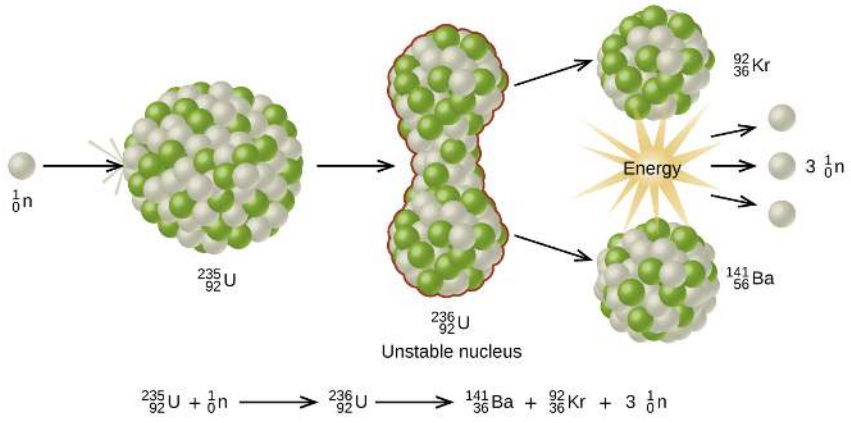


Figure 10.5.2: When a slow neutron hits a fissionable U-235 nucleus, it is absorbed and forms an unstable U-236 nucleus. The U-236 nucleus then rapidly breaks apart into two smaller nuclei (in this case, Ba-141 and Kr-92) along with several neutrons (usually two or three), and releases a very large amount of energy.

Among the products of Meitner, Hahn, and Strassman's fission reaction were barium, krypton, lanthanum, and cerium, all of which have nuclei that are more stable than uranium-235. Since then, hundreds of different isotopes have been observed among the products of fissionable substances. A few of the many reactions that occur for U-235, and a graph showing the distribution of its

fission products and their yields, are shown in Figure 10.5.3. Similar fission reactions have been observed with other uranium isotopes, as well as with a variety of other isotopes such as those of plutonium.

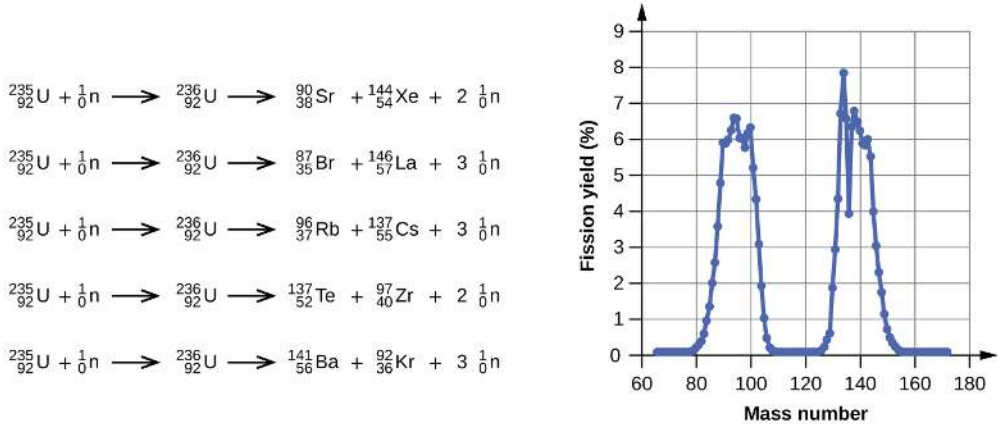


Figure 10.5.3: (a) Nuclear fission of U-235 produces a range of fission products. (b) The larger fission products of U-235 are typically one isotope with a mass number around 85–105, and another isotope with a mass number that is about 50% larger, that is, about 130–150.

Link to Learning

View this link to see a simulation of nuclear fission.

A tremendous amount of energy is produced by the fission of heavy elements. For instance, when one mole of U-235 undergoes fission, the products weigh about 0.2 grams less than the reactants; this "lost" mass is converted into a very large amount of energy, about 1.8 10^{10} kJ per mole of U-235. Nuclear fission reactions produce incredibly large amounts of energy compared to chemical reactions. The fission of 1 kilogram of uranium-235, for example, produces about 2.5 million times as much energy as is produced by burning 1 kilogram of coal.

As described earlier, when undergoing fission U-235 produces two "medium-sized" nuclei, and two or three neutrons. These neutrons may then cause the fission of other uranium-235 atoms, which in turn provide more neutrons that can cause fission of even more nuclei, and so on. If this occurs, we have a nuclear **chain reaction** (see Figure 10.5.4). On the other hand, if too many neutrons escape the bulk material without interacting with a nucleus, then no chain reaction will occur.

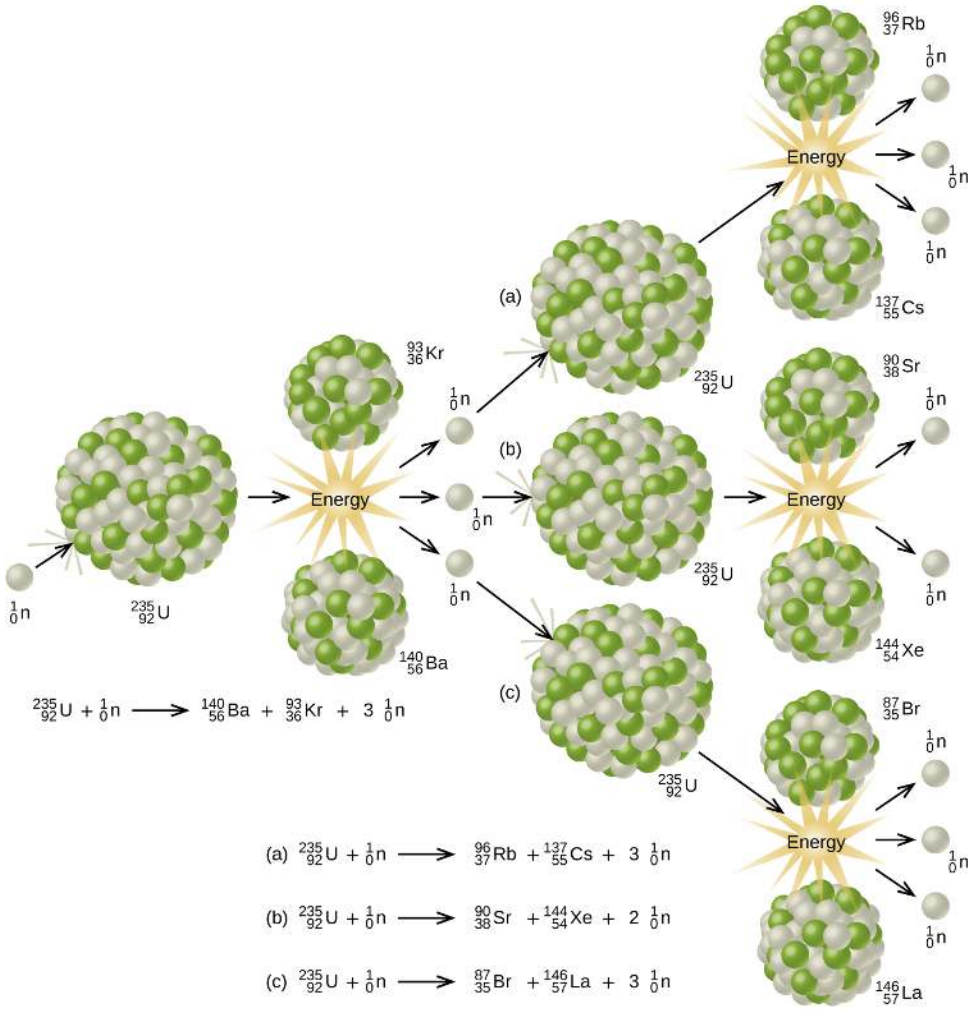


Figure 10.5.4: The fission of a large nucleus, such as U-235, produces two or three neutrons, each of which is capable of causing fission of another nucleus by the reactions shown. If this process continues, a nuclear chain reaction occurs.

Material that can sustain a nuclear fission chain reaction is said to be **fissile** or **fissionable**. (Technically, fissile material can undergo fission with neutrons of any energy, whereas fissionable material requires high-energy neutrons.) Nuclear fission becomes self-sustaining when the number of neutrons produced by fission equals or exceeds the number of neutrons absorbed by splitting nuclei plus the number that escape into the surroundings. The amount of a fissionable material that will support a self-sustaining chain reaction is a **critical mass**. An amount of fissionable material that cannot sustain a chain reaction is a **subcritical mass**. An amount of material in which there is an increasing rate of fission is known as a **supercritical mass**. The critical mass depends on the type of material: its purity, the temperature, the shape of the sample, and how the neutron reactions are controlled (Figure 10.5.5).

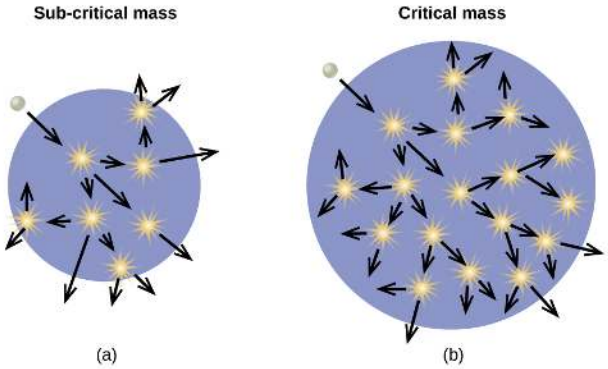


Figure 10.5.5: (a) In a subcritical mass, the fissile material is too small and allows too many neutrons to escape the material, so a chain reaction does not occur. (b) In a critical mass, a large enough number of neutrons in the fissile material induce fission to create a chain reaction.

An atomic bomb (Figure 10.5.6) contains several pounds of fissionable material, $^{235}_{92}\mathrm{U}$ or $^{239}_{94}\mathrm{Pu}$ a source of neutrons, and an explosive device for compressing it quickly into a small volume. When fissionable material is in small pieces, the proportion of neutrons that escape through the relatively large surface area is great, and a chain reaction does not take place. When the small pieces of fissionable material are brought together quickly to form a body with a mass larger than the critical mass, the relative number of escaping neutrons decreases, and a chain reaction and explosion result.

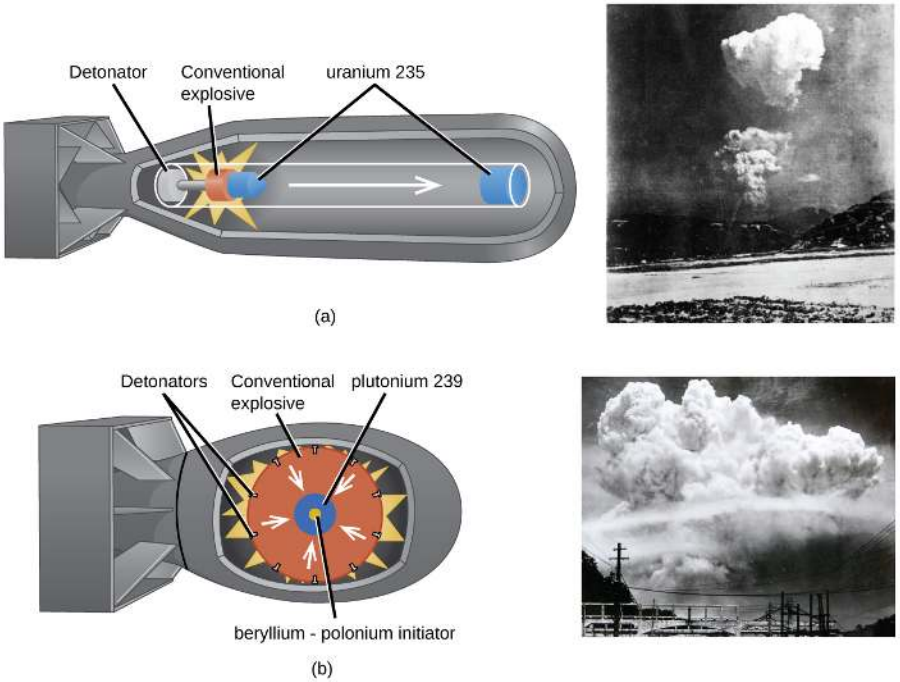


Figure 10.5.6: (a) The nuclear fission bomb that destroyed Hiroshima on August 6, 1945, consisted of two subcritical masses of U-235, where conventional explosives were used to fire one of the subcritical masses into the other, creating the critical mass for the nuclear explosion. (b) The plutonium bomb that destroyed Nagasaki on August 9, 1945, consisted of a hollow sphere of plutonium that was rapidly compressed by conventional explosives. This led to a concentration of plutonium in the center that was greater than the critical mass necessary for the nuclear explosion.

Fission Reactors

Chain reactions of fissionable materials can be controlled and sustained without an explosion in a **nuclear reactor** (Figure 10.5.7). Any nuclear reactor that produces power via the fission of uranium or plutonium by bombardment with neutrons must have at least five components: nuclear fuel consisting of fissionable material, a nuclear moderator, reactor coolant, control rods, and a shield and containment system. We will discuss these components in greater detail later in the section. The reactor works by separating the fissionable nuclear material such that a critical mass cannot be formed, controlling both the flux and absorption of neutrons to allow shutting down the fission reactions. In a nuclear reactor used for the production of electricity, the energy released by fission

reactions is trapped as thermal energy and used to boil water and produce steam. The steam is used to turn a turbine, which powers a generator for the production of electricity.

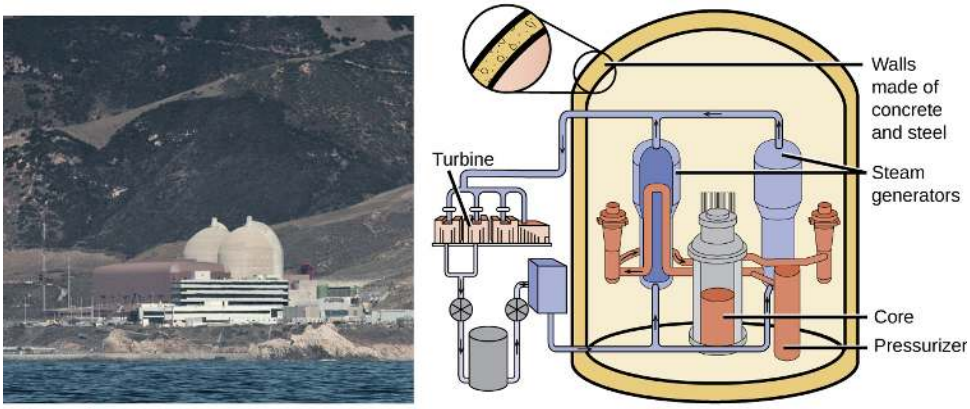


Figure 10.5.7: (a) The Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant near San Luis Obispo is the only nuclear power plant currently in operation in California. The domes are the containment structures for the nuclear reactors, and the brown building houses the turbine where electricity is generated. Ocean water is used for cooling. (b) The Diablo Canyon uses a pressurized water reactor, one of a few different fission reactor designs in use around the world, to produce electricity. Energy from the nuclear fission reactions in the core heats water in a closed, pressurized system. Heat from this system produces steam that drives a turbine, which in turn produces electricity. (credit a: modification of work by "Mike" Michael L. Baird; credit b: modification of work by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission)

Nuclear Fuels

Nuclear fuel consists of a fissionable isotope, such as uranium-235, which must be present in sufficient quantity to provide a self-sustaining chain reaction. In the United States, uranium ores contain from 0.05–0.3% of the uranium oxide U_3O_8; the uranium in the ore is about 99.3% nonfissionable U-238 with only 0.7% fissionable U-235. Nuclear reactors require a fuel with a higher concentration of U-235 than is found in nature; it is normally enriched to have about 5% of uranium mass as U-235. At this concentration, it is not possible to achieve the supercritical mass necessary for a nuclear explosion. Uranium can be enriched by gaseous diffusion (the only method currently used in the US), using a gas centrifuge, or by laser separation.

In the gaseous diffusion enrichment plant where U-235 fuel is prepared, UF_6 (uranium hexafluoride) gas at low pressure moves through barriers that have holes just barely large enough for UF_6 to pass through. The slightly lighter $^{235}UF_6$ molecules diffuse through the barrier slightly faster than the heavier $^{238}UF_6$ molecules. This process is repeated through hundreds of barriers, gradually increasing the concentration of $^{235}UF_6$ to the level needed by the nuclear reactor. The basis for this process, Graham's law, is described in the chapter on gases. The enriched UF_6 gas is collected, cooled until it solidifies, and then taken to a fabrication facility where it is made into fuel assemblies. Each fuel assembly consists of fuel rods that contain many thimble-sized, ceramic-encased, enriched uranium (usually UO_2) fuel pellets. Modern nuclear reactors may contain as many as 10 million fuel pellets. The amount of energy in each of these pellets is equal to that in almost a ton of coal or 150 gallons of oil.

Nuclear Moderators

Neutrons produced by nuclear reactions move too fast to cause fission (refer back to Figure 10.5.5). They must first be slowed to be absorbed by the fuel and produce additional nuclear reactions. A **nuclear moderator** is a substance that slows the neutrons to a speed that is low enough to cause fission. Early reactors used high-purity graphite as a moderator. Modern reactors in the US exclusively use heavy water or light water (ordinary H_2O), whereas some reactors in other countries use other materials, such as carbon dioxide, beryllium, or graphite.

Reactor Coolants

A nuclear reactor coolant is used to carry the heat produced by the fission reaction to an external boiler and turbine, where it is transformed into electricity. Two overlapping coolant loops are often used; this counteracts the transfer of radioactivity from the reactor to the primary coolant loop. All nuclear power plants in the US use water as a coolant. Other coolants include molten sodium, lead, a lead-bismuth mixture, or molten salts.

Control Rods

Nuclear reactors use control rods (Figure 10.5.8) to control the fission rate of the nuclear fuel by adjusting the number of slow neutrons present to keep the rate of the chain reaction at a safe level. Control rods are made of boron, cadmium, hafnium, or other elements that are able to absorb neutrons. Boron-10, for example, absorbs neutrons by a reaction that produces lithium-7 and alpha particles:

$$^{10}_{5}\text{B} + {}^{1}_{0}\text{n} \longrightarrow {}^{7}_{3}\text{Li} + {}^{4}_{2}\text{He} \tag{10.5.3}$$

When control rod assemblies are inserted into the fuel element in the reactor core, they absorb a larger fraction of the slow neutrons, thereby slowing the rate of the fission reaction and decreasing the power produced. Conversely, if the control rods are removed, fewer neutrons are absorbed, and the fission rate and energy production increase. In an emergency, the chain reaction can be shut down by fully inserting all of the control rods into the nuclear core between the fuel rods.

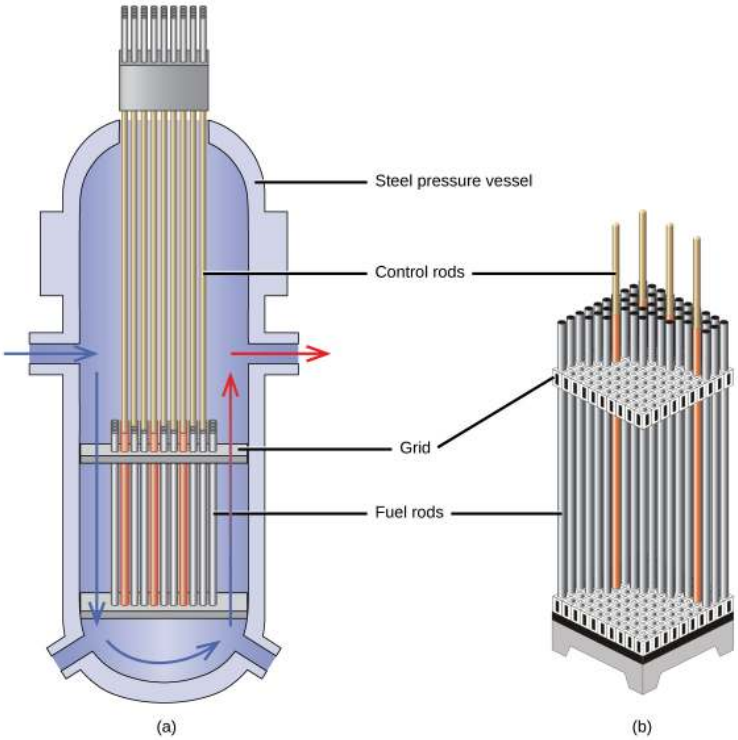


Figure 10.5.8: The nuclear reactor core shown in (a) contains the fuel and control rod assembly shown in (b). (credit: modification of work by E. Generalic, http://glossary.periodni.com/glossar...en=control+rod)

Shield and Containment System

During its operation, a nuclear reactor produces neutrons and other radiation. Even when shut down, the decay products are radioactive. In addition, an operating reactor is thermally very hot, and high pressures result from the circulation of water or another coolant through it. Thus, a reactor must withstand high temperatures and pressures, and must protect operating personnel from the radiation. Reactors are equipped with a **containment system** (or shield) that consists of three parts:

1. The reactor vessel, a steel shell that is 3–20-centimeters thick and, with the moderator, absorbs much of the radiation produced by the reactor
2. A main shield of 1–3 meters of high-density concrete
3. A personnel shield of lighter materials that protects operators from γ rays and X-rays

In addition, reactors are often covered with a steel or concrete dome that is designed to contain any radioactive materials might be released by a reactor accident.

Link to Learning

Click here to watch a 3-minute video from the Nuclear Energy Institute on how nuclear reactors work.

Nuclear power plants are designed in such a way that they cannot form a supercritical mass of fissionable material and therefore cannot create a nuclear explosion. But as history has shown, failures of systems and safeguards can cause catastrophic accidents, including chemical explosions and nuclear meltdowns (damage to the reactor core from overheating). The following Chemistry in Everyday Life feature explores three infamous meltdown incidents.

Chemistry in Everyday Life: Nuclear Accidents

The importance of cooling and containment are amply illustrated by three major accidents that occurred with the nuclear reactors at nuclear power generating stations in the United States (Three Mile Island), the former Soviet Union (Chernobyl), and Japan (Fukushima).

In March 1979, the cooling system of the Unit 2 reactor at Three Mile Island Nuclear Generating Station in Pennsylvania failed, and the cooling water spilled from the reactor onto the floor of the containment building. After the pumps stopped, the reactors overheated due to the high radioactive decay heat produced in the first few days after the nuclear reactor shut down. The temperature of the core climbed to at least 2200 °C, and the upper portion of the core began to melt. In addition, the zirconium alloy cladding of the fuel rods began to react with steam and produced hydrogen:

$$\mathrm{Zr\,(s) + 2\,H_2O\,(g) \longrightarrow ZrO_2\,(s) + 2\,H_2\,(g)}$$

The hydrogen accumulated in the confinement building, and it was feared that there was danger of an explosion of the mixture of hydrogen and air in the building. Consequently, hydrogen gas and radioactive gases (primarily krypton and xenon) were vented from the building. Within a week, cooling water circulation was restored and the core began to cool. The plant was closed for nearly 10 years during the cleanup process.

Although zero discharge of radioactive material is desirable, the discharge of radioactive krypton and xenon, such as occurred at the Three Mile Island plant, is among the most tolerable. These gases readily disperse in the atmosphere and thus do not produce highly radioactive areas. Moreover, they are noble gases and are not incorporated into plant and animal matter in the food chain. Effectively none of the heavy elements of the core of the reactor were released into the environment, and no cleanup of the area outside of the containment building was necessary (Figure 10.5.9).

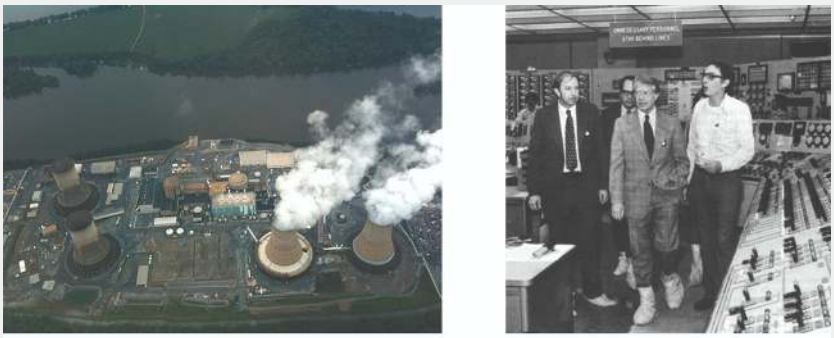


Figure 10.5.9: (a) In this 2010 photo of Three Mile Island, the remaining structures from the damaged Unit 2 reactor are seen on the left, whereas the separate Unit 1 reactor, unaffected by the accident, continues generating power to this day (right). (b) President Jimmy Carter visited the Unit 2 control room a few days after the accident in 1979.

Another major nuclear accident involving a reactor occurred in April 1986, at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant in Ukraine, which was still a part of the former Soviet Union. While operating at low power during an unauthorized experiment with some of its safety devices shut off, one of the reactors at the plant became unstable. Its chain reaction became uncontrollable and increased to a level far beyond what the reactor was designed for. The steam pressure in the reactor rose to between 100 and 500 times the full power pressure and ruptured the reactor. Because the reactor was not enclosed in a containment building, a large amount of radioactive material spewed out, and additional fission products were released, as the graphite (carbon) moderator of the core ignited and burned. The fire was controlled, but over 200 plant workers and firefighters developed acute

radiation sickness and at least 32 soon died from the effects of the radiation. It is predicted that about 4000 more deaths will occur among emergency workers and former Chernobyl residents from radiation-induced cancer and leukemia. The reactor has since been encapsulated in steel and concrete, a now-decaying structure known as the sarcophagus. Almost 30 years later, significant radiation problems still persist in the area, and Chernobyl largely remains a wasteland.

In 2011, the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant in Japan was badly damaged by a 9.0-magnitude earthquake and resulting tsunami. Three reactors up and running at the time were shut down automatically, and emergency generators came online to power electronics and coolant systems. However, the tsunami quickly flooded the emergency generators and cut power to the pumps that circulated coolant water through the reactors. High-temperature steam in the reactors reacted with zirconium alloy to produce hydrogen gas. The gas escaped into the containment building, and the mixture of hydrogen and air exploded. Radioactive material was released from the containment vessels as the result of deliberate venting to reduce the hydrogen pressure, deliberate discharge of coolant water into the sea, and accidental or uncontrolled events.

An evacuation zone around the damaged plant extended over 12.4 miles away, and an estimated 200,000 people were evacuated from the area. All 48 of Japan's nuclear power plants were subsequently shut down, remaining shuttered as of December 2014. Since the disaster, public opinion has shifted from largely favoring to largely opposing increasing the use of nuclear power plants, and a restart of Japan's atomic energy program is still stalled (Figure 10.5.10).



Figure 10.5.10: (a) After the accident, contaminated waste had to be removed, and (b) an evacuation zone was set up around the plant in areas that received heavy doses of radioactive fallout. (credit a: modification of work by "Live Action Hero"/Flickr)

The energy produced by a reactor fueled with enriched uranium results from the fission of uranium as well as from the fission of plutonium produced as the reactor operates. As discussed previously, the plutonium forms from the combination of neutrons and the uranium in the fuel. In any nuclear reactor, only about 0.1% of the mass of the fuel is converted into energy. The other 99.9% remains in the fuel rods as fission products and unused fuel. All of the fission products absorb neutrons, and after a period of several months to a few years, depending on the reactor, the fission products must be removed by changing the fuel rods. Otherwise, the concentration of these fission products would increase and absorb more neutrons until the reactor could no longer operate.

Spent fuel rods contain a variety of products, consisting of unstable nuclei ranging in atomic number from 25 to 60, some transuranium elements, including plutonium and americium, and unreacted uranium isotopes. The unstable nuclei and the transuranium isotopes give the spent fuel a dangerously high level of radioactivity. The long-lived isotopes require thousands of years to decay to a safe level. The ultimate fate of the nuclear reactor as a significant source of energy in the United States probably rests on whether or not a politically and scientifically satisfactory technique for processing and storing the components of spent fuel rods can be developed.

Link to Learning

Explore the information in this link to learn about the approaches to nuclear waste management.

Nuclear Fusion and Fusion Reactors

The process of converting very light nuclei into heavier nuclei is also accompanied by the conversion of mass into large amounts of energy, a process called fusion. The principal source of energy in the sun is a net fusion reaction in which four hydrogen nuclei fuse and produce one helium nucleus and two positrons. This is a net reaction of a more complicated series of events:

$$4\,{}^{1}_{1}\mathrm{H} \longrightarrow {}^{4}_{2}\mathrm{He} + 2\,{}^{0}_{+1}\mathrm{e}^{+}$$

A helium nucleus has a mass that is 0.7% less than that of four hydrogen nuclei; this lost mass is converted into energy during the fusion. This reaction produces about 3.6 10^{11} kJ of energy per mole of \({ }_2^4 \mathrm{He}\) produced. This is somewhat larger than the energy produced by the nuclear fission of one mole of U-235 (1.8 10^{10} kJ), and over 3 million times larger than the energy produced by the (chemical) combustion of one mole of octane (5471 kJ).

It has been determined that the nuclei of the heavy isotopes of hydrogen, a deuteron, ${}^{2}_{1}\mathrm{H}$, and a triton, ${}^{3}_{1}\mathrm{H}$, undergo fusion at extremely high temperatures (thermonuclear fusion). They form a helium nucleus and a neutron:

$${}^{2}_{1}\mathrm{H} + {}^{3}_{1}\mathrm{H} \longrightarrow {}^{4}_{2}\mathrm{He} + {}^{1}_{0}\mathrm{n} \tag{10.5.4}$$

This change proceeds with a mass loss of 0.0188 amu, corresponding to the release of 1.69 10^{9} kilojoules per mole of \({ }_2^4 \mathrm{He}\) formed. The very high temperature is necessary to give the nuclei enough kinetic energy to overcome the very strong repulsive forces resulting from the positive charges on their nuclei so they can collide.

Useful fusion reactions require very high temperatures for their initiation—about 15,000,000 K or more. At these temperatures, all molecules dissociate into atoms, and the atoms ionize, forming plasma. These conditions occur in an extremely large number of locations throughout the universe—stars are powered by fusion. Humans have already figured out how to create temperatures high enough to achieve fusion on a large scale in thermonuclear weapons. A thermonuclear weapon such as a hydrogen bomb contains a nuclear fission bomb that, when exploded, gives off enough energy to produce the extremely high temperatures necessary for fusion to occur.

Another much more beneficial way to create fusion reactions is in a **fusion reactor**, a nuclear reactor in which fusion reactions of light nuclei are controlled. Because no solid materials are stable at such high temperatures, mechanical devices cannot contain the plasma in which fusion reactions occur. Two techniques to contain plasma at the density and temperature necessary for a fusion reaction are currently the focus of intensive research efforts: containment by a magnetic field and by the use of focused laser beams (Figure 10.5.11). A number of large projects are working to attain one of the biggest goals in science: getting hydrogen fuel to ignite and produce more energy than the amount supplied to achieve the extremely high temperatures and pressures that are required for fusion. At the time of this writing, there are no self-sustaining fusion reactors operating in the world, although small-scale controlled fusion reactions have been run for very brief periods.

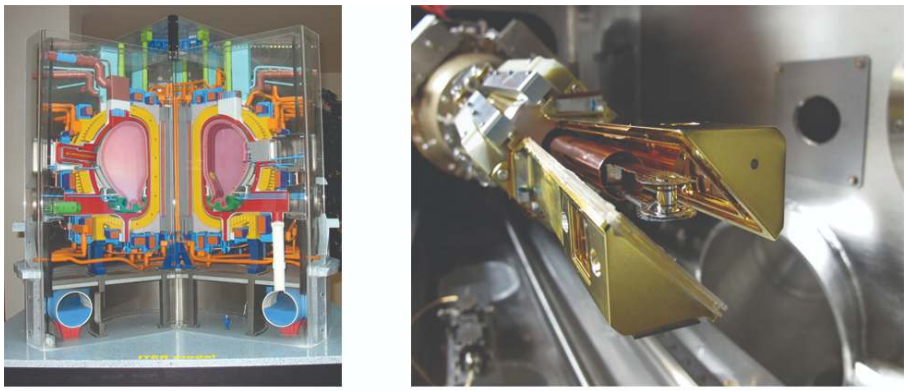


Figure 10.5.11: (a) This model is of the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) reactor. Currently under construction in the south of France with an expected completion date of 2027, the ITER will be the world's largest experimental Tokamak nuclear fusion reactor with a goal of achieving large-scale sustained energy production. (b) In 2012, the National Ignition Facility at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory briefly produced over 500,000,000,000 watts (500 terawatts, or 500 TW) of peak power and delivered 1,850,000 joules (1.85 MJ) of energy, the largest laser energy ever produced and 1000 times the power usage of the entire United States in any given moment. Although lasting only a few billionths of a second, the 192 lasers attained the conditions needed for nuclear fusion ignition. This image shows the target prior to the laser shot. (credit a: modification of work by Stephan Mosel)

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10.6: Uses of Radioisotopes

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- List common applications of radioactive isotopes

Radioactive isotopes have the same chemical properties as stable isotopes of the same element, but they emit radiation, which can be detected. If we replace one (or more) atom(s) with radioisotope(s) in a compound, we can track them by monitoring their radioactive emissions. This type of compound is called a radioactive tracer (or radioactive label). Radioisotopes are used to follow the paths of biochemical reactions or to determine how a substance is distributed within an organism. Radioactive tracers are also used in many medical applications, including both diagnosis and treatment. They are used to measure engine wear, analyze the geological formation around oil wells, and much more.

Radioimmunossays (RIA), for example, rely on radioisotopes to detect the presence and/or concentration of certain antigens. Developed by Rosalyn Sussman Yalow and Solomon Berson in the 1950s, the technique is known for extreme sensitivity, meaning that it can detect and measure very small quantities of a substance. Prior to its discovery, most similar detection relied on large enough quantities to produce visible outcomes. RIA revolutionized and expanded entire fields of study, most notably endocrinology, and is commonly used in narcotics detection, blood bank screening, early cancer screening, hormone measurement, and allergy diagnosis. Based on her significant contribution to medicine, Yalow received a Nobel Prize, making her the second woman to be awarded the prize for medicine.

Radioisotopes have revolutionized medical practice (see Appendix M), where they are used extensively. Over 10 million nuclear medicine procedures and more than 100 million nuclear medicine tests are performed annually in the United States. Four typical examples of radioactive tracers used in medicine are technetium-99 ($^{99}_{43}\mathrm{Tc}$), thallium-201 ($^{201}_{81}\mathrm{Tl}$), iodine-131 ($^{131}_{53}\mathrm{I}$), and sodium-24 ($^{24}_{11}\mathrm{Na}$). Damaged tissues in the heart, liver, and lungs absorb certain compounds of technetium-99 preferentially. After it is injected, the location of the technetium compound, and hence the damaged tissue, can be determined by detecting the γ rays emitted by the Tc-99 isotope. Thallium-201 (Figure 10.6.1) becomes concentrated in healthy heart tissue, so the two isotopes, Tc-99 and Tl-201, are used together to study heart tissue. Iodine-131 concentrates in the thyroid gland, the liver, and some parts of the brain. It can therefore be used to monitor goiter and treat thyroid conditions, such as Grave's disease, as well as liver and brain tumors. Salt solutions containing compounds of sodium-24 are injected into the bloodstream to help locate obstructions to the flow of blood.



Figure 10.6.1: Administering thallium-201 to a patient and subsequently performing a stress test offer medical professionals an opportunity to visually analyze heart function and blood flow. (credit: modification of work by "Blue0ctane"/Wikimedia Commons)

Radioisotopes used in medicine typically have short half-lives—for example, the ubiquitous Tc-99m has a half-life of 6.01 hours. This makes Tc-99m essentially impossible to store and prohibitively expensive to transport, so it is made on-site instead. Hospitals and other medical facilities use Mo-99 (which is primarily extracted from U-235 fission products) to generate Tc-99. Mo-99 undergoes β decay with a half-life of 66 hours, and the Tc-99 is then chemically extracted (Figure 10.6.2). The parent nuclide Mo-99 is part of a molybdate ion, MoO_4^{2-}; when it decays, it forms the pertechnetate ion, TcO_4^-. These two water-soluble ions are separated by column chromatography, with the higher charge molybdate ion adsorbing onto the alumina in the column, and the lower charge pertechnetate ion passing through the column in the solution. A few micrograms of Mo-99 can produce enough Tc-99 to perform as many as 10,000 tests.

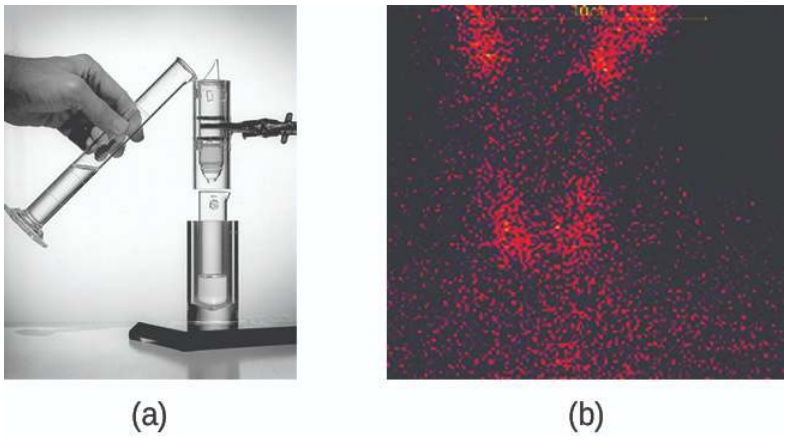


Figure 10.6.2: (a) The first Tc-99m generator (circa 1958) is used to separate Tc-99 from Mo-99. The is retained by the matrix in the column, whereas the passes through and is collected. (b) Tc-99 was used in this scan of the neck of a patient with Grave's disease. The scan shows the location of high concentrations of Tc-99. (credit a: modification of work by the Department of Energy; credit b: modification of work by "MBq"/Wikimedia Commons)

Radioisotopes can also be used, typically in higher doses than as a tracer, as treatment. Radiation therapy is the use of high-energy radiation to damage the DNA of cancer cells, which kills them or keeps them from dividing (Figure 10.6.3). A cancer patient may receive external beam radiation therapy delivered by a machine outside the body, or internal radiation therapy (brachytherapy) from a radioactive substance that has been introduced into the body. Note that chemotherapy is similar to internal radiation therapy in that the cancer treatment is injected into the body, but differs in that chemotherapy uses chemical rather than radioactive substances to kill the cancer cells.

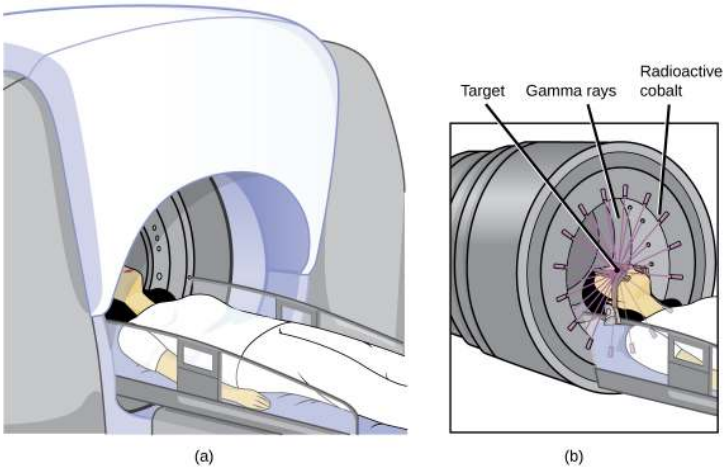


Figure 10.6.3: The cartoon in (a) shows a coba machine swings through an arc, focusing radiation on the targeted region (tumor) and minimizing the amount of radiation that passes through nearby regions.

Cobalt-60 is a synthetic radioisotope produced by the neutron activation of Co-59, which then undergoes β decay to form Ni-60, along with the emission of γ radiation. The overall process is:

$$^{59}_{27}\mathrm{Co} + {}^{1}_{0}\mathrm{n} \rightarrow {}^{60}_{27}\mathrm{Co} \rightarrow {}^{60}_{28}\mathrm{Ni} + {}^{0}_{-1}\beta + 2{}^{0}_{0}\gamma \tag{10.6.1}$$

The overall decay scheme for this is shown graphically in Figure 10.6.4.

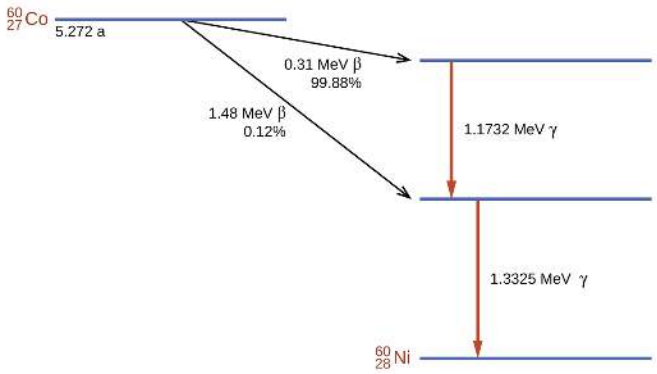


Figure 10.6.4: Co-60 undergoes a series of radioactive decays. The γ emissions are used for radiation therapy.

Radioisotopes are used in diverse ways to study the mechanisms of chemical reactions in plants and animals. These include labeling fertilizers in studies of nutrient uptake by plants and crop growth, investigations of digestive and milk-producing processes in cows, and studies on the growth and metabolism of animals and plants.

For example, the radioisotope C-14 was used to elucidate the details of how photosynthesis occurs. The overall reaction is:

$$6CO_2(g) + 6H_2O\ (l) \rightarrow C_6H_{12}O_6\ (s) + 6O_2\ (g), \tag{10.6.2}$$

but the process is much more complex, proceeding through a series of steps in which various organic compounds are produced. In studies of the pathway of this reaction, plants were exposed to CO_2 containing a high concentration of ($^{14}_{6}C$). At regular intervals, the plants were analyzed to determine which organic compounds contained carbon-14 and how much of each compound was present. From the time sequence in which the compounds appeared and the amount of each present at given time intervals, scientists learned more about the pathway of the reaction.

Commercial applications of radioactive materials are equally diverse (Figure 10.6.5). They include determining the thickness of films and thin metal sheets by exploiting the penetration power of various types of radiation. Flaws in metals used for structural purposes can be detected using high-energy gamma rays from cobalt-60 in a fashion similar to the way X-rays are used to examine the human body. In one form of pest control, flies are controlled by sterilizing male flies with γ radiation so that females breeding with them do not produce offspring. Many foods are preserved by radiation that kills microorganisms that cause the foods to spoil.

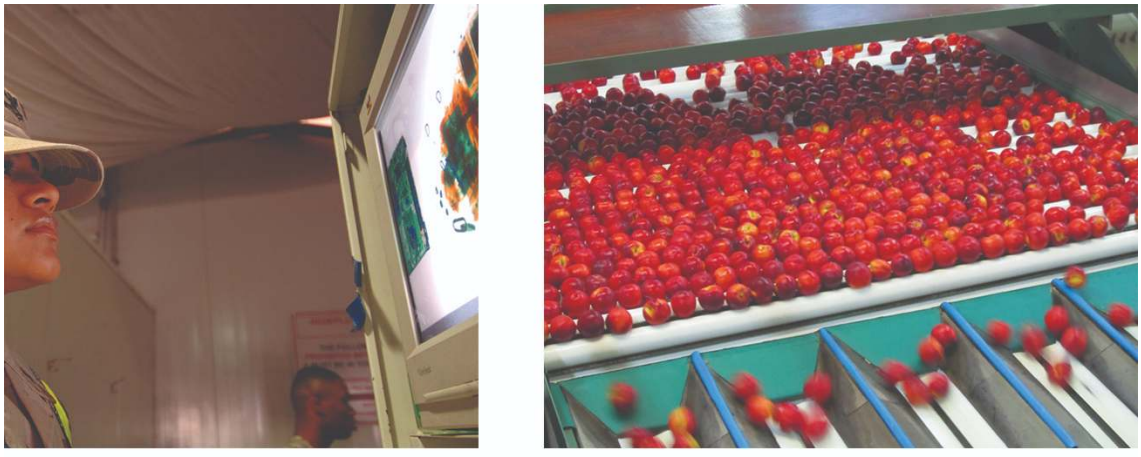


Figure 10.6.5: Common commercial uses of radiation include (a) X-ray examination of luggage at an airport and (b) preservation of food. (credit a: modification of work by the Department of the Navy; credit b: modification of work by the US Department of Agriculture)

Americium-241, an α emitter with a half-life of 458 years, is used in tiny amounts in ionization-type smoke detectors (Figure 10.6.6). The α emissions from Am-241 ionize the air between two electrode plates in the ionizing chamber. A battery supplies a

potential that causes movement of the ions, thus creating a small electric current. When smoke enters the chamber, the movement of the ions is impeded, reducing the conductivity of the air. This causes a marked drop in the current, triggering an alarm.

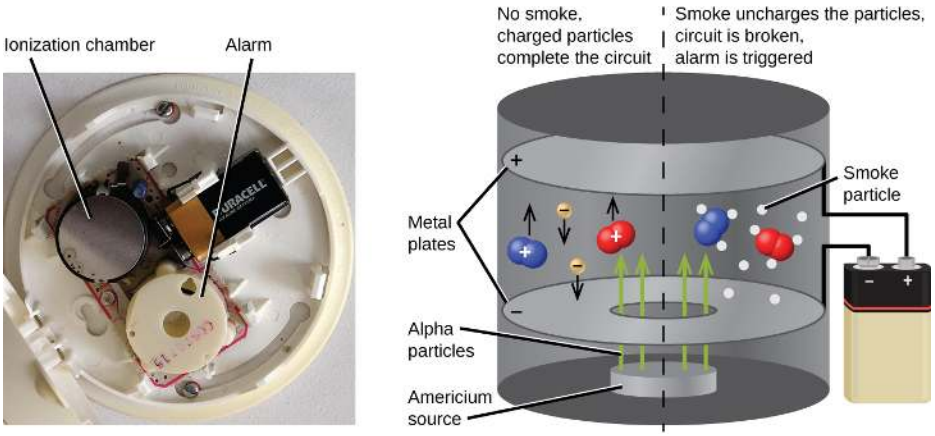


Figure 10.6.6: Inside a smoke detector, Am-241 emits α particles that ionize the air, creating a small electric current. During a fire, smoke particles impede the flow of ions, reducing the current and triggering an alarm. (credit a: modification of work by "Muffet"/Wikimedia Commons)

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10.7: Biological Effects of Radiation

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Describe the biological impact of ionizing radiation
- Define units for measuring radiation exposure
- Explain the operation of common tools for detecting radioactivity
- List common sources of radiation exposure in the US

The increased use of radioisotopes has led to increased concerns over the effects of these materials on biological systems (such as humans). All radioactive nuclides emit high-energy particles or electromagnetic waves. When this radiation encounters living cells, it can cause heating, break chemical bonds, or ionize molecules. The most serious biological damage results when these radioactive emissions fragment or ionize molecules. For example, alpha and beta particles emitted from nuclear decay reactions possess much higher energies than ordinary chemical bond energies. When these particles strike and penetrate matter, they produce ions and molecular fragments that are extremely reactive. The damage this does to biomolecules in living organisms can cause serious malfunctions in normal cell processes, taxing the organism's repair mechanisms and possibly causing illness or even death (Figure 10.7.1).

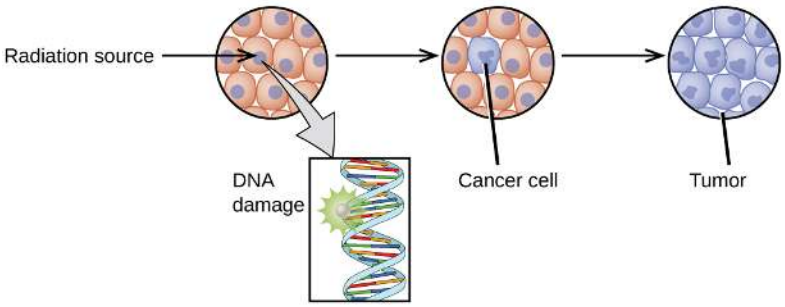


Figure 10.7.1: Radiation can harm biological systems by damaging the DNA of cells. If this damage is not properly repaired, the cells may divide in an uncontrolled manner and cause cancer.

Ionizing and Nonionizing Radiation

There is a large difference in the magnitude of the biological effects of nonionizing radiation (for example, light and microwaves) and ionizing radiation, emissions energetic enough to knock electrons out of molecules (for example, α and β particles, γ rays, X-rays, and high-energy ultraviolet radiation) (Figure 10.7.2).

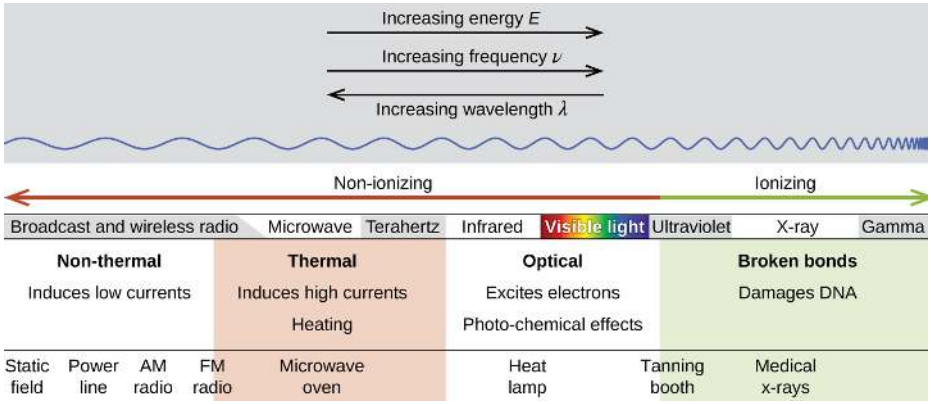


Figure 10.7.2: Lower frequency, lower-energy electromagnetic radiation is nonionizing, and higher frequency, higher-energy electromagnetic radiation is ionizing.

Energy absorbed from nonionizing radiation speeds up the movement of atoms and molecules, which is equivalent to heating the sample. Although biological systems are sensitive to heat (as we might know from touching a hot stove or spending a day at the

beach in the sun), a large amount of nonionizing radiation is necessary before dangerous levels are reached. Ionizing radiation, however, may cause much more severe damage by breaking bonds or removing electrons in biological molecules, disrupting their structure and function. The damage can also be done indirectly, by first ionizing H_2O (the most abundant molecule in living organisms), which forms a H_2O^+ ion that reacts with water, forming a hydronium ion and a hydroxyl radical:

$$H_2O + \text{radiation} \xrightarrow{e^-} H_2O^+ + H_2O \longrightarrow H_3O^+ + OH^\bullet$$

Because the hydroxyl radical has an unpaired electron, it is highly reactive. (This is true of any substance with unpaired electrons, known as a free radical.) This hydroxyl radical can react with all kinds of biological molecules (DNA, proteins, enzymes, and so on), causing damage to the molecules and disrupting physiological processes. Examples of direct and indirect damage are shown in Figure 21.32.

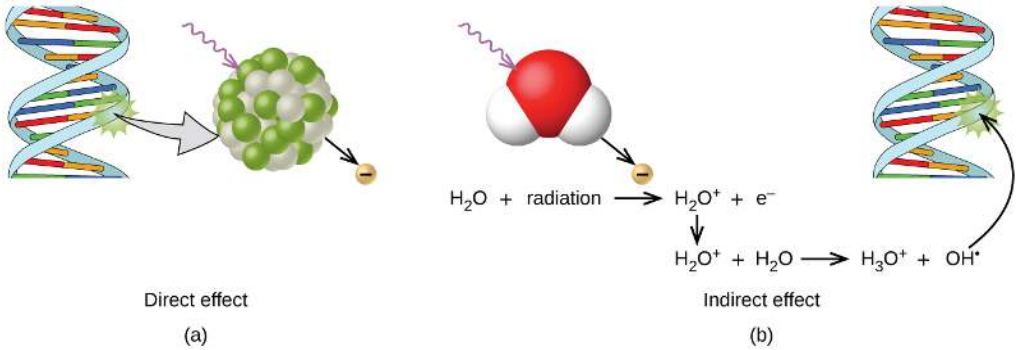


Figure 21.32 Ionizing radiation can (a) directly damage a biomolecule by ionizing it or breaking its bonds, or (b) create an H_2O^+ ion, which reacts with H_2O to form a hydroxyl radical, which in turn reacts with the biomolecule, causing damage indirectly.

Biological Effects of Exposure to Radiation

Radiation can harm either the whole body (somatic damage) or eggs and sperm (genetic damage). Its effects are more pronounced in cells that reproduce rapidly, such as the stomach lining, hair follicles, bone marrow, and embryos. This is why patients undergoing radiation therapy often feel nauseous or sick to their stomach, lose hair, have bone aches, and so on, and why particular care must be taken when undergoing radiation therapy during pregnancy.

Different types of radiation have differing abilities to pass through material (Figure 10.7.3). A very thin barrier, such as a sheet or two of paper, or the top layer of skin cells, usually stops alpha particles. Because of this, alpha particle sources are usually not dangerous if outside the body, but are quite hazardous if ingested or inhaled (see the Chemistry in Everyday Life feature on Radon Exposure). Beta particles will pass through a hand, or a thin layer of material like paper or wood, but are stopped by a thin layer of metal. Gamma radiation is very penetrating and can pass through a thick layer of most materials. Some high-energy gamma radiation is able to pass through a few feet of concrete. Certain dense, high atomic number elements (such as lead) can effectively attenuate gamma radiation with thinner material and are used for shielding. The ability of various kinds of emissions to cause ionization varies greatly, and some particles have almost no tendency to produce ionization. Alpha particles have about twice the ionizing power of fast-moving neutrons, about 10 times that of β particles, and about 20 times that of γ rays and X-rays.

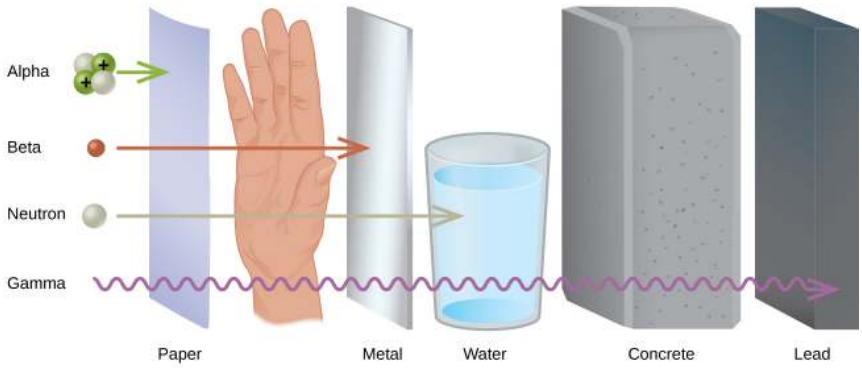


Figure 10.7.3: The ability of different types of radiation to pass through material is shown. From least to most penetrating, they are alpha < beta < neutron < gamma.

Chemistry in Everyday Life: Radon Exposure

For many people, one of the largest sources of exposure to radiation is from radon gas (Rn-222). Radon-222 is an α emitter with a half–life of 3.82 days. It is one of the products of the radioactive decay series of U-238 (Figure 21.9), which is found in trace amounts in soil and rocks. The radon gas that is produced slowly escapes from the ground and gradually seeps into homes and other structures above. Since it is about eight times more dense than air, radon gas accumulates in basements and lower floors, and slowly diffuses throughout buildings (Figure 10.7.4).

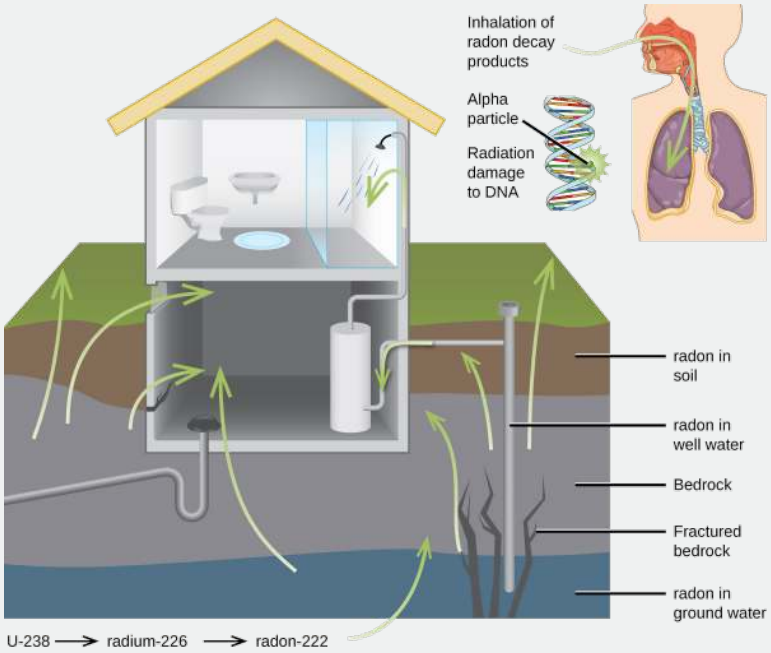


Figure 10.7.4: Radon-222 seeps into houses and other buildings from rocks that contain uranium-238, a radon emitter. The radon enters through cracks in concrete foundations and basement floors, stone or porous cinderblock foundations, and openings for water and gas pipes.

Radon is found in buildings across the country, with amounts depending on where you live. The average concentration of radon inside houses in the US (1.25 pCi/L) is about three times the levels found in outside air, and about one in six houses have radon levels high enough that remediation efforts to reduce the radon concentration are recommended. Exposure to radon increases one's risk of getting cancer (especially lung cancer), and high radon levels can be as bad for health as smoking a carton of cigarettes a day. Radon is the number one cause of lung cancer in nonsmokers and the second leading cause of lung cancer overall. Radon exposure is believed to cause over 20,000 deaths in the US per year.

Measuring Radiation Exposure

Several different devices are used to detect and measure radiation, including Geiger counters, scintillation counters (scintillators), and radiation dosimeters (Figure 10.7.5). Probably the best-known radiation instrument, the Geiger counter (also called the Geiger-Müller counter) detects and measures radiation. Radiation causes the ionization of the gas in a Geiger-Müller tube. The rate of ionization is proportional to the amount of radiation. A scintillation counter contains a scintillator—a material that emits light (luminesces) when excited by ionizing radiation—and a sensor that converts the light into an electric signal. Radiation dosimeters also measure ionizing radiation and are often used to determine personal radiation exposure. Commonly used types are electronic, film badge, thermoluminescent, and quartz fiber dosimeters.

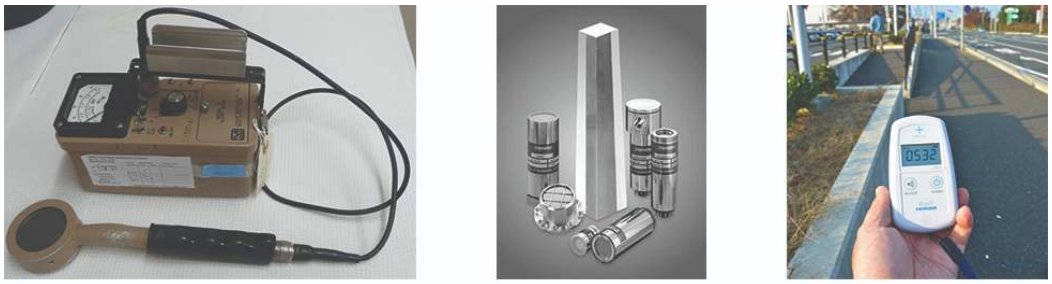


Figure 10.7.5: Devices such as (a) Geiger counters, (b) scintillators, and (c) dosimeters can be used to measure radiation. (credit c: modification of work by "osaMu"/Wikimedia commons)

A variety of units are used to measure various aspects of radiation (Figure 10.7.6). The SI unit for rate of radioactive decay is the becquerel (Bq), with 1 Bq = 1 disintegration per second. The curie (Ci) and millicurie (mCi) are much larger units and are frequently used in medicine (1 curie = 1 Ci = 3.7 10^{10} disintegrations per second). The SI unit for measuring radiation dose is the gray (Gy), with 1 Gy = 1 J of energy absorbed per kilogram of tissue. In medical applications, the radiation absorbed dose (rad) is more often used (1 rad = 0.01 Gy; 1 rad results in the absorption of 0.01 J/kg of tissue). The SI unit measuring tissue damage caused by radiation is the sievert (Sv). This takes into account both the energy and the biological effects of the type of radiation involved in the radiation dose. The roentgen equivalent for man (rem) is the unit for radiation damage that is used most frequently in medicine (100 rem = 1 Sv). Note that the tissue damage units (rem or Sv) includes the energy of the radiation dose (rad or Gy) along with a biological factor referred to as the RBE (for relative biological effectiveness) that is an approximate measure of the relative damage done by the radiation. These are related by:

$$\text{number of rems} = \text{RBE} \times \text{number of rads} \tag{10.7.1}$$

with RBE approximately 10 for α radiation, 2(+) for protons and neutrons, and 1 for β and γ radiation.

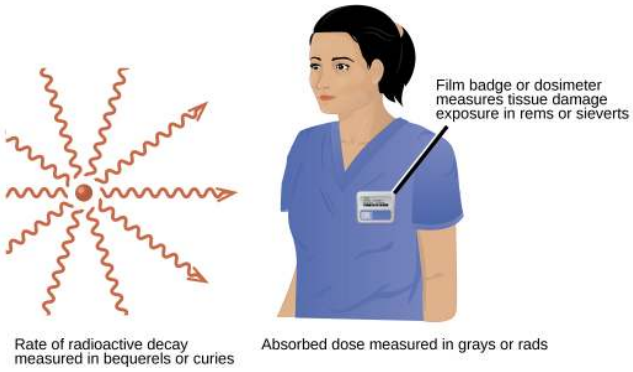


Figure 10.7.6: Different units are used to measure the rate of emission from a radioactive source, the energy that is absorbed from the source, and the amount of damage the absorbed radiation does.

Units of Radiation Measurement

Table 10.7.1 summarizes the units used for measuring radiation.

Table 10.7.1: Units Used for Measuring Radiation

Measurement Purpose	Unit	Quantity Measured	Description
activity of source	becquerel (Bq)	radioactive decays or emissions	amount of sample that undergoes 1 decay/second
	curie (Ci)		amount of sample that undergoes 3.7 10^{10} decays/second
absorbed dose	gray (Gy)	energy absorbed per kg of tissue	1 Gy = 1 J/kg tissue
	radiation absorbed dose (rad)		1 rad = 0.01 J/kg tissue
biologically effective dose	sievert (Sv)	tissue damage	Sv = RBE Gy
	roentgen equivalent for man (rem)		Rem = RBE rad

Example 10.7.1: Amount of Radiation

Cobalt-60 ($t_{1/2} = 5.26\ y$) is used in cancer therapy since the γ rays it emits can be focused in small areas where the cancer is located. A 5.00-g sample of Co-60 is available for cancer treatment.

a. What is its activity in Bq?
b. What is its activity in Ci?

Solution

The activity is given by:

$$\text{Activity } = \lambda N = \left(\frac{\ln 2}{t_{1/2}}\right) N = \left(\frac{\ln 2}{5.26\text{y}}\right) \times 5.00\text{ g} = 0.659\frac{\text{g}}{\text{y}} \text{ of Co } -60 \text{ that decay}$$

And to convert this to decays per second:

$$0.659\frac{\text{g}}{\text{y}} \times \frac{1\text{y}}{365\text{ d}} \times \frac{1\text{ d}}{24\text{ h}} \times \frac{1\text{ h}}{3600\text{ s}} \times \frac{1\text{ mol}}{59.9\text{ g}} \times \frac{6.02 \times 10^{23}\text{ atoms}}{1\text{ mol}} \times \frac{1\text{ decay}}{1\text{ atom}}$$
$$= 2.10 \times 10^{14}\frac{\text{decay}}{\text{s}}$$

a. Since $1\text{ Bq} = \frac{1\text{ decay}}{\text{s}}$ the activity in Becquerel (Bq) is:

$$2.10 \times 10^{14}\frac{\text{decay}}{\text{s}} \times \left(\frac{1\text{ Bq}}{1\frac{\text{decay}}{\text{s}}}\right) = 2.10 \times 10^{14}\text{ Bq}$$

b. Since $1\text{Ci} = \frac{3.7\times10^{11}\text{ decay}}{\text{s}}$ the activity in curie (Ci) is:

$$2.10 \times 10^{14}\frac{\text{decay}}{\text{s}} \times \left(\frac{1\text{Ci}}{\frac{3.7\times10^{11}\text{ decay}}{\text{s}}}\right) = 5.7 \times 10^{2}\text{Ci}$$

Exercise 10.7.1

Tritium is a radioactive isotope of hydrogen ($t_{1/2}$ = 12.32 y) that has several uses, including self-powered lighting, in which electrons emitted in tritium radioactive decay cause phosphorus to glow. Its nucleus contains one proton and two neutrons, and the atomic mass of tritium is 3.016 amu. What is the activity of a sample containing 1.00mg of tritium (a) in Bq and (b) in Ci?

Answer

a. 3.56 10^{11} Bq;
b. 0.962 Ci

Effects of Long-term Radiation Exposure on the Human Body

The effects of radiation depend on the type, energy, and location of the radiation source, and the length of exposure. As shown in Figure 10.7.7: , the average person is exposed to background radiation, including cosmic rays from the sun and radon from uranium in the ground (see the Chemistry in Everyday Life feature on Radon Exposure); radiation from medical exposure, including CAT scans, radioisotope tests, X-rays, and so on; and small amounts of radiation from other human activities, such as airplane flights (which are bombarded by increased numbers of cosmic rays in the upper atmosphere), radioactivity from consumer products, and a variety of radionuclides that enter our bodies when we breathe (for example, carbon-14) or through the food chain (for example, potassium-40, strontium-90, and iodine-131).

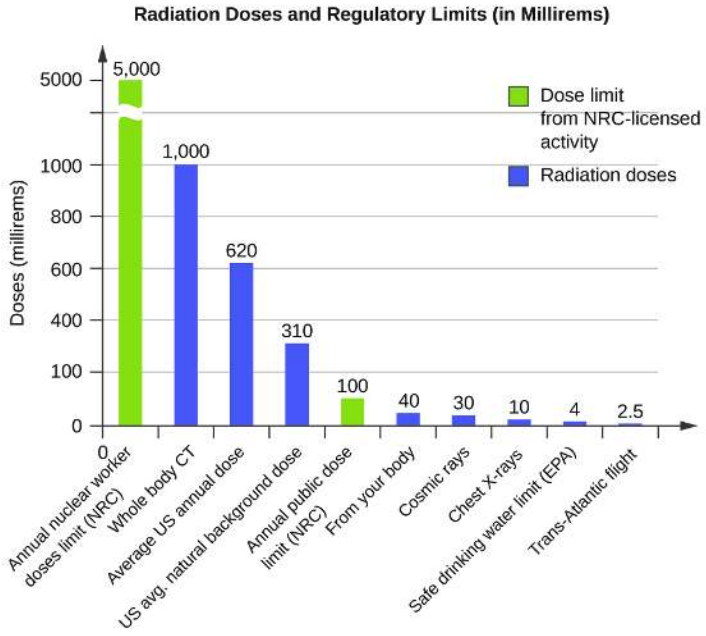


Figure 10.7.7: The total annual radiation exposure for a person in the US is about 620 mrem. The various sources and their relative amounts are shown in this bar graph. (source: U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission)

A short-term, sudden dose of a large amount of radiation can cause a wide range of health effects, from changes in blood chemistry to death. Short-term exposure to tens of rems of radiation will likely cause very noticeable symptoms or illness; a dose of about 500 rems is estimated to have a 50% probability of causing the death of the victim within 30 days of exposure. Exposure to radioactive emissions has a cumulative effect on the body during a person's lifetime, which is another reason why it is important to avoid any unnecessary exposure to radiation. Health effects of short-term exposure to radiation are shown in Table 10.7.2.

Table 10.7.2: Health Effects of Radiation[2]

Exposure (rem)	Health Effect	Time to Onset (without treatment)
5–10	changes in blood chemistry	—
50	nausea	hours
55	fatigue	—
70	vomiting	—
75	hair loss	2–3 weeks
90	diarrhea	—
100	hemorrhage	—
400	possible death	within 2 months
1000	destruction of intestinal lining	—
	internal bleeding	—
	death	1–2 weeks
2000	damage to central nervous system	—
	loss of consciousness;	minutes
	death	hours to days

It is impossible to avoid some exposure to ionizing radiation. We are constantly exposed to background radiation from a variety of natural sources, including cosmic radiation, rocks, medical procedures, consumer products, and even our own atoms. We can minimize our exposure by blocking or shielding the radiation, moving farther from the source, and limiting the time of exposure.

Footnotes

- 2Source: US Environmental Protection Agency

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10.8: Key Terms

alpha (α) decay | loss of an alpha particle during radioactive decay

alpha particle | (α or or high-energy helium nucleus; a helium atom that has lost two electrons and contains two protons and two neutrons

antimatter | particles with the same mass but opposite properties (such as charge) of ordinary particles

band of stability | (also, belt of stability, zone of stability, or valley of stability) region of graph of number of protons versus number of neutrons containing stable (nonradioactive) nuclides

becquerel (Bq) | SI unit for rate of radioactive decay; 1 Bq = 1 disintegration/s

beta (β) decay | breakdown of a neutron into a proton, which remains in the nucleus, and an electron, which is emitted as a beta particle

beta particle | or or high-energy electron

binding energy per nucleon | total binding energy for the nucleus divided by the number of nucleons in the nucleus

chain reaction | repeated fission caused when the neutrons released in fission bombard other atoms

chemotherapy | similar to internal radiation therapy, but chemical rather than radioactive substances are introduced into the body to kill cancer cells

containment system | (also, shield) a three-part structure of materials that protects the exterior of a nuclear fission reactor and operating personnel from the high temperatures, pressures, and radiation levels inside the reactor

control rod | material inserted into the fuel assembly that absorbs neutrons and can be raised or lowered to adjust the rate of a fission reaction

critical mass | amount of fissionable material that will support a self-sustaining (nuclear fission) chain reaction

curie (Ci) | larger unit for rate of radioactive decay frequently used in medicine; 1 Ci = 3.7 10^{10} disintegrations/s

daughter nuclide | nuclide produced by the radioactive decay of another nuclide; may be stable or may decay further

electron capture | combination of a core electron with a proton to yield a neutron within the nucleus

electron volt (eV) | measurement unit of nuclear binding energies, with 1 eV equaling the amount energy due to the moving an electron across an electric potential difference of 1 volt

external beam radiation therapy | radiation delivered by a machine outside the body

fissile (or fissionable) | when a material is capable of sustaining a nuclear fission reaction

fission | splitting of a heavier nucleus into two or more lighter nuclei, usually accompanied by the conversion of mass into large amounts of energy

fusion | combination of very light nuclei into heavier nuclei, accompanied by the conversion of mass into large amounts of energy

fusion reactor | nuclear reactor in which fusion reactions of light nuclei are controlled

gamma (γ) emission | decay of an excited-state nuclide accompanied by emission of a gamma ray

gamma ray | (γ or short wavelength, high-energy electromagnetic radiation that exhibits wave-particle duality

Geiger counter | instrument that detects and measures radiation via the ionization produced in a Geiger-Müller tube

gray (Gy) | SI unit for measuring radiation dose; 1 Gy = 1 J absorbed/kg tissue

half-life ($t_{1/2}$) | time required for half of the atoms in a radioactive sample to decay

internal radiation therapy | (also, brachytherapy) radiation from a radioactive substance introduced into the body to kill cancer cells

ionizing radiation | radiation that can cause a molecule to lose an electron and form an ion

magic number | nuclei with specific numbers of nucleons that are within the band of stability

mass defect | difference between the mass of an atom and the summed mass of its constituent subatomic particles (or the mass “lost” when nucleons are brought together to form a nucleus)

mass-energy equivalence equation | Albert Einstein’s relationship showing that mass and energy are equivalent

millicurie (mCi) | larger unit for rate of radioactive decay frequently used in medicine; 1 Ci = 3.7 10^{10} disintegrations/s

nonionizing radiation | radiation that speeds up the movement of atoms and molecules; it is equivalent to heating a sample, but is not energetic enough to cause the ionization of molecules

nuclear binding energy | energy lost when an atom’s nucleons are bound together (or the energy needed to break a nucleus into its constituent protons and neutrons)

nuclear chemistry | study of the structure of atomic nuclei and processes that change nuclear structure

nuclear fuel | fissionable isotope present in sufficient quantities to provide a self-sustaining chain reaction in a nuclear reactor

nuclear moderator | substance that slows neutrons to a speed low enough to cause fission

nuclear reaction | change to a nucleus resulting in changes in the atomic number, mass number, or energy state

nuclear reactor | environment that produces energy via nuclear fission in which the chain reaction is controlled and sustained without explosion

nuclear transmutation | conversion of one nuclide into another nuclide

nucleon | collective term for protons and neutrons in a nucleus

nuclide | nucleus of a particular isotope

parent nuclide | unstable nuclide that changes spontaneously into another (daughter) nuclide

particle accelerator | device that uses electric and magnetic fields to increase the kinetic energy of nuclei used in transmutation reactions

positron or | antiparticle to the electron; it has identical properties to an electron, except for having the opposite (positive) charge

positron emission | (also, β^+ decay) conversion of a proton into a neutron, which remains in the nucleus, and a positron, which is emitted

radiation absorbed dose (rad) | SI unit for measuring radiation dose, frequently used in medical applications; 1 rad = 0.01 Gy

radiation dosimeter | device that measures ionizing radiation and is used to determine personal radiation exposure

radiation therapy | use of high-energy radiation to damage the DNA of cancer cells, which kills them or keeps them from dividing

radioactive decay | spontaneous decay of an unstable nuclide into another nuclide

radioactive decay series | chains of successive disintegrations (radioactive decays) that ultimately lead to a stable end-product

radioactive tracer | (also, radioactive label) radioisotope used to track or follow a substance by monitoring its radioactive emissions

radioactivity | phenomenon exhibited by an unstable nucleon that spontaneously undergoes change into a nucleon that is more stable; an unstable nucleon is said to be radioactive

radiocarbon dating | highly accurate means of dating objects 30,000–50,000 years old that were derived from once-living matter; achieved by calculating the ratio of in the object vs. the ratio of in the present-day atmosphere

radioisotope | isotope that is unstable and undergoes conversion into a different, more stable isotope

radiometric dating | use of radioisotopes and their properties to date the formation of objects such as archeological artifacts, formerly living organisms, or geological formations

reactor coolant | assembly used to carry the heat produced by fission in a reactor to an external boiler and turbine where it is transformed into electricity

relative biological effectiveness (RBE) | measure of the relative damage done by radiation

roentgen equivalent man (rem) | unit for radiation damage, frequently used in medicine; 100 rem = 1 Sv

scintillation counter | instrument that uses a scintillator—a material that emits light when excited by ionizing radiation—to detect and measure radiation

sievert (Sv) | SI unit measuring tissue damage caused by radiation; takes into account energy and biological effects of radiation

strong nuclear force | force of attraction between nucleons that holds a nucleus together

subcritical mass | amount of fissionable material that cannot sustain a chain reaction; less than a critical mass

supercritical mass | amount of material in which there is an increasing rate of fission

transmutation reaction | bombardment of one type of nuclei with other nuclei or neutrons

transuranium element | element with an atomic number greater than 92; these elements do not occur in nature

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10.9: Key Equations

$E = mc^2$

decay rate = λN

rem = RBE rad
Sv = RBE Gy

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10.10: Summary

An atomic nucleus consists of protons and neutrons, collectively called nucleons. Although protons repel each other, the nucleus is held tightly together by a short-range, but very strong, force called the strong nuclear force. A nucleus has less mass than the total mass of its constituent nucleons. This “missing” mass is the mass defect, which has been converted into the binding energy that holds the nucleus together according to Einstein’s mass-energy equivalence equation, $E = mc^2$. Of the many nuclides that exist, only a small number are stable. Nuclides with even numbers of protons or neutrons, or those with magic numbers of nucleons, are especially likely to be stable. These stable nuclides occupy a narrow band of stability on a graph of number of protons versus number of neutrons. The binding energy per nucleon is largest for the elements with mass numbers near 56; these are the most stable nuclei.

Nuclei can undergo reactions that change their number of protons, number of neutrons, or energy state. Many different particles can be involved in nuclear reactions. The most common are protons, neutrons, positrons (which are positively charged electrons), alpha (α) particles (which are high-energy helium nuclei), beta (β) particles (which are high-energy electrons), and gamma (γ) rays (which compose high-energy electromagnetic radiation). As with chemical reactions, nuclear reactions are always balanced. When a nuclear reaction occurs, the total mass (number) and the total charge remain unchanged.

Nuclei that have unstable n:p ratios undergo spontaneous radioactive decay. The most common types of radioactivity are α decay, β decay, γ emission, positron emission, and electron capture. Nuclear reactions also often involve γ rays, and some nuclei decay by electron capture. Each of these modes of decay leads to the formation of a new nucleus with a more stable n:p ratio. Some substances undergo radioactive decay series, proceeding through multiple decays before ending in a stable isotope. All nuclear decay processes follow first-order kinetics, and each radioisotope has its own characteristic half-life, the time that is required for half of its atoms to decay. Because of the large differences in stability among nuclides, there is a very wide range of half-lives of radioactive substances. Many of these substances have found useful applications in medical diagnosis and treatment, determining the age of archaeological and geological objects, and more.

It is possible to produce new atoms by bombarding other atoms with nuclei or high-speed particles. The products of these transmutation reactions can be stable or radioactive. A number of artificial elements, including technetium, astatine, and the transuranium elements, have been produced in this way.

Nuclear power as well as nuclear weapon detonations can be generated through fission (reactions in which a heavy nucleus is split into two or more lighter nuclei and several neutrons). Because the neutrons may induce additional fission reactions when they combine with other heavy nuclei, a chain reaction can result. Useful power is obtained if the fission process is carried out in a nuclear reactor. The conversion of light nuclei into heavier nuclei (fusion) also produces energy. At present, this energy has not been contained adequately and is too expensive to be feasible for commercial energy production.

Compounds known as radioactive tracers can be used to follow reactions, track the distribution of a substance, diagnose and treat medical conditions, and much more. Other radioactive substances are helpful for controlling pests, visualizing structures, providing fire warnings, and for many other applications. Hundreds of millions of nuclear medicine tests and procedures, using a wide variety of radioisotopes with relatively short half-lives, are performed every year in the US. Most of these radioisotopes have relatively short half-lives; some are short enough that the radioisotope must be made on-site at medical facilities. Radiation therapy uses high-energy radiation to kill cancer cells by damaging their DNA. The radiation used for this treatment may be delivered externally or internally.

We are constantly exposed to radiation from a variety of naturally occurring and human-produced sources. This radiation can affect living organisms. Ionizing radiation is the most harmful because it can ionize molecules or break chemical bonds, which damages the molecule and causes malfunctions in cell processes. It can also create reactive hydroxyl radicals that damage biological molecules and disrupt physiological processes. Radiation can cause somatic or genetic damage, and is most harmful to rapidly reproducing cells. Types of radiation differ in their ability to penetrate material and damage tissue, with alpha particles the least penetrating but potentially most damaging and gamma rays the most penetrating.

Various devices, including Geiger counters, scintillators, and dosimeters, are used to detect and measure radiation, and monitor radiation exposure. We use several units to measure radiation: becquerels or curies for rates of radioactive decay; gray or rads for energy absorbed; and rems or sieverts for biological effects of radiation. Exposure to radiation can cause a wide range of health

effects, from minor to severe, and including death. We can minimize the effects of radiation by shielding with dense materials such as lead, moving away from the source, and limiting time of exposure.

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10.11: Exercises

1. Write the following isotopes in hyphenated form (e.g., “carbon-14”)

(a) $^{24}_{11}\text{Na}$
(b) $^{29}_{13}\text{Al}$
(c) $^{73}_{36}\text{Kr}$
(d) $^{194}_{77}\text{Ir}$

2. Write the following isotopes in nuclide notation (e.g.,

a. oxygen-14
b. copper-70
c. tantalum-175
d. francium-217

3. For the following isotopes that have missing information, fill in the missing information to complete the notation

(a) $^{34}_{14}\text{X}$
(b) $^{36}_{\text{X}}\text{P}$
(c) $^{57}_{\text{X}}\text{Mn}$
(d) $^{121}_{56}\text{X}$

4. For each of the isotopes in Exercise 21.1, determine the numbers of protons, neutrons, and electrons in a neutral atom of the isotope.

5. Write the nuclide notation, including charge if applicable, for atoms with the following characteristics:

a. 25 protons, 20 neutrons, 24 electrons
b. 45 protons, 24 neutrons, 43 electrons
c. 53 protons, 89 neutrons, 54 electrons
d. 97 protons, 146 neutrons, 97 electrons

6. Calculate the density of the nucleus in g/mL, assuming that it has the typical nuclear diameter of 1 10^{-13} cm and is spherical in shape. 7. What are the two principal differences between nuclear reactions and ordinary chemical changes?

8. The mass of the atom is 22.9898 amu.

a. Calculate its binding energy per atom in millions of electron volts.
b. Calculate its binding energy per nucleon.

9. Which of the following nuclei lie within the band of stability shown in Figure 21.2?

a. chlorine-37
b. calcium-40
c. ^{204}Bi
d. ^{56}Fe
e. ^{206}Pb
f. ^{211}Pb
g. ^{222}Rn
h. carbon-14

10. Which of the following nuclei lie within the band of stability shown in Figure 21.2?

a. argon-40
b. oxygen-16
c. ^{122}Ba
d. ^{58}Ni
e. ^{205}Tl

f. ^{210}Tl
g. ^{226}Ra
h. magnesium-24

11. Write a brief description or definition of each of the following:

a. nucleon
b. α particle
c. β particle
d. positron
e. γ ray
f. nuclide
g. mass number
h. atomic number

12. Which of the various particles (α particles, β particles, and so on) that may be produced in a nuclear reaction are actually nuclei?

13. Complete each of the following equations by adding the missing species:

(a) $^{27}_{13}\mathrm{Al} + {}^{4}_{2}\mathrm{He} \rightarrow \, ? \, + {}^{1}_{0}\mathrm{n}$
(b) $^{239}_{94}\mathrm{Pu} + ? \rightarrow {}^{242}_{96}\mathrm{Cm} + {}^{1}_{0}\mathrm{n}$
(c) $^{14}_{7}\mathrm{N} + {}^{4}_{2}\mathrm{He} \rightarrow ? + {}^{1}_{1}\mathrm{H}$
(d) $^{235}_{92}\mathrm{U} \rightarrow ? + {}^{135}_{55}\mathrm{Cs} + 4{}^{1}_{0}\mathrm{n}$

14. Complete each of the following equations:

(a) $^{7}_{3}\mathrm{Li} + ? \rightarrow 2{}^{4}_{2}\mathrm{He}$
(b) $^{14}_{6}\mathrm{C} \rightarrow {}^{14}_{7}\mathrm{N} + \, ?$
(c) $^{27}_{13}\mathrm{Al} + {}^{4}_{2}\mathrm{He} \rightarrow ? + {}^{1}_{0}\mathrm{n}$
(d) $^{250}_{96}\mathrm{Cm} \rightarrow ? + {}^{98}_{38}\mathrm{Sr} + 4{}^{1}_{0}\mathrm{n}$

15. Write a balanced equation for each of the following nuclear reactions:

a. the production of ^{17}O from ^{14}N by α particle bombardment
b. the production of ^{14}C from ^{14}N by neutron bombardment
c. the production of ^{233}Th from ^{232}Th by neutron bombardment
d. the production of ^{239}U from ^{238}U by bombardment

16. Technetium-99 is prepared from ^{98}Mo. Molybdenum-98 combines with a neutron to give molybdenum-99, an unstable isotope that emits a β particle to yield an excited form of technetium-99, represented as ^{99}Tc*. This excited nucleus relaxes to the ground state, represented as ^{99}Tc, by emitting a γ ray. The ground state of ^{99}Tc then emits a β particle. Write the equations for each of these nuclear reactions.

17. The mass of the atom is 18.99840 amu.

a. Calculate its binding energy per atom in millions of electron volts.
b. Calculate its binding energy per nucleon.

18. For the reaction if 100.0 g of carbon reacts, what volume of nitrogen gas (N_2) is produced at 273K and 1 atm?

19. What are the types of radiation emitted by the nuclei of radioactive elements?

20. What changes occur to the atomic number and mass of a nucleus during each of the following decay scenarios?

a. an α particle is emitted
b. a β particle is emitted
c. γ radiation is emitted
d. a positron is emitted
e. an electron is captured

21. What is the change in the nucleus that results from the following decay scenarios?

a. emission of a β particle
b. emission of a β^+ particle
c. capture of an electron

22. Many nuclides with atomic numbers greater than 83 decay by processes such as electron emission. Explain the observation that the emissions from these unstable nuclides also normally include α particles.

23. Why is electron capture accompanied by the emission of an X-ray?

24. Explain, in terms of Figure 21.2, how unstable heavy nuclides (atomic number > 83) may decompose to form nuclides of greater stability (a) if they are below the band of stability and (b) if they are above the band of stability.

25. Which of the following nuclei is most likely to decay by positron emission? Explain your choice.

a. chromium-53
b. manganese-51
c. iron-59

26. The following nuclei do not lie in the band of stability. How would they be expected to decay? Explain your answer.

(a) $^{34}_{15}\mathrm{P}$
(b) $^{239}_{92}U$
(c) $^{38}_{20}\mathrm{Ca}$
(d) $^{3}_{1}\mathrm{H}$
(e) $^{245}_{94}\mathrm{Pu}$

27. The following nuclei do not lie in the band of stability. How would they be expected to decay?

(a) $^{28}_{15}\mathrm{P}$
(b) $^{235}_{92}\mathrm{U}$
(c) $^{37}_{20}\mathrm{Ca}$
(d) $^{9}_{3}\mathrm{Li}$
(e) $^{245}_{96}\mathrm{Cm}$

28. Predict by what mode(s) of spontaneous radioactive decay each of the following unstable isotopes might proceed:

(a) $^{6}_{2}\mathrm{He}$
(b) $^{60}_{30}\mathrm{Zn}$
(c) $^{235}_{91}\ \mathrm{Pa}$
(d) $^{241}_{94}\ \mathrm{Np}$
(e) $^{18}\ \mathrm{F}$
(f) $^{129}\mathrm{Ba}$
(g) $^{237}\mathrm{Pu}$

29. Write a nuclear reaction for each step in the formation of from which proceeds by a series of decay reactions involving the step-wise emission of α, β, β, α, α, α particles, in that order.

30. Write a nuclear reaction for each step in the formation of from which proceeds by a series of decay reactions involving the step-wise emission of α, α, α, α, β, β, α particles, in that order.

31. Define the term half-life and illustrate it with an example.

32. A 1.00 10^{-6}-g sample of nobelium, has a half-life of 55 seconds after it is formed. What is the percentage of remaining at the following times?

a. 5.0 min after it forms
b. 1.0 h after it forms

33. ^{239}Pu is a nuclear waste byproduct with a half-life of 24,000 y. What fraction of the ^{239}Pu present today will be present in 1000 y?

34. The isotope ^{208}Tl undergoes β decay with a half-life of 3.1 min.

a. What isotope is produced by the decay?
b. How long will it take for 99.0% of a sample of pure ^{208}Tl to decay?
c. What percentage of a sample of pure ^{208}Tl remains un-decayed after 1.0 h?

35. If 1.000 g of produces 0.0001 mL of the gas at STP (standard temperature and pressure) in 24 h, what is the half-life of ^{226}Ra in years?

36. The isotope is one of the extremely hazardous species in the residues from nuclear power generation. The strontium in a 0.500-g sample diminishes to 0.393 g in 10.0 y. Calculate the half-life.

37. Technetium-99 is often used for assessing heart, liver, and lung damage because certain technetium compounds are absorbed by damaged tissues. It has a half-life of 6.0 h. Calculate the rate constant for the decay of

38. What is the age of mummified primate skin that contains 8.25% of the original quantity of ^{14}C?

39. A sample of rock was found to contain 8.23 mg of rubidium-87 and 0.47 mg of strontium-87.

a. Calculate the age of the rock if the half-life of the decay of rubidium by β emission is $4.7\ 10^{10}$ y.
b. If some was initially present in the rock, would the rock be younger, older, or the same age as the age calculated in (a)? Explain your answer.

40. A laboratory investigation shows that a sample of uranium ore contains 5.37 mg of and 2.52 mg of Calculate the age of the ore. The half-life of is $4.5\ 10^{9}$ yr.

41. Plutonium was detected in trace amounts in natural uranium deposits by Glenn Seaborg and his associates in 1941. They proposed that the source of this ^{239}Pu was the capture of neutrons by ^{238}U nuclei. Why is this plutonium not likely to have been trapped at the time the solar system formed $4.7\ 10^{9}$ years ago?

42. A atom (mass = 7.0169 amu) decays into a atom (mass = 7.0160 amu) by electron capture. How much energy (in millions of electron volts, MeV) is produced by this reaction?

43. A atom (mass = 8.0246 amu) decays into a atom (mass = 8.0053 amu) by loss of a β^+ particle (mass = 0.00055 amu) or by electron capture. How much energy (in millions of electron volts) is produced by this reaction?

44. Isotopes such as ^{26}Al (half-life: $7.2\ 10^{5}$ years) are believed to have been present in our solar system as it formed, but have since decayed and are now called extinct nuclides.

a. ^{26}Al decays by β^+ emission or electron capture. Write the equations for these two nuclear transformations.
b. The earth was formed about $4.7\ 10^{9}$ (4.7 billion) years ago. How old was the earth when 99.999999% of the ^{26}Al originally present had decayed?

45. Write a balanced equation for each of the following nuclear reactions:

a. bismuth-212 decays into polonium-212
b. beryllium-8 and a positron are produced by the decay of an unstable nucleus
c. neptunium-239 forms from the reaction of uranium-238 with a neutron and then spontaneously converts into plutonium-239
d. strontium-90 decays into yttrium-90

46. Write a balanced equation for each of the following nuclear reactions:

a. mercury-180 decays into platinum-176
b. zirconium-90 and an electron are produced by the decay of an unstable nucleus
c. thorium-232 decays and produces an alpha particle and a radium-228 nucleus, which decays into actinium-228 by beta decay
d. neon-19 decays into fluorine-19

47. Write the balanced nuclear equation for the production of the following transuranium elements:

a. berkelium-244, made by the reaction of Am-241 and He-4
b. fermium-254, made by the reaction of Pu-239 with a large number of neutrons
c. lawrencium-257, made by the reaction of Cf-250 and B-11
d. dubnium-260, made by the reaction of Cf-249 and N-15

48. How does nuclear fission differ from nuclear fusion? Why are both of these processes exothermic?

49. Both fusion and fission are nuclear reactions. Why is a very high temperature required for fusion, but not for fission?

50.Cite the conditions necessary for a nuclear chain reaction to take place. Explain how it can be controlled to produce energy, but not produce an explosion.

51. Describe the components of a nuclear reactor.

52. In usual practice, both a moderator and control rods are necessary to operate a nuclear chain reaction safely for the purpose of energy production. Cite the function of each and explain why both are necessary.

53. Describe how the potential energy of uranium is converted into electrical energy in a nuclear power plant.

54. The mass of a hydrogen atom is 1.007825 amu; that of a tritium atom is 3.01605 amu; and that of an α particle is 4.00150 amu. How much energy in kilojoules per mole of produced is released by the following fusion reaction:

55. How can a radioactive nuclide be used to show that the equilibrium is a dynamic equilibrium?

56. Technetium-99m has a half-life of 6.01 hours. If a patient injected with technetium-99m is safe to leave the hospital once 75% of the dose has decayed, when is the patient allowed to leave?

57. Iodine that enters the body is stored in the thyroid gland from which it is released to control growth and metabolism. The thyroid can be imaged if iodine-131 is injected into the body. In larger doses, I-133 is also used as a means of treating cancer of the thyroid. I-131 has a half-life of 8.70 days and decays by β^- emission.

a. Write an equation for the decay.
b. How long will it take for 95.0% of a dose of I-131 to decay?

58. If a hospital were storing radioisotopes, what is the minimum containment needed to protect against:

a. cobalt-60 (a strong γ emitter used for irradiation)
b. molybdenum-99 (a beta emitter used to produce technetium-99 for imaging)

59. Based on what is known about Radon-222's primary decay method, why is inhalation so dangerous?

60. Given specimens uranium-232 ($t_{1/2}$ = 68.9 y) and uranium-233 ($t_{1/2}$ = 159,200 y) of equal mass, which one would have greater activity and why?

61. A scientist is studying a 2.234 g sample of thorium-229 ($t_{1/2}$ = 7340 y) in a laboratory.

a. What is its activity in Bq?
b. What is its activity in Ci?

62. Given specimens neon-24 ($t_{1/2}$ = 3.38 min) and bismuth-211 ($t_{1/2}$ = 2.14 min) of equal mass, which one would have greater activity and why?

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