

Chemical Kinetics Practice Problems And Answers

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Chemical Kinetics Practice Problems and Answers Mastering the Rate of Reactions Chemical kinetics is the study of reaction rates and reaction mechanisms. It's a fascinating field that delves into the intricate dance of molecules as they transform from reactants to products. Understanding chemical kinetics is crucial for a wide range of applications, from designing efficient catalysts to predicting the stability of materials. This article aims to provide a comprehensive set of practice problems and solutions designed to help you solidify your understanding of chemical kinetics. We'll cover essential concepts like rate laws, integrated rate laws, activation energy, and reaction mechanisms, along with examples that illustrate their applications.

1 Rate Laws and Rate Constants

The rate law for a reaction describes the relationship between the rate of reaction and the concentration of reactants. For example, the general rate law for a reaction $A + B \rightarrow C$ can be written as $\text{Rate} = k[A]^m[B]^n$. Where:

- Rate: The rate of the reaction
- k: The rate constant, a proportionality constant specific to the reaction at a given temperature
- A and B: The concentrations of reactants A and B
- m and n: The reaction orders with respect to A and B respectively, which are determined experimentally

Practice Problem 1 The following data were collected for the reaction $2A + B \rightarrow C$:

Experiment	A (M)	B (M)	Initial Rate (M/s)
1	0.10	0.10	0.0050
2	0.20	0.10	0.020
3	0.10	0.20	0.010

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

Solution 1

- Determine the order with respect to A. Compare experiments 1 and 2, where B is constant but A doubles. The rate quadruples, indicating a second-order dependence on A. $2^2 = 4$.
- Determine the order with respect to B. Compare experiments 1 and 3, where A is constant but B doubles. The rate doubles, indicating a first-order dependence on B. $2^1 = 2$.
- Write the rate law: $\text{Rate} = k[A]^2[B]$.
- Calculate the rate constant. Using data from any experiment, we can solve for k. Using experiment 1: $0.0050 \text{ M/s} = k(0.10 \text{ M})^2(0.10 \text{ M})$. $k = 0.50 \text{ M}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$.

2 Integrated Rate Laws

Integrated rate laws relate the concentration of reactants to time. The form of the integrated rate law depends on the order of the reaction.

For a first-order reaction, the integrated rate law is $\ln[A]_t = \ln[A]_0 - kt$. The half-life is $t_{1/2} = \frac{\ln 2}{k}$.

For a second-order reaction, the integrated rate law is $\frac{1}{[A]_t} = \frac{1}{[A]_0} + kt$. The half-life is $t_{1/2} = \frac{1}{k[A]_0}$.

Practice Problem 2 The decomposition of N_2O_5 is a first-order reaction with a rate constant of $6.8 \times 10^{-3} \text{ s}^{-1}$ at a certain temperature.

- Calculate the half-life of the reaction.
- If the initial concentration of N_2O_5 is 0.50 M , what will be the concentration after 2 minutes?

Solution 3

- Half-life $t_{1/2} = \frac{\ln 2}{k} = \frac{0.693}{6.8 \times 10^{-3} \text{ s}^{-1}} = 101.6 \text{ s}$.
- Concentration after 2 minutes: First, convert 2 minutes to seconds: $2 \text{ minutes} = 120 \text{ seconds}$. $\ln[\text{N}_2\text{O}_5]_t = \ln[\text{N}_2\text{O}_5]_0 - kt$. $\ln[\text{N}_2\text{O}_5]_t = \ln(0.50 \text{ M}) - (6.8 \times 10^{-3} \text{ s}^{-1})(120 \text{ s})$. $\ln[\text{N}_2\text{O}_5]_t = -0.816$. $[\text{N}_2\text{O}_5]_t = e^{-0.816} = 0.44 \text{ M}$.

3 Activation Energy and the Arrhenius Equation

The activation energy E_a is the minimum amount of energy required for reactants to overcome the energy barrier and form products. The Arrhenius equation relates the rate constant k to the activation energy and temperature T : $k = Ae^{-E_a/RT}$. Where:

- A: The preexponential factor, which is related to the frequency of collisions between molecules.
- R: The ideal gas constant, $8.314 \text{ J/mol}\cdot\text{K}$.

Practice Problem 3 The rate constant for a reaction is $1.2 \times 10^2 \text{ s}^{-1}$ at 25°C . The activation energy is 50 kJ/mol . Calculate the rate constant at 45°C .

Solution First, convert temperatures to Kelvin: $T_1 = 25^\circ\text{C} = 298.15 \text{ K}$, $T_2 = 45^\circ\text{C} = 318.15 \text{ K}$.

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