

35 Elementary Chemical Kinetics

Chemical reactions:

Reactants → Products

Essential treaties:

- ▶ Reaction rate and method to determine the reaction rate
- ▶ Concept of reaction mechanism in terms of elementary reaction

Elementary reaction

A + B → Product

Reaction rate

$$\text{Rate} = -\frac{dn_A}{dt} = -\frac{dn_B}{dt} = k n_A^1 n_B^1$$

Rate of reaction is proportional the concentration (=Mass action)

Elementary reaction is described by

- ▶ Integrated rate law and
- ▶ Numerical method (when integration is not possible)

35.1 Introduction to Kinetics

▶ **Transport phenomena**: Chemical composition is not changed.

▶ **Thermodynamics**:

- **Spontaneity** determined by $\Delta G < 0$

- Equilibrium composition of reactant and product determined by K

▶ **Kinetics**:

- How fast the reaction proceed?

- Time scale is described.

- Determine the rate of concentration change

(See Figure 1) in terms of temperature, pressure, concentration
 →Elucidate the reaction mechanism

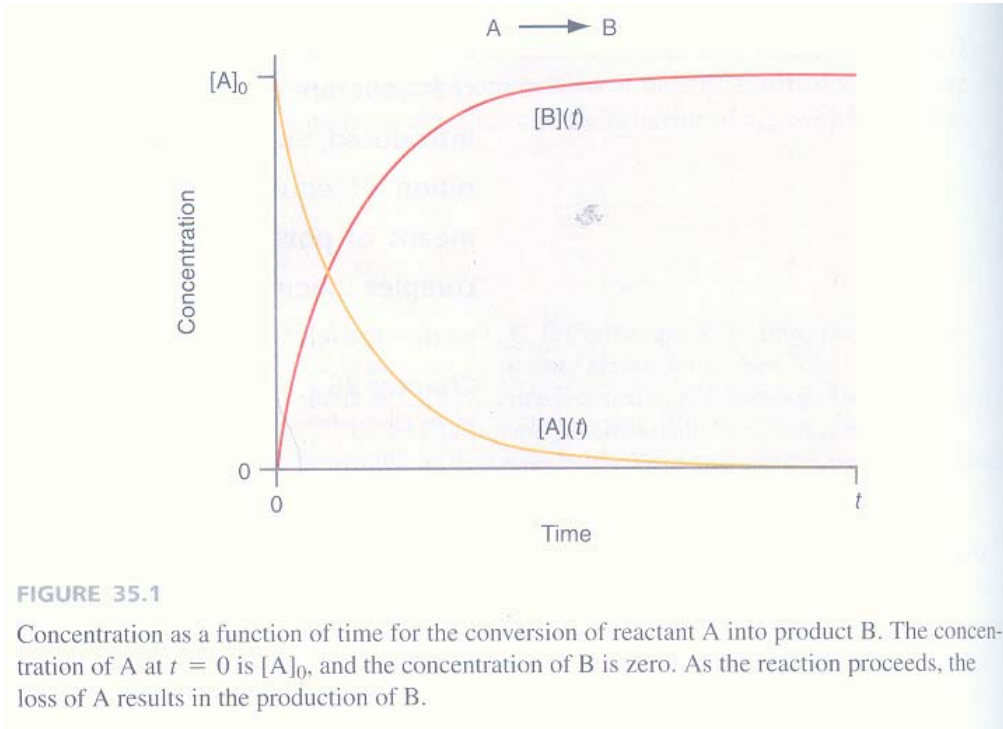


Figure 1

35.2 Reaction rate



A, B...= Chemical species

LHS=Reactants, RHS=Products

a, b.. = Stoichiometric coefficient

Number of moles of a species i at any time is given by:

$$n_i = n_i^0 + \nu_i \xi \quad (2)$$

n_i = Number of moles of species i at time t

n_i^0 = Number of moles of species i at time $t = 0$

$\xi = \text{Advancement of reaction (Extent of reaction)}$
 $= 0 \text{ at } t = 0$

$\nu_i < 0$ for reactant, > 0 for product

Change of moles of reactants and products are given by:

$$\frac{dn_i}{dt} = \nu_i \frac{d\xi}{dt} \quad (3)$$

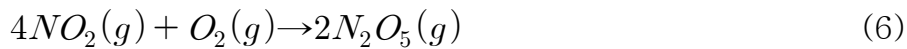
Reaction rate is defined by

$$\text{Rate} = \frac{d\xi}{dt} \quad (4)$$

Then the rate of reaction wrt the change of moles of species, i

$$\text{Rate} = \frac{1}{\nu_i} \frac{dn_i}{dt} \quad (5)$$

Example



$$\text{Rate} = -\frac{1}{4} \frac{dn_{NO_2}}{dt} = -\frac{dn_{O_2}}{dt} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{dn_{N_2O_5}}{dt} \quad (7)$$

See the sign convention for reactant and product.

- ▶ Rate of conversion of NO_2 is four times of O_2 .
- ▶ "Rate" is positive, even though the moles of reactant decreases w/ time, according to the sign convention!
- ▶ Rate as written is an **extensive property** since it depends on the system size (More n_{O_2} increases rate).
- ▶ Rate becomes **intensive property** by dividing (5) by the system volume:

$$R = \frac{\text{Rate}}{V} = \frac{1}{V} \left(\frac{1}{\nu_i} \frac{dn_i}{dt} \right) = \left(\frac{1}{\nu_i} \frac{d(n_i/V)}{dt} \right) = \frac{1}{\nu_i} \frac{dM_i}{dt} = \frac{1}{\nu_i} \frac{d[i]}{dt} \quad (8)$$

$$M_i = \frac{\text{moles of } i}{\ell \text{ of solution}} = \text{Molarity}$$

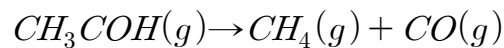
$$(\text{Note } m_i = \frac{\text{moles of } i}{\text{kg of solvent}} = \text{Molality})$$

NOTE

- ▶ R is an intensive property.
- ▶ Moles of species i per unit volume = molarity (M=moles/L)
- R has unit of M/t
- ▶ Eq (8) is the definition of rate of reaction at constant volume (Solution reaction).
- ▶ But it can also be used for gases as EXAMPLE 35.1.

EXAMPLE PROBLEM 35.1

The decomposition of acetaldehyde is given by the following balanced reaction:



Define the rate of reaction with respect to the pressure of the reactant.

Solution

Beginning with Equation (35.2) and focus in on the acetaldehyde reactant, we obtain

$$n_{\text{CH}_3\text{COH}} = n_{\text{CH}_3\text{COH}}^0 - \xi$$

Using the ideal gas law, the pressure of acetaldehyde is expressed as

$$P_{\text{CH}_3\text{COH}} = \frac{n_{\text{CH}_3\text{COH}}}{V} RT = [\text{CH}_3\text{COH}] RT$$

Therefore, the pressure is related to the concentration by the quantity RT . Substituting this result into Equation (35.8) with $\nu_i = -1$ yields

$$R = \frac{\text{Rate}}{V} = + \frac{1}{\nu_{\text{CH}_3\text{COH}}} \frac{d[\text{CH}_3\text{COH}]}{dt} = \frac{1}{-1} \frac{d[\text{CH}_3\text{COH}]}{dt}$$

$$= - \frac{1}{RT} \frac{dP_{\text{CH}_3\text{COH}}}{dt}$$

35.3 Rate Laws

Rate of reaction = $f(T, P, \text{Concentration})$

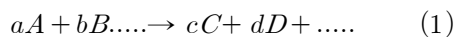
Homogeneous reaction (single phase reaction)

vs **heterogeneous** reaction (Reactions on catalyst surface)

Rate law = Empirical:

Homogeneous reactions are treated in this chapter:

For the reaction (1) (Irreversible)



$$R = k[A]^\alpha [B]^\beta \dots \quad (9)$$

k = Reaction rate constant = $f(T)$ but independent of concentration

$[A], [B], \dots$ = Concentration of A, B, \dots

α = reaction order wrt A , β = Reaction order wrt B

$\alpha + \beta \dots$ = Overall reaction order

$\alpha, \beta \dots$ Determined by experiment

If $\alpha = a$ and $\beta = b \rightarrow$ Called elementary reaction

If $\alpha \neq a$ and $\beta \neq b \rightarrow$ Called non-elementary reaction

Example

