

CHEMICAL KINETICS

Rate of Chemical Reaction





The rate of increase in concentration of any one of the products.

• Consider a hypothetical reaction, assuming that the volume of the system remains constant.

$R \rightarrow P$

One mole of the reactant R produces one mole of the product P.

 If [R]₁ and [P]₁ are the concentrations of R and P at time t₁ and [R]₂ and [P]₂ are their concentrations at time t₂, then

$$\Delta \mathbf{t} = \mathbf{t}_2 - \mathbf{t}_1$$
$$\Delta [\mathbf{R}] = [\mathbf{R}]_2 - [\mathbf{R}]_1$$
$$\Delta [\mathbf{P}] = [\mathbf{P}]_2 - [\mathbf{P}]_1$$

The square brackets in the above expressions are used to express molar concentration.

Rate of disappearance of R =
$$\frac{\text{Decrease in concentration of R}}{\text{Time taken}} = -\frac{\Delta[R]}{\Delta t}$$
 (1)

• Δ[R] is a negative quantity because the concentration of reactants is decreasing.

Rate of appearance of $P = \frac{\text{Increase in concentration of }P}{\text{Time taken}} = + \frac{\Delta [P]}{\Delta t}$ (2)

 Equations 1 and 2 represent the average rate of a reaction, r_{av}. This average rate depends on the change in concentration of reactants or products and the timetaken for that change to occur.





Units of Rate of a Reaction

- From Equations 1 and 2, it is clear that the units of rate are concentration time⁻¹.
- For example, if concentration is in mol L⁻¹ and time is in seconds, then the units are mol L⁻¹s⁻¹.
- In gaseous reactions, the concentration of gases is expressed in terms of their partial pressures; hence, the units of the rate equation will be atm s⁻¹.

Instantaneous Rate of Reaction

• Consider the hydrolysis of butyl chloride (C₄H₉Cl).

$$C_4H_9CI + H_2O \rightarrow C_4H_9OH + HCI$$

• We have provided the concentrations over different intervals of time below.

Time (s ^{−1})	0	50	100	150	200	300	400	700	800
Concentration (mol L ⁻¹)	0.100	0.0905	0.0820	0.0741	0.0671	0.0549	0.0439	0.0210	0.017

• We can determine the difference in concentration over different intervals of time, and thus, we determine the average rate by



dividing Δ [R] by Δ t.

- It can be seen from experimental data that the average rate falls from $1.90 \times 10^{-4} \text{ mol } L^{-1}s^{-1}$ to $0.4 \times 10^{-4} \text{ mol } L^{-1}s^{-1}$.
- However, the average rate cannot be used to predict the rate of reaction at a particular instant as itwould be constant for the time interval for which it is calculated.
- Hence, to express the rate at a particular moment of time, we determine the instantaneous rate.
- It is obtained when we consider the average rate at the smallest time interval, say dt, when Δt approaches zero.

Therefore, for an infinitesimally small dt, the instantaneous rate is given by





- By drawing the tangent at time t on either of the curves for the concentration of R versus time t or concentration of P versus time t and calculating the slope of the curve, we can determine the instantaneous rate of reaction.
- Hence, in this example, r_{inst} at 600 s is calculated by plotting the graph of the concentration of butylchloride as against time t.
- A tangent is drawn on the curve at a point t = 600 s.





$$\therefore r_{inst} \text{ at } 600 \text{ s} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{0.0165 - 0.037}{(800 - 400)} \end{bmatrix} \text{molL}^{-1} = 5.12 \times 10^{-5} \text{ molL}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1}$$

$$At \ t = 250 \text{ s} \qquad r_{inst} = 1.22 \times 10^{-4} \text{ molL}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$$

$$t = 350 \text{ s} \qquad r_{inst} = 1.0 \times 10^{-4} \text{ molL}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$$

$$t = 450 \text{ s} \qquad r_{inst} = 6.4 \times 10^{-5} \text{ molL}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$$

• Now consider a reaction,

$$Hg\left(I\right)+CI_{2}\left(g\right)\rightarrow HgCI_{2}\left(s\right)$$

Here, the stoichiometric coefficients of the reactants and products are the same; hence, the rate of reaction is given as

Rate of reaction =
$$-\frac{\Delta [Hg]}{\Delta t} = -\frac{\Delta [Cl_2]}{\Delta t} = \frac{\Delta [HgCl_2]}{\Delta t}$$

 $2HI(g) \rightarrow H_2(g) + I_2(g)$

Therefore, we can say that from the above equation that the rate of disappearance of any of the reactants is the same as the rate of appearance of the products.

• Consider another reaction,

In this reaction, two moles of HI decompose to produce one mole each of H2 and I2, i.e. the stoichiometric coefficients of reactants or products are not equal to one; hence, we need to divide the rate of disappearance of any of the reactants or the rate of appearance of products by their respective stoichiometric coefficients.

Because the rate of consumption of HI is twice the rate of formation of H2 or I2, to make them equal, the term Δ [HI] is divided by 2.

The rate of this reaction is given by





Rate of reaction =
$$-\frac{1}{2}\frac{\Delta[HI]}{\Delta t} = \frac{\Delta[H_2]}{\Delta t} = \frac{\Delta[I_2]}{\Delta t}$$

• For a gaseous reaction at constant temperature, concentration is directly proportional to the partial pressure of a species, and hence, the rate can be expressed as the rate of change in partial pressure of the reactant or the product.

Instantaneous Rate of Reaction



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