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18.1 CHEMICAL KINETICS

Chemical kinetics looks at: the rate at which reactions occur.

Reaction rate is: how fast a chem. rxn. will occur.

• change in concentrations of reactants + products in a certain amt of time.

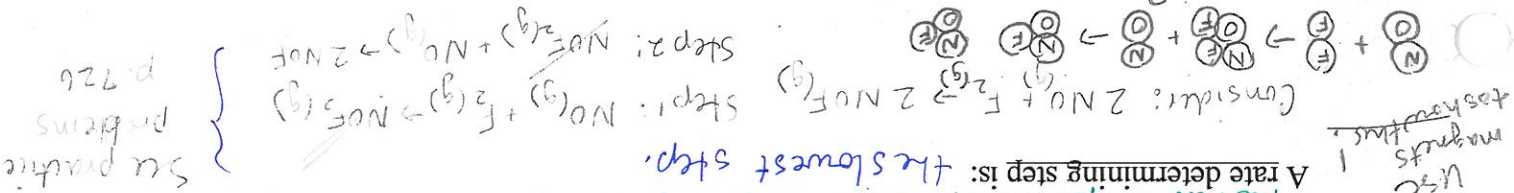
$$\text{avg rxn rate} = \frac{\Delta \text{reactant}}{\Delta \text{time}} \text{ or } \frac{\Delta \text{product}}{\Delta \text{time}} \text{ units: } M/s$$

* A reaction rate cannot be determined by a balanced equation because:

there are intermediate steps in rxn. All you see is the first step; the last in a balanced equation. The intermediate steps occur at different times.

The rearrangement of the atoms is complicated.

A rate determining step is: the slowest step.



Rate law: effect of concentration on rxn. rate.

Used to calculate rxn. rate for any given conc. of reactants

k is proportional to constant & if fixed at a certain temp.

k + y determined experimentally!

Molecules must collide in order to react; they must have enough energy so bonds will break + new bonds will form.

They must also have the proper orientation.

Activation energy is the energy needed to start a reaction.

Transition state. Lasts $\approx 10^{-13}$ sec.

slow, slow, slow reactants between c + o at room temp. Collision too slow to break C-C + O-O bonds.

Exothermic

Endothermic

Activation Energy is: the energy needed to start a reaction.

Summary: Why do different reactions occur at different rates?

Energy! Every reaction has particles which must have sufficient energy to overcome the barrier at any given time during the rxn.

Each reaction has its own activation energy.

Complex: unstable

atoms that form

peak of act-energy

see transparency (from data p. 723)

FACTORS AFFECTING REACTION RATES

Name and describe the five factors that affect reaction rates.

1) Nature of Reactants

- some reactants require a lot of rearranging before the products are formed.
- these will be slow at room temp.
- these usually have many covalent bonds to break.

ie. portland cement takes weeks to harden. It sets up a complex 3-D lattice w/ alternating silicon & O₂ atoms.

2) Temperature

- increases the fraction of particles that collide w/ sufficient KE to form the activation complex.

Chalk
light sticks
(see part 1)

- usually a 10°C will double or triple reaction rate.

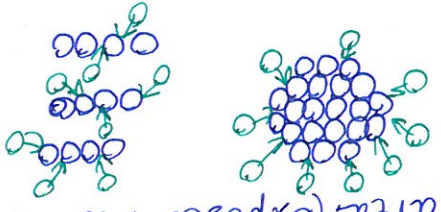
- ↑ freq of collisions
- ie. starter flame touches carbon atoms of C + O collide w/ higher energy & frequency. Some high enough to form CO₂.

3) Concentration

- more reactants molecules = more collisions

4) Surface Area

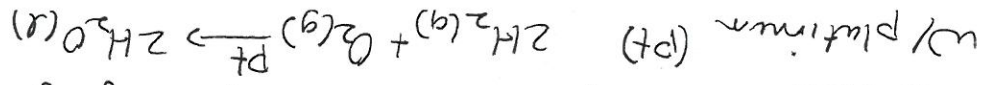
- the greater the surface area (exposed molecules) the better the chance of reacting.
- coal chunks - okay
- coal dust - explosive



5) Catalysts

- speed up chem rxn w/o being used up.

Combustion of H₂ + O₂ at room temp negligible but



Body uses catalysts since it would be dead if it could be cooled enough to react.

Lycopodium demo!