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"Chemical kinetics, also known as reaction kinetics, is the branch of physical chemistry that is concerned with understanding the rates of chemical reactions. It involves the experimental study of reaction rates in order to infer about the kinetic mechanisms for chemical conversion of reactants into products."













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Order of a reaction	Molecularity
It is "the sum of the powers to which the concentration or pressure of the reactants are raised in the rate law expression".	It is "the number of ions or molecules or atoms that take part in the rate-determining step" (i.e., forming the activated complex).
It can either be a whole number or a fraction.	It is always a whole number.
It is an experimental quantity. Nothing to do with stoichiometry.	It is determined by looking at the reaction mechanism. A theoretical concept.
It is assigned for overall reaction.	It is assigned for each elementary step of the mechanism.
Its value can be negative.	It can never have a negative value.
It depends on pressure, temperature and concentration.	It does not depend on pressure, temperature and concentration.
It gives the information about the slowest step and hence explain the mechanism of a reaction.	It does not give details about the mechanism of a reaction.
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Determination of Order of Reaction
(i) Integration method
(ii) Half-life method *or* Fractional change method
(iii) Isolation method
(iv) van't Hoff's differential method
(v) Graphical method
(vi) Method of ratio variation





(iii) Isolation method (By Ostwald in 1902)

In this method the concentration of all the reactants except one is taken in excess and the order of reaction is then determined by any method *w.r.t.* that reactant which is not taken in excess.

Then is another separate experiment the concentration of any other reactant is not taken in excess, keeping the concentration of all other reactants in excess. The order of reaction is again determined.

The reactant which is not taken in excess is said to be isolated from other reactants which are taken in excess.

Example: $H_2 + I_2 \longrightarrow 2HI$

It is pseudo first order w.r.t. H_2 when I_2 is large and pseudo first order w.r.t. I_2 when H_2 is in large excess.

Advantage: The mode of action of each component can be determined separately and disturbing effects can be traced to the origin.





(vi) Method of Ratio variation

A complex reaction involving different substances may be studied by appreciably increasing the concentration of the reactant, one at a time and observing the reaction rate over a period.

Consider the reaction:

A + B — Products

Rate of reaction,
$$r = \frac{dx}{dt} = k[A]^m [B]^n$$

The index m can be determined by doubling [A], while keeping [B] constant and determining experimentally the change in the rate

 $\frac{\left(\frac{\Delta x}{\Delta t}\right)_2}{\left(\frac{\Delta x}{\Delta t}\right)_1} = \frac{k[A]^m 2^m [B]^n}{k[A]^m [B]^n} = 2^m$ The same procedure is adopted for evaluating 'n'. The overall order of reaction = m+n 39



The basic concept of Arrhenius theory is that "the passive or non-active molecules become active due to the absorption of heat energy.









Temperature Coefficient

"The ratio of rate constants of a reaction at two temperatures differing by 10K is known as Temperature coefficient."

$$r \frac{k_{T+10K}}{k_T} = -\frac{E_a}{R} \left[\frac{1}{T+10} - \frac{1}{T} \right]$$

$$ln \frac{k_{T+10K}}{k_{T}} = -\frac{E_{a}}{R} \left[\frac{1 - 1 - 10}{T(T+10)} \right]$$
$$\frac{10E_{a}}{10E_{a}}$$

k_τ

At ordinary temperatures (300K), for several reactions, $E_a = 80 \ k J mol^{-1}$

 $\frac{k_{T+10K}}{k_T} = \exp\left[\frac{10 \times 80000}{8.314 \times 300 \times 310}\right] = e^{1.03} = 2.8$

RT(T+10)

For most of the reactions the observe q_5 value usually lies between 2 and 3.

Activation energy:

Threshold energy: "The minimum amount of energy which must be associated with molecules so that mutual collisions may result a chemical reaction."

Molecules possessing energy less than threshold energy do not react on collisions.

The number of molecules possessing energy equal to or in excess of threshold energy increase appreciably even with a small rise in temperature. Thus rate of reaction increases.

The excess energy that the reactant molecules having energy less than the threshold energy must acquire in order to react to give the final products is known as Activation energy.

Activation energy = Threshold energy – Energy possessed by the molecules initially

The energy barrier has to be crossed before the reactants can yield products. It determines the magnitude of threshold energy.

The molecules in the activated state are under condition of acute strain. The bond between atoms of the reacting molecules become very feeble. Thus, the probability of formation of new bonds between atoms of the molecules of the reactants is fairly strong.

 $E_{a_f} = E_a \quad E_{a_b} > E_a$

Heat of reaction, $\Delta E = E_2 - E_1$

For exothermic reaction, $\Delta E = -ve$ and for endothermic reaction, $\Delta E = +ve$

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Effect of Catalyst

A catalyst is a substance which can increase the rate of reaction, but itself remains unchanged in amount and chemical composition at the end of the reaction.

When catalyst is added a new reaction path with lower energy barrier is obtained.

As the energy barrier is reduced in magnitude, a large number of reactant molecules can over come it. This increases the reaction rate.













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There are certain reactions where the experimental and calculated values of E_a differ. Ex: Reaction between C_2H_5OH and $(CH_3CO)_2O$; combination of two molecules of ethylene etc.

In polymerization of Ethylene, the reaction occurs only once in 2000 collisions between activated molecules.

In polymerization of 1,3 – butadiene, the reaction occurs only once in about 10,000 collisions between activated molecules.

Steric Factor

There are certain reactions where the experimental and calculated values of E_a differ. For reactions between complicated molecules, the observed rate is found to be much smaller than the theoretically predicated rate.

This discrepancy is explained by the fact that the colliding molecule is treated as a hard sphere having no internal energy.



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Again the spherical model ignores the dependence of the effectiveness of a collision don the relative orientation of colliding molecules.

> Also the activation energy has been treated as though it were related entirely to translational motion, ignoring the effect of rotational and vibrational motions.

For these reasons, collision theory is only to reactions between very simple gaseous molecules.

.:. Steric factor 'p' is introduced into equation for the bio molecular rate constant in order to take account of the orientational requirement.

$\therefore \mathbf{k} = pz \ e^{-E_a/RT}$

The Steric factor is equal to the fraction of molecular collisions in which the molecules A and B posses the relation orientation necessary for the reaction.

Lindemann Theory of Unimolecular Reactions

According to Lindemann theory, a unimolecular reaction A — P, proceeds via following mechanism:

$$A + A \xrightarrow{k_1} A^* + A$$

$$A^* \xrightarrow{k_2} P$$

Here **A*** is the energized **A** molecule which has acquired sufficient vibrational energy to enable it to isomerise or decompose.

A* is simply a molecule in higher vibrational energy level and not activated molecule.

In the first step, the kinetic energy of second molecule is transferred in to the vibrational energy of the first during collision. The second molecule need not to be the same molecule. It could be a product molecule or a foreign molecule present in the system. However, it does not appear in the stoichiometry.

A* can either be de-energised back to **A** in which the vibrational energy is transferred to the kinetic energy of A or be decomposed or isomerised to products; in which the excess vibrational energy is used to break the appropriate chemical bonds.

In the Lindemann mechanism, a time lag exists between the energisation of A to A*, and the decomposition or isomerisation of A* to P. During this time lag, A* can either be deenergised back to A.

According to the stationary or steady state principle, whenever a short-lined reaction intermediate occurs, its rate of formation can be taken as equal to its rate of disappearance.

Here A* is short-lined species.

Its rate of formation = $k_1[A]^2$

Rate of decomposition= $k_{-1}[A^*][A] + k_2[A^*]$

Applying steady state approximation,

 $k_1[A]^2 = k_{-1}[A^*][A] + k_2[A^*]$









Qualitative Treatment of Transition State Theory

According to TST, the rate of reaction is the number of activated complexes passing per second over the top of potential energy barrier.

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Postulates

(i) As the reacting molecules approach to each other, there is a continuous series of changes in bond distance. These changes are accompanied by energy changes.

(ii) The reactant molecules are changed into an energy rich intermediate called activated complex or transition state.



(iii) The activated complex may be formed by some loose association or bonding of reactant molecules with necessary rearrangement of valence bonds and energy.

If it is a unimolecular reaction, rearrangement of atoms and redistribution of energy produce activated complex.

(iv) The activated complex, though unstable, has a transient existence. It is treated formally as a definite molecule with an independent entity.

The activated complex remains in equilibrium with the reactants and its potential energy is minimum. Finally the activated complex decomposes into products.

(v) The activation energy is the additional energy which the reacting molecule must acquire to form the activated complex.

Comparision of TST with Collision Theory

(i) From TST,
$$k = \frac{RI}{N_{A}h} e^{-\Delta H^{*}/RT} e^{-\Delta S^{*}/R}$$

Where, ΔH^* = Standard enthalpy change, i.e., Standard heat of activation. ΔS^* = Standard entropy of activation.

From Collision theory, $k = pz e^{-E_a/RT}$

$$\Rightarrow pz = \frac{RT}{N_A h} e^{-\Delta S^*/R} \qquad [\because E_a = \Delta H^*]$$
$$\Rightarrow p = \frac{RT}{N_A z h} e^{-\Delta S^*/R}$$

Thus, Steric factor p is related to entropy of activation.

(ii) In Collision theory, no account is taken of the internal motions of the reactant molecules, where as, in TST, account is taken of the internal degrees of freedom of reactant molecules.(iii) The concept of entropy of activation in TST is very useful for qualitative purposes. Thus for bimolecular processes, this is an advantage over collision theory.