

CHEMISTRY EQUATIONS & ANSWERS™

Essential Tool for Chemistry Concepts, Variables & Equations, Including Sample Problems, Common Pitfalls & Helpful Hints

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Your success in chemistry depends on your ability to solve numerical problems.

BASIC SKILLS

CALCULATOR SURVIVAL

- Become familiar with your calculator **before** the exam; make sure you can multiply, divide, add, subtract and use all needed functions.
- Calculators never make mistakes; they take your input (intended & accidental) and give an answer.
- Look at the answer; does it make sense?
- Do a quick estimate to check your work.
 Sample: $4.34 \times 7.68 / (1.05 \times 9.8)$ is roughly $4 \times 8 / (1 \times 10)$ or **3.2**; the actual answer: **3.24**.



HOW TO DO WORD PROBLEMS

- **Read** and evaluate the question **before** you start plugging numbers into the calculator.
- Identify the variables, constants and equations.
- Write out units of the variables and constants.
- Work out the unit before the number.
- You may have extra information, or you may need to obtain constants from your text.

HOW TO WORK WITH UNITS

All numerical data has units. In chemistry, we use metric "SI" units.

Pitfall: If the unit is wrong, the answer is wrong!

1. Unit prefixes: Denote powers of "10"

tera T 10^{12}	giga G 10^9	mega M 10^6
kilo k 10^3	deci d 10^{-1}	centi c 10^{-2}
milli m 10^{-3}	micro μ 10^{-6}	nano n 10^{-9}
pico p 10^{-12}	femto f 10^{-15}	

2. Fundamental Units

- **Mass:** kilogram (kg)
- **Length:** meter (m)
- **Temperature:** Kelvin (K)
- **Time:** second (s)
- **Amount** of a substance: mole
- **Electric charge:** coulomb, (C)



3. Derived Units

- **Area:** length squared, m^2
- **Volume:** length cubed, m^3 ; 1 liter (L) = 1 dm^3
- **Density:** mass/volume; common unit kg/m^3
- **Speed:** distance/time; common unit m/s
- **Electric current:** ampere (A) = $1 \text{ C}/s$
- **Force:** Newton (N) = $1 \text{ kg m}/s^2$
- **Energy:** Joule (J) = $1 \text{ kg m}^2/s^2$
- **Pressure:** Pascal (Pa) = $1 \text{ kg}/(m \text{ s}^2)$

4. Fundamental Constants

Mass	in amu (g/mole)	in kg
electron:	5.486×10^{-4}	9.10939×10^{-31}
proton:	1.007276	1.67262×10^{-27}
neutron:	1.008664	1.67493×10^{-27}

Electronic charge: $1.6022 \times 10^{-19} \text{ C}$
Avogadro's number, N_A : 6.02214×10^{23}
Ideal gas constant, R:

R, for gas calculation: $0.082 \text{ L atm}/(\text{K mol})$
R, for energy calculation: $8.314510 \text{ J}/(\text{K mol})$

Faraday Constant, \mathcal{F} : $96,485 \text{ C/mol}$
Planck's Constant, h: $6.626 \times 10^{-34} \text{ J s}$
Speed of Light, c: $2.9979 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s}$

BASIC SKILLS cont.

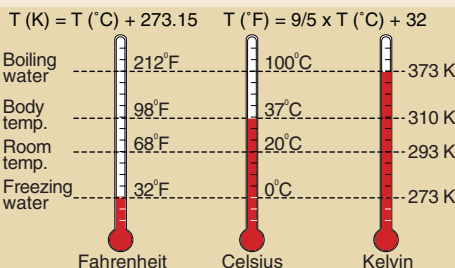
HOW TO CONVERT DATA

The unit & numerical value are **changed** using a **conversion factor or equation**.

HOW TO USE EQUATIONS FOR DATA CONVERSION

Sample: Convert a temperature of 45°C to $^\circ\text{F}$ and Kelvin:

Given: $K = ^\circ\text{C} + 273.15$
Calculate: Temperature in K = $45^\circ\text{C} + 273.15$
= 318.15 K
Given: $^\circ\text{F} = 9/5 ^\circ\text{C} + 32$
Calculate: Temperature in $^\circ\text{F} = 9/5 \times 45 ^\circ\text{C} + 32$
= $81 + 32 = 113 ^\circ\text{F}$



HOW TO USE A CONVERSION FACTOR

Sample: "1 hour = 60 minutes" gives two conversion factors:

1. Multiply by "1 hour/60 minutes" to convert minutes to hours.
2. Multiply by "60 minutes/1 hour" to convert hours to minutes.

Sample: Determine the number of hours in 45 minutes.

Given: Conversion factor is "1 hour/60 minutes."
Calculate: Time = 45 minutes \times (1 hour/60 minutes)
= 0.75 hour (minutes cancel).

Common conversions:

1 calorie = 4.184 J 1 kg = 2.2 lb 1 m = 1.1 yd
1 qt = 0.9464 L 1 angstrom (\AA) = $1 \times 10^{-10} \text{ m}$
1 atm = $1.01325 \times 10^5 \text{ Pa}$ 1 atm = 760 mm Hg

Pitfall: Equations and conversion factors have units. Beware of inverting conversion factors.

MATH REVIEW

HOW TO WORK WITH ALGEBRAIC EQUATIONS

Give equal treatment to each side.

• **Add or subtract:**

Sample: Given, $x = y$, then, $4 + x = 4 + y$.

• **Multiply or divide:**

Sample: Given, $x = y$, then, $4x = 4y$ and $x/5 = y/5$.
Given: $a = b + 4$, then $a/(x - 2) = (b + 4)/(x - 2)$, $x \neq 2$.

Pitfall: Dividing by zero is not allowed.

HOW TO WORK WITH SCIENTIFIC NOTATION

The exponent gives the power of 10.

Sample: $0.00045 = 4.5 \times 10^{-4}$; $1345 = 1.345 \times 10^3$

Sample chemical applications: Molecule diameters are 10^{-10} m ; 1 liter of water contains about 1×10^{26} atoms.

MATH REVIEW cont.

HOW TO USE LOGARITHMS & EXPONENTS

• **Common logarithm, \log_{10} :** base "10."

Denotes number or function in powers of 10.

Sample: Given, $y = 10^6$, then $\log_{10} y = 6$.

• **Natural logarithm, \ln :** base "e" ($e = 2.718281829$). Denotes number or function in powers of "e."

Sample: Given, $z = e^5$, then $\ln z = 5$.

• **Products:** $\log(xy) = \log x + \log y$

• **Powers:** $\log(x^n) = n \log(x)$

• **Multiplication:** Add exponents from each term:

Sample: $10^5 \times 10^3 = 10^{(5+3)} = 10^8$.

• **Division:** Subtract denominator exponents from numerator exponents:

Sample: $10^5/10^3 = 10^{(5-3)} = 10^2$.

• **Square root:** $\sqrt{a} = a^{1/2}$

• **Inverse:** $1/x = x^{-1}$

Pitfall: Your calculator has separate keys for $\ln x$ (base e), $\log x$ (base 10), 10^x and e^x .

Sample chemical applications: pH of acid and base.

HOW TO CALCULATE ROOTS OF A POLYNOMIAL

An equation of the form: $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$ has 2 solutions or roots, given by the **quadratic formula**:

$$\frac{-b + \sqrt{(b^2 - 4ac)}/2a \quad \text{Root 1}$$

$$\frac{-b - \sqrt{(b^2 - 4ac)}/2a \quad \text{Root 2}$$

Sample: Determine the roots for the equation:

$$3x^2 + 4x + 1 = 0.$$

Given: $a = 3$, $b = 4$, $c = 1$

$$\text{Calculate: Root 1} = \frac{-4 + \sqrt{(4^2 - 4 \times 3 \times 1)}}{(2 \times 3)}$$

$$= \frac{-4 + \sqrt{(16 - 12)}}{6} = \frac{-4 + 2}{6} = -1/3$$

$$\text{Calculate: Root 2} = \frac{-4 - \sqrt{(16 - 12)}}{6} = \frac{-4 - 2}{6} = -1$$

Pitfall: Beware round-off error. Substitute the roots into the equation to verify results.

Sample chemical applications: Weak acids, weak bases, buffers, chemical equilibrium.

HOW TO DETERMINE THE EQUATION OF A LINE

LINEAR EQUATION: $y = mx + b$

m : **slope** of the line; $m = \Delta y/\Delta x$

b : **y-intercept**, the line crosses the y-axis at "b"; $b = y_i - mx_i$

Sample: Determine the equation of a line using (x, y) data.

Given: $x: -2 \quad -1 \quad 0 \quad 1 \quad 2 \quad 3$
 $y: -2 \quad 1 \quad 4 \quad 7 \quad 10 \quad 13$

$$\text{Calculate: Slope} = m = \Delta y/\Delta x$$

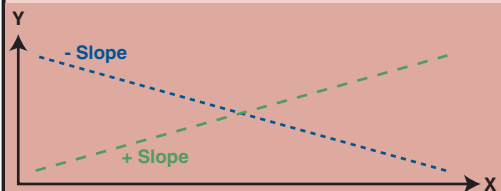
$$= [13 - (-2)]/[3 - (-2)] = 15/5 = 3$$

$$\text{Calculate: y-intercept} = b = y_i - mx_i$$

$$= (-2) - 3 \times (-2) = -2 + 6 = 4$$

The equation of the line is $y = 3x + 4$.

Sample chemical applications: Gas calculations; Beer's Law; analyzing reaction-rate data.



STATISTICS

HOW TO CALCULATE EXPERIMENTAL ERROR

• **Accuracy:** The agreement between experimental data and a known value.

• **Error:** A measure of accuracy:
Error = (experiment value - known value).

$$\text{Relative error} = \frac{\text{Error}}{\text{known value}}$$

$$\% \text{ error} = \text{relative error} \times 100\%$$

📎 **Sample:** A student finds the mass of an object to be 5.51g; the correct value is 5.80g. What is the % error?

Given: experimental value = 5.51g;

known value = 5.80g.

Calculate: error = (exp. value - known value)
= 5.51 - 5.80g = -0.29g

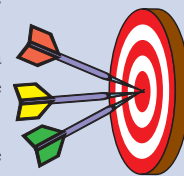
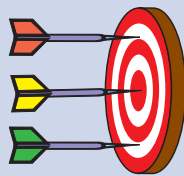
Calculate: relative error = error/known value
= -0.29g/5.8g = -0.050

Calculate: % error = relative error x 100%
= -0.05 x 100% = -5.0%

In this case, we undershoot the known value by 5%.

• **Precision:** The degree to which a set of experimental values agree with each other.

⚠️ **Pitfall:** A set of data can be precise, but have a large experimental error.



CALCULATING MEAN & DEVIATION

For a set of numbers, $\{x_1, x_2, x_3 \dots x_j\}$:

• The **mean**, or average value, is the sum of all "x" divided by "j," the # of entries.

• The deviation, Δ_i , for each x_i is $x_i - \text{mean}$; Δ_i can be positive or negative.

📎 **Sample:** Determine the mean and deviations for the following data: {25, 28, 31, 35, 43, 48}.

$$\text{Mean} = (25 + 28 + 31 + 35 + 43 + 48)/6 = 35$$

x_i	25	28	31	35	43	48
Δ_i	25-35	28-35	31-35	35-35	43-35	48-35
Δ_i	-10	-7	-4	0	+8	+13

Note: Sum of $\Delta_i = 0$.

HOW TO IDENTIFY SIGNIFICANT FIGURES (sig. figs.)

• Record all certain digits and one uncertain or estimated digit for a measurement.

• Note: A calculator often includes extra digits in a calculation.

• For a multi-step problem, keep 1 or 2 extra digits; then, round off the **final** answer.

Rules for the # of sig. figs. in the final answer:

• For **addition** or subtraction: Use the **least** number of decimal places found in the data.

📎 **Sample:** 10.102 + 5.03 = 15.13 (2 dec. places).

• For **multiplication** or **division**: The final answer should have same # of sig. figs. as the entry with the **fewest** sig. figs.

📎 **Sample:** 5.46200 x 4.00 = 21.8 (3 sig. figs.).

• **Rounding-off data:** Round up if the last **uncertain** digit is 6,7,8,9; round down if it is 0,1,2,3,4. If it is a 5: The **arbitrary** convention is to round up if the last **certain** digit is odd, round down if it is even.

📎 **Sample:** 0.085 => 0.08; 0.035 => 0.04

0.453 => 0.45 0.248 => 0.25

ATOMIC DATA

• Atomic Number: $Z = \#$ of protons.

• Atomic Mass Number: $A = \#$ of protons + # of neutrons.

• A and Z are **integers**. The actual particle mass is given in kg or **amu (g/mole)**. The actual mass is **close** in value to A .

HOW TO CALCULATE NUCLEAR BINDING ENERGY

The nuclear mass does not equal the sum of proton and neutron masses. The mass

difference (Δm , kg/mole) is $\Delta E = \Delta m c^2$

due to the nuclear binding

energy (ΔE , J):

📎 **Sample:** Calculate the binding energy for He-4.

Given: He-4 has 2 protons and 2 neutrons

Given: Proton particle mass: 2 x 1.00728 amu

Given: Neutron particle mass: 2 x 1.00866 amu

Calculate: Total particle mass = Sum of proton and neutron particle mass = 4.03188 amu

Given: Actual mass of He-4 nucleus: 4.00150 amu

Calculate: $\Delta m = \text{Particle mass} - \text{He-4 mass}$
= 0.03038 amu = 0.03038 g/mole

Convert to kg: $\Delta m = 3.038 \times 10^{-5}$ kg/mole

Calculate: $\Delta E = \Delta m c^2$
= 3.038×10^{-5} kg/mole x $(3.00 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s})^2$
= 2.73×10^{12} J/mole

⚠️ **Pitfall:** Watch units of mass; you can work in kg/particle or amu (g/mole). Note: J = kg m²/s².

CALCULATING ATOMIC WEIGHT

For an element with **two isotopes**:

$$\text{Atomic wt} = \text{mass}_a \times \text{fract}_a + \text{mass}_b \times \text{fract}_b$$

📎 **Sample:** Calculate the atomic weight for chlorine.

Given: Chlorine has two isotopes

	mass	fractional abundance
Cl-35	34.968852	0.7577
Cl-37	36.965303	0.2423

Calculate: Atomic wt = $\text{mass}_a \times \text{fract}_a + \text{mass}_b \times \text{fract}_b$
= $34.968853 \times 0.7577 + 36.965303 \times 0.2423$
= 26.496 + 8.9566
= 35.45 amu (4 sig. figs.)

⚠️ **Pitfall:** Use the actual mass of the nucleus, not the mass number.

HOW TO CALCULATE PROPERTIES OF ELECTROMAGNETIC RADIATION

Light waves are characterized by **wavelength** (λ , in m), **frequency** (ν , in Hertz, s⁻¹) and the speed of light (c , in m/s). The energy is carried in **photons**.

$$\lambda \nu = c$$

$$\text{Energy of a photon} = h\nu$$

📎 **Sample:** Calculate the ν and energy for λ of 500 nm.

Given: $\lambda = 500$ nm and $1 \text{ nm} = 1 \times 10^{-9}$ m

Convert λ to m: $\lambda = 500 \text{ nm} = 5.00 \times 10^{-7}$ m

Calculate: $\nu = c/\lambda = 3.00 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s} / 5.00 \times 10^{-7} \text{ m}$
= $6.00 \times 10^{14} \text{ s}^{-1}$ (Hertz)

Calculate: energy = $h\nu$
= $6.626 \times 10^{-34} \text{ J s} \times 6.00 \times 10^{14} \text{ s}^{-1}$
= $3.98 \times 10^{-19} \text{ J}$ (s cancels)

⚠️ **Pitfall:** The unit on λ should match the unit of c .

CHEMICAL FORMULAS & MOLES

The **formula** and **name** denote elements and relative composition in the compound. A **balanced** equation conserves **atoms** and **moles** of each element.

• One **mole** is Avogadro's number, N_A (6.023×10^{23}), of atoms or molecules.

• The **atomic weight**, the mass in grams, of one mole of the atomic element as found in nature, is often given on the Periodic Table, along with the atomic number and element symbol.

• The **molar mass** of a compound is the mass, in grams, of 1 mole of the substance.

HOW TO CALCULATE MOLAR MASS FROM THE FORMULA

Given: The **atomic weight** (at.wt.) of each element in the compound and the formula coefficients.

Calculate: Molar mass = sum of each element's atomic weight multiplied by the formula coefficient.

📎 **Sample: Simple case:** MgCl_2 .

Given: Mg at.wt.: 24.305 g/mole; coefficient = 1

Cl at.wt.: 35.453 g/mole; coefficient = 2

Calculate: Molar mass = 1 x Mg at.wt. + 2 x Cl at.wt.
= 1 x 24.305 + 2 x 35.453
= 95.211 g/mole

📎 **Sample: Complex case:** $\text{Mg}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \times 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$.

Given: Mg at.wt.: 24.305 g/mole; coefficient = 1

N at.wt.: 14.007 g/mole; coefficient = 2

O at.wt.: 15.9994 g/mole; coefficient = 8

H at.wt.: 1.008 g/mole; coefficient = 4

Calculate: Molar mass = 1 x Mg at.wt. + 2 x N at.wt. + 8 x O at.wt. + 4 x H at.wt.
= 24.305 + 2 x 14.007
+ 8 x 15.9994 + 4 x 1.008
= 24.305 + 28.014
+ 127.9952 + 4.032
= 184.35 g/mole

⚠️ **Pitfall:** It is easy to miscount the atoms in polyatomic ions or waters of hydration.

HOW TO CALCULATE ELEMENTAL % COMP

The portion of the mass coming from each element in the compound; the %-comps sum to 100%.

Given: Chemical formula, compound molar mass and atomic weights for each element.

Step 1: Sum the formula coefficients to determine the number of atoms of each element.

Step 2: The mass of each element = at.wt. x number of atoms of that element.

Calculate: % comp for element A = $100\% \times \text{mass of A} / \text{compound molar mass}$

📎 **Sample:** Determine the elemental % comp of Mg and Cl in MgCl_2 .

Given: MgCl_2 , molar mass = 95.21 g/mole;

Mg at.wt. = 24.305 g/mole;

Cl at.wt. = 35.453 g/mole

Step 1: MgCl_2 has 1 atom of Mg

MgCl_2 has 2 atoms of Cl

Step 2: Mass of Mg = 24.305 g/mole x 1

= 24.305 g/mole

Mass of Cl = 35.453 g/mole x 2

= 70.906 g/mole

Calculate: **Mg % comp**

$$= 100\% \times 24.305/95.21$$

$$= 25.53\% \text{ Mg}$$

Calculate: **Cl % comp**

$$= 100\% \times 70.906/95.21 = 74.47\%$$

Sum of elemental % comp

$$= 25.53\% + 74.47\% = 100.00\%$$

⚠️ **Pitfall:** In a complex formula, the same element may exist in different ions.

CHEMICAL FORMULAS & MOLES cont.

HOW TO CALCULATE THE # OF MOLECULES

Given: x , the mass of the sample, and the molar mass of the material

Calculate: Number of moles = $\frac{x \text{ (in g)}}{\text{molar mass (g/mole)}}$

Calculate: Number of molecules = # of moles \times Avogadro's number (N_A)

Sample: Determine the number of moles and the number of water molecules in 5.00 grams of water vapor.

Given: 5.00 g of H_2O ; molar mass = 18.015 g/mole

Calculate: # of moles = $5.00g H_2O / 18.015g/mole H_2O = 0.278$ moles H_2O

Calculate: # of molecules = 0.278 moles $H_2O \times 6.022 \times 10^{23}$ molecules/mole = 1.67×10^{23} H_2O molecules

This could also be determined in a single calculation: $5.00g \times 1 \text{ mole} / 18.015g \times N_A \text{ molecules/mole} = 1.67 \times 10^{23}$ molecules

HOW TO CALCULATE EMPIRICAL FORMULAS

Given: % composition and atomic weights, start by converting “%” to “grams of element”; assume you have 100 g of sample.

Calculate: Moles for each element = grams of element \div atomic weight of the element.

Calculate: The formula coefficient for each element = number of moles \div the smaller number of moles calculated in the previous step.

To determine the **empirical formula**, multiply each coefficient by a number to give whole # coefficient.

Sample: Determine the empirical formula for a compound containing 75% C & 25 % H by mass.

Given: Atomic weights: C at.wt. = 12.011;

H at.wt. = 1.008.

Assume you have 75 g of C and 25 g of H (total mass = 100 g).

Calculate: The number of moles for each element:
75 g of C / 12.011g/mole C = 6.24 moles of C

25g of H / 1.008 g/mole H = 24.8 moles of H.

Calculate: The formula coefficient for each element:
C formula coefficient: $6.24 / 6.24 = 1.00$.
H formula coefficient: $24.8 / 6.24 = 3.97$.
The empirical formula is CH_4 .

Pitfall: Due to experimental error, the calculated formula coefficients may not be integers.

HOW TO DERIVE THE MOLECULAR FORMULA FROM THE EMPIRICAL FORMULA

The molecular formula coefficients are obtained by multiplying each empirical formula coefficient by a **factor**: The molecular molar mass \div empirical molar mass.

Given: The empirical formula, molecular molar mass, and atomic weights.

Calculate: Empirical molar mass = sum of at.wts. in the empirical formula.

Calculate: The molecular \div empirical factor = molecular molar mass \div empirical molar mass.
Determine the molecular formula by multiplying each empirical coefficient by this factor.

Sample: Determine the molecular formula for a compound with molar mass 28 and empirical formula CH_2 .

Given: The empirical formula is CH_2 ;

C at.wt. = 12.0; H at.wt. = 1.0.

Calculate: The empirical molar mass = $12 + 2 = 14$.

Calculate: The molecular/empirical factor = $28 / 14 = 2$.
The **molecular** formula is C_2H_4 ; the coefficients are **twice** the **empirical** formula coefficients.

STOICHIOMETRY

HOW TO USE BALANCED EQUATIONS

Sample: $2 Mg + O_2 \Rightarrow 2 MgO$.

2 Mg atoms and 2 O atoms on each side

2 moles of Mg and 2 moles of O on each side

Calculate the masses of the product and reactants:

Given: A balanced equation and atomic weights:

$Mg = 24.31$; $O = 16.00$.

Calculate: Mass of $Mg = 2 \times Mg \text{ at.wt.} = 48.62g$ of Mg .

Calculate: Mass of $O_2 = 2 \times O \text{ at.wt.} = 32.00g$ of O_2 .

Calculate: Mass of $MgO = 2 \times Mg \text{ at.wt.} + 2 \times O \text{ at.wt.} = 80.62g$ of MgO .

48.62g of Mg reacts with 32.00g of O_2 to produce 80.62g of MgO .

Balanced equation conserves mass; 80.62g on each side.

HOW TO BALANCE AN EQUATION

First: Identify each **element** in the reaction.

Next: Determine the net charge on each side; this must be balanced in the final equation.

Guidelines: Start with the element found in one compound on each side. Identify any compounds that must have the same coefficient. If an element appears in a pure form, leave it to the last step.

You should always check your work!

Pitfall: Coefficients apply to **each** atom in a molecule or polyatomic ion. You can change coefficients in the equation, **not** the formula subscripts.

Sample: $2 CH_4 + 2 O_2 \Rightarrow 2 CO_2 + 2 H_2O$

First: Elements: C, H, O.

Next: No charge to worry about.

- H is in CH_4 and H_2O ; start with H.
- The H_2O coefficient must be twice the CH_4 coefficient to balance “H.”
 - $1 CH_4 + 2 O_2 \Rightarrow 2 CO_2 + 2 H_2O$
- CH_4 and CO_2 must have the same coefficient.
 - $1 CH_4 + 2 O_2 \Rightarrow 1 CO_2 + 2 H_2O$
- Now, determine the O_2 coefficient:
 - $1 CH_4 + 2 O_2 \Rightarrow 1 CO_2 + 2 H_2O$
- Check your work: 1 C, 4 H and 4 O on each side...It is balanced!

BALANCING A REDOX EQUATION USING THE HALF-REACTION METHOD

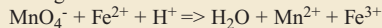
• Split the reaction into **oxidation** and **reduction** half-reactions.

• You may need to add H_2O and H^+ for acidic, or H_2O and OH^- for basic reaction conditions.

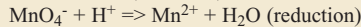
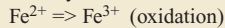
• Balance these separately, then combine to balance the exchange of electrons.

Sample: Balance the following for acidic solution:
 $MnO_4^- + Fe^{2+} \Rightarrow Mn^{2+} + Fe^{3+}$.

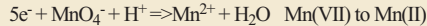
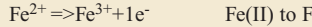
1. In acidic solution: Add H^+ to the left and H_2O to the right side:



2. Identify the half-reactions:

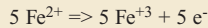


3. Add electrons to account for valence changes:



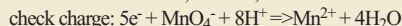
4. Balance each half-reaction:

a. **Oxidation:** Multiply by a factor of 5 to match electrons in reduction step:



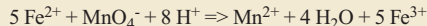
Charge: +10 on each side, balanced!

b. **Reduction:** Balance O, then H^+ ;



Charge: +2 on each side, balanced!

5. Combine half-reactions to eliminate the $5e^-$:



Check your work: 5 Fe, 1 Mn, 4 O and 8 H on each side, atoms are balanced!

Charge: +17 on each side, charge is balanced!

Pitfall: Make sure you use the H_2O , H^+ (for acidic), or OH^- (for basic), with the correct half-reaction.

STOICHIOMETRY

HOW TO CALCULATE THE THEORETICAL YIELD

Mass of a **reactant** is used to determine mass of **product**.

Given: Mass of reactant, balanced equation, molar masses of reactants and products

Calculate: Moles of reactant = $\frac{\text{reactant mass}}{\text{reactant molar mass}}$

Calculate: *Molar ratio* = $\frac{\text{product equation coefficient}}{\text{reactant equation coefficient}}$

Calculate: Moles of product = moles of reactant \times *molar ratio*

Calculate: Mass of product = moles of product \times product molar mass

Sample: Calculate the mass of Mg produced by burning 10.0g of Mg in excess oxygen.

Balanced equation: $2 Mg + O_2 \Rightarrow 2 MgO$

Given: 10.0 grams of Mg , Mg at.wt. = 24.305 g, MgO molar mass = 40.305 g

Calculate: Moles of $Mg = 10.0g \text{ Mg} / 24.305g \text{ Mg/mole Mg} = 0.411$ moles of Mg

Calculate: Molar ratio = $2/2 = 1$

Calculate: Moles of $MgO = 0.411 \text{ moles Mg} \times 1 \text{ mole MgO/mole Mg} = 0.411$ moles of MgO

Calculate: Mass of $MgO = 0.411 \text{ moles MgO} \times 40.305 \text{ g MgO/mole MgO} = 16.6 \text{ g MgO}$

The calculation can also be performed as a single sequence of calculations:

$$10.0g \text{ Mg} \times 1 \text{ mol Mg} / 24.305g \text{ Mg} \times 1 \text{ mol MgO} / 1 \text{ mol Mg} \times 40.35g \text{ MgO} / 1 \text{ mol MgO} = 16.6 \text{ g MgO} \text{ (note canceled units in italics)}$$

Pitfall: If your balanced equation is wrong, your theoretical yield will usually be wrong.

HOW TO CALCULATE A LIMITING REAGENT FOR 2 REACTANTS

In a reaction with 2 reactants, the mass of product is constrained by the reactant in shortest supply, the **limiting reagent**.

Given: Balanced equation, mass of reactants, molar masses of reactants; specify reactant #s.

Calculate: Moles of each reactant = $\frac{\text{mass}}{\text{molar mass}}$

Calculate: *Ideal reactant molar ratio* = coefficient of reactant #1/coefficient of reactant #2

Calculate: *Actual reactant molar ratio* = moles of reactant #1/moles of reactant #2

Determine the limiting reagent:

• If *actual reactant molar ratio* \leq *ideal reactant molar ratio*, then reactant #1 is the limiting reagent.

• If *actual reactant molar ratio* $>$ *ideal reactant molar ratio*, then reactant #2 is the limiting reagent.

Calculate the **theoretical yield** based on the **mass of the limiting reagent**.

Hint: The reactant numbering is arbitrary, but you must stick with your choice for the entire calculation.

Sample: 10.0g Mg reacts with 10.0g O_2 ; how much MgO is produced?

Balanced equation: $2 Mg + O_2 \Rightarrow 2 MgO$

Given: Mg molar mass = 24.305g; Reactant #1 O_2 molar mass = 32.00g; Reactant #2

Calculate: Moles of $Mg = 10.0g \text{ Mg} / 24.305g \text{ Mg/mol Mg} = 0.411 \text{ mol Mg}$

moles of $O_2 = 10.0g \text{ O}_2 / 32.00g \text{ O}_2/\text{mol O}_2 = 0.3125 \text{ mol O}_2$

Calculate: Ideal reactant molar ratio = $2/1 = 2$

Calculate: Actual reactant molar ratio = moles Mg / moles $O_2 = 0.411 / 0.3125 = 1.31$

Determine limiting reagent: 1.31 is less than 2.0, therefore, Mg is the limiting reagent.

Calculate the yield of MgO based on 10.0 grams of Mg (shown in the previous section).

Pitfall: Make sure you distinguish between the ideal and actual molar ratios.

ACID-BASE CHEMISTRY cont.

HOW TO CALCULATE pH OF A BUFFER

Buffer of Weak Acid and Conjugate Base

Start with both weak acid, $[HA]_{init}$, and salt, $[A^{-}]_{init}$.
The equilibrium concentrations are governed by
 $K_a = [H^{+}]_{eq}[A^{-}]_{eq}/[HA]_{eq}$

	HA	\rightleftharpoons	H ⁺ + A ⁻
Init	$[HA]_{init}$		0 $[A^{-}]_{init}$
Equil	$[HA]_{init}-a$		a $[A^{-}]_{init}+a$

Method: Substitute the “Equil” expressions into K_a and solve the quadratic equation:
 $K_a = a \times ([A^{-}]_{init} + a)/([HA]_{init} - a)$
 $K_a \times [HA]_{init} - a \times K_a = a \times [A^{-}]_{init} + a^2$
 $a^2 + a \times (K_a + [A^{-}]_{init}) - K_a \times [HA]_{init} = 0$
Given: K_a , $[A^{-}]_{init}$ and $[HA]_{init}$, solve for the roots of the quadratic, $a = [H^{+}]_{eq}$

Sample: Determine the pH of a buffer of 0.5 M HAc and 0.3 M Ac⁻.
Given: K_a (HAc) = 1.7×10^{-5}
Quadratic: $0 = a^2 + a \times (1.7 \times 10^{-5} + 0.3) - 1.7 \times 10^{-5} \times 0.5$
 $0 = a^2 + a \times (0.3) - 1.7 \times 10^{-5} \times 0.5$
Solve quadratic: $a = [H^{+}] = 2.8 \times 10^{-5}$ M
Calculate: $pH = -\log_{10}(2.8 \times 10^{-5}) = 4.55$

HOW TO USE THE HENDERSON-HASSELBACH APPROXIMATION FOR BUFFER PH

Assume that “a” in the previous problem is $\ll [HAc]_{init}$ and $[Ac^{-}]_{init}$

Henderson Hasselbach: $pH = pK_a + \log_{10} \left\{ \frac{[A^{-}]}{[HA]} \right\}$

Sample: Examine previous buffer problem:
Given: $[A^{-}] = [Ac^{-}] = 0.3$ M; $[HA] = [HAc] = 0.5$ M
 $pK_a = pK_a(\text{HAc}) = 4.77$
Calculate: $pH = 4.77 + \log_{10}(0.3/0.5) = 4.77 - 0.22 = 4.55$
The approximation works.

HOW TO DO AN ACID-BASE TITRATION

A systematic acid-base neutralization used to determine the concentration of an unknown acid or base. At the equivalence point, moles of acid = moles of base.

Sample: The titration of 50.00 mL of an HCl solution requires 25.00 mL of 1.00 M NaOH.
Calculate the [HCl].
Equation: $HCl + NaOH \Rightarrow NaCl + H_2O$
This gives 1:1 molar ratio of HCl: NaOH.
At the **equivalence point:** The moles balance, or more conveniently: Mmoles HCl = mmoles NaOH.
 $M(\text{HCl}) \times \text{vol-acid (mL)} = \text{vol-base (mL)} \times M(\text{NaOH})$
 $M(\text{HCl}) = \text{vol-base (mL)} \times M(\text{NaOH})/\text{vol-acid (mL)}$
Calculate: $M(\text{HCl}) = 25.00 \text{ mL} \times 1.00 \text{ M}/50.00 \text{ mL} = 0.50 \text{ M HCl}$

⚠ Pitfall: Watch the units on volume and molarity work with “L & mole” or “mL & mmole.”

EXAMINATION OF CHEMICAL EQUILIBRIUM

• For a reaction that has not gone to completion:
 $a A + b B \rightleftharpoons c C + d D$.

• At **equilibrium**, the process is described by the **equilibrium constant**, K_c .

For all other conditions, the process is described by the **reaction quotient**, Q_c :

$$K_c = \frac{[C]_{eq}^c [D]_{eq}^d}{[A]_{eq}^a [B]_{eq}^b}$$

$$Q_c = \frac{[C]^c [D]^d}{[A]^a [B]^b}$$

if $Q_c = K_c$, the reaction is at **equilibrium**
if $Q_c > K_c$, the reaction will go to the **left**
if $Q_c < K_c$, the reaction will go to the **right**

Gas-phase reactions may be described with K_p , based on reagent partial pressures. These calculations follow the same strategy as K_c .

EXAMINATION OF CHEMICAL EQUILIBRIUM cont.

HOW TO DETERMINE IF THE REACTION IS AT EQUILIBRIUM

Compare Q_c with K_c

Sample: For the reaction: $A \rightleftharpoons C$, $K_c = 0.60$; the observed $[A] = 0.1$ and $[C] = 0.20$.
Is the reaction at equilibrium? If not, predict the shift.
1. $Q_c = [C]/[A] = 0.20/0.10 = 2.0$; $K_c = 0.60$.
2. $Q_c > K_c$; process is not at equilibrium, it will shift to the left.

HOW TO PREDICT EQUILIBRIUM CONCENTRATIONS

Sample: Calculate the equilibrium concentrations for the following gas-phase reaction data:
 $K_c = 0.64$; $[CO]_{init} = [H_2O]_{init} = 0.5$ M:

	CO(g)	+	H ₂ O(g)	\rightleftharpoons	CO ₂ (g)	+	H ₂ (g)
Init	$[CO]_{init}$		$[H_2O]_{init}$		0		0
Equil	$[CO]_{init}-a$		$[H_2O]_{init}-a$		a		a

Note: The change “a” is the same for each because of the 1:1:1:1 coefficients in the equation.

Identify equilibrium expression:
 $K_c = [CO_2]_{eq}[H_2]_{eq}/[CO]_{eq}[H_2O]_{eq}$
Substitute “equil” values:
 $K_c = a^2/([CO]_{init} - a) \times ([H_2O]_{init} - a)$
 $0.64 = a^2/(0.50 - a)(0.50 - a)$

Take square root of each side:
 $0.8 = a/(0.5 - a)$ or $-0.8 = a/(0.5 - a)$
 $a = 0.222$ or $a = -1.2$

Use the first option, since “a” must be positive.
 $[CO_2]_{eq} = [H_2]_{eq} = 0.222$ M
 $[CO]_{eq} = [H_2O]_{eq} = 0.50 - 0.222 = 0.278$ M
Check your work: $K_c = (0.222^2)/(0.278^2) = 0.64$

⚠ Pitfall: Watch out for round-off error; take the root that gives positive concentrations.

HOW TO DETERMINE THE SOLUBILITY LIMIT FROM K_{sp} (GIVEN IN MOLES/L OR G/L)

Sample: Determine the solubility limit for silver chloride, AgCl, given $K_{sp} = 1.77 \times 10^{-10}$.
Given: $AgCl(s) \rightleftharpoons Ag^{+}(aq) + Cl^{-}(aq)$;
 $K_{sp} = [Ag^{+}][Cl^{-}] = 1.77 \times 10^{-10}$
Given: AgCl molar mass = 143.32 g/mole
At equilibrium, $[Ag^{+}]_{eq} = [Cl^{-}]_{eq} = \sqrt{K_{sp}}$
Calculate: $[Ag^{+}]_{eq} = \sqrt{(1.77 \times 10^{-10})} = 1.33 \times 10^{-5}$ M AgCl
This is also $[AgCl]_{eq}$, the **molar solubility limit** for AgCl.
Calculate: The AgCl **g/L solubility limit**
 $= [AgCl]_{eq} \times \text{molar mass of AgCl}$
 $= 1.33 \times 10^{-5} \text{ moles/L AgCl} \times 143.32 \text{ g/mole}$
 $= 1.9 \times 10^{-3} \text{ g/L}$

KINETICS & MECHANISMS

The goal of a kinetic study is to measure the **reaction rate**, determine the **rate constant**, k, the **rate law** and the **activation energy** (E_a).

HOW TO DETERMINE THE REACTION RATE

For “A→B,” the **reaction rate** is the rate of appearance of product, $\Delta[B]/\Delta \text{time}$; or, rate of loss of reactant: $-\Delta[A]/\Delta \text{time}$.

Sample: How would you characterize the rate of:
 $CaCO_3(s) \Rightarrow CaO(s) + CO_2(g)$?
Answer: Focus on rate of CO_2 production;
Rate = $\Delta[CO_2]/\Delta \text{time}$.

HOW TO DETERMINE THE RATE LAW

The **rate law** gives the **order** of the reaction based on the steps in the overall reaction “A + B → C.”

- Rate = $k[A]$, for a first-order reaction.
- Rate = $k[A]^2$, or $k[A][B]$, for a second-order reaction.
- Rate = $k[A]^0$, for a zero-order reaction.

⚠ Pitfall: Equation coefficients describe the balanced **overall** reaction, not the mechanism and rate law.

KINETICS cont.

Two common rate-law methods: “Initial rates” and “integrated rate equations.” Consider the reaction “A→B,” with a rate law of the form: $\text{Rate} = k[A]^x$. The goal of kinetic study: Determine “x,” the order of the reaction.

1. Initial Rate Strategy:

Step 1: For $[A]_1$, measure the time required to produce $\Delta[B]$ of product.

Calculate: $\text{Rate}_1 = \Delta[B]/\text{time}$
Step 2: Measure the new reaction rate, rate_2 , for a different concentration, $[A]_2$.

The interplay of rate, $[A]$ and x, are governed by the equation:

$$\frac{\text{Rate}_1}{\text{Rate}_2} = \left\{ \frac{[A]_1}{[A]_2} \right\}^x$$

Sample: Determine “x” if doubling $[A]$ also doubles the rate:

- $\text{Rate}_1/\text{Rate}_2 = 2$
- $[A]_1/[A]_2 = 2$
- $2 = 2^x$, $x = 1$, this is a 1st order process

Sample: Determine “x” if doubling $[A]$ increases the rate by 4-fold:

- $\text{Rate}_1/\text{Rate}_2 = 4$
- $[A]_1/[A]_2 = 2$
- $4 = 2^x$, $x = 2$, this is a 2nd order process

2. Integrated Rate Equation Strategy

Analyze “[A] vs. time” data for the reaction.
The reaction is 1st order if the “ln [A] vs. t” graph is linear.

The reaction is 2nd order if “1/[A] vs t” graph is linear.
In each case, k is the slope of the line.

HOW TO DETERMINE THE ACTIVATION ENERGY, E_a

$$\ln(k_1/k_2) = -E_a/R(1/T_1 - 1/T_2)$$

$$= E_a/R(T_1 - T_2)/(T_1 \times T_2)$$

Applications:

- Predict k_1 at T_1 , given k_2 at T_2 and E_a .
- Determine E_a from k_1 , k_2 , T_1, T_2 ; only have to worry about k_1/k_2 .

Sample: The rate constant doubles when the temperature changes from 25.0°C to 50.0°C. What is E_a ?

Given: $k_1/k_2 = 2$
Calculate: $T_1 = 50.0^\circ\text{C} + 273.15 = 323.2$ K
Calculate: $T_2 = 25.0^\circ\text{C} + 273.15 = 298.2$ K
Calculate: $\Delta T = T_1 - T_2 = 25.0$ K
Calculate: $E_a = R \ln(k_1/k_2) T_1 \times T_2/\Delta T$
 $= 8.314 \text{ J/mole} \cdot \text{K} \times \ln(2) \times 323.2 \text{ K} \times 298.2 \text{ K}/25.0 \text{ K}$
 $= 22,200 \text{ J/mole} = 22.2 \text{ kJ/mole}$

⚠ Pitfall: T must be in Kelvin; if you use the equation with “1/T₁-1/T₂,” beware of round-off error in calculating inverse T.

KINETICS & EQUILIBRIUM

An equilibrium is characterized by competing forward and reverse reactions. The forward and reverse **rate constants** (k_f and k_r) are related to the equilibrium constant, K_{eq} . At equilibrium: The forward and reverse reaction rates are **equal**.

$$k_{eq} = k_f / k_r$$

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