## **Reaction Equations and Rate Laws**

Read from Lesson 1: Kinetics of Reactions in the Chemistry Tutorial Section, Chapter 14 of The Physics Classroom: Part d: Rate Equations

Part d: Reaction Mechanisms

# **Rate Equations**



In chemistry, understanding the speed of reactions and the molecular changes that occur during those processes is essential. **Rate equations** describe how the concentration of reactants influences the rate of a chemical reaction, allowing chemists to predict how changes in concentration affect the formation of products.

## **Questions**

Use the **method of initial rates** to solve the following.

1. Clo Wrene is trying to determine the rate law equation for the following reaction and collects the following rate-concentration data.

 $Br_2(g) + 2 NO(g) \rightarrow 2NOBr(g)$ 

$[Br_2]_o(M)$	[NO] <sub>o</sub> (M)	Initial Rate (M/min)
0.20	0.20	0.35
0.20	0.40	0.70
0.40	0.40	2.80

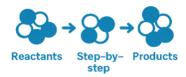
- a. Determine the order of the reaction for each reactant.
- b. Write the rate equation for the reaction.
- c. Calculate the rate constant and include the correct units.
- d. Calculate the rate (in (M/min) at the instant when  $[Br_2] = 0.30$  M and [NO] = 0.30 M.
- e. When the rate of change of concentration of  $Br_2(\Delta Br_2/\Delta t)$  is changing at a rate of -1.00 M/min, what is the rate at which NOBr is forming?
- f. According to the rate law for the reaction, how will an increase in the concentration of bromine affect this reaction? Select all that apply.
  - a. The rate of reaction increases.

- b. The rate of the reaction decreases.
- c. The value of the rate law constant increases.
- d. The value of the rate law constant decreases.
- e. Neither the rate nor the value of the rate law constant is changed.

## Kinetics and Equilibrium

#### **Reaction Mechanisms**

Reaction mechanisms provide a step-by-step explanation of how a reaction actually takes place at the molecular level, showing the individual steps that lead from reactants to products.



## Questions

1. Consider the following two step-reaction mechanism:

$$\begin{aligned} &H_2O \rightarrow H_2 + O \\ &H_2O + O \rightarrow H_2 + O_2 \end{aligned}$$

- a. Write the overall balanced chemical equation.
- b. Identify the intermediate (if present) and explain your reasoning.
- c. Identify the catalyst (if present) and explain your reasoning.
- d. If the rate law is  $rate = k[H_2O]$ , which step is the rate determining step? Explain your answer.
- e. What is the molecularity of the rate determining step?
- 2. Match the correct term with the following descriptions.

a. Catalyst
b. Collision Model
c. Enthalpy Change
d. Rate-Determining step
e. Reaction Mechanism

- v. Amount of heat energy absorbed or released during a chemical reaction
- w. Appears as both a reactant and a product, remaining unchanged throughout the reaction
- x. Sequence of elementary steps that make up a chemical reaction.
- y. Reactions occur when particles collide with sufficient energy and correct orientation.
- z. The step of the reaction which governs the overall rate and is used to derive the rate law
- 3. Which of the following statements are true? If the statement is false, correct it so that it is true.
  - a. True or False. The sum of all elementary steps must match the overall chemical equation in terms of stoichiometry.
  - b. True or False. The rate-determining step must occur at the end of the mechanism.
  - c. True or False. If the temperature increases in both steps of question 1, the concentration of  $H_2O$  will decrease at a greater rate.