REACTION KINETICS AND REACTION MECHANISMS

Different levels of dealing with reaction rates:

- II. REACTION MECHANISMS molecular level-interpretation
- III. THEORIES OF REACTION RATES
- Arrhenius equation, collision and activated complex theories

II. REACTION MECHANISMS

- kinetics mechanisms:
- observed fact postulate
- often multiple possibilities unique
- "trade" _ "art"
- Mechanism and its role: elementary reaction that interpret
 - a) the net stoichiometry of the process (observed intermediates if there are any) and
- b) kinetic observations (the rate equation).
- rate equation → mechanism

Concept and properties of elementary reactions:

- Elementary reaction: consumption of a few reactant molecules, the dissociation and formation of maximum 1-2 bonds through a single activated complex. Elementary reactions are reversible! types of elementary reactions and their rate equations: unimolecular $A \rightarrow product(s)$
 - bimolecular (most common) $A + B \rightarrow product(s)$ or $2A \rightarrow product(s)$
 - termolecular (rare)
 - $A + B + C \text{ or } A + 2B \text{ or } 3A \rightarrow \text{product(s)}.$
- Order of reaction and molecularity are the same!

Law of kinetic mass action:

 For elementary reactions, the rate equation can be deduced from the stoichiometry. For example:

 $- d[A]/dt = k_1[A] - k_{-1}[B]$

 $- d[\mathbf{A}]/dt = k_2[\mathbf{A}][\mathbf{B}]$

 $- d[A]/dt = k_2[A]^2$

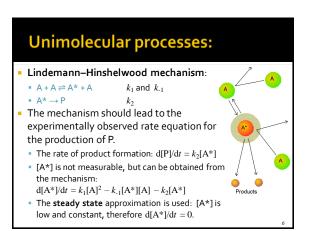
- $A \rightarrow \text{product(s)}$ $-d[A]/dt = k_1[A]$
- A ⇒ B
- $A + B \rightarrow \text{product(s)}$
- $2A \rightarrow \text{product(s)}$
- $A + B + C \rightarrow product(s)$
- $d[A]/dt = k_3[A][B][C]$ • $A + 2B \rightarrow \text{product(s)}$ $- d[A]/dt = k_3[A][B]^2$
- An elementary reaction is always reversible, but the rate of the reverse reaction is often negligible.

Unimolecular processes:

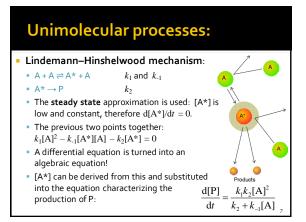
There is a single reactant, this is transformed into product(s) through decay, isomerization, inversion (cyclopropane \rightarrow propene, $N_2O_5 \rightarrow N_2O_3 + O_2...$)

 $A \rightarrow P$

- Stoichiometry:
- Rate equation: d[P]/dt = k_{exp}[A] k_{exp}: experimental rate constant
- Mechanism: bimolecular collisions are often assumed (but not a priori necessary). How can bimolecular collisions lead to first order?



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Termolecular (third order?) reactions:

- Stoichiometry: 2 NO(g) + O₂(g) = 2 NO₂(g)
- Kinetics: $d[NO_2]/dt = k_{exp}[NO]^2[O_2]$
- Mechanism:
 - a) Three-body collision. Feasible? If not:
 - b) Two bimolecular steps:
 - a rapid pre-equilibrium: 2 NO \rightleftharpoons N₂O₂, $K_1 = [N_2O_2]/[NO]^2$
 - rate determining second step: $N_2O_2 + O_2 \rightarrow 2 NO_2$
- The rate of product formation: $\frac{1}{2} d[NO_2]/dt = k_2[N_2O_2][O_2].$ [N_2O_3] is obtained from the equilibrium and substituted into the previous equation: $d[NO_2]/dt = 2 k_2 K_1[NO]^2[O_2].$
- The product $k_{exp} = 2k_2K_1$ separated kinetically!
- K₁ can only be measured in independent measurements.

Termolecular (third order?) reactions:

- Other, equivalent mechanisms can also be postulated to interpret the same rate equation:
 - c) $\text{NO} + \text{O}_2 \rightleftharpoons \text{NO} \cdot \text{O}_2$ $\text{NO} \cdot \text{O}_2 + \text{NO} \rightarrow 2 \text{ NO}_2$ $K^2 = [\text{NO} \cdot \text{O}_2]/[\text{NO}][\text{O}_2]$
 - After a derivation similar to the previous one: ¹/₂ d[NO₂]/dt = k₂ [NO·O₂][NO].
 - [NO·O₂] can be given from the equilibria: d[NO₂]/dt = k₂K'[NO]²[O₂]. This (also) agrees with the experimental rate equation.
- There is no way of distinguishing b) from c) kinetically.
- Detection of the intermediate N₂O₂ or NO·O₂ may be decisive (*e.g.* spectrophotometrically).

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Interpretation of higher reaction orders:

- Second (o third) order with respect to H⁺ is common, e.g. $v = k_{exp}[A][B][H^+]^2$ A: BrO₃, B: I⁻
 - a) Four-body collisions are completely unfeasible.
 - b) A possible **mechanism**: $A + H^+ \rightleftharpoons AH^+$ rapid protonation pre-equilibrium $AH^+ + H^+ \rightleftharpoons AH_2^{2+}$ another rapid pre-equilibrium $B + AH_2^{2+} \rightarrow product$ slow rate determining step • $[AH_2^{2+}]$ can be expressed from the two pre-equilibria:
- $[AH_2^{2*}]$ can be expressed from the two pre-equilibria: $v = k_3 K_1 K_2 [A] [B] [H^+]^2$

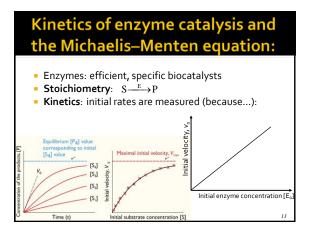
• The product $k_{exp} = k_3 K_1 K_2$ cannot be separated kinetically.

Negative reaction order and its rationalization:

- \bigcirc second (or third) order with respect to H⁺, for example: $v = k^{2}_{exp} [AH_{2}][B][H^{+}]^{-2}$ AH₂: oxalic acid
- a) Possible **mechanism**: twice deprotonated reactant is involved in the rate determining step.
 - $AH_2 \rightleftharpoons AH^+ + H^+$ rapid deprotonation pre-equilibrium
 - $AH^{-} \rightleftharpoons A^{2-} + H^{+}$ another rapid pre-equilibrium
 - $B + A^{2-} \rightarrow products$ (slow) rate determining step
- $[A^{2} \cdot]$ can be derived from the two pre-equilibria: $v = k_{3}^{*}K_{1}K_{2}^{*}[A][B][H^{+}]^{\cdot 2}$
- The product $k'_{exp} = k'_{3}K'_{1}K'_{2}$ cannot be separated kinetically.

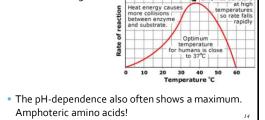
Zeroth order and its rationalization:

- A reactant does not appear in the rate determining step.
 - Rationalization: this reactant only enters the mechanism after the rate determining step in a relatively fast process.
- E.g. halogenation of acetone: $A + X_2 \rightleftharpoons AX + HX$
- Kinetics: $v = k[A][H^+]$
- a) Mechanism:
- first step: acid catalyzed enolization; slow step: $CH_3CO-CH_3 + H^+ \rightleftharpoons CH_3COH=CH_2 + H^+$
- second step: halogenation of the enol form; fast step: $CH_3COH=CH_2 + X_2 \rightarrow CH_3CO - CH_2X + HX$
- <u>Message</u>: kinetic data give very little information for processes after the rate determining step.



Kinetics of enzyme catalysis and the Michaelis–Menten equation:

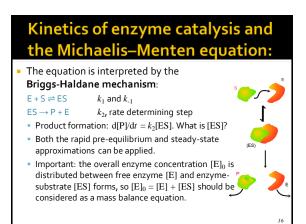
- Two more observations:
- Maximum in the T-dependence. Arrhenius equation 37°C Enzymes denature and denaturing.



Kinetics of enzyme catalysis and the Michaelis--Menten equation:

b + [S]

- Description of v–[S] curves: v – or $\frac{b}{1}$ +1 [S]
- Constants a and b have chemical meaning:
 - a: as [S] increases, v saturates so that a further increase in [S] does not accelerate the product formation any more. In this case [S] $\gg b_i$ i.e. $a = v_{\text{max}}$.
 - b: when b = [S], v = v_{max}/2 holds, so [S]_{1/2} = b.
 - Leonor Michaelis and Maud Leonora Menten (1912).



Kinetics of enzyme catalysis and the Michaelis-Menten equation:

a) steady state approximation:

•
$$d[ES]/dt = k_1 \cdot [E] \cdot [S] - k_1 \cdot [ES] - k_2 \cdot [ES] = 0$$

• So:
$$[ES] = \frac{k_1[E][S]}{k_1[E][S]} = \frac{k_1([E]_0 - [ES])[S]}{k_1[E]_0 - [ES]}$$

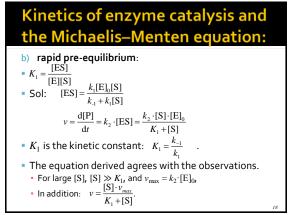
$$k_{-1} + k_2$$
 $k_{-1} + k_2$

$$v = \frac{\mathbf{d}[\mathbf{P}]}{\mathbf{d}} = k_2 \cdot [\mathbf{ES}] = \frac{k_2 \cdot [\mathbf{S}] \cdot [\mathbf{E}]_0}{\mathbf{d}}$$

$$\mathbf{x}_{M} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{x}_{M} + \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{z} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix}$$

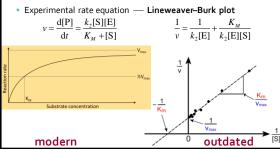
•
$$K_M$$
 is the Michaelis constant: $K_M = \frac{k_{-1} + k_2}{k_1}$

So:
$$v = \frac{[S] \cdot v_{max}}{K_M + [S]}$$



Kinetics of enzyme catalysis and the Michaelis–Menten equation:

A common evaluation method:



Kinetics of enzyme catalysis and the Michaelis–Menten equation:

- Summary: both approximations are OK, but the "compositions" of the K_1 and K_M constants differ.
- Studies of the slow $S \rightarrow P$ enzymatic reaction must be complemented by kinetic studies on the *"pre steady state"* phase of the E+S \rightleftharpoons ES equilibrium (in order to resolve k_1 and k_{-1}) – usually a fast technique is needed (stopped flow, T-jump etc.)
- The [P]−*t* kinetic traces of the S → P are also useful.
- Enzymatic reactions can show diverse stoichiometric and kinetic properties – see biochemistry.

Gas phase formation of hydrogen halides:

 It is quite instructive t compare the formation of HBr and other HX. The same stoichiometry, but ...

HBr

HBr

- HBr formation:
- measurements: Bodenstein, Lind (1907)
- <u>explanation</u>: Christiansen, Herzfeld, Polányi (1919)
- a classic example used in reaction kinetics
- Stoichiometry: $H_2 + Br_2 \rightleftharpoons 2 HBr$

• Kinetics:
$$v = \frac{k[H_2][Br_2]^{3/2}}{[Br_2] + k'[HBr]} = \frac{k[H_2][Br_2]^{1/2}}{k'[HBr]}$$

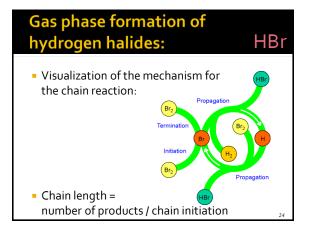
$$I = \frac{1}{[Br_{2}]}$$

A suitable mechanism was necessary.
Finding it took a decade!

Gas phase formation of
hydrogen halides:HBrHBrBr $v_a = k_a[Br_2]$ Br· + H_2 \rightarrow HBr + H· $v_b = k_b[Br·][H_2]$ H· + Br_ \rightarrow HBr + Br $v_c = k_c[Br·][H_2]$ H· + HBr \rightarrow Br· + H_2 $v_d = k_d[H·][HBr]$ 2 Br· + M \rightarrow Br_2 + M $v_e = k_e[Br·]^2$

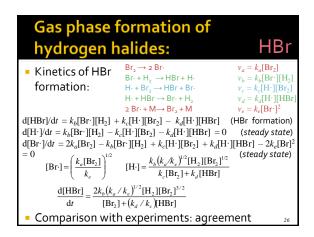
Gas phase formation of hydrogen halides:

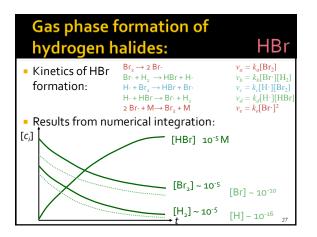
• Mechanism: five (irreversible) elementary steps. $Br_2 \rightarrow 2 Br_2$ $v_a = k_a[Br_2]$ $Br \cdot + H_2 \rightarrow HBr + H \cdot$ $v_b = k_b [Br \cdot][H_2]$ $H_{\cdot} + Br_{2} \rightarrow HBr + Br_{\cdot}$ $v_c = k_c [\text{H} \cdot] [\text{Br}_2]$ $H_{\cdot} + HBr \rightarrow Br_{\cdot} + H_{-}$ $v_d = k_d [\text{H} \cdot] [\text{HBr}]$ $2 \text{ Br} + \text{M} \rightarrow \text{Br}_2 + \text{M}$ $v_e = k_e [Br \cdot]^2$ Notice: $Br_{2} \rightleftharpoons 2 Br_{2}$ reversible $Br_{\cdot} + H_{2} \rightleftharpoons HBr + H_{\cdot}$ reversible $H \cdot + Br_2 \rightarrow HBr + Br \cdot$ irreversible A typical chain reaction: a reaction of a reactive intermediate produces another reactive intermediate and these form a chain (cycle).



Gas phase formation of hydrogen halides: HBr

- Types of step in chain reactions:
 - initiation: generation of a chain carrier (radical)
 - propagation: 1 radical \rightarrow product + 1 radical
 - branching: $1 \text{ radical} \rightarrow \text{several radicals}$
 - retardation: product + radical \rightarrow "anything" + radical
 - termination: radical recombination or inhibition (e.g. on the wall, reaction with M)
- Reactive intermediate (often a radical, R·):
 - unpaired electron (paramagnetic)
 - very reactive: reacts rapidly (some are stable!)
 - its concentration is very low and d[R]/dt ~ o
 - detectable by ESR or using a radical scavenger





Gas phase formation of hydrogen halides: H • Stoichiometry: $H_2 + I_2 \rightleftharpoons 2 HI$ • Kinetics: $v = k_2[H_2][I_2] - k_2[HI]^2$ • Mechanism: A. if $H_2 + I_2 \rightleftharpoons 2HI$ is an elementary reaction, kinetic mass action gives: $v = k_2[H_2][I_2] - k_2[HI]^2$ • this agrees with the experimental rate equation. • Note: the $H_2 + I_2 \rightarrow 2$ HI reaction played an important role in setting up the collision theory.

Gas phase formation of HI hydrogen halides: Stoichiometry: $H_2 + I_2 \rightleftharpoons 2 HI$ Kinetics: $v = k_2[H_2][I_2] - k_2[HI]^2$ Mechanism: B. chain reaction possible. Steps of the mechanism: $|_2 \rightleftharpoons 2|_2$ $\frac{\mathrm{d}[\mathrm{I}\cdot]}{\mathrm{d}t} = \dots = 0, \qquad \frac{\mathrm{d}[\mathrm{H}\cdot]}{\mathrm{d}t} = \dots = 0$ $I_{\cdot} + H_{2} \rightleftharpoons HI + H_{\cdot}$ $H_{1} + I_{2} \rightleftharpoons HI + I_{2}$ $\frac{d[HI]}{4t} = k_{2+}[I\cdot][H_2] - k_{2-}[HI][I\cdot] + k_{3+}[H\cdot][I_2] - k_{3-}[HI][I\cdot]$ • After simplifications: v = k_{exp}[H₂][I₂] Both mechanism play a role – in a ratio that depends on T (because of the effect of temperature on the dissociation of I,)

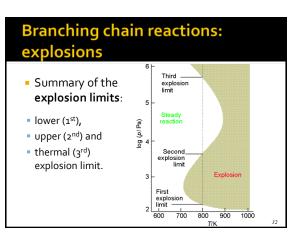
Branching chain reactions: explosions

- Explosion: a rapid exothermic reaction that causes large pressure increase (pressure wave + detonation).
- Two types:
 - Thermal explosion: increase in *T*, therefore in *k* and *v*Chain explosion: branching in a chain reaction
- Flame: a "standing wave" of explosion (reaction propagation = reactant input)
- Kinetics in a particular system: $2 H_2(g) + O_2(g) \rightarrow 2 H_2O(g)$

Branching chain reactions: explosions

 $2 H_2(g) + O_2(g) \rightarrow 2 H_2O(g)$

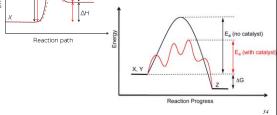
- There are pressure ranges where the rate of the reaction is well-measureable and – depending on *T* – there are explosion limits:
 - lower (1st),
 - upper (2nd) and
 - thermal (3rd) explosion limits.
- The three explosion limits are in the 700-900 °C range. They can be measured and plotted on a graph.



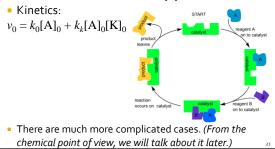
<u>Catalysis</u>, autocatalysis and oscillation

- Properties of catalytic phenomena:
 - a catalyst accelerates a reaction by reacting and then re-producing (no apparent consumption),
 - a catalyst is often written on both sides of the stoichiometric equation, but its order of reaction is positive,
 - a catalyst opens a new path for the reaction: the rate of this catalyzed process is typically larger then the rate of the reaction without the catalyst,
 - a catalyst never influences the position of the equilibrium (thermodynamic neutrality), it accelerates both the forward and reverse reactions.

Catalysis, autocatalysis and oscillation Reaction without catalyst $E_a(\rightarrow)XY$ x $E_a(\rightarrow)XY$

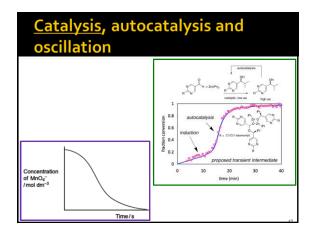


Catalysis, autocatalysis and oscillation ■ Stoichiometric scheme: A + {B} + K → P + Q + K



<u>Catalysis</u>, autocatalysis and oscillation

- Autocatalysis:
- Stoichiometry: $A \rightarrow P$
- Kinetics: $v = k_0[A] + k_{ak}[A][P]$
- Typical autocatalytic trace:
- S-shaped
- induction period
- point of inflection: v_{max}
- E.g.: MnO₄⁻ + oxalate (Mn²⁺ catalysis)
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iJiy38sExPE
 - Soai reaction (chiral autocatalysis)



<u>Catalysis</u>, autocatalysis and oscillation

- Autocatalysis and chemical oscillation.
- Lotka–Volterra-mechanism: $|A| + X \rightarrow 2 X$ $d[X]/dt = k_a[A][X]$

$$\begin{array}{ll} |\mathsf{A}| + \mathsf{X} \to {}_2 \,\mathsf{X} & & & & & & & & & \\ \mathsf{X} + \mathsf{Y} \to {}_2 \,\mathsf{Y} & & & & & & & & \\ \mathsf{Y} \to \mathsf{B} & & & & & & & & & \\ \end{array} \begin{array}{l} \mathsf{d}[\mathsf{X}]/\mathsf{d}t = k_a[\mathsf{A}][\mathsf{X}] \\ \mathsf{d}[\mathsf{Y}]/\mathsf{d}t = k_b[\mathsf{X}][\mathsf{Y}] \\ \mathsf{d}[\mathsf{Y}]/\mathsf{d}t = -k_c[\mathsf{Y}] \end{array}$$

- Solution: numerical integration.
- Only the concentrations of X and Y oscillate (not A and B!)
- The Lotka–Volterra model predicts a steady state but non-equilibrium system. This is not d[X]/dt = 0 type steady state!

