

The Reaction $2\text{NO}_2 \rightarrow 2\text{NO} + \text{O}_2$ Follows First-order Kinetics. At 300 C, $[\text{NO}_2]$ Drops From 0.0100 M To 0.00650

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Understanding the kinetics of chemical reactions is essential in fields ranging from industrial manufacturing to atmospheric chemistry. One such reaction, the decomposition of nitrogen dioxide (NO_2), provides a classic example of first-order kinetics. In this article, we explore the reaction's kinetic behavior, analyze experimental data, and discuss how to determine the reaction's rate constant at 300°C.

Overview of the Reaction

The reaction under consideration is:



This reaction involves the decomposition of nitrogen dioxide into nitric oxide and oxygen. It is a key process in atmospheric chemistry, contributing to phenomena such as smog formation and ozone layer interactions. It is also significant in industrial processes where control over nitrogen oxides is necessary.

First-Order Kinetics: Fundamentals

What Is First-Order Reaction?

A first-order reaction is characterized by a rate directly proportional to the concentration of a single reactant:

$$\text{Rate} = k[\text{A}]$$

where:

- Rate is the reaction rate,
- k is the rate constant (with units s^{-1}),
- $[\text{A}]$ is the concentration of the reactant.

This kinetic behavior results in a simple exponential decay of reactant concentration over time, described by the integrated rate law:

$$[A] = [A]_0 e^{-kt}$$

where:

- $[A]_0$ is the initial concentration,
- t is the elapsed time.

Application to NO₂ Decomposition

Experimental observations indicate that the decomposition of NO₂ follows first-order kinetics under specific conditions, such as constant temperature and pressure. This means that the rate of NO₂ disappearance depends solely on its current concentration, leading to predictable concentration changes over time.

Analyzing Kinetic Data at 300°C

Given the experimental data:

- Initial concentration: $[NO_2]_0 = 0.0100 \text{ M}$
- Final concentration after some time: $[NO_2] = 0.00650 \text{ M}$
- Temperature: 300°C (which is 573.15 K)

The goal is to determine the rate constant k at this temperature.

Calculating the Rate Constant

Using the integrated first-order rate law:

$$\ln \left(\frac{[A]_0}{[A]} \right) = kt$$

Rearranged to solve for k :

$$k = \frac{1}{t} \ln \left(\frac{[A]_0}{[A]} \right)$$

However, the time t over which the concentration drops from 0.0100 M to 0.00650 M is not directly provided. Assuming a typical experimental setup, if data such as the time taken for this concentration change is available, the rate constant can be computed directly.

Example Calculation:

Suppose the concentration drops from 0.0100 M to 0.00650 M in 10 minutes (600 seconds). Then:

$$k = \frac{1}{600 \text{ s}} \times \ln \left(\frac{0.0100}{0.00650} \right)$$

Calculating:

$$\left[\frac{0.0100}{0.00650} \approx 1.5385 \right]$$

$$\left[\ln(1.5385) \approx 0.4318 \right]$$

$$\left[k \approx \frac{0.4318}{600} \approx 7.20 \times 10^{-4}, \text{ s}^{-1} \right]$$

This value indicates the reaction rate constant at 300°C under the given conditions.

Temperature Dependence of the Rate Constant

Arrhenius Equation

The temperature dependence of the rate constant is described by the Arrhenius equation:

$$k = A e^{-\frac{E_a}{RT}}$$

where:

- A is the pre-exponential factor,
- E_a is the activation energy,
- R is the universal gas constant ($8.314 \text{ J mol}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-1}$),
- T is the temperature in Kelvin.

By conducting experiments at different temperatures and calculating the corresponding k values, one can determine E_a and A , providing insight into the reaction mechanism.

Estimating Activation Energy

Suppose additional data points are available at different temperatures, enabling a Van't Hoff plot ($\ln k$ versus $1/T$). The slope of this plot yields $-E_a/R$. For example, if k at 573.15 K is known, and k at another temperature is obtained, the activation energy can be estimated.

Significance of First-Order Kinetics in Industrial and Environmental Contexts

Industrial Applications

Controlled decomposition of nitrogen oxides is vital in manufacturing processes such as:

- Catalytic reduction systems,
- NOx scrubbing,

- Combustion optimization.

Understanding the first-order behavior allows engineers to design reactors with precise control over reaction times and conversions.

Environmental Implications

In atmospheric chemistry, the rate at which NO_2 decomposes influences air quality and pollutant dispersion. Accurate kinetic models help in predicting pollutant levels and designing mitigation strategies.

Factors Influencing the Reaction Rate

Several factors can influence the rate constant and overall reaction kinetics:

- **Temperature:** Higher temperatures generally increase k exponentially, as per the Arrhenius equation.
- **Pressure:** While first-order reactions are typically pressure-independent concerning the rate constant, pressure can influence reaction pathways in complex systems.
- **Presence of Catalysts:** Catalysts can lower activation energy, increasing k .
- **Concentration of NO_2 :** Since the reaction is first-order, changing initial concentration impacts the reaction rate proportionally.

Practical Methods for Determining Reaction Kinetics

To accurately characterize the kinetics of NO_2 decomposition:

1. **Conduct Time-Resolved Experiments:** Measure concentration at various time intervals under controlled temperature.
2. **Use Spectroscopic Techniques:** UV-Vis spectroscopy can monitor NO_2 concentration due to its distinctive absorption spectrum.
3. **Plot Data:** Use semi-log plots of $\ln[\text{NO}_2]$ versus time to verify first-order behavior.
4. **Calculate Rate Constant:** Derive k from the slope of the linear plot.

Conclusion

The decomposition of nitrogen dioxide follows first-order kinetics at 300°C, with the concentration decreasing from 0.0100 M to 0.00650 M over a measurable period. By applying the principles of chemical kinetics and the integrated rate law, scientists and engineers can determine the rate constant, which is crucial for modeling the reaction under various conditions. Understanding this kinetic behavior aids in designing efficient industrial processes and predicting atmospheric pollutant behavior, emphasizing the importance of kinetic studies in both environmental and industrial chemistry.

Key Takeaways:

- The reaction exhibits first-order kinetics, characterized by exponential decay of NO₂.
- The rate constant at 300°C can be calculated using concentration data and elapsed time.
- Temperature significantly impacts the reaction rate through the Arrhenius relationship.
- Accurate kinetic data are essential for process optimization and environmental modeling.

By mastering these concepts, chemists can better control and predict nitrogen oxide reactions, contributing to advancements in pollution control and chemical manufacturing.

Frequently Asked Questions

What does it mean when the reaction $2 \text{NO}_2 \rightarrow 2 \text{NO} + \text{O}_2$ follows first-order kinetics?

It means that the rate of the reaction depends linearly on the concentration of NO₂; the rate is proportional to [NO₂] raised to the first power.

How can we determine the rate constant (k) for the reaction at 300°C given the concentration change?

Using the first-order integrated rate law: $\ln([\text{NO}_2]_0 / [\text{NO}_2]) = kt$, where $[\text{NO}_2]_0 = 0.0100 \text{ M}$, $[\text{NO}_2] = 0.00650 \text{ M}$, and t is the elapsed time, we can solve for k if the time is known.

What is the significance of the concentration dropping from 0.0100 M to 0.00650 M in the context of reaction kinetics?

This change indicates that the reaction is progressing, and the decrease in NO₂ concentration over time can be used to analyze the reaction rate and determine kinetic parameters.

How does temperature (300°C) influence the rate of the NO₂ decomposition reaction?

Higher temperatures generally increase the reaction rate by providing more energy to overcome activation barriers, thus increasing the rate constant (k) for the reaction.

If the reaction follows first-order kinetics, how long does it take for the NO₂ concentration to decrease from 0.0100 M to 0.00650 M at 300°C?

Using the first-order rate law and the known rate constant, you can calculate the time by rearranging $t = (1/k) \ln([\text{NO}_2]_0 / [\text{NO}_2])$. The exact time requires knowing the value of k .

Why is it important to verify that a reaction follows first-order kinetics in experimental studies?

Verifying first-order kinetics allows for simplified analysis using integrated rate laws and helps in accurately determining rate constants and reaction mechanisms.

What experimental methods can be used to monitor NO₂ concentration changes during the reaction at 300°C?

Spectroscopic techniques such as UV-Vis spectroscopy or infrared (IR) spectroscopy can be employed to measure NO₂ concentration changes over time.

Additional Resources

Understanding the First-Order Kinetics of the Reaction $\text{NO}_2 + \text{NO}_2 \rightarrow \text{O}_2 + \text{Follows}$

The reaction involving nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and its kinetics is a cornerstone in chemical kinetics studies, particularly because of its environmental significance and the insights it offers into reaction mechanisms. When analyzing the reaction $\text{NO}_2 + \text{NO}_2 \rightarrow \text{O}_2 + \text{Follows}$, which is characterized by first-order kinetics, it becomes essential to explore the fundamental principles, experimental observations, and implications of such behavior. This detailed review aims to elucidate the kinetics of this reaction at 300°C, emphasizing the importance of the observed concentration change and what it reveals about the reaction mechanism.

Introduction to Reaction Kinetics and Significance of First-Order Reactions

What is Reaction Kinetics?

Reaction kinetics is the branch of chemistry that deals with the speed or rate at which chemical reactions occur and the factors influencing these rates. It provides insight into the mechanism of a reaction—the step-by-step process by which reactants transform into products.

Why Focus on First-Order Reactions?

A reaction is classified as first-order if its rate depends linearly on the concentration of a single reactant:

$$\text{Rate} = k [A]$$

where:

- k is the rate constant (s^{-1})
- $[A]$ is the concentration of reactant A

First-order kinetics are significant because:

- They are straightforward to analyze mathematically
- They often serve as models for more complex reactions
- They are common in many important chemical and biological processes

Reaction Overview: $\text{NO}_2 + \text{NO}_2 \rightarrow \text{O}_2 + \text{Follows}$

Reaction Details and Context

The reaction involves nitrogen dioxide, a reddish-brown gas that is a key component of smog and has environmental implications. The overall process appears to involve the dimerization or reactive transformation of NO_2 molecules, leading to the formation of oxygen (O_2) and possibly other products (here generalized as "Follows" for the sake of this discussion).

While the exact reaction pathway might be complex, the focus here is on the observed kinetics at a specific temperature (300°C), which simplifies the analysis.

Reaction Conditions

- Temperature: 300°C (about 573 K)
- Initial concentration: $[\text{NO}_2] = 0.0100 \text{ M}$
- Final concentration after some time: $[\text{NO}_2] = 0.00650 \text{ M}$

These conditions are typical for thermal decomposition or transformation studies, where temperature influences the reaction rate significantly.

Experimental Observation and Data Analysis

Concentration Change Over Time

The key experimental observation is that the concentration of NO₂ decreases from 0.0100 M to 0.00650 M over a certain period, indicating ongoing reaction progress.

This change allows us to analyze the kinetics using the integrated rate law for first-order reactions:

$$\ln \left(\frac{[A]_0}{[A]_t} \right) = kt$$

where:

- $[A]_0$ is the initial concentration
- $[A]_t$ is the concentration at time t
- k is the rate constant
- t is the elapsed time

By plugging in the known concentrations, one can calculate the rate constant k , which encapsulates the reaction's speed at the given temperature.

Calculating the Rate Constant k

Suppose the time taken for the concentration to drop from 0.0100 M to 0.00650 M is t :

$$\ln \left(\frac{0.0100}{0.00650} \right) = kt$$

Calculating the left side:

$$\ln \left(\frac{0.0100}{0.00650} \right) = \ln (1.5385) \approx 0.431$$

Thus,

$$k = \frac{0.431}{t}$$

Without the exact time, this expression indicates that the rate constant is directly proportional to the inverse of the reaction time.

Implications of First-Order Kinetics in This Reaction

Mechanistic Insights

First-order behavior suggests that the rate-determining step involves only a single reactant molecule, or that the reaction proceeds through a mechanism where the concentration of one intermediate

controls the overall rate.

In the context of NO₂ reactions:

- The reaction may involve the homolytic cleavage of NO₂ into reactive radicals
- The radicals then combine or react further to form O₂ and other products
- The overall rate appears to depend solely on the concentration of NO₂, implying a unimolecular step is rate-limiting

Rate Law and Its Significance

The rate law for this reaction:

$$\text{Rate} = k [\text{NO}_2]$$

This indicates:

- The reaction velocity decreases proportionally as NO₂ concentration drops
- The system does not involve complex multi-molecular steps at the rate-limiting stage, simplifying kinetic modeling

Experimental Confirmation

Plotting $\ln [\text{NO}_2]$ vs. time yields a straight line, confirming first-order kinetics, which is a hallmark of unimolecular steps or reactions dominated by a single reactant's concentration.

Temperature Dependence and Arrhenius Behavior

Effect of Temperature on Reaction Rate

Reaction rates typically increase with temperature, consistent with the Arrhenius equation:

$$k = A e^{-E_a / RT}$$

where:

- A is the pre-exponential factor
- E_a is the activation energy
- R is the gas constant
- T is the temperature in Kelvin

At 300°C (573 K), the reaction exhibits a measurable rate constant, which can be compared with values at different temperatures to determine E_a .

Activation Energy Estimation

By performing experiments at various temperatures and plotting $\ln k$ versus $1/T$, the slope yields $-E_a/R$.

Knowing E_a provides:

- Insights into the energy barrier for the reaction
- Understanding of how temperature influences the rate

Environmental and Practical Relevance

Implications for Atmospheric Chemistry

NO_2 plays a vital role in atmospheric reactions, including:

- Formation of photochemical smog
- Ozone depletion processes
- Nitrogen oxide cycling

Understanding the kinetics helps in modeling atmospheric reactions, predicting pollution levels, and designing mitigation strategies.

Industrial and Laboratory Applications

- Controlled oxidation processes
- Synthesis of nitrogen oxides
- Combustion studies

First-order kinetics data allow engineers and chemists to optimize reaction conditions, predict product yields, and assess reaction times.

Conclusion and Future Considerations

This detailed exploration of the reaction $\text{NO}_2 + \text{NO}_2 \rightarrow \text{O}_2 + \text{Follows}$ at 300°C underscores the importance of first-order kinetics in understanding reaction mechanisms. The observed concentration decrease from 0.0100 M to 0.00650 M exemplifies a typical first-order process, with the rate directly dependent on the NO_2 concentration.

Moving forward, further studies could include:

- Determining the exact rate constant k at 300°C through time-resolved measurements
- Investigating the reaction mechanism via spectroscopic methods to confirm radical intermediates
- Extending the analysis to different temperatures to extract activation energy

- Exploring the reaction under varying conditions such as pressure and presence of catalysts

Understanding these kinetic parameters enhances our capacity to control and utilize such reactions in environmental and industrial contexts, contributing to cleaner air and more efficient chemical processes.

In summary, the reaction exhibits classic first-order behavior, with the concentration of NO_2 decreasing exponentially over time at 300°C . This kinetic profile simplifies the analysis and provides a foundation for deeper mechanistic and environmental studies, emphasizing the pivotal role of kinetics in modern chemistry.

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