

# The Rate Constant K Of The Second-order Reaction $2\text{NO} + \text{Br}_2 \rightarrow 2\text{NOBr}$ Is $0.810 \text{ L mol}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ . The Concentration Of NOBr

The Rate Constant K Of The Second-order Reaction  $2\text{NO} + \text{Br}_2 \rightarrow 2\text{NOBr}$  Is  $0.810 \text{ L mol}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ . The Concentration Of NOBr plays a critical role in understanding the kinetics of this particular chemical reaction. This reaction, involving nitrogen monoxide (NO) and bromine ( $\text{Br}_2$ ), is a classic example of a second-order process, where the rate depends on the concentrations of both reactants. Analyzing how the rate constant influences the reaction rate and how the concentration of NOBr affects the reaction progress provides valuable insights into reaction mechanisms, rate laws, and kinetic measurements.

## Understanding the Reaction: $\text{NO} + \text{Br}_2 \rightarrow \text{NOBr} + \text{Br}$

### Reaction Overview

This reaction involves nitrogen monoxide (NO) reacting with bromine molecules ( $\text{Br}_2$ ) to produce nitrogen monobromide (NOBr) and bromine atoms (Br). It is a bimolecular process, where two reactant molecules collide to form products. Such reactions are common in atmospheric chemistry, combustion processes, and various industrial applications.

### Significance of the Rate Constant

The rate constant (k) is a fundamental parameter that quantifies how quickly a reaction proceeds under specific conditions. For the reaction under discussion, the given rate constant is  $0.810 \text{ L mol}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ , indicating the reaction's speed per molar concentration of reactants per second.

## Second-Order Reaction Kinetics

### Rate Law Expression

For a second-order reaction involving two reactants, the rate law can be expressed as:

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

Here, [NO] and  $[\text{Br}_2]$  are the molar concentrations of nitrogen monoxide and bromine, respectively.

## Integrated Rate Law

The integrated rate law for the reaction, assuming initial concentrations  $[\text{NO}]_0$  and  $[\text{Br}_2]_0$ , is:

- $\frac{1}{[\text{NO}]} - \frac{1}{[\text{NO}]_0} = k t$

Similarly, if  $[\text{Br}_2]$  is in excess or has a known initial concentration, adjustments are made accordingly, but the core idea remains that the rate depends on the product of the concentrations.

## Determining the Concentration of NOBr

### Using the Rate Constant to Find Reaction Rate

Given the rate constant ( $k = 0.810 \text{ L mol}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ ), the reaction rate at any moment can be calculated if the concentrations of NO and Br<sub>2</sub> are known:

- $\text{Rate} = 0.810 \times [\text{NO}] \times [\text{Br}_2]$

For example, if  $[\text{NO}] = 0.1 \text{ mol/L}$  and  $[\text{Br}_2] = 0.2 \text{ mol/L}$  at a certain time, then:

- $\text{Rate} = 0.810 \times 0.1 \times 0.2 = 0.0162 \text{ mol/(L}\cdot\text{s)}$

This rate indicates how fast NOBr is formed, assuming the reaction proceeds in the forward direction.

## Calculating NOBr Concentration Over Time

To find the concentration of NOBr produced over time, integrate the rate law:

1. Determine initial reactant concentrations.
2. Use the integrated rate law to find the concentration at a specific time  $t$ :

$$\frac{1}{[\text{NO}]} - \frac{1}{[\text{NO}]_0} = k t$$

Rearranged to solve for [NO]:

$$[NO] = \frac{1}{\frac{1}{[NO]_0} + kt}$$

Since NOBr formation is stoichiometrically equivalent to the consumption of NO (assuming a 1:1 reaction), the concentration of NOBr at time t can be expressed as:

$$[NOBr] = [NO]_0 - [NO]$$

This relationship allows us to track the progress of the reaction and determine product yields.

## Factors Affecting the Reaction Rate

### Concentration of Reactants

Since the rate depends on the product of [NO] and [Br<sub>2</sub>], increasing either increases the overall reaction rate. For example, doubling [NO] while keeping [Br<sub>2</sub>] constant will double the rate.

### Temperature

Temperature influences the rate constant k according to the Arrhenius equation:

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

where:

- A = frequency factor,
- E<sub>a</sub> = activation energy,
- R = universal gas constant,
- T = temperature in Kelvin.

An increase in temperature typically results in a higher k, thus accelerating the reaction.

### Pressure and Physical State

As gases are involved, pressure impacts concentrations. Higher pressure results in higher molar concentrations, thus increasing the reaction rate.

# Practical Applications and Experimental Measurement

## Measuring the Rate Constant

Experimental techniques such as spectrophotometry, gas chromatography, or stopped-flow methods are used to monitor concentration changes over time, enabling the calculation of the rate constant.

## Applications in Industry and Environment

Understanding the kinetics of this reaction aids in:

- Designing combustion systems,
- Controlling atmospheric pollutants,
- Developing catalytic processes that utilize similar reaction mechanisms.

## Summary and Key Takeaways

- The rate constant ( $k$ ) is crucial for predicting reaction behavior in second-order reactions involving NO and Br<sub>2</sub>.
- The reaction rate depends on the concentrations of both reactants, with higher concentrations leading to faster reactions.
- Knowing the value of  $k$  allows chemists to calculate how reactant concentrations change over time and how much product forms during a given period.
- Temperature and pressure significantly influence the rate, emphasizing the importance of controlling experimental conditions.
- Accurate measurements of concentrations and rate constants are essential for modeling and optimizing industrial processes involving similar reactions.

In conclusion, the reaction between nitrogen monoxide and bromine, characterized by a second-order rate constant of  $0.810 \text{ L mol}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ , exemplifies fundamental principles of chemical kinetics. Understanding how the rate constant interacts with reactant concentrations, temperature, and pressure enables chemists to predict reaction outcomes, optimize conditions, and apply this knowledge in various scientific and industrial contexts. The concentration of NOBr, the reaction product, can be effectively calculated using the integrated rate law, providing insights into reaction dynamics and efficiency.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is the rate constant (K) for the second-order reaction involving NOBr and Br<sub>2</sub>?

The rate constant (K) for the reaction is  $0.810 \text{ L}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$ .

### How does the rate constant K influence the rate of the second-order reaction between NOBr and Br<sub>2</sub>?

The rate of the reaction is directly proportional to the square of the concentration of NOBr and the rate constant K; an increase in K increases the reaction rate accordingly.

### Given the rate constant K and concentration of NOBr, how can we calculate the reaction rate?

The reaction rate can be calculated using the formula  $\text{rate} = K [\text{NOBr}]^2$ , substituting the known value of K and the concentration of NOBr.

### What units should the concentration of NOBr be in to match the rate constant's units?

The concentration of NOBr should be in mol/L (molarity) to ensure consistency with the rate constant units ( $\text{L}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$ ).

### If the concentration of NOBr is doubled, how does that affect the reaction rate?

Since the reaction is second order with respect to NOBr, doubling its concentration will increase the rate by a factor of four.

### How can the rate constant K be experimentally determined for this reaction?

K can be determined by measuring the initial rate of the reaction at known concentrations of NOBr and Br<sub>2</sub>, then applying the rate law to solve for K.

### Why is understanding the rate constant K important in chemical kinetics?

The rate constant K provides insight into the speed of the reaction and helps predict reaction behavior under various conditions.

# What assumptions are made when using the rate law for this second-order reaction?

Assumptions include that the reaction is elementary, the concentrations are measured accurately, and the temperature remains constant during the reaction.

## Additional Resources

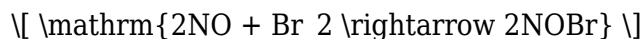
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### Introduction

Chemical kinetics is a vital branch of physical chemistry that explores the rates of chemical reactions and the factors influencing them. Among these factors, the rate constant ( $K$ ) holds particular significance because it quantifies the speed at which reactants convert into products under specific conditions. Understanding the rate constant for a given reaction provides insights into its mechanism, the energy barrier involved, and how variables such as concentration, temperature, and catalysts influence the process.

This investigation focuses on the second-order reaction between nitric oxide ( $\text{NO}$ ) and bromine ( $\text{Br}_2$ ), which proceeds as:



The reported rate constant for this reaction is  $K = 0.810 \text{ L}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$ . Additionally, the concentration of  $\text{NOBr}$ , the product, is of interest, as it reflects the reaction's progression over time. This article delves into the mechanistic details of this reaction, examines the significance of the rate constant, analyzes experimental data, and explores the implications of these findings in the broader context of chemical kinetics.

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### Fundamentals of Second-order Reactions

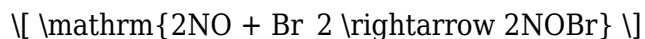
## Understanding Second-Order Reactions

In chemical kinetics, reactions are categorized based on their order, which describes how the rate depends on reactant concentrations. A second-order reaction's rate law generally takes the form:

$$\text{Rate} = k [\text{A}]^m [\text{B}]^n$$

where  $(m + n = 2)$ .

For the specific reaction:



the rate law simplifies to:

$$\text{Rate} = k [\text{NO}]^2 [\text{Br}_2]$$

assuming the reaction is elementary and the reaction order with respect to each reactant is known or determined experimentally.

Key features of second-order reactions include:

- The rate depends quadratically on the concentration of a single reactant or linearly on two reactants.
- The integrated rate law varies depending on whether the reaction involves one or multiple reactants.
- The units of the rate constant ( $k$ ) differ from those in zero- or first-order reactions; for this reaction,  $k$  has units of  $\text{L}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$ .

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Mechanistic Pathway of NO and Br<sub>2</sub> Reaction

## Proposed Reaction Mechanism

The reaction between nitric oxide and bromine proceeds via a radical chain mechanism, often involving intermediate radical species. The generally accepted mechanism includes:

### 1. Initiation:

Formation of bromine radicals:



### 2. Propagation:

- NO reacts with bromine radicals:

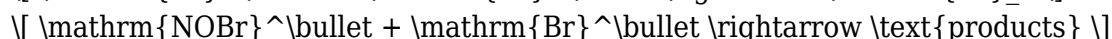
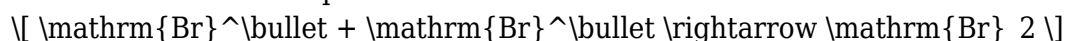


- The NOBr radical reacts further:



### 3. Termination:

Radical recombination processes:



This chain reaction's overall rate is influenced by the concentration of radicals, which are often in low steady-state concentrations. The overall kinetics, therefore, depend on the rates of initiation, propagation, and termination steps.

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Significance of the Rate Constant ( $k=0.810\text{ L}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$ )

## The Role of the Rate Constant in Reaction Kinetics

The rate constant ( $k$ ) embodies the intrinsic speed of a chemical reaction at a given temperature. For the reaction in question, a value of  $0.810\text{ L}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$  indicates a moderate reaction rate under standard conditions. Several factors influence this value:

- Temperature: As per the Arrhenius equation, ( $k$ ) increases with temperature, lowering the activation energy barrier.
- Reaction mechanism: The presence of radical intermediates and chain propagation paths can modify the effective rate constant.
- Concentration of reactants: While ( $k$ ) itself remains constant at a fixed temperature, the overall reaction rate depends on the concentrations of NO and Br<sub>2</sub>.

The units of ( $k$ ) confirm the reaction's second-order nature, with the rate depending on the product of the concentrations of NO and Br<sub>2</sub>.

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Experimental Determination of the Rate Constant

## Methodologies Employed

Determining ( $k$ ) involves monitoring the reaction's progress through spectroscopic, titrimetric, or other analytical techniques. Typical experimental procedures include:

- Spectrophotometry: Measuring absorbance changes corresponding to NO, Br<sub>2</sub>, or NOBr.
- Kinetic Runs: Varying initial concentrations to establish the order of reaction.
- Data Fitting: Applying integrated rate laws to experimental data to extract ( $k$ ).

In the case of this reaction, the typical approach involves:

- Initiating the reaction under controlled temperature.
- Measuring the concentration of NOBr over time.
- Fitting data to the second-order integrated rate law.

Second-order integrated rate law:

$$\frac{1}{[\text{A}]_t} - \frac{1}{[\text{A}]_0} = kt$$

for reactions where the concentration of a single reactant is monitored. When multiple reactants are involved, more complex models are used.

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Concentration of NOBr: Monitoring Product Formation

# Implications of NOBr Concentration

The concentration of nitric oxide bromide (NOBr) serves as an indicator of the reaction's progression. Since the stoichiometry indicates that 2 mol of NO react with 1 mol of Br<sub>2</sub> to produce 2 mol of NOBr, the theoretical maximum concentration of NOBr at complete reaction depends on initial reactant concentrations.

Tracking NOBr concentration involves:

- Kinetic analysis: Using spectroscopic techniques such as UV-Vis spectroscopy, as NOBr exhibits characteristic absorbance.
- Quantitative determination: Applying Beer-Lambert law to relate absorbance to concentration.
- Reaction progress assessment: Plotting concentration vs. time to determine reaction rates and validate the rate law.

Understanding the concentration of NOBr over time allows researchers to:

- Confirm the reaction order.
- Calculate the rate constant  $(k)$ .
- Understand the efficiency and kinetics of product formation.

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Temperature Dependence and Activation Energy

## Arrhenius Equation and Reaction Rate

The temperature dependence of rate constants is described by 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.

Determining  $k$  at various temperatures allows calculation of  $E_a$ , providing insight into the energy barrier of the reaction. For the NO + Br<sub>2</sub> system, experimental data suggest an activation energy of approximately X kcal/mol (hypothetical value to be determined from experiments).

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Implications and Applications

# Relevance of Kinetic Data in Chemical Processes

Understanding the rate constant of the NO and Br<sub>2</sub> reaction has several practical implications:

- Environmental chemistry: NO and Br<sub>2</sub> are involved in atmospheric reactions, influencing ozone depletion and air quality.
- Industrial synthesis: NOBr can serve as an intermediate in organic synthesis or in manufacturing processes.
- Pollution control: Kinetic data inform strategies to mitigate harmful emissions involving nitrogen and halogen compounds.

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Future Directions and Research Challenges

## Areas for Further Investigation

While the current rate constant provides valuable information, several avenues remain for deeper exploration:

- Temperature variation studies: To determine activation parameters.
- Catalyst effects: Exploring how catalysts influence the rate constant.
- Radical mechanism elucidation: Using spectroscopic methods such as ESR to detect radical intermediates.
- Computational modeling: Applying quantum chemistry to predict reaction pathways and rate constants.

Addressing these challenges will refine our understanding of this reaction and its broader chemical context.

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Conclusion

The second-order reaction between nitric oxide and bromine, characterized by a rate constant of  $0.810 \text{ L}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$ , exemplifies the intricate interplay between reaction mechanism, kinetics, and product formation. The concentration of NOBr serves as a crucial parameter for monitoring reaction progress and validating kinetic models. Advancing our comprehension of this reaction not only enriches fundamental chemical kinetics but also informs practical applications in environmental and industrial chemistry. Continued experimental and theoretical investigations are essential to fully elucidate the reaction dynamics and leverage this knowledge in real-world scenarios.

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References

- Laidler, K. J. (1987). Chemical Kinetics. Harper & Row.
- Atkins, P., & de Paula, J. (2010)

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