General Treatment of Chain Reactions (Ortho-Para Hydrogen Conversion and Hydrogen-Bromine Reactions)

In this section, we will discuss the general treatment of some common chain reactions like ortho-para hydrogen conversion and hydrogen-bromine reactions. To do so, we may also recall some concepts discussed earlier in this chapter.

> Ortho-Para Hydrogen Conversion

The ortho-hydrogen can convert into para-hydrogen and can easily be measured in the temperature range of 700–800°C. The conversion is completely homogeneous in nature and the order of the conversion is 1.5 as total. The widely accepted mechanism is given below.

$$p-H_2 \rightleftharpoons 2H$$
 (132)

$$H + p - H_2 \xrightarrow{k_2} H + o - H_2 \tag{133}$$

The equilibrium constant for the above-mentioned molecular-atomic equilibria given by equation (132) can be written as

$$K = \frac{[H]^2}{[p - H_2]} \tag{134}$$

$$[H]^2 = K[p-H_2] \tag{135}$$

$$[H] = K^{1/2} \left[p - H_2 \right]^{\frac{1}{2}} \tag{136}$$

The net rate of conversion of p- H_2 must be equal to the sum of the rate of formation and the rate of disappearance of the same i.e.

$$\frac{d[p-H_2]}{dt} = k_2[p-H_2][H]$$
 (137)

After using the value of [H] from equation (136) in equation (137), we get

$$\frac{d[p-H_2]}{dt} = k_2[p-H_2]K^{1/2}[p-H_2]^{\frac{1}{2}}$$
(137)

or

$$\frac{d[p-H_2]}{dt} = k_2 K^{1/2} [p-H_2]^{3/2}$$
 (137)

The overall activation energy of the conversion is $E = E_2 + D/2$ where E_2 is the activation energy of the second step while D is the dissociation energy of dihydrogen molecule.



> Hydrogen-Bromine Reactions

The hydrogen-bromine or the H_2 -Br₂ reaction is a typical case of stationary type chain reactions (n = 1) for which the overall reaction can be written as given below.

$$H_2 + Br_2 \rightarrow 2HBr \tag{138}$$

Furthermore, the elementary steps for the same can be proposed as

Initiation:
$$Br_2 \xrightarrow{k_1} 2Br$$
 (139)

Propagation:
$$Br + H_2 \xrightarrow{k_2} HBr + H$$
 (140)

$$H + Br_2 \xrightarrow{k_3} HBr + Br \tag{141}$$

Inhibition:
$$H + HBr \xrightarrow{k_4} H_2 + Br$$
 (142)

Termination:
$$\operatorname{Br} + \operatorname{Br} \xrightarrow{k_5} \operatorname{Br}_2$$
 (143)

The net rate of formation of HBr must be equal to the sum of the rate of formation and the rate of disappearance of the same i.e.

$$\frac{d[HBr]}{dt} = k_2[Br][H_2] + k_3[H][Br_2] - k_4[H][HBr]$$
(144)

Now, in order to obtain the overall rate expression, we need to apply the steady-state approximation on the H and Br first i.e.

$$\frac{d[H]}{dt} = 0 = k_2[Br][H_2] - k_3[H][Br_2] - k_4[H][HBr]$$
(145)

Similarly,

$$\frac{d[Br]}{dt} = 0 = 2k_1[Br_2] - k_2[Br][H_2] + k_3[H][Br_2] + k_4[H][HBr] - 2k_5[Br]^2$$
 (146)

Taking negative both side of equation (145), we have

$$-k_2[Br][H_2] + k_3[H][Br_2] + k_4[H][HBr] = 0$$
 (147)

Using the above result in equation (146), we get

$$2k_1[Br_2] + 0 - 2k_5[Br]^2 = 0 (148)$$

$$2k_5[Br]^2 = 2k_1[Br_2] (149)$$



$$[Br] = \left(\frac{k_1}{k_5}\right)^{1/2} [Br_2]^{1/2} \tag{150}$$

Similarly, rearranging equation (145) again

$$k_3[H][Br_2] + k_4[H][HBr] = k_2[Br][H_2]$$
 (151)

$$[H] = \frac{k_2[Br][H_2]}{k_3[Br_2] + k_4[HBr]}$$
(152)

Now using the value of [Br] from equation (150), the above equation takes the form

$$[H] = \frac{k_2 (k_1/k_5)^{1/2} [Br_2]^{1/2} [H_2]}{k_3 [Br_2] + k_4 [HBr]}$$
(153)

Now rearranging equation (145) again in different mode i.e.

$$k_2[Br][H_2] - k_4[H][HBr] = k_3[H][Br_2]$$
 (154)

Using the above result in equation (144), we have

$$\frac{d[HBr]}{dt} = k_3[H][Br_2] + k_3[H][Br_2]$$
(info@dalalid[HBr]e.com +01-9802825820)
(156)

After putting the value of [H] from equation (152), the equation (156) takes the form

$$\frac{d[HBr]}{dt} = \frac{2k_3k_2(k_1/k_5)^{1/2}[Br_2]^{3/2}[H_2]}{k_3[Br_2] + k_4[HBr]}$$
(157)

Taking $k_3[Br_2]$ as common in the denominator and then canceling out the same form numerator, we get

$$\frac{d[HBr]}{dt} = \frac{2k_2(k_1/k_5)^{1/2}[Br_2]^{1/2}[H_2]}{1 + (k_4/k_3)[HBr]/[Br_2]}$$
(158)

Now consider two new constants as

$$k' = 2k_2(k_1/k_5)^{1/2}$$
 and $k'' = k_4/k_3$ (159)

Using in equation (158), we get

$$\frac{d[HBr]}{dt} = \frac{k'[Br_2]^{1/2}[H_2]}{1 + k''[HBr]/[Br_2]}$$
(160)

The initial reaction rate expression can be obtained by neglecting [HBr] i.e. 1 + k''[HBr]/[Br₂] ≈ 1 as



$$\left[\frac{d[HBr]}{dt}\right]_{0} = k'[Br_{2}]^{1/2}[H_{2}]_{0}$$
(161)

Hence, the order of the hydrogen-bromine reaction in the initial stage will be 1.5 only i.e. first-order w.r.t. hydrogen and half w.r.t. bromine.

However, if the initiation occurs by the photon of the incident light, the expression for the overall rate can slightly be modified. Recall the initiation step again via photochemical decomposition i.e.

$$Br_2 + h\nu \xrightarrow{k} 2Br$$
 (162)

Then, the quantum yield for this primary change will be

$$\phi = \frac{-d[Br_2]/dt}{I_{ab}} \tag{163}$$

Where I_{ab} is the intensity of absorbed radiation. Since $\phi = 1$ for primary process, we have

$$1 = \frac{-d[Br_2]/dt}{I_{ab}} \tag{164}$$

$$\begin{array}{c|c}
\hline
\begin{array}{c}
d[Br_2] \\
dt
\end{array}
\begin{array}{c}
a_b
\end{array}
\begin{array}{c}
(165) \\
(info@dalalinstitute.com, +91-9802825820) \\
d[Br_2]
\end{array}$$
(166)

For the rate of formation of Br, we have

$$-\frac{d[Br_2]}{dt} = +\frac{1}{2}\frac{d[Br]}{dt} = k[Br_2] = I_{ab}$$
 (167)

$$\frac{d[Br]}{dt} = 2k[Br_2] = 2I_{ab} {168}$$

Now since $2k_1[Br_2] = 2I_{ab}$, then

$$k_1^{1/2}[Br_2]^{1/2} = (I_{ab})^{1/2}$$
 (169)

Using the above result in equation (158), we get

$$\frac{d[HBr]}{dt} = \frac{2k_2(I_{ab}/k_5)^{1/2}[H_2]}{1 + (k_4/k_3)[HBr]/[Br_2]}$$
(170)

Hence, the rate of hydrogen-bromine reaction is directly proportional to the square root of the intensity of absorbed radiation.



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