

Common Equations Used in Chemistry

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1. Basic Conversions and Definitions

Converting °F to °C:

$$^{\circ}\text{C} = (^{\circ}\text{F} - 32) \times \frac{5}{9}$$

Converting °C to °F:

$$^{\circ}\text{F} = \left(^{\circ}\text{C} \times \frac{9}{5}\right) + 32$$

Converting °C to K:

$$K = ^{\circ}\text{C} + 273.15$$

2. Solutions

Density:

$$d = \frac{m}{V}$$

Molarity:

$$C = \frac{\text{moles of solute}}{\text{liters of solution}}$$

Molality:

$$b = \frac{\text{moles of solute}}{\text{kg of solvent}}$$

Boiling point elevation¹:

$$\Delta T_b = iK_b b$$

Freezing point depression:

$$\Delta T_f = iK_f b$$

Table 1: Boiling point elevation and freezing point depression constants for different solvents.

Solvent	Normal Boiling (°C)	K_b (°C/m)	Normal Freezing (°C)	K_f (°C/m)
Water	100.0	0.512	0.0	1.86
Acetic acid	118.1	3.04	16.6	3.90
Benzene	80.1	2.53	5.5	5.12
Chloroform	61.3	3.63	-63.5	4.86
Carbon tetrachloride	76.8	5.26	-22.62	31.4
Carbon disulfide	46.2	2.42	-112.1	3.74
Nitrobenzene	210.9	5.24	5.67	6.87
D-Camphor	207.4	4.91	178.8	37.8

Osmotic pressure:

$$\pi = iMRT$$

Dilution:

$$C_1 V_1 = C_2 V_2$$

¹ The van't Hoff factor, i , describes the number of particles formed upon solvation. For example, for solvation of sodium chloride, $\text{NaCl}(s) \longrightarrow \text{Na}^+(aq) + \text{Cl}^-(aq)$, $i = 2$. For a nonelectrolyte (like glucose or benzene), $i = 1$. This factor can deviate from ideality for highly charged ions, where ion-pairing occurs (incomplete dissociation), as is seen with CaCl_2 , where $i = 2.6$ instead of 3.0 ($\text{CaCl}_2(s) \longrightarrow \text{Ca}^{2+}(aq) + 2\text{Cl}^-(aq)$).

3. Gases

Ideal Gas Law, $R = 0.08206 \frac{\text{L}\cdot\text{atm}}{\text{K}\cdot\text{mol}}$

$$PV = nRT$$

Boyle's Law (n, T constant):

$$P_1V_1 = P_2V_2$$

Charles' Law (n, P constant):

$$\frac{V_1}{V_2} = \frac{T_1}{T_2}$$

Avogadro's Law (P, T constant):

$$\frac{V_1}{V_2} = \frac{n_1}{n_2}$$

Gay-Lussac's Law (P, T constant):

$$\frac{P_1}{P_2} = \frac{T_1}{T_2}$$

Combined Gas Law (n is constant):

$$\frac{P_1V_1}{T_1} = \frac{P_2V_2}{T_2}$$

Relation of density to molar mass:

$$M = \frac{dRT}{P}$$

Dalton's Law of Partial Pressures, where χ_i = mole fraction of species i and P_T is total pressure:

$$P_i = \chi_i P_T$$

Raoult's Law, where P_i^* is the vapor pressure of pure substance i :

$$P_T^* = \chi_A P_A^* + \chi_B P_B^* + \dots$$

Alternately,

$$P_i = \chi_i P_i^*$$

Root-mean-square (RMS) speed of a gas particle:

$$\mu = \sqrt{\frac{3RT}{M}}$$

Rates of Effusion by Molar Mass

$$\frac{\text{rate}_1}{\text{rate}_2} = \sqrt{\frac{M_2}{M_1}}$$

van der Waals equation for pressure of a non-ideal gas, where a corrects for the attractive forces between gas particles, and b corrects for the volume occupied by gas particles:

$$\left(P + \frac{an^2}{V^2}\right)(V - nb) = nRT$$

4. Thermodynamics

4.1. Heat Exchange

Heat exchange, where C_s is specific heat capacity:

$$q = mC_s\Delta T$$

Calorimetry in an imperfect calorimeter:

$$q_{\text{rxn}} = mC_s\Delta T + C_{\text{cal}}\Delta T$$

Heat exchange, where C_V is molar heat capacity at constant volume:

$$q = nC_V\Delta T$$

Heat exchange, where C_P is molar heat capacity at constant pressure:

$$q = nC_P\Delta T$$

4.2. Conditions

4.2.1. Definitions

- Isothermal: $\Delta T = 0$, $\Delta E = 0$, $q = -w$
- Adiabatic: $q = 0$, $\Delta E = w$
- Isobaric: $\Delta P = 0$ (constant pressure)

4.2.2. In General

- $q = nC\Delta T$
- $w = -P\Delta V$ where $\text{L}\cdot\text{atm} = 101.325 \text{ J}$
- $\Delta E = q + w$
- $\Delta H = \Delta E + P\Delta V + V\Delta P$
- $C_P = \frac{5}{2}R$ and $C_V = \frac{3}{2}R$

Table 2: Summary of thermodynamic quantities under different conditions.

Quantity	Constant P	Constant V	Adiabatic	Isothermal
Heat, q	$nC_P\Delta T$	$nC_V\Delta T$	0	$-w$
Work, w	$-P\Delta V$	0	$nC_V\Delta T$	$-nRT \ln\left(\frac{V_f}{V_i}\right) = -nRT \ln\left(\frac{P_i}{P_f}\right)$
Energy, ΔE	$q + w$	q	w	0
Enthalpy, ΔH	q	$\Delta E + V\Delta P$	$V\Delta P$	0
Entropy, ΔS	$nC_P \ln\left(\frac{T_f}{T_i}\right)$	$nC_V \ln\left(\frac{T_f}{T_i}\right)$	0	$nR \ln\left(\frac{V_f}{V_i}\right) = nR \ln\left(\frac{P_i}{P_f}\right)$

4.3. The Adiabatic Condition

Given a rapid change in volume where $q = 0$, both P and T change to accommodate the compression or expansion.

$$\gamma = \frac{C_P}{C_V} = \frac{5}{3}$$

$$(P_1)(V_1)^\gamma = (P_2)(V_2)^\gamma$$

$$w = nC_V\Delta T$$

Temperature change in adiabatic compression or expansion:

$$T_f = T_i \left(\frac{V_i}{V_f} \right)^{(R/C_V)}$$

4.4. Enthalpy

Enthalpy is the energy required to create a system, plus the amount of energy required to make room for the system by displacing its environment by the system's volume at a given pressure.

$$H = E + PV$$

Enthalpy change for a reaction:

$$\Delta H = \Delta E + \Delta(PV) = \Delta E + P\Delta V + V\Delta P$$

Standard enthalpy of reaction, where n and m are coefficients in the balanced reaction equation:

$$\Delta H_{\text{rxn}}^\circ = \sum n\Delta H_f^\circ(\text{products}) - \sum m\Delta H_f^\circ(\text{reactants}) = \sum D_{\text{broken}} - \sum D_{\text{formed}}$$

Clausius–Clapeyron equation:

$$\ln P = \frac{-\Delta H_{\text{vap}}}{RT} + C$$

Heat of vaporization based on the Clausius–Clapeyron equation:

$$\ln \frac{P_1}{P_2} = \frac{\Delta H_{\text{vap}}}{R} \left(\frac{1}{T_2} - \frac{1}{T_1} \right) = \frac{-\Delta H_{\text{vap}}}{R} \left(\frac{1}{T_1} - \frac{1}{T_2} \right)$$

4.5. Entropy

Second Law of Thermodynamics:

$$\Delta S_{\text{universe}} = \Delta S_{\text{system}} + \Delta S_{\text{surroundings}} > 0$$

Standard entropy of reaction, where n and m are coefficients in the balanced reaction equation:

$$\Delta S_{\text{rxn}}^{\circ} = \sum n \Delta S^{\circ}(\text{products}) - \sum m \Delta S^{\circ}(\text{reactants})$$

Change in entropy with ΔH_{vap} or q where T is constant:

$$\Delta S = \frac{\Delta H_{\text{vap}}}{T} = \frac{q}{T}$$

Change in entropy with ΔV or ΔP where T is constant:

$$\Delta S = nR \ln \left(\frac{V_f}{V_i} \right) = nR \ln \left(\frac{P_i}{P_f} \right)$$

Change in entropy for a thermodynamic process where T and/or P are varied:

$$\Delta S = nC_V \ln \left(\frac{T_f}{T_i} \right) - nR \ln \left(\frac{P_f}{P_i} \right)$$

4.6. Gibbs Free Energy

Free energy change at constant temperature:

$$\Delta G^{\circ} = \Delta H^{\circ} - T \Delta S^{\circ}$$

Or for an equilibrium reaction:

$$\Delta G^{\circ} = -RT \ln K_{\text{eq}}$$

Non-standard free energy:

$$\Delta G = \Delta G^{\circ} + RT \ln Q$$

Standard free energy of reaction, where n and m are coefficients in the balanced reaction equation:

$$\Delta G_{\text{rxn}}^{\circ} = \sum n \Delta G_f^{\circ}(\text{products}) - \sum m \Delta G_f^{\circ}(\text{reactants})$$

5. Electromagnetism

Relationship of wavelength and frequency, where $c = 2.99 \times 10^8$ m/s:

$$c = \lambda\nu$$

Energy of a photon, where Planck's constant $h = 6.626 \times 10^{-34}$ J·s:

$$E = h\nu = \frac{hc}{\lambda}$$

Energy of an electron in the n^{th} shell in a hydrogen atom, where $R_{\text{H}} = 2.18 \times 10^{-18}$ J:

$$E_n = -Z^2 R_{\text{H}} \left(\frac{1}{n^2} \right)$$

Energy of a photon emitted as the electron undergoes a transition from the n_{i} shell to the n_{f} shell:

$$\Delta E = Z^2 R_{\text{H}} \left(\frac{1}{n_{\text{f}}^2} - \frac{1}{n_{\text{i}}^2} \right)$$

Or, use $R_{\text{H}} = 10973731.6$ m⁻¹:

$$\frac{1}{\lambda} = Z^2 R_{\text{H}} \left(\frac{1}{n_{\text{f}}^2} - \frac{1}{n_{\text{i}}^2} \right)$$

Simplified Rydberg Equation, where $R_{\infty} = 10973731.6$ m⁻¹:

$$\frac{1}{\lambda} = R_{\infty} \left(\frac{1}{n_{\text{lower}}^2} - \frac{1}{n_{\text{upper}}^2} \right)$$

de Broglie wavelength:

$$\lambda = \frac{h}{mv}$$

Formal charge:

$$q_{\text{F}} = N_{\text{i}}e_{\text{V}} - N_{\text{j}}\text{B} - N_{\text{k}}e_{\text{NB}}$$

Dipole moment:

$$\mu = Q \times r$$

Bragg equation:

$$\lambda\nu = 2d \sin \theta$$

6. Quantum Mechanics

Heisenberg Uncertainty Principle:

$$\Delta x \Delta p \geq \frac{h}{4\pi}$$

The time-dependent Schrödinger equation:

$$i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial t} |\Psi(t)\rangle = \hat{H} |\Psi(t)\rangle$$

The time-independent Schrödinger equation for a particle of mass m moving in one direction with energy E where $\hbar = h/2\pi$ is:

$$-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{d^2\Psi(x)}{dx^2} + V(x)\Psi(x) = E\Psi(x)$$

Wavefunction for the 1s orbital:

$$\psi_{1s} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} e^{-r}$$

Wavefunction for the 2s orbital:

$$\psi_{2s} = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{2\pi}} \left(1 - \frac{r}{2}\right) e^{-r/2}$$

Wavefunction for the $2p_z$ orbital, where a_0 is the radius of the first Bohr orbit (5.29×10^{-11} m), $\sigma = Z(r/a_0)$ where r is the distance (in m) from the nucleus and Z is the nuclear charge, and θ is an angle:

$$\psi_{2p_z} = \frac{1}{4\sqrt{2\pi}} \left(\frac{Z}{a_0}\right)^{3/2} \sigma e^{-\sigma/2} \cos \theta$$

Wavefunction for a particle in a 1-dimensional box of length L :

$$\psi = \sqrt{\frac{2}{L}} \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{L} x\right)$$

Energy for a particle in a 1-dimensional box of length L :

$$E = \frac{n^2 h^2}{8mL^2}$$

Potential energy between two charged bodies:

$$V = k \frac{q_1 q_2}{r}$$

7. Stoichiometry

Percent composition of an element in a compound, where n = the number of moles of the element in one mole of the compound:

$$\% = \left(\frac{n \times \text{molar mass of element}}{\text{molar mass of compound}} \right) \times 100\%$$

Percent yield:

$$\% \text{ yield} = \left(\frac{\text{actual yield}}{\text{theoretical yield}} \right) \times 100\%$$

8. Electrochemistry

Electrical force between two charged bodies:

$$F_{el} = k \frac{q_1 q_2}{r_2}$$

Standard emf of an electrochemical cell:

$$\mathcal{E}_{\text{cell}}^{\circ} = \mathcal{E}_{\text{ox}}^{\circ} - \mathcal{E}_{\text{red}}^{\circ} = \frac{RT}{nF} \ln K$$

Standard free energy of an electrochemical cell:

$$\Delta G^{\circ} = -nF \mathcal{E}_{\text{cell}}^{\circ}$$

Nernst equation:

$$\mathcal{E}_{\text{cell}} = \mathcal{E}_{\text{cell}}^{\circ} - \frac{RT}{nF} \ln Q$$

Therefore: Standard free energy of an electrochemical cell:

$$\Delta G = -nF \mathcal{E}_{\text{cell}}$$

9. Reaction Kinetics

Order	Rate Laws		
	Standard Form	Integrated Form	Line Form
0	rate = k	$[A]_t - [A]_0 = -kt$	$[A]_t = -kt + [A]_0$
1	rate = $k[A]$	$\ln \frac{[A]_t}{[A]_0} = -kt$	$\ln [A]_t = -kt + \ln [A]_0$
2	rate = $k[A]^2$	$\frac{1}{[A]_t} - \frac{1}{[A]_0} = kt$	$\frac{1}{[A]_t} = kt + \frac{1}{[A]_0}$

Order	Half-life
0	$t_{1/2} = \frac{[A]_0}{2k}$
1	$t_{1/2} = \frac{\ln 2}{k}$
2	$t_{1/2} = \frac{1}{k[A]_0}$

First-order decay:

$$[A]_t = [A]_0 (1/2)^n \text{ where } n = t/t_{1/2} \text{ or ln form: } \ln \frac{[A]_t}{[A]_0} = (-\ln 2) \left(\frac{t}{t_{1/2}} \right)$$

Arrhenius equation:

$$k = A \exp \frac{-E_a}{RT} \text{ and ln form: } \ln k = \left(\frac{-E_a}{R} \right) \left(\frac{1}{T} \right) + \ln A$$

Relationships of rate constants at two different temperatures:

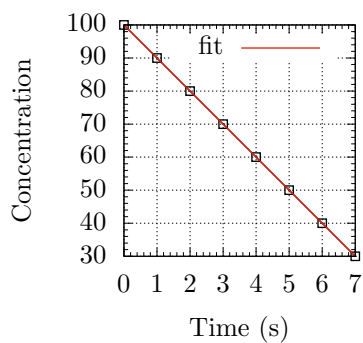
$$\ln \frac{k_1}{k_2} = \frac{E_a}{R} \left(\frac{1}{T_2} - \frac{1}{T_1} \right) = \frac{-E_a}{R} \left(\frac{1}{T_1} - \frac{1}{T_2} \right)$$

9.1. Kinetics Data

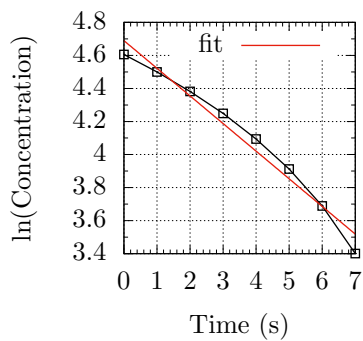
Table 3: Kinetics Data — 0th Order

Time	Concentration	$\ln(\text{Concentration})$	$1/(\text{Concentration})$
0	100	4.605	0.0100
1	90	4.499	0.0110
2	80	4.382	0.0125
3	70	4.248	0.0141
4	60	4.094	0.0166
5	50	3.912	0.0200
6	40	3.688	0.0250
7	30	3.401	0.0333

0th Order Plot, $R^2 = 1$



1st Order Plot, $R^2 = 0.97$



2nd Order Plot, $R^2 = 0.89$

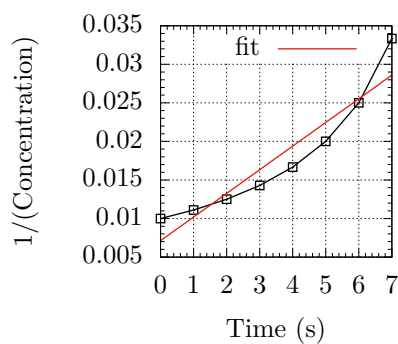


Table 4: Kinetics Data — 1st Order

Time	Concentration	$\ln(\text{Concentration})$	$1/(\text{Concentration})$
0	100	4.605	0.01
1	50	3.912	0.02
2	25	3.218	0.04
3	12.5	2.525	0.08
4	6.25	1.832	0.16
5	3.13	1.141	0.32
6	1.56	0.444	0.64
7	0.78	-0.248	1.28

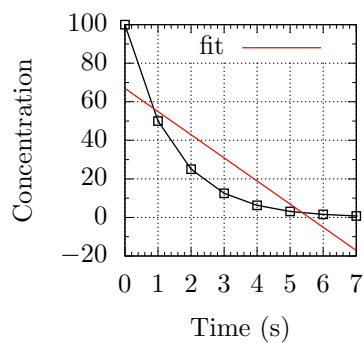
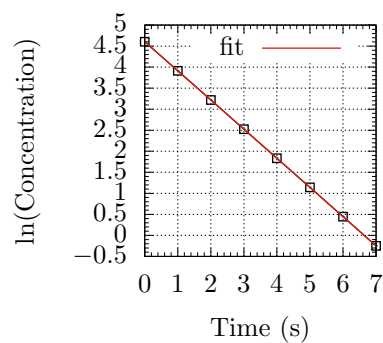
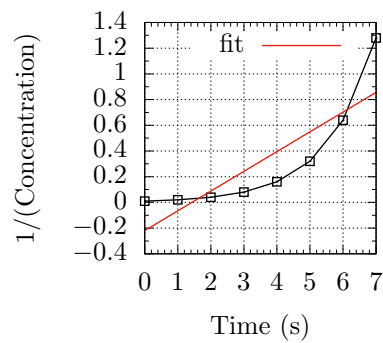
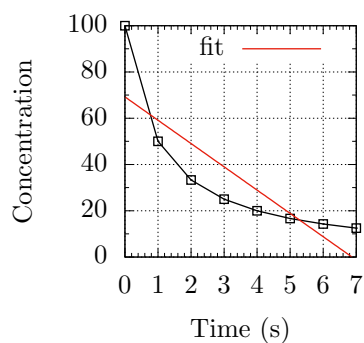
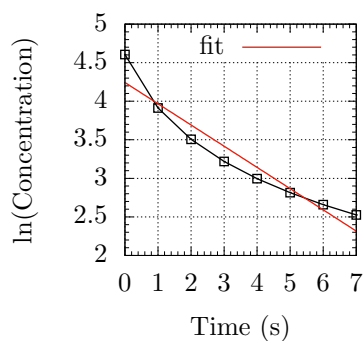
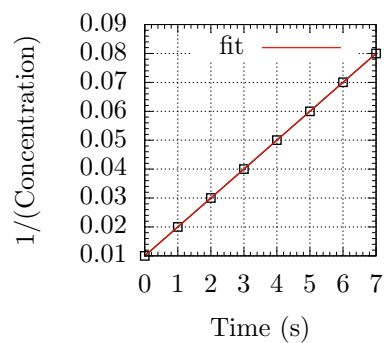
0th Order Plot, $R^2 = 0.73$ 1st Order Plot, $R^2 = 1$ 2nd Order Plot, $R^2 = 0.72$ 

Table 5: Kinetics Data — 2nd Order

Time	Concentration	$\ln(\text{Concentration})$	$1/(\text{Concentration})$
0	100	4.605	0.01
1	50	3.912	0.02
2	33.3	3.505	0.03
3	25	3.218	0.04
4	20	2.995	0.05
5	16.67	2.813	0.06
6	14.28	2.658	0.07
7	12.5	2.525	0.08

0th Order Plot, $R^2 = 0.70$ 1st Order Plot, $R^2 = 0.92$ 2nd Order Plot, $R^2 = 1$ 

10. Equilibrium

Law of Mass Action (equilibrium constant) for a reaction of form $aA + bB \longrightarrow cC + dD$:

$$K_{\text{eq}} = \frac{[C]^c [D]^d}{[A]^a [B]^b}$$

van't Hoff Equation

$$\ln \left(\frac{K_2}{K_1} \right) = \frac{-\Delta H^\circ}{R} \left(\frac{1}{T_2} - \frac{1}{T_1} \right) \text{ or } \ln K_{\text{sp}} = \frac{-\Delta H^\circ}{RT} + \frac{\Delta S^\circ}{R}$$

Relationship between equilibrium constants for aqueous systems and for gases:

$$K_p = K_c RT^{\Delta n}$$

Ion product of water:

$$K_w = [\text{H}_3\text{O}^+][\text{OH}^-] = 1 \times 10^{-14}$$

10.1. Equilibrium of Acids and Bases

Definition of pH:

$$\text{pH} = -\log[\text{H}_3\text{O}^+]$$

Definition of pOH:

$$\text{pOH} = -\log[\text{OH}^-] = 14 - \text{pH}$$

For the reaction $\text{HA} + \text{H}_2\text{O} \longrightarrow \text{H}_3\text{O}^+ + \text{A}^-$:

$$K_a = \frac{[\text{H}_3\text{O}^+][\text{A}^-]}{[\text{HA}]}$$

For the reaction $\text{B} + \text{H}_2\text{O} \longrightarrow \text{BH}^+ + \text{OH}^-$:

$$K_b = \frac{[\text{BH}^+][\text{OH}^-]}{[\text{B}]}$$

Relationship between K_a , K_b , and K_w :

$$K_w = K_a K_b = 1 \times 10^{-14}$$

Definition of $\text{p}K_a$:

$$\text{p}K_a = -\log(K_a)$$

Henderson-Hasselbalch equation:

$$\text{pH} = \text{p}K_a + \log \frac{[\text{base}]}{[\text{acid}]}$$

10.2. Equilibrium and Thermodynamics

Relationship between standard free-energy change and the equilibrium constant:

$$\Delta G^\circ = -RT \ln K$$

Non-standard free energy for a reaction of form $aA + bB \longrightarrow cC + dD$, where $Q = \frac{[C]^c [D]^d}{[A]^a [B]^b}$:

$$\Delta G = \Delta G^\circ + RT \ln Q$$

11. Similarity of Equations

11.1. Linear Equations with Different Temperatures

Clausius–Clapeyron Equation:

$$\ln \frac{P_1}{P_2} = \frac{\Delta H_{\text{vap}}}{R} \left(\frac{1}{T_2} - \frac{1}{T_1} \right) = \frac{-\Delta H_{\text{vap}}}{R} \left(\frac{1}{T_1} - \frac{1}{T_2} \right)$$

Arrhenius Equation:

$$\ln \frac{k_1}{k_2} = \frac{E_a}{R} \left(\frac{1}{T_2} - \frac{1}{T_1} \right) = \frac{-E_a}{R} \left(\frac{1}{T_1} - \frac{1}{T_2} \right)$$

van't Hoff Equation:

$$\ln \frac{K_1}{K_2} = \frac{\Delta H^\circ}{R} \left(\frac{1}{T_2} - \frac{1}{T_1} \right) = \frac{-\Delta H^\circ}{R} \left(\frac{1}{T_1} - \frac{1}{T_2} \right)$$

van't Hoff Equation with K_{sp} and entropy, plot $\ln K_{\text{sp}}$ vs. $1/T$:

$$\Delta H^\circ - T\Delta S^\circ = \Delta G^\circ = -RT \ln K_{\text{sp}}$$

$$\ln K_{\text{sp}} = \frac{-\Delta H^\circ}{RT} + \frac{\Delta S^\circ}{R}$$

11.2. Summations

Standard entropy of reaction, where n and m are coefficients in the balanced reaction equation:

$$\Delta S_{\text{rxn}}^\circ = \sum n \Delta S^\circ(\text{products}) - \sum m \Delta S^\circ(\text{reactants})$$

Standard enthalpy of reaction, where n and m are coefficients in the balanced reaction equation:

$$\Delta H_{\text{rxn}}^\circ = \sum n \Delta H_f^\circ(\text{products}) - \sum m \Delta H_f^\circ(\text{reactants})$$

Standard free energy of reaction, where n and m are coefficients in the balanced reaction equation:

$$\Delta G_{\text{rxn}}^\circ = \sum n \Delta G_f^\circ(\text{products}) - \sum m \Delta G_f^\circ(\text{reactants})$$

12. Other

Mass defect:

$$\Delta m = [Z(m_p + m_e) + (A - Z)m_n] - m_{\text{atom}}$$

Table 6: Values for mass defect equation.

Variable	Description	Value
Δm	mass defect	amu
m_p	mass of a proton	1.007277
m_n	mass of a neutron	1.008665
m_e	mass of an electron	0.000548597
m_{atom}	mass of nuclide	A_ZX
Z	atomic number	number of protons
A	mass number	number of nucleons

Relationship between mass defect and energy released:

$$\Delta E = (\Delta m)c^2$$

The Quadratic Formula: for a quadratic equation $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$, the solutions x are:

$$x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

13. Acidities

Acid	Conj. Base	pK_a	Remarks
HI	I^-	-10	hydroiodic acid
HBr	Br^-	-9	hydrobromic acid
H_2SO_4	HSO_4^-	-9	sulfuric acid
HCl	Cl^-	-7	hydrochloric acid
H_3O^+	H_2O	-2	hydronium
HNO_3	NO_3^-	-1	nitric acid
HSO_4^-	SO_4^{2-}	2	2 nd H of sulfuric acid
HF	F^-	3	hydrofluoric acid
RCOOH	$RCOO^-$	4	carboxylic acids
H_2S	HS^-	7	compare to H_2O
NH_4^+	NH_3	9	ammonium
HCN	NC^-	9.2	<i>sp</i> -hybridized carbanion
PhOH	PhO^-	10	phenols ^a
H_2O	HO^-	15.7	water ^b
ROH	RO^-	16	aliphatic alcohols ^c
$RC(O)NH_2$	$RC(O)NH^-$	17	amides
$RC(O)CH_3$	$RC(O)CH_2^-$	20	α H of ketones
$PhNH_2$	$PhNH^-$	25	aniline ^d
$RC\equiv CH$	$RC\equiv C^-$	25	terminal alkyne (<i>sp</i> H)
H_2	H^-	36	hydrogen gas
NH_3	NH_2^-	38	ammonia
RNH_2	RNH^-	40	aliphatic amines

Footnotes:

^a depending on the substitution of Ph, pK_a can vary from 4–11

^b water is amphoteric, so anything less acidic than water can act as a base in aqueous solution

^c depending on the substitution of R, pK_a can vary from 15–17

^d depending on the substitution of Ph, pK_a can vary from 18–28

A conjugate base can deprotonate any acid higher than it on this table.