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Assignment-3

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Abstract—This document explains the concept of balancing the chemical equations using linear algebra.

Download all python codes from

https://github.com/vipulmalik8569/MT-EE5609

and latex-tikz codes from

https://github.com/vipulmalik8569/MT-EE5609

1 Problem

Write the balanced chemical equations for the following reaction:

$$BaCl_2 + K_2SO_4 \rightarrow BaSO_4 + KCl$$
 (1.0.1)

2 Solution

We know that the number of atoms of each element remains the same, before and after a chemical reaction.

Equation (1.0.1) can be written as:

$$x_1 BaCl_2 + x_2 K_2 SO_4 \rightarrow x_3 BaSO_4 + x_4 KCl$$
 (2.0.1)

Element wise contribution in forming the respective chemical compound can be written in the form of equation as:

$$Ba: x_1 + 0x_2 - x_3 - 0x_4 = 0 (2.0.2)$$

$$Cl: 2x_1 + 0x_2 - 0x_3 - 1x_4 = 0$$
 (2.0.3)

$$K: 0x_1 + 2x_2 - 0x_3 - 1x_4 = 0 (2.0.4)$$

$$S: 0x_1 + 1x_2 - 1x_3 - 0x_4 = 0 (2.0.5)$$

$$O: 0x_1 + 4x_2 - 4x_3 - 0x_4 = 0 (2.0.6)$$

In matrix form this can be written as:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 2 & 0 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 4 & -4 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$
 (2.0.7)

Using Gaussian Elimination method:

$$\stackrel{R_2 \leftrightarrow R_5}{\longleftrightarrow} \begin{pmatrix}
1 & 0 & -1 & 0 & : & 0 \\
0 & 4 & -4 & 0 & : & 0 \\
0 & 2 & 0 & -1 & : & 0 \\
0 & 1 & -1 & 0 & : & 0 \\
2 & 0 & 0 & -1 & : & 0
\end{pmatrix}$$
(2.0.8)

$$\stackrel{R_5 \leftarrow 2R_1 - R_5}{\longleftrightarrow} \begin{pmatrix}
1 & 0 & -1 & 0 & : & 0 \\
0 & 4 & -4 & 0 & : & 0 \\
0 & 2 & 0 & -1 & : & 0 \\
0 & 1 & -1 & 0 & : & 0 \\
0 & 0 & -2 & 1 & : & 0
\end{pmatrix} (2.0.9)$$

$$\stackrel{R_3 \leftarrow 2R_3 - R_2}{\underset{R_4 \leftarrow 4R_4 - R_2}{\longleftrightarrow}} \begin{pmatrix}
1 & 0 & -1 & 0 & : & 0 \\
0 & 4 & -4 & 0 & : & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 4 & -2 & : & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & : & 0 \\
0 & 0 & -2 & 1 & : & 0
\end{pmatrix}$$
(2.0.10)

$$\stackrel{R_5 \leftrightarrow R_5}{\longleftrightarrow} \begin{pmatrix}
1 & 0 & -1 & 0 & : & 0 \\
0 & 4 & -4 & 0 & : & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 4 & -2 & : & 0 \\
0 & 0 & -2 & 1 & : & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & : & 0
\end{pmatrix} (2.0.11)$$

$$\stackrel{R_4 \leftarrow 2R_4 - R_3}{\longleftrightarrow} \begin{pmatrix}
1 & 0 & -1 & 0 & : & 0 \\
0 & 4 & -4 & 0 & : & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 4 & -2 & : & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & : & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & : & 0
\end{pmatrix} (2.0.12)$$

By solving this we get:

$$x_1 = x_2 = x_3 = 1, x_4 = 2$$
 (2.0.13)

Hence by putting the values of x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4 in equation (1.0.1) we get our balanced chemical equation as follows:

$$BaCl_2 + K_2SO_4 \rightarrow BaSO_4 + 2KCl$$
 (2.0.14)