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Integrated Rate Laws

Finally a use for calculus!

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What is a rate?

It's a "delta/delta"!

Rate of reaction = $\frac{\Delta \text{concentration}}{\Delta \text{time}}$

In other words, it is a differential.

As you MAY recall from calculus, if you take a small enough delta (difference) you end up with a derivative!

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A rate as a derivative

Rate of reaction = $\frac{\Delta \text{concentration}}{\Delta \text{time}}$

If Δtime is small enough, we have:

$$\text{Rate of reaction} = \frac{-d[\text{reactant}]}{dt}$$

Why "-"? Because you are losing reactants and the rate should always be positive.

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Let's look at the rate law

Rate = $k[A]$

$$\text{Rate of reaction} = \frac{-d[A]}{dt} = k[A]$$

This is actually an integrable equation.

[Don't worry, this isn't a math class...it's just masquerading as one!]

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Solving the equation

I'll show you how to solve it, but it is only the solution that you need to know.

$$\frac{-d[A]}{dt} = k[A]$$

We collect the [A] on one side and get:

$$\frac{d[A]}{[A]} = -kdt$$

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Solving the equation

$$\frac{d[A]}{[A]} = -kdt$$

Now you can integrate both sides:

$$\int_{[A]_{\text{initial}}}^{[A]_{\text{final}}} \frac{d[A]}{[A]} = - \int_{\text{time}=0}^{\text{final time}} kdt$$

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Solving the equation

$$\int_{[A]_{initial}}^{[A]_{final}} \frac{d[A]}{[A]} = - \int_{time=0}^{final\ time} k dt$$
$$\ln[A]_{final} - \ln[A]_{initial} = -kt$$

This is the only equation we really need. This is called the "integrated rate law"...well, because we integrated the rate law. ☺

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What it means...

$$\ln[A]_{final} - \ln[A]_{initial} = -kt$$

What it means is that the concentration at any time decays logarithmically from the initial concentration. If I rearrange the equation a little:

$$\ln[A]_{final} = -kt + \ln[A]_{initial}$$

What does this look like to you?

Yes, it is the equation of a straight line (y=mx+b)!

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Using the integrated rate law

$$\ln[A]_{final} = -kt + \ln[A]_{initial}$$

If you know k and the initial concentration, you could calculate the concentration at any time.

For example, if I know $k=0.015\text{ s}^{-1}$ and I start with 0.250 M A, how much A is left after 1 minute?

Beware the units. 1 minutes = 60 seconds. Since k is in s^{-1} , I need my time to be in seconds.

Plug and chug, baby!

$$\ln[A]_{final} = -0.015\text{ s}^{-1} \cdot 60\text{ s} + \ln(0.250\text{ M})$$
$$\ln[A]_{final} = -2.286$$
$$[A]_{final} = e^{-2.286} = 0.102\text{ M}$$

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Using the integrated rate law

$$\ln[A]_{final} = -kt + \ln[A]_{initial}$$

$$\ln[A]_{final} = -0.015s^{-1} \cdot 60s + \ln(0.250M)$$

$$\ln[A]_{final} = -2.286$$

$$[A]_{final} = e^{-2.286} = 0.102M$$

You can see the power of the integrated rate law. I can determine the remaining concentration of reactants at any second in time! (And, using stoichiometry, I could determine the concentration of products at any second in time!)

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Compare the integrated rate law to the rate law

$$\ln[A]_{final} = -kt + \ln[A]_{initial}$$

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

For the same problem, the rate law only allows me to calculate the initial rate of the reaction:

$$\text{Rate} = (0.015s^{-1})(0.250M) = 0.00375M/s$$

I could also calculate the RATE for any specific concentration. But I can't know how long it takes me to get to that new concentration.

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Other uses of the integrated rate law

$$\ln[A]_{final} = -kt + \ln[A]_{initial}$$

It's a straight line. Scientists LOVE LOVE LOVE straight lines!

If you have a reaction that you KNOW is 1st order, you could measure the [A] at a number of different times and plot the data and you'll get a straight line where the slope=-k. So you could use the equation to find the rate constant.

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For example, suppose I monitor [A]

Time (seconds)	[A] (M)
0	0.25
10	0.20
20	0.17
60	0.075

Since this is a first order reaction, the data should obey my integrated rate law.

So I plot the $\ln[A]$ vs time and I should get a straight line.

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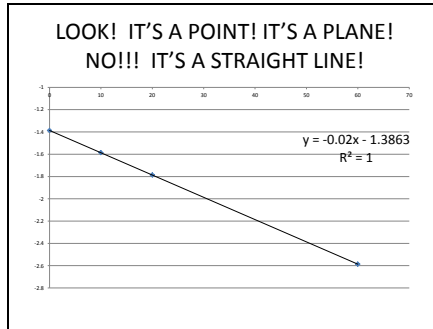
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For example, suppose I monitor [A]

Time (seconds)	[A] (M)	$\ln[A]$
0	0.25	-1.386
10	0.20	-1.609
20	0.17	-1.772
60	0.075	-2.590

Now, I plot the last column against the first column and put the best fit straight line on it.

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So, what's the rate constant?

$y = -0.02x - 1.3863$

$\ln[A]_{\text{final}} = -kt + \ln[A]_{t=0}$

$m = \text{slope} = -0.02$
 $m = -k$
 $k = -(-0.02) = 0.02 \text{ s}^{-1}$

So, if I KNOW it's a 1st order reaction, I can make a graph to find the rate constant. I can also make a graph to find out IF it is 1st order.

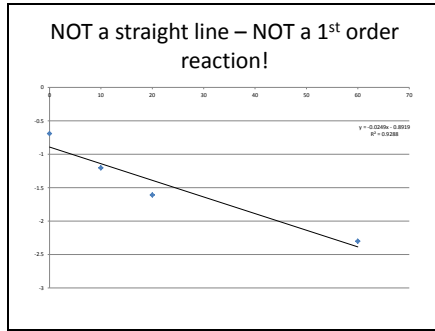
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Different reaction
 $2 \text{H}_2 + \text{O}_2 \rightarrow 2 \text{H}_2\text{O}$

Time (seconds)	$[\text{H}_2]$ (M)	$\ln[\text{H}_2]$
0	0.500	-0.69315
10	0.300	-1.20397
20	0.200	-1.60944
60	0.100	-2.30259

Now, I plot the last column against the first column and put the best fit straight line on it to see IF IF it is actually a straight line.

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This works for other orders of reaction also.

For a second order reaction:

Rate = $k[A]^2$

You get an integrated rate law

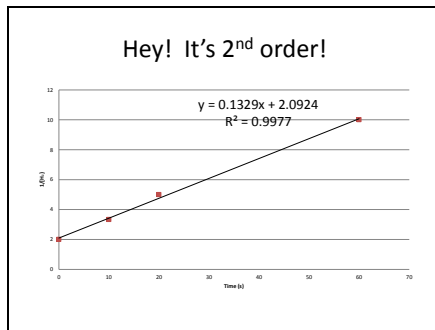
$$\frac{1}{[A]_{final}} = kt + \frac{1}{[A]_{initial}}$$

Same idea, it's a straight line ($y = mx+b$) where:

Slope = k

Intercept = $\frac{1}{[A]_{initial}}$

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Also, there's the rare zeroth order

$$\text{Rate} = \frac{-d[A]}{d[t]} = k$$

If you integrate

$$[A]_t = -kt + [A]$$

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Those are the easy ones

For more complicated mixed orders like:

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

The math gets much more complicated, so we'll ignore them until you become a chemistry major. But you can do a similar thing.

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But a lot of reactions fall into those three categories.

0th order

$$[A]_t = -kt + [A]$$

1st order

$$\ln[A]_{final} = -kt + \ln[A]_{initial}$$

2nd order

$$\frac{1}{[A]_{final}} = kt + \frac{1}{[A]_{initial}}$$

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How do we use this?

$$\text{N}_2(\text{g}) + 3 \text{Cl}_2(\text{g}) \rightarrow 3 \text{NCl}_3(\text{g})$$

Given the following data, determine the rate law.

Time	$[\text{N}_2(\text{g})]$ (M)
0 min	0.40
5 min	0.25
10 min	0.17
30 min	0.04
60 min	0.005

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GRAPH IT!

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Graph It!

$$\text{N}_2(\text{g}) + 3 \text{Cl}_2(\text{g}) \rightarrow 3 \text{NCl}_3(\text{g})$$

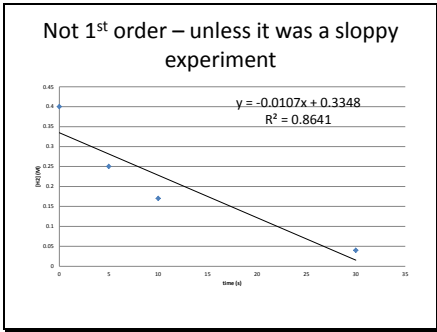
Given the following data, determine the rate law.

Time	$[\text{N}_2(\text{g})]$ (M)	$\ln([\text{N}_2])$	$1/[\text{N}_2]$
0 min	0.40	-0.916	2.5
5 min	0.25	-1.386	4.0
10 min	0.17	-1.772	5.88
30 min	0.04	-3.219	25
60 min	0.005	-5.298	200

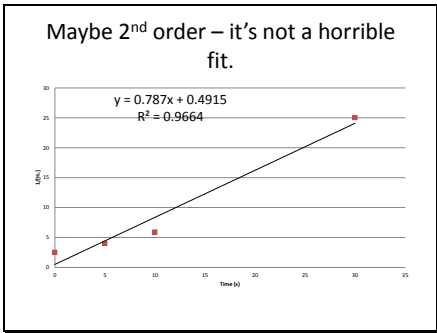
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Try all 3 and see which one fits!

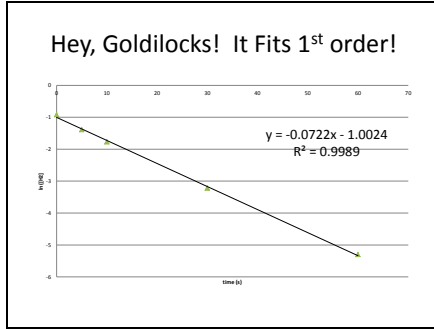
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What if I don't have graph paper?

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What if I don't want to make a graph?

$\text{N}_2(\text{g}) + 3 \text{Cl}_2(\text{g}) \rightarrow 3 \text{NCl}_3(\text{g})$

Given the following data, determine the rate law.

Time	[N ₂ (g)] (M)
0 min	0.40
5 min	0.25
10 min	0.17
30 min	0.04
60 min	0.005

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3 possibilities

Rate = k
 Rate = k[N₂]
 Rate = k[N₂]²

$$\text{Rate} = \frac{-\Delta[N_2]}{\Delta t}$$

$$= \frac{-\{[N_2]_{\text{later time}} - [N_2]_{\text{earlier time}}\}}{\text{later time} - \text{earlier time}}$$

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k is the rate CONSTANT and it's the slope of the line

0th order
 [A]_t = -kt + [A]

1st order
 ln[A]_{final} = -kt + ln[A]_{initial}

2nd order
 $\frac{1}{[A]_{\text{final}}} = kt + \frac{1}{[A]_{\text{initial}}}$

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Slope is all over the place except 1st order

N₂ (g) + 3 Cl₂(g) → 3 NCl₃(g)

Given the following data, determine the rate law.

Time (min)	[N ₂](M)	slope- 0 th order	slope - 1 st order	k - 2 nd order
0	0.40	$= \frac{-(0.25 - 0.40)}{5 \text{ min} - 0 \text{ min}} = 0.03 \text{ M/min}$	$= \frac{-\ln(0.25) - \ln(0.40)}{5 \text{ min} - 0 \text{ min}} = 0.094$	$\frac{1}{0.25} - \frac{1}{0.40} = 0.30$
5	0.25	0.016	0.077	0.376
10	0.17	0.0065	0.0723	0.96
30	0.04	0.00117	0.069	5.83
60	0.005			

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Problem recognition

What's the tell?

How do I know how to handle the problem?

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Method of initial rates – Rates measured for different initial mixes

The reaction:

$$2 \text{I}^-_{(aq)} + \text{S}_2\text{O}_8^{2-}_{(aq)} \rightarrow 6 \text{I}_2_{(aq)} + 2 \text{SO}_4^{2-}_{(aq)}$$

was studied at 25° C. The following results were obtained for the rate of disappearance of $\text{S}_2\text{O}_8^{2-}$

$[\text{I}^-]_0$ (M)	$[\text{S}_2\text{O}_8^{2-}]_0$ (M)	Initial rate (M/s)
0.080	0.040	12.5×10^{-6}
0.040	0.040	6.25×10^{-6}
0.080	0.020	6.25×10^{-6}
0.032	0.040	5.00×10^{-6}
0.060	0.030	7.00×10^{-6}

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Integrated rate law – concentration at different times

$$\text{N}_2(\text{g}) + 3 \text{Cl}_2(\text{g}) \rightarrow 3 \text{NCl}_3(\text{g})$$

Given the following data, determine the rate law.

Time	$[\text{N}_2(\text{g})]$ (M)
0 min	0.40
5 min	0.25
10 min	0.17
30 min	0.04
60 min	0.005
