

Solutions to the examples of the theoretical questions at the 43rd IChO

Problem [1]

a)

Gas constant: $R = 0.08205 \text{ atm}\cdot\text{L}\cdot\text{K}^{-1}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$

$$n_{H_2} = \frac{(100 \times 10^{-3} \text{ L}\cdot\text{min}^{-1}) \times (1.0 \text{ atm})}{(0.082 \text{ atm}\cdot\text{L}\cdot\text{K}^{-1}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1})} = 4.1 \times 10^{-3} \text{ mol } H_2 \cdot \text{min}^{-1}$$

$$\frac{(4.1 \times 10^{-3} \text{ mol } H_2 \cdot \text{min}^{-1})}{(92 \text{ mol } H_2 \cdot (\text{mol } Ru)^{-1} \cdot \text{min}^{-1})} = 4.5 \times 10^{-5} \text{ mol } Ru$$

$$(4.5 \times 10^{-5} \text{ mol } Ru) \times (101.07 \text{ g}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}) = 4.5 \times 10^{-3} \text{ g } Ru = 4.5 \text{ mg } Ru$$

b)

$$(1.00 \times 10^{-1} \text{ L}) \times (1.0 \text{ mol}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}) = 0.10 \text{ mol } NaBH_4$$

$$(0.10 \text{ mol } NaBH_4) \times 4 \text{ mol } H_2 \cdot (\text{mol}\cdot\text{NaBH}_4)^{-1} = 0.40 \text{ mol } H_2 \text{ to be released}$$

$$\frac{(0.40 \text{ mol } H_2)}{(4.1 \times 10^{-3} \text{ mol } H_2 \cdot \text{min}^{-1})} = 98 \text{ min}$$

c)

$$\text{Rate} = k[Ru] = (A \cdot e^{-E_a/RT})[Ru]$$

$$\frac{(e^{-E_a/RT_{298}})}{(e^{-E_a/RT})} = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$-\frac{E_a}{R} \left(\frac{1}{298} - \frac{1}{T} \right) = \ln\left(\frac{1}{2}\right), \quad \frac{4.20 \times 10^4 \text{ J}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}}{8.314 \text{ J}\cdot\text{K}^{-1}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}} \left(\frac{1}{298} - \frac{1}{T} \right) = \ln(2)$$

$$T = 311 \text{ K} \text{ or } T = 38^\circ\text{C}$$

d)

$$\text{Since } \Delta G^\circ = -nFE^\circ$$

$$2(-2.37 \times 10^5) = -4 \times 96485 \times E_{cell}^{\circ} \quad E_{cell}^{\circ} = +1.23 \text{ V}$$

$$1.23 \text{ V} = E_{cathode}^{\circ} - (-0.83 \text{ V}) \quad E_{cathode}^{\circ} = +0.40 \text{ V}$$

e)

$$(2.5 \text{ A}) \times (3.0 \text{ h}) \times (3600 \text{ s} \cdot \text{h}^{-1}) = 27000 \text{ C}$$

$$n(O_2) = (27000 \text{ C}) \times \left(\frac{1 \text{ mol } O_2}{4 \times 96485 \text{ C}} \right) = 0.070 \text{ mol}$$

$$V(O_2) = \left(\frac{(0.070 \text{ mol}) \times (0.082 \text{ atm} \cdot \text{L} \cdot \text{K}^{-1} \cdot \text{mol}^{-1}) \times (298 \text{ K})}{(1.0 \text{ atm})} \right) = 1.7 \text{ L} \quad V_{air} = 8.6 \text{ L}$$

f)

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

$$\Delta_{rxn} S^{\circ} = [2 \times S^{\circ}(H_2O(l))] - [2 \times S^{\circ}(H_2(g)) + S^{\circ}(O_2(g))] = 2 \times 70.0 - (2 \times 130.7 + 205.2) =$$

$$\Delta_{rxn} S^{\circ} = -326.6 \text{ J} \cdot \text{mol}^{-1} \cdot \text{K}^{-1}$$

$$\Delta_{rxn} H^{\circ} = \Delta_{rxn} G^{\circ} + T \Delta_{rxn} S^{\circ} = (-474) + 298.15 \times (+326.6 \times 10^{-3}) = -571.4 \text{ kJ}$$

$$\text{maximum } w = \Delta_{rxn} G^{\circ} = -474 \text{ kJ}$$

$$\eta = \frac{-474000 \text{ J}}{-571400 \text{ J}} = 0.83$$

g)

$$\eta_{engine} = \frac{w}{q_H} = \frac{q_H - q_C}{q_H} = 1 - \frac{q_C}{q_H}$$

$$\text{Since } \frac{q_H}{T_H} = \frac{q_H}{T_C} \quad \frac{q_C}{q_H} = \frac{T_C}{T_H}$$

$$\text{Thus; } \eta_{engine} = 1 - \frac{T_C}{T_H}$$

$$0.83 = 1 - \frac{313}{T_H} \quad T_H = 1.8 \times 10^3 \text{ K or } T_H = 1.6 \times 10^3 \text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$$