

Lecture 37 CH102 A1 (MWF 9:05 am) Spring 2018 Copyright © 2018 Dan Dill dan@bu.edu

[TP] In a process, 90.% of a substance has decayed. This corresponds to the following number of half-lives.

0% 1. 9.0
 0% 2. 4.5
 0% 3. 3.3
 0% 4. 2.5

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Lecture 37 CH102 A1 (MWF 9:05 am)
 Monday, May 30, 2018

- Half-life calculations
- First law, second law, equilibrium, and kinetics

Next lecture: Evaluation; Complete: First law, second law, equilibrium, and kinetics

Please bring laptop or tablet to carry out course online course evaluation.

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Types of first-order decay calculations

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Types of first-order decay calculations

Given amount consumed in time t , how many half-lives have elapsed?
 Given how many half-lives have elapsed in time t , what is t_{half} ?
 Given t_{half} , how much remains after time t ?
 Given amount consumed in time t , what is the rate constant k ?

In n half-lives, $[A]_0$ is reduced to $\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{2} \times \dots \times \frac{1}{2} [A]_0 = \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^n [A]_0 = [A]_n$

So, the fraction remaining tells us the number of half-lives n ,

$$\frac{[A]_n}{[A]_0} = \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^n$$

This is true even if n is not an integer!

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Finding the half-lives elapsed, n

In a process, a 60.% of a substance has decayed. This means ...

$$\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^n = [A]_n/[A]_0 = 0.40$$

The number of half-lives elapsed is ...

$$n = \log(0.40)/\log(1/2) = -\log(0.40)/\log(2) \approx 1.3$$

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0% 1. 9.0
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Types of first-order decay calculations

Given amount consumed in time t , how many half-lives have elapsed?
 Given how many half-lives have elapsed in time t , what is t_{half} ?
 Given t_{half} , how much remains after time t ?
 Given amount consumed in time t , what is the rate constant k ?
 Given $[A]_n/[A]_0$ at time t ,
 solve $[A]_n/[A]_0 = \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^n$ for n , and then ...
 use $n \times t_{\text{half}} = t$ to calculate $t_{\text{half}} = t/n$

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Types of first-order decay calculations

87.0% decay in 180. min. What is the half-life?

$$\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^n = (1 - 0.870) = 0.130$$

$$n = -\log(0.130)/\log(2) = 2.94$$

$$t_{\text{half}} = 180./2.94 \text{ min} = 61.2 \text{ min}$$

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[TP] In a first order process, 90.% of a substance has decayed in 33. minutes.
The half-life for the process is ...

0% 1. 10 min
0% 2. 11 min
0% 3. 17 min
0% 4. None of these

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Types of first-order decay calculations

Given amount consumed in time t , how many half-lives have elapsed?
Given how many half-lives have elapsed in time t , what is t_{half} ?
Given t_{half} , how much remains after time t ?
Given amount consumed in time t , what is the rate constant k ?

Given t_{half} and elapsed time t ,
get the number of half-lives and ...
then evaluate $\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^n = [A]_n/[A]_0$

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Types of first-order decay calculations

$t_{\text{half}} = 74$ minutes. How much remains after 13 minutes?
 $n = 13 \text{ min} / 74 \text{ min} = 0.17$
 $\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^n = \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{0.17} = 0.89$
Therefore 89 % remains and $(1 - 0.89) \times 100 \% = 11\%$ has decayed.

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Types of first-order decay calculations

Given amount consumed in time t , how many half-lives have elapsed?
Given how many half-lives have elapsed in time t , what is t_{half} ?
Given t_{half} , how much remains after time t ?
Given amount consumed in time t , what is the rate constant k ?

Given $[A]_n/[A]_0$ at time t ,
solve $\ln([A]_n/[A]_0) = -kt$ to get k
special case: solve $\ln(1/2) = -kt_{\text{half}}$ to get k

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Types of first-order decay calculations

In a first order process, 90.% of a substance has decayed in 33. minutes. What is the rate constant?

$$k = -\ln(1 - 0.90)/(33 \text{ min}) = 0.070/\text{min}$$

Check:



$$e^{-kt} = e^{-(0.070 \times 33)} = 0.10$$

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[Quiz] In a first order process, 69. % of a substance has decayed in 17. minutes. What % would have decayed if instead only 8.5 minutes elapsed?

0% 1. 37. %
 0% 2. 63. %
 0% 3. 44. %
 0% 4. 56. %
 0% 5. None of the above

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Types of first-order decay calculations

In a first order process, 69.0% of a substance has decayed in 17. minutes. What % would have decayed if instead only 8.5 minutes elapsed?

$$\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^n = 0.310, \text{ so } n = -\frac{\log(0.310)}{\log(2)} = 1.69$$

$$t_{\text{half}} = \frac{17.0}{1.69} \text{ min} = 10.1 \text{ min}$$

$$\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{8.5/10.1} = 0.56, \text{ so } 44 \text{ \% would have decayed in } 8.5 \text{ min}$$

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Types of first-order decay calculations


In a first order process, 69.0% of a substance has decayed in 17. minutes. What % would have decayed if instead only 8.5 minutes elapsed?

$$\ln(0.310) = -k \times 17 \text{ min}$$

$$\ln(x) = -k \times 8.5 \text{ min}$$

$$\ln(x) = \ln(0.310) \cdot 8.5/17 = -0.586$$

$$x = e^{-0.586} = 0.56, \text{ so } 44 \text{ \% would have decayed in } 8.5 \text{ min}$$

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Types of first-order decay calculations

The essential equations of half-life are

$$\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^n = \frac{[A]_n}{[A]_0}$$

$$\ln\left(\frac{[A]_t}{[A]_0}\right) = -kt$$

$$nt_{\text{half}} = t$$

Get as much **practice** as you can using these to carry out the various kinds of half-life calculations.



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