Theory of Unimolecular and Recombination Reactions

ROBERT G. GILBERT SEAN C. SMITH

BLACKWELL SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

OXFORD LONDON EDINBURGH

1990 by Blackwell Scientific Publications

0-632-02749-5

Preface, xi

1 Introduction, 1

- 1.1 Preliminary remarks, 1
- 1.2 A brief history, 3
- 1.3 Overview, 7
- 1.4 Importance of unimolecular and recombination processes, 11

2 Elementary Treatment of Unimolecular Reactions, 15

- 2.1 Overview, 15
- 2.2 The Lindemann-Hinshelwood mechanism and its generalization, 16 Separation of reaction and collision steps, 16 High-pressure limit, 19 Densities of states, 20
- 2.3 Quantum mechanics, classical mechanics and statistical mechanics, 22
 Potential surfaces, 22
 Classical equations of motion, 24
 Phase space and classical trajectories, 25
 The partition function and equilibrium distributions, 26
- 2.4 Transition state theory, 27
 The reaction coordinate, 27
 Equations of motion in reaction coordinates, 30
 Derivation of transition state expression, 33
 Sample evaluation of the high-pressure rate coefficient, 39
- High-pressure activation energy and frequency factor, 41
 Thermodynamics of the transition state, 42
 Characteristic activated complexes and A-factors, 45
- 2.6 **High-pressure recombination** rate coefficients, 48 Exercises, 49 Selected answers, 50

3 Microscopic Rate Coefficients, 52

- 3.1 Overview, 52
- 3.2 Microscopic rate coefficients introduction, 53 The RRKM result, 53
- 3.3 The exact time-dependent microscopic rate coefficient, 56
- 3.4 The ergodicity assumption, 59
- 35 Derivation of the RRKM result for k(E), 64 The transition state **assumption**, 64 The **high-pressure** limit, 68
- 3.6 Active and nactive degrees of freedom, 70
- 3.7 Angular momentum conservation the basic effect, 71 Approximate angular momentum conservation, 74
- 3.8 **Derivation of the** RRKM result **for k(E,J)**, 78 *k(E,J)* for **reactions** with a chemical barrier, 80

k(E,J) for reactions without **a** chemical barrier, 82 The quantum expression for k(E,J), 83 The high-pressure limit, 84

- 3.9 Symmetry numbers, optical isomerism and reaction path degeneracy, 87 Torsional rotations, 95
 Symmetry numbers in loose transition states, 96
 Summary, 98
- 3.10 Variational selection of the transition state, 98
 The reaction coordinate, 99
 Microcanonical variational transition state theory, 99
 Canonical variational transition state theory, 105
- 3.11 Microscopic reversibility forward and reverse rate coefficients, 107
- 3.12 Alternative statistical models, 109 The statistical adiabatic channel model, 110 Phase space theory, 114
- 3.13 Tests of statistical theories, 114
 Comparison with experiment, 115
 Comparison with exact calculations, 119
 Comparison with capture models for ion-molecule reactions, 121
- 3.14 Non-adiabatic reactions, 123
- 3.15 Summary, 129 Exercises, 129 Selected answers, 132

4 Implementations of Statistical Theories, 136

- 4.1 Outline, 136
- 4.2 The simplified Hamiltonian separable degrees of freedom, 137
- 4.3 Computing the density of states, 139
 Proof of convolution formula, 139
 Convolution of rotational densities of states, 141
 Convolution of vibrational densities of states the Beyer-Swinehart algorithm, 149
 Convolution of the densities of states of rotations with vibrations, 157
- 4.4 Finding RRKM parameters for the reactant, 158 Normal mode analysis, 159 Parameters for rotations, 164
- 4.5 Transition states at a chemical barrier, 165
 Ab *initio* transition state parameters, 166
 Semi-empirical RRKM parameters for tight transition states Benson's rules, 167
 Determination of critical energies, 171
- 4.6 Transition states for reactions without a chemical barrier, 173
 A simple model for the loose transition state, 174
 Treatment of fragment rotations in the loose transition state, 175
 Variational implementation of RRKM theory for loose transition states, 179
 Sensitivity of the rate coefficient to the interaction potential, 180
- 4.7 Multichannel reactions, 183
- 4.8 Case studies 1 reactions with chemical barriers, 183
 Decomposition of the ethyl radical using *ab initio* calculations, 183
 Decomposition of chloroethane application of Benson's rules, 187
 Benson's rules and the decomposition of 1-chloropropane,190
- 4.9 Case studies 2 barrierless reactions, 192 **Recombination** of methyl radicals, 192

An ion-molecule association- \mathbf{CH}_{3}^{+} + HCN, 198

- 4.10 Practical SACM calculations, 201
- 4.11 Summary, 208 Exercises, 209 Selected answers, 210

5 Collisional Energy Transfer, 212

- 5.1 Overview, 212
- 5.2 Energy transfer rate qualitative considerations, 213
- 5.3 Dependence of falloff curves on energy transfer rate coefficient, 218 Moments of energy transfer rate coefficient distribution function, 218
- 5.4 Calculation of energy transfer rate from classical trajectories, 222
- 5.5 Models for the collision frequency, 228 Classical elastic scattering, 231 Collision integrals, 234
- 5.6 Approximate models for the energy transferred per collision, 237 Exponential-down model, 239 Biased random walk model, 239 Strong collision model, 246 Ergodic models, 247

Summary, 248

- 5.7 Experimental determinations of energy transfer parameters, 249 Indirect methods, 249 Direct methods, 251
- 5.8 Experimental data on collisional energy transfer results, 254 Qualitative trends in collisional energy transfer data, 256
- 5.9 Transfer of rotational energy in collisions, 257
 Quantitative form of rotational energy transfer rate rotational energy dependence, 259
- 5.10 Quantum effects, 262
- 5.11 Summary, 263 Exercises, 264 Selected answers, 266

6 The Master equation, 268

- 6.1 Overview, 268
- 6.2 Continuum and discrete forms of the master equation, 269
- 6.3 The unimolecular rate coefficient as the largest eigenvalue, 271
- 6.4 High- and low-pressure limits, 275
 High-pressure limit, 276
 Low-pressure limit, 278
- 6.5 Numerical solution of the master equation, 280Normalization, 281Solution of eigenvalue problem, 282
- 6.6 Qualitative behaviour of falloff curves, 285
- 6.7 Approximate analytical solutions, 289
 Strong collision model, 289
 Collision broadening factors, 293
 Solution of master equation for double-exponential model, 296
- 6.8 Recombination, chemical activation and reversible isomerization systems, 299 Recombination, 304 Chemical activation, 305

Reversible isomerization, 305

- 6.9 Multi-photon dissociation, 307
- 6.10 Solution of master equation with angular momentum conservation, 312 'Initial J independent' solution, 313 Weak collisions in J, 316

weak collisions in J, 5

- 6.11 Case studies, 318 Preliminaries, 318 Fitting data, 320 **Extrapolating data**, 322 Predicting data, 327
- 6.12 **Summary**, 329 Exercises, 329 Selected answers, 331
- 7 Conclusion, 333

Appendices, 334

- A. Classical transformations of coordinates, 334
- B. The Langevin limit, 339

Bibliography, 341

Index, 351