

Thermodynamics and Reactions

Chemical or physical changes are driven forward by
decreases in enthalpy, negative ΔH increases in entropy, positive ΔS
or both.

Reactions are thermodynamically favored when **decrease Enthalpy** by converting potential energy into kinetic (release heat) energy and produce products with greater bond energies (products with stronger bonds).

$\Delta H = \text{negative}$

$\Delta \text{Bond Energy} = \text{positive}$

$$H_{\text{products}} < H_{\text{reactants}}$$

$$BE_{\text{reactants}} < BE_{\text{products}}$$

Noteworthy Information about ΔH

The absolute enthalpy of any substance, H , cannot be determined.

$$H = ?? \text{ kJ}$$

Changes in energy can be observed and measured.

$$\Delta H^\circ = \sum n\Delta H^\circ(\text{products}) - \sum n\Delta H^\circ(\text{reactants})$$

ΔH can be found since it reflects the **change in enthalpy** for a rxn.

By definition the ΔH_f° of an element at standard conditions is 0

$$\Delta H \text{ is normally measured in } \text{kJ/mol}_{\text{rxn}}$$

Reactions are thermodynamically favored when they **increase Entropy** by increasing the dispersion of energy or matter.

$\Delta S = \text{positive}$

$$S_{\text{products}} > S_{\text{reactants}}$$

Noteworthy Information about ΔS

$\Delta S +$ when:

- greater # of moles of gas formed
- gas > liquid > solid
- greater volume formed
- greater temperature
- greater number of moles formed

The absolute entropy, S° , of a substance can be determined and will always be greater than zero.

$$S^\circ > 0 \text{ J/K}$$

However, it is possible for the ΔS° of a reaction to be zero.

$$\Delta S^\circ = \sum nS^\circ(\text{products}) - \sum nS^\circ(\text{reactants})$$

