

(18.5) In order to determine the amount of gallium in meteorite iron, 373.5 mg meteorite iron (A) and 10.32 mg gallium oxinate (B) were irradiated in a reactor under similar conditions in 30 min. After a short cooling, A was dissolved in concentrated HCl and 4.53 mg inactive Ga³⁺ was added. After a number of chemical separation steps, which were not quantitative, a precipitate of 25.13 mg pure gallium oxinate was isolated (C). Sample B was also dissolved and diluted to 50 ml; 0.50 ml was removed, 4 mg inactive Ga³⁺ added, and gallium oxinate precipitated (D). The radioactive decay curve gave two straight lines: $\log R_C = 3.401 - 0.0213 \cdot t$, and $\log R_D = 3.445 - 0.0213 \cdot t$. What was the gallium content in sample A?

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Sample A: } 373.5 \text{ mg of Fe+Ga} & \quad M_{wH} := 1.008 \cdot \frac{\text{gm}}{\text{mole}} & \quad M_{wC} := 12.01 \cdot \frac{\text{gm}}{\text{mole}} \\
 \text{Sample B: } 10.32 \text{ mg Ga-oxinate} & & \\
 \text{Oxine: } C_9H_7NO = HOx & & \\
 \text{Ga-oxinate: } Ga(Ox)_3 & \quad M_{wO} := 16.00 \cdot \frac{\text{gm}}{\text{mole}} & \quad M_{wN} := 14.01 \cdot \frac{\text{gm}}{\text{mole}} \\
 & \quad M_{wGa} := 69.72 \cdot \frac{\text{gm}}{\text{mole}} \\
 & \quad M_{wGaOx3} := M_{wGa} + 3 \cdot (9 \cdot M_{wC} + 6 \cdot M_{wH} + M_{wN} + M_{wO}) \\
 & \quad M_{wGaOx3} = 0.502 \cdot \text{kg} \\
 & \quad m_{tot} := 0.3735 \cdot \text{gm} & \quad m_{GaOx} := 10.32 \cdot 10^{-3} \cdot \text{gm}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{At } t=0 \text{ we have:} & \quad R_C := 10^{3.401} \cdot \text{sec}^{-1} & \quad R_C = 2.518 \cdot 10^3 \cdot \text{sec}^{-1} \\
 & \quad R_D := 10^{3.445} \cdot \text{sec}^{-1} & \quad R_D = 2.786 \cdot 10^3 \cdot \text{sec}^{-1}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$m_B := \frac{m_{GaOx}}{M_{wGaOx3}} \cdot M_{wGa} \quad m_B = 1.433 \cdot 10^{-6} \cdot \text{kg}$$

$$S_B := \frac{50}{0.50} \cdot \frac{R_D}{m_B} \quad S_B = 1.945 \cdot 10^{11} \cdot \text{kg}^{-1} \cdot \text{sec}^{-1}$$

$$m_{\text{pureGaOx}} := 25.13 \cdot 10^{-3} \cdot \text{gm}$$

$$m_C := \frac{m_{\text{pureGaOx}}}{M_{wGaOx3}} \cdot M_{wGa} \quad m_C = 3.489 \cdot 10^{-6} \cdot \text{kg} \quad S_C := \frac{R_C}{m_C}$$

$$S_C = 7.216 \cdot 10^8 \cdot \text{kg}^{-1} \cdot \text{sec}^{-1}$$

The specific activities are connected by the eqn. $S_C = m_A \cdot S_B / (m_A + 4.53 \cdot 10^{-3})$ which gives:

$$m_{\text{Ga.added}} := 4.53 \cdot 10^{-3} \cdot \text{gm} \quad m_A := \frac{m_{\text{Ga.added}} \cdot S_C}{S_B - S_C}$$

$$m_A = 1.687 \cdot 10^{-8} \cdot \text{kg} \quad m_A = 1.687 \cdot 10^{-5} \cdot \text{gm} \quad \text{Ga in sample}$$

$$Ga_{\text{conc}} := \frac{m_A}{m_{tot}} \quad Ga_{\text{conc}} = 0.0045 \cdot \%$$