Living By Chemistry Alchemy

Through Alchemy to Chemistry The Chemistry of Alchemy Transforming Matter Atoms and AlchemyBridging TraditionsFrom Alchemy to Chemistry in Picture and StoryThe Story of Alchemy and the Beginnings of ChemistryDistilling KnowledgeAlchemy Tried in the FireFrom Alchemy to ChemistryThe Four Books of Pseudo-DemocritusTheoretical AlchemyCruciblesAlchemy and AlchemistsPrelude to ChemistryThe Chemical ChoirReal AlchemyThe Story of Alchemy and Early ChemistryThe Story of Alchemy and Early Chemistry (The Story of Early Chemistry) The Secrets of Alchemy Chemistry: The Impure Science (2nd Edition)Theatrum Chemicum BritannicumThe Aspiring AdeptA New System of Chemical PhilosophyBecoming GoldThe Story of Alchemy and the Beginnings of ChemistryTransforming MatterAlchemy and ChemistryFrom Alchemy to Chemistry in Picture and StoryThe Alchemy of AirMakers Of Chemistry The History of Chemistry Alchemy and Chemistry in the 16th and 17th Centuries The Story of Alchemy and the Beginnings of Chemistry The Chemistry of Alchemy Creations of Fire Alchemy The Summa Perfectionis of Pseudo-Geber John Read Cathy Cobb Trevor H. Levere William R. Newman Karen Hunger Parshall Arthur Greenberg Matthew Moncrieff Pattison Muir Bruce T. MORAN William R. Newman John Read Matteo Martelli Walter Harrison Bernard Jaffe C. J. S. Thompson John Read P. G. Maxwell-Stuart Robert Allen Bartlett John Maxson Stillman John Maxson Stillman Lawrence M. Principe Jonathan Simon Elias Ashmole Lawrence Principe John Dalton Shannon Grimes M. M. Pattison Muir Trevor H. Levere Rebecca Stefoff Arthur Greenberg Thomas Hager Holmyard John Eric William H. Brock Piyo Rattansi Matthew Moncrieff Pattison Muir Cathy Cobb Cathy Cobb E. J. Holmyard Newman

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a unique approach to the history of science using do it yourself experiments along with brief historical profiles to demonstrate how the ancient alchemists stumbled upon the science of chemistry be the alchemist explore the legend of alchemy with the science of chemistry enjoy over twenty hands ondemonstrations of alchemical reactions in this exploration of the ancient art of alchemy three veteran chemists show that the alchemists quest involved real science and they recount fascinating stories of the sages who performed these strange experiments why waste more words on this weird deviation in the evolution of chemistry as the authors show the writings of medieval alchemists may seem like the ravings of brain addled fools but there is more to the story than that recent scholarship has shown that some seemingly nonsensical mysticism is in fact decipherable code and western european alchemists functioned from a firmer theoretical foundation than previously thought they had a guiding principle based on experience separate and purify materials by fire and reconstitute them into products including of course gold and the universal elixir the philosophers stone their efforts were not in vain by trial by error by design and by persistence the alchemists discovered acids alkalis alcohols salts and exquisite powerful and vibrant reactions which can be reproduced using common products minerals metals and salts so gather your vats and stoke your fires get ready to make burning waters peacocks tails philosophers stone and of course gold

chemistry explores the way atoms interact the constitution of the stars and the human genome knowledge of chemistry makes it possible for us to manufacture dyes and antibiotics metallic alloys and other materials that contribute to the necessities and luxuries of human life in transforming matter noted historian trevor h levere emphasizes that understanding the history of these developments helps us to appreciate the achievements of generations of chemists levere examines the dynamic rise of chemistry from the study of alchemy in the seventeenth century to the development of organic and inorganic chemistry in the age of government funded research and corporate giants in the past two centuries he points out the number of known elements has quadrupled and because of synthesis chemistry has increasingly become a science that creates much of what it studies throughout the book levere follows a number of recurring themes theories about the elements the need for classification the status of chemical science and the relationship between practice and theory he illustrates these themes by concentrating on some of chemistry s most influential and innovative practitioners transforming matter provides an accessible and clearly written introduction to the

history of chemistry telling the story of how the discipline has developed over the years

since the enlightenment alchemy has been viewed as a sort of antiscience disparaged by many historians as a form of lunacy that impeded the development of rational chemistry but in atoms and alchemy william r newman a historian widely credited for reviving recent interest in alchemy exposes the speciousness of these views and challenges widely held beliefs about the origins of the scientific revolution tracing the alchemical roots of robert boyle s famous mechanical philosophy newman shows that alchemy contributed to the mechanization of nature a movement that lay at the very heart of scientific discovery boyle and his predecessors figures like the mysterious medieval geber or the lutheran professor daniel sennert provided convincing experimental proof that matter is made up of enduring particles at the microlevel at the same time newman argues that alchemists created the operational criterion of an atomic element as the last point of analysis thereby contributing a key feature to the development of later chemistry atomsand alchemy thus provokes a refreshing debate about the origins of modern science and will be welcomed and deliberated by all who are interested in the development of scientific theory and practice

bridging traditions explores the connections between apparently different zones of comprehension and experience magic and experiment alchemy and mechanics practical mathematics and geometrical mysticism things earthy and heavenly and especially science and medicine by focusing on points of intersection among alchemy chemistry and paracelsian medical philosophy in exploring the varieties of natural knowledge in the early modern era the authors pay tribute to the work of allen debus whose own endeavors cleared the way for scholars to examine subjects that were once snubbed as suitable only to the refuse heap of the history of science

praise for from alchemy to chemistry in picture and story the timeline from alchemy to chemistry contains some of the most mystifying ideas and images that humans have ever devised arthur greenberg shows us this wonderful world in a unique and highly readable book dr john emsley author of the elements of murder a history of poison art greenberg takes us through text and lovingly selected images on a magical mystery tour of the chemical universe no matter what page you open there is a chemical story worth telling dr roald hoffmann nobel laureate and coauthor of chemistry imagined chemistry has perhaps the most intricate most fascinating and certainly most romantic history of all the sciences arthur greenberg s essays delightful learned quirky highly personal and richly illustrated with contemporary drawings many of great rarity and beauty provide a kaleidoscope of intellectual landscapes bringing the experiments the ideas and the human figures of chemistry s past intensely alive dr oliver sacks author of awakenings from alchemy to chemistry in picture and story takes you on an illustrated tour of chemistry s fascinating history from its early focus on the spiritual relationship between man and nature to some of today s most cutting edge applications drawing

from rare publications and artwork that span over five centuries the book contains nearly 200 essays and over 350 illustrations including 24 in full color that tell the engaging story of the development of this fundamental science and its connection with human history join arthur greenberg as he combines the best of the best from his previous works as well as several new essays to paint a colorful picture of chemistry s remarkable origins

reacting to the perception that the break early on in the scientific revolution between alchemy and chemistry was clean and abrupt moran literately and engagingly recaps what was actually a slow process far from being the superstitious amalgam it is now considered alchemy was genuine science before and during the scientific revolution the distinctive alchemical procedure distillation became the fundamental method of analytical chemistry and the alchemical goal of transmuting base metals into gold and silver led to the understanding of compounds and elements what alchemy very gradually but finally lost in giving way to chemistry was its spiritual or religious aspect the linkages it discerned between purely physical and psychological properties drawing saliently from the most influential alchemical and scientific texts of the medieval to modern epoch especially the turbulent and eventful seventeenth century moran fashions a model short history of science volume

winner of the 2005 pfizer prize from the history of science society what actually took place in the private laboratory of a mid seventeenth century alchemist how did he direct his quest after the secrets of nature what instruments and theoretical principles did he employ using as their guide the previously misunderstood interactions between robert boyle widely known as the father of chemistry and george starkey an alchemist and the most prominent american scientific writer before benjamin franklin as their guide newman and principe reveal the hitherto hidden laboratory operations of a famous alchemist and argue that many of the principles and practices characteristic of modern chemistry derive from alchemy by analyzing starkey s extraordinary laboratory notebooks the authors show how this american chymist translated the wildly figurative writings of traditional alchemy into quantitative carefully reasoned laboratory practice and then encoded his own work in allegorical secretive treatises under the name of eirenaeus philalethes the intriguing mystic joan baptista van helmont a favorite of starkey boyle and even of lavoisier emerges from this study as a surprisingly central figure in seventeenth century chymistry a common emphasis on quantification material production and analysis synthesis the authors argue illustrates a continuity of goals and practices from late medieval alchemy down to and beyond the chemical revolution for anyone who wants to understand how alchemy was actually practiced during the scientific revolution and what it contributed to the development of modern chemistry alchemy tried in the fire will be a veritable philosopher s stone

broad humanistic treatment focuses on great figures of chemistry and ideas that revolutionized the science much on alchemy also development of modern chemistry atomic theory elements organic chemistry more 50 illustrations

the four books of pseudo democritus written in the first century ad rank among the very earliest known alchemical writings in this volume matteo martelli presents not only a fresh edition and translation of the surviving greek fragments but also for the first time additional materials preserved in syriac the volume presents important examples of the early modern and medieval reception of synesius and dioscorus the most interesting byzantine commentary on the four books and previously unpublished latin translations of both the four books and synesius commentary made by matthaeus zuber in 1606 accompanied by a full translation and commentary these sources offer new and significant insights into the world of ancient chemistry practical recipes and lists of ingredients clues to the doctrinal content of ancient alchemy and early hints of a tradition that linked the alchemist democritus to the wisdom of egypt and persia

the best way to understand chemical bonding may be to take a view appropriate to each individual system a view which may be quite different for various systems sometimes two very different views are appropriate for the same system and then the combination may even give the parameters needed to estimate the bonding energy by hand density functional theory on the other hand generally tries to take one view as applicable to all systems and proceeds computationally in contrast to the author s two previous well known textbooks electronic structure and the properties of solids 1989 and elementary electronic structure 1999 in this book he tries to distill the essence of the representation of electronic structure in a much briefer description it is shortened by focusing primarily on the bonding energies the energy gained in assembling atoms as a molecule or a solid or as a solid with a surface a central point is that the same description of the electronic structure which gives this cohesion can also be used to understand all of the other properties though those other properties are not emphasized here the effort is characterized by the title which combines the modern word theory with the ancient effort of alchemy to make sense of the material world

classic popular account of the great chemists trevisan paracelsus avogadro mendeléeff the curies thomson lavoisier and others up to a bomb research and recent work with subatomic particles 20 illustrations

well researched study traces history of alchemy chronicling search for philosopher s stone and elixir of life alchemist s laboratory and apparatus symbols and secret alphabets famous practitioners plus contributions to field of chemistry 77 black and white illustrations 31 plates

a ground breaking modern manual on an ancient art real alchemy draws on both modern scientific

technology and ancient methods a laboratory scientist and chemist robert allen bartlett provides an overview of the history of alchemy as well as an exploration of the theories behind the practice clean clear simple and easy to read real alchemy provides excellent directions regarding the production of plant products and transitions the reader student into the basics of mineral work what some consider the true domain of alchemy new students to practical laboratory alchemy will enjoy reading real alchemy and hopefully find the encouragement needed to undertake their own alchemical journey bartlett also explains what the ancients really meant when they used the term philosopher s stone and describes several very real and practical methods for its achievement is the fabled philosopher s stone an elixir of long life or is it a method of transforming lead into gold judge for yourself

this is a new release of the original 1924 edition

originally published under the title the story of early chemistry tells the story of the development of chemical knowledge and science from the beginning of time to the end of the 18th century

in the secrets of alchemy lawrence m principe one of the world's leading authorities on the subject brings alchemy out of the shadows and restores it to its important place in human history and culture by surveying what alchemy was and how it began developed and overlapped with a range of ideas and pursuits principe illuminates the practice he vividly depicts the place of alchemy during its heyday in early modern europe and then explores how alchemy has fit into wider views of the cosmos and humanity touching on its enduring place in literature fine art theater and religion as well as its recent acceptance as a serious subject of study for historians of science in addition he introduces the reader to some of the most fascinating alchemists such as zosimos and basil valentine whose lives dot alchemy s long reign from the third century and to the present day through his exploration of alchemists and their times principe pieces together closely guarded clues from obscure and fragmented texts to reveal alchemy s secrets and most exciting for budding alchemists uses them to recreate many of the most famous recipes in his lab including those for the glass of antimony and philosophers tree this unique approach brings the reader closer to the actual work of alchemy than any other book

what do you associate with chemistry explosions innovative materials plastics pollution the public s confused and contradictory conception of chemistry as basic science industrial producer and polluter contributes to what we present in this book as chemistry s image as an impure science historically chemistry has always been viewed as impure both in terms of its academic status and its role in transforming modern society while exploring the history of this science we argue for a characteristic philosophical approach that distinguishes chemistry from physics this reflection leads us to a philosophical stance that we characterise as

operational realism in this new expanded edition we delve deeper into the questions of properties and potentials that are so important for this philosophy that is based on the manipulation of matter rather than the construction of theories a

the aspiring adept presents a provocative new view of robert boyle 1627 1691 one of the leading figures of the scientific revolution by revealing for the first time his avid and lifelong pursuit of alchemy boyle has traditionally been considered along with newton a founder of modern science because of his mechanical philosophy and his experimentation with the air pump and other early scientific apparatus however lawrence principe shows that his alchemical quest hidden first by boyle s own codes and secrecy and later suppressed or ignored positions him more accurately in the intellectual and cultural crossroads of the seventeenth century principe radically reinterprets boyle s most famous work the sceptical chymist to show that it criticizes not alchemists as has been thought but unphilosophical pharmacists and textbook writers he then shows boyle s unambiguous enthusiasm for alchemy in his lost dialogue on the transmutation and melioration of metals now reconstructed from scattered fragments and presented here in full for the first time intriguingly boyle believed that the goal of his quest the philosopher s stone could not only transmute base metals into gold but could also attract angels alchemy could thus act both as a source of knowledge and as a defense against the growing tide of atheism that tormented him in seeking to integrate the seemingly contradictory facets of boyle s work principe also illuminates how alchemy and other unscientific pursuits had a far greater impact on early modern science than has previously been thought

foremost among the alchemists of the hellenized world the divine zosimos practiced a sacred art in which metaphysical and metallurgical realities were fundamentally intertwined rather than being an exclusive product of alexandrian syncretism however the dual spiritual and material emphasis of this alchemy reveals much deeper roots than expected roots which extend deep into the religious cultures of the ancient near east through the methods of cultural biography and thick description becoming gold guides the reader deep into the temple culture of roman egypt where the role of scribal priest intersects explicitly with the metallurgical craft traditions going beyond generalizations grimes explores the metal coloring techniques developed in egyptian polychromic statuary as well as the rituals of statue animation performed by the priests of the house of life in this light zosimos is increasingly revealed as a scribal priest responsible for preserving and translating ancient egyptian metallurgical recipes a high ranking goldsmith who oversaw temple statue makers against the wider backdrop of late antique religion and philosophy grimes also details the fascinating connections between alchemy theurgy and gnosticism here zosimos s spiritual attitudes are explored through the daimonic versus astrological influences upon alchemical operations meditative practices using mirrors of electrum to attain divine gnosis and the overarching imperative to transform the bonds of embodiment into vehicles for divinity zosimos reveals an alchemy in which spiritual and material realities are ultimately

nondual in which metals becomes living bodies for divine spirits and in which the immortal soul luminous and golden radiates through its material forms

for thousands of years before men had any accurate and exact knowledge of the changes of material things they had thought about these changes regarded them as revelations of spiritual truths built on them theories of things in heaven and earth and a good many things in neither and used them in manufactures arts and handicrafts especially in one very curious manufacture wherein not the thousandth fragment of a grain of the finished article was ever produced the accurate and systematic study of the changes which material things undergo is called chemistry we may perhaps describe alchemy as the superficial and what may be called subjective examination of these changes and the speculative systems and imaginary arts and manufactures founded on that examination we are assured by many old writers that adam was the first alchemist and we are told by one of the initiated that adam was created on the sixth day being the 15th of march of the first year of the world certainly alchemy had a long life for chemistry did not begin until about the middle of the 18th century

transforming matter provides an accessible and clearly written introduction to the history of chemistry telling the story of how the discipline has developed over the years

alchemy is an idea based on superstition and philosophical global traditions spanning hundreds of years alchemists made medicines and pharmaceuticals from the earth's materials and purified objects through philosophy magic and spirituality chemistry is based on the material principles of mixed bodies and spans all natural or physical sciences in its practices this book on alchemy and chemistry shows the scientific method at work and proves and disproves the subjects at hand it explores a branch of modern science or a major scientific milestone comparing and contrasting it with an older idea that has been proved wrong or fails to meet the strict and studied standards of science

praise for from alchemy to chemistry in picture and story the timeline from alchemy to chemistry contains some of the most mystifying ideas and images that humans have ever devised arthur greenberg shows us this wonderful world in a unique and highly readable book dr john emsley author of the elements of murder a history of poison art greenberg takes us through text and lovingly selected images on a magical mystery tour of the chemical universe no matter what page you open there is a chemical story worth telling dr roald hoffmann nobel laureate and coauthor of chemistry imagined chemistry has perhaps the most intricate most fascinating and certainly most romantic history of all the sciences arthur greenberg s essays delightful learned quirky highly personal and richly illustrated with contemporary drawings many of great rarity and beauty provide a kaleidoscope of intellectual landscapes bringing the experiments the ideas and the human

figures of chemistry s past intensely alive dr oliver sacks author of awakenings from alchemy to chemistry in picture and story takes you on an illustrated tour of chemistry s fascinating history from its early focus on the spiritual relationship between man and nature to some of today s most cutting edge applications drawing from rare publications and artwork that span over five centuries the book contains nearly 200 essays and over 350 illustrations including 24 in full color that tell the engaging story of the development of this fundamental science and its connection with human history join arthur greenberg as he combines the best of the best from his previous works as well as several new essays to paint a colorful picture of chemistry s remarkable origins

a sweeping history of tragic genius cutting edge science and the haber bosch discovery that changed billions of lives including your own at the dawn of the twentieth century humanity was facing global disaster mass starvation was about to become a reality a call went out to the world's scientists to find a solution this is the story of the two men who found it brilliant self important fritz haber and reclusive alcoholic carl bosch together they discovered a way to make bread out of air built city sized factories and saved millions of lives but their epochal triumph came at a price we are still paying the haber bosch process was also used to make the gunpowder and explosives that killed millions during the two world wars both men were vilified during their lives both disillusioned and disgraced died tragically the alchemy of air is the extraordinary previously untold story of a discovery that changed the way we grow food and the way we make war and that promises to continue shaping our lives in fundamental and dramatic ways

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from man s first exploration of natural materials and their transformations to today s materials science chemistry has always been the central discipline that underpins both the physical and biological sciences as well as technology in this very short introduction william h brock traces the unique appeal of this fundamental science throughout history covering alchemy early modern chemistry pneumatic chemistry and lavoisier s re interpretation of chemical change the rise of organic and physical chemistry and the transforming power of synthesis brock explores the extraordinary and often puzzling transformations of

natural and artificial materials as well as the men and women who experimented speculated and explained matter and change about the series the very short introductions series from oxford university press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area these pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable

the present volume owes its ongm to a colloquium on alchemy and chemistry in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries held at the warburg institute on 26th and 27th july 1989 the colloquium focused on a number of selected themes during a closely defined chronological interval on the relation of alchemy and chemistry to medicine philosophy religion and to the corpuscular philosophy in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries the relations between medicina and alchemy in the lullian treatises were examined in the opening paper by michela pereira based on researches on unpublished manuscript sources in the period between the 14th and 17th centuries it is several decades since the researches of r f multhauf gave a prominent role to johannes de rupescissa in linking medicine and alchemy through the concept of a quinta essentia michela pereira explores the significance of the lullian tradition in this development and draws attention to the fact that the early paracelsians had themselves recognized a family resemblance between the works of paracelsus and roger bacon s scientia experimentalis and indeed a continuity with the lullian tradition

a unique approach to the history of science using do it yourself experiments along with brief historical profiles to demonstrate how the ancient alchemists stumbled upon the science of chemistry be the alchemist explore the legend of alchemy with the science of chemistry enjoy over twenty hands on demonstrations of alchemical reactions in this exploration of the ancient art of alchemy three veteran chemists show that the alchemists quest involved real science and they recount fascinating stories of the sages who performed these strange experiments why waste more words on this weird deviation in the evolution of chemistry as the authors show the writings of medieval alchemists may seem like the ravings of brain addled fools but there is more to the story than that recent scholarship has shown that some seemingly nonsensical mysticism is in fact decipherable code and western european alchemists functioned from a firmer theoretical foundation than previously thought they had a guiding principle based on experience separate and purify materials by fire and reconstitute them into products including of course gold and the universal elixir the philosophers stone their efforts were not in vain by trial by error by design and by persistence the alchemists discovered acids alkalis alcohols salts and exquisite powerful and vibrant reactions which can be reproduced using common products minerals metals and salts so gather your vats and stoke your fires get ready to make burning waters peacocks tails philosophers stone and of course gold

he history of chemistry is a story of human endeavor and as er t ratic as human nature itself progress has been made in fits and starts and it has come from all parts of the globe because the scope of this history is considerable some 100 000 years it is necessary to impose some order and we have organized the text around three dis cemible albeit gross divisions of time part 1 chaps 1 7 covers 100 000 bee before common era to the late 1700s and presents the background of the chemical revolution part 2 chaps 8 14 covers the late 1700s to world war land presents the chemical revolution and its consequences part 3 chaps 15 20 covers world war i to 1950 and presents the quantum revolution and its consequences and hints at revolutions to come there have always been two tributaries to the chemical stream experiment and theory but systematic experimental methods were not routinely employed until the 1600s and quantitative theories did not evolve until the 1700s and it can be argued that modem chernistry as a science did not begin until the chemical revolution in the 1700s xi xii preface we argue however that the first experiments were performed by arti sans and the first theories proposed by philosophers and that a rev olution can be understood only in terms of what is being revolted against

alchemy is thought to have originated over 2000 years ago in hellenic egypt the result of three converging streams greek philosophy egyptian technology and the mysticism of middle eastern religions its heyday was from about 800 a d to the middle of the seventeenth century and its practitioners ranged from kings popes and emperors to minor clergy parish clerks smiths dyers and tinkers even such accomplished men as roger bacon thomas aquinas sir thomas browne and isaac newton took an interest in alchemical matters in its search for the philosopher s stone that would transmute base metals into silver and gold alchemy took on many philosophical religious and mystical overtones these and many other facets of alchemy are explored with enormous insight and erudition in this classic work e j holmyard a noted scholar in the field begins with the alchemists of ancient greece and china and goes on to discuss alchemical apparatus islamic and early western alchemy signs symbols and secret terms paracelsus english scottish and french alchemists helvetius price and semler and much more ranging over two millennia of alchemical history mr holmyard shows how like astrology and witchcraft alchemy was an integral part of the pre scientific moral order arousing the cupidity of princes the blind fear of mobs and the intellectual curiosity of learned men eventually however with the advent and ascension of the scientific method the hopes and ideas of the alchemists faded to the status of pseudo science that transformation as well as alchemy s undeniable role as a precursor of modern chemistry are brilliantly illuminated in this book students of alchemy chemistry the history of science and the occult plus anyone interested in the origin and evolution of one of mankind s most enduring and influential myths will want to have a copy of this masterly study

the present work contains a critical edition translation and study of the summa perfectionis of pseudo geber the most influential of the many texts of medieval alchemy the study addresses such questions as the author s identity his corpuscular theory of matter the influence of the summa and its own sources

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HNO3 & Cr: A Study of Nitric Acid and Chromium Reactions

This article explores the chemical reactions between nitric acid (HNO₃) and chromium (Cr), focusing on the diverse outcomes depending on the concentration of the acid and the oxidation state of chromium. Understanding these reactions is crucial in various fields, including chemistry, materials science, and industrial processes. We will delve into the different reaction pathways and their implications.

1. Understanding the Reactants: HNO3 and Cr

Nitric Acid (HNO₃): A strong oxidizing acid, HNO₃ readily donates its nitrate ion (NO₃II) which acts as an oxidizing agent. Its oxidizing power significantly depends on its concentration. Dilute HNO₃ acts as a weaker oxidant compared to concentrated HNO₃. The concentration affects the final oxidation state of chromium in the products. Chromium (Cr): A transition metal, chromium exhibits multiple oxidation states, the most common being +2, +3, and +6. The initial oxidation state of chromium greatly influences the reaction pathway with nitric acid. Metallic chromium (Cr⁰) will undergo oxidation, while chromium compounds with lower oxidation states can be further oxidized.

2. Reactions of Dilute HNO3 with Chromium

Dilute nitric acid reacts with chromium to form chromium(III) nitrate $[Cr(NO_3)_3]$ and release nitric oxide (NO) gas. This reaction demonstrates the weaker oxidizing power of dilute nitric acid, which is not strong enough to oxidize chromium to its higher oxidation states (+6). The balanced chemical equation for this reaction is: $6HNO_3(aq) + 2Cr(s) \rightarrow 2Cr(NO_3)_3(aq) + 3NO(g) + 3H_2O(l)$ This reaction is relatively slow, and the formation of nitric oxide can be observed as a brown gas due to its immediate oxidation to nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) in air. Scenario: Imagine immersing a chromium strip into dilute nitric acid. You would observe a gradual dissolution of the chromium, accompanied by the evolution of a brown gas, indicating the formation of NO and its subsequent oxidation.

3. Reactions of Concentrated HNO3 with Chromium

Concentrated nitric acid is a much stronger oxidant. Its reaction with chromium results in the formation of chromium(III) nitrate and nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) gas. The higher concentration allows for a more complete oxidation of chromium. The balanced chemical equation for this reaction is: $6HNO_3(conc.) + Cr(s) \rightarrow Cr(NO_3)_3(aq) + 3NO_2(g) + 3H_2O(l)$ Unlike the reaction with dilute acid, concentrated nitric acid's strong oxidizing power prevents the formation of nitric oxide. The produced NO₂ gas is a reddish-brown gas, easily distinguishable from the brown gas formed in the dilute acid reaction. Scenario: If a chromium strip is added to concentrated nitric acid, the reaction is much more vigorous, with a rapid dissolution of chromium and the evolution of a dense reddish-brown gas. The heat generated from the exothermic reaction may be significant.

4. Reactions with Chromium Compounds

The reactions of HNO₃ with chromium compounds depend on the initial oxidation state of chromium. Chromium(II) compounds, for instance, will be readily oxidized to chromium(III) by both dilute and concentrated nitric acid. Similarly, chromium(III) compounds may not react further with dilute nitric acid but could react with concentrated HNO₃ under specific conditions, though such reactions are less common.

5. Passivation: A Unique Phenomenon

A notable characteristic of chromium's interaction with nitric acid is the phenomenon of passivation. Under specific conditions, particularly with concentrated nitric acid, a thin, protective layer of chromium oxide (Cr₂O₃) forms on the surface of the chromium. This passive layer prevents further reaction, rendering the chromium resistant to further attack by the acid. This passivation is crucial in the use of chromium and chromium-containing alloys in various applications where corrosion resistance is essential.

Summary

The reactions between nitric acid and chromium are complex and depend heavily on the concentration of the acid and the oxidation state of the chromium. Dilute HNO₃ oxidizes chromium to Cr(III), producing nitric oxide, while concentrated HNO₃ typically oxidizes chromium to Cr(III), producing nitrogen dioxide.

Passivation can occur with concentrated acid, forming a protective oxide layer and inhibiting further reaction. Understanding these reactions is vital in various chemical and industrial processes.

FAQs

1. Q: Why is the reaction with concentrated HNO3 more vigorous than with dilute HNO3? A: Concentrated HNO3 possesses a higher concentration of oxidizing species (NO3II), leading to a faster and more complete oxidation of chromium. 2. Q: What is the color difference between the gases produced in the two reactions? A: Dilute HNO3 produces nitric oxide (NO), which rapidly oxidizes to brown NO2 in air. Concentrated HNO3 directly produces reddish-brown NO2 gas. 3. Q: Can chromium be oxidized beyond Cr(III) by nitric acid? A: While it is possible under highly specific and controlled conditions, typically involving very high concentrations of nitric acid and elevated temperatures, it is not the usual outcome of these reactions. Other strong oxidizers are generally needed to achieve higher oxidation states of chromium. 4. Q: What is the practical significance of chromium passivation? A: Passivation is crucial for corrosion resistance in stainless steel, which contains chromium. This protective oxide layer prevents rusting and enhances the durability of stainless steel components. 5. Q: Are there any safety precautions to consider when working with HNO3 and chromium? A: Yes, nitric acid is a corrosive and potentially hazardous substance. Appropriate safety measures, including eye protection, gloves, and a well-ventilated area, should always be employed when handling it. The reactions can also be exothermic, generating heat. Therefore, careful control of the reaction conditions is vital.

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