

Heat of Formation and Bond Enthalpy

Read from **Lesson 2** in the **Chemistry Tutorial Section, Chapter 12** of **The Physics Classroom**:

Part c: [Heat of Formation](#)

Part d: [Bond Enthalpy and \$\Delta H\$](#)

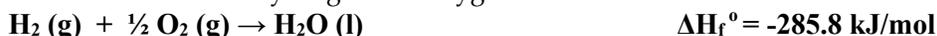
Part 1: Heat of Formation

In chemistry, the **heat of formation** (also called **enthalpy of formation**, symbolized as ΔH_f°) is the amount of energy released or absorbed when **one mole of a compound** is formed from its **elements in their standard states** under standard conditions (25°C and 1 atmosphere of pressure).

Think of it like this: if you could build a compound from scratch using the pure elements from the periodic table, the heat of formation tells you how much energy that process would take or give off.

For example:

The formation of water from hydrogen and oxygen:

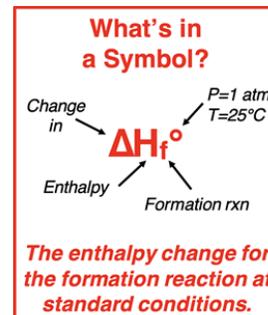


The formation of butane from carbon and hydrogen:



Other compounds' [heat of formation](#)

values can be found in the reference section of the Chemistry Tutorial. This concept is fundamental to understanding chemical energy changes and plays a crucial role in calculating reaction enthalpies using **Hess's Law**.



The enthalpy change of any reaction is the sum of the ΔH_f° values of all the product compounds minus the sum of the ΔH_f° of all reactant compounds. In equation form:

$$\Delta H_{\text{reaction}} = \sum \Delta H_f^\circ_{\text{products}} - \sum \Delta H_f^\circ_{\text{reactants}}$$

Example:

Write a reaction for the combustion of butane, C_4H_{10} : $2 \text{C}_4\text{H}_{10}(\text{g}) + 13 \text{O}_2(\text{g}) \rightarrow 8 \text{CO}_2(\text{g}) + 10 \text{H}_2\text{O}(\text{g})$

Calculate the $\Delta H_{\text{combustion}}$ for the combustion reaction. $\Delta H_{\text{reaction}} = \sum \Delta H_f^\circ_{\text{products}} - \sum \Delta H_f^\circ_{\text{reactants}}$

(look up heats of formation from the reference table)

$$\Delta H_{\text{combustion}} = (8 * H_f^\circ \text{ of } \text{CO}_2 + 10 * H_f^\circ \text{ of } \text{H}_2\text{O}) - (2 * H_f^\circ \text{ of } \text{C}_4\text{H}_{10} + 13 * H_f^\circ \text{ of } \text{O}_2)$$

$$\Delta H_{\text{combustion}} = [(8 * -393.5 \text{ kJ}) + (10 * -241.8 \text{ kJ})] - [(2 * -124.7 \text{ kJ/mol}) + (13 * 0 \text{ kJ})] = -5566 \text{ kJ} - (-249.4) = -5317 \text{ kJ (for 2 moles)}$$

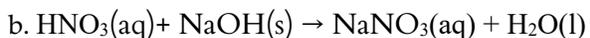
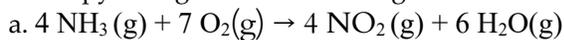
$$\Delta H_{\text{combustion}} \text{ for butane} = 2658 \text{ kJ/mol}$$

Questions

- Identify the standard state (solid, liquid or gas) for the following elements:
 - carbon
 - nitrogen
 - bromine
 - argon
 - mercury
 - iron
- Use the [heat of formation](#) values found in the reference section of the Chemistry Tutorial to find the standard enthalpy of formation, ΔH_f° for the following:
 - $\text{NaCl}(\text{s})$
 - $\text{NH}_3(\text{g})$
 - $\text{H}_3\text{PO}_4(\text{l})$
 - $\text{O}_3(\text{g})$
 - $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3(\text{s})$
 - $\text{Bi}(\text{s})$
 - $\text{UF}_6(\text{s})$
 - $\text{CCl}_2\text{F}_2(\text{g})$

Thermochemistry

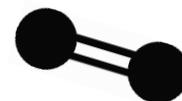
3. Use the [heat of formation](#) values found in the reference section of the Chemistry Tutorial to determine the enthalpy change for the following reactions.



4. The combustion reaction of acetone is $\text{C}_3\text{H}_6\text{O}(\text{l}) + 4 \text{O}_2(\text{g}) \rightarrow 3 \text{CO}_2(\text{g}) + 3 \text{H}_2\text{O}(\text{l})$ $\Delta H_{\text{combustion}}$ is -1790 kJ/mol . Use this and the [heat of formation](#) values found in the reference section of the Chemistry Tutorial to determine the heat of formation of acetone.

Part 2: Bond Enthalpy

Bond enthalpy, or **bond dissociation energy**, is the energy required to break **one mole** of a specific bond in a gas-phase molecule. It reflects bond strength—**stronger bonds have higher bond enthalpies**, as they require more energy to break. Chemists use bond enthalpies to predict energy changes in chemical reactions. By comparing bond energies in reactants and products, we can estimate whether a reaction absorbs or releases energy.



Using Bond Enthalpy to Calculate ΔH Values

1. Conduct a Bond Inventory

Identify the bonds being **broken** and **formed** in the reaction. Determine the quantity of each bond type. Use Lewis electron dot diagrams to classify bonds as single, double, or triple.

2. Look Up Bond Enthalpy Values

Refer to the [Bond Enthalpy Table](#) found in the reference section of the Chemistry Tutorial to find the enthalpy values for each bond being broken and formed.

3. Calculate the ΔH for Bond Breaking

For each bond broken, multiply the number of bonds by the bond enthalpy. Sum all values to determine ΔH for the bond-breaking steps. This value will be positive, as breaking bonds requires energy.

Thermochemistry

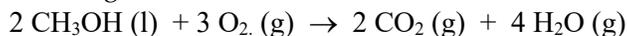
4. Calculate the ΔH for Bond Forming

Bond formation is an exothermic process. The ΔH for forming bonds is negative—simply write the bond enthalpy with a negative sign. Multiply the number of bonds formed by their respective bond enthalpy values, then sum these negative values to determine ΔH for bond formation.

5. Determine the Overall Enthalpy Change

Add the ΔH for bond breaking (positive) to the ΔH for bond forming (negative). The result is the overall enthalpy change (ΔH), indicating whether the reaction is endothermic or exothermic.

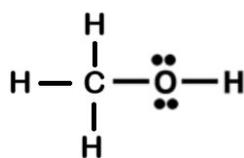
For example: Refer to the [Bond Enthalpy Table](#) found in the reference section of the Chemistry Tutorial to find the enthalpy values for each bond being broken and formed for this reaction:



1. Conduct a Bond Inventory: Identify the bonds being **broken** and **formed** in the reaction

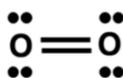
Bonds broken:

CH_3OH



has 3 C-H bonds, 1 C-O bond, and 1 O-H bond

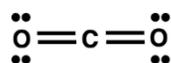
O_2



has 1 O=O bond

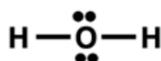
Bonds formed:

CO_2



has 2 C=O bonds

H_2O



has 2 O-H bonds

2. Look Up Bond Enthalpy Values on the [Bond Enthalpy Table](#)

C-H (413 kJ)

C-O (358 kJ)

O-H (467 kJ)

O=O (495 kJ)

C=O (745 kJ)

3. Calculate the ΔH for Bond Breaking

CH_3OH : 3 C-H ($3 \times 413 \text{ kJ}$) + C-O (358 kJ) + O-H (467 kJ) = 2064 kJ

2 CH_3OH (4128 kJ)

O_2 : O=O (495 kJ)

3 O_2 (1485 kJ)

4. Calculate the ΔH for Bond Forming

CO_2 : 2 C=O ($2 \times 745 \text{ kJ}$) = 1490 kJ

2 CO_2 (2980 kJ)

H_2O : 2 O-H ($2 \times 467 \text{ kJ}$) = 934 kJ

4 H_2O (3736 kJ)

5. Determine the Overall Enthalpy Change

$\Delta H_{\text{rxn}} = (+\text{bonds breaking}) + (-\text{bonds forming}) = (4128 \text{ kJ} + 1485 \text{ kJ}) + (-2980 \text{ kJ} - 3736 \text{ kJ}) = -1103 \text{ kJ}$

↑ reactants ↑

↑ products ↑

Thermochemistry

Questions

Use the [Bond Enthalpy Table](#) found in the reference section of the Chemistry Tutorial to determine the heat of reaction for the following reactions.

