

# Hess's Law

## Unit 6 Problem Set

January 6, 2025

---

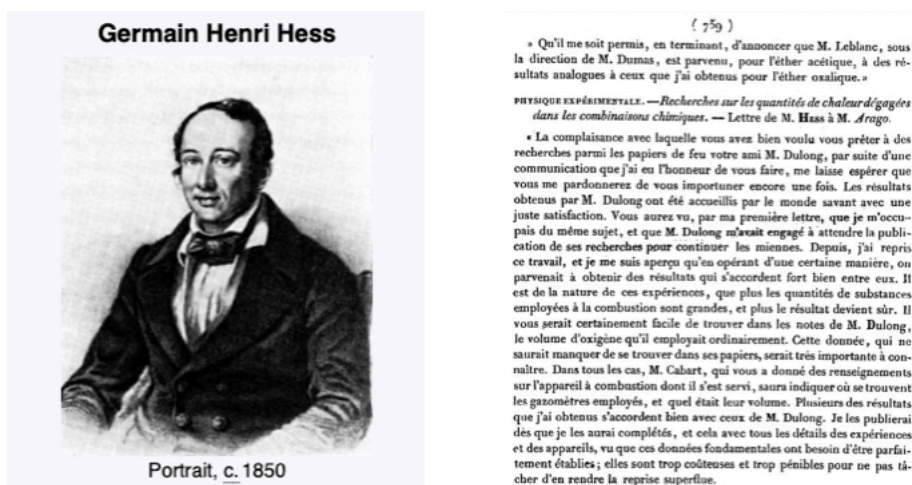
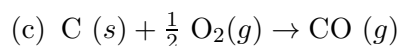
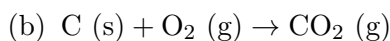
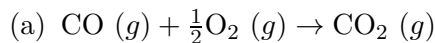


Figure 1: The Swiss-Russian chemist and his 1840 paper on thermodynamics.

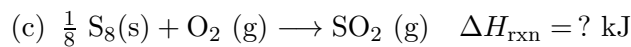
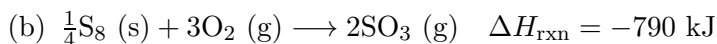
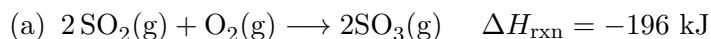
---

Hess's law (also called *Hess's law of constant heat of summation*) is a relationship in thermodynamics that states: *if a process can be written as the sum of several stepwise processes, the enthalpy change of the total process equals the sum of the enthalpy of the various steps.* Use this idea for the following exercises.

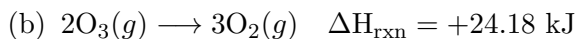
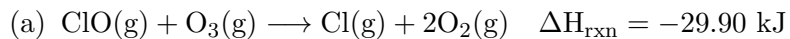
1. Show how equations (a) and (b) be combined to obtain the equation for reaction (c).



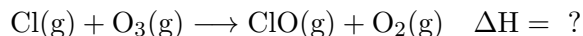
2. Calculate the enthalpy of reaction for reaction (c) using reactions (a) and (b).



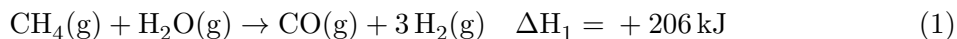
3. As seen earlier, the destruction of the ozone layer by chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) can be described by the following reactions:



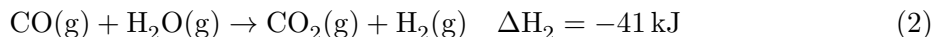
Determine the value of heat of reaction for the following:



4. Explain how Hess's law is consistent with the law of conservation of energy.
5. One method for synthesizing hydrogen gas at an industrial scale is from the reaction of methane gas with steam at high temperature. It is a two step process. The first step is the reaction of methane with a limited supply of steam to produce carbon monoxide and hydrogen gas:



In the second step, the carbon monoxide from the first reaction is allowed to react with more steam, producing carbon dioxide and more hydrogen gas:



- (a) Write the equation for the overall reaction and determine the enthalpy of the reaction.
- (b) Draw a diagram that shows the relative enthalpy changes of all three chemical equations.
6. Explain, citing an example, why it is important for Hess's law that enthalpy is a state function.