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| Chemical Investigations |
| Partition of iodine |
| Pupil Guide |



Partition of Iodine

**Introduction**

When iodine is added to a pair of immiscible liquids, such as aqueous potassium iodide and cyclohexane, it distributes or partitions itself between the two liquids and the following equilibrium is established:



The partition of the iodine between the two liquids can be described quantitatively in terms of a partition coefficient.

**Health & Safety**

We eye protection and if any chemical splashes on your skin wash it off immediately.

0.050 mol l-1 iodine solution is of no significant hazard.

The sodium thiosulphate solutions are of no significant hazard.

Cyclohexane is highly ﬂammable and irritating to the skin. eyes and respiratory system. The vapour can be narcotic in high concentrations. Wear eye protection and gloves.

**You will need**

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| 0.050 mol l-1 iodine solution | 0.050 mol l-1 sodium thiosulphate |
| 0.025 mol l-1 sodium thiosulphate | 1 % fresh starch solution |
| cyclohexane | deionised water |
| 250 cm3 separating funnel  | 50 cm3 pipettes  |
| 10 cm3 pipettes  | 50 cm3 burette  |
| 100 cm3 conical ﬂasks  | 10 cm3 measuring cylinder  |
| 100 cm3 beakers | ﬁlter funnel |
| pipette ﬁller | white tile |
| wash bottle | clamp stand and clamp |
| dropper |  |

**Procedure**

1. Rinse a 50 cm3 pipette with 0.050 mol l-1 iodine solution and pipette 50 cm3  of this solution into the separating funnel.
2. Rinse a 50 cm3 pipette with cyclohexane and pipette 50 cm3 of it into the same separating funnel.
3. Stopper the separating funnel and shake the contents vigorously for about two minutes. Clamp the separating funnel and allow the layers to separate.
4. Rinse the burette, including the tip, with 0.050 mol l-1 sodium thiosulphate and fill it with the same solution.
5. Remove the stopper from the separating funnel and run off the lower aqueous layer into a dry beaker. Leave the upper cyclohexane layer in the separating funnel and re-stopper the funnel.
6. Rinse a 10 cm3 pipette with a little of the lower aqueous layer and pipette 10 cm3 of this solution into a conical ﬂask.
7. Titrate this solution against 0.050 mol l-1 sodium thiosulphate. Just before the end-point when the solution is 'straw' coloured, add a few drops of starch solution and continue the titration to the end-point.
8. Repeat the titrations until two concordant results are obtained.
9. Wash out the burette and then rinse it and fill it with 0.025 mol l-1 sodium thiosulphate.
10. Remove the stopper from the separating funnel and run the cyclohexane layer into a dry beaker.
11. Rinse a 10 cm3 pipette with a little of the cyclohexane layer and pipette 10 cm3 of this solution into a conical ﬂask together with approximately 10 cm3 of deionised water.
12. Titrate this mixture against 0.025 mol l-1 sodium thiosulphate using the starch indicator solution as before. It is imperative to stop the titration at intervals, especially near the end-point, and agitate the contents of the conical ﬂask quite vigorously.
13. Repeat the titrations until two concordant results are obtained.
14. Calculate the concentrations of iodine in the aqueous and cyclohexane layers using the accurate concentrations of the two sodium thiosulphate solutions provided by your teacher/lecturer.
15. Calculate the partition coefficient for the system.
16. Calculate the percentage error and hence the absolute error in the partition coefficient. Your teacher/lecturer will provide you with the errors in the concentrations of the two thiosulphate solutions used.