

Title: Alkalimetry–Standardisation of the NaOH volumetric solution

Work instructions

Task: Determine the exact concentration of the volumetric solution of sodium hydroxide.

Theory

Volumetric solutions of strong bases (sodium or potassium hydroxide) are used for the determination of acids. These titration methods are called alkalimetry.

A standardised HCl solution is used to determine the exact concentration of a volumetric solution of NaOH. In titration with acid, the following reaction takes place



For visual indication of the equivalence point, methyl orange is used as an indicator.

Equipment: beakers, pipettes, pipetting balloon, glass rod, stand, volumetric flask (250 ml), burette

Chemicals: deionised water, HCl solution with the exact concentration (prepared by dilution with 36 % HCl and standardised to NaHCO₃), NaOH solution, methyl orange indicator

Procedures:

1. Rinse the burette 3 times with demi-water and 3 times with hydrochloric acid solution. Mix thoroughly the hydrochloric acid solution before use.
2. Fix the burette in the laboratory stand and fill with HCl volumetric solution.
3. Rinse the pipette with 3× demi-water.
4. Mix the NaOH stock solution and then wash the pipette 3 times.
5. Pipette 25 ml of NaOH solution into the titration flask.
6. Add 2-3 drops of the acid-base indicator methyl orange to the solution.
7. Titrate the solution with HCl solution (dropwise) until the colour changes from yellow to weak orange (onion yellow).
8. Repeat the titration 3 times.

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Management of chemical substances

Chemicals	Form	H-statements	P-statements
NaOH	Solid	H290, H314	P234, P260, P280, P303 + P361 + P353, P304 + P340 + P310, P305 + P351 + P338
NaHCO ₃	Solid	---	---
HCl	36% solution	H290, H314, H335	P234, P261, P271, P303 + P361 + P353, P305 + P351 + P338
Methyl orange	Solution, indicator	H301	P264, P270, P301 + P310, P405, P501

Sources of risk and assessment of risk severity

The student works with solutions prepared in advance in stock bottles. Does not come into direct contact with toxic chemicals, pipetting dilute solutions and using protective work equipment (protective clothing, gloves, goggles or shield).

Method of waste management

Pour residual chemicals into prepared containers. Place broken glass in the container provided. Do not return leftover standard solutions to storage bottles.

Risk reduction measures

Wear protective gloves, protective clothing and goggles. Avoid release of chemicals into the environment; if skin contact occurs, wash with plenty of soap and water. Do not expose yourself to prolonged or repeated exposure. In the event of an accident or if you feel unwell, inform the teacher immediately. Do not eat, drink or smoke while working, and wash your hands with warm water and soap or apply a reparative cream after work or when interrupting work.