337. The Conductivity and p_{H} Values of Calcium Hydroxide Solutions at 25°.

By F. M. LEA and G. E. BESSEY.

Existing data on the conductivity of calcium hydroxide solutions at 25° show discrepancies. New data are given which confirm certain of the previously published results. Values of $p_{\rm H}$ for calcium hydroxide solutions at 25° are also given and compared with the only other available data, those of Flint and Wells at 30°.

THE solutions were prepared by igniting pure calcium carbonate (British Drug Houses, A.R.) at 1000° to constant weight, slaking the product in conductivity water ($\kappa = 1 - 2 \times 10^{-6}$), and keeping the mixture with intermittent shaking for several days. The solution was decanted, and the extraction repeated several times to remove any alkali. The saturated solution was diluted in the conductivity cell or electrode vessel with conductivity water to the concentration required, the necessary precautions being taken to avoid contamination by atmospheric carbon dioxide. In most cases the calcium hydroxide content was estimated gravimetrically by precipitation as oxalate and ignition to carbonate at $550^{\circ} \pm 20^{\circ}$. This method has been used by the authors for some years, since it avoids the difficulties inherent in the weighing of calcium oxide (cf. Bassett, J., 1934, 1270; Willard and Boldyreff, J. Amer. Chem. Soc., 1930, 52, 1888). The estimation was carried out on 50 c.c. of the solution from the conductivity cell and, with this volume, the precision is not greater than 0.3% even with the more concentrated solutions. The use of larger bulk solutions from which the conductivity cell is filled, or the preparation of solutions from known weights of solid calcium oxide, is open to other objections.

The conductivity measurements were carried out at $25^{\circ} \pm 0.1^{\circ}$ in hard-glass cells, a Cambridge reed hummer (frequency 1100 cycles) and a bridge made up of a Cambridge low-induction resistance box and inductionless ratio arms being used. The E.M.F. measurements at $25^{\circ} \pm$

 0.1° were made on a Cambridge potentiometer reading to 0.0001 volt, a 0.1N- or N-calomel electrode and a saturated potassium chloride bridge being used. For the hydrogen cell both palladised gold and lightly platinised platinum electrodes were used and found equally satisfactory. The observed E.M.F. values were corrected in the usual manner for barometric pressure. The measurements recorded were made during several years and in the earlier ones the 0.1N-calomel electrode was used as standard and in the later ones the N-calomel electrode.

Conductivity Data.—The conductivity results are in Table I. The limiting factor determining their accuracy is the precision with which the concentration of the calcium hydroxide solution can be estimated. Previous measurements of the conductivity of calcium hydroxide solutions at 25° have been made by Ostwald (data recalculated by Kohlrausch) (Mellor, "Treatise on Inorganic and Theoretical Chemistry," 1923, 3, 684), Noda and Miyoshi (J. Soc. Chem. Ind. Japan, 1932, 35, 317B), Grieve, Gurd, and Maass (Canadian J. Res., 1933, 8, 577), and Larocque and Maass (ibid., 1935, 13, 276). Comparison with the results of these authors was made by applying the equation $\Lambda = \Lambda_{\infty} - ac^{\dagger}$ to the present data and calculating the Λ values corresponding to the values of c used by them. The cubic equation fits the present data, the constants being derived by the method of least squares, with mean deviations of about 0.5%. The constant a = 162.1and $\Lambda_{\infty} = 258$, c being expressed as gram-equivalents per litre. No great significance can be attached to the Λ_{∞} value derived by this method. The formula $\Lambda = \Lambda_{\infty} - 222 \cdot 1c^4$ fits the data equally well, but gives the value $\Lambda_{\infty} = 246$. The value for Λ_{∞} derived from ionic mobility data at 25° ("International Critical Tables," VI, 270) is 256. Interpolated values for the conductivity at uniform intervals of concentration, derived from the mean of those given by the square and cubic formulæ, are in Table II.

TABLE I.

Specific Conductivity of Calcium Hydroxide Solutions at 25°.

TABLE II.

Interpolated Specific Condu	ictivities	of Calci	ium Hyd	roxide	Solutions	at 25°
Conc., g. CaO per l	$1 \cdot 2 \\ 8 \cdot 60$	1.0 7.30	$0.8 \\ 5.96$	$0.6 \\ 4.57$	$0.4 \\ 3.13$	$0.2 \\ 1.62$

The older data of Ostwald compared in this way are 1-2% below the present conductivity values, and those of Noda and Miyoshi vary from 0.5% lower to 1% higher with an average summed discrepancy of 0.6%. Grieve, Gurd, and Maass give only the conductivity of a saturated calcium hydroxide solution at 25°, but the actual concentration was not determined analytically. In view of the considerable extent to which the concentration of an apparently saturated lime solution may vary with the method of preparation (Bassett, loc. cit.) no comparison of the conductivity value can be made. From data, however, at 0° to 30° conductivity values at 25° may be interpolated at two concentrations (0.737, 0.536 g. CaO per l.); the values obtained are 2-3% below both the present data and that of Noda and Miyoshi. The later data, of Larocque and Maass, by a similar method of interpolation, yield values from 1 to 1.5% below the present data over the concentration range 0.56-0.84 g. CaO per l., but show larger differences at higher and at lower concentrations. The solubility of calcium oxide at 25° was given by Grieve, Gurd, and Maass as 1.25 g. per l. and later corrected by Larocque and Maass to 1.28. These workers used calcium oxide for the preparation of the saturated solution. The solubility so obtained is high compared with that given by crystalline calcium hydroxide, for which a value of 1.12 g. CaO per l. has been found in the present work, in good agreement with Bassett's value of 1.13

Values of p_H.—Measurements were made on the cell :

Pt (H₂)|Ca(OH)₂|Sat. KCl|0·1N-KCl or N-KCl Hg₂Cl₂|Hg
$$E_x e_1 e_2 E_s$$

In order to determine E_x it is necessary to allot values to e_1, e_2 , and E_s . Flint and Wells (*Bur. Standards J. Res.*, 1933, 11, 163), in determining the activities of calcium hydroxide solutions at 30° by measurements of the cell

$$Pt(H_2)$$
 Ca(OH)₂ Sat.KCl Hg₂Cl₂ Hg,

calculated the value of e_1 from the Henderson formulæ in the form :

$$e = \frac{RT}{F} \frac{(\Lambda cf)_{\mathrm{KCl}} (n_{\mathrm{K}} - n_{\mathrm{Cl}}) + (\Lambda c)_{\mathrm{Ca}(\mathrm{OH})_{2}} (n_{\mathrm{OH}} - \frac{1}{2}n_{\mathrm{JCA}})}{(\Lambda cf)_{\mathrm{KCl}} - (\Lambda c)_{\mathrm{Ca}(\mathrm{OH})_{2}}} \log \frac{(\Lambda cf)_{\mathrm{KCl}}}{(\Lambda c)_{\mathrm{Ca}(\mathrm{OH})_{2}}} \quad . \quad (1)$$

The value used for the transport number of the potassium ion (0.473) was that found in saturated solutions. Guggenheim and Schindler (*J. Physical Chem.*, 1934, **38**, 533), however, have recommended that, as most of the contribution to the diffusion potential comes from the more dilute end of the transition layer, the value $n_{\rm g} = 0.490$, which is constant for potassium chloride solutions up to 0.5N, should be used. This gives values for the diffusion potential e_1 only about one third of those calculated by Flint and Wells. For the present calculations the value $n_{\rm g} = 0.490$ has been used. The activity coefficient for Ca(OH)₂ has been assumed unity, and $n_{\rm iCa} = 0.214$, similarly to Flint and Wells. The data for potassium chloride used in the calculations were as follows :

	Sat. KCl.	N-KCl.	0·1N-KCl.		Sat. KCl.	N-KCl.	0·1N-KCl.
Λ	95*	112	129.0	n _K	0.49	0.49	0.49
f	0.57	0.61	0.78	с	4.18	$1 \cdot 0$	0.1
		* Obta	ined by extrapo	lation of data up	to $4N$.		

If the activity coefficient for potassium chloride is omitted from equation (1), the calculated diffusion potential $Ca(OH)_2$ sat.KCl becomes about 0.0005 volt more negative for the most dilute calcium hydroxide solution and 0.001 volt more negative for the most concentrated.

The value of E_s adopted for the 0·1N-calomel electrode was 0·3337 volt at 25° as recommended by Guggenheim and Schindler (*loc. cit.*). This is a different basis from that used by Flint and Wells, who took the value 0·2383 volt for the saturated calomel electrode at 30°.* The value taken for the N-calomel electrode was 0·2799 volt, the potential difference between the N- and the 0·1N-calomel electrode being taken as 0·0528 volt and the diffusion potential N-KCl |0·1N-KCl calculated from formula (1) as 0·0010 volt.

The data obtained in the present investigation are in Table III.

TABLE III.

p_H of Calcium Hydroxide Solutions.

CaO, g. per l.	CaO, gequiv. per l. (c).	Measured cell Against 0·1N-calomel.	l E.M.F. Against N-calomel.	e ₁ .	e ₂ .	<i>E</i> _{<i>x</i>} .	∕∕н∙
0.064	0.00228		-0.9480	-0.0028	+ 0.0006	-0.6659	11.27
0.065	0.00232		-0.9490	-0.0028	+ 0.0006	-0.6669	11.28
0.122	0.00435	-1.0165		- 0.0023	+ 0.0016	- 0.6821	11.54
0.164	0.00585		- 0.9705	-0.0021	+ 0.0006	-0.6891	11.66
0.271	0.00970	-1.0365		-0.0016	+ 0.0016	- 0.7028	11.89
0.462	0.0165	- 1.0482		-0.0010	+ 0.0016	-0.7151	12.10
0.680	0.0243		-1.0065	-0.0005	+ 0.0006	-0.7267	12.29
0.710	0.0254		-1.0076	-0.0005	+ 0.0006	-0.7279	12.31
0.975	0.0348	-1.0670		+ 0.0001	+ 0.0016	-0.7350	12.44
1.027	0.0367		-1.0166	+ 0.0002	+ 0.0006	-0.7375	12.47
1.160	0.0414	· · · · ·	- 1.0195	+ 0.0005	+ 0.0006	-0.7407	12.53

The $p_{\rm H}$ values shown in the last column of Table III would be altered by as much as 0.1 unit by the adoption of other values still commonly used for the 0.1*N*-calomel electrode and the various diffusion potentials.

The $p_{\rm H}$ values obtained by Wells at 30° are 0.17 unit below the present values at 25° at c = 0.003, and 0.20 unit lower in the solutions of highest concentration. This large

* Derived from the value 0.3372 at 30° for the 0.1N-calomel electrode, 0.0942 for the potential difference directly measured between the 0.1N- and the saturated calomel electrode, and 0.0046 calculated diffusion potential using the value $n_{\rm K} = 0.473$.

variation is due in part to the difference in the values adopted for the standard electrodes, which, as far as calculation can be made, affects the $p_{\rm H}$ by about 0.02, and to a larger extent to the different methods used for calculating the diffusion potentials. The use of the diffusion potential values adopted in the present work would raise the $p_{\rm H}$ values of Flint and Wells by about 0.1 unit at the lowest concentrations and 0.05 unit at the highest.

Building Research Station, Garston, Herts.

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