Question:

A 30cm³ sample of butane, C₄H₁₀, was completely reacted in a limited supply of oxygen to produce 60 cm³ of carbon dioxide and 60 cm³ of carbon monoxide.

All volumes were measured at room temperature and pressure.

Which volume of oxygen was used?

Solution:

Unbalanced equation of reaction is as follows:

$$C_4 H_{10} + O_2 \rightarrow CO + CO_2 + H_2 O.$$

Let's balance it taking into account the fact that volumes of produced gases, carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide, are equal and thus their quantities (in numbers of molecules) are equal:

$$C_4H_{10} + nO_2 \rightarrow 2CO + 2CO_2 + 5H_2O$$

(Here numbers 2 preceding CO and CO_2 are chosen to balance Carbon, and number 5 preceding H_2O is chosen to balance Hydrogen.)

The unknown *n* satisfies $2n = 2 + 2 \times 2 + 5$, hence $n = \frac{11}{2}$. Thus,

$$C_4 H_{10} + \frac{11}{2} O_2 \rightarrow 2CO + 2CO_2 + 5H_2O$$

The volume of oxygen used is $\frac{11}{4}$ greater than volume of CO or CO₂ produced:

$$V = \frac{11}{2} \times \frac{60cm^3}{2} = 165cm^3.$$

Answer:

165cm³.

Answer provided by https://www.AssignmentExpert.com