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Chemical Equilibrium

Chemistry in Two Directions

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Chemical Reactions

Up until now, we have talked about reactions as though they proceed in one direction: from left to right, as written in a balanced equation:

$$A_{(aq)} + 2 B_{(aq)} \rightarrow 6 C_{(aq)}$$

In fact, this is rarely true.

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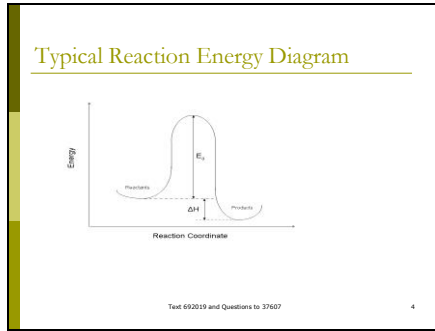
If you can go left, you can turn around and go right

If you consider the energetics of a reaction, it is usually represented by a graph of Energy vs. Reaction Coordinate

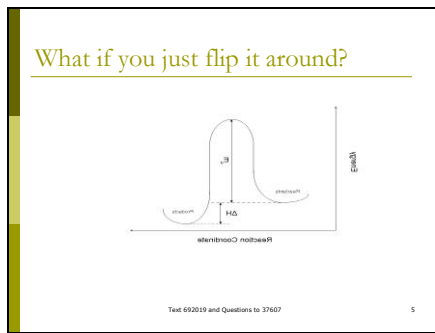
(Reaction Coordinate is complicated, but you can think of it as the lowest energy path between chemical species)

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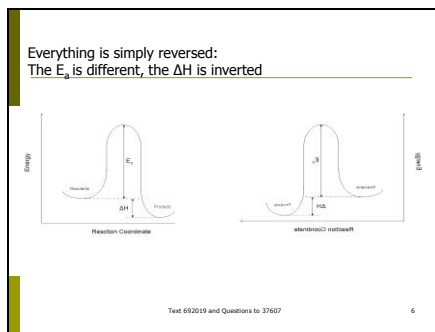
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$A_{(aq)} + 2 B_{(aq)} \leftrightarrow 6 C_{(aq)}$

$6 C_{(aq)} \rightarrow A_{(aq)} + 2 B_{(aq)}$
Rate = $-\frac{\Delta[C]}{\Delta t}$ (C is disappearing)
AND
 $A_{(aq)} + 2 B_{(aq)} \rightarrow 6 C_{(aq)}$
Rate = $\frac{+\Delta[C]}{\Delta t}$ (C is being created)

Both reactions occur simultaneously with the Rate
of destruction = rate of creation

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Stand \leftrightarrow Sit

This is a reaction...er, sort of.

Let's assume it is 1st order in both directions
- doesn't matter, just makes it easy.

What is the rate law for the forward
reaction?

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Stand \leftrightarrow Sit

Let's assume it is 1st order in both directions
- doesn't matter, just makes it easy.

What is the rate law for the forward
reaction?

- A. Rate = $k[\text{Stand}]$
- B. Rate = $k[\text{Sit}]$
- C. $\ln[\text{Stand}]_t = -kt + \ln[\text{Stand}]_0$
- D. A and C
- E. I can't tell without more information.

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Stand ↔ Sit

Let's assume it is 1st order in both directions
- doesn't matter, just makes it easy.

What is the rate law for the Reverse reaction?

- A. Rate = k[Stand]
- B. Rate = k[Sit]
- C. $\ln[\text{Stand}]_t = -kt + \ln[\text{Stand}]_0$
- D. A and C
- E. I can't tell without more information.

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Let's do the reaction!!!

Forward: Rate = $\frac{1}{2}$ [Stand]
Reverse: Rate = $\frac{1}{4}$ [Sit]

There's 160 of you - all sitting.

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Time	Stand	Sit
0	0	160
	$= 1/2$ [Stand]	$= 1/4$ [Sit]
	$0 - 0 + 40 = 40$	$160 - 40 + 0 = 120$
1	40	120
	$1/2$ [Stand] = 20	$1/4$ [Sit] = 30
	$40 - 20 + 30 = 50$	$120 - 30 + 20 = 110$
2	50	110
	$1/2$ [50] = 25	$1/4$ [110] = 27.5
	$50 + 28 - 25 = 53$	$110 - 28 + 25 = 107$
3	53	107
	$1/2$ [53] = 27	$1/4$ [107] = 27

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Equilibrium is Balance

- The forward and reverse reactions are balanced
- The concentrations of all species (reactants and products) become stable
- The equilibrium position is not the same for all reactions

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The Equilibrium Constant

The balance between forward and reverse reaction is summed up in the Equilibrium Constant ("K_{eq}")

$$K = \frac{[\text{products}]}{[\text{reactants}]}$$

If K is large, most of the reactants form products.

If K is small, most of the reactants stay as reactants

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Writing Equilibrium Constant Expressions

It is very simple to write the expression for "K_{eq}"

You simply take the concentration (molarity) of all gases, and solutions and raise them to their stoichiometric coefficient

You ignore pure liquids and solids – they don't have a "concentration" and their concentration is considered constant (a unitless 1) and so it doesn't contribute

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$$A_{(aq)} + 2 B_{(aq)} \leftrightarrow 6 C_{(aq)}$$

$$K_{eq} = \frac{[C]^6}{[B]^2[A]} = \text{some number}$$

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$$2 H_2 (g) + O_2 (g) \leftrightarrow 2 H_2O (g)$$

$$K_{eq} = \frac{[H_2O]^2}{[H_2]^2[O_2]}$$

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$$2 H_2 (g) + O_2 (g) \leftrightarrow 2 H_2O (l)$$

$$K_{eq} = \frac{1}{[H_2]^2[O_2]}$$

Notice that the pure liquid is not included -
it doesn't really have a concentration and
so it becomes "1"

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Different kinds of “K”

No matter what the subscript, K IS K IS K IS K IS K IS K! They are all just equilibrium constants and they all get written and used the same way.

K_c K_p K_a K_b K_{sp} K_f K_w

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K_c vs K_p

- When a reaction occurs in the gas phase, you can use the **partial pressure** of the gas instead of the concentration.
- To separate the 2 different expressions, they are written differently:
 - K_c = equilibrium constant with concentrations of species
 - K_p = equilibrium constant with partial pressures of the species

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What is the preferred unit of concentration for a gas?

- A M
- B kg
- C atm
- D L
- E Christian brothers

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Why is n/V of a gas only “sort of M”?

- A. Christian brothers
- B. Sisters of St. Joseph
- C. V is not in L
- D. V is not the solvent
- E. V is a horrible TV show
- F. V is victory – Sorry Team Canada
- G. Church of Scientology-sorry Tom Cruise
- H. Church of Heidi Klum – Sorry, sorry Seal
- I. Your mother – sorry to your mother

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“Thermodynamic” K

$$K_{eq} = \frac{P_{O_2}}{[H_2]}$$

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$2Na(aq) + Cl_2(g) = 2 NaCl(aq)$

$$K_c = \frac{[NaCl]^2}{[Na]^2[Cl_2]}$$
$$K_{eq} = \frac{[NaCl]^2}{P_{Cl_2}[Na]^2}$$

No Kp

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Calculating the Equilibrium Constant

The only "trick" to calculating an equilibrium constant is that you must know the concentrations AT EQUILIBRIUM.

You cannot simply take any old concentrations at any old time. The reaction must have reached equilibrium

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A simple example

Hydrogen and oxygen gas will react to form steam (gaseous water). Hydrogen and oxygen gases were mixed in a 2 L flask at 450 C. After equilibrium was established, it was determined that there were 3 moles of water, 1.2 moles of hydrogen and 0.8 moles of oxygen in the flask. What is the equilibrium constant for this reaction at 450 C?

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A simple solution

1st you need a balanced equation:
 $2 \text{H}_2 (\text{g}) + \text{O}_2 (\text{g}) \leftrightarrow 2 \text{H}_2\text{O} (\text{g})$

This allows us to immediately write the equilibrium constant expression:

$$K_c = \frac{[\text{H}_2\text{O}]^2}{[\text{H}_2]^2[\text{O}_2]}$$

$\square K_p = \frac{P^2_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}}{P_{\text{H}_2}^2 P_{\text{O}_2}}$

All we need to know are the concentrations! But they must be the EQUILIBRIUM concentrations.

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A simple example

Hydrogen and oxygen gas will react to form steam (gaseous water). Hydrogen and oxygen gases were mixed in a 2 L flask at 450 C. **After equilibrium was established**, it was determined that there were 3 moles of water, 1.2 moles of hydrogen and 0.8 moles of oxygen in the flask. What is the equilibrium constant for this reaction at 450 C?

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A simple solution

Since we know the equilibrium concentrations:

$$\frac{1.2 \text{ mol } H_2}{2 \text{ L}} = 0.6 \text{ M } H_2$$
$$\frac{0.8 \text{ mol } O_2}{2 \text{ L}} = 0.4 \text{ M } O_2$$
$$\frac{3.0 \text{ mol } H_2O}{2 \text{ L}} = 1.5 \text{ M } H_2O$$
$$K_c = \frac{[H_2O]^2}{[H_2]^2[O_2]} = \frac{(1.5 \text{ M})^2}{(0.6 \text{ M})^2(0.4 \text{ M})}$$

$K_c = 15.63$

Note: You could also calculate Kp by using the ideal gas law - more on that later.

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You canNOT use MOLES in K

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A Note about Units

Notice that I wrote the equilibrium constant without units even though the concentrations have units:

$$K_c = \frac{(1.5 M)^2}{(0.6 M)^2(0.4 M)}$$

$K_c = 15.63$

Since the units of K will depend on stoichiometry, it doesn't have consistent units. It is always written as a UNITLESS QUANTITY!

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Clicker

H₂ and O₂ gas will react to form steam. H₂ and O₂ gases were mixed in a 3 L flask at 450 C. After equilibrium was established, it was determined that there were 1.5 moles of water, 2 moles of H₂ and 0.8 moles of O₂ in the flask. What is K_c at 450 C?

A. K=2.81 D. K=0.938
B. K=1.42 E. K=0.703
C. K=2.11

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A more complicated problem

Hydrogen and oxygen gas will react to form steam (gaseous water). 4.36 g of hydrogen and 28.6 g of oxygen were mixed in a 2 L flask at 250 C. After equilibrium was established, it was determined that there was 6.6 g of water. What is the equilibrium constant for this reaction at 250 C?

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A series of simple calculations

1st you need a balanced equation:
 $2 \text{H}_2 (g) + \text{O}_2 (g) \leftrightarrow 2 \text{H}_2\text{O} (g)$

This allows us to immediately write the equilibrium constant expression:

$$K_{eq} = K_c = \frac{[\text{H}_2\text{O}]^2}{[\text{H}_2]^2[\text{O}_2]}$$

The question is: what are the equilibrium concentrations of all of the species?

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Determining the concentrations

ICE - ICE - BABY - ICE - ICE

The easiest way to solve this problem is by using an I-C-E chart ("ice chart") where I = initial concentration, C= change in concentration, and E = the equilibrium concentration.

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An ICE Chart

$2 \text{H}_2 (g) + \text{O}_2 (g) \leftrightarrow 2 \text{H}_2\text{O} (g)$

Initial			
Change			
Equilibrium	I+C	I+C	I+C

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What do you know?

4.36 g hydrogen * $\frac{1 \text{ mol H}_2}{2.016 \text{ g H}_2}$ = 2.16 mol H₂
(this is the INITIAL amount)

28.6 g oxygen * $\frac{1 \text{ mol O}_2}{32.0 \text{ g O}_2}$ = 0.894 mol O₂
(this is the INITIAL amount)

6.6 g H₂O * $\frac{1 \text{ mol H}_2\text{O}}{18.02 \text{ g H}_2\text{O}}$ = 0.366 mol H₂O
(this is the EQUILIBRIUM AMOUNT)

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UNITS! UNITS! UNITS!

An ICE chart can use EITHER moles or concentration (molarity) or even pressure (atm), but you must use only one of these in any single ICE chart.

K_c uses molarity, so it is usually easiest to use concentration

I will do the problem both ways!

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An ICE Chart

$2 \text{ H}_2 (\text{g}) + \text{O}_2 (\text{g}) \leftrightarrow 2 \text{ H}_2\text{O} (\text{g})$

Initial	2.16 mol	0.894 mol	0 mol
Change	?????	?????	???????
Equilibrium	????	?????	0.366 mol

What is the change in quantities?

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Was the assumption good?

We started by assuming $x \ll 0.0533$

We now "know" that, with this assumption, x is 1.91×10^{-4}

Is $1.91 \times 10^{-4} \ll 0.0533$?

$0.0533 - 0.000191 = 0.0531$

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Critical Judgment

How small is small depends on how accurate an answer you need: If you need 1 sig fig, then any number that is a factor of 10-20 smaller is insignificant. If you need 2 sig figs, then it must be about 100 times smaller. If you need 3 sig figs it must be about 1000 times smaller.

A good general rule for our purposes is that if a number is $< 5\%$ of another number, it is significantly smaller. This maintains 2 sig figs in all the concentrations – usually enough.

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$0.0533 - x : x = 1.91 \times 10^{-4}$

$\frac{.0533}{20} = 0.00267$

Compare 1.91×10^{-4} to $1/20^{\text{th}}$ of 0.0533

IF $1.91 \times 10^{-4} < 0.00267$, I call it "good assumption".

If $1.91 \times 10^{-4} > 0.00267$, I call it "bad ass"

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We put x back into the ICE chart

$$2 \text{H}_2 (\text{g}) + \text{O}_2 (\text{g}) \leftrightarrow 2 \text{H}_2\text{O} (\text{g})$$

Initial	0.827 M	0.0533 M	0 M
Change	-2 (1.91x10 ⁻⁴)	-1.91x10 ⁻⁴	+ 2 (1.91x10 ⁻⁴)
Equilibrium	0.827 - 2 (1.91x10 ⁻⁴) = 0.827	0.0533 - 1.91x10 ⁻⁴ = 0.0531	3.8x10 ⁻⁴

And we have our answer.

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Clickers!

The K_c value for the formation of H₂O from H₂ and O₂ at 500 C is 3.2x10⁻⁴. I put 5.0 mol of H₂ and 5.0 mol of O₂ in a 2 L flask at 500 C, what is the [H₂O] at equilibrium?

A. 0.035 M D. 0.070 M
B. 0.050 M E. 0.100 M
C. 0.001 M

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First Exam

Yes, to graphing calculators – as long as there is no cheating.
Yes, to cell phone calculators – as long as there is no cheating.

You get 1 (ONE) 8-1/2 x 11 inch "formula sheet" – no restrictions.

Did I mention – NO CHEATING!

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Topics on 1st exam

1. Intermolecular forces – bp, mp, phase changes
2. Colligative properties – bp, mp, vp, osmotic pressure
3. Phase Diagrams
4. Heating/Cooling curves
5. Rate laws
6. Integrated Rate laws
7. Arrhenius Equation

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Exam Review Homework

Online now.

Due at EIGHT 8 EIGHT 8 EIGHT p.m. Thursday.

Answer key will be available at 9 p.m on Thursday.

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