# Chapter 15

# **Chemical Equilibrium**

$$CH_3COOH + H_2O \longrightarrow CH_3COO^- + H_3O^+$$



## **Equilibrium: A Dynamic Process**

#### Opposing processes occur at equal rates

- Forward & reverse reactions occur at equal rates
- No outward change is observed
- Ratio of reactants to products is constant
- Temperature dependent
- Other factors can also shift equilibrium toward products or reactants

#### Physical Equilibrium

Ex: Equilibrium between phases  $Br_2(I) \Longrightarrow Br_2(g)$ 

#### Chemical Equilibrium

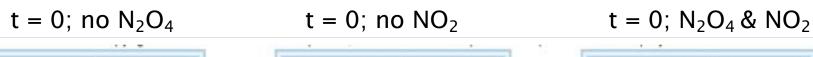
Equilibrium between reactants & products

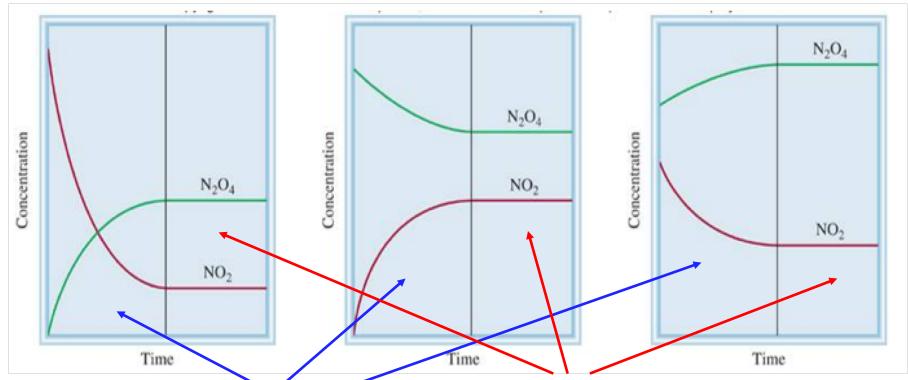
$$N_2O_4(g) \rightleftharpoons 2NO_2(g)$$
  
Colorless Brown



### Initial conditions may vary - concentrations will adjust to establish equilibrium

$$N_2O_4(g)$$
  $\longrightarrow$   $2NO_2(g)$ 





As a system approaches equilibrium, both the forward and reverse reactions are occurring

At equilibrium, the forward and reverse reactions are proceeding at the same rate, so the relative concentrations remain constant.

# **Equilibrium Constant (K<sub>c</sub>)**

$$N_2O_4(g) \implies 2NO_2(g)$$

At equilibrium, [N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>] & [NO<sub>2</sub>] are constant

- NOT EQUAL
- Not static
- Actual amounts depend on system

Rate (forward) = Rate (reverse):  $k_1[N_2O_4] = k_{-1}[NO_2]^2$ 

$$\frac{k_1}{k_{-1}} = \frac{[NO_2]^2}{[N_2O_4]} = K_c$$

[conc] not equal **~** 

Initial Concentrations (M)		Equilibrium Concentrations (M)		Ratio of Concentrations at Equilibrium	
[NO <sub>2</sub> ]	[N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub> ]	[NO <sub>2</sub> ]	[N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub> ]	$\frac{[NO_2]}{[N_2O_4]}$	$\frac{[NO_2]^2}{[N_2O_4]}$
0.000	0.670	0.0547	0.643	0.0851	$4.65 \times 10^{-3}$
0.0500	0.446	0.0457	0.448	0.102	$4.66 \times 10^{-3}$
0.0300	0.500	0.0475	0.491	0.0967	$4.60 \times 10^{-3}$
0.0400	0.600	0.0523	0.594	0.0880	$4.60 \times 10^{-3}$
0.200	0.000	0.0204	0.0898	0.227	$4.63 \times 10^{-3}$

Ratio is equal

### **Equilibrium Expression**

For the reaction:  $aA + bB + \dots \Rightarrow cC + dD + \dots$ 

The Equilibrium Expression is:  $K_c = \frac{[C]^c[D]^d}{[A]^a[B]^b}$ 

#### For an Equilibrium Expression:

- Concentrations of products are in numerator
- Concentrations of reactants are in denominator
- · They are the concentrations at equilibrium
- Exponents ARE coefficients from balanced equation
- Units generally not included
- Also known as a Mass Action Expression

Note difference from rate equation – equilibrium expression IS BASED ON BALANCED EQUATION

### Impact of How an Equation is Balanced

Reaction A

Reaction B

$$SO_2(g) + \frac{1}{2}O_2(g) \Longrightarrow SO_3(g)$$
  $2SO_2(g) + O_2(g) \Longrightarrow 2SO_3(g)$ 

$$K_c = \frac{[SO_3]}{[SO_2][O_2]^{1/2}}$$

$$K_c = \frac{[SO_3]^2}{[SO_2]^2[O_2]}$$

Equilibrium constants change if the reaction is balanced differently

Numerical values for  $K_c$  are related, but different  $K_c$  (reaction B) =  $[K_c$  (reaction A)]<sup>2</sup>

It is essential to know how the reaction was balanced

# Manipulating Chemical Equations & K<sub>c</sub>

When reversing a chemical equation, invert K<sub>c</sub>

$$cC + dD \Longrightarrow aA + bB$$

$$K_c = \frac{[A]^a [B]^b}{[C]^c [D]^d} = \frac{1}{K_c}$$

When multiplying coefficients by n, raise K<sub>c</sub> to n<sup>th</sup> power

$$n(cC + dD \Longrightarrow aA + bB)$$

$$K_c = \frac{[A]^{na}[B]^{nb}}{[C]^{nc}[D]^{nd}} = K_c^n$$

When adding equations, multiply the K<sub>c</sub> values

$$\begin{array}{c}
eE \Longrightarrow fF \\
\underline{aA + bB} \Longrightarrow cC + dD
\end{array}
\qquad K_c = \frac{[C]^c [D]^d [F]^f}{[A]^a [B]^b [E]^e} = K_1 \times K_2$$

$$eE + aA + bB \Longrightarrow + fF + cC + dD$$

# K<sub>p</sub> The Pressure Version of K<sub>c</sub>

Remember the Gas Laws - Chapter 5!

- - The equilibrium expression can also be written in terms of pressure
  - Very useful since gas phase reactions are often monitored via pressure

$$K_p = \frac{(P_C)^c (P_D)^d}{(P_A)^a (P_B)^b}$$

## **Writing Equilibrium Expressions**

Write the equilibrium constant expression  $K_p$  and  $K_c$  for: (a) 3 NO(g)  $\Longrightarrow$  N<sub>2</sub>O(g) + NO<sub>2</sub>(g)

(b) 
$$CH_4(g) + 2 H_2S(g) \iff CS_2(g) + 4 H_2(g)$$

## Manipulating K values

1. For the formation of NH<sub>3</sub> from N<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>

$$N_2(g) + 3 H_2(g) \rightleftharpoons 2 NH_3(g)$$

 $K_p = 4.34 \times 10^{-3}$  at 300°C. What is the value of  $K_p$  for the reverse reaction?

2. How does the magnitude of the equilibrium constant  $K_p$  for the reaction

$$2 \text{ HI}(g) \iff H_2(g) + I_2(g)$$

change if the equilibrium is written as

$$6 \text{ HI}(g) \Longrightarrow 3 \text{ H}_2(g) + 3 \text{ I}_2(g)$$

3. Given that, at 700 K,  $K_p = 54.0$  for the reaction:

$$H_2(g) + I_2(g) \implies 2 HI(g)$$

and  $K_p = 1.04 \times 10^{-4}$  for the reaction:

$$N_2(g) + 3 H_2(g) \implies 2 NH_3(g)$$

determine the value of  $K_p$  for the following reaction at 700K:

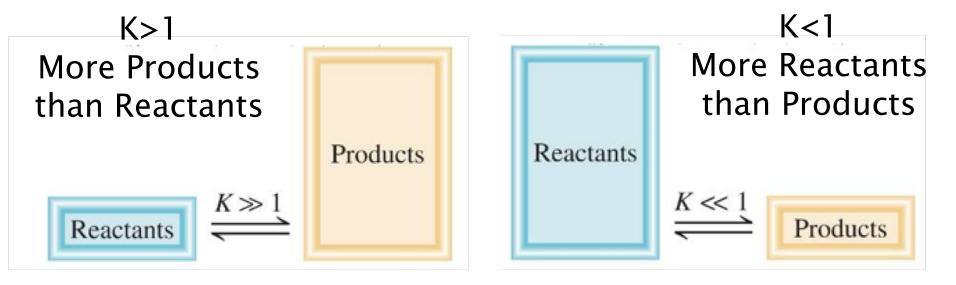
$$2 \text{ NH}_3(g) + 3 \text{ I}_2(g) \implies 6 \text{ HI}(g) + \text{N}_2(g)$$

### What Equilibrium Constants Can Tell Us

$$aA + bB \iff cC + dD$$

#### At Equilibrium:

$$K_c = \frac{[C]^c [D]^d}{[A]^a [B]^b}$$



As K goes to infinity, reaction goes to completion.

As K goes to zero, no reaction occurs.

# Analyzing K<sub>p</sub>/K<sub>c</sub> Values

For the reaction:  $H_2(g) + I_2(g) \rightleftharpoons 2 HI(g)$ 

 $K_p = 794$  at 298K and  $K_p = 54$  at 700K

Is the formation of HI more favored at the higher or lower temperature?

## **Using the Equilibrium Expression**

- 1. Nitrogen monoxide exists in equilibrium with nitrogen and oxygen gas. At a given temperature, 0.100 moles of NO were added to a 2.00L vessel. At equilibrium, 0.044 moles of NO were remaining. What is the value of  $K_c$ ?
- 1. Write the balanced equation & equilibrium constant expression.

2. Find equilibrium molarities of reactants and products.

3. Calculate K<sub>c</sub>

# Types of Equilibria: Homogeneous ( $K_c$ & $K_p$ ) All products & reactants are in the same phase

K<sub>c</sub>: All chemicals are in units of molarity (mol/L)
Can be either gas or aqueous solutions

K<sub>p</sub>: All chemicals in **gas** phase Pressure is the partial pressure – units often atmospheres  $2CO(g) + O_2(g) \rightleftharpoons 2CO_2(g)$ 

 $K_c \& K_p \text{ are related: } K_p = K_c \cdot (RT)^{\Delta n}$ 

- Derived from ideal gas law
- R = gas constant  $(0.0821 \text{ L} \cdot \text{atm/mol} \cdot \text{K})$
- T = temperature in Kelvin
- $\Delta n = moles$  gaseous products moles gaseous reactants

 $K_p = K_c$  if moles product gas = moles reactant gas If moles product gas  $\neq$  moles reactant gas, there will be a change in pressure

### Calculating K<sub>p</sub> from K<sub>c</sub>

Calculate  $K_p$  for the following reactions at 1500°C.

A: 87.9 A: 12800 <sub>16</sub>

#### Types of Equilibria: Heterogeneous

Are the equilibrium constants for the following two reactions the same?

$$SO_3(g) + H_2O(g) \rightleftharpoons H_2SO_4(g)$$
 &  $SO_3(g) + H_2O(I) \rightleftharpoons H_2SO_4(aq)$ 

"K<sub>1</sub>" = 
$$\frac{[H_2SO_4(g)]}{[SO_3(g)][H_2O(g)]}$$

"
$$K_2$$
" =  $\frac{[H_2SO_4(aq)]}{[SO_3(g)][H_2O(l)]}$ 

" $K_1$ " would equal " $K_2$ " ONLY IF  $[H_2SO_4(g)] = [H_2SO_4(aq)]$ AND  $[H_2O(g)] = [H_2O(I)]$ 

 $[H_2SO_4(g)]$  dependent on partial pressure variable

 $[H_2SO_4(aq)]$  # moles dissolved in water variable

[H<sub>2</sub>O(g)] dependent on partial pressure variable

 $[H_2O(I)]$  1 g/mL = 1000 g/L 56M

for 1L: 1000g(1mol/18g) = 56 mol

The two equilibrium constants are NOT the same!

THE PHASE MATTERS!

# Equilibria Involving Mixed Phases (i.e. Heterogeneous)

The subscript "eq" is for general equilibria  $K_c \& K_p$  are specific types of  $K_{eq}$ 

Equilibrium expressions only include gaseous & aqueous materials (solids & liquid are NOT included)

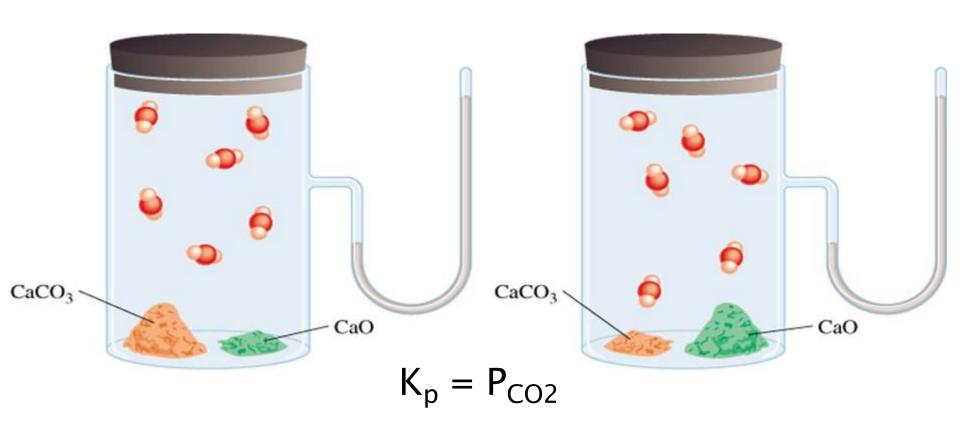
$$SO_3(g) + H_2O(I) \Longrightarrow H_2SO_4(aq)$$
  $K_{eq} = \frac{[H_2SO_4(aq)]}{[SO_3(g)]}$ 

 $K_p$  for liquid-vapor equilibrium = <u>vapor</u> pressure of liquid  $H_2O(I) \rightleftharpoons H_2O(g)$   $K_p = P_{(H2O)}$  liquid not included

To write an appropriate equilibrium expression from a balanced equation, the equation MUST show the phase of each reactant & product.

#### **Equilibria Involving Pure Solids & Liquids**

$$CaCO_3(s) \rightleftharpoons CaO(s) + CO_2(g)$$



#### P<sub>CO2</sub> does not depend on the amount of CaCO<sub>3</sub> or CaO

As long as there is <u>some</u> CaCO<sub>3</sub> & CaO in the system, the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> above the solid will remain the same

### **Equilibria Involving Solids & Liquids**

A mixture of  $H_2$ , S, and  $H_2$ S is held in a 1.0L vessel at 90°C and reacts according to the equation:

$$H_2(g) + S(s) \Longrightarrow H_2S(g)$$

An equilibrium mixture contains 0.46g H<sub>2</sub>S & 0.40g H<sub>2</sub>.

- (a) Write the equilibrium constant expression for this reaction.
- (b) What is the value of  $K_c$  for the reaction at this temp.?

A: 0.068

(c) Why can we ignore the amount of S when doing the calculation in part b?

## Predicting the Direction of a Reaction

$$aA + bB + \dots \implies cC + dD + \dots \qquad K_{eq} = \frac{[C]^c [D]^d}{[A]^a [B]^b}$$

#### If the value of K<sub>eq</sub> is large

- [C] & [D] very large or [A] & [B] very small
- Reaction will go to completion
- Equilibrium favors products

#### If the value of K<sub>eq</sub> is small

- [C] & [D] very small or [A] & [B] very large
- · Reaction proceeds very slowly or no reaction (NR) at all
- Equilibrium favors reactants

Note that  $K_{eq}$  has its origins in thermodynamics, but kinetics are also important. The value of  $K_{eq}$  does not guarantee that a reaction will occur in either direction.

# The Reaction Quotient (Q<sub>c</sub> or Q<sub>p</sub>)

$$aA + bB + \dots \Rightarrow cC + dD + \dots \qquad Q_c = \frac{[C]^c [D]^a}{[A]^a [B]^b}$$

### Essentially K<sub>eq</sub> but at non-equilibrium conditions

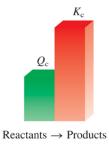
· Indicates direction of reaction to get to equilibrium

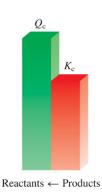
- [Products] < equilibrium concetration</li>
- Higher rate in forward direction

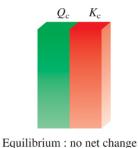
- [Products] > equilibrium concentration
- Higher rate in reverse direction

$$Q = K$$

- [Products] = equilibrium concentration
- Forward rate = Reverse rate
- No macroscopic changes observed







#### **Reaction Quotient**

1. For the reaction of hydrogen with nitrogen to form ammonia at  $25^{\circ}$ C,  $K_c = 4.0 \times 10^8$ . The equilibrium concentrations were found to be  $1.0 \times 10^{-3}$ M in both hydrogen & nitrogen and 0.020M in ammonia. If you add 0.010M nitrogen, in which direction does the reaction shift?

$$N_2(g) + 3H_2(g) \Longrightarrow 2NH_3(g)$$

2. At 1000K, the value of  $K_p$  for the following reaction is 0.338.

$$2 SO_3(g) \rightleftharpoons 2SO_2(g) + O_2(g)$$

Given the following pressures:

$$P_{SO3} = 0.16$$
 atm;  $P_{SO2} = 0.41$  atm;  $P_{02} = 2.5$  atm

(a) Is the system at equilibrium? A: No

(b) If not, predict the direction in which the reaction will shift to reach equilibrium. A: toward reactants

#### Using K<sub>eq</sub> to Find Equilibrium Concentrations

- 1. Write the properly balanced chemical equation.
  - Need the stoichiometry & species involved in the reaction.
- 2. Set up a table of concentrations for all components.
  - Use coefficients from balanced equation to express all unknown concentrations in terms of a single reactant or product, x.
- 3. Write out the equilibrium constant expression for the reaction (i.e. the equation for K).
- 4. Substitute the values from step 2 into the  $K_{eq}$  equation.
- 5. Solve the equation for x.
- 6. Substitute the value you calculated for x into the expressions for the other equilibrium concentrations.

### Using K<sub>eq</sub> to Find Equilibrium Concentrations

- 1. The decomposition of BrCl to bromine & chlorine has a  $K_c$  of 0.14 at 350K. If the initial concentration of BrCl is 0.062M, what are the equilibrium concentrations of all components?
- 1. Balanced Equation:
- 2. ICE Table

3. K<sub>eq</sub> Expression

6. Use x to determine conc.

4 & 5. Substitute values from table & Solve for x

- 2. Carbon monoxide reacts with water at  $1000^{\circ}$ C to give carbon dioxide and hydrogen with  $K_c = 0.58$ . A reaction was started with the following composition:  $CO_2$  0.20M;  $H_2$  1.20M;  $H_2O$  0.50M; CO 1.00M. What are the equilibrium concentrations of all components?
- 1. Balanced Equation:
- 2. ICE Table

3. K<sub>ea</sub> Expression

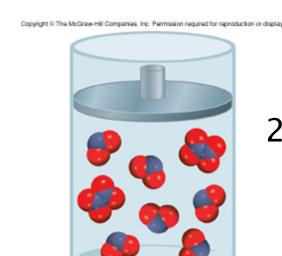
4. Substitute values from table

5. Solve for x using quadratic equation:  $-b\pm\sqrt{b^2-4ac}$ 

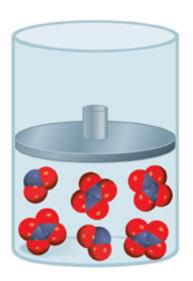
6. Use x to determine concentrations

# Factors that Affect Chemical Equilibrium: Le Châtelier's Principle

When stress is applied to a system at equilibrium, the system will shift to reduce the applied stress and re-establish equilibrium



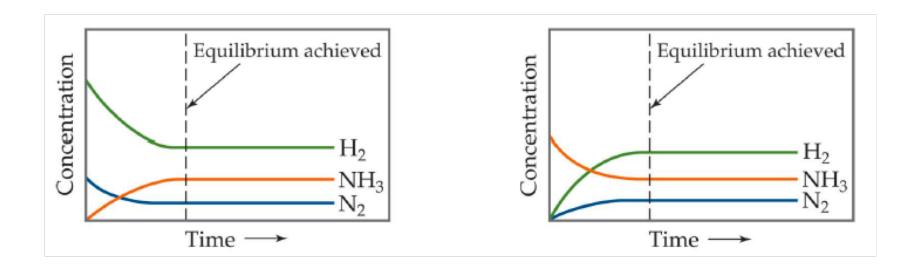
 $2NO_2(g) \implies 1N_2O_{4(g)}$ 



Addition of pressure causes the reaction to shift towards products – fewer moles of gas decreases the pressure (i.e. the stress)

# Remember: Equilibrium Can Be Reached From Either Direction

$$N_2(g) + 3H_2(g) \Longrightarrow 2NH_3(g)$$



It doesn't matter whether you start with N<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub> or with NH<sub>3</sub> – you will have the same proportions of all three substances at equilibrium

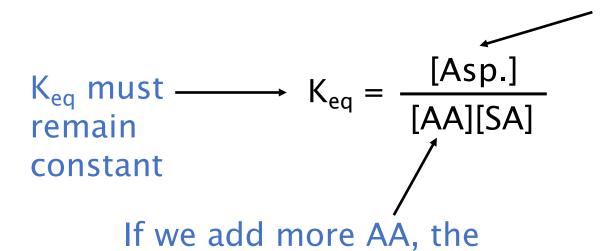
# Many different types of stress can affect equilibrium, such as:

Change in components Change in concentrations Change in partial pressure Change in external pressure Change in total volume Change in temperature

$$K_{eq} = \frac{[Asp.]}{[AA][SA]}$$

Synthesis of Aspirin from Salicylic Acid & Acetic Acid is an equilibrium process. We want to make as much aspirin as possible.

#### Addition of a component: Add Acetic Acid



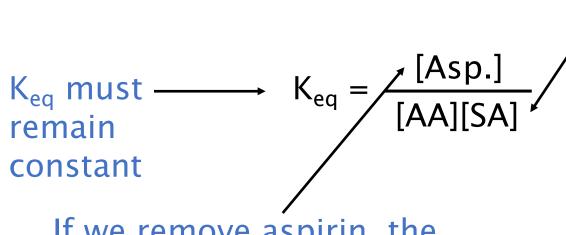
denominator gets larger

To keep K<sub>eq</sub> constant, we need to increase the numerator – reaction will shift toward the products (make more aspirin).

$$K_{eq} = \frac{[Asp.]}{[AA][SA]}$$

Synthesis of Aspirin from Salicylic Acid & Acetic Acid is an equilibrium process. We want to make as much aspirin as possible.

#### Decrease in conc. of a component: Remove Aspirin



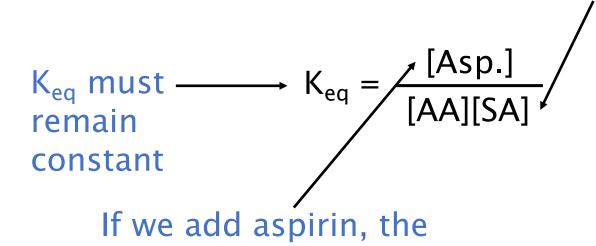
If we remove aspirin, the numerator gets smaller

To keep K<sub>eq</sub> constant, we need to decrease the denominator – reaction will shift toward the products (use up AA & SA, & make more aspirin).

$$K_{eq} = \frac{[Asp.]}{[AA][SA]}$$

Synthesis of Aspirin from Salicylic Acid & Acetic Acid is an equilibrium process. We want to make as much aspirin as possible.

#### What if we added aspirin?



numerator gets larger

To keep  $K_{eq}$  constant, we need to increase the denominator – reaction will shift toward the reactants (make more AA & SA).

For the following reaction,

$$2NO(g) + O_2(g) \Longrightarrow 2NO_2(g)$$

what happens to the equilibrium if:

(a)  $O_2$  is added to the system?

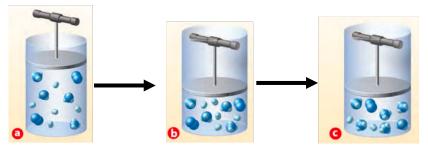
(b) NO is removed?

### **Changing Volume or External Pressure**

$$N_2(g) + 3H_2(g) \Longrightarrow 2NH_3(g)$$

#### When pressure is increased:

Equilibrium shifts to produce smaller # moles of gas



Toward products – 2 moles < 4 moles

#### When Pressure is decreased:

Equilibrium shifts to produce larger # moles of gas



Toward reactants – 4 moles > 2 moles

If a reaction has the same number of moles of gas on both sides (e.g.  $N_2(g) + O_2(g) \rightleftharpoons 2NO(g)$ ):

Changes in external pressure do not affect equilibrium

## **Changing Volume or External Pressure**

For the following reaction,

$$2SO_2(g) + O_2(g) \Longrightarrow 2SO_3(g)$$

what happens to the equilibrium if:

(a) The volume of the system is increased?

(b) The external pressure exerted on the system is increased?

## **Changing Temperature**

#### **Exothermic Reaction:**

Heat is released

→ a product

**Increase** T: K decreases

→ favors reactants

Decrease T: K increases

→ favors products

#### **Endothermic Reaction:**

Heat is absorbed

 $\rightarrow$  a reactant

**Increase** T: K increases

→ favors products

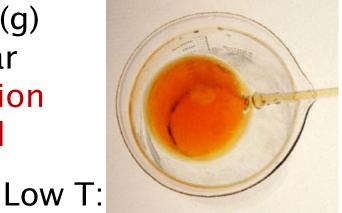
Decrease T: K decreases

→ favors reactants



2 NO<sub>2</sub>(g)  $\implies$  N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>(g) red clear Exothermic Reaction  $\Delta H = -58kJ/mol$ 

High T: More NO<sub>2</sub>



More N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>

## Adding a Catalyst or Inhibitor

#### **Catalysts:**

- Catalysts lower activation energy.
- Cause a reaction to reach equilibrium faster
- DO NOT AFFECT THE EQUILIBRIUM ITSELF

#### **Inhibitors**

- Act to slow the rate of a reaction
- Prevent equilibrium from being reached as quickly
- DO NOT AFFECT THE EQUILIBRIUM ITSELF
- It may seem like the reaction is not occurring at all, but in reality it is just infinitely slow.

### Which way does the reaction shift if.....

$$N_2O_3(g) \Longrightarrow NO(g) + NO_2(g)$$
  $\Delta H = +39.7kJ/mol$ 

NO is added?

Volume of reaction vessel is reduced?

The total internal pressure is increased by adding He gas?

The temperature is increased?

A catalyst is added?

# How does each of the following changes affect the yield of NO at equilibrium?

$$4NH_3(g) + 5O_2(g) \rightleftharpoons 4NO(g) + 6H_2O(g)$$
  
 $\Delta H = -904.4 \text{ kJ/mol}$ 

Increase [NH<sub>3</sub>]

Increase [H<sub>2</sub>O]

Decrease [O<sub>2</sub>]

Decrease the volume of the container

Add a catalyst

Increase temperature