

Law of Mass Action and the Equilibrium Constant

- 1) Review the Law of Mass Action and the equilibrium constant expression.
- 2) Meaning of the equilibrium constant (large \rightarrow mostly products at equilibrium, small \rightarrow mostly reactants at equilibrium).
- 3) Algebraic consequences of the form of the equilibrium constant expression.
 - a. reverse reaction has reciprocal of the equilibrium constant.
 - b. multiplying reaction by a constant \rightarrow original K is raised to that constant to get new K.
 - c. adding two reactions \rightarrow new K is product of Ks of added reactions.
- 4) Measuring an equilibrium constant: Let a system evolve to equilibrium, measure concentrations, then include these concentrations in the equilibrium constant expression to get K. (Next week's lab.)
- 5) Decide whether a system is at equilibrium: Let Q be the reaction quotient: the ratio of product concentrations raised to their stoichiometric coefficients divided by the reactant concentrations raised to their stoichiometric coefficients **at any time whether the system is at equilibrium or not.**

So for the generic reaction $aA + bB \rightarrow cC + dD$ we define $Q = \frac{[C]^c[D]^d}{[A]^a[B]^b}$ where the molarities of substances A, B, C, and D are measured at any time, equilibrium or not. Then:

- a. if $Q = K$, the system is at equilibrium.
 - b. if $Q < K$, the system will evolve towards products until equilibrium is reached.
 - c. if $Q > K$, the system will evolve towards reactants until equilibrium is reached.
- 6) Homogeneous vs heterogeneous equilibrium.
 - 7) Why we can leave pure solids, pure liquids, and essentially pure solvents out of the equilibrium constant expression.
 - 8) Relationship between K_c and K_p for strictly gaseous reactions or reactions which have only gases in the equilibrium constant expression. $K_p = K_c(RT)^{\Delta n}$.
 - 9) LeChatlier's Principle.
 - 10) How to use the measured equilibrium constant to determine extent of reaction and final concentrations.

TABLE 13.2 Equilibrium constants, K_c , for various reactions

Reaction	Temperature, K	K_c
$\text{H}_2(\text{g}) + \text{Cl}_2(\text{g}) \rightleftharpoons 2 \text{HCl}(\text{g})$	300	4.0×10^{31}
	500	4.0×10^{18}
	1000	5.1×10^8
$\text{H}_2(\text{g}) + \text{Br}_2(\text{g}) \rightleftharpoons 2 \text{HBr}(\text{g})$	300	1.9×10^{17}
	500	1.3×10^{10}
	1000	3.8×10^4
$\text{H}_2(\text{g}) + \text{I}_2(\text{g}) \rightleftharpoons 2 \text{HI}(\text{g})$	298	794
	500	160
	700	54
$2 \text{BrCl}(\text{g}) \rightleftharpoons \text{Br}_2(\text{g}) + \text{Cl}_2(\text{g})$	300	377
	500	32
	1000	5
$2 \text{HD}(\text{g}) \rightleftharpoons \text{H}_2(\text{g}) + \text{D}_2(\text{g})$	100	0.52
	500	0.28
	1000	0.26
$\text{F}_2(\text{g}) \rightleftharpoons 2 \text{F}(\text{g})$	500	7.3×10^{-13}
	1000	1.2×10^{-4}
$\text{Cl}_2(\text{g}) \rightleftharpoons 2 \text{Cl}(\text{g})$	1200	2.7×10^{-3}
	1000	1.2×10^{-7}
$\text{Br}_2(\text{g}) \rightleftharpoons 2 \text{Br}(\text{g})$	1200	1.7×10^{-5}
	1000	4.1×10^{-7}
$\text{I}_2(\text{g}) \rightleftharpoons 2 \text{I}(\text{g})$	1200	1.7×10^{-5}
	800	3.1×10^{-5}
	1000	3.1×10^{-3}
	1200	6.8×10^{-2}