

Change in Equilibrium Conditions

A complete description of an equilibrium state of a system must indicate temperature, pressure, composition and concentrations of all entities. (A percent reaction or equilibrium constant may be part of the the description.)

There are as many states of equilibrium of a chemical system as there are combinations of properties.

Le Chatelier's Principle

If a stress is applied to a system in dynamic equilibrium, the system changes in a way that relieves the stress, to re-achieve equilibrium.

- is a method of predicting in which direction an equilibrium will shift if the factors describing an equilibrium state (temperature, pressure, concentration) are changed.

- is useful in order to choose conditions which maximize the production of the desired product.

***catalysts** speed up the time to reach equilibrium but do not affect the final position of an equilibrium*

Summary p. 492: Variables Affecting Chemical Equilibria

Concentration



⇒ remove $\text{NO}_{(g)}$

shift right

⇒ add $\text{HNO}_{3(aq)}$

shift left

$$K = \frac{[\text{HNO}_3]^2}{[\text{NO}_2]^3 [\text{H}_2\text{O}]}$$

Temperature

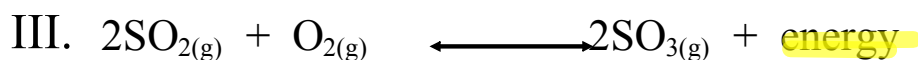


⇒ heat system

shift right

$$\Delta H_r = +45 \text{ kJ}$$

*think of energy as an entity in the equation

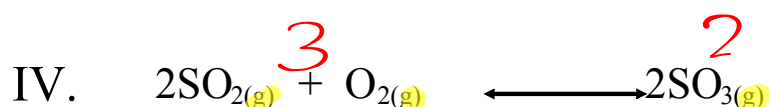


⇒ cool system (low T)

shift right

Pressure / Volume

⇒ look at gaseous entities



⇒ decrease volume (increase pressure) shift right

⇒ increase volume (decrease pressure) shift left

Worksheet