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It includes: 1) Expressions for the equilibrium constants of various chemical reactions. 2) Calcula...AI-enhanced title and descriptionSaveSave Chapter_18_-_Study_Guide_-_Answers For Later0%0% found this document useful, undefined The material from this chapter is needed before chapter 18 can start. This is material from the Chemistry 11 curriculum. 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Choose from any of our 8 languagesAIR 1|Delhi Judicial 2024Start your learning journey now!LearnPracticeImproveSucceed When the ratio of reactants to products of a chemical reaction is constant with time Part of a series onChemistry Index Outline Glossary History (timeline) Key components Matter Phase Bond Chemical reaction Ion Acid–base reaction Redox Chemical equilibrium Chemical law Branches Analytical chemistry Biochemistry Organic chemistry Inorganic chemistry Physical chemistry Research Chemist (list) List of chemistry awards List of journals List of unsolved problems Chemistry portal Categoryvte In a chemical reaction, chemical equilibrium is the state in which both the reactants and products are present in concentrations which have no further tendency to change with time, so that there is no observable change in the properties of the system.[1] This state results when the forward reaction proceeds at the same rate as the reverse reaction. The reaction rates of the forward and backward reactions are generally not zero, but they are equal. Thus, there are no net changes in the concentrations of the reactants and products. Such a state is known as dynamic equilibrium.[2][3] It is the subject of study of equilibrium chemistry. The concept of chemical equilibrium was developed in 1803, after Berthollet found that some chemical reactions are reversible.[4] For any reaction mixture to exist at equilibrium, the rates of the forward and backward (reverse) reactions must be equal. In the following chemical equation, arrows point both ways to indicate equilibrium.[5] A and B are reactant chemical species, S and T are product species, and α, β, σ, and τ are the stoichiometric coefficients of the respective reactants and products: α A + β B ⇌ σ S + τ T The equilibrium concentration position of a reaction is said to lie "far to the right" if, at equilibrium, nearly all the reactants are consumed. Conversely the equilibrium position is said to be "far to the left" if hardly any product is formed from the reactants. Guldberg and Waage (1865), building on Berthollet's ideas, proposed the law of mass action: forward reaction rate = k + A α B β backward reaction rate = k − S σ T τ {\displaystyle {\begin{aligned}{\text{forward reaction rate}}&=k_{+}{\ce {A}}^{\alpha }{\ce {B}}^{\beta }\\{\text{backward reaction rate}}&=k_{-}{\ce {S}}^{\sigma }{\ce {T}}^{\tau }\end{aligned}}} where A, B, S and T are active masses and k+ and k− are rate constants. Since at equilibrium forward and backward rates are equal: k + { A } α { B } β = k − { S } σ { T } τ {\displaystyle k_{+}\left\{{\ce {A}}\right\}^{\alpha }\left\{{\ce {B}}\right\}^{\beta }=k_{-}\left\{{\ce {S}}\right\}^{\sigma }\left\{{\ce {T}}\right\}^{\tau }} and the ratio of the rate constants is also a constant, now known as an equilibrium constant. K c = k + k − = { S } σ { T } τ { A } α { B } β {\displaystyle K_{c}={\frac {k_{+}}{k_{-}}}={\frac {\{{\ce {S}}\}^{\sigma }\{{\ce {T}}\}^{\tau }}{\{{\ce {A}}\}^{\alpha }\{{\ce {B}}\}^{\beta }}}} By convention, the products form the numerator. However, the law of mass action is valid only for concerted one-step reactions that proceed through a single transition state and is not valid in general because rate equations do not, in general, follow the stoichiometry of the reaction as Guldberg and Waage had proposed (see, for example, nucleophilic aliphatic substitution by SN1 or reaction of hydrogen and bromine to form hydrogen bromide). Equality of forward and backward reaction rates, however, is a necessary condition for chemical equilibrium, though it is not sufficient to explain why equilibrium occurs. Despite the limitations of this derivation, the equilibrium constant for a reaction is indeed a constant, independent of the activities of the various species involved, though it does depend on temperature as observed by the van 't Hoff equation. Adding a catalyst will affect both the forward reaction and the reverse reaction in the same way and will not have an effect on the equilibrium constant. The catalyst will speed up both reactions thereby increasing the speed at which equilibrium is reached.[2][6] Although the macroscopic equilibrium concentrations are constant in time, reactions do occur at the molecular level. For example, in the case of acetic acid dissolved in water and forming acetate and hydronium ions, CH3CO2H + H2O ⇌ CH3CO−2 + H3O+ a proton may hop from one molecule of acetic acid onto a water molecule and then onto an acetate anion to form another molecule of acetic acid and leaving the number of acetic acid molecules unchanged. This is an example of dynamic equilibrium. Equilibria, like the rest of thermodynamics, are statistical phenomena, averages of microscopic behavior. Le Châtelier's principle (1884) predicts the behavior of an equilibrium system when changes to its reaction conditions occur. If a dynamic equilibrium is disturbed by changing the conditions, the position of equilibrium moves to partially reverse the change. For example, adding more S (to the chemical reaction above) from the outside will cause an excess of products, and the system will try to counteract this by increasing the reverse reaction and pushing the equilibrium point backward (though the equilibrium constant will stay the same). If mineral acid is added to the acetic acid mixture, increasing the concentration of hydronium ion, the amount of dissociation must decrease as the reaction is driven to the left in accordance with this principle. This can also be deduced from the equilibrium constant expression for the reaction: K = { CH 3 CO 2 − } { H 3 O + } { CH 3 CO 2 H } {\displaystyle K={\frac {\{{\ce {CH3CO2-}}\}\{{\ce {H3O+}}\}}{\ce {\{CH3CO2H\}}}}} If {H3O+} increases {CH3CO2H} must increase and CH3CO−2 must decrease. The H2O is left out, as it is the solvent and its concentration remains high and nearly constant. J. W. Gibbs suggested in 1873 that equilibrium is attained when the "available energy" (now known as Gibbs free energy or Gibbs energy) of the system is at its minimum value, assuming the reaction is carried out at a constant temperature and pressure. What this means is that the derivative of the Gibbs energy with respect to reaction coordinate (a measure of the extent of reaction that has occurred, ranging from zero for all reactants to a maximum for all products) vanishes (because dG = 0), signaling a stationary point. This derivative is called the reaction Gibbs energy (or energy change) and corresponds to the difference between the chemical potentials of reactants and products at the composition of the reaction mixture.[1] This criterion is both necessary and sufficient. If a mixture is not at equilibrium, the liberation of the excess Gibbs energy (or Helmholtz energy at constant volume reactions) is the "driving force" for the composition of the mixture to change until equilibrium is reached. The equilibrium constant can be related to the standard Gibbs free energy change for the reaction by the equation Δ r G ⊖ = − R T ln K e q {\displaystyle \Delta _{r}G^{\ominus }=-RT\ln K_{\mathrm {eq} }} where R is the universal gas constant and T the temperature. When the reactants are dissolved in a medium of high ionic strength the quotient of activity coefficients may be taken to be constant. In that case the concentration quotient, Kc, K c = [S] σ [T] τ [A] α [B] β {\displaystyle K_{\ce {c}}={\frac {[{\ce {S}}]^{\sigma }[{\ce {T}}]^{\tau }}{[{\ce {A}}]^{\alpha }[{\ce {B}}]^{\beta }}}} where [A] is the concentration of A, etc., is independent of the analytical concentration of the reactants. For this reason, equilibrium constants for solutions are usually determined in media of high ionic strength. Kc varies with ionic strength, temperature and pressure (or volume). Likewise Kp for gases depends on partial pressure. These constants are easier to measure and encountered in high-school chemistry courses. At constant temperature and pressure, one must consider the Gibbs free energy, G, while at constant temperature and volume, one must consider the Helmholtz free energy, A, for the reaction; and at constant internal energy and volume, one must consider the entropy, S, for the reaction. The constant volume case is important in geochemistry and atmospheric chemistry where pressure variations are significant. Note that, if reactants and products were in standard state (completely pure), then there would be no reversibility and no equilibrium. Indeed, they would necessarily occupy disjoint volumes of space. The mixing of the products and reactants contributes a large entropy increase (known as entropy of mixing) to states containing equal mixture of products and reactants and gives rise to a distinctive minimum in the Gibbs energy as a function of the extent of reaction.[7] The standard Gibbs energy change, together with the Gibbs energy of mixing, determine the equilibrium state.[8][9] In this article only the constant pressure case is considered. The relation between the Gibbs free energy and the equilibrium constant can be found by considering chemical potentials.[1] At constant temperature and pressure in the absence of an applied voltage, the Gibbs free energy, G, for the reaction depends only on the extent of reaction: ξ (Greek letter xi), and can only decrease according to the second law of thermodynamics. It means that the derivative of G with respect to ξ must be negative if the reaction happens; at the equilibrium this derivative is equal to zero. (d G d ξ) T , p = 0 {\displaystyle \left({\frac {dG}{d\xi }}\right)_{T,p}=0~} : equilibrium In order to meet the thermodynamic condition for equilibrium, the Gibbs energy must be stationary, meaning that the derivative of G with respect to the extent of reaction, ξ, must be zero. It can be shown that in this case, the sum of chemical potentials times the stoichiometric coefficients of the products is equal to the sum of those corresponding to the reactants.[10] Therefore, the sum of the Gibbs energies of the reactants must be the equal to the sum of the Gibbs energies of the products. α μ A + β μ B = σ μ S + τ μ T {\displaystyle \alpha \mu _{\mathrm {A} }+\beta \mu _{\mathrm {B} }=\sigma \mu _{\mathrm {S} }+\tau \mu _{\mathrm {T} }\,} where μ is in this case a partial molar Gibbs energy, a chemical potential. The chemical potential of a reagent A is a function of the activity, {A} of that reagent. μ A = μ A ⊖ + R T ln { A } {\displaystyle \mu _{\mathrm {A} }=\mu _{A}^{\ominus }+RT\ln\{\mathrm {A} \}\,} (where μoA is the standard chemical potential). The definition of the Gibbs energy equation interacts with the fundamental thermodynamic relation to produce d G = V d p − S d T + ∑ i = 1 k μ i d N i {\displaystyle dG=Vdp-SdT+\sum _{i=1}^{k}\mu _{i}dN_{i}} . Inserting dNi = νi dξ into the above equation gives a stoichiometric coefficient (ν i {\displaystyle u _{i}~}) and a differential that denotes the reaction occurring to an infinitesimal extent (dξ). At constant pressure and temperature the above equations can be written as (d G d ξ) T , p = ∑ i = 1 k μ i ν i = Δ r G T , p {\displaystyle \left({\frac {dG}{d\xi }}\right)_{T,p}=\sum _{i=1}^{k}\mu _{i}u _{i}=\Delta _{\mathrm {r} }G_{T,p}} which is the Gibbs free energy change for the reaction. This results in: Δ r G T , p = σ μ S + τ μ T − α μ A − β μ B {\displaystyle \Delta _{\mathrm {r} }G_{T,p}=\sigma \mu _{\mathrm {S} }+\tau \mu _{\mathrm {T} }-\alpha \mu _{\mathrm {A} }-\beta \mu _{\mathrm {B} }\,} . By substituting the chemical potentials: Δ r G T , p = (σ μ S ⊖ + τ μ T ⊖) − (α μ A ⊖ + β μ B ⊖) + (σ R T ln { S } + τ R T ln { T }) − (α R T ln { A } + β R T ln { B }) {\displaystyle \Delta _{\mathrm {r} }G_{T,p}=(\sigma \mu _{\mathrm {S} }^{\ominus }+\tau \mu _{\mathrm {T} }^{\ominus })-(\alpha \mu _{\mathrm {A} }^{\ominus }+\beta \mu _{\mathrm {B} }^{\ominus })+(\sigma RT\ln\{\mathrm {S} \}+\tau RT\ln\{\mathrm {T} \})-(\alpha RT\ln\{\mathrm {A} \}+\beta RT\ln\{\mathrm {B} \})} , the relationship becomes: Δ r G T , p = ∑ i = 1 k μ i ⊖ ν i + R T ln { S } σ { T } τ { A } α { B } β {\displaystyle \Delta _{\mathrm {r} }G_{T,p}=\sum _{i=1}^{k}\mu _{i}^{\ominus }u _{i}+RT\ln \left({\frac {\{\mathrm {S} \}^{\sigma }\{\mathrm {T} \}^{\tau }}{\{\mathrm {A} \}^{\alpha }\{\mathrm {B} \}^{\beta }}}\right} } = ∑ i = 1 k μ i ⊖ ν i = Δ r G ⊖ {\displaystyle \sum _{i=1}^{k}\mu _{i}^{\ominus }u _{i}=\Delta _{\mathrm {r} }G^{\ominus }} : which is the standard Gibbs energy change for the reaction that can be calculated using thermodynamical tables. The reaction quotient is defined as: Q r = { S } σ { T } τ { A } α { B } β {\displaystyle Q_{\mathrm {r} }={\frac {\{\mathrm {S} \}^{\sigma }\{\mathrm {T} \}^{\tau }}{\{\mathrm {A} \}^{\alpha }\{\mathrm {B} \}^{\beta }}}} Therefore, (d G d ξ) T , p = Δ r G T , p = Δ r G ⊖ + R T ln Q r {\displaystyle \left({\frac {dG}{d\xi }}\right)_{T,p}=\Delta _{\mathrm {r} }G_{T,p}=\Delta _{\mathrm {r} }G^{\ominus }+RT\ln Q_{\mathrm {r} }} At equilibrium: (d G d ξ) T , p = Δ r G T , p = 0 {\displaystyle \left({\frac {dG}{d\xi }}\right)_{T,p}=\Delta _{\mathrm {r} }G_{T,p}=0} leading to: 0 = Δ r G ⊖ + R T ln K e q {\displaystyle 0=\Delta _{\mathrm {r} }G^{\ominus }+RT\ln K_{\mathrm {eq} }} and Δ r G ⊖ = − R T ln K e q {\displaystyle \Delta _{\mathrm {r} }G^{\ominus }=-RT\ln K_{\mathrm {eq} }} Obtaining the value of the standard Gibbs energy change, allows the calculation of the equilibrium constant. For a reactional system at equilibrium: Qr = Keq; ξ = ξeq. If the activities of constituents are modified, the value of the reaction quotient changes and becomes different from the equilibrium constant: Qr ≠ Keq (d G d ξ) T , p = Δ r G ⊖ + R T ln Q r {\displaystyle \left({\frac {dG}{d\xi }}\right)_{T,p}=\Delta _{\mathrm {r} }G^{\ominus }+RT\ln Q_{\mathrm {r} }~} and Δ r G ⊖ = − R T ln K e q {\displaystyle \Delta _{\mathrm {r} }G^{\ominus }=-RT\ln K_{eq}~} then (d G d ξ) T , p = R T ln (Q r K e q) {\displaystyle \left({\frac {dG}{d\xi }}\right)_{T,p}=RT\ln \left({\frac {Q_{\mathrm {r} }}{K_{\mathrm {eq} }}}\right)~} In simplifications where the change in reaction quotient is solely due to the concentration changes, Qr is referred to as the mass-action ratio, and the ratio Qr/Keq is referred to as the disequilibrium ratio.[citation needed] If activity of a reagent i increases Q r = ∏ (a j) ν j ∏ (a i) ν i , {\displaystyle Q_{\mathrm {r} }={\frac {\prod (a_{j})^{u _{j}}}{\prod (a_{i})^{u _{i}}}}~,} the reaction quotient decreases. Then Q r < K e q {\displaystyle Q_{\mathrm {r} }K_{\mathrm {eq} }~} and (d G d ξ) T , p > 0 {\displaystyle \left({\frac {dG}{d\xi }}\right)_{T,p}>0~} The reaction will shift to the left (i.e. in the reverse direction, and thus products will form). Note that activities and equilibrium constants are dimensionless numbers. The expression for the equilibrium constant can be rewritten as the product of a concentration quotient, Kc and an activity coefficient quotient, Γ. K = [S] σ [T] τ . . . [A] α [B] β . . . × γ S σ γ T τ . . . γ A α γ B β . . . = K c Γ {\displaystyle K={\frac {[\mathrm {S}]^{\sigma }[\mathrm {T}]^{\tau }...}{[\mathrm {A}]^{\alpha }[\mathrm {B}]^{\beta }...}}\times {\frac {{\gamma _{\mathrm {S} }}^{\sigma }{\gamma _{\mathrm {T} }}^{\tau }...}{{\gamma _{\mathrm {A} }}^{\alpha }{\gamma _{\mathrm {B} }}^{\beta }...}}=K_{\mathrm {c} }\Gamma } [A] is the concentration of reagent A, etc. It is possible in principle to obtain values of the activity coefficients, γ. For solutions, equations such as the Debye–Hückel equation or extensions such as Davies equation[11] Specific ion interaction theory or Pitzer equations[12] may be used. However this is not always possible. It is common practice to assume that Γ is a constant, and to use the concentration quotient in place of the thermodynamic equilibrium constant. It is also general practice to use the term equilibrium constant instead of the more accurate concentration quotient. This practice will be followed here. For reactions in the gas phase partial pressure is used in place of activity coefficient. In the real world, for example, when making ammonia in industry, fugacity coefficients must be taken into account. Fugacity, f, is the product of partial pressure and fugacity coefficient. The chemical potential of a species in the real gas phase is given by μ = μ ⊖ + R T ln (f b a r) = μ ⊖ + R T ln (p b a r) + R T ln γ {\displaystyle \mu =\mu ^{\ominus }+RT\ln \left({\frac {f}{\mathrm {bar} }}\right)=\mu ^{\ominus }+RT\ln \left({\frac {p}{\mathrm {bar} }}\right)+RT\ln \gamma } so the general expression defining an equilibrium constant is valid for both solution and gas phases.[citation needed] In aqueous solution, equilibrium constants are usually determined in the presence of an "inert" electrolyte such as sodium nitrate, NaNO3, or potassium perchlorate, KClO4. The ionic strength of a solution is given by I = 1 2 ∑ i = 1 N c i z i 2 {\displaystyle I={\frac {1}{2}}\sum _{i=1}^{N}c_{i}z_{i}^{2}} where ci and zi stand for the concentration and ionic charge of ion type i, and the sum is taken over all the N types of charged species in solution. When the concentration of dissolved salt is much higher than the analytical concentrations of the reagents, the ions originating from the dissolved salt determine the ionic strength, and the ionic strength is effectively constant. Since activity coefficients depend on ionic strength, the activity coefficients of the species are effectively independent of concentration. Thus, the assumption that Γ is constant is justified. The concentration quotient is a simple multiple of the equilibrium constant.[13] K c = K Γ {\displaystyle K_{\mathrm {c} }={\frac {K}{\Gamma }}} However, Kc will vary with ionic strength. If it is measured at a series of different ionic strengths, the value can be extrapolated to zero ionic strength.[12] The concentration quotient obtained in this manner is known, paradoxically, as a thermodynamic equilibrium constant. Before using a published value of an equilibrium constant in conditions of ionic strength different from the conditions used in its determination, the value should be adjusted. A mixture may appear to have no tendency to change, though it is not at equilibrium. For example, a mixture of SO2 and O2 is metastable as there is a kinetic barrier to formation of the product, SO3. 2 SO2 + O2 ⇌ 2 SO3 The barrier can be overcome when a catalyst is also present in the mixture as in the contact process, but the catalyst does not affect the equilibrium concentrations. Likewise, the formation of bicarbonate from carbon dioxide and water is very slow under normal conditions CO2 + 2 H2O ⇌ HCO−3 + H3O+ but almost instantaneous in the presence of the catalytic enzyme carbonic anhydrase. When pure substances (liquids or solids) are involved in equilibria their activities do not appear in the equilibrium constant[14] because their numerical values are considered one. Applying the general formula for an equilibrium constant to the specific case of a dilute solution of acetic acid in water one obtains CH3CO2H + H2O ⇌ CH3CO2− + H3O+ K c = [C H 3 C O 2 −] [H 3 O +] [C H 3 C O 2 H] [H 2 O] {\displaystyle K_{\mathrm {c} }={\frac {\mathrm {[{CH_{3}CO_{2}}^{-}][{H_{3}O}^{+}]} }{\mathrm {[{CH_{3}CO_{2}H}][{H_{2}O}]} }}} For all but very concentrated solutions, the water can be considered a "pure" liquid, and therefore it has an activity of one. The equilibrium constant expression is therefore usually written as K = [C H 3 C O 2 −] [H 3 O +] [C H 3 C O 2 H] = K c {\displaystyle K={\frac {\mathrm {[{CH_{3}CO_{2}}^{-}][{H_{3}O}^{+}]} }{\mathrm {[{CH_{3}CO_{2}H}]} }}=K_{\mathrm {c} }} . A particular case is the self-ionization of water 2 H2O ⇌ H3O+ + OH− Because water is the solvent, and has an activity of one, the self-ionization constant of water is defined as K w = [H +] [O H −] {\displaystyle K_{\mathrm {w} }=\mathrm {[H^{+}][OH^{-}]} } It is perfectly legitimate to write [H+] for the hydronium ion concentration, since the state of solvation of the proton is constant (in dilute solutions) and so does not affect the equilibrium concentrations. Kw varies with variation in ionic strength and/or temperature. The concentrations of H+ and OH− are not independent quantities. Most commonly [OH−] is replaced by Kw[H+]−1 in equilibrium constant expressions which would otherwise include hydroxide ion. Solids also do not appear in the equilibrium constant expression, if they are considered to be pure and thus their activities taken to be one. An example is the Boudouard reaction:[14] 2 CO ⇌ CO2 + C for which the equation (without solid carbon) is written as: K c = [C O 2] [C O] 2 {\displaystyle K_{\mathrm {c} }={\frac {\mathrm {[CO_{2}]} }{\mathrm {[CO]^{2}} }}} Consider the case of a dibasic acid H2A. When dissolved in water, the mixture will contain H2A, HA− and A2−. This equilibrium can be split into two steps in each of which one proton is liberated. H 2 A ⇌ − − − → HA − + H + : K 1 = [HA −] [H +] [H 2 A] HA − ⇌ − − − → A 2 − + H + : K 2 = [A 2 −] [H +] [HA −] {\displaystyle {\begin{array}{rl}{\ce {H2A}}&:&K_{1}={\frac {{\ce {[HA-][H+]}}}{{\ce {[H2A]}}}}\\{\ce {HA- A^2- + H+}}:&K_{2}={\frac {{\ce {[A^{2-}][H+]}}}{{\ce {[HA-]}}}}\end{array}}} K1 and K2 are examples of stepwise equilibrium constants. The overall equilibrium constant, βD, is product of the stepwise constants. β D = [A 2 −] [H +] 2 [H 2 A] = K 1 K 2 {\displaystyle \beta _{{\ce {D}}}={\frac {{\ce {[A^{2-}][H^+]^2}}}{{\ce {[H_2A]}}}}=K_{1}K_{2}} Note that these constants are dissociation constants because the products on the right hand side of the equilibrium expression are dissociation products. In many systems, it is preferable to use association constants. A 2 − + H + ⇌ − − − → HA − : β 1 = [HA −] [A 2 −] [H +] A 2 − + 2 H + ⇌ − − − → H 2 A : β 2 = [H 2 A] [A 2 −] [H +] 2 {\displaystyle {\begin{array}{ll}{\ce {A^2- + H+ HA-}}:&\beta _{1}={\frac {{\ce {[HA^-]}}}{{\ce {[A^{2-}][H+]}}}}\\{\ce {A^2- + 2H+ H2A}}:&\beta _{2}={\frac {{\ce {[H2A]}}}{{\ce {[A^{2-}][H+]^2}}}}\end{array}}} β1 and β2 are examples of association constants. Clearly β1 = 1/K2 and β2 = 1/βD; log β1 = pK2 and log β2 = pK2 + pK1[15] For multiple equilibrium systems, also see: theory of Response reactions. The effect of changing temperature on an equilibrium constant is given by the van 't Hoff equation d ln K d T = Δ H m ⊖ R T 2 {\displaystyle {\frac {d\ln K}{dT}}={\frac {\Delta H_{\mathrm {m} }^{\ominus }}{RT^{2}}}} Thus, for ENDOTHERMIC reactions (ΔH is negative), K decreases with an increase in temperature, but, for EXOTHERMIC reactions, (ΔH is positive) K increases with an increase temperature. An alternative formulation is d ln K d (T − 1) = − Δ H m ⊖ R {\displaystyle {\frac {d\ln K}{d(T^{-1})}}=-{\frac {\Delta H_{\mathrm {m} }^{\ominus }}{R}}} At first sight this appears to offer a means of obtaining the standard molar enthalpy of the reaction by studying the variation of K with temperature. In practice, however, the method is unreliable because error propagation almost always gives very large errors on the values calculated in this way. The effect of electric field on equilibrium has been studied by Manfred Eigen[16][17] among others.[clarification needed] Haber–Bosch process N2 (g) ⇌ N2 (adsorbed) N2 (adsorbed) ⇌ 2 N (adsorbed) H2 (g) ⇌ H2 (adsorbed) H2 (adsorbed) ⇌ 2 H (adsorbed) N (adsorbed) + 3 H(adsorbed) ⇌ NH3 (adsorbed) NH3 (adsorbed) ⇌ NH3 (g) Equilibrium can be broadly classified as heterogeneous and homogeneous equilibrium.[18] Homogeneous equilibrium consists of reactants and products belonging in the same phase whereas heterogeneous equilibrium comes into play for reactants and products in different phases. In the gas phase: rocket engines[19] The industrial synthesis such as ammonia in the Haber–Bosch process (depicted right) takes place through a succession of equilibrium steps including adsorption processes Atmospheric chemistry Seawater and other natural waters: chemical oceanography Distribution between two phases log D distribution coefficient: important for pharmaceuticals where lipophilicity is a significant property of a drug Liquid–liquid extraction, Ion exchange, Chromatography Solubility product Uptake and release of oxygen by hemoglobin in blood Acid–base equilibria: acid dissociation constant, hydrolysis, buffer solutions, indicators, acid–base homeostasis Metal–ligand complexation: sequestering agents, chelation therapy, MRI contrast reagents, Schlenk equilibrium Adduct formation: host–guest chemistry, supramolecular chemistry, molecular recognition, dinitrogen tetroxide In certain oscillating reactions, the approach to equilibrium is not asymptotically but in the form of a damped oscillation .[14] The related Nernst equation in electrochemistry gives the difference in electrode potential as a function of redox concentrations. When molecules on each side of the equilibrium are able to further react irreversibly in secondary reactions, the final product ratio is determined according to the Curtin–Hammett principle. In these applications, terms such as stability constant, formation constant, binding constant, affinity constant, association constant and dissociation constant are used. In biochemistry, it is common to give units for binding constants, which serve to define the concentration units used when the constant's value was determined. When the only equilibrium is that of the formation of a 1:1 adduct as the composition of a mixture, there are many ways that the composition of a mixture can be calculated. For example, see ICE table for a traditional method of calculating the pH of a solution of a weak acid. There are three approaches to the general calculation of the composition of a mixture at equilibrium. The most basic approach is to manipulate the various equilibrium constants until the desired concentrations are expressed in terms of measured equilibrium constants (equivalent to measuring chemical potentials) and initial conditions. Minimize the Gibbs energy of the system.[20][21] Satisfy the equation of mass balance. The equations of mass balance are simply statements that demonstrate that the total concentration of each reactant must be constant by the law of conservation of mass. In general, the calculations are rather complicated or complex. For instance, in the case of a dibasic acid, H2A dissolved in water the two reactants can be specified as the conjugate base, A2−, and the proton, H+. The following equations of mass-balance could apply equally well to a base such as 1,2-diaminoethane, in which case the base itself is designated as the reactant A: T A = [A] + [H A] + [H 2 A] {\displaystyle T_{\mathrm {A} }=\mathrm {[A]+[HA]+[H_{2}A]} \,} T H = [H] + [H A] + 2 [H 2 A] − [O H] {\displaystyle T_{\mathrm {H} }=\mathrm {[H]+[HA]+2[H_{2}A]-[OH]} \,} with TA the total concentration of species A. Note that it is customary to omit the ionic charges when writing and using these equations. When the equilibrium constants are known and the total concentrations are specified there are two equations in two unknown "free concentrations" [A] and [H]. This follows from the fact that [HA] = β1[A][H], [H2A] = β2[A][H]2 and [OH] = Kw[H]−1 T A = [A] + β 1 [A] [H] + β 2 [A] [H] 2 {\displaystyle T_{\mathrm {A} }=\mathrm {[A]} +\beta _{1}\mathrm {[A][H]} +\beta _{2}\mathrm {[A][H]} ^{2}\,} T H = [H] + β 1 [A] [H] + 2 β 2 [A] [H] 2 − K w [H] − 1 {\displaystyle T_{\mathrm {H} }=\mathrm {[H]} +\beta _{1}\mathrm {[A][H]} +2\beta _{2}\mathrm {[A][H]} ^{2}-K_{w}[\mathrm {H}]^{-1}\,} so the concentrations of the "complexes" are calculated from the free concentrations and the equilibrium constants. General expressions applicable to all systems with two reagents, A and B would be T A = [A] + ∑ i p i β i [A] p i [B] q i {\displaystyle T_{\mathrm {A} }=[\mathrm {A}]+\sum _{i}p_{i}\beta _{i}[\mathrm {A}]^{p_{i}}[\mathrm {B}]^{q_{i}}} T B = [B] + ∑ i q i β i [A] p i [B] q i {\displaystyle T_{\mathrm {B} }=[\mathrm {B}]+\sum _{i}q_{i}\beta _{i}[\mathrm {A}]^{p_{i}}[\mathrm {B}]^{q_{i}}} It is easy to see how this can be extended to three or more reagents. Species concentrations during hydrolysis of the aluminium. The composition of solutions containing reactants A and H is easy to calculate as a function of p[H]. When [H] is known, the free concentration [A] is calculated from the mass-balance equation in A. The diagram alongside, shows an example of the hydrolysis of the aluminium Lewis acid Al3+(aq)[22] shows the species concentrations for a 5 × 10−6 M solution of an aluminium salt as a function of pH. Each concentration is shown as a percentage of the total aluminium. The diagram above illustrates the point that a precipitate that is not one of the main species in the solution equilibrium may be formed. At pH just below 5.5 the main species present in a 5 μM solution of Al3+ are aluminium hydroxides Al(OH)2+, AlOH+2 and Al13(OH)7+32, but on raising the pH Al(OH)3 precipitates from the solution. This occurs because Al(OH)3 has a very large lattice energy. As the pH rises more and more Al(OH)3 comes out of solution. This is an example of Le Châtelier's principle in action: Increasing the concentration of the hydroxide ion causes more aluminium hydroxide to precipitate, which removes hydroxide from the solution. When the hydroxide concentration becomes sufficiently high the soluble aluminate, Al(OH)−4, is formed. Another common instance where precipitation occurs is when a metal cation interacts with an anionic ligand to form an electrically neutral complex. If the complex is hydrophobic, it will precipitate out of water. This occurs with the nickel ion Ni2+ and dimethylglyoxime, (dmgH2): in this case the lattice energy of the solid is not particularly large, but it greatly exceeds the energy of solvation of the molecule Ni(dmgH)2. At equilibrium, at a specified temperature and pressure, and with no external forces, the Gibbs free energy G is at a minimum: d G = ∑ j = 1 m μ j d N j = 0 {\displaystyle dG=\sum _{j=1}^{m}\mu _{j}\,dN_{j}=0} where μj is the chemical potential of molecular species j, and Nj is the amount of molecular species j. It may be expressed in terms of thermodynamic activity as: μ j = μ j ⊖ + R T ln A j {\displaystyle \mu _{j}=\mu _{j}^{\ominus }+RT\ln {A_{j}}} where μ j ⊖ {\displaystyle \mu _{j}^{\ominus }} is the chemical potential in the standard state, R is the gas constant T is the absolute temperature, and Aj is the activity. For a closed system, no particles may enter or leave