## Reactivity 2.3 HL

IB CHEMISTRY HL


## Reactivity 2.3.5

## Understandings:

- The reaction quotient, $Q$, is calculated using the equilibrium expression with nonequilibrium concentrations of reactants and products.


## Learning outcomes:

- Calculate the reaction quotient $Q$ from the concentrations of reactants and products at a particular time, and determine the direction in which the reaction will proceed to reach equilibrium.


## Reaction quotient $Q$

- The reaction quotient $Q$ measures the relative amounts of reactants and products at a certain point in time.
- It is expressed with non-equilibrium concentrations of reactants and products.

$$
\begin{gathered}
\mathrm{aA}+b \mathrm{~B} \rightleftharpoons \mathrm{CC}+\mathrm{DD} \\
Q=\frac{[\mathrm{C}]^{c}[\mathrm{D}]^{d}}{[\mathrm{~A}]^{a}[\mathrm{~B}]^{b}}
\end{gathered}
$$

Exercise: Outline the difference between the reaction quotient $Q$ and the equilibrium constant $K$.

The reaction quotient $Q$ is calculated using non-equilibrium concentrations of reactants and products. The equilibrium constant $K$ is calculated using equilibrium concentrations of reactants and products.

## $Q, K$ and direction of reaction

- When the value of $Q$ is equal to the value of $K(Q=K)$ the reaction is at equilibrium.
- If the value of $Q$ is lower than the value of $K(Q<K)$ the concentration of products is lower than at equilibrium.
- The reaction will proceed to the right to increase the concentration of products and the value of $Q$ until equilibrium is reached.
- If the value of $Q$ is higher than the value of $K(Q>K)$ the concentration of products is higher than at equilibrium.
- The reaction will proceed to the left to decrease the concentration of the products and the value of $Q$ until equilibrium is reached.

Example 1: Calculate the value of $Q$ when $\left[\mathrm{N}_{2}\right]$ is $0.814 \mathrm{~mol} \mathrm{dm}^{-3},\left[\mathrm{H}_{2}\right]$ is 0.422 and $\left[\mathrm{NH}_{3}\right]$ is $0.372 \mathrm{~mol} \mathrm{dm}^{-3}$.

$$
\begin{gathered}
\mathrm{N}_{2}(\mathrm{~g})+3 \mathrm{H}_{2}(\mathrm{~g}) \rightleftharpoons 2 \mathrm{NH}_{3}(\mathrm{~g}) \quad K=6.09 \text { at } 350{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C} \\
Q=\frac{[0.372]^{2}}{[0.814][0.422]^{3}}=2.26
\end{gathered}
$$

Based on your calculation, predict in which direction the reaction will proceed to reach equilibrium and explain your answer.
$Q<K_{\mathrm{c}}$ so the reaction will proceed to the right to reach equilibrium.

Example 2: Calculate the value of $Q$ when $\left[\mathrm{N}_{2}\right]$ is $0.814 \mathrm{~mol} \mathrm{dm}^{-3},\left[\mathrm{H}_{2}\right]$ is 0.523 and $\left[\mathrm{NH}_{3}\right]$ is $1.32 \mathrm{~mol} \mathrm{dm}^{-3}$.

$$
\begin{gathered}
\mathrm{N}_{2}(\mathrm{~g})+3 \mathrm{H}_{2}(\mathrm{~g}) \rightleftharpoons 2 \mathrm{NH}_{3}(\mathrm{~g}) \quad K=6.09 \text { at } 350^{\circ} \mathrm{C} \\
Q=\frac{[1.32]^{2}}{[0.841][0.523]^{3}}=14.5
\end{gathered}
$$

Based on your calculation, predict in which direction the reaction will proceed to reach equilibrium and explain your answer.
$Q>K_{c}$ - the reaction will proceed to the left to reach equilibrium.

## Summary:

| Q vs $\boldsymbol{K}$ | Direction of reaction |
| :---: | :--- |
| $\mathrm{Q}>K$ | Reaction proceeds to left (reactants side) |
| $\mathrm{Q}<K$ | Reaction proceeds to right (products side) |
| $\mathrm{Q}=K$ | No net change (reaction is at equilibrium) |

## Exercises:

1) The table below show non-equilibrium concentrations of reactions and products for the following reaction at $527^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. The value of $K$ for this reaction at $527^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ is 5.10 .

$$
\mathrm{CO}(\mathrm{~g})+\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}(\mathrm{~g}) \rightleftharpoons \mathrm{H}_{2}(\mathrm{~g})+\mathrm{CO}_{2}(\mathrm{~g})
$$

| Species | Concentration at time $\boldsymbol{t}\left(\mathbf{m o l ~ d m}^{-3}\right)$ |
| :---: | :---: |
| $\mathrm{CO}(\mathrm{g})$ | 0.15 |
| $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}(\mathrm{g})$ | 0.25 |
| $\mathrm{H}_{2}(\mathrm{~g})$ | 0.42 |
| $\mathrm{CO}_{2}(\mathrm{~g})$ | 0.37 |

Calculate the reaction quotient $Q$ and predict in which direction the reaction will proceed to reach equilibrium.
Write expression for $Q$ :
$Q=\frac{\left[\mathrm{H}_{2}\right]\left[\mathrm{CO}_{2}\right]}{\left[\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}\right][\mathrm{CO}]}$
Input values into the expression (products in numerator, reactants in denominator)

$$
Q=\frac{(0.42)(0.37)}{(0.25)(0.15)}=4.1
$$

The value of the reaction quotient $Q$ is less than the value of $K$ so the reaction will proceed to the right (products side), increasing the value of $Q$.
2) The table below shows non-equilibrium concentrations of reactions and products for the following reaction at $1000^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. The value of $K$ for this reaction at $1000^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ is $1.00 \times 10^{-13}$.

$$
2 \mathrm{HF}(\mathrm{~g}) \rightleftharpoons \mathrm{H}_{2}(\mathrm{~g})+\mathrm{F}_{2}(\mathrm{~g})
$$

| Species | Concentration at time $\boldsymbol{t}\left(\mathbf{m o l ~ d m}^{\mathbf{- 3}}\right)$ |
| :---: | :---: |
| $\mathrm{HF}(\mathrm{g})$ | 23.0 |
| $\mathrm{H}_{2}(\mathrm{~g})$ | 0.540 |
| $\mathrm{~F}_{2}(\mathrm{~g})$ | 0.380 |

Calculate the reaction quotient $Q$ and predict in which direction the reaction will proceed to reach equilibrium.

Write expression for $Q$ :
$Q=\frac{\left[\mathrm{H}_{2}\right]\left[\mathrm{F}_{2}\right]}{[\mathrm{HF}]^{2}}$
Input values into the expression (products in numerator, reactants in denominator)

$$
Q=\frac{(0.540)(0.380)}{(23.0)^{2}}=3.88 \times 10^{-4}
$$

The value of the reaction quotient Q is greater than the value of $K$ so the reaction will proceed to the left (reactants side), decreasing the value of $Q$.

## Reactivity 2.3.6

## Understandings:

- The equilibrium law is the basis for quantifying the composition of an equilibrium mixture.


## Learning outcomes:

- Solve problems involving values of $K$ and initial and equilibrium concentrations of the components of an equilibrium mixture.


## Additional notes:

- When $K$ is very small, the approximation [reactant $]_{\text {initial }} \approx[\text { reactant }]_{\text {eqm }}$ should be understood.
- The use of quadratic equations is not expected. Only homogeneous equilibria will be assessed.


## Linking questions:

- Reactivity 3.1 How does the equilibrium law help us to determine the pH of a weak acid, weak base or a buffer solution?


## Determining the value of $K$ given the concentration of products and reactants at equilibrium

Example: Calculate the $K$ for the reaction:

$$
\mathrm{H}_{2}(\mathrm{~g})+\mathrm{CO}_{2}(\mathrm{~g}) \rightleftharpoons \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}(\mathrm{~g})+\mathrm{CO}(\mathrm{~g})
$$

given the following equilibrium concentrations:

$$
\left[\mathrm{H}_{2}\right]=0.61 \mathrm{~mol} \mathrm{dm}^{-3},\left[\mathrm{CO}_{2}\right]=1.6 \mathrm{~mol} \mathrm{dm}^{-3},\left[\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}\right]=1.1 \mathrm{~mol} \mathrm{dm}^{-3},[\mathrm{CO}]=1.4 \mathrm{~mol} \mathrm{dm}^{-3}
$$

Write the expression for the $K$ and plug in the equilibrium concentrations;

$$
K=(1.1 \times 1.4) \div(0.61 \times 1.6)=1.6
$$

## Determining the value of $K$ given the initial concentration of one species and the equilibrium concentration of another

Example: Before equilibrium is reached, a $1.00 \mathrm{dm}^{3}$ flask contains $0.350 \mathrm{~mol}^{\text {of } \mathrm{SO}_{3}(\mathrm{~g})}$ at $832^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. Determine the $K$ for the reaction if 0.093 mol of oxygen is present at equilibrium.

$$
2 \mathrm{SO}_{3}(\mathrm{~g}) \rightleftharpoons \mathrm{O}_{2}(\mathrm{~g})+2 \mathrm{SO}_{2}(\mathrm{~g})
$$

|  | $2 \mathrm{SO}_{3}(\mathrm{~g})$ | $\mathrm{O}_{2}(\mathrm{~g})$ | $2 \mathrm{SO}_{2}(\mathrm{~g})$ |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Initial $\left(\mathrm{mol} \mathrm{dm}^{-3}\right)$ | 0.350 | 0 | 0 |
| Change $(\mathrm{mol} \mathrm{dm}$ |  |  |  |
| -3$)$ | $-2 \times 0.093$ | +0.093 | $+2 \times 0.093$ |
| Equilibrium $(\mathrm{mol}$ <br> $\left.\mathrm{dm}^{-3}\right)$ | 0.164 | 0.093 | 0.186 |

$$
K=\left(0.093 \times 0.186^{2}\right) \div\left(0.164^{2}\right)=0.12
$$

## Calculating the equilibrium concentrations given the $K$ for the reaction and initial concentrations

The $K$ for the following reaction is 6.78 at a certain temperature. The initial concentrations of $\mathrm{NO}^{2} \mathrm{SO}_{3}$ are both $0.0300 \mathrm{~mol} \mathrm{dm}^{-3}$. Calculate the equilibrium concentration of each reactant.

$$
\mathrm{SO}_{3}(\mathrm{~g})+\mathrm{NO}(\mathrm{~g}) \rightleftharpoons \mathrm{NO}_{2}(\mathrm{~g})+\mathrm{SO}_{2}(\mathrm{~g})
$$

|  | $\mathrm{SO}_{3}(\mathrm{~g})$ | $\mathrm{NO}(\mathrm{g})$ | $\mathrm{NO}_{2}(\mathrm{~g})$ | $\mathrm{SO}_{2}(\mathrm{~g})$ |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Initial $\left(\mathrm{mol} \mathrm{dm}^{-3}\right)$ | 0.0300 | 0.0300 | 0 | 0 |
| Change <br> $\left(\mathrm{mol} \mathrm{dm}^{-3}\right)$ | $-x$ | $-x$ | $+x$ | $+x$ |
| Equilibrium <br> $\left(\mathrm{mol} \mathrm{dm}^{-3}\right)$ | $0.0300-x$ | $0.0300-x$ | $x$ | $x$ |

$6.78=\left(x^{2}\right) \div(0.0300-x)^{2}$
take the square root of both sides
$2.60=x \div(0.0300-x)$
Solve for $x$
$x=0.0217$
$\left[\mathrm{SO}_{3}\right]=0.0300-0.0217=0.00830 \mathrm{~mol} \mathrm{dm}^{-3}$
$[\mathrm{NO}]=0.0300-0.0217=0.00830 \mathrm{~mol} \mathrm{dm}^{-3}$
$\left[\mathrm{NO}_{2}\right]=0.0217 \mathrm{~mol} \mathrm{dm}^{-3}$
$\left[\mathrm{SO}_{2}\right]=0.0217 \mathrm{~mol} \mathrm{dm}^{-3}$

## Calculating equilibrium concentrations when $K_{c}$ is very small

- In some chemical reactions, $K$ is a small value, less than $1 \times 10^{-3}$. In these reactions, the forward reaction barely proceeds, and the equilibrium mixture consists of mostly reactants.
- The change in the initial concentration of reactants is almost zero and the equilibrium concentrations of reactants are almost equal to their initial concentrations ([reactant] $]_{\text {intial }} \approx$ [reactant] eqm).

Example: The thermal decomposition of water has a $K$ value of $7.3 \times 10^{-18}$ at $1000^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. If the initial concentration of $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ is $0.10 \mathrm{~mol} \mathrm{dm}^{-3}$, calculate the concentration of $\mathrm{O}_{2}$ at equilibrium.

$$
2 \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}(\mathrm{~g}) \rightleftharpoons 2 \mathrm{H}_{2}(\mathrm{~g})+\mathrm{O}_{2}(\mathrm{~g})
$$

|  | $2 \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}(\mathrm{g})$ | $2 \mathrm{H}_{2}(\mathrm{~g})$ | $\mathrm{O}_{2}(\mathrm{~g})$ |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Initial $\left(\mathrm{mol} \mathrm{dm}^{-3}\right)$ | 0.10 | 0 | 0 |
| Change $\left(\mathrm{mol} \mathrm{dm}^{-3}\right)$ | $-2 x$ | $+2 x$ | $+x$ |
| Equilibrium $\left(\mathrm{mol} \mathrm{dm}^{-3}\right)$ | $0.10-2 x$ | $2 x$ | $x$ |

Because value of $K$ is less than $1 \times 10^{-3}$, the equilibrium concentration of the $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ is the same as the initial concentration ([reactant] initial $\approx[$ reactant $]$ eam $)$.
Solve for $x$
$x=2.6 \times 10^{-7}$
Equilibrium concentration of $\mathrm{H}_{2}=2 x=5.2 \times 10^{-7} \mathrm{~mol} \mathrm{dm}^{-3}$

The assumption made in this example is that subtracting $x$ from the initial concentration will not make a difference within the precision used (to 2 significant figures). In general, if the value of $K$ is less than $1 \times 10^{-3}$, this assumption is valid.

## Reactivity 2.3.7

## Understandings:

- The equilibrium constant and Gibbs energy change, $\Delta G$, can both be used to measure the position of an equilibrium reaction.


## Learning outcomes:

- Calculations using the equation $\Delta G \ominus=-R T \ln K$.

Additional notes:

- The equation is given in the data booklet.

Linking questions:

- Reactivity 1.4 How can Gibbs energy be used to explain which of the forward or backward reaction is favoured before reaching equilibrium?


## Gibbs free energy and equilibrium

- A system not at equilibrium (where $Q \neq K$ ) will proceed spontaneously in the direction necessary to reach equilibrium (where $Q=K$ ).
- As a reaction approaches equilibrium, the Gibbs free energy change, $\Delta G$, becomes less negative and eventually reaches zero at equilibrium.
- The equilibrium position occurs where the free energy is at its minimum and entropy is at its maximum.

Plots of free energy against extent of reaction

- The reaction proceeds spontaneously from either pure reactants or pure products to the equilibrium position where $\Delta G=0$ and $Q=K$ (shown by the green arrows).
- The reaction away from the equilibrium position is non-spontaneous (shown by the red arrows).

Spontaneous reaction


For a spontaneous reaction, the equilibrium position lies further towards pure products meaning that at equilibrium [products] > [reactants] and $K>1$.
$G \ominus$ (products) $<G \ominus$ (reactants) so $\Delta G \ominus<0$ (spontaneous).

Non-spontaneous reaction


For a non-spontaneous reaction, the equilibrium position lies further towards pure reactants meaning that at equilibrium [reactants] > [products] and $K<1$.
$G \ominus$ (products) $>G \ominus$ (reactants) so $\Delta G \ominus>0$ (non-spontaneous).

## $\Delta G, Q$ versus $K$ and direction of reaction

- If a system is not at equilibrium, $\Delta G$ and $Q$ can be used to tell us in which direction the reaction will proceed to reach equilibrium.
- For a spontaneous reaction, $\Delta G$ is negative, $Q<K$ and the reaction will proceed in the forward direction until equilibrium is reached.
- For a non-spontaneous reaction, $\Delta G$ is positive, $Q>K$ and the reaction will proceed in the reverse direction until equilibrium is reached.


## Summary:

|  | $\Delta G$ | $Q$ versus $K$ | Direction of reaction |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Spontaneous <br> reaction | $\Delta G<0$ | $Q<K$ | Reaction proceeds to <br> right |
| Non-spontaneous <br> reaction | $\Delta G>0$ | $Q>K$ | Reaction proceeds to <br> left |
| Reaction at <br> equilibrium | $\Delta G=0$ | $Q=K$ | No net change |

## Relationship between $\Delta G \ominus$ and $K$

- The relationship between $\Delta G \ominus$ and $K$ is given by the following equation which can be found in section one of the IB chemistry data booklet.
- In this equation, temperature is in kelvin and $\Delta G \ominus$ in $\mathrm{J} \mathrm{mol}^{-1}$.
- $R$ is the universal gas constant, $8.31 \mathrm{~J} \mathrm{~K}^{-1} \mathrm{~mol}^{-1}$.

$$
\Delta G \ominus=-R T \ln K
$$

- This equation can be rearranged to solve for $K$.

$$
K=e^{-\frac{\Delta G}{R T}}
$$

## Exercises:

1) Calculate the value of $K$ at 298 K for a reaction given that $\Delta G \ominus=-33.0 \mathrm{~kJ} \mathrm{~mol}^{-1}$

$$
\begin{aligned}
& K=\mathrm{e}^{-(-32960 \div(8.31 \times 298))} \\
& K=\mathrm{e}^{13.3} \\
& K=5.98 \times 10^{5}
\end{aligned}
$$

2) Calculate the $\Delta G \ominus$ for a reaction given that the $K$ is 45.6 at 298 K .

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \Delta G \ominus=-8.31 \times 298 \times \ln (45.6) \\
& \Delta G \ominus=-9.46 \mathrm{~kJ} \mathrm{~mol}^{-1}
\end{aligned}
$$

