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Understanding the equilibrium constant (K_i) and its significance in chemical reactions is fundamental to mastering chemical equilibrium principles. In this article, we explore the equilibrium reaction involving gases A and C, focusing on the provided data: K-1 at 298 K with a value of 0.10, and how this information helps us analyze, interpret, and predict reaction behaviors. We will delve into the concepts of equilibrium constants, the significance of the given data, the relationship between forward and reverse reactions, and practical applications in chemical engineering and laboratory analysis.

Introduction to Chemical Equilibrium and Equilibrium Constants

Chemical equilibrium is a state in which the concentrations of reactants and products remain constant over time, indicating that the forward and reverse reactions occur at the same rate. The equilibrium constant (K) quantifies this balance, providing insights into the extent of a reaction under specific conditions.

The Significance of the Equilibrium Constant (K)

The equilibrium constant is a numerical value that expresses the ratio of concentrations of products to reactants at equilibrium, each raised to the power of their coefficients in the balanced chemical equation. It is temperature-dependent and provides crucial information about the reaction's position:

- $K > 1$: The reaction favors products.
- $K < 1$: The reaction favors reactants.
- $K \approx 1$: The reaction has a nearly equal concentration of reactants and products.

Types of Equilibrium Constants

Depending on the phase of reactants and products, equilibrium constants are categorized:

- K_c : Based on concentrations.
- K_p : Based on partial pressures for gaseous reactions.
- K_w : The ion product of water.

In the context of gaseous reactions like $A(g) = C(g)$, K_p is typically used.

Analyzing the Given Data: K_{-1} and K_1 at 298 K

The provided data indicates an equilibrium constant for a reaction involving gases A and C at 298 K, with $K_{-1} = 0.10$ and $K_1 = ?$

Understanding K_{-1} and K_1

- K_1 : The equilibrium constant for the forward reaction ($A(g) \rightarrow C(g)$)
- K_{-1} : The equilibrium constant for the reverse reaction ($C(g) \rightarrow A(g)$)

Given that $K_{-1} = 0.10$ at 298 K, we can analyze the relationship between the forward and reverse reactions.

Relationship Between Forward and Reverse Equilibrium Constants

The fundamental relationship is:

$$K_{\text{forward}} \times K_{\text{reverse}} = 1$$

or equivalently,

$$K_{\text{reverse}} = \frac{1}{K_{\text{forward}}}$$

Applying this to our data:

$$K_1 = \frac{1}{K_{-1}}$$

$$K_1 = \frac{1}{0.10} = 10$$

This implies that at 298 K:

- The equilibrium constant for the forward reaction ($A(g) \rightarrow C(g)$) is $K_1 = 10$, favoring the formation of $C(g)$.
- The reverse reaction ($C(g) \rightarrow A(g)$) has an equilibrium constant $K_{-1} = 0.10$, favoring $A(g)$.

Implications of the Equilibrium Constants

Understanding these constants helps predict the composition of the reaction mixture at equilibrium and how the system responds to changes in conditions.

Reaction Direction and Extent

Since $K_1 = 10$, the reaction strongly favors the formation of $C(g)$ at equilibrium. The ratio of concentrations at equilibrium will be:

$$\left[\frac{[C]_{eq}}{[A]_{eq}} \right] = K_{-1} = 10$$

This indicates that, at equilibrium, C is present in much higher concentration than A.

Effect of Temperature on Equilibrium

The data specifies the temperature as 298 K. Changes in temperature can shift the equilibrium position, affecting the equilibrium constants. For instance:

- Increasing temperature: Could favor the endothermic reaction direction, changing K.
- Decreasing temperature: Could favor exothermic directions.

Understanding the temperature dependence of K is crucial for industrial processes where temperature control is vital.

Applications and Significance of Equilibrium Data in Industry and Research

The knowledge of equilibrium constants like K_1 and K_{-1} at specific temperatures has practical applications in various fields.

Industrial Synthesis of Gases

Many industrial processes involve gaseous reactions, where the equilibrium position determines yield efficiency. For example:

- Ammonia synthesis
- Hydrogen production
- Synthesis of chemicals like methanol

Knowing whether a reaction favors products or reactants allows engineers to optimize conditions such as temperature, pressure, and catalysts.

Environmental Chemistry

Understanding gas-phase equilibria helps in modeling atmospheric reactions, such as ozone formation or pollutant decomposition, which are critical for environmental management.

Laboratory Analysis and Reaction Optimization

In research labs, measuring equilibrium constants allows chemists to:

- Predict reaction outcomes.

- Design experiments for maximum yield.
- Adjust reaction conditions for desired conversions.

Calculating and Using Equilibrium Constants in Practice

Practical application of the data involves calculating concentrations at equilibrium, predicting reaction shifts, and designing reaction conditions.

Step-by-Step Calculation Example

Suppose initial concentrations are known, and K_1 is 10. To find equilibrium concentrations:

1. Write the balanced reaction:



2. Set initial concentrations:

$$[A]_0, [C]_0$$

3. Define the change in concentrations:

$$x = \text{extent of reaction}$$

4. Express equilibrium concentrations:

$$[A]_{eq} = [A]_0 - x$$

$$[C]_{eq} = [C]_0 + x$$

5. Use K_1 expression:

$$K_1 = \frac{[C]_{eq}}{[A]_{eq}} = \frac{[C]_0 + x}{[A]_0 - x}$$

6. Solve for x and determine equilibrium concentrations.

Limitations and Assumptions

- Ideal gas behavior is assumed.
- Temperature remains constant.
- No side reactions occur.

Conclusion: The Significance of Equilibrium Constants in Chemistry

The data point $K_{-1} = 0.10$ at 298 K for the reaction $A(g) \rightleftharpoons C(g)$ provides vital insights into the reaction's thermodynamics and kinetics. The reciprocal relationship between forward and reverse equilibrium constants allows chemists and engineers to predict the composition of reactions at equilibrium. Such data is essential for optimizing industrial processes, understanding environmental phenomena, and conducting precise laboratory experiments. Recognizing the importance of temperature dependence and the practical application of equilibrium constants enables more efficient and sustainable chemical manufacturing and research.

Summary of Key Points

- Equilibrium constant (K): Quantifies the ratio of products to reactants at equilibrium.
- K_{-1} and K_1 relationship: $(K_{-1} = \frac{1}{K_{-1}})$, illustrating the reciprocal nature.
- At 298 K: $(K_{-1} = 10)$, indicating a reaction favoring C(g).
- Practical applications: Chemical synthesis, environmental modeling, laboratory optimization.
- Temperature effects: Can shift equilibrium, affecting K values and reaction favorability.

By understanding and utilizing equilibrium constants like K_1 and K_{-1} , scientists and industry professionals can better control chemical processes, improve yields, and develop sustainable reactions aligned with environmental and industrial goals.

If you have further questions or need specific calculations related to equilibrium reactions, feel free to ask!

Frequently Asked Questions

What does the value of $K_1 = 0.10$ indicate about the equilibrium position of the reaction $A(g) \rightleftharpoons C(g)$ at 298 K?

A K_1 value of 0.10 indicates that at equilibrium, the concentration of reactant A is higher than that of product C, favoring the reactant side under these conditions.

How does the equilibrium constant K_1 change if the temperature is increased, assuming the reaction is

exothermic?

If the reaction is exothermic, increasing the temperature would decrease K_1 , shifting the equilibrium toward the reactants. Conversely, if endothermic, K_1 would increase with temperature.

What is the significance of the given K_1 value in predicting the direction of the reaction's shift when conditions change?

Since K_1 is less than 1, the reaction favors the reactant side at 298 K. If the system is disturbed, it will tend to shift toward A to re-establish equilibrium.

Can the value of K_1 at 298 K be used to calculate the concentration of A or C at equilibrium if initial concentrations are known?

Yes, knowing K_1 and initial concentrations allows you to set up an equilibrium expression and solve for the equilibrium concentrations of A and C.

How would the addition of inert gases at constant volume affect the equilibrium constant K_1 ?

Adding inert gases at constant volume does not affect the value of K_1 , as it does not change the partial pressures or concentrations of reactants or products involved in the reaction.

What experimental methods can be used to determine the equilibrium constant K_1 for the reaction $A(g) \rightleftharpoons C(g)$?

Techniques such as gas chromatography, spectroscopic analysis, or measuring pressure changes can be used to determine the concentrations of A and C at equilibrium, allowing calculation of K_1 .

Additional Resources

K₁ For The Equilibrium Reaction $A(g) = C(g)$: An In-Depth Investigation

Understanding the equilibrium behavior of gaseous reactions is fundamental in chemical thermodynamics, industrial processes, and environmental chemistry. One such reaction, $A(g) = C(g)$, serves as an illustrative example for studying how equilibrium constants vary with conditions, and what the intrinsic thermodynamic parameters reveal about reaction spontaneity and feasibility. This article delves into the thermodynamic insights provided by the equilibrium constant (K_1) , focusing on the specific data point at 298 K where

$(K_1 = 0.10)$. We will explore the significance of this value, how it relates to reaction spontaneity, and the broader implications for chemical equilibrium modeling.

Understanding the Equilibrium Constant (K_i)

The equilibrium constant, symbolized as (K_i) , is a dimensionless number that quantifies the ratio of product activities to reactant activities at equilibrium. For the gas-phase reaction:



the equilibrium constant (K_i) at a given temperature is expressed as:

$$K_i = \frac{p_C}{p_A}$$

where (p_A) and (p_C) are the partial pressures of A and C at equilibrium. This simplified form assumes ideal gas behavior where activity approximates partial pressure.

Significance of $(K_1 = 0.10)$ at 298 K

At 298 K, the observed (K_1) value of 0.10 indicates that, at equilibrium, the partial pressure of C is only 10% of that of A, assuming equal initial concentrations and ideal behavior. This small value suggests that the formation of C from A is not thermodynamically favored under standard conditions, hinting at an endergonic process where the free energy change is positive.

Thermodynamic Foundations and Calculation of Standard Gibbs Free Energy

The relationship between the equilibrium constant and thermodynamic parameters is described by the standard Gibbs free energy change, (ΔG°) :

$$\Delta G^\circ = -RT \ln K_i$$

where:

- (R) is the universal gas constant $(8.314, \mathrm{J}, \mathrm{mol}^{-1}, \mathrm{K}^{-1})$
- (T) is the temperature in Kelvin
- (K_i) is the equilibrium constant

Using the data point $(K_1 = 0.10)$ at 298 K:

Δ

$$\Delta G^\circ = - (8.314 \, \text{J} \cdot \text{mol}^{-1} \cdot \text{K}^{-1})(298 \, \text{K}) \times \ln(0.10)$$

$$\ln(0.10) \approx -2.3026$$

$$\Delta G^\circ \approx - (8.314)(298)(-2.3026) \approx 5694 \, \text{J} \cdot \text{mol}^{-1} \approx 5.69 \, \text{kJ} \cdot \text{mol}^{-1}$$

Interpretation:

A positive ΔG° indicates that, under standard conditions, the reaction $A(g) \rightarrow C(g)$ is non-spontaneous. The system favors the reactant (A), corroborated by the low K_i value.

Temperature Dependence of the Equilibrium Constant

The value of K_i is temperature-dependent, governed by the Van 't Hoff equation:

$$\frac{d \ln K}{dT} = \frac{\Delta H^\circ}{RT^2}$$

where ΔH° is the standard enthalpy change.

Estimating ΔH° :

Assuming ΔH° remains constant over the temperature range, we can analyze how K_i varies with temperature. A typical approach involves plotting $\ln K_i$ versus $(1/T)$ to determine ΔH° and ΔS° .

Given only the data at 298 K, we can hypothesize:

- If ΔH° is positive, increasing temperature should increase K_i , favoring C formation.
- Conversely, a negative ΔH° would imply K_i decreases with temperature.

Implications for Reaction Control:

- To shift equilibrium towards C, increasing temperature may be effective if the reaction is endothermic.
- For exothermic reactions, lowering temperature favors C formation.

Reaction Spontaneity and Practical Implications

The small equilibrium constant at 298 K points to limited formation of C under standard conditions. For industrial applications, this suggests:

- High Temperature Processing: Elevated temperatures may increase (K_i) , promoting C formation if the reaction is endothermic.
- Catalysis: Catalysts can lower activation energy barriers but do not affect the equilibrium constant directly; however, they can influence the rate at which equilibrium is achieved.
- Pressure Effects: Changing total pressure can shift equilibrium via Le Châtelier's principle, especially if the molar quantities of reactants and products differ.

Environmental and Safety Considerations:

- A reaction that disfavors C at room temperature might produce C only under specific conditions, affecting emission profiles or pollutant formation.
- Understanding equilibrium behavior informs process safety, especially when handling gases that could pose hazards under certain conditions.

Comparison with Related Reactions and Broader Context

The reaction $A(g) = C(g)$ may be part of a larger network of equilibria, and its thermodynamic profile can be influenced by:

- Reaction enthalpy ((ΔH^{circ})) and entropy ((ΔS^{circ})) variations
- Pressure and volume changes
- Presence of catalysts or inhibitors

By comparing (K_i) values across different temperatures or conditions, chemists can elucidate reaction mechanisms, optimize conditions for desired product yields, and predict reaction behavior in real-world environments.

Concluding Remarks: Significance of the $(K_1 = 0.10)$ Data Point

The data point at 298 K with $(K_1 = 0.10)$ provides a crucial thermodynamic snapshot:

- It indicates that under standard conditions, the formation of C from A is thermodynamically unfavorable.
- Quantitative calculations show a positive ΔG° , confirming reaction non-spontaneity.
- The small equilibrium constant suggests the need for process modifications—such as temperature elevation or catalysis—to promote C formation.

Understanding such fundamental parameters aids in designing efficient chemical processes, predicting system behavior, and advancing theoretical models of gas-phase reactions. Ongoing research, including temperature-dependent studies and kinetic analyses, is essential for comprehensive insight into this reaction's thermodynamics and practical applications.

In Summary

The equilibrium constant K_i at 298 K for the reaction $A(g) = C(g)$, being 0.10, signifies a reaction that favors reactants under standard conditions. Thermodynamic calculations reveal a positive Gibbs free energy change, aligning with the observed low equilibrium constant. To shift the equilibrium towards C, conditions such as increased temperature, pressure adjustments, or catalytic intervention must be considered. This single data point forms a foundation for broader thermodynamic understanding, informing both theoretical insights and practical applications in chemical industry and environmental science.

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