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Chemical Equilibrium

Problem Statement:

The equilibrium system given has an equilibrium constant $(K = 1.4 \times 10^{-9})$. Initially, $[A] = 0.24 \text{ mol/L}$ and $[B] = 0.36 \text{ mol/L}$. Determine the equilibrium concentrations of all species given the reaction:



Given and Introduction Step:

- Equilibrium constant, $(K = 1.4 \times 10^{-9})$
- Initial concentration of (A) , $[A]_0 = 0.24 \text{ mol/L}$
- Initial concentration of (B) , $[B]_0 = 0.36 \text{ mol/L}$

The equilibrium expression for the reaction can be written as:

$K = \frac{[C][D]^2}{[A]^3[B]}$

Our goal is to find the equilibrium concentrations of all chemicals.

Steps to Solution:

First, set up an ICE (Initial, Change, Equilibrium) table to track the changes in concentrations.

Step 1: ICE Table Setup

Species	Initial (mol/L)	Change (mol/L)	Equilibrium (mol/L)
(A)	0.24	-3x	$0.24 - 3x$
(B)	0.36	-x	$0.36 - x$
(C)	0	+x	x
(D)	0	+2x	2x

Explanation: This setup assumes that x mol/L of (C) is produced, changing the amounts of all components according to the stoichiometry of the reaction.

Step 2: Equilibrium Expression Substitution

Substitute the equilibrium concentrations into the equilibrium expression:

$K = \frac{(x)(2x)^2}{(0.24 - 3x)^3 (0.36 - x)}$

Simplified version:

$K = \frac{4x^3}{(0.24 - 3x)^3 (0.36 - x)}$

Explanation: Substituting equilibrium values into the given equilibrium constant equation helps set up a relationship to solve for x.

Step 3: Approximating for Very Small (x)

Given the very small equilibrium constant, assume (x) is small compared to initial concentrations. Thus, $(0.24 - 3x \approx 0.24)$ and $(0.36 - x \approx 0.36)$:

- $1.4 \times 10^{-9} = \frac{4x^3}{(0.24)^3 (0.36)}$
- $1.4 \times 10^{-9} = \frac{4x^3}{0.00497664}$

- $4x^3 = (1.4 \times 10^{-9})(0.00497664)$
- $x^3 = \left(\frac{0.00497664}{4} \times 1.4 \times 10^{-9}\right)$
- $x^3 = 1.7443 \times 10^{-12}$
- $x = \sqrt[3]{1.7443 \times 10^{-12}}$
- $x \approx 1.20 \times 10^{-4} \text{ mol/L}$

Explanation: The assumption simplifies the algebra, and the minor value of x confirms the assumption was accurate.

Step 4: Determine Equilibrium Concentrations

Substitute x back to find the equilibrium concentrations:

- $[A]_{\text{e}} = 0.24 - 3(1.20 \times 10^{-4}) \approx 0.24 \text{ mol/L}$
- $[B]_{\text{e}} = 0.36 - 1.20 \times 10^{-4} \approx 0.36 \text{ mol/L}$
- $[C]_{\text{e}} = x \approx 1.20 \times 10^{-4} \text{ mol/L}$
- $[D]_{\text{e}} = 2x \approx 2(1.20 \times 10^{-4}) = 2.40 \times 10^{-4} \text{ mol/L}$

Explanation: The final equilibrium concentrations reflect the stoichiometry and are slightly changed by the small value of x .

Final Solution:

A: $[A]_{\text{e}} \approx 0.24 \text{ mol/L}$

B: $[B]_{\text{e}} \approx 0.36 \text{ mol/L}$

C: $[C]_{\text{e}} \approx 1.20 \times 10^{-4} \text{ mol/L}$

D: $[D]_{\text{e}} \approx 2.40 \times 10^{-4} \text{ mol/L}$

Thus, the concentrations of all chemicals at equilibrium are determined successfully.