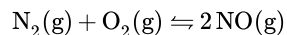


15.12: THE PATH OF A REACTION AND THE EFFECT OF A CATALYST

The addition of a catalyst to an equilibrium system is a final stress factor. We consider how adding a catalyst affects the following:



Adding a catalyst to this, or any other equilibrium system, will **not** affect the position of an equilibrium. A catalyst speeds up both the forward and the reverse reactions, so there is no uneven change in reaction rates. Generally, a catalyst will help a reaction to reach the point of equilibrium *sooner*, but it will not affect the equilibrium otherwise.

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