



3. At high temperatures, $\text{N}_2(g)$ and $\text{O}_2(g)$ can react to produce nitrogen monoxide, $\text{NO}(g)$, as represented by the equation above.

- (a) Write the expression for the equilibrium constant, K_p , for the forward reaction.
- (b) A student injects $\text{N}_2(g)$ and $\text{O}_2(g)$ into a previously evacuated, rigid vessel and raises the temperature of the vessel to 2000°C . At this temperature the initial partial pressures of $\text{N}_2(g)$ and $\text{O}_2(g)$ are 6.01 atm and 1.61 atm, respectively. The system is allowed to reach equilibrium. The partial pressure of $\text{NO}(g)$ at equilibrium is 0.122 atm. Calculate the value of K_p .

Nitrogen monoxide, $\text{NO}(g)$, can undergo further reactions to produce acids such as HNO_2 , a weak acid with a K_a of 4.0×10^{-4} and a $\text{p}K_a$ of 3.40.

- (c) A student is asked to make a buffer solution with a pH of 3.40 by using 0.100 M $\text{HNO}_2(aq)$ and 0.100 M $\text{NaOH}(aq)$.
- (i) Explain why the addition of 0.100 M $\text{NaOH}(aq)$ to 0.100 M $\text{HNO}_2(aq)$ can result in the formation of a buffer solution. Include the net ionic equation for the reaction that occurs when the student adds the $\text{NaOH}(aq)$ to the $\text{HNO}_2(aq)$.
- (ii) Determine the volume, in mL, of 0.100 M $\text{NaOH}(aq)$ the student should add to 100. mL of 0.100 M $\text{HNO}_2(aq)$ to make a buffer solution with a pH of 3.40. Justify your answer.
- (d) A second student makes a buffer by dissolving 0.100 mol of $\text{NaNO}_2(s)$ in 100. mL of 1.00 M $\text{HNO}_2(aq)$. Which is more resistant to changes in pH when a strong acid or a strong base is added, the buffer made by the second student or the buffer made by the first student in part (c)? Justify your answer.
- (e) A new buffer is made using $\text{HNO}_2(aq)$ as one of the ingredients. A particulate representation of a small representative portion of the buffer solution is shown below. (Cations and water molecules are not shown.) Is the pH of the buffer represented in the diagram greater than, less than, or equal to 3.40? Justify your answer.

