Spontaneous Change

- Any process, once initiated, that continues without further intervention is **spontaneous**.
- Although exothermic processes tend to be spontaneous, spontaneous reactions can be exothermic or endothermic:

 $H_2(g) + \frac{1}{2}O_2(g) → H_2O(l)$ ΔH° = -285.83 kJ/mol KNO₃(s) → K⁺(aq) + NO₃⁻(aq) ΔH° = +34.9 kJ/mol

• If under certain conditions a process is spontaneous in a given direction, it will be non-spontaneous in the reverse direction under the same conditions.

Spontaneous: $H_2(g) + \frac{1}{2}O_2(g) \rightarrow H_2O(l)$ Non-spontaneous: $H_2O(l) \rightarrow H_2(g) + \frac{1}{2}O_2(g)$

• Sometimes, if we change conditions, the direction of spontaneous change can be reversed.

Spontaneous Change and Equilibrium

Spontaneous change always leads toward a condition of equilibrium.

 $H_2(g) + I_2(g) \Rightarrow 2HI(g)$ $\Delta H^\circ = +51.88 \text{ kJ}$

- With partial pressures for which Q < K, reaction will proceed spontaneously in the forward direction until equilibrium is achieved.
- With partial pressures for which Q > K, reaction will proceed spontaneously in the reverse direction to reach equilibrium.
- By changing conditions, this system can run spontaneously in either direction.

Spontaneous Phase Changes

- Spontaneity of phase changes depends on conditions.
- At +1.0 °C, melting of ice to form liquid water is spontaneous, while the reverse process of freezing is non-spontaneous:

$$T = 1.0 \ ^{\circ}\text{C} \qquad \text{H}_2\text{O}(s) \ \rightleftharpoons \ \text{H}_2\text{O}(l)$$

spontaneous $\rightarrow \qquad \leftarrow \text{non-spontaneous}$

• At -1.0 °C, melting of ice is non-spontaneous, but freezing of water is spontaneous:

T = -1.0 °C $H_2O(s) \rightleftharpoons H_2O(l)$ non-spontaneous \rightarrow \leftarrow spontaneous

• At 0.0 °C, ice and liquid water are in equilibrium, and conversion of one into the other is non-spontaneous.

Entropy

- The thermodynamic function entropy, S, is a measure of randomness or disorder.
- The physical state of a substance is related to its entropy.

State	Order	Entropy	
solid	high	low	
liquid	medium	higher	
gas	low	highest	

A more disordered system is more likely than an ordered one.



Possible Arrangements of Three Molecules in Two Connected Flasks

Left	Right	
•••		
••	•	
••	•	
••	•	
•	••	
•	••	
•	••	
	•••	

Probability of an Ordered vs. Disordered State

Probability of finding all N molecules in one of two flasks (ordered state):

$$P_o = (1/2)^N$$

Image Probability of finding N molecules distributed between both flasks (disordered state):

$$P_d = 1 - 2 \times (1/2)^N$$

As N increases, the probability of the ordered state is virtually zero and that of the disordered state is virtually one.



Second Law of Thermodynamics

Every spontaneous change results in an increase in *total* entropy.

- Total entropy is the sum of the entropy of the system and the surroundings.
- The total entropy change of a process is the sum of the entropy change of the system and its surroundings.

 $\Delta S_{\rm total} = \Delta S_{\rm system} + \Delta S_{\rm surroundings}$

Overall, the Universe is moving toward greater disorder.

Rudolph Clausius' (1822-1888) Classic Statement of the First and Second Laws

The energy of the world is a constant; the entropy strives for a maximum.

- An enthalpy change of the system, ΔH_{system} , requires an equal and opposite enthalpy change for the surroundings, $\Delta H_{\text{surroundings}}$. [First Law]
- An entropy change of the system, ΔS_{system} , *does not* require an equal and opposite change for the surroundings, $\Delta S_{\text{surroundings}}$. [Second Law]
- Some total entropy changes only involve ΔS_{system} , while others involve both ΔS_{system} and $\Delta S_{\text{surroundings}}$.

Mixing of Two Non-Reactive Gases



Mixing is spontaneous, because it results in greater disorder.

$$\Delta S_{\text{total}} = \Delta S_{\text{system}} > 0$$

Separating the mixture into individual gases in their own containers is non-spontaneous.

$$\Delta S_{\text{total}} = \Delta S_{\text{system}} < 0$$

Water Freezing Below 0 °C

 $H_2O(l) \Rightarrow H_2O(s)$

Water is going to a more ordered state:

 $\Delta S_{\rm system} < 0$

Water evolves heat (equal to its heat of fusion) to the surroundings, causing greater thermal motion and more disorder in the molecules of the surroundings.

 $\Delta S_{\rm surroundings} > 0$

Increase in entropy for the surroundings is greater than decrease in entropy from the ordering of water molecules in the ice (the system), so total entropy change is positive.

$$\Delta S_{\rm total} = \Delta S_{\rm system} + \Delta S_{\rm surroundings} > 0$$

Freezing of water below its f.p. (m.p.) is spontaneous.

Entropy Changes for Water Freezing At -1 °C, 0 °C, and +1 °C $H_2O(l) \Rightarrow H_2O(s)$

Temp. °C	$\frac{\Delta S_{\text{system}}}{\text{J}\cdot\text{K}^{-1}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}}$	$\frac{\Delta S_{\text{surroundings}}}{J \cdot K^{-1} \cdot \text{mol}^{-1}}$	$\frac{\Delta S_{\text{total}}}{\text{J} \cdot \text{K}^{-1} \cdot \text{mol}^{-1}}$	Spontaneity
-1	-21.85	+21.93	+0.08	spontaneous
0	-21.99	+21.99	0	equilibrium
+1	-22.12	+22.05	-0.08	non- spontaneous

✓ At -1 °C, $\Delta S_{\text{total}} > 0$, and freezing is spontaneous.

- ✓ At 0 °C, $\Delta S_{\text{total}} = 0$, and neither freezing nor melting is spontaneous, because water and ice are in equilibrium and no net change occurs.
- ✓ At +1 °C, $\Delta S_{\text{total}} < 0$, and freezing is non-spontaneous; melting (the reverse process) is spontaneous.