

The Law of Mass Action states that the rate of a chemical reaction is directly proportional to the concentrations of the reactants. For the reversible reaction  $A + B \rightleftharpoons C + D$ , the forward reaction rate ( $V_f$ ) is proportional to the concentrations of A and B:  $V_f \propto [A][B]$  or  $V_f = K_f[A][B]$ , where  $K_f$  is the forward reaction rate constant. Similarly, the backward reaction rate ( $V_b$ ) is proportional to the concentrations of C and D:  $V_b \propto [C][D]$  or  $V_b = K_b[C][D]$ , where  $K_b$  is the backward reaction rate constant. At equilibrium, the forward and backward rates are equal:  $V_f = V_b$ . This leads to the equation  $K_f[A][B] = K_b[C][D]$ , which can be rearranged to give the equilibrium constant:  $K_{eq} = [C][D] / [A][B] = K_f / K_b$ .