

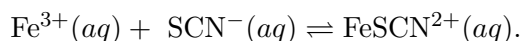
## What factors affect chemical equilibrium?

### GUIDING QUESTION

What factors affect the equilibrium system?

### INTRODUCTION

Addition of a solution of KSCN to a solution of  $\text{Fe}(\text{NO}_3)_3$  results in a blood-red color. The more KSCN is added, the more intense the red color. Aqueous  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  and  $\text{SCN}^-$  combine to form a complex ion in an equilibrium reaction:



There are many factors that can change the position of the equilibrium once the reaction appears to have stopped. In this investigation you will identify factors that have an effect on the above reaction.

### MATERIALS AVAILABLE FOR USE

0.1 M  $\text{Fe}(\text{NO}_3)_3(\text{aq})$

0.1 M  $\text{KSCN}(\text{aq})$

0.1 M  $\text{KOH}(\text{aq})$

0.1 M  $\text{Na}_2\text{HPO}_4(\text{aq})$

Test tubes

Test tube rack/holder

Hot plate

Beakers

Ice

### SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

**CAUTION:** Wear goggles at all times.

**CAUTION:** Dispose of any excess liquids in appropriate containers.

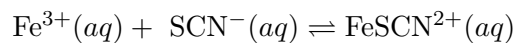
**CAUTION:** You are working with a strong base that can damage skin and eyes.

### GETTING STARTED

You should begin by observing the formation of the iron thiocyanate by placing a few drops of 0.1 M  $\text{Fe}(\text{NO}_3)_3$  and a few drops of 0.1 M  $\text{KSCN}$  in each test tube and add water to same level in each tube. You should design an experiment that will test the effects on the equilibrium when other reagents are added to the system. Your design must minimize reagent use; that is, when placing the external stresses on the equilibrium you should observe what happens when reagents are added in a drop-by-drop fashion.

	Color Change After Addition	FeSCN <sup>2+</sup>	
		Increases	Decreases
Fe(NO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub>			
KSCN			
KOH			
Na <sub>2</sub> HPO <sub>4</sub>			
Heat			
Cold			

Explain the patterns that emerge about the direction in which the equilibrium shifts when particular reagents are added in terms of Le Châtelier's principle.



Is the reaction exothermic or endothermic as written? Explain.