

Curiosity: Why a Shortcut Is Not a Slogan

Curiosity Reading | CheAI Research Inc.

Le Châtelier's principle can be a useful organizing idea, but it becomes misleading when used as a spell: "add this, shift that." A stronger version begins with the evidence. What changed? Is the reaction form known? Is temperature fixed? Does a concentration quotient, gas-particle count, or changed equilibrium constant actually support a directional prediction?

This matters in real systems because a system may respond without returning every amount to its original value. A catalyst can make the approach faster without moving the equilibrium condition, and a temperature change can change the equilibrium constant itself. Good models do less than slogans promise—and that precision is what makes them dependable.