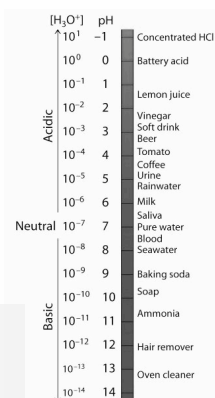


Chapter 14: Acid-Base Equilibria



MAR Last update: 7/7/25

Chemistry 223
Professor Michael Russell
<http://mhchem.org/223>

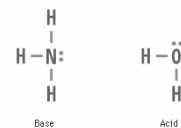


14.1 - Brønsted-Lowry Acids and Bases

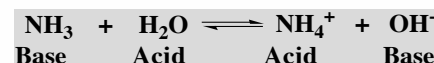
The most general theory for common aqueous acids and bases is the **Brønsted - Lowry theory**

* A **Brønsted-Lowry Acid**: A compound that **donates a proton** to another compound

* A **Brønsted-Lowry Base**: A compound that **accepts a proton** from another compound



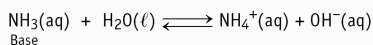
The Brønsted definition means **NH₃ is a base** in water - and **water is an acid**



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Conjugates of Acids and Bases

NH₃ is a base in water - and water is itself an acid



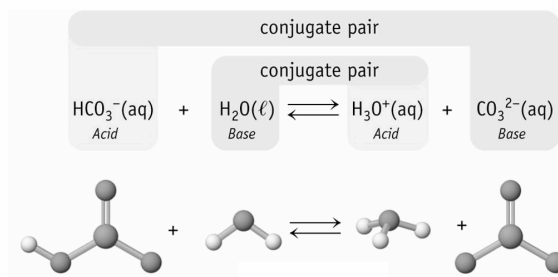
NH₃ / NH₄⁺ is a conjugate pair - related by the gain or loss of H⁺ (H₂O and OH⁻ are another conjugate pair)

Every acid has a conjugate base - and vice-versa.

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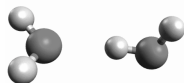
Water as an Acid and a Base

H₂O can function as both an acid and a base!



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Water and Autoionization



Water can be an acid or a base due to **autoionization**.

Pure water undergoes autoionization into **hydronium (acid) and hydroxide (base) ions**.

The **equilibrium constant, K_w**, has been measured for $2 \text{H}_2\text{O}(\ell) \rightleftharpoons \text{H}_3\text{O}^+(\text{aq}) + \text{OH}^-(\text{aq})$

$$K_w = [\text{H}_3\text{O}^+][\text{OH}^-] = 1.000 \times 10^{-14} \text{ at } 25^\circ\text{C}$$

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In a neutral solution,

$$[\text{H}_3\text{O}^+] = [\text{OH}^-]$$

$$\text{so } K_w = [\text{H}_3\text{O}^+]^2 = [\text{OH}^-]^2$$

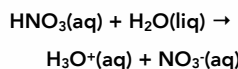
$$\text{and so } [\text{H}_3\text{O}^+] = [\text{OH}^-] = \sqrt{K_w} = 1.000 \times 10^{-7} \text{ M}$$

Memorize $K_w = 1.000 \times 10^{-14}$!

Acid Ionization

The reaction between a Brønsted-Lowry Acid and water is called **acid ionization**

Strong acids dissociate **100%** into hydronium and a conjugate base:

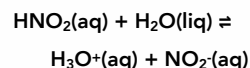


HNO₃ is about 100% dissociated in water; there is no HNO₃ present, only H₃O⁺.

Use single sided arrows for strong acids!

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Weak acids do not dissociate completely into hydronium and a conjugate base; *equilibrium!*



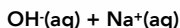
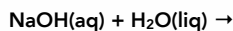
Equilibrium constants for weak acids called **acid ionization constants, K_a**:

$$K_a = \frac{[\text{H}^+][\text{NO}_2^-]}{[\text{HNO}_2]}$$

Base Ionization

The reaction between a Brønsted-Lowry Base and water is called **base ionization**

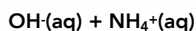
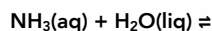
Strong bases dissociate **100%** into hydroxide and a conjugate acid:



NaOH is about 100% dissociated in water; there is no NaOH present, only OH^- .

Use single sided arrows for strong bases!
MAR

Weak bases do not dissociate completely into hydroxide and a conjugate acid; *equilibrium!*



Equilibrium constants for weak bases called **base ionization constants**, K_b :

$$K_b = \frac{[\text{NH}_4^+][\text{OH}^-]}{[\text{NH}_3]}$$

Strong Acids and Bases

There are five strong *monoprotic* acids and three strong *monoprotic* bases

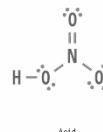
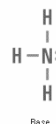
The **five strong acids**:

- * HNO_3
- * HCl
- * HBr
- * HI
- * HClO_4

The **three strong bases**:

- * NaOH
- * KOH
- * LiOH

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Memorize the eight strong acids and bases!

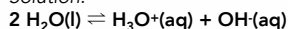
Assume that all other acids and bases are weak acids and weak bases unless told otherwise!

14.2 - pH and pOH

$$K_w = [\text{H}_3\text{O}^+][\text{OH}^-] = 1.00 \times 10^{-14} \text{ at } 25^\circ\text{C}$$

Add 0.0010 mol of NaOH to 1.0 L of pure water. Calculate $[\text{H}_3\text{O}^+]$ and $[\text{OH}^-]$.

Solution:

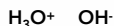


Le Chatelier predicts equilibrium shifts to the _____.

$[\text{H}_3\text{O}^+] < 10^{-7}$ at equilibrium.

Set up an ICE concentration table:

initial
change
equilib



$$K_w = (x)(0.0010 + x)$$

Because $x \ll 0.0010 \text{ M}$, **assume** $[\text{OH}^-] = 0.0010 \text{ M}$

$$K_w = (x)(0.0010 + x) \approx (x)(0.0010) = [\text{H}_3\text{O}^+](0.0010)$$

$$[\text{H}_3\text{O}^+] = K_w / 0.0010$$

$$[\text{H}_3\text{O}^+] = 1.0 \times 10^{-11} \text{ M}$$

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14.2 - pH and pOH

Add 0.0010 mol of NaOH to 1.0 L of pure water. Calculate $[\text{H}_3\text{O}^+]$ and $[\text{OH}^-]$.

Solution:

$$[\text{OH}^-] = 0.0010 \text{ M and}$$

$$[\text{H}_3\text{O}^+] = 1.0 \times 10^{-11} \text{ M}$$

This solution is consider **basic** because $[\text{OH}^-] > [\text{H}_3\text{O}^+]$

There must be a better way to tell if something is basic or acidic!

A common way to express acidity and basicity is with pH

$$\text{pH} = -\log [\text{H}_3\text{O}^+]$$

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Søren Sorensen, creator of the pH scale



In a **neutral** solution, $[\text{H}_3\text{O}^+] = [\text{OH}^-] = 1.0 \times 10^{-7} (25^\circ\text{C})$

$$\text{pH} = -\log (1.0 \times 10^{-7}) = -(-7.00) = 7.00$$

$\text{pH} = 7.00$ for neutral solutions!

More on pH

What is the pH of the 0.0010 M NaOH solution?

$$[\text{H}_3\text{O}^+] = 1.0 \times 10^{-11} \text{ M}$$

$$\text{pH} = -\log (1.0 \times 10^{-11}) = 11.00$$

General conclusion -

Basic solution $\text{pH} > 7$

Neutral $\text{pH} = 7$

Acidic solution $\text{pH} < 7$

Public Enemy are not scientists!



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pH to Hydronium

If the pH of Diet Coke is 3.12, it is _____.

Because $\text{pH} = -\log [\text{H}_3\text{O}^+]$ then

$$\log [\text{H}_3\text{O}^+] = -\text{pH}$$

Take antilog and get

$$[\text{H}_3\text{O}^+] = 10^{-\text{pH}}$$

$$[\text{H}_3\text{O}^+] = 10^{-3.12}$$

$$= 7.6 \times 10^{-4} \text{ M}$$

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Logarithms and Sig Figs

Logarithms are exponents with special sig figs rules.

General rule:

log of experimentally measured number with N sig figs give numbers with N decimal places after the decimal (digit before decimal only indicates magnitude)

Examples:

$$\log 3.07 \times 10^{-3} = -2.513 \text{ (3 sigs, 3 places after decimal)}$$

$$-\log 1.1 \times 10^{-8} = 7.96 \text{ (2 sigs, 2 places after decimal)}$$

$$10^{-3.12} = 7.6 \times 10^{-4} \text{ (2 places after decimal, 2 sigs)}$$

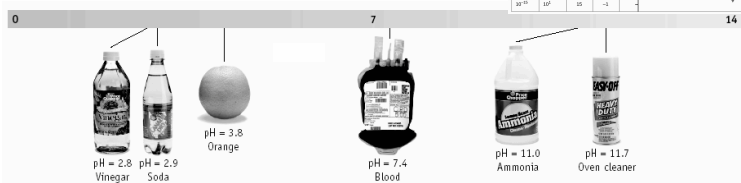


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pH of Common Substances

Most foods and drinks are slightly acidic, while most household cleaners are basic

[H ₃ O ⁺] (M)	[OH ⁻] (M)	pH	pOH	Example Solution
10 ⁻¹	10 ⁻¹⁵	-1	15	1 M HCl
10 ⁻²	10 ⁻¹⁴	2	14	0.1 M HCl
10 ⁻³	10 ⁻¹³	3	13	0.01 M HCl
10 ⁻⁴	10 ⁻¹²	4	12	0.001 M HCl
10 ⁻⁵	10 ⁻¹¹	5	11	0.0001 M HCl
10 ⁻⁶	10 ⁻¹⁰	6	10	0.00001 M HCl
10 ⁻⁷	10 ⁻⁹	7	9	pure water
10 ⁻⁸	10 ⁻⁸	8	8	0.000001 M HCl
10 ⁻⁹	10 ⁻⁷	9	7	0.0000001 M HCl
10 ⁻¹⁰	10 ⁻⁶	10	6	0.00000001 M HCl
10 ⁻¹¹	10 ⁻⁵	11	5	0.000000001 M HCl
10 ⁻¹²	10 ⁻⁴	12	4	0.0000000001 M HCl
10 ⁻¹³	10 ⁻³	13	3	0.00000000001 M HCl
10 ⁻¹⁴	10 ⁻²	14	2	0.000000000001 M HCl
10 ⁻¹⁵	10 ⁻¹	15	1	0.0000000000001 M HCl



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pOH and Other pX Scales

In general $pX = -\log X$

and: $pK_a = -\log K_a$

and so: $pOH = -\log [OH^-]$

$$K_w = [H_3O^+][OH^-] = 1.000 \times 10^{-14} \text{ at } 25^\circ\text{C}$$

Take the negative log of both sides

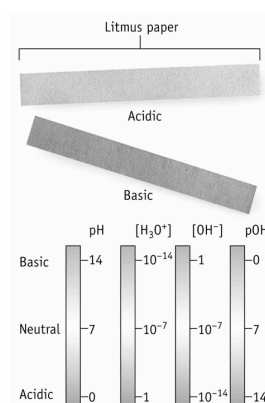
$$-\log(10^{-14}) = -\log[H_3O^+] + (-\log[OH^-])$$

$$14.00 = pH + pOH$$

$$\text{also: } 14 = pK_a + pK_b$$



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acidic solutions:

$$pH \downarrow$$

$$[H_3O^+] \uparrow$$

$$[OH^-] \downarrow$$

$$pOH \uparrow$$

basic solutions: pH ↑,

$$[H_3O^+] \downarrow$$

$$[OH^-] \uparrow$$

$$pOH \downarrow$$

$$K_w = [H_3O^+][OH^-] = 1.000 \times 10^{-14} \text{ at } 25^\circ\text{C}$$

$$pH + pOH = 14$$

14.3 - Relative Strengths of Acids and Bases

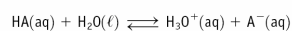
All weak acids have conjugate bases, and all weak bases have conjugate acids

Weak acids and bases ionize to a very small extent (< 5%)

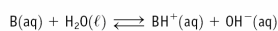
Weak acids use K_a (acid ionization constants) while weak bases use K_b (base ionization constants.)

K_a and K_b values are much less than one

Acid	Conjugate Base
acetic, CH_3CO_2H	$CH_3CO_2^-$, acetate
ammonium, NH_4^+	NH_3 , ammonia
bicarbonate, HCO_3^-	CO_3^{2-} , carbonate



$$K_a = \frac{[H_3O^+][A^-]}{[HA]}$$

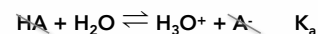


$$K_b = \frac{[BH^+][OH^-]}{[B]}$$

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Combining Conjugate K_a and K_b Expression

If a weak acid's K_a expression is combined with its conjugate base K_b expression, something interesting happens:



Important relations: $K_a * K_b = K_w$ and $pK_a + pK_b = 14$

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Approximation Method for the pH of a Weak Acid

Consider the approximate expression:

$$K_a = 1.8 \times 10^{-5} = \frac{x^2}{1.00} \quad x = [\text{H}_3\text{O}^+] = [K_a \cdot 1.00]^{1/2}$$

For many weak acids

$$[\text{H}_3\text{O}^+] = [\text{conj. base}] = [K_a \cdot C_a]^{1/2}$$

where C_a = initial concentration of acid (M)

Useful Rule:

$$\text{If } 100 \cdot K_a < C_a, \text{ then } [\text{H}_3\text{O}^+] = [K_a \cdot C_a]^{1/2}$$

$$\text{or } \text{pH} = -\log [K_a \cdot C_a]^{1/2} \quad \text{Important Equation!}$$

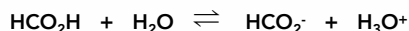
Quick method to find pH of Weak Acids!

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Equilibria Involving A Weak Acid

Calculate the pH of a 0.0010 M solution of formic acid, HCO_2H .



$$K_a = 1.8 \times 10^{-4}$$

Approximate solution

$$[\text{H}_3\text{O}^+] = [K_a \cdot C_a]^{1/2} = 4.2 \times 10^{-4} \text{ M}, \text{pH} = 3.37$$

Exact Solution

$$[\text{H}_3\text{O}^+] = [\text{HCO}_2^-] = 3.4 \times 10^{-4} \text{ M}$$

$$[\text{HCO}_2\text{H}] = 0.0010 - 3.4 \times 10^{-4} = 0.0007 \text{ M}$$

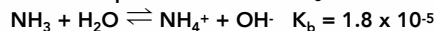
$$\text{pH} = 3.47$$

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100 * K_a is not less than C_a !

Equilibria Involving A Weak Base

Calculate the pH of a 0.010 M NH_3 solution.



Step 1. Define equilibrium concs.

	$[\text{NH}_3]$	$[\text{NH}_4^+]$	$[\text{OH}^-]$
initial			
change			
equilib			

As before, assume x is small because

$$100 \cdot K_b < C_b, \text{ so}$$

$$x = [\text{OH}^-] = [\text{NH}_4^+] = [K_b \cdot C_b]^{1/2}$$

$$x = 4.2 \times 10^{-4} \text{ M}$$

$$\text{check: } [\text{NH}_3] = 0.010 - 4.2 \times 10^{-4}$$

$$[\text{NH}_3] \approx 0.010 \text{ M}$$

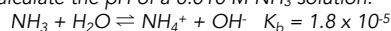
$$K_b = 1.8 \times 10^{-5} = \frac{[\text{NH}_4^+][\text{OH}^-]}{[\text{NH}_3]} = \frac{x^2}{0.010 - x} \quad \text{Valid approximation!}$$

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Exact solution with quadratic: $x = 0.00042$, $x = -0.00043$

Equilibria Involving A Weak Base

Calculate the pH of a 0.010 M NH_3 solution.



$$[\text{OH}^-] = 4.2 \times 10^{-4} \text{ M (last slide)}$$

Step 3. Calculate pH

$$\text{pOH} = -\log [\text{OH}^-] = -\log [4.2 \times 10^{-4}] = 3.37$$

Because $\text{pH} + \text{pOH} = 14.00$,

$$\text{pH} = 14.00 - 3.37 = 10.63$$

$$\text{or: } \text{pH} = 14 + \log [K_b \cdot C_b]^{1/2} = 10.63$$

Important Equation!
Quick method to find pH of Weak Bases!

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Overview: Calculating pH of Acids & Bases

Strong acid: $\text{pH} = -\log C_a = -\log [\text{H}_3\text{O}^+]$

Strong base:

$$\text{pH} = 14 + \log C_b = 14 + \log [\text{OH}^-]$$

Weak acid:

$$\text{pH} = -\log [K_a \cdot C_a]^{1/2} \quad (100 \cdot K_a < C_a)$$

Weak base:

$$\text{pH} = 14 + \log [K_b \cdot C_b]^{1/2} \quad (100 \cdot K_b < C_b)$$

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Memorize!

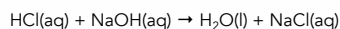
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Mixing Equimolar Acids and Bases

Mixing **equal moles of strong acids**

with strong bases ("equimolar")

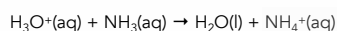
results in a **neutral solution** of water and a 'salt'; **pH = 7**



Mixing **equimolar amounts of**

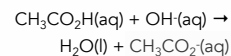
weak bases with strong acids

results in an **acidic solution** due to the conjugate acid of the weak base; **pH < 7**



Mixing **equimolar amounts of weak acids with strong bases**

results in a **basic solution** due to the conjugate base of the weak acid; **pH > 7**



Weak base,
pH is basic

Weak acid,
pH is acidic

Types of Acid/Base Reactions: Summary

Knowing the pH when the moles of acid and base are equal ("equivalence") can be important



• Characteristics of Acid-Base Reactions

Type	Example	Net Ionic Equation	Species Present After Equal Molar Amounts Are Mixed; pH
Strong acid + strong base	HCl + NaOH	$\text{H}_3\text{O}^+(\text{aq}) + \text{OH}^-(\text{aq}) \rightleftharpoons 2 \text{H}_2\text{O}(\ell)$	Cl^- , Na^+ , pH = 7
Strong acid + weak base	HCl + NH_3	$\text{H}_3\text{O}^+(\text{aq}) + \text{NH}_3(\text{aq}) \rightleftharpoons \text{NH}_4^+(\text{aq}) + \text{H}_2\text{O}(\ell)$	Cl^- , NH_4^+ , pH < 7
Weak acid + strong base	$\text{HCO}_2\text{H} + \text{NaOH}$	$\text{HCO}_2\text{H}(\text{aq}) + \text{OH}^-(\text{aq}) \rightleftharpoons \text{HCO}_2^-(\text{aq}) + \text{H}_2\text{O}(\ell)$	HCO_2^- , Na^+ , pH > 7
Weak acid + weak base	$\text{HCO}_2\text{H} + \text{NH}_3$	$\text{HCO}_2\text{H}(\text{aq}) + \text{NH}_3(\text{aq}) \rightleftharpoons \text{HCO}_2^-(\text{aq}) + \text{NH}_4^+(\text{aq})$	HCO_2^- , NH_4^+ , pH dependent on K_a and K_b of conjugate acid and base.

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14.4 - Hydrolysis of Salts

Salts (ionic compounds) are neutral in water if the hydronium and hydroxide concentrations are equal.

However, often the cation and/or anion are weak acids or bases, which affects the pH of the solution.

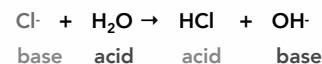
$\text{MX} + \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow \text{acidic or basic solution?}$

Consider NH_4Cl :

For Chloride:



(a) Reaction of Cl^- with H_2O



Cl^- ion is a very weak base because its conjugate acid (HCl) is strong.

Therefore, $\text{Cl}^- \rightarrow$ neutral solution

All conjugates of strong acids (and bases) do not affect the pH of the solution

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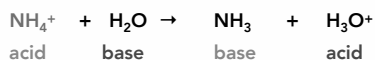
Acid-Base Properties of Salts

$\text{MX} + \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow \text{acidic or basic solution?}$

For ammonium:



(b) Reaction of NH_4^+ with H_2O



NH_4^+ ion is a moderate acid ($K_a = 5.6 \times 10^{-10}$) because its conjugate base (NH_3) is weak.

Therefore, $\text{NH}_4^+ \rightarrow$ acidic solution

Conclusion:

NH_4Cl in water creates an acidic solution due to the ammonium ion (chloride is neutral)

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Acid-Base Properties of Salts

Acid and Base Properties of Some Ions in Aqueous Solution				
	Neutral		Basic	Acidic
Anions	Cl^-	NO_3^-	CH_3CO_2^-	CN^-
	Br^-	ClO_4^-	HCO_2^-	PO_4^{3-}
	I^-		CO_3^{2-}	HPO_4^{2-}
			HS^-	SO_3^{2-}
			F^-	OCl^-
Cations	Li^+	Mg^{2+}	$\text{Al}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6(\text{OH})^{2+}$ and analogous ions	
	Na^+	Ca^{2+}		
	K^+	Ba^{2+}		
				HSO_4^-
				H_2PO_4^-
				HSO_3^-
				NH_4^+

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Acid-Base Properties of Salts

Calculate the pH of a 0.10 M solution of Na_2CO_3

$\text{Na}^+ + \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow$ neutral (conjugate of NaOH)

$\text{CO}_3^{2-} + \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightleftharpoons \text{HCO}_3^- + \text{OH}^-$

base acid acid base

K_b for carbonate = 2.1×10^{-4}

Step 1. Set up ICE concentration table

$[\text{CO}_3^{2-}]$ $[\text{HCO}_3^-]$ $[\text{OH}^-]$

initial 0.10 0 0

change

equilib

$$K_b = \frac{[\text{HCO}_3^-][\text{OH}^-]}{[\text{CO}_3^{2-}]} = \frac{x^2}{0.10 - x}$$

$100 \cdot K_b < C_b$ so assume

$$0.10 - x \approx 0.10$$

$$x = [\text{HCO}_3^-] = [\text{OH}^-]$$

$$x = [K_b \cdot C_b]^{1/2} = 0.0046 \text{ M}$$

Exact solution with quadratic: $x = 0.0045$, $x = -0.0047$

$$\text{pOH} = -\log [\text{OH}^-] = 2.34$$

$$\text{pH} + \text{pOH} = 14,$$

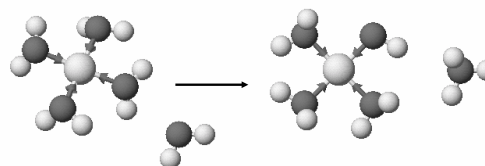
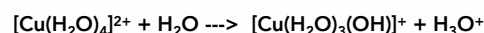
$$\text{so pH} = 11.66; \text{ solution is } \underline{\hspace{1cm}}.$$

$$\text{or pH} = 14 + \log [K_b \cdot C_b]^{1/2} = 11.66$$

MAR

Transition Metals and Hydrolysis

Many transition metals (and Al) dissolved in water undergo hydrolysis to give acidic solutions.



This is a K_a expression

MAR

This explains why water solutions of transition metals and Al are acidic.

14.5 - Polyprotic Acids

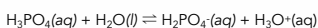
Monoprotic acids have a single ionizable hydrogen. *Examples:* HCl, HF, HNO₂, etc. Weak acids have a single K_a value.

Polyprotic acids have more than one ionizable hydrogens (more than one H capable of forming hydronium) and more than one K_a value. *Examples:* H₂SO₄

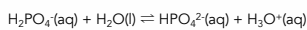
(diprotic), H₃AsO₄ (triprotic), etc.

MAR

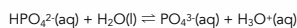
Examples: For **triprotic** phosphoric acid H₃PO₄:



$$K_{a1} = \frac{[\text{H}_3\text{O}^+][\text{H}_2\text{PO}_4^-]}{[\text{H}_3\text{PO}_4]} = 7.2 \times 10^{-3}$$



$$K_{a2} = \frac{[\text{H}_3\text{O}^+][\text{HPO}_4^{2-}]}{[\text{H}_2\text{PO}_4^-]} = 6.3 \times 10^{-8}$$



$$K_{a3} = \frac{[\text{H}_3\text{O}^+][\text{PO}_4^{3-}]}{[\text{HPO}_4^{2-}]} = 4.2 \times 10^{-13}$$

$$K_{a1} > K_{a2} > K_{a3}$$

We usually neglect [H₃O⁺] produced after the first dissociation.

Polyprotic Acids

Many polyprotic acids known

Name (Formula)	Lewis Structure*	K _{a1}	K _{a2}	K _{a3}
Oxalic acid (H ₂ C ₂ O ₄)		5.6 × 10 ⁻²	5.4 × 10 ⁻⁵	
Sulfurous acid (H ₂ SO ₃)		1.4 × 10 ⁻²	6.5 × 10 ⁻⁸	
Phosphoric acid (H ₃ PO ₄)		7.2 × 10 ⁻³	6.3 × 10 ⁻⁸	4.2 × 10 ⁻¹³
Arsenic acid (H ₃ AsO ₄)		6 × 10 ⁻³	1.1 × 10 ⁻⁷	3 × 10 ⁻¹²
Carbonic acid (H ₂ CO ₃)		4.5 × 10 ⁻⁷	4.7 × 10 ⁻¹¹	
Hydrosulfuric acid (H ₂ S)		9 × 10 ⁻⁸	1 × 10 ⁻¹⁷	

*Red type indicates the ionizable protons.

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Several **dibasic** (Sr(OH)₂) and **tribasic** (Al(OH)₃) bases known

Polyprotic Acids and pH

Example: Diprotic **ascorbic acid** (i.e.

Vitamin C, H₂Asc) has K_{a1} =

1.0 × 10⁻⁵ and K_{a2} = 5 × 10⁻¹².

Calculate the pH of 0.050 M

H₂Asc.

Note: 100* K_{a1} and 100*K_{a2} are less than C_a (0.050 M), so [H₃O⁺] =

$$\sqrt{K_{a1} \cdot C_a}$$

Find [H₃O⁺] from K_{a1} and K_{a2}, add them up, then find pH

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$$K_{a1} = \frac{[\text{HAsc}][\text{H}_3\text{O}^+]}{[\text{H}_2\text{Asc}]} = 1.0 \times 10^{-5} = \frac{x^2}{0.050}$$

$$x = [\text{H}_3\text{O}^+] = [\text{HAsc}] = \sqrt{(0.050)(1.0 \times 10^{-5})} = 7.1 \times 10^{-4} \text{ M}$$

$$[\text{H}_3\text{O}^+]_{\text{from HAsc}} = \sqrt{[\text{HAsc}](K_{a2})} = \sqrt{(7.1 \times 10^{-4})(5 \times 10^{-12})} = 6 \times 10^{-8} \text{ M}$$

$$[\text{H}_3\text{O}^+]_{\text{Total}} = 7.1 \times 10^{-4} \text{ M} + 6 \times 10^{-8} \text{ M} \approx 7.1 \times 10^{-4} \text{ M}$$

$$\text{pH} = -\log(7.1 \times 10^{-4} \text{ M}) = 3.15$$

Only [H₃O⁺] from K_{a1} affects pH, K_{a2} contributes minor amount of [H₃O⁺]

14.6 - Buffers

A **buffer** is a solution with both a weak acid and its conjugate base (or a weak base and its conjugate acid.)

Buffers resist drastic changes to the pH of the solution; very helpful in our bodies, living systems, etc.

MAR



A 100 mL sample of dilute HCl is adjusted to pH 5.00.

The addition of 1 mL of strong acid (left) or strong base (right) changes the pH by several units.



A 100 mL sample of an acetate buffer is adjusted to pH 5.00.

The addition of 1 mL of strong acid (left) or strong base (right) changes the pH very little.

The acetate buffer is made by mixing 1 M CH₃COOH (a weak acid) with 1 M NaCH₃COO (which provides the conjugate base, CH₃COO⁻)

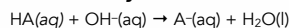
Buffers

Buffers resist strong acids and bases utilizing weak bases and acids within the buffer.

Consider a buffer HA / A⁻ system:

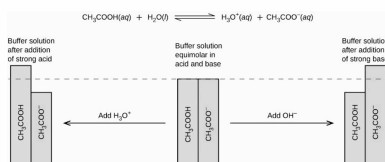
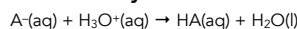
* Added **strong base** (OH⁻)

neutralized by weak acid HA:



* Added **strong acid** (H₃O⁺)

neutralized by weak base A⁻:



Adding **strong acid** (H₃O⁺) makes solution more acidic due to increased amount of weak acid (acetic acid)!

Likewise, adding **strong base** (OH⁻) makes solution more basic due to increased amount of weak base (acetate)!

Buffer Solutions

The function of a buffer is to resist changes in the pH of a solution.

Buffers always consist of a weak acid and its conjugate base (or a weak base and its conjugate acid)

Weak Acid

HOAc

H₂PO₄⁻

+

+

+

Conjugate Base

OAc⁻

HPO₄²⁻

HOAc = acetic acid,

OAc⁻ = acetate ion

Weak Base

NH₃

NO₂⁻

+

+

+

Conjugate Acid

NH₄⁺

HNO₂

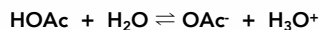
MAR

Buffers and Henderson-Hasselbalch Guide

Buffer Solutions

HOAc = acetic acid,
OAc⁻ = acetate ion

Problem: What is the pH of a buffer that has [HOAc] = 0.700 M and [OAc⁻] = 0.600 M?



$$K_a = 1.8 \times 10^{-5}$$

initial
change
equilib



Assuming that $x \ll 0.700$ and 0.600 , we have

$$K_a = 1.8 \times 10^{-5} = \frac{[\text{H}_3\text{O}^+](0.600)}{0.700}$$

$$[\text{H}_3\text{O}^+] = 1.8 \times 10^{-5} \times (0.700 / 0.600) = 2.1 \times 10^{-5}$$

$$\text{and pH} = 4.68$$

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Buffer Solutions

Notice that the expression for calculating the H^+ concentration of the buffer is:

$$[\text{H}_3\text{O}^+] = \frac{\text{Orig. conc. of HOAc}}{\text{Orig. conc. of OAc}^-} \cdot K_a$$

$$[\text{H}_3\text{O}^+] = \frac{[\text{Acid}]}{[\text{Conj. base}]} \cdot K_a \text{ or } [\text{OH}^-] = \frac{[\text{Base}]}{[\text{Conj. acid}]} \cdot K_b$$

Notice that $[\text{H}_3\text{O}^+]$ or $[\text{OH}^-]$ depends on K and the ratio of acid and base concentrations

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The Henderson-Hasselbalch Equation

$$[\text{H}_3\text{O}^+] = \frac{[\text{Acid}]}{[\text{Conj. base}]} \cdot K_a$$

Take the negative log of both sides of this equation:

$$\text{pH} = \text{p}K_a - \log \frac{[\text{Acid}]}{[\text{Conj. base}]}$$

The Henderson -
Hasselbalch Eq!

$$\text{pH} = \text{p}K_a + \log \frac{[\text{Conj. base}]}{[\text{Acid}]}$$

The pH is determined largely by the $\text{p}K_a$ of the acid and then adjusted by the ratio of acid and conjugate base. **Important equation!**

MAR

The Henderson-Hasselbalch Equation

$$\text{pH} = \text{p}K_a + \log \frac{[\text{Conj. base}]}{[\text{Acid}]}$$

Note that the concentrations of the acid and conjugate base are **not** important

It is the **ratio** of the number of moles that affects pH

Result: **diluting** a buffer solution does not change its pH

Result: **You can use moles or molarity** when using Henderson-Hasselbalch!

See: Buffers and Henderson-Hasselbalch Guide

MAR

Adding an Acid to a Buffer

Problem: What is the pH when 1.00 mL of 1.00 M HCl is added to

a) 1.00 L of pure water (before HCl, $\text{pH} = 7.00$)

b) 1.00 L of buffer that has [HOAc] = 0.700 M and [OAc⁻] = 0.600 M ($\text{pH} = 4.68$ before HCl, earlier problem)

Solution to Part a:

$$\text{pH of strong acid} = -\log [\text{H}_3\text{O}^+] = -\log [\text{HCl}]$$

$$M_1 \cdot V_1 = M_2 \cdot V_2$$

$$1.00 \text{ M} \cdot 1.00 \text{ mL} = M_2 \cdot 1001 \text{ mL}$$

$$M_2 = 9.99 \times 10^{-4} \text{ M} = [\text{H}_3\text{O}^+]$$

$$\text{pH} = -\log (9.99 \times 10^{-4}) = 3.000$$

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Adding an Acid to a Buffer

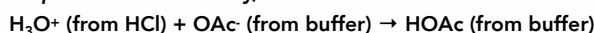
What is the pH when 1.00 mL of 1.00 M HCl is added to

a) 1.00 L of pure water ($\text{pH} = 7.00$; after HCl, $\text{pH} = 3.000$)

b) 1.00 L of buffer with [HOAc] = 0.700 M and [OAc⁻] = 0.600 M ($\text{pH} = 4.68$ before HCl)

Solution to Part b:

Step 1: via stoichiometry,



Initial

Change

After rxn

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Now we need to calculate pH using our new buffer solution

Adding an Acid to a Buffer

What is the pH when 1.00 mL of 1.00 M HCl is added to

a) 1.00 L of pure water ($pH = 7.00$; after HCl, $pH = 3.000$)

b) 1.00 L of buffer with $[HOAc] = 0.700\text{ M}$ and $[OAc^-] = 0.600\text{ M}$ ($pH = 4.68$ before HCl)

Solution to Part b:

Step 2: Equilibrium: $HOAc + H_2O \rightleftharpoons H_3O^+ + OAc^-$

Initial $[HOAc]$ $[OAc^-]$ $[H_3O^+]$

Change $[H_3O^+] = \frac{[HOAc]}{[OAc^-]} \cdot K_a = \frac{0.701}{0.599} \cdot (1.8 \times 10^{-5})$

Equilibrium $[H_3O^+] = 2.1 \times 10^{-5}\text{ M} \rightarrow pH = 4.68$

Ignore x relative to 0.701 and 0.599
 $x = [H_3O^+]$

The pH has not changed upon adding HCl to the buffer!

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Adding an Acid to a Buffer Using HH Equation

The Henderson-Hasselbalch equation can be used to calculate the pH when 1.00 mL of 1.00 M HCl is added to 1.00 L of buffer that has $[HOAc] = 0.700\text{ M}$ and $[OAc^-] = 0.600\text{ M}$

We can use an alternate form of the H-H equation:

$$pH = pK_a + \log \left(\frac{\text{mol Conj base} - \text{mol strong acid}}{\text{mol weak acid} + \text{mol strong acid}} \right)$$

$$pK_a = -\log(1.8 \times 10^{-5}) = 4.74$$

$$pH = 4.74 + \log \left(\frac{0.600 - 0.00100}{0.700 + 0.00100} \right) = 4.67$$

Answer in good agreement with "double ice" method (4.68)

See: [Buffers and Henderson-Hasselbalch Guide](#)

MAR

Adding Acids and Bases to Buffers

For adding strong acids to buffers:

$$pH = pK_a + \log \left(\frac{\text{mol Conj base} - \text{mol strong acid}}{\text{mol weak acid} + \text{mol strong acid}} \right)$$

For adding strong bases to buffers:

$$pH = pK_a + \log \left(\frac{\text{mol Conj base} + \text{mol strong base}}{\text{mol weak acid} - \text{mol strong base}} \right)$$

Very useful for calculating pH changes in buffers!

See: [Buffers and Henderson-Hasselbalch Guide](#)

MAR

Preparing a Buffer

Henderson



You want to create a buffer solution with a $pH = 4.30$.

This means $[H_3O^+] = 10^{-pH} = 5.0 \times 10^{-5}\text{ M}$

It is best to choose an acid such that:

* $[H_3O^+] \approx K_a$ or

* $pH \approx pK_a$

You get the exact $[H_3O^+]$ (or pH) by adjusting the ratio of weak acid to conjugate base.

For a $pH = 4.30$ buffer, we will look for a value of $K_a \approx 5.0 \times 10^{-5}$ or a $pK_a \approx 4.30$

MAR

Hasselbalch



Preparing a Buffer

Which of the following three systems would be best to create a buffer solution at $pH = 4.30$ (or $[H_3O^+] = 5.0 \times 10^{-5}\text{ M}$)?

Possible Buffers	K_a	pK_a
HSO_4^- / SO_4^{2-}	1.2×10^{-2}	1.92
$HOAc / OAc^-$	1.8×10^{-5}	4.74
HCN / CN^-	4.0×10^{-10}	9.40

Best choice is acetic acid / acetate - closest in $[H_3O^+]$ to K_a or pH to pK_a !

MAR



Preparing a Buffer

Create a buffer solution at $pH = 4.30$ (or $[H_3O^+] = 5.0 \times 10^{-5}\text{ M}$) using $HOAc$ and OAc^- .

Equal moles of acid ($HOAc$) and base (OAc^-) would create $pH = 4.74$ ($= pK_a$). What ratio of acid to base is needed to get the buffer to 4.30?

$$K_a = \frac{[H_3O^+][OAc^-]}{[HOAc]}, \text{ or rearranged:}$$

$$[H_3O^+] = 5.0 \times 10^{-5} = \frac{[HOAc]}{[OAc^-]} (1.8 \times 10^{-5})$$

Solve for $[HOAc] / [OAc^-]$ ratio:
 $= [H_3O^+] / K_a = 2.8 / 1$

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Preparing a Buffer

Create a buffer solution at $pH = 4.30$ (or $[H_3O^+] = 5.0 \times 10^{-5} M$) using $HOAc$ and OAc^- .

$[HOAc] / [OAc^-]$ ratio = 2.8 / 1 (previous slide)

Therefore, if you use 0.10 mol of $NaOAc$ and 0.28 mol of $HOAc$, you will have $pH = 4.30$.

$$pH = pK_a + \log \frac{[Conj. base]}{[Acid]}$$

Could have also used
Henderson Hasselbalch:

$$4.30 = 4.74 + \log \frac{[Conj. base]}{[Acid]}$$

$$10^{-0.44} = 0.36 = \frac{[base]}{[acid]}, \text{invert:}$$

$$\frac{[acid]}{[base]} = 2.8$$

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Preparing a Buffer Solution



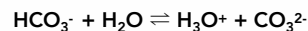
Buffer prepared from

8.4 g $NaHCO_3$

weak acid

16.0 g Na_2CO_3

conjugate base



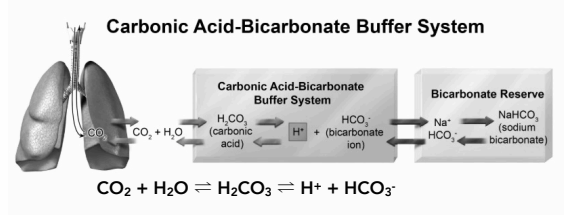
What is the pH?

Check yourself! Answer: 10.50

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Buffers in Our Bodies

The blood pH in our bodies is regulated by a carbonic acid / hydrogen carbonate ("bicarbonate") buffer system:



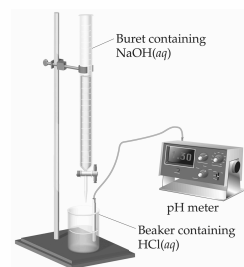
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Exhaling CO_2 raises the pH of our blood!

14.7 - Acid-Base Titrations

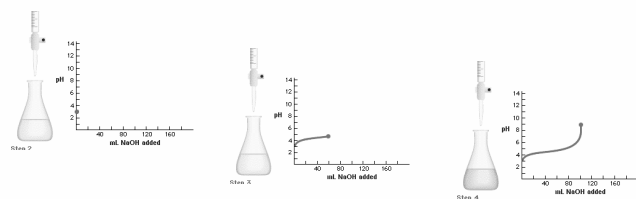
In an **acid-base titration** a known concentration of base (or acid) is slowly added to a solution of acid (or base)

A **pH meter** (or **indicator**) is used to determine when the solution has reached the **equivalence point** (where moles of acid = moles of base)



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Titration



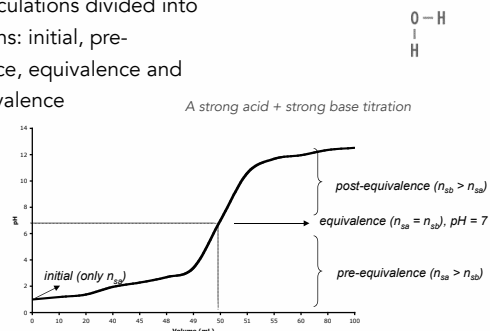
Adding $NaOH$ from the buret to **acetic acid**:

Initially the pH increases very slowly, then rises dramatically at **equivalence point** (midpoint of the vertical part of the curve pH rises, then levels off as equivalence point passed

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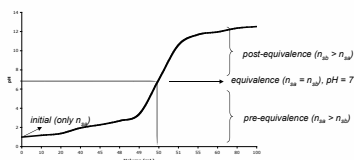
Strong Acid + Strong Base

Titration calculations divided into four regions: initial, pre-equivalence, equivalence and post-equivalence



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Strong Acid + Strong Base



Initial: $\text{pH} = -\log [n_{\text{sa}} / V_{\text{sa}}]$

Pre-equivalence: $\text{pH} = -\log \left(\frac{n_{\text{sa}} - n_{\text{sb}}}{V_{\text{sa}} + V_{\text{sb}}} \right)$

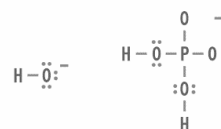
Equivalence: $\text{pH} = 7$ (neutral salt + water)

Post-equivalence: $\text{pH} = 14 + \log \left(\frac{n_{\text{sb}} - n_{\text{sa}}}{V_{\text{sb}} + V_{\text{sa}}} \right)$

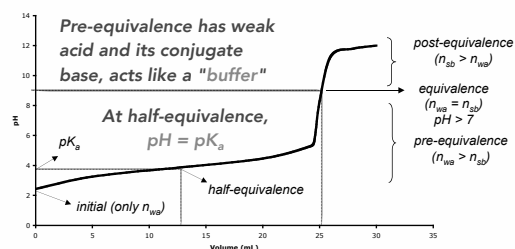
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Weak Acid + Strong Base

Equivalence point dominated by
conjugate base of weak acid

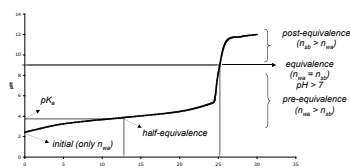


A weak acid + strong base titration



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Weak Acid + Strong Base



Initial: $\text{pH} = -\log \sqrt{K_a C_{\text{wa}}}$

Pre-equivalence: $\text{pH} = \text{p}K_a + \log \left(\frac{n_{\text{sb}}}{n_{\text{wa}} - n_{\text{sb}}} \right)$

Equivalence: $\text{pH} = 14 + \log \left(\sqrt{\frac{K_w}{K_a} \left(\frac{n_{\text{wa}}}{V_{\text{wa}} + V_{\text{sb}}} \right)} \right)$

Post-equivalence: $\text{pH} = 14 + \log \left(\frac{n_{\text{sb}} - n_{\text{wa}}}{V_{\text{sb}} + V_{\text{wa}}} \right)$

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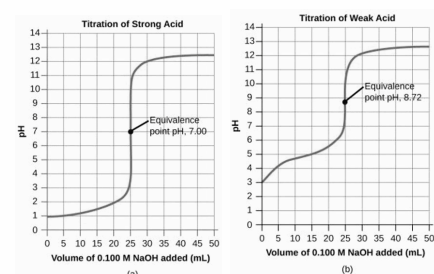
Differences in Titration Curves

With strong acids, equivalence
point always equal to 7

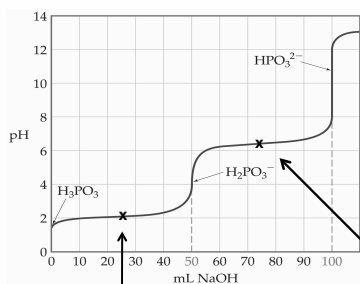
With weak acids, equivalence
point will be basic (> 7)

Half Equivalence Point
important with weak acids;
at that point, $\text{pH} = \text{p}K_a$
(great method to find K_a !)

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Polyprotic Acids



**Titration of polyprotic
acids with bases have
multiple equivalence
points (and half
equivalence points) for
each dissociation.**

second half equivalence
($\text{pH} = \text{p}K_a$ for H_2PO_3^-)

first half equivalence
($\text{pH} = \text{p}K_a$ for H_3PO_3)

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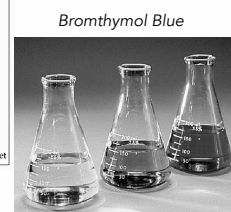
pH Indicators

Indicator	pH	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Methyl violet	Yellow													Violet
Thymol blue	Red													Blue (base range)
Methyl orange	Red													Yellow-orange
Bromocresol green	Yellow													Blue
Methyl red	Red													Yellow
Chlorophenol red	Yellow													Red
Bromothymol blue	Yellow													Blue
Phenol red	Yellow													Red
Phenolphthalein	Colorless													Red
Thymolphthalein	Colorless													Blue
Alizarin yellow	Yellow													Violet

Equivalence point important in titration, can use an
indicator to signify equivalence point

Indicator color change must reflect equivalence
point to be useful!

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$\text{pH} < 6.0$ $\text{pH} > 7.5$
 $\text{pH} = 6.0-7.5$

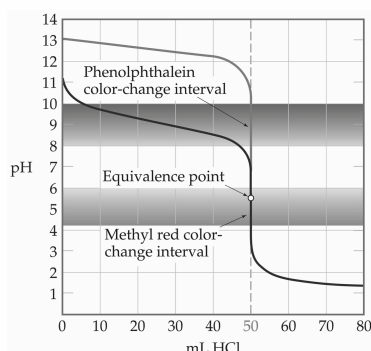
pH Indicators

Which indicator to use?

Phenolphthalein or Methyl Red?

The pH at the equivalence point in this titration is **< 7**.

Methyl red is the indicator of choice here.



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End of Chapter 14

See:

- Chapter Fourteen Study Guide
- Chapter Fourteen Concept Guide
- Types of Equilibrium Constants (handout)
- Buffers and Henderson-Hasselbalch Guide (handout)
- Important Equations (following this slide)
- End of Chapter Problems (following this slide)

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Important Equations, Constants, and Handouts from this Chapter:

$$\text{pH}_{(\text{strong acid})} = -\log C_a$$

$$\text{pH}_{(\text{strong base})} = 14 + \log C_b$$

$$\text{pH}_{(\text{weak acid})} = -\log [K_a \cdot C_a]^{1/2}$$

$$\text{pH}_{(\text{weak base})} = 14 + \log [K_b \cdot C_b]^{1/2}$$

$$14 = \text{pH} + \text{pOH} = \text{p}K_a + \text{p}K_b$$

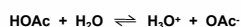
$$K_w = 1.00 \times 10^{-14} = [\text{H}_3\text{O}^+][\text{OH}^-] = K_a \cdot K_b \text{ (25 } ^\circ\text{C)}$$

Acid-Base Theory: Brønsted theory, conjugate acid and base, strong and weak acids and bases, know the 8 strong acids and bases!, autoionization, Lewis theory, electron pair acceptor and donator, salt acidity/basicity, formation constants (K_f)

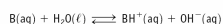
Handouts:

- Manipulating Equilibrium Constant Expressions
- Types of Equilibrium Constants
- Table of K_a and K_b values in Problem Set #2

MAR • Buffers and Henderson-Hasselbalch Guide



$$K_a = \frac{[\text{H}_3\text{O}^+][\text{OAc}^-]}{[\text{HOAc}]}$$



$$K_b = \frac{[\text{BH}^+][\text{OH}^-]}{[\text{B}]}$$

$$\text{pH} = \text{p}K_a + \log \frac{[\text{Conj. base}]}{[\text{Acid}]}$$

$$\text{pH} = \text{p}K_a + \log \left(\frac{\text{mol Conj base} - \text{mol strong acid}}{\text{mol weak acid} + \text{mol strong acid}} \right)$$

$$\text{pH} = \text{p}K_a + \log \left(\frac{\text{mol Conj base} + \text{mol strong base}}{\text{mol weak acid} - \text{mol strong base}} \right)$$

End of Chapter Problems: Test Yourself

1. An aqueous solution has a pH of 3.75. What is the hydronium ion concentration of the solution? What is the hydroxide ion concentration of the solution? Is it acidic or basic?
2. What is the pH of a 0.0015 M solution of $\text{Ba}(\text{OH})_2$?
3. Epinephrine hydrochloride has a $\text{p}K_a$ value of 9.53. What is the value of K_a ?
4. A weak base has $K_b = 4.7 \times 10^{-11}$. What is the value of K_a for the conjugate acid?
5. A 0.015 M solution of hydrogen cyanate, HOCN , has a pH of 2.67. What is the hydronium ion concentration in the solution? What is the ionization constant, K_a , for the acid?
6. A 0.015 M solution of a base has a pH of 10.09. What are the hydronium and hydroxide ion concentrations of this solution? What is the value of K_b for this base?
7. Which of the following substances should be classified as a Lewis acid and a Lewis base: $\text{Fe}^{2+}(\text{aq})$, CH_3NH_2 ?
8. Does the pH of the solution increase, decrease, or stay the same when you: a) Add solid ammonium chloride to a dilute aqueous solution of NH_3 ; b) Add solid sodium acetate to a dilute aqueous solution of acetic acid; c) Add solid NaCl to a dilute aqueous solution of NaOH ?
9. For each of the following cases, decide whether the pH is less than 7, equal to 7, or greater than 7: a) equal volumes of 0.10 M acetic acid, $\text{CH}_3\text{CO}_2\text{H}$, and 0.10 M KOH are mixed; b) 25 mL of 0.015 M NH_3 is mixed with 25 mL of 0.015 M HCl ; c) 150 mL of 0.20 M HNO_3 is mixed with 75 mL of 0.40 M NaOH
10. What is the pH of a solution that consists of 0.20 M ammonia, NH_3 , and 0.20 M ammonium chloride, NH_4Cl ? ($K_a = 5.6 \times 10^{-10}$)
11. What mass of sodium acetate, NaCH_3CO_2 , must be added to 1.00 L of 0.10 M acetic acid to give a solution with a pH of 4.50? ($K_a = 1.8 \times 10^{-5}$)

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End of Chapter Problems: Answers

1. $[\text{H}_3\text{O}^+] = 1.8 \times 10^{-4} \text{ M}$, $[\text{OH}^-] = 5.6 \times 10^{-11} \text{ M}$, acidic
2. 11.48
3. 3.0×10^{-10}
4. 2.1×10^{-4}
5. 0.0021 M, 3.6×10^{-4} ($K_a = 3.0 \times 10^{-4}$ using short method)
6. $[\text{H}_3\text{O}^+] = 8.1 \times 10^{-11} \text{ M}$, $[\text{OH}^-] = 1.2 \times 10^{-4} \text{ M}$, $K_b = 9.7 \times 10^{-7}$
7. $\text{Fe}^{2+}(\text{aq})$ would be a Lewis acid, CH_3NH_2 would be a Lewis base
8. a) pH decreases; b) pH increases; c) no change to pH
9. a. pH > 7 b. pH < 7 c. pH = 7
10. pH = 9.25
11. 4.7 g

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