

Unit 10 Acids and Bases

pH is the log of the hydrogen ion concentration; it is a measure of the strength of acids and bases: $\text{pH} = -\log [\text{H}^+]$

acidic $\text{pH} < 7$
(1-7)

neutral = $\text{pH} 7.0$

basic $\text{pH} > 7$ (alkaline)
(7-14)



hydrogen ion

hydroxide ion

(acid, proton donor)

(base, proton acceptor)

pH is a ten times scale

$\text{pH} 3 = 100\text{X}$ less acidic than $\text{pH} 1$

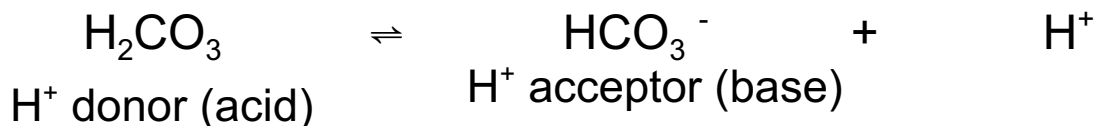
$\text{pH} 3 = 10\text{X}$ less acidic than $\text{pH} 2$

$\text{pH} 3 = 10\text{X}$ more acidic than $\text{pH} 4$

$\text{pH} 3 = 100\text{X}$ more acidic than $\text{pH} 5$

$\text{pH} 3 = 1000\text{X}$ more acidic than $\text{pH} 6$

Buffer - weak acid or base that minimizes changes in pH,
e.g. carbonic acid:



buffers donate H^+ when the solution is basic
and accept H^+ when the solution is acidic.

Ionization constant for pure water

$$K_w = [\text{H}^+][\text{OH}^-] = (1 \times 10^{-7} \text{ M})(1 \times 10^{-7} \text{ M}) = 1 \times 10^{-14} \text{ M}$$

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

Monoprotic acid- contain 1 ionizable hydrogen, e.g. HNO_3 , nitric

acid.

Diprotic acid- contain 2 ionizable hydrogens, e.g. H_2SO_4 , sulfuric acid.

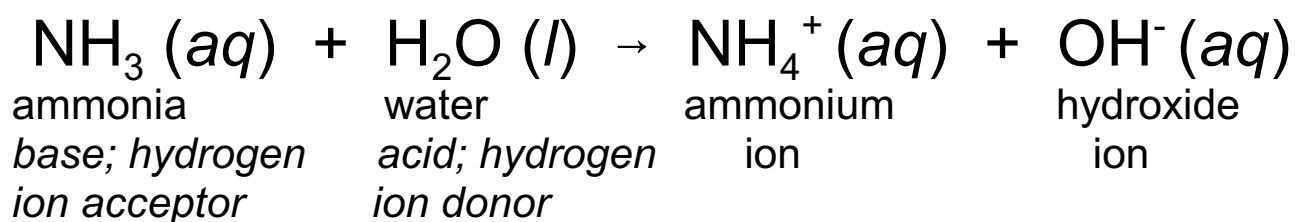
Triprotic acid- contain 3 ionizable hydrogens, e.g. H_3PO_4 , phosphoric acid.

Amphoteric- substance that can act as both an acid and a base, e.g. water.

Acid -Base Theories

Svante Arrhenius- acids yield H^+ ions and bases yield OH^- ions.

Johannes Brønsted - Thomas Lowry - acids are proton donors and bases are proton acceptors.



Gilbert Lewis

Acids accept electrons and bases donate electrons to form a covalent bond.

Acids accept e^- /donate p^+ & bases donate e^- /accept p^+ .

Concentration vs strength

Concentration is the amount of a substance dissolved in solution, while strength refers to how much is ionized and, therefore, able to react. Strong acids and bases ionize completely whereas weak acids and bases ionize only slightly.

Strong acids

HCl , HNO_3 , H_2SO_4

hydrochloric, nitric, sulfuric acids

Weak acids

CH_3COOH , H_2CO_3 , H_3BO_3

ethanoic, carbonic, boric acids

Strong bases

KOH, NaOH, Ca(OH)₂

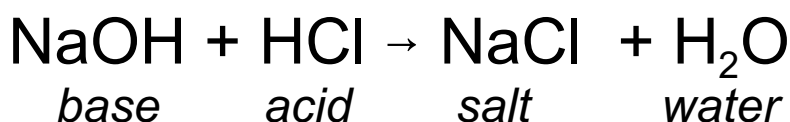
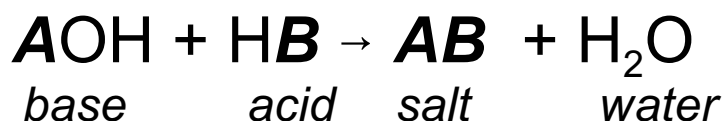
potassium, sodium, calcium
hydroxides

Weak bases

CH₃NH₂, NH₃, NaCN

methylamine, ammonia, sodium
cyanide

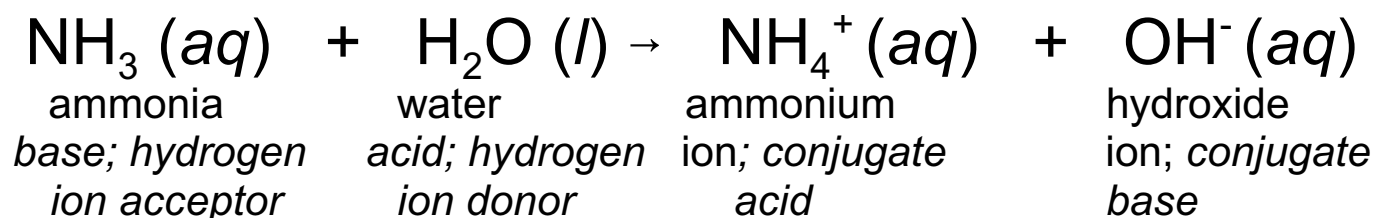
Neutralization reaction- an acid and base react to form a salt.



Conjugate acid- formed when a base gains a hydrogen ion.

Conjugate base- what is formed when an acid donates a hydrogen ion.

Conjugate acid-base pair- 2 substances related by the loss or gain of a single electron pair, e.g. H₂O and OH⁻.



Examples From the Flexbook

Sample Problem 21.1: Using K_w in an Aqueous Solution

Hydrochloric acid (HCl) is a strong acid, meaning that it is essentially 100% ionized in solution. What are the values of $[H^+]$ and $[OH^-]$ in a 2.0×10^{-3} M solution of HCl?

Step 1: List the known values and plan the problem.

Known

$$[HCl] = 2.0 \times 10^{-3} \text{ M}$$

$$K_w = 1.0 \times 10^{-14}$$

Unknown

$$[H^+] = ? \text{ M}$$

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

Because HCl is 100% ionized, the concentration of H^+ ions in solution will be equal to the original concentration of HCl. Each HCl molecule that was originally present ionizes into one H^+ ion and one Cl^- ion. The concentration of OH^- can then be determined from $[H^+]$ and K_w .

Step 2: Solve.

$$[H^+] = 2.0 \times 10^{-3} \text{ M}$$

$$K_w = [H^+][OH^-] = 1.0 \times 10^{-14}$$

$$[OH^-] = K_w/[H^+] = 1.0 \times 10^{-14} / 2.0 \times 10^{-3} = 5.0 \times 10^{-12} \text{ M}$$

Step 3: Think about your result.

$[H^+]$ is much higher than $[OH^-]$ because the solution is acidic.

Sample Problem 21.2: The pH of a Base

Sodium hydroxide is a strong base. Find the pH of a solution prepared by dissolving 1.0 g of NaOH into enough water to make 1.0 L of solution.

Step 1: List the known values and plan the problem.

Known

mass of NaOH = 1.0 g

molar mass of NaOH = 40.00 g/mol

volume of solution = 1.0 L

$K_w = 1.0 \times 10^{-14}$

Unknown

pH of solution = ?

First, convert the mass of NaOH to moles. Second, calculate the molarity of the NaOH solution. Because NaOH is a strong base and is soluble in water, all of the dissolved NaOH will be dissociated, so $[\text{OH}^-]$ will be equal to the calculated concentration of the NaOH. Third, use K_w to calculate the $[\text{H}^+]$ in the solution. Lastly, calculate the pH.

Step 2: Solve.

$1.0\text{g NaOH} \times 1 \text{ mol NaOH} / 40.00\text{g NaOH} = 0.025 \text{ mol NaOH}$

$\text{Molarity} = 0.025 \text{ mol NaOH} / 1.0 \text{ L} = 0.025 \text{ M NaOH} = 0.025 \text{ M OH}^-$

$[\text{H}^+] = K_w / [\text{OH}^-] = 1.0 \times 10^{-14} / 0.025\text{M} = 4.0 \times 10^{-13}\text{M}$

$\text{pH} = -\log[\text{H}^+] = -\log(4.0 \times 10^{-13}) = 12.40$

Step 3: Think about your result.

The solution is basic, so its pH is greater than 7. The reported pH is rounded to two decimal places because the original mass and volume each have two significant figures.

Sample Problem 21.3: Using pOH

Find the hydroxide concentration of a solution with a pH of 4.42.

Step 1: List the known values and plan the problem.

Known

$$\text{pH} = 4.42$$

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

Unknown

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

First, the pOH is calculated, followed by the $[\text{OH}^-]$.

Step 2: Solve.

$$\text{pOH} = 14 - \text{pH} = 14 - 4.42 = 9.58$$

$$[\text{OH}^-] = 10^{-\text{pOH}} = 10^{-9.58} = 2.6 \times 10^{-10} \text{ M}$$

*use '-9.58' and press 'shift + log' or '10^x'
depending on the calculator design*

Step 3: Think about your result.

The pH is that of an acidic solution, and the resulting hydroxide-ion concentration is less than $1 \times 10^{-7} \text{ M}$. The answer has two significant figures because the given pH has two decimal places.