



Acids & Bases



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Acids & Bases: Traditional Properties

Property	Acid	Base
Taste	Sour	Bitter
Feel	None	Slippery
Litmus	B → R	R → B
Phenolphthalein	Colorless	Magenta
With Carbonate	CO ₂ evolution	None
With "active" Metals	H ₂ evolution	None
With most metals	None	Water Insoluble



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Acids React With Blue Litmus



Blue litmus paper with a drop of acid here

"litmus test" (from lichens ... 1300 AD)
Blue → Red in Acid (BRA)



Acids react with carbonate ions:
 $2\text{H}^+(\text{aq}) + \text{CO}_3^{2-}(\text{aq}) \rightarrow \text{H}_2\text{O}(\text{l}) + \text{CO}_2(\text{g})$



Atmospheric CO₂ + H₂O → H₂CO₃
Dissolves Carbonates
A major erosion process

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Activity Series

Metals	Metal Ion	Reactivity
K	K ⁺	reacts with water
Ca	Ca ²⁺	
Na	Na ⁺	
Mg	Mg ²⁺	reacts with acids
Al	Al ³⁺	
Zn	Zn ²⁺	
Fe	Fe ²⁺	
Ni	Ni ²⁺	
Sn	Sn ²⁺	highly unreactive
Pb	Pb ²⁺	
H ₂	H ⁺	
Cu	Cu ²⁺	
Hg	Hg ²⁺	
Ag	Ag ⁺	
Pt	Pt ⁺	
Au	Au ³⁺	


Acids react with “active” metals:

$$2 \text{H}^+_{(\text{aq})} + \text{Zn} \rightarrow \text{Zn}^{++} + \text{H}_{2(\text{g})}$$


K, Ca, Na react with water:

$$2 \text{Na} + 2 \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow 2 \text{NaOH} + \text{H}_2$$

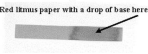
Mg, Al, Zn, Fe, Ni, Sn, Pb react with acids

$$\text{Zn} + \text{H}_2\text{SO}_4 \rightarrow \text{ZnSO}_4 + \text{H}_2$$


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Bases turn Red Litmus → Blue




Bases react with most metal ions:

$$2 \text{OH}^-_{(\text{aq})} + \text{M}^{2+} \rightarrow \text{M}(\text{OH})_{2(\text{s})}$$


Most metal hydroxides insoluble in water

Metal Hydroxide Pollution: costly to clean



Bases turn phenolphthalein magenta

Bitter taste plant survival factor



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pH Scale

Measurement of relative acidity

Determined by hydrogen ion concentration

Values commonly range between 0 – 14

pH < 7 → acidic




pH = 7 → neutral

pH > 7 → basic (alkaline)

Measured using

indicators (pH papers or solutions)

pH meter

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pH: A Measure of $[H^+]$ (Molar Concentration of H^+)


$[H^+]$	pH
1×10^{-1}	1
1×10^{-2}	2
1×10^{-3}	3
1×10^{-4}	4
1×10^{-5}	5
1×10^{-6}	6
1×10^{-7}	7
1×10^{-8}	8
1×10^{-9}	9
1×10^{-10}	10
1×10^{-11}	11
1×10^{-12}	12
1×10^{-13}	13
1×10^{-14}	14

$[H^+]$ (Acidity) increasing, pH decreasing

$[H^+] = 1 \times 10^{-pH}$

$pH = -\log [H^+]$

$[H^+]$ (Acidity) decreasing, pH increasing



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pH Scale

Focus of pH scale is the proton (acidity)

Strong acids: pH < 4 **Strong Bases: > pH 11**

Weak acids: pH 4-6 **Weak Bases: pH 8-11**

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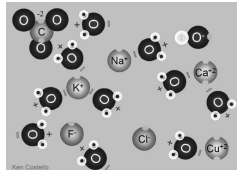
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Arrhenius Theory

1887 – Svante Arrhenius, Swedish Chemist
Doctoral Thesis on Electrolytes
Lowest possible grade
1903 – thesis earned Nobel Prize in Chemistry

Neither water, acids, nor salts conduct
Current only flows by ionization

Acids, special case of ionization
 $HA \rightarrow H^+ + A^-$

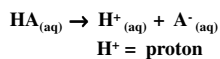


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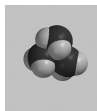
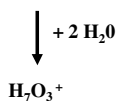
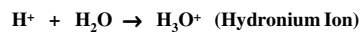
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Arrhenius Theory: Acids

Acid = substance that forms hydrogen ions in water solution



But, individual protons do NOT exist in water:



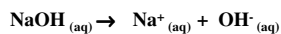
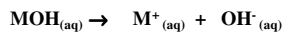
Arrhenius Acids form *hydronium ions* in solution

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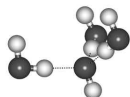
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Arrhenius Theory: Bases

Base = substance that forms hydroxide ions (OH^-) in water



Arrhenius Bases form *hydroxide ions* in solution

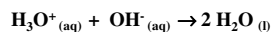


Hydroxide also hydrated (H_7O_4^-)

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Arrhenius Neutralization Reaction



Problems With Arrhenius

Acidic properties depend upon dissociation in aqueous solutions


Fails to predict behavior in non-polar solvents

Bases restricted to the OH^- ion




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Problems with Arrhenius Solved in 1923
Johanes Bronsted – Danish Chemist
Martin Lowry – English Chemist



Both simultaneously published ... so, name of both on the theory

Allows acids & bases in non-aqueous solutions

Allows bases other than hydroxide

Compound can be either an acid or base dependent on conditions

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Bronsted-Lowry Theory of Acids & Bases

$AH + B \rightleftharpoons BH^+ + A^-$

Acid = proton donor
Base = proton acceptor (Prime departure from Arrhenius)


Acid-Base reaction = proton transfer

Solvent can be non-aqueous
Bases do not have to have OH⁻

water can act as an acid or a base


$HCl + H_2O \rightarrow H_3O^+ + Cl^-$ (water a base)
 $NH_3 + H_2O \rightarrow NH_4^+ + OH^-$ (water an acid)


amphoteric = substance that can act as an acid or as a base





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An Amphoteric Ion



 H_3O^+
 hydronium ion



 HSO_4^-
 hydrogen sulfate ion



 H_2SO_4
 sulfuric acid



 H_2O
 water

\rightleftharpoons


 HSO_4^-
 hydrogen sulfate ion

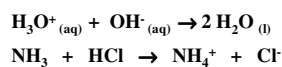

 OH^-
 hydroxide ion


 SO_4^{2-}
 sulfate ion


 H_2O
 water

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Bronsted-Lowry Neutralization Reactions



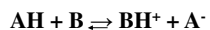
Arrhenius reactions are also Bronsted-Lowry Acid Base Reactions
But, non-aqueous Bronsted reactions cannot be Arrhenius



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Acid-Base: Conjugate Pairs



A = Acid (H donor) in forward reaction

B = Base (H acceptor) in forward reaction

BH⁺ = Conjugate Acid (H donor in reverse reaction)

A⁻ = Conjugate Base (H acceptor in reverse reaction)

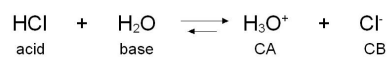
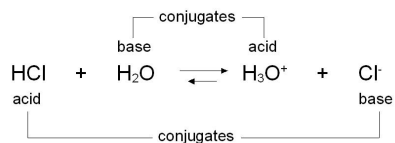
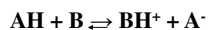


When asked to find these “conjugate” terms
“Follow the Protons”
‘cause
Conjugates differ only by a H⁺

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Acid-Base: Conjugate Pairs

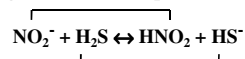


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What are the conjugate acid-base pairs:

A = Acid (H donor) in forward reaction
 B = Base (H acceptor) in forward reaction
 BH⁺ = Conjugate Acid (H donor in reverse reaction)
 A⁻ = Conjugate Base (H acceptor in reverse reaction)



A = Acid = H₂S
 B = Base = NO₂⁻
 BH⁺ = Conjugate Acid = HNO₂
 A⁻ = Conjugate Base = HS⁻

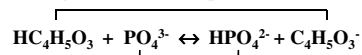


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What are the conjugate acid-base pairs:

A = Acid (H donor) in forward reaction
 B = Base (H acceptor) in forward reaction
 BH⁺ = Conjugate Acid (H donor in reverse reaction)
 A⁻ = Conjugate Base (H acceptor in reverse reaction)



A = Acid = HC₄H₅O₃
 B = Base = PO₄³⁻
 BH⁺ = Conjugate Acid = HPO₄²⁻
 A⁻ = Conjugate Base = C₄H₅O₃⁻

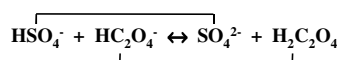


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What are the conjugate acid-base pairs:

A = Acid (H donor) in forward reaction
 B = Base (H acceptor) in forward reaction
 BH⁺ = Conjugate Acid (H donor in reverse reaction)
 A⁻ = Conjugate Base (H acceptor in reverse reaction)



A = Acid = HSO₄⁻
 B = Base = HC₂O₄⁻
 BH⁺ = Conjugate Acid = H₂C₂O₄
 A⁻ = Conjugate Base = SO₄²⁻



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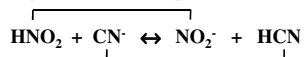
What are the conjugate acid-base pairs:

A = Acid (H donor) in forward reaction

B = Base (H acceptor) in forward reaction

BH⁺ = Conjugate Acid (H donor in reverse reaction)

A⁻ = Conjugate Base (H acceptor in reverse reaction)



A = Acid = HNO₂

B = Base = CN⁻

BH⁺ = Conjugate Acid = HCN

A⁻ = Conjugate Base = NO₂⁻



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Fill in the Blanks

Acid	Conjugate Base
HNO ₃	
	Br ⁻
H ₂ O	
	H ₂ O
	HPO ₄ ²⁻
HPO ₄ ²⁻	
	C ₂ H ₃ O ₂ ⁻

From any compound:

**To make conjugate Acid
Add H⁺**

**To make conjugate Base:
Subtract H⁺**

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Fill in the Blanks

Acid	Conjugate Base
HNO ₃	NO ₃ ⁻
HBr	Br ⁻
H ₂ O	OH ⁻
H ₃ O ⁺	H ₂ O
H ₂ PO ₄ ⁻	HPO ₄ ²⁻
HPO ₄ ²⁻	PO ₄ ³⁻
C ₂ H ₄ O ₂	C ₂ H ₃ O ₂ ⁻

From any compound:

**To make conjugate Acid
Add H⁺**

**To make conjugate Base:
Subtract H⁺**

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Bronsted-Lowry Theory:

strong acid = excellent proton donor (readily loses H^+)
 weak acid = poor proton donor (does not lose H^+ easily)
 strong base = very good proton acceptor (readily gains H^+)
 weak base = poor proton acceptor (does not gain H^+ easily)
 The stronger the attraction for H^+ , the stronger the base

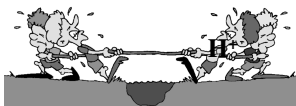
“Weak” or “Strong” is about “ H^+ attraction”

Strong Acid has Weak Conjugate Base

Weak Acid has Strong Conjugate Base

Strong Base has Weak Conjugate Acid

Weak Base has Strong Conjugate Acid

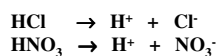


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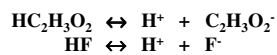
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Relative Strengths of Acids & Bases

“strong” acid or base: 100 % completely ionized



“weak” acid or base: < 100 % ionized, partially ionized



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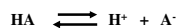
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pH & pK_a

pH = negative logarithm of $[H^+]$

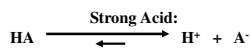
K_a = a measure of acidity based on dissociation:

pK_a = negative logarithm of K_a



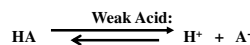
K_a = measure of acidity

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



Examples: HCl, HNO_3

Lots of $[HA]$ lowers K_a (acidity)



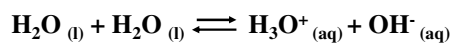
Example: Acetic Acid



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Auto-ionization (Self-Protolysis) of Water



At 25 °C:

$$[\text{H}^+] = 1 \times 10^{-7} \text{ M}$$

$$[\text{OH}^-] = 1 \times 10^{-7} \text{ M}$$

[] means Molar (moles / L) Concentration



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Ion-Product Constant for Water (K_w)

K_w = Product of $[\text{H}_3\text{O}^+]$ multiplied by $[\text{OH}^-]$

$$[\text{H}_3\text{O}^+][\text{OH}^-] = (1.0 \times 10^{-7})(1.0 \times 10^{-7}) = 1.0 \times 10^{-14}$$

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



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pH: A Measure of $[\text{H}^+]$ (Molar Concentration of H^+)

$[\text{H}^+] > [\text{OH}^-] \rightarrow$ acidic solution

$[\text{OH}^-] > [\text{H}^+] \rightarrow$ basic solution

$[\text{H}^+] = [\text{OH}^-] \rightarrow$ neutral solution

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



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Calculate $[\text{H}^+]$ for an aqueous solution at 25°C with a $[\text{OH}^-]$ of $1.0 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M}$; Is this solution acidic, neutral, or basic?

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

$$[\text{H}^+][1.0 \times 10^{-5}] = K_w = 1.0 \times 10^{-14}$$

$$[\text{H}^+][1.0 \times 10^{-5}] = 1.0 \times 10^{-14}$$

$$[\text{H}^+] = \frac{1.0 \times 10^{-14}}{[1.0 \times 10^{-5}]}$$

$$[\text{H}^+] = 1.0 \times 10^{-9}$$

$[\text{OH}^-] > [\text{H}^+] \rightarrow \text{basic solution}$



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Calculate pH of a solution with $[\text{H}^+]$ of $1.0 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M}$.

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

$$\text{pH} = -\log (1.0 \times 10^{-5})$$

$$\text{pH} = 5.00$$



Number of sig figs in the original number:
number of decimal places in the number after taking the log

Calculate pH of a solution with $[\text{H}^+]$ of $4.8 \times 10^{-3} \text{ M}$.

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

$$\text{pH} = -\log (4.8 \times 10^{-3})$$

$$\text{pH} = 2.32$$

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What is the $[\text{OH}^-]$ of a solution with a pOH of 7.43?

“p N” means $-\log$ of [N]

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

$$7.43 = -\log [\text{OH}^-] \quad (2 \text{ decimal places})$$

$$-7.43 = \log [\text{OH}^-]$$

$$[\text{OH}^-] = \text{anti-log } -7.43$$

$$[\text{OH}^-] = 3.71535 \times 10^{-8} \rightarrow 3.7 \times 10^{-8} \quad (2 \text{ sig figs})$$



Calculator function depends on keypad:

Anti-log = inverse log = $\text{inv} = 10^x = y^x$

Must try your calculator to validate keystrokes

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pH Scale

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

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

The pH of a solution is 8.23; what is the pOH?

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

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

$$\text{pOH} = 14 - 8.23$$

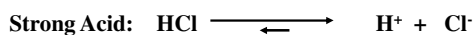
$$\text{pOH} = 5.77$$



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Calculate the pH of a 0.010M solution of HCl.



Strong Acid \rightarrow Assume $M = [\text{H}^+]$

$$[\text{H}^+] = 0.010\text{M} = 1.0 \times 10^{-2}\text{M}$$

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

$$\text{pH} = -\log (1.0 \times 10^{-2})$$

$$\text{pH} = 2.00$$



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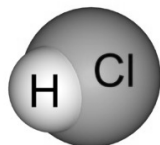
Acid	K_a (at 25°C)	Conjugate Base
Strongest Acid		
HI	10^{11}	I^-
HBr	10^9	Br^-
HClO_4	10^7	ClO_4^-
HCl	10^3	Cl^-
H_2SO_4	10^2	HSO_4^-
HNO_3	20	NO_3^-
H_3O^+	1	H_2O
H_2SO_3	1.5×10^{-3}	HSO_3^-
HSO_4^-	1.2×10^{-2}	SO_4^{2-}
H_3PO_4	7.5×10^{-3}	H_2PO_4^-
HF	7.2×10^{-4}	F^-
HNO_2	4.0×10^{-4}	NO_2^-
HCO_2H	1.8×10^{-4}	CO_2H^-
$\text{HC}_2\text{H}_3\text{O}_2$	1.8×10^{-5}	$\text{C}_2\text{H}_3\text{O}_2^-$
H_2CO_3	4.3×10^{-7}	HCO_3^-
HSO_3^-	1.0×10^{-7}	SO_3^{2-}
H_2S	9.1×10^{-8}	HS^-
HClO	3.5×10^{-8}	ClO^-
HBrO	2.0×10^{-9}	BrO^-
HCN	6.2×10^{-10}	CN^-
NH_4^+	5.6×10^{-10}	NH_3
HCO_3^-	4.8×10^{-11}	CO_3^{2-}
H_2O_2	2.4×10^{-12}	HO_2^-
Weakest Acid		
H_2O	1.0×10^{-14}	OH^-
		Strongest Base



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So, I gave that base a proton



Bases love protons

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