Acids, Bases and Salts

Acids

Acids furnish ${\rm H^+}$ ions or ${\rm H_3O^+}$ ions when dissolved in water. Acids have one or more replaceable H atoms

Arrhenius Concept of Acids

Acid is capable of producing hydrogen ion H⁺ by dissociating in aqueous solution. This reaction can be represented by

$$\underset{Acid}{HA(aq)} \longrightarrow \underset{Hydrogen\ Ion\ (proton)}{H^+(aq)} A^-(aq)$$

For example: Hydrochloric Acid (HCl)

$$HCl(aq) \longrightarrow H^+(aq) Cl^-(aq)$$

The proton or hydrogen ion binds itself to a water molecule to form a **hydronium ion** (H_3O^+)

$$\underset{\text{Hydrogen Ion (proton)}}{\text{H}^+} + \underset{\text{Water}}{\text{H}_2O} \longrightarrow \underset{\text{Hydronium Ion}}{\text{H}_3O^+}$$

The **hydronium ion** is also known as **oxonium ion** or **hydroxonium ion**.

The first equation can be rewritten as

$$HA(aq) + H_2O \longrightarrow H_3O^+(aq)A^-(aq)$$

Note: H⁺ ions are protons.

- Acids generally have sour taste.
- Acids change Blue litmus Red.
- They are colorless with **phenolphthalein** and pink with **methyl orange**.
- Acids show acidic nature in their aqueous form.

Classification of Acids

- Based on Source:
 - Organic Acids are present in plants and animals (living beings).

Eg: HCOOH (Formic Acid), CH₃COOH (Acetic Acid)

- Inorganic Acids are found from rocks and minerals.

Eg: HCl (Hydrochloric Acid), HNO₃ (Nitric Acid), H₂SO₄ (Sulphuric Acid)

- Based on their Basicity Basicity = The number of H atoms replaceable by a base in a particular acid.
 - Monabasic Acid gives one H⁺ ion per molecule of the acid in solution.

Eg: HCl, HNO₃

- **Dibasic Acid** gives two H⁺ ions per molecule of the acid in the solution.

Eg: H₂SO₄, H₂CO₃

- Tribasic Acid gives three H⁺ ions per molecule of the acid in the solution.

Eg: H₃PO₄

• Based on Ionisation

- Strong Acids ionise completely in water.

Eg: HCl

- Weak Acids ionise partially in water.

Eg: CH₃COOH

• Based on Concentration

- Concentrated Acid has a relatively high percentage of acid in its aqueous solution
- Dilute Acid has a relatively low percentage of acid in its aqueous solution.