# **ACIDS and BASES**

LESSON 1

# **THEORIES OF ACIDS AND BASES**

# **ARRHENIUS THEORY**

• ACIDS are substances which produce H + ions in solution. Acids may be :

molecules:

$$HCl_{(g)} \rightarrow H^+_{(aq)} + Cl^-_{(aq)}$$

anions:

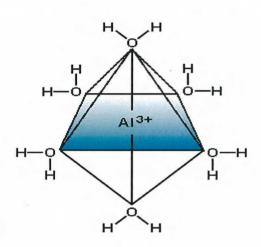
$$HSO_4^-(aq) \Leftrightarrow H^+(aq) + SO_4^{2-}(aq)$$

cations:

$$NH_4 \stackrel{+}{}_{(aq)} \quad \Leftrightarrow \ NH_{3(aq)} \ + \ H^+{}_{(aq)}$$

OR

$$Al^{3+} \implies [Al (H_2O)_6]^{3+} \Leftrightarrow [Al (H_2O)_5OH]^{2+} + H^+ [EXTENSION]$$



- BASES are substances that produce OH<sup>-</sup> in aqueous solution, in one of the following ways:
- (i) dissociation of ions of an ionic hydroxide:

NaOH 
$$\rightarrow$$
 Na<sup>+</sup> + OH<sup>-</sup>

(ii) ionisation of some molecules and anions:

$$NH_3 + H_2O \Leftrightarrow NH_4^+ + OH^-$$

$$CO_3^{2-} + H_2O \Leftrightarrow HCO_3^{-} + OH^{-}$$

(iii) insoluble ionic compounds that REACT with acids are also called bases:

NB: Soluble bases are termed ALKALIS.

## **LOWRY-BRONSTED THEORY**

• An **ACID** is a **PROTON DONOR** (H<sup>+</sup>). An acid-base reaction is a proton transfer reaction as opposed to a redox reaction which is an electron transfer reaction.

$$HCl + H_2O \rightarrow H_3O^+ + Cl^-$$
Acid Base

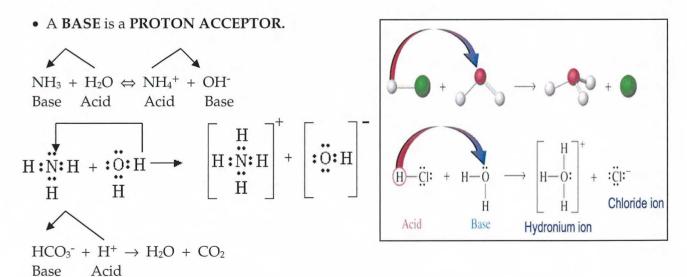
 $H + + : O: H$ 
 $H : O: H$ 
 $H : O: H$ 

• Many proton transfer reactions can proceed in both the forward and reverse direction and are thus examples of "equilibrium" processes. When this occurs to any extent the products of the forward reaction become the reactants for the reverse reaction and can also be classified as acid or base.

$$HCO_3^- + OH^- \Leftrightarrow CO_3^{2^-} + H_2O$$
  
Acid Base Base Acid

• The acid on the left hand side is *transformed* into a base on the right hand side of the reaction and vice versa. This acid and its corresponding base are referred to as a CONJUGATE ACID/BASE PAIR. The base on the left hand side and its corresponding acid on the right would form a CONJUGATE BASE/ACID PAIR.

$$\Rightarrow$$
 CONJUGATE PAIRS : Acid / Base = HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> / CO<sub>3</sub><sup>2</sup>-  
Base/ Acid = OH<sup>-</sup> / H<sub>2</sub>O



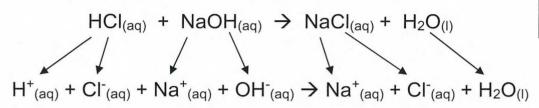
• Some substances such as  $HCO_3^-$  can be seen to act as **BOTH** acid and base in different circumstances. These substances are said to be "**AMPHOTERIC**" or "**AMPHIPROTIC**".

# **PROPERTIES OF ACIDS**

- 1. They have a sour taste.
- 2. They conduct electricity; some are strong electrolytes and some are weak electrolytes.



- 3. They turn universal pink and blue litmus red.
- 4. They react with bases **NEUTRALISATION** Reaction:



MOLECULAR EQUATION

$$H^{+}_{(aq)} + CI^{-}_{(aq)} + Na^{+}_{(aq)} + OH^{-}_{(aq)} \rightarrow Na^{+}_{(aq)} + CI^{-}_{(aq)} + H_{2}O_{(I)}$$

TRUE SPECIES

$$H^{+}_{(aq)} + OH^{-}_{(aq)} \rightarrow H_2O_{(I)}$$

IONIC EQUATION

5. They react with **CARBONATES**,  $CO_{2}$  (g) is given off:



$$2HNO_{3 (aq)} + Li_{2}CO_{3(aq)} \rightarrow 2LiNO_{3(aq)} + H_{2}O_{(l)} + CO_{2(g)}$$

$$2H^{+}_{(aq)} + 2NO_{3 (aq)} + 2Li^{+}_{(aq)} + CO_{3}^{2-}_{(aq)} \rightarrow 2Li^{+}_{(aq)} + 2NO_{3 (aq)} + H_{2}O_{(l)} + CO_{2(g)}$$

$$TRUE$$

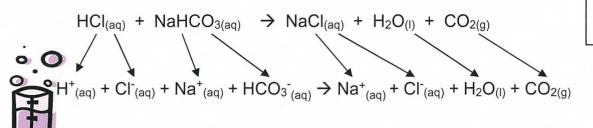
 $2H^{+}_{(aq)} + 2NQ_{3}^{-}_{(aq)} + 2Li^{+}_{(aq)} + CO_{3}^{2-}_{(aq)} \rightarrow 2Li^{+}_{(aq)} + 2NQ_{3}^{-}_{(aq)} + H_{2}O_{(l)} + CO_{2(g)}$ 

$$2H^{+}_{(aq)} + CO_{3}^{2-}_{(aq)} \rightarrow CO_{2(g)} + H_{2}O_{(I)}$$

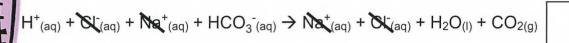
IONIC EQUATION

**SPECIES** 

6. They react with **BICARBONATES**, CO<sub>2</sub> (g) is given off:



MOLECULAR EQUATION

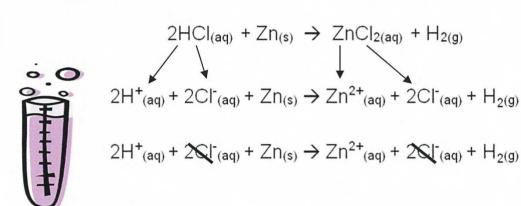


TRUE SPECIES

$$H^{+}_{(aq)} + HCO_{3}^{-}_{(aq)} \rightarrow CO_{2(g)} + H_{2}O_{(I)}$$

IONIC EQUATION

7. They react with *reactive* **METALS** to release H<sub>2</sub> gas:



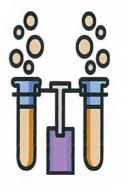
MOLECULAR EQUATION

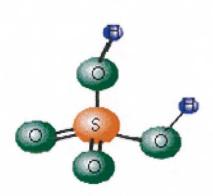
> TRUE SPECIES

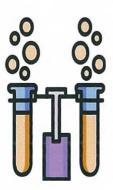
$$2H^{+}_{(aq)} + Zn_{(s)} \rightarrow Zn^{2+}_{(aq)} + H_{2(g)}$$

IONIC EQUATION

$$ightharpoonup Cu_{(s)} + H_2SO_{4(aq)} \rightarrow No Reaction$$







8. The **OXIDISING** acids react with metals to release NO(g), \* $NO_2(g)$  or \* $SO_2(g)$ :

$$3 Cu_{(s)} + 8HNO_{3(aq)} \rightarrow 3 Cu(NO_3)_{2 (aq)} + 2NO_{(g)} + 4H_2O_{(l)}$$

$$3 Cu_{(s)} + 8H^{+}_{(aq)} + 8NO_{3^{-}(aq)} \rightarrow 3 Cu^{2+}_{(aq)} + 6NO_{3^{-}(aq)} + 2NO_{(g)} + 4H_2O_{(l)}$$

$$3 Cu_{(s)} + 8H^{+}_{(aq)} + 28NO_{3^{-}(aq)} \rightarrow 3 Cu^{2+}_{(aq)} + 6NO_{3^{-}(aq)} + 2NO_{(g)} + 4H_2O_{(l)}$$

$$3 Cu_{(s)} + 8H^{+}_{(aq)} + 2NO_{3^{-}(aq)} \rightarrow 3 Cu^{2+}_{(aq)} + 6NO_{3^{-}(aq)} + 2NO_{(g)} + 4H_2O_{(l)}$$

$$1 Cu_{(s)} + 2NO_{3^{-}(aq)} + 8H^{+}_{(aq)} \rightarrow 3 Cu^{2+}_{(aq)} + 2NO_{(g)} + 4H_2O_{(l)}$$

$$1 Cu_{(s)} + 2NO_{3^{-}(aq)} + 8H^{+}_{(aq)} \rightarrow 3 Cu^{2+}_{(aq)} + 2NO_{(g)} + 4H_2O_{(l)}$$

$$1 Cu_{(s)} + 2NO_{3^{-}(aq)} + 8H^{+}_{(aq)} \rightarrow 3 Cu^{2+}_{(aq)} + 2NO_{(g)} + 4H_2O_{(l)}$$

$$1 Cu_{(s)} + 2NO_{3^{-}(aq)} + 8H^{+}_{(aq)} \rightarrow 3 Cu^{2+}_{(aq)} + 2NO_{(g)} + 4H_2O_{(l)}$$

$$1 Cu_{(s)} + 2NO_{3^{-}(aq)} + 8H^{+}_{(aq)} \rightarrow 3 Cu^{2+}_{(aq)} + 2NO_{(g)} + 4H_2O_{(l)}$$

$$1 Cu_{(s)} + 2NO_{3^{-}(aq)} + 8H^{+}_{(aq)} \rightarrow 3 Cu^{2+}_{(aq)} + 2NO_{(g)} + 4H_2O_{(l)}$$

\* Extension

$$Cu_{(s)} \ + \ 4HNO_{3}{}^{(aq)} \ \rightarrow \ Cu(NO_{3})_{\ 2} \, {}^{(aq)} \ + \ 2NO_{2} \, {}^{(g)} \ + \ 2H_{2}O \, {}^{(l)}$$

$$Sn_{(s)} + 2 H_2 SO_{4^{(aq)}} \rightarrow SnSO_{4^{(aq)}} + SO_{2^{(g)}} + 2H_2O_{(l)}$$

➤ Acids react with ETHANOATES (CH₃COO-) to produce a SALT and ETHANOIC ACID giving off a "Vinegar" odour.

$$NaCH_3COO_{(s)} + H^+_{(aq)} \rightarrow Na^+_{(aq)} + CH_3COOH_{(aq)}$$

Acids react with SULFIDES (S<sup>2-</sup>) to produce a SALT and HYDROGEN SULFIDE (H<sub>2</sub>S) which is a foul smelling gas known as "Rotten Egg Gas".

$$2H^{+}_{(aq)} + S^{2-}_{(aq)} \rightarrow H_{2}S_{(g)}$$

Acids react with SULFITES ( $SO_3^{2-}$ ) to produce a SALT and SULFUR DIOXIDE ( $SO_2$ ) gas which is an industrial pollutant and contributing factor to "Acid Rain".

$$2{H^{+}}_{_{(aq)}} \ + \ SO_{3}{^{2}}_{_{(aq)}} \ \rightarrow \ SO_{2_{(g)}} \ + \ H_{2}O_{_{(l)}}$$



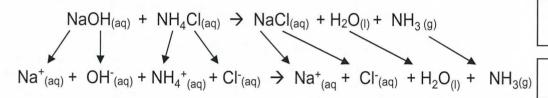
# **PROPERTIES OF BASES**

- 1. They have a slippery feel.
- 2. They conduct electricity.
- 3. They react with acids NEUTRALISATION.
- 4. They cause universal to turn purple and red litmus to turn blue.



Battery HCI lemon juice acid black urine pure sea baking ammonia soapy bleach Drain acid in vinegar rain coffee water water soda solution water oven cleaner acid orange juice

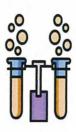
# 5. They react with AMMONIUM SALTS to produce WATER and AMMONIA.



MOLECULAR EQUATION

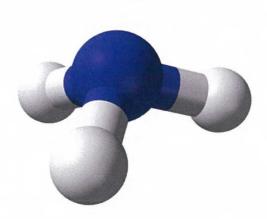
> TRUE SPECIES

$$Na_{(aq)}^{+} + OH_{(aq)}^{-} + NH_{4(aq)}^{+} + OI_{(aq)}^{-} \rightarrow Na_{(aq)}^{+} + CI_{(aq)}^{-} + H_{2}O_{(I)}^{-} + NH_{3(g)}^{-}$$



$$OH_{(aq)}^{-} + NH_{4(aq)}^{+} \rightarrow H_2O_{(I)} + NH_{3(g)}$$







# **NEUTRALISATION**

• Any time a basic substance reacts with an acid reducing its acidity we say that it has been neutralised. The most common examples are when an acid reacts with a hydroxide base :

## **AUTOIONISATION OF WATER**

$$H_2O \xrightarrow{\rightarrow} H^+ + OH^ K = \underbrace{[H^+][OH^-]}_{[H_2O]}$$
 $H_2O = H$ 
 $H_2O = H$ 
 $H_2O = H$ 

 $[H_2O] = 55.5 \text{ M (constant)} \Rightarrow \text{Taken as "1" and cancelled!}$ 

$$\therefore K_w = [H^+][OH^-] = (10^{-7})(10^{-7}) = \underline{10^{-14}}(at 25^0 C)$$

NB: In ALL aqueous solutions  $K_w$  will always be  $10^{-14}$  irrespective of what is dissolved in the water!

#### **Calculations:**

(i) Calculate [H+] and [OH-] in 0.01 M HCl

$$[H^+] = 10^{-2} M$$

$$[H^+] [OH^-] = 10^{-14}$$

$$\therefore [OH^-] = \frac{10^{-14}}{10^{-2}} = \frac{10^{-12} M}{10^{-2}}$$



(b) Calculate  $[H^+]$  and  $[OH^-]$  in a mixture of 100 mL of 0.1 M HCl and 50 mL of 0.1 M NaOH. Volumes are **ADDITIVE**.

$$HCl + NaOH \rightarrow NaCl + H_2O$$
  
 $1 \text{ mole} + 1 \text{ mole}$   
 $n(HCl)_{\text{in } 100 \text{ mL} . 0.1 \text{ M}} = CV = 0.1 \times 0.1 = 0.01 \text{ mol}$ 

 $n(NaOH)_{in 50 \text{ mL } 0.1 \text{ M}} = CV = 0.1 \times 0.05 = 0.005 \text{ mol}$ 

If all HCl is used 
$$\Rightarrow$$
 n(NaOH) = n(HCl)  
= 0.01 mol

\*We have only 0.005 mol of NaOH
∴ NaOH is the **LIMITING REACTANT!** 

$$\therefore n(HCl)_{used} = n(NaOH)$$

$$= \underline{0.005 \text{ mol}}$$

$$\therefore n(HCl)_{remaining} = TOTAL - n(HCl)_{used}$$

$$= 0.01 - 0.005$$

$$= \underline{0.005 \text{ mol}}$$

$$\therefore$$
 [H<sup>+</sup>] = [HCl] =  $\frac{n}{V}$  =  $\frac{0.005}{0.150}$  =  $\frac{0.0333 \text{ M}}{0.150}$ 

$$\Rightarrow [H^+] = 3.33 \times 10^{-2} \,\text{M}$$

$$[H^+] [OH^-] = 10^{-14}$$

$$\therefore [OH^-] = \underline{10^{-14}}_{3.33 \times 10^{-2}} = \underline{3.00 \times 10^{-13} \,\text{M}}_{3.33 \times 10^{-2}}$$



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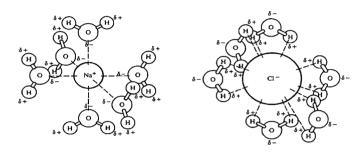
# **ACIDS and BASES**

LESSON 2

# **STRONG ACIDS**

• Most strong acids are covalent molecular species and therefore are not composed of ions. Through the process of \*IONISATION which involves their REACTION with WATER (another molecule) ions may be created through proton transfer.

\* Ionisation contrasts with the process of **DISSOCIATION** which involves *already existing ions* in an ionic compound simply separating as water surrounds and **HYDRATES** each type of ion :



• A STRONG ACID is one that IONISES FULLY in aqueous solution. There are no molecules left unionised. eg:  $H_2SO_4$ , HCl or HNO<sub>3</sub>.

$$HCl + H_2O \rightarrow H_3O^+ + Cl^-$$

$$HNO_3 + H_2O \rightarrow H_3O^+ + NO_3^-$$



#### **REACTIONS WITH CARBONATES:**

$$2 \text{ HCl}_{(aq)} + \text{Na}_2 \text{CO}_{3 (aq)} \rightarrow 2 \text{ NaCl}_{(aq)} + \text{H}_2 \text{O}_{(l)} + \text{CO}_{2 (g)}$$
 (Molecular Equation)

$$\Rightarrow 2H^{+}_{(aq)} + CO_{3}^{2}_{(aq)} \rightarrow H_{2}O_{(1)} + CO_{2}_{(g)}$$

(Ionic Equation)

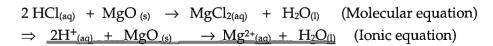
#### **REACTIONS WITH METALS:**

$$Zn_{(s)} + 2 HCl_{(aq)} \rightarrow ZnCl_{2(aq)} + H_{2(g)}$$
 (Molecular Equation)

$$\Rightarrow Zn_{(s)} + 2H^{+}_{(aq)} \rightarrow Zn^{2+}_{(aq)} + H_{2(g)}$$
 (Ionic Equation)

# REACTIONS WITH BASES: (Metal Hydroxides and oxides)

$$HCl_{(aq)} + NaOH_{(aq)} \rightarrow NaCl_{(aq)} + H_2O_{(l)}$$
 (Molecular equation)   
  $\Rightarrow H^+_{(aq)} + OH^-_{(aq)} \rightarrow H_2O_{(l)}$  (Ionic equation)





# **WEAK ACIDS**

• A WEAK ACID is one that DOES NOT IONISE FULLY in aqueous solution. The ionisation reaction is an equilibrium process where both the forward and reverse reactions are occurring all the time. There will be a certain amount of both the reactants and the products in the solution at any one time.



• In general, in weak acid solutions, the major chemical species present (apart from water) is the unionised acid molecule. For this reason the equilibrium reaction are said to "favour" the left hand side. When writing ionic equations involving weak acids we always write the FULL MOLECULAR SPECIES rather than simplifying them to H +.

CH<sub>3</sub>COOH + H<sub>2</sub>O 
$$\Leftrightarrow$$
 CH<sub>3</sub>COO  $^-$  + H<sub>3</sub>O  $^+$ 
H<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> + H<sub>2</sub>O  $\Leftrightarrow$  HCO<sub>3</sub>  $^-$  + H<sub>3</sub>O  $^+$ 
NH<sub>4</sub>  $^+$  + H<sub>2</sub>O  $\Leftrightarrow$  NH<sub>3</sub> + H<sub>3</sub>O  $^+$ 

\* These equations are commonly abbreviated:  $CH_3COOH \Leftrightarrow CH_3COO - + H^+$   $H_2CO_3 \Leftrightarrow HCO_3 - + H^+$   $NH_4 + \Leftrightarrow NH_3 + H^+$ 

#### **REACTIONS WITH CARBONATES:**

 $2~CH_3COOH_{(aq)}~+Na_2CO_{3~(aq)}~\rightarrow 2~NaCH_3COO~_{(aq}+H_2O_{(l)}~+CO_{2~(g)}~~(Molecular~Equation)$ 

 $\Rightarrow 2 CH_3COOH_{(aq)} + CO_3^{2-}_{(aq)} \rightarrow CH_3COO^{-} + H_2O_{(1)} + CO_{2-(g)}$  (Ionic Equation)

#### **REACTIONS WITH METALS:**

$$Zn_{\,(s)} \,\,+\,\, H_2CO_{3\,\,(aq)} \quad \rightarrow \quad ZnCO_{3\,\,(s)} \,\,+\, H_{2\,(g)} \quad \, (Molecular \,\, Equation)$$

$$\Rightarrow \underline{Zn_{(s)} + H_2CO_3_{(aq)}} \rightarrow \underline{ZnCO_3_{(s)} + H_2_{(g)}} \quad \text{(Ionic Equation)}$$



# REACTIONS WITH BASES: (Metal Hydroxides and oxides)

| Name of Acid             | Acid  | Ka                    |   |           |
|--------------------------|---|-----------------------|---|-----------|
| Sulfuric acid            | H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>                  | large                 | 7 | omp on to |
| Hydrochloric acid        | HC1   | large                 | _ | STRONG    |
| Nitric acid              | HNO <sub>3</sub>                                | large                 |   | ACIDS     |
| Hydronium ion            | H <sub>3</sub> O <sup>+</sup>                   | 55.5                  | ) |           |
| Hydrogen sulfate ion     | HŠO <sub>4</sub> -                              | $1.2 \times 10^{-2}$  |   |           |
| Phosphoric acid          | H <sub>3</sub> PO <sub>4</sub>                  | $7.5 \times 10^{-3}$  |   |           |
| Hexaaquairon(III) ion    | Fe(H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>6</sub> 3+            | $6.3 \times 10^{-3}$  |   |           |
| Hydrofluoric acid        | HF  | $7.4 \times 10^{-4}$  |   |           |
| Formic acid              | HCO <sub>2</sub> H                              | $1.8 \times 10^{-4}$  |   |           |
| Benzoic acid             | С <sub>6</sub> Н <sub>5</sub> СО <sub>2</sub> Н | $6.3 \times 10^{-5}$  |   |           |
| Acetic acid              | CH3CO2H   | $1.8 \times 10^{-5}$  |   | 11/       |
| Hexaaquaaluminum ion     | Α1 (H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>6</sub> 3+           | $7.9 \times 10^{-6}$  |   |           |
| Carbonic acid            | H <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>                  | $4.2 \times 10^{-7}$  |   |           |
| Hydrogen sulfide         | H <sub>2</sub> S                                | 1 × 10 <sup>-7</sup>  |   |           |
| Dihydrogen phosphate ion | H <sub>2</sub> PO <sub>4</sub> -                | $6.2 \times 10^{-8}$  |   |           |
| Hypochlorous acid        | нсто  | $3.5 \times 10^{-8}$  | 1 |           |
| Ammonium ion             | NH <sub>4</sub> +                               | $5.6 \times 10^{-10}$ |   |           |
| Hydrocyanic acid         | HCN   | $4.0 \times 10^{-10}$ |   | 9 7 0     |
| Hexaaquairon(II)ion      | $Fe(H_2O)_6^{2+}$                               | $3.2 \times 10^{-10}$ |   |           |
| Hydrogen carbonate ion   | HCO3-   | $4.8 \times 10^{-11}$ |   |           |
| Hydrogen phosphate ion   | HPO42-  | $3.6 \times 10^{-13}$ |   |           |
| Water                    | H <sub>2</sub> O                                | $1.8 \times 10^{-16}$ |   |           |
| Hydrogen sulfide ion     | HS-   | $1 \times 10^{-19}$   |   |           |

\* A small number such as the  $K_a$  of Hydrocyanic acid tells us that this weak acid is indeed very weak. This means that there is only a very low concentration of ions in the solution at any one time. There is a greater concentration of unionized reactants.

#### **STRONG BASES**

• Many STRONG BASES are ionic hydroxides and are able to DISSOCIATE FULLY to produce hydroxide ions. It is rare for a covalent molecule to be basic, but if it were a strong base, it would ionise fully as would any strongly basic ion in solution.

NaOH 
$$\rightarrow$$
 Na<sup>+</sup> + OH<sup>-</sup>  
KOH  $\rightarrow$  K<sup>+</sup> + OH<sup>-</sup>

• All metal oxides are classified as strong bases due to the ionisation reaction of any aqueous oxide ions with water:

Dissociation
$$CaO + H_2O \rightarrow Ca^{2+} + *O^{2-}$$

$$Ionisation$$

$$*O^{2-} + H_2O \rightarrow 2OH^{-}$$

$$\Rightarrow CaO_{(s)} + H_2O_{(1)} \rightarrow Ca^{2+}_{(aq)} + 2OH^{-}_{(aq)}$$



## **WEAK BASES**

• A WEAK BASE is one that DOES NOT IONISE FULLY in aqueous solution. The ionisation reaction is an equilibrium process where both the forward and reverse reactions are occurring all the time. There will be a certain amount of both the reactants and the products in the solution at any one time.

$$NH_3 + H_2O \Leftrightarrow NH_4^+ + OH^ CO_3^{2-} + H_2O \Leftrightarrow HCO_3^- + OH^-$$

| Name of Base                  | Base   | K <sub>b</sub><br>very small |  |
|-------------------------------|--|------------------------------|--|
| hydrogen sulfate ion          | HSO <sub>4</sub> -                                 |                              |  |
| chloride ion                  | C1-  | very small                   |  |
| nitrate ion                   | NO <sub>3</sub> -                                  | very small                   |  |
| water                         | H <sub>2</sub> O                                   | $1.8 \times 10^{-16}$        |  |
| sulfate ion                   | SO <sub>4</sub> 2-                                 | $8.3 \times 10^{-13}$        |  |
| dihydrogen phosphate ion      | H <sub>2</sub> PO <sub>4</sub> -                   | $1.3 \times 10^{-12}$        |  |
| pentaaquahydroxoiron(III) ion | Fe(H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>5</sub> OH <sup>2+</sup> | $1.6 \times 10^{-12}$        |  |
| fluoride ion                  | F-   | $1.4 \times 10^{-11}$        |  |
| formate ion                   | HCO <sub>2</sub> -                                 | $5.6 \times 10^{-11}$        |  |
| benzoate ion                  | C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> -    | $1.6 \times 10^{-10}$        |  |
| acetate ion                   | CH <sub>3</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> -                  | $5.6 \times 10^{-10}$        |  |
| pentaaquahydroxoaluminum ion  | A1(H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>5</sub> OH <sup>2+</sup> | $1.3 \times 10^{-9}$         |  |
| hydrogen carbonate ion        | HCO3T  | $2.4 \times 10^{-8}$         |  |
| hydrogen sulfide ion          | HS <sup>-</sup>                                    | $1 \times 10^{-7}$           |  |
| hydrogen phosphate ion        | HPO <sub>4</sub> 2-                                | $1.6 \times 10^{-7}$         |  |
| hypochlorite ion              | C10-   | $2.9 \times 10^{-7}$         |  |
| ammonia                       | NH <sub>3</sub>                                    | $1.8 \times 10^{-5}$         |  |
| cyanide ion                   | CN <sup>-</sup>                                    | $2.5 \times 10^{-5}$         |  |
| pentaaquahydroxoiron(II) ion  | Fe(H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>5</sub> OH <sup>+</sup>  | $3.1 \times 10^{-5}$         |  |
| carbonate ion                 | CO3 <sup>2-</sup>                                  | $2.1 \times 10^{-4}$         |  |
| phosphate ion                 | PO <sub>4</sub> 3-                                 | $2.8 \times 10^{-2}$         |  |
| hydroxide ion                 | OH-  | 55.5                         |  |
| sulfide ion                   | S2-  | $1 \times 10^{5}$            |  |



\* A small number such as the  $K_b$  of sulfate ion tells us that this weak base is indeed very weak. This means that there is only a very low concentration of ions in the solution at any one time. There is a greater concentration of unionized reactants.

# RELATIVE STRENGTHS OF WEAK ACIDS AND BASES (EXTENSION)

• To gain an idea of how weak a weak acid or base is, we compare the relative amounts of the *products* of ionisation with the remaining unionised *reactants*. We construct a fraction known as the "Equilibrium Constant" in which we divide the concentration of the products by the concentration of the reactants. If there are more than one reactant or product we multiply their concentrations together.

**NB:** The concentration of water is a constant and is assumed to be "1" so that it may be left out. In reality  $[H_2O] \sim 55.5 \text{ M}$  (1 Litre of  $H_2O = 1,000g = 1,000/18 = 55.5 \text{ molL}^{-1}$ )

#### **WEAK ACID:**

$$HCN + H_2O \Leftrightarrow H_3O^+ + CN^-$$

$$K = [Products] = [H_3O^+][CN^-] = \underline{4.0 \times 10^{-10}}$$
  
[Reactants] [HCN]

NB: As this "K" value is for the ionisation of a weak acid we refer to it as Ka.

- \* We often abbreviate H<sub>3</sub>O + to H + to simplify these expressions further!
- \* A small number such as the K<sub>a</sub> of Cyanic acid tells us that this weak acid is indeed very weak as there is only a very low concentration of ions in the solution at any one time. There is a greater concentration of unionised reactants.
- The BIGGER the Ka the STRONGER the WEAK ACID and vice versa.

eg: 
$$CH_3COOH + H_2O \Leftrightarrow H_3O^+ + CH_3COO^-$$

$$K_a = \underline{[Products]} = \underline{[H_3O^+][CH_3COO^-]} = \underline{1.8 \times 10^{-5}}$$
  
 $[Reactants]$   $[CH_3COOH]$ 

: Ethanoic acid is a stronger weak acid than Cyanic acid!



# WEAK BASE:

- The principal of "K" expressions can also be extended to weak bases to gain a measure of which is the stronger weak base.
- The **BIGGER** the **K**<sub>b</sub> the **STRONGER** the **WEAK BASE** and vice versa.

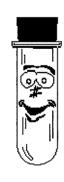
$$NH_3 + H_2O \Leftrightarrow NH_4^+ + OH^-$$

$$K_b = \underline{[Products]} = \underline{[NH_4 +][OH -]} = \underline{1.8 \times 10^{-5}}$$
  
[Reactants] [NH<sub>3</sub>]

$$SO_4^{2-} + H_2O \Leftrightarrow HSO_4^{-} + OH^{-}$$

$$K_b = \underline{[Products]} = \underline{[HSO_4^-][OH^-]} = \underline{8.3 \times 10^{-13}}$$

$$[Reactants] \qquad [SO_4^{2^-}]$$



:. Ammonia is a far stronger weak base than sulphate ions!



# **ACIDS and BASES**

LESSON 3

## **DIPROTIC AND TRIPROTIC ACIDS**

- An acid molecule or ion that has more than one hydrogen atom that is *ionisable* is termed a *multiprotic* acid. An acid with a single ionisable hydrogen is said to be **MONOPROTIC**, while one with *two* is **DIPROTIC** and in turn one with *three* is TRIPROTIC.
- The ionisation of multiprotic acids always occurs in separate stages where the strength of each subsequent ionisation always diminishes. The first stage ionisation is always stronger than the second and the second is always stronger than the third.

 $HC1 + H_2O \rightarrow H_3O^+ + C1^-$ 

(A STRONG MONOPROTIC ACID)

 $CH_3COOH + H_2O \Leftrightarrow CH_3COO^- + H_3O^+$  (A WEAK MONOPROTIC ACID)

 $H_2SO_4 + H_2O \rightarrow H_3O^+ + HSO_4$  (1 st IONISATION OF A STRONG DIPROTIC ACID)

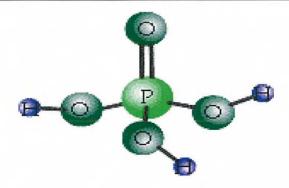
\*  $HSO_4^- + H_2O \Leftrightarrow H_3O^+ + SO_4^{2-}$  (2<sup>nd</sup> IONISATION OF A STRONG DIPROTIC ACID)

- The reason this acid is termed strong is that the  $1^{st}$  ionisation is complete even though the  $2^{nd}$  is only partial. The second ionisation being, an equilibrium, will have an associated Ka value.
- The number of ionisable hydrogens *does not* give a measure of strength only the degree of ionisation at any one stage is important. Phosphoric acid (H<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>) is a triprotic acid but is weaker than H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, a diprotic acid. All stages of the ionisation of Phosphoric acid are weak and have associated Ka values which decrease progressively.

 $H_3PO_4 + H_2O \Leftrightarrow H_3O^+ + H_2PO_4^-$  (1<sup>st</sup> IONISATION OF A WEAK TRIPROTIC ACID)

 $H_2PO_4^- + H_2O \Leftrightarrow H_3O^+ + HPO_4^2^-$  (2<sup>nd</sup> IONISATION OF A WEAK TRIPROTIC ACID)

 $HPO_4^{2-} + H_2O \Leftrightarrow H_3O^+ + PO_4^{3-}$  (3<sup>rd</sup> IONISATION OF A WEAK TRIPROTIC ACID)  $K_{a1} > K_{a2} > K_{a3}$ 

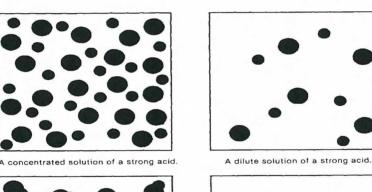


# **ACIDS and BASES**

LESSON 4

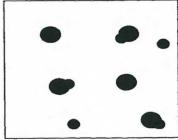
# **CONCENTRATED AND DILUTE**

- The terms **concentrated** and **dilute** are often confused with the concept of **strong** and **weak** when referring to acids and bases.
- Concentrated and dilute describe solutions and refer to the amount of **SOLUTE** dissolved in a given **VOLUME**. A **CONCENTRATED** solution has a *large amount* of dissolved acid molecules (or basic species) *per unit of volume* irrespective of whether or not they have actually ionised.
- A **DILUTE** solution simply has only a small amount of solute acid or base per unit of volume.
- \* The most dangerous acid or base solutions are those that are both STRONG and CONCENTRATED. eg: 8 M H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> or 6 M NaOH.
- $\divideontimes$  The least dangerous acid or base solutions are those that are both WEAK and DILUTE. eg: 0.001 M CH<sub>3</sub>COOH or 0.01 M NH<sub>3</sub> .



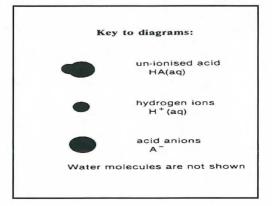






A dilute solution of a weak acid.







# **ACIDS and BASES**

LESSON 5

# **ACID, BASE OXIDES AND HYDROXIDES**

#### METAL OXIDES AND HYDROXIDES ⇒ BASIC

- Metal oxides and hydroxides produce aqueous OH<sup>-</sup>. They do this by either direct **dissociation** (ionic hydroxides) or through dissociation and **ionisation** (oxide ions). \*See Lesson 2, Page 3.
- METAL OXIDES and hydroxides are able to neutralise acids:

$$MgO_{(s)} + 2 H^{+}_{(aq)} \rightarrow Mg^{2+}_{(aq)} + H_2O_{(l)}$$
 $NaOH_{(s)} + H^{+}_{(aq)} \rightarrow Na^{+}_{(aq)} + H_2O_{(l)}$ 

# NON-METAL OXIDES AND HYDROXIDES ⇒ ACIDIC

• NON-METAL OXIDES and hydroxides produce aqueous H<sup>+</sup>. They do this through

ionisation of the molecular species:

SO2 + H2O
 
$$\leftrightarrow$$
 $H_2SO_3 \Leftrightarrow H^+ + HSO_3^-$ 

 HSO3^-  $\Leftrightarrow$ 
 $H^+ + SO_3^-$ 

 HSO3^-  $\Leftrightarrow$ 
 $H^+ + HSO_4^-$ 

 HSO4^-  $\Leftrightarrow$ 
 $H^+ + SO_4^-$ 

 HCO3^-  $\Leftrightarrow$ 
 $H^+ + HCO_3^-$ 

 HCO3^-  $\Leftrightarrow$ 
 $H^+ + CO_3^-$ 

