

# Chapter 15

## ACID-BASE EQUILIBRIA

### (Cont.)

1

**TABLE 15.6** The pH of Some Common Substances

Substance	pH
Gastric juice (human stomach)	1.0–3.0
Limes	1.8–2.0
Lemons	2.2–2.4
Soft drinks	2.0–4.0
Plums	2.8–3.0
Wines	2.8–3.8
Apples	2.9–3.3
Peaches	3.4–3.6
Cherries	3.2–4.0
Beers	4.0–5.0
Rainwater (unpolluted)	5.6

**TABLE 15.6** The pH of Some Common Substances

Substance	pH
Human blood	7.3–7.4
Egg whites	7.6–8.0
Milk of magnesia	10.5
Household ammonia	10.5–11.5
4% NaOH solution	14

Copyright © 2008 Pearson Prentice Hall, Inc.

2

**Summary: pH calculations of strong acids and strong bases**

1. At relatively **high [S.A]** or **high [S.B.]**, i.e.  $\geq 10^{-6}$  M, *pH is calculated from [S.A.] or [S.B.]*
2. In **very dilute [S.A]** or **[S.B.]**, i.e.  $\leq 10^{-8}$  M, dissociation of water is more important, so the **pH is 7**.

3

*Question:* How do we know if a given acid is strong or weak?

**Know the following by heart:** *You have to be able to name them too.*

There are only **six (6) strong acids** to remember:

**HCl, HBr, HI, H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, HNO<sub>3</sub>, HClO<sub>4</sub>**

**Perchloric acid**

There are only **six (6) strong bases** to remember:

**LiOH, NaOH, KOH, Ca(OH)<sub>2</sub>, Sr(OH)<sub>2</sub>, Ba(OH)<sub>2</sub>**

4



**TABLE 15.5** Acid Ionization Constants ( $K_a$ ) for Some Monoprotic Weak Acids at 25°C - Cont.

Acid	Formula	Structural Formula	Ionization Reaction	$K_a$
Acetic acid	$\text{HC}_2\text{H}_3\text{O}_2$		$\text{HC}_2\text{H}_3\text{O}_2(\text{aq}) + \text{H}_2\text{O}(\text{l}) \rightleftharpoons \text{H}_3\text{O}^+(\text{aq}) + \text{C}_2\text{H}_3\text{O}_2^-(\text{aq})$	$1.8 \times 10^{-5}$
Hypochlorous acid	$\text{HClO}$	$\text{H}-\text{O}-\text{Cl}$	$\text{HClO}(\text{aq}) + \text{H}_2\text{O}(\text{l}) \rightleftharpoons \text{H}_3\text{O}^+(\text{aq}) + \text{ClO}^-(\text{aq})$	$2.9 \times 10^{-8}$
Hydrocyanic acid	$\text{HCN}$	$\text{H}-\text{C}\equiv\text{N}$	$\text{HCN}(\text{aq}) + \text{H}_2\text{O}(\text{l}) \rightleftharpoons \text{H}_3\text{O}^+(\text{aq}) + \text{CN}^-(\text{aq})$	$4.9 \times 10^{-10}$
Phenol	$\text{HC}_6\text{H}_5\text{O}$		$\text{HC}_6\text{H}_5\text{O}(\text{aq}) + \text{H}_2\text{O}(\text{l}) \rightleftharpoons \text{H}_3\text{O}^+(\text{aq}) + \text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{O}^-(\text{aq})$	$1.3 \times 10^{-10}$

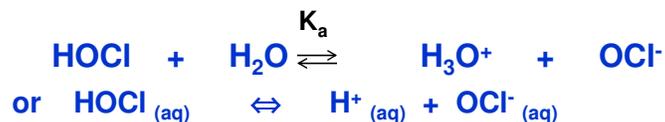
Copyright © 2008 Pearson Prentice Hall, Inc.

7

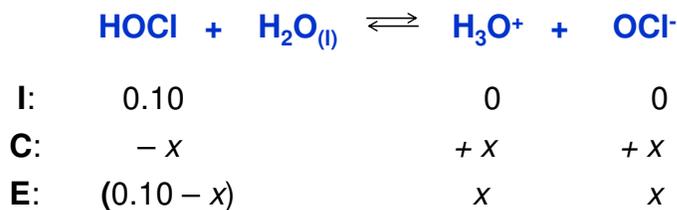
## Determining the pH of Weak Acids

*Example:* What is the  $\text{H}_3\text{O}^+$  concentration and pH of a 0.10 M solution of hypochlorous acid,  $\text{HOCl}$ ,  $K_a = 3.5 \times 10^{-8}$ ?

- ❖ Note that the  $K_a$  is a small number (i.e.  $\text{HOCl}$  is a weak acid). Start with the equilibrium equation:



- ❖  $\text{HOCl}$  is W.A.; only a fraction of 0.10 M  $\text{HOCl}$  will dissociate, i.e. we can set up our ICE table as:



8

❖ The  $K_a$  expression is:

$$K_a = \frac{[\text{OCl}^-][\text{H}_3\text{O}^+]}{[\text{HOCl}]} = \frac{(x)(x)}{(0.10 - x)}$$

$$3.5 \times 10^{-8} = \frac{x^2}{(0.10 - x)}$$

Assuming  $x \ll 0.10$  (since  $K_a$  is very small) and solving for  $x$ , we get:

$$x = 5.9_2 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M} = [\text{H}_3\text{O}^+] = [\text{OCl}^-]$$

*Check:* Since  $5.9 \times 10^{-5} \ll 0.10$  our assumption is valid.  
We calculate pH as:

$$\text{pH} = -\log(5.9_2 \times 10^{-5}) = \mathbf{4.23}$$

9

### Weak Acid Equilibria – Cont.

*Exercise:* Calculate the pH of a  $1.50 \times 10^{-2}$  M formic acid,  $\text{HCO}_2\text{H}$ . ( $\text{p}K_a = 3.745$ ).

**Answer: pH = 2.808**

*HINT:* You must first determine  $K_a$  from  $\text{p}K_a$ . *How?*

10

## Determining $K_a$ from Measured pH

*Example:* A student measured the pH of a 0.10 M solution of formic acid, HCOOH, to be 2.38 at 25 °C. Calculate  $K_a$  for formic acid at 25 °C.

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

## Percent Ionization of a Weak Acid

The **percent ionization** of a weak acid HA refers to the percentage of HA in ionized form, H<sup>+</sup> (and A<sup>-</sup>)

$$\% \text{ ionization} = \frac{[\text{H}_3\text{O}^+]_{\text{eq}}}{[\text{HA}]_{\text{initial}}} \times 100$$

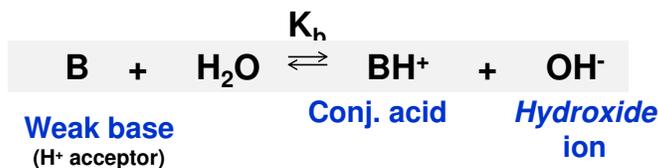
*Example:* What is percent of HOCl in ionized form in the previous example? {Recall that [H<sup>+</sup>] = 5.92 x 10<sup>-5</sup> M and initial [HOCl] = 0.10 M}

**Answer: 0.059 % ionized**

## Weak Base Equilibria: *Hydrolysis*

- Recall that B-L bases are H<sup>+</sup> acceptor.
- In aqueous solutions, a weak base “grabs” a H<sup>+</sup> from water, forming its conjugate acid and OH<sup>-</sup>. This reaction is called *hydrolysis*.

For a monobasic species, B, the *hydrolysis equation* is:



The equilibrium constant expression for this reaction is:

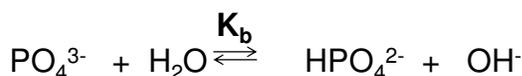
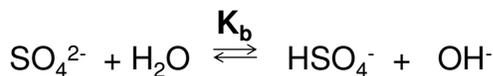
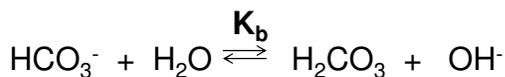
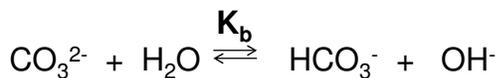
$$K_b = \frac{[\text{BH}^+][\text{OH}^-]}{[\text{B}]}$$

15

## *Hydrolysis* – Cont.

Exercise: Write the hydrolysis reaction of each of the following bases:

- Carbonate, CO<sub>3</sub><sup>2-</sup>
- Bicarbonate, HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>
- Sulfate, SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup>
- Phosphate, PO<sub>4</sub><sup>3-</sup>

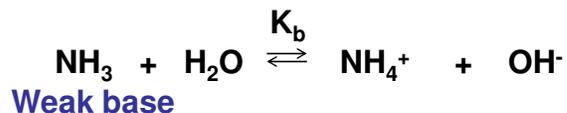


**Note:** Add a +1 charge to the base to determine charge of conjugate acid

16

## Determining pH of Solutions of Weak Bases

Ammonia is the most commonly used weak base. The hydrolysis of ammonia is written as:

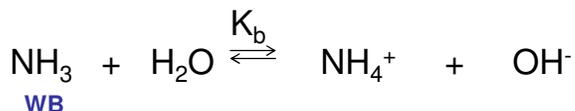


The  $K_b$  expression for  $\text{NH}_3$  can be written as:

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

Exercise: Calculate the concentration of  $\text{OH}^-$  in a 0.15 M solution of  $\text{NH}_3$ .  $K_b$  for  $\text{NH}_3$  is  $1.8 \times 10^{-5}$  at  $25^\circ\text{C}$ . What is the pH of this solution?

17



<b>I:</b>	0.15	0	0
<b>C:</b>	$-y$	$+y$	$+y$
<b>E:</b>	$(0.15 - y)$	$y$	$y$

$K_b$  and pH can be expressed as:

$$K_b = \frac{y^2}{(M_B - y)}$$

$$\text{and } \text{pH} = 14.00 - \text{pOH} \\ = 14.00 - (-\log [\text{OH}^-])$$

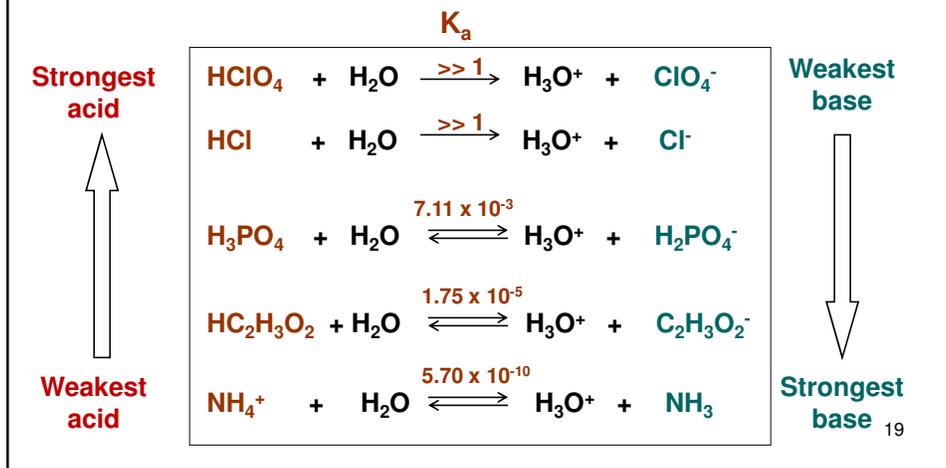
or  $\text{pH} = 14.00 - \log (y)$

18

## Relationship Between $K_a$ and $K_b$

Recall: *Conjugate species* = related by one H (as  $H^+$ )

- The **stronger the acid** the **weaker its conj. base**
- Similarly, the stronger the base the weaker its conj. acid



## Relationship Between $K_a$ and $K_b$

- The  $K_a$  of an acid is also related to the  $K_b$  of its conj. base, i.e.

For **conjugate acid-base pairs**:

$$K_a \times K_b = K_w$$

$$pK_a + pK_b = 14.00$$

*Exercises:*

(1) Calculate the  $K_b$  for  $CO_3^{2-}$  if  $K_a$  for  $HCO_3^-$  is  $5.6 \times 10^{-11}$ .

(2) Hydrofluoric acid, HF, has a  $pK_a$  of 3.17. Calculate  $K_b$  for fluoride ion,  $F^-$ .

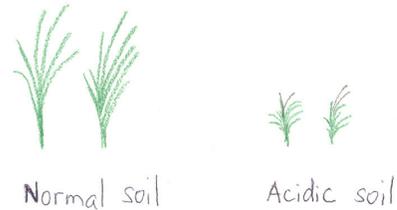
**Answers:** (1)  $K_b = 1.8 \times 10^{-4}$ ; (2)  $K_b = 1.5 \times 10^{-11}$

# Importance of pH Control

21

## What if pH is not controlled?

- ❖ Hyperacidic stomach 
- ❖ Highly acidic soil => low crop yield

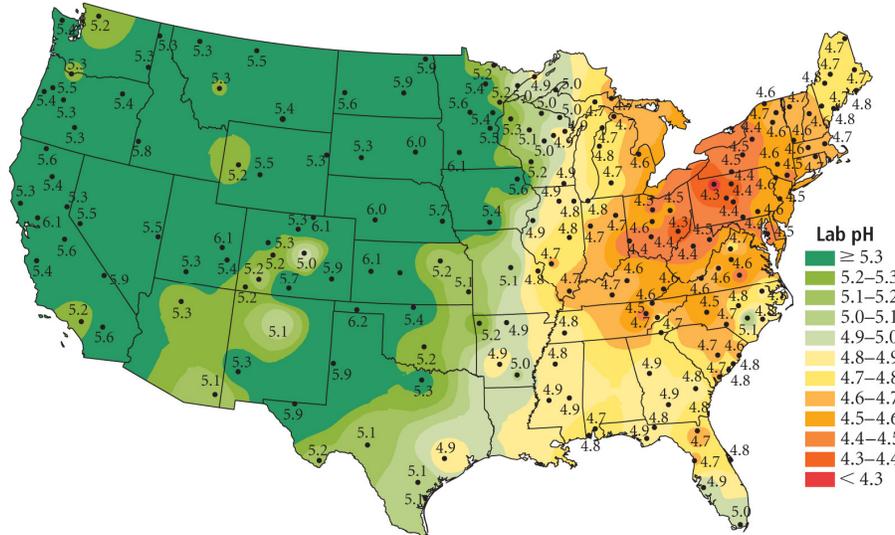


- ❖ Air pollutants => acid rain
  - Acidic lakes/ rivers => fish kills; erosion of statues; vegetation dies

***There must be a way to control pH***

22

## Acid rain: a significant problem in the Northeastern U.S.



Copyright © 2008 Pearson Prentice Hall, Inc.

23

## Damages Caused by Acid Rain

### Damage to aquatic life



[http://www.sciencemaster.com/jump/earth/acid\\_rain.php](http://www.sciencemaster.com/jump/earth/acid_rain.php)

In some sensitive lakes and streams, **acidification has completely eradicated fish species**, such as the **brook trout**, leaving these bodies of water barren. In fact, hundreds of the lakes in the **Adirondacks** surveyed in the NSWS have acidity levels indicative of chemical conditions unsuitable for the survival of sensitive fish species.

24

## Damage to vegetation and outdoor artwork (limestone)



(a)



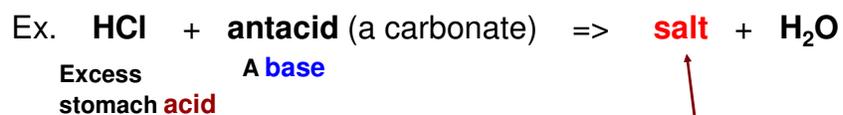
(b)

Copyright © 2008 Pearson Prentice Hall, Inc.

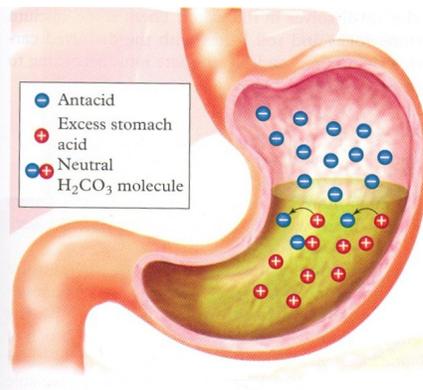
25

## Ways of Controlling pH

1) Through **neutralization** reactions = acid-base reactions



Always produced in neutralization

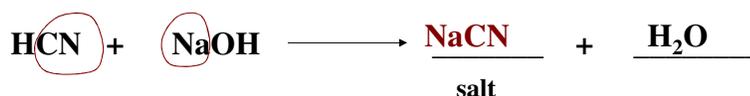
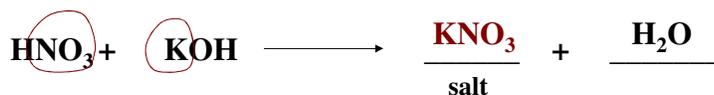
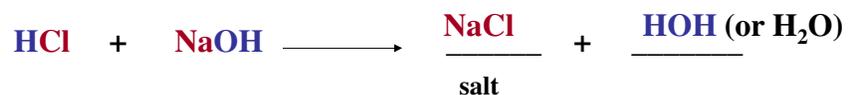


Source: C. Baird and W. Gloffke, "Chemistry In Your Life." New York: Freeman, 2003. (p. 427)

26

## Writing Neutralization Reactions

- 1) The metal from the base is always *written (or named) first*.
- 2) The metal from the base **replaces** the hydrogen of the acid.



27

## Ways of Controlling pH (Cont.)

- 2) Through the action of **buffers**
  - ❖ Substances that resist drastic changes in pH. HOW?
  - ❖ They consist of a mixture of a **weak acid** and its **conjugate base** (i.e. an acid-base pair).

Ex. The pH of blood is maintained by a biological buffer, a mixture of **carbonic acid** and **bicarbonate ions**.

**acid  
component**

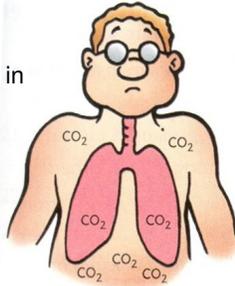
**base  
component**

28

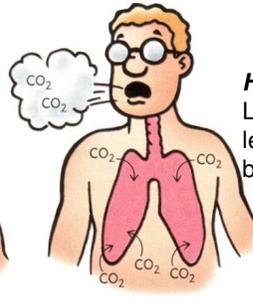
## Ways of Controlling pH: Action of Buffers (Cont.)

### **Hypoventilation:**

More  $\text{CO}_2$  in lungs,  
more carbonic acid in  
blood = acidosis



(a)



(b)

### **Hyperventilation:**

Less  $\text{CO}_2$  in lungs,  
less carbonic acid in  
blood = alkalosis

- During **alkalosis** (blood pH rises) the acid component ( $\text{H}_2\text{CO}_3$ ) of our *biological buffer* neutralizes the excess base and restores the pH to around 7.4, the normal pH of blood.
- During **acidosis** (blood pH drops), the base component ( $\text{HCO}_3^-$ ) neutralizes the excess acid and restores the pH to around 7.4. 29

## Acid-Base Properties of Salts

## Acid-Base Properties of Salts

Recall: Acids and bases can be electrically neutral (ex. HCl, NH<sub>3</sub>) or charged (ex. NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>, CO<sub>3</sub><sup>2-</sup>)

➤ *Implication:* **Salts**, ionic compounds formed from neutralization reactions, can be acidic, basic or neutral solutions.

- ❖ The anion or the cation of a salt, or both, can react with water (= *hydrolysis* reaction)
- ❖ The pH of salt solution depends on the strengths of the original acids and bases

31

### Salts – Cont.

*Q. What is the pH of an aqueous solution of a salt?*

➤ The pH of the salt depends on the strengths of the original acids and bases

Acid	Base	Salt pH	Example of salt
Strong	Strong	7 (Neutral)	NaCl, KNO <sub>3</sub> , CaBr <sub>2</sub>
Weak	Strong	> 7 (Basic)	Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> , K <sub>3</sub> PO <sub>4</sub>
Strong	Weak	< 7 (Acidic)	NH <sub>4</sub> Cl, CH <sub>3</sub> NH <sub>3</sub> Br
Weak	Weak	Depends on which is stronger	NH <sub>4</sub> ClO <sub>4</sub> , (NH <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>

32

## Salts – Cont.

Predicting whether a **salt solution** will be acidic, basic or neutral:

1. Break the salt down into its cation and anion.
2. Identify (+) and (-) ions as either:
  - Spectator ion\* (SI)
  - Weak acid (WA)
  - Weak base (WB)

A **spectator ion**, SI, does not react with water (i.e. it does not hydrolyze) and does not change the pH of water because it is neither acidic nor basic.

3. Add the two effects to decide on effect on solution pH

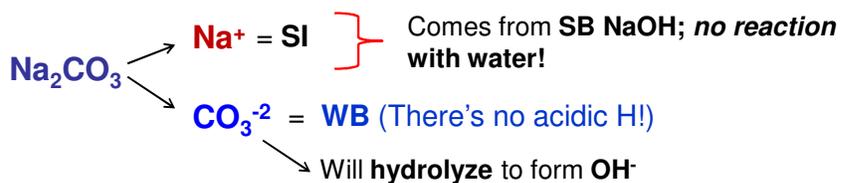
33

*Exercise:* Show that  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$  hydrolyzes in water to form a basic solution.

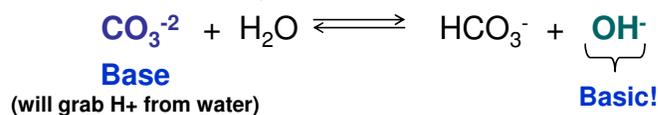
*Work:*



(2) ID ions as SI, WA or WB



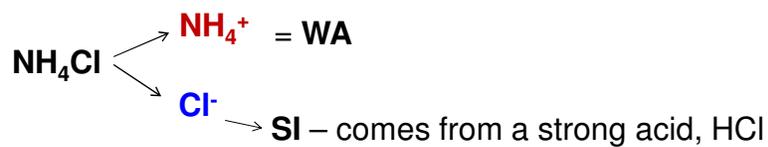
**Hydrolysis of  $\text{CO}_3^{-2}$ :**



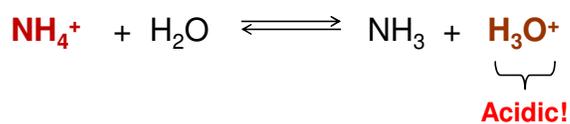
34

*Exercise:* Show that ammonium chloride hydrolyzes in water to form an acidic solution.

*Work:*



**Hydrolysis of  $\text{NH}_4^+$ :**



35

*Exercise:* 1) Predict whether each of the following salts will be acidic, basic or neutral in water. Show your work, including applicable hydrolysis equations.



36

*Exercise 2)* Calculate the pH of each of the following aqueous solutions: (a) 0.100 M NaCHO<sub>2</sub>, (b) 0.100 M AlBr<sub>3</sub> and (c) 0.100 M NH<sub>4</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>

*WORK:*

(a) pH of 0.100 M CHO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup> (Na<sup>+</sup> is S.I.)

W.B. = will hydrolyze to form OH<sup>-</sup>



I	0.100		0	0
C	- x		+ x	+ x
E	(0.100 - x)		x	x

Next we **need** K<sub>b</sub> => use K<sub>a</sub> (HCHO<sub>2</sub>) and K<sub>w</sub>

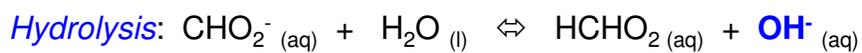
Table: K<sub>a</sub> (HCHO<sub>2</sub>) = 1.80 × 10<sup>-4</sup>

37

*WORK – Cont.*

(a) pH of 0.100 M CHO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>

$$\text{Table: } K_b (\text{CHO}_2^-) = \frac{1.00 \times 10^{-14}}{1.80 \times 10^{-4}} = 5.56 \times 10^{-11}$$



$$K_b = 5.56 \times 10^{-11} = \frac{x^2}{(0.100 - x)} \quad \text{Assume } x \ll 0.100$$

$$x = 2.36 \times 10^{-6} \text{ M} = [\text{OH}^-]$$

$$\text{pOH} = 5.63; \quad \text{pH} = 8.37$$

38

WORK:

(b) pH of 0.100 M  $\text{AlBr}_3$  ( $\text{Br}^-$  is S.I. – comes from  $\text{HBr}$ , SA)

$\text{Al}^{3+}$  is a **WA** which exists as  $\text{Al}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6^{3+}$  in water (See  $K_a$  table)

$$K_a \text{ for } \text{Al}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6^{3+} = 1.4 \times 10^{-5}$$

Dissociation:  $\text{Al}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6^{3+}(\text{aq}) + \text{H}_2\text{O}(\text{l}) \rightleftharpoons \text{Al}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_5(\text{OH})^{3+}(\text{aq}) + \text{H}_3\text{O}^+(\text{aq})$

I	0.100		0	0
C	- x		+ x	+ x
E	(0.100 - x)		x	x

$$K_a = 1.4 \times 10^{-5} = \frac{x^2}{(0.100 - x)} \quad \text{Assume } x \ll 0.100$$

$$x = 1.18 \times 10^{-3} \text{ M} = [\text{H}_3\text{O}^+]$$

$$\text{pH} = 2.93$$

39

WORK:

(c) pH of 0.100 M  $\text{NH}_4\text{NO}_3$  ( $\text{NO}_3^-$  is S.I. – comes from  $\text{HNO}_3$ , SA)

$\text{NH}_4^+$  is a **WA** (CA of WB  $\text{NH}_3$ ; From  $K_a$  and  $K_b$  table,  
 $K_b$  of  $\text{NH}_3 = 1.76 \times 10^{-5}$ )

$$K_a(\text{NH}_4^+) = \frac{1.00 \times 10^{-14}}{1.76 \times 10^{-5}} = 5.68 \times 10^{-10}$$

Ionization:  $\text{NH}_4^+(\text{aq}) + \text{H}_2\text{O}(\text{l}) \rightleftharpoons \text{NH}_3(\text{aq}) + \text{H}_3\text{O}^+(\text{aq})$

I	0.100		0	0
C	- x		+ x	+ x
E	(0.100 - x)		x	x

$$K_a = 5.68 \times 10^{-10} = \frac{x^2}{(0.100 - x)} \quad \text{Assume } x \ll 0.100$$

40

$$x = 7.54 \times 10^{-6} \text{ M} = [\text{H}_3\text{O}^+]$$

$$\text{pH} = 5.12$$

41

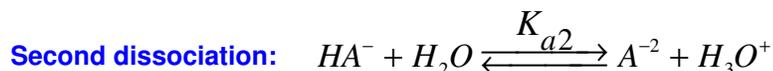
## Diprotic Acids and Bases

General formulas:

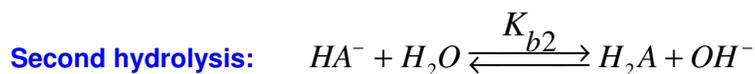
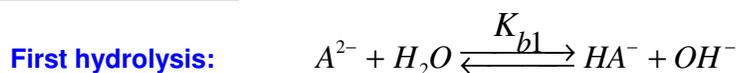
- ❖  $\text{H}_2\text{A}$  = fully acidic form
- ❖  $\text{HA}^-$  = intermediate form; amphoteric
- ❖  $\text{A}^{2-}$  = fully basic or fully deprotonated form

## Equilibria involved: Diprotic Acids and Bases

### Diprotic Acid, H<sub>2</sub>A



### Dibasic species, A<sup>2-</sup>



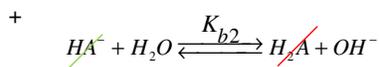
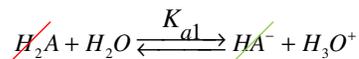
Q. How do we calculate  $K_{b1}$  and  $K_{b2}$  from  $K_a$  values?

Note that H<sub>2</sub>A and HA<sup>-</sup> species in the  $K_{a1}$  expression both appear in the  $K_{b2}$  expression. Similarly, the conjugates HA<sup>-</sup> and A<sup>2-</sup> in the  $K_{a2}$  expression both appear in the  $K_{b1}$  expression.

Thus,  $K_{a1} \cdot K_{b2} = K_w$

$$K_{a2} \cdot K_{b1} = K_w$$

Proof:







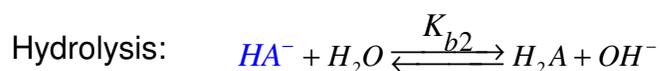
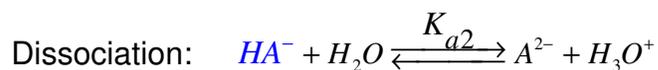
**pH Calculations: Diprotic systems – Cont.**

**3. The intermediate (amphoteric) form, HA<sup>-</sup>**

- HA<sup>-</sup> can act as an acid or a base

Q. What is the predominant species in a solution of HA<sup>-</sup>?

Compare K<sub>a2</sub> and K<sub>b2</sub> equilibria:



- HA<sup>-</sup> will dissociate/hydrolyze to form A<sup>2-</sup> and H<sub>2</sub>A

**No pH calculation involving HA<sup>-</sup>**

The intermediate form, HA<sup>-</sup> (Cont.)

**Calculation of pH and [species]**

$$[H^+] \approx \sqrt{\frac{K_1 K_2 F + K_1 K_w}{K_1 + F}}$$

Where

$$K_1 = K_{a1}$$

$$K_2 = K_{a2}$$

$$F = F_{HA^-}$$

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

**Quick check:**  $pH = \frac{1}{2} (pK_1 + pK_2)$

- Solve for [H<sub>2</sub>A] and [A<sup>2-</sup>] using [H<sup>+</sup>] above and K<sub>1</sub> & K<sub>2</sub> equilibria

# Trends in Acidity

51

Increasing electronegativity Increasing acidity	
6A	7A
H <sub>2</sub> O	HF
H <sub>2</sub> S	HCl
H <sub>2</sub> Se	HBr
H <sub>2</sub> Te	HI

Decreasing bond strength  
Increasing acidity

Copyright © 2008 Pearson Prentice Hall, Inc.

1. Effect of **bond strength** on binary acids, HX
  - Acidity *increases* with *decreasing bond strength* (top to bottom within a group)
  - Easier to pull out H as H<sup>+</sup>
2. Effect of **electronegativity** of X in binary acids, HX
  - Acidity *increases* with *increasing electronegativity* (left to right across the table)
  - H-X bond becomes more polar; easier to pull out H<sup>+</sup>

52

**Oxyacids** = bonded to H, X and O

➤ Acidity *increases* with *increasing number of O bonded to X*

	Acid	Structure	$K_a$
<b>X = Cl</b>	HClO <sub>4</sub>	$\begin{array}{c} \text{O} \\    \\ \text{HO}-\text{Cl}=\text{O} \\    \\ \text{O} \end{array}$	Strong
	HClO <sub>3</sub>	$\begin{array}{c} \text{O} \\    \\ \text{HO}-\text{Cl}=\text{O} \end{array}$	1
	HClO <sub>2</sub>	$\begin{array}{c} \text{O} \\    \\ \text{H}-\text{Cl}=\text{O} \end{array}$	$1.1 \times 10^{-2}$
	HClO	$\text{H}-\text{Cl}=\text{O}$	$2.9 \times 10^{-8}$

↑  
Increasing acidity

Copyright © 2008 Pearson Prentice Hall, Inc.

53