

## K<sub>w</sub> and pH CALCULATIONS

Define 'pH' as  $-\log_{10}[\text{H}^+(\text{aq})]$  and calculate the pH of strong acid solutions and strong base solutions.

Since the K<sub>w</sub> for water =  $[\text{H}^+(\text{aq})] \times [\text{OH}^-(\text{aq})] = 10^{-14}$  at 298 K (25<sup>o</sup> C) it follows that

$$[\text{H}^+(\text{aq})] = 10^{-14} \div [\text{OH}^-(\text{aq})] \quad \text{or} \quad [\text{OH}^-(\text{aq})] = 10^{-14} \div [\text{H}^+(\text{aq})]$$

alternatively

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

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

Remember that an equilibrium constant is temperature dependant, therefore K<sub>w</sub> will have a different value at temperatures other than 298 K (25<sup>o</sup> C). Water will however be neutral as the  $[\text{H}^+(\text{aq})] = [\text{OH}^-(\text{aq})]$  even if they are  $\neq 10^{-7} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$ .

$$K_w = [\text{H}^+] [\text{OH}^-] = 10^{-14} \text{ or } \text{pH} + \text{pOH} = 14$$

### Set 1.

Unless stated otherwise the, the temperature is 298 K (25<sup>o</sup> C)

- Q1. Calculate the concentration of OH<sup>-</sup> ions in 0.10 mol L<sup>-1</sup> HCl.
- Q2. Show that the concentration of H<sup>+</sup> (H<sub>3</sub>O<sup>+</sup>) ions in pure water is 1 x 10<sup>-7</sup> mol L<sup>-1</sup>.
- Q3. Calculate the [H<sup>+</sup>] in a 0.25 mol L<sup>-1</sup> sodium hydroxide.
- Q4. 3.65 grams of HCl gas are dissolved in enough water to make 1.5 L of solution. Calculate for this solution
- A. the concentration of the solution
  - B. [H<sup>+</sup>]
  - C. [OH<sup>-</sup>]
- Q5. A solution contains 11.22 grams of potassium hydroxide in 250 mL of solution. Calculate for this solution
- A. the concentration of the solution
  - B. [H<sup>+</sup>]
  - C. [OH<sup>-</sup>]
- Q6. For a 0.02 mol L<sup>-1</sup> of nitric acid, calculate the [OH<sup>-</sup>] at
- A. 25 °C
  - B. 0 °C (K<sub>w</sub> = 1.1 x 10<sup>-15</sup>)
- Q7. Explain why for pure water, acidic, basic and salt solutions the K<sub>w</sub> for water at 25 °C is always 1.0 x 10<sup>-14</sup>.
- Q8. Concentrated hydrochloric acid has a concentration of 11.7 mol L<sup>-1</sup>. Calculate the pH and the [OH<sup>-</sup>] in this solution in mol L<sup>-1</sup>.

**Set 2.**

Q1. Calculate the pH of each of the following solutions:

- |    |   |    |  |
|----|---|----|--|
| A. | 0.1 mol L <sup>-1</sup> HCl                   | B. | 0.25 mol L <sup>-1</sup> HNO <sub>3</sub>                  |
| C. | 0.002 mol L <sup>-1</sup> Ba(OH) <sub>2</sub> | D. | 7.3 g L <sup>-1</sup> HCl                                  |
| E. | 6.3 g / 250 mL HNO <sub>3</sub>               | F. | 0.55 mol L <sup>-1</sup> HCl                               |
| G. | 11.7 mol L <sup>-1</sup> HCl                  | H. | 1.25 x 10 <sup>-5</sup> mol L <sup>-1</sup> H <sup>+</sup> |

Q2. For a 0.10 mol L<sup>-1</sup> solution of NaOH at 25 °C calculate the:

- A. [OH<sup>-</sup>]
- B. [H<sup>+</sup>]
- C. pH

Q3. 8.0 grams of NaOH is dissolved 5.0 L of solution at 25 °C. Calculate the pH of this solution.

Q4. 0.561 grams of KOH is dissolved in 200 mL of solution. Calculate the pH

Q5. Calculate the pH of a 6.5 x 10<sup>-4</sup> mol L<sup>-1</sup> Ca(OH)<sub>2</sub> at 25 °C.

Q6. The pH of vinegar is about 2.8 at 25 °C. Calculate [H<sup>+</sup>].

Q7. The pH of human blood is about 7.4. Calculate [H<sup>+</sup>] and [OH<sup>-</sup>] (assume 25 °C).

Q8. Calculate the [H<sup>+</sup>] and the [OH<sup>-</sup>] in a 0.3 mol L<sup>-1</sup> HCl at 25 °C.

Q9. A solution of KOH is made by dissolving 1.06 x 10<sup>-5</sup> grams in 300 mL of solution. Calculate the pH of this solution at 25 °C and state whether the solution is slightly acidic or slightly basic (alkaline).

Q10. The average pH of sea-water at 25 °C is 8.5. Calculate the [H<sup>+</sup>] and the [OH<sup>-</sup>].

Q11. The pH of stomach acid is 1.7. Calculate the [H<sup>+</sup>] and the [OH<sup>-</sup>] in the stomach.

Set 1

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

Q1  $10^{-14} = [OH^-][0.1]$   
 $= 10^{-13} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$

Q2  $10^{-14} = [OH^-][H^+]$  pure water neutral  
so  $10^{-14} = [10^{-7}][10^{-7}]$

Q3  $10^{-14} = [0.25][H^+]$   
 $= 4 \times 10^{-14}$

Q4 a)  $n(KCl) = \frac{m}{M_r} = \frac{3.65}{36.45} = 0.1 \text{ mol}$

$n(KCl) = CV$   
 $0.1 = C \times 1.5$   $C_{(KCl)} = 0.067 \text{ mol L}^{-1}$

b)  $C_{(KCl)} = C_{(K^+)} = 0.067 \text{ mol L}^{-1}$

c)  $10^{-14} = [H^+][OH^-]$   
 $10^{-14} = [0.067][OH^-]$   
 $[OH^-] = 1.5 \times 10^{-13} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$

Q5 a)  $n(KOH) = \frac{m}{M_r} = \frac{11.22}{56.1} = 0.2 \text{ mol}$

$n(KOH) = CV$   $0.2 = C \times 0.25 = \underline{0.8 \text{ mol L}^{-1}}$

c)  $C_{(KOH)} = C_{(OH^-)} = 0.8 \text{ mol L}^{-1}$

b)  $10^{-14} = [H^+][OH^-]$   
 $10^{-14} = [H^+][0.8]$   
 $[H^+] = 1.25 \times 10^{-14} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$

Q6

a)  $C(\text{HNO}_2) = C(\text{H}^+)$

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

$$10^{-14} = [0.02][\text{OH}^-]$$

$$[\text{OH}^-] = 5 \times 10^{-13} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$$

b)  $1.1 \times 10^{-15} = [\text{H}^+][\text{OH}^-]$

$$= [0.02][\text{OH}^-]$$

$$[\text{OH}^-] = 5.5 \times 10^{-14} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$$

Q8

$$\text{pH} = -\log_{10} [11.7]$$

$$= -1.07$$

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

$$= [11.7][\text{OH}^-]$$

$$= 8.55 \times 10^{-16} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$$

Set 2

Q1

a)  $\text{pH} = -\log [\text{H}^+] = -\log_{10} [0.1] = 1$

b)  $-\log [0.25] = 0.6$

c)  $0.002 \text{ mol of Ba(OH)}_2 = 0.004 \text{ mol of OH}^-$

So  $10^{-14} = [\text{H}^+][\text{OH}^-]$   
 $= [\text{H}^+][0.004]$   
 $= 2.5 \times 10^{-12} \quad -\log_{10} = 11.6$

d)  $7.3 \text{ g L}^{-1}$  of HCl

$\text{g L}^{-1} \div \text{M} \rightarrow \text{mol L}^{-1}$

$7.3 \div 36.45 = 0.2 \text{ mol L}^{-1}$

$\text{pH} = -\log [0.2]$

$\text{pH} = 0.7$

e)  $6.3 \text{ g} / 250 \text{ ml}$  so  $\times \times = 25.2 \text{ g L}^{-1}$

$\frac{25.2}{\text{Mr} (63)} = \text{mol L}^{-1}$  so  $= 0.4 \text{ mol L}^{-1}$

$\text{Mr} = \text{HNO}_3$   
 $= 63$

$\text{pH} = -\log [0.4]$

$= 0.4$

f)  $\text{pH} = -\log [0.55] \quad \text{pH} = 0.26$

g)  $\text{pH} = -\log [11.7] \quad \text{pH} = -1.07$

h)  $\text{pH} = -\log [1.25 \times 10^{-5}] \quad \text{pH} = 4.9$

Q2 b)  $10^{-14} = [\text{OH}^-][\text{H}^+] = [0.1][\text{H}^+] = 1 \times 10^{-13} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$

a) 0.1

c)  $\text{pH} = 13$

Q3

$$n(\text{NaOH}) = 8 \text{ g per } 5 \text{ L so } 1.6 \text{ g L}^{-1}$$

$$\text{g L}^{-1} \div m = 1.6 \div 40 = 0.04 \text{ mol L}^{-1}$$

$$10^{-14} = [\text{OH}^-] [\text{H}^+] = 10^{-14} = [0.04] [\text{H}^+]$$

$$[\text{H}^+] = 2.5 \times 10^{-13} \text{ mol L}^{-1} \quad \text{pH} = 12.6$$

Q4

$$n(\text{KOH}) = 0.561 \text{ g per } 200 \text{ mL, so } 0.561 \times 5 = 2.805 \text{ g L}^{-1}$$

$$2.805 \text{ g L}^{-1} \div 56.1 = 0.05 \text{ mol L}^{-1}$$

$$10^{-14} = [0.05] [\text{H}^+] \quad [\text{H}^+] = 2 \times 10^{-13} \quad \text{pH} = 12.70$$

Q5

$$n(\text{Ca(OH)}_2) \times 2 = n(\text{OH}^-) \quad 6.5 \times 10^{-4} \times 2 = 0.0013 \text{ mol L}^{-1}$$

$$10^{-14} = [\text{OH}^-] [\text{H}^+] = 0.0013 [\text{H}^+] \quad [\text{H}^+] = 7.69 \times 10^{-12} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$$

$$\text{pH} = 11.11$$

Q6

$$\text{pH} = 2.8 \quad \text{so } 2.8 = -\log [\text{H}^+]$$

$$10^{-2.8} = 1.58 \times 10^{-3} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$$

Q7

$$\text{pH} = 7.4 \quad \text{so } 10^{-7.4} = 3.98 \times 10^{-8} \text{ mol L}^{-1} = [\text{H}^+]$$

$$\text{so } 10^{-14} = 3.98 \times 10^{-8} [\text{OH}^-] = 2.51 \times 10^{-7} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$$

Q8

$$10^{-14} = [0.3] [\text{OH}^-] = 3.33 \times 10^{-14} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$$

Q9

$$1.06 \times 10^{-5} \times \frac{1000}{300} = 3.53 \times 10^{-5} \text{ g L}^{-1} \div 56.1 = 6.30 \times 10^{-7} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$$

$$10^{-14} = 6.3 \times 10^{-7} [\text{H}^+] = 1.587 \times 10^{-8} = \text{pH } 7.8 \text{ approx}$$

Q10

$$8.5 = -\log [\text{H}^+] = 3.16 \times 10^{-9} \text{ mol L}^{-1}, \text{ so } 10^{-14} = [\text{OH}^-] 3.16 \times 10^{-9} = \frac{10^{-14}}{3.16 \times 10^{-9}} = 3.16 \times 10^{-6} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$$

Q11

$$11.7 = -\log [\text{H}^+] = 0.02 \text{ mol L}^{-1}, \text{ so } 10^{-14} = [\text{OH}^-] 0.02 = 5 \times 10^{-13} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$$

### Set 3.

Q1. What is the pH of each of the following solutions?

- A.  $0.01 \text{ mol L}^{-1} \text{ HC/}$
- B.  $0.1 \text{ mol L}^{-1}$  solution of a monoprotic acid which is 20% ionised.
- C. A solution of HC/ containing 2 g of HC/ per litre.
- D. A solution containing 2 g NaOH per litre.
- E. A solution containing 0.63 g of  $\text{HNO}_3$  in 500 mLs of solution.
- F. A  $0.01 \text{ mol L}^{-1}$  solution of ethanoic acid ( $\text{CH}_3\text{COOH}$ ) given that it is 4.2% ionised at this concentration.

Q2. Calculate the hydrogen ion concentration of solutions whose pH values are

- A. 4.3
- B. 10.7
- C. 7
- D. 0

Q3. A. Calculate the pH of a solution obtained by adding 49 mLs of  $0.15 \text{ mol L}^{-1}$  NaOH to 50 mLs of  $0.12 \text{ mol L}^{-1} \text{ HC/}$ .

B. Calculate the pH of a solution obtained by adding 19.4 mLs of  $0.072 \text{ mol L}^{-1}$   $\text{Ba}(\text{OH})_2$  to 27.8 mLs of  $0.058 \text{ mol L}^{-1} \text{ HC/}$ .

Q4. Arrange the following 0.1 M solutions in order of increasing pH

NaCl       $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$       NaOH      HC/       $\text{NH}_3$        $\text{CH}_3\text{COOH}$

Q5. A. Explain why the pH of  $0.1 \text{ mol L}^{-1} \text{ HC/}$  is 1.0 while that of  $0.1 \text{ mol L}^{-1} \text{ CH}_3\text{COOH}$  is 2.87.

B. Why is a solution of iron(III) chloride acidic?

Q6. Calculate the pH of the solutions formed when 50 mLs of  $0.1 \text{ mol L}^{-1} \text{ HC/}$  is added to each of the following

- A. 49.5 mLs  $0.23 \text{ mol L}^{-1} \text{ NaOH}$
- B. 25.0 mLs  $0.15 \text{ mol L}^{-1} \text{ Ba}(\text{OH})_2$
- C. 13.6 mLs  $0.042 \text{ mol L}^{-1} \text{ KOH}$
- D. 24.7 mLs  $0.059 \text{ mol L}^{-1} \text{ HNO}_3$
- E. 14.8 mLs  $0.037 \text{ mol L}^{-1} \text{ NaOH}$  and 15.0 mLs  $0.14 \text{ mol L}^{-1} \text{ Ca}(\text{OH})_2$

EXTENSION – [note i) and ii) contain information you need to calculate both questions.]

F. i) 150 mLs Ethanoic acid pH = 2.74 (hint use  $K_a$  expression to start you off).

ii) and what is the concentration of ethanoate ions at equilibrium if the number of ethanoic acid molecules increases to =  $3.9394 \times 10^{-4}$  moles?

Remember this is an EXOTHERMIC REACTION and so the temperature of this solution will change and change the  $K_a$  value also.

Answers:

Set 1

- $1 \times 10^{-13} \text{ molL}^{-1}$
- $[\text{H}^+][\text{OH}^-] = 10^{-14}$ ;  $[\text{H}^+] = [\text{OH}^-]$ ;  $[\text{H}^+]^2 = 10^{-14}$ ;  $\sqrt{[\text{H}^+]^2} = [\text{H}^+] = \sqrt{10^{-14}} = 10^{-7}$
- $4 \times 10^{-14} \text{ molL}^{-1}$
- A.  $0.067 \text{ molL}^{-1}$  B.  $1.5 \times 10^{-13} \text{ molL}^{-1}$
- A.  $0.8 \text{ molL}^{-1}$  B.  $1.25 \times 10^{-14} \text{ molL}^{-1}$
- A.  $5 \times 10^{-14} \text{ molL}^{-1}$  B.  $5.5 \times 10^{-15} \text{ molL}^{-1}$
- $K_w = [\text{H}^+][\text{OH}^-] = 10^{-14}$ . The value of the equilibrium constant is constant (same) at a specified temperature.
- $\text{pH} = -1.07$ ;  $[\text{OH}^-] = 8.55 \times 10^{-16} \text{ molL}^{-1}$

Set 2

- A. 1.0 B. 0.60 C. 11.6 D. 1.18  
E. 0.40 F. 0.26 G. -1.07 H. 4.9
- A. 0.1 B.  $1 \times 10^{-13}$  C. 11.6
- A.  $0.04 \text{ molL}^{-1}$  B.  $2.5 \times 10^{-13} \text{ molL}^{-1}$  C. 12.6
- 12.7
- 11.1
- $1.58 \times 10^{-13} \text{ molL}^{-1}$
- $[\text{H}^+] = 3.98 \times 10^{-8} \text{ molL}^{-1}$ ;  $[\text{OH}^-] = 2.51 \times 10^{-7} \text{ molL}^{-1}$
- $[\text{H}^+] = 0.3 \text{ molL}^{-1}$ ;  $[\text{OH}^-] = 3.33 \times 10^{-14} \text{ molL}^{-1}$
- 9.8; slightly alkaline
- $[\text{H}^+] = 3.16 \times 10^{-8} \text{ molL}^{-1}$   $[\text{OH}^-] = 3.16 \times 10^{-8} \text{ molL}^{-1}$
- $[\text{H}^+] = 0.02 \text{ molL}^{-1}$ ;  $[\text{OH}^-] = 5.0 \times 10^{-13} \text{ molL}^{-1}$

Set 3

- A. 2.00 B. 1.70 C. 1.26 D. 12.7 E. 1.70 F. 3.38
- A.  $5.01 \times 10^{-5}$  B.  $2.00 \times 10^{-11}$   
C.  $10^{-7}$  D.  $10^0$  or 1
- A. 12.1 B. 12.4
- HC/  $\text{CH}_3\text{COOH}$   $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$  NaCl  $\text{NH}_3$  NaOH
- A. The  $[\text{H}^+]$  in HC/ =  $0.1 \text{ molL}^{-1}$  because it is fully dissociated into ions whereas the  $[\text{H}^+]$  in  $\text{CH}_3\text{COOH} = 0.00132 \text{ molL}^{-1}$  because it is only partially dissociated into ions, much of the ethanoic acid remaining as molecular  $\text{CH}_3\text{COOH}$ .  
B.  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  ions react with water forming  $\text{H}^+$  ions according to the following equation  
 $\text{Fe}^{3+}_{(\text{aq})} + 3\text{H}_2\text{O}_{(\text{l})} \rightarrow \text{Fe}(\text{OH})_{3(\text{s})} + 3\text{H}^+_{(\text{aq})}$
- A. 12.8 B. 12.5 C. 1.16 D. 1.06 E. 2.50

F.  $\text{CH}_3\text{COOH } K_a = \frac{[\text{H}^+][\text{CH}_3\text{COO}^-]}{[\text{CH}_3\text{COOH}]}$

$\text{pH} = -\log_{10}[\text{H}^+] = 2.74$

$[\text{H}^+] = 10^{-2.74} = 1.8197 \times 10^{-3} \text{ molL}^{-1}$

$[\text{H}^+] = [\text{CH}_3\text{COO}^-] = [\text{CH}_3\text{COOH}]$  (due to mole ratio in expression)

$n(\text{H}^+) = cV = 0.2 \times 1.8197 = 3.6394 \times 10^{-4} \text{ moles}$

$n(\text{H}^+) \text{ in HCl} = cV = 0.05 \times 0.1 = 0.005$  or  $5 \times 10^{-3} \text{ moles added}$

	$[\text{H}^+]$	$[\text{CH}_3\text{COO}^-]$	$[\text{CH}_3\text{COOH}]$
n(Initial)	$3.6394 \times 10^{-4}$	$3.6394 \times 10^{-4}$	$3.6394 \times 10^{-4}$
n(Change)	$0.00036394 + 0.005$ $= 0.00536394$	$3.6394 \times 10^{-4}$	$3.6394 \times 10^{-4}$
n(Equilibrium)	$5.36394 \times 10^{-3} - 0.0300 \times 10^{-3}$ $= 5.06394 \times 10^{-3}$ (due to mole ratio)	$3.6394 \times 10^{-4} - 0.300 \times 10^{-4}$ $= 3.39 \times 10^{-4} \text{ moles}$	(in question ii) $3.9394 \times 10^{-4}$

$[\text{H}^+] = 5.06394 \times 10^{-3} / 0.2 = 2.532 \times 10^{-3} \text{ molL}^{-1}$ .

$\text{pH} = -\log_{10}[\text{H}^+] = -\log_{10}[2.532 \times 10^{-3}] = 2.5965$

$[\text{CH}_3\text{COO}^-] = n/V = 3.39 / 0.2 = 1.695 \times 10^{-3} \text{ molL}^{-1}$



Set 3

Q1

a)  $pH = -\log(0.01) = 2$

b)  $0.2 \times 0.1 = 0.02 \text{ mol L}^{-1} = 1.70$

c)  $2 \text{ g L}^{-1} \div M_r \ 36.45 = 0.055 \text{ mol L}^{-1} = 1.26 \text{ pH}$

d)  $2 \text{ g L}^{-1} \div 40 = 0.05 \text{ mol L}^{-1}$ ,  $10^{-14} = [H^+][0.05]$   
 $= 2 \times 10^{-13} = \text{pH } 12.70$

e)  $0.63 \text{ g in } 0.5 \text{ L} = 1.26 \text{ g L}^{-1} \div 63 = 0.02 \text{ mol L}^{-1} = 1.7 \text{ pH}$

f)  $0.01 \times 4.2\% = 0.00042 \text{ mol L}^{-1} \text{ pH} = 3.38$

Q2

a)  $pH = -\log[H^+] = 5 \times 10^{-5} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$

b)  $10.17 \times -1 = -10.17 \Rightarrow 10^x = 2 \times 10^{-11} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$

c)  $1 \times 10^{-7} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$       d)  $1 \text{ mol L}^{-1}$

Q3

a)

NaOH  
 $n = CV$   
 $= 0.115 \times 0.049$   
 $= 0.00735 \text{ mol}$

KCl  
 $n = CV$   
 $= 0.12 \times 0.05$   
 $= 0.006 \text{ mol}$

LR KCl, excess  $OH^-$  ions  $0.00735 - 0.006 = 0.00135 \text{ mol}$

$n(OH^-) = CV$   
 $0.00135 = C \times 0.099$   
 $C(OH^-) = 0.0136 \text{ mol L}^{-1}$

$10^{-14} = [H^+] \ 0.0136$   
 $K^+ = 7.35 \times 10^{-13} \text{ mol L}^{-1} \text{ pH} = \underline{12.1}$

b)

$Ba(OH)_2$   
 $n = CV$   
 $n = 0.072 \times (9.4 \times 10^{-3})$   
 $n = 0.0013968 \text{ mol}$   
 $n(OH^-) = 2 \times n(Ba(OH)_2)$   
 $= 0.0027936 \text{ mol}$

KCl  
 $n = CV$   
 $n = 0.058 \times (27.8 \times 10^{-3})$   
 $n = 0.0016124$   
 $\therefore$  KCl LR

excess  $OH^-$  ions  $0.0027936 - 0.0016124 = 0.0011812 \text{ mol}$

$n(OH^-) = C \times 0.0472$   
 $= 0.025 \text{ mol L}^{-1}$

$\rightarrow 10^{-14} = [H^+] \ 0.025$   
 $= 4 \times 10^{-13} = \underline{12.4 \text{ pH}}$

