

**Strong Acids**

Strong acids are acids that dissociate completely when dissolved in water. The six most important strong acids are listed below:

Hydrochloric acid	$\text{HCl} \rightarrow \text{H}^+ + \text{Cl}^-$
Hydrobromic acid	$\text{HBr} \rightarrow \text{H}^+ + \text{Br}^-$
Hydroiodic acid	$\text{HI} \rightarrow \text{H}^+ + \text{I}^-$
Perchloric acid	$\text{HClO}_4 \rightarrow \text{H}^+ + \text{ClO}_4^-$
Nitric acid	$\text{HNO}_3 \rightarrow \text{H}^+ + \text{NO}_3^-$
Sulfuric acid	$\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4 \rightarrow \text{H}^+ + \text{HSO}_4^-$

For sulfuric acid, only the first hydrogen is considered strong. The second hydrogen only dissociates slightly.

**Strong Bases**

Strong bases are bases that dissociate completely when dissolved in water. Only the hydroxide of Group 1 (IA) metals, calcium, strontium & barium dissociate to any appreciable degree.

**Calculating the pH of a Strong Acid or a Strong Base**

Strong acids and strong bases dissociate completely. Thus, for an acid, the concentration of hydrogen is the same as the original concentration of the acid. For a base, the concentration of hydroxide is equal to the concentration of the base. Once you know the  $[\text{H}^+]$  or  $[\text{OH}^-]$  you can determine the pH & pOH of a substance.

**Example 1:** Calculate the pH & pOH of a 0.025 M HCl

Since HCl is a **strong acid**, it dissociates completely.  $\text{HCl} \rightarrow \text{H}^+ + \text{Cl}^-$ . Thus,  $[\text{HCl}]$  is equal to  $[\text{H}^+]$ .

Thus,  $\text{pH} = -\log[0.025]$

**pH = 1.6; pOH = 12.4**

**Example 2:** Calculate the pH & pOH of 0.0038 M NaOH.

NaOH is a **strong base**, so it dissociates completely.  $\text{NaOH} \rightarrow \text{Na}^+ + \text{OH}^-$ . Thus  $[\text{NaOH}]$  is equal to  $[\text{OH}^-]$ .

\* Remember, when a base dissociates, hydroxide ( $\text{OH}^-$ ) ion is produced, so you calculate the pOH first.

$\text{pOH} = -\log[0.0038]$

**pOH = 2.4; pH = 11.6**

**Calculating Dissociation Constants of a Weak Acid**

An **acid dissociation constant** ( $K_a$ ) is the ratio of the concentration of the dissociated form of an acid to the undissociated form. Scientists calculate an acid's dissociation constant to determine how much of an acid is in the ionic form. Example: A 0.1000 M solution of acetic acid is only partially ionized. The  $[\text{H}^+]$  in the solution is measured as  $1.34 \times 10^{-3}$  M. What is the acid dissociation constant? **Note: You must always create an ICE table when solving for  $K_a$  or  $K_b$ .**

Concentrations	$[\text{CH}_3\text{COOH}]$	$[\text{H}^+]$	$[\text{CH}_3\text{COO}^-]$
Initial	0.1000	0	0
Change	-x	+x	+x
Equilibrium	0.0987	$1.34 \times 10^{-3}$	$1.34 \times 10^{-3}$

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

$$K_a = \frac{(1.34 \times 10^{-3})(1.34 \times 10^{-3})}{0.0987}$$

$$K_a = 1.82 \times 10^{-5}$$

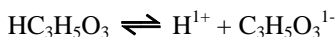
**Ionization Constants of Weak Acids**

Monoprotic Acid	Name	$K_a$
$\text{HIO}_3$	iodic acid	$1.69 \times 10^{-1}$
$\text{HNO}_2$	nitrous acid	$7.1 \times 10^{-4}$
HF	hydrofluoric acid	$6.8 \times 10^{-4}$
$\text{HCHO}_2$	formic acid	$1.8 \times 10^{-4}$
$\text{HC}_3\text{H}_5\text{O}_3$	lactic acid	$1.38 \times 10^{-4}$
$\text{HC}_7\text{H}_5\text{O}_2$	benzoic acid	$6.28 \times 10^{-5}$
$\text{HC}_4\text{H}_7\text{O}_2$	butanoic acid	$1.52 \times 10^{-5}$
$\text{HN}_3$	hydrazoic acid	$1.8 \times 10^{-5}$
$\text{HC}_2\text{H}_3\text{O}_2$	acetic acid	$1.8 \times 10^{-5}$
$\text{HC}_3\text{H}_5\text{O}_2$	propanoic acid	$1.34 \times 10^{-5}$
HOCl	hypochlorous acid	$3.0 \times 10^{-8}$
HCN	hydrocyanic acid	$6.2 \times 10^{-10}$
$\text{HC}_6\text{H}_5\text{O}$	phenol	$1.3 \times 10^{-10}$
HOI	hypoiodous acid	$2.3 \times 10^{-11}$
$\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$	hydrogen peroxide	$1.8 \times 10^{-12}$

### Calculating pH Using Dissociation Constants

Likewise, if you know the concentration of the acid and the acid dissociation constant, you can determine the pH.

**Example:** Calculate the pH of a 0.0100 M lactic acid solution.  $K_a = 1.38 \times 10^{-4}$



$$K_a = \frac{[\text{H}^+][\text{C}_3\text{H}_5\text{O}_3^{1-}]}{[\text{HC}_3\text{H}_5\text{O}_3]}$$

$$\frac{1.38 \times 10^{-4}}{1} = \frac{[x][x]}{0.0100}$$

$$1.38 \times 10^{-6} = x^2$$

$$x = 0.00117 \text{ therefore } [\text{H}^+] = 0.00117$$

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

$$\text{pH} = -\log[0.00117]$$

$$\text{pH} = 2.39$$

### Calculating Dissociation Constants of a Weak Base

A **base dissociation constant ( $K_b$ )** is the ratio of the concentration of the dissociated form of a base to the undissociated form. Scientists calculate a base's dissociation constant to determine how much of a base is in the ionic form. **Example:** A 0.1000 M solution of weak base is only partially ionized. The  $[\text{OH}^-]$  in the solution is measured as  $1.34 \times 10^{-3}\text{M}$ . What is the base dissociation constant?

Concentrations	$[\text{XOH}]$	$[\text{X}^+]$	$[\text{OH}^-]$
Initial	0.1000	0	0
Change	-x	+x	+x
Equilibrium	0.0987	$1.34 \times 10^{-3}$	$1.34 \times 10^{-3}$

$$K_b = \frac{[\text{X}^+][\text{OH}^-]}{[\text{XOH}]}$$

$$K_b = \frac{(1.34 \times 10^{-3})(1.34 \times 10^{-3})}{0.0987}$$

$$K_b = 1.82 \times 10^{-5}$$

### Calculating pH Using Dissociation Constants

Likewise, if you know the concentration of the base and the base dissociation constant, you can determine the pH.

**Example:** Calculate the pH of a 0.010 M ammonia solution.



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

$$\frac{1.8 \times 10^{-5}}{1} = \frac{[x][x]}{0.010}$$

$$1.8 \times 10^{-7} = x^2$$

$$x = 4.2 \times 10^{-4} \text{ therefore } [\text{OH}^-] = 4.2 \times 10^{-4}$$

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

$$\text{pOH} = -\log[4.2 \times 10^{-4}]$$

$$\text{pOH} = 3.4$$

$$\text{pH} = 10.6$$

### Ionization Constants of Weak Bases

Weak Base	Name	$K_b$
$(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{NH}$	dimethylamine	$9.6 \times 10^{-4}$
$\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_2$	methylamine	$4.4 \times 10^{-4}$
$\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{NH}_2$	ethylamine	$5.6 \times 10^{-4}$
$(\text{CH}_3)_3\text{N}$	trimethylamine	$7.4 \times 10^{-5}$
$\text{NH}_3$	ammonia	$1.8 \times 10^{-5}$
$\text{N}_2\text{H}_4$	hydrazine	$9.6 \times 10^{-7}$
$\text{C}_5\text{H}_5\text{N}$	pyridine	$1.7 \times 10^{-9}$
$\text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{NH}_2$	aniline	$3.8 \times 10^{-10}$

**Homework:**

1. List the six strong acids.
2. List six strong bases.
3. What makes an acid or a base strong?
4. Calculate the pH & pOH of a 0.0045 M NaOH solution.
5. Calculate the pH & pOH of a 0.000088 M HI solution.
6. Calculate the pH & pOH of a 0.20 M KOH solution.
7. Calculate the pH & pOH of a 0.085 M HClO<sub>4</sub> solution.
8. A 0.200 M solution of a weak acid has a [H<sup>+</sup>] of 9.86 x 10<sup>-4</sup>M. What is the pH of this solution? What is the K<sub>a</sub> of the solution?
9. A 0.500 M solution of a weak acid has a [H<sup>+</sup>] of 3.4 x 10<sup>-6</sup>M. What is the pH of this solution? What is the K<sub>a</sub> of the solution?
10. A 0.050 M solution of a weak acid has a [H<sup>+</sup>] of 2.9 x 10<sup>-3</sup>M. What is the pH of this solution? What is the K<sub>a</sub> of the solution?

11. Calculate the pH of a 0.50 M acetic acid solution.
12. Calculate the pH of a 0.10 M propanoic acid solution.
13. Calculate the pH of a  $2.3 \times 10^{-3}$  M lactic acid solution.
14. A 0.100 M solution of a weak base has a  $[\text{OH}^-]$  of  $4.86 \times 10^{-3}$  M. What is the pH of this solution? What is the  $K_b$  of the solution?
15. A 0.00780 M solution of a weak base has a  $[\text{OH}^-]$  of  $2.4 \times 10^{-7}$  M. What is the pH of this solution? What is the  $K_b$  of the solution?
16. A 0.050 M solution of a weak base has a  $[\text{OH}^-]$  of  $9.2 \times 10^{-6}$  M. What is the pH of this solution? What is the  $K_b$  of the solution?
17. Calculate the pH of a 0.5 M trimethylamine solution.
18. Calculate the pH of a 0.1 M aniline solution.
19. Calculate the pH of a  $2.3 \times 10^{-3}$  M dimethylamine solution.