

Acid-Base Equilibrium

Chem 108

- **Acids:** taste sour and cause certain dyes to change color.

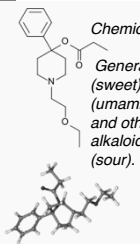
Dr. Ron Rusay

- **Bases:** taste bitter, feel soapy, and also cause certain dyes to change color.

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Taste & Molecules

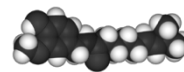
Prosidol & Capsaicin



Chemical stimuli and taste:

Generally, sugars are (sweet), amino acids (umami), sodium chloride and other (salty), bases/alkaloids (bitter) and acids (sour).

Molecules with the same molecular formula can have very different tastes.

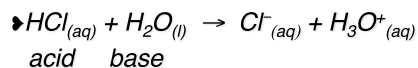


Capsaicin: $C_{18}H_{27}NO_3$

Prosidol: $C_{18}H_{27}NO_3$ bitter alkaloid (opiate analgesic)

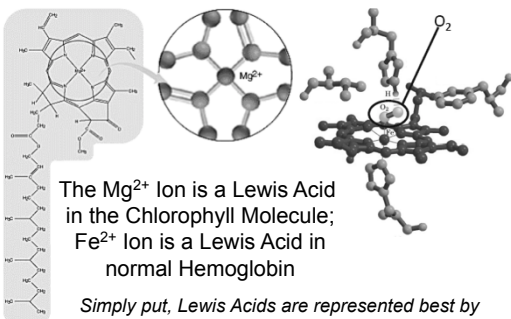
Models of Acids and Bases

- **Arrhenius:** Acids produce H^+ & bases produce OH^- ion in aqueous solutions.
- **Brønsted-Lowry:** Acids are H^+ donors & bases are proton acceptors.



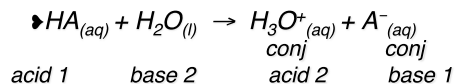
Lewis Acids and Bases

Lewis Acid-Base Theory



Simply put, Lewis Acids are represented best by cations: eg. H^+ , Mg^{2+} , Fe^{2+} ; Lewis bases are represented best by anions & free electrons: eg. OH^- , $:NH_3$

Conjugate Acid/Base Pairs



► **conjugate acid:** formed when the proton is transferred to the base.

► **conjugate base:** everything that remains of the acid molecule after a proton is lost.

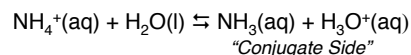
Click to reveal the conjugate acid and the conjugate base of each species.

Conjugate acid		Conjugate base
<input type="text"/>	NH ₃	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	H ₂ O	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	H ₂ PO ₄ ⁻	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	OH ⁻	<input type="text"/>

<http://chemconnections.org/general/movies/ConjugateAcidBaseActivity.swf>

QUESTION

In the following equilibrium reaction, which statement is correct?



- A. NH₄⁺ is an acid and H₂O is its conjugate base.
- B. H₂O is a base and NH₃ is its conjugate acid.
- C. NH₄⁺ is an acid and H₃O⁺ is its conjugate base.
- D. H₂O is a base and H₃O⁺ is its conjugate acid.
- E. NH₄⁺ is a base and H₂O is its conjugate acid.

What is equilibrium?
 Water evaporates and condenses in equilibrium
 And, water is an acid & a base in equilibrium

$$\text{H}_2\text{O}(\text{l}) + \text{energy} \rightleftharpoons \text{H}_2\text{O}(\text{g})$$

Number of Molecules and Concentration vs. TIME

$$\text{H}_2\text{O}(\text{l}) + \text{H}_2\text{O}(\text{l}) \rightleftharpoons \text{H}_3\text{O}^+(\text{aq}) + \text{OH}^-(\text{aq})$$

Acid-Base Strengths
 Conductivity & pH [indicator paper & pH meter]

<https://phet.colorado.edu/en/simulation/acid-base-solutions>

Strong Acid:
Strong Base:
Weak Acid:
Weak Base:

$2\text{H}_2\text{O} \rightleftharpoons \text{H}_3\text{O}^+ + \text{OH}^-$
 Water itself is neutral
 It is both an Acid and a Base

What is equilibrium?
Equilibrium Constant (K)

► K is a proportional measure of concentrations in equilibria mixtures

$$K = \frac{[\text{Products}]}{[\text{Reactants}]}$$

$$\text{H}_2\text{O}(\text{l}) + \text{H}_2\text{O}(\text{l}) \rightleftharpoons \text{H}_3\text{O}^+(\text{aq}) + \text{OH}^-(\text{aq})$$

$$K = \frac{[\text{H}_3\text{O}^+][\text{OH}^-]}{[\text{H}_2\text{O}][\text{H}_2\text{O}]}$$

Water itself is neutral having very very low concentrations of ions @ equilibrium
 It is both an Acid and a Base: $[\text{H}_3\text{O}^+] = [\text{OH}^-]$

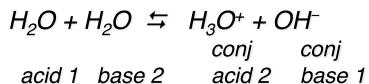
Water as an Acid and a Base
 Self-ionization

Pure Water: an Acid and a Base

It is amphoteric. (It can behave either as an acid or a base).



What is equilibrium?



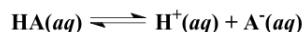
$$K = \frac{[\text{H}_3\text{O}^+][\text{OH}^-]}{[\text{H}_2\text{O}][\text{H}_2\text{O}]} \quad \text{K}_w = 1 \times 10^{-14} \text{ at } 25^\circ\text{C}$$

$$\text{K}_w = [\text{H}_3\text{O}^+][\text{OH}^-] = [1 \times 10^{-7}\text{M}][1 \times 10^{-7}\text{M}]$$

NOTE: only concentrations [mol/L] are used in the calculation; liquids (l) and solids (s) are not included

Strong & Weak Acids: Dissociation Constant (K_a)

A proportional measure of the concentration of ions in solution:

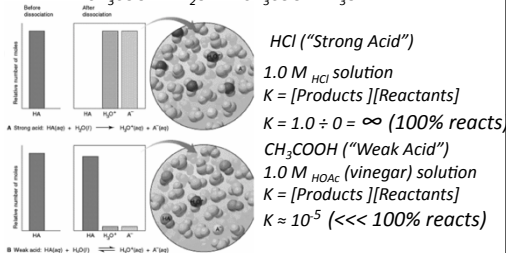
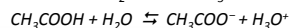
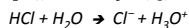


$$K_a = \frac{[\text{H}_3\text{O}^+][\text{A}^-]}{[\text{HA}]} \quad \text{or} \quad K_a = \frac{[\text{H}^+][\text{A}^-]}{[\text{HA}]}$$

► K_a is the "acid" dissociation constant, it does not have a unit although it is calculated with concentration, mol/L, (M)

What is equilibrium?

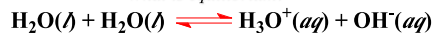
Water is neutral
until something is added



Water is neutral

It is an Acid and a Base

What is equilibrium?



until something is added

("Equilibrium Constant") $K = [\text{Products}]/[\text{Reactants}]$

Reactants \rightleftharpoons Products

For example weak acids

EXPERIMENT #1		
TIME	Amount Reactant	Amount Product
1	100	0
2	75	25
3	59	41
4	48	52
5	41	59
6	37	63
7	34	66
8	32	68
9	31	69
10	30	70
11	29	71
12	29	71
13	29	71

$K = [71]/[29]$
 $K = 2.4$

Water is neutral
It is an Acid and a Base

What is equilibrium?



until something is added

("Equilibrium Constant") $K = [\text{Products}]/[\text{Reactants}]$

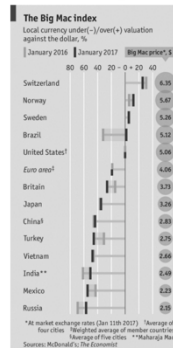
Reactants \rightleftharpoons Products

For example weak acids

EXPERIMENT #1		
TIME	Amount Reactant	Amount Product
1	100	0
2	75	25
3	59	41
4	48	52
5	41	59
6	37	63
7	34	66
8	32	68
9	31	69
10	30	70
11	29	71
12	29	71
13	29	71

$K = [71]/[29]$
 $K = 2.4$

Equilibrium & Currency Exchange Rates



The US \$ is the current common global currency

The cost of a McDonald's Big Mac in US \$, country by country, provides a basis for the relative global market equilibrium value of the local currency

The "Big Mac Index" was introduced by the Economist magazine in September 1986 by Pam Woodall and is published annually

Currently, US \$20 would only buy 3 Big Macs in Geneva, Switzerland, but 9 in Moscow, Russia

Normalized to 1 Big Mac in US \$
Geneva \rightleftharpoons US \rightleftharpoons Moscow

Dynamic Equilibrium "The Big Mac Index"



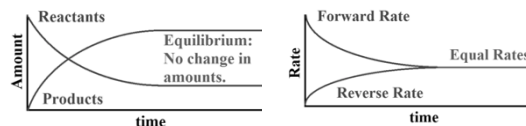
<http://www.economist.com/content/big-mac-index>

How fast does water ionize?
How do the rate(s) affect concentration?



What is equilibrium?

Reactants \rightleftharpoons Products



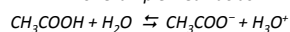
("Equilibrium Constant") $K = [\text{Products}] / [\text{Reactants}]$

Reaching Equilibrium (TIME)

("Equilibrium Constant") $K = [\text{Products}] / [\text{Reactants}]$

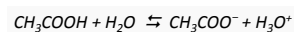
Reactants \rightleftharpoons Products

For example weak acids



EXPERIMENT #1				EXPERIMENT #2			
TIME	Amount Reactant	Amount Product		TIME	Amount Reactant	Amount Product	
1	100	0		1	0	100	
2	78	22		2	10	90	
3	59	41		3	16	84	
4	48	52		4	20	80	
5	41	59	$K = [71][29]$	5	22	78	
6	37	63	$K = 2.4$	6	24	76	
7	34	66		7	25	75	
8	32	68		8	26	74	
9	31	69		9	27	73	
10	30	70		10	28	72	
11	29	71		11	29	71	
12	29	71		12	29	71	
13	29	71		13	29	71	

		ACID	BASE
100% ionized in H ₂ O	Strong	HCl	Cl ⁻
		H ₂ SO ₄	HSO ₄ ⁻
		HNO ₃	NO ₃ ⁻
		H ₃ O ⁺ (aq)	H ₂ O
		HSO ₄ ⁻	SO ₄ ²⁻
		H ₃ PO ₄	H ₂ PO ₄ ⁻
		HF	F ⁻
		HC ₂ H ₃ O ₂	C ₂ H ₃ O ₂ ⁻
		H ₂ CO ₃	HCO ₃ ⁻
		H ₂ S	HS ⁻
Acid strength increases	Weak	H ₂ PO ₄ ⁻	HPO ₄ ²⁻
		NH ₄ ⁺	NH ₃
		HCO ₃ ⁻	CO ₃ ²⁻
		HPO ₄ ²⁻	PO ₄ ³⁻
		H ₂ O	OH ⁻
		OH ⁻	O ²⁻
		H ₂	H ⁻
		CH ₄	CH ₃ ⁻
Negligible			
		Base strength increases	
		Weak	
		Strong	
		100% protonated in H ₂ O	



Acid Strength

Strong Acid:

- Equilibrium position lies far to the right. (HNO_3 ; $K_a \gg 1$)
- Produces a conjugate base. (NO_3^-) and a conjugate acid which are weaker than the starting acid and base (H_2O).

Acid Strength

Strong Acids:

Strong Acid	Formula
Hydrochloric	HCl
Hydrobromic	HBr
Hydroiodic	HI
Nitric	HNO_3
Chloric	HClO_3
Perchloric	HClO_4
Sulfuric *	H_2SO_4

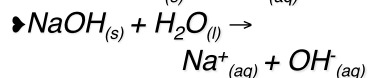
Acid Strength (continued)

Weak Acid:

- Equilibrium lies far to the left. (CH_3COOH); $K_a < 1$
- Yields a stronger (relatively strong) conjugate base than water. (CH_3COO^-)

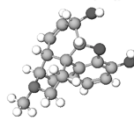
Bases

- "Strong" and "weak" are used in the same sense for bases as for acids.
- Strong = complete dissociation, $K_b \gg 1$ (concentration of hydroxide ion in solution)



Bases (continued)

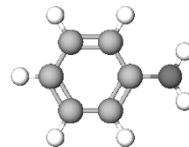
- Weak bases have very little dissociation, $K_b < 1$ (little ionization with water)
- $\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_2(aq) + \text{H}_2\text{O}(l) \rightleftharpoons \text{CH}_3\text{NH}_3^+(aq) + \text{OH}^-(aq)$
- How conductive is $\text{NaOH}(aq)$ vs morphine, $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{19}\text{NO}_3$?



QUESTION

Aniline, $\text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{NH}_2$, was isolated in the 1800s and began immediate use in the dye industry. What is the formula of the conjugate acid of this base?

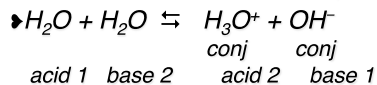
- A. $\text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{NH}_2^+$
- B. $\text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{NH}_3^+$
- C. $\text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{NH}^-$
- D. $\text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{NH}^+$



Water as an Acid and a Base

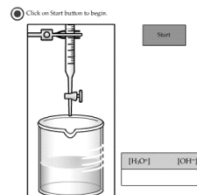


- Remember: Water is amphoteric (it can behave either as an acid or a base).



$$K_w = 1 \times 10^{-14} \text{ at } 25^\circ\text{C}$$

Water as an Acid and a Base Self-ionization



<http://chemconnections.org/general/movies/KwActivity.swf>

The pH Scale

$\text{pH} \approx -\log[\text{H}^+] \approx -\log[\text{H}_3\text{O}^+]$
 pH in water ranges from 0 to 14.
 $K_w = 1.00 \times 10^{-14} = [\text{H}^+][\text{OH}^-]$
 $\text{p}K_w = 14.00 = \text{pH} + \text{pOH}$
 As pH rises, pOH falls (sum = 14.00).
 There are no theoretical limits on the values of pH or pOH . (e.g. pH of 2.0 M HCl is -0.301)

<https://phet.colorado.edu/en/simulation/ph-scale-basics>

Acid-Base Strengths

pH [indicator paper & pH meter]

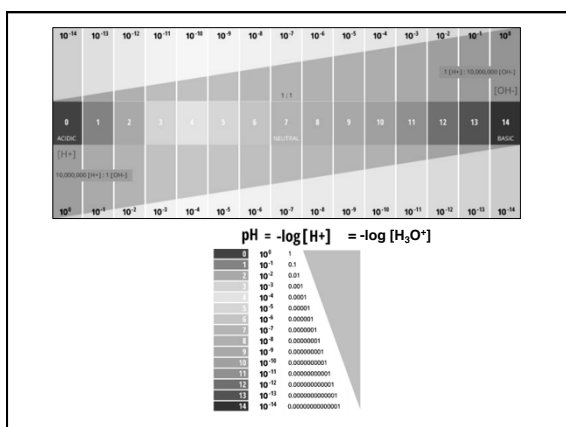
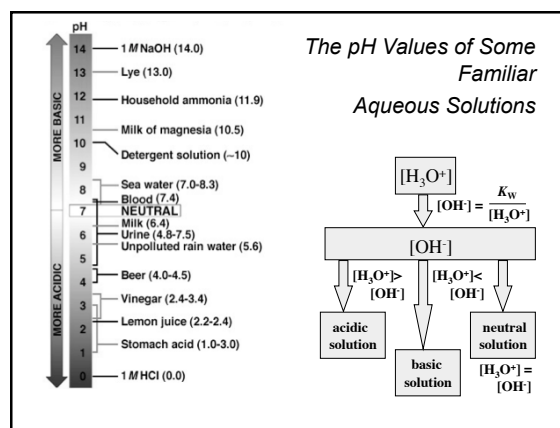
<https://phet.colorado.edu/en/simulation/ph-scale>

Strong Acid:
Strong Base:
Weak Acid:
Weak Base:

<http://www.chemconnections.org/general/chem108/Acids-Bases%20Guide.html>

The Relations Among $[\text{H}_3\text{O}^+]$, pH, $[\text{OH}^-]$, and pOH

	$[\text{H}_3\text{O}^+]$	pH	$[\text{OH}^-]$	pOH
BASIC	1.0×10^{-15}	15.00	1.0×10^1	-1.00
	1.0×10^{-14}	14.00	1.0×10^0	0.00
	1.0×10^{-13}	13.00	1.0×10^{-1}	1.00
	1.0×10^{-12}	12.00	1.0×10^{-2}	2.00
	1.0×10^{-11}	11.00	1.0×10^{-3}	3.00
	1.0×10^{-10}	10.00	1.0×10^{-4}	4.00
NEUTRAL	1.0×10^{-9}	9.00	1.0×10^{-5}	5.00
	1.0×10^{-8}	8.00	1.0×10^{-6}	6.00
	1.0×10^{-7}	7.00	1.0×10^{-7}	7.00
	1.0×10^{-6}	6.00	1.0×10^{-8}	8.00
	1.0×10^{-5}	5.00	1.0×10^{-9}	9.00
	1.0×10^{-4}	4.00	1.0×10^{-10}	10.00
ACIDIC	1.0×10^{-3}	3.00	1.0×10^{-11}	11.00
	1.0×10^{-2}	2.00	1.0×10^{-12}	12.00
	1.0×10^{-1}	1.00	1.0×10^{-13}	13.00
	1.0×10^0	0.00	1.0×10^{-14}	14.00
	1.0×10^1	-1.00	1.0×10^{-15}	15.00



QUESTION

In a solution of water at a particular temperature the $[\text{H}^+]$ may be $1.2 \times 10^{-6} \text{ M}$. What is the $[\text{OH}^-]$ in the same solution? Is the solution acidic, basic, or neutral?

A. $1.2 \times 10^{-20} \text{ M}$; acidic
 B. $1.2 \times 10^{-20} \text{ M}$; basic
 C. $8.3 \times 10^{-9} \text{ M}$; basic
 D. $8.3 \times 10^{-9} \text{ M}$; acidic

$K_w = 1.00 \times 10^{-14} = [\text{H}^+][\text{OH}^-] = [\text{H}_3\text{O}^+][\text{OH}^-]$

<http://chemconnections.org/general/movies/pHEstimation.swf>

pH Estimation
 $pH = -\log [H_3O^+]$

Using the pH benchmarks, estimate the pH of solutions with each of the following hydronium ion concentrations. Click on the boxes to see the estimate and the calculated value of each solution's pH.

pH Benchmarks	
$[H_3O^+]$	pH
1.0 M	0.00
0.10	1.00
0.010	2.00
0.0010	3.00
1.0×10^{-4}	4.00
1.0×10^{-5}	5.00
1.0×10^{-6}	6.00
1.0×10^{-7}	7.00

$[H_3O^+]$	Estimated pH	Calculated pH
1.5×10^{-2}	2	
5.8×10^{-2}	2	
$\dots \times 10^{-5}$	5	
$\dots \times 10^{-7}$	7	

<http://chemconnections.org/general/movies/pHEstimation.swf>

pH = $-\log [H_3O^+]$

$[H_3O^+]$	Estimated pH	Calculated pH
1.5×10^{-2}	2 (<2)	1.82
5.8×10^{-2}	2 (<2)	1.24
$\dots \times 10^{-5}$	5 (<5)	4.35
$\dots \times 10^{-7}$	7 (<7)	6.41

QUESTION

An environmental chemist obtains a sample of rainwater near a large industrial city. The $[H^+]$ was determined to be $3.5 \times 10^{-6} M$. What is the pH, pOH, and $[OH^-]$ of the solution?

- A. pH = 5.46 ; pOH = 8.54; $[OH^-] = 7.0 \times 10^{-6} M$
 B. pH = 5.46 ; pOH = 8.54; $[OH^-] = 2.9 \times 10^{-9} M$
 C. pH = 12.56 ; pOH = 1.44 ; $[OH^-] = 3.6 \times 10^{-2} M$
 D. pH = 8.54; pOH = 5.46; $[OH^-] = 2.9 \times 10^{-9} M$

$$K_w = 1.00 \times 10^{-14} = [H^+][OH^-] = [H_3O^+][OH^-]$$

$$pK_w = 14.00 = pH + pOH$$

$$pH = -\log [H_3O^+] = -\log [H^+]$$

The pH Scale

$[H^+]$	$[OH^-]$	pH	pOH	acidic or basic?
$7.5 \times 10^{-3} M$				
	$3.6 \times 10^{-10} M$			
		8.25		
			5.70	

The pH Scale

$[H^+]$	$[OH^-]$	pH	pOH	acidic or basic?
$7.5 \times 10^{-3} M$	1.3×10^{-12}	2.1	11.9	Acid
2.8×10^{-5}	$3.6 \times 10^{-10} M$	4.6	9.4	Acid
5.62×10^{-9}	1.78×10^{-6}	8.25	5.75	Base
5.00×10^{-9}	2.00×10^{-6}	8.30	5.70	Base

The pH Scale

Abandoned Mine Lands Case Study



The drainage water from the Iron Mountain Mine is the most acidic water on Earth; some samples collected in 1990 and 1991 have been measured to have a pH value of -3.6, which is the lowest pH observed globally in a natural environment.

Behavior of Salts in Water

Salt Solution (Examples)	pH	Nature of Ions	Ion That Reacts with Water
Neutral [NaCl, KBr, Ba(NO ₃) ₂]	7.0	Cation of strong base Anion of strong acid	None
Acidic [NH ₄ Cl, NH ₄ NO ₃ , CH ₃ NH ₃ Br]	<7.0	Cation of weak base Anion of strong acid	Cation
Acidic [Al(NO ₃) ₃ , CrCl ₃ , FeBr ₃]	<7.0	Small, highly charged cation Anion of strong acid	Cation
Basic [CH ₃ COONa, KF, Na ₂ CO ₃]	>7.0	Cation of strong base Anion of weak acid	Anion

<http://chemconnections.org/general/movies/pHofSaltSolutions.swf>

[LiNO₃](#) [NH₄Cl](#) [Ca\(NO₃\)₂](#)

[MgSO₄](#) [AgClO₃](#) [CsCN](#)

QUESTION

The following salts were dissolved to form separate 0.10M solutions at the same temperature so that their concentrations were all equal. Arrange them in order from lowest pH to highest pH.

NaCl; NH₄NO₃; Na(C₂H₃O₂)


A. NaCl; NH₄NO₃; Na(C₂H₃O₂)
 B. Na(C₂H₃O₂); NaCl; NH₄NO₃
 C. NH₄NO₃; NaCl; Na(C₂H₃O₂)
 D. NH₄NO₃; Na(C₂H₃O₂); NaCl

Na(C₂H₃O₂) = CH₃COONa

Acid-Base Equilibrium

BUFFERS

Dr. Ron Rusay



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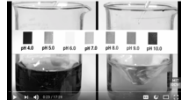
BUFFERS

Weak Acid-Weak Base Systems

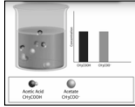
Example:

$$H_2CO_3(aq) / HCO_3^-(aq) / CO_3^{2-}(aq)$$

$$CO_2(g) + H_2O(l) \rightleftharpoons HCO_3^-(aq) + H^+(aq) \rightleftharpoons CO_3^{2-}(aq) + H^+(aq)$$



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XR_0k8JlawY



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZLKEjXbCU30>

QUESTION

In the following equilibrium:

$$HCO_3^-(aq) + H_2O(l) \rightleftharpoons H_2CO_3(aq) + OH^-(aq)$$

A) HCO₃⁻ is an acid and H₂CO₃ is its conjugate base.
 B) H₂O is an acid and OH⁻ is its conjugate base.
 C) HCO₃⁻ is an acid and OH⁻ is its conjugate base.
 D) H₂O is an acid and H₂CO₃ is its conjugate base.
 E) H₂O is an acid and HCO₃⁻ is its conjugate base.

Two VERY IMPORTANT Buffer Systems

“Bicarbonate”

$$CO_2(g) + H_2O(l) \rightleftharpoons HCO_3^-(aq) + H^+(aq) \rightleftharpoons CO_3^{2-}(aq) + H^+(aq)$$

1. **Blood:** a human's blood serum volume is relatively small, 4-6 Liters with a narrow pH range, pH = 7.35 – 7.45; pH is maintained through buffering (homeostasis)
 Have you ever had respiratory alkalosis during an exam?

2. **Oceans:** an extraordinarily large volume of a “salt water” solution with a pH ~ 8.1; maintained through buffering

Human & Oceanic Bicarbonate Buffer Systems

Acid-Base Disorders

Stephen W. Smith, M.D.
Department of Emergency Medicine
Hennepin County Medical Center

Cartoons Courtesy of Dr. Rock

Resource: www.acid-base.com, Tintinalli

<http://chemconnections.org/general/chem121/Buffers/Buffers-Med-Exam.htm>

Overview of Marine Carbon System

Christopher L. Sabine (NOAA/PMEL)

The carbon dioxide system in sea water: equilibrium chemistry and measurements

Andrew G. Dickson

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<http://chemconnections.org/general/chem121/Buffers/Buffers-CO2-Oceans-2011.htm>

OCEAN CARBON STORAGE

CO₂ absorbed from the atmosphere

CO₂ + H₂O → H₂CO₃ → H⁺ + HCO₃⁻

CO₂ + water makes bicarbonate

Bicarbonate stored in the ocean interior

EQUILIBRIUM

CO₂ & Oceanic Bicarbonate Buffering

OCEAN CARBON STORAGE

CO₂ absorbed from the atmosphere

CO₂ + H₂O → H₂CO₃ → H⁺ + HCO₃⁻

CO₂ + water makes bicarbonate

Bicarbonate stored in the ocean interior

$$\text{CO}_2(\text{g}) + \text{H}_2\text{O}(\text{l}) \rightleftharpoons \text{HCO}_3^{-}(\text{aq}) + \text{H}^{+}(\text{aq}) \rightleftharpoons \text{CO}_3^{2-}(\text{aq}) + \text{H}^{+}(\text{aq})$$

Oceans: pH ~ 8.1 and falling

http://www.ios.org/oceanography/issues/issue_archive/22_4.html

Increasing CO₂ is decreasing ocean pH; long term effects?

http://sos.noaa.gov/datasets/Ocean/ocean_acidification.html

Bicarbonate Buffer Systems

Which is the buffer?

One is bicarbonate buffer to pH ≈ 8 - 9.

One is water plus sodium hydroxide, pH ≈ 8 - 9.

Volunteers to experiment and find out which is which?

Buffer after addition of OH⁻

HCO₃⁻ CO₃²⁻

Buffer with equal concentrations of weak acid and its conjugate base

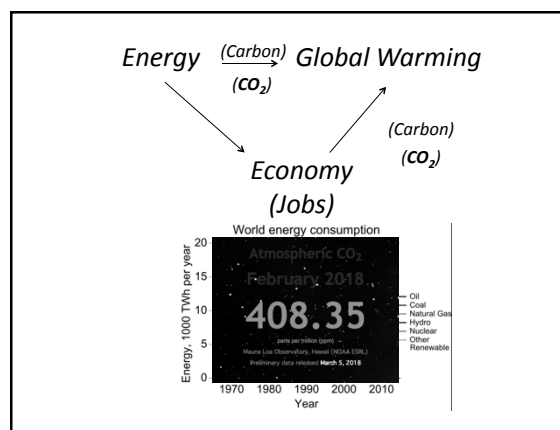
HCO₃⁻ CO₃²⁻

acid conj. base

Buffer after addition of H⁺

HCO₃⁻ CO₃²⁻

CO₃²⁻ + H₂O → HCO₃⁻ + OH⁻ H⁺ + CO₃²⁻ → HCO₃⁻



Your Future?

Global Warming & Your Carbon Footprint

<http://chemconnections.org/general/chem108/Global%20Warming%20Bonus.html>

The United Nations' Nobel Prize winning International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC: <http://www.ipcc.ch/>) of more than 1,000 scientists have concluded that "Human influence on the climate system is clear, and recent anthropogenic (man made) emissions of greenhouse gases are the highest in history. The atmospheric concentration of key greenhouse gases — carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide — is unprecedented in at least the last 800,000 years, and our fossil-fuel driven economies and (mankind's) ever-increasing population are to blame."