

19.3

STRENGTHS OF ACIDS AND BASES

Section Review

Objectives

- Define strong acids and weak acids
- Calculate an acid dissociation constant (K_a) from concentration and pH measurements
- Order acids by strength according to their acid dissociation constants (K_a)
- Order bases by strength according to their base dissociation constants (K_b)

Vocabulary

- strong acids
- weak acids
- acid dissociation constant (K_a)
- strong bases
- weak bases
- base dissociation constant (K_b)

Part A Completion

Use this completion exercise to check your understanding of the concepts and terms that are introduced in this section. Each blank can be completed with a term, short phrase, or number.

- The strength of an acid or a base is determined by the 1 **1.** _____
of the substance in solution. The acid dissociation constant, **2.** _____
2, is a quantitative measure of acid strength. A strong acid **3.** _____
has a much 3 K_a than a weak acid. The K_a of an acid is **4.** _____
determined from measured 4 values. **5.** _____
- Hydrochloric acid and sulfuric acid are 5 ionized in **6.** _____
solution and are 6 acids. Ethanoic acid, which is only about **7.** _____
1 percent ionized, is a 7 acid. Magnesium hydroxide and **8.** _____
calcium hydroxide are strong 8. **9.** _____
- Weak bases react with 9 to form the hydroxide ion and **10.** _____
the conjugate 10 of the base. Concentration in solution does **11.** _____
not affect whether an acid or a base is 11 or weak.

Part B True-False

Classify each of these statements as always true, AT; sometimes true, ST; or never true, NT.

- _____ 12. Acids are completely dissociated in aqueous solution.
- _____ 13. Diprotic acids lose both hydrogens at the same time.
- _____ 14. Acid dissociation constants for weak acids can be calculated from experimental data.
- _____ 15. Bases react with water to form hydroxide ions.

Part C Matching

Match each description in Column B to the correct term in Column A.

| Column A | Column B |
|--|--|
| _____ 16. strong acids | a. ratio of the concentration of the dissociated (or ionized) form of an acid to the concentration of the undissociated acid |
| _____ 17. weak acids | b. bases that dissociate completely into metal ions and hydroxide ions in aqueous solution |
| _____ 18. acid dissociation constant (K_a) | c. acids that ionize completely in aqueous solution |
| _____ 19. strong bases | d. bases that do not dissociate completely in aqueous solution |
| _____ 20. weak bases | e. acids that are only partially ionized in aqueous solution |
| _____ 21. base dissociation constant (K_b) | f. ratio of concentration of conjugate acid times concentration of hydroxide ion to the concentration of conjugate base |

Part D Problem

Answer the following in the space provided.

22. A 0.35M solution of a strong acid, HX, has a $[H^+]$ of 4.1×10^{-2} . What is the value of K_a for this acid?