

# CEE 680: Water Chemistry

Lecture #7

Acids & Bases: Analytical Solutions with  
simplifying assumptions I  
(Stumm & Morgan, Chapt.3)

(Benjamin, Chapt. 3)

# Question

- What is the pH of a liter of water to which you add 1 mL of White Vinegar?
  - A. 5.89
  - B. 4.75
  - C. 3.91
  - D. 3.00
  - E. Impossible to tell
  - F. None of the above



Substance	By mass	Molarity
Glacial acetic acid	99.7%	17.4
White Vinegar	5.7%	1.0

NAME	EQUILIBRIA	pK <sub>a</sub>
Perchloric acid	$\text{HClO}_4 = \text{H}^+ + \text{ClO}_4^-$	-7 STRONG
Hydrochloric acid	$\text{HCl} = \text{H}^+ + \text{Cl}^-$	-3
Sulfuric acid	$\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4 = \text{H}^+ + \text{HSO}_4^-$	-3 (&2) ACIDS
Nitric acid	$\text{HNO}_3 = \text{H}^+ + \text{NO}_3^-$	-0
Hydronium ion	$\text{H}_3\text{O}^+ = \text{H}^+ + \text{H}_2\text{O}$	0
Trichloroacetic acid	$\text{CCl}_3\text{COOH} = \text{H}^+ + \text{CCl}_3\text{COO}^-$	0.70
Iodic acid	$\text{HIO}_3 = \text{H}^+ + \text{IO}_3^-$	0.8
Dichloroacetic acid	$\text{CHCl}_2\text{COOH} = \text{H}^+ + \text{CHCl}_2\text{COO}^-$	1.48
Bisulfate ion	$\text{HSO}_4^- = \text{H}^+ + \text{SO}_4^{2-}$	2
Phosphoric acid	$\text{H}_3\text{PO}_4 = \text{H}^+ + \text{H}_2\text{PO}_4^-$	2.15 (&7.2, 12.3)
Ferric ion	$\text{Fe}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6^{3+} = \text{H}^+ + \text{Fe}(\text{OH})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_5^{2+}$	2.2 (&4.6)
Chloroacetic acid	$\text{CH}_2\text{ClCOOH} = \text{H}^+ + \text{CH}_2\text{ClCOO}^-$	2.85
o-Phthalic acid	$\text{C}_6\text{H}_4(\text{COOH})_2 = \text{H}^+ + \text{C}_6\text{H}_4(\text{COOH})\text{COO}^-$	2.89 (&5.51)
Citric acid	$\text{C}_3\text{H}_5\text{O}(\text{COOH})_3 = \text{H}^+ + \text{C}_3\text{H}_5\text{O}(\text{COOH})_2\text{COO}^-$	3.14 (&4.77, 6.4)
Hydrofluoric acid	$\text{HF} = \text{H}^+ + \text{F}^-$	3.2
Formic Acid	$\text{HCOOH} = \text{H}^+ + \text{HCOO}^-$	3.75
Aspartic acid	$\text{C}_2\text{H}_6\text{N}(\text{COOH})_2 = \text{H}^+ + \text{C}_2\text{H}_6\text{N}(\text{COOH})\text{COO}^-$	3.86 (&9.82)
m-Hydroxybenzoic acid	$\text{C}_6\text{H}_4(\text{OH})\text{COOH} = \text{H}^+ + \text{C}_6\text{H}_4(\text{OH})\text{COO}^-$	4.06 (&9.92)
Succinic acid	$\text{C}_2\text{H}_4(\text{COOH})_2 = \text{H}^+ + \text{C}_2\text{H}_4(\text{COOH})\text{COO}^-$	4.16 (&5.61)
p-Hydroxybenzoic acid	$\text{C}_6\text{H}_4(\text{OH})\text{COOH} = \text{H}^+ + \text{C}_6\text{H}_4(\text{OH})\text{COO}^-$	4.48 (&9.32)
Nitrous acid	$\text{HNO}_2 = \text{H}^+ + \text{NO}_2^-$	4.5
Ferric Monohydroxide	$\text{FeOH}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_5^{2+} + \text{H}^+ + \text{Fe}(\text{OH})_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_4^+$	4.6
Acetic acid	$\text{CH}_3\text{COOH} = \text{H}^+ + \text{CH}_3\text{COO}^-$	4.75
Aluminum ion	$\text{Al}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6^{3+} = \text{H}^+ + \text{Al}(\text{OH})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_5^{2+}$	4.8

NAME	FORMULA	pK <sub>a</sub>
Propionic acid	$C_2H_5COOH = H^+ + C_2H_5COO^-$	4.87
Carbonic acid	$H_2CO_3 = H^+ + HCO_3^-$	6.35 (& 10.33)
Hydrogen sulfide	$H_2S = H^+ + HS^-$	7.02 (& 13.9)
Dihydrogen phosphate	$H_2PO_4^- = H^+ + HPO_4^{2-}$	7.2
Hypochlorous acid	$HOCl = H^+ + OCl^-$	7.5
Copper ion	$Cu(H_2O)_6^{+2} = H^+ + CuOH(H_2O)_5^+$	8.0
Zinc ion	$Zn(H_2O)_6^{+2} = H^+ + ZnOH(H_2O)_5^+$	8.96
Boric acid	$B(OH)_3 + H_2O = H^+ + B(OH)_4^-$	9.2 (& 12.7, 13.8)
Ammonium ion	$NH_4^+ = H^+ + NH_3$	9.24
Hydrocyanic acid	$HCN = H^+ + CN^-$	9.3
p-Hydroxybenzoic acid	$C_6H_4(OH)COO^- = H^+ + C_6H_4(O)COO^{2-}$	9.32
Orthosilicic acid	$H_4SiO_4 = H^+ + H_3SiO_4^-$	9.86 (& 13.1)
Phenol	$C_6H_5OH = H^+ + C_6H_5O^-$	9.9
m-Hydroxybenzoic acid	$C_6H_4(OH)COO^- = H^+ + C_6H_4(O)COO^{2-}$	9.92
Cadmium ion	$Cd(H_2O)_6^{+2} = H^+ + CdOH(H_2O)_5^+$	10.2
Bicarbonate ion	$HCO_3^- = H^+ + CO_3^{2-}$	10.33
Magnesium ion	$Mg(H_2O)_6^{+2} = H^+ + MgOH(H_2O)_5^+$	11.4
Monohydrogen phosphate	$HPO_4^{2-} = H^+ + PO_4^{3-}$	12.3
Calcium ion	$Ca(H_2O)_6^{+2} = H^+ + CaOH(H_2O)_5^+$	12.5
Trihydrogen silicate	$H_3SiO_4^- = H^+ + H_2SiO_4^{2-}$	12.6
Bisulfide ion	$HS^- = H^+ + S^{2-}$	13.9
Water	$H_2O = H^+ + OH^-$	14.00
Ammonia	$NH_3 = H^+ + NH_2^-$	23
Hydroxide	$OH^- = H^+ + O^{2-}$	24
Methane	$CH_4 = H^+ + CH_3^-$	34



# Analytical Solutions

- Basic Approach
  - combine mass balances with thermodynamic equilibria
  - consider exact solutions, as well as approximations
  - similar approaches used for other topics in CEE 680
- Four principal steps
  - 1. List all species present
  - 2. List all independent equations
    - equilibria, mass balances, proton balance (or electroneutrality equation)
  - 3. Combine equations and solve for proton
  - 4. Solve for other species

# General Example

- 1. List all species present
  - $H^+$ ,  $OH^-$ ,  $HA$ ,  $A^-$  **Four total**
- 2. List all independent equations
  - equilibria
    - $K_a = [H^+][A^-]/[HA]$  **1**
    - $K_w = [H^+][OH^-]$
  - mass balances **2**
    - $[HA] + [A^-] = C$  (formal or “analytical” concentration)
  - proton balance (or electroneutrality equation) **3**
    - PBE:  $\Sigma(\text{proton rich species}) = \Sigma(\text{proton poor species})$
    - ENE:  $\Sigma(\text{cationic species}) = \Sigma(\text{anionic species})$
    - $[H^+] = [OH^-] + [A^-]$

**4**

# General Example (cont.)

- 3. Combine equations and solve for proton
  - use PBE or ENE and eliminate non- $H^+$  species by substituting in the other equations
- 4. Solve for other species

# Acetic Acid Example

- What is the pH and solution composition when you add 1 mM acetic acid to 1 liter of water

- The Reaction:



- The overall Gibbs Free Energy:

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta G^o &= \sum v_i \Delta G_f^o \\ &= \Delta G_{f-Ac^-}^o + \Delta G_{f-H^+}^o - \Delta G_{f-HAc}^o \\ &= -88.29 - 0 - (-94.8) = +6.51 \text{ Kcal}\end{aligned}$$

- Recall:

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta G^o &= -RT \ln K \\ &= -2.303RT \log K\end{aligned}$$

- at 25°C:

- so for this problem:

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta G^o &= -2.303(0.001987)(298.13) \log K \\ &= -1.364 \log K\end{aligned}$$

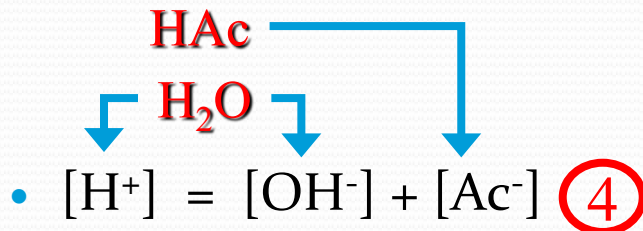
**We will explain this  
further in Lecture #11**

$$\begin{aligned}\log K &= \frac{-\Delta G^o}{1.364} = \frac{-6.51}{1.364} \\ &= -4.77\end{aligned}$$



# Acetic Acid Example (cont.)

- 1. List all species present
  - $\text{H}^+$ ,  $\text{OH}^-$ ,  $\text{HAc}$ ,  $\text{Ac}^-$  **Four total**
- 2. List all independent equations
  - equilibria
    - $K_a = [\text{H}^+][\text{Ac}^-]/[\text{HAc}] = 10^{-4.77}$  **①**
    - $K_w = [\text{H}^+][\text{OH}^-] = 10^{-14}$  **②**
  - mass balances
    - $C = [\text{HAc}] + [\text{Ac}^-] = 10^{-3}$  **③**
  - proton balance:  $\Sigma(\text{proton rich species}) = \Sigma(\text{proton poor species})$



# HAc Example (cont.)

- 3. Combine equations and solve for H<sup>+</sup>

$$\textcircled{2} \quad K_w = [\text{H}^+][\text{OH}^-]$$

$$[\text{OH}^-] = K_w / [\text{H}^+]$$

$$\textcircled{4} \quad [\text{H}^+] = [\text{OH}^-] + [\text{Ac}^-]$$

$$\textcircled{2+4} \quad [\text{H}^+] = K_w / [\text{H}^+] + [\text{Ac}^-]$$

$$\textcircled{1+2+3+4} \quad [\text{H}^+] = K_w / [\text{H}^+] + K_a C / \{K_a + [\text{H}^+]\}$$

$$[\text{H}^+]^2 = K_w + K_a C [\text{H}^+] / \{K_a + [\text{H}^+]\}$$

$$K_a [\text{H}^+]^2 + [\text{H}^+]^3 = K_w K_a + K_w [\text{H}^+] + K_a C [\text{H}^+]$$

$$\textcircled{1+2+3+4} \quad [\text{H}^+]^3 + K_a [\text{H}^+]^2 - \{K_w + K_a C\} [\text{H}^+] - K_w K_a = 0$$

$$\textcircled{3} \quad C = [\text{HAc}] + [\text{Ac}^-]$$

$$[\text{HAc}] = C - [\text{Ac}^-]$$

$$\textcircled{1} \quad K_a = [\text{H}^+][\text{Ac}^-] / [\text{HAc}]$$

$$K_a = [\text{H}^+][\text{Ac}^-] / \{C - [\text{Ac}^-]\}$$

$$K_a C - K_a [\text{Ac}^-] = [\text{H}^+][\text{Ac}^-]$$

$$K_a C = [\text{Ac}^-] \{K_a + [\text{H}^+]\}$$

$$[\text{Ac}^-] = K_a C / \{K_a + [\text{H}^+]\}$$

- 4. Solve for other species

# Exact Solution

- Exact solution:  $\text{pH} = 3.913$ 
  - $[\text{H}^+] = 1.22 \times 10^{-4}$
  - $[\text{OH}^-] = 8.19 \times 10^{-11}$
  - $[\text{Ac}^-] = 1.22 \times 10^{-4}$
  - $[\text{HAc}] = 8.78 \times 10^{-4}$

$$[\text{OH}^-] = K_w/[\text{H}^+]$$






$$[\text{Ac}^-] = K_a C / \{K_a + [\text{H}^+]\}$$

$$[\text{HAc}] = C - [\text{Ac}^-]$$

# Exact Solution: Is it really necessary?

- Can we simplify?

$$[\text{H}^+]^3 + K_a[\text{H}^+]^2 - K_w[\text{H}^+] - K_aC[\text{H}^+] - K_wK_a = 0$$

1.82E-12	2.53E-13	1.22E-18	2.07E-12	1.70E-19	0
					

- What about the PBE?
  - $[\text{H}^+] = [\text{OH}^-] + [\text{Ac}^-]$

 ~ 0

# Simplified HAc Example

- 3. Use simplified PBE & solve for H<sup>+</sup>

④ • [H<sup>+</sup>] = [OH<sup>-</sup>] + [Ac<sup>-</sup>]

• [H<sup>+</sup>] ≈ [Ac<sup>-</sup>]      **Assumes [H<sup>+</sup>] >> [OH<sup>-</sup>]**

②  $K_w = [H^+][OH^-]$   
 $[OH^-] = K_w/[H^+]$

1+3+4

• [H<sup>+</sup>] ≈  $K_a C / \{K_a + [H^+]\}$

- [H<sup>+</sup>]<sup>2</sup> ≈ K<sub>a</sub>C[H<sup>+</sup>]/{K<sub>a</sub>+ [H<sup>+</sup>]}
- K<sub>a</sub>[H<sup>+</sup>]<sup>2</sup> + [H<sup>+</sup>]<sup>3</sup> ≈ K<sub>a</sub>C[H<sup>+</sup>]

•  $[H^+]^2 + K_a[H^+] - K_a C \approx 0$

③ C = [HAc] + [Ac<sup>-</sup>]  
 [HAc] = C - [Ac<sup>-</sup>]

① K<sub>a</sub> = [H<sup>+</sup>][Ac<sup>-</sup>]/[HAc]  
 K<sub>a</sub> = [H<sup>+</sup>][Ac<sup>-</sup>]/{C - [Ac<sup>-</sup>]}

①+③ { K<sub>a</sub>C - K<sub>a</sub>[Ac<sup>-</sup>] = [H<sup>+</sup>][Ac<sup>-</sup>]  
 K<sub>a</sub>C = [Ac<sup>-</sup>]{K<sub>a</sub> + [H<sup>+</sup>]}  
 [Ac<sup>-</sup>] = K<sub>a</sub>C / {K<sub>a</sub> + [H<sup>+</sup>]}

- 4. Solve for other species

# Simplified solution #1

- Exact solution:  $\text{pH} = 3.9132779$

- $[\text{H}^+] = 1.22 \times 10^{-4}$

- $[\text{OH}^-] = 8.19 \times 10^{-11}$

- $[\text{Ac}^-] = 1.22 \times 10^{-4}$

- $[\text{HAc}] = 8.78 \times 10^{-4}$

$$[\text{OH}^-] = K_w/[\text{H}^+]$$

$$[\text{Ac}^-] = K_a C / \{K_a + [\text{H}^+]\}$$

$$[\text{HAc}] = C - [\text{Ac}^-]$$

Same as exact to at least 3 significant figures!

# So how do we know when to use a simplified method?

- Use both & Compare answers
  - Exact:  $\text{pH} = 3.9132777$
  - Simplified:  $\text{pH} = 3.9132779$
- Use simplified equation, and check assumptions!
  - $[\text{OH}^-] \ll [\text{H}^+]$
  - $8.19 \times 10^{-11} \ll 1.22 \times 10^{-4}$ 
    - yes!

# Types of Simplifying Assumptions for Acids

- Basis: one additive term is negligible
  - MBE:  $C = [HA] + [A]$ 
    - $0$  (strong acid) (arrow from  $[A]$ )
    - $0$  (weak acid) (arrow from  $[HA]$ )
  - PBE:  $[H^+] = [A] + [OH^-]$ 
    - $0$  (acidic solution) (arrow from  $[OH^-]$ )
- Combinations
  - Acidic Solution:  $[OH^-] \ll [H^+]$
  - Weak Acid:  $[HA] \gg [A]$
  - Strong Acid:  $[A] \gg [HA]$
  - Weak Acid & Acidic Solution
  - Strong Acid & Acidic Solution



# Simplified HAc Example #2

- 3. Use simplified PBE & MBE

④ •  $[H^+] = [OH^-] + [Ac^-]$

•  $[H^+] \approx [Ac^-]$       Assumes  $[H^+] \gg [OH^-]$

②  $K_w = [H^+][OH^-]$   
 $[OH^-] = K_w/[H^+]$

1+3+4

•  $[H^+] \approx K_a C / [H^+]$   
 •  $[H^+]^2 \approx K_a C$

•  $[H^+] \approx (K_a C)^{0.5}$

③  $C = [HAc] + [Ac^-]$

$[HAc] \approx C$

Assumes  $[HAc] \gg [Ac^-]$

①  $K_a = [H^+][Ac^-]/[HAc]$

$K_a \approx [H^+][Ac^-]/C$

1+3

$[Ac^-] \approx K_a C / [H^+]$

- 4. Solve for other species

# Simplified solution #2

- Solution: pH = 3.885
  - $[H^+] = 1.3 \times 10^{-4}$
  - $[OH^-] = 7.7 \times 10^{-11}$
  - $[Ac^-] = 1.3 \times 10^{-4}$
  - $[HAc] = 8.7 \times 10^{-4}$

$$[OH^-] = K_w/[H^+]$$

$$[Ac^-] = K_a C/[H^+]$$

$$[HAc] = C - [Ac^-]$$

# Assumptions

- Use both & Compare answers
  - Exact:  $\text{pH} = 3.9132777$
  - Simplified:  $\text{pH} = 3.885$
- Use simplified equation, and check assumptions!
  - $[\text{OH}^-] \ll [\text{H}^+]$ 
    - $7.7 \times 10^{-11} \ll 1.3 \times 10^{-4}$  yes!
  - $[\text{Ac}^-] \ll [\text{HAc}]$ 
    - $1.3 \times 10^{-4} \ll 8.7 \times 10^{-4}$  probably OK



- To next lecture