

Updated: 31 January 2020 [Print version](#)

CEE 680: Water Chemistry

Lecture #7

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

(Benjamin, Chapt. 3)

David Reckhow CEE 680 #7 1

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

David Reckhow 2

NAME	EQUILIBRIA	pKa
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 (&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	$\text{Al}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6^{3+} = \text{H}^+ + \text{Al}(\text{OH})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_5^+$	4.8

David Recknow

CEE 680 #1

3

NAME	FORMULA	pKa
Propionic acid	$\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{COOH} = \text{H}^+ + \text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{COO}^-$	4.87
Carbonic acid	$\text{H}_2\text{CO}_3 = \text{H}^+ + \text{HCO}_3^-$	6.35 (&10.33)
Hydrogen sulfide	$\text{H}_2\text{S} = \text{H}^+ + \text{HS}^-$	7.02 (&13.9)
Dihydrogen phosphate	$\text{H}_2\text{PO}_4^- = \text{H}^+ + \text{HPO}_4^{2-}$	7.2
Hypochlorous acid	$\text{HOCl} = \text{H}^+ + \text{OCl}^-$	7.5
Copper ion	$\text{Cu}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6^{2+} = \text{H}^+ + \text{CuOH}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_5^+$	8.0
Zinc ion	$\text{Zn}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6^{2+} = \text{H}^+ + \text{ZnOH}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_5^+$	8.96
Boric acid	$\text{B}(\text{OH})_3 + \text{H}_2\text{O} = \text{H}^+ + \text{B}(\text{OH})_4^-$	9.2 (&12.7,13.8)
Ammonium ion	$\text{NH}_4^+ = \text{H}^+ + \text{NH}_3$	9.24
Hydrocyanic acid	$\text{HCN} = \text{H}^+ + \text{CN}^-$	9.3
p-Hydroxybenzoic acid	$\text{C}_6\text{H}_4(\text{OH})\text{COO}^- = \text{H}^+ + \text{C}_6\text{H}_4(\text{O})\text{COO}^{-2}$	9.32
Orthosilicic acid	$\text{H}_4\text{SiO}_4 = \text{H}^+ + \text{H}_3\text{SiO}_4^-$	9.86 (&13.1)
Phenol	$\text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{OH} = \text{H}^+ + \text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{O}^-$	9.9
m-Hydroxybenzoic acid	$\text{C}_6\text{H}_4(\text{OH})\text{COO}^- = \text{H}^+ + \text{C}_6\text{H}_4(\text{O})\text{COO}^{-2}$	9.92
Cadmium ion	$\text{Cd}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6^{2+} = \text{H}^+ + \text{CdOH}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_5^+$	10.2
Bicarbonate ion	$\text{HCO}_3^- = \text{H}^+ + \text{CO}_3^{2-}$	10.33
Magnesium ion	$\text{Mg}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6^{2+} = \text{H}^+ + \text{MgOH}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_5^+$	11.4
Monohydrogen phosphate	$\text{HPO}_4^{2-} = \text{H}^+ + \text{PO}_4^{3-}$	12.3
Calcium ion	$\text{Ca}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6^{2+} = \text{H}^+ + \text{CaOH}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_5^+$	12.5
Trihydrogen silicate	$\text{H}_3\text{SiO}_4^- = \text{H}^+ + \text{H}_2\text{SiO}_4^{-2}$	12.6
Bisulfide ion	$\text{HS}^- = \text{H}^+ + \text{S}^{2-}$	13.9
Water	$\text{H}_2\text{O} = \text{H}^+ + \text{OH}^-$	14.00
Ammonia	$\text{NH}_3 = \text{H}^+ + \text{NH}_2^-$	23
Hydroxide	$\text{OH}^- = \text{H}^+ + \text{O}^{2-}$	24
Methane	$\text{CH}_4 = \text{H}^+ + \text{CH}_3^-$	34

David

4

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

David Reckhow

CEE 680 #7

5

General Example

- 1. List all species present

- H^+ , OH^- , HA , A^- Four total

- 2. List all independent equations

- equilibria

- $K_a = [\text{H}^+][\text{A}^-]/[\text{HA}]$ 1

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

- mass balances

- $[\text{HA}] + [\text{A}^-] = C$ (formal or “analytical” concentration)

- proton balance (or electroneutrality equation) 3

- PBE: $\sum(\text{proton rich species}) = \sum(\text{proton poor species})$

- ENE: $\sum(\text{cationic species}) = \sum(\text{anionic species})$

- $[\text{H}^+] = [\text{OH}^-] + [\text{A}^-]$ 4

David Reckhow

CEE 680 #7

6

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

David Reckhow

CEE 680 #7

7

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:

$$\Delta G^\circ = \sum v_i \Delta G_f^\circ$$

- Recall:

$$\Delta G_f^\circ = -RT \ln K$$

$$= -2.303RT \log K$$

- at 25°C:

$$\Delta G^\circ = -2.303(0.001987)(298.13) \log K$$

- so for this problem:

$$\Delta G^\circ = -1.364 \log K$$

We will explain this
further in Lecture #11

$$\log K = -\frac{\Delta G^\circ}{1.364} = -\frac{6.51}{1.364} = -4.77$$

David Reckhow

CEE 680 #7

Acetic Acid Example (cont.)

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

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{HAc} \\ \swarrow \quad \downarrow \quad \searrow \\ \text{H}_2\text{O} \\ 4 \cdot [\text{H}^+] = [\text{OH}^-] + [\text{Ac}^-] \end{array} \quad \text{④}$$

David Reckhow

CEE 680 #7

9

HAc Example (cont.)

- 3. Combine equations and solve for H^+
 - ④ • $[\text{H}^+] = [\text{OH}^-] + [\text{Ac}^-]$
 - ② • $K_w = [\text{H}^+][\text{OH}^-]$
 - ②+④ • $[\text{H}^+] = K_w/[\text{H}^+] + [\text{Ac}^-]$
 - ②+③+④ • $[\text{H}^+] = K_w/[\text{H}^+] + K_a C / \{K_a + [\text{H}^+]\}$
 - $[\text{H}^+]^2 = K_w + K_a C [\text{H}^+] / \{K_a + [\text{H}^+\}$ **③**
 - $K_a [\text{H}^+]^2 + [\text{H}^+]^3 = K_w K_a + K_w [\text{H}^+] + K_a C [\text{H}^+]$
 - $[\text{H}^+]^3 + K_a [\text{H}^+]^2 - \{K_w + K_a C\} [\text{H}^+] - K_w K_a = 0$
- 4. Solve for other species
 - ① • $K_a = [\text{H}^+][\text{Ac}^-]/[\text{HAc}]$
 - ①+③ • $K_a = [\text{H}^+][\text{Ac}^-] / \{C - [\text{Ac}^-\}$
 - ①+③ • $K_a C - K_a [\text{Ac}^-] = [\text{H}^+][\text{Ac}^-]$
 - ①+③ • $K_a C = [\text{Ac}^-] \{K_a + [\text{H}^+\}$
 - ①+③ • $[\text{Ac}^-] = K_a C / \{K_a + [\text{H}^+\}$

David Reckhow

CEE 680 #7

10

Exact Solution

- Exact solution: $\text{pH} = 3.913$

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

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

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

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

David Reckhow

CEE 680 #7

11

Exact Solution: Is it really necessary?

- Can we simplify?

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



- What about the PBE?

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

$C \beta \tau$

David Reckhow

CEE 680 #7

12

Simplified HAc Example

- 3. Use simplified PBE & solve for H^+

(4) $[H^+] = \cancel{[OH^-]} + [Ac^-]$
 $[H^+] \approx [Ac^-]$ Assumes $[H^+] \gg [OH^-]$

(1+3+4) $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} [H^+] \approx K_a C / \{K_a + [H^+]\} \\ \quad \cdot [H^+]^2 \approx K_a C [H^+] / \{K_a + [H^+]\} \\ \quad \cdot K_a [H^+]^2 + [H^+]^3 \approx K_a C [H^+] \\ \quad \cdot [H^+]^2 + K_a [H^+] - K_a C \approx 0 \end{array} \right.$

- 4. Solve for other species

(3) $C = [HAc] + [Ac^-]$
 $[HAc] = C - [Ac^-]$

(1+3) $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} K_a = [H^+] [Ac^-] / [HAc] \\ K_a = [H^+] [Ac^-] / \{C - [Ac^-]\} \\ K_a C - K_a [Ac^-] = [H^+] [Ac^-] \\ K_a C = [Ac^-] \{K_a + [H^+]\} \\ [Ac^-] = K_a C / \{K_a + [H^+]\} \end{array} \right.$

David Reckhow CEE 680 #7 13

Simplified solution #1

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

$[H^+] = 1.22 \times 10^{-4}$	$[OH^-] = K_w / [H^+]$
$[OH^-] = 8.19 \times 10^{-11}$	$[Ac^-] = K_a C / \{K_a + [H^+]\}$
$[Ac^-] = 1.22 \times 10^{-4}$	$[HAc] = C - [Ac^-]$
$[HAc] = 8.78 \times 10^{-4}$	

Same as exact to at least 3 significant figures!

David Reckhow CEE 680 #7 14

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!

David Reckhow

CEE 680 #7

15

Types of Simplifying Assumptions for Acids

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

David Reckhow

CEE 680 #7

16

Simplified HAc Example #2

- 3. Use simplified PBE & MBE
- (4) $\bullet [H^+] = [OH^-] + [Ac^-]$
- $\bullet [H^+] \approx [Ac^-]$ Assumes $[H^+] \gg [OH^-]$

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

$\bullet [H^+] \approx K_a C / [H^+]$

$\bullet [H^+]^2 \approx K_a C$

$\bullet [H^+] \approx (K_a C)^{0.5}$

③ $C = [HAc] + [Ac^-]$

$[HAc] \approx C$

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

① $K_a = [H^+][Ac^-]/[HAc]$

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

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

• 4. Solve for other species

1+3+4 1+3 1

David Reckhow CEE 680 #7 17

Simplified solution #2

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

David Reckhow CEE 680 #7 18

Assumptions

- Use both & Compare answers
 - Exact: $\text{pH} = 3.9132777$
 - Simplified: $\text{pH} = \underline{3.885}$
- 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