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# CEE 680: Water Chemistry

Lecture #10

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

**(Benjamin, Chapt. 4)**

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## Bases: Sodium Acetate Example

**10<sup>-3</sup> M in 1 L**

- 1. List all species present
  - H<sup>+</sup>, OH<sup>-</sup>, HAc, Ac<sup>-</sup>, Na<sup>+</sup> **Five total**
- 2. List all independent equations
  - equilibria
    - $K_a = [H^+][Ac^-]/[HAc] = 10^{-4.77}$  ①
    - $K_w = [H^+][OH^-] = 10^{-14}$  ②
  - mass balances
    - $C = [HAc] + [Ac^-] = 10^{-3}$  ③
    - $C_{Na} = [Na^+] = 10^{-3}$  ⑤
  - proton balance:  $\Sigma(\text{proton rich species}) = \Sigma(\text{proton poor species})$

•  $[HAc] + [H^+] = [OH^-]$  ④

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$C_{Na} = [Na^+] = 10^{-3}$  (5)

### NaAc Example (cont.)

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

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### Answer

- $[OH^-] = 7.67 \cdot 10^{-7}$
- $pOH = 6.115$
- $pH = 7.885$

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## In-class Practice

- $10^{-4}\text{M}$  Sodium Acetate
  - UMass: Alvin & Cielo, Chris
  - UNISA: Sikelelwa
- $10^{-3}\text{M}$  Sodium Cyanide
  - UMass: Ian & JQ
  - UNISA:
- $10^{-3}\text{M}$  Calcium Oxalate
  - UMass:
  - UNISA: Alfred
- $10^{-4}\text{M}$  Sodium Bicarbonate
  - UMass: Laura, Bridgette, Isaac
  - UNISA:

**For Oxalic acid,**  
 $\text{H}_2\text{Ox} \rightleftharpoons \text{HOx}^- \rightleftharpoons \text{Ox}^{2-}$   
 $\text{pKa1}=1.25$   
 $\text{pKa2}=4.27$

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5

## Writing PBE's

*Note: Alkali metals such as Na and K do not act as acids, so they are ignored here*

- Monoprotic Acid
  - same as ENE
- Diprotic Acid
  - same as ENE
- Diprotic: Ampholyte
  - Not ENE
    - e.g.,  $\text{NaHCO}_3$
- Diprotic Base
  - Not ENE

The diagram illustrates the proton balance equations for three species: HAc, H<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>, and HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>. Each species is shown at the top of a tree structure with arrows pointing down to its dissociation products. Red circles highlight the species that appear in the resulting equations.

- $[\text{H}^+] = [\text{OH}^-] + [\text{Ac}^-]$
- $[\text{H}^+] = [\text{OH}^-] + [\text{HCO}_3^-] + 2[\text{CO}_3^{2-}]$
- $[\text{H}_2\text{CO}_3] + [\text{H}^+] = [\text{OH}^-] + [\text{CO}_3^{2-}]$
- $2[\text{H}_2\text{CO}_3] + [\text{HCO}_3^-] + [\text{H}^+] = [\text{OH}^-]$

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6

### Guide to Simplified Acid/Base Solutions #1

- Neutral
  - if  $C < 10^{-8}$
- Acid Addition,  $C > 10^{-6.5}$ 
  - Acidic
    - if  $K_a C > 10^{-13}$
  - Strong Acid
    - if  $K_a > 10C$
  - Weak Acid
    - if  $C > 100K_a$

$[H^+] \approx \sqrt{K_w}$

$[H^+] \approx \frac{-K_a + \sqrt{K_a^2 + 4K_a C}}{2}$

$[H^+] \approx C$

$[H^+] \approx \frac{C + \sqrt{C^2 + 4K_w}}{2}$

$[H^+] \approx \sqrt{K_a C}$

$[H^+] \approx \sqrt{K_a C + K_w}$

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### Guide to Simplified Acid/Base Solutions #2

- Base Addition,  $C > 10^{-6.5}$ 
  - Basic
    - if  $K_b C > 10^{-13}$
  - Strong Base
    - if  $K_b > 10C$
  - Weak Base
    - if  $C > 100K_b$
- Very Dilute Systems
  - if  $10^{-8} < C < 10^{-6.5}$
  - try strong acid/base or weak acid/base assumption
  - otherwise may need to use general solution

$[OH^-] \approx \frac{-K_b + \sqrt{K_b^2 + 4K_b C}}{2}$

$[OH^-] \approx C$

$[OH^-] \approx \frac{C + \sqrt{C^2 + 4K_w}}{2}$

$[OH^-] \approx \sqrt{K_b C}$

$[OH^-] \approx \sqrt{K_b C + K_w}$

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## Exact Solutions: Summary

- Monoprotic
  - Acids:  $[H^+]^3 + K_a[H^+]^2 - \{K_w + K_a C\}[H^+] - K_w K_a = 0$
  - Bases:  $[H^+]^3 + \{C + K_a\}[H^+]^2 - K_w[H^+] - K_w K_a = 0$
- Diprotic
  - Acids:
    - $[H^+]^4 + K_1[H^+]^3 + \{K_1 K_2 - K_w - K_1 C\}[H^+]^2 - K_1 \{2CK_2 + K_w\}[H^+] - K_w K_1 K_2 = 0$
  - Ampholytes:
    - $[H^+]^4 + \{C + K_1\}[H^+]^3 + \{K_1 K_2 - K_w\}[H^+]^2 - K_1 \{CK_2 + K_w\}[H^+] - K_w K_1 K_2 = 0$
  - Bases:
    - $[H^+]^4 + \{2C + K_1\}[H^+]^3 + \{CK_1 + K_1 K_2 - K_w\}[H^+]^2 - K_1 K_w [H^+] - K_w K_1 K_2 = 0$

- To next lecture