# 2. STRONG VS. WEAK ACIDS \& BASES 

## CH4OS UNIT 4 - ACID BASE EQUILIBRIUM

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## STRONG VS. WEAK



Strong acid
HA molecules completely dissociate


Weak acid HA molecules partially dissociate

## STRONG ACIDS

A strong acid is a forceful $\mathrm{H}^{+}$donor. It must give an $\mathrm{H}^{+}$ to someone! Once a strong acid donates $\mathrm{H}^{+}$, the $\mathrm{H}^{+}$ will never come back.

- Acid chart top six
- Not equilibrium...stoichiometric relationships...No ICE table! - Use a " $\rightarrow$ " and not " $\rightleftarrows$ "
$\mathrm{HCl}(\mathrm{aq})+\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}(\mathrm{I})$ 1.0M


## RELATIVE ACID STRENGTH

Concentration before Equilibrium concentrations



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## WEAK ACIDS

A weak acid is a wishy-washy $\mathrm{H}^{+}$donor. It can give away its $\mathrm{H}^{+}$, but may regain the $\mathrm{H}^{+}$a few seconds later. Every acid that is not a strong acid is a weak acid.

- Produce small amounts of $\mathrm{H}^{+} / \mathrm{H}_{3} \mathrm{O}^{+}$.
- Equilibriums...equilibrium constants ( $K_{a}{ }^{\prime}$ s)...need ICE tables .
- Use a " $\rightleftarrows$ " and not " $\rightarrow$ "
$\mathrm{HF}(\mathrm{aq})+\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}(\mathrm{I})$
1.0M


## RELATIVE ACID STRENGTH



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## DON'T FORGET LAST LESSON!

- In order to have a reaction, both an acid ( $\mathrm{H}^{+}$donor) and a base ( $\mathrm{H}^{+}$acceptor) are required!
- The reaction itself is an $\mathbf{H}^{+}$transfer (sometimes called a proton transfer) from the acid to the base (like tossing a football from quarterback to receiver).
- Many acid-base reactions are reversible, so the $\mathrm{H}^{+}$(the "football") may be passed back and forth.


## SOME COMMON WEAK ACIDS

Acetic acid, $\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{COOH}$
$\mathrm{K}_{\mathrm{a}}=1.8 \times 10^{-5}$
Nitrous acid, $\mathrm{HNO}_{2}$
$\mathrm{K}_{\mathrm{a}}=4.5 \times 10^{-4}$

Write the Bronsted Lowry equation for each acid in water and identify the acids and bases.

Write the Ka expression for each acid. Which acid is stronger? Why?

## STRONG BASES REVISED

A strong base is a forceful $\mathrm{H}^{+}$grabber. If an acidic hydrogen is anywhere to be found, the strong base will take it and keep it! There is only 1 strong base that you will see in this class:

- Produce large amounts of $\mathrm{OH}^{-}$.
- Not equilibrium...stoichiometric relationships...no ICE tables - Use a " $\rightarrow$ " and not " $\rightleftarrows "$
$\mathrm{OH}^{-}(\mathrm{aq})+\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}(\mathrm{I})$
1.0 M


## STRONG BASES

Soluble Hydroxides LiOH
NaOH
KOH
$\mathrm{Sr}(\mathrm{OH})_{2}$
$\mathrm{Ba}(\mathrm{OH})_{2}$


## WEAK BASES REVISED

A weak base is a wishy-washy $\mathrm{H}^{+}$acceptor. It can take an $\mathrm{H}^{+}$, but may relinquish the $\mathrm{H}^{+}$a few seconds later. Every base that is NOT hydroxide is a weak base.

- Produce small amounts of $\mathrm{OH}^{-}$.
- Equilibriums...equilibrium constants ( $K_{b}^{\prime}$ s)...need ICE tables. - Use a " $\rightleftarrows$ " and not " $\rightarrow$ "
$\mathrm{NH}_{3}(\mathrm{aq})+\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}(\mathrm{I})$ 1.0M


## SOME COMMON WEAK BASES

Bicarbonate ion, $\mathrm{HCO}_{3}^{-}$
Ammonia, $\mathrm{NH}_{3}$
$K_{b}=2.3 \times 10^{-8}$
$K_{b}=1.8 \times 10^{-5}$

Write the Bronsted Lowry equations for each base in water and identify the acids and bases.

Write the $K_{b}$ expression for each acid. Which base is stronger? Why?


