# 6. pH OF WEAK BASE SOLUTIONS 

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## WEAK BASES

- Are reactant favored equilibriums
- Have $K_{b}$ values to represent equilibrium position
- Require ICE tables to determine [ $\mathrm{OH}^{-}$] and $\mathrm{pOH} / \mathrm{pH}$
$\mathrm{B}+\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O} \leftrightarrows \mathrm{BH}^{+}+\mathrm{OH}^{-}$

$K_{b}=\frac{\left[B H^{+}\right]\left[O H^{-}\right]}{[B]}=$ ???


## BE CAREFUL WITH WEAK BASES!

- Weak bases are the conjugate bases of weak acids!
- They are created by dissolving a soluble salt containing the weak base in water.


## For example:

| Weak Acid | Conj. Base <br> (Weak Base) | Soluble Salt Containing <br> Weak Base |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| HCN | $\mathrm{CN}-$ | NaCN |
| HF | $\mathrm{F}-$ | NaF |
| $\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{COOH}$ | $\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{COO}-$ | $\mathrm{NaCH}_{3} \mathrm{COO}$ |

## TWO COMMON WEAK BASES TO RECOGNIZE:

1. Ammonia $\left(\mathrm{NH}_{3}\right)$
2. Methyamine $\left(\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{NH}_{2}\right)$


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| $\mathrm{K}_{\mathrm{b}} \text { 's OF WEAK BASES }$ | Ionization Constants for Some Acids and Their Conjugate Bases at $25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Acid Name | Formula | Ka | Formula | Kb | Base name |
|  | Perchloric acid | $\mathrm{HClO}_{4}$ | large | $\mathrm{ClO}_{4}^{-}$ | very small | Perchlorate ion |
|  | Sulfuric acid | $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{SO}_{4}$ | large | $\mathrm{HSO}_{4}{ }^{-}$ | very small | Hydrogen sulfate ion |
|  | Hydrochloric acid | HCl | large | $\mathrm{Cl}^{-}$ | very small | Chloride ion |
|  | Nitric acid | $\mathrm{HNO}_{3}$ | large | $\mathrm{NO}_{3}{ }^{-}$ | very small | Nitrate ion |
| The $\mathrm{K}_{\mathrm{b}}$ of a weak base | Hydronium ion | $\mathrm{H}_{3} \mathrm{O}^{+}$ | 1.0 | $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ | $1.0 \times 10^{-14}$ | Water |
|  | Sulfurous acid | $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{SO}_{3}$ | $1.2 \times 10^{-2}$ | $\mathrm{HSO}_{3}{ }^{-}$ | $8.3 \times 10^{-13}$ | Hydrogen sulfite ion |
| is related to the $\mathrm{K}_{a}$ of the conjugate acid of | Hydrogen sulfate ion | $\mathrm{HSO}_{4}^{-}$ | $1.2 \times 10^{-2}$ | $\mathrm{SO}_{4}{ }^{2-}$ | $8.3 \times 10^{-13}$ | Sulfate ion |
|  | Phosphoric acid | $\mathrm{H}_{3} \mathrm{PO}_{4}$ | $7.5 \times 10^{-3}$ | $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{PO}_{4}^{-}$ | $1.3 \times 10^{-12}$ | Dihydrogen phosphate ion |
|  | Hexaaquairon(III) ion | $\left[\mathrm{Fe}\left(\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}\right)_{6}\right]^{3+}$ | $6.3 \times 10^{-3}$ | $\left[\mathrm{Fe}\left(\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}\right)_{5} \mathrm{OH}\right]^{2+}$ | $1.6 \times 10^{-12}$ | Pentaaquahydroxoiron(II) ion |
|  | Hydrofluoric acid | HF | $7.2 \times 10^{-4}$ | $\mathrm{F}^{-}$ | $1.4 \times 10^{-11}$ | Fluoride ion |
|  | Nitrous acid | $\mathrm{HNO}_{2}$ | $4.5 \times 10^{-4}$ | $\mathrm{NO}_{2}{ }^{-}$ | $2.2 \times 10^{-11}$ | Nitrite ion |
| that | Formic acid | $\mathrm{HCO}_{2} \mathrm{H}$ | $1.8 \times 10^{-4}$ | $\mathrm{HCO}_{2}{ }^{-}$ | $5.6 \times 10^{-11}$ | Formate ion |
|  | Benzoic acid | $\mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{5} \mathrm{CO}_{2} \mathrm{H}$ | $6.3 \times 10^{-5}$ | $\mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{5} \mathrm{CO}_{2}{ }^{-}$ | $1.6 \times 10^{-10}$ | Benzoate ion |
|  | Acetic acid | $\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CO}_{2} \mathrm{H}$ | $1.8 \times 10^{-5}$ | $\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CO}_{2}^{-}$ | $5.6 \times 10^{-10}$ | Acetate ion |
|  | Propanoic acid | $\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{CO}_{2} \mathrm{H}$ | $1.3 \times 10^{-5}$ | $\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{CO}_{2}{ }^{-}$ | $7.7 \times 10^{-10}$ | Propanoate ion |
|  | Hexaaquaaluminium ion | $\left[\mathrm{Al}\left(\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}\right) \mathrm{e}^{3+}{ }^{3+}\right.$ | $7.9 \times 10^{-6}$ | $\left[\mathrm{Al}\left(\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}\right)_{5} \mathrm{OH}\right]^{2+}$ | $1.3 \times 10^{-9}$ | Pentaaquahydroxoaluminum ion |
| $(\mathrm{KO})(\mathrm{KO})=\mathrm{K}_{W}$ | Carbonic acid | $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{CO}_{3}$ | $4.2 \times 10^{-7}$ | $\mathrm{HCO}_{3}{ }^{-}$ | $2.4 \times 10^{-8}$ | Hydrogen carbonate ion |
|  | Hexaaquacopper(ll) ion | $\left[\mathrm{Cu}\left(\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}\right)_{6}\right]^{2+}$ | $1.6 \times 10^{-7}$ | $\left[\mathrm{Cu}\left(\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}\right)_{5} \mathrm{OH}\right]^{+}$ | $6.3 \times 10^{-8}$ | Pentaaquahydroxocopper(ll) ion |
|  | Hydrogen sulfide | $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{~S}$ | $1.0 \times 10^{-7}$ | $\mathrm{HS}^{-}$ | $1.0 \times 10^{-7}$ | Hydrogen sulfide ion |
| $(\mathrm{Ka})(\mathrm{Kb})=1.0 \times 10^{-14}$ | Dihydrogen phosphate ion | $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{PO}_{4}{ }^{-}$ | $6.2 \times 10^{-8}$ | $\mathrm{HPO}_{4}{ }^{\text {- }}$ | $1.6 \times 10^{-7}$ | Hydrogen phosphate ion |
|  | Hydrogen sulfite ion | $\mathrm{HSO}_{3}^{-}$ | $6.2 \times 10^{-8}$ | $\mathrm{SO}_{3}{ }^{2-}$ | $1.6 \times 10^{-7}$ | Sulfite ion |
|  | Hypochlorous acid | HClO | $3.5 \times 10^{-8}$ | $\mathrm{ClO}^{-}$ | $2.9 \times 10^{-7}$ | Hypochlorite ion |
|  | Hexaaqualead(Il) ion | $\left[\mathrm{Pb}\left(\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}\right)_{6}\right]^{2+}$ | $1.5 \times 10^{-8}$ | $\left[\mathrm{Pb}\left(\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}\right)_{5} \mathrm{OH}\right]^{+}$ | $6.7 \times 10^{-7}$ | Pentaaquahydroxolead(I) ion |
| $\mathrm{K}_{\mathrm{b}} \mathrm{NH}_{3}=$ | Hexaaquacobalt(I) ion | $\left[\mathrm{Co}\left(\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}\right){ }_{6}{ }^{12+}\right.$ | $1.3 \times 10^{-9}$ | $\left[\mathrm{Co}\left(\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}\right)_{5} \mathrm{OH}\right]^{+}$ | $7.7 \times 10^{-6}$ | Pentaaquahydroxocobalt(ll) ion |
|  | Boric acid | $\mathrm{B}(\mathrm{OH})_{3}\left(\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}\right)$ | $7.3 \times 10^{-10}$ | $\mathrm{B}(\mathrm{OH})_{4}^{-}$ | $1.4 \times 10^{-5}$ | Tetrahydroxoborate ion |
|  | Ammonium ion | $\mathrm{NH}_{4}^{+}$ | $5.6 \times 10^{-10}$ | $\mathrm{NH}_{3}$ | $1.8 \times 10^{-5}$ | Ammonia |
|  | Hydrocyanic acid | HCN | $4.0 \times 10^{-10}$ | $\mathrm{CN}^{-}$ | $2.5 \times 10^{-5}$ | Cyanide ion |
|  | Hexaaquairon(II) ion | $\left[\mathrm{Fe}\left(\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}\right)_{6}\right]^{2+}$ | $3.2 \times 10^{-10}$ | $\left[\mathrm{Fe}\left(\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}\right)_{5} \mathrm{OH}\right]^{+}$ | $3.1 \times 10^{-5}$ | Pentaaquahydroxoiron(II) ion |
|  | Hydrogen carbonate ion | $\mathrm{HCO}_{3}{ }^{-}$ | $4.8 \times 10^{-11}$ | $\mathrm{CO}_{3}{ }^{2-}$ | $2.1 \times 10^{-4}$ | Carbonate ion |
|  | Hexaaquanickel(I) ion | $\left[\mathrm{Ni}_{(\mathrm{H}}^{2} \mathrm{O} \mathrm{O}_{6}\right]^{2+}$ | $2.5 \times 10^{-11}$ | $\left.\left[\mathrm{Ni}_{( } \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}\right)_{5} \mathrm{OH}\right]^{+}$ | $4.0 \times 10^{-4}$ | Pentaaquahydroxonickel(ll) ion |
|  | Hydrogen phosphate ion | $\mathrm{HPO}_{4}{ }^{\text {- }}$ | $3.6 \times 10^{-13}$ | $\mathrm{PO}_{4}{ }^{3-}$ | $2.8 \times 10^{-2}$ | Phosphate ion |
|  | Water | $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ | $1.0 \times 10^{-14}$ | $\mathrm{OH}^{-}$ | 1.0 | Hydroxide ion |
|  | Hydrogen sulfide ion | $\mathrm{HS}^{-}$ | $1.0 \times 10^{-19}$ | $\mathrm{S}^{2-}$ | $1.0 \times 10^{5}$ | Sulfide ion |
|  | Ethanol | $\mathrm{C}_{2} \mathrm{H}_{5} \mathrm{OH}$ | very small | $\mathrm{C}_{2} \mathrm{H}_{5} \mathrm{O}^{-}$ | large | Ethoxide ion |
|  | Ammonia | $\mathrm{NH}_{3}$ | very small | $\mathrm{NH}_{2}{ }^{-}$ | large | Amide ion |
|  | Hydrogen | $\mathrm{H}_{2}$ | very small | $\mathrm{H}^{-}$ | large | Hydride ion |

## HAVE A PLAN OF ACTION!



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## FOR EXAMPLE

Ammonia acts as a weak base in solution. It is commonly found in household cleaning solutions such as Windex and toilet bowl cleaners. What is the pH of a 0.050 M solution of ammonia?

## WORKING BACKWARDS

Calculate the $\mathrm{K}_{\mathrm{b}}$ of 0.20 M weak base that has a pH of 11.30 . What is the identity of this substance?

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