

19.3

STRENGTHS OF ACIDS AND BASES

Section Review

Objectives

- Define strong acids and weak acids
- Calculate an acid dissociation constant (K_a) from concentration and pH measurements
- Order acids by strength according to their acid dissociation constants (K_a)
- Order bases by strength according to their base dissociation constants (K_b)

Vocabulary

- strong acids
- weak acids
- acid dissociation constant (K_a)
- strong bases
- weak bases
- base dissociation constant (K_b)

Part A Completion

Use this completion exercise to check your understanding of the concepts and terms that are introduced in this section. Each blank can be completed with a term, short phrase, or number.

The strength of an acid or a base is determined by the 1 _____ 1. _____
 of the substance in solution. The acid dissociation constant, 2 _____ 2. _____
2 _____, is a quantitative measure of acid strength. A strong acid 3 _____ 3. _____
 has a much 3 _____ K_a than a weak acid. The K_a of an acid is 4 _____ 4. _____
 determined from measured 4 _____ values. 5. _____

Hydrochloric acid and sulfuric acid are 5 _____ ionized in 6. _____
 solution and are 6 _____ acids. Ethanoic acid, which is only about 7. _____
 1 percent ionized, is a 7 _____ acid. Magnesium hydroxide and 8. _____
 calcium hydroxide are strong 8 _____. 9. _____

Weak bases react with 9 _____ to form the hydroxide ion and 10. _____
 the conjugate 10 _____ of the base. Concentration in solution does 11. _____
 not affect whether an acid or a base is 11 _____ or weak.

Part B True-False

Classify each of these statements as always true, AT; sometimes true, ST; or never true, NT.

- _____ 12. Acids are completely dissociated in aqueous solution.
- _____ 13. Diprotic acids lose both hydrogens at the same time.
- _____ 14. Acid dissociation constants for weak acids can be calculated from experimental data.
- _____ 15. Bases react with water to form hydroxide ions.

Part C Matching

Match each description in Column B to the correct term in Column A.

Column A	Column B
_____ 16. strong acids	a. ratio of the concentration of the dissociated (or ionized) form of an acid to the concentration of the undissociated acid
_____ 17. weak acids	b. bases that dissociate completely into metal ions and hydroxide ions in aqueous solution
_____ 18. acid dissociation constant (K_a)	c. acids that ionize completely in aqueous solution
_____ 19. strong bases	d. bases that do not dissociate completely in aqueous solution
_____ 20. weak bases	e. acids that are only partially ionized in aqueous solution
_____ 21. base dissociation constant (K_b)	f. ratio of concentration of conjugate acid times concentration of hydroxide ion to the concentration of conjugate base

Part D Problem

Answer the following in the space provided.

22. A 0.35M solution of a strong acid, HX, has a $[H^+]$ of 4.1×10^{-2} . What is the value of K_a for this acid?