

Lecture 16 CH102 A1 (MWF 9:05 am) Spring 2019 Copyright © 2019 Dan Dill dan@bu.edu

[TP] An acid has $K_a = 1.0 \times 10^{-7}$ at 25 °C.
In a $c_a = 0.40$ M solution of this acid solution, $[H_3O^+] = \dots$

0% 1. 0.40
0% 2. 0.040
0% 3. 0.0010
0% 4. 0.0020
0% 5. 0.00020
0% 6. 0.00040
0% 7. Something else

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Lecture 16 CH102 A1 (MWF 9:05 am)
Friday, March 1, 2019

- Getting weak acid K_a values
- Using K_a to get $[H_3O^+]$

Next: $pK_a = -\log(K_a)$; Titration: What happens when some OH^- is added to an acid

Review: Logarithm Tutorial, <https://goo.gl/RtLg9X>

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Getting weak acid K_a values

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Weak acid K_a values

Dissolve c_a moles of acid in 1 liter of water, and then measure pH.

If $[H_3O^+] = 10^{-pH} \ll c_a$, the acid reacts with water ...

$$HA(aq) + H_2O(l) \rightleftharpoons H_3O^+(aq) + A^-(aq)$$

$$K_a = [H_3O^+][A^-] / [HA]$$

much less than 100%.

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[TP] A $c_a = 0.10$ M acid solution has $\text{pH} = 4.0$. The % yield of the reaction $\text{HA}(aq) + \text{H}_2\text{O}(l) \rightleftharpoons \text{H}_3\text{O}^+(aq) + \text{A}^-(aq)$ is ...

0% 1. 100%
 0% 2. 10%
 0% 3. 1%
 0% 4. 0.1%
 0% 5. 0.01%
 0% 6. Something else

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Weak acid K_a values

If $c_a = 0.10$ and $\text{pH} = 4.0$, what is the percent yield of reaction?

$$\text{HA}(aq) + \text{H}_2\text{O}(l) \rightleftharpoons \text{H}_3\text{O}^+(aq) + \text{A}^-(aq)$$

actual $[\text{H}_3\text{O}^+] = 10^{-4.0} = 1 \times 10^{-4}$
maximum possible $[\text{H}_3\text{O}^+] = 0.10$

$$\% \text{ reaction} = 100\% \times \frac{\text{actual}}{\text{maximum}}$$

$$= 100\% \times (1 \times 10^{-4}) / 0.10 = 0.1\%$$

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Weak acid K_a values

We can get the numerical value of K_a by analyzing the acid equilibrium.

	$\text{HA}(aq)$	$\text{H}_3\text{O}^+(aq)$	$\text{A}^-(aq)$	Q
Initial	c_a	?	?	?

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[TP] Before the reaction $\text{HA}(aq) + \text{H}_2\text{O}(l) \rightleftharpoons \text{H}_3\text{O}^+(aq) + \text{A}^-(aq)$ takes place, $[\text{H}_3\text{O}^+] = \dots$

25% 1. 0
 25% 2. c_a
 25% 3. 10^{-7}
 25% 4. Further information needed

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Response Counter

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[TP] Before the reaction $\text{HA}(aq) + \text{H}_2\text{O}(l) \rightleftharpoons \text{H}_3\text{O}^+(aq) + \text{A}^-(aq)$ takes place, at 25 °C, $[\text{H}_3\text{O}^+] = \dots$

25% 1. 0
25% 2. c_a
25% 3. 10^{-7}
25% 4. Further information needed

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[TP] Before the reaction $\text{HA}(aq) + \text{H}_2\text{O}(l) \rightleftharpoons \text{H}_3\text{O}^+(aq) + \text{A}^-(aq)$ takes place, $[\text{A}^-] = \dots$

25% 1. 0
25% 2. c_a
25% 3. 10^{-7}
25% 4. Further information needed

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Weak acid K_a values

We can get the numerical value of K_a by analyzing the acid equilibrium.

	$\text{HA}(aq)$	$\text{H}_3\text{O}^+(aq)$	$\text{A}^-(aq)$	Q
Initial	c_a	10^{-7}	0	0

If we assume 25 °C.

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Weak acid K_a values

We can get the numerical value of K_a by analyzing the acid equilibrium.

	$\text{HA}(aq)$	$\text{H}_3\text{O}^+(aq)$	$\text{A}^-(aq)$	Q
Initial	c_a	10^{-7}	0	0
Change	?	?	?	

What change is needed to achieve equilibrium?

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Weak acid K_a values

We can get the numerical value of K_a by analyzing the acid equilibrium.

	HA(aq)	H ₃ O ⁺ (aq)	A ⁻ (aq)	Q
Initial	c_a	10^{-7}	0	0
Change	$-x$	$+x$	$+x$	

Since $Q = 0$ is less than K_a , more **product must form**.



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Weak acid K_a values

We can get the numerical value of K_a by analyzing the acid equilibrium.

	HA(aq)	H ₃ O ⁺ (aq)	A ⁻ (aq)	Q
Initial	c_a	10^{-7}	0	0
Change	$-x$	$+x$	$+x$	
Equilibrium	$c_a - x$	$10^{-7} + x$	x	?

What is the value of Q ?



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Weak acid K_a values

We can get the numerical value of K_a by analyzing the acid equilibrium.

	HA(aq)	H ₃ O ⁺ (aq)	A ⁻ (aq)	Q
Initial	c_a	10^{-7}	0	0
Change	$-x$	$+x$	$+x$	
Equilibrium	$c_a - x$	$10^{-7} + x$	x	K_a

The value of x is determined by requiring that $Q = K_a$.



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Weak acid K_a values

We can get the numerical value of K_a by analyzing the acid equilibrium.

	HA(aq)	H ₃ O ⁺ (aq)	A ⁻ (aq)	Q
Initial	c_a	10^{-7}	0	0
Change	$-x$	$+x$	$+x$	
Equilibrium	$c_a - x$	$10^{-7} + x$	x	K_a

The result is a quadratic equation in x ,

$$K_a = (10^{-7} + x)(x) / (c_a - x)$$



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Weak acid K_a values

We can get the numerical value of K_a by analyzing the acid equilibrium.

	HA(aq)	H ₃ O ⁺ (aq)	A ⁻ (aq)	Q
Initial	c_a	10^{-7}	0	0
Change	$-x$	$+x$	$+x$	
Equilibrium	$c_a - x$	$10^{-7} + x$	x	K_a
Approximate	?	?	x	K_a

Let's see how we can **approximate** the equilibrium concentrations, to simplify equation we need to solve for x .



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Weak acid K_a values

We can get the numerical value of K_a by analyzing the acid equilibrium.

	HA(aq)	H ₃ O ⁺ (aq)	A ⁻ (aq)	Q
Initial	c_a	10^{-7}	0	0
Change	$-x$	$+x$	$+x$	
Equilibrium	$c_a - x$	$10^{-7} + x$	x	K_a
Approximate	?	?	x	K_a

Since $K_a \ll 1$, the acid does not react much with water.

Therefore, what is a good approximation to $c_a - x$?



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Weak acid K_a values

We can get the numerical value of K_a by analyzing the acid equilibrium.

	HA(aq)	H ₃ O ⁺ (aq)	A ⁻ (aq)	Q
Initial	c_a	10^{-7}	0	0
Change	$-x$	$+x$	$+x$	
Equilibrium	$c_a - x$	$10^{-7} + x$	x	K_a
Approximate	$c_a - x \approx c_a$?	x	K_a

Since $K_a \ll 1$, the acid reacts with water **only a little bit**.

Therefore, what is a good approximation to $c_a - x$?

$$c_a - x \approx c_a$$



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Weak acid K_a values

We can get the numerical value of K_a by analyzing the acid equilibrium.

	HA(aq)	H ₃ O ⁺ (aq)	A ⁻ (aq)	Q
Initial	c_a	10^{-7}	0	0
Change	$-x$	$+x$	$+x$	
Equilibrium	$c_a - x$	$10^{-7} + x$	x	K_a
Approximate	$c_a - x \approx c_a$?	x	K_a

Since $K_a \gg K_w$, the acid reacts with water much more than water does.

Therefore, what is a good approximation to $10^{-7} + x$?



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Weak acid K_a values

We can get the numerical value of K_a by analyzing the acid equilibrium.

	HA(aq)	H ₃ O ⁺ (aq)	A ⁻ (aq)	Q
Initial	c_a	10^{-7}	0	0
Change	$-x$	$+x$	$+x$	
Equilibrium	$c_a - x$	$10^{-7} + x$	x	K_a
Approximate	$c_a - x \approx c_a$	$10^{-7} + x \approx x$	x	K_a

Since $K_a \gg K_w$, HA is a **much greater source** of H₃O⁺ than water itself.

Therefore, what is a good approximation to $10^{-7} + x$?

$$10^{-7} + x \approx x$$



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Weak acid K_a values

We can get the numerical value of K_a by analyzing the acid equilibrium.

	HA(aq)	H ₃ O ⁺ (aq)	A ⁻ (aq)	Q
Initial	c_a	10^{-7}	0	0
Change	$-x$	$+x$	$+x$	
Equilibrium	$c_a - x$	$10^{-7} + x$	x	K_a
Approximate	$c_a - x \approx c_a$	$10^{-7} + x \approx x$	x	K_a

With these simplifications, the acid equilibrium constant is ...

$$K_a = [\text{H}_3\text{O}^+][\text{A}^-] / [\text{HA}] = x^2 / c_a = (10^{-\text{pH}})^2 / c_a$$



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Weak acid K_a values

We can get the numerical value of K_a by analyzing the acid equilibrium.

	HA(aq)	H ₃ O ⁺ (aq)	A ⁻ (aq)	Q
Initial	c_a	10^{-7}	0	0
Change	$-x$	$+x$	$+x$	
Equilibrium	$c_a - x$	$10^{-7} + x$	x	K_a
Approximate	$c_a - x \approx c_a$	$10^{-7} + x \approx x$	x	K_a

For example, if $c_a = 0.10$ and $\text{pH} = 4$, then ...

$$K_a = (10^{-\text{pH}})^2 / c_a = (10^{-4.0})^2 / 0.10 = 1.0 \times 10^{-7}$$



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Using K_a to get [H₃O⁺]

We can get the numerical value of K_a by analyzing the acid equilibrium.

	HA(aq)	H ₃ O ⁺ (aq)	A ⁻ (aq)	Q
Initial	c_a	10^{-7}	0	0
Change	$-x$	$+x$	$+x$	
Equilibrium	$c_a - x$	$10^{-7} + x$	x	K_a
Approximate	$c_a - x \approx c_a$	$10^{-7} + x \approx x$	x	K_a

Once we know K_a , we can rearrange $K_a = x^2 / c_a = (10^{-\text{pH}})^2 / c_a$ to calculate the value of $x = [\text{H}_3\text{O}^+]$ for different acid molarities ...

$$x = \sqrt{c_a K_a}$$



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- 0% 1. 0.40
- 0% 2. 0.040
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- 0% 4. 0.0020
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- 0% 6. 0.00040
- 0% 7. Something else



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Using K_a to get $[H_3O^+]$

We can get the numerical value of K_a by analyzing the acid equilibrium.

	HA(aq)	H ₃ O ⁺ (aq)	A ⁻ (aq)	Q
Initial	c_a	10^{-7}	0	0
Change	$-x$	$+x$	$+x$	
Equilibrium	$c_a - x$	$10^{-7} + x$	x	K_a
Approximate	$c_a - x \approx c_a$	$10^{-7} + x \approx x$	x	K_a

For example, if $c_a = 0.40$ and $K_a = 1.0 \times 10^{-7}$, then ...

$$x = \sqrt{c_a K_a} = \sqrt{4.0 \times 10^{-8}} = 2.0 \times 10^{-4}$$



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