

18 • Acids-Base Reactions

QUICK CHECK 2

pH of a weak acid solution

Calculate the pH of a 0.200 M solution of nitrous acid, HNO₂. K_a of HNO₂ = 4.0 × 10⁻⁴.

$$\text{HNO}_2 \rightleftharpoons \text{H}^+ + \text{NO}_2^-$$

.200 M	0	0
-x	+x	+x
.200 - x	x	x

assume $x \ll .200$
∴ (.200 - x) ≈ (.200)

$$K_a = \frac{[\text{H}^+][\text{NO}_2^-]}{[\text{HNO}_2]} = 4.0 \times 10^{-4}$$

$$\frac{x^2}{.200} = 4.0 \times 10^{-4}$$

$$[\text{H}^+] = x = \sqrt{(.200)(4.0 \times 10^{-4})} = 8.944 \times 10^{-3} \text{ M}$$

$$\text{pH} = -\log [\text{H}^+] = 2.048453 = \boxed{2.05}$$

Salt solutions

A solution of NaNO₂ will be basic (acidic, basic, neutral).

Write the *net* equation for the equilibrium involved when NaNO₂ dissolves in water.



Write the equilibrium expression for the above equation. Should this be labeled K_c, ~~K_a~~, K_b, K_{eq}?

$$K_b = \frac{[\text{HNO}_2][\text{OH}^-]}{[\text{NO}_2^-]} = \frac{K_w}{K_a} = \frac{1 \times 10^{-14}}{4.0 \times 10^{-4}} = 2.5 \times 10^{-11}$$

Calculate the pH of a 0.100 M solution of NaNO₂.

$$\text{NO}_2^- + \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightleftharpoons \text{HNO}_2 + \text{OH}^-$$

.100 M	0	0
-x	+x	+x
.100 - x	x	x

assume $x \ll .100$
∴ (.100 - x) ≈ (.100)

$$K_b = \frac{[\text{HNO}_2][\text{OH}^-]}{[\text{NO}_2^-]} = 2.5 \times 10^{-11}$$

$$= \frac{x^2}{.100} = 2.5 \times 10^{-11}$$

$$x = [\text{OH}^-] = \sqrt{(.100)(2.5 \times 10^{-11})}$$

$$= 1.58 \times 10^{-6}$$

$$\text{pOH} = -\log [\text{OH}^-] = 5.80$$

$$\text{pH} = 14 - \text{pOH} = \boxed{8.20}$$

Acid-Base Neutralization

Write the balanced net equation for:

A solution of weak sulfurous acid is added to a suspension of solid magnesium hydroxide



NO SPECTATOR IONS