

# Chemistry CP

Virtual pH Lab

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Section: \_\_\_\_\_

## Introduction:

Previously in this unit, we defined acids as  $H^+$  (or proton) donors. However, in aqueous solution,  $H^+$  ions form complexes with one or more water molecules. These complexes are written as  $H_3O^+$  for simplicity and are given the name "hydronium ion." Often you will see  $H^+$  and  $H_3O^+$  used interchangeably. In this simulation, you will observe ions and changes in hydronium ( $H_3O^+$ ) and hydroxide ( $OH^-$ ) concentrations in several common substances.

We can calculate a solution's pH using a logarithm, which determines a number's base-ten exponent. The "p" in pH is a negative logarithm (-log). We will investigate this in part II of the lab. In part III, we will determine the number of moles of hydronium present in solution, when concentration and volume is known. These are powerful tools that allow us to measure and determine analytically a solution's acid or basic properties.

## Procedure: PhET Simulations → Play With Sims → Chemistry → pH Scale → Run Now!

- When running the PhET sims, be sure to click the yellow drop-down bar to allow blocked content.
- Click on  **$H_3O^+/OH^-$  ratio** box to view the hydronium and hydroxide molecules as model dots in solution.
- Spend a few minutes to become familiar with the simulation and its controls.
- Observe the pH of some common liquids.

Molecule count  
  $H_3O^+/OH^-$  ratio

## Part I: Changes in Hydronium $H_3O^+$ and Hydroxide $OH^-$ Concentrations

- Make sure you are viewing concentrations in mol/L.
- Move the pH slider to create custom liquids with varying pH. Observe how increasing the pH on the slider affects the pH and concentrations of hydronium [ $H_3O^+$ ] and hydroxide [ $OH^-$ ].

Concentration (mol/L)  
 Number of moles (mol)

### Part I Analysis

As pH increases, the concentration of hydronium [ $H_3O^+$ ] \_\_\_\_\_.

As pH increases, the concentration of hydroxide [ $OH^-$ ] \_\_\_\_\_.

Acidic (pH < 7) have a higher concentration of ( $H_3O^+/ OH^-$ ) and a lower concentration of ( $H_3O^+/ OH^-$ ). Basic solutions (pH > 7) have a higher concentration of ( $H_3O^+/ OH^-$ ) and a lower concentration of ( $H_3O^+/ OH^-$ ).

What is true about the concentration of  $H_3O^+$  and  $OH^-$  for neutral solutions (pH = 7)?

\_\_\_\_\_

For any substance, when I multiply [ $H_3O^+$ ] by [ $OH^-$ ] I always get \_\_\_\_\_.

How does adding more  or less  of a liquid change the [ $H_3O^+$ ]?

\_\_\_\_\_

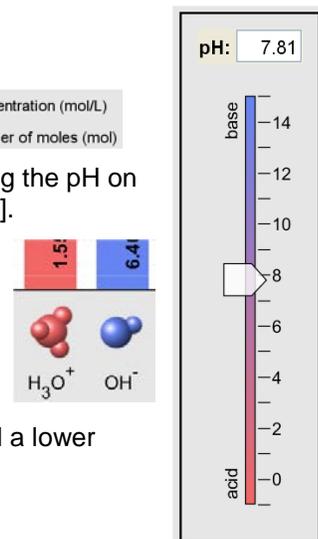
The product of [ $H_3O^+$ ] and [ $OH^-$ ] is called the autoionization constant of water,  $K_w$

$$K_w = \underline{\hspace{10em}}$$

When the "p" or negative logarithm is applied to each term, it can be shown that **pH + pOH = 14**. Memorize this!

## Part II: pH – [ $H_3O^+$ ] Calculations

- Choose several of the sample liquids and observe their  $H_3O^+$  concentrations
- Find the "pH" of a few sample liquids by taking the negative logarithm of the liquids  $H_3O^+$  concentration
  - (Use the log button on your calculator)
  - Do you need to hit the log button first, or do you need to enter the concentration first?



- Complete the table below

Sample Liquid Used	[H <sub>3</sub> O <sup>+</sup> ] Concentration [M]	pH (-log [H <sub>3</sub> O <sup>+</sup> ])

### Part II Analysis

How do your calculations for pH match the pH identified in the simulation? \_\_\_\_\_

How does the pH change as [H<sub>3</sub>O<sup>+</sup>] increases? \_\_\_\_\_

### Part III: Volume and Molarity

- Use  and  increase or decrease the volume of your liquids.
- You can toggle between concentration and number of moles with the button above.
- Observe the effect of changing volumes on the number of moles of H<sub>3</sub>O<sup>+</sup> and OH<sup>-</sup>.
- Choose several of the sample liquids and observe their H<sub>3</sub>O<sup>+</sup> concentrations
- Find the number of moles of a few sample liquids by multiplying [H<sub>3</sub>O<sup>+</sup>] by volume
- Complete the table below. Do the calculation for moles and check your work in the simulation by selecting “Number of moles (mol)”

- Concentration (mol/L)
- Number of moles (mol)



Sample Liquid Used	[H <sub>3</sub> O <sup>+</sup> ] Concentration [M]	Volume Used ( L )	Number of Moles (mol)

### Part III Analysis

The **unit** that is the product of concentration (mol/L) and volume (L) is \_\_\_\_\_.

How do your calculations for moles match the moles in the simulation? \_\_\_\_\_

Concentration and ion moles are equal only when volume is \_\_\_\_\_.

### Conclusion Questions (GRADED, 1 pt Each)

#### **Math Review**

1. Of  $1.0 \times 10^{-6}$  and  $1.0 \times 10^{-4}$ , the larger number is 1. \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The logarithm of 100 (aka  $10^2$ ) is 2. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The logarithm of .001 (aka  $10^{-3}$ ) is 3. \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The logarithm of  $2.5 \times 10^{-3}$  is 4. \_\_\_\_\_.
5. The solution to  $1 \times 10^{-14} / 3.6 \times 10^{-8}$  is 5. \_\_\_\_\_.
6. The product of [OH<sup>-</sup>] and [H<sub>3</sub>O<sup>+</sup>] for any solution is always 6. \_\_\_\_\_ M.