

# UNIT-V pH, buffers and Isotonic solutions

## Sorenson's pH scale

pH is a unit → measures the degree of acidity or basicity of a solution.

→ In 1909 → a Danish Biochemist



Soren Peter Lauritz Sorenson

defined the pH as

"Negative logarithm of hydrogen ion ( $H^+$ ) concentration."

∴

$$pH = -\log[H^+]$$

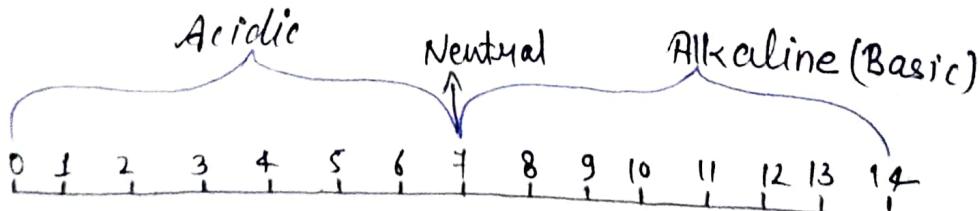
$$pH = \log \frac{1}{[H^+]}$$

$$[H^+] = 10^{-pH}$$

pH value range from 0 to 14.

→ Acidic solution  $\Rightarrow [H^+] > [OH^-]$ ,  $pH < 7$ .

Basic Solution  $\Rightarrow [H^+] < [OH^-]$ ,  $pH > 7$ .



## Determination of pH

The method of measuring pH are -

- ① Electrometric Method
- ② Calorimetric Method

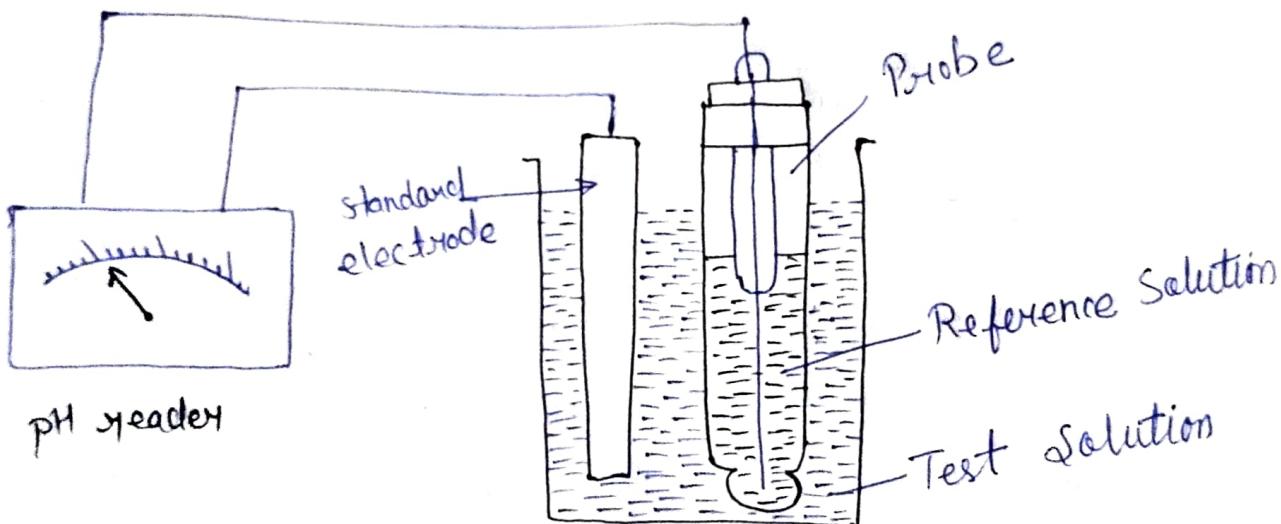
## Determination of pH by Electrode Method :-

Apparatus is called  $\rightarrow$  pH meter.

$\downarrow$   
consists of a voltameter connected to 2 electrodes.

- ① Standard electrode  $\rightarrow$  known as potential
- ② Special electrode  $\rightarrow$  known as probe.

$\downarrow$   
enclosed in a glass membrane that allow migration of  $H^+$  ions  
(contain reference solution of dilute HCl)



$\Rightarrow$  Two electrodes are dipped in the solution to be tested.

If solution pH differ from probe solution pH electrical potential results

$\downarrow$   
this potential is recorded by an inbuilt potentiometer

$\downarrow$   
potential reading is automatically converted electrically to a direct reading of pH.

## ② Determination by Colorimetric Method

Take the colorimetric paper

↓  
dip in water sample  
↓

Obtained colour is compared from the standard table

↓

respective pH value recorded.

→ The pH value indicate whether the sample is acidic or alkaline.

## Buffer Solution :-

A buffer solution is one which maintain its pH constant even upon addition of small amount of acid or base.

→ The solution that are able to resist the change in pH value termed as buffer solution.

Types -

① Acidic buffer :- a weak acid together with its salt of same acid with a strong base.  
e.g.  $\text{CH}_3\text{COOH} + \text{CH}_3\text{COONa}$ .

② Basic Buffer :- a weak base and its salt with a strong acid.  
e.g.  $\text{NH}_4\text{OH} + \text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$ .

## Buffer Action

→ operation of Acid Buffer:-

The pH of buffer is governed by-



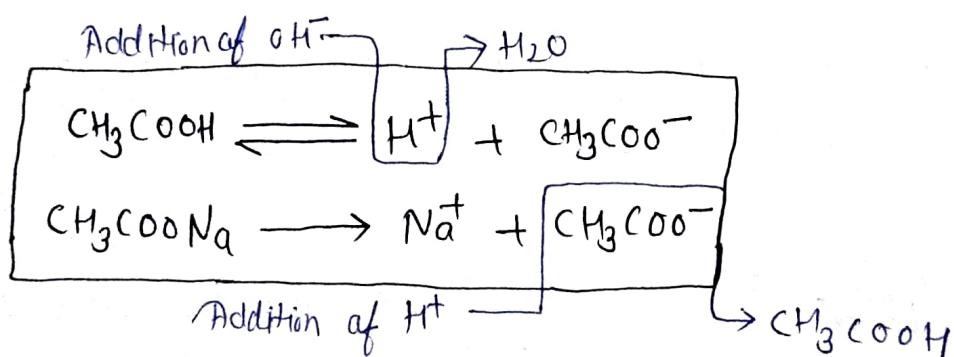
(i) Addition of HCl:-

Addition of HCl increase  $\text{H}^+$  ions



concent counteracted by association with excess of acetate ions to form unionised  $\text{CH}_3\text{COOH}$ .

thus added  $\text{H}^+$  ions neutralised and pH of buffer remain unchanged.



(ii) Addition of NaOH:-

→ Addition of NaOH increase  $\text{OH}^-$  ions

↓

additional  $\text{OH}^-$  ions combined with  $\text{H}^+$  ions to form water molecule

↓

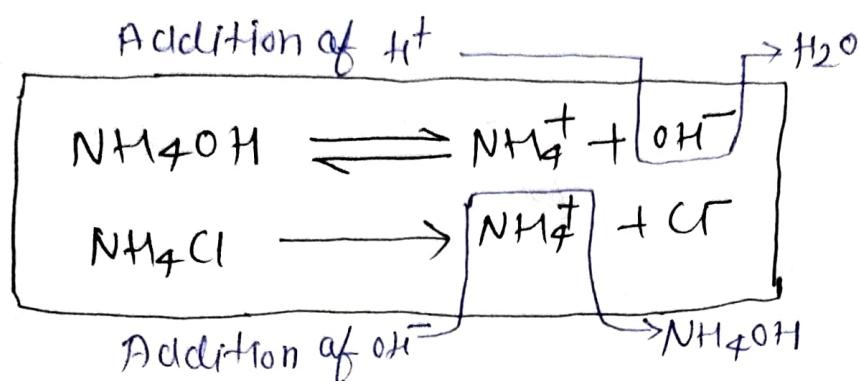
thus added  $\text{OH}^-$  ions neutralised and pH of buffer remain unchanged.

## Operation of basic buffer :-

① Add H<sup>+</sup>



⇒ Addition of HCl and NaOH →



## Applications of Buffer :-

- The process of fermentation uses buffer solutions.
- Chemical analysis and calibration of pH meters are also using buffer solution.
- The pH for the enzymes, required to perform different functions in many organisms is maintained by the buffer solutions.
- Maintenance of life → most of biochemical processes work within a relatively small pH range.
- The body move its own buffer solution which maintain a constant pH.  
eg. Blood contain a bicarbonate buffer that keep the pH close → 7.4 (blood pH).
- Buffers are used in food industry to maintain the acidity of food, and also for microbiological stability of food.

⇒ Buffer solution also used in textile industry.  
 e.g. Many dyeing processes use buffer to maintain the correct pH for various dyes.

### Buffer Equation

It is used to calculate the pH of a buffer solution and the change in pH with the addition of an acid/base.

Buffer equation for Acidic buffer:-

The dissociation of weak acid HA expressed as -



Applying law of active mass law,

$$\text{so, } K_a = \frac{[H^+] [A^-]}{[HA]}$$

$$[H^+] = K_a \frac{[HA]}{[A^-]}$$

$$\text{or } [H^+] = K_a \frac{[\text{Acid}]}{[\text{Salt}]}$$

Taking negative log both side -

$$-\log[H^+] = -\log K_a - \log \frac{[\text{Acid}]}{[\text{Salt}]}$$

$$\text{But } -\log[H^+] = \text{pH}$$

$$\text{and } -\log K_a = \text{p}K_a$$

$$\text{So, } \text{pH} = \text{pK}_a - \log \frac{[\text{acid}]}{[\text{salt}]}$$

$$\text{or } \boxed{\text{pH} = \text{pK}_a + \log \frac{[\text{salt}]}{[\text{acid}]}}$$

This relationship is called Henderson-Hasselbatch Equation.

→ In similar way Henderson-Hasselbatch equation for a basic buffer can be written as -

$$\text{pOH} = \text{pK}_b + \log \frac{[\text{Salt}]}{[\text{Base}]}$$

### Buffer Capacity

Buffer capacity also referred as  $\beta$   $\rightarrow$  Buffer Index  
 $\rightarrow$  Buffer Efficiency  
 $\rightarrow$  Buffer coefficient  
 $\rightarrow$  Buffer value

→ Buffer capacity of a solution is a measure of its magnitude of resistance to change in pH on addition of an acid or a base.

→ Buffer capacity  $\beta$  has been defined as

ratio of  $\rightarrow$  increase  $\downarrow$  of strong acid or base to small change in pH brought about by this addition.

$$\text{So, } \boxed{\beta = \frac{\Delta A \text{ or } \Delta B}{\Delta \text{pH}}}$$

Where,  $\Delta A$  or  $\Delta B$  = Small increment in gram equivalent per litre of strong acid or base.

$\Delta \text{pH}$  = change in pH.

## Buffer in pharmaceutical System

Buffers are added in pharmaceutical products

↓  
To maintain the required stability and pharmacological effect.

① In Parenteral Preparations - pH should be 7-4  
(pH of blood)

↓  
If pH deviates serious consequence may occur.  
⇒ The most commonly used buffer in parenteral product  
↓

acetate, citrate, phthalate, glutamate.

② In ophthalmic preparation = pH should be 7-8  
(pH of Lachrymal fluid)  
⇒ The most commonly used buffer in ophthalmic product  
↓  
borate, carbonate & phosphate buffer.

③ In ointments and creams - pH should be 5-5  
(pH of skin)

⇒ It is fairly acidic → helps to avoid effect of harmful bacteria and fungi  
⇒ Buffer used are → citric acid and sodium citrate  
on phosphoric acid / sodium phosphate

④ One of the special application of buffer is to relieve the gastric irritation caused by acidic drug.  
ex - Sodium bicarbonate, magnesium carbonate

(69)  
and sodium citrate antacids are used for purpose of reducing toxicity at a solid dosage form.

## ⇒ Buffers in Biological system

① Blood: -  
The pH of blood is maintained about 7.4 by two buffer systems :-

② Primary buffer - In plasma, compound like

carbonic acid / carbonate and acid/ alkali sodium salt of phosphoric acid

which maintain the pH.  
③ Secondary system - The erythrocytes

oxy-haemoglobin / haemoglobin and acid/ alkali potassium salts of phosphoric acid.

④ Lacrimal fluids:-

Lacrimal fluids (tears) have been found to have a great degree of buffer capacity, allowing dilution of 1:15 with neutral distilled water. The pH range of tears about 7 to 8.

## Buffered Isotonic Solution

Pharmaceutical solutions that are meant for applications to delicate membranes of the body should also be adjusted to approximately the same osmotic pressure as that of the body fluids.

→ Isotonic solutions cause no swelling or contraction<sup>(70)</sup> of the tissue with which they come in contact and produce no discomfort when instilled in the eyes, nasal tract, blood or other body tissue.

Eg. Blood  $\rightarrow$  0.9% w/v NaCl solution.

• There are three types of solutions:-

### ① Isotonic Solution:-

A buffer solution have same osmotic pressure as body fluid. (0.9% w/v NaCl).

② Hypertonic :- A buffer solution have high concentration of solute (osmotic pressure) than 0.9% NaCl.

⇒ If red blood cells are suspended in hypertonic solution, the water in RBC pass out to dilute surrounding salt solution than cause to shrink the cell.

③ Hypotonic :- A buffer solution have less conc. of solute (osmotic pressure) than 0.9% w/v NaCl.

⇒ If RBC mixed with hypotonic solution, the salt (water) pass into RBC causes swelling and finally bursting cell called haemolysis.

## Measurement of Tonicity

### ① Haemolytic Method :-

In this method  $\rightarrow$  RBCs are suspended into solution to be tested

If causes shrinkage of cells  
↓  
said hypertonic

If causes swelling and haemolysis  
↓  
said hypotonic.

### ② Colligative Methods :-

The solutions have same tonicity  $\rightarrow$  have similar colligative properties such as

- Same $\rightarrow$ Isotonic	$\rightarrow$ Lowering of vapour pressure
- $> 0.9\%$ $\rightarrow$ hypertonic	$\rightarrow$ depression of freezing point
- $< 0.9\%$ $\rightarrow$ hypotonic	$\rightarrow$ Boiling point

## Methods of Adjusting Tonicity :-

### ① Freezing point Depression Method or Cryoscopic Method :-

$\Rightarrow$  Body fluids  $\rightarrow$  blood plasma  
lachimal secretion } have a freezing  
So all solutions which have freezing point  $-0.52^\circ\text{C}$ .

$\Rightarrow$  Following formula is used for calculation of the quantity of a substance required to make solution isotonic with physiological fluids -

$$\% \text{ w/v of adjusting substances} = \frac{0.52 - a}{b}$$

Where,

$a$  = Freezing point of the unadjusted solution.

$b$  = Freezing point of 1% w/v solution of adjusting substance.

### ② Molecular Concentration Method:-

$$\text{Percentage w/v of adjusting substance required} = \frac{0.03 M}{N}$$

where,  $M$  = Gram molecular weight of the substance.

$N$  = Number of ions which the substance is ionized.

### ③ Sodium chloride equivalent Method:-

\* Developed by Mellen and Seltzer

Consider tonic effect  $\downarrow$  drug equivalent of sodium chloride.

Called E value of the drug.

⇒ The E-value of drug represents the amount of sodium chloride which will exert tonic effect equal to one gram of the drug

$$E = 17 \times \frac{L_{iso}}{M}$$

Where,  $L_{iso}$  = Specific value of L

$M$  = Molecular weight of drug

$E$  = sodium chloride equivalent or amount of NaCl required.

#### ④ White-Vincent Method:-

→ This method involves → addition of sufficient quantity of water to a drug to prepare a isotonic solution.

So,

$$V = w \times E \times 111.1$$

Where,

$V$  = volume of water added in solution to make it isotonic.

$w$  = weight of drug in gram.

$E$  = Equivalent weight of drug  
(sodium chloride equivalent)

#### ⑤ The Sprouts Method:-

→ It is modification of White-Vincent Method

↓  
weight of drug ( $w$ ) was fixed  
that is 0.3 g.

$$\text{Ans} \cdot V = 0.3 \times E \times 111.1 \Rightarrow V = 33.33 E$$