BRONSTED-LOWRY THEORY



water functions as a acid!

LEWIS THEORY

 Lewis theory treats acid-base chemistry as ELECTRON-TRANSFER chemistry involving pairs of electrons

- Lewis acid-base reactions form new covalent bonds (of interest to organic chemists!)

ACIDS are ACCEPTORS of electron pairs

... this is why some METAL IONS, even though they contain no hydorgen ions, can exhibit ACIDIC character. Many metal ions can accept a pair of electrons form a COMPLEX with a Lewis base!

BASES are DONORS of electron pairs.

... so, Lewis bases have LONE PAIRS OF ELECTRONS in their Lewis structures



... In a Lewis acid-base reaction, electrons are doneted from the Lewis base to the Lewis acid. This forms a new COVALENT BOND between the acid and the base.



Example: ammonia and water









hydroxide ion ammonium ion

Overall:
$$H_2O + NH_3 \rightleftharpoons NH_4^{\dagger} + OH^{-1}$$

COMPARING THE THEORIES

- From Arrhenius to Lewis, the definitions get broader as you go along. In other woeds, the later definitions include MORE SUBSTANCES under the acid/base umbrella.

- If something is an Arrhenius acid, it is also an acid in the Bronsted or Lewis picture.
- If something is an Arrhenius base, it is also a base in the Bronsted or Lewis picture.
- All Bronsted acids are Lewis acids, and all Bronsted bases are Lewis bases.
 - .. but not all Lewis acids/bases (like the metal ions) are Bronsted or Arrhenius acids/bases.

... We will primarily use the BRONSTED-LOWRY theory from this point in the course!



- Water self-ionizes!



This is an equilibrium reaction!

$$E H_3 D^+] [OH^+]$$

$$K = - (X) = molar concentration of "X"$$

In aqueous solution, (H_2^0) is essentially constant, so we roll that into K.

$$K_{w} = \left[H_{z} O^{+} \right] \left[O H^{-} \right] = 1.0 \times 10^{-14}$$

- The self-ionization of water has a small equilibrium constant. What does this imply?

THE CONCNETRATION OF HYDROXIDE AND HYDRONIUM ION IN PURE WATER IS VERY SMALL!

How small?

 $H_2 O = H_3 O^+ + O H^-$

In pure water, the concentration of hydroxide and hydronium must be equal, since they are formed at the same time and at the same ratio from the ionization reaction of water.







- "p" notation helps us deal with the very small numbers we encounter when working with acids, bases, and water.

- based on log base 10

So,



"p" NOTATION

- Apply "p" notation to the water self-ionization reaction!



Taking the "p" (negative log base ten) of the equilibrium constant is often used for BUFFER SOLUTIONS, which we'll discuss later!