

# **The Common Ion Effect**

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**is an example of LeChatelier's principle**

**the presence of its conjugate base  
suppresses the ionization of a weak acid**

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# Conjugate base suppresses ionization of a weak acid

Consider an aqueous solution containing  $1M$  acetic acid ( $K_a = 1.8 \times 10^{-5}$ ).



$$1.8 \times 10^{-5} = \frac{x^2}{1 - x}$$

$$x = [\text{H}^+] = 4.2 \times 10^{-3} M \quad \text{pH} = 2.37$$

# Conjugate base suppresses ionization of a weak acid

Consider an aqueous solution containing 1M acetic acid ( $K_a = 1.8 \times 10^{-5}$ ).



LeChatelier's principle (qualitative)

AcO<sup>-</sup> increases; position of equilibrium shifts to the left



# Conjugate base suppresses ionization of a weak acid

Consider an aqueous solution containing **1M acetic acid and 1M acetate ion**



$$1.8 \times 10^{-5} = \frac{(x)(1+x)}{1-x}$$

$$1.8 \times 10^{-5} = x = [\text{H}^+] \quad \text{pH} = 4.74$$

# Henderson-Hasselbalch Equation



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

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

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

$$\text{pH} = \text{p}K_a + \log \frac{[\text{A}^-]}{[\text{HA}]}$$

# General form of Henderson-Hasselbalch equation

$$\text{pH} = \text{p}K_a + \log \frac{[\text{A}^-]}{[\text{HA}]}$$

$$\text{pH} = \text{p}K_a + \log \frac{[\text{conj.base}]}{[\text{acid}]}$$

## Example

What is the pH of a solution that is 0.30 M in HCOOH and 0.52 M in HCOOK?

$$(K_a = 1.7 \times 10^{-4})$$

$$\text{pH} = \text{p}K_a + \log \frac{[\text{c.base}]}{[\text{acid}]}$$

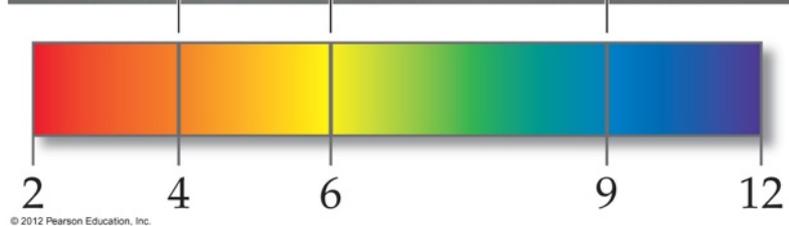
$$-\log [\text{H}^+] = -\log (1.7 \times 10^{-4}) + \log \frac{(0.52)}{(0.30)}$$

$$\text{pH} = 3.77 + 0.23 = 4.0$$

# Buffer Solutions

- resist changes in pH upon the addition of small amounts of either acid or base
- contain a weak acid or base and its salt (both must be present)

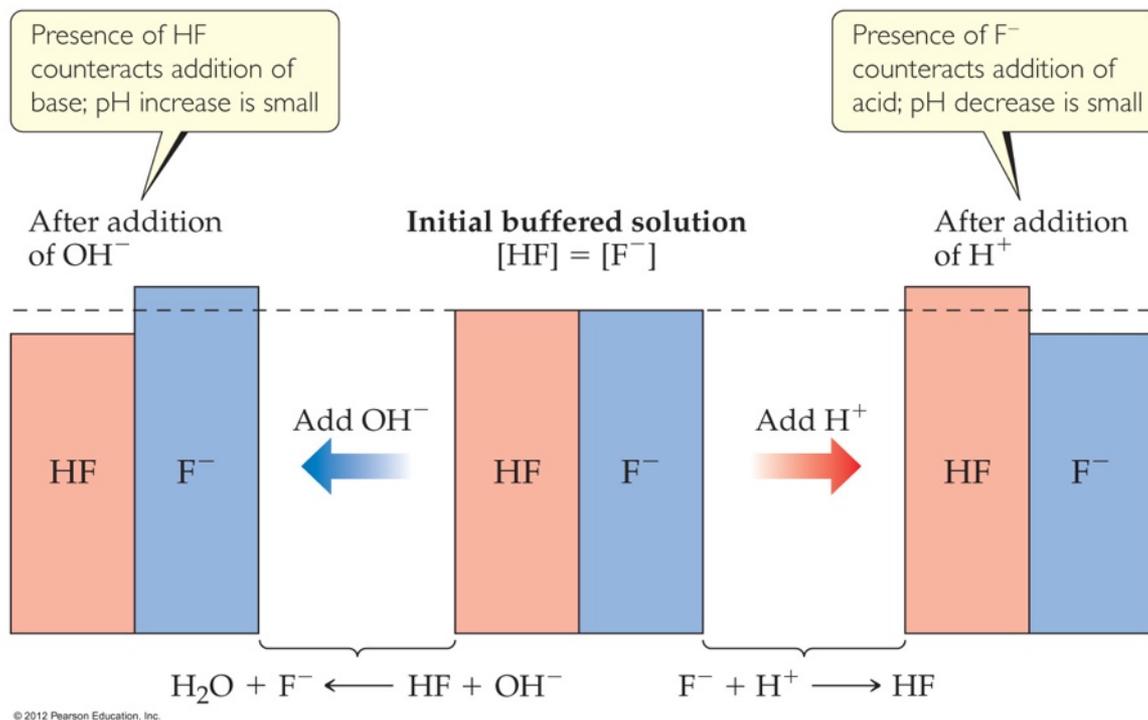
# Buffers



- Buffers are solutions of a weak conjugate acid–base pair.
- They are particularly resistant to pH changes, even when strong acid or base is added.

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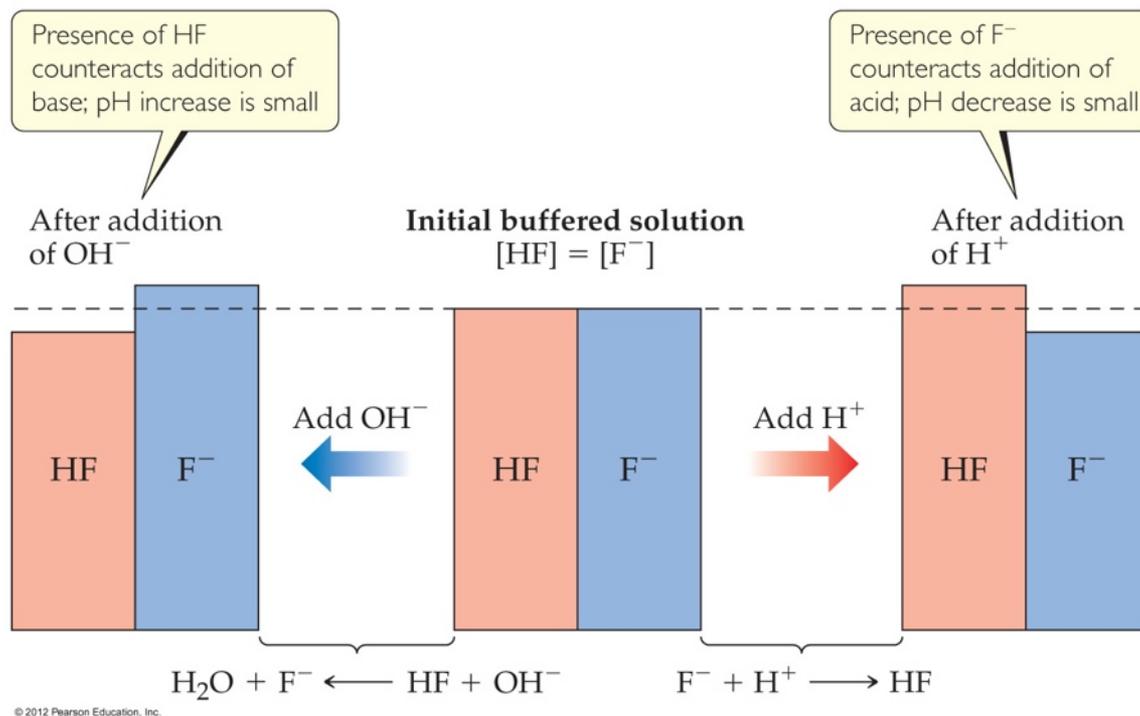
# Buffers



If a small amount of hydroxide is added to an equimolar solution of HF in NaF, for example, the HF reacts with the  $OH^-$  to make  $F^-$  and water.



# Buffers



Similarly, if acid is added, the  $F^-$  reacts with it to form HF and water.

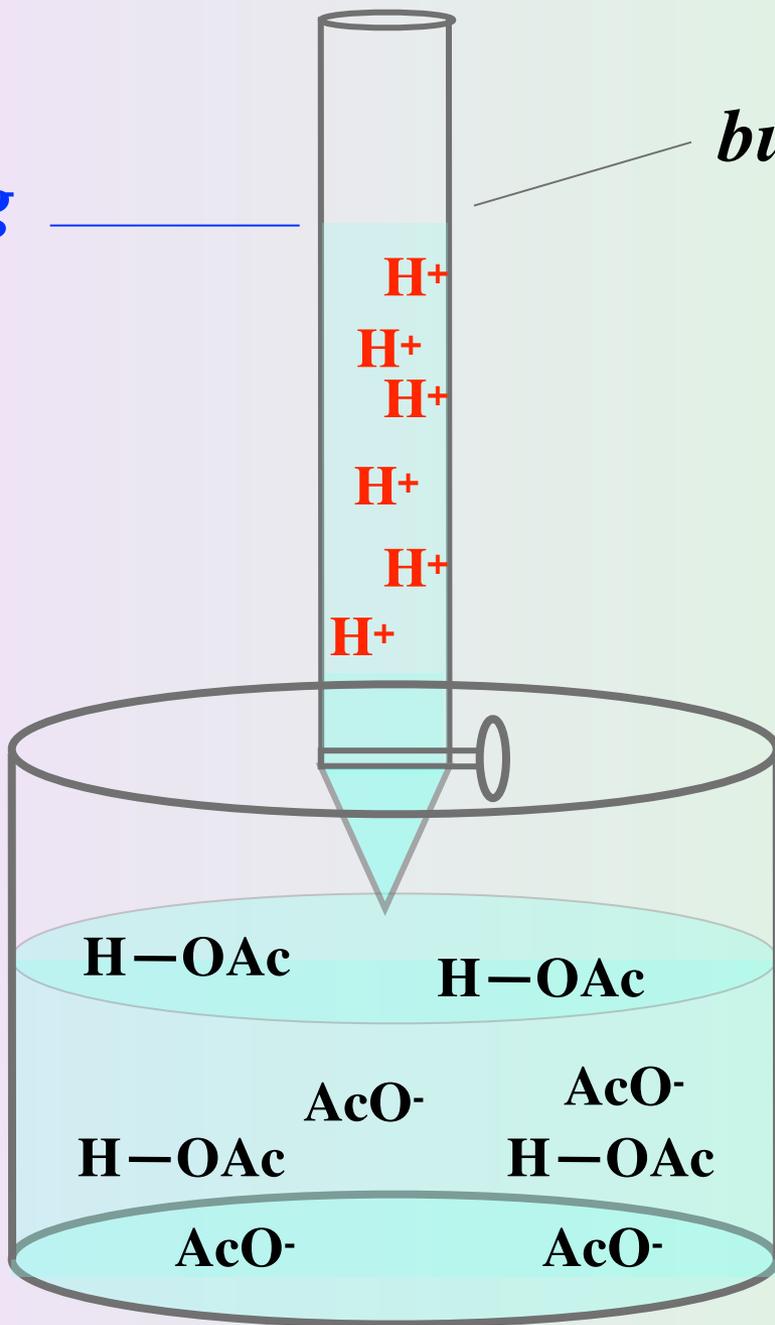
# How a sodium acetate/ acetic acid buffer buffers

the chemistry



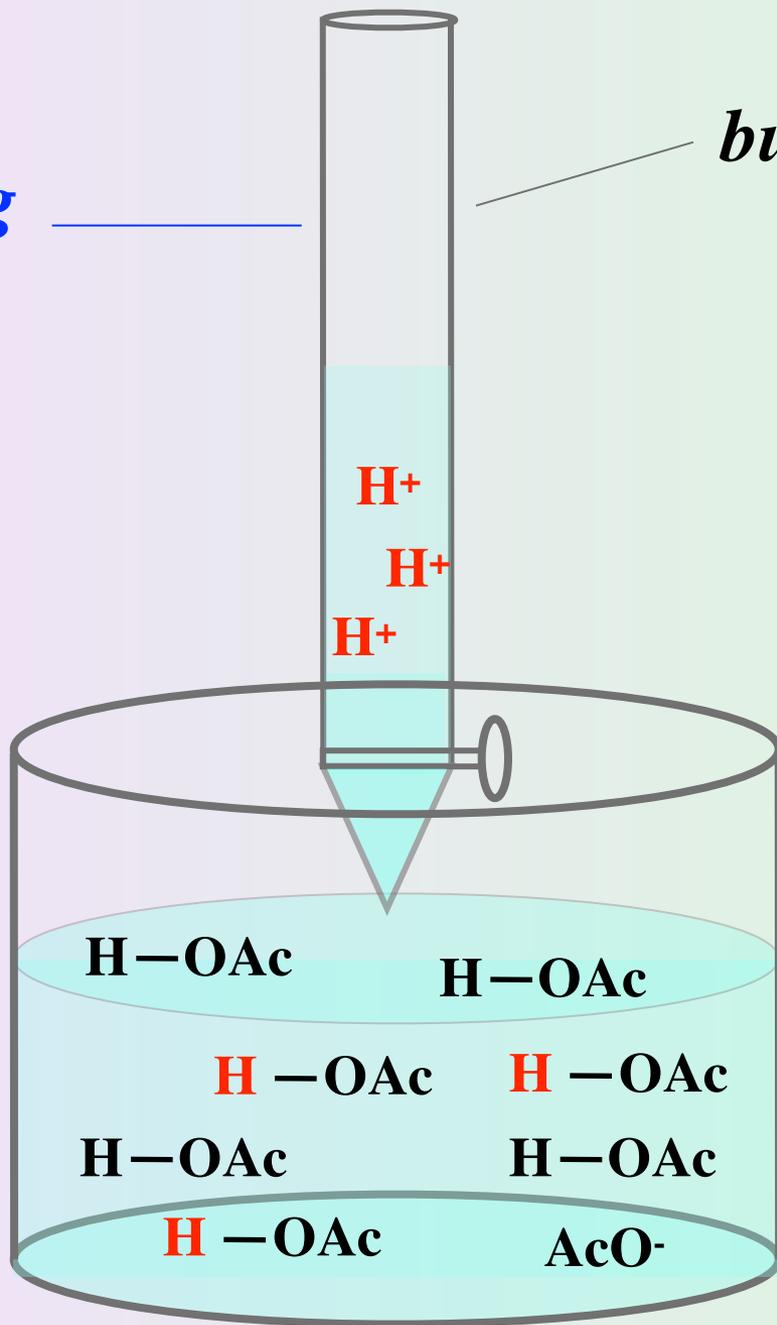
*initial reading*

*buret*



*initial reading*

*buret*



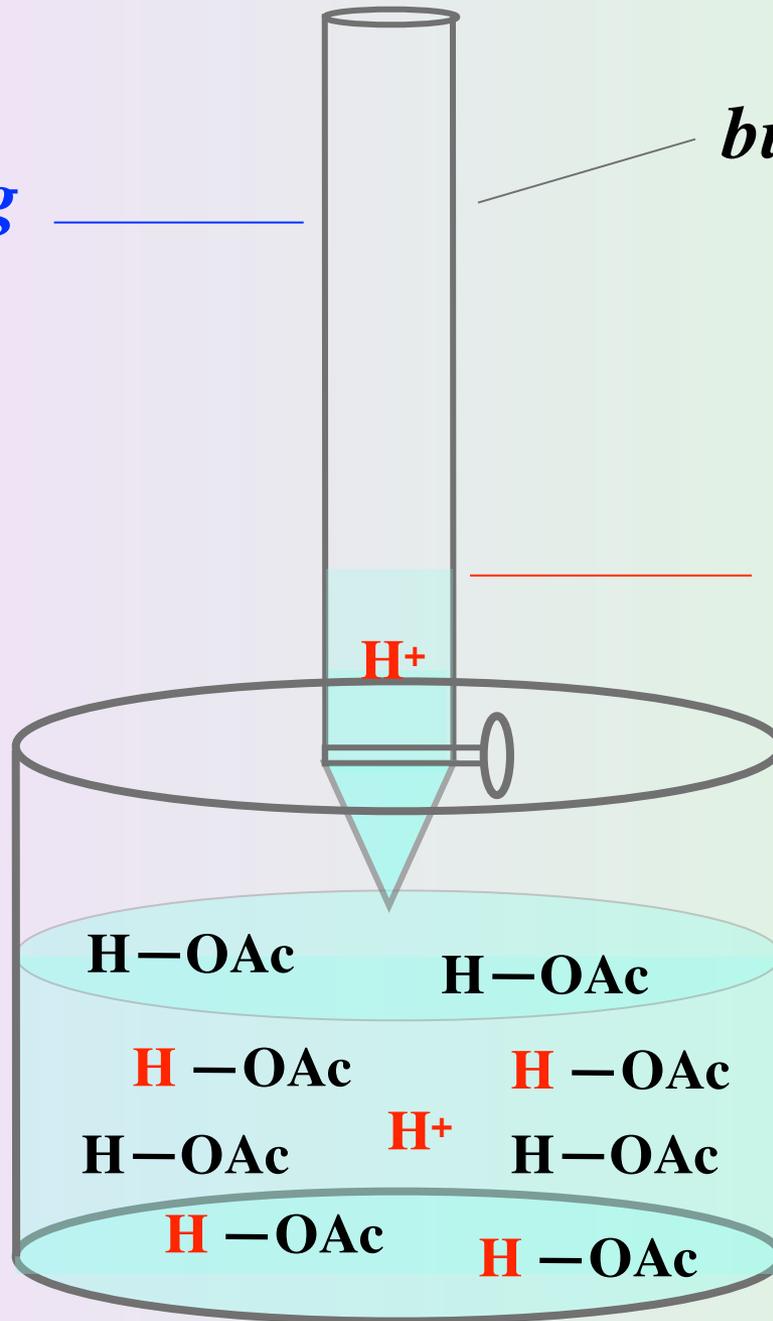
*the  $H^+$  added gets consumed by the acetate*

*the solution's pH is not lower by much*

*initial reading*

*buret*

*final reading*



*the amount  $H^+$   
added is now  
greater than the  
acetate  
concentration of  
the buffer*

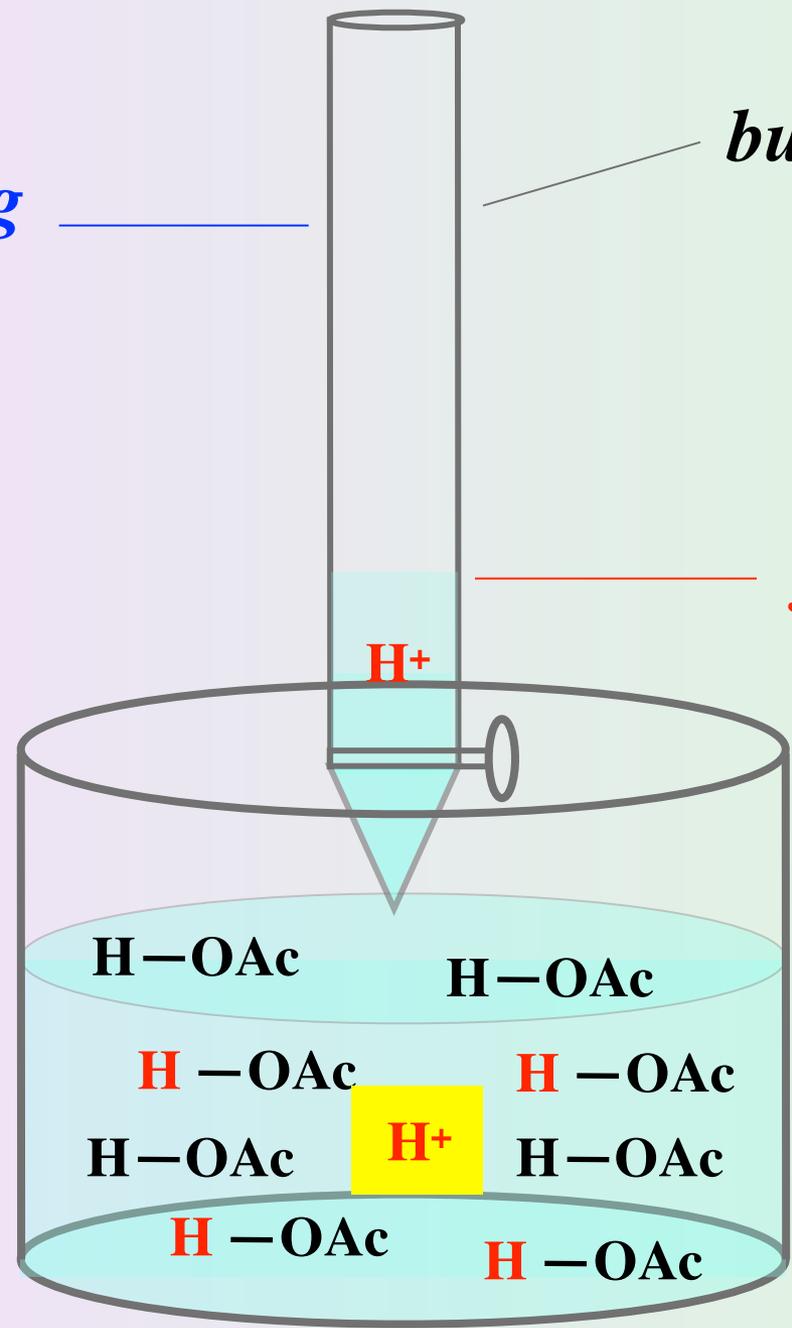
*initial reading*

*buret*

*final reading*

*the solutions  
pH is lowered*

*the amount  $H^+$   
added is now  
greater than the  
acetate  
concentration of  
the buffer*



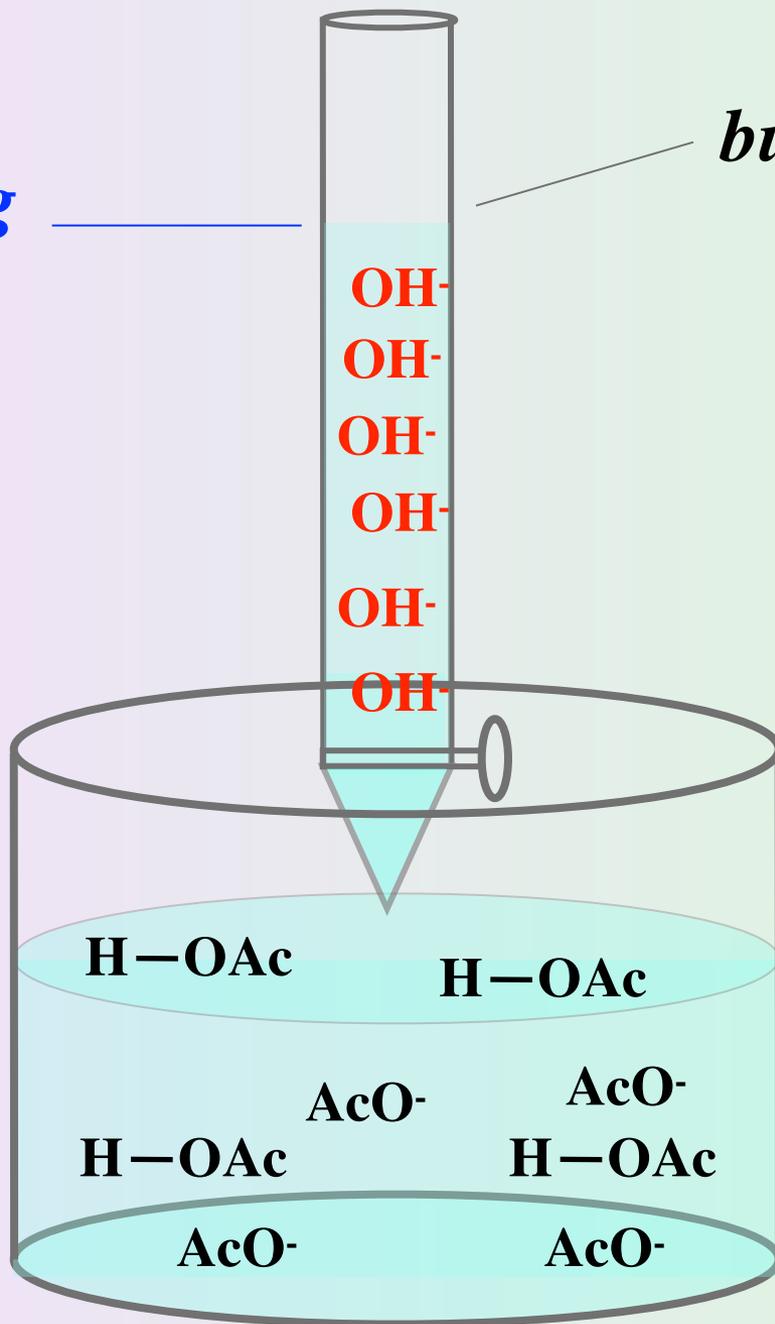
# How a sodium acetate/ acetic acid buffer buffers

the chemistry



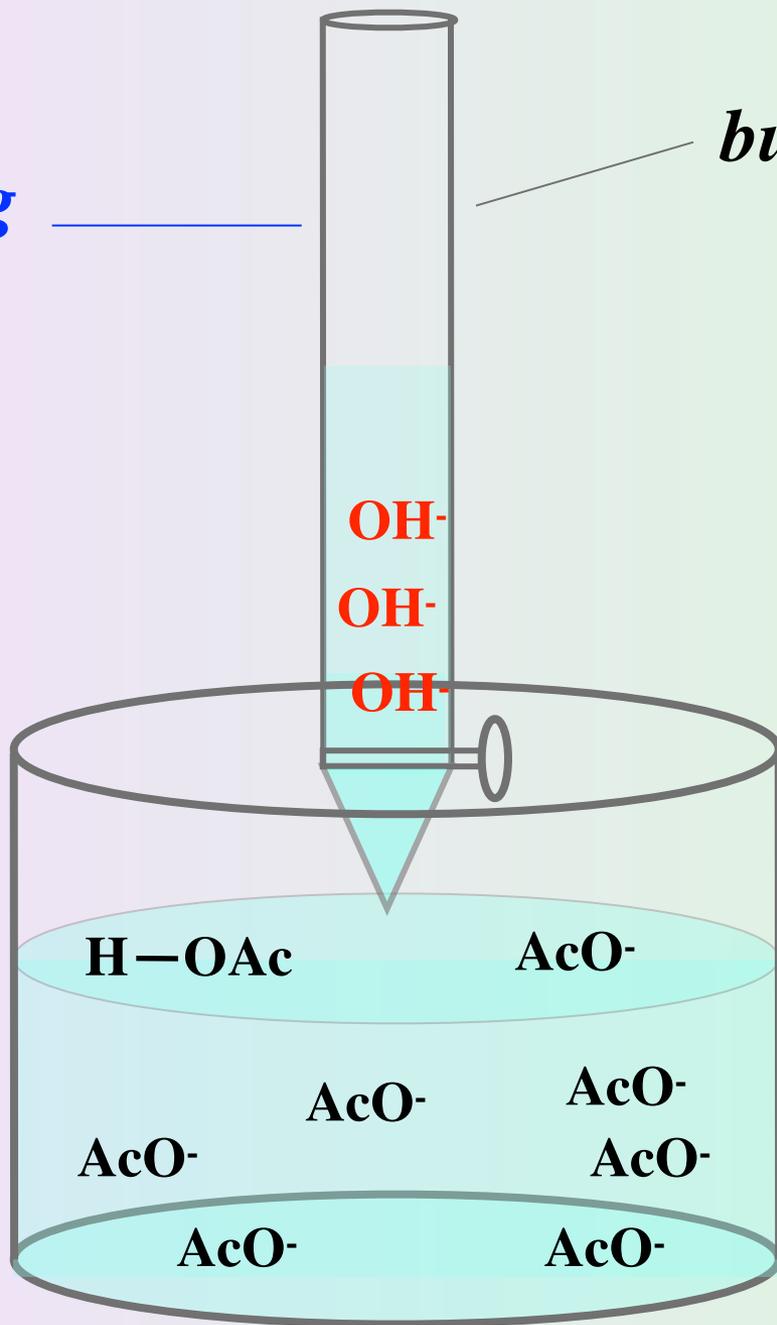
*initial reading*

*buret*



*initial reading*

*buret*



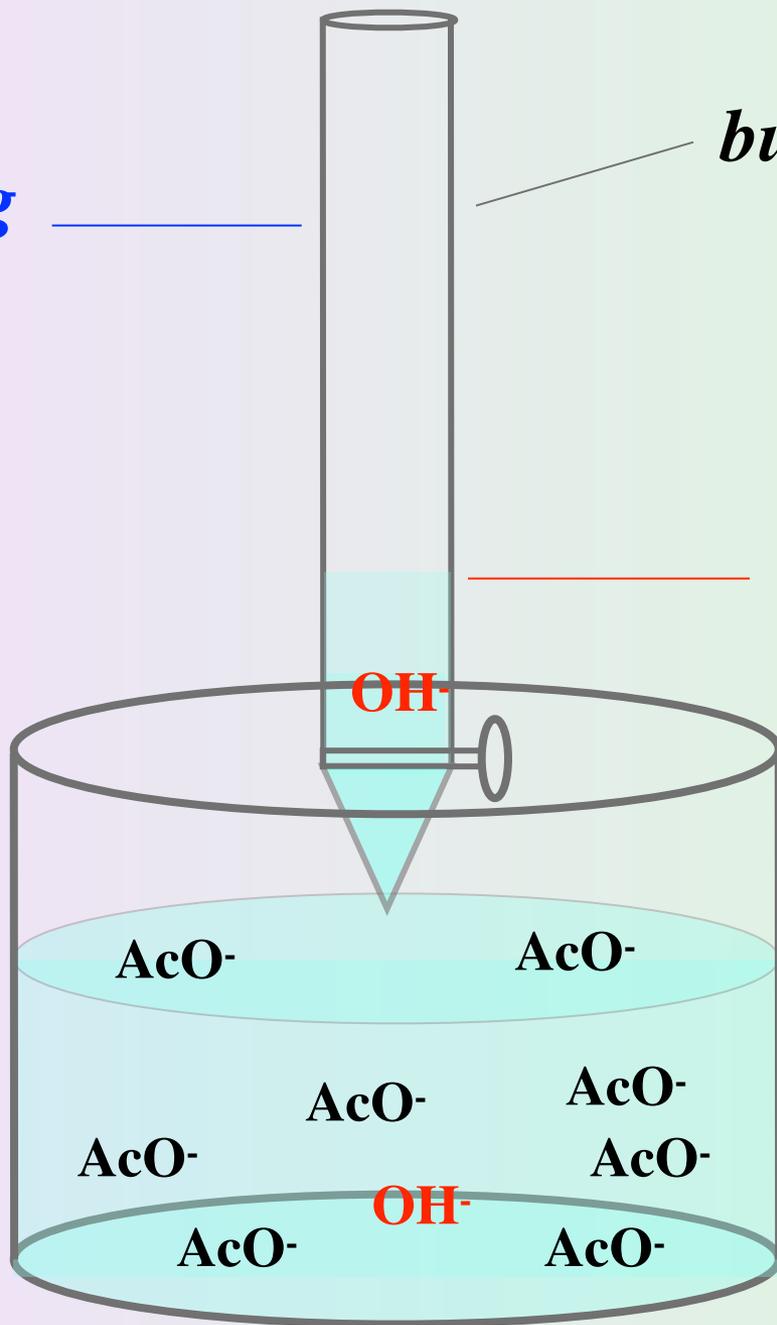
*the  $\text{OH}^-$  added gets consumed by the acetic acid*

*the solution's pH is not raised by much*

*initial reading*

*buret*

*final reading*



*the amount OH<sup>-</sup> added is now greater than the acetic acid concentration of the buffer*

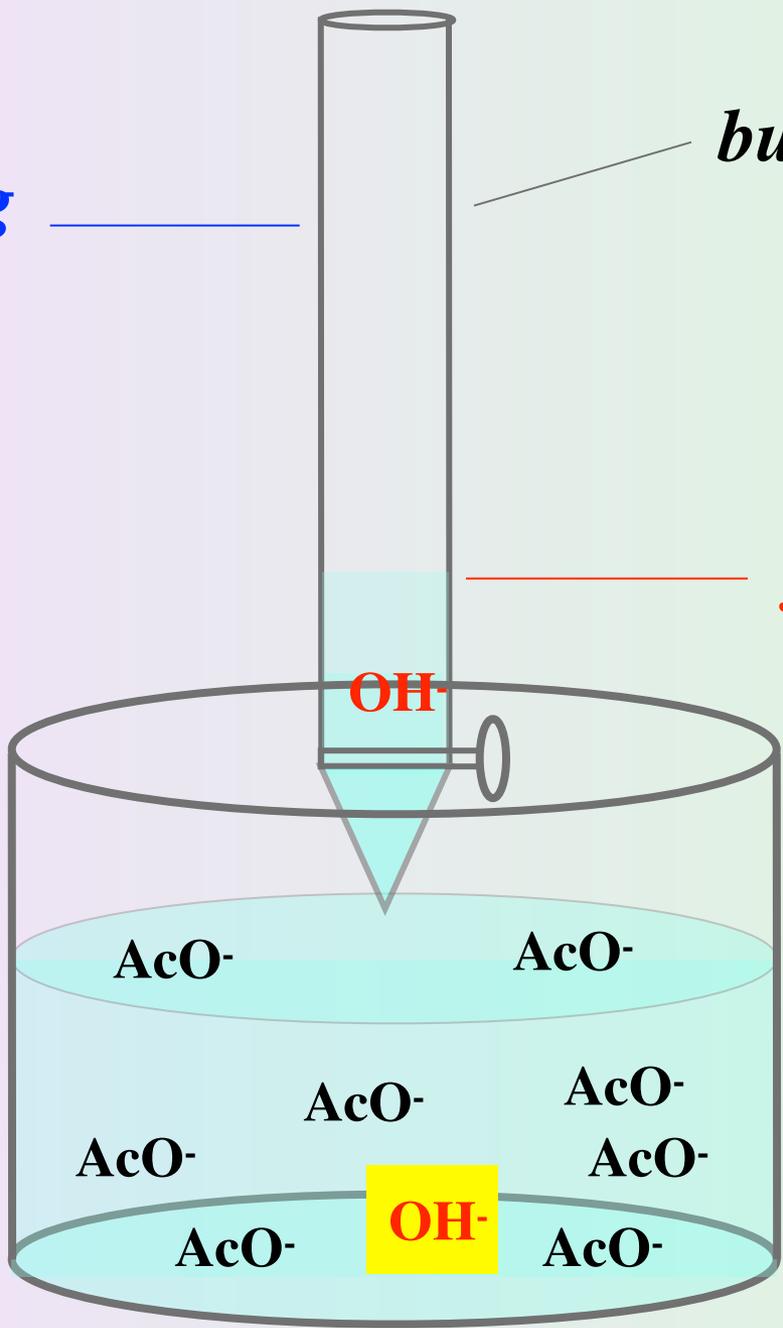
*initial reading*

*buret*

*final reading*

*the solutions  
pH is raised*

*the amount OH<sup>-</sup>  
added is now  
greater than the  
acetic acid  
concentration of  
the buffer*



# How a sodium acetate/ acetic acid buffer buffers

the mathematics

$$K_a = \frac{[\text{H}^+] [\text{AcO}^-]}{[\text{HOAc}]}$$

$$K_a \times \frac{[\text{HOAc}]}{[\text{AcO}^-]} = [\text{H}^+]$$

$$K_a \times \frac{[\text{HOAc}]}{[\text{AcO}^-]} = [\text{H}^+]$$

$$-\log [\text{H}^+] = -\log K_a - \log \frac{[\text{HOAc}]}{[\text{AcO}^-]}$$

$$\text{pH} = \text{p}K_a - \log \frac{[\text{HOAc}]}{[\text{AcO}^-]}$$

or

$$\text{pH} = \text{p}K_a + \log \frac{[\text{AcO}^-]}{[\text{HOAc}]}$$

## Example

Which of the following are buffer systems?

(a)  $\text{KF} / \text{HF}$

**yes**;  $\text{HF}$  is a weak acid and  $\text{F}^-$  is its conjugate base

(b)  $\text{KBr} / \text{HBr}$

**no**;  $\text{HBr}$  is a strong acid

(c)  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3 / \text{NaHCO}_3$

**yes**;  $\text{HCO}_3^-$  is a weak acid and  $\text{CO}_3^{2-}$  is its conjugate base

Calculate the pH of a buffer containing 1.0 M acetic acid and 1.0 M sodium acetate.



$$1.0 \text{ M} - x \qquad x \qquad 1.0 \text{ M} + x$$

$$K_a = \frac{[\text{H}^+][\text{AcO}^-]}{[\text{HOAc}]}$$

$$1.8 \times 10^{-5} = \frac{[\text{H}^+](1.0)}{(1.0)}$$

$$1.8 \times 10^{-5} = \frac{[\text{H}^+](1.0 + x)}{(1.0 - x)}$$

$$1.8 \times 10^{-5} = x = [\text{H}^+]$$

$$\text{pH} = 4.74$$

Calculate the pH of a buffer containing 1.0 *M* acetic acid and 1.0 *M* sodium acetate.

$$\text{pH} = 4.7$$

**What happens when 0.10 mol of gaseous HCl is added to 1.0 L of this solution?**

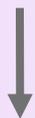
**add 0.10 mol of HCl(g) to 1.0 L of a solution that is 1.0 M in NaOAc and HOAc**



**0.1 mol**

**1.0 mol**

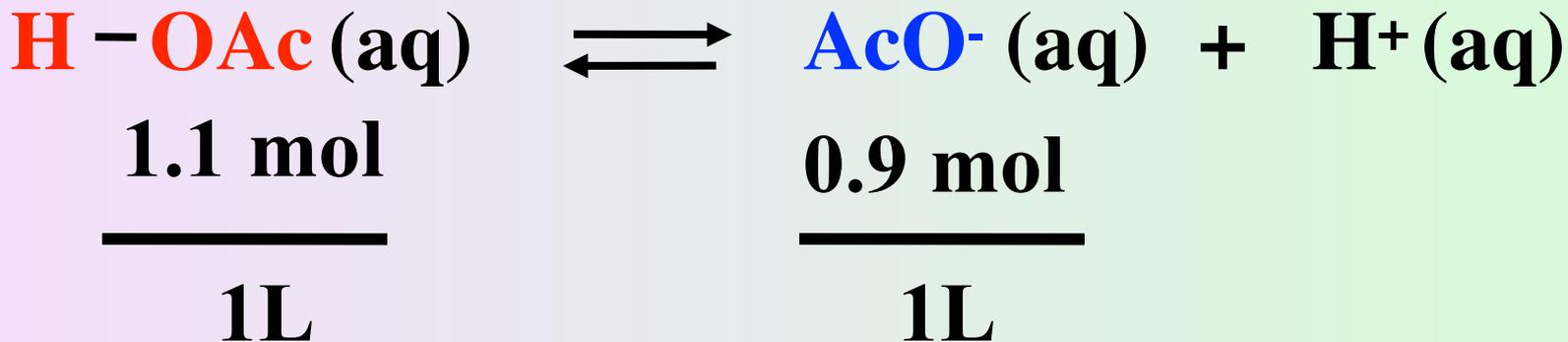
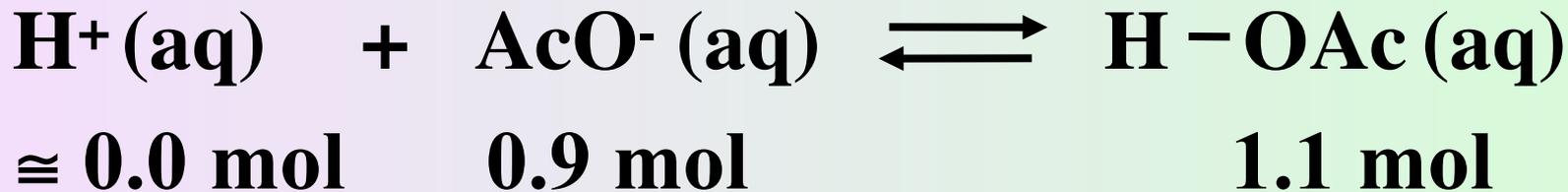
**1.0 mol**



**≈ 0.0 mol**

**0.9 mol**

**1.1 mol**

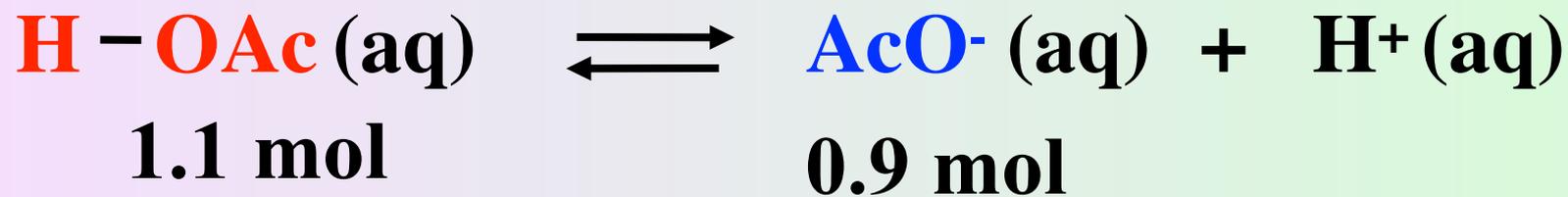


$$K_a = \frac{[\text{H}^+][\text{AcO}^-]}{[\text{HOAc}]} \quad 1.8 \times 10^{-5} = \frac{[\text{H}^+](0.9)}{(1.1)}$$

$$[\text{H}^+] = 2.2 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M}$$

$$\text{pH} = 4.66$$

Same calculation using the Henderson-Hasselbalch equation



$$\text{pH} = \text{p}K_a + \log \frac{[\text{c.base}]}{[\text{acid}]}$$

$$\text{pH} = -\log K_a + \log \frac{(0.9)}{(1.1)}$$

$$\text{pH} = 4.74 - 0.09 = 4.65$$

Calculate the pH of a buffer containing 1.0 M acetic acid and 1.0 M sodium acetate.

$$\text{pH} = 4.7$$

What happens when 0.10 mol of gaseous HCl is added to 1.0 L of this solution?

$$\text{pH} = 4.66$$

What happens when 0.10 mol of solid NaOH is added to 1.0 L of this solution?

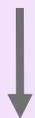
**add 0.10 mol of NaOH(s) to 1.0 L of a solution that is 1.0 M in NaOAc and HOAc**



**0.1 mol**

**1.0 mol**

**1.0 mol**



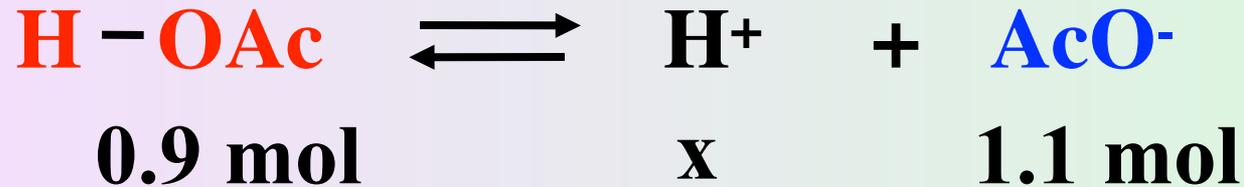
**≈ 0.0 mol**

**0.9 mol**

**1.1 mol**



Same calculation using the Henderson-Hasselbalch equation



$$\text{pH} = \text{p}K_a + \log \frac{[\text{c.base}]}{[\text{acid}]}$$

$$\text{pH} = -\log (1.8 \times 10^{-5}) + \log \frac{(1.1)}{(0.9)} \quad (1.1)$$

$$\text{pH} = 4.74 + 0.09 = 4.83$$

**Calculate the pH of a buffer containing 1.0 M acetic acid and 1.0 M sodium acetate.**

$$\text{pH} = 4.7$$

**What happens when 0.10 mol of gaseous HCl is added to 1.0 L of this solution?**

$$\text{pH} = 4.66$$

**What happens when 0.10 mol of solid NaOH is added to 1.0 L of this solution?**

$$\text{pH} = 4.83$$

## Example

Calculate the pH of the 0.30 M NH<sub>3</sub>/0.36 M NH<sub>4</sub>Cl buffer system.



$$K_a = \frac{[\text{H}^+][\text{NH}_3]}{[\text{NH}_4^+]}$$

$$[\text{H}^+] = 6.72 \times 10^{-10}$$

$$5.6 \times 10^{-10} = \frac{[\text{H}^+] (0.30)}{(0.36)}$$

$$\text{pH} = 9.17$$

## Same calculation using the Henderson-Hasselbalch equation



$$\text{pH} = \text{p}K_a + \log \frac{[\text{c.base}]}{[\text{acid}]}$$

$$\text{pH} = -\log (5.6 \times 10^{-10}) + \log \frac{(0.30)}{(0.36)}$$

$$\text{pH} = 9.25 - 0.08 = 9.17$$

## Example (cont.)

Calculate the pH after adding 20.0ml of 0.05 M NaOH to 80.0 ml of the 0.30M NH<sub>3</sub>/0.36 M NH<sub>4</sub>Cl buffer system.



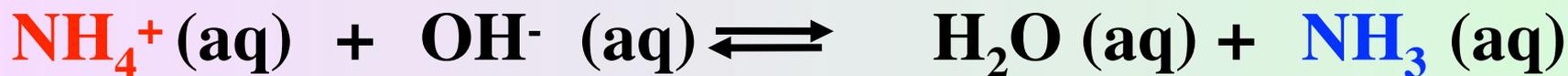
$$.080 \text{ L} \times \frac{0.30 \text{ mol NH}_3}{1\text{L}} = 0.0240\text{mol}$$

$$.080 \text{ L} \times \frac{0.36 \text{ mol NH}_4^+}{1\text{L}} = 0.0288\text{mol}$$

$$.020 \text{ L} \times \frac{0.05 \text{ mol HO}^-}{1\text{L}} = 0.001\text{mol}$$

## Example (cont.)

Calculate the pH after adding 20.0 ml of 0.050 M NaOH to 80.0 ml of the 0.30 M NH<sub>3</sub>/0.36 M NH<sub>4</sub>Cl buffer system.



0.0288 mol



0.0278 mol

0.001 mol



0.000 mol

0.0240 mol



0.0250 mol

## Example (cont.)

Calculate the pH after adding 20.0ml of 0.050 M NaOH to 80.0 ml of the 0.30M NH<sub>3</sub>/0.36 M NH<sub>4</sub>Cl buffer system.



0.0278 mol

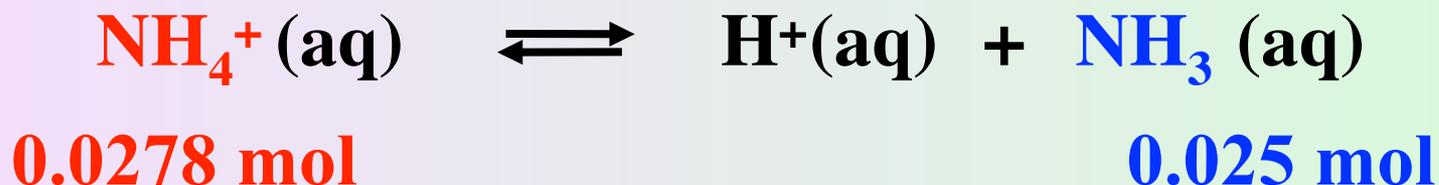
0.025 mol

$$\text{pH} = \text{p}K_a + \log \frac{[\text{c.base}]}{[\text{acid}]}$$

$$\text{pH} = -\log(5.6 \times 10^{-10}) + \log \frac{\frac{0.025 \text{ mol}}{0.10 \text{ L}}}{\frac{0.0278 \text{ mol}}{0.10 \text{ L}}}$$

## Example (cont.)

Calculate the pH after adding 20.0ml of 0.050 M NaOH to 80.0 ml of the 0.30M NH<sub>3</sub>/0.36 M NH<sub>4</sub>Cl buffer system.



$$\text{pH} = \text{p}K_a + \log \frac{[\text{c.base}]}{[\text{acid}]}$$

$$\text{pH} = -\log (5.6 \times 10^{-10}) + \log \frac{0.0025}{0.00278}$$

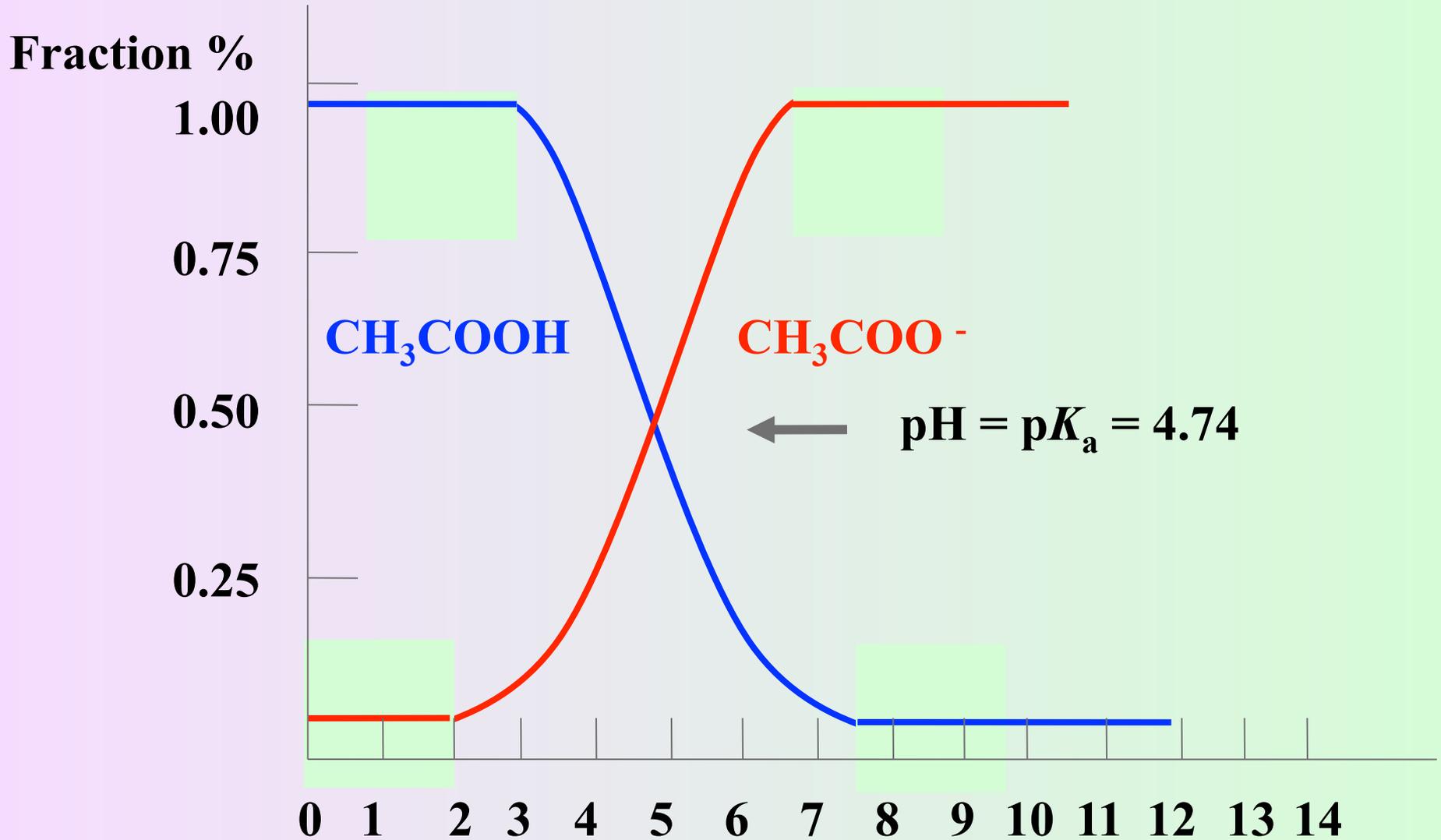
$$\text{pH} = 9.25 - 0.05 = 9.20$$

# Distribution Curves

**Show the fraction of each species present as a function of pH**

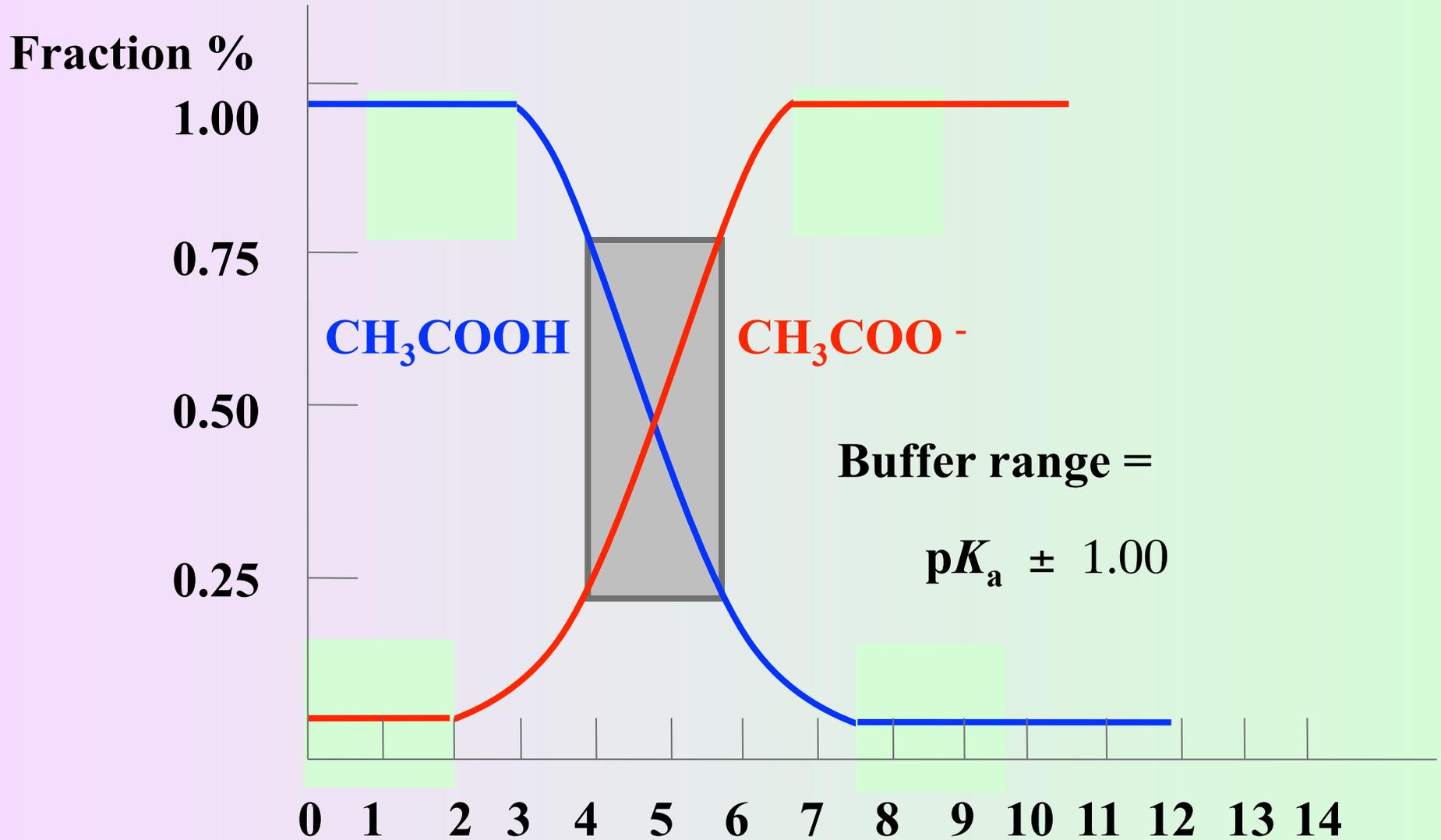
**acid and conjugate base**

**base and conjugate acid**



**distribution curves for acidic acid and acetate ion as a function of pH**

**pH**



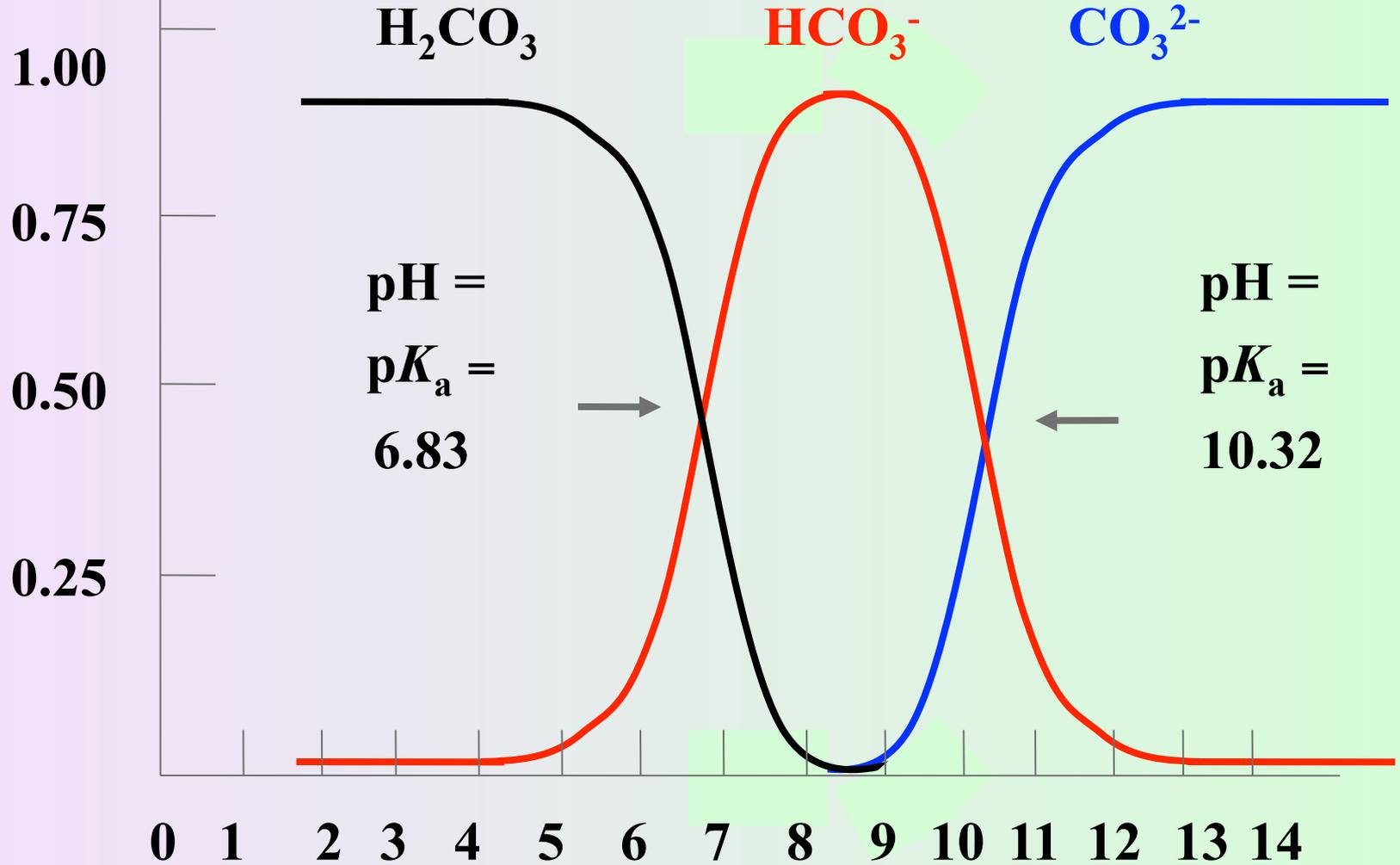
**distribution curves for acidic acid and acetate ion as a function of pH**

**pH**

**The bicarbonate/carbonate acid buffer is more complicated because carbonic acid is a diprotic acid.**

**It is important because it contributes to controlling the pH of blood at 7.4.**

**Fraction %**



**distribution curves for carbonic acid and bicarbonate ion as a function of pH**

**pH**

# Preparing a Buffer Solution with a Specific pH

$$\text{pH} = \text{p}K_a + \log \frac{[\text{c.base}]}{[\text{acid}]}$$

- center of buffer range:  $[\text{acid}] = [\text{base}]$  and  $\text{pH} = \text{p}K_a$
- choose a weak acid/conjugate base combination where the  $\text{p}K_a$  of the acid corresponds to the pH at which you want the solution buffered

**How would you prepare a liter of “carbonate buffer” at a pH of 10.10 ?**

**you have available:**

**$\text{H}_2\text{CO}_3$                        $\text{p}K_a$  6.38**

**$\text{NaHCO}_3$                        $\text{p}K_a$  10.32**

**$\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$**

**Pick  $\text{NaHCO}_3$  and its conjugate base.**

**How would you prepare a liter of “carbonate buffer” at a pH of 10.10 ?**

$$\text{pH} = \text{p}K_a + \log \frac{[\text{c.base}]}{[\text{acid}]}$$

$$10.10 = 10.32 + \log \frac{[\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3]}{[\text{NaHCO}_3]}$$

$$\frac{[\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3]}{[\text{NaHCO}_3]} = 10^{-0.22} = 0.60$$



**The shift in equilibrium caused by the addition of a compound having an ion in common with the dissolved substance is called the **common ion effect**.**