

The K_w For Water At 0 °C Is 0.12×10^{-14} . Calculate The pH Of A Neutral Aqueous Solution At 0 °C.

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Understanding the properties of water and its behavior at different temperatures is fundamental in chemistry, especially when exploring concepts like pH, acidity, and neutrality. The given equilibrium constant, K_w , for water at 0°C provides crucial information to determine the pH of a neutral aqueous solution at this temperature. In this article, we will delve into the significance of K_w , how it varies with temperature, and the step-by-step process to calculate the pH of pure water at 0°C.

Understanding K_w and Its Significance

What Is K_w ?

K_w , known as the ion product constant for water, is an equilibrium constant that reflects the degree of ionization of water molecules. It represents the product of the molar concentrations of hydrogen ions (H^+) and hydroxide ions (OH^-) in pure water at a specific temperature:

$$K_w = [H^+][OH^-]$$

At 25°C, the commonly accepted value of K_w is 1.0×10^{-14} , indicating that in pure water, the concentrations of H^+ and OH^- are both 1.0×10^{-7} mol/L.

How Does Temperature Affect K_w ?

K_w is temperature-dependent. As temperature increases, the value of K_w generally increases, indicating a higher degree of ionization. Conversely, at lower temperatures, K_w decreases. This

variation affects the pH of pure water and is essential for precise calculations in chemical processes across different temperatures.

Given Data and Its Implications

The problem states:

- K_w at $0^\circ\text{C} = 0.12 \times 10^{-14}$
- The solution is neutral water at 0°C

This indicates that at 0°C , the ion product constant for water is significantly lower than at 25°C , which influences the concentration of H^+ and OH^- ions, and consequently, the pH.

Calculating the pH of Neutral Water at 0°C

Step 1: Understanding Neutrality in Water

In pure water, neutrality means the concentration of hydrogen ions equals that of hydroxide ions:

$$[\text{H}^+] = [\text{OH}^-]$$

Therefore, the value of K_w becomes:

$$K_w = [\text{H}^+][\text{OH}^-] = [\text{H}^+]^2$$

Since $[\text{H}^+] = [\text{OH}^-]$, we can find the hydrogen ion concentration directly by taking the square root of K_w .

Step 2: Applying the Data

Given:

$$K_w = 0.12 \times 10^{14} = 1.2 \times 10^{13}$$

Note: There appears to be a formatting inconsistency in the original problem statement ("0.12 10¹⁴"). Assuming it is a typo and the intended value is 0.12×10^{14} , which equals 1.2×10^{13} .

Now, calculating $[H^+]$:

$$[H^+] = \sqrt{K_w} = \sqrt{1.2 \times 10^{13}}$$

Calculating the square root:

- The square root of 1.2 is approximately 1.095
- The square root of 10^{13} is $10^{6.5}$ (since $\sqrt{10^n} = 10^{n/2}$)

Thus,

$$[H^+] \approx 1.095 \times 10^{6.5}$$

Expressed more precisely:

$$[H^+] \approx 1.095 \times 10^{6.5}$$

$$\text{Since } 10^{6.5} = 10^6 \times 10^{0.5} \approx 1,000,000 \times 3.1623 \approx 3,162,277$$

Therefore,

$$[H^+] \approx 1.095 \times 3,162,277 \approx 3,462,000 \text{ mol/L}$$

This is an extremely high concentration, but given the low value of K_w at 0°C , this is consistent with the calculations.

Step 3: Calculating the pH

pH is defined as:

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

Using the approximate $[\text{H}^+]$ value:

$$\text{pH} \approx -\log(3.462 \times 10^{-6})$$

Breaking down:

$$\text{pH} \approx -(\log 3.462 + \log 10^{-6})$$

$$\text{pH} \approx -(0.539 + 6)$$

$$\text{pH} \approx -6.539$$

Since pH is typically expressed as a positive value for acidity, the negative result indicates a need to revisit assumptions or check calculations. In reality, at 0°C, pure water has a pH slightly above 7, reflecting a lower degree of ionization. The discrepancy suggests that the initial assumption of equal $[\text{H}^+]$ and $[\text{OH}^-]$ concentrations needs to be carefully considered with the given K_w value.

Note: The actual calculation should consider that the concentrations of H^+ and OH^- in water are equal and that the pH of pure water at 0°C can be calculated using the given K_w value:

$$[\text{H}^+] = \sqrt{K_w}$$

and

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

So, more accurately:

$$\sqrt{[H^+] = \sqrt{1.2 \times 10^{13}}} \approx 1.095 \times 10^{6.5} \text{ mol/L}$$

which is unphysically high, suggesting that the initial interpretation of K_w 's value may need correction, or that the value is perhaps 1.2×10^{-14} , as in standard conditions, or that the given value is misrepresented.

Summary:

- The key point is that at 0°C , the pH of pure water can be calculated from K_w using the relation: $\text{pH} = -0.5 \times \log K_w$.
- Given the K_w value of 0.12×10^{-14} , the calculation proceeds accordingly.

Alternative Approach: Simplified Calculation of pH at 0°C

Given that:

$$K_w = [H^+][OH^-]$$

and in pure water: $[H^+] = [OH^-]$, then:

$$[H^+] = \sqrt{K_w}$$

And pH is:

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

Since the logarithm of the square root of K_w is:

$$\text{pH} = -0.5 \log K_w$$

Applying the value:

$$[\text{pH} = -0.5 \times \log (0.12 \times 10^{14})]$$

$$[\text{pH} = -0.5 \times (\log 0.12 + 14)]$$

$$[\log 0.12 \approx -0.921]$$

So,

$$[\text{pH} = -0.5 \times (-0.921 + 14) = -0.5 \times 13.079 = -6.539]$$

Again, a negative pH is physically not meaningful, indicating that the actual pH of pure water at 0°C is approximately 7, but slightly higher than 7 due to the lower ionization.

Conclusion:

At 0°C, with the given K_w , the pH of a neutral aqueous solution can be approximated using the relation:

$$[\text{pH} \approx -0.5 \times \log K_w]$$

which, for $K_w = 0.12 \times 10^{-14}$, yields a pH around 6.5, indicating slightly more acidic conditions compared to 7 at room temperature.

Implications and Applications

Understanding how water's ionization and pH change with temperature is essential in various fields, including:

- Environmental Chemistry: Monitoring pH in cold aquatic environments
- Industrial Processes: Designing chemical reactions that operate at low temperatures
- Biochemistry: Studying enzyme activity and biological processes sensitive to pH shifts

Practical Tips for Chemists

- Always verify the value of K_w at the specific temperature you're working with
- Use the relation $\text{pH} = -0.5 \times \log K_w$ for quick estimates of pH in pure water
- Remember that in real systems, impurities and dissolved gases can impact pH measurements

Conclusion

Calculating the pH of pure water at different temperatures, especially at 0°C where K_w is significantly different from standard conditions, is a fundamental skill in chemistry. By understanding the relationship between K_w and pH, and applying logarithmic calculations accurately, chemists can predict and analyze the acidity or alkalinity of solutions under various conditions. The key takeaway is that at 0°C, with $K_w = 1.1 \times 10^{-15}$.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the significance of the ionization constant K_w at 0°C?

The ionization constant K_w at 0°C indicates the degree of auto-ionization of water at that temperature, which is essential for calculating pH and understanding water's neutrality at different temperatures.

How do you calculate the pH of a neutral solution given K_w at 0°C?

For a neutral solution, $[\text{H}^+] = [\text{OH}^-] = \sqrt{K_w}$. Since $\text{pH} = -\log[\text{H}^+]$, you first find the concentration of H^+ ions using K_w , then calculate the pH accordingly.

What is the value of K_w at 0°C and how does it compare to room

temperature?

At 0°C, K_w is 1.0×10^{-14} , which is lower than its value at 25°C ($\sim 1.0 \times 10^{-14}$), reflecting decreased ionization of water at lower temperatures.

What is the pH of pure water at 0°C based on the given K_w ?

The pH of pure water at 0°C is approximately 7.0 because it is neutral; $[H^+] = (1.0 \times 10^{-14})^{1/2} = 1.0 \times 10^{-7}$ M, so pH = 7.

Why does the pH of water change with temperature?

The pH of water changes with temperature because K_w varies with temperature, affecting the concentration of H^+ and OH^- ions and thus the pH value.

Can the pH of water be exactly 7 at all temperatures?

No, the pH of pure water is exactly 7 only at 25°C; at other temperatures, water's pH slightly deviates due to changes in K_w .

How does temperature influence the auto-ionization of water?

Higher temperatures increase the auto-ionization of water, raising K_w and slightly lowering the pH of neutral water; at lower temperatures like 0°C, ionization decreases.

What assumptions are made when calculating the pH of neutral water at 0°C?

The main assumption is that pure water is neutral, meaning $[H^+] = [OH^-]$, and that the temperature-dependent K_w value accurately reflects the ionization equilibrium.

How does understanding Kw at different temperatures help in scientific and industrial applications?

Knowing Kw at various temperatures allows precise control and prediction of pH in processes like chemical manufacturing, environmental monitoring, and laboratory experiments involving water chemistry.

Additional Resources

pH of Neutral Aqueous Solution at 0°C: An In-Depth Analysis

Understanding the pH of water at different temperatures is fundamental in fields ranging from chemistry education to industrial processes. Today, we will explore the calculation of the pH of a neutral aqueous solution at 0°C, especially considering the specific properties of water at this temperature, notably the ion product, Kw. This detailed examination will provide clarity on how temperature influences water's ionization and consequently, the pH of neutral solutions.

Introduction to Water Ionization and pH

Water, a ubiquitous solvent, exhibits a fascinating property: it can self-ionize into hydrogen ions (H^+) and hydroxide ions (OH^-). This autoionization is represented by the following equilibrium:



The equilibrium constant for this process, known as the ion product of water (Kw), is temperature-dependent. At 25°C, Kw is well-established at 1.0×10^{-14} , which forms the basis for defining pH.

pH is a logarithmic measure of the hydrogen ion concentration:

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

In pure water at 25°C, $[\mathrm{H}^+] = [\mathrm{OH}^-] = 1.0 \times 10^{-7} \text{ M}$, leading to a neutral pH of 7.

However, this value shifts with temperature because K_w varies. Understanding this variation is crucial for precise pH calculations, especially at temperature extremes such as 0°C.

Understanding the Ion Product of Water (K_w) at 0°C

The given data specifies:

$$K_w \text{ at } 0^\circ\text{C} = 0.12 \times 10^{-13} = 1.2 \times 10^{-14}$$

This indicates that water's self-ionization is significantly suppressed or enhanced compared to room temperature, depending on the value. Here, the K_w at 0°C is much lower than at 25°C, where $K_w = 1.0 \times 10^{-14}$.

Note: The provided value, 0.12×10^{-13} , appears to be a typo or misinterpretation, as the usual notation for K_w is in the order of 10^{-14} . Given the context, it is more plausible that the intended value is:

$$K_w \text{ at } 0^\circ\text{C} = 1.2 \times 10^{-15}$$

which aligns with the typical trend that K_w decreases with temperature.

Assumption: For the purposes of this article, we will assume that the correct value of K_w at 0°C is:

$$\boxed{\mathrm{K_w} = 1.2 \times 10^{-15}}$$

This is consistent with experimental data indicating that water's ionization diminishes at lower temperatures.

Calculating the pH of a Neutral Solution at 0°C

Step 1: Recognize that in pure water, $[\mathrm{H}^+] = [\mathrm{OH}^-]$

At any temperature, for pure water:

$$[\mathrm{H}^+] = [\mathrm{OH}^-]$$

Step 2: Use the ion product of water

$$\mathrm{K_w} = [\mathrm{H}^+][\mathrm{OH}^-]$$

Since $[\mathrm{H}^+] = [\mathrm{OH}^-]$, then:

$$\mathrm{K_w} = [\mathrm{H}^+]^2$$

Step 3: Solve for $[\mathrm{H}^+]$

$$[\mathrm{H}^+] = \sqrt{\mathrm{K_w}}$$

Plugging in the assumed $\mathrm{K_w}$:

$$[\mathrm{H}^+] = \sqrt{1.2 \times 10^{-15}}$$

Calculating:

$$[\mathrm{H}^+] \approx \sqrt{1.2} \times 10^{-7.5}$$

Since $(\sqrt{1.2} \approx 1.095)$, and $(10^{-7.5} = 10^{-7} \times 10^{-0.5} \approx 10^{-7} \times 0.3162 \approx 3.162 \times 10^{-8})$

Therefore:

$$[\mathrm{H}^+] \approx 1.095 \times 3.162 \times 10^{-8} \approx 3.464 \times 10^{-8} \text{ M}$$

Step 4: Calculate pH

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

$$\mathrm{pH} = -\log (3.464 \times 10^{-8})$$

$$\mathrm{pH} = -(\log 3.464 + \log 10^{-8})$$

$$\mathrm{pH} = -(0.539 + (-8)) = -(0.539 - 8) = 8 - 0.539 = 7.461$$

Interpreting the Results

The calculated pH of approximately 7.46 indicates that pure water at 0°C is slightly basic compared to the classic neutral pH of 7 at 25°C. This shift results directly from the temperature dependence of K_w .

Key Takeaways:

- At 0°C, the ion product of water (K_w) decreases significantly, leading to a lower concentration of H^+ ions.
- Neutral water at 0°C does not have a pH of exactly 7; instead, it registers a pH slightly above 7.
- The pH at 0°C is approximately 7.46, reflecting the decreased ionization of water at lower temperatures.

Implications of Temperature on pH and Water Chemistry

This analysis underscores a vital point: pH is temperature-dependent, and the notion of "neutral" water is not a fixed value but varies with temperature.

Practical implications:

- Industrial processes that depend on precise pH levels must account for temperature variations to maintain accuracy.
- Analytical chemistry techniques often include temperature corrections when measuring pH.
- Environmental monitoring of water bodies should consider temperature effects to correctly interpret pH readings.

Summary of Key Points

- The ion product of water (K_w) is highly temperature-dependent, decreasing at lower temperatures.
- At 0°C, with $K_w \approx 1.2 \times 10^{-14}$, the hydrogen ion concentration in pure water is approximately 3.46×10^{-8} M.

- The corresponding pH of neutral water at 0°C is approximately 7.46, slightly alkaline compared to the standard pH of 7 at 25°C.
 - Accurate pH measurement and interpretation require considering temperature effects on water's ionization.
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Final Remarks

This exploration illustrates the importance of understanding fundamental thermodynamic properties when dealing with aqueous solutions. The precise calculation of pH at different temperatures is not only academically intriguing but also practically essential in industries such as pharmaceuticals, water treatment, and environmental science.

By appreciating how K_w influences the pH, scientists and engineers can better control processes, ensure safety, and optimize conditions across a multitude of applications. The subtle yet significant shifts in water's behavior remind us that even the most familiar substances have complex and fascinating characteristics governed by the principles of chemistry.

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