

Consider The Reaction Of A 20.0 mL Of 0.220 M CH₃NH₃Cl (K_a = 5.9 × 10⁻⁹) With 12.0 mL Of 0.241 M CsOH. A)

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This problem involves a classic acid-base reaction between methylammonium chloride (CH₃NH₃Cl) and cesium hydroxide (CsOH). Understanding this reaction requires an in-depth analysis of the chemical properties of the reactants, their dissociation and ionization behaviors, and the subsequent chemical equilibria that develop. In this article, we will explore the reaction step-by-step, including calculations of initial moles, the nature of the acid and base involved, the reaction mechanism, equilibrium considerations, and the resulting solution's pH.

Understanding the Reactants and Their Properties

1. Methylammonium Chloride (CH₃NH₃Cl)

- Chemical Nature: CH₃NH₃Cl is a salt derived from methylamine (CH₃NH₂), a weak base, and hydrochloric acid (HCl), a strong acid.
- Dissociation in Water: When dissolved, CH₃NH₃Cl dissociates completely into methylammonium (CH₃NH₃⁺) and chloride ions (Cl⁻).
- Acid-Base Behavior:
 - The methylammonium ion (CH₃NH₃⁺) is a weak acid.
 - Its acid dissociation constant (K_a) is given as 5.9 × 10⁻⁹, indicating a very weak acid.

2. Cesium Hydroxide (CsOH)

- Chemical Nature: CsOH is a strong base, fully dissociating in aqueous solution.
- Dissociation: CsOH dissociates into cesium (Cs⁺) and hydroxide ions (OH⁻).

Initial Moles Calculation

To analyze the reaction, we first calculate the initial number of moles of each reactant.

1. Moles of CH₃NH₃Cl

- Volume: 20.0 mL = 0.0200 L
- Concentration: 0.220 M
- Moles: $n_{\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_3\text{Cl}} = 0.220 \, \text{mol/L} \times 0.0200 \, \text{L} = 0.0044 \, \text{mol}$

2. Moles of CsOH

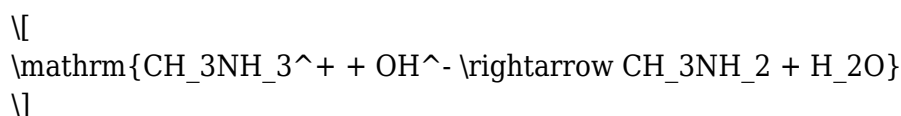
- Volume: 12.0 mL = 0.0120 L
- Concentration: 0.241 M
- Moles: $n_{\text{CsOH}} = 0.241 \text{ mol/L} \times 0.0120 \text{ L} = 0.002892 \text{ mol}$

Reaction Mechanism and Expected Outcomes

1. Nature of the Reaction

- The methylammonium ion (CH_3NH_3^+) can act as a weak acid.
- The hydroxide ion (OH^-) from CsOH will neutralize the weak acid, producing methylamine (CH_3NH_2) and water.

2. Overall Reaction



This is an acid-base neutralization where a weak acid (CH_3NH_3^+) reacts with a strong base (OH^-).

3. Stoichiometry of the Reaction

- For each mole of CH_3NH_3^+ , one mole of OH^- is needed to fully neutralize it.
- Since initial moles:
 - CH_3NH_3^+ : 0.0044 mol
 - OH^- : 0.002892 mol
- The available base (OH^-) is less than the acid (CH_3NH_3^+), implying the reaction will be limited by the amount of base.

Extent of Reaction and Remaining Species

1. Limiting Reagent Determination

- Moles of CH_3NH_3^+ : 0.0044 mol
- Moles of OH^- : 0.002892 mol

Since 0.002892 mol of OH^- can neutralize an equal amount of CH_3NH_3^+ , the reaction will proceed until either:

- All OH^- is consumed, or

- All CH_3NH_3^+ is neutralized (whichever occurs first).
- Here, OH^- is the limiting reagent because it is present in fewer moles relative to CH_3NH_3^+ .

2. Moles of CH_3NH_3^+ Neutralized

- 0.002892 mol of CH_3NH_3^+ reacts with 0.002892 mol of OH^- .
- Remaining CH_3NH_3^+ : $(0.0044 - 0.002892 = 0.001508 \text{ mol})$

3. Moles of Products Formed

- Methylamine (CH_3NH_2): 0.002892 mol (formed)
- Water: 0.002892 mol (formed)

4. Remaining Species after Reaction

- Unreacted methylammonium ion: 0.001508 mol
- Excess methylammonium chloride (if any): Not applicable here as all $\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_3\text{Cl}$ initially present is converted into ions.

Final Solution Composition and pH Calculation

1. Species Present After Reaction

- Remaining methylammonium ions: 0.001508 mol
- Methylamine: 0.002892 mol
- Unreacted chloride ions: 0.0044 mol (from initial $\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_3\text{Cl}$)
- Hydroxide ions: 0 mol (all consumed)
- Water molecules: present but not affecting pH directly

2. Total Volume of the Solution

- Sum of initial volumes: $20.0 \text{ mL} + 12.0 \text{ mL} = 32.0 \text{ mL} = 0.0320 \text{ L}$

3. Concentrations of Remaining Species

- Methylammonium (CH_3NH_3^+): $(\frac{0.001508 \text{ mol}}{0.0320 \text{ L}}) \approx 0.0471 \text{ M}$
- Methylamine (CH_3NH_2): $(\frac{0.002892 \text{ mol}}{0.0320 \text{ L}}) \approx 0.0904 \text{ M}$

4. Acid-Base Properties of the Remaining Species

- Methylammonium (CH_3NH_3^+): weak acid, capable of donating protons
- Methylamine (CH_3NH_2): weak base, capable of accepting protons

This mixture suggests a buffer solution, comprising a weak acid and its conjugate base.

Calculating the pH of the Final Solution

1. Recognizing the Buffer System

- The solution contains both CH_3NH_3^+ (weak acid) and CH_3NH_2 (weak base).
- These form a conjugate acid-base pair, establishing a buffer.

2. Using the Henderson-Hasselbalch Equation

$$\text{pH} = \text{pK}_a + \log \left(\frac{[\text{Base}]}{[\text{Acid}]} \right)$$

- (pK_a) of CH_3NH_3^+ is calculated from ($K_a = 5.9 \times 10^{-9}$):

$$\text{pK}_a = -\log(K_a) = -\log(5.9 \times 10^{-9}) \approx 8.23$$

- Concentrations:
- Acid (CH_3NH_3^+): 0.0471 M
- Base (CH_3NH_2): 0.0904 M

$$\text{pH} = 8.23 + \log \left(\frac{0.0904}{0.0471} \right)$$

$$\text{pH} = 8.23 + \log(1.92) \approx 8.23 + 0.283 = 8.513$$

Thus, the approximate pH of the resulting solution is 8.51.

Summary and Conclusions

- The initial moles of reactants determined the reaction's progression.
- Since the strong base (CsOH) was limiting, it neutralized part of the weak acid (

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the initial moles of CH₃NH₃Cl in the reaction?

The initial moles of CH₃NH₃Cl are calculated by multiplying its volume (20.0 mL) by its concentration (0.220 M): $(20.0 \text{ mL} / 1000) 0.220 \text{ mol/L} = 0.0044 \text{ mol}$.

How many moles of CsOH are initially present in the reaction?

The initial moles of CsOH are $(12.0 \text{ mL} / 1000) 0.241 \text{ mol/L} = 0.002892 \text{ mol}$.

What is the primary purpose of this reaction involving CH₃NH₃Cl and CsOH?

The reaction typically examines the neutralization process and the resulting pH, considering the weak acid (CH₃NH₃⁺) and strong base (CsOH).

How does the pK_a of CH₃NH₃⁺ influence the reaction outcome?

The pK_a (related to $K_a = 5.9 \times 10^{-11}$) indicates the acid strength; a lower pK_a means a stronger acid, affecting the degree of ionization and pH of the solution after the reaction.

What is the expected reaction between CH₃NH₃Cl and CsOH?

CsOH will neutralize the CH₃NH₃⁺ ions, converting them to CH₃NH₂ (methylamine) and water, shifting the equilibrium accordingly.

How do you determine the limiting reactant in this scenario?

Compare initial moles of CH₃NH₃⁺ and OH⁻; since CsOH provides 0.002892 mol and CH₃NH₃⁺ has 0.0044 mol, CsOH is the limiting reactant.

What is the approximate pH of the solution after the reaction is complete?

Since CsOH is the limiting reactant, excess CH₃NH₃⁺ remains, and the pH will be slightly acidic, calculated based on the remaining concentrations.

How do you calculate the new concentrations of species after the reaction?

Determine the moles of reactants remaining or reacted, then divide by the total volume (20.0 mL + 12.0 mL = 32.0 mL) to find concentrations.

What role does the volume change play in the calculations?

The total volume (32.0 mL) affects the molarity of remaining species, influencing pH calculations and equilibrium positions.

What is the significance of the given K_a value for CH_3NH_3^+ in this problem?

The K_a value helps determine the degree of dissociation of the methylammonium ion, which is critical for calculating pH and understanding acid-base behavior post-reaction.

Additional Resources

Consider the reaction of 20.0 mL of 0.220 M $\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_3\text{Cl}$ with 12.0 mL of 0.241 M CsOH : an in-depth analysis of acid-base interactions and equilibrium dynamics

Introduction: Exploring Acid-Base Chemistry Through a Practical Scenario

In the realm of chemistry, understanding the nuanced behaviors of acids and bases in solution is fundamental to grasping broader concepts such as pH, buffer systems, and chemical equilibria. The scenario at hand involves the reaction between methylammonium chloride ($\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_3\text{Cl}$) and cesium hydroxide (CsOH), two compounds that exemplify the interplay between weak acids and strong bases. This reaction provides a window into the principles of proton transfer, equilibrium shifts, and the resulting solution pH — critical topics for students and professionals alike.

This article offers a comprehensive, step-by-step examination of the reaction's chemistry, encompassing the initial concentrations, molar calculations, the nature of the species involved, and the anticipated outcome in terms of pH and solution composition. By dissecting this specific case, we aim to shed light on the broader principles governing acid-base reactions in aqueous environments.

Background Concepts: Acid-Base Theories and Key Parameters

Understanding Acid-Base Definitions

Two predominant theories frame our understanding of acids and bases:

- Arrhenius Definition: Acids produce H^+ (or H_3O^+) in aqueous solution, while bases produce OH^- .
- Brønsted-Lowry Definition: Acids are proton donors, and bases are proton acceptors.

In this scenario:

- $\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_3\text{Cl}$ is a salt derived from methylamine (CH_3NH_2), a weak base, and hydrochloric acid (HCl). When dissolved, it supplies the methylammonium ion (CH_3NH_3^+), which is a weak acid.
- CsOH is a strong base that dissociates completely in aqueous solution, providing OH^- ions.

Understanding these definitions is key to predicting the direction of the chemical reaction and the resulting pH.

Equilibrium Constants and Their Significance

The acid dissociation constant (K_a) quantifies the strength of a weak acid:

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

For methylammonium ion:

$$K_a = 5.9 \times 10^{-11}$$

This small K_a indicates that CH_3NH_3^+ is a very weak acid. Its conjugate base, methylamine (CH_3NH_2), is a weak base, and the relative strengths of these species influence the pH and the overall reaction dynamics when mixed with a strong base like CsOH .

Step 1: Quantitative Analysis of the Initial Solutions

Calculating Moles of Reactants

The initial concentrations and volumes allow us to determine the number of moles involved:

- Moles of $\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_3\text{Cl}$:

$$n_{\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_3\text{Cl}} = C \times V = 0.220 \, \text{mol/L} \times 20.0 \, \text{mL} \times \frac{1 \, \text{L}}{1000 \, \text{mL}} = 0.220 \times 0.020 \, \text{L} = 0.00440 \, \text{mol}$$

- Moles of CsOH:

$$\begin{aligned} n_{\text{CsOH}} &= 0.241 \text{ mol/L} \times 12.0 \text{ mL} \times \frac{1 \text{ L}}{1000 \text{ mL}} \\ &= 0.241 \times 0.012 \text{ L} = 0.00289 \text{ mol} \end{aligned}$$

These quantities are crucial for understanding the extent of the reaction and the resulting pH.

Step 2: Understanding the Nature of the Reactants

The Methylammonium Ion (CH_3NH_3^+)

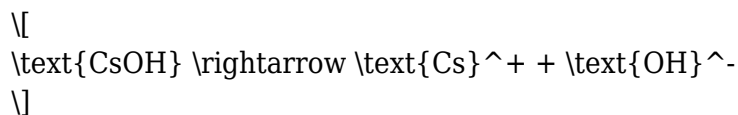
- Weak Acid Behavior: As the conjugate acid of methylamine, CH_3NH_3^+ can donate a proton to water, producing H_3O^+ and CH_3NH_2 .
- pKa Calculation:

$$\text{pK}_a = -\log K_a = -\log(5.9 \times 10^{-11}) \approx 10.23$$

This indicates that CH_3NH_3^+ is a weak acid with a relatively high pKa, meaning it does not readily release protons, but can be neutralized by a strong base.

Cesium Hydroxide (CsOH)

- Strong Base: Dissociates completely in aqueous solution:

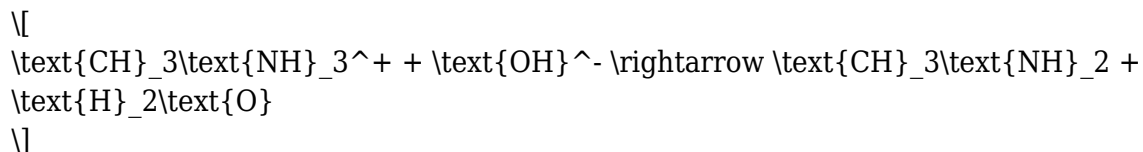


- Implication: The presence of excess OH^- ions can deprotonate CH_3NH_3^+ , shifting the equilibrium.

Step 3: The Reaction Mechanism and Equilibrium Dynamics

Proposed Reaction Pathway

The key reaction involves the neutralization of the methylammonium ion by hydroxide:



This process is akin to a typical acid-base neutralization, where the weak acid (CH_3NH_3^+) reacts with the strong base (OH^-):

- The methylammonium ion donates a proton to hydroxide.
- The products are methylamine (a weak base) and water.

Note: Since the initial amount of $\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_3\text{Cl}$ is larger than the available OH^- , the extent of this neutralization will depend on the molar ratio.

Equilibrium Considerations

- The reaction favors the formation of methylamine and water.
- Since CH_3NH_3^+ is a weak acid, the equilibrium position depends on the relative concentrations of CH_3NH_3^+ and OH^- .
- Excess OH^- will drive the equilibrium toward methylamine and increase the solution's pH.

Step 4: Molar Ratios and Extent of Neutralization

- Moles of $\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_3\text{Cl}$: 0.00440 mol
- Moles of CsOH : 0.00289 mol

Since the amount of base (0.00289 mol) is less than the amount of acid (0.00440 mol), the base will neutralize part of the methylammonium ions:

$$\text{Moles of CH}_3\text{NH}_3^+ \text{ neutralized} = 0.00289 \text{ mol}$$

Remaining methylammonium ions:

$$0.00440 \text{ mol} - 0.00289 \text{ mol} = 0.00151 \text{ mol}$$

Moles of methylamine produced:

$$\frac{0.00289 \text{ mol}}{0.032 \text{ L}}$$

Step 5: Calculating Post-Reaction Concentrations and pH

Concentrations of Species After Reaction

Total volume after mixing:

$$V_{\text{total}} = 20.0 \text{ mL} + 12.0 \text{ mL} = 32.0 \text{ mL} = 0.032 \text{ L}$$

- Remaining methylammonium (CH_3NH_3^+):

$$[\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_3^+] = \frac{0.00151 \text{ mol}}{0.032 \text{ L}} \approx 0.0472 \text{ M}$$

- Produced methylamine (CH_3NH_2):

$$[\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_2] = \frac{0.00289 \text{ mol}}{0.032 \text{ L}} \approx 0.0903 \text{ M}$$

- Remaining hydroxide concentration:

$$[\text{OH}^-] = \frac{0.00289 \text{ mol}}{0.032 \text{ L}} \approx 0.0903 \text{ M}$$

Note: The excess OH^- ions dominate the solution, making it strongly basic.

Estimating the pH

Since the solution contains a significant concentration of OH^- ions ($\sim 0.0903 \text{ M}$), the pOH can be calculated:

$$\text{pOH} = -\log [\text{OH}^-]$$

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