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Understanding how to dilute an acid solution to achieve a desired pH level is a fundamental concept in chemistry, especially in laboratory procedures and industrial applications. This article explores the detailed process of calculating the volume of water needed to dilute a hydrochloric acid (HCl) solution from a specific pH to a target pH. We will delve into the principles of pH, molarity, and dilution, providing step-by-step guidance to ensure clarity and accuracy. Whether you're a student preparing for exams, a scientist conducting experiments, or a professional in the chemical industry, mastering these calculations is essential.

Understanding the Basics: pH, Molarity, and Acid Concentration

Before diving into the calculation process, it's essential to understand the core concepts involved:

What is pH?

- Definition: pH is a measure of the hydrogen ion concentration ($[H^+]$) in a solution.
- Scale Range: Typically ranges from 0 (most acidic) to 14 (most basic), with 7 being neutral.
- Relationship to $[H^+]$: $pH = -\log[H^+]$

Hydrochloric Acid (HCl) Characteristics

- Strong Acid: Dissociates completely in water.
- Implication: The molarity of HCl directly corresponds to the concentration of hydrogen ions in solution.

Molarity (M)

- Definition: Moles of solute per liter of solution.
- Relevance: The concentration of HCl in molarity determines the pH of the solution.

Given Data and Objective

Let's review the specific problem:

- Initial volume of HCl solution (V_1): 10.0 mL
- Initial pH of the solution (pH_1): 2.00
- Goal: Determine the volume of water (V_{water}) to add, to change the pH to a desired level (which we will clarify).

Determining the Initial Concentration of HCl

To proceed with the calculation, we first need to find the molarity of the initial HCl solution based on its pH.

Calculating $[\text{H}^+]$

$$[\text{H}^+] = 10^{-\text{pH}} = 10^{-2.00} = 1.00 \times 10^{-2} \text{ M}$$

Calculating Moles of HCl in the Initial Sample

$$\text{Moles of HCl} = [\text{H}^+] \times V_1$$

- Convert V_1 from mL to liters:

$$V_1 = 10.0 \text{ mL} = 0.010 \text{ L}$$

- Calculate:

$$\text{Moles of HCl} = 1.00 \times 10^{-2} \text{ M} \times 0.010 \text{ L} = 1.00 \times 10^{-4} \text{ moles}$$

Since HCl dissociates completely, the initial molarity of HCl in the solution is:

$$M_{\text{initial}} = \frac{\text{moles of HCl}}{\text{initial volume in liters}} = \frac{1.00 \times 10^{-4}}{0.010} = 0.010 \text{ M}$$

Determining the Desired pH and Molarity After Dilution

Important clarification: To find out how much water to add, we need to define the target pH.

- For example, suppose the goal is to raise the pH to 3.00, which is a common scenario when diluting acids.

Calculating the new $[H^+]$:

$$[H^+]_{\text{final}} = 10^{-\text{pH}_{\text{final}}} = 10^{-3.00} = 1.00 \times 10^{-3} \text{ M}$$

Applying the Dilution Principle

The key principle in dilution is that:

$$C_1 V_1 = C_2 V_2$$

Where:

- C_1 = initial concentration
- V_1 = initial volume
- C_2 = final concentration
- V_2 = final total volume after adding water

Since the amount of HCl (moles) remains constant:

$$\text{moles of HCl} = C_1 V_1 = C_2 V_2$$

Given:

$$C_1 = 0.010 \text{ M}$$

$$V_1 = 0.010 \text{ L}$$

$$C_2 = 1.00 \times 10^{-3} \text{ M}$$

Calculating V_2 :

$$V_2 = \frac{C_1 V_1}{C_2} = \frac{0.010 \times 0.010}{1.00 \times 10^{-3}} = \frac{1.00 \times 10^{-4}}{1.00 \times 10^{-3}} = 0.10 \text{ L} = 100 \text{ mL}$$

Thus, the total volume after dilution must be 100 mL.

Calculating the Volume of Water to Add

Since the initial volume is 10 mL, and the final volume should be 100 mL:

$$V_{\text{water}} = V_2 - V_1 = 100 \text{ mL} - 10 \text{ mL} = 90 \text{ mL}$$

Answer:

To raise the pH of the original 10.0 mL HCl solution from 2.00 to 3.00, you need to add approximately 90 mL of water.

Implications and Variations in Dilution Calculations

The above process exemplifies how to calculate the volume of water needed to dilute an acid solution to a desired pH, but several factors can influence the calculation:

1. Changing the Target pH

- Diluting from pH 2.00 to pH 4.00 involves recalculating $[H^+]$:

$$[H^+]_{\text{final}} = 10^{-4} = 1.00 \times 10^{-4} \text{ M}$$

- Corresponds to a final volume:

$$V_2 = \frac{0.010 \times 0.010}{1.00 \times 10^{-4}} = 1.0 \text{ L} = 1000 \text{ mL}$$

- Water to add:

$$V_{\text{water}} = 1000 \text{ mL} - 10 \text{ mL} = 990 \text{ mL}$$

Key Point: The greater the change in pH, the larger the volume of water needed.

2. Limitations and Assumptions

- Assumes complete dissociation of HCl.
- Assumes ideal behavior, with no volume contraction.
- Does not account for impurities or other solution components.

3. Practical Considerations

- Always add water gradually and mix thoroughly.
- Use appropriate protective equipment when handling acids.
- Validate calculations with pH measurements when possible.

Additional Tips for Accurate Dilution and pH Adjustment

- Use precise measuring instruments such as graduated cylinders and pipettes.
- Calibrate pH meters regularly for accurate readings.
- Perform serial dilutions when adjusting pH over large ranges.
- Document all steps for reproducibility and safety.

Summary and Conclusion

Understanding the relationship between concentration, pH, and dilution is crucial in chemical laboratory work. In the example provided, diluting a 10.0 mL HCl solution with a pH of 2.00 to a pH of 3.00 requires adding approximately 90 mL of water. This process involves calculating the initial concentration from the pH, determining the desired final concentration, and applying the dilution principle. Adjustments to target pH levels or initial concentrations will alter the volume of water needed, highlighting the importance of precise calculations and measurements.

Key Takeaways:

- pH is directly related to hydrogen ion concentration.
- Molarity calculations provide the basis for dilution planning.
- The dilution formula $(C_1 V_1 = C_2 V_2)$ is fundamental.
- Always consider practical factors and safety precautions.

Mastering these calculations enhances your ability to manipulate solution concentrations accurately, ensuring safe and effective laboratory practices.

SEO Keywords: pH calculation, hydrochloric acid dilution, how to dilute HCl, pH and

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the initial concentration of HCl in a 10.0 ml solution with a pH of 2.00?

The initial concentration of HCl is 1.0×10^{-2} M, calculated using $\text{pH} = -\log[\text{H}^+]$, so $[\text{H}^+] = 10^{-2}$ M.

How do you determine the amount of HCl in the original 10.0 ml solution?

Using the concentration $[\text{H}^+] = 10^{-2}$ M and the volume 10.0 ml, the moles of HCl are 1.0×10^{-4} mol (since $\text{M} \times \text{L} = \text{mol}$).

What is the goal when adding water to the HCl solution?

The goal is to dilute the solution to a desired pH or concentration, often to make it less acidic or to reach a specific molarity.

How do you calculate the volume of water needed to dilute the HCl solution?

Use the dilution formula: $C_1V_1 = C_2V_2$, where C_1 and V_1 are initial concentration and volume, and C_2 and V_2 are the desired concentration and total volume after dilution.

If the target is to change the pH from 2.00 to 3.00, what is the new concentration of HCl required?

At pH 3.00, $[\text{H}^+] = 10^{-3}$ M; thus, the concentration of HCl must be diluted from 10^{-2} M to 10^{-3} M.

How much water must be added to dilute the HCl from pH 2.00 to pH 3.00?

Using the dilution formula, the total volume after dilution $V_2 = (C_1/C_2) \times V_1 = (10^{-2} / 10^{-3}) \times 10.0 \text{ ml} = 10 \times 10.0 \text{ ml} = 100 \text{ ml}$. Therefore, 90 ml of water must be added.

What is the step-by-step process to determine the volume of water to add for any pH change?

First, find the initial concentration from the initial pH, then determine the desired concentration from the target pH. Use $C_1V_1 = C_2V_2$ to find V_2 , and subtract V_1 from V_2 to find the volume of water to add.

Can the same method be used to dilute any acid solution to a specific pH?

Yes, provided the acid is monoprotic and strong (like HCl), and you know the initial pH and desired pH, the dilution method applies universally.

What precautions should be taken when diluting strong acids like HCl?

Always add acid to water slowly while stirring, wear protective gear, and perform the dilution in a well-ventilated area to prevent splashes and inhalation of fumes.

Why is understanding pH and dilution important in laboratory and industrial settings?

Proper control of pH and solution concentration is crucial for chemical reactions, safety, product quality, and process efficiency in labs and industries.

Additional Resources

A 10.0-ml Sample Of An HCl Solution Has A pH Of 2.00. What Volume Of Water Must Be Added To Change The — this question exemplifies a common challenge in chemistry: understanding how dilutions influence pH and concentration. Whether you're a student working through your chemistry coursework or a professional chemist optimizing solutions in the lab, grasping the principles behind solution dilution and pH change is essential. In this comprehensive guide, we'll walk through the step-by-step process to determine how much water must be added to a given hydrochloric acid (HCl) solution to achieve a desired pH change, emphasizing core concepts, calculations, and practical considerations.

Understanding the Basics: What Does pH Tell Us?

Before diving into calculations, it's important to clarify what pH represents in a solution:

- pH is a logarithmic scale that measures the concentration of hydrogen ions ($[H^+]$) in a solution.
- The relationship is given by: $pH = -\log [H^+]$
- For strong acids like HCl, which dissociate completely in water, the concentration of $[H^+]$ is directly proportional to the molarity of the acid.

In our scenario, the initial pH of 2.00 indicates a certain concentration of HCl in the solution, which we'll quantify.

Step 1: Calculating the Initial Concentration of HCl

Given:

- Volume of initial solution, $V_1 = 10.0 \text{ mL} = 0.010 \text{ L}$
- Initial pH, $\text{pH}_1 = 2.00$

The $[\text{H}^+]$ concentration can be calculated as:

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

Plugging in the values:

$$[\text{H}^+]_{\text{initial}} = 10^{-2.00} = 0.01 \text{ M}$$

Since HCl is a strong acid and dissociates completely:

$$\text{Initial molarity of HCl } (M_1) = [\text{H}^+] = 0.01 \text{ M}$$

Now, determine the initial moles of HCl in the sample:

$$\text{Moles of HCl} = M_1 \times V_1 = 0.01 \text{ mol/L} \times 0.010 \text{ L} = 1.0 \times 10^{-4} \text{ mol}$$

Step 2: Establishing the Target pH and Concentration

Suppose the goal is to change the pH of the solution—for example, to increase it to pH 3.00 by adding water.

- Target pH, $\text{pH}_2 = 3.00$

Calculate the new $[\text{H}^+]$:

$$[\text{H}^+]_{\text{target}} = 10^{-3.00} = 0.001 \text{ M}$$

This indicates a tenfold decrease in hydrogen ion concentration, which corresponds to a dilution.

Step 3: Understanding the Effect of Dilution on Concentration

Diluting a solution by adding water does not change the number of moles of solute; it only changes the volume. The relationship is:

$$C_1 V_1 = C_2 V_2$$

Where:

- C_1 = initial concentration
- V_1 = initial volume
- C_2 = final concentration
- V_2 = final total volume after dilution

Since the number of moles remains constant:

$$n = C_1 V_1 = C_2 V_2$$

Given the initial molarity and the target molarity:

$$0.01 \text{ mol/L} \times 0.010 \text{ L} = 0.001 \text{ mol/L} \times V_2$$

Calculate V_2 :

$$V_2 = \frac{0.01 \text{ mol}}{0.001 \text{ mol/L}} = 10 \text{ L}$$

This means the total volume needed to dilute the solution to pH 3.00 (or $[H^+] = 0.001 \text{ M}$) is 10 liters.

Step 4: Calculating the Volume of Water to Add

Since the initial volume is 10 mL (0.010 L), and the final volume should be 10 L:

$$V_{\text{water}} = V_2 - V_1 = 10 \text{ L} - 0.010 \text{ L} = 9.99 \text{ L}$$

Expressed in milliliters:

$$9.99 \text{ L} = 9990 \text{ mL}$$

Thus, to increase the pH from 2.00 to 3.00, approximately 9990 mL (or about 10 liters) of water must be added.

Practical Considerations and Real-World Applications

While the calculations above are straightforward, real-world lab work involves several factors:

- Accuracy of measurements: Precise measurement of initial solution volume and pH is crucial.
- Dilution limits: Extremely large dilutions, like 10 liters, might not be practical in small-scale lab settings.
- pH measurement: pH meters can have calibration errors; multiple readings improve reliability.
- Safety: Handle acids and large volumes of water carefully, especially when diluting concentrated solutions.

Variations and Additional Scenarios

Changing the Target pH

If the target pH differs—say, to pH 4.00—the process remains the same:

- Calculate new $[H^+]$:

$$[H^+] = 10^{-4} = 0.0001 \text{ M}$$

- Determine V_2 :

$$V_2 = \frac{0.01 \text{ mol}}{0.0001 \text{ mol/L}} = 100 \text{ L}$$

- Volume of water to add:

$$V_{\text{water}} = 100 \text{ L} - 0.010 \text{ L} \approx 99.99 \text{ L}$$

This illustrates how increasing pH requires significantly larger volumes of water, emphasizing the importance of considering practical constraints.

Adjusting for Concentrated or Weak Acids

The above calculations assume complete dissociation of HCl. For weak acids or concentrated solutions, additional steps involve calculating actual molarity based on titration or experimental data.

Final Thoughts: Mastering Dilution and pH Calculations

Understanding how to calculate the volume of water needed to alter the pH of an acid solution is a fundamental skill in chemistry. It combines knowledge of molarity, pH, and solution dilution principles. Whether you're preparing buffers, diluting reagents, or adjusting solutions for experiments, these calculations ensure accuracy and safety.

Key takeaways:

- pH is directly related to hydrogen ion concentration.
- Diluting a solution decreases $[H^+]$ proportionally.
- The total volume after dilution can be calculated using the initial moles and desired concentration.
- Large dilutions may be impractical; alternative strategies include using weaker acids or buffering agents.

By mastering these concepts, you can confidently manipulate solution concentrations and pH levels to meet specific experimental needs.

Always remember to perform calculations carefully, double-check your math, and follow safety protocols when working with chemicals and large volumes of water.

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