

## CONCEPT: HENDERSON-HASSELBALCH EQUATION

### 1) The Henderson-Hasselbalch Equation

- *Strong acids* have small  $pK_a$  & \_\_\_\_\_ dissociate, but *weak acids* do \_\_\_\_\_ completely dissociate.
  - Calculating pH of *strong acid* solutions is *easy* since initial acid concentration equals final  $[H^+]$  (ex.  $[HCl]_i = [H^+]_f$ ).
  - Most biological acids are \_\_\_\_\_ acids.
- The Henderson-Hasselbalch equation: expresses relationship between pH & \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Used to determine: 1) The final \_\_\_\_\_ of a weak acid solution after it reaches equilibrium.  
2) The ratio of [conjugate base] to [conjugate acid] when given pH.

Henderson-Hasselbalch Equation

$$pH = pK_a + \log \frac{[\text{Conjugate Base}]_f}{[\text{Conjugate Acid}]_f}$$

**EXAMPLE:** Determine the ratio of [conjugate base] to [conjugate acid] for Aspirin ( $pK_a = 3.4$ ) in the blood ( $pH = 7.4$ )?

- a) 16,000
- b) 10,000
- c) 7.9
- d) 4,200

**PRACTICE:** What is the pH of a mixture of 0.02 M sodium formate & 0.0025 M formic acid ( $pK_a = 3.75$ )?

- a)  $pH = 4.21$
- b)  $pH = 1.27$
- c)  $pH = 4.65$
- d)  $pH = 9.34$

**PRACTICE:** What is the ratio of  $[CH_3COO^-] / [CH_3COOH]$  in an acetate buffer at  $pH = 7$ ?  $pK_a = 4.76$ .

- a) 122.43
- b) 173.78
- c) 39.84
- d) 96.31

**CONCEPT: HENDERSON-HASSELBALCH EQUATION**

**PRACTICE:** Consider 100 mL of a 1M acid solution ( $pK_a = 7.4$ ) at  $pH = 8$ . Calculate final pH if 30 mL of 1M HCl is added.

- a)  $pH = 7.4$
- b)  $pH = 7.9$
- c)  $pH = 7.1$
- d)  $pH = 8.2$