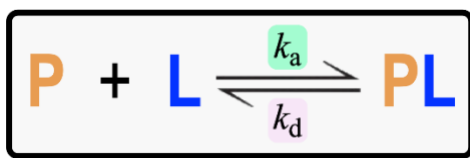


## CONCEPT: PROTEIN-LIGAND EQUILIBRIUM CONSTANTS

### Protein-Ligand Association Constant ( $K_a$ )

- Recall: equilibrium constant (\_\_\_\_) is the ratio of [Product] over [Reactant] at equilibrium.
- Association constant (\_\_\_\_): equilibrium constant for the \_\_\_\_\_ of the protein & ligand into a complex.
  - Don't confuse the protein-ligand-association constant ( $K_a$ ) with the acid-dissociation constant (which is also " $K_a$ ").
- $K_a$  and protein-affinity for ligand are \_\_\_\_\_ proportional.
  - Therefore, the \_\_\_\_\_ the  $K_a$  value, the *stronger* the affinity a protein has for that ligand.
  - $K_a$  has units of \_\_\_\_\_ and is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the dissociation constant \_\_\_\_\_ ( $K_a = 1/K_d$ ).



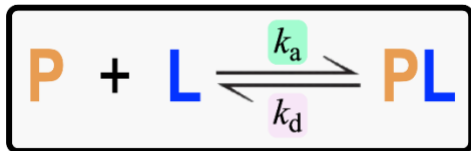
**Association Constant:**

$$K_a = \frac{[ \text{ } ]}{[ \text{ } ][ \text{ } ]} = \frac{ \text{ } }{ \text{ } } = \frac{1}{ \text{ } }$$

$K_a$  Units: \_\_\_\_\_

### Protein-Ligand Dissociation Constant ( $K_d$ )

- Dissociation constant (\_\_\_\_): equilibrium constant for \_\_\_\_\_ of protein-ligand-complex back into P + L.
  - Recall:  $K_d$  and  $K_a$  are \_\_\_\_\_ of each other, so  $K_d$  has units of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - $K_d$  is used \_\_\_\_\_ often than  $K_a$  to express the protein-affinity for a ligand.

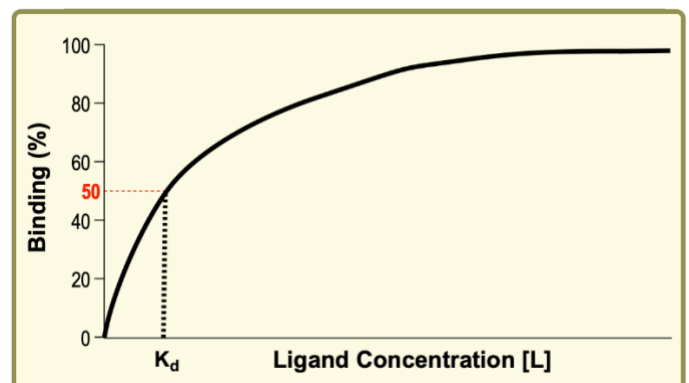
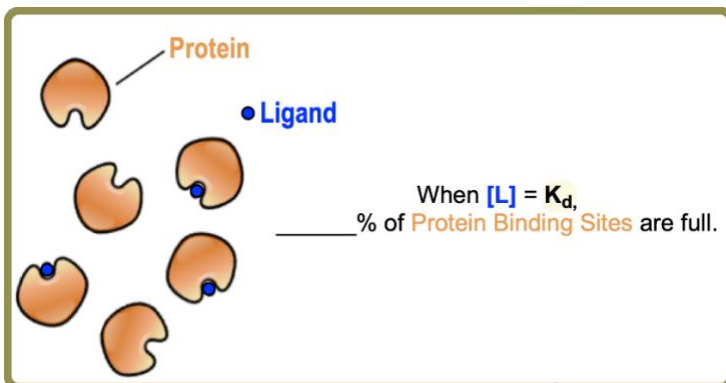


**Dissociation Constant:**

$$K_d = \frac{[ \text{ } ][ \text{ } ]}{[ \text{ } ]} = \frac{ \text{ } }{ \text{ } } = \frac{1}{ \text{ } }$$

$K_d$  Units: \_\_\_\_\_

- The \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ are very similar to each other (ex.  $K_d$  & protein-affinity for ligand are \_\_\_\_\_ proportional).
  - Therefore, the \_\_\_\_\_ the  $K_d$  value, the *stronger* the affinity a protein has for that ligand.
  - Similar to how  $K_m = [S]$  that allows  $V_0 = \frac{1}{2}V_{max}$ ,  $K_d = [ \text{ } ]$  that allows \_\_\_\_\_ L-binding-sites to be occupied.



**CONCEPT: PROTEIN-LIGAND EQUILIBRIUM CONSTANTS**

**PRACTICE:** Protein A has a binding site for ligand X with a  $K_d$  of 54 mM. Protein B has a binding site for ligand X with a  $K_d$  of 58 mM. Answer the following questions based on this information:

A) Which protein has a stronger affinity for ligand X?

- a) Protein A.                      b) Protein B.

B) Convert the  $K_d$  to  $K_a$  for both proteins.

$K_a$  for Protein A: \_\_\_\_\_

$K_a$  for Protein B: \_\_\_\_\_

**PRACTICE:** You prepare a solution of protein and its ligand where the initial concentrations are  $[P] = 10$  mM and  $[L] = 10$  mM. At equilibrium you measure the concentration of the complex  $[PL] = 5$  mM. If the protein-ligand reaction can be represented by  $P + L \rightleftharpoons PL$ , what is the  $K_d$  of the reaction under these conditions?

- |             |                |           |
|-------------|----------------|-----------|
| a) 0.05 mM. | c) 5 mM.       | e) 20 mM. |
| b) 20 nM.   | d) 25 $\mu$ M. | f) 25 mM. |