



Inorganic Chemistry Department  
General and Inorganic Chemistry



# Hydrolysis of Salts

In specialty 226 Pharmacy, industry pharmacy

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## *Plan*

**1. The mechanism of hydrolysis**

**2. Four possible types of salts**

**3. The Degree of Hydrolysis and the Hydrolysis Constant**

**4. Ostwald's dilution law**

**5. Hydrolysis of Acidic Salts**

**6. Co-hydrolysis**

**7. Hydrolysis of Compounds with Covalent Bonds**



## *Actuality of theme*

The process of interaction of salts with water, which is accompanied by the formation of a low soluble electrolyte, is an important topic for studying the behavior of drugs in an aqueous solution, as well as the conditions for their storage.

***Aim:*** Acquaint students with the behavior of salts in aqueous solution, which leads to a change in pH of the medium.

***Specific goals:***

- Classify electrolytes by degree of dissociation.
- Use tabular data of  $K_h$  and pH of the salts medium.
- Displacement of the equilibrium of hydrolysis.



## *Theoretical questions for independent work*

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Hydrolysis of simple substances, esters, carbohydrates and proteins.



## *Bibliographical Guidance*

General and inorganic chemistry: Textbook for students of higher schools  
Ye.Ya.Levitin, I.O.Vedernikova.– Kharkiv:Publishing House of NUPH :Golden Pages,  
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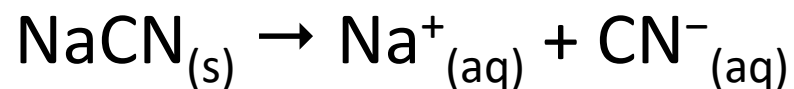
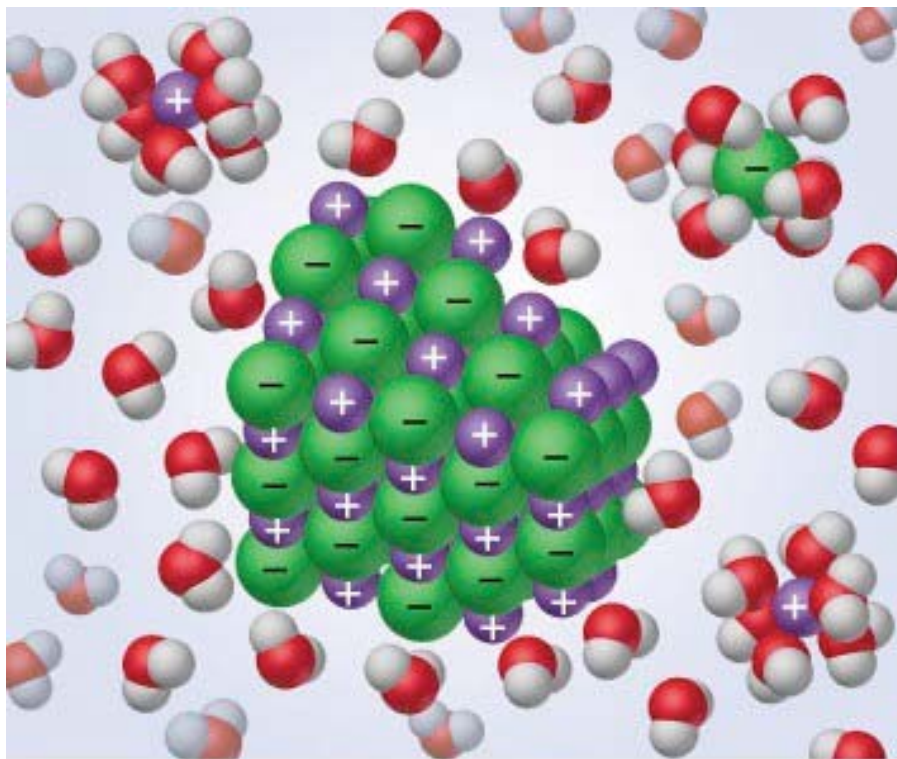
The collection of theoretical questions and tests in inorganic chemistry:for the  
students of higher school. / Ye.Ya.Levitin, I.O.Vedernikova.– Kharkiv: NUPH  
Publishers, 2007. – 76 p.

Lecture No

Date

# Hydrolysis of Salts

**The hydrolysis is the reaction of ions exchange of a salt with water molecules, which leads to the formation of a weak electrolyte and change the pH of the solution.**



### **The mechanism of hydrolysis**

Note that water is polar, causing O to be slightly negative and H to be slightly positive. The positively charged of sodium ion is attracted to the O in water and the negatively charged cyanide ion is attracted to the H in water.

In aqueous solution, cations and anions are in the form of hydrated ions.

## There are four possible types of salts:

1. If the salt is formed from a *strong* base and *strong* acid, then the salt solution is neutral,  $\text{pH} = 7$ . Cations of strong bases and anions of strong acids cannot polarize the water molecule.





2. If the salt is formed from a *strong* acid and *weak* base, the bonds in the salt solution will break apart and becomes **acidic**.  $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$ ,  $\text{CuSO}_4$ ,  $\text{ZnCl}_2$ ,  $\text{FeSO}_4$ ,  $\text{SnCl}_2$ ,  $\text{Al}_2(\text{SO}_4)_3$ ,  $\text{CrCl}_3$

$$K_h = K_w/K_b$$

Salt hydrolyzes by cation,  $\text{pH} < 7$ .

When  $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$  is added to water, the pH falls below 7. This means that  $[\text{H}^+]$  in the solution increases and  $[\text{OH}^-]$  decreases.  $\text{Cl}^-$  cannot act as an acid. However, as we have already seen, a reaction does occur between  $\text{NH}_4^+$  and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ .

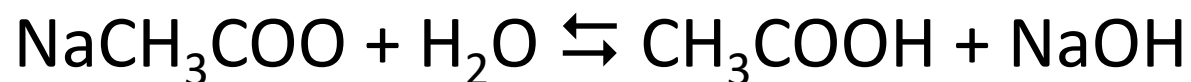
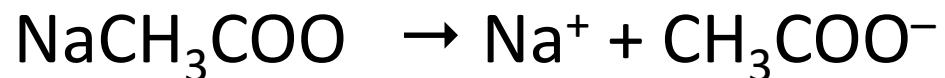


$\text{pH} < 7$ , acidic reaction

Conclusion: hydrolysis of such salts goes on cation of the weak basis, and reaction of a water solution of salt – acid.

3. The salt is formed from a *strong* base and *weak* acid, the salt solution is **basic**,  $\text{pH} > 7$ . Cations of strong bases cannot polarize the water molecule.

$\text{NaCH}_3\text{COO}$ ,  $\text{KCN}$ ,  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$



$\text{pH} > 7$ , basic reaction

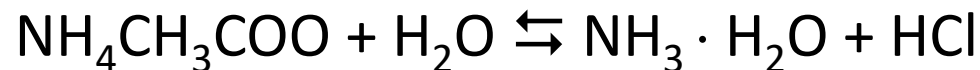
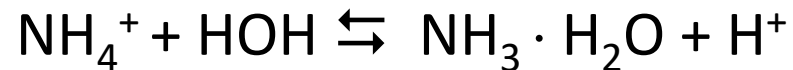
4. If the salt is formed from a *weak* base and *weak* acid, will hydrolyze, but the acidity or basicity depends on the equilibrium constants of  $K_a$  and  $K_b$ . If the  $K_a$  value is greater than the  $K_b$  value, the resulting solution will be acidic and vice versa.



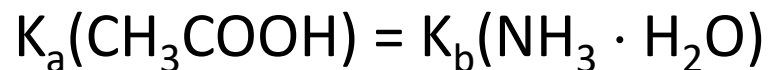
Salt hydrolyzes by anion and on anion. They are most hydrolyzed,  $\text{pH} \sim 7$ .

$$K_h = \frac{K_w}{K_a \cdot K_b}$$

Salts of the weak bases and weak acids.



Conclusion: Such salts are exposed to hydrolysis both on cation, and on anion, and reaction of a water solution of salt is neutral, because



## The Degree of Hydrolysis and the Hydrolysis Constant

Quantitative characteristics of the salt hydrolysis are *the degree of hydrolysis h* and *hydrolysis constant  $K_h$* .

The degree of hydrolysis h is calculated as the ratio of the molar concentration of salt hydrolysed  $C_{M \text{ hydr.}}$  to its total concentration in solution  $C_M$ :

$h = \frac{\text{number of molecules which have undergone to hydrolysis}}{\text{the general number of molecules of salt in a solution}}$

$$h = \frac{C_{M \text{ hydr.}}}{C_M}$$

h from 0 to 1

$$h = \frac{C_{M \text{ hydr.}}}{C_M} \cdot 100\%$$

h = from 0 to 100%

The value of h depends on:

- nature of the salt;
- concentration of the salt;
- temperature.

***Hydrolysis constant is equal to the quotient of the ionic product of water to the dissociation constant of a weak electrolyte is formed by hydrolysis:***

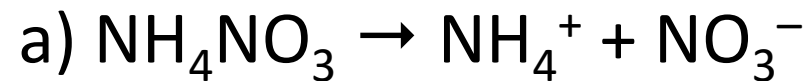
$$K_h = \frac{K_w}{K_i}$$

The weaker the acid (or base), that is less than its dissociation constant, the more hydrolysis constant its salts will be.

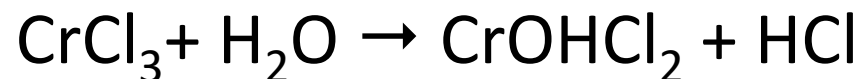
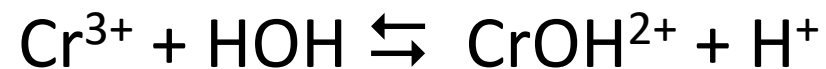
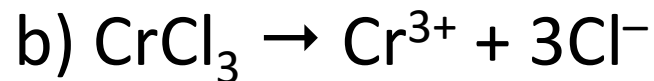
A value of hydrolysis constant characterizes the ability of the salts hydrolyse: the more constant of hydrolysis, the greater hydrolysis occurs (at the same temperature and salt concentration).

**Task 1.** Write the ionic and molecular equations of salts hydrolysis a) ammonium nitrate  $\text{NH}_4\text{NO}_3$ ;  
b) chromium (III) chloride  $\text{CrCl}_3$ .

**Solution:**



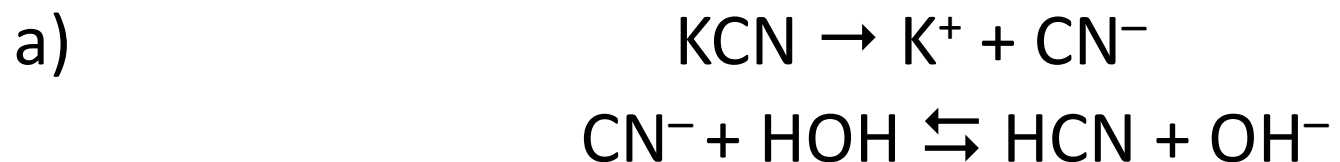
pH < 7, acidic solution



pH < 7, acidic solution

**Task 2.** Write the ionic and molecular equations of salts hydrolysis and expression of their hydrolysis constants  $K_h$ :  
a) potassium cyanide KCN; b) sodium carbonate  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$ .

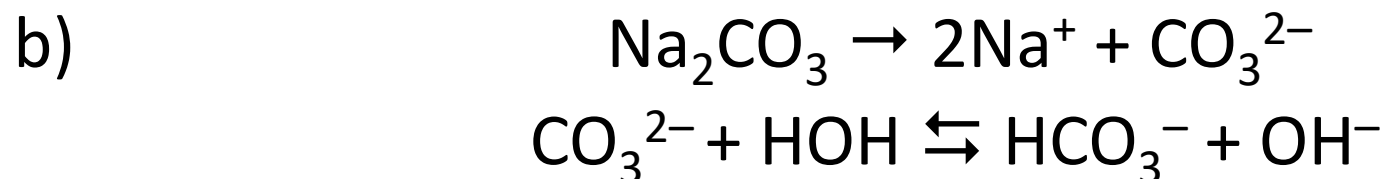
**Solution:**



In molecular form:



$$K_h = \frac{K_w}{K_a \text{HCN}}$$



In molecular form:



$$K_h = \frac{K_w}{K_{a2} \text{H}_2\text{CO}_3}$$

**Task 3.** Calculate the constant of hydrolysis of ammonium chloride  $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$ .  $K_b(\text{NH}_4\text{OH}) = 1.75 \times 10^{-5}$

**Solution:**



pH < 7, acidic reaction

$$K_h = \frac{K_w}{K_a \text{ of weak base}} = \frac{10^{-14}}{1.75 \times 10^{-5}} = 5.71 \times 10^{-9}$$



## Ostwald's dilution law

Ostwald's dilution law (relationship between  $K_h$  and  $h$ ) is also valid for the case of hydrolysis:

$$K_h = \frac{Ch^2}{1-h}$$

When  $h$  is much less than unity, the equation  $K_h$  is:

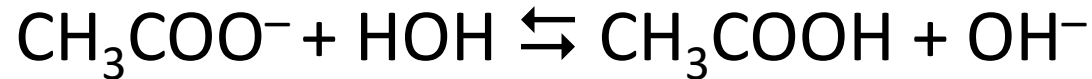
$$K_h = Ch^2 \text{ or } h = \sqrt{\frac{K_h}{C_M}}$$

Consequences of the law Ostwald dilution:

- the lower salt concentration, the more hydrolysed salt;
- the weaker the acid or base, which formed the salt, the greater the degree of hydrolysis.

**Task 4.** Calculate the degree of hydrolysis and pH of 0.001N solution of  $\text{CH}_3\text{COOK}$ .  $K_a \text{CH}_3\text{COOH} = 1.75 \times 10^{-5}$

**Solution:**  $\text{CH}_3\text{COOK} \rightleftharpoons \text{K}^+ + \text{CH}_3\text{COO}^-$



**Step 1:** 
$$h = \sqrt{\frac{K_h}{C_M}}$$

$$K_h = \frac{C_M \cdot h}{K_a}$$

$$h = \sqrt{\frac{K_w}{K_a \cdot C_M}} = \sqrt{\frac{1 \times 10^{-14}}{1.75 \times 10^{-5} \times 0.001}} = 7.55 \times 10^{-4}$$

$$C_{\text{OH}^-} = C_M \cdot h = 0.001 \times 7.55 \times 10^{-4} = 7.55 \times 10^{-7} \text{ mol/L}$$

$$C_{\text{OH}^-} = \sqrt{K_h \cdot C_M} = \sqrt{\frac{1 \times 10^{-14} \times 0.001}{1.75 \times 10^{-5}}} = 7.55 \times 10^{-7} \text{ mol/L}$$

**Step 2:**

$$\text{pH} = 14 - \lg[\text{OH}^-] = 14 - \lg 7.55 \times 10^{-7} = 7.88$$

## Hydrolysis of Acidic Salts

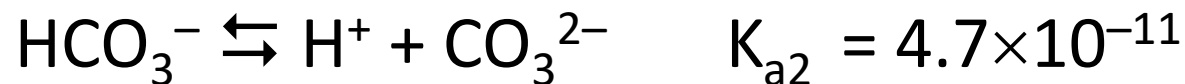
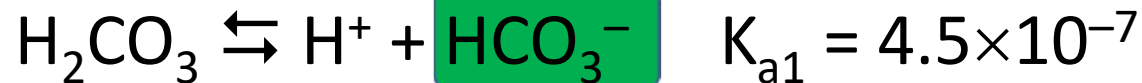
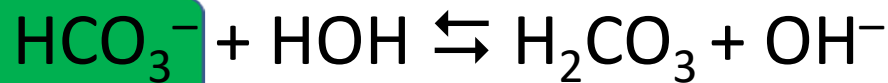
**Task 5.** Explain why a reaction of sodium hydrogen carbonate solution is alkaline, and a reaction of sodium hydrogen sulphite solution is acidic.

**Solution:**  $K_{a1_{H_2CO_3}} = 4.5 \times 10^{-7}$ ;  $K_{a2_{H_2CO_3}} = 4.7 \times 10^{-11}$ ;

$K_{a1_{H_2SO_3}} = 1.6 \times 10^{-2}$ ;  $K_{a2_{H_2SO_3}} = 6.3 \times 10^{-8}$

For an estimation pH solution of acidic salts (in which hydroanion of an acid simultaneously is exposed to hydrolysis and dissociates) it is necessary to compare  $K_h$  of salt and  $K_a$  a weak acid on the appropriate step:

a)



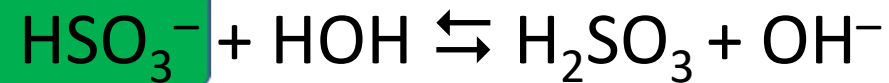
$$K_h = \frac{K_w}{K_{a1}} = \frac{1 \times 10^{-14}}{4.5 \times 10^{-7}} = 2.2 \times 10^{-8}$$



$$K_{a2} = 4.7 \times 10^{-11}$$

$K_h > K_{a2}$  means  $\text{pH} > 7$  (basic solution)

b)



$$K_h = \frac{K_w}{K_{a1}} = \frac{1 \times 10^{-14}}{1.6 \times 10^{-2}} = 6.25 \times 10^{-13}$$



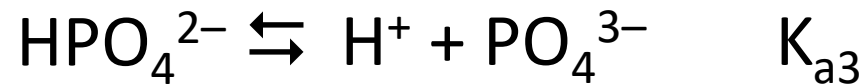
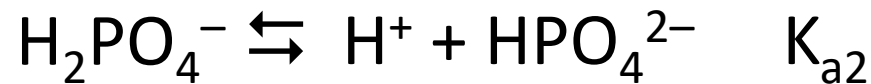
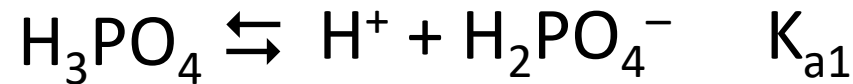
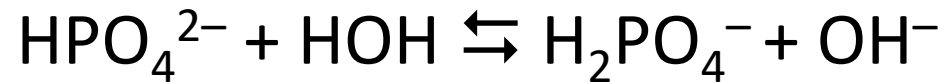
$$K_{a2} = 6.3 \times 10^{-8}$$

$K_h \ll K_{a2}$ ,  $\text{pH} < 7$  (acidic solution)

**Task 6.** Calculate hydrolysis constant of sodium hydrogen phosphate ( $\text{Na}_2\text{HPO}_4$ ) and indicate the reaction of an aqueous solution of salt.

$$K_{a1} \text{H}_3\text{PO}_4 = 7.1 \times 10^{-3}, K_{a2} \text{H}_3\text{PO}_4 = 6.3 \times 10^{-8}, K_{a3} \text{H}_3\text{PO}_4 = 1.3 \times 10^{-12}$$

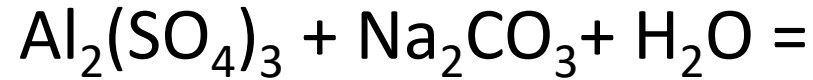
**Solution:**



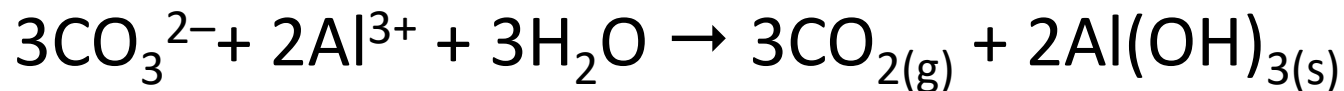
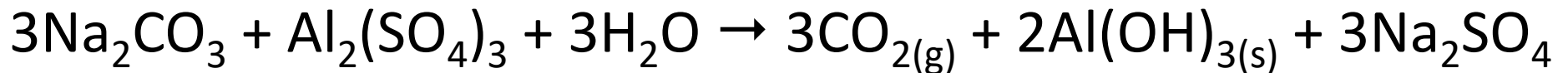
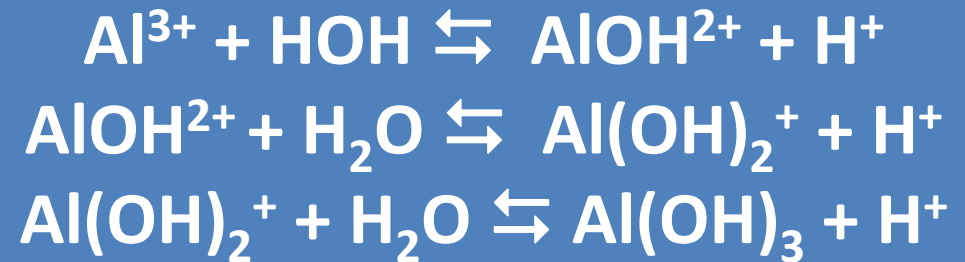
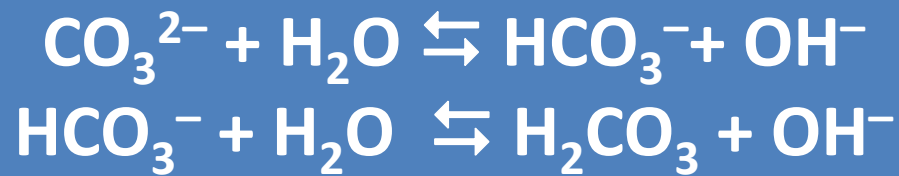
$$K_h = \frac{K_w}{K_{a2}} = \frac{1 \times 10^{-14}}{6.3 \times 10^{-8}} = 1.59 \times 10^{-7}$$

## **The Simultaneous Hydrolysis of two Salts (Co-hydrolysis)**

**The interaction in solution of two salts, one of which is formed by a weak base and a strong acid, and the second is formed by a strong base and a weak acid, leads to the formation of a precipitate of weak base and weak dissociate acid.**



If to mix solutions of two salts, one of which is formed by the weak basis and a strong acid, and another is formed by weak acid and the strong basis, then joint hydrolysis reaction proceeds up to the end:

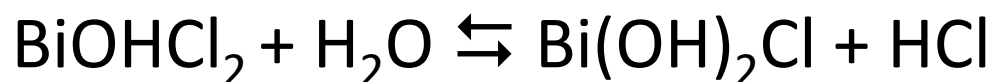
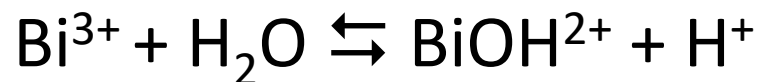


Conclusion: the ions  $\text{H}^+$  formed at hydrolysis of  $\text{Al}_2(\text{SO}_4)_3$ , will neutralize ions  $\text{OH}^-$  which are formed at hydrolysis of  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$ , and reaction proceeds up to the end.

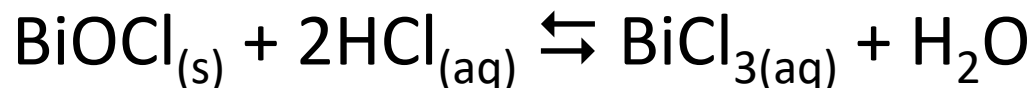
## Peculiar cases of hydrolysis

Hydrolysis of salts of antimony (III), bismuth (III) and other proceeds on the cation in two steps with the formation of precipitation of oxosalts.

In water solution of antimony (III) and bismuth (III) salts the hydrolysis reaction proceeds up to the end is easy not only on the first, but also on the second step:



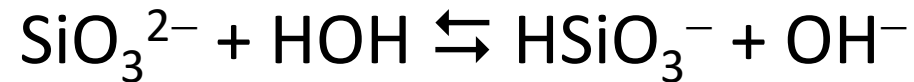
At acidifying sediment dissolves:



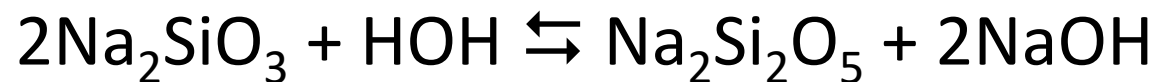


Hydrolysis of sodium silicate leads to the formation of dimetasilicate-ion.

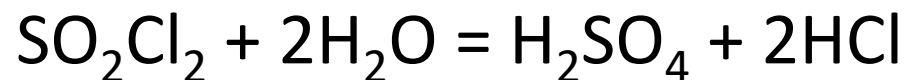
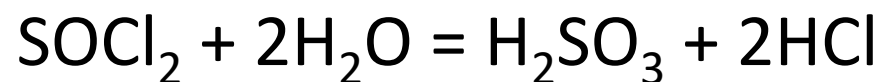
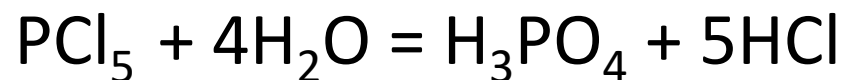
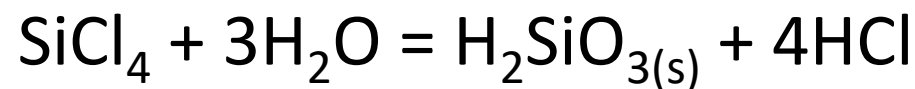
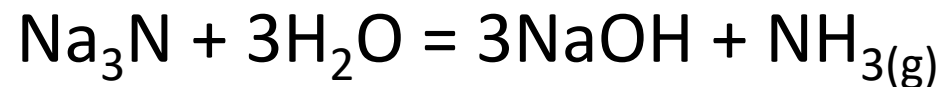
The hydrolysis of sodium silicate, unlike other similar salts, is occurred with formation of dimetasilicate-ion:



Total reaction equation of hydrolysis is:



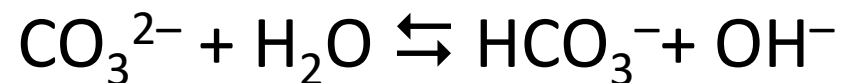
## Hydrolysis of Compounds with Covalent Bonds



## Shift the Equilibrium in the Hydrolysis

**Task 7.** Specify what factors will increase the hydrolysis of sodium carbonate.

**Solution:**



$\Delta H > 0$  (endothermic reaction)

- a.  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$  is added to the system ←
- b.  $\text{NaOH}$  is added to the system ←
- c. heating ←
- d.  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  is added to the system →
- f.  $\text{HCl}$  is added to the system →

Not only salts undergo hydrolysis. Proteins, fats, carbohydrates and many other compounds are hydrolysed.

Hydrolysis is widely used for the production of valuable products such as glucose, starch, soap, glycerine, alcohol, food organic acids etc.

Understanding of hydrolysis allows the pharmacist to cook and store liquid pharmaceutical forms, as well as to synthesize biologically active substances required for the creation of new groups of pharmaceuticals.



*Thank you  
for  
attention!*