

Isoelectric Point Calculation

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Contents

By rearranging the Henderson-Hasselbalch equation:

$$\text{pH} = \text{pK}_a + \log \left(\frac{[\text{A}^-]}{[\text{HA}]} \right)$$

we can get the ratio between an acid and its conjugate base:

$$\frac{[\text{HA}]}{[\text{A}^-]} = 10^{(\text{pK}_a - \text{pH})}$$

and between an base and its conjugate acid:

$$\frac{[\text{B}]}{[\text{BH}^+]} = 10^{(\text{pH} - \text{pK}_a)}$$

Thus, the proportion of deprotonated acid is calculated as follows:

$$\frac{[\text{A}^-]}{[\text{A}]_{\text{total}}} = \frac{[\text{A}^-]}{[\text{HA}] + [\text{A}^-]} = \frac{1}{1 + \frac{[\text{HA}]}{[\text{A}^-]}} = \frac{1}{1 + 10^{(\text{pK}_a - \text{pH})}}$$

Similarly, for basic species:

$$\frac{[\text{BH}^+]}{[\text{B}]_{\text{total}}} = \frac{[\text{BH}^+]}{[\text{B}] + [\text{BH}^+]} = \frac{1}{1 + \frac{[\text{B}]}{[\text{BH}^+]}} = \frac{1}{1 + 10^{(\text{pH} - \text{pK}_a)}}$$

<http://fields.scripps.edu/DTASelect/20010710-pI-Algorithm.pdf>