

What is the pH of the solution made by mixing equal volumes of solutions having $\text{pH}_1 = 4$ and $\text{pH}_2 = 6$?

Solution: As it is known, $\text{pH} = -\lg[\text{H}^+]$, then $[\text{H}^+] = 10^{-\text{pH}}$. After the mixing of solutions, the volume of the system doubles, and the amounts of substance of protons are adding.

$$[\text{H}^+]_1 = 10^{-\text{pH}_1} = 10^{-4} \text{ M}; \quad [\text{H}^+]_2 = 10^{-\text{pH}_2} = 10^{-6} \text{ M};$$

$$n(\text{H}^+)_1 = V \cdot [\text{H}^+]_1 = V \cdot 10^{-4} \text{ mol}; \quad n(\text{H}^+)_2 = V \cdot [\text{H}^+]_2 = V \cdot 10^{-6} \text{ mol};$$

$$[\text{H}^+]_{\Sigma} = \frac{n(\text{H}^+)_1 + n(\text{H}^+)_2}{2V} = \frac{V \cdot 10^{-4} + V \cdot 10^{-6}}{2V} = 5.05 \cdot 10^{-5} \text{ M};$$

$$\text{pH}_{\Sigma} = -\lg[\text{H}^+]_{\Sigma} = -\lg(5.05 \cdot 10^{-5}) = 4.3.$$

Answer: 4.3.