

#36342, Inorganic Chemistry

If equal volumes of HCl and NaOH solutions whose pH is 2 and 0.03 M NaOH solution are mixed; what will be the pH of the resulting solution?

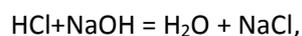
Solution

The pH of a solution is defined as the negative logarithm of the molar concentration of hydrogen ion: $\text{pH} = -\lg[\text{H}^+]$. If we have a solution with $\text{pH} = 2$, it means that we have 0.01 mole of H^+ per liter:

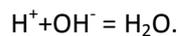
$$2 = -\lg[\text{H}^+]; [\text{H}^+] = 10^{-2} = 0.01 \text{ mol/L.}$$

Also, we have 0.03 M NaOH solution, it means we have 0.03 mole of OH^- per liter.

Following the equation of reaction between HCl and NaOH :



or in ionic form:



we have an excess of NaOH: $0.03 - 0.01 = 0.02 \text{ mol/L}$.

Use the ion product $[\text{H}^+][\text{OH}^-] = 10^{-14}$ to find $[\text{H}^+]$:

$$[\text{H}^+] = \frac{\text{ion product}}{[\text{OH}^-]} = \frac{1 \cdot 10^{-14}}{0.02} = 5 \cdot 10^{-13}.$$

Next, we can use the pH equation:

$$\text{pH} = -\lg[\text{H}^+] = -\lg(5 \cdot 10^{-13}) = 12.3.$$

Answer: the pH of the resulting solution is 12.3.