

# Dissociation of a weak acid

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Solution:

Molecule	<i>HF</i>	<i>F</i> <sup>-</sup>	<i>H</i> <sup>+</sup>
Initial	0.1	0	0
Difference	-x	x	x
Equilibrium	0.1 - x	x	x

We can substitute these values into  $K_a$ ,

$$K_a = \frac{x^2}{0.1 - x}$$

Where  $K_a = 10^{-\text{pKa}} = 10^{-3.14} = 7.244 \times 10^{-4}$

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We can be confident that  $x \ll 0.1$  so we can make the approximation

$$K_a \approx \frac{x^2}{0.1}$$

Thus,

$$x \approx \sqrt{CK_a}$$

$$x \approx \sqrt{7.244 \times 10^{-5}}$$

$$x = 0.00815$$

Finally, the pH is calculated from  $x$ , since  $x = [H^+]$ ,

$$pH = -\log_{10}(0.00815) = 2.1$$