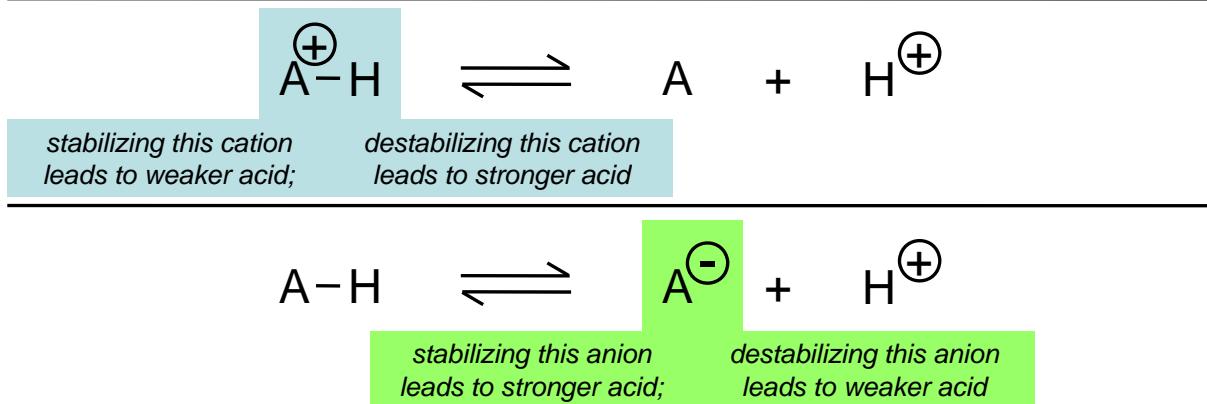


# Relative Stabilities of Acids and Conjugate Bases

- In comparing acids or bases, look at stability of both starting material and product.
- Either acid or conjugate base will be charged; relative acidity often driven by relative stability of charge.



## Relative Acidities

acids	conjugate bases	$K_a$	$pK_a$
$\text{HF} + \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightleftharpoons \text{F}^- + \text{H}_3\text{O}^+$		$6.8 \times 10^{-4}$	3.2
$\text{H}_2\text{O} + \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightleftharpoons \text{HO}^- + \text{H}_3\text{O}^+$		$1.8 \times 10^{-16}$	15.7
$\text{NH}_3 + \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightleftharpoons \text{H}_2\text{N}^- + \text{H}_3\text{O}^+$		$1 \times 10^{-33}$	33
$\text{CH}_4 + \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightleftharpoons \text{H}_3\text{C}^- + \text{H}_3\text{O}^+$		$<1 \times 10^{-40}$	>40

Stronger acids

Stronger acids have lower  $pK_a$  values.

Stronger bases

Stronger bases have conjugate acids with higher  $pK_a$  values.

(Weak acids have strong conjugate bases.)

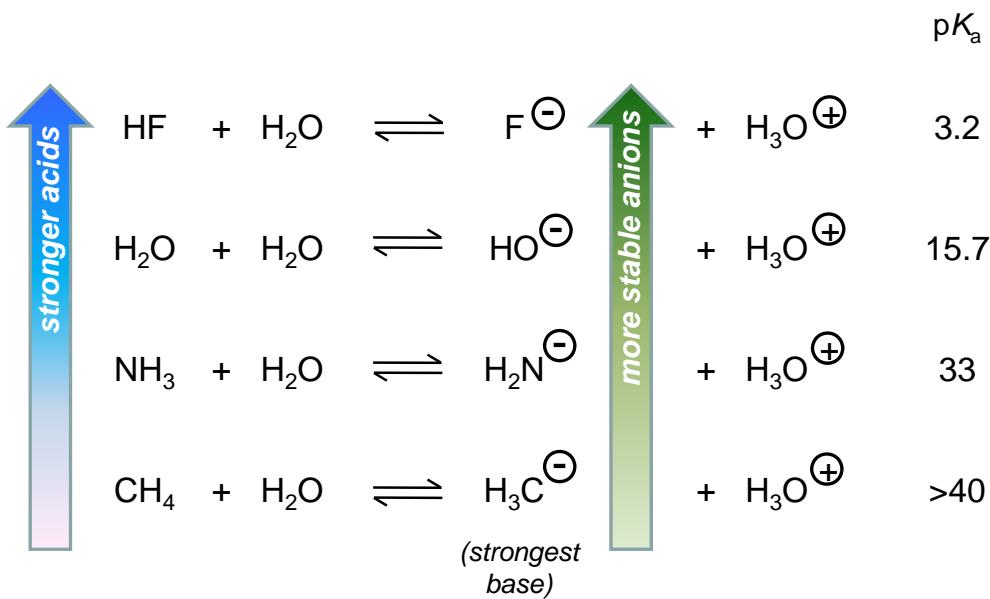
Can evaluate acidity and basicity from a  $pK_a$  table.

\*Values <0 for H<sub>2</sub>O and DMSO, and values >14 for water and >35 for DMSO were extrapolated using various methods.

page 2 of 5; [http://daecr1.harvard.edu/pdf/evans\\_pKa\\_table.pdf](http://daecr1.harvard.edu/pdf/evans_pKa_table.pdf) (or Google “pKa table”)

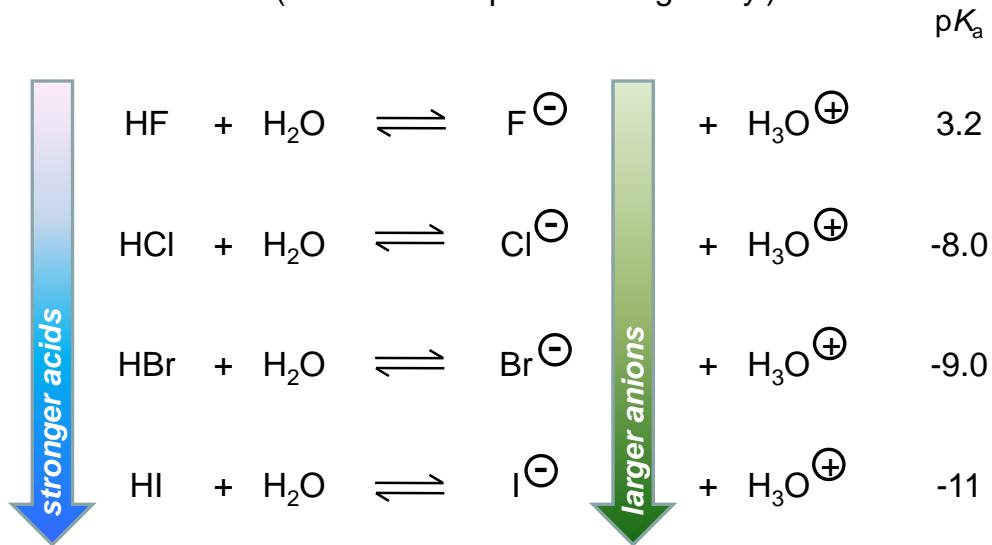
# Stability Trends in Organic Acids: Electronegativity

Electronegativity affects stability of charge in acids/conjugate bases.



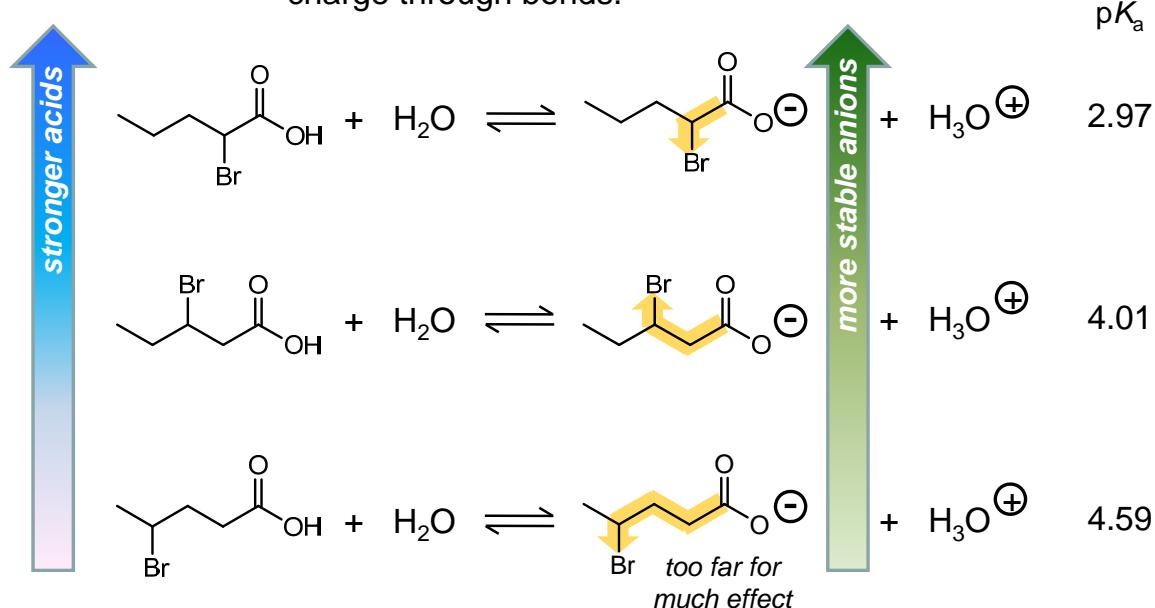
## Stability Trends in Organic Acids: Size

Larger atoms accommodate charge better.  
(This can trump electronegativity.)



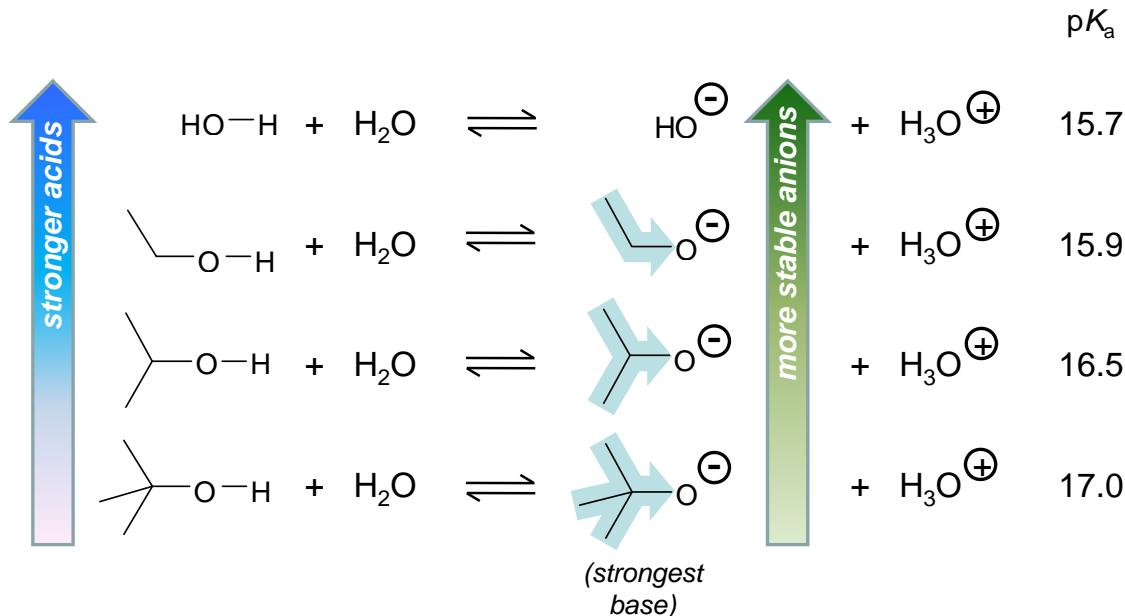
## Stability Trends in Organic Acids: Inductive Effects

Electronegative/positive nuclei can stabilize distant charge through bonds.



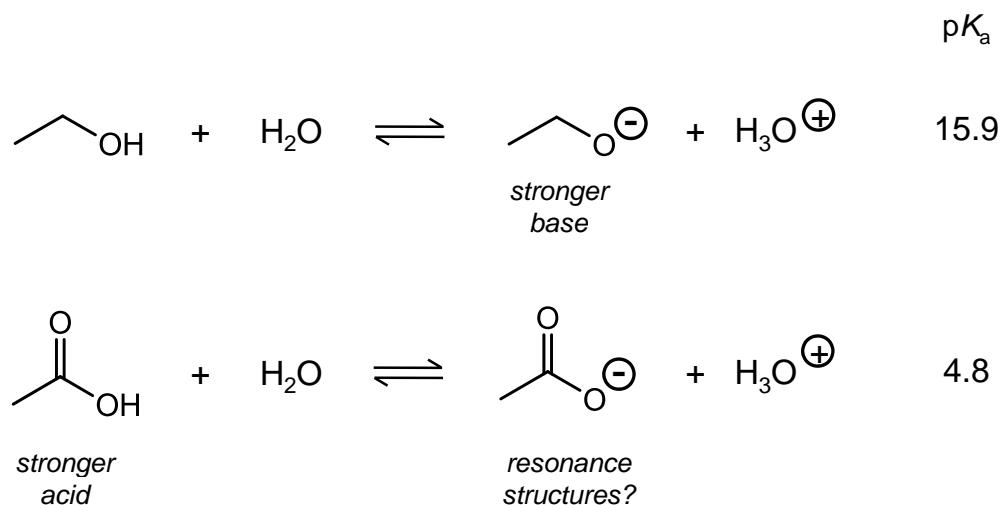
# Stability Trends in Organic Acids: Inductive Effects

Methyl groups are *electropositive*; they push electrons away.



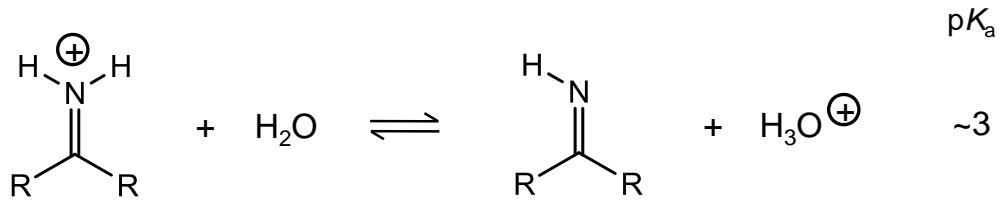
# Stability Trends in Organic Acids: Resonance

Delocalization of charge stabilizes ionic species.

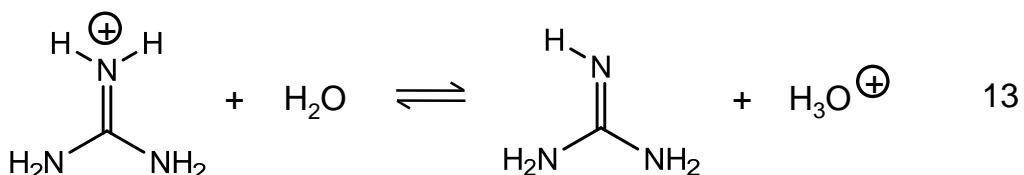


# Stability Trends in Organic Acids: Resonance

Delocalization of charge stabilizes ionic species.



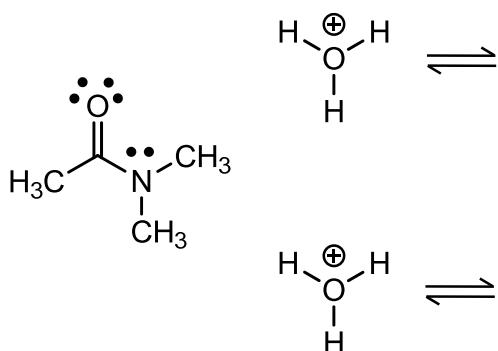
## *resonance structures?*



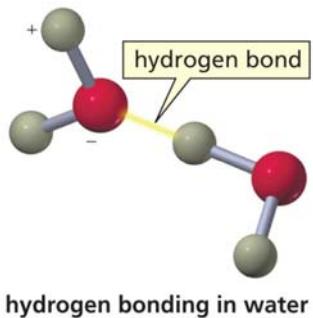
# Resonance in Organic Acids and Bases

Consider resonance when choosing basic electron pairs.

*Which lone pair is protonated?*



# Hydrogen Bonding: Incomplete Electron-Pair Donation



Lone pairs can interact with O-H, N-H, and/or halogen-H hydrogens *without* transferring a proton (if H-donor isn't acidic enough).

## Organic Functional Groups

Type of compound	General structure	Example	Functional group
Alkyl halide	$R-\ddot{X}$ : (X = F, Cl, Br, I)	$CH_3-\ddot{Br}$ :	$-X$ halo group
Alcohol	$R-\ddot{O}H$	$CH_3-\ddot{O}H$	$-OH$ hydroxy group
Ether	$R-\ddot{O}-R$	$CH_3-\ddot{O}-CH_3$	$-OR$ alkoxy group
Amine	$R-\ddot{N}H_2$ or $R_2\ddot{N}H$ or $R_3\ddot{N}$	$CH_3-\ddot{N}H_2$	$-NH_2$ amino group
Thiol	$R-\ddot{S}H$	$CH_3-\ddot{S}H$	$-SH$ mercieno group
Sulfide	$R-\ddot{S}-R$	$CH_3-\ddot{S}-CH_3$	$-SR$ alkylthio group

# Organic Functional Groups

Type of compound	General structure	Example	Functional group
Aldehyde			C=O carbonyl group
Ketone			C=O carbonyl group
Carboxylic acid			-COOH carboxy group
Ester			-COOR
Amide			-CONH2, -CONHR, or -CONR2
Acid chloride			-COCl

## Bond Polarities Can Add Up to Make Polar Molecules (Or Not)

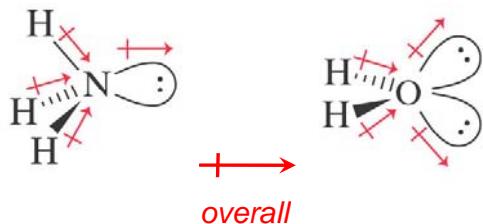
**TABLE 2-1** Bond Dipole Moments (Debye) for Some Common Covalent Bonds

Bond	Dipole Moment, $\mu$	Bond	Dipole Moment, $\mu$
C=N	0.22 D	H=C	0.3 D
C=O	0.86 D	H=N	1.31 D
C=F	1.51 D	H=O	1.53 D
C=Cl	1.56 D	C=O	2.4 D
C=Br	1.48 D	C≡N	3.6 D
C=I	1.29 D		

polar enough to consider

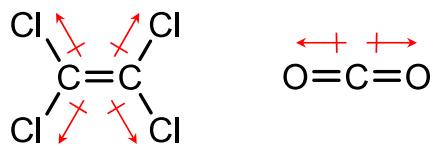
# Sum of Bond Polarities, Lone Pairs Determines Polarity of Molecules

Polar molecules:



Lone pairs also contribute to overall dipole; create charge separation from nucleus.

Nonpolar molecules:



When individual bond dipoles sum to zero, molecule is nonpolar.