# 3. Arrhenius Theory of Acids and Bases

#### a) Acids

- i) Release H<sup>+</sup><sub>(aq)</sub> in water
- ii) Any ionic species starting with "H". Eg.: HCl, HNO<sub>3</sub>
- iii) Are electrolytes
- iv) Taste sour
- v) Turn Litmus paper red
- vi) Produce  $H_{2(g)}$  when react with most metals.
- vii) Reacts with bases in a Neutralization reaction.

### b) Bases

- i) Release OH (aq) in water
- ii) Any ionic species ending with "OH". Eg.: NaOH, Ca(OH)2
- iii) Are electrolytes
- iv) Taste bitter
- v) Turn litmus paper blue
- vi) Feels slippery!
- vii) Reacts with acids in a Neutralization reaction.

## c) Salts

- i) Any other ionic compound that is not an acid or base (no "H" or "OH" present)
- ii) Are produced from a Neutralization reaction:

Eg.: Acid + Base 
$$\rightarrow$$
 Salt + Water

Eg.: HCl + KOH 
$$\rightarrow$$
 KCl + H<sub>2</sub>O

Do Questions: #1 and #2 page 110; #3 and #4 page 112

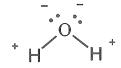
## 1. The Hydronium Ion

# a) Acids release a proton (H<sup>+</sup>) when mixed with water!

$$HCl_{(g)} \rightarrow \ H^+_{(aq)} \ + \ Cl^-_{(aq)}$$

#### b) What Happens to a Proton in Water?

- i) H<sup>+</sup> is very positive and is therefore strongly attracted to anything negative.
- ii) H<sub>2</sub>O molecule has a negative "part"



iii) Any H+ in water will "attack" the water.

$$H^+ + H_2O \rightarrow H_3O^+$$

iv) Protons  $(H^+)$  do not exist alone in water. They all exist as  $H_3O^+$ .

#### c) Examples

i) Hydrochloric acid + H<sub>2</sub>O

Step 1 
$$HCI \rightarrow H^+ + CI^-$$
  
Step 2  $H^+ + H_2O \rightarrow H_3O^+$ 

Overall 
$$HCl + H_2O \rightarrow H_3O^+ + Cl^-$$

ii) Sulphuric acid + H<sub>2</sub>O

$$H_2SO_4 + H_2O \rightarrow H_3O^+ + HSO_4^-$$