

The ionisation constant of an acid, K_a , is the measure of strength of an acid. The K_a values of acetic acid, hypochlorous acid and formic acid are 1.74×10^{-5} , 3.0×10^{-8} and 1.8×10^{-4} respectively. Which of the following orders of pH of 0.1 mol dm^{-3} solutions of these acids is correct?

- (i) acetic acid > hypochlorous acid > formic acid
- (ii) hypochlorous acid > acetic acid > formic acid
- (iii) formic acid > hypochlorous acid > acetic acid.
- (iv) formic acid > acetic acid > hypochlorous acid

(d) $[\text{H}_3\text{O}^+] = \sqrt{K_a \cdot C}$ for the same concentration, $[\text{H}_3\text{O}^+] \propto \sqrt{K_a}$. But $\text{pH} = -\log [\text{H}_3\text{O}^+]$.
Larger the value of K_a , larger will be $[\text{H}_3\text{O}^+]$ and lower will be pH.