

Water and biological buffer

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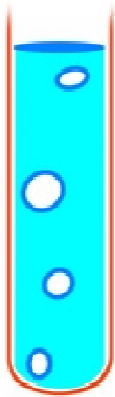
Objectives

1. Water

- **Chemical structure related with water properties**
- **Role of water in human body**

2. Biological buffer

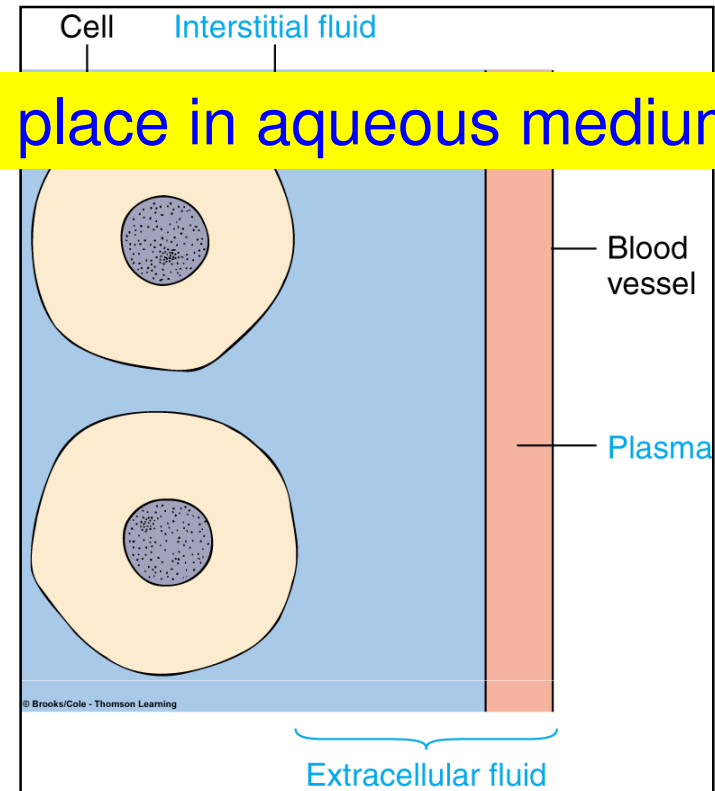
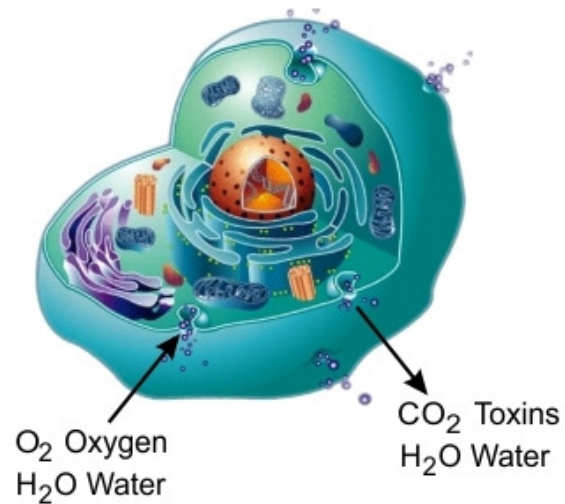
- **Role of buffer**
- **Composition related with buffer mechanism**
- **Buffer capacity**
- **Important buffers in human body**



All chemical reactions take place in aqueous medium

Most compounds dissolve in body fluids

→ water participates in biochemical reactions



Body Water

extracellular
fluid (ECF)
33%

intracellular
fluid (ICF) 66%

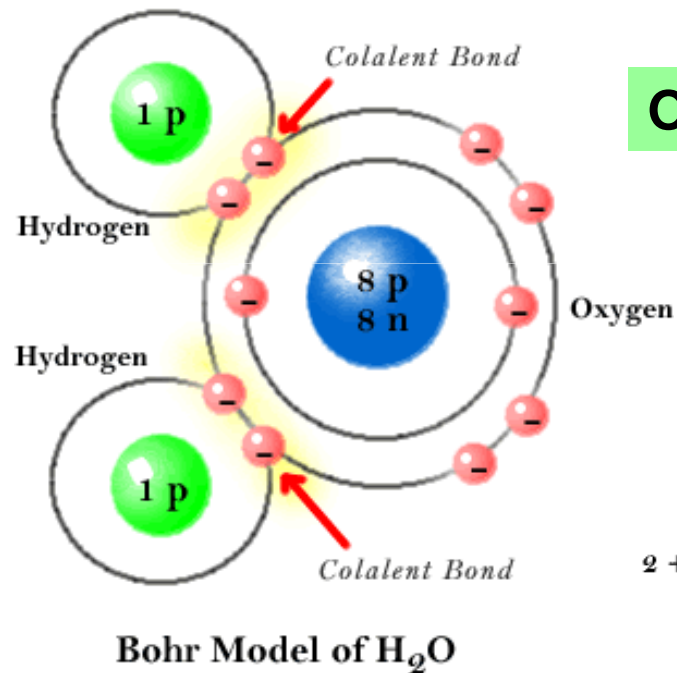
Interstitial
(25%)

Plasma (8%)

Molecular structure of water

unique properties of water are derived from its structure

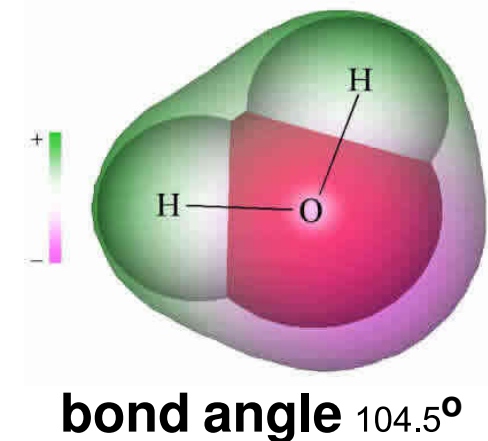
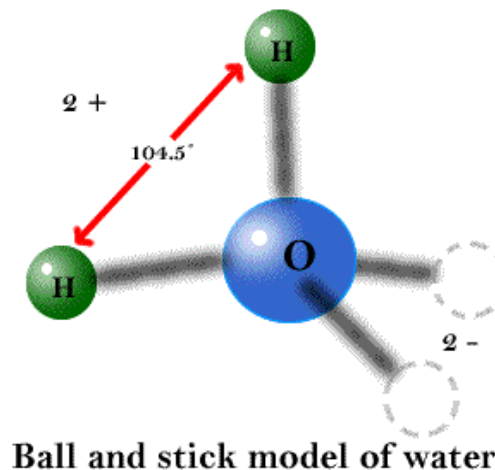
1. H_2O is a polar molecule



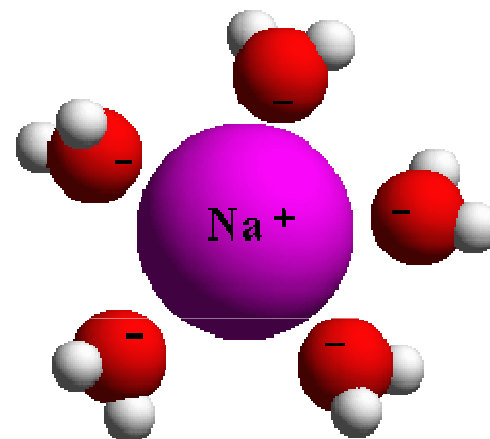
O has more electronegativity than H

two lone pair electrons at O atom

Nonlinear shape

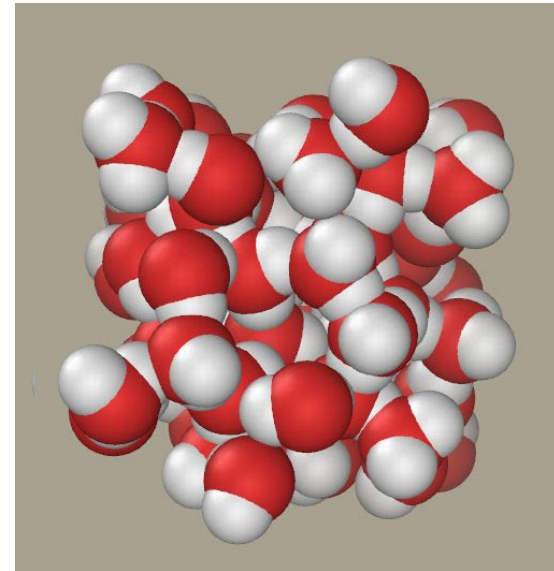
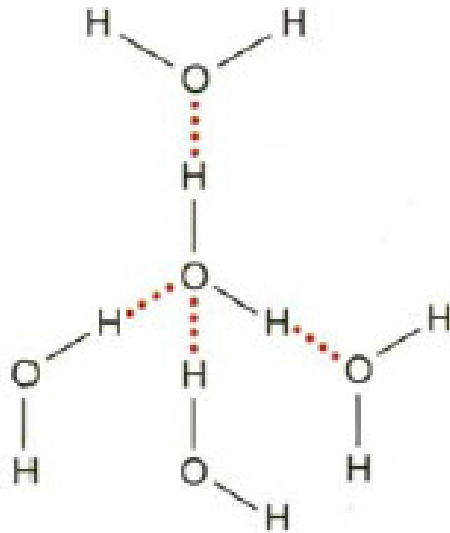
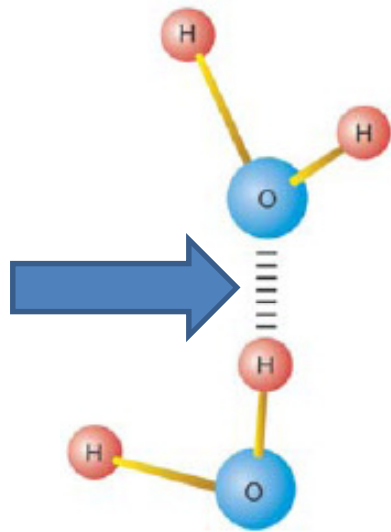


Hydrophilic molecules form favorable interaction with water



Solvate Na^+

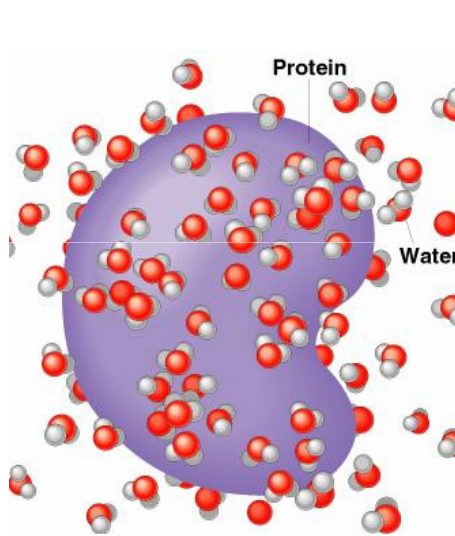
4. Water form **H-bond** with the other water molecules



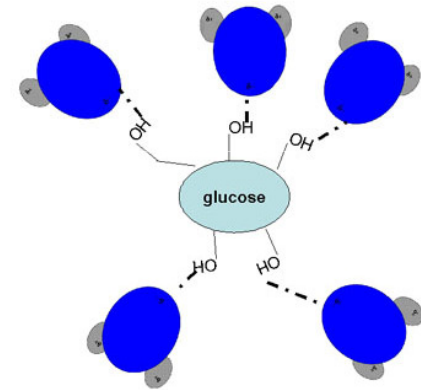
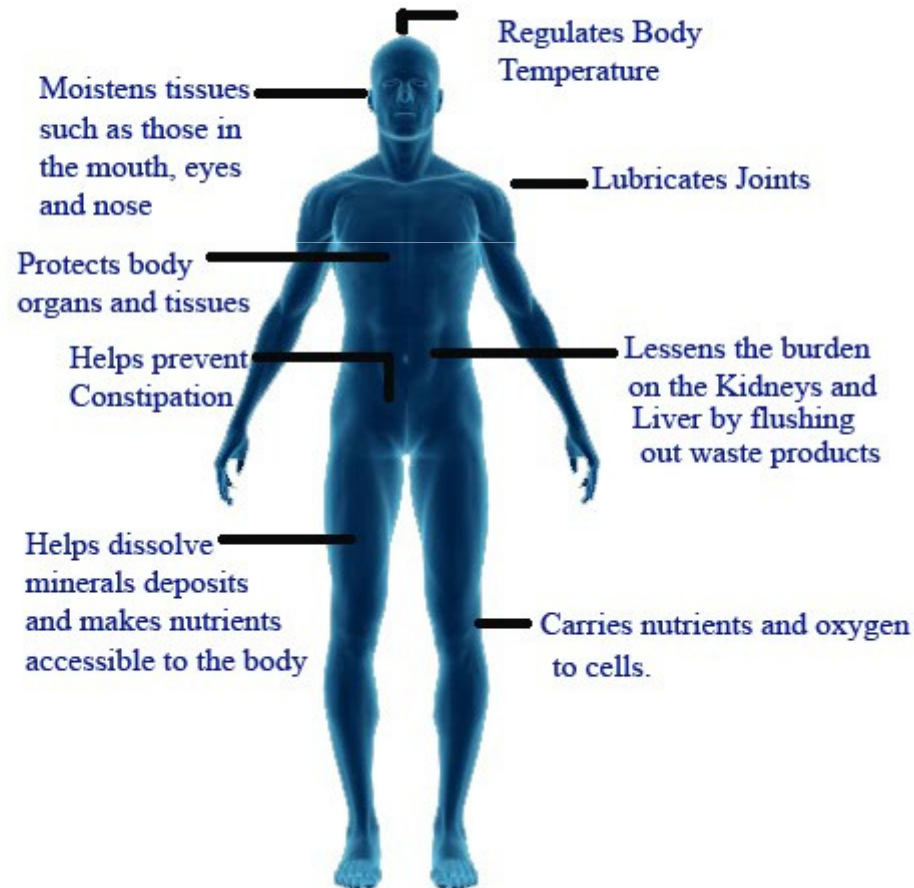
Role of water in human body

1.Solvent polar → plays a major role in metabolism

Like dissolves like

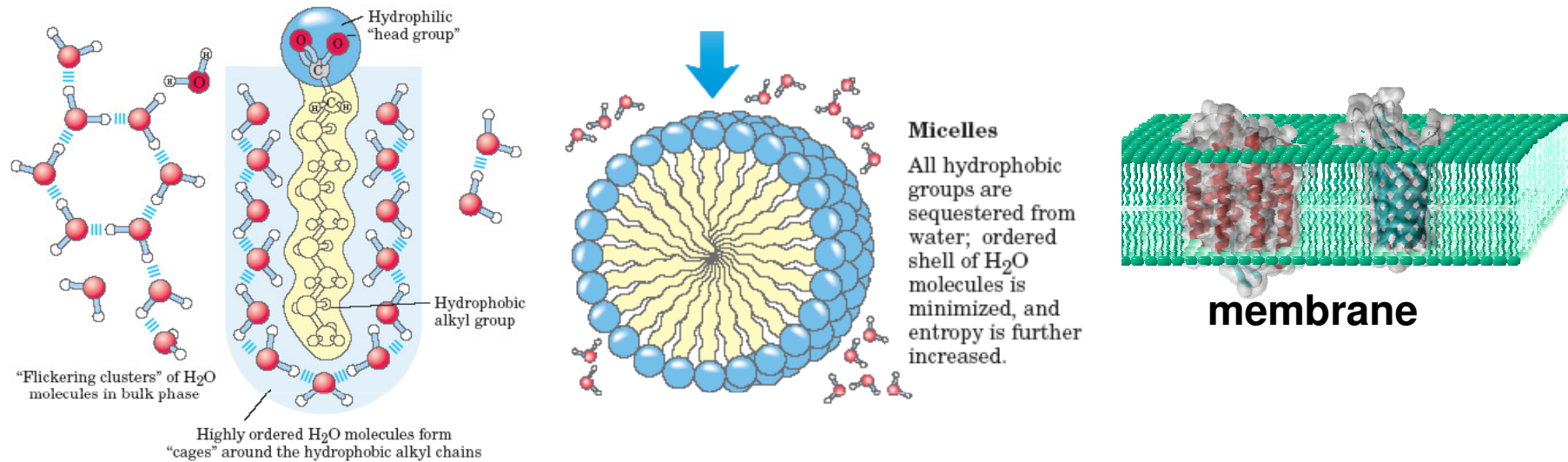


**Solvate
protein**



**Solvate
sugar**

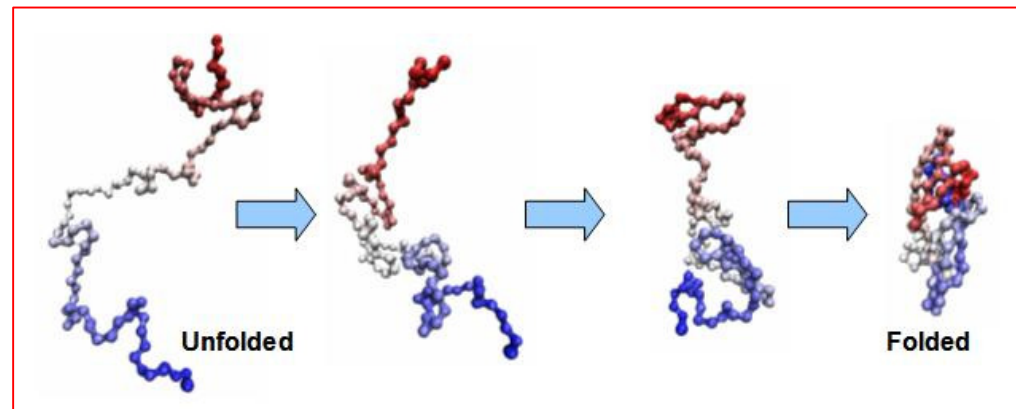
H₂O cannot dissolve non-polar compounds
→ **creates supermolecular assemblies e.g. membranes,**
and drives the folding of proteins



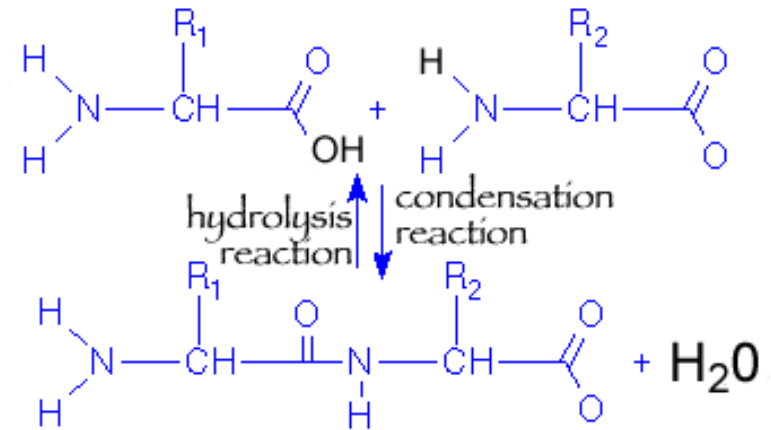
Fatty acid (hydrophobic) molecule
caged by water

folding of proteins

pH also influence the 3-dimensional structure of proteins and activity of enzymes



2. **Reactant** → water is a good nucleophile
→ participant in reactions e.g. hydrolysis and condensation

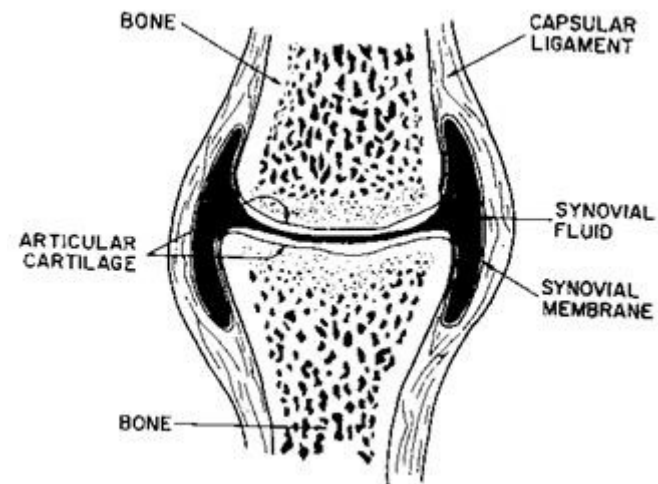


virtuallaboratory.colorado.edu/BioFun-Support/AllGraphics/peptideBond.gif

3. **Transportation** absorption, transport, digestion, excretion as well as maintenance of body temperature.

4. **Temperature stabilizer** - maintenance of body temperature (**latent heat**)

5. **Lubricants**



<http://elektroarsenal.net/img/721/image516.jpg>

Aquaporin (water channel) is integral membrane protein
Select water in and out of cell but prevent passage of ions and solutes

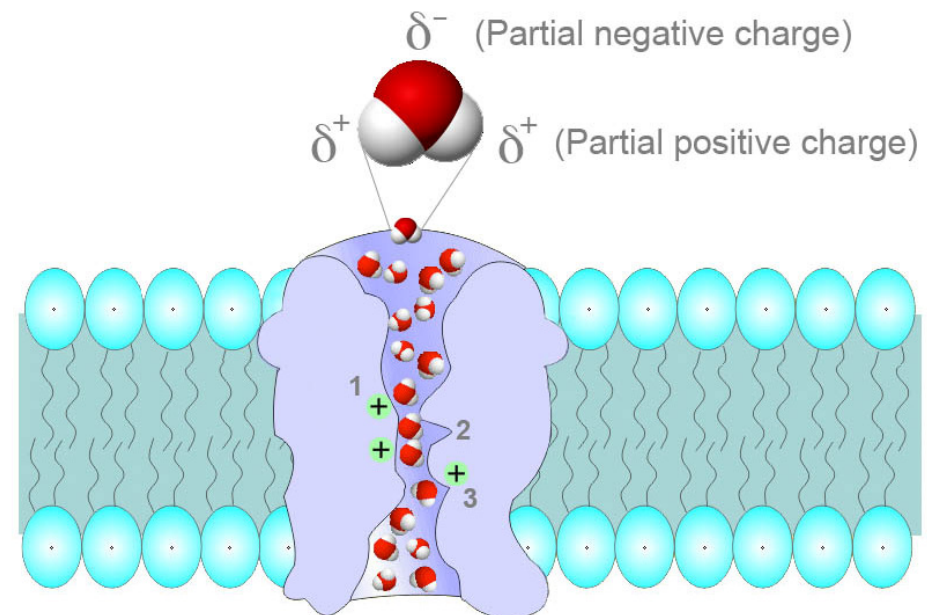
Nobel Lecture

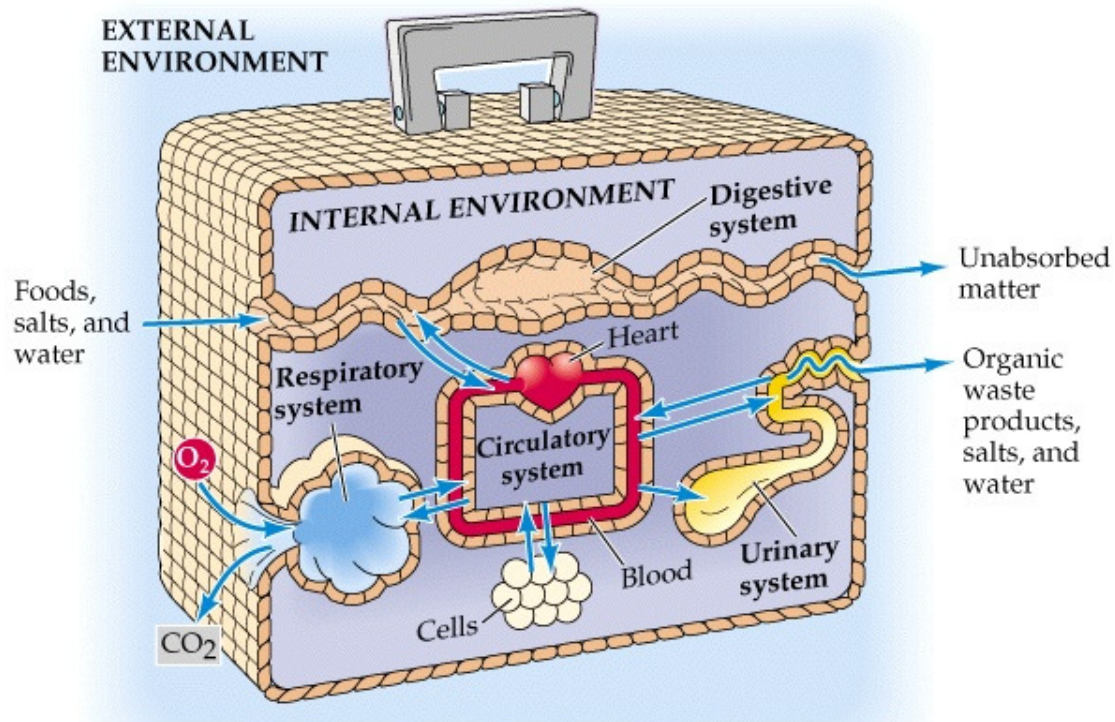
Aquaporin Water Channels



Peter Agre held his Nobel Lecture December 8, 2003, at Aula Magna, Stockholm University. He was presented by Professor Bengt Nordén, Chairman of the Nobel Committee for Chemistry.

If we can manipulate aquaporin, we can solve medical problems e.g. fluid retention in heart disease and brain edema after stroke





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Why pH is important?

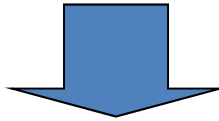
- pH affects solubility of many substances
- pH affects structure and function of most protein, enzymes
- cells and organisms survive in a specific pH environment.

Factors that regulate homeostasis

- Concentration of nutrient molecules
- Concentration of water, salt, and other electrolytes
- Concentration of waste products
- Concentration of O₂ = 100mmHg and CO₂ = 40 mmHg
- Blood volume 4-6 L and pressure 120/80 mmHg
- **pH = 7.35 Temperature = 37° C**

Buffer

Biochemical reactions are sensitive to pH



Role of buffer

Maintain pH of the solution when small amount of acid or base are added

Important biological buffer

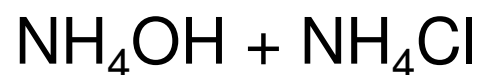
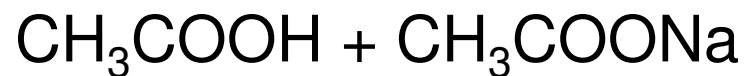
1. phosphate buffer
2. bicarbonate buffer
3. proteinate buffer



Composition of buffer

Weak acid + its conjugate base

Weak base + its conjugate acid



Henderson - Hasselbalch equation

$$\text{pH} = \text{pKa} + \log \frac{[\text{conjugate base}]}{[\text{acid}]}$$

Buffer mechanism

Chemical equilibrium



Add H⁺



Add OH⁻



Buffer capacity

efficiency of a buffer in resisting changes in pH



buffer capacity depends on

1. Ratio of the salt to the acid or base.

buffer capacity is optimal when the ratio is 1:1; that is $\text{pH} = \text{pKa}$

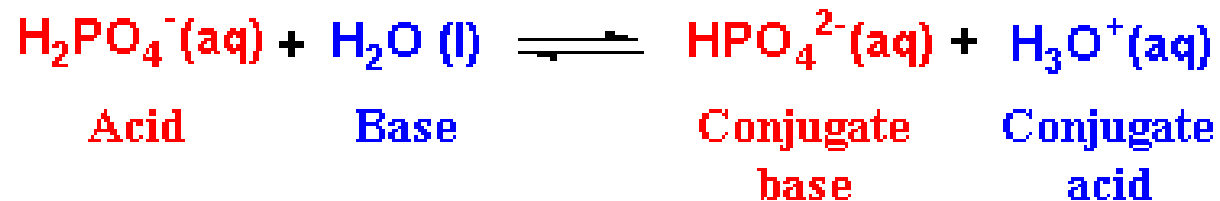
2. Total buffer concentration.

The higher concentration, the higher buffer capacity

1. Phosphate buffer

$\text{H}_2\text{PO}_4^- / \text{HPO}_4^{2-}$ (In Cell)

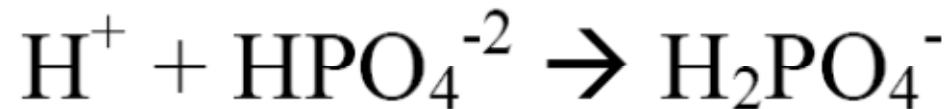
In mammals, cellular fluid pH 6.9 - 7.4



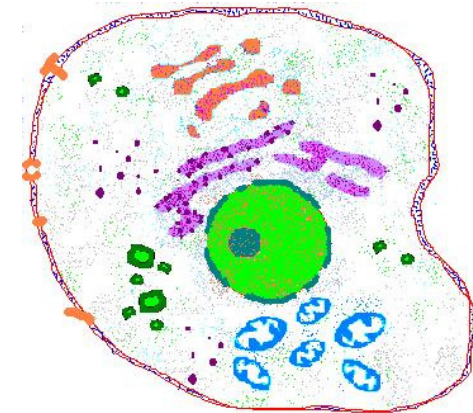
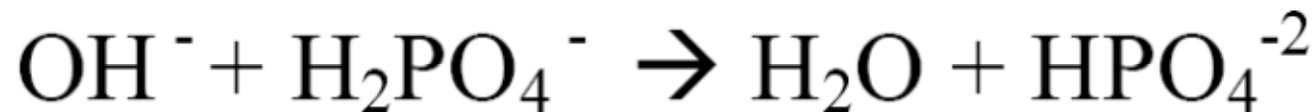
$$\text{p}K_{\text{a}2} = 7.20$$

hydrogenophosphate ion

When we add H^+



When we add OH^-



2. Bicarbonate buffer

H_2CO_3 / HCO_3^- (Blood)

When we add H^+



When we add OH^-



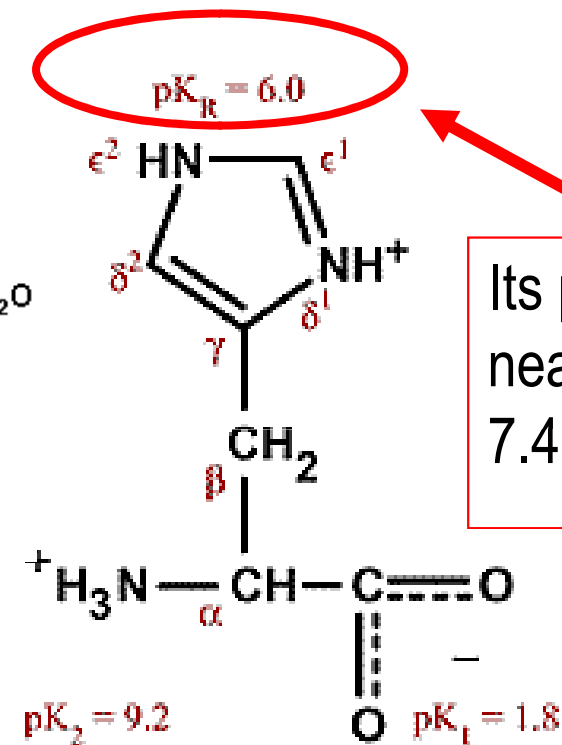
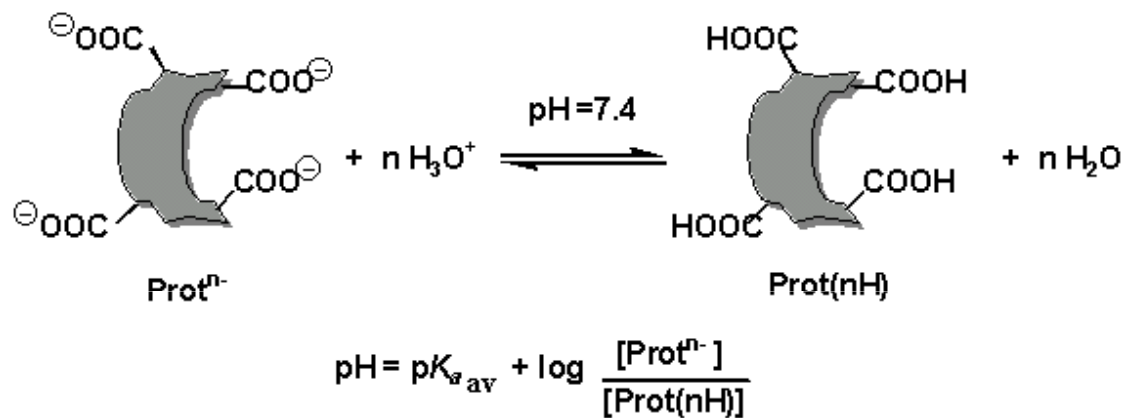
In blood plasma, the $[\text{HCO}_3^-]$ is about 20 times $[\text{H}_2\text{CO}_3]$

The pH of arterial blood plasma is 7.4

If the pH < 7.4, a condition called *acidosis*

If the pH > 7.4, the condition is called *alkalosis*

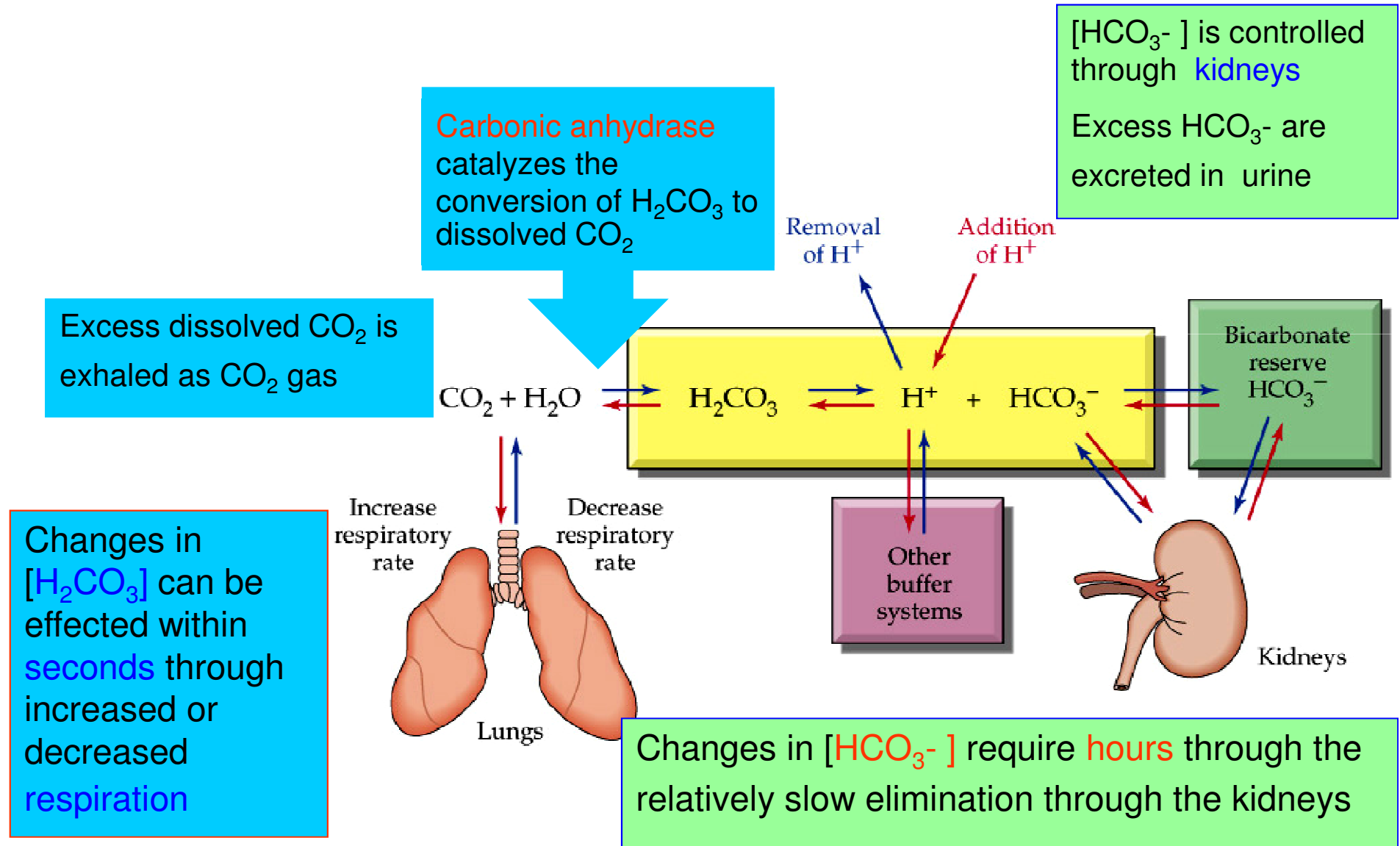
3. Proteinate buffer



Its pK_a
near pH
7.4

histidine

$[\text{HCO}_3^-]$ and $[\text{H}_2\text{CO}_3]$ are controlled by two independent physiological systems (lung and kidney)



Disorder of acid-base balance

pH < 7.37 acidosis

pH > 7.44 alkalosis

- **Respiratory acidosis**

blood pH decrease

as a result of decreased respiration (CO₂ in blood increases

→ making the blood too acidic)

asthma, pneumonia, emphysema, or inhaling smoke

- **Metabolic acidosis**

blood pH decrease

as a result when excess acidic substances are in blood.

prolonged physical exertion, by diabetes, or restricted food intake

our body response by increase breathing to reduce CO₂ in blood

- **Respiratory alkalosis**

blood pH increase

as a result of hyperventilating

- **Metabolic alkalosis**

blood pH increase

as a result of release of alkaline materials into the blood

ingestion of alkaline materials, overuse of diuretics.

Our body response by slowing breathing

Summary

Homeostasis is the maintenance of internal environment of the body. Water help regulating homeostasis.

Water is polar. It can form H-bond. It solvates some ions/biomolecules and affects 3-D structure e.g. protein folding. Water is a good solvent in our body. Water go into cells via aquaporin at cell membrane.

The body must maintain its pH (7.4) by using buffer system. Buffer composed of weak acid and its salt. Its mechanism is chemical equilibrium.

Important buffer systems are phosphate, bicarbonate and proteinate buffer.