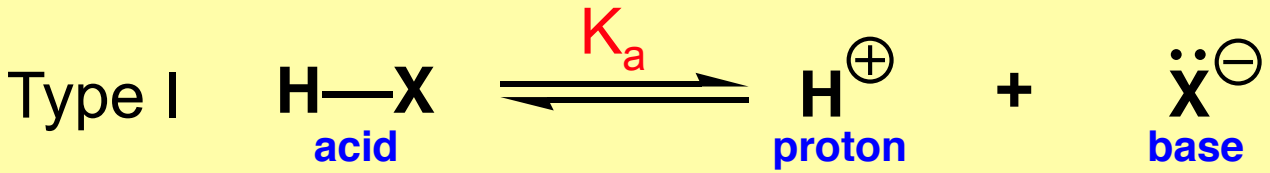
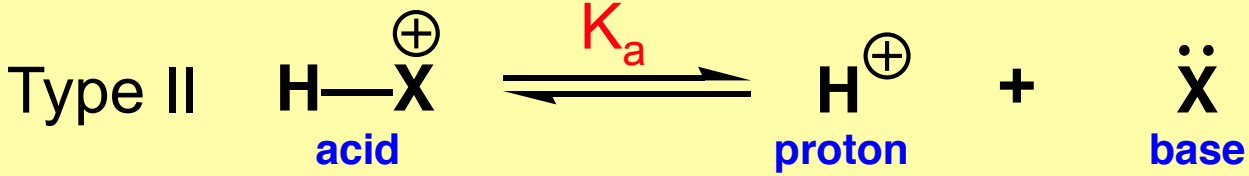
Recognizing Acids and Bases

Acids and bases will be one of two types as illustrated by the two equations below.





Acids:

- Must have a hydrogen atom to donate
- The most acidic hydrogen is often bound to a heteroatom (N, O, S, X)
- In rare (but important!) cases, the acidic hydrogen is bound to carbon
- Will be neutral or positively charged

Bases:

- Must have a lone pair to accept a hydrogen
- Will be neutral or negatively charged