

- Explain why the acidity of hydrogen halides *increases* with increasing halogen size (*i.e.*, $K_a(\text{HCl}) < K_a(\text{HBr}) < K_a(\text{HI})$), while the acidity of hypohalous acids *decreases* with increasing halogen size (*i.e.*, $K_a(\text{HOCl}) > K_a(\text{HOBr}) > K_a(\text{HOI})$).

For the hydrogen halides, the length of the H-X bond increases and hence gets weaker as the halogen gets bigger,. The weaker the bond, the more easily the H⁺ dissociates.

For the hypohalous acids, as the electronegativity of the halide increases, the more electron density it pulls from the O-H bond towards itself. This results in the O-H bond becoming more polar and increasing the ease with which the H⁺ will be lost.