autoprotolysis

A proton (hydron) transfer reaction between two identical molecules (usually a solvent), one acting as a Brønsted acid and the other as a Brønsted base. For example:

\[ 2\text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow \text{H}_3\text{O}^+ + \text{OH}^- \]

Source:
PAC, 1994, 66, 1077 (Glossary of terms used in physical organic chemistry (IUPAC Recommendations 1994)) on page 1087