

Updated: 28 January 2020 [Print version](#)

CEE 680: Water Chemistry

Lecture #4

Isotopes (cont); Kinetics and Thermodynamics: Fundamentals of water and Ionic Strength

(Stumm & Morgan, pp.1-15
Brezonik & Arnold, pg 10-18)
(Benjamin, 1.2, 1.3, 1.5)

Best source for stable isotopes is:
Eby, Chapter 6, especially pg. 181-186

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Stable Water Isotopes

Type	MW	% of total	ppb
¹ H ¹ H ¹⁶ O	18	99.731	997,310,000
¹ H ¹ H ⁸ O	20	0.2000	2,000,000
¹ H ¹ H ¹⁷ O	19	0.03789	378,900
¹ H ² H ¹⁶ O	19	0.03146	314,600
¹ H ² H ⁸ O	21	6.116x10 ⁻⁵	612
¹ H ² H ¹⁷ O	20	1.122x10 ⁻⁵	112
² H ² H ¹⁶ O	20	2.245x10 ⁻⁶	22
² H ² H ⁸ O	22	6x10 ⁻⁹	0.06
² H ² H ¹⁷ O	21	1x10 ⁻⁹	0.01

Based on: Millero & Sohn, 1992 Chemical Oceanography, CRC Press; and Gat, 2010 Isotope Hydrology, Imperial College Press

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Properties of Stable Water Isotopes

Property	$^1\text{H}^1\text{H}^{16}\text{O}$	$^1\text{H}^1\text{H}^{18}\text{O}$	$^1\text{H}^2\text{H}^{16}\text{O}$	$^2\text{H}^2\text{H}^{16}\text{O}$	units
Density @30°C		1.107845	1.04945	1.10323	g/mL
Temp@ d _{max}		4.305		11.24	°C
Boiling Pt		100.14		101.42	°C
Melting Pt		0.28		3.81	°C
Diffusivity in water @25°C		2.66		2.34	$10^3 \text{ cm}^2\text{s}^{-1}$
Relative diffusivity in air	1.0000	0.9723	0.9755		

From: Gat, 2010 [Isotope Hydrology](#), Imperial College Press and references therein

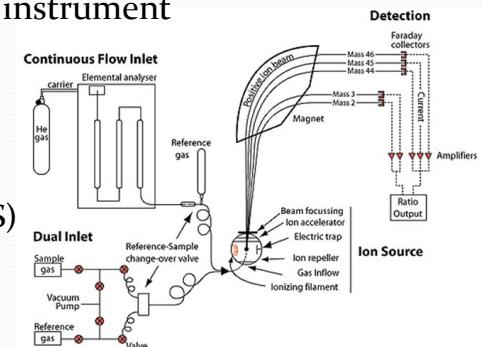
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Measurement

- Requires separation of H from O in water
 - Hydrogen goes to H₂ with help of a hot metal catalyst
 - Oxygen goes to O₂ by hydrolysis or fluorination or to CO₂ by aqueous equilibration
- Then use an isotope ratio instrument
 - Magnetic sector Mass Spectrometer
 - Wavelength-Scanned Cavity Ring Down Spectrometer (WS-CRDS)



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Relative Isotopic Abundance

- Reflects environmental fractionation
 - Helps describe origins, pathways, processes
 - Tracer
- Calculation based on a standard material
 - Uses ratios of abundance; eg:

$$\delta = \left(\frac{R_{sample} - R_{standard}}{R_{standard}} \right) \times 1000$$

- Where: R is the isotopic ratio, e.g., for oxygen

$$R = \left[{}^{18}\text{O} \right] / \left[{}^{16}\text{O} \right]$$

[Fundamentals of Isotope Geochemistry](#)

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Isotopic Standards in %

Ratio	Nominal	V-SMOW	PDB
² H/ ¹ H	0.015	0.015576	
¹³ C/ ¹² C	1.1		1.12375
¹⁸ O/ ¹⁶ O	0.2	0.00052	0.20672



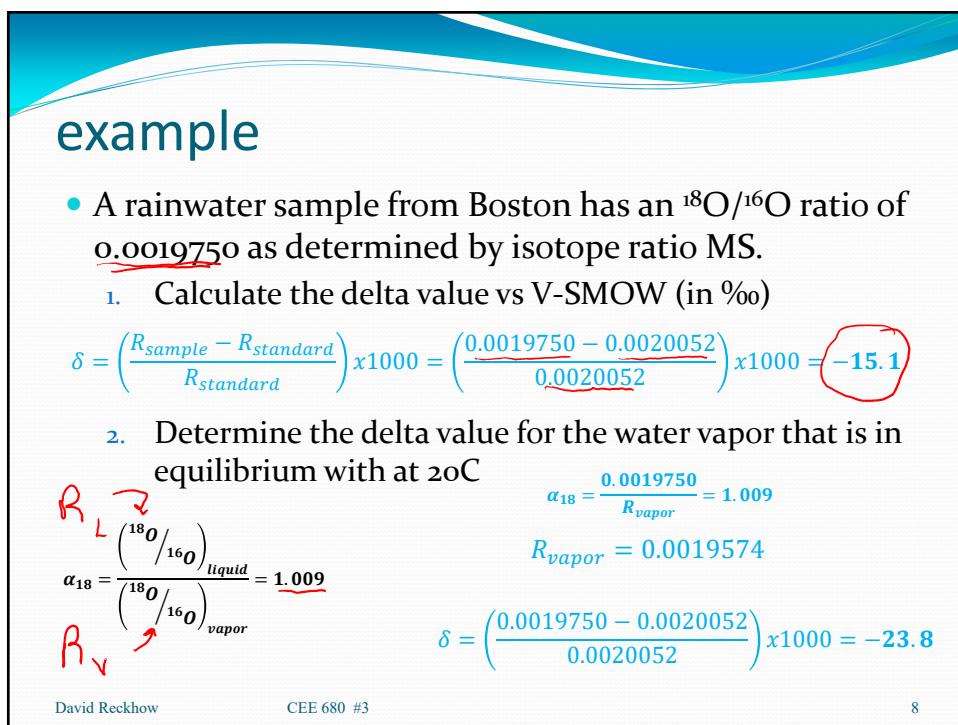
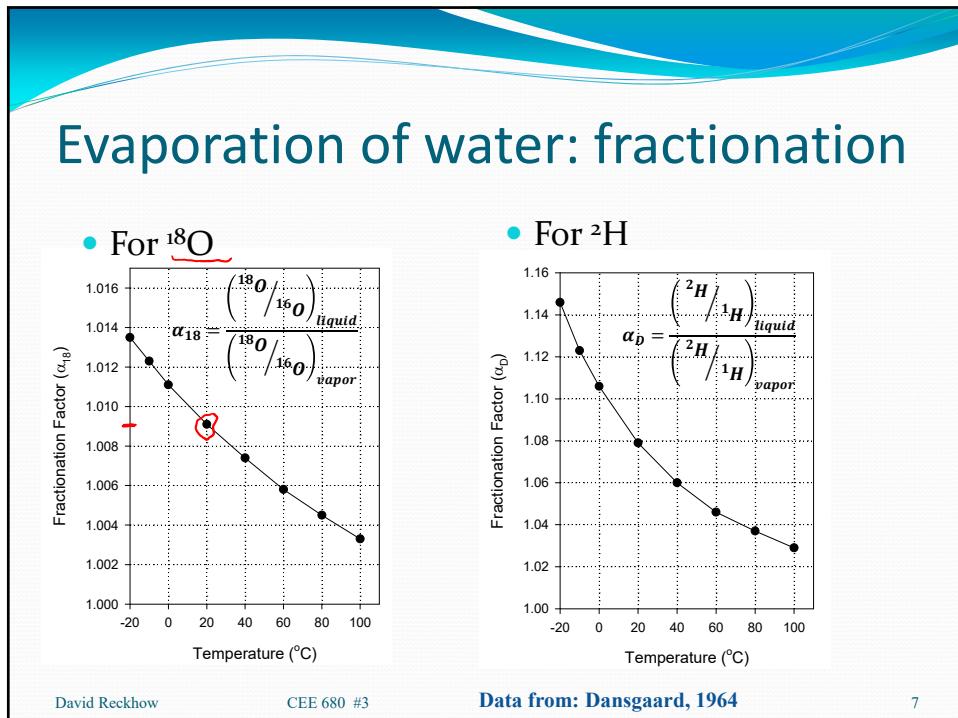
- Key to Standards

- V-SMOW = Vienna Standard Mean Ocean Water
 - established by IAEA in Vienna; blend of ocean waters around globe
- PDB = PeeDee Belemnite (high ¹³C/¹²C ratio)
 - Fossilized cephalopods from the PeeDee River in SC

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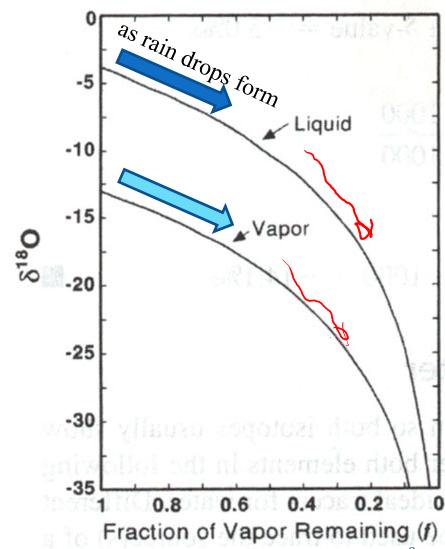
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Vapor washout

- Rayleigh distillation
 - Water vapor is enriched in the light isotopes (^{16}O and ^1H) compared to the water from which it evaporated
 - As rain drops form there is selective loss of the heavier isotopes (^{18}O and ^2H) from the vapor to the rain drops



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Selective enrichment in nature

- Mass-based Effects: Fractionation
 - Evaporation & freezing
 - selective concentration of heavy isotopes
- Bonding Effects
 - plants preferentially take up carbon dioxide containing the lighter carbon isotope ($^{12}\text{C}-\text{CO}_2$) in photosynthesis, but the degree of preference depends on water availability, CO₂ availability and on the photosynthetic pathway
 - C₃ vs C₄ plants (PEP carboxylase)

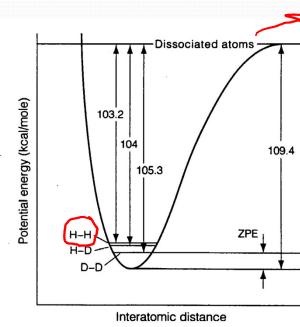


Figure 2.2. The interatomic distance - potential energy relationship for stable hydrogen isotopes of a molecule. Higher zero point energies (ZPE) result in molecules being less stable. Modified from O'Neil (1986).

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Radioactive isotopes for dating

- Radioisotope dating

Radio-isotope	Half-life (years)
^{10}Be	1,360,000
^{36}Cl	301,000
^{81}Kr	229,000
^{14}C	5,730
^{39}Ar	269
^3H	12
^{85}Kr	11

Image from:
<https://www.phy.anl.gov/mep/atta/research/atta.html>

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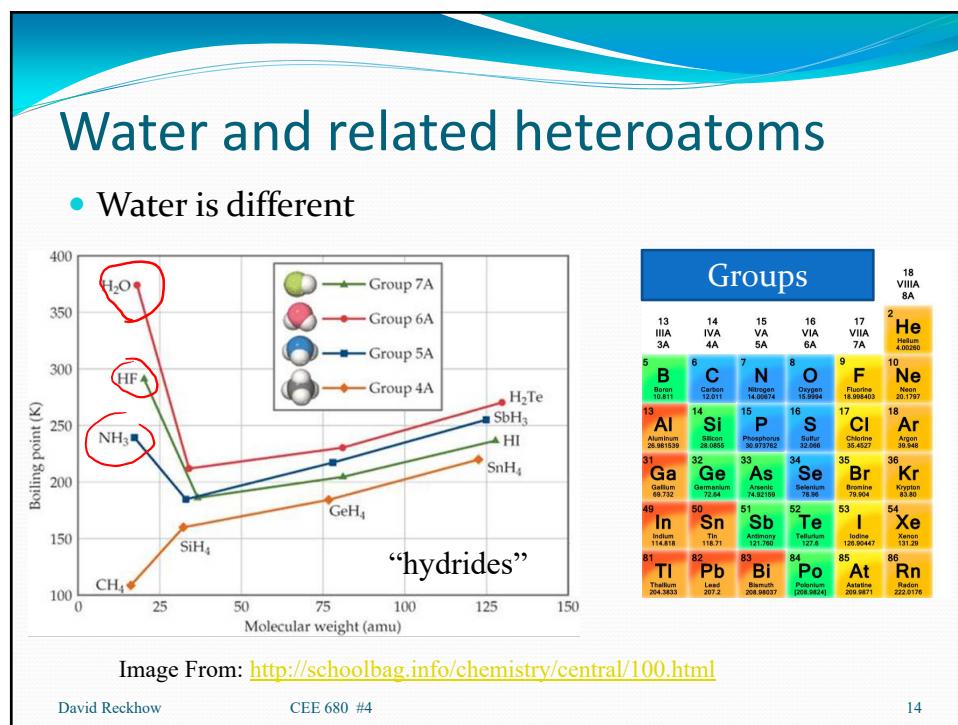
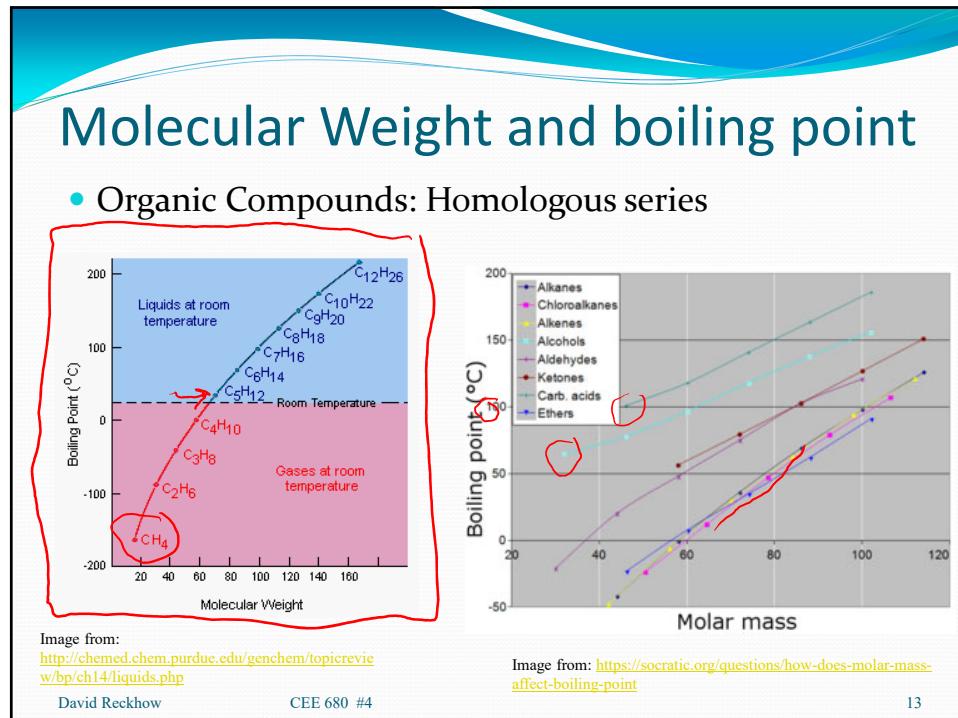
Radioactive tracers

- Carbon-14

Formation of Carbon 14

Image from:
<https://www.skepticalscience.com/print.php?n=3962>

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Water is exceptional

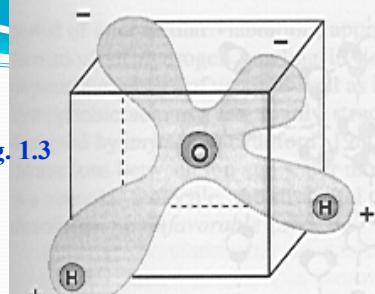
- From Eby, 2016 (Table 1-7)

Property	Comparison to other substances
Heat capacity	Highest of all common liquids (except ammonia) and solids
Latent heat of fusion	Highest of all common liquids (except ammonia) and most solids
Latent heat of vaporization	Highest of all common substances
Dissolving ability	Dissolved more substances (particularly ionic compounds), and in greater quantity than any other common liquid
Transparency	Relatively high for visible light
Physical state	The only substance that occurs naturally in all three states at the earth's surface
Surface tension	Highest of all common liquids
Conduction of heat	Highest of all common liquids (Hg is higher)
Viscosity	Relatively low viscosity for a liquid

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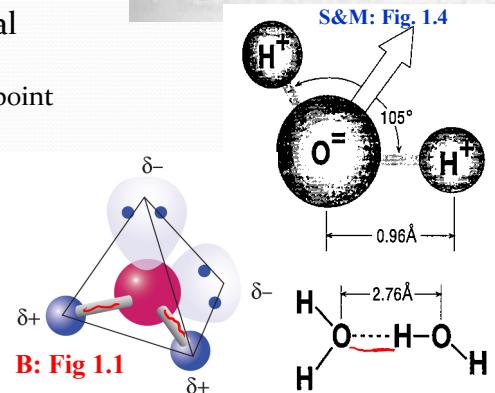
Structure of Water

S&M: Fig. 1.3



- sp³ hybridization
 - 2 bonding and 2 non-bonding orbitals
- Dipolar Character
- Origin of Water's Unusual properties
 - High melting and boiling point
 - High heat of vaporization
 - Expands upon freezing
 - High surface tension
 - Excellent polar solvent

S&M: Fig. 1.4



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Hydrogen bonding

- Dipole nature of water and hydrogen bond formation
 - H_2O H_4O_2 H_6O_3

Images courtesy of Benjamin

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Water's intermolecular structure

- Dominated by Hydrogen Bonds
- Ice
 - Open tetrahedral structure
- Water
 - Flickering cluster model
 - 100 ps lifetime
 - 0.1 ps molecular vibration

Fig. 1.5a Pg. 8

Fig. 1.5b Pg. 8

Clusters

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Freezing and density

- Crystalline structure
 - Lower density than liquid water
- Max density is at 4°C

Figure 1–9
Density of pure water near the freezing point.
From Duxbury (1971).

Figure 1–8
(a) The crystal structure of ice showing the six-sided rings formed by 24 water molecules. (b) The structure of liquid water. In the same volume of liquid water, there are 27 water molecules; hence, liquid water has a greater density than ice. From Gross and Gross (1996).

Oxygen
Hydrogen

0 5 Ångstroms

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Images from Eby, 2016 19

Solutes in Water

- Great solvent for ionic or ionizable substances
- Ion-dipole bonds improves stability
 - Energy increases with charge of ion and decreases with size
 - Solvent hole model
 - As solute-water bonding strength compared to water-water bond strength goes up
 - Hydrophilic solute
 - Weak solute-water bonds reduce solubility
 - Hydrophobic solutes

S&M: Fig. 1.6

B: Fig 1.3

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Periodic Table

The table includes the following information for each element:

- Element Symbol**: The standard symbol for the element.
- Atomic Number, Z**: The atomic number of the element.
- Atomic Molar mass (g/mol)**: The atomic molar mass of the element.
- Electronegativity**: The Pauling scale value for the element's electronegativity.
- Valence Configuration**: The electron configuration for the outermost shell.
- Element Name**: The full name of the element.
- n.a.**: Not applicable or not available.

Elements are grouped by group and period, with some elements highlighted in blue (e.g., Hydrogen, Helium, Fluorine, Oxygen, Nitrogen, Carbon, Boron, Silicon, Phosphorus, Sulfur, Chlorine, Arsenic, Germanium, Tin, Lead, Bismuth, Tellurium, Polonium, Radium, Uranium, Thorium, Neptunium, Plutonium, Americium, Curium, Berkelium, Cm, Cf, Es, Md, No).

“680 Periodic Table”

This table highlights common elements used in environmental engineering:

H 4.5 H_2O -1.74 -1.74													He 8.8
Li 6.3 Li^+ 4.6	Be 7.0 $\text{BeOH}^+ (?)$ 9.2	B 4.9 H_3BO_4 3.39	C 4.9 HCO_3^- 2.64	N 6.3 $\text{N}_2, \text{NO}_3^-$ 1.97	O 4.5 $\text{H}_2\text{O}, \text{O}_2$ -1.74 -1.74	F 5.7 F^-, MgF^+ 4.17 5.3	Ne 8.15						
Na 7.7 Na^+ 0.33 3.57	Mg 7 $\text{Mg}^{+2}, \text{MgSO}_4$ 1.27 3.77	Al 2 Al(OH)_4^- 7.1	Si 3.8 H_4SiO_4 4.15 3.8	P 4 HPO_4^{2-} 5.3	S 6.9 $\text{SO}_4^{2-}, \text{NaSO}_4$ 1.55 3.92	Cl 7.9 Cl^- 0.26 3.66	Ar 6.96						
K 6.7 K^+ 1.99 4.23	Ca 5.9 $\text{Ca}^{+2}, \text{CaSO}_4$ 1.99 3.42	As 4 HAsO_4^{2-} 7.3	Se 4 SeO_3^{2-} 8.6	Br 8 Br^- 3.08	Kr 8.6								
Sr 6.6 Sr^{+2} 4.05	Ba 4.5 Ba^{+2} 6.8	Ocean residence time (log yr)	Predominant species	River Water conc. (-log M)	Seawater conc. (-log M)	I 6 $\text{I}^-, \text{IO}_3^-$ 6.3							

Annotations for the bottom row:

- Ocean residence time (log yr)
- Predominant species
- River Water conc. (-log M)
- Seawater conc. (-log M)

Source: David Reckhow, CEE 680 #4, After S&M:Fig. 1.7, Pg. 10

Law of Mass Action

- The rate of an elementary reaction is proportional to the product of the concentrations of the participating molecules, atoms or ions
- Chemical equilibria comes from the combination of two competing rates
 - Consider the autodecomposition of water



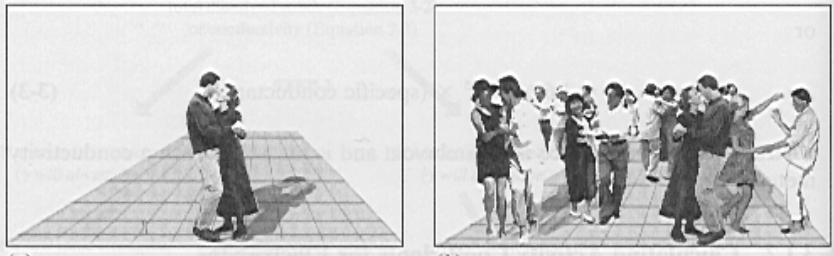
- Other examples
 - acid dissociation, Precipitation, Redox, Adsorption, volatilization

Activity

- Activity is the “effective” concentration or “reactivity”, which may be slightly different from the true “analytical” concentration
 - These two differ substantially in waters with high TDS, such as sea water.
- We identify these two as follows:
 - Curved brackets ($\{X\}$) indicate activity
 - Square brackets ($[X]$) indicate concentration
 - Usually this is molar concentration
 - This may also be used when we’re not very concerned about the differences between activity and concentration

Why the difference?

- Mostly long-range interactions between uninterested bystanders (chemical species that are not involved in the reaction) and the two dancers of interest (those species that are reacting)



- Relative importance in determining activity
 - Concentration >> charge > polarity > MW

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Activity & Ionic Strength

- Equilibrium quotients are really written for activities, not concentrations
- in most natural waters activities are nearly equal to the molar concentrations
- In saline waters, we must account for differences between the two
 - activity coefficients (f or γ) are used for this
 - Ionic Strength (I) is used to determine the extent of correction

$$K = \frac{\{C\}^c \{D\}^d}{\{A\}^a \{B\}^b}$$

$$\{A\} \approx [A]$$

$$\begin{aligned}\{A\} &= f_A [A] \\ \{A\} &= \gamma_A [A]\end{aligned}$$

$$I = \frac{1}{2} \sum m_i z_i^2$$

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Correlations for ionic strength

- $\bar{\mu}$ vs. specific conductance: Russell Approximation
 - $\bar{\mu} = 1.6 \times 10^{-5} \times K$ (in $\mu\text{mho}/\text{cm}$)
- μ vs. TDS: Langlier approximation
 - $\mu \sim 2.5 \times 10^{-5} \times \text{TDS}$ (in mg/L)



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Equilibrium Constants

- Consider a simple acid/base reaction
 - $\text{HA} = \text{H}^+ + \text{A}^-$
- The activity-based constant is:
- The concentration-based constant is:
- And a mixed constant would be:

$$K = \frac{\{H^+\}\{A^-\}}{\{HA\}} = \frac{[H^+] \gamma_{H^+} [A^-] \gamma_{A^-}}{[HA] \gamma_{HA}}$$

$$= \left(\frac{[H^+] [A^-]}{[HA]} \right) \left(\frac{\gamma_{H^+} \gamma_{A^-}}{\gamma_{HA}} \right)$$

$$^c K = K \left(\frac{\gamma_{HA}}{\gamma_{H^+} \gamma_{A^-}} \right) = \left(\frac{[H^+] [A^-]}{[HA]} \right)$$

$$K' = K \left(\frac{\gamma_{HA}}{\gamma_{A^-}} \right) = \left(\frac{\{H^+\}\{A^-\}}{[HA]} \right)$$

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$f \approx \gamma$

Corrections to Ion Activity

Approximation	Equation	Applicable Range for I
Simple Debye-Hückel	$\log f = -0.5z^2\sqrt{I}$	$< 10^{-2.3}$
Extended Debye-Hückel	$\log f = -0.5z^2 \frac{\sqrt{I}}{1 + 0.33a\sqrt{I}}$	$< 10^{-1}$
Güntelberg	$\log f = -0.5z^2 \frac{\sqrt{I}}{1 + \sqrt{I}}$	$< 10^{-1}$, solutions of multiple electrolytes
Davies	$\log f = -0.5z^2 \left(\frac{\sqrt{I}}{1 + \sqrt{I}} - 0.2I \right)$	< 0.5

Based on: S&M, Table 3.3; B, Table 1.4a

note: Mihelcic cites 0.3

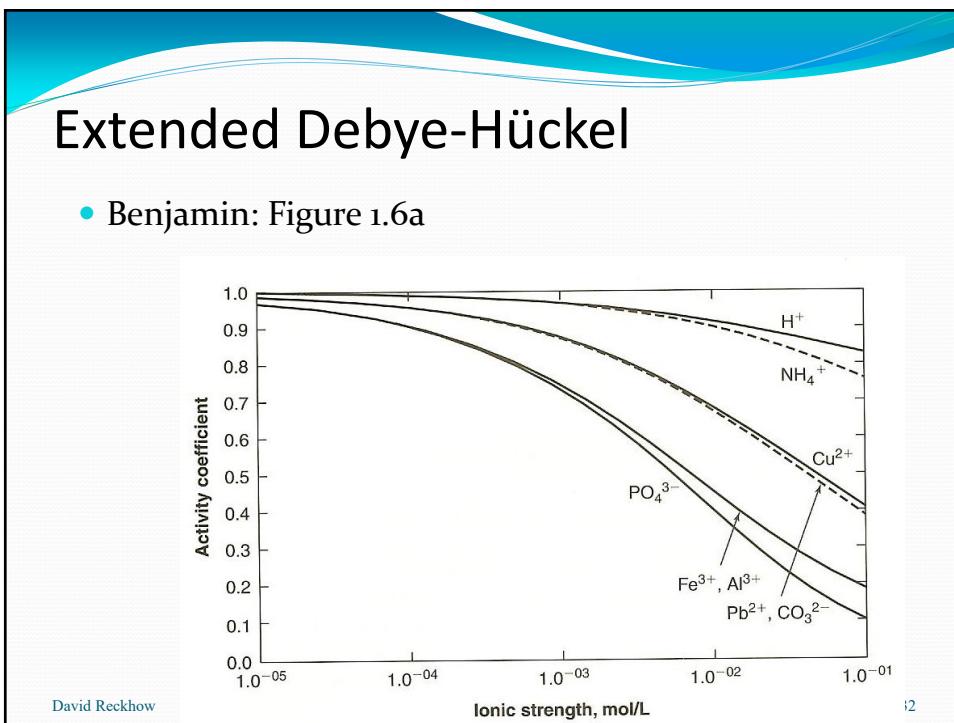
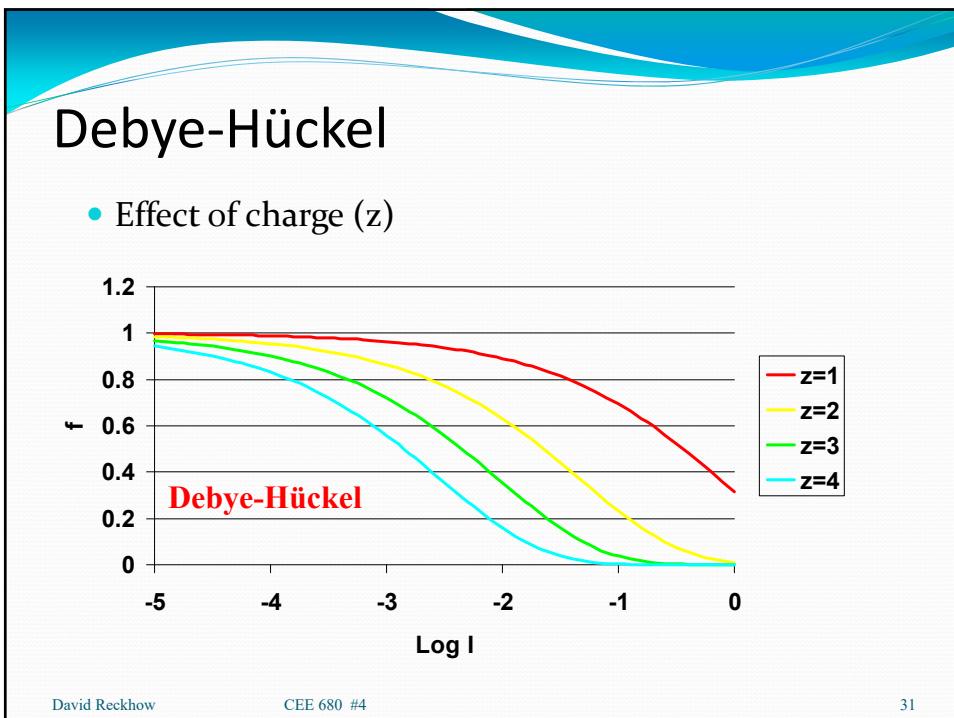
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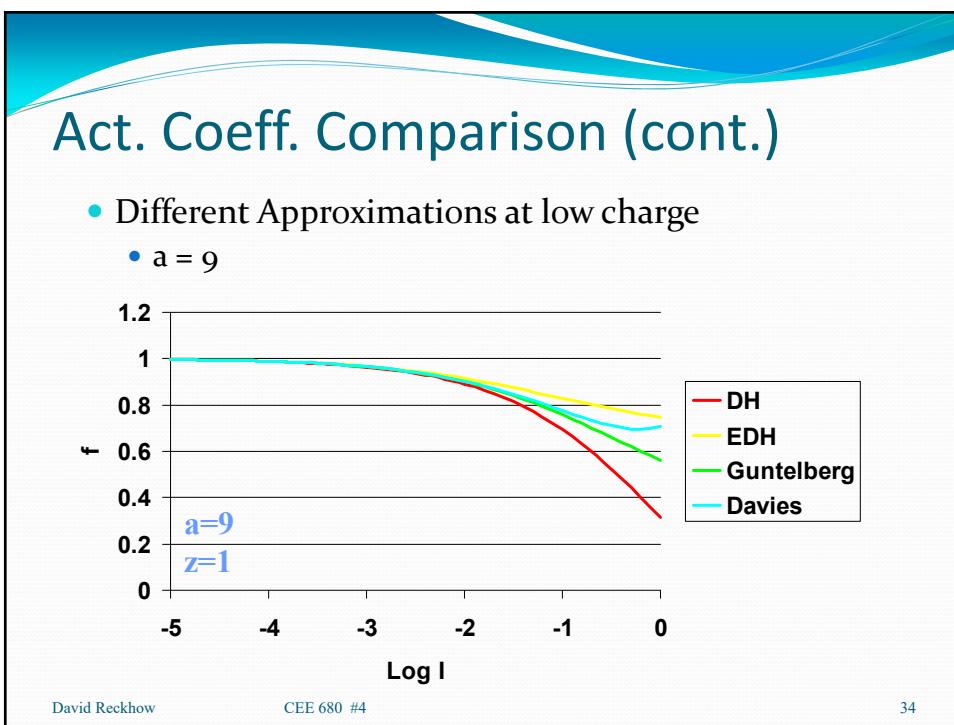
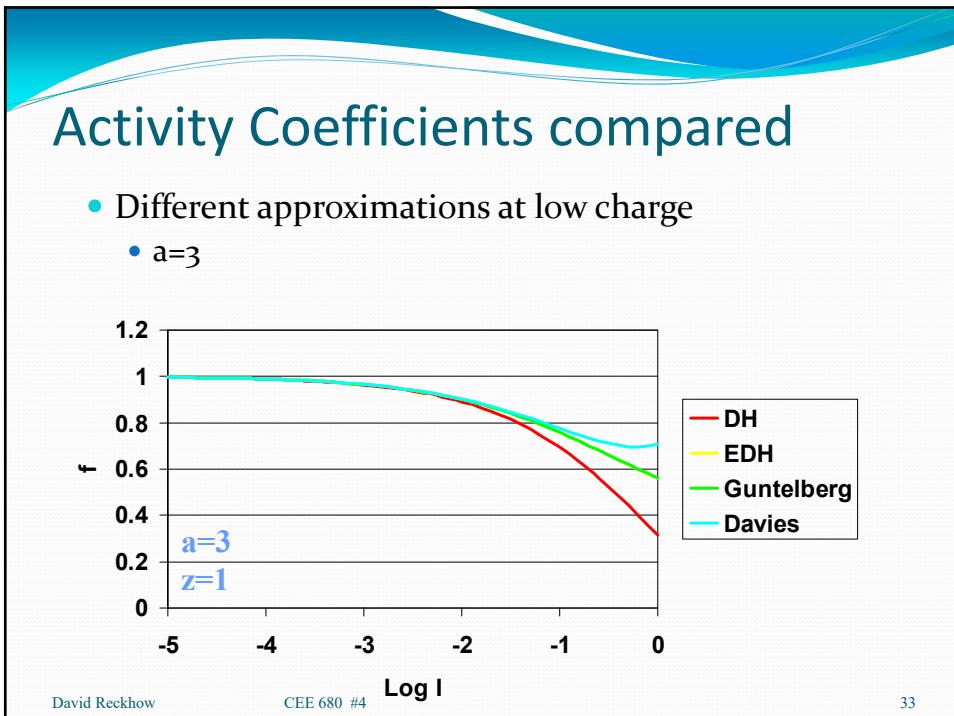
Ion Size Parameter

Ion Size Parameter, a (\AA)	Ions
9	H^+
8	$\text{Al}^{+3}, \text{Fe}^{+3}$
6	Mg^{+2}
5	$\text{Ca}^{+2}, \text{Zn}^{+2}, \text{Cu}^{+2}, \text{Sn}^{+2}, \text{Mn}^{+2}, \text{Fe}^{+2}$
4	$\text{Na}^+, \text{HCO}_3^-, \text{H}_2\text{PO}_4^-, \text{CH}_3\text{COO}^-, \text{SO}_4^{2-}, \text{HPO}_4^{2-}, \text{PO}_4^{3-}$
3	$\text{K}^+, \text{Ag}^+, \text{NH}_4^+, \text{OH}^-, \text{Cl}^-, \text{ClO}_4^-, \text{NO}_3^-, \text{I}^-, \text{HS}^-$

See also: B, Table 1.4b

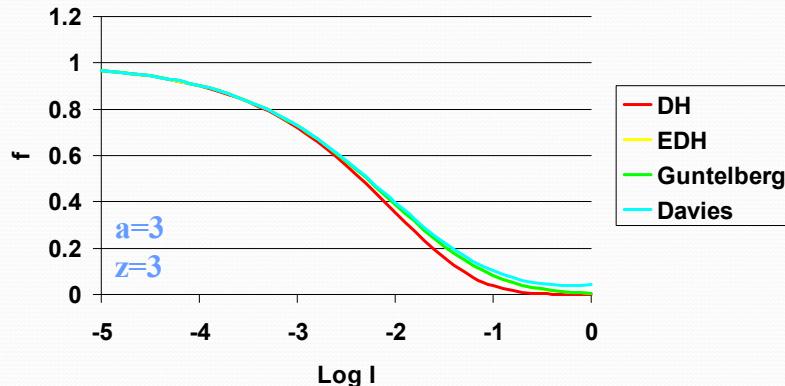
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Act. Coeff. Comparison (cont.)

- Different Approximations at high charge



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Calculation

- What is the activity coefficient for ferric iron in a solution of 0.1 M NaCl?

- Solution

- Use Extended Debye-Hückel

$$\log f = -0.5z^2 \frac{\sqrt{I}}{1 + 0.33a\sqrt{I}}$$

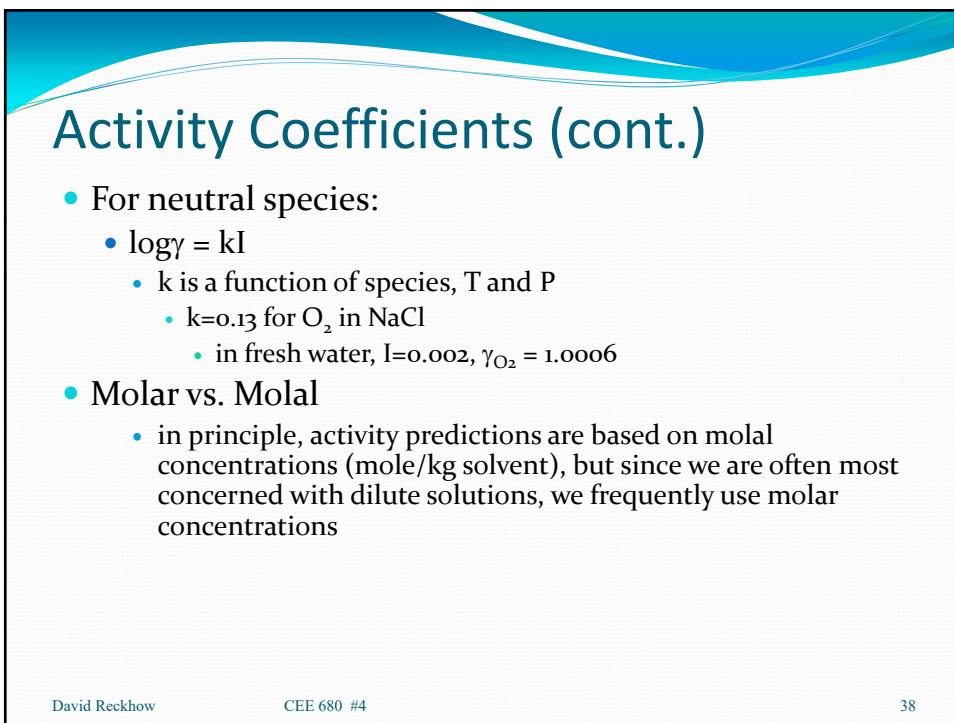
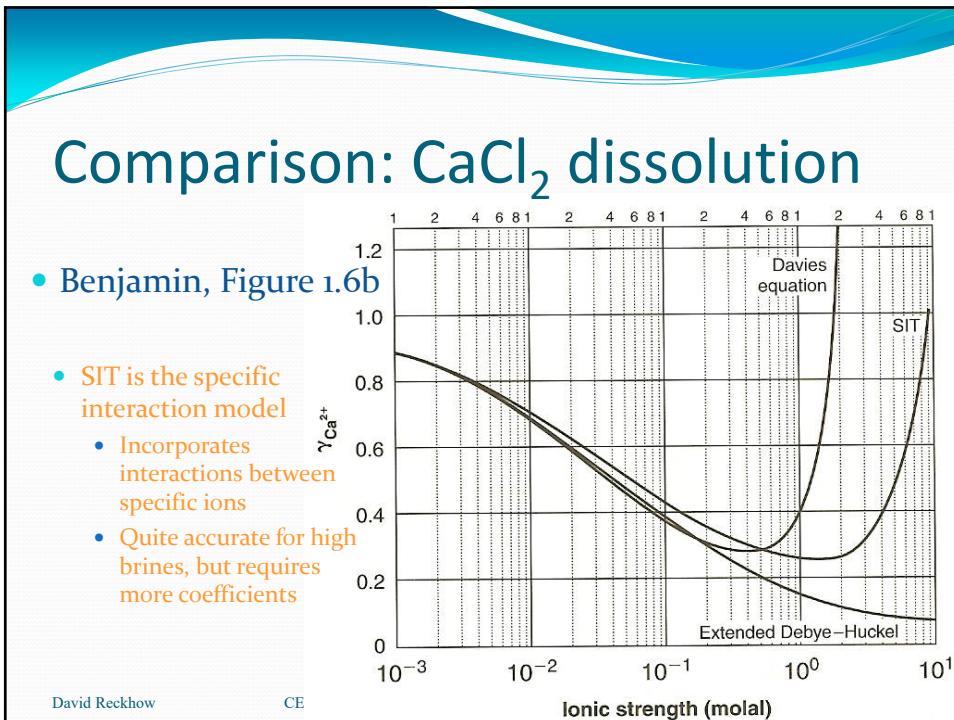
- Determine value of "a" and "I"

$$\log f = 0.776 \quad a = 8 \\ I = 0.1 \quad f = 0.168$$

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Salting out Coefficients

Compound	k_s (L/mole)	Reference
Tetrachloroethene	0.213	Gossett, 1987
Trichloroethene	0.186	Gossett, 1987
1,1,1-Trichloroethane	0.193	Gossett, 1987
1,1-Dichloroethane	0.145	Gossett, 1987
Chloroform	0.140	Gossett, 1987
Dichloromethane	0.107	Gossett, 1987
Benzene	0.195	Schwarzenbach et al., 1993
Toluene	0.208	Schwarzenbach et al., 1993
Naphthalene	0.220	Schwarzenbach et al., 1993
Oxygen	0.132	Snoeyink & Jenkins, 1980

Activity for isotopes

- Most subtle of the effects
- For saline waters (chloride is counterion)

- Deuterium

$$\ln \frac{\gamma(\text{D}_2\text{H}\text{H}^{16}\text{O})}{\gamma(\text{H}_2\text{H}\text{H}^{16}\text{O})} = 0.0022(\text{Na}^+) + 0.0025(\text{K}^+)$$

$$+ 0.0051(\text{Mg}^{+2}) + 0.0061(\text{Ca}^{+2})$$

- Oxygen-18

$$\ln \frac{\gamma(\text{H}_2\text{H}\text{O}^{18})}{\gamma(\text{H}_2\text{H}\text{H}^{16}\text{O})} = 0.0016(\text{K}^+) - 0.0111(\text{Mg}^{+2})$$

$$- 0.0047(\text{Ca}^{+2})$$

- Where () represents the molal concentration (moles/Kg-water)

- [To next lecture](#)