

Updated: 11 March 2020 [Print version](#)


# CEE 680: Water Chemistry

Lecture #29  
**Complexation:** Speciation in Fresh Waters  
(Stumm & Morgan, Chapt.6: pg.289-305)  
**Benjamin; Chapter 8.1-8.6**

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## Cadmium

- Batteries & electroplating
- Very high ratio of abundance to toxicity
  - Like Pb, Hg, As
- EPA Standards
  - 0.005 µg/L in drinking water
  - Concern over kidney damage

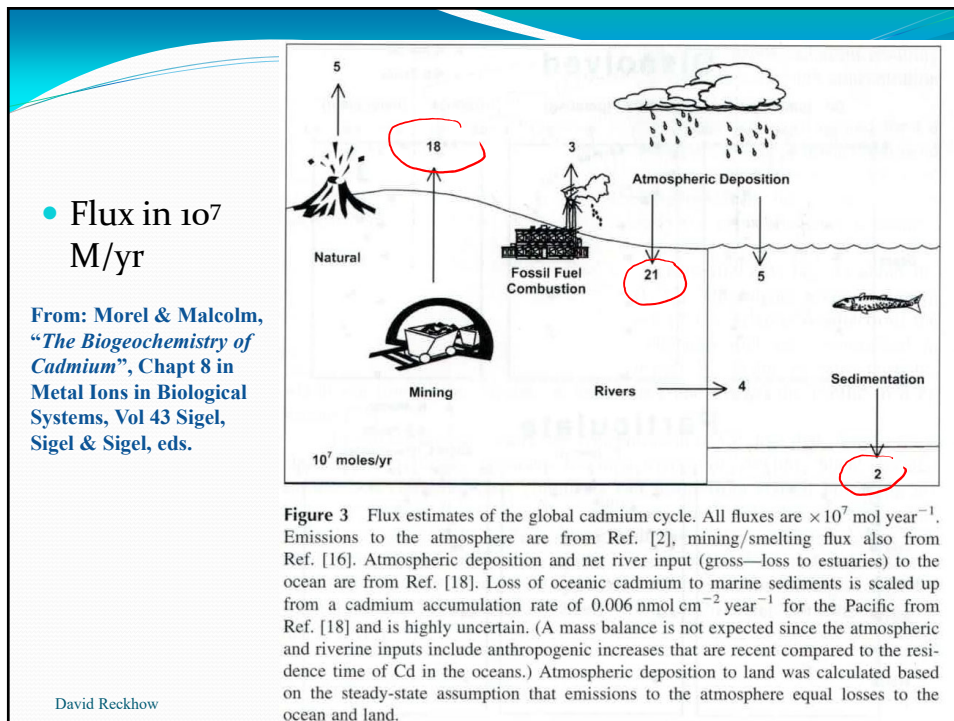
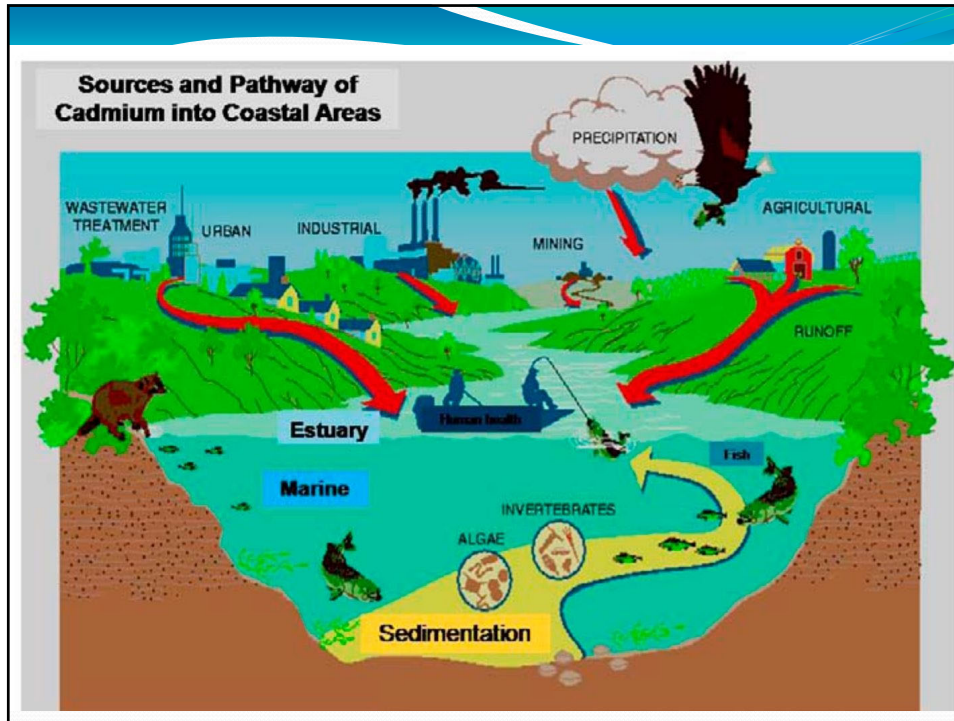


Click [here](#) for more on Cd

Cadmium is of no use to the human body and is toxic even at low levels. The negative effects of cadmium on the body are numerous and can impact nearly all systems in the body, including cardiovascular, reproductive, the kidneys, eyes, and even the brain.

- Cadmium affects blood pressure.
- Cadmium affects prostate function and testosterone levels.
- Cadmium induces bone damage (Itai-itai).
- Exposure to cadmium can affect renal and dopaminergic systems in children.

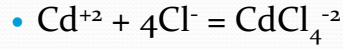
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## CdCl Example

- Consider the speciation of cadmium and chloride

- First the four beta's



- Now plot the alpha curves

### β-value

21 ←

166 ←

204 ←

71.5 ←

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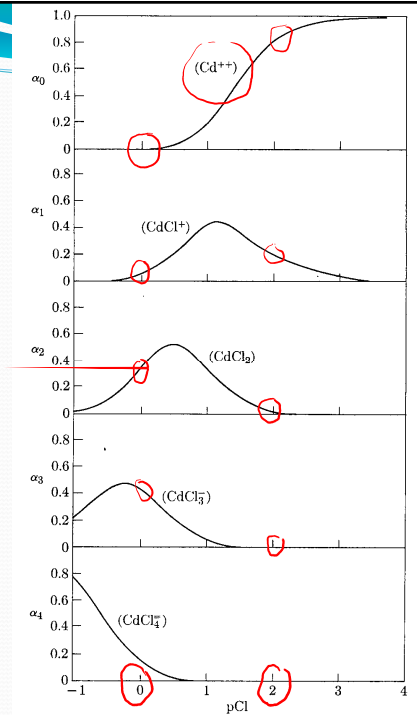
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## Cadmium Chloride

From: Butler, 1964; pg.268

Reproduced in Langmuir, 1997; pg.96

Similar to: Butler, 1998; pg.241



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## CdCl Example

- Calculate the concentration of all species for the following solution
  - 0.01 M  $\text{Cd}(\text{NO}_3)_2 + 1 \text{ M HCl}$
- Use the equilibrium equations

$$\alpha_0 \equiv \frac{[M]}{C_M} = (1 + \beta_1[L] + \beta_2[L]^2 + \dots + \beta_n[L]^n)^{-1}$$

$$\alpha_n \equiv \frac{[ML_n]}{C_M} = \alpha_0 \beta_n [L]^n$$

- But what do you use for [L]?

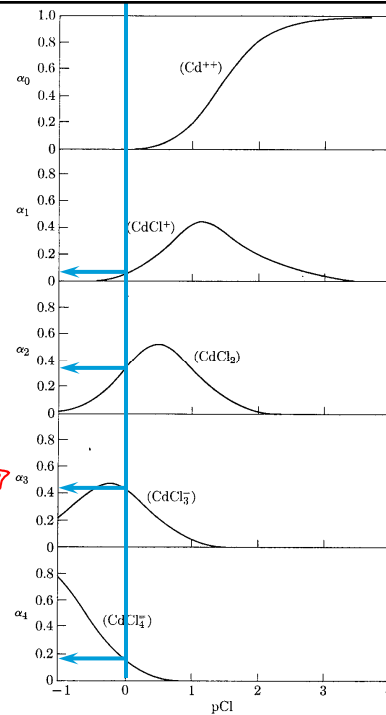
## Cadmium Chloride

$$\sum \alpha_n = 1$$

From: Butler, 1964; pg.268

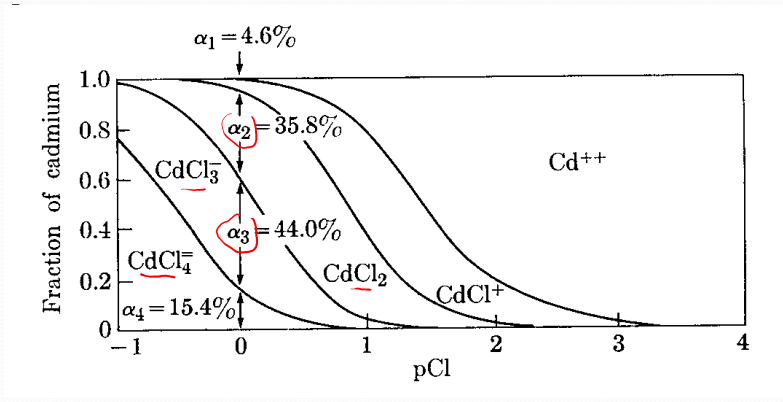
Reproduced in Langmuir, 1997; pg.96

Similar to: Butler, 1998; pg.241





### Cadmium Chloride (cont.)

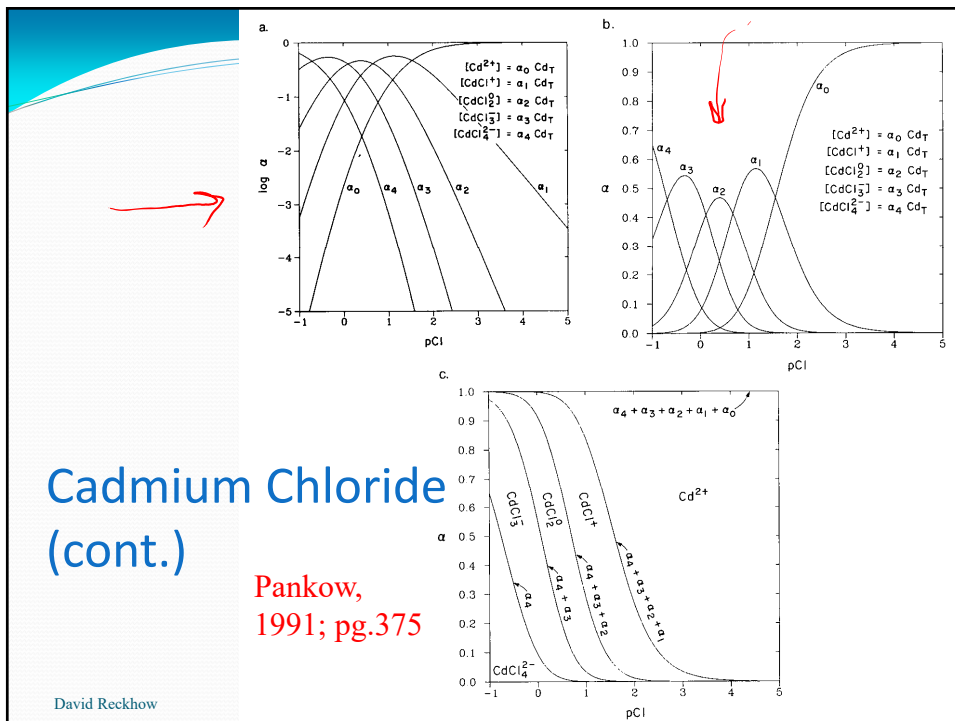


Butler, 1964; pg.269

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### Cadmium Chloride (cont.)

Pankow, 1991; pg.375

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## Ligand Number

- Definition
  - The average number of bound ligands per atom of metal
- Significance
  - Defines Mixture
  - Can be analytically determined
    - Used to evaluate  $\beta$ 's
  - Can be calculated via 2 independent ways and used to solve problems, if you know the free ligand concentration
    - Mass balance equations
    - Equilibrium equations
  - Thus, we have 2 independent equations and two unknowns (free L, and  $\bar{n}$ ), so we can solve

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## Determination of Ligand #

- Equilibrium constant approach

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{n} &= \frac{[ML] + 2[ML_2] + 3[ML_3] + \dots + n[ML_n]}{C_M} \\ &= \frac{[ML]}{C_M} + 2 \frac{[ML_2]}{C_M} + 3 \frac{[ML_3]}{C_M} + \dots + n \frac{[ML_n]}{C_M} \\ &= \alpha_1 + 2\alpha_2 + 3\alpha_3 + \dots + n\alpha_n \end{aligned}$$

- And substituting in for the  $\alpha$ 's

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{n} &= \alpha_0 \beta_1 [L] + 2\alpha_0 \beta_2 [L]^2 + 3\alpha_0 \beta_3 [L]^3 + \dots + n\alpha_0 \beta_n [L]^n \\ &= \alpha_0 (\beta_1 [L] + 2\beta_2 [L]^2 + 3\beta_3 [L]^3 + \dots + n\beta_n [L]^n) \end{aligned}$$

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## Determination of ligand #

- Mass balance approach

- $C_M = [M] + [ML] + [ML_2] + [ML_3] + \dots + [ML_n]$
- $C_L = [L] + [ML] + 2[ML_2] + 3[ML_3] + \dots + n[ML_n]$

$$\bar{n} \equiv \frac{[ML] + 2[ML_2] + 3[ML_3] + \dots + n[ML_n]}{C_M}$$

$$= \frac{C_L - [L]}{C_M}$$

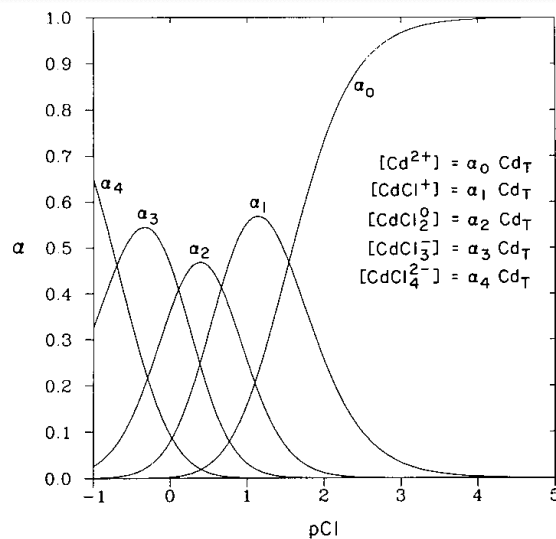
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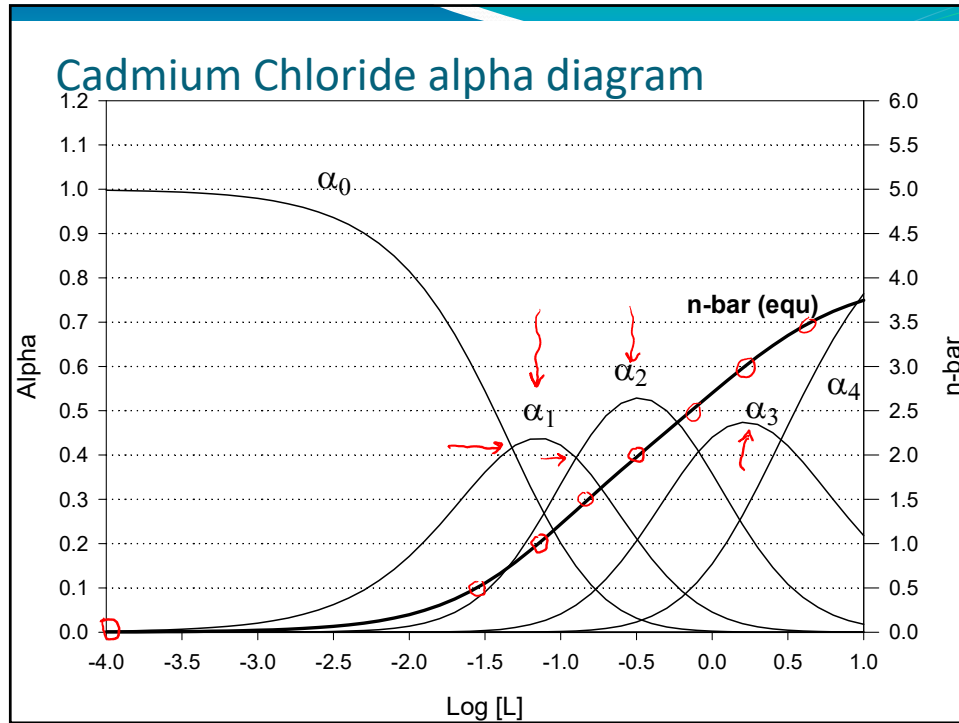
## Take alpha diagram

- For  $CdCl_x$
- Next add n-bar curves
  - One based on equilibria
  - Other based on mass balances



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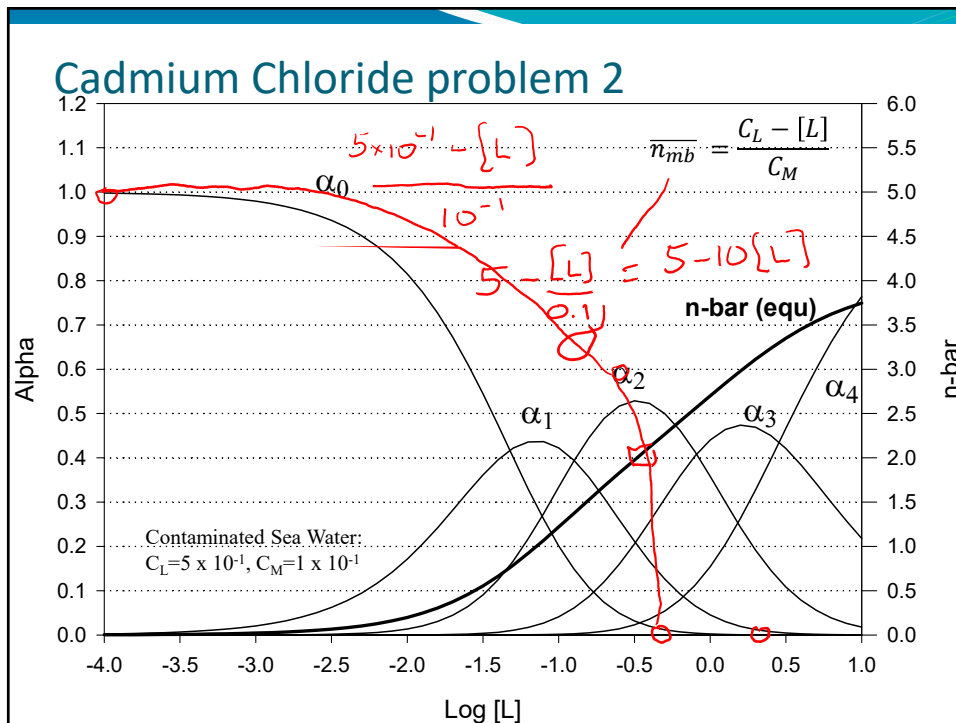
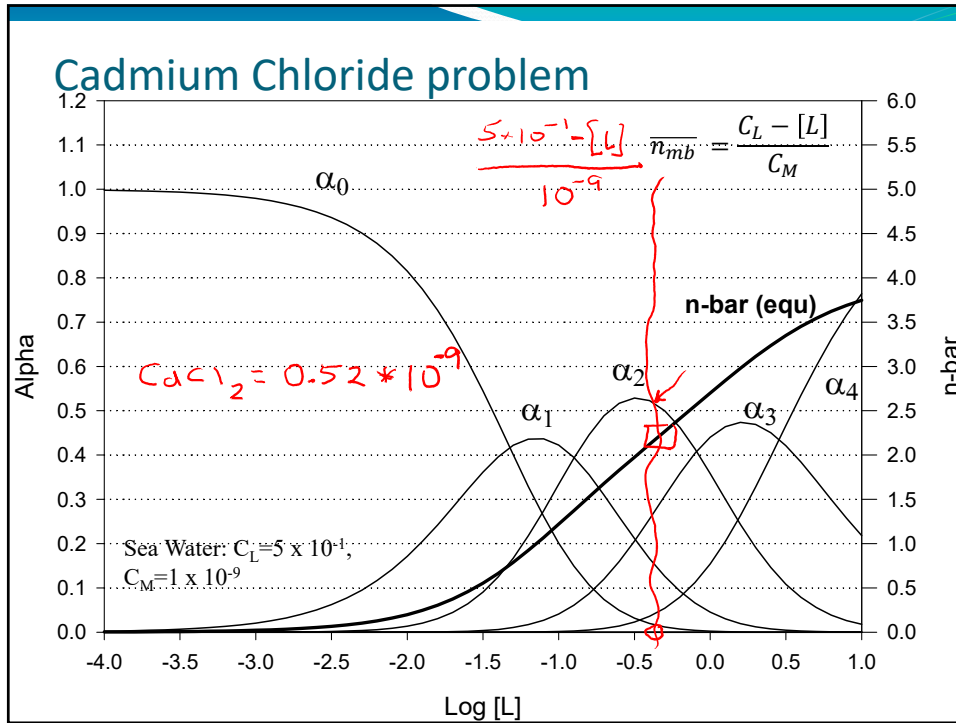


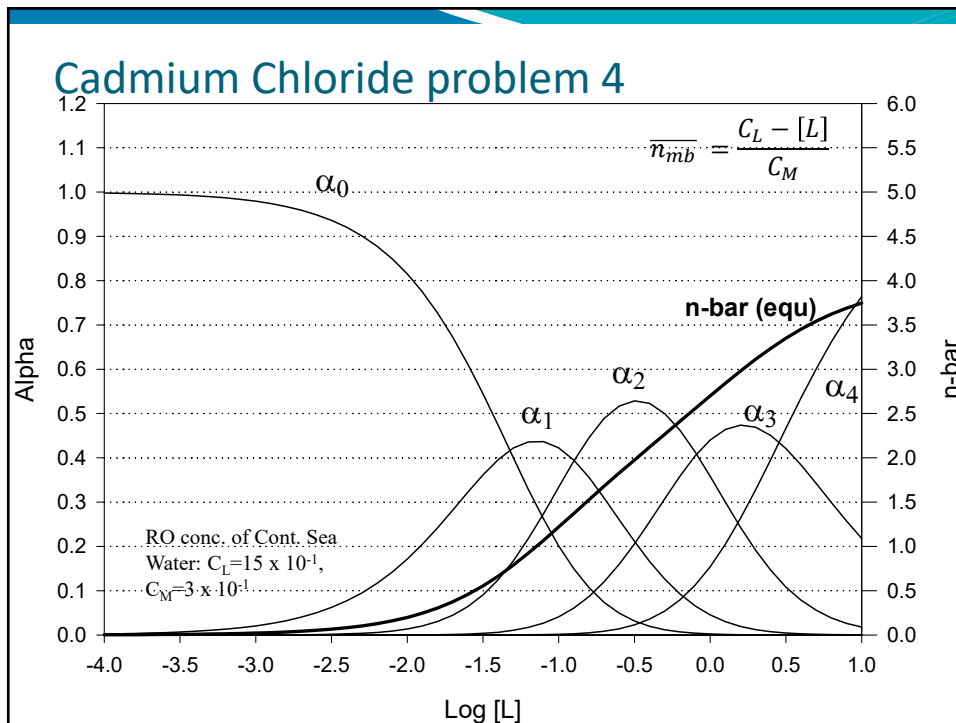
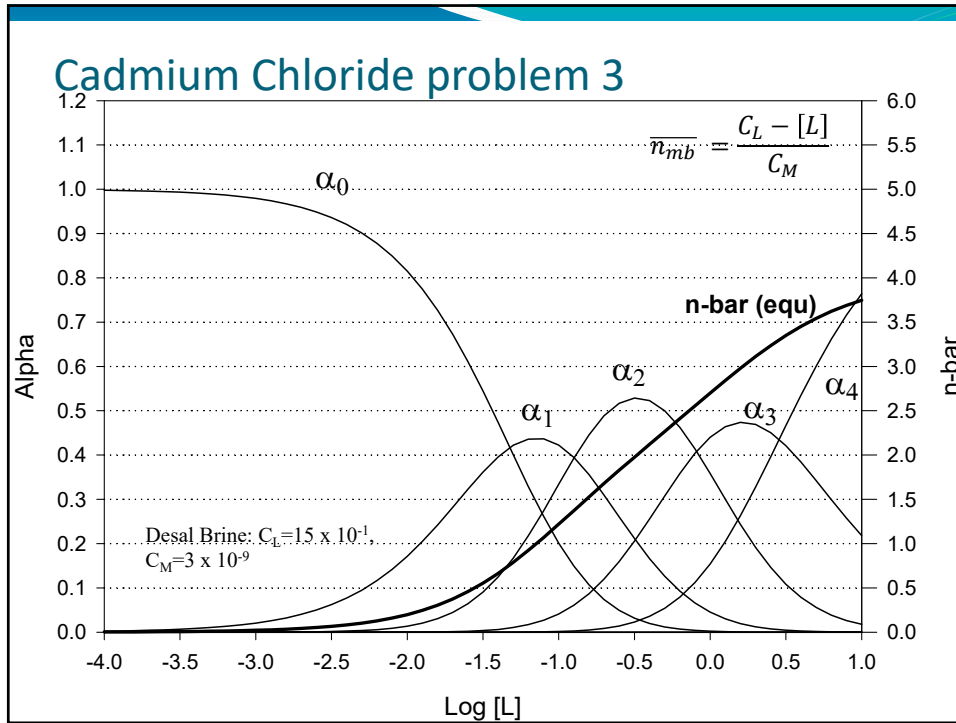
## In-Class Problems

- Class problems with  $\text{CdCl}_x$ 
  - Sea Water:  $C_L=5 \times 10^{-1}$ ,  $C_M=1 \times 10^{-9}$
  - Contaminated Sea Water:  $C_L=5 \times 10^{-1}$ ,  $C_M=1 \times 10^{-1}$
  - Desal Brine:  $C_L=15 \times 10^{-1}$ ,  $C_M=3 \times 10^{-9}$
  - RO conc. of Cont. Sea Water:  $C_L=15 \times 10^{-1}$ ,  $C_M=3 \times 10^{-1}$

$$\bar{n}_{mb} = \frac{C_L - [L]}{C_M}$$



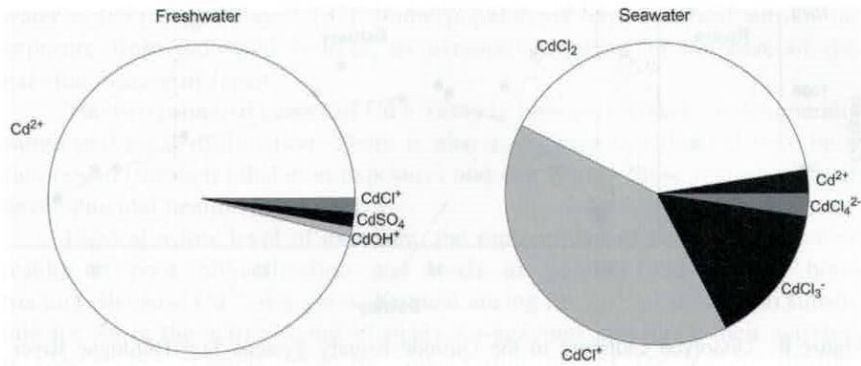




## Speciation in Natural Waters

- Mostly Cl complexes in sea water

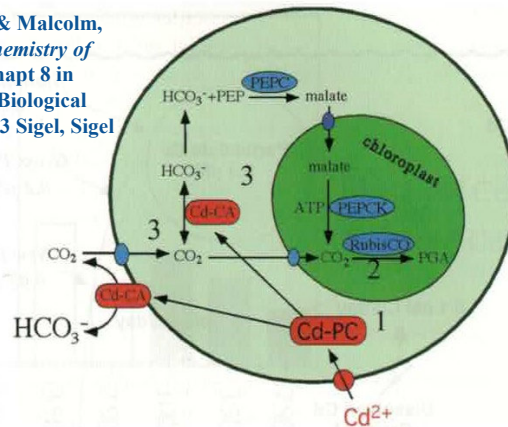
From: Morel & Malcolm, "The Biogeochemistry of Cadmium", Chapt 8 in Metal Ions in Biological Systems, Vol 43 Sigel, Sigel & Sigel, eds.



**Figure 6** Predicted major chemical species of cadmium in typical freshwater and seawater.

## Cellular metabolism of Cd

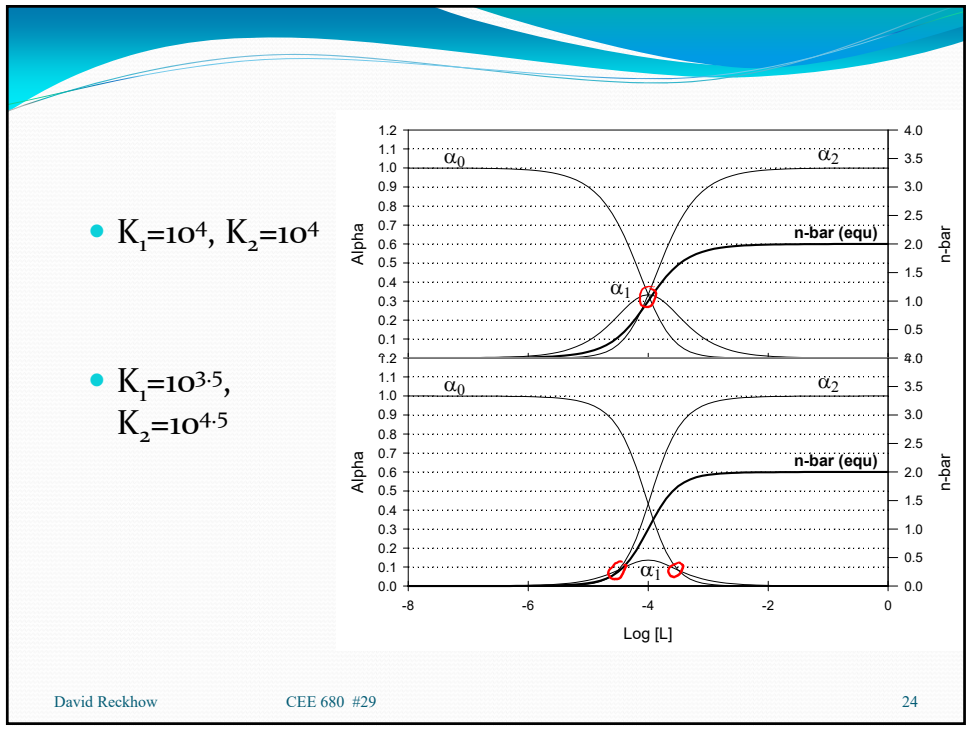
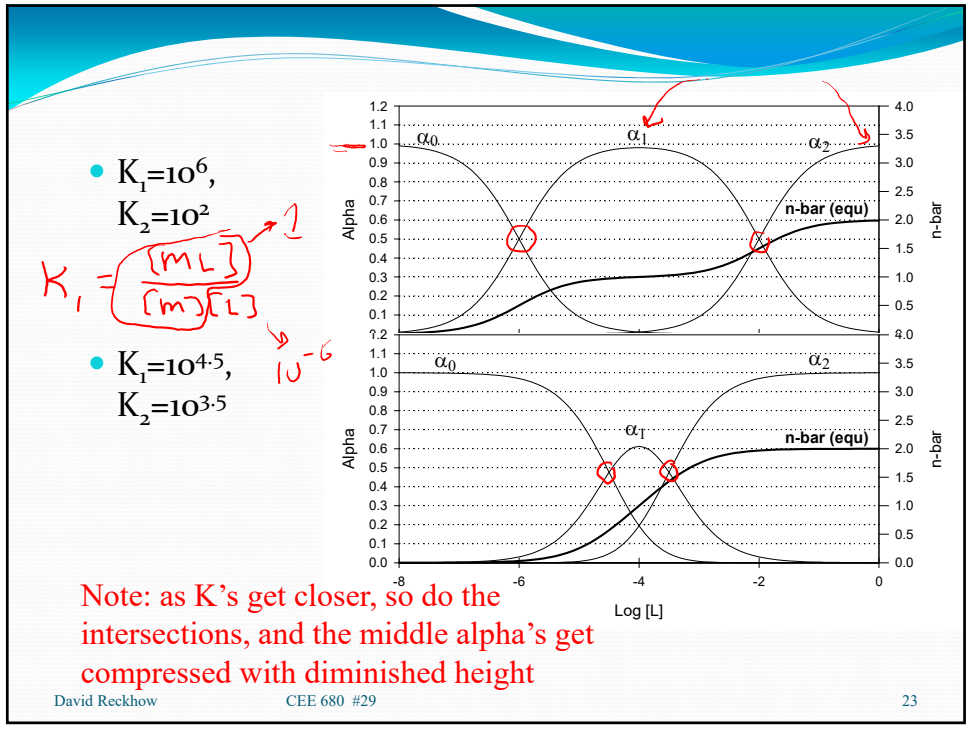
From: Morel & Malcolm, "The Biogeochemistry of Cadmium", Chapt 8 in Metal Ions in Biological Systems, Vol 43 Sigel, Sigel & Sigel, eds.



PCs are phytochelatins; metal binding proteins that help regulate Cd concentrations

**Figure 13** Hypothetical model of cadmium metabolism in a marine diatom showing the buffering of Cd by PC binding and its use in periplasmic and cytoplasmic carbonic anhydrases as part of C<sub>4</sub> metabolism.

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## Features of alpha diagrams

- Intersection point for adjacent curves
  - Occur at:  $\log [L] = pK$ 's
    - E.g., first intersection occurs where:  $\alpha_o = \alpha_1$  which is where:  
 $[M] = [ML]$
    - And in general, intersection of adjacent curves will occur where:  
 $[ML_{(i-1)}] = [ML_{(i)}]$
  - So at these intersection points, the metal terms in the equations for K will cancel each other out and:
 

$$K_i = \frac{[ML_i]}{[ML_{(i-1)}][L]}$$

$$[L] = \frac{1}{K_i}$$

$$\log[L] = pK_i$$

OR

$$K_i = \frac{[ML]}{[M][L]}$$

$$[L] = \frac{1}{K_i}$$

$$\log[L] = pK_i$$

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## Features (cont.)

- An alpha curve will reach its maximum at the point where the preceding alpha and the following alpha intersect (i.e.,  $\alpha_{i-1}$  and  $\alpha_{i+1}$ ),
- Consider the intersection of  $\alpha_{i-1}$  and  $\alpha_{i+1}$ 
  - The two K equations are:
 

$$K_i = \frac{[ML_i]}{[ML_{(i-1)}][L]}$$

$$K_{i+1} = \frac{[ML_{i+1}]}{[ML_{(i)}][L]}$$
  - And their product gives us:
 

$$K_i K_{i+1} = \frac{[ML_{i+1}]}{[ML_{(i-1)}][L]^2}$$
  - Once again, we can cancel metal concentrations to get:
 

$$[L] = \sqrt{\frac{1}{K_i K_{i+1}}}$$

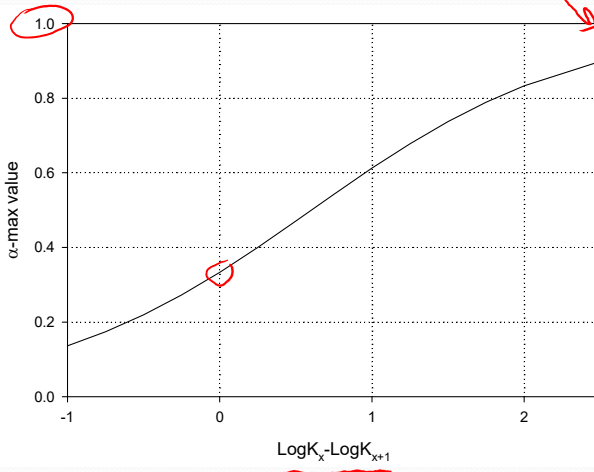
$$\log[L] = 0.5(pK_i + pK_{i+1})$$

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## Height of alpha maximum

- Dependent on difference between  $K_1$  and  $K_2$



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- To next lecture

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