



# SolEq

*Software and tutorials to study*

*Solution Equilibria:*

*-- Principles and Applications --*

Poster presented at the  
IUPAC Congress/General Assembly  
*July 2001*

# Summary

## Created through

a joint venture by:

- IUPAC Comm. V.5
- Academic Software

## Teaches principles of:

- Solution equilibria
- Redox reactions
- Complex formation
- Titrations
- Precipitation



## Demonstrates applications in:

- Environmental chemistry
- Medicinal chemistry
- Industrial chemistry
- Analysis

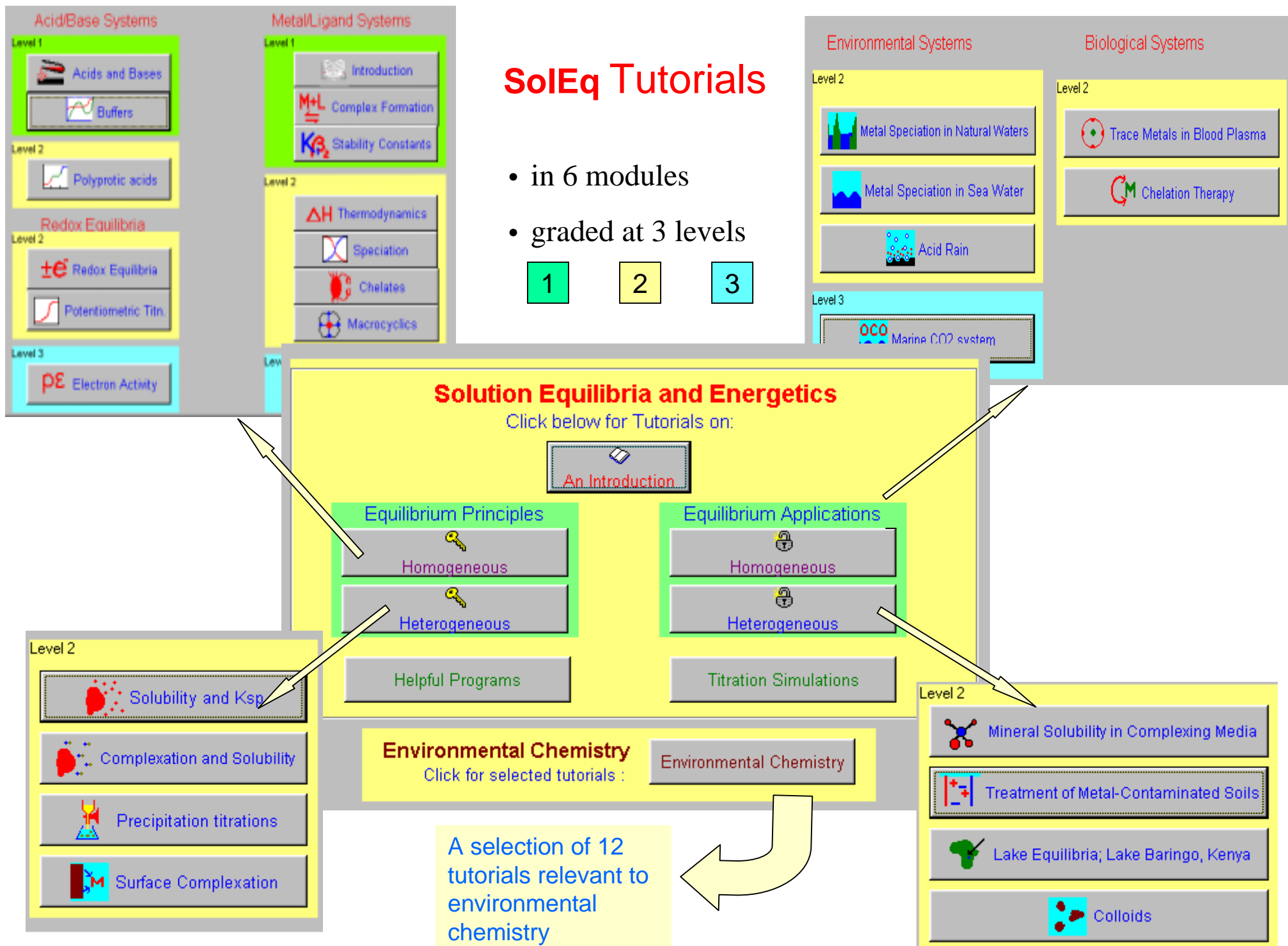
## Features:

- Speciation software
- Buffer simulations
- Titration simulations
- Equilibrium database

# SoIEq Tutorials

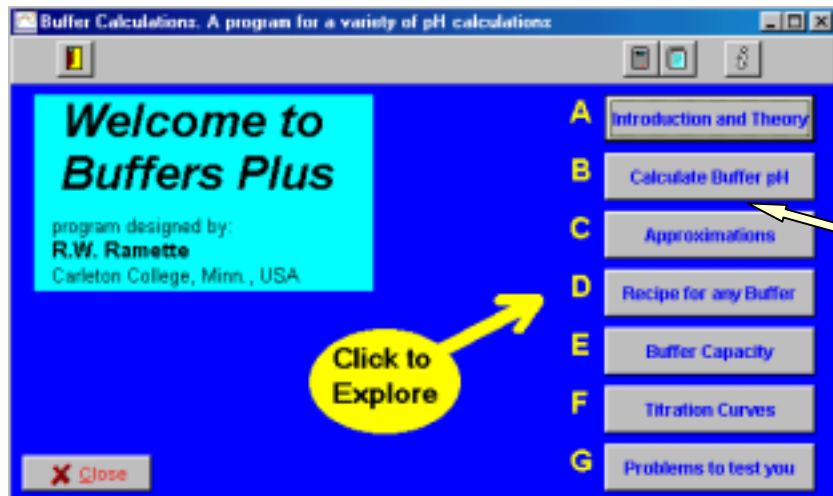
- in 6 modules
- graded at 3 levels

1 2 3



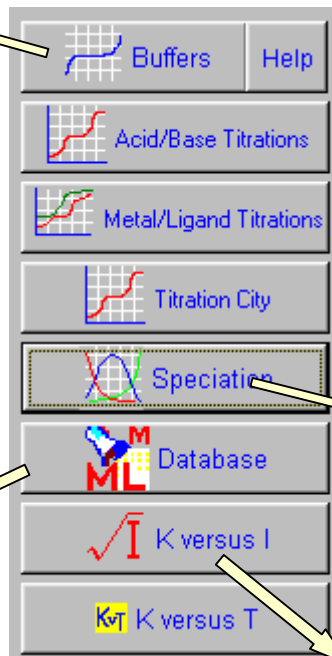
# Helpful programs

Software to drive the tutorials and exercises - accessible interactively from all tutorials

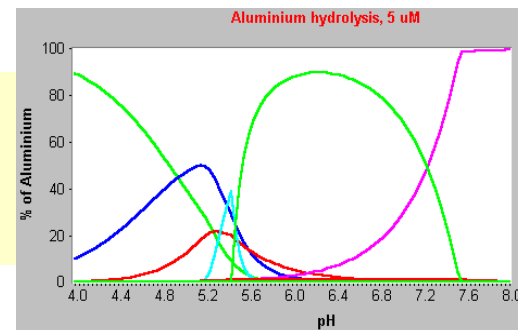


Simulate, in real-time:

- acid-base
- metal-ligand
- redox titrations



A powerful speciation package



A database of 18000 metal-ligand complex stability constants

To correct stability constants for temperature and ionic strength

**Stability Constants Database**

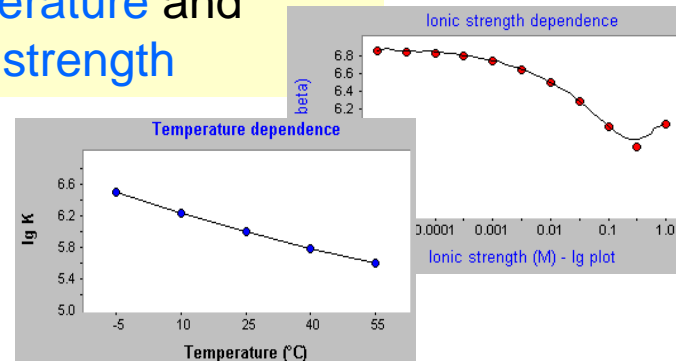
Mini-Database of Selected Constants

Including:  
 Speciation curve display  
 Temperature corrections  
 Ionic strength corrections

©Academic Software and K J Powell  
 1992-2000 (Software and database)

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Academic Software



# Softbook Format

A typical page - from the tutorial 'Colloids'

Toolbar links to database, speciation software

Hypertext link

- to explanation
- to diagram

**Colloids**

Colloid coagulation 1 | Colloid coagulation 2 | Colloid coagulation 3 | Colloid coagulation 4 | Cation hydrolysis | Bridging 1

## Cation Hydrolysis

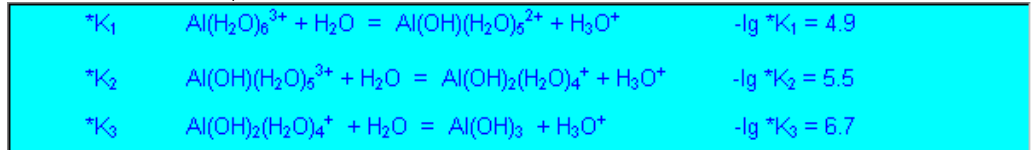
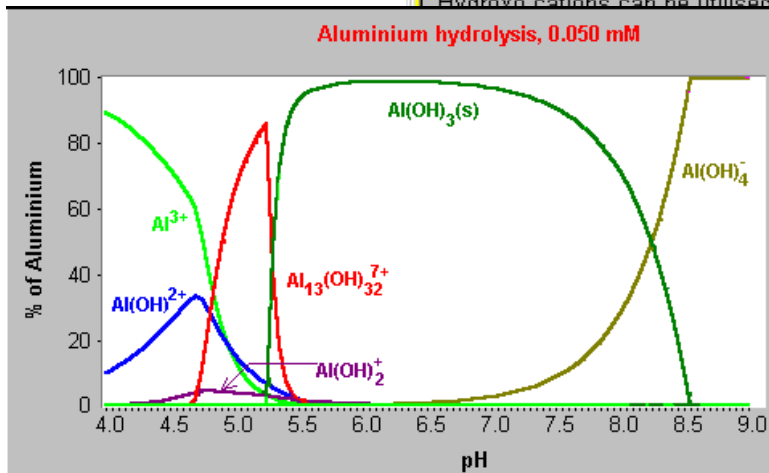
Significant hydrolysis occurs for metal ions of high charge. Trivalent ions have stepwise  $pK_a$  ( $-\lg *K_n$ ) values in the range 3-7.  $Al(H_2O)_6^{3+}$  has  $-\lg *K_n$  values of 4.9, 5.5 and 6.7 ( $n = 1-3$ ). Thus in weakly acidic dilute solution it exists as a mixture of weak conjugate acids and bases (see [speciation](#)).

**Polymeric ions** form in more concentrated solution by sharing of  $-OH$  groups, e.g. :  
 $13Al(H_2O)_6^{3+} = Al_{13}O_4(OH)_{24}^{7+} + 32H_3O^+ + 18H_2O$ .

The  $Al_{13}O_4(OH)_{24}^{7+}$  polymer is well characterised. Its structure indicates a central  $AlO_4$  tetrahedron, surrounded by  $AlO_6$  octahedra that link by sharing of edges and vertices.

Hydroxo cations can be utilised to achieve coagulation

**Diagram:** Molecular structure of  $[AlO_4 Al_{12}(OH)_{24}(H_2O)_{12}]^{7+}$ . The diagram shows a central  $AlO_4$  tetrahedron (orange) surrounded by  $AlO_6$  octahedra (blue and green) that link by sharing of edges and vertices.



# SolEq: built-in exercises

**Selectivity**

Introduction Overview Class A/B 1 Class A/B 2 Soft-Soft 1 Soft-Soft 2 Hard-Hard Energetics 1 Energy

## Class A – Class B classification 2

Donor preference for cations varies dramatically with cation position in the periodic table.

**Class A:** Tendency to complex with hard metal ions  
 $N \gg P > As > Sb$   
 $O \gg S > Se \approx Te$   
 $F \gg Cl > Br > I$

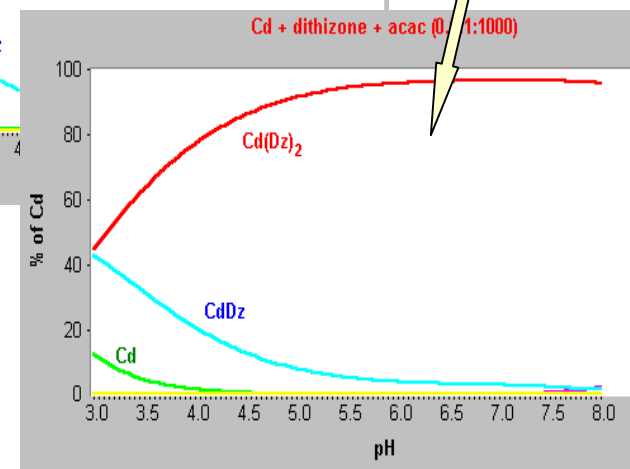
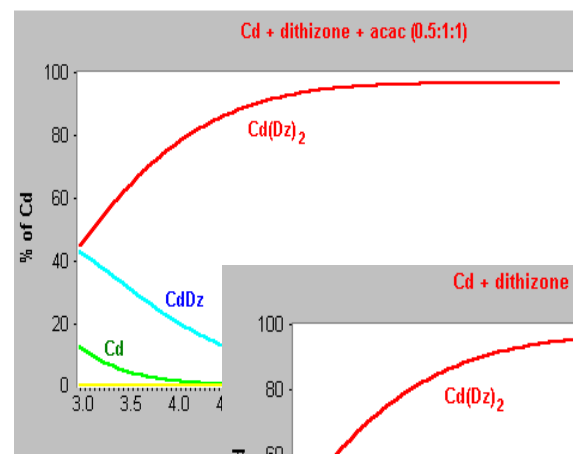
**Class B:** Tendency to complex with soft metal ions  
 $N \ll P > As > Sb$   
 $O \ll S < Se \approx Te$   
 $F < Cl < Br \ll I$

The combination of ligand and cation can be **highly selective**. The figure illustrates distinctive Class A character ( $U^{4+}$ ) and Class B character ( $Ag^+$ ) toward the halide ligands.  $Zn^{2+}$  represents a Borderline (transition) case.

Radius (pm)	U <sup>4+</sup> (log K <sub>1</sub> )	Ag <sup>+</sup> (log K <sub>1</sub> )	Zn <sup>2+</sup> (log K <sub>1</sub> )
133 (F <sup>-</sup> )	~6.5	~1.5	~1.5
181 (Cl <sup>-</sup> )	~3.5	~2.5	~1.5
196 (Br <sup>-</sup> )	~2.5	~3.5	~1.5
220 (I <sup>-</sup> )	~1.5	~6.5	~1.5

The 'softness' or 'hardness' of a donor atom may **vary** according to its bonding within the ligand.

[Exercise](#)



Computed curves provide **Answer**

**Exercise:**  
 The strong preference of a Hard (or Soft) metal ion for a Hard (or Soft) donor can be illustrated by calculating the distribution of the ion between two dissimilar competing ligands.

Use **Species** to calculate the distribution of  $Cd^{2+}$  between the 'hard' O-donor ligand acetylacetonate (penta-2,4-dione, acac) and the 'soft' S-donor, dithizone. Input data are in the file **Cd\_Dz.spc**. Vary the [acac] by a factor of 1000 to see what effect that has on the calculated distribution.

**Deduce from this result whether  $Cd^{2+}$  is showing Class A or Class B behaviour.**

CC(=O)C=C(O)C  
 Acetylacetonate

C6H5C(=N)SC6H5  
 Dithizone

Click here to reveal the **Exercise**

Access **SPECIES** file and software via toolbar icon

# Titration simulations

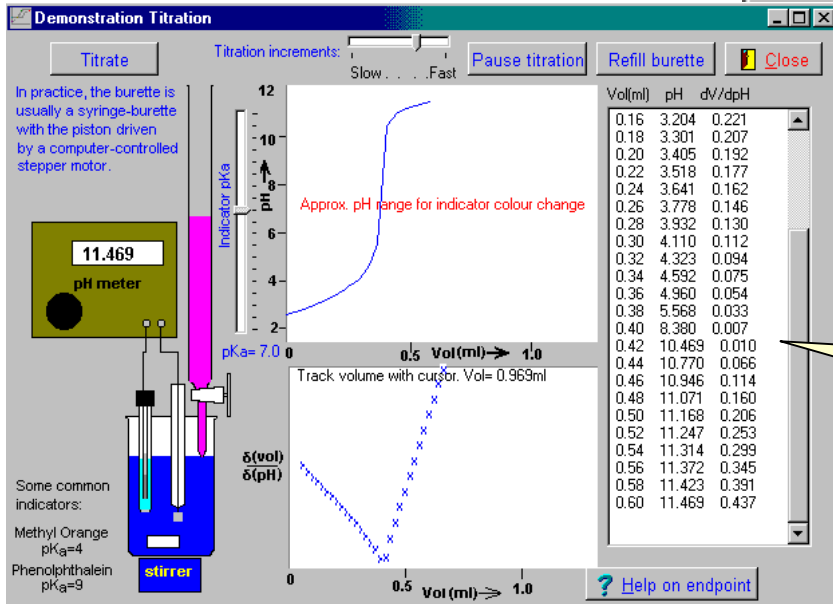
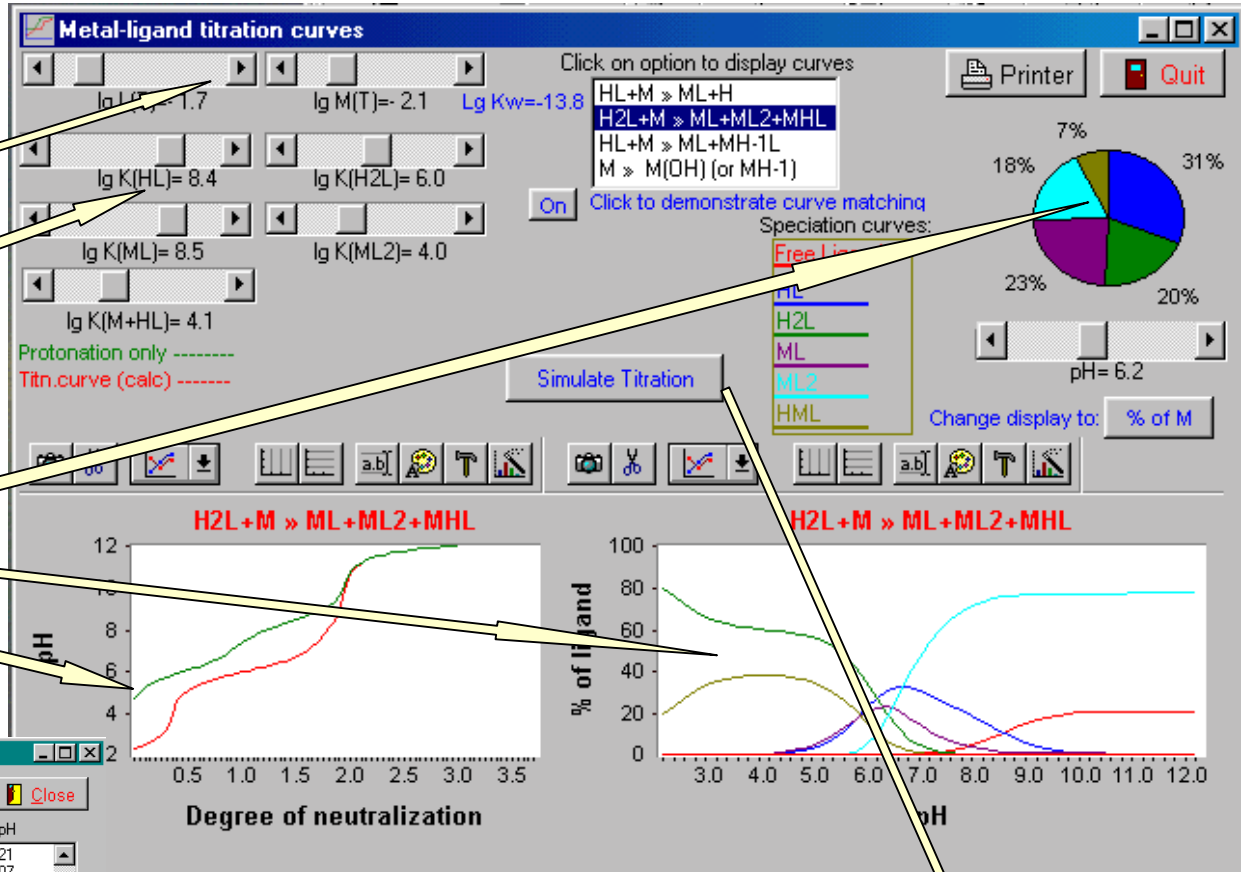
All parameters can be varied.

Curves re-drawn in real time.

Vary any concentration

Vary any constant

- Speciation as a pie-chart
- Speciation curves
- Titration curves



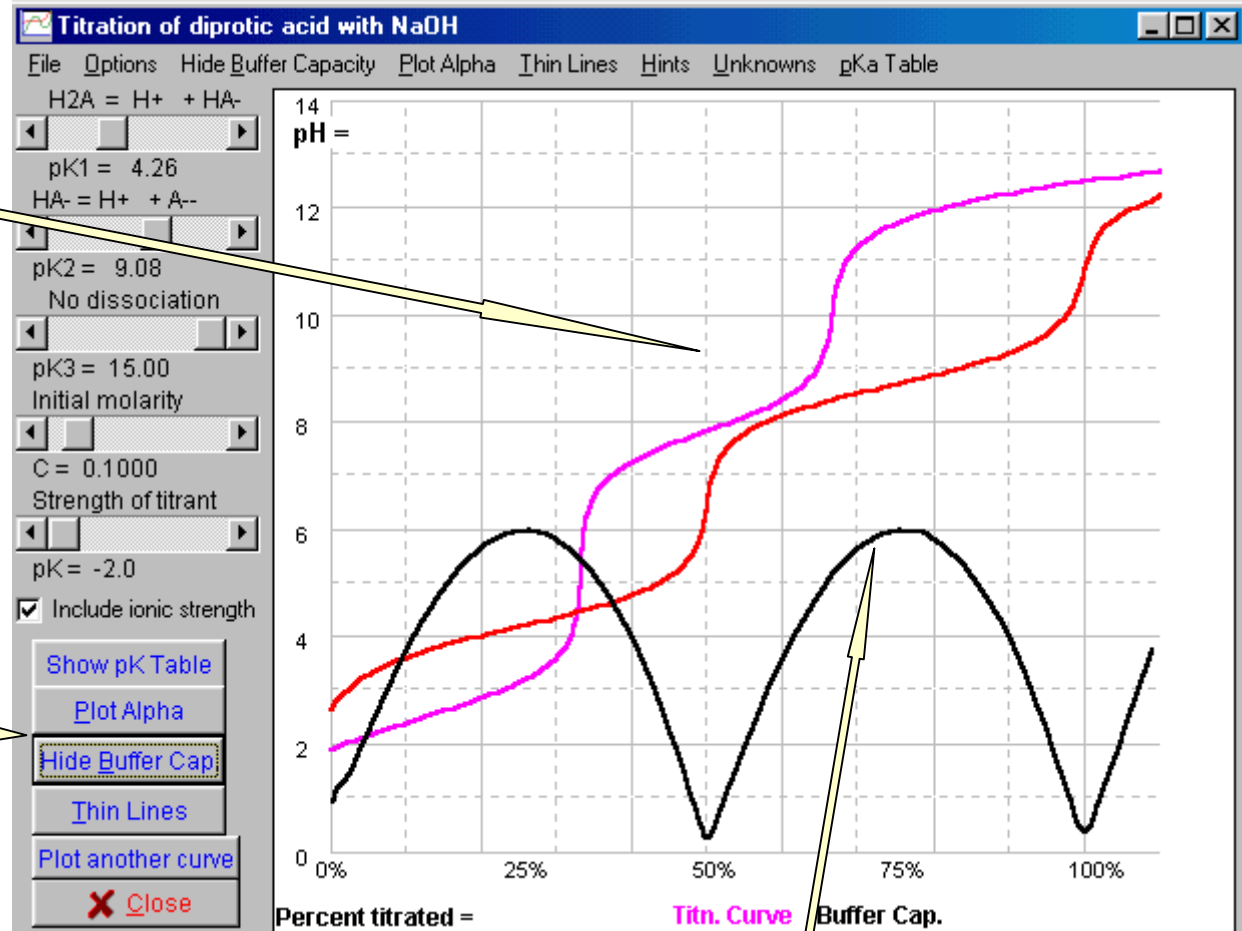
Real-time titration simulation with end-point calculation

# Lecture demonstrations

Vary acid-base systems in real-time:

Plot **multiple curves**, each with different pK values

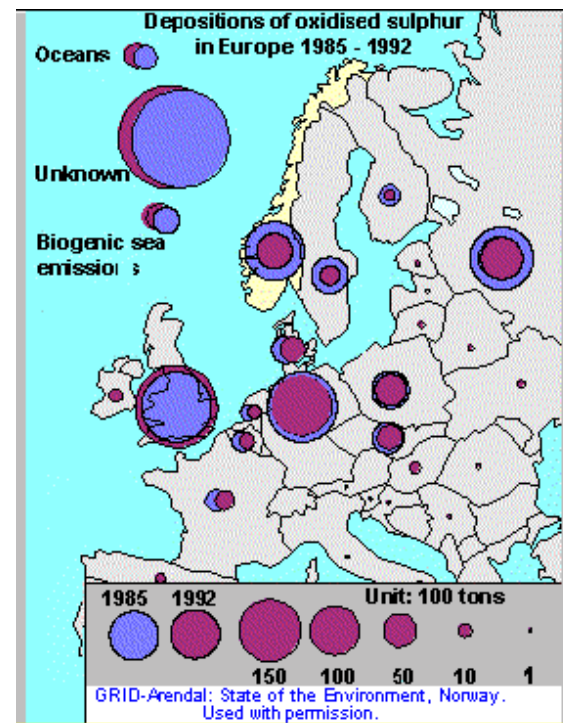
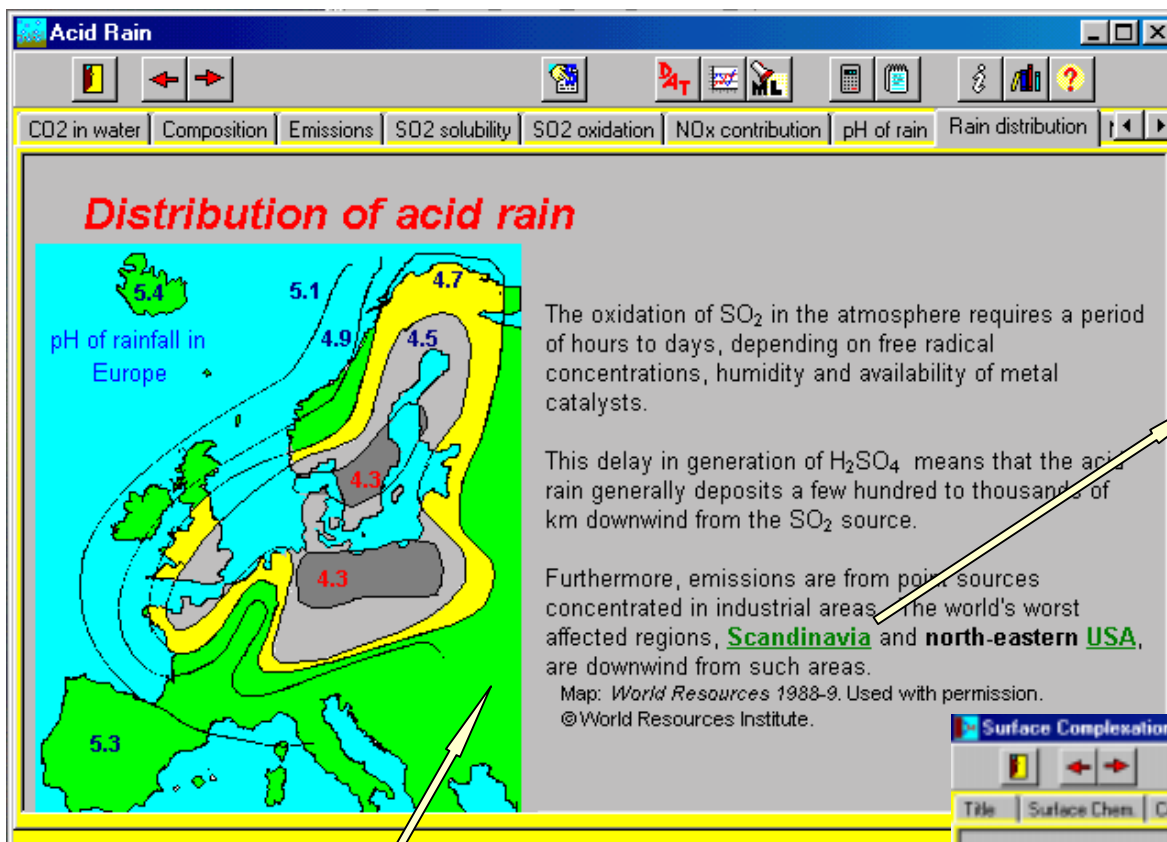
Show **buffer capacity** and  $\alpha$  plots



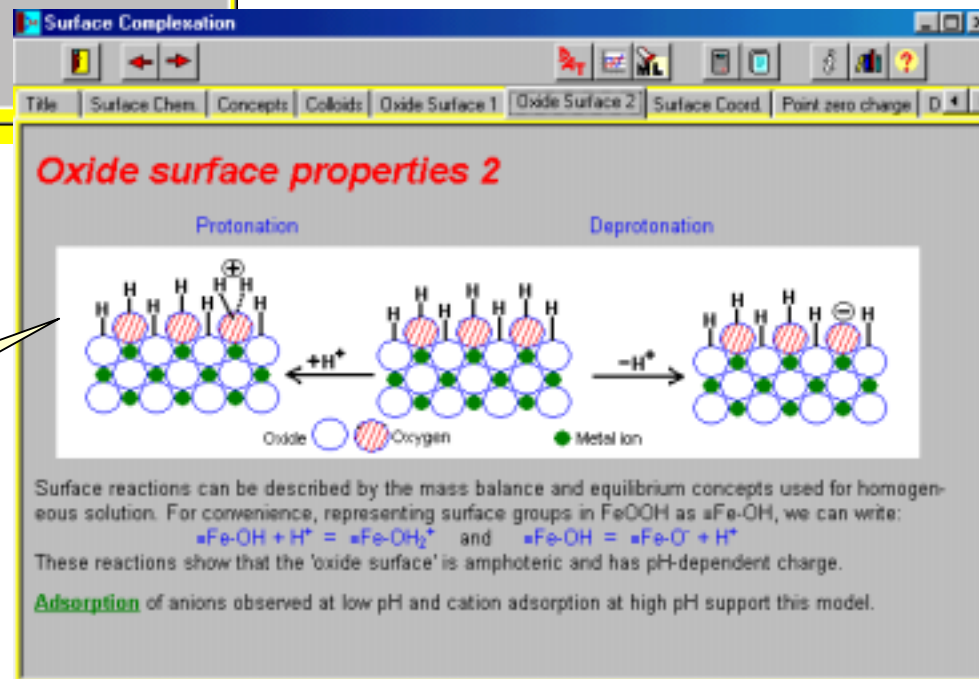
Show how to generate high buffer capacity at a specified pH



# Environmental Chemistry



A page from: *Acid Rain*



A page from: *Surface complexation*

# SolEq: A unique, interactive learning method

- A first in Chemistry
- A first in Solution Equilibria
- A first in Environmental Chemistry

## A joint venture project:

- Project partners: Academic Software and IUPAC
- Principal writer: K. J. Powell    k.powell@chem.canterbury.ac.nz
- Principal programmer: L.D. Pettit    Lesp@acadsoft.co.uk
- Marketing: by Academic Software    www.acadsoft.co.uk

For demonstration downloads: <http://www.acadsoft.co.uk>