Environmental Chemistry

Precipitation and dissolution, redox

1) Iron precipitation

A wastewater contains 10^{-4} M phosphate. Fe(III) is added to the system to precipitate phosphate. Is FePO₄(s) or Fe(OH)₃(s) precipitated at pH=7?

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{FePO}_4(s) = \text{Fe}^{3^+} + \text{PO}_4{}^{3^-} & \text{logK}_{s0} = -26 \\ &\text{Fe}(\text{OH})_3(s) = \text{Fe}^{3^+} + 3\text{OH}^- & \text{logK}_{s0} = -38.7 \\ &\text{H}_3\text{PO}_4 = \text{H}_2\text{PO}_{4^-} + \text{H}^+ & \text{logK} = -2.1 \\ &\text{H}_2\text{PO}_{4^-} = \text{HPO}_4{}^{2^-} + \text{H}^+ & \text{logK} = -7.2 \\ &\text{HPO}_42 - = \text{PO}_4{}^{3^-} + \text{H}^+ & \text{logK} = -12.3 \end{aligned}$$

2) Oxidation numbers

Assign the oxidation numbers to each atom in the following compounds:

3) Reduction potentials

Derive the overall reaction and the direction of the reaction from the following half reactions:

$$O_2 + 4H^+ + 4e^- = 2H_2O$$
 $E_H^0 = +1.19V$ $NO_3^- + 10H^+ + 8e^- = NH_4^+ + 3H_2O$ $E_H^0 = +0.88V$

- a) Calculate the ΔE^0 for the overall redox reaction.
- b) The $E_H{}^0$ values are given for pH = 0. Calculate the standard reduction potentials at pH=7. What is $\Delta E^0(W)$ for the overall reaction at pH 7?
- c) What is the Gibbs free energy of this process at pH 7? Is this reaction thermodynamically feasible?
- d) What is this process called? Where does this process occur and what effects does it have on the environment?

4) pe-pH diagram for As

Construct the pe-pH diagram for the following As species:

| As species | Reaction | log(K) |
|-------------|---|--------|
| As(5) | $H_2AsO_4^- = HAsO_4^{2-} + H^+$ | -6.76 |
| As(3) | $H_3AsO_3 = H_2AsO_3^- + H^+$ | -9.23 |
| As(5)/As(3) | $H_3AsO_3 + H_2O = H_2AsO_4^- + 3 H^+ + 2e^-$ | -21.14 |