

Geochemical modeling I

ENV-200

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You should be able to

1. explain what geochemical modeling is useful for
2. be familiar with Apps in the Community Edition of the Geochemist's Workbench
3. interpret and plot the output of a simple modeling run
4. describe how you can use geochemical modeling in environmental engineering challenges

- Geochemist's Workbench Community Edition <https://academy.gwb.com/>
- Geochemical and Biogeochemical Reaction Modeling by Craig M. Bethke (Cambridge University Press)
- Many examples that we cover here are from the GWB Essentials Guide (by Craig M. Bethke, Brian Farrell, Sharon Yeakel)

What is geochemical modeling?

In almost all environmental problems, there is a need for knowledge or predictions of the solute concentrations in space and time.

- Contamination issues

- Example: what will happen to a particular toxic chemical component or species in groundwater downstream from a contamination source such as a polluted industrial manufacturing site? How fast will the contaminant progress downstream, and when will it reach a certain point? What processes will slow down its movement (retardation) or immobilize it? Will the concentrations of the contaminant be above regulatory thresholds? Would the remediation methods be effective, i.e., limiting the migration of a contaminant and lowering its concentrations?
- These questions may also be posed for the history of a site concerning past activities: what has happened at this site in the past?

- Water resources issues

- Example: water is clear and uncontaminated, but just how much is there to tap and who is entitled to what proportions? In this case, chemical constituents in groundwater and their movement can help delineate the flow system that hydraulic data alone fail to reveal

- High-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal
- Mining-related environmental issues
- Landfills
- Deep well injection of hazardous wastes
- Artificial recharge to aquifers



Environmental engineering challenge

Waterfall in Dreimühlen (D)

- Water emerges from the subsurface in a karst source just above a waterfall
- In the waterfall, the water equilibrates with the atmosphere and calcite is precipitating

How fast does the waterfall “grow”, i.e., how much calcite is precipitating each year?



What do we want to accomplish?

Ultimately, we want to describe the complete chemical composition of a system (e.g. a lake, a soil column, an aquifer)

There are two ways to accomplish this:

- Thermodynamic description: If a closed system is at equilibrium, its chemical composition is uniquely defined.
- Kinetic description: If equilibrium is not attained (slow reactions) or if the system it is continuously perturbed (i.e. biological activity), a kinetic description is necessary.

Here, we will focus on the thermodynamic description.

Natural systems are complex

- We have discussed different chemical reactions in this class:
 - Acid-base reactions
 - Complexation reactions
 - Dissolution/precipitation reactions
 - Redox reactions
- You have learned to predict how a system behaves considering a few reactions that are at equilibrium simultaneously:
 - Remember, for example, the carbonate system or reductive dissolution of iron minerals
 - Complex calculations and/or graphical solutions were required to solve these systems
- However, in natural systems, many or even all reaction types mentioned above may operate simultaneously, forming extremely complex reaction networks.

How do we deal with complexity?

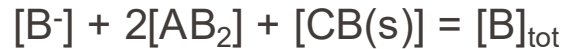
We could set up a mathematical framework. We already have

- Mass law equations



$$K = \frac{\{AB_2\}}{\{A_{2+}\}\{B_-\}^2}$$

- Mass balance equations



- Charge balance equations



We have a lot of thermodynamic data!

TABLE 4.1 Thermodynamic Data for Inorganic Compounds at 298.15 K (continued)

Substance	ΔH_f° (kJ mol ⁻¹)	ΔG_f° (kJ mol ⁻¹)	S_m° (J mol ⁻¹ K ⁻¹)	$C_{p,m}$ (J mol ⁻¹ K ⁻¹)	Atomic or Molecular Weight (amu)
Silicon					
Si(s)	0	0	18.8	20.0	28.09
Si(g)	450.0	405.5	168.0	22.3	28.09
SiCl ₄ (g)	-662.7	-622.8	330.9	90.3	169.70
SiO ₂ (quartz)	-910.7	-856.3	41.5	44.4	60.09
Silver					
Ag(s)	0	0	42.6	25.4	107.87
Ag(g)	284.9	246.0	173.0	20.8	107.87
AgCl(s)	-127.0	-109.8	96.3	50.8	143.32
AgNO ₃ (s)	-44.4	19.8	140.6	93.0	153.88
AgNO ₃ (l)	-44.4	19.8	140.9	93.1	169.87
Ag ₂ SO ₄ (s)	-715.9	-618.4	200.4	131.4	311.80
Ag ⁺ (aq)	105.6	77.1	72.7	107.87	107.87
Sodium					
Na(s)	0	0	51.3	28.2	22.99
Na(g)	107.5	77.0	153.7	20.8	22.99
NaCl(s)	-411.2	-384.1	72.1	50.5	58.44
NaOH(s)	-425.8	-379.7	64.4	59.8	40.00
Na ₂ SO ₄ (s)	-1387.1	-1270.2	149.6	128.2	142.04
Na ⁺ (aq)	-240.1	-261.9	59.0	22.99	22.99
Sulfur					
S(rhombic)	0	0	32.1	22.6	32.06
SF ₆ (g)	-1220.5	-1116.5	291.5	97.3	146.07
H ₂ S(g)	-20.6	-33.4	205.8	34.2	34.09
SO ₂ (g)	-296.8	-300.1	248.2	39.9	64.06
SO ₃ (g)	-395.7	-371.1	256.8	50.7	80.06
SO ₃ ²⁻ (aq)	-635.5	-486.6	-29.3	80.06	80.06
SO ₄ ²⁻ (aq)	-909.3	-744.5	20.1	96.06	96.06
Tin					
Sn(white)	0	0	51.2	27.0	118.69
Sn(g)	301.2	266.2	168.5	21.3	118.69
SnO ₂ (s)	-577.6	-517.6	40.0	52.6	150.69
Sn ²⁺ (aq)	-8.9	-27.2	-16.7	118.69	118.69
Titanium					
Ti(s)	0	0	30.7	25.0	47.87
Ti(g)	473.0	428.4	180.3	24.4	47.87
TiCl ₄ (l)	-804.2	-737.2	252.4	145.2	189.69
TiO ₂ (s)	-944.0	-888.8	50.6	55.0	79.88

Step no. (Scheme 2)	Substituent	Gaseous phase		Aqueous phase	Step no. (Scheme 1)	Substituent	Gaseous phase		Aqueous phase
		$\Delta_{r,298}H^\circ$	$\Delta_{r,298}G^\circ$	$\Delta_{r,298}G^\circ$			$\Delta_{r,298}H^\circ$	$\Delta_{r,298}G^\circ$	$\Delta_{r,298}G^\circ$
I	2-F	-164.2	-151.3	-43.3	X	2-F	-0.1	-24.4	-34.4
	2-CF ₃	-167.1	-153.2	-44.1		2-CF ₃	-6.6	-30.9	-39.0
	2-NO ₂	-166.0	-153.5	-44.7		2-NO ₂	-13.9	-38.5	-47.6
	2-OCH ₃	-162.8	-150.5	-43.0		2-OCH ₃	2.3	-21.8	-30.9
II	2,6-diBr	-165.4	-152.8	-44.2	XI	2,6-diBr	-20.2	-44.2	-45.8
	2-F	-190.2	-180.2	-63.1		2-F	-70.3	-56.0	-15.7
	2-CF ₃	-192.9	-182.0	-64.4		2-CF ₃	-72.6	-58.0	-16.8
	2-NO ₂	-191.4	-181.1	-64.9		2-NO ₂	-75.3	-61.7	-21.1
III	2-OCH ₃	-188.9	-178.4	-62.7	XII	2-OCH ₃	-64.4	-50.9	-12.2
	2,6-diBr	-188.0	-178.5	-62.6		2,6-diBr	-66.7	-51.0	-14.2
	2-F	-184.4	-125.5	-25.0		2-F	24.7	10.2	-3.7
	2-CF ₃	-142.0	-128.2	-26.0		2-CF ₃	24.4	9.8	-8.4
IV	2-NO ₂	-135.4	-123.3	-23.0	XIII	2-NO ₂	15.8	1.9	-13.1
	2-OCH ₃	-133.9	-121.0	-22.4		2-OCH ₃	31.5	18.6	-2.7
	2,6-diBr	-138.3	-124.9	-25.0		2,6-diBr	8.4	-6.3	-18.7
	2-F	-156.6	-146.6	-36.7		2-F	-94.2	-116.3	-118.6
V	2-OCH ₃	-152.3	-142.1	-34.9	XIV	2-F	-103.1	-104.1	-58.7
	2-F	-75.4	-78.0	-51.7		2-CF ₃	-105.3	-106.9	-60.8
	2-CF ₃	-86.4	-89.1	-58.8		2-OCH ₃	-100.9	-102.2	-58.2
	2-NO ₂	-96.3	-99.8	-68.4		2-F	-88.4	-103.0	-82.9
VI	2-OCH ₃	-67.2	-69.7	-46.9	XV	2-OCH ₃	-84.5	-99.1	-80.0
	2,6-diBr	-91.7	-94.8	-64.7		2-CF ₃	-66.3	-80.1	-51.6
	2-F	-77.2	-78.3	-40.4		2-F	-74.5	-89.2	-57.9
	2-CF ₃	-80.1	-81.9	-42.7		2-NO ₂	-85.4	-99.6	-66.8
VII	2-OCH ₃	-72.0	-72.6	-37.6	XVI	2-OCH ₃	-59.5	-72.5	-47.1
	2-F	-93.6	-108.0	-117.7		2,6-diBr	-81.5	-95.4	-63.7
	2-CF ₃	-95.7	-111.0	-117.8		2-F	-82.2	-105.8	-69.9
	2-OCH ₃	-97.6	-112.0	-118.0		2-CF ₃	-99.6	-114.2	-76.0
VIII	2-F	10.8	2.2	0.4	XVII	2-NO ₂	-116.0	-129.7	-88.5
	2-CF ₃	7.7	-0.3	-3.6		2-OCH ₃	-88.4	-102.0	-67.6
	2-OCH ₃	16.4	8.1	2.4		2,6-diBr	-108.6	-123.2	-82.8
	2-F	-68.0	-68.7	-33.2		2-F	-93.7	-104.1	-106.2
IX	2-CF ₃	69.8	-71.4	-34.5	XVIII	2-CF ₃	-73.9	-75.4	-34.9
	2-NO ₂	-73.9	-75.4	-34.9		2-OCH ₃	-63.5	-64.7	-32.3
	2-OCH ₃	-66.5	-67.4	-35.4		2,6-diBr	-66.5	-67.4	-35.4
	2,6-diBr	-66.5	-67.4	-35.4					
		-1382.945		-982.538					
		-1381.121		-949.236					
		-1379.872		-929.462					
		-1386.232		-929.462					
		-1385.785		-915.903					
		-1385.713		-912.238					
		-1391.353		-912.240					
		-1391.195		-900.813					
		-1373.471		-900.788					
		-1373.337		-882.651					
		-1373.442		-876.614					
		-1406.442		-876.612					
		-1406.393		-848.179					
		-1406.499		-813.289					
		-1406.651		-778.391					
1500	210.90	241.214	463.31	302.50					
1519	210.90	245.222	465.96	304.53					
1519	210.90	245.222	465.96	304.53					
1600	210.90	262.304	476.92	312.98					
1700	210.90	283.394	489.71	323.00					
1800	210.90	304.484	501.76	332.60					

Workflow for thermodynamic modeling

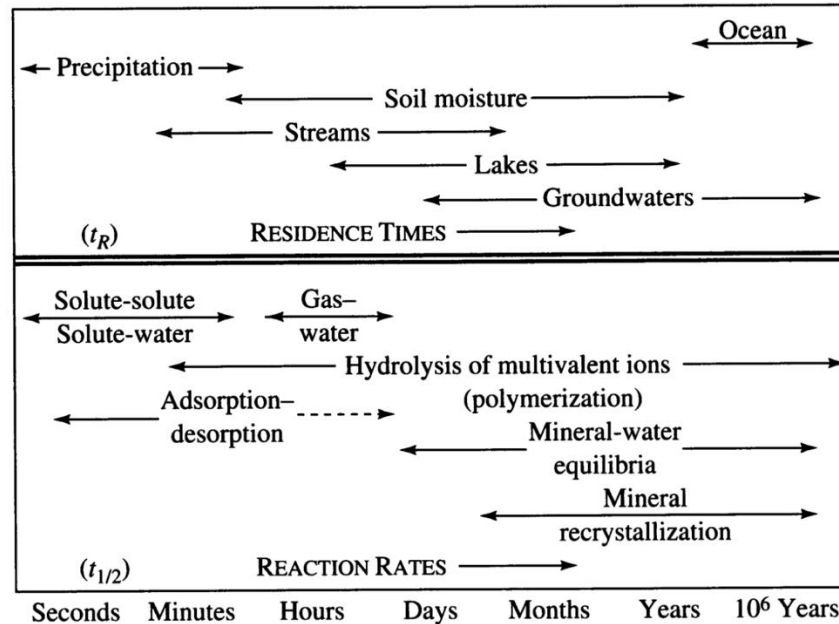
1. Develop a conceptual model: List the processes that likely determine the chemical composition of a system.
2. Make partial equilibrium assumptions: Consider the timeframes in which you wish to understand a system (minutes? years? millions of years?). Decide which of the relevant reactions will reach equilibrium in this timeframe, and which ones will not proceed to any relevant degree.
3. Make sure you have thermodynamic parameters for these reactions.
4. Solve all equations simultaneously with a numerical model.
5. Interpret the output with respect to your conceptual model.
6. Potentially revise the conceptual model and start over.

1. The conceptual model

- A model is a simplified abstraction of nature.
- It is described by a set of mathematical expressions thought to represent natural processes in a particular system.
- The model is built by you! You chose what data to use, which software is appropriate, which results are reasonable.
- You already build conceptual models
 - Remember, the carbonate system?

2. Partial equilibrium assumptions

- Which timeframe is important for the processes you are interested in?
Which of the relevant reactions will reach equilibrium in this timeframe?



Langmuir,
Mahoney (85)

2. Partial equilibrium assumptions

- Kinetic information can be introduced into equilibrium calculations.
- Partial equilibrium assumptions
 - consider only fast reactions with half-lives much smaller than the reaction time scale we are interested in ($t_{1/2} \ll t_r$)
 - ignore slow reactions in which half-lives are much larger than reaction times ($t_{1/2} \gg t_r$)
- This becomes problematic if reactions with half-lives close to the reaction times are important ($t_{1/2} \approx t_r$). In this case, we would need kinetic modeling.

3. Thermodynamic data

Step no. (Scheme 2)	Substituent	Gaseous phase		Aqueous phase		Step no. (Scheme 1)	Substituent	Gaseous phase		Aqueous phase		
		$\Delta_{1,298}H^{\circ}$	$\Delta_{1,298}G^{\circ}$	$\Delta_{1,298}H^{\circ}$	$\Delta_{1,298}G^{\circ}$			$\Delta_{1,298}H^{\circ}$	$\Delta_{1,298}G^{\circ}$	$\Delta_{1,298}H^{\circ}$	$\Delta_{1,298}G^{\circ}$	
I	2F	-164.2	-151.3	-43.3		X	2F	-0.1	-24.4	-34.4		
	2CF ₃	-152.1	-153.2	-44.1			2CF ₃	-6.6	-30.9	-39.0		
	2NO ₂	-166.0	-153.5	-44.7			2NO ₂					
	2OCH ₃	-162.8	-150.5	-43.0			2OCH ₃					
II	2,6-diBr	-165.4	-152.8	-44.2		XI	2F					
	2F	-190.2	-180.2	-63.1			2CF ₃					
	2CF ₃	-192.9	-182.0	-64.4			2NO ₂					
	2NO ₂	-191.4	-181.1	-64.9			2OCH ₃					
III	2,6-diBr	-188.9	-178.4	-62.7		XII	2F					
	2F	-138.4	-125.5	-25.0			2CF ₃					
	2CF ₃	-132.1	-128.2	-26.0			2NO ₂					
	2NO ₂	-135.4	-123.3	-23.0			2OCH ₃					
IV	2,6-diBr	-138.3	-124.9	-25.0		XIII	2F					
	2F	-156.6	-146.6	-36.7			2CF ₃					
	2OCH ₃	-152.3	-142.1	-34.9			2NO ₂					
	2F	-75.4	-78.0	-51.7			2OCH ₃					
V	2CF ₃	-86.4	-89.1	-58.8		XIV	2F					
	2NO ₂	-96.3	-99.8	-68.4			2CF ₃					
	2OCH ₃						2F					
	2F						P(white)	12.012	17.460	41.079	0.	0.
VI	2,6-diBr					XV	2F	0.000	0.000	22.803	-12.026	-17.460
	2F						2CF ₃					
	2CF ₃						2OCH ₃					
	2NO ₂						P(red)	0.000	0.000	22.803	-12.026	-17.460

TABLE 4.1 Thermodynamic Data for Inorganic Compounds at 298.15 K (continued)

Substance	ΔH_f° (kJ mol ⁻¹)	ΔG_f° (kJ mol ⁻¹)	S_m° (J mol ⁻¹ K ⁻¹)	$C_{p,m}$ (J mol ⁻¹ K ⁻¹)	Atomic or Molecular Weight (amu)
Silicon					
Si(s)	0	0	18.8	28.09	28.09
Si(g)	450.0	405.5	168.0	22.3	28.09
SiCl ₄ (g)	-662.7	-622.8	330.9	169.70	30.33
SiO ₂ (quartz)	-910.7	-856.3	41.6	60.09	60.09
Silver					
Ag(s)	0	0	42.5	25.4	107.87
Ag(g)	284.9	246.0	173.0	20.8	107.87
AgCl(s)	-127.0	-109.8	96.3	50.8	143.32
AgNO ₃ (s)	-44.4	19.8	140.6	93.0	153.88
AgNO ₃ (aq)	-44.4	19.8	140.6	93.1	169.87
Ag ₂ SO ₄ (s)	-715.9	-618.4	200.4	131.4	311.80
Ag ⁺ (aq)	105.6	77.1	72.7	107.87	107.87
Sodium					
Na(s)	0	0	51.3	28.2	22.99
Na(g)	107.5	77.0	153.7	20.8	22.99
NaCl(s)	-411.2	-384.1	72.1	50.5	58.44
NaOH(s)	-425.8	-379.7	64.4	59.5	40.00
Na ₂ SO ₄ (s)	-1387.1	-1270.2	149.6	128.2	142.04
Na ⁺ (aq)	-240.1	-261.9	59.0	22.99	22.99
Sulfur					
S(rhombic)	0	0	32.1	22.6	32.06
SF ₆ (g)	-1220.5	-1116.5	291.5	97.3	146.07
H ₂ S(g)	-20.6	-33.4	208.8	34.2	34.09
SO ₂ (g)	-296.8	-300.1	248.2	39.9	64.06
SO ₃ (g)	-395.7	-371.1	256.8	50.7	80.06
SO ₂ ⁺ (aq)	-635.5	-486.6	-29.3	80.06	80.06
SO ₃ ⁺ (aq)	-909.3	-744.5	20.1	96.06	96.06
Tin					
Sn(white)	0	0	51.2	27.0	118.69
Sn(g)	301.2	266.2	168.5	21.3	118.69
SnO ₂ (s)	-577.6	-515.8	49.0	52.6	150.69
Sn ²⁺ (aq)	-8.9	-27.2	-16.7	118.69	118.69
Titanium					
Ti(s)	0	0	30.7	25.0	47.87
Ti(g)	473.0	428.4	180.3	24.4	47.87
TiCl ₄ (l)	-804.2	-737.2	252.4	145.2	189.69
TiO ₂ (s)	-944.0	-888.8	50.6	55.0	79.88

T/K	C_p^0 JK ⁻¹ mol ⁻¹	$H_T^0 - H_{298.15}^0$ J mol ⁻¹	S_T^0 JK ⁻¹ mol ⁻¹	$-(G_T^0 - H_{298.15}^0)/T$ JK ⁻¹ mol ⁻¹	$\Delta_f H^0$ kJ mol ⁻¹	$\Delta_f G^0$ kJ mol ⁻¹
298.15	109.4	0	113.70	113.70	-961.536	-884.475
300	109.8	203	114.38	113.70	-961.512	-883.998
400	108.4	10 823	144.93	117.87	-960.818	-858.275
500	114.6	21 978	169.79	125.84	-960.126	-832.719
600	120.0	33 711	191.17	134.98	-959.359	-807.309
700	124.9	45 959	210.04	144.38	-958.531	-782.033
800	129.3	58 672	227.01	153.67	-957.646	-756.877
900	133.4	71 813	242.48	162.69	-956.698	-731.839
980	136.6	82 614	253.98	169.68	-955.669	-711.977
980	136.6	82 614	253.98	169.68	-960.319	-711.978
1000	137.3	85 353	256.75	171.39	-960.149	-706.820
1100	141.0	99 271	270.01	179.76	-959.071	-681.537
1200	144.6	113 552	282.43	187.80	-957.778	-656.365
1300	148.0	128 183	294.14	195.54	-956.269	-631.302
1360	150.1	137 127	300.87	200.04	-955.260	-616.425
1360	150.1	137 127	300.87	200.04	-959.500	-616.424
1400	151.4	143 157	305.24	202.98	-959.086	-606.242

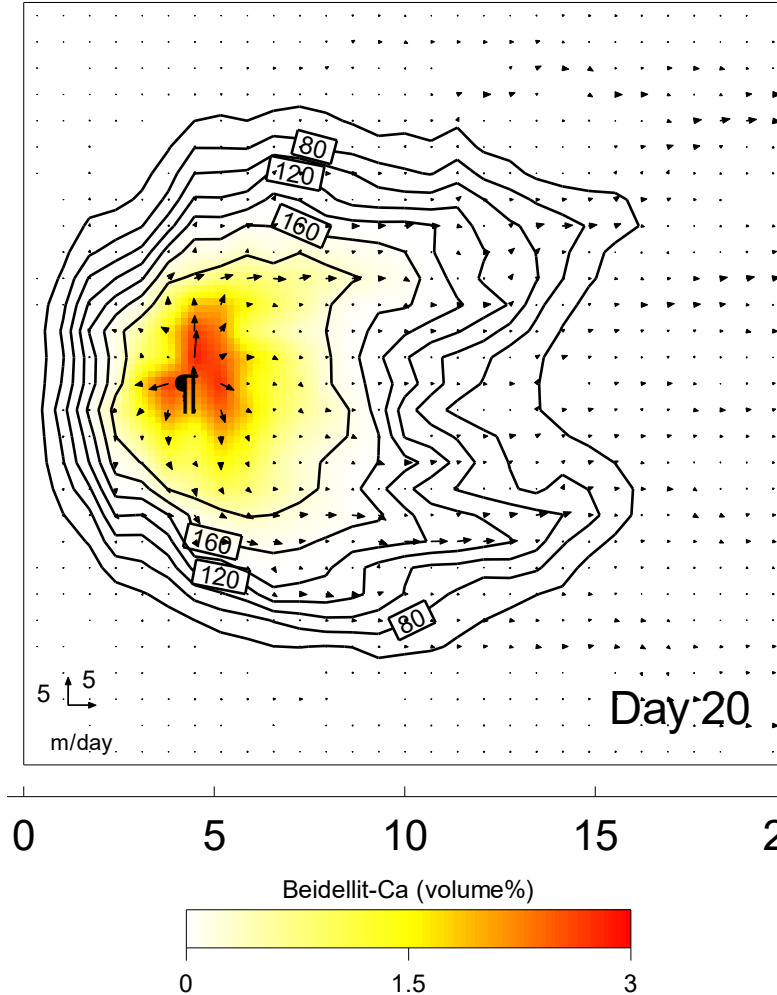
	41.077	0.000	0.000	41.087
22.853	-12.134	-17.573	22.845	
228.781	-2723.357	-3009.970	228.781	
41.463	-856.637	-910.940	41.840	
53.953	-1194.312	-1273.484	53.974	
88.743				
50.950	-1582.223	-1675.692	50.919	

S_T^0 JK ⁻¹ mol ⁻¹	$-(G_T^0 - H_{298.15}^0)/T$ JK ⁻¹ mol ⁻¹	$\Delta_f H^0$ kJ mol ⁻¹	$\Delta_f G^0$ kJ mol ⁻¹
165.60	165.60	-1386.185	-1284.409
166.48	165.60	-1386.176	-1283.779
209.41	171.37	-1385.372	-1249.751
245.01	182.64	-1384.332	-1215.966
275.48	195.63	-1383.264	-1182.394
302.25	208.99	-1382.210	-1149.001
326.22	222.17	-1381.159	-1115.755
348.03	234.96	-1380.081	-1082.647
364.20	244.86	-1379.150	-1056.369
364.20	244.86	-1385.828	-1056.370
368.10	247.28	-1385.645	-1049.525
386.75	259.12	-1384.449	-1015.969
404.24	270.50	-1382.945	-982.538
420.73	281.42	-1381.121	-949.236
430.22	287.78	-1379.872	-929.462
430.22	287.78	-1386.232	-929.462
436.38	291.94	-1385.785	-915.903
438.06	293.07	-1385.713	-912.238
438.06	293.07	-1391.353	-912.240
443.18	296.54	-1391.195	-900.813
455.43	296.53	-1373.471	-900.788
463.31	302.50	-1373.337	-882.651
465.96	304.53	-1373.442	-876.614
465.96	304.53	-1406.442	-876.612
476.92	312.98	-1406.393	-848.179
489.71	323.00	-1406.499	-813.289
501.76	332.60	-1406.651	-778.391

4. Solve equations using a numerical model

- Here, we are using the Geochemist's Workbench.
- The remainder of the class will focus on how to use this software.

Geochemist's Workbench Installation guide



- The Geochemist's Workbench is not available for MacOS or Linux systems
- If you are working with MacOS (or Linux), please find another student whose PC is running on Windows and work together



Go to <https://www.gwb.com/store.php> and add GWB community to your cart (\$0).

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://www.gwb.com/store.php>. The page title is "Free Download - The Geochemist's Workbench Community Edition". The main content is a "Checkout" modal window. It displays a single item: "GWB Community Subscription (1 year)" priced at "\$0". The total is also "\$0". Below the item list is the "End User" registration form. The form includes a "Company" field with "EPFL" entered. The "First Name" field contains "Meret" and the "Last Name" field contains "Aeppli". The "Email Address" field contains "meret.aeppli@epfl.ch" and the "Confirm Email Address" field also contains "meret.aeppli@epfl.ch". At the bottom of the form, there is a checked checkbox for "I consent to be contacted by email" with a help icon. The background of the page shows the "Geochemist's WORKBENCH" logo and "Online ordering" text.

Checkout

GWB Community Subscription (1 year) \$0

Total: \$0

End User

Company
EPFL

First Name *
Meret

Last Name *
Aeppli

Email Address *
meret.aeppli@epfl.ch

Confirm Email Address *
meret.aeppli@epfl.ch

I consent to be contacted by email ? *

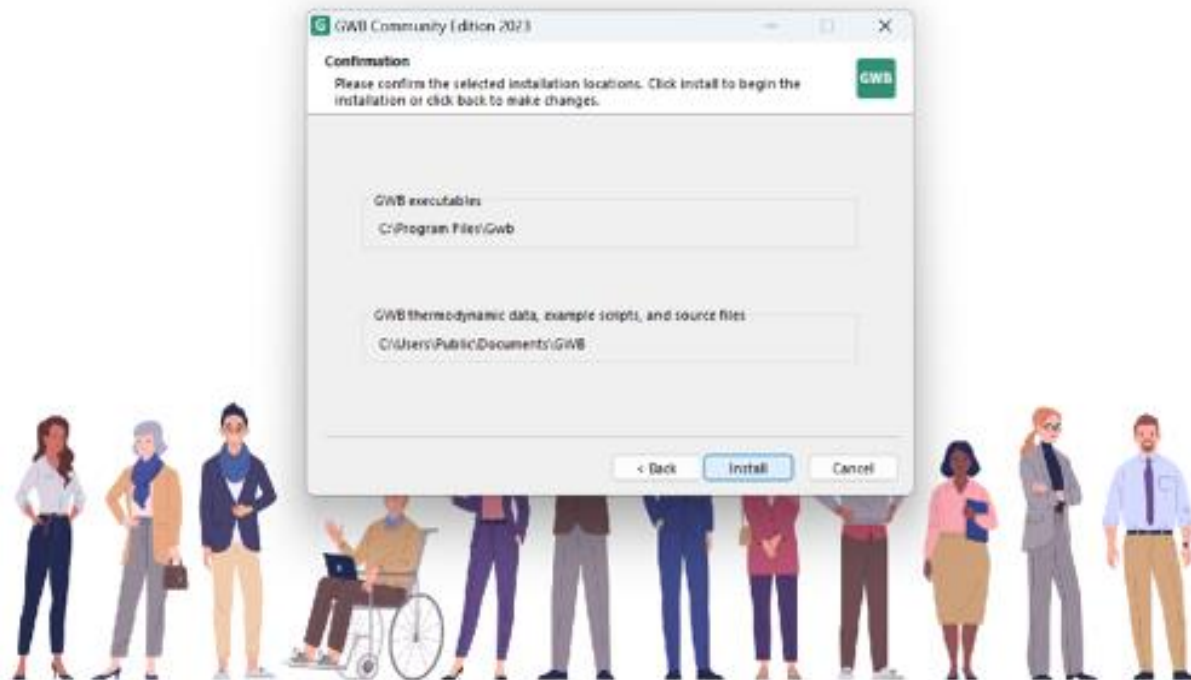
Installation guide

You will receive an email with a link to the download. Download and install following the prompts on the screen.

GWB Community Edition 2023

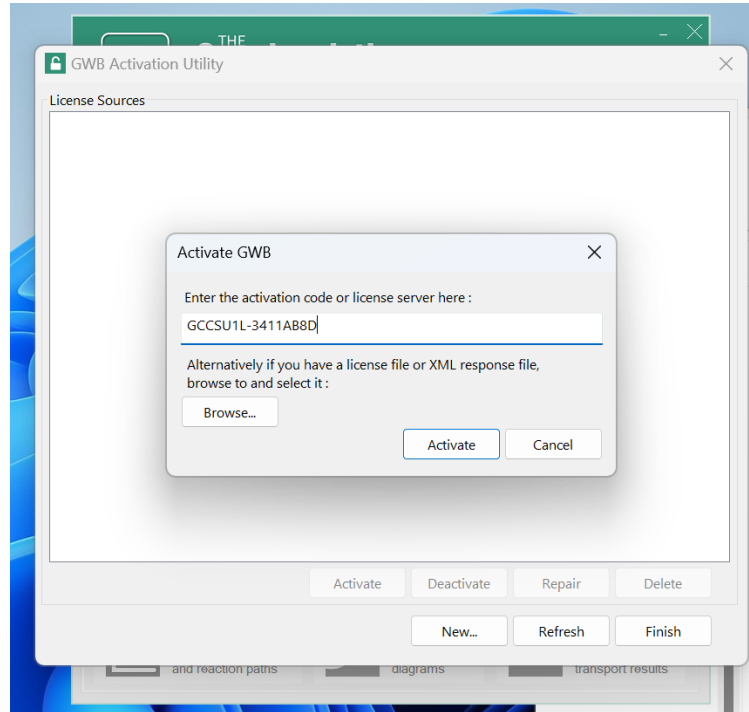


GWB Community Edition 2023

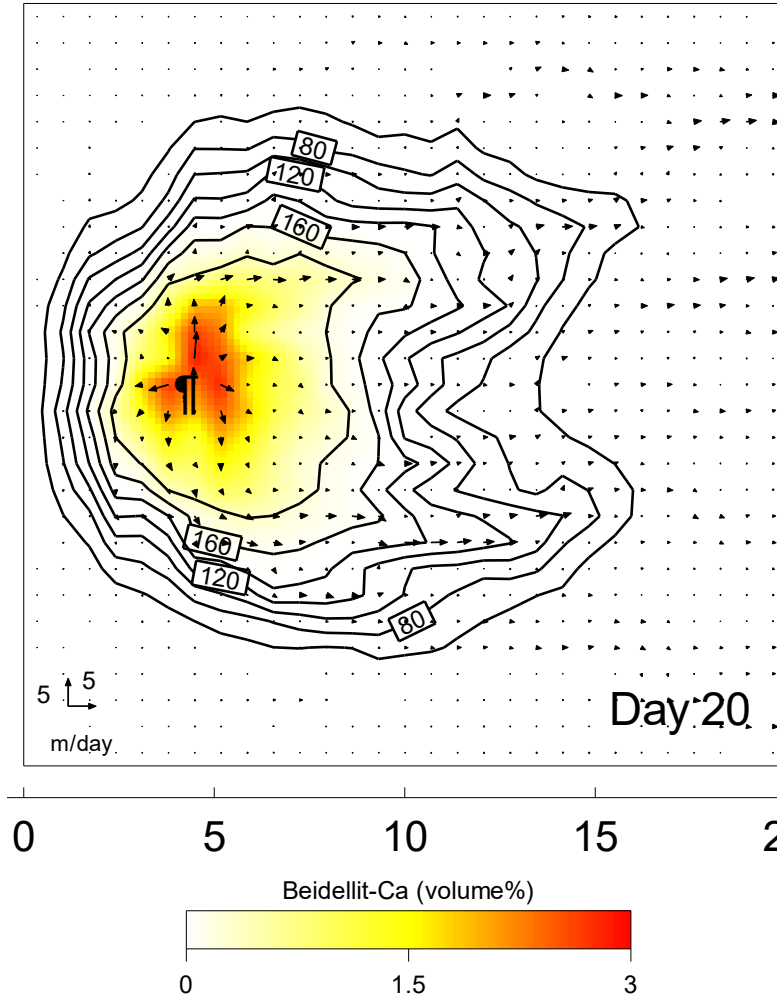


Installation guide

Once installation is complete, open the software. Input the activation code you received by email and click *activate*, then *finish*.



Introduction to the Geochemist's Workbench



We will use the following Apps here:

- **GSS** is a spreadsheet designed for manipulating and plotting geochemistry data
- **Rxn** balances chemical reactions and calculates equilibrium constants, temperatures, and equations
- **Act2** generates stability diagrams on activity, Eh, pe, pH, and fugacity axes
- **SpecE8** computes the distribution of species, sorption onto surfaces, mineral saturation, gas fugacity, and isotope fractionation in aqueous solutions



GSS: The Geochemist's Spreadsheet

- **GSS** is a spreadsheet designed for geochemists. The program works with the other software tools in The Geochemist's Workbench. You enter, paste, or drag the analyses for your samples into a GSS data sheet.
- You can then convert units, create plots and diagrams, mix samples, compare replicate analyses and check standards, calculate speciation and saturation, and more. You can drag samples into the other GWB apps, and drag calculations results from the other apps into **GSS**.

GSS: The Geochemist's Spreadsheet

Open GSS, go to File → Open and select the file “RiverWaters.gss”

Samples
Analytes

GSS Community Edition - C:\Users\maeppli\OneDrive - epfl.ch\GWB\RiverWaters.gss

File Edit Data Plot Analysis Help

		1 ●	2 ▲	3 ▼	+ sample
Sample ID		Amazon River	Mississippi River	World average	
SiO _{2(aq)}	△ mmol/kg	0.1165	0.1315	0.2164	
Al ⁺⁺⁺	▽ mmol/kg	0.002594			
Fe ⁺⁺	◇ mmol/kg	0.001074	358.1E-6		
Ca ⁺⁺	● mmol/kg	0.1073	0.9481	0.3743	
Mg ⁺⁺	▲ mmol/kg	0.04526	0.4114	0.1687	
Na ⁺	▼ mmol/kg	0.0783	0.87	0.274	
K ⁺	◆ mmol/kg		0.07417	0.05883	
HCO ₃ ⁻	⊗ mmol/kg	0.3114	1.852	0.9506	
SO ₄ ⁻²	★ mmol/kg	0.03123	0.5309	0.1145	
Cl ⁻	□ mmol/kg	0.05359	0.677	0.22	
F ⁻	⊗ mmol/kg	0.01053	0.01579		
NO ₃ ⁻	☆ mmol/kg	0.001613	0.03871	0.01613	
TDS	■ mg/kg	28	232	89	
pH	○	6.5	7.4		

+ analyte

GSS: Converting units

Select one or more analytes, right click in the unit field to show a selection of units.

GSS Community Edition - C:\Users\maeppli\OneDrive - epfl.ch\GWB\RiverWaters.gss

File Edit Data Plot Analysis Help

Sample ID		1	2	3	+ sample
		Amazon River	Mississippi River	World average	
SiO ₂ (aq)	mmol/kg	0.1165	0.1315	0.2164	
Al ⁺⁺⁺	mmol/kg	0.002594			
Fe ⁺⁺	mmol/kg	0.001074	358.1E-6		
Ca ⁺⁺	mmol/kg		9481	0.3743	
Mg ⁺⁺	mmol/kg		114	0.1687	
Na ⁺	mmol/kg		0.87	0.274	
K ⁺	mmol/kg		417	0.05883	
HCO ₃ ⁻	mmol/kg		852	0.9506	
SO ₄ ⁻⁻	mmol/kg		6309	0.1145	
Cl ⁻	mmol/kg		677	0.22	
F ⁻	mmol/kg		579		
NO ₃ ⁻	mmol/kg	0	871	0.01613	
TDS	mg/kg		232	89	
pH			7.4		

+ analyte

Units >

- kg
- g
- g/kg
- g/l
- mg
- mg/kg
- mg/l
- ug
- ug/kg
- ug/l
- ng
- ng/kg
- ng/l
- wt fraction
- wt%

Go to Plot and choose from the list of plots and diagrams.

You can add more samples

GSS Community Edition - C:\Users\maepli\OneDrive - epfl.ch\GWB\RiverWaters.gss

File Edit Data Plot Analysis Help

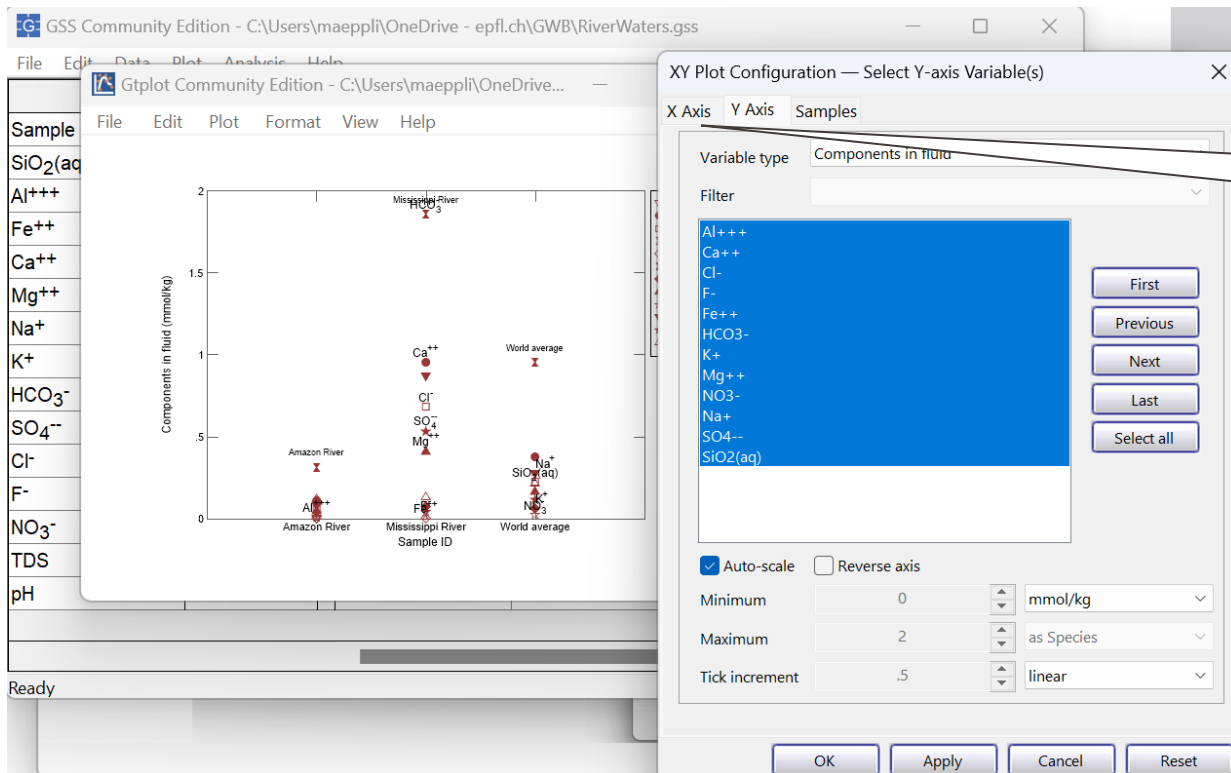
Sample ID		2	3	+ sample
SiO ₂ (aq)	△	5	0.1315	0.2164
Al ⁺⁺⁺	▽	4		
Fe ⁺⁺	◇	4	358.1E-6	
Ca ⁺⁺	●	3	0.9481	0.3743
Mg ⁺⁺	▲	6	0.4114	0.1687
Na ⁺	▼	3	0.87	0.274
K ⁺	◆		0.07417	0.05883
HCO ₃ ⁻	×	4	1.852	0.9506
SO ₄ ⁻	★	3	0.5309	0.1145
	□		0.05359	0.677
	×		0.01053	0.01579
	☆		0.001613	0.03871
S	■		28	232
ph	○		6.5	7.4

+ analyte

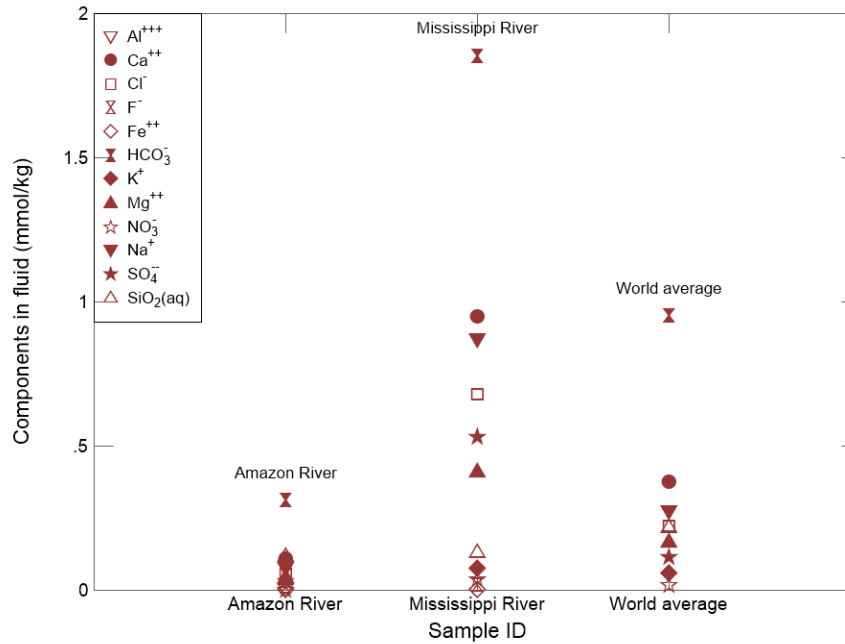
You can add more analytes

GSS: Plotting data

Chose XY Plot → Cross Plot. This will open Gtplot to generate the following:



To change the appearance of the plot, go to Format → Appearance


















GSS: Calculate water hardness

Go back to the initial GSS table. Click on + analyte → Calculate with SpecE8 → Hardness (carbonate). A row with water hardness values is added to the table.

GSS Community Edition - C:\Users\maepli\OneDrive - epfl.ch\GWB\RiverWaters.gss

File Edit Data Plot Analysis Help

Sample ID	1	2	3	+ sample
	Amazon River	Mississippi River	World average	
SiO ₂ (aq) 	mmol/kg	0.1165	0.1315	0.2164
Al ⁺⁺⁺ 	mmol/kg	0.002594		
Fe ⁺⁺ 	mmol/kg	0.001074	358.1E-6	
Ca ⁺⁺ 	mmol/kg	0.1073	0.9481	0.3743
Mg ⁺⁺ 	mmol/kg	0.04526	0.4114	0.1687
Na ⁺ 	mmol/kg	0.0783	0.87	0.274
K ⁺ 	mmol/kg		0.07417	0.05883
HCO ₃ ⁻ 	mmol/kg	0.3114	1.852	0.9506
SO ₄ ⁻⁻ 	mmol/kg	0.03123	0.5309	0.1145
Cl ⁻ 	mmol/kg	0.05359	0.677	0.22
F ⁻ 	mmol/kg	0.01053	0.01579	
NO ₃ ⁻ 	mmol/kg	0.001613	0.03871	0.01613
TDS 	mg/kg	28	232	89
pH 		6.5	7.4	
Hardness 	mg/kg_as_CaC	15.27	136.1	54.35

+ analyte

Why is the water of the Mississippi River harder than the water of the Amazon River?



Reaction balancing with Rxn

- Consider the oxidation of $\text{H}_2\text{S}(\text{aq})$ to sulfate (SO_4^{2-}). To balance this reaction, we can use the Rxn App.
- To balance a reaction with Rxn, first set a species, mineral, etc., to appear on the left side of the reaction. Then, swap the basis to pull in the various species you want to appear in the reaction.

Rxn: Reaction balancing

Start Rxn and move to the Basis pane. Under “balance reaction for”, select “???” → Aqueous... → H₂S(aq). Set “temperature” to 25 °C

Left side of reaction

The screenshot shows the 'Basis' pane of the Rxn Community Edition software. The window title is 'Rxn Community Edition - C:\Users\maeppli'. The menu bar includes 'File', 'Edit', 'Run', 'Config', 'View', and 'Help'. The 'Basis' tab is selected, with 'Command' and 'Results' tabs also visible. The 'balance reaction for' section has a dropdown menu set to 'H2S(aq)' and a unit dropdown set to 'activity'. The 'in terms of' section lists three species: 'H+' with a unit dropdown set to 'activity', 'SO4--' with a unit dropdown set to 'activity', and 'O2(aq)' with a unit dropdown set to 'activity'. The 'temperature' is set to '25.0' with a unit dropdown set to 'C'. The 'ionic strength' is set to 'true' with a unit dropdown set to 'molal' and a 'stoich' label. At the bottom, there are 'add' and 'delete' buttons, a 'factor reaction by' dropdown set to '1.0', and a 'reverse' button. The status bar at the bottom left says 'Ready'.

Rxn: Reaction balancing

- Move to the Results pane and click *Run*. What chemical reaction does the program give? What is its log K?

Rxn: Reaction balancing

Now let's balance the corresponding half-cell reaction. Click on the swap button next to the basis entry for "O₂(aq)" and select Aqueous... → e⁻

The screenshot shows the 'Rxn Community Edition' window with the following settings:

- Balance reaction for:** H₂S(aq) (activity)
- in terms of:**
 - H⁺ (activity)
 - SO₄²⁻ (activity)
 - e⁻ (activity) **O₂(aq)** (activity) — This entry is highlighted with a dashed box, indicating the swap operation.
 - temperature: 25.0 C
 - ionic strength: true (molal stoich)
- factor reaction by:** 1.0 (reverse)

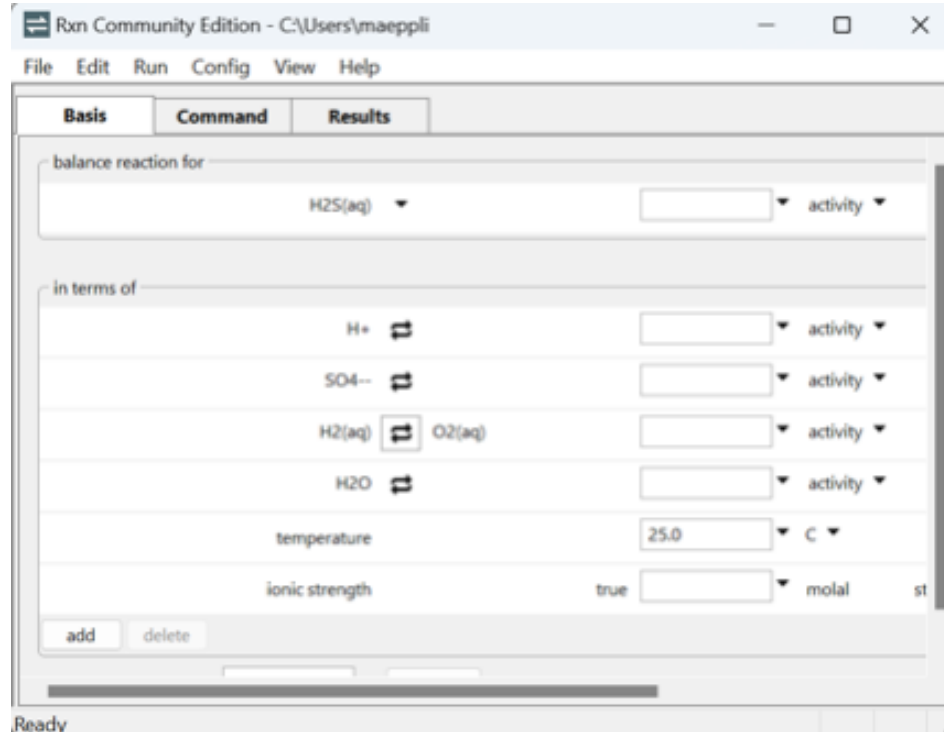
Buttons for 'add' and 'delete' are visible below the 'in terms of' list.

Rxn: Reaction balancing

- Move to the Results pane and click *Run*. How has the reaction changed?

Rxn: Reaction balancing

To recast the reaction to liberate dihydrogen, once again click on the swap button next to the basis entry for “O2(aq)” and select Aqueous... → “H2(aq)”



Rxn: Reaction balancing

- Move to the Results pane and click *Run*. How has the reaction changed?

Exercise 1: Iron oxidation



Dissolved ionic iron exists in anoxic (i.e., in the absence of oxygen) ground water as the reduced species Fe^{2+} . When such waters are used from drinking water supplies and the water becomes exposed to the atmosphere, the Fe^{2+} is oxidized by O_2 to Fe^{III} (ferric iron), which is insoluble at neutral pH and precipitates as $\text{Fe}(\text{OH})_3(\text{s})$.

Write the balanced equation for the oxidation of Fe^{2+} to $\text{Fe}(\text{OH})_3(\text{s})$ by O_2 with the help of Rxn.

What is the log K value for the reaction?

This is Exercise 2
from the Redox I
class

1. Geochemical modeling is used to obtain information on solute concentrations in space and time.
2. The model is always a simplification of a complex real system. We therefore need to be careful with our assumptions and interpretation of the modeling output.
3. The GSS spreadsheet in the Geochemist's Workbench can be used to convert units, create plots, and calculate speciation and saturation. (We will talk more about this when discussing the SpecE8 app!)
4. We can use the Rxn app in the Geochemist's Workbench to balance reactions.