

Actinide chemistry in aqueous solutions for waste disposal and environmental studies

Pierre Vitorge

Commissariat à l'Energie Atomique Division de l'Energie Nucléaire Saclay - France

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Département de Physico-Chimie / Service d'Etude du Comportement des Radionucléides
Laboratoire de Spéciation des Radionucléides et des Molécules.pierre.vitorge(at /)cea.fr

Catherine Beaucaire, *Colin Marsden, Michael Descoste, Dominique You, Patrick
Lovera, **Hélène Capdevila.

*LPQ IRSAMC, Université Paul Sabatier, Toulouse. **CEA DEN Cadarache, DTCD/SPDE

Unité Mixte de Recherche 8587 :
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Introduction. For the management of radioactive wastes, Equilibrium Speciation is studied in aqueous solutions: Chemistry of Actinides and other Radionuclides (critical reviewing and measuring thermodynamic data), also thermodynamics, methodologies...

Mass Action Law

in Nature

in Laboratory (measuring equilibrium constants and stoichiometries)

...for Solid Solutions ...and Ionic Exchange Equilibria

Activity coefficients

SIT (and Pitzer) Formula = extended Debye and Hückel Formula

= Boltzmann – Poisson Calculus ...as for Surface Complexation Formula

Consistency

of thermochemical data

between different scientific fields, *i.e.* reference states ...e⁻ notation

Ab initio calculations

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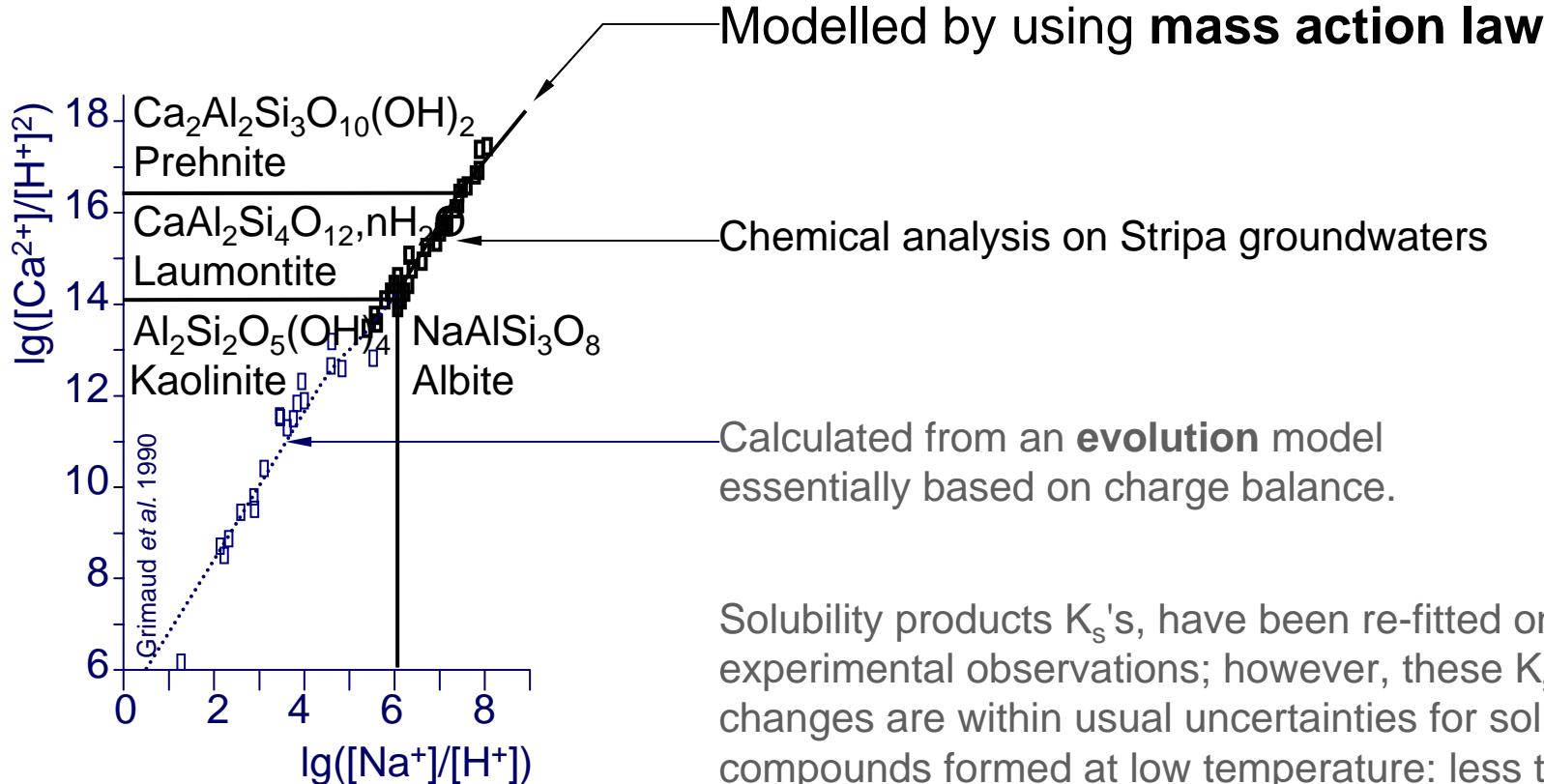
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Ab initio calculations

Equilibration of Stripa groundwaters with minerals

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Solubility products K_s 's, have been re-fitted on the experimental observations; however, these K_s changes are within usual uncertainties for solid compounds formed at low temperature: less than 0.6 \log_{10} unit (i.e. 0.3 $\text{kJ}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$ on $\Delta_f G$) as compared to Ref (Michard G. (1983) EUR 8590).

Grimaud D., Beaucaire C., Michard G. (1990) Applied Geochemistry, Vol.5, 515-525

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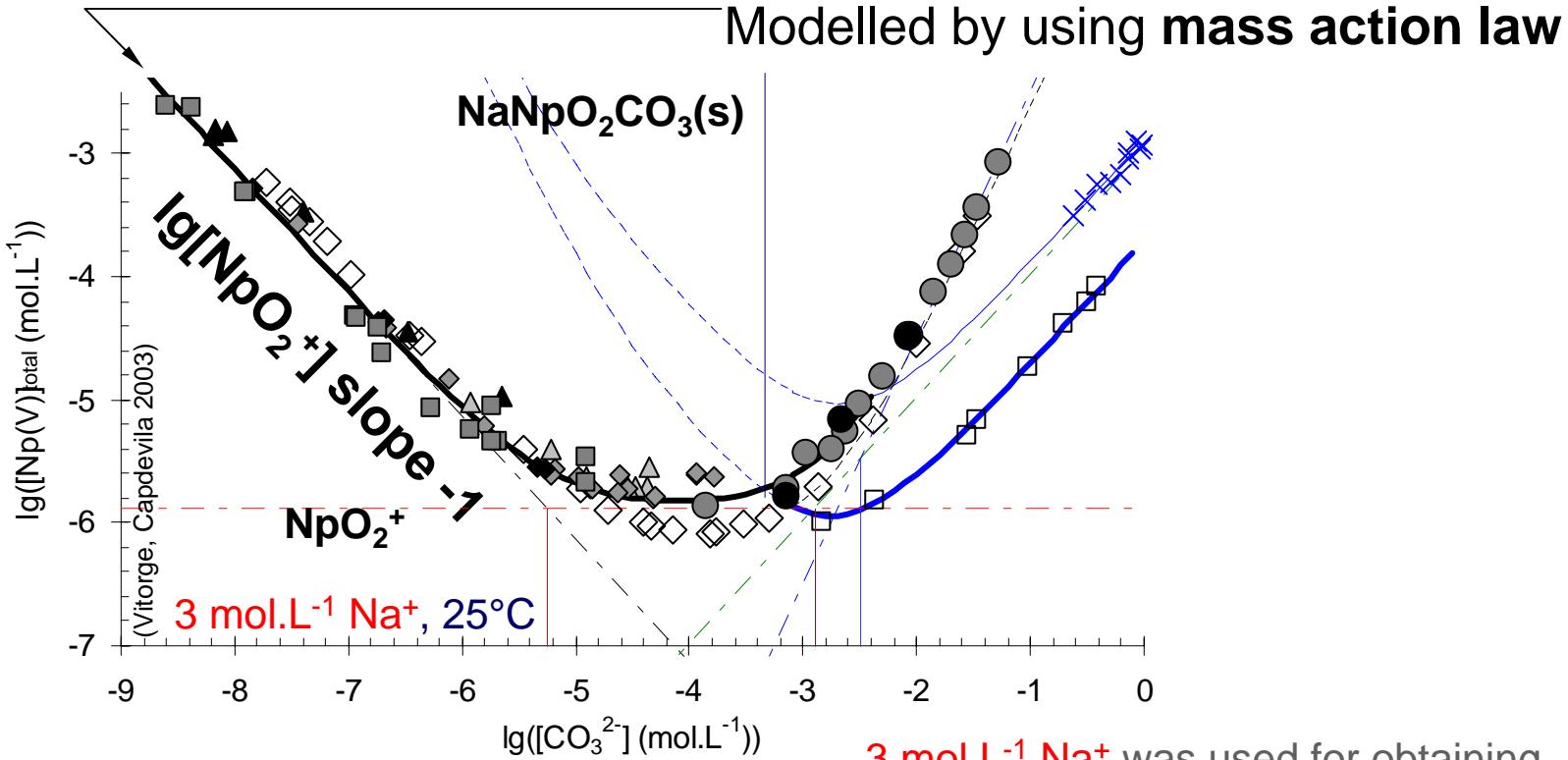
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Ab initio calculations

Np(V) solubility in CO_3^{2-} / HCO_3^- /CO₂ aqueous solutions

Solubility product



$$K_s = [\text{Na}^+] [\text{NpO}_2^+] [\text{CO}_3^{2-}]$$

$$\lg[\text{NpO}_2^+] = -\lg[\text{CO}_3^{2-}] + \text{Constant}$$

$$\text{Constant} = \lg K_s + \lg[\text{Na}^+]$$

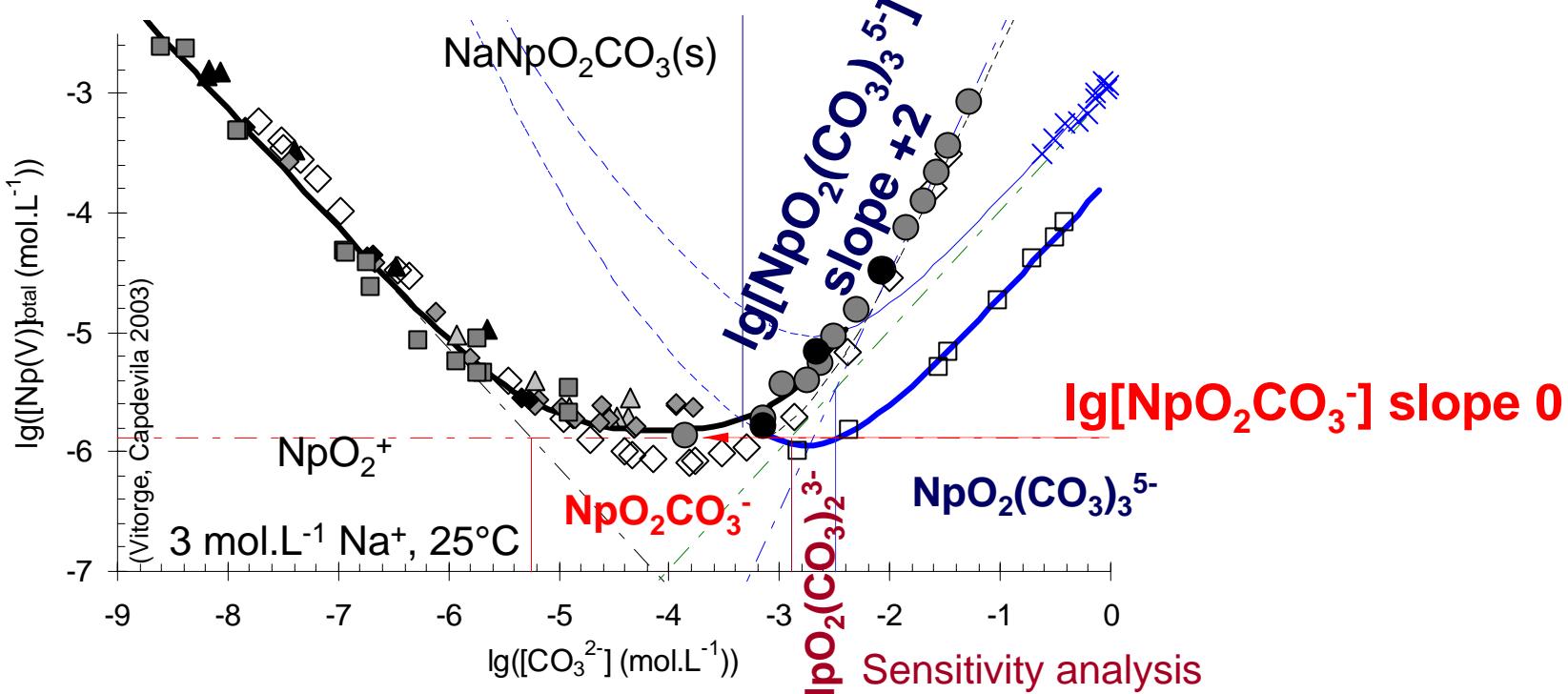
$3 \text{ mol.L}^{-1} \text{Na}^+$ was used for obtaining **constant activity coefficients γ** , in the aqueous phase. This makes the **system ideal** and allows **slope and sensitivity analysis**.

Vitorge P., Capdevila H. (1998) CEA-R-5793. Vitorge P., Capdevila H (2003). Radiochim. Acta 91, 623–631.

Np(V) solubility in CO_3^{2-} / HCO_3^- /CO₂ aqueous solutions

Complexing constants

Modelled by using mass action law



$$K_{si} = [\text{Na}^+] [\text{NpO}_2(\text{CO}_3)_i^{1-2i}] [\text{CO}_3^{2-}]^{1-i} = K_s \beta_i \quad \beta_i = \frac{[\text{NpO}_2(\text{CO}_3)_i^{1-2i}]}{[\text{NpO}_2^+] [\text{CO}_3^{2-}]^{1-i}}$$

$$\text{lg}[\text{NpO}_2(\text{CO}_3)_i^{1-2i}] = (1-i)\text{lg}[\text{CO}_3^{2-}] + \text{Constant}$$

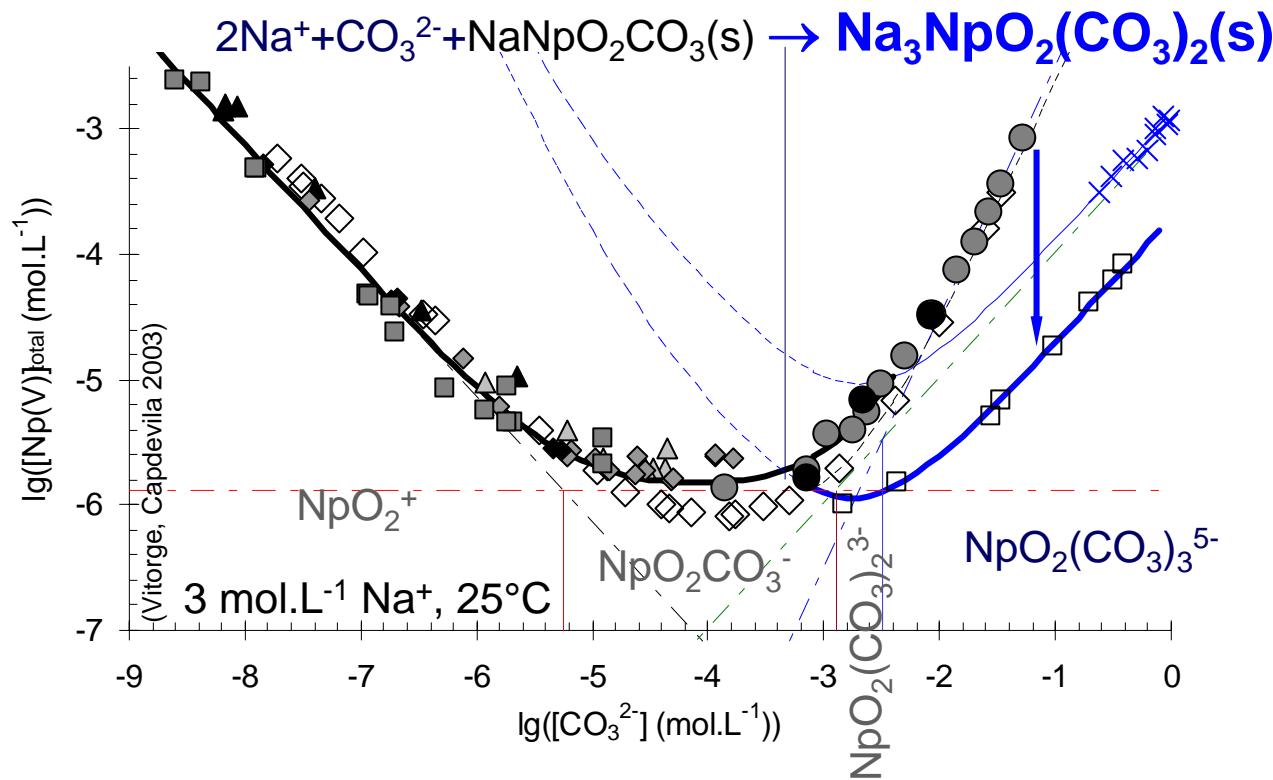
$$\text{Constant} = \text{lg } K_{si} + \text{lg } [\text{Na}^+]$$

Np(V) solubility in CO_3^{2-} / HCO_3^- /CO₂ aqueous solutions

Precipitation of a new solid phase

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Other stoichiometries of compounds have been proposed in literature¹ for Na/NpO₂

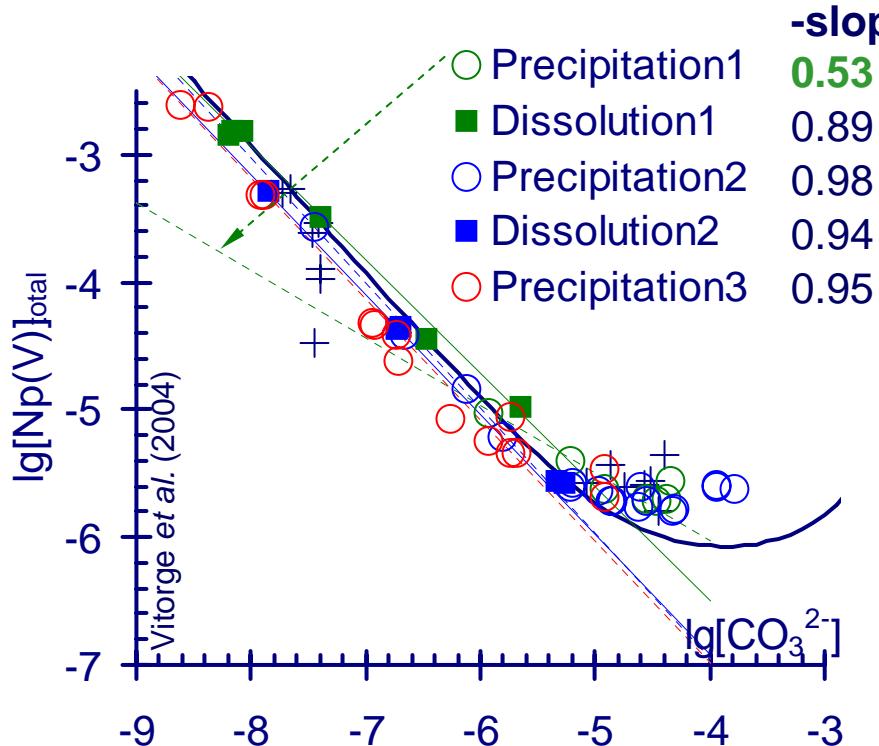
¹Volkov, Y.F., Visyashcheva, G.I., Tomilin, S.V., Spiriyakov, V.T., Kapshukov, I.I., Rykov, A.G. Sov. Radiochim., 21, 5 (1979) 583-590. Transl. Radiokhim., 21, 5 (1979) 673-681.

Vitorge PIAEA-SR-104/25. Sofia, Bulgarie (6-10 février 1984).

Vitorge P., Capdevila H., CEA-R-5793 (1998)

Np(V) solubility in CO_3^{2-} / HCO_3^- /CO₂ aqueous solutions

Evidence of $\text{Na}_{2x-1}\text{NpO}_2(\text{CO}_3)_x$ Solid Solution?



$x = -0.53$ for initial precipitation
should certainly be attributed to kinetics; however, other stoichiometries for Na/NpO₂ have been proposed in literature¹ based on X-ray diffraction and ionic exchange studies:
 $\text{Na}_{2x-1}\text{NpO}_2(\text{CO}_3)_x(s)$?
i.e. a solid solution?...

¹Volkov, Y.F., Visyashcheva, G.I., Tomilin, S.V., Spiriyakov, V.T., Kapshukov, I.I., Rykov, A.G. Sov. Radiochim., 21, 5 (1979) 583-590. Transl. Radiokhim., 21, 5 (1979) 673-681.

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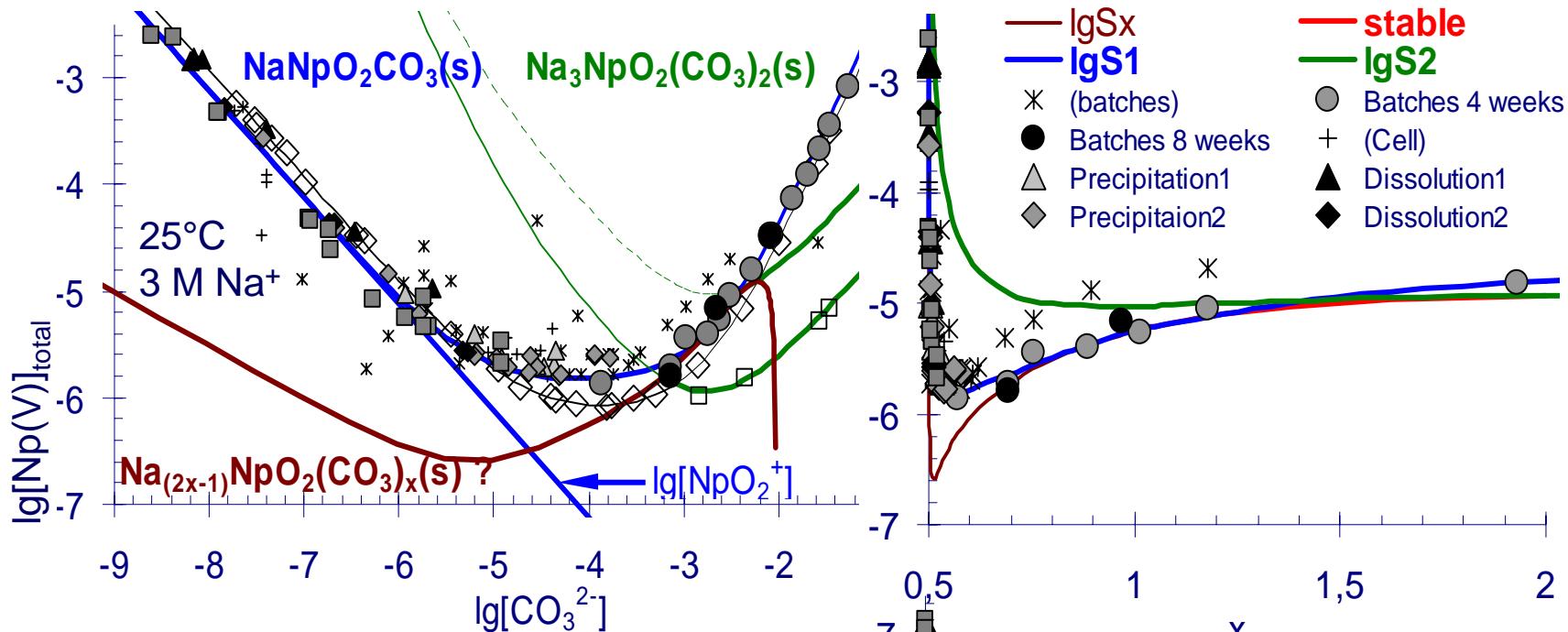
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Ab initio calculations

No clear evidence of any $\text{Na}_{2x-1}\text{NpO}_2(\text{CO}_3)_x$ ideal solid solution.

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While X-ray studies suggest the formation of a solid solution; this is not reflected in solubility measurements...despite this is not evidenced in classical graphical representations.

Is Mass Action Law valid for Solid Solutions?

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Ab initio calculations

Thermodynamics of solid solutions as published in text books

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Example: $\text{Na}_{2x-1}\text{NpO}_2(\text{CO}_3)_x$

or equivalently $\text{Na}_{2(1-y)}(\text{NpO}_2)_{2y}\text{CO}_3$ where $y = 1/(2x)$

the amount of CO_3^{2-} is the amount of solid matrix
while $\text{Na}^+/\text{NpO}_2^+$ cations are exchanged

Dissolution Reaction



Ionic Exchange Reaction



Mass Action Law for Reaction(2):

$$D = \frac{[\text{Na}^+(\text{s})][\text{NpO}_2^+(\text{aq})]}{[\text{Na}^+(\text{aq})][\text{NpO}_2^+(\text{s})]} = \frac{2(1-y)[\text{NpO}_2^+(\text{aq})]}{2y[\text{Na}^+(\text{aq})]}$$

$D = K_{s1} / K_{s0}$ is obtained by linear combinations of chemical potentials
where $K_{sy} = [\text{Na}^+(\text{aq})]^{2(1-y)} [\text{NpO}_2^+(\text{aq})]^{2y} [\text{CO}_3^{2-}(\text{aq})]$
are the solubility product of the endmembers for $y = 0$ or 1

$$\text{Similarly } K_{sy} = K_{s0}^{1-y} K_{s1}^y (1-x)^{b(1-y)} x^{cy}$$

which is **only similar to** Mass Action Law for Reaction(1)

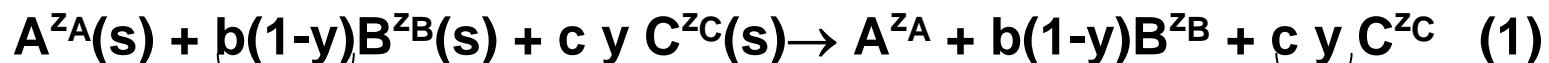
Thermodynamics of solid solutions

a reaction with 2 advancement variables

Advancement variable for Reaction 1 at constant y (n_X = number of mole for Species X): $(dn_X)_y = v_X (dn_{A^{ZA}})_y$ $v_A = 1$, $v_B = b(1-y)$, $v_C = c y$ $v_{X(s)} = -v_X$

$$b = -z_A/z_B, c = -z_A/z_C, \mathbf{AB}_{b(1-y)}\mathbf{C}_c y(s) = A^{ZA}(s) + b(1-y)B^{zB}(s) + c y C^{zC}(s)$$

Dissolution Reaction



It appears that: $\frac{dv_X}{dy} = v'_X$ are the stoichiometric coefficients for Reaction 2:

$$v'_A = 0 \quad v'_B = b, \quad v'_C = c, \quad v_{X(s)} = -v_X$$

Ionic Exchange Reaction



$$dn_X = d(v_X n_{A^{ZA}}) = v_X (dn_{A^{ZA}})_y$$

$$0 = \sum_X (\mu_X dn_X) = \left(\sum_X (\mu_X v_X) \right) (dn_{A^{ZA}})_y$$

$$+ n_{A^{ZA}} v'_X dy$$

$$+ n_{A^{ZA}} \left(\sum_X (\mu_X v'_X) \right) dy$$

$$\frac{[A^{ZA}] [B^{zB}]^{b(1-y)} [C^{zC}]^{cy}}{(1-y)^{b(1-y)} y^c} = K_{s0}^{1-y} K_{s1}^y \text{ and}$$

$$\frac{(1-y)^b [C^{zC}]^c}{[B^{zB}]^b y^c} = \frac{K_{s1}}{K_{s0}}$$

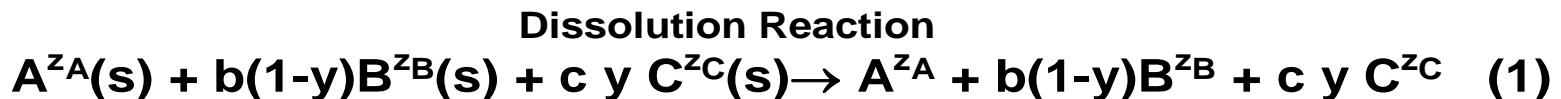
$$0 < y < 1$$

Thermodynamics of solid solutions

Dissolution Reaction \leftrightarrow Ionic Exchange Reaction

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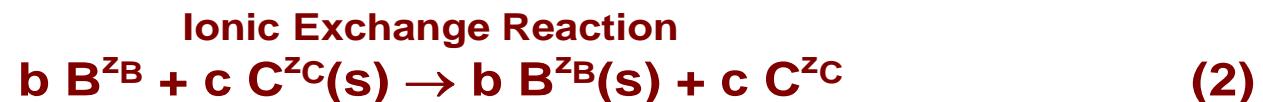


Differentiating:

$$\frac{dv_x}{dy} = v'_x$$

Integral calculus:

$$v_x = \int v'_x dy$$



$K_{ex} = \frac{K_{s1}}{K_{s0}}$, where K_{ex} is the equilibrium constant for a **ionic exchange equilibrium**.

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Ab initio calculations

H^+ / NpO_2^+ ionic exchange on a clayey sand

Should it be considered as part of a (surface) solid solution?

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K_d is $Np(V)$ partition coefficient between a clayey sand and an aqueous solution.

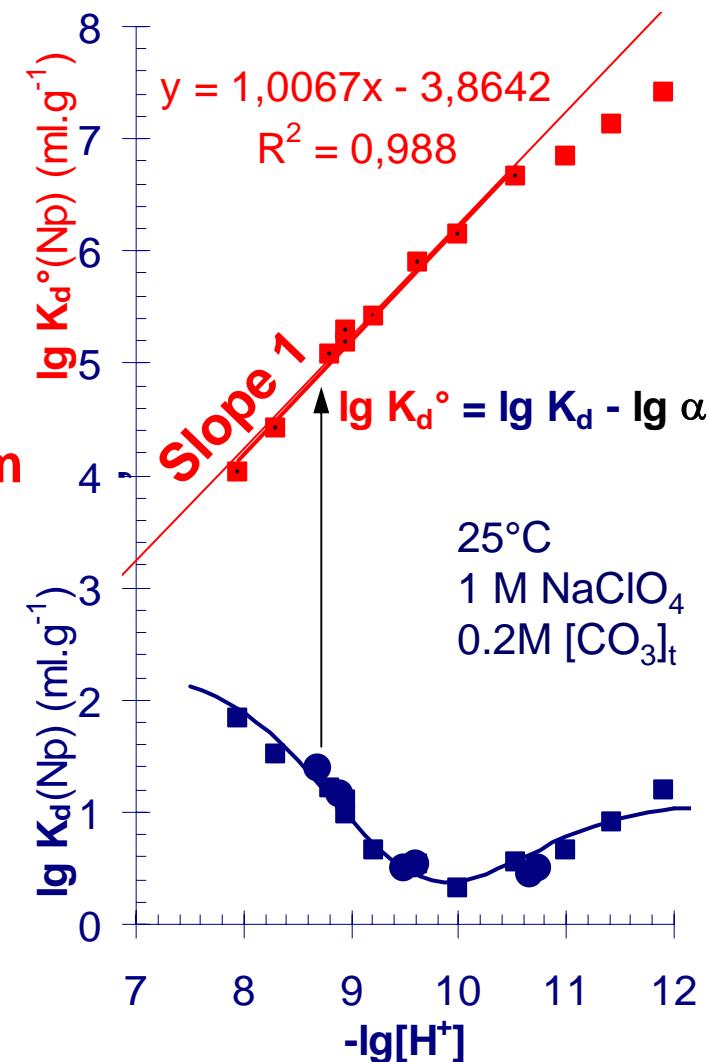
K_d° is NpO_2^+ partition coefficient.

$\alpha = [NpO_2]_t / [NpO_2^+]$
is calculated from complexing constants

Slope 1
evidences Ionic Echange Equilibrium
 $NpO_2^+(aq) + H^+(s) \rightarrow NpO_2^+(s) + H^+(aq)$

$$K_{ex} = \frac{[NpO_2^+(s)][H^+(aq)]}{[NpO_2^+(aq)][H^+(s)]} = K_d \frac{[H^+(aq)]}{[H^+(s)]} \approx K_d \frac{[H^+(aq)]}{CEC}$$

$$K_{ex} = \frac{K_{s1}}{K_{s0}} ?$$



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Ab initio calculations

Activity coefficients

using SIT formula at 25°C for Reaction $\text{Pu}^{4+} + \text{e}^- \rightarrow \text{Pu}^{3+}$

$$\lg K_{\text{Pu}^{4+}/\text{Pu}^{3+}} + 7 D = \lg K^\circ_{\text{Pu}^{4+}/\text{Pu}^{3+}} + \Delta \varepsilon_{\text{Pu}^{4+}/\text{Pu}^{3+}} m_{\text{ClO}_4^-}$$

$$D = \frac{0.509 \sqrt{I_m}}{1 + 1.5 \sqrt{I_m}} \text{ at } 25^\circ\text{C}$$

here $m_{\text{ClO}_4^-} = I_m$,
 I_m is the molal ionic strength ($\text{mol} \cdot \text{kg}^{-1}$)

Equilibrium constant K is constant in a given ideal system,
 typically a solution of high and constant ionic strength I .

Reference state $K^\circ = K(I \rightarrow 0)$

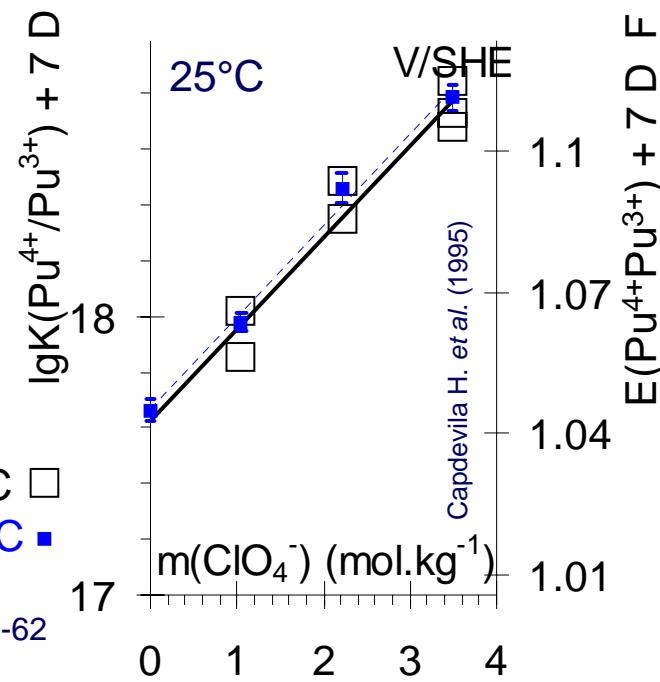
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$\Delta \varepsilon$ appears to be constant, which validates SIT Formula

$\Delta_r G = -R T \ln K_{\text{Pu}^{4+}/\text{Pu}^{3+}} = -F E_{\text{Pu}^{4+}/\text{Pu}^{3+}}$,
 R is the molar gas constant,
 F the Faraday constant

measured at 25°C □
 interpolated at 25°C from data at 5 to 65°C ■

Capdevila H., Vitorge P. (1995) Radiochim. Acta 68, 1, 51-62
 . & CEA-N-2762 (1994)



Activity coefficients

SIT formula at 25°C for the highly charged species Pu⁴⁺

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$$\lg \gamma_I = -z_i^2 D + \varepsilon_{I,j} m_j, (j = \text{ClO}_4^- \text{ or } \text{Na}^+)$$

$$\Delta_r \lg \gamma = -\Delta_r z^2 D + \Delta_r \varepsilon m$$

?

$$\Delta_r \lg \gamma_I + \Delta_r z_i^2 D = \Delta_r \varepsilon_{I,j} m_j$$



$$\Delta \varepsilon_{\text{PuO}_2(\text{s})} = \varepsilon_{\text{Pu}^{4+}, \text{ClO}_4^-} + (4+n) a_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}/m - 4 \varepsilon_{\text{H}^+, \text{ClO}_4^-}$$



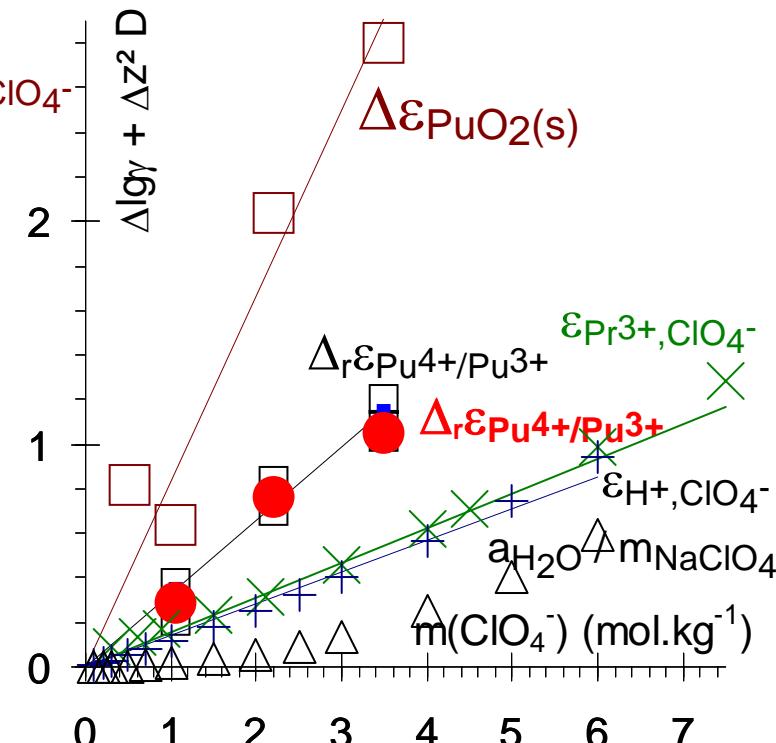
$$\Delta_r \varepsilon_{\text{Pu}^{4+}/\text{Pu}^{3+}} = \varepsilon_{\text{Pu}^{3+}, \text{ClO}_4^-} - \varepsilon_{\text{Pu}^{4+}, \text{ClO}_4^-}$$

Checking by using Thermodynamic Cycle

$$\Delta_r \varepsilon_{\text{Pu}^{4+}/\text{Pu}^{3+}} = \varepsilon_{\text{Pu}^{3+}} - \Delta \varepsilon_{\text{PuO}_2} - 4 \varepsilon_{\text{H}^+} \dots$$

Auxiliary data from isopiestic measurements

$$\varepsilon_{\text{Pr}^{3+}, \text{ClO}_4^-} \approx \varepsilon_{\text{Pu}^{3+}, \text{ClO}_4^-}$$



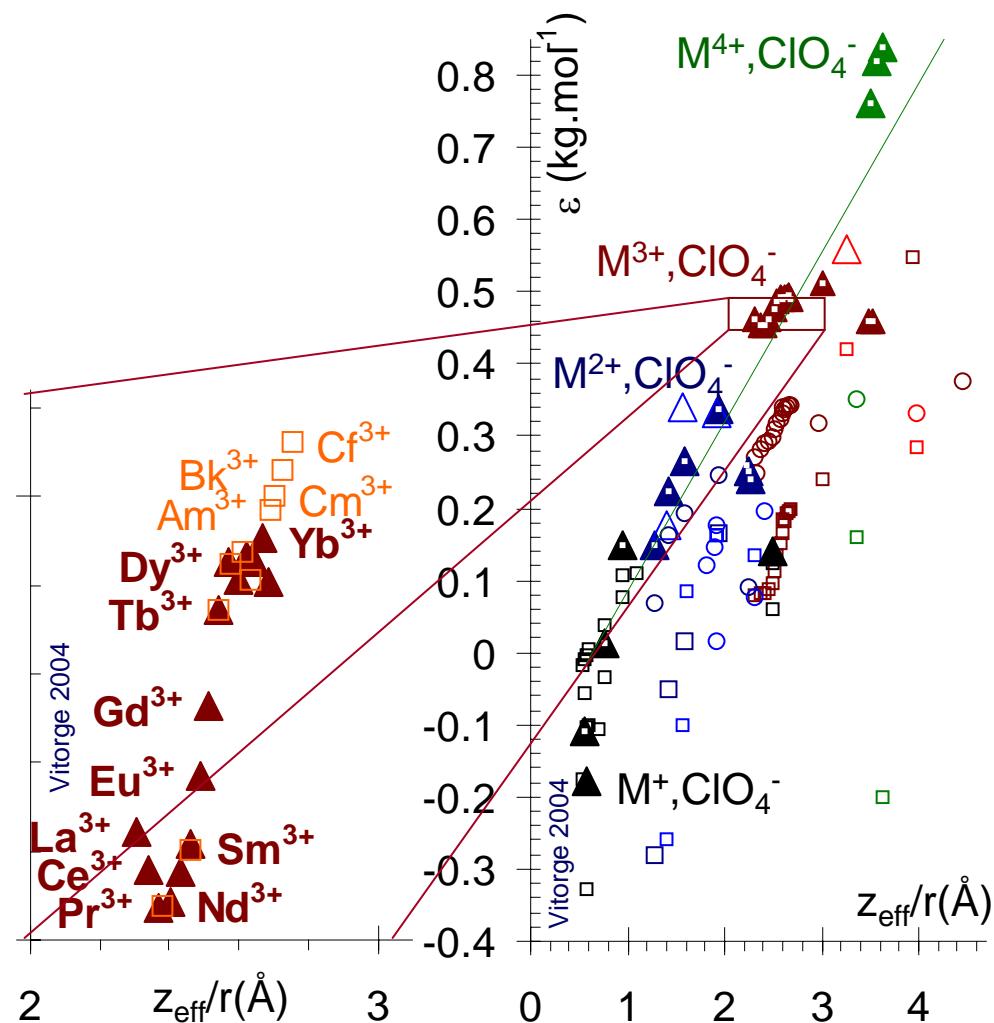
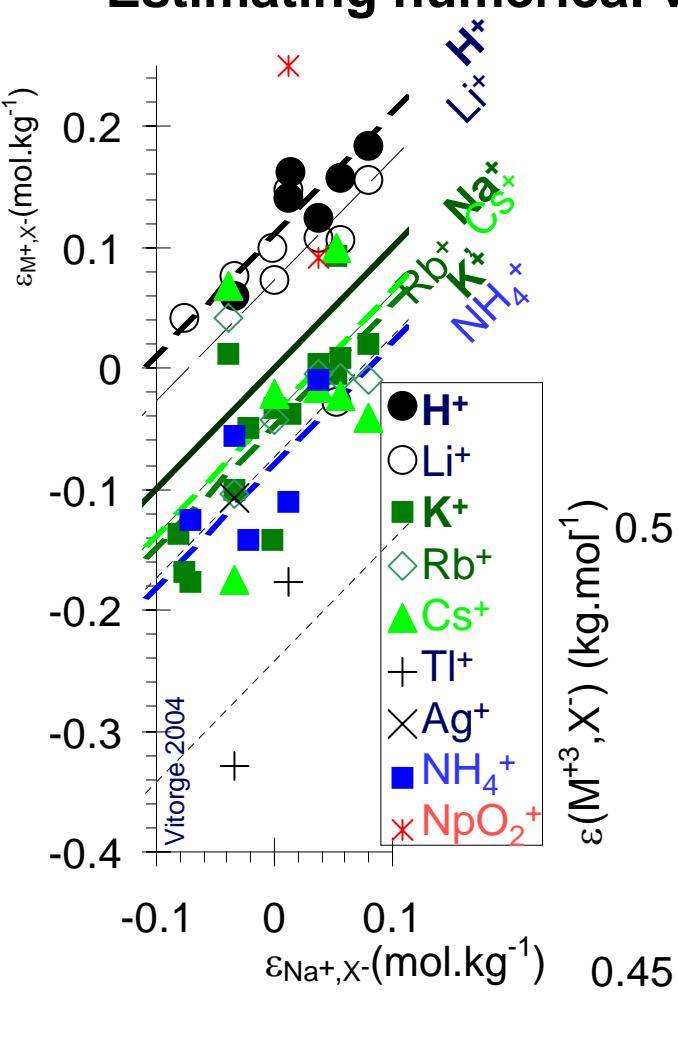
Capdevila H., Vitorge P. Radiochim. Acta 82, 11-16 (1998)

Activity coefficients

Estimating numerical values for SIT empirical coefficients ε .

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Ab initio calculations

Activity coefficients at 25°C: conclusion

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SIT Formula accounts for experimental data to surprisingly high ionic strength, even for highly charged species.

However, this might very well be fortuitous; several linear effects might very well be empirically included in Ion Pair term ε .

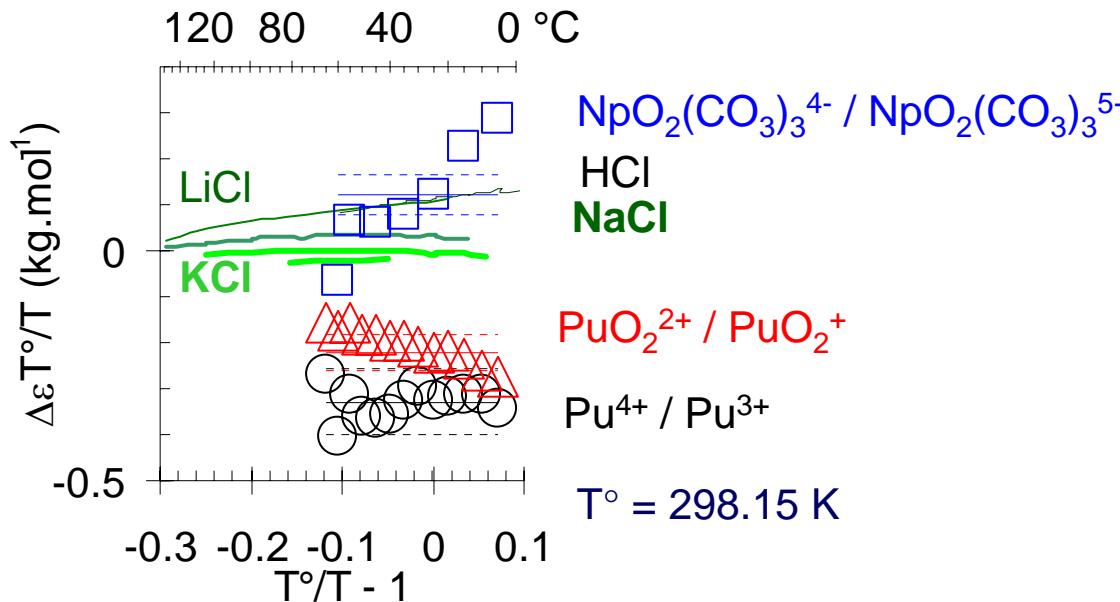
It is interesting to check whether SIT formula is also consistent with **temperature influence**, since it was proposed by using Statistical Physics as a result of temperature effect (disorder) and interactions (order).

Activity coefficients

temperature Influence on ε , the ion pair coefficient of SIT formula.

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It appears that

in several cases, (ε / T) does not depend on temperature, T.

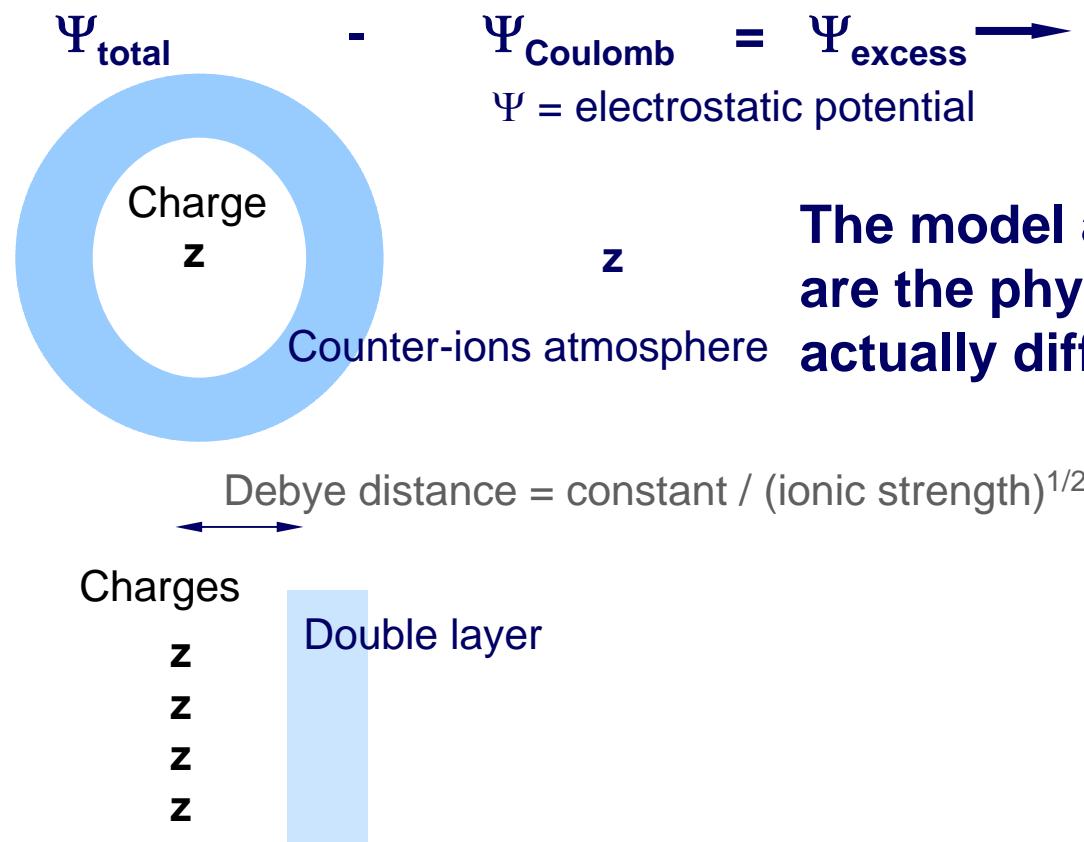
Despite this corresponds to the model used to obtained SIT Formula, this was not specially expected.

As a consequence **the values of the activity coefficients, can be extrapolated from their values known at typically 25°C, i.e. without any new fitted parameter.**

Activity coefficients

comparison of SIT and Surface Complexation Formula.

SIT Formula



Surface Complexation Formula



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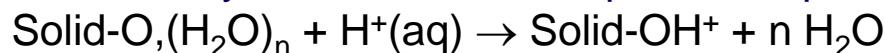
Ab initio calculations

Surface chemistry: Sorption

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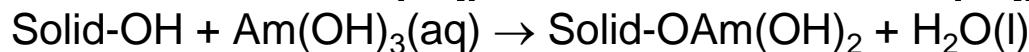
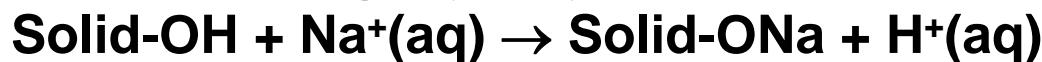
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The surfaces of compounds are ionised, when in contact with water for typically oxides, hydroxides, silicate, apatite compounds:



→ This is at the origin of the **surface charges** (and double layer)

→ and **ionic exchanges** typically



modeled by using **Surface Complexation Formula** or **Mass Action Law for ideal neutral phases**

→ What about **solid compounds that do not contain oxygen atoms?**

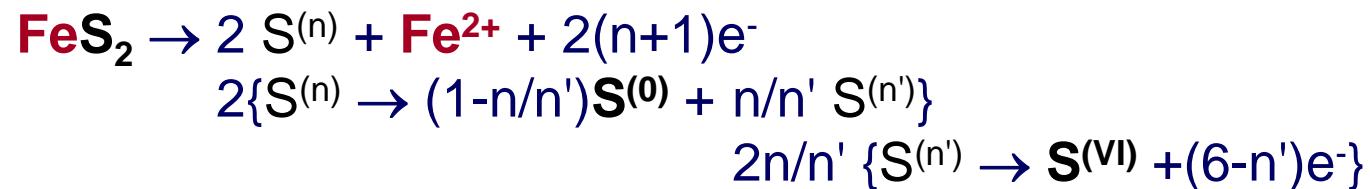
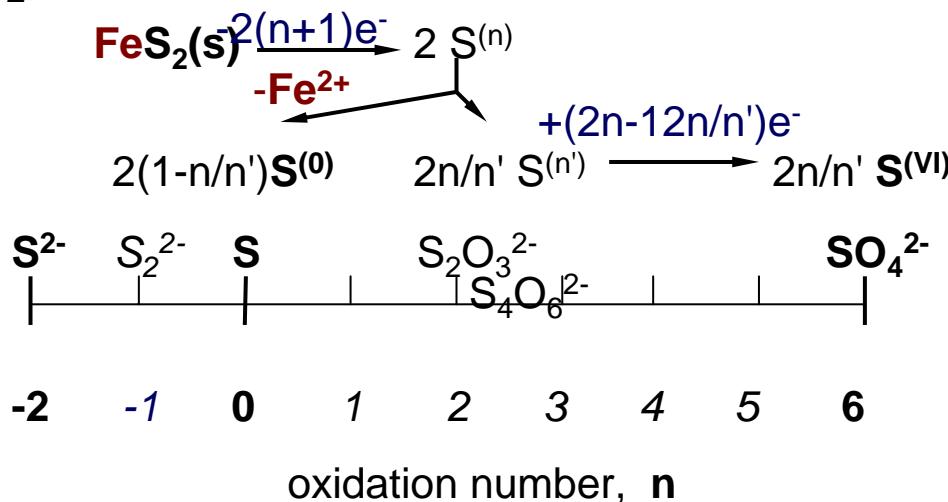
Are other surface anions protonated / hydrated / hydrolysed?

Conversely is the surface of the solid merely oxidised?

Surface chemistry: Pyrite (FeS_2) oxidative dissolution... and disproportionation

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- ➔ S_iO_j^z species are formed in the course of Oxidative Pyrite Dissolution,
- ➔ they are not stable in aqueous solutions
- ➔ are they stable at the surface?

➔ Are the sorption properties of Pyrite analogous to those of O containing compounds?

M.Descostes, P.Vitorge, C.Beaucaire. Geochim. Cosmochim. Acta (in press).

M.Descostes, P.Vitorge, C.Beaucaire. WRI-11 June 27-July 2, 2004. Aqueous Geochemistry and Biogeochemistry. Water-Rock Interaction, Wanty & Seal II (eds), pp 1279-1283. Balkema. ISBN 90 5809 64 16.

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Consistency of thermochemical data

Critical reviewing

→ Comparing raw experimental data

→ Reinterpreting, sensitivity analysis, consistency

→ **Consistency = using a single chemical model (i.e. set of chemical species) for all published data on a given chemical system** see *Nuclear Division Conference "Actinide Carbonate Complexes"*

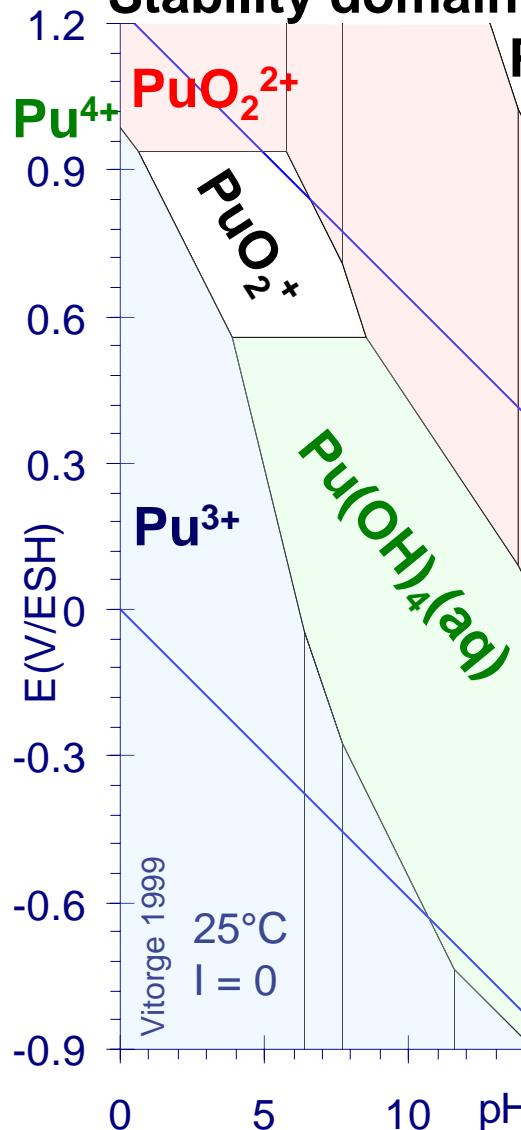
→ Correcting systematic errors as typically in calibrations (activity coefficients, junction potentials)

→ Extrapolating to zero ionic strength

→ Using analogies
for checking consistency or estimating missing data

Pourbaix diagram of Pu

Stability domain of Pu(VII) from an Np(VII)/Pu(VII) analogy



$E(\text{Pu}_{\text{VII}/\text{VI}})$ in 1 M NaOH^{1,2}

$$\Delta_r E = E(\text{Pu}_{\text{VII}/\text{VI}}, 1 \text{ M NaOH}) - E(\text{Pu}_{\text{VII}/\text{VI}}, 1 \text{ M HClO}_4)$$

$$\sim \lg(\beta_{\text{VII, hydrolysis}} / \beta_{\text{VI, hydrolysis}}))$$

$$\Delta_r E(\text{Pu}) = \Delta_r E(\text{Pu})$$

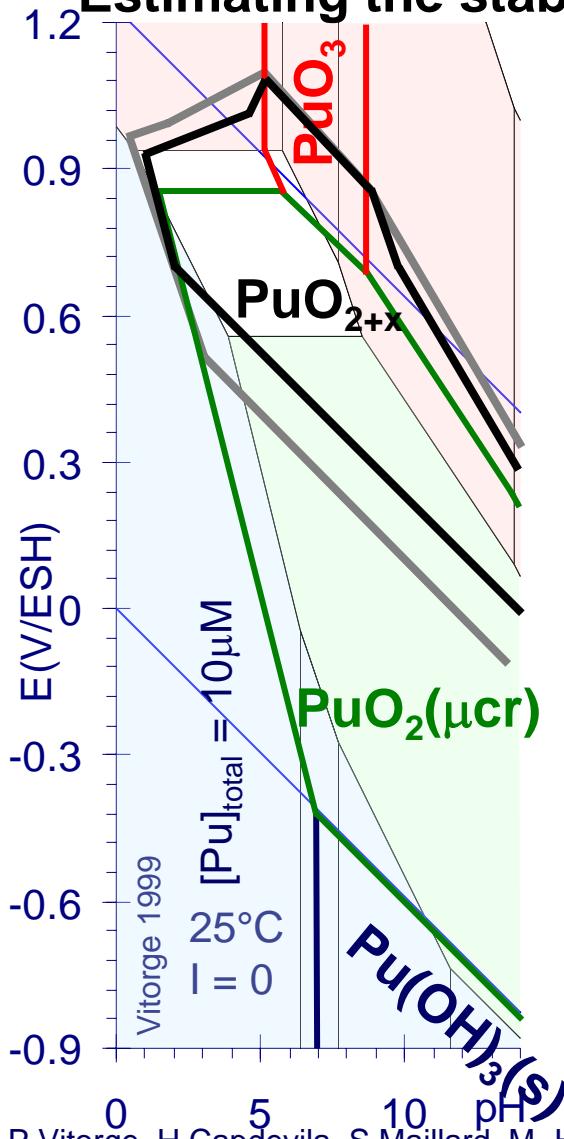
Ionic strength correction (SIT Formula)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	...
H										
Li	Be	B	C	...						
Na	Mg	Al	Si	P	...					
K	Ca	Sc	Ti	V	Cr	Mn	Fe	Co	Ni	...
Rb	Sr	Y	Zr	Nb	Mo	Tc	Ru	Rh	Pd	...
Cs	Ba	La	Ce	Pr	Nd	Pm	Sm	Eu	Pt	...
Fr	Ra	Ac	Th	Pa	U	Np	Pu	Am	Cm	...
1										
2										
3				3	3	3	3	3	3	3
4				4	4	4	4	4	4	4
5				5	5	5	5	5	5	5
6				6	6	6	6	6	6	6
7				7	7	7	7	7	7	7

¹Peretrushkin, V., Shilov, V., Pikaev, A., WHC-EP-0817 (1995) - ²Peretrushkin, V., Krot, N., Gelman, A., Radiokhimiya 14 (1972) 72-77

Pourbaix diagram of Pu

Estimating the stabilities of PuO_{2+x} by using U/Pu analogies



Actinides ions are hard cations: in most cases the stabilities of their complexes and hydrolysis behaviour are correlated to Ratio Charge/(ionic Radius)

→ analogy at the same oxidation state

→ specific redox stabilities

Assuming

→ $\text{PuO}_{2+x} = \text{Pu(IV)} + \text{Pu(VI)}$

or

→ $\text{PuO}_{2+x} = \text{Pu(IV)} + \text{Pu(V)}$

P. Vitorge, H. Capdevila. Radiochim. Acta 91, 623–631 (2003)

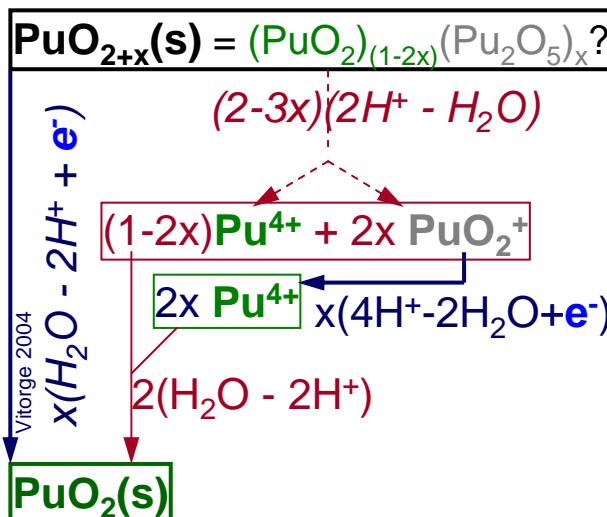
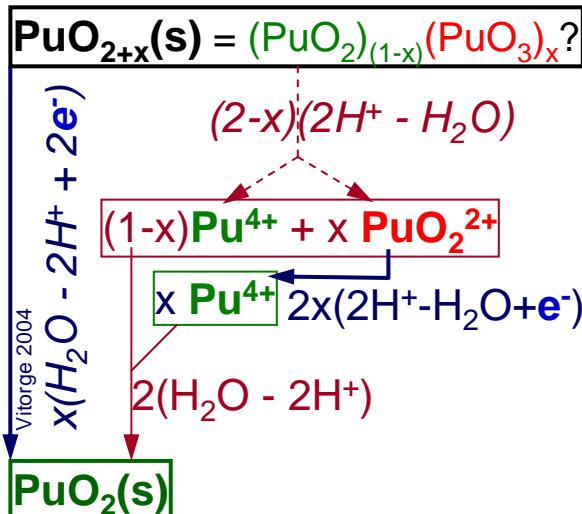
P. Vitorge, H. Capdevila, S. Maillard, M.-H. Fauré, T. Vercouter. J. Nuclear Sc. Techno. Supplement 3. p713-716(2002)

Pourbaix diagram of Pu

Thermodynamic cycles for estimating the stabilities of PuO_{2+x}

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Attributing atomic or molecular charges in solids is not straightforward.

However, recent EXAFS studies can be interpreted with the characteristic $\text{Pu}-\text{O(yl)}$ bond length of PuO_2^+ .
(S.Conradson *et al.* Inorg. Chem.; 2004; 43(1) pp 116 – 131.
S.Conradson *et al.* J.A.C.S. in press.
S.Conradson *et al.* J. Solid State Chem. in press.)

P.Vitorge, H.Capdevila. Radiochim. Acta 91, 623–631 (2003)

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Actinide chemistry in aqueous solutions for waste disposal and environmental studies

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Introduction. For the management of radioactive wastes, Equilibrium speciation is studied in aqueous solutions: Chemistry of Actinides and other Radionuclides (critical reviewing and measuring thermodynamic data), also thermodynamics, methodologies...

Mass Action Law

in Nature

in Laboratory (measuring equilibrium constants and stoichiometries)

...for solid solutions ...and ionic exchange equilibria

Activity coefficients

SIT (and Pitzer) formula = extended Debye and Hückel formula

= Boltzmann – Poisson calculus ...as for surface complexation formula

Consistency

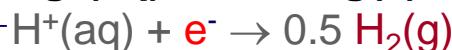
of thermochemical data

between different scientific fields, i.e. Reference states ...e⁻ notation

Ab initio calculations

Consistency of thermochemical data

Notation e^-



$$K = \frac{[red]}{[ox] a_{e^-}}$$

Notation for Electrochemistry

Standard Hydrogen Electrode (SHE)

Notation for Thermodynamics

Corresponding equilibrium constant

$$\Delta_r G_{ox/red} = -R T \ln K_{ox/red} = -n F E_{ox/red}$$

$$\Delta_f G_e = R T \ln a_e = -F E$$

Corresponding e^- activity

$$0 = \Delta_r G_{SHE} = 0.5 \Delta_f G_{H_2(g)} - \Delta_f G_{H^+(aq)} - \Delta_f G_{e^-}, \text{ also } 0 = \Delta_f G_{H_2(g)} \text{ (Reference State)}$$

$$\text{when } 0 = \Delta_f G_{H^+(aq)}$$

$$\Delta_f G_{e^-} = 0$$

similarly

$$\Delta_f H_{e^-} = 0$$

and

$$S_{e^-} = 0.5 S_{H_2(g)} - S_{H^+(aq)}$$

→ e^- is not $e^-(aq)$, neither $e^-(s)$, it is rather e^-_{SHE}

→ $Ag^+(aq) \rightarrow Ag^+(s)$

Actual mechanism¹ ?

however this notation does not include charge balance in each phase

¹Eliezer Gileadi. Chem.Phys.Letters 393 (2004) 421–424



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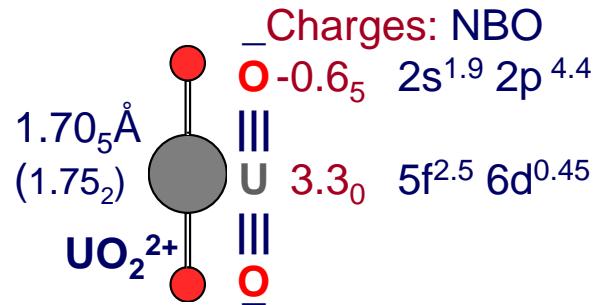
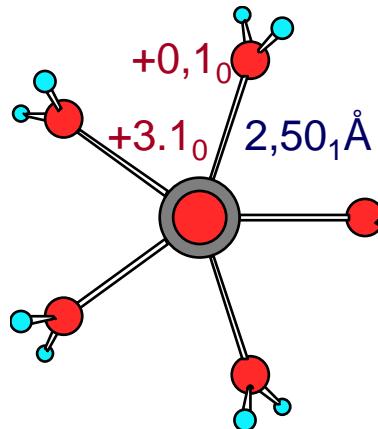
Consistency

of thermochemical data

between different scientific fields, *i.e.* Reference states ...e⁻ notation

Ab initio calculations

UO_2^{2+} hydrolysis, an ab initio study

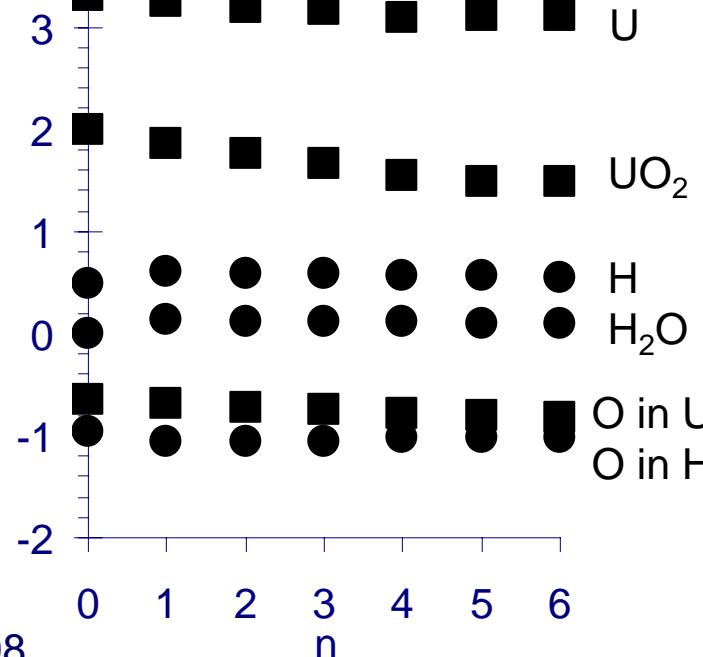


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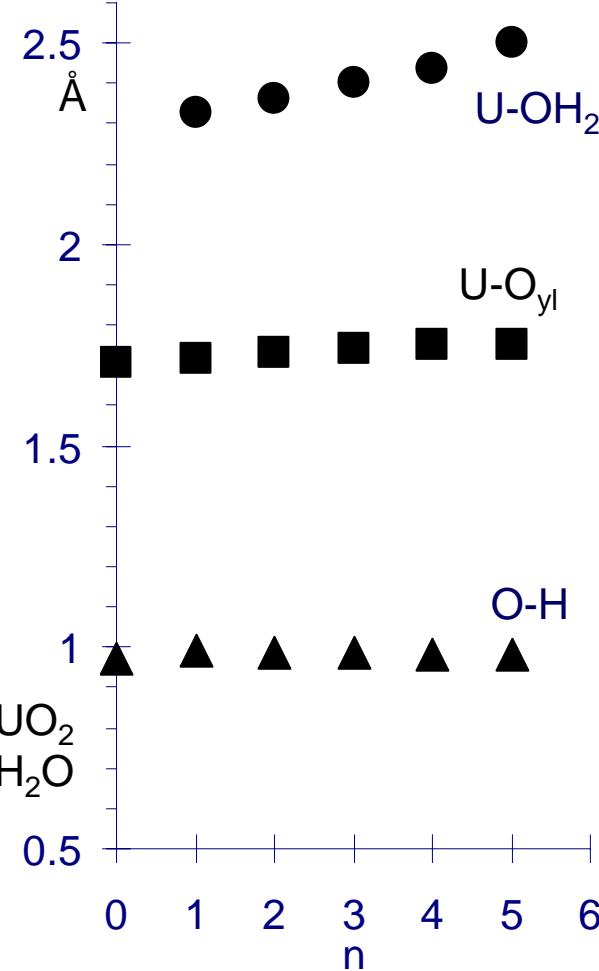
Expected trends are obtained from ab initio calculations for bonding distances, electronic configurations and (NBO) charges.

B3LYP, Gaussian 98

NBO charges in $\text{UO}_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_n^{2+}$



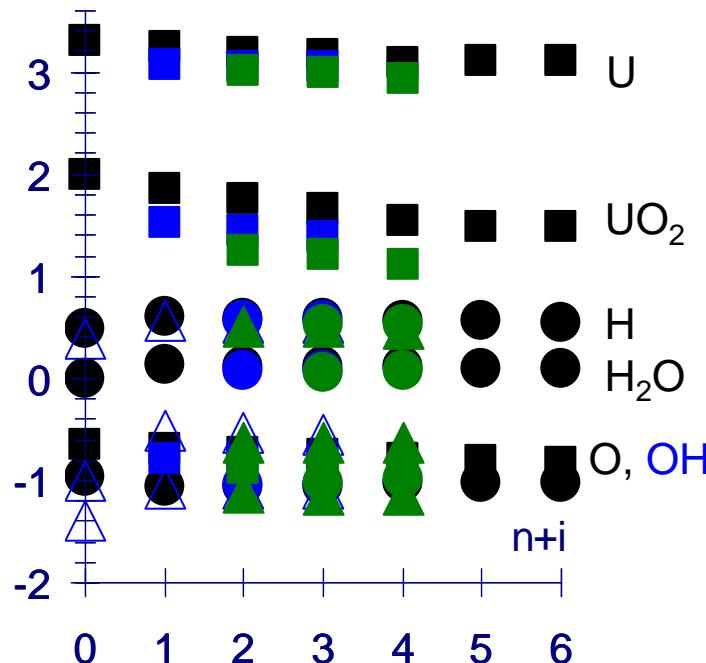
Distances in $\text{UO}_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_n^{2+}$



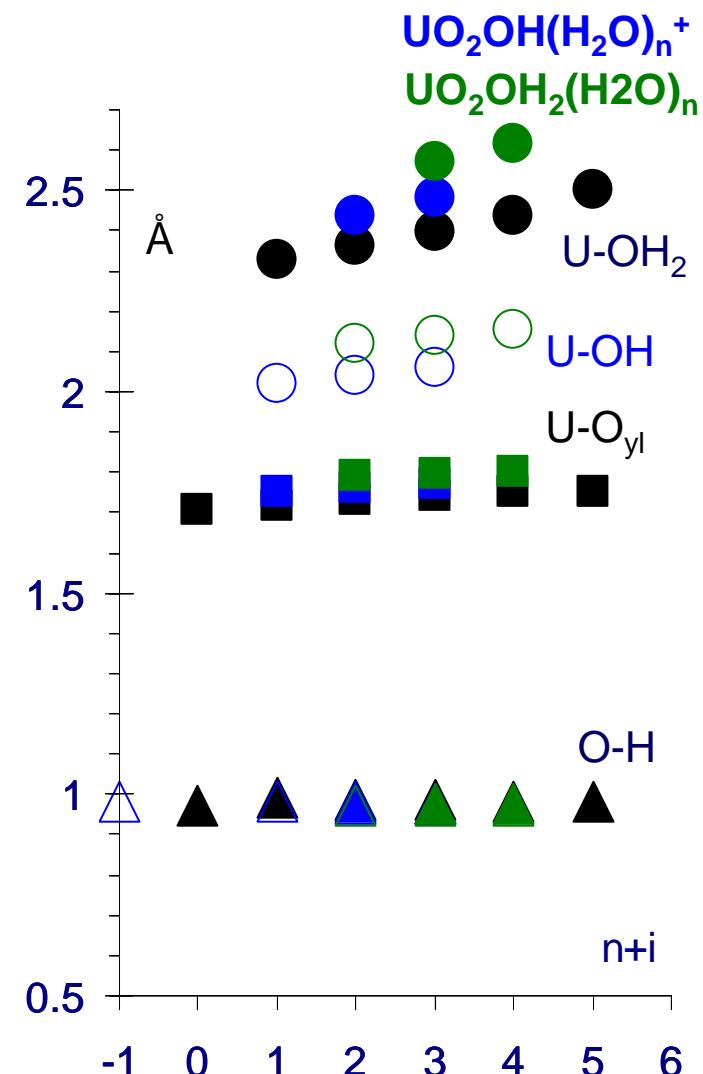
UO_2^{2+} hydrolysis, an ab initio study



NBO charges in $\text{UO}_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_n^{2+}$



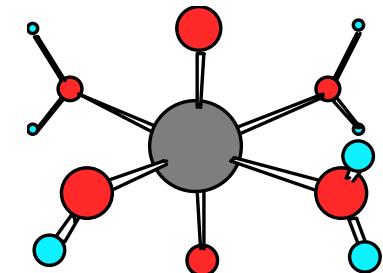
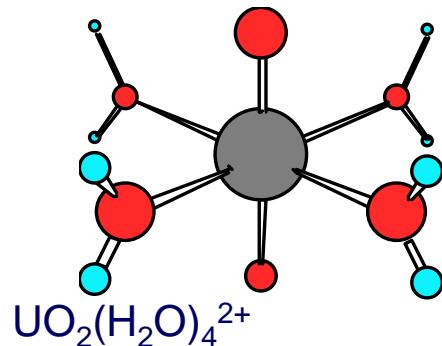
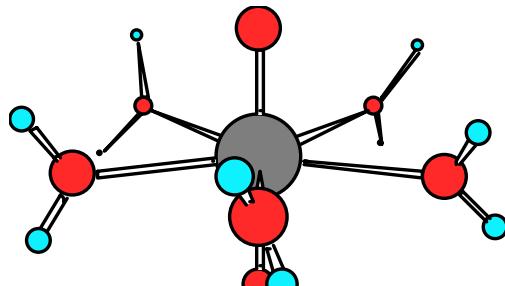
Distances in $\text{UO}_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_n^{2+}$



B3LYP, Gaussian 98

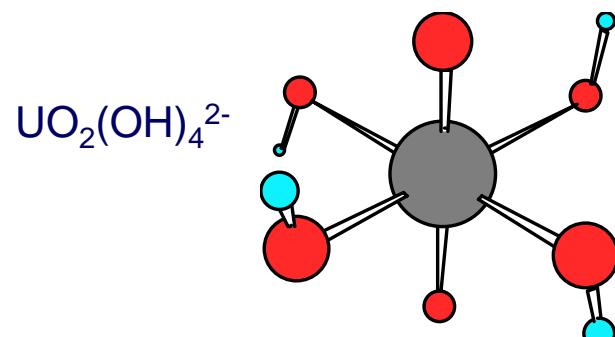
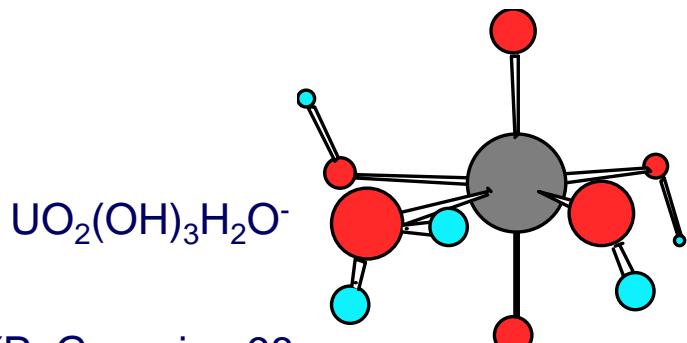
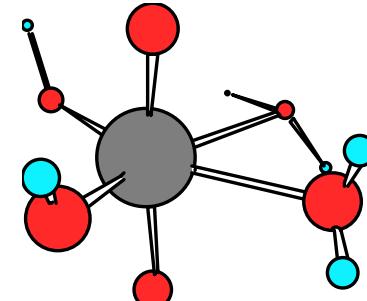
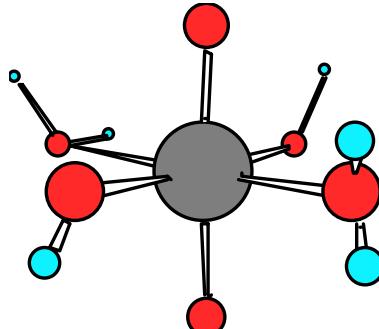
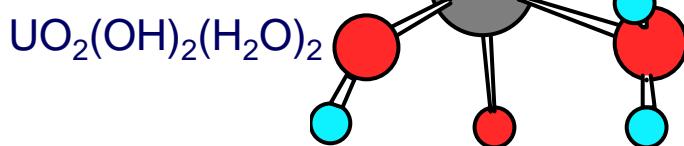
UO_2^{2+} hydrolysis, an ab initio study

geometries



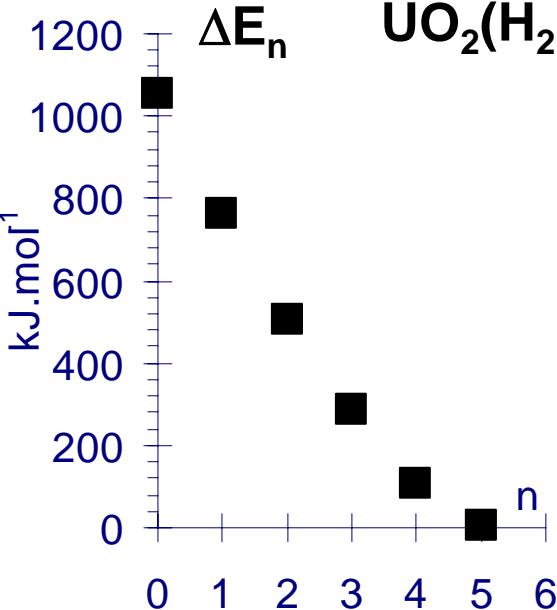
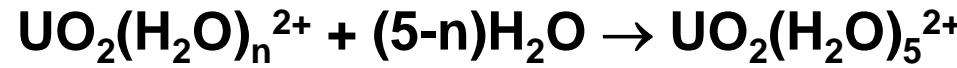
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B3LYP, Gaussian 98

UO_2^{2+} hydrolysis, an ab initio study



→ Temperature (and other) corrections:

$$G_{n,\text{geom}}^{\#} = E_{n,\text{geom}} + \delta_{\text{vib},n,\text{geom}} (+ \delta_{\text{PCM}} + \dots)$$

→ Several geometries (mixing term):

$$G_n^{\#} = \sum_{\text{geom}} \chi_{n,\text{geom}} (G_{n,\text{geom}}^{\#} + R T \ln \chi_{n,\text{geom}})$$

→ Several stoichiometries, typically:
 $\text{UO}_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_{n-1} + \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow \text{UO}_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_n$

$$\Delta_r G = R T \ln |\text{H}_2\text{O}|_{1/2}$$

$$= G_{\text{UO}_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_i^{2+}} - G_{\text{H}_2\text{O}} - G_{\text{UO}_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_{i-1}^{2+}} = -R T \ln K$$

$$K = \frac{|\text{UO}_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_i^{2+}|}{|\text{UO}_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_{i-1}^{2+}| |\text{H}_2\text{O}|} = \frac{1}{|\text{H}_2\text{O}|_{1/2}},$$

where $|\text{H}_2\text{O}| = a_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$, $[\text{H}_2\text{O(l)}]$ or $P_{\text{H}_2\text{O(g)}}$

$$\text{Similarly } K = \frac{[\text{UO}_2\text{OH}^+(\text{aq})][\text{H}^+(\text{aq})]}{[\text{UO}_2^{2+}(\text{aq})]} = [\text{H}^+(\text{aq})]_{1/2}$$

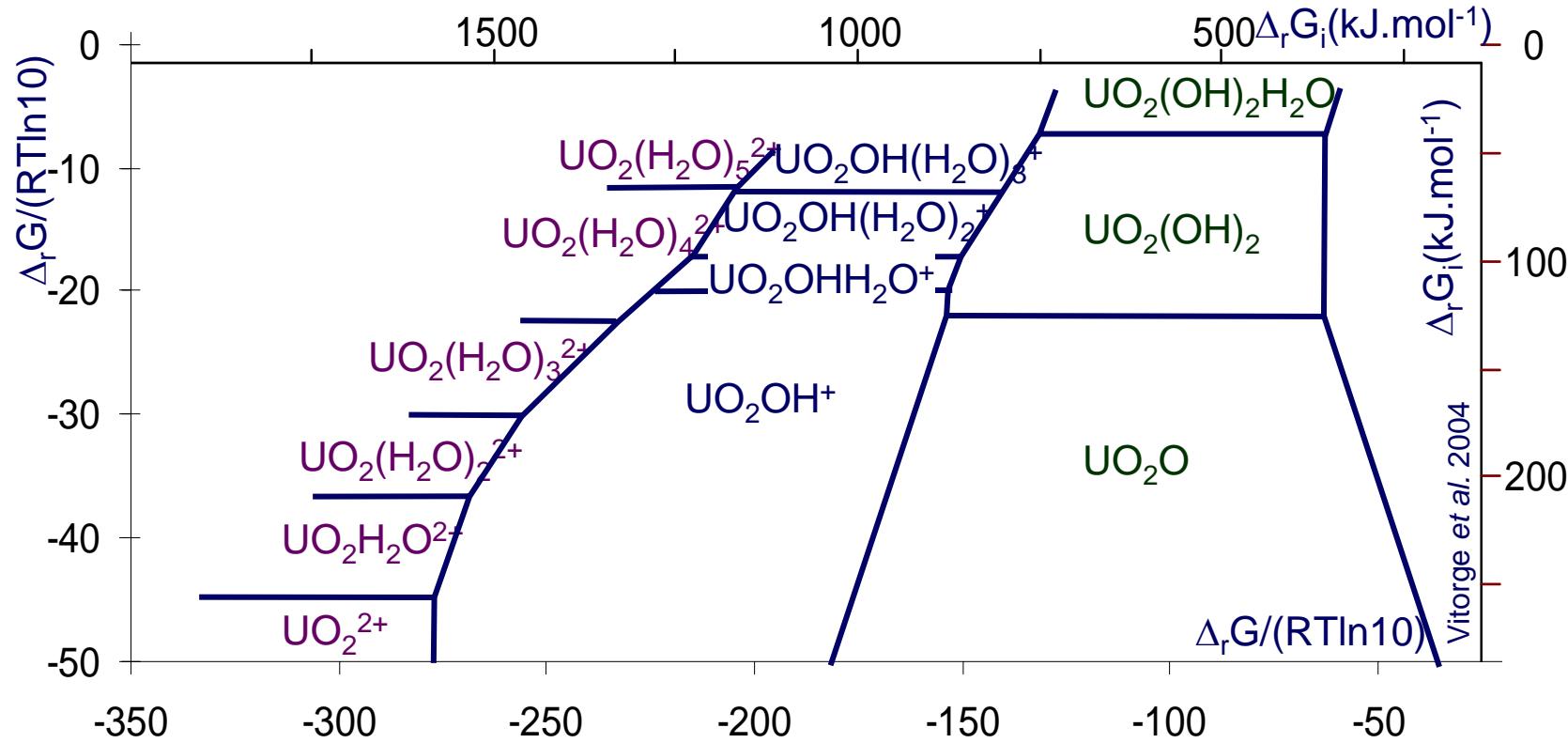
B3LYP, Gaussian 98

UO_2^{2+} hydrolysis, an ab initio study

stability domains

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B3LYP, Gaussian 98, 25°C