



Queen Mary  
University of London



# DEN5406: Mass Transfer and Separations Processes I

*Week 9: Adsorption, Stripping – continued  
Ion-Exchange, and Drying*

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[www.aimlabs.org](http://www.aimlabs.org)

# Separations and Syllabus Goals

Obtain Quantitative Understanding of the following processes:

✓ Filtration - ✓ we started and continue!      We'll also cover this week:

Aggregation

✓ Centrifugation

Crystallization (controlled freezing) separation

Adsorption ✓

✓ Leaching (extracting metals from ores, making coffee, dry cleaning)

✓ Osmosis

Forward Osmosis

Reverse Osmosis

Ion-exchange membranes ✓

Drying ✓

✓ Distillation (controlled evaporation and condensation)  
and the many kinds of distillation

**Applications:** Surviving in Space, on a desert island without fresh water

# Recommended Reading

**Available on Knovel – in the library:**

**De Haan & Bosch, Industrial Separation Processes, 2013, de Gruyter (Berlin)**

**Distillation Fundamentals and Principles, Gorak & Sorensen, eds., 2014, Elsevier**

**Reactive & Membrane-Assisted Separations, Lutze & Gorak, eds., 2016, de Gruyter**

**Also from**

**Seader, Henley, & Roper, Separations Process Principles, 2011, Wiley**

**Will assign pre-class reading -> will have a chance to discuss problems in class**

**Absorption and stripping:**

**Ch. 3 in**

**De Haan & Bosch, Industrial Separation Processes, 2013, de Gruyter (Berlin)**

# Absorption and Stripping

## Apollo 13



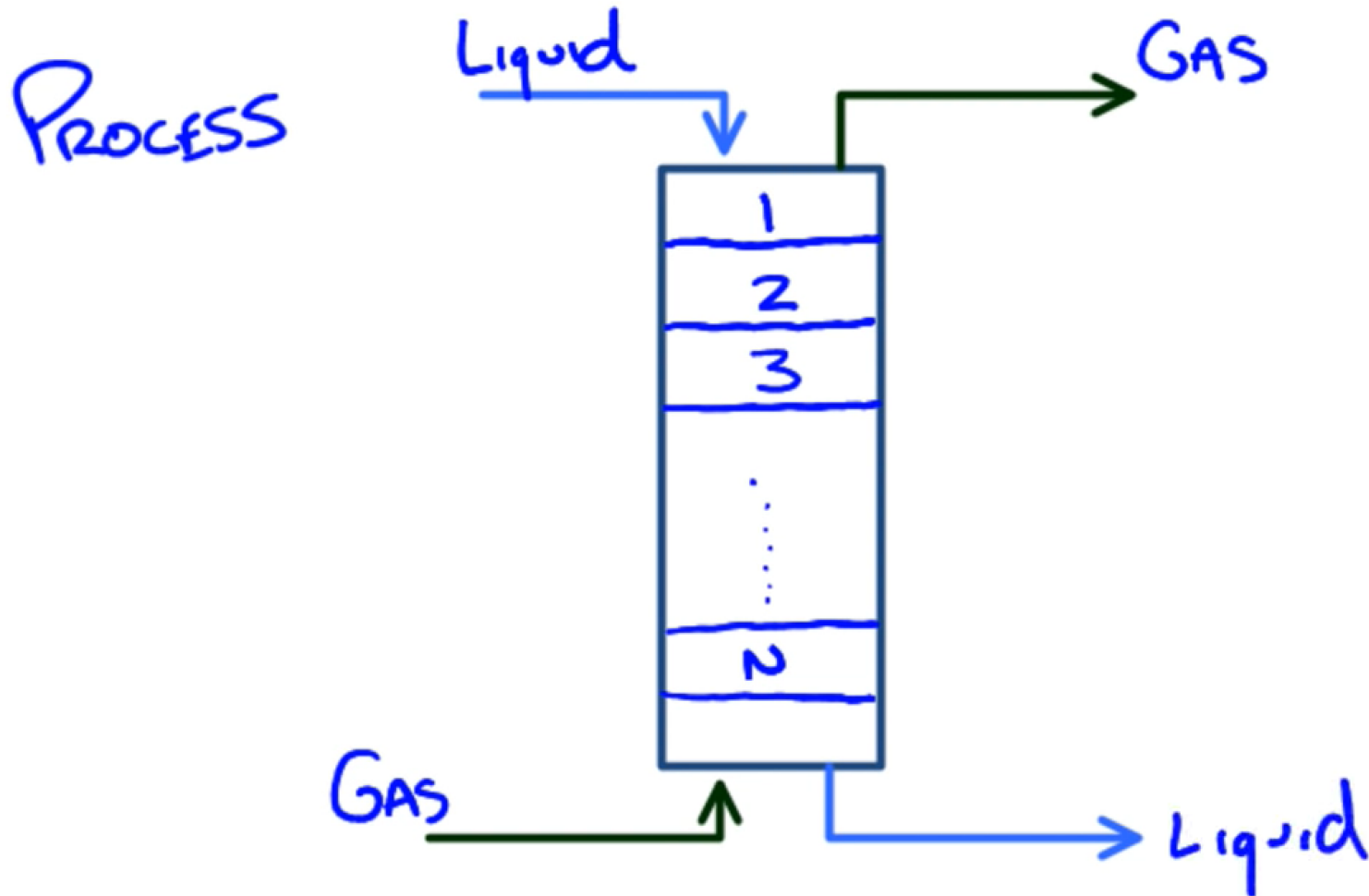
320,000 kilometers (200,000 miles) from home .....

..... and we need a CO<sub>2</sub> absorber !

Way to make Chem E impactful and sexy. And true!

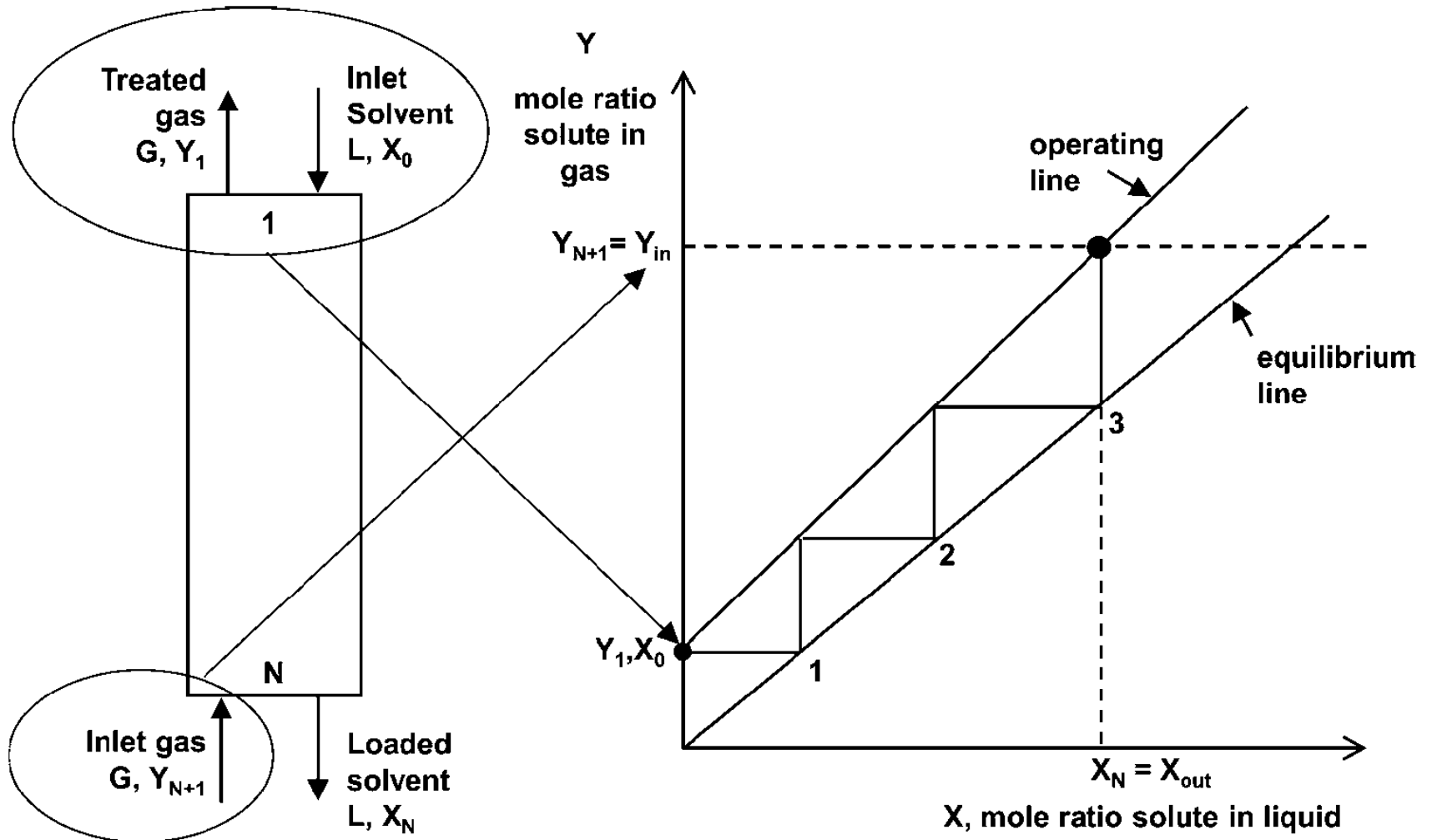
**Would you survive?**

# Bubble Columns



Gas column absorber schematic – mixed gas in, pure gas out

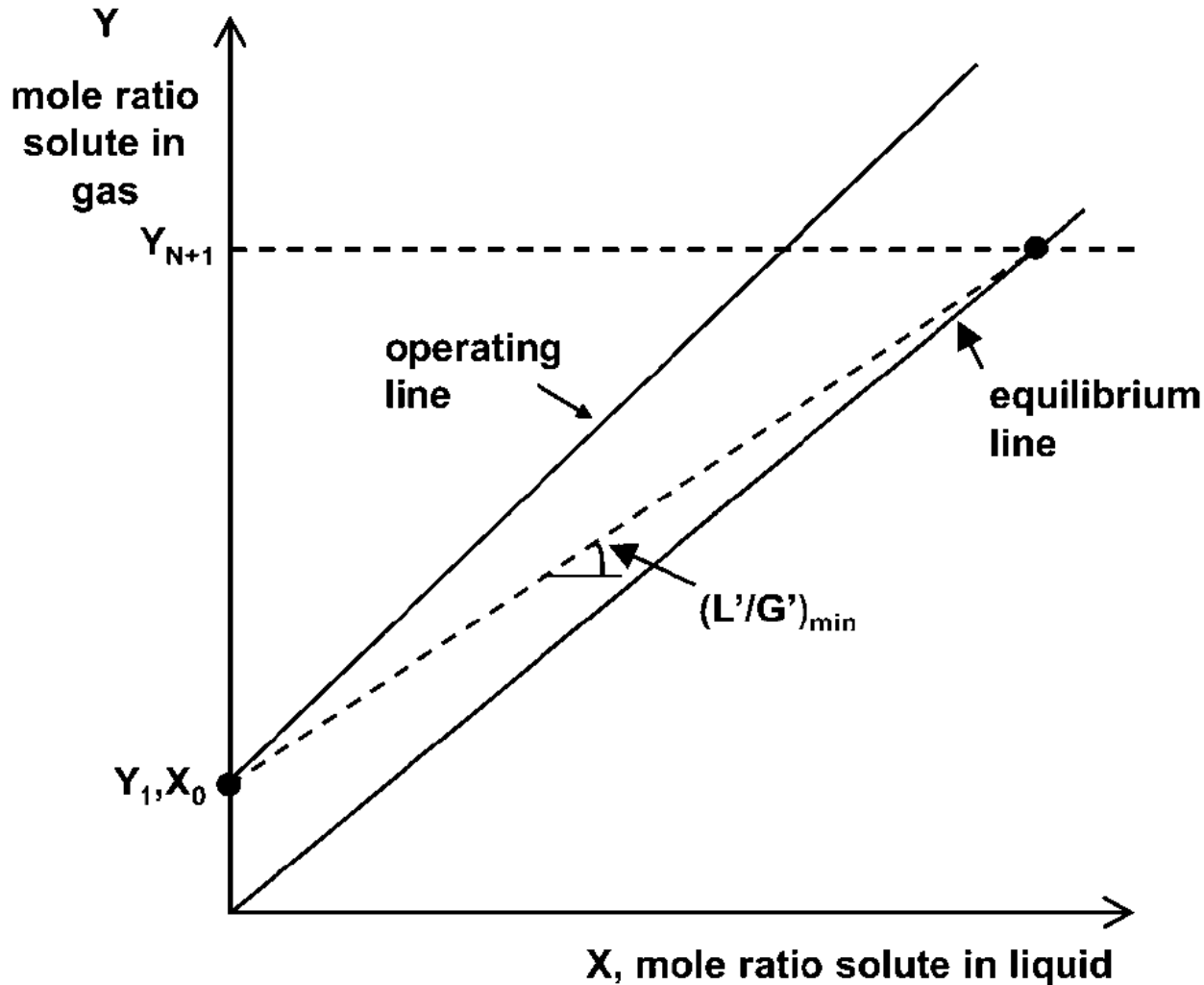
# Operating Lines for Absorption



McCabe-Thiele diagram for absorption

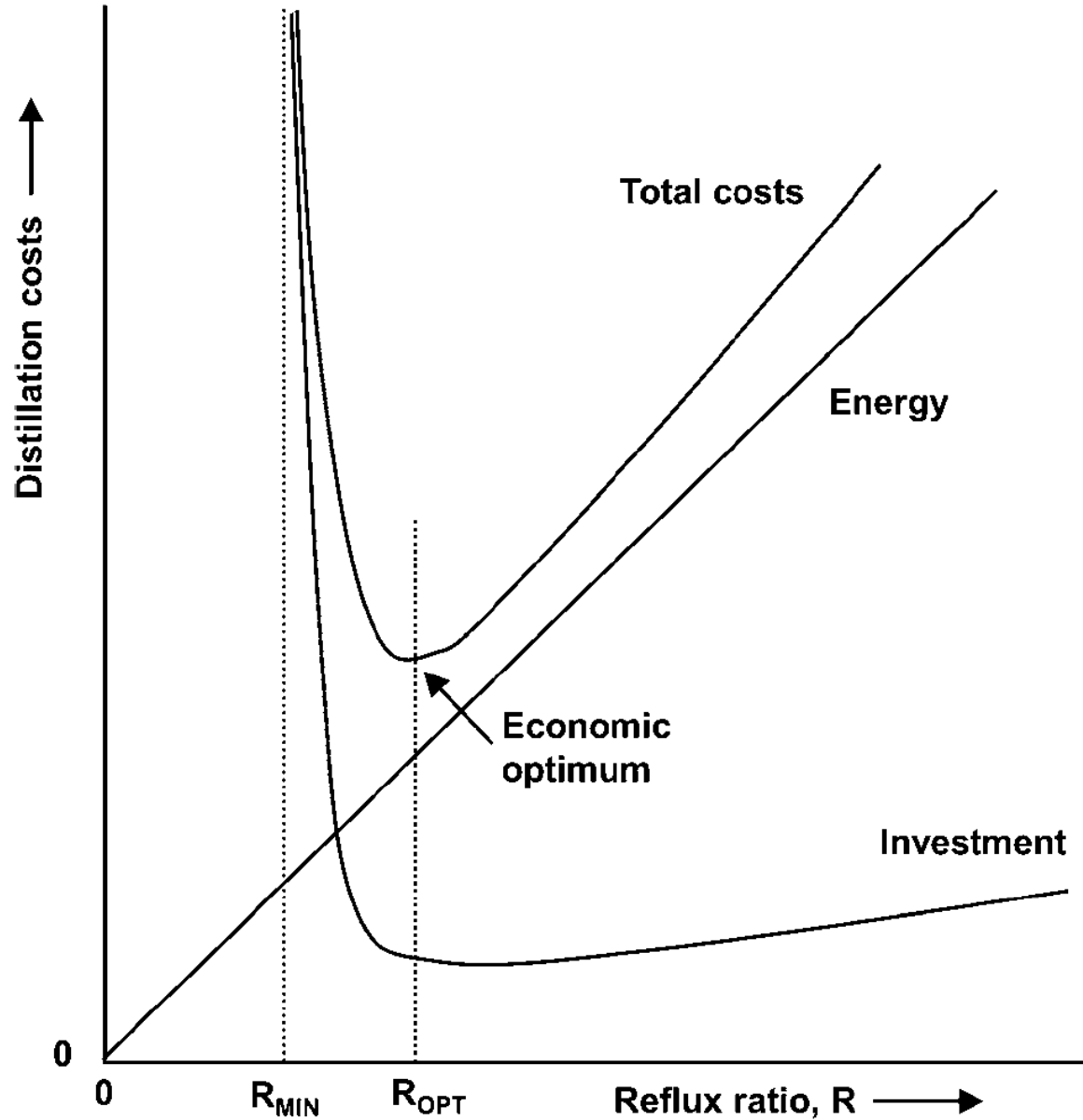
operating line in absorption is above the equilibrium line

# Absorption and Stripping



McCabe-Thiele diagram for minimum  $L/G$  ratio for absorption

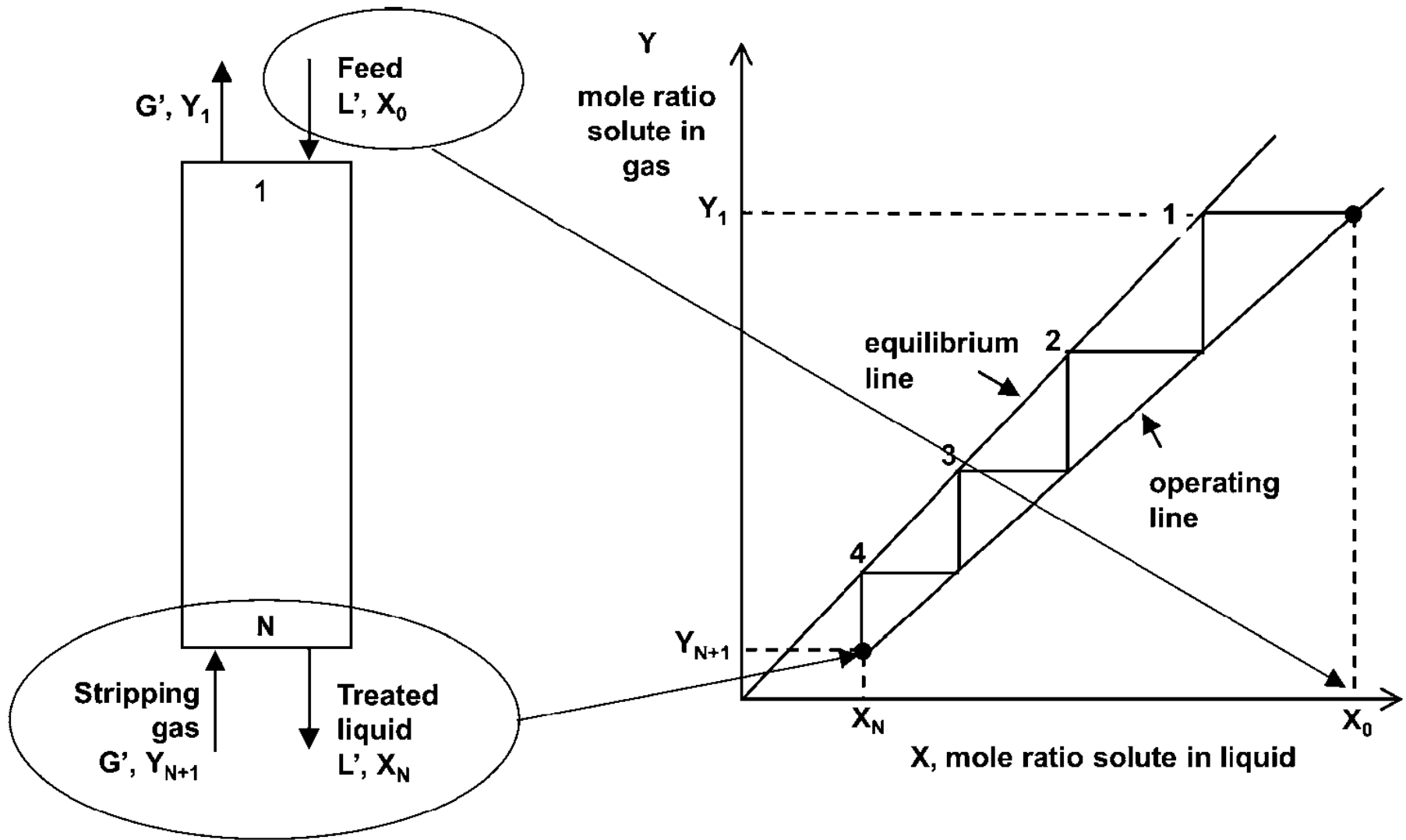
# McCabe-Thiele Analysis



Operational cost – lowest at  $L/V = 1.5 * (L/V)_{min}$



# Absorption and Stripping



McCabe-Thiele diagram for stripping  
operating line is below the equilibrium curve

# Absorption and Stripping

$$Gy_{in} + Lx_{in} = Gy_{out} + Lx_{out} \quad \text{Absorption Balances}$$

G and L are the Gas and Liquid flow rates

$$L_{\min} = G \cdot \frac{y_{in} - y_{out}}{x_{\max} - x_{in}} = G \cdot \frac{y_{in} - y_{out}}{\frac{y_{in}}{K} - x_{in}}$$

Max gas solubility in liquid  $x_{out}$  determines minimum Liquid absorbent flow rate  $L_{\min}$

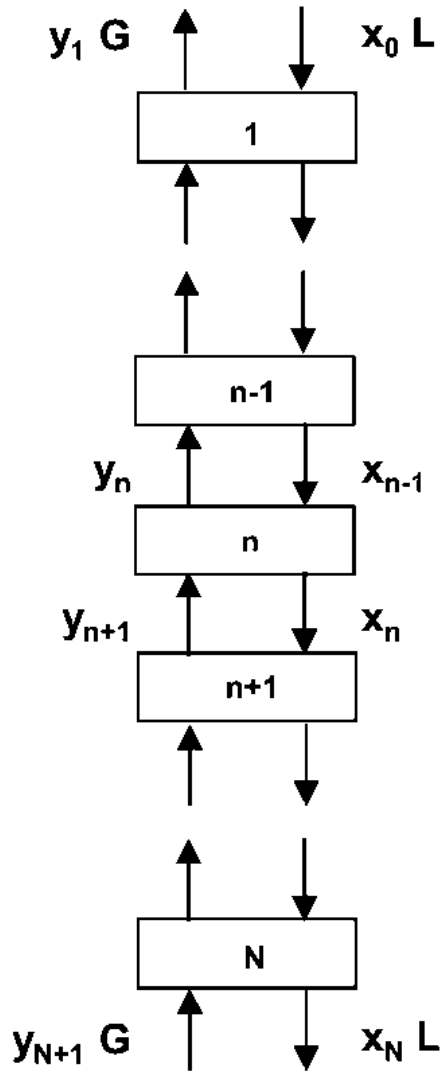
$$Gy_{in} + Lx_{in} = Gy_{out} + Lx_{out} \quad \text{Stripping Balances}$$

$$G_{\min} = L \cdot \frac{x_{in} - x_{out}}{y_{\max} - y_{in}} = L \cdot \frac{x_{in} - x_{out}}{Kx_{in} - y_{in}}$$

Max  $y_{out}$  determines minimum stripping gas flow rate  $G_{\min}$

Single component mass balances

# Absorption – Analytical Kremser Solution



$$y_n = K x_n$$

and

Introducing the Absorption factor  $A$ ,  
We can rewrite the equation:

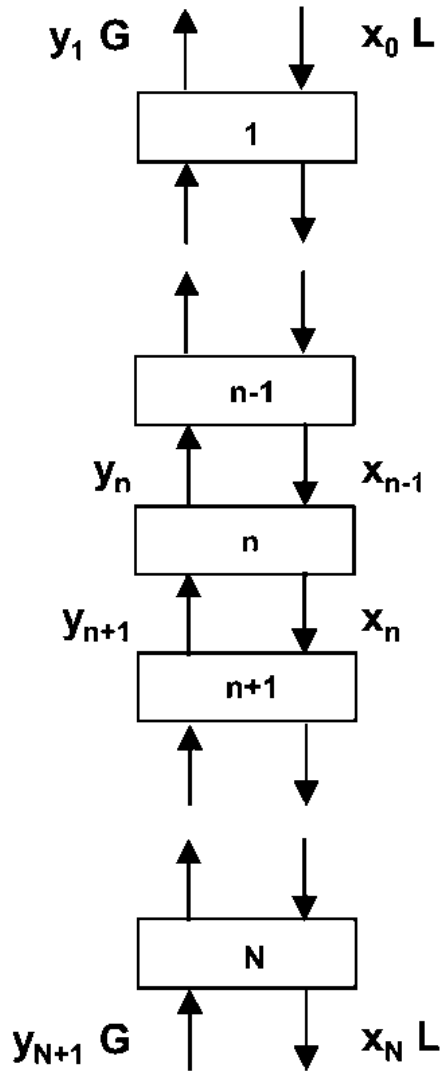
$$A \equiv \frac{L}{KG} = \frac{y_{n+1} - y_n}{K(x_n - x_{n-1})} = \frac{y_{n+1} - Kx_n}{y_n - Kx_{n-1}}$$

$$N_{ts} = \frac{\ln \left[ \frac{y_{in} - Kx_{in} \left( 1 - \frac{1}{A} \right) + \frac{1}{A}}{y_{out} - Kx_{in} \left( 1 - \frac{1}{A} \right) + \frac{1}{A}} \right]}{\ln |A|}$$

**Kremser Equation**

It's a shortcut to the graphics

# Absorption – Analytical Kremser Solution



$$x_{out} = x_{in} + \frac{G}{L} y_{in} - \frac{G}{L} y_{out}$$

resulting in:

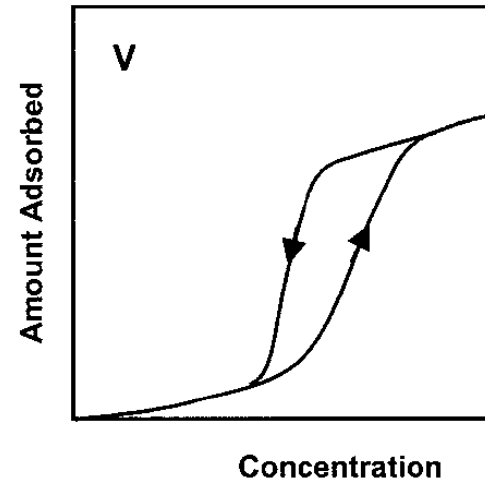
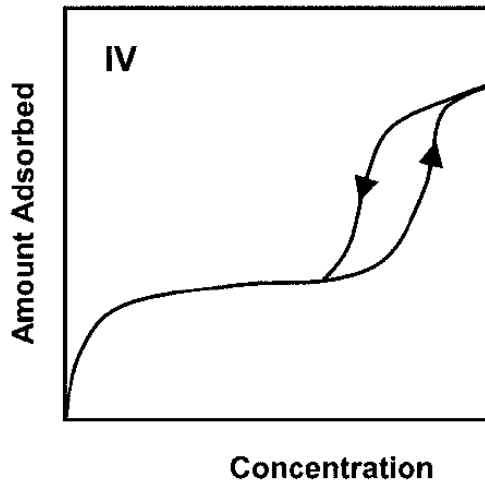
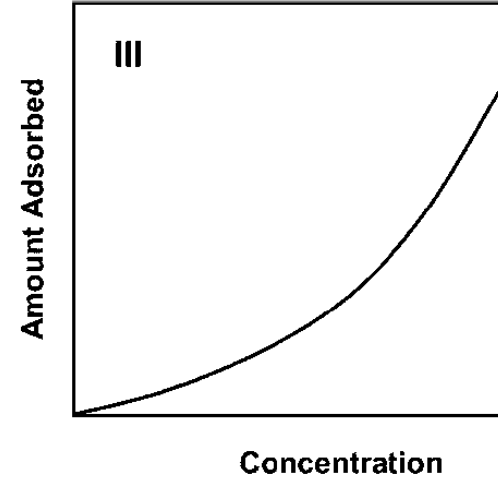
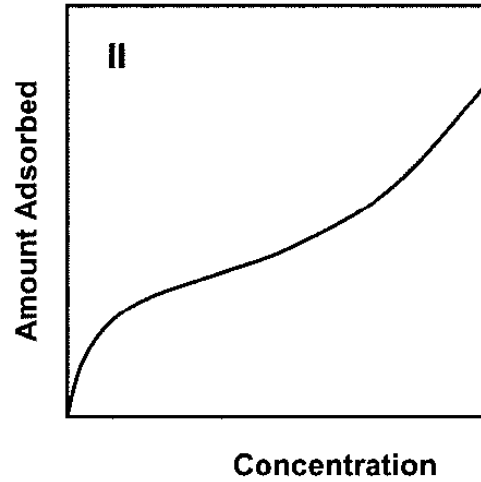
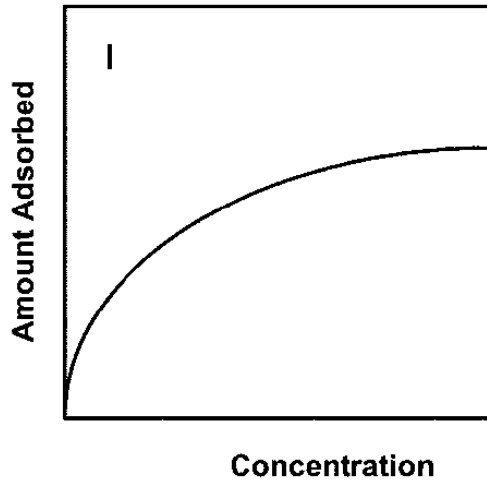
$$A^N = \left[ \frac{(y_{in} - K x_{in})}{(y_{out} - K x_{in})} \left( 1 - \frac{1}{A} \right) + \frac{1}{A} \right]$$

$$N_{ts} = \frac{\ln \left[ \frac{y_{in} - K x_{in}}{y_{out} - K x_{in}} \left( 1 - \frac{1}{A} \right) + \frac{1}{A} \right]}{\ln A}$$

**Kremser Equation**

It's a shortcut to the graphics

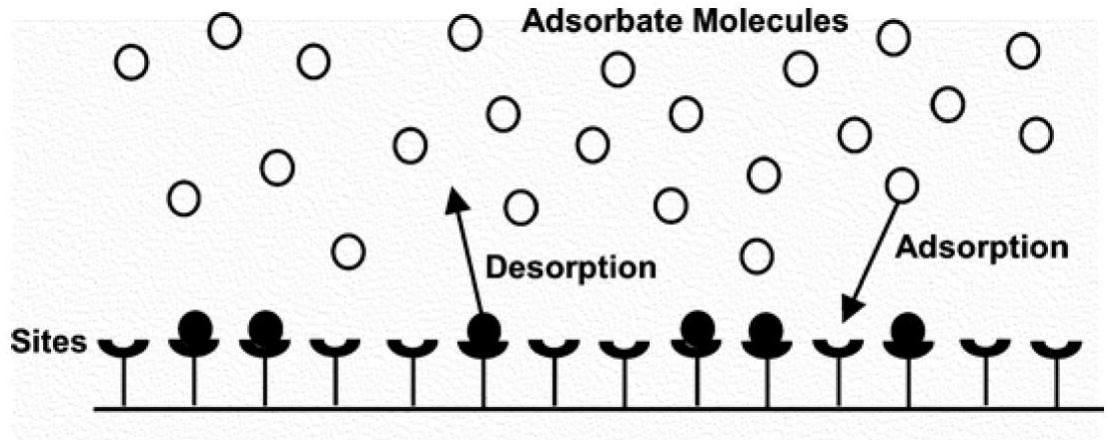
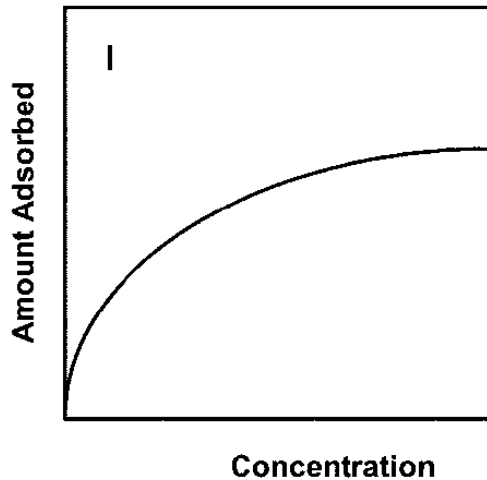
# Adsorption



**Brunauer classification**

Adsorption isotherms

# Adsorption – on a monolayer



$$\theta_A = \frac{q_A}{q_{max,A}} = \frac{b_A p_A}{1 + b_A p_A} = \frac{b'_A c_A}{1 + b'_A c_A}$$

where

$\theta$  = fraction of sites occupied (see Fig. 6.8),

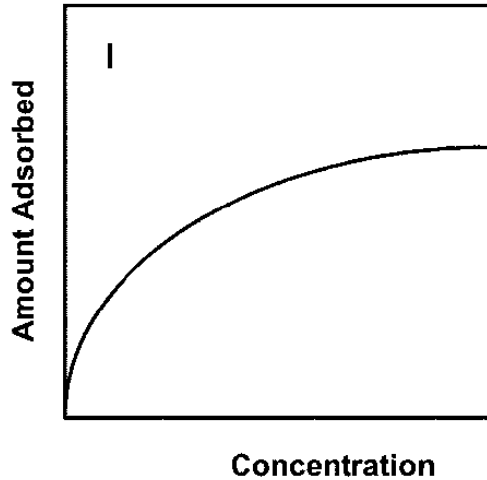
$q$  = amount adsorbed per unit volume or unit weight adsorbent,

$q_{max}$  = monolayer capacity, referring to maximum occupancy or  $\theta = 1$ , and

$b$  = Langmuir adsorption constant in reciprocal pressure or concentration units.

**Langmuir Adsorption Isotherm – Simplest, Most useful**

# Langmuir Equation



$$b_A = \frac{k_{ads}}{k_{des}}$$

$$q_A = q_{\max,A} \frac{b_A p_A}{1 + b_A p_A}$$

**Langmuir Equation**

$$b_A = b_A^0 e^{-\Delta E_{ads}/RT}$$

**Temperature Dependence**

**Langmuir Adsorption Isotherm – Simplest, Most useful**

# Ion Exchange – Ch. 6

How to filter single ions – smaller than almost any pores?

And at small pressure drop?



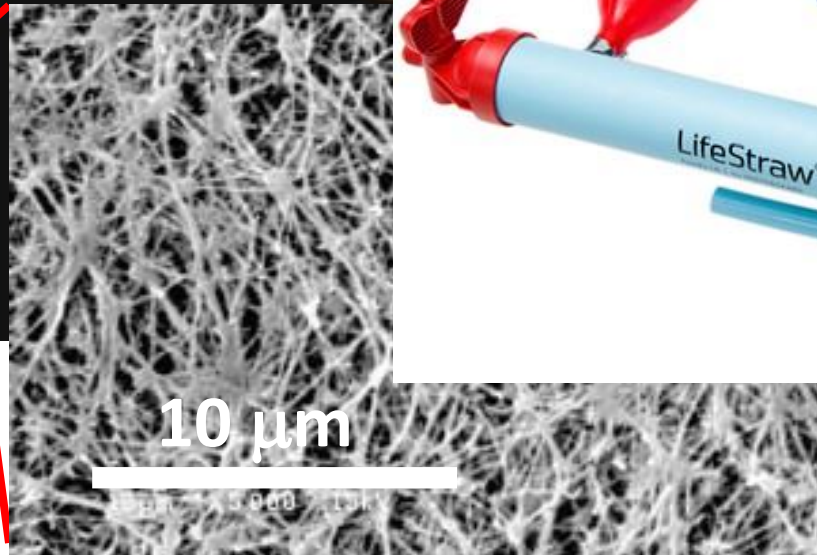
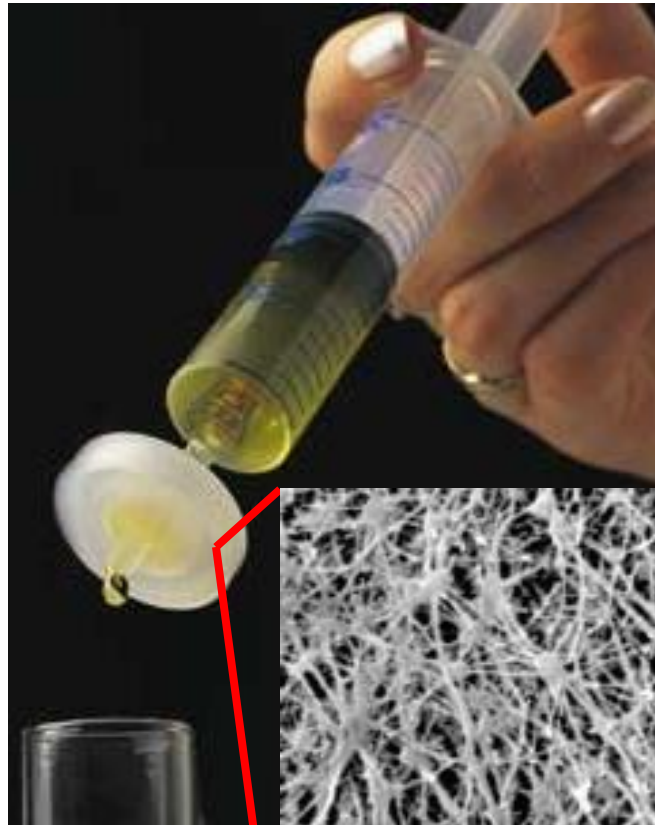
Municipal Water Softening



# Small Pore Filtration vs Ion Exchange

How to filter single ions – smaller than almost any pores?

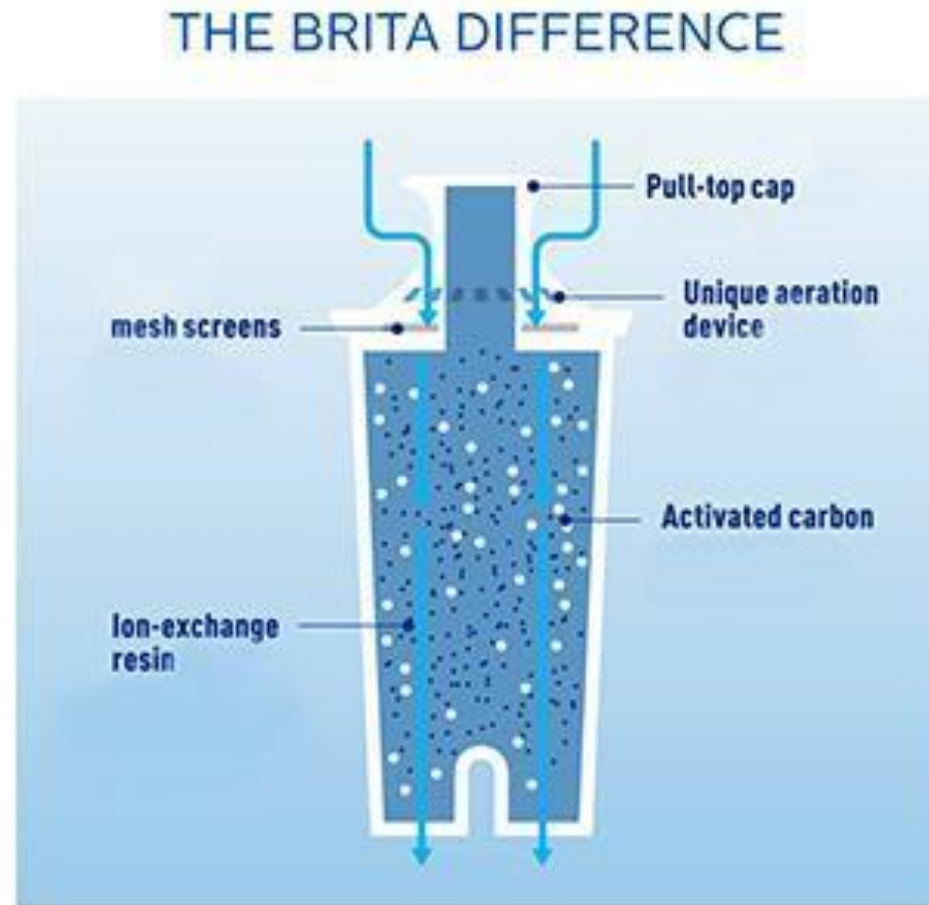
And at small pressure drop?



# Ion Exchange – Ch. 6

How to filter single ions – smaller than almost any pores?

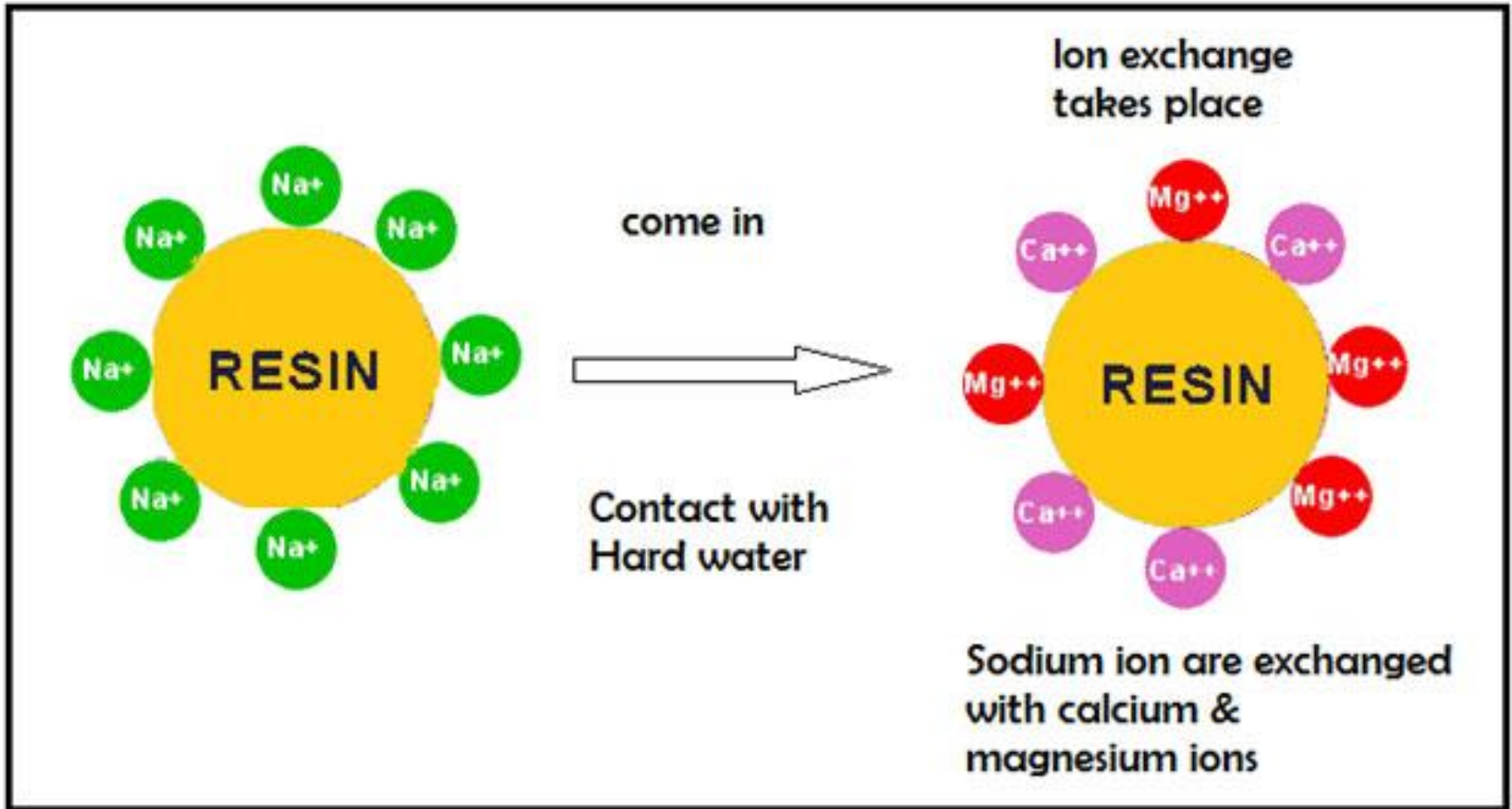
And at small pressure drop?



# Ion Exchange – Ch. 6

How to filter single ions – smaller than almost any pores?

And at small pressure drop?



# Ion Exchange – Terminology and Learning Goals

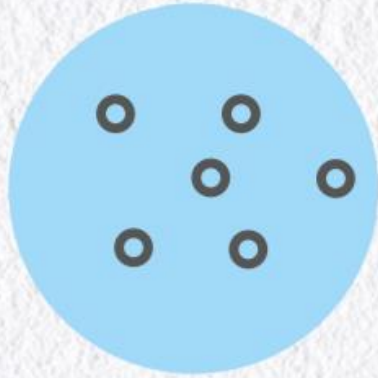
By the end of this lecture you'll be able to: **describe ion exchange.**

Say what are **Operating capacity, regeneration of adsorber, copolymer ionic resins, divalent vs. monovalent ions**, . Other vocabulary: **MCLG**= Maximum Contaminant Level Goal, **MCL**= Maximum Contaminant Level, **MRDL** = Maximum residual disinfectant level, **TSS**= Total Suspended Solids, **NTU**= Nephelometric Turbidity Units, **JTU** = Jackson Turbidity Units, **Secchi disk**,

We'll learn the principles of operation of ion-exchange, specifically a Brita Filter

**We'll calculate** – the capacity and longevity of a Brita cartridge and how long does it last, given the quality of our water.

# Dissolved Compounds in Water



## Minerals

e.g. calcium,

Some deliberately added to eliminate clouding (turbidity), (Fe, Al)



## Water treatment substances

chlorine, chloramine essential, as they kill pathogens, but taste and smell bad.



## Organic compounds

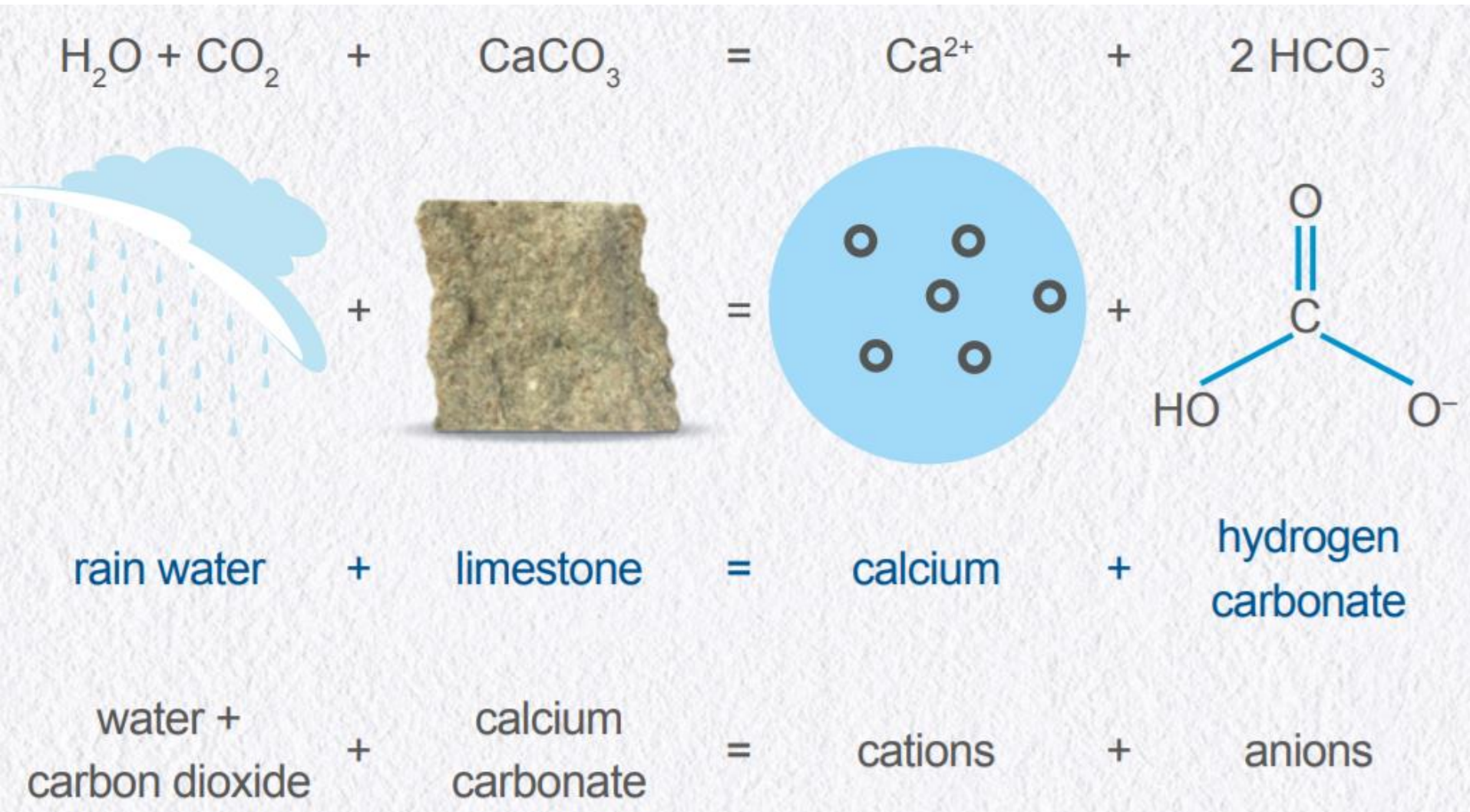
e.g. methylisoborneol,

and geosmin – can be smelled at parts-per-trillion (ppt) range! Removal= better odor.

**But all of these are solids.**

**Can we get rid of them without distillation?**

# Carbonates and Scale



**How we get hard water**

# Water Quality Terminology

5 NTU – Barely noticeable  
<10 NTU Drinking Water

Flocculating agents are used to treat water turbidity . We'll cover their mechanisms and chemistry next year.

**MCLG** = Maximum Contaminant Level Goal

**MCL** = Maximum Contaminant Level  
(achievable with current technology)

**MRDL** = Maximum residual disinfectant level

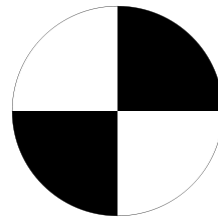
**TSS** = Total Suspended Solids (ppm or mg/L)

**NTU** = Nephelometric Turbidity Units

90° scattered light from white (400-680nm) light

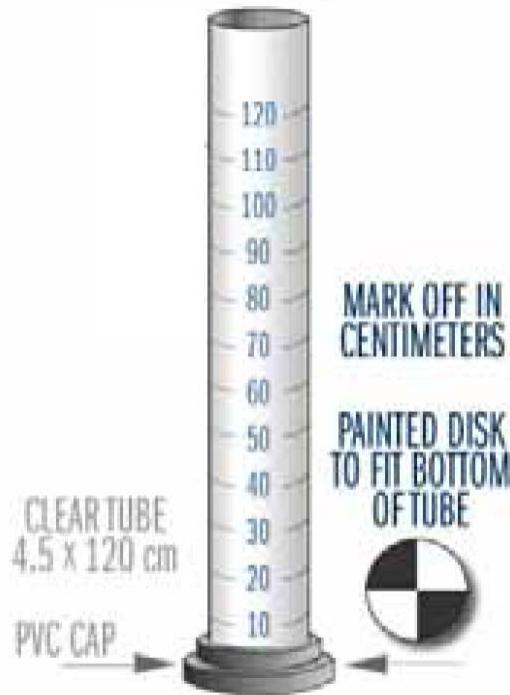
**JTU** = Jackson (Candle) method Turbidity U

Inverse of tube distance which obscures light of a candle



= Secchi disk - record depth where the 20-30 cm disk cannot be seen

Transparency Tube



**MRDL Cl<sub>2</sub>**: UK = 0.5 ppm, US = 4 ppm

<http://dwi.defra.gov.uk/consumers/advice-leaflets/chlorine.pdf>  
[https://www.cityofchicago.org/content/dam/city/depts/water/ConsumerConfidenceReports/2016\\_Water\\_Quality\\_Report\\_2.pdf](https://www.cityofchicago.org/content/dam/city/depts/water/ConsumerConfidenceReports/2016_Water_Quality_Report_2.pdf)

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turbidity>

<https://or.water.usgs.gov/grapher/fnu.html>

# Chlorination Reactions

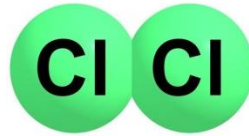
## Chlorine:

Cl<sub>2</sub> – first disinfectant  
stronger agent

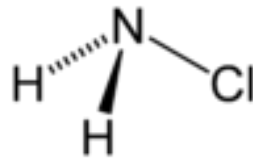
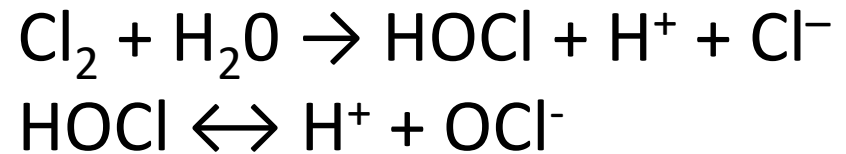
## Chloramine:

Cl<sub>2</sub> + NH<sub>3</sub> → NH<sub>2</sub>Cl  
weaker, stable over  
longer distances

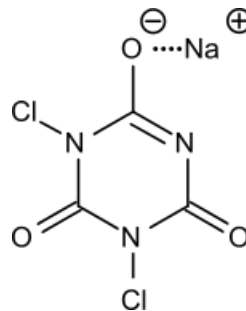
**NaDCC:** Sodium dichloro  
isocyanurate - convenient  
for field-treatment of water  
WHO TDI (tolerable daily  
Dose) = 2.2mg/kg body wt.  
(1100 mg/ 50kg weight)



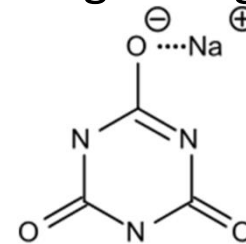
**Chlorine Equilibria:** Reaction with water  
gives hypochlorous acid, which sets up an  
equilibrium with hypochlorite ion:



**Chloramine:** Reaction of residual Cl<sub>2</sub> with  
ammonia (about 4-6:1 ratio) – to give  
(at pH>7) mostly the mono chloro-amine:  
*NH<sub>3</sub> (aq) + HOCl → NH<sub>2</sub>Cl + H<sub>2</sub>O*



**Hydrolysis:** 17mg in 1L gives 10 ppm Cl  
+ 2H<sub>2</sub>O ↔ + 2HOCl

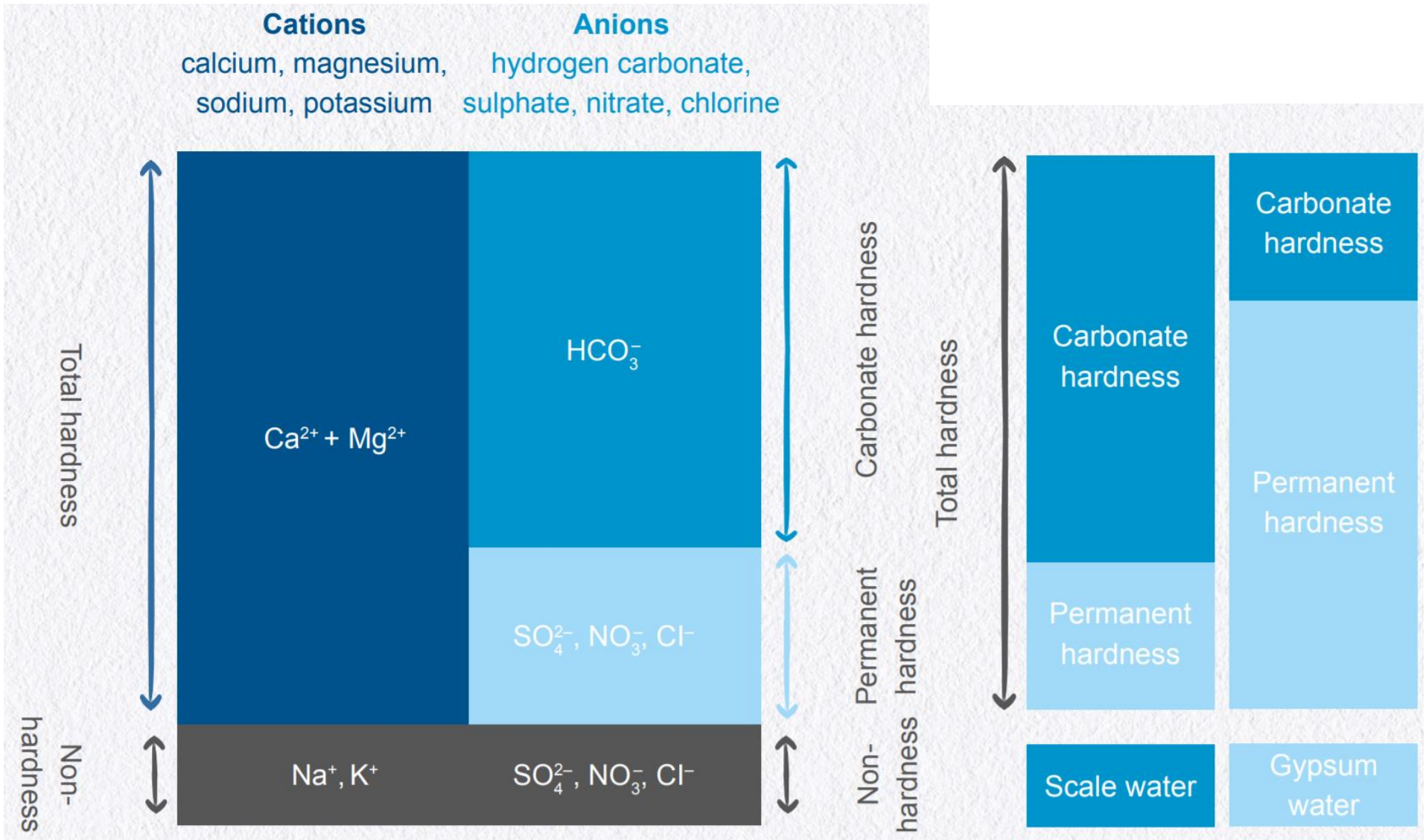


Strip of 10x67mg  
costs US\$0.05  
and treats 200 L

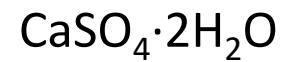
@3.5mg/L, **30min contact time**, kills all coliform bacteria (NTU<1),  
in raw river water (NTU>10), log1.8-2.8 reduction in viable bacteria



# Brita Filter



**Ions present in hard water**



# Hardness Unit Conversions

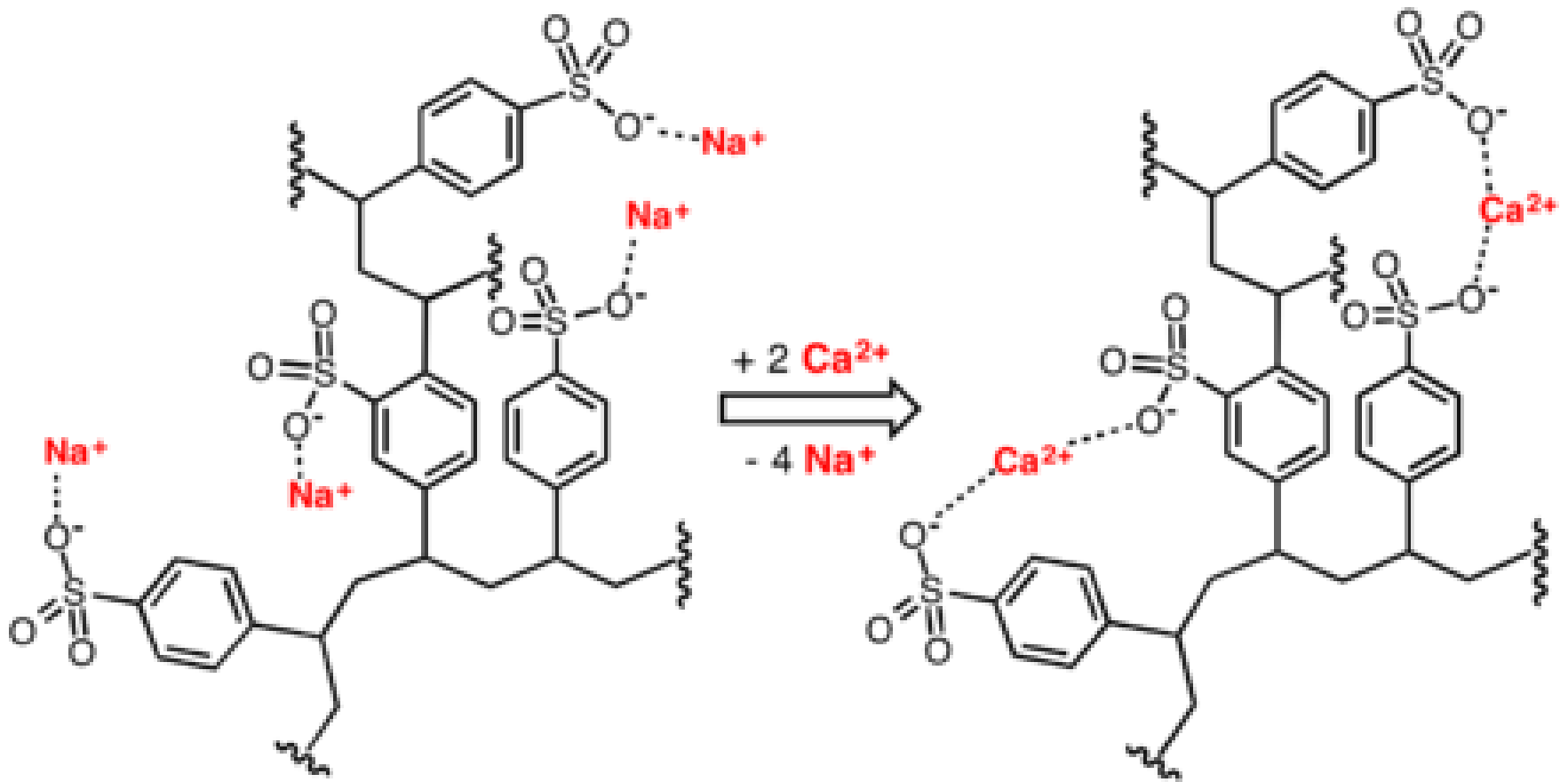
Quasi-SI    American    German    English    French

	1 mmol/L	1 ppm, mg/L	1 dGH, °dH	1 gpg	1 °e, °Clark	1 °fH
mmol/L	1	0.009991	0.1783	0.171	0.1424	0.09991
ppm, mg/L	100.1	1	17.85	17.12	14.25	10
dGH, °dH	5.608	0.05603	1	0.9591	0.7986	0.5603
gpg	5.847	0.05842	1.043	1	0.8327	0.5842
°e, °Clark	7.022	0.07016	1.252	1.201	1	0.7016
°fH	10.01	0.1	1.785	1.712	1.425	1

A *mmol/L* is equivalent to 100.09 mg/L CaCO<sub>3</sub> or 40.08 mg/L Ca<sup>2+</sup>.

Classification	hardness in mg-CaCO <sub>3</sub> /L	hardness in mmol/L	hardness in dGH/°dH
Soft	0–60	0–0.60	0-3.37
Moderately hard	61–120	0.61–1.20	3.38-6.74
Hard	121–180	1.21–1.80	6.75–10.11
Very hard	≥ 181	≥ 1.81	≥ 10.12

# Cation Exchange Resin



**Divalent ions bind strongly and release monovalent ions**

# How Long Does a Filter Last?

<https://www.thameswater.co.uk/help-and-advice/water-quality/check-the-water-quality-in-your-area>

Calculate life for a C150 filter **Hardness**

with 267 ppm water?

The water supplied in the MILE END zone is HARD water.

Calcium carbonate(CaCO<sub>3</sub>): 267 ppm

PURITY C Finest	C150	C500	
Technology	softening		
Capacity <sup>1</sup> with a total hardness of 10 °dH and 0 % bypass <sup>2</sup>	1.100 l	3.414 l	
Max. operating pressure	8,6 bar		
Water intake temperature	4 – 30 °C		
Flow at 1 bar pressure loss	145 l/h	140 l/h	
Nominal flow	60 l/h		100 l/h
Pressure loss at nominal flow	0.25 bar		0.5 bar
Dimensions (W/D/H) Filter head with filter cartridge	117/104/419 mm	144/144/557 mm	
Weight (dry/wet)	1.8/2.8 kg	4.6/6.9 kg	

10 dH = 178 ppm, so Capacity = 1100 L \* 178 mg/L = 196g CaCO<sub>3</sub>  
 so x = 196 g / 267 mg/L = 734 L                      And it costs £74

So £74 / 734 L = £0.10 / L – for good tasting and no-scale water

If it cleans molecular ions, does it also filter bacteria and viruses?

# How Long Does a Filter Last?

<https://www.thameswater.co.uk/help-and-advice/water-quality/check-the-water-quality-in-your-area>

Life of a (consumer) Maxtra filter – when do you change?  
As well as cost per L water =?

## Hardness

The water supplied in the MILE END zone is HARD water.

Calcium carbonate( $\text{CaCO}_3$ ): 267 ppm

The MAXTRA+ Universal cartridge filters up to 100 litres in an area with hard water (primarily based on carbonate hardness of  $12^\circ$  to  $14,5^\circ$  German hardness).

Added to your basket!



### BRITA MAXTRA+ 3 pack

Love great tasting water? Enjoy it for up to twelve weeks with MAXTRA+ 3 pack.

Item no.: 1025349

Price per unit: £17.25

Total price: £17.25  
(incl. VAT)

$13.5 \text{ dH} = \text{ \_\_\_\_\_\_ } \text{ ppm}$ , so Capacity =  $100 \text{ L} * \text{ \_\_\_\_\_\_ } \text{ mg/L} = \text{ \_\_\_\_\_\_ } \text{ g CaCO}_3$   
so  $x = \text{ \_\_\_\_\_\_ } \text{ g} / 267 \text{ mg/L} = \text{ \_\_\_\_\_\_ } \text{ L}$ . So 3 cartridges =  $\text{ \_\_\_\_\_\_ } \text{ L}$

So  $\text{£}17.25 / \text{ \_\_\_\_\_\_ } \text{ L} = \text{£}0.\text{ \_\_\_\_\_\_ } / \text{ L}$  – for good tasting and no-scale water

This is just cleaning the taste.  $\text{Cl}_2$  is what kills the microorganisms!

# How do we remove the Chlorine?

How much chlorine can a Maxtra filter remove?

UK = 0.5 ppm, US = 4 ppm (g/L Cl<sub>2</sub>)

<http://dwi.defra.gov.uk/consumers/advice-leaflets/chlorine.pdf>  
[https://www.cityofchicago.org/content/dam/city/depts/water/ConsumerConfidenceReports/2016\\_Water\\_Quality\\_Report\\_2.pdf](https://www.cityofchicago.org/content/dam/city/depts/water/ConsumerConfidenceReports/2016_Water_Quality_Report_2.pdf)



Reactions with Activated Carbon

Also for Next Year's Advanced Separations!

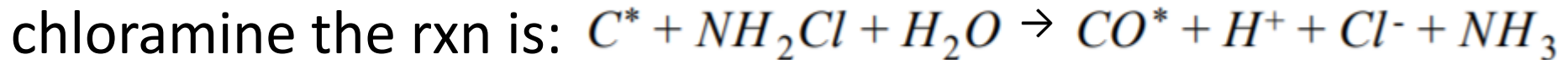
# Turbidity Treatment, Chemical Removal

**Flocculation** – to be covered next year in Advanced Mass Transfer & Separations

Chemical reagents for treating turbidity include aluminium sulfate or alum ( $\text{Al}_2(\text{SO}_4)_3 \cdot n\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ), ferric chloride ( $\text{FeCl}_3$ ), gypsum ( $\text{CaSO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ), poly-aluminium chloride, long chain acrylamide-based polymers and proprietary reagents.

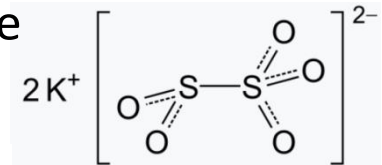
Important not only for aesthetics, but for effective chlorination, UV disinfection.

**Dechlorination** involves a chemical reaction of the chlorine oxidizing the activated carbon's surface. Reactions of hypochlorous acid and hypochlorite (shown below):

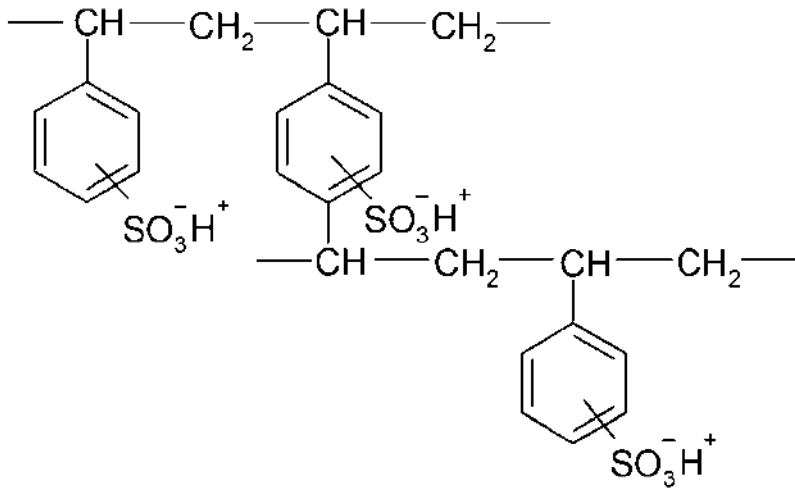


**Dechloramination** in commercial brewing by Potassium metabisulfite

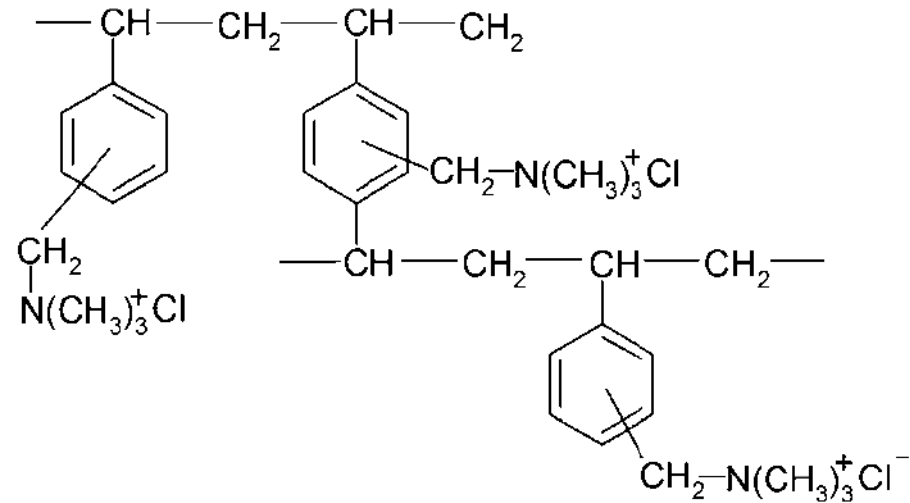
$\text{K}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_5(\text{s}) \rightarrow \text{K}_2\text{SO}_3(\text{s}) + \text{SO}_2(\text{g})$  also reacts with chloramine to give:



# Types of Exchange Resins



**Sulfonated side groups for  
Cation exchange**



**Aminated side groups for  
Anion exchange (Cl<sup>-</sup> or OH<sup>-</sup> form)**

De-ionization of water makes use of both types of resins.

Cationic resins are placed first to avoid precipitation of metal hydroxides

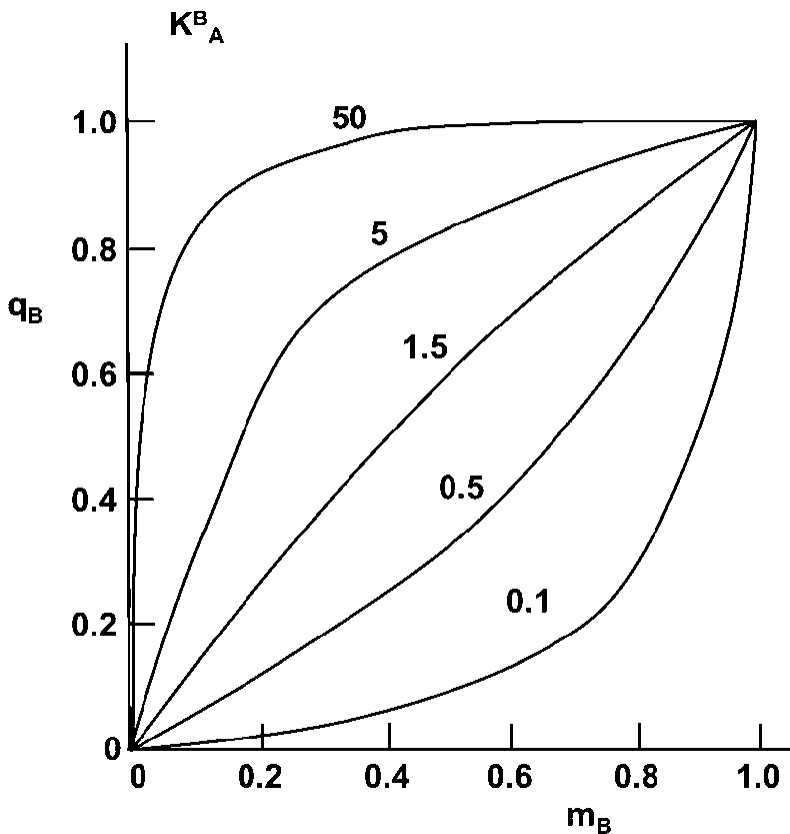
Mixed bed systems give better results than sequential columns.

**Styrene-divinyl benzene based exchange resins**



# Ion-Exchange Capacity and Rate

For Cations B<sup>+</sup> from solution in exchange for A<sup>+</sup> on the resin:



$$K_A^B = \frac{q_{B, resin} m_{A, liquid}}{q_{A, resin} m_{B, liquid}}$$

Equilibrium constant determining selectivity of a resin for B over A

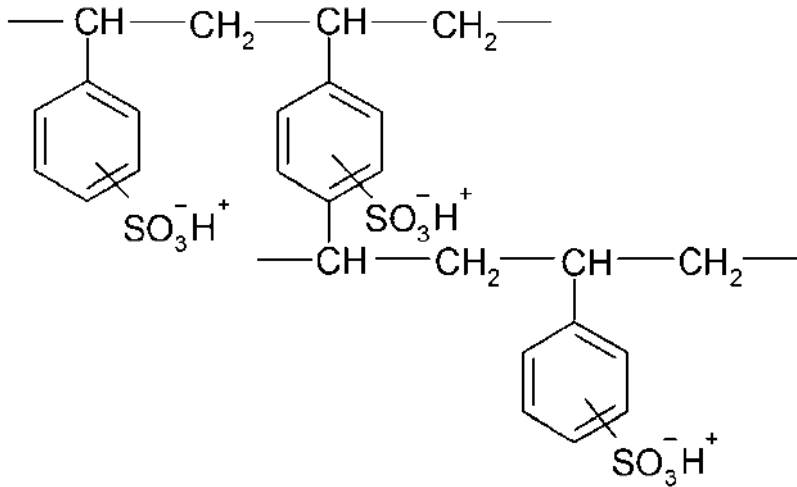
$q$  = capacity (conc.) ions in resin  
[mol/kg]

$m$  = concentrations of the ions in the solution [mol/L] or [mol/kg]

Univalent ion-exchange plot

**B is preferred if  $K_A^B > 1$**

# Problem Solving



**Sulfonated side groups for  
Cation exchange**

**Problem 7.** A commercial ion-exchange resin is made of 88 wt% styrene (MW = 0.104 kg/mol) and 12 wt% divinyl benzene (MW = 0.1302 kg/mol). Estimate the maximum ion-exchange capacity in equivalents/kg resin when a sulfonic acid group (MW = 0.0811 kg/mol) has been attached to each benzene ring.

**How do we go about solving this?**

Hints: What is ion-exchange capacity?  
What are the units of capacity?



# Drying of Solids

Please read – Ch. 7 from De Haan & Bosch, Industrial Separation Processes, 2013, de Gruyter (Berlin) (on Knovel)



You'll learn about drying fruit, and bread, and vapor in pores