

# Chemical Weathering & Acid-Base Reactions

*Acid Rain → Focus on Acid Inputs & Determining Factors*

- Problems due to the burning of high-sulfur coal have lessened with use of low-sulfur coal. Problem still persists
- Production zones: dominantly in the mid-Eastern States and in Eastern Europe.
- Problem with nitrogen oxides: non-point source –pollution from autos
- The places impacted by the acid rain → Adirondacks, New England, Canadian Shield. (Canadians complain about the amount of S-producing gases moving across their border from the US and polluting their lakes. However, Canada is the largest single point source of S (Sudbury-Nickel smelting)).

# Combined emissions of air pollutants in the United States and Canada from various sectors.

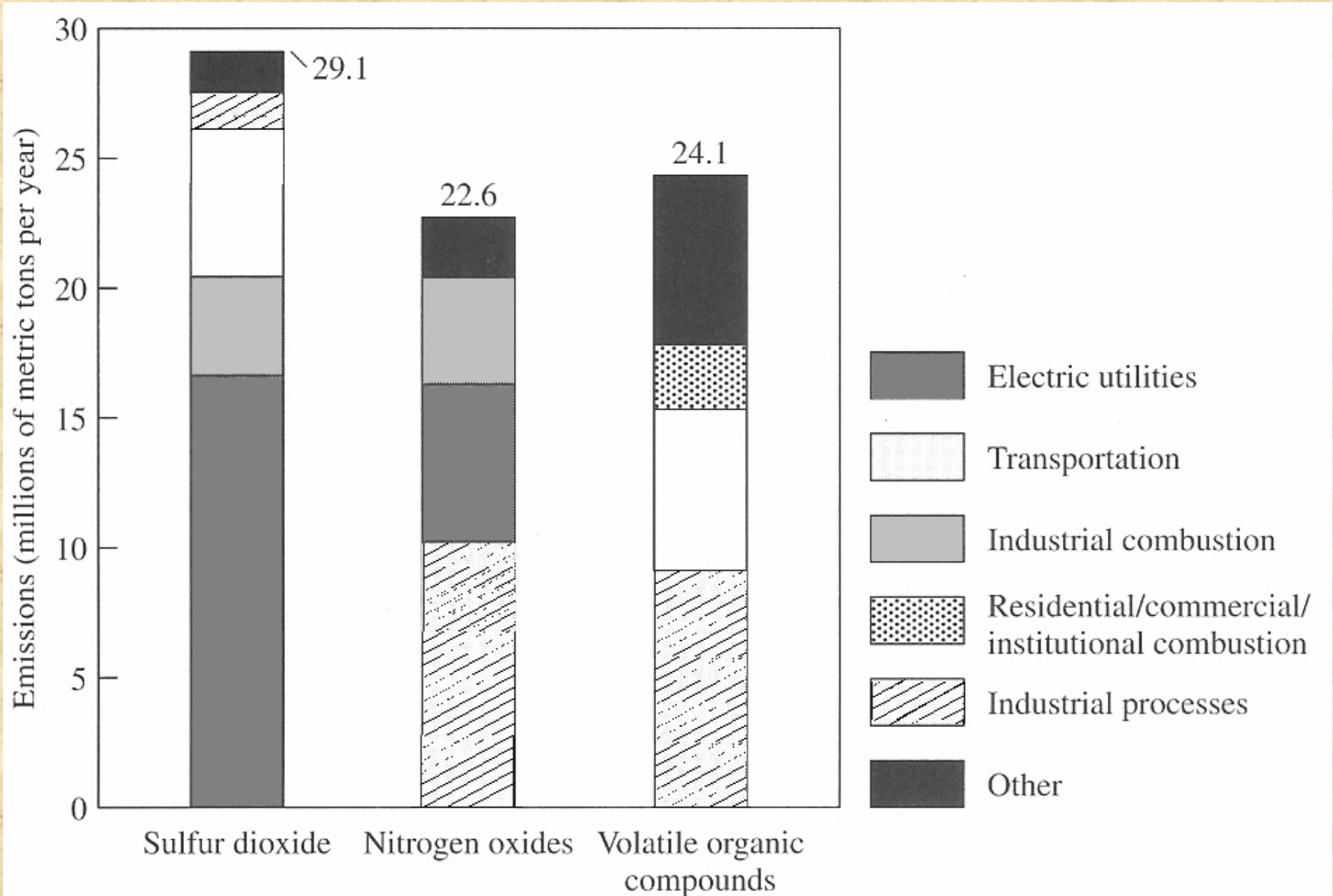
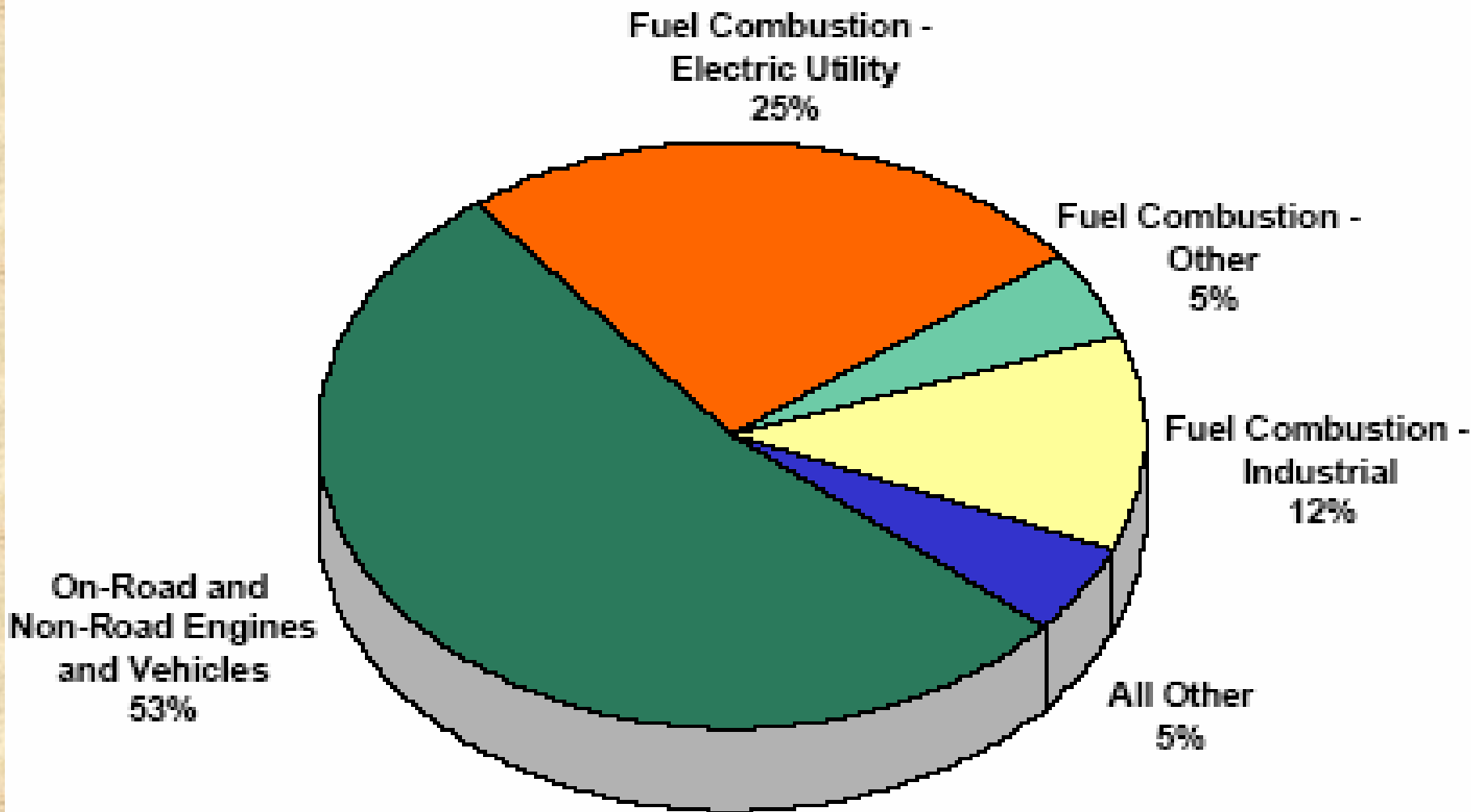


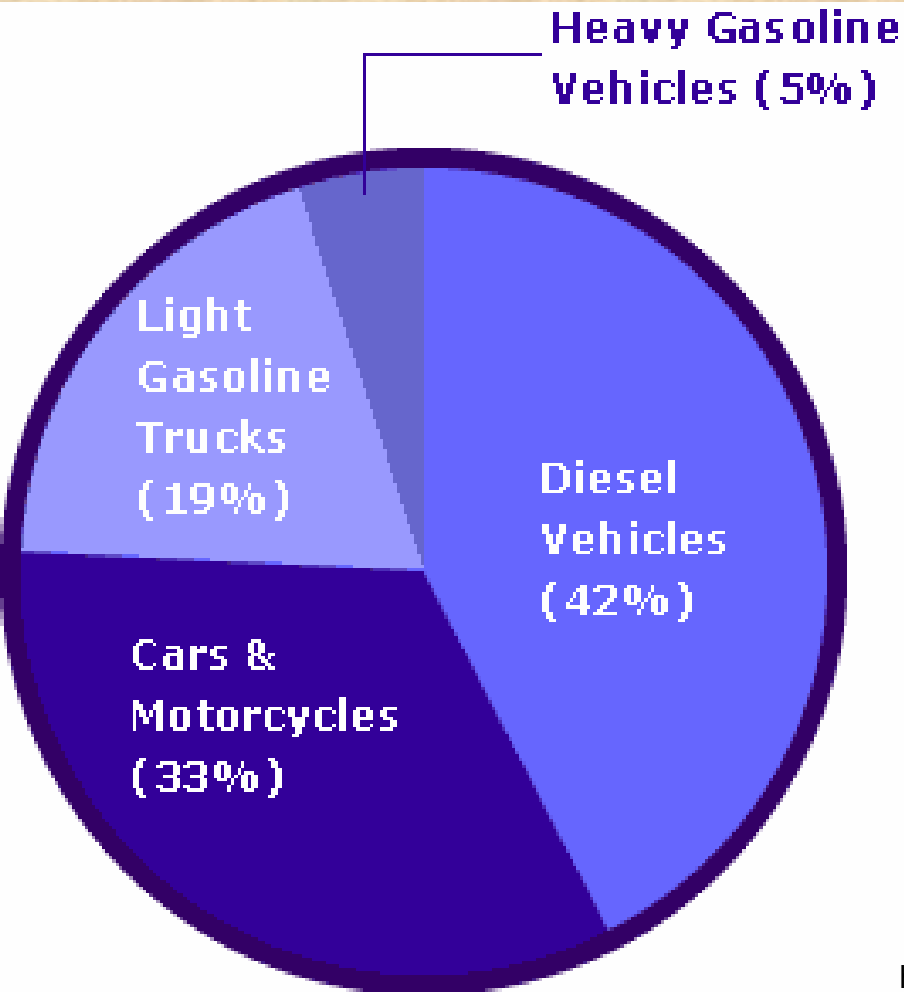
Figure 3-1. Baird. Environmental Chemistry, 1995.

# 1998 National Nitrogen Oxide (NO<sub>x</sub>) Emissions by Principal Source Category

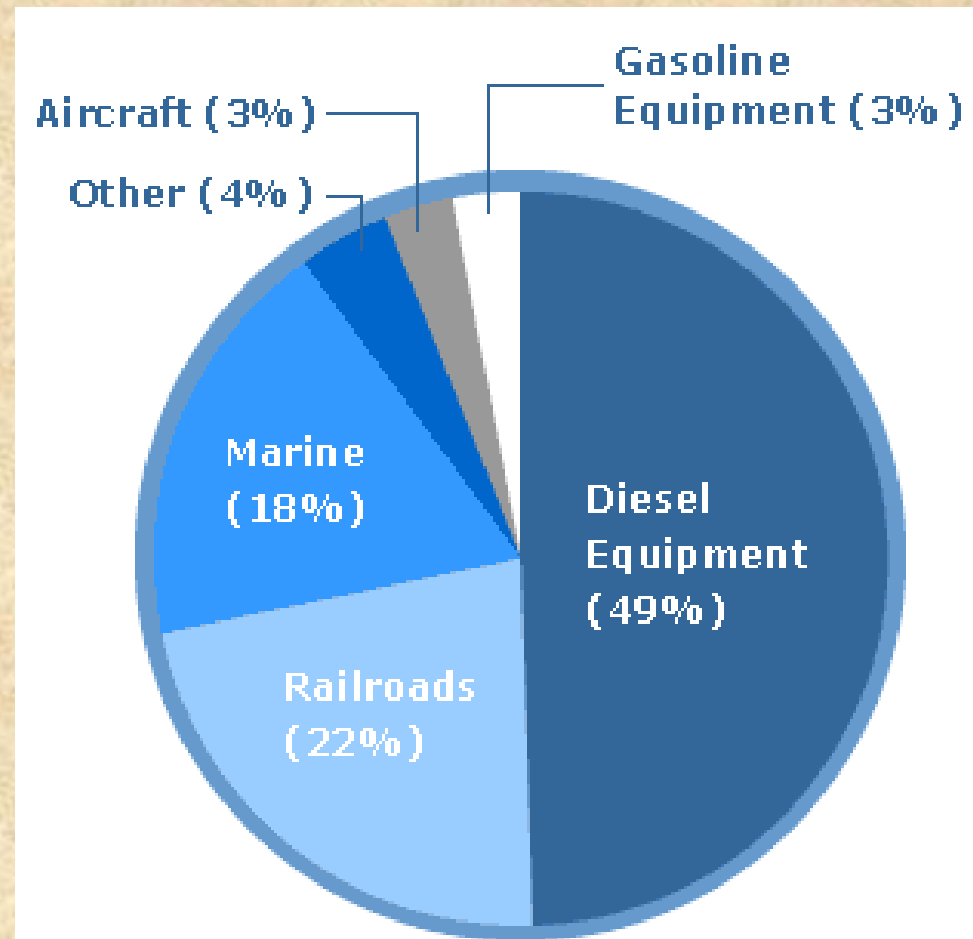


# 1999 National Emissions by Source: Nitrogen Oxides

## On-Road Mobile Sources



## Nonroad Mobile Sources

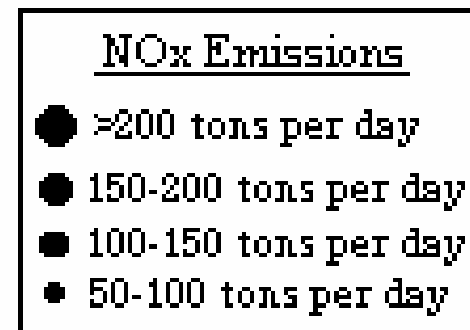
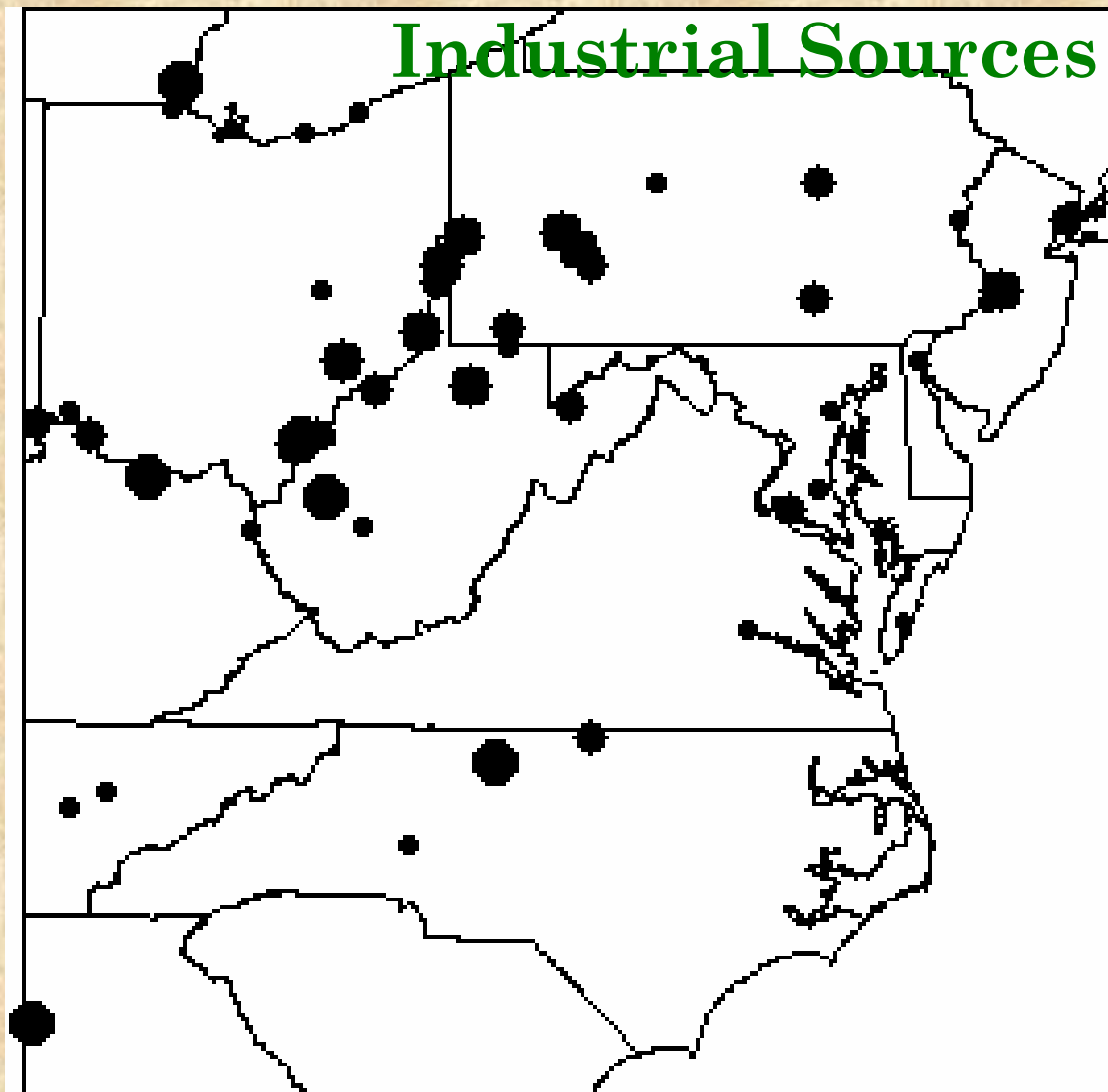


[http://www.epa.gov/oms/inventory/overview/pollutants/nox\\_nonroad.htm](http://www.epa.gov/oms/inventory/overview/pollutants/nox_nonroad.htm)

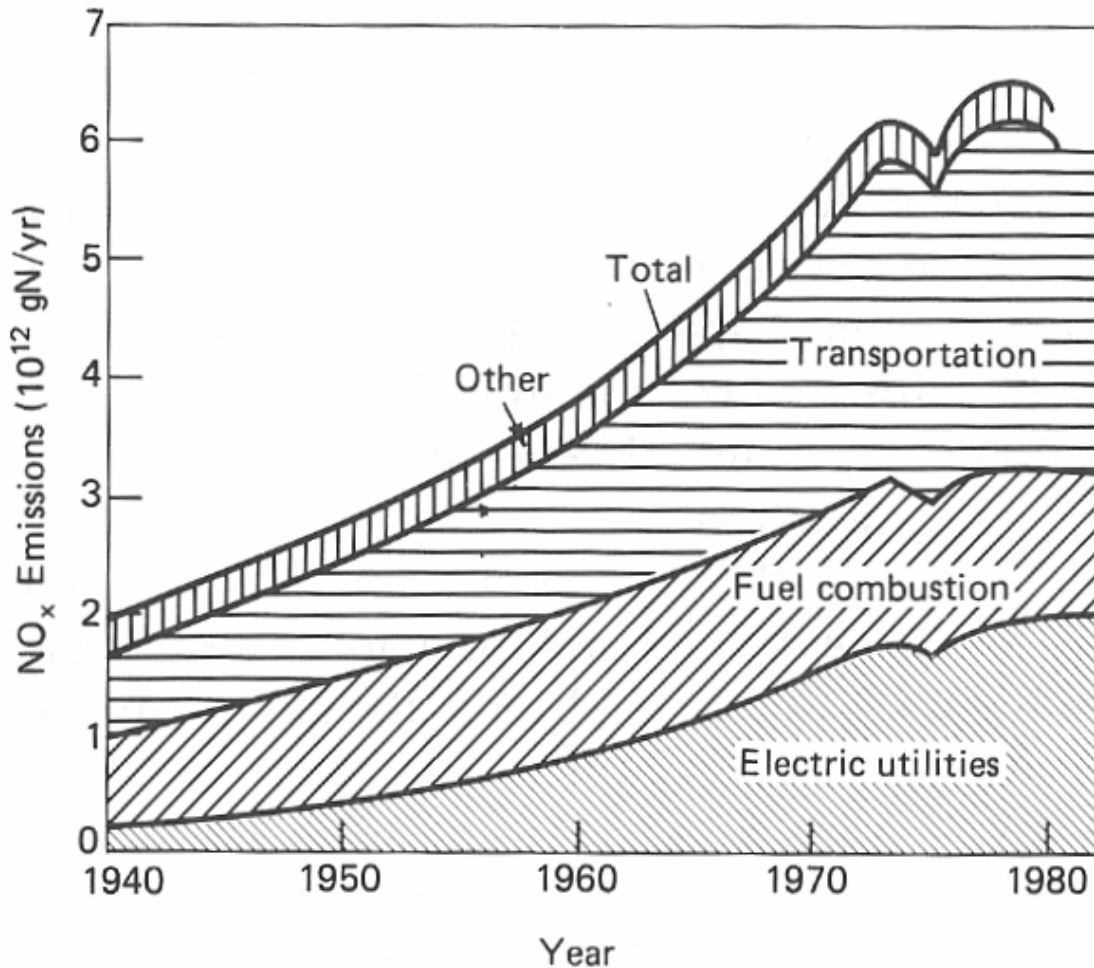
[http://www.epa.gov/oms/inventory/overview/pollutants/nox\\_onroad.htm](http://www.epa.gov/oms/inventory/overview/pollutants/nox_onroad.htm)

# Location of the Largest Utility and

## Industrial Sources of NO<sub>x</sub>



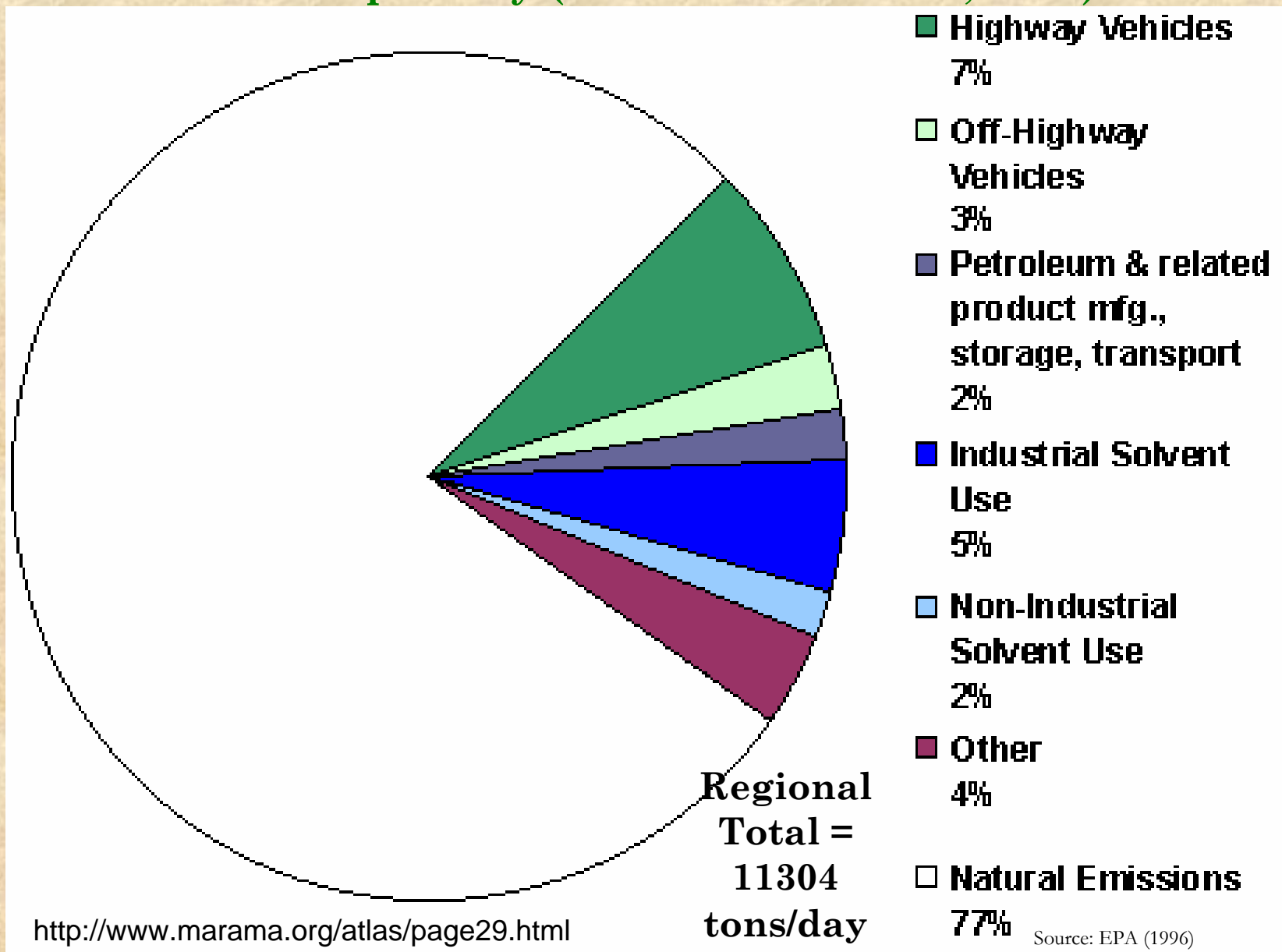
## Emissions of NO<sub>x</sub> in the United States from 1940 - 1980

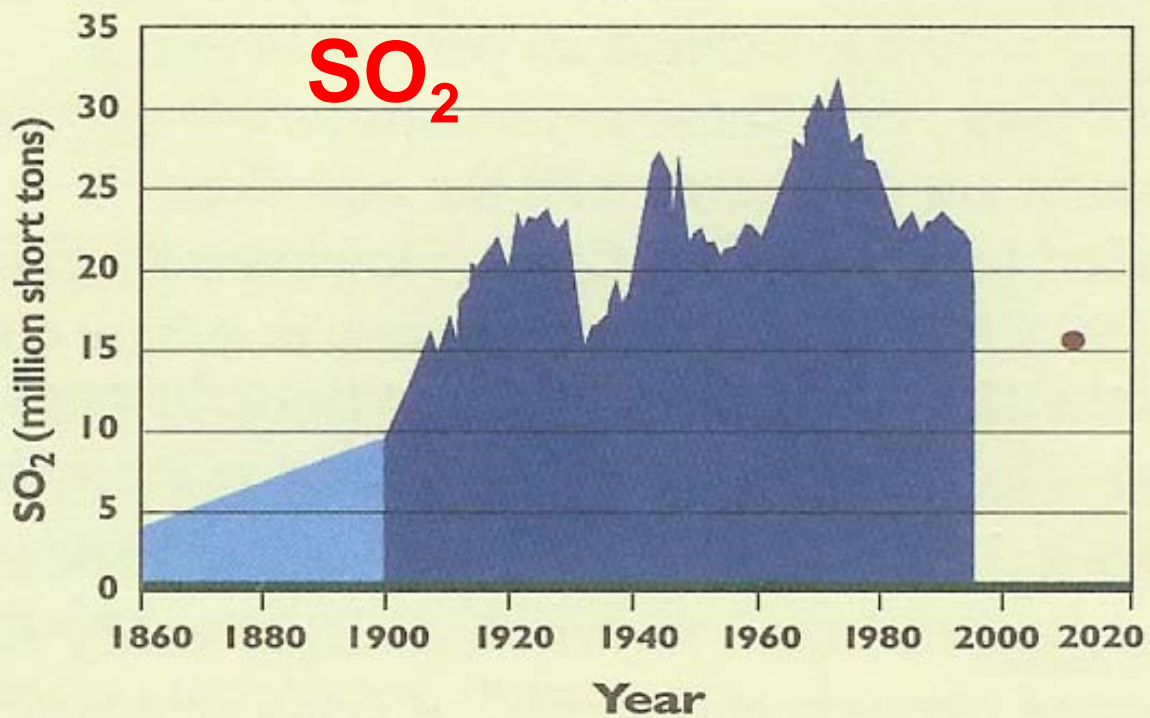
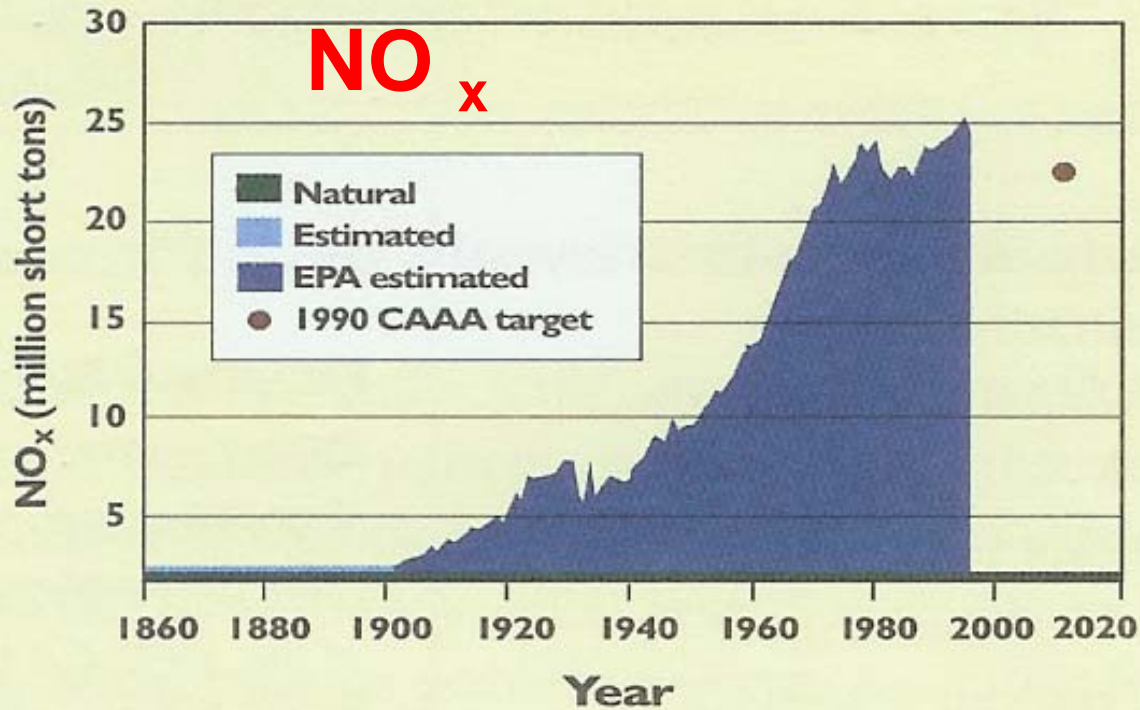


**Figure 3.14** Emissions of NO<sub>x</sub> in the United States from combustion of fossil fuels and industrial processes in units of 10<sup>12</sup> g N/yr (10<sup>12</sup> g N = Tg N). The sources shown separately for 1940 to 1980 are power generation by electric utilities, industrial fuel combustion, transportation combustion and industrial processes (“other”). [J. A. Logan. “Nitrogen Oxides in the Troposphere: global and regional budgets,” *J. of Geophysical Research*, 88 (C15), 10790. © 1983 by the American Geophysical Union.] (After U.S. EPA 1982).

# 1990 Mid-Atlantic VOC Emissions

Tons per Day (Natural Emissions, 1988)





## Total US Emissions

Long-term trends in total nitrogen oxide and sulfur emissions in the United States compared with estimated natural emissions and emission targets estimated based on the 1990 CAAA (after U.S. EPA 2000)

Figure 4. "Acid Rain Revisited." HBRF



# Rise in emissions of SO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> from 1940 to 1980

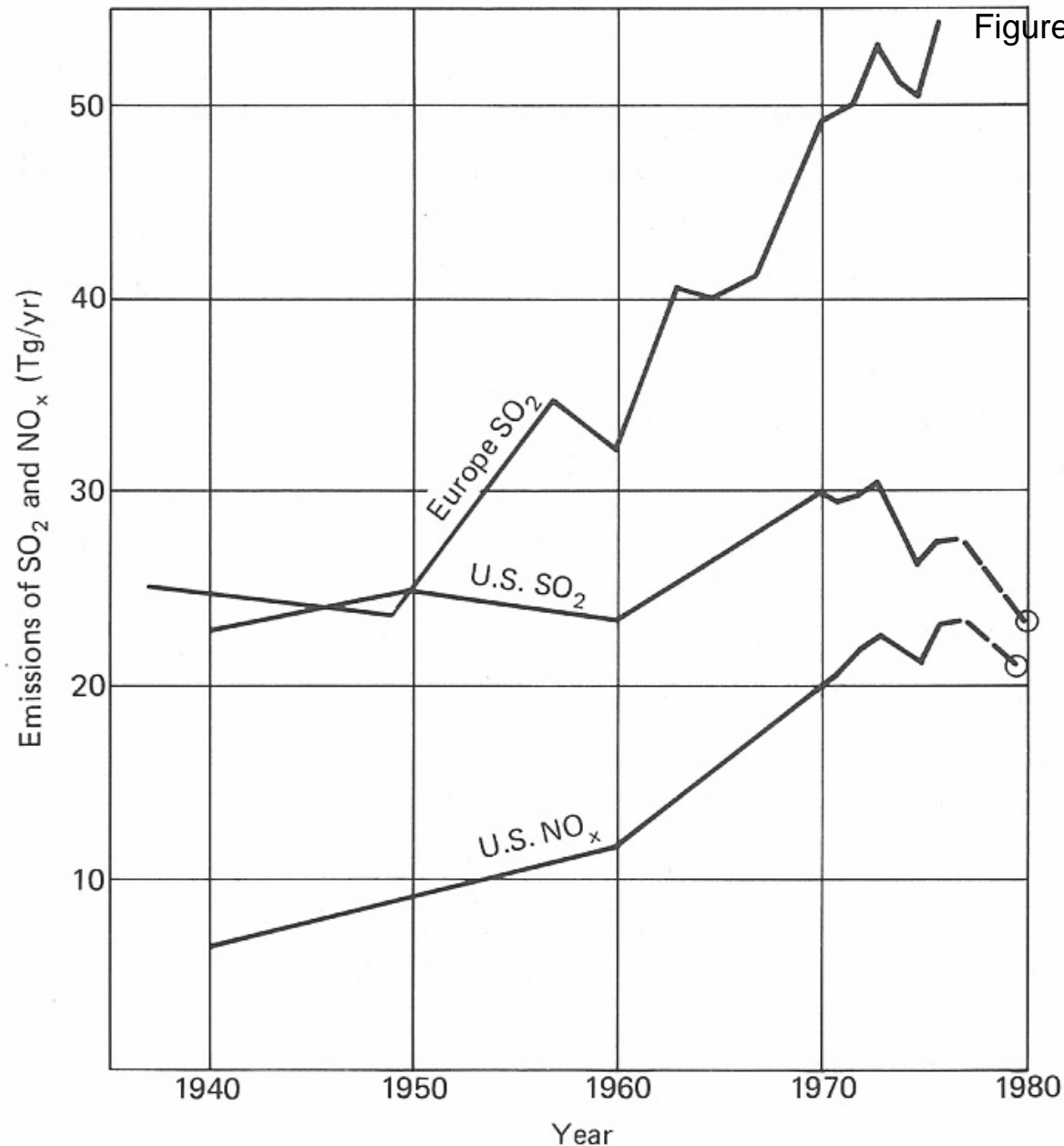
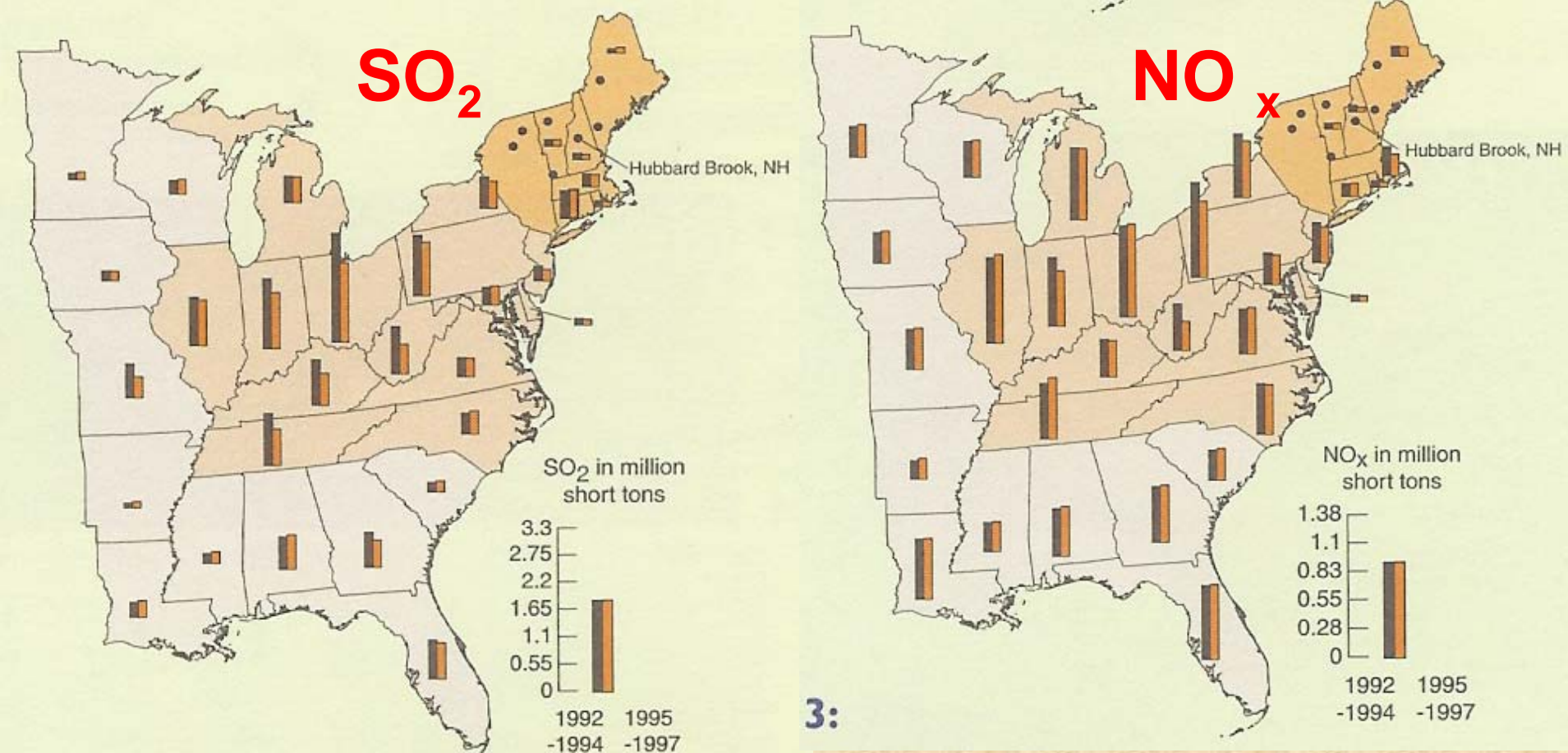


Figure 3.9. Berner. *The Global Water Cycle*, 1987.

**Figure 3.9** Rise in emissions of SO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> from 1940 to 1980. Top curve: European SO<sub>2</sub>; middle curve: U.S. SO<sub>2</sub>; bottom curve: U.S. NO<sub>x</sub>. To compare SO<sub>2</sub> data here with data given elsewhere in the present chapter, divide by 2 to obtain Tg S/yr. 1980 U.S. SO<sub>2</sub> emissions from Marshall 1983; 1979 U.S. NO<sub>x</sub> emissions from Logan 1983 [see also Table 3.16]. (From G. E. Likens et al., "Acid Rain." Copyright © October 1979 by Scientific American, Inc. All rights reserved.)

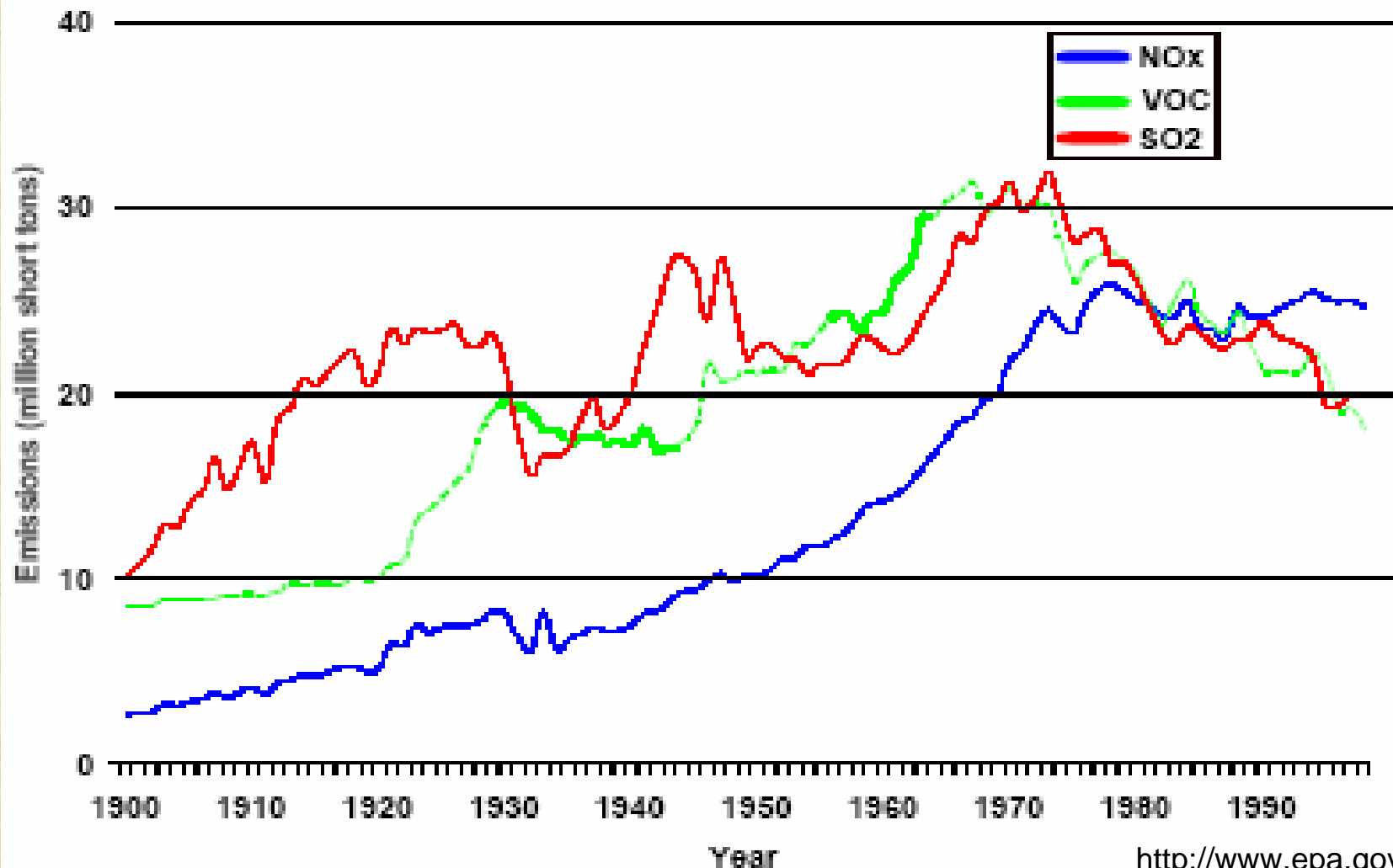


Spatial patterns of sulfur dioxide emissions in the eastern United States. The shaded area shows the source area from which pollution travels downwind to the Northeast.

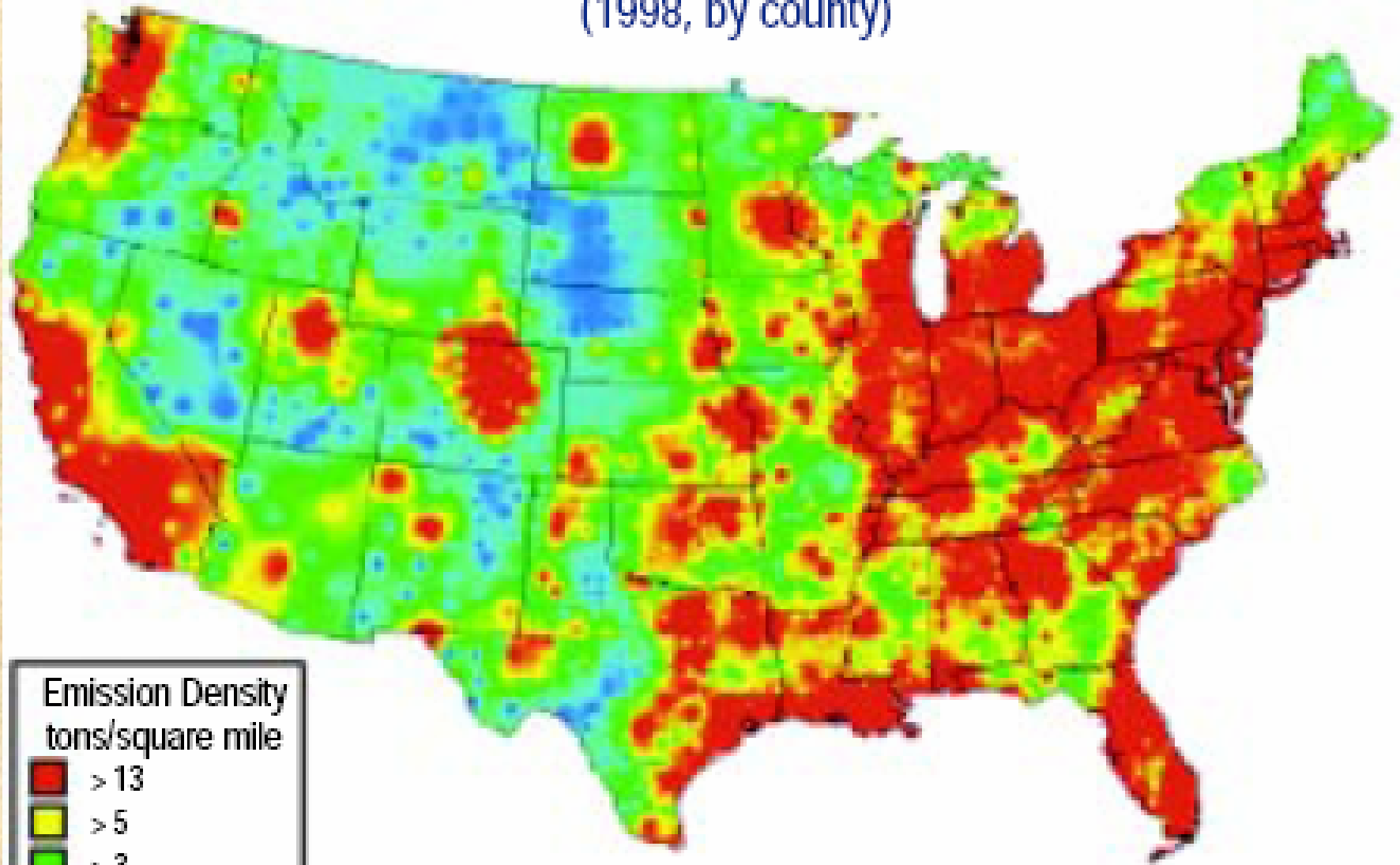
Spatial patterns of nitrogen oxide emissions in the eastern United States. The shaded area shows the source area from which pollution travels downwind to the Northeast.

Figure 3. "Acid Rain Revisited." HBRF

# Trends in National Emissions of Nitrogen Oxides, Volatile Organic Compounds, and Sulfur Dioxide, 1900-1998

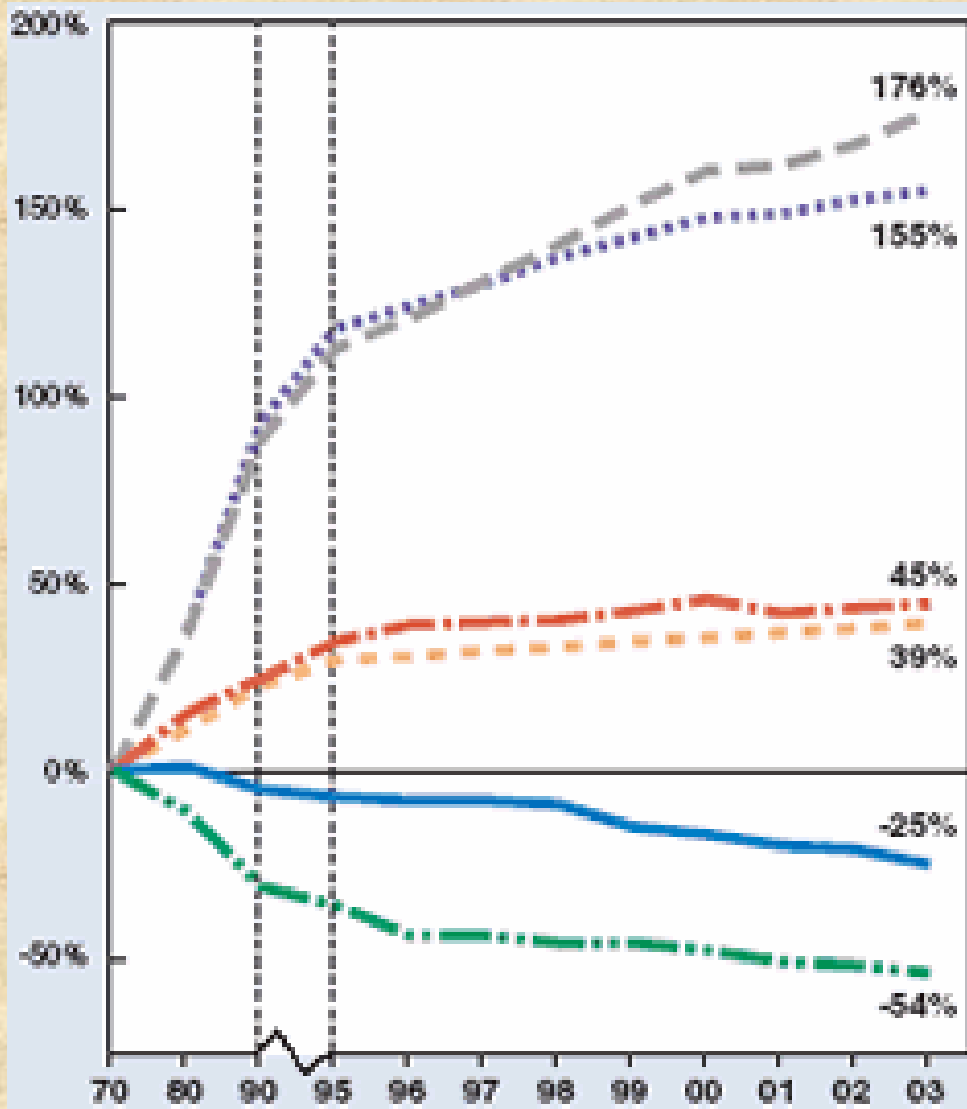














# U.S. Emissions of NO<sub>x</sub> (1998, by county)

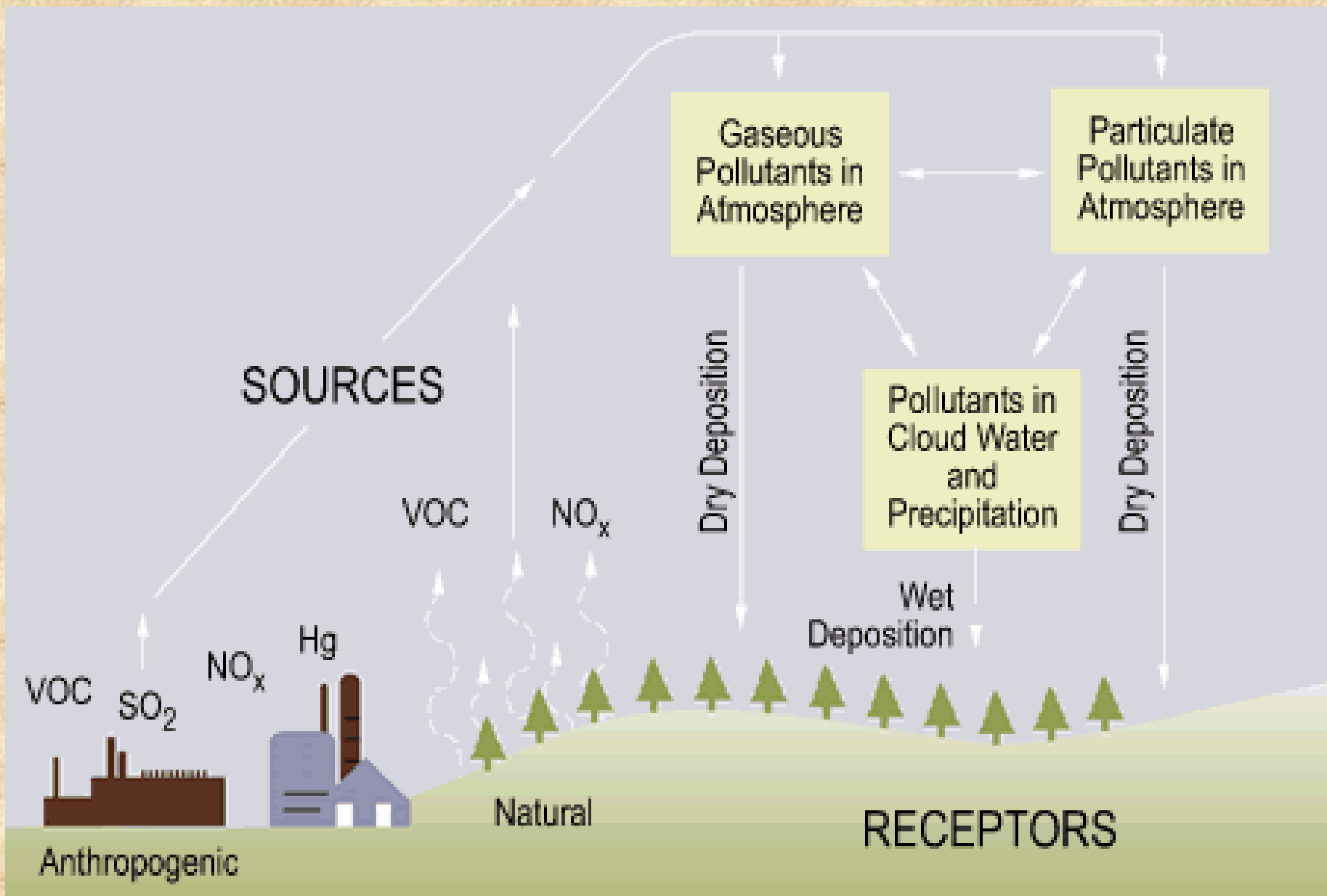


Emission Density  
tons/square mile

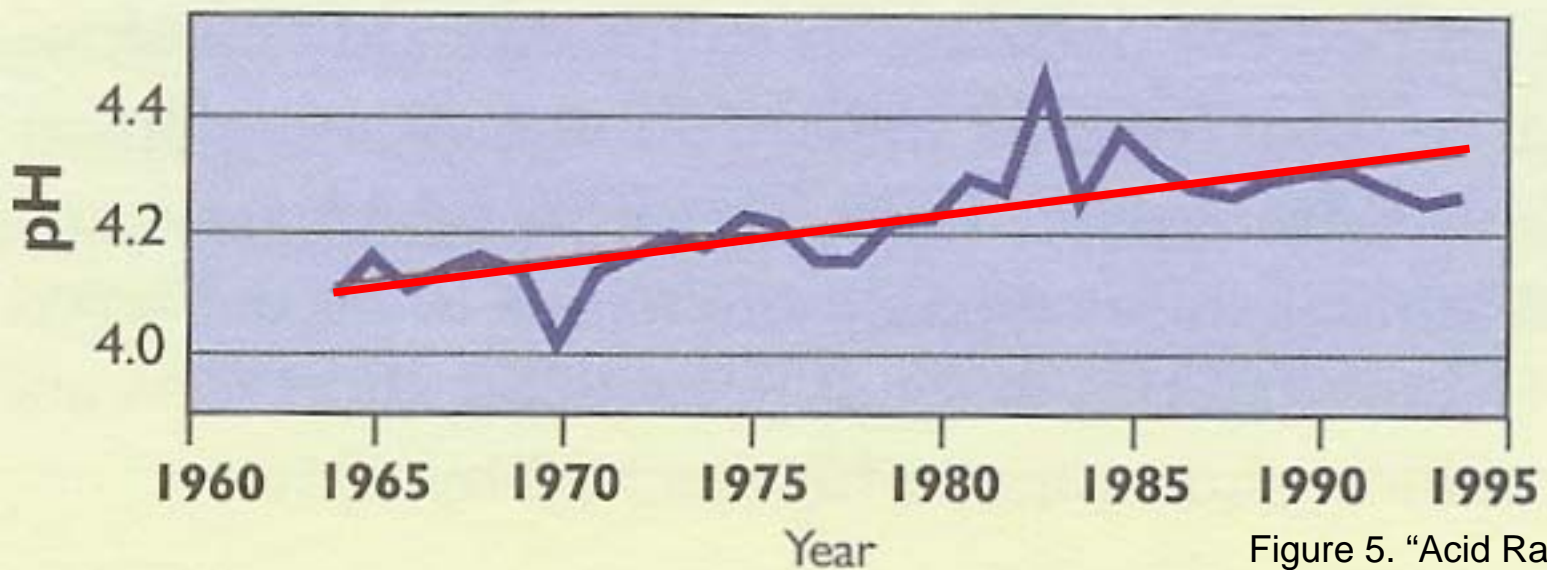
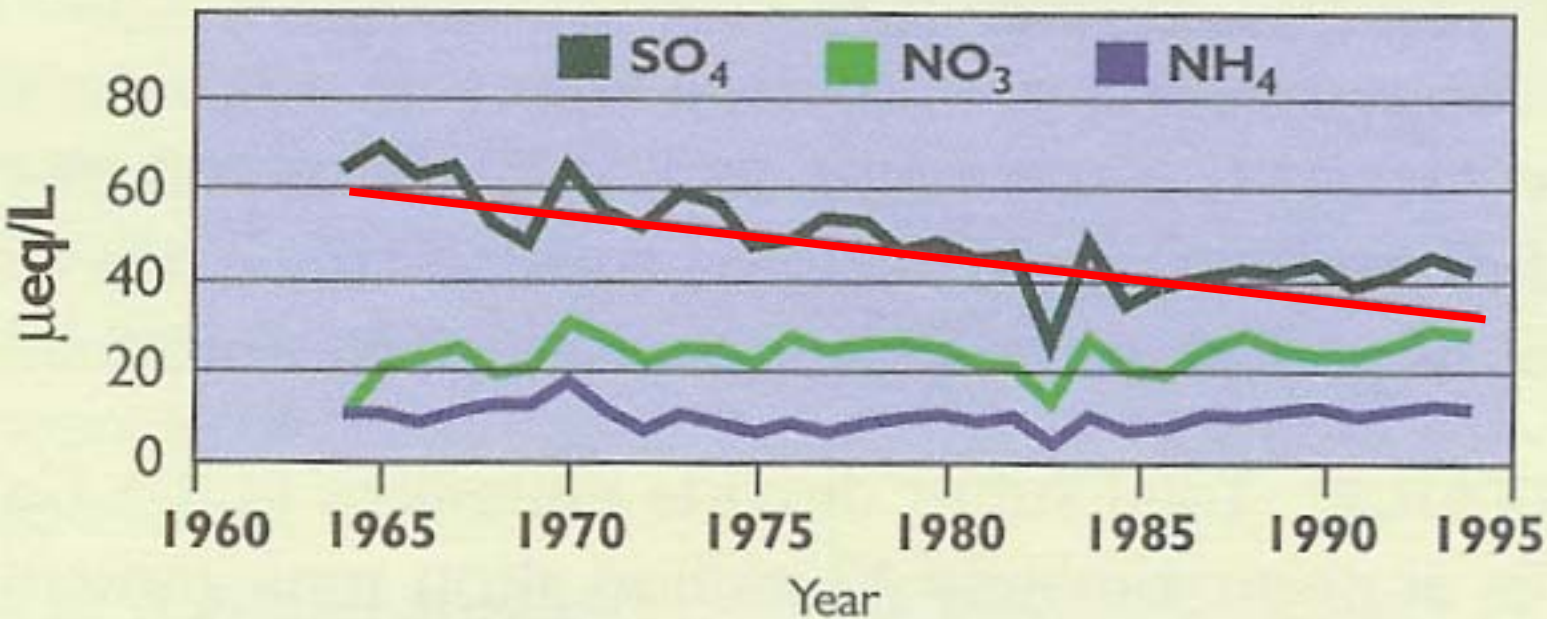




- 

Gross Domestic Product
- 

Vehicle Miles Traveled
- 

Energy Consumption
- 

Population
- 

NO<sub>x</sub> Emissions
- 

VOC Emissions



# LONG-TERM TRENDS IN WET DEPOSITION



Long-term trends in sulfate, nitrate, and ammonium concentrations and pH in wet deposition at the HBEF, 1963-1994. The solid lines indicate statistically significant trends.

Figure 5. "Acid Rain Revisited." HBRF

# Sulfate Wet Deposition

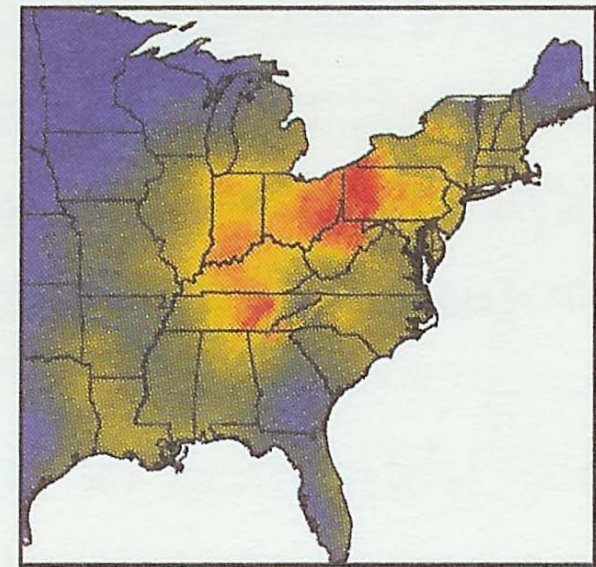
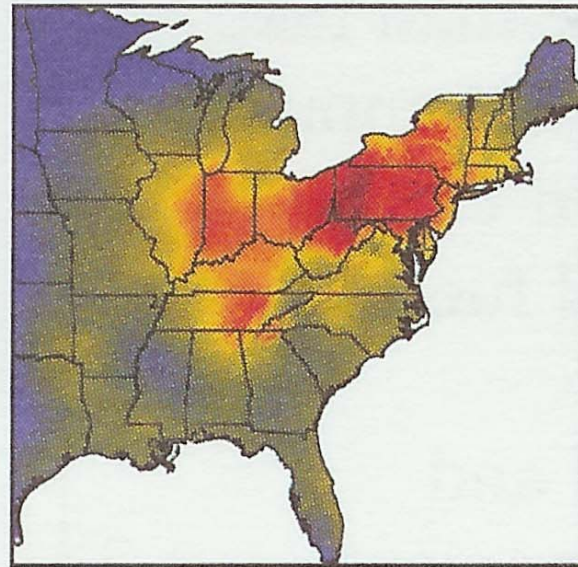
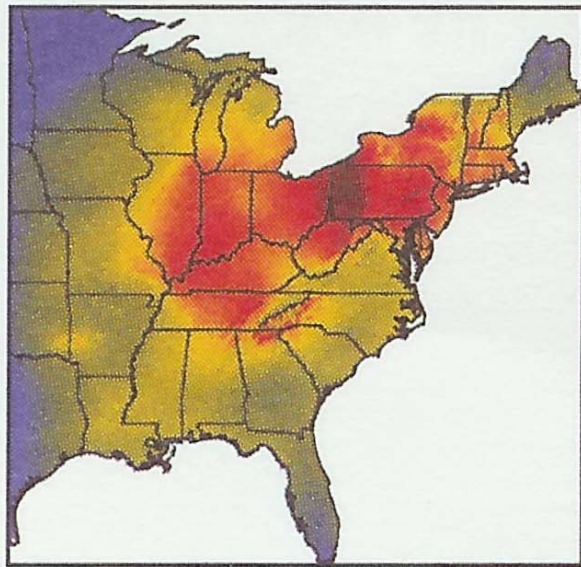
Before 1990 CAAA

After 1990 CAAA

1983-85

1992-94

1995-97



<5.0

12.0

19.0

26.0

33.0

>40.0

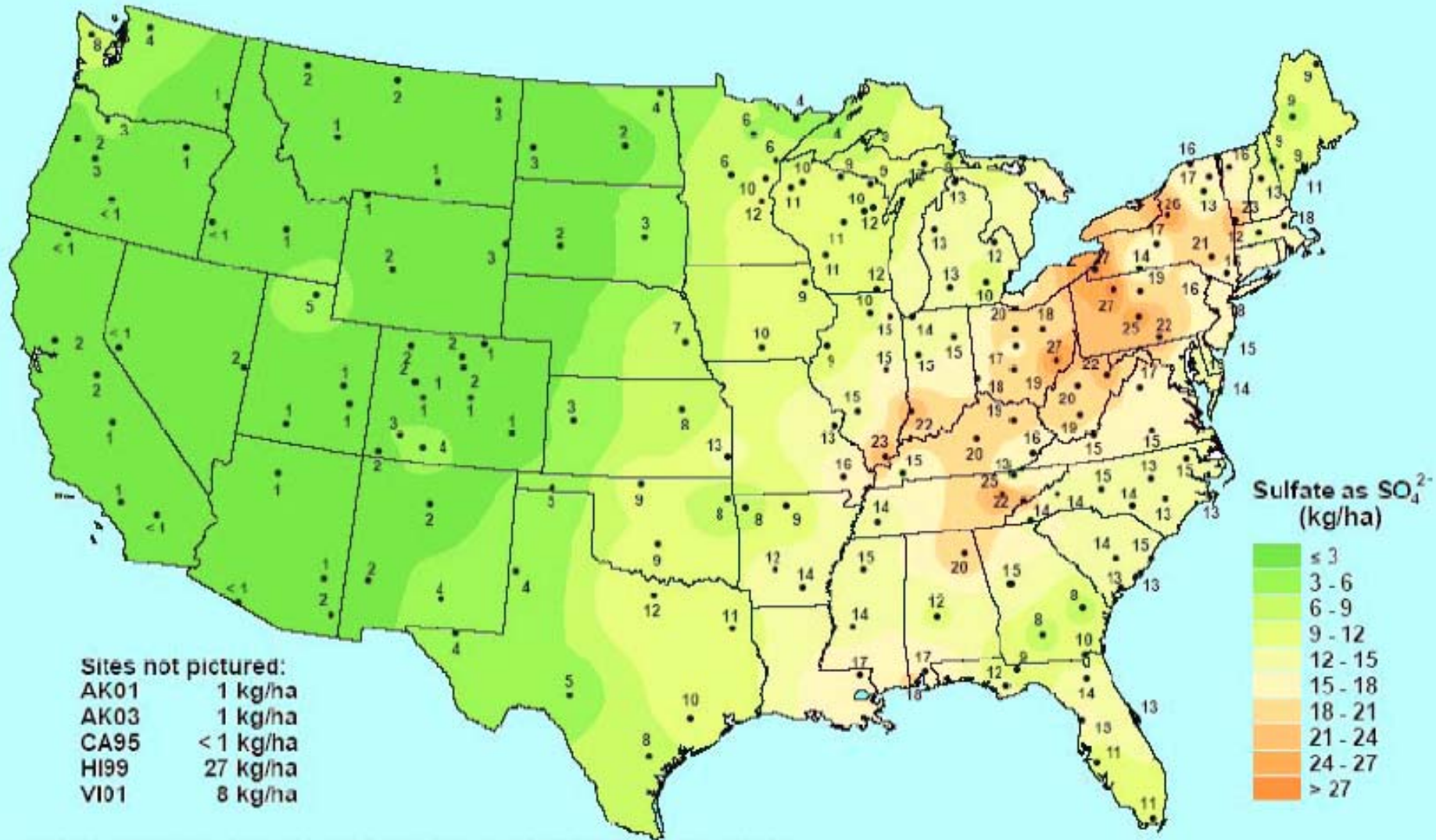


kilograms / hectare / year

Annual wet deposition of  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  (in  $\text{kg SO}_4^{2-} \cdot \text{ha}^{-1} \cdot \text{yr}^{-1}$ ) in the eastern United States for 1983-1985, 1992-1994, 1995-1997.



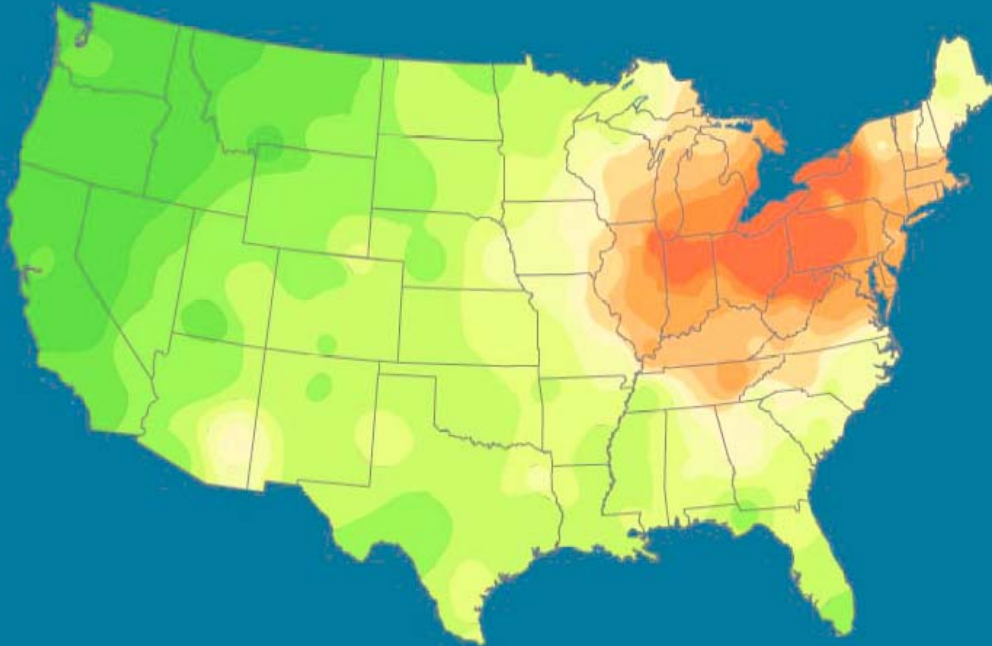
# Sulfate ion wet deposition, 2002



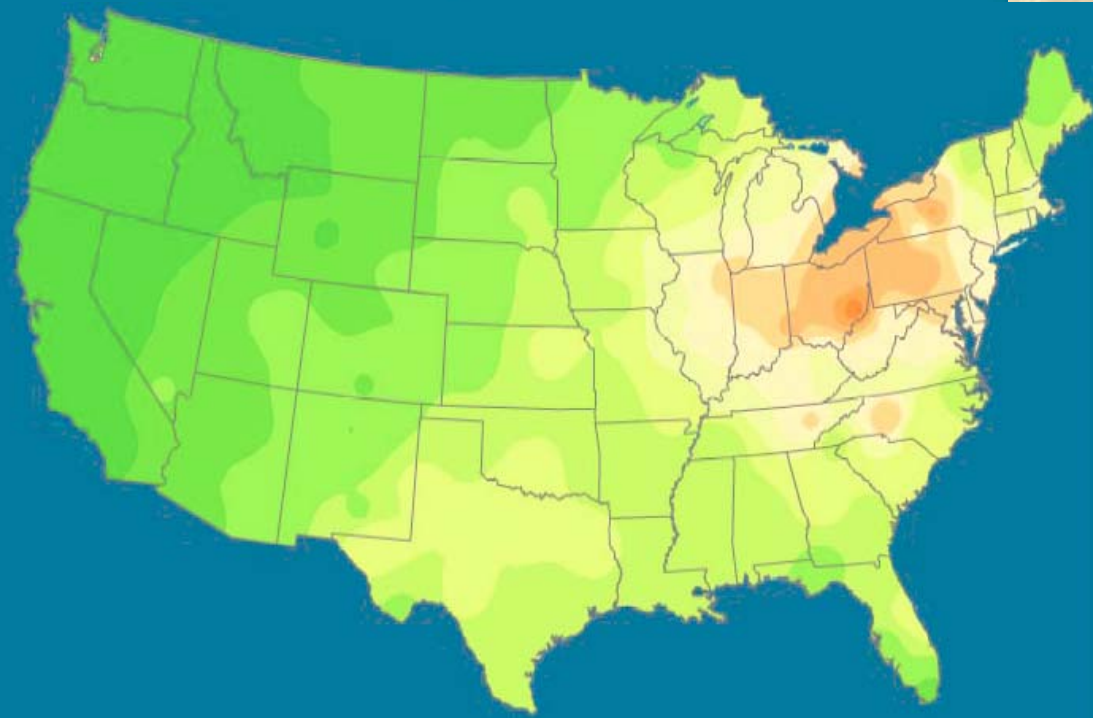
National Atmospheric Deposition Program/National Trends Network  
<http://nadp.sws.uiuc.edu>

# Sulfate Ion Concentrations

← 1984-1986



← 1999-2001



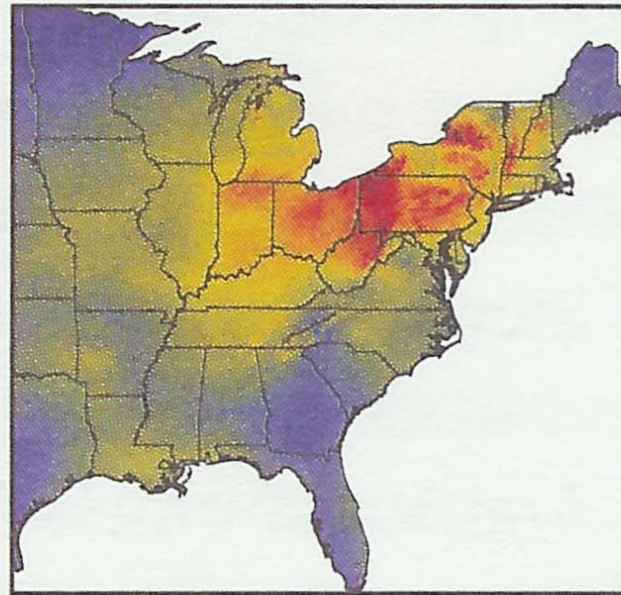
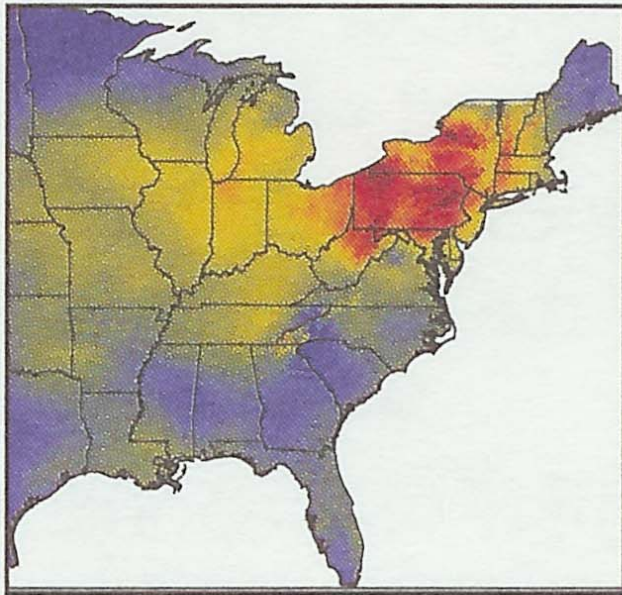
# NITRATE WET DEPOSITION

Before 1990 CAAA

1992-94

After 1990 CAAA

1995-97



<6 8 10 12 14 16 18 20 22 24 >26

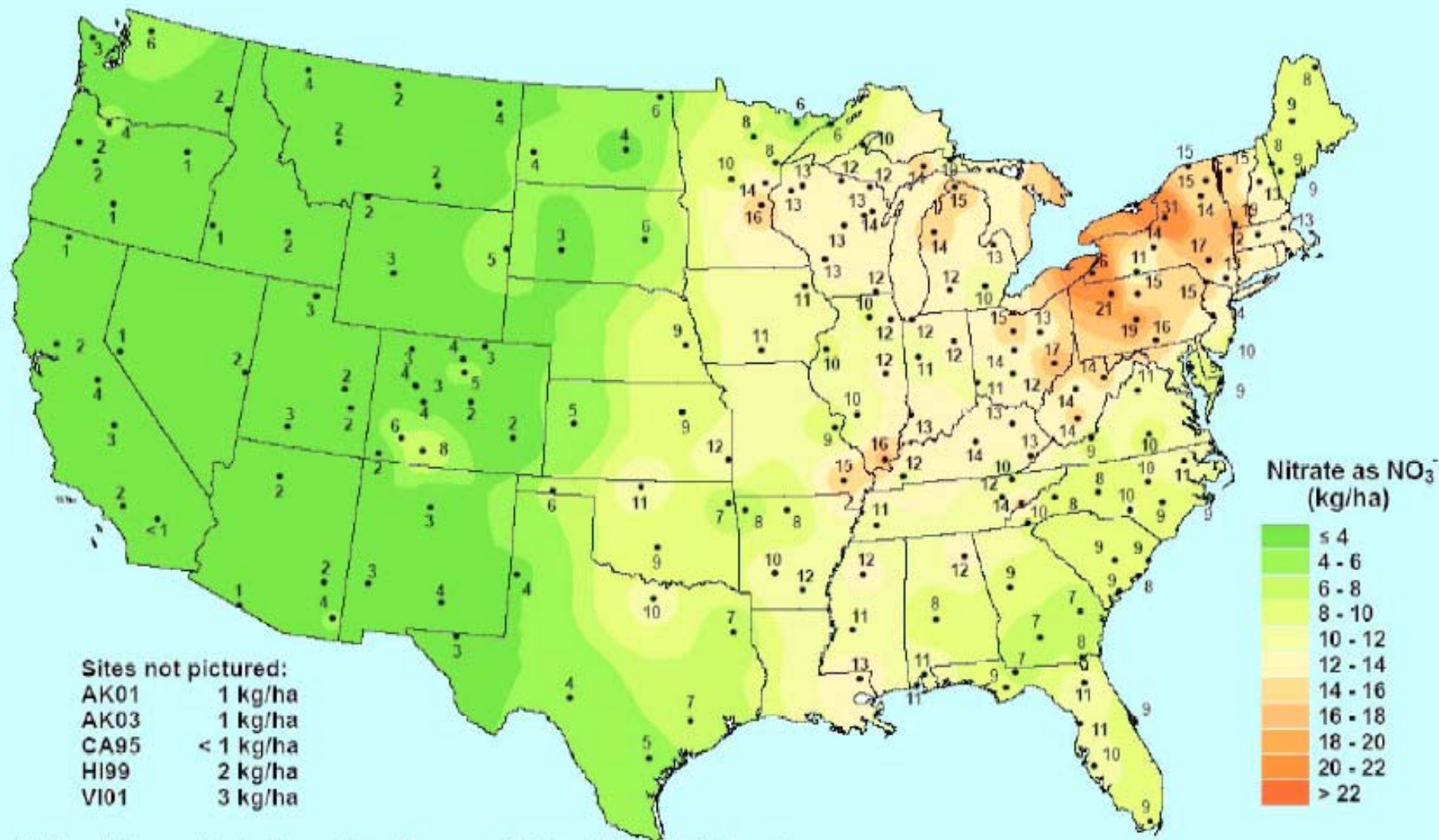


kilograms / hectare / year

Recent patterns of wet deposition before and after the implementation of 1990 CAAA. Note: 1 hectare equals 2.47 acres.

Figure 7. "Acid Rain Revisited." HBRF

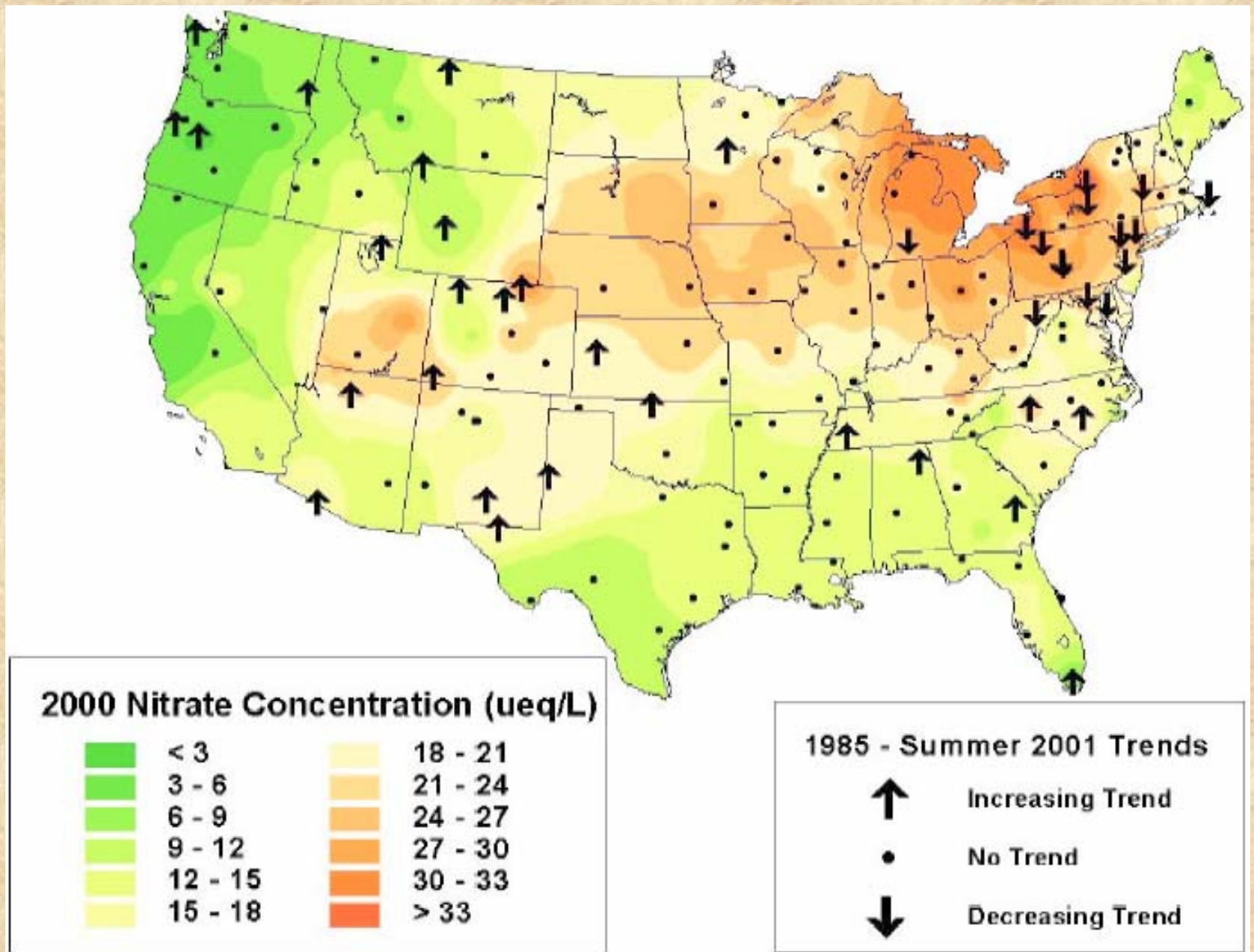
## Nitrate ion wet deposition, 2002



National Atmospheric Deposition Program/National Trends Network

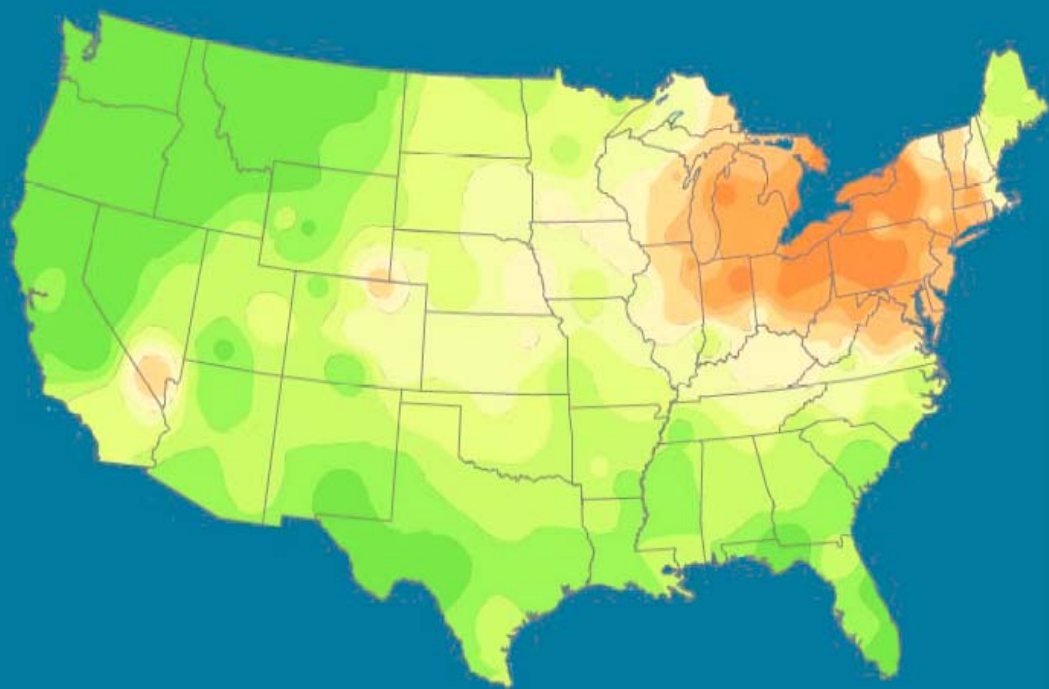
Nilles, "Status and Trends in Wet Deposition of Sulfur and Nitrogen in the United States," USGS.

# Nitrate Trends in Precipitation, 1985-2001

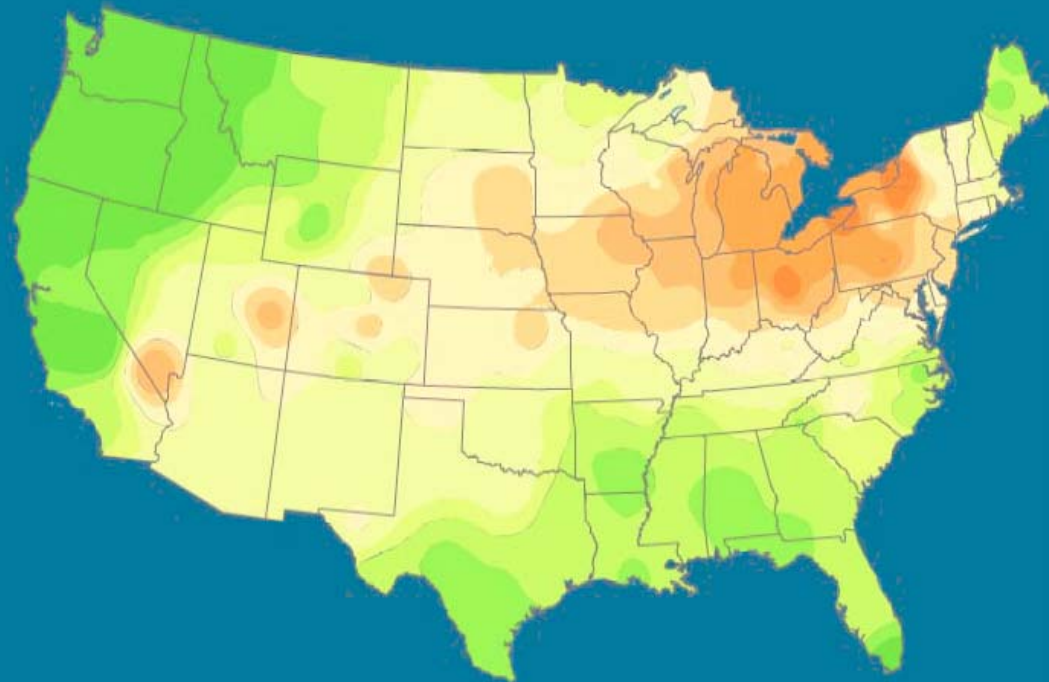


# Nitrate Ion Concentrations

← 1984-1986



← 1999-2001

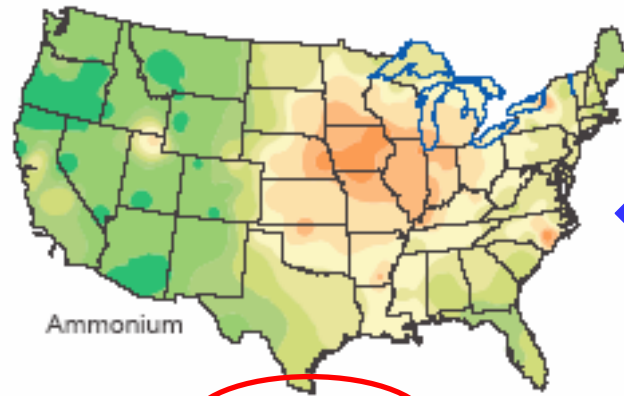
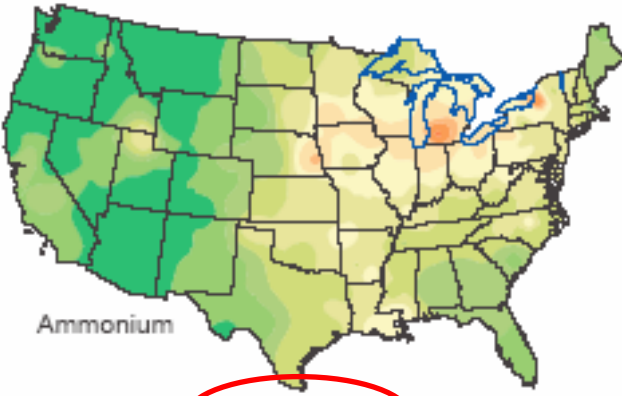
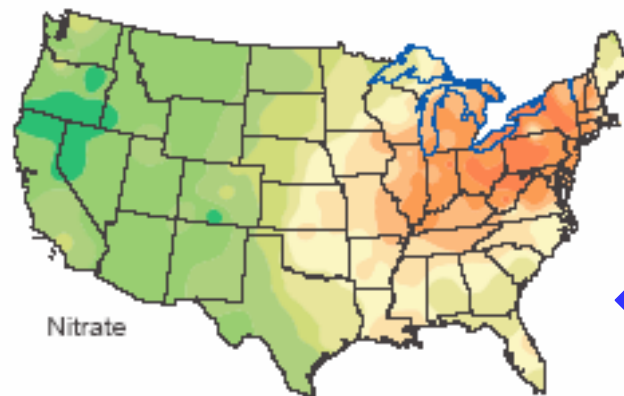
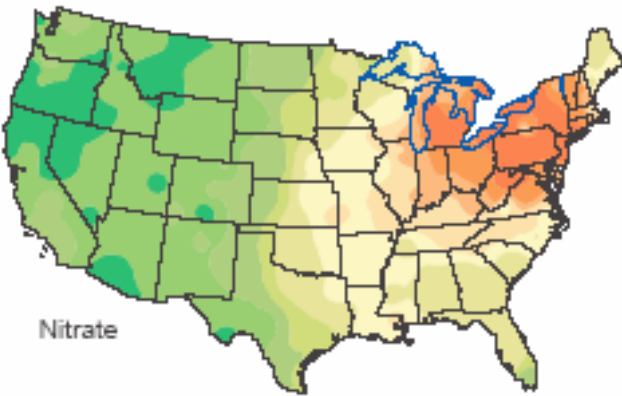
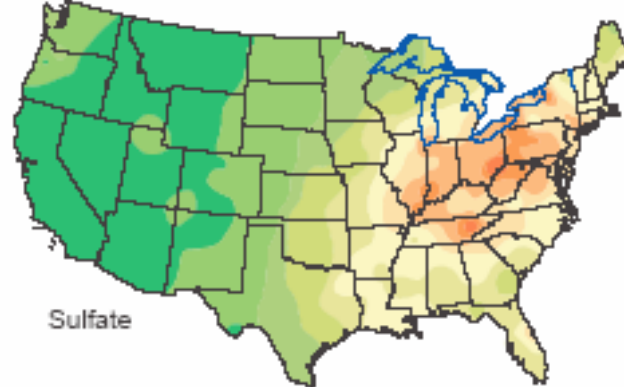
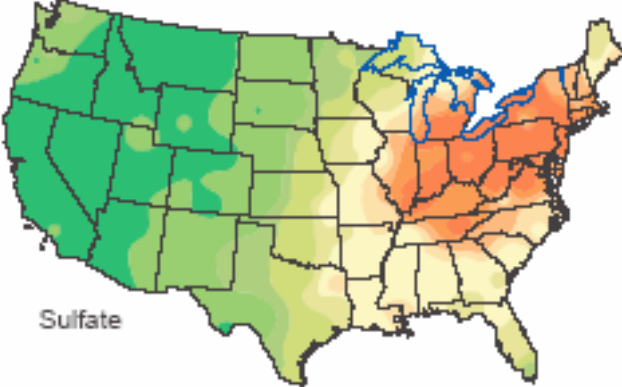


# Estimated Annual Wet Deposition: 1985-1999

← Sulfate

← Nitrate

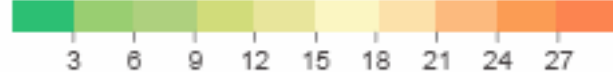
← Ammonium



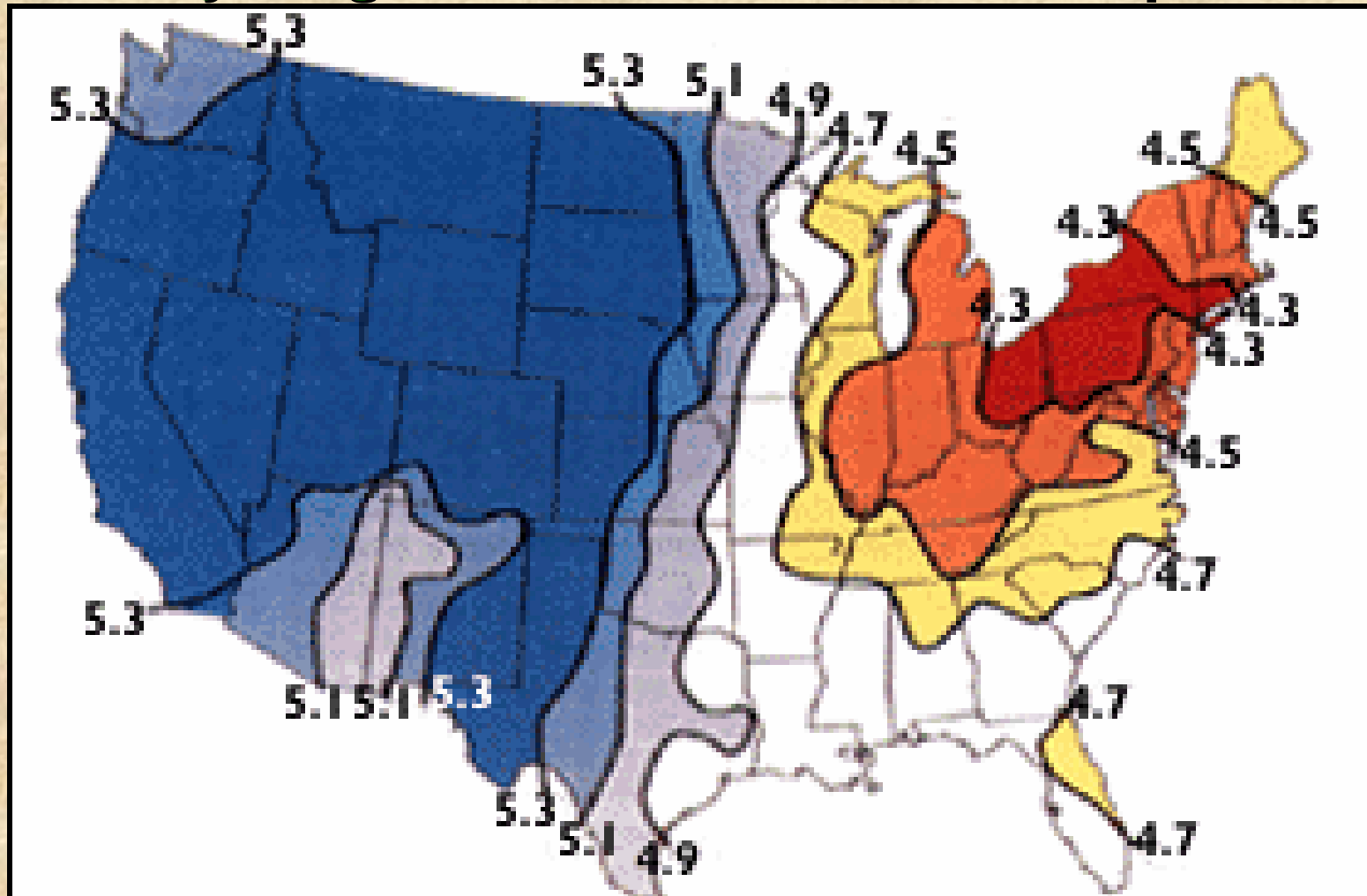
1985 - 1989

1995 - 1999

Estimated Annual Deposition (millimoles/meter<sup>2</sup>)



# 1992 Annual precipitation-weighted mean hydrogen ion concentration as pH



<http://pubs.usgs.gov/gip/acidrain/gifs/fig04.gif>





# Aqueous Geochemistry and Weathering

- Weathering is the interaction of water and rock at low temperatures. This will determine the composition of the surrounding waters, such as a river, which will in turn effect to type and rate of weathering.
- Weathering → Water-Rock Interaction at low temperatures → controls Composition of waters.
- What governs weathering reactions?
  - Composition of the rocks.

- Since the affected areas are of metamorphic, igneous rocks, then what happens in reactions associated with metamorphic and igneous rocks?
- Metamorphic, Igneous → 500°C - 1200°C
- 8 Groups of minerals (all silicates)

Least stable	<u>Mafic (Fe, Mg)</u>	<u>Felsic (Na, K, Ca)</u>
Highest		
temperature	<b>Olivine</b> (Fe,Mg) <sub>2</sub> SiO <sub>4</sub>	<b>Plagioclase</b> (Ca, Na)
of formation	<b>Pyroxenes</b> (Fe, Mg)SiO <sub>3</sub>	<b>K- Feldspar</b> (KAlSi <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub> ) *
	<b>Amphiboles</b> (structurally complex)	
Most stable	<b>Biotite (mica)</b>	<b>Quartz</b> (SiO <sub>2</sub> )
Lowest		<b>Muscovite (mica)</b>
temperature		
of formation		

\*(Ca Al silicate - Al is substituting for Si in tetrahedra, great deal of substitution in this system).

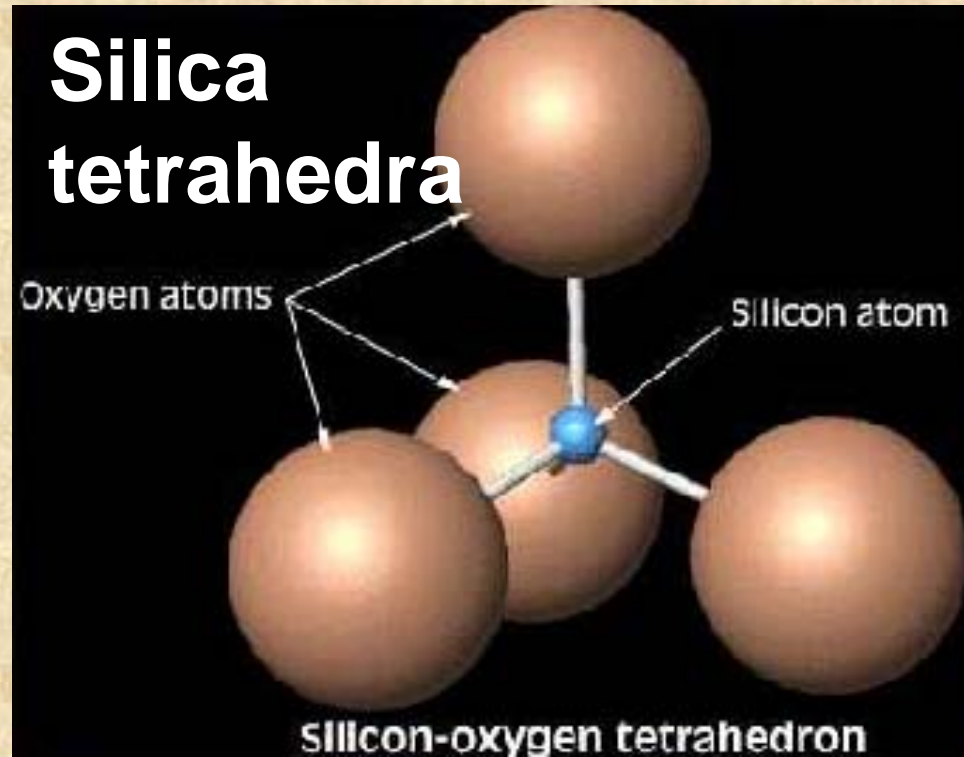
All are silicates - formed by silica tetrahedra →  $\text{SiO}_4^{4-}$

Different compositions → different structures

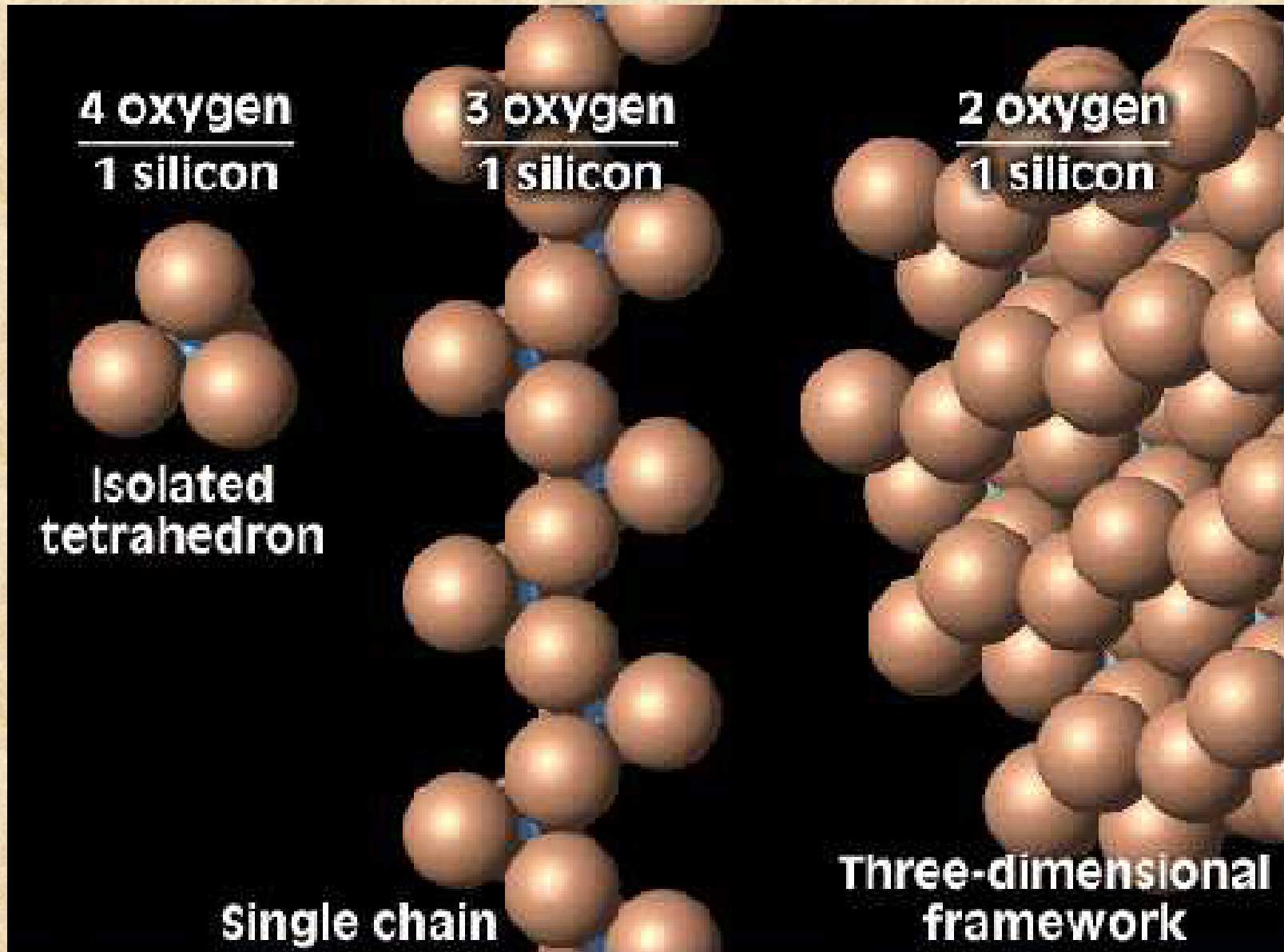
- $\text{Al}^{3+}$ ,  $\text{Si}^{4+}$  are common ions in tetrahedra (Al will sometimes substitute for Si).
- $\text{Fe}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Na}^+$ ,  $\text{K}^+$ ,  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  all represent base cations (except  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$ )

Mafic

Felsic



# Oxygen/ Silicon ratios in Silicates



# Silicate Examples

- Single tetrahedron: Olivine

– No cleavage; fracture



- Single chains: Pyroxenes

– Two planes @  $90^\circ$



- Double chains: Amphiboles

– Two planes @  $60^\circ$  &  $120^\circ$

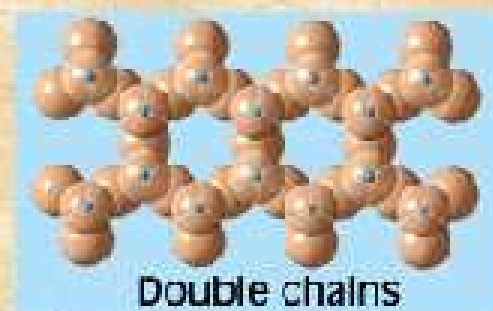


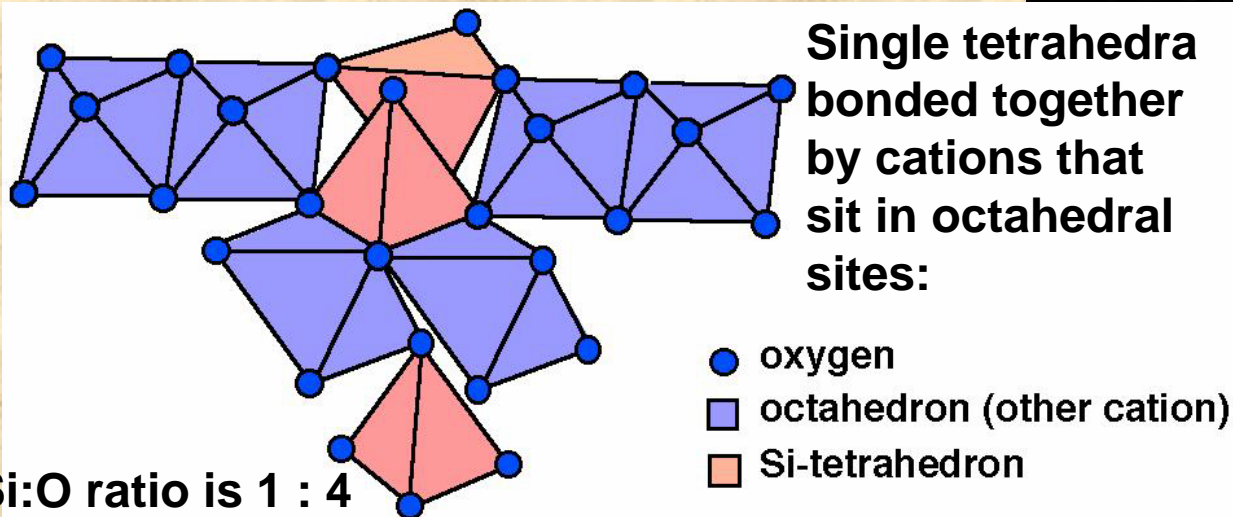
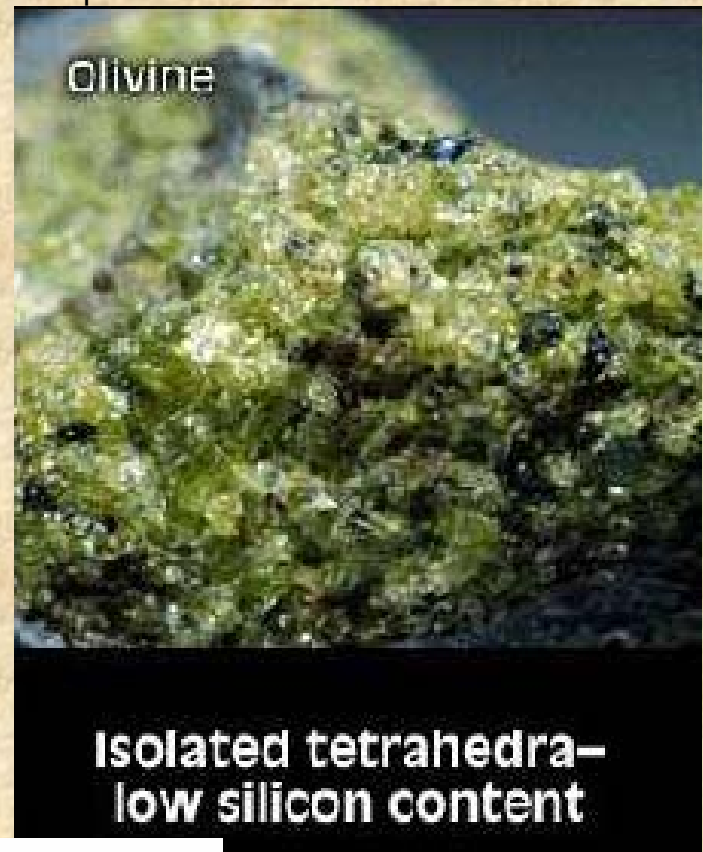
Table 4.3 Berner, The Global Water Cycle, 1987

# Common Primary Minerals that Undergo Weathering

Mineral	Generalized Composition	Rock Type(s)	Main Weathering Reaction
Olivine	$(\text{Mg,Fe})_2\text{SiO}_4$	Igneous	Oxid. of Fe Cong. diss. by acids
Pyroxenes	$\text{Ca}(\text{Mg,Fe})\text{Si}_2\text{O}_6$ or $(\text{Mg,Fe})\text{SiO}_3$	Igneous	Oxid. of Fe Cong. diss. by acids
Amphiboles	$\text{Ca}_2(\text{Mg,Fe})_5\text{Si}_8\text{O}_{22}(\text{OH})_2$ (also some Na and Al)	Igneous Metamorphic	Oxid. of Fe Cong. diss. by acids
Plagioclase feldspar	Solid solution between $\text{NaAlSi}_3\text{O}_8$ (albite) and $\text{CaAl}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_8$ (anorthite)	Igneous Metamorphic	Incong. diss. by acids
K-feldspar	$\text{KAlSi}_3\text{O}_8$	Igneous Metamorphic Sedimentary	Incong. diss. by acids
Biotite	$\text{K}(\text{Mg,Fe})_3(\text{AlSi}_3\text{O}_{10})(\text{OH})_2$	Metamorphic Igneous	Incong. diss. by acids Oxid. of Fe
Muscovite	$\text{KAl}_2(\text{AlSi}_3\text{O}_{10})(\text{OH})_2$	Metamorphic	Incong. diss. by acids
Volcanic glass (not a mineral)	Ca,Mg,Na,K,Al,Fe-silicate	Igneous	Incong. diss. by acids and $\text{H}_2\text{O}$
Quartz	$\text{SiO}_2$	Igneous Metamorphic Sedimentary	Resistant to diss.
Calcite	$\text{CaCO}_3$	Sedimentary	Cong. diss. by acids
Dolomite	$\text{CaMg}(\text{CO}_3)_2$	Sedimentary	Cong. diss. by acids
Pyrite	$\text{FeS}_2$	Sedimentary	Oxid. of Fe and S
Gypsum	$\text{CaSO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$	Sedimentary	Cong. diss. by $\text{H}_2\text{O}$
Anhydrite	$\text{CaSO}_4$	Sedimentary	Cong. diss. by $\text{H}_2\text{O}$
Halite	$\text{NaCl}$	Sedimentary	Cong. diss. by $\text{H}_2\text{O}$

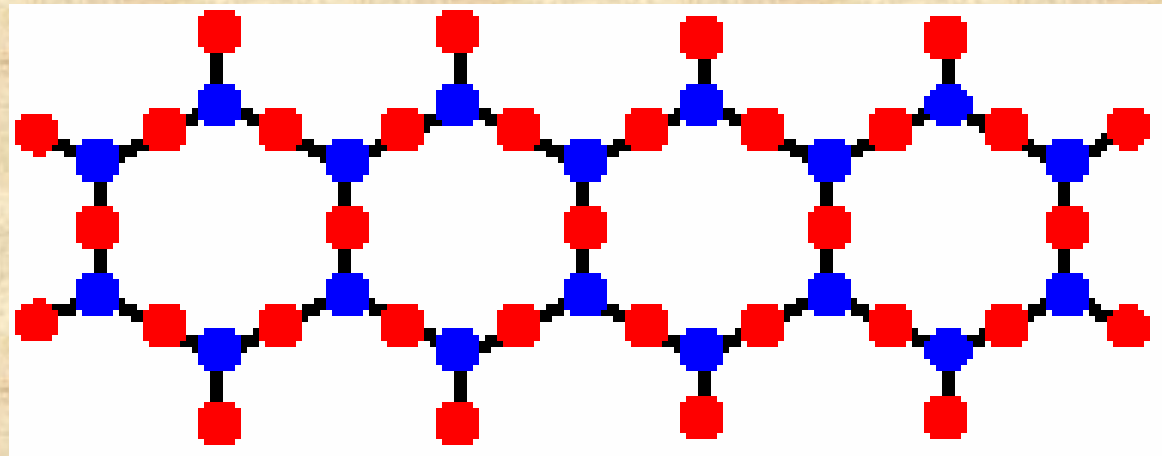
Note: cong. = congruent; incong. = incongruent; diss. = dissolution; oxid. = oxidation.

- Olivine: forms at highest temperatures and is most readily broken down at the surface of the earth (This is because it is the most OUT of equilibrium with the conditions that exist at the surface of the earth.) Has either Fe or Mg holding together the tetrahedra.



- Amphiboles and Biotite contain water in their structure.

- Pyroxenes: silicate chains.  $\text{SiO}_3$  not  $\text{SiO}_4$  because 1 oxygen is shared along the chain, each Mg will share an oxygen.

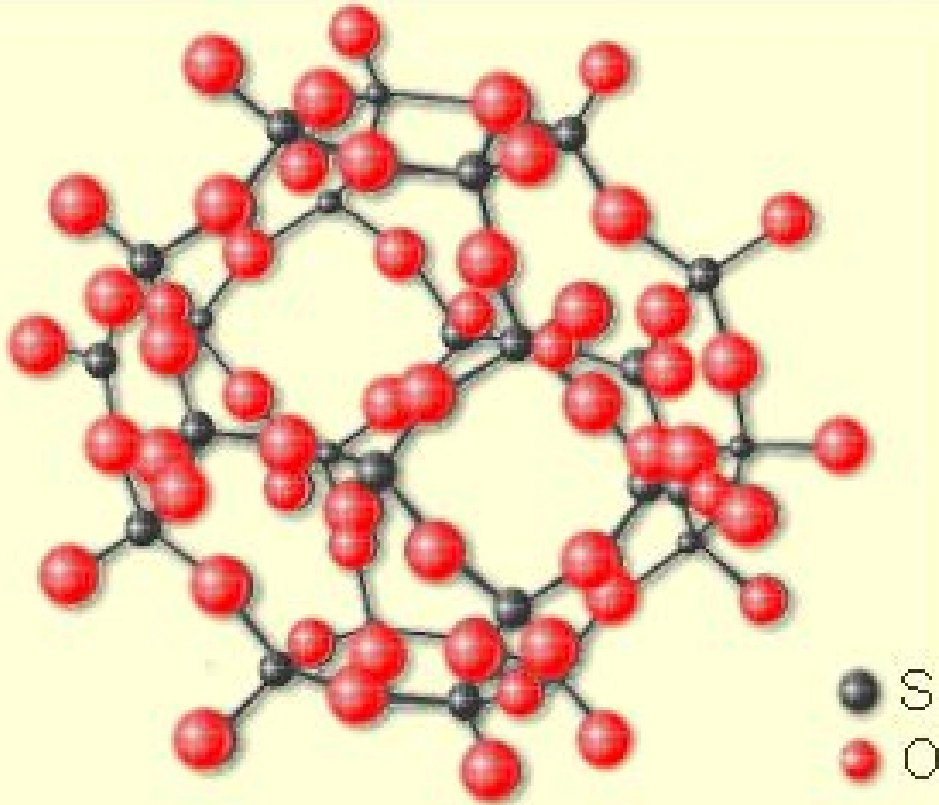




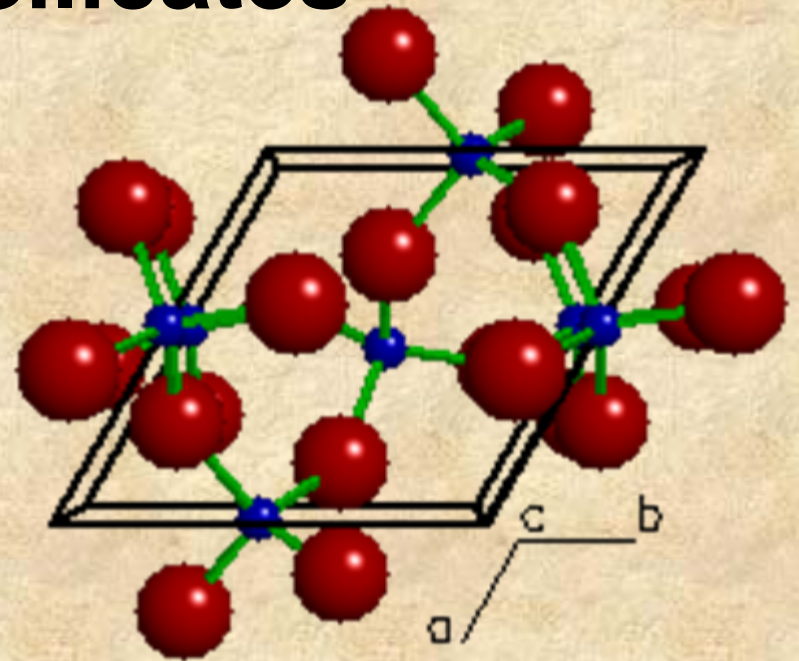
- Those that form at high temperatures are much less in equilibrium with conditions at the surface of the earth- the desire of the system to produce equilibrium.
- Those with water in their structure are the most stable.
- Muscovite is more resistant than biotite.



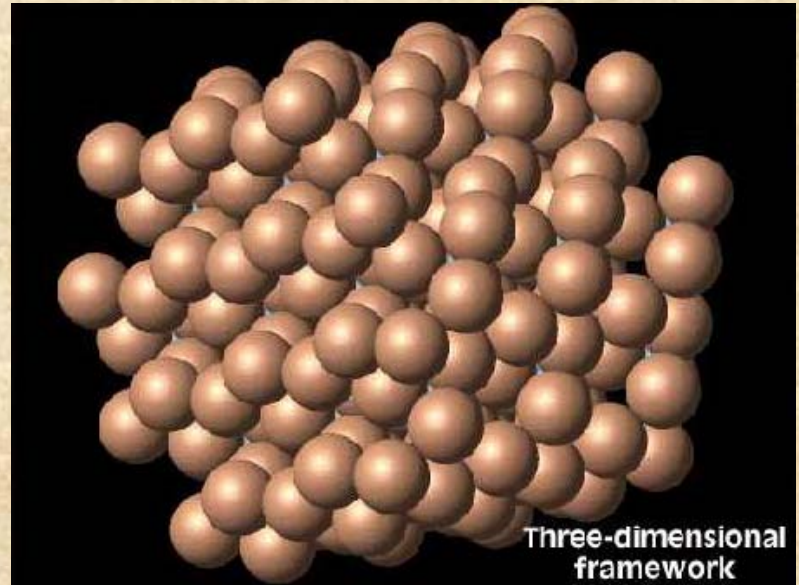
# Framework Silicates



<http://www.a-m.de/englisch/lexikon/mineral/silicate.htm>



<http://www.science.uwaterloo.ca/~cchieh/cact/applychem/silicate.html>

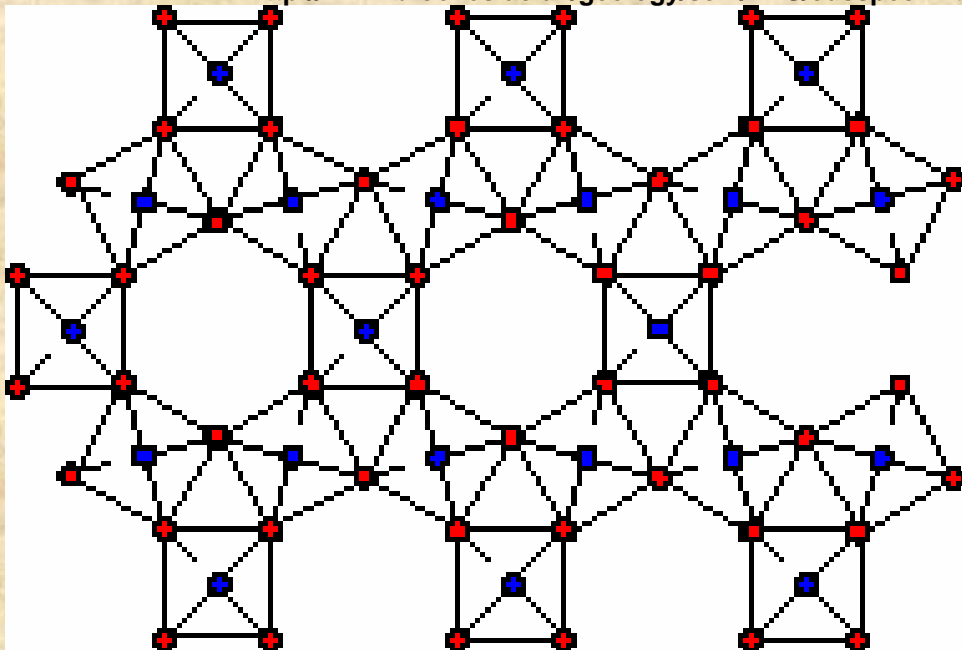


<http://lewis.up.edu/mcs/wasowski/sci110/TnTkCh02/sld001.htm>

- K-feldspar, Quartz and Muscovite are all **framework silicates**- framework of O with the silica in the center of the tetrahedra- all of the oxygens are being shared (therefore  $\text{SiO}_2$  as opposed to  $\text{SiO}_4$  due to the sharing of the oxygens, etc).

→ They are very resistant to weathering- Much more stable at earth's surface than the mafics. Quartz appears in sand (e.g. at beach etc).

<http://www.brookes.ac.uk/geology/sem/EDS/edsspec1.html>



Feldspar



Quartz



Muscovite



<p://lewis.up.edu/mcs/wasowski/sci110/TnTkCh02/sld001.htm>

# Mineral Weatherability

(Decreasing from top-to-bottom)

- Halite **Least resistant to weathering**
- Gypsum-anhydrite
- Pyrite
- Calcite
- Dolomite
- Volcanic glass
- Olivine
- Ca-plagioclase
- Pyroxines
- Ca-Na plagioclase
- Amphiboles
- Biotite
- K-feldspar
- Muscovite
- Vermiculite, smectite
- Quartz
- Kaolinite
- Gibbsite, **Most resistant to weathering**  
hematite, goethite

<http://resourcescommittee.house.gov/subcommittees/emr/usgsweb/photogallery/>

Halite



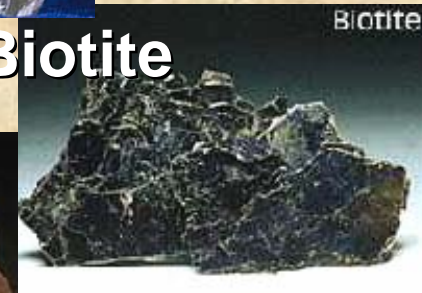
Calcite



Olivine



Biotite



Feldspar



Quartz



Kaolinite



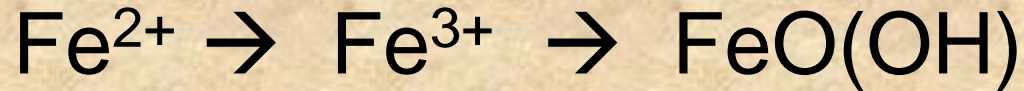
Goethite



Note: Minerals are listed in order of increasing resistance to weathering. (Exact positions for some minerals can change one or two places due to effects of grain size, climate, etc.)

Table 4.5 Berner, The Global Water Cycle, 1987

$\text{Fe}^{2+}$  (ferrous) present in igneous rock. In the presence of  $\text{O}_2$ , it oxidizes to  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ .



- This reaction occurs almost immediately- no stability whatsoever. However,  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  is essentially totally insoluble in water and forms  $\text{FeOOH}$ . Forms oxides and hydroxides (i.e. rust, iron staining- hard to wash away)

\*\* For our purposes we are worried about the base cations, especially Mg and Ca.



[http://www.emdesigns.com/findus/hmb/rocks/rust\\_rock-big.jpg](http://www.emdesigns.com/findus/hmb/rocks/rust_rock-big.jpg)

# Restore Equilibrium via Weathering

- must first get activation energy to start processes.
- Water greatly accelerates this process.  
(i.e. On the moon, rocks that are 4.4 Billion years old are fresher than the youngest rocks on earth- because the moon has no water).

### \* 3 Process that Occur:

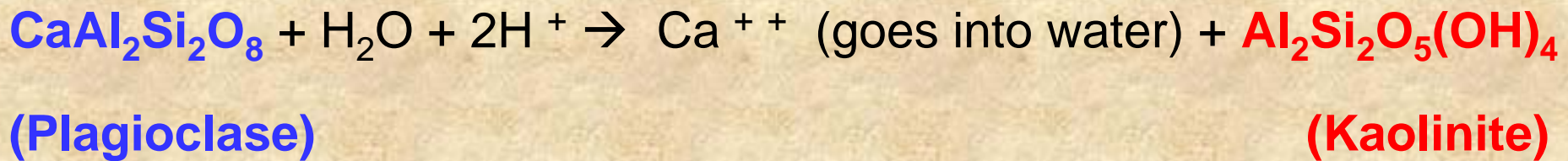
- 1) *Hydration*: weathering products are hydrated
- 2) *Cation Loss*: cation removed from high- temp. product & the ratio of cation to Si + A drops.
- 3) *Neutralize acid*: Natural acids are agents of weathering which in turn results in neutralizing that acid (Trees do generate acids which accelerate the weathering process).



Reactive to acids

\*\* Exchange of  $H^+$  in water  $\leftrightarrow$  Cation

\* Weathering of plagioclase:

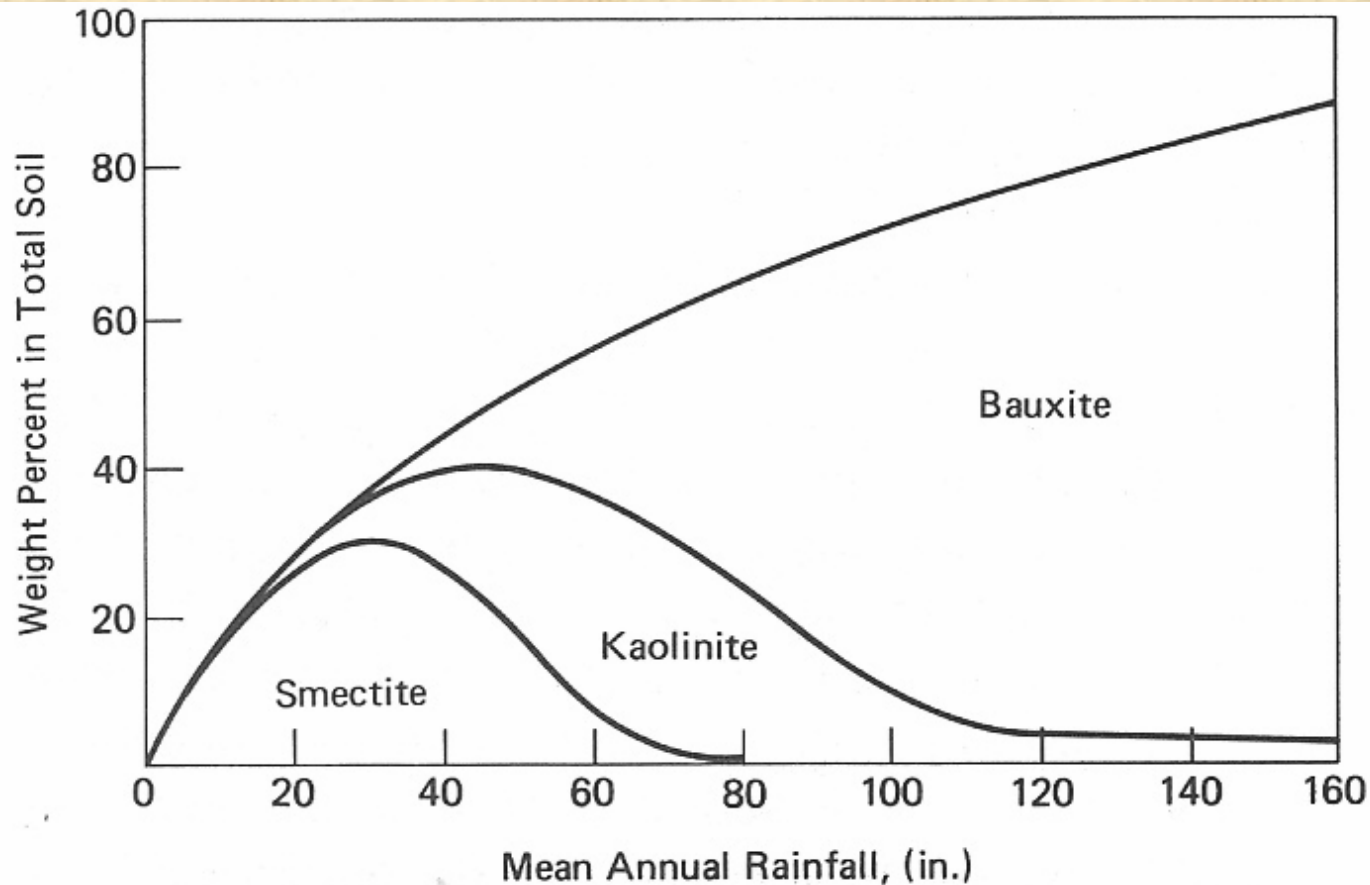




- Kaolinite : typical clay structure, a low-temperature mineral that is most stable at the condition of the earth's surface; the end product of weathering.
- ➔ Removing cations, adding OH, neutralizes acids.



**Figure 4.5** Weathering products of basalt in Hawaii. Note the excellent correlation of clay mineral type with rainfall in agreement with predictions based on the degree of flushing of the soil with water. (After G. D. Sherman.



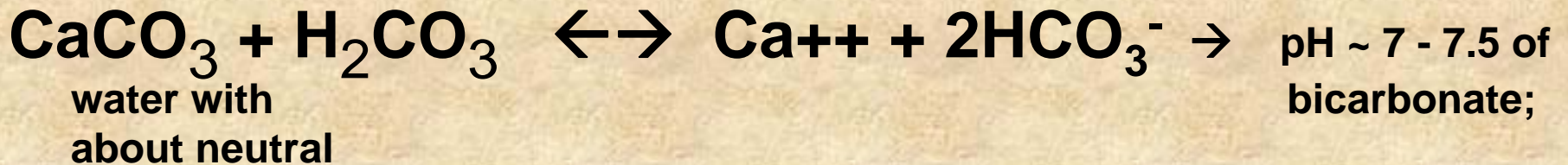
# Carbonate Weathering

- large amounts of calcite is the reason, in general, why places such as Rochester and the Mid-Eastern states don't have problems with acid rain.
- Problem of acid rain: Determined basically by the presence or absence of calcite- Tells how sensitive an area will be to acid.

Calcite  
reacting to acid



Simplified reactions (removes H<sup>+</sup> ions)



(Calcite) (Carbonic acid)



(bicarbonate)



Concentration of calcium in equilibrium with calcite as a function of  $P_{\text{CO}_2}$  in the system of  $\text{CaCO}_3\text{-CO}_2\text{-H}_2\text{O}$  at  $25^\circ\text{C}$  and 1 atm total pressure.

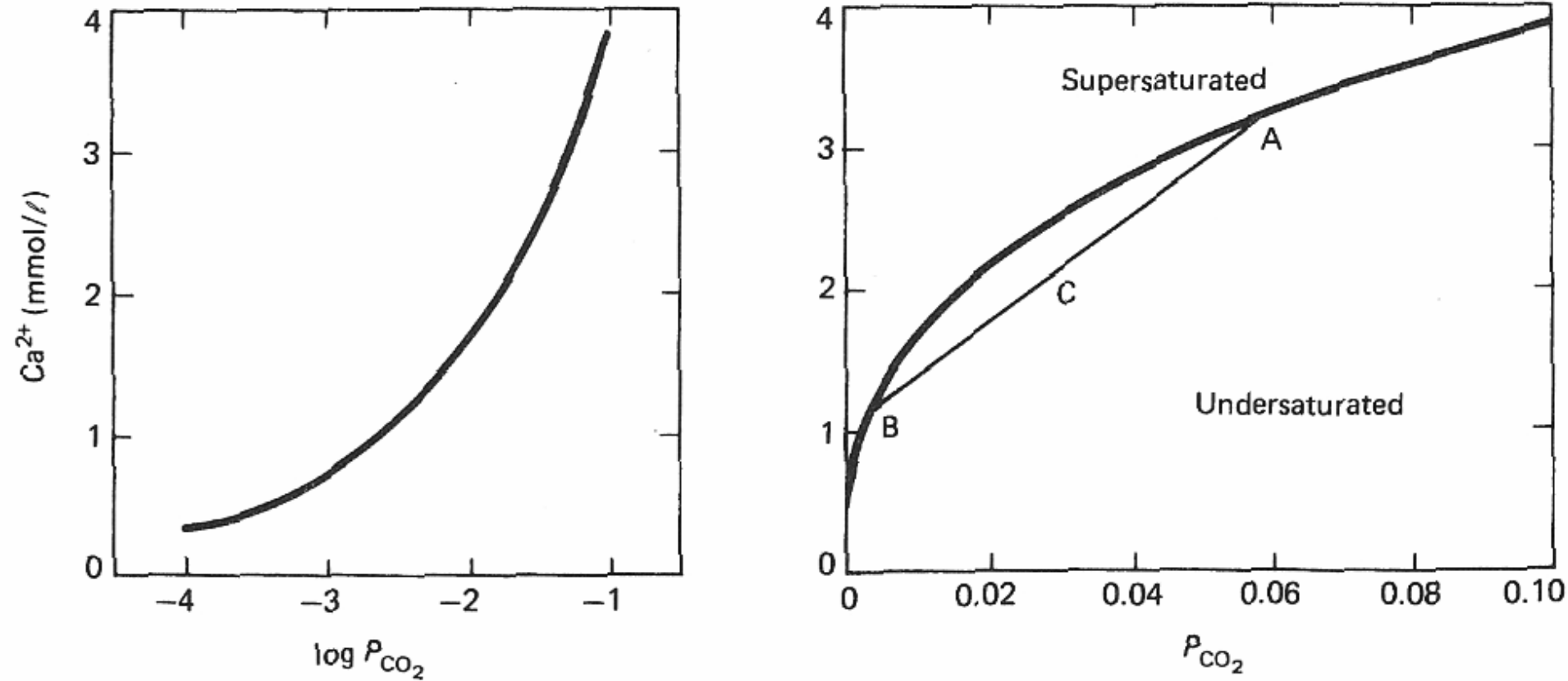
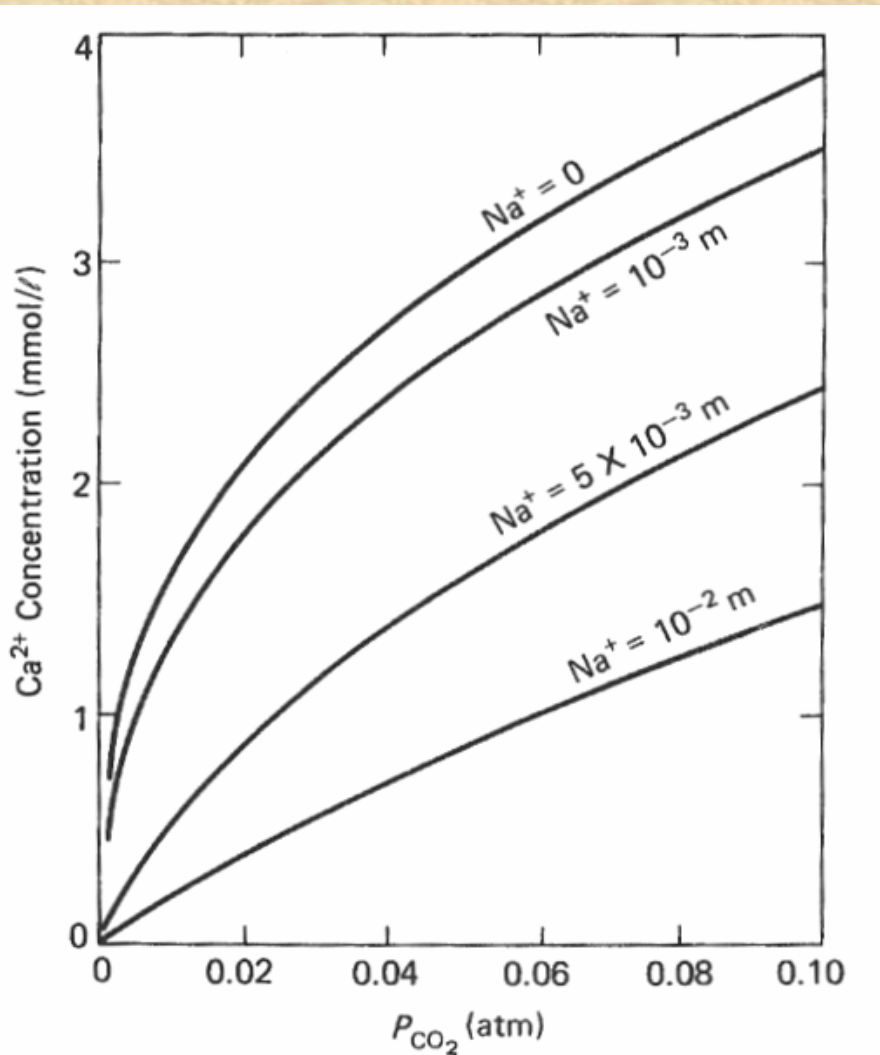


Figure 3-4. Drever, *The Geochemistry of Natural Water*

Concentration of calcium in equilibrium with calcite as a function  $P_{CO_2}$  and  $Na^+$  concentration in the system of  $CaCO_3$ - $Na_2CO_3$ - $CO_2$ - $H_2O$  at  $25^\circ C$  and 1 atm total pressure.



Concentration of calcium in equilibrium with calcite as a function  $P_{CO_2}$  and  $Cl^-$  concentration in the system of  $CaCO_3$ - $CaCl_2$ - $CO_2$ - $H_2O$  at  $25^\circ C$  and 1 atm total pressure.

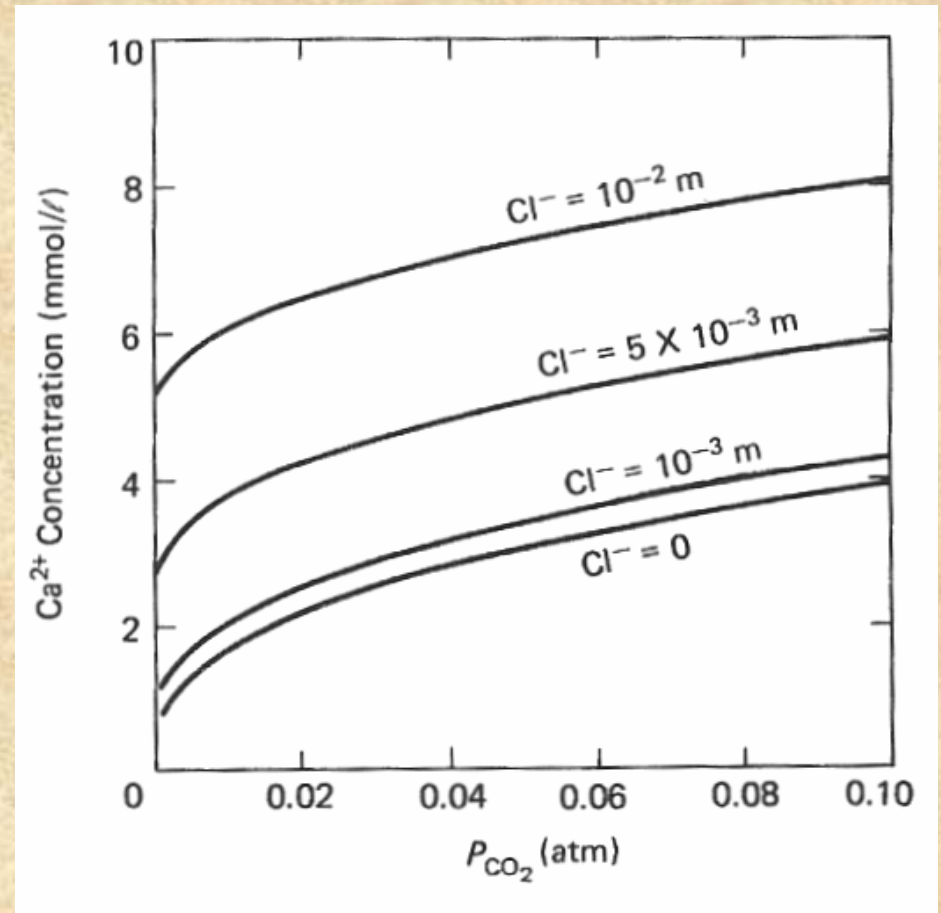


Figure 3-5,6. Drever, *The Geochemistry of Natural Waters*

Changes in composition of carbonated water as it equilibrates with calcite when the system is either open or closed to exchange of CO<sub>2</sub> gas. Initial P<sub>CO<sub>2</sub></sub> values of 10<sup>-2</sup> and 10<sup>-1</sup> atm.

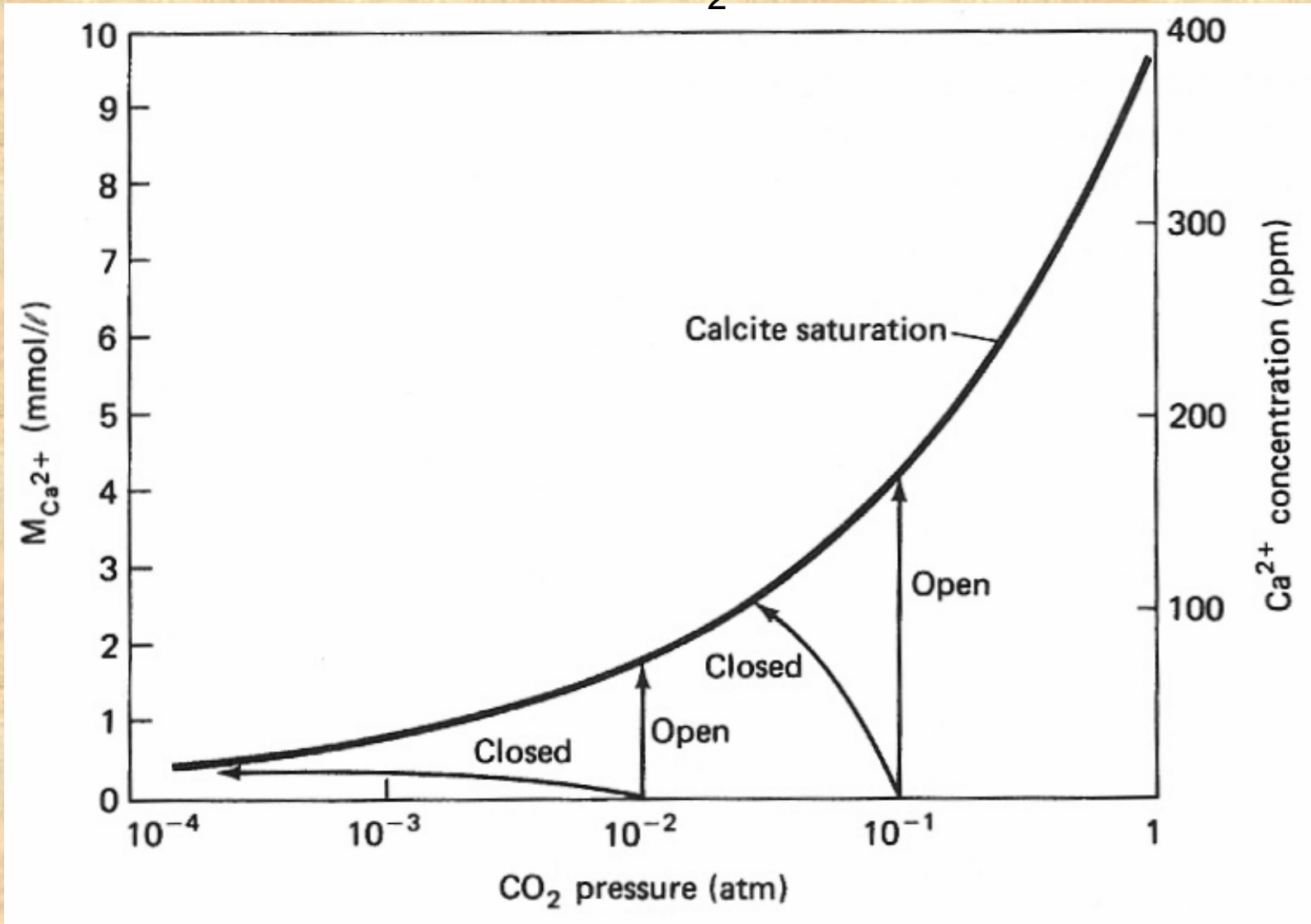
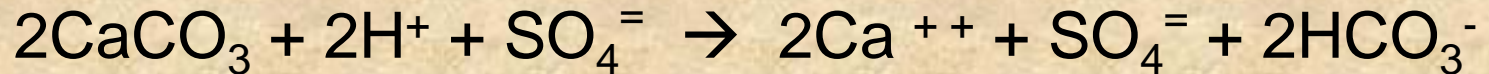


Figure 3-8. Drever, *The Geochemistry of Natural Waters*

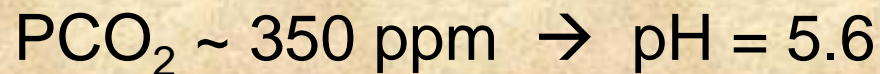
\* Reactions are quite congruent, structure not attacked; simple reactions.

\* Acid Precipitation:



\* There are natural acids

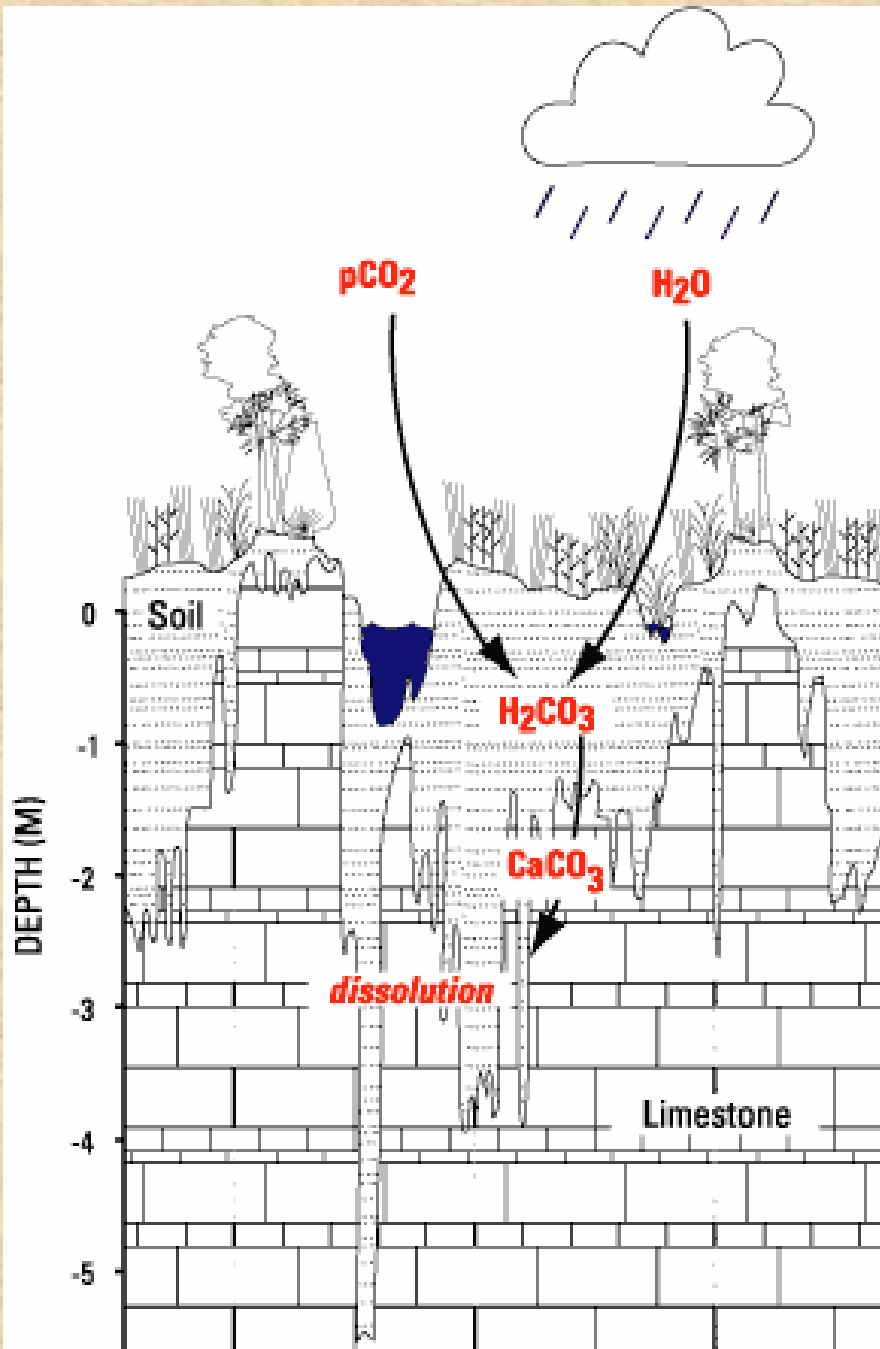
ie. In rain  $\text{CO}_2$  in the atmosphere (pH = 5.6)



\* Rate of carbonate weathering is about 100 times the rate of silicate weathering.

– ie. Florida- formation of karst due to the dissolving of calcite- wouldn't see that with silica.

# Florida karst formation



- Bacterial and root respiration in the soil increase pCO<sub>2</sub>
- As pCO<sub>2</sub> increases, so do dissolution rates

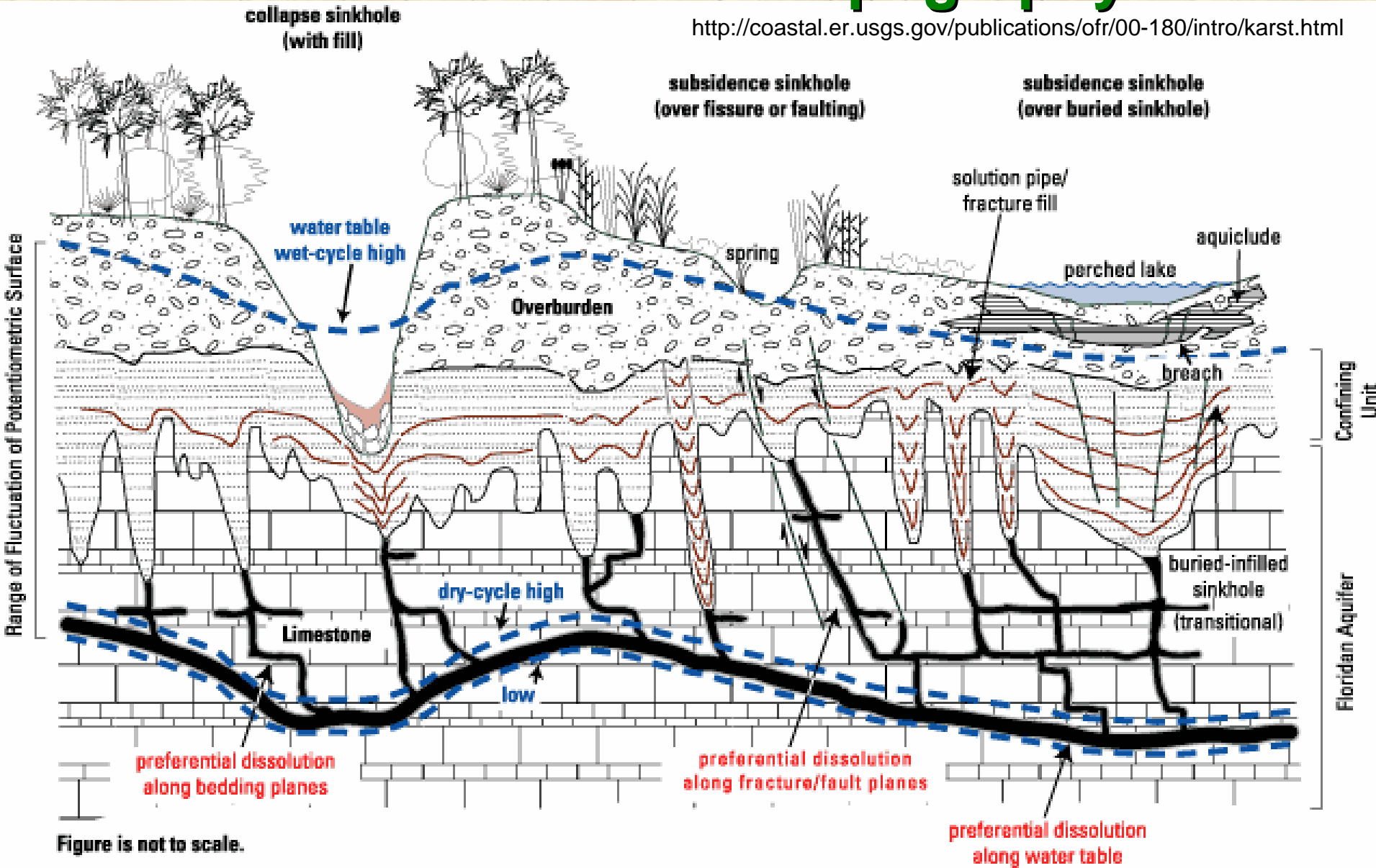
Tropical latitudes = high evapotranspiration  
+ well developed soil  
+ high atm. pCO<sub>2</sub>  
= KARST

(Yucatan, Caribbean, Florida, South China...)



# Solution and collapse features of karst and karren topography

<http://coastal.er.usgs.gov/publications/ofr/00-180/intro/karst.html>



# Distribution of major species of dissolved inorganic carbon at 20°C

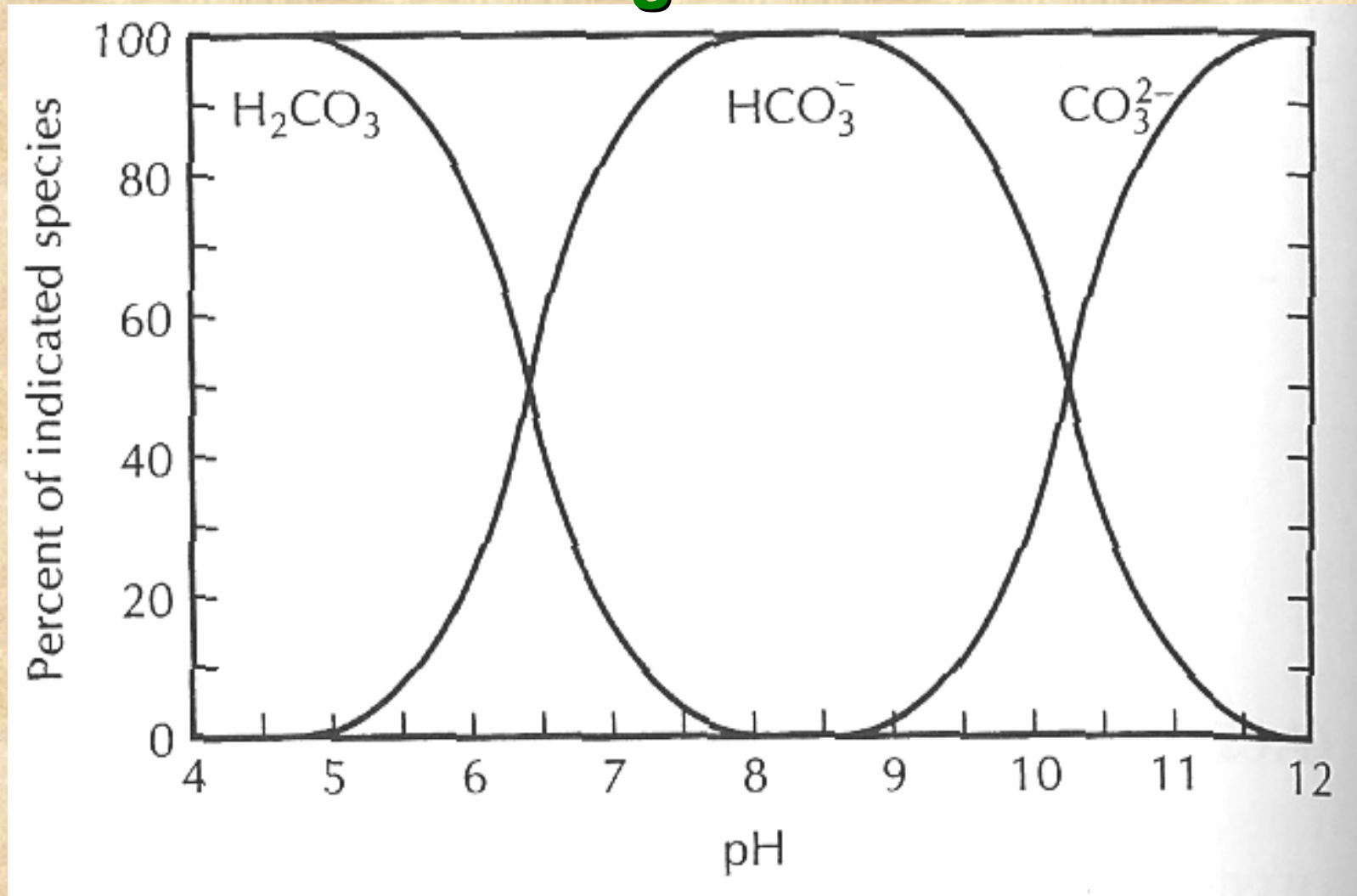
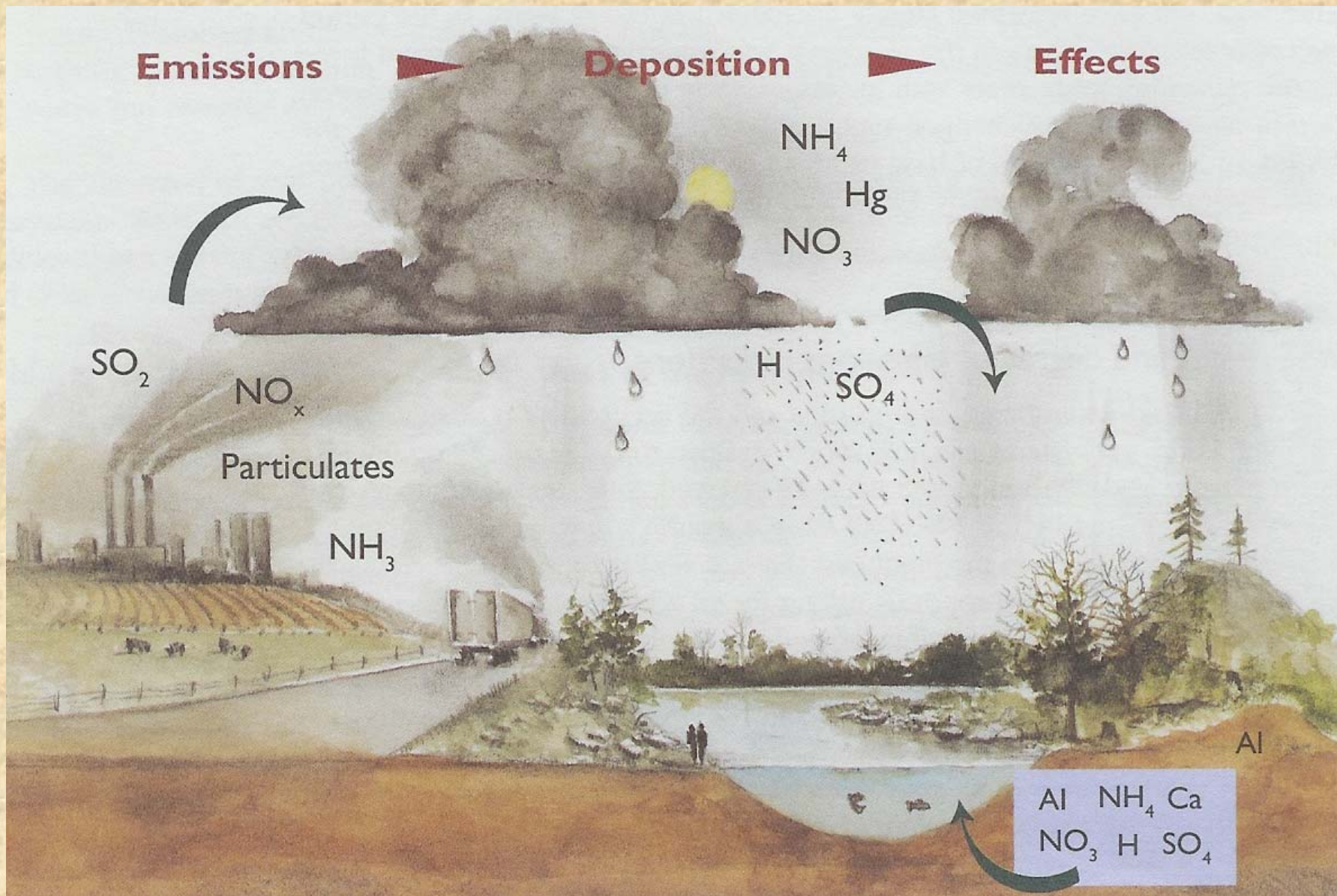


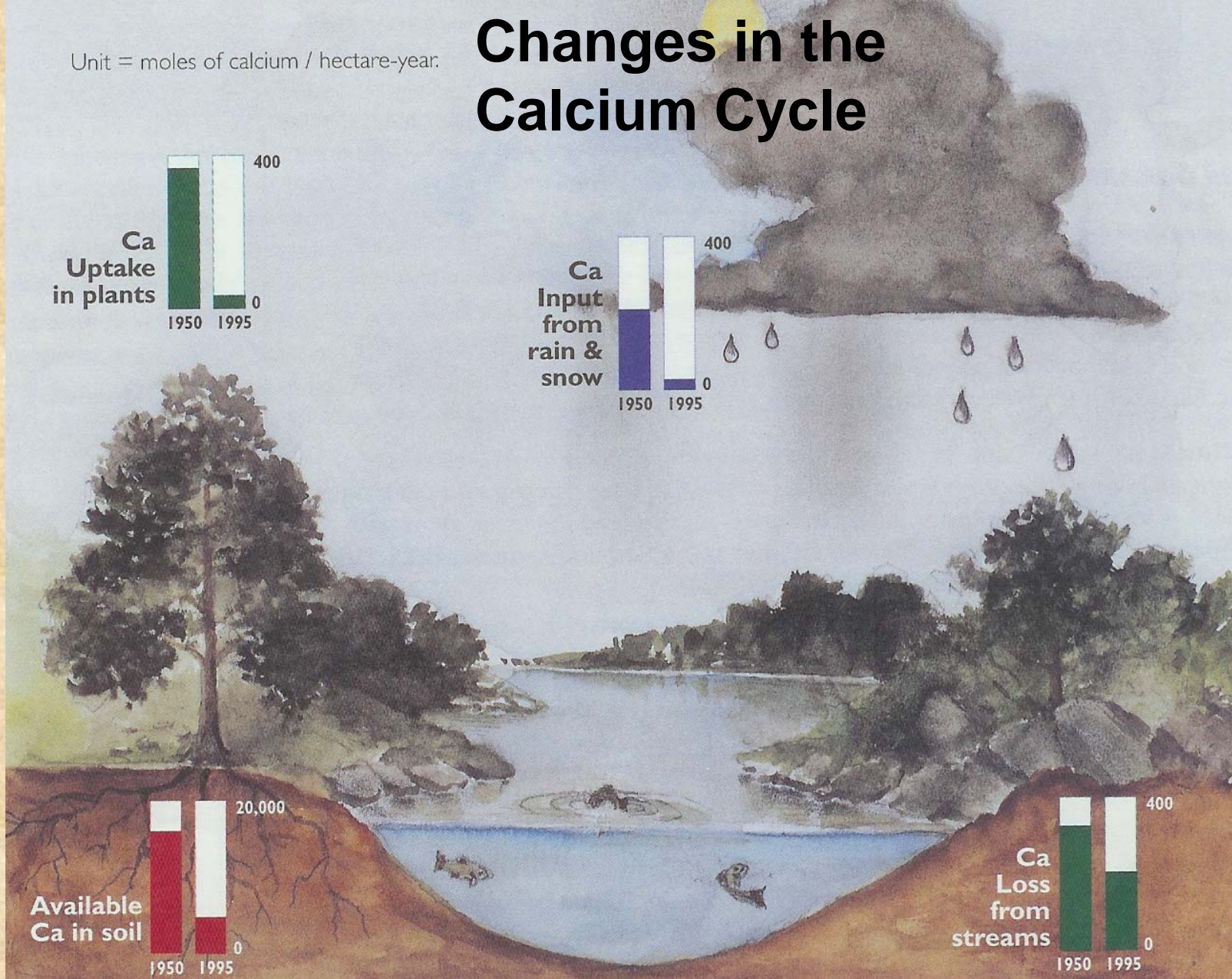
Figure 9.1 Fetter, *Applied Hydrogeology 4<sup>th</sup> Edition*



**Acid deposition is a complex problem that originates with the burning of fossil fuels and leads to the deposition of acids, setting off a series of ecological effects.**

Unit = moles of calcium / hectare-year.

# Changes in the Calcium Cycle

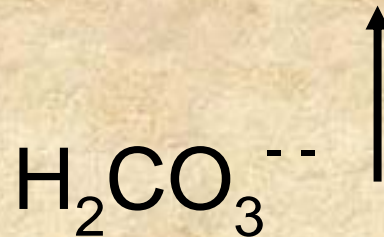
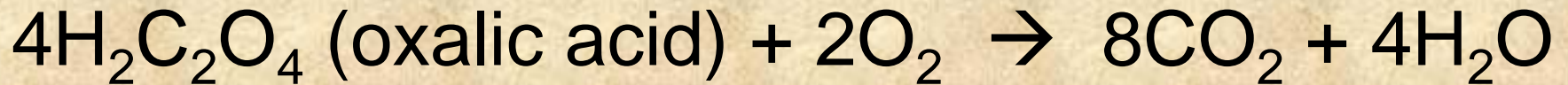


Acid deposition has altered the calcium cycle in watersheds in the Northeast that are similar to the HBEF

Figure 8. "Acid Rain Revisited." HBRF

## Organic acids (e.g.. Oxalic acid)

\* Organic material breaks down and releases acids ( pH ~ 5 ). These natural acids play an important role in weathering in absence of human activity; behaves very much like carbonic acid



# The Mass- Balance Approach

Trees produce acid. This represents the typical soil with tree → with the soil horizons dependent upon soil productivity. (12,000 year)

## Soil Horizons

O horizon ---> Organic acids (large organic molecules)-  
Humic Fulvic, pH<5 ; 10 cm - 1 m

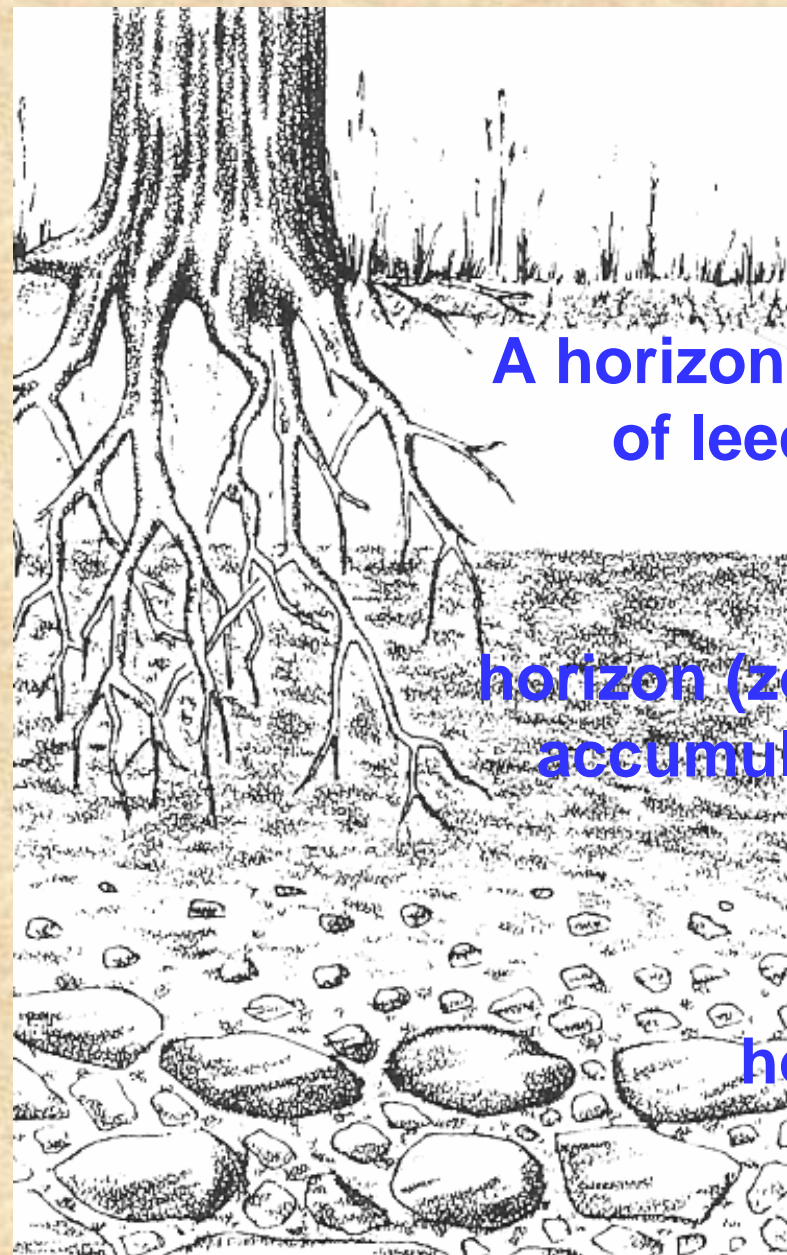
Kaolinite (tropical)  
Illite (temperate)  
Bauxite (Aluminum  
hydroxide, tropical)

A horizon ---> zone of leaching  
Al, Si, OH. Stripped of all Mg, K, Ca and  
Na bearing minerals

B horizon ---> zone of accumulation  
Clays ---> Pool of exchangeable cations  
Fe, Al Hydroxides, Clays  
Ca<sup>++</sup>, Mg<sup>++</sup>, K<sup>+</sup>, Na<sup>+</sup> (Base Cations)

C horizon ---> partly decomposed  
unaltered bedrock  
weathering

- A horizon - size of zone can change: deciduous or temperate: about 1 meter; tropical: about 5 - 10 meters. Organic acids have a lot of H<sup>+</sup> for weathering.
- B horizon: Where the tree extends root system into:
  - Clays, weathered mineral material
  - Clay hydroxides with Ca, Mg, K, N have attached (Ca, Mg, and K are exchangeable cations because clays have charged surfaces and attract cations)
- C horizon: Partially decomposed and unaltered bedrock



A horizon (zone of leeching)

B horizon (zone of accumulation)

C horizon

Horizon Designation

Soil Character

Horizon Designation	Soil Character
O	Leaf litter (partly decomposed)
A <sub>1</sub>	Dark brown: humic organic matter with some minerals
A <sub>2</sub>	Light gray; residual quartz; intense leaching, including Fe, Al
B	Dark brown humic layer underlain by red-brown to yellow-brown accumulation of clays and iron oxides; blocky structure
C	Slightly altered parent rock

**Simplified  
vertical  
profile of a  
typical  
podzolic soil  
of a humid  
temperate  
climate**

Figure 4.7. Berner. *The Global Water Cycle*, 1987.



# Cation weathering rates:

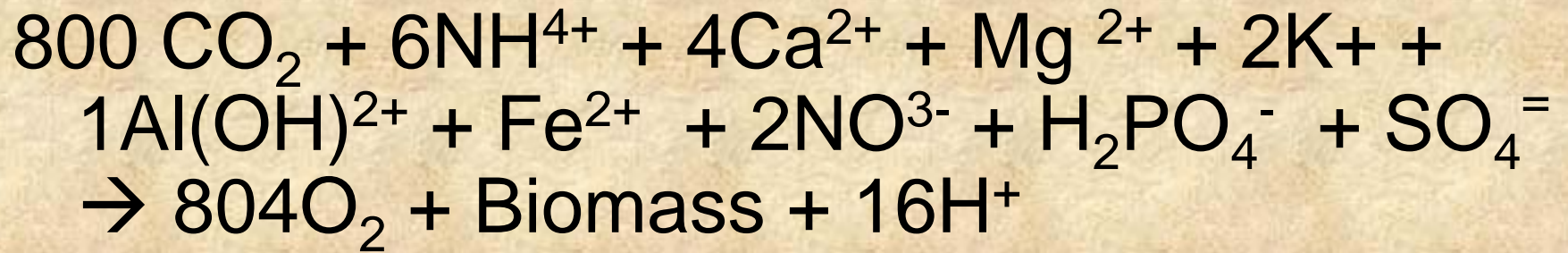
Highest → Ca, Mg, Na

→ K, Si

Least → Fe, Al (under normal conditions,  
Fe remains as clay, hydroxides)

\* Trees are crucial in the weathering process.

# Biology (e.g. Trees)



- \* Must excrete  $\text{H}^+$  for charge balance.
- \* Removes cations  $\rightarrow$  supplied by decomposition

- Logging → Permanent removal
- Fire → returns cations; releases anions to atmosphere; releases mostly  $\text{NO}_x$ .  
Slash and burn process essential to tropics because so much of the cations are stored in the biomass.



**Logging**

[http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/gallery/management\\_activities.htm](http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/gallery/management_activities.htm)



**Slash and burn**

[http://www.elephants.com/a\\_slash.htm](http://www.elephants.com/a_slash.htm)

# Base Cation Transport

- Acid rain picks up Base+ from leaves
- Neutralized; extracts Base+ from soil  
"mines" cations from soil  $\rightarrow$  H<sup>+</sup>
- Direct acid effects  $\rightarrow$  acid fog, mist can have a pH of 2.



# ACID DEPOSITION EFFECTS ON TREES

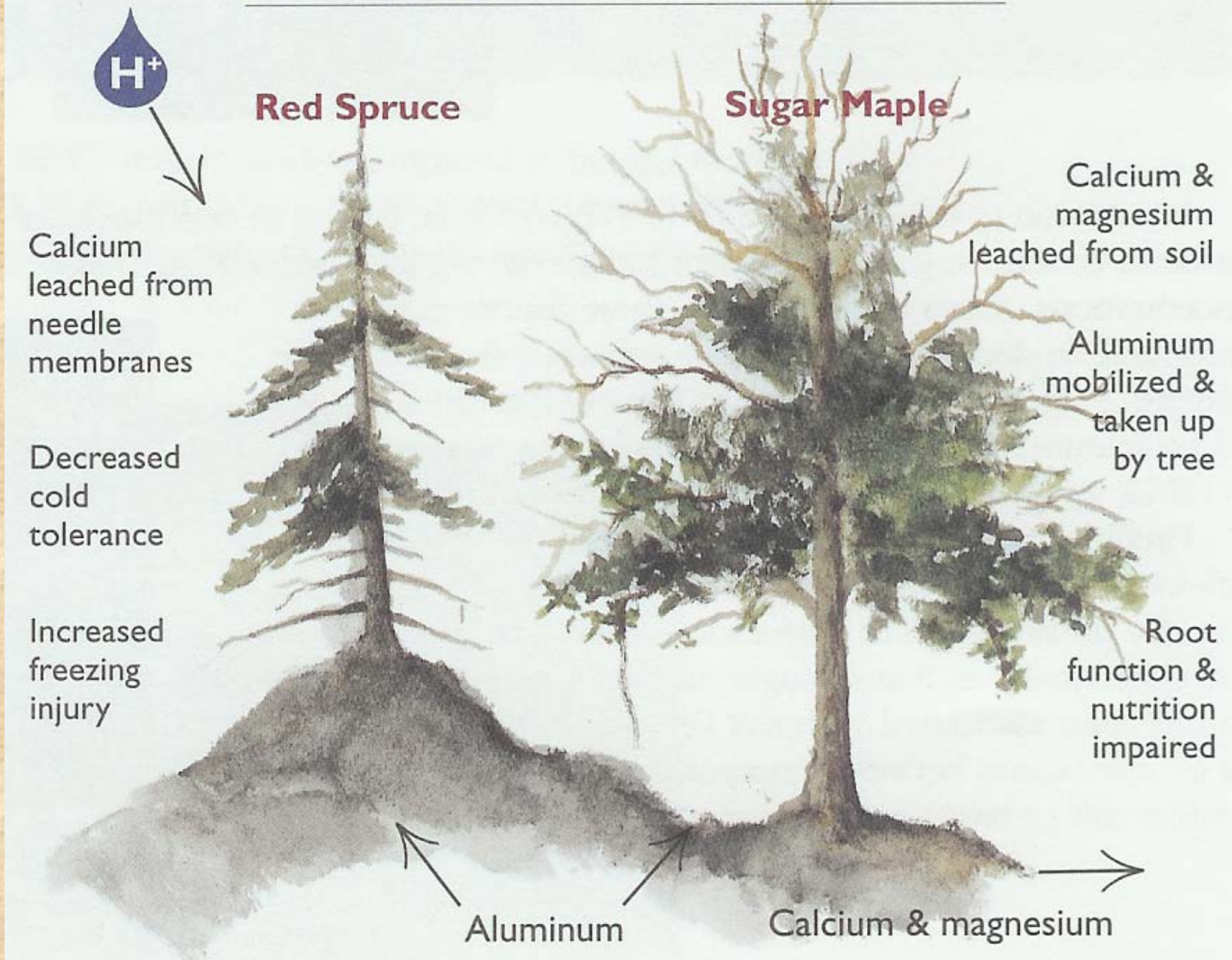


Figure 9. "Acid Rain Revisited." HBRF

# Some processes affecting solute budgets in a catchment

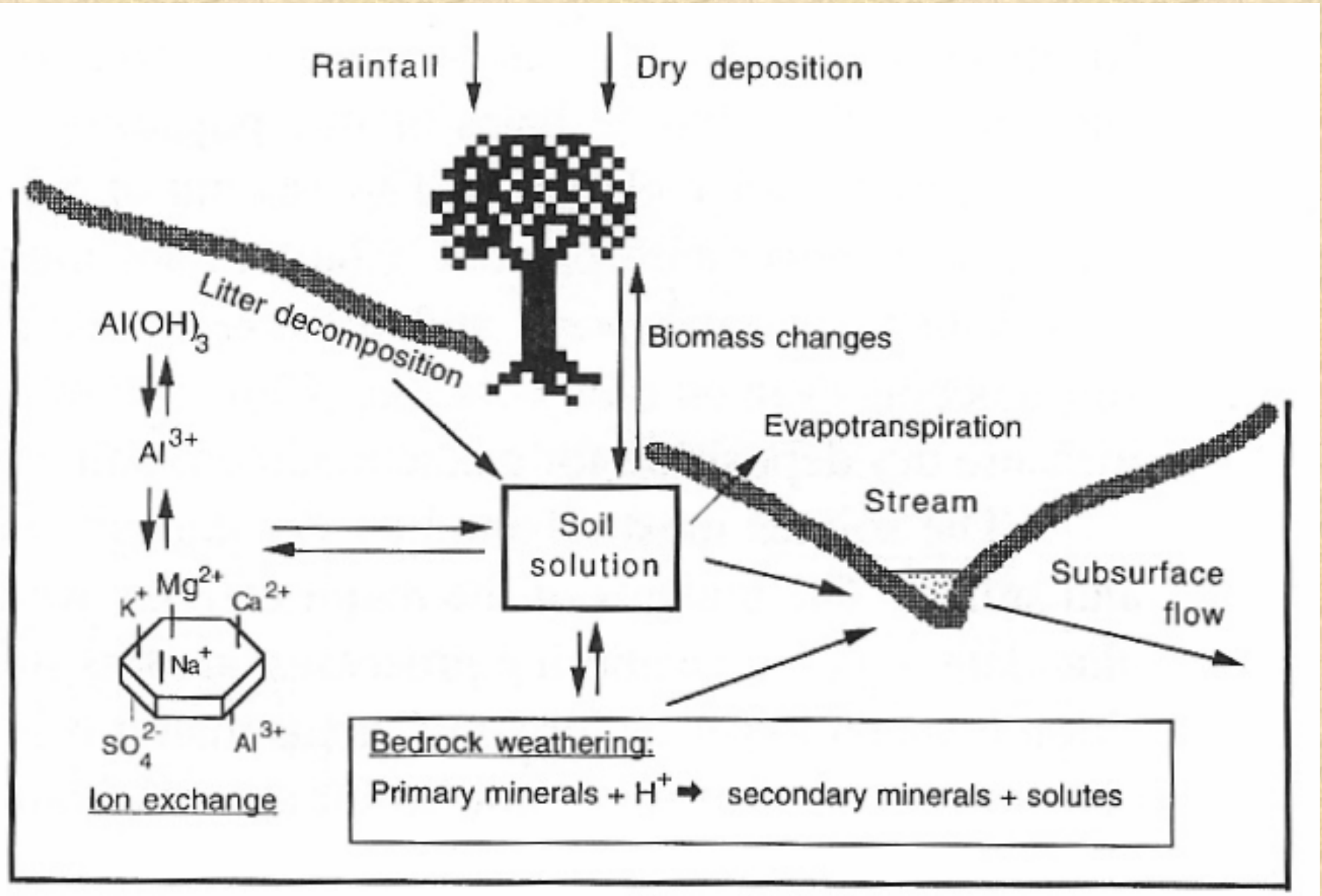


Figure 12-2 Drever, *The Geochemistry of Natural Waters*, 1997

# Clay

$H^+ < \text{---} > Ca^{++}$       Lose cations

(-) charge of surface attracts cations

Ca is lost to aqueous phase

Clay Mineralogy → Highly charged surface

Cation Exchange Capacity (CEC)

Exchange Sites

# Susceptibility of Lakes to Acidification

- Affected areas: \*  $\text{pH} < 4.5$  \* relatively small (or zero) fish population.
- It has taken the past 12,000 years to generate soil of the lakes (glaciers scraped it clean to the bedrock).
- High temperature rocks.
  - relatively close to source of  $\text{SO}_2$  and  $\text{NO}_x$  (ie. carried to New England, etc. from the Ohio Valley.)

Need to look at:

- Input → Output
- Hydrology → aspect not often understood
- Toxicity → why it affects the fish population
- Geochemical processes → mainly weathering; cation exchange, dissolution, mobilization of Al



# Hubbard Brook, New Hampshire

Study from 1963 to present

**Driscoll et al. “Changes in the chemistry of surface waters: 25 year results at the Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest, NH.” 1989**



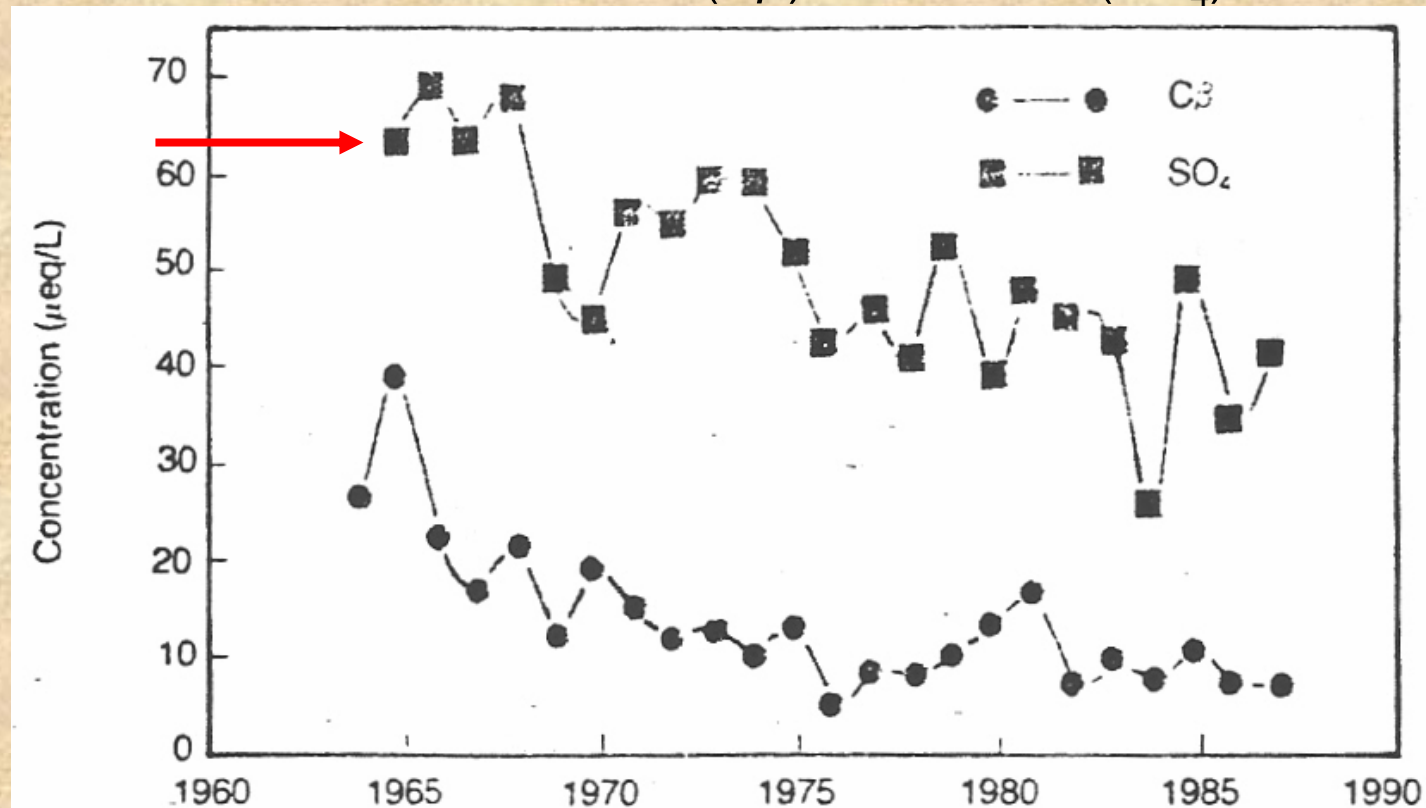
*Hubbard Brook, main drainage stream for Hubbard Brook Valley*

<http://pubs.acs.org/cgi-bin/archive.cgi/esthag/1989/23/i02/pdf/es00179a001.pdf>

**Upper curve** represents the amount of  $\text{SO}_4$  (sulfate) present in the rain water in system ( $\text{SO}_4$  input dominated by  $\text{SO}_2$  input into environment rather than by dust.)  $\text{H}^+ \rightarrow \text{SO}_2$ .

→ Over time the  $\text{SO}_4$  in the rain has dropped from 70  $\mu\text{eq/L}$  (.5 moles of  $\text{SO}_4$  ion) over the past 3 years, probably due to the beginning of the Clean Air Act and the beginning of use of low-S coal.

**Fig. 1** a) Annual volume weight concentrations of the sum of basic cations ( $\text{C}\beta$ ) and sulfate ( $\text{SO}_4$ )



**Temporal bulk precipitation trends for the reference watershed (number 6) at the Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest, NH**  
Driscoll, 1989

**Lower curve** represents the total of base cations (Na, K, Mg, and Ca although we'll focus on Ca). → Moves from 20 to 10 $\mu$ eq/L over the same period of time. The reason for this drop is uncertain; could be a reduction in dust, a change in the amount of rainfall, bad measurements, etc.

\* Something has to balance out the difference in SO<sub>4</sub> and cations in charge → H<sup>+</sup>

–[ There is about 20 $\mu$ eq/L difference.]

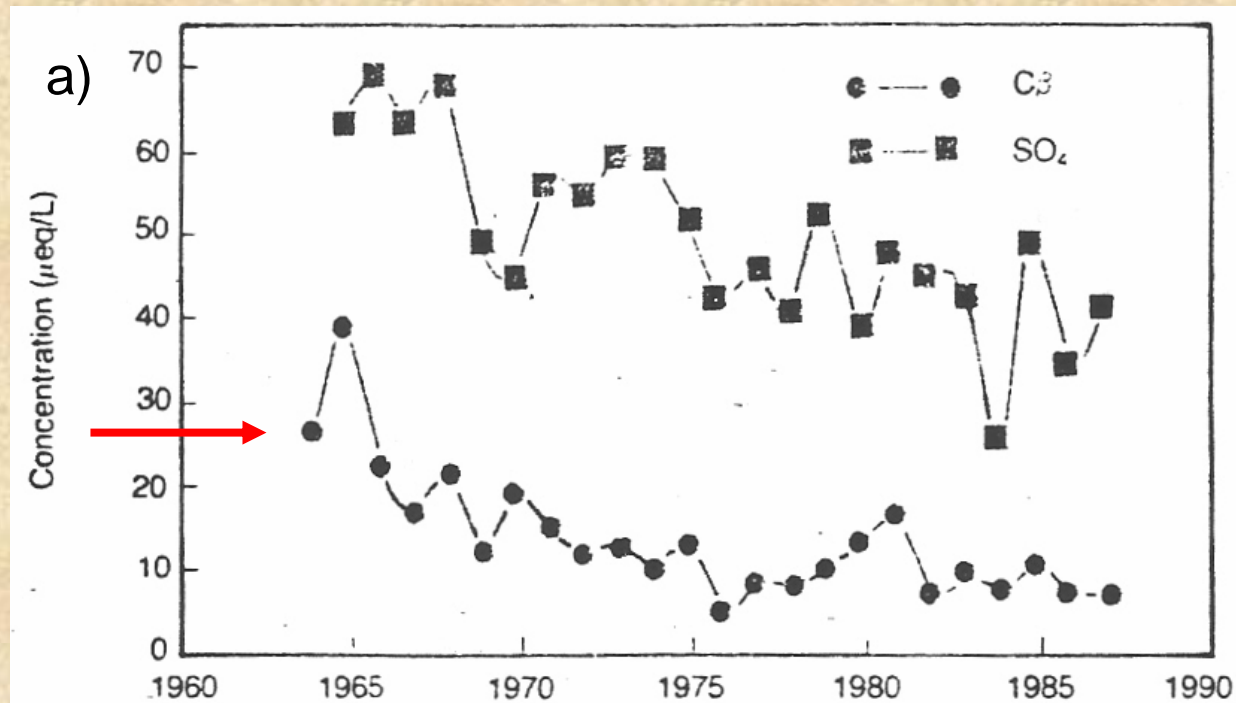
–H<sup>+</sup> 5 x 10<sup>-5</sup> moles/L → pH ~4.3.

Driscoll, 1989

Temporal bulk precipitation trends for the reference watershed (number 6) at the Hubbard Brook

Experimental Forest, NH.

**a) Annual volume weight concentrations of the sum of basic cations (C $\beta$ ) and sulfate (SO<sub>4</sub>)**



**Fig. 1(b)** Average precipitation → about a 50% drop in acidity over the years

pH 4.2 → 4.4

→ Maybe due to amount of precipitation

→ looks as if things are getting better, less acidity that requires neutralization.

**Temporal bulk precipitation trends for the reference watershed (number 6) at the Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest, NH**

Driscoll, 1989

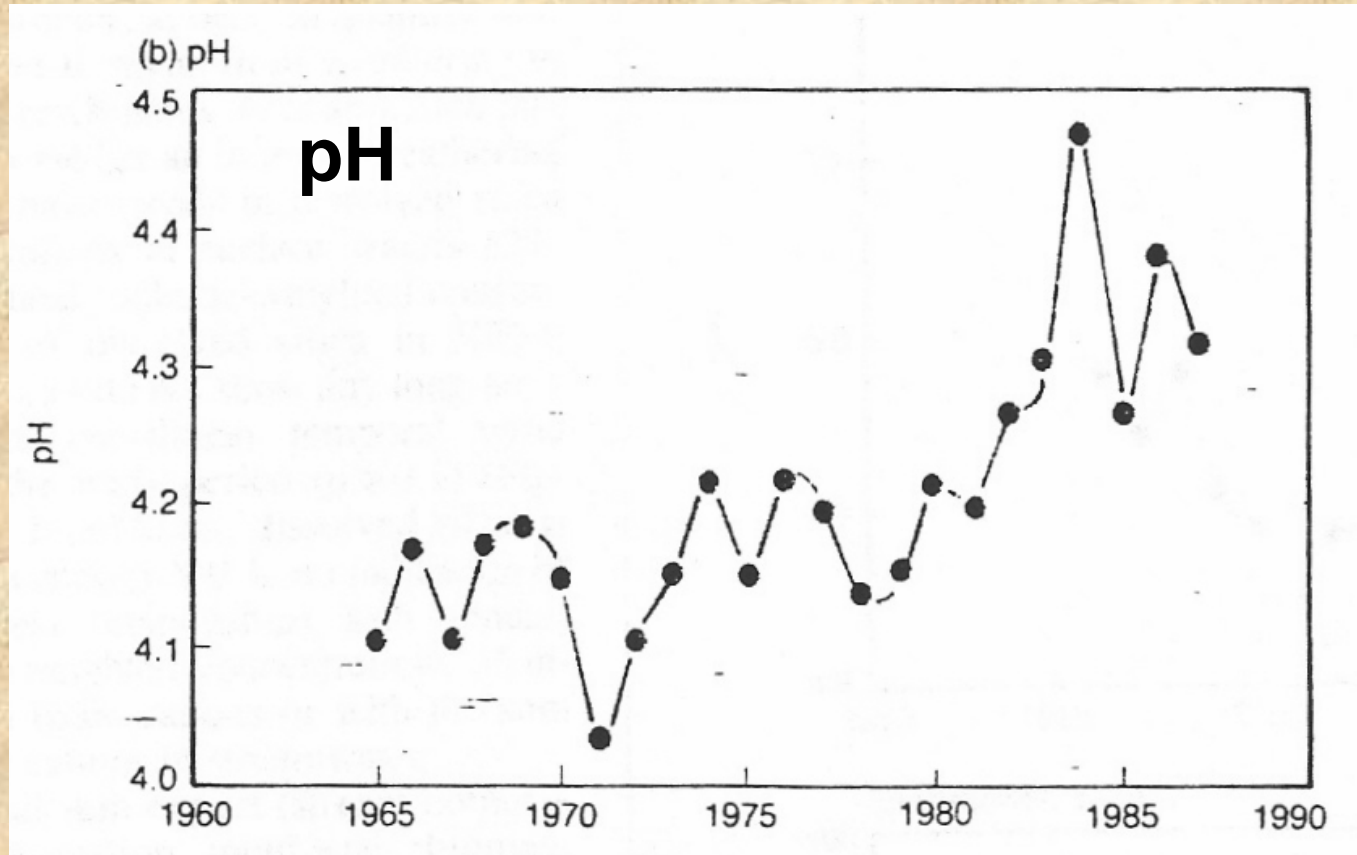
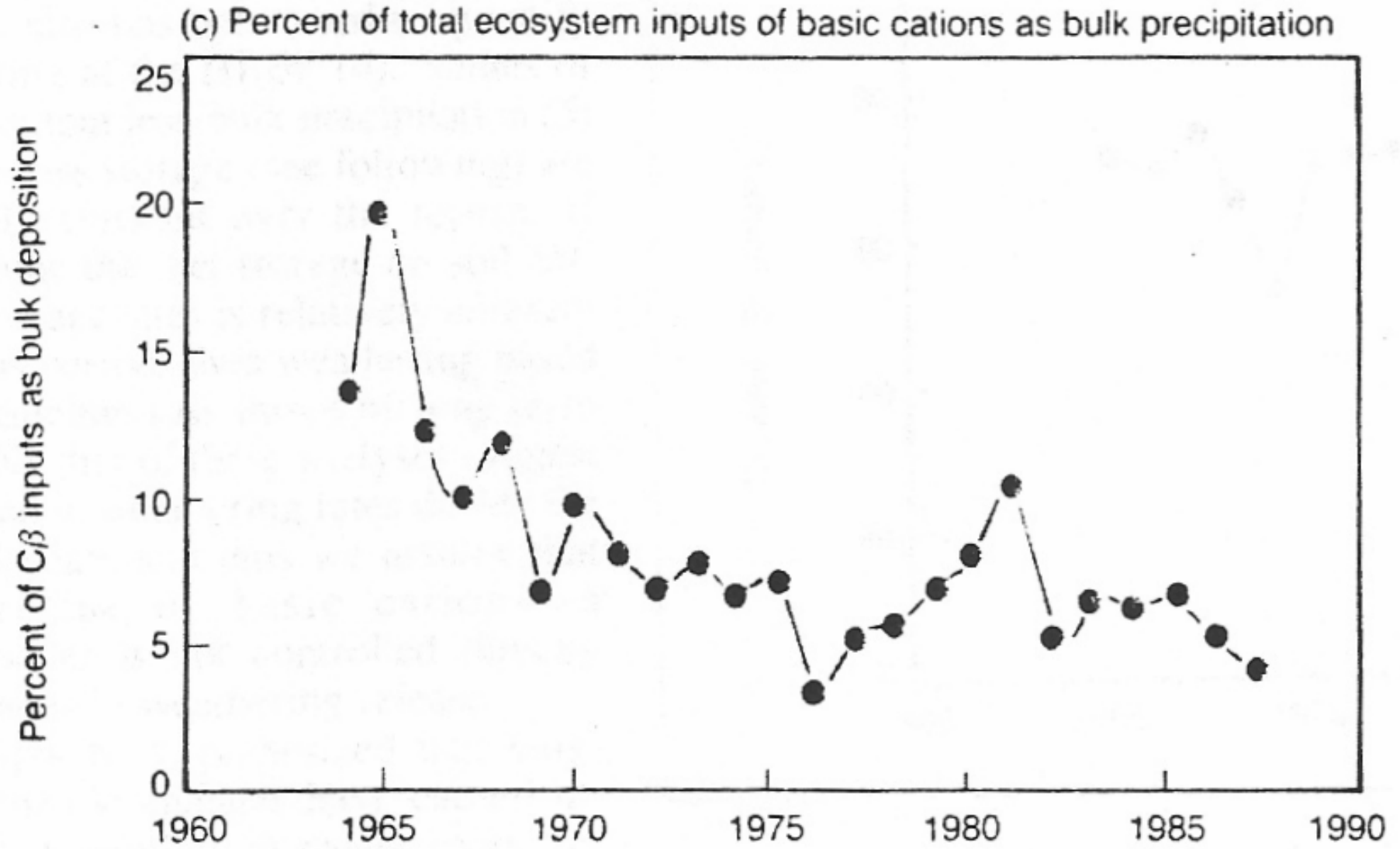
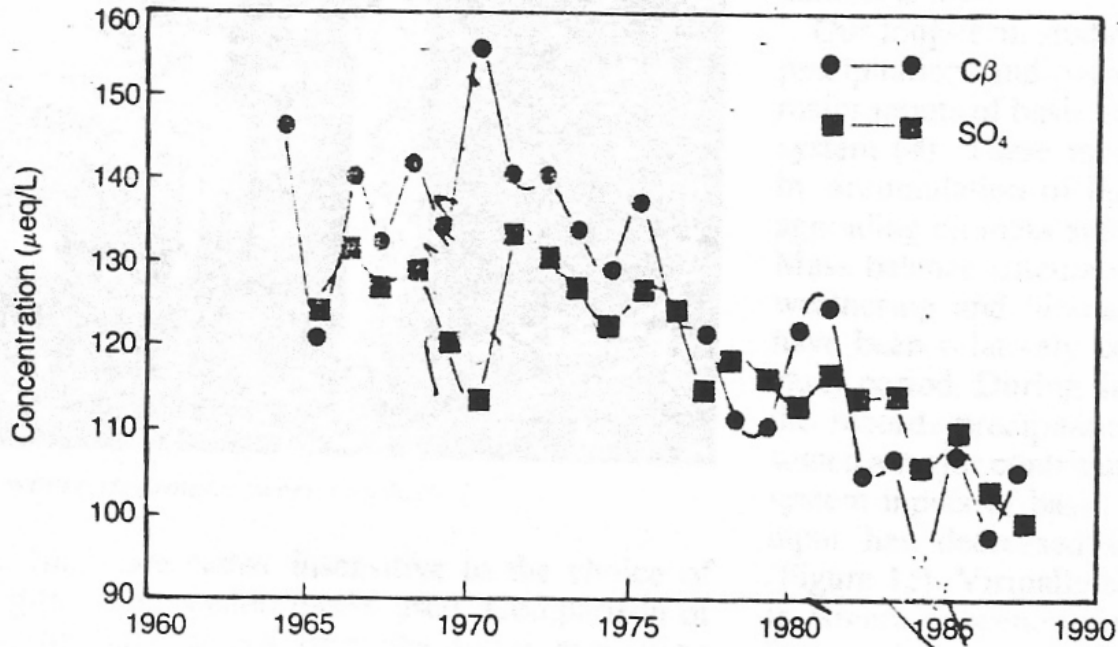


Figure 1(c). Temporal bulk precipitation trends for the reference watershed (number 6) at the Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest, NH



(a) Annual, volume-weighted concentrations of the sum of basic cations ( $C\beta$ ) and sulfate ( $SO_4$ )



(b) pH

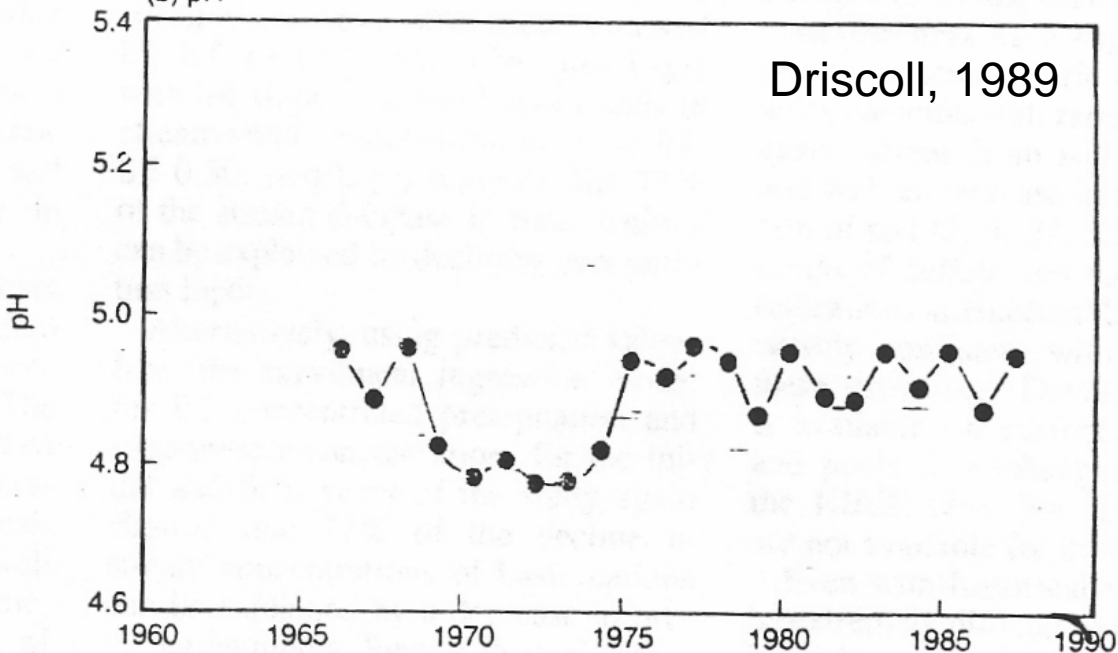


Figure 2. Temporal streamwater trends for the reference watershed (number 6) at the Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest, NH

**Fig.2** Output:  $SO_4$  present in stream water  $\rightarrow$  sum of the base cations are equivalent to the pH  $\rightarrow$  ~10-5

• factor of 5 lower  $H^+$  acidity than in rainwater.

•  $\rightarrow$  Therefore, stream water concentrations have been essentially independent of the input.

\*\* something happens between input and output.

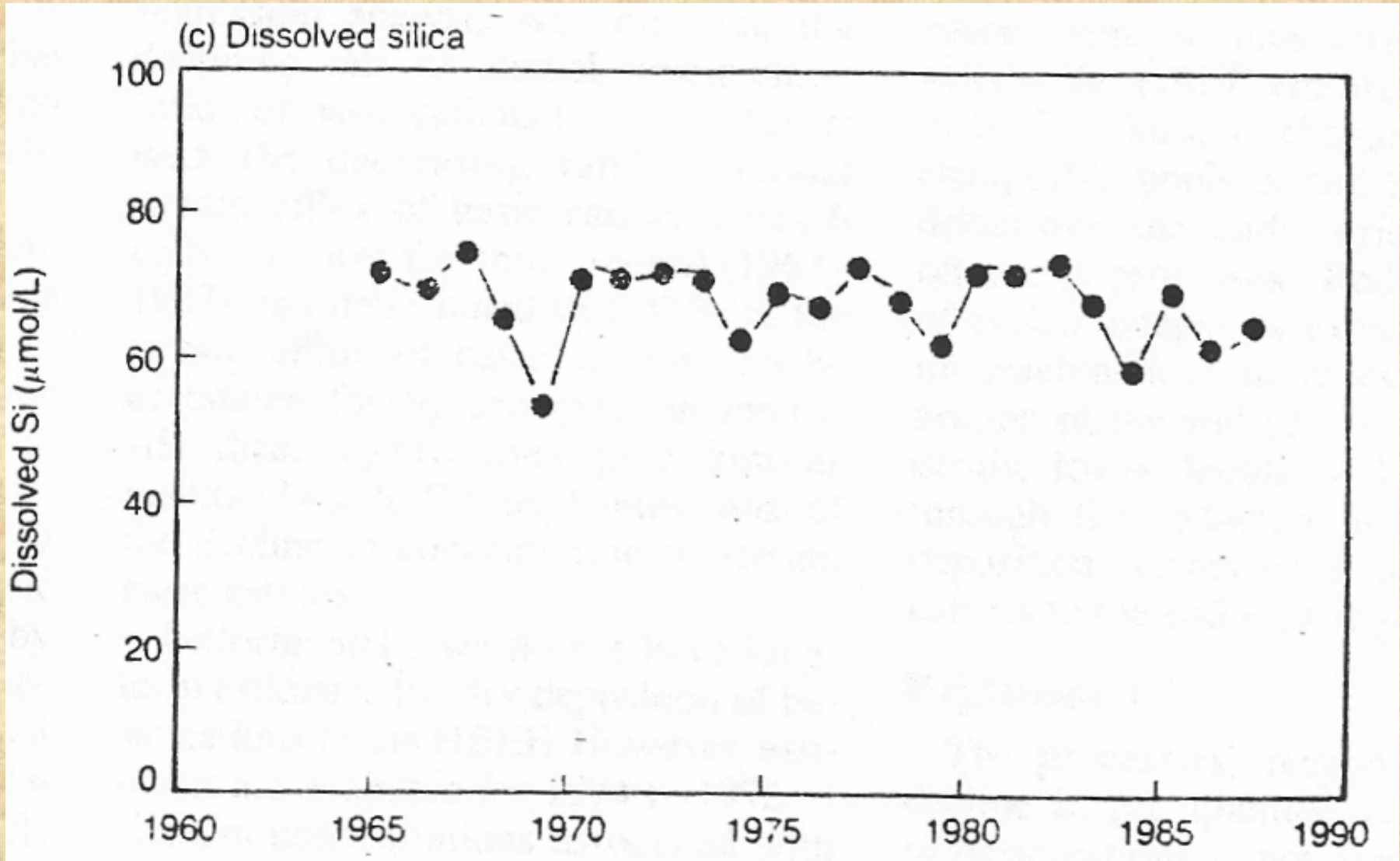
- Overall concentration of  $\text{SO}_4$  in rain 70 → 140 in stream
  - → this simply reflects that processing has taken place within the watershed.
- \* Trees exclude  $\text{SO}_4$  when taking in water (through evapotranspiration). It can therefore be concentrated in the soil and the remaining water.

→ Only about 50% of the precipitation is discharged into the stream.

\* mass balance, 20 - 80% depending on conditions such as temperature, ecosystems, etc.



Figure 2. Temporal streamwater trends for the reference watershed (number 6) at the Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest, NH



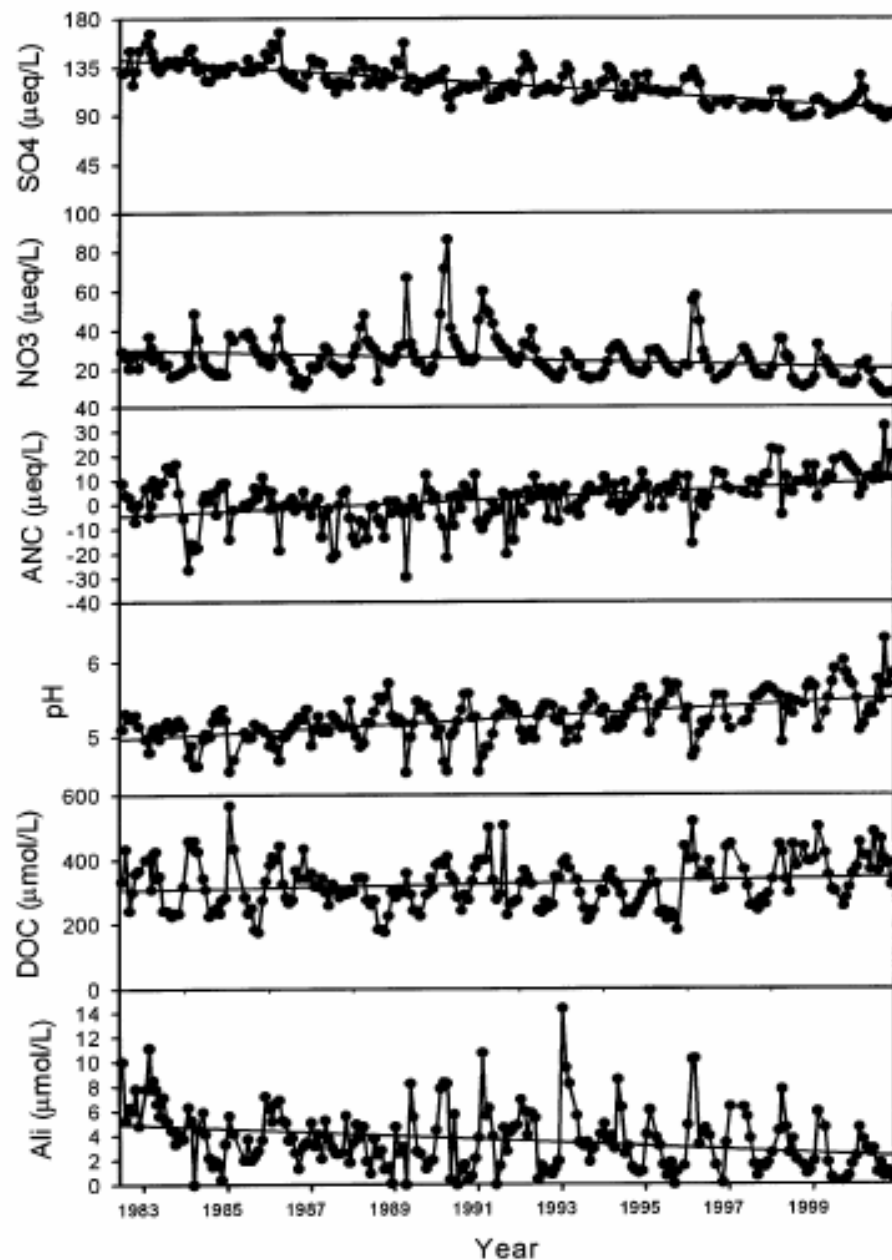
# Chemical Response of Lakes in the Adirondack Region of New York to Declines in Acidic Deposition

CHARLEST. DRISCOLL, KIMBERLEY M. DRISCOLL, KAREN M. ROY, AND M YRON J. MITCHELL §

**TABLE 2. Slopes of Significant (at  $p < 0.05$ ) Changes in Concentration of Solutes in Wet Deposition at Huntington Forest and Whiteface Mountain (in  $\mu\text{equiv L}^{-1} \text{yr}^{-1}$ ) from 1978 to 2000<sup>a</sup>**

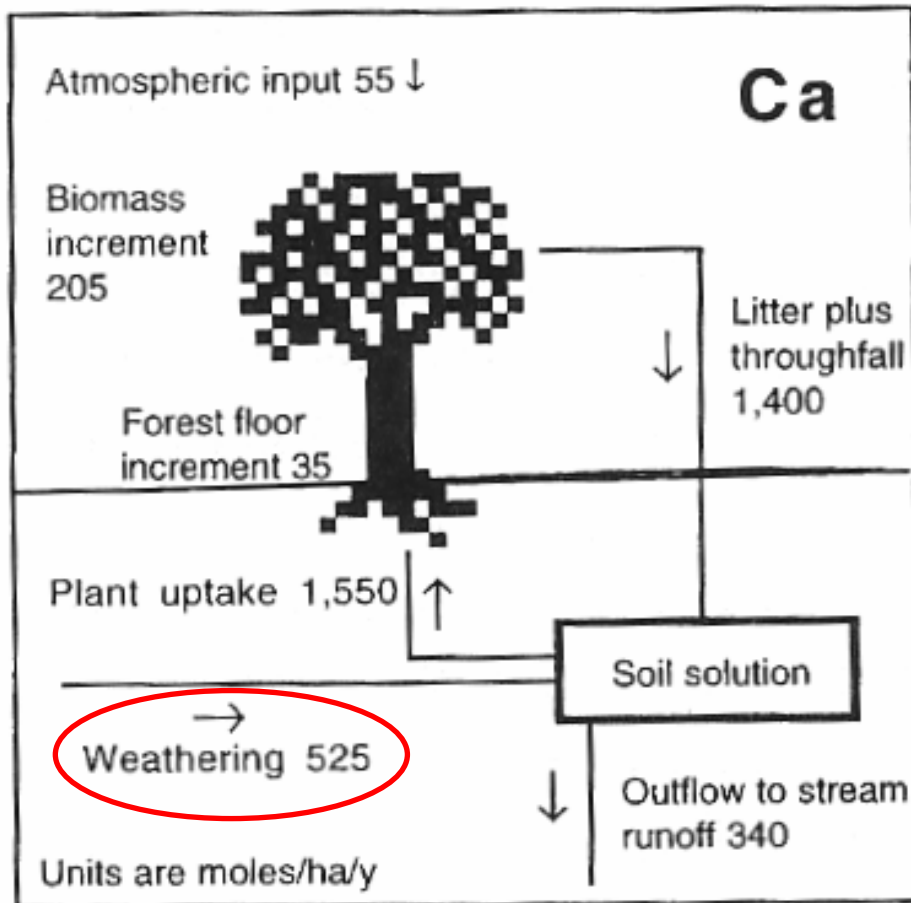
site	$\text{SO}_4^{2-}$	$\text{NO}_3^-$	$C_B$	$\text{NH}_4^+$	$\text{H}^+$
Huntington Forest	-1.02	-0.29	-0.33	ns	-0.66
Whiteface Mountain	-1.19	ns	-0.13	ns	-0.89

<sup>a</sup>  $C_B$  is the sum of basic cations. Nonsignificant trends are indicated as ns.

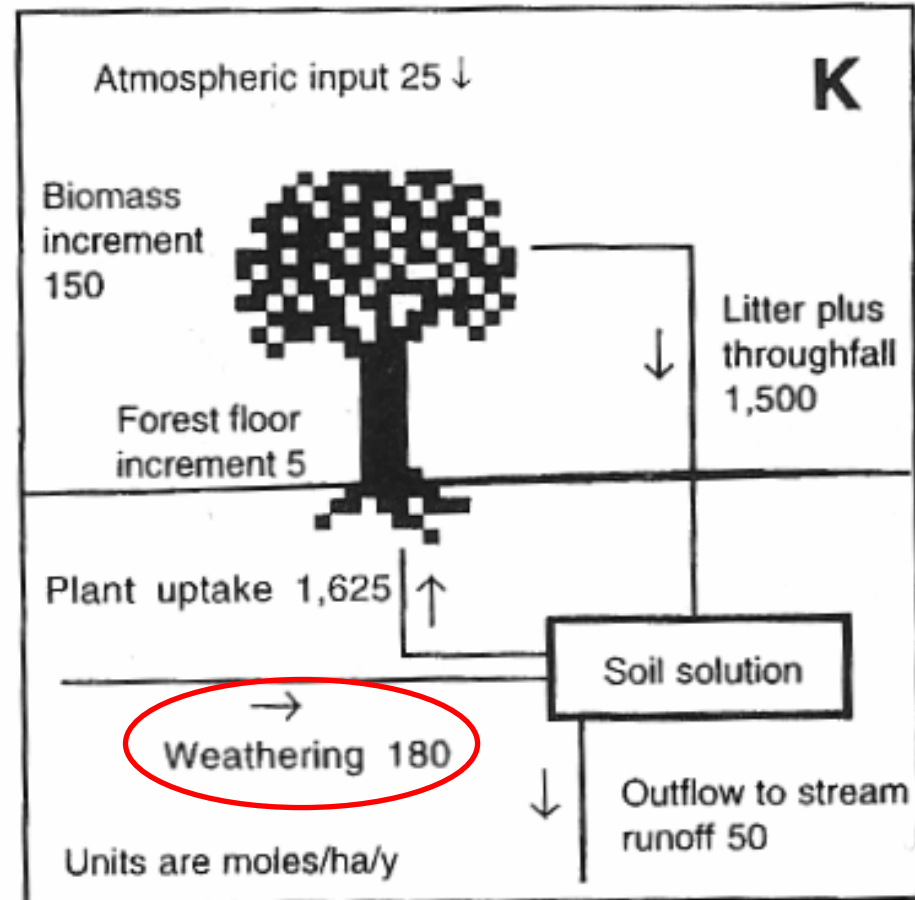


**FIGURE 1.** Concentrations of  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  (a),  $\text{NO}_3^-$  (b), acid-neutralizing capacity (ANC; c), pH (d), dissolved organic carbon (DOC; e), and monomeric Al (f) in Big Moose Lake. A significant trend is indicated by a line.

# Calcium and potassium fluxes at the Hubbard Brook Experimental Watershed



(a)



(b)

# Clay

$H^+ < \text{---} > Ca^{++}$       Lose cations

(-) charge of surface attracts cations

Ca is lost to aqueous phase

Clay Mineralogy → Highly charged surface

Cation Exchange Capacity (CEC)

Exchange Sites

[10-3 moles of charge]

meq = milliequivalents

**Smectites** ---> 1 meq/g

Don't see much around here--> result of the weathering of volcanics

[volcanic glass]

**Illites** ---> 50 - 500  $\mu$ eq/g

~ 80% muscovite; 20% smectite  $\rightarrow$  varied, non-unique mixed structures

**Kaolinite** ---> 10  $\mu$ eq/g

$\text{Al}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_5(\text{OH})_4$  - low exchange capacity because no cations in its structure. Small surface charge.

Clays: lose cations. \*\*\* Surface phenomena

→ In smectites and illites, with high exchange capacity, attracts a cation to the surface which is bound only by an *electrostatic charge*.

\*\* Surfaces of clays can be highly charged, and different clays have different abilities to exchange.

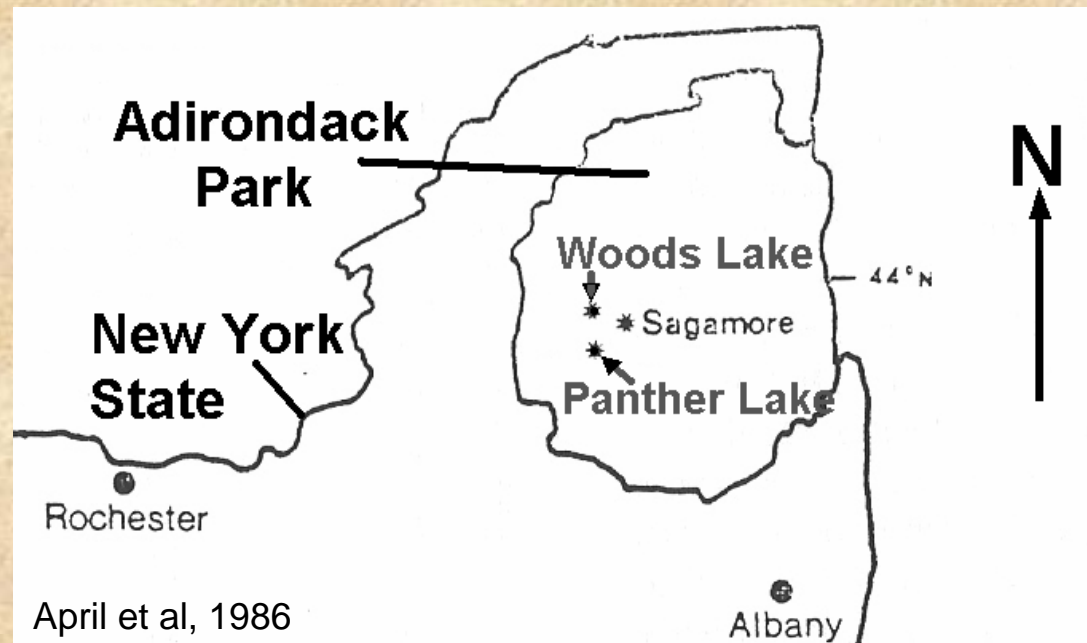
Look at 2 systems:

- Woods Lake pH~ 4.3
- Panther Lake pH ~ 6

Both of these lakes have the *same input*, therefore the difference in pH is mostly due to hydrology and the capacity of the systems.



<http://www.adirondacklakessurvey.org/pics/woods1.html>





# Panther Lake:

- Glacial till (Glaciers scraped crystalline rocks clean)
- Much of water doesn't flow directly into the lake but goes into watershed.
- Thick core about 10 meters of soil which overlies bedrock.
- Water will flow to lake due to hydraulic head( flows from higher pressure to lower pressure; difference in pressures due to the differences in the elevation of the water.)

# Panther Lake:

- \* Only a certain percentage will be as a base flow (along flow lines)
  - \* Some percentage will be overland flow, surface runoff.
- This dominantly happens in the spring where the snow is melting but the ground is still frozen. More water will go overland to the lake. In the spring, the pH will even drop from 6 to 5 because the pH of snow is about 4 and a higher percentage goes directly there rather than being processed in the watershed first.

# Woods Lake:

- right on crystalline rocks with a thin soil cover of only about 1 meter; pH about 4.3
- Much of the flow is overland or through the O-horizon (surface layers)

Interflow → just below the surface, fairly permeable O-horizon.



<http://www.adirondacklakessurvey.org/pics/woods1.html>



<http://www.oldforgecruises.com/lollie/scenic.htm>

- Lakes formed 12,000 years ago with retreat of glaciers therefore know time that the lakes started.
- Assume that the composition of till is about constant.

How much Ca is present as a function of depth? (See Figure 2).

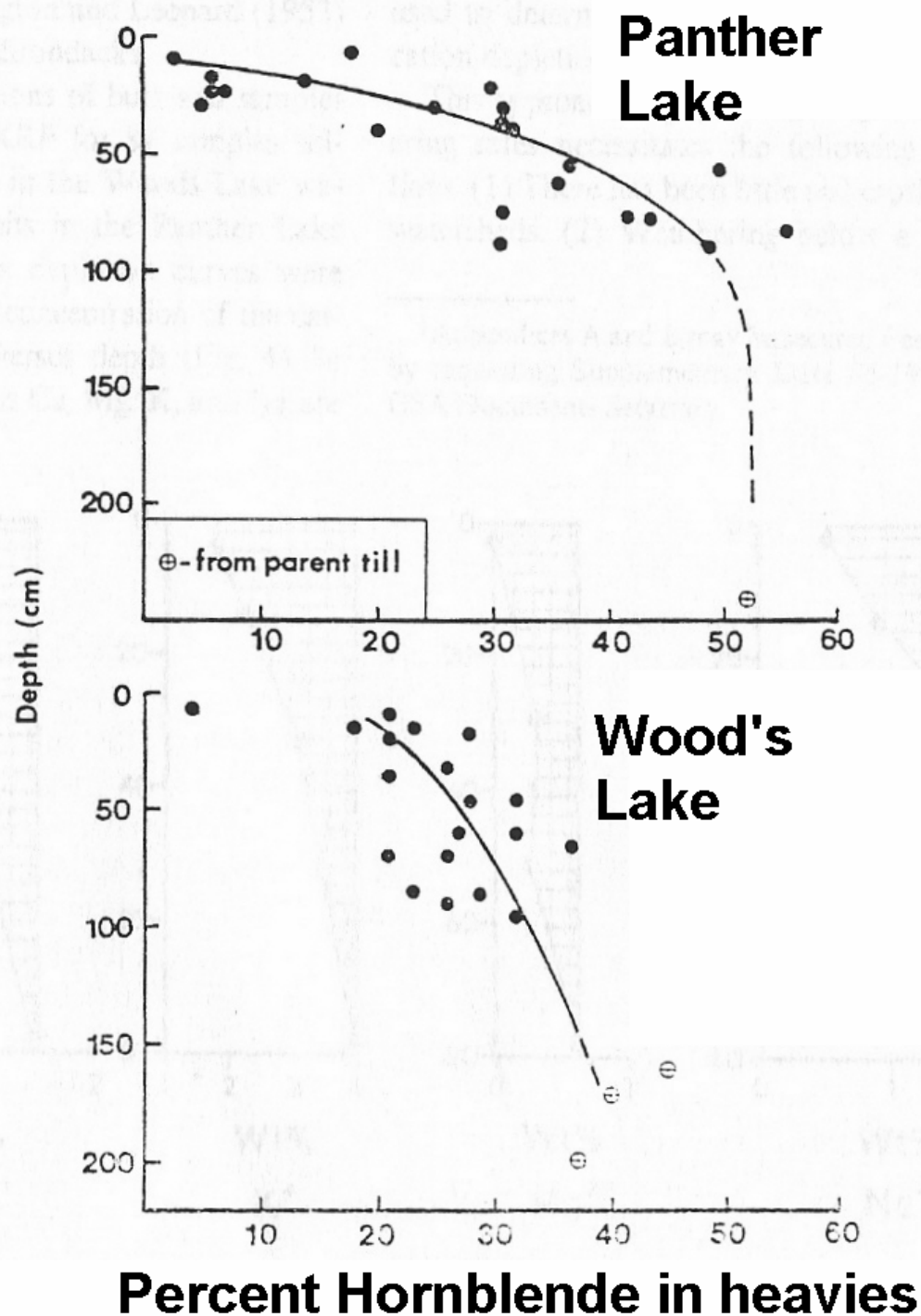


Figure 2. Trends in hornblende abundance with depth in Panther Lake and Woods Lake watershed soil profiles

After 10 meters, it is about constant -- hitting bedrock which is probably granite or granite gneiss.

- Weathering in the upper zone has removed cations. The weathering does slowly break down the bedrock to release cations available for exchange.

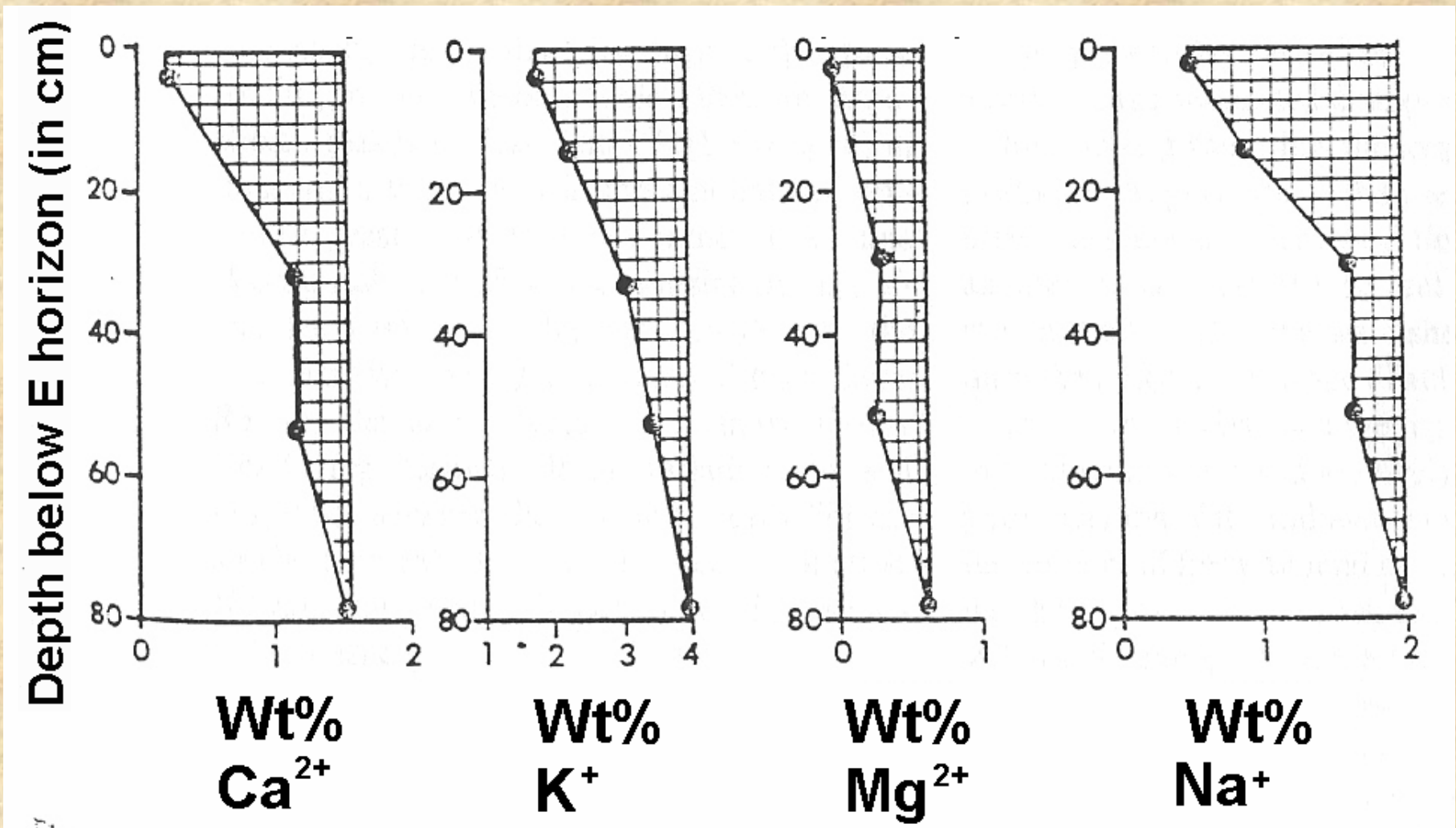
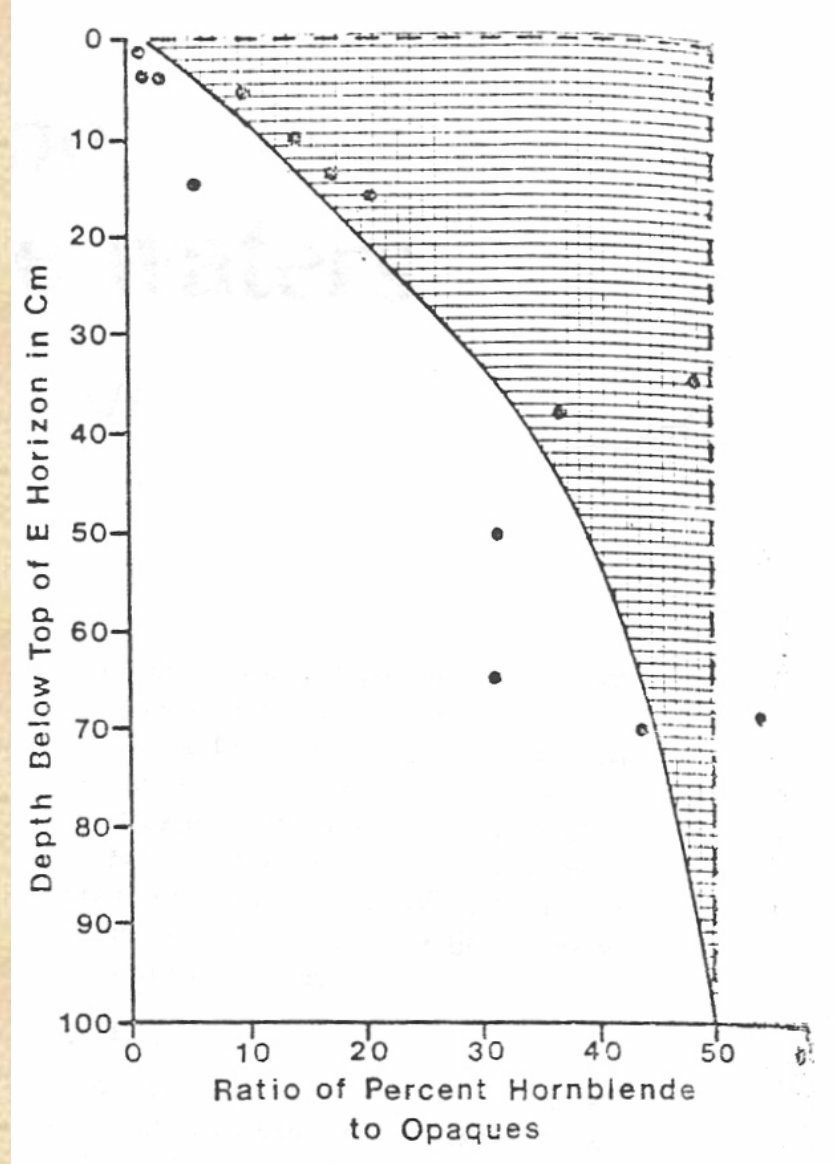
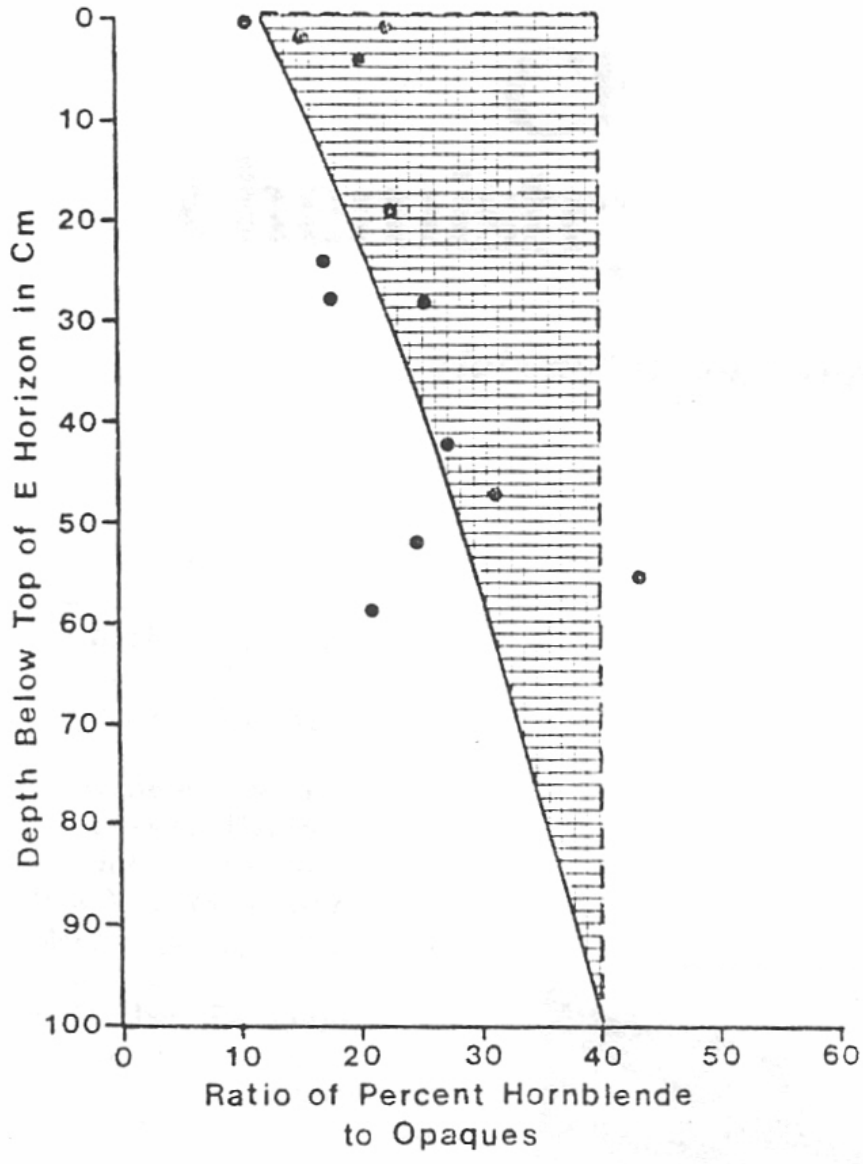


Figure 4. Example of cation-depletion curves constructed for soils in Panther Lake watershed.



**Figure 5. Hornblende depletion curve constructed for Woods Lake watershed, showing the integrated area used to calculate a weathering rate in grams of hornblende/ha-yr**

**Figure 6. Hornblende depletion curve constructed for Panther Lake watershed, showing the integrated area used to calculate a weathering rate in grams of hornblende/ha-yr**

	<b>Panther Lake</b>	<b>Woods Lake</b>
<b>Till thickness</b>	8 m	1 m
<b>Net output of Ca<sup>2+</sup></b>	1200 eq/ha/yr	150 eq/ha/yr
<b>Long term weathering</b>	500 eq/ha/yr	600 eq/ha/yr
<b>Acid input</b>	~1200 eq/ha/yr	~ 1200 eq/ha/yr



- Long term weathering rate → close in both lakes, about 600eq/ha/year.
- But Panther has much less acid. Why?
- Wood's Lake → **comparable weathering rate but the residence time is not sufficient for the exchange reactions to occur.**

Look at relative rates, mass balance.

## Therefore, we need to examine the effect of soil-

- Amount of acidity input is the same  $\sim 1200\text{eq/hectare}$  (= 100 x 100 meters)/year
- There is a large clay component in soils
  - these clays have lost a cation (to water) and therefore have a net negative charge.

They will then attract cations.

- Illites -Upstate New York -- temperate latitudes
  - composed of about 80% muscovite (with a low cation exchange capacity) and about 20% smectite (with a high cation exchange capacity). These percentages are highly variable and illites are relatively ill-defined.

# Clay

$H^+ < \text{---} Al^{3+} \text{---} > Ca^{++}$       Lose base cations

(-) charge of surface attracts cations

Ca is lost to aqueous phase

Clay Mineralogy → Highly charged surface

Cation Exchange Capacity (CEC)

Exchange Sites

[10-3 moles of charge]

meq = milliequivalents

**Smectites** ---> 1 meq/g

Don't see much around here--> result of the weathering of volcanics

[volcanic glass]

**Illites** ---> 50 - 500  $\mu$ eq/g

~ 80% muscovite; 20% smectite  $\rightarrow$  varied, non-unique mixed structures

**Kaolinite** ---> 10  $\mu$ eq/g

$\text{Al}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_5(\text{OH})_4$  - low exchange capacity because no cations in its structure. Small surface charge.

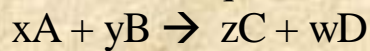
Clays: lose cations. \*\*\* Surface phenomena

→ In smectites and illites, with high exchange capacity, attracts a cation to the surface which is bound only by an *electrostatic charge*.

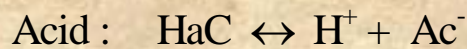
\*\* Surfaces of clays can be highly charged, and different clays have different abilities to exchange.

- 1. Lack of  $\text{CaCO}_3$
- 2. Thin or no soil = high surface flow into lakes
- 3. Thick soil: large exchangeable pool of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$

Review of Equilibrium:



$$K_{\text{eq}} = \frac{[C]^z[D]^w}{[A]^x[B]^y} = 10^{-5.6} \rightarrow \text{pK} = 5.6$$



$$K_{\text{eq}} = \frac{[\text{H}^+][\text{Ac}^-]}{[\text{HaC}]} \quad [\text{Ac}^-] = 10^{-7.3}$$

$$[\text{H}_2\text{CO}_3] = k_T P_{\text{CO}_2}$$

$$\text{at } P_{\text{CO}_2} = 10^{-3.45}$$

$$[\text{H}_2\text{CO}_3] = 10^{-5} \text{ M}$$



$$\text{pk}_1 = +5.7$$



$$k_1 = \frac{[\text{H}^+][\text{HCO}_3^-]}{[\text{H}_2\text{CO}_3]}$$

$$10^{-9.2} = 10^{-10.7} = [\text{H}^+][\text{HCO}_3^-]$$

$$[\text{HCO}_3^-] = [\text{H}^+] = 10^{-5.4} \rightarrow \text{pH} = 5.4 \quad k_1 = 10^{-5.7}$$

$$\text{Soil } P_{\text{CO}_2} \sim 10,000 \text{ ppm} \rightarrow 10^{-2} \rightarrow \text{pH} \sim 4.6$$

$$K_{\text{Gibbsite}} \text{ (equilibrium constant)} = 10^{8.1} \rightarrow \frac{a(\text{activity})\text{Al}^{3+}}{a(\text{activity})\text{H}^+} = \frac{10^{-7} \text{ moles/L}}{10^{-5} \text{ moles/L}}$$

10<sup>-4</sup> moles/L quite high

10<sup>-4</sup> moles/L (pH=4)

→ amount of Al present in solution is a very strong function of pH.

\* Change of pH of 1 unit will produce a change of 10<sup>3</sup> change in Al, 3:1 ratio

- **pH < 6, dominant species of Al is Al<sup>3+</sup>**
- In basic solutions, others are dominant (Al(OH)<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup> - Aluminum hydroxide)
  - whole series of hydroxide complexes of Al (Al- complexes)

### Al Complexes:

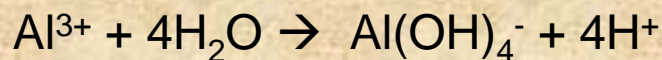
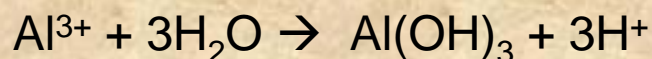
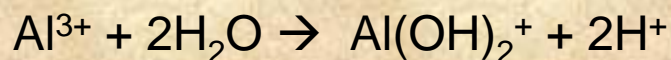
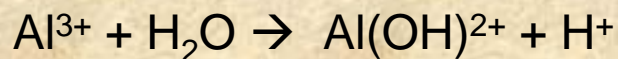
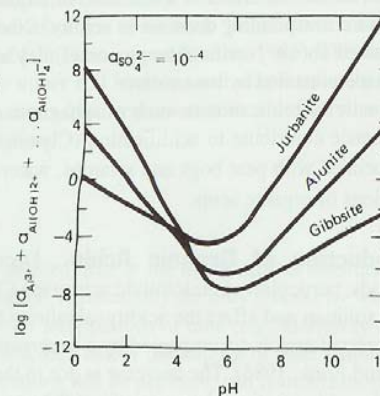
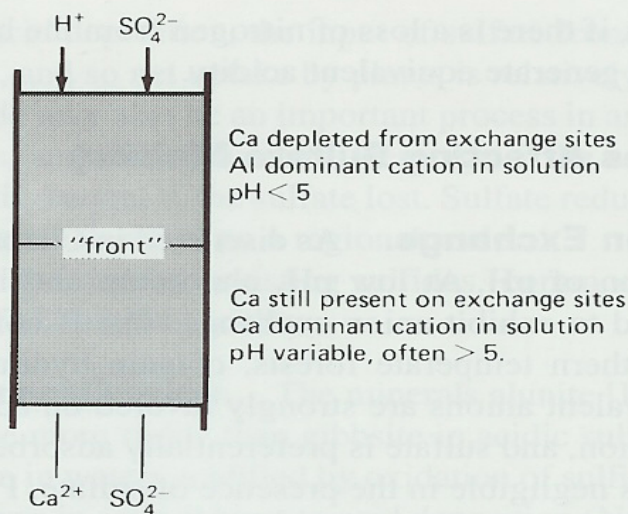


FIGURE 13-7 Solubility curves for gibbsite, alunite, and jurbanite at sulfate and potassium activities of 10<sup>-4</sup> (solubility of alunite is relatively insensitive to K<sup>+</sup> activity, even though it contains K) (after Nordstrom, 1982).



- As the water moves down,  $H^+$  exchanges with  $Ca^{++}$
  - When the calcium is depleted, then the  $H^+$  begins to dissolve  $Al^{3+}$  (which is normally very stable in soil (as  $Al(OH)_3$  Gibbsite) but is soluble under acid conditions).  $3H^+ + Al(OH)_3 = Al^{3+} + 3H_2O$
  - As the water continues down the column and reaches an area where the  $Ca^{2+}$  has not been depleted (at the front) then the Ca and  $Al^{3+}$  exchange the water becomes calcium sulfate.
  - $3Ca(\text{adsorbed}) + 2Al^{3+}(\text{aq}) = 3Ca^{++}(\text{aq}) + 2Al(\text{adsorbed})$
- $H_2SO_4 \rightarrow Ca^{++} + SO_4^{--}$  pH > 5 (near neutral)

**FIGURE 13-6** Soil column affected by simulated acid deposition.





# Hydrology

How could it play a role? → surface runoff, base flow

Base Cations in Exchangeable Sites

→ Thickness of soil layer

- Dissolution of Gibbsite , Kaolinite
- - Ion Exchange

Model: 
$$\frac{E_{Al}^2}{E_{Ca}^3} = K_{ex} \frac{a_{Al^{3+}}^2}{a_{Ca^{2+}}^3}$$

$$\%Al (eq) = \frac{3m_{Al^{3+}}}{2m_{Ca^{2+}} + 3m_{Al^{3+}}}$$

## Acid Input ( $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$ , $\text{HNO}_3$ )

- Thick soil  $\rightarrow$   $\text{H}^+$  exchanges w/  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  ;  $\text{H}^+$  dissolves  $\text{Al}(\text{OH})_3^-$ 
  - ↳  $\text{CaCO}_3$  causes neutralization
- Thin or no soil (size of watershed) ~ soil buffer?
- Acid Lake Condition (bathtub) -- directly on lake

# Hydrology

How could it play a role? → surface runoff, base flow

- Base Cations in Exchangeable Sites → Thickness of soil layer

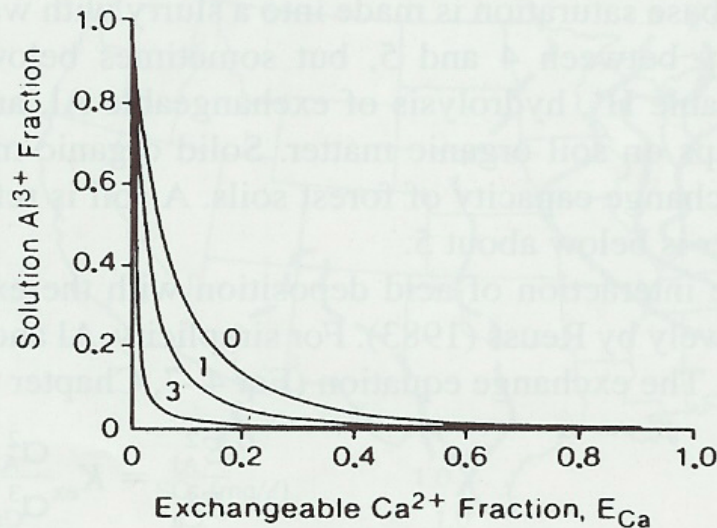
Dissolution of Gibbsite

- - Ion Exchange

Model: 
$$\frac{E_{Al}^2}{E_{Ca}^3} = K_{ex} \frac{a_{Al^{3+}}^2}{a_{Ca^{2+}}^3}$$

$$\%Al \text{ (eq)} = \frac{3m_{Al^{3+}}}{2m_{Ca^{2+}} + 3m_{Al^{3+}}}$$

**FIGURE 13-5** Relationship between ratio of Al to Al + Ca in solution and ratio of Ca to Al + Ca on exchange sites (both in units of equivalents of charge) for different values of the exchange constant,  $\log K_{ex}$  (after Reuss, 1983).

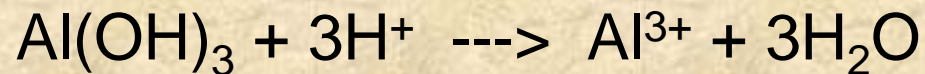


→ As the system receives more and more acid, the front will move further down until all the Ca is depleted from the system -- will have used up all the Ca ions.

(front = boundary between no available and available Ca)

\*charge neutrality must be maintained.

- Front will continue to drop
- At some point the  $\text{Al}^{3+}$  will be present in solution to the lake



- \* Generally, solutions in soils are in equilibrium with gibbsite, although it can't be found directly in the soil. But reasonable assumption is that generally, reactions are controlled by gibbsite.

$$K_{\text{Gibbsite}} \text{ (equilibrium constant)} = 10^{8.1} \rightarrow \frac{a(\text{activity})\text{Al}^{3+}}{a^3(\text{activity})(\text{H}^+)} = \frac{10^{-7} \text{ moles/L}}{10^{-5} \text{ moles/L}}$$

10<sup>-4</sup> moles/L quite high

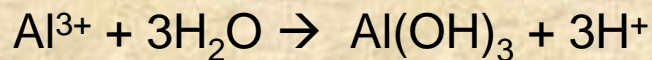
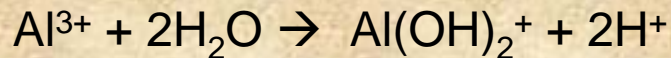
10<sup>-4</sup> moles/L

→ amount of Al present in solution is a very strong function of pH.

\* Change of pH of 1 will produce a change of 1 x 10<sup>3</sup> change in Al, 3:1 ratio

- **pH < 6, dominant species of Al is Al<sup>3+</sup>**
- In basic solutions, others are dominant (Al(OH)<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup> - Aluminum hydroxide)
  - whole series of hydroxide complexes of Al (Al- complexes)

*Al Complexes:*



# So what happens to the fish?

Al is stable in acid water.

→ But the way fish get oxygen is by passing water over their gills, which are essentially neutral. **When the Al gets there the  $\text{Al}^{3+}$  is oxidized to Al hydroxide and coats the gills, which suffocates the fish.** Therefore you get acid lakes without fish.

	PH 6.5	PH 6.0	PH 5.5	PH 5.0	PH 4.5	PH 4.0
<b>TROUT</b>	Survives	Survives	Survives	Survives	Does not survive	Does not survive
<b>BASS</b>	Survives	Survives	Survives	Does not survive	Does not survive	Does not survive
<b>PERCH</b>	Survives	Survives	Survives	Survives	Survives	Does not survive
<b>FROGS</b>	Survives	Survives	Survives	Survives	Survives	Survives
<b>SALAMANDERS</b>	Survives	Survives	Survives	Survives	Does not survive	Does not survive
<b>CLAMS</b>	Survives	Survives	Does not survive	Does not survive	Does not survive	Does not survive
<b>CRAYFISH</b>	Survives	Survives	Survives	Does not survive	Does not survive	Does not survive
<b>SNAILS</b>	Survives	Survives	Does not survive	Does not survive	Does not survive	Does not survive
<b>MAYFLY</b>	Survives	Survives	Survives	Does not survive	Does not survive	Does not survive

7  
6  
5  
4  
3  
2  
1  
0

**FIGURE 13:**

*The mean number of fish species for pH classes from 4.0 to 8.0 in lakes in the Adirondack region of New York. N represents the number of lakes in each pH class.* ▼

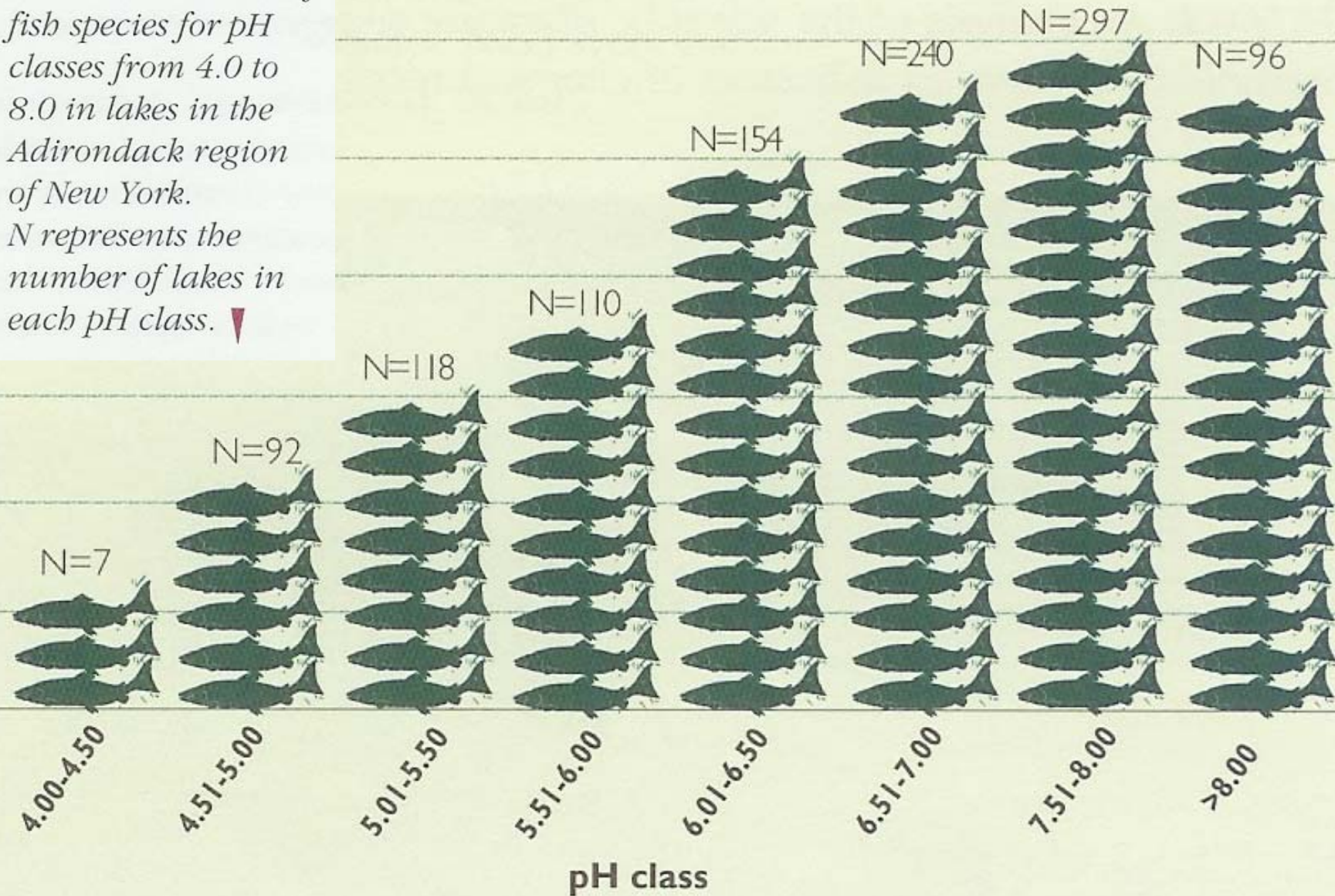
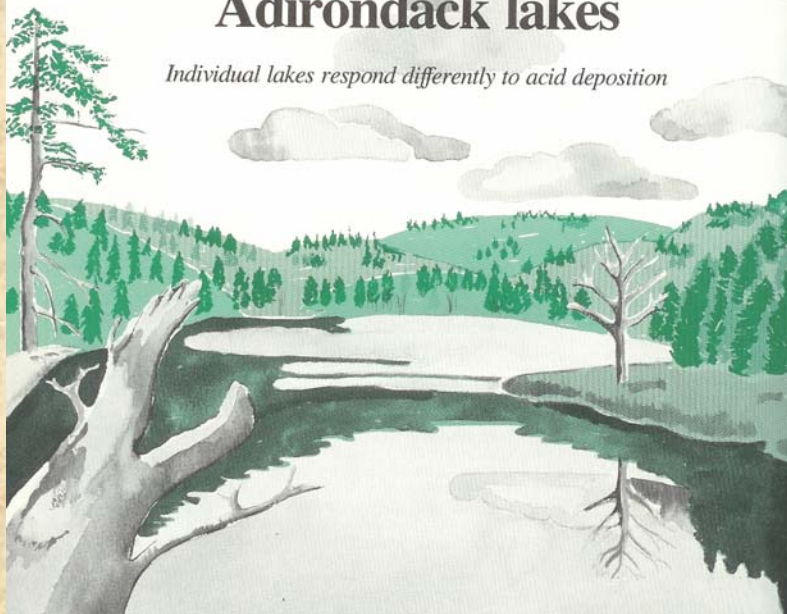


Figure 13. "Acid Rain Revisited." HBRF



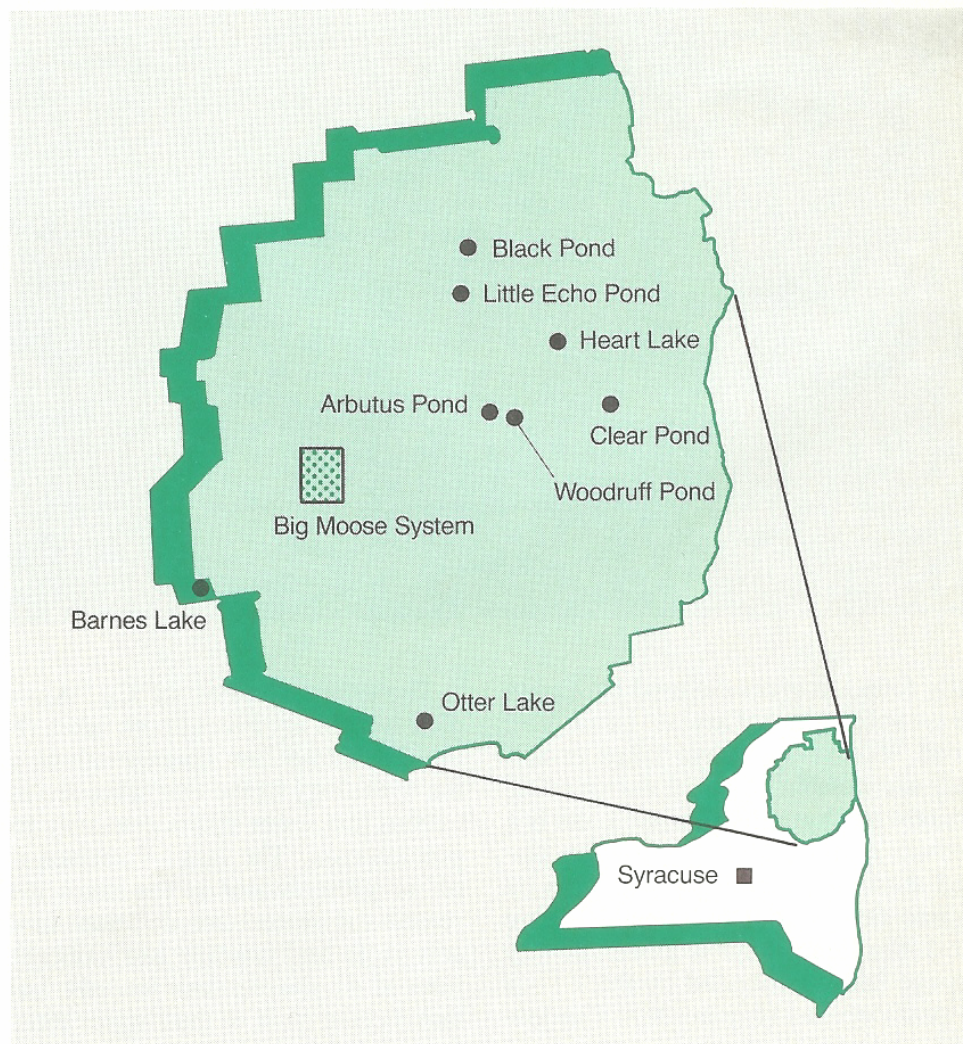
# Chemical characteristics of Adirondack lakes

*Individual lakes respond differently to acid deposition*



Driscoll and Newton, 1985

FIGURE 1  
Adirondack lakes in the study<sup>a</sup>



<sup>a</sup>Sites not specifically indicated are located within the Big Moose system

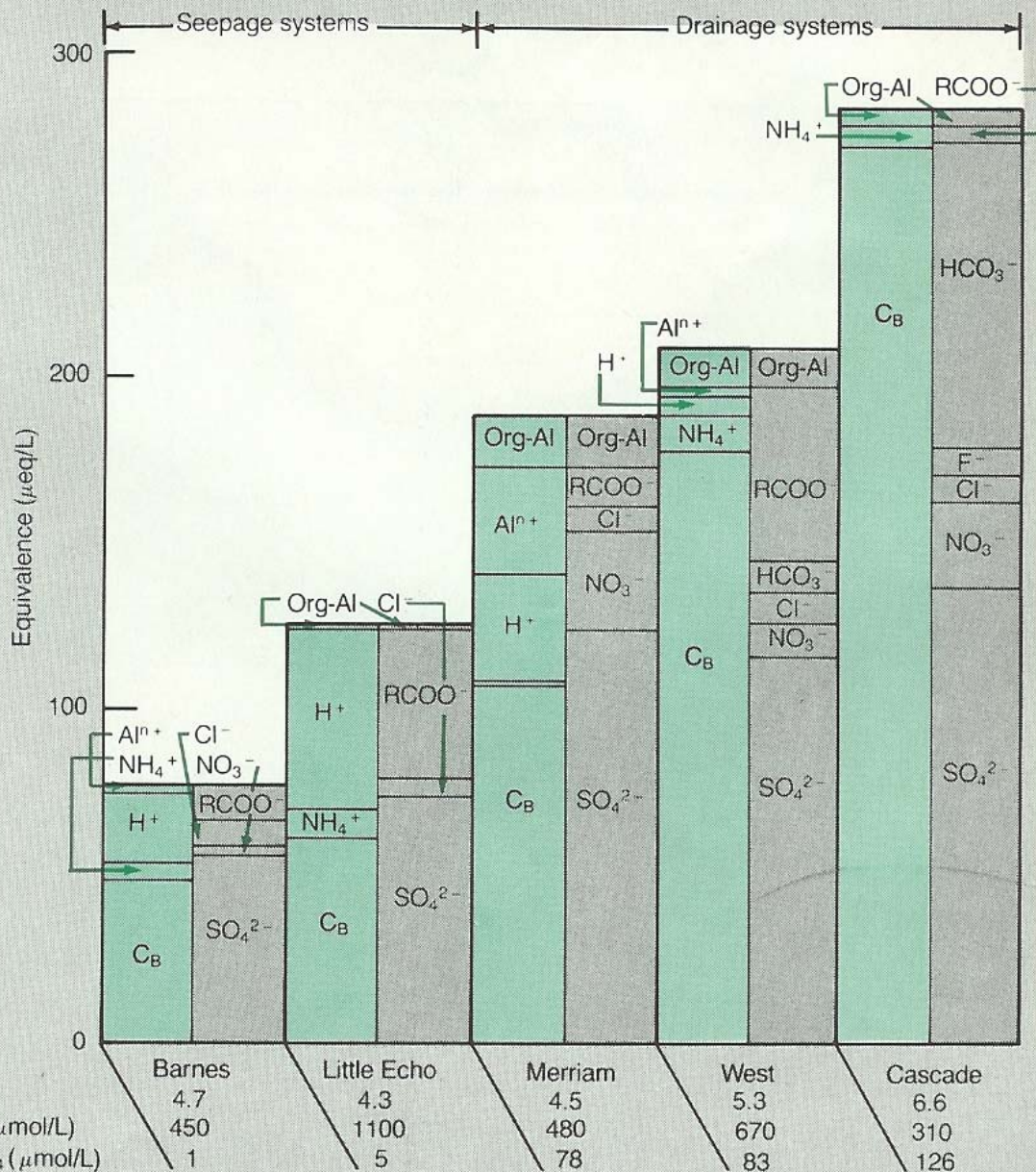


Figure 2. Charge distribution in Adirondack lake waters

<sup>a</sup>Values represent 26-month averages

Barnes and Little Echo are clearwater and brownwater seepage ponds, respectively. Merriam, West, and Cascade are acidic, bog, and neutral pH drainage lakes, respectively

$C_B$  is the sum of basic cation ( $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Na}^+$ ,  $\text{K}^+$ ) equivalence

The equivalence of labile monomeric Al ( $\text{Al}^{n+}$ ) is calculated by considering the various inorganic complexes

Nonlabile monomeric Al (Org-Al) is assumed to be trivalent and balanced by an equivalent organic ligand

Free organic anions are calculated as the difference between inorganic cations and inorganic anions

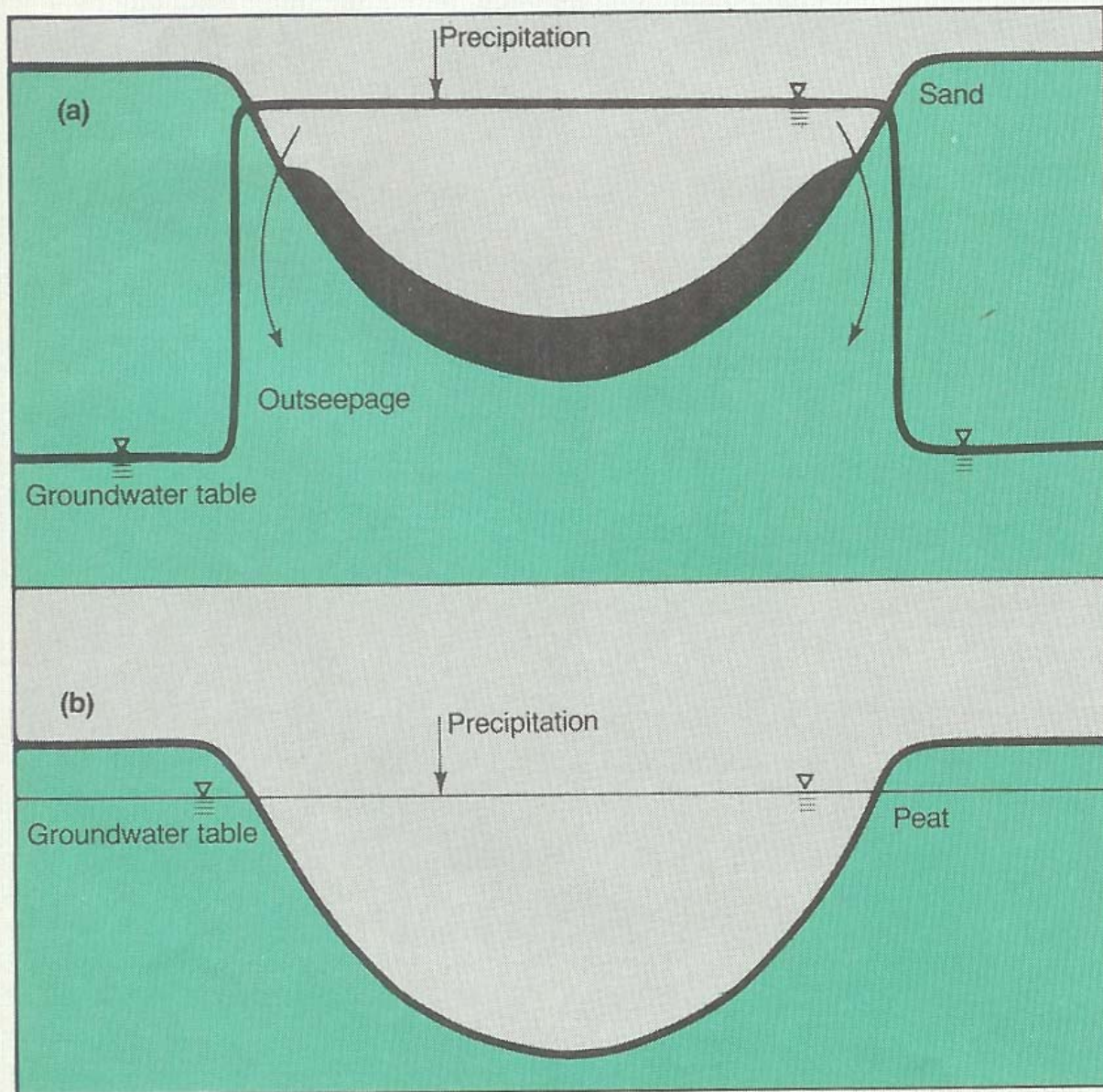
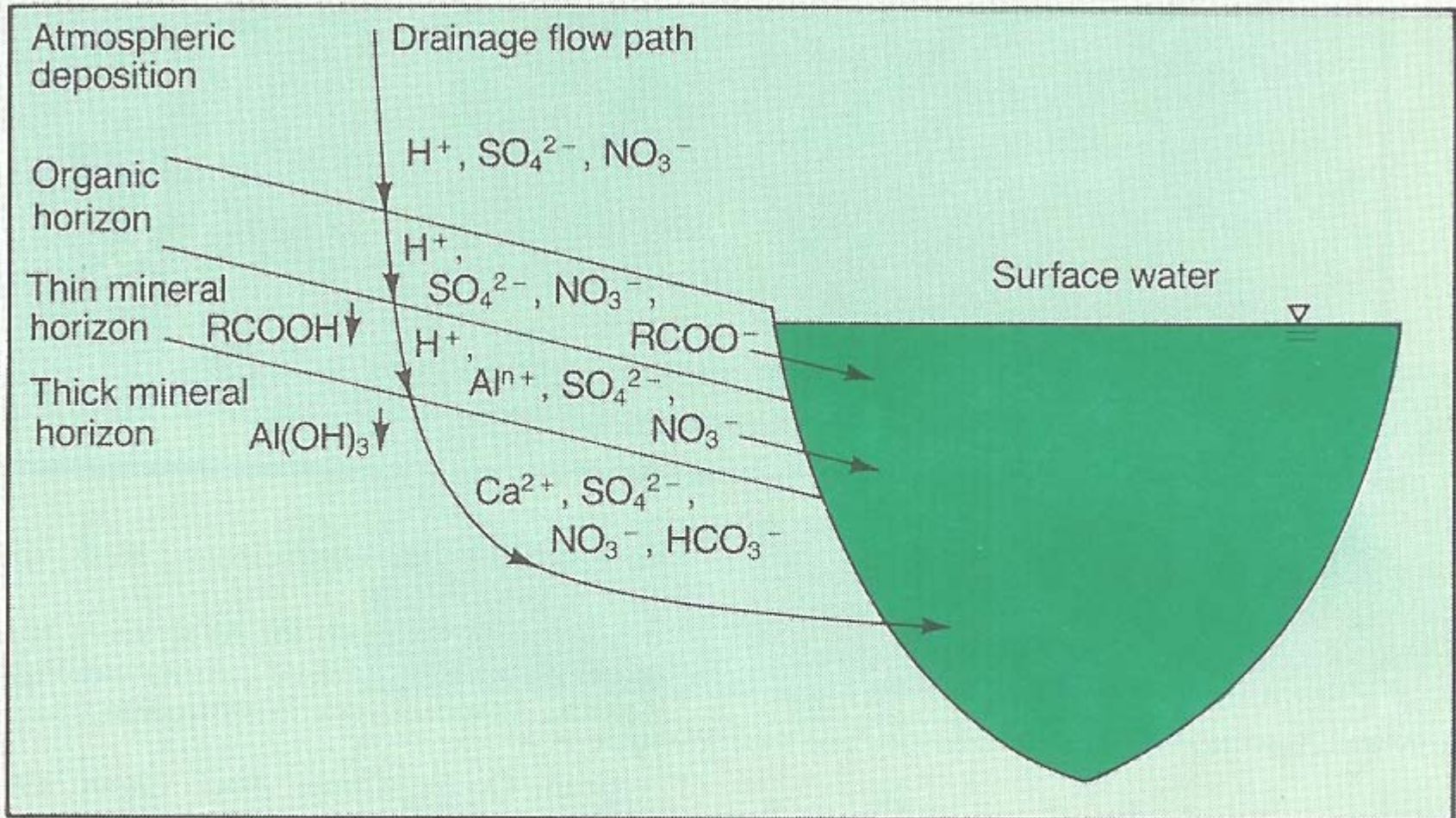


Figure 3:  
Acid-sensitive  
seepage  
lakes

Surface water in these lakes is isolated from the surrounding groundwater. In perched seepage lakes (a) the water is above the regional groundwater table because of the low permeability of organic rich bottom sediments. Bog seepage lakes (b) are surrounded by thick peat deposits that restrict significant movement of groundwater into the lake. Solute concentrations in isolated seepage lakes are strongly influenced by atmospheric deposition

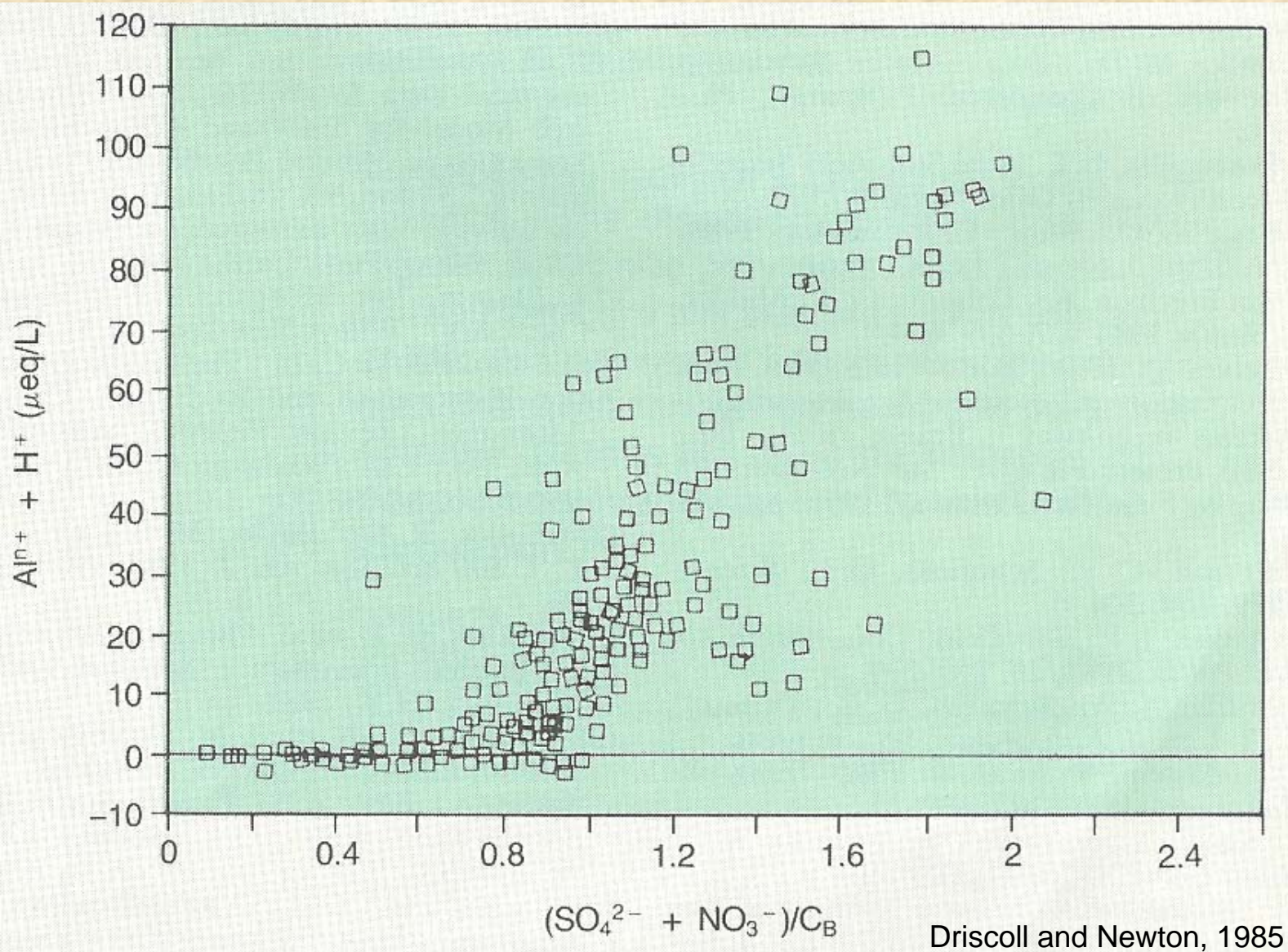
Figure 4: Chemical transformations associated with water flow paths to a drainage lake

Driscoll and Newton, 1985



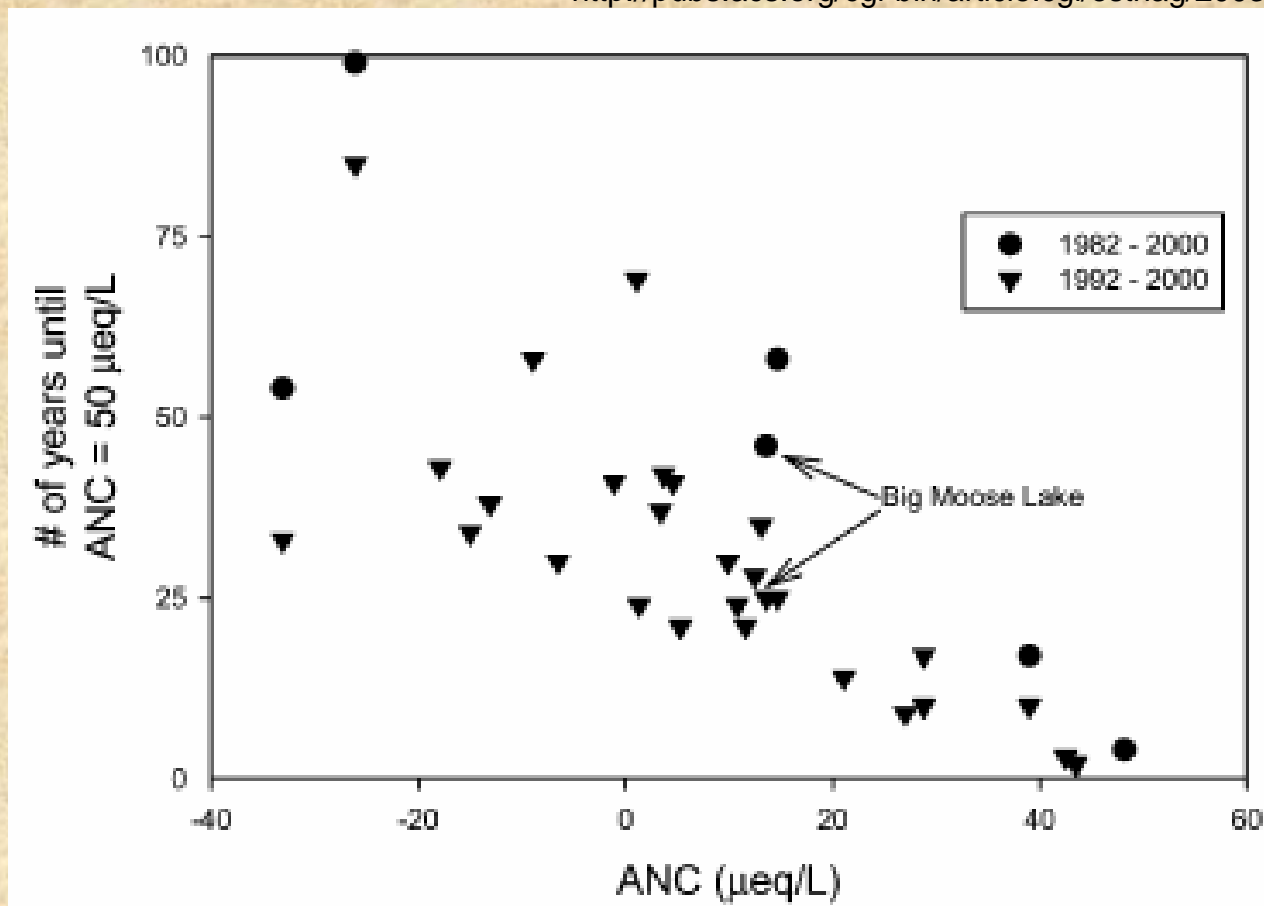
As water containing acidic deposition migrates through organic soil and peat, the resulting solution will contain mineral and organic acids. Water moving through shallow acidic soil will deposit organic solutes and mineral acids will solubilize Al, causing a solution with concentration levels of  $H^+$  and Al. If acidic solutions are transported through thick mineral soil,  $H^+$  and Al will be neutralized by the release of basic cations

Figure 5. Equivalence of acidic cations



Driscoll and Newton, 1985

$Al^{3+}$  as a function of the ratio of  $SO_4^{2-}$  and  $NO_3^-$  equivalence to basic cation ( $C_B$ ) equivalence for the 20 lakes in the study



**FIGURE 3.** Time for lakes to reach acid-neutralizing capacity (ANC) values of  $50 \mu\text{equiv L}^{-1}$  as a function of ANC value in the year 2000. These values are extrapolated assuming a linear rate of change based in slope of ANC change from time-series analysis. The extrapolation was done for two intervals, 1982–2000 and 1992–2000. Six lakes were evaluated for the longer record, and 28 lakes were evaluated for the shorter record. Note that rates of ANC increase were generally greater when calculated over the later interval, so the time to reach  $50 \mu\text{equiv L}^{-1}$  is shorter. Lakes with  $\geq 50 \mu\text{equiv L}^{-1}$  in 2000 or not showing a positive trend in ANC are not represented here.

# Feasibility of liming the lakes?

ILWAS → an acid study.

Proposal: Liming the lakes with  $\text{CaCO}_3$  and observe pH

- found that this effect didn't last very long although an initial rise in pH was observed.
- $\text{CaCO}_3$  quickly sinks to the bottom and becomes sediment.
- Also depends on the residence time of the lake (about 6 months to a year)
- Eventually controlling pH is not just acid input, but also depends on the size of the watershed and soil horizon, and the type of watershed, not just on what is in the lake.

## Add lime to watershed directly?

- to effectively replace the Ca cations that were lost. Seems to make physical sense.
- But would it have much ecological damage?
- Wood's Lake area was limed two years ago and the ecological effects were checked.
- Fairly cost effective.



# What happens if you stop inputting acid? Will the lake recover?

- No, not necessarily.
- Initially, the soil buffers to keep the acid from being a problem.
- But once the system is depleted of cations and Al is in their place, now the system is saturated with Al and it will take a very long time for the system to "wash out." Plus, where are you getting the new cations? Takes 1000's of years to develop a soil profile.

Ion exchange: delays acid input ( $Al \rightarrow Ca$ ) but once there, is there for a long time.

- If acid inputs were stopped now, things would probably not go back to normal but would maintain status quo.

## **Also happens with radioactive materials**

- $^{137}Cs$  and  $^{90}Sr$   $\rightarrow$  both quite high and bad from the nuclear testing days. Sr is a large molecule and through an inorganic exchange will adsorb onto molecules.
  - Sr moves 30 x slower than water itself through the soil.
  - $\rightarrow$  Therefore it delays associated problems, but once there, will have problems for a very long time!

# Primary Associations in Rain

Origin	Associations
Marine inputs	Cl - Na - Mg - SO <sub>4</sub>
Soil inputs	Al - Fe - Si - Ca - (K, Mg, Na)
Biological inputs	NO <sub>3</sub> - NH <sub>4</sub> - SO <sub>4</sub> - K
Burning of vegetation	NO <sub>3</sub> - NH <sub>4</sub> - P - K - Ca - Na - Mg - SO <sub>4</sub>
Industrial pollution	SO <sub>4</sub> - NO <sub>3</sub> - Cl
Fertilizers	K - PO <sub>4</sub> - NH <sub>4</sub> - NO <sub>3</sub>

*Sources:* Modified after Stallard 1980; and Lewis 1981.

Table 3.3. Berner. *The Global Water Cycle*, 1987.



# Sources of Individual Ions in Rainwater

Ion	Origin		
	Marine Input	Terrestrial Inputs	Pollution Inputs
Na <sup>+</sup>	Sea salt	Soil dust	Burning vegetation
Mg <sup>++</sup>	Sea salt	Soil dust	Burning vegetation
K <sup>+</sup>	Sea salt	Biogenic aerosols	Burning vegetation
Ca <sup>++</sup>	Sea salt	Soil dust	Fertilizer
		Soil dust	Cement manufacture
H <sup>+</sup>	Gas reaction	Gas reaction	Fuel burning
			Fuel burning to form gases
Cl <sup>-</sup>	Sea salt	—	Industrial HCl
	Gas release from sea salt		
SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>-</sup>	Sea salt	H <sub>2</sub> S from biological decay	Burning of fossil fuels to SO <sub>2</sub>
	Marine gases (DMS)	Volcanoes	Forest burning
NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>	N <sub>2</sub> plus lightning	Soil dust (Biogenic aerosols)	
		NO <sub>2</sub> from biological decay	Gaseous auto emissions
NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup>	—	N <sub>2</sub> plus lightning	Combustion of fossil fuels
		NH <sub>3</sub> from bacterial decay	Forest burning
PO <sub>4</sub> <sup>-3</sup>	—	NH <sub>3</sub> from bacterial decay	Nitrogen fertilizers
		Soil dust	Ammonia fertilizers
HCO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>	CO <sub>2</sub> in air	Biogenic aerosols	Decomposition of human and animal wastes
		Absorbed on sea salt	Combustion
SiO <sub>2</sub> , Al, Fe	—	Soil dust	Burning vegetation
		Soil dust	Fertilizer
		CO <sub>2</sub> in air	—
		Soil dust	
		Soil dust	Land clearing

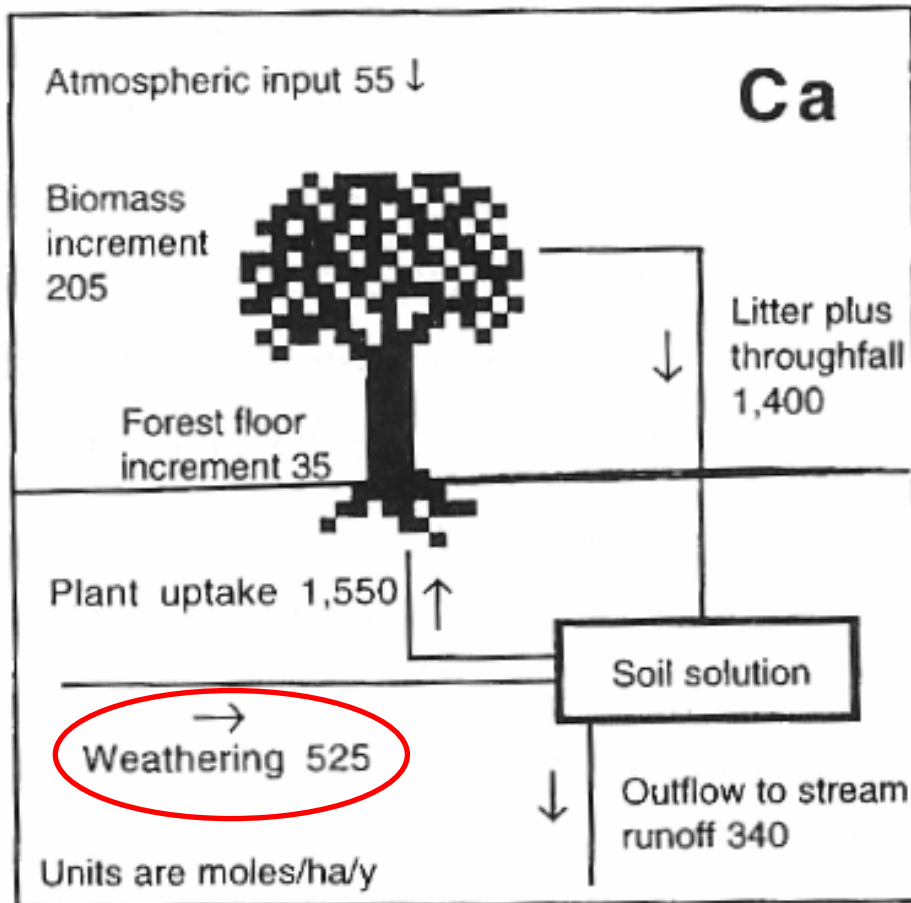
Source: Junge 1963; Mason 1971; Miller 1974; Granat, Rodhe, and Hallberg 1976; and Stallard and Edmond 1981.

Table 3.4. Berner. *The Global Water Cycle*, 1987.

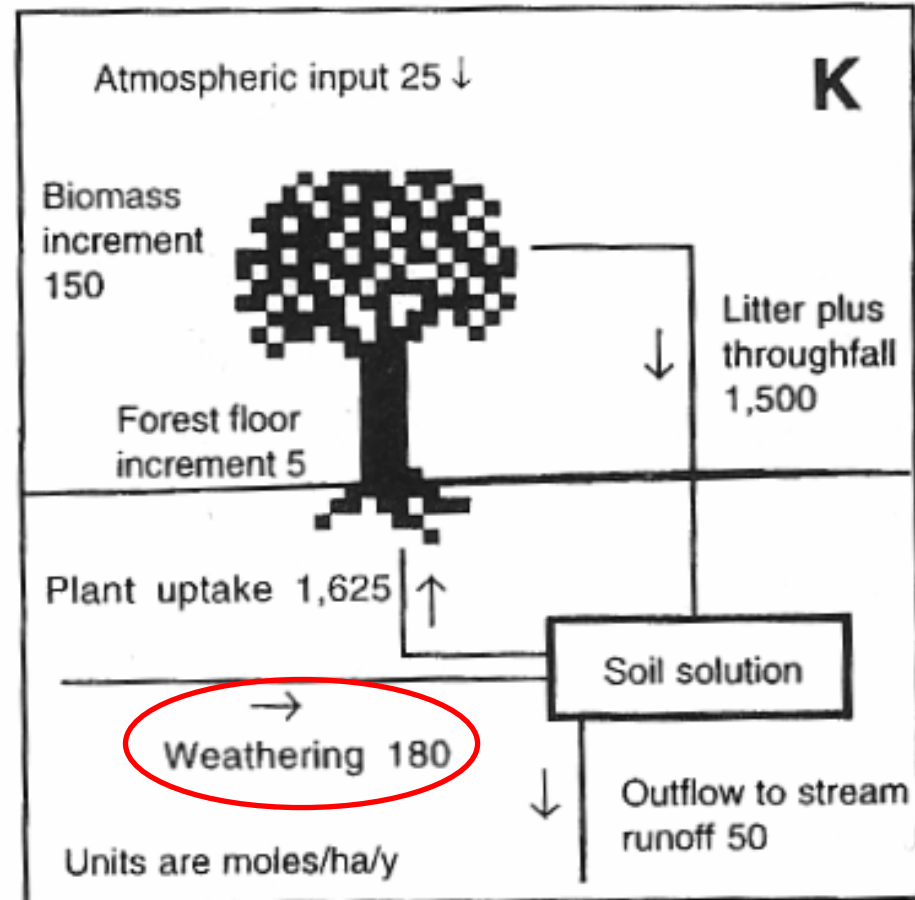
**Table 9.5** Distribution of carbonate species as a function of pH at 20°C

pH	Carbonic Acid	Bicarbonate Ion	Carbonate Ion
2.00	99.99%	0.01%	
3.00	99.96%	0.04%	
4.00	99.6%	0.4%	
5.00	96.0%	4.0%	
6.00	70.6%	29.4%	
6.38	50.0%	50.0%	
7.00	5.2%	94.8%	
8.00	2.3%	97.7%	
9.00		96.0%	4.0%
10.00		70.6%	29.4%
10.38		50.0%	50.0%
11.00		5.2%	94.8%
12.00		2.3%	97.7%
13.00		0.2%	99.8%

# Calcium and potassium fluxes at the Hubbard Brook Experimental Watershed



(a)



(b)

- Why do people lime their soil?

In order to add back  $\text{CaCO}_3$  or  $(\text{Ca},\text{Mg})\text{CO}_3$  since the soil has become too acidic (which moss likes).

- Where does the Ca, Mg go?

Trees use this as essential nutrients (Ca, K, ) in through their root systems and excretes  $2\text{H}^+$  → promotes acidity.

- In the long run, all the Ca and K in the leaves will fall to the ground and dissolve and put the Ca and K back into the soil again. But with farming, or raking, etc., this process is not allowed.



## Typical Concentrations of Major Ions in Continental and Marine Rainfall (in mg/l)

Ion	Continental Rain	Marine and Coastal Rain
$\text{Na}^+$	0.2–1	1–5
$\text{Mg}^{++}$	0.05–0.5	0.4–1.5
$\text{K}^+$	0.1–0.5 <sup>a</sup>	0.2–0.6
$\text{Ca}^{++}$	0.2–4 <sup>a</sup>	0.2–1.5
$\text{NH}_4^+$	0.1–0.5 <sup>b</sup>	0.01–0.05
$\text{H}^+$	pH = 4–6	pH = 5–6
$\text{Cl}^-$	0.2–2	1–10
$\text{SO}_4^{--}$	1–3 <sup>a,b</sup>	1–3
$\text{NO}_3^-$	0.4–1.3 <sup>b</sup>	0.1–0.5

<sup>a</sup>In remote continental areas:  $\text{K}^+ = 0.02 - 0.07$ ;  $\text{Ca}^{++} = 0.02 - 0.20$ ;  $\text{SO}_4^{--} = 0.2 - 0.8$ .

<sup>b</sup>In polluted areas:  $\text{NH}_4^+ = 1 - 2$ ;  $\text{SO}_4^{--} = 3 - 8$ ;  $\text{NO}_3^- = 1 - 3$ .

**Table 9.4 Carbonate equilibria constants at 1 atm pressure**

Temperature °C	$K_{\text{CO}_2}$	$K_{\text{H}_2\text{CO}_3}$	$K_{\text{HCO}_3^-}$	$K_{\text{CaCO}_3}$ (cal.)	$K_{\text{CaCO}_3}$ (arag.)
0	$10^{-1.11}$	$10^{-6.58}$	$10^{-10.63}$	$10^{-8.38}$	$10^{-8.22}$
5	$10^{-1.19}$	$10^{-6.52}$	$10^{-10.55}$	$10^{-8.39}$	$10^{-8.24}$
10	$10^{-1.27}$	$10^{-6.46}$	$10^{-10.49}$	$10^{-8.41}$	$10^{-8.26}$
15	$10^{-1.34}$	$10^{-6.42}$	$10^{-10.43}$	$10^{-8.43}$	$10^{-8.28}$
20	$10^{-1.41}$	$10^{-6.38}$	$10^{-10.38}$	$10^{-8.45}$	$10^{-8.31}$
25	$10^{-1.47}$	$10^{-6.35}$	$10^{-10.33}$	$10^{-8.48}$	$10^{-8.34}$
30	$10^{-1.52}$	$10^{-6.33}$	$10^{-10.29}$	$10^{-8.51}$	$10^{-8.37}$
45	$10^{-1.67}$	$10^{-6.29}$	$10^{-10.20}$	$10^{-8.62}$	$10^{-8.49}$
60	$10^{-1.78}$	$10^{-6.29}$	$10^{-10.14}$	$10^{-8.76}$	$10^{-8.64}$

Source: L. N. Plummer & E. Busenberg, *Geochemica et Cosmochemica Acta* 46 (1982):1011-1040.

Fetter, *Applied Hydrogeology* 4<sup>th</sup> Edition