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DECUS NO.	FOCAL8-113
TITLE	ACID-BASE TITRATION CURVES
AUTHOR	Edgar H. Nagel
COMPANY	Valparaiso University Valparaiso, Indiana
DATE	July 9, 1970
SOURCE LANGUAGE	FOCAL 1969

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## ACID-BASE TITRATION CURVES

DECUS Program Library Write-up

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The program is initiated by reading in the program tape under FOCAL control and typing GO followed by a carriage return. After a heading is typed, the program requests the number of replaceable hydrogens. [The program was tested with up to five replaceable hydrogens.] The successive  $pK_a$  values are entered when requested by the program. The plot is generated after entry of the last  $pK_a$ .

The exact equations describing a general titration curve are derived from relationships given in Laitinen [1]. A charge balance on the system, assuming NaOH is the titrant is

$$[Na^+] + [H^+] = [OH^-] + \sum_{i=1}^N i[H_{[N-i]}A^{-i}] \quad [1]$$

where N is the number of replaceable hydrogens. The concentration of Na is

$$[Na^+] = CV/[V + V_0] \quad [2]$$

C and V are the concentration of NaOH and the volume of NaOH added.  $V_0$  is the initial volume of acid. The  $[OH^-]$  in Equation [1] can be replaced by

$$[OH^-] = K_w/[H^+] \quad [3]$$

where  $K_w$  is the autoprotolysis constant for water.



From Laitinen [1]

$$[H_{[N-i]}A^{-i}] = \alpha_i C_{H_N A} \quad [4]$$

where

$$\alpha_i = \frac{[H^+]^{[N-i]} \prod_{j=0}^{i-1} K_j}{\sum_{k=0}^N [H^+]^{[N-k]} \prod_{j=0}^{k-1} K_j} \quad [4a]$$

$K_0 = 1.00$  and  $K_i$  are the successive stepwise dissociation constants for the acid.

$C_{H_N A} = C_0 V_0 / [V + V_0]$  = the total analytical concentration of acid.  $C_0$  is the initial concentration of acid.

Substitution of Equations [2], [3] and [4] in Equation [1] yields

$$0 = \frac{V + V_0}{C_0 V_0} [K_w / [H^+] - [H^+]] - CV / [C_0 V_0] + \sum_{i=1}^N i \alpha_i \quad [5]$$

Defining  $CV / [C_0 V_0] = \phi$  = fraction titrated and substituting in Equation [5] for both  $CV / [C_0 V_0]$  and  $V$  one obtains

$$0 = \frac{C + \phi C_0}{C C_0} [K_w / [H^+] - [H^+]] - \phi + \sum_{i=1}^N i \alpha_i \quad [6]$$



If one intends to plot pH as a function of  $\phi$ , Equation [6] must be solved for  $H^+$  for various values of  $\phi$ . This is a rather formidable task since even for one replaceable hydrogen on a weak acid, Equation [6] yields a cubic in  $H^+$  [c.f. Fleck [2]]. However, an accurate solution of the equation is not required. All that is required is to determine if the solution for a particular value of  $\phi$  is between two scale values of pH. That is for a plot to the nearest 0.25 pH units, is the pH between  $pH_1$  and  $pH_1 + 0.25$ ?

Equations [4a] and [6] are used in the calculations. The program starts with  $\phi = pH = 0$  and calculates the value of the expression on the right hand side of Equation [6]. The pH is then incremented by 0.25 and the right hand side is evaluated again. This process is continued until there is a change in sign. The pH is then plotted and the value of  $\phi$  is incremented by 0.05. A new point is calculated and plotted and the process continues until the value of  $\phi$  is greater than  $N + 0.1$ .

References:

1. Laitinen, H. A., "Chemical Analysis" Chapter 3, 1960. McGraw-Hill, New York.
2. Fleck, George M., "Equilibria in Solution" Chapter 4, 1966. Holt Rinehart and Winston, New York.





Variable Table

A[I]	Dummy Variable
B[I]	Dummy Variable
C[I]	$i \alpha_i$
H	$H^+$
J	pH
N	number of replaceable hydrogens
P	fraction titrated

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01.10 T !"TITRATION WITH 0.1M REAGENTS. PH VERSUS FRAC. TITR."
01.20 A !"NUMBER OF REPLACEABLE HYDROGENS ="N
01.40 S A(1)=1;F I=2,N+1;D 8
01.41 T !"      0      1      2      3      4      5      6      7      8"
01.42 T "      9      10     11     12     13",!
01.60 S J=0;S Q=-.01
01.80 F P=0,.05,N+.1;D 3

03.10 I (P-Q)3.3,3.2,3.2
03.20 T %4.02,"      "P,"*",#;S Q=Q+.5;D 5
03.30 S H=FEXP(-J*2.303);S J=J+.25
03.40 S S=0;F I=1,N+1;S R(I)=A(I)*H+(N+1-I);S S=S+R(I)
03.50 F I=2,N+1;S C(I-1)=(1-1)*R(I)/S
03.60 S S=0;F I=1,N;S S=S+C(I)
03.70 S Y=S-P+(.1+P*.1)*(1.E-14/H-H)/.01
03.80 I (.26-J)3.9;S T=FSGN(Y);G 3.3
03.90 I (T+FSGN(Y))3.3,3.91,3.3
03.91 S J=J-.5;F I=0,.25,J+2;T " "
03.92 T "0",!;T "      "*" ,#

04.10 Q

05.10 T "      *.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*.....*"
05.20 T ".....*.....*.....*.....",#

08.10 A !"PKA"K;S K=FEXP(-K*2.303);T !
08.20 S A(I)=A(I-1)*K
*
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TITRATION WITH 0.1M REAGENTS. PH VERSUS FRAC. TITR.  
NUMBER OF REPLACEABLE HYDROGENS =:2  
PKA:3.5

PKA:7.5



