

Contents

1	Introduction	1
1.1	Air and atmosphere – a multiphase and multi-component system	1
1.2	Chemistry and environmental research	6
1.3	A historical perspective of air, water and chemistry	12
1.3.1	From Antiquity to the Renaissance: Before the discovery of the air composition	13
1.3.2	Discovery of the composition of air and water	16
1.3.3	Discovery of trace substances in air	21
1.3.4	Dust and acid rain: Air pollution	23
2	Chemical evolution	27
2.1	The pre-biological period	29
2.1.1	Origin of elements, molecules and the earth	29
2.1.2	Origin of organic bonded carbon	38
2.1.2.1	What is organic chemistry?	39
2.1.2.2	Origin of carbon	40
2.1.3	Origin of nitrogen	46
2.2	Evolution of the atmosphere	49
2.2.1	Degassing of the earth: The formation of the atmosphere	49
2.2.1.1	Volcanic gases	50
2.2.1.2	Gases occluded and produced from rocks	52
2.2.1.3	The pre-biological primitive atmosphere	57
2.2.2	Biosphere-atmosphere interaction	63
2.2.2.1	Origin of life	63
2.2.2.2	The rise of oxygen and ozone: Biogeochemical evolution	67
2.2.2.3	Photosynthesis: Non-equilibrium redox processes	74
2.2.2.4	A short history of understanding the process of photosynthesis	81
2.2.2.5	The carbon and oxygen pools and global cycling	85
2.2.2.6	Life limits by catastrophic events: Mass extinctions	93
2.3	The earth's energy sources	94
2.3.1	Solar radiation	95
2.3.1.1	The sun and its radiation output	95
2.3.1.2	Solar radiation transfer through the atmosphere	96
2.3.2	Absorption and emission of light	102
2.3.2.1	Absorption (<i>Lambert-Beer law</i>)	103
2.3.2.2	Emission (<i>Planck's law</i> and <i>Stefan-Boltzmann's law</i>)	104
2.3.3	Terrestrial radiation and radiation budget	106
2.3.4	Geothermal energy	108
2.3.5	Renewable energy	110
2.3.5.1	Wind energy	110
2.3.5.2	Water energy	111
2.3.5.3	Bioenergy	111

2.3.5.4	Comparison among earth's energy sources – potential for humans	114
2.3.6	Abiogenic versus biogenic formation of “fossil fuels”	116
2.3.7	The energy problem	117
2.4	The biosphere and global biogeochemical cycles	118
2.4.1	Biosphere and the noosphere	119
2.4.2	Biogeochemical cycling: The principles	124
2.4.3	Global biogeochemical cycles	128
2.4.3.1	Nitrogen	129
2.4.3.2	Sulfur	134
2.4.3.3	Chlorine	138
2.4.4	What is the role of life in the earth's climate system?	143
2.5	The hydrosphere and the global water cycle	146
2.5.1	Water: Physical and chemical properties	148
2.5.1.1	Water structure: Hydrogen bond	148
2.5.1.2	Water as solvent	151
2.5.1.3	Water properties in relation to the climate system	152
2.5.2	Hydrological cycle and the climate system	154
2.5.3	Atmospheric water	157
2.5.3.1	Water vapor.	158
2.5.3.2	Clouds	160
2.5.3.3	Haze, mist and fog	163
2.5.3.4	Precipitation	164
2.5.4	Dew, frost, rime, and interception	167
2.5.5	Soil water and groundwater: Chemical weathering	169
2.5.6	Surface water: Rivers and lakes	170
2.5.7	The oceans.	171
2.6	Sources of atmospheric constituents.	173
2.6.1	Source characteristics	173
2.6.2	Biogenic sources	175
2.6.2.1	Vegetation and microorganisms (soils and waters)	175
2.6.2.2	Animals	178
2.6.3	The ocean as source	179
2.6.4	Geogenic sources	182
2.6.4.1	Soil dust.	183
2.6.4.2	Sea salt.	185
2.6.4.3	Volcanism and emanation	186
2.6.4.4	Lightning.	192
2.6.4.5	Biomass burning	193
2.6.4.6	Atmospheric chemistry: Secondary sources.	199
2.6.5	Anthropogenic sources	202
2.6.5.1	Fossil fuel use: The energy problem	203
2.6.5.2	Agriculture: The food problem	210
2.6.5.3	Land-use change and deforestation: The population problem	213
2.7	Emission of atmospheric substances.	217
2.7.1	Nitrogen compounds	221
2.7.1.1	Ammonia (NH ₃).	221
2.7.1.2	Dinitrogen monoxide (N ₂ O)	224
2.7.1.3	Nitrogen monoxide (NO).	225
2.7.2	Sulfur compounds	227

2.7.2.1	Sulfur dioxide (SO ₂)	227
2.7.2.2	Reduced sulfur compounds (H ₂ S, DMS, COS)	230
2.7.3	Carbon compounds	233
2.7.3.1	Carbon dioxide (CO ₂)	233
2.7.3.2	Carbon monoxide (CO)	235
2.7.3.3	Methane (CH ₄)	236
2.7.3.4	Non-methane volatile organic compounds (NMVOC)	238
2.8	The human problem: A changing earth system	242
2.8.1	Human historic perspective: From the past into the future	244
2.8.2	Changing the chemical composition of the atmosphere: Variations and trends	250
2.8.2.1	Fundamentals: Why concentration fluctuates?	252
2.8.2.2	SO ₂ , NO ₂ and dust: Classic for local to regional up-scaling	255
2.8.2.3	CO ₂ : The fossil fuel era challenge	259
2.8.2.4	CH ₄ and N ₂ O: Permanent agricultural associates	276
2.8.2.5	Halogenated organic compounds: Sit out problem	280
2.8.2.6	CO: The biomass burning problem	283
2.8.2.7	O ₃ : Locally believed to be solved but regional unsolved	284
2.8.2.8	H ₂ O ₂ : Mysterious	294
2.8.2.9	OH: The key oxidant	297
2.8.2.10	H ₂ : Light but problematic	299
2.8.2.11	Volatile acid and OH precursor: HNO ₂	301
2.8.2.12	Sea salt degassing: HCl and the role of HNO ₃	308
2.8.3	The carbon problem: Out of balance	310
2.8.3.1	The carbon budget	311
2.8.3.2	The CO ₂ -carbonate system	316
2.8.3.3	Atmospheric CO ₂ residence time	326
2.8.4	Climate change mitigation: Global sustainable chemistry	328
2.8.4.1	Growth and steady state economy	330
2.8.4.2	Direct air capture	333
2.8.4.3	The carbon economy: CO ₂ cycling	335
2.8.4.4	Solar fuels: Carbon as a material and energy carrier	341
3	Climate, climate change and the climate system	347
3.1	Climate and climatology: A historical perspective	349
3.2	Climate and the climate system	354
3.3	Climate change and variability	357
3.4	Climate and chemistry	369
3.4.1	Chemical weather and climate	369
3.4.2	Precipitation chemistry climatology	372
3.4.3	Cloud chemistry climatology	380
4	Fundamentals of physico-chemistry in the climate system	393
4.1	Physical basics	394
4.1.1	Properties of gases: The ideal gas	395
4.1.1.1	Fluid characteristics	395
4.1.1.2	The gas laws	396
4.1.1.3	Mean free path and number of collisions between molecules	400
4.1.1.4	Viscosity	403
4.1.1.5	Diffusion	404

4.1.2	Units for chemical abundance: Concentrations and mixing ratios	405
4.1.3	Thermodynamics: The equations of state	409
4.1.4	Equilibrium	414
4.1.5	Steady state	416
4.2	Chemical reactions	419
4.2.1	Kinetics: The reaction rate constant	420
4.2.2	Radicals	427
4.2.3	Photochemistry: The photolysis rate constant	428
4.2.4	Oxidation and reduction (the redox processes)	433
4.2.5	Acid–base reactions: Acidity and alkalinity	438
4.2.5.1	Environmental relevance of acidity	438
4.2.5.2	Acid–base theories	439
4.2.5.3	Atmospheric acidity	443
4.2.5.4	pH averaging	449
4.3	Multiphase processes	450
4.3.1	Aerosols, clouds and precipitation: The climate multiphase system	453
4.3.2	Gas-liquid equilibrium (<i>Henry</i> equilibrium)	455
4.3.3	Properties of droplets	457
4.3.3.1	Vapor pressure change: The <i>Kelvin</i> equation	458
4.3.3.2	Surface tension and surface active substances	460
4.3.3.3	Vapor pressure lowering: <i>Raoult's</i> law	461
4.3.3.4	Freezing point depression	463
4.3.4	Gas-to-particle formation: Homogeneous nucleation	464
4.3.5	Atmospheric aerosols and properties of aerosol particles	469
4.3.6	Formation of cloud droplets: Heterogeneous nucleation	476
4.3.7	Scavenging: Accommodation, adsorption and reaction (mass transfer)	477
4.3.7.1	Mass transfer: General remarks	477
4.3.7.2	Adsorption	483
4.3.7.3	Surface chemistry: Kinetics of heterogeneous chemical reaction	484
4.3.7.4	Mass transfer into the droplet with chemical reaction	486
4.4	Atmospheric removal: Deposition processes	490
4.4.1	Dry deposition	491
4.4.2	Wet deposition	497
4.5	Characteristic times: Residence time, lifetime and turnover time	499
5	Substances and chemical reactions in the climate system	507
5.1	Introduction	507
5.1.1	The principles of chemistry in the climate system	507
5.1.2	Substances in the climate system	510
5.2	Hydrogen	513
5.3	Oxygen	514
5.3.1	Atomic, molecular oxygen and ozone: O, O ₂ and O ₃ (O _x)	516
5.3.2	Reactive oxygen species I: OH, HO ₂ and H ₂ O ₂ (O _x H _y species)	519
5.3.2.1	Atmosphere, free of trace species	519
5.3.2.2	Atmosphere with trace species	522
5.3.3	Reactive oxygen species II: RO, RO ₂ and ROOH	526
5.3.4	Water and the hydrated electron: H ₂ O and H ₂ O ^{•−} (e _{aq} ^{•−})	529

5.3.5	Aqueous phase oxygen chemistry	539
5.3.5.1	From dioxygen to peroxide (O_2 chemistry)	540
5.3.5.2	From ozone to hydroxyl (O_3 and O_1 chemistry)	547
5.3.6	Multiphase oxygen chemistry	552
5.3.6.1	Historical remarks	553
5.3.6.2	Hydrogen peroxide	555
5.3.6.3	Ozone	558
5.3.7	Stratospheric oxygen chemistry	560
5.4	Nitrogen	564
5.4.1	Thermolysis of nitrogen: Formation of NO	565
5.4.2	Ammonia (NH_3)	566
5.4.3	Dinitrogen monoxide (N_2O)	567
5.4.4	Nitrogen monoxide (NO), nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) and oxo acids	568
5.4.4.1	Gas phase chemistry	568
5.4.4.2	Aqueous phase and interfacial chemistry	572
5.4.5	Organic nitrogen compounds	585
5.4.5.1	Amines and nitriles	586
5.4.5.2	Organic NO_x compounds	589
5.5	Sulfur	590
5.5.1	Sulfides (H_2S , CS_2 , COS, RSH): Reduced sulfur	592
5.5.2	Oxides and oxoacids: SO_2 , H_2SO_3 , SO_3 , H_2SO_4	597
5.5.2.1	Gas phase SO_2 oxidation	597
5.5.2.2	Aqueous sulfur chemistry	598
5.5.3	Multiphase sulfur chemistry	605
5.6	Phosphorus	607
5.7	Carbon	610
5.7.1	Elemental carbon and soot	611
5.7.2	C_1 chemistry: CO, CO_2 , CH_4 , CH_3OH , HCHO, HCOOH	613
5.7.3	C_2 chemistry: C_2H_2 , C_2H_4 , C_2H_6 , C_2H_5OH , CH_3CHO , CH_3COOH , (COOH) $_2$	618
5.7.4	Alkenes, ketones and aromatic compounds	624
5.7.5	Is the atmospheric fate of complex organic compounds predictable?	626
5.8	Halogens (Cl, Br, F and I)	627
5.8.1	Gas phase chemistry	629
5.8.2	Aqueous and interfacial chemistry	631
5.9	Other elements	635
6	Final remark	637
Appendix		641
A.1	List of acronyms and abbreviations found in literature	641
A.2	Quantities, units and some useful numerical values	643
A.3	The geological timescale	650
A.4	Biography	651

References	663
Author index	755
Subject index	759