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FactSage Macro Processing

A tool for process simulations

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October 2018 (FactSage 7.2)

Contents

FactSage Macro Processing??

- Repetitive calculations → automate them with a macro
- Enables to run automatically Equilib files as background job
- Write each step as a series of commands and functions stored in a macro file (Visual basic)
- Macro processor will repeat the commands:

  Load Equilib file → calculate the equilibrium → save results → go to next Equilib files

Useful to treat large and lengthy calculations

CREATING AND RUNNING A MACRO FILE

Before creating a macro file… (1/4)

1. **Create Equilib files**
2. **Save them in a directory**

Example 1 Equi1.dat

400 g Fe_2O_3

400 g CaO

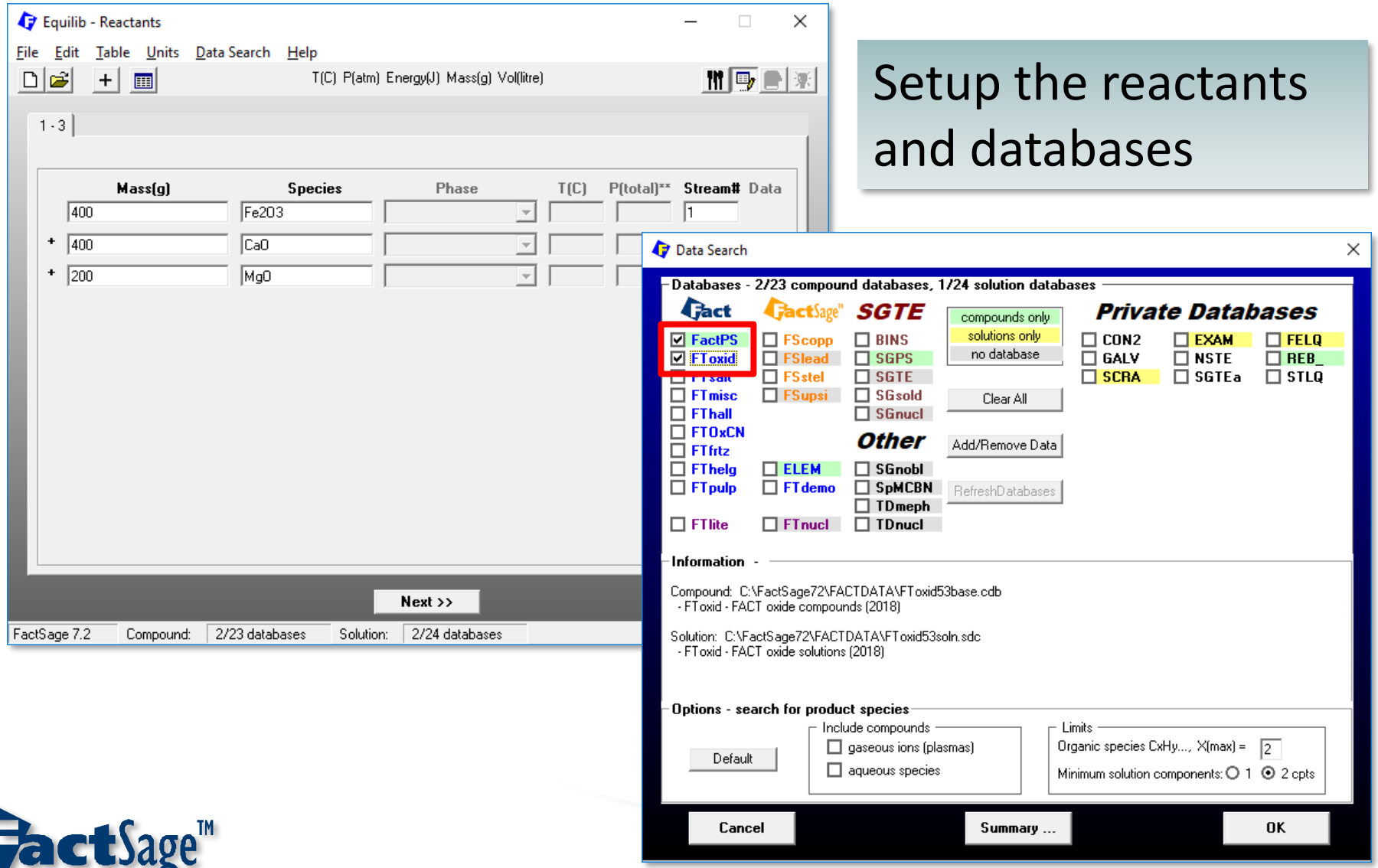
200 g MgO

Databases: FactPS and FToxid

T = 1500 °C

Save in C:\Example\

Before creating a macro file… (2/4)



Setup the reactants and databases

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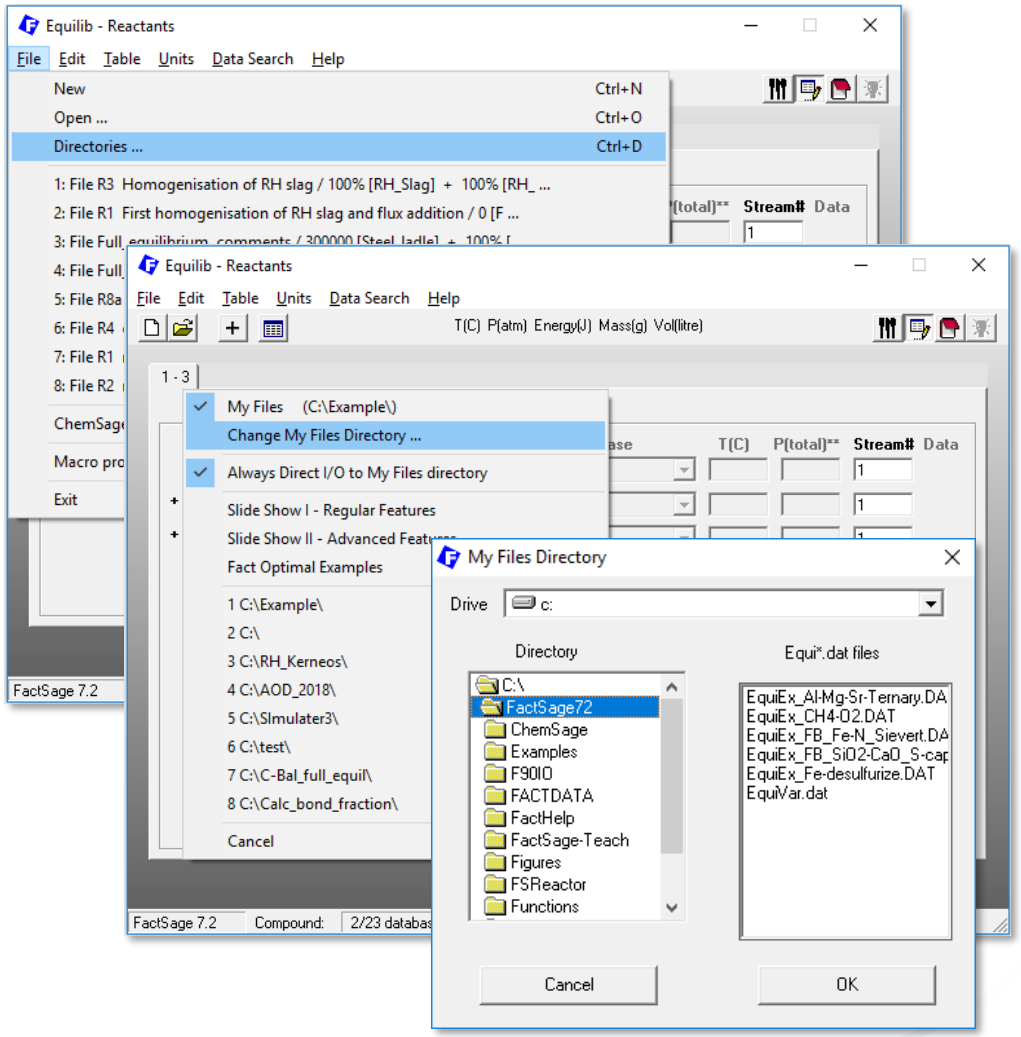
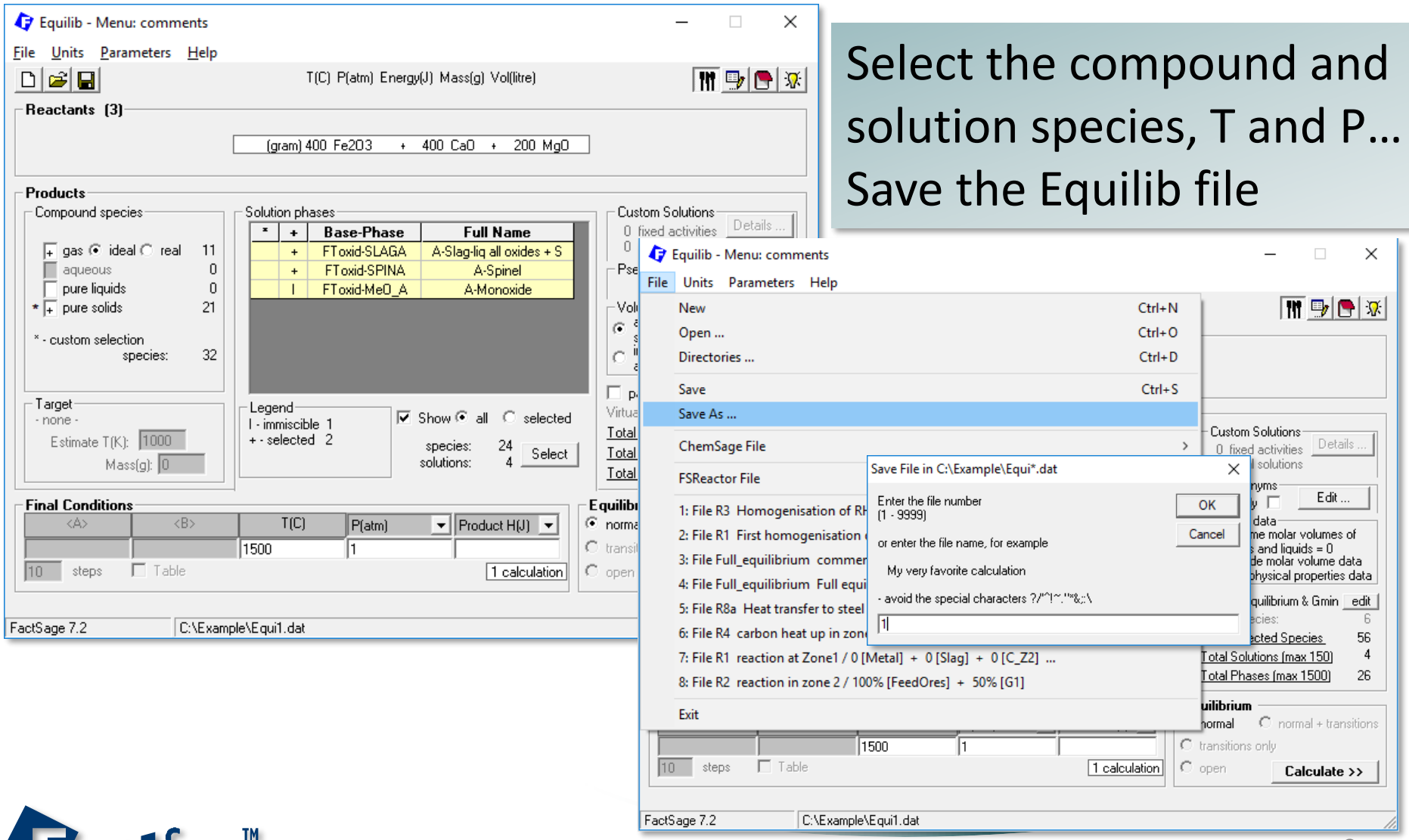
Before creating a macro file… (3/4)

- FactSage macro processing looks for Equilib and stream files in the defined *My Files* directory
- The default *My Files* directory when installing FactSage is C:\FactSage\



Before creating a macro file… (4/4)



Select the compound and solution species, T and P…
Save the Equilib file

Creating a (very) simple macro file

- ***.mac** file, editable with text editor (Notepad, Notepad++)
- 3 principal commands:
  - OPEN
  - CALC
  - SAVE

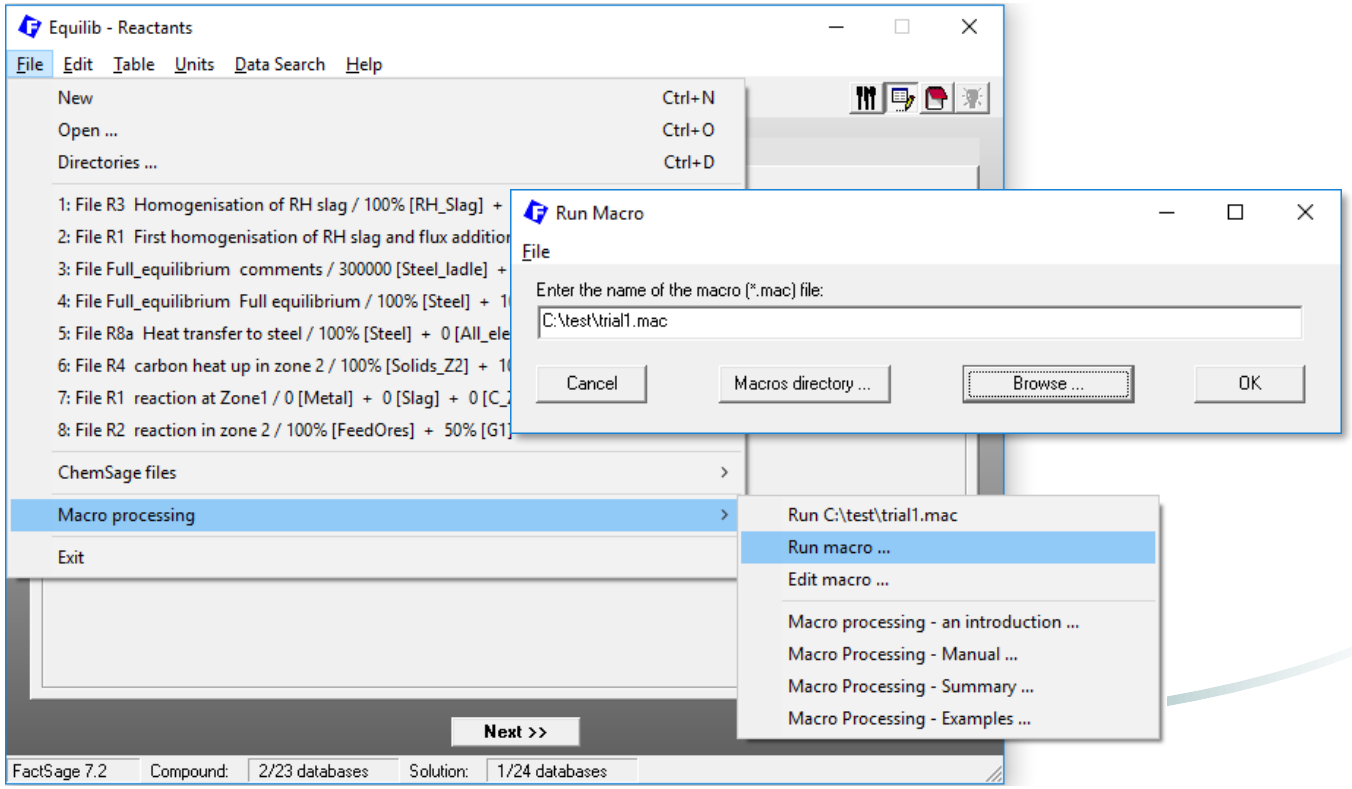
Example 1:

```
// Example 1 *** using simple commands

OPEN C:\Example\Equi1.dat
CALC
SAVE C:\Example\Equi1.dat

END
```

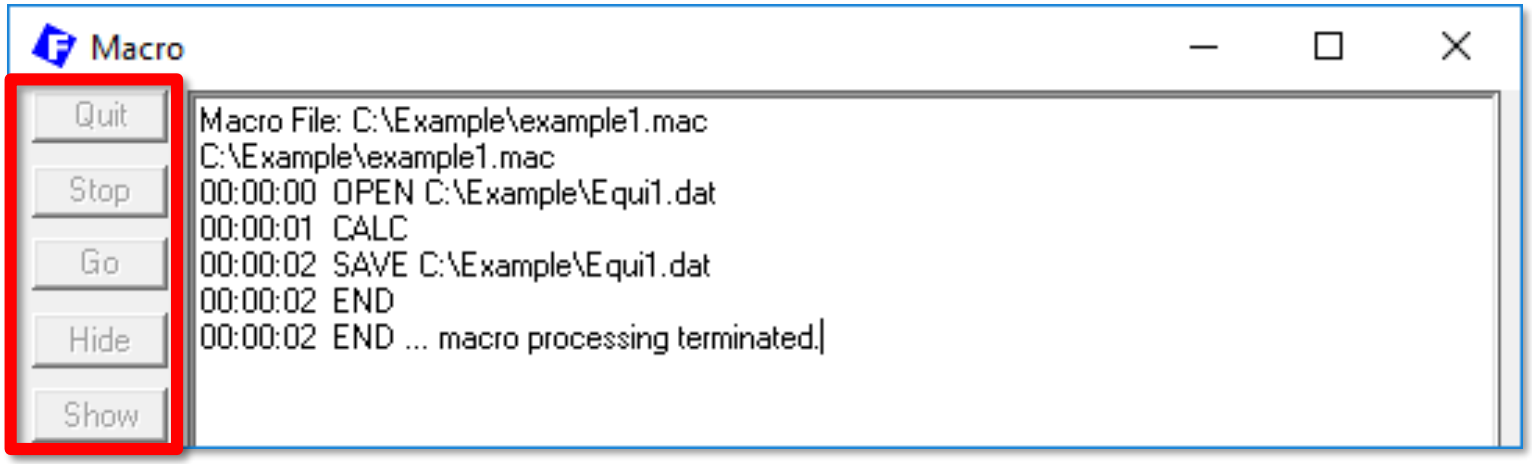
If different from FactSage folder, the path has to be specified at all times

Running the macro file

- Go to the Equilib reactants window
- File → Macro processing → Run macro → Browse → Locate your file and open → ok



Macro status window



- *Quit*: Terminate the execution of the macro
- *Stop*: Pause Macro processing
- When on pause: - *Stop* will terminate processing
  - *Go* will resume processing
- *Hide*: Hide the Equilib windows during processing
- *Show*: Show the Equilib windows during processing

MACRO VARIABLES AND FUNCTIONS

Macro variables

3 types of macro variables:

1. **%variable** denotes a user-defined variable – **can** be modified by the user
2. **$variable** denotes a system variable (built-in) – **cannot** be modified by the user
3. **$variable$** denotes a computed or defined thermochemical variable (built-in) – **cannot** be modified by the user

1. User variables - %var

- Identified by '**%**' at the beginning of the name
- The variable type (string, word, number) is not specified
- 9 pre-declared entities (built-in notations): %1 to %9
- %Dir refers to the default FactSage directory (can be reset)
- User variables besides %1 to %9 and %Dir must be declared by the **VARIABLE** statement (only once, unique and non-ambiguous name, best practice is to list all the variables at the beginning of the code)
- Value allocation to %var using '=' with space before and after

1. User variables - %var

- %var can be a one-dimensional array, declared as %var(*n*), where *n* is the array size

```
VARIABLE %temp(5)

%temp(1) = 10
%temp(2) = 100
%temp(3:5) = 20 30 40
```

- %var can be a 2-dimensional array, declared as %var(*m*,*n*), where *m* is the number of columns and *n* the number of rows (*n* > 1)

```
VARIABLE %temp(3,2)

%temp(1,1) = 10
%temp(1,2) = 20
%temp(2,1) = 30
%temp(2,2) = 40
%temp(3,1) = 50
%temp(3,2) = 60
```

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2. System variables - $var

- Identified by '**$**' at the beginning of the name
- Denotes system values (time, date, etc.)
- Cannot be modified by the user

3. Thermochemical variables - var

- Identified by '**$**' at the beginning AND end of the name
- System dependent variables that are defined by the Equilib file or generated during the Equilib calculation:
  - Extensive property values
  - Name, mass, mole, wt.%, activity, etc. for:
    - Elements in solution
    - Product species
    - Solutions
- Cannot be modified by the user

3. Thermochemical variables - var

- Important Thermochemical $variables$:

$variable$	Meaning
E_ET	Temperature
E_DH	Delta enthalpy (ΔH)
E_ei_N	Element **i** name
E_ei_mgk	Total grams of element **i** in solution **k**
E_mNk	Solution **k** name

$variable$	Meaning
E_sNj	Species **j** name
E_sgj	Species **j** grams
E_sWj	Species **j** wt%
E_smj	Species **j** moles
E_saj	Species **j** activity
E_mgk	Total grams of solution **k**

- **i**, **j** and **k** are code numbers from the Equilib result file

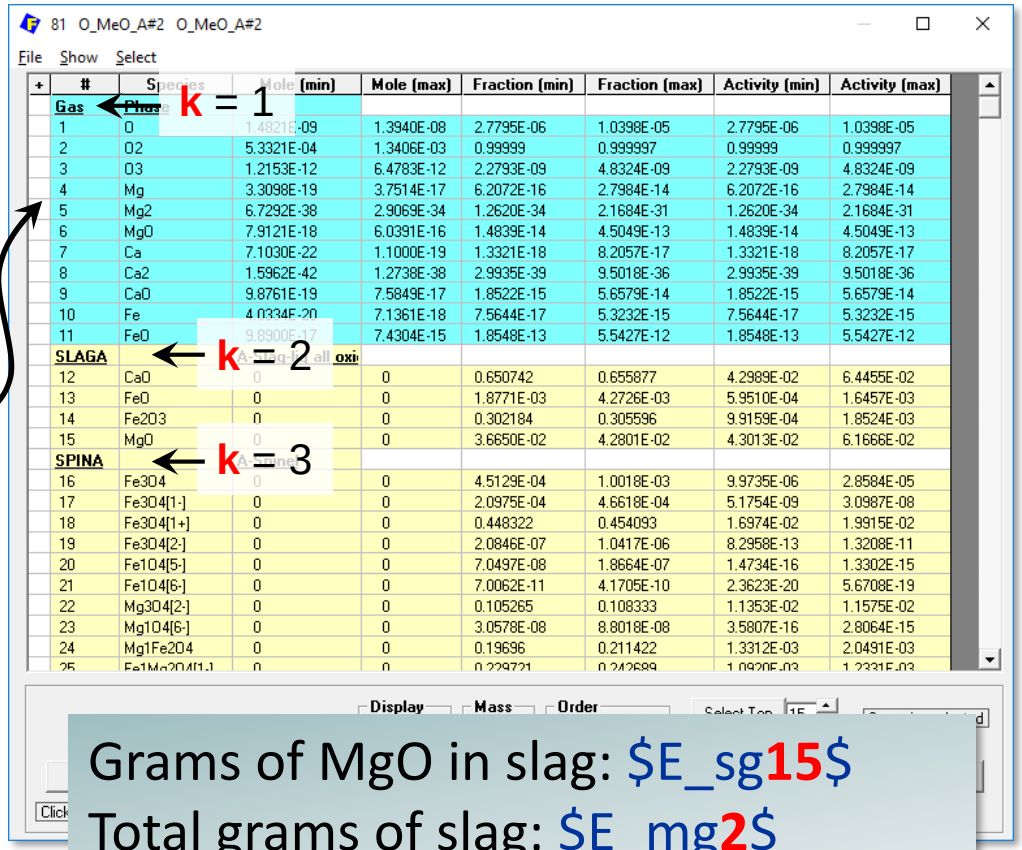
3. Thermochemical variables - var

How to find the code numbers??

Make a dummy calculation at two temperatures

Use Output → Plot → Plot results… → Select species

- Species (**j**): use the same numbers as in the table
- Solutions (**k**): Gas is always 1, then follow the order in the table

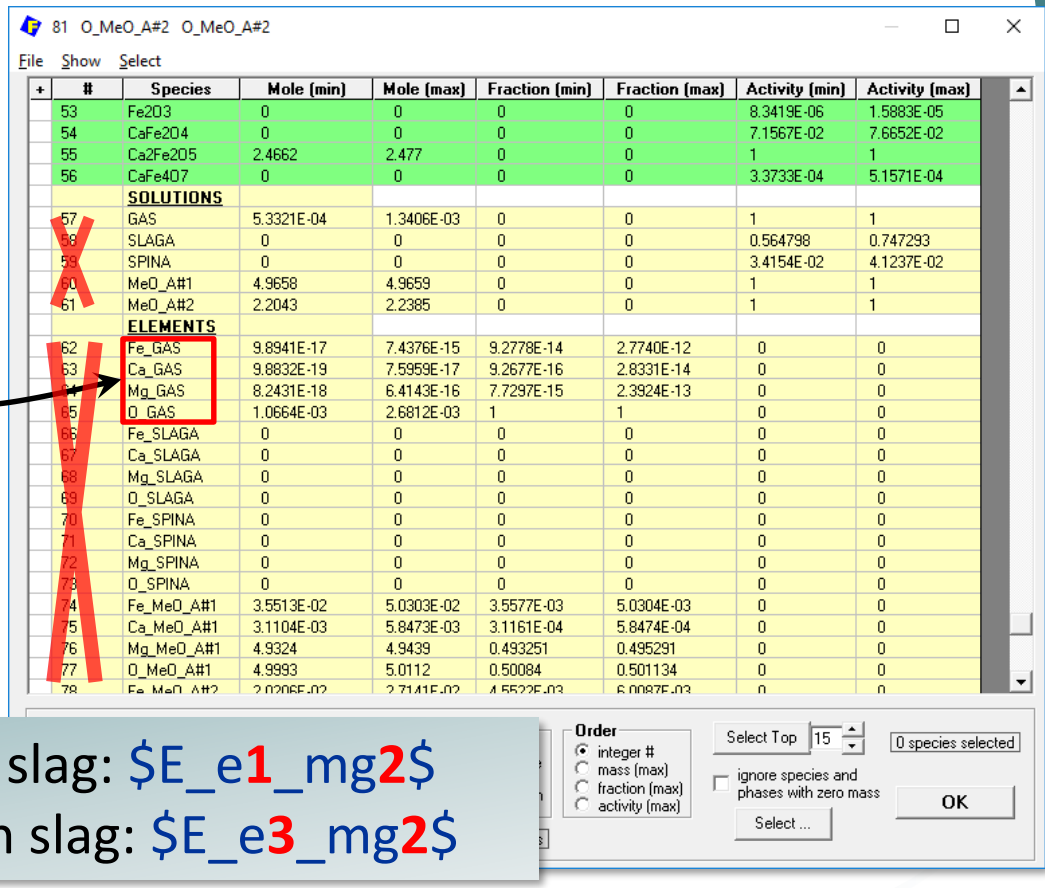


#	Species	Mole (min)	Mole (max)	Fraction (min)	Fraction (max)	Activity (min)	Activity (max)
Gas							
1	O	1.4821E-09	1.3940E-08	2.7795E-06	1.0398E-05	2.7795E-06	1.0398E-05
2	O2	5.3321E-04	1.3406E-03	0.99999	0.999997	0.99999	0.999997
3	O3	1.2153E-12	6.4783E-12	2.2793E-09	4.8324E-09	2.2793E-09	4.8324E-09
4	Mg	3.3098E-19	3.7514E-17	6.2072E-16	2.7984E-14	6.2072E-16	2.7984E-14
5	Mg2	6.7292E-38	2.9069E-34	1.2620E-34	2.1684E-31	1.2620E-34	2.1684E-31
6	MgO	7.9121E-18	6.0391E-16	1.4839E-14	4.5049E-13	1.4839E-14	4.5049E-13
7	Ca	7.1030E-22	1.1000E-19	1.3321E-18	8.2057E-17	1.3321E-18	8.2057E-17
8	Ca2	1.5962E-42	1.2738E-38	2.9935E-39	9.5018E-36	2.9935E-39	9.5018E-36
9	CaO	9.8761E-19	7.5849E-17	1.8522E-15	5.6579E-14	1.8522E-15	5.6579E-14
10	Fe	4.0334E-20	7.1361E-18	7.5644E-17	5.3232E-15	7.5644E-17	5.3232E-15
11	FeO	9.8900E-17	7.4304E-15	1.8548E-13	5.5427E-12	1.8548E-13	5.5427E-12
SLAGA							
12	CaO	0	0	0.650742	0.655877	4.2989E-02	6.4455E-02
13	FeO	0	0	1.8771E-03	4.2726E-03	5.9510E-04	1.6457E-03
14	Fe2O3	0	0	0.302184	0.305596	9.9159E-04	1.8524E-03
15	MgO	0	0	3.6650E-02	4.2801E-02	4.3013E-02	6.1666E-02
SPINA							
16	Fe3O4	0	0	4.5129E-04	1.0018E-03	9.9735E-06	2.8584E-05
17	Fe3O4[1-]	0	0	2.0975E-04	4.6618E-04	5.1754E-09	3.0987E-08
18	Fe3O4[1+]	0	0	0.448322	0.454093	1.6974E-02	1.9915E-02
19	Fe3O4[2-]	0	0	2.0846E-07	1.0417E-06	8.2958E-13	1.3208E-11
20	Fe1O4[5-]	0	0	7.0497E-08	1.8664E-07	1.4734E-16	1.3302E-15
21	Fe1O4[6-]	0	0	7.0062E-11	4.1705E-10	2.3623E-20	5.6708E-19
22	Mg3O4[2-]	0	0	0.105265	0.108333	1.1353E-02	1.1575E-02
23	Mg1O4[6-]	0	0	3.0578E-08	8.8018E-08	3.5807E-16	2.8064E-15
24	Mg1Fe2O4	0	0	0.19696	0.211422	1.3312E-03	2.0491E-03
25	Fe1Mg2O4[1-]	0	0	0.229721	0.242689	1.0920E-03	1.2331E-03

3. Thermochemical variables - var

How to find the code numbers??

Code number for elements (**i**): follow the order given in table



#	Species	Mole (min)	Mole (max)	Fraction (min)	Fraction (max)	Activity (min)	Activity (max)
53	Fe2O3	0	0	0	0	8.3419E-06	1.5883E-05
54	CaFe2O4	0	0	0	0	7.1567E-02	7.6652E-02
55	Ca2Fe2O5	2.4662	2.477	0	0	1	1
56	CaFe4O7	0	0	0	0	3.3733E-04	5.1571E-04
	SOLUTIONS						
57	GAS	5.3321E-04	1.3406E-03	0	0	1	1
58	SLAGA	0	0	0	0	0.564798	0.747293
59	SPINA	0	0	0	0	3.4154E-02	4.1237E-02
60	MeO_A#1	4.9658	4.9659	0	0	1	1
61	MeO_A#2	2.2043	2.2385	0	0	1	1
	ELEMENTS						
62	Fe_GAS	9.8941E-17	7.4376E-15	9.2778E-14	2.7740E-12	0	0
63	Ca_GAS	9.8832E-19	7.5959E-17	9.2677E-16	2.8331E-14	0	0
64	Mg_GAS	8.2431E-18	6.4143E-16	7.7297E-15	2.3924E-13	0	0
65	O_GAS	1.0664E-03	2.6812E-03	1	1	0	0
66	Fe_SLAGA	0	0	0	0	0	0
67	Ca_SLAGA	0	0	0	0	0	0
68	Mg_SLAGA	0	0	0	0	0	0
69	O_SLAGA	0	0	0	0	0	0
70	Fe_SPINA	0	0	0	0	0	0
71	Ca_SPINA	0	0	0	0	0	0
72	Mg_SPINA	0	0	0	0	0	0
73	O_SPINA	0	0	0	0	0	0
74	Fe_MeO_A#1	3.5513E-02	5.0303E-02	3.5577E-03	5.0304E-03	0	0
75	Ca_MeO_A#1	3.1104E-03	5.8473E-03	3.1161E-04	5.8474E-04	0	0
76	Mg_MeO_A#1	4.9324	4.9439	0.493251	0.495291	0	0
77	O_MeO_A#1	4.9993	5.0112	0.50084	0.501134	0	0
78	Fe_MeO_A#2	2.0206E-02	2.7141E-02	4.5522E-03	6.0987E-03	0	0

Grams of Fe in slag: E_e1_mg2

Grams of Mg in slag: E_e3_mg2

3. Thermochemical variables - var

- Thermochemical variables related to species are built like 1D-arrays: concise writing to copy a range of values

```
// Copying specific species values efficiently:
%results(1:10) = $E_sW(1:10)$

// Same as:
%1 = 1 TO 10
  %results(%1) = $E_sW(%1)$
%1 LOOP

// Other Example of efficient copying:
%results(24:71) = $E_sg(21:68)$

// Copying the activities of ALL species in the system:
%activity() = $E_sa()$        // brackets are optional
```

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Macro functions - $function()

- Identified by '**$**' at the beginning of the name and argument in-between **()** at the end of the name
- Several system functions (with arguments) for manipulating strings, formatting output and mathematical functions (built-in)
- Most useful function: $MATH() → calculate mathematical expressions including the operators + - / * ^ and other common mathematical functions
- Arguments can be numbers, %variables or thermochemical $variable$
- Other functions of interests: $MIN(), $MAX(), $ABS()

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User-defined $functions()

- In addition to the pre-existing functions in FactSage macro processing, the user can define its own function(s) that can be used in the macro code
- The function is a subprogram that receives some arguments from the main body, performs some tasks with those arguments and returns a single value to the main body

User-defined $functions()

User-defined functions are defined at the **end of the macro**:

```
FUNCTIONS
    FUNCTION $Myfunction1(%arg1 %arg2 …)
            (macro lines)
             $Myfunction1 = ‘value’
    END FUNCTION
    FUNCTION $Myfunction2(%arg1 %arg2 …)
            (macro lines)
             $Myfunction2 = ‘value’
    END FUNCTION
    …
END FUNCTIONS
```

User-defined $functions()

User-defined functions are called in the main body identically to built-in functions:

```
VARIABLE %arg1 %arg2

%2 = 10
%3 = 3

%1 = $Myfun(%2 %3)
%1 = $Myfun(%2 %2)

FUNCTIONS
    FUNCTION $Myfun(%arg1 %arg2)
        $Myfun = $MATH(%arg1*%arg2)
    END FUNCTION
END FUNCTIONS
```

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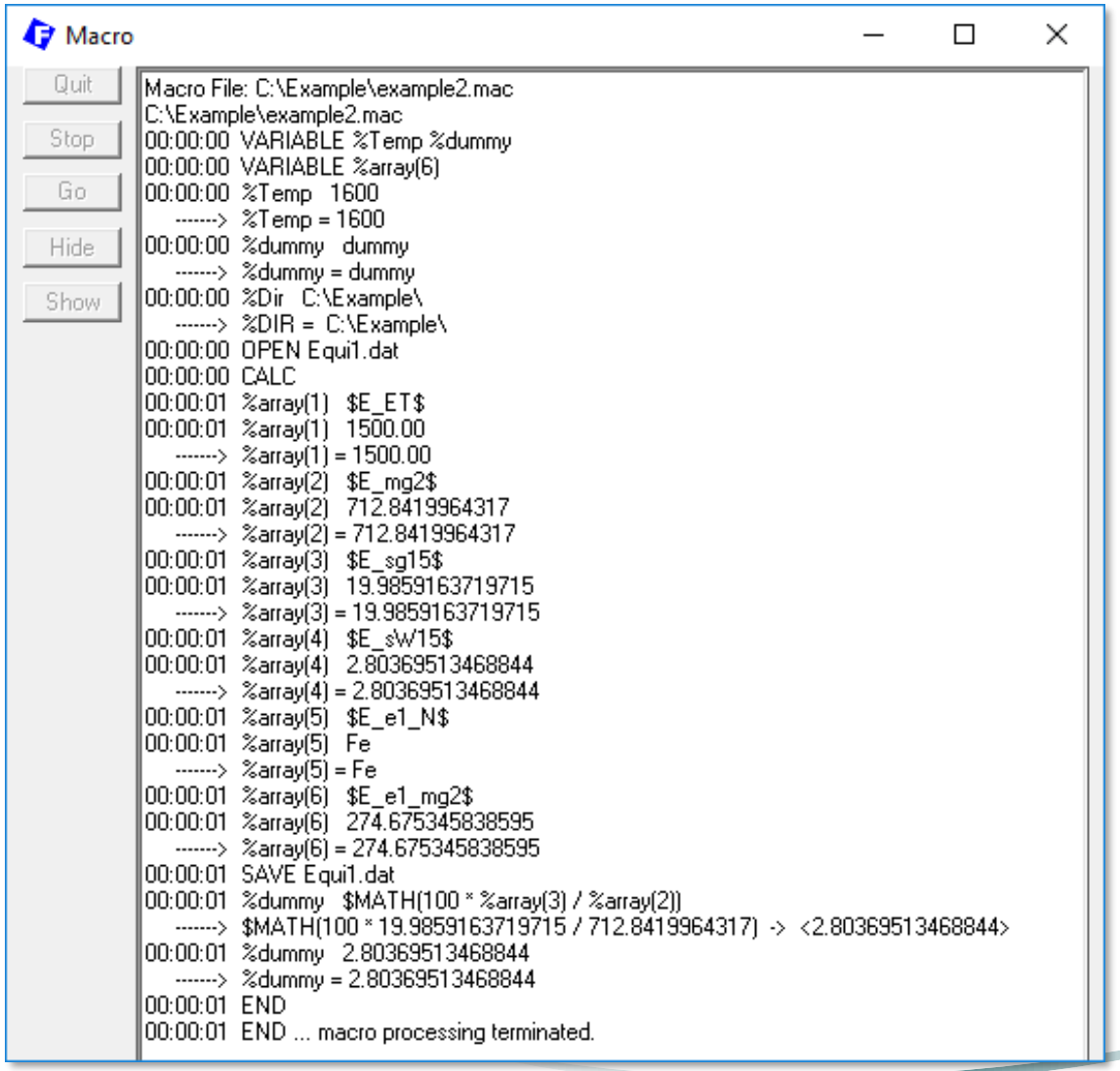
Ex. 2: Macro variables and functions

example2.mac

```
// Note: text starting with // is ignored by the macro processor

// Example 2 *** using variables
// Marie-Aline Van Ende, FactSage 7.2, October 2018

VARIABLE %Temp %dummy           // declaration of the variables. each of them must be separated by a space
VARIABLE %array(6)              // declaration of an array of size 6.
                                // you can have more than one line of variable statement

%Temp = 1600                    // There must be a space before and after '='
%dummy = dummy                  // There must be a space before and after '='
%Dir = C:\Example\              // reset of default FactSage directory

OPEN Equil.dat
CALC
%array(1) = $E_ET$              // store the Equilib temeprature in the 1st position of the array
%array(2) = $E_mg2$             // store the total grams of slag in the 2nd position of the array
%array(3) = $E_sg15$            // store the grams of MgO in slag in the 3rd position of the array
%array(4) = $E_sW15$            // store the wt% of MgO in slag in the 4th position of the array
%array(5) = $E_el_N$            // store the name of element 1 (Fe) in the 5th position of the array
%array(6) = $E_el_mg2$          // store the grams of element 1 (FE) in the 6th position of the array
SAVE Equil.dat

%dummy = $MATH(100 * %array(3) / %array(2))         // calculate the wt% of MgO in slag

END
```

Ex. 2: Macro variables and functions



MACRO COMMANDS

1. STEP and LOOP
2. Simple and branched program flow
3. Macro commands for Excel Worksheets (OLE)
4. Macro thermochemical commands SET and SAVE

1. STEP and LOOP

- STEP:

  %var STEP value: adds ‘value’ to %var (default 1)

  (Identical to %var = $MATH(%var + value))

- LOOP:

  %var = 'FirstValue' TO 'LastValue' STEP 'IncrementValue'

  (macro lines)

  %var LOOP // End of loop.

  If %var ≠ 'LastValue’, then go back to beginning, increment %var and repeat.

  A LOOP is always executed at least once ('FirstValue').

  If STEP is undefined, '1' is assumed.

  Nested LOOPs are permitted.

2. Simple program flow

- MARK ‘word’
  - A marker used with GOTO ‘word’
  - MARK statement cannot be inside IF… nor in a LOOP
- GOTO ‘word’

  Jump to the line MARK ‘word’

  The jump can go forward or backward in the code

  Can be used to exit a loop before its normal termination
  (! Not clean termination: the loop variable cannot be reused in another loop!)

2. Simple program flow

- END and GOTO END
  - END indicates the end of processing. All commands after END are ignored.
  - GOTO END will create a jump to the line END, i.e. quit.
- IF … GOTO

  IF %var oper ‘value’ GOTO END

  oper is a logical operator: =, <, >, <>, <=, >=

  If statement true, then go to line END

  Multiple operators AND or OR are permitted

2. Branched program flow

- IF … THEN … ELSEIF … ENDIF

  IF %var1 oper 'value' THEN

  (macro lines)

  ELSEIF %var2 oper 'value' THEN <optional>

  (macro lines)

  ELSE <optional>

  (macro lines)

  ENDIF

  oper is a logical operator: =, <, >, <>, <=, >=

  Multiple operators AND or OR are permitted

  Nested IFs are **NOT** permitted.

2. Branched program flow

- DOCASE … CASE … ENDDO

```
DOCASE %var
CASE ‘value1’ [‘value2’ …]          <to specify specific value(s)>
      (macro lines)
CASE ‘value1’ TO ‘value2’           <to specify a range of values>
      (macro lines)
CASE IS ‘operator’ ‘value1’         <to specify a condition>
      (macro lines)
CASE ELSE                           <if none of the above are true>
      (macro lines)
ENDDO
```

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3. Linking with Excel worksheet via OLE

- Object Linking and Embedding (OLE) with Excel worksheet
- Up to 9 simultaneous dynamic links can be created (OLE1 to OLE9)
- Enables to read and write in Excel worksheets at any time during macro processing
- Ideal to read inputs and store intermediate Equilib calculation results

3. Linking with Excel worksheet via OLE

Principal OLE commands:

- Create an OLE link (n = 1 to 9)
  - OLEn Excelfilename.xls(x) sheetname (**.xls** and **.xlsx**)
- Clear all cells or range in the worksheet
  - OLEn CELLS ALL CLEAR - OLEn RANGE A1:C5 CLEAR
- Read a variable value from cell
  - %var OLEn READ B5 or %var OLEn READ R5C2
- Write variable value to cell
  - %var OLEn WRITE B5 or %var OLEn WRITE R5C2

3. Linking with Excel worksheet via OLE

Read from and write to Excel using 1D and 2D variables:

```
VARIABLE %vector(4) %array(2,2)

// Fill the array, one entry at a time:
   %vector(1) OLE1 READ A1
   %vector(2) OLE1 READ B1
   ...

// Fill the arrays at once:
   %vector OLE1 READ A1     // reading a 1D array
                            // same as: %vector OLE1 READ A1:D1

   %array OLE1 READ A1:B2   // reading a 2D array (table)
                            // NOT the same as: %array OLE1 READ A1

// Write the arrays at once:
   %vector OLE1 WRITE H1    //  Writing a 1D array
                            // same as: %vector OLE1 WRITE H1:K1

   %array OLE1 WRITE E1:F2  // writing a 2D array (table)
                            // NOT the same as: %array OLE1 WRITE E1
```

4. Macro thermochemical command - SET

- SET command is used to redefine input reactants, initial amounts, final conditions that are initially defined in the equilib file
- Most important SET commands:
  - SET REACTANT 'reactant#' MASS 'value' (T,P)
  - SET FINAL T 'value' (or other intensive property)
  - SET ESTIMATE T 'value'

4. Macro thermochemical command - SET

- Additional SET commands (use with caution!!):
  - SET REACTANT DEL ‘chemical formula’
  - SET REACTANT DEL [stream_name]
  - SET REACTANT DEL ‘reactant#’
  - SET REACTANT ADD ‘chemical formula’
  - SET REACTANT ADD [stream_name]
  - SET SELECT GAS + (or + - !, COMPOUND or SOLUTION)
  - SET SELECT SOLUTION I FToxid-SLAGA (or + -)
  - SET SELECT SOLID + FToxid (or GAS, COMPOUND, SOLUTION)
  - SET SELECT SOLID + FToxid MgO

4. Macro thermochemical command - SAVE

Command SAVE:

- Save results file in various format, Excel files, etc.
- Save computed phases in a stream file:
  - SAVE Mixt*Name*.DAT GAS
  - SAVE Mixt*Name*.DAT SOLIDS
  - SAVE Mixt*Name*.DAT SOLUTIONS
  - SAVE Mixt*Name*.DAT FTmisc-FeLQ
  - SAVE Mixt*Name*.DAT FToxid-SLAGA#1

    Where *Name* is the stream name

Other interesting macro commands

Command	Signification
//	Beginning of comment, only in macro file
REM	User comment printed in macro status window
HIDE	Hide Equilib window
SHOW	Show Equilib window
PAUSE	Pause macro processing

Subroutines (PROCEDURES)

- A subroutine is a sequence of code that is designed to perform a specific task
- Subroutines are useful to structure the code, rendering it more efficient and easier to maintain
- In FactSage macro processing, the user can define its own subroutine(s), called procedure
- A procedure is called in the main body by the CALL statement followed by the name of the procedure and arguments, if any, between brackets:

```
CALL Mysubroutine1(%1 %2)
```

Subroutines (PROCEDURES)

- Procedures are defined at the end of the macro code:

```
PROCEDURES
    PROCEDURE Mysubroutine1(%arg1 %arg2 …)
            (macro lines)
    END PROCEDURE
     PROCEDURE Mysubroutine2(%arg1 %arg2 …)
            (macro lines)
    END PROCEDURE
    …
END PROCEDURES
```

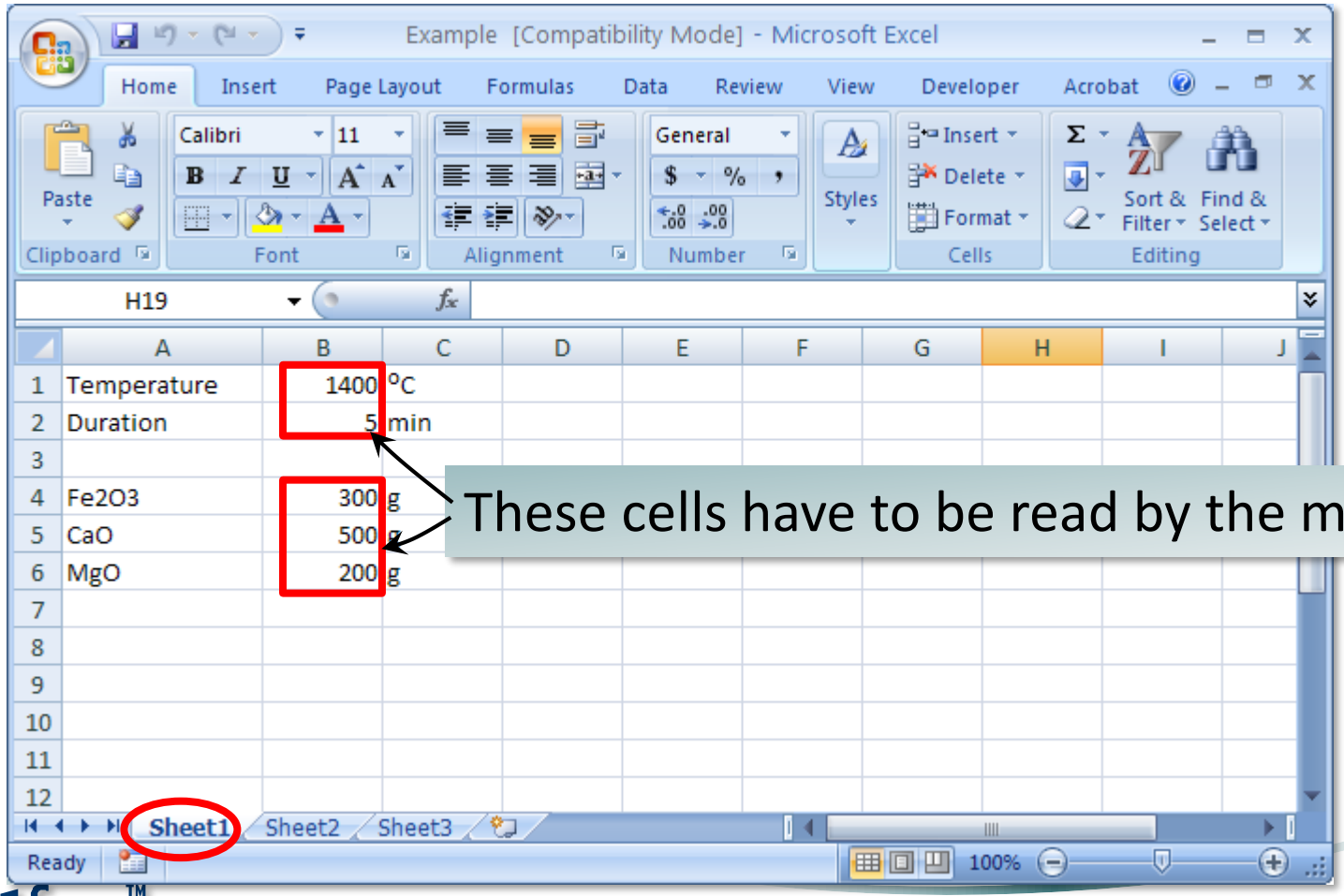
Example 3

- Equi1.dat
- Process of heating the feed by 50 °C/min
- Initial temperature, feed composition and process duration stored in Excel file (Example.xls)

- We want to know and print out the amount of slag and amount of Fe in slag with temperature in Excel sheet

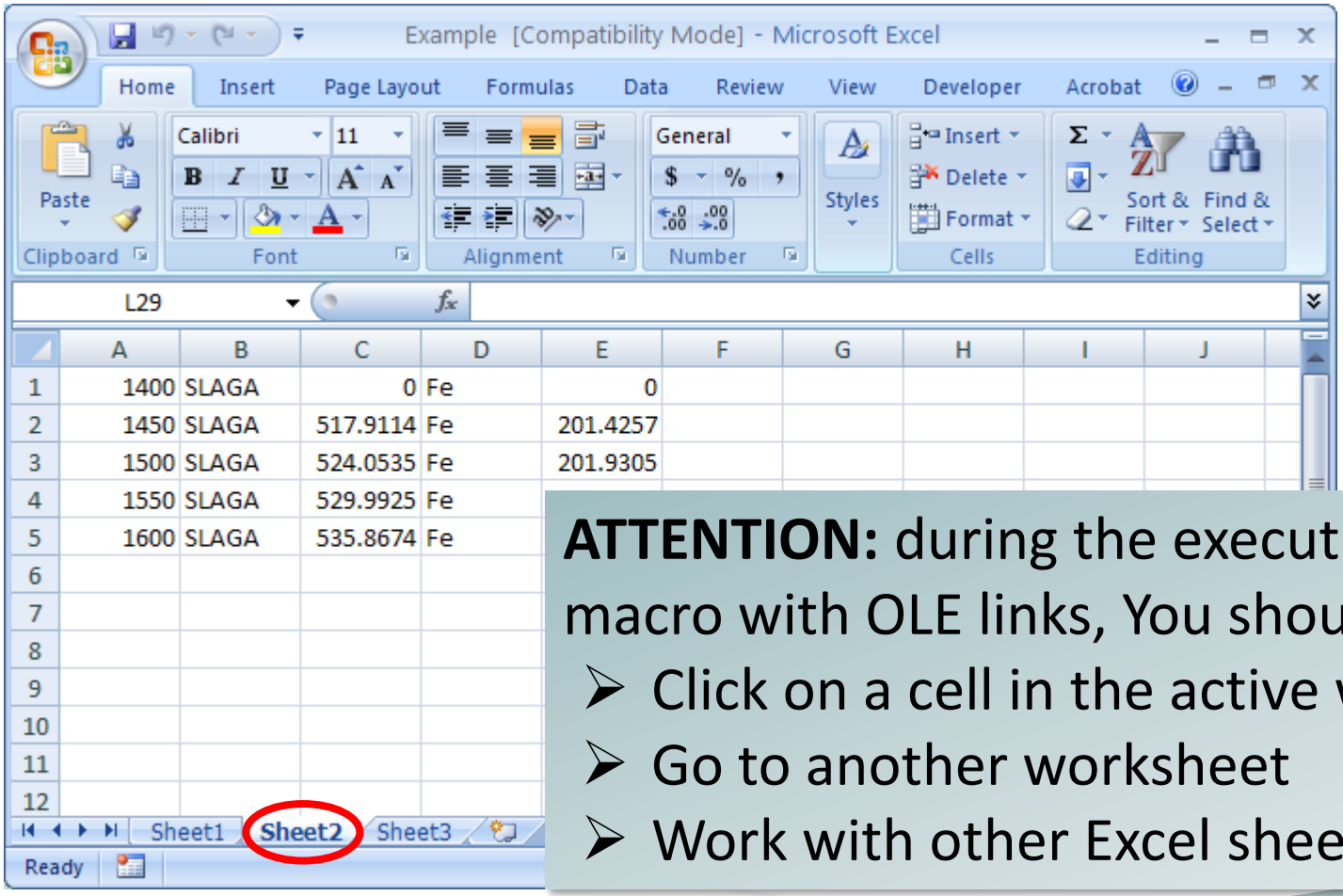
Example 3

Create Example.xls and enter the inputs in ‘Sheet1’



Example 3

Results are written in ‘Sheet2’



	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1	1400	SLAGA	0	Fe	0					
2	1450	SLAGA	517.9114	Fe	201.4257					
3	1500	SLAGA	524.0535	Fe	201.9305					
4	1550	SLAGA	529.9925	Fe						
5	1600	SLAGA	535.8674	Fe						
6										
7										
8										
9										
10										
11										
12										

ATTENTION: during the execution of a macro with OLE links, You should not:

- Click on a cell in the active worksheet
- Go to another worksheet
- Work with other Excel sheets

FactSage™

For more information…

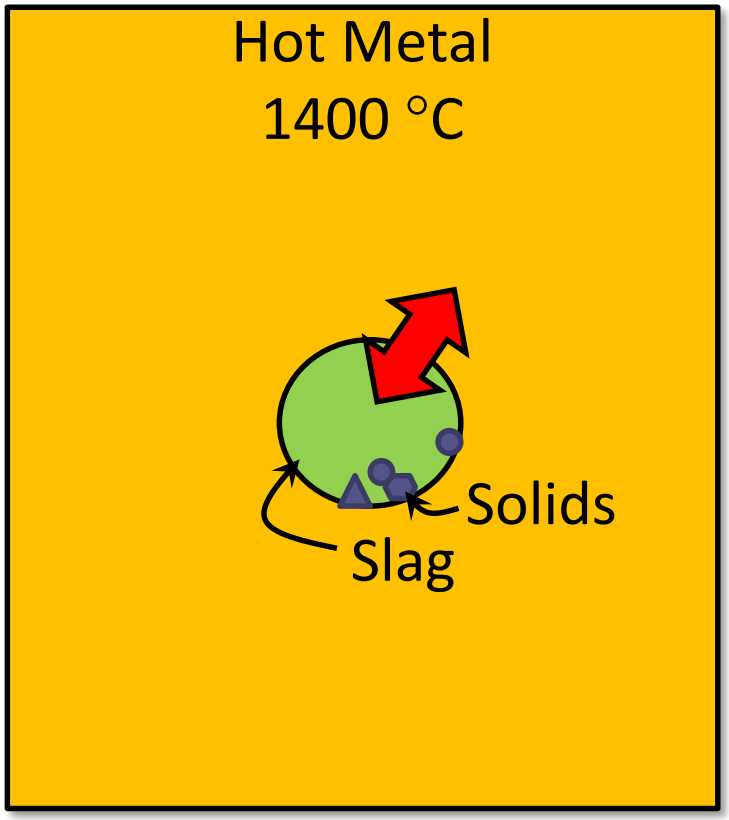
- Help and more information on commands, functions, macro thermochemical variables, etc. can be found in the macro processing manual (FS window → info)
- Don't hesitate to contact me:

vanende@snu.ac.kr

Building 30 room 205

APPLICATION TO DESULFURIZATION OF HOT METAL

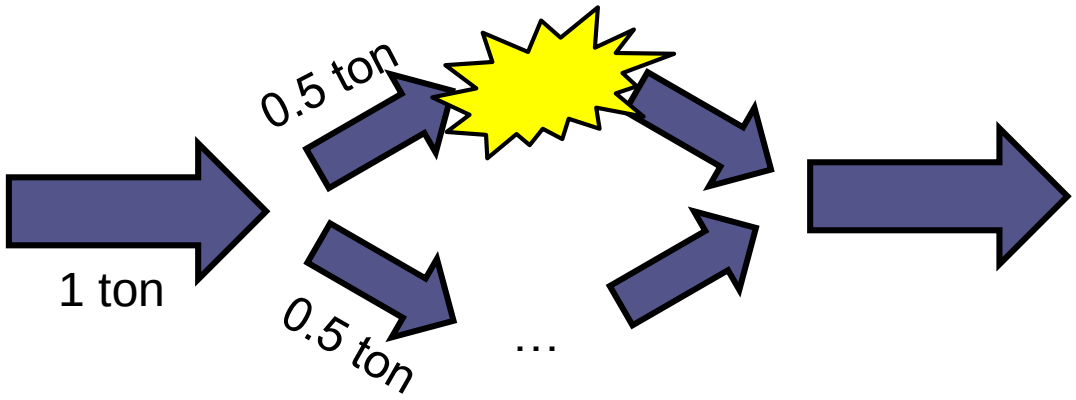
Desulfurization of hot metal



- X g Hot metal, simplified to the Fe-C-Si-S system
- Y g Slag, simplified to the CaO-SiO_2-Al_2O_3 system
- Hot metal is well mixed
- Slag is well mixed and in equilibrium with solids
- Solids stay in slag
- Constant temperature
- Kinetics on Hot Metal/Slag equilibration

Kinetics vs. equilibrium

- Real process is dictated by kinetics
- Kinetics can be simulated with FactSage by allowing only a portion of the feeds to react



- Finding the suitable proportion of material reacting and non-reacting

Procedure

1. Draw flowsheet
2. Prepare Excel file with input data
3. Prepare Equilib files for initialisation and save the streams. Write the associated macro commands
4. Prepare Equilib files for reactions and save the streams. Write the associated macro commands
5. Organise the Excel file to print the outputs. Write the associated macro commands

Flow sheet of the process