## formation constant

For a mononuclear binary complex, if a central atom (central group) M (the 'metal') and a ligand L have been defined, then in the following expressions  $K_n$  is the stepwise formation constant, and  $\beta_n$  is the cumulative formation constant for the complex ML<sub>n</sub>. They can both be referred to as stability constants (stepwise and cumulative).

 $K_n = K(\mathrm{ML}_{n-1} + \mathrm{L} \rightleftharpoons \mathrm{ML}_n)$ 

 $\beta_n = K(\mathbf{M} + n\mathbf{L} \rightleftharpoons \mathbf{ML}_n)$ 

*Source:* Orange Book, p. 11