## Metals and their Compounds Lecture 8.1

## Stability of Coordination compounds

The formation of coordination complexes is a common reaction of transition metal ions. It usually involves displacement of one ligand by another.

Why should a metal prefer one type of ligand over another?

Part of answer lies in *thermodynamics* i.e. energy and entropy (disorder). Consider the reaction(lab)

$$[Ni(H_2O)_6]^{2+} + 6NH_3 \rightarrow [Ni(NH_3)_6]^{2+} + 6H_2O$$

This proceeds in steps

$$[Ni(H_2O)_6]^{2+} + NH_3 \rightarrow [Ni(H_2O)_5(NH_3)]^{2+} + H_2O$$

$$[Ni(H_2O)_5(NH_3)]^{2+} + NH_3 \rightarrow [Ni(H_2O)_2(NH_3)_2]^{2+} + H_2O$$

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 $[Ni(H_2O)(NH_3)_5]^{2+} + NH_3 \rightarrow [Ni(NH_3)_6]^{2+} + H_2O$ In each step, one Ni-O bond changes for a Ni-N bond.

First question - is Ni-N stronger than Ni-O?