

Chapter 9: Redox Reactions

Date

No.

Oxidation

- 1) loss of e^-
- 2) gain of O
- 3) loss of H

Reduction

- 1) gain of e^-
- 2) loss of O
- 3) gain of H

An oxidising agent induces oxidation in another compound, while the agent is reduced \rightarrow [electron acceptor]

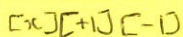
A reducing agent induces reduction in another compound, but in itself is ^{oxidised} reduced [electron donor]

Rules

- 1) In its elemental state (e.g. S_8), the element's oxidation state is zero.
- 2) A monoatomic ion's oxidation state = the charge on it
- 3) Overall charge on a polyatomic ion = the total sum of all oxidation numbers
- 4) Oxygen is always -2 , unless in peroxides (H_2O_2) or superoxides (Na_2O_2). [$\neq -1$]
- 5) Hydrogen is always $+1$, unless in metal hydrides (e.g. LiH), [-1]
- 6) F is always -1

Finding Oxidation State

E.g 1) $\text{CH}_2\text{F}_2 \leftarrow$ H always $+1$, F always -1 , and total charge is 0



let x be o.n. of new atom $\rightarrow x + 2 - 2 = 0$
 $x = 0$

E.g 2) $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_7^{2-}$ O always -2 , and total $= -2$, \therefore let Cr's oxidation number = x

$$2x + (-2)(7) = -2$$

$$2x - 14 = -2$$

$$2x = 12$$

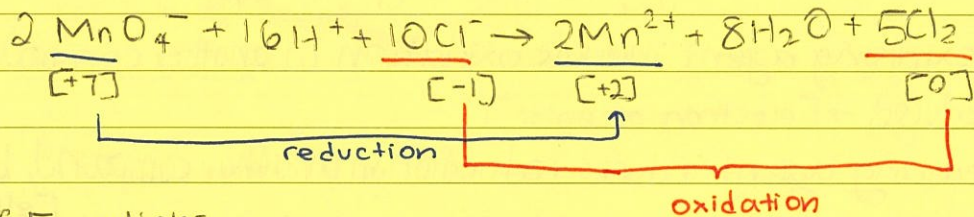
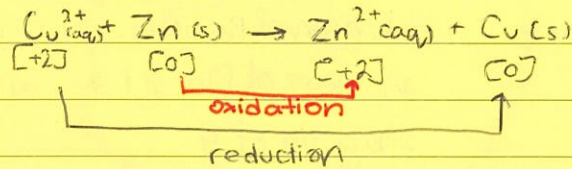
$$x = +6$$

Naming compounds

E.g 1 = CuCl_2 \leftarrow we can see that Cu's oxidation state = $(+2)$
 $[+2] [-1]$ So, we write this compound as Copper (II) sulfide

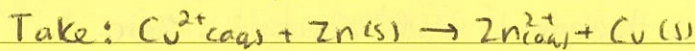
E.g = CoSO_4 \leftarrow Co's oxidation state is $(+2)$ so we write it as **FALCON**
 Cobalt (II) sulfide.

A species oxidised in redox ~~loses~~ decreases in oxidation number, a species reduced decreases in oxidation number.

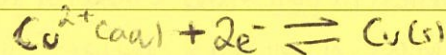
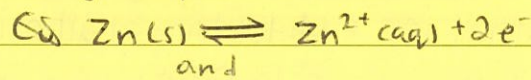


Redox Half Equations

Most of the redox equations we encounter can be split into half equations

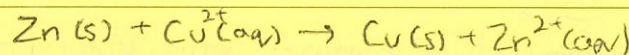


Can't we just split it into



↓ if combined,

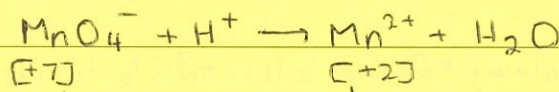
we cancel out the e^- or any other similar quantities



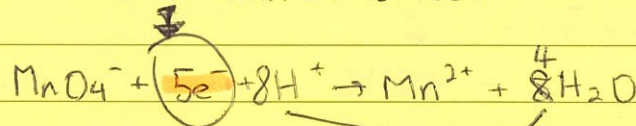
Example 2: A reaction between MnO_4^- and Cr^{2+} to form $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_7^{2-}$ and Mn^{2+}

MnO_4^- must go to Mn^{2+} , which differs by 4 Os

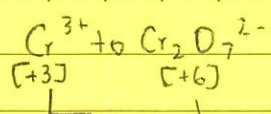
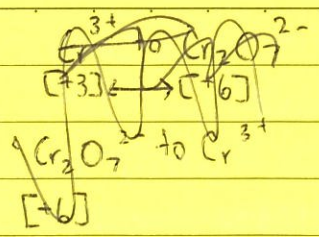
Therefore, we add H^+ ions to RHS so the 4 Os form water



Note that this is a reduction, so we must add the difference in ox numbers to LHS

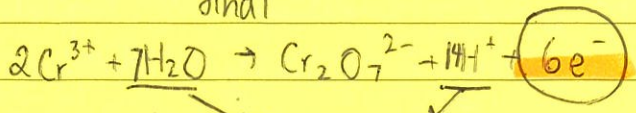


we now balance the H^+ 's and H_2O 's with respect to fixed number of oxygen



↑ ox number, therefore oxidation. so we add the diff in ox to LHS but x2 because 2 Cr atoms in

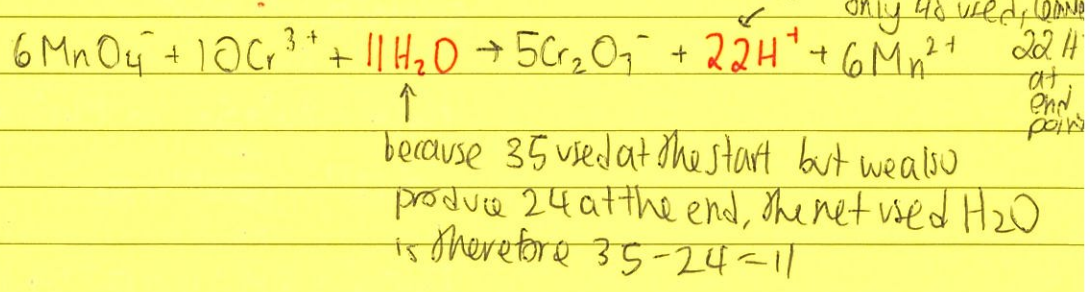
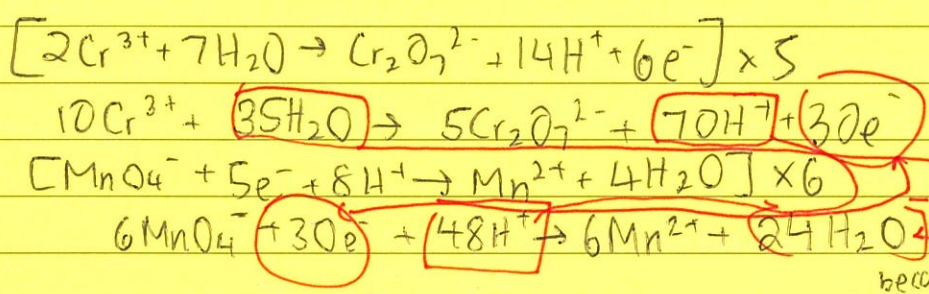
final



H₂O and H⁺ added to give O that is needed for Cr₂O₇²⁻. It is balanced with respect to final no of oxygen atoms

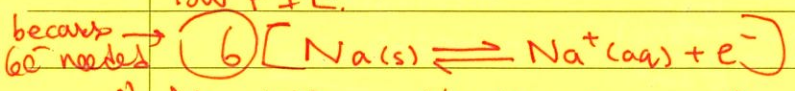
HOLD-UP!

We have 6e⁻ being produced in the oxidation and only 5 being used in the reduction. We need to this equal. So, we take the lowest common multiple, which is in this case 30.

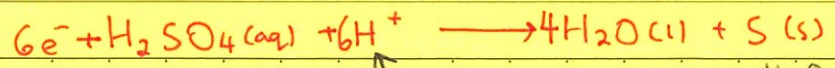


Doing the equations

- 1) Give a full equation for H₂SO₄ to S
- 2) Identify change in ox state. It is +6 to 0, hence a reduction occurs
- 3) We need a source for the electrons, so lets take a strong reducing agent, i.e low F.I.E.

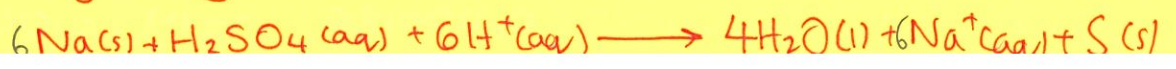


- 3) Now, lets consider the change from H₂SO₄ to S. The H₂O₄ needs to go out, but as water.



↑ because more H⁺ needed for H:O = 2:1

4) Combining sources



Feasibility of certain reactions

Date

No.

Why doesn't this reaction happen? $\text{Cu(s)} + \text{Zn}^{2+}(\text{aq}) \rightarrow \text{Cu}^{2+}(\text{aq}) + \text{Zn(s)}$
 \uparrow
 would have to be oxidised

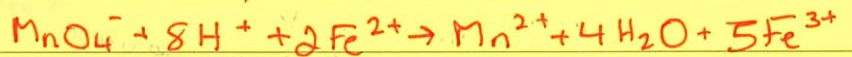
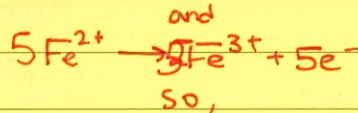
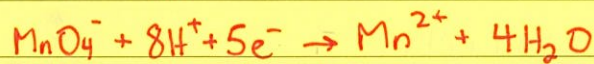
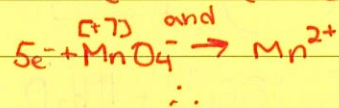
Zn > Cu in terms of its ability to lose its electron, so it is more energetically favourable for it to lose the e^- , not Cu. Metals higher in terms of their ability to oxidise can therefore displace less capable metals in their ions. The order (in descending) of decreasing reducing agents is the reactivity series

Redox titrations

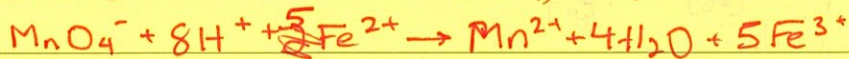
- We can use redox titrations to find the concentration of certain chemicals and

E.g 1) A solution contains both Fe^{2+} and Fe^{3+} ions. A 50cm^3 sample of the solution is titrated with 35.0ml of $0.00280\text{mol dm}^{-3}$ KMnO_4 , which oxidises Fe^{2+} to Fe^{3+} . The permanganate ion is reduced to Mn^{2+} . Another 50cm^3 sample is treated with zinc that reduces all Fe^{3+} to Fe^{2+} . The resulting solution is then titrated with $0.00280\text{mol dm}^{-3}$ KMnO_4 , but 46.0ml is needed. Find $[\text{Fe}^{2+}]$ and $[\text{Fe}^{3+}]$

1) Let's consider the first reaction. $\text{Fe}^{2+} \rightarrow \text{Fe}^{3+} + e^-$



2) Now we can do an ICE (ICE BABY) table.



$$\text{I} \quad \left[0.00280 \times \frac{35}{1000} \right]$$

$$= 0.00098\text{mol}$$

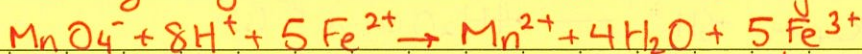
$$\therefore 0.000490$$

$$\text{Fe}^{2+}\text{mol} = 0.000490\text{mol}$$

$$[\text{Fe}^{2+}] = \frac{0.000490\text{mol} + 0.000980\text{mol}}{0.05\text{dm}^3} = 0.00364\text{mol dm}^{-3}$$

3) Let's find total moles of Fe^{2+}

and Fe^{3+} by using the titration of MnO_4^- and Fe^{2+} again. \therefore



$$\text{I} \quad 0.0001344$$

$$0.000672 - 0.000490$$

$$= 0.000182$$

$$0.000672\text{ moles}$$

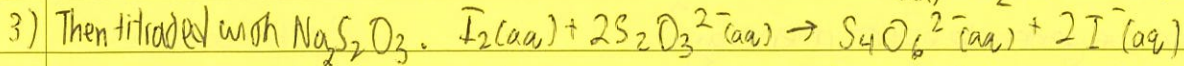
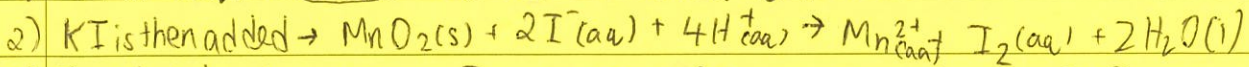
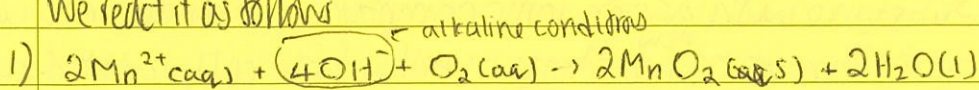
$$[\text{Fe}^{3+}] = 0.00364\text{mol dm}^{-3}$$

Winkler Method

Date

No.

- Used to measure Biological Oxygen Demand
- This measures dissolved oxygen in ppm required to decompose organic matter over a set period of time
- Initially saturated with oxygen, so we know first conc
- Later, we take a sample
- We react it as follows



Example: all solutions used were $1 \times 10^{-2} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$, $6 \text{ cm}^3 \text{ Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3$ reacted with all the iodine, using starch as an indicator. When clear, all I reacted.

Find $[\text{O}_2]$ in ppm. The sample was 100 cm^3

$$m \text{ Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3^{2-} \rightarrow 1 \times 10^{-2} \times \frac{6}{1000} = 6 \times 10^{-5} \text{ mol}$$

$$\text{moles of } \text{I}_2 \therefore = 3 \times 10^{-5} \text{ mol (according to eqn it is } \frac{1}{2} \text{ of } m \text{ Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3^{2-})$$

$$\text{moles of } \text{Mn}^{2+} \text{O}_2 \rightarrow 3 \times 10^{-5} \text{ mol}$$

$$\therefore \text{moles of } \text{O}_2(\text{aq}) = 1.5 \times 10^{-5} \text{ mol}$$

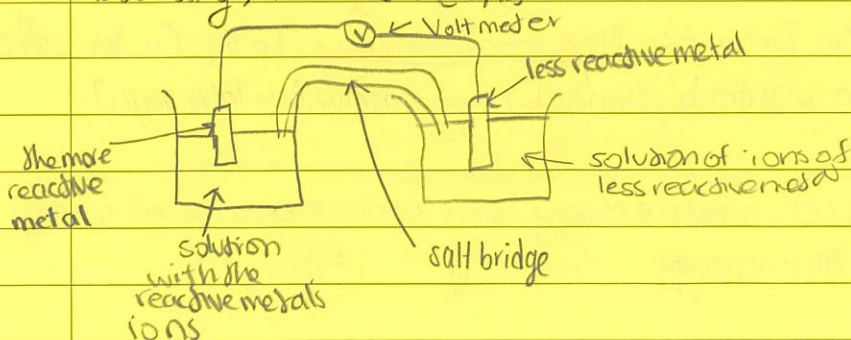
$$[\text{O}_2(\text{aq})] = \frac{1.5 \times 10^{-5} \text{ mol} \times 32}{0.100 \text{ dm}^3} \leftarrow \text{finding } \text{O}_2 \text{ mass here}$$

$$= 4.8 \text{ ppm}$$

$$\text{Note: ppm} = \frac{\text{g}}{\text{dm}^3}$$

Voltaic (galvanic cells)

- convert energy from spontaneous, exothermic chemical processes to electrical energy
- Basically, it looks like this



- Anode is on the left, cathode on right
- The anode electrode is the metal that oxidises more readily i.e. if $\text{Zn}^{2+}(\text{aq}) + 2\text{e}^{-} \rightleftharpoons \text{Zn}(\text{s})$, equilibrium lies to LHS.
- The cathode is where reduction occurs, where the metal is more likely to be reduced than oxidised so i.e. $\text{Cu}^{2+}(\text{aq}) + 2\text{e}^{-} \rightleftharpoons \text{Cu}(\text{s})$, equilibrium lies to reduced form, so RHS.

Terms

Half cell: a metal in contact with an aqueous solution of its own ions

Voltaic Cell: 2 half cells connected together

6

Why is a salt bridge needed?

- 1) complete circuit
- 2) allow movement of ions between electrolytes
- 3) keep electrical neutrality

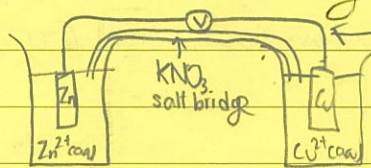
Date

No.

- to complete the circuit + maintain PD.
- keeps half cells electrically neutral. The anode develops a positive charge because of the loss of e^- , so the negative ions in a salt bridge flow to it to maintain neutrality
- Cathode develops a negative charge because of a build up of e^- , hence cations in salt bridge move into the cathode half cell
- Usually a porous substance with an inert ionic compound (so can diss in solution) that has inert ions so there are no reactions in either half cell, no interference

How do we generate electrical energy?

- Let us consider the following example.



We need the metal wire to facilitate the flow of e^-

Observations

- 1) paler colour in electrolyte being reduced
- 2) increase in size of cathode
- 3) decrease anode size

- 1) In the Zn half cell, zinc atoms form ions by being oxidised, releasing electrons, that make the electrode negatively charged with respect to the solution
- 2) This creates a charge separation, known as an electrode potential between the Zn^{2+} and Zn atoms. This creates the following equil. $Zn^{2+}(aq) + 2e^- \rightleftharpoons Zn(s)$

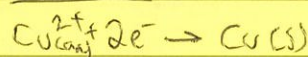
NOTE: We write all half cell equations as reduction because it is standard.

- 3) Looking at a data booklet, we can see that the ^{standard} electrode potential of $Zn(s)$ [E^\ominus] is $-0.76V$. This indicates that the oxidation reaction is favoured.
- 4) The electrode potential of the copper is +ve on the other hand, so the reduction reaction is favoured. $Cu^{2+}(aq) + 2e^- \rightleftharpoons Cu(s)$. This is because there are fewer e^- in the $Cu(s)$ so we have a lower charge separation.
- 5) Therefore, the electrons from the zinc anode flow spontaneously to the Cu cathode because of the difference in electrode potentials being positive. (see later pages)

Syllabus Key Phrase: Voltaic cells convert energy from spontaneous exothermic chemical reactions to electrical energy

- 6) We then write the reactions

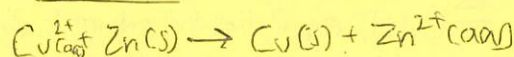
Cathode



Anode



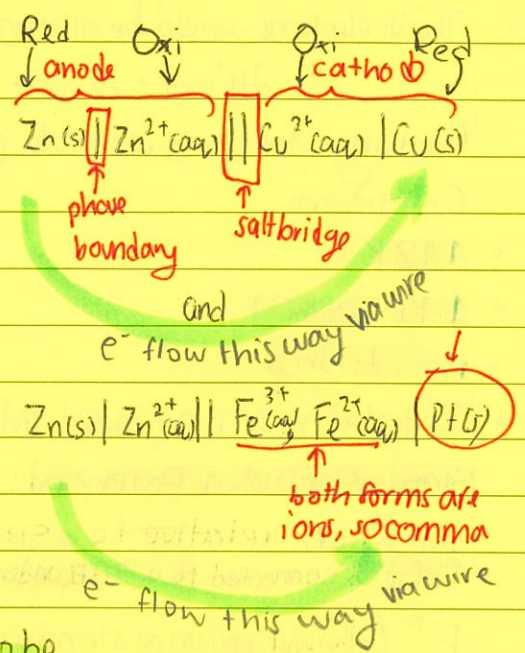
Net



Writing notations

Date _____ No. _____

- single vertical line separating different states of matter
- double vertical line for salt bridge
- aqueous ions adjacent to salt bridge
- Anode on left, cathode on right
- No spectator ions
- If same phase, separated by comma
- Pt electrodes used if the ~~cathode~~ ^{anode} used has reduced + oxidised form in aq.
- We label the Pt as the anode or cathode in such a case



Recall: the metal higher on reactivity series with more negative E^\ominus is the anode as it is more likely to be reduced- oxidised and the other has a higher reducing power. hence it has

VIP

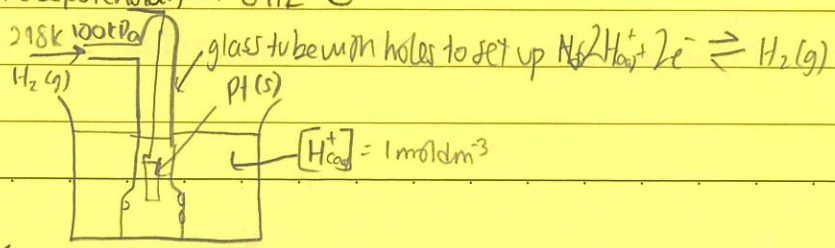
- electrons move from anode to cathode via the external circuit
- anions migrate from the salt bridge to the ~~anode~~ ^{cathode} to the anode via salt bridge
- cations migrate from the anode to the cathode via salt bridge

Electromotive force

- A voltaic cell generates a potential difference dubbed electromotive force
- One is half cell with negative electrode potential, another with a positive electrode potential. This generate EMF, which causes the movement of e^- from anode to cathode
- $EMF = E_{cell}$

Standard Hydrogen Electrode (SHE)

- consists of an inert electrode, usually Pt(s) in contact with $1 \text{ mol dm}^{-3} \text{ H}^+$ (eg in 1M HCl)
- 100kPa and 298K
- E^\ominus (standard electrode potential) of SHE = 0



◦ always placed to the right of diagram

- Pt(s) used because it is inert and catalyses the proton reduction to H₂(g)
- The in electrode would be alternatively bathed in H₂(g) and H⁺(aq) setting up an equilibrium

$$2H^+(aq) + 2e^- \rightleftharpoons H_2(g)$$

Measuring standard electrode potentials

Conditions

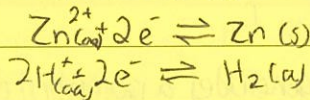
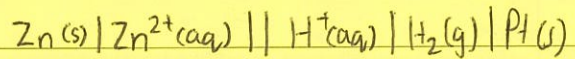
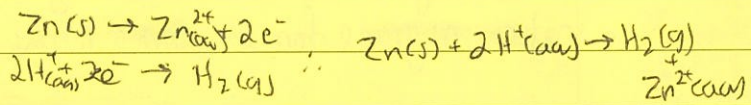
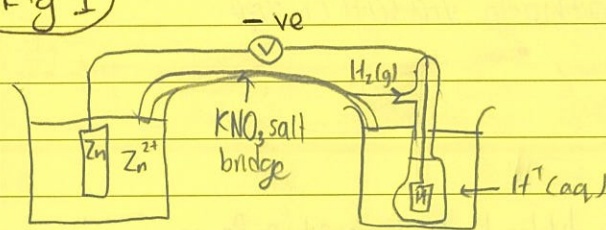
- 298 K
- 1 M (mol dm⁻³)
- Pure substance
- If tested metal is aq in red and oxi form, Pt(s) electrode used

Standard Electrode Potential: Voltage of the reduction half equation under standard conditions, relative to a SHE. Better: the potential difference obtained when a half cell is connected to a SHE under standard conditions

E[⊖] (otherwise known as standard reduction potentials)

- If +, the metal reduces to a greater extent than the hydrogen, so its equilibrium would lie to the Rts. e⁻ flow from H here
- If -, the metal oxidises to a greater extent and less for red than H so equil favours LHS. e⁻ flows to H here.

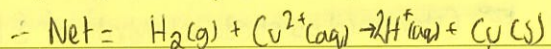
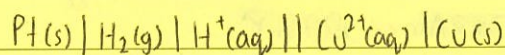
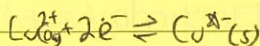
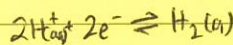
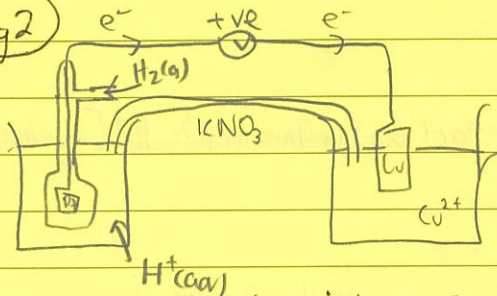
Eg 1



-ve value demonstrates Zinc's greater ability to lose e⁻ relative to Hydrogen.

∴ Zn on LHS for the notation as e⁻ flow to H

Eg 2



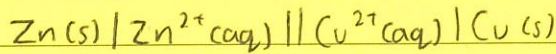
+ve because Cu reduced to a greater extent than H ∴ e⁻ go from H

Finding E^\ominus_{cell}

$$E^\ominus_{cell} = E^\ominus_{cathode} - E^\ominus_{anode}$$

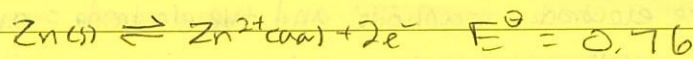
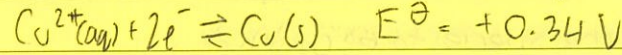
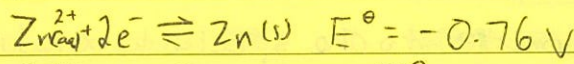
Think about it this way. We always know E^\ominus of a metal when it acts as a cathode, so $E^\ominus_{anode} = -E^\ominus_{cathode}$ because e^- flow in opposite direction of PD is reversed.

e.g Find E_{cell} of the Zn and Cu half cell



$$E^\ominus_{Zn} = -0.76$$

we flip this to find E^\ominus for ox



∴

$$E_{cell} = 0.34 + 0.76$$

$$= 1.10 V$$

~~e.g 2. Find E^\ominus of Ag if $E_{cell} = 1.25$ with H~~

A E^\ominus that is + and ↑ is a good oxidising agent, a E^\ominus that is -ve and very low (e.g. -1000) is a good reducing agent. ~~∴~~ e^- flow to cell with highest +ve E^\ominus

A - E^\ominus cell simply means that electrons flow from that electrode / is a better reducing agent than the other electrode (if the other is +ve)

Free Energy and Spontaneity

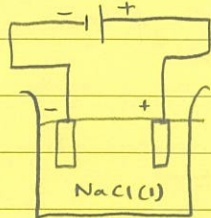
- We can relate ΔG to E^\ominus by $\Delta G = -nFE^\ominus$, where F is the Faraday constant, which is 96,500 coulombs ^{per mole} and n is number of moles of e^- transferred [just use coefficient]
- Therefore, if we have + E^\ominus_{cell} , the reaction is spontaneous, requires no additional energy other than E_a , so could occur in a test tube
- If we have a negative E^\ominus_{cell} , ΔG is positive, so the reaction is not spontaneous.
- Could only proceed with an external energy source to force the reaction to occur in the reverse [so e^- flow to cathode]

Electrolytic Cells

Date

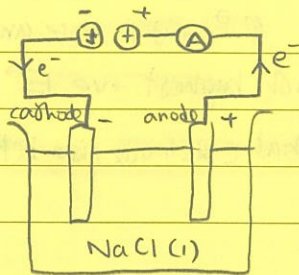
No.

- convert electrical energy to chemical energy, by way of non-spontaneous processes
- Oxidation still occurs at the anode and reduction at the cathode
- However, given that an electrolytic cell looks like this



- The -ve electrode can donate e^- to the species to be reduced and the positive electrode attracts electrons from the species to be oxidised
- Hence, the -ve electrode = cathode and +ve electrode = anode
- electricity is passed through an electrolyte, a substance that does not conduct electricity in solid form, but can in aq or l
- It is decomposed in the process
- We can get reactive metals from common ores \rightarrow e.g. Al(s) or Fe(s)
- Take Na for instance, v. high on reactivity series, to produce Na(s), we need an even stronger reducing agent

Example



Summary (markscheme)

- Na^+ move to cathode, Cl^- move to anode
- In the anode, electrons are released from Cl^- oxidation
- Accepted from the cathode by the Na^+ ions [reduction]
- Na^+ (l) reduced, Cl^- (l) oxidised
- 2Na^+ (l) + $2e^- \rightarrow 2\text{Na}$ (s)
- $2\text{Cl}^- \rightarrow \text{Cl}_2$ (g) + $2e^-$

* Current because of the movement of electrons through the external circuit and the movement of ions in electrolyte

① = if oxygen evolved, anode has a lower pH (acidic)

Observations to write

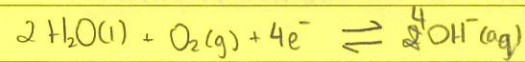
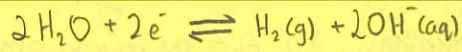
② = if H_2 (g) evolved, cathode region is alkaline w/ OH^-

- 1) $\uparrow [\text{OH}^-] / \downarrow$ or $\uparrow [\text{H}^+] / \downarrow$, then note pH \uparrow or \downarrow
- 2) Colour of gases or metals produced
- 3) Cl^- identified by bleaching damp blue litmus paper
- 4) Possible app of molar ratios

Electrolysis of Aqueous solutions

Date _____ No. _____

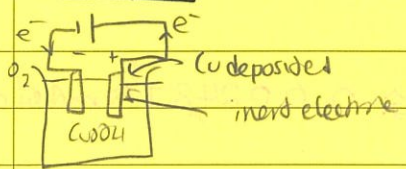
- we can have H₂O oxidised to O₂ at anode $[H_2O(l) \rightleftharpoons \frac{1}{2}O_2(g) + H_2O(l) + 2e^- \rightleftharpoons 2OH^-(aq)]$
- and we can have H₂O reduced to H₂(g) at cathode $[H_2O(l) + 2e^- \rightleftharpoons H_2(g) + OH^-(aq)]$
- This only would happen if E° cell of these oxidations and reductions are higher than the other ions. What I mean is this. Consider the reduction to H₂. It has E° of -0.83V
- If the other ion is Pb²⁺ [whose reduction is E° = -0.13], H₂ produced because |E°| is higher for H₂O reduction. So H₂O is a better oxidising agent than Pb²⁺
- Consider the anode, where O₂ produced $[H_2O \rightleftharpoons \frac{1}{2}O_2(g) + H_2O(l) + 2e^- \rightleftharpoons 2OH^-(aq)]$ with E° = 0.40 for reduction, but oxidation is -0.40V.
- This is why in electrolysis of NiCl₂, nickel ~~not~~ formed as E° = -0.26, ~~not~~ for ~~H₂O~~ oxidation, therefore ~~H₂O~~ stronger ~~oxidising~~ ^{weaker} reducing agent
- This E° is greater than that for the K⁺ reduction, so it is more likely for K to be reduced instead of
- If we have Sn for example, more likely to oxidise than



To Sum Up!

- If E° is lower than E° of the H₂O(l) + e⁻ ⇌ 1/2 H₂(g) + OH⁻(aq) [i.e more -ve], the species will be reduced and no H₂ produced as the species is a stronger oxidising agent [as it has ↑ E°] and will be reduced as opposed to the species
- If E° is greater than E° of O₂(g) + H₂O(l) + 2e⁻ ⇌ 2OH⁻(aq), the H₂O is a stronger reducing agent than the species, so if it is O₂ is produced, not the species

Example 1



Why is Cu(s) deposited?

- Cu²⁺ is a stronger oxidising agent than H₂O and hence is deposited / displaced to form Cu(s)

Why is O₂(g) formed?

- SO₄²⁻ weaker ^{OH⁻} reducing agent than H₂O so OH⁻ decomposed into O₂(g)
- Note that pH ↓ because ↑ pOH.

Ion Concentration

Date

No.

- If one ion is more concentrated than another, it will be selectively discharged
- E.g. conc. NaCl would produce Cl_2 gas rather than O_2 at an anode because $\uparrow [\text{Cl}^-]$ than $[\text{OH}^-]$, so ~~it would be discharged~~. In dilute, O_2 evolved because OH^- stronger reducing agent than Cl^- normally shifts this eqn $2\text{Cl}^-(\text{aq}) \rightarrow \text{Cl}_2(\text{g}) + 2\text{e}^-$ to RHS, $\uparrow \text{e}^-$ that can flow so $\downarrow E^\ominus$ and therefore becomes a stronger reducing agent than OH^- so selectively discharged

Electrodes

- if we have $\text{Cu}^{2+}(\text{aq})$ in sol and use $\text{Cu}(\text{s})$ electrodes, +ve electrode is oxidised to release e^- and form $\text{Cu}^{2+}(\text{aq})$
- $\text{Cu}(\text{s})$ simultaneously deposited at cathode, so no conc change \rightarrow stays constant
- Same if it's we have a metal as electrode and its ion in electrolyte

Factors affecting Quantities of Products

- 1) Current - \uparrow current, increased flow of charge and e^- . E.g. if doubled, $2\times$ amount of electrons flowing through system, $2\times$ as ^{much} products formed. If time is doubled, $2\times$ as many e^- flow through, so $2\times$ as much product

Recall

$$C = A \times t = \text{Coulomb} = \text{current} \times \text{time (s)}$$

$$\text{and } F = 96,500 \text{ C mol}^{-1} \text{ so } \frac{C}{F} = \text{moles of } \text{e}^- \text{ flowing}$$

Example

- (a) How many grams of Cu are formed on cathode of an electrolytic cell holding $\text{CuCl}_2(\text{aq})$ with 2.00 A current for 2 min

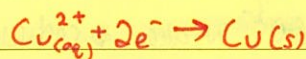
(b) what if $\text{CuCl}(\text{aq})$ used.

$$\begin{aligned} \textcircled{1} \text{ Find } C &\rightarrow C = A \cdot t \\ C &= 2 \cdot 120 \\ &= \underline{240 \text{ C}} \end{aligned}$$

$\textcircled{1}$ This time it is $\text{Cu}^+ + \text{e}^- \rightarrow \text{Cu}(\text{s})$
So you need less moles of e^- to produce $\text{Cu}(\text{s})$,
ergo more $\text{Cu}(\text{s})$ would be produced

$$\textcircled{2} \text{ Find moles} \rightarrow \frac{C}{F} = \text{moles} = \frac{240 \text{ C}}{96,500 \text{ C mol}^{-1}} \approx 0.0024870 \text{ moles of } \text{e}^-$$

$\textcircled{3}$ Look at Eqn for Cu



\Downarrow If 0.0024870 moles of $\text{e}^- \rightarrow$ moles of $\text{Cu}(\text{s}) = \frac{1}{2}$ moles of e^-

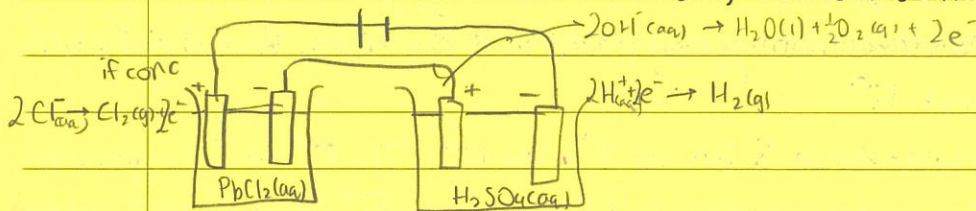
$\textcircled{4}$ Find mass $\approx 0.00124 \text{ mol}$

$$0.00124 \cdot 63.55 = \underline{0.0790 \text{ g}}$$

2) Ion Charge

- If ↑ + charge, more moles of electrons needed to reduce so more moles of metal
- ∴ as ↑ charge, mass of prod formed ↓, (assuming relative to a lower cation w/ same current + time)

Note: Cells in series like the one below, ensure same amount of e^- flow to each electrode



Relative amounts of products

$Cl_2 : Pb : O_2 : H_2$
 $2 : 2 : 1 : 2$ → if you think about, for $4e^-$, 2 moles of $H_2(g)$, $Pb(s)$ and $Cl_2(g)$ produced but only 1 mole of $O_2(g)$.
 ↑
 $\frac{1}{2} O_2(g)$ for $2e^-$, the rest all 1 for $2e^-$

Electroplating

Def: Process of using electrolysis to deposit a layer of metal onto a conductive object

Requires 1) An electrolyte with the ions of the metal to plate with

2) & the thing to be plated is on the cathode

3) Anode can be of same metal to continuously replenish supply of ions

Purpose: Decorative: silver plated utensil

Corrosion: Fe with zinc layer is galvanised Iron and is ∴ protected from corrosion

Concentration and Electrolysis Voltaic Cells

- To assess the impact of a concentration or T change, we need to look at the reduction or oxidation reaction. E.g if $[Hg^{2+}] \uparrow$, we look at $Hg(l) \rightleftharpoons Hg^{2+}(aq) + e^-$.
- Then observe equil. If for oxi, shift to side with fewer e^- , ↑ E^\ominus reduction, so looking at E_{cell} , $E_{cell} \downarrow$ provided no change in other factor. Recall the Hg example, equil shifts to favour reduction so ↓ E^\ominus_{cell}
- If for reduction, a shift to the ^{oxidation} reduction reaction ^{decrease} increases E_{red} and a shift to favour red ↑ E_{red} , so ↓ E_{cell} and ↑ E_{cell} respectively

Question Feedback

Date

No.

- If asked for best reducing/oxidising agent, use these phrases [if asked in terms of e^-]
 - best reducing agent = greatest tendency to lose electron
 - best oxidising agent = greatest tendency to gain electron
- "State and explain the symbol of ΔG^\ominus " → -ve or +ve and then spontaneous or not
- In sacrificial protection, the layer that is a better reducing agent than Fe is optimal. This is because it will be oxidised preferentially compared to the Fe (s). Recall that the best reducing agent has the lowest E^\ominus
- "Identify a substance that will oxidise X but not Y" → use E^\ominus . The E^\ominus of Z is greater than X, so it will oxidise X while it is reduced but Y has a higher E^\ominus than Z, so Z cannot oxidise it. The E^\ominus value of the oxidation of X by Z is positive, whereas for oxidation of Y by Z, it is negative because ~~X~~ Y is a stronger oxidising agent than Z
- 5 things for a SHE → 1 atm $H_2(g)$, 298 K, Pt electrodes, 1 mol m^{-3} [$H^+(aq)$]

If electrical conductivity is discussed on a redox question, do standard answer but then say cations move to cathode + anions to anode