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# Electrochemistry

The study of the interchange of chemical and electrical energy.

Chemical Energy \_\_\_\_\_ Electrical energy

I: A science studying the relationship between chemical energy and electrical energy and the rules of conversion of two energies.

II: Electrochemistry is the study of solutions of electrolytes and of phenomena occurring at electrodes immersed in these solutions.

# Electron Transfer Reactions

Electron transfer reactions are oxidation-reduction or Redox reactions.

Results in the generation of an electric current (electricity) or be caused by imposing an electric current.

Therefore, this field of chemistry is often called ELECTROCHEMISTRY.

# *Electrochemical* processes are oxidation-reduction reactions in which:

- the energy released by a spontaneous reaction is converted to electricity or
- electrical energy is used to cause a nonspontaneous reaction to occur

$$\overset{0}{2\text{Mg}} \overset{0}{(s)} + \overset{0}{O_2} (g) \longrightarrow \overset{2+2}{2\text{MgO}} (s)$$

 $2Mg \longrightarrow 2Mg^{2+} + 4e^{-}$  Oxidation half-reaction (lose  $e^{-}$ )

 $O_2 + 4e^- \longrightarrow 2O^{2-}$  **Reduction** half-reaction (gain e<sup>-</sup>)

# Terminology for Redox Reactions

- OXIDATION—loss of electron(s) by a species; increase in oxidation number; increase in oxygen.
- REDUCTION—gain of electron(s); decrease in oxidation number; decrease in oxygen; increase in hydrogen.
- OXIDIZING AGENT—electron acceptor; species is reduced. (an agent facilitates something; ex. Travel agents don't travel, they facilitate travel)
- REDUCING AGENT—electron donor; species is oxidized.

Another way to remember



**Review of Oxidation numbers** 

The charge the atom would have in a molecule (or an ionic compound) if electrons were completely transferred.

1. Free elements (uncombined state) have an oxidation number of zero.

Na, Be, K, Pb,  $H_2$ ,  $O_2$ ,  $P_4 = 0$ 

2. In monatomic ions, the oxidation number is equal to the charge on the ion.

$$Li^+$$
,  $Li = +1$ ;  $Fe^{3+}$ ,  $Fe = +3$ ;  $O^{2-}$ ,  $O = -2$ 

3. The oxidation number of oxygen is usually –2. In  $H_2O_2$ and  $O_2^{2-}$  it is –1

- The oxidation number of hydrogen is +1 except when it is bonded to metals in binary compounds. In these cases, its oxidation number is -1.
- 5. Group IA metals are +1, IIA metals are +2 and fluorine is always -1.
- 6. The sum of the oxidation numbers of all the atoms in a molecule or ion is equal to the charge on the molecule or ion.



Oxidation numbers of all the atoms in  $HCO_3^-$ ?

 $HCO_{3}^{-}$  O = -2 H = +1 3x(-2) + 1 + ? = -1C = +4

#### Galvanic Cells



### Galvanic Cells

The difference in electrical potential between the anode and cathode is called:

- cell voltage
- electromotive force (emf)
- cell potential

#### Cell Diagram

 $Zn(s) + Cu^{2+}(aq) \longrightarrow Cu(s) + Zn^{2+}(aq)$ 

 $Zn(s) | Zn^{2+} (1 M) || Cu^{2+} (1 M) | Cu(s) | Cu(s) | Cu^{2+} = 1 M \& [Zn^{2+}] = 1 M$ 

anode cathode  $E_{cell}^0 = E_{cathode}^0 + E_{anode}^0$ 

#### **Standard Electrode Potentials**

Standard reduction potential ( $E^{0}$ ) is the voltage associated with a reduction reaction at an electrode when all solutes are 1 M and all gases are at 1 atm.



#### (SHE) or NHE



$$E_{cell}^0 = \frac{E_{cathode}^0}{Cathode} + E_{anode}^0$$

$$E^0 = E_{cathode} - Eanode$$

If the reaction is backwards, be sure to flip the sign!

Zn (s) | Zn<sup>2+</sup> (1 M) || H<sup>+</sup> (1 M) | H<sub>2</sub> (1 atm) | Pt (s)  $E_{cell}^{0} = E_{H^+/H_2}^{0} + E_{Zn/Zh}^{0}$ Zn<sup>2+</sup> (1 M) + 2e<sup>-</sup>  $\longrightarrow$  Zn  $E^{0} = -0.76$  V So  $E^{0}_{Zn/Zh}^{+2} = + 0.76$  V  $E_{cell}^{0} = 0 + 0.76$  V = 0.76 V



$$E_{cell}^{0} = E_{cathode}^{0} + E_{anode}^{0}$$

$$E_{cell}^{0} = E_{Cu}^{0} + E_{H_{2}}^{0}$$

$$0.34 = E_{Cu}^{0} + 0$$

$$E_{Cu}^{0} + 0$$

Pt (s) | H<sub>2</sub> (1 atm) | H<sup>+</sup> (1 M) || Cu<sup>2+</sup> (1 M) | Cu (s) Anode (oxidation): H<sub>2</sub> (1 atm)  $\longrightarrow$  2H<sup>+</sup> (1 M) + 2e<sup>-</sup> Cathode (reduction): 2e<sup>-</sup> + Cu<sup>2+</sup> (1 M)  $\longrightarrow$  Cu (s)

 $H_2 (1 \text{ atm}) + Cu^{2+} (1 \text{ M}) \longrightarrow Cu (s) + 2H^+ (1 \text{ M})$ 

TABLE 19.

#### Standard Reduction Potentials at 25°C\*

		Half-Reaction	E°(V)	
1		$F_2(g) + 2e^- \longrightarrow 2F^-(aq)$	+2.87	
1	•	$O_3(g) + 2H^+(aq) + 2e^- \longrightarrow O_2(g) + H_2O$	+2.07	
		$\operatorname{Co}^{3+}(aq) + e^{-} \longrightarrow \operatorname{Co}^{2+}(aq)$	+1.82	
		$H_2O_2(aq) + 2H^+(aq) + 2e^- \longrightarrow 2H_2O$	+1.77	
		$PbO_2(s) + 4H^+(aq) + SO_4^{2-}(aq) + 2e^- \longrightarrow PbSO_4(s) + 2H_2O$	+1.70	
		$\operatorname{Ce}^{4^+}(aq) + e^- \longrightarrow \operatorname{Ce}^{3^+}(aq)$	+1.61	
		$MnO_4^-(aq) + 8H^+(aq) + 5e^- \longrightarrow Mn^{2+}(aq) + 4H_2O$	+1.51	
		$\operatorname{Au}^{3+}(aq) + 3e^{-} \longrightarrow \operatorname{Au}(s)$	+1.50	
		$\operatorname{Cl}_2(g) + 2e^- \longrightarrow 2\operatorname{Cl}^-(aq)$	+1.36	
		$Cr_2O_7^{2-}(aq) + 14H^+(aq) + 6e^- \longrightarrow 2Cr^{3+}(aq) + 7H_2O$	+1.33	
		$MnO_2(s) + 4H^+(aq) + 2e^- \longrightarrow Mn^{2+}(aq) + 2H_2O$	+1.23	
		$O_2(g) + 4H^+(aq) + 4e^- \longrightarrow 2H_2O$	+1.23	
		$Br_2(l) + 2e^- \longrightarrow 2Br^-(aq)$	+1.07	
		$NO_3^-(aq) + 4H^+(aq) + 3e^- \longrightarrow NO(g) + 2H_2O$	+0.96	
		$2\text{Hg}^{2+}(aq) + 2e^{-} \longrightarrow \text{Hg}_{2}^{2+}(aq)$	+0.92	
		$Hg_2^{2+}(aq) + 2e^- \longrightarrow 2Hg(l)$	+0.85	
		$Ag^+(aq) + e^- \longrightarrow Ag(s)$	+0.80	
		$\operatorname{Fe}^{3+}(aq) + e^{-} \longrightarrow \operatorname{Fe}^{2+}(aq)$	+0.77	
		$O_2(g) + 2H^+(aq) + 2e^- \longrightarrow H_2O_2(aq)$	+0.68	
		$MnO_4^-(aq) + 2H_2O + 3e^- \longrightarrow MnO_2(s) + 4OH^-(aq)$	+0.59	
	ení	$I_2(s) + 2e^- \longrightarrow 2I^-(aq)$	+0.53	ent
	ag	$O_2(g) + 2H_2O + 4e^- \longrightarrow 4OH^-(aq)$	+0.40	age
	ing	$\operatorname{Cu}^{2+}(aq) + 2e^{-} \longrightarrow \operatorname{Cu}(s)$	+0.34	ng
	diz	$AgCl(s) + e^{-} \longrightarrow Ag(s) + Cl^{-}(aq)$	+0.22	uci
	oxi	$SO_4^{2-}(aq) + 4H^+(aq) + 2e^- \longrightarrow SO_2(g) + 2H_2O$	+0.20	red
	as	$\operatorname{Cu}^{2+}(aq) + e^{-} \longrightarrow \operatorname{Cu}^{+}(aq)$	+0.15	as
	gth	$\operatorname{Sn}^{4+}(aq) + 2e^{-} \longrightarrow \operatorname{Sn}^{2+}(aq)$	+0.13	gth
	eng	$2\mathrm{H}^+(aq) + 2e^- \longrightarrow \mathrm{H}_2(g)$	0.00	ueu
	str	$Pb^{2+}(aq) + 2e^{-} \longrightarrow Pb(s)$	-0.13	s ti
	ing	$\operatorname{Sn}^{2+}(aq) + 2e^{-} \longrightarrow \operatorname{Sn}(s)$	-0.14	ing
	eas	$Ni^{2+}(aq) + 2e^{-} \longrightarrow Ni(s)$	-0.25	eas
	JCL	$\operatorname{Co}^{2^+}(aq) + 2e^- \longrightarrow \operatorname{Co}(s)$	-0.28	ncr
	I	$PbSO_4(s) + 2e^- \longrightarrow Pb(s) + SO_4^{2-}(aq)$	-0.31	Г
		$\operatorname{Cd}^{2+}(aq) + 2e^{-} \longrightarrow \operatorname{Cd}(s)$	-0.40	
		$\operatorname{Fe}^{2+}(aq) + 2e^{-} \longrightarrow \operatorname{Fe}(s)$	-0.44	
		$\operatorname{Cr}^{3+}(aq) + 3e^{-} \longrightarrow \operatorname{Cr}(s)$	-0.74	
		$\operatorname{Zn}^{2+}(aq) + 2e^{-} \longrightarrow \operatorname{Zn}(s)$	-0.76	
		$2H_2O + 2e^- \longrightarrow H_2(g) + 2OH^-(aq)$	-0.83	
		$\operatorname{Mn}^{2^+}(aq) + 2e^- \longrightarrow \operatorname{Mn}(s)$	-1.18	
		$Al^{3+}(aq) + 3e^{-} \longrightarrow Al(s)$	-1.66	
		$\operatorname{Be}^{2+}(aq) + 2e^{-} \longrightarrow \operatorname{Be}(s)$	-1.85	
		$Mg^{2+}(aq) + 2e^{-} \longrightarrow Mg(s)$	-2.37	
		$Na^+(aq) + e^- \longrightarrow Na(s)$	-2.71	
		$\operatorname{Ca}^{2^+}(aq) + 2e^- \longrightarrow \operatorname{Ca}(s)$	-2.87	
		$\operatorname{Sr}^{2^+}(aq) + 2e^- \longrightarrow \operatorname{Sr}(s)$	-2.89	
		$\operatorname{Ba}^{2^+}(aq) + 2e^- \longrightarrow \operatorname{Ba}(s)$	-2.90	
		$K^+(aq) + e^- \longrightarrow K(s)$	-2.93	
		$\operatorname{Li}^+(aq) + e^- \longrightarrow \operatorname{Li}(s)$	-3.05	

\*For all half-reactions the concentration is 1 *M* for dissolved species and the pressure is 1 atm for gases. These are the standard-state values.

- *E<sup>o</sup>* is for the reaction as written
- The more positive *E*<sup>0</sup> the greater the tendency for the substance to be reduced
- The half-cell reactions are reversible
- The sign of *E<sup>0</sup>* changes when the reaction is reversed
- Changing the stoichiometric coefficients of a half-cell reaction *does not* change the value of *E<sup>0</sup>*

# QUESTION What is the standard emf of an electrochemical cell made of a Cd electrode in a 1.0 M Cd(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> solution and a Cr electrode in a 1.0 $M Cr(NO_3)_3$ solution? $Cd^{2+}(aq) + 2e^{-} \longrightarrow Cd(s)$ $E^{0} = -0.40 V$ Cd is the stronger oxidizer Cd will oxidize Cr $Cr^{3+}(aq) + 3e^{-} \longrightarrow Cr(s) \quad E^{0} = -0.74 V$ Anode (oxidation): $Cr(s) \longrightarrow Cr^{3+}(1 M) + (3e^{-}) \times 2$ Cathode (reduction): $(2e) + Cd^{2+} (1 M) \longrightarrow Cd (s) \times 3$ $2Cr(s) + 3Cd^{2+}(1 M) \longrightarrow 3Cd(s) + 2Cr^{3+}(1 M)$ $E_{cell}^{0} = E_{cathode}^{0} + E_{anode}^{0} = -0.40 + (+0.74)$ $E_{cell}^0 = 0.34 \text{ V}$

#### Spontaneity of Redox Reactions



#### Spontaneity of Redox Reactions

#### Relationships among $\Delta G^{\circ}$ , *K*, and $E^{\circ}_{cell}$

ΔG°	к	<b>E</b> °cell	Reaction under Standard-State Conditions
Negative	>1	Positive	Favors formation of products.
0	=1	0	Reactants and products are equally favored.
Positive	<1	Negative	Favors formation of reactants.

What is the equilibrium constant for the following reaction  
at 25°C? Fe<sup>2+</sup> (aq) + 2Ag (s) 
$$\rightarrow$$
 Fe (s) + 2Ag<sup>+</sup> (aq)  
 $E_{cell}^{0} = \frac{0.0257 \text{ V}}{n} \ln K$   
Oxidation: 2Ag  $\rightarrow$  2Ag<sup>+</sup> + 2e<sup>-</sup>  
Reduction: 2e + Fe<sup>2+</sup>  $\rightarrow$  Fe  
 $E^{0} = E_{Fe^{2+}/Fe}^{0} + E_{Ag/Ag^{+}}^{0}$   
 $E^{0} = -0.44 + -0.80$   
 $E^{0} = -1.24 \text{ V}$   
 $K = \exp\left[\frac{E_{cell}^{0} \times n}{0.0257 \text{ V}}\right] = \exp\left[\frac{-1.24 \text{ V} \times 2}{0.0257 \text{ V}}\right]$ 

 $K = 1.23 \times 10^{-42}$ 

The Effect of Concentration on Cell Emf

 $\Delta G = \Delta G^{0} + RT \ln Q \qquad \Delta G = -nFE \qquad \Delta G^{0} = -nFE^{0}$ 

$$-nFE = -nFE^0 + RT \ln Q$$

$$E = E^0 - \frac{RT}{nF} \ln Q$$

$$E = E^0 - \frac{0.0257 \text{ V}}{n} \ln Q$$
 At 298K

 $E = E^0 - \frac{0.0592 \text{ V}}{n} \log Q$ 

Will the following reaction occur spontaneously at 25°C if  $[Fe^{2+}] = 0.60 M \text{ and } [Cd^{2+}] = 0.010 M?$  $Fe^{2+}(aq) + Cd(s) \longrightarrow Fe(s) + Cd^{2+}(aq)$ Oxidation:  $Cd \longrightarrow Cd^{2+} + 2e^{-}$ Reduction:  $2e^{-} + Fe^{2+} \longrightarrow 2Fe$   $E^{0} = E^{0}_{Fe^{2+}/Fe} - E^{0}_{Cd^{+}/Cd}$ n = 2 $E^0 = -0.44 - (-0.40)$  $E = E^0 - \frac{0.0257 \text{ V}}{n} \ln Q$  $E^0 = -0.04 \text{ V}$  $E = -0.04 \text{ V} - \frac{0.0257 \text{ V}}{2} \ln \frac{0.010}{0.60}$ E = 0.013E > 0Spontaneous

Using the Nernst equation, we can calculate the potential of a cell in which some or all of the components are not in their standard state. Problem: The E °<sub>cell</sub> is 0.48 V for the galvanic cell based on the reaction  $2Al(s) + 3Mn^{2+}(aq) \rightarrow 2Al^{3+} + 3Mn(s)$ 

- Consider a cell in which [Mn<sup>2+</sup>] = 0.50M and [Al<sup>3+</sup>] = 1.50M
- Cell potential can be calculated using Nernst equation:

» E = E ° − 
$$\frac{0.0591}{n}$$
 log(Q)  
Q =  $\frac{[A|^{3+}]^2}{[Mn^{2+}]^3}$  =  $\frac{(1.50)^2}{(0.50)^3}$  (red)  
Half cells: (Al → Al<sup>3+</sup> + 3 e<sup>-</sup>) 2  
(Mn<sup>2+</sup> + 2e<sup>-</sup> → Mn)3  
n=6

The cell potential from the Nernst is the maximum potential before any current flow occurs

As the cell discharges and current flows from anode to cathode, the concentrations will change and the

# $E_{cell}$ will change.

The cell will spontaneously discharge until it reaches equilibrium at which point Q = K and E <sub>cell</sub> = 0

# Concentration cells

A cell in which both compartments have the same components but at different concentrations

The difference in concentration is the only factor that produces cell potential in this case

Typically, voltages are very small

#### **Concentration Cells**

- We can use the Nernst equation to generate a cell that has an emf based solely on difference in concentration.
- One compartment will consist of a concentrated solution, while the other has a dilute solution.
- $\rightarrow$  Example: 1.00 *M* Ni<sup>2+</sup>(*aq*) and 1.00 ×10<sup>-3</sup> *M* Ni<sup>2+</sup>(*aq*).
- The cell tends to equalize the concentrations of Ni<sup>2+</sup>(aq) in each compartment.
- The concentrated solution has to reduce the amount of Ni<sup>2+</sup>(aq) (to Ni(s)), so must be the cathode.

#### **Concentration Cells**

Since the two half-reactions are the same, E° will be zero.



#### Measurement of pH



Calculate the pH of the following half cell solution. Pt.H<sub>2</sub> (1atm) / HCI; E =0.25 V.

Solution :

$$\begin{array}{c} H_2 \longrightarrow 2H^+ + 2e^{-1} \quad E = 0.25 \\ 2H^+ + 2e \longrightarrow H_2 \quad E = -0.25 \end{array}$$

$$-0.25 = 0 - 0.059 (\log 1 - 2\log [H^+])$$

$$2 \text{ pH} = 0.25 \times 2 = 4.23$$

$$0.059$$

Battery: A system which converts chemical energy into electrical energy

More correctly, a battery is an electrochemical cell: Galvanic Cells convert the energy from spontaneous chemical reactions into electricity



## **Batteries**



# **Batteries**



# Solid State Lithium Battery



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# Fuel Cell

→ It is a device in which energy from the combustion of fuel is directly converted into electrical energy
 → Common example of fuel cell is H<sub>2</sub>-O<sub>2</sub> fuel cell
 → This cell is also known as Bacon cell

The reactions taking place at electrodes are:

At anode H₂ + 20H⁻(aq) → 2H₂O(I) +2e⁻)X2

At cathode

 $O2 + H_2O(I) + 4 e^- \rightarrow 4 OH^-(aq)$ 



A *fuel cell* is an electrochemical cell that requires a continuous supply of reactants to keep functioning

Anode:  $2H_2(g) + 4OH^-(aq) \longrightarrow 4H_2O(l) + 4e^-$ Cathode:  $O_2(g) + 2H_2O(l) + 4e^- \longrightarrow 4OH^-(aq)$ 

 $2\mathsf{H}_{2}\left(g\right)+\mathsf{O}_{2}\left(g\right)\longrightarrow2\mathsf{H}_{2}\mathsf{O}\left(\mathit{I}\right)$
Advantages of a fuel cell

It works continuously as long as gases are supplied

→ High efficiency

Pollution free working



#### **Chemistry In Action:** Dental Filling Discomfort

#### **Corrosion of a Dental Filling**

 $Hg_{2}^{2+}/Ag_{2}Hg_{3} = 0.85 V$  $Sn^{2+}/Ag_{3}Sn = -0.05 V$ 



#### Cathodic Protection of an Iron Storage Tank



→ Previously our lectures on electrochemistry were involved with voltaic cells i.e. cells with  $E_{cell}$  > 0 and  $\Delta G$  < 0 that were spontaneous reactions.

→ Today we discuss electrochemical cells where  $E_{cell}$  < 0 and  $\Delta G$  > 0 that are nonspontaneous reactions and require electricity for the reactions to take place. We can take a voltaic cell and reverse the electrodes to make an electrochemical cell.

- Define electrolysis?
- →Some examples.
- $\rightarrow$  What are the values of  $\triangle G$  and  $E_{cell}$ ?
- →Electrolysis of water.
- → Some industrial applications.

The splitting (lysing) of a substance or decomposing by forcing a current through a cell to produce a chemical change for which the cell potential is negative.

#### Two Types of Cells

Cell 1: does work by releasing free energy from a spontaneous reaction to produce electricity such as a battery.

→Cell 2: does work by absorbing free energy from a source of electricity to drive a non-spontaneous reaction such as electroplating.



#### Comparison of Voltaic and Electrolytic Cells

	∆G	E <sub>cell</sub>	Electrode		
CELL TYPE			Name	Process	Sign
Voltaic	<0	>0	Anode	Oxidation	-
Voltaic	<0	>0	Cathode	Reduction	+
Electrolytic	>0	<0	Anode	Oxidation +	
Electrolytic	>0	<0	Cathode	Reduction	-







Overall (cell) reaction  $Cu(s) + Sn^{2+}(aq) \longrightarrow Cu^{2+}(aq) + Sn(s)$ 

#### **B** Electrolytic cell

A voltaic (Galvanic) cell can power an electrolytic cell



Half-Reaction	<b>E</b> <sup>0</sup> (V)	Increase oxidizing
$F_2(g) + 2e^- \Longrightarrow 2F^-(aq)$	+2.87	power
$Cl_2(g) + 2e^- \Longrightarrow 2Cl^-(aq)$	+1.36	
$MnO_2(s) + 4H^+(aq) + 2e^- \Longrightarrow Mn^{2+}(aq) + 2H_2O(l)$	+1.23	
$NO_3^{-}(aq) + 4H^+(aq) + 3e^- \Longrightarrow NO(g) + 2H_2O(l)$	+0.96	
$Ag^+(aq) + e^- \Longrightarrow Ag(s)$	+0.80	
$\operatorname{Fe}^{3+}(aq) + e^{-} \Longrightarrow \operatorname{Fe}^{2+}(aq)$	+0.77	
$O_2(g) + 2H_2O(l) + 4e^- \Longrightarrow 4OH^-(aq)$	+0.40	
$Cu^{2+}(aq) + 2e^{-} \Longrightarrow Cu(s)$	+0.34	
$2\mathrm{H}^+(aq) + 2\mathrm{e}^- \Longrightarrow \mathrm{H}_2(g)$	0.00	
$N_2(g) + 5H^+(aq) + 4e^- \Longrightarrow N_2H_5^+(aq)$	-0.23	
$\operatorname{Fe}^{2+}(aq) + 2e^{-} \Longrightarrow \operatorname{Fe}(s)$	-0.44	
$2H_2O(l) + 2e^- \Longrightarrow H_2(g) + 2OH^-(aq)$	-0.83	
$Na^+(aq) + e^- \Longrightarrow Na(s)$	-2.71	
$Li^+(aq) + e^- \Longrightarrow Li(s)$	-3.05	Increase
		<sup>–</sup> reducing
		power
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At Anode: Oxidation

 $Ag \longrightarrow Ag^+ + e^-$ 

At Cathode: Reduction

$$Ag^+ + e^- \longrightarrow Ag$$

*Electrolysis* is the process in which electrical energy is used to cause a **nonspontaneous** chemical reaction to occur.





### Electrolysis of water

At the anode (oxidation):
>2H<sub>2</sub>O(I) + 2e<sup>-</sup> = H<sub>2</sub>(g) + 2OH<sup>-</sup>(aq) E=-0.42V
At the cathode (reduction):
>2H<sub>2</sub>O(I) = O<sub>2</sub>(g) + 4H<sup>+</sup>(aq) + 4e<sup>-</sup> E= 0.82V
>Overall reaction after multiplying anode reaction by 2,
>2H<sub>2</sub>O(I) = 2H<sub>2</sub>(g) + O<sub>2</sub>(g)
>E<sup>o</sup><sub>cell</sub> = -0.42 - 0.82 = -1.24 V

#### Electrolysis products

## Metal>Higher I.E.> gains electrons more easily > stronger oxidizing agent > reduced at cathode

Non metal > less electro negativity> holds the electrons less tightly>loose electrons easily> stronger reducing agent > oxidized at anode **Problem** What products form during electrolysis of aqueous solutions of the following salts: (a) KBr; (b) AgNO<sub>3</sub>; (c) MgSO<sub>4</sub>?

**Plan** We identify the reacting ions and compare their electrode potentials with those of water, taking the 0.4 to 0.6 V overvoltage into consideration. The reduction half-reaction with the less negative electrode potential, and the oxidation half-reaction with the less positive electrode potential occurs at that electrode.

#### Solution

**(a)** 

$$K^{+}(aq) + e^{-} \longrightarrow K(s) \qquad E^{0} = -2.93 V$$
  

$$2H_{2}O(l) + 2e^{-} \longrightarrow H_{2}(g) + 2OH^{-}(aq) \qquad E = -0.42 V$$

Despite the overvoltage, which makes E for the reduction of water between -0.8 and -1.0 V, H<sub>2</sub>O is still easier to reduce than K<sup>+</sup>, so  $H_2(g)$  forms at the cathode.

$$2Br^{-}(aq) \longrightarrow Br_{2}(l) + 2e^{-} \qquad E^{0} = 1.07 V$$
  

$$2H_{2}O(l) \longrightarrow O_{2}(g) + 4H^{+}(aq) + 4e^{-} \qquad E = 0.82 V$$

Because of the overvoltage, which makes E for the oxidation of water between 1.2 and 1.4 V, Br<sup>-</sup> is easier to oxidize than water, so  $Br_2(l)$  forms at the anode (see photo).

(b) 
$$\operatorname{Ag}^+(aq) + e^- \longrightarrow \operatorname{Ag}(s)$$
  $E^0 = 0.80 \text{ V}$   
 $2\operatorname{H}_2\operatorname{O}(l) + 2e^- \longrightarrow \operatorname{H}_2(g) + 2\operatorname{OH}^-(aq)$   $E = -0.42 \text{ V}$ 

As the cation of an inactive metal,  $Ag^+$  is a better oxidizing agent than H<sub>2</sub>O, so Ag forms at the cathode.  $NO_3^-$  cannot be oxidized, because N is already in its highest (+5) oxidation state. Thus,  $O_2$  forms at the anode:

(c) 
$$Mg^{2+}(aq) + 2e^{-} \longrightarrow Mg(s)$$
  $E^{0} = -2.37 \text{ V}$ 

Like  $K^+$  in part (a),  $Mg^{2+}$  cannot be reduced in the presence of water, so  $H_2$  forms at the cathode. The  $SO_4^{2-}$  ion cannot be oxidized because S is in its highest (+6) oxidation state. Thus,  $H_2O$  is oxidized, and  $O_2$  forms at the anode:

 $2H_2O(l) \longrightarrow O_2(g) + 4H^+(aq) + 4e^-$ 

Electrolysis: Consider the electrolysis of a solution that is 1.00 M in each of  $CuSO_4(aq)$  and NaCl(aq)

→ Oxidation possibilities follow.
→ 2Cl<sup>-</sup>(aq) = Cl<sub>2</sub>(g) + 2e<sup>-</sup>
E<sup>o</sup> = -1.358 V
→ 2SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup>(aq) = S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>8</sub><sup>2-</sup>(aq) + 2e<sup>-</sup>
E<sup>o</sup> = -2.01 V
→ 2H<sub>2</sub>O = 4H<sup>+</sup>(aq) + O<sub>2</sub>(g) + 4e<sup>-</sup>

→ Reduction possibilities follow:
→ Na<sup>+</sup>(aq) + e<sup>-</sup> = Na(s)  $E^{\circ} = -2.713 V$ → Cu<sup>2+</sup>(aq) + 2e<sup>-</sup> = Cu(s)  $E^{\circ} = +0.337 V$ > 2H<sub>2</sub>O + 2e<sup>-</sup> = H<sub>2</sub>(g) + 2OH<sup>-</sup>(aq)  $E^{\circ} = +0.828 V$ 

- $\rightarrow$  We would choose the production of  $O_2(g)$  and Cu(s).
- → But the voltage for producing  $O_2(g)$  from solution is considerably higher than the standard potential, because of the high activation energy needed to form  $O_2(g)$ .
- The voltage for this half cell seems to be closer to -1.5 V in reality.
- → The result then is the production of Cl<sub>2</sub>(g) and Cu(s). anode, oxidation: 2Cl<sup>-</sup>(aq) = Cl<sub>2</sub>(g) + 2e<sup>-</sup> E<sup>o</sup> = -1.358 V
- → cathode, reduction:  $Cu^{2+}(aq) + 2e^{-} = Cu(s) E^{\circ} = +0.337 V$
- → overall:  $CuCl_2(aq)$  : Cu(s) +  $Cl_2(g)$  E = -1.021 V
- → We must apply a voltage of more than +1.021 V to cause this reaction to occur.

## Products of Electrolysis

	Type of Electrode	At Anode	At Cathode
Molten NaCl		Cl <sub>2</sub>	Na
Aqueous NaCl		Cl <sub>2</sub>	H <sub>2</sub>
Aqueous CuBr		Br <sub>2</sub>	Cu
Aqueous CuSO <sub>4</sub>		Cu dissolves	Cu deposited
Aqueous CuSO <sub>4</sub>	Pt. Electrodes	02	Cu

Stoichiometry of electrolysis: Relation between amounts of charge and product

Faraday's law of electrolysis relates to the amount of substance produced at each electrode is directly proportional to the quantity of charge flowing through the cell (half reaction).

Each balanced half-cell shows the relationship between moles of electrons and the product.

### Faradays Laws

Faraday First Law :

$$M \propto Q \qquad \longrightarrow \qquad M = ZIT$$

$$Z \text{ is electrochemical constant}$$

$$Na^{+}Cl \longrightarrow Na + \frac{1}{2}Cl_{2}$$

$$Na^{+} + e^{-} \longrightarrow Na$$

$$2Cl^{-} \longrightarrow Cl_{2} + 2e^{-}$$

$$Ma^{+} = 2IT$$

$$Charge on one mole of electrons is 96487 \approx 96500 C = one Faraday$$

If n e<sup>-</sup> are involved in the electrode reaction, the passage of n-faraday of electricity will liberate one mole of substance Stoichiometry of Electrolysis

- How much chemical change occurs with the flow of a given current for a specified time?
- $\textbf{\rightarrow}$  moles of electrons  $\rightarrow$  moles of analyte  $\rightarrow$
- →grams of analyte

#### **Electrolysis and Mass Changes**



charge (Coulombs) = current (Amperes) x time (sec)

1 mole e<sup>-</sup> = 96,500 C = 1 Faraday

#### Problems

- How much charge is requires for the following reactions?
  - i) 1 mol of  $MnO_4^-$  to  $Mn^{2+}$
  - ii) 1 mol of  $H_2O$  to  $O_2$
  - iii) Complete oxidation of 90g of water
  - iv) Complete reduction of 100 ml Of 0.1 M KMnO<sub>4</sub> solution

How much Ca will be produced in an electrolytic cell of molten  $CaCl_2$  if a current of 0.452 A is passed through the cell for 1.5 hours?

Anode:  $2\operatorname{Cl}^{-}(h) \longrightarrow \operatorname{Cl}_{2}(g) + 2e^{-}$ Cathode:  $\operatorname{Ca}^{2+}(h) + 2e^{-} \longrightarrow \operatorname{Ca}(s)$  $\operatorname{Ca}^{2+}(h) + 2\operatorname{Cl}^{-}(h) \longrightarrow \operatorname{Ca}(s) + \operatorname{Cl}_{2}(g)$ 

2 mole  $e^{-} = 1$  mole Ca

mol Ca = 
$$0.452 \frac{2}{5} \times 1.5$$
 hr x  $3600 \frac{8}{5} \times \frac{1 \text{ mol } e^{-}}{96,500} \times \frac{1 \text{ mol } Ca}{2 \text{ mol } e^{-}}$   
=  $0.0126$  mol Ca =  $0.50$  g Ca

#### Doing work with electricity.



#### Faradays Laws

#### Faraday Second Law :

When the same amount of electricity is passed through solutions of different electrolytes connected in series, the weights of substances produced at the electrodes are directly proportional to their equivalents weights

Weight of  $M_1$  deposited= Gram Equivalent weight of  $M_1$ Weight of  $M_2$  depositedGram Equivalent weight of  $M_2$ 

## Industrial Applications of Electrolysis

# Production of hydrogen by electrolysis of $H_2O$ .

- Production of Cl<sub>2</sub> by electrolysis of aqueous NaCl solution.
- Manufacture of heavy water
- Electrolytic extraction of metals like Na, K, Mg, Ca, Al etc.
- Electroplating and electrorefining

## Molten NaCl

Observe the reactions at the electrodes



Molten NaCl Electrolytic Cell

cathode half-cell (-) REDUCTION [Na<sup>+</sup> +  $e^- \rightarrow$  Na] X 2 anode half-cell (+) OXIDATION  $2Cl^- \rightarrow Cl_2 + 2e^$ overall cell reaction  $2Na^+ + 2Cl^- \rightarrow 2Na + Cl_2$ 

#### The Downs Cell for the Electrolysis of Molten Sodium Chloride


# A schematic diagram of an electrolytic cell for producing aluminum by the Hall-Heroult process.







### Production of solid Mg



The definition and the measurement Conductance G in S  $G = \frac{1}{R} \qquad G = \kappa \frac{A_s}{l}$ 

→ K in equation is conductivity. In S m<sup>-1</sup>.
→ Molar conductivity (in Sm<sup>2</sup>mol<sup>-1</sup>)

$$\Lambda_m = \kappa / c$$

Factors affecting the molar conductivity  $(\Lambda_m)$ 

- Solute Solute Interaction
- Solute-Solvent Interaction
- Solvent Solvent Interaction
- → Temperature
- Concentration



Strong Electrolytes: There is slight increase in molar conductivity with the decrease in concentration.

Weak Electrolytes: The molar conductivity increases many folds with the decrease in molar conductivity

For strong electrolyte , Kohlrausch observed that  $\Lambda_{\rm m}$  decreased with concentration according to the expression

$$\Lambda_{\rm m} = \Lambda_{\rm m}^{\infty} - A\sqrt{c}$$

#### Law of the independent migration of ions

→ Kohlrausch discovered relations between the values of  $\Lambda_m^{\infty}$  for different electrolytes. eg  $\Lambda_m^{\infty}(\text{KCl}) = 0.01499 \text{ S} \cdot \text{m}^2 \cdot \text{mol}^{-1}$  $\Lambda_m^{\infty}(\text{LiCl}) = 0.01150 \text{ S} \cdot \text{m}^2 \cdot \text{mol}^{-1}$  $\Lambda_m^{\infty}(\text{KNO}_3) = 0.01450 \text{ S} \cdot \text{m}^2 \cdot \text{mol}^{-1}$  $\Lambda_m^{\infty}(\text{LiNO}_3) = 0.01101 \text{ S} \cdot \text{m}^2 \cdot \text{mol}^{-1}$ 

The difference in for pairs of salts having common ion is always approximately constant.

Applications of Kohlrausch Law

 ${\ensuremath{\,{\rm o}}}$  To calculate the  $\Lambda^\infty_m\,$  of weak electrolytes

 $\rightarrow$  Degree of dissociation  $\alpha = \Lambda_m / \Lambda_m^{\infty}$ 

-> Dissociation constant K =  $C\alpha^2/1$ -  $\alpha$ 

#### Lecture summary

- ->Electrolysis is often the reverse of voltaic cell in that  $E_{cell} < 0$ , and  $\Delta G > 0$  and reaction is non-spontaneous.
- →Electrolysis of water and to produce O<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>.
- Faraday's law allows us to determine how much current is needed to produce a certain amount of an element.
- Industrial applications are numerous for producing a variety of solid elements (Al, Mg, Na, etc).