

Redox Reactions

Redox = "reduction and oxidation"

Oxidation: lose electrons (e^-)

(Classical: any reaction involving *oxygen gas* (O_2) - rusting, combustion, etc.)

Reduction: gain electrons (e^-)

(Classical: *reducing* a metal ore into pure metal)

Both reactions **always occur together**

Reducing agent: substance that causes **another substance** to become **reduced**

Oxidizing agent: substance that causes **another substance** to become **oxidized**

Reducing agents **NEVER** reduce themselves; is always **oxidized** to promote reduction

Oxidizing agents **NEVER** oxidize themselves; is always **reduced** to promote oxidation

Reducing/oxidizing agents are **ALWAYS** reactants

Remember: **LEO** the lion says **GER**

Lose Electrons = Oxidation

Gain Electrons = Reduction

Not new reactions: many synthesis, decomposition, combustion and single displacement reactions are often redox reactions

Oxidation States/Oxidation Numbers

Net charge that an atom *would have* if the e^- pairs in covalent bonds belonged **entirely** to the **more electronegative ion**

All redox reactions require a **change in O.N.**

↑ O.N. = oxidation (loss of e^-) ↓ O.N. = reduction (gain of e^-)

Rules to determine oxidation numbers (O.N.)

Pure elements C (s) = 0, O₂ (s) = 0, P₄ (s) = 0
have O.N. = 0

Oxidation States/Oxidation Numbers (cont)

Monoatomic ions have O.N. = their **charge** Al³⁺ = +3, Cl⁻ = -1

Hydrogen **always** has O.N. = +1 (except metal hydrides = -1) HCl (H = +1); H₂S (H = +1); CaH₂ (H = -1)

Oxygen **always** has O.N. = -2 (except peroxides = -1) Li₂O (O = -2); KNO₃ (O = -2); H₂O₂ (O = -1)

In a compound, **groups I, II, and IV** usually have O.N. = **ionic charge** NaCl (Na = +1, Cl = -1); MgO (Mg = +2)

In a **neutral** compound¹, **ΣO.N. = 0** CF₄ (C = +4, F = -1)

In a polyatomic ion, **ΣO.N. = ion's charge** NO₃⁻ (N = 5, O = -2; Σ O.N. = -1)

In molecular compounds with **no O or H**, the **more electronegative atom** has O.N. = its usual charge CS₂ (S = -2), Li₃N (N = -3)

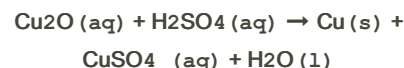
Note: The atoms **do not actually have these charges!**

^[1] If a compound contains a polyatomic ion, the **charge on the other ion** is the **opposite** to the **polyatomic ion's charge** (ex. KIO₃ - K = +1 because IO₃ is 1-)

Format for O.N.: "±#" (not "#±" - ionic charges)

Half-Reactions and Disproportionate Reactions

Most often, one atom is reduced and another is oxidized, but sometimes the same atom can be **oxidized and reduced in the same redox reaction**

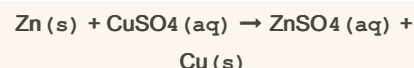


Cu → +1 to 0 → gain 1 e^- → **reduced**

Cu → +1 to +2 → lose 1 e^- → **oxidized**

Since both of these happen in the **same reaction**, it is **disproportionate**

Half-reaction: reactions made from overall net ionic equations that focus on 1 specific atom



Electrochemical Cells

Two types of electrochemical cells:

Galvanic cells arrangement of 2 connected *half-cells* that **spontaneously** produce an electric current; e^- always flow from high potential → low potential

Electrolytic cells arrangement of 2 connected *half-cells* that uses electrical energy to produce a **non-spontaneous** electric current; e^- always flow from low potential → high potential

Parts of an electrochemical cell

Electrolyte: solution that contains aqueous ions (**cations** (+) and **anions** (-))



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Electrochemical Cells (cont)

Electrode: solid metal conductor where redox reactions occur (**cathode** (oxidation) and **anode** (reduction))

Salt bridge: tube that contains an electrolyte solution and connects the 2 half-cells; used to maintain electrical neutrality

During the lifespan of the cell, the anode decreases in mass, while the cathode increases in mass

Cell Potential

The measure of the **electric potential difference** (voltage) between 2 half-cells

Standard cell: galvanic cell in which all entities are at **SATP** and all solution concentrations are **1.0 mol/L**

Standard cell potential (ΔE°): the ability of each half cell to **gain e^-** (reduction)

Cell potential formula:

$$\Delta E^\circ (\text{cell}) = E^\circ \text{cathode} - E^\circ \text{anode}$$

Batteries

Cell: 2 connected electrodes in contact with an electrolyte

Battery: 2 or more cells connected in series; voltage of battery is the **sum of the voltage of all the cells**

Different kinds of batteries are made for **different sized devices**; the **bigger** the battery, the **more electrolytic solution**, and the **longer it lasts**

Alkaline battery: a battery that uses an **alkaline (basic)** electrode rather than an acid

Primary vs secondary cells

Batteries (cont)

Primary cells: **non-rechargeable** cells that run until reactants are **used up** (galvanic cells)

Secondary cells: cells that can be **recharged** by adding an **electric current** (galvanic when being used, electrolytic when being recharged)

Corrosion

The **breakdown/deterioration of metal** by a **redox reaction**

Conditions required for corrosion	Conditions that accelerate corrosion
Oxygen (O_2)	High temperature
Water (H_2O (l))	Salt and/or other electrolytes
	Decrease in pH (more acidity)

Rusting: the corrosion of iron (Fe) **specifically**

Corrosion Prevention

Method 1: Galvanize the metal

Galvanizing: process where a metal (usually steel) is **coated with a thick layer of zinc (Zn)** to prevent corrosion

Method 2: Cathodic protection

Cathodic protection: form of corrosion prevention in which **e^- are continuously supplied** to the metal being protected, making it a **cathode**

Two forms:

Corrosion Prevention (cont)

Sacrificial anode the oxidation of a more active metal attached to the metal being protected prevents the protected metal from corrosion

Impressed current e^- from a direct current (DC) power source are continuously supplied to the protected metal



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