Oxidation Numbers

- Refers to the charge on a chemical species
 - Ion charge on ion
 - Atom charge = 0
 - Polyatomic ion or compound what the charge on *each* individual atom would be if it were an ion.

Determining the charge for an ion

• For Groups IA-VIIIA the "usual" charge of an ion is based on its position

-+1, +2, +3, +/-4, -3, -2, -1, 0

- For Group B (transition metals), use the Stock system
 - Roman numerals represent charges
 - Ex. Fe(II) ion = Fe²⁺

"Rules" for oxidation numbers

- The sum of the oxidation numbers must equal the overall charge on the species (0 if neutral)
- Can usually use the groups of the periodic table to determine oxidation numbers for ions.

- IA = +1, IIA = +2, IIIA = +3, IVA = +/-4, VA = -3, VIA = -2, VIIA = -1, VIIIA = 0.

- F is usually -1 (as are most halogens)
- H is usually +1 (except if combined with IA or IIA metal to form a hydride, in which case it will be -1)
- O is usually -2 (except if combined to form a peroxide (-1) or superoxide (-1/2))

Identify the atoms that are oxidized and reduced, the change in oxidation state for each, and the oxidizing and reducing agents in the following equation:

 $2K_2S_2O_3(s) + I_2(s) \rightarrow K_2S_4O_6(s) + 2KI(s)$





Redox reactions (an introduction)

- Redox reactions involve a simultaneous *reduction* and *ox*idation.
- Reduction gain of electrons
 - oxidation number is decreased
- Oxidation loss of electrons
 - Oxidation number is increased
- Disproportionation redox reaction where the same species is both oxidized and reduced.

 $- \text{Ex. } 2\text{H}_2\text{O}_2 \rightarrow 2\text{H}_2\text{O} + \text{O}_2$

Agents

- Reducing agent causes a reduction
 - Gets oxidized
 - Usually metal
- Oxidizing agent causes an oxidation
 - Gets reduced
 - Usually nonmetal

Types of electrochemical cells

Galvanic/Voltaic

 Produces electricity as a result of a spontaneous reaction



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galvanic_cell

Electrolytic/Battery

 Electricity is used to carry out a nonspontaneous reaction



Standard potentials

- Since all electrochemical cells contain two electrodes, we can only measure the overall potential, which is the combination of the potential of the anode and that of the cathode.
- We can define a reference electrode to have a voltage of 0 V so that all values are relative to this number.
- The standard hydrogen electrode (SHE) is $H_2(g)$ adsorbed on Pt, an inert metal: Pt(s) $| H_2(g) | H^+(aq)$ E^o=0 V

The Nernst equation

- We know that $\Delta G_{rxn} = \Delta G_{rxn}^{\circ} + RT \ln Q$
- Dividing both sides by -vF, and using the equation we just derived: $E = -\frac{\Delta G_{rxn}^{\circ}}{vF} \frac{RT}{vF} \ln Q$
- The 1st term represents the standard emf E^o: $\Delta G_{rxn}^{\circ} = -\nu FE^{\circ}$
- This leaves us with the Nernst equation:

$$E = E^o - \frac{RT}{\nu F} \ln Q$$

• At a temperature of 25°C, RT/F=25.7 mV, so we can write the equation as:

 $E = E^o - \frac{25.7 \ mV}{v} \ln Q$

• Sometimes it is also kept in SI units but with a common logarithm:

$$E = E^o - \frac{0.0591}{v} \log Q$$

The Nernst equation

• At equilibrium, Q=K, ΔG_{rxn} =0 and so E=0. Substituting this into the Nernst equation gives:

$$0 = E^o - \frac{RT}{\nu F} \ln K$$

- Rearranging a bit,
- This means that we can calculate equilibrium constants by measuring cell potentials.

 $\ln K = \frac{vFE^o}{RT}$

 This has important practical consequences, as a typical voltmeter can easily measure fractions of a volt, which translate into enormous K's (10³⁰ or greater) which can't be determined otherwise (at least not easily)

Final thoughts on electrochemical cells

 Note that for a spontaneous reaction, ∆G<0 and so E>0. That is, we can determine which half reaction occurs at the anode and which occurs at the cathode by looking at the corresponding potentials and rewriting them (remember we always have to flip one since they are both given as reductions!) so that the overall voltage is positive.

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For the reaction listed,
determine its standard cell
potential at 25 °C and
whether the reaction is
spontaneous at standard
conditions.
Ni^{2+}(aq) + 2e^{-} \rightarrow Ni(s)
E^{\circ} = -0.257 V
Mn^{2+}(aq) + 2e^{-} \rightarrow Mn(s)
E^{\circ} = -1.185 V
Mn(s) + Ni^{2+(aq)} \rightarrow Mn^{2+(aq)}
+ Ni(s)
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Quantitative electrolysis

- The quantity of reactant consumed (or product formed) during electrolysis can be calculated using stoichiometry
 - -Related to molar mass of substance (n = m/M)
 - Related to number of electrons transferred in the electrode reaction (v)
 - Related to the quantity of electric charge used (Q = It)

Example

 We can use electrolysis to determine the gold content of a sample. The sample is dissolved, and all the gold is converted to Au³⁺(aq), which is then reduced back to Au(s) on an electrode of known mass. What mass of gold will be deposited at the cathode in 1.00 hour by a current of 1.50 A?

Solution

• First find the total charge:

$$Q = (1.5 A)(1.00 hour) \left[\frac{1\frac{C}{s}}{1A}\right] \left[\frac{60 min}{1 hour}\right] \left[\frac{60 s}{1 min}\right] = 5.40 * 10^{3} C$$

• Next find the moles of e⁻s transferred:

$$v = \frac{Q}{F} = \frac{5.40 * 10^3 C}{96485 C/mol} = 0.0560 mol e^-$$

Solution

• Use stoichiometry to determine the moles of Au produced:

$$n = 0.0560 \ mol \ e^{-} \left(\frac{1 \ mol \ Au}{3 \ mol \ e^{-}}\right) = 0.0187 \ mol \ Au$$

• Finally calculate the mass of Au deposited: $m = n * M = 0.0187 \mod Au \left(\frac{197.0 g}{1 \mod Au}\right) = 3.68 g Au$