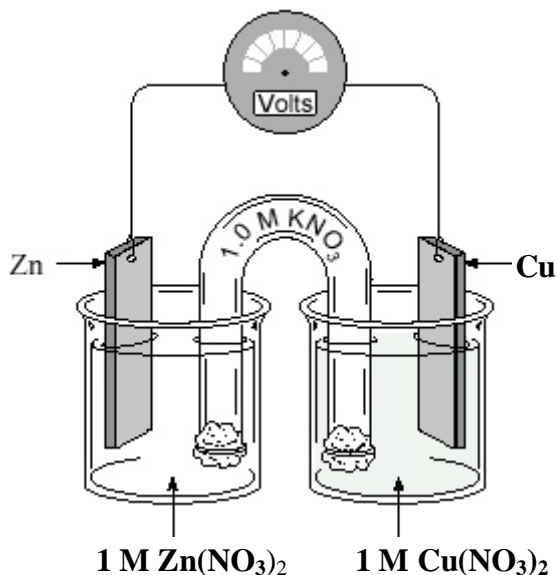


Electrochemical Cells

Demonstration (Cu/Zn Cell)



Definitions

Electrochemical cell – A device which converts chemical energy into electrical energy

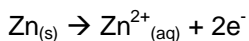
Electrode – A conductor (usually a metal) at which a half-cell reaction (oxidation or reduction) occurs

Anode - The electrode at which **oxidation** occurs. (A & O are both vowels) LEOA
(label the anode in the diagram above)

Cathode – The electrode at which **reduction** occurs. (R & C are both consonants) GERC
(Label the anode in the diagram above)

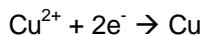
Half-cell reactions

Anode – Oxidation half-rx



Metal atoms are changed to **+ ions**. Metal dissolves and anode loses mass as the cell operates.

Cathode – Reduction half-rx

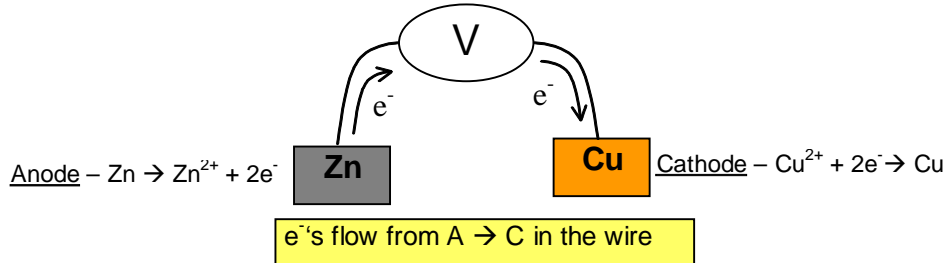


+ ions are changed to **metal atoms**. New metal is formed so the cathode gains mass.

Flow of electrons

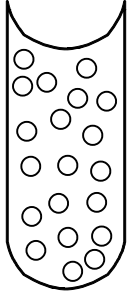
-Since the anode loses e⁻'s, (LEOA) and the cathode gains e⁻'s (GERC)

-Electrons flow from the anode toward the cathode in the wire (conducting solid)

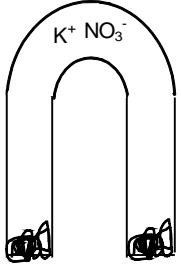


Flow of ions in the salt bridge

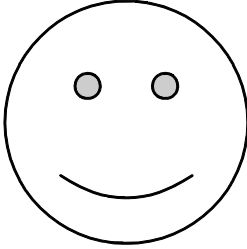
-Salt bridge contains any **electrolyte** (conducting solution)



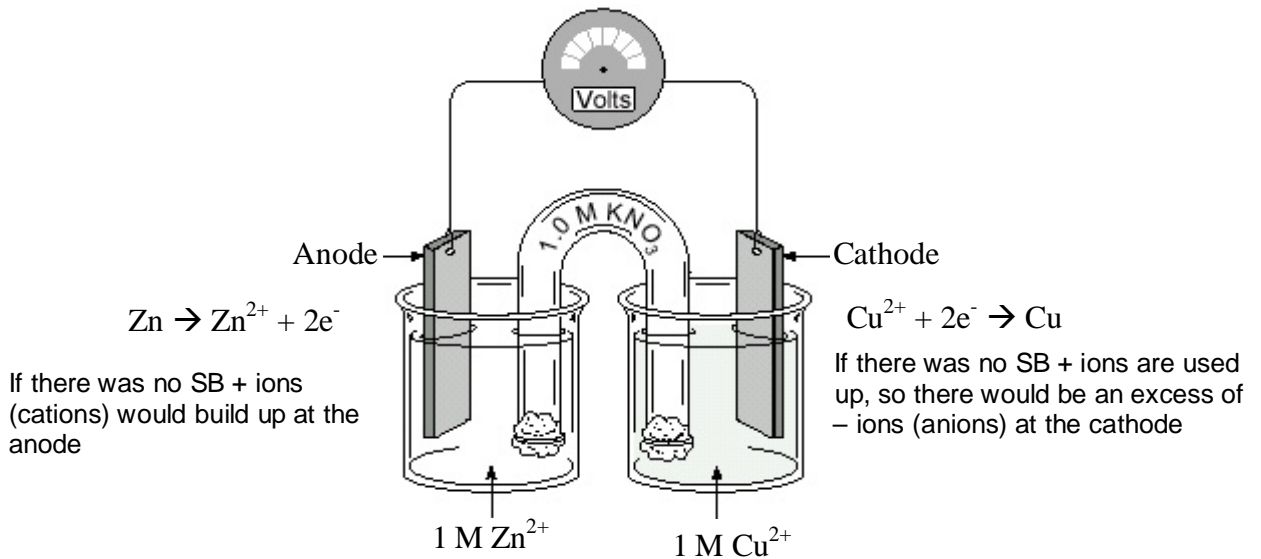
Porous barrier
which ions can
pass through



Most common – U-tube
containing a salt such as
KNO₃ or NaNO₃

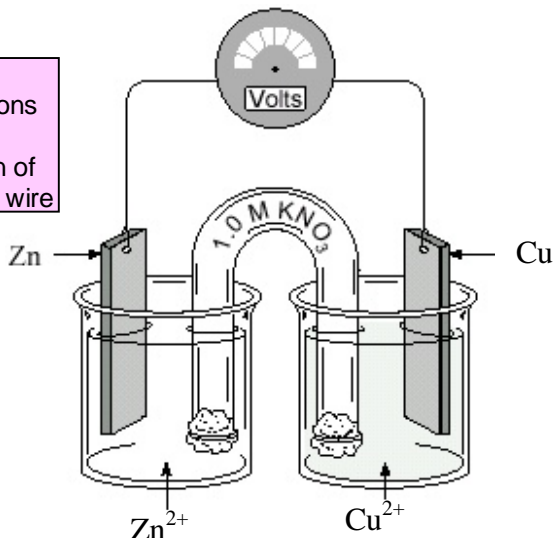


Common things which contain
electrolytes, e.g.) potatoes,
apples, oranges, lemons,
frogs, people



Cations + flow (migrate) toward the **cathode**
 And **Anions** – flow toward the **anode** } In the salt bridge

Show with arrows the direction of flow of all ions (Zn²⁺, NO₃⁻, K⁺, Cu²⁺) Also show the direction of flow of electrons in the wire



Identifying the anode and cathode

- Look at the **reduction table**
- All half-rx's are reversible (can go forward or backward)
- All are written as **reductions** (GERC)
- Their reverse would be **oxidations** (LEOA)
- The half-rx with the greater potential to be reduced is **higher** on the table (higher reduction potential E^o)

So the **higher** half-rx is the **cathode (HIC)**

(Notice Cu²⁺ + 2e⁻ → Cu is **higher** than Zn²⁺ + 2e⁻ → Zn so Cu gets to be the **cathode**)

Also notice that the **Anode** reaction is **Reversed (AIR)**

(Anode rx: Zn → Zn²⁺ + 2e⁻)

Question. Fill in the following table. Use your reduction table:

Metal/ion	Metal/ion	Cathode (HIC)	Cathode Half-rx	Anode	Anode (AIR) Half-rx
Ag/Ag ⁺	Fe/Fe ²⁺	Ag (higher)	Ag ⁺ + e ⁻ → Ag	Fe (lower)	Fe → Fe ²⁺ + 2e ⁻
Zn/Zn ²⁺	Pb/Pb ²⁺				
Ni/Ni ²⁺	Al/Al ³⁺				
Au/Au ³⁺	Ag/Ag ⁺				
Mg/Mg ²⁺	H ₂ /H ⁺				
Co/Co ²⁺	Sn/Sn ²⁺				

Summary of Electrochemical Cells (ECC's) so far...

- 1) Electrochemical cells convert _____ energy into _____ energy.
- 2) _____ is the electrode where oxidation occurs.
- 3) Electrons are _____ at the anode.
- 4) _____ is the electrode where reduction occurs.
- 5) In the half-rx at the cathode, e⁻'s are on the _____ side of the equation.
- 6) Electrons flow from the _____ toward the _____ in the _____.
- 7) Cations ((+) ions) flow from the _____ beaker toward the _____ beaker through the _____.
- 8) Anions ((-) ions) flow from the _____ beaker through the _____.
- 9) The higher half-rx on the table is the one for the _____ and is not reversed.
- 10) The lower half-rx on the table is the one for the _____ and **is** reversed.
- 11) Electrons do not travel through the _____, only through the _____.
- 12) Ions (cations & anions) do not travel through the wire but only through the _____.
- 13) The salt bridge can contain any _____.
- 14) The anode will _____(gains/loses) mass as it is _____(oxidized/reduced).
- 15) The cathode will _____ mass as it is _____(oxidized/reduced).

Read SW p. 215 - 217 in SW.
Ex 34 a-e & 35 a-e p.217 SW.

Standard reduction potentials and voltages

Voltage – The tendency for e⁻'s to flow in an electrochemical cell. (Note: a cell may have a high voltage even if no e⁻'s are flowing. It is the tendency (or potential) for e⁻'s to flow.
 -Can also be defined as the **potential energy per coulomb**. (Where 1C = the charge carried by 6.25x10¹⁸ e⁻) **1 Volt = 1 Joule/Coulomb**

Reduction potential of half-cells

-The tendency of a half-cell to be reduced. (take e⁻'s)
 Voltage only depends on the difference in potentials not the absolute potentials.

The **voltage** of a cell depends only on the **difference in reduction potentials** of the two half-cells.

e.g.)

	\$ before buying calculator	\$ after buying calculator	Difference
Mrs. A	\$2000	\$1980	\$20
Mrs. B	\$50	\$30	\$20

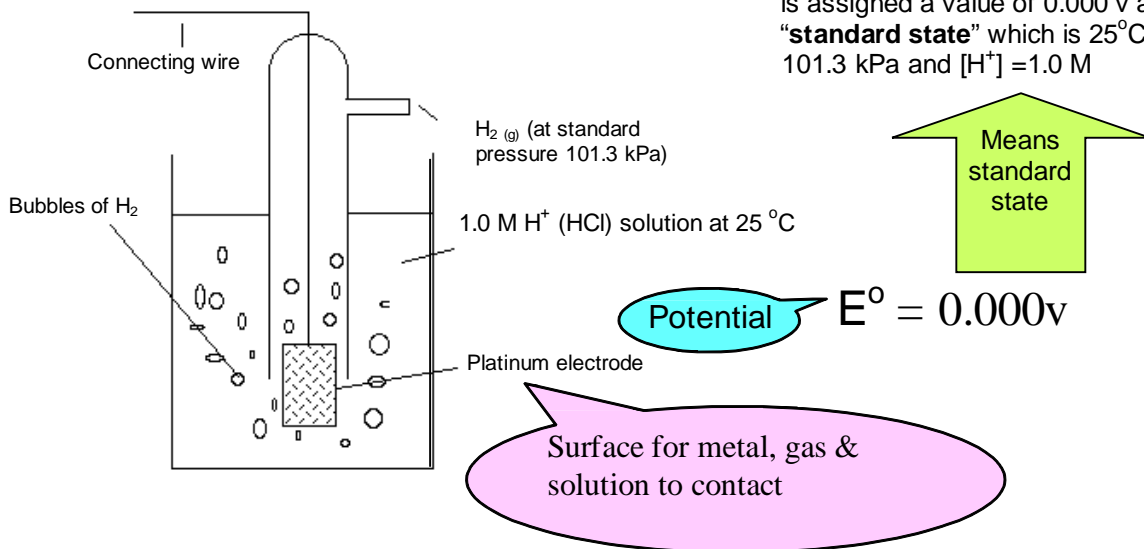
-Both people spent \$20 on the calculator.

-Relative potentials of half-cells can only be determined by connecting with other half-cells and reading the voltage.

E.g.) How good a basketball team is can only be determined by playing with other teams and looking at points (scores).

- A "standard" half-cell was arbitrarily chosen to compare other half-cells with.
- It was assigned a "reduction potential" of **0.000 v**
- It is: $2\text{H}^+(\text{aq}) + 2\text{e}^- \rightleftharpoons \text{H}_{2(\text{g})} \quad E^\circ = 0.000 \text{ v}$

- Since potential depends on gas pressure, temp. and $[\text{H}^+]$ this half cell is assigned a value of 0.000 v at "standard state" which is 25°C, 101.3 kPa and $[\text{H}^+] = 1.0 \text{ M}$



-The standard half-cell acts as an anode (LEOA) or cathode (GERC) depending on what it is connected to: For example, when the standard half-cell is connected to the Ag/Ag⁺ half-cell.

For this cell, the voltage is 0.80 volts with the electrons flowing toward the Ag.

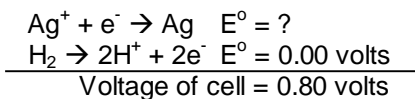
Found by experiment

So the cathode is the Ag/Ag⁺ half-cell
The anode is the H₂/H⁺ half-cell

Draw the Diagram:

(GERC)
(LEOA)

Cathode half-rx
Anode half-rx



-From this we can see that the E° for the Ag/Ag^+ half-cell must be 0.80 V **different** than that of the standard half-cell. Since the Ag/Ag^+ is the one which is reduced, we say it has a higher reduction potential than the standard. Therefore the reduction potential of the Ag/Ag^+ half-cell is +0.80 V.

Another example:

The standard (H_2/H^+) half-cell is connected to the Ni/Ni^{2+} half-cell.

-Electrons are found to flow away from the nickel toward the H_2/H^+ half-cell and the voltage (at 25 °C, 101.3 Kpa & 1.0 M solutions) is found to be 0.26 volts.

Give the: Cathode Half-rx: _____
 Anode Half-rx: _____
 Determine the E° for the Ni/Ni^{2+} half cell: _____

Now look at **Standard Reduction Table**.

Notice: -all half-rx's are written as **reductions**

-The E° is the **standard reduction potential** for the species on the **left side**.

Eg) Of the following combinations, find the one which gives the highest voltage? _____

- a) Ag^+/Ag with Cu^{2+}/Cu
- b) Pb^{2+}/Pb with Ni^+/Ni
- c) Ag^+/Ag with Pb^+/Pb
- d) Au^{3+}/Au with Ni^{2+}/Ni

-Which combo gives the lowest voltage? _____

Using the reduction table to find the initial voltage of ECC's at standard state

- 1) Find the two metals on the reduction table. **Higher** one is the **cathode**. (**HIC**)
- 2) Write the cathode half-rx as is on the table (cathode - reduction) Include the reduction potential (E°) beside it.
- 3) **Reverse** the **anode** reaction (**AIR**) (anode \rightarrow oxidation) **Reverse the sign** on the E° (If (+) \rightarrow (-) | If (-) \rightarrow (+))
- 4) **Multiply** half-rx's by factors that will make **e's cancel**. **DON'T** multiply the E° 's by these factors.
- 5) **Add up half-rx's** to get **overall redox** reaction.
- 6) **Add up E° 's** (as you have written them) to get the **initial voltage** of the cell.



Example:

A cell is constructed using Nickel metal and 1M nickel (II) nitrate along with Fe metal and 1M Iron (II) nitrate.

- a) Write the equation for the half-rx at the **cathode** (with the E°)

- b) Write the equation for the half-rx at the **anode** (with the E°)

- c) Write the balanced equation for the **overall reaction** (with the E°)

- d) What is the **initial cell voltage**? _____V

Another example:

A cell is constructed using aluminum metal, 1M $\text{Al}(\text{NO}_3)_3$ and lead metal with 1M $\text{Pb}(\text{NO}_3)_2$. Use the method in the last example to write the overall redox reaction and find the initial cell voltage.

Overall redox reaction _____

Initial cell voltage: _____volts.

Example

A student has 3 metals: Ag, Zn and Cu; three solutions: AgNO_3 , $\text{Zn}(\text{NO}_3)_2$, and $\text{Cu}(\text{NO}_3)_2$, all 1M. She also has a salt bridge containing KNO_3 (aq) wires and a voltmeter.

- a) Which combination of 2 metals and 2 solutions should she choose to get the **highest** possible voltage?

Metal: _____ Solution: _____
 Metal: _____ Solution: _____

- b) Draw a diagram of her cell labeling metals, solutions, salt bridge, wires, and voltmeter.

- c) Write an equation for the half-rx at the **cathode**. (with E°)

- d) Write an equation for the half-rx at the **anode** (with E°)

- e) Write a balanced equation for the **overall redox reaction** in the cell (with E°)

- f) The initial voltage of this cell is _____volts.

- g) In this cell, e^- 's are flowing toward which metal? _____ In the _____

- h) Positive ions are moving toward the _____ solution in the _____.

- i) Nitrate ions migrate toward the _____ solution in the _____.

- j) _____ metal is gaining mass } As the cell operates.
 _____ metal is losing mass }

The student now wants to find the combination of metals and solutions that will give the **lowest** voltage.

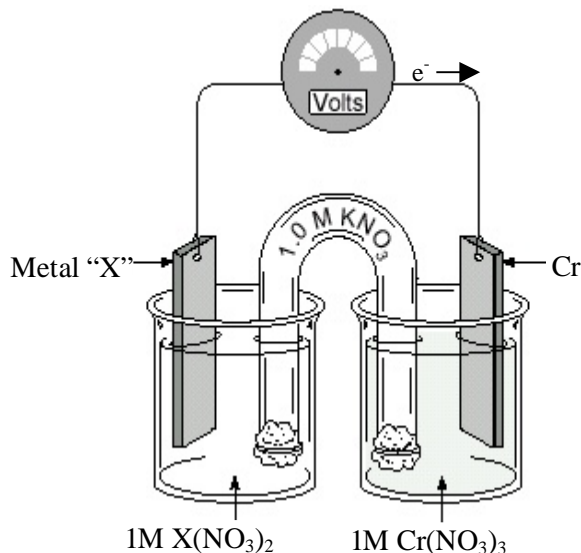
- k) Which metals and solution should she use?

Metal _____ Solution _____
 Metal _____ Solution _____

- l) Find the **overall redox equation** for this cell.

- m) Find the **initial cell voltage** of this cell _____volts.

Consider the following cell:

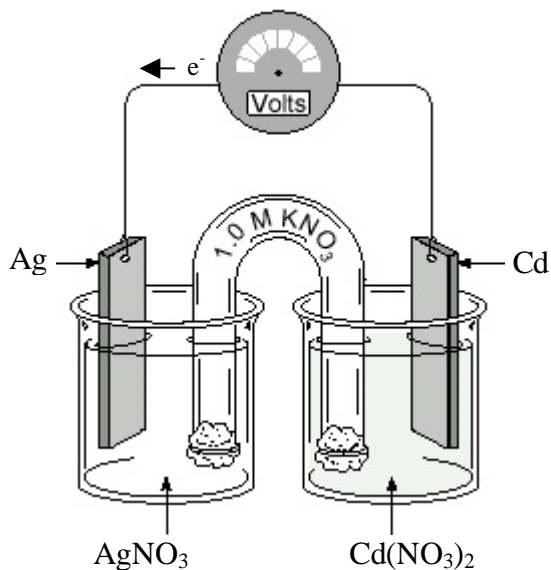


The voltage on the voltmeter is 0.45 volts.

- Write the equation for the half-reaction taking place at the anode. Include the E° .
 _____ E° : _____ v
- Write the equation for the half-reaction taking place at the cathode.
 _____ E° : _____ v
- Write the balanced equation for the redox reaction taking place as this cell operates. Include the E° .
 _____ E° : _____
- Determine the reduction potential of the ion X^{2+} .
 _____ E° : _____ v
- Toward which beaker ($X(NO_3)_2$) or ($Cr(NO_3)_3$) do NO_3^- ions migrate?

- Name the actual metal "X" _____

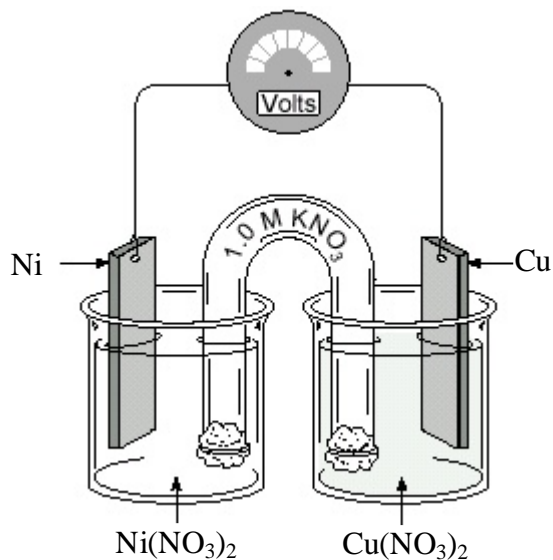
Consider the following cell:



The initial cell voltage is 1.20 Volts

- Write the equation for the half-reaction which takes place at the cathode. Include the E°
 _____ $E^\circ = \text{_____} \text{ v}$
- Write the equation for the half-reaction taking place at the anode:
 _____ $E^\circ = \text{_____} \text{ v}$
- Write the balanced equation for the overall redox reaction taking place. Include the E° .
 _____ $E^\circ = \text{_____} \text{ v}$
- Find the oxidation potential for Cd: $E^\circ = \text{_____} \text{ v}$
- Find the reduction potential for Cd^{2+} : $E^\circ = \text{_____} \text{ v}$
- Which electrode gains mass as the cell operates? _____
- Toward which beaker (AgNO_3 or $\text{Cd}(\text{NO}_3)_2$) do K^+ ions move? _____
- The silver electrode and AgNO_3 solution is replaced by Zn metal and $\text{Zn}(\text{NO}_3)_2$ solution.
 What is the cell voltage now? _____ Which metal now is the cathode? _____

Consider the following electrochemical cell:

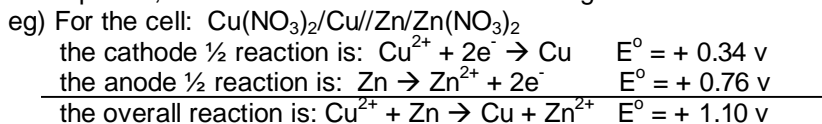


- Write the equation for the half-reaction taking place at the nickel electrode. Include the E°
 _____ $E^\circ = \text{ ____ } \text{ v}$
- Write the equation for the half-reaction taking place at the Cu electrode. Include the E° .
 _____ $E^\circ = \text{ ____ } \text{ v}$
- Write the balanced equation for the redox reaction taking place.
 _____ $E^\circ = \text{ ____ } \text{ v}$
- What is the initial cell voltage? _____
- Show the direction of electron flow on the diagram above with an arrow with an "e⁻" written above it.
- Show the direction of flow of cations in the salt bridge using an arrow with "Cations" written above it.

Voltages at non-standard conditions

Note: When cells are first constructed, they are **not at equilibrium**. All the voltages calculated by the reduction table are **initial voltages**.

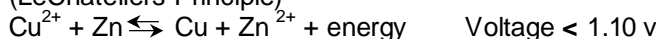
-As the cells operate, the concentrations of the ions change:



All electrochemical cells are exothermic (they give off energy) $\xrightarrow{\text{strong tendency to form products}}$

Initially: $\text{Cu}^{2+} + \text{Zn} \rightleftharpoons \text{Cu} + \text{Zn}^{2+} + \text{energy}$ Voltage = 1.10 v

- As the cell operates $[\text{Cu}^{2+}]$ **decreases** (reactants used up) & $[\text{Zn}^{2+}]$ **increases** (products formed). Both these changes tend to push the reaction to the **left** (LeChateliers Principle)



Eventually, these tendencies will be **equal**. At this point, the cell has reached equilibrium. At **equilibrium** the cell voltage becomes **0.00 v**.

Question: A cell is constructed using $\text{Cr}/\text{Cr}(\text{NO}_3)_3$ and $\text{Fe}/\text{Fe}(\text{NO}_3)_2$ with both solutions at 1.0 M and the temperature at 25 °C.

- a) Determine the **initial cell voltage**.

Answer: _____v

- b) What is the **equilibrium cell voltage**?

Answer: _____v

- c) Write the balanced equation for the overall reaction taking place. Write the word "energy" on the right side and make the arrow double.

- d) Using the equation in (c), predict what will happen to the cell voltage when the following changes are made:

i) More $\text{Cr}(\text{NO}_3)_3$ is added to the beaker to **increase** the $[\text{Cr}^{3+}]$

Cell voltage: _____creases

ii) The $[\text{Fe}^{2+}]$ ions is **increased**.

Cell voltage _____creases

iii) A solution is added to precipitate the Fe^{2+} ions

The $[\text{Fe}^{2+}]$ will _____crease & cell voltage will _____crease

- iv) Cr^{3+} ions are removed by precipitation. Voltage: _____ creases
- v) The surface area of the Fe electrode is increased (see "conclusion near middle of page 223 SW) Voltage: _____
- vi) The salt bridge is removed. Voltage _____

Predicting spontaneity from E° of a redox reaction

If E° for any redox (overall) reaction is > 0 (positive) the reaction is **Spontaneous**.

If E° is < 0 (negative) the reaction is **Non-spontaneous**

When a reaction is **reversed** the **sign** of E° changes

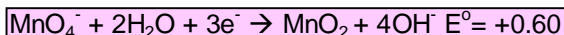
Example:

- a) Find the standard potential (E°) for the following reaction:

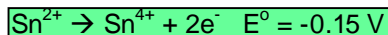
$$2\text{MnO}_4^- + 4\text{H}_2\text{O} + 3\text{Sn}^{2+} \rightarrow 2\text{MnO}_2 + 8\text{OH}^- + 3\text{Sn}^{4+}$$
- b) Is this reaction as written (forward rx) spontaneous? _____
- c) Is the reverse reaction spontaneous? _____ $E^\circ =$ _____

Solution:

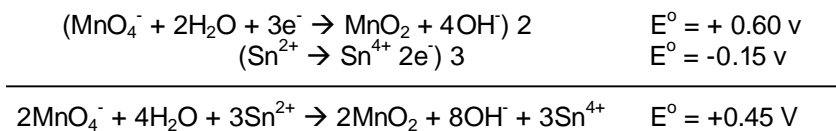
- a) Find the two half-rx's which add up to give this reaction. Write them so what's on the **left** of the overall rx is on the **left** of the half-rx. (& what's on **right** is on the **right**) The half-rx for $\text{MnO}_4^- \rightarrow \text{MnO}_2$ in basic soln. is at + 0.60. To keep MnO_4^- on the left, this $\frac{1}{2}$ rx is written as it is on the table.



The rest of the overall rx involves Sn^{2+} changing to Sn^{4+} . The $\frac{1}{2}$ reaction for that must be reversed as well as its E° . Since Sn^{2+} must stay on the left side, the half-rx on the table must be reversed as well as its E° .



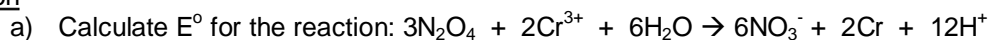
-Now, add up the 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ -rx's to get the overall (Multiply by factors to balance e^- 's -and add up E° 's.



So E° for the overall redox reaction = **+ 0.45 v**

- b) Since E° is positive, this reaction is **spontaneous** as written.
- c) The E° for the reverse reaction would be **- 0.45 v** so the **reverse reaction** is **non-spontaneous**.

Question



b) Is the forward rx spontaneous? _____ The reverse rx? _____

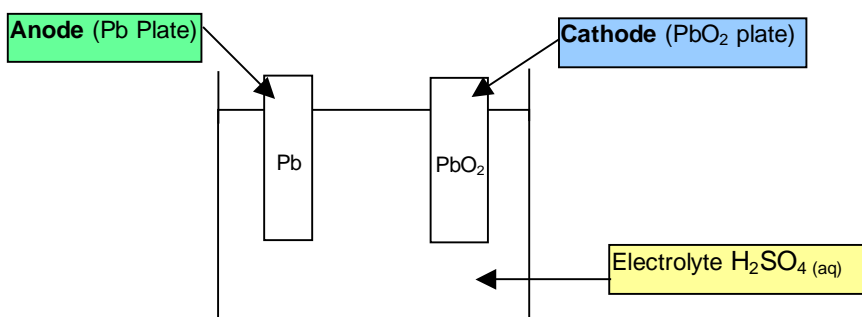
Read SW. p. 215-224

Do Ex. 35 p. 217 and Ex. 36 a-d & 37-45 on p. 224-226 of SW

Practical Applications of Electrochemical Cells

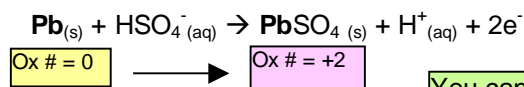
-See SW. p. 230 - 233

The Lead-Acid Storage Battery (Automobile battery)



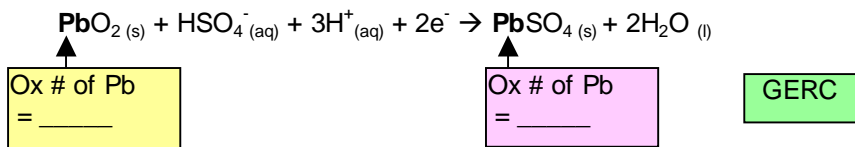
-This cell is **rechargeable** (Reactions can be reversed)

Anode 1/2 reaction (Discharging or operating)



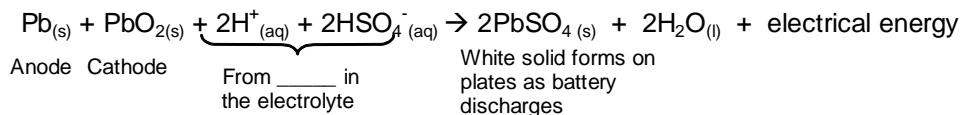
You can tell this is **oxidation** because ox # of Pb ____ creases and electrons are _____. (LEOA)

Cathode 1/2 reaction (Discharging or operating)



Write the balanced equation for the **overall redox reaction** (discharging)

The **overall redox reaction**: (discharging or operating)

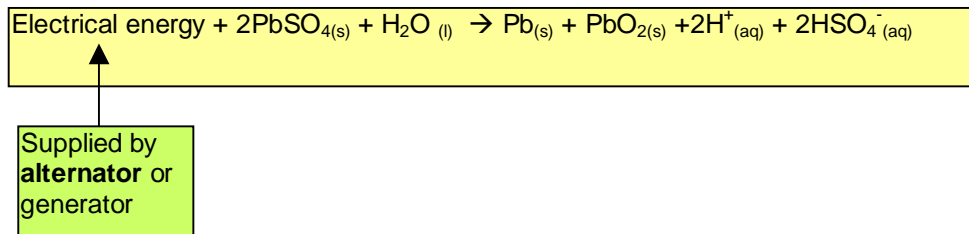


Notes: As cell discharges the anode (Pb) and cathode (PbO₂) disintegrate and the white solid (PbSO₄) forms on both plates.

Originally, [H⁺] & [HSO₄⁻] is high. i.e.) [H₂SO₄] is high. H₂SO₄ is denser than H₂O therefore the density (specific gravity) of the electrolyte is **high** to start with. As the cell discharges, H₂SO₄ (H⁺ & HSO₄⁻) is used up and H₂O is formed. Therefore, electrolyte gets less dense as the battery discharges. Condition of the battery can be determined using a “hydrometer” or battery tester. (Higher the float, the **denser** the electrolyte)

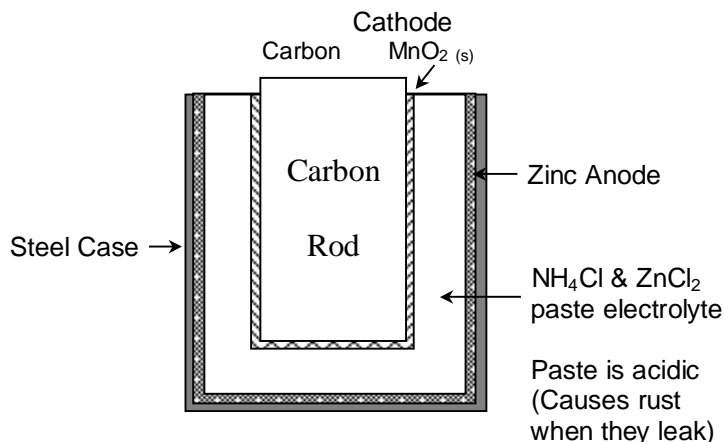
Adding electrical energy to this reaction will **reverse** it (**recharging**)

Charging Reaction:

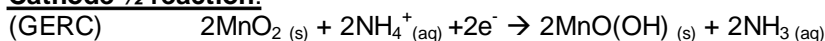


The E^o for the **discharging** rx, is +2.04 volts. A typical car battery has _____ of these in (Series/parallel) _____ to give a total voltage = _____ V.

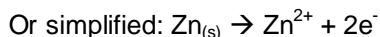
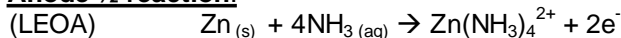
The Zinc-Carbon battery (LeClanche-Cell, Common Dry cell, or regular carbon battery. Often called “Heavy Duty”)



Cathode 1/2 reaction:

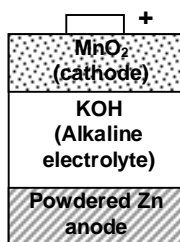


Anode 1/2 reaction:

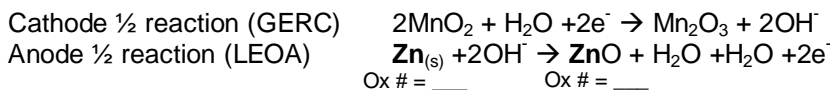


- Not rechargeable**
- Doesn't last too long – especially with large currents
- Fairly cheap

The alkaline dry cell

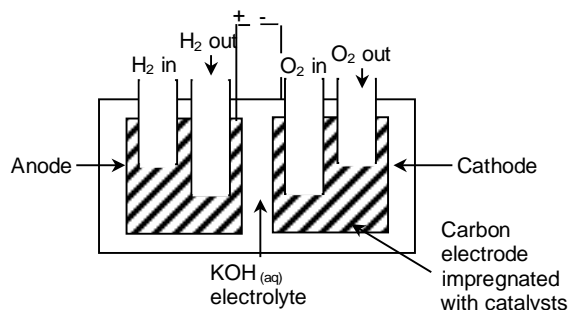


- Operates under **basic** conditions
- Delivers much **greater current**
- Voltage remains constant
- More **expensive**
- **Lasts longer**

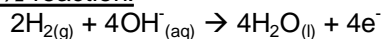


Fuel cells

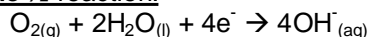
- Fuel cells are continuously fed fuel and they convert the **chemical** energy in fuel to **electrical** energy
- more **efficient** (70-80%) than burning gas or diesel to run generators (30-40%)
- no pollution – only produces **water**
- can use **H₂** and **O₂** or **hydrogen rich fuels** (e.g. methane CH₄) and O₂.
- used in space capsules –H₂ & O₂ in tanks H₂O produced used for drinking



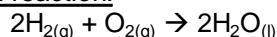
Anode 1/2 reaction:



Cathode 1/2 reaction:



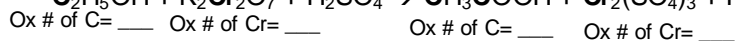
Overall reaction:



Applied electrochemistry—The Breathalyzer Test

After drinking, breath contains ethanol C₂H₅OH.

Acidified dichromate (at E° = 1.23 on the reduction table) will **oxidize** alcohol. The unbalanced formula equation is:



K₂Cr₂O₇ is yellow
(orange at higher
concentrations)

Cr₂(SO₄)₃ is green

- Exhaled air is mixed with standardized acidified dichromate
- Put in a spectrophotometer set at the wavelength of green light
- More alcohol produces more green Cr₂(SO₄)₃ (green)
- Machine is calibrated with known concentration samples of alcohol to ensure accuracy

Question: In the reaction above name

- The oxidizing agent _____
- The reducing agent _____
- The product of oxidation _____
- The product of reduction _____