Chapter 6

Introduction

- Electrochemistry is the study of electrical energy and chemical energy.
- Some chemical reactions produce electricity or electricity causes the reactions take place.
- In 1771 Luigi Galvani, Italian anatomist, discovered a new form of electricity could be produced by living tissue.
- In 1800's Italian physicist Alessandro Volta built a battery.

Oxidation-Reduction Reactions

- Electron transfer reactions are called oxidation-reduction or redox reactions.
- Charges of elements are zero.
- Sum of charges of elements in a compound is equal to zero.
 - Oxidation is loss of electrons. (losing e)
 - Reduction is gain of electrons. (taking e)
 - Oxidizing agent is Oxidizes other element. (take electron)
 - Reducing agent is Reduces other element.(loses electron)

Chapter 61. Oxidation-Reduction ReactionsNa \rightarrow Na⁺¹ +1e⁻ oxidationCl₂ + 2e⁻ \rightarrow 2Cl⁻¹ reduction

Here, Na is reducing agent, while CI_2 is oxidizing agent.

Example 1

Mg and O₂ react to form MgO. What are the oxidizing and reducing agents?

Solution

 $2Mg + O_2 \rightarrow 2MgO$

Mg undergoes oxidation process, it is called reducing agent.

 O_2 undergoes reduction process, it is called oxidizing agent.

1. Oxidation States

Oxidation states of the elements must be known to

balance redox reactions.

- Oxidation states of elements in most stable form is zero,
 like Fe, Cu, Ag, O₂, H₂, P, S, P₄...etc
- Group IA have +1, and Group IIA have +2 and Group IIIA

have +3, Halogens have -1 oxidation states.

- Hydrogen in metal hydrates has -1 oxidation state.
- Sum of the oxidation states in compounds is zero, in ions is equal to charge of ion.

Example 2

Find the oxidation state of metals in the following species. A. FeO B. $KMnO_4$ C. $Na_2Cr_2O_7$ D. HgOH

Solution

- $A. \quad x + -2 = 0 \rightarrow x = +2$
- **B**. +1 + x + 4(-2) = 0 \rightarrow x = +7
- C. $2(+1) + 2x + 7(-2) = 0 \rightarrow x = +6$
- **D.** $x + (-2) + 1 = 0 \rightarrow x = +1$

Example 3

Find the oxidation state of indicated atoms in the following species.

A. PO_4^{-3} B. CO_3^{-2} C. K_2CrO_4 D. NH_4^{+1}

Solution

A.
$$x + 4(-2) = -3 \rightarrow x = +5$$

- **B.** $x + 3(-2) = -2 \rightarrow x = +4$
- C. $2(+1) + x + 4(-2) = 0 \rightarrow x = +6$
- **D**. $x + 4(+1) = +1 \rightarrow x = -3$