

## Unit 5:

### REDOX REACTION

#### # Concepts of Oxidation and Reduction:

\*) Oxidation

\*) Reduction

Classical:

addition of oxygen/electronegative radical.

removal of oxygen/electronegative radical.

removal of hydrogen/electropositive radical.

addition of hydrogen/electropositive radical.

Modern:

loss of electrons

gain of electrons

Oxidation numbers.

increase in oxidation numbers.

decrease in oxidation numbers.

\*) Oxidizing agent (Oxidant):

The reagent that oxidizes others but itself undergoes reduction is called oxidant.

\*) Reducing agent (Reductant)

The reagent that reduces others but itself oxidizes is called reductant.

\*) Oxidation numbers:

The residual charge left on an atom when other atoms of the molecules are removed is called oxidation number.

#### # Balancing Reaction Using Ion-electron Method:

i) Divide the equation into oxidation half and reduction half.

ii) Balance oxidation and reduction half separately.

iii) At first, balance all elements except hydrogen and oxygen.

iv) Balance oxygen by addition water molecule on either side.

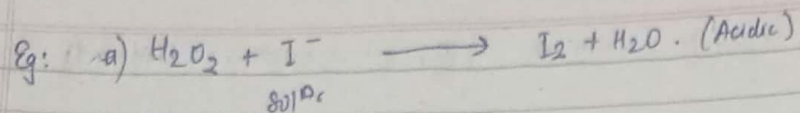
v) Balance hydrogen by adding  $H^+$  ion on required side.

vi) Finally charge is balanced by adding electron on either side.

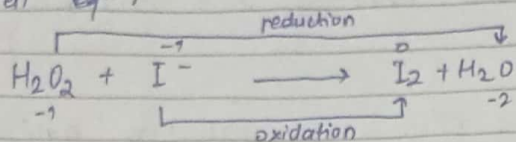
vii) After separate balancing, the oxidation and reduction half are added and then electrons are cancelled out.

viii) If the reaction is in acidic medium, it is balanced reaction but if it occurs in basic medium, a)  $OH^-$  ions equal to  $H^+$  ions are added.

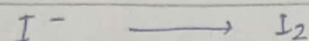
b)  $OH^-$  and  $H^+$  ions give water molecules that are eliminated from both sides giving balanced equation.



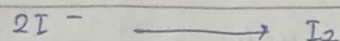
Given eqn,



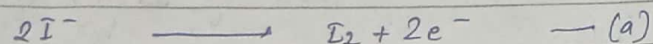
for oxidation half,



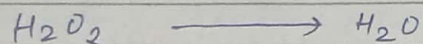
Balancing elements other than oxygen and hydrogen,



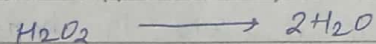
Balancing charge on product side,



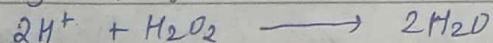
for reduction half,



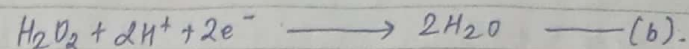
Balancing oxygen on product side,



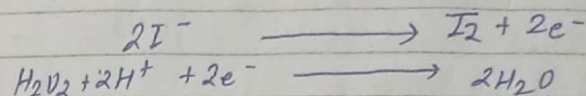
Balancing hydrogen on reactant side,



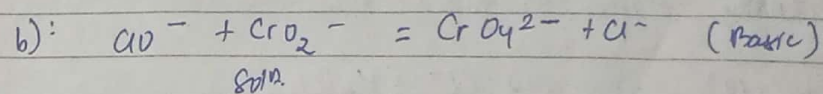
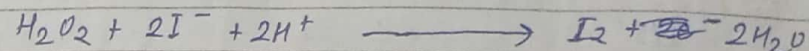
Balancing charge on reactant side,



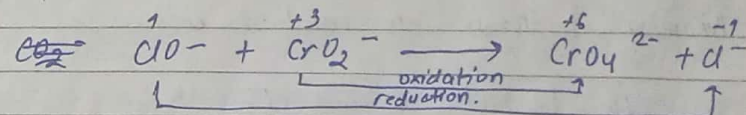
Here, adding (a) and (b),



The overall balanced reaction is,



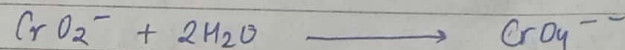
Given eq reaction,



For oxidation half,

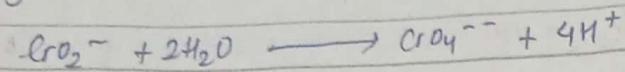


Balancing oxygen on reactant side,

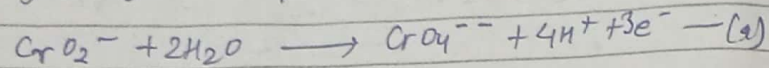




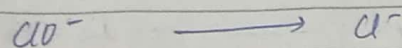
Balancing hydrogen on product side,



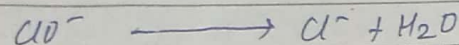
Balancing charge on product side,



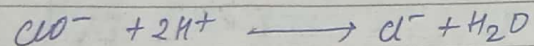
for reduction half,



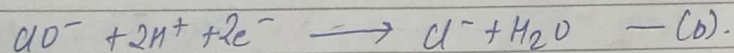
Balancing oxygen on product side,



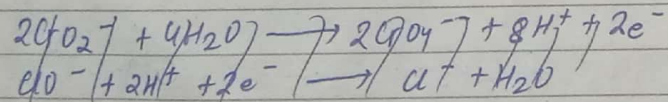
Balancing hydrogen on reactant side,



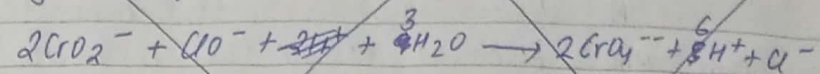
Balancing charge on reactant side,



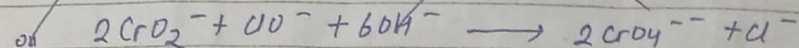
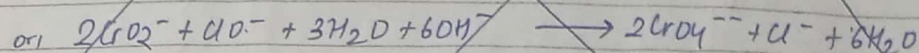
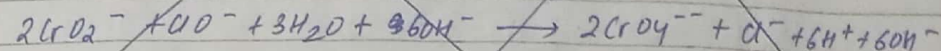
So,



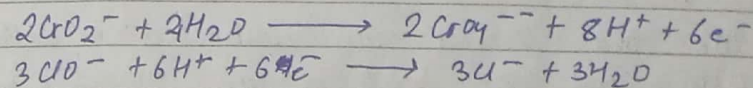
Adding we get,



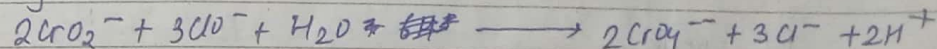
Since reaction occurs in basic medium,  
adding  $6\text{OH}^-$  on both sides



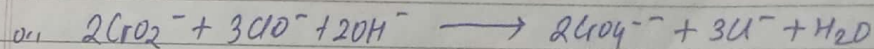
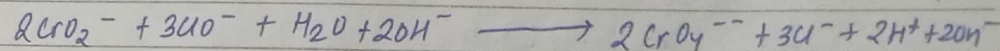
So, multiplying (a) by 2 and (b) by 3,



Adding we get



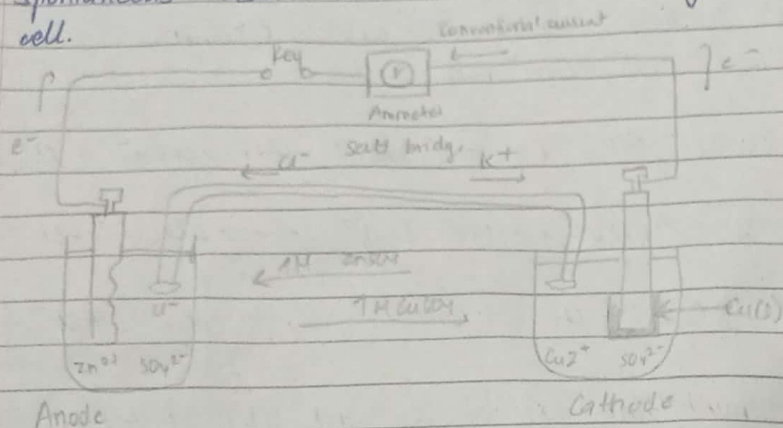
Adding  $2\text{OH}^-$  on both sides



This is the balanced equation.

## # Galvanic Cell / Voltaic Cell / Electrochemical Cell

A device that converts chemical energy into electrical energy as a result of spontaneous redox reaction is called galvanic cell.



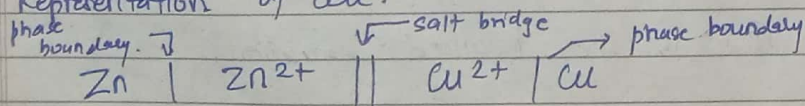
The two beakers are connected by salt bridge and the electrodes are connected by copper wire with an ammeter.

At anode,  
→ oxidation occurs  
 $\text{Zn} \rightarrow \text{Zn}^{2+} + 2\text{e}^-$

At cathode,  
→ reduction occurs.  
 $\text{Cu}^{2+} + 2\text{e}^- \rightarrow \text{Cu}$

Net redox reaction:  
 $\text{Zn} + \text{Cu}^{2+} \rightarrow \text{Zn}^{2+} + \text{Cu}$

Representation of cell:



## # Salt bridge:

Salt bridge is U-shaped tube containing KCl, KNO<sub>3</sub> or NH<sub>4</sub>NO<sub>3</sub> solution in agar-agar gel.

It establishes electrical contact between two half cells and doesn't participate in chemical reaction.

→ It prevents the any net charge accumulation in either half cell.

Here, voltage of galvanic cell is the function of

(a): the ratio of concentration of zinc ~~or~~ <sup>and</sup> copper cupric ions.

voltage increases if ~~at~~ reactant concentration increases  
voltage decreases if product concentration decreases.

(b): It is the characteristic of both of the chemical substance involved in cell reactions and their concentration.



(\*) Types of Electrodes:

The common types of electrodes that are used in galvanic cells are: active metal, inert, gas electrodes.

(a) Active metal electrodes:

They are active metals and dissolved or formed during cell reaction.  
Eg: Zn-Cu electrodes.

(b) Inert / Sensing Electrode:

They remain unchanged by net cell reaction.  
Eg: Platinum (Pt) and Graphite (C) electrode.

(c) Gas Electrodes:

They also remain unchanged by cell reaction.  
Eg: standard hydrogen electrode.

# Cell potential / Standard Cell Potential ( $\Delta E^\circ$ )

Cell potential is the difference between the electrodes present in the two half cells of electrochemical cell.

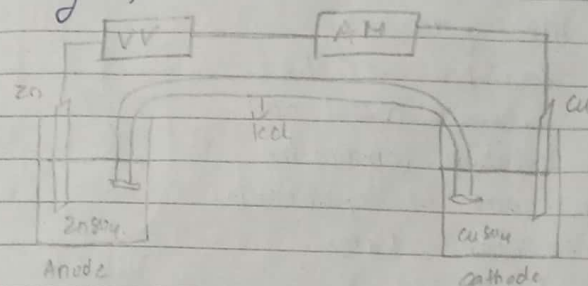
Standard ~~the~~ cell Potential is the cell potential of galvanic cell measured at conditions of

1-M concentrations for all dissolved materials  
1-atm pressure for all gases.  
at 25°C.

Standard Cell Potential ( $\Delta E^\circ$ ) is driving force of the cell potential.

(\*) Illustration:

A Zn-Cu standard cell ( $\Delta E^\circ = 1.1 \text{ V}$ ) is connected to external variable voltage that opposes the cell voltage and ammeter indicates direction of flow.



There are three distinct cases.

(a)  $E V < 1.1 \text{ V}$

→ Ammeter shows electron flow from Zn to Cu.  
Spontaneous cell reaction:  $\text{Zn} + \text{Cu}^{2+} \longrightarrow \text{Cu} + \text{Zn}^{2+}$

(b)  $E V > 1.1 \text{ V}$

→ Ammeter shows electron flow from Cu to Zn.  
Spontaneous cell reaction:  $\text{Cu} + \text{Zn}^{2+} \longrightarrow \text{Zn} + \text{Cu}^{2+}$

(c)  $E V = 1.1 \text{ V}$

→ No electron flow through ammeter  
→ No net cell reaction.  
→ The ~~sto~~ driving force is opposed by equal amount of external voltage.

Mathematically,

$$\Delta E^\circ = \Delta E^\circ_{\text{cathode}} - \Delta E^\circ_{\text{anode}}$$

if  $\Delta E^\circ = +ve$ , reaction feasible

if  $\Delta E^\circ = -ve$ , reaction non-feasible.

### # Standard Electrode Potential

The potential difference developed at the interface between metal and electrolyte solution containing its own ions at equilibrium in 1M solution, 1 atm pressure and 298 K.

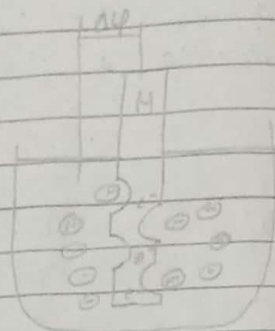


Fig: Half cell.

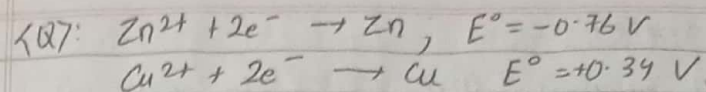
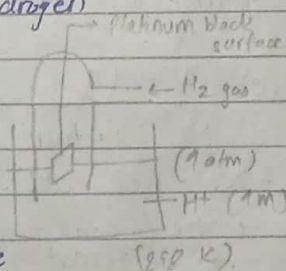
$E^\circ$  is generally standard reduction potential.

### # Standard Hydrogen Electrode:

A hydrogen electrode in which the pressure of hydrogen gas is maintained at 1 atm, concentration of  $H^+$  ions is 1M at 298 K is called standard hydrogen electrode.

Since it has potential 0.00 V at all temperature, it is used as reference electrode.

It can be used as cathode or anode depending on other half cell.



- Write net cell reaction.
- Write cell representation.
- Calculate  $\Delta E^\circ_{\text{cell}}$ .

Sol<sup>n</sup>:

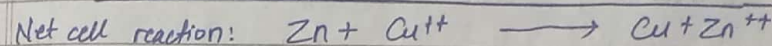
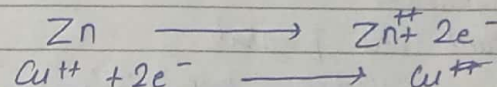
Given,

$$E^\circ_{Zn^{2+}/Zn} = -0.76 V$$

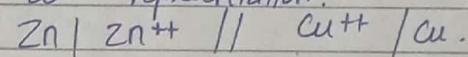
$$E^\circ_{Cu^{2+}/Cu} = +0.34 V$$

Since,  $E^\circ_{Cu^{2+}/Cu} > E^\circ_{Zn^{2+}/Zn}$ ,  
 Cu is cathode and Zn is anode.

(a): Net cell reaction:



(b): Net cell representation:



(c):  $\Delta E^\circ_{\text{cell}} = \Delta E^\circ_{\text{cathode}} - \Delta E^\circ_{\text{anode}}$   
 $= +0.34 - (-0.76)$   
 $= +1.1 V$

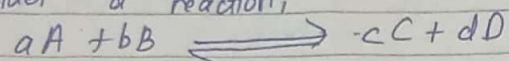
The reaction is feasible.



## # Nernst Equation:

An equation that relates the reduction potential of a reactant to the standard electrode potential, temperature and activities of concentration of chemical species undergoing redox process.

Consider a reaction,



So,

$$\Delta E = \Delta E^\circ - \frac{0.059}{n} \log \left[ \frac{[C]^c [D]^d}{[A]^a [B]^b} \right]_{eqm.}$$

Here,

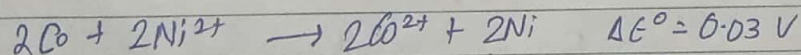
$\Delta E$  = cell potential

$\Delta E^\circ$  = standard cell potential.

$n$  = number of electron transferred.

## \* Applications:

i): Cell potential of a reaction remains unaffected by multiplying the reaction by any positive number.



$$\Delta E = \Delta E^\circ - \frac{0.059}{4} \log \left( \frac{[Co^{2+}]^2}{[Ni^{2+}]^2} \right) \Rightarrow \Delta E = \Delta E^\circ - \frac{0.059}{2} \log \left( \frac{[Co^{2+}]}{[Ni^{2+}]} \right)$$

Here, the form of Nernst equation is consistent.

(ii): To predict spontaneity of reaction:

If  $\Delta E = +ve$ , reaction spontaneous in forward direction

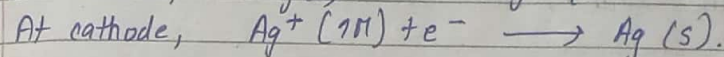
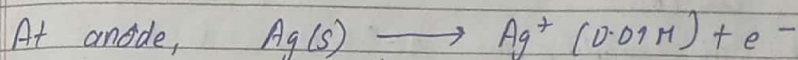
If  $\Delta E = -ve$ , reaction spontaneous in backward direction.

(a): If reactant concentration is increased or product concentration is decreased, the cell voltage becomes more positive.

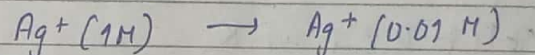
(b): If reactant concentration is decreased or product concentration is increased, the cell voltage becomes more negative.

## (iii): Concentration Cell:

The more dilute solution is anode and more concentrated solution is cathode.



Net cell reaction.



Until anode and cathode have equal concentration, cell reaction is spontaneous.  
for concentration

For concentration cell,  $\Delta E^\circ = 0$ .

Using Nernst equation,

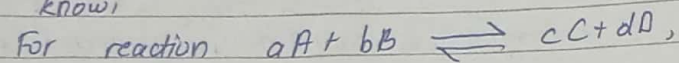
$$\Delta E = \Delta E^\circ - \frac{0.059}{1} \log \left( \frac{[C]^c [D]^d}{[A]^a [B]^b} \right) \left( \frac{[Ag^+]_{\text{dilute}}}{[Ag^+]_{\text{concentrated}}} \right)$$

$$= 0 - \frac{0.059}{1} \log \left( \frac{0.01}{2} \right)$$

$$\therefore \Delta E = 0.12 \text{ V.}$$

(iv): Calculating equilibrium constant.

We know,



Nernst eqn is.

$$\Delta E = \Delta E^\circ - \frac{0.059}{n} \log \left[ \frac{[C]^c [D]^d}{[A]^a [B]^b} \right]_{eq}$$

We know,

$$\frac{[C]^c [D]^d}{[A]^a [B]^b} = K$$

and at equilibrium,  $\Delta E^\circ = 0$ .

So, eqn (i) becomes.

$$0 = \Delta E^\circ - \frac{0.059}{n} \log K$$

$$\frac{\Delta E^\circ \times n}{0.059} = \log K$$

$$\therefore K = 10^{\frac{n \Delta E^\circ}{0.059}}$$

Here, if  $\Delta E^\circ = +ve$ ,  $K > 1$ , forward reaction spontaneous.  
if  $\Delta E^\circ = -ve$ ,  $K < 1$ , backward reaction is spontaneous.

### # Electrolysis:

The process in which the dissociation of electrolyte occurs when electricity is provided resulting in the migration of these particles towards electrodes.

$$1 \text{ Faraday} \Rightarrow \text{Total charge of one mole of electrons.}$$

$$= (1.6 \times 10^{-19}) \times (6.023 \times 10^{23}) = 96,500 \text{ C}$$

Charge = current  $\times$  time.

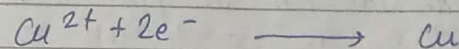
$$\therefore Q = It$$

$$W = \frac{E}{F} It = ZIt.$$

Q7: Copper solution is electrolyzed for 7 minutes with 0.6 A current. How much Cu is deposited?

Sol<sup>n</sup>.

Here,



$$\text{Charge (Q)} = 0.6 \times 7 \times 60$$

$$= 252 \text{ C} = 2.6 \times 10^{-3} \text{ F}$$

$$\therefore \text{Weight deposited} = \frac{Q}{n} = \frac{2.6 \times 10^{-3}}{2}$$

$$= 1.3 \times 10^{-3} \text{ mol.}$$



## # Rusting of Iron:

When iron is exposed to moist air, a brown coloured substance ( $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3 \cdot x\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ) deposits on its surface which is called rusting.

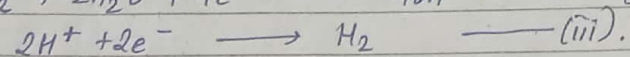
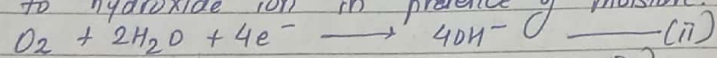
The most convincing theory is electrochemical theory of rusting.

Due to heterogeneous distribution of impurities, some portions of Fe are at lower electrical potential whereas some are at higher electrode potential.

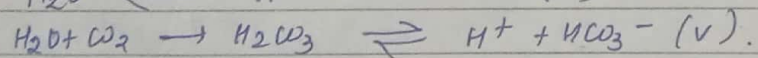
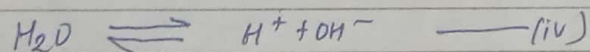
So, some region acts as anode and some region acts as cathode.

At anode, iron oxidizes:  $\text{Fe} \longrightarrow \text{Fe}^{++} + 2e^-$  — (i)

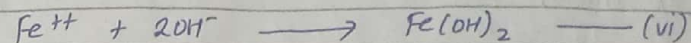
Electrodes migrate to anode and reduce oxygen to hydroxide ion in presence of moisture.



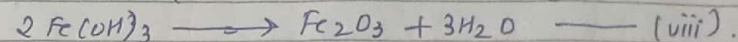
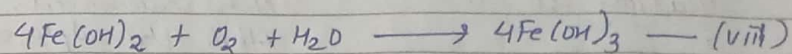
$\text{H}^+$  ions required for reaction (iii) produced by ionization of water or dissociation of  $\text{H}_2\text{CO}_3$  formed by  $\text{CO}_2$  and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  on iron surface.



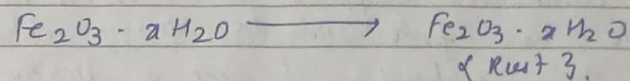
$\text{Fe}^{++}$  from anode and  $\text{OH}^-$  from cathode combines forming ferrous hydroxide.



Ferrous hydroxide is oxidized to ferric hydroxide by air in moisture presence which is unstable and thus decomposes to ferric oxide.



Ferric oxide absorbs moisture, thus forming rust.



## \* Prevention:

- i) Coating with paints, enamel.
- ii) Coating with noble metals Au, Ag, Cu.
- iii) Using sacrificial anode i.e., galvanization

## # Types of cells:

### a) Primary Cell

- redox reaction only one
- can't be recharged

Eg: Leclanche dry cell, Mercury cell.

### b) Secondary Cell

- redox reaction more than once
- can be recharged

Eg: Lead-acid cell, Nickel-cadmium cell, Alkali metal-sulphur cell, etc.

### c) Fuel cells

The primary cells in which reactants are continuously supplied to electrodes from outside as fuel and the energy obtained from the combustion of fuel is directly converted to electrical energy. is fuel cells.

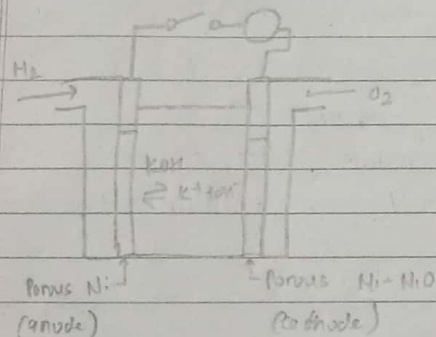


Fig: Hydrogen fuel cell

At anode, oxidation of  $H_2$  to water.  
 $H_2 + 2OH^- \rightarrow 2H_2O + 2e^-$

At cathode, reduction of  $O_2$  to  $OH^-$ .  
 $\frac{1}{2} O_2 + H_2O + 2e^- \rightarrow 2OH^-$

So, net cell reaction:  $H_2 + \frac{1}{2} O_2 \rightarrow H_2O$ .

Cell works at high pressure (40 atm).

#### \* Advantage

- pollution free
- more efficient

#### \* Disadvantage

- Handling difficulty
- finding suitable fuel difficulty

Q7: An electrode chemical cell is constructed of one half cell in which platinum wire dips into solution containing  $1M Fe^{3+}$  and  $1M Fe^{2+}$ ; the other half cell consists of thallium metal immersed in  $1M Tl^+$  solution.

Given,  $E^\circ Tl^+ + e^- \rightleftharpoons Tl, E^\circ = -0.34$   
 $Fe^{3+} + e^- = Fe^{2+}, E^\circ = 0.77$

- Which electrode is negative?
- Which electrode is cathode?
- What is cell voltage?
- Write spontaneous cell reaction.

(e): What is equilibrium constant?

(f): How voltage changes if  $Tl^+$  concentration is decreased?

Soln:



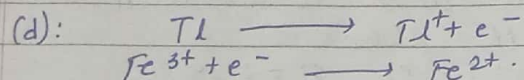
Given,

$$\begin{aligned} E^\circ \text{ Tl}^+/\text{Tl} &= -0.34 \text{ V} & \text{anode?} \\ E^\circ \text{ Fe}^{3+}/\text{Fe}^{2+} &= 0.77 \text{ V} & \text{cathode?} \end{aligned}$$

(a): The negative terminal is Thallium electrode.

(b):  $E^\circ \text{ Fe}^{3+}/\text{Fe}^{2+} > E^\circ \text{ Tl}^+/\text{Tl}$ ,  
Platinum electrode dipped in  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  ion solution is cathode.

$$\begin{aligned} (c): \Delta E^\circ_{\text{cell}} &= E^\circ_{\text{cathode}} - E^\circ_{\text{anode}} \\ &= 0.77 - (-0.34) \\ &= 1.11 \text{ V} \end{aligned}$$



The overall reaction:  $\text{Tl} + \text{Fe}^{3+} \longrightarrow \text{Tl}^+ + \text{Fe}^{2+}$ .

$$(e): K = 10^{\frac{n \Delta E^\circ}{0.059}} = 10^{\frac{1 \times 1.11}{0.059}}$$

$$\therefore K = 6.5 \times 10^{18}$$

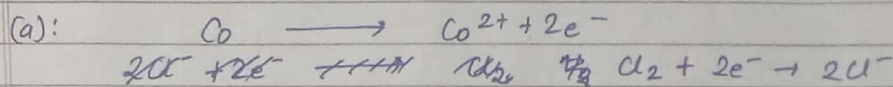
(f): We know, the decrease in concentration of product, increases voltage.  
So, Tl + decrease increases voltage of cell.

Q17: A Galvanic cell consists of cobalt metal strip Co dipped into 1 M  $\text{Co}^{2+}$  solution and another half cell in which a piece of platinum dips into 1 M solution of  $\text{Cl}^-$ . Chlorine gas at 1-atm pressure is bubbled into solution. Observed cell voltage is 1.63 V and cobalt electrode is negative. Standard potential for chlorine-chloride half cell  $E^\circ = 1.36$ .

- What is spontaneous cell reaction.
- What is standard potential of cobalt electrode?
- What happens if  $\text{Cl}_2$  pressure is increased?
- What would cell voltage be if concentration of  $[\text{Co}^{2+}]$  is reduced to 0.01 M?

Soln:

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta E^\circ_{\text{cell}} &= 1.63 \text{ V} & E^\circ \text{ 2Cl}^+/\text{Cl}_2 &= 1.36 \text{ V} \\ E^\circ \text{ Co}^{2+}/\text{Co} &= \text{negative} \end{aligned}$$



The overall reaction is,  $\text{Co} + \text{Cl}_2 \rightleftharpoons \text{Co}^{2+} + 2\text{Cl}^-$

$$\begin{aligned} (b): E^\circ_{\text{anode}} &= E^\circ_{\text{cathode}} - E^\circ_{\text{cell}} \\ &= 1.36 - 1.63 = -0.27 \text{ V}. \end{aligned}$$

(c): If pressure of  $\text{Cl}_2$  is increased, the voltage increases.

$$\begin{aligned} (d): \text{At } 0.01 \text{ M of } \text{Co}^{2+}, \\ \Delta E &= \Delta E^\circ - \frac{0.059}{2} \log \left( \frac{0.01}{1} \right) \therefore \Delta E = 1.689 \text{ V}. \\ &= 1.63 - \frac{0.059}{2} \log \left( \frac{0.01}{1} \right) \end{aligned}$$