

# Electrochemistry

Oxidation : Loss of electrons.

Reduction: Gain of electrons.

Spectator ions: Ions that do not participate in a chemical reaction.

ex)



Half reaction: An equation that represents only half of a redox reaction.

- Shows how one entity is either oxidized or reduced.

Zero-sum rule:

- The sum of the oxidation numbers in all atoms in an electrically neutral compound is 0.

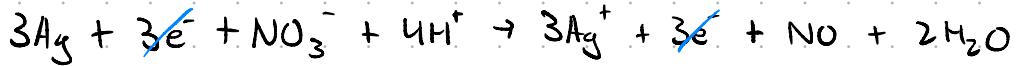
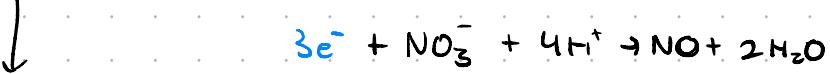
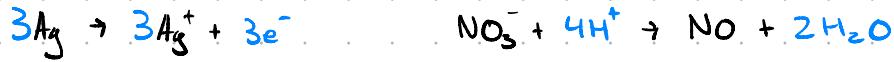
- The sum of the oxidation numbers in all atoms in an ion containing 2+ atoms is equal to the overall charge.

ex) Assign oxidation numbers.



## Balancing Redox Reactions

- Assign oxidation numbers
- Write half-reactions
- Balance each except H and O
- Balance H and O with  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and  $\text{H}^+$
- Electrons to balance the charge.
- Add half-reactions (cancel  $e^-$ )
- Add  $\text{OH}^-$  on each side for all  $\text{H}^+$  IF BASIC
- Write balanced equation



## Galvanic Cells

- A galvanic cell is a device that spontaneously converts chemical energy to electrical energy.
- The electrons are going to be moving from one reactant to another.
- The reactants are separated by a barrier.
- On either side of the barrier, one half-reaction is occurring. The barrier is usually made semi-permeable via a salt bridge.
- There are two electrodes where electrons can travel and oxidation or reduction occurs.
  - Anode: electrons being released by an oxidation reaction.
  - Cathode: electrons being released by a reduction reaction.
- Electrodes are solid electrical conductors. The two half-cells (and their electrodes) are connected by a wire which allows electrons to travel.

