GENERAL PRINCIPLES AND PROCESSES OF ISOLATION OF ELEMENTS

Scope : One qn for JEE (Main)/NEET

Four equivalent MCQ for JEE (Adv)

Ref : JEE (Main)/NEET - Only NCERT text + Examplar Qns + Exercise

JEE (Adv). In addition to NCERT text + Examplar + Exercise

a) Inorganic chemistry by Dr. K. Rama Rao, S. Chand

b) Inorganic chemistry by Jaiswal, Balaji Publication

c) Inorganic chemistry by J.D. Lee

d) Any material for practice by famous institutes.

Video lessons

1) IIT PAL - Swayam channel/Ministry of Education, Govt. of India

2) Udan - By CBSE

I. Origin of elements:

Elements originated as a result of nuclear fusion reactions or other nuclear processes since the beginning of the universe.

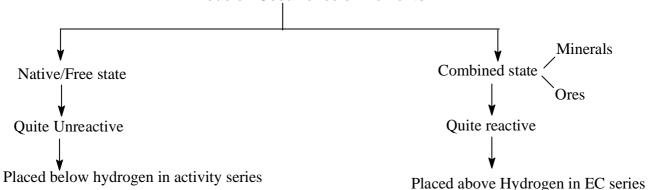
II. Abundance of elements in the Earth's Crust

$$\underset{49.6\%}{O} > \underset{25.4\%}{Si} > \underset{8.3\%}{Al} > \underset{5.1\%}{Fe}..... \underset{0.08}{C} > \underset{0.6}{S} > \underset{0.04}{Ba}$$

Questions (Previous)

- 1. The most abundant element by wt/which element constitute one half of the earth's crust?
- 2. The second most abundant element by wt/which constitute one quarter of the earth's crust?
- 4. The most abundant metal in the crust.
- 5. The second most abundant metal in the Earth's crust.
- 6. The four major elements in the decreasing order of abundance.
- 7. The least abundant pair of elements in the Earth's Crust.

III. Mode of Occurrence of Elements



Eg: C, S₈, Au, Noble gases

[Blocks of pure metal in free state - Nuggets]

<u>Minerals</u>: Naturally occurring chemical substances in the Earth's Crust obtainable by mining **Ores**: Minerals from which the metal is extracted most profitably

Note: All ores are minerals, but not vice-versa.

IV. Classification of Minerals

- 1) Oxides
- 2) Sulphides
- 3) Carbonates
- 4) Silicates
- 5) Sulphates
- 6) Halides
- 7) Phosphates

Questions (Previous)

- 1. The least likely to be found as a mineral is nitrate since they are water soluble (or nitrates of hard acids are stable).
- 2. s-block exist as chlorides, carbonates, silicates mainly

p and d block - oxides and sulphides

Exception: Group 3 - phosphates

Group 8, 9, 10 - native state

No minerals for 43Tc

OXIDES

1. Corundum, Al₂O₃

Exists in two coloured forms

Gem stones ruby (red) and sapphire (blue)

Impurity range from Cr in ruby to Cobalt in Sapphire

Note: Fe/Cr - in ruby

Co/Ti - in sapphire

- 2. Al₂O₃.H₂O Diaspore
- 3. Al₂O₃.2H₂O Bauxite (Ore)

New formula : $AIO_x(OH)_{3-2x}$; where 0 < x < 1

- 4. Al₂O₃.3H₂O Gibbsite
- 5. Fe₂O₃ Haematite / red iron ore/most abundant ore/ore with maximum silica content/Jeweller's rogue
- 6. Fe₂O₃.3H₂O Limonite/Brown iron ore

New formula : FeO(OH)nH2O

- 7. Fe₃O₄ Magnetite/ore with maximum iron content
- 8. Cassiterite/Tin stone/ore of tin SnO₂
- 9. Cuprite/ruby copper Cu₂O The mineral with +1 oxidation state for the metal
- 10. Zincite ZnO
- 11. Franklinite ZnO.Fe₂O₃
- 12. Pitch blende Ore of Uranium U₃O₈
- 13. Pyrolusite Ore of Mn MnO₂ [ore used to prepare useful compound: KMnO₄]
- 14. Chromite Ore of Cr FeO.Cr₂O₃ or FeCr₂O₄ [Used to prepare K₂Cr₂O₇]
- 15. Rutile Ore of Titanium TiO₂
- 16. Ilmenite Mineral of Ti FeTiO₃

SULPHIDES

- 1. Argentite Silver glance Ag₂S ore of silver
- 2. Chalcosite Copper glance Cu₂S
- 3. Chalcopyrites Copper pyrites CuFeS₂ (Old qn. The ore containing both Cu and Fe)
- 4. Galena PbS Ore of lead
- 5. Cinnabar HgS Ore of Mercury
- 6. Millerite Ore of Nickel NiS
- Nickel glance NiAsS (Old qn. Composition of nickel glance)
- 8. Fool's gold Iron pyrites FeS₂
- 9. Stibnite Sb₂S₃ Ore of antimony
- 10. Orpiment As₂S₃ Ore of Arsenic
- 11. Pentlandite (NiFe)S
- 12. ZnS Zinc blende Ore of Zn Sphalerite/Black Jack

CARBONATES

- 1. CaCO₃ Limestone/Marble/Calcite/Stalegmite/Iceland spar
- 2. FeCO₃ Siderite/Spathic iron ore
- 3. PbCO₃ Cerussite
- 4. BaCO₃ Witherite
- 5. SrCO₃ Strontianite
- 6. ZnCO Calamine/Zinc spar/Smithstone/Smithsonite
- 7. MgCO₃ Magnesite
- 8. CaCO₃.MgCO₃ Dolomite : New formula MgCa(CO₃)₂
- 9. CuCO₃ . Cu(OH)₂ Malachite
- 10. 2CuCO₃.Cu(OH)₂ Azurite
- 11. MnCO₃ Rhodocrosite
- 12. Na₂CO₃.NaHCO₃.2H₂O Trona

SILICATES

- 1. Willimite Zn₂SiO₄
- 2. Zircon ZrSiO₄
- 3. Beryl Be₃Al₂Si₆O₁₈
- 4. Petalite LiAl(Si₂O₅)₂
- 5. Orthoclase/Pot. feldspar KAlSi₃O₈ [Old : K₂O.Al₂O₃.6SiO₂]
- 6. Albite/Sodium feldspar NaAlSi₃O₈ [Old: Na₂O, Al₂O₃. 6SiO₂]
- 7. Kaolinite/Pure clay Al₂(OH)₄ (Si₂O₅)
- 8. Mica general formula : $XY_{2-3}Z_4O_{10}(OH, F)_2$ Where X - Na/K, Y - Al, Mg, Z - Si
- 9. Lapiz Lazuli /blue coloured zeolite containing sulphur. Na₈[Al(SiO₄)₆]S₂

SULPHATES

- 1. Gypsum/Alabester/selenite CaSO₄.2H₂O
- 2. Anhydrite CaSO₄
- 3. Epsomite MgSO₄.7H₂O
- 4. Barytes/Heavy spar BaSO₄
- 5. Celestine SrSO₄
- 6. Anglesite PbSO₄
- 7. Alunite: $K_2SO_4.AI_2(SO_4)_3.4AI(OH)_3$
- 8. Lanarkite: PbO.PbSO₄
- 9. Langbeinite: K₂Mg₂(SO₄)₃

HALIDES

- 1. CaF₂ Fluorspar
- 2. Na₃AIF₄/3NaF.AIF₃ Cryolite
- 3. Carnalite KCI . MgCl₂.6H₂O
- 4. Sylvine KCl
- 5. Rock salt NaCl
- 6. Horn silver AgCl
- 7. Atacamite Cu₂Cl(OH)₂
- 8. Matlokite PbCl₂. PbO
- 9. Sea water MgCl₂/MgBr₂
- 10. Caliche NalO₃

PHOSPHASES

- 1. Monozite 58% CePO
- 2. Turquoise : Old AIPO₄AI₂O₃.H₂O; New CuAI₆(PO₄)₄ (OH)₈.4H₂O

Note: Verdigris - Basic copper acetate - (CH₃COO)₂Cu.Cu(OH)₂

V. Metallurgy

The entire scientific and technological processes used for isolation of the metal from its ore is known as metallurgy. It involves three major steps.

- 1. Concentration of the ore
- 2. Isolation of the metal from its concentrated ore
- 3. Purification of the metal

Gangue/matrix

These are the earthly or undesired materials associated with an ore. The most common gangue is silica (SiO₂/Acidic)

Concentration of ores/Dressing/Benefaction/Benefication

The removal of the gangue by a suitable technique from the ore is called concentration. The method depends on its nature, physical properties of the metal, environmental factors and available facilities.

A. Hydraulic washing/Levigation/Tabling/Gravity process or separation/Wilfley tabling method

<u>Principle:</u> The difference in the density or sp. gravity of the ore and the gangue

Applied to oxides/carbonates

<u>Method</u>: An upward stream of running water is used to wash the powdered ore. The lighter gangue particles are washed away and the heavier ores are left behind.

Old question: Which of the following ore is concentrated by gravity separation?

B. Magnetic separation (Refer the Diagram in the NCERT)

<u>Principle:</u> The ground ore is carried on a conveyer belt which passes over a magnetic roller.

JEE/NEET old qns

Cassiterite is concentrated by

Cassiterite is the ore of tin (SnO_2) . It is contaminated with Wolframite $(FeWO_4 + MnWO_4)$ which act as gangue. Here the gangue is magnetic and ore non-magnetic

JEE (Adv)

Which of the following ore/oreS are concentrated by magnetic separation?

Hint: Either the ore or gangue contains a transition metal.

- C. Froth floatation method (refer the diagram in the NCERT)
- i. This is mainly applied to sulphide ores since they are lighter than the gangue

NEET/JEE main

1. Froth floatation process is mainly applied to sulphide ores. Which of the following offers an exception?

Ans: The ore of silver/Argentite/Ag₂S (It is more dense)

Principle

ii. Non-wettability of ore particles with water adsorption, Decrease in surface tension at the interface.

JEE Adv.

Which of the following is/are the principle associated with froth floatation?

OR

Which is not a principle related to the ore concentration process of froth floatation?

iii. Process:

A suspension of the powdered sulphide ore is made with water. To it colectors and froth stabilisers are added. The mineral particles become wet by oils while gangue by water. A rotating paddle agitates the mixture and draws air in it. As a result froth is formed which carries the ore particles which is skimmed off and dried.

- iv. Activator Compounds which activate the required component (attaches to the particles to be floated). Eg: CuSO₄ for the ore of copper
- v. Frother/Foaming agent : Pine oil/Eucalyptus oil
- vi. Froth stabiliser: Cresol, Aniline (Last for long period or stabilises the froth)
- vii. Collectors: Which enhances the non-wettability of the ore particle.
 - Eg: Fatty acid, Pine oil, Soap, Sodium/potassium ethyl xanthates C2H2OCS2Na/C2H2OCS2K
- viii. Depressant : Compounds which depress unwanted components by forming a complex in solution.

Or

It is possible to separate two sulphide ores by adjusting proportion of oil to water by using depressant.

For eg. in case of an ore containing ZnS and PbS

The depressant used is NaCN. It selectively prevents ZnS from coming to the froth but allows PbS to come with the froth.

Note: The innovative washer woman told her experience of washing the outer garments of minors where the sand and dirt fell to the bottom of the wash tub and the copper bearing compounds caught in the soap sud to the chemist Mrs. Carrie Everson.

NEET Qn: The method of ore concentration outlined from washerwoman experience is

JEE (Adv): Chalcopyrites is concentrated by froth floatation where NaCN act as depressant. Which of the following complexes are produced in solution?

Hint:
$$CuFeS_2 + ZnS + FeS_2$$

ore

unwanted

Fool's gold contain Fe(II) and Fe(III)

Complexes 1)
$$\left[\operatorname{Zn}\left(\operatorname{CN}\right)_{4}\right]^{2-}$$
 2) $\left[\operatorname{Fe}\left(\operatorname{CN}\right)_{6}\right]^{4-}$ 3) $\left[\operatorname{Fe}\left(\operatorname{CN}\right)_{6}\right]^{3-}$

2)
$$\left[\text{Fe}(\text{CN})_{6} \right]^{4-}$$

3)
$$\left[\text{Fe}(\text{CN})_6 \right]^3$$

D. **LEACHING (Chemical method)**

Selective dissolution of an ore in a suitable solvent to form a complex (Hence chemical method).

There are three leaching agents in metallurgy

- a) Alkali for bauxide b) NaCN/KCN for Au or Aq
- c) con.H₂SO₄ (in air/bacteria) for low grade ore of Cu

Leaching of alumina from bauxite a.

Bauxite is the ore of aluminium which usually contains silica (SiO₂). Iron oxides and TiO₂ as impurities. When iron oxide is the impurity, it is called red bauxite; the other impurities when present named as

1. Bayer's process - Purification of red bauxite

There are three steps:

Step-1: Heating the powdered ore with conc. NaOH solution at 473-523 K under 35-36 bar pressure (Digestion process). Impure alumina (Al₂O₃) is extracted out as sodium aluminate. The impurity silica is dissolved to get soluble sodium silicate. Other gangue (insoluble) left behind.

$$Al_2O_{3(s)} + 2NaOH_{con} + 3H_2O_{\left(\ell\right)} \longrightarrow 2Na\left[Al(OH)_4\right]_{aq}$$

CO₂ is passed through the solution for neutralisation for the precipitation of hydrated Step-2: alumina. To induce quick precipitation, a fresh sample of hydrated alumina is added (called seedina).

$$2\text{Na}\left[\text{Al}\left(\text{OH}\right)_{4}\right]_{(aq)} + 2\text{CO}_{2(g)} \longrightarrow \text{Al}_{2}\text{O}_{3}.\text{xH}_{2}\text{O}_{(s)} + 2\text{NaHCO}_{3(aq)}$$

Filter the ppt, dried and heated to get pure Al₂O₃. Sodium silicate remains in solution Step-3:

$$Al_2O_3.xH_2O_{(s)} \xrightarrow{1470 \text{ K}} Al_2O_{3(s)} + xH_2O_{(g)}$$

Note: In the Bayer's process precipitation of Al(OH)₃ by hydrolysis is not advisable because silicic acid is also precipitated which inturn changes to SiO₂.

Old Qns:

- 1. White bauxite can be purified by
- 2. Bauxite with silica impurity is purified by
- 3. Bauxite with TiO₂ impurity is purified by
- 4. JEEADV

Which of the following are the impurities present in impure bauxite.

Which of the following is not present in impure bauxite

Additional Information (For passage qns)

1. Serpeck's proces - Applied when silica is the impurity. The powdered ore is heated to 1800°C with coke in an atmosphere of N₂. Aluminium nitride produced is hydrolysed to get Al(OH)₃ which is filtered and heated further to get pure Al₂O₃.

$$SiO_{2} + 2C \xrightarrow{\Delta} 2CO \uparrow + Si \uparrow$$

$$Al_{2}O_{3} + 3C + N_{2} \xrightarrow{\Delta} 3CO \uparrow + 2AIN$$

$$AlN + 3H_{2}O \xrightarrow{\Delta} NH_{3} \uparrow + Al(OH)_{3} \downarrow$$

$$2Al(OH)_{3} \xrightarrow{\Delta} Al_{2}O_{3} + 3H_{2}O \uparrow$$
Pure

2. Hall's process: Applied when titanium dioxide is the gangue. The powdered impure ore is heated with Na₂CO₃ to get soluble sodium aluminate which is further hydrolysed, the ppt is filtered and heated.

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 + \text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3 \xrightarrow{\Delta} \text{CO}_2 \uparrow + 2\text{NaAlO}_2 \\ &\text{CO}_2 + 2\text{NaAlO}_2 + 3\text{H}_2\text{O} \xrightarrow{} 2\text{Al}(\text{OH})_3 \downarrow + \text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3 \\ &2\text{Al}(\text{OH})_3 \xrightarrow{\Delta} \text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 + 3\text{H}_2\text{O} \uparrow \end{aligned}$$

JEE (Adv) - Impure bauxite can be purified by (More than one answer type)

Other example for leaching

In the metallurgy of silver and gold, the respective metal (native form) is leached with a dilute solution of NaCN or KCN, in presence of air/O₂ and moisture.

$$O_{2(g)} + 2H_2O_{\left(\ell\right)} + 4M_{\left(s\right)} + 8CN_{(aq)}^{-} \\ \longrightarrow 4OH_{(aq)}^{-} + 4\big[M(CN)_2\big]_{Soluble\ complex\ 0.5}^{-}$$

Note (Old qn)

- 1. Metal is oxidised. Hence leaching is both a complexation and oxidation
- 2. The presence of O₂/H₂O is to facilitate oxidation
- 3. The no.of moles of reactants or products are respectively

E. Electrostatic separation

This is applicable to a binary mixture where one component is a good conductor and the other non-conductor.

F Liquation

This is based on the difference in m.p. of the ore and gangue. It is applied to the ore of antimony. Actually, liquation is a method of purification.

Old Qn.

Which of the following is not a method of ore concentration?

Applied processes [Mainly conversion of concentrated ore to oxide]

To extract a metal from concontrated ore, it must be converted to a compound suitable for reduction. Usually oxides are easier to reduce. This is accomplished by calcination and roasting.

1. CALCINATION

- Heating in absence of air below the m.p. in reverberatory furnace
- To expel CO₂ or H₂O or both
- Volatile matter escapes leaving the metal oxide
- Leaves the product porous
- Applied to carbonates, hydroxide and hydrated salt

$$\begin{split} Eg: ZnCO_{3(s)} & \stackrel{\Delta}{\longrightarrow} ZnO_{(s)} + CO_2 \uparrow \\ & CuCO_3.Cu(OH)_{2(s)} \stackrel{\Delta}{\longrightarrow} 2CuO_{(s)} + H_2O \uparrow + CO_2 \uparrow \\ & CaCO_3.MgCO_{3(s)} \stackrel{\Delta}{\longrightarrow} CaO_{(s)} + MgO_{(s)} + 2CO_2 \\ & Fe_2O_3.xH_2O_{(s)} \stackrel{\Delta}{\longrightarrow} Fe_2O_{3(s)} + xH_2O \uparrow \end{split}$$

Qn. Which of the following ore is calcined?

2. ROASTING

- Strong heating in excess air below the m.p. in reverberatory furnace
- Removal of volatile S_o and As impurities as their oxides
- Removes moisture and the oxide produced is porous
- Applied mainly to sulphide ores

Reason: [Old IIT Qn.]

- a) $\Delta_{\rm f}G^{\scriptscriptstyle 0}$ of most metallic sulphides are greater than those of ${\rm CS_2}$ and ${\rm H_2S}$
- b) Roasting of sulphides to oxide is thermodynamically more advantageous.
- c) CS₂ is endothermic compound. Neither C nor H₂ is a suitable red.agent for sulphide ores.

Eg: 1)
$$2ZnS + 3O_2 \xrightarrow{\Delta} 2ZnO + 2SO_2 \uparrow$$

2) $2PbS + 3O_2 \xrightarrow{\Delta} 2PbO + 2SO_2 \uparrow$
3) $2Cu_2S + 3O_2 \xrightarrow{\Delta} 2Cu_2O + 2SO_2 \uparrow$

Qn: Both calcination and roasting is carried out in furnace.

Additional information (JEE Adv)

There are four types of roasting.

A) Oxidising/Blast roasting

Ore is completely converted to oxide

$$\mathsf{Eg}: \ 2 \underset{\mathsf{ore}}{\mathsf{PbS}} + 3 O_2 \xrightarrow{\quad \Delta \quad} 2 \underset{\mathsf{oxide}}{\mathsf{PbO}} + 2 S O_2 \ \uparrow$$

B) Sulphating roasting

Ore is partially converted to sulphate

$$Eg: PbS + O_2 \xrightarrow{\Delta} PbSO_4$$

Qn: Galena is subjected to roasting. Which of the following is not produced?

- 1) PbO
- 2) SO₂
- 3) PbSO₄
- 4) Pb

C) Reducing roasting/air reduction

Ore is reduced to the metal

Eg: HgS+O₂
$$\xrightarrow{\Delta}$$
 Hg+SO₂ \uparrow

Qn: Which metal can be extracted by simple heating in air without the help of a reducing agent?

D) Chloradised roasting

Ore is heated either with a chloride or chlorine to produce volatile metal chloride.

Eg:1)
$$Ag_2S + 2NaCl \xrightarrow{\Delta} Na_2S + 2AgCl$$
Metal chloride

2) TiO₂ ore is converted to Titanium carbide first followed by heating with Cl₂

$$TiC + 4Cl_2 \xrightarrow{\Delta} TiCl_4 + CCl_4$$

3. SLAGGING/Slagging operation

Removal of the gangue by forming molten salt using a suitable flux. There are four common slags in metallurgy.

Gangue + Flux $\stackrel{\triangle}{\longrightarrow}$ molten slag [Floats over the surface, low mp, low density]

Eg: 1)
$$SiO_2 + CaO \xrightarrow{\Delta} CaSiO_{3(\ell)} - Extraction of iron in Blast furnace$$

2)
$$P_2O_5 + 3CaO \xrightarrow{\Delta} Ca_3(PO_4)_{2(\ell)} - T \text{ hom as slag} : Extraction of iron (low%)$$

3)
$$MnO+SiO_2 \xrightarrow{\Delta} MnSiO_{3(\ell)} - Manufacture of steel$$

4)
$$FeO+SiO_2 \xrightarrow{\Delta} FeSiO_{3(\ell)} - Extraction of copper$$

Qn: The composition of the slag obtained during the extraction of copper is

Note: Slags seperates more easily from the ore than the gangue. Hence removal of gangue becomes easier (Advantage of slagging)

4. SMELTING

a. Coke combination above m.p. using a convertor (Bessemer/Pierce smith) where CO is a product.

Or

b. It is a process in which metal/metal sulphide is reparated in molten condition. Generally the ore is mixed with flux, fuel and red agent. [The mixture is referred to as CHARGE in metallurgy]

Eg : (1)
$$ZnO_{(s)} + C_{(s)} \xrightarrow{1673K} Zn_{(\ell)} + CO \uparrow$$
roasted ore coke R.agent Impure Molten Zinc SPELTER (9896 Pure)

IIT Qn (more than one answer)

1. Extractive metallurgy of zinc is achieved by

Ans: Smelting/coke reduction/carbon reduction/Belgian process/Retort process or the reduction of the roasted ore with coke or carbon

2. Which of the following is not a smelting process?

$$\mathsf{Eg} : \mathsf{SnO}_2 + \mathsf{C} \xrightarrow{\Delta} \mathsf{CO}_2 \uparrow \quad + \underset{(\mathsf{Sn} + \mathsf{60} - 70\% \; \mathsf{SnO}_2)}{\mathsf{Impure \; molten \; Blacktin}}$$

PRINCIPLES OF ISOLATION OF ELEMENTS

I. REDOX concept

Ore particles consists of two parts - one related to metal and the other with non metal. Eg : ZnS

Zn²⁺ - Cation - metallic part (in the oxidised state)

S²⁻ - Anion - non-metallic part (in the reduced state)

$$Zn^{2+} + 2e^{-} \longrightarrow Zn$$
Metallic part Gain of electron

Hence metal is extracted by reduction (gain of electron) or electronation

$$S^{2-} \rightarrow \frac{1}{8}S_8 + 2e^-$$

Non-metal is extracted by oxidation (removal of electron) or Deelectronation.

Reduction of oxide to the metal (electronation)

Reduction of the metal oxide usually involves heating it with a reducing agent like C, CO or even another metal. The red. agent combines with oxygen of the metal oxide.

$$\underset{Metaloxide}{M_xO_y} + \underset{red\ agent}{yC} \xrightarrow{\quad \Delta\quad} \underset{Metal}{\xrightarrow{\quad \Delta\quad}} xM + yCO \uparrow$$

Some metal oxides get reduced easily while others are very difficult to be reduced. In any case heating is a must. Hence the general term pyrometallurgy.

II. Thermodynamic principles of metallurgy

Metal is extracted by reduction which is a spontaneous process. To understand the variation in temperature required for thermal reduction and to predict which element will suit as red agent for a given metal oxide (M_vO_v) , Gibbs free energy interpretations are made $\Delta G = \Delta H - T\Delta S$

Situation-1: If ΔS is +ve, on increasing the temperature, the value of $T\Delta S$ increases so that $\Delta H < T\Delta S$ or $T\Delta S > \Delta H$

Situation-2: If ΔG is +ve, reduction is non-spontaneous. In such cases coupling of two reactions (oxidation and reduction) results in –ve value of ΔG for overall reaction; then the final reactions becomes feasible. Such coupling is easily understood through ΔG VsT plots for the formation of oxide.

Eg : Decomposition of Fe₂O₃ is +ve with ΔG (= +1487 kJ)

$$2Fe_2O_3 \xrightarrow{\Delta} 4Fe + 3O_2$$
....(1)

Consider
$$2CO + O_2 \longrightarrow 2CO_2$$
....(2); $\Delta G = -514.4 \text{ kJ}$

Multiply (2) by (3);
$$6CO + 3O_2 \longrightarrow 6CO_2 \dots (3)$$
; $\Delta G = -1543.2 \text{ kJ}$

Add (3) + (1);
$$2Fe_2O_3 + 6CO \longrightarrow 4Fe + 6CO_2$$
; $\Delta G^0 = -56.2 \text{ kJ (-ve)}$

Function of red.agent/Role of R.A.

During reduction, the oxide of the metal decomposes and the R.A. takes away the oxygen. The role of R.A. is to provide $\Delta_r G^{\Theta}$ of the two reactions, ie oxidation of R.A. and reduction of metal oxide negative.

Consider the general reaction
$$M_xO_{(s)} \longrightarrow xM_{(s)/\ell} + \frac{1}{2}O_{2(g)}[\Delta_r \overleftarrow{G} M_xO, M]$$
....(1)

If the reduction is carried out by carbon, the oxidation of the R.A. (ie C) will be

$$C_{(s)} + \frac{1}{2}O_{2(g)} \longrightarrow CO_{(g)}; \left[\Delta_r G^{\Theta}C, CO\right]...$$
 (2)

There also may be complete oxidation of carbon to CO,

$$\frac{1}{2}C_{(s)} + \frac{1}{2}O_{2(g)} \longrightarrow \frac{1}{2}CO_{2(g)} \left[\frac{1}{2}\Delta_r G^{\Theta}C, CO_2\right] \dots (3)$$

On coupling (combining) equation 1 and equation 2, we get

$$M_x O_{(s)} + C_{(s)} \longrightarrow x M_{(s)/(\ell)} + CO_{(g)}$$
(4)

Coupling equation 1 and equation 3, we get

$$M_x O_{(g)} + \frac{1}{2} C_{(s)} \longrightarrow x M_{(s)/(\ell)} + \frac{1}{2} CO_{2(g)}$$
(5)

Similarly if CO is a reducing agent,

$$CO_{(g)} + \frac{1}{2}O_{2(g)} \longrightarrow CO_{2(g)} [\Delta_r G^{\Theta}CO, CO_2]$$
 (6)

Coupling (1) with (6)

$$M_x O_{(s)} + CO_{(g)} \longrightarrow xM_{(s)/(\ell)} + CO_{2(g)}$$

These reactions describe the actual reduction of the metal oxide M_xO . Increase in temperature (T) favours -ve value of Δ_rG^{\circleddash} . Therefore, the temperature is chosen in such a way that the sum of Δ_rG^{\circleddash} in the two combined redox process is –ve.

The graphical representatino of Gibbs free energy was first used by H.J.T. Ellingham. This provides a sound basis for considering the choice of reducing agent in the reduction of oxides. This is known as Ellingham diagram. [Refer the diagram Page 157 - NCERT]

a. It normally consists of plots of $\Delta_f G^{\bigodot}$ Vs T for the formation of oxides of common metals and reducing agents. Eg: $2xM_{(s)} + O_{2(g)} \longrightarrow 2M_xO_{(s)}$

In this reaction gas is consumed, hence molecular randomness decreases which leads to negative value of ΔS . As a result $T\Delta S$ becomes positive and $\Delta_f G^{\ominus}$ shifts to higher side despite rise in Temperature. The result is +ve slope [Formation of CO has negative slope 2C + $O_2 \longrightarrow 2CO$ is with decrease in the no.of moles. Hence the ΔG is -ve or ΔS positive].

b. Each plot is a straight line with slope upwards except in phase changes $s \to \ell$ or $\ell \to g$. Eg: Zn - ZnO line, the m.p. is indicated by an abrupt change in the curve.

- c. When Temperature is rised, a point is reached in the curve where it crosses $\Delta_r G^{\bigcirc} = 0$ line. Below this temperature, ΔG is negative for the formation of oxide, So M_xO is stable. Above this point free energy is +ve. The oxide M_xO will decompose
- d. Similar diagrams are constructed for sulphides, halides etc
- e. $C+O_2 \longrightarrow CO_2$, volume of O_2 used = volume of CO_2 produced. Hence ΔG has no change with temperature. Hence the (C, CO_2) line is parallel to x-axis/
- f. A metal can reduce oxides of other metals which lie above it in Ellingham Diagram [ΔG -ve by an amount equal to the difference between two graphs at that temperature]

Eg: According to the diagram, it is easily to reduce Cu_2O directly to the metal by heating with coke. Cu_2O line is at the top: Lines of C, CO and CO_2 are at tower position.

LIMITATIONS

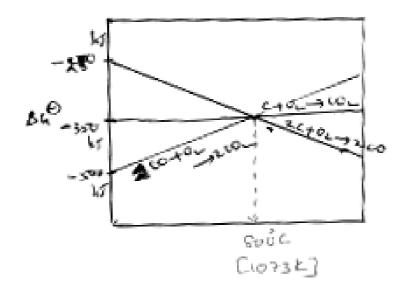
- 1. It doesn't say about the kinetics of the reduction process
- 2. The interpretation of ΔG^{\ominus} is based on eq. constant K ΔG^{\ominus} = -RT ln K. (K has +ve value)

Thus it is pressured that $M_xO+A_{red} \rightleftharpoons xM+AO_{Ox}$ or the reactants and products are at equilibrium. But this is not true always.

NOTE:

- 1. Heating favours the negative value of free energy. Therefore the temperature is chosen such that the sum of ΔG^{\ominus} of redox process is negative. This is indicated by the point of intersection of the two curves or if two red agents are possible, select the intersection point in the diagram $\Delta G^{\ominus} = \operatorname{Zero}$ and arrive at the conclusion.
 - Eg: Al and Mg [Refer the text diagram]. The intersection point A corresponds to 1350°C. Below this temperature, Mg can reduce Al₂O₃ and above 1350°C, Al can reduce MgO
- 2. CO is a better red agent at 673 K
- 3. When coke is a red agent, temperature should be high (>1073 K)

4.



Consider the curves (C, CO₂), (C, CO) and (CO, CO₂). The three curves pass through a point at 800°C (1073 K). At this temperature $\Delta_f G^{\Theta}$ are identical.

Extraction of metals - (Brief outline)

Type-I - Pyrometallurgy

The common red agents are C, CO, H₂, water gas, Aluminium powder, Mg and Na.

A. R.A. - Carbon/coke

Name - Carbon reduction/coke reduciton/smelting

T.D. - High temperature (>1073 K)

Metals extracted: Zn, Fe, Sn, Pb, Cu, P₄, Si

$$\text{Eg}: \underbrace{ZnO_{(s)}}_{\substack{roasted \ ore}} + \underbrace{C_{(s)}}_{\substack{Coke}} \xrightarrow{1673K} \underbrace{Zn_{(\ell)}}_{\substack{Spelter}} + \underbrace{CO_{(g)}}_{\substack{Spelter}}$$

B. R.A. - CO

Name - CO reduction

T.D - Low temperature of 673 K

Eg: Extraction of iron in blast furnace

C. R.A. - H₂

Name - Hydrogen reduction

T.D. - Proper heating

Metals extracted - W, Rb, B

$$WO_3 + 3H_2 \xrightarrow{\Delta} 3H_2O + W$$

D. R.A. - Water gas/syn gas (CO + H₂)

Name - Water gas reduction

T.D. - Proper Heating

Metal extracted - Nickel

1.
$$NiO_{(s)} + H_2 \xrightarrow{\Delta} H_2O \uparrow + Ni_{Metal}$$
 [Orford process]

$$2. \qquad Ni + 4CO \xrightarrow{330 - 350 \text{ K}} Ni \left(CO\right)_4 \xrightarrow{450 - 470 \text{ K}} Ni \underset{\text{Pure 100\%}}{}{} + 4CO$$

This step is called Mond's process or vapour phase refining

E. R.A. - Aluminium powder

Name - Aluminothermite process/Thermi/Metallothermi/Goldschmidt's process

T.D. - Heating with ignition mixture (BaO₂ + Mg powder)

Examples:

1.
$$Fe_2O_{3(s)} + 2Al_{(s)} \xrightarrow{\Delta/I.M.} Al_2O_{3(s)} + 2Fe_{(\ell)}$$

Reaction is highly exothermic, metal is obtained in liquid. Hence the use for welding/cracks of ship.

2.
$$Cr_2O_{3(s)} + 2Al_{(s)} \xrightarrow{\Delta/I.M} Al_2O_{3(s)} + 2Cr_{(t)}; \Delta G^0 = -421 \text{ kJ}$$

3.
$$3Mn_3O_{4(s)} + 8Al_{(s)} \xrightarrow{\Delta/I.M.} 4Al_2O_{3(s)} + 9Mg_{(\ell)}; \Delta H = -3230 \text{ kJ}$$

Previous Qns.

- 1. The red agent in Goldschmidt's process is
- 2. The ignition mixture used is
- 3. The mixture used in thermite process is

Ans: Al powder + Ig. mixture

4. The word thermite means

Ans: 3:1 ratio of reactants

ie 3parts oxide + one part Alum powder

5 It doesn't takesplace at room temperature because......

Ans: No equil. between the solid product and reactant

6. The process requires heating because

Ans: To overcome the minimum energy of activation

F. R - A - Na or Mg

Name - Kroll's process/ICI process

T.D. - Heating with Argon

Metal extracted - Titanium

$$TiO_2 + 2Mg \xrightarrow{\Delta} 2MgO + Ti - Kroll's process$$

$$TiO_2 + 2Na \longrightarrow Na_2O + Ti - ICI / IMI process$$

TYPE-II - ELECTROMETALLURGY

- Electrons act as red agent
- Applied to highly reactive or electropositive metals. Eg: group 1, group 2 and Al.
- Method: Electrolysis/electrolytic reduction of moltenhalides with suitable additives to decrease the m.p./temp of the melt and to increase the conductivity.

Electrochemical principle

In the reduction of molten metal salt, electrolysis is done. $\Delta G^0 = -nFE_{call}^0$

 ΔG^0 is negative with positive values of E^0_{cell} . More reactive metals have large –ve value of E^{Θ} .

Hence, reduction is difficult. If the difference of two E^{Θ} values corresponds to positive E^0 , then the less reactive metal will come out of the solution and the more reactive metal will go into solution. Eg.

$$Cu_{(aq)}^{2+} + Fe_{(s)} \longrightarrow Cu_{(s)} + Fe_{(aq)}^{2+}$$

In simple electrolysis, the Mⁿ⁺ ions are discharged at cathode and get deposited.

Precautions:

- (a) Suitable material is used as electrode considering the reactivity of the metal produced.
- (b) Sometimes flux/compounds are added to make it more conducting.

TYPE-III SELF REDUCTION/AUTO REDUCTION

- Applied to Cu, Pb and Hg
- Definition: The oxide produced during roasting combines with one part of the ore which act as red agent to get the molten metal.
- Precaution: Partial roasting is carried out to retain one part of the ore to act as red agent.

Examples

1.
$$\underset{\text{Rosted ore}}{\text{2PbO}} + \underset{\text{One part of ore R.A.}}{\text{PbS}} \xrightarrow{\Delta} 3Pb_{(\ell)} + SO_2 \uparrow$$

2.
$$2\text{HgO} + \text{HgS} \xrightarrow{\Delta} 3\text{Hg}_{(\ell)} + \text{SO}_2 \uparrow$$

3.
$$2Cu_2O + Cu_2S \xrightarrow{\Delta} 6Cu_{(\ell)} + SO_2 \uparrow$$
Blister copper

TYPE-IV - HYDROMETALLURGY

- Other terms: Wet process/Cyanide process/Mac.Arthur Forest process/Displacement method/ reduciton of precipitation
- Applied mainly to Au/Ag (=M)

Step-1: Leaching with NaCN/KCN

$$O_{2(g)} + 2H_2O_{(\ell)} + 4M_{(s)} + 8CN_{(aq)}^- \longrightarrow 4OH_{(aq)}^- + 4(M(CN)_2)_{aq}^-$$

Step-2: Adding a reactive metal like zinc to the complex. The reactive metal added act as Ragent.

$$2\left[M\left(CN\right)_{2}\right]_{(aq)}^{-} + Zn_{(s)} \longrightarrow 2M_{(s)} \downarrow + \left[Zn\left(CN\right)_{4}\right]_{(aq)}^{2^{-}}$$

Note: Cu can also be extracted by hydrometallurgy from low grade ore. It is leached out using con. H_2SO_4 in presence of air or bacteria. The solution containing $Cu_{(aq)}^{2+}$ is treated with scrap iron or H_2 . [Zn is not used since it is costlier than iron]

$$Cu_{(aq)}^{2+} + H_{2(g)} \longrightarrow Cu_{(s)} + 2H_{(aq)}^{+}$$

$$Cu_{(aq)}^{2+} + Fe_{(s)} \longrightarrow Cu_{(s)} + Fe_{(aq)}^{2+}$$

APPLICATIONS

- 1. Extraction of iron from its oxides Blastfurnace [Refer the diagram]
- A. Oxides ores of iron $[Fe_2O_3 \& Fe_3O_4]$ after concentration are subjected to calcination/roasting $[To remove CO_2, H_2O, SO_2,]$. The ore is then mixed with lime stone (flux) and coke (fuel) and fed into the Blast Furnace from the top.
- B. Inside of the furnace is made thick by the refractory material of fire clay bricks.
- C. Process: Hot air is passed from the bottom of the furnace and coke is burnt to give a temperature ≈ 2200 K in the lower portion itself. The burning of coke supplied most of the heat required in the process. The CO and heat moves to the upper part of the furnace where the temperature is lower and iron oxides are reduced in steps.
- D. Different zones and the involved reactions
- 1. Initial zone-lowest temperature zone 500 K Moisture is removed from the charge (Charge \Rightarrow one particles + flux + fuel) Charge ratio \Rightarrow 8 : 4 : 1.
- 2. Low temperature zone/reduction zone 500 K 800 K
 - i. Decomposition of limestone $CaCO_3 \xrightarrow{\Delta} CaO + CO_2$

ii.
$$3Fe_2O_3 + CO \longrightarrow 2Fe_3O_4 + CO_2$$

iii.
$$Fe_3O_4 + 4CO \longrightarrow 3Fe + 4CO_2$$

iv.
$$Fe_2O_3 + CO \longrightarrow 2FeO + CO_2$$

3. Higher temperature zone/combustion zone: 900 K – 1500 K

a.
$$C + CO_2 \longrightarrow 2CO$$

b.
$$FeO + CO \longrightarrow Fe + CO_2$$

- c. Slagging at 1123 K : $CaO + SiO_2 \longrightarrow CaSiO_3$
- 4. Highest temperature zone/melting zone [1500 K 2170 K]: $FeO + C \rightarrow Fe + CO$
- E. Thermodynamics of iron oxide reduction

Thermodynamics helps us to understand how coke reduces the oxide and why the furnace is chosen.

The main step is :
$$FeO_{(s)} + C_{(s)} \longrightarrow Fe_{(s)/(\ell)} + CO_{(g)}$$

This reaction include two coupled reactions. In one the reduction of FeO and in other the oxidation of C to CO.

$$\operatorname{FeO}_{(s)} \longrightarrow \operatorname{Fe}_{(s)} + \frac{1}{2} \operatorname{O}_{2(g)} \left[\Delta_{r} G^{\Theta}_{\operatorname{FeO},\operatorname{Fe}} \right] \dots (a)$$

$$C_{(s)} + \frac{1}{2}O_{2(g)} \longrightarrow CO_{(g)} \left[\Delta_r G_{C,CO}^{\Theta}\right].....(b)$$

The net Gibbs F.E. change is

$$\Delta_{r}G_{\text{[FeO,Fe]}}^{\bigodot} + \Delta_{r}G_{\text{(C,CO)}}^{\bigodot} = \Delta_{r}G^{\bigodot}$$

The reaction takes place with a negative value for $\Delta_{r}G^{\Theta}$

In the Ellingham Diagram, Fe \rightarrow FeO line goes upward (a) and C \rightarrow CO line (b) goes downward. They cross each other at about 1073 K (800°C). At temperature above 1073 K, the (C, CO) line is below (Fe, FeO) line. So above 1073 K, in the range of 900K - 1500 K, coke will reduce FeO.

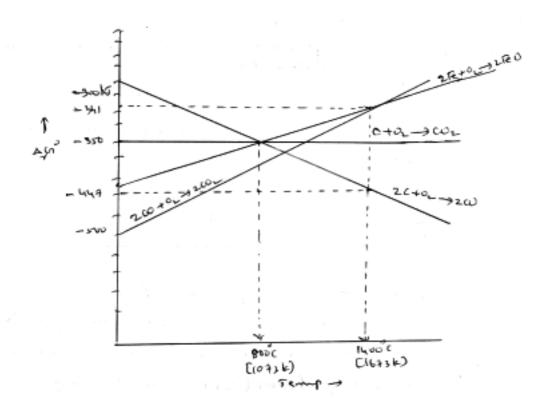
Case at 1400°C/1673 K [Refer diagram page 161]

Iron oxide reduction at 1400°C/1673 K [NCERT Page Diagram P.161]

At about 1673 K [1400°C], $\,\Delta_{\rm r}G^{\bigodot}$ value for the reaction

 $2 FeO
ightharpoonup 2 Fe + O_2$ is +341 kJmol⁻¹ because it is the reverse of Fe ightharpoonup FeO change and for the reaction $2 C + O_2
ightharpoonup 2 CO$, $\Delta_r G^{\mbox{$\Theta$}}$ is -447 kJmol⁻¹. If we calculate $\Delta_r G^{\mbox{$\Theta$}}$ for the overall reaction.

FeO + C \rightarrow Fe + CO, the value will be -53 kJ mol⁻¹. Hence reaction is feasible.



Around 1400°C

$$2\text{FeO} \longrightarrow 2\text{Fe} + \text{O}_2; \qquad \Delta_r \text{G}^{\scriptsize \Theta} = +341 \text{kJ mol}^{-1}$$

$$2\text{C} + \text{O}_2 \longrightarrow 2\text{CO}; \quad \Delta_r \text{G}^{\scriptsize \Theta} = -447 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$$

$$4\text{Add} : 2\text{FeO} + 2\text{C} \longrightarrow 2\text{Fe} + 2\text{CO}; \quad \Delta_r \text{G}^{\scriptsize \Theta} = -106 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$$

$$\therefore \text{FeO} + \text{C} \longrightarrow \text{Fe} + \text{CO}; \qquad \Delta_r \text{G}^{\scriptsize \Theta} = -53 \text{ mol}^{-1}$$

NOTE:

- 1. In a similar way, the reduction of Fe_3O_4 and Fe_2O_3 by CO at relatively lower temperature can be explained on the basis of lower lying points of intersection of their curves with CO, CO_2 curve
- 2. The iron obtained from Blast furnace contains 4% carbon and 2% Si, P, S and Mn. This is known as pig iron.
- 3. Cast iron is made by melting pig iron with scrap iron and coke using hot air blast. It contains 3% carbon and is extremely hard and brittle.
- 4. Further reductions:

Wrought iron or malleable iron is the purest form of commercial iron and is prepared from cast iron by heating with Haematite in a reverberatory furnace. Haematite oxidises carbon to CO[Puddling Process]

$$Fe_2O_3 + 3C \rightarrow 2Fe + 3CO$$

Limestone is added as flux. Sulphur, Si, P etc are oxidised and passed into slag (Thomas slag)

Additional information

Pig iron	Cast iron	Wrought iron
Most impure form 4%C + 2%Mn, Si, P, S	IContains 3% (: (C as draphite) = I	Contains 0.5% of impurity/purest form
Preparation - Blast furnace	Melting pig iron with scrap iron and coke, followed by cooling.	Puddling/Pudding process
mp 1273 K	mp 1473 K white cast iron - Fe_3C Grey cast iron - C_{gr}	mp 1673 K Fibrous, resistant to corrosion

- 5. Steel is a ferrous alloy ie iron containing 0.1 1.5%C mild steel (0.1 0.5%C), hard steel (0.6 1.5%C), nowadays bulk of pig iron is converted to steel. Bessmer and open Hearth process are outdated. Modern methods involve basic oxygen process (BOP), electric Arc process, oxygen top blowing process and high frequency induction process.
- 6. There are six heat treatment of steel
 - (a) Quenching
- (b) Tempering
- (c) Annealing

- (d) Case hardening
- (e) sherardising
- (f) Nitriding

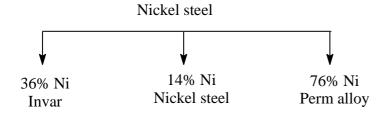
7. Alloy steels:

Stainless steel - 18% Cr

Tungsten steel - 5% W

Manganese steel - 13% Mn

Chrome steel - 1.1% Cr



Old IIT qn: Coversion of Haematite to steel involves

Extraction of copper from cuprous oxide [Copper (I) oxide]

Method-1: Coke reduction

In the Ellingham diagram, the Cu_2O line is almost at the top. So it is quite easy to reduce the oxide of copper directly to the metal by heating with coke. The lines (C, CO) and (C, CO_2) are at much lower positions in the graph at 500–600 K.

The sulphide ore is roated/smelted first followed by reduction with coke.

$$2Cu_2S + 3O_2 \xrightarrow{\Delta} 2Cu_2O + 2SO_2$$
$$Cu_2O + C \xrightarrow{} 2Cu + CO$$

In actual process, the ore is heated in a reverberatory furnace after mixing with silica. In the furnace iron oxide slags off as iron silicate. Copper is produced in the form of coppermatte which contains Cu₂S and FeS.

$$FeO + SiO_2 \longrightarrow FeSiO_3(slag)$$

Copper matte is then charged into silica lined convertor. Some more silica is added followed by the passage of hot air blast to convert FeS, FeO and Cu₂S/Cu₂O to metallic copper. Following reactions takesplace

a)
$$2\text{FeS} + 3\text{O}_2 \longrightarrow 2\text{FeO} + 2\text{SO}_2$$

b)
$$FeO + SiO_2 \longrightarrow FeSiO_3$$

c)
$$2Cu_2S + 3O_2 \longrightarrow 2Cu_2O + 2SO_2$$

d)
$$2Cu_2O + Cu_2S \longrightarrow 6Cu + SO_2$$

Copper obtained has blistrous appearance due to SO₂ adsorption . (Hence the name blister copper)

The above reactions are also possible in Bessemer convertor

Method-2: Autoreduction/self reduction

Extraction of zinc from zinc oxide

The reduction of ZnO is done with coke. The temperature is higher than that of Cu. For the purpose of heating, the oxide is made into bricketts with coke and clay. The metal is distilled off and collected by rapid chilling.

$$ZnO + C \xrightarrow{1673 \text{ K}} Zn + CO$$

Note: Excess ZnO adhered is removed by shock cooling by contact with shower of molten lead.

Extraction of Aluminium [HALL - HEROULT Process]

In the met allurgy of AI, purified AI₂O₃ is mixed with cryolite CaF₂/AIF₃ which lowers the mp of the mixture and bring conductivity. The fused matrix is electrolysed. Steel vessel with C-lining act as cathode and graphite anode is used (to be removed occassionally since it burns).

The overall reaction is
$$2Al_2O_3 + 3C \longrightarrow 4Al + 3CO_2$$

The O_2 liberated at the anode reacts with graphite producing CO_2 and CO. For each kg of Al produced, about 0.5 kg of graphite anode is burnt away.

 $\text{Cathode}: \underset{\scriptscriptstyle{melt}}{Al^{^{3+}}} + 3e^{^{-}} {\longrightarrow} Al_{(\ell)}$

Anode: $C_{(s)} + O_{melt}^{2-} \longrightarrow CO_{(g)} + 2e^{-}$

$$C_{(s)} + 2O_{melt}^{2-} \longrightarrow CO_{2(g)} + 4e^{-}$$

Precautions

- 1. Excess coke powder is spread over the electrolyte
- 2. Bauxite (2.8%) + Na₃AIF₆ (80 95%) + CaF₂/AIF₃ (5 7%)
- 3. 99.98% pure aluminium is produced at the cathode

Extraction of non-metal by oxidation

A very common example of extraction based on oxidation is the extraction of chlorine from Brine.

Method: Electrolytic oxidation of aq. dilute chloride solution (Brine).

$$2Cl_{(aq)}^{-} + 2H_{2}O_{(\ell)} \xrightarrow{-e^{-}} 2OH_{(aq)}^{-} + H_{2(g)} + Cl_{2(g)}$$

 ΛG^0 for the reaction is +422 kJ

Apply the relation
$$\Delta G^{\Theta} = -nFE_{cell}^{0}$$
, we get $E_{cell}^{0} = -2.2 \text{ V}$

Naturally it requires an external emf greater than 2.2 V. But the electrolytic requires excess potential to overcome some hindering reactions.

Refining/Purification

A metal extracted by any method is usually contaminated. For obtaining metals of high purity, several techniques are used.

1. Cupellation

An example of oxidation refining. This method is used when silver containing lead as impurity (Argentiferrous lead). The impure metal is melted in crucibles mades of bone ash over which a current of air is blown, lead is oxidised to litharge (PbO).

Note: Silver can also be purified by Parke's process (to the molten form adding Zn) and Pattinson's process (Molten silver is cooled).

2. Poling/Furnace refining

If the metals contain their own oxides as impurities, poling is applicable. Principle is the reduction of unstable oxides. Method involves stirring the molten metal with poles of green wood. Eg: Refining of copper and tin

Old qn : During the refining process of poling w.r.t impure copper and tin the oxides removed are respectively

3. Liquation

This is based on low mp or one component is easily fusible. In this method a low melting metal like tin can be made to flow on a sloping surface where it is separated from higher melting impurities.

Other Eg: is the removal of Zn from lead

Note: Used for concentration of Sb ores

4. Distillation

This is very useful for low boiling metals like zinc and mercury. The impure metal is evaporated to obtain the pure metal as distillate.

5. Chromatography

Column chromatography is useful for the purification of elements available in minute quantities (low abundant metals) as lanthanoids, Ba etc. The principle is adsorption using Al₂O₃ (alumina)

6. Zone refining

This will provide 100% pure / ultra pure metals.

Semiconductors like Ge, Si, B, Ga, In etc are refined by this method.

Principle - Fractional crystallisation/the impurities are more soluble in the melt than in the solid form of the metal.

Method

A mobile heater surrounding the rod of impure metal is fixed at its one end. The molten zone moves along with the heater moving forward. As the heater moves forward, the pure metal crystallises and the impurities pass on to the adjacent new molten zone created by movement of heater. The process is repeated several times and the heater is moved in the same direction again and again. Impurities get concentrated at one end which is cut off.

Note:

1. Purity
$$\alpha \frac{1}{\text{Radius of metal rod}}$$

2. Best method for an element in which gangue has chemical properties close to that of metal.

7. Vapour phase refining (100% pure metal)

In this method, the metal is converted to its volatile compound which is collected and decomposed to get pure metal.

Requirements

- a) The metal form a volatile compound with available reagent.
- b) Volatile compound is easily decomposable

Example

- 1. Mond's process for refining of nickel
- 2. Van Arkel method/Deover process/filament method

This method is highly useful for removing all the oxygen and nitrogen present in the form of impurity in group 4 metals like Ti and Zr. The crude metal is heated in an evacuated vessel with iodine. The covalent volatile metal iodide volatalises.

$$Zr + 2I_2 \xrightarrow{870 \text{ K}} ZrI_4$$

The metal iodide is decomposed on a W-filament, electrically heated to 1800 K. The pure metal deposits on the filament.

$$ZrI_4 \xrightarrow{1270 \text{ K}} Zr + 2I_2 \uparrow$$

8. Electrolytic refining

This is the most common technique

Method: Impure metal is made anode and pure metal as cathode. They are put in a suitable electrolytic path containing soluble salt of the same metal. The more basic metal remains in solution andless basic gives to a anode mud. The process is explained by electrode potential, over potentials and Gibbs energy.

Anode: $M \longrightarrow M^{n+} + ne^{-}$

Cathode: $M^{n+} + ne^{-} \longrightarrow M$

Eg: 1) Copper is refined by this method. Anodes are of impure copper and pure Cu - strips are taken as cathode. The electrolyte is acidified $CuSO_4$ solution. Pure Cu is deposited at the cathode. All the impurities are deposited as anode mud which contain Sb, Se, Te, Ag, Au and Pt.

2) Zinc may also be refined

Note: Electrolytic refining of the following metals are named after the scientists.

A) Electro refining of Ag - Moebius process: Electrolyte used - AgNO₃ + dil.HNO₃

B) Electro refining of Pb - Bett's proces : Electrolyte : $PbSiF_6 + H_2SiF_6$

C) Electro refining of Al - Hoope's process: Electrolyte: Na₂AlF₆; BaF₂

Three fused layers: 1) Bottom anode layer - Alloy of Al, Cu, Si

2) Middle layer - Cryolite + BaF,

3) Top cathode layer - Pure Al

Uses of Al, Cu, Zn, Fe

A. Aluminium

- 1. Al foil wrappers for chocolates
- 2. Al dust paints, lacquers
- 3. Al powder R.A. on metallurgy
- 4. Al wire Electricity conductors
- 5. Light alloys of Al like magnalium Air craft parts

B. Copper

- 1. Electrical industry
- 2. Water and steam pipes
- 3. Alloys like Brass, bronze, coinage alloys with nickel

C. Zinc

- 1. Galvanising iron
- 2. Battery
- 3. Zn-dust R.Agent
- 4. Alloys: Brass (60% Cu + 40% Zn)

German silver (Cu: 25-30% + Zn 25-30% + Ni 40-50%)

D Iron

- a. Cast iron stove, railway sleepers, toys etc
- b. Wrought iron Anchors, bolts, chain, agricultral implements
- c. Alloy steels Chrome steel Cutting tools

Nickel steel - pendulum, measuring tapes

Stainless steel - utensils

INDIAN TRADITION IN METALLURGY

- 1. Seven metals of antiquity Au, Cu, Ag, Pb, Sn, Fe, Hg
- 2. Rich tradition of metallurgy skills Source AsI: excavation and literary evidences
 - a) Eg: Copper
 - b) Au/Ag alloy electrum/ornaments
 - c) Alluvial placer gold Rigveda, Palitext, Arthasastra (Kautilya)
 - d) Fe wrought iron
 - e) Indian steel Wootz steel (1-1.9% C)
 - f) Iron pillar 0.15%C + 0.05%Si + 0.05% Mn

Wrought Fe 99.72%C + 0.25%P + 0.005%Ni + 0.03% Cu

- g) Iron blocks
- h) Zn Distillation
- i) Hg Sanskrit text