

Reduction potential: tendency for a chemical species to be reduced  
 The reference value is the reduction of hydrogen, assigned a value of 0V  
 The more positive the reduction potential, the greater the tendency to be reduced  
 Standard Cell Potentials:  $E^\circ_{\text{cell}} = E^\circ_{\text{red}}(\text{cathode}) - E^\circ_{\text{red}}(\text{anode})$

Multiplying half-reactions by integers to balance the equation does NOT change the  $E^\circ$  (energy per electron) of material  
 Reduction potentials are intensive: do not depend on amount

Standard Reduction Potential Example:  $2\text{H}^+(\text{aq}) + 2\text{e}^- \rightarrow \text{H}_2(\text{g})$  (1M)

Standard hydrogen electrode: reduction + 0V by convention

What is the reduction potential for this reaction, given info shown?  
 $\text{Cu}^{2+}(\text{aq}) + 2\text{e}^- \rightarrow \text{Cu}(\text{s})$ , where volt-meter reading = +0.34  
 - copper is cathode w/ hydrogen, and is more readily reduced,  
 → means that cell potential is positive

Question 2:  $\text{Zn}^{2+}(\text{aq}) + 2\text{e}^- \rightarrow \text{Zn}(\text{s})$ , spontaneous rxn, positive cell potential  
 - Hydrogen reduced more readily, so cell potential = negative  
 - Reduction potential of  $\text{Zn}^{2+}$ ,  $E^\circ_{\text{red}} = 0.76\text{ V}$   
 - Reduction potential of  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$ ,  $E^\circ_{\text{red}} = +0.34\text{ V}$   
 - Formis voltaic cell:  $E^\circ_{\text{cell}} = +0.34\text{ V} - (-0.76\text{ V}) = 1.1\text{ V}$  (convention: anode on the left)

Question 3: (u shown as the anode)  
 What does volt meter read? spontaneous rxn - positive #  
 $E^\circ_{\text{red}}(\text{Cu}) = 0.34\text{ V}$   
 $E^\circ_{\text{red}}(\text{Ag}) = 0.80\text{ V}$   
 $E^\circ_{\text{cell}} = E^\circ_{\text{red}}(\text{cathode}) - E^\circ_{\text{red}}(\text{anode})$   
 $= 0.80\text{ V} - 0.34\text{ V} = \boxed{0.46\text{ V}}$

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### Electrochemistry III

Top of table: strong oxidizing agents

Bottom: strong reducing agents

Spontaneous redox reactions produce a positive  $E^\circ_{\text{cell}}$  + negative  $\Delta G^\circ$   
 $E^\circ_{\text{cell}} = E^\circ_{\text{red}}(\text{cathode}) - E^\circ_{\text{red}}(\text{anode})$

Relationship between cell potential and  $\Delta G$ :  $\Delta G^\circ = -nFE^\circ_{\text{cell}}$

F: Faraday constant