

Cell EMF

TABLE 18.1 Standard Reduction Potentials at 25°C

Reduction Half-Reaction	E° (V)
$F_2(g) + 2 e^- \longrightarrow 2 F(aq)$	2.87
$H_2O_2(aq) + 2 H^+(aq) + 2 e^- \longrightarrow 2 H_2O(l)$	1.78
$MnO_4^-(aq) + 8 H^+(aq) + 5 e^- \longrightarrow Mn^{2+}(aq) + 4 H_2O(l)$	1.51
$Cl_2(g) + 2 e^- \longrightarrow 2 Cl^-(aq)$	1.36
$Cr_2O_7^{2-}(aq) + 14 H^+(aq) + 6 e^- \longrightarrow 2 Cr^{3+}(aq) + 7 H_2O(l)$	1.33
$O_2(g) + 4 H^+(aq) + 4 e^- \longrightarrow 2 H_2O(l)$	1.23
$Br_2(l) + 2 e^- \longrightarrow 2 Br^-(aq)$	1.09
$Ag^+(aq) + e^- \longrightarrow Ag(s)$	0.80
$Fe^{3+}(aq) + e^- \longrightarrow Fe^{2+}(aq)$	0.77
$O_2(g) + 2 H^+(aq) + 2 e^- \longrightarrow H_2O_2(aq)$	0.70
$I_2(s) + 2 e^- \longrightarrow 2 I^-(aq)$	0.54
$O_2(g) + 2 H_2O(l) + 4 e^- \longrightarrow 4 OH^-(aq)$	0.40
$Cu^{2+}(aq) + 2 e^- \longrightarrow Cu(s)$	0.34
$Sn^{4+}(aq) + 2 e^- \longrightarrow Sn^{2+}(aq)$	0.15
$2 H^+(aq) + 2 e^- \longrightarrow H_2(g)$	0
$Pb^{2+}(aq) + 2 e^- \longrightarrow Pb(s)$	-0.13
$Ni^{2+}(aq) + 2 e^- \longrightarrow Ni(s)$	-0.26
$Cd^{2+}(aq) + 2 e^- \longrightarrow Cd(s)$	-0.40
$Fe^{2+}(aq) + 2 e^- \longrightarrow Fe(s)$	-0.45
$Zn^{2+}(aq) + 2 e^- \longrightarrow Zn(s)$	-0.76
$2 H_2O(l) + 2 e^- \longrightarrow H_2(g) + 2 OH^-(aq)$	-0.83
$Al^{3+}(aq) + 3 e^- \longrightarrow Al(s)$	-1.66
$Mg^{2+}(aq) + 2 e^- \longrightarrow Mg(s)$	-2.37
$Na^+(aq) + e^- \longrightarrow Na(s)$	-2.71
$Li^+(aq) + e^- \longrightarrow Li(s)$	-3.04

Stronger oxidizing agent



Weaker oxidizing agent

Weaker reducing agent



Stronger reducing agent

The electromotive force

The potential difference between the two electrodes of a voltaic cell provides the driving force that pushes the electrons through the external circuit.

We call this potential difference the **electromotive force, or emf**.

Standard Reduction Potentials

The cell potential of a voltaic cell depends on the particular cathode and anode half-cells involved.

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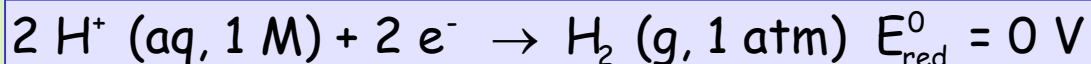
Standard Reduction Potentials

The standard electrode potentials are tabulated for reduction reactions.

The cell potential, E°_{cell} , is given by:

$$E^\circ_{cell} = E^\circ_{red}(\text{cathode}) - E^\circ_{red}(\text{anode})$$

The reference half-reaction is the reduction of $H^+(aq)$ to $H_2(g)$ under standard conditions:



An electrode designed to produce this half-reaction is called a standard hydrogen electrode.

Cell EMF

Sample Exercise

Using the standard reduction potentials listed in the table, calculate the standard emf for the cell reaction:

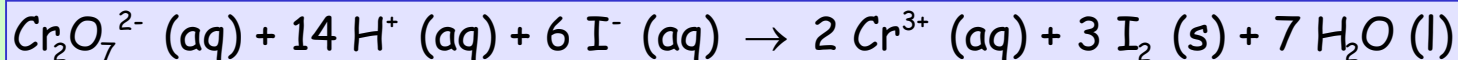




TABLE 18.1 Standard Reduction Potentials at 25°C

	Reduction Half-Reaction	E° (V)	
Stronger oxidizing agent 	$\text{F}_2(\text{g}) + 2 \text{e}^- \rightarrow 2 \text{F}^-(\text{aq})$	2.87	Weaker reducing agent 
	$\text{H}_2\text{O}_2(\text{aq}) + 2 \text{H}^+(\text{aq}) + 2 \text{e}^- \rightarrow 2 \text{H}_2\text{O}(\text{l})$	1.78	
	$\text{MnO}_4^-(\text{aq}) + 8 \text{H}^+(\text{aq}) + 5 \text{e}^- \rightarrow \text{Mn}^{2+}(\text{aq}) + 4 \text{H}_2\text{O}(\text{l})$	1.51	
	$\text{Cl}_2(\text{g}) + 2 \text{e}^- \rightarrow 2 \text{Cl}^-(\text{aq})$	1.36	
	$\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_7^{2-}(\text{aq}) + 14 \text{H}^+(\text{aq}) + 6 \text{e}^- \rightarrow 2 \text{Cr}^{3+}(\text{aq}) + 7 \text{H}_2\text{O}(\text{l})$	1.33	
	$\text{O}_2(\text{g}) + 4 \text{H}^+(\text{aq}) + 4 \text{e}^- \rightarrow 2 \text{H}_2\text{O}(\text{l})$	1.23	
	$\text{Br}_2(\text{l}) + 2 \text{e}^- \rightarrow 2 \text{Br}^-(\text{aq})$	1.09	
	$\text{Ag}^+(\text{aq}) + \text{e}^- \rightarrow \text{Ag}(\text{s})$	0.80	
	$\text{Fe}^{3+}(\text{aq}) + \text{e}^- \rightarrow \text{Fe}^{2+}(\text{aq})$	0.77	
	$\text{O}_2(\text{g}) + 2 \text{H}^+(\text{aq}) + 2 \text{e}^- \rightarrow \text{H}_2\text{O}_2(\text{aq})$	0.70	
	$\text{I}_2(\text{s}) + 2 \text{e}^- \rightarrow 2 \text{I}^-(\text{aq})$	0.54	
	$\text{O}_2(\text{g}) + 2 \text{H}_2\text{O}(\text{l}) + 4 \text{e}^- \rightarrow 4 \text{OH}^-(\text{aq})$	0.40	
	$\text{Cu}^{2+}(\text{aq}) + 2 \text{e}^- \rightarrow \text{Cu}(\text{s})$	0.34	
	$\text{Sn}^{4+}(\text{aq}) + 2 \text{e}^- \rightarrow \text{Sn}^{2+}(\text{aq})$	0.15	
	$2 \text{H}^+(\text{aq}) + 2 \text{e}^- \rightarrow \text{H}_2(\text{g})$	0	
	Weaker oxidizing agent		
	$\text{Pb}^{2+}(\text{aq}) + 2 \text{e}^- \rightarrow \text{Pb}(\text{s})$	-0.13	
	$\text{Ni}^{2+}(\text{aq}) + 2 \text{e}^- \rightarrow \text{Ni}(\text{s})$	-0.26	
	$\text{Cd}^{2+}(\text{aq}) + 2 \text{e}^- \rightarrow \text{Cd}(\text{s})$	-0.40	
	$\text{Fe}^{2+}(\text{aq}) + 2 \text{e}^- \rightarrow \text{Fe}(\text{s})$	-0.45	
	$\text{Zn}^{2+}(\text{aq}) + 2 \text{e}^- \rightarrow \text{Zn}(\text{s})$	-0.76	
	$2 \text{H}_2\text{O}(\text{l}) + 2 \text{e}^- \rightarrow \text{H}_2(\text{g}) + 2 \text{OH}^-(\text{aq})$	-0.83	
	$\text{Al}^{3+}(\text{aq}) + 3 \text{e}^- \rightarrow \text{Al}(\text{s})$	-1.66	
	$\text{Mg}^{2+}(\text{aq}) + 2 \text{e}^- \rightarrow \text{Mg}(\text{s})$	-2.37	
	$\text{Na}^+(\text{aq}) + \text{e}^- \rightarrow \text{Na}(\text{s})$	-2.71	
	$\text{Li}^+(\text{aq}) + \text{e}^- \rightarrow \text{Li}(\text{s})$	-3.04	