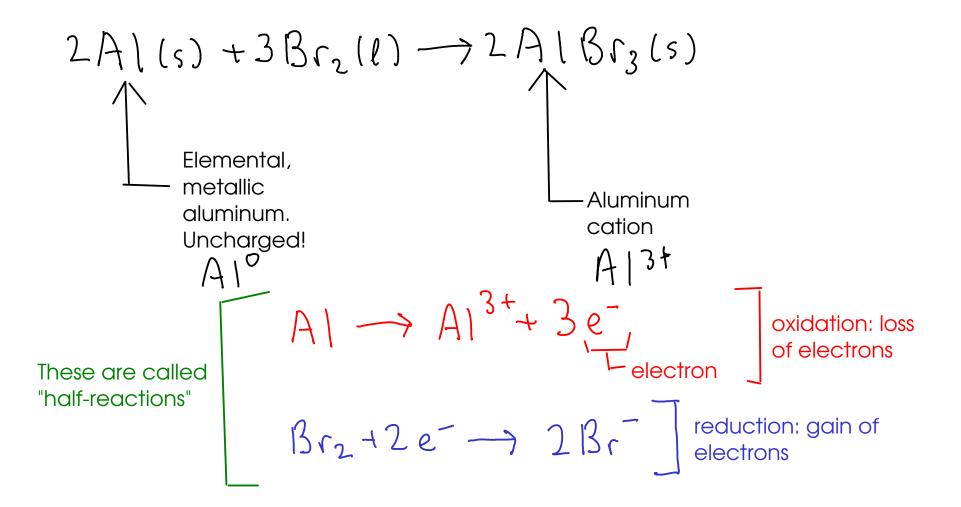
#### <sup>125</sup> OXIDATION / REDUCTION CHEMISTRY

- Exchange reactions involve ions pairing up, but the ions themseves are not formed in exchange reactions. Exchanges start with pre-existing ions.

... but the ions have to be produced somehow - through a chemistry that involves the transfer of electrons.

- oxidation / reduction chemistry ("redox" chemistry) involves transfer of electrons and can make ions.



- oxidation and reduction always occur together. In other words, we can't just make free electrons using oxidation without giving them somewhere to go.

- Many of the types of reactions that we learned about in previous courses are redox reactions!

- COMBINATIONS (often but not always redox)

- DECOMPOSITIONS (often redox)
- SINGLE REPLACEMENT (always redox)

 $Culs) + 2 \operatorname{Ag} \operatorname{NO}_{3}(\operatorname{Lag}) \rightarrow Culwo_{3})_{2}(\operatorname{Lag}) + 2 \operatorname{Ag}(s)$   $Cu \rightarrow Cu^{2+} + 2e^{-} \operatorname{oxidation}$   $2 \operatorname{Ag}^{+} + 2e^{-} \rightarrow 2 \operatorname{Ag}(s) \text{ reduction}$   $\operatorname{net} \operatorname{unic} \rightarrow Cu(s) + 2 \operatorname{Ag}^{+}(\operatorname{Lag}) \rightarrow (u^{2+}(\operatorname{Lag}) + 2 \operatorname{Ag}(s))$ 

- COMBUSTION

$$2 \operatorname{Mg}(s) + O_2(g) \longrightarrow 2 \operatorname{Mg}O(s)$$
  

$$2 \operatorname{Mg}(s) \longrightarrow 2 \operatorname{Mg}^{2+} + 4e^{-} \text{ oxidation}$$
  

$$O_2(g) + 4e^{-} \longrightarrow 2 O^{2-} \text{ reduction}$$

A review of the reaction types we just mentioned:

# COMBINATION REACTIONS

- Reactions that involve two or more simple substances COMBINING to form a SINGLE product

- Often involve large energy changes. Sometimes violent!

- Form: 
$$A + B + \dots \longrightarrow C$$

Example:

 $2A|(s) + 3Br_2(l) \longrightarrow 2A|Br_3(s)$ 



- Reactions where a SINGLE REACTANT breaks apart into several products

- Form: 
$$A \longrightarrow B + C + ...$$

Example:

 $2H_1O_1(\ell) \longrightarrow 2H_2O(\ell) + O_2(g)$ 

\* This reaction is NOT a combustion reaction, even though  $O_2$  is involved!

\* Combustion reactions CONSUME  ${\rm O_2}$  , while this reaction PRODUCES  ${\rm O_2}$ 

### COMBUSTION REACTIONS

- Reactions of substances with MOLECULAR OXYGEN (  ${\rm O_2}$  ) to form OXIDES.

hydrocarbons makes carbon dioxide and

environments, carbon

water, if enough

In low-oxygen

instead!

Dxides

oxygen is present.

monoxide is made

- Combustion forms an OXIDE of EACH ELEMENT in the burned substance!

- Form: 
$$AB + O_{2} \rightarrow AO + BO$$

Oxide: a compound containing OXYGEN and one other element!

Examples:

$$\begin{array}{c} \star \\ C_{3}H_{8}(g) + 5O_{2}(g) \longrightarrow 4H_{2}U(g) + 3CO_{2}(g) \end{array}$$

$$2Mg(s) + O_2(g) \rightarrow 2MgO(s)$$

This reaction can also be called a combination! Two reactants form a single product.

## SINGLE REPLACEMENT REACTIONS

- Reactions where one element REPLACES another element in a compound.
- Can be predicted via an ACTIVITY SERIES (p151, 9th edition) (p153, 10th ed)

- Form: 
$$A + BC \longrightarrow AC + B$$

"A" and "B" are elements., often metals.

- Easy to spot, since there is an element "by itself" on each side of the equation.

Examples:  

$$(u(s) + 2A_g ND_3(aq)) \rightarrow (u(ND_3)_2(aq) + 2A_g(s))$$
  
 $(u(s) + H_2SO_4(aq)) \rightarrow ZuSO_4(aq) + H_2(g)$ 

#### REDOX LANGUAGE

## "oxidizer"

- "Oxidation" is loss of electrons, but an OXIDIZING AGENT is something that causes ANOTHER substance to lose electrons. An oxidizing agent is itself reduced during a redox reaction.

- "Reduction" is gain of electrons, but a REDUCING AGENT is something that causes ANOTHER substace to gain electrons. Reducing agents are themselves oxidized during a redox reaction.

\* Strong oxidizers (oxidizing agents) can cause spontaneous fires if placed into contact with combustibles (safety issue!).

\* Reactive metals tend to be REDUCING AGENTS, while oxygen-rich ions like NITRATES tend to be OXIDIZING AGENTS. HALOGENS (Group VIIA) also tend to be OXIDIZING AGENTS END OF CHAPTER 4 MATERIAL