
Molten-Salt Electrolysis: Industrial Applications and Outlook

Jonathan “Jo” Melville
CSP Strategy Meeting
December 2nd, 2021



**SOLAR ENERGY
TECHNOLOGIES OFFICE**
U.S. Department Of Energy



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

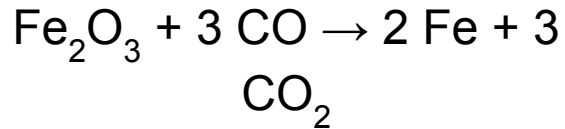
Energy Efficiency &
Renewable Energy

Redox Reactions: A Primer

- Refining metals = bringing them to +0 oxidation state
 - Metals in ores exist as oxidized species
 - Changing oxidation state is definitionally redox
 - Refining ores to metals requires a reducing agent
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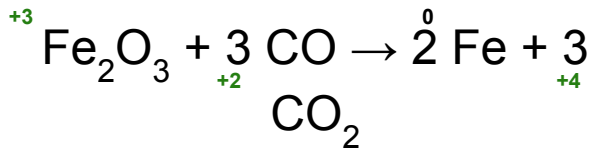
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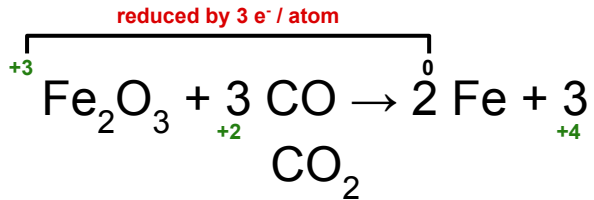
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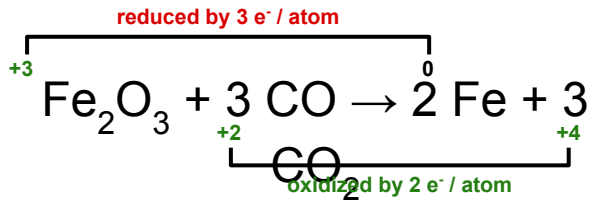
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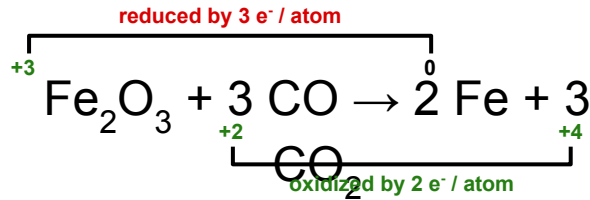
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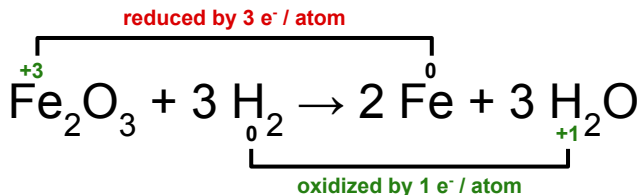


carbothermic reduction



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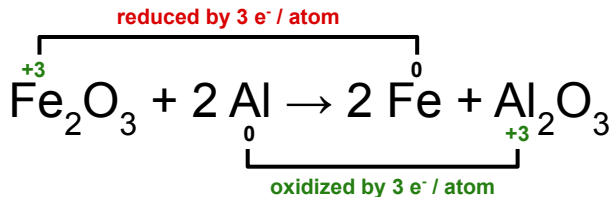


hydrogenic reduction



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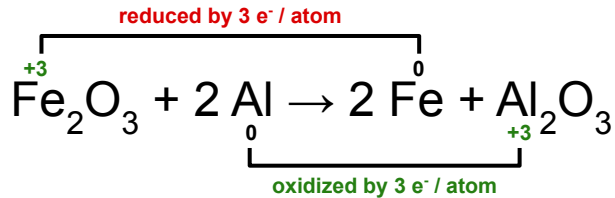
aluminothermic reduction





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aluminothermic reduction



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 - Electrolysis is just redox where half-reactions are separated and electrons are your reducing agent
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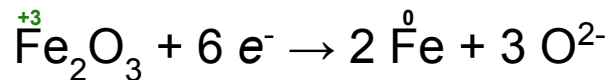
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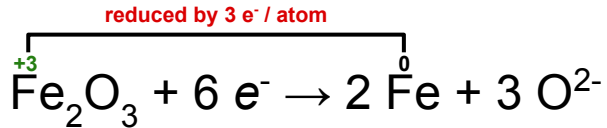
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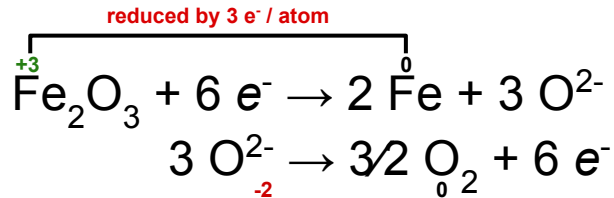
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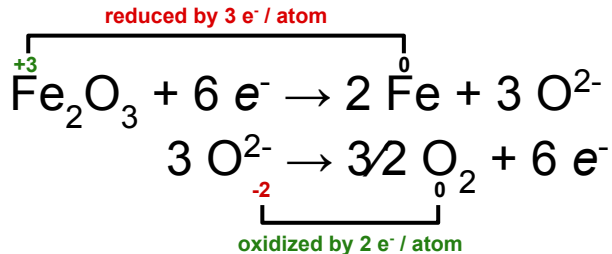
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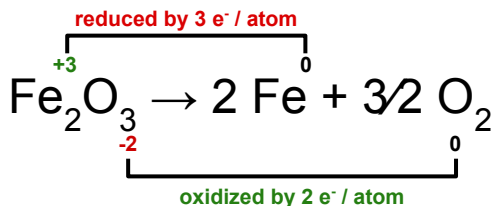
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Electrolysis and You: A Primer

electro + *lysis*: “to break apart with electricity”

Anode: electrode where oxidation takes place

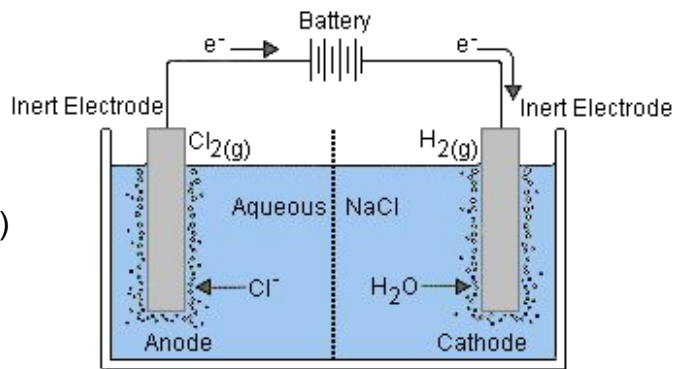
↳ **Oxidation:** an increase in charge state (more positive; loss of electrons)

Cathode: electrode where reduction takes place

↳ **Reduction:** a decrease in charge state (more negative; gain of electrons)

Electrolyte: conductive solvent mediating electron/ion transfer between cathode and anode

Decomposition potential: minimum applied EMF needed to induce electrolysis; $E_{\text{cell}}^{\circ} = E_{\text{red}}^{\circ} - E_{\text{ox}}^{\circ}$



Electrolysis and You: A Primer

Electrolyte: aqueous NaCl (~26% w/w solution)

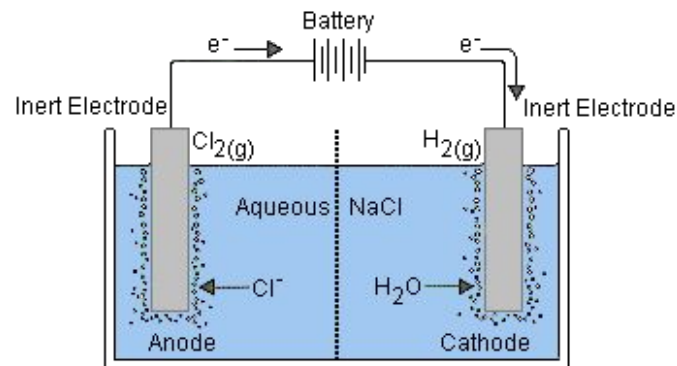
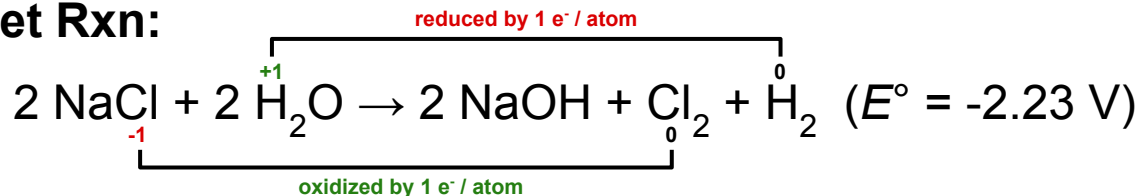
Anode: titanium mixed-metal oxide

↳ Oxidation half-reaction: $2 \text{Cl}^- \rightarrow \text{Cl}_2 + 2 \text{e}^-$ ($E^\circ = 1.23 \text{ V}$)

Cathode: graphite

↳ Reduction half-reaction: $2 \text{H}_2\text{O} + 2 \text{e}^- \rightarrow \text{H}_2 + 2 \text{OH}^-$ ($E^\circ = -0.99 \text{ V}$)

Net Rxn:



Chloralkali process

The Reactivity Series

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Metal	Ion	Reactivity	Extraction
Caesium Cs	Cs ⁺	reacts with cold water	electrolysis
Rubidium Rb	Rb ⁺		
Potassium K	K ⁺		
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Lithium Li	Li ⁺		
Radium Ra	Ra ²⁺		
Barium Ba	Ba ²⁺		
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Calcium Ca	Ca ²⁺		
Magnesium Mg	Mg ²⁺	reacts very slowly with cold water, but rapidly in boiling water, and very vigorously with acids	electrolysis
Beryllium Be	Be ²⁺	reacts with acids and steam	
Aluminium Al	Al ³⁺	reacts with concentrated mineral acids	pyrometallurgical extraction using magnesium, or less commonly other alkali metals, hydrogen or calcium in the Kroll process
Titanium Ti	Ti ⁴⁺		
Manganese Mn	Mn ²⁺	reacts with acids; very poor reaction with steam	smelting with coke
Zinc Zn	Zn ²⁺		aluminothermic reaction
Chromium Cr	Cr ³⁺		smelting with coke
Iron Fe	Fe ²⁺		
Cadmium Cd	Cd ²⁺		
Cobalt Co	Co ²⁺		
Nickel Ni	Ni ²⁺		
Tin Sn	Sn ²⁺		
Lead Pb	Pb ²⁺		may react with some strong oxidizing acids
Antimony Sb	Sb ³⁺		
Bismuth Bi	Bi ³⁺	reacts slowly with air	
Copper Cu	Cu ²⁺	may react with some strong oxidizing acids	
Tungsten W	W ³⁺		
Mercury Hg	Hg ²⁺		
Silver Ag	Ag ⁺		
Gold Au	Au ³⁺ ;[5][6]		
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INCREASING REACTIVITY

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$E^{\circ} = +1.52 \text{ V}$

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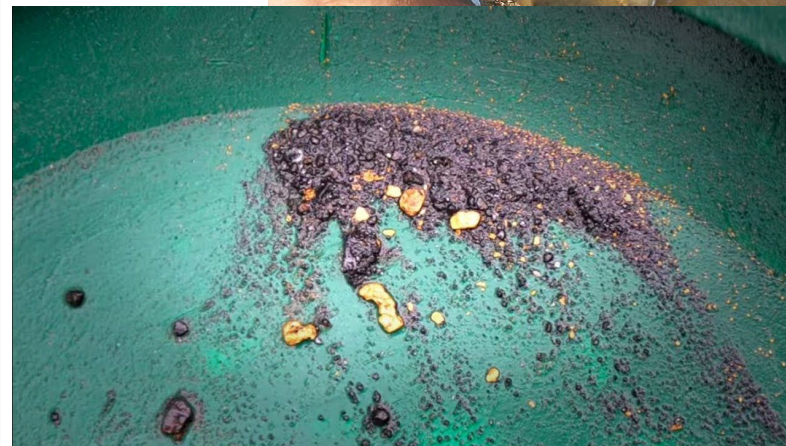


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INCREASING REACTIVITY

$E^\circ = -2.71 \text{ V}$

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The Hall–Héroult Process

The Archetype for Industrial
Molten-Salt Electrolysis

A Brief History of Aluminum



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Venetski, S. *Metallurgist* **1969**, 13, 451–453.

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Approx. Al price
(2021 US\$/oz):

\$3000



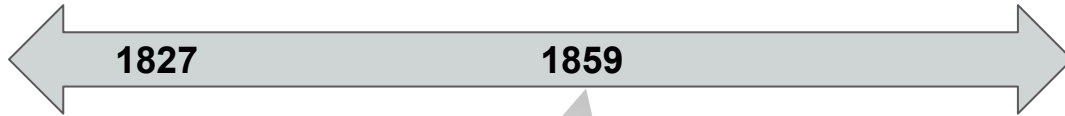
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A Brief History of Aluminum



Étienne Henry
Sainte-Claire Deville
replaces potassium metal
with cheaper sodium



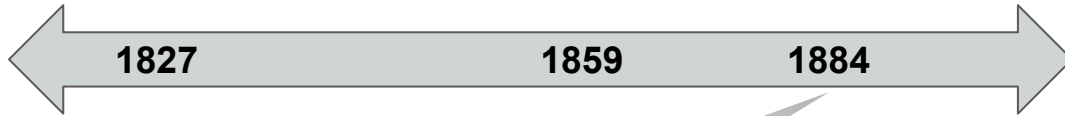
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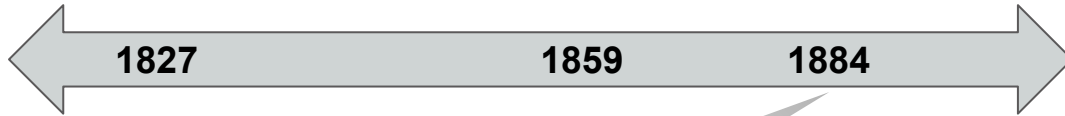


The cap on the Washington Monument is cast out of solid aluminum

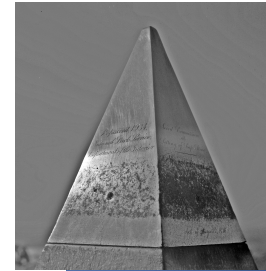


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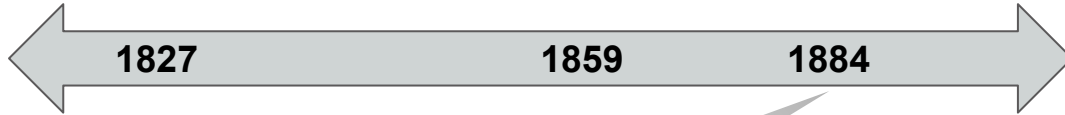


The cap on the Washington Monument is cast out of solid aluminum

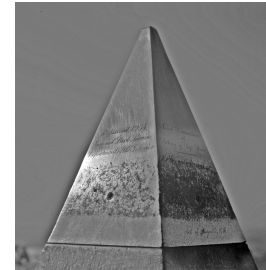


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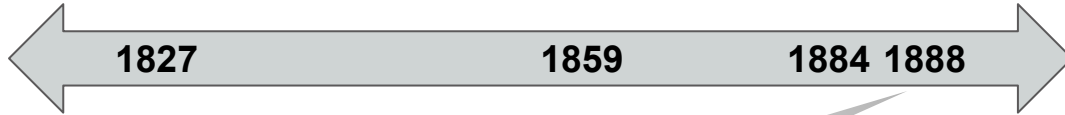


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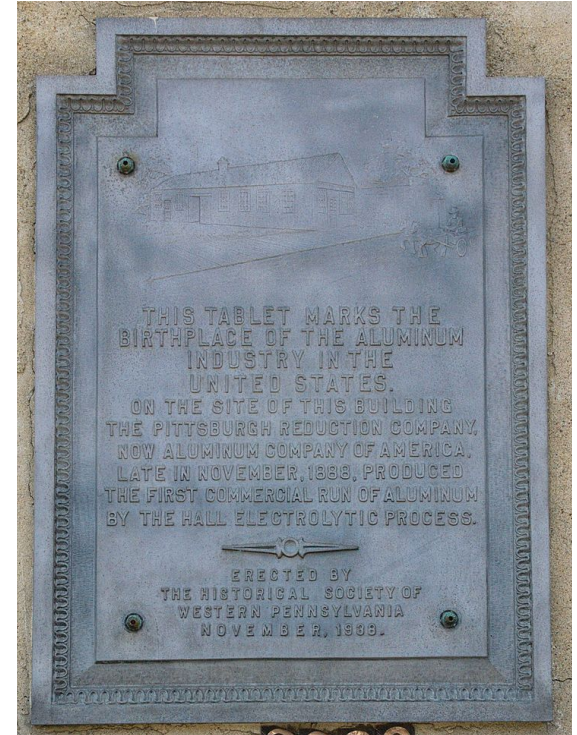


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A Brief History of Aluminum



Charles Martin Hall and Paul L. T. Héroult independently discover the electrolytic process for aluminum production



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Okay but first I need to tell you about **The Bayer Process**

- Bauxite: primary ore of aluminum
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 - Remainder: SiO_2 , TiO_2 , Fe_xO_y



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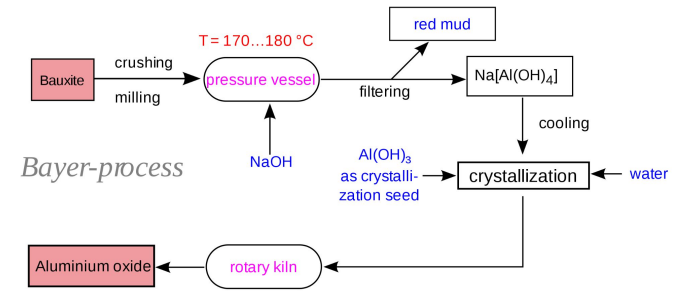
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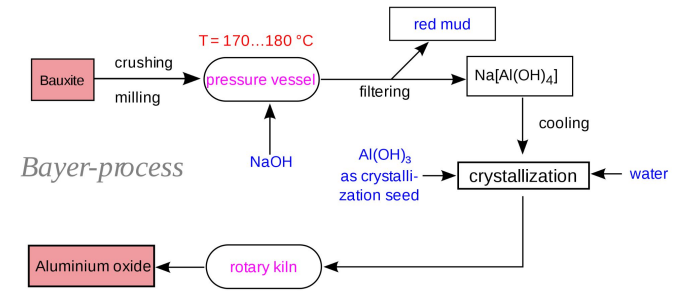
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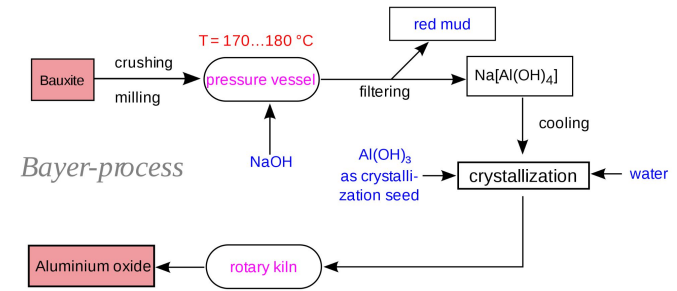
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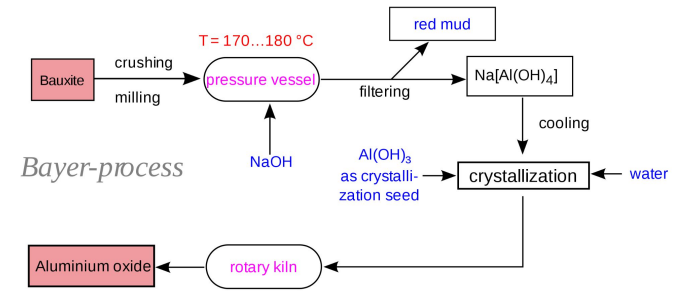
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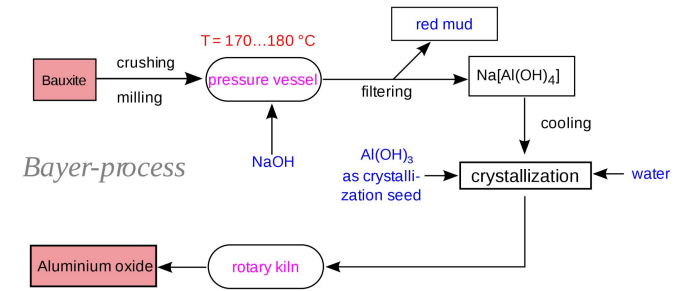
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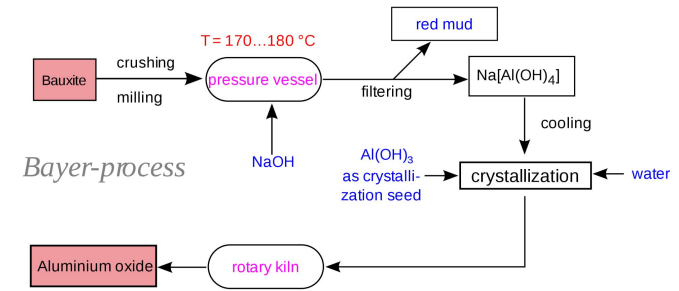
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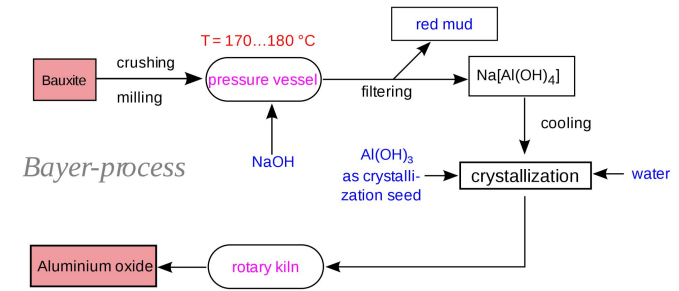
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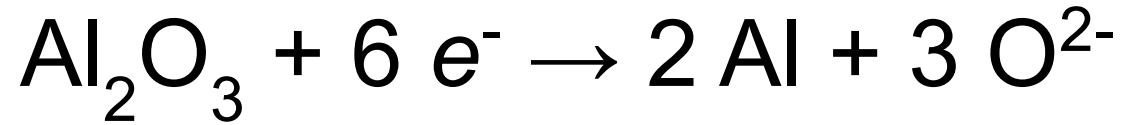
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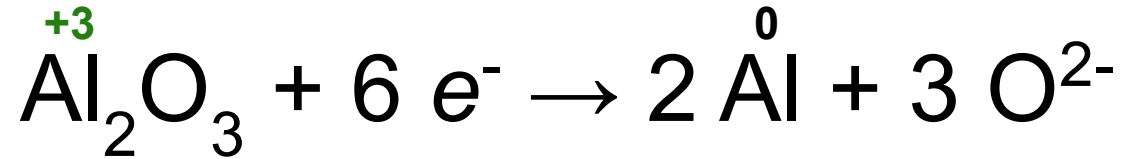


Finally, the Hall–Hérout Process

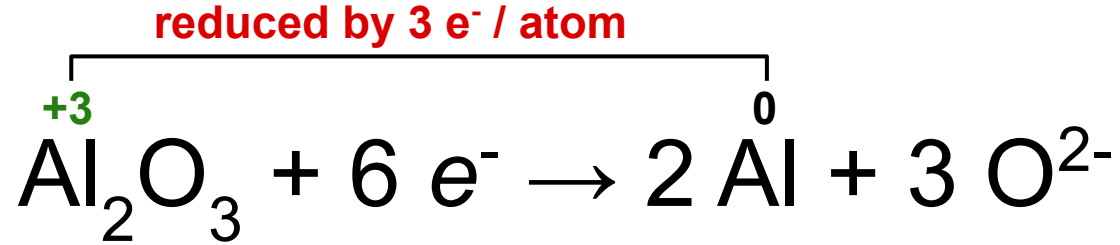
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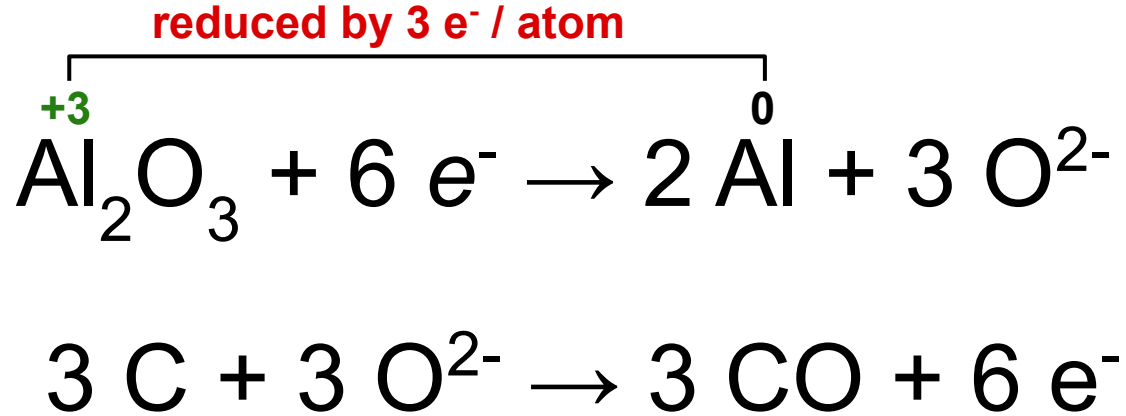
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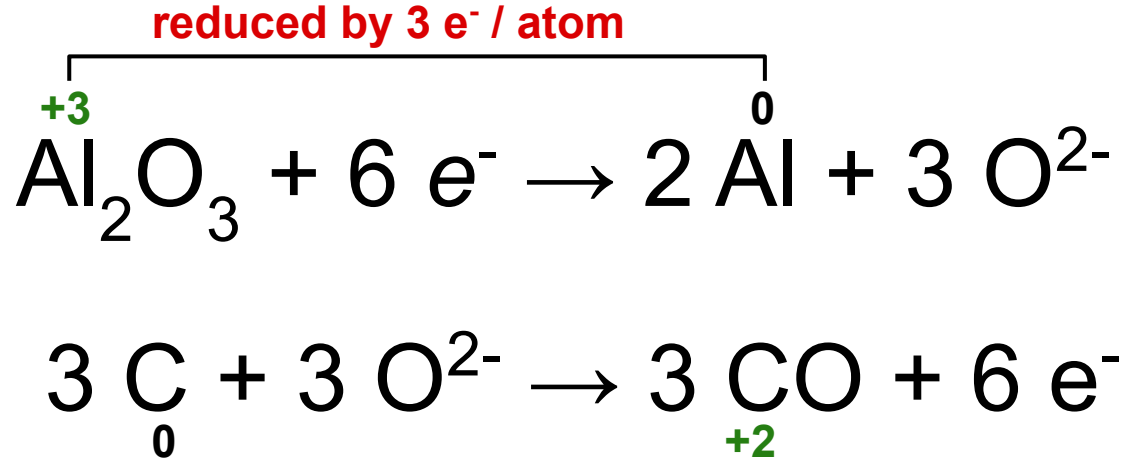
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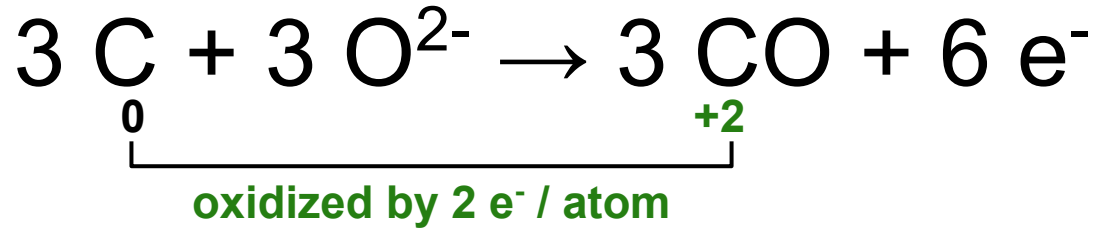
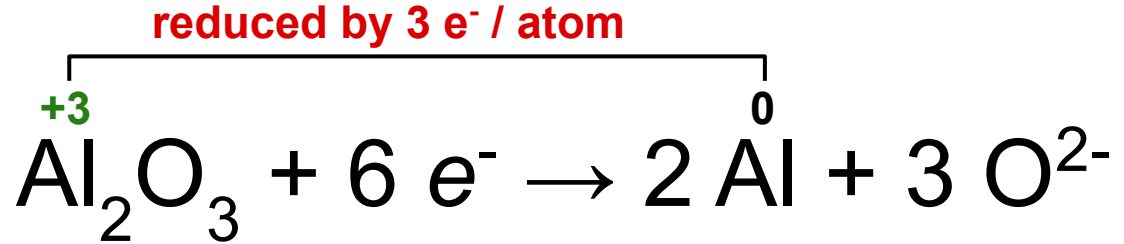
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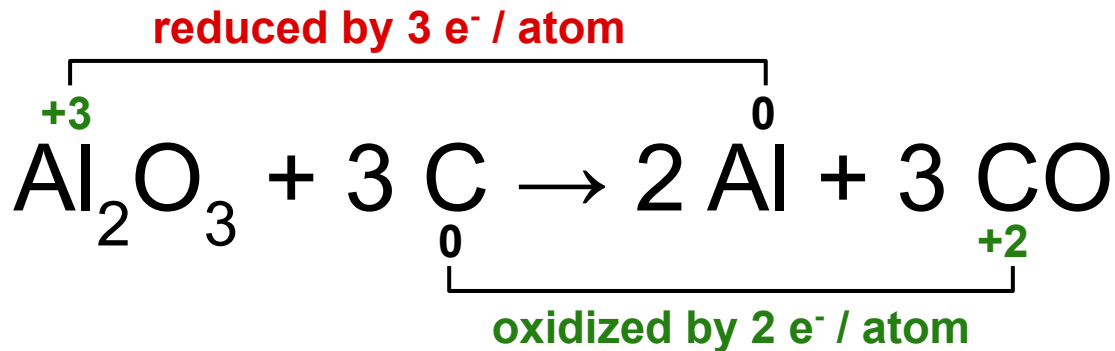
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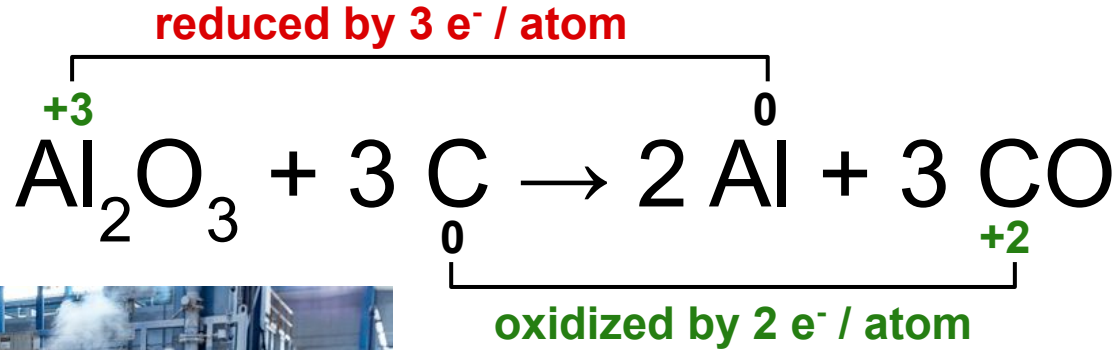
Finally, the Hall–Héroult Process



Finally, the Hall–Héroult Process



Finally, the Hall–Héroult Process



Temperature: 940–980 °C
Voltage: ~4.9 V
Current: ~5 A/cm²

Hall–Héroult Electrolyte

Alumina (Al_2O_3) melting point: **2072 °C**

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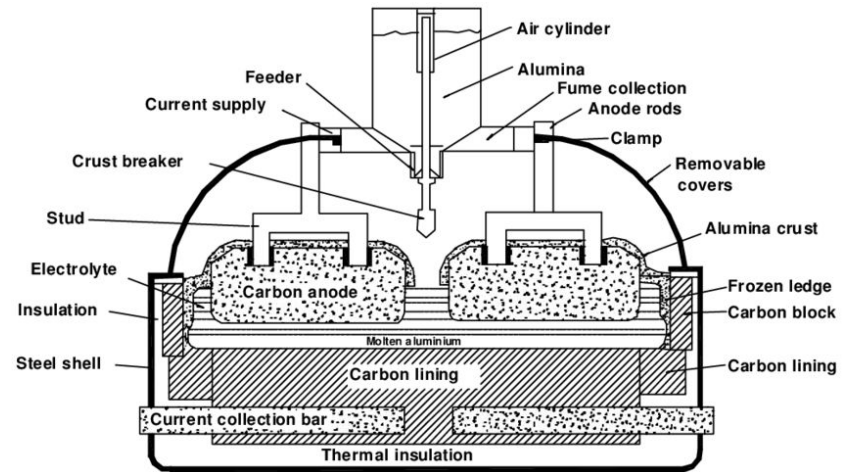
Cryolite (Na_3AlF_6) melting point: **1009 °C**

10% Al_2O_3 : Na_3AlF_6

eutectic MP: **960 °C**

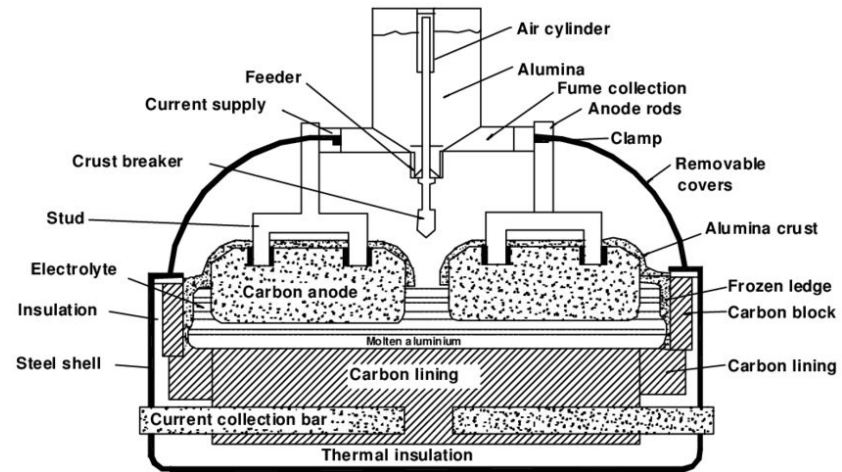


Hall–Héroult Reactor Layout



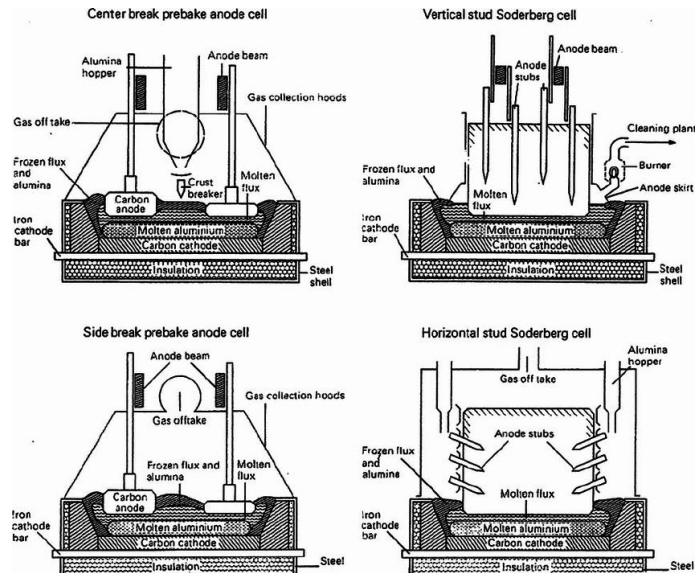
Hall–Héroult Reactor Layout

“The cell is composed of an outer carbon or graphite lining and a row of adjustable prebaked carbon anodes. At the bottom of the pot there is the cathode, a pool of liquid aluminum, which is emptied periodically by suction and which is covered by the molten electrolyte into which are immersed the gas-evolving anodes. The melt is covered by a crust of solid electrolyte and a supply of fresh, loose Al_2O_3 . Periodically crushing this crust serves to replenish the Al_2O_3 content of the bath.”



Electrode Properties and Geometry

- Anode/Cathode: carbon
 - “Prebaked” or “self-baking” (Söderberg)
 - Up to 150 cm diameter
 - Interelectrode distance: 8 cm
- Melt container also made of carbon
- “Sacrificial anode” must be continuously replaced to account for oxidation
 - Prebaked: 0.47 kg/kg Al
 - Söderberg: 0.55 kg/kg Al
 - Theoretical limit: 0.33 kg/kg Al)
- Current inhomogeneities (“anode effect”) may create CF_x species



THE PERIODIC TABLE OF ELEMENT PRODUCTION SOURCES

HYDROGEN
H
Natural gas

HELIUM
He
Natural gas

KEY

ELEMENT NAME

H

ELEMENT SYMBOL

MAIN SOURCE OF ELEMENT

Element extracted directly from ore or raw material

Element recovered as byproduct from the extraction of another element

Only produced by radioactive decay processes or synthetic means

BORON	CARBON	NITROGEN	OXYGEN	FLUORINE	NEON												
B	C	N	O	F	Ne												
Ulexite & bauxite	Coal	Air	Air	Phosphate	Air												
ALUMINUM	SILICON	PHOSPHORUS	SULFUR	CHLORINE	ARGON												
Al	Si	P	S	Cl	Ar												
Bauxite	Quartz	Apatite	Petroleum & natural gas	Halite	Air												
POTASSIUM	CALCIUM	SCANDIUM	TITANIUM	VANADIUM	CHROMIUM	MANGANESE	IRON	COBALT	NICKEL	COPPER	ZINC	GALLIUM	GERMANIUM	ARSENIC	SELENIUM	BROMINE	KRYPTON
K	Ca	Sc	Ti	V	Cr	Mn	Fe	Co	Ni	Cu	Zn	Ga	Ge	As	Se	Br	Kr
Synthetic	Calcite, dolomite, & gypsum	Byproduct of U refining	Titanite & rutile	V-bearing titanomagpetite	Chromite	Pyrolite	Hematite & magnetite	Byproduct of Ni/Cu processing	Pentlandite & pyrrhotite	Chalcopyrite & chalcocite	Sphalerite	Byproduct of Al/Zn/Cu processing	Byproduct of Ni/Cu processing	Byproduct of Cu processing	Byproduct of Cu processing	Bromine	Air
RUBIDIUM	STRONTIUM	YTIORIUM	ZIRCONIUM	NIOBIUM	MOLYBDENUM	TECHNETIUM	RUTHENIUM	RHODIUM	PALLADIUM	SILVER	CADIUM	INDIUM	TIN	ANTIMONY	TELLURIUM	IODINE	XENON
Rb	Sr	Y	Zr	Nb	Mo	Tc	Ru	Rh	Pd	Ag	Cd	In	Sn	Sb	Te	I	Xe
Byproduct of Ca processing	Celestite & strontianite	Monazite & xenotime	Zircon	Pyrochlore & columbite	Molybdenite & wolframite	Synthetic	Byproduct of Ni processing	Byproduct of Ni/Cu processing	Byproduct of Ni/Cu processing	Argentite	Byproduct of Zn processing	Byproduct of Zn processing	Cassiterite	Stibnite	Byproduct of Cu processing	Catalite & bitrite	Air
CAESIUM	BARIUM	La-Lu	HAFNIUM	TANTALUM	TUNGSTEN	RHENIUM	OSMIUM	IRIDIUM	PLATINUM	GOLD	MERCURY	THALLIUM	LEAD	BISMUTH	POLONIUM	ASTATINE	RADON
Cs	Ba		Hf	Ta	W	Re	Os	Ir	Pt	Au	Hg	Tl	Pb	Bi	Po	At	Rn
Polchite	Baryte		Byproduct of Zr processing	Byproduct of Sn processing	Wolframite & scheelite	Byproduct of Mo processing	Byproduct of Ni/Cu processing	Byproduct of Ni/Cu processing	Native ores & Matrifidritium	Native ores & electron	Cinnabar	Byproduct of Zn/Pb processing	Galena	Byproduct of Cu/W/Pb processing	Decay product	Synthetic	Decay product
FRANCIUM	RADIUM	Ac-Lr	RUTHEFIORIDIUM	DUBIUM	SEABORGIUM	BOHRIUM	NISSIUM	MEITNERIUM	DARMSTADIUM	ROENTGENIUM	COPERNICIUM	NIHONIUM	FLEROVIUM	MOSCOWIUM	LIVERMORIUM	TENNESSIUM	OGANESSON
Fr	Ra		Rf	Db	Sg	Bh	Hs	Mt	Ds	Rg	Cn	Nh	Fl	Mc	Lv	Ts	Og
Synthetic	Byproduct of U processing		Synthetic	Synthetic	Synthetic	Synthetic	Synthetic	Synthetic	Synthetic	Synthetic	Synthetic	Synthetic	Synthetic	Synthetic	Synthetic	Synthetic	
LANTHANUM	CERIUM	PRASEODYMIUM	NEODYMIUM	PROMETHIUM	SAMARIUM	EUROPIUM	GADOLINIUM	TERBIUM	DYSPROSIUM	HOLMIUM	ERBIUM	THULIUM	YTTERIUM	LUTETIUM			
La	Ce	Pr	Nd	Pm	Sm	Eu	Gd	Tb	Dy	Ho	Er	Tm	Lu				
Monazite & bastnaesite	Monazite & bastnaesite	Monazite & bastnaesite	Monazite & bastnaesite	Decay product	Monazite & bastnaesite	Monazite & bastnaesite	Monazite & bastnaesite	Monazite & bastnaesite	Monazite & bastnaesite	Monazite & bastnaesite	Monazite & bastnaesite	Monazite & bastnaesite	Monazite & bastnaesite				
ACTINIUM	THORIUM	PROTACTINIUM	URANIUM	NEPTUNIUM	PLUTONIUM	AMERICIUM	CURIUM	BERKELIUM	CALIFORNIUM	ENSTEINIUM	FERMIUM	MENDELEVIUM	NOBELIUM	LAWRENCIUM			
Ac	Th	Pa	U	Np	Pu	Am	Cm	Bk	Cf	Es	Fm	Md	No	Lr			
Decay product	Monazite & thorite	Decay product	Uraninite	Synthetic	Synthetic	Synthetic	Synthetic	Synthetic	Synthetic	Synthetic	Synthetic	Synthetic	Synthetic	Synthetic			

Source data: Minerals Education Coalition, <https://mineralseducationcoalition.org/mining-minerals-information/periodic-table-of-the-elements/>



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#IYPT2019

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
Element	Exists Natively	Electrolysis (molten-salt)	Electrowinning	Electrolysis (other)	Reduction (hydrogen)	Reduction (carbothermic)	Reduction (aluminothermic)	Reduction (magnesium)	Reduction (silicothermic)	Reduction (calciothermic)	Nuclear Synthesis	Not Produced	other	notes	molten-salt T	molten-salt electrolyte	
Hydrogen														methane pyrolysis, steam methane reforming			
Helium														from natural gas			
Lithium															400-460 C	Li/KCl eutectic	
Beryllium														Mg reduction of BeF ₂ at 1300 C	400-600 C	Na/BeCl ₂ eutectic	
Boron															800 C	KBF ₄ / KCl/KF	
Carbon																	
Nitrogen														from air			
Oxygen														from air			
Fluorine														Moissan process	70-130 C	KF • 2HF	
Neon														from air			
Sodium														also carbothermal reduction of Na ₂ CO ₃ and Castner process electric	700 C	Na/CaCl ₂ eutectic	
Magnesium														US: Dow process (electrolysis); China/Russia: Pidgeon process (car)	700-800 C	MgCl ₂	
Aluminum														Hall process	950-1000 C	Al ₂ O ₃ / Na ₃ AlF ₆ / CaF ₂	
Silicon																	
Phosphorus																	
Sulfur														Claus process for desulfurization of H ₂ S in natural gas			
Chlorine														chloralkali process			
Argon																	
Potassium														reduction of molten KCl with metallic Na	870 C	KCl	
Calcium														US: aluminothermic CaO reduction; China/Russia: Davy method (ele)	780-800 C	CaCl ₂	
Scandium															900 C	Sc ₂ O ₃ / CaCl ₂	
Titanium																	
Vanadium														Kroll process (magnesium); FFC Cambridge process (electrochemic)	900-1100 C	TiO ₂ / CaCl ₂	
Chromium																	
Manganese																	
Iron																	
Cobalt																	
Nickel																	
Copper														thermal decomposition of Cu ₂ O			
Zinc																	
Gallium														from Bayer process slag	50-75 C	gallium aluminate	
Germanium																	
Arsenic														thermal decomposition of arsenic oxides			
Selenium														reductive sulfation from Cu slag			
Bromine														ion replacement with chloride (oxidation by Cl ₂)			
Krypton														from air			
Rubidium															750 C	RbCl	
Strontium														can be produced by electrolysis of SrCl ₂ / KCl	1000 C	SrCl ₂ / KCl	
Yttrium															900 C	Y ₂ O ₃ / CaCl ₂	
Zirconium														Kroll process (like Ti/Hf)			
Niobium															900-1100 C	K ₂ (NbOF ₅) / NaCl	
Molybdenum																	
Technetium																	
Ruthenium																	
Rhodium														refining is the hard part, not reduction			
Palladium														catalytic converter recycling (lol)			

Greenwood, N. N.; Earnshaw, A. Chemistry of the Elements; Elsevier, 2012, among many other sources.

H	Exists natively																Molten-salt electrolysis		Thermal reduction (H ₂)		Thermal reduction (Mg)		Nuclear synthesis		He						
Li	Be																	Electro-winning		Thermal reduction (C)		Thermal reduction (Al)		Other synthesis		B	C	N	O	F	Ne
Na	Mg																	Other electrolysis		Thermal reduction (Si)		Thermal reduction (Ca)		Not produced		Al	Si	P	S	Cl	Ar
K	Ca	Sc	Ti	V	Cr	Mn	Fe	Co	Ni	Cu	Zn	Ga	Ge	As	Se	Br	Kr														
Rb	Sr	Y	Zr	Nb	Mo	Tc	Ru	Rh	Pd	Ag	Cd	In	Sn	Sb	Te	I	Xe														
Cs	Ba	*	Hf	Ta	W	Re	Os	Ir	Pt	Au	Hg	Tl	Pb	Bi	Po	At	Rn														
Fr	Ra	*	Rf	Db	Sg	Bh	Hs	Mt	Ds	Rg	Cn	Nh	Fl	Mc	Lv	Ts	Og														

La	Ce	Pr	Nd	Pm	Sm	Eu	Gd	Tb	Dy	Ho	Er	Tm	Yb	Lu
Ac	Th	Pa	U	Np	Pu	Am	Cm	Bk	Cf	Es	Fm	Md	No	Lr

H	Exists natively																Molten-salt electrolysis		Thermal reduction (H ₂)		Thermal reduction (Mg)		Nuclear synthesis		He						
Li	Be																	Electro-winning		Thermal reduction (C)		Thermal reduction (Al)		Other synthesis		B	C	N	O	F	Ne
Na	Mg																	Other electrolysis		Thermal reduction (Si)		Thermal reduction (Ca)		Not produced		Al	Si	P	S	Cl	Ar
K	Ca	Sc	Ti	V	Cr	Mn	Fe	Co	Ni	Cu	Zn	Ga	Ge	As	Se	Br	Kr														
Rb	Sr	Y	Zr	Nb	Mo	Tc	Ru	Rh	Pd	Ag	Cd	In	Sn	Sb	Te	I	Xe														
Cs	Ba	*	Hf	Ta	W	Re	Os	Ir	Pt	Au	Hg	Tl	Pb	Bi	Po	At	Rn														
Fr	Ra	*	Rf	Db	Sg	Bh	Hs	Mt	Ds	Rg	Cn	Nh	Fl	Mc	Lv	Ts	Og														

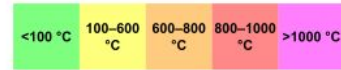
La	Ce	Pr	Nd	Pm	Sm	Eu	Gd	Tb	Dy	Ho	Er	Tm	Yb	Lu
Ac	Th	Pa	U	Np	Pu	Am	Cm	Bk	Cf	Es	Fm	Md	No	Lr

H																	He					
Li	Be	<table border="1"> <tr> <td><100 °C</td> <td>100–600 °C</td> <td>600–800 °C</td> <td>800–1000 °C</td> <td>>1000 °C</td> </tr> </table>										<100 °C	100–600 °C	600–800 °C	800–1000 °C	>1000 °C	B	C	N	O	F	Ne
<100 °C	100–600 °C	600–800 °C	800–1000 °C	>1000 °C																		
Na	Mg											Al	Si	P	S	Cl	Ar					
K	Ca	Sc	Ti	V	Cr	Mn	Fe	Co	Ni	Cu	Zn	Ga	Ge	As	Se	Br	Kr					
Rb	Sr	Y	Zr	Nb	Mo	Tc	Ru	Rh	Pd	Ag	Cd	In	Sn	Sb	Te	I	Xe					
Cs	Ba	*	Hf	Ta	W	Re	Os	Ir	Pt	Au	Hg	Tl	Pb	Bi	Po	At	Rn					
Fr	Ra	*	Rf	Db	Sg	Bh	Hs	Mt	Ds	Rg	Cn	Nh	Fl	Mc	Lv	Ts	Og					

La	Ce	Pr	Nd	Pm	Sm	Eu	Gd	Tb	Dy	Ho	Er	Tm	Yb	Lu
Ac	Th	Pa	U	Np	Pu	Am	Cm	Bk	Cf	Es	Fm	Md	No	Lr

What's the Temperature, Kenneth?

H																	He
Li	Be											B	C	N	O	F	Ne
Na	Mg											Al	Si	P	S	Cl	Ar
K	Ca	Sc	Ti	V	Cr	Mn	Fe	Co	Ni	Cu	Zn	Ga	Ge	As	Se	Br	Kr
Rb	Sr	Y	Zr	Nb	Mo	Tc	Ru	Rh	Pd	Ag	Cd	In	Sn	Sb	Te	I	Xe
Cs	Ba	*	Hf	Ta	W	Re	Os	Ir	Pt	Au	Hg	Tl	Pb	Bi	Po	At	Rn
Fr	Ra	*	Rf	Db	Sg	Bh	Hs	Mt	Ds	Rg	Cn	Nh	Fl	Mc	Lv	Ts	Og



La	Ce	Pr	Nd	Pm	Sm	Eu	Gd	Tb	Dy	Ho	Er	Tm	Yb	Lu
Ac	Th	Pa	U	Np	Pu	Am	Cm	Bk	Cf	Es	Fm	Md	No	Lr

What's the Temperature, Kenneth?

<600 °C:

electrowinning, some eutectic electrolyses

600-800 °C:

most salt electrolyses

800-1000 °C:

most Mg/Ca/Al reduction

>1000 °C:

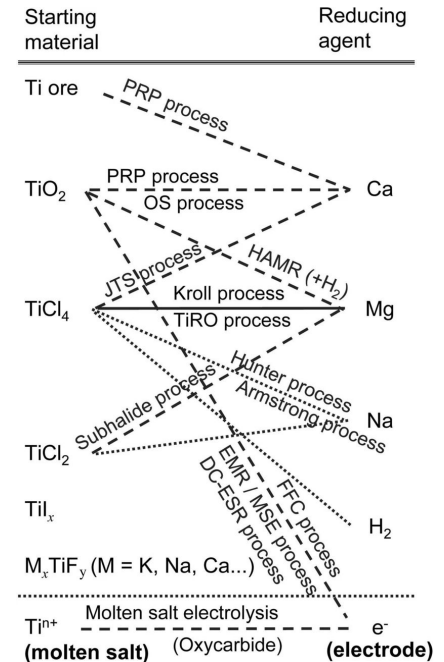
most C/H₂/Si reduction

												nonmetals (passé, overdone)	
H	Li	Be											
Na	Mg												
K	Ca	Sc	Ti	V	Cr	Mn	Fe	Co	Ni	Cu	Zn		
Rb	Sr	Y	Zr	Nb	Mo	Tc	Ru	Rh	Pd	Ag	Cd		
Cs	Ba	*	Hf	Ta	W	Re	Os	Ir	Pt	Au	Hg		
Fr	Ra	*	transactinides (ephemeral, useless, a collective fever dream)										

La	Ce	Pr	Nd	Pm	Sm	Eu	Gd	Tb	Dy	Ho	Er	Tm	Yb	Lu
Ac	Th	Pa	U	transuranics (terrifying, a monument to man's hubris)										

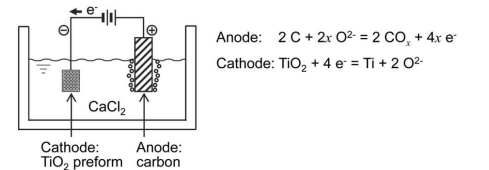
Case Study: Titanium Refining

- **Past:** reduction with Na (Hunter Process, 1950-1993)
- **Present:** reduction by Mg (Kroll Process):
 1. $\text{TiO}_2 + 2 \text{Cl}_2 + \text{C} \rightarrow \text{TiCl}_4 + \text{CO}_2$ ($T = 900 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$)
 2. TiCl_4 is distilled off from AlCl_3 , VOCl_3 , SnCl_4 , etc.
 3. $\text{TiCl}_4 + 2 \text{Mg} \rightarrow \text{Ti} + 2 \text{MgCl}_2$ ($T = 1100 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$)
 4. MgCl_2 electrolysis to Mg metal
- **Future?:** electrolysis of TiO_2 (FFC Cambridge Process)
 Electrolyte: CaCl_2 melt ($T > 800 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$)
 Metalysis, Inc. (UK) developing pilot cell

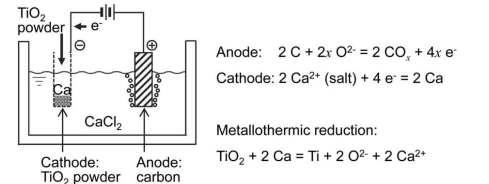


Case Study: Titanium refining

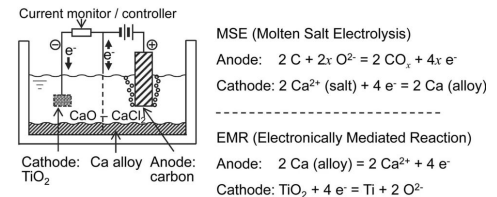
“The direct reduction of titanium oxide seems reasonable as a reduction process; however, an inexpensive method for the production of high-purity titanium oxide by removing iron, aluminum, silicon, etc., from titanium ores has not been developed to date. At this stage, the purity of TiO_2 obtained by upgrading is at most 96%, and a more advanced process is required, like the Bayer process in aluminum smelting (achieving 99.5% pure Al_2O_3).”



(a) FFC process (Fray *et al.*)



(b) OS process (Ono and Suzuki)



(c) EMR / MSE process (Okabe *et al.*)

Broader Outlook for Melt Electrolysis

- Mn ($E^\circ = -1.05$ V) is the most reactive metal that can be electrodeposited from aqueous solution
 - Less active metals (e.g. Sn, Pb) can be produced by electrowinning
 - More active metals (e.g. Al, Ti) can only be electrolyzed from a melt
- Electrolysis requires highly purified oxide starting material
 - The Bayer process is inextricable from the Hall process because it produces very pure Al_2O_3 from crude bauxite ore
 - The Bayer process is responsible for 40-50% of the production cost of Al!
 - No equivalent to the Bayer process yet exists for most other light metals

Metal	State	E° (V)
Lithium	1+	-3.05
Potassium	1+	-2.93
Calcium	2+	-2.87
Sodium	1+	-2.71
Magnesium	2+	-2.37
Aluminum	3+	-1.66
Manganese	2+	-1.18
Zinc	2+	-0.76
Chromium	3+	-0.74
Iron (II)	2+	-0.44
Cadmium	2+	-0.40
Cobalt	2+	-0.28
Nickel	2+	-0.25
Tin (II)	2+	-0.14
Lead	2+	-0.13
Hydrogen	1+	0.00
Tin (IV)	4+	0.15
Copper	2+	0.16
Iron (III)	3+	0.77
Silver	1+	0.80
Platinum	2+	1.20
Gold	1+	1.68

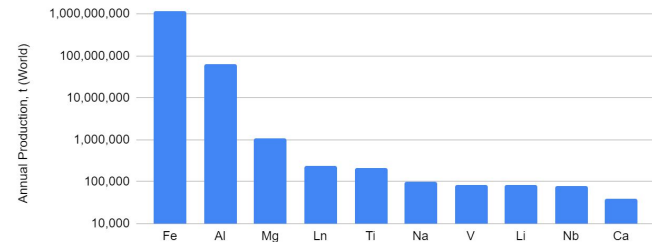
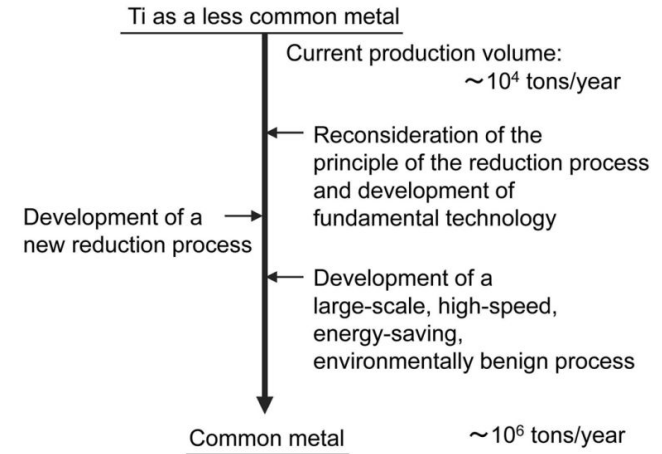
DECREASING ACTIVITY

Outlook for CSP Integration

- + May reduce rxn temp to range accessible by Gen3 CSP
 - + Emissions reductions likely vs. incumbent processes
 - + Potential for retrofitting (high electricity use already there)
 - Temp demand may be 800-1000 °C or greater (perhaps beyond Gen3)
 - Demands novel preprocessing steps for ore purification
 - Inert anode R&D needed to reach true zero emissions
-

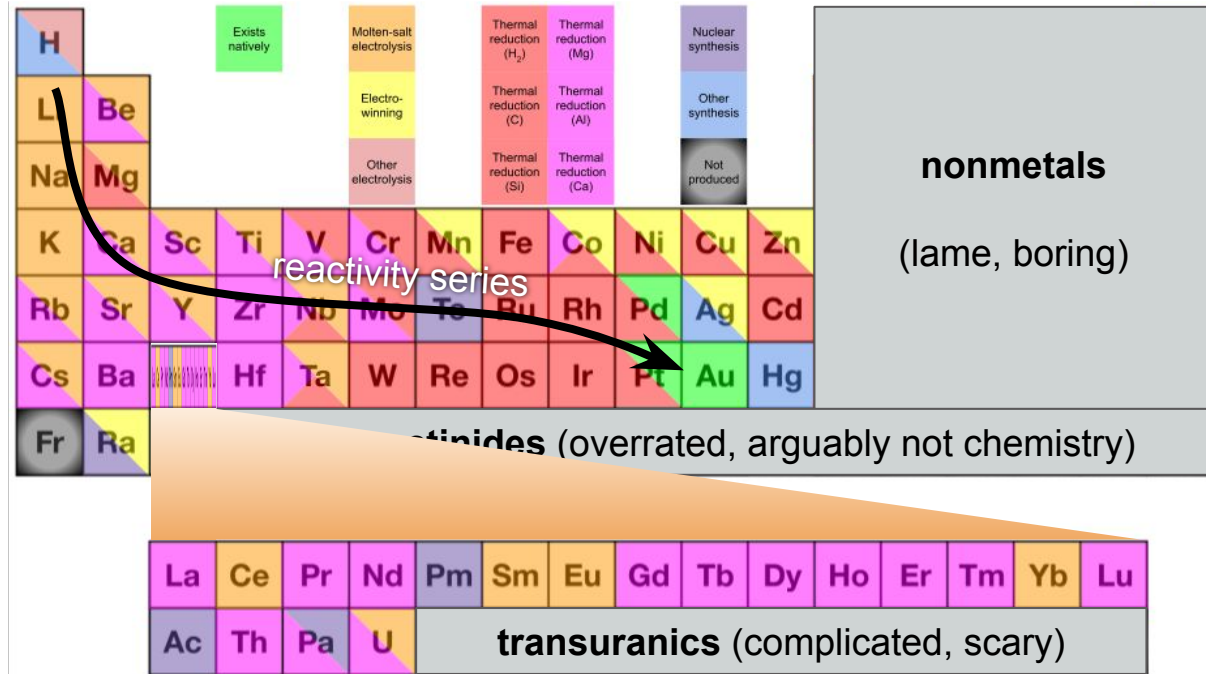
Suggested CSP Integration Foci

- Titanium refining
- Lanthanide separation
- Magnesium electrolysis



How are pure elements made today?

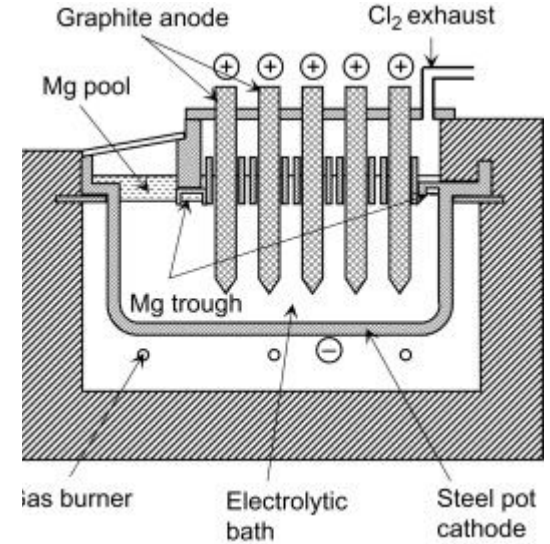
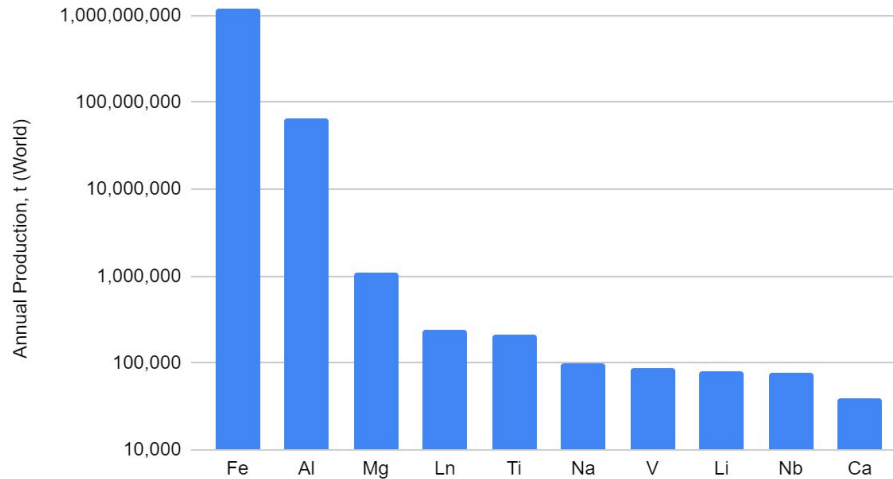
1. Molten-salt electrolysis
2. Thermochemical reduction (Mg/Ca/Al)
3. Thermochemical reduction (Si/H₂/C)
4. Electrowinning



Other metals

- Al:
 - 1 M
 - 65.
- Mg: “”
- Na: “”
- Ca: “”

Annual Production, t (World) vs.



U.S. Geological Survey. *Mineral Commodity Summaries 2021*; U.S. Geological Survey, 2021; p 200.

Ln: “” 240 kt/yr \$3.8bn