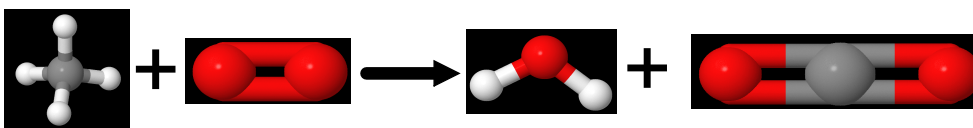


6.5

Balancing Chemical Equations

- Balancing a chemical equation refers to the act of conserving mass.
- Word equations describe the reactants and products, but do not communicate the number of atoms involved.
- We use a **skeleton equation** to represent the reaction. This uses chemical formulas for the reactants and products.

Consider, for example our reaction of methane and oxygen:



Word Equation:



Skeleton Equation:



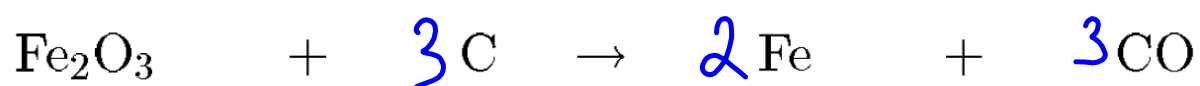
Balanced Equation:



coefficients

Skeleton equations are balanced by changing the coefficients until there are the same number of atoms in the reactants and products.

Examples



Page 229 #s 1 & 2

Attachments

Balancing Chemical Equations.jar

Build Atom.jar

Build Molecule.jar