Answer on the question #63183, Chemistry / General Chemistry

Question:

When passing a low voltage current through a solution of distilled water and sodium carbonate a gas is produced, what is that gas?

Answer:

Sodium is an active methal, so it can't be reduced in water solution. Neither, carbonate anion can't be oxidized. Then, when a low voltage is passed through sodium carbonate solution in distilled water, it is water who is reduced and oxidized:

Cathode : $2H_2O+2e^- \rightarrow H_2+2OH^-$ Anode : $2H_2O-4e^- \rightarrow O_2+4H^+$

Overall reaction:

$$2H_2O \rightarrow 2H_2 + O_2$$

Gases produced during the electrolysis are hydrogen ${\cal H}_2$ (cathode) and oxygen ${\cal O}_2$ (anode).