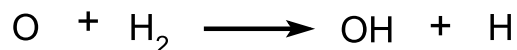


## chain branching

When in a chain reaction there is a net increase in the number of chain carriers there is said to be chain branching. A simple example of a chain-propagating reaction leading to chain branching is:



in which there is one chain carrier (an oxygen atom) on the left and two chain carriers (a hydrogen atom and a hydroxyl radical) on the right.

**See also:** degenerate chain branching

**Source:**

PAC, 1996, 68, 149 (*A glossary of terms used in chemical kinetics, including reaction dynamics (IUPAC Recommendations 1996)*) on page 156