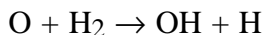


chain branching

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*.

1996, 68, 156