

# BIOSENOSRS

BIO 580

Electrochemical Biosensors - theory part 1

WEEK 1

Fall Semester

Faculty: Dr. Javed H. Niazi KM

Faculty of Engineering & Natural Sciences

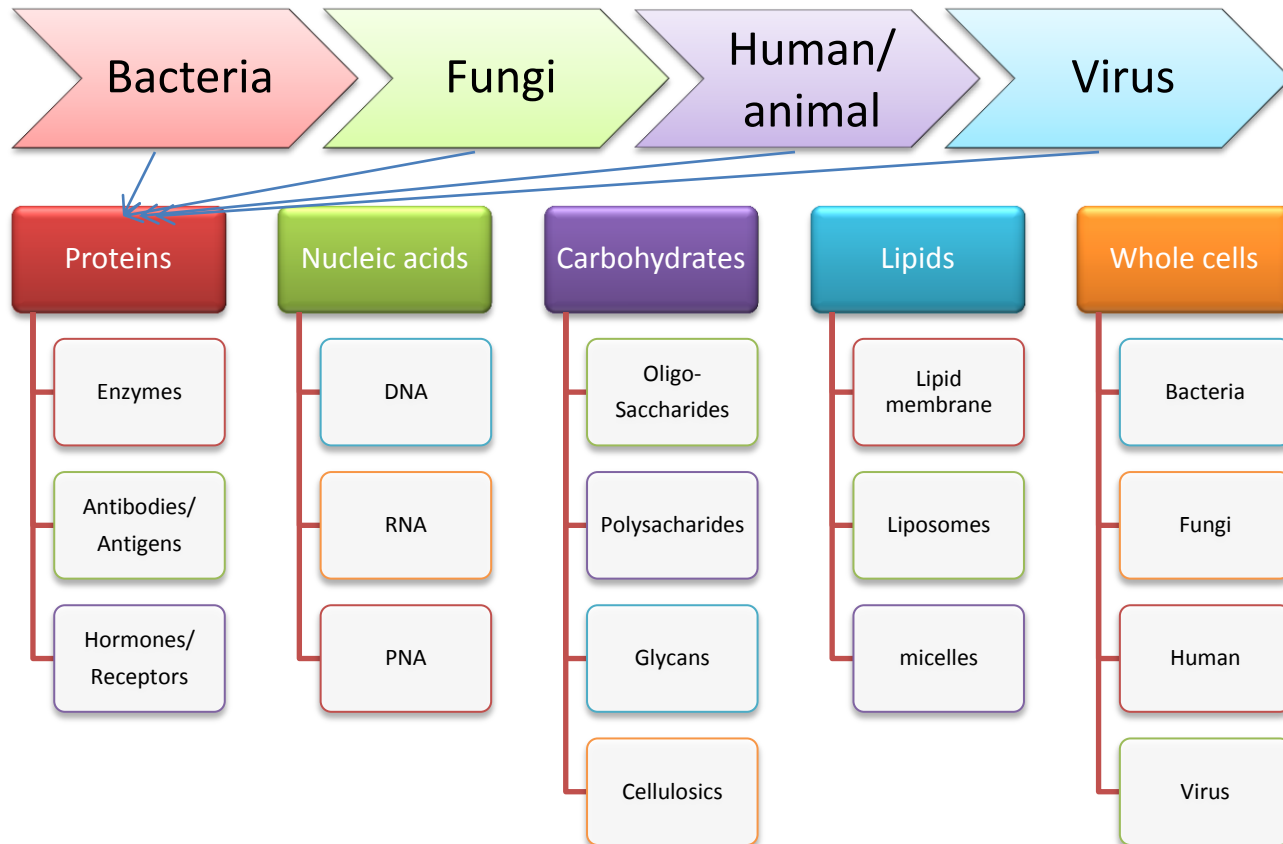
Sabanci University



## Topics that will be covered in the course

- ❑ History of biosensor development, applications and requirements of biosensors and classification
- ❑ Principles of molecular recognition and transduction signal acquisition
  - ✓ Sources of Biological Recognition elements – enzymes/proteins, ssDNAs, antibody and Others
  - ✓ Design considerations for use of recognition elements in biosensors
  - ✓ Modeling of reactions for various biosensor applications- electrochemical, optical, piezoelectric, colorimetric, fluorometric and others.
- ❑ Modification of sensor surfaces and immobilization techniques
  - ✓ Covalent modification of surfaces using surface chemistry
  - ✓ Self Assembled Monolayers (SAM) and adsorptions
  - ✓ Other ways to immobilize biological macromolecules on various solid surfaces
- ❑ Detection methods and Physical Sensors
  - ✓ Electrodes/transducers – electrochemical (amperometric, potentiometric, and conductimetric transductions)
  - ✓ Other sensors - for e.g., optical sensors (colorimetric/fluorimetric/luminometric sensors), Surface Plasmon Resonance (SPR) sensors, and piezoelectric resonators.
- ❑ Fabrication of biosensors
  - ✓ Miniaturization-application of nano-materials, nanoparticles, carbon nanotubes (CNTs) and others
  - ✓ Biocompatibility – stability, reproducibility and repeatability of biomolecules on transducer surfaces
- ❑ Data acquisition, statistical and error analysis
  - ✓ Inter and Intra-assays and Coefficient of variation (CV)
  - ✓ Signal to noise ratio
  - ✓ Normalization/optimization and signal retrieval
- ❑ Examples of commercial biosensors

## Sources of Biological recognition elements



# Biosensor Recognition Elements

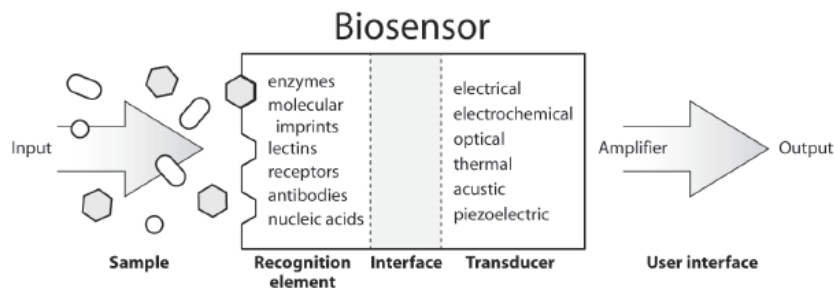
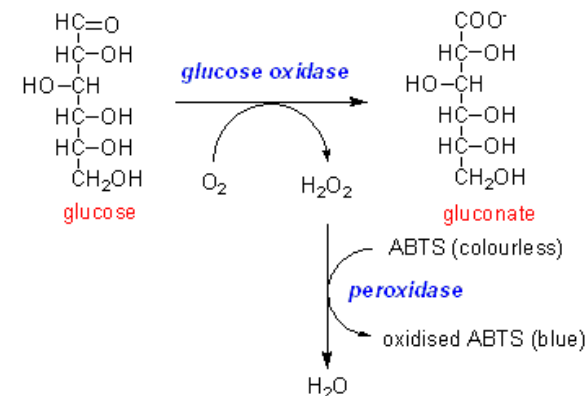
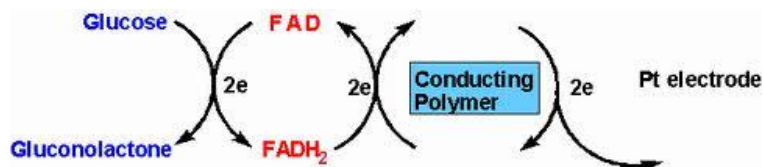
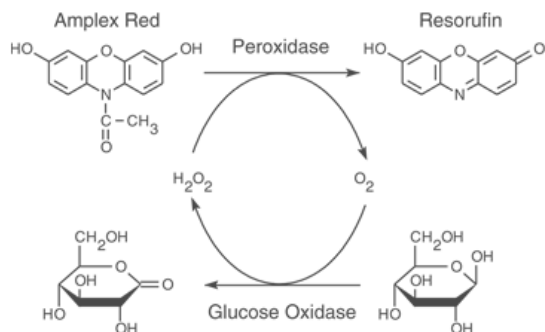
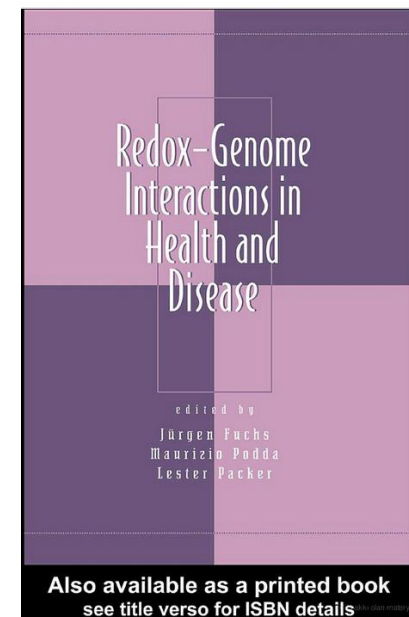


Fig. 1 Configuration of a biosensor showing biorecognition, interface, and transduction elements.

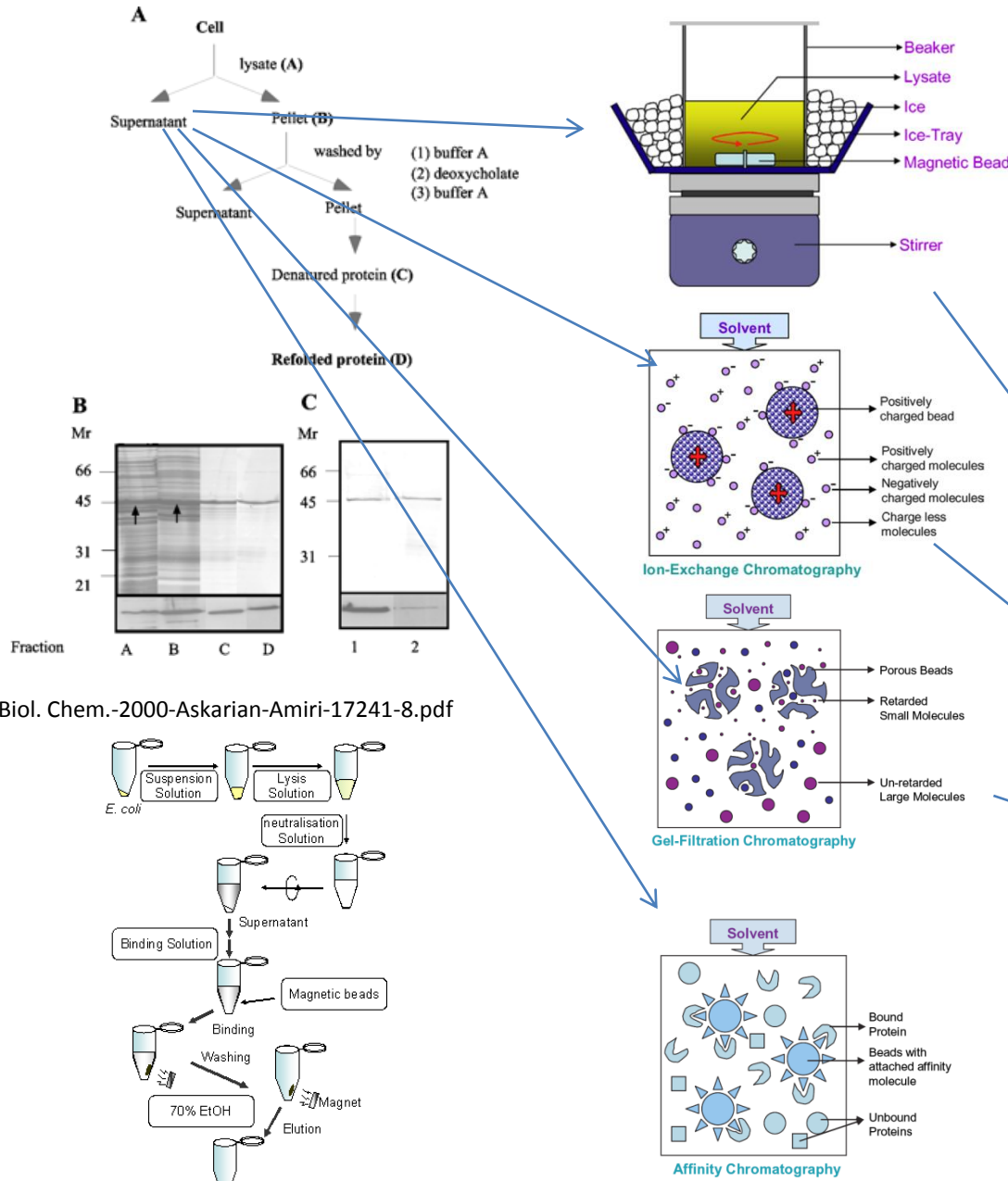
**Enzymes: eg., glucose oxidase for detection/measurement of glucose**



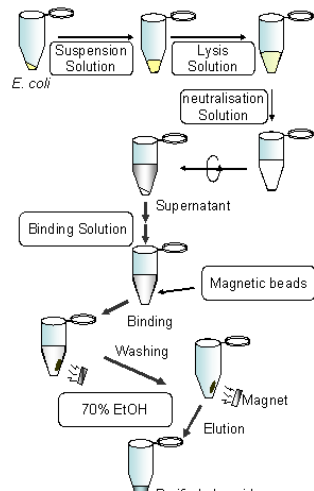
ABTS = 2,2'-azo-di-(3-ethylbenzothiazoyl-sulphonate)

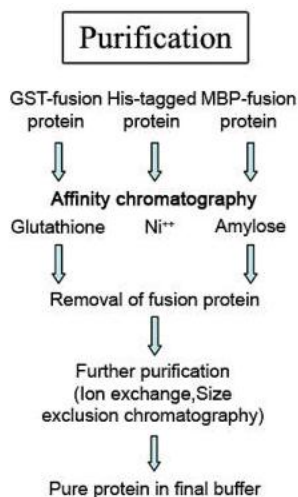
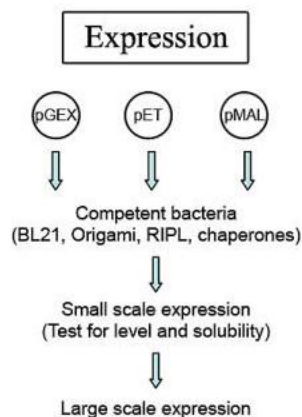
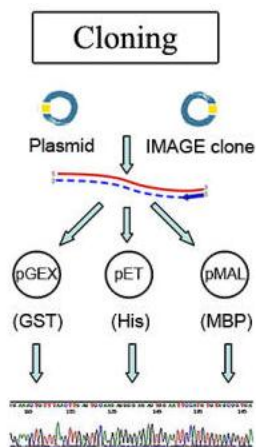
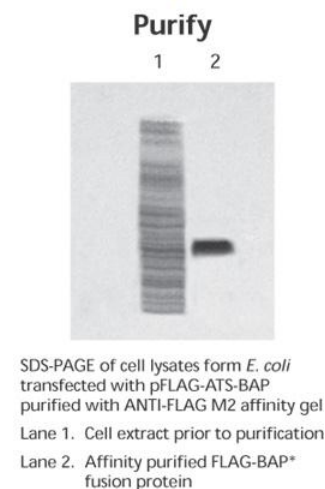
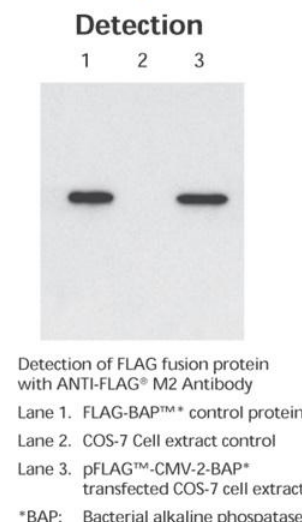
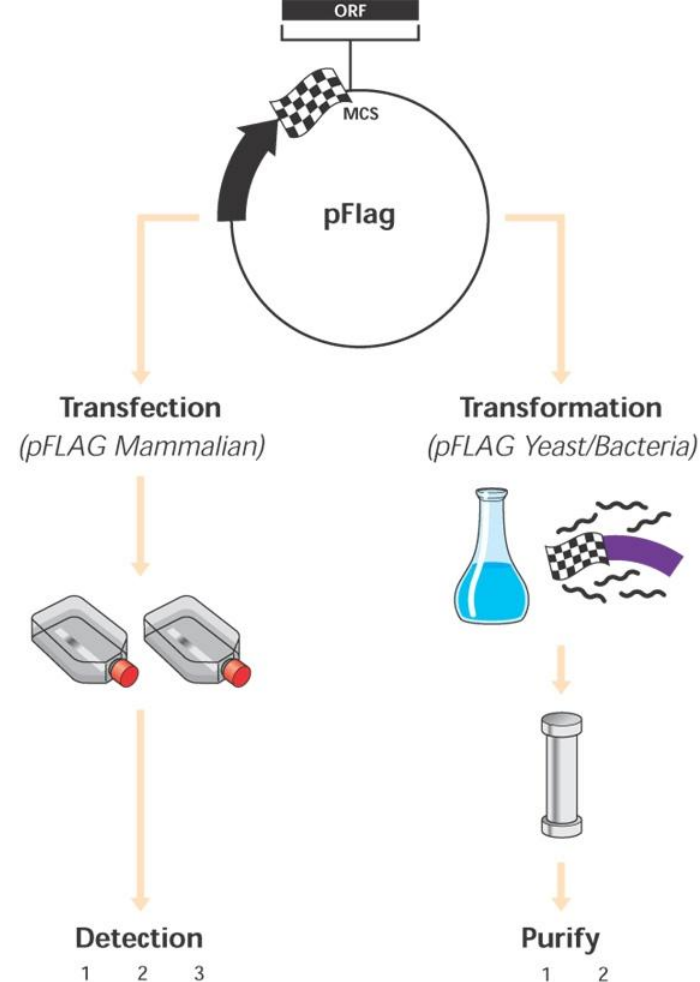
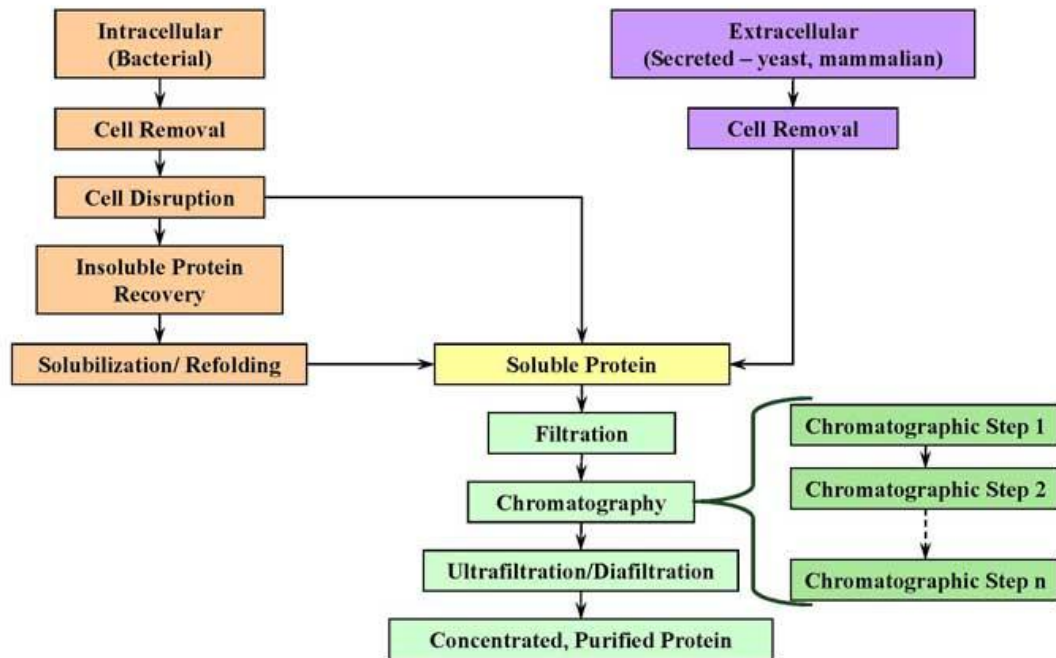


# Typical enzyme isolation from cells



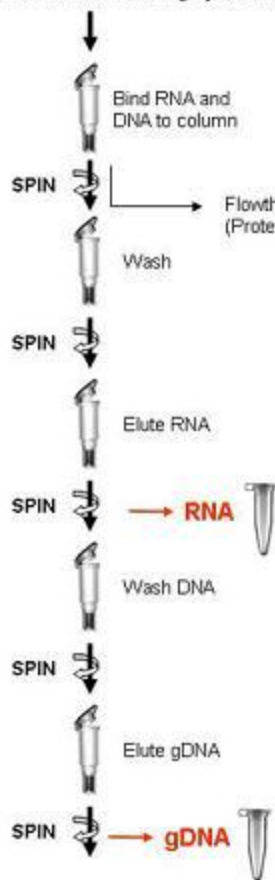
J. Biol. Chem.-2000-Askarian-Amiri-17241-8.pdf



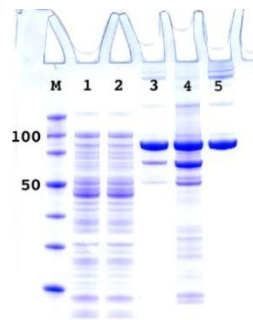
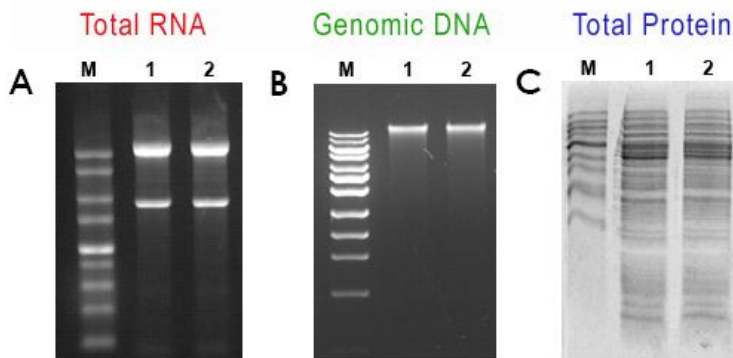
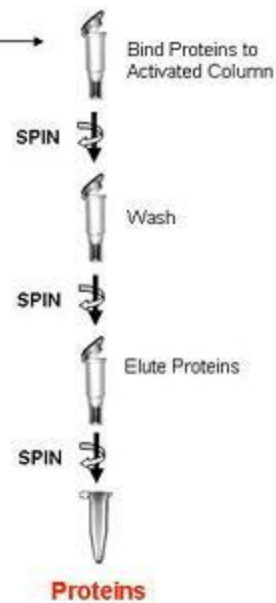


## A. Purification of RNA and DNA

Lyse cells or tissue using **Lysis Solution**



## B. Purification of Proteins



**Native conditions**

Tris or phosphate buffer, pH 8  
300 mM NaCl  
10–20 mM imidazole

30 – 60 min  
(Batch or column format)

20 – 50 mM imidazole

100 – 250 mM imidazole

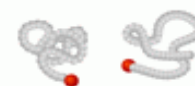
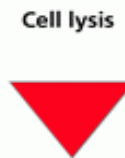
**Denaturing conditions**

Phosphate buffer, pH 8  
8 M urea or 6 M GuHCl  
(imidazole optional)

15 – 30 min  
(Batch or column format)

pH 6.3

pH 5.9 or pH 4.5



6000-7000 different proteins in a cell

## Avogadro's number and the mole

Avogadro's number =  $6.02 \times 10^{23}$  atoms/molecules/particles

Name of Substance	Formula	Formula Weight (amu)	Molar Mass (g/mol)	Number and Kind of Particles in One Mole
Atomic nitrogen	N	14.0	14.0	$6.02 \times 10^{23}$ N atoms
Molecular nitrogen	N <sub>2</sub>	28.0	28.0	$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 6.02 \times 10^{23} \text{ N}_2 \text{ molecules} \\ 2(6.02 \times 10^{23}) \text{ N atoms} \end{array} \right.$
Silver	Ag	107.9	107.9	$6.02 \times 10^{23}$ Ag atoms
Silver ions	Ag <sup>+</sup>	107.9 <sup>a</sup>	107.9	$6.02 \times 10^{23}$ Ag <sup>+</sup> ions
Barium chloride	BaCl <sub>2</sub>	208.2	208.2	$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 6.02 \times 10^{23} \text{ BaCl}_2 \text{ units} \\ 6.02 \times 10^{23} \text{ Ba}^{2+} \text{ ions} \\ 2(6.02 \times 10^{23}) \text{ Cl}^- \text{ ions} \end{array} \right.$

<sup>a</sup> Recall that the electron has negligible mass; thus, ions and atoms have essentially the same mass.

- ❑ One mole of atoms, ions, or molecules contains Avogadro's number of those particles.
- ❑ One mole of molecules or formula units contains Avogadro's number times the number of atoms or ions of each element in the compound

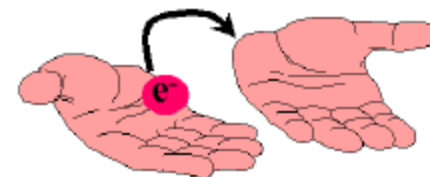


# Electrochemical Biosensor

## Electrochemistry -

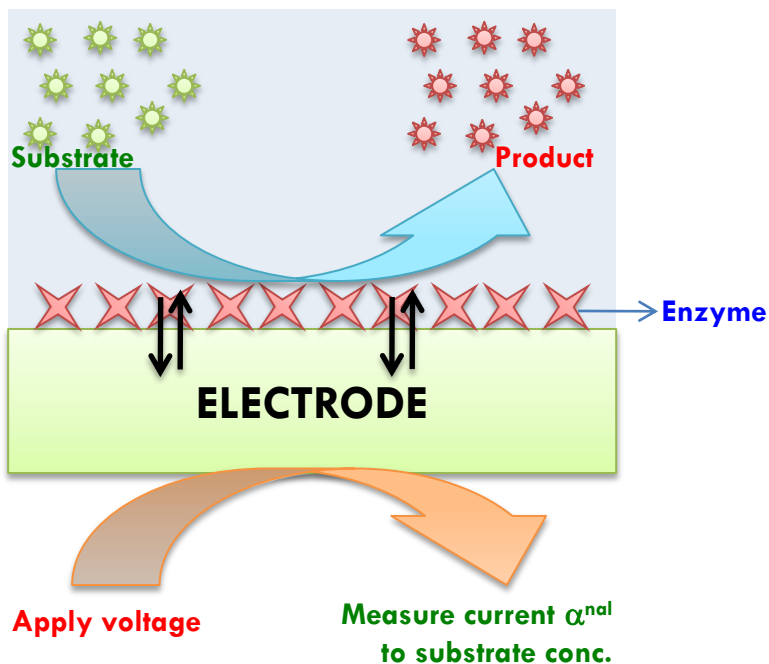
- branch of chemistry that studies chemical reactions and processes in which electric charges are involved
- Transfer of an electron from a species in solution to an electrode, or vice versa
- Common in the analytical field and has resulted in the development of:
  - Potentiometry
  - Voltammetry (amperometry)
  - Coulometry - an electrolysis reaction by measuring the amount of electricity (in coulombs) consumed or produced

Where there is oxidation, there is reduction



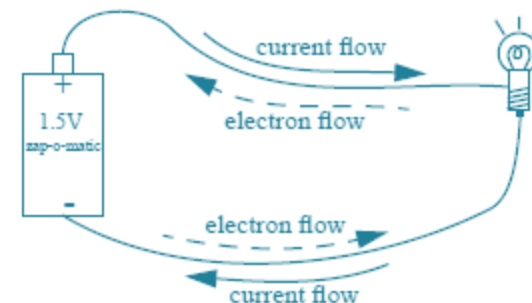
Substance oxidized  
loses electron(s)

Substance reduced  
gains electron(s)



**Conventional current flow is opposite to electron flow**

[eecs.oregonstate.edu/~traylor/ece112/.../elect\\_flow\\_vs\\_conv\\_l.pdf](http://eecs.oregonstate.edu/~traylor/ece112/.../elect_flow_vs_conv_l.pdf)



## Electrochemical Biosensor

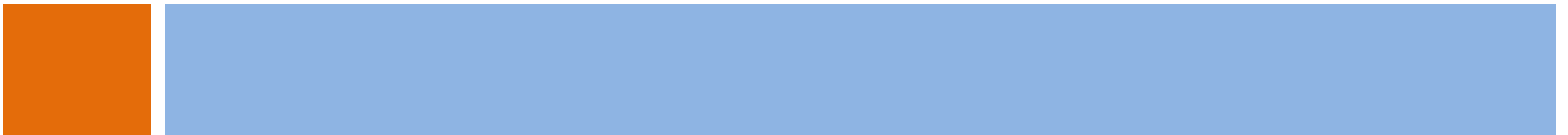
There are three basic electrochemical processes - useful in transducers for biosensors:

- i. **Potentiometry** - the measurement of a cell potential at zero current
- ii. **Voltammetry (amperometry)** - an oxidizing (or reducing) potential is applied between the cell electrodes and the cell current is measured
- iii. **Conductimetry** - the conductance (reciprocal of resistance) of the cell is measured by an alternating current bridge method.

Electrical measurements on a solution of the analyte using two or more electrodes (electronic conductors)

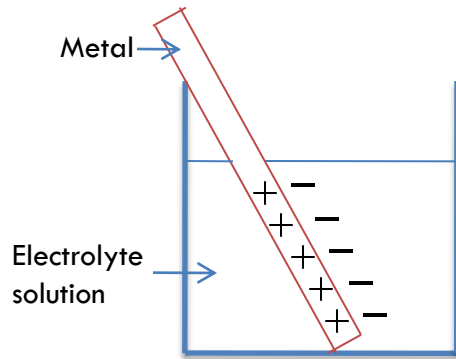
POTENTIOMETRY	AMPEROMETRY	VOLTAMMETRY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>♦ Measure potential difference (E) at zero current</li><li>♦ Two electrodes are used – indicator and reference</li><li>♦ Carried out under equilibrium conditions</li><li>♦ Quantitative analysis – E is related to the concentration of ions in the sample</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>♦ Measure current at fixed potential</li><li>♦ Two or three electrodes are used</li><li>♦ Coulometry – when the current is integrated to give total charge</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>♦ Measure current as a function of scanned potential</li><li>♦ Three electrodes are used – working, reference and counter (auxiliary)</li><li>♦ Non-equilibrium measurement – gives kinetic information</li><li>♦ Qualitative and quantitative analysis</li><li>♦ Polarography – use of a dropping Hg electrode</li></ul>

# **i. Potentiometry**



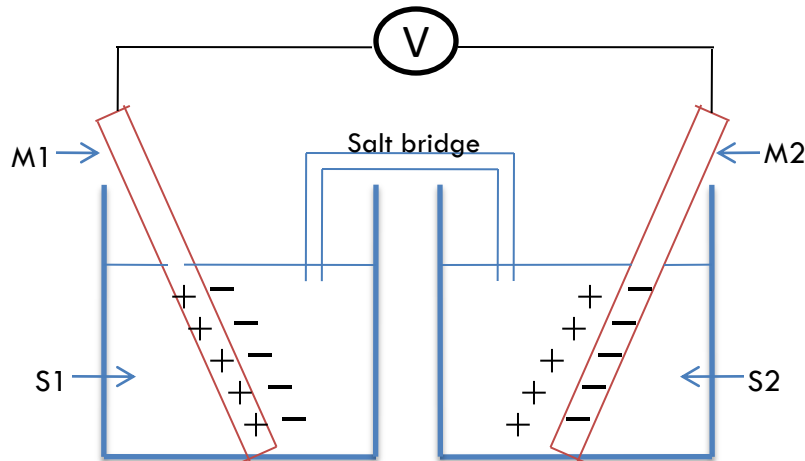
# 1. Potentiometry - principle

A metal electrode dipped in electrolyte solution (one half cell)



- ✓ If a piece of metal is placed in an electrolyte solution, there is charge separation b/w metal (electrode) and the solution
- ✓ Sets up an electron pressure, usually called a **potential**.
- ✓ It cannot be measured directly - requires a combination of two such electrode-electrolyte solution combinations.
- ✓ Each is called a **half-cell**.

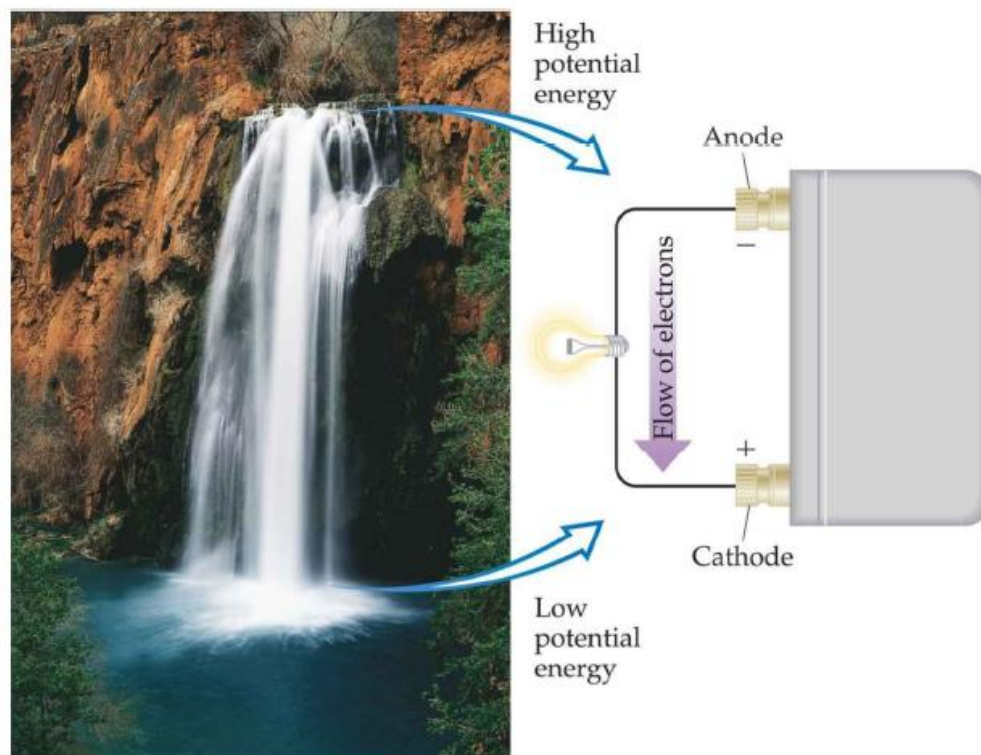
Two half-cell electrodes combined, making a complete cell



- ✓ Two half cells -connected by means of an electrically **conducting bridge or membrane**
- ✓ Two electrodes are connected externally by a potential measuring device (digital voltmeter, DVM).
- ✓ DVM has a very high internal impedance ( $\sim 10^{12}\Omega$ ) - such that very little current will flow through it.
- ✓ If the voltage to be measured is 1V, then the Ohm's law ( $V=IR$ ), current  $I = 10^{-12}$  A (1 pA)
- ✓ The electrical circuit is now complete and the e.m.f. of the cell can be measured.
- ✓ This value is the difference between the electrode potentials of the two half-cells.

## Electromotive force (e.m.f)

- Water only spontaneously flows one way in a waterfall.
- Likewise, electrons only spontaneously flow one way in a redox reaction : from higher to lower potential energy.



The potential difference between the anode and cathode in a cell is called the **electromotive force (emf)**.

It is also called the **cell potential**, and is designated  $E_{\text{cell}}$ .

## Ohm's law

To make a current flow through a resistance there must be a voltage across that resistance. Ohm's Law shows the relationship between the voltage (V), current (I) and resistance (R). It can be written in three ways:

$$V=I \times R \quad (\text{or}) \quad I=V/R \quad (\text{or}) \quad R=V/I$$

where: **V** = voltage in volts (V)

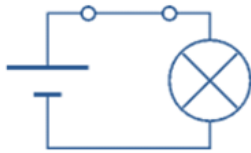
**I** = current in amps (A)

**R** = resistance in ohms ( $\Omega$ )

Voltage can be thought of as the pressure pushing charges along a conductor, while the electrical resistance of a conductor is a measure of how difficult it is to push the charges along.

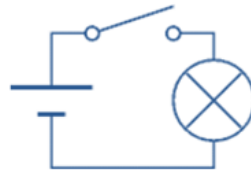
### Voltage is the Cause, Current is the Effect

Voltage attempts to make a current flow, and current will flow if the circuit is complete. Voltage is sometimes described as the 'push' or 'force' of the electricity, it isn't really a force but this may help you to imagine what is happening. It is possible to have voltage without current, but current cannot flow without voltage.



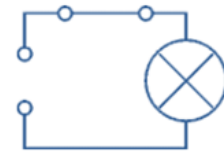
**Voltage and Current**

The switch is closed making a complete circuit so current can flow.



**Voltage but No Current**

The switch is open so the circuit is broken and current cannot flow.



**No Voltage and No Current**

Without the cell there is no source of voltage so current cannot flow.

### Voltage, V

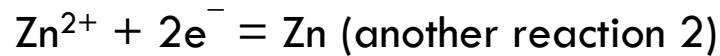
- Voltage is a measure of the **energy carried by the charge**.  
*Strictly: voltage is the "energy per unit charge".*
- The proper name for voltage is **potential difference** or p.d. for short, but this term is rarely used in electronics.
- Voltage is **supplied by the battery** (or power supply).
- Voltage is **used up in components**, but not in wires.
- We say **voltage across** a component.
- Voltage is measured in **volts, V**.
- Voltage is measured with a **voltmeter**, connected in **parallel**.
- The symbol **V** is used for voltage in equations.



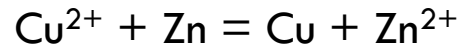
Connecting a voltmeter in parallel

## Daniell cell - an example for potentiometry

✓ If we consider each half-cell → reaction for each half-cell is:



If we subtract reaction equation 2 from 1 we obtain



✓ The Gibbs free energy ( $\Delta G$ ) for this reaction is negative (spontaneous in the direction shown).

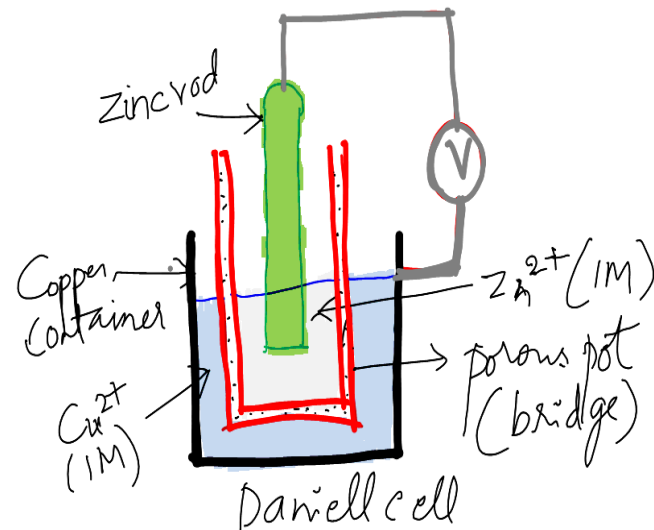
✓ The  $\Delta G$  is simply related to the e.m.f of the cell:

$$\Delta G = -nFE$$

$n$  - No. of electrons transferred (here  $n = 2$ )

$F$  - is Faraday constant = 96,487 C/mol

$E$  - is the e.m.f of the cell



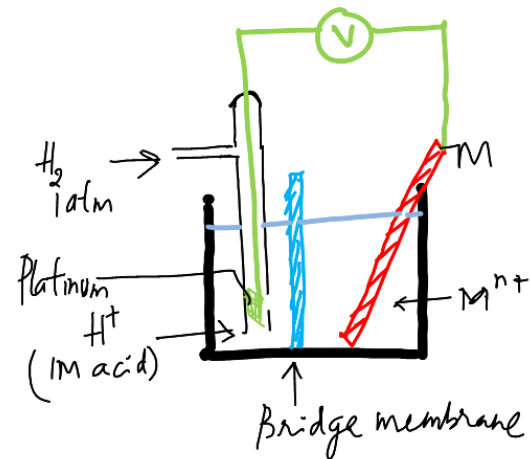
Observed electrode volt

$$E_{\text{obs}} = 1.10 \text{ V}$$

[Gibbs free energy](#), the energy that can be converted into work at a uniform temperature and pressure throughout a system

What the  $\Delta G$  values are for reactions 1 and 2 separately ?

## Hydrogen electrode (separate measurement of std. **electrode potential** of one half-cell)



Hydrogen electrode connected  
to another half-cell

➤ If  $\Delta G_1$  and  $\Delta G_2$ , we could find  $E_1$  and  $E_2$  separately.

➤ Hydrogen electrode provides separation of  $E_1$  and  $E_2$ .

Hydrogen is **not a metal** but it can be **oxidized to  $H^+$**  by the removal of an electron:



Also written as :  $H^+ + e^- = \frac{1}{2}H_2$

$\Delta G$  for this reaction is **ZERO**

The std. state being with  $[H^+] = 1M$ , partial pressure of  $H_2 = 1$  and temp = 298 K (25 °C).

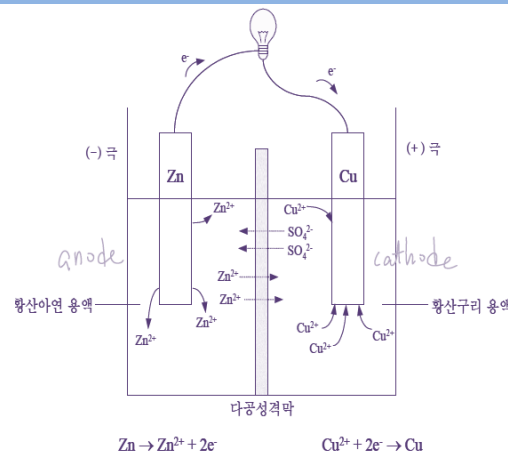
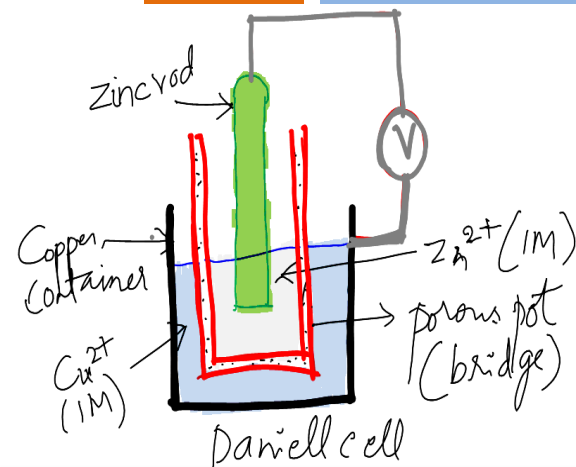
The Gibbs free energy is designated  $\Delta G^0$

The **std. electrode potential** for hydrogen is therefore:

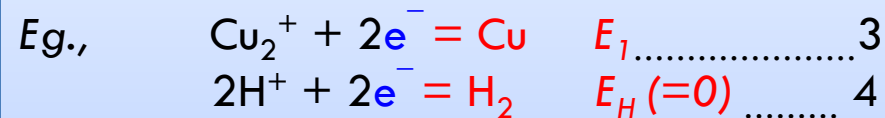
$$E^0_{H^+/H_2} = 0$$



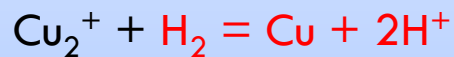
# Half-cell Potential (single electrode)



Practical- half-cell of **hydrogen** electrode: this can be combined with any other half-cell electrode



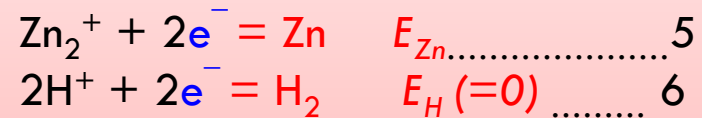
Subtracting eqn. 4 from eqn. 3:



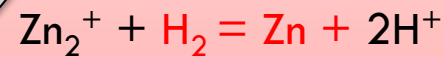
Thus  $E_{\text{cell}} = E_1 - E_H = +0.34 \text{ V}$

Therefore,  $E_{\text{Cu}}^0 = +0.34 \text{ V}$  (one half)

The other half of the Daniel Cell, the **zinc** electrode:



Subtracting eqn. 6 from eqn. 5:



Thus  $E_{\text{cell}} = E_{\text{Zn}} - E_H = -0.76 \text{ V}$

Therefore,  $E_{\text{Zn}}^0 = -0.76 \text{ V}$  (other half)

Combining two half-cell e.m.f.s for copper and zinc gives the cell e.m.f. for the Daniel cell

$$E_{\text{cell}} = +0.34 - (-0.76) = 1.10 \text{ V}$$

# Cell Potential

Cell potential is measured in volts (V).

$$1 \text{ V} = 1 \frac{\text{J}}{\text{C}}$$

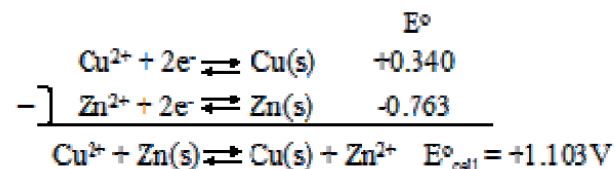
Standard Cell Potentials - The cell potential at standard conditions can be found through this equation:

$$E_{\text{cell}}^{\circ} = E_{\text{red}}^{\circ} (\text{cathode}) - E_{\text{red}}^{\circ} (\text{anode})$$

Because cell potential is based on the potential energy per unit of charge, it is an intensive property.

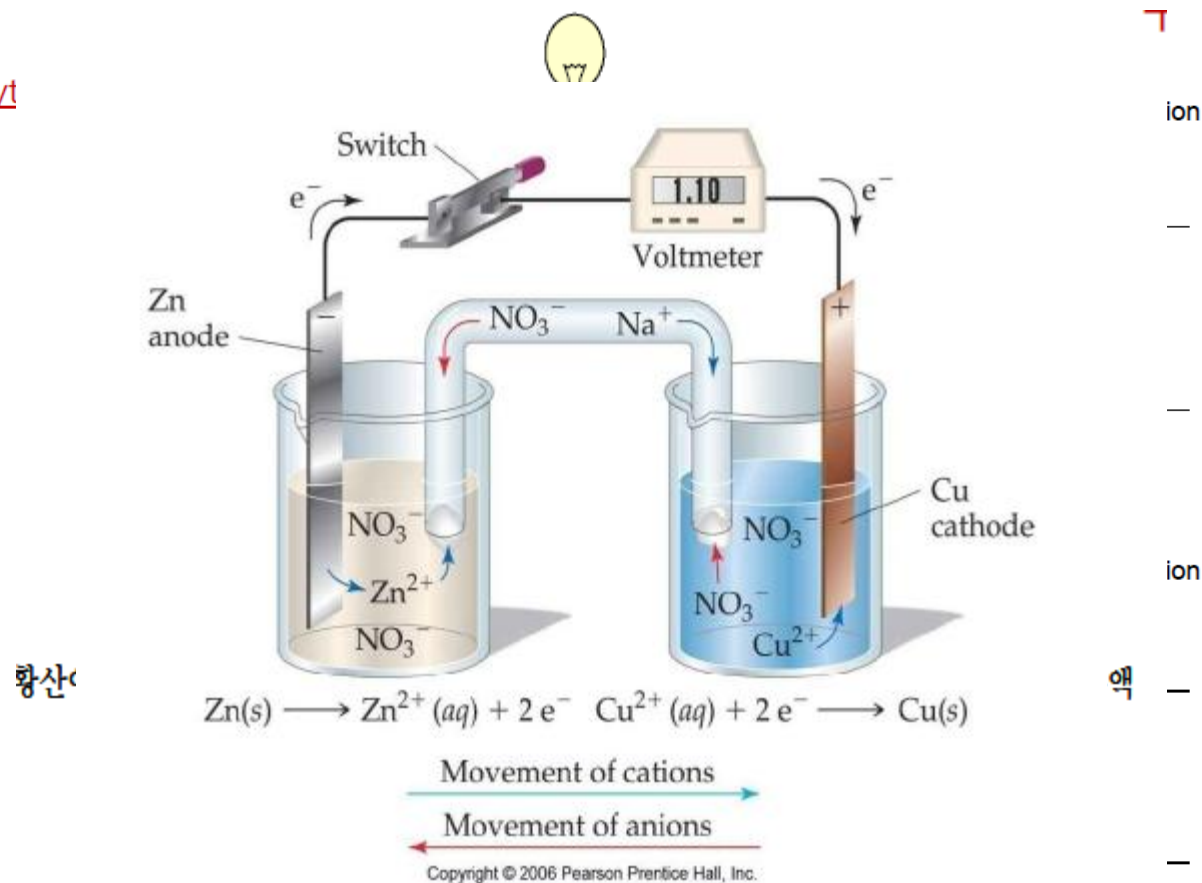
$$\text{e.m.f (V)} = \text{Work/energy (Joule, J)}/\text{Charge (Columb, C)}$$

$$\begin{aligned} E_{\text{cell}}^{\circ} &= E_{\text{red}}^{\circ} (\text{cathode}) - E_{\text{red}}^{\circ} (\text{anode}) \\ &= +0.34 \text{ V} - (-0.76 \text{ V}) \\ &= +1.10 \text{ V} \end{aligned}$$

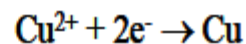
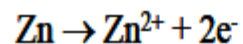


# Electron transfer through electrode/solution interface - A schematic representation

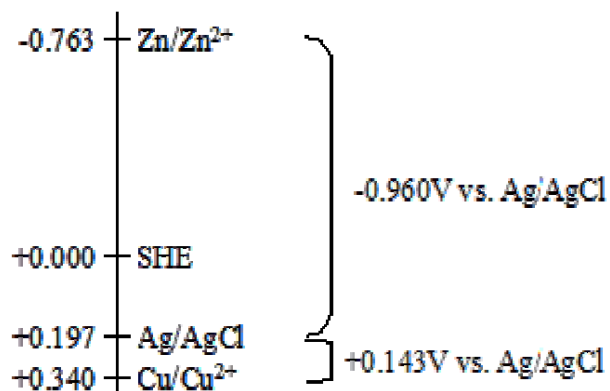
Electrolyt



Bard

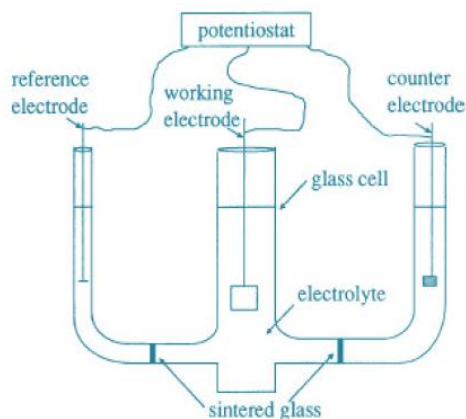


## Standard Electrode Potential ( $E^0$ ) for few reactions



Half-reaction	$E^0$ , V
$\text{Li}^+(\text{aq}) + \text{e}^- \rightarrow \text{Li}(\text{s})$	-3.040
$\text{K}^+(\text{aq}) + \text{e}^- \rightarrow \text{K}(\text{s})$	-2.924
$\text{Na}^+(\text{aq}) + \text{e}^- \rightarrow \text{Na}(\text{s})$	-2.713
$\text{Al}^{3+}(\text{aq}) + 3\text{e}^- \rightarrow \text{Al}(\text{s})$	-1.676
$\text{Zn}^{2+}(\text{aq}) + 2\text{e}^- \rightarrow \text{Zn}(\text{s})$	-0.763
$\text{Fe}^{2+}(\text{aq}) + 2\text{e}^- \rightarrow \text{Fe}(\text{s})$	-0.440
<b><math>2\text{H}^+(\text{aq}) + 2\text{e}^- \rightarrow \text{H}_2(\text{g})</math></b>	<b>0.000</b>
$\text{Cu}^{2+}(\text{aq}) + \text{e}^- \rightarrow \text{Cu}(\text{s})$	+0.340
$\text{I}_2(\text{s}) + 2\text{e}^- \rightarrow 2\text{I}^-$	+0.535
$\text{Ag}^+(\text{aq}) + \text{e}^- \rightarrow \text{Ag}(\text{s})$	+0.800
$\text{Br}_2(\text{l}) + 2\text{e}^- \rightarrow 2\text{Br}^-(\text{aq})$	+1.065
$\text{Cl}_2(\text{g}) + 2\text{e}^- \rightarrow 2\text{Cl}^-(\text{aq})$	+1.358
$\text{Au}^+ + \text{e}^- \rightarrow \text{Au}(\text{s})$	+1.680
$\text{F}_2(\text{g}) + 2\text{e}^- \rightarrow 2\text{F}^-(\text{aq})$	+2.866

## Three electrode system



Schematic of an electrochemical cell



Cathode is the working/indicator electrode. (right half-cell). - Anode is the counter/reference electrode. (left half-cell).

## Components of Electrochemical cell

Three electrodes:

Working, Counter, and Reference

An electrolyte solution:

Solvent, supporting

Membrane: O or X

Potentiostat:  $e^-$  delivery of, or redox reactions  
Involves the transmission of ions

The potential difference between the anode and cathode in a cell is called the **electromotive force (emf)**.

It is also called the **cell potential**, and is designated  $E_{\text{cell}}$ .



## Potentiometer

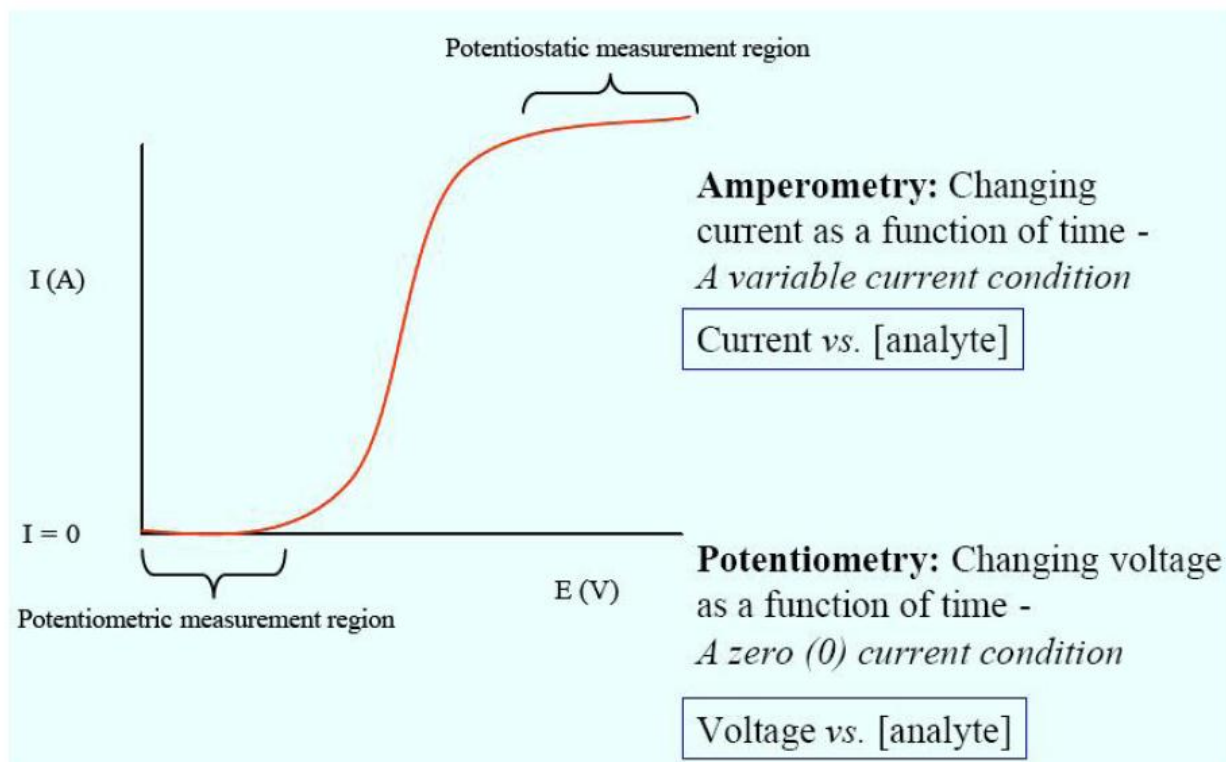
- A device for measuring the potential of an electrochemical cell without drawing a current or altering the cell's composition.

### Potentiometric measurements:

Potentiometric measurements are made using a potentiometer to determine the difference in potential between a **working** (an indicator) electrode and a **counter** (a reference) electrode.

- Cathode is the working/indicator electrode. (right half-cell)
- Anode is the counter/reference electrode. (left half-cell)

# Potentiometric vs. Potentiostatic Methods



# Principles of Potentiometry

- ✦ The cell voltage,  $E_{\text{cell}}$ , of a galvanic cell is measured at  $I = 0$ , i.e. when the electrochemical system is at equilibrium.
- ✦  $E_{\text{cell}}$  is governed by the electrode potential of the indicator electrode,  $E_{\text{IE}}$
- ✦  $E_{\text{IE}}$  responds to the activity,  $a_i$ , of the analyte
- ✦  $a_i$  is related to the concentration,  $c_i$ , of an analyte
- ✦  $E_{\text{cell}}$  and  $E_{\text{IE}}$  depend on  $a_{\text{reactants}}$  and  $a_{\text{products}}$  of the electrode reactions
- ✦ The  $E_{\text{cell}}$  or  $E_{\text{IE}}$  are related to the activities of the reaction species by the NERNST equation:

$$E = E^{\circ} + \left( \frac{RT}{nF} \right) \ln \left( \frac{a_{\text{ox}}}{a_{\text{red}}} \right)$$



$$E = E^\circ + \left( \frac{RT}{nF} \right) \ln \left( \frac{a_{\text{ox}}}{a_{\text{red}}} \right)$$

- ✦  **$E^\circ$**  is the **formal potential** – the potential of the half cell (vs. a reference system) when  $a_{\text{ox}}/a_{\text{red}} = 1$  and all other species are present at specified concentrations (eg. specified pH and electrolyte).
- ✦  **$R$**  is the molar gas constant,  $8.314 \text{ J K}^{-1} \text{ mol}^{-1}$
- ✦  **$T$**  is the absolute temperature (K)
- ✦  **$n$**  is the number of electrons transferred
- ✦  **$F$**  is Faraday's constant,  $96500 \text{ C mol}^{-1}$
- ✦  **$a_{\text{ox}}/a_{\text{red}}$**  is the ratio of the activity of the oxidized and reduced forms of the analyte

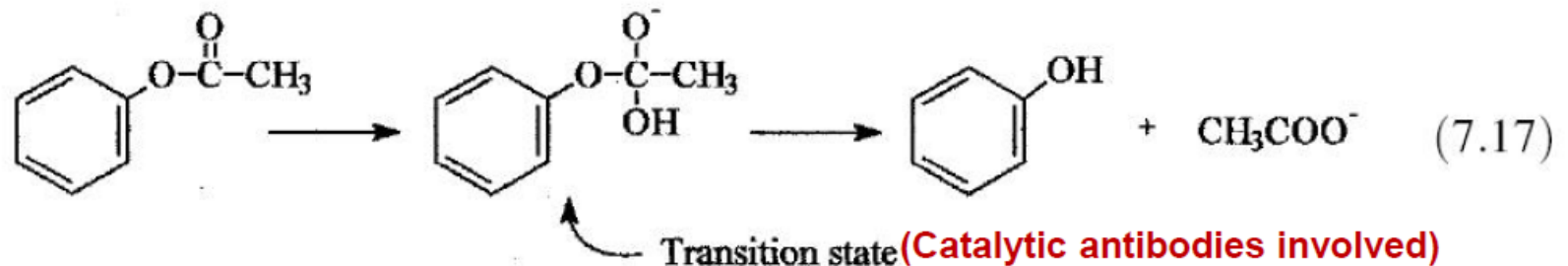
For infinitely dilute solutions ( $C_i < 10^{-1} \text{ M}$ )  **$a_i \cong C_i$**

# POTENTIOMETRIC BIOSENSORS [I]

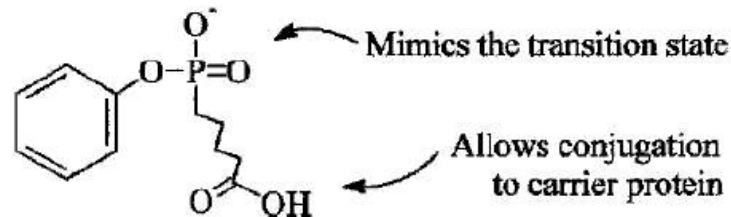
- In potentiometric sensors, the **zero-current potential** (relative to a reference) developed at a selective membrane or electrode surface in contact with a sample solution is related to analyte concentration (logarithmic relationship between measured potential and analyte concentration).
- The main use of potentiometric transducers in biosensors: a **pH-stat** (the reactions consume or produce protons).
- The biosensor consists of an immobilized enzyme membrane surrounding the probe from a pH-meter:
- **Mechanism:** pH changes cause changes in enzyme activity; pH maintained at a constant value by the addition of acid or base → the rate of titrant addition proportional to the rate of enzymatic reaction (specially within low buffer concentration!)
- Three types of ion-selective electrodes which are of use in biosensors:
  - Glass electrodes for cations (typical potentiometric biosensors)
  - Glass pH electrodes coated with a gas-permeable membrane selective for CO<sub>2</sub>, NH<sub>3</sub> or H<sub>2</sub>S.
  - The iodide electrode is useful for the determination of I<sup>-</sup> or CN<sup>-</sup> in the peroxidase reaction in penicillinase reaction mediated with I<sup>-</sup> or CN<sup>-</sup>.

# POTENTIOMETRIC BIOSENSORS

- Ex) for phenyl acetate as a model for the evaluation of catalytic antibodies:



- The reaction:** hydrolytic cleavage of the ester linkage of phenyl acetate.
- Ab trapped at the surface of a pH electrode using a dialysis membrane will bind to the transition state of the hydrolysis reaction.



**Figure 7.3.** Transition state analogue hapten used for the generation of catalytic antibodies for phenyl acetate hydrolysis.

A substance that modifies the transition state to lower the activation energy is termed a catalyst; a biological catalyst is termed an enzyme

- Ex) for phenyl acetate as a model for the evaluation of catalytic antibodies:
- **Mechanism of detection:** Ab trapped at the surface of a pH electrode using a dialysis membrane will bind to the transition state of the hydrolysis reaction → the reaction produce a change in local pH at the surface of the electrode **due to an acetic acid as a product** → The measured pH decreases as the phenyl acetate concentration increases
- Selectivity: a number of similar compounds produce signal, particularly those containing RC OOC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub> group but the selectivity similar to the corresponding hydrolytic enzyme.
- A novel use of Abs as chemical recognition agents!

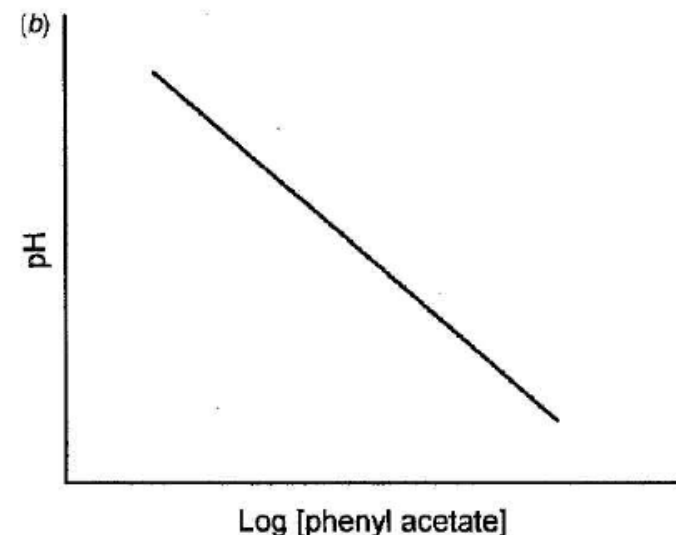
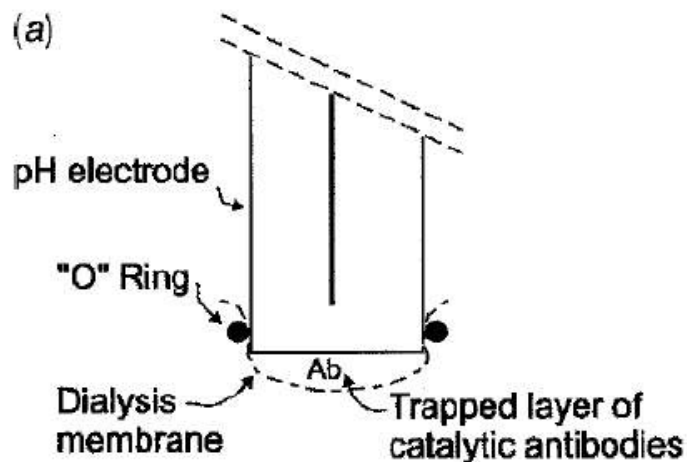


Figure 7.4. (a) Diagram of phenyl acetate sensor and (b) calibration curve.

## POTENTIOMETRIC BIOSENSORS [II]

- The best known potentiometric sensor is the Ion Selective Electrode (ISE).
- ISEs used in conjunction with immobilised enzymes can serve as the basis of electrodes that are selective for specific enzyme substrates.
- The two main ones are for urea and creatinine - These potentiometric enzyme electrodes are produced by entrapping the enzymes urease and creatinase, on the surface of a cation sensitive ( $\text{NH}_4^+$ ) ISE.
- Solvent polymeric membrane electrodes are commercially available and routinely used for the selective detection of several ions such as  $\text{K}^+$ ,  $\text{Na}^+$ ,  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{NH}_4^+$ ,  $\text{H}^+$ ,  $\text{CO}_3^{2-}$ ) in complex biological matrices.
- The antibiotics nonactin and valinomycin serve as neutral carriers for the determination of  $\text{NH}_4^+$  and  $\text{K}^+$ , respectively

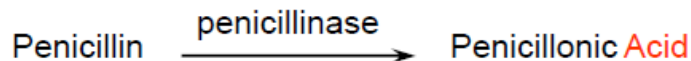
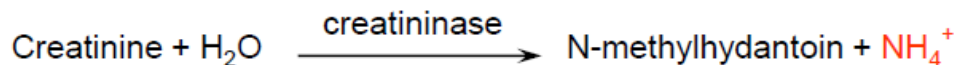
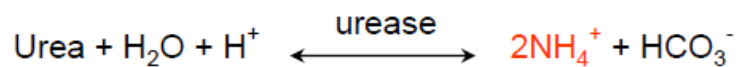
# POTENTIOMETRIC BIOSENSORS

□  $E = E_o + \frac{RT}{nF} \ln[\text{analyte}]$

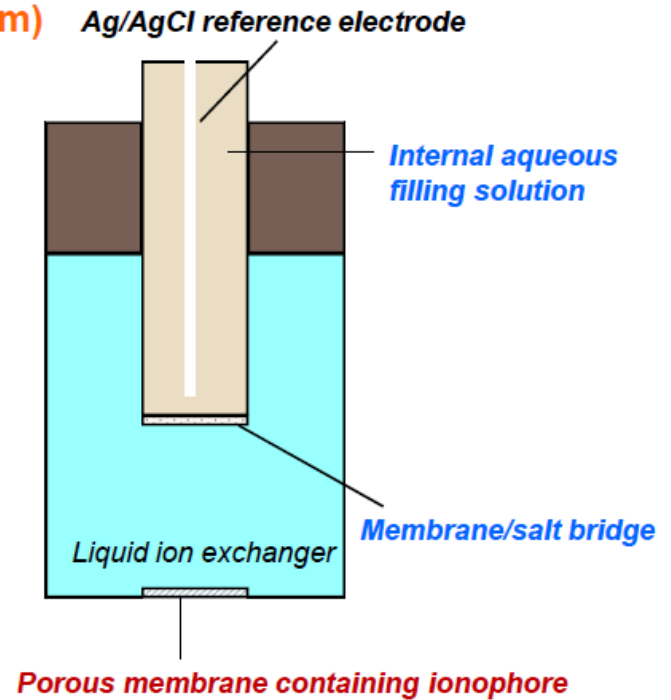
□  $E_o$  is a constant for the system,  $R$  is the universal gas constant,  $T$  is the absolute temperature,  $z$  is the charge number,  $F$  is the Faraday number

□  $\ln[\text{analyte}]$  is the natural logarithm of the analyte activity.

□  $E$  is measured potential (two electrodes system)



↓  
In contact with pH electrode.





# POTENTIOMETRIC BIOSENSORS - immunosensor

Ex) for digoxin:

- Employs a potassium ( $K^+$ ) ion-selective electrode (ISE) as the transducer:
- Chemical recognition: anti-digoxin Ab and a digoxin-crown ether conjugate.
- PVC [a poly(vinyl chloride)] membrane – separate internal  $K^+$  solution from an external layer of digoxin Ab trapped at the sensor surface.
- **Mechanism:** competition between free digoxin (analyte) crossing the dialysis membrane freely and the digoxin-crown conjugate at the PVC-aqueous interface  $\rightarrow$  change in the transport of  $K^+$  across the PVC membrane (Ab-digoxin-crown held at the interface!)

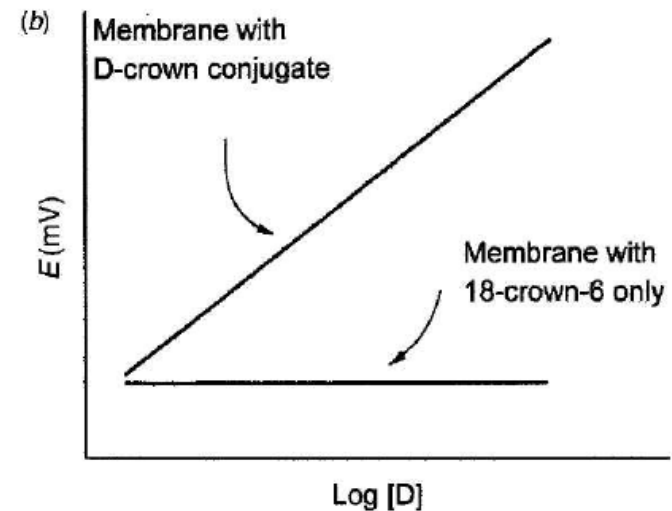
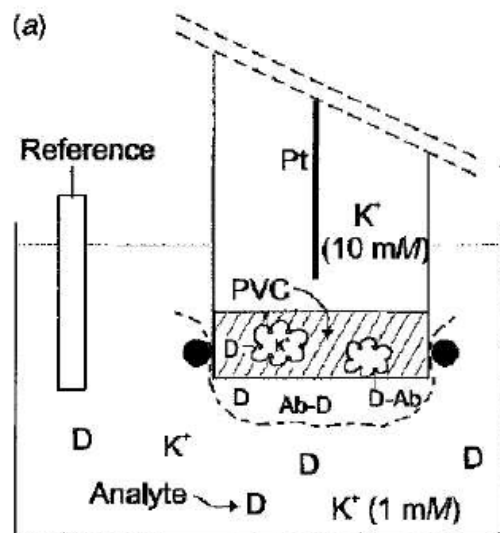


Figure 7.5. (a) Digoxin immunosensor and (b) calibration curves for digoxin.

## Potentiometric Immunosensor

- employs  $K^+$  ion selective electrode as a transducer
- Chemical recognition involves - anti digoxin Ab & digoxin-crown ether conjugate
- PVC membrane separates an internal  $K^+$  sol<sup>n</sup> from external layer of digoxin. Ab - trapped at sensor surface with a dialysis membrane.
- The digoxin-crown ether conjugate - selectively binds  $K^+$  present only in the PVC layer  $\rightarrow$  hydrophobic properties
- Competition b/w free digoxin (analyte) that freely crosses the dialysis membrane & the digoxin-crown conjugate at the PVC-aqueous interface for antibody in the reaction b/w causes a change in the transport of  $K^+$  across the membrane
- because the antibody-digoxin-crown conjugate is held at the interface
- An ex. of competitive immunoassay - Binding interaction to be monitored.