

# PHYSIOLOGY



Lec: 11 + 12 (Thursday 21/3)

Done by: sufian hassan

↳ The scientist's name

## Equilibrium potential (Nerst potential)

- The concept of is simply an extension of the concept of diffusion potential. If there is a concentration difference for an ion across a membrane and the membrane is permeable to that ion, a potential difference (the diffusion potential) is created. Eventually, net diffusion of the ion slows and then stops because of that potential difference
- **Equilibrium potential** is the diffusion potential that exactly balances (*opposes*) the tendency for diffusion caused by a concentration difference. At electrochemical equilibrium, the chemical and electrical driving forces that act on an ion are equal and opposite; therefore, no net diffusion of the ions occur.
- **Nerst Potential** The potential across the cell membrane that exactly opposes net diffusion of a particular ion through the membrane= the membrane potential at which there is no net (overall) flow of that particular ion from one side of the membrane to the other
- At electrochemical equilibrium ( Equilibrium Potential ) , the chemical and electrical driving forces acting on an ion are equal and opposite, and no further net diffusion occurs
- Nernst Equation is used to calculate the equilibrium potential for an ion at a given concentration difference across a membrane, assuming that the membrane is permeable to that ion

\* Our resting membrane potential (RMP) of neuron is the closest to the equilibrium potential of the  $K^+$  ion?

A - True ✓

B - False X

because The RMP is  $-90$  mV and the E.P. for the  $K^+$  ions is also  $-90$  mV

A message to take home

The Resting membrane potential is closer to the  $K^+$  ions

# Nernst equation and calculations of the equilibrium potential (Nerst potential)

- Electromotive force (mv)

$$= (RT/ZF) \log (C_o / C_i)$$

$$\cdot \text{EMF (mV)} = \pm 61 \times \log \left( \frac{\text{Ion conc. Inside}}{\text{Ion conc. outside}} \right)$$

*always  
assume it's  
negative*

- C is concentration of the ion [X<sup>+</sup>]
- **C<sub>o</sub> = [X<sup>+</sup>] outside cell**
- **C<sub>i</sub> = [X<sup>+</sup>] inside cell**

*(The message on M. teams)*

R: is the gas constant

K° (absolute) is 0 c° which is 273K

Z: valency is the charge of free ions, for example it's +1 for K and Na, while it is +2 for Ca

F: is the faradays constant is fixed at 96,485.3399 Coulomb (C) per mole of electrons, which means that one mole of electrons is equivalent to 96,485.3399 coulombs of electric charge. Assuming the valency is one with Na and K and the temperature is 37C° or 300K the constants will be 61 when the valency ions is one

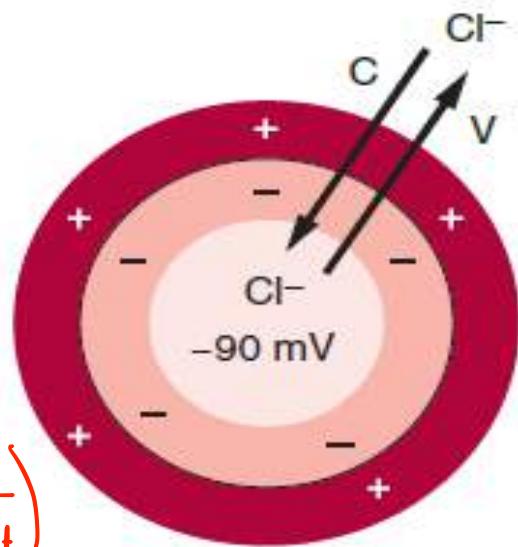
\* The Nernst equation measures the equilibrium potential of a particular ion like  $K^+$ ,  $Ca^{2+}$ ,  $Na^+$ ,  $Cl^-$  and measures or estimates the membrane potential, where there is no movement of a particular ion, or when the membrane potential equals to the equilibrium potential of this particular ion. (so if you calculate the E.P. of the  $K^+$  ion it will be close to the RMP but not the same)



# The driving force on ions crossing through the membrane, voltage gradients (V), and concentration gradients (C) for the three most common ions in the solutions in the intracellular and extracellular fluids

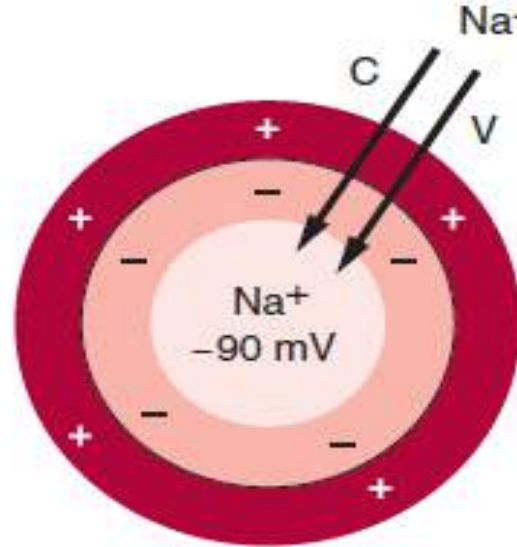
\* A note to take home

في الإمتحان احنا مطالبين  
بمعادلة نيرست، ريعطونا كل  
المعطيات عدا ال (-61) و نطق  
و نحسب



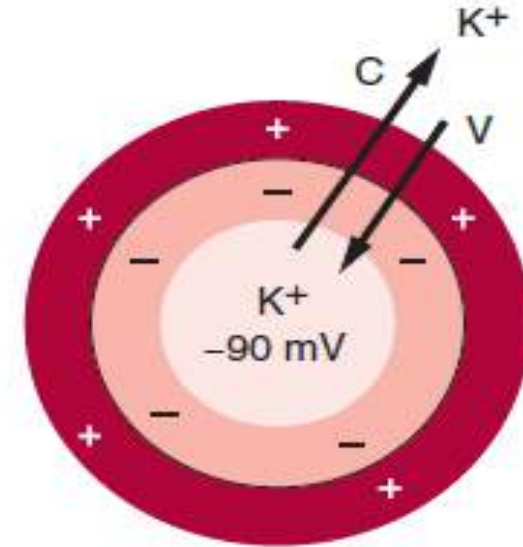
$$E_{Cl} = \frac{60 \text{ mV}}{-1} \log \frac{132}{4}$$

$$E_{Cl} = -90 \text{ mV}$$



$$E_{Na} = \frac{60 \text{ mV}}{+1} \log \frac{145}{12}$$

$$E_{Na} = +65 \text{ mV}$$



$$E_K = \frac{60 \text{ mV}}{+1} \log \frac{4}{155}$$

$$E_K = -95 \text{ mV}$$

$$= -61 \times \log \left( \frac{C_{in}}{C_{out}} \right)$$

- with further experimentation, they started to change the  $K^+$  ion and take curves, so at one point they found out that the Nernst P. is not right (The Nernst equation can't exactly calculate the R.M.P.)

Then some scientists came and completed Nernst's work and updated a formula, and they considered 2 things, the concentration of the 3 most important ions ( $K^+$ ,  $Na^+$ ,  $Cl^-$ ) and the permeability (the diffusion potential relies on the C.G and the permeability).

# The Potassium Nernst Potential

*...also called the equilibrium potential*

$$E_K = -61 \times \log \frac{K_i}{K_o}$$

**Example:** If  $K_o = 4$  mM and  $K_i = 140$  mM

$$E_K = -61 \log(140/4)$$

$$E_K = -61 \log(35)$$

$$E_K = -94 \text{ mV}$$

*So, if the membrane were permeable only to  $K^+$ , the membrane potential ( $V_m$ ) would be  $-94$  mV*



# The Sodium Nernst Potential

$$E_{\text{Na}} = -61 \times \log \frac{\text{Na}_i}{\text{Na}_o}$$

**Example:** If  $\text{Na}_o = 142 \text{ mM}$  and  $\text{Na}_i = 14 \text{ mM}$

$$E_{\text{Na}} = -61 \log(14/142)$$

$$E_{\text{Na}} = -61 \log(0.1)$$

$$E_{\text{Na}} = +61 \text{ mV}$$

*So, if the membrane were permeable only to  $\text{Na}^+$ , the membrane potential ( $V_m$ ) would be +61 mV*

(from M. Teams)

**SAMPLE PROBLEM.** If the intracellular  $[Ca^{2+}]$  is  $10^{-7}$  mol/L and the extracellular  $[Ca^{2+}]$  is  $2 \times 10^{-3}$  mol/L, at what potential difference across the cell membrane will  $Ca^{2+}$  be at electrochemical equilibrium? Assume that  $2.3RT/F = 60$  mV at body temperature ( $37^{\circ}C$ ).

**SOLUTION.** Another way of posing the question is to ask what the membrane potential will be, given this concentration gradient across the membrane, if  $Ca^{2+}$  is the only permeant ion. Remember,  $Ca^{2+}$  is divalent, so  $z = +2$ . Thus

$$\begin{aligned} E_{Ca^{2+}} &= \frac{-60 \text{ mV}}{z} \log_{10} \frac{C_i}{C_o} \\ &= \frac{-60 \text{ mV}}{+2} \log_{10} \frac{10^{-7} \text{ mol/L}}{2 \times 10^{-3} \text{ mol/L}} \\ &= -30 \text{ mV} \log_{10} 5 \times 10^{-5} \\ &= -30 \text{ mV} (-4.3) \\ &= \underline{\underline{+129 \text{ mV}}} \end{aligned}$$

# The Goldman-Hodgkin-Katz Equation

(also called the Goldman Equation)

Calculates  $V_m$  when more than one ion is involved.

$$\text{EMF (millivolts)} = -61 \times \log \frac{C_{\text{Na}_i^+} P_{\text{Na}^+} + C_{\text{K}_i^+} P_{\text{K}^+} + C_{\text{Cl}_o^-} P_{\text{Cl}^-}}{C_{\text{Na}_o^+} P_{\text{Na}^+} + C_{\text{K}_o^+} P_{\text{K}^+} + C_{\text{Cl}_i^-} P_{\text{Cl}^-}}$$

*Handwritten notes:*  
Sodium (+) inside ↑  
Potassium (+) inside ↑  
Chlorine outside cuz it's negatively charged (-) ↓

Na, K & Cl are the most important ions involved in development of membrane potentials in nerve and muscle fibers & neuronal cells

\* The message to take home

The best equation to exactly estimate the (R.M.P), cuz it considers permeability

the diffusion potential depends on:

- (1) permeability (P) of the membrane to each ion
- (2) concentrations (C) of the respective ions on the inside (i) and outside (o) of the membrane

\* Q: what if you have a membrane which is only permeable to  $K^+$  ions, what will happen?

$$E_{mf} = -61 \times \log \left( \frac{C_{Na_i} P_{Na} + C_{K_i} P_K + C_{Cl_o} P_{Cl^-}}{C_{Na_o} P_{Na} + C_{K_o} P_K + C_{Cl_i} P_{Cl^-}} \right)$$

$\Rightarrow E_{mf} = -61 \times \log \left( \frac{C_{K_i} P_K}{C_{K_o} P_K} \right)$  which is the same as Nernst

So, Nernst equation is a special case of GHK equation  
Cuz it is one ion and the membrane is permeable to that ion

# The Goldman-Hodgkin-Katz Equation

*(also called the Goldman Equation)*

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**the quantitative importance of each of the ions in determining the voltage is proportional to the membrane permeability for that particular ion.**

# The Goldman-Hodgkin-Katz Equation

*Take home message...*

*The resting membrane potential is closest to the equilibrium potential for the ion with the highest permeability!*



# Question

$$\begin{array}{lll} [\text{Na}_i] = 15 \text{ mM} & [\text{K}_i] = 150 \text{ mM} & [\text{Cl}_i] = 10 \text{ mM} \\ [\text{Na}_o] = 145 \text{ mM} & [\text{K}_o] = 4 \text{ mM} & [\text{Cl}_o] = 24 \text{ mM} \end{array}$$

determine the resting membrane potential in a typical neuron. Assume that  $pK = 1$ ,  $pNa = 0.05$ , and  $pCl = 0.5$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \text{EMF (millivolts)} &= -61 \times \log \frac{C_{\text{Na}_i^+} P_{\text{Na}^+} + C_{\text{K}_i^+} P_{\text{K}^+} + C_{\text{Cl}_o^-} P_{\text{Cl}^-}}{C_{\text{Na}_o^+} P_{\text{Na}^+} + C_{\text{K}_o^+} P_{\text{K}^+} + C_{\text{Cl}_i^-} P_{\text{Cl}^-}} \\ &= -61 \times \log \frac{15 \times 0.05 + 150 \times 1 + 24 \times 0.5}{145 \times 0.05 + 4 \times 1 + 10 \times 0.5} \\ &= -61 \times \log 10 \\ &= -61 \text{ mV} \end{aligned}$$

# Question

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Assume that in a neuron, the plasma membrane permeability values for potassium ( $\text{K}^+$ ), sodium ( $\text{Na}^+$ ), and  $\text{Cl}^-$  are the following:  $p_{\text{K}} = 1$ ,  $p_{\text{Na}} = 12$ , and  $p_{\text{Cl}} = 0.5$ .

determine the membrane potential in this neuron.

$$\text{EMF (millivolts)} = -61 \times \log \frac{C_{\text{Na}_i^+} P_{\text{Na}^+} + C_{\text{K}_i^+} P_{\text{K}^+} + C_{\text{Cl}_o^-} P_{\text{Cl}^-}}{C_{\text{Na}_o^+} P_{\text{Na}^+} + C_{\text{K}_o^+} P_{\text{K}^+} + C_{\text{Cl}_i^-} P_{\text{Cl}^-}}$$

$$= -61 \times \log \frac{15 \times 12 + 150 \times 1 + 24 \times 0.5}{145 \times 12 + 4 \times 1 + 10 \times 0.5}$$

$$= -61 \times \log 0.195$$

$$= -61 \times -0.71$$

$$= +43 \text{ mV}$$