Polarizable Non-polarizable Electrode

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Outline

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Polarizability

Polarizability is simply a measure of the dependence of the electron transfer rate on the electrode potential.

Polarizable Electrode



- No charge crosses the electrode when current is applied
- Current does not cross, but rather changes the concentration of ions at the interface.
- Noble metals are closest (like platinum and gold); they are difficult to oxidize and dissolve.
- Behave like a capacitor.

Non-Polarizable Electrode

- All charge freely crosses the interface when current is applied.
- No overpotential is generated.
- Silver/silver-chloride is a good nonpolarizable electrode.
- Behave like a resistor.

Equivalent circuit model for electrode-skin interface



Cd:capacitance of electrode-electrolyte interface Rd:resistance of electrode-electrolyte interface Rs:resistance of solution Ehc:cell potencial for electrode



current due to the reduction of lectrolyte, electrode

Polarizable electrode

• An ideal polarized electrode shows a very large change in potential upon the passage of a small current.

The equivalent circuit of polarizable electrodes



An ideal polarizable electrode can be represented by a capacitor (condenser) in equivalent circuit as shown in Fig. 1.

Non-Polarizable electrode



• Ideal nonpolarizable electrode whose potential does not change upon passage of current.

The Platinum Electrode



- (Pt),is irreversible but not exhaustible
- At its surface, Pt catalyzes the electrolysis of water.

The Silver/Silver Chloride Electrode



- The silver/silver chloride electrode is reversible but exhaustible.
- Practical for use in many biomedical applications
- Generates less than 10uV of noise.

The Electrode - Electrolyte Interface



One of the most common types of electrodes is the Ag-AgCl electrode with an electrolyte containing

Silver-silver chloride electrode



The Silver/Silver Chloride Electrode



(a)Ag/AgCl electrode (electrode's snap side) (b) Ag/AgCl electrode (electrode's skin side)

Sintered Ag/AgCl electrode





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