
UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

First Semester Examination
Academic Session 2008/2009

November 2008

**KAT 347 – Electroanalytical Methods
[Kaedah Elektroanalisis]**

Duration: 3 hours
[Masa : 3 jam]

Please check that this examination paper consists of EIGHT printed pages before you begin the examination.

Instruction:-

Please answer every section with at least TWO questions from each SECTION A and B.

Answer each question on a new page.

You may answer either in Bahasa Malaysia or in English.

If a candidate answers more than five questions, only the answers to the first five questions in the answer sheet will be graded.

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Section A – Potentiometry

1. (a) Explain how the presence of magnesium ion can influence the response of a calcium liquid ion-selective electrode (ISE). (7 marks)

- (b) Describe the response mechanism of the Fluoride ISE. Explain why besides Al^{3+} and Fe^{3+} , OH^- is the other major interfering ion in the measurements. How do you minimise its effect? (7 marks)

- (c) Calculate the error in millivolts that would occur if a solution containing $5 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M F}^-$ (pH 10) were measured with a fluoride ISE ($k_{\text{F},\text{OH}} = 0.1$). (6 marks)

2. (a) Explain (using one or multiple equations) why a highly selective ISE is not always sufficient for accurate potentiometric measurements. (7 marks)

- (b) Use the Nikolski–Eisenman equation to explain why lowering the detection limit requires careful attention to the selectivity of the resulting ISE. (7 marks)

- (c) Calculate the error caused by sodium ion, $a_{\text{Na}} = 0.01$, in the measurement of lithium, $a_{\text{Li}} = 0.001$, using a lithium ion selective electrode ($k_{\text{Li},\text{Na}} = 0.06$). (6 marks)

3. (a) Discuss the major sources of error in potentiometric measurements. (7 marks)

- (b) Explain why small uncertainties in the measured cell potential can cause large error in the response of ISEs. (7 marks)

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- (c) Why is it important to buffer the sample solution in a potentiometric analysis? (6 marks)

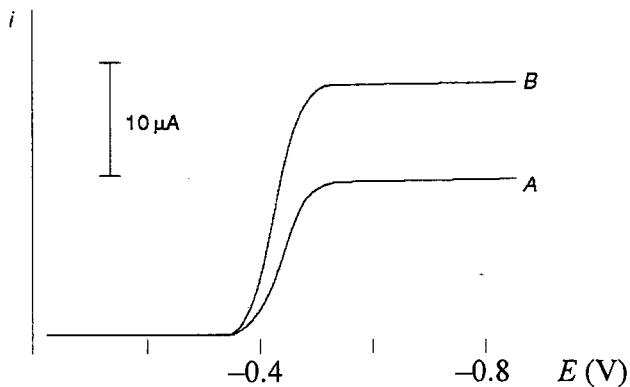
Section B - Voltammetry

4. (a) Why is it essential to wait ~40 ms after the potential step in normal pulse polarography before sampling the current? (5 marks)
- (b) Explain the reason for including the time-consuming oxygen removal step in pulse polarographic measurements of tin ion in juice samples. (5 marks)
- (c) Why is highly pure mercury essential in polarography? Describe a technique to clean liquid Hg. (5 marks)
- (d) A sample containing cadmium gives a polarographic reduction current of 6.0 μA . The current increases to 9 and 12 μA when the cadmium concentration is increased in two steps of 2 mM each. Calculate the cadmium concentration in the original sample. (5 marks)
5. (a) Explain the ‘phenomenon’ that helps improve the performance of a (i) ultramicroelectrode and (ii) chemically modified electrode. (10 marks)
- (b) Explain the significance of the (i) steady-state and (ii) ohmic drop in cyclic voltammetry. (10 marks)
6. (a) Propose a modified electrode surface suitable for detecting *in situ* micromolar concentrations of ferric ion in an industrial stream. What are the challenges for such *in situ* monitoring? (7 marks)

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- (b) Polarogram *A* was obtained for a 10 mL lead containing sample. The limiting current increased (to *B*) after addition of 100 μ L of a 0.10 M lead standard to the 10 mL sample. Calculate the original lead concentration in the sample.



(7 marks)

- (c) Describe the rationale for using electrodes coated with Nafion® films for selective detection of the cationic neurotransmitter dopamine in the presence of coexisting interfering anionic ascorbic acid.

(6 marks)

7. (a) The detection of nitroaromatic explosives in seawater requires a fast (ms) and sensitive response (down to the 10 nM level). Discuss an electrochemical technique most suitable for such assays and the optimization of its variables for achieving this important goal. Clarify your choice. What is the basis for the observed response? What are the potential interferences?

(10 marks)

- (b) While carbohydrates and alcohols can be oxidized at gold electrodes, they cannot be detected by fixed-potential amperometry. Explain why, and suggest an alternative more suitable detection scheme for their measurements in flowing streams.

(10 marks)

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TERJEMAHAN

Arahan:-

Sila jawab setiap bahagian dengan sekurang-kurangnya **DUA** soalan daripada setiap **BAHAGIAN A** dan **B**.

Jawab setiap soalan pada muka surat yang baru.

Anda boleh menjawab sama ada dalam Bahasa Malaysia atau Bahasa Inggeris.

Jika calon menjawab lebih daripada lima soalan, hanya lima soalan pertama mengikut susunan dalam skrip jawapan akan diberi markah.

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Bahagian A – Potensiometri

1. (a) Terangkan bagaimana kehadiran ion magnesium mempengaruhi gerakbalas elektrod pemilih ion (ISE) cecair kalsium. (7 markah)
 - (b) Jelaskan mekanisme gerakbalas suatu ISE Fluorida. Terangkan bagaimana disamping Al^{3+} dan Fe^{3+} , OH^- juga merupakan satu lagi ion ganggu utama dalam penyukatan ini. Bagaimanakah anda meminimumkan kesannya? (7 markah)
 - (c) Kira ralat dalam millivolt yang terjadi jika suatu larutan yang mengandungi $5 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M F}^-$ (pH 10) disukat menggunakan suatu ISE fluorida ($k_{\text{F},\text{OH}} = 0.1$). (6 markah)
2. (a) Terangkan (dengan satu atau lebih persamaan) mengapa suatu ISE yang sangat pemilih tidak semestinya baik bagi penyukatan potensiometri yang jitu. (7 markah)
 - (b) Gunakan persamaan Nikolski–Eisenman untuk terangkan mengapa dengan merendahkan had pengesanan perhatian perlu terhadap kepilihan ISE yang dihasilkan. (7 markah)
 - (c) Kira ralat yang disebabkan oleh ion natrium $\alpha_{\text{Na}} = 0.01$, dalam penyukatan lithium, $\alpha_{\text{Li}} = 0.001$, menggunakan suatu elektrod pemilih ion lithium ($k_{\text{Li},\text{Na}} = 0.06$). (6 markah)
3. (a) Bincangkan punca utama ralat dalam penyukatan potensiometri. (7 markah)
 - (b) Terangkan mengapa ketakpastian kecil dalam keupayaan sel yang disukat boleh menyebabkan ralat yang besar dalam gerakbalas ISE. (7 markah)

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- (c) Terangkan mengapa penting larutan sampel ditimbal dalam analisis potensiometri. (6 markah)

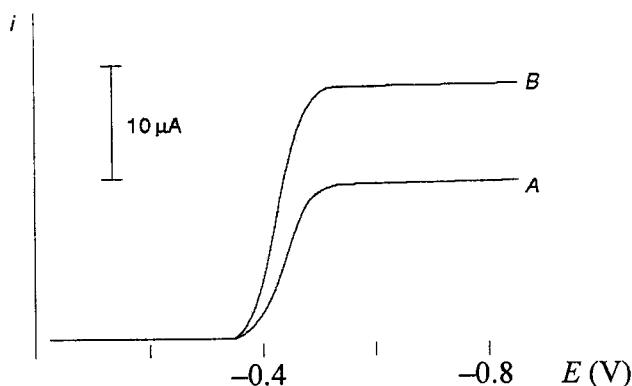
Bahagian B - Voltammetri

4. (a) Mengapakah dalam polarografi denyut normal perlu tunggu ~ 40 ms selepas peningkatan keupayaan sebelum dilakukan pensampelan arus? (5 markah)
- (b) Nyatakan alasan menyertakan langkah menyahoksigen yang membuang masa dalam penyukatan polarografi denyut ion timah dalam sampel jus. (5 markah)
- (c) Mengapakah merkuri yang sangat tulen perlu dalam polarografi? Nyatakan satu teknik penulenan Hg. (5 markah)
- (d) Suatu sampel yang mengandungi kadmium menghasilkan arus penurunan polarographi bernilai $6.0 \mu\text{A}$. Arus meningkat kepada 9 dan $12 \mu\text{A}$ bila kepekatan kadmium ditingkatkan dalam dua langkah, 2 mM setiap satu. Kira kepekatan kadmium dalam sampel asal. (5 markah)
5. (a) Terangkan fenomena yang membantu penambahaikan prestasi suatu (i) elektrod-ultramikro dan (ii) elektrod terubahsuai kimia. (10 markah)
- (b) Terangkan ‘significance’ (i) keadaan mantap dan (ii) jatuhannya dalam voltammetri berkitar. (10 markah)
6. (a) Cadangkan suatu permukaan yang sesuai elektrod terubahsuai bagi mengesan secara ‘in situ’ kepekatan mikromolar ion ferik dalam aliran industri. Apakah cabaran pemantauan ‘in situ’ ini? (7 markah)

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- (b) Polarogram *A* telah diperoleh daripada 10 mL sampel yang mengandungi plumbum. Arus menghad meningkat (kepada *B*) selepas penambahan 100 μL 0.10 M plumbum piawai kedalam sampel 10 mL tersebut. Kira kepekatan asal plumbum dalam sampel.



7 markah

- (c) Jelaskan rasional menggunakan elektrod tersalut lapisan Nafion® bagi pengesanan terpilih kation pembawa neuron dopamine dengan kehadiran bersama anion pengganggu asid askorbik.
(6 markah)
7. (a) Pengesanan bahan letupan aromatik nitro dalam air laut memerlukan gerakbalas yang pantas (ms) dan peka (dibawah paras 10 nM). Bincangkan satu teknik elektrokimia yang paling sesuai bagi cerakinan ini dan pengoptimuman pembolehubahnya bagi menjayakan tujuan yang penting ini. Jelaskan pilihan anda. Apakah asas gerakbalas yang diamati? Apakah gangguan yang mungkin?
(10 markah)
- (b) Walaupun karbohidrat dan alkohol boleh dioksidakan pada elektrod emas ianya tidak dapat dikesan dengan amperometri keupayaan tetap. Terangkan mengapa dan cadangkan satu skema pengesanan pilihan yang lebih sesuai bagi penyukatannya dalam aliran mengalir.
(10 markah)

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