

Module-3

CORROSION AND ELECTRODE SYSTEM

CORROSION

Corrosion is defined as **“the destruction of metals or alloys by the surrounding environment through chemical or electrochemical changes.”**

The process of corrosion is the transformation of pure metal into its undesired metallic compounds. The life of a metal object gets shortened by the corrosion process.

The familiar examples of corrosion are

- i. Rusting of iron – a reddish brown scale formation on iron and steel objects. It is due to the formation of hydrated ferric oxide.
- ii. Green scales formed on copper vessels. It is due to the formation of basic cupric carbonate $[\text{CuCO}_3 + \text{Cu}(\text{OH})_2]$.

Chemical corrosion (Dry corrosion)

Chemical corrosion occurs due to the direct chemical reaction between the metal and the gases present in the corrosive environment. This type of corrosion is generally observed in the absence of moisture or conducting electrolyte medium. Therefore, it is also known as dry corrosion. Eg: Oxidation of metals or alloys on exposure to oxygen in air.

Reaction of corrosive gases such as HCl , H_2S , SO_2 , Cl_2 , F_2 , NH_3 etc. with metal and alloy surfaces.

Electrochemical corrosion (Wet corrosion)

Electrochemical corrosion involves reactions in aqueous medium. The conducting surface of the metal undergoes an electrochemical reaction with the moisture and oxygen present in the atmosphere. This process can be explained on the basis of electrochemical theory of corrosion.

Electrochemical theory of corrosion

Electrochemical theory of corrosion can be explained taking iron as an example.

When a metal like iron is exposed to the corrosive environment according to electrochemical theory, corrosion of metal takes place due to the formation of anodic and cathodic regions on the same metal surface or when the two metals are in contact with each other. The electrons released at the anodic area are taken up by the cathodic area.

Following are the changes occurring.

- i) Formation of galvanic cells. Anodic and cathodic areas are formed resulting in minute galvanic cells.

- ii) At anode oxidation takes place so that metal is converted into metal ions with the liberation of electrons and move towards cathode.
- iii) Oxygen of the atmosphere is reduced to OH^- ions in the presence of water (moisture) at the cathodic area.

Anodic reaction:

At the anodic area, oxidation takes place resulting in the corrosion of iron.



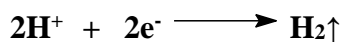
Cathodic reactions:

Electrons flow from the anodic to cathodic area and cause reduction depending on the nature of the corrosive environment. Since the metal cannot be reduced further, metal atoms at cathodic region are unaffected by the cathodic reaction. Some constituents of the corrosion medium take part in the cathodic reaction.

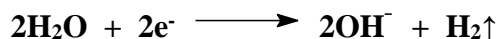
Most common types of cathodic reactions are either liberation of hydrogen or absorption of oxygen.

(a) Liberation of hydrogen takes place in the absence of oxygen

- (i) In acidic medium and in the absence of oxygen, hydrogen liberation takes place.



- (ii) In neutral or alkaline medium and in the absence of oxygen, hydroxide ions are formed with liberation of hydrogen.



(b) Absorption of oxygen takes place in the presence of oxygen.

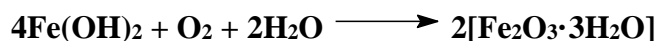
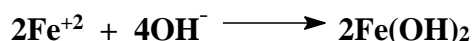
- (i) In acidic medium and in the presence of oxygen.



- (ii) In neutral or alkaline medium & in the presence of oxygen, hydroxide ions are formed



The metal ions formed at the anode combine with the OH^- ions and form the insoluble $\text{Fe}(\text{OH})_2$. In an oxidizing environment, it is oxidized to ferric oxide and the yellow rust is hydrated ferric oxide.



Yellow Rust

In the presence of limited oxygen, ferrous hydroxide is converted into magnetic oxide of iron (Fe_3O_4) and is known as black rust.



Black rust

Types of corrosion

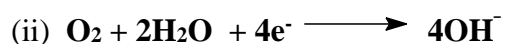
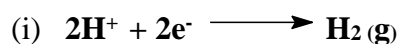
Differential metal corrosion (Galvanic corrosion)

Differential metal corrosion occurs when two dissimilar metals are in contact with each other in a corrosive conducting medium. The two metals differ in their tendencies to undergo oxidation, the one with lower electrode potential or the more active metal acts as anode and the one with higher electrode potential acts as cathode. The potential difference between the two metals is the driving force for corrosion. The anodic metal undergoes corrosion and the cathodic metal is generally unattacked.

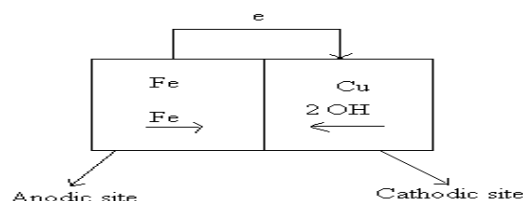
The following reactions occur during differential metal corrosion.

At the anode : $\text{M} \longrightarrow \text{M}^{+n} + n\text{e}^-$

At the cathode : Depending on the nature of the corrosion environment the cathode reaction is either hydrogen evolution or oxygen absorption.



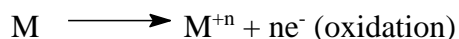
For example if a piece of iron combined with copper is exposed to corrosive atmosphere. Iron acts as anode in the presence of copper (iron is placed above copper in the electrochemical series). In such case, iron undergoes corrosion and copper is unaffected.



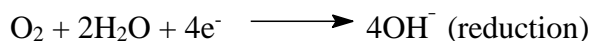
Differential aeration corrosion

Differential aeration corrosion occurs when a metal surface is exposed to differential air concentrations or oxygen concentrations, the part of the metal exposed to higher oxygen concentration acts as cathodic region and the part of the metal exposed to lower oxygen concentration acts as anodic region. As a result the part of the metal exposed to lower oxygen concentration undergoes corrosion.

At the anode (less O_2 concentration)



At the cathode (more O_2 concentration)



“Corrosion of metals is due to the formation of a oxygen concentration cell because of the uneven supply of air on the metal surface is known as differential aeration corrosion.”

Examples

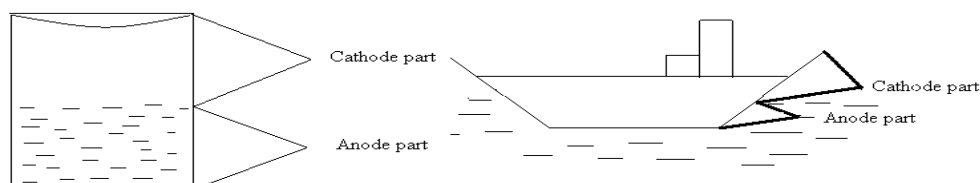
- i. Part of the nail inside the wall which is exposed to lower oxygen concentration than the exposed part, undergoes corrosion.
- ii. Window rods inside the frame suffer corrosion but not the exposed parts.
- iii. Metal under dirt, dust, scale or water undergoes corrosion.
- iv. Paper pins inside the paper gets corroded, and the exposed part is free from corrosion.

Water line corrosion and pitting corrosion are the two cases of differential aeration corrosion.

Water line corrosion

Water line corrosion is observed in steel water tanks, ocean going ships etc.

The water line corrosion takes place due to the formation of differential oxygen concentration cells. The part of the metal below the water line is exposed only to dissolved oxygen while the part of the metal above the water is exposed to higher oxygen concentration of the atmosphere. Thus part of the metal below water acts as anode and undergoes corrosion and the part above the water line is free from corrosion.



Pitting corrosion

Pitting corrosion results when small particles of dust get deposited on a steel surface. The metal below the deposit is exposed to lower oxygen concentration, acts as anode and undergoes corrosion. The metal surrounding the deposit acts as cathode because it is exposed to higher concentration of oxygen. In the presence of electrolytes and moisture, corrosion starts beneath the dust resulting in a pit. Once a pit is formed the rate of corrosion increases. This is because of the formation of small anodic area (pit) compared to a large cathodic area. The cathodic area induces the small anodic area to corrode faster by accepting electrons from the anodic area thus resulting in the enlargement of the pit.

Corrosion control

The methods commonly used to control corrosion of metals are

1. **Protective coatings** i. Inorganic coating ii. Metal coating iii. Organic coating
2. **Cathodic protection**
3. **Anodic protection**
4. **Corrosion inhibitors**

1. Protective coatings

The protective coating protects the metal from corrosion by acting as a barrier between the metal and the corrosion environment.

Inorganic coating

Inorganic coatings are generally obtained by converting a surface layer of the metal into a compound by chemical or electrochemical reactions, which forms a barrier between the metal surface and the corrosion environment.

ANODIZING

Anodized coatings are generally produced on non-ferrous metals like Al, Zn, Mg and their alloys by anodic oxidation process, in which the base metal is made as anode in an electrolytic bath of suitable composition, and by-passing direct electric current. The most commonly used baths are chromic acid and sulphuric acid or their mixtures. After anodizing, the oxide coating is sealed by immersing in boiling water.

Anodizing of Aluminium involves the following steps.

The article to be anodized is degreased, thoroughly polished, connected to the anode and steel or copper is made as the cathode. The electrolyte is 5-10% chromic acid. The temperature of the bath is maintained at 35°C. The voltage is programmed to increase from 0 to 50V to maintain an anode current density of 10-20mA/cm². During the first 10 minutes, the potential is increased from 0 to 40V. When the potential reaches 40V, anodizing is continued for 20 minutes. After 20 minutes the voltage is increased from 40 -50V and held at 50V for five minutes. An opaque oxide layer of 2-8μm thickness is obtained.

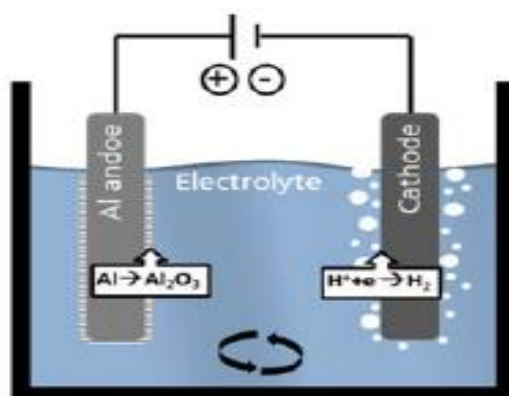


Fig 1: Anodization

The article can be coloured by immersing for about 20 minutes in an aqueous solution of the dye stuff at 50-60°C.

Finally, the object is treated with nickel or cobalt acetate followed by boiling water treatment to improve corrosion resistance.

Anodized articles are used as soap boxes, tiffin carriers, window frames etc.

CATHODIC PROTECTION

It is a method of protecting a metal from corrosion by converting it completely into cathode & no part of it is allowed to act as anode.

Metals undergo corrosion by electrochemical process. Corrosion of metal takes place at anode. Hence, corrosion can be prevented by eliminating the anode & converting entire metal into cathode. It can be done by two methods.

Cathodic protection can be achieved by the following methods

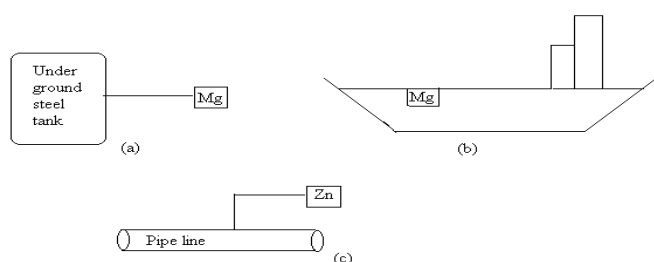
- (i) Sacrificial anode method
- (ii) Impressed current method

Sacrificial anode method

In this method, the metal to be protected is converted into a cathode by connecting it to a more active metal. This active metal acts as anode. Zinc or magnesium are the commonly used anodes. These metals, being more active, act as anode and undergo preferential corrosion, protecting the metal structure. Since the anodic metals are sacrificed to protect the metal structure, therefore the method is known as sacrificial anode method. The sacrificial anodes which get corroded in course of time have to be replaced.

Examples

- 1) A magnesium block connected to a buried oil storage tank. Fig(a)
- 2) Mg bars are fixed to the sides of ocean going ships to act as sacrificial anodes. Fig(b)
- 3) Zn wire buried along the oil pipeline. Fig (c)



Metal coating

Corrosion of metals can be controlled by depositing a protective metal over the surface of a base metal. This process is called metal coating. Metal coating can be anodic metal coating or cathodic metal coating.

Anodic metal coating

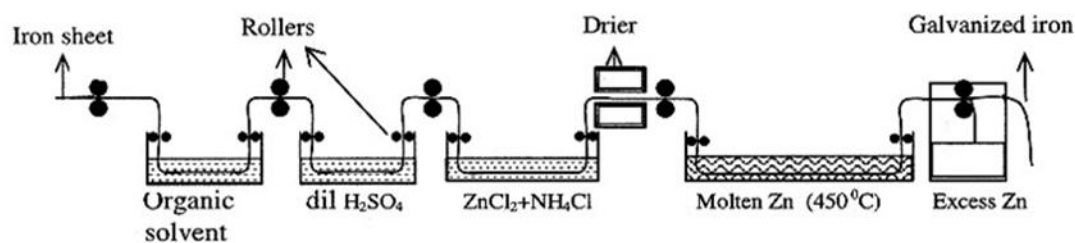
Anodic coatings are produced by coating a base metal with more active metals which are anodic to the base metal.

For example, iron is coated with more active metals such as zinc or magnesium. The characteristic feature of anodic coating is that, the base metal on which coating is done will not get corroded even if the coating is ruptured. The exposed surface of the metal is cathodic with respect to the coating metal and the coating metal undergoes corrosion. Therefore anodic coating is also known as sacrificial coating. *Galvanization* is an example of anodic metal coating.

Galvanization

Galvanization is a process of coating a base metal surface with zinc metal. Galvanization is carried out by hot dipping method. The galvanization process involves the following steps.

- 1) The metal surface is washed with organic solvents to remove organic matter on the surface.
- 2) Rust and other deposits are removed by washing with dilute sulfuric acid.
- 3) Finally the article is washed with water and dried.
- 4) The article is then dipped in a bath of molten zinc, maintained at 425- 430°C and covered with a flux of ammonium chloride to prevent the oxidation of molten zinc.
- 5) The excess zinc on the surface is removed by passing through a pair of hot rollers, which wipes out excess of zinc coating and produces a thin coating.



Galvanization of iron

Galvanized articles are used in the form of roofing sheets, fencing wire, buckets, bolts, nuts, nails, screws, pipes tubes etc.

Corrosion Penetration Rate (CPR)

The corrosion penetration rate (CPR) is defined as

The speed at which any metal in a specific environment deteriorates due to a chemical reaction in the metal when it is exposed to a corrosive environment.

The speed or rate of deterioration depends on the environmental conditions and the type and condition of the metal under study. Corrosion penetration rate may also be known as corrosion rate. Several pieces of data must be collected to calculate the corrosion penetration rate for any given metal:

- The weight lost (the decrease in weight of the metal during the period of reference).
- The density of the metal.
- The total surface area initially present.
- The time taken for the metal to corrode.

The CPR is calculated as follows:

$$\text{CPR} = (k \times W) / (D \times A \times T)$$

where k = a constant

W = total weight lost

T = time taken for the loss of metal

A = the surface area of the exposed metal

D = the metal density in g/cm^3

The corrosion penetration rate (CPR) is best expressed in terms of thickness loss of material per unit time. It is expressed in *mpy* (mils per year) or *mm/year* (millimeter per year).

This method involves the exposure of a weighed piece of test metal or alloy to a specific environment for a specific time. This is followed by a thorough cleaning to remove the corrosion products and then determining the weight of the lost metal due to corrosion.

Problems on CPR:

ELECTRODE SYSTEM

Electrochemical cells

A device which converts chemical energy into electrical energy or electrical energy into chemical energy is called electrochemical cell. There are 2 types

1. The one which converts chemical energy into electrical energy is called galvanic cell.
2. The one which converts electrical energy into chemical energy is called electrolytic cell.

An electrochemical cell consists of two electrodes. When the electrodes are connected by a metallic wire, an electric current flows as a result of a spontaneous redox reaction. Each electrode usually consists of a metal in contact with a solution of its own ions. Since a cell is a combination of two electrodes, each electrode is referred to as a single electrode or a half cell.

Single electrode potential(E)

When a metal is in contact with a solution of its own ions, the potential developed at the interface between the metal and the solution is called single electrode potential.

Standard electrode potential(E^0)

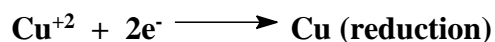
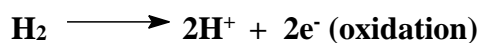
The potential developed when the electrode is in contact with a solution of unit concentration at 298K. If the electrode contains gas then its pressure is one atmosphere. It is denoted by E^0 .

Sign conventions

The electrode potential of an electrode is positive, if the electrode reaction is reduction when coupled with the standard hydrogen electrode and electrode potential is negative if the electrode reaction is oxidation when coupled with the standard hydrogen electrode.

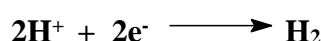
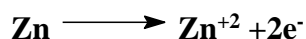
Example

When copper electrode is combined with standard hydrogen electrode, copper electrode acts as cathode and under goes reduction and hydrogen electrode acts as anode.



Hence electrode potential of copper is assigned a **positive sign**. Its standard electrode potential is **0.34V**.

When zinc is coupled with standard hydrogen electrode, zinc electrode acts as the anode and undergoes oxidation and hydrogen electrode acts as the cathode.



Hence the electrode potential of zinc is **negative**. It is **-0.76V**.

Cell notation

If two electrodes are combined to form a cell, then the cell is represented by writing the electrode conventions side by side with anode (negative electrode) on the left and the cathode (positive electrode) on the right. The two electrode representations are separated by a double line. The double line represents the presence of a salt bridge. Hence the cell can be represented as:

$$\text{M}_1|\text{M}_1^{+n}(\text{C}_1)||\text{M}_2^{+n}(\text{C}_2)|\text{M}_2$$

Eg: Daniell cell can be represented as follows:

**Cell potential or EMF of a cell**

It is the potential difference between two half cells in an electrochemical cell, which causes the flow of current from one electrode (higher potential) to the other (lower potential).

It is denoted by E_{cell} .

Cell potential is calculated using the formula

$$E_{\text{cell}} = E_{\text{R.H.E}} - E_{\text{L.H.E}}$$

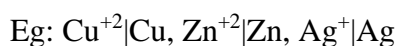
$$E_{\text{cell}} = E_{\text{cathode}} - E_{\text{anode}}$$

By knowing the electrode potentials of the electrodes constituting the cell, the cell potential can be calculated.

Types of electrodes

Some of the important types of electrodes are grouped into the following types.

i) Metal –Metal ion electrode where a metal is in contact with its ionic solution.



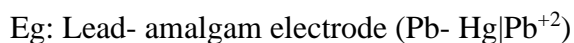
ii) Metal- metal salt ion electrode (metal insoluble salt electrode), where a metal is in contact with a solution containing the anion of the salt.



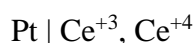
iii) Gas electrode, where a gas is in contact with an inert metal dipped in an ionic solution of the gas molecules.



iv) Amalgam electrode, where metal-amalgam is in contact with a solution containing its own metal ions.



v) Oxidation- reduction electrode: An oxidation-reduction electrode is the one in which the electrode potential arises from the presence of oxidized and reduced forms of the same substance in solution. The potential developed is picked up by an inert metal like platinum.



vi) Ion selective electrode (Membrane electrode), where a membrane is in contact with an ionic solution with which it can exchange ions.



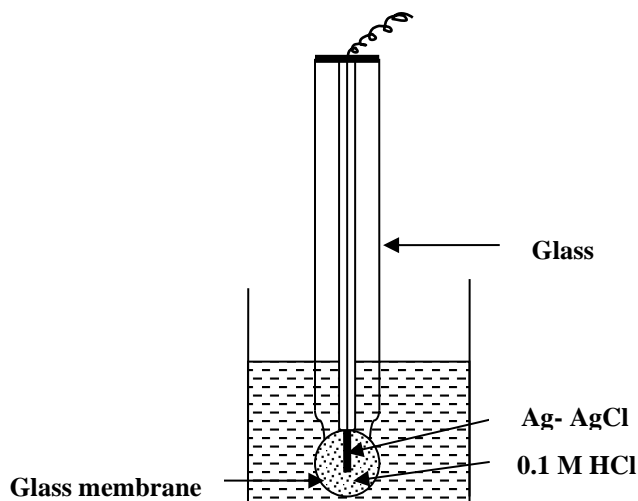
Ion Selective Electrodes

Ion selective electrodes are the electrodes that can interact more selectively with a particular ion in a mixture of ions neglecting the other ions. The potential developed by an ion-selective electrode depends only on the concentration of species or ions of interest. For e.g., Glass electrode is H^{+} ion selective.

The electrodes consist of a membrane which is capable of exchanging the specific ions with the solution with which it is in contact. Ion selective electrodes are also called membrane electrodes.

Construction & working of glass electrode (Ion selective electrode)

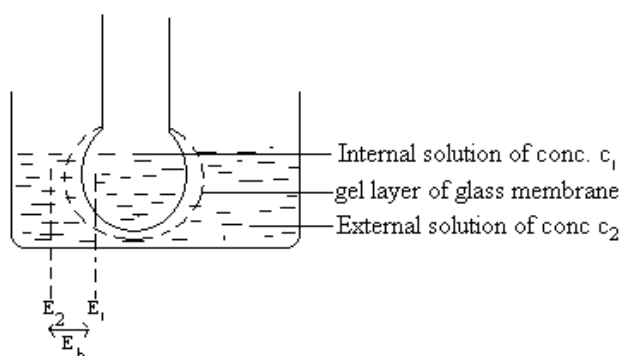
A glass electrode consists of a long glass tube with a thin-walled bulb at one end. The Glass is made of silicate glass containing SiO_2 , Na_2O , CaO of high electrical conductance & low melting point. The bulb contains 0.1M HCl & Silver - silver chloride electrode (Internal reference electrode) is immersed into the solution & connected by a platinum wire for external contact. The electrode is represented as **Ag / AgCl_(s) / 0.1M HCl / glass**.



If a thin-walled glass bulb containing an acid is dipped in a solution(analyte), a potential is developed across the glass membrane. The potential difference E_b at the interface is referred to boundary potential, given by, $E_b = E_2 - E_1$

E_1 = Potential of inner membrane

E_2 = Potential of outer membrane



$$E_b = \frac{0.0591}{n} \log \frac{C_2}{C_1}$$

Since the concentration C_1 of solution inside the glass bulb is constant

$$E_b = 0.0591 \log C_2 + L,$$

Where $L = -0.0591 \log C_1$, here $n=1$ for H^+ ion at 298K

Since $C_2 = [\text{H}^+]$, the equation is represented as

$$E_b = L + 0.0591 \log [\text{H}^+]$$

$$E_b = L - 0.0591\text{pH} \quad , \quad \text{Since } \text{pH} = -\log [\text{H}^+]$$

The Potential of glass electrode (E_G) is sum of three potentials

- Boundary potential (E_b)
- Potential of Ag/AgCl electrode
- Asymmetry potential (E_{asy})

Asymmetric potential is the potential that exists across the glass membrane even when the concentration of external solution is equal to internal solution ($C_1 = C_2$). This potential arises due to some difference in thickness of the inner and outer surface or curvature of the glass membrane. It varies with time and from one electrode to another electrode.

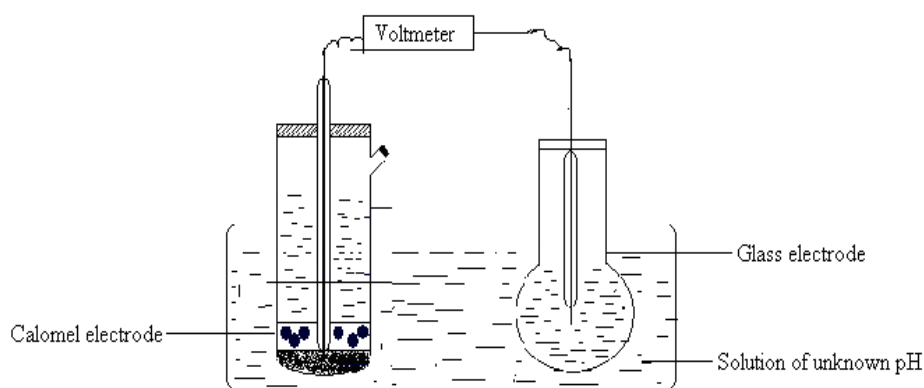
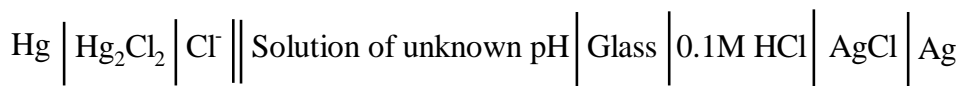
$$\begin{aligned} \text{Therefore, Glass Electrode potential } E_G &= E_b + E_{\text{Ag/AgCl}} + E_{asy} \\ &= L - 0.0591\text{pH} + E_{\text{Ag/AgCl}} + E_{asy} \end{aligned}$$

$$E_G = L^1 - 0.0591 \text{ pH} \quad \text{where } L^1 = L + E_{\text{Ag/AgCl}} + E_{asy}$$

The above equation for potential of glass electrode is used to measure the pH of a solution.

Determination of pH using Glass Electrode

To determine the pH of a given solution the glass electrode is dipped in a solution whose pH need to be determined. It is combined with a saturated calomel electrode which is a reference electrode.



The emf of the so formed cell is determined potentiometrically.

$$E_{\text{cell}} = E_G - E_{\text{cal}}$$

$$E_{\text{cell}} = L^1 - 0.0591\text{pH} - E_{\text{cal}}$$

$$\text{pH} = \frac{L^1 - E_{\text{cal}} - E_{\text{cell}}}{0.0591}$$

L^1 value is determined by dipping the glass electrode in a solution of known pH and measuring the emf of the cell formed when combined with a calomel electrode.

Reference Electrodes

Reference electrodes are the electrodes whose potentials are known and with reference to those, the electrode potentials of other electrodes are measured.

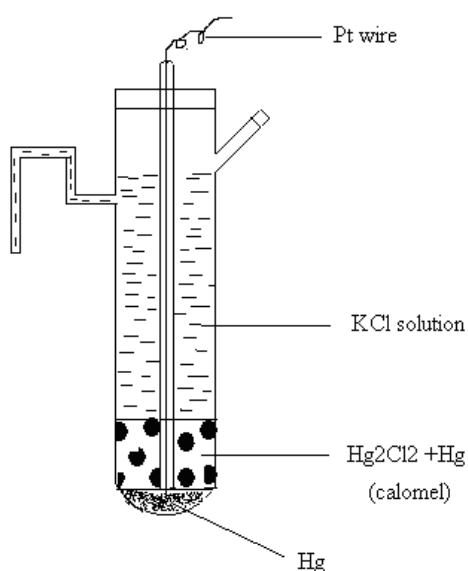
Eg: Standard hydrogen electrode is the primary reference electrode as the electrode potentials of other electrodes are assigned with respect to it.

Because of the difficulties involved in the use of standard hydrogen electrode as primary reference electrode some other electrodes of constant electrode potential, referred to as secondary reference electrodes are employed as reference electrodes.

Two such electrodes which are in common use are calomel electrode and silver-silver chloride electrode.

Calomel Electrode

The calomel electrode consists of mercury, mercurous chloride (Hg_2Cl_2) and a solution of KCl. Mercury is placed at the bottom of a glass tube. Mercury is covered by a paste of mercurous chloride (calomel) with mercury and potassium chloride solution. A solution of KCl is introduced above the paste through the side tube. A platinum wire sealed into a glass tube is dipped into mercury and used to provide the external electrical contact.

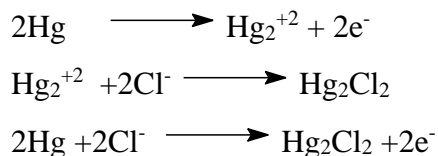


The concentration of KCl solution used is either decinormal, normal or saturated. Correspondingly the electrode is known as decinormal, normal or saturated calomel electrode respectively.

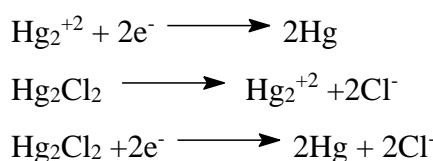
The calomel electrode is represented as **Hg| Hg₂Cl₂| Cl⁻**

Depending upon the nature of the other electrode of the cell, the calomel electrode can act as anode or cathode.

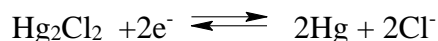
When it acts as anode the electrode reaction is



When it acts as cathode, the electrode reaction is



The net electrode reaction is



$$\text{Electrode potential, } E = E^\circ - \frac{2.303RT}{nF} \log [\text{Cl}^-]^2$$

$$\text{i.e., } E = E^\circ - \frac{2.303RT}{2F} 2 \log [\text{Cl}^-]$$

$$\text{i.e., } E = E^\circ - \frac{2.303RT}{F} \log [\text{Cl}^-]$$

$$\text{i.e., } E = E^\circ - 0.0591 \log [\text{Cl}^-] \quad \text{at } 298\text{K}$$

The electrode potential depends on the concentration of the chloride ions.

At 298K, the electrode potentials are as follows

0.1 N KCl electrode (0.334V)

1N KCl electrode (0.281V)

Saturated KCl electrode (0.2422V)

Uses

- It is used as a secondary reference electrode in the measurement of single electrode potential.

- It is the most commonly used reference electrode for potential measurement.

Measurement of single electrode potential using secondary reference electrode(calomel electrode)

The test electrode (eg: $\text{Zn}|\text{Zn}^{+2}$) is coupled with a secondary reference electrode for example saturated calomel electrode. It is represented as $\text{Zn}|\text{Zn}^{+2}||\text{Cl}^-|\text{Hg}_2\text{Cl}_2|\text{Hg}$

The emf of the cell is determined experimentally by potentiometric method then

$$E_{\text{cell}} = E_{\text{cathode}} - E_{\text{anode}}$$

$$E_{\text{cell}} = E_{\text{cal}} - E_{\text{Zn}}$$

$$E_{\text{cell}} = 0.2422 - E_{\text{Zn}}$$

$$E_{\text{Zn}} = 0.2422 - E_{\text{cell}}$$

Concentration Cells

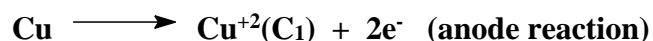
Galvanic cells in which both the anode and the cathode are made up of the same element (metal or non-metal) in contact with the solutions of the same electrolyte, but emf arises due to difference in concentrations of electrolyte are referred to as concentration cells.

Eg: Concentration cell consisting of two half cells. Both the electrodes are made up of copper metal but dipped in copper sulphate solutions of different concentrations. It is represented as

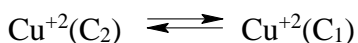


Where C_1 and C_2 are the molar concentrations of the Cu^{+2} ions in the two half cells.

By convention left hand electrode is the anode and the right hand electrode is the cathode. The half-cell reactions are



Adding the two half-cell reactions, the net cell reaction is



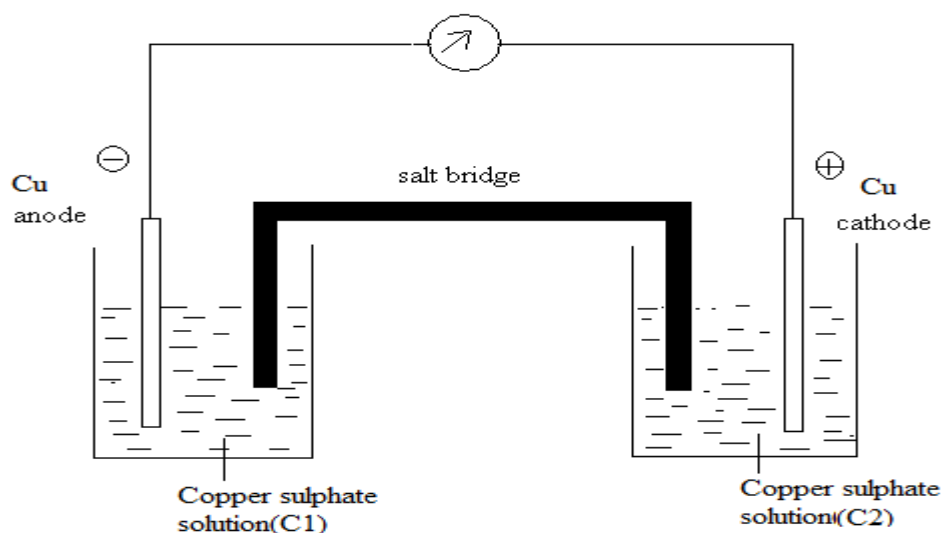
The potential of the cell is $E_{\text{cell}} = E_{\text{R}} - E_{\text{L}}$

$$E_{\text{cell}} = \left[E^\circ + \frac{0.0591}{n} \log C_2 \right] - \left[E^\circ + \frac{0.0591}{n} \log C_1 \right]$$

Where E° is the standard reduction potential of the species in the concentration cell. On simplifying

$$E_{\text{cell}} = \frac{0.0591}{n} \log \frac{C_2}{C_1} \quad \text{at } 25^\circ\text{C}$$

E_{cell} is positive if $C_2 > C_1$



In a concentration cell the electrode with lower electrolyte concentration acts as the anode and the one with higher electrolyte concentration acts as the cathode.

CONDUCTOMETRY

Principle/ Theory:

According to Ohm's law, current (i) flowing in a conductor is directly proportional to emf (E) and inversely proportional to resistance (R).

$$\text{Therefore, } i = \frac{E}{R}$$

The reciprocal of resistance is conductance. The resistance of a homogeneous material of uniform cross section with an area of ' a ' sq.cm and length ' l ' cm is given by,

$$R = \frac{\rho \times l}{a}, \rho \text{ is specific resistance}$$

The reciprocal of specific resistance is specific conductance.

Specific conductance:

Specific conductance is the conductance of a solution present between 2 parallel electrodes of area 1cm^2 which are kept 1cm apart.

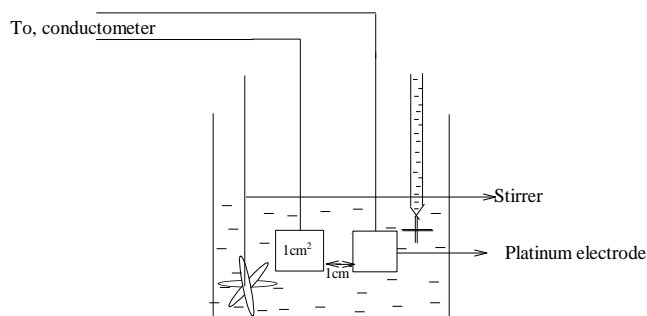
$$K = \frac{1}{R} \times \frac{l}{a} \quad \left[\frac{l}{a} = \text{cell constant} \right]$$

The specific conductance of an electrolytic solution at any temperature depends on ions present and hence varies with ionic concentration. On dilution, specific conductance decreases as no of ions per ml also decrease.

Measurement of conductance is used to determine the equivalence point in acid base titrations. When indicators are used, the end point is detected by a change in colour. In conductometric titration, there is a sudden change in conductance of solution. Hence equivalence point is determined by plotting a graph of conductance versus volume. The principle behind the conductometric titration is replacement of ions of particular conductance by ions of different conductance. Eg: in titration of acid with a base, conductance of acid is due to H^+ ions, which are gradually replaced by Na^+ ions of base. Na^+ ions have lower mobility than H^+ ions & hence on continued addition of NaOH, conductance decreases, until it is completely neutralized. Further addition of base increases no of OH^- ions, & hence conductance increases. A plot of conductance versus volume of base gives 2 straight lines. The point of intersection of these gives the neutralization point.

INSTRUMENTATION:

Conductometer consists of 2 platinum electrodes and a conductance measuring device. The 2 electrodes have unit area of cross section and are placed unit distance apart. The solution to be estimated is taken in a beaker. The system responds readily to changes in concentration of analyte.



ADVANTAGES:

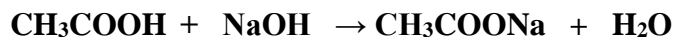
- ✓ Mixture of acids can be titrated accurately.
- ✓ Accurate results are obtained in dilute as well as more concentrated solutions.
- ✓ The method can be employed for colored solutions also.

Estimation of Weak Acid

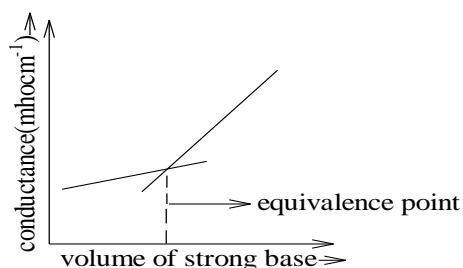
Titration of weak acid with a strong base: (CH_3COOH Vs. NaOH)

The conductance of weak acid is initially low, due to poor dissociation. When a strong base is added, the salt is formed, gets ionized and conductance increases slowly. After the complete neutralization, further addition of base NaOH introduces more and more Na^+ and OH^- ions into the solution, conductance again increases rapidly. When conductance of the solution is plotted

against volume of base added, two straight lines are obtained. The point of intersection corresponds to the volume of base required to neutralize weak acid.



The plot of conductance versus volume of strong base is as follows.



POTENTIOMETRY

The concentration of ionic solution can be determined by measuring emf by the method of potentiometric titration.

PRINCIPLE:

The potential of an electrode is given by Nernst equation,

$$E = E^\circ + \frac{0.0591}{n} \log [M^{n+}]$$

i.e. The potential of an electrode depends on concentration of ion to which it is reversible. This method can be used in the determination of end points of acid-base titrations, red-ox titrations etc.

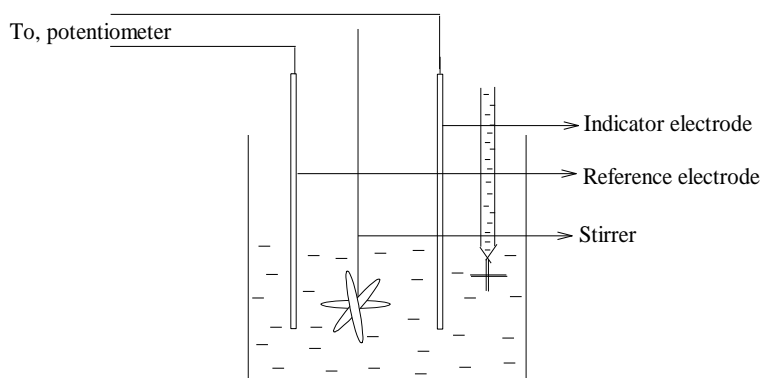
When a known volume of analyte is titrated with a standard solution, neutralization or red-ox reaction takes place. During the course of titration, concentration of product will be continuously altered. If a metal electrode, reversible with respect to corresponding ions is placed in the solution, the potential will vary throughout the titration, which can be determined using a suitable device. Initially, the change in potential is very small. At the equivalence point, when the amount of titrant added is equivalent to the amount of analyte present, there will be a sharp rise in potential. Beyond the equivalence point, there will be no significant change in potential. By plotting a graph of change in potential against the volume of titrant added, the equivalence point can be determined.

INSTRUMENTATION:

Potentiometer consists of a reference electrode, an indicator electrode, and a potential measuring device. The indicator electrode responds to the changes in concentration of analyte. A reference electrode like saturated calomel electrode is also used. A known volume of analyte

is taken in the beaker and its potential is determined. The titrant is added in increments of 1ml and emf is measured each time.

At equivalence point, emf increases rapidly. At this point, titrant is added in small increments of 0.5ml. a few readings are taken beyond the end point. Thus the changes in potential at different volumes of titrant are recorded.

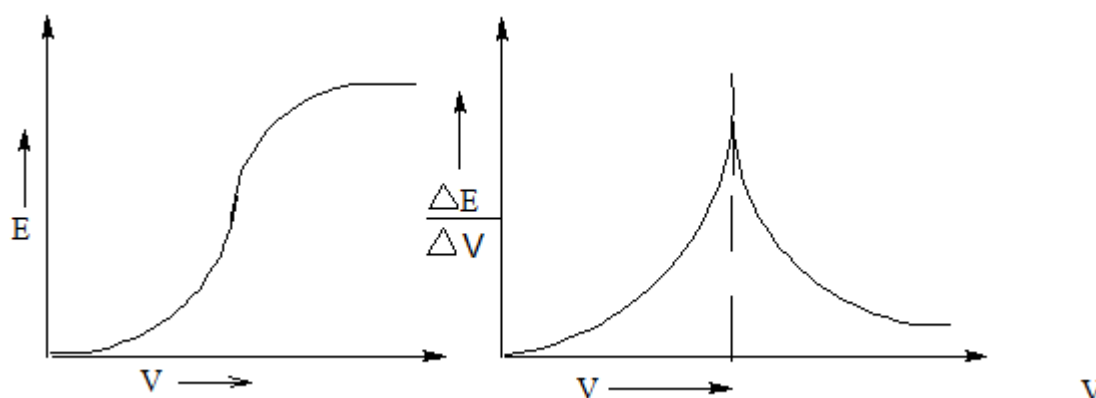


ADVANTAGES:

- ✓ Potentiometric titrations can be carried out in colored solutions where indicators cannot be used.
- ✓ By potentiometry, it is possible to determine the end point in titrations of very weak acids or very weak bases.

Estimation of Iron

Platinum electrode is used as indicator electrode and saturated calomel electrode as reference electrode. Generally, oxidizing agent (potassium dichromate) is taken in the burette.



A known volume of ferrous ammonium sulphate solution acidified with sulphuric acid is treated against a standard solution of potassium dichromate and redox potential of the system is measured with reference to calomel electrode at various stages of addition of potassium dichromate. Then a plot of $\Delta E / \Delta V$ verses

potassium dichromate is used to find out equivalence point. By knowing the volume of potassium dichromate corresponding to the equivalence point, it is possible to find out the concentration of ferrous ion and thereby the amount of iron present in the given solution.

Question Bank on Corrosion & Electrode System

1. Explain the electrochemical theory of rusting of iron.
2. Define cathodic protection. Explain the sacrificial anode technique for prevention of corrosion.
3. Explain Differential metal corrosion.
4. Explain differential aeration corrosion with suitable examples.
5. Explain pitting and waterline corrosion with examples.
6. What is corrosion? Explain the rusting of iron based on electrochemical theory.
7. What is anodizing? Explain anodizing of aluminum.
8. What are reference electrodes? Explain construction and working of calomel electrode.
9. What is ion selective electrodes? Discuss construction and working of glass electrode.
10. Write a note on type of electrodes.
11. Explain the theory and instrumentation of Potentiometry
12. Explain the theory and instrumentation of Conductometry
13. Explain the application of conductometry.
14. Write a note on concentration cells.
15. Explain the determination of pH using glass electrode.

Dr. Priya V Frank
Professor, Dept of Chemistry
Canara Engineering College