

1 flux through plasma membrane

useful for :

time-dependent distribution of substances in two compartment under the conditions, that the compartments are separated by a semipermeable wall

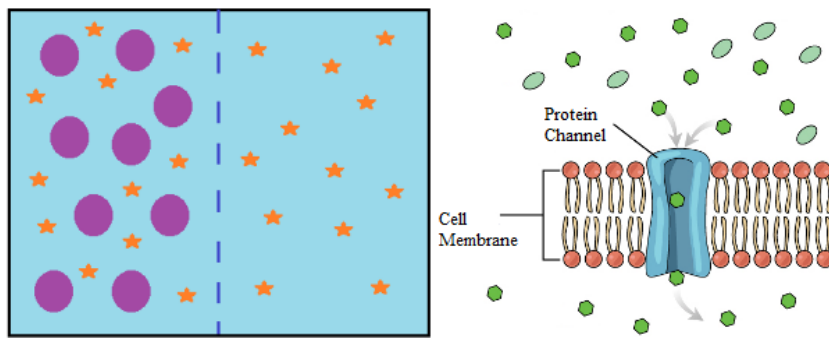
practical application :

predict growth of one compartment; get access to what can cross the wall (e.g. nutrient, medicine, proteins, ion)

can't do :

get the whole picture of the process in one experiment; is only an approximation

1.1 Graphic of the used system :



1.2 Theoretical understanding

Non-Equilibrium Thermodynamic approach (not valid if: very fast processes; big inhomogeneity):

Fluxes over membranes are irreversible processes. This will lead to a production of entropy in the system, which is calculated by the entropy production density σ .

$$\sigma = \vec{J}_Q \left(\frac{1}{T} \right) - \sum_{i=1}^k \vec{J}_{c_i} \text{grad} \left(\frac{\eta_i}{T} \right) + \sum_{r=1}^R J_r \frac{A_r}{T} \geq 0$$

This equation summarizes the production of entropy under the conditions of temperature difference, concentration difference and chemical reactions.

Fundamentally, σ can only be created by fluxes J with it's forces X . In the area around equilibrium we can further assume that a flux is linearly coupled with it's forces, because at equilibrium all forces and fluxes vanish.

$$\sigma = \sum_i J_i X_i = \sum_i \sum_j L_{ij} X_j X_i$$

«where σ denotes the local entropy production density, T is the temperature, J is the heat flow density, J_{c_i} is the diffusion density of component i , η_i is the electrochemical potential

of component i , is the rate of reaction i , A_i is the affinity of reaction i , and nf and nr are the numbers of compounds and reactions, respectively.»

The equation for the flux J of ion k is:

$$J_k = \sum_{j=1}^n L_{kj} \left(RT \cdot \ln \left(\frac{c_k^{in}}{c_k^{out}} \right) + z_k F \Delta \phi \right) + L_{kAr} A_{Ar}$$

where L_{kj} is a component of the phenomenological matrix L and has the following conditions:

$$L_{ii} > 0 ; L_{ij} = L_{ji} ; \text{Determinant}[\{L_{ij}\}] > 0$$

$$L = \{L_{kj}\} = \begin{pmatrix} L_{11} & L_{12} & \dots \\ L_{21} & L_{22} & \dots \\ \dots & \dots & \dots \end{pmatrix}$$

other theoretical approaches: ...

What skills you need further: algebra understanding, parameter estimating knowledge (for the phenomenological coefficients L_{kj}), knowledge of a programming language for modelling

1.3 Experimental examination techniques

concentration measurement of ions and nutrients over the time