

## DERIVATION OF THE EQUATION FOR RESTING POTENTIAL, $V_R$

Assume  $I_{Cl} = 0$

$$V_R = E_{Cl}: I_{Cl} = g_{Cl} (V_R - E_{Cl})$$

*Active Currents (carried by the  $Na^+/K^+$  ATPase pump)*

3  $Na^+$  ions exchanged for 2  $K^+$  ions

$$\text{Therefore, } (2/3) I_{Na}^A = -I_K^A \quad \text{eqn. (1)}$$

If there is to be no change in concentration gradients for each ion, then

$$I_{Na}^A = -I_{Na}^P \quad \text{eqn. (2)}$$

$$I_K^A = -I_K^P \quad \text{eqn. (3)}$$

The passive currents (through the ion channels) obey Ohm's Law

$$I_{Na}^P = g_{Na} (V_R - E_{Na}) \quad \text{eqn. (4)}$$

$$I_K^P = g_K (V_R - E_K) \quad \text{eqn. (5)}$$

From eqns. (1) and (2)

$$I_K^A = (2/3) I_{Na}^P \quad \text{eqn. (6)}$$

From eqns. (4) and (6)

$$I_K^A = (2/3) g_{Na} (V_R - E_{Na}) \quad \text{eqn. (7)}$$

$$\begin{aligned} (2/3) I_{Na}^A &= -I_K^A \\ I_{Na}^A &= -I_{Na}^P \end{aligned}$$

From eqns. (3) and (7)

$$-I_K^P = (2/3) g_{Na} (V_R - E_{Na})$$

eqn. (8)

From eqns. (5) and (8)

$$-g_K (V_R - E_K) = (2/3) g_{Na} (V_R - E_{Na})$$

Therefore,

$$V_R = (g_K E_K + (2/3) g_{Na} E_{Na}) / (g_K + (2/3) g_{Na})$$

$$I_K^A = -I_K^P$$

$$I_K^P = g_K (V_R - E_K)$$

$$I_K^A = (2/3) g_{Na} (V_R - E_{Na})$$