Accepted Manuscript

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PII: S0013-4686(18)31704-3

DOI: 10.1016/j.electacta.2018.07.186

Reference: EA 32383

To appear in: Electrochimica Acta

Received Date: 17 June 2018
Revised Date: 22 July 2018
Accepted Date: 24 July 2018

Please cite this article as: E.D. Melnikova, N.D. Pismenskaya, L. Bazinet, S. Mikhaylin, V.V. Nikonenko, Effect of ampholyte nature on current-voltage characteristic of anion-exchange membrane, *Electrochimica Acta* (2018), doi: 10.1016/j.electacta.2018.07.186.

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EFFECT OF AMPHOLYTE NATURE ON CURRENT-VOLTAGE CHARACTERISTIC OF ANION-EXCHANGE MEMBRANE

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HIGHLIGHTS

I-V curves of an AMX membrane in phosphate and tartrate solutions are compared

There are two limiting currents in the case of monosodium hydrophosphate solution

The first limiting current is absent in the case of potassium hydrotartrate solution

Difference is due to the ratio of the ampholyte dissociation constants

ABSTRACT

Current-voltage characteristics (CVCs) of a Neosepta AMX membrane are studied in NaH₂PO₄ (pH=4.7, C=0.02 mol/L) and KC₄H₅O₆ (pH= 3.6, C=0.02 mol/L) solutions. It is shown that in the case of NaH₂PO₄ there are two plateaus in the CVC, which correspond to achievement of the first, i_{lim}^I , and second, i_{lim}^{II} , limiting currents. i_{lim}^I occurs when the NaH₂PO₄ salt diffusion to the membrane surface is saturated, i_{lim}^{II} refers to the saturation of the proton flux when the membrane is almost completely converted into the HPO₄²⁻ form. In the case of potassium hydrotartrate, there is no state corresponding to i_{lim}^I . The difference in CVC for two ampholytes is due to the difference in the ratio between the dissociation constants related to the first (K_{a1}) and second (K_{a2}) steps of ampholyte dissociation. In the case of NaH₂PO₄, where pK_{a1} and pK_{a2} differ greatly, a solution of this salt contains nearly exclusively the singly charged phosphate form. However, a KC₄H₅O₆ solution contains, together with the C₄H₅O₆ anion, about 15% of the doubly charged tartrates, which take part in charge transfer. Approximate analytical expressions are obtained for i_{lim}^I in the case of monosodium hydrophospate solution. Their

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