

# COUPLING BETWEEN THE BACTERIORHODOPSIN PHOTOCYCLE AND THE PROTONMOTIVE FORCE IN *HALOBACTERIUM HALOBIUM* CELL ENVELOPE VESICLES

## III. Time-resolved Increase in the Transmembrane Electric Potential and Modeling of the Associated Ion Fluxes

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**ABSTRACT** Bacteriorhodopsin functions as an electrogenic, light-driven proton pump in *Halobacterium halobium*. In cell envelope vesicles, its photocycle kinetics can be correlated with membrane potential. The initial decay rate of the M photocycle intermediate(s) decreases with increasing membrane potential, allowing the construction of a calibration curve. The laser (592.5 nm) was flashed at various time delays following the start of background illumination (592 ± 25 nm) and transient absorbance changes at 418 nm monitored in cell envelope vesicles. The vesicles were loaded with and suspended in either 3 M NaCl or 3 M KCl buffered with 50 mM HEPES at pH 7.5 and the membrane permeability to protons modified by pretreatment with *N,N'*-dicyclohexylcarbodiimide. In each case the membrane potential rose with a halftime of ~75 ms. The steady-state potential achieved depends on the cation present and the proton permeability of the membrane, i.e., higher potentials are developed in dicyclohexylcarbodiimide treated vesicles or in NaCl media as compared with KCl media. The results are modeled using an irreversible thermodynamics formulation, which assumes a constant driving reaction affinity ( $A_{ch}$ ) and a variable reaction rate ( $J_r$ ) for the proton-pumping cycle of bacteriorhodopsin. Additionally, the model includes a voltage-gated, electrogenic  $\text{Na}^+/\text{H}^+$  antiporter that is active when vesicles are suspended in NaCl. Estimates for the linear phenomenological coefficients describing the overall proton-pumping cycle ( $L_r = 3.5 \times 10^{-11} \text{ mol}^2/\text{J} \cdot \text{g} \cdot \text{s}$ ), passive cation permeabilities ( $L_H^u = 2 \times 10^{-10}$ ,  $L_K^u = 2.2 \times 10^{-10}$ ,  $L_{Na}^u = 1 \times 10^{-11}$ ), and the  $\text{Na}^+/\text{H}^+$  exchange via the antiporter ( $L_{ex} = 5 \times 10^{-11}$ ) have been obtained.

### INTRODUCTION

Bacteriorhodopsin (bR) is the best established example of an electrogenic, proton pump as postulated in the chemiosmotic theory of energy coupling (Mitchell, 1968). The distinct crystalline structure of purple membrane largely precludes any direct interaction of the proton pump with the driven processes, e.g., ATP synthesis, ion transport, and amino acid transport (for reviews see Stoeckenius et al., 1979; Stoeckenius and Bogomolni, 1982). Other proposed energy-coupling mechanisms that postulate more direct interactions between the primary and secondary energy converters are largely precluded in this system (Westerhoff

et al., 1984). However, a detailed understanding of the electrogenic pumping cycle of bR is necessary to define possible modes of energy coupling. Also, the transmembrane transport of protons has previously been related mostly to the generation of a pH gradient, i.e., to the chemical part of the protonmotive force. Its direct contribution to the electric component of the protonmotive force has in our opinion not yet been sufficiently considered. To quantitatively define the coupling of proton pumping by bR to the driven processes we are examining *in vivo* (a) the coupling between the bR photocycle and the generated protonmotive force (Dancshazy et al., 1983; Groma et al., 1984) and (b) the coupling between the protonmotive force and ATP synthesis (Helgersson et al., 1983). Our goal is to develop both the experimental and theoretical techniques needed to mathematically model energy coupling in *Halobacterium halobium* (*H. halobium*).

The research reported here addresses two outstanding

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problems in bioenergetics. Experimentally, an accurate well-defined probe is needed to quantitate the development and magnitude of the protonmotive force in small vesicles and intact cells. Theoretically, testable equations are required to describe both the probe's response mechanism and the coupled ion flows and driven systems being monitored. Heinz (1980, 1982) has proposed a model using the theory of irreversible processes that we have now tested and extended to provide the necessary theoretical formalism. The experiments performed to test this model use bR as an intrinsic membrane-bound probe to monitor the delocalized transmembrane protonmotive force in *H. halobium*. The ability of a single energy-converting protein to both generate and monitor the protonmotive force provides a unique and powerful method to test bioenergetic mechanisms in intact biological systems.

## GLOSSARY

### Source of Chemicals and Abbreviations

Sigma Chemical Co. (St. Louis, MO): cesium chloride, deoxyribonuclease; N-2-hydroxyethylpiperazine-N'-2-ethane sulfonic acid (HEPES); 2-methyl-1,4-naphthoquinone (menadione); nicotine adenine dinucleotide (reduced form); Tris-hydroxymethylaminomethane. Pharmacia Fine Chemicals (Piscataway, NJ): Ficoll 400. Pierce Chemical Co. (Rockford, IL): *N,N'*-dicyclohexylcarbodiimide (DCCD). New England Nuclear (Boston, MA): (<sup>14</sup>C)-sucrose (39 mCi mmol<sup>-1</sup>); triphenylmethylphosphonium bromide (1.13 Ci mmol<sup>-1</sup>) (<sup>3</sup>H-TPMP<sup>+</sup>); <sup>3</sup>H<sub>2</sub>O (1 mCi g<sup>-1</sup>).

### List of Symbols

$M_1, M_2$	pre-exponential (initial concentration) factors of the exponential decays describing the fast and slow M photointermediates
$k_1, k_2$	decay rate of the corresponding M form
$f$	branching ratio giving the fraction of bR molecules photocycling through $M_1$
$f_c$	constant defining the dependence of $\log(f)$ on $\Delta\Psi$
$\Delta\Psi$	membrane electric potential
$\Delta\phi_{\text{ion}}$	concentration gradient of given ion
$X_i$	osmotic driving force of given ion
$A_{\text{ch}}$	effective affinity of the electrogenic bR-protonpumping cycle (assumed constant)
$J_r$	rate of the bR pumping cycle (assumed variable)
$L_r$	phenomenological coefficient for the bR pumping cycle
$J_{\text{ion}}$	net flow of given ion; outward ion movements are defined as the negative direction
$L_{\text{ion}}^u$	phenomenological leakage coefficient for the given ion
$L_{\text{ex}}$	phenomenological coefficient for ion exchange through the protonmotive force-gated Na <sup>+</sup> /H <sup>+</sup> antiporter
$\nu^{\text{ion}}$	stoichiometric coefficient for the given ion in a coupled process
$n_{\text{ex}}(t)$	fraction of the Na <sup>+</sup> /H <sup>+</sup> antiporter population active at any time after the membrane potential exceeds the gating potential
$B$	buffering capacity of the medium for a given ion
$C$	electrical capacity of the membrane
$F$	Faraday constant
$R$	gas constant
$T$	temperature
$t$	time.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Preparation of Cell Envelope Vesicles

Envelope vesicles of *H. halobium* strain JW-3 were prepared as described previously (Groma et al., 1984) except that a continuous linear density gradient was used: Ficoll (4.5%) dissolved in NaCl (4 to 3.65 M) and CsCl (0 to 0.45 M) with  $\rho = 1.162$  to 1.205 on a cushion of Ficoll (22.5%)/NaCl(4 M)  $\rho = 1.212$ . The vesicles banded between  $\rho = 1.170$  and 1.185 while the nonvesicular fraction was stopped by the cushion layer. Protein was estimated using the Lowry assay. Orientation and intactness of the vesicle preparation were measured using the menadione reductase assay before and after lysis with Triton X-100 (Lanyi, 1972). The vesicles were loaded by osmotic shock and resuspended in 3 M NaCl or KCl containing 50 mM HEPES (pH 7.5). Vesicles prepared in this manner were >90% intact and oriented right-side out. Where indicated the vesicles (9 mg protein/ml) in buffered NaCl or KCl were preincubated with 25  $\mu$ M DCCD at 0°C for 24 h (Michel and Oesterhelt 1980); washed once and resuspended in the same medium without DCCD. The transmembrane electric potential was measured using the flow dialysis assay of (<sup>3</sup>H)-triphenylmethylphosphonium uptake (Lanyi et al., 1979; Groma et al., 1984).

### Time-resolved Absorbance Changes

We used an instrument similar to that described previously (Dancshazy et al., 1983; Groma et al., 1984). The transient absorbance changes of vesicle samples in a 3 × 3 mm cuvette were measured using a 418 nm monitoring beam (100 W tungsten lamp and a H-20 monochromator; Instruments, SA Inc., J-Y Optical Systems Div., Metuchen, NJ) and a Hamamatsu R928 photomultiplier tube (Hamamatsu Corp.; Middlesex, NJ). The photomultiplier tube was protected by a Corning 1-60 didymium glass filter (Corning Glass Works, Corning, NY) and a 418 nm interference filter (Baird-Atomic, Inc., Bedford, MA). Actinic illumina-

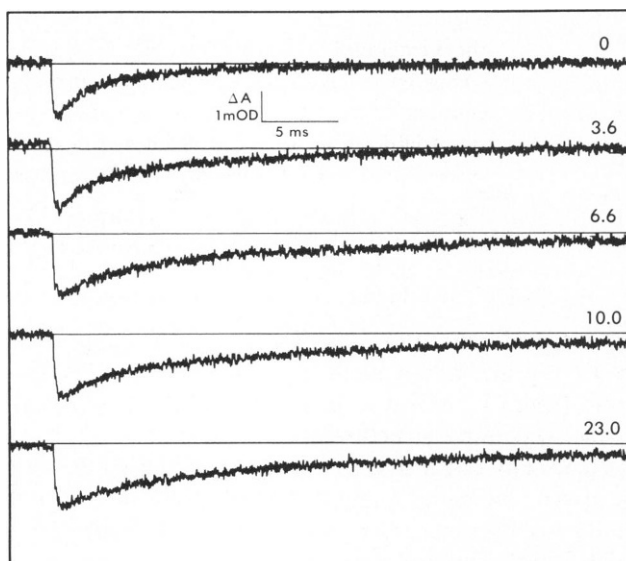


FIGURE 1 Laser flash-induced absorbance changes of bacteriorhodopsin at 418 nm in *H. halobium* cell envelope vesicles. The vesicles were loaded and suspended in 3 M NaCl + 50 mM HEPES (pH 7.5) at 20°C. The intensity of the continuous background illumination, in mW/cm<sup>2</sup>, is indicated with the individual traces. The traces were acquired using 30  $\mu$ s rise time on the current amplifier, which amplified the photomultiplier tube output. They are thus noisier than those presented earlier (Groma et al., 1984), which were acquired with a 300- $\mu$ s rise time. Note that positive  $\Delta A$ 's are shown as downward displacements.

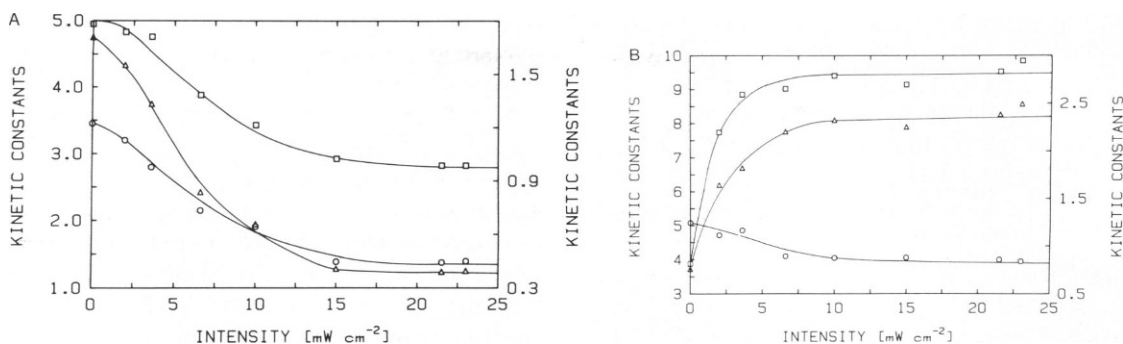


FIGURE 2 Kinetic constants, amplitudes ( $M$ ), and decay constants ( $k$ ), of two exponentials fitted to the data of absorbance changes obtained under steady illumination as in Fig. 1. The parameters are estimated to be accurate within 5%. (A) Parameters for the fast component (O)  $M_1 \times 10^4$  OD; (□)  $k_1 \times 10^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ , both using left-hand scale; (Δ)  $M_1 k_1 \text{ OD s}^{-1}$ , using the right-hand scale. (B) Parameters for the slow component. (Δ)  $M_2 \times 10^4$  OD using the right-hand scale; (O)  $k_2 \times 10^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ , (□)  $M_2 k_2 \times 10^2 \text{ OD s}^{-1}$ , both using the left-hand scale.

tion was provided at a right angle to the monitoring beam through a bifurcated light pipe. Light from a 150 W arc lamp was focused on one light pipe input after heat filtering and passage through a Corning 3-66 glass filter (50% transmittance at 575 nm; Corning Glass Works) plus a Corion BB5920CC interference filter ( $592 \pm 25$  nm halfband width; Corion Corp., Holliston, MA). Illumination intensity was controlled with neutral density filters and the duration was varied using a solenoid-activated shutter and a Grass Instruments S-44 pulse generator (Grass Instrument Co., Quincy, MA). Actinic laser pulses (dye laser, 592.5 nm, 7 ns; Moletron Corp., Sunnyvale, CA) entered the light pipe through the other input.

The sample was illuminated with light from the arc lamp in cycles of 1 s ON and 4 s OFF. A laser pulse was delivered at various times in this cycle and the transient changes in the photomultiplier output amplified using a current amplifier with a 30  $\mu\text{s}$  rise time (model 427; Keithley Instruments, Cleveland, OH). 64 transients were averaged and stored using a Nicolet 1180 computer system (4K points, 10  $\mu\text{s}$ /point; Nicolet Instrument Corp., Madison, WI). A similar data set was collected without the laser pulse. This monitored transmission changes due to the buildup of photocycle intermediates induced by the background illumination. The latter data set was subtracted from the former and the difference converted to absorbance changes for further analysis. The time-resolved data were fitted with either (a) one exponential rise and two decays over the entire recorded trace to obtain the amplitude and rate constants of the  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  components described previously (Groma et al., 1984) or (b) a linear decay over the first 2 ms to obtain the initial decay slope of the 418 nm absorbance changes (see Results). Both fitting programs were written

in FORTRAN and run on the Nicolet 1180 computer (Nicolet Instrument Corp.).

## RESULTS

### Measurement of the Time-resolved Increase in the Transmembrane Electric Potential

Suspensions of *H. halobium* cells or envelope vesicle preparations show a transient absorbance change at 418 nm after a 592-nm laser light flash. This is due to the formation and decay of the bR photocycle intermediate M. The decay of M slows down when a continuous background illumination is added (Fig. 1). The background illumination generates a membrane potential by driving proton ejection from the cells or vesicles during the bR photocycle. Over the range 0–15  $\text{mW cm}^{-2}$  the photo steady-state membrane potential is linearly dependent on light intensity (Renthal and Lanyi 1976; Groma et al., 1984). We have previously proposed that the observed biphasic kinetics of the M decay can be attributed to two spectroscopically similar M intermediates, which decay at different rates (Groma et al., 1984). The amplitudes of the two M forms

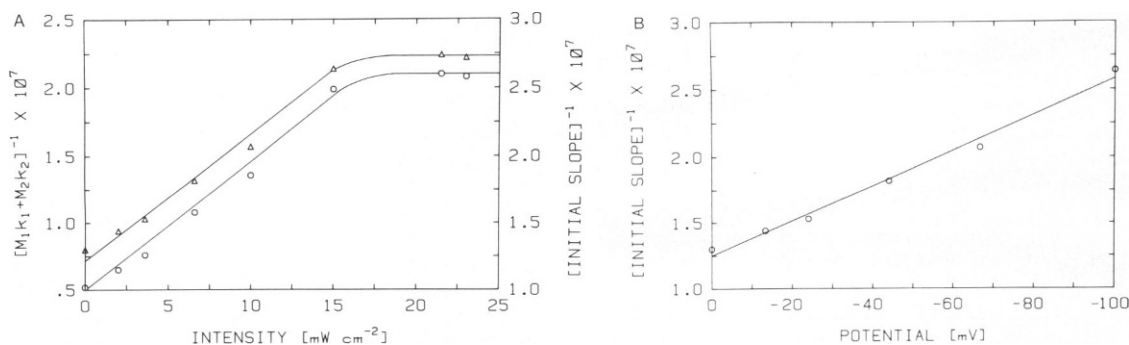


FIGURE 3 (A) Variation of the initial rate of decay of the absorbance transient at 418 nm with steady-state illumination intensity. (O) The quantity  $(M_1 k_1 + M_2 k_2)^{-1}$  was obtained by fitting the decay to two exponentials. (Δ) (initial slope) $^{-1}$  obtained from a linear fit to the initial 2 ms of the decay. (B) Variation of the initial slope of the decay of the laser-induced absorbance transient at 418 nm with membrane potential in the steady state.

( $M_1$  and  $M_2$ ) and their rate constants ( $k_1$  and  $k_2$ ) show a complex dependence on the background light intensity, i.e., membrane potential (Fig. 2 *A, B*). However, the reciprocal initial rate of the total  $M$  decay,  $(M_1k_1 + M_2k_2)^{-1}$ , is linearly related to the membrane potential (Fig. 3). We can thus use the initial rate of the flash-induced absorbance decay at 418 nm to monitor the membrane potential.

It is impractical to use kinetic constants deconvoluted from data taken over 40 ms to determine the initial decay rate and estimate the potential. Instead the linear slope of a decay curve over the first 2 ms can be used. The measured initial slopes closely follow the calculated initial rates (Fig. 3 *A*) and linearly correlate with the steady-state membrane potential (Fig. 3 *B*). This calibration curve constructed for vesicles in 3 M NaCl + 50 mM HEPES (pH 7.5) is assumed to hold in 3 M KCl + 50 mM HEPES (pH 7.5) and for vesicles pretreated with 25  $\mu$ M DCCD in either medium. The kinetics of the bR photocycle are known to be sensitive to ionic strength (Kuschmitz and Hess, 1981; Mathew, M. K., and S. L. Helgersen, unpublished results). However, no significant differences in bR photocycle kinetics per se have been reported for a given high concentration of NaCl as compared with KCl. While reaction with millimolar concentrations of DCCD can perturb the bR photocycle (Jap and Glaeser, 1983), the micromolar concentrations used in this study do not. At this concentration DCCD does inhibit photophosphorylation in intact *H. halobium* cells (Michel and Oesterhelt 1980; Helgersen et al., 1983). Cell envelope vesicles do not photophosphorylate, presumably due to inactivation of the

$H^+$ /ATPase during preparation. The vesicles are leaky to protons and this leak is reduced by the DCCD treatment (Eisenbach et al., 1977).

Fig. 4 illustrates the procedure for determining the membrane potential from laser-induced absorbance transients at 418 nm. 64 transients were averaged (*C*) following laser flashes introduced with set time delays after turning on the background illumination. *A* shows the photo steady-state accumulation of  $M$  caused by the background illumination pulse. Since the baseline absorbance may change rapidly during the 40 ms period when transients are recorded, a background trace in the absence of the laser flash was recorded (*B*) and subtracted from the transient observed in the presence of the laser (*C*). The resultant data are shown in *D*. From the initial linear slope of this resulting trace the membrane potential at the time of the laser flash was determined using the calibration curve (Fig. 3 *B*). The  $\Delta\Psi$  values above  $-100$  mV were estimated using an extrapolation of the calibration curve.

In all cases tested, the membrane potential rises sharply with a  $\tau_{1/2}$  of  $\sim 75$  ms (Fig. 5). When the background illumination is turned off, the potential decays rapidly with a  $\tau_{1/2}$  of  $\sim 25$  ms. The steady-state potential achieved depends on the ionic composition of the medium (Lanyi et al., 1979) and whether or not the vesicles have been pretreated with DCCD. The lower the permeability of the vesicle membrane to the salt cation present and/or to protons, the higher the steady-state potential. The uncoupler carbonylcyanide-*m*-chlorophenylhydrazone completely prevents the development of  $\Delta\Psi$  measured either by this technique or in the steady state by  $(^3H)$ -TPMP $^+$  uptake (data not shown).

### Modeling of the Time-resolved Increase in the Transmembrane Electric Potential

Heinz (1980, 1982) has derived the kinetic equations for the development of the protonmotive force (pmf)

$$X_H = -\Delta\tilde{\mu}_{H^+} = 2.3RT\Delta pH - F\Delta\Psi \quad (1)$$

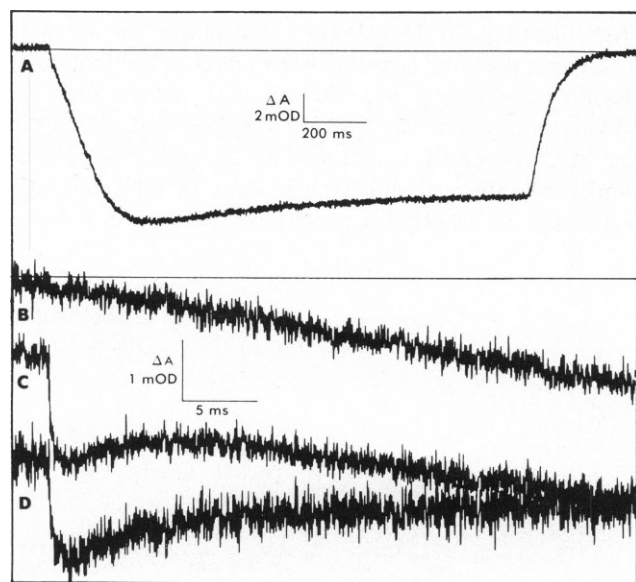


FIGURE 4 Absorbance changes at 418 nm of vesicles suspended in 3 M NaCl + 50 mM HEPES (pH 7.5). (*A*) Background illumination of 15  $mWcm^{-2}$  was turned on at first arrow and off at second. (*B-D*) The laser is flashed 75 ms after turning on background illumination. (*B*) Laser blocked; (*C*) laser unblocked; (*D*) difference between *B* and *C* for laser-induced change in absorbance.

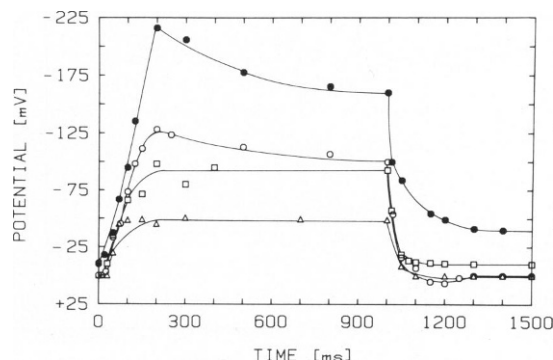


FIGURE 5 Variation in membrane potential in response to a background illumination of 15  $mWcm^{-2}$ . Light is turned on at time 0 and off at 1,000 ms. Vesicles were buffered with 50 mM HEPES (pH 7.5) and suspended in 3 M KCl ( $\Delta$ ); 3 M NaCl ( $\circ$ ), both without pretreatment with DCCD; 3 M KCl ( $\square$ ), 3 M NaCl ( $\bullet$ ), both after DCCD pretreatment. The curves shown are visual fits to the data.

in terms of the thermodynamics of irreversible processes. An arbitrary model of a pump operating to electrogenically extrude protons from a vesicle system was analyzed. This treatment predicted that initiation of proton pumping should rapidly generate  $\Delta\Psi$  in  $<100$  ms, reaching a maximum value determined by the leakage of cations across the membrane. Due to the slow leakage of other ions a chemical gradient of protons would develop much more slowly, causing  $\Delta\Psi$  to decrease but the total pmf to remain constant. Most importantly, a constant effective affinity of the pumping reaction cycle ( $A_{ch}$ ), i.e., a constant driving force, was assumed such that the rate of the electrogenic pumping cycle ( $J_r$ ) would decrease with increasing  $\Delta\Psi$ . This is in contrast to the analysis of Mitchell (1968), which assumed a constant pumping rate. The latter treatment predicts a much lower initial rise in  $\Delta\Psi$  and a slower development of pmf. Here we analyze the time-resolved increase of  $\Delta\Psi$  in cell envelope vesicles assuming a constant driving force. First the basic equations must be modified to account for physiological ion fluxes mediated by components in the *H. halobium* membrane.

For the development of  $\Delta\Psi$  we use the equation

$$F\Delta\Psi = -A_2(e^{-\lambda_1 t} - e^{-\lambda_2 t}), \quad (2)$$

which includes the decrease in  $\Delta\Psi$  concomitant with the slower development of  $\Delta pH$ . For *H. halobium* cell envelope vesicles in either 3 M NaCl or KCl no significant steady-state  $\Delta pH$  is formed at pH 7.5 (Lanyi et al., 1979). The buffering capacity,  $B$ , is very high, especially higher than the electric capacity,  $C$ , so that we can assume

$$-\lambda_2 \gg -\lambda_1. \quad (3)$$

Since  $\lambda_1$  and  $\lambda_2$  are inversely proportional to  $B$  and  $C$ , respectively,  $\exp(-\lambda_1 t)$  will still be close to zero when  $\exp(-\lambda_2 t)$  approaches its maximum value. During the first few hundred milliseconds after the pump has been turned on, the rise in  $\Delta\Psi$  can be described by

$$F\Delta\Psi = -A_2(1 - e^{-\lambda_2 t}). \quad (4)$$

The coefficients  $A_2$  and  $\lambda_2$  for vesicles suspended in 3 M KCl or NaCl are derived as follows, with the basic assumptions that (a) the permeability of the membrane to ions other than  $H^+$  and  $Na^+$  or  $K^+$  is negligible; (b) the buffering capacities for  $H^+$ ,  $Na^+$ , and  $K^+$  both inside and outside the vesicles are high enough to prevent formation of appreciable concentration gradients of these ions during the 1 s illumination period and (c) the only actively transported ions are  $\nu_r^H$  protons per cycle of bacteriorhodopsin and an electrogenic exchange of  $\nu_{ex}^H$  protons per  $\nu_{ex}^{Na}$  sodium ions by the  $Na^+/H^+$  antiporter (Lanyi and MacDonald, 1976; Eisenbach et al., 1977).  $\nu$  is the stoichiometric coefficient for a given process.

For vesicles suspended in KCl

$$F \frac{d\Psi}{dt} = \frac{J_H + J_K}{C}, \quad (5a)$$

where  $J_H$  and  $J_K$  are the net flows of  $H^+$  and  $K^+$ , respectively. Ion movements out of the vesicle are defined as the negative direction.

As discussed previously (Heinz, 1982)

$$J_H = (\nu_r^H L_r + L_H^u) X_H - \nu_r L_r A_{ch} \quad (5b)$$

$$J_K = L_K^u X_K, \quad (5c)$$

where  $L_r$  is the phenomenological coefficient linking  $J_r$  to the driving force of the pumping cycle,  $\nu_r^H$  is the proton stoichiometry of the pump, and  $L_H^u$  and  $L_K^u$  are the passive leakage coefficients for  $H^+$  and  $K^+$ , respectively, and

$$X_H = RT\Delta pH - F\Delta\Psi \quad (5d)$$

$$X_K = RT\Delta pK - F\Delta\Psi. \quad (5e)$$

If the concentration gradients  $\Delta pH$  and  $\Delta pK$  are assumed to be negligible, it follows from substituting Eqs. 5b–e into Eq. 5a that

$$\frac{F d\Psi}{(\nu_r^H L_r + L_H^u + L_K^u) F \Delta\Psi + \nu_r L_r A_{ch}} = -\frac{dt}{C} \quad (5f)$$

and by integration (Mitchell, 1968; Heinz, 1982)

$$F\Delta\Psi = -\frac{\nu_r L_r A_{ch}}{\nu_r^H L_r + L_H^u + L_K^u} \left[ 1 - \exp\left(-\frac{\nu_r^H L_r + L_H^u + L_K^u}{C} t\right) \right]. \quad (6)$$

For vesicles suspended in NaCl

$$F \frac{d\Psi}{dt} = \frac{J_H + J_{Na}}{C}. \quad (7a)$$

The net flow of protons is

$$J_H = \nu_r J_r + J_H^u + \nu_{ex}^H J_{ex}. \quad (7b)$$

The first and second terms on the right lead to the result analogous to that given in Eq. 5b. The third term describes the component of the proton flow ( $J_{ex}^H$ ) through the sodium/proton antiporter

$$J_{ex}^H = \nu_{ex}^H J_{ex} = (\nu_{ex}^H)^2 L_{ex} X_H - \nu_{ex}^H \nu_{ex}^{Na} L_{ex} X_{Na}, \quad (7c)$$

where  $\nu_{ex}^H$  and  $\nu_{ex}^{Na}$  are the stoichiometries of proton for sodium exchange per antiporter cycle, respectively.  $L_{ex}$  is the rate coefficient that links the antiporter flow ( $J_{ex}$ ) to its driving force, i.e.,

$$J_{ex} = \nu_{ex}^H L_{ex} X_H - \nu_{ex}^{Na} L_{ex} X_{Na}. \quad (7d)$$

The net flow of sodium is

$$J_{Na} = L_{Na}^u X_{Na} + \nu_{ex}^{Na} J_{ex} \quad (7e)$$

so

$$J_{Na} = L_{Na}^u X_{Na} + \nu_{ex}^{Na} \nu_{ex}^H L_{ex} X_H - (\nu_{ex}^{Na})^2 L_{ex} X_{Na}. \quad (7f)$$

Assuming as above that the concentration gradients of cations are zero, substitution of Eqs. 7b–f into Eq. 7a

gives

$$\frac{Fd\Delta\Psi}{\{\nu_r^2 L_r + L_{Na}^u + L_{Na}^u + [(\nu_{ex}^H)^2 - (\nu_{ex}^{Na})^2] L_{ex}\} F\Delta\Psi + \nu_r L_r A_{ch}} = -\frac{dt}{C} \quad (7g)$$

and by integration

$$F\Delta\Psi = -\frac{\nu_r L_r A_{ch}}{\nu_r^2 L_r + L_{Na}^u + L_{Na}^u + [(\nu_{ex}^H)^2 - (\nu_{ex}^{Na})^2] L_{ex}} \cdot \left(1 - \exp\left[-\frac{\nu_r^2 L_r + L_{Na}^u + L_{Na}^u + [(\nu_{ex}^H)^2 - (\nu_{ex}^{Na})^2] L_{ex}}{C} t\right]\right) \quad (8)$$

This equation differs from Eq. 6 for vesicles in KCl only by the term

$$[(\nu_{ex}^H)^2 - (\nu_{ex}^{Na})^2] L_{ex}.$$

### Empirical Modifications to the Derived Membrane Potential Equations

Using Eqs. 6 or 8 the membrane potential  $\Delta\Psi$  can be determined as a function of time (Fig. 7) and compared with the experimental results shown in Fig. 5. The electrical capacity of the membrane will be taken as that given by Mitchell (1968),  $C = 2.2 \times 10^{-11} \text{ mol}^2 (\text{J} \cdot \text{g})^{-1}$ .  $F$  is the Faraday constant equal to  $9.65 \times 10^4 \text{ J(V} \cdot \text{mol)}^{-1}$ . Preliminary estimates for the coefficients  $A_{ch}$ ,  $\nu_r^H$ , and the various  $L$ 's were made based on published data (see Appendix).

Any individual curve shown in Fig. 5 could probably be fit using Eq. 6 or 8 if no constraints were imposed on the choice of the  $L$  and  $\nu$  coefficients. However, these curves should share common parameters determined by the experiments. For example,  $L_r$  is the coefficient linking the flow through the proton-pumping cycle ( $J_r$ ) to the driving reaction affinity of the pump ( $A_{ch}$ ). A priori, this should not be affected by exchanging NaCl for KCl or treatment of the vesicle membrane with DCCD. Since the background light intensity is constant,  $L_r$  should have the same value in each case. For vesicles in KCl or NaCl, pretreatment with DCCD should change  $L_{Na}^u$  but not  $L_{K}^u$  or  $L_{Na}^u$ . Independent of DCCD pretreatment, changing KCl for NaCl should leave  $L_{Na}^u$  unchanged but cause  $L_{K}^u$  to be replaced by  $L_{Na}^u$ . Also, changing from KCl to NaCl will mean that the  $\text{Na}^+/\text{H}^+$  antiporter can function, i.e.,  $L_{ex}$  is 0 in KCl but  $L_{ex}$  is not 0 in NaCl. Therefore, the curves should be fit by such an internally consistent set of parameters. Any differences in the coefficients between curves are determined by the experimental conditions. As shown in Table I and Fig. 7, three of the four curves can be fit under these constraints. However, several empirical modifications had to be assumed to achieve this fitting. These modifications will be discussed in detail.

After turning on the background illumination, there is an  $\sim 25$  ms period during which there is little or no increase

in the membrane potential (Fig. 5). However, the form of Eqs. 6 and 8, implies that if the terms relating to the pumping cycle ( $L_r$  and  $\nu_r^H$ ) are held constant vs. time, then  $\Delta\Psi$  will begin to increase immediately. The lag period can be modeled based on the following values.  $L_r$  is held constant at  $3.5 \times 10^{-11} (\text{mol H}^+)^2/(\text{J} \cdot \text{s} \cdot \text{g})$  and  $\nu_r^H$  at two protons per cycle (Ort and Parson, 1979; Govindjee et al., 1980). However, it is assumed that only those bR molecules cycling through the more slowly decaying  $M_2$  photointermediate pump these protons electrogenically (Kuschmitz and Hess, 1981; Ohno et al., 1983). As shown in Fig. 6, the branching ratio ( $f$ ) has a strict exponential dependence on the light intensity and hence on the membrane potential. The following equation can be used to estimate the fraction of bR molecules ( $f_2 = 1 - f$ ) cycling through  $M_2$  at any time  $t$

$$f_2(t) = f_2^{\min} + (f_2^{\max} - f_2^{\min}) \{1 - \exp[-f_c \Delta\Psi(t)/\Delta\Psi_{\max}]\} \quad (9)$$

for  $\Delta\Psi_{\max} < \Delta\Psi < 0$ .  $f_2^{\min}$  and  $f_2^{\max}$  are the fractions measured at  $\Delta\Psi = 0$  and  $\Delta\Psi_{\max}$ , respectively.  $f_c$  is the constant defining the slope of the  $\log(f)$  vs. steady-state  $\Delta\Psi$  (see Fig. 6). For the data shown here,  $\Delta\Psi_{\max} = -100$  mV,  $f_c = 3$ ,  $f_2^{\min} = 0.18$ , and  $f_2^{\max} = 0.62$ . These values depend on the vesicle preparation. For the data shown in Fig. 7 of reference (Groma et al., 1984),  $\Delta\Psi_{\max} = -100$  mV,  $f_c = 6$ ,  $f_2^{\min} = 0.3$ , and  $f_2^{\max} = 0.9$ .

The following iterative procedure is then used to obtain the curves shown in Fig. 7. Using the coefficients shown in Table I, starting at  $t = 0$  the value of Eqs. 6 or 8 is calculated in 5 ms intervals. Based on the  $\Delta\Psi(t)$  value obtained,  $f_2(t)$  is calculated and the quantity  $[\nu_r^H f_2(t)]$  used in the next interval. In this way the ratio of bR molecules assumed to be pumping electrogenically changes as described by Eq. 9. If a similar procedure is used except that  $M_1$  is assumed to pump, then the potential rises immediately with no lag period. If  $\nu_H$  is held constant at another value, then changing  $L_r$  allows the equations to fit the data. For example:  $\nu_r^H = 4$  and  $L_r = 2 \times 10^{-10}$  give a reasonably good fit, although not as good as for the values shown in Table I.

There is a pronounced overshoot in  $\Delta\Psi$  for vesicles

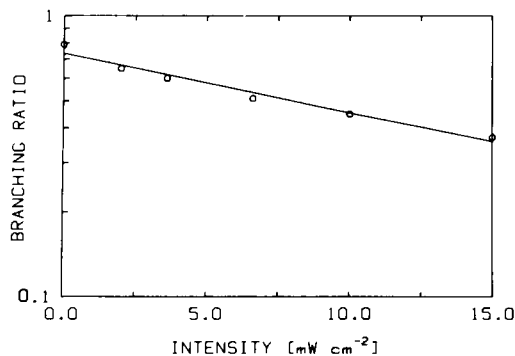


FIGURE 6 Variation of the branching ratio  $f = M_1/(M_1 + M_2)$ , i.e., the fraction of fast component, with membrane potential in the steady state.

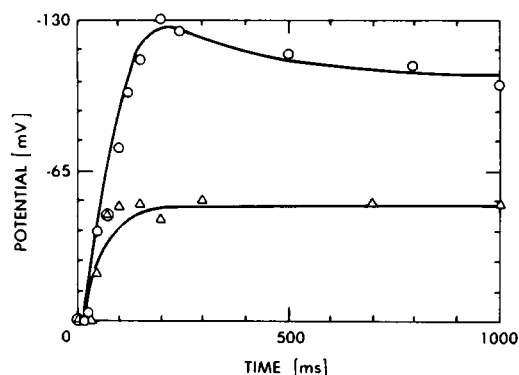


FIGURE 7 Calculated development of the membrane potential (—) based on the  $F\Delta\Psi$  equations derived in the text. The values for the  $L$  coefficients used to fit the data points (see Fig. 5) are given in Table I. The cell envelope vesicles were loaded and suspended in 3 M NaCl (O) or KCl ( $\Delta$ ) both buffered with 50 mM HEPES (pH 7.5).

suspended in NaCl. Lanyi and Silverman (Lanyi and Silverman, 1979) have reported that sodium/proton antiport in *H. halobium* is a gated function with the threshold at a set value of protonmotive force. Below this pmf the rate of sodium extrusion was negligible but increased linearly with pmf above this gating threshold. For vesicles in KCl (Table I and Fig. 7) the  $\text{Na}^+/\text{H}^+$  antiporter is inoperative,  $L_{\text{ex}} = 0$ . For vesicles in NaCl with no pH gradient present, it is assumed that each antiporter has the same gating potential  $\Delta\Psi_g = -100$  mV. Once this  $\Delta\Psi_g$  value is exceeded, any antiporter can be activated and operate at its maximum rate. However, the fraction of the antiporter population ( $n_{\text{ex}}$ ) that is activated at any time ( $t$ ) depends on a probability function

$$n_{\text{ex}}(t) = 1 - 2 \frac{\exp[-|\Delta\Psi(t) - \Delta\Psi_g|/\alpha kT]}{1 + \exp[-|\Delta\Psi(t) - \Delta\Psi_g|/\alpha kT]}, \quad (10)$$

where  $\alpha$  is a constant and

$$n_{\text{ex}}(t) = 0 \text{ for } |\Delta\Psi(t)| < |\Delta\Psi_g|.$$

TABLE I  
PHENOMENOLOGICAL COEFFICIENTS FOR THE bR PROTON PUMPING CYCLE ( $L_r$ ), PASSIVE CATION PERMEABILITIES ( $L_H$ ,  $L_K$ ,  $L_{\text{Na}}$ ), AND THE SODIUM/PROTON ANTIPORTER ( $L_{\text{ex}}$ )\*

Salt	DCCD	$A_{\text{ch}}$	$L_r$	$L_H^u$	$L_{\text{cation}}^u$	$L_{\text{ex}}$
NaCl	(-)	60,000	$3.5 \times 10^{-11}$	$8 \times 10^{-11}$	$1 \times 10^{-11}$	$5 \times 10^{-11}$
KCl	(-)	60,000	$3.5 \times 10^{-11}$	$2 \times 10^{-10}$	$2.2 \times 10^{-10}$	-0-
KCl	(+)	60,000	$3.5 \times 10^{-11}$	$2 \times 10^{-11}$	$2.2 \times 10^{-10}$	-0-

\*See Appendix for definitions and units. The stoichiometries were assumed to be  $\nu_r^H = 2$ ,  $\nu_{\text{ex}}^H = 2$ , and  $\nu_{\text{ex}}^{\text{Na}} = 1$ .

‡For comparison between experiments, the value for  $L_H$  in NaCl must be multiplied by a correction factor for the increased activity of protons in this salt solution as compared to the same concentration of protons in KCl (see Critchfield and Johnson, 1959). The correction factor is 2.25 for 3 M salt solutions.

This approach is analogous to the Hodgkin and Huxley (1952) description of the gating current for sodium conductance in nerve membranes. No mechanism for gating is proposed here. As above, an iterative calculation is used. After the membrane potential exceeds  $\Delta\Psi_g$ , the value of  $\Delta\Psi(t)$  calculated at 5 ms intervals is used to determine  $n_{\text{ex}}(t)$ . The total number of antiporters is normalized to 1. During the next interval the fraction of additional antiporters to be activated is

$$n_{\text{ex}}^{\text{act}} = [1 - \Sigma n_{\text{ex}}(t)]n_{\text{ex}}(t), \quad (11)$$

where the summation is taken from the time when  $\Delta\Psi_g$  is exceeded to the previous interval calculated. So the effective coefficient for sodium/proton exchange at time  $t$  is taken to be

$$L_{\text{ex}}^{\text{act}}(t) = \Sigma n_{\text{ex}}^{\text{act}} L_{\text{ex}} \quad (12)$$

for the next calculation (Fig. 7). The adjustable fitting parameter  $\alpha$  was set equal to 10.

With these modifications to Eqs. 6 and 8, three of the four curves can be fit using a consistent set of coefficients. The membrane potential data measured for DCCD-pretreated vesicles in NaCl could not be fit by Eq. 8. The  $\Delta\Psi$  values for this curve were estimated from a large extrapolation of the calibration curve (Fig. 3 B). The linearity shown between  $(M_1 k_1 + M_2 k_2)^{-1}$  and  $\Delta\Psi$  may not hold at higher membrane potentials. Also, under these conditions the rise of absorbance change at 418 nm has slowed down significantly. Thus, the measured initial slope of the decay is affected and would tend to overestimate the potential.

## DISCUSSION

We have shown that the reciprocal of the initial rate of the overall M decay,  $(M_1 k_1 + M_2 k_2)^{-1}$ , linearly correlates with the steady-state  $\Delta\Psi$  in *H. halobium* cell envelope vesicles. The kinetic parameters needed to determine this rate can be calculated based on a simplified branched model of the bR photocycle (Groma et al., 1984). Alternatively, the initial linear slope of the overall M decay can be used to measure this rate. Thus, the membrane potential can be estimated with a 2 ms time resolution. Using this technique we have time-resolved the development of  $\Delta\Psi$  during illumination of the vesicles. At a constant background light intensity ( $15 \text{ mWcm}^{-2}$ ),  $\Delta\Psi$  rises with a half-time of  $\sim 75$  ms. The steady-state  $\Delta\Psi$  is achieved in  $\sim 500$  ms and its amplitude is dependent on the cation permeability of the membrane. If CCCP is added to greatly increase the proton permeability, then both the illumination-dependent decrease in the M decay rate and the rise of  $\Delta\Psi$  are abolished.

The empirically time-resolved development of  $\Delta\Psi$  can be modeled based on equations derived using the thermodynamics of irreversible processes. These equations include terms describing ion fluxes associated with the light-driven

proton pump bacteriorhodopsin, the electrogenic sodium/proton antiporter, and the membrane permeability to cations ( $H^+$ ,  $K^+$ ,  $Na^+$ ). Linear phenomenological coefficients ( $L$ ) are assumed to link the rate ( $J$ ) of a given coupled reaction or ionic flux to its driving force ( $X$ ). The resulting calculations give an internally consistent set of  $L$  coefficients in three of the four experimental conditions tested. The calculated  $L$  values agree well with estimates of these parameters based on data available in the literature. These results will be discussed in relation to measurements and models presented by other groups.

Westerhoff et al. (1979, 1981) and Hellingwerf et al. (1979) have proposed and tested a description of reconstituted bR liposomes using a similar irreversible thermodynamic formulation. The half-time for the development of  $\Delta\Psi$  was estimated to be  $<1.1$  s. A calculation of the  $\Delta\Psi$  rise was briefly presented, but the authors noted that the membrane potential-sensitive probes then available responded too slowly to experimentally test the calculated curve. Importantly, a feedback inhibition of the rate of the proton-pumping cycle by the protonmotive force was predicted. Subsequent experiments measured the rate of proton movements in the liposomes vs. the transmembrane proton gradient ( $\Delta pH$ ) (Arents et al., 1981*a, b*). This work showed that (a) the rates of both the influx and efflux proton flows were linearly dependent on  $\Delta pH$  up to at least 70 mV and (b) the rate of light-driven proton pumping decreased linearly with increasing  $\Delta pH$ . Westerhoff and Dancshazy (1983) have argued that an inhibition of bR proton pumping by the protonmotive force would result from the faster decaying M-component correlating with the pumping pathway. Our results suggest, but do not prove, that  $M_2$  correlates with pumping (see also Kuschnitz and Hess [1981] and Ohno et al., [1983]). The inhibition of the electrogenic pumping cycle comes instead from the slower  $M_2$  decay kinetics as compared with  $M_1$ . Direct measurements of both the kinetics and stoichiometry of any proton movements will be necessary before either model can be verified.

Light-induced membrane potentials in closed membrane systems containing bR have been measured using externally added fluorescent probes and intrinsic carotenoid molecules. The potential-sensitive cyanine dye used by Renthall and Lanyi (1976) in cell envelope vesicles gave steady-state  $\Delta\Psi$  values in good agreement with the present results. However, this dye responds to  $\Delta\Psi$  by redistributing across the membrane, resulting in a slow response time. Ehrenberg et al. (1984) have used a styryl dye with a response time of  $<5$   $\mu s$  to measure laser flash-induced potential changes in reconstituted bR liposomes. The reported changes occurred with half-times of  $\sim 40$   $\mu s$ , but no absolute value for the potential was given. Resonance Raman spectroscopy of carotenoid band shifts in intact cells (Szalontai, 1981) and reconstituted bR liposomes (Johnson et al., 1981) indicated potential changes with half-times of  $\sim 80$  and  $\sim 20$   $\mu s$ , respectively. These rapid

changes occur on the same timescale as the initial positive charge displacements measured by the protein electric response signal (PERS) (Keszthelyi and Ormos, 1980). It is possible that a localized electric field could result from charge displacements produced by rapid steps during the proton-pumping cycle (Zimanyi and Garab, 1984). The magnitude of these rapid changes will have to be measured before this can be resolved.

The method used here to measure  $\Delta\Psi$  has been calibrated with respect to measured steady-state transmembrane potentials. The results reported measure the true protonmotive force or, more precisely, the difference in the electrochemical potential difference of protons between the two bulk phases. Furthermore, the rate at which  $\Delta\Psi$  rises is in good agreement with predictions made on the basis of known, or plausibly estimated, properties of the system (see also Michel and Oesterhelt, 1980). The electrical capacity of the membrane can be assumed to be  $\sim 1$   $\mu F cm^{-2}$ , the area is  $\sim 50$   $m^2 g^{-1}$ , and the rate of electrogenic proton pumping is  $2\text{--}5$   $\mu mol H^+ (g \cdot s)^{-1}$ . Thus, the rate of  $\Delta\Psi$  generation can hardly exceed  $1$   $mV ms^{-1}$ , which is in agreement with the rate found experimentally.

This rate appears to be very slow when compared with the rate of  $\Delta\Psi$  rise reported for other systems. For example, the potential in the thylakoid membrane of chloroplasts can rise to high levels within picoseconds (Junge, 1982). It is likely that the electrical potential measured in chloroplasts is of a different nature from that measured for the present system. If the electrogenic proton pump of the thylakoid membrane is a redox system similar to that proposed by Mitchell in which cycles of electron carriers are linked to hydrogen carriers, then the overall proton-pumping rate is probably limited by the latter process. The movement of electrons along an electron carrier chain may encounter much less resistance than the corresponding proton movements (see Fig. 9 of Junge, 1982). The initiation of a redox pump could induce a rapid movement through electron carriers and hence a redistribution of electrical charges within the membrane. This would give rise to a localized electric field that is sensed by the electrochromic probe used. The rise in the localized electric fields would then be followed by the actual translocation of protons across the membrane. Only cyclic  $H^+$  translocation can produce a true protonmotive force between the two bulk solutions that can ultimately drive coupled processes according to a chemiosmotic mechanism. The initial electrical charge redistribution as sensed by electrochromic probes, albeit an essential step within the overall process, should not be immediately available as a protonmotive force.

In summary, we propose that a localized electric field is different in nature from a delocalized potential as measured here. The inhibition of the bR photocycle, which forms the basis of the present report, is postulated to correlate with a delocalized potential difference. In these experiments  $<3.5\%$  of the bR molecules are cycling in

response to the background illumination, whereas <0.1% are cycled by the laser probe pulse. The proton-pumping cycle of a single bR molecule does not inhibit its own photocycle, otherwise there would be no intensity dependence of the laser probe pulse (Dancshazy et al., 1983). Thus, the effects we observe must be due to the concerted action of the few background light-driven bR molecules that are cycling incoherently. Both the experiments and the theoretical analysis presented here strongly suggest that the true transmembrane protonmotive force interacts with and inhibits the rate of the electrogenic pumping cycle in bacteriorhodopsin.

We are continuing to test the limits within which these linear nonequilibrium thermodynamic equations can be used to model *H. halobium* bioenergetics. However, the present analysis was first proposed to describe an arbitrary membrane-bound, electrogenic proton pump (Heinz, 1982). This formulation could also be applied to similar problems in other energy-coupling systems. Examples may include the regulation of electron transfer and ATP synthesis in chloroplasts (Graan and Ort, 1983) and the coupling of electron transfer to proton pumping in cytochrome oxidase (Moroney et al., 1984).

## APPENDIX

### Estimates of the Phenomenological Coupling Coefficients

Preliminary estimates of the parameters used for fitting the time-resolved membrane potential curves with Eqs. 6 and 8 can be made. Here  $A_{ch}$ ,  $\nu_r^H$ , and the various  $L$ 's are calculated from data reported in the literature.

(a)  $A_{ch}$  is the effective affinity of the pumping reaction cycle. Westerhoff and van Dam (1984) have calculated that photons of 570 nm have a thermodynamic potential of  $1.9 \times 10^5$  J/mol. Since the quantum efficiency of the bR photoreaction cycle is 0.3 (Becher and Ebrey, 1977), at most  $6 \times 10^4$  J/mol photons could be converted into useful energy by the bR proton-pumping cycle.

(b)  $\nu_r^H$  is the stoichiometry of protons released per bR photocycle. Values reported range from  $\sim 1$   $H^+$  per M photointermediate (Lozier et al., 1976) to  $\sim 2$   $H^+$ /M (Govindjee et al., 1980) to  $>3$   $H^+$ /M (Kuschmitz and Hess, 1981). We have chosen  $\nu_r^H = 2$  but take no position on the absolute value.

(c)  $L_r$  is the coefficient linking the rate of the proton-pumping cycle to the driving force (Eq. 5b). Hellingwerf et al. (1979) have presented evidence that this parameter depends linearly on both the bR concentration and the light intensity. The cell envelope vesicles used here have  $\sim 5$  nmol bR/mg protein, the background illumination cycles 3.5% of the bR molecules, and the cycling time is between 20 and 200 ms depending on the  $M_1/M_2$  distribution (Groma et al., 1984). For a lower value (3.5% cycling, 200 ms cycling time)

$$L_r \approx \left( \frac{5 \text{ cycles}}{s} \right) \left( \frac{1}{6 \times 10^4 \text{ J/mol}} \right) \left( \frac{5 \times 10^{-6} \text{ mol bR}}{g} \right) (0.035) \\ = 1.5 \times 10^{-11} \frac{\text{mol}^2 \text{ bR cycles}}{\text{J} \cdot \text{s} \cdot \text{g}},$$

while for an upper value (3.5% cycling, 20 ms cycling time)

$$L_r \approx 1.5 \times 10^{-10} \frac{\text{mol}^2 \text{ bR cycles}}{\text{J} \cdot \text{s} \cdot \text{g}}.$$

So,  $L_r$  should be between  $10^{-11}$  and  $10^{-10}$   $\text{mol}^2/\text{J} \cdot \text{s} \cdot \text{g}$ .

(d)  $L_K^u$  is potassium leakage coefficient. An approximate value can be calculated based on the initial linear influx of  $K^+$  vs. external KCl concentration (see Figs. 5 and 7 of Lanyi et al., 1979). In this and calculations given below, a membrane potential or protonmotive force of about  $-120$  mV will be assumed for illuminated cell envelope vesicles if no measured value is reported

$$L_K^u \approx \left( 2 \times 10^{-6} \frac{\text{mol } K^+}{s \cdot g \cdot M} \right) (3 \text{ M KCl}) \left( \frac{1}{-120 \text{ mV}} \right) \left( \frac{-1 \text{ mV}}{96.5 \text{ J/mol}} \right) \\ = 5 \times 10^{-10} \frac{\text{mol}^2 K^+}{J \cdot s \cdot g}.$$

Similarly, Cooper et al. (1983) have reported measurements of  $L_H^u$  and  $L_{Na}^u$ . These values were measured in DCCD-treated vesicles under uncoupled conditions

$$L_H^u \approx 5 \times 10^{-11} \frac{\text{mol}^2 H^+}{J \cdot g \cdot s}$$

and

$$L_{Na}^u \approx 1 \times 10^{-10} \frac{\text{mol}^2 Na^+}{J \cdot g \cdot s}.$$

Schobert and Lanyi (see Fig. 11 of Schobert and Lanyi, 1982) found an extrusion of  $0.04$  M  $Cl^-$  in 20 min of illumination for bR-containing cell envelope vesicles. This gives

$$L_{Cl}^u \approx 1 \times 10^{-11} \frac{\text{mol}^2 Cl^-}{J \cdot g \cdot s}$$

and justifies the assumption that ions other than  $H^+$ ,  $K^+$ , and  $Na^+$  need not be considered.

(e)  $L_{ex}$  is the rate coefficient for the  $Na^+/H^+$  antiporter (Eq. 7c). Values can be calculated from several reports and show a large variability. This may be due to the difficulties inherent in measuring sodium fluxes. Eisenbach et al. (see Table I of Eisenbach et al., 1977) measured active sodium extrusion from cell envelope vesicles and found that DCCD had no inhibitory effects. Their results would suggest

$$L_{ex} \approx 2 \times 10^{-10} \frac{\text{mol}^2 Na^+}{J \cdot g \cdot s}$$

for an illumination intensity of  $80 \text{ mWcm}^{-2}$ .

Lanyi and MacDonald (1976) (see Figs. 1 and 2A of Lanyi and Silverman, 1979) also found active sodium extrusion. The  $Na^+$  efflux rate was sensitive to both the light intensity and the protonmotive force. For pmf lower than  $-150$  mV of which the  $\Delta\Psi$  component was less than  $-120$  mV,  $Na^+$  efflux was negligible. Above these values, it can be estimated that

$$L_{ex} \approx 2.5 \times 10^{-9} \frac{\text{mol}^2 Na^+}{J \cdot s \cdot g}.$$

However, above this gating threshold the  $Na^+$  pumping rate appears to correlate with the illumination intensity, i.e., bR proton-pumping rate, not with the pmf. This follows from the near saturation of pmf at 25 to 40  $\text{mWcm}^{-2}$  (Groma et al., 1984; Renthall and Lanyi 1976), while  $Na^+$  efflux rates continue to increase with illumination up to 200  $\text{mWcm}^{-2}$  (Lanyi and Silverman, 1979).

Cooper et al. (1983) used  $H^+$  movements driven by artificial sodium gradients ( $<0.1$  pNa units) to measure

$$L_{ex} \approx 1 \times 10^{-11} \frac{\text{mol}^2 Na^+}{J \cdot g \cdot s}.$$

These measurements were done using DCCD-treated cell envelope vesicles with  $\Delta\Psi$  held to zero by a high TPMP<sup>+</sup> concentration. Thus, this value may be the exchange rate through the antiporter below the gating potential.

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