Stoichiometry and Ion Dependencies of the Intracellular-pH-regulating Mechanism in Squid Giant Axons

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ABSTRACT The ion transport system responsible for intracellular pH (pHi) regulation in squid giant axons was examined in experiments with pH-sensitive microelectrodes and isotopic fluxes of Na⁺ and Cl⁻. In one study, axons were acid-loaded and the rate of the subsequent pHi recovery was used to calculate the acid extrusion rate. There was an absolute dependence of acid extrusion on external Na⁺, external HCO₃⁻ (at constant pH), and internal Cl⁻. Furthermore, the dependence of the acid extrusion rate on each of these three parameters was described by Michaelis-Menten kinetics. Acid extrusion was stimulated by an acid pHi, required internal ATP, and was blocked by external 4-acetamido-4'-isothiocyanostilbene-2,2'-disulfonate (SITS). Under a standard set of conditions (i.e., [HCO₃⁻]₀ = 12 mM, pHi₀ = 8.00, [Na⁺]₀ = 425 mM, [Cl⁻]₀ = 150 mM, [ATP]₀ = 4 mM, pHi = 6.5, and 16°C), the mean acid extrusion rate was 7.5 pmol·cm⁻²·s⁻¹. In a second study under the above standard conditions, the unidirectional Na⁺ efflux (measured with ²²Na) mediated by the pH-regulating system was found to be ~0, whereas the mean influx was about 3.4 pmol·cm⁻²·s⁻¹. This net influx required external HCO₃⁻, internal Cl⁻, an acid pHi₀, internal ATP, and was blocked by SITS. In the final series of experiments under the above standard conditions, the unidirectional Cl⁻ influx (measured with ³⁶Cl) mediated by the pH-regulating system was found to be ~0, whereas the mean efflux was ~3.9 pmol·cm⁻²·s⁻¹. This net efflux required external HCO₃⁻, external Na⁺, an acid pHi₀, internal ATP, and was blocked by SITS. We conclude that the pH-regulating system mediates the obligate net influx of HCO₃⁻ (or equivalent species) and Na⁺ and the net efflux of Cl⁻ in the stoichiometry of 2:1:1. The transport system is stimulated by intracellular acid loads, requires ATP, and is blocked by SITS.

INTRODUCTION

The importance of intracellular pH (pHi) regulation is self-evident in view of the pH sensitivity of virtually all cellular processes studied (see Roos and...
Although the normal pHi of most cells is in the range 7.0–7.3 (Roos and Boron, 1981), the pHi that would prevail if H+ and HCO₃⁻ were passively distributed across the cell membrane is generally 6.0–6.8. Thus, there is a tendency for cells to be acidified by the passive fluxes of H⁺ and HCO₃⁻, as well as by the production of acid by cellular metabolism. This tendency must be counteracted by primary or secondary active transport processes (i.e., "acid extrusion"). Such transport processes, which presumably serve to regulate pHi, have been identified in a number of invertebrate cells: the squid giant axon (Russell and Boron, 1976), the snail neuron (Thomas, 1977), the barnacle muscle fiber (Boron et al., 1979, 1981), and the crayfish neuron (Moody, 1981). Common characteristics of the pH-regulating transport systems of these cells¹ are (a) an absolute dependence on external HCO₃⁻ and Na⁺ and on internal Cl⁻, (b) stimulation by relatively acidic pHi, and (c) sensitivity to inhibitors of anion transport such as 4-acetamido-4'-isothiocyanostilbene-2,2'-disulfonic acid (SITS). In addition, membrane potential data suggest that acid extrusion is electroneutral in snail neurons (Thomas, 1976) and barnacle muscle (Boron, 1977). These general properties are incorporated into the four models of Fig. 1. Although these models differ from one another in some details, they all lead to several common predictions. First, the fluxes of Na⁺, Cl⁻, and HCO₃⁻ (or an equivalent species) ought to be mutually dependent upon one another's presence on the appropriate side of the cell membrane. Second, the net influxes of Na⁺ and HCO₃⁻ and the net efflux of Cl⁻ ought to be inversely related to pHi and blocked by SITS. Furthermore, for the squid axon, in which acid extrusion apparently requires ATP, all of the aforementioned fluxes ought to depend on ATP. Finally, the stoichiometry ought to be one equivalent of Na⁺ entering the cell for each equivalent of Cl⁻ leaving and for every two equivalents of intracellular acid neutralized.

In the present study, we have tested all of the above predictions for the pH-regulating system of the squid giant axon. Although some of these predictions had previously been examined in this or in other preparations, never had all of them been tested in the same cell type. Furthermore, whereas some of the pioneering studies on the ionic mechanism of pH regulation had used ion-sensitive microelectrodes to assess net fluxes of Na⁺ and Cl⁻, we have determined these net fluxes from the difference between the unidirectional influxes and effluxes of the radioisotopes ²²Na and ³⁶Cl. Thus, the objection that possible cell-volume changes may alter intracellular Na⁺ and Cl⁻ activities independently of net ion fluxes is circumvented by the use of radioisotopes. Our results confirm all the aforementioned predictions (Fig. 1).

Some of these data have been presented to the Society of General Physiologists (Russell and Boron, 1979) and at a Kroc Foundation Symposium (Russell and Boron, 1982).

¹ Not all properties have yet been identified in all preparations. The crayfish neuron apparently has an Na-H exchanger which is totally independent of the HCO₃⁻-dependent system discussed in this paper.
METHODS

General

The experiments were conducted at the Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole, MA, from late April through early June, 1978-82, inclusive. Live specimens of the squid *Loligo pealei* were decapitated, and the first stellar nerve from each side was removed and placed in cold, Woods Hole seawater. A 4–5-cm length of giant axon (generally 400–650 μm diam) was isolated from the nerve by microdissection, cannulated at both ends, and mounted horizontally in a chamber (Fig. 2) designed for internal dialysis (Brinley and Mullins, 1965). The temperature, controlled by a
Figure 2. Schematic diagrams of axon and chamber. (A) pHi and isotope efflux experiments. The axon was mounted horizontally in the chamber and cannulated at both ends. The dialysis tube, threaded down the length of the axon, was permeable in the region indicated by the broken lines. A voltage-measuring (i.e., $V_m$) electrode was introduced through one cannula and lay next to the dialysis tube. In pHi experiments only, a pH-sensitive electrode was also introduced through the opposite cannula. Artificial SSW continuously flowed through the central slot. In the isotope experiments only, ~2.5% of the SSW entering the central slot was withdrawn by laterally placed guards. Grease seals isolated the central slot from the unperfused end wells. (B) Isotope influx experiments. SSW solutions were changed as described in the text; during the actual measurements, the SSW in the slot was stationary. Grease seals completely obliterated the guard region. Note that the hydrolyzed region of the dialysis tube extended well into the guard region.
circulating water bath connected to the water jacket on the underside of the dialysis chamber, was 22°C for the kinetic studies and 16°C for the stoichiometry and isotopic flux experiments.

**Solutions**

The standard external fluid (i.e., squid seawater, SSW) had the following composition (in mM): 425 Na⁺, 12 K⁺, 10 Ca²⁺, 50 Mg²⁺, 542 Cl⁻, 15 of the anionic form of 4-[2-hydroxyethyl]-1-piperazine-propane sulfonic acid (EPPS), and 15 of the neutral form of EPPS (pK ≈ 8.0). The SSW had an osmolality of ~970 mosmol/kg and was buffered to pH 8.0. When HCO₃⁻ was used, it replaced Cl⁻ mole for mole except in one series of experiments (the internal Cl⁻ kinetics study, Figs. 7 and 8), in which 12 mM NaHCO₃ was added in addition to the usual components. For all HCO₃ seawaters, the solution was first brought up to volume with all components except the HCO₃ salt. After the solution was titrated to pH 8.0, the HCO₃⁻ salt was added as a powder and the pH was readjusted if necessary by briefly gassing the solution with 100% O₂ or 5% CO₂/95% O₂. The solution was drawn up into a gas-tight syringe and delivered to the chamber via CO₂-impermeable Saran tubing (Clarkson Equipment and Controls, Detroit, MI). When the Na⁺ concentration was reduced, Na⁺ was replaced mole for mole by choline, N-methyl-D-glucammonium, or Li⁺. The choline solutions were made immediately before use from choline chloride crystals previously washed in an activated-charcoal suspension and then re-crystallized from isopropanol (Boron et al., 1981).

The standard internal dialysis fluid (DF) had the following composition (in mM): 350 K⁺, 50 Na⁺, 7 Mg²⁺, 150 Cl⁻, 264 glutamate, 210 taurine, 10 N-2-hydroxyethyl piperazine-N‘-2-ethanesulfonic acid (HEPES), 1.0 ethyleneglycol-bis(beta-amino-ethyl ether) N,N‘-tetraacetic acid (EGTA), 0.5 phenol red, and 4.0 ATP. The solutions had an osmolality of 950-960 mosmol/kg and were titrated to the appropriate pH with either KOH or glutamic acid. ATP was added to the DF just before use from a 400-mM (pH 7.0) stock solution kept at ~5°C. In experiments involving changes in [Cl⁻], Cl⁻ and glutamate were exchanged mole for mole. In those involving changes in [Na⁺], Na⁺ and K⁺ were exchanged mole for mole.

SITS and 4,4’-diisothiocyanostilbene-2,2’-disulfonic acid (DIDS) were both obtained from Pierce Chemical Co. (Rockford, IL). Vanadium-free ATP was obtained from either Sigma Chemical Co. (St. Louis, MO) or Boehringer Mannheim Biochemicals (Indianapolis, IN). Furosemide was a gift from the Hoechst-Roussel Pharmaceutical Corp. (Bridgewater, NJ).

**Internal Dialysis**

The internal dialysis technique permits control of the intracellular ionic environment as well as measurement of radiosotopic influx or efflux (see Fig. 2). Our dialysis capillaries (140 μm outer diam) were made of cellulose acetate tubing (Fisher Research Laboratories, FRL, Inc., Los Banos, CA). The central region was rendered porous to low-molecular-weight solutes by soaking it in 0.1 N NaOH for 18-24 h. For influx experiments, the porous central region was ~24 mm long, whereas for efflux and pH i experiments, the porous region was ~18 mm long. Insertion of the dialysis tubing into the axon was facilitated by stiffening the tubing with a length of tungsten wire placed in the lumen. The stiffened tubing was then guided through the axon until the capillary’s porous region was located in the central portion of the axon, after which the tungsten wire was removed. Electrodes for measuring membrane potential (V<sub>m</sub>)
and, if desired, pH$_i$, were then introduced through opposite cannulas. The central portion of the axon was physically isolated from the cannulated ends by grease seals (a mixture of Vaseline and mineral oil). These were formed by first lowering the axon onto grease dams located at either end of the central slot in the chamber and then applying grease on the top of the axon at the dam sites. Finally, plastic inserts were placed over the grease seals. Dialysis fluid perfused the dialysis capillary at the rate of 1 $\mu$l/min.

**Measurement of Intracellular pH**

In experiments in which pH$_i$ was measured, a pH-sensitive microelectrode was introduced into the axon through one cannula and an open-tipped reference electrode was introduced through the other. The electrode tips were located in the central portion of the axon and were within 500 $\mu$m of one another. In the stoichiometry study, as well as in experiments in which the pH$_i$ recovery was studied as a function of [Cl$^-$], the axons were also dialyzed (see Fig. 2A). However, in experiments in which the recovery of pH$_i$ from acid loads was studied as a function of [HCO$_3^-$], [Na$^+$], or pH$_i$, the axons were not dialyzed; the arrangement of the apparatus in these experiments was thus as shown in Fig. 2A, except for the omission of dialysis tubing. The pH-sensitive electrodes were of the design of Hinke (1967). They were filled with 0.1 M HCl and fitted with a Ag/AgCl half-cell. The tapered portion of the electrodes had outer diameters of $\sim$125 $\mu$m or less for at least the terminal 3 cm. The pH-sensitive tips had outer diameters of $\sim$50 $\mu$m at the glass-glass seal, and generally had lengths of 200-300 $\mu$m. The internal reference electrodes had dimensions similar to those of the pH electrodes, but had open tips ($\sim$10 $\mu$m outer diam). They were filled with 0.5 M KCl except for the internal Cl$^-$ kinetics study, in which case they were filled with 1.0 M K$^+$-glutamate. The junction potential of a glutamate-filled electrode is about $-15$ mV in SSW or DF and is stable and easily compensated for. This electrode was fitted with a calomel half-cell. A second calomel half-cell, the tip of which was placed at the chamber's outlet port, served as the external reference electrode. The system was grounded through a platinum wire in the bath. The signals from the pH$_i$, internal reference, and external reference electrodes were amplified by high-impedance ($10^{14}$-$10^{15}$ $\Omega$) electrometers. The electronically obtained difference between the signals from the pH$_i$ and internal reference electrodes is the voltage due solely to pH$_i$ and was plotted on one channel of a strip-chart recorder. The difference between the signals from the internal and external reference electrodes is membrane potential ($V_m$) and was also plotted on a strip-chart recorder. The pH$_i$ electrodes were calibrated in high ionic strength buffers, as previously described (Boron and De Weer, 1976a).

**Calculation of Acid Extrusion Rate**

It was not possible, under the conditions of our experiments, to measure isotopic fluxes of HCO$_3^-$ (or equivalent species). Furthermore, the pH$_i$-regulating system in question may transport H$^+$ in addition to an HCO$_3^-$-like species. We therefore used the rate of pH$_i$ recovery from an acid load to calculate the equivalent net influx of HCO$_3^-$ plus the net efflux, if any, of H$^+$. We term this the "acid extrusion rate" and calculate it as the product of the rate of pH$_i$ recovery from an imposed acid load ($dpH_i/dt$), the volume-to-surface ratio, and the intracellular buffering power ($\beta$). $dpH_i/dt$, the slope of the pH$_i$ change, was determined directly from the strip-chart recording. The volume-to-surface ratio is one-fourth the axon's diameter, assuming the axon to be a cylinder. $\beta$ is $dB/dpH$, where $dB$ is the amount of strong base that must be added to
the axoplasm to raise \( pHi \) by \( dpH \). This was determined as follows (see Boron, 1977).

The axon was first acid-loaded by dialysis (mean \( pHi = 6.65 \pm 0.08, n = 8 \)) and exposed to the same solutions as it would have been in an ordinary experiment, except that SITS was present in the SSW to block the \( pHi \)-regulating mechanism. The axon was then exposed to SSW containing 0.2 mM of \( NH_4^+ \) at \( pHe = 7.75 \). Such a solution contains a small amount of \( NH_3 \) which enters the axon and then combines with \( H^+ \) to form \( NH_4^+ \), thereby raising \( pHi \). For each \( NH_4^+ \) so formed, one \( H^+ \) has been removed from cellular buffers. Thus, the amount of strong base added to the axoplasm (i.e., \( dB \) in the above definition of \( \beta \)) is simply \( d[NH_4^+] \). We allowed the exposure of the axon to \( NH_4^+ \) SSW to continue until \( pHe \) reached a new steady level, \( \sim 0.10 - 0.15 \) higher than the initial one. At this point, the amount of strong base added to the cells was \( \Delta[NH_4^+] \), which is the same as \( [NH_4^+]_c^* \) since the initial \( [NH_4^+]_c^* \) was zero. [\( NH_4^+ \)], was calculated from \( pHi \) and \( pK_1 \), assuming that \( [NH_3]_o = [NH_3] \). Although \( \beta \) could be calculated from \( [NH_4^+] \) and the rise of \( pHi \) produced by application of \( NH_4^+ \) SSW, such a value for \( \Delta pHi \) is somewhat artificially reduced, owing to the passive entry of \( NH_4^+ \) during the exposure to \( NH_4^+ \) SSW (see Boron, 1977). Therefore, we took as \( \Delta pHi \) the change in \( pHi \) upon removal of external \( NH_4^+ \). The average \( \beta \) (i.e., \( \Delta[NH_4^+] / \Delta pHi \)) in eight experiments was \( 11.2 \pm 1.1 \) mM.

**Radioisotope Influx Experiments**

For influx experiments, the radioisotope was presented to the exterior of the axon in the central slot between the grease dams, thereby exposing a 17-19-mm length (measured with calipers) of axon. The axon was dialyzed not only in the central region, where the isotope was applied, but also for a length of 4-5 mm on either side (Fig. 1B). This permits collection of isotope which enters the central region of the axon and then diffuses laterally (see Russell, 1976). It is crucial that extracellular isotope not leak from the central slot, past the grease seals, and into the end chambers containing the cannulated regions of the axon; this would increase the surface area for isotope influx in an uncontrolled manner. The detection of such grease-seal leaks was facilitated by the addition of 0.5 mM phenol red to all isotope-containing SSWs. When a leak was noted, the lateral grease seal was quickly repaired and the end-region was washed with isotope-free SSW. This procedure often allowed the experiment to be salvaged.

Because it was not economically feasible to superfuse axons with radioisotope-containing SSW continuously, the following procedure was adopted to change external solutions. Ports located at the bottom of the central chamber slot in which the axon was suspended were used to withdraw the fluid bathing the axon. At the same time, the new SSW was carefully added from the top. Care was taken never to allow the meniscus of the external solution to drop below the axon. The axon was first rinsed with 5 ml of an isotope-free version of the new SSW (slot volume = 0.2 ml). The isotope-containing version of the new SSW was then applied in three 0.2-ml aliquots. After each application the solution in the central slot was mixed several times by gently withdrawing it into a mechanical pipette and then ejecting it. The first two aliquots were withdrawn through the bottom ports and discarded. The third 0.2-ml aliquot of radioisotope-containing SSW was allowed to remain in contact with the axon. This entire solution-changing procedure took \( \sim 2 \) min.

For each new application of isotope-containing SSW, two samples were taken directly from the fluid bathing the axon for determination of specific activity, one soon after the fluid was applied and the other 30-40 min later (i.e., about halfway through the experiment). If these two samplings yielded specific activities differing by
>5%, the data were discarded. All isotope-containing SSWs were made up to have the same specific activity. The specific activity of the SSW actually in contact with the axon was generally ~15% less than that of the original solution, because of dilution of the isotope by isotope-free SSW previously in the central slot.

For experiments in which HCO₃⁻ was included in the external fluid, the appropriate concentration of water-saturated CO₂ was gently and continuously blown across the surface of the SSW bathing the axon.

Influx samples were taken by allowing the dialysis fluid, after passing through the axon, to fall directly into a scintillation vial. At the end of a suitable time interval (usually 5 min), the tip of the dialysis tube was rinsed with 1.0 ml of deionized water directly into the vial. To this was added 10 ml of a 2:1 mixture of toluene to Triton X-100 counting cocktail (Nadarajah et al., 1969) containing 4 g/liter of Omnifluor (New England Nuclear, Boston, MA). Samples were counted in a Beckman model LS 7500 liquid scintillation counter (Beckman Instruments, Inc., Fullerton, CA) until sufficient counts were accumulated for a 3% counting error.

Radioisotope Efflux Experiments

For efflux experiments, isotope-containing DF was presented to the interior of the axon via the dialysis capillary. External fluid (i.e., SSW) continuously entered the chamber's central slot at a rate of 2.4 ml/min through the two bottom ports and was collected at the top of the slot after having flowed around the axon. Fluid was separately withdrawn from each of two "guard" regions (i.e., just medial to the grease seals) at the rate of 50 μl/min (see Fig. 2A) and discarded. This fluid represents isotope efflux from regions of the axon where solute control by dialysis was poor. The fluid withdrawn at the central slot outflow (i.e., 2.3 ml/min) was collected in scintillation vials mounted in a fraction collector. 10 ml of the cocktail described above was added, and the resulting stiff gel was counted until a 3% error was achieved.

Radioisotopes

Chloride-36 was obtained as aqueous solutions of Na³⁶Cl from Amersham/Searle (Arlington Heights, IL) or of K³⁶Cl from New England Nuclear. Each solution was evaporated to dryness at low heat (~90°C), then ashed at 450°C to remove organic contaminants. The resulting powder contained a significant amount of nonradioactive Cl⁻, which was taken into account in determining the final [Cl⁻] of ³⁶Cl-containing solutions. Seawaters for studying Cl influx contained ³⁶Cl at a final specific activity of ~100 μCi/mmol of total chloride, whereas ³⁶Cl-containing dialysis fluids had a specific activity of ~50 μCi/mmol total chloride.

Sodium-²² (New England Nuclear) was supplied as a carrier-free aqueous solution of ²²NaCl, which was added directly to either external or internal solutions. ²²Na-containing seawaters had a final specific activity of ~90 μCi/mmol total sodium, whereas the dialysis fluids used to study Na efflux had a specific activity of 50 μCi/mmol.

RESULTS

Acid Extrusion Rate

Intracellular pH regulation is best studied by acid-loading a cell and then monitoring the subsequent recovery of pH, which is due to the extrusion of acid across the cell membrane. The term "acid extrusion" includes the influx of HCO₃⁻ (or related species) or the influx of OH⁻ or the efflux of H⁺, or a
combination of these. The acid extrusion rate is calculated from the rate of $pH_i$ recovery (see Methods).

**Dependence on external $\text{HCO}_3^-$** The recovery of $pH_i$ from an imposed acid load is known to depend on extracellular $\text{HCO}_3^-$ (Boron and De Weer, 1976b). We have extended this observation by quantitating the dependence of the acid extrusion rate on the external $\text{HCO}_3^-$ concentration ($[\text{HCO}_3^-]_o$) in experiments in which external $\text{pH}$ ($pH_o$) was held constant by proportionally varying the $P_{\text{CO}_2}$ and $[\text{HCO}_3^-]_o$. Fig. 3 illustrates a typical experiment, in

![Figure 3](image-url)
which a nondialyzed axon was acid-loaded by pretreating it with SSW containing 100 mM NH₄⁺ (NH₄⁺ replacing Na⁺; pH = 7.7; NH₄⁺/SSW). This procedure and its theoretical basis have been described earlier (Boron and De Weer, 1976a, b). Note that after the axon was acid-loaded, pHᵢ failed to recover when bathed in nominally HCO₃⁻-free SSW (Fig. 3, segment ab). When the axon was exposed to SSW containing 12 mM HCO₃ equilibrated with 0.5% CO₂ (pH₀ = 8.0; 12 HCO₃/SSW), however, pHᵢ recovered at a relatively high rate (segment bc). From the rate of pHᵢ recovery, as well as axoplasmic buffering power and axon diameter, we calculate that the acid extrusion rate during segment bc was 10.7 pmol·cm⁻²·s⁻¹. At point c, the nominal [HCO₃⁻]₀ was reduced to 0 mM (pH₀ = 8.0), causing the acid extrusion rate to fall to 0.6 pmol·cm⁻²·s⁻¹. The remaining small flux was probably due to a small amount of HCO₃⁻ in the solution immediately surrounding the axon’s membrane. When [HCO₃⁻]₀ was raised to 1 mM, still holding pH₀ at 8.0, the calculated acid extrusion rate increased to 3.8 pmol·cm⁻²·s⁻¹. It had previously been shown in the squid giant axon that pHᵢ recovery from an acid load is accelerated by simultaneously increasing [HCO₃⁻]₀ and pH₀ at a constant Pco₂ (Boron and De Weer, 1976b). The present result demonstrates that increasing [HCO₃⁻]₀ alone is sufficient to enhance acid extrusion.

In a total of 30 similar experiments performed on 13 nondialyzed axons, we determined the dependence of the acid extrusion rate on [HCO₃⁻]₀ at a constant pH of 8.0, a pHᵢ of ~6.7, and a [Na⁺]₀ of 425 mM. The [Cl⁻]ᵢ of nondialyzed axons is ~100 mM (Keynes, 1963; Russell, 1976); as will be shown below, net Cl⁻ fluxes associated with acid extrusion are too small to change [Cl⁻]ᵢ significantly during an experiment. Our results, collated in Fig. 4 and summarized in Table I, show that the dependence of the acid extrusion rate on [HCO₃⁻]₀ can be described by simple Michaelis-Menten kinetics, with an apparent Kₘ for external HCO₃⁻ of 2.3 mM and an apparent Vₘₐₓ of 10.6 pmol·cm⁻²·s⁻¹.

DEPENDE ON EXTERNAL NA⁺ The [Na⁺]₀ dependence of acid extrusion, predicted by all models of Fig. 1, is examined in the experiment of Fig. 5. A nondialyzed axon was acid-loaded by the NH₄⁺ pretreatment technique discussed above. When the axon was bathed in nominally HCO₃⁻-free media containing 425 mM Na⁺ (segment ab), there was no recovery of pHᵢ from the acid load. The addition of 12 mM HCO₃⁻ (0.5% CO₂, pH₀ = 8.0) produced a relatively rapid recovery of pHᵢ (bc), as already noted in Fig. 3. In this case the calculated acid extrusion rate was 9.7 pmol·cm⁻²·s⁻¹. Reducing [Na⁺]₀ to 15 mM decreased the acid extrusion rate to 1.1 pmol·cm⁻²·s⁻¹ (segment cd),

When an axon is initially exposed to the NH₄⁺/SSW, NH₃ rapidly enters and causes an increase in pHᵢ. Later, the passive entry of NH₄⁺ predominates, causing a slow fall of pHᵢ, as NH₄⁺ partially dissociates to NH₃ and H⁺. When the external NH₄⁺ is removed, intracellular NH₄⁺ dissociates to form NH₃ (which readily leaves the cell) and H⁺ (which is trapped within). Thus, the axoplasm is greatly acidified. The degree of acid loading is determined by the previous net influx of NH₄⁺.
whereas raising \([\text{Na}^+]_o\) to 100 mM increased the rate to 6.4 pmol·cm\(^{-2}\)·s\(^{-1}\) (segment de). The results of 21 similar experiments on 15 axons are collated in Fig. 6 and summarized in Table I. They show that the dependence of acid extrusion rate upon \([\text{Na}^+]_o\) is described by simple Michaelis-Menten kinetics,

\[
\text{ACID EXTRUSION RATE} = \frac{V_{\text{max}} [\text{HCO}_3^-]}{K_m + [\text{HCO}_3^-]}
\]

with an apparent \(K_m\) for external \(\text{Na}^+\) of 77 mM and an apparent \(V_{\text{max}}\) of 10.3 pmol·cm\(^{-2}\)·s\(^{-1}\).

**DEPENDENCE ON INTERNAL Cl\(^-\)** The models of Fig. 1 predict that there ought to be an absolute dependence of acid extrusion on intracellular \(\text{Cl}^-\) as verified in an earlier study on squid axons (Russell and Boron, 1976). We

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**Table I**

<table>
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<th>Parameter varied</th>
<th>([\text{HCO}_3^-]_i)</th>
<th>([\text{Na}^+]_i)</th>
<th>([\text{Cl}^-]_i)</th>
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<th>Apparent (V_{\text{max}})</th>
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* \(\text{pH}_i = 8.0, \text{pH}_o = 6.7\).
have now extended this finding by studying the recovery of pH\textsubscript{i} from acid loads at several different values of [Cl\textsuperscript{-}]\textsubscript{i}. In these experiments, both the acid-loading and the establishment of various levels of [Cl\textsuperscript{-}]\textsubscript{i} were achieved by dialyzing the axon with a low-pH DF of the appropriate [Cl\textsuperscript{-}] until a pH\textsubscript{i} of ~6.7 was reached. Control experiments with Cl\textsuperscript{-}-sensitive microelectrodes showed that the time required for pH\textsubscript{i} to reach ~6.7 is also sufficient for [Cl\textsuperscript{-}]\textsubscript{i} to reach [Cl\textsuperscript{-}]\textsubscript{DF}.

![Figure 5](#)

**Figure 5.** Effect on pH\textsubscript{i} recovery of altering [Na\textsuperscript{+}]\textsubscript{o}. A nondialyzed axon was acid-loaded by pretreating it for ~60 min with SSW containing 100 mM NH\textsubscript{4}\textsuperscript{+} (pH\textsubscript{o} = 7.70). After removal of the external NH\textsubscript{4}\textsuperscript{+}, pH\textsubscript{i} fell far below its initial value, but failed to recover in the nominal absence of HCO\textsubscript{3}\textsuperscript{-} (segment \textit{ab}). In the simultaneous presence of 12 mM HCO\textsubscript{3}\textsuperscript{-} and 425 mM Na\textsuperscript{+} in the SSW (pH\textsubscript{o} = 8.00), pH\textsubscript{i} recovered rapidly (\textit{bc}). Reducing [Na\textsuperscript{+}]\textsubscript{o} to 15 mM greatly reduced the rate of pH\textsubscript{i} recovery (\textit{cd}), whereas raising [Na\textsuperscript{+}]\textsubscript{o} to 100 mM increased the pH\textsubscript{i} recovery rate (\textit{de}), though not to the initial level.

In the experiment illustrated in Fig. 7A, the pH\textsubscript{i} prior to dialysis was 7.35. At point \textit{a}, dialysis was begun with a pH 6.6 fluid containing 4 mM ATP and 200 mM Cl\textsuperscript{-}; 30 min of dialysis reduced pH\textsubscript{i} to ~6.67. At this point (\textit{b}), flow of the dialysis fluid was halted, returning control of pH\textsubscript{i} to the axon. As can be seen in segment \textit{bc}, there was no recovery of pH\textsubscript{i} while the axon was bathed in HCO\textsubscript{3}\textsuperscript{-}-free SSW. However, when 12 HCO\textsubscript{3}/SSW was presented, pH\textsubscript{i} rose...
rather rapidly. The calculated acid extrusion rate during the initial portion of segment cd was 15.0 pmol·cm⁻²·s⁻¹.

In a total of 38 similar experiments on 38 axons, we measured the acid extrusion rate at several different values of [Cl⁻]ᵢ. The inset of Fig. 7 illustrates examples of the pHi recovery from acid loads after dialysis with fluids containing 0, 100, and 350 mM Cl⁻, and shows that pHi recovery rates increase as [Cl⁻]ᵢ increases. As indicated by Fig. 8, a summary of all the data, the dependence of acid extrusion rate on [Cl⁻]ᵢ follows simple Michaelis-Menten kinetics, with an apparent Kₘ for internal Cl⁻ of 84 mM, and an apparent Vₘₐₓ of 19.6 pmol·cm⁻²·s⁻¹ (see Table I). The reader will note that the apparent Vₘₐₓ for acid extrusion in these experiments is nearly twice that for those experiments in which [HCO₃⁻]ₒ and [Na⁺]ₒ were varied (see Figs. 4 and 6, and Table I). This discrepancy is the result of the rather low [Cl⁻]ᵢ (i.e., ~100 mM) prevailing in the latter experiments, which were performed on nondialyzed axons. For example, we see from Fig. 4 that the fitted acid extrusion rate of [HCO₃⁻]ₒ of 12 mM and a [Na⁺]ₒ of 425 mM is 8.9 pmol·cm⁻²·s⁻¹. An examination of Fig. 8, which summarizes the [Cl⁻]ᵢ data obtained at the aforementioned [HCO₃⁻]ₒ and [Na⁺]ₒ values, reveals that an acid extrusion rate of 8.9 pmol·cm⁻²·s⁻¹ corresponds to a [Cl⁻]ᵢ of 70 mM. This is within the range of reported [Cl⁻]ᵢ values for nondialyzed axons, especially for those obtained in the month of May (Brinley and Mullins, 1965), as were those in the present study. Thus, the [Cl⁻]ᵢ study performed on dialyzed axons is consistent with the [HCO₃⁻]ₒ and [Na⁺]ₒ studies performed on nondialyzed axons.

![Figure 6](image-url)
DEPENDENCE ON PH$_i$

The pH$_i$-regulating mechanisms of barnacle muscle (Boron et al., 1979) and snail neurons (Thomas, 1977) exhibit a steep dependence on pH$_i$, their apparent rates of acid extrusion being approximately zero at normal pH$_i$ and rising steadily at lower pH$_i$ values. The pH$_i$ dependence of acid extrusion in squid giant axons was examined in five experiments in the present study. In each case, a nondialyzed axon was first exposed to pH 8.00 SSW containing 10 mM HCO$_3^-$ This caused an initial fall in pH$_i$ (due to the influx of CO$_2$), followed by a slower recovery (due to acid extrusion). From the rate of pH$_i$ recovery, we calculated the acid extrusion rate (see Methods), assuming an intrinsic intracellular buffering power of 9 mM·pH$^{-1}$ (Boron and De Weer, 1976a). At a mean pH$_i$ of 7.36 ± 0.04, the mean acid extrusion rate was 3.4 ± 0.6 pmol·cm$^{-2}$·s$^{-1}$. We then acid-loaded the axon with a pulse of NH$_4^+$ (see above) and exposed it to the pH 8.00/10 mM

### Figure 7

**pH$_i$ recovery at different values of [Cl$^-$]**. At point $a$, dialysis was begun with a fluid containing 200 mM Cl$^-$ at pH 6.6. Halting dialysis (point $b$) returned control of pH$_i$ to the axon, but produced only a very slow pH$_i$ recovery ($bc$). The addition of 12 mM HCO$_3^-$ to the SSW at a constant pH$_o$ of 8.00 caused pH$_i$ to recover ($cd$). The inset shows the results of similar experiments (comparable to segments $bc$ and $cd$) on axons of approximately the same diameter. Although 12 mM HCO$_3^-$ failed to stimulate pH$_i$ recovery in the axon previously dialyzed with 0 mM Cl$^-$ (top), the recovery rate was greater in axons dialyzed with 100 (middle) and 350 mM Cl$^-$ (bottom).
HCO₃ SSW for a second time. At a mean pHᵢ of 6.75 ± 0.14, the mean acid extrusion rate was 7.0 ± 0.6 pmol·cm⁻²·s⁻¹. Thus, the acid extrusion rate of squid axons is inversely related to pHᵢ.

**DEPENDENCE ON INTERNAL ATP** We have previously demonstrated that acid extrusion by the squid axon requires intracellular ATP (Russell and Boron, 1976). This observation has been confirmed in the present study.

**EFFECT OF PHARMACOLOGIC AGENTS** We have previously reported that recovery of pHᵢ from an acid load is blocked by 0.5 mM SITS (Russell and Boron, 1976). This has been repeatedly confirmed in the present study. In two additional experiments we found that acid extrusion is reversibly inhibited ~85% either by 1 mM DNDS or by 0.6 mM of the diuretic agent furosemide.

![Figure 8. Dependence of acid extrusion rate on [Cl⁻]ᵢ. This represents a collation of data from 38 experiments similar to the one of Fig. 7. Only one data point was obtained per axon. Acid extrusion rates were calculated as described for Fig. 4. The plotted points represent mean values of non-normalized acid extrusion rates. The number of determinations is given in parentheses; vertical bars represent standard error. The curve through the points is a nonlinear, least-squares fit to the Michaelis-Menten equation; Kᵣ = 84 ± 15 mM, Vₘₐₓ = 19.6 ± 1.2 pmol·cm⁻²·s⁻¹. [Na⁺]ᵢ was 437 mM, pHₒ was 8.00, [HCO₃]ₒ was 12 mM, and pHᵢ recovery rates were obtained at a pHᵢ of ~6.7.](image)

**EFFECT OF CHANGES IN MEMBRANE POTENTIAL** The models of Fig. 1 are of electroneutral transport systems, which ought not to be influenced by changes in membrane potential (Vₘ). In the experiment of Fig. 9, an axon was dialyzed (segment ab) with a pH 6.5 solution containing 400 mM Cl⁻ and 0 mM Na⁺. When pHᵢ had fallen to ~6.55, dialysis was halted (point b), returning control of pHᵢ to the axon. No recovery of pHᵢ occurred (bc), however, until 10 mM HCO₃ was added to the pH 8.0 SSW. This elicited a rapid rise in pHᵢ (cd) corresponding to an acid extrusion rate of 21.1 pmol·cm⁻²·s⁻¹. This rather high rate is a consequence of the previous period of dialysis with 400 mM Cl⁻. Subsequently raising [K⁺]ₒ from 10 to 200 mM (K⁺ replacing Na⁺) caused Vₘ to rise from approximately −51 mV to approximately −17 mV, but had...
Figure 9. Effect of depolarization on pHi recovery. The axon was acid-loaded by dialyzing with a pH 6.5 solution containing 400 mM Cl\(^-\) and 0 mM Na\(^+\) (segment ab). After dialysis was halted (point b), returning control of pHi to the axon, there was no pHi recovery (bc) until 12 mM HCO\(_3\)^- was added to the SSW (cd). When [K\(^+\)]\(_o\) was increased from 10 to 200 mM (holding [HCO\(_3\)]\(_o\) and pH\(_i\) constant) at point d, there was only a slight decrease in the pHi recovery rate (de), even though \(V_m\) changed from approximately -51 to -17 mV. Returning [K\(^+\)]\(_o\) to 10 mM (ef) restored \(V_m\) to its initial value, but had only a slight effect on the pHi recovery rate. Finally, application of SITS completely blocked the pHi recovery (fg).

only a slight effect on the acid extrusion rate (de), which fell to 19.2 pmol cm\(^{-2}\) s\(^{-1}\). This 11% inhibition of acid extrusion is reasonably close to the value of 9% predicted from the accompanying decrease in [Na\(^+\)]\(_o\) (from 425 to 235 mM) and the apparent \(K_m\) for external Na\(^+\) (i.e., 77 mM). Returning [K\(^+\)]\(_o\)
to 10 mM caused a recovery of $V_m$, but had only a slight effect on the $pH_i$
recovery (acid extrusion rate: 20.4 pmol·cm⁻²·s⁻¹). Finally, the addition of
0.5 mM SITS to the SSW blocked further recovery of $pH_i$.

**STOICHIOMETRY** The models of Fig. 1 predict that two equivalents of
intracellular acid be neutralized for each equivalent of Na⁺ taken up and each
equivalent of Cl⁻ extruded. The experiments of the previous subsection are
consistent with such an electroneutral transport process. To determine the
stoichiometry of the transport system directly, we measured the acid extrusion
rate and the net fluxes of Na⁺ and Cl⁻ (using radioisotopes), all under identical
conditions of incubation. These experiments were conducted on dialyzed
axons at 16°C, the lower temperature being required to maintain stable
isotopic fluxes from continuously dialyzed axons. Extraneous Na⁺ fluxes were
minimized by the following precautions. (a) Diffusion through the voltage-
dependent Na⁺ channel was blocked by application of 10⁻⁷ tetrodotoxin
(TTX). (b) Fluxes mediated by the Na-Kpump were inhibited by application
of 10⁻⁵ ouabain. (c) Na⁺ influx via the coupled Na-Cl uptake process (Russell,
1979) was largely inhibited by elevating [Cl⁻] to 150 mM. The other
conditions are listed in the footnote to Table II.

An accurate determination of the acid extrusion rate requires not only a
measurement of the $pH_i$ recovery rate, but also knowledge of the total
axoplasmic buffering power ($β_T$) under identical conditions. In a CO₂-con-
taining solution, $β_T$ is the sum of the CO₂ buffering power ($β_{CO₂}$), which
can be calculated, and the intrinsic intracellular buffering power ($β_I$), which
must be determined empirically (see Methods). In separate experiments, eight axons
were dialyzed with a fluid having a pH of 6.5; the other conditions were
identical to those given in Table II, except that 0.5 mM SITS was present and
CO₂ and HCO₃⁻ were absent. Dialysis was halted when $pH_i$ reached ~6.6,
and $β_I$ was determined as outlined in Methods, yielding a value of 11.2 ± 1.1
mM.

In a second series of experiments we measured the acid extrusion rate under
conditions identical to those under which the buffering power was determined.
The time course of the $pH_i$ decline due to dialysis was similar to that shown
in Fig. 7. After dialysis was halted, $pH_i$ failed to recover as long as the axons
were bathed in HCO₃⁻-free SSW, but increased relatively rapidly when 12

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**Table II**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Net flux</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acid extrusion</td>
<td>7.5±0.6 (n = 15)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Na⁺ influx</td>
<td>3.4±0.4 (n = 13)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Cl⁻ efflux</td>
<td>3.9±0.2 (n = 17)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


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mM HCO$_3^-$ was added to the SSW. For 15 axons, the average acid extrusion rate was $7.5 \pm 0.6$ pmol cm$^{-2}$ s$^{-1}$ (see Table I). In an earlier study involving only three axons, the calculated acid extrusion rate under similar conditions was only $4.8 \pm 0.9$ pmol cm$^{-2}$ s$^{-1}$ (Russell and Boron, 1976), a value arrived at by assuming a buffer power of 9 mM (i.e., the value for undialyzed axons). Had the correct buffering power (i.e., determined in these experiments) been used, the calculated acid extrusion rate would have been $6.0$ pmol cm$^{-2}$ s$^{-1}$.

This is reasonably close to the present estimate, given the small sample size in the earlier study.

**Na$^+$ Fluxes**

The models of Fig. 1 predict that acid extrusion should be accompanied by a net influx of Na$^+$. We measured this net flux by determining the difference between unidirectional Na$^+$ influx and efflux, using $^{22}$Na as an isotopic marker. Extraneous or background Na$^+$ fluxes were minimized by the previously mentioned precautions.

**Na$^+$ Efflux**

Fig. 10 illustrates an experiment in which Na$^+$ efflux was first allowed to reach a steady value in an axon dialyzed with a pH 6.7 fluid containing 4 mM ATP and 150 mM Cl$^-$. The SSW was HCO$_3^-$ free and contained TTX but no ouabain. The application of $10^{-5}$ M ouabain reduced Na$^+$ efflux from $\sim 20$ to $\sim 2$ pmol cm$^{-2}$ s$^{-1}$, which reflects inhibition of the Na-K pump. When 12 mM HCO$_3^-$ was added to the SSW, however, there was no effect upon unidirectional Na$^+$ efflux, even though acid extrusion should have been greatly stimulated. Similar results were obtained in five other axons. Thus, the axon's pH$_7$-regulating system does not mediate a unidirectional Na$^+$ efflux under the conditions of these experiments. The net Na$^+$ flux produced by this transporter can therefore be taken as the unidirectional Na$^+$ influx.

**Na$^+$ Influx: Dependence on External HCO$_3^-$**

Fig. 11 illustrates an experiment in which an axon was dialyzed with a fluid of the same composition as in the experiment of Fig. 10. The Na$^+$ influx was measured as the SSW was changed from 0 mM HCO$_3^-$ to 12 mM HCO$_3^-$ and then back to 0 mM HCO$_3^-$.

As shown above, axons treated in such a way extrude acid only during the exposure to 12 mM HCO$_3^-$ Fig. 11 shows that the application of HCO$_3^-$ triggers an increase in the Na$^+$ influx, which is reversed upon removal of HCO$_3^-$ This HCO$_3^-$-stimulated Na$^+$ influx is presumably the postulated Na$^+$ flux through the pH$_7$-regulating system (Fig. 1). In a total of 13 similar experiments, reversible increases of unidirectional Na$^+$ influx always accompanied the application of 12 mM HCO$_3^-$. The average increase was $3.4 \pm 0.4$ pmol cm$^{-2}$ s$^{-1}$ (see Table II).

**Na$^+$ Influx: Dependence on Internal Cl$^-$**

The models of Fig. 1 predict that the Na$^+$ influx linked to acid extrusion ought to require intracellular Cl$^-$. To test this hypothesis, we dialyzed axons with a pH 6.7 DF containing 4 mM ATP and 0 mM Cl$^-$ (glutamate replacing Cl$^-$). Dialysis with this Cl$^-$-free solution was performed for $\sim 1$ h before isotopic flux studies were begun to
ensure that \([\text{Cl}^-]_i\) was as low as possible.\(^1\) In five axons treated in this manner, exposure to 12 HCO\(_3^-\)/SSW resulted in an average increase in Na\(^+\) influx of only 0.3 ± 0.2 pmol·cm\(^{-2}\)·s\(^{-1}\). Thus, the HCO\(_3^-\)-dependent Na\(^+\) influx has an absolute requirement for internal Cl\(^-\).

**Na\(^+\) Influx: Dependence on pH**

Because the rate of acid extrusion is inversely related to pH\(_i\), we would expect the HCO\(_3^-\)-dependent Na\(^+\) influx to be inhibited at relatively high (i.e., normal) pH\(_i\) values. This hypothesis was tested in five axons dialyzed with a fluid of pH 7.3, containing 4 mM ATP and 150 mM Cl\(^-\). When 12 mM HCO\(_3^-\) was applied, influx changed by an average of \(-0.1 ± 0.1\) pmol·cm\(^{-2}\)·s\(^{-1}\). Thus, the appearance of the HCO\(_3^-\)-dependent Na\(^+\) influx requires that pH\(_i\) be lower than the physiological value.

\(^1\) Experiments with Cl\(^-\)-selective liquid ion-exchanger microelectrodes confirmed that such a pretreatment reduced \([\text{Cl}^-]_i\) to <3 mM. In view of the high \(K_m\) of the acid extrusion process for intracellular Cl\(^-\) (i.e., ~84 mM), such a pretreatment seems adequate for testing the dependence of Na\(^+\) influx on [Cl\(^-\)].

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**Figure 10. Na\(^+\) efflux.** The axon was dialyzed with a solution at pH 6.7, containing 150 mM Cl\(^-\), 50 mM Na\(^+\), and 4 mM ATP. In the continuous presence of 10\(^{-7}\) M TTX, Na\(^+\) efflux rose and leveled off as the isotope came into equilibrium in the axoplasm. The subsequent addition of 10\(^{-5}\) M ouabain to the SSW caused a large fall in Na\(^+\) efflux. There was no change when acid extrusion was stimulated by the application of 12 mM HCO\(_3^-\).
**Na⁺ influx: Dependence on ATP**  
Previous experiments had demonstrated the ATP requirement of acid extrusion in squid axons (Russell and Boron, 1976). To test the ATP dependence of the HCO₃-stimulated Na⁺ influx, we depleted axons of their ATP by (a) continuously exposing their entire surface (i.e., the cannulated end-regions as well as the central dialyzed portion) to SSW containing 2 mM cyanide, beginning at the time of cannulation, and (b) dialyzing with an ATP-free fluid which also contained 2 mM cyanide. Previous studies had shown that ~70 min of such dialysis is sufficient to block the axon's ATP-dependent Na-Cl uptake system (Russell, 1979). In the present experiments, the axons were dialyzed with the aforementioned DF, which also contained 150 mM Cl⁻ and was titrated to pH 6.7 for 75 min before the influx measurements were begun. In a total of four axons depleted of ATP, the average increase of Na⁺ influx upon exposure to 12 HCO₃⁻/SSW was 0.1 ± 0.4 pmol·cm⁻²·s⁻¹. Thus, ATP is required for the HCO₃⁻-dependent Na⁺ influx.

**Na⁺ influx: Effect of Pharmacologic Agents**  
Seven axons were pretreated with 0.5 mM SITS for 45-60 min before being dialyzed with a pH 6.7 DF containing 4 mM ATP and 150 mM Cl⁻. When 12 mM HCO₃⁻ was applied, the Na⁺ influx increased by an average of only 0.1 ± 0.2 pmol·cm⁻²·s⁻¹. Thus, SITS blocks the HCO₃⁻-dependent Na⁺ influx.

**Stoichiometry**  
As noted above, Na⁺ influx increased by an average of 3.4 ± 0.4 pmol·cm⁻²·s⁻¹ in 13 axons stimulated by the external application
of 12 mM HCO₃⁻ (see Table II). Inasmuch as no stimulation of Na⁺ efflux occurred under identical conditions, this increased, unidirectional influx represents a net influx. Furthermore, this extra Na⁺ influx shares all the properties of net acid extrusion: dependence on HCO₃⁻, ATP, internal Cl⁻, a low pHᵢ, as well as inhibition by SITS. We therefore conclude that this component of Na⁺ influx is directly coupled to the 7.5 ± 0.6 pmol·cm⁻²·s⁻¹ of net acid extrusion measured under identical conditions. The stoichiometry is thus 2.2 equivalents of acid extruded for each equivalent of Na⁺ taken up, very near the 2:1 stoichiometry predicted from the models of Fig. 1.

**Cl⁻ Fluxes**

The models of Fig. 1 predict that a net efflux of Cl⁻ ought to accompany acid extrusion. In the following experiments, unidirectional Cl⁻ influxes and effluxes were measured using ³⁶Cl⁻ under conditions identical to those used in the Na⁺ flux and net acid extrusion stoichiometric studies.

**Cl⁻ INFLUX** In five axons dialyzed with a pH 6.7 fluid containing 4 mM ATP and 150 mM Cl⁻, application of 12 mM HCO₃⁻ caused the ³⁶Cl⁻ influx to rise by 0.1 ± 0.2 pmol·cm⁻²·s⁻¹. Thus, stimulation of acid extrusion produces no significant change in the unidirectional Cl⁻ influx, under the conditions of these experiments. The net Cl⁻ flux produced by the transporter can therefore be taken as the unidirectional Cl⁻ efflux.

**Cl⁻ EFFLUX: DEPENDENCE ON EXTERNAL HCO₃⁻** We have previously shown that application of external HCO₃ is stimulating Cl⁻ efflux in squid axons, provided the pHᵢ is relatively low (Russell and Boron, 1976). We have confirmed this finding in the present study. In 17 axons incubated under conditions identical to those used in the above Cl⁻ influx study, treatment with 12 mM HCO₃⁻ caused the Cl⁻ efflux to rise by an average of 3.9 ± 0.3 pmol·cm⁻²·s⁻¹.

**Cl⁻ EFFLUX: DEPENDENCE UPON EXTERNAL Na⁺** The models of Fig. 1 predict that the Cl⁻ efflux linked to acid extrusion ought to require extracellular Na⁺. This was tested in five axons which were continuously bathed in Na⁺-free SSW (choline replacing Na⁺) while being dialyzed with a pH 6.7 fluid containing 4 mM ATP and 150 mM Cl⁻. When 12 mM HCO₃⁻ was added to the external fluid, the Cl⁻ efflux increased by an average of only 0.4 ± 0.2 pmol·cm⁻²·s⁻¹. Thus, the HCO₃⁻-dependent Cl⁻ efflux requires extracellular Na⁺.

**Cl⁻ EFFLUX: DEPENDENCE ON pHᵢ** Because both acid extrusion and the HCO₃-stimulated Na⁺ influx are inversely related to pHᵢ, we examined the pHᵢ dependence of the HCO₃-stimulated Cl⁻ efflux. Fig. 12 illustrates an experiment in which an axon was initially dialyzed with a fluid containing 4 mM ATP and 150 mM Cl⁻, and titrated to pH 7.3. When 12 mM HCO₃⁻ was applied, Cl⁻ efflux failed to increase. However, after lowering the pH of the DF to 6.7, the addition of 12 mM HCO₃⁻ to the SSW increased Cl⁻ efflux by ~4 pmol·cm⁻²·s⁻¹. Thus, HCO₃⁻-dependent Cl⁻ efflux is inversely related to pHᵢ.

**Cl⁻ EFFLUX: DEPENDENCE ON ATP** We have previously demonstrated that
in the absence of ATP, exposure to HCO₃⁻-containing external fluid has no
effect on the Cl⁻ efflux from axons dialyzed with an acid DF containing 150
mM Cl⁻ (Russell and Boron, 1976).

CL⁻ EFFLUX: EFFECT OF PHARMACOLOGIC AGENTS In an earlier study
(Russell and Boron, 1976), we reported that pretreatment with 0.5 mM SITS
inhibits the HCO₃⁻-dependent Cl⁻ efflux. We have now confirmed this
observation in six axons pretreated with 0.5 mM SITS, for which the average
increase of Cl⁻ efflux caused by 12 mM HCO₃ SSW was only 0.1 ± 0.1 pmol·
cm⁻²·s⁻¹. Fig. 13 illustrates an experiment demonstrating that 50 μM DIDS
is also an effective inhibitor of the HCO₃⁻-dependent Cl⁻ efflux.

STOICHIOMETRY As noted above, when stimulated by the application of
12 mM external HCO₃⁻, the Cl⁻ efflux rose by 3.9 pmol·cm⁻²·s⁻¹. This
increased, unidirectional Cl⁻ efflux represents a net efflux, because the HCO₃⁻-
stimulated Cl⁻ influx was zero. Inasmuch as this efflux shares the same
properties as acid extrusion and the net Na⁺ influx (i.e., dependence on
HCO₃⁻, external Na⁺, ATP, and a low pHᵢ, as well as inhibition by SITS and
DIDS), we conclude that it is directly coupled to acid extrusion. The ratio of
acid extruded (i.e., 7.5 pmol·cm⁻²·s⁻¹) to Cl⁻ extruded (i.e., 3.9 pmol·cm⁻²·
s⁻¹) is 1.9, reasonably close to that predicted by the models of Fig. 1, 2:1.

DISCUSSION

pHᵢ-regulating System of the Squid Axon
The results of the present study, as well as earlier work, demonstrate that acid
extrusion by the squid axon (a) has an absolute requirement for external Na⁺,
eexternal HCO₃⁻, and for internal Cl⁻; (b) is stimulated at low values of pHᵢ;
(c) requires internal ATP; and (d) is inhibited by the stilbene derivatives. In addition, we have shown that all of the above properties are shared by a net Na⁺ influx and a net Cl⁻ efflux. These data indicate that the process of acid extrusion involves the obligatory net transport of Na⁺, Cl⁻, and HCO₃⁻ (or an equivalent species). Furthermore, the relationship among the acid extrusion rate, the net Na⁺ influx, and the net Cl⁻ efflux indicate that the stoichiometry of the transport system is one equivalent of Na⁺ entering the cell for each equivalent of Cl⁻ leaving the cell and for each two equivalents of acid neutralized intracellularly.

These results support all models of Fig. 1. To distinguish among the four, one must examine kinetic data. The results of Figs. 4 and 6, which show the dependence of acid extrusion rate on [HCO₃⁻]₀ and [Na⁺]₀, respectively, are sufficient to test one of the predictions of model 4. When these data are replotted (Fig. 14) as a function of [NaCO₃]₀ (calculated from the stability-constant data of Garrels et al., 1961) both sets fall on a single Michaelis-Menten curve, with an apparent \( K_m \) for NaCO₃ of 74 ± 3 μM, and an apparent \( V_{max} \) of 10.6 ± 0.2 pmol·cm⁻²·s⁻¹. Although model 4 predicts that the two sets of data indeed should fall on the same curve, our confirmation of this prediction by no means proves the model. A stronger case could be made only if the model were supported by additional kinetic data, such as an examination of the [Na⁺]₀ dependence at various values of [HCO₃⁻]₀ and pH₀, or an examination of the [HCO₃⁻]₀ dependence at various values of [Na⁺]₀ and pH₀. In this regard, it is of interest to note that when barnacle-muscle

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![Diagram showing the process of acid extrusion](image_url)
data analogous to our squid data of Figs. 4 and 6 are replotted as a function of \([\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3]_o\), they, too, fall on a single Michaelis-Menten curve (Boron et al., 1981). However, when the \([\text{Na}^+]_o\) dependence at pH 8.0 was examined at two values of \([\text{HCO}_3^-]_o\), the data, when replotted as a function of \([\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3]_o\), fell on two quite different Michaelis-Menten curves. Thus, model 4 has been ruled out for barnacle muscle. Further kinetic studies clearly are required to test the squid-axon models adequately.

**Comparison with Other Systems Transporting H^+ and/or HCO_3^-**

In this paper, we describe a pH-regulating transport system that tightly couples the movement of Na^+, Cl^-, HCO_3^- (or an equivalent species), and possibly H^+. A similarly tight coupling of these ions appears to exist for the pH-regulating systems of both barnacle muscle (Roos and Boron, 1982) and the snail neuron (Thomas, 1982). However, the data on the interdependencies of the net Na^+ and Cl^- fluxes in the last two preparations are not as complete as for the squid axon. In experiments with ion-sensitive electrodes on snail neurons, Thomas (1977) found that pH_i recovery from an acid load is accompanied by an increase in the intracellular Na^+ activity and a decrease of the intracellular Cl^- activity. It could be objected that the activity changes, measured with microelectrodes, were in fact not representative of net Na^+ and Cl^- fluxes tightly coupled to acid extrusion, but rather, of cell volume changes. However, it is not clear how a simple volume change could have produced both an increase in Na^+ activity and a decrease in Cl^- activity. Furthermore, the present results indicate that even if volume changes did take place, they did not obscure the fundamental observation that net Na^+ and Cl^- fluxes do occur during acid extrusion.

From their ionic requirements and the apparent interdependencies of the ion fluxes, it appears that the pH-regulating systems of squid axons, snail
neurons, and barnacle muscle are very similar. However, we can identify two subtle differences. In the first place, whereas ATP is required for the squid system, the snail system is unaffected by the metabolic inhibitor carbonyl cyanide m-chlorophenyl hydrazone, applied alone or in combination with intracellular injections of orthovanadate (Thomas, 1982). In barnacle muscle, the ATP dependence of acid extrusion has yet to be examined. Second, we have been unable to identify in the squid axon either a unidirectional Na⁺ efflux or a unidirectional Cl⁻ influx associated with acid extrusion. In contrast, acid extrusion in barnacle muscle is accompanied by a significant Na⁺ efflux⁴ and Cl⁻ influx (Boron et al., 1978), which is consistent with the hypothesis that the barnacle's pH₁-regulating system also mediates an apparent Na-Na and Cl-Cl exchange.

Inasmuch as the pH₁-regulating mechanism of squid, snail, and barnacle superficially resembles other transport systems currently being studied, it is useful to distinguish among them.

**PURPORTED PH₁-REGULATING SYSTEMS** A pH₁-regulating system which has a requirement for Na⁺ is the amiloride-sensitive Na-H exchanger, which has been identified in a number of preparations (see Roos and Boron, 1981). Unlike the pH₁-regulating system of the squid axon, however, Na-H exchange is unaffected by application of SITS or by removal of Cl⁻ (Boron and Boulpaep, 1982).

A Cl⁻-HCO₃⁻ exchange has been identified in sheep cardiac Purkinje fibers (Vaughan-Jones, 1979) and has been postulated for mouse soleus muscle (Aickin and Thomas, 1977). The Purkinje fiber's transporter requires both HCO₃⁻ and Cl⁻ and is blocked by SITS. Unlike the squid axon’s pH₁-regulating system, however, the Cl⁻-HCO₃⁻ exchanger is independent of Na⁺ (Vaughan-Jones, 1982), is apparently not inactivated at high pH₁ (Vaughan-Jones, 1982), and probably mediates net HCO₃⁻ efflux under normal conditions.

In mouse soleus muscle (Aickin and Thomas, 1977), recovery of pH₁ from an acid load is apparently mediated by both Na-H exchange and Cl⁻-HCO₃⁻ exchange, the former accounting for about two-thirds of the cell's acid-extruding capacity. Thus, acid extrusion is inhibited by amiloride, which acts on the Na-H exchanger, and is only partially blocked by application of SITS or by removal of HCO₃⁻, which affect the presumed Cl⁻-HCO₃⁻ exchanger. If such a parallel arrangement of Na-H and Cl⁻-HCO₃⁻ exchangers existed for squid axons, then we would not have observed the absolute requirement of acid extrusion for HCO₃⁻, Na⁺, and Cl⁻, nor the total blockade by application of SITS.

Recently (Boron and Boulpaep, 1982), a transport system has been identified in the basolateral membrane of salamander proximal tubule cells, in which the movements of Na⁺ and HCO₃⁻ (or an equivalent species) are tightly coupled. Although this transporter is blocked by SITS, it is apparently independent of Cl⁻. Furthermore, it moves net negative charge in the same

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direction as Na\(^+\) and HCO\(_3^-\), and normally mediates the net efflux of HCO\(_3^-\) (or an equivalent species).

**PURPORTED VOLUME-REGULATORY SYSTEMS** When *Amphiuma* erythrocytes are shrunken in a hypertonic solution, their volume spontaneously recovers in a HCO\(_3^-\)-dependent process involving the net uptake of Na\(^+\) and Cl\(^-\) (Cala, 1980). It has been suggested that this regulatory volume increase is mediated by an amiloride-sensitive Na-H exchanger (Siebens and Kregenow, 1978, 1980; Cala, 1980) in parallel with a SITS-sensitive Cl-HCO\(_3^-\) exchanger (Cala, 1980). The latter may be identical to the band III anion exchanger of erythrocytes. If the Na-H and Cl-HCO\(_3^-\) exchange rates are fortuitously identical, then the net effect would be the isohydric uptake of NaCl. In view of (a) the lack of obligatory coupling observed between Na\(^+\) and Cl\(^-\), and (b) the observation that there is a net Cl\(^-\) influx rather than a net efflux, this system also appears to be distinct from that of the squid axon.

This work was supported by National Institutes of Health grant NS 11946 (JMR) and Research Service Award GM06499 (WFB).

*Received for publication 5 August 1982.*

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