

# Nernst potential and Resting membrane potential

# OBJECTIVES

- At the end of this lecture you should be able to describe:
  - 1. Ionic distribution across the cell membrane
- Nernst potential
- Different types of channels present in the cell membrane.
- Role of different ions in the development of Resting Membrane Potential

# Excitable Tissues

## Definition:

**Tissues which are capable of responding to stimuli to highest degree than other tissues of the body in the form of electrical signals.**

## Imp.

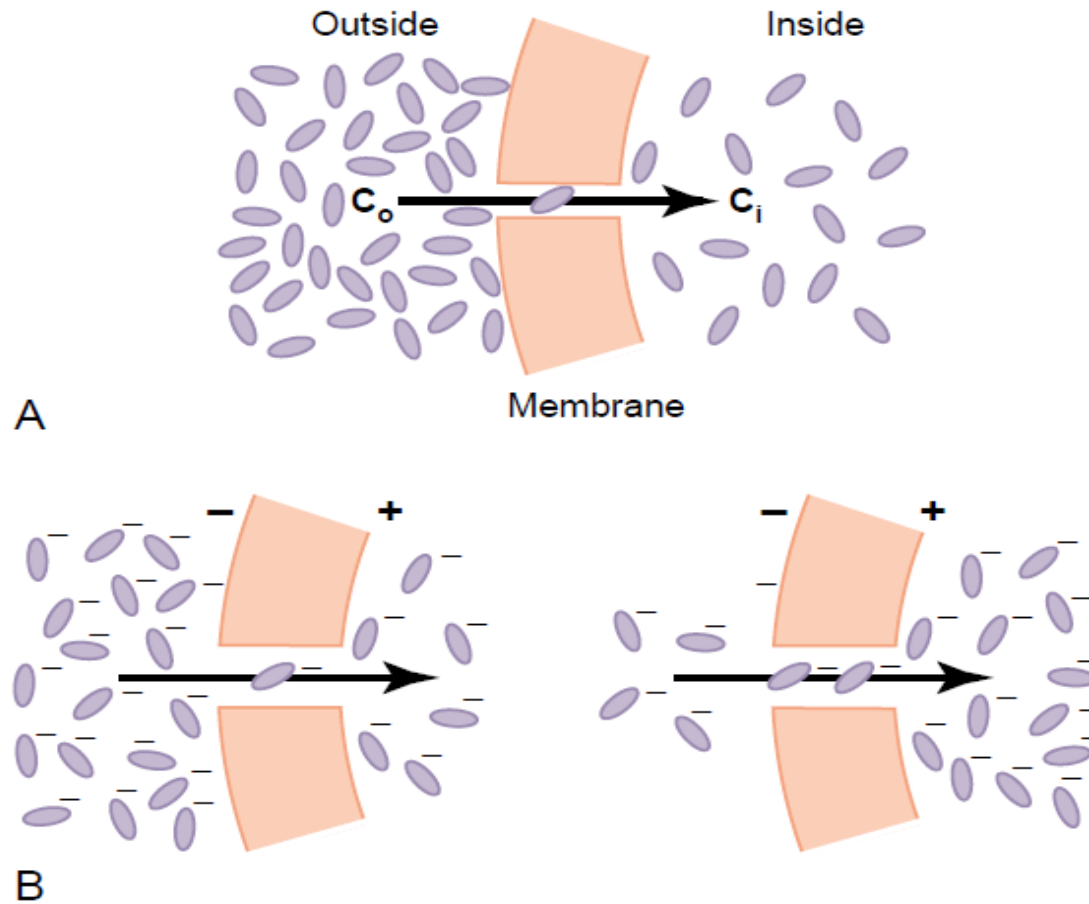
Excitable tissues have LOW Threshold of Stimulation

- Nerve
- Muscle

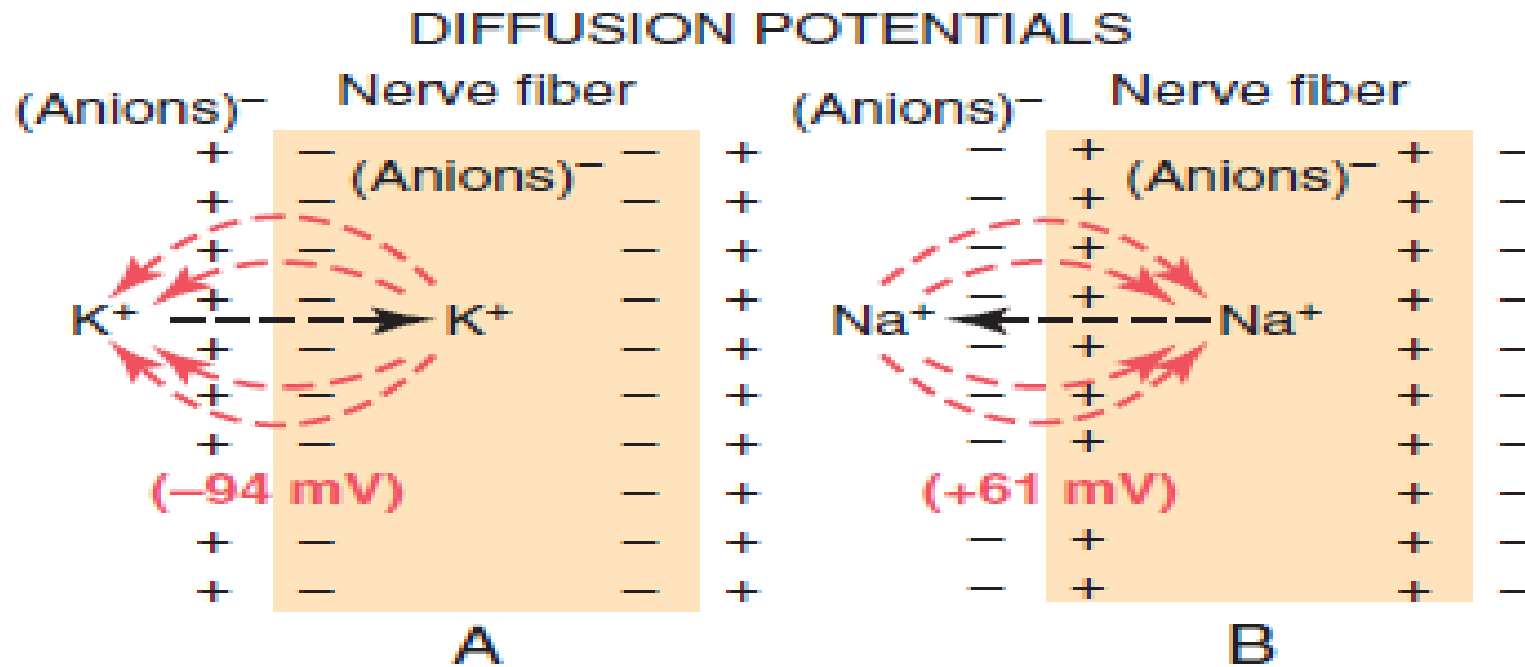
## **Resting Membrane Potential**

- **Definition**
- **Potential difference existing across the  
cell membrane under resting condition**

# Effect of concentration difference and electrical potential difference on movement of ions



- MEMBRANE POTENTIALS CAUSED BY ION CONCENTRATION
- Differences Across a Selectively Permeable Membrane



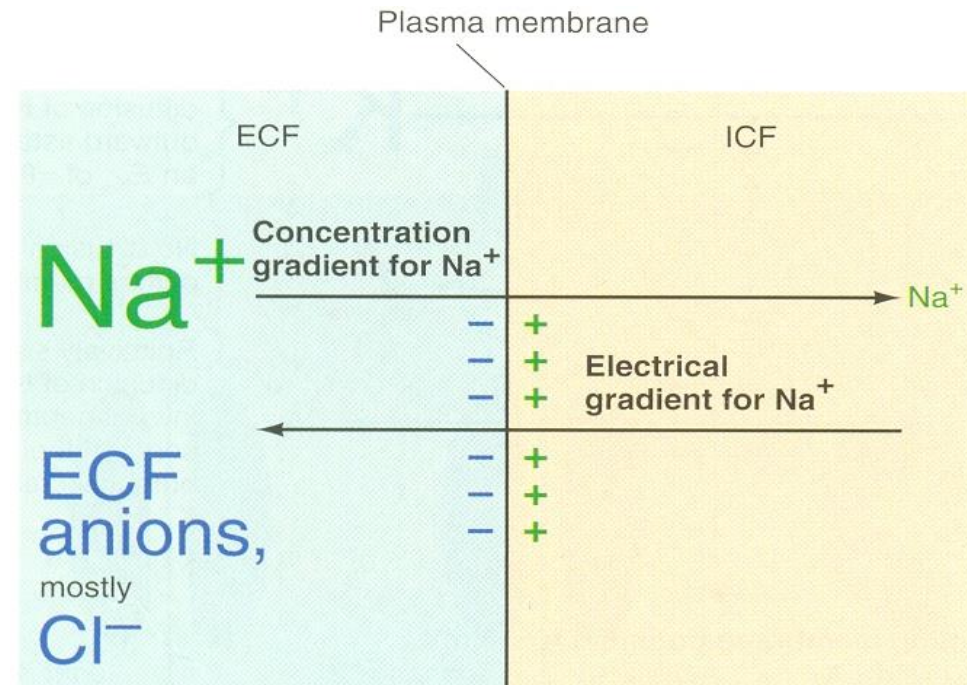
**Figure 5-1. A,** Establishment of a diffusion potential across a nerve fiber membrane, caused by diffusion of potassium ions from inside the cell to outside through a membrane that is selectively permeable

# Equilibrium (Nernst) Potential for Na<sup>+</sup>

Na<sup>+</sup> outside = 142 mEq/L

$$\} 61 \times \log 0.1 = +61 \text{ mV}$$

Na<sup>+</sup> inside = 14 mEq/L

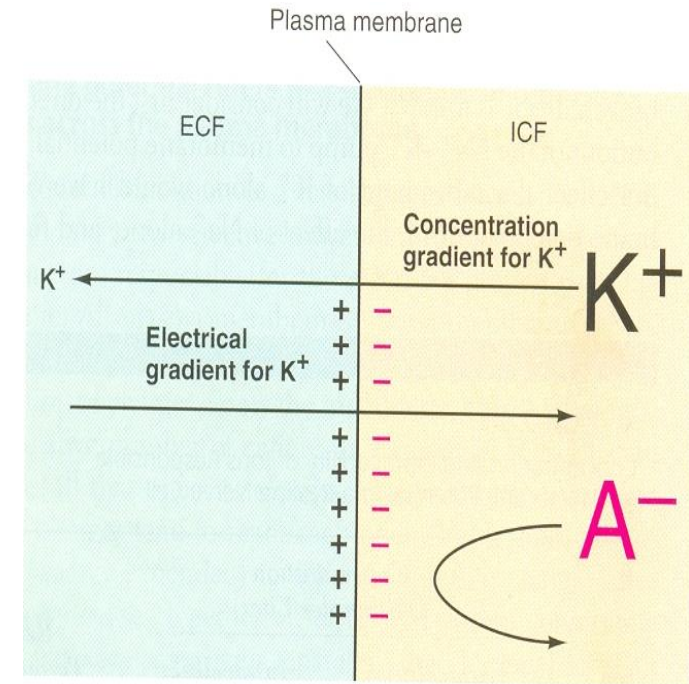


# Equilibrium(Nernst) Potential for $K^+$

$K^+$  outside = 4.0 mEq/L

$$\} 61 \times \log 35 = -94 \text{ mV}$$

$K^+$  inside = 140 mEq/L





# Nernst Potential

- **The potential across the cell membrane at which the net diffusion of ions across the cell membrane due to concentration gradient stops.**
- **Nernst Equation:**

$$EMF = \pm 61 \times \log (C_{in} / C_{out})$$

Where **61** is constant & is =  $RT / z F$

Where R= Universal Gas constant

T = Absolute Temp,      z = ion Valence

F = Faraday, an electrical Const

- **Nernst potential for K<sup>+</sup> ions**

Conc of K<sup>+</sup> ions inside the cell=140 mEq/l

Conc of K<sup>+</sup> ions outside the cell= 4 mEq/l

$$\text{EMF(mv)} = -61 \log \frac{140}{4}$$

$$= -61 \log 35$$

$$= -94\text{mv}$$

**Nernst potential for Na<sup>+</sup> ions**

Conc of Na<sup>+</sup> ions inside the cell=14 mEq/l

Conc of Na<sup>+</sup> ions outside the cell= 142 mEq/l

$$\text{EMF(mv)} = -61 \log \frac{14}{142} = -61 \log -1$$

$$= +61 \text{ mv}$$

- **The Goldman Equation Is Used to Calculate the Diffusion Potential When the Membrane Is Permeable to Several Different Ions**

# Goldman Hodgkin-Katz- Equation

EMF(mv)=

$$-61 \log \frac{C_{Na^+}_{in} P_{Na^+} + C_{K^+}_{in} P_{K^+} + C_{Cl^-}_{out} P_{Cl^-}}{C_{Na^+}_{out} P_{Na^+} + C_{K^+}_{out} P_{K^+} + C_{Cl^-}_{in} P_{Cl^-}}$$

Where 'C'=Concentration

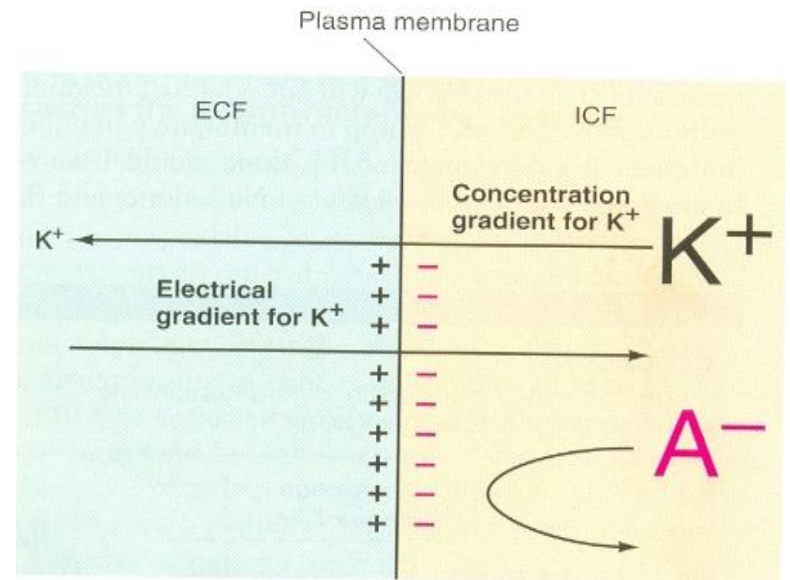
P= Permeability

# Goldman Hodgkin-Katz- Equation

## Uses

- **Is used to calculate the Diffusion potential when the membrane is permeable to different ions and depends mainly upon three factors:**
  - 1. Polarity of electrical charge**
  - 2. Permeability of the membrane to ions**
  - 3. Concentration of the respective ion on inside or outside**

1. The concentration gradient of sodium, potassium, and chloride ions across the membrane help determine the voltage of the membrane potential.
2. Quantitative importance of each of the ions-- if the membrane has zero permeability to potassium and chloride ions---Membrane potential---- concentration gradient of sodium ions alone
3. Third, a positive ion concentration gradient from *inside* the membrane to the *outside* causes electronegativity inside the membrane.
4. Permeability of Na and K channels change rapidly during nerve transmission



# Resting nerve potential of Nerves

# Na<sup>+</sup> - K<sup>+</sup> PUMP (ATPase)

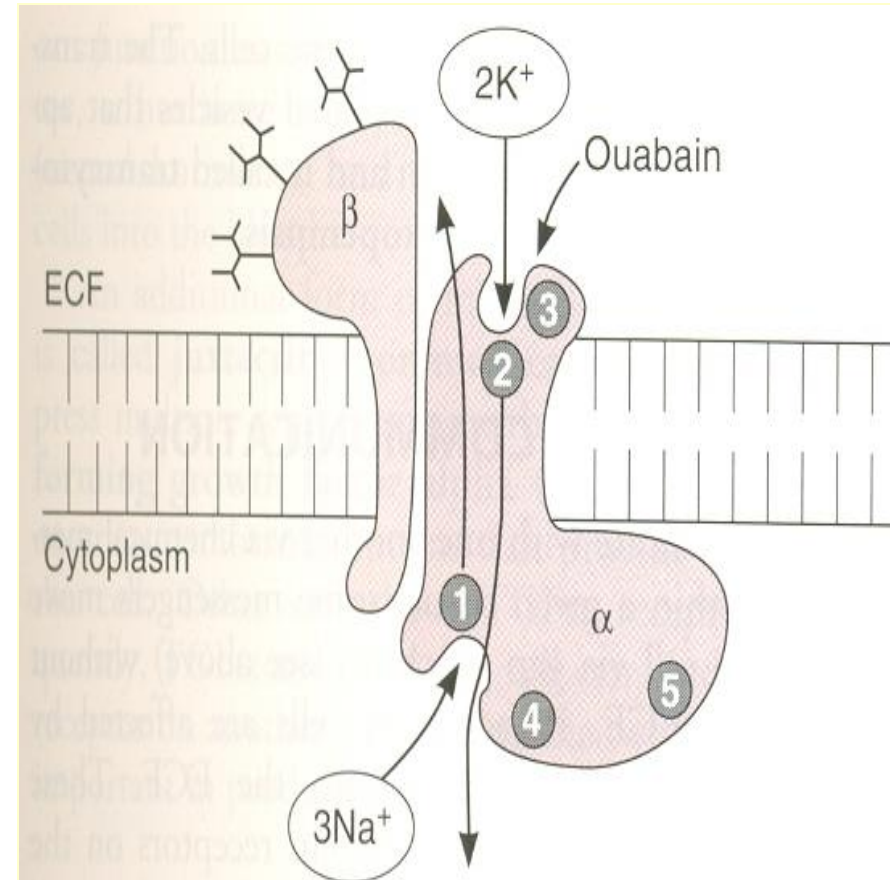
**Intracellular portion of alpha subunit has:**

**Na<sup>+</sup> binding site (1),  
Phosphorylation site (4), &  
an ATP binding site (5).**

**Extracellular portion has :**

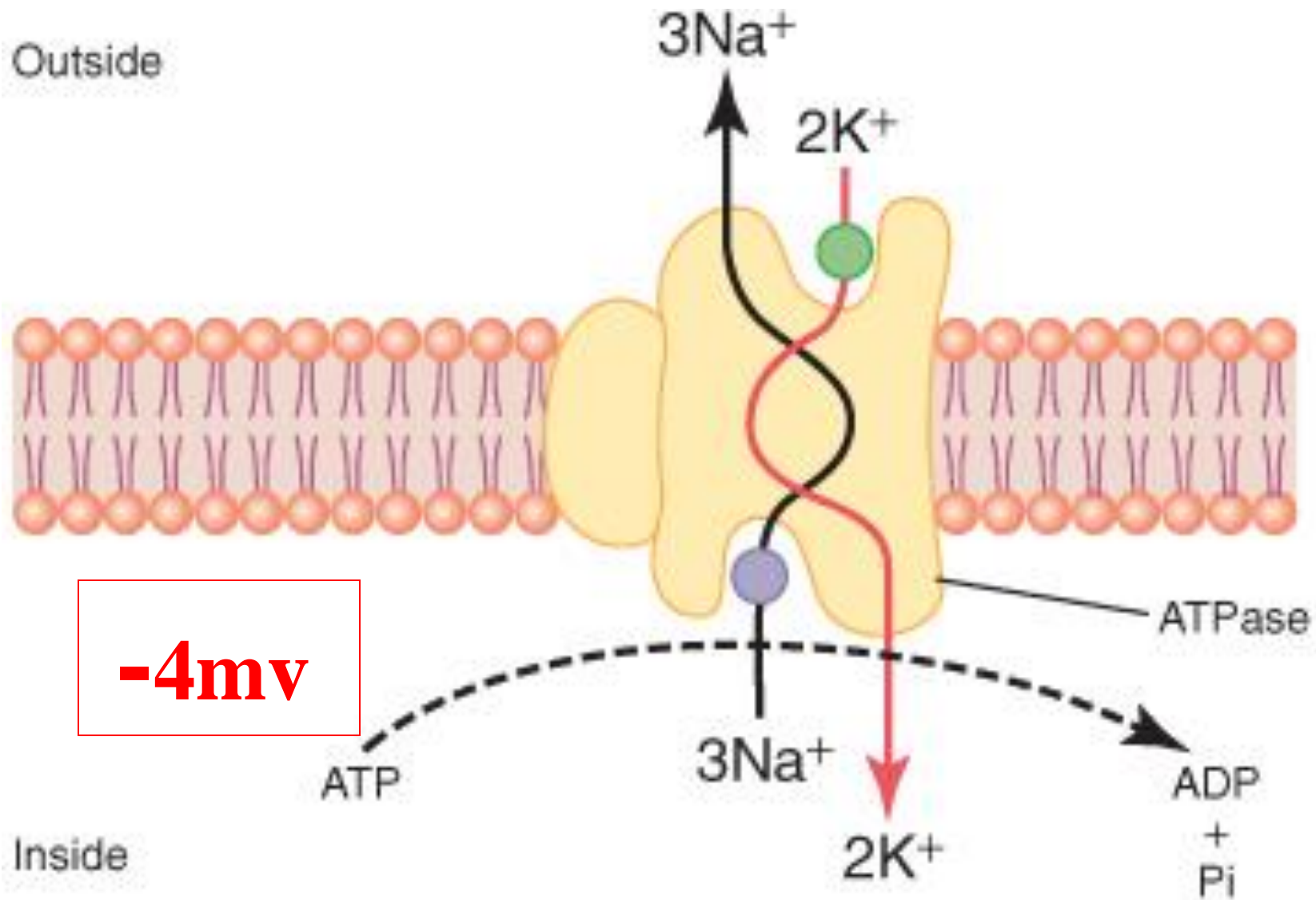
**K<sup>+</sup> binding site (2) &**

**Ouabain site (3)**





# Contribution of Na<sup>+</sup>-K<sup>+</sup> Pump



# Functions of Na<sup>+</sup> - K<sup>+</sup> Pump (ATPase)

- 1. As an Enzyme (Cleaves ATP to ADP)
- 2. Electrogenic. (Contributes -4mv in RMP)
- 3. Homeostasis of Main Electrolytes and Water & hence volume of the cell.

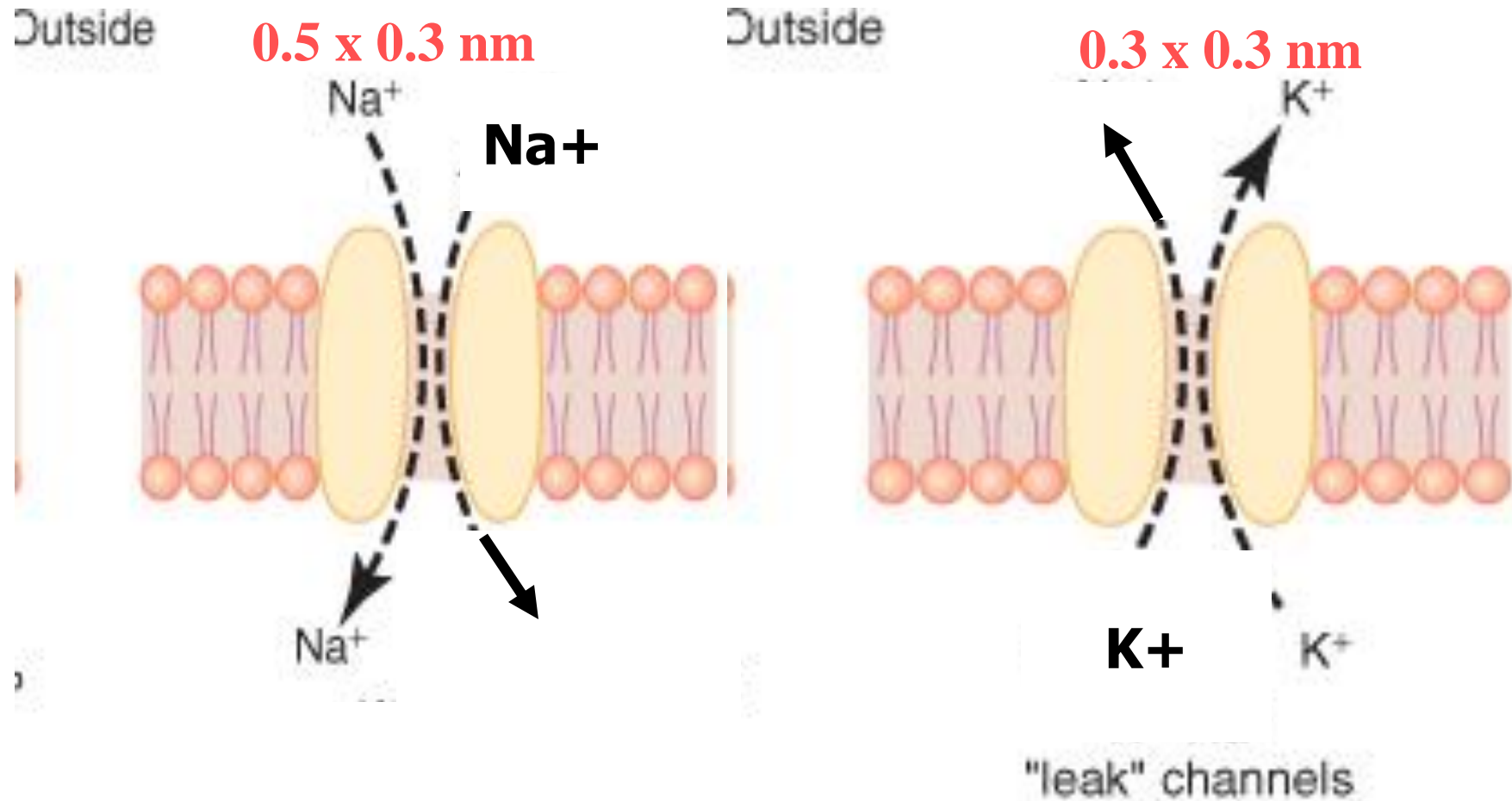
## Hormones Increasing functions of ATPase

-Thyroxin, Aldosterone & Insulin.

- Dopamine decreases its function

# Leak Channels

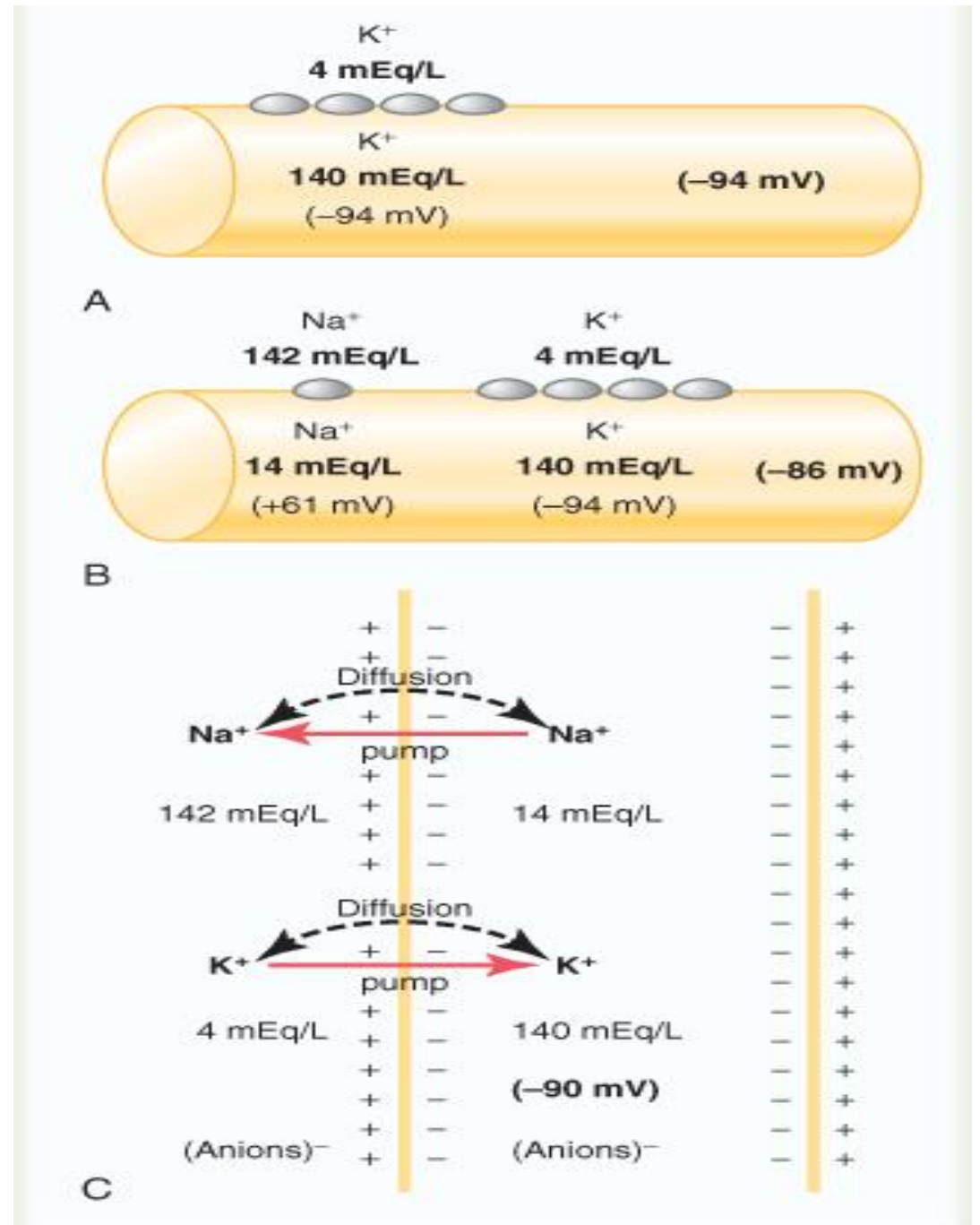
Why  $K^+$  Leak Channels are More Permeable than  $Na^+$  Leak Channels



# Origin of Resting membrane potential

Na<sup>+</sup> mainly extracellular---  
 142 mEq/L  
 K<sup>+</sup> mainly intracellular-----  
 140 mEq/L

Cl<sup>-</sup> mainly extra cellular--  
 108 mEq/L  
 Non-diffusible intracellular anions.  
 -- HPO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup>  
 -- SO<sub>4</sub><sup>--</sup>  
 ---Intracellular proteins  
 (4 times as in the plasma)



- If the membrane is highly permeable to potassium but only slightly permeable to sodium



diffusion of potassium contributes far more to the membrane potential

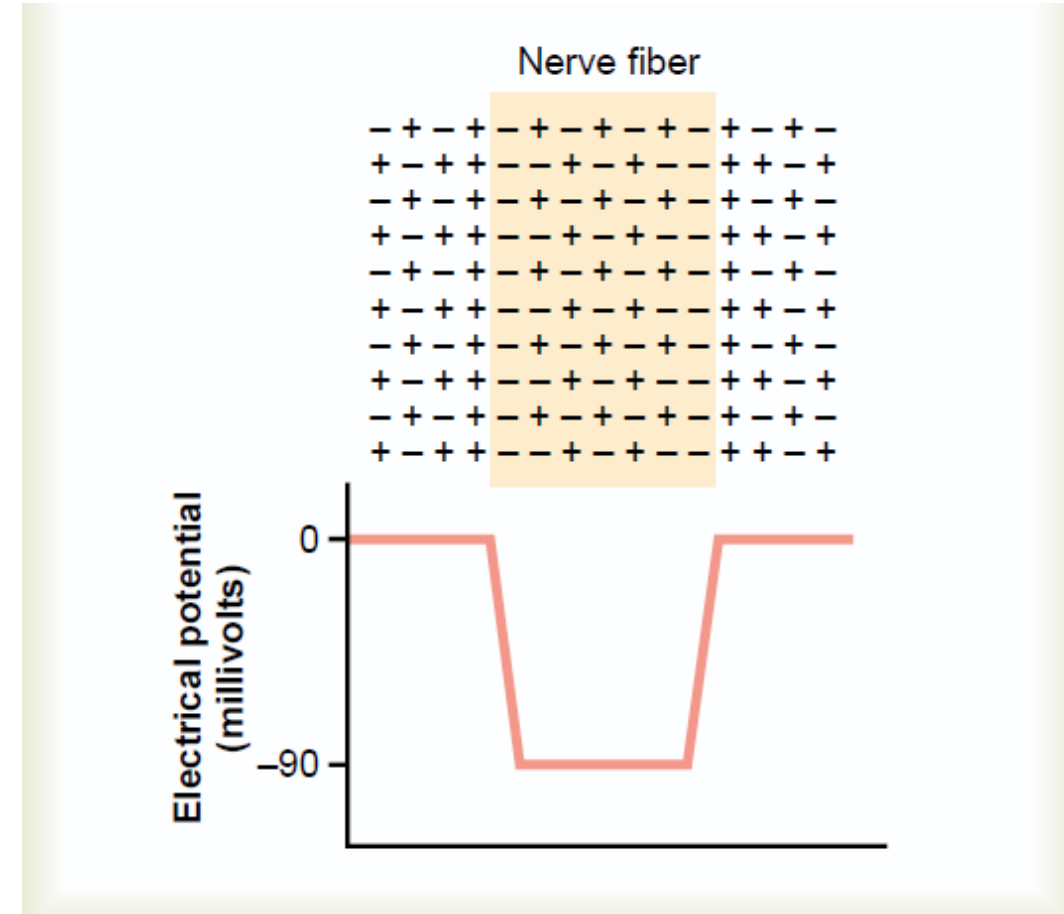
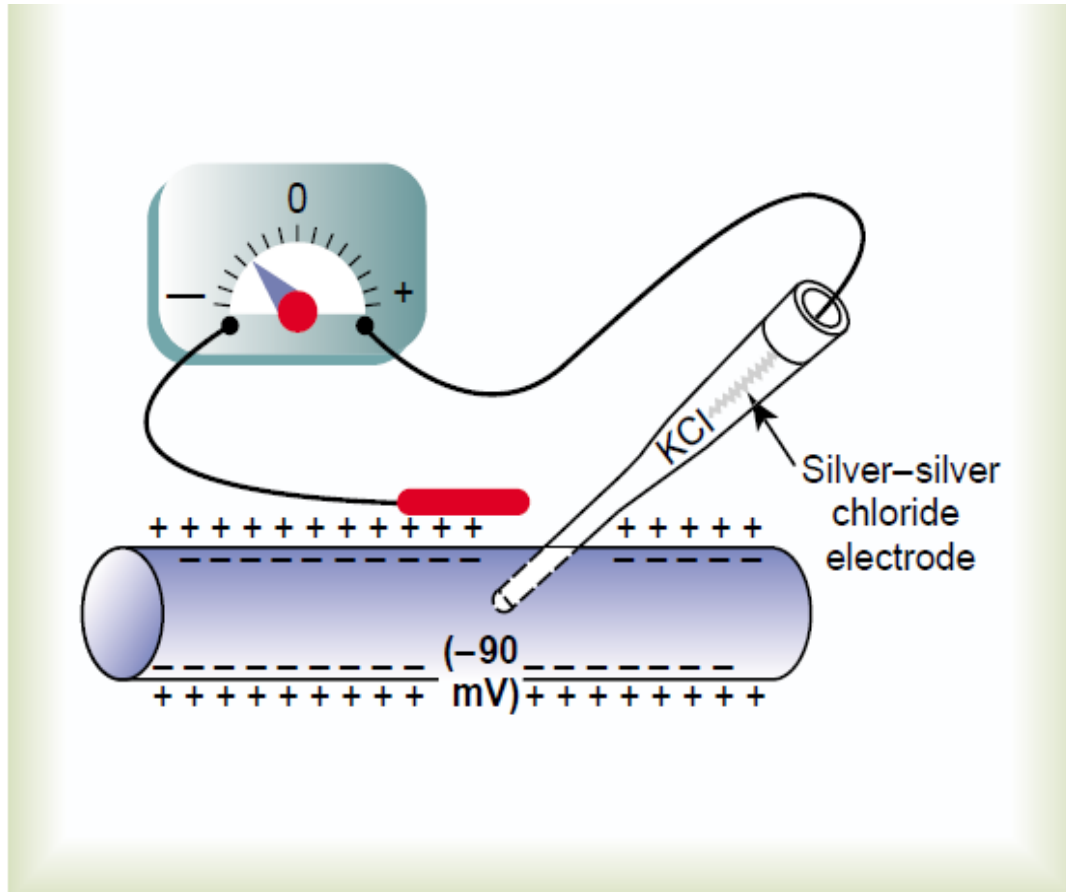
- In the normal nerve fiber, the permeability of the membrane to potassium is about 100 times as great as its permeability to sodium.
- Goldman equation gives a potential inside the membrane of  $-86$  millivolts, which is near the potassium potential

- Nernst potential for Potassium -94mv
- Nernst potential for Sodium +61mv
- Putting these values in Gold man equation, gives a value of -86mv

Which is nearer to K<sup>+</sup> diffusing potential

- Na- K pump provides - 4mv
- i.e adding -86 and -4mv= -90mv
- Resting membrane potential in nerves is -90 mv

# Measuring the membrane potential of the nerve fiber



# **Types of Channels in the cell Membrane**

**- Leak Channels (Slow)**  **Na<sup>+</sup>**  
**K<sup>+</sup>**

**- Voltage gated channels (Fast) — For Na<sup>+</sup> & K<sup>+</sup>**

**Slow Ca<sup>++</sup> - Na<sup>+</sup> Channels**

**- Ligand Gated Channels --- Neurotransmitters, Hormones**

**- Mechanical Gated Channels – Hair Cells ( inner Ear)**



# Resting Membrane Potential in Various Excitable Tissues

- Large Myelinated Nerve fibers
  - Skeletal Muscle Fibers
  - Ventricular Muscle fibers
- = -90mv
- 
- Smooth Muscle fiber & } = -55 to -60 mv
  - Self Excitatory Tissues

# Types of Disturbances across the Cell Membrane

- TWO Types:
  - 1. Non-Propagated Potentials
    - Synaptic
    - Generator
    - Electrotonic {
      - Catelectrotonic
      - Anelctrotonic
- 2. Propagated – Action Potential

# MCQ

1. The main contributor for development of resting membrane potential is

- A.  $\text{Na}^+$  ions
- B.  $\text{K}^+$  ions
- C. Proteins present inside the cell
- D.  $\text{Cl}^-$  ions

2. Resting membrane potential in self excitatory tissue is

- A. -90 mv
- B. -110 mv
- C. -55 mv
- D. -70 mv

3. During resting condition, there is a slight excess of negative charge inside the cell membrane which is due to:

- A. Cl<sup>-</sup> ions
- B. Unequal distribution of K<sup>+</sup> ions
- C. Unequal distribution of Na<sup>+</sup> ions
- D. Non diffusible SO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup> & PO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup>

4. Related to Sodium Potassium Pump , all of the following are true except:

- A. maintains the volume of the cell .
- B. does not utilize energy for its function
- C. Electrogenic
- D. Acts as ATPase.

# Choose the one correct answer

6. Na-K Pump is the main contributor in the development of negativity inside the cell. (T/F)
  
7. Potassium ions are more permeable through the leak channels than sodium ions in-spite of their large molecule weight.  
(T/F)

8. Goldman-Katz equation measure the effect of individual ions on the resting membrane potential.

(T/F)

9. Resting membrane potential in the ventricular muscle fiber is -60 mv

(T/F)

10. Sodium-Potassium pump requires energy for the movement of ions across the membrane

(T/F)

11. Resting membrane potential in smooth is the same as in skeletal muscle fiber.

(T/F)

12. Protein in intracellular fluid is 10 times more than in extracellular fluid and act as anion.

(T/F)

**Thank You**