

Carefully read the following information and briefly answer the following questions after calculating with a precision of 2 significant figures. Given that  $\ln(2) \cong 0.7$ ,  $\ln(10) \cong 2.3$ .

After drinking alcohol, ethanol ( $\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$ ) in our blood can soon be built up to 20mM, which will gradually be oxidized to ethanal ( $\text{CH}_3\text{CHO}$ ), the chief chemical for the alcohol flush syndrome, with the following reaction:  $\text{ethanol} + \text{NAD}^+ \rightarrow \text{ethanal} + \text{NADH} + \text{H}^+$ . Under sufficient supply of  $\text{NAD}^+$ , the oxidation rate ( $r$ ) from ethanol (S) to ethanal (P) can be predicted by Arrhenius equation:

$$\frac{-d[S]}{dt} = \frac{d[P]}{dt} = r = Ae^{\frac{-E}{RT}} \text{ where } R \text{ is the gas constant } (\sim 8.3 \text{ Jmol}^{-1}\text{K}^{-1}).$$

Outside our body, the reaction rate at 27°C doubles for every 10°C rise in temperature (a norm in high school chemistry); however, the rate at the body temperature (37°C) can only reach  $0.001 \text{ mMmin}^{-1}$ , much slower than the maximum reaction rate in our body,  $10 \text{ mMmin}^{-1}$ . Learned from the internet, the reaction in our body was actually catalyzed by a dimeric enzyme, alcohol dehydrogenase, with one active site on each subunit. The enzyme ( $K_M = 0.5 \text{ mM}$ ) was expected to follow Michaelis-Menten kinetics with the reaction rate ( $v$ ) reaching its maximum ( $v_{\text{Max}}$ ) right after drinking.

$$v = v_{\text{Max}} \frac{[S]}{[S] + K_M}$$

However, the *in vitro* kinetic analysis shows a positive cooperative effect that can be revealed by Hill-Langmuir equation of Protein(P)-Ligands(L) binding by assuming the dissociation constant  $K = K_M$ :

$$P + nL \leftrightarrow PL_n; \theta = \frac{\text{Occupied protein}}{\text{Total protein}} = \frac{[PL_n]}{[P] + [PL_n]} = \frac{[P][L]^n/K}{[P] + [P][L]^n/K} = \frac{[L]^n}{[L]^n + K}$$

$$\frac{\theta}{1-\theta} = \frac{[L]^n}{K}; \log\left(\frac{\theta}{1-\theta}\right) = n \log([L]) - \log(K)$$

The logarithmic plot is called Hill plot, and the slope  $n$  is called Hill coefficient. The protein binding phenomenon is "positive" cooperative when  $n > 1$ .

- 1) Describe the meanings and dimensions of  $r$ ,  $A$ ,  $E$  and  $T$  in Arrhenius equation (10%).
- 2) The reaction is said to be pseudo-first order, why? (5%)
- 3) Calculate the approximate value of  $E$  for the uncatalyzed reaction. (15%)
- 4) Calculate the approximate value of  $E'$  for the enzymatic reaction. (10%)
- 5) Calculate the physiological alcohol dehydrogenase level in terms of the international unit (IU) of enzyme ( $\mu\text{mol}/\text{min}$ ). (10%)
- 6) Under what conditions does the assumption,  $K = K_M$ , hold? (10%)
- 7) Describe the way to obtain the Hill plot of the enzymatic reaction and retrieve useful information. (Hint:  $\theta = v/v_{\text{Max}}$ ) (20%)
- 8) Give possible physiological meaning of the positive cooperative effect of alcohol dehydrogenase. (10%)
- 9) Give possible physiological meaning of the positive cooperative effect of hemoglobin during transporting oxygen molecules from lung to tissues. (10%)