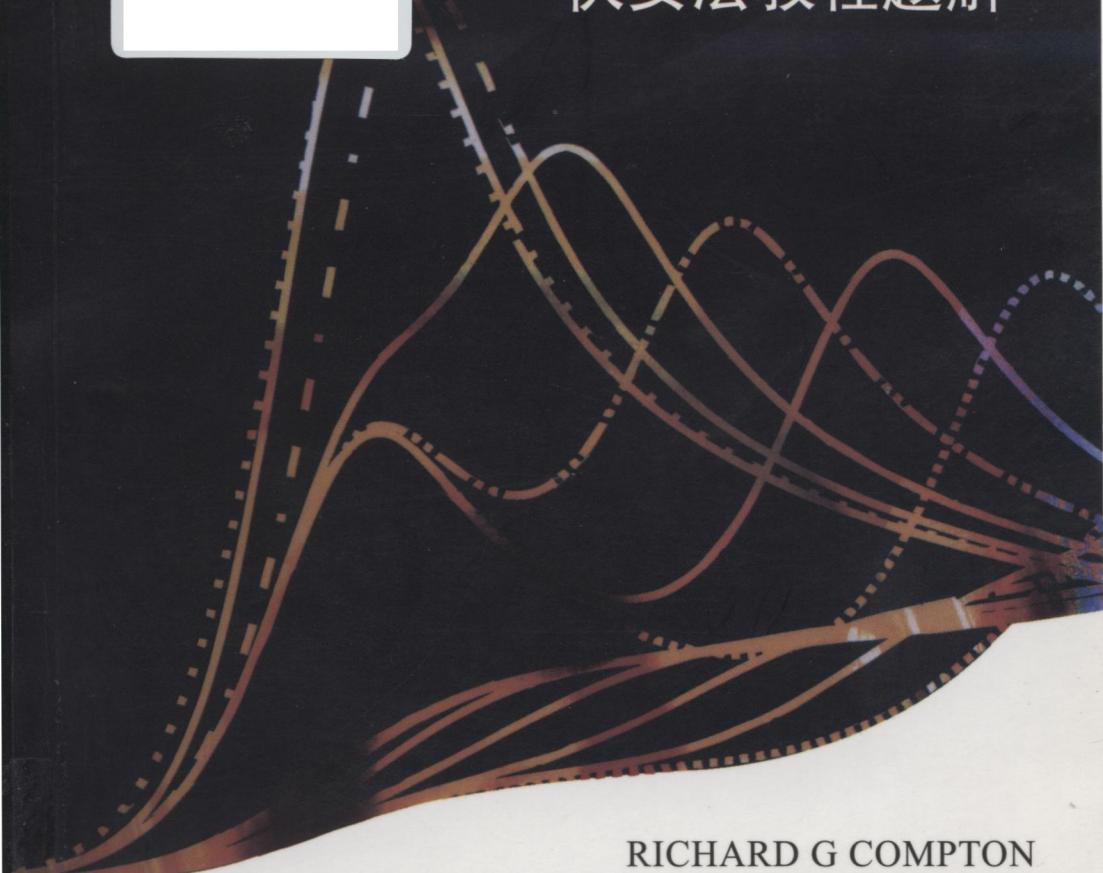


# UNDERSTANDING VOLTAMMETRY:

## Problems and Solutions

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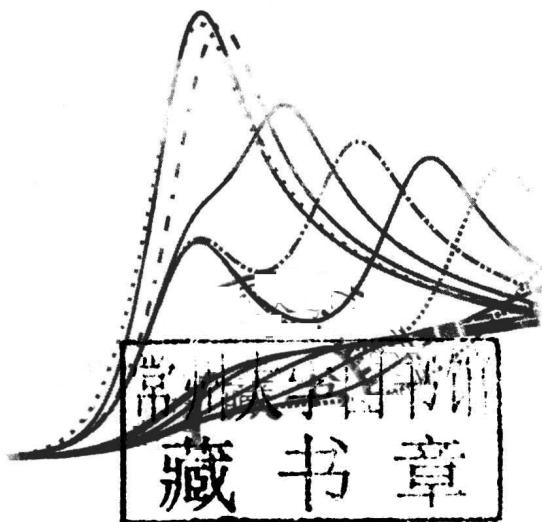


RICHARD G COMPTON  
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World Scientific

世界图书出版公司  
[www.wpcbj.com.cn](http://www.wpcbj.com.cn)

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*Published by*

Imperial College Press  
57 Shelton Street  
Covent Garden  
London WC2H 9HE

*Distributed by*

World Scientific Publishing Co. Pte. Ltd.  
5 Toh Tuck Link, Singapore 596224  
*USA office:* 27 Warren Street, Suite 401-402, Hackensack, NJ 07601  
*UK office:* 57 Shelton Street, Covent Garden, London WC2H 9HE

**British Library Cataloguing-in-Publication Data**

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

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**Problems and Solutions**

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ISBN-13 978-1-84816-730-8

ISBN-10 1-84816-730-X

ISBN-13 978-1-84816-731-5 (pbk)

ISBN-10 1-84816-731-8 (pbk)

Reprint arranged with World Scientific Co. Pte. Ltd., Singapore.

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限于中国大陆地区发行。

# **UNDERSTANDING VOLTAMMETRY:**

## **Problems and Solutions**



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## Publisher's Foreword

*Understanding Voltammetry: Problems and Solutions* is a companion volume to the textbook *Understanding Voltammetry 2nd Edition*, by Richard G. Compton and Craig E. Banks, published in 2011. The structure of this volume follows that of the textbook.

*Understanding Voltammetry* considers how to go about designing, explaining and interpreting experiments centred around various forms of voltammetry, including cyclic, microelectrode and hydrodynamic, amongst others.

The book gives clear introductions to the theories of electron transfer and of diffusion in its early chapters. These are developed to interpret voltammetric experiments at macroelectrodes before considering microelectrode behaviour. A subsequent chapter introduces convection and describes hydrodynamic electrodes. Later chapters describe the voltammetric measurement of homogeneous kinetics, the study of adsorption on electrodes and the use of voltammetry for electroanalysis.



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## Glossary of Symbols and Abbreviations

### Roman symbols

<i>A</i>	area	$\text{m}^2$
<i>A</i>	Debye-Hückel constant = $0.509 \text{ mol}^{-\frac{1}{2}} \text{ kg}^{\frac{1}{2}}$	
<i>a<sub>i</sub></i>	activity of species <i>i</i>	
<i>c<sub>i</sub></i>	concentration of species <i>i</i>	$\text{mol dm}^{-3}$
<i>c<sub>i,0</sub></i>	surface concentration of species <i>i</i>	$\text{mol dm}^{-3}$
<i>c*</i>	bulk concentration	$\text{mol dm}^{-3}$
<i>D</i>	diffusion coefficient	$(\text{c})\text{m}^2 \text{s}^{-1}$
<i>E</i>	cell potential	V
<i>E<sup>⊖</sup></i>	reduction potential under standard conditions	V
<i>E<sub>f</sub><sup>⊖</sup></i>	formal reduction potential	V
<i>F</i>	the Faraday constant = $96485.3 \text{ C mol}^{-1}$	
<i>G</i>	Gibbs energy	J
$\Delta G^{\ominus}$	change in Gibbs energy under standard conditions	$\text{J mol}^{-1}$
$\Delta G^{\ddagger}$	activation energy	$\text{J mol}^{-1}$
$\Delta H^{\ominus}$	change in enthalpy under standard conditions	$\text{J mol}^{-1}$
<i>h</i>	height or half-height of a cell	m
<i>I</i>	current passed	A
<i>I<sub>pf</sub></i>	forward peak current	A
<i>I</i>	ionic strength	$\text{mol kg}^{-1}$
<i>J</i>	flux	$\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$
<i>K</i>	equilibrium coefficient	

$K$	dimensionless rate constant	
$K_a$	acid dissociation constant	
$K_{eq}$	equilibrium coefficient (in follow-up kinetics)	
$K_{sp}$	solubility product	
$k^0$	heterogeneous rate constant	(c)m s <sup>-1</sup>
$k$	rate constant	
$m_i$	molality of species $i$	mol kg <sup>-1</sup>
$n$	number of electrons transferred	
$p$	pressure as a multiple of standard pressure	bar
$pK_a$	$\equiv -\log_{10} K_a$	
$Q$	reaction quotient	
$Q$	charge transferred	C
$q_{rev}$	reversible heat transferred	J mol <sup>-1</sup>
$q$	charge	C
$R$	the gas constant = 8.31447 J K <sup>-1</sup> mol <sup>-1</sup>	
Re	the Reynolds number	
$r$	radius or radial coordinate	m
$r_e$	electrode radius	m
$\Delta S^\ominus$	change in entropy under standard conditions	J K <sup>-1</sup> mol <sup>-1</sup>
$T$	temperature	K
$t$	time	s
$t_i$	transport number of species $i$	
$V_f$	volume flow rate	m <sup>3</sup> s <sup>-1</sup>
$v$	voltammetric scan rate	V s <sup>-1</sup>
$W$	rotation speed	s <sup>-1</sup>
$w$	electrode width	m
$x$	linear space coordinate	m
$z_i$	charge number of species $i$	

## Greek symbols

$\alpha$	Butler–Volmer transfer coefficient for reduction	
$\beta$	Butler–Volmer transfer coefficient for oxidation	
$\Gamma$	surface coverage	mol (c)m <sup>-2</sup>
$\gamma_i$	activity coefficient of species $i$	m <sup>3</sup> mol <sup>-1</sup>
$\delta$	Nernst diffusion layer thickness	m
$\epsilon_0$	the permittivity of free space = $8.854 \times 10^{-12}$ F m <sup>-1</sup>	
$\epsilon_s$	relative permittivity or dielectric constant of a solvent	
$\Lambda$	the Matsuda–Ayabe parameter	
$\lambda$	Marcus reorganisation energy	J

$\mu_i$	chemical potential of species $i$	$\text{J mol}^{-1}$
$v_i$	stoichiometric coefficient of species $i$	
$\nu$	kinematic viscosity	$\text{m}^2 \text{s}^{-1}$
$\rho$	density	$\text{kg m}^{-3}$
$\tau$	Shoup-Szabo time coordinate $\equiv (4Dt/r_c^2)$	
$\phi$	potential	V
$\phi_M$	potential of a (metal) electrode	V
$\phi_s$	potential of the solution phase	V
$\Delta\phi_{OD}$	ohmic drop	V
$\Theta$	fractional surface coverage	
$\Theta$	dimensionless potential $\equiv \phi \times (F/RT)$	
$\theta$	dimensionless overpotential $\equiv (F/RT) \times (E - E_f^\ominus)$	

## Abbreviations

BDD	boron-doped diamond
BPPG	basal-plane pyrolytic graphite
EMF	electromotive force
EPPG	edge-plane pyrolytic graphite
$\text{erf}(x)$	the error function
$\text{erfc}(x)$	the complementary error function, $\equiv 1 - \text{erf}(x)$
HOPG	highly ordered pyrolytic graphite
TBAP	tetra- $n$ -butylammonium perchlorate
[ $i$ ]	concentration of species $i$
[ $i$ ] <sub>0</sub>	surface concentration of species $i$
$\ominus$	standard state



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