

Determination of Glucose with Cellulose Acetate/Glucose Oxidase Modified Carbon Paste Electrodes

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ABSTRACT: An amperometric biosensor for glucose determination was developed using a carbon paste electrode (CPE) modified with cellulose acetate (CA)/glucose oxidase (GOx) bilayer membrane through the electrostatic interaction between them. The CA membrane was used as matrix for enzyme immobilization via microencapsulation technique, is enzyme placed between two membranes. CA/GOx membrane was attached to CPE surface containing ferrocene (Fc). By using proposed amperometric biosensor, glucose concentration was determined as well as its characteristic. The modified Fc-graphite electrode with CA/GOx bilayer membrane for glucose had optimum measurement conditions at work emf of 874 mV, CA concentration of 10% and amount Fc of 0.021 mg. The biosensor showed good performance at glucose concentration range of 0.05–3 mM and limit of detection was 0.024 mM. Proposed biosensor has good reproducibility with relative standard deviation (RSD) was less than 5% up to 7 times use (in the defined condition 4 °C). Glucose measurement result in human serum of diabetes mellitus patients showed conformity with result of reference method, MediSense Optium glucose test kit.

Keywords: amperometric biosensor, carbon paste electrode, CA/GOx membrane, glucose,

INTRODUCTION

One of the developing biosensors in the health sector is glucose sensor (Patel, Nanda, Sahoo, & Mohapatra, 2016). The increasing number of people with diabetes mellitus, a metabolic disease caused by lack of insulin or inhibition of insulin secretion (Hameed et al., 2015) causes the need of analytical tool for detecting glucose levels in the body quickly, conveniently, accurately and economically is important (Yusan et al., 2018; Zhang, Du, & Wang, 2015). Diabetes patients must control and maintain blood glucose levels within the normal range to avoid more serious complications such as neuropathy, retinopathy and stroke (Yoo, & Lee, 2010). Hence, the biosensor for glucose-measuring tool has developed very rapidly, considering that glucose biosensors control 85% of the world biosensor market (Newman, & Turner, 2005). Among the available glucose biosensors, electrochemical type biosensors, especially amperometric biosensors, are the most widely used because of their sensitivity, selectivity, reproducibility, low cost, simplicity and easy maintenance (Ridhuan, Razak, & Lockman, 2018; Yoo & Lee, 2010).

Glucose biosensors using GOx as a bioactive material are the most widely used method for detecting glucose levels in the body (Yoo & Lee,

2010). GOx acts as a catalyst in the glucose oxidation reaction (Wang, Sun, Qiao, Ouyang, & Na, 2018). Generally in amperometric biosensor based on enzymatic redox reaction (Hermanto, Kuswandi, Siswanta, & Mudasir, 2019), a mediator was needed for transferring electron from enzyme active side to surface of electrode. Fc can be used as an oxygen substitute mediator (Cuartero, Chai, Zhang, De Marco, & Crespo, 2019). Fc has lower oxidation potential compared to oxygen so that Fc will oxidize and not cause other biological material to oxidize (Paul, Borrelli, Bouyanfif, Gottis, & Sauvage, 2019). It was reported by Ayranci, Demirkol, Ak, & Timur (2015), Fc was used as a redox mediator during the electrochemical measurements for glucose.

Enzyme-based biosensors have the disadvantage of limited lifetime of biosensors (Nguyen, Lee, Lee, Fermin, & Kim, 2019). Hence, a technique is needed for long lasting and reusable enzyme such as enzyme immobilization into suitable supporting material (Hermanto, Mudasir, Siswanta, Kuswandi, & Ismillayli, 2020; Hermanto, Kuswandi, Siswanta, & Mudasir, 2019). GOx enzyme as molecular recognition for glucose determination was immobilized into CA membrane (Wang, Zhu, & Zhou, 2011). This research uses CA membrane because of their properties that are easy to produce, and renewable raw material. CA

is an organic ester, widely used as a fiber, plastic, and membrane in industry (Puls, Wilson, & Holter, 2011). Güleç, Gürda, Albayrak, & Mutlu (2010) has modified polyethyleneimine and CA as a membrane for immobilization *aspergillus oryzae* β -galactosidase. While, Ansari, Satar, Zaidi, & Ahmad (2014) has modified poly(methyl methacrylate) and CA as matrix for the same enzyme.

Various immobilization techniques have been used in immobilizing enzymes into CA membrane (Baharifar et al., 2017; Liu & Chen, 2016), one of them is microencapsulation techniques. In this work, bilayer CA as a matrix for GOx immobilization was prepared by microencapsulation that based on molecular interaction between enzymes and matrices. Enzymes are placed between two membrane layers. The use of two membranes in glucose biosensors is expected to increase the life time of enzymes. Enzymes are trapped inside two inert membranes so that enzymes are not easy leaching. CA/GOx membrane was attached to CPE surface containing Fc for purposed amperometric biosensor for glucose determination. Optimization of parameter experimental has been carried out and the analytical characteristics of the biosensor have been determined. The operational and storage stability of the biosensor were also evaluated.

EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

Chemicals used in this study include technical CA with molecular weight of 30.000; 39.9% (w/w) (Brataco). GOx was isolated from *Aspergillus niger* (Type II, $\geq 10,000$ units/g, solid, without added oxygen) and was purchased from Sigma. Glucose anhydrous ($C_6H_{12}O_6$, KgaA), dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO, ρ 1.11 g/mL), dimethyl phthalate (DMP, ρ 1.19 g/mL), acetone (ρ 0.79 g/mL), sodium hydroxide (NaOH), sodium chloride (NaCl) and potassium chloride (KCl) as electrolyte solution, Fc (Merck schuchardt OHG), graphite powder, paraffin oil, phosphate buffer pH 7 ($NaH_2PO_4 \cdot H_2O$ and Na_2HPO_4), and aquadimen were received from Merck. Sample solution was prepared by appropriate dilution and all solution were diluted with deionized water. The used reagents were analytical grade.

The equipment used is a type of Home Made Potentiostat DAQ PCI 622 NI. The electrodes consist of carbon working electrodes, platinum counter electrodes, and Ag/AgCl reference electrodes. Additional equipment consists of magnetic stirrers, Jenway 3320 pH meters, OHAU Pioneer analytical balance, cylindrical glass pipes, o-rings, permeability cells and laboratory glassware.

The CA membrane was made by using phase inversion method (Nolte et al., 2011). Membrane printing solutions consist of CA membranes with varying concentration of 10, 12, 14, 16 and 18 wt% with CA mass needed are 1.1, 1.4, 1.6, 1.9 and 2.2 g, respectively. They were dissolved in 6.8 mL of DMSO,

2.3 mL of acetone, 0.5 mL of DMP in stirring condition (400 rpm) until the solution was homogeneous. The printing solution was allowed to settle and remove air bubbles, then was poured into glass plate mold and was dipped immediately in a coagulation bath. The obtained membrane was washed with water to remove any remaining solvents and additives.

The CA membrane produced was cut in size of 3 x 3 cm. A 0.1 M phosphate buffer solution pH 7 containing 2.56×10^5 GOx units/L was dripped on the surface of membrane as much as 0.25 ml and was allowed at 4 °C for 48 hours. Fc contained-carbon paste preparation referred to the method of Yusan et al. (2018), by mixing 100 g of graphite powder with Fc at various concentrations (0.015; 0.018; 0.021 and 0.024 g). The mixture was added with a few drops of paraffin oil and homogenized using a pestle in an agate mortar. Carbon paste was put into a glass tube in right position and was connected with copper wire. Furthermore, the resistance between the copper wire at one end of the glass pipe and the carbon paste at the other end of the glass tube was measured and the resistance was less than 20 Ohm.

The surface of Fc contained-carbon electrode was coated with a membrane that was immobilized by the GOx enzyme at concentration of 2.56×10^5 units/L and was resurfaced with CA as outer membrane using o-rings to form CA bilayer biosensor. The used electrochemical cells consisted of beaker glass, biosensor working electrodes with CA bilayer membrane, Ag/AgCl reference electrodes and platinum wire counter electrodes with 0.5 M NaCl solution. Biosensing of bilayer acetate cellulose was carried out by measuring standard glucose solution (with varies concentration were 0.05, 0.1, 1, 2 and 3 mM) using an amperometer.

The optimization of several biosensor parameters such as membrane concentration, emf, mass of Fc and response time were carried out. The optimum membrane concentration was determined with varying concentrations from 10-18 wt%; emf was varied from 0.01-1.00 V; varied of Fc mass was 0.015-0.024 g and response time was measured at 0-260 s at optimum membrane concentrations, emf and Fc mass. The optimum conditions obtained are used to determine the analytical performance of the biosensor including linearity, limit of detection, repeatability, stability and interference.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The mechanism of reaction between glucose, GO_x enzymes and Fc is described in the following scheme;

$$\text{Glucose} + GO_{x(ox)} \rightarrow \text{Gluconolactone} + GO_{x(red)} \quad (1)$$

$$\text{Glucose} + FAD \rightarrow \text{Gluconolactone} + FADH_2 \quad (2)$$

$$GO_{x(red)} + 2 Fc^+ \rightarrow GO_{(ox)} + 2 Fc + 2H^+ \quad (3)$$

$$2 Fc \rightarrow 2 Fc^+ + 2e^- \quad (4)$$

Where Fc^+ and Fc are oxidized and reduced forms of ferrosene. Fc is an electron transfer mediator undergoing an oxidation reaction by releasing

electrons after being given potential, become Fc^+ ion. The electrons was released, GOx enzyme oxidized β -D-Glucose to D-Glucono-1,5-lactone by releasing two electrons in the form of hydrogen atom (Eq. 1). FAD as cofactor of the GOx enzyme received two hydrogen atoms and undergo reduction reaction to $FADH_2$. $FADH_2$ then was oxidized by transferring electrons to become FAD (Eq. 2). The electrons transferred by $FADH_2$ were then captured by the Fc^+ ion for reduction reaction and became Fc (Eq. 3). Fc then undergo an oxidation reaction again after being given potential through an amperometer and

releasing electrons (Eq. 4). The basic principle of sensing glucose biosensor is shown in **Figure 1**.

The amount of released and used electrons to force the GOx enzyme oxidizes β -D-Glucose to D-Glucono-1,5-lactone was detected as measured current, was proportional to the amount of oxidized glucose. The measured current was the result of the Fc oxidation reaction, so this current was called the Fc oxidation current. The glucose oxidation reaction in one glucose molecule would transfer two electrons to one GOx enzyme molecule. Oxidation of one molecule of β -D-glucose to D-gluconolactone required two molecules of Fc^+ ions that reduced to Fc.

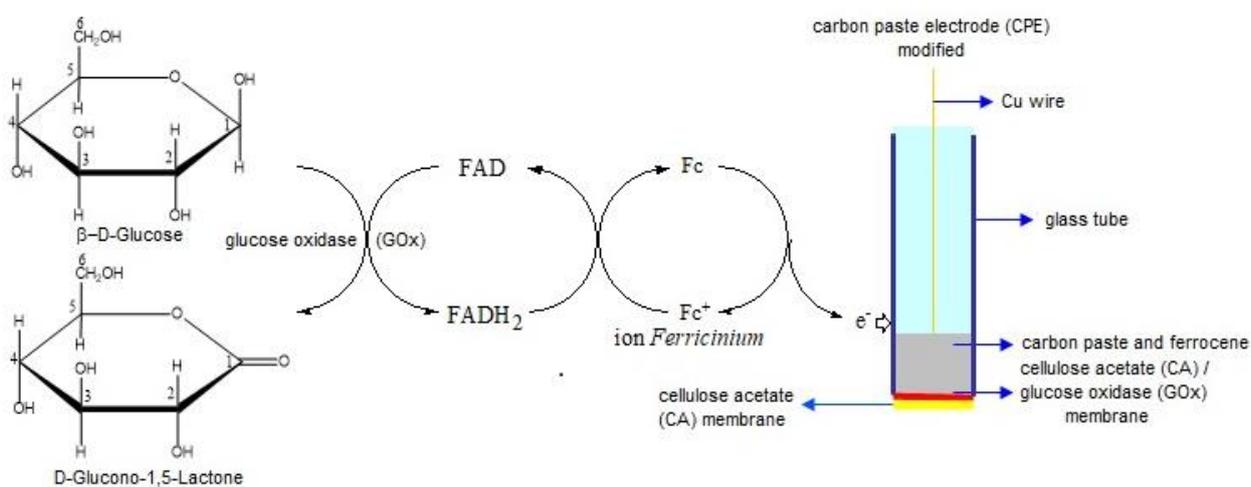


Figure 1. Schematic illustration of sensing principle in glucose biosensor including fabrication of modified Fc–graphite electrode with CA/GOx bilayer membrane.

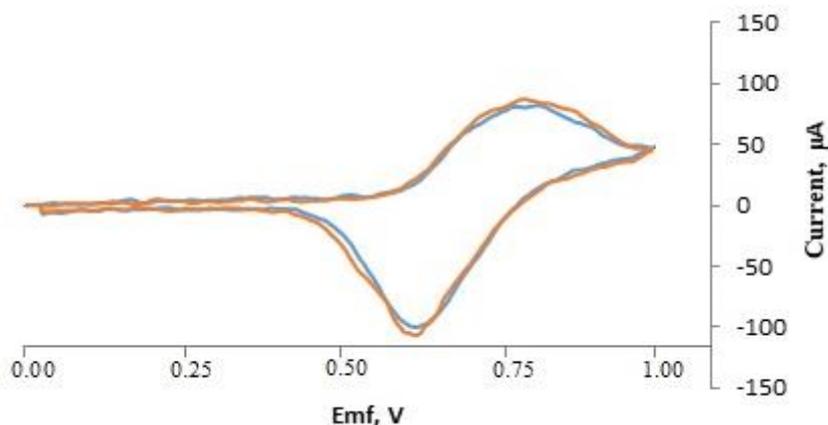


Figure 2. Cyclic voltammogram of modified Fc–graphite electrode with CA/GOx bilayer membrane at 0.01 to 1.0 V vs Ag/AgCl, sweep rate was 5 mV/s, and Fc mass was 0.021 g.

Table 1. Optimization of amperometric biosensor parameters

Parameter	Range	Optimum Value
Membrane Concentration (wt%)	10–18	10
Emf (V)	0.01–1.0	0.874
Mass Fc (g)	0.015–0.024	0.021
Response Time (s)	0–260	70

Based on **Figure 2**, the used emf between 0.01 to 1.1V produced positive current value, indicated that Fc was oxidized to Fc^+ by releasing electrons, thus increased the current value. The NaCl current was showed by blue line, while red line was current when glucose was added.

In terms of increased performance of the modified Fc-graphite electrode with CA/GOx bilayer membrane as an amperometric biosensors, there are many parameters affecting the sensor response such as membrane concentration, emf, mass Fc and response time. The optimization of the experimental parameters is an essential step in the analytical characteristics of the modified Fc-graphite electrode with CA/GOx bilayer membrane as an amperometric biosensors performance. **Table 1** shows some investigated-experimental parameters and their optimum value.

The membranes used in this study vary in concentration, ie 10, 12, 14, 16 and 18 wt%. Based on the research results was shown in **Table 1**, the optimum membrane concentration has the highest reduction in glucose was 10 wt% CA membrane with a concentration of 23.73×10^{-3} mmol or 10 wt% has the highest permeability to glucose compared to other membranes, due to their higher porosity. An increase in CA membrane concentration caused glucose permeability decrease. Increasing the concentration of polymer in the casting solution affected the polymer concentration in interface and polymer volume fraction increased, hence produced membrane has smaller surface porosity. Otherwise, at CA concentrations was smaller than 10 wt% would produce membranes with larger pore distributions. The resulting membrane was thinner and more brittle so it was easily torn. CA membrane in this biosensor as well as enzyme immobilization medium was also used as a filtration membrane in the measurement of glucose levels in blood serum (Idris, Yee, & Kee, 2015).

Cyclic voltammogram **Figure 2** shows that emf between 0.0 to 1.1 V give positive current value. This showed that Fc was oxidized to Fc^+ by releasing electrons and resulted in current increasing. At emf of 0.63 V an increase in current begins to be detected, indicating Fc was starting to oxidize. The current increasing would continue until the emf of 0.874 V was achieved, which is the optimum emf with the most oxidized Fc. At higher emf, ie 0.874 to 1.1 V the measured current decreased because Fc was oxidized decreasing. Giving an emf between 1.1 to 0.0 V produced negative current, showed the reduction reaction. A decrease in current occurred slowly and optimum current decreased was attained at 0.683 V. The decrease in current shows the number of reduced Fc^+ ions to Fc were the most so that the required electrons were also in large number, resulting current decreasing. While, increasing current was recorded at 0.683–0.00 V due to decrease in reduction of Fc^+ ion to Fc. Based on the voltammogram above, Fc undergo

reversible oxidation-reduction reaction so that it can be used as mediator of electron transfer from enzymes to the working electrodes of glucose biosensors. The use of membrane bilayers in glucose biosensors caused longer time of glucose to diffuse before bounding to the active site of enzyme, causing small current detected due to the lack of oxidized glucose. Immobilization of enzymes in the membrane also limited the enzyme's motion and influenced enzyme activity. Glucose in the bilayer biosensor oxidized, releasing electrons which later were used in the reduction reaction of the Fc^+ ion to Fc. The optimum emf value of Fc was used in the measurement of amperometer to oxidize Fc.

Fc as electron transfer mediator in the glucose oxidation-reduction reaction which is catalyzed by the GOx enzyme influence current produced. The more Fc, the more the capacity of receiving and transferring electrons cause the higher current produced. At Fc mass of 0.015 and 0.018 g, the currents increased 3.558 and 4.137 mA respectively. The Fc mass of 0.021 g was optimum Fc mass, providing the highest current increase, was 5.584 mA, meaning that all electrons could be transferred to working electrode. Applying higher Fc of 0.024 g decreased the measured current of 3.855 mA. This is probably due to the excessive number of Fc^+ ions formed due to increased amount of Fc. The amount of excess Fc^+ ions when compared to the number of transferred electrons would cause competition, hence disrupted the rate of electron transfer and caused decrease in current.

At emf 0.874 V, the modified Fc-graphite electrode with CA/GOx bilayer membrane as an amperometric biosensors showed response changes in the presence of glucose. The response time of the modified Fc-graphite electrode with CA/GOx bilayer membrane to various concentrations of glucose solutions at emf 0.874 V is given in **Table 1**. As a reference, it was used modified Fc-graphite electrode with CA/GOx bilayer membrane that was not treated with glucose. It was observed that the 70 s response time was the optimal time to reach 90% current response so it was used for further measurements.

Based on **Figure 3**, NaCl currents marked with blue lines were blank currents. The addition of glucose caused increasing current occurred slowly until constant value was reached. Giving higher concentrations of glucose solutions resulted higher detected currents due to the increasing amount of glucose which was oxidized by enzymes. The response of modified Fc-graphite electrode with CA/GOx bilayer membrane has been investigated under optimum conditions. The modified Fc-graphite electrode with CA/GOx bilayer membrane response graph showed changes of amperometric current due to glucose standard concentration. As shown in **Figure 3**, the amperogram graph of the biosensor for successive addition of glucose standard solution. The inset shows the plot of the calibration curve between the

amperometric currents and concentration of glucose has good linearity with the correlation coefficient, $r = 0.9976$. It means that R^2 close to 1 (resulted curve was linear). The regression coefficient resulting from the graph was 0.9976. This indicated that 99.76% of the emf change produced was influenced by changes in glucose concentration and 0.24% was influenced by other factors. The modified Fc-graphite electrode with CA/GOx bilayer membrane in glucose measurement with concentration range of 0.05–3 mM has linear regression equation, which is $y = 0.2906x + 0.5753$. The measured current increase was the oxidation current of Fc. The resulting linear correlation occurred in the range of glucose concentrations between 0.05–3 mM. In the measurement of amperometric biosensor, the emf used was 0.874 V, as shown in Figure 3 (inset). The sudden emf giving of 0.874 V on the amperometer caused change in charging current comparing to voltmeter. It was likely due to the power amplifier on the potentiostat had not reached the

expected emf value, so measured charging current has decreased, resulted decrease in the measured NaCl current.

The detection limit is the smallest concentration of an analyte (glucose) can be determined or detected. The smaller the detection limit, the better biosensor performance. In this study, the detection limit was determined from the intercept of the calibration curve plus three times its standard deviation (Miller & Miller, 2005). Limit detection of modified Fc-graphite electrode with CA/GOx bilayer membrane was 0.024 mM. Biosensor sensitivity as the ratio of signal changes per unit changes in analyte concentration is determined based on the slope value of the calibration curve. Based on the calibration curve, the sensitivity value of the modified Fc-graphite electrode with CA/GOx bilayer membrane was 0.290 $\mu\text{A}/\text{mM}$. A large sensitivity value means that small change in concentration of an analyte can provide meaningful response so the higher the sensitivity the more sensitive the method.

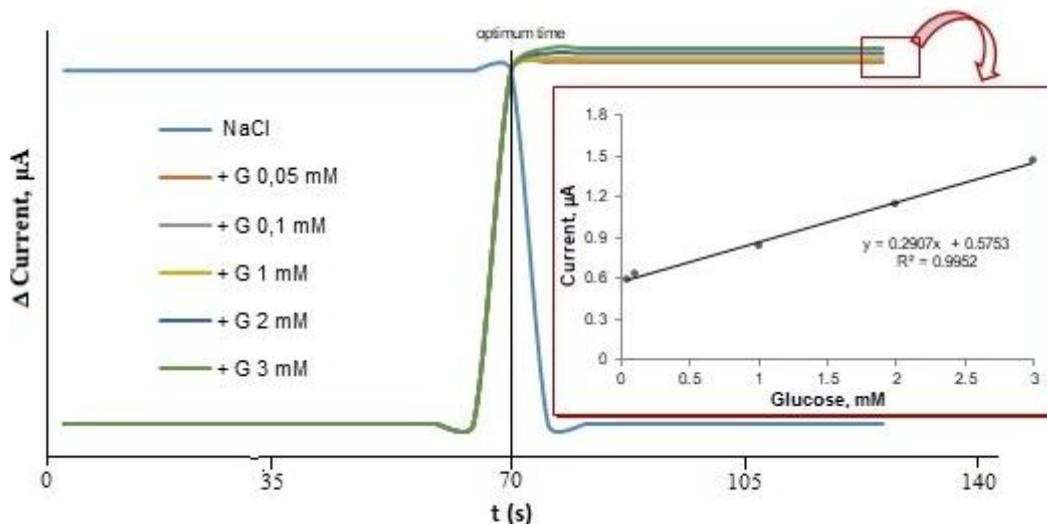


Figure 3. Amperogram graph of current increase. Measurements were made using an amperometer at 0.874 V, with 0.5 M NaCl electrolyte solution blank and 0.05, 0.1, 1, 2, and 3 mM glucose standard solution. (inset) a plot calibration of amperometric biosensor response vs. glucose concentration.

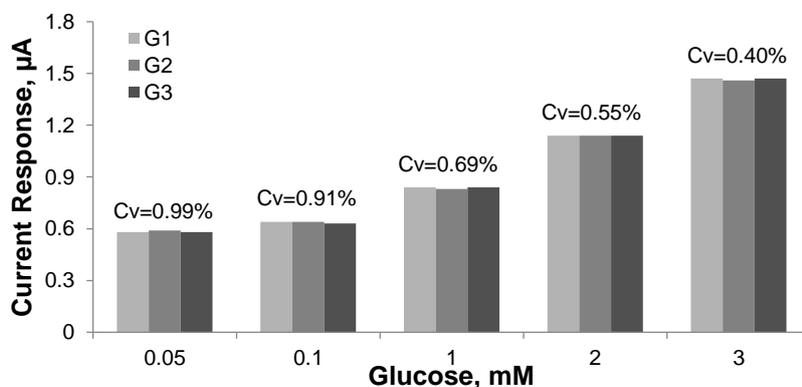


Figure 4. The glucose amperometric biosensor response toward reproducibility at various concentration of glucose (amperometer measurement at 0.874 V, with 0.5 M NaCl electrolyte blank solution and 0.05, 0.1, 1, 2, and 3 mM glucose standard solution, and $n = 3$).

The reproducibility of biosensors as important characteristics were studied in this work. Reproducibility is biosensor's ability to provide close agreement between measurement results using same method in different condition. Repetition of experiments is expected to produce difference result between experiments as small as possible or resulting precise data. The reproducibility of the modified Fc-graphite electrode with CA/GOx bilayer membrane as an amperometric biosensor was determined by doing 3 measurements using 3 membranes ($n = 3$, G1 = first membrane to G3 = third membrane). The results showed that the reproducibility in the concentration range of 0.0-3.0 mM, was 0.0 to 0.99%, which indicate that the biosensor has excellent reproducibility, as shown in **Figure 4**.

The biosensor stability is carried out every days by observing modified Fc-graphite electrode with CA/GOx bilayer membrane current response to glucose as shown in **Figure 5**. During stability test, the membrane was stored at 4°C. It was found that for 7 days modified Fc-graphite electrode with CA/GOx bilayer membrane response decreased 23%, indicating that modified Fc-graphite electrode with CA/GOx bilayer membrane was good stability membrane. In the 8 day measurement the ratio of

measured current response to initial current response was 55%. Possibly caused by activity decrease of GOx enzyme, hence the response to glucose also decreased and measured current also decreased by 45%. Thus, the biosensor has life time 7 days when stored at defined condition (4°C).

Method selectivity was determined by adding a different amount of the potentially interfering substances containing other substrate that generally find in clinical analysis such as cholesterol, creatinine, uric acid, maltose and ascorbic acid (Yoo & Lee, 2010). **Table 2** shows an activity of the amperometric biosensor on several interferences. The analysis was conducted with the concentration ratio of glucose with the interference substrate was 1:10 (1 mM of glucose, 10 mM interference). The current response relative value was very small (<5%), indicating that other substrates have no significant effect at this ratio. However, ascorbic acid has a relatively larger value compared to other interference substrate. Ascorbic acid at this concentration could affect the redox activity of electrode, whereas ascorbic acid is oxidized at the electrode surface, resulting in the production of more electrons and generate greater current. The comparison of the biosensor performance with the previous glucose biosensor is shown in **Table 3**.

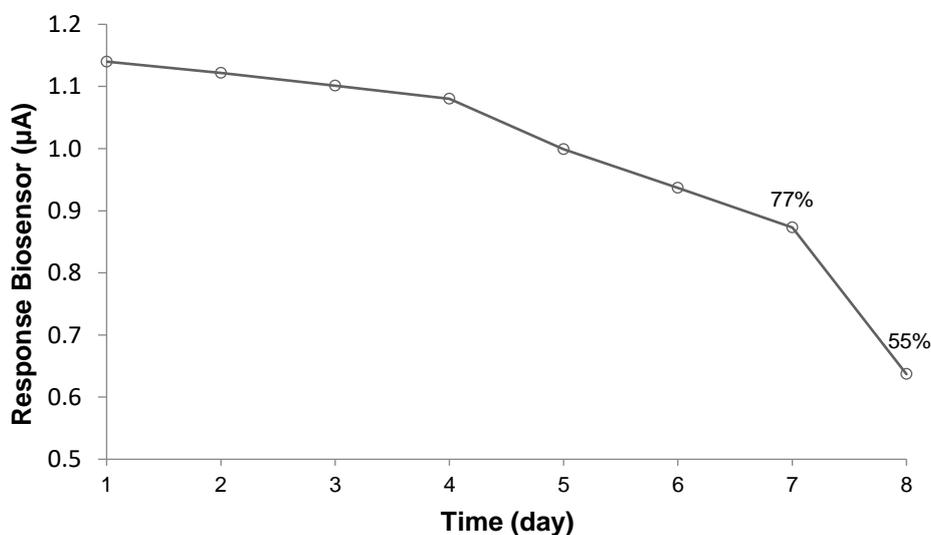


Figure 5. The curve of decreased current response to glucose

Table 2. Determination results of possible interferences tested with the biosensor.

Interference	Relative Redox Activity (%)
Cholesterol	+ 0.79
Creatinine	+ 0.68
Uric acid	+ 1.10
Maltose	+ 1.25
Ascorbic acid	+ 1.66

Table 3. Comparison of many glucose biosensor performance.

Electrode materials	Linearity	LOD (mM)	RSD (%)	Time (s)	Reference
Fc-graphite/CA/GOx	0.05-3.00	0.0240	0.99	70	This work
Nafion/Gox/ZnO NR	0.05-1.00	0.0600	3.03	10	Ridhuan et al., 2018
Se-MCM-41/GOD/CPE	0.01-2.00	0.1000	2.8	n/a	Yusan et al., 2018
GOD/CS-rGO/AuNPs/Pt	0.015-2.13	0.0017	3.2	5	Fang et al., 2015

Table 4. Glucose levels in clinical analysis using amperometric biosensor and MediSense glucose test strips.

Parameter	Modified Fc-graphite electrode with CA/GOx bilayer membrane	MediSense optimum point of care blood glucose test strips
X1 (mg/dL)	117	124
X2 (mg/dL)	113	123
X3 (mg/dL)	102	122
Average	110.67	123
STDEV	7.77	4.31
CV (%)	7.0	3.5

To find out the performance of amperometric biosensors in real samples, biosensor was used to measure the concentration of glucose in clinical samples, namely serum of diabetes mellitus sufferers. By using method of standard addition, number of samples that had been added glucose with certain concentration were analyzed. The measurement results given in **Table 4**, show that the developed electrochemical biosensor has measurement results that are in accordance with the measurement results using an amperometric method that is often used for clinical analysis, glucose test kit (MediSense optimum point of care blood glucose test strips, Abbott Diabetes Care Limited, UK) as reference. This shows that modified Fc-graphite electrode with CA/GOx bilayer membrane has very good characteristics to determine glucose in human serum. Hence, modified Fc-graphite electrode with CA/GOx bilayer membrane as amperometric biosensor can be used as analytical tool for glucose determination.

CONCLUSIONS

An amperometric biosensor for glucose determination has been developed through a modified Fc-graphite electrode with CA/GOx bilayer membrane. The optimum conditions biosensor membrane obtained were measurements at emf of 0.874 mV with CA concentration of 10% and Fc mass of 0.021 gram. Under its optimum conditions, current respons of modified Fc-graphite electrode with CA/GOx bilayer membrane as an amperometric biosensor was linear to glucose concentrations at concentrations range of 0.05-3.00 mM and the limit of detection was 0.024 mM. During measurements, the biosensor has good reproducibility (RSD was less than 5%) and high sensitivity (0.291 $\mu\text{A}/\text{mM}$) for up to seven uses. The modified Fc-graphite electrode with CA/GOx bilayer membrane as an amperometric biosensor can be used as analytical tool for glucose

determination indicated by accordance result of biosensor measurement with value of glucose test kit measurement as reference method in glucose determination in human serum samples. promising biosensor design for glucose determination.

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