



Figure 5.2 Propagation of an action potential in the axon of an unmyelinated neuron. The arrows show the direction of transmission. In (a) sodium rushes into the axon, causing the membrane potential to be changed locally to positive. At this point, sodium is prevented from passing out of the membrane, but potassium rushes out of the axon and the normal resting potential is now restored (b) and (c). At the point of the action potential (light zone), the potential across the membrane is reversed to about +40 millivolts as measured on a galvanometer.