

23B), and the detection process (FIG. 23D) in the above method shown in FIG. 23. On the other hand, in the method for electrochemically detecting an analyte shown in FIG. 25, conjugates [a first conjugate 290a and a second conjugate 290b] are added to the analyte S in the labeling process [see the process of adding a conjugate (C-1) of FIG. 25C]. In the process of adding a conjugate (C-1), the first conjugate 290a formed of a first binding substance 291a which binds to the analyte S and a second binding substance 291b is bound to the analyte S trapped by the trapping substance on the working electrode body 61 [see the process of adding the first conjugate (C-1-1) of FIG. 25C]. Then, the second conjugate 290b which binds to the second binding substance 291b included in the first conjugate 290a is bound to the first conjugate 290a [see the process of adding the second conjugate (C-1-2) of FIG. 25C]. Thereafter, a labeled form 290c in which the labeling substance 293 is immobilized on the second binding substance 291b via the modulator 292 is bound to the second conjugate 290b [see the process of adding a labeled form (C-2) of FIG. 25C]. In the method shown in FIG. 25, the first conjugate 290a and the labeled form 290c are bound to the second conjugate 290b via the same binding substance (the second binding substance 291b). However, the binding substance which binds to the second conjugate 290b in the first conjugate 290a may be mutually different from the binding substance which binds to the second conjugate 290b in the labeled form 290c.

2. Oxidation Reduction Current/Electrochemiluminescence Detection Method

[0253] Subsequently, the oxidation reduction current/electrochemiluminescence detection method will be explained.

[0254] Referring FIG. 26, the oxidation reduction current/electrochemiluminescence detection method according to the present embodiment is largely different from the photoelectrochemical detection method in that a labeling substance which generates oxidation reduction current when a voltage is applied or a labeling substance which emits light when a voltage is applied is used as the labeling substance 393 in the labeling process [see FIG. 26C], and a voltage is applied to the working electrode 60 and the light generated from the labeling substance 393 is detected in the detection process [see FIG. 26D]. Therefore, the process of supplying a sample [see FIG. 26A] and the process of trapping an analyte [see FIG. 26B] are the same as those in the photoelectrochemical detection method. The detector 1 which is used in the method for electrochemically detecting an analyte according to the present embodiment does not include the light source 13 and includes a sensor for detecting light generated from the labeling substance. In the detection chip 20 to be used in the method for electrochemically detecting an analyte according to the present embodiment, the working electrode body 61 is composed of a conductive material.

[0255] In the labeling process, the user injects the label binding substance 390 into the detection chip 20 from the sample inlet 30b to allow the label binding substance 390 to be bound to the analyte S trapped by the trapping substance 281 on the working electrode body 61 [see the labeling process of FIG. 26C]. In the labeling process, a complex containing the trapping substance 281, the analyte S, and the label binding substance 390 is formed on the working electrode body 61.

[0256] The label binding substance 390 is formed of the first binding substance 291 to be bound to the analyte S, the

modulator 292, and the labeling substance 393. In the label binding substance 390, the first binding substance 291 is linked to the labeling substance 393 via the modulator 292.

[0257] The labeling substance 393 is a labeling substance which emits light when a voltage is applied.

[0258] Examples of the labeling substance which emits light when a voltage is applied include luminol, lucigenin, pyrene, diphenylanthracene, and rubrene.

[0259] The luminescence of the labeling substance can be enhanced, for example, by using luciferin derivatives such as firefly luciferin and dehydro luciferin, enhancers such as phenols such as phenylphenol and chlorophenol or naphthols.

[0260] In the method for electrochemically detecting an analyte according to the present embodiment, as the labeling substance 393, a labeling substance which generates oxidation reduction current when a voltage is applied may be used in place of the labeling substance which emits light when a voltage is applied.

[0261] Examples of the labeling substance which generates oxidation reduction current when a voltage is applied include metal complexes containing metal which causes an electrically reversible oxidation-reduction reaction as a central metal. As the metal complexes, the same metal complexes described in the first embodiment can be used.

[0262] The first binding substance 291 and the modulator 292 are the same as those in the photoelectrochemical detection method.

[0263] Subsequently, the detection process is performed [see the detection process of FIG. 26D].

[0264] In the detection process, the user first injects an electrolytic solution through the sample inlet 30b of the detection chip 20. Thereafter, the user inserts the detection chip 20 into the chip insertion unit 11 of the detector 1 shown in FIG. 1. Then, the user gives an instruction to start measuring to the detector 1. Here, the electrode leads 71, 72, and 73 of the detection chip 20 inserted into the detector 1 are connected to the ammeter 14 and the power source 15. Then, a voltage is applied to the working electrode 60 by the power source 15 of the detector 1. Thus, the labeling substance 393 is excited to generate light. In the measurement of light based on the labeling substance 393, a photon counter is used. In this case, the light can be indirectly detected by using an optical fiber electrode obtained by forming a transparent electrode at the distal end of an optical fiber in place of the electrode (see U.S. Pat. No. 5,776,672 and U.S. Pat. No. 5,972,692).

[0265] Thereafter, a light value digitally converted by the A/D converting unit 16 is input into the control unit 17. Then, the control unit 17 estimates the amount of the analyte in the sample from the digitally converted current value based on a calibration curve indicating a relationship between a light value created in advance and the amount of the analyte. The control unit 17 creates a detection result screen for displaying the information on the estimated amount of the analyte on the display 12. Thereafter, the detection result screen created by the control unit 17 is sent to the display 12 so as to be displayed on the display 12.

[0266] In the method for electrochemically detecting an analyte according to the present embodiment, from the viewpoint of suppressing the generation of noises due to contaminants, the user may discharge a remaining liquid containing contaminants from the sample inlet 30b of the detection chip 20 after the process of trapping an analyte and wash an inside of the detection chip 20. In the washing of the inside of the detection chip 20, organic solvents such as a buffer (particu-