

I. INTRODUCTION



After the introduction of "the pool concept of food iron absorption" by *Hallberg and Rasmussen* in 1972-1974, this newly developed method of studies using ^{55}Fe and ^{59}Fe has gained wide acceptance and replaced the conventional chemical balance method. (1,2,3) By this means the results of absorption of iron from different types of food could be compared in the same individual. The method has been exhaustively tested for accuracy, verified biologically and well approved. By the same means, we have been studying the iron absorption from Southeast Asian diets (4,5,6) since 1973. In our first communication (4) the results of absorption measurements by double isotopes were reproducible and agreed favourably with those obtained by whole body countings. (7) Moreover, some modifications have been made to adapt the method for field studies in villages.

It is timely then to study in more details technical steps of measurement of ^{55}Fe and ^{59}Fe in the blood samples in order to revise or confirm our data and hence its appropriate interpretation, and, perhaps further light of knowledge may be shredded therefrom.

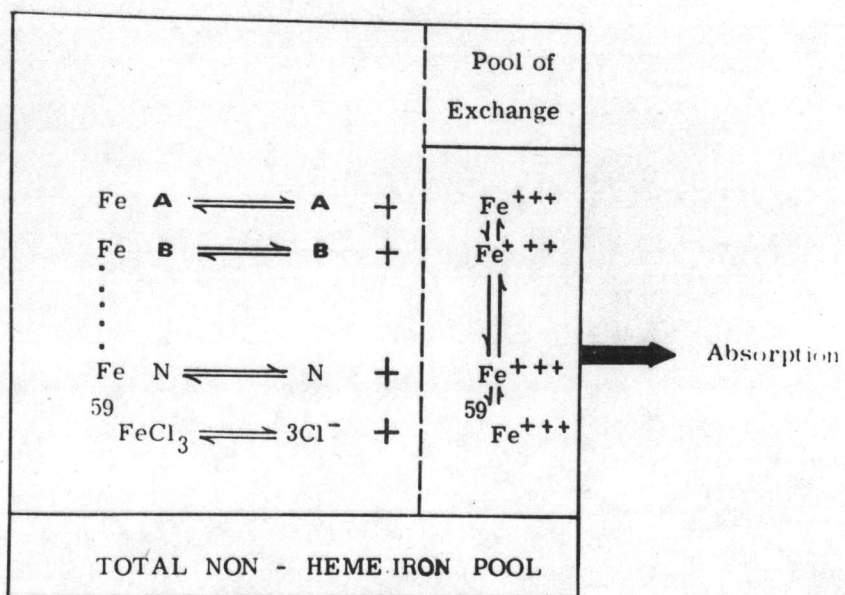


Fig. 1. The pool concept.