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From bulk thermodynamics to nano-structuring near electrified interfaces

A holistic continuum approach for battery electrolytes
incorporating solvation effects



Deutsches Zentrum
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German Aerospace Center

Institute of Technical Thermodynamics - Computational Electrochemistry

Multi-Scale Continuum Modeling of Highly Correlated Electrolytes

Highly Concentrated Electrolytes

& Ionic liquids

- exciting (fundamental)
- relevant (applied)

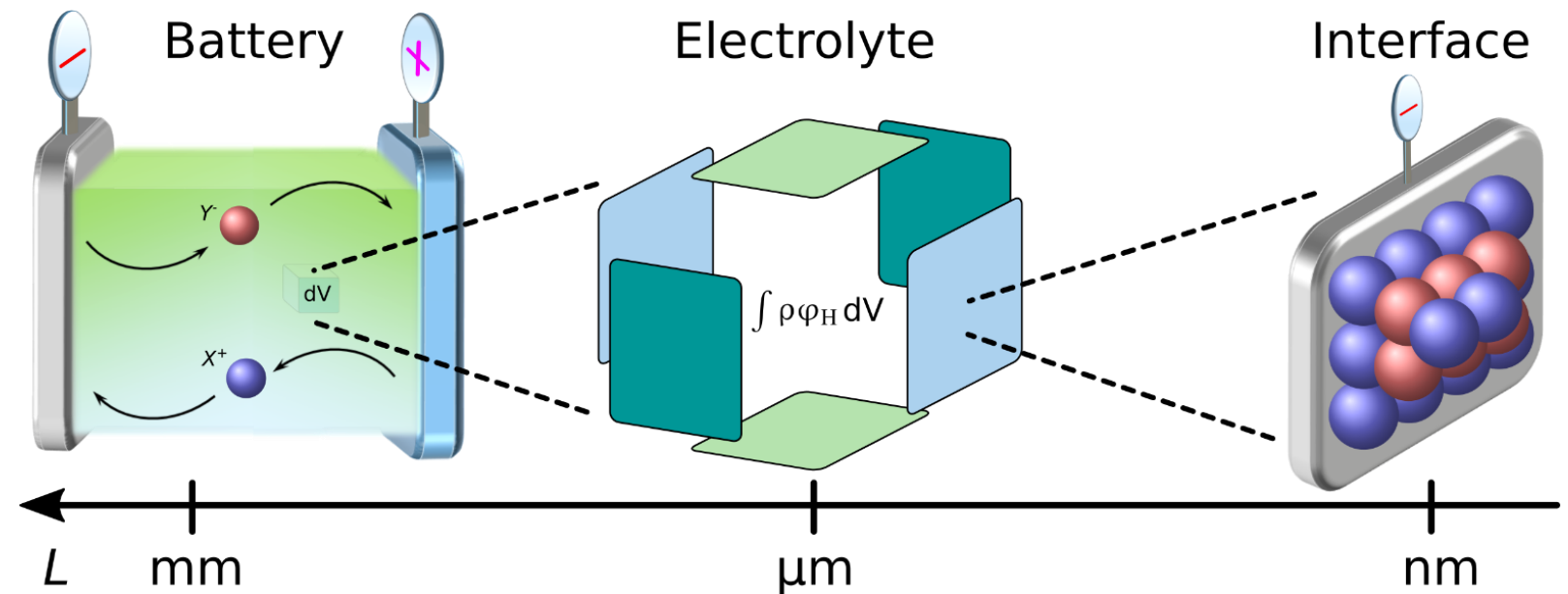
Goal

Holistic framework

- multiple length scales
- Cell & EDL simulations

Compatibility

- Experiments
- Atomistic Simulations



Framework of Rational Thermodynamics

Rational Thermodynamics

Thermodynamic Consistency

- 2nd axiom of TD

Rigorous Foundation

- Balancing Laws, ...

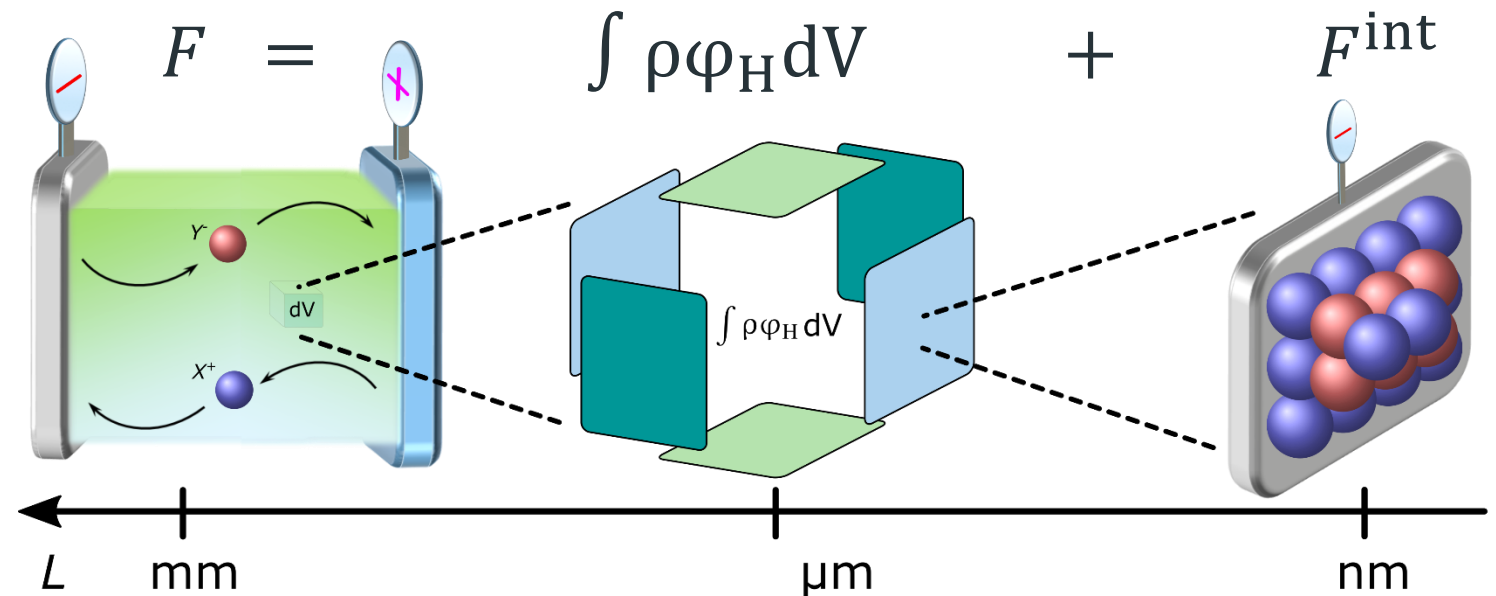
Focal Quantity: Free energy F

- Constitutive Equations

Onsager Formalism

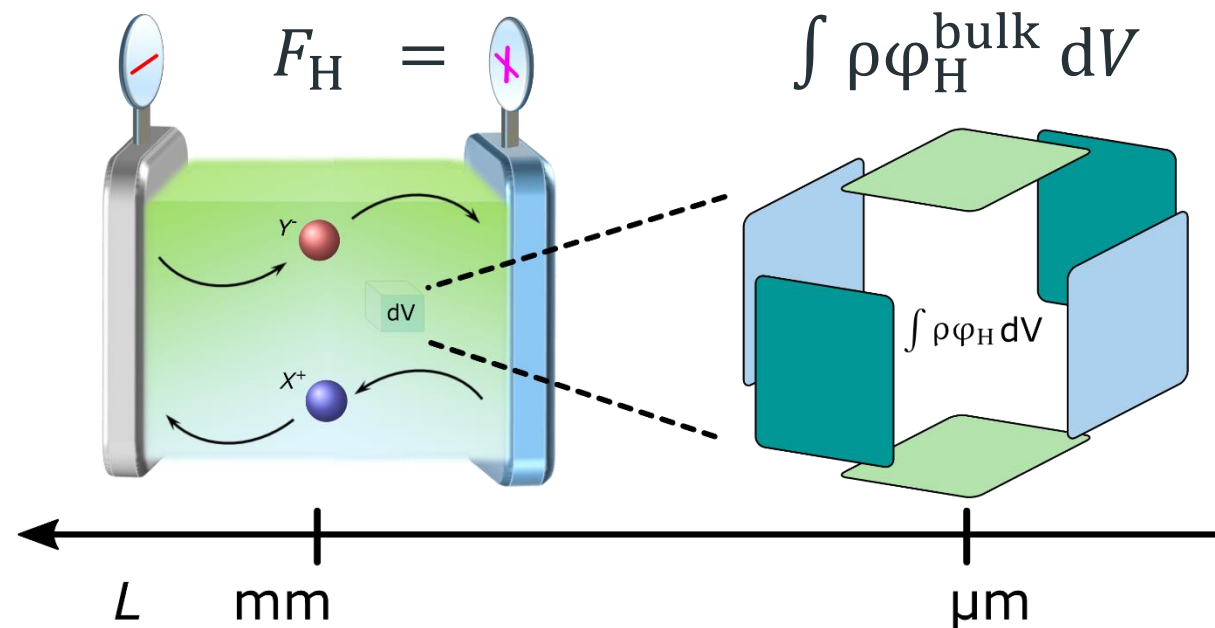
Thermodynamic Fluxes

Transport Parameters



Multi-Scale Modeling of Ionic Liquids

Overview Bulk Transport Theory



Basic Continuum Assumption

Ion size $r_{\text{ion}}^3 \ll dV$

➤ Neglect particle nature

Ion-ion correlations $\ell_{\text{int}}^3 \ll dV$

➤ Neglect ion correlations

Free energy density $\rho \phi_H$

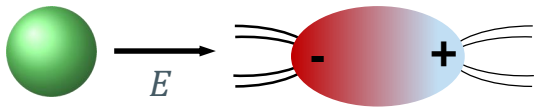
Derivation of Theory Based Electrolyte Model*

Modeling Free Energy Density

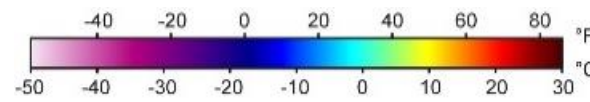
$$F = F^{\text{bulk}}(\rho_\alpha, D, \kappa, T) = \int \rho \varphi_H dV$$

$$\rho \varphi_H = \underbrace{\frac{1}{2} E D}_{\text{electrical}} + \underbrace{\frac{\mathcal{K}}{2} (1 - \sum_\alpha c_\alpha v_\alpha^0)^2}_{\text{mechanical}} + \underbrace{\sum_\alpha \rho_\alpha c_\alpha \Delta T}_{\text{heat capacity}} + \underbrace{\frac{k_B T}{N_A} \sum_\alpha c_\alpha \ln(v_\alpha c_\alpha)}_{\text{entropy}}$$

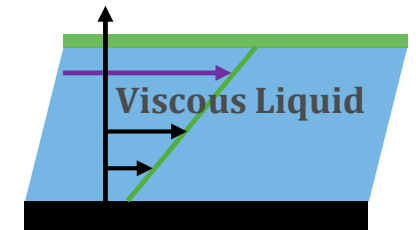
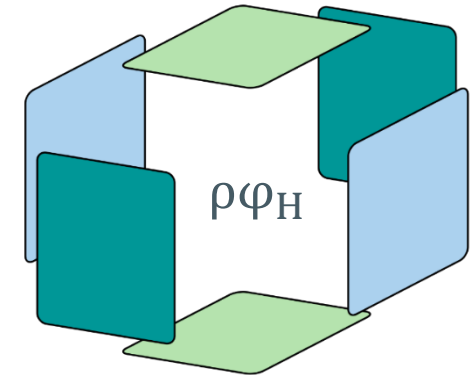
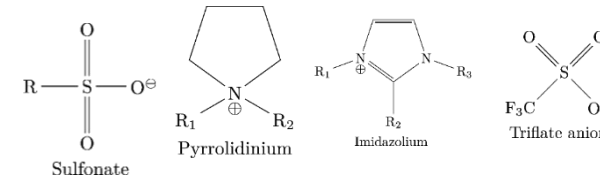
D : **Polarization**



T : **Temperature**



ρ_α : **Multi-component**



Thermodynamic Derivatives Constitutive equations

Chemical Potentials $\mu_\alpha = \frac{\partial(\rho \varphi_H)}{\partial c_\alpha}$, Stress Tensor σ , ...

Electrolyte Transport: Migration, Diffusion, Convection*

Constraints Reduce Description

- $\sum_{\alpha=1}^N M_{\alpha} \mathcal{N}_{\alpha} = 0$ (Center of mass)
- $\sum_{\alpha=1}^N c_{\alpha} v_{\alpha} = 1$

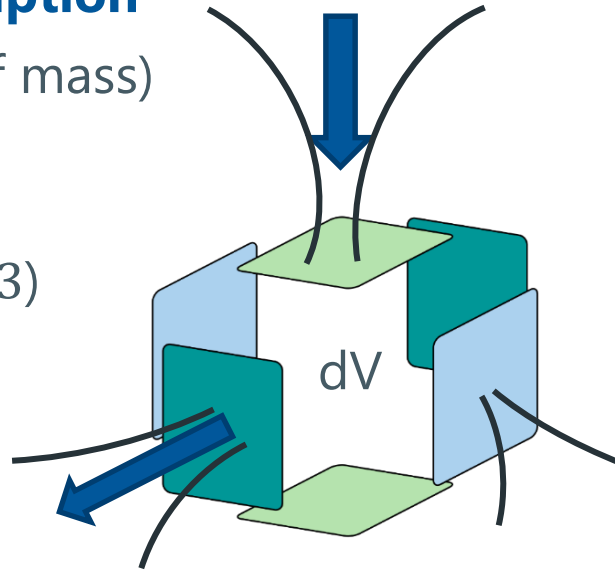
Transport Equations ($\alpha \geq 3$)

$$\partial_t \varrho = -\nabla \mathcal{J} - \nabla(\varrho \mathbf{v})$$

$$\partial_t c_{\alpha} = -\nabla \mathcal{N}_{\alpha} - \nabla(c_{\alpha} \mathbf{v})$$

Fluxes ($\alpha \geq 3$)

- $\mathcal{N}_{\alpha} = \frac{\tau_{\alpha}}{F} \mathcal{J} - \sum_{\beta=3}^N \mathcal{D}_{\alpha\beta} \nabla \mu_{\beta}$
- $\mathcal{J} = -\kappa \nabla \phi - \frac{\kappa}{F z_2} \nabla \mu_2 - \sum_{\beta=3}^N \frac{\kappa \tau_{\beta}}{F} \nabla \mu_{\beta}$



Incompressibility

- $\nabla \mathbf{v} = -\sum_{\alpha} v_{\alpha} \nabla \mathcal{N}_{\alpha}$
- $\nabla \mathbf{v}^{\text{vol}} = 0$
($\mathbf{v}^{\text{vol}} = \sum_{\alpha} c_{\alpha} v_{\alpha} \mathbf{v}_{\alpha}$)

Surface Forces

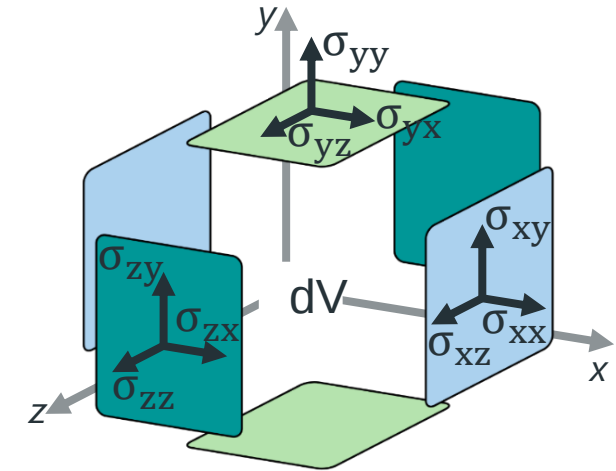
- $\rho \dot{\mathbf{v}} = \nabla \sigma$

Stress Tensor σ

Molar volumes $v_{\alpha}(p)$

Forces

- $\nabla \mu_{\alpha} = \sum_{\beta} \theta_{\alpha\beta} \nabla(\ln c_{\beta}) - v_{\alpha} \varrho \nabla \Phi + v_{\alpha} \nabla \tau$



Validation Overview

Secondary Zinc Ion Battery[#]

Electrolyte Mixture

ChOAc / water / zinc acetate

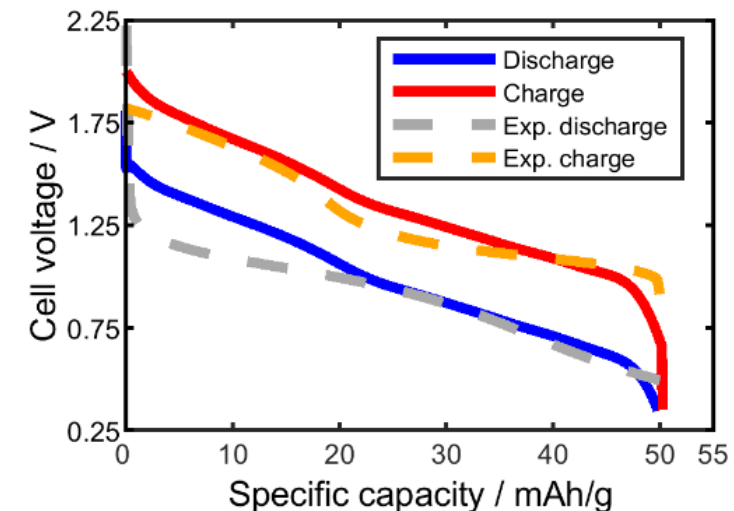
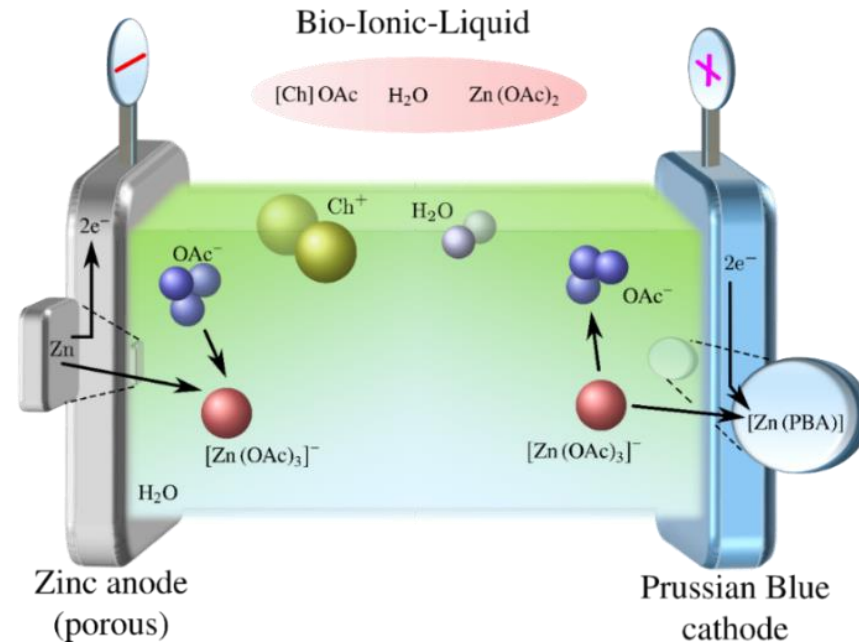
1D Cell Simulation*

Electroneutral theory

Two independent species

Capacity

Good agreement with experiment



[#]Z. Liu, F. Endres, *ACS Appl. Mater. Interfaces* 8, 12158–12164 (2016).

*M.Schammer, B.Horstmann, A. Latz. *Journal of The Electrochemical Society* 168.2 (2021): 026511.

eNMR experiment

Species mobilities

- $m_\alpha = v_\alpha/E$
- Set up $v|_{\text{sample}} = 0$

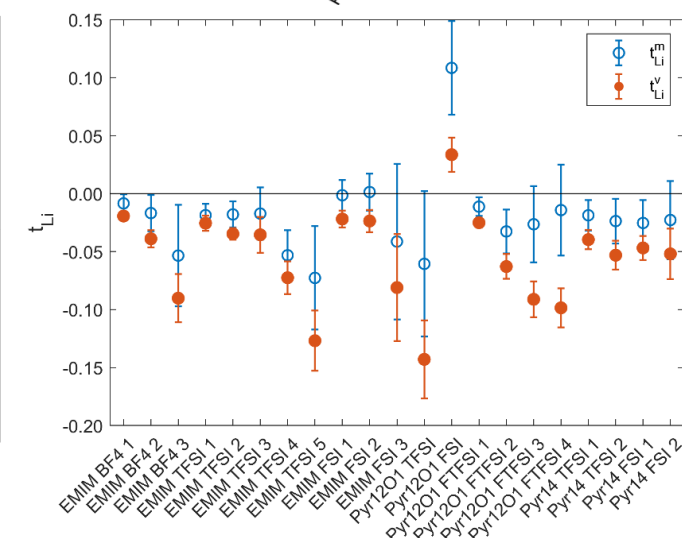
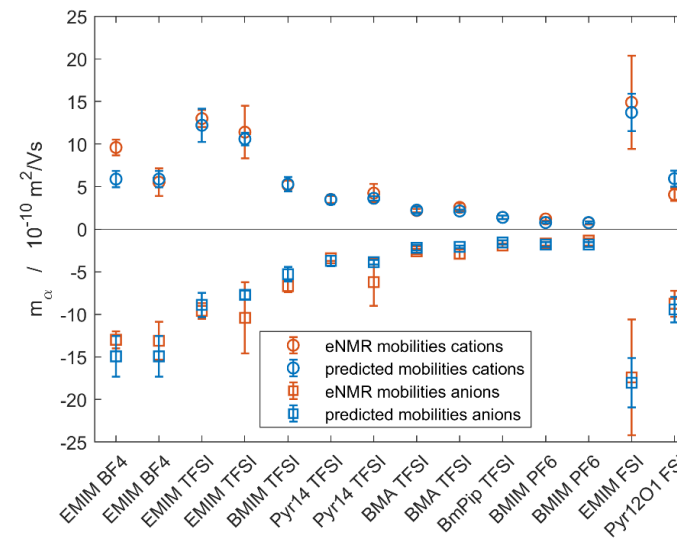
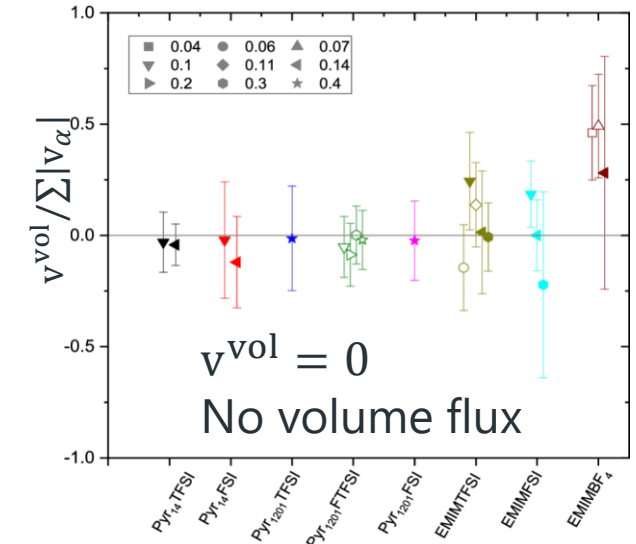
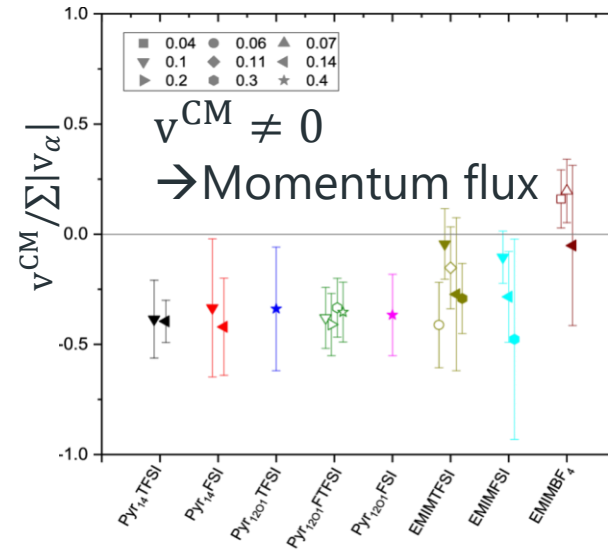
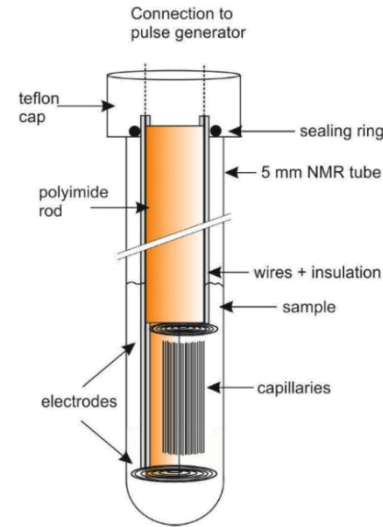
Theory

Incompressible IL mixtures

- CM: $\nabla_{\mathbf{v}}^{\text{CM}} = -\sum_{\alpha} v_{\alpha} \nabla \mathcal{N}_{\alpha}$
- Volume flux: $\nabla_{\mathbf{v}}^{\text{vol}} = 0$
- $t_{\alpha} E \kappa = F z_{\alpha} c_{\alpha} (E m_{\alpha} + v)$

Mobilities $m_+/m_- = v_-/v_+$

Frame dependent t_α

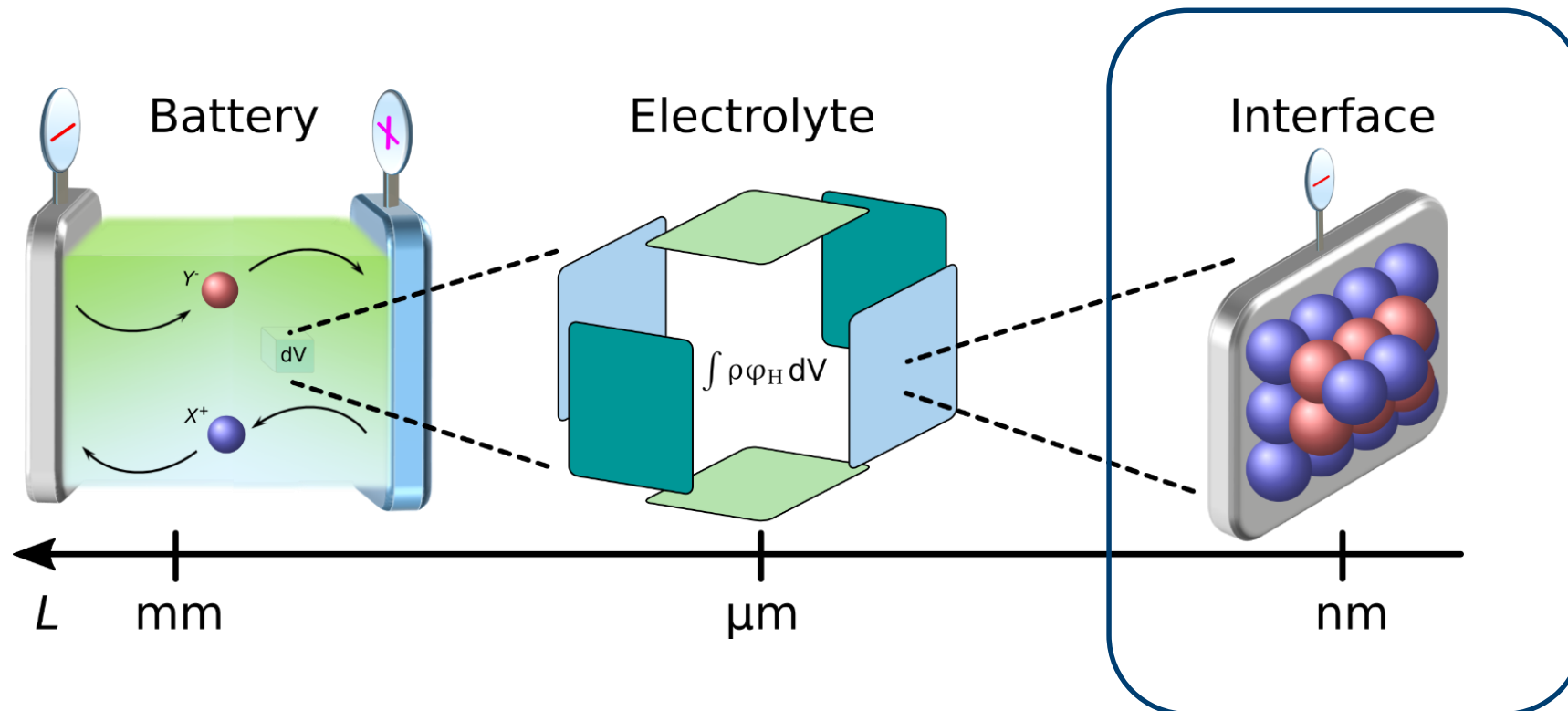


*F.Kilchert, M.Schammer, A.Latz, B.Horstmann, M.Schönhoff et al. *Submitted to PCCP*. (see arXiv:2209.05769v1)

#F.Kilchert, M.Schammer, A.Latz, B.Horstmann, M.Schönhoff et al., *J. Phys. Chem. Lett.* 2022, 13, 37, 8761–8767

Continuum Modeling: Non-local Interactions

Main Part Electrochemical Double Layer



Motivation: Why is a bulk description of the EDL insufficient?

Binary IL PYR[1,4]TFSI

Equilibrium EDL Structures

- $\rho = -\nabla^2 \Phi$
- $0 = \Phi - \gamma_+ \ln(c_-) + (1 - \gamma_+) \ln(c_+)$

Simulation results

Small $\Delta\phi$ Exponential decay

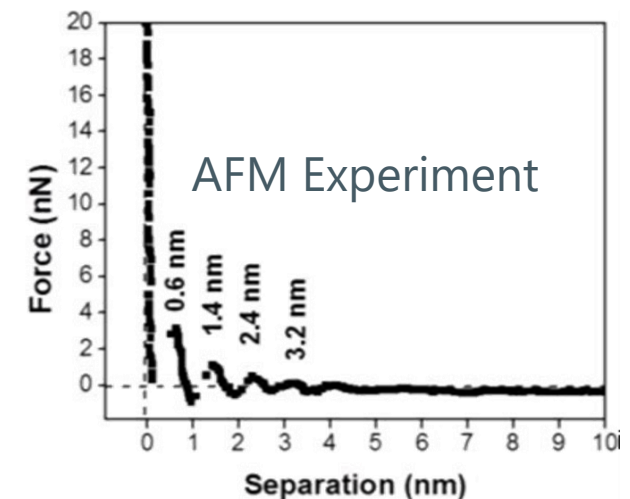
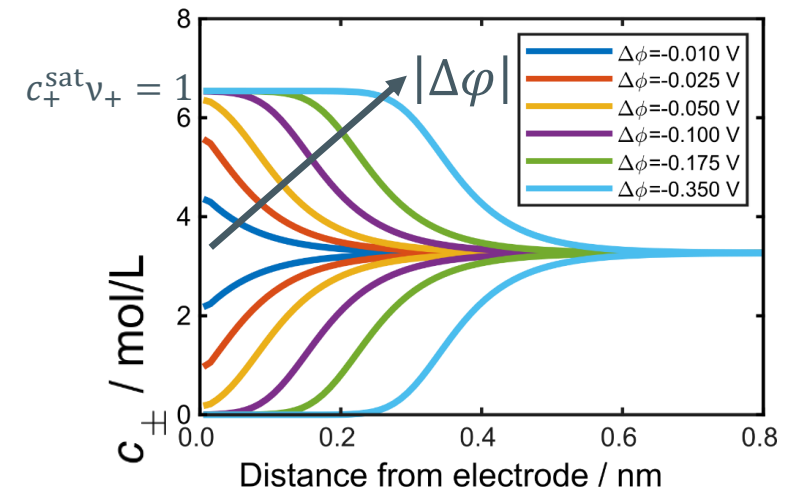
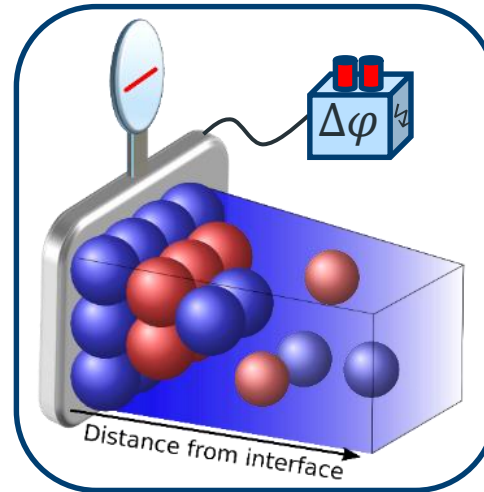
Larger $\Delta\phi$ Charge saturation ("Crowding")

Comparison

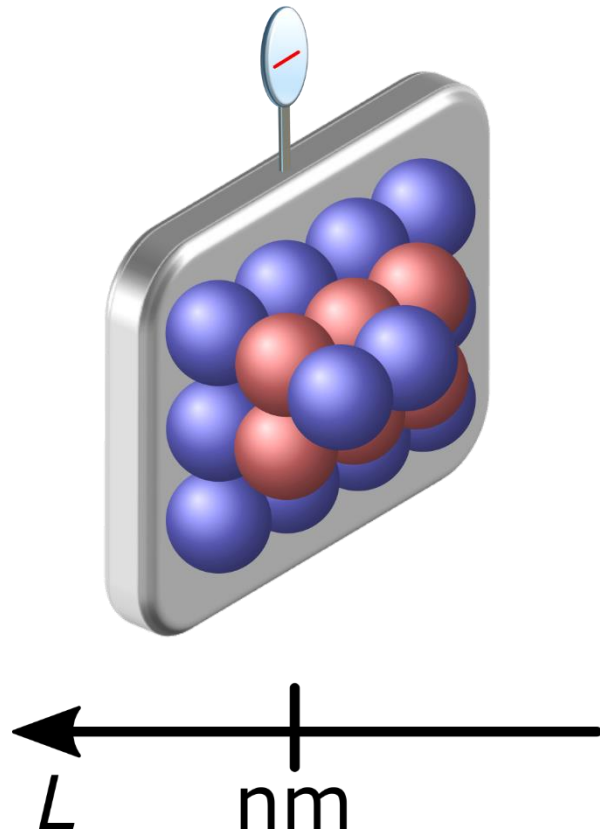
AFM Experiment

Layered structure over several nm

→ **Something is missing ...**

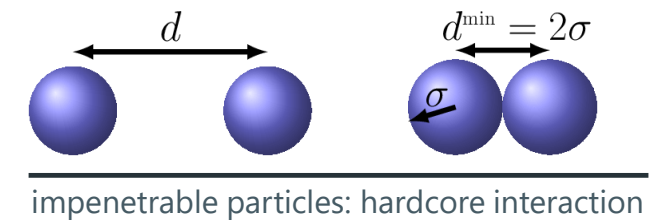
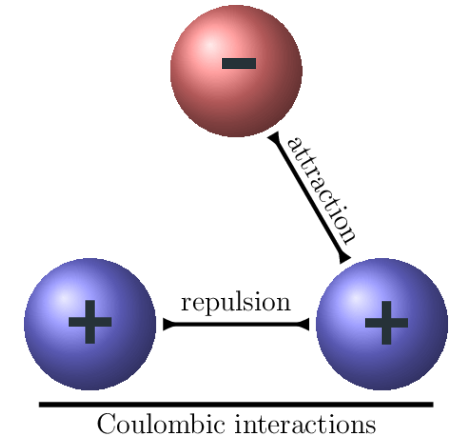


Multi-Scale Modeling of Ionic Liquids*,#



Length Scales

- Ion size $\mathcal{O}(r_{\text{ion}}) \approx \text{nm}$
- Ion correlations $\mathcal{O}(\ell_{\text{int}}) \approx \text{nm}$
- Hard Particles
- Short ranged ion correlations



*V. Hoffmann, M. Schammer, et al., *Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys.*, 2018,20, 4760-4771.

#M.Schammer, A.Latz, B.Horstmann, *J. Phys. Chem. B* 2022, 126, 14, 2761–2776

EDL: Nonlocal Molecular Interactions

Free Energy Functional

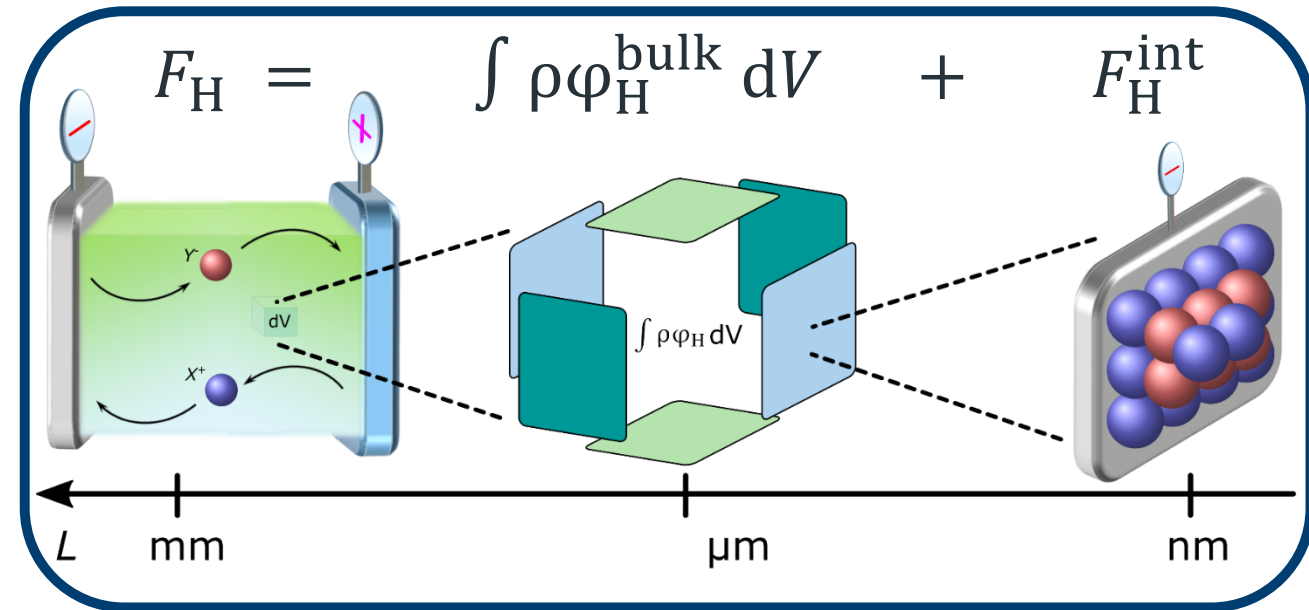
$$F_H^{\text{int}} = \sum_{\alpha, \beta} \iint dy dx \mathcal{F}_{\alpha\beta}(|x - y|) c_{\alpha}(x) c_{\beta}(y)$$

Transport

- $\mu_{\alpha} = \frac{\partial \rho \phi_H^{\text{bulk}}}{\partial c_{\alpha}} + \frac{\delta F^{\text{int}}}{\delta c_{\alpha}}$
- $\frac{\delta F^{\text{int}}}{\delta c_{\alpha}} = \sum_{\beta} \int dy \mathcal{F}_{\alpha\beta}(|x - y|) c_{\beta}(y)$

Equilibrium Equation ($\nabla \mu = 0$)

- $0 = \Phi - \gamma_+ \ln(c_-) + (1 - \gamma_+) \ln(c_+) - \int dx \mathcal{F}_{+-}(x - y) q(x)$



EDL: Model for interaction potential

Interaction Potential

- $\mathcal{F}_{\alpha\beta}(\ell_{\text{int}}, \mathcal{V}^0) = \mathcal{V}^0 \cdot \mathcal{S}(\ell_{\text{int}})$

Two novel parameters (at least)

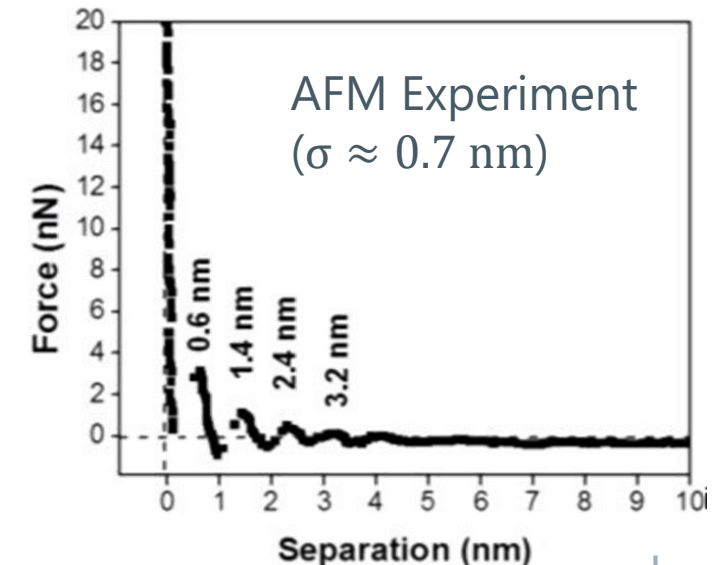
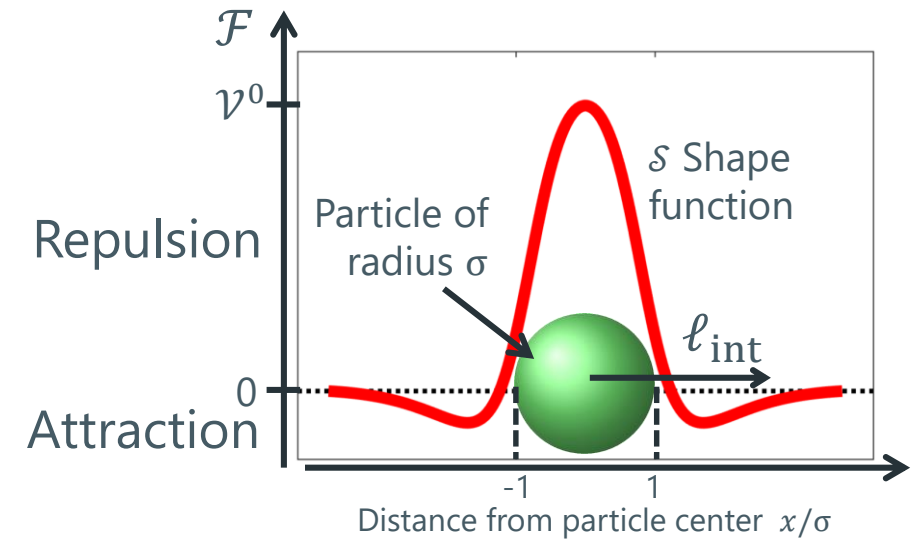
- Correlation length ℓ_{int}
- Interaction strength $\mathcal{V}^0$

Shape function $\mathcal{S}(\ell_{\text{int}})$

Model for hard particles

Experiment $\ell_{\text{int}} \approx \sigma$

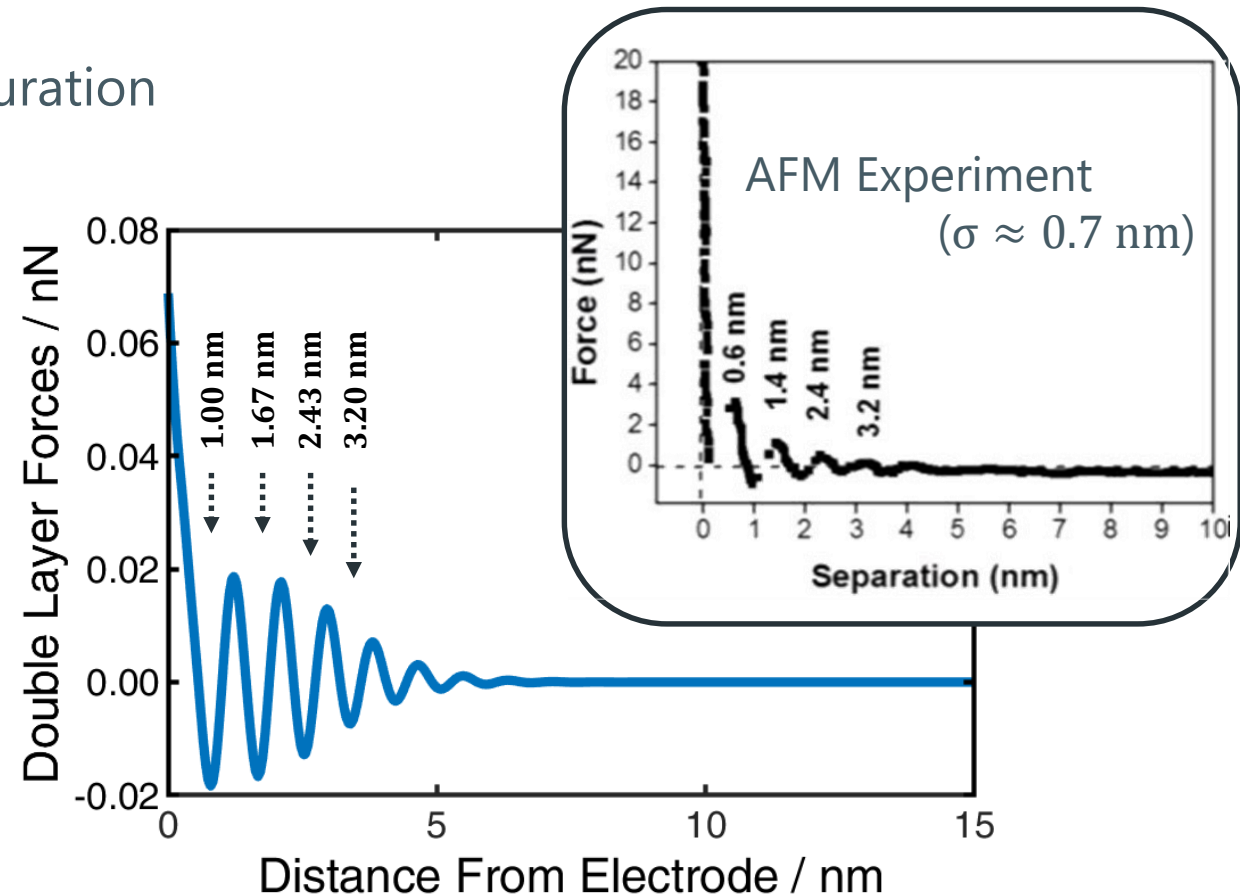
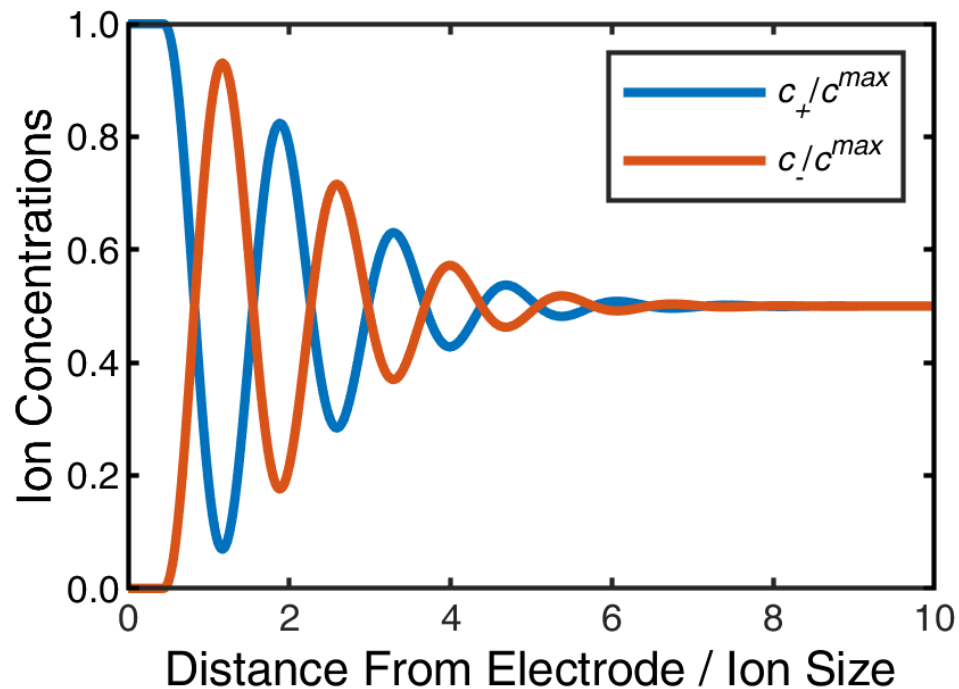
Gauss shape $\mathcal{S}(\ell_{\text{int}}) = \exp(-[x/\ell_{\text{int}}(\sigma)]^2)$



Gauss Model for Hardcore Particles

Overscreening

Layered long-range ordering with decay and saturation



Influence of Interaction Energy

Different Screening Profiles

- Room temperature ($k_B T \approx 250$ meV)

$$\nu^0 \ll RT$$

- Exponential Decay

$$\nu^0 \approx RT$$

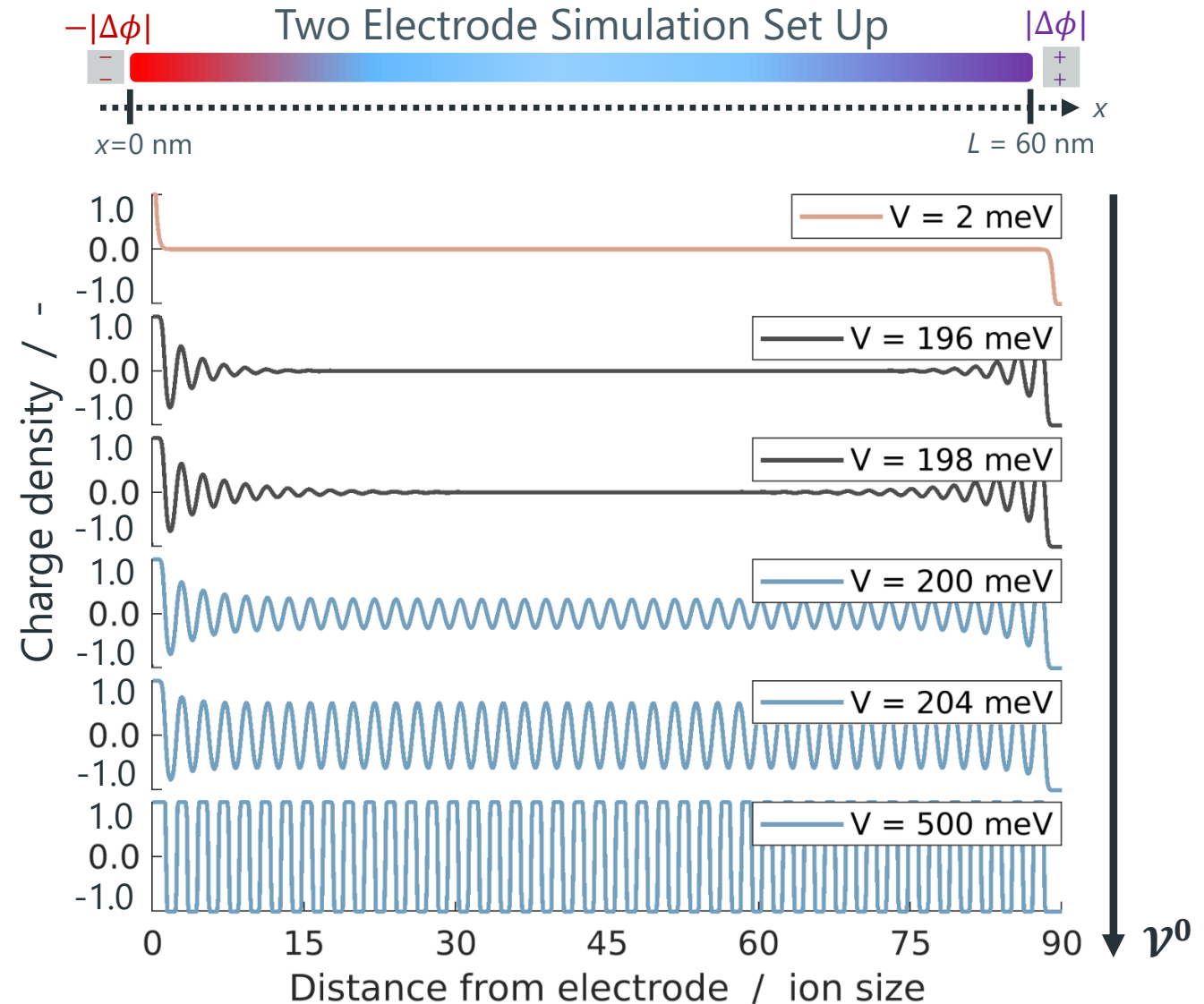
- Damped charge oscillations

$$\nu^0 > RT$$

Oscillations

- Bulk nano-structuring
- Phase Separation

Parametrization ???



Parameterization: Asymptotic Analysis

Small potentials $\Phi \ll RT/F$

Short-ranged $\mathcal{F}_{\alpha\beta}$

- $F_{\text{H}}^{\text{int}} \approx \sum_{n=0} \sum_{\alpha\beta} \Gamma_{\alpha\beta}^{2n} \int dy c_{\alpha} \nabla^{2n} c_{\beta}$

First two perturbation modes

- $\Gamma_{+-}^0 = \mathcal{V}^0 / E_{\text{th}}$
- $\Gamma_{+-}^2 = 2\mathcal{V}^0 E_{\text{el}} / \pi E_{\text{th}}^2$

Three competing energy scales

- $E_{\text{th}} = k_{\text{B}}T$
- $E_{\text{el}} = (ez_+)^2 / (4\pi\epsilon_0\epsilon_{\text{R}}a)$
- $E_{\text{int}} = \mathcal{V}^0(\epsilon_{\text{R}}, T)$

First order stationary state

- $0 = \Phi + \hat{\epsilon}_{\text{R}} \cdot \varrho$
- $\varrho = -\nabla^2 \Phi$

Dielectric operator

- $\hat{\epsilon}_{\text{R}}(\Gamma_{+-}^{2n})|_{n=0,1} = 1 - \frac{\mathcal{V}^0}{E_{\text{th}}} - \frac{2\mathcal{V}^0 E_{\text{el}}}{\pi E_{\text{th}}^2} \cdot \nabla^2$

→ BSK Theory*

Can be solved analytically

- $\varrho \propto \exp(-kx) = \exp(-k_{\text{R}}x) \cdot \cos(k_{\text{C}}x)$

Wave number $k(E_{\text{th}}, E_{\text{el}}, \mathcal{V}^0)$

- Determines EDL structure

Analysis of Screening Phases

Competing energy scales

$$\varrho \propto \exp(-k_{\mathbb{R}}x) \cdot \cos(k_{\mathbb{C}}x)$$

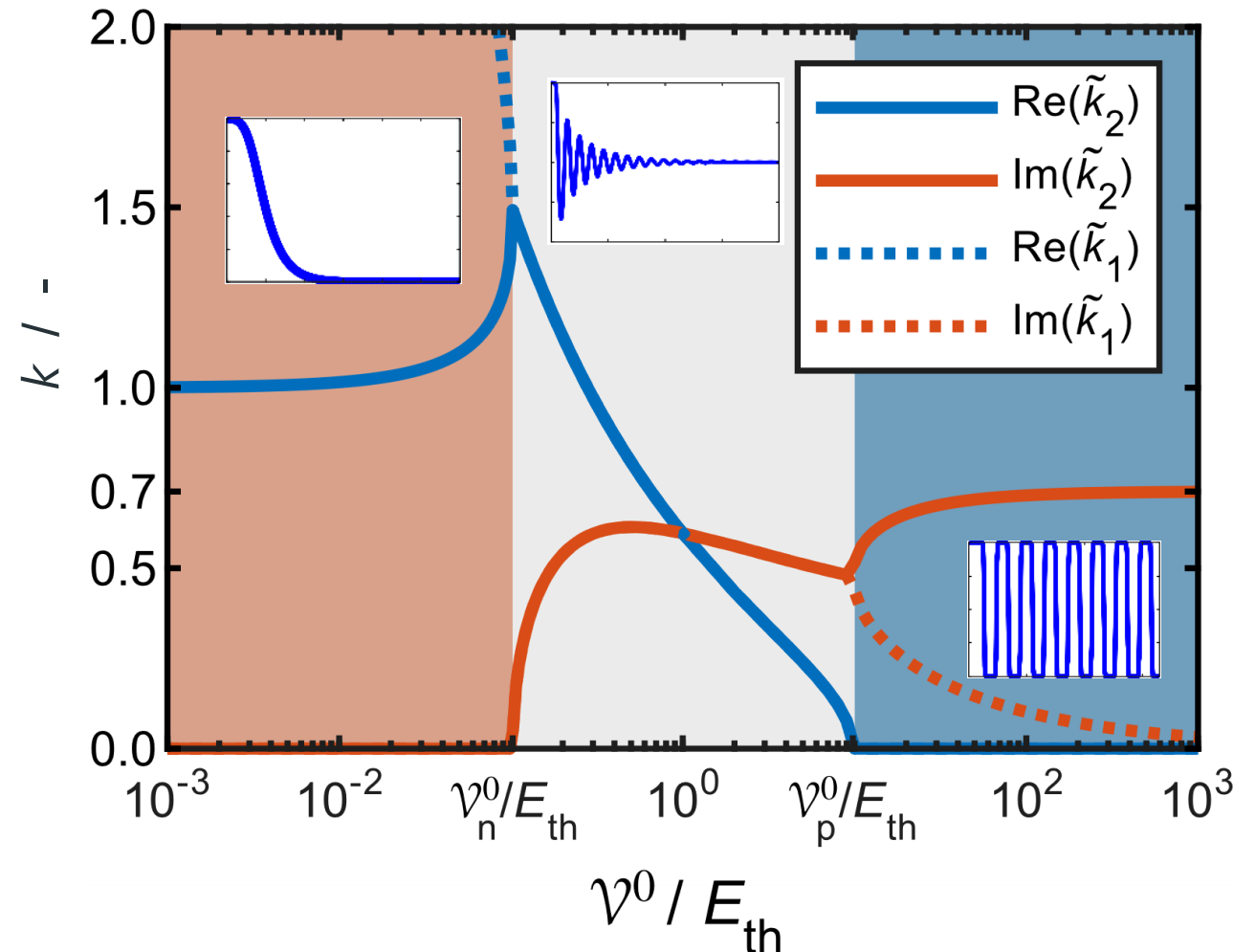
$$k(E_{\text{th}}, E_{\text{el}}, \mathcal{V}^0)$$

Three Screening Phases

- Exponential damping
- Damped oscillations
- Oscillations

Phase Boundaries

$$\mathcal{V}_{\pm}^0 = E_{\text{th}} + 4E_{\text{el}}/\pi \pm \sqrt{2E_{\text{el}}(2E_{\text{el}}/\pi + 2E_{\text{th}})/\pi}$$



Comparison: Two EDL Descriptions

Integral Description

$$\varrho = -\nabla^2 \Phi$$

$$0 = \Phi - \gamma_+ \ln(c_-) + \gamma_- \ln(c_+) - \int dx \mathcal{F}(x, y) \varrho(x)$$

Gradient description (first order)

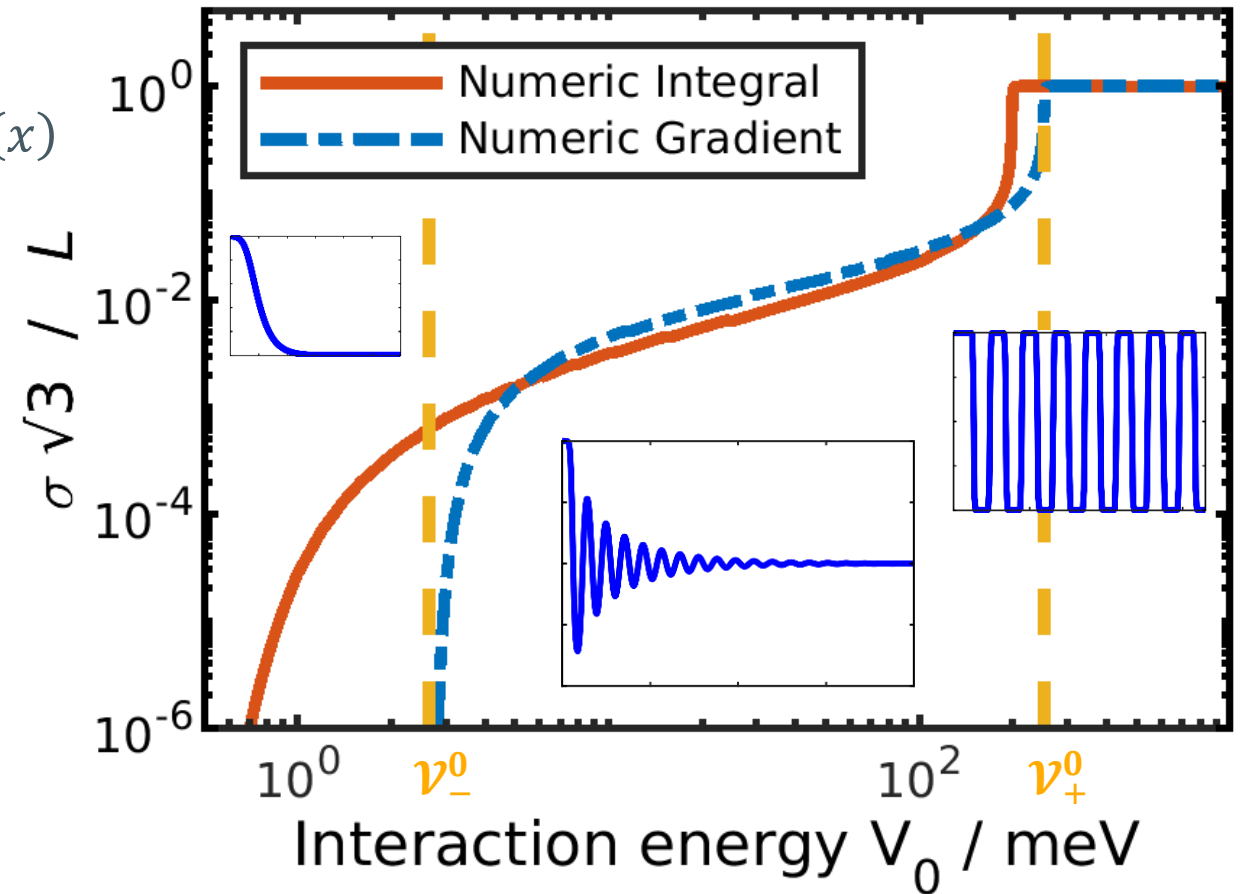
$$\varrho = -\nabla^2 \Phi$$

$$0 = \Phi + \hat{\varepsilon}_R(E_{\text{th}}, E_{\text{el}}, \mathcal{V}^0, \nabla^2) \cdot \varrho$$

Comparison

Variance of peak number

$$\bullet \sigma^2 = \frac{\sum_i \varrho_i^{\text{peak}} \cdot (x_i^{\text{peak}})^2}{\sum_j \varrho_j^{\text{peak}}}$$



A Roadmap from DFT to Non-equilibrium Thermodynamics

DFT

Determines force fields for MD

MD

Determines $g(r)$ for LST

LST $h(r) = g(r) - 1$

Total correlation function determines $c^{(2)}(r)$

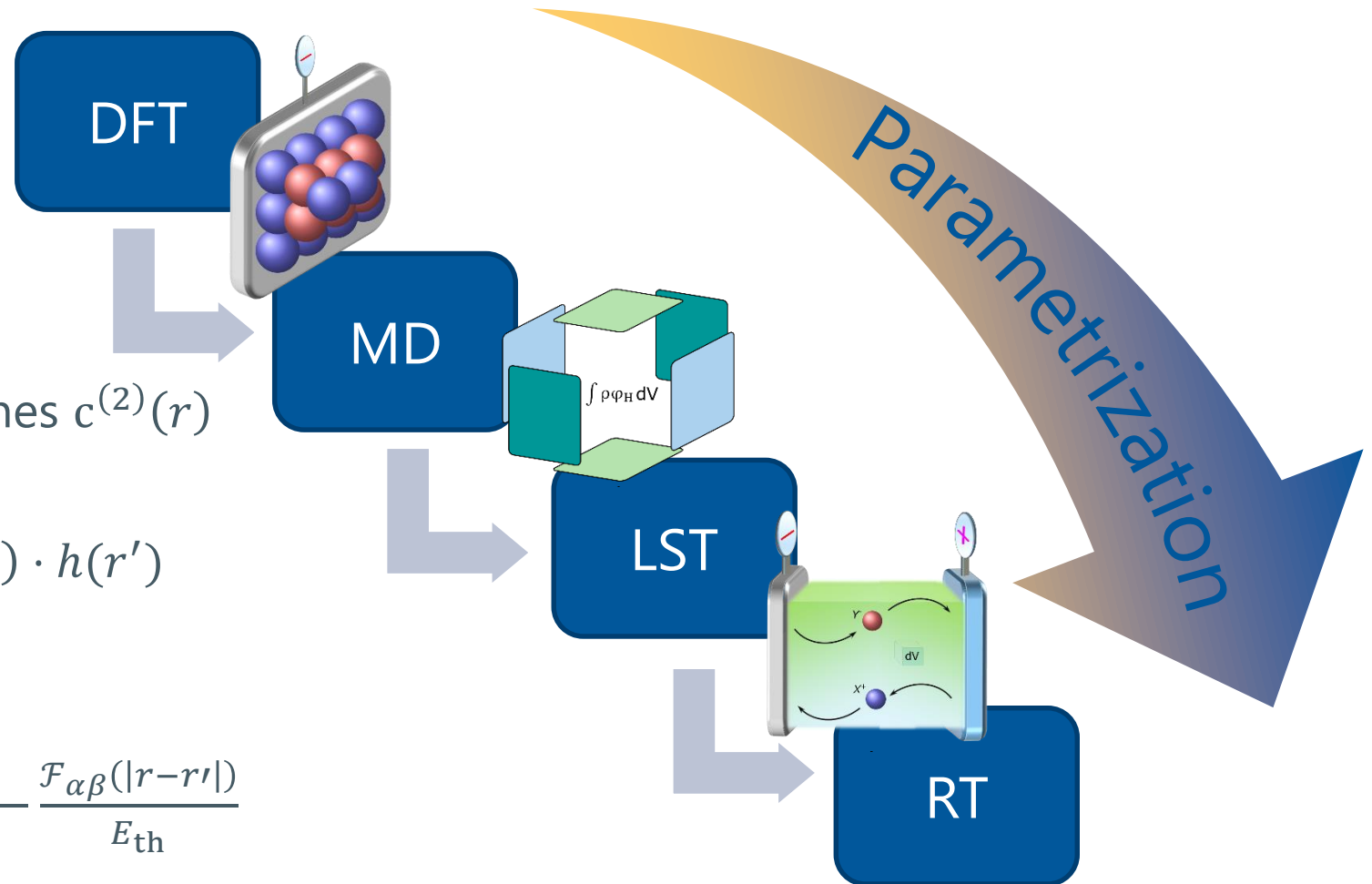
Ornstein-Zernike relation

$$\bullet \quad h(r) = c^{(2)}(r) + \rho^b \int dr' c^{(2)}(r, r') \cdot h(r')$$

Direct pair correlation function

Determines F^{int}

$$\bullet \quad c_{\alpha\beta}^{(2)}(r, r') = -\frac{1}{E_{\text{th}}} \frac{\delta^2 F^{\text{int}}}{\delta c_{\beta}(x) \delta c_{\alpha}(y)} = -\frac{\mathcal{F}_{\alpha\beta}(|r-r'|)}{E_{\text{th}}}$$



IL + solvent mixtures

EDL Structure

Neutral Solvent

Salt in IL

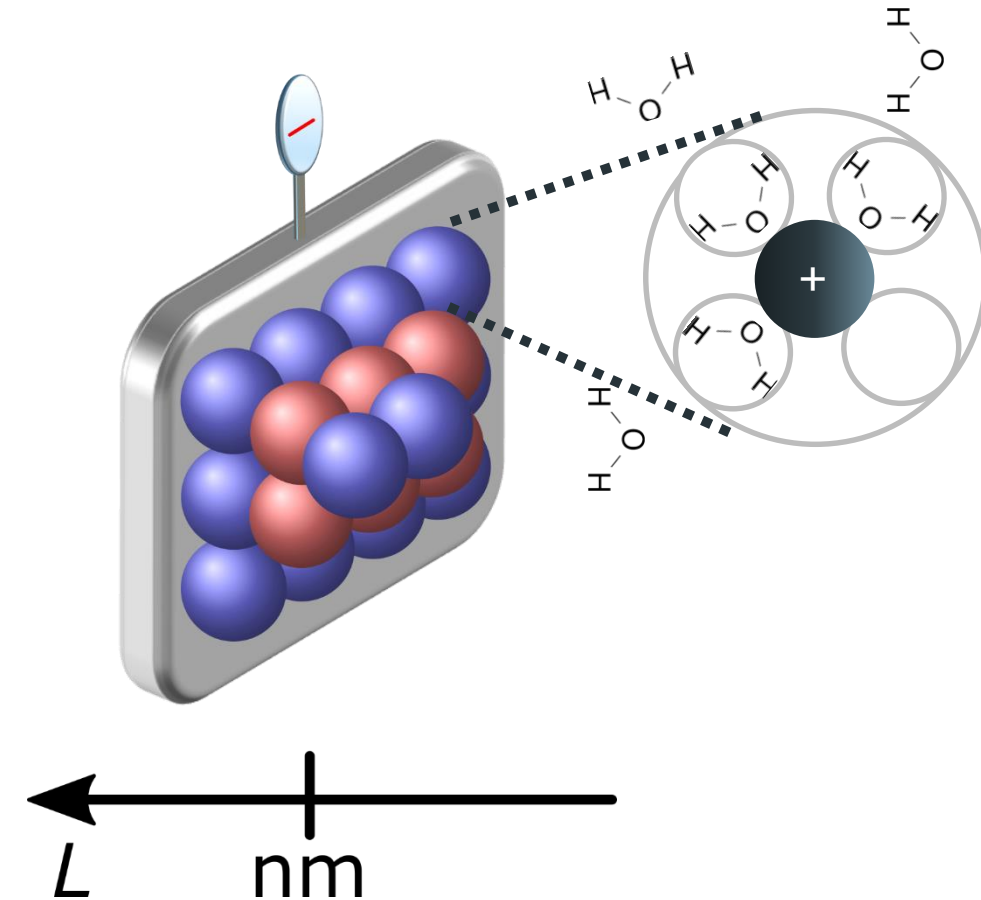
Solvation $\rho\varphi_H = \rho\varphi_H^{\text{bulk}} + \rho\varphi_H^{\text{solv}}$

- Modified statistics $N_0^{\text{free}} = N_0 - \sum_{\alpha=\pm} \tilde{\lambda}_\alpha \lambda_\alpha^m N_\alpha$
- Binding Energy (novel parameter) E_{solv}

$$\rho\varphi_H^{\text{solv}} = RT \sum_{\pm} \lambda_\alpha^m c_\alpha \left(\tilde{\lambda}_\alpha [\tilde{E}_{\text{solv}} + \ln \tilde{\lambda}_\alpha] + (1 - \tilde{\lambda}_\alpha) \ln[1 - \tilde{\lambda}_\alpha] \right)$$

Solvent Coordination number (variable)

- $\tilde{\lambda}_\alpha(c_\pm, \Phi) \in [0; 1]$



Motivation: Influence of Minor Additive on EDL Structure

Neutral Solvent (water)

Solvent pushed out of EDL

"Dilute limit"

- EDL perturbation

Salt Additive[#] (AgTFSI)

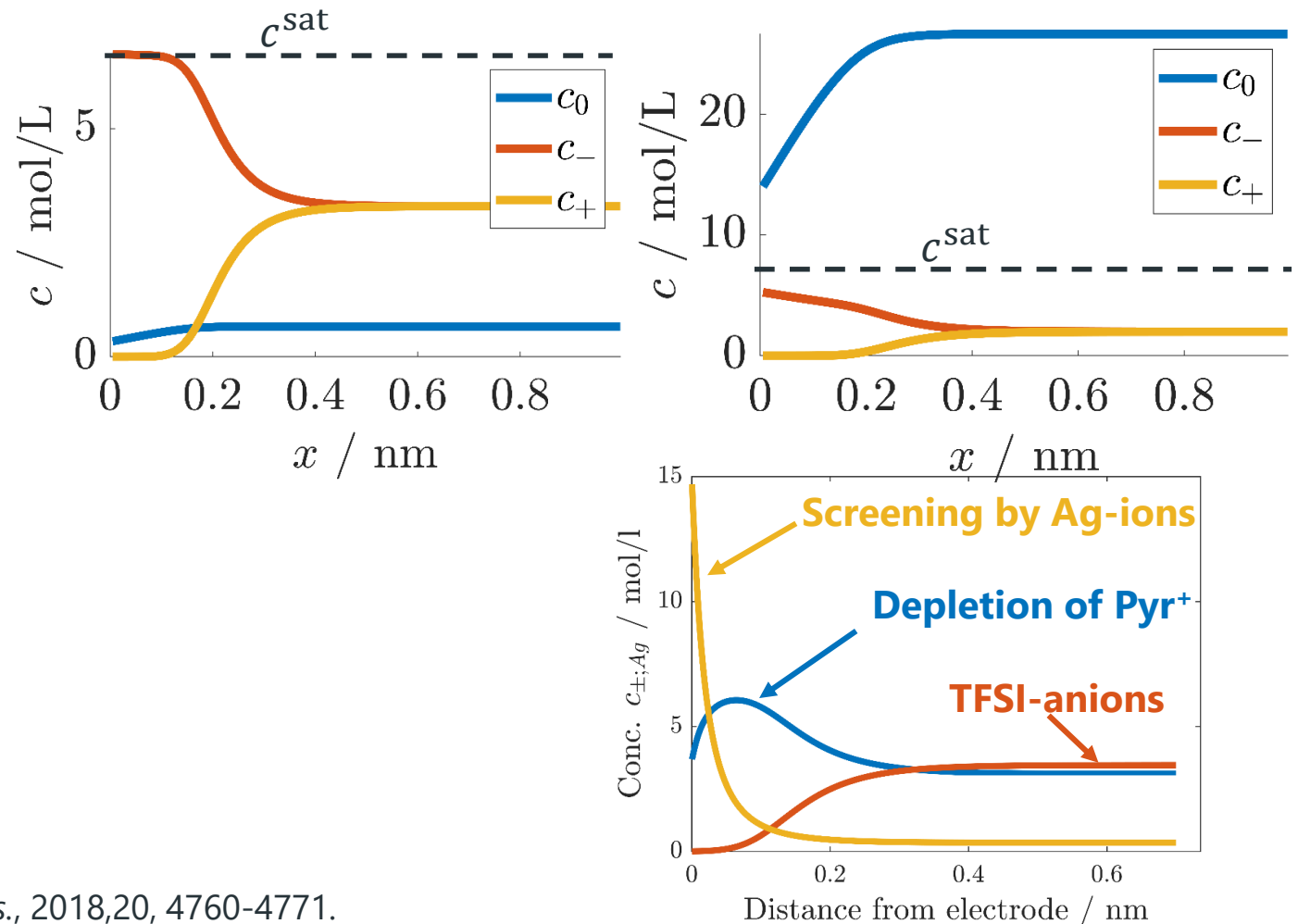
Theory

Critical Bulk Concentration

- $c_{\text{AgTFSI}}^{\text{critical}} \approx 0.04 \text{ M}$

- Perturbation of EDL

Agreement with experiment[#]



[#]F. Endres, M. Schammer, et al., *Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys.*, 2018,20, 4760-4771.

Solvation

Incorporate Solvation

PyrTFSI with water

Simulation $\lambda_{\alpha}^m = 8$

“Free” solvent

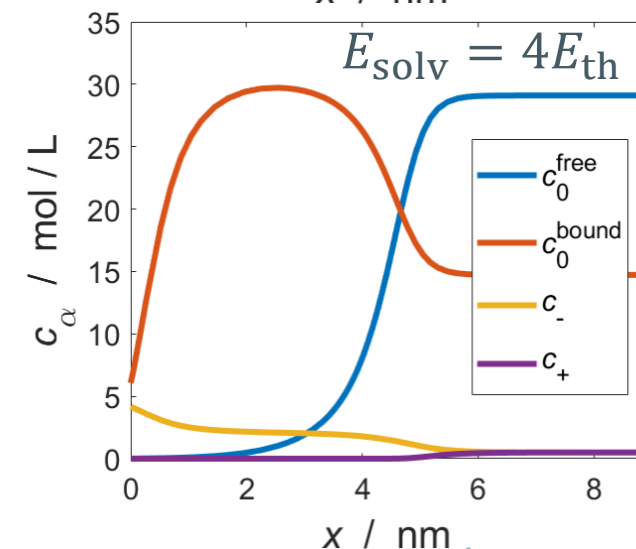
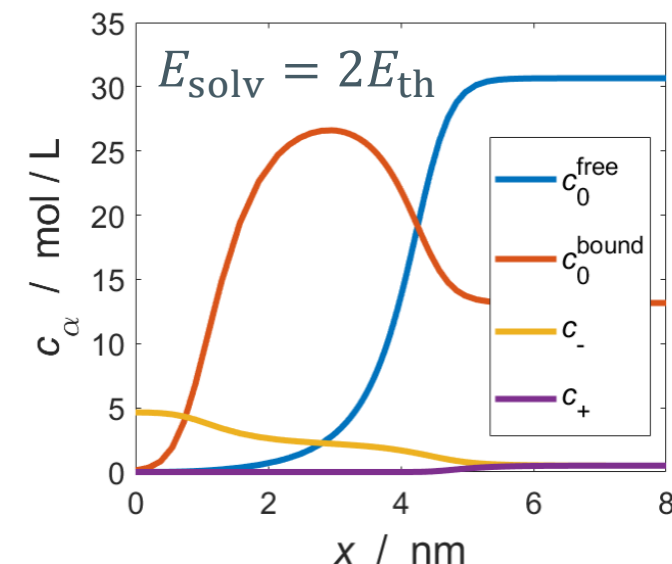
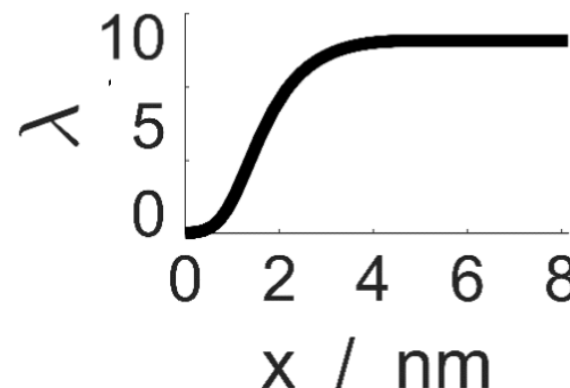
- pushed out of EDL

Solvent

- Near Electrode: No solvation
- Near Bulk: Ions pull solvent into EDL

Influence of Binding Energy

- EDL perturbation
- More solvent pulled into EDL

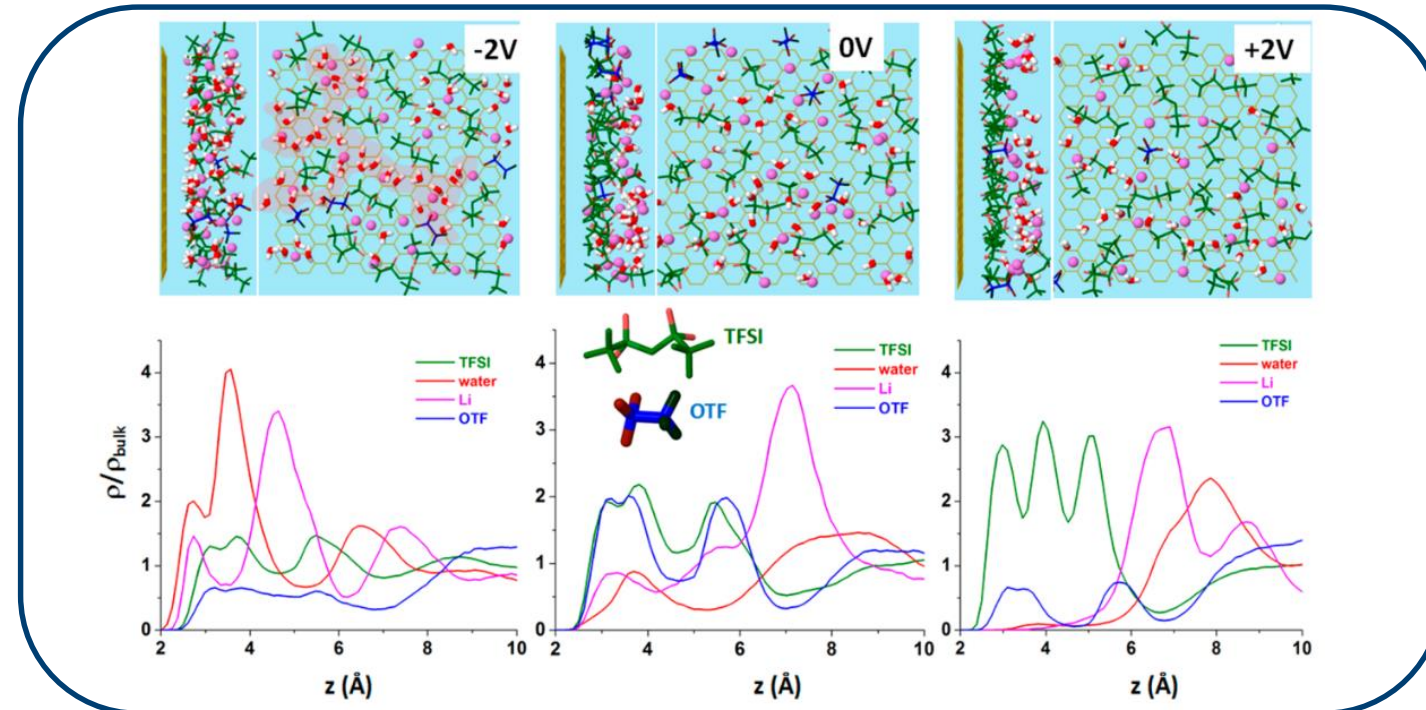


Comparison with MD

MD Simulation[#]

- Water in LiTFSI / OTF
- Influence of interface potential

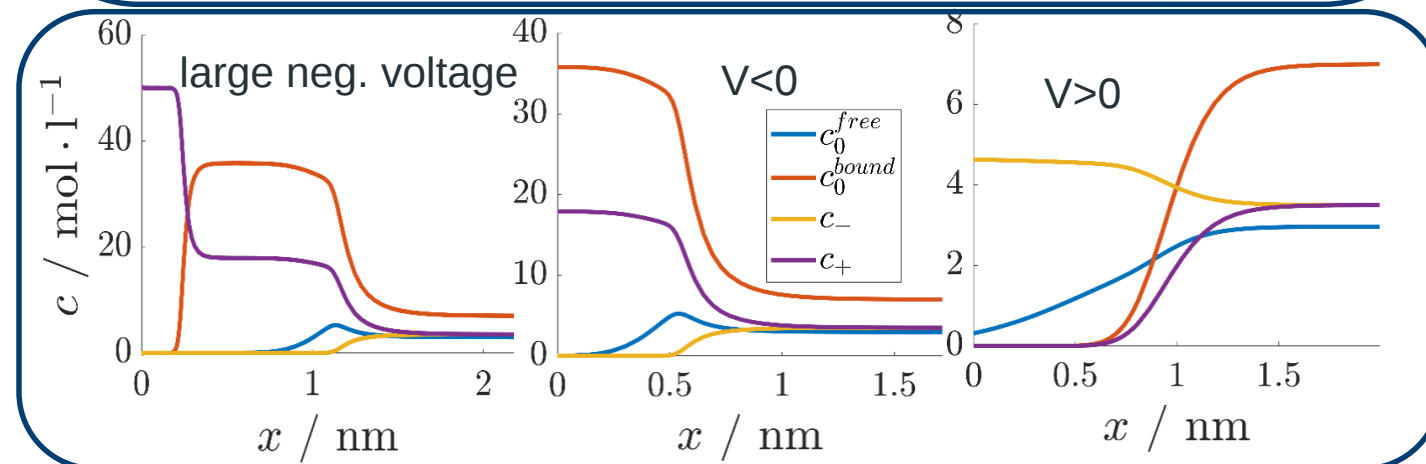
[#]Vatamanu, J. and Borodin, O. *J. Phys. Chem. Lett.* 2017, 8, 4362–4367



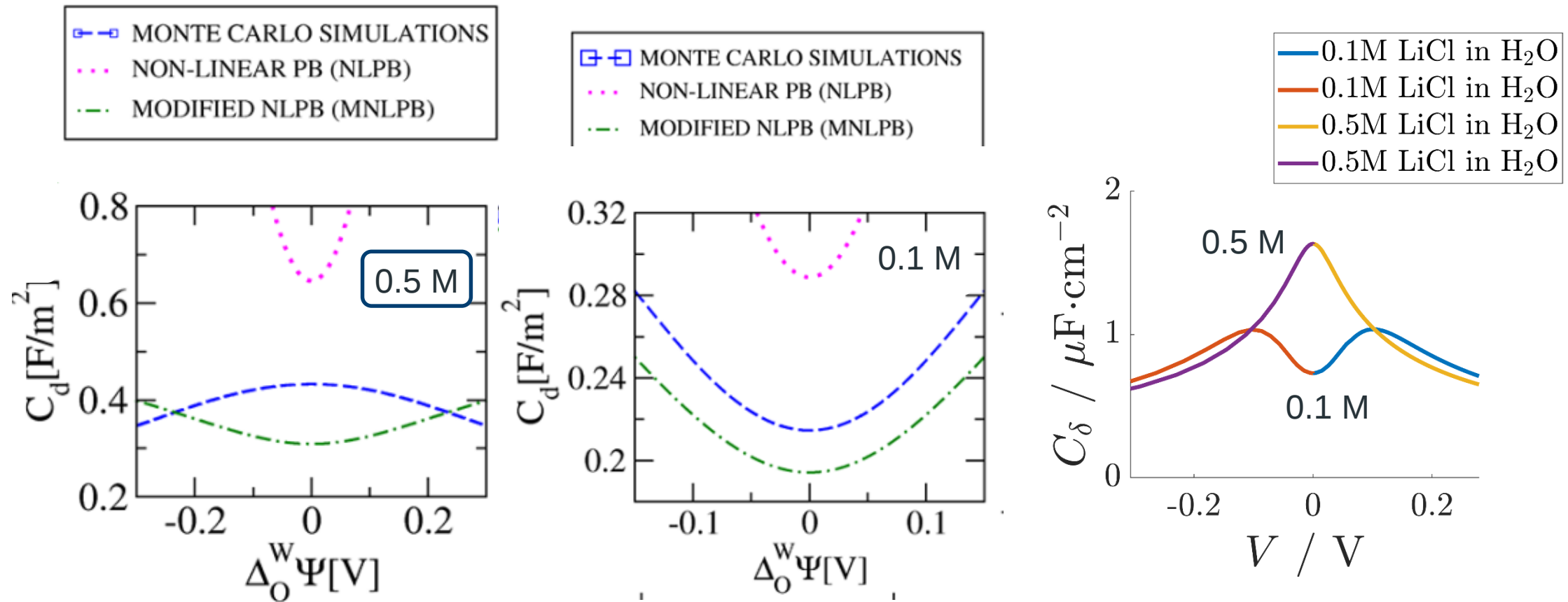
Continuum Simulation

Assumption

- Water in LiTFSI
- strong Li-H₂O binding
- no TFSI-H₂O binding

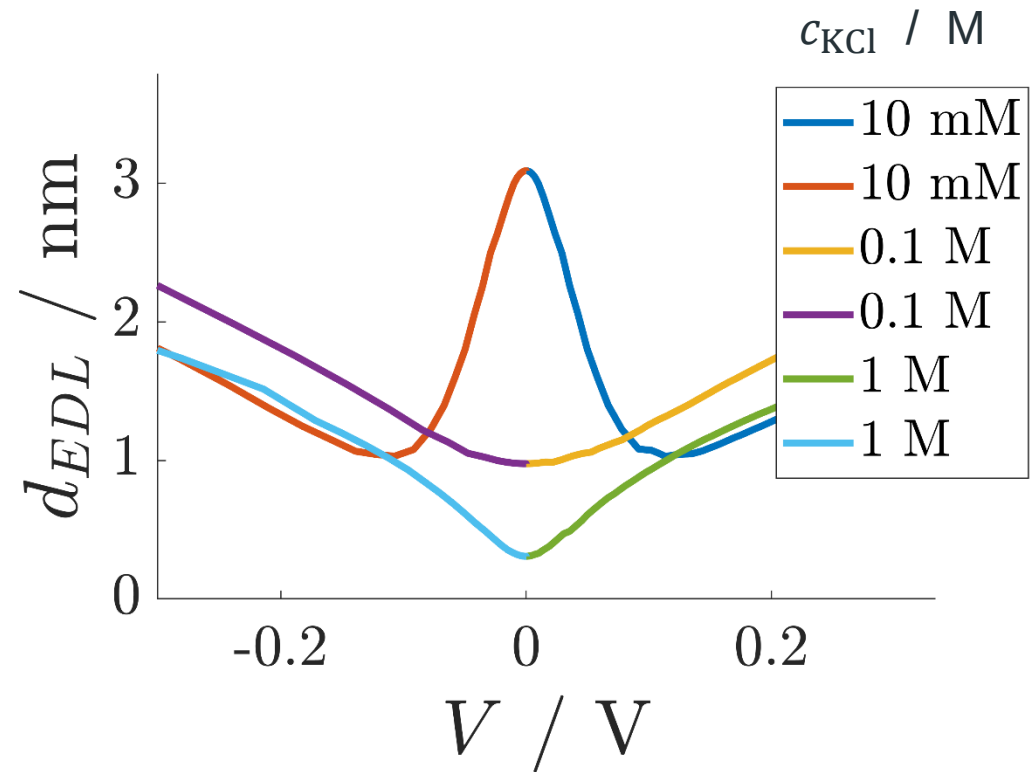
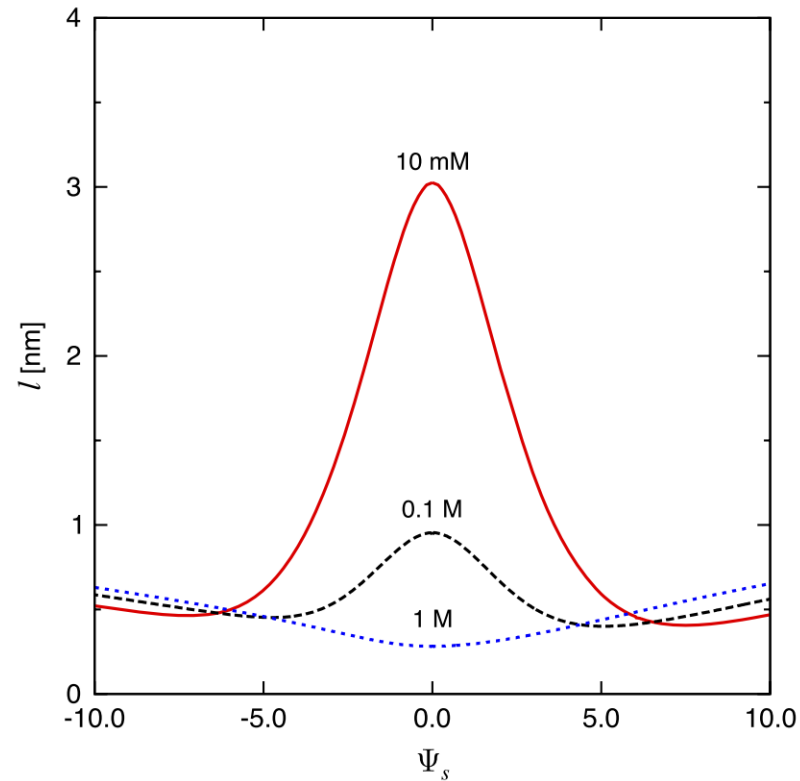


Comparison with LiCl in water: Differential Capacity



Guerrero-García, G. et al. *J. Chem. Theory Comput.* 2013, 9, 1–7

Comparison with KCl in water: Double Layer Thickness



Nakayama, Y. and Andelman, D. *J. Chem. Phys.* 2015, 142, 044706

Conclusions: Holistic Multi Scale Framework

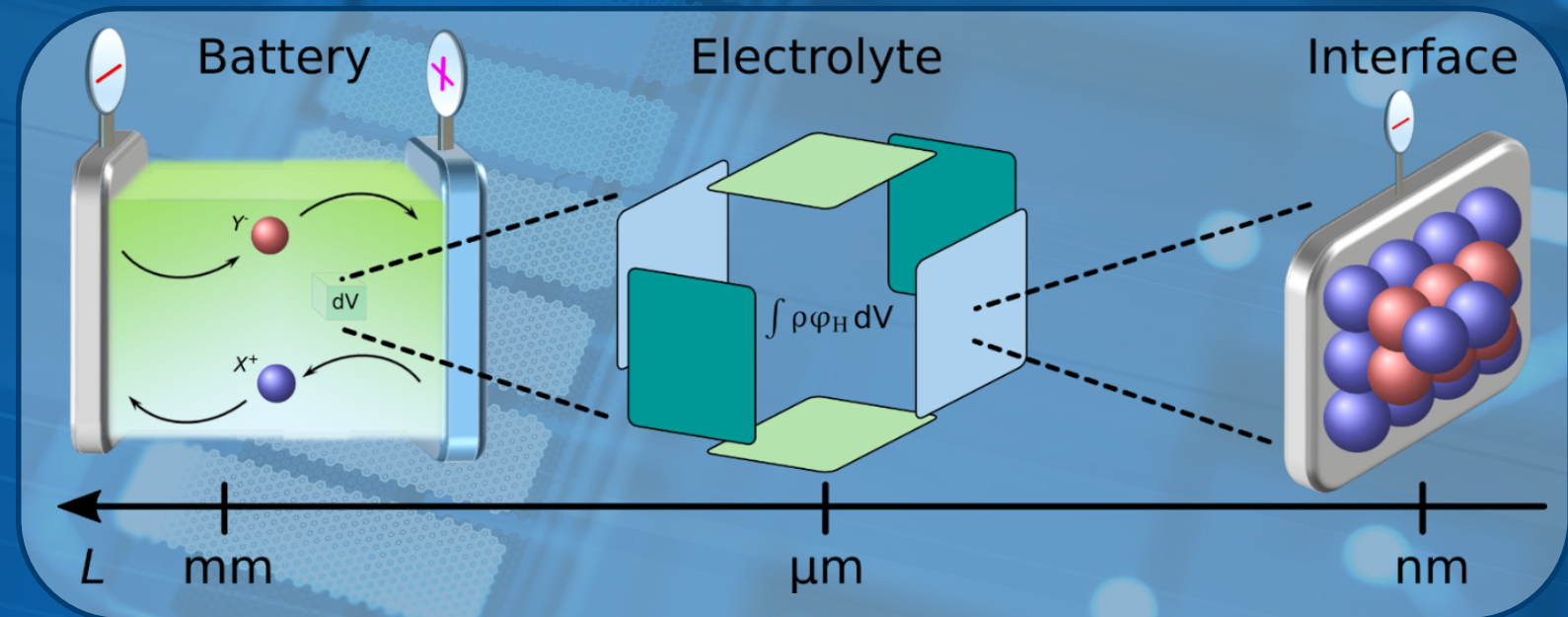
DFT → MD → non-equilibrium thermodynamics → phase-field theory

Rigorous methodology

- Bulk Transport
- EDL structure formation
- Outlook: Solvation

Experiments and Validation

- Battery Dynamics
- Transport Parameters
- AFM





This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 814464



Bundesministerium
für Bildung
und Forschung

THANKS FOR LISTENING.



Coarse Graining: A Recipe for Atomistic Parametrization?

Free Energy Functional

$$F_H^{\text{int}} = \iint dy dx \mathcal{F}_{\alpha\beta}(|x - y|) c_{\alpha}(x) c_{\beta}(y)$$

Interaction Potential

$$\mathcal{F}_{\alpha\beta} = \mathcal{V}^0 \cdot \mathcal{S}_{\alpha\beta}(\ell_{\text{int}})$$

Limit $\ell_{\text{int}} \rightarrow 0$

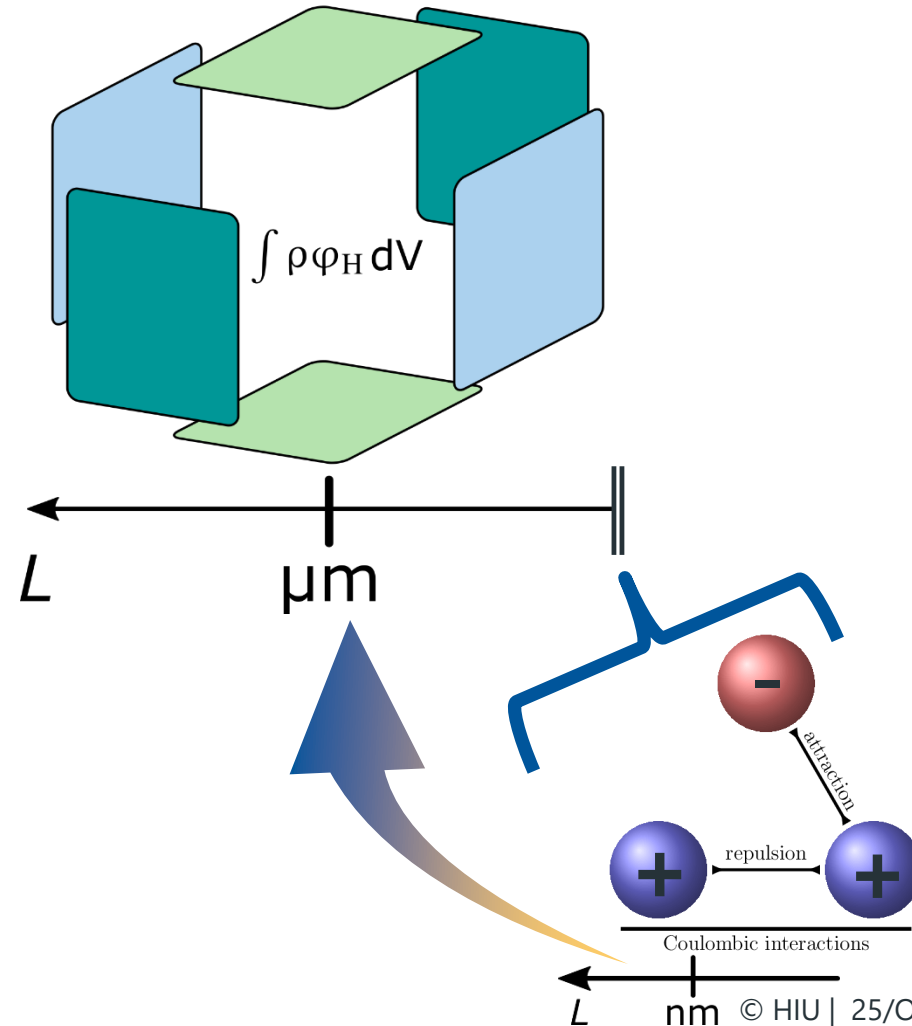
- Delta Distribution
- $\mathcal{S}_{\alpha\beta}(|x - y|) = \chi_{\alpha\beta}^{\text{coarse}} \cdot \delta(|x - y|)$

Local free energy

$$\rho\phi_H^{\text{coarse}} = \mathcal{V}^0 \chi_{\alpha\beta}^{\text{coarse}} c_{\alpha} c_{\beta}$$

Example

Flory Huggins $\rho\phi_H^{\text{Flory}} = RT \chi_{\alpha\beta}^{\text{Flory}} c_{\alpha} v_{\alpha} c_{\beta} v_{\beta}$



Solvation Model

Define one species as solvent (c_0), this can form solvation shells around the other species.

- We modify the statistics to reflect solvation. Two contributions are included:
 - Reduction of free solvent molecules by $c_0^{bound} = \sum_{\alpha \geq 1} \lambda_{\alpha} c_{\alpha}$
 - Exchanges in the solvent shell of each ion-species
- λ_{α} is a local variable in the range $[0, \lambda_{\alpha}^m]$

A distinguishable macrostate is defined by $\{c_0, c_{\alpha}, \lambda_{\alpha}\}$

Add binding energy of the form $\sum_{\alpha \geq 1} E_{\alpha} \lambda_{\alpha} c_{\alpha}$ to the free energy

Validation of Analytical Approach

Hard Particles

Dominant Interaction

- $\mathcal{V}^0 \gg E_{th}, E_{el}$

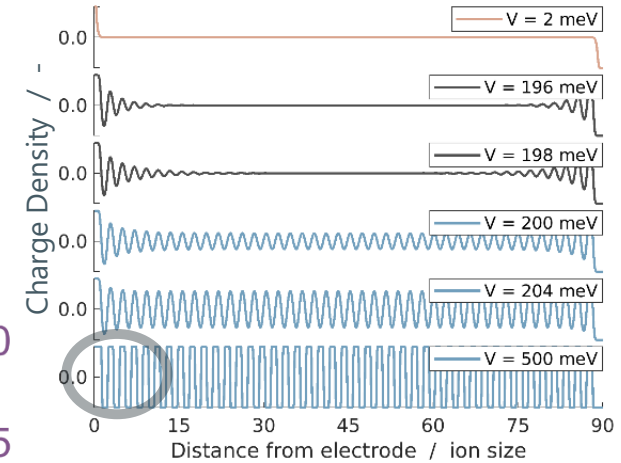
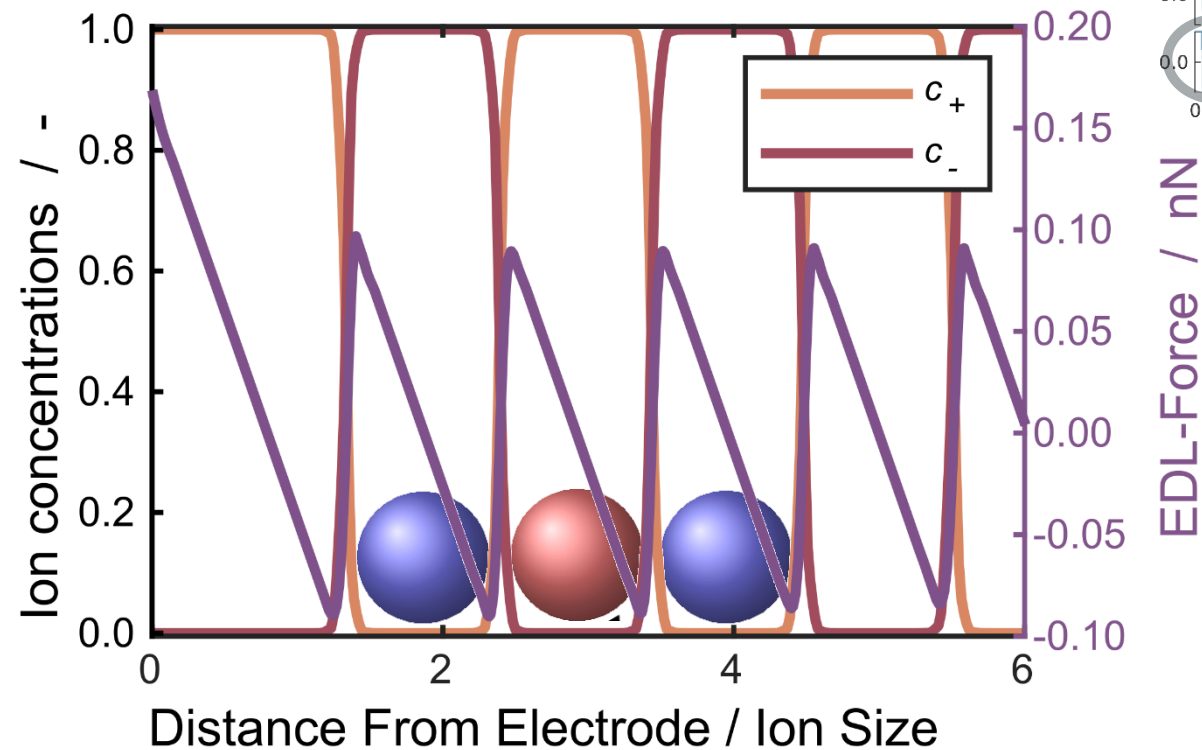
Phase separation

Pure Ion Layers

Nanostructured bulk

- Layers $\approx$ ion size

→ “Particles”



Transference Numbers: Reference Frame^{*,#}

Fluxes depend on reference frame

- $v^\psi = \sum_{\alpha=1}^N \psi_\alpha v_\alpha$
- $\mathcal{N}_\alpha^\psi = c_\alpha (v_\alpha - v^\psi)$

Onsager Matrix

Transport Parameters

Transference Numbers

Specific current contribution

- $j_\alpha^\psi = \mathcal{N}_\alpha^\psi / F \tilde{z}_\alpha^\psi$
- $t_\alpha^\psi = j_\alpha^\psi / j^\psi = \mathcal{N}_\alpha^\psi / j^\psi F z_\alpha$

Reduced set of independent parameters

Flux constraint

- $\sum_{\alpha=1}^N \psi_\alpha \mathcal{N}_\alpha^\psi / c_\alpha = 0$

Charge continuity

- $F \sum_{\alpha=2}^N \mathcal{N}_\alpha^\psi \tilde{z}_\alpha^\psi = j^\psi$

Transference Numbers

- $\sum_{\alpha=2}^N t_\alpha^\psi = 1$
- N-2 independent parameters $t_3^\psi, \dots, t_N^\psi$

*F.Kilchert, M.Schammer, A.Latz, B.Horstmann, M.Schönhoff et al. *Submitted to PCCP*. Available on arxiv

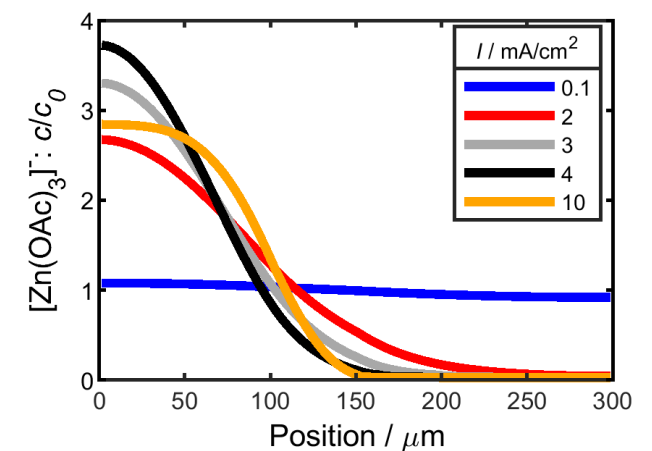
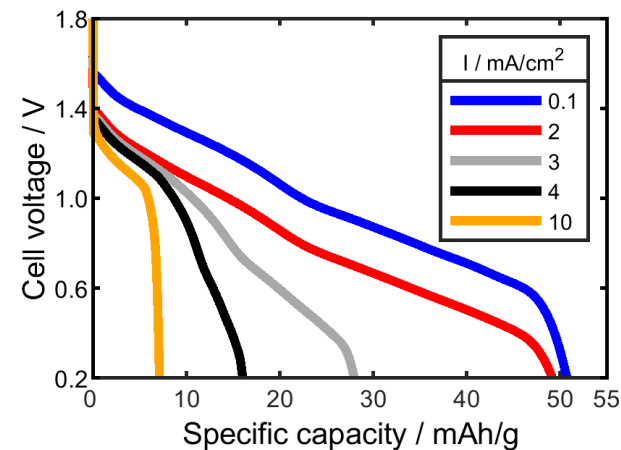
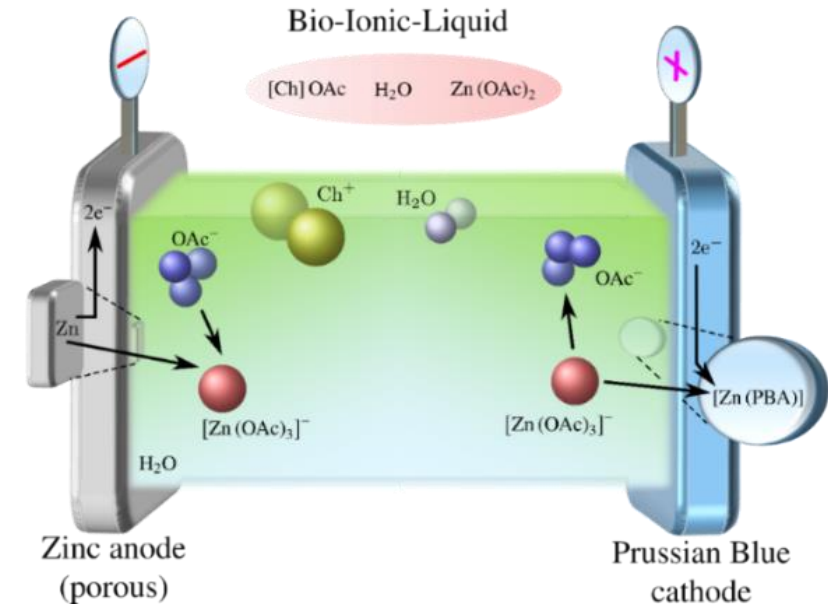
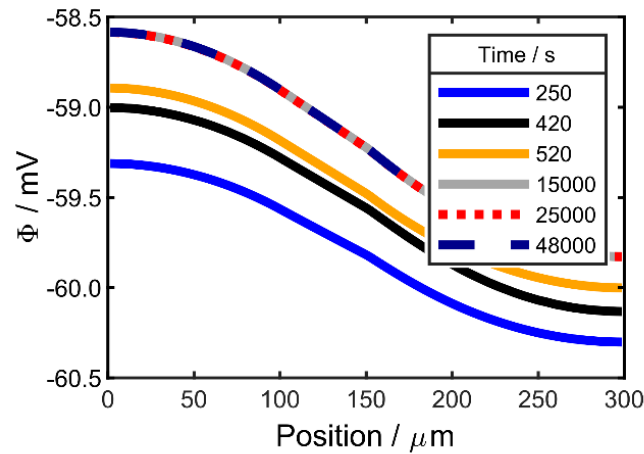
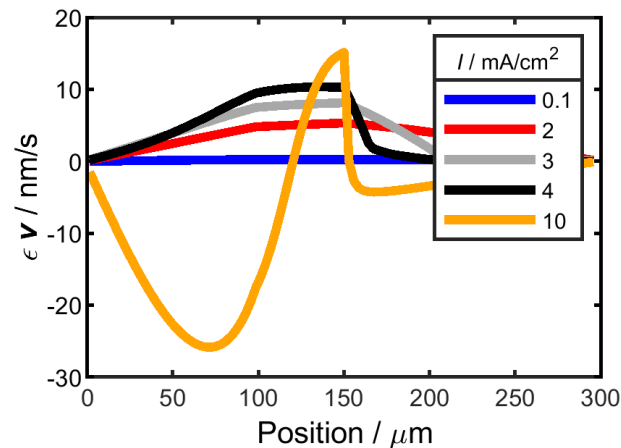
#F.Kilchert, M.Schammer, A.Latz, B.Horstmann, M.Schönhoff et al., *J. Phys. Chem. Lett.* 2022, 13, 37, 8761–8767

Transport Effects*

Potential drop towards cathode

- Potential drop towards cathode
 - Migration to Anode
- Competes with diffusion

Enhanced Discharge Dynamics



*M.Schammer, B.Horstmann, A. Latz. *Journal of The Electrochemical Society* 168.2 (2021): 026511.

Transference Numbers: Reference Species

Constraints reduce parameters

Flux constraint

- $\sum_{\alpha=1}^N M_{\alpha} \mathcal{N}_{\alpha} = 0$

Charge continuity

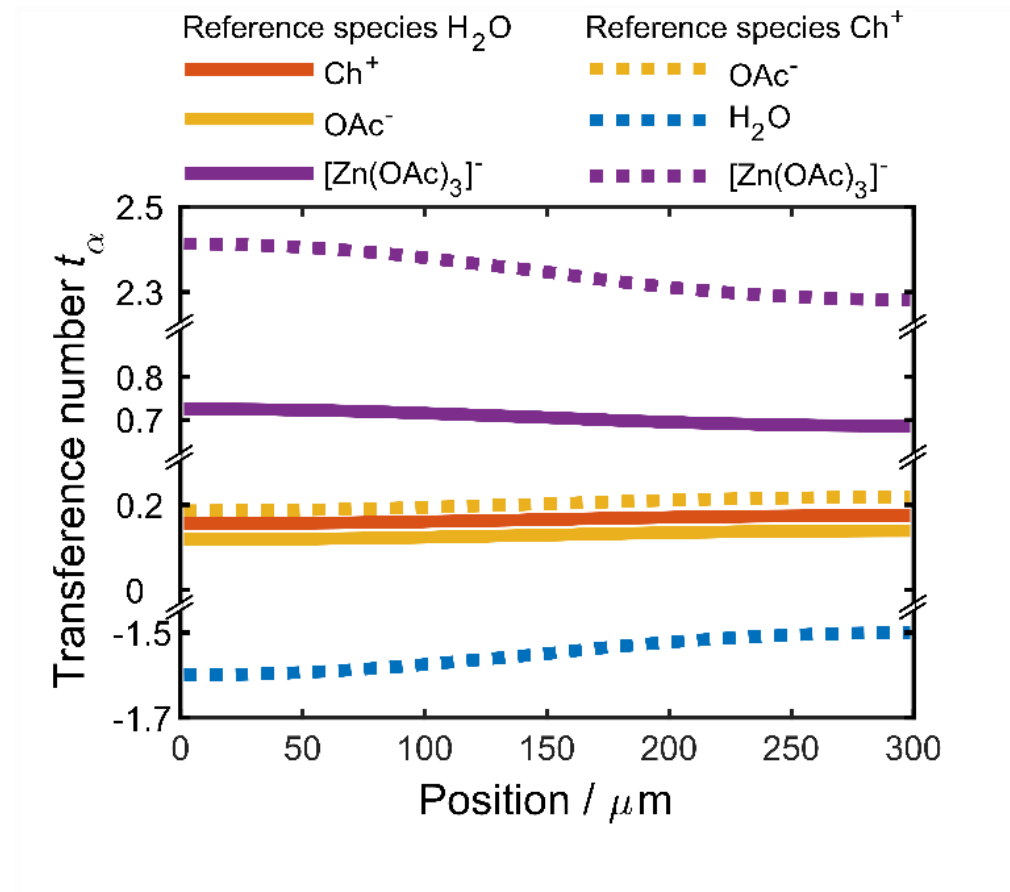
- $\sum_{\alpha=2}^N \mathcal{N}_{\alpha} F \tilde{z}_{\alpha} = \mathcal{J}$

Transference Numbers

- Follow from Onsager Matrix
- $\sum_{\alpha=2}^N t_{\alpha} = 1$
- N-2 independent parameters $t_3, \dots, t_N$

Influence of reference species $\alpha = 1$

- Sign and Magnitude



*M.Schammer, B.Horstmann, A. Latz. *Journal of The Electrochemical Society* 168.2 (2021): 026511.

Parametrization: Asymptotic Analysis of EDL Structure

Near Electrode



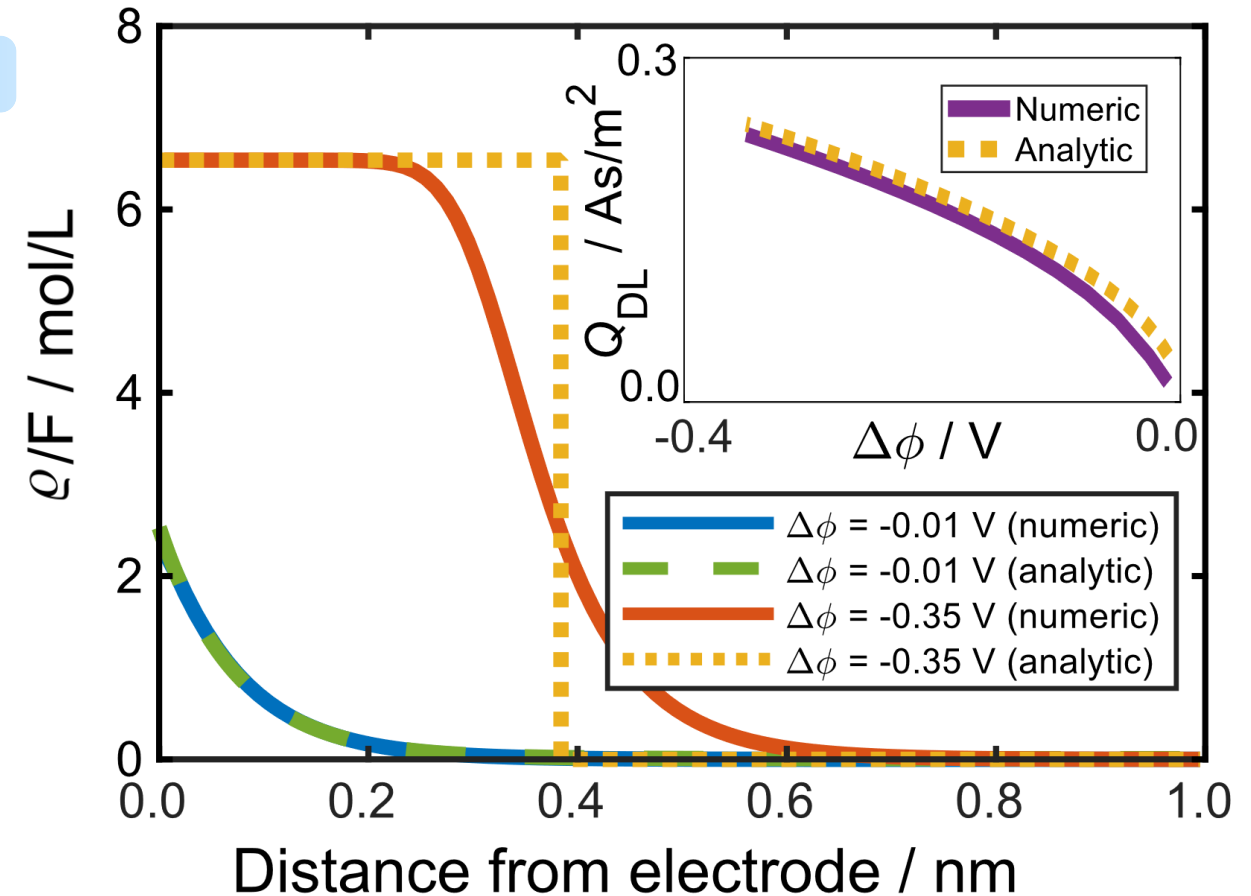
- **Large potentials** $\Phi \gg RT/F$
- Charge saturation: Box profile

$$L_{EDL} = \sqrt{2\alpha^3 |\Delta\phi| \gamma_+ \varepsilon_0 \varepsilon_r / (ez_+)^2}$$

Bulk Region

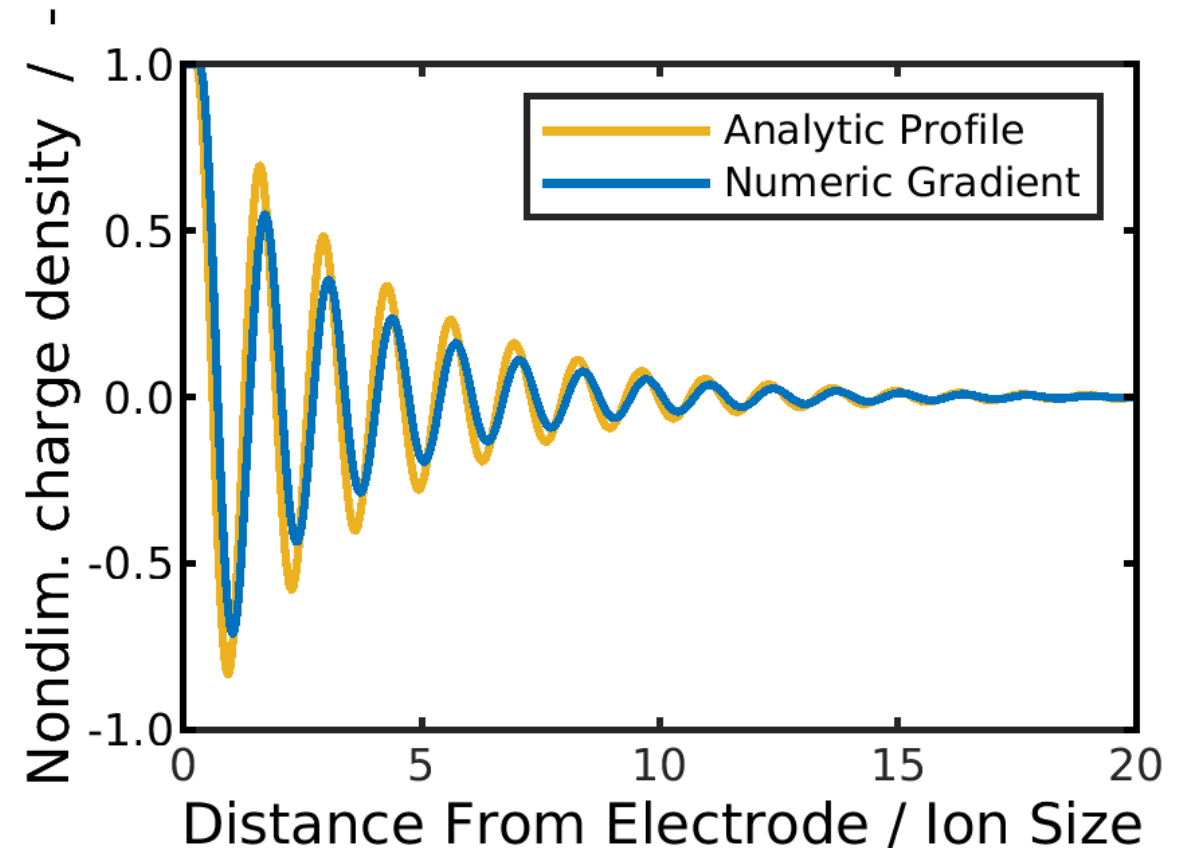
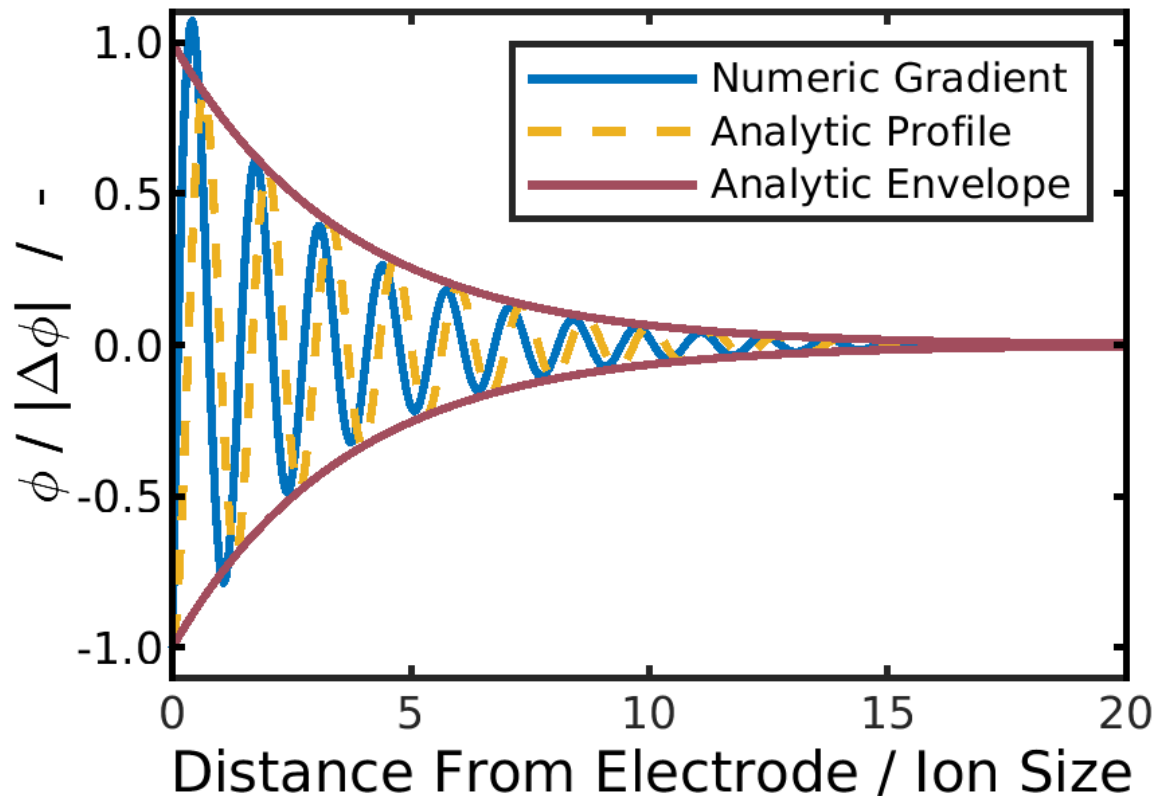


- **Small potentials** $\Phi \ll RT/F$
- Exponential decay
 $\Phi = \Delta\phi \cdot e^{-x/L_D}$
- Debye-length $L_D(a, \varepsilon_r, T, \gamma_\alpha)$



Validation of Analytic Approach

Numeric results vs. Analytic prediction



Bilder Sammler

