

Ion size effect on electrostatic and electroosmotic properties in soft nanochannels with pH-dependent charge density – Supplementary Information

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1. Derivation of Eq.(24) from Eq.(4) in the main paper.

We can write Lagrangian for the present physical system as follows:

In the region of $-h \leq y \leq -h + d$,

$$L = \int \left(-\frac{\epsilon_0 \epsilon_r}{2} |\nabla \psi|^2 + e_0 \psi (n_+ - n_-) + e_0 \psi (n_{H^+} - n_{OH^-}) - e_0 \phi(y) n_{A^-} \psi - Ts - \mu_+ n_+ - \mu_- n_- - \mu_{H^+} n_{H^+} - \mu_{OH^-} n_{OH^-} \right) dr + \alpha \left[N_p - \frac{\sigma}{a^3} \int_{-h}^{-h+d} \phi(y) dy \right] \quad (1-1)$$

In the region of $-h + d \leq y \leq 0$,

$$L = \int \left(-\frac{\epsilon_0 \epsilon_r}{2} |\nabla \psi|^2 + e_0 \psi (n_+ - n_-) + e_0 \psi (n_{H^+} - n_{OH^-}) - e_0 \phi(y) n_{A^-} \psi - Ts - \mu_+ n_+ - \mu_- n_- - \mu_{H^+} n_{H^+} - \mu_{OH^-} n_{OH^-} \right) dr \quad (1-2)$$

Here α is the Lagrangian undetermined multiplier.

As we proved in the main paper, the entropy density are given by the following equation.

$$s = k_B (N \ln N - n_+ \ln n_+ - n_- \ln n_- - n_{H^+} \ln n_{H^+} - n_{OH^-} \ln n_{OH^-}) - k_B (N - n_+ - n_- - n_{H^+} - n_{OH^-}) \ln (N - n_+ - n_- - n_{H^+} - n_{OH^-}) \quad (1-3)$$

Considering the fact that n_{A^-} isn't relevant to n_+ , we can get

$$\frac{\partial n_{A^-}}{\partial n_+} = 0. \quad (1-4)$$

On the other hand,

$$\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial n_+} = \frac{\partial n_{H^+}}{\partial n_+} = \frac{\partial n_{OH^-}}{\partial n_+} = \frac{\partial n_-}{\partial n_+} = \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial n_+} = \frac{\partial (\nabla \psi)}{\partial n_+} = 0. \quad (1-5)$$

Using Eq. (1-3, 1-4 and 1-5), we can get the variation of the Lagrangian with respect to n_+ .

$$\frac{\delta L}{\delta n_+} = e_0 \psi - \mu_+ - T \frac{\partial s}{\partial n_+} = e_0 \psi - \mu_+ - k_B T \left(-\ln n_+ - 1 + \ln(N - n_+ - n_- - n_{H^+} - n_{OH^-}) + 1 \right) = 0 \quad (1-6)$$

2. Derivation of Eq. (47) in the main paper

$$\frac{\delta L}{\delta n_+} = e_0 \psi - \mu_+ - k_B T \left(-\ln n_+ - 1 + \ln(N - n_+ - n_- - n_{H^+} - n_{OH^-}) + 1 \right) = 0 \quad (2-1)$$

Considering $\psi(x \rightarrow \infty) = 0$ and $n_+(x \rightarrow \infty) = n_{+, \infty}$, we derive the chemical potential of the positive ions in the present system:

$$\mu_+ = k_B T \ln \frac{n_{+, \infty}}{N - n_{+, \infty} - n_{-, \infty} - n_{H^+, \infty} - n_{OH^-, \infty}}. \quad (2-2)$$

Substituting Eq.(2-2) into Eq. (2-1) yields the following equation:

$$e\psi + k_B T \ln \frac{n_+ (N - n_{+, \infty} - n_{-, \infty} - n_{H^+, \infty} - n_{OH^-, \infty})}{n_{+, \infty} (N - n_+ - n_- - n_{H^+} - n_{OH^-})} = 0. \quad (2-3)$$

Rearranging Eq. (2-3) yields the following equation:

$$n_+ = n_{+, \infty} \frac{N - n_+ - n_- - n_{H^+} - n_{OH^-}}{N - n_{+, \infty} - n_{-, \infty} - n_{H^+, \infty} - n_{OH^-, \infty}} \exp\left(-\frac{e_0 \psi}{k_B T}\right). \quad (2-4)$$

In the same way as in the case of n_+ , corresponding equations for n_- , n_{OH^-} and n_{H^+} are obtained

$$n_- = n_{-, \infty} \frac{N - n_+ - n_- - n_{H^+} - n_{OH^-}}{N - n_{+, \infty} - n_{-, \infty} - n_{H^+, \infty} - n_{OH^-, \infty}} \exp\left(\frac{e_0 \psi}{k_B T}\right), \quad (2-5)$$

$$n_{OH^-} = n_{OH^-, \infty} \frac{N - n_+ - n_- - n_{H^+} - n_{OH^-}}{N - n_{+, \infty} - n_{-, \infty} - n_{H^+, \infty} - n_{OH^-, \infty}} \exp\left(\frac{e_0 \psi}{k_B T}\right), \quad (2-6)$$

$$n_{H^+} = n_{H^+,\infty} \frac{N - n_+ - n_- - n_{H^+} - n_{OH^-}}{N - n_{+, \infty} - n_{-, \infty} - n_{H^+, \infty} - n_{OH^-, \infty}} \exp\left(-\frac{e_0\psi}{k_B T}\right) \quad (2-7)$$

Dividing Eq. (2-4) , Eq. (2-6) and Eq. (2-7) by Eq. (2-5) results in the following equations:

$$\frac{n_+}{n_-} = \frac{n_{+, \infty}}{n_{-, \infty}} \exp\left(-\frac{2e_0\psi}{k_B T}\right), \quad (2-8)$$

$$\frac{n_{OH^-}}{n_-} = \frac{n_{OH^-, \infty}}{n_{-, \infty}}, \quad (2-9)$$

$$\frac{n_{H^+}}{n_-} = \frac{n_{H^+, \infty}}{n_{-, \infty}} \exp\left(-\frac{2e_0\psi}{k_B T}\right), \quad (2-10)$$

Substituting Eqs. (2-8), (2-9) and (2-10) into Eq. (2-5), we can get the following equation:

$$n_- = n_{-, \infty} \frac{1 - n_{-, \infty} v_0 \left(\frac{n_{+, \infty}}{n_{-, \infty}} \exp\left(-\frac{2e_0\psi}{k_B T}\right) + 1 + \frac{n_{OH^-, \infty}}{n_{-, \infty}} + \frac{n_{H^+, \infty}}{n_{-, \infty}} \exp\left(-\frac{2e_0\psi}{k_B T}\right) \right)}{1 - (n_{+, \infty} + n_{-, \infty} + n_{H^+, \infty} + n_{OH^-, \infty}) v_0} \exp\left(\frac{e_0\psi}{k_B T}\right) \quad (2-11)$$

Rearrangement of Eq. (2-11) provides the following equation:

$$n_- = \frac{n_{-, \infty} \exp\left(\frac{e_0\psi}{k_B T}\right)}{D_0}, \quad (2-12)$$

$$n_+ = \frac{n_{+, \infty} \exp\left(-\frac{e_0\psi}{k_B T}\right)}{D_0}, \quad (2-13)$$

$$n_{OH^-} = \frac{n_{OH^-, \infty} \exp\left(\frac{e_0\psi}{k_B T}\right)}{D_0}, \quad (2-14)$$

$$n_{H^+} = \frac{n_{H^+, \infty} \exp\left(-\frac{e_0\psi}{k_B T}\right)}{D_0}, \quad (2-15)$$

where

$$D_0 = \left(1 - n_{+, \infty} v_0 - n_{-, \infty} v_0 - n_{H^+, \infty} v_0 - n_{OH^-, \infty} v_0\right) + n_{+, \infty} v_0 \exp\left(-\frac{e_0\psi}{k_B T}\right) + n_{-, \infty} v_0 \exp\left(\frac{e_0\psi}{k_B T}\right) + n_{OH^-, \infty} v_0 \exp\left(\frac{e_0\psi}{k_B T}\right) + n_{H^+, \infty} v_0 \exp\left(-\frac{e_0\psi}{k_B T}\right). \quad (2-16)$$