## Week 9

3/7:

# Solid-Liquid Solutions and Electrochemistry

### 9.1 Solute Activity

• At low concentration, solute activity is unity, with the chosen measure of concentration.

• Activity of ions in electrolytes initially decreases rapidly with concentration below 1 M. The effect is much stronger than for neutral solutes.

• The Debye-Hückel model reasonably explains why ion activity drops so quickly.

 Practical solution concentration measures are the molarity and molality, in addition to the mole fraction x.

• Molality: The number of moles of solute per kilogram solvent. Denoted by m. Given by

$$m = \frac{n_2}{1 \, \text{kg solvent}}$$

• Concentration: The number of moles of solute per liter solution. Also known as molarity. Denoted by c. Given by

$$c = \frac{n_2}{1 \text{ L solution}}$$

• As the solvent gets purer, its vapor pressure approaches the Raoult's law limit.

$$-a_1 = P_1/P_1^* \to x_1 \text{ as } x_1 \to 1.$$

• As the solute's concentration diminishes, the solute activity approaches the Henry's law limit.

$$-a_2 = P_2/k_H \to x_2 \text{ as } x_2 \to 0.$$

• Using the vapor pressure of the solvent to determine the activity of the non-volatile solute.

- Use the Gibbs-Duhem relation,

$$0 = n_1 d \ln a_1 + n_2 d \ln a_2$$

$$= (55.506 \,\text{mol kg}^{-1}) d \ln a_1 + m d \ln a_2$$

$$\ln a_2 = \int_0^m -\frac{55.506}{m'} d(\ln a_1) dm'$$

- But  $d(\ln a_1)$  may not be very precise; thus, we define the **osmotic coefficient**.

- With this quantity, we have

$$d\ln a_1 = -d(m\phi) \cdot \frac{1}{55.506}$$

- Thus, we have that

$$0 = -\operatorname{d}(m\phi) + m\operatorname{d}\ln a_2$$

$$\phi\operatorname{d}m + m\operatorname{d}\phi = m\operatorname{d}\ln\gamma_2 + \operatorname{d}m$$

$$\frac{\operatorname{d}m}{m}\phi + \operatorname{d}\phi = \operatorname{d}\ln\gamma_2 + \frac{\operatorname{d}m}{m}$$

$$\operatorname{d}\ln\gamma_2 = \operatorname{d}\phi + \left(\frac{\phi - 1}{m}\right)\operatorname{d}m$$

$$\ln\gamma_2 = (\phi - 1) + \int_0^m \frac{\phi - 1}{m'}\operatorname{d}m'$$

• Osmotic coefficient: The following quantity. Denoted by  $\phi$ . Given by

$$\phi = -\frac{\ln a_1}{x_2} = -\ln a_1 \cdot \frac{55.506 \,\text{mol kg}^{-1}}{m}$$

- It is called the osmotic coefficient since  $\Pi \overline{V} = -RT \ln a_1$  implies that as  $x_2 \to 0$ ,  $\ln a_1 \to -x_2$ , so  $\phi \to 1$ .
- Even in the case of an ideal solution,  $\phi \neq 1$  exactly, though, since we must mathematically approximate  $\ln a_1 \approx -x_2$ .
- Ionic solutions deviate strongly from ideal solution, even at small molality.
- Mean ionic activity, molality, and activity coefficient.
  - The salt  $C_{\nu_+}A_{\nu_-}$  dissociates into  $\nu_+$   $C^{z_+}$  ions and  $\nu_ A^{z_-}$  ions where

$$\nu_{+}z_{+} + \nu_{-}z_{-} = 0$$

for charge neutrality.

- Let  $\nu = \nu_+ + \nu_-$ .
- The chemical potential of the salt is

$$\mu_{\text{salt}} = \nu_{+}\mu_{+} + \nu_{-}\mu_{-}$$

$$= \nu_{+}\mu_{+}^{\circ} + \nu_{-}\mu_{-}^{\circ} + RT(\nu_{+}\ln a_{+} + \nu_{-}\ln a_{-}) + RT\ln\left(\underbrace{a_{+}^{\nu_{+}}a_{-}^{\nu_{-}}}_{a_{2}}\right)$$

- Hence,

$$\begin{split} a_2 &= a_+^{\nu_+} a_-^{\nu_-} \\ &= (\gamma_+^{\nu_+} \gamma_-^{\nu_-}) (m_+^{\nu_+} m_-^{\nu_-}) \\ &= a_\pm^{\nu} \\ &= \gamma_\pm^{\nu} m_\pm^{\nu} \end{split}$$

where  $a_{\pm}$  is the **mean activity**,  $\gamma_{\pm}$  is the **mean activity coefficient**, and  $m_{\pm}$  is the **mean molality**.

- It follows that

$$\mu_2 = \mu_2^{\circ} + RT \ln a_{\pm}^{\nu}$$
  
=  $\mu_2^{\circ} + \nu RT \ln a_{\pm}$ 

- Consider a solution of  $CaCl_2$  with molality m.
  - It has

$$m_{+} = m \qquad m_{-} = 2m$$

- Thus,

$$m_{\pm} = \sqrt{m_{+}^{1} m_{-}^{2}}$$
$$= \sqrt{4m^{3}}$$
$$= 4^{1/3} m$$

- We can do something similar for  $\gamma_{\pm}$  and  $a_{\pm}$ .
- Determining the activity of electrolytes.
  - The derivation is pretty similar to before (for nonvolatile solvents), except that now  $\ln a_1 = -\nu m\phi/55.506$ .
  - It follows that

$$0 = n_1 d \ln a_1 + n_2 d \ln a_2$$
  
=  $-\nu d(m\phi) + m\nu d \ln a_{\pm}$ 

- so  $\nu$  cancels.
- This yields the same overall equation as before:

$$\ln \gamma_{\pm} = (\phi - 1) + \int_{0}^{m} \frac{\phi - 1}{m'} dm'$$

• We can do the above, but ion activity can also be measured by electrochemistry.

## 9.2 Debye-Hückel Model

- 3/9: For ionic solutions,  $\phi$  is fitted to a function of the form  $\phi = \sum a_i m^{i/2}$ .
  - For neutral solutes,  $\phi$  is fitted to a function of the form  $\phi = \sum a_i m^i$ .
  - Debye-Hückel model for small concentrations:  $\ln \gamma_{\pm} \propto m^{1/2}$ .
  - We define  $pH = -\log a_1$ , not  $pH = -\log[H_3O^+]$ .
    - Thus, pH =  $-\log \gamma_{\pm} \log[H_3O^+]$ .
    - This also gives a method of determining  $\gamma_{\pm}$ .
  - Activity coefficients and interaction between solutes.
    - If there are unfavorable interactions between solutes (as in sucrose),  $\gamma > 1$ .
    - If there are favorable interactions between solutes (as in NaCl),  $\gamma < 1$ .
    - In terms of energy:

$$\begin{split} \mu &= \overline{\mu} + P \overline{V} - T \overline{S} \\ &= \mu^*(x) + RT \ln x \\ &= \mu^*_{\text{ideal}} + (\mu^*(x) - \mu_{\text{ideal}}) + RT \ln x \\ &= \mu^*_{\text{ideal}} + RT \ln a \\ &= \mu^*_{\text{ideal}} + RT \ln \gamma + RT \ln x \end{split}$$

- It follows that

$$RT \ln \gamma = \mu^*(x) - \mu_{\text{ideal}}$$
$$\gamma = \exp\left(\frac{\mu^*(x) - \mu_{\text{ideal}}}{RT}\right)$$

using only  $\overline{\mu} \to \gamma = \exp\left(\frac{\mu^*(x) - \mu_{\text{ideal}}}{RT}\right)$ .

- This mathematically shows that if we stabilize the ion energetically, then  $\gamma < 1$ .
- Interactions between ions. The Debye length arises due to the screening of the charges. Calculated from the Boltzmann factor.
  - Imagine a charge of magnitude q at the center of our coordinate system.
  - We have a charge density  $\rho(\pi)$  at a distance r from the nucleus.
  - We have

$$\rho(r) = \sum_{i} q_i \left(\frac{N_i}{V}\right) \cdot e^{-q_i \phi(r)/k_B T}$$

where the latter term is the Boltzmann factor and  $\phi(r)$  is the electrostatic potential.

- We also have the Poisson equation,

$$\nabla \phi(r) = -\frac{\rho(r)}{\varepsilon \varepsilon_0}$$

- Since everything is depending on each other, it seems we are in a pickle.
- But if

$$\frac{q_i\phi(r)}{k_BT}<1$$

then

$$e^{q_i\phi(r)/k_BT} = 1 - \frac{q_i\phi(r)}{k_BT}$$

- Therefore,

$$\rho(r) = \sum_{i} q_i \left(\frac{N_i}{V}\right) \cdot \left(1 - \frac{q_i \phi(r)}{k_B T}\right) = \sum_{i} q_i \left(\frac{N_i}{V}\right) - \phi(r) \sum_{i} \frac{q_i^2 \left(\frac{N_i}{V}\right)}{k_B T}$$

where the left term in the right expression above evaluates to zero.

- We can only have an excess of 1000 ions of one type of charge per liter of solution.
- It follows that

$$\nabla \phi(r) = \left(\frac{\sum q_i^2 \left(\frac{N_i}{V}\right)}{\varepsilon \varepsilon_0 k_B T}\right) \cdot \phi(r)$$
$$\frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial r^2} + \dots = \kappa^2 \cdot \phi$$

- Debye length:  $\kappa^{-1}$ .
- In the one-dimensional case,

$$\frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial x^2} = \kappa^2 \phi$$
$$\phi(x) = A e^{\kappa x} + B e^{-\kappa x}$$

- In other words, all interactions take place within the Debye length.

- The distance over which ion concentration differs from perfectly mixed ion potential around a charge.
- In electrochemistry, this is where everything happens.
- Ions screen other ions.
- We have

$$\kappa^2 = \frac{\sum q_i^2 \left(\frac{N_i}{V}\right)}{\varepsilon \varepsilon_0 k_B T}$$

• Ionic strength: The following quantity. Denoted by  $I_c$ . Given by

$$I_c = \frac{1}{2} \sum z_i^2 c_i$$

• Thus, we have

$$\kappa^{-1} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{I_c}} \cdot \sqrt{\frac{10^{-3}}{\mathrm{e}^2 N_A} \cdot \frac{\varepsilon \varepsilon_0 k_B T}{2}}$$

- Calculating the Debye length of NaCl.
  - For water,  $\varepsilon \approx 80$ .
  - For 1 M NaCl,

$$I_c = \frac{1}{2}(1 \cdot 1 + 1 \cdot 1) = 1 \,\mathrm{M}$$

- Thus,  $\kappa^{-1} = 3 \,\text{Å}$ .
- Calculating the Debye length of CaCl<sub>2</sub>.
  - $-I_c = 3 \,\mathrm{M}.$
- Interactions lead to the Debye-Hückel model for the mean ionic activity.
  - We have

$$\mu = -\frac{\kappa q^2}{8\pi\varepsilon\varepsilon_0}$$

which implies that

$$\ln \gamma = -\frac{\kappa q^2}{8\pi\varepsilon\varepsilon_0 k_B T}$$

- Hence, by Problem 25.58,

$$\ln \gamma_{\pm} = \frac{|z_{+}z_{-}|e^{2}\kappa}{8\pi\varepsilon\varepsilon_{0}k_{B}T}$$

where  $e^2 \kappa / 8\pi \varepsilon \varepsilon_0$  comes from the Coulombic attraction.

- Thus, by the Debye-Hückel model,

$$\ln \gamma_{\pm} = -1.333 |z_{+}z_{-}| \sqrt{I_{c}}$$

 $\bullet\,$  One empirical extension of the Debye-Hückel model is

$$\ln \gamma_{\pm} = \frac{-1.173|z_{+}z_{-}|\sqrt{I_{c}}}{1+\sqrt{I_{c}}} + c_{m}$$

#### 9.3 Electrochemistry

- 3/11: Example from last time: Calculate the mean ionic activity of ZnCl<sub>2</sub> at 0.02 molal.
  - The mean molality is  $m_{\pm} = \sqrt{(0.02)^1(0.04)^2} = 3.17 \times 10^{-2}$ .
  - The ionic strength is

$$I = \frac{1}{2}[(0.02)(+2)^2 + (0.04)(-1)^2]$$
  
= 0.06

- Calculate the Debye-Hückel mean ionic activity coefficient:

$$\ln \gamma_{\pm} = -1.173|z_{+}z_{-}|\sqrt{I_{c}}$$

$$= -1.173(2 \cdot 1)\sqrt{0.06}$$

$$= -0.574$$

- Thus, by plotting  $\ln \gamma_{\pm}$  vs. c for small concentrations, we can find that  $\sqrt{c} \approx 0.14$ .
- Electrochemistry: Exchanging chemical free energy with electrical energy.
  - Zinc and copper electrodes in a solution of CuSO<sub>4</sub>.
    - The zinc silvery metal turns red (it's getting coated in copper) and the copper electrode doesn't change.
  - Now picture zinc in a solution of ZnSO<sub>4</sub> and copper in a solution of CuSO<sub>4</sub>, the two containers being connected by a salt bridge and an ammeter.
    - The zinc electrode corrodes (gets smaller and smaller).
    - The copper electrode grows (copper gets deposited).
    - What we have is  $\operatorname{Zn} \longrightarrow \operatorname{Zn}^{2+} + 2\operatorname{e}^-$  and  $\operatorname{Cu}^{2+} + 2\operatorname{e}^- \longrightarrow \operatorname{Cu}$ , so electrons flow through the wire from the zinc anode to the copper cathode.
    - The overall redox reaction is

$$\mathrm{Zn}_{(s)} + \mathrm{Cu}^{2+} \longrightarrow \mathrm{Zn}^{2+} + \mathrm{Cu}_{(s)}$$

- The relevant molar Gibbs energies of formation  $(\Delta \overline{G}_f^{\circ})$  are zero for the metals,  $-147 \,\mathrm{kJ} \,\mathrm{mol}^{-1}$  for  $\mathrm{Zn_{(aq)}^{2+}}$ , and  $65 \,\mathrm{kJ} \,\mathrm{mol}^{-1}$  for  $\mathrm{Cu_{(aq)}^{2+}}$ .
- Thus, this reaction is spontaneous with  $\Delta \overline{G}^{\circ} = -147 65 = -212 \,\mathrm{kJ} \,\mathrm{mol}^{-1}$ .
- We know that  $\Delta \overline{G}^{\circ} = w_{\text{non }PV} = \Delta \overline{Q} \cdot E$  at constant T, P, where E is the electrochemical potential.
- We also know that  $\Delta \overline{Q} = -2eN_A = -2F$  (negative since we're losing electrons) where

$$F = 96485 \,\mathrm{C}$$

is the Faraday constant.

- Thus,

$$E = \frac{\Delta \overline{G}^{\circ}}{2F} = \frac{-212}{-2F} = \frac{-212000}{-2 \cdot 96485} = 1.1 \text{ V}$$

- Using the Gibbs free energy with the electrostatic potential energy.
  - Hydrogen electrode: You have a reference, and then you bubble  $H_2$  through the solution with  $P_{H_2} = 1$  atm, using a solution of pH = 1.
    - Recall that this does not imply that  $[H_3O^+] = 1 \text{ M}$ ; it means that  $\log a_{H_3O^+} = 1$ .

- Know that  $2 H^+ + 2 e^- \longrightarrow H_2$ .
- Nernst equation.

$$E = E_0 - \frac{RT}{nF} \ln \frac{a_{\text{reductant}}}{a_{\text{oxidant}}}$$

• In the case of the standard hydrogen electrode,

$$\begin{split} E_{\rm H_2} &= E_0 - \frac{RT}{2F} \ln \frac{P_{\rm H_2}}{a_{\rm H}^2} \\ &= E_0 - \frac{0.0592}{2} \log \frac{P_{\rm H_2}}{a_{\rm H}^2} \\ &= E_0 - \frac{0.0592}{2} \log P_{\rm H_2} + 0.0592 \, \mathrm{pH} \end{split}$$

- Membrane potential.
  - In a cell, ion pumps establish an electric potential across a membrane of up to 20 times.
  - Assuming that the chemical potentials inside and outside the membrane are equal, we have

$$\mu_{\rm in} = \mu_+^* + RT \ln c_{\rm in} + q\phi$$
  $\mu_{\rm out} = \mu_+^* + RT \ln c_{\rm out} + q \cdot 0$ 

where  $\phi$  is the electrical potential difference between the inside and outside of the cell.

- Setting the two equations equal to each other and noting that  $q = eN_A = F$  yields

$$RT \ln c_{\text{in}} + R\phi = RT \ln c_{\text{out}}$$
  
$$\phi = \frac{RT}{F} \ln \frac{c_{\text{out}}}{c_{\text{in}}}$$
$$= -75 \text{ mV}$$

for  $T = 300 \,\mathrm{K}$  and the concentration on the inside being 20 times that on the outside.

- Corrosion and concentration gradients.
  - Metal corrosion occurs when  $[M^+]$  is smallest. Here,  $M^+ + e^- \longrightarrow M$ .
    - Electrons flow from negative to positive.
  - Corrosion occurs where  $O_2$  concentration is the lowest.

    - Low  $[O_2]$  implies that

$$E = E_0 - \frac{RT}{4F} - \ln \frac{1}{[H^+]^4 P_{O_2}}$$

so E becomes more negative.

- It is the low potential at places that lack oxygen that causes corrosion.
- Few lines summary of CHEM 26200.
  - 1. We first thought of  $\langle E \rangle = \sum p_i E_i$ , i.e., the energy as dependent on the states of a system.
  - 2. We then defined the entropy  $S = -k_B \sum p_i \ln p_i$  that maximizes when everything is most equally distributed. Tells us where nature goes, i.e., toward the most probable outcome.
  - 3. We can combine energy with the tendency of nature to go to the highest entropy to define the **Lagrange multipliers** F = U TS and G = H TS; minima of F, G are where the system goes spontaneously.
  - 4. The partition function  $q = \sum e^{-E_i/k_BT}$  allows us to calculate every property of the system it describes. We can also extend this from molecules to systems of distinguishable and indistinguishable particles.
  - 5. The probabilities of each state depend on their energy via  $p_i = e^{E_i/k_BT}/q$ .

#### 9.4 Chapter 25: Solutions II — Solid-Liquid Solutions

From McQuarrie and Simon (1997).

3/8:

- Oppositely charged ions in solution interact with each other via a Coulombic potential, which varies proportionally to 1/r.
  - Note the difference between the strength of this potential and the LDF potential of  $1/r^6$  attracting ordinary neutral molecules.
  - It follows that solutions of electrolytes deviate from ideality much more quickly (i.e., at much lower concentrations).
- When ions with higher charges (e.g., CaCl<sub>2</sub> vs. NaCl) are produced, the deviation from ideality is exacerbated.
- a-b electrolyte: An electrolyte for which  $\nu_{+} = a$  and  $\nu_{-} = b$ .
  - For example,  $CaCl_2$  is a 1-2 electrolyte and  $Gd_2(SO_4)_3$  is a 2-3 electrolyte.
- The chemical potential of a salt depends on the potentials of its constituent ions as per

$$\mu_2 = \nu_+ \mu_+ + \nu_- \mu_-$$

where  $\mu_j = \mu_j^{\circ} + RT \ln a_j$  for j = 2, +, -.

• It follows from the above and the fact that  $\mu_2^{\circ} = \nu_+ \mu_+^{\circ} + \nu_- \mu_-^{\circ}$ , too, that

$$\mu_{2}^{\circ} + RT \ln a_{2} = \nu_{+}(\mu_{+}^{\circ} + RT \ln a_{+}) + \nu_{-}(\mu_{-}^{\circ} + RT \ln a_{-})$$

$$RT \ln a_{2} = \nu_{+}RT \ln a_{+} + \nu_{-}RT \ln a_{-}$$

$$\ln a_{2} = \nu_{+} \ln a_{+} + \nu_{-} \ln a_{-}$$

$$a_{2} = a_{+}^{\nu_{+}} a_{-}^{\nu_{-}}$$

- We define  $\nu = \nu_{+} + \nu_{-}$ .
- Mean ionic activity: The following quantity. Denoted by  $a_{\pm}$ . Given by

$$a^{\nu}_{+} = a^{\nu_{+}}_{+} a^{\nu_{-}}_{-}$$

- We take the activity  $a_2$  of an electrolyte to be its mean ionic activity to the  $\nu^{\text{th}}$  power, i.e.,  $a_2 = a_+^{\nu}$ .
- We cannot determine the activities of single ions.
- We define the molalities of individual ions by

$$m_+ = \nu_+ m \qquad m_- = \nu_- m$$

• We define single-ion activity coefficients by

$$\gamma_+ = \frac{a_+}{m_+} \qquad \qquad \gamma_- = \frac{a_-}{m_-}$$

• Mean ionic molarity: The following quantity. Denoted by  $m_{\pm}$ . Given by

$$m_+^{\nu} = m_+^{\nu_+} m_-^{\nu_-}$$

• Mean ionic activity coefficient: The following quantity. Denoted by  $\gamma_{\pm}$ . Given by

$$\gamma_\pm^\nu = \gamma_+^{\nu_+} \gamma_-^{\nu_-}$$

• It follows that

$$a_2 = a_{\pm}^{\nu} = (m_{+}^{\nu_{+}} m_{-}^{\nu_{-}}) (\gamma_{+}^{\nu_{+}} \gamma_{-}^{\nu_{-}}) = m_{\pm}^{\nu} \gamma_{\pm}^{\nu}$$

• McQuarrie and Simon (1997) derives

$$\ln \gamma_{\pm} = (\phi - 1) + \int_0^m \frac{\phi - 1}{m'} dm'$$

• For colligative properties, since  $x_2$  is scaled up by a factor of  $\nu$ , we get

$$\Delta T_{\text{fus}} = \nu K_f m$$
  $\Delta T_{\text{vap}} = \nu K_b m$   $\Pi = \nu cRT$ 

for solutions of electrolytes.

• Debye and Hückel showed theoretically in 1925 that at low concentrations, the natural logarithms of the  $j^{\text{th}}$  ion's activity coefficient and the mean ionic activity coefficient are given by

$$\ln \gamma_j = -\frac{\kappa q_j^2}{8\pi\varepsilon_0\varepsilon_r k_B T} \qquad \qquad \ln \gamma_{\pm} = -|q_+ q_-| \frac{\kappa}{8\pi\varepsilon_0\varepsilon_r k_B T}$$

where  $q_+=z_+e$  and  $q_-=z_-e$ ,  $\varepsilon_r$  is the (unitless) relative permittivity of the solvent, and  $\kappa$  is given by

$$\kappa^2 = \sum_{j=1}^{s} \frac{q_j^2}{\varepsilon_0 \varepsilon_r k_B T} \left( \frac{N_j}{V} \right)$$

s being the number of ionic species and  $N_i/V$  being the number density of species j.

- Converting  $N_i/V$  to molarity allows us to rewrite the above as

$$\kappa^2 = N_A (1000 \,\mathrm{L}\,\mathrm{m}^{-3}) \sum_{j=1}^s \frac{q_j^2 c_j}{\varepsilon_0 \varepsilon_r k_B T}$$

- This result is derived in Problems 25-50 through 25-58.
- Debye-Hückel limiting law: The above expression for  $\ln \gamma_{\pm}$ .
- Ionic strength: The following quantity. Denoted by  $I_c$ . Given by

$$I_c = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j=1}^{s} z_j^2 c_j$$

- $-c_i$  is the molarity of the  $j^{\text{th}}$  ionic species.
- Having defined the ionic strength, we can write express  $\kappa$  in a third form as

$$\kappa^2 = \frac{2e^2 N_A (1000 \,\mathrm{L\,m^{-3}})}{\varepsilon_0 \varepsilon_r k_B T} (I_c/\mathrm{mol\,L^{-1}})$$

- In the Debye-Hückel limiting law,  $\ln \gamma_{\pm} \propto \kappa \propto \sqrt{I_c} \propto \sqrt{c}$ .
  - This is why we curve fit  $\phi$  vs. m data to a polynomial in  $m^{1/2}$ .
- As  $m \to 0$ , all curves  $\ln \gamma_{\pm}$  vs. m converge to the same straight line (hence this being a *limiting* law).
- Physically interpreting  $\kappa$ .
  - The net charge in a spherical shell of radius r and thickness dr surrounding an ion of charge  $q_i$  is given by

$$p_i(r) dr = -a_i \kappa^2 r e^{-\kappa r} dr$$

- Integrating this equation over all space yields  $-q_i$ .
- Thus, "the total charge surrounding an ion of charge  $q_i$  is equal and of the opposite sign to  $q_i$ . In other words, it expresses the electroneutrality of the solution" (McQuarrie & Simon, 1997, pp. 1033–34).
- The above equation describes the **ionic atmosphere** about the central ion.
- Additionally, its maximum occurs at  $\kappa^{-1}$ , so we say that  $\kappa$  is a measure of the thickness of the ionic atmosphere.
- For a 1-1 electrolyte in aqueous solution at 25 °C,

$$\kappa = \frac{304 \,\mathrm{pm}}{\sqrt{c/\mathrm{mol}\,\mathrm{L}^{-1}}}$$

- Assumptions of the Debye-Hückel theory:
  - Ions are point particles.
  - They interact with a purely Coulombic potential.
  - The solvent is a continuous medium with a uniform relative permittivity  $\varepsilon_r$ .
- Clearly, these will start to break down as their concentration increases.
- The Debye-Hückel model has been of important utility mainly in that all models that attempt to treat higher concentrations must reduce to it at lower temperatures.
- Real progress toward a more general theory wasn't made until the 1970s, though.
- **Primitive model**: Ions are considered hard spheres with charges at their centers and the solvent is considered a continuous medium with a uniform relative permittivity.
  - Although, well, primitive, long-range Coulombic interactions and short-range repulsions, which this model encapsulates well, turn out to be major considerations, so the model is pretty good.
- The mean spherical approximation (MSA) provides analytical solutions.
  - A central result is that

$$\ln \gamma_{\pm} = \ln \gamma_{\pm}^{\rm el} + \ln \gamma^{\rm HS}$$

where  $\ln \gamma_{\pm}^{\rm el}$  is an electrostatic (Coulombic) contribution to  $\ln \gamma_{\pm}$  and  $\ln \gamma^{\rm HS}$  is a hard-sphere contribution.

- For a 1-1 electrolyte,

$$\ln \gamma_{\pm}^{\text{el}} = \frac{x\sqrt{1+2x} - x - x^2}{4\pi \rho d^3}$$

where  $\rho$  is the number density of charged particles, d is the sum of the radius of a cation and anion, and  $x = \kappa d$ . Also,

$$\ln \gamma^{\text{HS}} = \frac{4y - \frac{9}{4}y^2 + \frac{3}{8}y^3}{\left(1 - \frac{y}{2}\right)^3}$$

where  $y = \pi \rho d^3/6$ .