Electroneutrality Bob Eisenberg July 11, 2012

Consider a sphere radius a.

Capacitance is $4\pi\varepsilon_0 a = (1.11 \times 10^{-10})a$

Capacitance can be derived from Coulomb's law and Gauss' law with surface a sphere at infinity.

Charge for 1 volt is $4\pi\varepsilon_0 a = (1.11 \times 10^{-10})a$ Number of unbalanced charges for 1v is $\frac{4\pi\varepsilon_0 a = (1.11 \times 10^{-10})a}{1.61 \times 10^{-19}} = 6.951 \times 10^8 \times a$ charges

In a dielectric of dielectric constant ε_r , $6.951 \times 10^8 \times a$ charges $\times \varepsilon_r$ Consider a 1 cm radius sphere of a 1 molar solution dielectric constant 78.8 Number of unbalanced charges is $\sim 5.57 \times 10^8$ charges for 1 v, roughly 10,000,000 charges for 0.2 v in 1 cm sphere

Now, compare to total number of charges in a typical system

Volume of 1 cm radius sphere is $\frac{4}{3}\pi a^3 = 4.19 \times 10^{-6} \text{ m}^3$ Number of ions in 1 cm radius sphere of 1 molar solution is

$$4.19 \times 10^{-6} \text{ m}^3 \times 6.02 \times 10^{23} \frac{1}{\text{liter}} \frac{10^3 \text{liter}}{\text{m}^3} = 2.52 \times 10^{21} \text{ ions}$$

Unbalanced charges are a small fraction, namely $\frac{5.57 \times 10^8}{2.52 \times 10^{21}} = 2.2 \times 10^{-13}$ for 0.2 v in 1 cm sphere.

General formula (for 1 molar salt at 1 v) is $\frac{4\pi\varepsilon_{r}\varepsilon_{0}a}{\frac{4}{3}\pi a^{3}N_{A}} = \frac{3\varepsilon_{r}\varepsilon_{0}}{a^{2}}\frac{1}{N_{A}} = \frac{3\times78.8\times8.85\times10^{-12}}{a^{2}(6.02\times10^{23})} = \frac{3.47\times10^{-33}}{a^{2}}$