

## **Essential Problem in Classical Physical Chemistry**

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Wed, Jan 29, 2014 at 8:05 AM

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Dear Troels

Here are some slides and papers that show how profound the difficulties are with the classical views of ionic solutions.

Please do NOT discount these because they come from a biologist at an unknown medical school.

These opinions have been refereed by innumerable physical chemists, physicists, and mathematicians, some in the US National Academy, two with the National Medal of Science (harder to get than the Nobel Prize), one with a Wolf Prize, and the views are shared by all physical chemists who know about ionic solutions.

Indeed, physical chemists usually say: what is new?

It turns out that Bjerrum understood the essential issue in the 1920's: when more than one diameter ion is present the "distance of closest approach" of each type of ion depends on the concentration and diameter of every other ion.

Any "average distance of closest approach" depends on 'everything' in the system. The "average distance of closest approach" determines a large, usually dominant term in the excess free energy. The excess free energy dominates in the highly crowded environment in and near biological proteins' active sites and nucleic acids.

As ever Bob

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On Wed, Jan 29, 2014 at 3:20 AM, Troels Ring tring@gvdnet.dk wrote:

Dear bob - just heard this after hearing your president and thought you might enjoy. Also, while I'm strengthening myself to make the approach you suggested I wonder whether in two words you find my previous attempts totally useless? I know we have to go quite far to get a proper and meaningful picture - but it would be nice to - sort of - know from where to take the first step. As a clinician I would like to start approximately where our current most likely misdirected thinking has brought us. I remember an old saying from Danish philosopher, Søren Kierkegaard - in my translation - "if you really want to help someone move somewhere, you better try to find him where he is and start there" -

All best wishes

Troels

## 6 attachments



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