

On the contact conditions for the density and charge profiles in the theory of electrical double layer: From planar to spherical and cylindrical geometry

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On the contact conditions for the density and charge profiles in 3 the theory of electrical double layer: from planar to spherical and 4 cylindrical geometry 5 M. Holovko 6 Institute for Condensed Matter Physics, National Academy of Sciences 7 1 Svientsitskii Str., 79011 Lviv, Ukraine 8 V. Vlachy 9 Faculty of Chemistry and Chemical Technology, University of Ljubljana, 10 Vecna pot 113, SI-1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia 11 D. di Caprio 12 Chimie ParisTech, Institut de Recherche de Chimie Paris (IRCP), 13 Université PSL, CNRS, Paris, France 14

Abstract

In this paper, from the Born-Green-Yvon equations of the liquid-state theory, we formulate two equivalent approaches for the calculation of the charge and density profiles of ionic fluids near charged nonplanar surfaces. The contact theorems for the density and charge profiles are formulated by the direct integration of this system of equations. Both theorems have nonlocal character. It is shown that the contact value of the density profile for noncharged surfaces is characterized by the bulk pressure and the surface tension. The obtained results are applied to spherical and and cylindrical surfaces. It is shown that the contact theorem for the density profile coincides with the recent results obtained by W. Silvester-Alcantara, D. Henderson and L.B. Bhuiyan (*Mol. Phys.*, 113, 3403, 2015)

The contact theorems are one of the few exact results in the theory of the electrical double 15 layer. They establish the exact expressions for the contact values of the density and of the 16 charge profiles in the interface between an electrolyte and a charged electrode. The first 17 contact theorem was formulated more than fourty years ago by D. Henderson, L. Blum and 18 J.L. Lebowitz [1, 2] for the density profile in a planar electrical double layer formed by a 19 primitive model of electrolyte and a uniformly charged planar hard electrode. According to 20 their results, the contact value of the density profile is given by the sum of the bulk osmotic 21 pressure P of the electrolyte and the Maxwell stress tensor contribution 22

$$\rho^{ct} = \sum_{\alpha} \rho_{\alpha} \left(\frac{d_{\alpha}}{2} \right) = \beta P + \beta \frac{\varepsilon E^2}{8\pi}$$
(1)

where $\rho_{\alpha}(z)$ are the density distribution functions for ions of type α at a normal distance zfrom the wall, d_{α} are the ion diameters, $\beta = 1/(k_B T)$ with k_B the Boltzmann constant, Tthe absolute temperature, ε is the dielectric constant of the solvent, where E is the electric field and $\frac{\varepsilon E}{4\pi} = q_s$ is the surface charge density per unit area on the wall.

We note that in order to avoid the problem of electrostatic image effects between the 27 electrode and the electrolyte, identical dielectric constant ε in the electrode and in the 28 electrolyte was assumed. A little later, it was shown in [3] that a formal derivation of the 29 contact theorem for the density profile can be obtained by the direct integration of the 30 Born-Yvon-Green (BGY) [4, 5] equation between singlet and pair distribution functions 31 for electrolytes in the presence of a charged electrode. In our previous papers [6–8], in 32 the framework, of a similar approach based on the integration of the BGY equation, the 33 contact theorem for the charge profile was formulated for the planar electrical double layer. 34 In contrast to the contact theorem for the density profile, the contact value of the charge 35 profile has a non local character and can be presented in the following form 36

$$q^{ct} = \sum_{\alpha} e_{\alpha} \rho_{\alpha} \left(\frac{d_{\alpha}}{2}\right) = \beta \sum_{\alpha} e_{\alpha}^{2} \int_{d_{\alpha}/2}^{\infty} \rho_{\alpha}(z) \frac{\partial \psi(z)}{\partial z} dz + \beta \sum_{\alpha} e_{\alpha} P_{\alpha}$$
(2)

where e_{α} is the charge of the ion of type α , $\psi(z)$ is the electrical potential defined as

$$\psi(z) = -\frac{4\pi}{\varepsilon} \int_{z}^{\infty} q(z_1)(z_1 - z)dz_1$$
(3)

38 where

$$q(z) = \sum_{\alpha} e_{\alpha} \rho_{\alpha}(z) \tag{4}$$

is the charge profile, P_{α} is the bulk partial pressure for the ions of type α .

For the symmetrical electrolyte with $d_+ = d_- = d$ and $e_+ = -e_- = e$, the first term in 41 Eq. (2) equals zero due to the electroneutrality condition. As a result, the contact theorem 42 Eq. (2) reduces to the more simple form

$$q\left(\frac{d}{2}\right) = \beta e^2 \int_{d/2}^{\infty} \rho(z) \frac{\partial \psi(z)}{\partial z} dz \tag{5}$$

43 where $\rho(z)$ is the density profile.

From the analysis of the effects of the ionic size on the properties of the diffuse double layer, using experimental and computer simulations results for symmetrical electrolytes for small charge at the wall, the semi empirical local expression for the contact value q(d/2), the so called Fawcett-Henderson-Boda conjecture [9, 10] has been proposed. According to this expression

$$q\left(\frac{d}{2}\right) = \beta e^2 \frac{1}{\chi} P E \tag{6}$$

49 where χ is the inverse Debye length.

The connection between expressions (5) and (6) was the subject of discussions in [11, 12]. In particular, it was shown that for a symmetrical electrolyte at small surface charge both expressions give similar results which are in good agreement with computer simulation data [11]. In [12], it has been established that expression (6) can be obtained from Eq. (5) as a result of two approximations. The first approximation is connected with the replacement in the integral in Eq. (5) of the density profile $\rho(z)$ by its contact value Eq. (1). As a result

$$q^{ct}\left(\frac{d}{2}\right) = \beta e^2 \rho^{ct}\left(\frac{d}{2}\right) \psi\left(\frac{d}{2}\right) \tag{7}$$

where $\psi(d/2)$ is the potential at the surface. The second approximation is connected with the use of the linear Gouy–Chapman theory [13, 14] for the description of $\psi(d/2)$.

The generalization of the contact theorems for charged non planar surfaces is one of the challenges in the theory of the electrical double layer. In particular, after the formulation of the contact theorem for the density profile in the case of the planar double layer, relation (1), significant efforts have been focused on the generalization of this contact theorem for the double layers with spherical, cylindrical and more complex non planar geometries. We note that according to the Henderson-Abraham-Barker approach [15] the surface in the fluid can be considered as an additional particle in the infinite radius and infinite dilution limit. As a consequence, the density profile can be obtained as the pair distribution function between
this particle representing the wall in the limit and a fluid particle. It was also shown in
[16, 17] that in order to take into account the surface curvature effect, a surface term should
be added to the pressure in expression (1). This means that the excess chemical potential
for the particle created can be presented in the form

$$\mu_i^{ex} = P\mathcal{V}_i + \gamma_i \left(\frac{d}{2} + R_i\right) S_i \tag{8}$$

where $\gamma_i(r)$ is the surface tension defined as the surface part of the chemical potential, \mathcal{V}_i is the volume accessible to the system, S_i is the surface area of the curved wall. The subscript i = s or c denotes the spherical or cylindrical wall with the radius $R_i = R_s$ or $R_i = R_c$ respectively.

We note that an expression similar to (8) was also used in the scaled particle theory (SPT) [18–20] for the description of the chemical potential of the scaled particle in the hard sphere fluid. As for the SPT, $\gamma_i(d/2 + R_i)$ can be expanded around $(d/2)/(d/2 + R_i)$. In a similar way, in the case of the hard sphere fluid near a spherical surface, Bryk et al. [21] obtained the following expression for the contact value of the density profile near a non charged wall (E = 0)

$$\rho_s^{E=0}\left(\frac{d}{2} + R_s\right) = \rho_s^{HS}\left(\frac{d}{2} + R_s\right) \\
= \beta P^{HS} - \frac{9\eta^2}{4\pi(1-\eta)^3(d/2)^3} \left\{(1+\eta)\frac{d/2}{R_s + d/2} - \eta\frac{(d/2)^2}{(R_s + d/2)^2}\right\} (9)$$

where is ρ_s is the total density distribution in the case of the spherical surface, where $\eta = \frac{1}{6}\pi\rho d^3$ is the packing fraction of hard sphere fluid. As usual, in the SPT approach [18–20], the hard sphere pressure is given by the Percus-Yevick compressibility.

Comparably to [21], the expression for the contact value of the density profile for the hard sphere fluid near a non charged cylindrical wall was obtained in the following form

$$\rho_c^{E=0}\left(\frac{d}{2} + R_c\right) = \rho_c^{HS}\left(\frac{d}{2} + R_c\right) \\
= \beta P^{HS} - \frac{9\eta^2}{4\pi(1-\eta)^3(d/2)^3} \left\{\frac{1}{2}(1+\eta)\frac{d/2}{R_c + d/2}\right\}$$
(10)

where is ρ_c is the total density distribution in the case of the cylindrical surface,

We should note that in the case of ionic fluids near a non charged wall, the pressure Pand the surface tension $\gamma_i(r)$ will include also the corresponding Coulombic contributions.

The second aspect of the generalization of the contact theorem eq. (8) for the non planar 88 case is associated to detailing the second term in the expression (8). So far, the activity in 89 such direction was focused on the generalization of the Maxwell tensor for the double layer 90 with charged spherical and cylindrical surfaces, charged membranes and charged surfaces 91 with more complex geometries [22-26]. However, in these publications, the ionic sizes were 92 not taken into account neither explicitly nor implicitly in the calculation of the Maxwell 93 stress tensor. It was shown that for electrolytes with point ions, the Maxwell stress tensor 94 contribution to the contact values of the density profile for walls with different geometries 95 has a similar form as in the case of the planar wall. 96

The exact formulation of the contact theorem for the density profile for electric double layers in spherical and cylindrical geometries was obtained by Silvestre-Alcantara, Henderson and Bhuiyan [27]. According to their results, the contact theorem for the density profile for the surface of nonplanar geometry can be presented in the form

$$\rho_i\left(R_i + \frac{d}{2}\right) = \rho_i^{E=0}\left(R_i + \frac{d}{2}\right) - \beta E \int_{R_i + d/2}^{\infty} q(r)dr \tag{11}$$

where $q(r) = \sum_{\alpha} e_{\alpha} \rho_{\alpha}(r)$ is the charge profile, $\rho_i^{E=0} (R_i + d/2)$ is the contact value of the density profile near the non charged surface. The hard sphere contribution to the contact value of the density profile is given by expressions (9) and (10) for spherical and cylindrical surfaces respectively. As we can see the second term in (11) has a nonlocal character and is more universal than the first term.

In [27], it was shown that in the limit $R_i \to \infty$, the contact theorem (11) reduces to

$$\rho\left(\frac{d}{2}\right) = \beta P + \frac{\beta E^2 \varepsilon}{4\pi} \tag{12}$$

which differs from the expression (1) by the second term which has a missing factor 1/2 compared to expression (1). The authors explained this difference by the fact that in the planar case one must assume a second parallel electrode of opposite charge at infinite separation from the first electrode.

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In this note, we will show that the contact theorem for the density profile in the form (11) Can be obtained from the BGY equation. Starting from the BGY equation, we will also obtain the exact relation for the charge profile. For convenience, we present the BGY ¹¹⁵ relation in the following form

$$\nabla_1 \rho_\alpha(1) = -\beta \nabla_1 V_\alpha(1) \rho_\alpha(1) - \beta \rho_\alpha(1) \sum_{\gamma} \int \rho_\gamma(2) g_{\alpha\gamma}(12) \nabla_1 u_{\alpha\gamma}(r_{12}) d2$$
(13)

where 1 and 2 stand for the position of the corresponding particles, $V_{\alpha}(1) = e_{\alpha}V_{\alpha}^{coul}(1) + V_{\alpha}^{sh}(1)$ is the external potential, $u_{\alpha\gamma}(r_{12}) = e_{\alpha}e_{\gamma}u^{coul}(r_{12}) + u_{\alpha\gamma}^{sh}(r_{12})$ is the interaction pair potential. The subscripts α and γ stand for ions having charges e_{α} and e_{γ} , the superscripts coul and sh indicate the electrostatic and non electrostatic short-range contributions. $\rho_{\alpha}(1)$ is the density distribution of the particle of type α at point 1, $g_{\alpha\gamma}(12)$ is the pair distribution function between particles of type α and γ .

We consider here two equivalent approaches, where in both cases, we start from the BGY equation. In the first approach, we start from the BGY equation in the form

$$\nabla_1 \rho_\alpha(1) = -\beta e_\alpha \rho_\alpha(1) \nabla_1 V^{coul}(1) - \beta \rho_\alpha(1) \nabla_1 V^{sh}_\alpha(1) - \beta \rho_\alpha(1) \nabla_1 W_\alpha(1)$$
(14)

124 where

$$\nabla_1 W_{\alpha}(1) = \sum_{\gamma} \int d2\rho_{\gamma}(2) g_{\alpha\gamma}(12) \left[e_{\alpha} e_{\gamma} \nabla_1 u^{coul}(r_{12}) + \nabla_1 u^{sh}_{\alpha\gamma}(r_{12}) \right]$$
(15)

¹²⁵ corresponds to the average force on a particle of type α at point 1.

In the second approach, in a similar way as in [3, 6], we introduce the standard mean electrostatic potential $\psi(1)$ defined by

$$\nabla_1 \psi(1) = \nabla_1 V^{coul}(1) + \int \sum_{\gamma} e_{\gamma} \rho_{\gamma}(2) \nabla_1 u^{coul}(12) d2$$
(16)

In this case, as in [6], we can rewrite the BGY equation in the following form

$$\nabla_1 \rho_\alpha(1) = -\beta e_\alpha \rho_\alpha(1) \nabla_1 \psi(1) - \beta \rho_\alpha(1) \nabla_1 V_\alpha^{sh}(1) - \beta \rho_\alpha(1) \nabla_1 W_\alpha(1)$$
(17)

129 where

$$\nabla_1 W_{\alpha}(1) = \sum_{\gamma} \int d2\rho_{\gamma}(2) \left[e_{\alpha} e_{\gamma} h_{\alpha\gamma}(12) \nabla_1 u^{coul}(r_{12}) + g_{\alpha\gamma}(12) \nabla_1 u^{sh}_{\alpha\gamma}(r_{12}) \right]$$
(18)

corresponds to the average force on a particle of type α at point 1 with the exception of the contribution from the mean electrical potential and $h_{\alpha\gamma}(12) = g_{\alpha\gamma}(12) - 1$ is the pair correlation function. ¹³³ Now we will formulate the equations for the density and the charge profiles

$$\rho(1) = \sum_{\alpha} \rho_{\alpha}(1) \quad \text{and} \quad q(1) = \sum_{\alpha} e_{\alpha} \rho_{\alpha}(1).$$
(19)

To continue, we can use the BGY equation in the standard form (14) which includes the Coulomb interaction between wall and ions, $V^{coul}(1)$, or in the form (17) which includes the mean electrostatic potential $\psi(1)$. We note that in both cases, we can omit the term related to the external potential $V^{sh}_{\alpha}(1)$ which we consider as equivalent to a hard wall. As a result from equation (14), we can formulate the following system of equations for the density and charge profiles

$$\nabla_1 \rho_\alpha(1) = -\beta \nabla_1 V^{coul}(1)q(1) - \beta \sum_\alpha \rho_\alpha(1) \nabla_1 W_\alpha(1)$$
(20)

$$\nabla_1 q(1) = -\beta \nabla_1 V^{coul}(1)\hat{\rho}(1) - \beta \sum_{\alpha} e_{\alpha} \rho_{\alpha}(1) \nabla_1 W_{\alpha}(1)$$
(21)

140 where

$$\hat{\rho}(1) = \sum_{\alpha} e_{\alpha}^2 \rho_{\alpha}(1) \tag{22}$$

After integration of relations (20) and (21), we obtain the contact theorem for the density 141 and charge profiles generalizing the corresponding relations we obtained in [6] for the planar 142 case. We note that the first term in relations (20) and (21), the Coulomb potential reads 143 $V_s^{coul}(1) \propto \frac{1}{\varepsilon r} Q_s$ for spherical surfaces, and $V_c^{coul}(1) \propto -\frac{1}{\varepsilon} Q_c \ln(r/r_c)$ for cylindrical surfaces, 144 where Q_s and Q_c are the charge of the corresponding surfaces. Since $\nabla_1 V_s^{coul}(1) \propto -\frac{1}{\varepsilon r^2} Q_s$ 145 and $\nabla_1 V_c^{coul}(1) \propto -\frac{1}{\epsilon r} Q_c$ after integration of equations (20) and (21), we can present the 146 generalization of the contact theorems for the density and charge profiles near a nonplanar 147 wall. For simplicity, we assume $d_{+} = d_{-} = d$ and we obtain the contact theorems in the 148 following form 149

$$\rho_i \left(R_i + \frac{d}{2} \right) = \rho_{i,\alpha}^{E=0} \left(R_i + \frac{d}{2} \right) - \beta E \sum_{\alpha} \int_{R_i + d/2}^{\infty} q_i(r) dr$$
(23)

$$q_i\left(R_i + \frac{d}{2}\right) = \sum_{\alpha} e_{\alpha} \rho_{i,\alpha}^{E=0}\left(R_i + \frac{d}{2}\right) - \beta E \sum_{\alpha} \int_{R_i + d/2}^{\infty} \hat{\rho}_{\alpha}(r) dr$$
(24)

where $\rho_{i,\alpha}^{E=0}(R_i + d_{\alpha}/2)$ is the contact value of the density profile for the noncharged surface of type i (=c or s) and particle of type α , $\rho_{i,\alpha}^{E=0}(R_i + d_{\alpha}/2)$ is the partial contact value of the density profile for the ion of type α near non charged surface type i. ¹⁵³ We note that the contact theorem (23) for the density profile is identical to the rela-¹⁵⁴ tion (11) obtained by Silvester-Alcantara, Henderson and Bhuiyan [27].

Starting from the BGY equation in the form (17), which includes the mean electrostatic potential $\psi(1)$ instead of the Coulombic potential $V^{coul}(1)$, we can write the equations (20) and (21) for the density and charge profiles in the following equivalent form

$$\nabla_1 \rho_\alpha(1) = -\beta q(1) \nabla_1 \psi(1) - \beta \sum_\alpha \rho_\alpha(1) \nabla_1 W_\alpha(1)$$
(25)

$$\nabla_1 q(1) = -\beta \hat{\rho}(1) \nabla_1 \psi(1) - \beta \sum_{\alpha} e_{\alpha} \rho_{\alpha}(1) \nabla_1 W_{\alpha}(1)$$
(26)

Now after integration of these equations, we can present the contact theorems for the density and charge profiles near a nonplanar wall in in the following form

$$\rho_i\left(R_i + \frac{d}{2}\right) = \rho_i^{E=0}\left(R_i + \frac{d}{2}\right) - \beta \int_{R_i + d/2}^{\infty} q_i(r) \frac{\partial \psi(r)}{\partial r} r^{\delta_i} dr$$
(27)

$$q_i\left(R_i + \frac{d}{2}\right) = \sum_{\alpha} e_{\alpha} \rho_{i,\alpha}^{E=0}\left(R_i + \frac{d}{2}\right) - \beta \int_{R_i + d/2}^{\infty} \hat{\rho}(r) \frac{\partial \psi(r)}{\partial r} r^{\delta_i} dr$$
(28)

where $\delta_i = 2$ for spherical wall and $\delta_i = 1$ for cylindrical wall.

For charge symmetric electrolytes $e_{+} = -e_{-} = e$ and the first term in the contact theorem for the charge profile in the form (24) or (28) vanishes. Moreover $\hat{\rho}(1)$ is proportional to the density profile

$$\hat{\rho}(1) = e^2 \rho(1)$$
 (29)

and we have a simple nonlocal relation between the contact value of the charge profile and
 the density profile

$$q_i\left(R_i + \frac{d}{2}\right) = -\beta e^2 E \int_{R_i + d/2}^{\infty} \rho(r) dr$$
(30)

166 or in the form

$$q_i\left(R_i + \frac{d}{2}\right) = -\beta e^2 \int_{R_i + d/2}^{\infty} \rho(r) \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial r} r^{\delta_i} dr$$
(31)

In the limit $R_s \to \infty$ for the spherical surface or in the limit $R_c \to \infty$ for the cylindrical surface, the contact theorems for the charge and the density profiles reduce to the planar case. In particular in [27], it was shown that due to the local electroneutrality condition

$$-\int_{d/2}^{\infty} q(z)dz = \frac{\varepsilon E}{4\pi},\tag{32}$$

the last term in expression (23) for the contact value of the density profile can be presented,
in this limit, in the following form

$$-\beta E \int_{R_i+d/2}^{\infty} q(r)dr \xrightarrow[R_i \to \infty]{} -\beta E \int_{d/2}^{\infty} q(z)dz = \beta \frac{\varepsilon E^2}{4\pi}$$
(33)

which differs from the corresponding term in relation (1) by a factor 1/2.

In [27], it was noted that the electroneutrality condition for the spherical and the cylindrical double layers has respectively the following forms

$$-\int_{R_s+d/2}^{\infty} q_s(r) r^2 dr = \frac{R_s^2 \varepsilon E^2}{4\pi},$$
(34)

$$-\int_{R_c+d/2}^{\infty} q_c(r)rdr = \frac{R_c \varepsilon E^2}{4\pi}.$$
(35)

Due to this, for the nonplanar case, the contact theorem for the density profile cannot be presented in simple local forms as for the planar case.

We should note that the last term in the contact theorem in the form (27) due to the Poisson equation

$$\nabla_1^2 \psi(1) = -\frac{4\pi}{\varepsilon} q(1) \tag{36}$$

179 can be presented also in the form

$$-\beta \int_{R_i+d/2}^{\infty} q_i(r) \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial r} r^{\delta_i} dr = \beta \frac{\varepsilon}{4\pi} \int_{R_i+d/2}^{\infty} \nabla_1^2 \psi_i(1) \nabla_1 \psi_i(1) r^{\delta_i} dr$$
(37)

180 Since

$$\nabla^2 \psi_i(1) = \frac{\partial^2 \psi(1)}{\partial r^2} + \frac{\delta_i}{r} \frac{\partial \psi_i(1)}{\partial r}$$
(38)

we see that the integral in (37) cannot give the simple Maxwell stress term as in the case of the planar wall [6].

183

Thus in this paper starting from the BGY equation between the singlet and pair distribution functions of ionic fluids near a noncharged planar surface, we formulated two equivalent approaches to calculate the charge and the density ionic profiles. The first one includes the direct Coulomb interaction between ions and surface. In the second approach, this direct ion-surface interaction is transformed through the Poisson equation into the mean electrical potential. The contact theorems for the density and charge profiles are then formulated

for nonplanar surfaces by direct integration of this system of equations. The results are 190 presented then applied to spherical and cylindrical surfaces. Both theorems have nonlocal 191 character. It is shown that the contact value of the density profile for noncharged surfaces is 192 characterized by bulk pressure and surface tension. The expressions of the contact theorem 193 for the density profile are identical to the result recently formulated by Silvestre-Alcantara, 194 Henderson and Bhuiyan [27]. By using our previous result for the contact theorems for 195 anisotropic fluids near a hard planar wall [28], we can also generalize the obtained results 196 for the orientationally ordered charged dispersions case. 197

198 [29]

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