

## Accepted Manuscript

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Amer Alizadeh, Moran Wang

PII: S0021-9797(18)30638-6  
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jcis.2018.05.111>  
Reference: YJCIS 23689

To appear in: *Journal of Colloid and Interface Science*

Received Date: 2 April 2018  
Revised Date: 28 May 2018  
Accepted Date: 30 May 2018

Please cite this article as: A. Alizadeh, M. Wang, Reverse Electrodialysis through Nanochannels with Inhomogeneously Charged Surfaces and Overlapped Electric Double Layers, *Journal of Colloid and Interface Science* (2018), doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jcis.2018.05.111>

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# Reverse Electrodialysis through Nanochannels with Inhomogeneously Charged Surfaces and Overlapped Electric Double Layers

*Amer Alizadeh and Moran Wang\**

*Department of Engineering Mechanics and CNMM, Tsinghua University, Beijing, China*

**ABSTRACT:** Modeling of electro-chemo-mechanical transport phenomena in simple (nanochannel) or complex (nanoporous media) geometries with inhomogeneous surface charge and overlapped electric double layers remains challenging. This bottleneck originates from lack of a comprehensive model to predict the local surface charge density based on the variable local solution properties. This work aims to propose a model, so-called representative bulk layer (RBL), which makes the chemically non-isolated solid-liquid interfaces (due to the electric double layers interaction) as isolated interfaces by introducing a local effective bulk ion concentration. Using RBL together with the electrical triple layer model to provide boundary conditions for the multi-physio-chemical transport equations (PNP+NS), we investigate the reverse electrodialysis (RED) in nanochannels. Our modeling results indicate that the length of an ion-selective membrane not only influences the ionic current but also the logarithm of the slope of current-voltage curve increases linearly with the ratio of nanochannel length to height. This interesting finding inspires us to propose a dimensionless relation for the current-voltage curve that is independent of the nanochannel dimensions. The present contribution numerical framework could shed light on the electro-chemo-mechanical transport mechanism through nanofluidic devices and membranes.

**Keywords:** *chemically non-isolated interface, electrokinetic transport, overlapped electric double layer, reverse electrodialysis, representative bulk layer model, local surface charge*

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\* Corresponding author: mrwang@tsinghua.edu.cn

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