After a polar molecule has dissociated into a cation and an anion in a solvent, sometimes, they adhere to each other briefly, forming an entity known as the intimate ion pair, before diffusing away.

\[ \text{A} \quad \text{B} \quad \xrightarrow{\text{intimate ion pair}} \quad \text{A}^+ \quad \text{B}^- \]

eg:

\[ \text{H}_3\text{C}\text{CH}_2\text{OH} \quad \xrightarrow{\text{H}_2\text{O}} \quad \text{H}_3\text{C}\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}^- \quad \xrightarrow{\text{intimate ion pair}} \quad \text{H}_3\text{C}\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}^- \quad + \quad \text{Cl}^- \]

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**Contributors**

- [Gamini Gunawardena](http://OChemPal.utahvalley.edu) from the OChemPal site ([Utah Valley University](http://www.utahvalley.edu))