

1. [a] Why application of pervaporation in chemical industry usually hybrid with distillation and reactor? Using simple sketches, describe the hybrids of pervaporation-distillation and pervaporation-reactor, respectively. In each type of the hybrid process, you should give two different types of layout and able to distinguish among them.

[10 marks]

- [b] An ultrafiltration tubular module is used to clarify apple juice. The ultrafiltration tubes have a diameter of 1 cm and a length of 2 m. The juice circulates inside the tubular membrane at a velocity of 1 m/s. Due to the presence of pectin in the surroundings of the tubular membrane wall, a gel layer is formed when the concentration of the pectin reaches a value of 5.5% (w/V). If the pectin content in the juice fed to the ultrafiltration module is 0.5% (w/V), determine:

- [i] The flux equation for ultrafiltration.

[2 marks]

- [ii] The number of the tubes needed if it is desired to obtain 120 L/h of such juice.

[11 marks]

- [iii] Since the presence of the pectin in the juice fed is unavoidable, suggest a method to reduce the forming of gel layer on the membrane wall.

[2 marks]

Data given for juice properties:

density  $1025 \text{ kg/m}^3$

viscosity  $1.4 \text{ kg/m.s}$

solute diffusivity  $9 \times 10^{-11} \text{ m}^2/\text{s}$

2. [a] Describe why pillared clays and carbon nanotubes are becoming important adsorbents nowadays?

[10 marks]

- [b] A thermal swing adsorption process is used to remove traces of toluene from n-heptane using silica gel as adsorbent. The adsorber operates at 1 atm. The feed is 0.0011 wt. fraction toluene and 0.9989 wt. fraction n-heptane at  $0^\circ\text{C}$ . Superficial velocity of the feed is 10 cm/min. The absorber is 2 m long and adsorption is taking place at  $0^\circ\text{C}$ . The feed step is continued until breakthrough occurs. To regenerate, use counterflow of pure n-heptane at  $80^\circ\text{C}$ . Superficial velocity during purge is 10 cm/min. Column is cooled to  $0^\circ\text{C}$  before the next adsorption cycle.

Assume that wall heat capacities can be ignored, heat of adsorption is negligible, no adsorption of n-heptane. Using the solute movement theory, determine:-

- [i] the breakthrough time for toluene during the feed step  
[ii] time for thermal wave to breakthrough  
[iii] time to remove all toluene from column  
[iv] the outlet concentration profile of the regeneration fluid

[15 marks]

Data given: At low concentration isotherms for toluene:

Isotherms  $q = 17.46x$  at  $0^\circ\text{C}$ , and  $q = 1.23x$  at  $80^\circ\text{C}$

$q$  and  $x$  are in g solute/g adsorbent and g solute/g fluid, respectively

structural density of solid,  $\rho_s = 2100 \text{ kg/m}^3$

fluid density,  $\rho_f = 684 \text{ kg/m}^3$

heat capacity of the solid,  $C_{p,s} = 2000 \text{ J/kg}^\circ\text{C}$

heat capacity of the fluid,  $C_{p,f} = 1841 \text{ J/kg}^\circ\text{C}$

external porosity,  $\varepsilon_e = 0.43$

internal or pore porosity,  $\varepsilon_p = 0.48$

size exclusion parameter,  $K_d = 1.0$

3. It is required to separate components A and B from a mixture F containing 30 mole % of A in order to obtain a concentrate of 95 mole% of A with not more than 4 mole % of A as bottoms. The feed flow-rate is 100 kmol/h. However, A and B form an azeotrope at approximately 64 mole % of A at atmospheric pressure making it impossible to separate under single atmospheric distillation processes. A two pressure distillation system as shown in Figure Q.3 is to be designed in order to achieve the separation. The column 1 is to operate at 1 atmosphere while the column 2 at 5 atmospheres. The equilibrium data for 1 atmosphere and 5 atmospheres are shown in Tables Q.3.i and ii respectively where  $x$  and  $y$  refers to the mole fraction of A. Estimate:

[a] Flow-rates  $B_1, B_2, D_1$  and  $D_2$

[10 marks]

[b] The number of plates in all sections of the column 1.

[15 marks]

Assume that the streams F and  $D_1$  are boiling liquids and  $D_2$  is a vapour at boiling point. The reflux ratio of the atmospheric pressure column is 1.5 times the minimum whereas for the other column, the reflux ratio is 5 times the minimum. The compositions of streams  $D_1$  and  $D_2$  are 60 mole % and 50 mole % of A respectively.

Table Q.3.i : Equilibrium Data for A and B at 1 atmosphere

x	0	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.65	0.7	0.8	0.9	1
y	0	0.17	0.31	0.43	0.52	0.59	0.637	0.65	0.68	0.69	0.83	1

Table Q.3.ii : Equilibrium Data for A and B at 5 atmospheres

x	0.4	0.6	0.8	0.9	0.95	1
y	0.4	0.52	0.65	0.75	0.85	1

$x$  and  $y$  are mole fractions of A in the mixture.

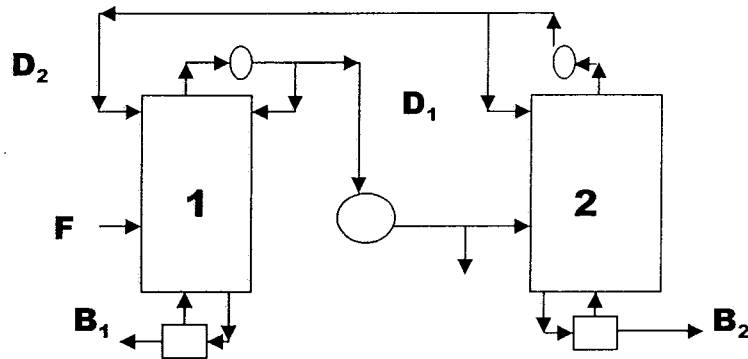


Figure Q.3

4. [a] A typical supercritical fluid extraction system using a packed bed is shown in Figure Q.4.[a]. The solubilities of the solute on the fluid on the low pressure ( $P_L$ ) and high pressure ( $P_H$ ) sides are  $C_{sh}$  (g/kg) and  $C_{sl}$  (g/kg) respectively.  $r$  % of the fluid entering the regeneration unit can be assumed to be lost thereby requiring a make-up of fresh solvent for the system as shown in the Figure. The mass transfer area exposed to the supercritical fluid is  $A_{EX}$  and the mass transfer coefficient is  $k_c$  (m/s). The density of the supercritical fluid on the high pressure side is  $\rho_H$ . Show that, under mass transfer controlled conditions for extraction, the rate of extraction  $R$  (g/s) of solute in the product P1 can be expressed as:

$$R = L_m \cdot [C_{SH} - (1.0 - 0.01r)C_{SL}] [1.0 - \exp(-\eta)]$$

$$\text{where : } \eta = \left[ \frac{A_{EX} \cdot k_c \rho_{SH}}{[L_m]} \right]$$

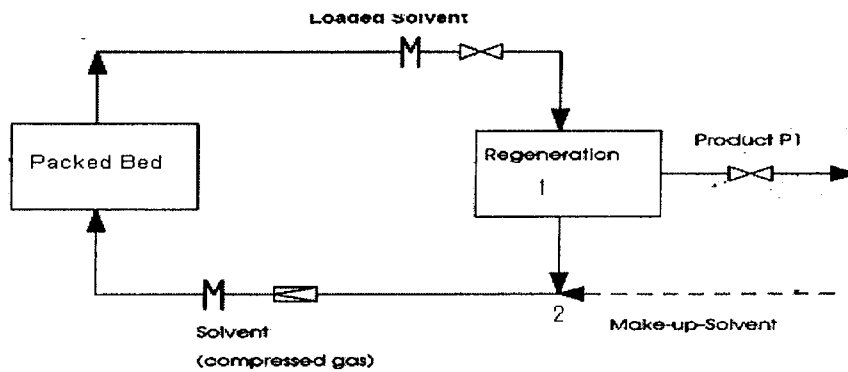


Figure Q.4.[a]

[10 marks]

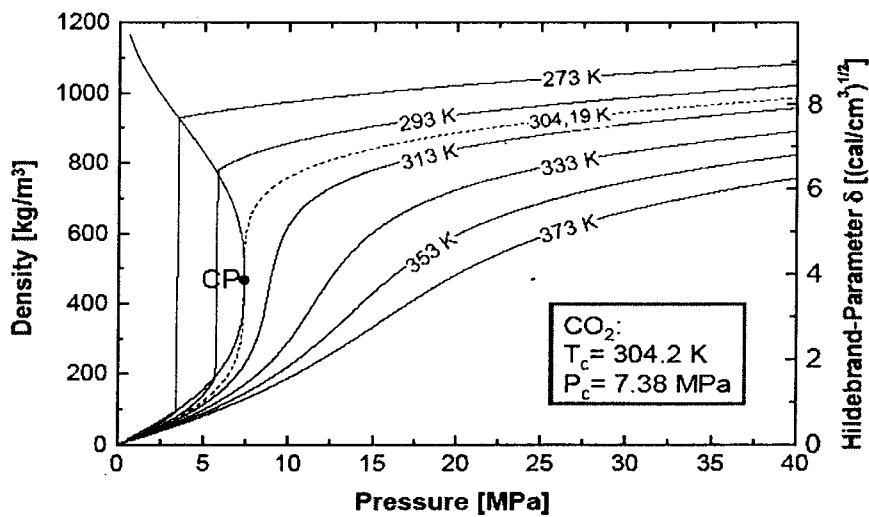
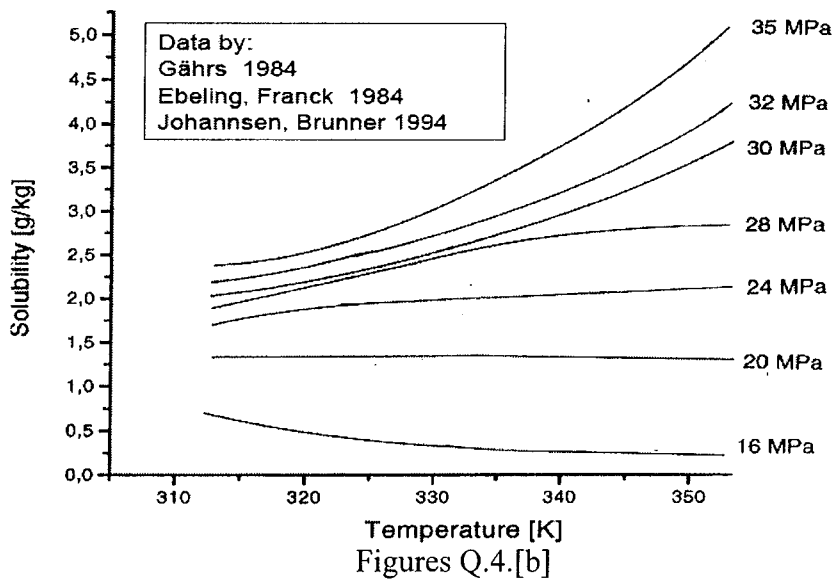
- [b] A laboratory pilot extraction unit for extraction of caffeine from beans using supercritical  $CO_2$  as represented in Figure Q.4.[a] has been used. The percentage yield of caffeine is shown in Table Q.4. The solubility data of caffeine in supercritical  $CO_2$  and densities of supercritical  $CO_2$  are shown in Figures Q.4.[b] and Q.4.[c]. The high and low operating pressures of the system are 32MPa and 16MPa. The operating temperature of both sides is kept constant at 340 K. Assume the  $CO_2$  leaving the regenerator is saturated with caffeine at the regenerator pressure and temperature. The extraction bed makes use of 50kg of beans having 0.31 g/kg of beans. Flowrate of the supercritical fluid on the high pressure side is 0.02 m<sup>3</sup>/h. 5% of the carbon dioxide may be assumed to be lost on regeneration.

...5/-

Table Q.4.

Time Hrs	2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18
Yield %	13.6	24.7	33.8	39	43	48	51	52.5	56

- [i] Draw a plot indicating the total extract of caffeine (g) vs time [5 marks]
- [ii] Estimate the time at which the mass transfer in extraction deviates from the film mass transfer control to diffusion control conditions. [5 marks]
- [iii] The value of factor  $k_c A_{EX}$  for the extraction bed. (Use equation derived in part [i] of this question) [5 marks]



Appendix

Useful formulas:

$$\text{Reynolds numbers, } Re = \frac{\rho u_b d_t}{\mu}$$

$$\text{Schmidt number, } Sc = \frac{\mu}{\rho D}$$

$$\text{Sherwood number, } Sh = \frac{d_t k}{D} = 0.023 Re^{0.83} Sc^{1/3}, \text{ turbulent flow}$$

$$\text{Concentration polarization module, } M = \frac{x_w}{x_r} = \exp\left(\frac{J_{\text{solv}}}{k}\right)$$

Where,

 $\rho$  - density, kg/m<sup>3</sup> $u_b$  - bulk velocity in tube, m/s $d_t$  - diameter of tube, m $\mu$  - viscosity, kg/m·s $D$  - diffusivity, m<sup>2</sup>/s $k$  - mass transfer coefficient, m/s $x_w$  - wt. fraction solute at membrane wall $x_r$  - wt. fraction solute in retentate $J_{\text{solv}}$  - volumetric flux of solvent, m<sup>3</sup>/m<sup>2</sup>·s or L/m<sup>2</sup>·h

$$v_{\text{inter}} = v_{\text{super}} / \varepsilon_e$$

$$u_{s,i} = \frac{v_{\text{inter}}}{1 + \frac{(1 - \varepsilon_e)}{\varepsilon_e} \varepsilon_p K_{d,i} + \frac{(1 - \varepsilon_e)(1 - \varepsilon_p)}{\varepsilon_e} \frac{\rho_s}{\rho_f} K'_{A,x}}$$

$$u_{\text{th}} = \frac{v_{\text{inter}} \rho_f C_{p,f}}{\left\{ \left[ 1 + \left( \frac{1 - \varepsilon_e}{\varepsilon_e} \right) \varepsilon_p \right] \rho_f C_{p,f} + \frac{(1 - \varepsilon_e)(1 - \varepsilon_p)}{\varepsilon_e} C_{p,s} \rho_s + \frac{W}{\varepsilon_e A_c} C_{p,w} \right\}}$$

$$\frac{c(T_2)}{c(T_1)} = \left[ \frac{1}{u_s(T_1)} - \frac{1}{u_{\text{th}}} \right] / \left[ \frac{1}{u_s(T_2)} - \frac{1}{u_{\text{th}}} \right]$$