

VII. XE. Mass-transfer coefficients

- A. review of effects of turbulence
  - Accelerates rate of mass transfer
  - too complex for analytical solution
  - correlate mass-transfer rate using dimensionless groups
- B. Mass transfer in tubes

I. definition of mass-transfer coefficient  $k_x, \ln$

Methods described here apply only if mass transfer rates are "low" and "simplified Fick's law" applies. ~~For high rates, Fick's law is not applicable~~  
Directly analogous to Fourier's law.

$$W_A^{(m)} = k_x \ln (\pi D L) (X_{A0} - X_{A\infty}) \ln \quad (I_m)$$

$W_A^{(m)}$ : total rate of transport of solute A into fluid from wall  
 $k_x \ln$ : mass trans-fer coefficient  
 $(\pi D L)$ : area  
 $(X_{A0} - X_{A\infty}) \ln$ : log average of difference in  $X_A$  between fluid at wall and fluid in bulk (i.e., from away from wall)

(analogous to Fourier's law)

Note:  $C_{A0}$  is  $C_A$  in fluid next to wall (typically in equilibrium with solid at wall), not  $C_A$  in solid wall itself

2. mass-conservation equation (Eq. "II<sub>m</sub>")

$$W_A^{(m)} = (C_{Ab2} - C_{Ab1}) \pi R^2 v \quad (II_m)$$

$W_A^{(m)}$ : mass transfer rate from wall  
 $(C_{Ab2} - C_{Ab1}) \pi R^2 v$ : increase in A in fluid as fluid flows through tube

(similar to "eq. II" in notes on heat transfer in tubes; derivation is similar)

Combine eqs. "I<sub>m</sub>" and "II<sub>m</sub>" to derive Eq. "III<sub>m</sub>"

$$\frac{k_x \ln D}{C D_{AB}} = Sh = \ln \left[ \frac{C_{A0} - C_{A1}}{C_{A0} - C_{A2}} \right] Re Sc \frac{D}{4L} \quad (III_m)$$

$\frac{k_x \ln D}{C D_{AB}}$ : Sherwood number  
 $Sh$ : formerly called  $N_{ya0}$ , Nusselt # for mass transfer  
 $\ln \left[ \frac{C_{A0} - C_{A1}}{C_{A0} - C_{A2}} \right]$ : surface concentration of A (top) and concentration of fluid leaving (bottom)  
 $Re Sc \frac{D}{4L}$ : Schmidt #

3. analogy between heat- and mass-transfer coefficients in tubes

For cases in which "simplified Fick's law" applies to mass transfer in tubes, one can use the correlations for heat transfer after making the following substitutions:

heat transfer

mass transfer

$T, T_o, T_b, \dots$

$\rightarrow$

$C_A, C_{Ao}, C_{Ab}, \dots$   
(or  $X_A, X_{Ao}, X_{Ab}$ )

(or  $\omega_A, \omega_{Ao}, \omega_{Ab}, \dots$ )

$Pr = \frac{c_p \mu}{k} = \frac{\rho v}{\alpha}$

$\rightarrow$

$Sc = \frac{\mu}{\rho D_{AB}} = \frac{v}{D_{AB}}$  "Schmidt #"

$Nu = \frac{hD}{k}$

$\rightarrow$

$Sh = \frac{k_x \ln D}{C_{DAB}}$  "Sherwood #"

Eq. III

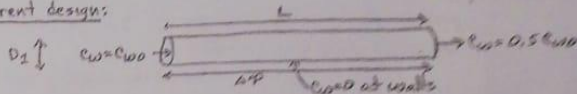
$\rightarrow$

Eq. III<sub>m</sub>

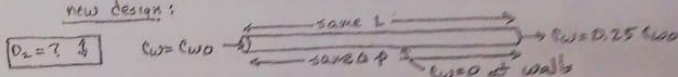
~~(scribble)~~

An engineer is injecting a solution containing a toxic waste into narrow tubes of diameter  $D_1$  and length  $L$ , from which the toxic waste is removed at the walls. That is, the concentration of the waste  $c_w$  is  $c_{w0}$  at the entrance of the tubes, and is  $(0.5 c_{w0})$  at the exit of the tubes. (At the tube walls,  $c_w=0$ .) The engineer needs to reduce  $c_w$  at the exit to  $0.25 c_w$ , and he can change only the diameter of the tubes, not their length. He does know that the fluid is in laminar flow through the tubes and is flowing with a fixed  $\Delta P$ . What new value of tube diameter  $D_2$  would be required to achieve the desired value of  $c_w$  at the tube outlet?

current design:



new design:



In the original experiment laminar flow applied. Since  $\Delta P$  is fixed,  $v \sim R^2$  in laminar flow,  $Re = Dv/\mu \sim D^3$ ; thus as  $D$  decreases  $Re$  decreases and laminar flow still applies.

For laminar flow one next asks whether  $(c_{w2} - c_{w0}) / (c_{w1} - c_{w0})$  in the first experiment, this ratio is 0.5, and the new design gives ratio of 0.25; thus the inequality is satisfied.

Therefore there are 3 potential ways to solve the problem: Fig 14.3-1, Fig 14.3-2, and Eq 14.3-17. We can't use Figure 14.3-3, because we don't know the actual value of  $Re$  (and it may be off the chart). Eq. 14.3-17 gives

$$Sh = Nu_{AB} = 1.86 (Re Sc D/L)^{1/3} (\mu_b/\mu_0)^{0.14} \quad \text{a transport law; still need action eq.}$$

where we ignore the viscosity term. "Eq. III" gives

$$Sh = Nu_{AB} = \frac{c_{A2} - c_{A1}}{(c_{A0} - c_{A1})_{ln}} \frac{D^2}{4L D_{AB}} \langle v \rangle = 1.86 (Re Sc D/L)^{1/3}$$

For this case, in which  $c_{A0} = 0 = \text{uniform}$ ,  $\frac{c_{A2} - c_{A1}}{(c_{A0} - c_{A1})_{ln}} = \ln \frac{c_{A0} - c_{A2}}{c_{A0} - c_{A1}} = \ln 2$  for the new design, this term is  $\ln 4$ .

$$\text{Combining the two equations gives} \quad 1.86 (Re Sc D/L)^{1/3} = \ln \frac{c_{A0} - c_{A1}}{c_{A0} - c_{A2}} \frac{D^2}{4L D_{AB}} \langle v \rangle$$

$$\text{or } \ln \frac{c_{A0} - c_{A1}}{c_{A0} - c_{A2}} = \frac{1.86 (Re Sc D/L)^{1/3}}{D^2 \langle v \rangle / (4L D_{AB})}$$

Since fluid properties and  $L$  are fixed,

$$\ln \frac{c_{A0} - c_{A1}}{c_{A0} - c_{A2}} \sim (Re D)^{1/3} / [D^2 \langle v \rangle] \sim [D^3 D]^{1/3} / [D^2 D^2] \sim D^{-4}$$

Since the left side is to be changed from  $\ln 2$  to  $\ln 4$ ,

$$\frac{\ln 2}{\ln 4} = \left(\frac{D_1}{D_2}\right)^{-8/3} = \left(\frac{D_1}{D_2}\right)^{-8/3}; \quad \left(\frac{D_1}{D_2}\right) = \left(\frac{\ln 2}{\ln 4}\right)^{-3/8} = (0.5)^{3/8} = 1$$

$$D_2 = D_1 (0.771).$$