

Mass Transfer Operations I
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Module - 2
Mass Transfer Coefficients
Lecture - 7
Interphase Mass Transfer and Mass Transfer Theories
Part 2

Welcome to seventh lecture of module two. The module two is on mass transfer coefficients. So, in this lecture, we will continue our previous lecture which is interphase mass transfer. In the previous lecture, we have seen that to calculate the flux for interphase mass transfer, we need to know the interfacial concentrations. But the interfacial concentration is not an easy task to measure by simple device or we can say the interfacial concentration is not measurable by simple device.


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Module 2: Lecture 7

Interphase Mass Transfer

$$N_A = k_y (y_{Ab} - y_{Ai}) = k_x (x_{Ai} - x_{Ab})$$
$$N_A = k_y (y_{Ab} - y_{A^*}) \quad y_{A^*} = f(x_{Ab})$$
$$\uparrow$$
$$N_A = k_x (x_{A^*} - x_{Ab})$$

How to correlate betⁿ overall coefficients and individual coefficients?

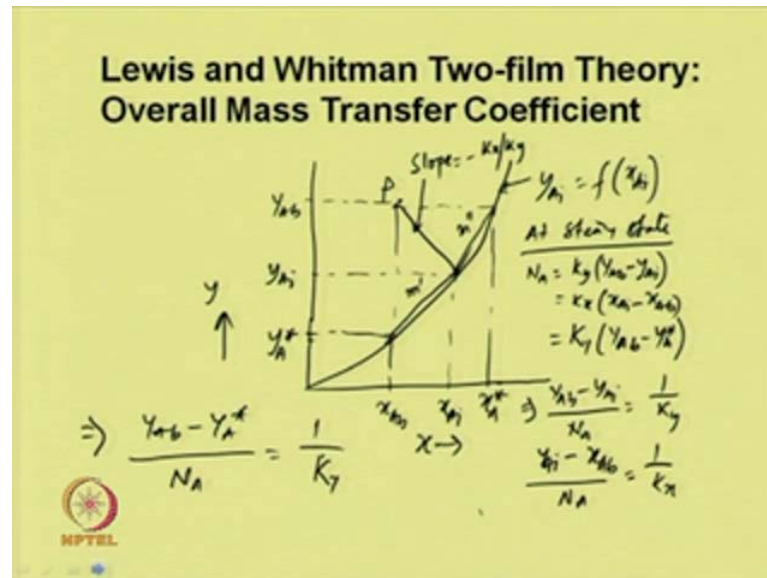


So, we cannot calculate the flux using say k_y into y_{Ab} minus y_{Ai} interfacial concentration or K_x x_{Ai} minus x_{Ab} . We have seen that we can use the overall mass transfer coefficient concept to calculate the flux.

So, N_A will be capital K_y y_{Ab} minus y_{A^*} ; where y_{A^*} is in equilibrium equilibrium with x_{Ab} , and K_y is the overall mass transfer coefficient. Similarly, we can use N_A is equal to capital K_x x_{A^*} minus x_{Ab} x_{A^*} is the equilibrium

concentration with y_A , then how to correlate or the relations between the overall coefficient and the individual coefficient, how to correlate between overall coefficient and individual coefficient?

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So, this we will discuss by graphical method. We now know that, so this is the equilibrium line and say this is y_A is a function of x_A is equilibrium line. And suppose, so this is the operating line are we this is the slope of this equations as we know, slope is minus k_x/k_y . Suppose, this point is P and this location is x_{Ab} and this is y_{Ab} concentration and this is the interfacial concentration, where this line meets on the equilibrium line. This is y_{Ai} and this is x_{Ai} . This y_{Ab} , if we draw a line on this, so this is the equilibrium with x_A . So, this is x_{A*} and similarly this is x_{Ab} equilibrium with y_{A*} from this point. See, this is the slope of the line, suppose the slope of this line is m double dash and this is m dash, then at steady state at steady state, we can write N_A is equal to $k_y(y_{Ab} - y_{Ai})$ is equal to $k_x(x_{Ai} - x_{A*})$. And also we can write is equal to capital $K_y(y_{Ab} - y_{A*})$.

So from this we can write $y_{Ab} - y_{Ai}$ by N_A is equal to $1/k_y(y_{Ai} - x_{Ab})$ by N_A is equal to $1/k_x$. Similarly, $y_{Ab} - y_{A*}$ by N_A is equal to $1/K_y$.

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**Lewis and Whitman Two-film Theory:
Overall Mass Transfer Coefficient**

$$\begin{aligned}
 y_{A6} - y_A^* &= (y_{A6} - y_{Ai}) + (y_{Ai} - y_A^*) \\
 &= y_{A6} - y_{Ai} + \frac{(y_{Ai} - y_A^*)}{(x_{Ai} - x_{A6})} (x_{Ai} - x_{A6}) \\
 &= (y_{A6} - y_{Ai}) + m' (x_{Ai} - x_{A6}) \\
 \Rightarrow \frac{y_{A6} - y_A^*}{N_A} &= \frac{y_{A6} - y_{Ai}}{N_A} + \frac{m' (x_{Ai} - x_{A6})}{N_A} \\
 \Rightarrow \boxed{\frac{1}{K_y}} &= \frac{1}{k_y} + \frac{m'}{k_x}
 \end{aligned}$$


Now from this figure, we can write $y_{A6} - y_A^* = y_{A6} - y_{Ai} + y_{Ai} - y_A^*$. We can write sum of $y_{A6} - y_{Ai}$ plus $y_{Ai} - y_A^*$. So, we will write $y_{A6} - y_{Ai}$ plus $y_{Ai} - y_A^*$. So, which is equal to $y_{A6} - y_{Ai}$ plus $y_{Ai} - y_A^*$. If we multiply by $x_{Ai} - x_{A6}$, both denominator and the numerator, so this is the slope of this line. The slope of this line is $y_{Ai} - y_A^*$ divided by $x_{Ai} - x_{A6}$.

So, we can write $y_{A6} - y_{Ai} + m' (x_{Ai} - x_{A6})$. Therefore, we can write $y_{A6} - y_A^* \div N_A$ is equal to $y_{A6} - y_{Ai} \div N_A$ plus $m' (x_{Ai} - x_{A6}) \div N_A$. So, this is nothing but one by capital K_y is equal to $y_{A6} - y_{Ai} \div N_A$, which is one by small k_y plus m' by k_x . So, this is the relation between the overall mass transfer coefficient and the individual mass transfer coefficient.

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**Lewis and Whitman Two-film Theory:
Overall Mass Transfer Coefficient**

$$N_A = k_y (y_{Ab} - y_{Ai}) = k_x (x_{Ai} - x_{Ab}) = K_x (x_A^* - x_{Ab})$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{x_A^* - x_{Ab}}{N_A} = \frac{1}{K_x}$$

$$\frac{x_A^* - x_{Ab}}{N_A} = \frac{(x_A^* - x_{Ai}) + (x_{Ai} - x_{Ab})}{\frac{x_A^* - x_{Ai}}{y_{Ab} - y_{Ai}} (y_{Ab} - y_{Ai}) + (x_{Ai} - x_{Ab})}$$

$$= \frac{1}{m} \frac{(y_{Ab} - y_{Ai})}{N_A} + \frac{x_{Ai} - x_{Ab}}{N_A}$$

$$\frac{1}{K_x} = \frac{1}{m k_y} + \frac{1}{k_x}$$


In the similar fashion, we can write N_A is equal to $k_y y_{Ab} - y_{Ai}$ is equal to $k_x x_{Ai} - x_{Ab}$ is equal to capital K_x into $x_A^* - x_{Ab}$. Or from this, we can write $x_A^* - x_{Ab}$ divided by N_A is equal to one by capital K_x .

From the geometry of the figure, we can write $x_A^* - x_{Ab}$. This is the overall driving force for mass transfer. So, this will be equal to $x_A^* - x_{Ai}$ plus $x_{Ai} - x_{Ab}$. So we will write, is equal to $x_A^* - x_{Ai}$ plus $x_{Ai} - x_{Ab}$. So, we can write it. This equals $x_A^* - x_{Ai}$ divided by $y_{Ab} - y_{Ai}$ into $y_{Ab} - y_{Ai}$ plus $x_{Ai} - x_{Ab}$. So, this is one by m double dash and this will be into $y_{Ab} - y_{Ai}$ plus $x_{Ai} - x_{Ab}$. Now if we divide both side by N_A , this will be N_A and this will be N_A . So, this is nothing but one by K_x , capital K_x , is equal to one by m double dash k_y , small k_y , plus one by k_x , small k_x . So, this is the relation between the overall mass transfer coefficient in terms of the liquid phase with the individual mass transfer coefficient.

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**Lewis and Whitman Two-film Theory:
Overall Mass Transfer Coefficient**

Henry's Law

$$m' = m'' = m = \frac{H}{P_t}$$

$$\frac{1}{K_G} = \frac{1}{k_g} + \frac{H}{k_L}$$


$$\frac{1}{K_L} = \frac{1}{H k_g} + \frac{1}{k_L}$$

When H is small
 NH_3 in H_2O , HCl in H_2O

$$\frac{1}{K_G} \approx \frac{1}{k_g}$$

H is large: CO_2 in H_2O ; O_2 in H_2O

$$\frac{1}{K_L} \approx \frac{1}{k_L}$$



If the concentration of the solute in the system is very low and if it obeys Henry's law, in that case m' will be equal to m'' ; which is equal to m and which we can write $H \dots$ the constant by total pressure P_t . And this relation between the overall mass transfer coefficient in the gas phase will be one by capital K_G is equal to one by small k_g plus H by k_L , and one by capital K_L will be equal to one by $H k_g$ plus one by k_L .

So, when H is small in case of absorption of ammonia in water or HCl in water, in that case we can write one by capital K_G will be approximately equal to one by small k_g . And similarly, when H is large as in the case of CO_2 in water, it forms carbonic acid or oxygen dissolution in water, the H is large. So, from this we can write one by capital K_L approximately equals to one by small k_L .

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**Lewis and Whitman Two-film Theory:
Overall Mass Transfer Coefficient**

Fractional resistance offered by the gas phase

$$= \frac{\text{resistance offered by the gas phase}}{\text{total resistance of the two phases}} = \frac{1/K_y}{1/K_y}$$

Fractional resistance offered by the liquid phase

$$= \frac{\text{resistance offered by the liquid phase}}{\text{total resistance of the two phases}} = \frac{m'/k_x}{1/K_y}$$




Now, the fractional resistance offered by the gas phase offered by the gas phase will be equals resistance offered by the gas phase divided by the total resistance of the two phases; which is equals to one by k_y , this is the resistance offered in the gas phase divided by the total resistance offered by both the phases is capital K_y . Now, fractional resistance offered by the liquid phase can also be defined. It will be equal to resistance offered by the liquid phase divided by the total resistance of the two phases, which is equals to $m \text{ dash by } k_x$, small k_x , divided by 1 by capital K_y .

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Example

For absorption of certain gas from an air stream by water the value of K_G was found as $2 \times 10^{-6} \text{ kmol}/(\text{m}^2 \text{ s kPa})$. The absorption takes place at 298K and 1 atm pressure. At a particular location of the absorber the gas phase conc. is 5mol% and the liquid phase conc. is 0.2 mol%. Only 10% of the total resistance lies in the liquid phase. The solution obeys Henry's law at 298K and the values of $m = 1.5$ when the total pressure is 1 atm. Calculate the individual gas and liquid side mass transfer coefficients, flux and the interfacial concentrations.



Let us take an example to calculate this individual coefficient flux and inter facial concentrations for a particular system. For absorption of certain gas from an air steam by water, the value of K_G was found as 2×10^{-6} kilo mole per meter square second kilo Pascal. The absorption takes place at 298 kelvin and at one atmospheric pressure. At a particular location of the absorber, the gas phase concentration is 5 mole percent and the liquid phase concentration is 0.2 mole percent. Only ten percent of the total resistance lies in the liquid phase. The solutions obeys Henry's law at 298 kelvin and the values of m is equal to 1.5, when the total pressure is one atmosphere. Calculate the individual gas and liquid side mass transfer coefficients, flux and the interfacial concentrations.

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Solution


$$K_G = 2 \times 10^{-6} \text{ kmol/m}^2 \text{ s kPa}$$

$$K_y = K_G P_t = 2 \times 10^{-6} \times 101.3 = 2.03 \times 10^{-4} \text{ kmol/m}^2 \text{ s}$$

10% of the total resistance in the liquid phase
 so, 90% of " " " " " gas phase

Fractional resistance offered by the gas phase

$$= \frac{1/K_y}{1/K_y} = \frac{K_y}{K_y} = 0.9$$

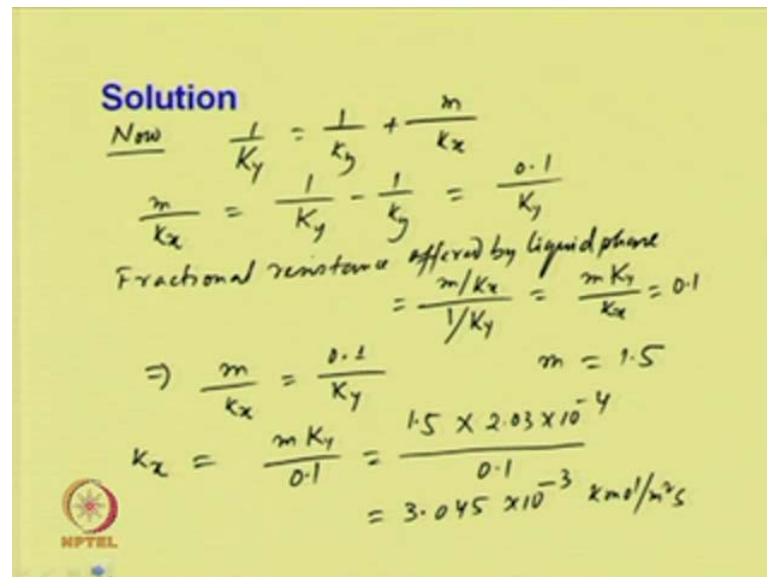
$$k_y = \frac{K_y}{0.9} = \frac{2.03 \times 10^{-4} \text{ kmol/m}^2 \text{ s}}{0.9} = 2.26 \times 10^{-4} \text{ kmol/m}^2 \text{ s}$$


Now, the data which are given is k_G is equal to 2×10^{-6} kilo mole per meter square second kilo Pascal. And we know that capital K_y is equal to capital $K_G P_t$, which is equal to 2×10^{-6} into 101.3 kilo Pascal, one atmosphere is 101.3 kilo Pascal, which is equal to 2.03×10^{-4} kilo mole per meter square second. And it is given that ten percent of the total resistance resistance in the liquid phase, so ninety percent of the total resistance should be in the gas phase.

Now, we know that fractional resistance offered by the gas phase is equal to one by small k_y divide by one by capital K_y . So, which is capital K_y divided by small k_y . This is

given 0.9, 90 percent. So, small k_y will be capital K_y divided by 0.9. If we substitute capital K_y , 2.03×10^{-4} kilo mole per meter square second divided by 0.9, which is equal to 2.26×10^{-4} kilo mole per meter square second.

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Solution

$$\text{Now } \frac{1}{K_y} = \frac{1}{k_y} + \frac{m}{k_x}$$

$$\frac{m}{k_x} = \frac{1}{K_y} - \frac{1}{k_y} = \frac{0.1}{K_y}$$

Fractional resistance offered by liquid phase

$$= \frac{m/k_x}{1/K_y} = \frac{m K_y}{k_x} = 0.1$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{m}{k_x} = \frac{0.1}{K_y} \quad m = 1.5$$

$$k_x = \frac{m K_y}{0.1} = \frac{1.5 \times 2.03 \times 10^{-4}}{0.1} = 3.045 \times 10^{-3} \text{ kmol/m}^2\text{s}$$

We know that, one by capital K_y is one by small k_y plus m by k_x . So, m by k_x is equal to one by capital K_y minus one by k_y . And we know that fractional resistance offered by liquid phase is equal to m by k_x divided by one by capital K_y , which is equal to m capital K_y by small k_x . So, this is given as ten percent, which is 0.1.

So, from this we can calculate m by k_x is equal to 0.1 divided by capital K_y . So, this will be equal to 0.1 divided by capital K_y . So, from this we can calculate k_x will be m capital K_y divided by 0.1 is equal to, m is given 1.5 into, so m is given 1.5 into 2.03×10^{-4} divided by 0.1, which is equal to 3.045×10^{-3} kilo mole per meter square second. So, these are the individual mass transfer coefficient. Now, we will calculate the flux.

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Solution

$$y_A^* = m x_A = 1.5 \times 0.002 = 3 \times 10^{-3}$$

$$y_{Ab} = 0.05$$


$$N_A = k_y (y_{Ab} - y_A^*) = 2.03 \times 10^{-4} (0.05 - 3 \times 10^{-3})$$

$$N_A = 9.541 \times 10^{-6} \frac{\text{kmol}}{\text{m}^2 \text{s}}$$

$$N_A = k_y (y_{Ab} - y_{Ai})$$

$$\Rightarrow y_{Ai} = y_{Ab} - \frac{N_A}{k_y} = 0.05 - \frac{9.541 \times 10^{-6}}{2.26 \times 10^{-4}} = 0.0078$$

From Equilibrium relation

$$x_{Ai} = \frac{y_{Ai}}{m} = \frac{0.0078}{1.5} = 0.0052$$



To calculate the flux, we know the equilibrium compositions y_A^* is equal to $m x_A$. m is given 1.5 and the concentration in the particular location is given 0.002. So which is equal to 3×10^{-3} . And, y_{Ab} is given 0.05 mole. So, N_A will be equal to $k_y (y_{Ab} - y_A^*)$, which is equal to $2.03 \times 10^{-4} (0.05 - 3 \times 10^{-3})$, which is equal to $9.541 \times 10^{-6} \text{ kmol/m}^2 \text{ s}$.

We know that, N_A is equal to $k_y (y_{Ab} - y_{Ai})$. So, from this we can calculate the interfacial concentration y_{Ai} will be equal to $y_{Ab} - N_A / k_y$. So, we substitute. It is $0.05 - 9.541 \times 10^{-6} / 2.26 \times 10^{-4}$, which is equal to 0.0078. And, from the equilibrium relations we know that x_{Ai} will be equal to y_{Ai} / m . So, which is equal to $0.0078 / 1.5$, which is equal to 0.0052. So, these are the interfacial concentration and this is the flux and we have calculated the individual mass transfer coefficient.

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Material Balances to Generate Operating Lines

- Direct contact among the phases in a particular equipment
- Flow process, due to transfer of solute from one phase to the other, the conc. in each phase changes along the equipment.
- Batch process: conc. change with time



So, now we will discuss the material balances to generate operating lines. In general, when there are two phases in contact, they are in direct contact between the phases in the equipments.

So, direct contact among the phases in a particular equipment. In case of flow process, due to transfer of solute from one phase to the other, the concentration in each phase changes along the equipment. So, if it is a batch process in this case also, the concentration changes with time. Since the concentration changes with time, there is a variation of driving force for mass transfer along the equipments.

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Material Balances to Generate Operating Lines

Change of conc. \Rightarrow produce variation of driving force for MT

These change of conc. can be followed by material balance

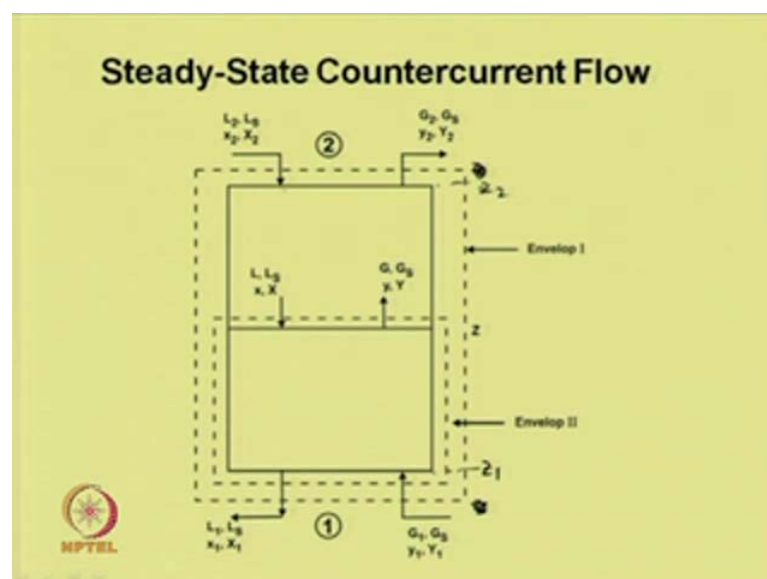
* 3- mode of operation

- (i) Countercurrent mode
- (ii) Concurrent mode
- (iii) Crosscurrent mode



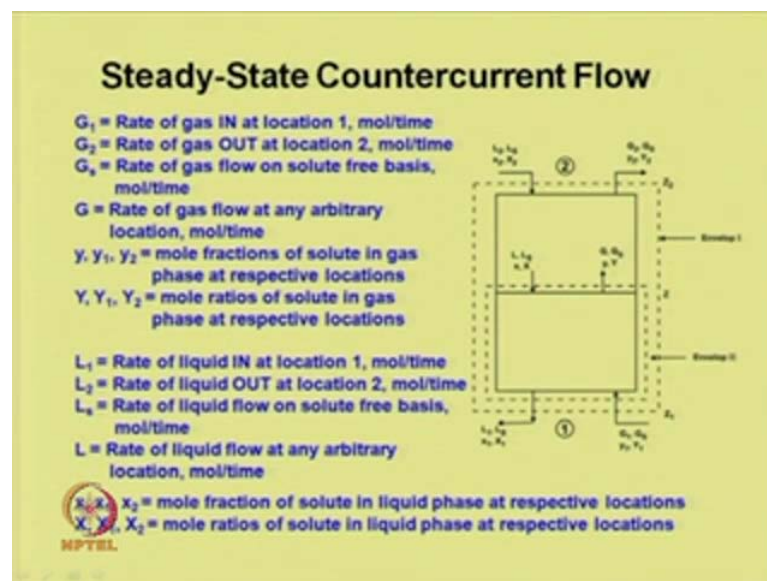
So, change of concentration produce variation of driving force for mass transfer. How we can follow these changes of concentration through the equipment, as the phases flows from one into the other. And this can be followed; the change of concentration can be followed by material balance. There are three mode of contact three mode of operations. We will discuss three mode of operations. One is counter current operations; second is concurrent and third one is crosscurrent.

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So, let us consider steady state counter current flow. A steady state countercurrent flow; consider there are gas and liquid phase, they are in contact. And gas being a lighter component compared to the liquid phase, they flows from bottom to top and the liquid flows from top to bottom. So, this is location at Z 1 and this is some intermediate location, any plane and this is at location Z2. So, at one the gas flow rate is G one and G s is solute free vases and Y one is the mole fractions, small y one and capital y one is the mole ratio basis. So, these are the nomenclature which is given. So gas, there is an inlet at the bottom and outlet at the top and liquid in at the top and out at the bottom.

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So, G_1 is the rate of gas IN at location one, in mole per time; G_2 is the rate of gas OUT at the location two and mole per time; G_s is the rate of gas flow on solute free basis in mole per time; G is the rate of gas flow at any arbitrary locations inside the equipment; and small y , small y_1 and small y_2 , these are the mole fractions of the solute in the gas phase at respective locations and capital Y , capital Y_1 , capital Y_2 , these are the mole ratios of the solute in gas phase in their respective locations. L_1 , L_2 and L_s , these are the liquid flow rates. And L , these are the liquid flow rates at respective locations and small x is the mole fractions of the solute in the liquid phase and capital X is the mole ratios of the solute in the liquid phase.

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Steady-State Countercurrent Flow

$$G_s = \frac{G}{1+Y}, Y = \frac{y}{1-y} \Rightarrow y = \frac{Y}{1+Y}$$


$$L_s = \frac{L}{1+X}, X = \frac{x}{1-x} \Rightarrow x = \frac{X}{1+X}$$

Overall Mass balance for component A over the envelope I

$$G_1 y_1 + L_2 x_2 = G_2 y_2 + L_1 x_1 \rightarrow (1)$$

Component mass balance over envelope II:

$$G_1 y_1 + L x = G y + L_1 x_1 \rightarrow (2)$$



So, with these convention if we do the material balance, we can define like G_s as we said, which is solute free basis. G_s can be written. It is equal to G by one plus capital Y and capital Y is equal to y , small y , by one minus small y . Or, from this we can write small y is equal to capital Y divided by one plus capital Y . L_s is L by one plus X , capital X . Capital X , we can write x , small x , divided by one minus small x . From this we can write small x is equal to capital X divided by one plus capital X . The overall mass balance if we consider the envelope one, the overall balance over the equipment which is envelope one, overall mass balance for envelope one for component A, for a particular component A over the envelope one.

This we can write, $G_1 y_1 + L_2 x_2$, which is equal to $G_2 y_2 + L_1 x_1$. So, this is equation 1. The component mass balance over envelope two we can write, $G_1 y_1 + L x$ is equal to $G y + L_1 x_1$. This is equation 2.

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Steady-State Countercurrent Flow

$$G_1 \frac{Y_1}{1+Y_1} + L_2 \frac{X_2}{1+X_2} = G_2 \frac{Y_2}{1+Y_2} + L_1 \frac{X_1}{1+X_1}$$

$$\Rightarrow G_s Y_1 + L_s X_2 = G_s Y_2 + L_s X_1$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{L_s}{G_s} = \frac{Y_1 - Y_2}{X_1 - X_2} \rightarrow (3)$$

Eq. of straight line which passes through the points (X_1, Y_1) and (X_2, Y_2) with a slope L_s/G_s



Now, if we write these equations in terms of the solute free basis, we can write G_1 into y 1, small y 1, is capital Y_1 by 1 plus y 1 capital Y_1 plus L_2 into x 2 by 1 plus x 2 is equal to G_2 y 2 by 1 plus capital Y_2 plus L_1 capital X_1 by 1 plus x 1.

So, this will give $G_s Y_1$ plus $L_s X_2$ is equal to $G_s Y_2$ plus $L_s X_1$. From this, we can write L_s by G_s is equal to Y_1 minus Y_2 divided by X_1 minus X_2 . Say this is equation 3. So, this equation is an equation of a straight line which passes through the points capital (X_1, Y_1) and (X_2, Y_2) with a slope L_s by G_s .

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Steady-State Countercurrent Flow

$$G_1 Y_1 + L X = G Y + L_1 X_1$$


$$\Rightarrow G_s Y_1 + L_s X = G_s Y + L_s X_1$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{L_s}{G_s} = \frac{Y_1 - Y}{X_1 - X} \rightarrow (4)$$

(X_1, Y_1) and (X, Y) $L_s/G_s = \text{slope}$

Relates bulk compositions of the two phases at any locations with the terminal conc.

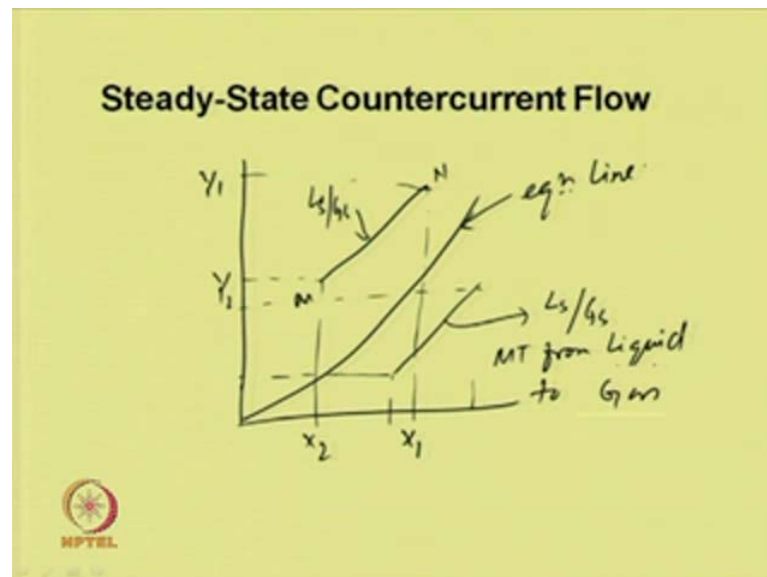
Operating line eq.:



Now the equation 2, this equation also we write in term of the solute free basis, so that is $G_1 y_1 + L x_1 = G y + L x$. So, this also will give you G s capital Y_1 plus L s capital X is equal to G s capital Y plus L s capital X_1 . From this, we can write L s by G s is $Y_1 - Y$ divided by $X_1 - X$.

So, this is also equations of straight line and passing through the points X_1, Y_1 and X , capital Y with a slope L s by G s. This equation is in general relates bulk compositions of the two phases at any location with the terminal concentrations. So, this is called as operating line equations or equation of operating lines.

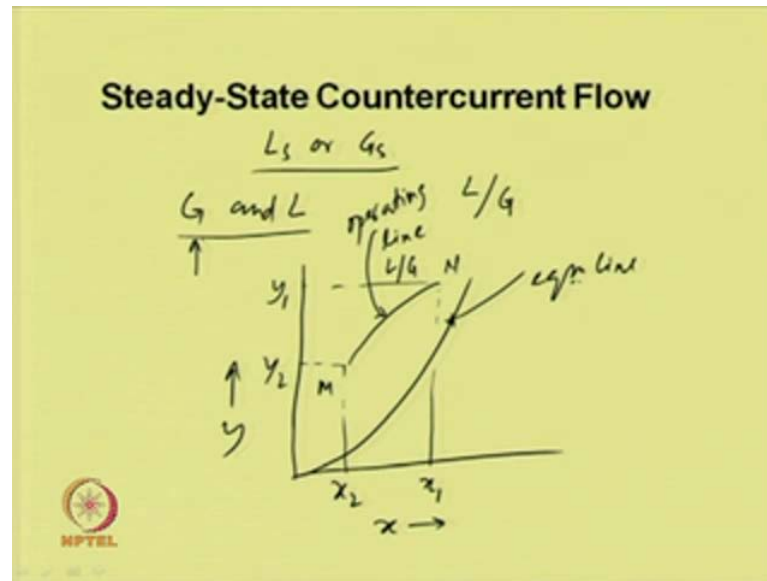
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If we plot for the case we discuss, so this is the equilibrium line and this is the operating line with a slope L s by G s and this is the concentration, this is x_2, y_2 and this is y_1, x_1 and suppose this is M and this is N , so this is the equation of operating line and this is the equilibrium line.

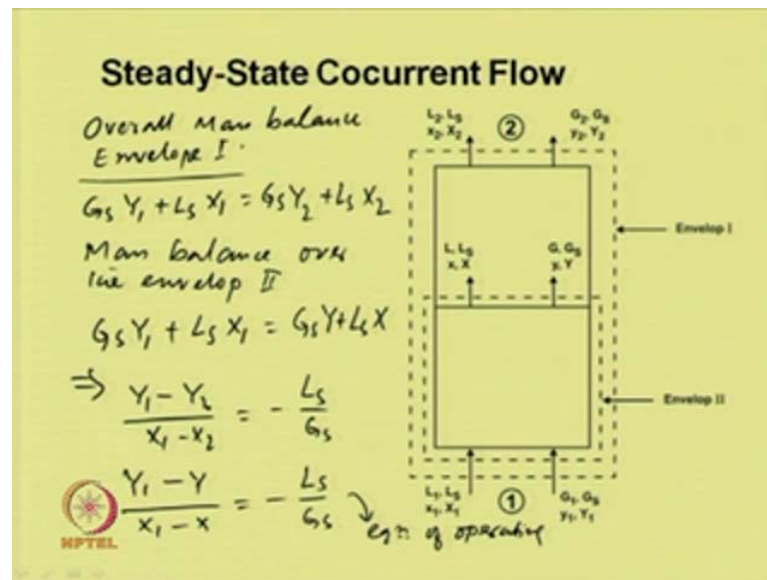
So, if the solute transfers from the gas phase to the liquid phase, then the operating line is above the equilibrium line; if gas is transferred from liquid to gas, then operating line will be below the equilibrium line. So, this is also with the slope L s by G s and mass transfer from liquid to gas phase, if we plot the difference between the mole free basis and on mole basis.

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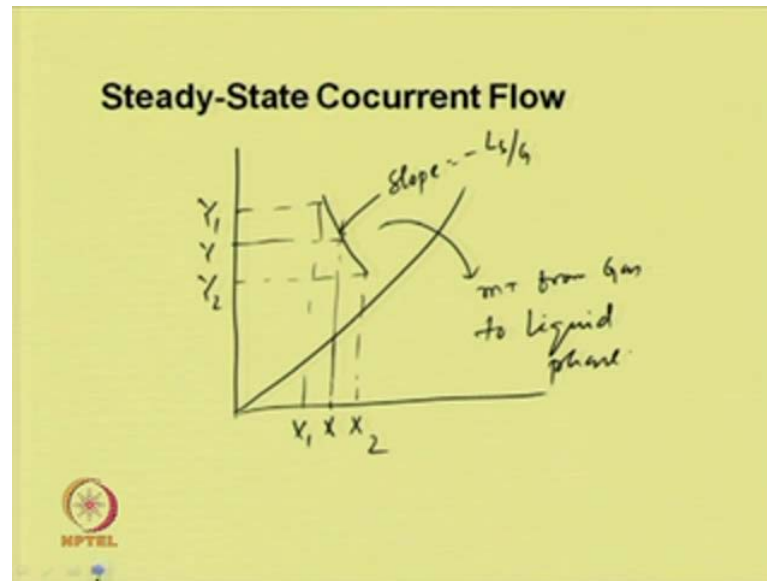
When we plot solute free basis, the operating line..., as we have seen; because it is based on L s or G s which does not change along the path of the travel of the phases in the equipment, whereas if we take the quantities G and L , these are change as it flows from one location to the other in the equipment, since there is mass transfer from one phase to the other, this G and L changes and hence L by G ratio changes. So, the equations of operating line will not be a straight line. So, it will be curved line like this. And if we plot, this is x_2 and this is y_2 , this is x_1 and this is y_1 . Suppose this is M and N two points and this is the equilibrium line and this is the operating line with a slope L by G , the slope is changing if we plot in terms of mole fraction basis. So, the equilibrium line and the operating line both will be curved. Since L and G , they are changing along the flow paths of the phases.

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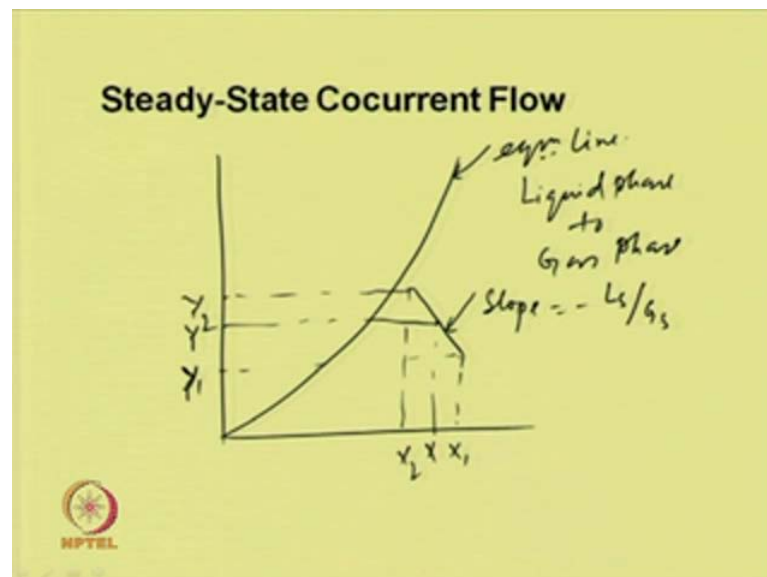
Now, let us consider steady state co current flow. The notations have their usual significance as we have discussed earlier. In this case, if we consider envelope one, in this case the flow is in the same directions; both the gas and liquid flows in the same direction from 0.1 to 0.2. The overall mass balance for component A over the envelope one we can write, $G_s Y_1 + L_s X_1 = G_s Y_2 + L_s X_2$. And, mass balance over the envelope two we can write, $G_s Y_1 + L_s X_1 = G_s Y + L_s X$. And if we rearrange these equations we can write $Y_1 - Y_2$ by $X_1 - X_2$ will be minus L_s by G_s and also $Y_1 - Y$ by $X_1 - X$ will be minus L_s by G_s . So, the slope is negative and this is the equation of operating line with a slope; operating line with a slope minus L_s by G_s .

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And if we plot, this is the line and this is the slope minus L_s by G_s and this is x_2 , this is y_2 , this is y_1 and this is x_1 and in between this is, suppose x and this is y . So, the operating line will be above the equilibrium line, if this is mass transfer from gas to liquid phase.

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So, if the mass transfer is from from liquid phase to gas phase, the operating line will be below the equilibrium line and this is x_1 , this is y_1 , this is x_2 , this is y_2 and some point in between, this is x and this is y . So, the this is also the same slope of minus L_s by

G s. Now, among these two cases we discussed, that is, countercurrent operations and co current operation mode, which one is better or which one is preferred?


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Question
Which is the preferred operation between Countercurrent and cocurrent mode?

Given situation

Countercurrent Flow : Average driving force is higher
Amount of solute transfer for a given solvent \Rightarrow higher
For same eqn : lower flow required
For same Flow : Equipment size small

Cocurrent Flow : Avg. driving force front is lower
Solute transfer \Rightarrow lower

 Countercurrent operation is preferred over cocurrent operation.

If we consider a given situation for counter current flow, average driving force is higher compared to co current flow; average driving force force for mass transfer is lower compared to counter current flow. So, the amount of solute transfer solute transfer for a given solvent is higher; solute transfer in this case is lower compared to the counter current flow. And if we consider for the same equipment, the lower flow is required required in case of counter current flow compared to the co current flow or if we keep the same flow, then the equipment size size required is small. So from all these points, we can say that counter current operation is preferred over co current operation.

Thank you.