

①

# Chemical Reaction Engineering

## Chapter 14: Mass transfer limitations in reacting systems

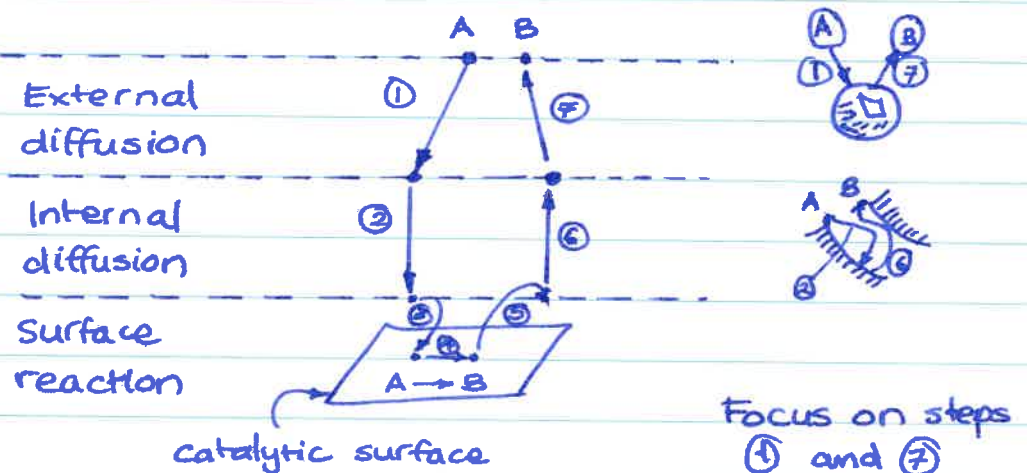
### Industrial reactions at high temperature

→ limited by rate of mass transfer between bulk fluid and the catalytic surface

Mass transfer: Any process in which diffusion plays a role.

⇒ Rate laws cannot be applied directly

⇒ Need to consider fluid velocity and fluid properties while writing molar balances



Notes on  
Elements of chemical reaction  
engineering, H. Scott Fogler  
- Ranjeet Utikar

## Diffusion fundamentals

### Molar flux with no diffusion

$$W_{Az} = \frac{C_A v}{A_c} = \frac{F_{Az}}{A_c}$$

$$\frac{\text{mol}}{\text{m}^2 \text{ s}} \quad \frac{\text{mol}}{\text{m}^3} \frac{\text{m}^3}{\text{s}} \frac{1}{\text{m}^2}$$

$F_{Az}$ : uniform at a given cross section  $\rightarrow$  plug flow assumption

$\Rightarrow$  Need to develop mole balance that incorporates both diffusion and reaction.

Diffusion: Spontaneous intermingling or mixing of atoms or molecules by random thermal motion.

$\Rightarrow$  Gives rise to motion of species relative to motion of mixture

$\Rightarrow$  From regions of high conc. to regions of low conc.

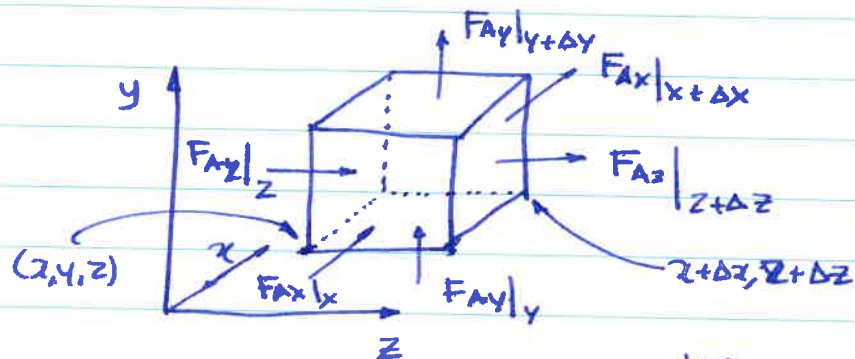
$\uparrow$  In absence of other gradients

⇒ Diffusion results in a molar flux of the species (A),  $W_A$  (moles/area time), in the direction of the concentration gradient

$$W_A = iW_{Ax} + jW_{Ay} + kW_{Az}$$

rectangular co-ordinates.

### Mole balance in rectangular co-ordinates



$$\text{Volume: } \Delta x \Delta y \Delta z = \Delta V$$

$$F_{Ax} = W_{Ax} \Delta z \Delta y$$

$$F_{Ay} = W_{Ay} \Delta x \Delta z$$

$$F_{Az} = W_{Az} \Delta x \Delta y$$

$$\left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{molar} \\ \text{flow rate} \\ \text{in} \end{array} \right]_z - \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{molar} \\ \text{flow} \\ \text{rate out} \end{array} \right]_{z+\Delta z} + \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{molar} \\ \text{flow} \\ \text{rate in} \end{array} \right]_y - \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{molar} \\ \text{flow rate} \\ \text{out} \end{array} \right]_{y+\Delta y} +$$

$$\left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{molar} \\ \text{flow} \\ \text{rate in} \end{array} \right]_x - \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{molar} \\ \text{flow rate} \\ \text{out} \end{array} \right]_{x+\Delta x} + \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{rate} \\ \text{of gen-} \\ \text{eration} \end{array} \right] = \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{rate} \\ \text{of} \\ \text{accumulation} \end{array} \right]$$

$$\Delta x \Delta y W_{Az} \Big|_z - \Delta x \Delta y W_{Az} \Big|_{z+\Delta z} +$$

$$\Delta x \Delta z W_{Ay} \Big|_y - \Delta x \Delta z W_{Ay} \Big|_{y+\Delta y} +$$

$$\Delta z \Delta y W_{Ax} \Big|_x - \Delta z \Delta y W_{Ax} \Big|_{x+\Delta x} +$$

$$r_A \Delta x \Delta y \Delta z = \Delta x \Delta y \Delta z \frac{\partial C_A}{\partial t} \quad \text{--- ①}$$

$r_A$ : rate of generation of A  $\frac{\text{mol}}{\text{m}^3 \text{ h}}$   
per unit volume

Dividing ① by  $\Delta x \Delta y \Delta z$  and taking limit as they go to zero

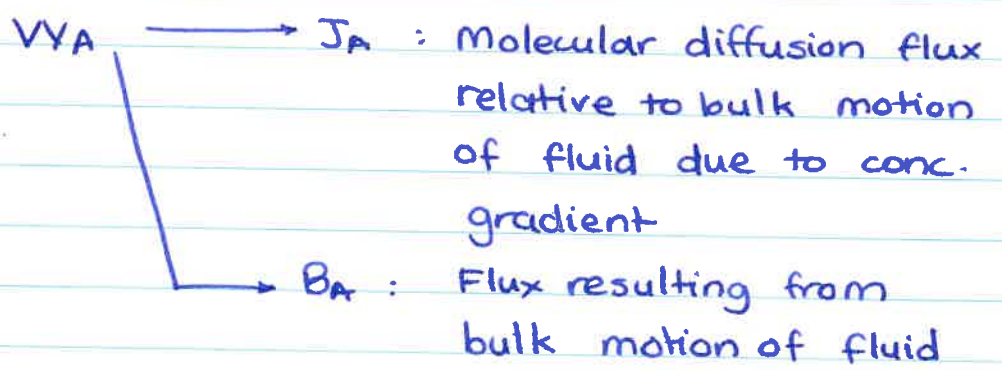
$$\boxed{-\frac{\partial W_{Ax}}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial W_{Ay}}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial W_{Az}}{\partial z} + r_A = \frac{\partial C_A}{\partial t}} \quad \text{--- ②}$$



In cylindrical co-ordinates

$$-\frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} (rW_{Ar}) - \frac{\partial W_{Az}}{\partial z} + r_A = \frac{\partial C_A}{\partial t} \quad \text{--- (3)}$$

Molar flux



$$W_A = J_A + B_A \quad \text{--- (4)}$$

$B_A = y_A (\sum W_i)$

Total flux of all molecules

mole fraction of A

$$W_A = J_A + y_A \sum W_i \quad \text{--- (5)}$$

For A  $\rightarrow$  B (two component system)

$$W_A = J_A + y_A (W_A + W_B)$$

$W_A \Rightarrow$  is w.r.t. fixed co-ordinate system  
 $\hookrightarrow = \text{conc. of A} \times \text{particle velocity of A, } U_A$

$$W_A = U_A C_A$$

$$\frac{\text{mol}}{\text{m}^2 \text{ s}} = \frac{\text{m}}{\text{s}} \frac{\text{mol}}{\text{m}^3}$$

particle velocity:  
 Vector avg. of millions of molecules of A at a given point

similarly

$$W_B = U_B C_B$$

$$\therefore B_A = y_A \sum W_i$$

$$B_A = C_A U$$

$$C = \sum y_i c_i$$

$$C_i = y_i C$$

$$\sum y_i U_i = U$$

molar avg. vel

$$W_A = J_A + C_A U \quad \text{--- (6)}$$

Fick's First law

$\Rightarrow$  How molar diffusive flux is related to conc. gradient

Fourier's law (thermal conduction)

$$q_L = -k_t \nabla T \quad k_t: \text{thermal conductivity}$$

$$\nabla = i \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + j \frac{\partial}{\partial y} + k \frac{\partial}{\partial z}$$

For mass transfer : Fick's law

$$J_A = -D_{AB} \nabla C_A \quad \text{--- (7)}$$

$D_{AB}$ : Diffusivity of <sup>A</sup> in B ( $m^2/s$ )

combining (6) and (7)

$$W_A = -D_{AB} \nabla C_A + C_A U$$

In one dimension,

$$W_{Az} = -D_{AB} \frac{dC_A}{dz} + C_A U_z \quad \text{--- (8)}$$

Binary diffusion

- Most systems have more than two components
  - ↳ Analysis is complicated
- Can be simplified into a binary system → each species diffuses through another single species
- effective diffusivity.

## Evaluating molar flux

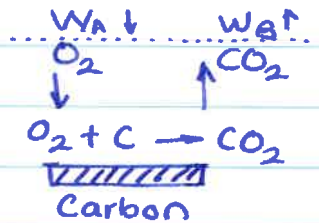
→ A diffusing in B

$$W_A = -D_{AB} \nabla C_A + y_A (W_A + W_B)$$

① Equimolar counter diffusion (EMCD)

$$W_A = -W_B$$

$$W_A = J_A = -D_{AB} \nabla C_A$$



② Species A diffusing through stagnant species B ( $W_B = 0$ )

↪ Solid boundary with adjacent stagnant fluid layer

$$W_A = J_A + y_A W_A$$

$$W_A = \frac{J_A}{1 - y_A} = -\frac{D_{AB} \nabla C_A}{1 - y_A}$$

$$W_A = -D_{AB} C \nabla \ln(1 - y_A)$$

③ Bulk flow of A  $\gg$  molecular diffusion

↪ plug flow model

$$W_A = B_A = y_A (W_A + W_B) = C_A U$$



④ Small bulk flow  $J_A \gg J_B$

$$W_A = -D_{AB} \nabla C_A = J_A$$

⑤ Knudsen diffusion:

Occurs in porous catalyst where diffusing molecule collides more often with catalyst walls/pore walls than with each other

$$W_A = J_A = -D_K \nabla C_A$$

↑ Knudsen diffusivity.

Diffusion and convective transport

$$F_{Az} = W_{Az} A_c$$

↑                      ↑                      ↑  
 molar flow        molar        cross-  
 rate of A in      flux in      sectional  
 z dir.              z              area normal to flow

$$W_{Az} = -D_{Az} \frac{dC_A}{dz} + C_A U_z$$

$$F_{Az} = W_{Az} A_c = \left[ -D_{Az} \frac{dC_A}{dz} + C_A U_z \right] A_c \quad \text{--- ⑥}$$

↪ similar expressions for  $F_{Ay}$  and  $F_{Ax}$ .

substituting in equation (2)

$$D_{AB} \left[ \frac{\partial^2 C_A}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 C_A}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 C_A}{\partial z^2} \right] - u_x \frac{\partial C_A}{\partial x} - u_y \frac{\partial C_A}{\partial y} - u_z \frac{\partial C_A}{\partial z} + r_A = \frac{\partial C_A}{\partial t}$$

in one dimension :

$$D_{AB} \frac{\partial^2 C_A}{\partial z^2} - u_z \frac{\partial C_A}{\partial z} + r_A = \frac{\partial C_A}{\partial t} \quad \text{--- (10)}$$

Need boundary conditions to solve eq. (10)

Boundary conditions :

1. Conc. at boundary :

@ z = 0     $C_A = C_{A0}$

→ For instantaneous reactions,  $C_{As} = 0$   
 conc. of reactant at boundary.

@ z = L     $\frac{dC_A}{dz} = 0$  ;  $C_A^{L-} = C_A^{L+}$

↳ Danckwert's boundary condition.

② Specify flux at boundary

(a) No mass transfer to boundary

$W_A = 0$  ← Wall of non-reacting pipe

$\frac{dC_A}{dr} = 0 @ r=R$

(b) molar flux = rate of reaction to surface at surface

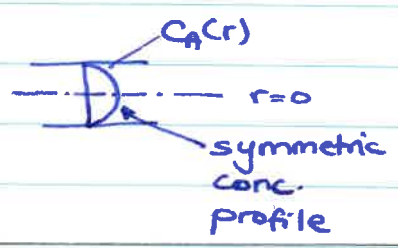
$W_A|_{\text{surface}} = -r_A''|_{\text{surface}}$

(c) molar flux to boundary = convective transport across boundary layer

$W_A|_{\text{boundary}} = k_c (C_{Ab} - C_{As})$   
mass transfer coefficient      bulk conc.      surface conc.

③ Planes of symmetry

$\frac{dC_A}{dr} = 0 @ r=0$



For tubular reactor eq. (10) becomes

$$\frac{dF_A}{dV} = \frac{d(C_A W_{AZ})}{d(C_A z)} = \frac{dW_{AZ}}{dz} = r_A \quad (11)$$

Temperature and pressure dependence of D<sub>AB</sub>

- Predicting gas diffusivity
  - ↳ Fuller's correlation
- Data in Perry's handbook

Phase	order of mag		T & P dependence
	cm <sup>2</sup> /s	m <sup>2</sup> /s	
Gas			
Bulk	10 <sup>-1</sup>	10 <sup>-5</sup>	$D_{AB}(T_1, P_1) \frac{P_1}{P_2} \left(\frac{T_2}{T_1}\right)^{1.75} = D_{AB}(T_2, P_2)$
Knudsen	10 <sup>-2</sup>	10 <sup>-6</sup>	$D_{AB}(T_2, P_2) = D_A(T_1) \left(\frac{T_2}{T_1}\right)^{1/2}$
liquid	10 <sup>-5</sup>	10 <sup>-9</sup>	$D_{AB}(T_2) = D_{AB}(T_1) \left(\frac{M_1}{M_2}\right) \left(\frac{T_2}{T_1}\right)$
solid	10 <sup>-9</sup>	10 <sup>-13</sup>	$D_{AB}(T_2) = D_{AB}(T_1) \cdot \exp\left[\frac{E_D}{R} \left(\frac{T_2 - T_1}{T_1 T_2}\right)\right]$

Knudsen, liquid, & solid D are independent of P



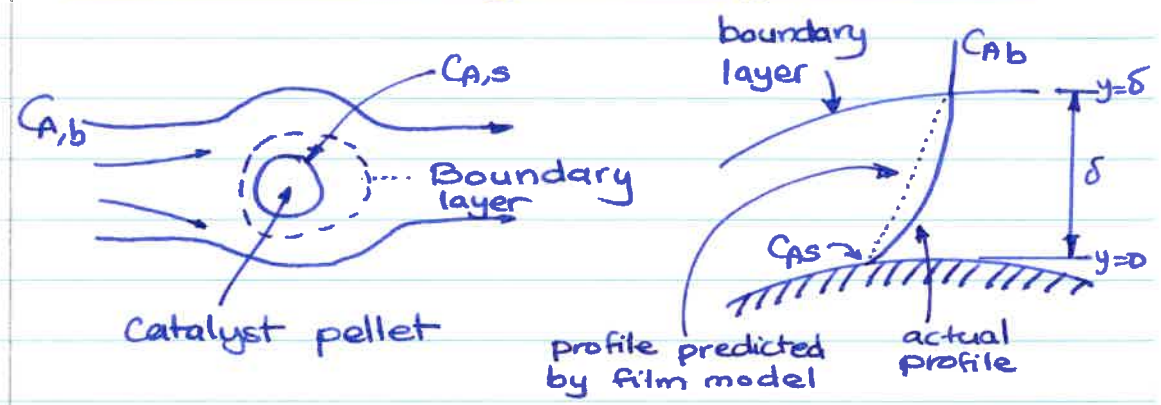
## Steps in modelling diffusion to a reacting surface

- ⇒ Diffusion of species through stagnant film in which no reaction takes place
- ⇒ A reacts instantaneously upon reaching the surface  $C_{As} \approx 0$
- ⇒ Rate of diffusion through stagnant film = rate of reaction on the surface

### Steps:

- ① Perform differential mole balance  
↳ Equation for  $W_{Az}$
- ② Replace  $W_{Az}$  by appropriate expression for conc. gradient
- ③ State boundary conditions
- ④ Solve for conc. profile
- ⑤ solve for molar flux

### Diffusion through a stagnant film



- Flow past a single catalytic pellet
- reaction takes place only on external catalyst surface and not in fluid surrounding it.

hydrodynamic boundary layer: distance from solid object to where the fluid velocity is 99% of the bulk velocity  $U_0$

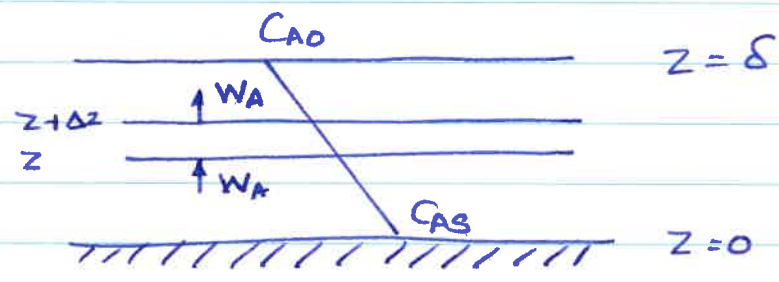
mass transfer boundary layer: distance at which conc. of diffusing species is 99% of the bulk concentration.

→ Nearly all the resistance is in BL

- Assume fluid layer next to solid as stagnant film (hypothetical) of thickness  $\delta$
- We can not measure  $\delta$
- All the resistance to mass transfer is within the film
- properties at the outer edge of the film are identical to those of bulk fluid.

For film thickness  $\ll$  radius of pellet

- curvature effects can be neglected
- problem reduces to 1D diffusion



In - out + generation = Accumulation

$$W_{Az} - W_{Az}|_{z+\Delta z} + 0 = 0$$

dividing by  $\Delta z$  and taking limit  
as  $\Delta z \rightarrow 0$

$$\frac{dW_{Az}}{dz} = 0 \quad \text{--- (12)}$$

For diffusion through stagnant film  
at dilute concentrations,

$$J_A \gg y_A (W_A + W_B)$$

$$W_{Az} = -D_{AB} \frac{dC_A}{dz} \quad \dots \text{Also for EMCD}$$

$\therefore$  (12) becomes

$$\frac{d^2 C_A}{dz^2} = 0$$

BCs:

$$z=0 \quad C_A = C_{As}$$

$$z=\delta \quad C_A = C_{Ab}$$

Integrating twice

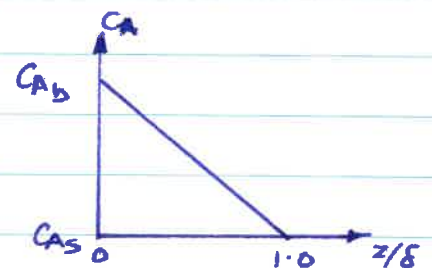
$$C_A = k_1 z + k_2$$

$$\Rightarrow C_{As} = k_2$$

$$\frac{(C_{Ab} - C_{As})}{\delta} = k_1$$

Substituting BCs

$$C_A = C_{As} + (C_{Ab} - C_{As}) \frac{z}{\delta} \quad \text{--- (13)}$$





surface flux

$$W_{Az}|_{\delta} = -D_{AB} \frac{dC_A}{dz}|_{\delta}$$

$$W_{Az} = \frac{D_{AB}}{\delta} [C_{A0} - C_{As}] \quad \text{--- (14)}$$

At steady state

Flux of A to the surface = rate of reaction of A on surface

Mass transfer coefficient

$$k_c = \frac{D_{AB}}{\delta}$$

Varies around the sphere.  
(consider mean thickness)

$$\therefore W_{Az} = k_c [C_{A0} - C_{As}] \quad \text{--- (15)}$$

$$W_{Az} = \text{Flux} = \frac{\text{driving force}}{\text{resistance}} = \frac{[C_{A0} - C_{As}]}{(1/k_c)}$$

mass transfer resistance

## Correlations for mass transfer coefficient

→ For similar geometries the heat transfer and mass transfer correlations are analogous.

→  $k_c$  analogous to  $h$  (heat transfer coefficient)

Forced convection →  $h$  correlated in terms of  $Nu, Re, Pr$

Nusselt's Number

$$Nu = \frac{h d_p}{k_t}$$

$$h: \text{htc } \left( \frac{\text{J}}{\text{m}^2 \text{s K}} \right) \left( \frac{\text{W}}{\text{m}^2 \text{K}} \right)$$

Reynold's number

$$Re = \frac{U \rho d_p}{\mu}$$

$\alpha_t$ : Thermal diffusivity ( $\text{m}^2/\text{s}$ )

$\mu$ : viscosity ( $\text{kg}/\text{ms}$ )

$\rho$ : density ( $\text{kg}/\text{m}^3$ )

$d_p$ : diameter (m)

Prandtl Number

$$Pr = \frac{\mu C_p}{k_t}$$

$k_t$ : Thermal conductivity ( $\text{J}/\text{K ms}$ )

$U$ : free stream vel. ( $\text{m}/\text{s}$ )

$C_p$ : heat capacity ( $\text{J}/\text{kg} \cdot \text{K}$ )

$\nu$ : kinematic viscosity ( $\text{m}^2/\text{s}$ )

$$= \left( \frac{\mu}{\rho} \right) \left( \frac{\rho C_p}{k_t} \right) = \frac{\nu}{\alpha_t}$$

Ranz-Marshall correlation: heat transfer for flow around sphere

$$\boxed{Nu = 2 + 0.6 Re^{1/2} Pr^{1/3}} \quad \text{--- (16)}$$

For sphere immersed in stagnant fluid

$$Nu = 2 \quad \Rightarrow \quad Re = 0$$

At high  $Re$  (boundary layer is still laminar)

$$Nu \approx 0.6 Re^{1/2} Pr^{1/3}$$

For mass transfer

$$Sh \rightarrow Nu \quad ; \quad Sc \rightarrow Pr$$

Sherwood Number

$$Sh = \frac{k_c d_p}{D_{AB}} \quad \leftarrow \frac{\text{convective mass transfer}}{\text{diffusion rate}}$$

Schmidt Number

$$Sc = \frac{\nu}{D_{AB}} \quad \leftarrow \frac{\text{momentum diffusivity}}{\text{mass diffusivity}}$$

### Frössling Correlation

$$\boxed{Sh = 2 + 0.6 Re^{1/2} Sc^{1/3}} \quad \text{--- (17)}$$

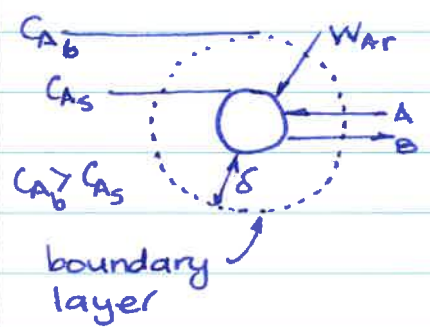
### Mass transfer to a single particle

(a) Rapid reaction on surface of catalyst

consider isomerization reaction



$$-r''_{As} = \frac{k_r C_{As}}{1 + K_A C_{As} + K_B C_{Bs}} \quad \text{Langmuir Hinshelwood}$$



At high temp. (weak adsorption)

$$(K_B C_{Bs} + K_A C_{As}) \ll 1$$

$$-r''_{As} = k_r C_{As}$$

molar flux to surface = rxn rate @ surface

$$W_{A,r}|_{\text{surface}} = -r''_{As}$$



$$W_A = k_c (C_{Ab} - C_{As}) = k_r C_{As} \quad \text{--- (18)}$$

not measurable

rearranging.

$$C_{As} = \frac{k_c C_{Ab}}{k_c + k_r}$$

$$W_A = -r''_{As} = \frac{k_r k_c C_{Ab}}{k_c + k_r} \quad \text{--- (19)}$$

$$\frac{k_r k_c}{k_c + k_r} = k_{eff} \quad \leftarrow \text{effective transport coefficient}$$

$$W_A = -r''_{As} = k_{eff} C_{Ab}$$

→ Mass transfer limitation  $k_c \ll k_r$   
 $k_{eff} = k_c$

$$W_A = -r''_{As} \cong k_c C_{Ab}$$

To increase reaction rate

→ Increase  $C_{Ab}$  or  $k_c$

$$Sh = 2 + 0.6 Re^{1/2} Sc^{1/3}$$

For most liquids,  $Sc$  is sufficiently large

$$\therefore Sh = 0.6 Re^{1/2} Sc^{1/3}$$

$$\therefore k_c = 0.6 \left( \frac{D_{AB}}{d_p} \right) \left( \frac{U d_p}{\nu} \right)^{1/2} \left( \frac{\nu}{D_{AB}} \right)^{1/3}$$

$$k_c = 0.6 \left( \frac{D_{AB}^{2/3}}{\nu^{1/6}} \right) \left( \frac{U^{1/2}}{d_p^{1/2}} \right) \quad \text{--- (20)}$$

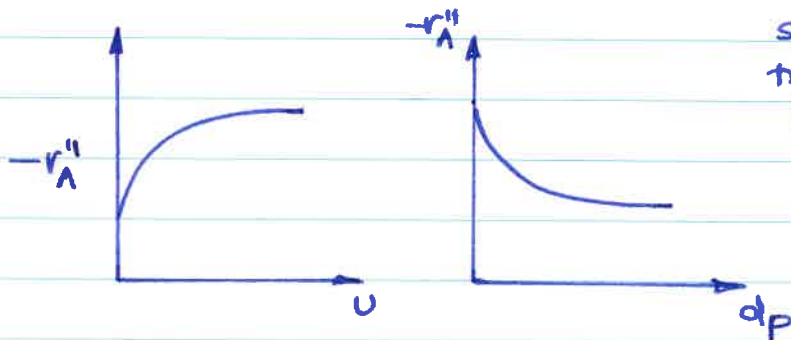
physical properties of fluid  
→ depend on P&T

function of flow conditions and particle size

$D_{AB} \propto T$   
 $\nu \propto T^{3/2}$  ... for gases  
 $\nu$  decreases exponentially for liquids

$$\left( \frac{U_2}{U_1} \right)^{0.5} = 2^{0.5} = 1.41$$

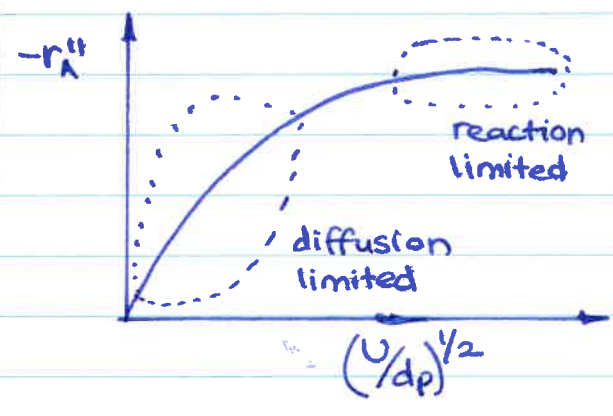
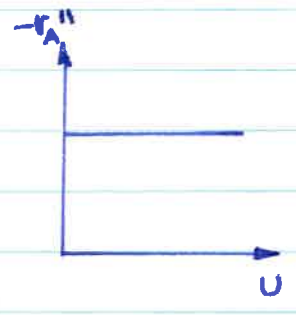
→ doubling the velocity increases mass transfer coeff. by 41%



Slow reaction

$k_{eff} = \frac{k_c k_r}{k_c + k_r}$        $k_r \ll k_c$

$k_{eff} = k_r$   
 $W_A = -r_A'' \cong k_r C_{Ab}$   
may be affected by particle size in some cases



At low U  
→ Mass transfer BL is large  
→ diffusion limits reaction

→ For fixed velocity mass transfer limitation can be overcome by using small particles → Increased  $\Delta P$

→ When obtaining reaction rate data one must operate at sufficiently large  $U$  or small particles → No mass transfer limitation

## Mass transfer limited reactions in packed bed

- High temperature reactions
- Surface reaction is rapid
- overall reaction rate is limited by the rate of transfer of reactant from the bulk to the surface
- Mass transfer limited reactions behave/respond very differently to changes in temperature and flow conditions compared to rate limited reactions.

Consider following reaction



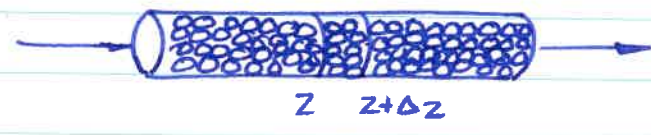
steady state mole balance

$$\left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{molar} \\ \text{rate in} \end{array} \right] - \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{molar} \\ \text{rate out} \end{array} \right] + \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{molar rate} \\ \text{of generation} \end{array} \right] = \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{molar rate of} \\ \text{accumulation} \end{array} \right]$$

$$F_{Az} \Big|_z - F_{Az} \Big|_{z+\Delta z} + r_A'' (A_c \Delta z) a_c = 0$$



$$F_{A2}|_z - F_{A2}|_{z+\Delta z} + r_A'' a_c (A_c \Delta z) = 0 \quad \text{--- (21)}$$



$r_A''$  : rate of generation per unit of catalytic surface area  $\frac{\text{mol}}{\text{s m}^2}$

$a_c$  : external surface area of catalyst per unit volume of catalyst bed  $\frac{\text{m}^2}{\text{m}^3}$

$$a_c = \frac{\text{vol. of solid}}{\text{vol. of bed}} \times \frac{\text{surface area}}{\text{vol. of solid}}$$

$$a_c = (1 - \phi) \left[ \frac{\pi d_p^2}{\pi d_p^3 / 6} \right] = \frac{6(1 - \phi)}{d_p}$$

$\phi$  : bed porosity [-]

$d_p$  : particle diameter m

$A_c$  : cross sectional area of tube containing catalys  $\text{m}^2$

Dividing (21) by  $\Delta z$  and taking limit as  $\Delta z \rightarrow 0$

$$-\frac{1}{A_c} \frac{dF_{A2}}{dz} + r_A'' a_c = 0 \quad \text{--- (22)}$$

→ Express  $F_{AZ}$  and  $r_A''$  in terms of concentration

$$F_{AZ} = W_{AZ} A_C$$

$$= (J_{AZ} + B_{AZ}) A_C$$

In almost all packed beds

$J_{AZ} \ll B_{AZ} \dots$  Axial diffusion can be neglected

diffusion                      Bulk flow

Neglecting dispersion -

$$F_{AZ} = A_C B_{AZ} = U_C A_C \quad \text{--- (23)}$$

$U$ : superficial velocity

For constant superficial velocity eq. (23) becomes

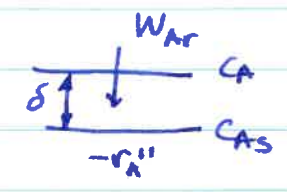
$$-U \frac{dc_A}{dz} + r_A'' a_C = 0 \quad \text{--- (24)}$$

For reactions at steady state

$$\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{molar flux of} \\ \text{A to the partr} \\ \text{icle surface} \end{array} \right] = \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{rate of disappearance} \\ \text{of A on the} \\ \text{surface} \end{array} \right]$$

$$-r_A'' = W_{Ar}$$

$$-r_A'' = W_{Ar} = k_c (C_A - C_{As})$$



$k_c$ : mass transfer coefficient (m/s)

$$k_c = \frac{D_{AB}}{\delta}$$

$C_A$ : Bulk conc. of A (mol/m<sup>3</sup>)

$C_{As}$ : Conc of A at surface (mol/m<sup>3</sup>)

∴ Eq. (24) becomes

$$-U \frac{dC_A}{dz} - k_c (C_A - C_{As}) = 0$$

In most mass transfer limited reactions  $C_A \gg C_{As}$  (surface conc. is negligible w.r.t. bulk conc.)

$$\therefore -U \frac{dC_A}{dz} = k_c a_c C_A$$

Integrating with the limit  
at  $z = 0$  ;  $C_A = C_{A0}$

$$\frac{C_A}{C_{A0}} = \exp\left(-\frac{k_c a_c}{U} z\right) \quad \text{--- (25)}$$

corresponding variation in reaction  
rate along the length

$$-r_A'' = k_c C_{A0} \exp\left(-\frac{k_c a_c}{U} z\right)$$

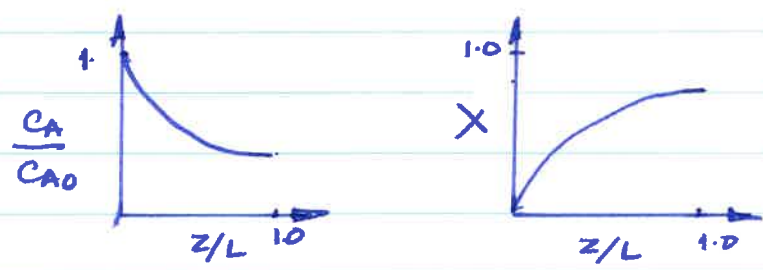
conversion at length  $L$   $x = \frac{C_{A0} - C_{AL}}{C_{A0}}$

Evaluating (25) at  $z=L$   $\frac{C_{AL}}{C_{A0}} = 1-x$

$$\frac{C_{AL}}{C_{A0}} = \exp\left(-\frac{k_c a_c}{U} L\right)$$

$$\therefore \boxed{\ln \frac{1}{1-x} = \frac{k_c a_c}{U} L} \quad \text{--- (26)}$$





Effect of flowrate on conversion

For flow through packed bed

$$Sh' = 1.0 (Re')^{1/2} Sc^{2/3} \dots \text{Thoenes and Kramers}$$

- $0.25 < \phi < 0.35$
- $40 < Re' < 4000$
- $1 < Sc < 4000$

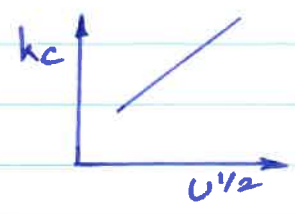
$$\left[ \frac{k_c dp}{D_{AB}} \left( \frac{\phi}{1-\phi} \right) \frac{1}{r} \right] = \left[ \frac{U dp \rho}{\mu (1-\phi) r} \right]^{1/2} \left( \frac{\mu}{\rho D_{AB}} \right)^{1/3}$$

$\phi$  : porosity  $dp = \left( \frac{6}{\pi} \right) V_p^{1/3}$   
 $r$  : shape factor

$$Sh' = \frac{Sh \phi}{(1-\phi)r} ; Re' = \frac{Re}{(1-\phi)r}$$

For constant fluid properties and particle diameters

$$k_c \propto U^{1/2}$$



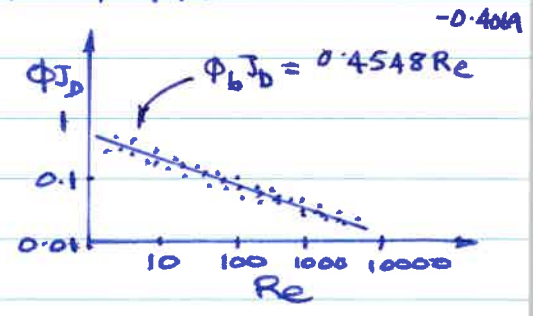
In case of differential reactor (Fixed conc.  $C_A$ )

$$-r_A'' \propto k_c C_A \propto U^{1/2}$$

→ As gas velocity increases, reaction becomes rate limited and is independent of the superficial velocity.

Most mass transfer correlations are reported in terms of the Colburn  $J$  factor as a function of  $Re$

$$J_D = \frac{Sh}{Sc^{1/3} Re}$$



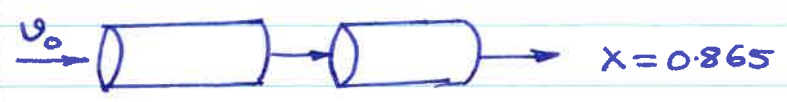
$$\phi J_D = \frac{0.765}{Re^{0.82}} + \frac{0.365}{Re^{0.386}}$$

- packed bed -

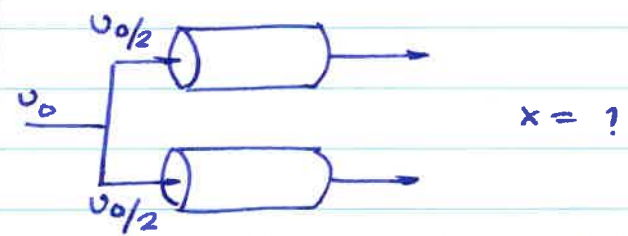
### Parameter sensitivity

$$k_c \propto \left( \frac{D_{AB}^{2/3}}{v^{1/6}} \right) \left( \frac{U^{1/2}}{d_p^{1/2}} \right)$$

### case 1 : Series vs parallel



- Series arrangement -



- parallel arrangement

- mass transfer limited reaction
- current conversion  $x = 0.865$
- Can we separate the two reactors?
- lower  $\Delta P$

→ Neglect effect of temperature.

$$\ln \left( \frac{1}{1-x} \right) = \frac{k_c a_c L}{U}$$

Arrangement ① Undivided system

$$\ln\left(\frac{1}{1-x_1}\right) = \frac{k_{c1} a_c L_1}{U_1} \quad \text{--- (a)}$$

$$x_1 = 0.865$$

arrangement ② divided system

$$\ln\left(\frac{1}{1-x_2}\right) = \frac{k_{c2} a_c L_2}{U_2} \quad \text{--- (b)}$$

$$x_2 = ?$$

Taking ratio of (b) and (a)

$$\frac{\ln\left(\frac{1}{1-x_2}\right)}{\ln\left(\frac{1}{1-x_1}\right)} = \frac{k_{c2}}{k_{c1}} \left(\frac{L_2}{L_1}\right) \frac{U_1}{U_2}$$

$$L_2 = \frac{1}{2} L_1 ; U_2 = \frac{1}{2} U_1$$

$$k_c \propto U^{1/2} \Rightarrow \frac{k_{c2}}{k_{c1}} = \left(\frac{U_2}{U_1}\right)^{1/2}$$

$$\therefore \ln\left(\frac{1}{1-x_2}\right) = \ln\left(\frac{1}{1-x_1}\right) \frac{L_2}{L_1} \left(\frac{U_1}{U_2}\right)^{1/2}$$



$$\therefore \ln\left(\frac{1}{1-x_2}\right) = \left(\ln\frac{1}{1-0.865}\right)\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)\sqrt{2} = 1.414$$

$$x_2 = 0.76$$

→ Divided arrangement has small  $\Delta P$

→ but conversion decreases from 0.865 to 0.76

Case (2) Increase temperature for increasing conversion

Rule of thumb: Reaction rate doubles every  $10^\circ\text{C}$ . The reaction rate can be increased by a factor of  $2^{10}$  by increasing temperature from  $400^\circ\text{C}$  to  $500^\circ\text{C}$

→ Is this correct?

⇒ Mass transfer controlled reaction

→ Surface reaction rates increase more rapidly with temperature compared to diffusion rates

⇒ Increasing temperature will only increase the degree to which reaction is mass transfer limited.

scenario 1:  $T = 400^\circ\text{C}$   $X = 0.865$

scenario 2:  $T = 500^\circ\text{C}$   $X = ?$

$$\frac{\ln\left(\frac{1}{1-X_2}\right)}{\ln\left(\frac{1}{1-X_1}\right)} = \frac{k_{c2}}{k_{c1}} \left(\frac{L_2}{L_1}\right) \frac{U_1}{U_2} = \frac{k_{c2}}{k_{c1}} \left(\frac{U_1}{U_2}\right)$$

$\swarrow$   
 $L_1 = L_2$

$$F_{T0} = v_{01} \left( \frac{P_{01}}{RT_{01}} \right) = v_{02} \left( \frac{P_{02}}{RT_{02}} \right)$$

If  $P$  is constant

$$\frac{v_{01}}{T_{01}} = \frac{v_{02}}{T_{02}} \quad v = A_c U$$

$$\therefore U_2 = \frac{T_2}{T_1} U_1$$

Dependence of  $k_c$  on  $T$

$$k_c \propto \left(\frac{U}{dp}\right)^{1/2} \left(\frac{D_{AB}^{2/3}}{\nu^{1/6}}\right) \quad dp: \text{const.}$$

$$\frac{k_{c2}}{k_{c1}} = \left(\frac{U_2}{U_1}\right)^{1/2} \left(\frac{D_{AB2}^{2/3}}{D_{AB1}^{2/3}}\right) \left(\frac{\nu_1^{1/6}}{\nu_2^{1/6}}\right)$$

For gas phase :

$$D_{AB} \propto T^{1.75}$$

$$\mu \propto T^{1/2}; \rho \propto T^{-1}$$

$$v = \frac{\mu}{\rho} \propto T^{3/2}$$

$$\therefore \frac{\ln\left(\frac{1}{1-x_2}\right)}{\ln\left(\frac{1}{1-x_1}\right)} = \frac{U_1}{U_2} \frac{k_{c2}}{k_{c1}} = \left(\frac{U_1}{U_2}\right)^{1/2} \left(\frac{D_{AB2}}{D_{AB1}}\right)^{2/3} \left(\frac{v_1}{v_2}\right)^{1/6}$$

$$= \left(\frac{T_1}{T_2}\right)^{1/2} \left[\left(\frac{T_2}{T_1}\right)^{1.75}\right]^{2/3} \left[\left(\frac{T_1}{T_2}\right)^{3/2}\right]^{1/6}$$

$$= \left(\frac{T_1}{T_2}\right)^{1/2} \left(\frac{T_1}{T_2}\right)^{6/7} \left(\frac{T_1}{T_2}\right)^{1/4} = \left(\frac{T_2}{T_1}\right)^{5/12}$$

For case ②  $= \left(\frac{773}{673}\right)^{5/12} = 1.059$

$$\therefore \ln\left(\frac{1}{1-x_2}\right) = 1.059 \ln\left(\frac{1}{1-0.865}\right) = 1.059(2)$$

$$\Rightarrow x = 0.88$$

→ Increasing the temperature from 400°C to 500°C increases the conversion by only 1.7%