



جمهورية العراق
وزارة التعليم العالي والبحث العلمي
جامعة بابل /كلية الهندسة
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Manufacture of Formic acid

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

(قَالُوا سُبْحَانَكَ لَا عِلْمَ لَنَا إِلَّا مَا عَلَّمْتَنَا إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ الْعَلِيمُ الْحَكِيمُ)

[سورة البقرة]

صدق الله العلي العظيم

الاهداء

إلى والدي الذي علمني كيف أفكر الفكرة الأولى .. إلى والدتي التي علمتني كيف أكتب الحرف الأول..

"إلى أولئك الاستثنائيين ، الذين علموا أن الحياة قصيرة فقرروا أن يصنعوا فيها إنجازا عظيمًا ، وعلموا أن عدد سكان الكرة

الأرضية تجاوز السبعة مليارات شخص فقرروا أن لا يكونوا مثلهم ، وعلموا أن طريق النجاح مليء بالصعاب فقرروا أن يسلكوه

لأنهم يؤمنون بأنه لو كان طريقًا سهلًا لسلكه الجميع وما كان هناك استثناء"

إلى من قدم لي الدعم السخي والكبير بتواضع جميل للخروج بهذا البحث حتى النهاية ... الأستاذة مروة داوود

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

- Formic acid (HCO_2H), also called methanoic acid, the simplest of the carboxylic acids, used in processing textiles and leather. Formic acid was first isolated from certain ants and was named after the Latin formica, meaning “ant.” which are an organic acids with a carbonyl (i.e., $\text{C} = \text{O}$) and hydroxyl (i.e., $-\text{O}-\text{H}$) functional groups. The chemical formula of formic acid is HCOOH or HCO_2H and its molecular structure is shown in Figure 1.

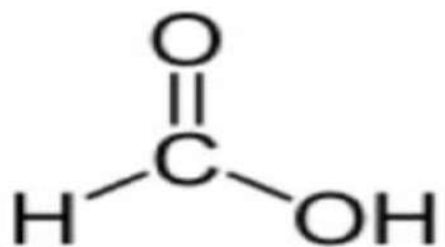


Figure 1. Molecular Structure of Formic Acid

Formic acid is found naturally in small amounts in some fruits and nectars and is a natural component of honey.

Natural occurrence

In nature, formic acid is found in most ants and in stingless bees of the genus *Oxytrigona*. The wood ants from the genus *Formica* can spray formic acid on their prey or to defend the nest. Formic acid is a naturally occurring component of the atmosphere primarily due to forest emissions.

History

Some alchemists and naturalists were aware that ant hills give off an acidic vapor as early as the 15th century. The first person to describe the isolation of this substance (by the distillation of large numbers of ants) was the English naturalist John Ray, in 1671. Ants secrete the formic acid for attack and defense purposes. Formic acid was first synthesized from hydrocyanic acid by the French chemist Joseph Gay Lussac. In 1855 formic acid was long considered a chemical compound of only minor interest in the chemical industry. In the late 1960s, however, significant quantities became

available as a byproduct of acetic acid production. It now finds increasing use as a preservative and antibacterial in livestock feed.

Properties

Formic acid is a colorless liquid having a pungent, penetrating odor at room temperature, not unlike the related acetic acid. It is miscible with water and most polar organic solvents, and is somewhat soluble in hydrocarbons. In hydrocarbons and in the vapor phase, it consists of hydrogen-bonded dimers rather than individual molecules. Owing to its tendency to hydrogen-bond, gaseous formic acid does not obey the ideal gas law. Solid formic acid, which can exist in either of two polymorphs consists of an effectively endless network of hydrogen-bonded formic acid molecules. Formic acid forms a low-boiling azeotrope with water (22.4%). Liquid formic acid tends to supercool.

Chemical properties:

- Clear, colorless liquid with a pungent odor
- Corrosive to metals and tissue
- Soluble in water with release of heat
Formic acid reacts exothermically with all bases both organic and inorganic
- Reacts with active metal to form gaseous hydrogen and metal salt.

Physical Properties

Properties	
Chemical formula	CH ₂ O ₂
Molar mass	46.03 g·mol ⁻¹
Appearance	Colourless fuming liquid
Odour	Pungent, penetrating
Density	1.220 g/ML
Melting point	8.4 °C (47.1 °F; 281.5 K)
Boiling point	100.8 °C (213.4 °F; 373.9 K)
Solubility in water	Miscible
Solubility	Miscible with ether, acetone, ethyl, glycerol, methanol, ethanol Partially soluble in benzene, toluene, xylenes
log P	−0.54
Vapor pressure	35 mmHg (20 °C) ^[2]
Acidity (pK _a)	3.77 ^[3]
Magnetic susceptibility (χ)	-19.90·10 ^{−6} cm ³ /mole
Refractive index(n _D)	1.3714 (20 °C)
Viscosity	1.57 cP at 268 °C

Uses

A major use of formic acid is as a preservative and antibacterial agent in livestock feed. It also allows fermentation to occur quickly, and at a lower temperature, reducing the loss of nutritional value. Formic acid arrests certain decay processes and causes the feed to retain its nutritive value longer, and so it is widely used to preserve winter feed for cattle. Formic acid is also significantly used in the production of leather, including tanning and in dyeing and finishing textiles because of its acidic nature. Use as a coagulant in the production of rubber. Formic acid is also used in place of mineral acids for various cleaning products. Some formate esters are artificial flavorings and perfumes. Formic acid can be used as a fuel cell (it can be used directly in formic acid fuel cells and indirectly in hydrogen fuel cells).

The many industrial uses of formic acid include the following:

- A reducing and decalcifying agent in dyeing and finishing of textiles.
- An agent for plumping and dehairing hides in leather tanning.
- A solution for electroplating.
- A rubber coagulating agent in the creation of latex rubber and in regenerating old rubber

Historic Use:

Historically, formic acid has been used as an antibacterial agent and preservative for livestock feed. Formic acid is applied to hay in order to delay or halt decay, thereby allowing the feed a longer usable period. As a fumigant, formic acid vapors are released inside of beehives to kill invasive mite species.

CHAPTER 2

production

Production

The installed formic acid processes can be classified in four groups

1-Acidolysis of Formate salts.

2- oxidation of hydrocarbons

3-hydrolysis of formamide.

4-methyl formate hydrolysis

•Acidolysis of Formate salts

Acidolysis of formate salts is the oldest industrial process for producing formic acid. For instance, aldolization reactions carried out in the presence of strong alkali yield formates as stoichiometric co products. The reaction between the formate salts and mineral acids such as sulphuric acid produces formic acid and a salt. The reaction is technically straightforward, but the inevitable production of the salt is a clear disadvantage of this route.

•Oxidation of Hydrocarbons:

For many years, a large amount of formic acid utilized is obtained as a by-product of acetic acid produced by the oxidation of hydrocarbons. This process is complex, and the amount of formic acid produced is very small compared to the effort devoted to the process.

•Hydrolysis of Formamide:

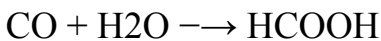
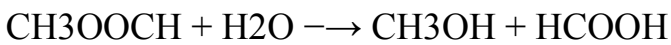
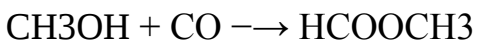
The production of formic acid by hydrolysis of Formamide played a significant role. The disadvantages of the Formamide route are the consumption of ammonia and sulphuric acid in other processes, along with the unavoidable coproduction of ammonium sulphate. Thus, the economic and environmental drawbacks of the first three processes led to the development of a process specifically dedicated to the production of formic acid, with no undesirable by-product.

Methyl Formate Hydrolysis

Huang et al. proposed a novel process by integrating a reactor and a conventional distillation column in the Methyl Formate hydrolysis based process into a single reactive distillation unit (RD).

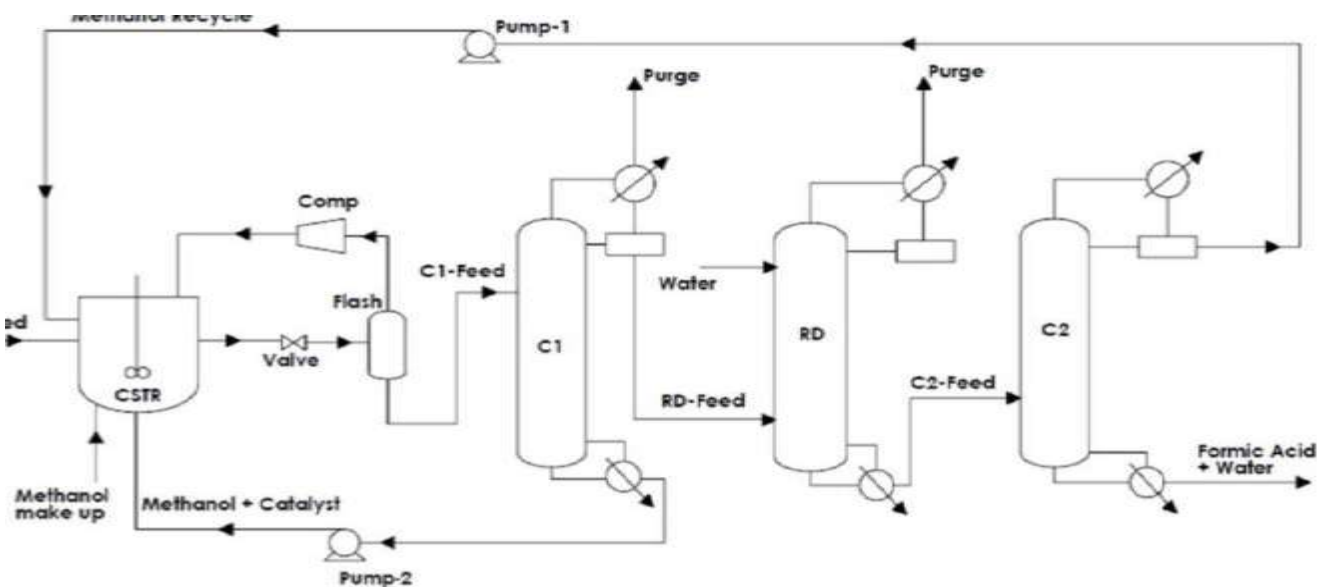
Synthesis of formic acid by hydrolysis of methyl formate is based on a two-stage Process:

in the first stage, methanol is carbonylated with carbon monoxide; in the second stage, methyl formate is hydrolyzed to formic acid and methanol. The methanol is returned to the first stage:



The main advantages of integrating the reactor and distillation are:

- The yield and selectivity are improved.
- Energy requirements decreases.
- Hot spots are avoided.



Process flow sheet for Huang's patented process.

CHAPTER 3

MATERI BALANCE

Basis: 100 Kmol/hr. of Carbon Monoxide (CO) as fresh feed.

Assumptions: For the ease of calculations and visualization of the theoretical concepts, some assumptions need to be made. For the process studied in this report, the following assumptions were made based on the references referred and for simplification in calculations:

A-Ratio of CO: MEOH entering into the CSTR is 1:6.6

B-CO is the Limiting Reactant;

C-Conversion of CO in the reactor outlet is 95%;

D-90% of CO is flashed out;

e-90% of Methanol recovered as residue in C1 column and 75% of CO as purge;

f-Complete removal of CO in Reactive Distillation column (RD) as purge;

g-Water is an input to the RD with a flow-rate equal to the flow-rate of Methyl Formate (MF)

h-Conversion of water in RD is 58%.

Stoichiometric reactions:

(CSTR) ... $\text{CO} + \text{CH}_3\text{OH} \leftrightarrow \text{HCOOCH}_3$

(RD) ... $\text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow \text{CH}_2\text{O}_2 + \text{CH}_3\text{OH} + \gamma \text{HCOO}$

Steady-State Material Balance across various Unit Processes/Operations:

1-CSTR

Overall material Balance for CSTR:

$$M1 + M2 + M10 + M6 + M14 = M3$$

The mass flow rate of M1 is equal to 2800 kg/hr.

$$M1 + M6 = 2926 \text{ kg/hr}$$

$$M2 + M6 + M14 = (M1 + M6) \cdot 6.57 = 19223.82 \text{ kg/hr}$$

$$\text{So, } M3 = 19223.82 + 2926 = 22149.82 \text{ kg/hr}$$

M3 consists of 75% of MEOH, therefore,
MEOH in S3 = 22149.82*0.75 = 16612.365 kg/hr
CO in S3 as per assumption (c) = 2800*0.05 = 140 kg/hr
MF in S3 = 22149.82 - 16612.365 – 140 = 5397.45 kg/hr.

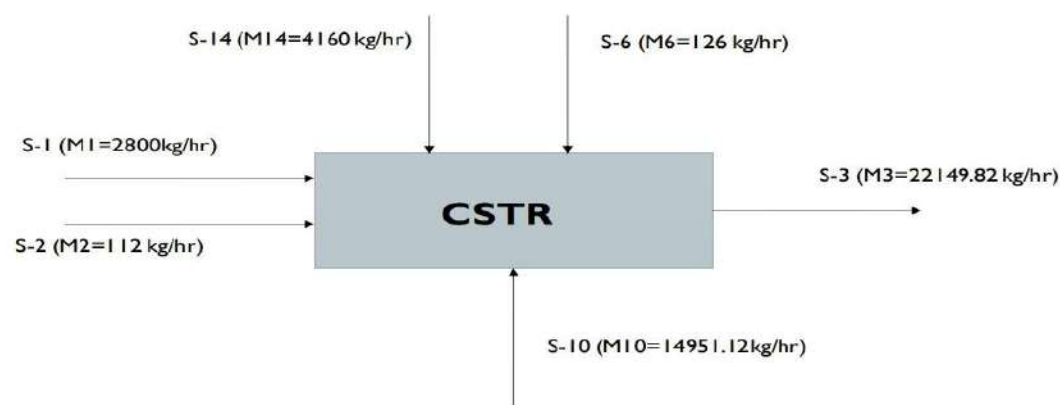


Fig. : Mass balance over CSTR

CSTR					
inlet stream			Outlet stream		
Stream no.	Flow rate(kg/hr)	Composition	Stream no.	Flow rate(kg/hr)	Composition
S-1	2800	100% CO	S-3	22149.82	0.6% CO 24.4% MF 75% MEOH
S-2	112	100% MEOH			
S-6	126	100% CO			
S-10	14951.92	100% MEOH			
S-14	4160	100% MEOH			

2-Flash Column:

Material Balance for Flash:

$$M3 = M5 + M7$$

CSTR outlet has 5% of unreacted CO (140 kg/hr), 90% of which is flashed out from top. $M5 = 140 \times 0.9 = 126$ kg/hr

$M7 = M3 - M5 = 22023.82$ kg/hr with individual compositions of CO = 14 kg/hr

MF = 5397.45 kg/hr and

MEOH = 16612 kg/hr.

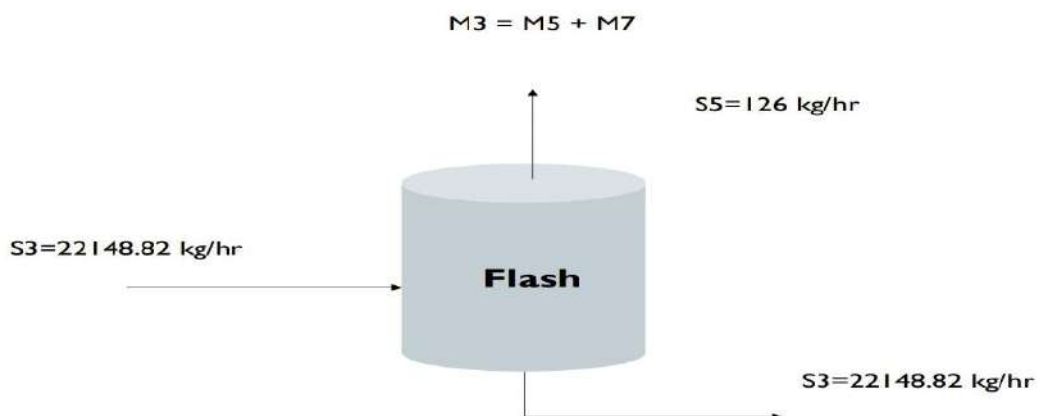


Fig. : Mass balance over Flash

Flash					
inlet stream			Outlet stream		
Stream no.	Flow rate(kg/hr)	Compo sition	Stream no.	Flow rate(kg/hr)	Compo sition
			S5	126	100% CO
S3	22149.82	0.6% CO 24.4% MF 75% MEOH	S7	22023.82	0.06% CO 24.5 % MF 75.4% MEOH

3-Distillation column (C1)

CO, MF and Methanol enter C1 as feed of which CO is separated as purge, Methanol (obtained as residue from C1) is sent back to the CSTR as a recycle and the distillate (MF) is further sent to the RD column.

Material Balance for C1:

$$M7 = M8 + M9 + M10$$

$$M8 = 14 * 0.75 = 10.5 \text{ kg/hr}$$

$$M10 = 16612.365 * 0.9 = 14951.12 \text{ kg/hr}$$

Material Balance for C1:

$$M7 = M8 + M9 + M10$$

$$M8 = 14 * 0.75 = 10.5 \text{ kg/hr}$$

$$M10 = 16612.365 * 0.9 = 14951.12 \text{ kg/hr}$$

$$M9 = M7 - M8 - M10 = 22023.82 - 10.5 - 14951.12 = 7620.2 \text{ kg/hr.}$$

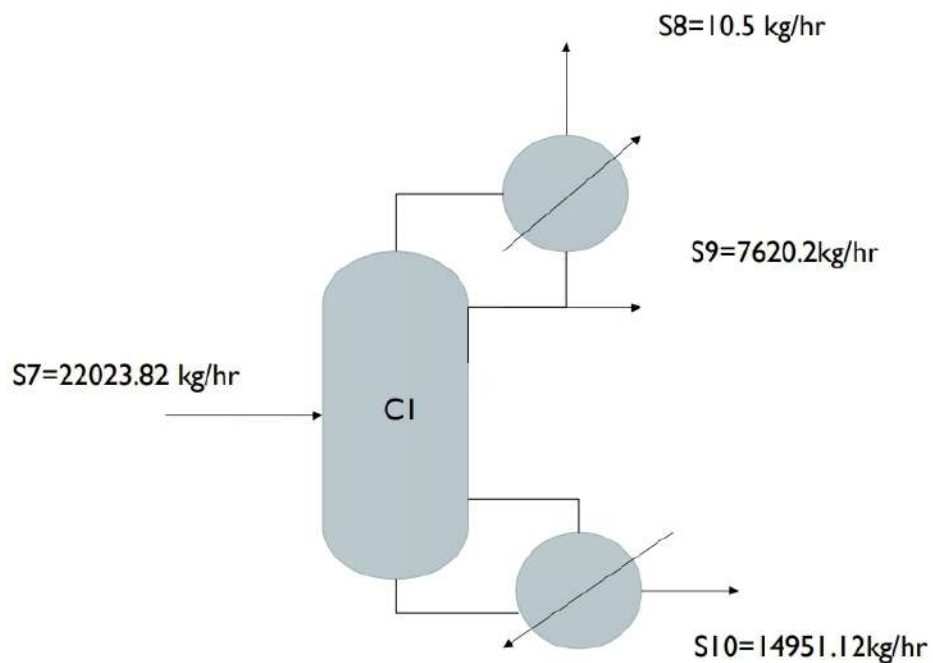
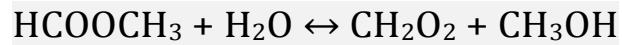


Fig. : Mass balance over CI

Distillation column (CI)					
inlet stream			Outlet stream		
Stream no.	Flow rate(kg/hr)	Compo sition	Stream no.	Flow rate(kg/h r)	Composi tion
S7	22023.82	0.06% CO 24.5 % MF 75.4% MEOH	S8	10.5	100% CO
			S9	7602.2	0.046% Co 78% MF 22%MEO H
			S10	.1495112	100% MEOH

4-Reactive Distillation column (RD)

The distillate from C1 consisting MF and fresh water are the feeds to RD at stages 33 and 2 respectively as obtained from the references used. The following reaction occurs in the RD column:



CO (whatever amount remains) is removed out as purge and the residue which consists of FA, MF and water is fed into the C2 column.

Material Balance for RD:

$$M_9 + M_{11} = M_{12} + M_{13}$$

$$M_{12} = 3.5 \text{ kg/hr}$$

$$M_{13} = M_9 - M_{11} - M_{12} = 7062.2 - 1602 - 3.5 = 8678.7 \text{ kg/hr.}$$

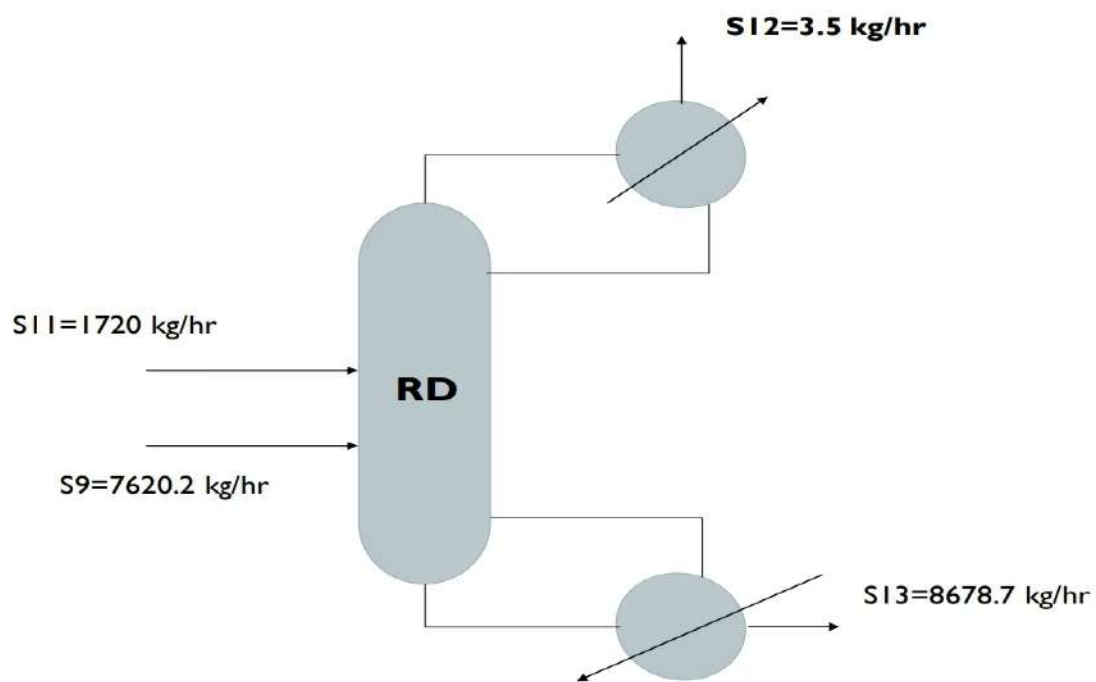


Fig. : Mass balance over RD

Reactive Distillation column (RD)					
inlet stream			Outlet stream		
Stream no.	Flow rate(kg/hr)	Compositi on	Stream no.	Flow rate(kg/h r)	Composi tion
S11	1620	100% H2O	S12	3.5	100% CO
S9	7602.2	0.046% Co 78% MF 22%MEOH	S13	8678.7	48% MEOH 44.2% FA 7.8% H2O

5-Distillation column (C2):

Material Balance for C2 :

$$M13 = M14 + M15$$

$$(\text{Sum of CO flow rates into the CSTR}) \times (6.6) = 19223.82 \text{ kg/hr}$$

$$M14 = 19223.82 - M10 - M2 = 4160.7 \text{ kg/hr}$$

$$M14 = 4160.7 \text{ kg/hr}$$

$$M15 = M13 - M14 = 8678.7 - 4160.7 = 4518 \text{ kg/hr}$$

The individual compositions of FA and water are 3840.3 kg/hr and 677.7 kg/hr respectively.

FA has 85% mass purity

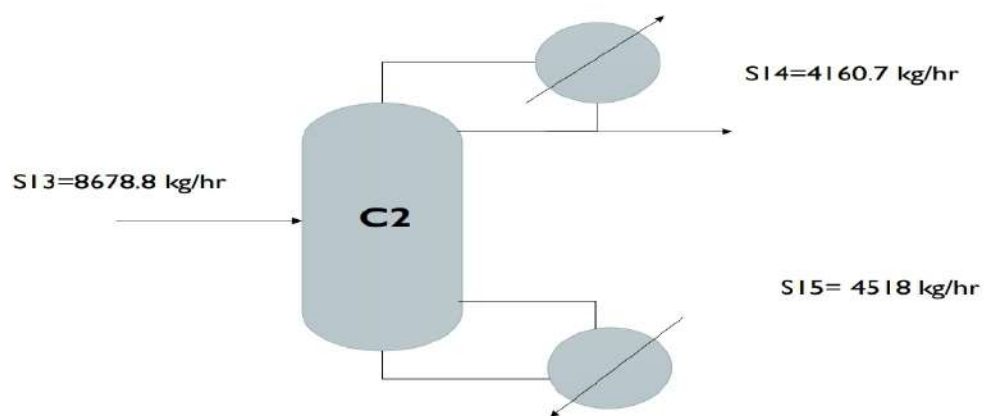


Fig : Mass balance over C2

Distillation column (C2)					
inlet stream			Outlet stream		
Stream no.	Flow rate(kg/hr)	Composition	Stream no.	Flow rate(kg/hr)	Composition
S13	8678.7	48% MEOH 44.2% FA 7.8% H2O	S14	4160.7	100% MEOH
			S15	4518	85% FA 15 % H2O

6-Overall mass balance:

The overall mass balance equation is:

$$M1 + M2 + M11 = M8 + M12 + M15$$

$$M1 + M2 + M11 = 2800 + 112 + 1620 = 4532 \text{ kg/hr}$$

$$M8 + M12 + M15 = 10.5 + 3.5 + 4518 = 4532 \text{ kg/hr}$$

The overall mass balance equation is:

$$M1 + M2 + M11 = M8 + M12 + M15$$

inlet stream			Outlet stream		
Stream no.	Flow rate(kg/hr)	Composition	Stream no.	Flow rate(kg/hr)	Composition
S1	2800	100% CO	S12	3.5	100% CO
S2	112	100% MEOH	S15	4518	85% FA 15 % H2O
S11	1620	100% H2O	S8	10.5	100% CO

CHAPTER4

ENERGY BALANCE

Steady-State Energy Balance across various Unit Processes/Operations:

The energy balance across various process equipments has been performed as follows:

1. CSTR:

Energy balance equation for CSTR:

$$(M1 * C_{P1} * T_1 + M2 * C_{P2} * T_2 + M6 * C_{P6} * T_6 + M10 * C_{P10} * T_{10} + M14 * C_{P14} * T_{14} + Q) = M3 * C_{P3} * T_3$$

$$-2160.4 - 233.33 - 232.07 - 25513 - 6540.8 - 997.850 \text{ kW} = -35676 \text{ Kw}$$

$$\Delta H = Q$$

$$\Delta H = M \int_{T_1}^{T_2} C_P dT$$

$$= [A(T_2 - T_1) + B/2 (T_2 - T_1)^2 + C/3 (T_2 - T_1)^3 + D/4 (T_2 - T_1)^4]$$

—FROM TABLE OF LIQUID GAS PHASE

$$= \int_{298.15}^{303.2} C_{P1} dT = [-19.312(303.2 - 298.15) + 2.5072/2 (303.2 - 298.15)^2 - 2.8970 \times 10^{-2}/3 (303.2 - 298.15)^3 + 1.2745 \times 10^{-4}/4 (303.2 - 298.15)^4] = 0.0025443$$

$$\Delta H_1 = M_1 C_{P1} \Delta T_1 = 2800 * 0.0025443 * 303.2 = -2158 \text{ KW}$$

$$\int_{298.15}^{303.2} C_{P2} dT = [40(303.2 - 298.15) + 2.5072/2 (303.2 - 298.15)^2 - 1.029 \times 10^{-4}/3 (303.2 - 298.15)^3 + 1.4598 \times 10^{-6}/4 (303.2 - 298.15)^4] = 0.006802 \text{ KJ/KG.K}$$

$$\Delta H_2 = M_2 C_{P2} \Delta T_2 = 112 * 0.006802 * 303.2 = -233.1 \text{ KW}$$

$$\int_{298.15}^{303.2} C_{P3} dT = X_1.C_{P1} + X_2.C_{P2} +$$

$$X_3.C_{P3} = 0.06 * 0.002488 + 0.24 * 0.0024 + 0.75 * 0.006272 = 0.004776 \text{ KJ/KG.K}$$

$$\Delta H_3 = M_3 C_{P3} \Delta T_3 = 22140.82 * 0.004776 * 349 = -35676 \text{ KW}$$

Stream no.	Mass flow Kg/h	Cp(kJ/kg.k)	Q in (kW)
S1	2800	0.002544	2160.4
S2	112	0.006804	233.33
S3	22149.82	0.004776	35676
S6	126	0.003174	232.07
S10	14951.92	0.004526	25513
S14	4160	0.041052	6540.8

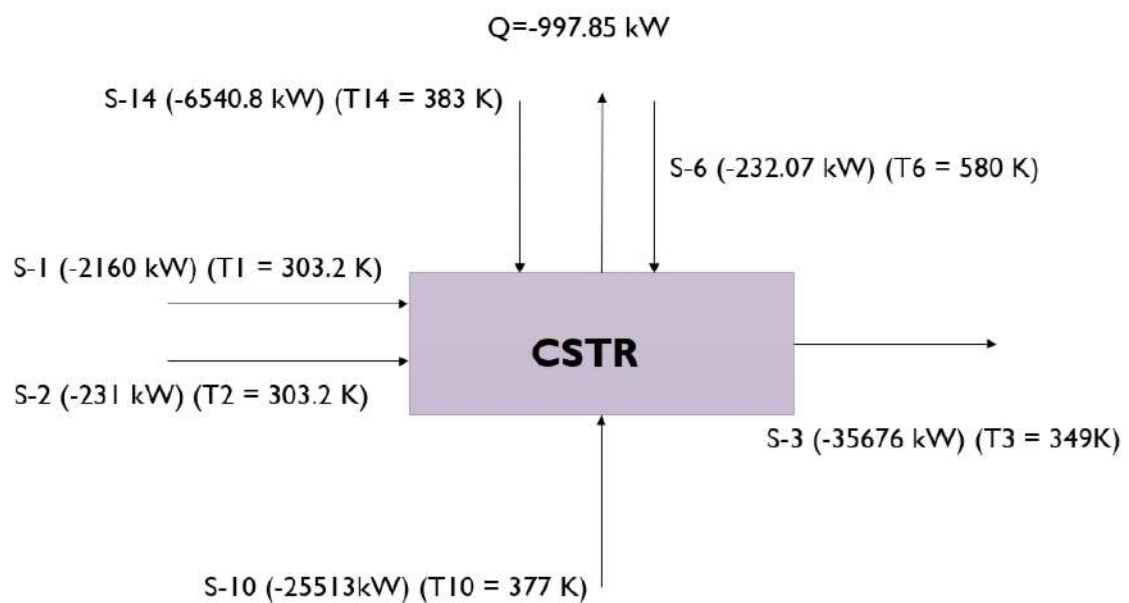


Fig. : Energy balance over CSTR

2-Flash:

Energy balance for Flash was done using the following equation:

$$M3 * C_{P3} * T_3 + N_h = M5 * C_{P5} * T_5 + M7 * C_{P7} * T_7$$

$$(-35676 + 22.739) \text{ kW} = (-244.1 - 35409) \text{ kW}$$

Stream no.	Mass flow Kg/h	C _p (kJ/kg.k)	Q in (kW)
S3	22149.82	0.004615	35676
S5	126	0.005681	244.1
S7	22023.82	0.004724	35409

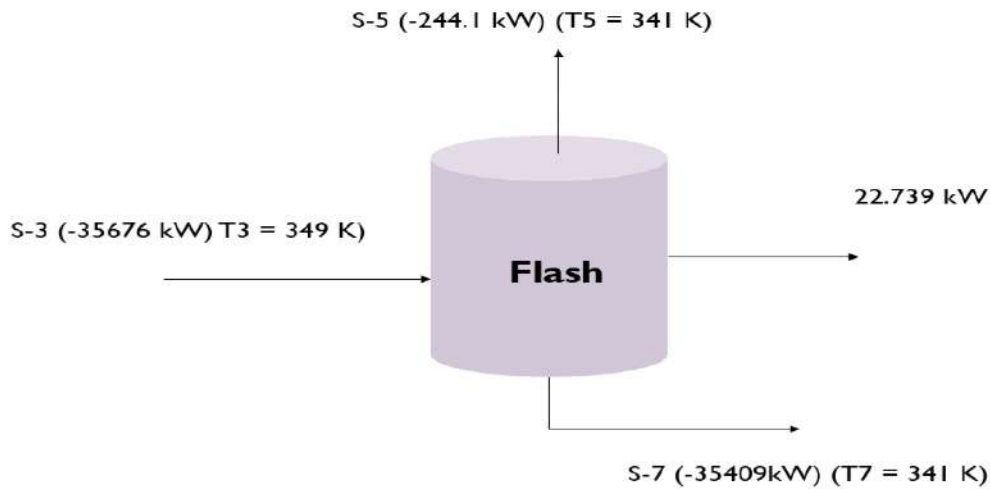


Fig. : Energy balance over Flash

3-Distillation column (C1)

For distillation columns, our primary objective is to obtain the condenser and re-boiler duties respectively. For the same, the mass flow rates, the phase change and other criteria have to be accounted.

Energy balance for C1 is given by:

$$M7 * C_{P7} * T_7 + Q_C + Q_R = M8 * C_{P8} * T_8 + M9 * C_{P9} * T_9 + M10 * C_{P10} * T_{10}$$

$$\text{Condenser duty } (Q_C) = G * \Delta H_{\text{Cond}} = -1562.22 \text{ kW}$$

Where G = vapor flow in column = (R+1) D Kmol/hr

$$\text{Re-boiler duty } (Q_R) = L * \Delta H_{\text{Vap}} + L * C_P * \Delta T =$$

1745.35 kW Where L = liquid flow rate in bottom

section = (RD + F) Kmol/hr (R = Reflux ratio = 0.63,

D = Distillate rate, F = feed rate)

$$(-35409 - 1562.22 + 1745.35) = (-31.168 - 9369.8 - 25825.0) \text{ kW}$$

Stream no.	Mass flow Kg/h	Cp(kJ/kg.k)	Q in (kW)
S7	22023.82	0.004618	35409
S8	10.5	0.009732	31.168
S9	7620.2	0.00389	9369.8
S10	14951.12	0.004458	25825.0

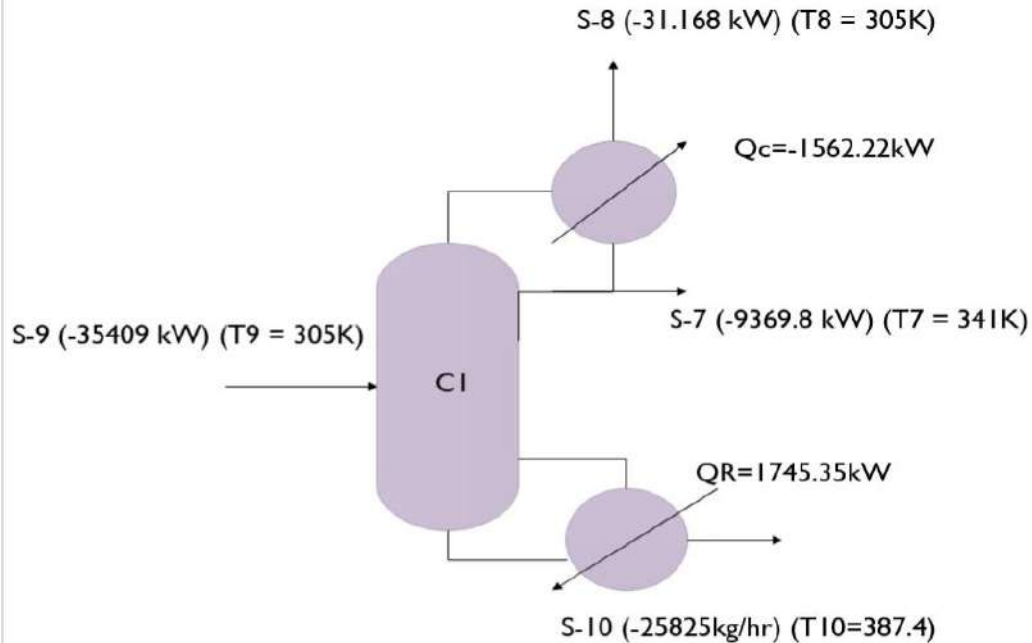


Fig. 10: Energy balance over

4-Reactive Distillation column (RD):

Energy balance for RD:

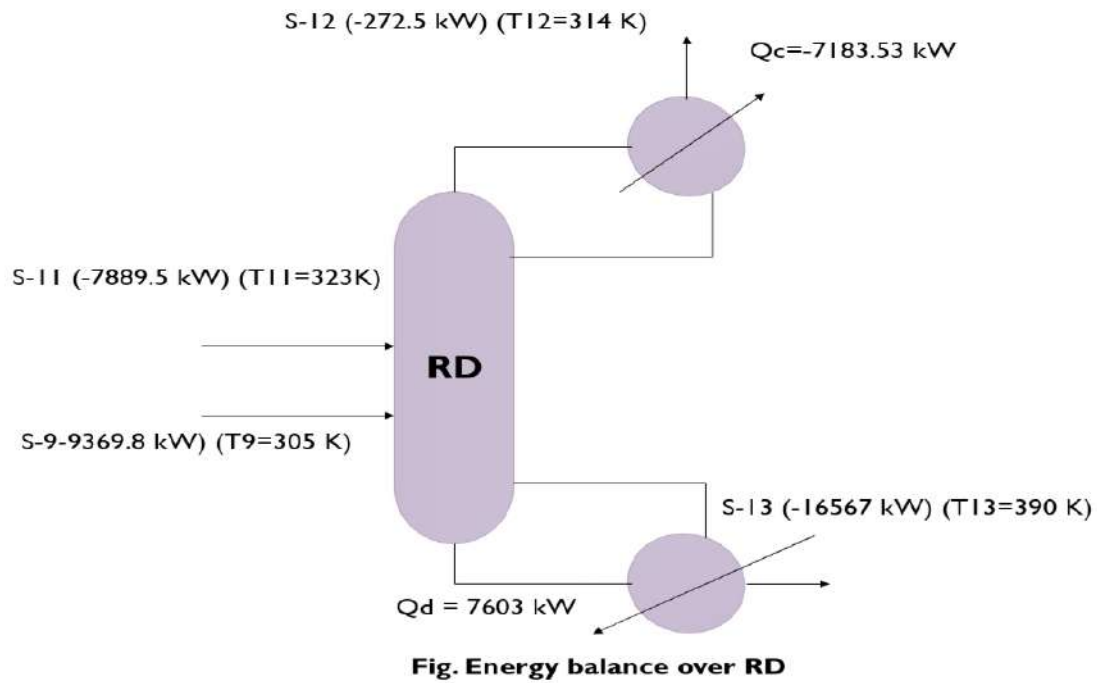
$$M_9 * C_{P9} * T_9 + M_{11} * C_{P11} * T_{11} + Q_C + Q_R = M_{12} * C_{P12} * T_{12} + M_{13} * C_{P13} * T_{13}$$

Condenser duty (Q_C) = -7183.53 kW

Re-boiler duty (Q_R) = 7603.01 kW

$$(-9369.8 - 7889.5 - 7183.83 + 7603.01) \text{ kW} = (-272.5 - 16567) \text{ kW}$$

Stream no.	Mass flow Kg/h	Cp(kJ/kg.k)	Q in (kW)
S9	7620.2	0.00389	9369.8
S11	1602	0.00524	7889.5
S12	3.5	0.002479	272.5
S13	8678.7	0.004894	16567



5-Distillation column (C2):

Energy balance for C2:

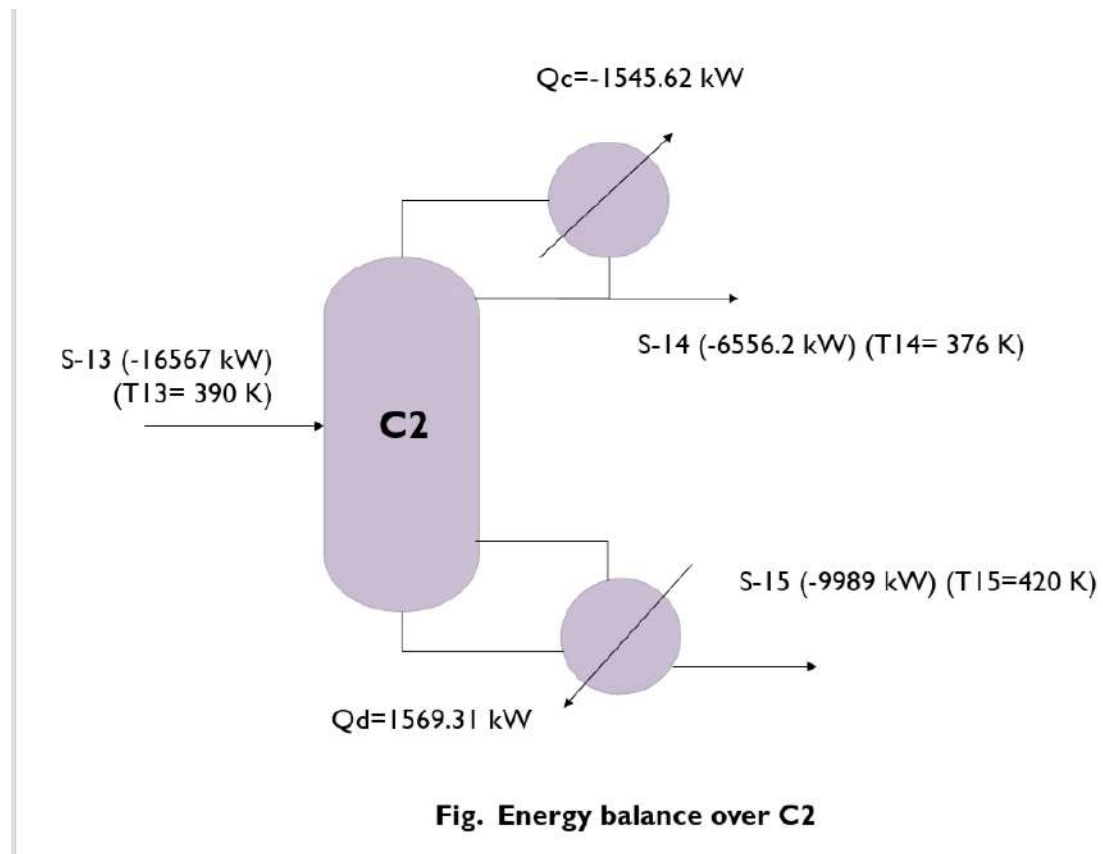
$$M7 * C_{P7} * T_7 + Q_C + Q_R = M8 * C_{P8} * T_8 + M9 * C_{P9} * T_9 + M10 * C_{P10} * T_{10}$$

Condenser duty (Q_C) = -1545.62 kW

Re-boiler duty (Q_R) = 1569.31 kW

$$(-16567-1545.62+1569.31) \text{ kW} = (-6556.2-9977) \text{ kW}$$

Stream no.	Mass flow Kg/h	Cp(kJ/kg.k)	Q in (kW)
S13	8678.7	0.004894	16567
S14	4160.7	0.00419	6556.2
S15	4518	0.005264	9989



6-Overall energy balance:

Energy balance equation is:

$$M1 * C_{P1} * T_1 + M2 * C_{P2} * T_{11} + M11 * C_{P11} * T_{11} = M12 * C_{P12} * T_{12} + M8 * C_{P8} * T_8 + M15 * C_{P15} * T_{15}$$

$$(-2160-230.33-7889.5) \text{ kW} = 10280 \text{ kW}$$

$$(-31.16-272.5-9977) \text{ kW}=10280 \text{ kW}$$

CHAPTER 5

DESIGN CALCULATIONS

For distillation column (C2) the above mentioned procedure can be followed to obtain design parameters

1-Flow rates and stages

Molecular weight of feed = $(0.517 \times 32) + (0.332 \times 46) + (0.15 \times 18) = 34.516$ moles Feed = $8678.8 / 34.516 = 251.4$ Kmol/h

Top product D = 130.02 Kmol/h

Vapour rate V = D (1+R) = 217.7 Kmol/h

As mass balance, give bottom product is 121.2 Kmol/hr

L' = Liquid rate below feed = RD+F = 381.82 Kmol/h

V' = Vapour rate below feed = L' -B = 260.6 Kmol/hr

Column specifications are:

Number of stages = 12 Feed entry stage = 8 Reflux ratio = 0.67

Top compositions – 97% methanol and 3% water Bottom compositions – 85% Formic acid and 15% water

2-PHYSICAL

PROPERTIES Top:

97% methanol and 3% water

Temperature – 378K, pressure – 4 atm,

Average mol.wt = $0.97(32) + 0.03(18) = 31.58$ kg/mole.

$\rho_V = 4.07 \text{ kg/m}^3$ and $\rho_L = 816 \text{ kg/m}^3$

Surface tension $\sigma = 1.56 \times 10^{-2} \text{ N/m}$

Bottom:

85% Formic acid and 15% water

Temperature – 432K, pressure – 4 atm,

Average mol.wt = $0.85(46) + 0.15(18) = 41.8$ kg/mole

$\rho_v = 4.07 \text{ kg/m}^3$ and $\rho_l = 816 \text{ kg/m}^3$

Surface tension $\sigma = 3.52 \times 10^{-2} \text{ N/m}$

3-Column diameter

V = Vapour rate = $D(1+R) = 217.7 \text{ Kmol/hr}$

L = Top section liquid flow rate = 87.1 Kmol/hr

V' = Vapour rate below feed = 260.6 Kmol/hr

L' = Liquid rate below feed = 381.82 Kmol/hr

$$F_{lv}(top) = \frac{L}{V} \left(\frac{\rho_v}{\rho_l} \right)^{0.5} = \frac{87.1}{217.7} \left(\frac{4.07}{816} \right)^{0.5} = 0.0282$$

$$F_{lv}(bottom) = \frac{L}{V} \left(\frac{\rho_v}{\rho_l} \right)^{0.5} = \frac{381.82}{260.6} \left(\frac{4.72}{887.8} \right)^{0.5} = 0.106$$

Assuming plate spacing of 0.5 m from the figure 13 we have

$K_1(top) = 9 \times 10^{-2}$ and $K_1(bottom) = 8 \times 10^{-2}$

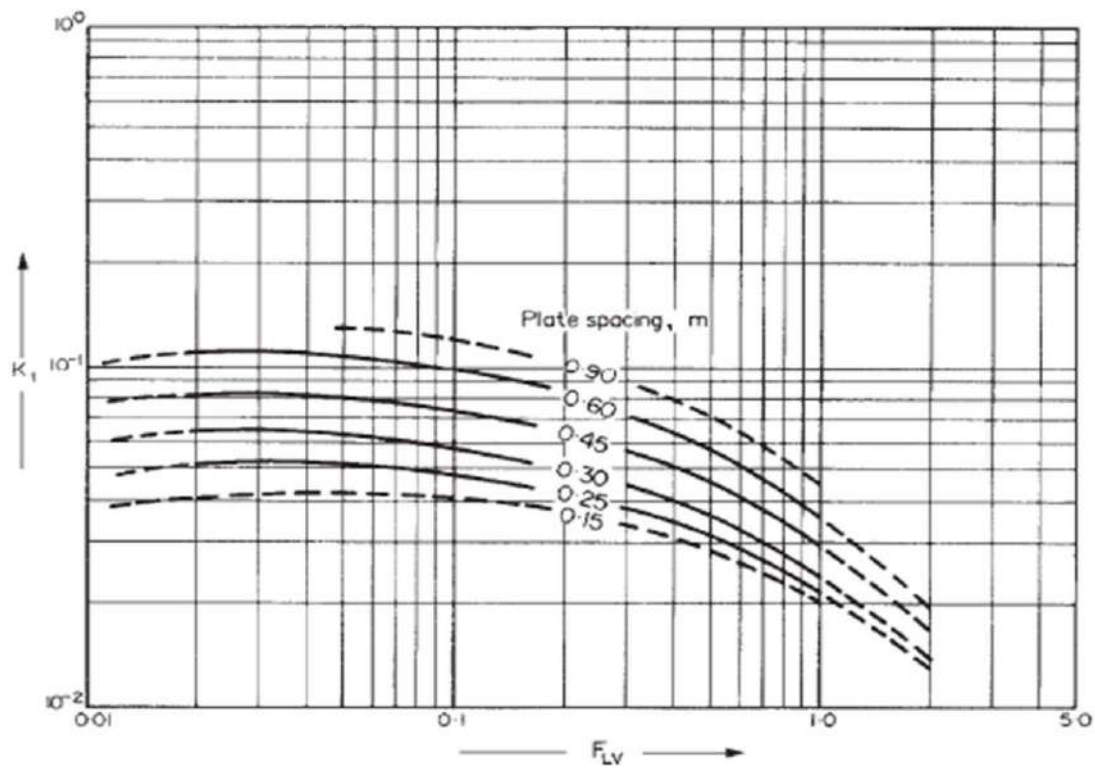


Fig.13 flooding velocity sieve plates

flooding velocity

$$U_f(\text{top}) = k_1 * (G/20) * (\rho_l - \rho_v / \rho_v)^{0.5} = 9 * 10^{-2} * (15.6/20)^{0.5} * (816 - 4.07/4.07)^{0.5} = 1.209 \text{ M/S}$$

$$U_f(\text{BOT}) = k_1 * (G/20) * (\rho_l - \rho_v / \rho_v)^{0.5} = 8 * 10^{-2} * (35.2/20)^{0.5} * (887.8 - 4.7/4.07)^{0.5} = 1.209 \text{ M/S}$$

By considering 85% flooding

$$U_n(\text{top}) = 0.85 * 1.209 = 1.027 \text{ N/s}$$

$$U_n(\text{bottom}) = 0.85 * 1.217 = 1.034 \text{ N/s}$$

Max volumetric flow rate

$$Q_{\text{max}}(\text{top}) = V * M / \rho_v = 217 * 31.58 / 4.07 * 3600 = 0.46 \text{ m/s}$$

$$Q_{\text{max}}(\text{BOT}) = V * M / \rho_v = 260.6 * 41.8 / 4.72 * 3600 = 0.64 \text{ m/s}$$

Net area

$$\text{Area (top)} = Q_{\max}/U_n = 0.46/1.027 = 0.447 \text{ m}^2$$

$$\text{Area (bot)} = Q_{\max}/U_n = 0.64/1.034 = 0.618 \text{ m}^2$$

As first trial, take down comer area as 12 per cent of total.

$$\text{Area (top)} = 0.447/0.88 = 0.51 \text{ m}^2$$

$$\text{Area (bot)} = 0.618/0.88 = 0.70 \text{ m}^2$$

Column diameter

$$\text{DC(TOP)} = \sqrt{4 \cdot \text{area} / \pi} = \sqrt{4 \cdot 0.51 / \pi} = 0.806 \text{ m}$$

$$\text{DC(bot)} = \sqrt{4 \cdot \text{area} / \pi} = \sqrt{4 \cdot 0.70 / \pi} = 0.94 \text{ m}$$

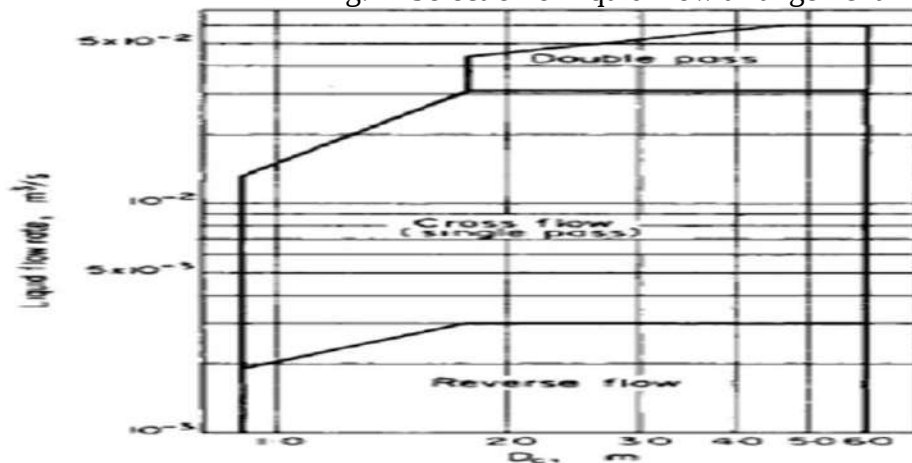
We are using the higher value of the tower diameter for the uniformity between sections, if the difference is not greater than 20%. In this case, the bottom diameter is used both in top and bottom sections. Area higher than the design area (here top section) can be taken care by reducing the perforated area. Hence, bottom diameter is used for further calculations.

4-Liquid flow rate

$$\text{Max volumetric flow rate} = L' \cdot M / \rho_i = 381.2 \cdot 41.8 = 887.8 \cdot 3600 = 4.99 \cdot 10^{-3} \text{ m}^3/\text{s}$$

from Fig.14 single pass can be used

Fig.14 Selection of liquid-flow arrangement



5-Provisional plate design

Column diameter = $D_c = 0.94\text{m}$

Area of column = $A_c = \pi r^2 = 0.785 * 0.94 = 0.7379\text{N}^2$

Down comer area = $A_d = 0.12 * 0.7379 = 0.0885\text{N}^2$

Net area = $A_n = A_c - A_d = 0.6493\text{N}^2$ Active area = $A_a = A_c - 2 * A_d = 0.5609\text{N}^2$

Hole area A_h can be taken as 10% of active area, so $A_h = 0.05609\text{N}^2$

From Fig.15 weir length to column diameter ratio is $L_w/D_c = 0.75$

So Weir length = $0.75 * 0.94 = 0.71\text{m}$

Take weir height $h_w = 50\text{ mm}$

Hole diameter = 5 mm Plate

thickness = 5 mm

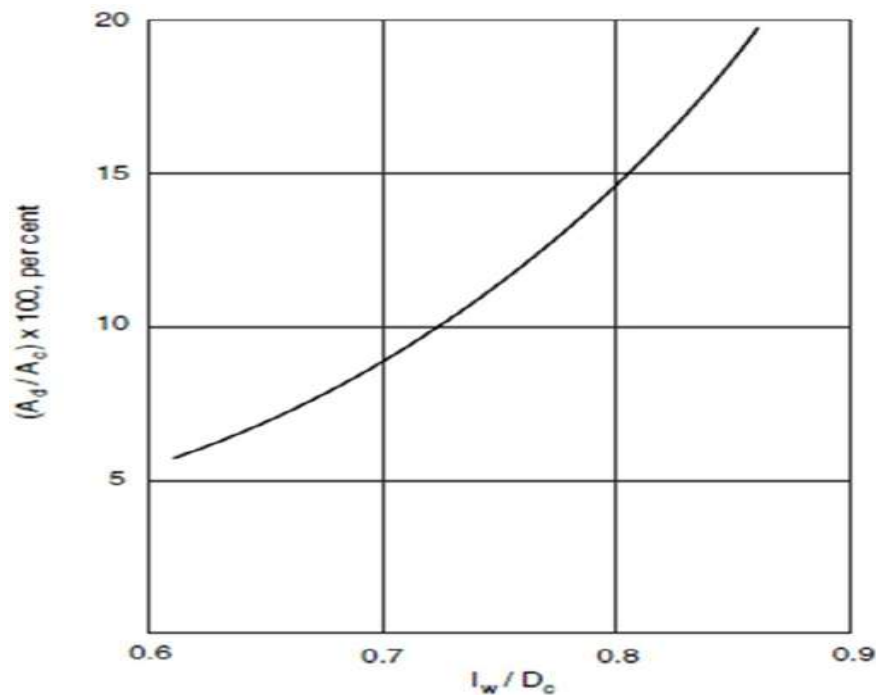


Fig.15 Relation between down comer area and weir length

6-Weeping

Max liquid rate= $381.2 \times 41.8 / 3600 = 4.43 \text{ kg/s}$

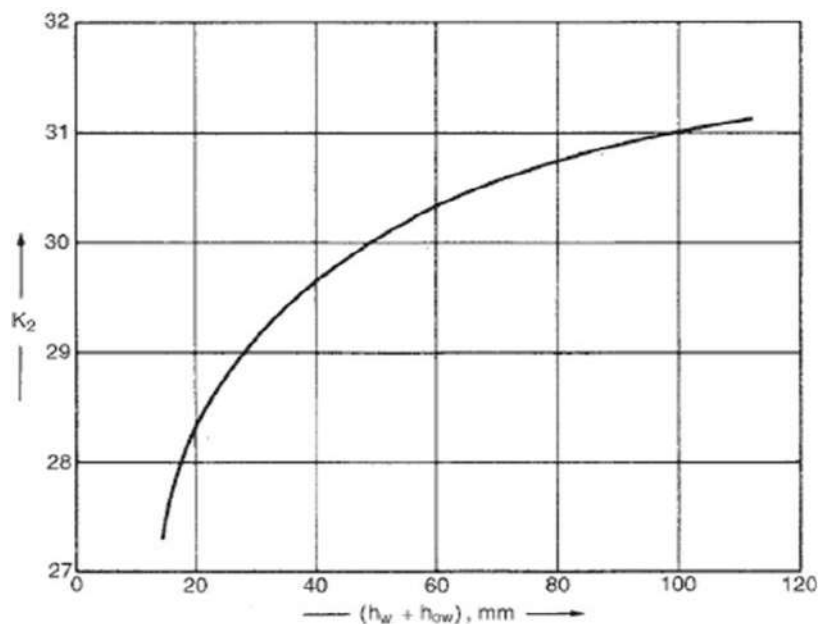
Max liquid rate at 70% turn down = $0.7 \times 4.43 = 3.101 \text{ kg/s}$ —

Max weir crest = $h_{ow} = 750 \left(\frac{L_w}{\rho l} \right)^{2/3} = 27.068 \text{ mm}$

Min weir crest = $h_{ow} = 750 \left(\frac{L_w}{\rho l} \right)^{2/3} = 21.305 \text{ mm}$

Where L_w = liquid flow rate

At minimum rate $h_w + h_{ow} = 50 + 21.305 = 71.305 \text{ mm}$



So from Fig.16 $K_2 = 30.8$ so

$U_{h(\min)} = k_2 - 0.9 \times (25.4 - d_h) / \rho_v^{0.5} = 30.8 - 0.9 \times (25.4 - 5) / 4.72^{0.5} = 5.72 \text{ m/s}$

Actual minimum vapour velocity = minimum vapour

rate/Ah = $0.7 \times 0.64 / 0.05609 = 7.98 \text{ m/s}$

So minimum operating rate is above weep point

7-Downcomer liquid back up

Take $h_{ap} = h_w - 10 = 40 \text{ mm}$

Area under apron = $A_{ap} = h_{ap} * l_w = 0.04 * 0.71 = 0.0284 \text{ m}^2$

So A_{ap} is less than ($A_d = 0.0886$) so h_{dc} can be calculated

$$h_{dc} = 166(l_w / \rho l A_m)^2 = 166(4.43 / 887.8 * 0.0284) = 5.12 \text{ mm}$$

Where L_{wd} = liquid flow in down comer

A_M = smaller value of A_{ap} and A_d

Back up in down comer $h_b = h_w + h_{ow} + h_{dc} + h_t$

$$= 50 + 27 + 141.07 + 5.12 = 223.227 \text{ mm} = 0.223 \text{ m}$$

Where 0.22 is less than average of plate spacing and weir height

(0.275 m) Therefore, it is acceptable.

$$\text{Residence time } tr = A_d * h_{bc} * \rho l / L_{wd} = 0.0885 * 887.8 * 0.22 / 4.43 = 3.9 \text{ s}$$

Which is greater than 3s so it is acceptable

8-Check entrainment

$$U_v = Q_{MAX} / A_n = 0.64 / 0.6493 = 0.98 \text{ m/s}$$

$$\% \text{ Flooding} = U_v / U_F = 0.98 / 1.217 * 100 = 80.52 \%$$

As $F_{Lv} = 0.106$ From Fig.17 we can have $\Psi = 0.012$

As $\Psi = 0.012$ satisfied as it to be below 0.1

As the percent flooding is well below the design figure of 85%, the column diameter can be reduced, but this would increase the pressure drop.

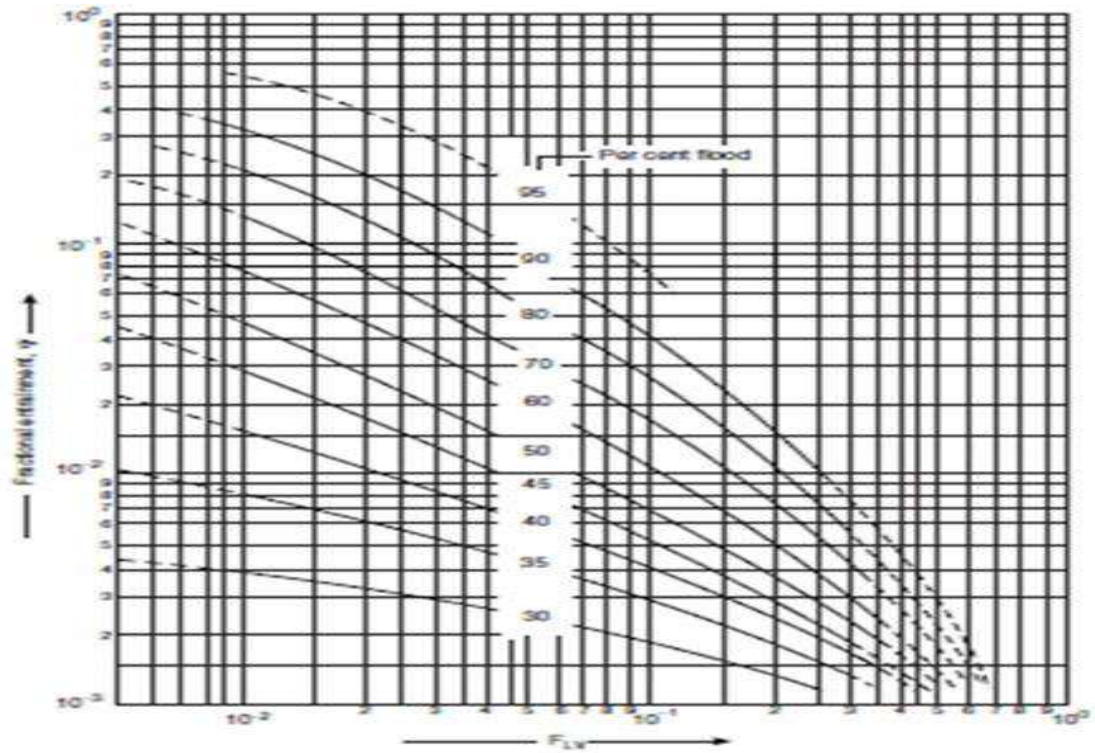


Fig.17 Entrainment correlation for sieve plates

9-Trail layout

Use cartridge-type construction. Allow 50 mm imperforated strip around plate edge; 50 mm wide calming zone

Perforated area

As $l_w/dc = 0.71/0.94 = 0.755$ from fig.18

We have $\theta_c = 100^\circ$

Angle subtended by the edge of the plate = $180 - 100 = 80^\circ$

Mean length of the imperforated edge strip = $(0.94 -$

$0.05) * 3.14 * 80 / 180 = 1.24\text{m}$

Area of imperforated edge strip = $1.24 \times 0.05 = 0.062 \text{ N}^2$

Max length of calming zone is = weir length + width of imperforated strip

= $0.71 + 0.05 = 0.76 \text{ m}$

Area of calming zones = $2 \times (0.76 \times 0.05) = 0.076 \text{ N}^2$

Total area of perforation = $A_p = (\text{actual area} - \text{area of unperforated edge area of calming zones})$

$A_p = 0.5609$ $A_p = 0.5609 - 0.062 - 0.076 = 0.4229 \text{ N}^2$

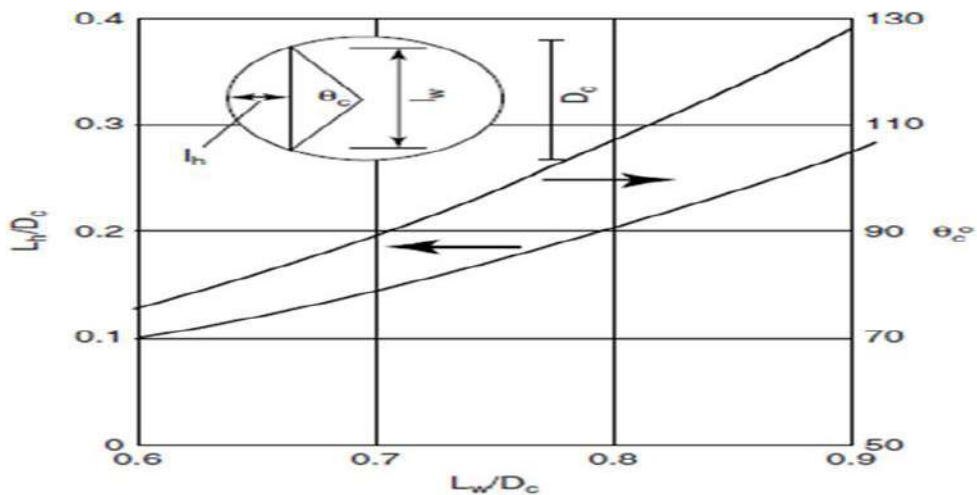
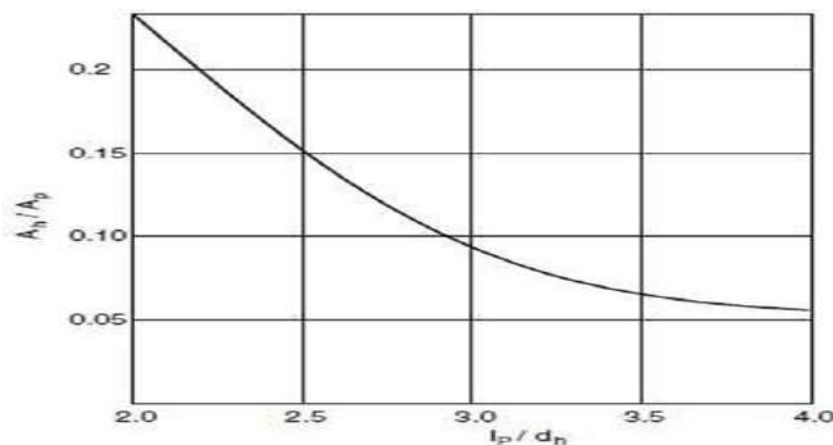


Fig.18 Relation between angle subtended by chord, chord height and chord length



Considering L/D ratio is 10 we can have $L = 0.94 \times 10 = 9.4 \text{ m}$

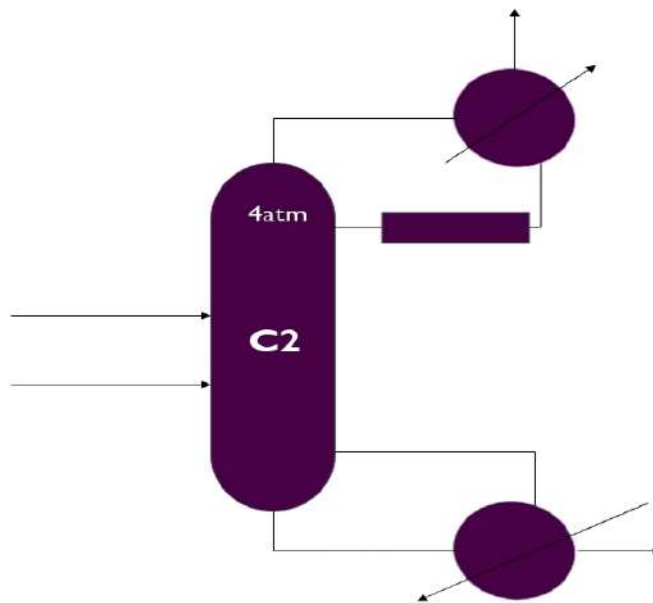


Fig .Distillation column design

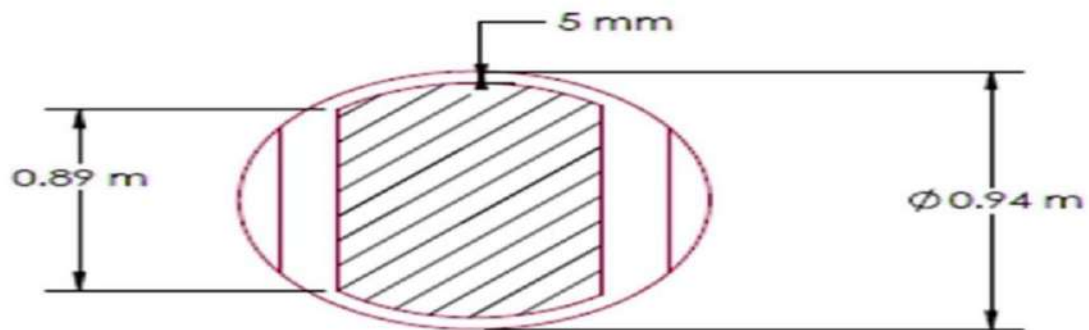


Fig : Plate design

Outer diameter – 0.94 m Inner diameter – 0.89m Thickness – 5 mm

Result of calculations

Column parameters

Parameter	Size
Column diameter	0.94 m
Column Height	9.4 m
Condenser duty	-2485.25 kW
Re-boiler duty	2540.36 kW
No of actual trays	12
Feed location	8
% flooding	80.52%

Tray parameters

Parameter	Size
Material of construction	Stainless Steel
Column area	$0.7379N^2$
Down comer area	$0.0885N^2$
Active area	$0.5609N^2$
Total hole area	$0.05609N^2$
Hole diameter	5 mm
Area under apron	$0.0284N^2$
Unperforated strip around plate edge	50 mm
Hole pitch	2.5
Plate spacing	0.5 m
Plate thickness	5 mm

CHAPTER 6

COST ESTIMATION

Installed Cost of distillation column

For distillation column, purchase price is given by

$$C = 1.218[f_1 C_b + N f_2 f_3 f_4 C_t + C_{PS}]$$

Where $C_b = 1.218 \exp(7.123 + 0.1478(\ln W) + 0.02488(\ln W)^2 + 0.0158 \left(\frac{L}{D}\right) \ln \left(\frac{T_b}{T_p}\right))$

Is base cost of material of construction.

$$C_t = 457.7 \exp^{(0.1739 \cdot D)}, \text{ cost of tray.}$$

$$C_{PS} = 249.6 D^{0.6332} L^{0.8016}, \text{ Cost of platform and ladders.}$$

Calculation of C_b

We require weight of vessel (W), diameter of column, length of the column, thickness of the shell at bottom (T_b) and thickness required for operating pressure (T_p) for calculation of C_b . We will also need values of factors f_1 , f_2 , f_3 , and f_4 .

Values of f_1 and f_2 depends on type of material. Since, the material used in construction is stainless steel, f_1 and f_2 are 1.7 and $(1.189 + 0.0577D)$, respectively.

Material	f_1	f_2
Stainless steel, 304	1.7	$1.189 + 0.0577D$
Stainless steel, 316	2.1	$1.401 + 0.0724D$
Carpenter 20CB-3	3.2	$1.525 + 0.0788D$
Nickel-200	5.4	
Monel-400	3.6	$2.306 + 0.1120D$
Inconel-600	3.9	
Incoloy-825	3.7	
Titanium	7.7	

Value of f_3 depends on type of tray in the column. Since, we are using sieve (with down comer) in the column, the values of f_3 is 0.95 as obtained from given table.

Tray Types	f_3
Valve	1.00
Grid	0.80
Bubble cap	1.59
Sieve (with downcorner)	0.95

Value of f_4 can be calculated by using $f_4 = 2.25/1.0414^N$ where N is number of trays, So, For 12 trays f_4 is 1.38.

$$W = D^4 H \cdot \rho \cdot t = 4852.31 \text{ lb} = 2200.87 \text{ Kg}$$

Where, thickness (t) = 0.68 ft, Diameter (D) = 3.11 ft, height (H) = 30.83 ft and density (ρ) = 501.

Values of all the factors are obtained for tray tower of length (L) 30.83 ft, diameter 3.11 ft, thickness T_b 0.43 ft and t_D 0.68 ft, respectively. The value of C_b is,

$$C_b = 1.218 \exp(7.123 + 0.1478(\ln 4852.31) + 0.02488(\ln 4852.31)^2 + 0.0158(L/D) \ln (T_b/TP))$$

$$C_b = 34939.89$$

Calculation of C_t

C_t is the cost of tray. It can be calculated as follows,

$$C_T = 457.7 \exp(0.1739 D), \text{ For } 2 < D < 16 \text{ ft, where D is diameter of tray. So,}$$

$$C_t = 786.06, \text{ as per calculation.}$$

Calculation of C_{PI}

C_{PS} is the cost of platform and ladders and is calculated using the formula,

$$C_{PS} = 249.6 D^{0.6332} L^{0.8016}, \text{ for } 2 < D < 24 \text{ ft and}$$

$$57 < L < 170 \text{ ft. So, } C_{PS} = 7994.13$$

Therefore, by substituting all the values in the above given formula of purchase cost, we obtain the purchase cost of distillation column as \$100,553.37.

So, the installing cost of distillation column is given by,

$C_{\text{inStaSSed}} = \text{installatio factor} * \text{purchase cost} = \143791.31 Where, installation factor is 1.43[2]

Formic Acid

Free on board (FOB) price of formic acid is US \$700/ ton [3] Therefore,

Annual Gross Sales = FOB Price* Operation days*Efficiency*Capacity

$$= (\$700/\text{ton}) * 355 * 0.95 * 100 = \$23,607,500$$

Turnover ratio is given by,

$$\text{TOR} = \frac{\text{ANNUAL GROSS SALES}}{\text{FIXED CAPITAL INVESTEMENT}}$$

Since, the turnover ratio of formic acid is 6.4[4], from this we can calculate fixed capital investment (FCI), i.e., $\text{FCI} = (23,607,500 / 6.4) = \text{US } \$ 3688671.88$

Working Capital (WC)=15% of FCI= US \$ 553,300

Therefore,

Total Capital Investment (TCI) = FCI + WC

$$= 3688671.88 + 553300 = \text{US } \$ 4241972.661.$$

Estimation of Labour Cost

$N_{OL} = \text{NUMb of Opertor per shif}$

$$N_{OL} = (6.29 + 31.7P^2 + 0.23N_{np})^{0.5} = 3.00832$$

Where, N_{np} = nuNber of non particulate processing steps(Compressors, towers, etc) = 12

We have three shifts. Thus, the number of operators = $3 * 3 = 9$

According to the bureau of labour and statistics, hourly wages of workers is US\$ 34.42.

Therefore, total operating labour cost= $(34.42 * 8 * 3) * 3$

$$= \text{US } \$ 2478.24 / \text{day}$$

$$= \text{US } \$ 879,775 / \text{year}$$

Direct Cost

●Purchase cost is 20% of the fixed capital investment , Purchase cost= $0.2 \times 3,688,671.88$
= US \$ 737732.4

●Purchased equipment installation is 8% of the fixed capital investment,
i.e., Purchased equipment installation= $0.08 \times 3,688,671.88$ = US\$
295,093.7

●Instrumentation and control= $0.04 \times \text{FCI}$ = US \$147,546.87

●Piping (installed) = 15% of FCI= US \$553300.782

●Electrical (installed) = $0.06 \times \text{FCI}$ = US \$221320.3

●Building (including services) = $0.08 \times \text{FCI}$ = US \$ 295,093.7

●Service facilities (installed) = $0.1 \times \text{FCI}$ = US \$ 368867.18

●Land = $0.01 \times \text{FCI}$ = US \$ 36886.718

Indirect Cost

●Engineering and supervision is 13% of FCI, i.e., Engineering and supervision
= 0.13×3688671.8 = US \$ 479527.3

●Construction expenses is 8% of FCI, i.e., Construction expenses = 0.08×3688671.8 = US \$
295,093.7

●Contractor fee is 2% of FCI, i.e., Contractor fee = 0.02×3688671.8 = US \$ 73,773.436

●Contingency is 12% of FCI, i.e., Contingency = 0.12×3688671.8 = US \$ 442,640. 6

The mentioned factors are been taken from reference [5]

Utilities

Utilities include electricity, cooling water and steam. Therefore, total utility cost is sum of all the utility costs, i.e.

Total utility cost= electricity cost+ cooling water cost+ steam cost

Therefore, the cost of all utilities are as follows:

- Electricity used is 204.513 kW that costs US \$ 15.85/hr.
- Cooling water required is 0.2757 mm gal/ hr, which costs US \$ 33.08/hr.
- Steam used is 100psi i.e. 54.82 klb/hr, which costs US \$446.29/hr.

Therefore, total utility cost calculated is 495.17 USD/hr i.e. 4,218,848.4 USD/year.

Expenses

As calculated earlier, annual gross sales are US \$ 23,607,500 for formic acid. Thus, by using the annual gross sales and fixed capital investment (FCI) we can calculate all the expenses of the system, which are as follows:

- Total indirect expenses, which include packing, loading, shifting, is 7% of Annual gross sales, i.e., US \$ 1652525.
- Plant Indirect expense is 4% of FCI, i.e., US \$ 147546.87.
- General overhead expenses are 10% of sales, i.e., US \$ 2360750.00.

Depreciation

MACRS depreciation with half year convention is used to determine depreciation for 6 year period.

$$\text{Depreciation} = 10\% \text{ of FCI} + 2\% \text{ of building value}$$

$$= 328867.1 + 5901.874 = \text{US } \$ 334766.97$$

Raw Material

Raw material used is carbon monoxide and methanol, which costs 600 US\$/ ton [6] and 430 US\$/ton[7] , respectively.

For one year, amount of CO required is = 23856 ton per year

Total CO cost = $23856 * 600 = \$14313600$

For one year, amount of Methanol required= 954.24 ton per year

Total methanol cost= $954.240 * 430 = \$ 410323.2$ Thus, total raw material cost= Rs. 14723923.3

From literature, we obtained that cost of raw materials can be approximated to be 70% of the total operating cost. As we obtained the raw material cost, we can therefore estimate the total operating expense.

Total operating expense= $14723923.3 / 0.7 = \$ 21034176.14$

And we know plant capacity is 100 ton/day and Formic acid price is 700\$/ton so

Revenue = $700 * 36500 = \$25550000$

Estimation of Total Product Cost

Total product cost (TPC) is estimated from total fixed charge, which includes depreciation, local taxes and insurance. We have calculated depreciation earlier as US \$ 334766.97. The local taxes and insurance are calculated from FCI, i.e., local taxes is 1-4% of FCI where as insurance is 0.4- 1% of FCI. The total fixed charge is,

Total fixed charge= depreciation+ local taxes + insurance

= $334766.97 + 147546.87 + 25820.7 = \text{US } \$ 508136.5$

Therefore, total product cost is given by,

Total product cost (TPC) = Total fixed charge/0.15= US \$ 3387576.9

Direct product cost

Direct product cost includes the following:

- Raw material, i.e. 20% of TPC, which costs US \$ 677515.2.

- Operation lab, i.e. 15% of TPC, which costs US \$ 508136.53.

- Direct supervisory and clerical labor, i.e. 10-15% of operating labor, which costs US \$76220.47.
- Utilities, i.e. as calculated earlier are US \$ 4218848.4 / year.
- Maintenance and repair cost, which is 5% of FCI, i.e. US \$ 169433.59.
- Operating supplies, which is 10-20% of maintenance and repair cost and in this process it is 15% of maintenance and repair cost, i.e. US \$ 25415.039.
- Laboratory charges, which is 10-20% of operating labor cost and in this process, it is 15% of operating labor cost, i.e. US \$ 76220.4.
- Patent and royalties, which is 3% of total product cost, i.e. US \$101627.28. Therefore, total direct production cost = US \$ 5843416.379.

Manufacturing cost

Total manufacturing cost is the sum of total direct production cost and plant overhead cost. Since, total direct production cost is US \$ 5843416.379, as calculated earlier and plant overhead cost is 7% of total product cost i.e. US \$ 237130.383; the total manufacturing cost is US \$ 6080546.75.

Profitability Analysis

To carry out profitability analysis, we prepared a cumulative cash position plot, using the data estimated above. The plant life was assumed to be 10 years. We assumed that operating expenses increased 3% per year, and since we have determined the operating costs in terms of raw material costs thus we assumed that selling price of Formic acid too increase at 2% per year. MACRS method with half-year convention was used to determine the depreciation factors for a 5 year period. We assumed 20% interest factors for our calculations. Income Tax rate of 35% was assumed and a cumulative cash flow plot was obtained. At the end of 10th year land and working capital is recovered. It is shown in the figure given below

YEAR	Investment	revenue(\$)	Total op.expenses(\$)	Depreciation	Cash operating expenses(\$)
-2	- 36886.71 8				
-1	- 3688671. 88				
0	-5,53,300				
1		2,55,50,00 0	21034176.14	328867.1	20705309.04
2		26061000	21665201.42	657734.2	21007467.22
3		26582220	22315157.47	657734.2	21657423.27
4		27113864. 4	22984612.19	657734.2	22326877.99
5		27656141. 69	23674150.56	657734.2	23016416.36
6		28209264. 52	24384375.07	328867.1	24055507.97
7		28773449. 81	25115906.33	0	25115906.33
8		29348918. 81	25869383.52	0	25869383.52
9		29935897. 18	26645465.02	0	26645465.02
10 end 11	5,90,187	30534615. 13	27444828.97	0	27444828.97

operating	Gross		Net income		Cumulative
income(\$)	income	TAX(\$)	after	Cash	cash
	(\$)		tax(\$)	flow(\$)	flow(\$)
					-36886.718
					-3725558.598
					-4278858.598
48,44,691	45,15,824	1580538.351	29,35,286	32,64,153	-10,14,706
50,53,533	43,95,799	1538529.502	28,57,269	35,15,003	25,00,297
49,24,797	42,67,063	1493471.887	27,73,591	34,31,325	59,31,622
47,86,986	41,29,252	1445238.273	26,84,014	33,41,748	92,73,370
46,39,725	39,81,991	1393696.896	25,88,294	32,46,028	1,25,19,399
41,53,757	38,24,889	1338711.307	24,86,178	28,15,045	1,53,34,444
36,57,543	36,57,543	1280140.22	23,77,403	23,77,403	1,77,11,847
34,79,535	34,79,535	1217837.353	22,61,698	22,61,698	1,99,73,545
32,90,432	32,90,432	1151651.257	21,38,781	21,38,781	2,21,12,326
30,89,786	30,89,786	1081425.155	20,08,361	20,08,361	2,41,20,687
					2,47,10,874

YE	Cumulative cash	20% interest	NPW	Cumulative cash
AR	Flow	factors		flow
				(20%)
-2	-36886.718	1.492	-55034.98326	-55034.98326
-1	-3725558.58	1.23	-4582437.053	-4637472.037
0	-4278858.598	1	-4278858.598	-8916330.635
1	-10,14,706	0.906	-919323.636	-9835654.271
2	25,00,297	0.742	1855220.374	-7980433.897
3	59,31,622	0.608	3606426.176	-4374007.721
4	92,73,370	0.497	4608864.89	234857.1693
5	1,25,19,399	0.407	5095395.393	5330252.562
6	1,53,34,444	0.333	5106369.852	10436622.41
7	1,77,11,847	0.273	4835334.231	15271956.65
8	1,99,73,545	0.224	4474074.08	19746030.73
9	2,21,12,326	0.183	4046555.658	23792586.38
10	2,41,20,687	0.15	3618103.05	27410689.43
END				
11	2,47,10,854	0.135	3335965.29	30746654.72

Now to estimate profitability following parameters were obtained:

a-Pay-out Period: It is used to calculate the amount of time that will be required to recover the depreciable fixed capital investment from the accrued cash flow of a project.

It can be estimated using the formula given below:

$$= (\text{Fixed-capital investment} / \text{average annual after-tax cash flow})$$

$$= 3688671.88 / (28399546/10) = 1.30 \text{ years}$$

b-Return on investment: It can be used to compare a company's profitability or to compare the efficiency of different **investments**. It can be estimated using the formula given below:

$$= (\text{average annual net profit after taxes} / \text{total capital investment})$$

$$= (25110875/10) / 4241972.661 = 0.59 = 59\%$$

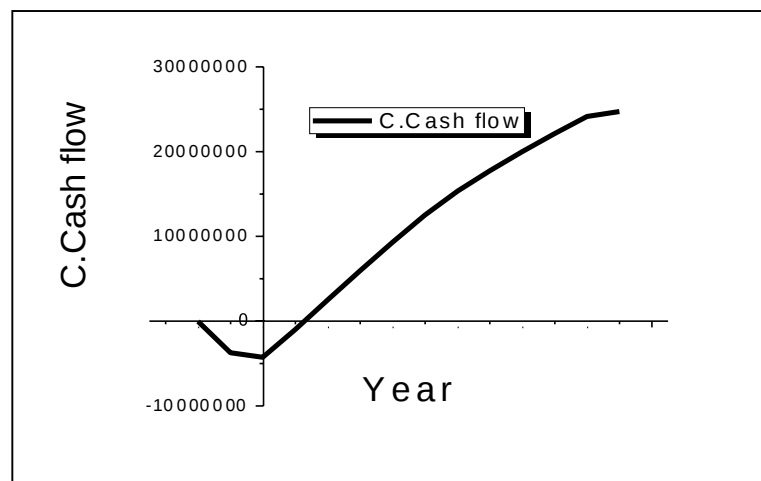


Fig 22 Cumulative cash flow plot for 0% interest

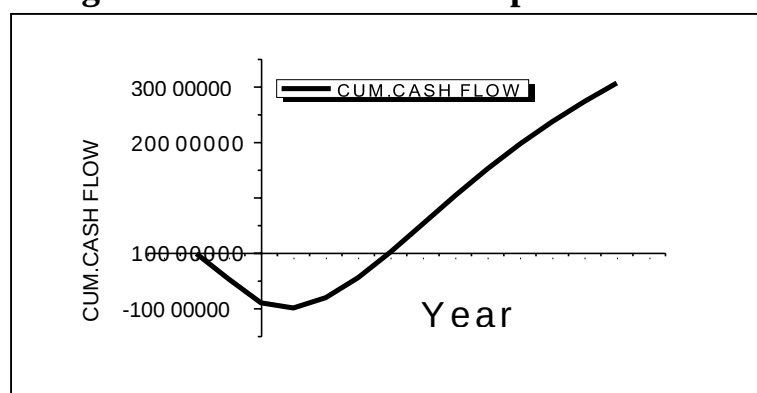


Fig 23 Cumulative cash flow plot for 20% interest

CHAPTER 7

SAFETY

Formic acid has low toxicity (hence its use as a food additive), with an LD50 of 1.8 g/kg (oral, mice). The concentrated acid is corrosive to the skin.

Formic acid is readily metabolized and eliminated by the body. Nonetheless, it has specific toxic effects; the formic acid and formaldehyde produced as metabolites of methanol are responsible for the optic nerve damage, causing blindness seen in methanol poisoning. Some chronic effects of formic acid exposure have been documented. Some experiments on bacterial species have demonstrated it to be a mutagen. Chronic exposure in humans may cause kidney damage. Another possible effect of chronic exposure is development of a skin allergy that manifests upon re-exposure to the chemical. Concentrated formic acid slowly decomposes to carbon monoxide and water, leading to pressure buildup in the containing vessel. For this reason, 98% formic acid is shipped in plastic bottles with self-venting caps. The hazards of solutions of formic acid depend on the concentration. The following table lists the EU classification of formic acid solutions:

<u>Concentration</u> (<u>weight percent</u>)	<u>Class</u> <u>ificati</u> <u>on</u>	<u>R-</u> <u>Phrases</u>
2%–10%	Irritan t (Xi)	R36/38
10%–90%	Corro sive (C)	R34
>90%	Corro sive (C)	R35

Formic acid in 85% concentration is not flammable, and diluted formic acid is on the U.S. Food and Drug Administration list of food additives. The principal danger from formic acid is from skin or eye contact with the concentrated liquid or vapors. The U.S. OSHA Permissible Exposure Level (PEL) of formic acid vapor in the work environment is 5 parts per million parts of air.

CONCLUSION

From the above study we conclude that Formic acid is an important organic acid with a variety of uses like antibacterial agent and find its extensive use in oil and gas industries. By carrying out a market survey, we found that there is a huge potential for Formic acid production as there are large numbers of consumers from Asia-Pacific region that accounts for 47% of the current market share. The chosen method for Formic acid production by hydrolysis of methyl- formate does not produce by-products thereby reducing environmental concerns.

From the material balance, we need 2800kg/hr of CO and 112kg/hr Methanol makeup which produces 4518 kg/hr (100 ton/day) of Formic acid.

From the energy balance, we conclude that the Fractionation column consumes a big fraction of the total energy required by the plant. This can be attributed to the high purity of formic acid that we require of 85%.

After designing the Distillation column, we conclude that the Sieve tray one pass plate is suitable for the fractionation column.

From cost estimation:

Fixed capital investment: \$ 3688671.88

Total manufacturing cost: \$ 6080546.75

Pay out period: 1.30 years

Return on investment : 59%

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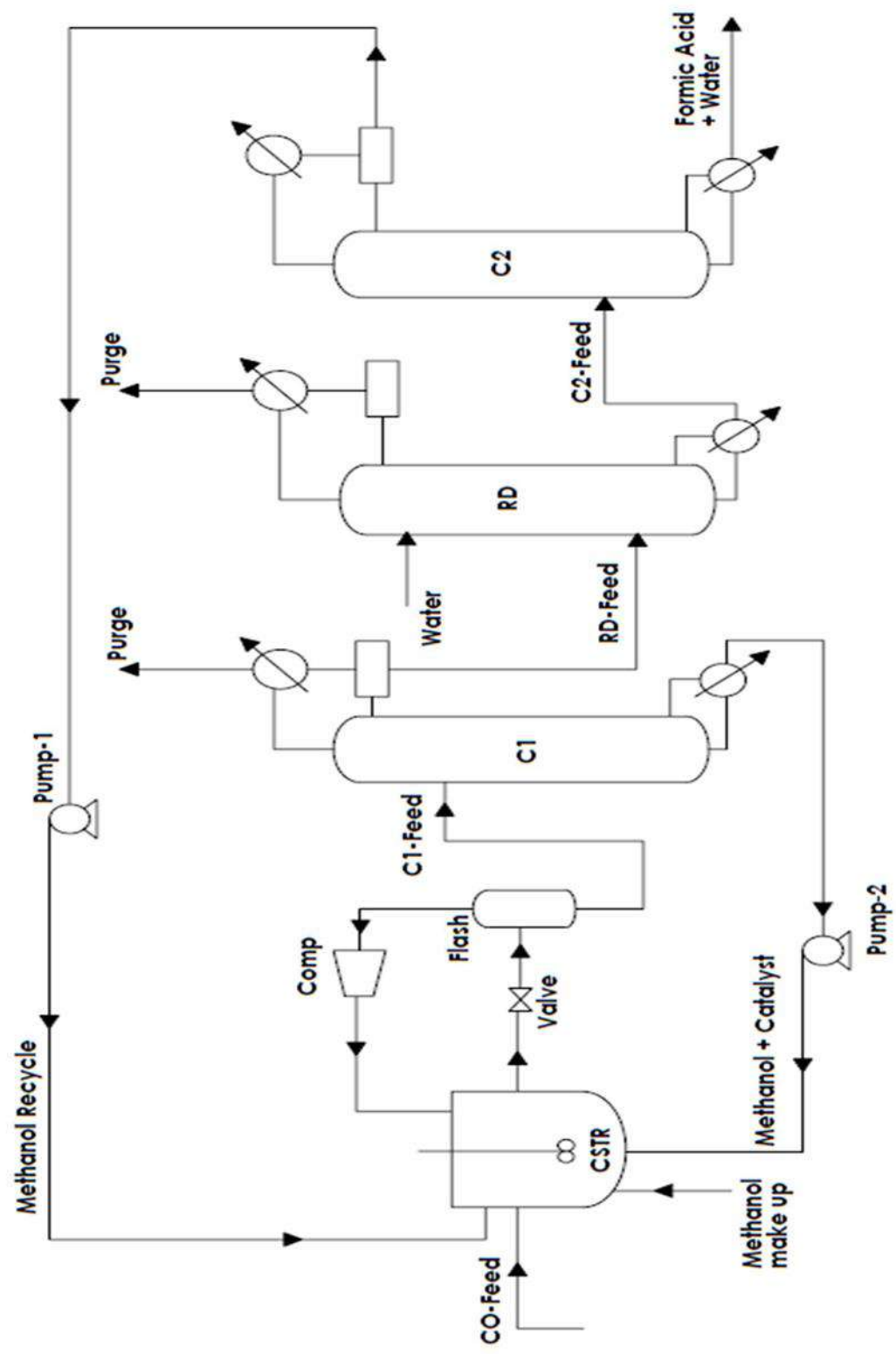


Table B.4 Antoine Equation Constants^a

$$\log_{10} p^* = A - \frac{B}{T + C} \quad p^* \text{ in mm Hg, } T \text{ in } ^\circ\text{C}$$

Example: The vapor pressure of acetaldehyde at 25°C is determined as follows:

$$\log_{10} p_{\text{C}_2\text{H}_4\text{O}}^*(25^\circ\text{C}) = 8.00552 - \frac{1600.017}{25 + 291.809} = 2.9551$$

$$\Rightarrow p_{\text{C}_2\text{H}_4\text{O}}^*(25^\circ\text{C}) = 10^{2.9551} = 902 \text{ mm Hg}$$

Compound	Formula	Range (°C)	A	B	C
Acetaldehyde	C ₂ H ₄ O	-0.2 to 34.4	8.00552	1600.017	291.809
Acetic acid	C ₂ H ₄ O ₂	29.8 to 126.5	7.38782	1533.313	222.309
Acetic acid*	C ₂ H ₄ O ₂	0 to 36	7.18807	1416.7	225
Acetic anhydride	C ₄ H ₆ O ₃	62.8 to 139.4	7.14948	1444.718	199.817
Acetone	C ₃ H ₆ O	-12.9 to 55.3	7.11714	1210.595	229.664
Acrylic acid	C ₃ H ₄ O ₂	20.0 to 70.0	5.65204	648.629	154.683
Ammonia*	NH ₃	-83 to 60	7.55466	1002.711	247.885
Aniline	C ₆ H ₇ N	102.6 to 185.2	7.32010	1731.515	206.049
Benzene	C ₆ H ₆	14.5 to 80.9	6.89272	1203.531	219.888
<i>n</i> -Butane	<i>n</i> -C ₄ H ₁₀	-78.0 to -0.3	6.82485	943.453	239.711
<i>i</i> -Butane	<i>i</i> -C ₄ H ₁₀	-85.1 to -11.6	6.78866	899.617	241.942
1-Butanol	C ₄ H ₁₀ O	89.2 to 125.7	7.36366	1305.198	173.427
2-Butanol	C ₄ H ₁₀ O	72.4 to 107.1	7.20131	1157.000	168.279
1-Butene	C ₄ H ₈	-77.5 to -3.7	6.53101	810.261	228.066
Butyric acid	C ₄ H ₈ O ₂	20.0 to 150.0	8.71019	2433.014	255.189
Carbon disulfide	CS ₂	3.6 to 79.9	6.94279	1169.110	241.593
Carbon tetrachloride	CCl ₄	14.1 to 76.0	6.87926	1212.021	226.409
Chlorobenzene	C ₆ H ₅ Cl	62.0 to 131.7	6.97808	1431.053	217.550
Chlorobenzene*	C ₆ H ₅ Cl	0 to 42	7.10690	1500.0	224.0
Chlorobenzene*	C ₆ H ₅ Cl	42 to 230	6.94504	1413.12	216.0
Chloroform	CHCl ₃	-10.4 to 60.3	6.95465	1170.966	226.232
Chloroform*	CHCl ₃	-30 to 150	6.90328	1163.03	227.4
Cyclohexane	C ₆ H ₁₂	19.9 to 81.6	6.84941	1206.001	223.148
Cyclohexanol	C ₆ H ₁₂ O	93.7 to 160.7	6.25530	912.866	109.126
<i>n</i> -Decane	<i>n</i> -C ₁₀ H ₂₂	94.5 to 175.1	6.95707	1503.568	194.738
1-Decene	C ₁₀ H ₂₀	86.8 to 171.6	6.95433	1497.527	197.056
1,1-Dichloroethane	C ₂ H ₄ Cl ₂	-38.8 to 17.6	6.97702	1174.022	229.060
1,2-Dichloroethane	C ₂ H ₄ Cl ₂	-30.8 to 99.4	7.02530	1271.254	222.927
Dichloromethane	CH ₂ Cl ₂	-40.0 to 40	7.40916	1325.938	252.616
Diethyl ether	C ₄ H ₁₀ O	-60.8 to 19.9	6.92032	1064.066	228.799
Diethyl ketone	C ₅ H ₁₀ O	56.5 to 111.3	7.02529	1310.281	214.192
Diethylene glycol	C ₄ H ₁₀ O ₂	130.0 to 243.0	7.63666	1939.359	162.714
Dimethyl ether	C ₂ H ₆ O	-78.2 to -24.9	6.97603	889.264	241.957
Dimethylamine	C ₂ H ₇ N	-71.8 to 6.9	7.08212	960.242	221.667
<i>N,N</i> -Dimethylformamide	C ₃ H ₇ NO	30.0 to 90.0	6.92796	1400.869	196.434
1,4-Dioxane	C ₄ H ₈ O ₂	20.0 to 105.0	7.43155	1554.679	240.337
Ethanol	C ₂ H ₆ O	19.6 to 93.4	8.11220	1592.864	226.184
Ethanolamine	C ₂ H ₇ NO	65.4 to 170.9	7.45680	1577.670	173.368
Ethyl acetate	C ₄ H ₈ O ₂	15.6 to 75.8	7.10179	1244.951	217.881
Ethyl acetate*	C ₄ H ₈ O ₂	-20 to 150	7.09808	1238.710	217.0
Ethyl chloride	C ₂ H ₅ Cl	-55.9 to 12.5	6.98647	1030.007	238.612
Ethylbenzene	C ₈ H ₁₀	56.5 to 137.1	6.95650	1423.543	213.091

^aAdapted from T. Boublik, V. Fried, and E. Hala, *The Vapour Pressures of Pure Substances*, Elsevier, Amsterdam, 1973. If marked with an asterisk (*), constants are from *Lange's Handbook of Chemistry*, 9th Edition, Handbook Publishers, Inc., Sandusky, OH, 1956.

(continued)

Table B.4 (Continued)

Compound	Formula	Range (°C)	A	B	C
Ethylene glycol	C ₂ H ₆ O ₂	50.0 to 200.0	8.09083	2088.936	203.454
Ethylene oxide	C ₂ H ₄ O	0.3 to 31.8	8.69016	2005.779	334.765
1,2-Ethylenediamine	C ₂ H ₈ N ₂	26.5 to 117.4	7.16871	1336.235	194.366
Formaldehyde	HCHO	-109.4 to -22.3	7.19578	970.595	244.124
Formic acid	CH ₂ O ₂	37.4 to 100.7	7.58178	1699.173	260.714
Glycerol	C ₃ H ₈ O ₃	183.3 to 260.4	6.16501	1036.056	28.097
<i>n</i> -Heptane	<i>n</i> -C ₇ H ₁₆	25.9 to 99.3	6.90253	1267.828	216.823
<i>i</i> -Heptane	<i>i</i> -C ₇ H ₁₆	18.5 to 90.9	6.87689	1238.122	219.783
1-Heptene	C ₇ H ₁₄	21.6 to 94.5	6.91381	1265.120	220.051
<i>n</i> -Hexane	<i>n</i> -C ₆ H ₁₄	13.0 to 69.5	6.88555	1175.817	224.867
<i>i</i> -Hexane	<i>i</i> -C ₆ H ₁₄	12.8 to 61.1	6.86839	1151.401	228.477
1-Hexene	C ₆ H ₁₂	15.9 to 64.3	6.86880	1154.646	226.046
Hydrogen Cyanide	HCN	-16.4 to 46.2	7.52823	1329.49	260.418
Methanol	CH ₃ OH	14.9 to 83.7	8.08097	1582.271	239.726
Methanol*	CH ₃ OH	-20 to 140	7.87863	1473.11	230.0
Methyl acetate	C ₃ H ₆ O ₂	1.8 to 55.8	7.06524	1157.630	219.726
Methyl bromide	CH ₃ Br	-70.0 to 3.6	7.09084	1046.066	244.914
Methyl chloride	CH ₃ Cl	-75.0 to 5.0	7.09349	948.582	249.336
Methyl ethyl ketone	C ₄ H ₈ O	42.8 to 88.4	7.06356	1261.339	221.969
Methyl isobutyl ketone	C ₆ H ₁₂ O	21.7 to 116.2	6.67272	1168.408	191.944
Methyl methacrylate	C ₅ H ₈ O ₂	39.2 to 89.2	8.40919	2050.467	274.369
Methylamine	CH ₅ N	-83.1 to -6.2	7.33690	1011.532	233.286
Methylcyclohexane	C ₇ H ₁₄	25.6 to 101.8	6.82827	1273.673	221.723
Naphthalene	C ₁₀ H ₈	80.3 to 179.5	7.03358	1756.328	204.842
Nitrobenzene	C ₆ H ₅ NO ₂	134.1 to 210.6	7.11562	1746.586	201.783
Nitromethane	CH ₃ NO ₂	55.7 to 136.4	7.28166	1446.937	227.600
<i>n</i> -Nonane	<i>n</i> -C ₉ H ₂₀	70.3 to 151.8	6.93764	1430.459	201.808
1-Nonene	C ₉ H ₁₈	66.6 to 147.9	6.95777	1437.862	205.814
<i>n</i> -Octane	<i>n</i> -C ₈ H ₁₈	52.9 to 126.6	6.91874	1351.756	209.100
<i>i</i> -Octane	<i>i</i> -C ₈ H ₁₈	41.7 to 118.5	6.88814	1319.529	211.625
1-Octene	C ₈ H ₁₆	44.9 to 122.2	6.93637	1355.779	213.022
<i>n</i> -Pentane	<i>n</i> -C ₅ H ₁₂	13.3 to 36.8	6.84471	1060.793	231.541
<i>i</i> -Pentane	<i>i</i> -C ₅ H ₁₂	16.3 to 28.6	6.73457	992.019	229.564
1-Pentanol	C ₅ H ₁₂ O	74.7 to 156.0	7.18246	1287.625	161.330
1-Pentene	C ₅ H ₁₀	12.8 to 30.7	6.84268	1043.206	233.344
Phenol	C ₆ H ₆ O	107.2 to 181.8	7.13301	1516.790	174.954
1-Propanol	C ₃ H ₈ O	60.2 to 104.6	7.74416	1437.686	198.463
2-Propanol	C ₃ H ₈ O	52.3 to 89.3	7.74021	1359.517	197.527
Propionic acid	C ₃ H ₆ O ₂	72.4 to 128.3	7.71423	1733.418	217.724
Propylene oxide	C ₃ H ₆ O	-24.2 to 34.8	7.01443	1086.369	228.594
Pyridine	C ₅ H ₅ N	67.3 to 152.9	7.04115	1373.799	214.979
Styrene	C ₈ H ₈	29.9 to 144.8	7.06623	1507.434	214.985
Toluene	C ₇ H ₈	35.3 to 111.5	6.95805	1346.773	219.693
1,1,1-Trichloroethane	C ₂ H ₃ Cl ₃	-5.4 to 16.9	8.64344	2136.621	302.769
1,1,2-Trichloroethane	C ₂ H ₃ Cl ₃	50.0 to 113.7	6.95185	1314.410	209.197
Trichloroethylene	C ₂ HCl ₃	17.8 to 86.5	6.51827	1018.603	192.731
Vinyl acetate	C ₄ H ₆ O ₂	21.8 to 72.0	7.21010	1296.130	226.655
Water*	H ₂ O	0 to 60	8.10765	1750.286	235.000
Water*	H ₂ O	60 to 150	7.96681	1668.210	228.000
<i>m</i> -Xylene	<i>m</i> -C ₈ H ₁₀	59.2 to 140.0	7.00646	1460.183	214.827
<i>o</i> -Xylene	<i>o</i> -C ₈ H ₁₀	63.5 to 145.4	7.00154	1476.393	213.872
<i>p</i> -Xylene	<i>p</i> -C ₈ H ₁₀	58.3 to 139.3	6.98820	1451.792	215.111

TABLE C-5 Heat Capacity of Liquids

$C_p = A + BT + CT^2 + DT^3$								
No.	Formula	Substance	A	B	C	D	$T_{\min}$	$T_{\max}$
1	$C_2H_3Cl_3$	1,1,1-Trichloroethane	11.142	1.0501E+00	-3.0826E-03	3.5983E-06	244	491
2	$C_2H_3Cl_3$	1,1,2-Trichloroethane	34.934	8.5054E-01	-2.3306E-03	2.6455E-06	238	542
3	$C_2H_4Cl_2$	1,1-Dichloroethane	57.325	5.6014E-01	-1.8136E-03	2.5617E-06	177	471
4	$C_2H_4Cl_2$	1,2-Dichloroethane	26.310	7.7555E-01	-2.2271E-03	2.6107E-06	238	505
5	C_4H_6	1,3-Butadiene	34.680	7.3205E-01	-2.8426E-03	4.6035E-06	165	383
6	$C_4H_8O_2$	1,4-Dioxane	-20.729	1.2913E+00	-3.5408E-03	3.5408E-06	286	528
7	$C_4H_{10}O$	1-Butanol (<i>n</i> -Butanol)	83.877	5.6628E-01	-1.7208E-03	2.2780E-06	185	507
8	C_4H_8	1-Butene	74.597	3.3434E-04	-1.3914E-03	3.0241E-06	89	378
9	$C_{10}H_{20}$	1-Decene	137.962	1.1934E+00	-3.2863E-03	3.9390E-06	208	555
10	C_9H_{16}	1-Nonene (<i>n</i> -Nonene)	98.040	1.3538E+00	-3.8058E-03	4.4991E-06	221	536
11	C_8H_{16}	1-Octene	119.984	8.3332E-01	-2.5321E-03	3.4745E-06	172	510
12	C_3H_8O	1-Propanol (<i>n</i> -Propanol)	88.080	4.0224E-01	-1.3032E-03	1.9677E-06	148	483
13	C_2H_4O	Acetaldehyde	45.056	4.4853E-01	-1.6607E-03	2.7000E-06	151	415
14	$C_2H_4O_2$	Acetic acid	-18.944	1.0971E+00	2.8921E-03	2.9275E-06	291	533
15	$C_4H_6O_3$	Acetic anhydride	71.831	8.8879E-01	-2.6534E-03	3.3501E-06	201	512
16	C_3H_6O	Acetone	46.878	6.2652E-01	-2.0761E-03	2.9583E-06	179	457
17	$C_3H_4O_2$	Acrylic acid	-18.242	1.2106E+00	-3.1160E-03	3.1409E-06	241	617
18	NH_3	Ammonia	-182.157	3.3618E+00	-1.4398E-02	2.0371E-05	195	385
19	C_6H_7N	Aniline	63.288	9.8960E-01	-2.3583E-03	2.3296E-06	268	629
20	C_6H_6	Benzene	-31.663	1.3043E+00	-3.6078E-03	3.8243E-06	280	506
21	$C_4H_8O_2$	Butyric acid	28.210	1.1040E+00	-2.8523E-03	2.9528E-06	269	565
22	CS_2	Carbon disulfide	39.938	2.3565E-01	-7.2098E-04	1.0443E-06	163	497
23	CO_2	Carbon dioxide	-338.956	5.2796E+00	-2.3279E-02	3.5980E-05	218	274
24	CO	Carbon monoxide	-19.312	2.5072E+00	-2.8970E-02	1.2745E-04	69	120
25	CCl_4	Carbon tetrachloride	9.671	9.3363E-01	-2.6768E-03	3.0425E-06	251	501
26	Cl_2	Chlorine	127.601	-6.0215E-01	1.5776E-03	-5.3099E-07	172	396
27	$CHCl_3$	Chloroform	28.296	6.5897E-01	-2.0353E-03	2.5901E-06	211	483
28	C_6H_{12}	Cyclohexane	-44.417	1.6016E+00	-4.4676E-03	4.7582E-06	281	498
29	$C_6H_{12}O$	Cyclohexanol	-47.321	1.9131E+00	-4.8388E-03	4.7281E-06	298	563
30	C_3H_6	Cyclopropane	30.543	5.0198E-01	-2.1040E-03	3.7444E-06	147	358
31	CH_2Cl_2	Dichloromethane	38.941	4.9008E-01	-1.6224E-03	2.3069E-06	179	459
32	$C_4H_{10}O$	Diethyl ether	75.939	7.7335E-01	-2.7936E-03	4.4383E-06	158	420
33	$C_5H_{10}O$	Diethyl ketone	26.231	1.2822E+00	-3.7449E-03	4.3816E-06	235	505
34	C_2H_7N	Dimethylamine	36.962	9.5817E-01	-3.5846E-03	5.3990E-06	182	394
35	C_2H_6	Ethane	38.332	4.1006E-01	-2.3024E-03	5.9347E-06	91	275
36	C_2H_6O	Ethanol	59.342	3.6358E-01	-1.2164E-03	1.8030E-06	160	465
37	$C_4H_8O_2$	Ethyl acetate	62.832	8.4097E-01	-2.6998E-03	3.6631E-06	191	471
38	C_2H_5Cl	Ethyl chloride	60.180	3.4553E-01	-1.2983E-03	2.1963E-06	138	414
39	C_8H_{10}	Ethylbenzene	102.11	5.5959E-01	-1.5609E-03	2.0149E-06	179	555
40	C_2H_4	Ethylene	25.597	5.7078E-01	-3.3620E-03	8.4120E-06	105	254
41	$C_2H_6O_2$	Ethylene glycol	75.878	6.4182E-01	-1.6493E-03	1.6937E-06	261	581
42	C_2H_4O	Ethylene oxide	35.720	4.2908E-01	-1.5473E-03	2.4070E-06	162	422
43	F_2	Fluorine	83.829	-7.8518E-01	5.2305E-03	4.6617E-06	53	137
44	$C_3H_8O_3$	Glycerol	132.145	8.6007E-01	-1.9745E-03	1.8068E-06	292	651
45	H_2	Hydrogen	50.607	-6.1136E+00	3.0930E-01	-4.1480E-03	14	32
46	HCl	Hydrogen chloride	73.993	-1.2946E-01	-7.8980E-05	2.6409E-06	165	308
47	CHN	Hydrogen cyanide	-123.155	1.7769E+00	-5.8083E-03	6.9129E-06	261	411
48	H_2O_2	Hydrogen peroxide	-15.248	6.7693E-01	-1.4948E-03	1.2018E-06	273	694
49	C_4H_{10}	<i>i</i> -Butane (<i>iso</i> -Butane)	71.791	4.8472E-01	-2.0519E-03	4.0634E-06	115	367
50	CH_4	Methane	-0.018	1.1982E+00	-9.8722E-03	3.1670E-05	92	172
51	CH_3OH	Methanol	40.152	3.1046E-01	-1.0291E-03	1.4598E-06	176	461