



**PROGRAM** : BACHELOR OF ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY  
*CHEMICAL ENGINEERING*

**SUBJECT** : MULTISTAGE OPERATIONS 3A

**CODE** : MSOCHA3

**DATE** : WINTER EXAMINATION  
04 JUNE 2019

**DURATION** : (SESSION 2) 12:30 - 15:30

**WEIGHT** : 40 : 60

**TOTAL MARKS** : 100

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**EXAMINER(S)** : Mr G PAHLA and PROF K MOOTHI

**MODERATOR** : Prof G SIMATE

**NUMBER OF PAGES** : 06 PAGES

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**REQUIREMENTS** : 2 Sheets Graph Paper

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**HINTS AND INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATE(S):**

- Purpose of this assessment is to determine whether you can analyse a broadly-defined problem, identify relevant engineering principles and apply them to solve the problem. Set out your solutions in a logical and concise manner with justification for the steps that you follow.
  - **ATTEMPT ALL QUESTIONS.** Please answer each question to the best of your ability.
  - Write your details (module name and code, ID number, student number etc.) on script(s).
  - Number each question clearly; questions may be answered in any order.
  - Make sure that you read each question carefully before attempting to answer the question.
  - Show all steps (and units) in calculations; this is a 'closed book' test.
  - Ensure your responses are legible, clear and include relevant units (where appropriate).
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**Question One: 33 Marks** [*This question assesses Graduate Attribute 1. It is compulsory*]

You are required to design a fractionating column for the separation of a liquid mixture containing; 40 kmol hexane, 35 kmol heptane and 25 kmol octane. The hydrocarbon mixture is at its bubble point. The operation should recover 97.15 % of heptane in the distillate and the percentage of octane in the bottom stream should be 96 %. If the feed flow rate is 100 kmol per hour and the column is to operate at 70 % overall efficiency, estimate the actual number of equilibrium plates required.  $R = 1.4 R_{\min}$

The average relative volatilities with respect to Octane are; 2.70 and 2.22 respectively.

**Question Two****[Total: 20 Marks]**

100 kmol/h of a gas mixture containing 85 mol%  $\text{CH}_4$ , 6%  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_6$ , 5%  $\text{C}_3\text{H}_8$  and 4%  $\text{n-C}_4\text{H}_{10}$  is fed to a absorption tower operating at  $37^\circ\text{C}$  and 6 000 kPa. 80% of  $\text{C}_3\text{H}_8$  has to be removed from the gas mixture using Lean oil. The oil composition is 0,5 mol%  $\text{C}_4\text{H}_{10}$  and it is non-volatile under these conditions. Given that the flow ratio of inlet gas to lean oil is 0.5, determine the flowrate of  $\text{C}_1$  and  $\text{C}_4$  in the exit streams

K values are as follows:  $\text{CH}_4 = 32$ ;  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_6 = 6,7$ ;  $\text{C}_3\text{H}_8 = 2,4$ ;  $\text{n-C}_4\text{H}_{10} = 0,74$ .

**Question Three****[Total: 15 Marks]**

A solution containing 23 mass %  $\text{Na}_3\text{PO}_4$  is cooled from 313 K to 298 K in a Swenson-Walker crystalliser to form crystals of  $\text{Na}_3\text{PO}_4 \cdot 12 \text{H}_2\text{O}$ . The solubility of  $\text{Na}_3\text{PO}_4$  at 298 K is 15,5 kg/100 kg water. Calculate the crystal yield per 1 kg of feed.

[Molar Mass: Na = 23 g/mol, P = 31 g/mol]

**Question Four: 32 Marks** [*This question assesses Graduate Attribute 1. It is compulsory*]

Acetone is to be recovered from a 50 wt% aqueous solution using multistage cross-current extraction with trichloroethane (TCA) as the solvent. The feed is 500 kg/h and the final raffinate should contain not more than 9 wt% Acetone. 200 kg of solvent containing 2% Acetone is added to each stage. The Equilibrium data is given in Table 1.

Table 1: Equilibrium Data

Raffinate arm (mass fraction)			Extract arm (mass fraction)		
$x_c$	$x_A$	$x_B$	$y_c$	$y_A$	$y_B$
0.55	0.35	0.10	0.60	0.13	0.27
0.50	0.43	0.07	0.50	0.04	0.46
0.40	0.57	0.03	0.40	0.03	0.57
0.30	0.68	0.02	0.30	0.02	0.68
0.20	0.79	0.01	0.20	0.015	0.785
0.10	0.895	0.005	0.10	0.01	0.89

Tie Line Data	
Raffinate	Extract
0.12	0.18
0.29	0.40
0.44	0.56

**4.1.** Determine the required number of equilibrium stages. [25]

**4.2.** Determine the total amount of Acetone extracted. [7]

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**END**

**[Total: 100 Marks]**

**USEFUL EQUATIONS AND FORMULAE**

McCabe-Thiele Method:  $y_1 = \frac{\alpha_{1,2}(x_1)}{1 + (x_1)(\alpha_{1,2} - 1)}$

$$y_q = \frac{q}{q-1}x_q - \frac{z_f}{q-1}$$

Fenske's Equation(s):

$$N_{\min} + 1 = \frac{\log \left[ \left( \frac{x_{LK}}{x_{HK}} \right)_D \left( \frac{x_{HK}}{x_{LK}} \right)_B \right]}{\log \alpha_{LK,HK}}, \quad b_i = \frac{f_i}{1 + \left( \frac{d_r}{b_r} \right) (\alpha_{i,r})_m^{N_{\min}}}, \quad d_i = \frac{f_i \left( \frac{d_r}{b_r} \right) (\alpha_{i,r})_m^{N_{\min}}}{1 + \left( \frac{d_r}{b_r} \right) (\alpha_{i,r})_m^{N_{\min}}}$$

Minimum Reflux Ratio by Underwood's Equation(s):

$$\sum \frac{\alpha_i x_{iD}}{\alpha - \theta} = R_m + 1 \quad \alpha_{HK} < \theta < \alpha_{LK}$$

$$\sum \frac{\alpha_i x_{iF}}{\alpha - \theta} = 1 - q$$

Feed Plate Location by Kirkbride's Equation(s):

$$\log \left[ \frac{N_r}{N_s} \right] = 0.026 \log \left[ \frac{W}{D} \left( \frac{x_{HK}}{x_{LK}} \right)_F \left( \frac{x_{LKW}}{x_{HKD}} \right)^2 \right], \quad \frac{N_r}{N_s} = \left[ \left( \frac{Z_{j,F}}{Z_{i,F}} \right) \left( \frac{x_{i,B}}{x_{j,D}} \right)^2 \left( \frac{B}{D} \right) \right]^{0.206}$$

Erbar-Maddox correlation:  $\frac{R}{R+1}$  vs  $\frac{N_m}{N}$  with  $\frac{R_m}{R_m+1}$  as a parameter

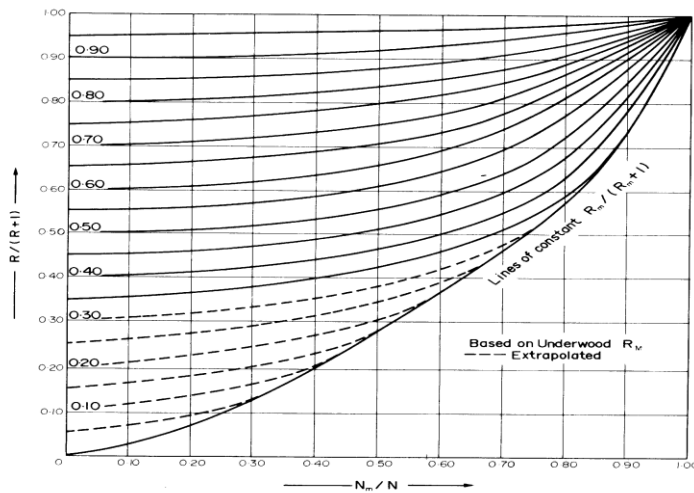


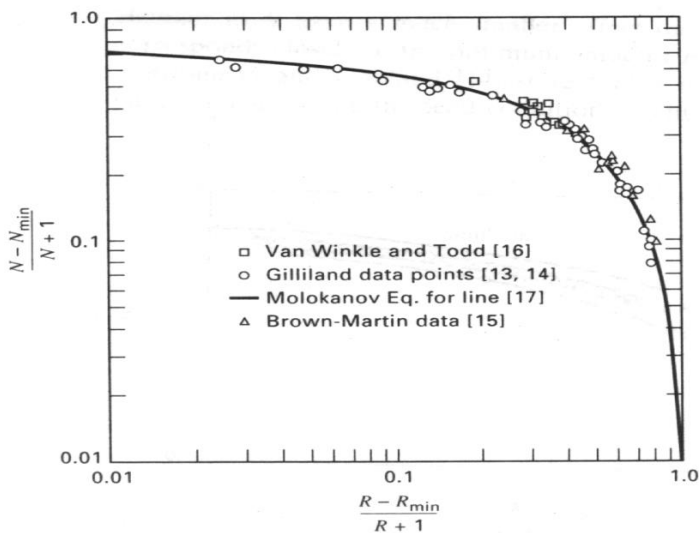
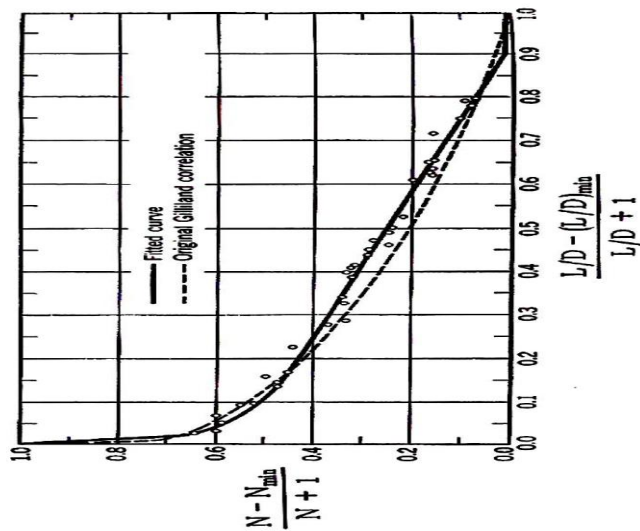
FIG. 11.11. Erbar-Maddox correlation (Erbar and Maddox, 1961)

Bubble and Dew point calculation(s):

$$\sum y_i = \sum K_i x_i = K_c \sum \alpha_i x_i = 1.0, \quad y_i = \frac{\alpha_i x_i}{\sum (\alpha_i x_i)}, \quad \sum_{i=1}^{N_c} y_i = \sum_{i=1}^{N_c} K_i x_i = 1.0, \quad (K_p)_{\text{Trial}2} = \frac{(K_p)_{\text{Trial}1}}{\sum K_i x_i}$$

$$\sum x_i = \sum \left( \frac{y_i}{K_i} \right) = \left( \frac{1}{K_c} \right) \sum \left( \frac{y_i}{\alpha_i} \right) = 0, \quad x_i = \frac{y_i / \alpha_i}{\sum (y_i / \alpha_i)}, \quad \sum_{i=1}^{N_c} x_i = \sum_{i=1}^{N_c} \frac{y_i}{K_i} = 1.0, \quad (K_i)_{\text{Trial}2} = (K_i)_{\text{Trial}1} \sum \frac{y_i}{K_i}$$

Gilliland correlation (number of ideal plates at the operating reflux):



Molokanov's Correlation:

$$\frac{N - N_{\min}}{N + 1} = 1 - \exp \left[ \left( \frac{1 + 54.4\Psi}{11 + 117.2\Psi} \right) \left( \frac{\psi - 1}{\psi^{0.5}} \right) \right] \quad \text{Where: } \Psi \equiv \frac{R - R_{\min}}{R + 1} ; \quad R_m = \frac{1}{\alpha - 1} \left[ \frac{x_d}{x_f} - \alpha \frac{1 - x_d}{1 - x_f} \right]$$

$$\text{Slope of q-line: } -\left( \frac{f}{1 - f} \right) ; \quad f = \left( \frac{c_p(t_b - t_f)_{\text{Liquid}} + \Lambda_{\text{Feed}} + (c_p(t_b - t_f))_{\text{superheated vapour}}}{\Lambda} \right)$$

$$\text{Number of transfer units is given by: } N_{OG} = \int_{Y_1}^{Y_2} \frac{dY}{Y_e - Y} ; N_{OG} = \frac{Z}{H_{OG}} ; \quad N_{OL} = N_{OG} \left( \frac{mG_M}{L_M} \right)$$

$$\text{Height of transfer unit is given by: } H_{OG} = \frac{G_M}{K_G a P}$$

$$\text{Equilibrium partial pressure: } P_a = P_a^o \left\{ \frac{n_a}{n_a + n_b + n_c + \dots} \right\} = x_a P_a^o$$

Water balance:  $w_1 = w_2 + \left( y - \frac{y}{R} \right) + w_1 E$

Yield of crystals:  $y = \frac{R w_1 [c_1 - c_2 (1 - E)]}{[1 - c_2 (R - 1)]}$

Adsorption Isotherms:

$$q = Kc^n, \quad q = \frac{q_o c}{K + c}$$

Table A.1: Conversion Factors	
Quantity	Conversion
Length	1 m = 100 cm = 3.28084(ft) = 39.3701(in)
Mass	1 kg = 10 <sup>3</sup> g = 2.20462(lb <sub>m</sub> )
Force	1 N = 1 kg m s <sup>-2</sup> = 10 <sup>5</sup> (dyne) = 0.224809(lb <sub>f</sub> )
Pressure	1 bar = 10 <sup>5</sup> kg m <sup>-1</sup> s <sup>-2</sup> = 10 <sup>5</sup> N m <sup>-2</sup> = 10 <sup>5</sup> Pa = 10 <sup>2</sup> kPa = 10 <sup>6</sup> (dyne) cm <sup>-2</sup> = 0.986923(atm) = 14.5038(psia) = 750.061(torr)
Volume	1 m <sup>3</sup> = 10 <sup>6</sup> cm <sup>3</sup> = 10 <sup>3</sup> liters = 35.3147(ft) <sup>3</sup> = 264.172(gal)
Density	1 g cm <sup>-3</sup> = 10 <sup>3</sup> kg m <sup>-3</sup> = 62.4278(lb <sub>m</sub> )(ft) <sup>-3</sup>

Energy	1 J = 1 kg m <sup>2</sup> s <sup>-2</sup> = 1 N m = 1 m <sup>3</sup> Pa = 10 <sup>-5</sup> m <sup>3</sup> bar = 10 cm <sup>3</sup> bar = 9.86923 cm <sup>3</sup> (atm) = 10 <sup>7</sup> (dyne) cm = 10 <sup>7</sup> (erg) = 0.239006(cal) = 5.12197 × 10 <sup>-3</sup> (ft) <sup>3</sup> (psia) = 0.737562(ft)(lb <sub>f</sub> ) = 9.47831 × 10 <sup>-4</sup> (Btu) = 2.77778 × 10 <sup>-7</sup> kWhr
Power	1 kW = 10 <sup>3</sup> W = 10 <sup>3</sup> kg m <sup>2</sup> s <sup>-3</sup> = 10 <sup>3</sup> J s <sup>-1</sup> = 239.006(cal) s <sup>-1</sup> = 737.562(ft)(lb <sub>f</sub> ) s <sup>-1</sup> = 0.947831(Btu) s <sup>-1</sup> = 1.34102(hp)

Table A.2: Values of the Universal Gas Constant	
$R = 8.314 \text{ J mol}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-1} = 8.314 \text{ m}^3 \text{ Pa mol}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-1}$ $= 83.14 \text{ cm}^3 \text{ bar mol}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-1} = 8,314 \text{ cm}^3 \text{ kPa mol}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-1}$ $= 82.06 \text{ cm}^3 (\text{atm}) \text{ mol}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-1} = 62,356 \text{ cm}^3 (\text{torr}) \text{ mol}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-1}$ $= 1.987 (\text{cal}) \text{ mol}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-1} = 1.986 (\text{Btu}) (\text{lb mole})^{-1} (\text{R})^{-1}$ $= 0.7302 (\text{ft})^3 (\text{atm}) (\text{lb mole})^{-1} (\text{R})^{-1} = 10.73 (\text{ft})^3 (\text{psia}) (\text{lb mole})^{-1} (\text{R})^{-1}$ $= 1,545 (\text{ft}) (\text{lb}_f) (\text{lb mole})^{-1} (\text{R})^{-1}$	