

# SIMULTANEOUS DESORPTION OF $\text{NH}_3$ , $\text{H}_2\text{S}$ and $\text{CO}_2$ FROM AQUEOUS SOLUTIONS

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# SIMULTANEOUS DESORPTION OF $\text{NH}_3$ , $\text{H}_2\text{S}$ and $\text{CO}_2$ FROM AQUEOUS SOLUTIONS



## PROEFSCHRIFT

ter verkrijging van de graad van doctor  
aan de Technische Universiteit Delft,  
op gezag van de Rector Magnificus, Prof.dr. J.M. Dirken,  
in het openbaar te verdedigen ten overstaan van het College van Dekanen  
op 29 september 1987 te 16.00 hr

door

Gerardus Cornelis Hoogendoorn

geboren te 's-Gravenhage,  
scheikundig ingenieur.

TR diss  
1569

Dit proefschrift is goedgekeurd door de promotor  
prof.ir. J.A. Wesselingh

## STELLINGEN

1. Bij stofoverdracht gevolgd door een instantane chemische reactie hangt de stofoverdrachtssnelheid af van de chemische evenwichten op het gas vloeistof grensvlak. Indien er meer componenten bij betrokken zijn die met elkaar kunnen reageren, dient het gebruik van versnellingsfactoren vermeden te worden.

Dit proefschrift Hoofdstuk 2

2. Het begrip schotelrendement heeft geen eenduidige betekenis als de betrokken component in de vloeistoffase een reactie kan ondergaan.

Dit proefschrift Hoofdstuk 5

3. Bij beperkte experimentele mogelijkheden zoals die in de praktijk voorkomen, is het experiment waarbij alleen ammoniak uit water wordt gestript het meest effectief om een industriële (sour water) stripper te kunnen beschrijven.

4. Een op zich goed artikel waarin voor bekende grootheden afwijkende of niet suggestieve symbolen worden gekozen, is moeilijk te doorgronden en zal minder geciteerd worden.

Hikita H., Konishi Y., 1983, The Absorption Of  $\text{SO}_2$  Into Aqueous  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$  Solutions Accompanied By The Desorption Of  $\text{CO}_2$ ., The Chem. Eng. J., 27, 167-176.

5. Bij het ontwerpen van reactoren en scheidingsapparatuur spelen de evenwichten een belangrijke rol. Toch krijgt zij meestal niet de aandacht die het verdient.

6. Het zou goed zijn als tenminste de familie van chemical engineering tijdschriften dezelfde conventies zou hanteren voor het weergeven van literatuur referenties.

7. De door Zuiderweg voorgestelde methode om stofoverdrachtscoëfficiënten te meten door variatie van de stripfactor is theoretisch correct doch stuit in de praktijk op de beperktheid van het aantal geschikte componenten. Zuiderweg F.J., 1982, SIEVE TRAYS - A View Of The State Of The Art-, Chem. Eng. Sci., 37, 1441-1464.
8. De resultaten van de door Blauwhoff et al. uitgevoerde vergelijking tussen schotel en trickle bed absorbers zijn twijfelachtig omdat hun uitgangsvergelijkingen voor de atmosferische stofoverdrachtscoëfficiënten en fasengrensvlak foutief zijn. Blauwhoff P.M.M., Kamphuis B., van Swaaij W.P.M., Westerterp K.R., 1985, Absorber Design In Sour Natural Gas Treatment Plants: Impact Of Process Variables On Operation And Economics, Chem. Eng. Process., 19, 1-25.
9. Hoewel ons soms anders wordt voorgesteld, correleert de prijs van het aardgas voor kleinverbruikers beter met het begrotingstekort dan met de wereldenergieprijzen
10. Als het niveau van de zeepreklames overeenkomt met die van het aangeprezen product is er nog veel research nodig.
12. Het schrijven van een proefschrift ter verkrijging van de graad van doctor in de technische wetenschappen of een gedichtenbundel zijn twee zeer uiteenlopende zaken; het opdragen ervan aan personen lokt een misplaatste vergelijking uit.
13. De volgende stap in de toekomstige wetgeving voor het veiliger maken van het ongemotoriseerde verkeer zou de invoering van reflecterende hakken kunnen zijn.

G.C. Hoogendoorn

## VOORWOORD

Hierbij wil ik iedereen bedanken die heeft bijdragen bij het tot stand komen van dit proefschrift. Voor het uitvoeren van de experimenten en het opbouwen van de theorie achter dit verhaal moeten de studenten Serge Castel, Zhou Wei Yong, Cyrille Sidawy, Chris Versteegh, Ton Pichel, Theo Driever, Huub van Grieken, Ruben Abellon en Paul Essens genoemd worden. Hun steun en inzet was onontbeerlijk bij het onderzoek.

Hans Wesselingh fungeerde als wetenschappelijk geweten en heeft de diverse manuscripten steeds nauwgezet gecorrigeerd. Nu ik de promotieperiode achter de rug heb, zie ik pas goed wat ik allemaal van hem geleerd heb.

Aan de medewerkers van het laboratorium voor fysische technologie bied ik nogmaals mijn verontschuldigungen aan voor de overlast die de stripexperimenten met  $H_2S$  in het begin gegeven heeft. Gelukkig waren zij bereid ons de tijd te geven om de uitvoering van de experimenten te optimaliseren zodat de voortgang van het onderzoek hierdoor niet belemmerd is.

Verder heeft vrijwel iedere medewerker van de vakgroep Chemische Technologie (of het instituut) op zijn vakgebied iets bijgedragen aan het onderzoek. Ook hen wil ik bedanken voor de plezierige samenwerking die ik de afgelopen jaren heb ondervonden.

## CONTENTS

### Chapter 1

Introduction	1
--------------	---

### Chapter 2

#### Theory And Experiments On The Simultaneous Desorption Of Volatile Electrolytes In A Wetted Wall Column.

- Ammonia And Hydrogen Sulphide Desorption-

Abstract	5
1. Introduction	5
2. Theory	7
2.1. Wetted Wall Column	7
2.1.1. Liquid Hydrodynamics	7
2.1.2. Gas Hydrodynamics	9
2.2. Desorption With Chemical Reaction	9
3. Experimental	13
3.1. Description Of The Column	13
3.2. Flow scheme	14
4. Results	15
4.1. Computer Simulations	15
4.2. Experiments	20
5. Conclusion	24
6. Symbols	25
7. Literature	26

### Chapter 3

#### Theory And Experiments On The Simultaneous Desorption Of Volatile Electrolytes In A Wetted Wall Column.

- Ammonia And Carbon Dioxide Desorption-

Abstract	28
1. Introduction	28
2. Theory	29
2.1. Desorption With Chemical Reaction	29
3. Results	32
3.1. Computer Simulations	32
3.2. Development Of A Simple Model	35
3.3. Experiments	44



Samenvatting	109
Appendix 1	
Mass Transfer Parameters	
1. Summary Of Literature Correlations	A-11
1.1. Liquid Mass Transfer Coefficient $k_1$	A-1
1.2. Gas Mass Transfer Coefficient $k_g$	A-2
1.3. Interfacial Area $a$	A-2
1.4. Volumetric Liquid Mass Transfer Coefficient $k_1 a$	A-3
1.5. Volumetric Gas Mass Transfer Coefficient $k_1 a$	A-3
2. Experimental	A-4
2.1. Theory of Danckwerts method	A-4
2.2. Equilibrium Data	A-6
3. Results	A-6
3.1. Wetted Wall Column	A-6
3.2. Measurements On A Single Tray At Room Temperature	A-7
3.3. Measurement Of The Interfacial Area At 103 °C	A-8
3.4. Measurement Of The Gas Mass Transfer Coefficient At 103 °C	A-10
3.5. Comparison With Literature	A-11
4. Conclusion	A-13
5. Symbols	A-14
6. Literature	A-15

#### Appendix 2

##### Experience With An Optical Probe For Measuring Bubble Sizes And Velocities On A Sieve Tray

1. Introduction	A-17
2. Principle	A-17
3. Results And Discussion	A-20
4. Conclusion	A-23
5. Symbols	A-24
6. Literature	A-24

#### Appendix 3

Listing Of Stripping Program From Chapter 5	A-25
---	------

5. Conclusion	46
6. Symbols	47
7. Literature	48

#### Chapter 4

##### Theory And Experiments On The Simultaneous Desorption Of Volatile Electrolytes In A Wetted Wall Column.

##### - Ammonia Hydrogen Sulphide And Carbon Dioxide Desorption-

Abstract	49
1. Introduction	49
2. Results	51
2.1. Desorption With Chemical Reaction	51
2.2. Experiments	53
3. Conclusion	55

#### Chapter 5

##### Desorption Of Volatile Electrolytes In A Tray Column (Sour Water Stripping)

Abstract	56
1. Introduction	56
2. Basic Data	57
2.1. Vapour Liquid Equilibria	57
2.2. Mass Transfer Coefficients (Literature Review)	64
2.3. Mass Transfer With Chemical Reaction	68
3. Model	73
4. Experimental Procedures	75
4.1. Equipment	75
4.2. Analytical Methods	77
5. Column Hydrodynamics	78
6. Experimental And Simulated Results	79
7. Comparison Between Predicted And Reported Performance	87
8. Stage Efficiencies	92
8.1. Murphree Efficiency	92
8.2. Vaporization Efficiency	96
9. Conclusion	101
10. Symbols	103
11. Literature	106
Summary	108

## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

Desorption and absorption processes are commonly encountered in the chemical industry. This thesis is a comprehensive study of the simultaneous desorption of volatile weak electrolytes such as ammonia, hydrogen sulphide, carbon dioxide and phenol from aqueous wastes.

The removal operation, generally known as sour water stripping, is done in tray or packed columns. In practice steam is used as a stripping agent. It forms an important part of integrated industrial aqueous waste management. The process is of sufficient importance to have given rise to a number of publications. These can be divided in two main groups:

- studies of the vapour liquid equilibria of the solutions and
- summaries of operating and engineering experience.

The first category is well developed. Already in 1949 van Krevelen et al. published an article called "Composition And Vapour Pressures Of Aqueous Solutions Of Ammonia, Carbon Dioxide And Hydrogen Sulphide". Several others followed. When Maurer (1980) published "On The Solubility Of Volatile Weak Electrolytes In Aqueous Solutions", the description of the equilibria seems to be complete.

A good example from the second category is the paper by Beychok's (1968). "The design of sour water strippers" deals with tray to tray calculations based on the equilibria from the pioneering work of van Krevelen et al.. In later publications (Walker 1969, Boberger and Smith, 1977) deviations from equilibrium behaviour have been reported and taken account by column or tray efficiencies. Won (1983) has further extended this approach. He has derived component efficiencies from operating data an industrial strippers. These data were collected by the American Petroleum Institute (1973).

Won's approach is regarded as the best current procedure and has already found its way into 'The Chemical Engineers Handbook' Perry (1984).

With so much background available one might wonder "why further research on sour water stripping?". The answer can be found in Won's article of which we quote: "A basic mathematical description of a real stage can be made by incorporating mass and heat transfers and ionic reaction rates as well as fluid dynamics. In general, the lack of fundamental knowledge of fluid

dynamics and reaction kinetics defies this basic approach". It is the aim of this thesis to show that such an approach is now feasible and worthwhile.

A second citation by Won: "It is my opinion that we can not overemphasize the need for accurate and comprehensive data on sour water stripper performance". This thesis does provide such data, be it only for a pilot plant column. It shows that existing data are not sufficiently well documented. The behaviour of carbon dioxide is usually neglected in plant operation: it will be shown to have a large influence on the stripping of the other more important components.

This thesis can be roughly divided in two parts. The first part deals with stripping measurements in a wetted wall column. This has a simple and well defined geometry which is amenable to more or less exact calculations. Desorption rates of different combinations ammonia, hydrogen sulphide and carbon dioxide are measured. They are presented in three chapters one governing the simultaneous desorption of ammonia and hydrogen sulphide, the second the desorption of ammonia and hydrogen sulphide, the second the desorption of ammonia and carbon dioxide and the third the three gases together.

In a number of cases the partial differential equations governing the diffusional transport and chemical reaction are solved numerically.

The results can be described by simplified models which will be used in the second part of this thesis. These chapters are submitted for publication to Chemical Engineering Science.

The second part is formed by the -rather longly- chapter 5. This chapter can be subdivided in four main parts. The first part summarizes our knowledge on the vapour liquid equilibria involved in sour water stripping. The second part is concerned with the factors determining the rate of desorption. From a literature review it appeared that correlations of mass transfer parameters of tray columns are unreliable. These parameters are therefore determined experimentally for the column used. Part of the experiments are in a cold model and part of them in the real column under operating conditions. Also data on the kinetics of the chemical reactions involved are summarized. In the third part a mathematical model of the tray column is set up. Experiments are described with a pilot plant tray column. These involve runs with many combinations of the species to be stripped. They include all operating conditions and complete concentration profiles over the column. The last experiment is on real sour water. All results are compared with the model. The last part of chapter 5 compares the results from API measurements

on industrial columns with the model developed. It also discusses the possibility of simplifying the model by the use of different kinds of tray efficiencies.

Chapters 2, 3 and 4 have submitted for publication in "Chemical Engineering Science". Chapter 5 has been submitted for publication to "Chemical Engineering Research and Design". Because these are separate articles there is some overlap between them, for which I offer my excuses.

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## CHAPTER 2

### THEORY AND EXPERIMENTS ON THE SIMULTANEOUS DESORPTION OF VOLATILE ELECTROLYTES IN A WETTED WALL COLUMN

- AMMONIA AND HYDROGEN SULPHIDE DESORPTION -

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#### ABSTRACT

Complete numerical solutions are presented of the simultaneous desorption of  $\text{NH}_3$  and  $\text{H}_2\text{S}$  at a stagnant water gas interface. These include the transport and reactions of all the major ionic species involved. It is also shown that the same results can be predicted using a much simpler model. The theories are substantiated by desorption experiments at 40 °C in a cocurrent wetted wall column.

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

Desorption of ammonia and hydrogen sulphide from water is commonly encountered in industrial practice. Such water commonly arises from the washing of reaction products that have been treated in hydrodesulfurization or hydrocracking operations. This kind of water is commonly called sour water, although its pH value is usually somewhat basic. Removal of the sulphides is essential to meet effluent regulations or to reuse the water. This removal is usually done by steam stripping in tray or packed columns. The mechanism of the desorption process is not as well understood as that of the analogous absorption processes. The American Petroleum Institute (1973) had arranged a survey on sour water stripping practice. One of their final conclusions is that more fundamental information on the desorption should be

obtained and integrated in the design of sour water strippers. Until now strippers are still designed by tray to tray equilibrium calculations (Wild, 1979), although there is strong evidence that kinetics play an important role (Darton et al. 1978). According to the API report sour water contains about 3000 ppm ammonia and 3400 ppm hydrogen sulphide. In practice other contaminants such as phenolics, cyanides, acids or bases, oil and carbon dioxide are present. In this study however they will not be taken into account.

The theory of absorption of a gas into a liquid where it undergoes a chemical reaction is well understood and treated extensively in literature. The basic theory is treated well in the books of Danckwerts (1975) and Astarita (1967). For more difficult reaction schemes review articles such as published by Ramachandran and Sharma (1971) can give insight. Experiments and theory on the selective absorption of carbon dioxide and hydrogen sulphide from sour gases in alkanolamine solutions have been reported recently by Blauwhoff (1982).

Desorption has attracted much less attention. Shah and Sharma (1976) published a review article about desorption, Astarita and Savage (1980) presented a theoretical analysis of desorption, and using this theory, Savage et al. (1980) presented measurements for the desorption of carbon dioxide from hot carbonate solutions. Mahajani and Danckwerts (1983) have measured desorption rates of carbon dioxide from potash solutions with and without the addition of amines.

At first sight absorption and desorption are comparable operations, because the governing equations are the same. However the differences are larger than "a change in the sign of the driving force" as suggested by Danckwerts (1975).

- Reversibility of the chemical reactions should be taken into account for a desorption process. The equations derived for an absorption followed by an irreversible reaction cannot be applied to desorption processes.

- In absorption the gas phase resistance can be eliminated by working with a pure gas. This was done by e.g. Astarita and Gioia (1964). This is not possible for a desorption process.

- The solute concentration in reactive media in the bulk of the liquid is usually low. So the driving force for mass transfer for an absorption is

equal to the interfacial concentration of the solute. In desorption however this small bulk concentration is the main factor in the driving force and cannot be neglected. As a consequence an accurate knowledge of the chemical equilibria in the liquid phase is required.

- For absorption the ratio between the interfacial and the bulk concentration can have any value between one and infinity. For desorption however this ratio is between zero and one. So the possible range of driving forces is much larger for absorption. This was already remarked by Astarita and Savage (1980).

## 2. THEORY

### 2.1. WETTED WALL COLUMN

A wetted wall column is an apparatus widely used for studying mass transfer phenomena. It has the advantage of a known exchange area between gas and liquid and simple hydrodynamics, so important parameters such as interfacial area and liquid and gas phase mass transfer coefficients are known. Therefore it was decided to study simultaneous desorption of ammonia and hydrogen sulphide in a wetted wall column.

#### 2.1.1. Liquid Hydrodynamics

In a wetted wall column the liquid flows down as a film over a surface which is usually a tube or a rod. The gas flow can be counter- or cocurrent. Columns with a not too small diameter can be regarded as a vertical plate. For fully established laminar flow it can be shown that the solution of the equation of motion gives a semiparabolic velocity profile

$$v(z) = \frac{\rho_1 g \delta^2}{2\eta_1} \cdot \left( 2\left(\frac{z}{\delta}\right) - \left(\frac{z}{\delta}\right)^2 \right) \quad (1)$$

This velocity distribution is depicted in figure 1.

The film thickness  $\delta$  is given by the relation:



$$\delta = \left( \frac{3\eta_1 \Gamma}{2\rho_1 g} \right)^{1/3} \quad (2)$$

Where  $\Gamma$  is the mass rate per unit film width:  $\Gamma = \frac{\phi_{m,1}}{\pi \cdot d}$

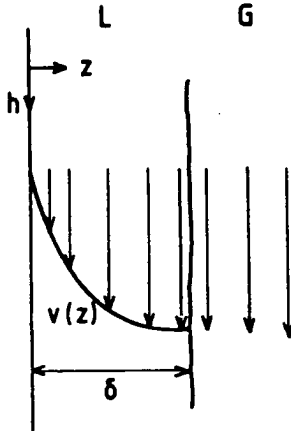


Figure 1 Velocity distribution in liquid and gas film.

The velocity at the gas liquid interface follows from equation 1 with  $z=\delta$

$$v_{\max} = \frac{g\rho_1 \delta^2}{2\eta_1} \quad (3)$$

The velocity gradient near the interface is small. We will therefore assume that the interfacial liquid travels downstream with the same velocity as the gas. Nysing (1957) has shown this is allowable for physical absorption if the penetration depth is less than one third of the film thickness

$$\sqrt{(\pi D_1 t)} < \frac{\delta}{3} \quad (4)$$

This condition imposes a maximum length on the column. In our experiments the desorption depths are always smaller than this value.

The time average liquid mass transfer coefficient for a physical desorption is then given by the relation :

$$\bar{k}_{l_0} = 2 \cdot \sqrt{\left(\frac{D_l}{\pi t}\right)} \quad (5)$$

The flow pattern in the liquid film depends on the Reynolds number which is usually defined as :

$$Re_l = \frac{4\Gamma}{\eta_l} \quad (6)$$

It has been found that the transition from laminar to turbulent flow occurs at a Reynolds number of about 1200 (Emmert et al. 1954) or 1600 (Brauer, 1971). A value of 280 is used in this work.

### 2.1.2 Gas Hydrodynamics

In the situation chosen here, the gas has a velocity equal to the interfacial velocity of the liquid (see figure 1). The gas flows through the column without velocity gradients. This results in zero shear and zero pressure gradient over the column. This choice is the same as used by Berg and Hoornstra (1977) and Lefers (1980). The Reynolds number for the gas phase, taken as  $\rho v d / \eta$ , is about 610 in this work.

Provided the Graetz number for the gas is high, the gas phase can be considered as infinitely deep and this situation corresponds to the penetration theory solution for the mass transfer coefficient for physical absorption or desorption.

$$\bar{k}_{g_0} = 2 \cdot \sqrt{\left(\frac{D_g}{\pi \cdot t}\right)} \quad (7)$$

### 2.2. DESORPTION WITH CHEMICAL REACTION

Mass transfer in the solutions considered is governed by a number of differential equations. These are defined by the mass balances of the transferring components.

The mass balance for a component  $i$  can be written as

$$\frac{\partial C_i}{\partial t} = -\nabla J_i + r_i \quad (8)$$

which states that the accumulation of a species  $i$  in a differential element is equal to the net input (in three directions) due to flow and the net production of a homogeneous chemical reaction.

For expressing the flux equation we have considered here the Nernst Planck equations describing diffusion in ionic solutions (Sherwood and Wei, 1955). It turned out that the electrical effects included in these equations were unimportant, because the diffusion coefficients of the components are almost equal. Therefore Fick's law can be used for expressing the flux equation

$$J_i = -D_i \nabla C_i + v \cdot C_i \quad (9)$$

Applying stationary conditions to the column as a whole, the mass balance reads

$$0 = D_i \nabla^2 C_i - \nabla(v \cdot C_i) + r_i \quad (10)$$

Neglecting the diffusion in vertical direction and taking into account only a velocity in vertical direction, equation (10) can be written for the wetted wall column as

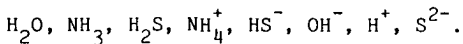
$$0 = D_i \frac{\partial^2 C_i}{\partial z^2} - v \frac{\partial C_i}{\partial h} + r_i \quad (11)$$

or with  $t = \frac{h}{v}$ , one obtains

$$\frac{\partial C_i}{\partial t} = D_i \frac{\partial^2 C_i}{\partial z^2} + r_i \quad (12)$$

This equation describes the evolution of the concentration of component  $i$  in an element as a function of its time in the column and the penetration depth. The production term  $r_i$  which is a function of the concentrations, couples the equations of the different components. For the gas phase similar equations can be written without the reaction term.

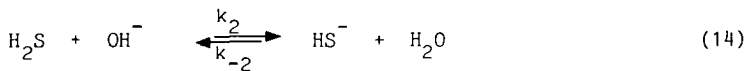
When ammonia and hydrogen sulphide are dissolved in water the following compounds exist:



The concentration of each individual species in the liquid and gas phase at equilibrium for given total concentration of ammonia  $N_T$  and hydrogen sulphide  $S_T$  can be calculated with the procedure and data (dissociation and Henry's constants, equations for activity coefficients) of Edwards et al. (1978).

On molar basis a sour water contains more ammonia than hydrogen sulphide, so in the alkaline solutions of the weak base  $NH_3$ ,  $H^+$  and  $S^{2-}$  can be neglected.

The main reactions to be considered are:



For the components  $NH_3$ ,  $H_2S$ ,  $NH_4^+$  and  $HS^-$  a set of equations (12) can be written, the  $OH^-$  concentration can be calculated from the electroneutrality relation

$$[OH^-] = [NH_4^+] - [HS^-] \quad (15)$$

These equations can be integrated numerically from time equals zero up to the contact time and from distance equals zero up to the film thickness.

The initial conditions for the liquid phase are

$t = 0$ , for all values of  $z$ :

$$[NH_3] = [NH_3]_b ; [NH_4^+] = [NH_4^+]_b ; [H_2S] = [H_2S]_b ; [HS^-] = [HS^-]_b \quad (16)$$

The boundary conditions at the gas liquid interface are

for the molecular forms  $NH_3$  and  $H_2S$

$$[NH_3]_1 = \frac{[NH_3]_g}{m_{NH_3}} \quad \text{and} \quad [H_2S]_1 = \frac{[H_2S]_g}{m_{H_2S}} \quad (17)$$

with  $m$  the partition coefficient in appropriate units

for the non volatile ions at the interface

$$\frac{d[\text{HS}^-]}{dz} = \frac{d[\text{NH}_4^+]}{dz} = 0 \quad (18)$$

Boundary conditions in the bulk of the liquid are

$$C_i = C_{i,\text{bulk}} \quad \text{for all components} \quad (19)$$

The gas phase differential equations have similar boundary conditions.

The result of the (numerical) integration is that the concentration profiles of the individual components are known at  $n$  grid points.

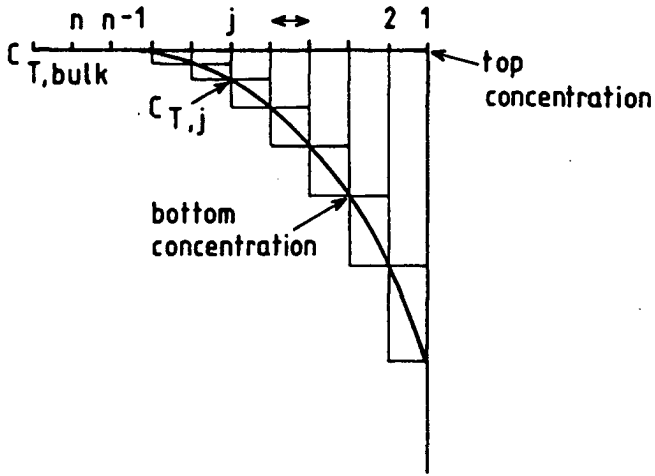


Figure 2 Determination of the fluxes.

The distance between two grid points is the layer length. During transfer the amounts of the different components in the phases change. The total amount of a volatile component that has been transferred from liquid to gas can be obtained by integration of the total concentration profile (figure 2). The average flux is equal to the total amount divided by the contact time

$$J_T = 0.5 \frac{\text{layer length}}{t} \left[ \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} (C_{T,\text{bulk}} - C_{T,j}) + \sum_{j=2}^n (C_{T,\text{bulk}} - C_{T,j}) \right] \quad (20)$$

These liquid fluxes should equal the gas fluxes which can also be determined with equation 20. Equality can be obtained by changing the values of the concentration in equation 17. With this procedure the fluxes were calculated numerically for a given composition  $N_T, S_T$ .

### 3. EXPERIMENTAL

#### 3.1. DESCRIPTION OF THE COLUMN

The column in this work is a modified version of the one described by Lefers. A sketch of the column is presented in figure 3.

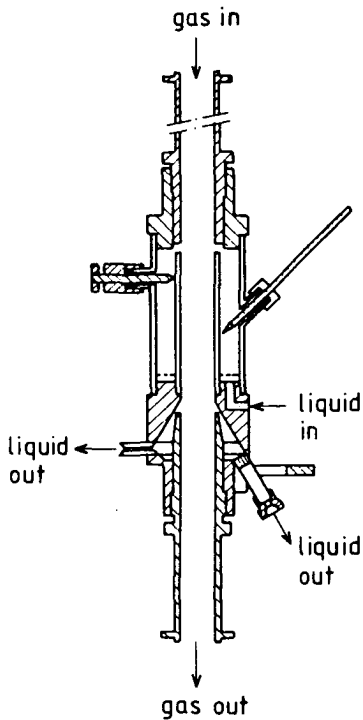


Figure 3 Sketch of wetted wall column.

The column contains an upper and lower cylindrical section each with a length of about 25 cm. The upper section is used to create a well defined velocity profile of the gas phase. The lower section consists of two concentric glass tubes. The internal tube has an inner diameter of 3.45 cm and a length of 10 cm and acts as the wetted wall column. The vertical position of this cylinder can be adjusted with three screws. The liquid is introduced in the bottom of the chamber between inner and outer cylinder. This provides a constant temperature of the film. The liquid forms a film when it flows through an adjustable slit between upper calming section and the top of the wetted wall column.

This way of introducing differs from the one described by Lefers. With his stainless steel liquid distributor it turned out that no film was formed,

due to the bad wettability of steel, but that the liquid flowed down in a number of channels.

The film covering the inner surface of the tube flows down and is removed through another slit into an annular pool with a small surface area. In this way the gas is separated from the liquid. The liquid level in the pool is controlled. The air also flows downwards through the column. The temperatures of gas and liquid could be measured by means of thermometers.

### 3.2. FLOW SCHEME

The equipment is shown in figure 4.

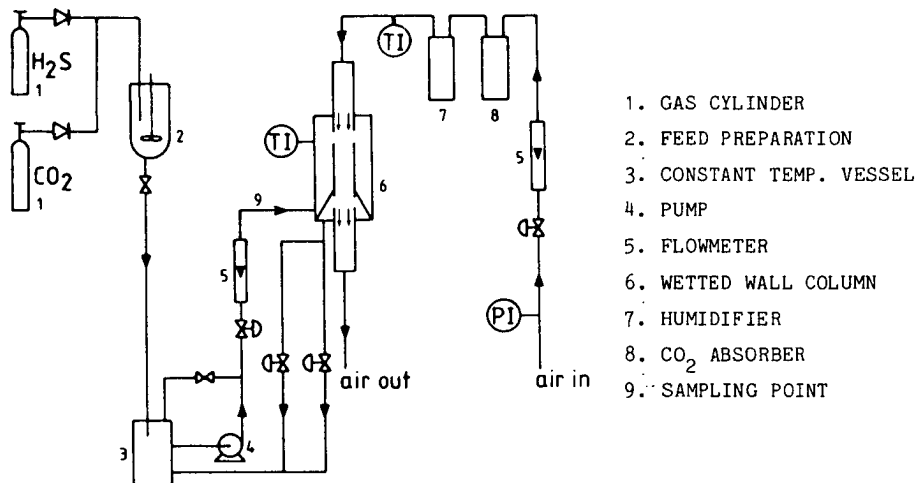


Figure 4 Flow scheme.

The solution for stripping is prepared in vessel 2. An amount of water (about 2.5 l) is added to and heated in the vessel. When the operating temperature is reached, an amount of 33% ammonia solution (Merck) is added to the water. Then the hydrogen sulphide (Matheson) from a gas cylinder is introduced under stirring in the vessel and absorbed in the ammonia solution. The solution is led to vessel 3. A pump cycles the contents of this vessel through the stripping column. In the course of time (over several hours) the concentrations in vessel 3 gradually change. They are regularly monitored to determine the desorption fluxes. The total liquid volume in the system is about 2 l. Two experimental details are worth

mentioning. Ammonia and hydrogen sulphide are both very volatile and easily lost. It is therefore absolutely necessary to minimize the (dead) gas volumes in the circulation loop. Also the use of plastic tubes has to be minimized as these materials are quite permeable for the gases studied.

The air flows through a meter, bubbles through a 5 M sodium hydroxide solution to remove carbon dioxide and is saturated with water at the operating temperature in the humidifier 7 to prevent transfer of water in the column. After stripping the air leaves the bottom of the column and is removed by means of suction.

The column itself is mounted on a heavy table and installed with flexible connections between the column and the rest of the equipment. This is done because the film proved to be very sensitive to vibrations. These (small) vibrations, originating from e.g. a pump or suction device, are immediately visible as waves on the surface of the film. These waves might enhance mass transfer. Waviness was reduced to an invisible extent by addition of 0.025 vol % of Teepol as described by Lynn et al. (1955). This addition also prevented the film from breaking up into channels. As Teepol is absolutely necessary for obtaining a film, no experiments were carried out to study its influence on the mass transfer.

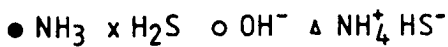
#### 4. RESULTS

##### 4.1. COMPUTER SIMULATIONS

To demonstrate the behaviour of the  $\text{NH}_3\text{-H}_2\text{S}$  desorption, simulations were done for a constant total ammonia concentration in the bulk of the liquid  $N_T = 0.0882 \text{ mol}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$ . The total sulphur concentration  $S_T$  was varied from  $0.0882 \text{ mol}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$  to  $0.00882 \text{ mol}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$ , giving molar ratio's  $R = N_T/S_T$  from 1 to 10. Values of relevant physical and chemical parameters were taken at 40 °C. Diffusion coefficients were calculated from Perry (1982). For  $\text{NH}_3$  and  $\text{H}_2\text{S}$  in the gas phase the Wilke Lee equation was used, for the liquid phase the Wilke and Chang equation was taken. The ion diffusion coefficients have been calculated with the Nernst equation. The values of  $k_{-1}$  ( $1\cdot 10^8 \text{ m}^3\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$ ) and  $k_2$  ( $1\cdot 10^7 \text{ m}^3\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$ ) were taken from Eigen et al. (1964) and corrected for the temperature difference.



$$L_L = 1.7 \cdot 10^{-4} \text{ m} \quad L_G = 1.7 \cdot 10^{-2} \text{ m} \quad t = 0.33 \text{ s}$$



$$N_T = 0,0882 \frac{\text{mol}}{\text{kg}}$$

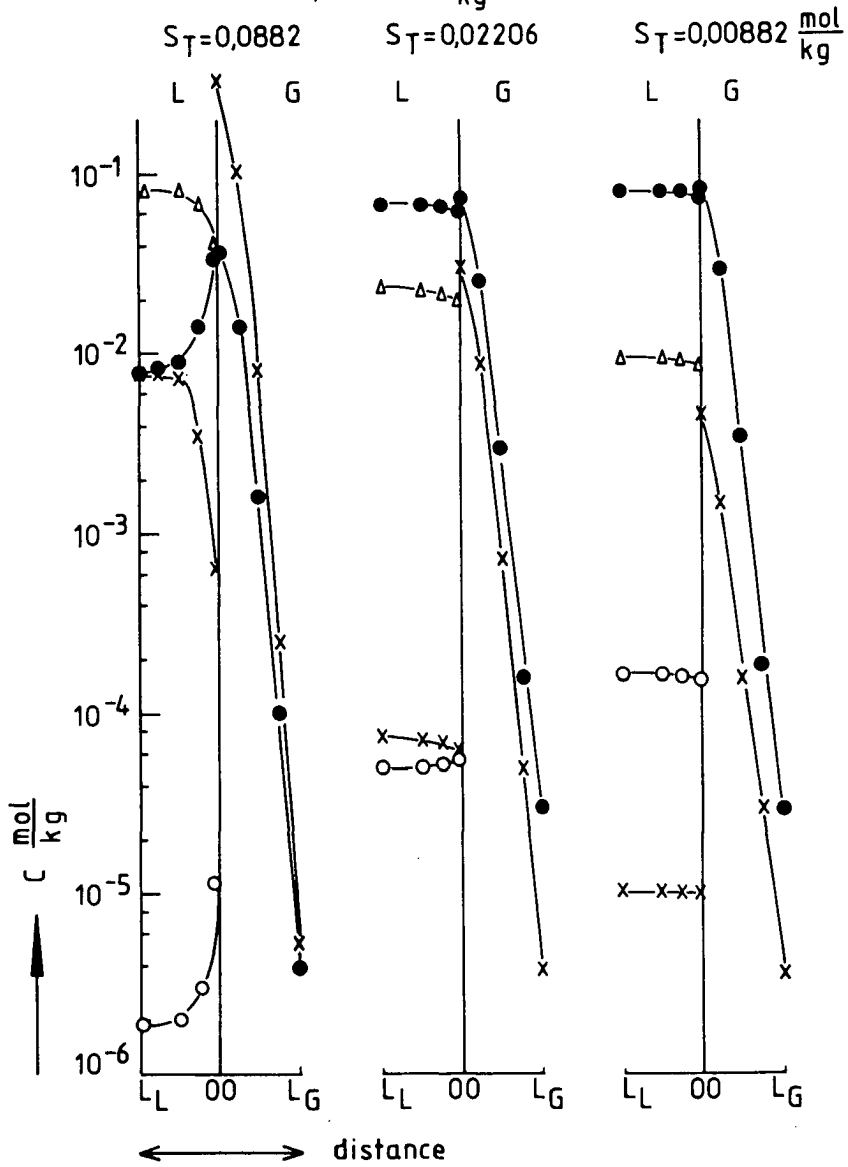


Figure 5 Calculated concentration profiles in liquid and gas films as function of the composition.

Figure 5 gives the concentrations of all relevant species as a function of the position in the film for R values of 1, 4 and 10. It should be remarked that the horizontal scale in the gas phase ( $L_G$ ) is 100 times larger than that of the liquid phase ( $L_L$ ). In figure 6 the total fluxes of  $\text{NH}_3$  and  $\text{H}_2\text{S}$  are represented as a function of the composition.

The following conclusions can be drawn from the calculations and figures.

- The  $\text{NH}_4^+$  and  $\text{HS}^-$  profiles are almost the same. This effect is caused by the electroneutrality relation. In figure 5 the ions are represented as a single component.

- Everywhere in the liquid film, so from bulk to interface, the ratios

$$\frac{[\text{NH}_3]}{[\text{NH}_4^+][\text{OH}^-]} \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{[\text{H}_2\text{S}][\text{OH}^-]}{[\text{HS}^-]} \quad \text{remain constant.}$$

This means that reactions 13 and 14 can be regarded as instantaneous.

- The interfacial concentrations of all components are the same at all heights.

- With lower total sulphur concentrations the profiles of the components  $\text{H}_2\text{S}$  and  $\text{HS}^-$  become flatter. This means that mass transfer for  $\text{H}_2\text{S}$  becomes more gas phase controlled.

- Higher concentrations of total sulphur have a remarkable effect on the  $\text{NH}_3$  profile. It causes a flattening of the profile. In the left side of figure 5 this effect has even resulted in an increasing concentration of  $\text{NH}_3$  towards the the interface. This does not mean that ammonia is absorbed; there is still a net flux of ammonia towards the gas phase, caused by the  $\text{NH}_4^+$  ion. This effect is a result of the coupling, via the  $\text{OH}^-$  ion, of the two simultaneous desorption processes and becomes more pronounced at higher sulphur concentrations. To explain this effect it should be kept in mind that  $\text{NH}_3$  is 420 times more soluble than  $\text{H}_2\text{S}$ . So  $\text{H}_2\text{S}$  will desorb rapidly, thereby lowering the concentration of  $\text{HS}^-$ . A lower concentration of  $\text{HS}^-$  will (because of electroneutrality) lower the concentration of  $\text{NH}_4^+$ , which can only be achieved if reaction 13 proceeds from right to left. A part of the  $\text{NH}_3$  amount that is produced by this reaction, will diffuse back into the bulk of the liquid.

- From figure 6 it is clear that the composition, and so the degree of ionization, has a large effect on the fluxes. This is not only due to a change in equilibrium gas phase concentrations but also to mass transfer aspects.

- To bring into account the acceleration of an ab- or desorption by a chemical reaction, the enhancement factor concept is widely used. A commonly used definition of the enhancement factor of ammonia can be given as

$$E_N = \frac{\text{total flux of ammonia with chemical reaction}}{\text{flux of ammonia alone under the same driving force}}$$

and an analogous definition of the factor of hydrogen sulphide  $E_S$ . Values from the simulations are given in table 1. The enhancement factor of ammonia shows a remarkable dependancy on the concentrations. It can be noticed that the enhancement factor becomes negative for high sulphur concentrations, and at  $R \approx 2.2$  an asymptote can be calculated. The explanation of this phenomenon can be found in the form of the concentration profile and the the definition of the enhancement factor.

For absorption the negative enhancement factor has also been observed by Cornelisse et al. (1980) and in Blauwhoff's thesis for what they call 'forced desorption'. The cause of the negative enhancement factor is the same for both absorption and desorption: a strong influence of another component. The concentration profiles differ fundamentally. In the absorption case, on basis of a positive (= absorption) overall driving force, desorption was found. For the desorption case, on basis of a positive (= desorption) overall driving force, desorption is found.

This does make us wonder wether the concept is of much use in these more complicated situations in the instantaneous reaction regime.

- From the behaviour of the complete equations it can be seen that the fluxes can be predicted by the following equations.

$$\begin{aligned} J_{NH_3} &= k_{1,NH_3} \rho_1 ([NH_3]_{1,b} - [NH_3]_{1,int}) + k_{1,NH_4} \rho_1 ([NH_4^+]_b - [NH_4^+]_{int}) \\ &= k_1 \rho_1 (N_{T,b} - N_{T,int}) \end{aligned} \quad (21)$$

$$= k_{g,NH_3} \rho_g ([NH_3]_{g,int} - [NH_3]_{g,b}) \quad (22)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
J_{\text{H}_2\text{S}} &= k_{1,\text{H}_2\text{S}} \rho_1 ( [\text{H}_2\text{S}]_{1,\text{b}} - [\text{H}_2\text{S}]_{1,\text{int}} ) + k_{1,\text{HS}^-} \rho_1 ( [\text{HS}^-]_{\text{b}} - [\text{HS}^-]_{\text{int}} ) \\
&= k_1 \rho_1 ( S_{\text{T},\text{b}} - S_{\text{T},\text{int}} ) \quad (23) \\
&= k_{\text{g},\text{H}_2\text{S}} \rho_{\text{g}} ( [\text{H}_2\text{S}]_{\text{g},\text{int}} - [\text{H}_2\text{S}]_{\text{g},\text{b}} ) \quad (24)
\end{aligned}$$

with

$$[\text{NH}_3]_{\text{g},\text{int}} = \text{VLE} (N_{\text{T}}, S_{\text{T}})_{\text{int}} \quad \text{and} \quad [\text{H}_2\text{S}]_{\text{g},\text{int}} = \text{VLE} (N_{\text{T}}, S_{\text{T}})_{\text{int}} \quad (25)$$

where VLE is the set of Vapor Liquid Equilibrium relations for the compounds. The equations 21 to 25 can be solved for the two unknowns  $N_{\text{T},\text{int}}$  and  $S_{\text{T},\text{int}}$ , giving the same results for the fluxes as the numerical method. Notice that the VLE relations only have to be applied to calculate the compositions at the interface. In equations 21 and 23 it is assumed that all the components have the same mass transfer coefficient, which is not unreasonable because the diffusion coefficients have almost the same value.

#### 4.2. EXPERIMENTS

Desorption experiments on the wetted wall column were done at a temperature of 40 °C. The experiments yield curves of concentration versus time, which can be converted to fluxes according to :

$$J_{\text{T}} = - \frac{V}{a} \cdot \frac{dC_{\text{T}}}{dt}$$

where  $V$  is the volume of the system, and  $a$  the gas liquid exchange area. First the liquid and gas phase hydrodynamics were checked by measuring the desorption rate of  $\text{NH}_3$  alone (gas phase controlled) and  $\text{H}_2\text{S}$  alone (liquid phase controlled) from water. Out of these experiments values for the mass transfer coefficients were calculated that were within 3% of the theoretical values calculated with equations 5 and 7. Because of this good agreement no attempts were undertaken to determine the length of the stagnant zone near

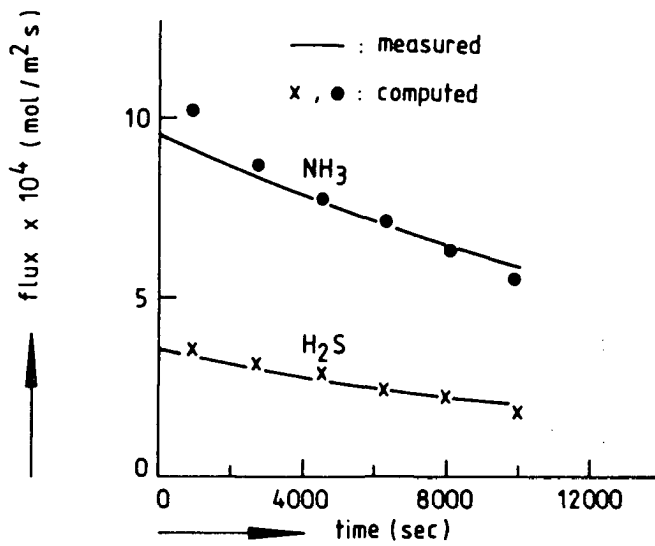


Figure 7 Measured and calculated fluxes for experiment 1.

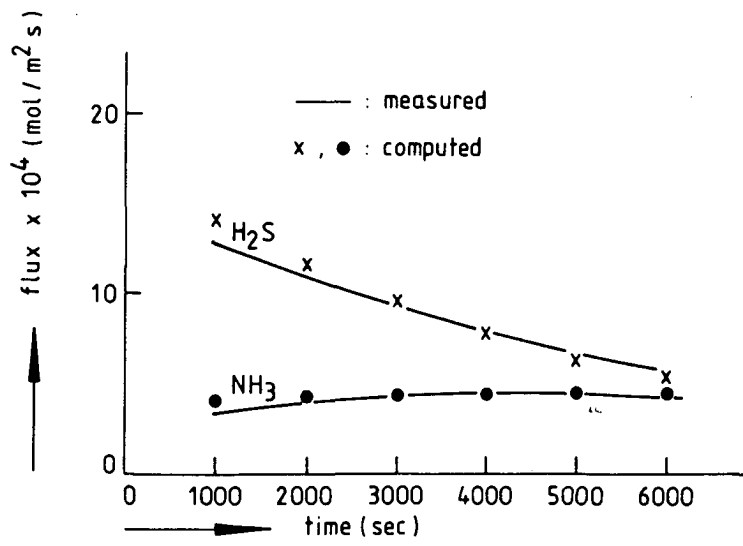


Figure 8 Measured and calculated fluxes for experiment 2.

the liquid outlet which would not be active in the physical desorption (Lefers).

Three experiments with  $\text{NH}_3$  and  $\text{H}_2\text{S}$  were performed with different initial concentrations:

Experiment 1	$N_T = 0.114 \text{ mol}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$	:	$S_T = 0.035 \text{ mol}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$
Experiment 2	$N_T = 0.084 \text{ mol}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$	:	$S_T = 0.063 \text{ mol}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$
Experiment 3	$N_T = 0.078 \text{ mol}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$	:	$S_T = 0.093 \text{ mol}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$

and other operating conditions held constant :

$$\phi_{m,l} = 5 \cdot 10^{-3} \text{ kg}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}, \phi_{m,g} = 3.31 \cdot 10^{-4} \text{ kg}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}, a = 1.2 \cdot 10^{-2} \text{ m}^2, L = 0.11 \text{ m}.$$

$$\tau_l = \tau_g = .33 \text{ s}, \delta = 0.21 \text{ mm}, T = 40 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}.$$

The results of the measurements are given in figure 7 to 10. In an experiment the concentrations become lower and so do the fluxes (experiment 1). For experiment 2 and 3 it is observed that the ammonia flux increases in time. The total concentration of ammonia decreases in time (figure 9). As a result of the high initial sulphur concentrations in experiment 2 and 3  $J_{\text{H}_2\text{S}}$  has a high value. This results in a liberation of  $\text{NH}_3$  from  $\text{NH}_4^+\text{HS}^-$  at a rate which is higher than the flux of ammonia to the gas. The net effect is therefore a decreasing  $N_T$  with an increasing  $[\text{NH}_3]$ , which is favourable for a higher ammonia flux.

The experimental fluxes, represented as the continuous lines, are compared with the theoretical values of the fluxes calculated with equations 21 to 25. The agreement is seen to be excellent.

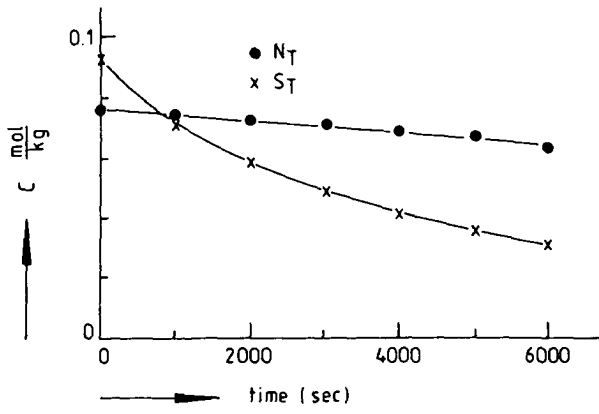


Figure 9 Measured concentrations as a function of time for experiment 3.

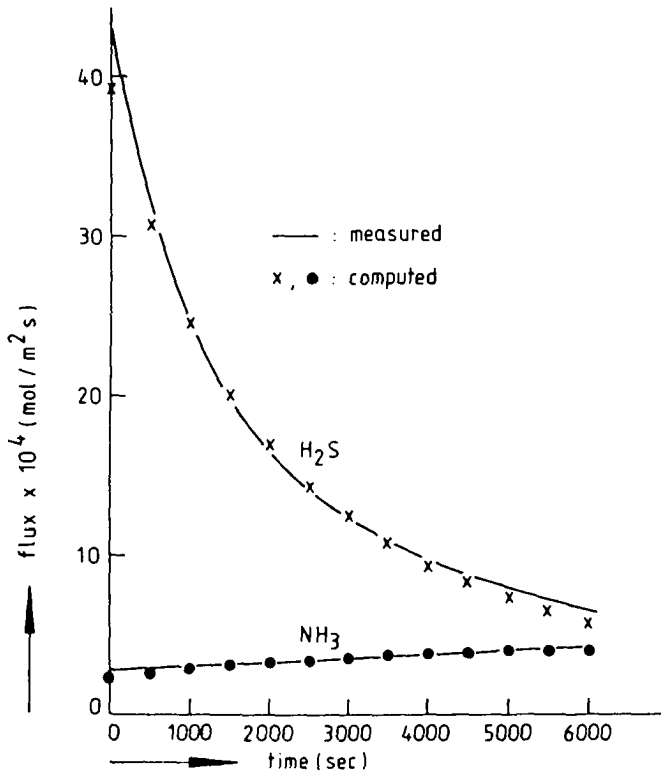


Figure 10 Measured and calculated fluxes for experiment 3.

## 5. CONCLUSION

Rates of desorption of ammonia and hydrogen sulphide from solutions can be predicted with a relative simple model, because the reactions are instantaneous. The theories and model presented take the liquid as well as the gas phase resistance to mass transfer into account. From numerical simulations followed that at higher concentrations of total sulphur the enhancement factor for ammonia becomes negative, while the ammonia flux is still towards the gas phase. In this case ammonia is desorbed with an increasing concentration profile towards the interface. Model calculations for the fluxes agree well with measurements on a wetted wall column. All measurements were carried out at a temperature of 40 °C. The model presented can be applied to any type of desorption equipment provided that  $k_1 a$  and  $k_g a$  are known.



## 6. SYBOLS

a	interfacial area	$m^2$
C	concentration	$\text{mol} \cdot \text{kg}^{-1}$
E	enhancement factor	-
g	acceleration of gravity	$\text{m} \cdot \text{s}^{-2}$
h	coordinate	m
J	flux	$\text{mol} \cdot \text{m}^2 \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$
$k_i$	mass transfer coefficient	$\text{m} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$
$k_1$	reaction rate constant	$\text{m}^3 \cdot \text{mol}^{-1} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$ or $\text{s}^{-1}$
L	length	m
m	partition coefficient	$\frac{\text{mol} \cdot \text{kg}^{-1} \text{ gas}}{\text{mol} \cdot \text{kg}^{-1} \text{ liquid}}$
R	concentration ratio $N_T/S_T$	(-)
$r_i$	production rate	$\text{mol} \cdot \text{m}^{-3} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$
Re	Reynolds number	(-)
$N_T$	total $\text{NH}_3$ concentration	$\text{mol} \cdot \text{kg}^{-1}$
$S_T$	total $\text{H}_2\text{S}$ concentration	$\text{mol} \cdot \text{kg}^{-1}$
v	velocity	$\text{m} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$
V	volume	$\text{m}^3$
z	coordinate	m

### Greek

$\Gamma$	mass rate per unit film width	$\text{kg} \cdot \text{m}^{-1} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$
$\delta$	filmthickness	m
$\eta$	viscosity	$\text{N} \cdot \text{s}^{-1} \cdot \text{m}^{-2}$
$\phi_m$	mass flow	$\text{kg} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$
$\rho$	density	$\text{kg} \cdot \text{m}^{-3}$
$\tau$	residence time	s
$\nabla$	nabla operator	

### subscript

b	bulk
g	gas
i	component i

int interface  
l liquid  
T total  
o physical

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## CHAPTER 3

### THEORY AND EXPERIMENTS ON THE SIMULTANEOUS DESORPTION OF VOLATILE ELECTROLYTES IN A WETTED WALL COLUMN

- AMMONIA AND CARBON DIOXIDE DESORPTION -

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#### ABSTRACT

Numerical solutions are presented of the simultaneous desorption of  $\text{NH}_3$  and  $\text{CO}_2$  at a stagnant water gas interface. These include the transport and reactions of all the major ionic species. The simulations show that carbon is mainly transported as carbamate at 40 °C. At 100 °C transport is governed by the bicarbonate ion. Approximate expressions based on the surface renewal theory to predict the fluxes are also given. The theories are substantiated by desorption experiments at 40 °C in a cocurrent wetted wall column.

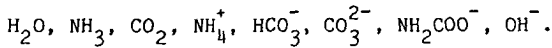
#### 1. INTRODUCTION

In the first part of this subject we introduced the subject of simultaneous desorption of volatile and chemically bonded electrolytes from water. This was illustrated with an analysis of the desorption of  $\text{NH}_3$  and  $\text{H}_2\text{S}$ . In this part we will discuss the desorption of  $\text{NH}_3$  and  $\text{CO}_2$ . For the basic theory, sources of physical and chemical parameters, and for a description of the equipment, the reader is referred to chapter 2.

## 2. THEORY

### 2.1 DESORPTION WITH CHEMICAL REACTION

Thermodynamics forms a starting point for the description of absorption and desorption phenomena. The equilibrium composition of a solution containing a total concentration of ammonia  $N_T$  and total concentration of carbon dioxide  $C_T$  can be calculated with the data of Edwards et al. (1978). It turns out that the following components are present



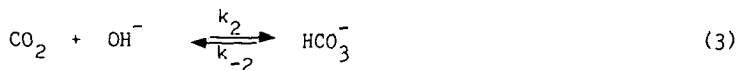
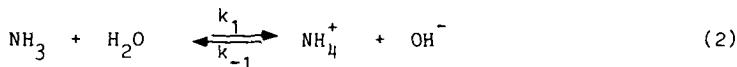
Here is  $NH_2COO^-$  the carbamate ion. This ion plays an important role in the modelling of the desorption process. The equilibrium concentration of carbamate is a function of composition and temperature. This effect is illustrated in table 1. From the table, 2nd and 5th column, it can be seen that the fraction of carbon present as carbamate is relatively small and becomes smaller at higher temperatures. The values in the table merely serve as an illustration; the fraction carbamate depends not only on the  $N_T/C_T$  ratio in the solution but also on the absolute values of the concentrations. The largest fraction of  $C_T$  is present as the bicarbonate ion. For an accurate analysis the carbonate ion concentration should also be taken into account.

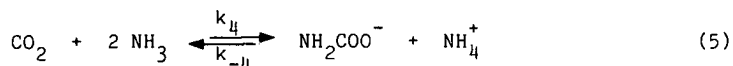
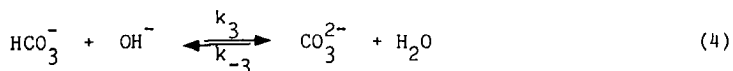
As discussed in chapter 2 the concentration profiles of the ions and molecular forms in liquid and gas films and the fluxes can be calculated by solving a set of material balances

$$\frac{\partial C_i}{\partial t} = D_i \frac{\partial^2 C_i}{\partial z^2} + r_i \quad (1)$$

and the electroneutrality relation simultaneously. The boundary conditions are the same as for the  $NH_3/H_2S$  desorption.

The reactions to be considered with their rates  $r_i$  are





There is also a reaction of  $\text{CO}_2$  with water to bicarbonate (Savage et al. (1980)). At higher pH values this mechanism is of little importance.

Reaction 2 is instantaneous; this was simulated using very high values of the rate constants. The rate constants of reaction 3 were measured and correlated as a function of temperature by Pinsent et al. (1956a). Savage et al. (1980) have shown that Pinsent's formula, valid to 40 °C, can be used up to 100 °C.

According to Astarita et al. (1981) reaction 4 is instantaneous. Reaction 5 is discussed by Danckwerts (1975) and Danckwerts and Sharma (1966).

The forward reaction can be expressed as

$$r_4 = k_4 [\text{CO}_2] [\text{NH}_3] \quad (6)$$

and the backward reaction

$$r_{-4} = k_4 K_4 \frac{[\text{NH}_2\text{COO}^-] [\text{NH}_4^+]}{[\text{NH}_3]} \quad (7)$$

where  $K_4$  is the equilibrium constant of reaction 5. For every simulation this constant was calculated from the bulk composition because our thermodynamic equations use another form of the equilibrium constant of the carbamate reaction. The equation for  $k_4$  from Pinsent et al. (1956b) is valid to 40 °C. To obtain an estimate for  $k_4$  at 100 °C, the value at 40 °C was doubled.

For solving the equations numerically the NAG library routine D03PGF was used. Integration turned out to be difficult for the routine. The following measures were taken to improve this:

- equations 1 were made dimensionless, using the film thickness and the bulk concentrations as reference values.
  - the grid points were chosen with a closer spacing towards the interface.
- Even with these precautions the routine was extremely sensitive to the choice of the values of the relative and absolute error.

$$L_L = 1.7 \cdot 10^{-4} \text{ m} \quad L_G = 1.7 \cdot 10^{-2} \text{ m} \quad t = 0.33 \text{ s}$$



$$N_T = 0,0882 \frac{\text{mol}}{\text{kg}}$$

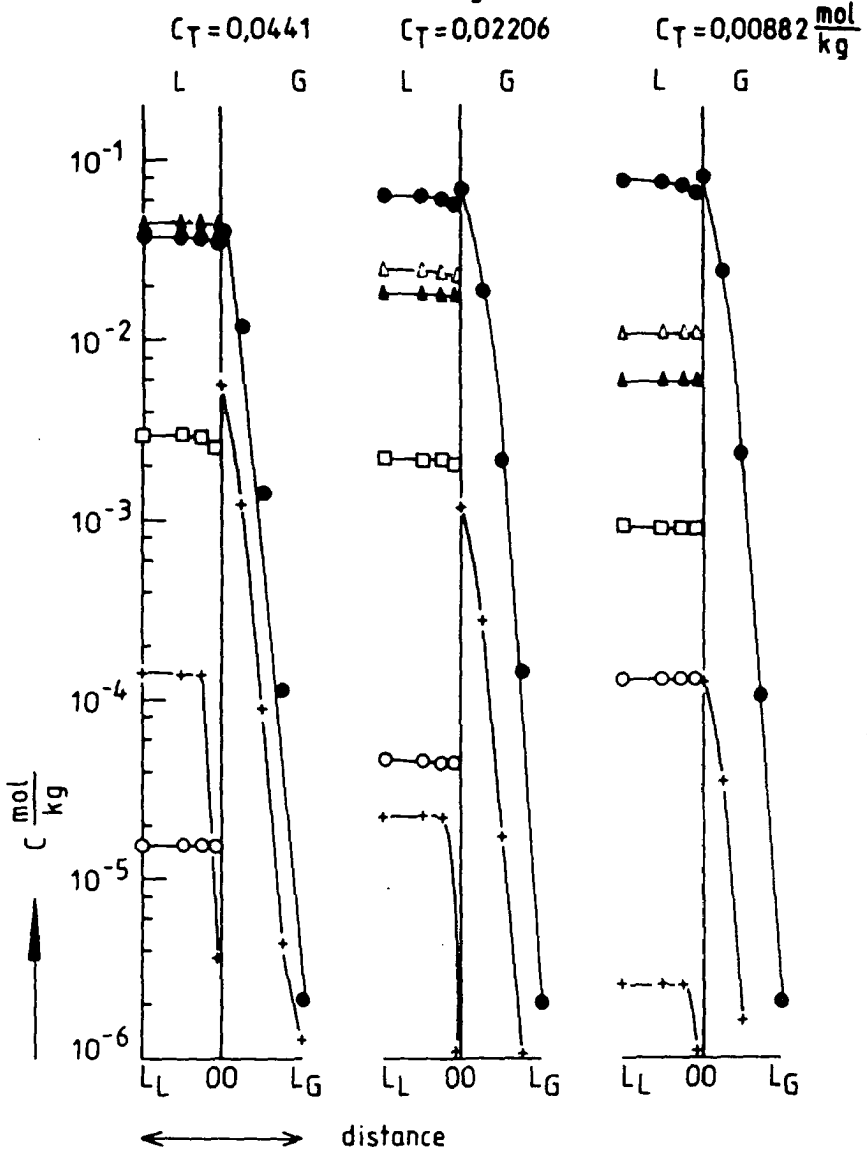


Figure 1 Calculated concentration profiles in liquid and gas films as a function of the composition.  $T = 40 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$

### 3. RESULTS

#### 3.1. COMPUTER SIMULATIONS

The simulations were performed for a constant total ammonia concentration in the bulk of the liquid of  $N_T = 0.0882 \text{ mol}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$ . The total carbon dioxide concentration  $C_T$  was varied from  $0.0441 \text{ mol}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$  to  $0.00882 \text{ mol}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$ , giving molar concentration ratio's  $R = N_T/C_T$  from 2 to 10. Figure 1 gives the concentrations as a function of the position in the film, at a contact time of 0.33 s, for R values of 2, 4 and 10. The horizontal scale in the gas ( $L_G$ ) is 100 times larger than that of the liquid ( $L_L$ ). In figure 2 the total fluxes of  $\text{NH}_3$  and  $\text{CO}_2$  are given as a function of the composition. The contribution of the different ions in the total carbon flux as a function of the composition and temperature is given in table 1.

The following aspects can be remarked from the calculations.

- In table 1 the relative contributions of different species to the flux are given. This contribution has been calculated from the depletion of the species in the film. It can be seen that at 40 °C the largest fraction of the total  $\text{CO}_2$  flux is due to the carbamate ion, which represents only 6 - 10 % of the total carbon. At 100 °C the carbamate fraction has become so small and the rate constant  $k_2$  so large that at this temperature the bicarbonate ions give the largest contribution to the flux. In table 1 the two ionic contributions do not sum up to 100 %, the difference being the molecular  $\text{CO}_2$  flux. For two compositions in the table (  $R = 6$  and  $10$  at  $100$  °C) the sum of the ionic contributions is larger than 100%. In these situations the  $\text{CO}_2$  profile has a maximum, which is not visible in figure 1, due to accumulation of  $\text{CO}_2$  in the film. This effect gives a negative contribution of the molecular form to the total carbon flux. This profile shape is also reported by Cornelisse et al.(1980).

- Except for  $\text{CO}_2$  the concentration profiles in the liquid are relatively flat. For  $\text{NH}_3$  this is caused by its high gas phase resistance. For  $\text{HCO}_3^-$  the cause is firstly the slow decomposition rate of reaction 3, and secondly, but this is a second order effect, the production of  $\text{HCO}_3^-$  from  $\text{CO}_3^{2-}$  according to reaction 4. As a consequence of electroneutrality this also gives a flat profile of the  $\text{NH}_4^+$  ion.



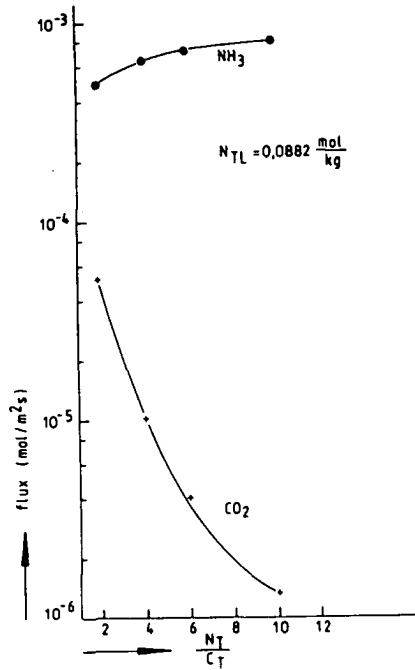


Figure 2 Calculated fluxes of  $\text{NH}_3$  and  $\text{CO}_2$  as a function of the composition.  $T = 40 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$

Table 1 Fraction carbamate and contribution of the ions in the carbon flux as a function of the composition  $N_T = 0.0882 \text{ mol}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$ .

R	T = 40 °C			T = 100 °C		
	% C as $\text{NH}_2\text{COO}$	% C-flux $\text{NH}_2\text{COO}$	% C-flux $\text{HCO}_3 + \text{CO}_3$	% C as $\text{NH}_2\text{COO}$	% C-flux $\text{NH}_2\text{COO}$	% C-flux $\text{HCO}_3 + \text{CO}_3$
2	6.9	93	1	1.8	7	80
4	9.8	96	0.9	2.7	14	85
6	10.5	95	0.9	3.0	18	83
10	10.4	94	0.8	3.3	23	79

- Ammonia is at equilibrium in the liquid film with local concentrations of  $\text{OH}^-$  and  $\text{NH}_4^+$ . For carbon dioxide considerable deviations from equilibrium occur. The difference from the equilibrium constants of the reactions 3 and 5 and those calculated from local concentrations may be as much as a factor five to ten. The deviations are the largest at the interface. Moreover, the concentration of  $\text{CO}_2$  that would be in equilibrium with the participating reactants of reaction 3 is even different from that of reaction 5.

- The interfacial concentration of  $\text{NH}_3$  is almost constant. The interfacial concentration of  $\text{CO}_2$  however changes in time (figure 3). The influence on

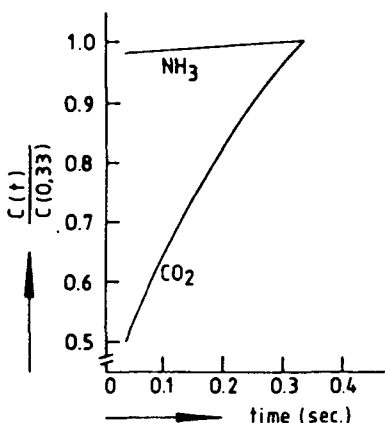


Figure 3 Evolution of the normalized interfacial concentrations as a function of time.

the fluxes is not large. We observed an average difference of 5% in the overall fluxes compared to calculations with interfacial concentrations of the molecular forms constant in time, the latter method giving the highest values. The influence is small because the absolute concentration of  $\text{CO}_2$  at the interface is small. With absorption however situations may occur where this interfacial concentration is higher and so the effect more pronounced. The numerical method used to solve the partial differential equations required considerable amount of computing time to integrate the equations with changing interfacial concentrations. The time dependancy of the interfacial concentra-

tions cannot be specified at forehand, but has to be determined by an iteration upon  $[\text{NH}_3]_{\text{int}}$  and  $[\text{CO}_2]_{\text{int}}$  over a small time slice until the overall mass balances of  $\text{NH}_3$  and  $\text{CO}_2$  over gas and liquid are satisfied. In the limiting case when the value of the time slice is chosen as the integration (contact) time, the calculation has been done with constant interfacial concentrations. This means that for this last method the overall mass balance is satisfied for the whole contact time but not necessarily at intermediate times.

As the difference in the fluxes for both calculation methods is not that great, simulations were preferably done with constant interfacial concentrations.

- It can be remarked that the flux of carbon dioxide is about a factor 30 lower than that of hydrogen sulphide under conditions of equal total molar composition. This despite the fact that carbon dioxide is the more volatile of these components. The flux of ammonia is only 20 % lower.

### 3.2. DEVELOPMENT OF A SIMPLE MODEL

Even with a large computer the numerical methods used above are too unwieldy for design calculations for desorption columns. So simpler means of estimating the fluxes are required.

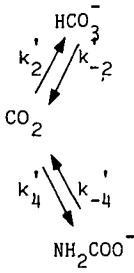
The problem is formed by the parallel reactions 3 and 5 both yielding  $\text{CO}_2$  and the coupled reaction 2.

A good summary of the literature dealing with mass transfer and reaction in parallel can be found in the book of Westerterp et al. (1984). Unfortunately the examples given deal mainly with absorption with irreversible kinetics.

The work of Pangarkar and Sharma (1974), who studied the absorption of  $\text{CO}_2$  and  $\text{NH}_3$ , is mentioned here as an example. The problem of desorption with a parallel reaction was also encountered by Mahajani and Danckwerts (1983). They studied the rate of desorption of  $\text{CO}_2$  from potash solutions with and without the addition of alkanolamines. Assuming that all concentrations except that of  $\text{CO}_2$  remain constant in the film they used the enhancement factor equation of the fast regime with a Hatta number based upon the sum of the two forward reaction rate constants. This theory does not work in general because the underlying assumption of a constant  $\text{CO}_2$  concentration that would be in equilibrium with the reactants is violated.

It is to be expected that the fluxes will be a function of the bulk and interfacial concentrations of the participating reactants and the forward and backward rate constants.

As one might imagine the authors were not able to derive analytical expressions for the fluxes. Our approximate theory will assume pseudo first order kinetics. This is justified by the concentration profiles given before, but will also take into account the reversibility of the chemical reactions. The reactions 3 and 5 involving  $\text{CO}_2$  can be written in a pseudo first order form as

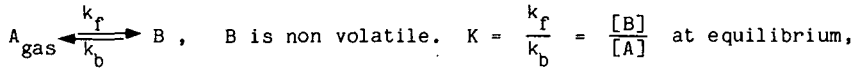


$$\begin{aligned}
 K_2 &= \frac{[\text{HCO}_3^-]}{[\text{CO}_2]} \\
 &= K_2 [\text{OH}^-]
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 K_4 &= \frac{[\text{NH}_2\text{COO}^-]}{[\text{CO}_2]} \\
 &= K_4 \cdot \frac{[\text{NH}_4^+]}{[\text{NH}_3]^2}
 \end{aligned}$$

Before continuing with the parallel  $\text{CO}_2$  reactions, let us first have a look at a single reversible chemical reaction of finite speed.

Such reaction can be represented as



The enhancement factor for this reaction, flux divided by the product of driving force and (physical) mass transfer coefficient, can be found in Danckwerts (1975). According to the Danckwerts surface renewal model the following expression for the enhancement factor holds

$$E = \frac{(K+1)\sqrt{(1+Ha^2(1+K)/K)}}{K + \sqrt{(1+Ha^2(1+K)/K)}} \quad (9)$$

with the Hatta number

$$Ha = \frac{\sqrt{(D_A k_f)}}{k_1} \quad (10)$$

This relation covers the three regimes (figure 4)

- (i)  $E \rightarrow 1$  when  $K \rightarrow 0$ , the equation for a physical absorption or desorption
- (ii)  $E \rightarrow \sqrt{(1 + Ha^2)}$  when  $K \gg Ha$ , the well known equation for the fast reaction regime
- (iii)  $E \rightarrow 1 + K$  when  $Ha \gg K$ , the equation for the instantaneous regime

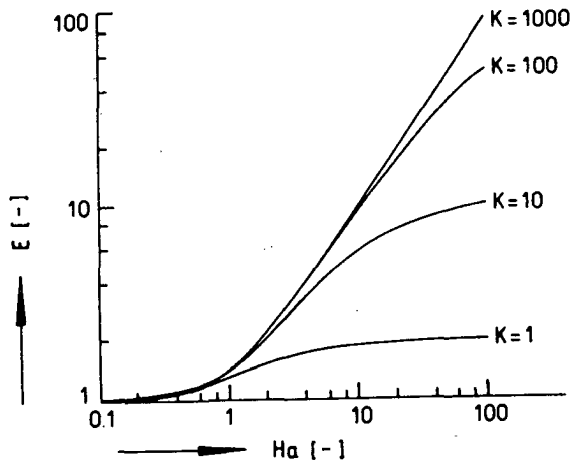


Figure 4 Enhancement factor as a function of the Ha number.

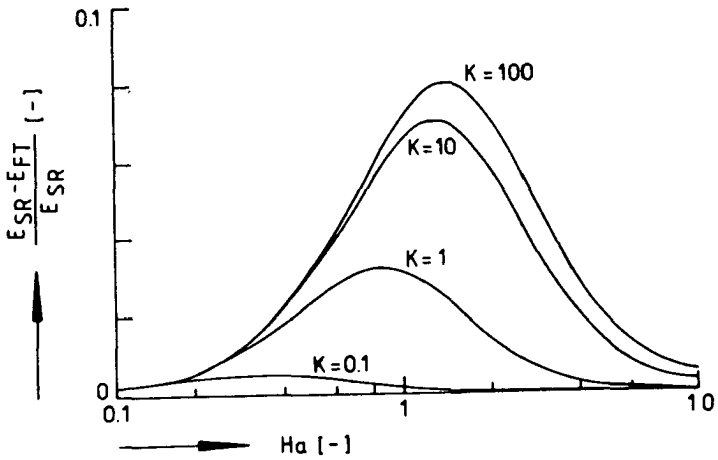


Figure 5 Relative difference between enhancement factors of surface renewal and film theory as a function of the Ha number.

Other equations for the enhancement factor can be found in literature. They depend on the hydrodynamic model chosen and the boundary conditions of the governing differential equations. The use of the surface renewal equation is a conscious choice. The enhancement factor as predicted by the penetration theory is not convenient due to the appearance of error functions. An equation for the enhancement factor proposed in the article of Shah and Sharma (1976) was found to be both less convenient and less accurate. The predictions of the equations of the film and surface renewal theory are, according to Danckwerts (1975), numerically almost the same. For the interval of Ha numbers we will encounter for this desorption problem ( $Ha \approx 1$ ) a not unimportant discrepancy exists between the surface renewal (SR) and film theory (FT). In figure 5 the relative difference in prediction between the two models has been plotted. We observe that around  $Ha$  equals one the film model can have an error of 5%. At low and high Hatta numbers the difference is small indeed. We give attention to this difference as we will need two enhancement factors, so the differences may accumulate.

Now we consider desorption with two reactions in parallel. If both components 'B' are in excess it can be easily shown that in the fast reaction regime the total enhancement due to the two reactions follows

$$E_{tot} = \sqrt{\left( \frac{Dk_{f,1}}{k_1^2} + \frac{Dk_{f,2}}{k_1^2} \right)} \quad (11)$$

Here are  $k_{f,1}$  and  $k_{f,2}$  the two forward reaction rate constants of the parallel reactions. Equation 11 was used by Mahajani and Danckwerts (1983). At first glance an astonishing equation because the enhancement for desorption is independent of the magnitude of the backward reaction constants. These influence only the equilibrium value of  $[A]_b$ , and in this manner the driving force.

The expression we have tested against our numerical results is a generalisation of equation 11

$$E_{tot} = \sqrt{\left( E_1^2 + E_2^2 - 1 \right)} \quad (12)$$

where  $E_1$  and  $E_2$  are the individual enhancement factors of the two parallel reactions calculated with equation 9. The '-1' sets the enhancement factor to one if both reaction rate constants go to zero. Equation 12 is easily

seen to predict limiting cases such as physical desorption and those situations where either of the two reactions has an overruling effect on the desorption rate.

Let us return to the  $\text{NH}_3\text{-CO}_2$  desorption. We assume that all components have the same mass transfer coefficients. For the parallel reactions we have two Hatta numbers,  $\text{Ha}_{\text{HCO}_3^-}$  and  $\text{Ha}_{\text{NH}_2\text{COO}^-}$  with corresponding  $K_2'$  and  $K_4'$  values. According to equation 9 these give two enhancement factors,  $E_{\text{HCO}_3^-}$  and  $E_{\text{NH}_2\text{COO}^-}$ . The Hatta number for the  $\text{HCO}_3^-$  reaction,  $\sqrt{(\text{Dk}_2[\text{OH}^-])/k_1}$ , has a value of about 0.60 at 40 °C and 4 at 100 °C. The pseudo first order  $K_2'$ -value for the  $\text{HCO}_3^-$  reaction,  $[\text{HCO}_3^-]/[\text{CO}_2]$ , is large compared to  $\text{Ha}_{\text{HCO}_3^-}$  so that equation 9 behaves such that  $E_{\text{HCO}_3^-} = \sqrt{(1 + \text{Ha}_{\text{HCO}_3^-}^2)}$ .

For the  $\text{NH}_2\text{COO}^-$  reaction the quantity  $\sqrt{(\text{Dk}_4[\text{NH}_3])/k_1}$  has a value of 4 at 40 °C which changes to 6 at 100 °C. The pseudo first order  $K_4'$ -value for this reaction,  $[\text{NH}_2\text{COO}^-]/[\text{CO}_2]$ , is a strong function of the composition. For the compositions studied its value is in the range of 1 to 300 at 40 °C, and between 0.03 and 1.5 at 100 °C. At 100 °C where  $K_4' \leq \text{Ha}_{\text{NH}_2\text{COO}^-}$  the enhancement of the carbamate reaction is small because of the small amount of carbamate in the solution. So here we observe a shift in behaviour of the enhancement from  $\sqrt{(1 + \text{Ha}_{\text{NH}_2\text{COO}^-}^2)}$  at 40 °C to  $1 + K_4'$  at 100 °C.

With a known total enhancement factor  $E_{\text{C,tot}}$ , the  $\text{CO}_2$  flux can be expressed as

$$J_{\text{CO}_2} = E_{\text{C,tot}} k_1 \rho_1 ([\text{CO}_2]_{1,\text{b}} - [\text{CO}_2]_{1,\text{int}}) \quad (13)$$

$$= k_{\text{g,CO}_2} \rho_{\text{g}} ([\text{CO}_2]_{\text{g,int}} - [\text{CO}_2]_{\text{g,b}}) \quad (14)$$

With the Henry constant of  $\text{CO}_2$  equations 13 and 14 easily yield  $J_{\text{CO}_2}$ .

To calculate the ammonia flux the values of  $[\text{NH}_3]$ ,  $[\text{NH}_4^+]$  and  $[\text{NH}_2\text{COO}^-]$ ,  $[\text{HCO}_3^-]$ ,  $[\text{CO}_3^{2-}]$  and  $[\text{OH}^-]$  should be known at the interface. All concentrations, except those of  $\text{HCO}_3^-$  and  $\text{NH}_2\text{COO}^-$ , are in chemical equilibrium. It is reasonable to think that  $[\text{NH}_2\text{COO}^-]_{\text{int}}$  can be calculated from its individual enhancement factor and its bulk concentration. If for instance  $E_{\text{NH}_2\text{COO}^-}$  equals one then the bulk concentration must equal the interfacial concentration.

The carbon flux due to the ions  $\text{HCO}_3^-$  and  $\text{NH}_2\text{COO}^-$  is

$$J_{\text{HCO}_3^-} + J_{\text{NH}_2\text{COO}^-} = (E_{\text{C,tot}} - 1) k_1 \rho_1 ([\text{CO}_2]_{\text{b}} - [\text{CO}_2]_{\text{int}}) \quad (15)$$

From equation 12 it can be seen that from the enhancement ( $E_{C,tot}^{-1}$ ) in equation 15, a fraction  $(E_{NH_2COO^-}^{-1})^2 / (E_{C,tot}^{-1})^2$  is due to the enhancement by the  $NH_2COO^-$  reaction. This gives for  $J_{NH_2COO}$

$$\begin{aligned}
 J_{NH_2COO} &= \frac{(E_{NH_2COO^-}^{-1})^2}{(E_{C,tot}^{-1})} k_1 \rho_1 ([CO_2]_b - [CO_2]_{int}) \\
 &= \frac{(E_{NH_2COO^-}^{-1})^2}{(E_{C,tot}^{-1}) E_{C,tot}} \cdot J_{CO_2}
 \end{aligned} \tag{16}$$

As we know that

$$J_{NH_2COO} = k_1 \rho_1 ([NH_2COO^-]_b - [NH_2COO^-]_{int}) \tag{17}$$

it follows from equation 16 and 17 that

$$[NH_2COO^-]_{int} = [NH_2COO^-]_b - \frac{J_{NH_2COO}}{k_1 \rho_1} \tag{18}$$

The value of  $[HCO_3^-]_{int}$  can be calculated most accurately from the total carbon flux

$$J_{CO_2} = k_1 \rho_1 (C_{T,b} - C_{T,int}) \tag{19}$$

with

$$C_T = [CO_2] + [HCO_3^-] + [CO_3^{2-}] + [NH_2COO^-] \tag{20}$$

It follows from equation 19 and 20 that

$$[HCO_3^-]_{int} + [CO_3^{2-}]_{int} = C_{T,b} - \frac{J_{CO_2}}{k_1 \rho_1} - [CO_2]_{int} - [NH_2COO^-]_{int} \tag{21}$$

As  $CO_3^{2-}$  is in equilibrium with  $HCO_3^-$  and  $OH^-$ , the equilibrium constant of reaction 4 can be used to eliminate this concentration. This gives

$$[HCO_3^-]_{int} = \frac{C_{T,b} - \frac{J_{CO_2}}{k_1 \rho_1} - [CO_2]_{int} - [NH_2COO^-]_{int}}{1 + K_{HCO_3} \cdot [OH^-]_{int}} \tag{22}$$



Table 2 Agreement between numerical and approximated fluxes at 40 °C.

$N_T$	$C_T$	C-flux		N-flux	
		numerical	approx.	numerical	approx.
mol/kg	mol/kg	mol/m <sup>2</sup> s <sup>1</sup>	mol/m <sup>2</sup> s <sup>1</sup>	mol/m <sup>2</sup> s <sup>1</sup>	mol/m <sup>2</sup> s <sup>1</sup>
		*10 <sup>4</sup>	*10 <sup>4</sup>	*10 <sup>4</sup>	*10 <sup>4</sup>
0.5	0.3	3.27	2.86	14.05	13.6
0.1266	0.0995	1.53	1.48	2.41	2.39
0.1128	0.0701	1.19	1.05	4.05	4.01
0.091	0.0648	1.25	1.13	2.57	2.56
0.0882	0.0441	0.49	0.43	4.25	4.23
0.0882	0.0221	0.095	0.089	6.52	6.51
0.0882	0.0147	0.042	0.037	7.60	7.33
0.0882	0.0088	0.015	0.013	8.40	8.01
0.0437	0.0364	0.796	0.73	0.79	0.78
0.0399	0.0327	0.66	0.61	0.76	0.76

Table 3 Agreement between numerical and approximated fluxes at 100 °C.

$N_T$	$C_T$	C-flux		N-flux	
		numerical	approx.	numerical	approx.
mol/kg	mol/kg	mol/m <sup>2</sup> s <sup>1</sup>	mol/m <sup>2</sup> s <sup>1</sup>	mol/m <sup>2</sup> s <sup>1</sup>	mol/m <sup>2</sup> s <sup>1</sup>
		*10 <sup>4</sup>	*10 <sup>4</sup>	*10 <sup>4</sup>	*10 <sup>4</sup>
0.5	0.3	49.4	41.6	138	130
0.1	0.09	34.2	31.1	23.1	20.9
0.1	0.07	21.0	19.1	28.3	26.3
0.1	0.05	11.4	10.0	35.2	33.6
0.1	0.03	5.1	4.2	43.5	42.6
0.0882	0.0441	10.2	8.9	31.0	29.7
0.0882	0.0221	3.45	2.74	40.0	39.8
0.0882	0.0147	1.89	1.44	44.0	43.5
0.0882	0.0088	0.89	0.66	47.0	46.7
0.05	0.04	11.0	10.1	11.5	10.6
0.03	0.01	1.50	1.26	12.5	12.3

so that  $[\text{HCO}_3^-]_{\text{int}}$  is a function of  $[\text{OH}^-]_{\text{int}}$ , this in turn is a function of  $J_{\text{NH}_3}$  as ammonia determines the pOH of the solution at the interface. For the flux  $J_{\text{NH}_3}$  we write

$$J_{\text{NH}_3} = k_l \rho_l (N_{\text{T},\text{b}} - N_{\text{T},\text{int}}) \quad (23)$$

$$= k_g \rho_g ([\text{NH}_3]_{\text{g},\text{int}} - [\text{NH}_3]_{\text{g},\text{b}}) \quad (23)$$

$$N_{\text{T}} = [\text{NH}_3] + [\text{NH}_4^+] + [\text{NH}_2\text{COO}^-] \quad (24)$$

$$K_{\text{NH}_3} = \frac{[\text{NH}_4^+]_{\text{int}} [\text{OH}^-]_{\text{int}}}{[\text{NH}_3]_{\text{int}}} \quad (25)$$

$$K_{\text{HCO}_3} = \frac{[\text{CO}_3^{2-}]_{\text{int}}}{[\text{HCO}_3^-]_{\text{int}} [\text{OH}^-]_{\text{int}}} \quad (26)$$

$$[\text{NH}_4^+]_{\text{int}} = [\text{HCO}_3^-]_{\text{int}} + [\text{NH}_2\text{COO}^-]_{\text{int}} + 2 \cdot [\text{CO}_3^{2-}]_{\text{int}} + [\text{OH}^-]_{\text{int}} \quad (27)$$

$$m_{\text{NH}_3} = \frac{[\text{NH}_3]_{\text{g},\text{int}}}{[\text{NH}_3]_{\text{l},\text{int}}} \quad (28)$$

The contribution of  $\text{NH}_2\text{COO}^-$  in the  $\text{NH}_3$  flux is taken into account with equation 23 (for the interface) and equation 27.

We solved equations 22 to 28 with an iteration on  $[\text{OH}^-]_{\text{int}}$ . The equations can be written in sequence where a start value of  $[\text{OH}^-]_{\text{int}}$  yields a new value for  $[\text{OH}^-]_{\text{int}}$ , which can be used again in the iteration. Starting with the value of the bulk concentration of  $\text{OH}^-$ , convergence was obtained after 5 recalculations of the equations. The results of a series of calculations done at different compositions are compared with the fluxes determined by the numerical method in table 2 for 40 °C and in table 3 for 100 °C. The approximate fluxes are always slightly lower. For carbon dioxide deviations from 12% at 40 °C to 25% at 100 °C may occur. For ammonia the difference is usually smaller than 10%.

A comparison between the approximate and numerical method for the individual component fluxes (such as  $J_{\text{HCO}_3}$ ) is not given. We noticed that a smaller approximated flux of e.g.  $\text{HCO}_3^-$  is usually compensated by a larger approximated flux of  $\text{NH}_2\text{COO}^-$ .

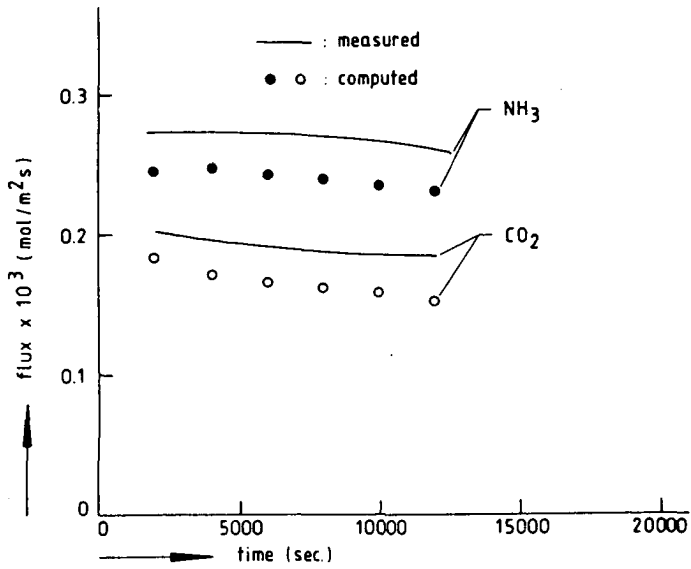


Figure 6 Measured and calculated fluxes for experiment 1.

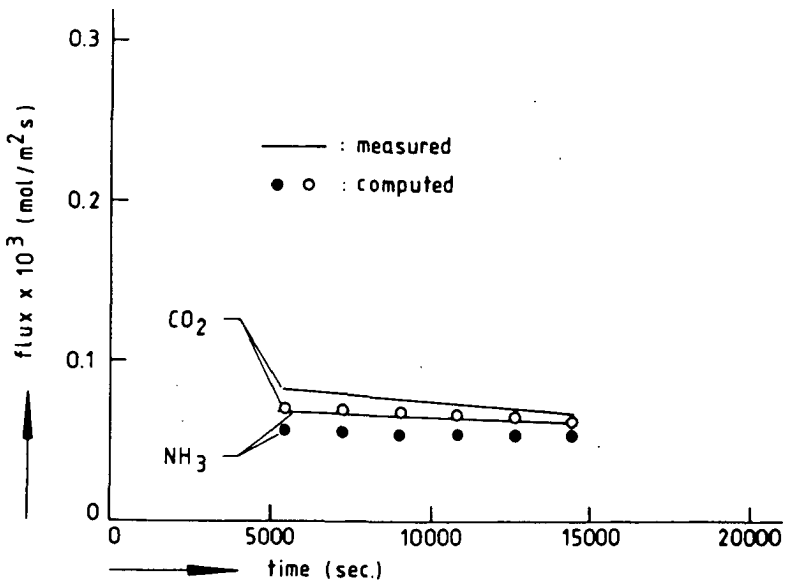


Figure 7 Measured and calculated fluxes for experiment 2.

### 3.3. EXPERIMENTS

Under similar experimental conditions as described in chapter 2, three desorption experiments at 40 °C are reported here. The initial concentrations of the components were :

Experiment 1	$N_T = 0.1399 \text{ mol}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$	:	$C_T = 0.1172 \text{ mol}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$
Experiment 2	$N_T = 0.0401 \text{ mol}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$	:	$C_T = 0.0352 \text{ mol}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$
Experiment 3	$N_T = 0.1310 \text{ mol}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$	:	$C_T = 0.1340 \text{ mol}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$

The results of the measurements are given in figure 6, 7, and 8, as the continuous lines and are compared with the values of the fluxes determined by the approximate method.

The third experiment was done in a 0.18 M NaCl solution. This experiment provides a severe test of the thermodynamic framework used. The activity coefficients of the components are influenced by the high ionic strength. The  $\text{CO}_2$  flux is very sensitive to the value of these coefficients.

To show the influence we have calculated the fluxes for experiment 3 with the liquid assumed to be ideal. At a given composition  $N_T, C_T$  the fluxes are then higher because the position of the equilibria of the  $\text{CO}_2$  reactions is shifted towards that of the molecular form.

In an experiment the total concentrations become lower and so do the fluxes (figure 6 and 7). This does not hold for ammonia in experiment 3 (figure 8). In this experiment  $J_{\text{NH}_3}$  increases in time. As a result of the high initial carbon concentration  $J_{\text{CO}_2}$  has a high value. This results in a liberation of  $\text{NH}_3$  from  $\text{NH}_4^+$ , at a rate which is higher than the flux of ammonia to the gas. So the net effect is a decreasing  $N_T$ , with an increasing  $[\text{NH}_3]$ , which is favourable for a higher ammonia flux.

The agreement between calculated and predicted fluxes is seen to be good.

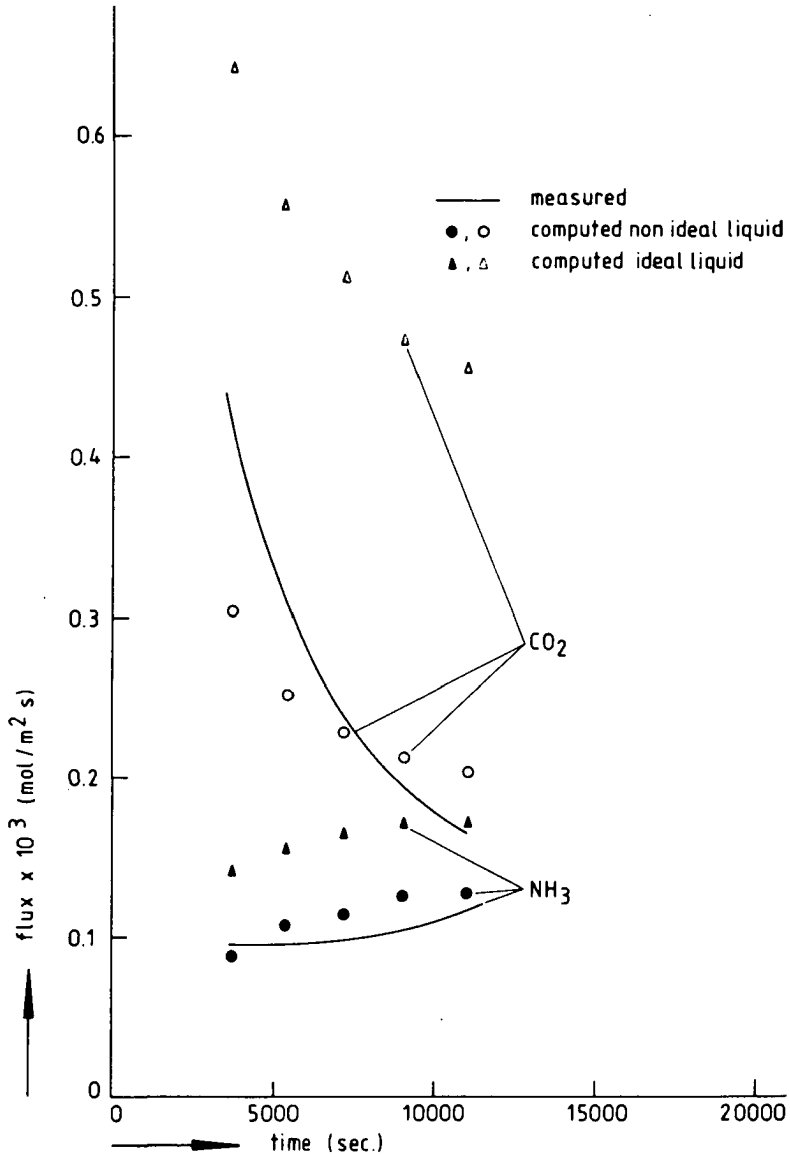
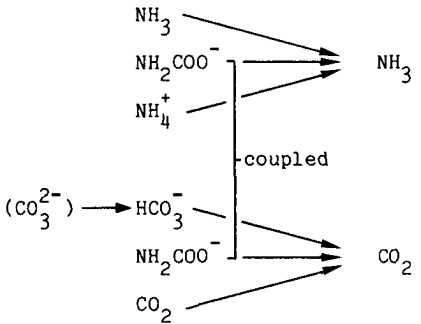


Figure 8 Measured and calculated fluxes for experiment 3. [NaCl] = 0.18 M.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

Computer simulations show that simultaneous desorption of ammonia and carbon dioxide is governed by the following diffusion with reaction mechanisms



The carbamate reaction usually plays a minor role in the ammonia transport. It is important for the carbon dioxide transport at low temperatures. At high temperatures the bicarbonate reaction is sufficiently rapid to take over.

The computer simulations are very time consuming. To obtain a simpler estimation method an equation for the enhancement factor based on the surface renewal model was extended empirically. This equation covers several limiting cases of mass transfer with chemical reaction.

In the situations studied here, the agreement between the approximate method and the complete simulations was quite adequate.

The simulations were checked with closely controlled experiments in a cocurrent wetted wall column at 40 °C. The measured fluxes agree quite well with the approximate model. This model can be applied to any type of desorption equipment provided that the mass transfer parameters  $k_1$ ,  $a$  and  $k_g$  are known.

**SYMBOLS**

C	concentration	$\text{mol}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$
$C_T$	total $\text{CO}_2$ concentration	$\text{mol}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$
E	enhancement factor	(-)
Ha	Hatta number	(-)
J	flux	$\text{mol}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$
$K'$	equilibrium constant	$\text{mol}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$
$K''$	pseudo first order equilibrium constant	(-)
$k_i$	mass transfer coefficient	$\text{m}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$
$k_1$	reaction rate constant	$\text{m}^3\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$ or $\text{s}^{-1}$
m	partition coefficient	$\frac{(\text{mol}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1})_{\text{gas}}}{(\text{mol}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1})_{\text{liquid}}}$
$N_T$	total $\text{NH}_3$ concentration	$\text{mol}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$
R	concentration ratio $N_T/C_T$	(-)
$r_i$	production rate	$\text{mol}\cdot\text{m}^{-3}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$
T	temperature	$^{\circ}\text{C}$
t	time	s
z	coordinate	m

Greek

$\rho$	density	$\text{kg}\cdot\text{m}^{-3}$
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subscript

b	bulk or backward
C	$\text{CO}_2$
f	forward
g	gas
i	component i
int	interface
l	liquid
tot	total

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## CHAPTER 4

### THEORY AND EXPERIMENTS ON THE SIMULTANEOUS DESORPTION OF VOLATILE ELECTROLYTES IN A WETTED WALL COLUMN

- AMMONIA, HYDROGEN SULPHIDE AND CARBON DIOXIDE DESORPTION -

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#### ABSTRACT

Experiments are presented of the simultaneous desorption of  $\text{NH}_3$ ,  $\text{H}_2\text{S}$  and  $\text{CO}_2$  from water at a stagnant water gas interface. The experiments can be described with a model that can be seen as the union of the two models presented in the chapter 2 and 3 describing the  $\text{NH}_3$ - $\text{H}_2\text{S}$  and  $\text{NH}_3$ - $\text{CO}_2$  desorption respectively.

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

This is an extension of previous work to the simultaneous desorption of three components from water undergoing chemical reactions.

In practice stripping operations usually have at most two major strippable components (or are regarded to have only two components):

-sour water in oil refineries primarily contains ammonia and hydrogen sulphide

-process water in the production of urea fertilizer mainly contains ammonia and carbon dioxide.

Nevertheless cases with more components do occur and we thought it worthwhile to pay some attention to the subject.

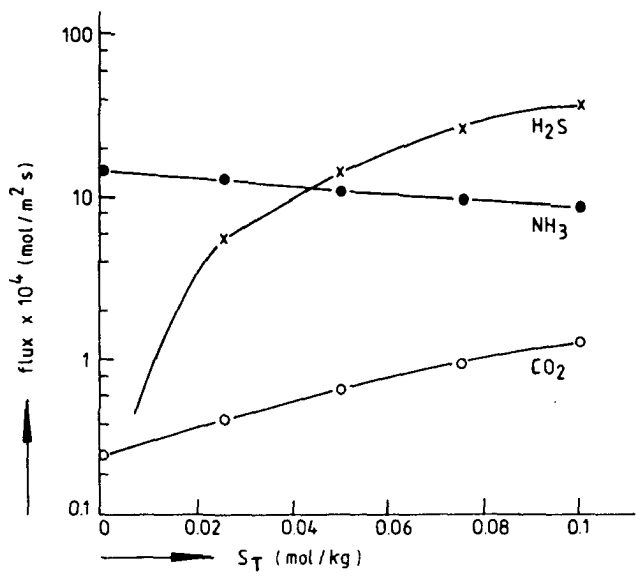


Figure 1 Fluxes as a function the total concentration of hydrogen sulphide.  
 ( $N_T = 0.2 \text{ mol}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$ ,  $C_T = 0.05 \text{ mol}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$ )

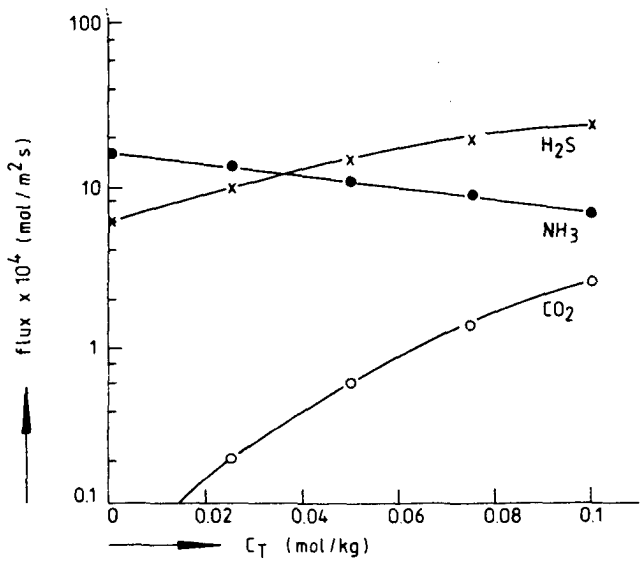


Figure 2 Fluxes as a function the total concentration of carbon dioxide.  
 ( $N_T = 0.2 \text{ mol}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$ ,  $S_T = 0.05 \text{ mol}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$ )

## 2. RESULTS

### 2.1. DESORPTION WITH CHEMICAL REACTION

As we have shown earlier the mass transfer of the volatile electrolytes studied can be described by a series of coupled partial differential equations. These can in principle be solved by numerical integration using the appropriate initial and boundary conditions. We have not attempted to do this for three components. Already with the system  $\text{NH}_3\text{-CO}_2$  considerable difficulties were encountered. It is to be expected that these will be much worse if three extra equations ( for  $[\text{H}_2\text{S}]_1$ ,  $[\text{H}_2\text{S}]_g$  and  $[\text{HS}^-]$  ) are added. The calculation scheme for the  $\text{NH}_3\text{-CO}_2$  desorption was directly extended to one for  $\text{NH}_3$ ,  $\text{H}_2\text{S}$  and  $\text{CO}_2$ . The only change to the  $\text{NH}_3 - \text{CO}_2$  calculation scheme is an addition of the equations giving the  $\text{H}_2\text{S}$  flux.

This modification can be done by inserting the equations for  $J_{\text{H}_2\text{S}}$  (equations 23 - 25 from part 1 ) in a suitable place in the calculation scheme of ammonia and carbon dioxide ( between equation 24 and 25 in part 2 ). Furthermore the electroneutrality relation at the interface has to be modified to include the new species.

The behaviour of the desorption can be illustrated with some calculations. These have been done for a wetted wall column with cocurrent gas and liquid flow. Values of parameters have been taken at 40 °C.

Figure 1 gives the fluxes of  $\text{NH}_3$ ,  $\text{H}_2\text{S}$  and  $\text{CO}_2$  as a function of the total sulfur composition (  $N_T = 0.2$  and  $C_T = 0.05 \text{ mol}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$  ). Figure 2 shows the same but for different total carbon concentrations (  $N_T = 0.2$  and  $S_T = 0.05 \text{ mol}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$  ), and in figure 3 the total nitrogen is changed at constant acid load (  $S_T = 0.05$  and  $C_T = 0.025 \text{ mol}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$  ).

From figure 1 and 2 can be seen that an increase in concentration in one of the acid components causes an increase in the flux of the other acid gas and a decrease of that of the basic gas ammonia. Also the reverse is true: increasing the concentration of ammonia makes the fluxes of  $\text{H}_2\text{S}$  and  $\text{CO}_2$  lower ( figure 3 ). The results shown in the figures include two effects. The most important one is the shift in the equilibria and therefore in the driving forces. Secondly the enhancement factors of the components, and so the overall mass transfer coefficients, also change with the composition.

If more acid gas (e.g.  $S_T$  in figure 1) is added to a mixture of constant  $N_T$  and  $C_T$  then:

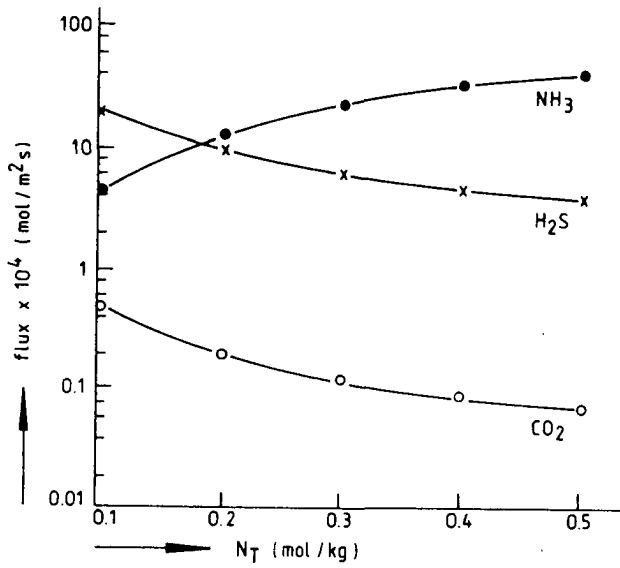


Figure 3 Fluxes as a function the total concentration of ammonia.

$$(S_T = 0.05 \text{ mol} \cdot \text{kg}^{-1}, C_T = 0.025 \text{ mol} \cdot \text{kg}^{-1})$$

$J_{NH_3}$  decreases because  $H_2S$  reacts with ammonia to form  $NH_4HS$  and so  $[NH_3]_1$  is lowered

$J_{CO_2}$  increases because the pH is slightly lowered by the  $S_T$  and so  $[CO_2]_1$  is raised

$J_{H_2S}$  increases because of the increasing amount of  $S_T$  the  $[H_2S]_1$  is increased

The explanation of figures 2 and 3 is similar.

## 2.2 EXPERIMENTS

The wetted wall column is the same as described in chapter 2. Our only new experience was that the difficulty of the experiments increases strongly with the number components studied. Especially when the components react with each other, any error in the determination in the concentration in one of the components also propagates in the equilibrium composition of the mixture as a whole.

Three succesful experiments can be reported with initial concentrations:

Experiment 1	$N_T = 0.213 \text{ mol}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$	$S_T = 0.046 \text{ mol}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$	$C_T = 0.143 \text{ mol}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$
Experiment 2	$N_T = 0.160 \text{ mol}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$	$S_T = 0.060 \text{ mol}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$	$C_T = 0.088 \text{ mol}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$
Experiment 3	$N_T = 0.167 \text{ mol}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$	$S_T = 0.095 \text{ mol}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$	$C_T = 0.085 \text{ mol}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$

The fluxes are given as a function of time in figures 4, 5 and 6. The agreement between experimental and calculated fluxes is reasonable. Differences are not only due to experimental errors and inaccuracies in the calculations but also to uncertainties in the thermodynamic data. We have observed that (especially for  $J_{\text{H}_2\text{S}}$ ) the fluxes are overestimated if the liquid is assumed to be ideal but are slightly underestimated if non ideality is incorporated.

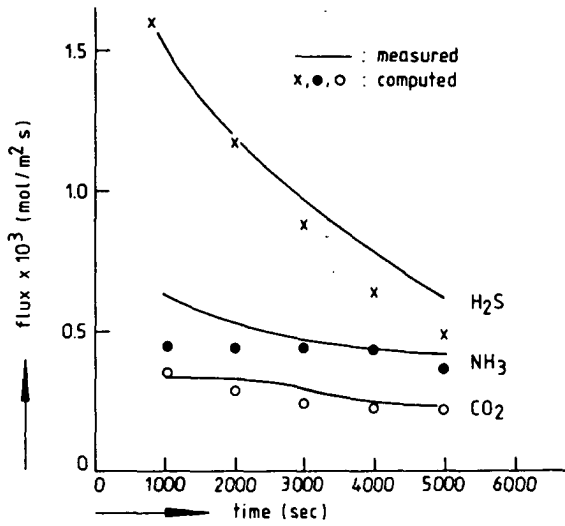


Figure 4 Fluxes as a function of time for experiment 1.

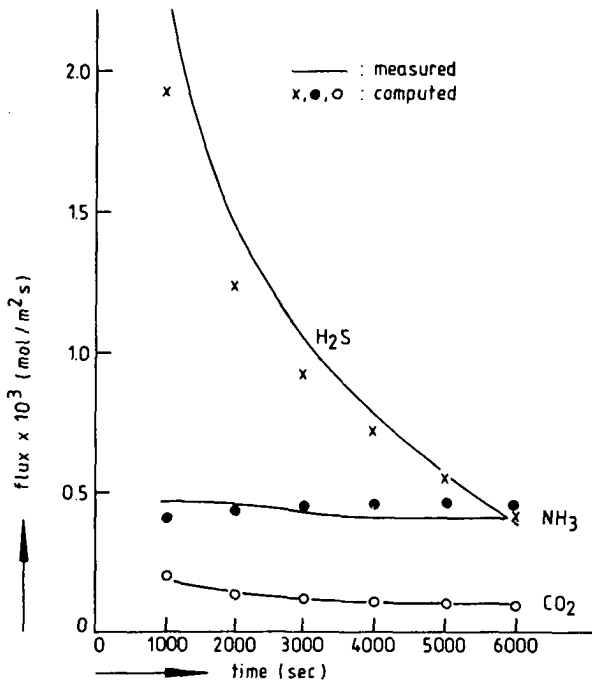


Figure 5 Fluxes as a function of time for experiment 2.

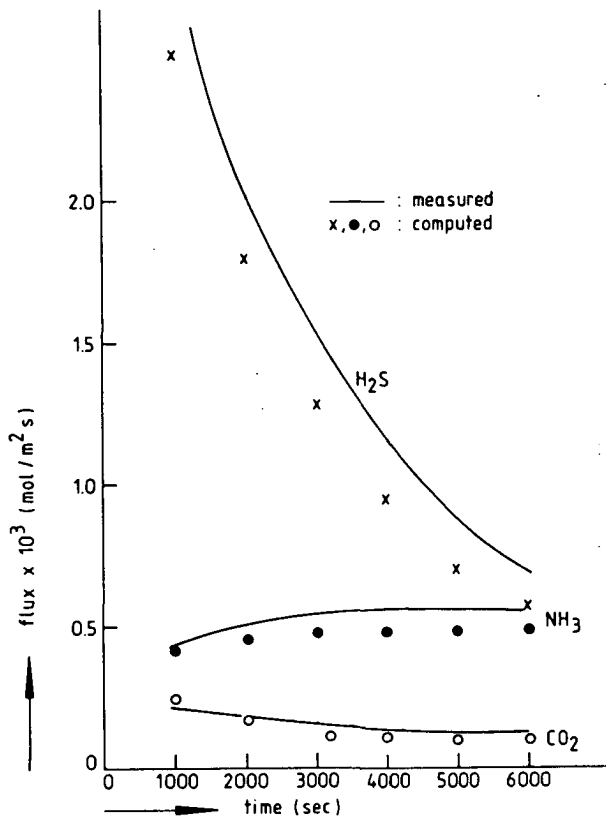


Figure 6 Fluxes as a function of time for experiment 3.

### 3. CONCLUSION

The simultaneous desorption of  $\text{NH}_3$ ,  $\text{H}_2\text{S}$  and  $\text{CO}_2$  can be described with a model combining the  $\text{NH}_3$ - $\text{H}_2\text{S}$  and  $\text{NH}_3$ - $\text{CO}_2$  simulations. The model equations include equilibria for  $\text{NH}_3/\text{NH}_4^+$  and  $\text{H}_2\text{S}/\text{HS}^-$  with  $\text{OH}^-$  everywhere in the liquid film and a kinetic expression for  $\text{CO}_2$ . Fluxes measured on a wetted wall column show good agreement with the model calculations.

## CHAPTER 5

### DESORPTION OF VOLATILE ELECTROLYTES IN A TRAY COLUMN (SOUR WATER STRIPPING). A MASS TRANSFER MODEL ON TRAY DESORPTION OPERATION

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#### ABSTRACT

Thermodynamic models on weak volatile electrolytes found in literature are compared. Results point out that the thermodynamic framework suggested by Edwards et al. with interaction parameter modifications made by Maurer give the best description of the system. Literature correlations for liquid and gas mass transfer coefficients and interfacial area are summarized and evaluated for the operating conditions applied in sour water strippers. Equilibrium and kinetic data are combined in a model to predict the performance of a sieve-tray desorption column using steam as a stripping agent. The model takes mass transfer relations with chemical reaction into account. In a pilot plant stripper steam desorption experiments on solutions containing ammonia, hydrogen sulfide, carbon dioxide and phenol as well as real sour water were carried out. Model predictions show good agreement with the experimental concentration profiles. Model predictions are also compared with operating data of a number of industrial sour water strippers. The applicability of the tray efficiency concept (Murphree and vaporization efficiency) on sour water stripping is discussed in detail.

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

In refining processes such as desulfurization, denitrification, gas oil processing and hydrocracking essentially all of the organic nitrogen and sulfur compounds are liberated as hydrogen sulfide and ammonia. As a result,



significant amounts of the latter components are found in refinery waste waters. A wide range of other contaminants will be present, including carbon dioxide, phenolics and various hydrocarbons. Such wastewater is generally known as "sour water" although it is slightly basic. The name "sour water" was probably coined due to the presence of the obnoxious  $H_2S$ . Steam stripping, in packed or tray columns, followed by sulphur recovery or incineration is perhaps the most widely used process to eliminate these potential atmospheric pollutants. Tray columns installed show a large variation in design. The number of trays installed may range from from 5 to 20, the amount of stripping steam from 4 to 20 % wt on feed. Part of this variability may be explained by the difficulty of predicting column performance.

Ammonia, hydrogen sulfide, carbon dioxide and phenol in water are present in molecular and ionic forms; up to 14 relevant components can be recognized in the liquid. For some components (e.g.  $H_2S$ ) the main fraction is in a non strippable -ionic- form. Description of the stripping process therefore requires the application of the theory of mass transfer with chemical reaction.

This paper intends to discuss all important aspects on tray desorption. These aspects can be classified as

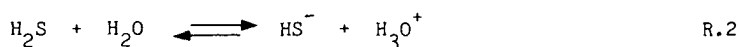
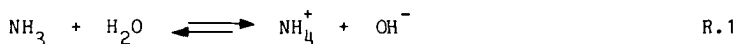
1. the evaluation of the vapour-liquid equilibria
2. the mass transfer coefficients and interfacial area for sieve trays
3. the development of a stripping model and testing this with experimental data from laboratory tests as well as industrial-scale strippers
4. a discussion of the concept of tray efficiencies.

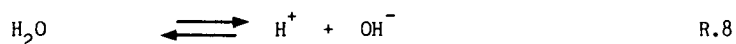
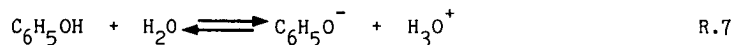
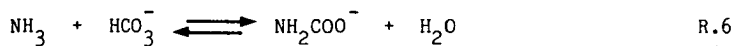
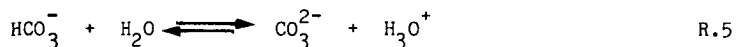
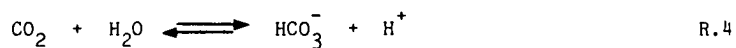
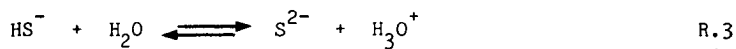
## 2. BASIC DATA

### 2.1. VAPOUR-LIQUID EQUILIBRIA

An equilibrium model is used to determine how a certain component distributes itself between the vapour and the liquid phase. In the liquid phase chemical reactions between the components occur.

The following reactions are of interest for this study.





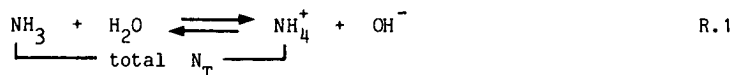
Thermodynamic models are based in general on five principles:

1. The mass balance for the weak electrolyte in the liquid.
2. The definition of the chemical dissociation equilibrium constant based on activities (including the water activity).
3. Electroneutrality of the liquid phase.
4. Equilibrium between the molecular forms in the vapour and liquid phase. This is expressed by the Henry coefficient.
5. Equations for the description of the deviations from ideality.

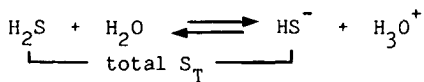
The complete set of equations describing the equilibria is rather complicated. So to give the reader some feeling of the behaviour of this system, we start by developing two crude models. Here only the major components are taken into account and non idealities are neglected. We will compare the predictions of the crude models with those of the method we will select at the end of this section.

The solutions we are dealing with are dilute. Also they invariably contain an excess of ammonia, which is the least volatile of the three gases  $\text{NH}_3$ ,  $\text{H}_2\text{S}$  and  $\text{CO}_2$ . Ammonia is the only volatile component of which a large fraction is in a non ionized form.

If carbamate formation is neglected



For hydrogen sulphide the only reaction taken into account is



R.2

In presence of the weak base  $\text{NH}_3$  reaction 2 is almost completely shifted to the right and therefore nearly the whole of the  $\text{H}_2\text{S}$  is ionized; only a trace is in the molecular form. The hydrogen and hydroxyl ions combine to form water. Because of electroneutrality the concentrations of the two major ions must be approximately equal :  $[\text{HS}^-] = [\text{NH}_4^+] \approx S_T$

Then  $[\text{NH}_3] = N_T - [\text{NH}_4^+] = N_T - S_T$

and one expects a partial pressure

$$P_{\text{NH}_3} \propto (N_T - S_T) \tag{1}$$

with the Henry coefficient of ammonia as the proportionality constant. This behaviour is indeed observed as can be seen in figure 1. The conditions shown there are typical of what might be found in the top of a sour water stripper.

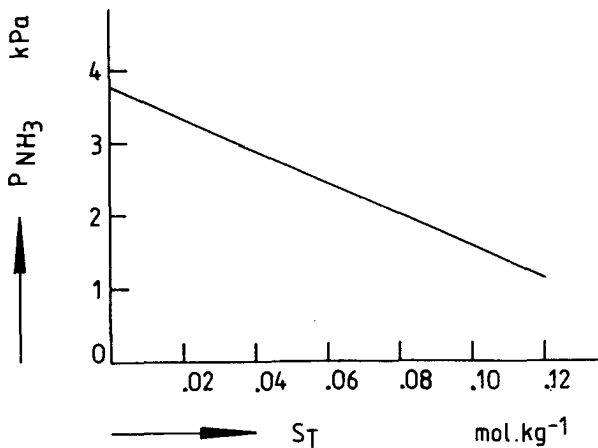


Figure 1 Partial pressure of  $\text{NH}_3$  as a function of the total concentration of  $\text{H}_2\text{S}$ .  $T=100^\circ\text{C}$ ,  $N_T=0.15\text{ mol}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$ .

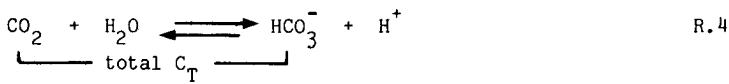
For hydrogen sulphide the equilibria suggest

$$[H_2S] \propto [HS^-][H^+] \propto \frac{[HS^-]}{[OH^-]} \propto \frac{[HS^-][NH_4^+]}{[NH_3]}$$

or

$$P_{H_2S} \propto \frac{S_T^2}{N_T - S_T} \quad (2)$$

Again this behaviour is observed, but only approximately ( figure 2).  
The behaviour of the system  $NH_3-CO_2$  is similar to that of  $H_2S$



and the resulting partial pressure relation has the same form, see also figure 2

$$P_{CO_2} \propto \frac{C_T^2}{N_T - C_T} \quad (3)$$

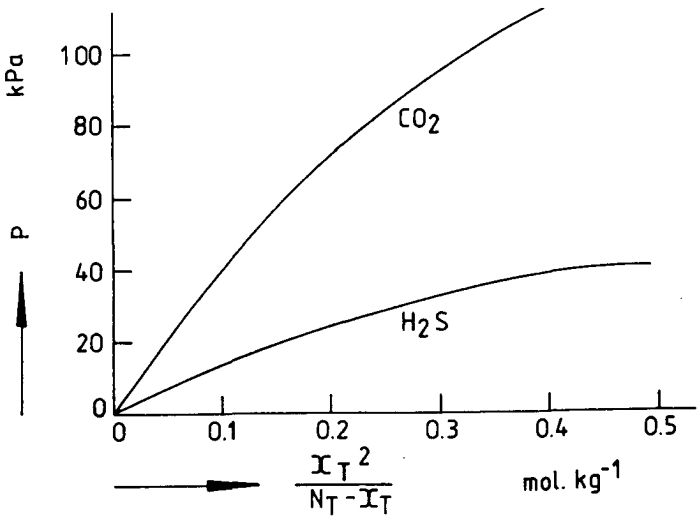


Figure 2 Partial pressures of  $H_2S$  and  $CO_2$  as defined by equations 2 and 3.  $T = 100 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ ,  $N_T = 0.15 \text{ mol}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$ .

Do note the sequence of volatilities:  $\text{NH}_3$  is the least volatile,  $\text{H}_2\text{S}$  is intermediate and  $\text{CO}_2$  is the most volatile. This does not mean that  $\text{CO}_2$  is the most easily stripped as we shall see further on.

As a final example a situation where three components are present such as might exist in the bottom of a sour water stripper (figure 3). Here  $N_T$  even further predominates,  $C_T$  has an intermediate but low value and  $S_T$  is smaller again. A combination of the above models yields

$$[\text{NH}_3] = N_T - C_T - S_T \quad \text{and} \quad [\text{NH}_4^+] = C_T + S_T$$

so

$$P_{\text{CO}_2} \propto \frac{C_T(C_T + S_T)}{N_T - C_T - S_T} \quad (4)$$

and

$$P_{\text{H}_2\text{S}} \propto \frac{S_T(C_T + S_T)}{N_T - C_T - S_T} \quad (5)$$

The behaviour predicted is indeed seen in figure 3, where  $N_T$  and  $C_T$  have been taken as constant.

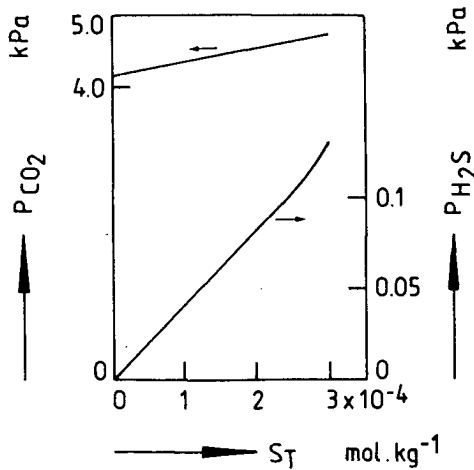


Figure 3 Partial pressures of  $\text{H}_2\text{S}$  and  $\text{CO}_2$  as a function of the total  $\text{H}_2\text{S}$  concentration.  $T = 100 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ ,  $N_T = 5 \cdot 10^{-3} \text{ mol.kg}^{-1}$ .

The qualitative agreement of the above relations might make one believe that they are sufficiently accurate. This is not so however. The vapour liquid equilibria will be found to play a very important role in sour water strippers and more accurate relations are required. There are three major reasons for the inaccuracies:

1. The gases  $H_2S$  and  $CO_2$  are not completely dissociated as assumed above.
2. The effects of other reactions, especially those of carbamate and bicarbonate are not negligible.
3. The solutions are non ideal. Even in the very dilute solutions of figure 3 the monovalent ions have activity coefficients of about 0.93.

There are several models available in literature which do take these effects into account.

- the model of van Krevelen, Hofstijzer and Huntjens (1949)
- the model of Beutier and Renon (1978)
- the model of Edwards et al. (1978)
- the model developed by Wilson (1978) for the American Petroleum Institute (API).

The first three models have been recently discussed by Maurer (1980). Here we summarize his main conclusions. Because of the limited temperature (up to 60 °C) and concentration range ( $0.2 \text{ mol}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1} < N_T < 2.0 \text{ mol}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$ ) in which the method of van Krevelen et al. can be used successfully, this model is not applicable to sour water steam strippers, where very low concentrations (down to 10 ppm or less) are to be met at relatively high temperatures (usually 100 to 105 °C).

From the work of Maurer, it is suggested that the model of Edwards et al. gives somewhat better results than the method of Beutier and Renon, especially for the quaternary system  $NH_3 - CO_2 - H_2S - H_2O$ .

Based on more recent experimental work, Maurer has made some minor changes in the parameters of the model of Edwards et al. Maurer differs from Edwards with respect to the equilibrium constants  $K_{HS^-}$  and  $K_{NH_2COO^-}$ , more and different  $\beta^0$  and  $\beta^1$  values and a different formulae for calculating the  $\beta_{ion-ion}^1$  interaction parameter, giving values 0.018 lower for Maurer.

We have checked the Edwards, Maurer and Wilson models against available experimental data.

Table 1. Comparison of thermodynamic models. Wilson composition data have been converted to moles/kg water.

T °C	conc. mol·kg <sup>-1</sup>	lit source	P <sub>exp</sub> mm Hg	P <sub>calc,lit</sub> mm Hg	OWN CALCULATIONS		
					Edwards data mm Hg	Maurer data mm Hg	Wilson data mm Hg
100	N <sub>T</sub> 3.667	API	770.3	711.4	729.8	730.0	707.7
100	N <sub>T</sub> 2.90	Edw/Mau	158.0	234.6/222	210.8	219.7	185.0
	C <sub>T</sub> 1.45		1211.4	942.4/1180	994.3	1169.0	1688.5
100	N <sub>T</sub> 3.71	Edwards	433.1	440.9	411.1	425.3	383.5
	C <sub>T</sub> 1.14		319.3	346.1	330.1	379.5	395.4
100	N <sub>T</sub> 5.44	API	923.0	924.1	948.0	949.0	919.3
	C <sub>T</sub> 0.453		43.0	19.9	26.4	36.6	19.8
100	N <sub>T</sub> 6.51	Maurer	1223.6	1003.2	868.8	993.2	836.9
	S <sub>T</sub> 1.9		554.8	425.6	451.4	416.7	602.2
80	N <sub>T</sub> 5.11	Edw/Mau	574	445.7/526	444.6	523.3	440.5
	S <sub>T</sub> 1.14		94.8	52.5/80.9	75.3	80.2	102.5
110	N <sub>T</sub> 2.383	API	258.9	112.3	96.3	108.6	112.3
	S <sub>T</sub> 1.296		4616.8	5470.7	4137.2	4372.0	554.8
	C <sub>T</sub> 0.846		5976.5	7471.6	4509.8	5125.9	7383.3
110	N <sub>T</sub> 0.609	API	100.3	90.5	91.2	98.1	90.3
	S <sub>T</sub> 0.169		172.2	155.5	158.8	146.9	158.6
	C <sub>T</sub> 0.073		169.1	176.2	187.4	196.0	173.0

The method of Wilson is used exactly as described in his report. In the model of Edwards two simplifications are made:

- Poynting corrections of the Henry constants are neglected; according to Maurer they can be neglected without causing a significant error if the total pressure is 10 MPa or less.
- Vapour phase fugacity coefficients are assumed to be unity; according to Beutier and Renon these coefficients do not differ more than 1% (2% for water) from unity if the total pressure is less than 0.2 MPa.

Some selected results of the comparison are given in table 1.

From table 1 it is clear that all reported results can not be reproduced exactly.

The difference between our calculations and those reported by Edwards et al. are considerable. The computer program used for the calculations was developed by ourselves and checked as thoroughly as possible. For the parameters for which an iteration loop turned out to be necessary, namely, the ionic strength and the  $H^+$  concentration, the stop criteria were set at a sharp value:  $10^{-3}$  % and  $10^{-5}$  %, respectively.

It is remarkable that in general our calculations with the data set of Edwards et al. are closer to the experimental values than those reported by the group of Edwards. The calculations reported by Maurer can be reproduced. The small differences here between the calculated values have the same order of deviation as the fugacity coefficients from unity. We believe therefore that the reported calculated values by Edwards are erroneous.

It was decided to use the method of Edwards with the revised parameters given by Maurer because these give, in general, slightly better results than the original parameters of Edwards. The Wilson method was not preferred because its thermodynamic framework is weaker than that of the others.

Our vapour liquid equilibria were also extended to phenol. For this component, the equations for calculation of the equilibrium constant and the Henry constant are taken from Tsonopoulos et al. (1976) and Pawlikowski et al. (1983) respectively.

## 2.2. MASS TRANSFER COEFFICIENTS AND INTERFACIAL AREA (LITERATURE REVIEW)

The mass transfer parameters  $a$ ,  $k_1$  and  $k_g$  ( and related subjects such as the tray efficiency and the number of transfer units ) of tray columns have been



the subject of a fair amount of investigation especially in the period from 1950 to 1972.

These parameters are essential for designing columns for the physical separation of mixtures and also for chemical-physical operations such as oxidation, hydrogenation, chlorination and absorption or desorption with chemical reaction. Early research was dominated by the application and extension of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers research programme (1958). Most work in this period was done on bubble cap trays. In the period 1966 to 1972 research efforts diminished and shifted towards sieve trays.

Appendix 1 gives a summary of literature correlations for the prediction of the mass transfer parameters in tray columns with sieve plates. Only two references (Nonhebel (1972) and Zuiderweg (1982) give equations for  $k_1$ ,  $k_g$  and  $a$ . The correlations have been evaluated for the tray under study. Operating data, physical constants and tray details are given in table 2. The literature correlations show a surprisingly large spread in their predictions. This is illustrated in figure 4: for  $k_1$  the difference between minimum and maximum value is a factor of 65, for  $k_g$  this is a factor of 17. The data for the interfacial area are more consistent, the minimum and maximum differ by a factor of 1.4 .

As the value of the parameters is essential for our desorption model, experiments have been carried out to determine them. The results of these experiments are given in figure 4 as 'This work'. The procedures used are briefly discussed below, more details are to be found in appendix 1.

-  $k_1$  was determined in an air water simulator of the steam stripper. The Danckwerts chemical absorption (1975) method allows the determination of the interfacial area  $a_t$  and  $k_1$ . The value of  $k_1$  at 20 °C was corrected to 103 °C by assuming a square root dependency of the mass transfer coefficient on the diffusivity.

-  $a_t$  was determined in the steam stripper by absorbing  $\text{CO}_2$  from steam in a NaOH solution. The interfacial area is obtained by fitting predicted concentration profiles from a model containing  $a_t$  as a parameter.

-  $k_g$  was determined from experiments with desorption of  $\text{NH}_3$  from water. These experiments actually give the product of overall mass transfer coefficient and interfacial area, from which with the known  $k_1$  and  $a_t$ , the  $k_g$  value can be calculated.

Table 2. Data on tray lay out and constants used for calculations.

Tray dimensions

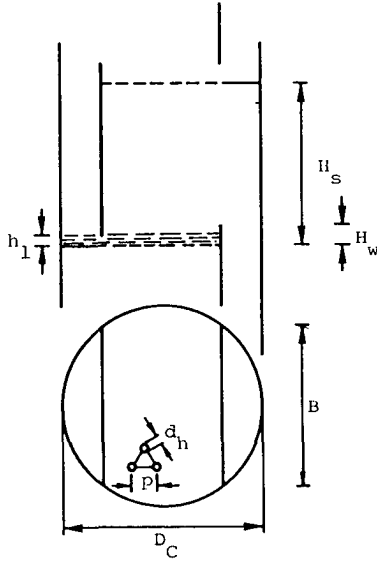
$D_C = 0.15 \text{ m}$        $H_S = 0.25 \text{ m}$

$H_W = 0.05 \text{ m}$        $B = 0.10 \text{ m}$

$BA = 80\%$        $p = 0.02 \text{ m}$

$d_h = 0.005 \text{ m}$        $n = 57$

$F_{BA} = 7.92\%$



Operating Conditions and Physical Data

$T = 103$	$^{\circ}\text{C}$	$P = 0.12$	$\text{MPa}$
$L = 0.111$	$\text{kg} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$	$L' = 6.288$	$\text{kg} \cdot \text{m}^{-2} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$
$G = 1.223 \cdot 10^{-2}$	$\text{kg} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$	$G' = 0.692$	$\text{kg} \cdot \text{m}^{-2} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$
$H_f = 0.1$	$\text{m}$	$h_l = 2.1 \cdot 10^{-2}$	$\text{m}$
$\rho_l = 956.2$	$\text{kg} \cdot \text{m}^{-3}$	$\rho_g = 0.661$	$\text{kg} \cdot \text{m}^{-3}$
$D_l = 7.37 \cdot 10^{-9}$	$\text{m}^2 \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$	$D_g = 3.83 \cdot 10^{-5}$	$\text{m}^2 \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$
$\eta_l = 2.8 \cdot 10^{-4}$	$\text{Pa} \cdot \text{s}$	$\eta_g = 1.3 \cdot 10^{-5}$	$\text{Pa} \cdot \text{s}$
$\sigma = 5.05 \cdot 10^{-2}$	$\text{N} \cdot \text{m}^{-1}$		

Gas phase at 103 °C is steam. Physical properties are taken from Perry or derived from correlations found in Perry.

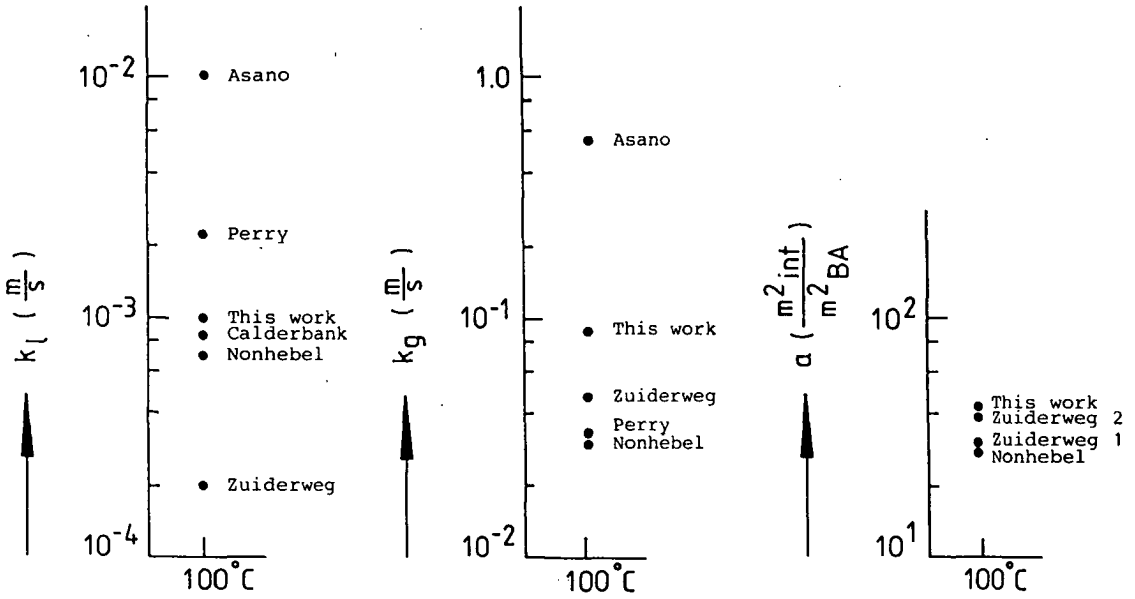
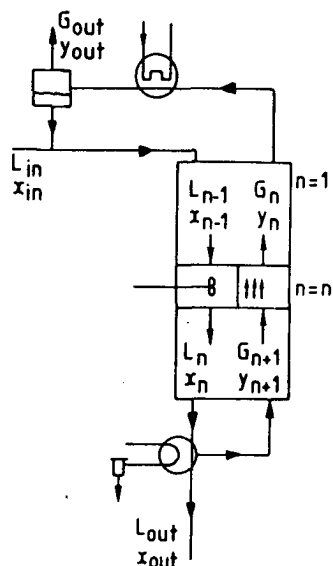


Figure 4 Mass transfer coefficients and interfacial area at 100 °C.  
 For Perry  $k_l$  and  $k_g$  it is assumed a  $424 \text{ m}^{-1}$ .

### 2.3. MASS TRANSFER WITH CHEMICAL REACTIONS

-APPLIED TO A TRAY-



For a tray we assume a simple model in which the liquid is perfectly mixed and the gas is in plug flow (figure 5).

Figure 5 General lay out of industrial stripper.

As the diffusivities of the components are similar, their mass transfer coefficients have all been taken equal.

Consider the desorption of a single component physically dissolved in water. For the the mass transfer rate (units:  $\text{mol} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$ ) we can write

$$J_1 = k_1 \rho_1 a_t (C_{1,b} - C_{1,int}) \quad (6)$$

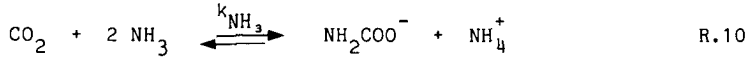
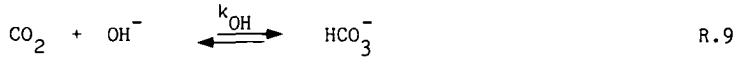
The mass transfer rate towards the gas is determined by the value of  $C_{g,int}$ , which is in equilibrium with  $C_{1,int}$ . The integrated form of the differential mass balance gives

$$\frac{C_{g,int} - C_{g,out}}{C_{g,int} - C_{g,in}} = \exp(-N_g) \quad (7)$$

where  $N_g$  is number of gas transfer units

For a physical process it is common to eliminate the unknowns  $C_{l,int}$  and  $C_{g,int}$  by introducing an overall transfer coefficient. For more difficult cases such as the absorption or desorption of two or more gases accompanied by chemical reactions this coupling of gas and liquid with overall coefficients should be avoided. As shown by Cornelissen (1980) it can lead to strange results such as negative transfer coefficients. The effect of the chemical reactions is accounted for by an enhancement factor. The introduction of overall transfer coefficients requires the knowledge of the enhancement factor for every volatile component. This is generally not known a priori. A description on the partial driving forces instead of overall bulk driving forces is to be preferred.

Consider desorption with chemical reactions as defined by R.1 to R.8 . All reactions except R.5 and R.6 can be regarded as instantaneous as only proton transfer is involved. This means that for every reaction at every point in the liquid the equilibrium relation is obeyed. Reactions 5 and 6 have a finite rate. This implies that the chemical kinetics of the rate determining reactions



play a role in the desorption proces. The values the reaction rate constants  $k_{OH}$  and  $k_{NH_3}$  were extrapolated from the equations of Pinsent (1956a, 1956b). The value of  $k_{OH}$  was set at  $1.05 \cdot 10^6 \text{ kg} \cdot \text{mol}^{-1} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$ , the value of  $k_{NH_3}$  at  $2.4 \cdot 10^4 \text{ kg} \cdot \text{mol}^{-1} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$ . These values were kept constant for all computations. Suppose we would know or have an estimate of the total concentrations in the bulk as well as the interface.

In the previous chapters on the wetted wall column it was shown that the fluxe of each component is given by equation 6 where  $C_l$  should be read as the total concentration. Whether these fluxes can be 'carried away' by the gas, is determined by equation 7. To make the connection between the liquid phase equation 6 and the gas equation 7, it should be specified which part of the total concentration at the interface is in its molecular form. As non instantaneous reactions are involved, the Edward's equilibrium model alone does not determine the non ionic forms from the total concentrations.

For reactions involving  $\text{CO}_2$  it is the most difficult to determine which fraction of the total  $\text{CO}_2$  is in the non ionic form. The following approximate method closely follows the method used in the previous chapters; the reader should refer to those chapters for more details.

The enhancement factor for a pseudo first order reversible reaction 9 is given by the surface renewal theory

$$E_{\text{HCO}_3} = \frac{(K_9' + 1) \sqrt{(1 + \text{Ha}_{\text{HCO}_3}^2 \cdot (K_9' + 1) / K_9')}}{K_9' + \sqrt{(1 + \text{Ha}_{\text{HCO}_3}^2 \cdot (K_9' + 1) / K_9')}} \quad (8)$$

$$\text{with Ha}_{\text{HCO}_3} = \frac{\sqrt{(k_{\text{OH}^-} [\text{OH}^-]_b D_1)}}{k_1} \quad (9) \quad \text{and} \quad K_9' = \frac{[\text{HCO}_3^-]_b}{[\text{CO}_2]_b} \quad (10)$$

The enhancement of the desorption due to reaction 10 is taken into account with  $E_{\text{NH}_2\text{COO}}$ , for which a similar equation holds with a different Ha number and  $K_{10}$  value

$$\text{Ha}_{\text{NH}_2\text{COO}} = \frac{\sqrt{(k_{\text{NH}_3} [\text{NH}_3]_b D_1)}}{k_1} \quad \text{and} \quad K_{10} = \frac{[\text{NH}_2\text{COO}^-]_b}{[\text{CO}_2]_b}$$

The two enhancement factors are combined in a total enhancement factor with

$$E_{\text{C,tot}} = \sqrt{(E_{\text{HCO}_3}^2 + E_{\text{NH}_2\text{COO}}^2 - 1)} \quad (11)$$

the value of  $[\text{CO}_2]_{1,\text{int}}$  follows from the definition of the enhancement factor

$$[\text{CO}_2]_{1,\text{int}} = [\text{CO}_2]_{1,b} - \frac{(C_{\text{T},b} - C_{\text{T},\text{int}})}{E_{\text{C,tot}}} \quad (12)$$

the value of  $[\text{NH}_2\text{COO}^-]_{\text{int}}$  follows from its bulk concentration and its contribution in the total carbon flux according to

$$[\text{NH}_2\text{COO}^-]_{\text{int}} = [\text{NH}_2\text{COO}^-]_b - \frac{(E_{\text{NH}_2\text{COO}} - 1)^2}{E_{\text{C,tot}} (E_{\text{C,tot}} - 1)} \cdot (C_{\text{T},b} - C_{\text{T},\text{int}}) \quad (13)$$

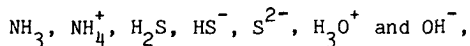
the concentration  $[\text{HCO}_3^-]_{\text{int}}$  is determined by the carbon balance at the interface

$$[\text{HCO}_3^-]_{\text{int}} + [\text{CO}_3^{2-}]_{\text{int}} = C_{T,\text{int}} - [\text{CO}_2]_{1,\text{int}} - [\text{NH}_2\text{COO}^-]_{\text{int}} \quad (14)$$

equation 14 gives after elimination of  $[\text{HCO}_3^-]_{\text{int}}$  with the equilibrium constant of reaction 5

$$[\text{HCO}_3^-]_{\text{int}} = \frac{C_{T,\text{int}} - [\text{CO}_2]_{1,\text{int}} - [\text{NH}_2\text{COO}^-]_{\text{int}}}{1 + K_{R.5} / [\text{H}_3\text{O}^+]} \quad (15)$$

For the remaining 7 unknown interfacial concentrations



which are involved in instantaneous reactions, 7 independent equations can be formulated

- 4 equilibrium constants ( $K_{R.1}, K_{R.2}, K_{R.3}, K_{R.8}$ )
- 2 mass balances ( $N_{T,\text{int}}$  and  $S_{T,\text{int}}$ )
- 1 electroneutrality relation

which can be solved for the unknown  $\text{NH}_3$  and  $\text{H}_2\text{S}$  concentration.

### 3. MODEL

To predict the performance of strippers a model is necessary. The model was set up for the description of the desorption of the four components under study. The model is restricted to tray columns. Although not necessary for comparison with our experiments, a reboiler and condenser stage are included because real refinery strippers can be equipped with one or both of these (API, 1973). A listing and output example of the program is in appendix 3. The model includes the 'mass transfer with chemical reaction' calculation for the trays and an equilibrium approach for the condenser and reboiler. This configuration is given in figure 5. The gas assumed to travel in plug flow through the bed, the liquid is assumed to be perfectly mixed. Blauwhoff et al. (1985) have performed similar calculations, for different gas hydrodynamics, for the absorption of  $\text{CO}_2$  and  $\text{H}_2\text{S}$  in alkanolamine solutions.

The input for the calculation consists of the amount of liquid entering ( $\text{kg}\cdot\text{h}^{-1}$ ) and its composition ( $\text{moles}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$ ). The temperature and pressure must be known for the condenser (optional) and the top and bottom of the column and reboiler (optional). The amount of steam ( $\text{kg}\cdot\text{h}^{-1}$ ), the number of trays and the mass transfer parameters  $k_1$ ,  $k_g$  and  $a_t$  should also be specified.

The calculation starts with an estimation of the concentrations in the outgoing liquid. The component mass balances over the unit then yield the composition of the gas leaving the column or the condenser. For a condenser this calculation needs an iteration upon the amount of water in the condenser outlet gas and the composition of the liquid in equilibrium with the gas at the given  $P_{\text{cond}}$  and  $T_{\text{cond}}$ . In this case balances over the condenser give the gas leaving the column and composition and total amount of the feed. The above mentioned water iteration is necessary because with fixed values for  $P_{\text{cond}}$ ,  $T_{\text{cond}}$ , and the removed amounts of the electrolytes all degrees of freedom have been used.

So a point is reached, with or without condenser, where for the top tray the incoming liquid and leaving gas are known.

The next step is to determine the liquid leaving the tray. This starts with an estimation of  $N_{T,1}$ ,  $S_{T,1}$ ,  $C_{T,1}$ ,  $Ph_{T,1}$ . Assuming these total concentrations two quantities are fixed.

(1.) For a perfectly mixed liquid phase, the complete equilibrium composition of the liquid bulk is determined. As discussed above this requires an iteration on  $[H^+]$  and the ionic strength. The bulk concentrations allow the calculation of the enhancement factor  $E_{C,\text{tot}}$  and the values of the concentration based equilibrium constant of the instantaneous reactions. These constants which include the effects of the activity coefficients, are needed later for calculation of the interfacial concentrations.

(2.) The amounts removed over the tray are calculated. These amounts should be brought up by the mass transfer rates which are defined by equation 6. So with assumed mass transfer rates the total concentrations at the interface can be calculated, e.g. for  $N_{T,\text{int}}$

$$N_{T,\text{int}} = N_{T,b} - \frac{L_n N_{T,n} - L_{n+1} N_{T,n+1}}{k_1 \rho_1 a_t} \quad (16)$$

To continue, the complete composition of the interface must be determined. This is done according to the principles as explained in section 1.2 .



All calculations for the interface are within a  $[H^+]$  iteration. When both  $[H^+]$  in the bulk and interface are known the fraction dissociated phenol is calculated for the bulk and interface. Together with the assumed phenol flux this yields the interfacial concentration of phenol. Note that in this way phenol is not allowed to influence the pH of the solution; the reason for this will be discussed later. The four interfacial concentrations of the strippable forms in the liquid are in equilibrium with the interfacial gas concentrations via the Henry constants.

Next the gas entering the plate is calculated. This is done with the Murphree equation 7 for all components

As all concentrations in the entering and leaving streams are known, the material balances for the four components can be checked for the tray. A 4 variable Newton Raphson iteration adjusts the values of the total liquid phase concentrations leaving the tray if the 4 balances are not satisfied simultaneously. These balances have the form

$$L_{n-1} \cdot N_{T,n-1} + G_{n+1} \cdot [NH_3]_{g,n+1} - L_n \cdot N_{T,n} - G_n \cdot [NH_3]_{g,n} = 0 \quad (17)$$

This procedure is repeated from the top to the bottom of the column. The concentrations leaving the first tray are estimated with an educated guess, for the other trays they can be estimated using the fractional decrease in concentration on the previous tray. For example for ammonia

$$N_{T,n+1} = N_{T,n} \cdot \frac{N_{T,n}}{N_{T,n-1}} \quad (18)$$

If all trays are calculated, a reboiler stage may be added. This includes an equilibrium calculation for liquid and gas leaving and mass balances over the reboiler.

Finally, the assumed concentrations leaving the unit must be compared with the calculated ones. Necessary adjustments for the concentrations, based on deviations in the mass balances over the whole unit, were also done in a 4 variable Newton Raphson iteration.

Heat effects, and therefore, variable liquid and gas streams, were taken into account knowing that 0.752 mole of steam will condense for every mole ammonia desorbed and 0.44 mole steam per mole  $H_2S$  or  $CO_2$ . These values have been calculated from the heats of absorption as given in Gmelin. With known

top and bottom temperature and pressure, and assumed linear profiles, the gas density was calculated on each tray from the composition.

It is also interesting to mention our experience on the stability of these type of calculations and iterations. The calculation is sensitive to the choice of the bottom concentrations. The initial guess for these should depend upon the stripping factor of the free component involved. To give an idea of the stripping factors: a temperature of 103 °C with the average 10 wt% steam on feed gives the following stripping factors:  $S_{\text{NH}_3} = 1.3$ ,  $S_{\text{H}_2\text{S}} \approx 140$ ,  $S_{\text{CO}_2} = 500$ ,  $S_{\text{Ph}} = 0.16$ .

Let us first discuss the desorption of a mixture of  $\text{NH}_3$ ,  $\text{H}_2\text{S}$  and  $\text{CO}_2$  with  $S_{\text{NH}_3} > 1$ . We found that for this case the total concentrations leaving can be set to zero. This zero concentration is a safe choice. It leads to the highest possible concentration in the gas phase and so lowest possible driving forces. In this case the column calculation gives bottom concentrations which are higher than the actual values. With actual values those values are meant for which the mass balances are satisfied. Starting the calculation with bottom concentrations (much) higher than the actual values is dangerous. The high driving forces and consequently high fluxes may create negative concentrations and so problems in the calculation. Fortunately the Newton iteration does not adjust the outlet concentrations from zero to far above the actual values.

If phenol is added to this mixture this component has a stripping factor smaller than 1. Such a component has a convex concentration profile over the column (for  $S_1 > 1$  it is concave) and shows a different convergence behaviour. The phenol calculation is extremely sensitive to the choice of its outlet concentration.

For component(s) with  $S_1 < 1$ , the start value was initialized with the Kremser equation, because a start value of zero always gives problems.

But, even then, convergence is sometimes not obtained or obtained via intermediate results with very high concentrations. To give an example, stripping a feed containing 0.05 M Ph might after one column calculation give a bottom concentration of 250 M. The presence of phenol might therefore disturb the progress of the iteration. We have avoided this problem by excluding phenol from the calculations where it has a direct influence on the mixture. These are the relation for the  $[\text{H}^+]$  (i.e the electroneutrality relation) and the molal composition of the gas for the density calculation. In most cases this exclusion has no effect on the final result for  $\text{NH}_3$ ,  $\text{H}_2\text{S}$  and  $\text{CO}_2$  because the phenol concentration is low and its dissociation negligible. The exclusion

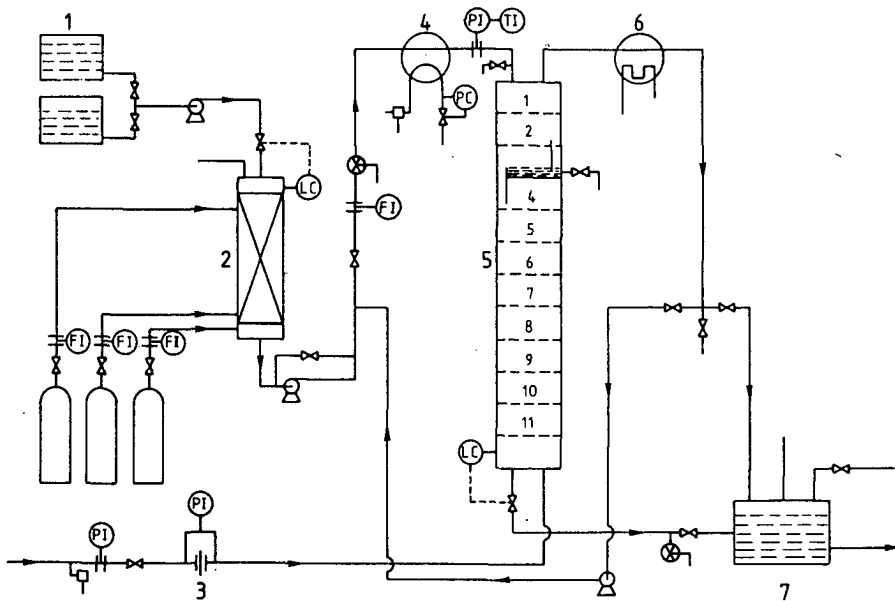
of phenol gives significant errors in the bottom section of the stripper only. Here the contribution of phenol to the pH value of the solution becomes important. Exclusion of phenol in the pH calculation results in pH values which are slightly too high. The fraction undissociated phenol is therefore underestimated. Because phenol stripping mainly takes place at the bottom section, calculated stripping performance is too low. For the other components, the fractions removed are largest in the top section and thus a slight error in the bottom compositions hardly influences the total stripping performance.

If the steam rate is lowered until even  $S_{\text{NH}_3} < 1$ , also ammonia will behave like phenol. Below  $S_{\text{NH}_3} \approx 0.7$  usually no numerical solutions were found. This can not be avoided because the key component ammonia can not be excluded from the calculations. Of course this last problem is a little academic because in a good design one gives enough steam for  $S_{\text{NH}_3}$  to be above 1.

#### 4. EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURES

##### 4.1. EQUIPMENT

Figure 6 presents the scheme of the desorption plant. Ammonia, carbon dioxide and hydrogen sulfide are absorbed in a bubble column filled with Pall rings and water. For experiments involving phenol, this was pre-dissolved in the water reservoirs. Feed is pumped at a rate of  $400 \text{ kg}\cdot\text{h}^{-1}$  through a heat exchanger under a pressure of about 0.16 MPa where it is heated to about  $100 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  and subsequently fed to the top of the column. The stripping column has 11 trays with a diameter of 0.15 m. Details of the column dimensions are given in table 2. The column is constructed in such a way that the hold-up on some trays can be measured. The stripping agent steam is fed at the bottom tray. The steam rate is measured by weighing the amount of condensate formed per unit time at the (total) condenser. The temperature of the liquid entering the column is slightly lower than that at the top tray. This temperature difference causes some steam to condense. Measured rates of condensate were corrected to steam rates taking into account this condensation. The rate of steam flow is controlled using a plate orifice and is about  $45 \text{ kg}\cdot\text{h}^{-1}$ .



- |                        |               |
|------------------------|---------------|
| 1 Demi water reservoir | 5 Stripper    |
| 2 Bubble column        | 6 Condensor   |
| 3 Orifice              | 7 Mixing tank |
| 4 Heater               |               |

Figure 6 Flow Scheme

The column is insulated to minimize heat losses and the temperature is about 103 °C (top: 102 °C, bottom: 104 °C).

When a steady-state condition is attained, samples are tapped at 14 different points (1 after the absorber, 1 after the heater right before entering the column, 12 from each downcomer). The samples are taken twice within a time interval of about 10 minutes. For the  $\text{NH}_3$  analysis, concentrated sulfuric acid is added into the 250-ml sampling bottles; for  $\text{CO}_2$  and  $\text{H}_2\text{S}$  analyses, a 10 N sodium hydroxide solution. The amount of reagents added is pre-determined as in excess to the expected amount of the

component. For experiments with reflux, condensate from the outlet gas is recycled to the column by mixing this with the fresh feed before the heat exchanger. This was done to obtain higher feed concentrations.

#### 4.2. ANALYTICAL METHODS

##### NH<sub>3</sub> analysis

Ammonia was first analyzed using a coulometric method and later using the Auto-Analyzer II (Technicon Instruments Corp.). Both methods give reproducible and identical results. The coulometric method is based on the reaction of ammonia with coulometrically generated hypobromide. The reaction takes place within the pH range 8.0-8.6. The equipment (Metrohm Herisau) indicates directly the quantity of current needed for the titration of NH<sub>3</sub>. The Auto-Analyzer II uses the Berthelotte reaction. Ammonia reacts with hypochlorite and basic phenol to form a complex of indophenol. This complex is measured by a spectrophotometer at 620 nm.

##### CO<sub>2</sub> analysis

The carbon dioxide determination was done using the Auto-Analyzer II. The sample is acidified using sulfuric acid to convert the ionic carbon into its molecular form. The gas released is passed through a CO<sub>2</sub>-selective membrane, where-after it reacts with a buffered cresol red solution. The color change of the indicator from red to yellow is measured by a spectrophotometer at 420 nm.

##### H<sub>2</sub>S analysis

The determination of hydrogen sulfide was done using two analytical methods: first by iodometric titration and later using the Auto-Analyzer II. Iodometric titration is based on the reaction of hydrogen sulfide with iodine. Excess iodine is titrated back with thiosulfate solution and the equipment (Metrohm Herisau) directly gives the volume of thiosulfate needed to reach equivalence point. Using the Auto-Analyzer II, H<sub>2</sub>S reacts with ferric chloride and dimethylphenylamine to form a methylene blue complex. The sample is acidified using hydrochloric acid to convert sulfur ions to a molecular form. The gas formed is passed through a membrane and thereafter

absorbed in a sodium bicarbonate solution. It then reacts with the rest of the reagents and the complex formed is measured at 622 nm.

#### Phenol analysis

The phenol content is determined using a spectrophotometer (Beckman 35). After the sample is acidified with hydrochloric acid, phenol is analyzed at a wavelength of 270 nm.

#### 5. COLUMN HYDRODYNAMICS

The following aspects of the tray hydrodynamics were measured and checked against existing correlations by Zuiderweg (1982)

- the hold-up
- the pressured drop
- liquid mixing on on the tray.

The measured value of the hold up was about 0.02 m which agrees well with the calculated value of 0.022 m. The total pressure drop of the column was measured as 5.05 kPa; the value calculated is 5.85 kPa. Mixing of the liquid was checked to be nearly ideal by a continuous injection of a salt solution just before the outlet weir. The average salt concentration on the plate was found to be 98% of the well mixed value. Calculations give a Pe-number of 1.4 for the liquid dispersion. This again indicates perfect mixing. We were not able to check the flow pattern of the gas. The assumption of plug flow is in accordance with that in the AIChE report (1958).

## 6. EXPERIMENTAL AND SIMULATED RESULTS

Desorption experiments were performed for the binary mixture  $\text{NH}_3$ - $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , the ternary mixtures  $\text{NH}_3$ - $\text{H}_2\text{S}$ - $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ,  $\text{NH}_3$ - $\text{CO}_2$ - $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ,  $\text{NH}_3$ -Phenol- $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , the quaternary mixture  $\text{NH}_3$ - $\text{H}_2\text{S}$ - $\text{CO}_2$ - $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and a real sour water from a refinery. The concentration profiles are shown in figures 7 to 11. The experimental results are plotted together with the simulation results from the model described above and the individual mass transfer coefficients:  $k_1 = 1.0 \cdot 10^{-3} \text{ m} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$ ,  $k_g = 9.0 \cdot 10^{-2} \text{ m} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$  and  $a_t = 0.6 \text{ m}^2$  interfacial area, which had been experimentally determined as discussed in section 1.2. Steam rates varied slightly for each experiment and are indicated below the figures.

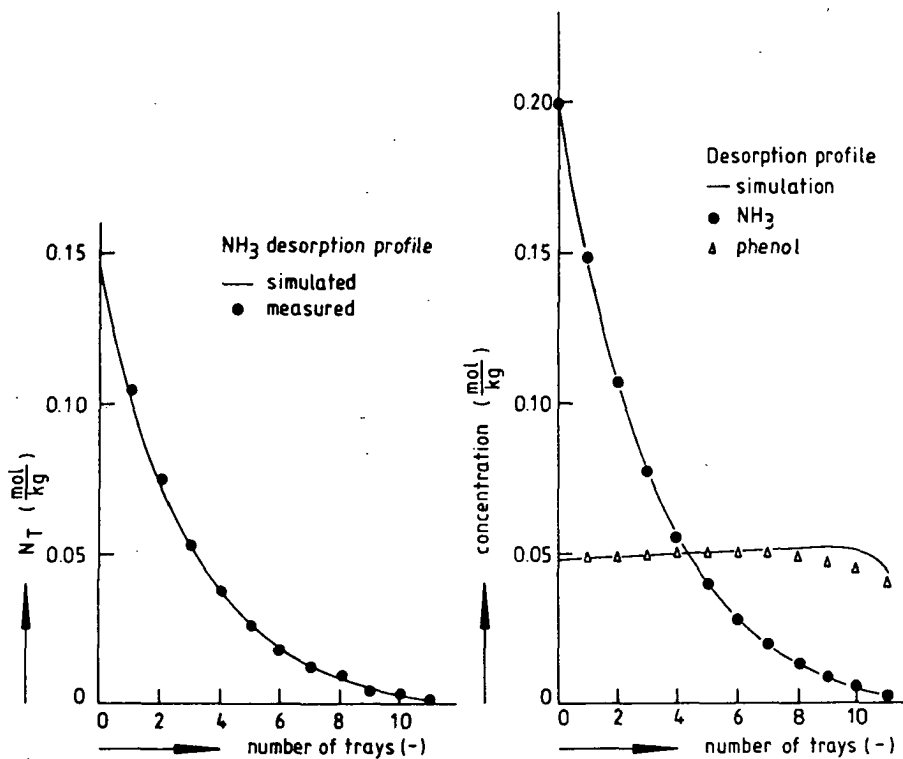


Figure 7 Desorption profiles:

- a) NH<sub>3</sub> ;  $G = 44.6 \text{ kg}\cdot\text{h}^{-1}$   
 b) NH<sub>3</sub>-Phenol;  $G = 45.1 \text{ kg}\cdot\text{h}^{-1}$

As can be seen in figure 7a, ammonia alone is stripped to about 99%. The desorption of ammonia and phenol shown in figure 7b illustrates a few interesting phenomena. The ammonia is almost completely stripped while measured phenol removal is a low 17%. It is observed that the measured and simulated phenol profiles show a maximum although at different trays. To explain this phenomenon it should be kept in mind that there is a pH gradient in the column (high pH at the top and low pH at the bottom).



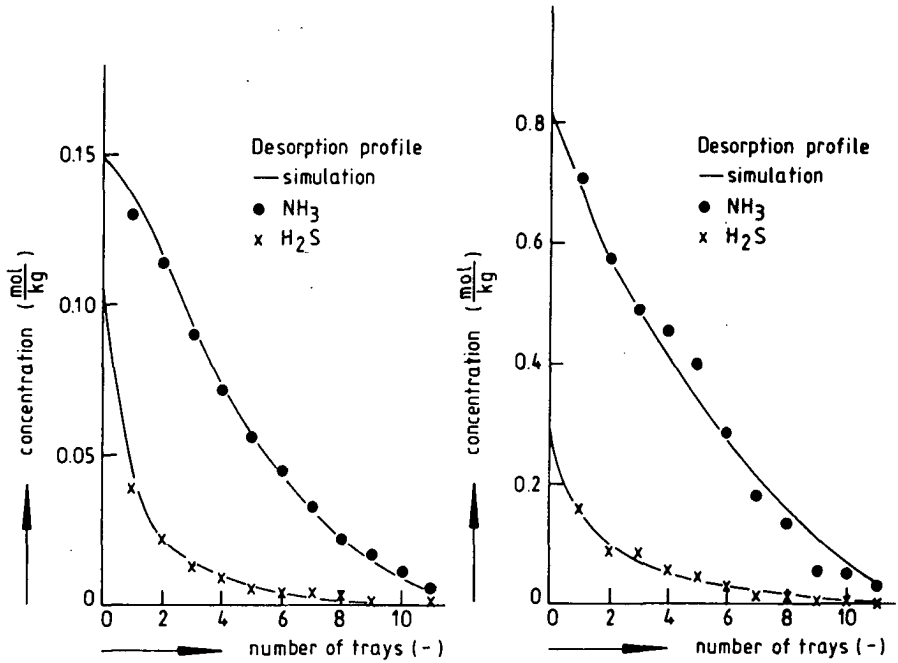


Figure 8 Desorption profiles of  $\text{NH}_3$ - $\text{H}_2\text{S}$ :

- a) low concentration ;  $G = 43.8 \text{ kg}\cdot\text{h}^{-1}$
- b) high concentration ;  $G = 43.5 \text{ kg}\cdot\text{h}^{-1}$

As the stripping factor of phenol is much less than 1, phenol removal takes place only at the bottom trays. The rising steam containing the acid component phenol gets in contact with the solution of higher pH thereby causing re-absorption of the acid at the upper trays.

It can be seen from figure 8 that ammonia is stripped to about 96% while the hydrogen sulfide removal is 99% complete.

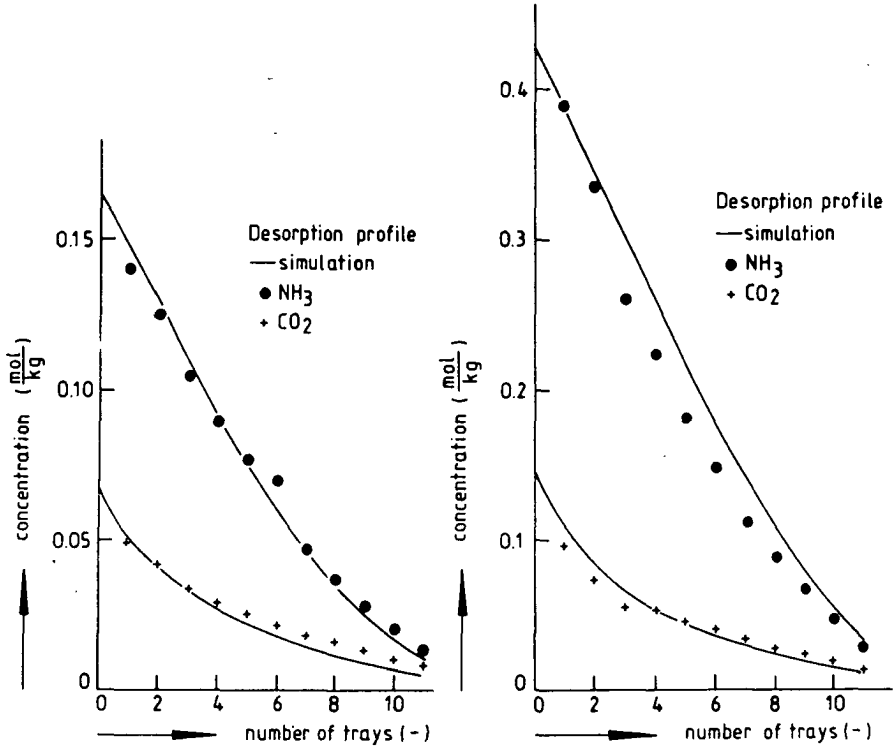


Figure 9 Desorption profiles of NH<sub>3</sub>-CO<sub>2</sub>:

- a) low concentration ;  $G = 49.5 \text{ kg}\cdot\text{h}^{-1}$
- b) high concentration ;  $G = 45.6 \text{ kg}\cdot\text{h}^{-1}$

For the ammonia-carbon dioxide mixtures in figure 9, NH<sub>3</sub> stripping drops to about 93% while CO<sub>2</sub> is removed for 90%. Desorption of quaternary mixtures (see figure 10) indicates rather low stripping performance for CO<sub>2</sub> (about 87%) compared to H<sub>2</sub>S, which is completely stripped even before reaching the seventh tray, and NH<sub>3</sub>, which is desorbed for about 99%.

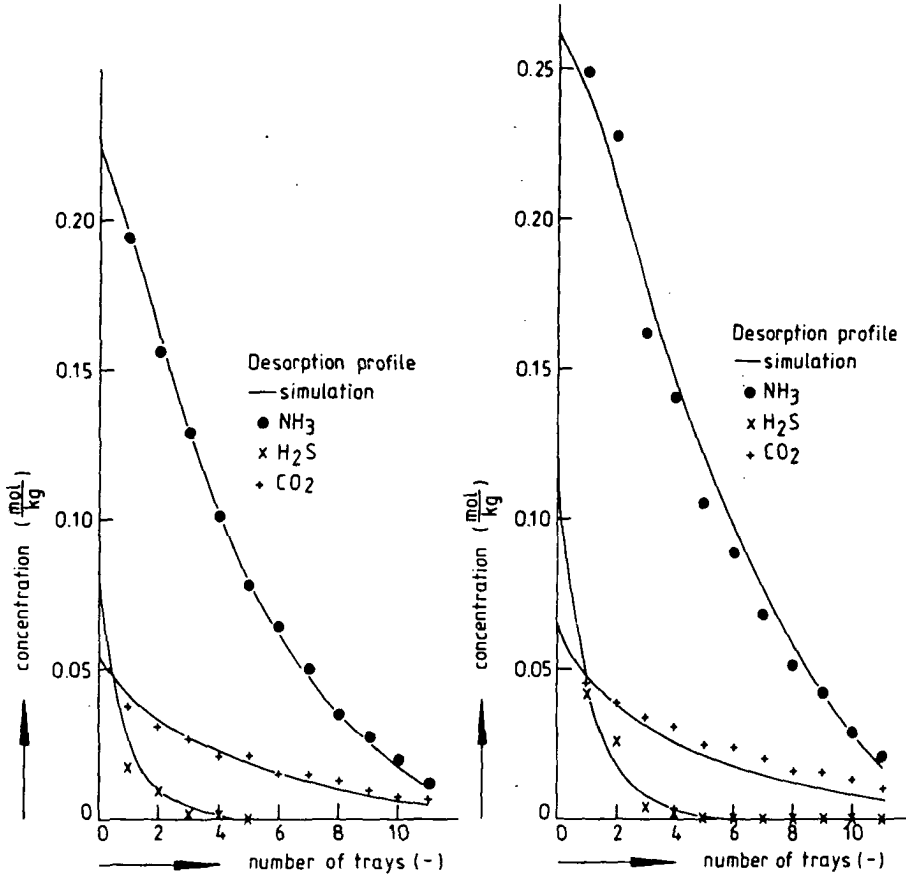


Figure 10 Desorption profiles of  $\text{NH}_3\text{-H}_2\text{S-CO}_2$ :

- a) low concentration ;  $G = 49.5 \text{ kg}\cdot\text{h}^{-1}$
- b) high concentration ;  $G = 44.6 \text{ kg}\cdot\text{h}^{-1}$

For the experiment with real sour water the measured and predicted values agree quite well (figure 11).

It is worth mentioning here that when the measured and simulated concentrations are plotted on a logarithmic scale, differences do become visible, particularly for the bottom concentrations of  $\text{H}_2\text{S}$ . This would give, however, an unrealistic representation of the measurements.

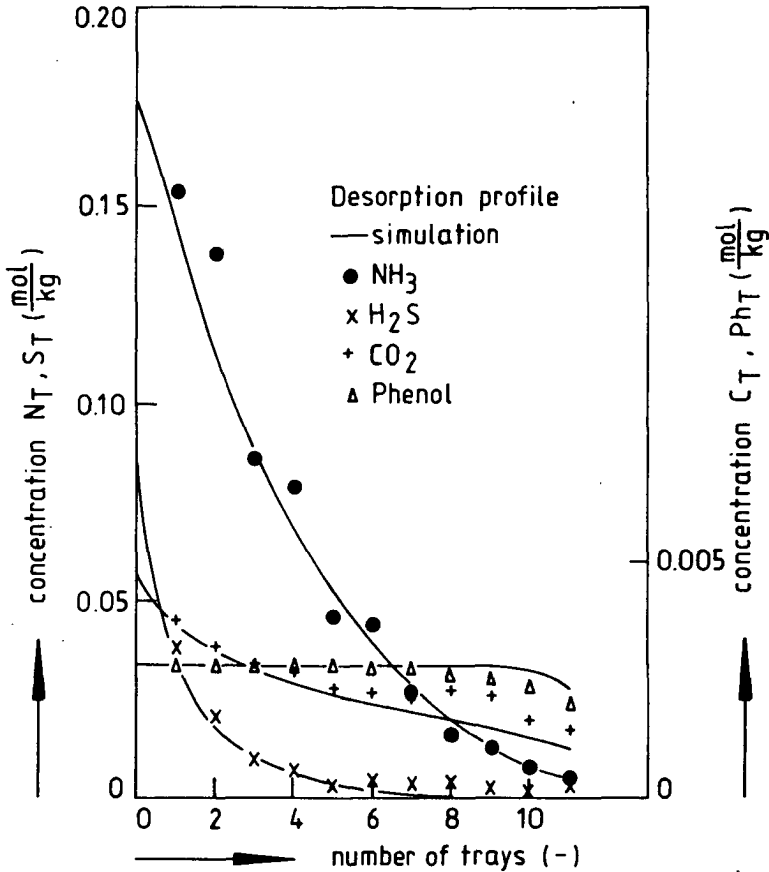


Figure 11 Desorption profile of Real Sour Water:

$$G = 45.5 \text{ kg} \cdot \text{h}^{-1}$$

The detection limit for H<sub>2</sub>S analysis is about  $10^{-3} \text{ mol} \cdot \text{kg}^{-1}$ . This is already reached at the fourth tray. Simulation values may go lower than this.

It is clear that the presence of carbon dioxide influences the desorption of ammonia to a considerable extent. This supports the theory that the formation of carbamate and bicarbonate ions is very significant and, therefore, not to be neglected particularly at high concentrations and temperature. For instance, in the desorption profile shown in figure 10a, the enhancement factor for the bicarbonate reaction is between 1.18 at the top and 1.08 at

the bottom with a maximum of 1.24 at the third and fourth tray; the carbamate reaction, on the other hand, contributes to the liquid mass transfer flux with enhancement factors between 2.20 at the top and 1.03 at the bottom with a maximum of 2.32 at the second tray. (A higher carbamate enhancement factor does not necessarily imply that its contribution to the  $\text{CO}_2$  flux is larger).

It can be concluded from these figures that good agreement between the experimental and simulated results has been achieved.

To test the sensitivity of the model to some parameters, the effect of parameter variations was analyzed. The parameters were:

- (a) the steam rate,  $G$
- (b) the liquid phase mass transfer coefficient,  $k_l$
- (c) the gas phase mass transfer coefficient,  $k_g$
- (d) the interfacial area,  $a$

The sensitivity analysis was performed for the experiment shown in figure 10a where the feed composition is  $N_T=0.224 \text{ mol}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$ ,  $S_T=0.077 \text{ mol}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$  and  $C_T=0.054 \text{ mol}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$  with  $L = 400 \text{ kg}\cdot\text{h}^{-1}$  and  $G = 49.52 \text{ kg}\cdot\text{h}^{-1}$ . To simulate possible experimental errors in the steam rate measurements, the steam rate was varied by 10%. For the mass transfer parameters, the uncertainty is larger and the values were increased and decreased by 50%. Two "reference" points were used. One is the model used where the calculated outlet concentrations are:

$$N_T = 0.012473 \text{ mol}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}, S_T = 0.000000 \text{ mol}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}, C_T = 0.005690 \text{ mol}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}.$$

The other uses the estimates of Nonhebel (1972) which are:

$k_l = 6.9 \cdot 10^{-4} \text{ m}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$ ,  $k_g = 3.1 \cdot 10^{-2} \text{ m}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$ ,  $a_t = 0.39 \text{ m}^2$ . The Nonhebel values were used to illustrate the behaviour of  $\text{H}_2\text{S}$  when complete desorption would not take place outlet concentrations:

$$N_T = 0.042651 \text{ mol}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}, S_T = 0.000167 \text{ mol}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}, C_T = 0.019644 \text{ mol}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}.$$

The results of these analyses are summarized in table 3. The percentages indicated are the ratio of the deviation of the effluent concentrations (i.e. the "reference" minus the "variable" to the "reference" effluent concentrations). The minus sign indicates poorer stripping performance with respect to the "reference" taken. The values for  $\text{H}_2\text{S}$  indicated by the sign "---" should be read as values having no physical relevance because the absolute values for all calculations approach zero. Thus the comparison of these values depends on the number of significant digits (larger than 6) one may wish to consider. For the Nonhebel calculations, percentages were based on the difference up to 6 significant figures.

Table 3. Sensitivity Analysis.

Parameter	Component	Percent Deviation			
		50% decrease		50% increase	
		Model	Nonhebel	Model	Nonhebel
k <sub>1</sub>	NH <sub>3</sub>	- 65	- 34	26	16
	H <sub>2</sub> S	--	-568	--	48
	CO <sub>2</sub>	- 94	- 46	34	25
k <sub>g</sub>	NH <sub>3</sub>	- 25	- 51	5	17
	H <sub>2</sub> S	--	-740	--	60
	CO <sub>2</sub>	- 13	- 8	2	6
a	NH <sub>3</sub>	-114	- 89	37	37
	H <sub>2</sub> S	--	-1540	--	84
	CO <sub>2</sub>	-151	-82	47	37
		10% decrease		10% increase	
		Model	Nonhebel	Model	Nonhebel
G	NH <sub>3</sub>	-36	-15	23	11
	H <sub>2</sub> S	--	-84	--	36
	CO <sub>2</sub>	-21	- 5	17	-5

The results are rather complicated to analyze because all parameters are to a certain extent dependent on each other. Some general conclusions can however be drawn:

(1) The model is more sensitive to the decrease of the parameter values than to increasing them. This is because changes in the mass transfer parameters subsequently change the number of (overall) transfer units. This influences the overall Murphree efficiency which contains the number of transfer units in the exponential term making it more susceptible to decreases than to increases;

(2) The most sensitive among the components is  $H_2S$ ;

(3) Variations of the  $k_1$  indicate considerable changes for all components;

(4) Variations of the  $k_g$  affect the desorption of  $NH_3$  and  $H_2S$  more remarkably than that of  $CO_2$ ;

(5) It is obvious that changing the interfacial area will alter stripping performance regardless of the set of mass transfer coefficients used.

From these observations it can be deduced that for  $CO_2$  the mass transfer resistance lies in the liquid phase. For  $NH_3$  and  $H_2S$ , mass transfer is sensitive to both the  $k_1$  and  $k_g$ .

## 7. COMPARISON BETWEEN PREDICTED AND REPORTED PERFORMANCE

We have also attempted to check the model against existing data from sour water strippers. The operating data were taken from a report by the American Petroleum Institute (API, 1972). None of these sets of data was found to be complete. In particular no  $CO_2$  concentrations are given. Of the strippers we have tried out 4 are refluxed and 5 non refluxed.

In the API report, mass transfer coefficients are not given for the particular strippers. To make an estimate of these coefficients, the relations of Nonhebel were used. These relations were used for the following reasons:

- they give values which are roughly in the middle in the range given by different authors (see figure 4).

- the Nonhebel relations for  $k_1$  and  $k_g$  are relatively simple; the coefficients are assumed to depend only on diffusion coefficient. As a consequence, they are nearly equal for all strippers operating at a temperature of about 100 °C.

- the Nonhebel relations do not require information about the lay out of the tray or other unknowns.

Table 4. Results of the simulation of the strippers from the API report.

stripper nr		14	21a	27	31	41	47	48	54a
number of trays		6	15	10	8	16	19	12	5
feed (kg·h <sup>-1</sup> )		17370	87503	55368	15851	86852	10857	17370	10857
steam (kg·h <sup>-1</sup> )		2064	5443	12111	2631	10251	2540	1950	544
temp. top		112	130	121	110	110	110	110	107
(°C) bottom		116	133	138	114	116	114	113	110
cond		106	-	79	-	77	-	-	-
press. top		156	276	237	148	167	109	144	129
(kPa.) bottom		175	296	342	163	175	129	159	143
a <sub>Nonhebel</sub> (m <sup>2</sup> )		30.8	55.7	60.2	33.9	94.5	12.5 <sup>1</sup>	24.8	8.3
N <sub>T,feed</sub>	mol·kg <sup>-1</sup>	.07086	.11800	.11842	.32090	.08269	.05900	.06184	.01266
S <sub>T,feed</sub>		.05904	.01476	.12582	.65800	.05020	.07530	.00633	.01230
Ph <sub>feed</sub>		.00649	.00622	.00321	.00254	.01041	.00587	-	.00021
N <sub>T,bot</sub>	calc.	.01932	.04618	.05877	.00670	.05984	.00007	.00249	.00717
	rep.	.01672	.01762	.01177	.02401	.02356	.00676	.00677	.00447
S <sub>T,bot</sub>	calc.	.00150	.00191	.00322	.00041	.00381	.00000	.00008	.00111
	rep.	.00008	.00260	.00059	.00038	.00589	.00015	<sup>2-</sup>	.00018
Ph <sub>T,bot</sub>	calc.	.00577	.00582	<sup>3x</sup>	.00189	<sup>3x</sup>	.00369	-	.00020
	rep.	.00620	.00510	.00160	.00033	.00639	.00239	-	.00014

- not present

<sup>1</sup>a<sub>Nonhebel</sub> = 37.9 m<sup>2</sup>, see text

<sup>2-</sup> not measured

<sup>3x</sup> not calculated, see text.



The mass transfer coefficients  $k_l$  and  $k_g$  were taken constant for all strippers with values of  $6.9 \cdot 10^{-4} \text{ m}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$  and  $3.1 \cdot 10^{-2} \text{ m}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$  respectively (the same as for the parameter sensitivity analysis). The interfacial area was calculated for each stripper with the following equation:

$$a' = 30 \cdot G^{0.5} \cdot \rho_g^{-0.25} \quad (19)$$

The calculational model requires the total pressure at top and bottom of the column as input data. Because the API report gives only the bottom pressure, the top pressure was estimated, by assuming a pressure drop of 5 kPa per tray. If the estimated pressure turned out to be incorrect with respect to calculated total equilibrium pressure, a recalculation was done with a different pressure drop per tray. For refluxed strippers, the condenser pressure was set equal to the top pressure.

The data of the strippers in the units used here and results of the simulations are given in table 4. The number of each stripper in this table is the code number from the API report.

The refluxed stripper 37B could not be simulated at all; due to the very low steam flow, the stripping factor for  $\text{NH}_3$  is very low. As a consequence, the numeric solution method failed to converge, so no correct solution is reached.

For calculation of strippers 27 and 41 phenol was omitted from the feed. Because of the relatively low condenser temperatures (79 and 77 °C respectively), the condenser calculation for phenol could not be done. At these temperatures the volatility of phenol is very low. Any amount of phenol desorbed can only be reached with impossible high concentrations of phenol in the reflux. The problems might be due to the use of an equilibrium condenser in our model, although we regard this as improbable.

In stripper 47 stripping is very deep, due to the large number of trays and the high steam rate. As a result, on the last trays concentrations are almost zero. This causes convergence problems in the Newton Raphson method, so again no solution was obtained. Solutions could be obtained with a lower value for one of the mass transfer parameters.

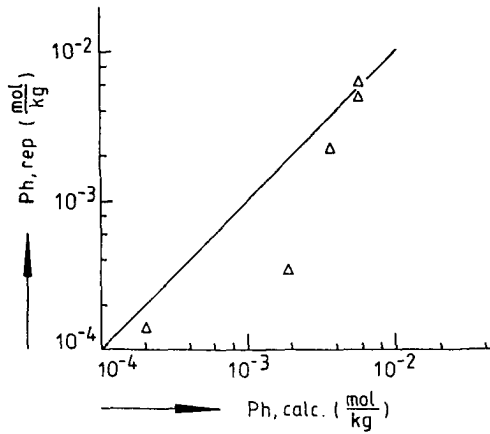
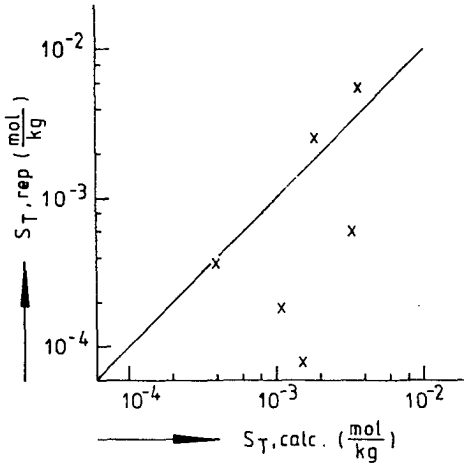
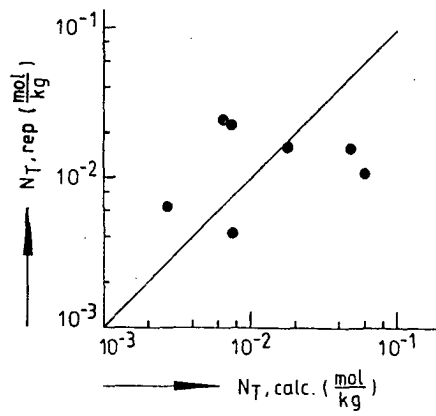


Figure 12 Calculated and reported bottom concentrations from the API report for  $NH_3$ ,  $H_2S$  and Phenol.

Because the mass transfer rates are the most sensitive to a change in the interfacial area, this parameter was set to a lower value.

While the Nonhebel equation predicts an interfacial area of  $37.9 \text{ m}^2$  per tray, a solution could only be reached for values of  $12.5 \text{ m}^2$  per tray or less. All other strippers were simulated without problems.

The results from table 4 have been plotted in figure 12. For all components considerable deviations are seen between calculated and reported concentrations. To these conclusions the following remarks can be made:

- The mass transfer parameters are not well known, but estimated with general correlations. If more accurate values for these parameters were known, better agreement between calculated and reported bottom concentrations could possibly be obtained. No attempt was undertaken to optimize the results.
- The presence of  $\text{CO}_2$  is not regarded in the API report, although it usually is present in sour water in a concentration that is about one half of the concentration of  $\text{H}_2\text{S}$  (figure 11, Darton et al., 1978).  $\text{CO}_2$  substantially influences the stripping of the other components:  $\text{NH}_3$  is stripped less easily in the presence of  $\text{CO}_2$ ,  $\text{H}_2\text{S}$  and phenol are stripped more easily. Our model can take into account the effects of  $\text{CO}_2$ , so if information of the concentration  $\text{CO}_2$  in the feed would be available, better agreement could be reached for the other components.
- The reported stripping performances for phenol are remarkably high. For equilibrium stages, the maximum fraction of a component that can be stripped for a large number of (theoretical) trays is equal to the stripping factor if this factor is less than unity. However, in most cases, the reported stripping is much deeper than this maximum theoretical value. For this fact there are several possible explanations:
  - a) the reported concentrations of phenol may be erroneous ; this could be caused by analytical problems, because determination of phenol in water is rather difficult.
  - b) the equilibrium constant and/or Henry constant of phenol we have used may be erroneous; however, they give results that are in reasonable agreement with our experiments.
  - c) the reported concentrations could be the sum of concentrations of various phenolic components. Of these related compounds, most are more volatile than phenol itself in aqueous media, so total removal can be better than calculated for pure phenol.

- The data in the API report are average values of plant data; in general, plant data are less accurate than experimental data, obtained from laboratory data.

Overall it would appear that existing data on plant operation are not sufficiently well documented to allow a comparison with our model.

## 8. STAGE EFFICIENCIES

In sour water strippers, the stage efficiency has a different value for each component. Because the efficiencies show a complicated dependency of the system and its parameters, they cannot be exactly predicted. In our calculational model, stage efficiencies can be determined afterwards from the calculated concentrations in the gas and liquid phase.

In the following parts, the applicability of two different stage efficiencies, the Murphree stage efficiency and the vaporization efficiency, to sour water strippers will be evaluated.

### 8.1. MURPHREE STAGE EFFICIENCY

A widely used efficiency is the Murphree stage efficiency, calculated for the gas phase. This efficiency is defined as:

$$E_{mv,i} = \frac{y_{out} - y_{in}}{y^* - y_{in}} \quad (19)$$

Here  $y^*$  is the concentration in the gas phase, in equilibrium with the bulk of the liquid.

A similar equation exists for the Murphree stage efficiency for the liquid phase. In this case, concentrations in the gas phase ( $y$ ) are substituted by concentrations in the liquid phase ( $x$ ).

For separation of hydrocarbon mixtures by distillation, or pure physical desorption, the Murphree gas stage efficiency is commonly used. The efficiency is either recalculated for each tray or taken constant over the whole column. This approach can give good results for some kind of systems (AIChE, 1958). To find out if the Murphree stage efficiency concept is applicable to sour water strippers, the efficiencies were calculated at each stage of various strippers.

From these calculations, it became clear that the Murphree stage efficiency is different for every component. For  $\text{NH}_3$ , the efficiency usually has a value between 0.65 and 0.85, for  $\text{H}_2\text{S}$  between 0.15 and 0.4. For  $\text{CO}_2$  and phenol, efficiencies vary from 0.01 to 0.05 and from 0.65 to 0.9 respectively. These figures are in agreement with the Henry coefficients of the components. However, the Murphree stage efficiency of each component is not constant over the whole column; especially in the top section, large variations are encountered.

Table 5.  $E_{mv, \text{NH}_3}$  and  $N_T$  for one of our experiments (see figure 8a)

Concentrations in the feed:  $N_T$   $0.149 \text{ mol}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$ ,  $S_T$   $0.108 \text{ mol}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$ .

Concentrations in the table are concentrations in the liquid, leaving the tray.

tray	G ( $\text{kg}\cdot\text{h}^{-1}$ ) 43.8		40.0		30.0	
	$E_{mv}$	$N_T$ $\text{mol}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$	$E_{mv}$	$N_T$ $\text{mol}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$	$E_{mv}$	$N_T$ $\text{mol}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$
feed	-	.14900	-	.14900	-	.14900
1	14.866	.13604	-0.648	.14391	0.496	.16080
2	0.963	.11557	1.057	.12911	0.156	.16245
3	0.819	.09281	0.852	.10968	1.185	.15728
4	0.787	.07275	0.812	.09085	0.913	.14878
5	0.774	.05592	0.798	.07366	0.869	.13787
6	0.768	.04211	0.791	.05842	0.855	.12492
7	0.765	.03094	0.788	.04509	0.849	.11006
8	0.764	.02197	0.787	.03355	0.847	.09329
9	0.763	.01480	0.786	.02360	0.846	.07453
10	0.763	.00908	0.786	.01506	0.846	.05368
11	0.764	.00453	0.786	.00773	0.846	.03060

In some cases the efficiency for  $\text{NH}_3$  can have a value less than zero or greater than unity. This possibility is also observed in multicomponent mass transfer without chemical reaction (see Krishna and Taylor, 1986). The appearance of these strange values, which have nothing to do with the hydrodynamics of the tray, will be explained later on. For the other components, the efficiency is always between zero and unity.

As an illustration of the behaviour of the Murphree stage efficiencies as a function of the position in the column, table 5 gives a calculated efficiency and simulated concentration profile for  $\text{NH}_3$ . These values are calculated for the feed composition of one of our experiments with  $\text{NH}_3$  and  $\text{H}_2\text{S}$  only (figure 8a). The calculation was done for various steam rates. In this table the variation of the efficiency over the first trays of the column can be seen. For  $\text{H}_2\text{S}$ , the Murphree stage efficiency is also far from constant over the column.

In the first and second case in table 5, the concentration of  $N_T$  in the liquid decreases on each tray. In the third case, a concentration increase is observed on the first two trays. This means that  $\text{NH}_3$ , desorbed in the bottom section, is absorbed again in the top. This effect occurs at low steam rates, so with relatively high concentrations of ammonia in the gas. At the top trays this gas concentration can be higher than the equilibrium pressure of ammonia because this is lowered by the presence of hydrogen sulphide. This results in absorption of ammonia, due to the negative driving force for ammonia desorption.

From table 5 it can be seen that it is not possible to say from the value of the Murphree stage efficiency if stripping or absorption takes place at a particular tray. In this table, stripping is encountered for values of  $E_{mv,i}$  ranging from -0.65 till 14.9, while absorption takes place at 2 trays where  $E_{mv,i}$  is 0.50 and 0.16 respectively.

To explain this, it is necessary to take a look at the physical meaning of the different values of the Murphree stage efficiency. All possible situations with different values for  $y_{in}$ ,  $y_{out}$  and  $y^*$  are depicted in figure 13, which is a convenient representation of equation 19. In this figure, absorption cases are indicated as A1, A2 and A3, desorption as D1, D2 and D3.

It is clear that for every value of the efficiency, both ab- and desorption can occur. Which one of the two takes place is determined by the difference  $y_{out} - y_{in}$  only. From now on, only desorption will be discussed; for absorption, analogous discussions can be made.

$$E_{MV} = \frac{y_{out} - y_{in}}{y^* - y_{in}}$$

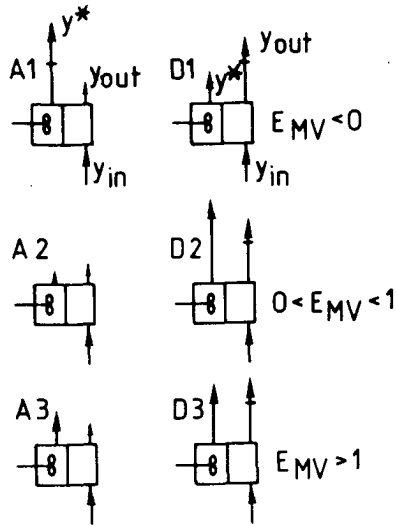


Figure 13 Schematic drawings of the physical meaning of different values for  $E_{mv}$ . Cases are depicted for both ab- (A) and desorption (D). Bar in  $y_{out}$  denotes the magnitude of  $y_{in}$ .

From figure 13 turns out that, if  $y^*$  is small, that is less than  $y_{in}$  the efficiency has a negative value (D1). If  $y^*$  lies in the particular range between  $y_{in}$  and  $y_{out}$ , the value of  $E_{mv,i}$  becomes larger than unity (D3). If  $y^*$  is larger than  $y_{out}$ , the efficiency ranges from zero to unity. The value of  $y^*$  depends on the values  $N_T$  and  $S_T$  (roughly  $y^* = H_{NH_3} \cdot (N_T - S_T)$ ). So  $y^*$  can have such a value that one of the 'particular' cases D1 or D3 is reached. In the bottom section, where  $S_T$  is low, the column behaves as a physical ammonia stripper. The value of the efficiency can then be calculated from the mass transfer parameters, enhancement factor and the gas velocity.

From the forgoing considerations it is clear, that the Murphree stage efficiency can not be used successfully for the calculation of sour water stripping, because this efficiency is not constant and can not be predicted for each situation at forehand.

## 8.2. VAPORIZATION EFFICIENCY

To avoid the problems, caused by the use of the Murphree stage efficiency, Won (1983) proposed to use the vaporization efficiency, defined by Holland (1970) as:

$$\epsilon_i = \frac{y_{\text{actual},i}}{y_i^*} \quad (20)$$

Won took the vaporization efficiency as constant over the column, but with a different value for each component. For 4 strippers from the API report (1973), 2 refluxed and 2 nonrefluxed, the component efficiency was determined by fitting on the bottom concentration. The form of the concentration profile was not taken into account due to lack of information. The description of sour water strippers with a vaporization efficiency is the best method known until now.

Besides the effect of making the stripping calculation more comprehensive, the use of the vaporization efficiency has a second advantage. The mass transfer model is based on a numeric solution of the total set of equations, which requires a large calculation time (e.g. for 4 components on a VAX 750 computer, calculation takes about 5 minutes). It is an iterative process with iterations at 3 levels. The second level is an iteration loop on a tray, which is repeated until the mass balances of that tray are satisfied. Usually, this loop is performed 3 or 4 times per tray. However, each loop requires two mass transfer calculations for one component, three for two components and so on. As a consequence, the calculation is accelerated by a factor of 6 to 20 if the second iterative loop is replaced by a pseudo equilibrium calculation with the use of the vaporization efficiency. The stripping performance of the particular tray is now described by a set of equations that can be solved analytically.

In our model, the vaporization efficiencies have been calculated from the concentrations in the gas phase. To obtain a value for the vaporization efficiency of each component over the column, the arithmetic mean efficiency was calculated. However, it seems likely that the larger the concentration difference ( $y_n - y_{n+1}$ ) on a tray, the more important the efficiency of that tray will be. To account for this fact, a concentration dependent mean efficiency was also calculated, defined as:



$$\bar{\xi}_1 = \frac{\sum_n (y_n - y_{n+1}) \cdot \xi_n}{\sum_n (y_n - y_{n+1})} \quad (21)$$

However, one has to be careful with columns where absorption occurs at one or more stages, because of the negative value of  $(y_n - y_{n+1})$ . It is not totally clear which of these two mean efficiencies gives the best results.

For strippers 7 and 58 from the API report, the mean  $\xi$ 's were calculated with the mass transfer model, using the mass transfer parameters, calculated with the relations of Nonhebel (1972). The vaporization efficiency turns out to be far from constant over a whole column. However, variation of this efficiency over the column is much less than for the Murphree stage efficiency. Just as with the Murphree stage efficiency, the variation is largest for ammonia. To illustrate this, table 6 gives the calculated  $\xi$ 's at every tray for stripper 7.

Table 6. Calculated vaporization efficiencies for stripper 7 from the API report.

tray:	$\xi_{\text{NH}_3}$ :	$\xi_{\text{H}_2\text{S}}$ :	$\xi_{\text{Phenol}}$ :
1	1.046	0.100	0.884
2	0.701	0.189	0.846
3	0.609	0.265	0.807
4	0.563	0.323	0.760
5	0.526	0.361	0.700
6	0.483	0.373	0.619
7	0.418	0.349	0.500
8	0.296	0.261	0.312
arithmetic mean	0.580	0.278	0.679
conc. dep. mean	0.679	0.150	0.564

With these  $\xi$ 's, the pseudo equilibrium calculation was performed, again for  $\text{NH}_3$  and  $\text{H}_2\text{S}$  only. To simulate strippers by pseudo equilibrium calculations with the vaporization efficiency, a modified version of our own computer program was developed. In this version, the mass transfer equations were replaced by equilibrium calculations. At each tray, the composition of the liquid leaving was calculated from the composition of the leaving gas. From the mass balance for every component at the particular tray, the composition of the entering gas was found. The auxiliary calculations, such as calculation of the total liquid and gas flow, gas density and equilibrium constants, are exactly the same as in our own model.

With this model, the calculations of Won for nonrefluxed strippers (nr 7 and 58) were checked. Phenol was omitted from the feed because of convergence problems. Results of these calculations are given in table 7 as case 2. The calculated bottom concentrations of both  $\text{NH}_3$  and  $\text{H}_2\text{S}$  were too low by a factor of 2.6 for stripper 7 as compared to the results reported by Won. For stripper 58, calculated bottom concentrations were too low by a factor 4.4 and 5.9 for  $\text{NH}_3$  and  $\text{H}_2\text{S}$  respectively. However, when the stripping performances are compared instead of the bottom concentrations, differences are much smaller.

It is not clear what is the cause of the differences between calculated and reported concentrations. A possible reason is the thermodynamic model used. Won used the computer program DELTAS, which is based on the model of Edwards et al. (1978). Our model is based on the same equations, with the revised parameters given by Maurer (1980). As discussed above the minor differences between the two sets of parameters can give astonishingly large differences in the calculated equilibria.

The calculation of stripper 7 with the concentration dependent mean efficiency clearly illustrates the influence of the stripping performance of one component on the other. The calculated efficiency for  $\text{H}_2\text{S}$  is equal to the value reported by Won. However, with the slightly lower efficiency for  $\text{NH}_3$ , and thus less deep stripping of ammonia, the bottom concentration of  $\text{H}_2\text{S}$  has also increased.

From table 7 and other calculations, the following conclusions can be drawn:

- Mean value of the vaporization efficiency over the whole column depend on almost all input parameters of the model, like temperature and pressure of the column, liquid and gas flow rates, composition of the feed and mass transfer parameters.

Table 7. Calculated and reported vaporization efficiencies and bottom concentrations calculated with these efficiencies.

Case 1:  $\xi$ 's and  $c_{bot}$  reported by Won

Case 2:  $\xi$ 's reported by Won,  $c_{bot}$  calculated

Case 3: concentration dependent mean  $\xi$ 's,  $c_{bot}$  calculated

Case 4: arithmetic mean  $\xi$ 's,  $c_{bot}$  calculated

Case 5:  $c_{bot}$  calculated with mass transfer model

Case:	1	2	3	4	5
stripper 7					
$\xi_{NH_3}$	0.7	0.7	0.68	0.58	-
$\xi_{H_2S}$	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.28	-
$N_{T,bot}$	0.00353	0.00134	0.00156	0.00186	0.00264
$S_{T,bot}$	0.00082	0.00031	0.00035	0.00022	0.00021

stripper 58

$\xi_{NH_3}$	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.62	-
$\xi_{H_2S}$	0.20	0.20	0.37	0.43	-
$N_{T,bot}$	0.00059	0.00014	0.00009	0.00012	0.00012
$S_{T,bot}$	0.000047	0.000008	0.000001	0.000001	0.000001

These influences make it impossible to calculate the vaporization efficiency exactly at forehand. On the other hand, a change in  $\xi$  gives only moderate differences in the bottom concentrations, so a small error in the efficiencies used does not have very much influence on the total stripping performances.

-For all components, calculated mean vaporization efficiencies can differ from those reported by Won (1983). Won gives a figure from which the value of the vaporization for each component can be estimated from the partition

coefficient of the component and the kinematic viscosity of water. As discussed above this is a too simple representation of the true phenomena.

-The vaporization efficiency can be larger than unity. This is possible if the concentration of a component in its molecular form is larger at the interface than in the bulk of the liquid.

-It is not possible to determine from the value of the vaporization efficiency whether absorption or desorption at a particular tray takes place.

-For strippers 7 and 58, the change in the calculated bottom concentrations, caused by a change in the vaporization efficiency, is rather small. In fact, these changes are much smaller than the difference between bottom concentrations calculated and those reported by Won.

-In most cases, the arithmetic mean vaporization efficiency gives somewhat better agreement with the mass transfer model than the concentration dependent mean efficiency.

A final remark on made to the form of the concentration profile, determined by pseudo equilibrium calculations. From our calculations it turns out that, in some cases, this form differs significantly from the one calculated with the mass transfer model. As an example, concentration profiles for the refluxed stripper 14 from the API report, calculated by both mass transfer and pseudo equilibrium calculations, are plotted in figure 14. Because the stripper is refluxed, feed concentrations depend on the total stripping performance and so are different in both cases.

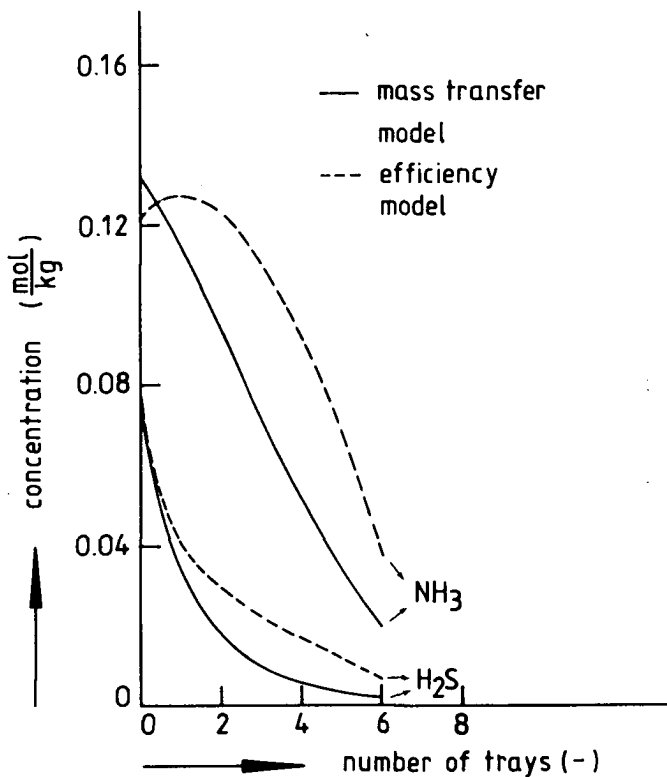


Figure 14 Concentration profiles for refluxed stripper 14 from the API report, calculated by mass transfer model and pseudo equilibrium model.

## 9. CONCLUSION

A model has been presented which is able to describe the simultaneous desorption of  $\text{NH}_3$ ,  $\text{H}_2\text{S}$ ,  $\text{CO}_2$  and phenol from water. All relevant parameters were determined independently ( $k_1$ ,  $k_g$  and  $a$ ) or taken from literature (reaction kinetics, equilibria). An evaluation of the different models on equilibria points out that the method of Edwards with the parameter modifications of Maurer is to be preferred. The tray to tray model, which takes into account mass transfer with chemical reaction on each tray and where the liquid is perfectly mixed and the gas in plug flow, simulates

measured values quite well for both "synthetic" and real sour water. This indicates that the mass transfer parameters used describe the system under consideration well. This would have not been possible when literature values were used.

Comparison of the model and results from industrial strippers is less satisfactory. The most difficult problem for calculating industrial type strippers are the values of the mass transfer coefficients and interfacial area. Existing correlations show enormous differences and are clearly unreliable. Unfortunately column performance depends rather strongly on the mass transfer parameters.

The use of efficiencies has to be avoided, because their definition has no (physical) meaning in desorption with a chemical reaction. This was shown to hold for both Murphree and vaporization efficiency.

The model used has described the condenser and reboiler of a stripper as an equilibrium stage. A further refinement could be introduced by modelling these stages in a more realistic way. As the condensor performance influences the whole unit, the condensor model is not unimportant.

The application of our model to packed column operation was not investigated. It is possible to change the model presented to simulate a packed column. Basically the same equations can be used if plug flow is assumed for both liquid and gas. In how far non ideal flows patterns (such as investigated by Hoek, 1987) would be important is however uncertain.

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## 10. SYMBOLS

a	interfacial area per unit dispersion volume	$m^{-1}$
$a_t$	total interfacial area per tray	$m^2$
$a'$	interfacial area per unit bubbling area	-
B	weir length	m
BA	bubbling area	$m^2$
$C_l$	liquid concentration	$mol \cdot kg^{-1}$
$C_g$	gas concentration	$mol \cdot kg^{-1}$
$C_T$	total carbon dioxide concentration	$mol \cdot kg^{-1}$
$D_C$	column diameter	m
$D_g$	gas diffusion coefficient	$m^2 \cdot s^{-1}$
$D_l$	liquid diffusion coefficient	$m^2 \cdot s^{-1}$
$d_h$	perforation diameter	m
$E_{HCO_3}$	enhancement factor due to $HCO_3$ reaction	(-)
$E_{NH_2COO}$	enhancement factor due to $NH_2COO$ reaction	(-)
$E_{C,tot}$	total enhancement factor for $CO_2$	(-)
$E_{mv,i}$	Murphree stage efficiency for component i	(-)
F	percent free area of the plate	(-)
G	vapor load	$kg \cdot s^{-1}$
$G'$	vapor load per unit cross-sectional area	$kg \cdot m^{-2} \cdot s^{-1}$
g	acceleration of gravity	$m^2 \cdot s^{-1}$
$Ha_{HCO_3}$	Hatta number for $HCO_3$ reaction	(-)
$Ha_{NH_2COO}$	Hatta number for $NH_2COO$ reaction	(-)
$H_f$	froth height	m
$H_s$	tray spacing	m
$H_w$	weir height	m
$H_e$	Henry's constant	$atm \cdot kg \cdot mole^{-1}$
$h_l$	clear-liquid height or hold-up	m
J	flux	$mole \cdot s^{-1}$
K	equilibrium constant	*
$K'$	pseudo equilibrium constant	(-)
$k_l$	liquid phase mass transfer coefficient	$m \cdot s^{-1}$
$k_g$	gas phase mass transfer coefficient	$m \cdot s^{-1}$
$k_{OH}$	reaction rate constant	$kg \cdot mol^{-1} \cdot s^{-1}$
$k_{NH_3}$	reaction rate constant	$kg \cdot mol^{-1} \cdot s^{-1}$
L	liquid rate	$kg \cdot s^{-1}$

$L'$	liquid rate per unit cross-sectional area	$\text{kg}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$
$N_g$	number of gas phase transfer units, $k_g a' / u_g$	(-)
$N_T$	total ammonia concentration	$\text{mol}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$
$n$	number of perforations	-
$P$	pressure	Pa or mm Hg
$p$	pitch	m
$Ph_T$	total phenol concentration	$\text{mol}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$
$S_i$	stripping factor of comp. i	(-)
$S_T$	total hydrogen sulphide concentration	$\text{mol}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$
$Sc$	Schmidt number	-
$T$	temperature	K or °C
$x$	liquid concentration	$\text{mol}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$
$y$	gas concentration	$\text{mol}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$
$y^*$	gas concentration in equilibrium with the other phase	$\text{mol}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$

(\* depends on the reaction involved)

#### Greek

$\beta$	interaction parameter	(-)
$\eta_g$	gas viscosity	$\text{Pa}\cdot\text{s}$
$\eta_l$	liquid viscosity	$\text{Pa}\cdot\text{s}$
$\rho_g$	gas density	$\text{kg}\cdot\text{m}^{-3}$
$\rho_l$	liquid density	$\text{kg}\cdot\text{m}^{-3}$
$\sigma$	surface tension	$\text{N}\cdot\text{m}^{-1}$
$\epsilon_i$	vaporization efficiency for component i	(-)
$\theta_g$	residence time of gas in froth zone	s



subscript

b	bulk
calc	calculated
cond	condensor
exp	experimental
g	gas
int	interface
l	liquid
n	tray number
rep	reported

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## ABSTRACT

This thesis is a comprehensive study of the simultaneous removal of volatile weak electrolytes such as ammonia, hydrogen sulphide, carbon dioxide and phenol from aqueous wastes.

Experiments have been carried out with various solutions of the electrolytes in a wetted wall column and tray column. In the wetted wall column air was used as a stripping agent; in the tray column steam was used.

A relative simple model has been developed that predicts the desorption rate of each component provided the hydrodynamics of gas and liquid phase are known. In this model the chemical equilibria, diffusion and reaction rates are taken into account. This model is a considerable improvement on existing descriptions of sour water stripping operation. The experiments and calculations have given a clear insight in the theory of desorption with chemical reaction concerning from the above mentioned solutions. The application of the model to industrial desorption columns is possible. The gas and liquid mass transfer coefficients and interfacial area should then be known accurately.

## SAMENVATTING

Dit proefschrift behandelt de gelijktijdige desorptie van ammoniak, zwavelwaterstof, kooldioxide en fenol uit waterige oplossingen.

Experimenten met diverse oplossingen van genoemde stoffen zijn uitgevoerd in een natewand-kolom en in een schotelkolom. In de natte wand-kolom werd lucht als stripmedium gebruikt; in de schotelkolom werd met stoom gestript.

Er is een model ontwikkeld dat de stofoverdrachtssnelheid van iedere component bij gegeven stromingscondities uitrekent. In dit model zijn de chemische evenwichten, diffusie- en reactiesnelheden van de verschillende componenten meegenomen. Dit model is een verbetering tegenover bestaande beschrijvingen van stofoverdrachtssnelheden. De experimenten aan beide kolommen hebben een duidelijk inzicht gegeven in de theorie van desorptie met chemische reactie.

Toepassing van het ontwikkelde model op industriële desorptie kolommen is zeer goed mogelijk. De vloeistof en gas stofoverdrachtscoëfficiënten en het specifiek fasengrensvlak dienen dan voor een nauwkeurige voorspelling goed bekend te zijn.

## APPENDIX 1

### MASS TRANSFER PARAMETERS AND INTERFACIAL AREA

#### 1. SUMMARY OF LITERATURE CORRELATIONS.

##### 1.1. LIQUID MASS TRANSFER COEFFICIENT $k_1$

Asano and Fujita (1966a) have correlated data and presented a correlation as a function of the Sherwood and Schmidt numbers and the tray dimensions as follows:

$$\frac{k_1 d_h}{D_1} = 10^2 \left( \frac{\eta_1}{\rho_1 D_1} \right)^{0.5} \left( \frac{L' D_C}{\eta_1} \right)^{0.5} \left( \frac{d_h}{h_1} \right) \quad (\text{A-1})$$

or written more conveniently

$$k_1 = \frac{10^2}{h_1} \left( \frac{D_1 D_C L'}{\rho_1} \right)^{0.5} \quad (\text{A-2})$$

Based upon a large number observations from literature Nonhebel (1972) suggests that  $k_1$  is a function of the liquid diffusivity only because most columns are designed within a narrow range of flow conditions. The  $k_1$  is given by

$$k_1 = 8 \cdot D_1^{0.5} \quad (\text{A-3})$$

Zuiderweg (1982) published an article on sieve trays which was developed for non-aqueous systems but may be applied to aqueous systems. According to his article  $k_1$  is a function of the liquid viscosity or diffusivity

$$k_1 = \frac{2.6 \cdot 10^{-5}}{\eta_1^{0.25}} \quad (\text{ or } 0.024 \cdot D_1^{0.25}) \quad (\text{A-4})$$

Calderbank and Moo-Young (1961) state that the liquid phase mass transfer coefficients in gas-liquid dispersions depend on the physical properties of the system and bubble size.

For small bubbles (diameter less than 2.5 mm) which behave like rigid spheres

$$k_1(Sc)_1^{0.67} = 0.31 \left( \frac{\Delta\rho \eta_c g}{\rho_c} \right)^{0.33} \quad (A-5)$$

and for large bubbles which do not behave like rigid spheres

$$k_1(Sc)_1^{0.5} = 0.42 \left( \frac{\Delta\rho \eta_c g}{\rho_c} \right)^{0.33} \quad (A-6)$$

### 1.2. GAS MASS TRANSFER COEFFICIENT $k_g$

For the gas phase mass transfer coefficient, the correlation of Asano and Fujita (1966b) predicts

$$\frac{k_g d_h}{D_1} = \left( \frac{\eta_g}{\rho_g D_g} \right)^{0.5} \left( \frac{w_h d_h \rho_g}{\eta_g} \right)^{0.75} \left( \frac{d_h}{h_1} \right) \quad (A-7)$$

Nonhebel has shown that

$$k_g \approx 0.625 \cdot k_1 \cdot \left( \frac{D}{D_1} \right)^{0.5} \quad (A-8)$$

which can be combined with equation (A-3) giving

$$k_g = 5 \cdot D_g^{0.5} \quad (A-9)$$

Zuiderweg gives  $k_g$  as function of the gas density

$$k_g = \frac{0.13}{\rho_g} - \frac{0.065}{\rho_g^2} \quad 1 < \rho_g < 80 \text{ kg} \cdot \text{m}^{-3} \quad (A-10)$$

### 1.3. INTERFACIAL AREA $a$

For the interfacial area per unit tray area Nonhebel gives

$$a' = 30 G^{0.5} \cdot \rho_g^{-0.25} \quad (A-11)$$

We interpret tray area as bubbling area.

Zuiderweg reports for the mixed and emulsion flow regime

$$a' = \frac{43}{F^{0.3}} \left( \frac{u_g^2 \rho_g h_1 \phi}{\sigma} \right)^{0.53} \quad (\text{A-12})$$

whereas for the spray regime

$$a' = \frac{40}{F^{0.3}} \left( \frac{u_g^2 \rho_g h_1 \phi}{\sigma} \right)^{0.37} \quad (\text{A-13})$$

For the definition of these regimes the reader is advised to consult the article of Zuiderweg.

#### 1.4. VOLUMETRIC LIQUID MASS TRANSFER COEFFICIENT $k_1 a$

According to Perry's Chemical Engineers Handbook (1984), which is based on the AIChE Report (1958)

$$k_1 a = (3.875 \cdot 10^8 D_1)^{0.5} (0.4 u_g \cdot \rho_g^{0.5} + 0.17) \quad (\text{A-14})$$

#### 1.5. VOLUMETRIC GAS MASS TRANSFER COEFFICIENT $k_g a$

Perry gives

$$k_g a = \frac{N_g}{\theta_g} \quad (\text{A-15})$$

$$\text{where } N_g = \frac{0.776 + 0.00457 H_w - 0.238 u_g \rho_g^{0.5} + 0.0712 W}{Sc_g^{0.5}} \quad (\text{A-16})$$

$\theta_g$  is the residence time of the gas in the froth; it can be calculated from correlations for the bed height or own measurements.

We have observed that the correlations presented by Perry differ slightly from those of Treybal (1981) and Coulson and Richardson (1978) although these correlations were taken from the same source.



## 2. EXPERIMENTAL

### 2.1. THEORY OF THE DANCKWERTS METHOD

The Danckwerts chemical absorption method (1975) is widely used for measuring gas liquid interfacial areas. Charpentier and Morsi (1983) have presented a review article on this subject. The method is based on the Danckwerts model for gas absorption accompanied by a pseudo first order reaction. The reaction used is that between  $\text{CO}_2$  and  $\text{NaOH}$ . The rate of absorption is given by

$$J_{\text{CO}_2} = [\text{CO}_2]_{1,\text{int}} \sqrt{(D_{\text{CO}_2} k_r [\text{OH}^-] + k_1^2)} \quad (\text{A-17})$$

where  $k_r$  is the reaction rate constant of the reaction involved



The model assumes that the  $\text{NaOH}$  concentration near the interface is not significantly depleted by the reaction. Also the reaction is fast enough to reduce the bulk concentration of the dissolved  $\text{CO}_2$  to zero. This applies when

$$1 < \frac{\sqrt{(D_{\text{CO}_2} k_r [\text{OH}^-])}}{k_1} < 1 + \frac{D_{\text{OH}} [\text{OH}^-]}{2 D_{\text{CO}_2} [\text{CO}_2]_{1,\text{int}}} \quad (\text{A-18})$$

The analysis can be simplified if  $[\text{CO}_2]_{1,\text{int}}$  can be calculated directly from the concentration of  $\text{CO}_2$  in the bulk of the gas. This is possible if there is no gas phase resistance. From the two resistance theory, this holds true when

$$\frac{k_g m_{\text{CO}_2}}{\sqrt{(k_r [\text{OH}] D_{\text{CO}_2})}} \gg 1 \quad (\text{A-19})$$

Re-writing equation A-17 gives

$$J \cdot a_t = a_t \frac{[\text{CO}_2]_g}{m_{\text{CO}_2}} \sqrt{(k_1^2 + k_r [\text{OH}^-] D_{\text{CO}_2})} \quad (\text{A-20})$$

or by squaring both sides

$$(J \cdot a_t)^2 = \left( a_t \cdot \frac{[\text{CO}_2]_g}{m_{\text{CO}_2}} \right)^2 \cdot (k_1^2 + k_r [\text{OH}^-]_{\text{D}_{\text{CO}_2}}) \quad (\text{A-21})$$

A plot of  $(J \cdot a_t)^2$  versus  $\frac{[\text{CO}_2]_g^2}{m_{\text{CO}_2}} \cdot k_r [\text{OH}^-]_{\text{D}_{\text{CO}_2}}$  should yield a straight line with slope  $a_t^2$ .

If experiments are performed at (almost) constant  $[\text{CO}_2]_g$ , equation A-21 can be written as

$$\left[ \frac{J \cdot a_t}{\frac{[\text{CO}_2]_g}{m_{\text{CO}_2}}} \right]^2 = a_t^2 k_1^2 + a_t^2 k_r [\text{OH}^-]_{\text{D}_{\text{CO}_2}} \quad (\text{A-22})$$

so that a plot of  $\left[ \frac{J \cdot a_t}{\frac{[\text{CO}_2]_g}{m_{\text{CO}_2}}} \right]^2$  versus  $k_r [\text{OH}^-]_{\text{D}_{\text{CO}_2}}$  yields a slope of  $a_t^2$  and an x-intercept of  $k_1^2$  (figure 1).

From equation A-22 we see that

-the major source of error for the determination of the interfacial area is the accuracy with which the terms  $k_r \cdot \text{D}_{\text{CO}_2}$  and especially  $m_{\text{CO}_2}$  can be calculated. Porter et al. (1966) suggest that the accuracy of the calculated interfacial areas is not better than 10%.

-the mass transfer coefficient is not dependent on the value of  $m_{\text{CO}_2}$  and thus insensitive to possible systematic errors in  $m_{\text{CO}_2}$ . The accuracy with which  $k_1$  can be determined depends on the value of the slope in figure 1 and how close the average of the measured points on the x-axis is to zero.

We would like to point out that the determination of  $k_1$  by this method is an extrapolation of the measured data for the parameter on the y-axis going to zero. This renders this method very inaccurate.

In the literature the  $k_1$  determination is usually seen as the ratio of y-intercept and the slope. Numerically this gives the same value for  $k_1$  but one should keep in mind that the uncertainty is determined by both the uncertainties in the slope and y-intercept. At 20 °C the mass transfer coefficient can be determined with the procedures outlined above. At 103 °C this becomes more difficult or even impossible because the value of the term  $k_r [\text{OH}^-]_{\text{D}_{\text{CO}_2}}$  increases strongly with temperature due to the dependency of  $k_r$

and D on temperature. As can be clearly seen from equation A-21 it is then impossible to distinguish  $k_1^2$  from  $k_r[\text{OH}^-]D_{\text{CO}_2}$ .

## 2.2. EQUILIBRIUM DATA

The Henry coefficient of  $\text{CO}_2$  at 20 °C was calculated according to the data and procedure of Danckwerts and Sharma (1966). This source of data yields results differing not much from the more recent data of Edwards et al. (1978). The calculated Henry coefficients are 25.7 and 24.7  $\text{atm}\cdot\text{kg}\cdot\text{mole}^{-1}$ , respectively. At 103 °C, however, the values of the Henry coefficient differ significantly. We calculated a value of 177  $\text{atm}\cdot\text{kg}\cdot\text{mole}^{-1}$  for Danckwerts and 99  $\text{atm}\cdot\text{kg}\cdot\text{mole}^{-1}$  for Edwards. This difference becomes even larger if one takes into account the salting out effect. For Danckwerts this is expressed as  $\text{He}_{\text{CO}_2,\text{solution}}/\text{He}_{\text{CO}_2,\text{water}}$  which is a function of the ionic strength, giving a reduction of the solubility to about 75% (thus making  $\text{He}_{\text{CO}_2}$  larger). In the Edwards model the effect of the ions is taken into account via the activity coefficients. If one calculates the activity coefficient of  $\text{CO}_2$  for this type of solutions, a value for  $\gamma_{\text{CO}_2} = 1.05$  can be found. The value for  $\gamma$  is somewhat doubtful because in this calculation the influence of  $\text{Na}^+$  ions is, due to lack of data, not taken into account properly in the interaction parameters. Because there is strong evidence that Edwards gives a better description of  $\text{He}_{\text{CO}_2}$  as a function of temperature and Danckwerts a better ionic strength correction, we used a combination of the two: the Henry coefficient of Edwards corrected with the Danckwerts ionic strength formula giving  $\text{He}_{\text{CO}_2} = 135 \text{ atm}\cdot\text{kg}\cdot\text{mole}^{-1}$ . Knowing the uncertainty of this value, it was kept constant for all computations at 103 °C. The rate constant  $k_r$  was calculated with the equation of Pinsent et al. (1956). For measurements at 20 °C the value at infinite dilution was corrected for the ionic strength, according to the indications of Porter et al. (1966). At 103 °C a constant value of the rate constant equal to  $8\cdot 10^5 \text{ l}\cdot\text{mole}^{-1}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$  was used.

## 3. RESULTS

### 3.1. WETTED WALL COLUMN

An excellent method of checking the Danckwerts theory in combination with the physical and chemical data is to measure the interfacial area of a

wetted wall column. This column has a well defined exchange area and may serve as a control of the experimental results. Details of this column and experimental procedures are given in chapter 2.

From two experiments an average value for the interfacial area of  $1.15 \cdot 10^{-2} \text{ m}^2$  is calculated. This agrees well with the actual value of  $1.19 \cdot 10^{-2} \text{ m}^2$ . It can be concluded that the data used are correct.

### 3.2. MEASUREMENTS ON A SINGLE TRAY AT ROOM TEMPERATURE

Experiments at ambient temperature and pressure were carried out on a single sieve plate. Plate and downcomer details are similar to those of the steam stripping column as given in chapter 5, table 2.

The gas consisting of air with about 4 %  $\text{CO}_2$  is fed from the bottom in the absorber. The scrubbing liquor was a NaOH solution in concentrations from 0.1 to 0.5 M. The NaOH solution was collected and used for several experiments. Liquor samples were taken at steady state from the feed and effluent streams, a gas sample was taken from the gas inlet. The analysis of  $\text{CO}_2$  was done with an amperometric titration apparatus (Metrohm),  $\text{CO}_2$  in the gas was analyzed with a GLC (porapak, 60 °C). The absorption rates are determined from the  $\text{OH}^-$  mass balance instead of the  $\text{CO}_3^{2-}$  balance.

The total interfacial area at 20 °C, determined by the slope in figure 1 is calculated as  $0.45 \text{ m}^2$ . With the observed froth height of 0.1 m an a-value of  $318 \text{ m}^{-1}$  follows. The 90% confidence limit for  $a_t$  is calculated to be  $0.03 \text{ m}^2$ . The liquid side mass transfer coefficient is found to be  $5.0 \cdot 10^{-4} \text{ m} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$ . As can be expected from figure 1, the confidence limit for  $k_1$  is rather large. The 90% confidence limits for  $k_1$  is calculated to be  $9.0 \cdot 10^{-4} (1) \text{ m} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$ . Some authors find rather high values of  $k_1$  such as in the article of Pasiuk-Bronikowska (1969) where it is explained that this is due to the gas velocity in the holes of the plate. Bartholomai (1972) took into account the presence of antifoaming agents. The value of  $k_1$  at 103 °C is about a factor of 2 greater ( $\sqrt{(D_{103}/D_{20})}$ ), and so a value  $1 \cdot 10^{-3} \text{ m} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$  was used for the simulations in chapter 5.

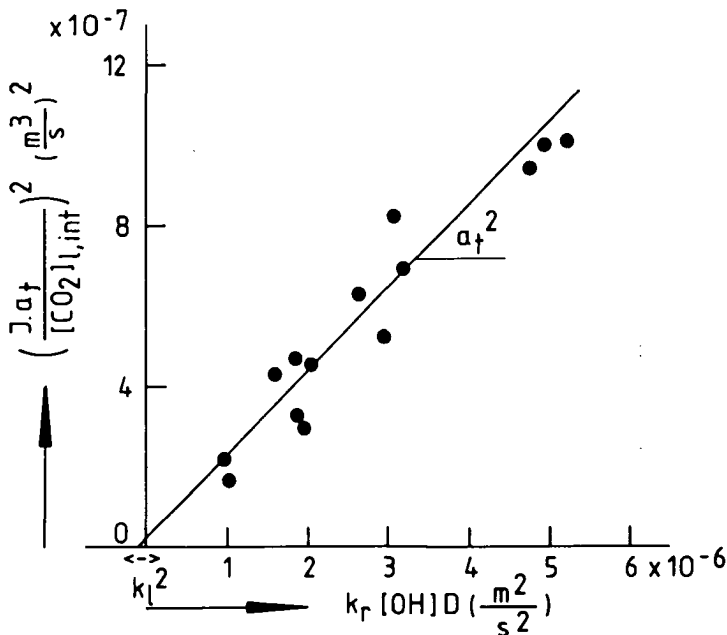


Figure 1 Danckwerts plot of the sieve tray at 20 °C.  
 $L = 440 \text{ kg}\cdot\text{h}^{-1}$ ;  $G = 47.7 \text{ kg}\cdot\text{h}^{-1}$

### 3.3. MEASUREMENT OF THE INTERFACIAL AREA AT 103 °C

Using the steam desorption column, absorption experiments were performed at a temperature of 103 °C. The liquid feed consisted of a NaOH solution while the gas phase was steam containing  $CO_2$ . The  $CO_2$  content in the steam was determined by making a bleed of the steam into a solution of NaOH of known concentration and volume which was cooled externally with water and ice. From the increase in weight and the decrease of the  $OH^-$  concentration of the absorbing solution, the  $CO_2$  concentration in the gas can be calculated. The concentration profile of the NaOH over the column is measured. This concentration profile is then simulated by a simplified version of the stripping program explained in chapter 5. The interfacial area is adjusted until the measured and calculated values coincide. The main difference between the model used here and that in chapter 5 is the use of equation A-20 for the absorption rate of  $CO_2$ .

The results of two experiments are shown in figure 2. These experiments differ slightly with respect to  $G$ ,  $[\text{OH}^-]_{\text{in}}$  and  $[\text{CO}_2]_{\text{g,in}}$ . It turns out that both experiments can be simulated very well with a value of  $\text{He}_{\text{CO}_2} / a_t$  equal to  $235 \text{ atm}\cdot\text{kg}\cdot\text{mole}^{-1}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}$ . This implies that any error in the Henry coefficient directly influences the value of  $a_t$ . If  $\text{He}_{\text{CO}_2}$  is taken to be equal to  $135 \text{ atm}\cdot\text{kg}\cdot\text{mole}^{-1}$  as discussed above, we calculate the interfacial area at  $103^\circ\text{C}$ ,  $a_t$  as  $\approx 0.6 \text{ m}^2$  and  $a$  as  $424 \text{ m}^{-1}$ .

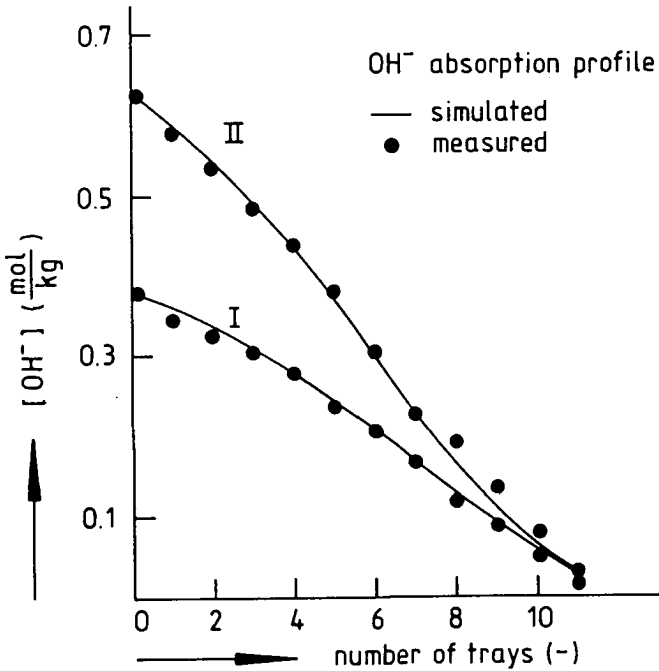


Figure 2 Concentration profile of hydroxide ions for  $\text{CO}_2$  absorption experiments in the tray column at  $103^\circ\text{C}$ .  $L = 400 \text{ kg}\cdot\text{h}^{-1}$   
 I  $[\text{OH}^-]_{\text{in}} = 0.378 \text{ mol}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$ ;  $P_{\text{CO}_2,\text{in}} = 3.41\cdot 10^{-2} \text{ atm}$ ;  $G = 47.5 \text{ kg}\cdot\text{h}^{-1}$   
 II  $[\text{OH}^-]_{\text{in}} = 0.625 \text{ mol}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$ ;  $P_{\text{CO}_2,\text{in}} = 5.08\cdot 10^{-2} \text{ atm}$ ;  $G = 53.1 \text{ kg}\cdot\text{h}^{-1}$

### 3.4. MEASUREMENT OF THE GAS MASS TRANSFER COEFFICIENT AT 103 °C

With the available knowledge on the interfacial area and the liquid mass transfer coefficient, the gas phase mass transfer coefficient can be determined from measurements on the desorption of a very soluble gas in water such as  $\text{NH}_3$ . Experiments on  $\text{NH}_3$  steam stripping was done in the desorption column. For the  $\text{NH}_3/\text{H}_2\text{O}$  system, the simulation model can be based on equations A-23 to A-24.

-mass transfer for a single tray

$$J_{\text{NH}_3} a_t = k_{o1} a_t ( [\text{NH}_3]_{1,b} - [\text{NH}_3]_1^* ) \quad (\text{A-23})$$

with  $k_{o1}$  following from

$$\frac{1}{k_{o1} a_t} = \frac{1}{E_N k_{l1} a_t} + \frac{1}{m_{\text{NH}_3} k_g a_t} \quad (\text{A-23})$$

The enhancement factor,  $E_N$ , was taken into account to express the influence of ionization on the desorption. For the enhancement factor holds

$$E_N = \frac{\Delta N_T}{\Delta [\text{NH}_3]_1} \quad (\text{A-24})$$

where the  $\Delta$  is the difference between bulk and interfacial concentration.

The predicted concentration values are fitted to measured  $\text{NH}_3$  concentrations giving the  $k_{o1} a_t$  for  $\text{NH}_3$ .

The ammonia desorption experiments are given in figure 3 a and b ( for low and high initial concentrations ). An excellent agreement is obtained with  $k_{o1} a_t$  equal to  $2.4 \cdot 10^{-4} \text{ m}^3 \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$ , which finally yields a  $k_g$  value of  $9 \cdot 10^{-2} \text{ m} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$  when  $k_l$  is  $1 \cdot 10^{-3} \text{ m} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$  and  $a_t$  equals  $0.6 \text{ m}^2$ . The influence of the ionization is rather small: the value of the enhancement factor is 1.01 at the top and 1.06 at the bottom.

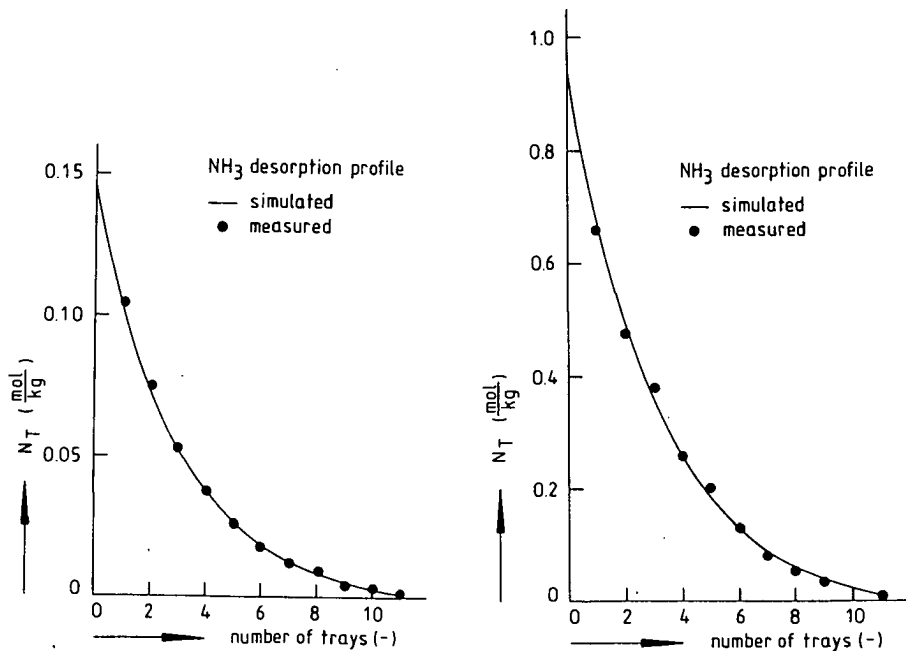


Figure 3 Concentration profile of ammonia for desorption experiments in the tray column at 103 °C.  $L = 400 \text{ kg}\cdot\text{h}^{-1}$   
 a) low concentration ;  $G = 44.6 \text{ kg}\cdot\text{h}^{-1}$   
 b) high concentration ;  $G = 44.4 \text{ kg}\cdot\text{h}^{-1}$

### 3.5. COMPARISON WITH LITERATURE

In the table 1 and 2 all results from the literature correlations and experiments have been summarized. This has been done for two temperatures of 20 and 103 °C. In table 3 all physical parameters and average operating conditions used are given.



Table 1. Summary of calculated and experimental results for T=103 °C. Figures between brackets are derived indirectly from correlations. For the Perry  $k_1$  and  $k_g$  we assumed  $a = 424 \text{ m}^2$  interfacial area/  $\text{m}^3$  dispersion volume.

	$k_1$ $\text{m}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$	$k_g$ $\text{m}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$	$k_1 a$ $\text{s}^{-1}$	$k_g a$ $\text{s}^{-1}$	$a'$ $\frac{\text{m}^2 \text{ int}}{\text{m}^2 \text{ BA}}$
Asano	$1.3 \cdot 10^{-2}$	$5.5 \cdot 10^{-1}$	-	-	-
Nonhebel	$6.9 \cdot 10^{-4}$	$3.1 \cdot 10^{-2}$	$(1.9 \cdot 10^{-1})$	$(8.6)$	27.7
Zuiderweg	$2.0 \cdot 10^{-4}$	$4.8 \cdot 10^{-2}$	$(5.9 \cdot 10^{-2})$	$(14.1)$	$29.4^1$
Calderbank	$3.8 \cdot 10^{-4}$ <sup>3</sup>	-	$(7.7 \cdot 10^{-2})$	$(18.5)$	$38.6^2$
Moo Young	$9.4 \cdot 10^{-4}$ <sup>4</sup>	-	-	-	-
Perry	$(2.4 \cdot 10^{-3})$	$(2.2 \cdot 10^{-2})$	1.0	9.5	-
This Work	$1.0 \cdot 10^{-3}$	$9.0 \cdot 10^{-2}$	$(4.2 \cdot 10^{-2})$	$(38.1)$	42.4

Table 2. Summary of calculated and experimental results for T=20 °C. Figures between brackets are derived indirectly from correlations. For the Perry  $k_1$  and  $k_g$  we assumed  $a = 318 \text{ m}^2$  interfacial area/  $\text{m}^3$  dispersion volume.

	$k_1$ $\text{m}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$	$k_g$ $\text{m}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$	$k_1 a$ $\text{s}^{-1}$	$k_g a$ $\text{s}^{-1}$	$a'$ $\frac{\text{m}^2 \text{ int}}{\text{m}^2 \text{ BA}}$
Asano	$5.2 \cdot 10^{-3}$	$3.4 \cdot 10^{-1}$	-	-	-
Nonhebel	$3.3 \cdot 10^{-4}$	$2.0 \cdot 10^{-2}$	$(9.2 \cdot 10^{-2})$	$(5.6)$	28.0
Zuiderweg	$1.4 \cdot 10^{-4}$	$6.1 \cdot 10^{-2}$	$(4.7 \cdot 10^{-2})$	$(20.5)$	$33.6^1$
Calderbank	$9.1 \cdot 10^{-5}$ <sup>3</sup>	-	$(5.9 \cdot 10^{-2})$	$(25.8)$	$42.3^2$
Moo Young	$3.6 \cdot 10^{-4}$ <sup>4</sup>	-	-	-	-
Perry	$(1.5 \cdot 10^{-3})$	$(1.7 \cdot 10^{-2})$	$4.80 \cdot 10^{-1}$	5.4	-
This Work	$5.0 \cdot 10^{-4}$	-	$(1.59 \cdot 10^{-1})$	-	31.8

<sup>1</sup> emulsion regime  
<sup>3</sup> small bubbles

<sup>2</sup> spray regime  
<sup>4</sup> large bubbles

Table 3. Operating conditions and physical data.

	<u>103 °C</u>	<u>20 °C</u>	
P	0.12	0.10	MPa
L	0.111	0.111	kg·s <sup>-1</sup>
L'	6.288	6.288	kg·m <sup>-2</sup> ·s <sup>-1</sup>
G	1.223·10 <sup>-2</sup>	1.687·10 <sup>-2</sup>	kg·s <sup>-1</sup>
G'	0.692	0.955	kg·m <sup>-2</sup> ·s <sup>-1</sup>
H <sub>f</sub>	0.1	0.1	m
h <sub>1</sub>	2.1·10 <sup>-2</sup>	2.4·10 <sup>-2</sup>	m
ρ <sub>l</sub>	956.2	998.2	kg·m <sup>-3</sup>
ρ <sub>g</sub>	0.661	1.2	kg·m <sup>-3</sup>
D <sub>l</sub>	7.37·10 <sup>-9</sup>	1.65·10 <sup>-9</sup>	m <sup>2</sup> ·s <sup>-1</sup>
D <sub>g</sub>	3.83·10 <sup>-5</sup>	1.58·10 <sup>-5</sup>	m <sup>2</sup> ·s <sup>-1</sup>
η <sub>l</sub>	2.8·10 <sup>-4</sup>	1.05·10 <sup>-4</sup>	Pa·s
η <sub>g</sub>	1.3·10 <sup>-5</sup>	1.78·10 <sup>-5</sup>	Pa·s
σ	5.05·10 <sup>-2</sup>	7.0·10 <sup>-2</sup>	N·m <sup>-1</sup>

The gas phase is steam at 103 °C and air at 20 °C. Physical properties were taken from Perry or derived from correlations found in Perry.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

The difference between the correlations is ashtoning. We note that the correlations of Calderbank and Moo Young and those of onhebel are close to our own measurements. The others differ considerably. The only explanation we can offer is that the conditions on our trays are somewhat outside those normally encountered in distillation columns. The liquid loading is somewhat higher and the gas density is lower (especially at 103 °C). However it seems inprobale that this is the whole cause of the difference. The values obtained for our trays at 103 °C are:

$$k_1 = 1.0 \cdot 10^{-3} \text{ m} \cdot \text{s}^{-1} \quad k_g = 9.0 \cdot 10^{-2} \text{ m} \cdot \text{s}^{-1} \quad a_t = 0.6 \text{ m}^2.$$

These are also the values used in chapter 5 for simulation of the stripping experiments.

## 5. SYMBOLS

a	interfacial area per unit dispersion volume	$m^{-1}$
$a_t$	total interfacial area	$m^2$
$a'$	interfacial area per unit bubbling area	-
$D_C$	column diameter	m
$D_g$	gas diffusion coefficient	$m^2 \cdot s^{-1}$
$D_l$	liquid diffusion coefficient	$m^2 \cdot s^{-1}$
$d_h$	perforation diameter	m
$E_N$	enhancement factor for $NH_3$	-
F	percent free area of the plate	-
G	vapor load	$kg \cdot s^{-1}$
$G'$	vapor load per unit cross-sectional area	$kg \cdot m^{-2} \cdot s^{-1}$
g	acceleration of gravity	$m^2 \cdot s^{-1}$
$h_l$	clear-liquid height or hold-up	m
$H_f$	froth height	m
$H_s$	tray spacing	m
$H_w$	weir height	m
He	Henry's constant	$atm \cdot kg \cdot mole^{-1}$
J	flux	$mole \cdot m^{-2} \cdot s^{-1}$
$k_l$	liquid phase mass transfer coefficient	$m \cdot s^{-1}$
$k_g$	gas phase mass transfer coefficient	m
$k_r$	reaction rate constant	$m^3 \cdot mole^{-1} \cdot s^{-1}$
L	liquid rate	$kg \cdot s^{-1}$
$L'$	liquid rate per unit cross-sectional area	$kg \cdot m^{-2} \cdot s^{-1}$
m	partition coefficient	$\frac{mole \cdot m^{-3} \text{ gas}}{mole \cdot m^{-3} \text{ liq}}$
$N_g$	number of gas phase transfer units, $k_g a' / u_g$	-
Sc	Schmidt number	-
T	temperature	K or °C
$u_g$	gas velocity on bubbling area	$m \cdot s^{-1}$
$u_l$	liquid velocity on bubbling area	$m \cdot s^{-1}$
W	liquid rate per unit width of flow path	$m^3 \cdot m^{-1} \cdot s^{-1}$
$w_h$	vapor velocity in hole	$m \cdot s^{-1}$
Greek		
Y	activity coefficient	-

$\eta_g$	gas viscosity	Pa·s
$\eta_l$	liquid viscosity	Pa·s
$\rho_g$	gas density	kg·m <sup>-3</sup>
$\rho_l$	liquid density	kg·m <sup>-3</sup>
$\phi$	flowparameter $\frac{u_l}{u_g} \sqrt{\left(\frac{\rho_l}{\rho_g}\right)}$	-
$\sigma$	surface tension	N·m <sup>-1</sup>
$\theta_g$	residence time of gas in froth zone	s

subscript

b	bulk
c	continuous
g	gas
int	interface
l	liquid

superscript

\* in equilibrium with the other phase

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## APPENDIX 2

### EXPERIENCE WITH AN OPTICAL PROBE FOR MEASURING BUBBLE SIZES AND VELOCITIES ON A SIEVE TRAY.

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

As others have also experienced, we found the chemical methods for determining mass transfer parameters time consuming and not very accurate. An alternative physical method has been developed by Calderbank and his co-workers (Burgess and Calderbank 1975a, 1975b; Calderbank and Pareira 1977; Calderbank 1978; Raper et al. 1978 and 1982. In these publications a physical method is described which allows the determination of

-bubble size and velocity distributions and

-local gas porosities in sieve tray froths

by "a press on a button". From these measured data it is possible to calculate (with some assumptions)  $k_l$ ,  $k_g$  and  $a$  separately. The interfacial area is determined from the porosity and bubble size distribution, the mass transfer coefficients from the diffusion coefficients and a characteristic time, which is the bubble length divided by its velocity.

Attempts were undertaken to develop a conductivity probe as described by Burgess et al.. The construction of the probe in combination with the production of step response signals turned out to be cumbersome. A far better system using optical probes has been developed by Frijlink. We were able to try out this system on our model tray.

#### 2. PRINCIPLE

The bubble probe consists of a point gas liquid continuity detector surmounted by an array of three further detectors (see figure 1). Optical probes produce much sharper response curves than conductivity probes in a dispersion because they do not suffer from the disadvantage that the conducting liquid drains from the probe tip at a finite rate.

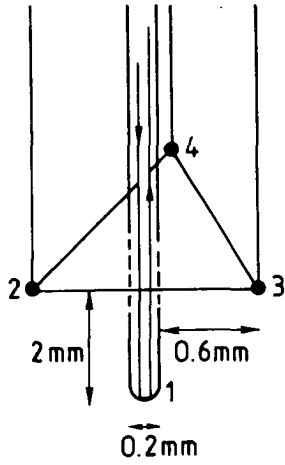


Figure 1. Lay out and the dimensions of the probe.

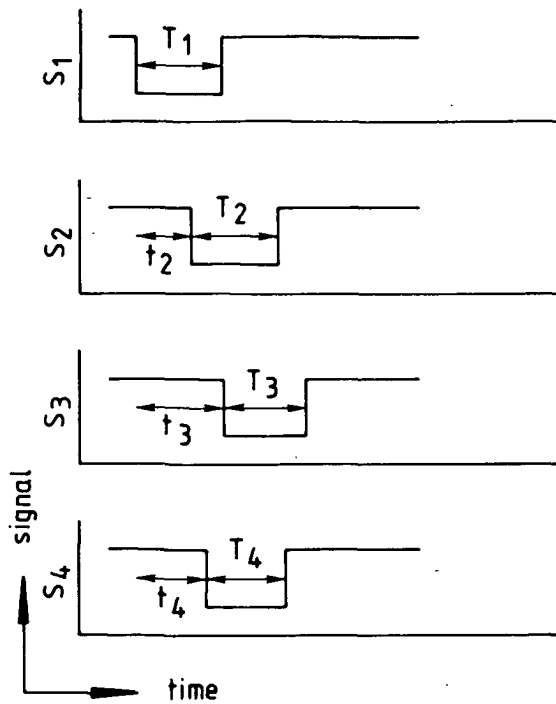


Figure 2. Signals obtained from the passage of a bubble.

The optical probe can sense changes in refractive index at its extremity. Light is brought into the fibre and guided down to the extremity. If this is in a medium of low refractive index (a gas) the light is reflected and detected. Otherwise it passes into the liquid.

A typical signal for the passage of one bubble is given in figure 2. With the probe positioned vertically, the time for the leading surface to travel from detector 1 to the horizontal plane of detectors 2, 3 and 4 gives the bubble velocity.

$$u = \frac{2 \cdot 10^{-3}}{t_{av}} \quad (\text{m}) \quad (1)$$

where  $t_{av}$  is the average of the times  $t_2$ ,  $t_3$  and  $t_4$ . This velocity gives the bubble central axis length:

$$l = u \cdot T_1 \quad (2)$$

where  $T_1$  is the time at which the bubble has passed detector 1 completely. The gas porosity can be calculated from the total time a probe is in the gas divided by the total time of the experiment:

$$\epsilon_g = \frac{\sum t_i}{T} \quad (3)$$

Unfortunately the instrumentation feature to calculate the porosity was not yet available. The probe system accepts, within a certain tolerance, only those bubbles whose central axes coincide with the vertical probe axis. This acceptance is done by calculating the ratio's

$$\frac{t_i - t_{av}}{t_{av}} \quad \text{for } i = 2, 3 \text{ and } 4 \quad (4)$$

which should be smaller than a certain percentage. A further selection could be carried out upon the direction of the bubble velocity. For a (desired) vertical velocity the times  $T_2$ ,  $T_3$  and  $T_4$  should be equal. This criterium was not used. All data are collected with an on-line computer so averages can be taken over large numbers of bubbles.



### 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The experiments have been done with the tray described in chapter 5 and appendix 1 using air and water. The superficial liquid velocity was kept constant at  $6.3 \cdot 10^{-3} \text{ m} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$ . The acceptance criterium (4) was set at 10%. Bubble sizes and velocities have been measured as a function of the position in the froth and superficial gas velocity (table 1 and 2). Each of these measurements is an average over 200 bubbles.

Table 1 The average velocity ( $\text{m} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$ ) of bubbles in the froth.

h (cm)	1	2.5	4.5	4.5 (above tray)
$u_s$ ( $\text{m} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$ )				
.31		.32	.30	.29
.47		.35	.31	.31
.63	.35	.34	.31	.32
.94	.37	.35	.32	.31
1.25	.38	.35	.31	.32

Table 2 The average length (mm) of bubbles in the froth.

h (cm)	1	2.5	4.5	4.5 (above tray)
$u_s$ ( $\text{m} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$ )				
.31		6.98	7.33	7.65
.47		6.93	7.10	7.18
.63	6.31	7.08	7.41	7.69
.94	6.45	7.00	7.61	7.57
1.25	6.66	7.23	7.64	7.86

The results show surprisingly little variation; they are all close to the average velocity of  $0.33 \text{ m}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$  and length of 7.3 mm. As discussed above the bed porosity could not be measured by the instrument. The liquid porosity was calculated from the froth height and the clear liquid height, which was measured with a manometric technique, giving  $\epsilon_1 = 0.3$  and 0.25 for the low and high gas velocities respectively. Due to bed expansion  $\epsilon_1$  decreases slightly with increasing gas velocity.

The average local gas velocity can be calculated from

$$\bar{u} = \frac{u_s}{1-\epsilon_1} \quad (5)$$

In all cases it exceeds the bubble velocity. This rather surprising result can be explained as follows. The gas flow is not uniformly distributed; a part  $f$  bypasses the bed through channels above the tray perforations. The velocity in the bed will then be:

$$\bar{u} = \frac{(1-f)u_s}{1-\epsilon_1} \quad (6)$$

With known values of  $\bar{u}$ ,  $u_s$  and  $\epsilon_1$  we can calculate the bypass fraction. Results are presented in figure 3, together with similar results from Raper et al. (1978) and from Ashley and Haselden (1972). The latter data have been obtained after some manipulations with the data from their publication. The Ashley data indicate very large bypass fraction. The presence of bypass on our tray was also confirmed photographically. Photographs viewed from vertically above the froth indicated large holes in the froth and in some cases it was possible to see down to the plate itself, which is remarkable through a froth depth of about 10 cm.

The mass transfer coefficients and interfacial area are estimated with the familiar equations

$$k = 2\sqrt{\frac{D\bar{u}}{\pi \cdot l}} \quad (7) \quad \text{and} \quad a = \frac{6\epsilon_g}{l}g \quad (8)$$

With  $D_1 = 2\cdot 10^{-9}$  and  $D_g = 2\cdot 10^{-5} \text{ m}^2\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$ ,  $\bar{u} = 0.33 \text{ m}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$ ,  $l = 7.3\cdot 10^{-3} \text{ m}$  and  $\epsilon_g = 0.72$  it follows that  $k_1 = 3.4\cdot 10^{-4} \text{ m}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$ ,  $k_g = 3.4\cdot 10^{-2} \text{ m}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$  and  $a = 590 \text{ m}^{-1}$ . The transfer coefficients are in agreement with those known from the chemical method,

which gave  $k_L = 5 \cdot 10^{-4} \text{ m} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$  and  $k_G = 4.5 \cdot 10^{-2} \text{ m} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$ . The specific area is a factor 1.8 higher ( $a_{\text{chem}} = 318 \text{ m}^2$ ). It is not surprising that mass transfer coefficients and/or interfacial area are higher for the physical method. In the chemical method the effect of the gas bypass is always neglected. This means that the  $c^*$  value in the rate equations is misinterpreted: the value used is too low. In reality the liquid can only reach equilibrium with the gas fraction passing through the bed. When measured mass transfer rates are interpreted with an incorrect driving force term (too high), the proportionality constant  $k \cdot a$  derived from the rate equation is also misinterpreted (too low).

The bypassing model also allows an estimate to be made of the Murphree tray efficiency. From a mass balance can be shown that for the tray efficiency  $E_{mv}$  holds

$$E_{mv} = f \cdot E_{mv,by} + (1-f) \cdot E_{mv,bub} \quad (9)$$

With the assumptions  $E_{mv,byp} = 0$  and equilibrium for the small bubbles in the bed expressed as  $E_{mv,bub} = 1$  it follows that

$$E_{mv} = 1 - f \quad (10)$$

We have measured efficiencies for the stripping of ammonia at 103 °C at similar trays in our steam desorption column. Many experiments have been carried out around  $F = 0.9 \text{ m} \cdot \text{s}^{-1} \sqrt{(\text{kg} \cdot \text{m}^{-3})}$ . This should have yielded a bypass of around of about 50% and also a tray efficiency of this value. In reality we found efficiencies of 80 to 85% indicating that the bypass assumptions used are too simple.

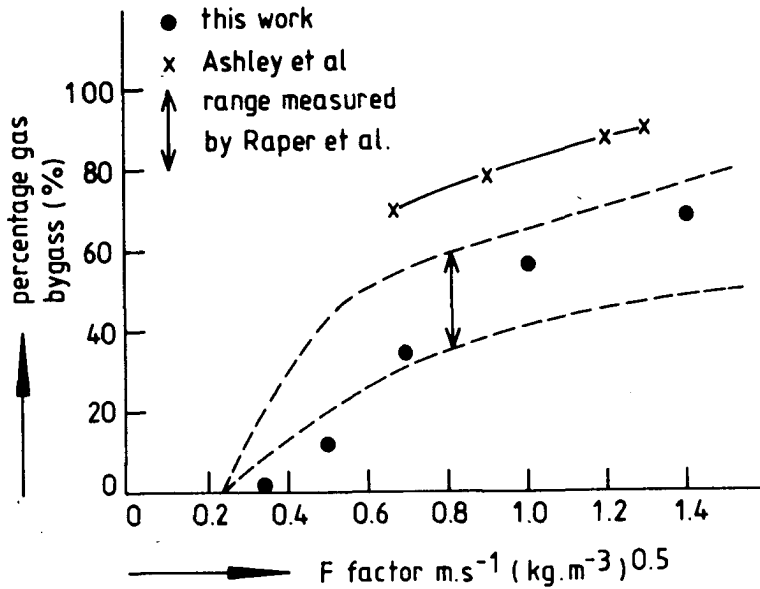


Figure 3. The gas bypass fraction as a function of the F factor.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

The physical probe technique looks promising. In a relative short time mass transfer coefficients and interfacial area can be measured that agree with the chemical methods. The gas bypass effect on sieve trays that has been reported in literature has also been detected by the system used. Further research has to be carried out to see whether the results of the measured bubble velocities and diameters can really be trusted.

## 5. SYMBOLS

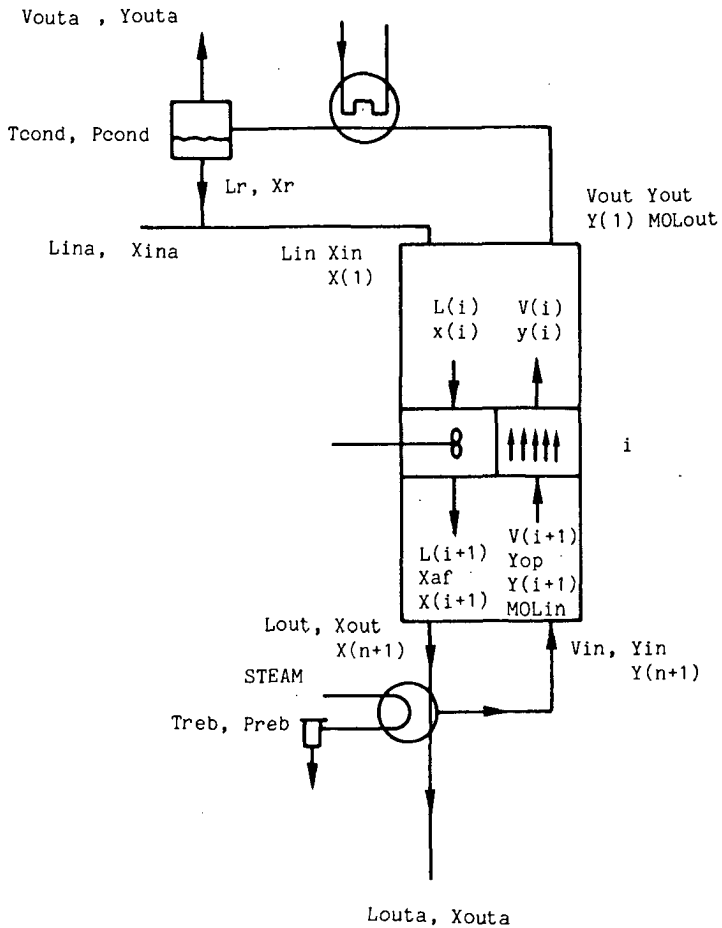
$E_{mv}$	Murphree efficiency	(-)
$f$	bypass fraction	(-)
$k$	mass transfer coefficient	$m \cdot s^{-1}$
$l$	length	$m$
$t, T$	time	$s$
$u$	velocity	$m \cdot s^{-1}$
Greek		
$\epsilon$	porosity	(-)

## 6. LITERATURE

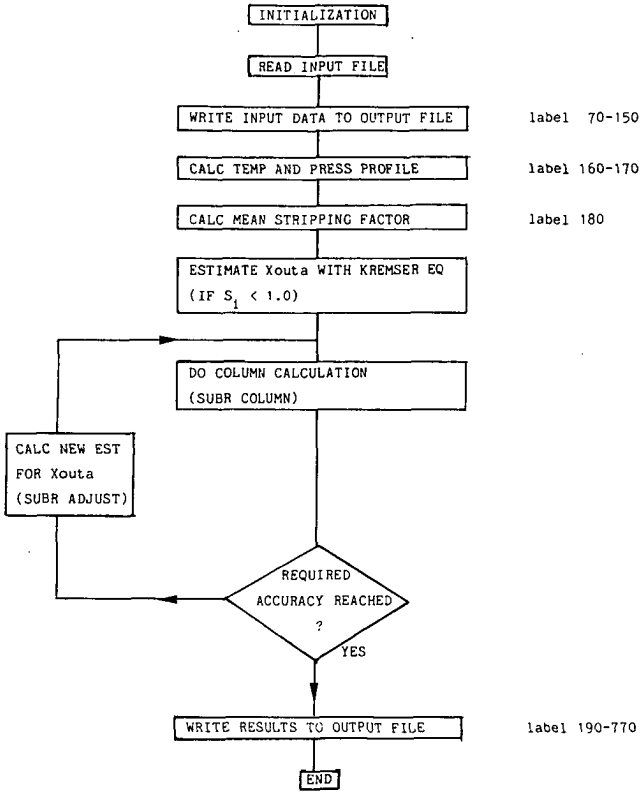
- Ashley M.J., Haselden G.G., 1972, Effectiveness of Vapour-Liquid Contacting On A Sieve Plate, *Trans. Instn. Chem. Engrs.*, 50, 119-124.
- Burgess J.M., Calderbank P.H., 1975, The Measurement Of Bubble Parameters In Two Phase Dispersions -I The Development Of An Improved Probe Technique, *Chem.Eng.Sci.*, 30, 743-750.
- Burgess J.M., Calderbank P.H., 1975, The Measurement Of Bubble Parameters In Two Phase Dispersions -II The Structure Of Sieve Tray Froths, *Chem.Eng.Sci.* 30, 1107-1121.
- Calderbank P.H., 1978, Limitations Of Burgess-Calderbank Probe Technique For Characterization Of Gas Liquid Dispersions On Sieve Trays, *Chem.Eng.Sci.*, 33, 1407.
- Calderbank P.H., Pereira J., 1977, The Prediction Of Distillation Plate Efficiencies From Froth Properties, *Chem.Eng.Sci.*, 32, 1427-1433.
- Frijlink J.J., Ph.D. Thesis in preparation, Delft University Of Technology
- Raper J.A., Dixon D.C., Fell C.J.D., Burgess J.M., 1978, Limitations Of Burgess-Calderbank Probe Technique For Characterization Of Gas Liquid Dispersions On Sieve Trays, *Chem.Eng.Sci.*, 33, 1405-1406.
- Raper J.A., Kearney M.S., Burgess J.M., Fell C.D., 1982, The Structure Of Industrial Sieve Tray Froths, *Chem.Eng.Sci.*, 37, 501-506.

APPENDIX 3

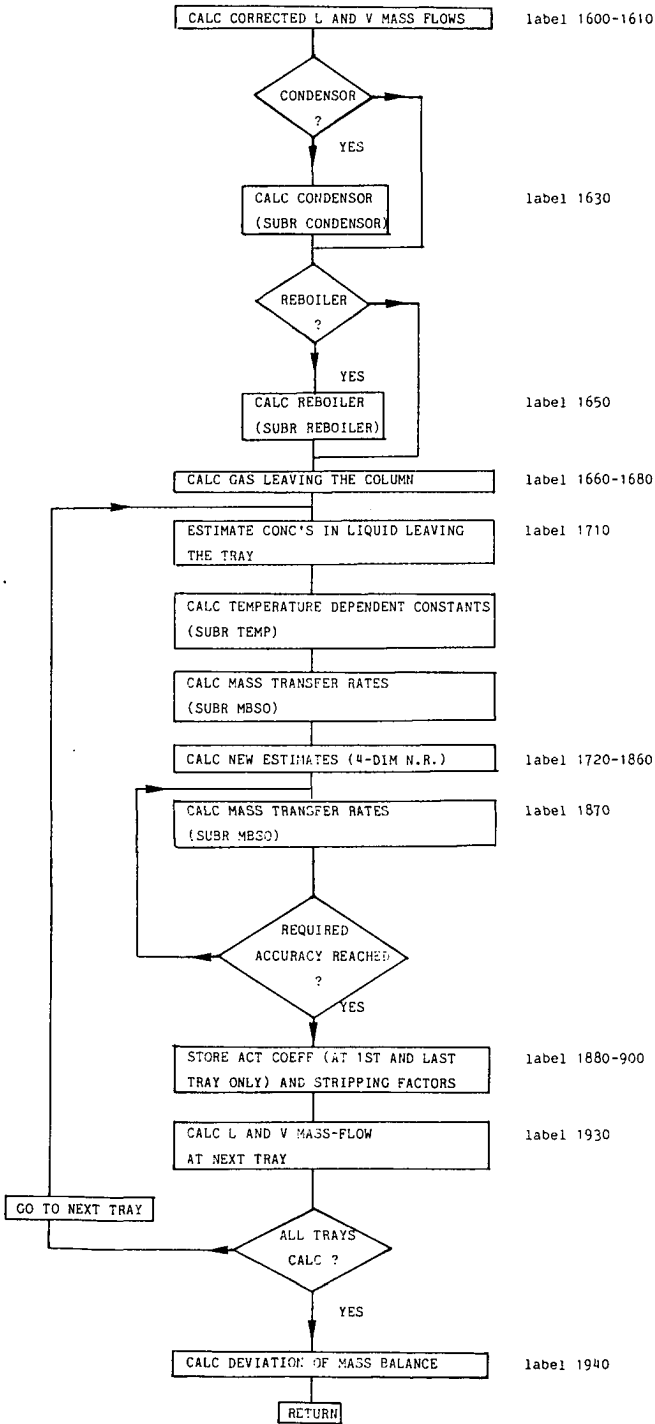
This appendix gives a listing of the program SWS and flowdiagrams of the most important subroutines. The program has been written in Fortran 77 and had been run on a VAX/VMS system. For other systems small changes might be necessary. It is unfeasible to give a full listing of all symbols used in the program. The most important symbols however have been given below, as they might differ from the text and corresponding symbol list.



MAIN PROGRAM

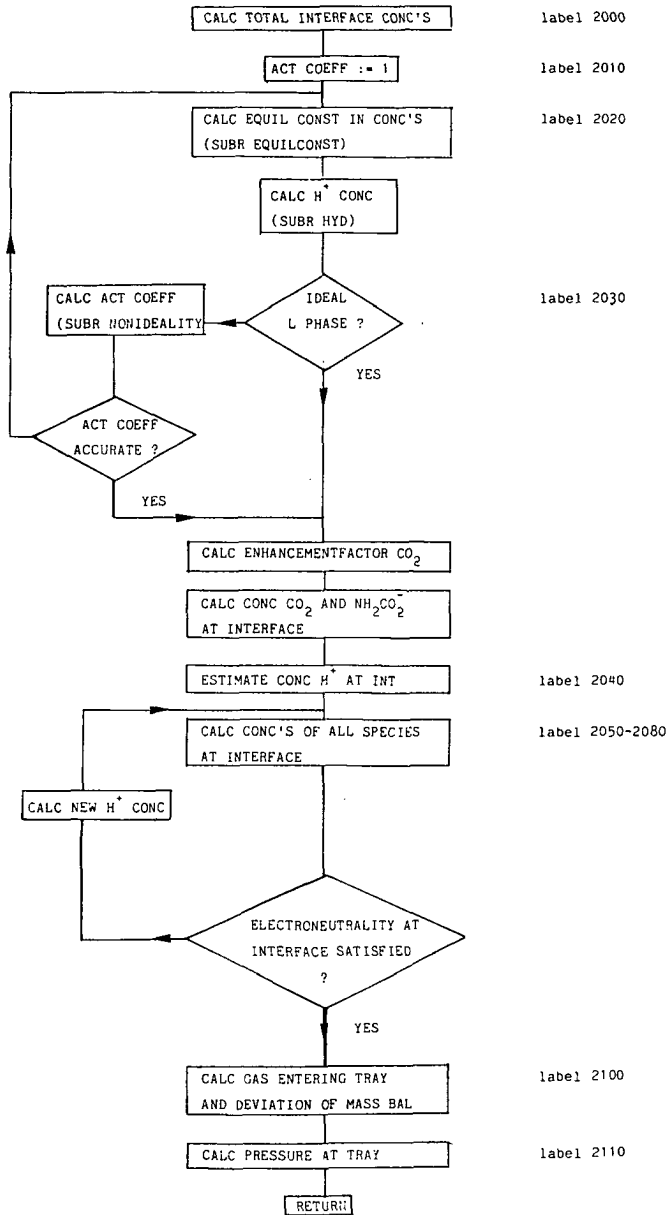


SUBROUTINE COLUMN

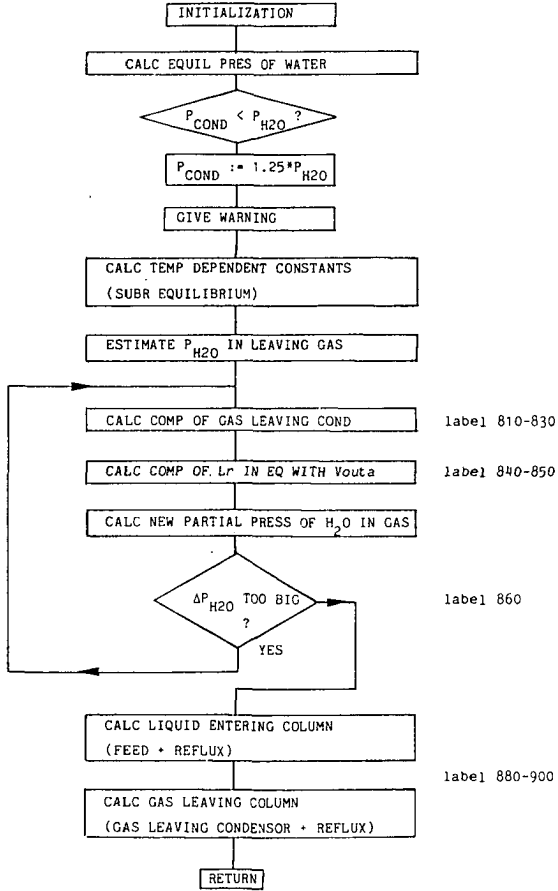




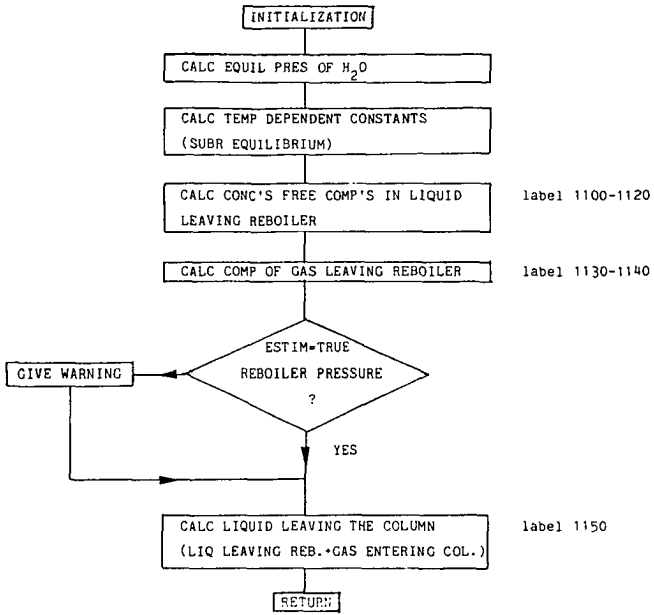
SUBROUTINE MBSO



SUBROUTINE CONDENSOR



SUBROUTINE REBOILER



Input file:

(this file contains all input data required to run the program.  
it must be available to the program with the name: INPUT.DAT)

```
no. of trays:   Lin:       steam:  id: con:reb:gasin:
                11 0.40000D+03 0.45500D+02NO NO NO NO
Xin: NH3       H2S        CO2         phenol   water
    0.17490D+00 0.09145D+00 0.00560D+00 0.00336D+00 0.00000D+00
Xout: NH3      H2S        CO2         phenol   water
    0.00000D+00 0.00000D+00 0.00000D+00 0.00000D+00 0.00000D+00
temp.:top      bottom     cond.      reb.      pres.:top  bottom
    0.37400D+03 0.37600D+03 0.37300D+03 0.37600D+03 0.10500D+01 0.11000D+01
pres.:cond.    reb.       kl:        kg:       a:
    0.10000D+01 0.10000D+01 0.10000D-02 0.90000D-01 0.60000D+00
```

This line must contain an identifier, which is printed in the output file.  
(note: the identifier must have a length of 74 characters.)

Program:

(the program reads input data from the file INPUT.DAT and writes  
output data to the file RESULT.LIS)

```
C*****
C
C   SIMULATION PROGRAM FOR SOUR WATER STRIPPING.
C   (simulation is done for NH3, H2S, CO2 and phenol.
C   components are indicated as no. 1,2,3 and 4 respectively.)
C   program written by:
C     P.J.M. ESSENS
C     T.U. DELFT
C     JANUARI 1986
C
C*****
C   declaration arrays:
      IMPLICIT DOUBLE PRECISION (A-H,K,O-Z)
      DIMENSION NIND(12),NREGEL1(18),NREGEL2(18),NREGEL3(18),
1          NREGEL4(18),NREGEL5(18),NCOMP(12),XOUTA(5),PRO(4),
1          HULP(4),KSIGEM(4),NIDENT(18),NAAM(5),REKGEN(4)
      DOUBLE PRECISION L,LIQU,LIN,LINA,LOUT,LOUTA,LR,MOLEN,
1          MOLOUT(5),MOLW,M(4)
      LOGICAL NONIDEAL,CONDENS,REBOIL,FIRST,STOP,WARNING,PRESWARN,
1          GASIN
      COMMON /CON/XINA(5),XIN(5),TCOND,PRESCON,OPENST,LIN,LINA,
1          LR,YOUT(5),YOUTA(5),XR(5),YOUT2(5),VOUT,VOUTA,PRESWARN
      COMMON /REB/YIN(5),LOUT,TREB,PRESREB,REBST,LOUTA,CREB,VIN,
1          WARNING
      COMMON /COL/NMAX,Y(5,51),FA(4),L,MOLOUT,DELTAM(3),STOOM
      COMMON /EQ/HE(4,4)
      COMMON /GAM/BETA0(11,11),BETA1(11,11),CHARGE(13)
      COMMON /MBSO/DCO2,KRBICAR,KRCARB,KL,KLA,KGA,FLUX(4)
      COMMON /HEN/HEN(4),M,RHOL,DHC
      COMMON /TEMP/TTOP,TBOT,T(50)
      COMMON /P/PRES(50)
      COMMON /X/X(5,52),XOUT(5)
      COMMON /ID/STOP,NONIDEAL,CONDENS,REBOIL,GASIN
      COMMON /V/V,C
      COMMON /GAMUIT/GAMUIT(4,12)
      COMMON /ACT/WACT,ACT(4)
      COMMON /STREAM/LIQU(51),VAPO(51),STRIP(4,50),RHO(50)
      COMMON /H/H(50),DRUK(50)
```

OPEN (UNIT=1,FILE='RESULT.LIS',STATUS='NEW')  
OPEN (UNIT=2,FILE='INPUT.DAT',STATUS='OLD')

C  
C

initialization arrays:

(first interaction parameter according to Maurer)

DATA BETA0/	.00669,	.0117,	-.04435,	-.0816,	.068,	.0,
	.015;	.0419,	-.0201;	-.0449,	.032,	
	.0117,	.0,	.00166,	-.0435,	-.062,	.0505,
	.0,	.06,	.0839,	.0638,	-.021,	
	-.04435,	.00166,	-.09539,	.0,	.0,	.017,
	.033,	.05946,	-.0712,	.0,	.053,	
	-.0816,	-.0435,	.0,	.0,	.0,	.0,
	.071,	.0,	-.037,	.0,	.0,	
	.068,	-.062,	.0,	.0,	.0,	.0,
	.086,	.0,	.077,	.0,	.0,	
	.0,	.0505,	.017,	.0,	.0,	.0,
	.198,	.0,	-.032,	.0,	.0,	
	.015,	.0,	.033,	.071,	.086,	.198,
	.0,	.208,	.017,	.194,	.127,	
	.0419,	.06,	.05946,	.0,	.0,	.0,
	.208,	.0,	.0473,	.0,	.0,	
	-.0201,	.0839,	-.0712,	-.037,	.077,	-.032,
	.017,	.0473,	-.04688,	.0,	.0,	
	-.0449,	.0638,	.0,	.0,	.0,	.0,
	.194,	.0,	.0,	.0,	.0,	
	.032,	-.021,	.053,	.0,	.0,	.0,
	.127,	.0,	.0,	.0,	.0/	

C  
C

(second interaction parameter according to Maurer)

DATA BETA1/	.0,	-.02,	.0,	.4829,	.0,	.0,
	.0,	.0,	.0,	.406,	.0,	
	-.02,	.0,	.0,	-.1151,	-.1717,	.1725,
	.0,	.2016,	.0,	.2132,	-.0463,	
	.0,	.0,	.0,	.0,	.0,	.0,
	.0,	.0,	.0,	.0,	.0,	
	.4829,	-.1151,	.0,	.0,	.0,	.0,
	.2353,	.0,	.0,	.0,	.0,	
	.0,	-.1717,	.0,	.0,	.0,	.0,
	.2812,	.0,	.0,	.0,	.0,	
	.0,	.1725,	.0,	.0,	.0,	.0,
	.6239,	.0,	.0,	.0,	.0,	
	.0,	.0,	.0,	.0,	.2353,	.2812,
	.0,	.6545,	.0,	.6116,	.4066,	.6239,
	.0,	.2016,	.0,	.0,	.0,	.0,
	.6545,	.0,	.0,	.0,	.0,	

```

1
1
1      .0,      .0,      .0,      .0,      .0,      .0,      .0,      .0,
1      .0,      .0,      .0,      .0,      .0,      .0,
1      .406,      .2132,      .0,      .0,      .0,      .0,
1      .6116,      .0,      .0,      .0,      .0,
1      .0,      -.0463,      .0,      .0,      .0,      .0,
1      .4066,      .0,      .0,      .0,      .0/

C
C      (charge of all species)
DATA CHARGE/ 0.0, 1.0, 0.0, -1.0, -2.0, -1.0, 1.0, -1.0, 0.0,
1             -1.0, -2.0, 0.0, -1.0/

C
C      (data Henry constants)
DATA HE/ -157.552, 28.1001, -.049227, -149.006,
1         -13236.8, -55.0551, .0595651, 342.595,
1         -6789.04, -11.4519, -.010454, 94.4914,
1         0.0, -0.00031628, .26613, -58.808/

C
C      (estimated fraction stripped per tray)
DATA FA/ .9, .6, .7, .99/

C
C      (increase of mass flow gas per mole desorbed)
DATA DELTAM/.003456, .03321, .04321/

C
NAAM(1)=' NH3'
NAAM(2)=' H2S'
NAAM(3)=' CO2'
NAAM(4)=' phen'
NAAM(5)=' wate'

C
C
DATA NCOMP/'NH3 ', 'NH4+', 'CO2 ', 'HCO3', 'CO3 ', 'carb', 'H+ ', 'OH- ',
1          'H2S ', 'HS- ', 'S-- ', 'H2O '/

C
R=.08205
DCO2=7.37D-9
KRBICAR=1.05D6
KRCARB=2.4D4

C
read input file:
READ (2,10) NREGEL1
READ (2,20) NMAX, LINA, STOOM, NIDEAL, NCOND, NREB, NGAS
READ (2,10) NREGEL2
READ (2,30) XINA
READ (2,10) NREGEL3
READ (2,30) XOUTA
READ (2,10) NREGEL4
READ (2,40) TTOP, TBOT, TCOND, TREB, PRES(1), PRES(NMAX)
READ (2,10) NREGEL5
READ (2,50) PRESCON, PRESREB, KL, KG, A
READ (2,60) NIDENT
CLOSE(UNIT=2)
10      FORMAT(X,18A4)
20      FORMAT(2X,I12,2D12.5,4A4)
30      FORMAT(2X,5D12.5)
40      FORMAT(2X,6D12.5)
50      FORMAT(2X,5D12.5)
60      FORMAT(2X,18A4)

C
write input data to output file:
WRITE(1,70)NIDENT

```

```

70          FORMAT('1',//,5X,18A4,/)
          WRITE(1,80)NMAX,NIDEAL,NCOND,NREB,SNGL(LINA/3600.0),
1          SNGL(LINA),SNGL(STOOM/3600.0),SNGL(STOOM)
          IF (NGAS.EQ. 'YES') THEN
              WRITE(1,90)
              GASIN=.TRUE.
              GO TO 95
          ENDIF
          WRITE(1,100)
          GASIN=.FALSE.
95          WRITE(1,110)
          DO 115 I=1,4
              WRITE(1,120)NAAM(I),SNGL(XINA(I)),SNGL(XOUTA(I))
115          CONTINUE
          WRITE(1,130)SNGL(TTOP-273.0),SNGL(TTOP),SNGL(TBOT-273.0),SNGL(TBOT)
1          SNGL(TCOND-273.0),SNGL(TCOND),SNGL(TREB-273.0),SNGL(TREB)
          WRITE(1,140)SNGL(PRES(1)),SNGL(PRES(NMAX)),SNGL(PRESCON),
1          SNGL(PRESREB)
          WRITE(1,150)SNGL(KL),SNGL(A),SNGL(KG)
80          FORMAT(5X,'Number of Trays:',10X,I2,//5X,'Ideal liquid'
1          'phase:',8X,A3,/,5X,'Condensor:',16X,A3,/,5X,
1          'Reboiler:'17X,A3,//,5X'Lin:',12X,F8.5,' Kg/s or ',
1          F10.3,' Kg/hr',/,5X,'Steam:',10X,F8.5,' Kg/s or ',
1          F10.3,' Kg/hr')
90          FORMAT(8X,'(Steam = amount of gas entering the column)',/)
100          FORMAT(8X,'(Steam = amount of gas leaving the column)',/)
110          FORMAT(5X,'Component:      Xin:          Xout:')
120          FORMAT(7X,A5,5X,F8.5,6X,F8.5,' mol/kg')
130          FORMAT(/,5X,'Top temperature:',8X,F6.2,' C or ',F6.2,' K',/,
1          5X,'Bottom temperature:',5X,F6.2,' C or ',F6.2,' K',/,
1          5X,'Condensor temperature:',2X,F6.2,' C or ',F6.2,' K',/,
1          5X,'Reboiler temperature:',3X,F6.2,' C or ',F6.2,' K',/)
140          FORMAT(5X,'Top pres.:',7X,F8.4,' atm.',/,5X,'Bottom pres.:',4X,
1          F8.4,' atm.',/,5X,'Condensor pres.:',X,F8.4,' atm.',/,
1          5X,'Reboiler pres.:',2X,F8.4,' atm.',/)
150          FORMAT(5X,'Kl:',2X,E11.6,' m/s',5X,'A:',3X,E11.6,' m2',/,
1          5X,'Kg:',2X,E11.6,' m/s',/)
C
C          initialization constants:
          KLA=KL*A
          KGA=KG*A
          LINA=LINA/3600.0
          WARNING=.FALSE.
          PRESWARN=.FALSE.
          STOP=.FALSE.
          NONIDEAL=.FALSE.
          IF ((NIDEAL.EQ. 'NO') .OR. (NIDEAL.EQ. 'no'))
1          NONIDEAL=.TRUE.
          CONDENS=.FALSE.
          IF ((NCOND.EQ. 'YES') .OR. (NCOND.EQ. 'yes')) CONDENS=.TRUE.
          REBST=0.0
          OPENST=STOOM/3600.0
          REBOIL=.FALSE.
          IF ((NREB.EQ. 'YES') .OR. (NREB.EQ. 'yes')) THEN
              REBOIL=.TRUE.
              OPENST=0.0
              REBST=STOOM/3600.0
          ENDIF
          WACT=1.0
          DO 160 I=1,4
              ACT(I)=1.0

```

```

160          CONTINUE
C      calculate temp. and pres. profile:
          DO 170 N=1,NMAX
            PRES(N)=PRES(1)+DBLE(N-1)*(PRES(NMAX)-PRES(1))/DBLE(NMAX-1)
            T(N)=TTOP+(TBOT-TTOP)*DBLE(N-1)/DBLE(NMAX-1)
170          CONTINUE
          STOOM=STOOM/3600.0
          V=STOOM
          C=PRES(1)/(V/.018)
          TGEM=(TTOP+TBOT)/2.0
C      Kremser equation to estimate Xout:
          CALL EQUILIBRIUM(TGEM)
          RHOG=.018*PRES(1)/(.001*R*TGEM)
          DO 180 I=1,4
            S=M(I)*RHOL*V/(RHOG*LINA)
            IF (S .LT. 1.0) THEN
              BEREKEND=(1.0-S)*XINA(I)
              IF (BEREKEND .GT. XOUTA(I)) XOUTA(I)=BEREKEND
            ENDIF
180          CONTINUE
C      calculate column:
          CALL TRAYCOLUMN(XOUTA,XIN,NMAX,NTEL)
C      if error in calculations then stop (no output):
          IF (STOP) GO TO 770
          WRITE(1,190)NTEL
190          FORMAT(/,5X,'Required accuracy reached in ',I2,' iterations.')
-----
C      output activity coefficients (optional):
          IF (.NOT. NONIDEAL) GO TO 290
          IF (XIN(1) .LT. 1.0E-6) THEN
            DO 200 I=1,4
              GAMUIT(I,1)=.0
              GAMUIT(I,2)=.0
              GAMUIT(I,6)=.0
200            CONTINUE
            ENDIF
            IF (XIN(2) .LT. 1.0E-6) THEN
              DO 210 I=1,4
                GAMUIT(I,9)=.0
                GAMUIT(I,10)=.0
                GAMUIT(I,11)=.0
210              CONTINUE
            ENDIF
            IF (XIN(3) .LT. 1.0E-6) THEN
              DO 220 I=1,4
                DO 230 MM=3,6
                  GAMUIT(I,MM)=.0
230                CONTINUE
220              CONTINUE
            ENDIF
            WRITE(1,240)NMAX
240            FORMAT('1',/,5X,'Activity coefficients:',/,5X,
1              'Comp.: Tray 1: Tray ',I2,': Condensor:',
1              ' Reboiler:')
            DO 250 I=1,12
              WRITE(1,260)NCOMP(I),SNGL(GAMUIT(1,I)),SNGL(GAMUIT(2,I)),
1              SNGL(GAMUIT(3,I)),SNGL(GAMUIT(4,I))
250            CONTINUE
260            FORMAT(6X,A4,4(2X,F10.7))
            WRITE(1,270)
            WRITE(1,280)

```



```

270          FORMAT(/,5X,'Activity of water is defined as:',
1              ' Wact = gamma(H2O) * molfr(H2o)')
280          FORMAT(/,5X,'(act.coeff.= 0.0 if component is not present in ',
1              'the feed or if',/,5X;'cond. and/or reb. is used.))'
C
C      output condensor (optional):
290          IF (.NOT. CONDENS) GO TO 380
          WRITE(1,300)PRESCON,(TCOND-273)
300          FORMAT('1',/,5X,'Column with condensor and reflux:',/,5X,
1              'Condensor pres.=' ,6X,F10.5,' atm.',/,5X,
1              'Condensor temperature=' ,F10.5,' C',/)
          IF (PRESWARN) WRITE(1,310)
310          FORMAT(/5X,'-----',
1              ' --'/5X,'| estimated pres. too low; Pcond=1.25*P(H2O)',
1              ' used |' ,/,5X,'-----',
1              ' ,-----'//)
          WRITE(1,320)LINA,LR,LIN
320          FORMAT(18X,'          column',/,
1              18X,'      feed:      reflux:      feed:',/,
1              5X,' amount: ',3(2X,F10.6),'      kg/s')
          DO 330 I=1,4
            WRITE(1,340)NAAM(I),XINA(I),XR(I),XIN(I)
330          CONTINUE
340          FORMAT(8X,A4,5X,3(F10.6,2X),' mol/kg H2O')
          WRITE(1,350)VOUT,VOUTA
350          FORMAT(/,18X,' gas lea-   gas lea-',/,
1              17X,'ving column: ving cond.:',/,5X,
1              ' amount:   ',2(F10.6,2X),' kg/s')
          DO 360 I=1,5
            WRITE(1,370)NAAM(I),YOUT2(I),YOUTA(I)
360          CONTINUE
370          FORMAT(8X,A4,5X,2(F10.6,2X),' atm.')
C
C      output reboiler (optional):
380          IF (.NOT. REBOIL) GO TO 470
          WRITE(1,390)SNGL(PRESREB),SNGL(TREB-273)
390          FORMAT('1',/,5X,'column with reboiler:',/,5X,'reboiler pres.='
1              ,6X,F10.5,/,5X,'reboiler temperature=' ,F10.5,/)
          IF (WARNING) WRITE(1,400)
400          FORMAT(5X,'*****',
1              '/,5X,'* warning: estimated reboiler pres. is',
1              ' incorrect *',/,5X,'*****',
1              '*****',//)
          WRITE(1,410)SNGL(LOUT),SNGL(LOUTA)
410          FORMAT(18X,'liquid lea- liquid lea-',/,
1              17X,'ving column: ving rebo.:',/,7X,
1              'amount:   ',2(F10.6,3X),' kg/s')
          DO 420 I=1,5
            WRITE(1,430)NAAM(I),SNGL(XOUT(I)),SNGL(XOUTA(I))
420          CONTINUE
430          FORMAT(8X,A4,5X,2(F10.6,3X),' mol/kg')
          WRITE(1,440)SNGL(V)
440          FORMAT(/,18X,'gas entering:',/,7X,'amount:   ',
1              F10.6,' kg/s')
          DO 450 I=1,5
            WRITE(1,460)NAAM(I),SNGL(YIN(I))
450          CONTINUE
460          FORMAT(8X,A4,5X,F10.6,' atm.')
C      output column pressure:
          WRITE(1,600)
600          FORMAT('1',/,5X,'column pressure and mass flows:',/,

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1          5X,'          input      calculated difference',
1          ' liquid gas',/,
1          5X,' tray:      pres.:      pres.:      > 5%',
1          ' flow:      flow:',/)
DO 610 I=1,NMAX
  MISDRUK='no'
  IF(DABS((PRES(I)-DRUK(I))/DRUK(I)) .GT. 0.05) MISDRUK='yes'
  WRITE(1,620)I,PRES(I),DRUK(I),MISDRUK,LIQU(I),VAPO(I)
610      CONTINUE
620      FORMAT(8X,I2,7X,F7.4,6X,F7.4,8X,A3,3X,F10.7,2X,F10.7)
      WRITE(1,630)
630      FORMAT(/,5X,'stripping factors:',/,5X,' tray:      NH3:      ',
1          'H2S:      CO2:      phenol:      rhogas:')
DO 640 I=1,NMAX
  WRITE(1,650)I,STRIP(1,I),STRIP(2,I),STRIP(3,I),STRIP(4,I),
1          RHO(I)
640      CONTINUE
650      FORMAT(8X,I2,3X,4(F9.4,2X),2X,F8.6)
C      output concentration profiles:
      WRITE(1,660)
660      FORMAT('1',/,5X,' tray:      X(NH3):      X(H2S):      ',
1          'X(CO2):      X(phenol):      pH:',/)
      WRITE(1,670) X(1,1),X(2,1),X(3,1),X(4,1)
670      FORMAT(7X,'feed',2X,4(F12.6,X),' mol/kg')
      DO 680 N=2,(NMAX+1)
        WRITE(1,690)(N-1),X(1,N),X(2,N),X(3,N),X(4,N),-DLOG10(H(N-1))
680      CONTINUE
690      FORMAT(8X,I2,3X,4(F12.6,X),' mol/kg',3X,F5.2)
      WRITE(1,700)
700      FORMAT(/,5X,' tray:      Y(NH3):      Y(H2S):      ',
1          'Y(CO2):      Y(phenol):',/)
      DO 710 N=1,(NMAX+1)
        WRITE(1,720) (N-1),Y(1,N),Y(2,N),Y(3,N),Y(4,N)
710      CONTINUE
720      FORMAT(8X,I2,3X,4(F12.6,X),' atm.')
      WRITE(1,730)
730      FORMAT(/,5X,'Percentage stripped:',/)
      DO 740 I=1,4
        PRO(I)=0.0
        IF (X(I,1) .LT. 1.0E-6) GO TO 750
        PRO(I)=100.0*(1.0-LOUTA*XOUTA(I)/(LINA*XINA(I)))
750      WRITE(1,760)NAAM(I),SNGL(PRO(I))
740      CONTINUE
760      FORMAT(7X,A4,4X,F6.2,' %')
C
C      graphical output concentration profiles:
      CALL GRAF(NMAX)
770      CLOSE(UNIT=1)
      STOP
      END
C*****
C      Function det4; calculates value of a 4*4 matrix.
      DOUBLE PRECISION FUNCTION DET4(A,B,C,D)
      DOUBLE PRECISION HULP,A(4),B(4),C(4),D(4)
      HULP=A(1)*(B(2)*(C(3)*D(4)-C(4)*D(3))-B(3)*(C(2)*D(4)-
1          C(4)*D(2))+B(4)*(C(2)*D(3)-C(3)*D(2)))
      HULP=HULP-A(2)*(B(1)*(C(3)*D(4)-C(4)*D(3))-B(3)*(C(1)*D(4)-
1          C(4)*D(1))+B(4)*(C(1)*D(3)-C(3)*D(1)))
      HULP=HULP+A(3)*(B(1)*(C(2)*D(4)-C(4)*D(2))-B(2)*(C(1)*D(4)-
1          C(4)*D(1))+B(4)*(C(1)*D(2)-C(2)*D(1)))
      DET4=HULP-A(4)*(B(1)*(C(2)*D(3)-C(3)*D(2))-B(2)*(C(1)*D(3)-

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1          C(3)*D(1))+B(3)*(C(1)*D(2)-C(2)*D(1)))
          RETURN
          END
C*****
C          Subroutine condensor; calculates condensor if present.
          SUBROUTINE CONDENSOR(XOUTA)
          IMPLICIT DOUBLE PRECISION (A-H,K,O-Z)
          DOUBLE PRECISION ION,LIN,LINA,LOUT,LOUTA,L,LR,M(4),MOLFRACTIE,
1          MOLOUT(5),MOLEN,MOLW,MOLM
          DIMENSION GAMMA(11),P(5),XOUTA(5)
          LOGICAL ACTIVITY,NONIDEAL,CONDENS,REBOIL,STOP,PRESWARN
          COMMON /CON/XINA(5),XIN(5),TCOND,PRESCON,OPENST,LIN,LINA,
1          LR,YOUT(5),YOUTA(5),XR(5),YOUT2(5),VOUT,VOUTA,PRESWARN
          COMMON /REB/YIN(5),LOUT,TREB,PRESREB,REBST,LOUTA,CREB,VIN
          COMMON /X/X(5,52),XOUT(5)
          COMMON /COL/NMAX,Y(5,51),FA(4),L,MOLOUT
          COMMON /XRFREE/XRFREE(5)
          COMMON /K/KW,KN,KS1,KS2,KC1,KC2,KC3,KF
          COMMON /HEN/HEN(4),M,RHOL,DHC
          COMMON /ID/STOP,NONIDEAL,CONDENS,REBOIL
          COMMON /V/V,C
          COMMON /GAMUIT/GAMUIT(4,12)
          COMMON /P/PRES(5)
          COMMON /ACT/WACT,ACT(4)
C          initialization:
          CCOND=25.0
          NTEL=0
C          calculate equilibrium pressure of water:
          PH2O=1.315786E-3*(10**(8.07131-1730.63/(TCOND-39.574)))
C          check for impossible condensor pressure:
          IF (PRESCON .LT. PH2O) THEN
              PRESWARN=.TRUE.
              PRESCON=1.25*PH2O
          ENDIF
C          calculate temp. dependent constants:
          CALL EQUILIBRIUM(TCOND)
C          initialization:
          YOUTA(5)=PH2O
          VOUTA=0.0
          DO 800 I=1,13
              GAMMA(I)=1.0
1          800          CONTINUE
          ION=1.0
          WACT=1.0
C          start equilibrium calculation (iterative):
1          810          NTEL=NTEL+1
1          820          VOLD=VOUTA
          LOUTA=LINA+OPENST-VOUTA
          MOLEN=LINA*(XINA(1)+XINA(2)+XINA(3)+XINA(4))-
1          LOUTA*(XOUTA(1)+XOUTA(2)+XOUTA(3)+XOUTA(4))
          CCOND=(PRESCON-YOUTA(5))/MOLEN
          DO 830 I=1,4
              YOUTA(I)=(LINA*XINA(I)-LOUTA*XOUTA(I))*CCOND
              XRFREE(I)=YOUTA(I)/(HEN(I)*ACT(I))
1          830          CONTINUE
          VOUTA=(.017*YOUTA(1)+.034*YOUTA(2)+.044*YOUTA(3)+.094*YOUTA(4)+
1          .018*YOUTA(5))/CCOND
          IF (DABS((LOUTA+VOUTA-LINA-OPENST)/LOUTA) .GT. 1.0D-6) GO TO 820
          ACTIVITY=.FALSE.
          CALL EQUILCONST(GAMMA)
1          840          CALL EQUILCONST(GAMMA)
C          initial estimation of H+:

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      H=DSQRT((KS1*XRFREE(2)+KW+KC1*XRFREE(3)+KC1*KC3*XRFREE(1)*
1      XRFREE(3))/(KN*XRFREE(1)/KW+1))
C      calculate H+ concentration (iterative):
850      HOLD=H
      HULP=FNH1(H)
      H=H-HULP*1.0E-11/(FNH1(H+1.0E-11)-HULP)
      IF ((DABS(HOLD-H)/H) .GT. 1.0E-7) GO TO 850
C      calculate activity coefficients:
      IF (NONIDEAL) THEN
        CALL NONIDEALITY(XRFREE,ION,DHC,H,ACTIVITY,GAMMA)
        IF (ACTIVITY .EQ. .FALSE.) GO TO 840
      ENDIF
C      calculate reflux:
      XR(1)=XRFREE(1)*(1.0+KN*H/KW+KC1*KC3*XRFREE(3)/H)
      XR(2)=XRFREE(2)*(1.0+KS1/H+KS1*KC2/(H**2))
      XR(3)=XRFREE(3)*(1.0+KC1/H+KC1*KC2/(H**2)+KC1*KC3*XRFREE(1)/H)
      XR(4)=XRFREE(4)*(1.0+KF/H)
C      calculate water pres. in gas leaving
      YOUTOLD=YOUTA(5)
      IF (NONIDEAL) THEN
        YOUTA(5)=WACT*PH2O
        GO TO 860
      ENDIF
860      YOUTA(5)=MOLFRAC(XR)*PH2O
      IF (DABS((YOUTOLD-YOUTA(5))/YOUTA(5)) .GT. 1.0E-6) GO TO 810
      DO 870 I=1,11
        GAMUIT(3,I)=GAMMA(I)
870      CONTINUE
      GAMUIT(3,12)=WACT
C      convert conc. in molalities to mol/kg solution:
      MASS=1.0+.017*XR(1)+.034*XR(2)+.044*XR(3)+.094*XR(4)
      DO 880 I=1,5
        XR(I)=XR(I)/MASS
880      CONTINUE
      XR(5)=MOLW(XR)
C      mass balances:
      VOUT=V
      LR=VOUT-VOUTA
      LIN=LINA+LR
      L=LIN
      DO 890 I=1,5
        MOLOUT(I)=LR*XR(I)+YOUTA(I)/CCOND
890      CONTINUE
      COUT=PRES(1)/(MOLOUT(1)+MOLOUT(2)+MOLOUT(3)+MOLOUT(4)+
1      MOLOUT(5))
      YOUT2(5)=MOLOUT(5)*COUT
      DO 900 I=1,4
        YOUT2(I)=MOLOUT(I)*COUT
        XIN(I)=(LINA*XINA(I)+LR*XR(I))/LIN
900      CONTINUE
      XINA(5)=MOLW(XINA)
      XIN(5)=MOLW(XIN)
      RETURN
      END
C*****
C      Function molw; calculates conc. of water in mol/kg.
      DOUBLE PRECISION FUNCTION MOLW(A)
      DOUBLE PRECISION A(5)
      MOLW=(1000.0-(17.0*A(1)+34.0*A(2)+44.0*A(3)+94.0*A(4)))/18.0
      RETURN
      END

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C*****
C      Function FNH1; calculates electroneutrality balance.
      DOUBLE PRECISION FUNCTION FNH1(H)
      IMPLICIT DOUBLE PRECISION (K)
      DOUBLE PRECISION H,XRFREE
      COMMON /K/KW,KN,KS1,KS2,KC1,KC2,KC3,KF
      COMMON /XRFREE/XRFREE(5)
      FNH1=H*(KN*XRFREE(1)/KW+1.0)-(KW+KS1*XRFREE(2)+KC1*XRFREE(3)
1          +KC1*KC3*XRFREE(1)*XRFREE(3)+KF*XRFREE(4))/H-2.0*(KS1*
1          KS2*XRFREE(2)+KC1*KC2*XRFREE(3))/(H**2)
      RETURN
      END
C*****
C      Subroutine equilibrium; calculates equil. constants in activities.
      SUBROUTINE EQUILIBRIUM(T)
      IMPLICIT DOUBLE PRECISION (A-H,K,O-Z)
      DOUBLE PRECISION M(4)
      COMMON /HEN/HEN(4),M,RHOL,DHC
      COMMON /EQ/HE(4,4)
      COMMON /EQC/KH2O,KNH3,KH2S,KHS,KCO2,KHCO3,KNC,KFH
      R=.08205
      RHOL=956.2
      ALNT=DLOG(T)
C      calculate Henry constants and partition coeff.:
      DO 1000 I=1,3
          HEN(I)=DEXP(HE(1,I)/T+HE(2,I)*ALNT+HE(3,I)*T+HE(4,I))
          M(I)=1000.0*HEN(I)/(R*T*RHOL)
1000      CONTINUE
          HEN(4)=DEXP(HE(2,4)*(T**2)+HE(3,4)*T+HE(4,4))
          M(4)=1000.0*HEN(4)/(R*T*RHOL)
C      calculate equilibrium constants (in activities):
      KNH3=DEXP(-3335.7/T+1.4971*ALNT-.0370566*T+2.76)
      KCO2=DEXP(-12092.1/T-36.7816*ALNT+235.482)
      KHCO3=DEXP(-12431.7/T-35.4819*ALNT+220.067)
      KNC=DEXP(2895.65/T-8.5994)
      KH2O=DEXP(-13445.9/T-22.4773*ALNT+140.932)
      KH2S=DEXP(-12995.4/T-33.5471*ALNT+218.599)
      KHS=DEXP(-7211.2/T-7.489)
      KFH=DEXP(-11669.42/T-27.7262*ALNT+174.133)
C      calculate Debye-Huckel parameter:
      DHC=.357+9.9797E-4*(T-273.0)
      RETURN
      END
C*****
C      subroutine equilconst; calculates equil. constants in concentrations.
      SUBROUTINE EQUILCONST(GAMMA)
      IMPLICIT DOUBLE PRECISION (A-H,K,O-Z)
      DIMENSION GAMMA(11)
      COMMON /EQC/KH2O,KNH3,KH2S,KHS,KCO2,KHCO3,KNC,KFH
      COMMON /K/KW,KN,KS1,KS2,KC1,KC2,KC3,KF
      COMMON /ACT/WACT,ACT(4)
      KW=KH2O*WACT/(GAMMA(7)*GAMMA(8))
      KN=KNH3*WACT*GAMMA(1)/(GAMMA(2)*GAMMA(8))
      KS1=KH2S*GAMMA(9)/(GAMMA(10)*GAMMA(7))
      KS2=KHS*GAMMA(10)/(GAMMA(11)*GAMMA(7))
      KC1=KCO2*WACT*GAMMA(3)/(GAMMA(4)*GAMMA(7))
      KC2=KHCO3*GAMMA(4)/(GAMMA(5)*GAMMA(7))
      KC3=KNC*GAMMA(1)*GAMMA(4)/(GAMMA(6)*WACT)
      KF=KFH
      RETURN
      END

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C*****
C      Subroutine reboiler; calculates reboiler if present.
      SUBROUTINE REBOILER(XOUTA)
      IMPLICIT DOUBLE PRECISION (A-H,K,O-Z)
      DOUBLE PRECISION ION,M(4),LOUT,LOUTA,MOLFRAC, MOLW
      DIMENSION GAMMA(11),XOUTA(5)
      LOGICAL ACTIVITY, NONIDEAL, STOP, WARNING
      COMMON /K/KW,KN,KS1,KS2,KC1,KC2,KC3,KF
      COMMON /HEN/HEN(4),M,RHOL,DHC
      COMMON /REB/YIN(5),LOUT,TREB,PRESREB,REBST,LOUTA,CREB,VIN,
1      WARNING
      COMMON /X/X(5,52),XOUT(5)
      COMMON /ID/STOP, NONIDEAL
      COMMON /CONC/XOUTAFREE(5)
      COMMON /V/V,C
      COMMON /GAMUIT/GAMUIT(4,12)
      COMMON /ACT/WACT,ACT(4)
C      initialization:
      ACTIVITY=.FALSE.
      ION=1.0
C      calculate equilibrium pressure of water:
      PH2O=1.315786E-3*(10**(8.07131-1730.63/(TREB-39.574)))
C      calculate temp: dependent constants:
      CALL EQUILIBRIUM(TREB)
C      initialization:
      DO 1100 I=1,13
        GAMMA(I)=1.0
1100      CONTINUE
      CALL EQUILCONST(GAMMA)
C      calculate H+ conc. and conc. ions:
1110      CALL HYD(XOUTA,H)
      XOUTAFREE(4)=XOUTA(4)/(1.0+KF/H)
C      calculate activity coefficients:
      IF (NONIDEAL) THEN
        CALL NONIDEALITY(XOUTAFREE,ION,DHC,H,ACTIVITY,GAMMA)
        IF (ACTIVITY .EQ. .FALSE.) GO TO 1110
      ENDIF
      DO 1120 I=1,11
        GAMUIT(4,I)=GAMMA(I)
1120      CONTINUE
      GAMUIT(4,12)=WACT
C      calculate gas leaving:
      DO 1130 I=1,4
        YIN(I)=HEN(I)*ACT(I)*XOUTAFREE(I)
1130      CONTINUE
      IF (NONIDEAL) THEN
        YIN(5)=WACT*PH2O
        GO TO 1140
      ENDIF
      YIN(5)=MOLFRAC(XOUTA)*PH2O
      P=YIN(1)+YIN(2)+YIN(3)+YIN(4)+YIN(5)
C      check estimated pressure (input):
      IF (DABS((PRESREB-P)/P) .GT. .025) THEN
        WARNING=.TRUE.
        PRESREB=P
      ENDIF
      PRESREB=P
      MOLM=(17.0*YIN(1)+34.0*YIN(2)+44.0*YIN(3)+94.0*YIN(4)+
1      18.0*YIN(5))/PRESREB
      MOLENSTROOM=1000.0*REBST/MOLM
C      calculate leaving liquid:

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CREB=FUNCC(YIN,VIN)
LOUT=LOUTA+VIN
DO 1150 I=1,4
    XOUT(I)=(LOUTA*XOUTA(I)+YIN(I)/CREB)/LOUT
1150    CONTINUE
    XOUT(5)=MOLW(XOUT)
    XOUTA(5)=MOLW(XOUTA)
    RETURN
    END
C*****
C      function molfrac; calculates mole fraction water:
      DOUBLE PRECISION FUNCTION MOLFRAC(X)
      DOUBLE PRECISION X(5)
      MOLFRAC=55.556/(X(1)+X(2)+X(3)+X(4)+55.556)
      RETURN
      END
C*****
C      subroutine hyd; calculates H+ conc. and free conc. from total conc.
      SUBROUTINE HYD(X,H)
      IMPLICIT DOUBLE PRECISION (F,H,K,T,X)
      DIMENSION X(5)
      COMMON /K/KW,KN,KS1,KS2,KC1,KC2,KC3,KF
C      initial estimation for H+:
      TEST=DABS(X(1)-X(3))
      IF (TEST .LT. 1E-8) TEST=1.0D-8
      H=KW/DSQRT(KN*TEST)
      NTEL=0
C      check and adjust H+ conc.:
1200      HOLD=H
      HULP=FNH2(H,X)
      H=H-HULP*1.0D-11/(FNH2(H+1.0D-11,X)-HULP)
      NTEL=NTEL+1
      IF (NTEL .GT. 25) THEN
1210          WRITE(1,1210)
              FORMAT(X,'more than 25 iterations for H+ conc.')
              GO TO 1220
      ENDIF
      IF (DABS((HOLD-H)/H) .GT. 1.0D-7) GO TO 1200
C      calculate conc. ions with actual H+ conc.:
1220      FOP=FNH2(H,X)
      CONTINUE
      RETURN
      END
C*****
C      function fnh2; calculates electroneutrality balance:
      DOUBLE PRECISION FUNCTION FNH2(H,X)
      IMPLICIT DOUBLE PRECISION (A-H,K,O-Z)
      DIMENSION X(5)
      COMMON /K/KW,KN,KS1,KS2,KC1,KC2,KC3,KF
      COMMON /CONC/XFREE(5),XNH4,XHS,XS,XHCO3,XCO3,XNH2COO,XPHO
C      calculate conc. ions and free components:
      OH=KW/H
      CONST1=1.0+KN*H/KW
      CONST2=1.0+KC1/H*(1.0+KC2/H)
      CONST3=KC1*KC3/H
      CONST4=(X(1)-X(3))*CONST3-CONST1*CONST2
      XFREE(1)=(CONST4+DSQRT(CONST4**2+4.0*CONST1*CONST2*CONST3*X(1)
1          ))/(2.0*CONST1*CONST3)
      XFREE(2)=X(2)/(1.0+KS1/H*(1.0+KS2/H))
      IF (X(3) .LT. 1.0E-8) THEN
          XFREE(3)=0.0

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          GO TO 1300
          ENDIF
1300      XFREE(3)=X(3)/(CONST2+CONST3*XFREE(1))
          XFREE(4)=X(4)/(1.0+KF/H)
          XNH4=KN*XFREE(1)/OH
          XHS=KS1*XFREE(2)/H
          XS=KS2*XHS/H
          XHCO3=KC1*XFREE(3)/H
          XCO3=KC2*XHCO3/H
          XNH2COO=KC3*XFREE(1)*XHCO3
          XPHO=KF*XFREE(4)/H
C        calculate electroneutrality balance:
          FNH2=H+XNH4-(XHS+2.0*XS+XHCO3+2.0*XCO3+XNH2COO+OH)
          RETURN
          END
C*****
C        subroutine actcoeff; calculates act. coeff. with the method of Edwards.
C
C        species are indicated as:
C        COMP.1 = NH3      COMP.5 = CO3--    COMP.9 = H2S
C        COMP.2 = NH4+    COMP.6 = NH2COO-  COMP.10= HS-
C        COMP.3 = CO2     COMP.7 = H+      COMP.11= S--
C        COMP.4 = HCO3-   COMP.8 = OH-
C
          SUBROUTINE ACTCOEFF(ION,CON,DHC,GAMMA)
          IMPLICIT DOUBLE PRECISION (A-H,K,O-Z)
          DOUBLE PRECISION ION
          DIMENSION CON(11),GAMMA(11)
          COMMON /GAM/BETA0(11,11),BETA1(11,11),CHARGE(13)
          COMMON /ACT/WACT,ACT(4)
          WION=DSQRT(ION)
          FION=1.0+2.0*WION
          Q1=WION/(1.0+1.2*WION)+2.0/1.2*DLOG(1.0+1.2*WION)
          Q2=(1.0-(FION*DEXP(-2.0*WION)))/(2.0*ION)
          Q3=(1.0-(FION+2.0*ION)*DEXP(-2.0*WION))/(4.0*ION**2)
          DUBSOM=(CON(1)*(CON(2)*BETA1(1,2)+CON(4)*BETA1(1,4)+CON(10)*
1          BETA1(1,10))+CON(2)*(CON(4)*BETA1(2,4)+CON(5)*BETA1(2,5)+
1          CON(6)*BETA1(2,6)+CON(8)*BETA1(2,8)+
1          CON(10)*BETA1(2,10)+CON(11)*BETA1(2,11))+
1          CON(4)*CON(7)*BETA1(4,7)+CON(5)*CON(7)*BETA1(5,7)+
1          CON(6)*CON(7)*BETA1(6,7)+CON(7)*(CON(8)*BETA1(7,8)+
1          CON(10)*BETA1(7,10)+CON(11)*BETA1(7,11))*2.0*Q3
          DO 1400 I=1,11
          ENKSOM=0.0
          DO 1410 J=1,11
          ENKSOM=ENKSOM+CON(J)*(BETA0(I,J)+Q2*BETA1(I,J))
1410      CONTINUE
          GAMMA(I)=DEXP(-DHC*CHARGE(I)**2*Q1+2*ENKSOM-CHARGE(I)**2*
1          DUBSOM)
1400      CONTINUE
C        calculate activity of water:
          EX=DEXP(-2.0*WION)
          SOM=0.0
          SOMMI=0.0
          DO 1420 I=1,11
          DO 1430 J=1,11
1430      SOM=SOM+CON(I)*CON(J)*(BETA0(I,J)+BETA1(I,J)*EX)
          CONTINUE
          SOMMI=SOMMI+CON(I)
1420      CONTINUE
          WACT=DEXP((2.0*DHC*WION*ION/(1.0+1.2*WION)-SOM-SOMMI)*.018)

```



```

      ACT(1)=GAMMA(1)
      ACT(2)=GAMMA(9)
      ACT(3)=GAMMA(3)
      ACT(4)=1.0
      RETURN
      END
C*****
C      subroutine nonideality; calculates conc. of all species present:
      SUBROUTINE NONIDEALITY(XFREE,ION,DHC,H,ACTIVITY,GAMMA)
      IMPLICIT DOUBLE PRECISION (A-H,K,O-Z)
      LOGICAL ACTIVITY
      DOUBLE PRECISION ION,IONOLD
      DIMENSION XFREE(5),GAMMA(11),CON(11)
      COMMON /K/KW,KN,KS1,KS2,KC1,KC2,KC3,KF
C      calculate conc. of all species:
      CON(1)=XFREE(1)
      CON(2)=KN*XFREE(1)*H/KW
      CON(3)=XFREE(3)
      CON(4)=KC1*XFREE(3)/H
      CON(5)=KC2*CON(4)/H
      CON(6)=KC3*CON(1)*CON(4)
      CON(7)=H
      CON(8)=KW/H
      CON(9)=XFREE(2)
      CON(10)=KS1*XFREE(2)/H
      CON(11)=KS2*CON(10)/H
C      calculate ionic strength:
      IONOLD=ION
      ION=.5*(CON(2)+CON(4)+4.0*CON(5)+CON(6)+CON(7)+CON(8)+CON(10)+
1      4.0*CON(11))
C      calculate activity coeff.:
      CALL ACTCOEFF(ION,CON,DHC,GAMMA)
C      check accuracy:
      IF ((DABS(IONOLD-ION)/ION) .LT. 1.0E-5) ACTIVITY=.TRUE.
      RETURN
      END
C*****
C      subroutine traycolumn; determines accuracy of mass balance over
C      the whole system:
      SUBROUTINE TRAYCOLUMN(XOJTA,XIN,NMAX,NTEL)
      IMPLICIT DOUBLE PRECISION (A-H,K,O-Z)
      DIMENSION EIS(4),XIN(5),XOUTA(5)
      DOUBLE PRECISION LOUT,LOUTA
      LOGICAL STOP
      COMMON /X/X(5,52),XOUT(5)
      COMMON /REB/YIN(5),LOUT,TREB,PRESREB,REBST,LOUTA,CREB
      COMMON /ID/STOP
      COMMON /H/H(50)
C      initialization:
      NTEL=0
1500      NTEL=NTEL+1
C      calculate column:
      CALL COLUMN(XOUTA,NTEL)
      IF (STOP) RETURN
C      check accuracy:
      DO 1510 I=1,4
          EIS(I)=0.0
          IF (XIN(I) .GT. 1.0E-8) EIS(I)=DABS((XOUT(I)-X(I,NMAX+1))/
1          X(I,NMAX+1))
1510      CONTINUE
          IF ((EIS(1) .GT. 1.0E-2) .OR. (EIS(2) .GT. 1.0E-2) .OR. (EIS(3)

```

```

1          .GT. 1.0E-2) .OR. (EIS(4) .GT. 1.0E-2)) THEN
          IF (MOD(NTEL,15) .EQ. 0) GO TO 1520
          CALL ADJUST(XOUTA;XIN,NTEL)
          IF (STOP) RETURN
          GO TO 1500
          ENDIF
          DO 1530 I=1,4
          X(I,NMAX+2)=XOUTA(I)
1530      CONTINUE
          RETURN
1520      WRITE(1,1540)NTEL
1540      FORMAT(/,5X,'*****',
1          /,7X,'Calculation stopped after ',I2,' iterations.',
1          /,5X,'*****',/)
          RETURN
          END
C*****
C      subroutine column; performs column calculation.
          SUBROUTINE COLUMN(XOUTA,NTEL)
          IMPLICIT DOUBLE PRECISION (A-H,K,O-Z)
          DIMENSION XOUTA(5),FAC(4),XAF(5),DELTA(4),XT(5),EIS(4),
1          DFDX1(4),DFDX2(4),DFDX3(4),DFDX4(4),F(4),YT(5)
          LOGICAL NONIDEAL,CONDENS,REBOIL,STOP,GASIN
          DOUBLE PRECISION L,LIQU,LIN,LINA,MOLOUT(5),MOLIN(5),
1          LOST(4),LOUT,LOUTA,M(4),NG,NL,NOG,LR
          COMMON /Y/YOP(5)
          COMMON /COL/NMAX,Y(5,51),FA(4),L,MOLOUT,DELTAM(3),STOOM
          COMMON /REB/YIN(5),LOUT,TREB,PRESREB,REBST,LOUTA,CREB,VIN
          COMMON /HEN/HEN(4),M,RHOL,DHC
          COMMON /AF/LOST
          COMMON /EEN/PH2O,DIFF(4),RHOG,GAMMA(11),MOLIN
          COMMON /CONC/XFREE(5),XNH4,XHS,XS,XHCO3,XCO3,XNH2COO
          COMMON /X/X(5,52),XOUT(5)
          COMMON /CON/XINA(5),XIN(5),TCOND,PRESCON,OPENST,LIN,LINA,
1          LR,YOUT(5),YOUTA(5),XR(5)
          COMMON /P/PRES(50)
          COMMON /ID/STOP,NONIDEAL,CONDENS,REBOIL,GASIN
          COMMON /V/V,C
          COMMON /ACT/WACT,ACT(4)
          COMMON /GAMUIT/GAMUIT(4,12)
          COMMON /MBSO/DCO2,KRBICAR,KRCARB,KL,KLA,KGA,FLUX(4),NITER
          COMMON /STREAM/LIQU(51),VAPO(51),STRIP(4,50),RHO(50)
C      calculate corrected L and G flow:
1600      DOLD=DELTAMASSA
          LOUTA=LINA-REBST-DELTAMASSA
          DELTAMASSA=0.0
          DO 1610 I=1,3
          DELTAMASSA=DELTAMASSA+DELTAM(I)*(LINA*XINA(I)-LOUTA*XOUTA(I))
1610      CONTINUE
          VIN=STOOM-DELTAMASSA
          V=STOOM
          IF (GASIN) THEN
          VIN=STOOM
          V=STOOM+DELTAMASSA
          ENDIF
          OPENST=VIN
          REBST=0.0
          IF (REBOIL) THEN
          OPENST=0.0
          REBST=VIN
          ENDIF

```

```

                IF (DABS((DOLD-DELTAMASSA)/DELTAMASSA) .GT. .01) GO TO 1600
C      calculate condensor (optional):
                VAPO(1)=V
                IF (CONDENS) THEN
                    CALL CONDENSOR(XOUTA)
                    GO TO 1620
                ENDIF
                LIN=LINA
                DO 1630 I=1,4
1630                 XIN(I)=XINA(I)
                    CONTINUE
                LOUTA=LIN-REBST
C      calculate reboiler (optional):
1620                 IF (REBOIL) THEN
                    CALL REBOILER(XOUTA)
                    GO TO 1640
                ENDIF
                CREB=PRES(NMAX)/(V/.018)
                LOUT=LOUTA
                DO 1650 I=1,4
1650                 XOUT(I)=XOUTA(I)
                    YIN(I)=0.0
                    CONTINUE
                YIN(5)=PRES(NMAX)
C      start stripping calculation:
1640                 L=LIN
                    LIQU(1)=L
C      calculate composition of gas leaving the column:
1660                 DO 1670 I=1,4
                    X(I,1)=XIN(I)
                    MOLOUT(I)=L*X(I,1)-LOUT*XOUT(I)+YIN(I)/CREB
                    YOUT(I)=MOLOUT(I)*C
                    Y(I,1)=YOUT(I)
1670                 CONTINUE
                    YOUT(5)=PRES(1)-(YOUT(1)+YOUT(2)+YOUT(3)+YOUT(4))
                    MOLOUT(5)=YOUT(5)/C
                    Y(5,1)=YOUT(5)
                    COLD=C
                    C=FUNCC(YOUT,V)
                    IF (DABS((COLD-C)/C) .GT. 1.0D-4) GO TO 1660
                    N=0
                    DO 1680 I=1,5
1680                     MOLIN(I)=MOLOUT(I)
                        CONTINUE
C      calculate first tray:
1690                 N=N+1
                    NITER=0
C      estimate conc. in liquid leaving the tray:
                DO 1700 I=1,4
                    IF ((X(I,1) .LT. 1E-6) .OR. (N .EQ. 1)) THEN
                        FAC(I)=FA(I)
                        GO TO 1710
                    ENDIF
                    FAC(I)=X(I,N)/X(I,N-1)
1710                 XAF(I)=FAC(I)*X(I,N)
1700                 CONTINUE
C      calculate temp. dependent constants:
                CALL TEMP(N)
C      calculate mass transfer:
                CALL MBSO(XAF,N)
                IF (STOP) RETURN

```

```

C      calculate correction factors Newton Raphson method:
1720      DO 1730 I=1,4
          F(I)=-DIFF(I)
          XT(I)=XAF(I)
1730      CONTINUE
          XT(5)=XAF(5)
          EPS=1.0E-5
          IF (X(1,1) .LT. 1.0E-6) THEN
              DO 1740 I=1,4
                  DFDX1(I)=0.0
1740          CONTINUE
                  DFDX1(1)=1.0
                  GO TO 1750
              ENDIF
          XT(1)=XT(1)+EPS
          CALL MBSO(XT,N)
          IF (STOP) RETURN
          DO 1760 I=1,4
              DFDX1(I)=(DIFF(I)+F(I))/EPS
1760          CONTINUE
          XT(1)=XAF(1)
1750          IF (X(2,1) .LT. 1.0E-6) THEN
              DO 1770 I=1,4
                  DFDX2(I)=0.0
1770          CONTINUE
                  DFDX2(2)=1.0
                  GO TO 1780
              ENDIF
          XT(2)=XT(2)+EPS
          CALL MBSO(XT,N)
          IF (STOP) RETURN
          DO 1790 I=1,4
              DFDX2(I)=(DIFF(I)+F(I))/EPS
1790          CONTINUE
          XT(2)=XAF(2)
1780          IF (X(3,1) .LT. 1.0E-6) THEN
              DO 1800 I=1,4
                  DFDX3(I)=0.0
1800          CONTINUE
                  DFDX3(3)=1.0
                  GO TO 1810
              ENDIF
          XT(3)=XT(3)+EPS
          CALL MBSO(XT,N)
          IF (STOP) RETURN
          DO 1820 I=1,4
              DFDX3(I)=(DIFF(I)+F(I))/EPS
1820          CONTINUE
          XT(3)=XAF(3)
1810          IF (X(4,1) .LT. 1.0E-6) THEN
              DO 1830 I=1,3
                  DFDX4(I)=0.0
1830          CONTINUE
                  DFDX4(4)=1.0
                  GO TO 1840
              ENDIF
          XT(4)=XT(4)+EPS
          CALL MBSO(XT,N)
          IF (STOP) RETURN
          DO 1850 I=1,4
              DFDX4(I)=(DIFF(I)+F(I))/EPS

```

```

1850          CONTINUE
              XT(4)=XAF(4)
C          calculate corrected conc. in leaving liquid (by means of 4-dim N-R
C          using matrices):
1840          DET=DET4(DFDX1,DFDX2,DFDX3,DFDX4)
              DELTA(1)=DET4(F,DFDX2,DFDX3,DFDX4)/DET
              DELTA(2)=DET4(DFDX1,F,DFDX3,DFDX4)/DET
              DELTA(3)=DET4(DFDX1,DFDX2,F,DFDX4)/DET
              DELTA(4)=DET4(DFDX1,DFDX2,DFDX3,F)/DET
              DO 1860 I=1,4
                  XAF(I)=XAF(I)+DELTA(I)
1860          CONTINUE
C          check corrected concentrations:
              CALL MBSO(XAF,N)
              IF (STOP) RETURN
              NITER=NITER+1
              IF (NITER .GT. 25) THEN
1870          WRITE(1,1870)N,(NTEL+1)
              FORMAT(5X,'stopped after 25 iterations for tray no. ',
1          I2,/,5X,'at ',I2,' iteration over the whole system. ',
1          /,5X,'calculation restarted with last calculated values'
1          ,'for Xaf.',/)
              GO TO 1880
              ENDIF
              DO 1890 I=1,4
                  EIS(I)=1.0E-4*L*X(I,N)
                  IF (X(I,N) .LT. 1E-5) EIS(I)=1.0E-12
                  IF (DABS(DIFF(I)) .GT. EIS(I)) GO TO 1720
1890          CONTINUE
C          store activity coefficients (at first and last tray only):
              NU=1
              IF (N .EQ. NMAX) NU=2
1880          IF ((N .EQ. 1) .OR. (N .EQ. NMAX)) THEN
                  DO 1900 I=1,11
                      GAMUIT(NU,I)=GAMMA(I)
1900          CONTINUE
                      GAMUIT(NU,12)=WACT
                  ENDIF
C          calculate stripping factors:
              DO 1910 I=1,4
                  STRIP(I,N)=M(I)*RHOL*V/(RHOG*L)
1910          CONTINUE
C
              DO 1920 I=1,4
                  X(I,N+1)=XAF(I)
                  MOLIN(I)=MOLOUT(I)-LIN*X(I,1)+L*XAF(I)
                  Y(I,N+1)=MOLIN(I)*C
                  YT(I)=Y(I,N+1)
1920          CONTINUE
                  Y(5,N+1)=YOP(5)
                  YT(5)=Y(5,N+1)
C          calculate mass flows on next tray:
              DELTAMASS=0.0
              DO 1930 I=1,3
                  DELTAMASS=DELTAMASS+DELTAM(I)*L*(X(I,N)-X(I,N+1))
1930          CONTINUE
              V=V-DELTAMASS
              L=L-DELTAMASS
              VAPO(N+1)=V
              LIQU(N+1)=L
              MOLIN(5)=(V-(.017*MOLIN(1)+.034*MOLIN(2)+.044*MOLIN(3)))/.018

```

```

RHO(N)=RHOG
C=FUNCC(YT,V)
calculate next tray:
IF (N.LT.NMAX) GO TO 1690
check mass balance:
DO 1940 I=1,4
LOST(I)=L*(X(I,N+1)-XOUT(I))
IF (X(I,1).LT.1:0E-6) LOST(I)=0.0
CONTINUE
1940 RETURN
END
*****
subroutine temp: calculates temp. dependent constants.
C
SUBROUTINE TEMP(N)
IMPLICIT DOUBLE PRECISION (A-H,K,O-Z)
DOUBLE PRECISION L,MOLIN(5),MOLOUT(5)
COMMON /TEMP/TEMP,TTBOT,T(50)
COMMON /COL/NMAX,Y(5,51),FA(4),L,MOLOUT
COMMON /EEN/PH2O,DIFE(4),RHOG,GAMMA(11),MOLIN
COMMON /P/PRES(50)
COMMON /V/V,C
R=.08205
PH2O=1.315786E-3*(10*(8.07131-1730.63/(T(N)-39.574)))
CALC EQUILIBRIUM(T(N))
VMOL=.99434*.001*R*T(N)/PRES(N)-.00031986
RHOG=V/((MOLIN(1)+MOLIN(2)+MOLIN(3)+MOLIN(5))*VMOL)
RETURN
END
*****
subroutine mbs: calculates mass transfer.
C
SUBROUTINE MBSO(XAF,N)
IMPLICIT DOUBLE PRECISION (A-H,K,O-Z)
DOUBLE PRECISION ION,L,M(4),MOLOUT(5),MOLFRAC
COMMON /MBSO/DCO2,KRBICAR,KRCARB,KL,KLA,KGA,FLUX(4),NITER
COMMON /COL/NMAX,Y(5,51),FA(4),L,MOLOUT
COMMON /HEN/HEN(4),M,RHOL,DHC
COMMON /EEN/PH2O,DIFE(4),RHOG,GAMMA(11)
COMMON /K/KW,KN,KS1,KS2,KC1,KC2,KC3,KF
COMMON /X/X(5,52),XOUT(5)
COMMON /CONC/XFREE(5),XNH4,XHS,XS,XHCO3,XCO3,XNH2COO,XPHO
COMMON /ID/STOP,NONIDEAL,CONDENS,REBOIL
COMMON /V/V,C
COMMON /H/HYDCON(50),DRUK(50)
COMMON /ACT/WACT,ACT(4)
ACTIVITY=.FALSE.
ION=1.0
calculate total interface conc.:
DO 2000 I=1,4
XINT(I)=XAF(I)-L*(X(I,N)-XAF(I))/(KLA*RHOL)
CONTINUE
2000

```

1940

2000

```

C      initialization act. coeff.:
          DO 2010 I=1,11
          GAMMA(I)=1.0
2010      CONTINUE
C      calculate chemical equil. in bulk of liquid:
2020      CALL EQUILCONST(GAMMA)
          CALL HYD(XAF,H)
          IF (NONIDEAL) THEN
              CALL NONIDEALITY(XFREE,ION,DHC,H,ACTIVITY,GAMMA)
              IF (ACTIVITY .EQ. .FALSE.) GO TO 2020
          ENDIF
          HYDCON(N)=H
          IF (H .LT. 0.0) WRITE(1,2030)H
2030      FORMAT(2X,'H+ at interface =',D15.5)
          IF (X(3,1) .LT. 1.0E-6) GO TO 2040
C      calculate enhancement factor for CO2:
          K1=XHCO3/XFREE(3)
          K2=XNH2COO/XFREE(3)
          GROUP1=DSQRT(1.0+DCO2*(KRBICAR*KW/H)*(1.0+K1)/(K1*KL**2))
          GROUP2=DSQRT(1.0+DCO2*KRCARB*XFREE(1)*(1.0+K2)/(K2*KL**2))
          E1=(1.0+K1)*GROUP1/(K1+GROUP1)
          E2=(1.0+K2)*GROUP2/(K2+GROUP2)
          ETOT=DSQRT(E1**2+E2**2-1.0)
          FLUXC=L*(X(3,N)-XAF(3))/(KLA*RHOL)
C      calculate conc. of all species at interface (partly iterative):
          XFREE(3)=XFREE(3)-FLUXC/ETOT
          XNH2COOI=XNH2COO-(E2-1.0)**2/((ETOT-1.0)*ETOT)*FLUXC
2040      HI=H
          NUMMER=0
C      (begin iteration)
2050      OHI=KW/HI
          NUMMER=NUMMER+1
          XHCO3I=(XAF(3)-FLUXC-XFREEI(3)-XNH2COOI)/(1.0+KC2/HI)
          XCO3I=KC2*XHCO3I/HI
          XFREEI(2)=XINT(2)/(1.0+KS1/HI*(1.0+KS2/HI))
          XHSI=KS1*XFREEI(2)/HI
          XSI=KS2*XHSI/HI
          XFREEI(1)=(XINT(1)-XNH2COOI)/(1.0+KN/OHI)
          XNH4I=XFREEI(1)*KN/OHI
          XFREEI(4)=XINT(4)/(1.0+KF/HI)
          XPHOI=XFREEI(4)*KF/HI
C      check electroneutrality balance:
          EBAL=XNH4I+HI-(XHSI+XHCO3I+XNH2COOI+2.0*(XSI+XCO3I)+OHI)
          IF (NUMMER .EQ. 1) THEN
              HOLD=HI
              HI=HI+1.0E-11
              BALOLD=EBAL
              GO TO 2050
          ENDIF
          IF ((HI .LT. 0.0) .AND. (HOLD .LT. 0.0)) THEN
2060      WRITE(1,2060)(NITER+1)
              FORMAT(2X,'iteration no.',I3)
              WRITE(1,2070)N
2070      FORMAT(5X,'*****',
1          '***',/,6X,'negative H+ conc. at the interface ',
1          'at tray no. ',I2,'.',/,6X,'calculation stopped.',
1          /,5X,'*****',
1          '***',/)
          STOP=.TRUE.
          RETURN
          ENDIF
    
```

```

                IF (NUMMER .GT. 50) THEN
                    WRITE(1,2080)N
                    GO TO 2090
                ENDIF
2080          FORMAT(5X,'more than 50 iterations needed for calculation of ',
1              'H+ conc. at the interface',/,7X,'at tray no. ',I2,'cal',
1              'ulation restarted with last calculated value.')
```

IF (DABS((HOLD-HI)/HI) .GT. 1.0D-6) THEN

C adjust H+ conc.:

```

                HNEW=HOLD-(HI-HOLD)*BALOLD/(EBAL-BALOLD)
                HOLD=HI
                BALOLD=EBAL
                HI=HNEW
                GO TO 2050
            ENDIF
```

C calculate entering gas:

```

                DO 2100 I=1,4
                    YINT(I)=XFREEI(I)*ACT(I)*HEN(I)
                    YOP(I)=YINT(I)-(YINT(I)-Y(I,N))*DEXP(KGA*RHOG/V)
                    FLUX(I)=(Y(I,N)-YOP(I))/C
                    DIFF(I)=L*(X(I,N)-XAF(I))-FLUX(I)
                    IF (X(I,1) .LT. 1.0E-6) DIFF(I)=0.0
2100          CONTINUE
                IF (NONIDEAL) THEN
                    YOP(5)=WACT*PH2O
                    GO TO 2110
                ENDIF
                YOP(5)=MOLFRAC(XAF)*PH2O
2110          DRUK(N)=YOP(1)+YOP(2)+YOP(3)+YOP(5)
                RETURN
            END
```

C\*\*\*\*\*

C subroutine adjust; performs Newton Raphson correction over whole system.

```

                SUBROUTINE ADJUST(XOUTA,XIN,NTEL)
                IMPLICIT DOUBLE PRECISION (A-H,K,O-Z)
                DOUBLE PRECISION LOST(4)
                DIMENSION XOUTA(5),XIN(5),DELTA(4),HULP(5),DGD1(4),DGD2(4),
1              DGD3(4),DGD4(4),G(4)
                LOGICAL STOP
                COMMON /AF/LOST
                COMMON /ID/STOP
```

C calculate correction factors:

```

                DO 2200 I=1,4
                    G(I)=-LOST(I)
2200          CONTINUE
                EP=1.0E-4
                DO 2210 I=1,5
                    HULP(I)=XOUTA(I)
2210          CONTINUE
                IF (XIN(1) .LT. 1.0E-6) THEN
                    DO 2220 I=1,4
                        DGD1(I)=0.0
2220          CONTINUE
                        DGD1(1)=1.0
                        GO TO 2230
                    ENDIF
                    HULP(1)=HULP(1)+EP
                    CALL COLUMN(HULP,NTEL)
                    IF (STOP) RETURN
                    DO 2240 I=1,4
                        DGD1(I)=(LOST(I)+G(I))/EP
```



```

2240         CONTINUE
           HULP(1)=XOUTA(1)
2230         IF (XIN(2) .LT. 1.0E-6) THEN
           DO 2250 I=1,4
             DGDY2(I)=0.0
2250         CONTINUE
           DGDY2(2)=1.0
           GO TO 2260
         ENDIF
           HULP(2)=HULP(2)+EP
           CALL COLUMN(HULP,NTEL)
           IF (STOP) RETURN
           DO 2270 I=1,4
             DGDY2(I)=(LOST(I)+G(I))/EP
2270         CONTINUE
           HULP(2)=XOUTA(2)
2260         IF (XIN(3) .LT. 1.0E-6) THEN
           DO 2280 I=1,4
             DGDY3(I)=0.0
2280         CONTINUE
           DGDY3(3)=1.0
           GO TO 2290
         ENDIF
           HULP(3)=HULP(3)+EP
           CALL COLUMN(HULP,NTEL)
           IF (STOP) RETURN
           DO 2300 I=1,4
             DGDY3(I)=(LOST(I)+G(I))/EP
2300         CONTINUE
           HULP(3)=XOUTA(3)
2290         IF (XIN(4) .LT. 1.0E-6) THEN
           DO 2310 I=1,3
             DGDY4(I)=0.0
2310         CONTINUE
           DGDY4(4)=1.0
           GO TO 2320
         ENDIF
           HULP(4)=HULP(4)+EP
           CALL COLUMN(HULP,NTEL)
           DO 2330 I=1,4
             DGDY4(I)=(LOST(I)+G(I))/EP
2330         CONTINUE
           HULP(4)=XOUTA(4)
C          calculate corrected concentrations (by means of 4 dim. N-R
C          using matrices):
2320         DET=DET4(DGDY1,DGDY2,DGDY3,DGDY4)
           DELTA(1)=DET4(G,DGDY2,DGDY3,DGDY4)/DET
           DELTA(2)=DET4(DGDY1,G,DGDY3,DGDY4)/DET
           DELTA(3)=DET4(DGDY1,DGDY2,G,DGDY4)/DET
           DELTA(4)=DET4(DGDY1,DGDY2,DGDY3,G)/DET
           DO 2340 I=1,4
             XOUTA(I)=XOUTA(I)+DELTA(I)
2340         CONTINUE
           RETURN
         END
C*****
C          subroutine graf; plots concentration profile.
           SUBROUTINE GRAF(NMAX)
           DOUBLE PRECISION X
           DIMENSION KTEKEN(8),LINE(71),NA(4),VOLG(4),SCHAAL(6)
           LOGICAL STOP,NONIDEAL,CONDENS,REBOIL

```

```

COMMON /X/X(5,52),XOUT(5)
COMMON /ID/STOP,NONIDEAL,CONDENS,REBOIL
WRITE(1,2400)
2400 FORMAT('1',4X,'concentration profile for the liquid phase:',/)
KTEKEN(1)='N'
KTEKEN(2)='S'
KTEKEN(3)='C'
KTEKEN(4)='F'
KTEKEN(5)='*'
KTEKEN(6)=' '
KTEKEN(7)='- '
KTEKEN(8)='| '
NF='FEED'
NR='REBO'
GROOTSTE=.0
DO 2410 I=1,NMAX+1
    DO 2420 M=1,4
        IF(X(M,I) .GT. GROOTSTE) GROOTSTE=SNGL(X(M,I))
2420     CONTINUE
2410     CONTINUE
SF=GROOTSTE/71.0
SF2=GROOTSTE/70.0
DO 2430 I=0,5
    SCHAAL(I+1)=SF2*FLOAT(I)*14.0
2430     CONTINUE
WRITE(1,2440) SCHAAL
2440 FORMAT(3X,F7.5,7X,F7.5,7X,F7.5,7X,F7.5,7X,F7.5,7X,F7.5)
DO 2450 I=2,71
    LINE(I)=KTEKEN(7)
2450     CONTINUE
DO 2460 I=0,5
    LINE(1+14*I)=KTEKEN(8)
2460     CONTINUE
WRITE(1,2470) LINE
2470 FORMAT(6X,71A1)
J=1
IF (REBOIL) J=2
DO 2480 N=1,(NMAX+J)
    LINE(1)=KTEKEN(8)
    DO 2490 I=2,71
        LINE(I)=KTEKEN(6)
2490     CONTINUE
    CALL SORT(VOLG,NA,N)
    DO 2500 I=1,4
        M=INT(VOLG(I)/SF)
        IF (M .LT. 1) M=1
        LINE(M)=KTEKEN(NA(I))
2500     CONTINUE
    IF (N .EQ. 1) THEN
        WRITE(1,2510)NF,LINE
        GO TO 2520
    ENDIF
    IF (N .EQ. (NMAX+2)) THEN
        WRITE(1,2510)NR,LINE
        GO TO 2520
    ENDIF
    WRITE(1,2530)(N-1),LINE
2530 FORMAT(2X,I2,X,'-',71A1,/,6X,'|',/,6X,'|')
2520     CONTINUE
2510     FORMAT(X,A4,'-',71A1,/,6X,'|',/,6X,'|')
2480     CONTINUE

```

```
RETURN
END
C*****
C      subroutine sort; sorts concentrations.
      SUBROUTINE SORT(VOLG,NA,N)
      DOUBLE PRECISION X
      DIMENSION VOLG(4),NA(4)
      COMMON /X/X(5,52),XOUT(5)
      NA(1)=1
      VOLG(1)=SNGL(X(1,N))
      DO 2600 I=2,4
        DO 2610 M=1,(I-1)
          IF(X(I,N) .LT. VOLG(M)) THEN
            DO 2620 NTEL=4,(M+1),-1
              NA(NTEL)=NA(NTEL-1)
              VOLG(NTEL)=VOLG(NTEL-1)
2620          CONTINUE
              NA(M)=I
              VOLG(M)=SNGL(X(I,N))
              GO TO 2630
            ENDIF
          CONTINUE
2610        NA(I)=I
              VOLG(I)=SNGL(X(I,N))
2630        CONTINUE
2600      CONTINUE
      RETURN
      END
```

Example of an output-file:  
(this file contains the output of the calculation  
and has the name RESULT.LIS)

Experiment with real refinery sour water

Number of Trays: 11

Ideal liquidphase: NO

Condensor: NO

Reboiler: NO

Lin: 0.11111 Kg/s or 400.000 Kg/hr

Steam: 0.01264 Kg/s or 45.500 Kg/hr

(Steam = amount of gas leaving the column)

Component:	Xin:	Xout:
NH3	0.17490	0.00000 mol/kg
H2S	0.09145	0.00000 mol/kg
CO2	0.00560	0.00000 mol/kg
phen	0.00336	0.00000 mol/kg

Top temperature: 101.00 C or 374.00 K

Bottom temperature: 103.00 C or 376.00 K

Condensor temperature: 100.00 C or 373.00 K

Reboiler temperature: 103.00 C or 376.00 K

Top pres.: 1.0500 atm.

Bottom pres.: 1.1000 atm.

Condensor pres.: 1.0000 atm.

Reboiler pres.: 1.0000 atm.

K1: .100000E-02 m/s A: .600000E+00 m2

Kg: .900000E-01 m/s

Required accuracy reached in 4 iterations.

column pressure and mass flows:

tray:	input pres.:	calculated pres.:	difference > 5%	liquid flow:	gas flow:
1	1.0500	1.0639	no	0.1111111	0.0126389
2	1.0550	1.0636	no	0.1108972	0.0124250
3	1.0600	1.0664	no	0.1108104	0.0123382
4	1.0650	1.0700	no	0.1107676	0.0122954
5	1.0700	1.0745	no	0.1107422	0.0122699
6	1.0750	1.0797	no	0.1107254	0.0122532
7	1.0800	1.0855	no	0.1107137	0.0122415
8	1.0850	1.0918	no	0.1107053	0.0122331
9	1.0900	1.0984	no	0.1106992	0.0122269
10	1.0950	1.1053	no	0.1106946	0.0122224
11	1.1000	1.1125	no	0.1106911	0.0122188

concentration profile in the liquid phase:

tray:	X(NH3):	X(H2S):	X(CO2):	X(phenol):	pH:
feed	0.174900	0.091450	0.005600	0.003360	mol/kg
1	0.147521	0.037796	0.004467	0.003350	mol/kg 7.83
2	0.117626	0.018262	0.003768	0.003339	mol/kg 8.05
3	0.092156	0.009902	0.003288	0.003337	mol/kg 8.18
4	0.070722	0.005683	0.002927	0.003338	mol/kg 8.25
5	0.053328	0.003315	0.002638	0.003340	mol/kg 8.28
6	0.039506	0.001896	0.002392	0.003346	mol/kg 8.28
7	0.028669	0.001024	0.002171	0.003353	mol/kg 8.26
8	0.020247	0.000501	0.001961	0.003358	mol/kg 8.21
9	0.013740	0.000211	0.001749	0.003345	mol/kg 8.13
10	0.008710	0.000072	0.001520	0.003251	mol/kg 8.00
11	0.004767	0.000018	0.001247	0.002818	mol/kg 7.80

Percentage stripped:

NH3	97.27	%
H2S	99.98	%
CO2	77.73	%
phen	16.73	%