

**BIRLA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, MESRA, RANCHI
(END SEMESTER EXAMINATION)**

CLASS: B.TECH.
BRANCH: CHEM. ENGG.

SEMESTER : IV
SESSION : SP/2025

SUBJECT: CL215 MASS TRANSFER OPERATION-I

TIME: 3 Hours

FULL MARKS: 50

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. The question paper contains 5 questions each of 10 marks and total 50 marks.
2. Attempt all questions.
3. The missing data, if any, may be assumed suitably.
4. Before attempting the question paper, be sure that you have got the correct question paper.
5. Tables/Data hand book/Graph paper etc. to be supplied to the candidates in the examination hall.

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| Q.1(a) Consider loss of ethanol vapor by diffusion from a half-filled open test tube. At what point in the diffusion path will the contribution of bulk flow term to the molar flux will be maximum? | [2] | 1 | 2 |
| Q.1(b) Water is evaporating from the placid surface of a lake and the vapor (A) diffuses through a stagnant film of air (B) of estimated thickness 3 mm. The water temperature is 25°C and the air temperature is 27°C. The relative humidity of air is 65 %. If the diffusivity of water vapor through air is 0.257 cm ² /s at 25 °C and 0.262 cm ² /s at 27°C. Calculate the rate of evaporation in kg/m ² s. The saturation vapor pressure of water at 25 °C and 27 °C are 3.169 kPa and 3.57 kPa, respectively. | [4] | 1 | 3 |
| Q.1(c) The solute A diffuses through the liquid B from point 1 to 2, distance <i>l</i> apart. The concentration of the solute at the two points are <i>C</i> _{A1} and <i>C</i> _{A2} respectively. Determine the diffusional flux if the diffusivity of A in B depends upon its concentration in the form <i>D</i> _{AB} = <i>K</i> ₁ + <i>K</i> ₂ <i>C</i> _A . Consider both the cases of diffusion of (a) A through non-diffusing B and (b) equimolar counter diffusion of A and B. | [4] | 1 | 3 |
| Q.2(a) Establish the relation between the mass transfer coefficients <i>k</i> _v and <i>k</i> ' _v ? | [3] | 2 | 2 |
| Q.2(b) Air bubbles of 0.005 m diameter rise through an otherwise stagnant pool of “oxygen-free” water at 30 °C. The steady velocity of rise is 0.1m/s. If the diffusivity of O ₂ in water at 25 °C is 2.1×10 ⁻⁹ m ² /s, calculate the liquid side coefficient and the rate of mass transfer from a single bubble. The solubility of O ₂ in water at 30°C can be calculated using Henry Law coefficient as 4.75×10 ⁴ atm/mol fraction. The viscosities of water are 0.911 cP and 0.817 cP at 25°C and 30°C respectively. The Sherwood number for a sphere at high Reynolds number is given by:
$Sh = 2 + 0.6Re^{1/2}Sc^{1/3}$ | [7] | 2 | 3 |
| Q.3(a) In the design of a packed absorption tower, how do HTU and NTU influence the overall height of the tower, and what does it imply about the system’s mass transfer efficiency if a system has a high NTU but a low HTU? | [3] | 3 | 2 |
| Q.3(b) Acetone from a mixture with air containing 2 mol % acetone is absorbed counter-currently in water in a plate tower containing 4 theoretical stages. The inlet gas rate is 40 Kmol/h and acetone free water is supplied to the column at a rate of 110 Kmol/h. The equilibrium relation is <i>y</i> = 2.5 <i>x</i> . Determine the concentration of the solute in the exit liquid analytically as well as graphically. | [7] | 3 | 3 |
| Q.4(a) Describe the formation of minimum and maximum boiling azeotropes with relevant diagrams and real-world examples. | [4] | 4 | 2 |
| Q.4(b) A continuous rectification column with a reboiler and a total condenser is to be designed to separate a solution of n-heptane and octane having 70 mol% n-heptane. The overhead and bottom products should contain 95 mol% and 5 mol% n-heptane, respectively. The feed will be liquid at its boiling point and the reflux ratio will be 1.80 times the minimum reflux. The column is to operate at a pressure of 101.33 kN/m ² . Assuming the overall plate efficiency to be 70%, determine the number of plates to be provided in the column.
Equilibrium data for the system are as under: | [6] | 4 | 3 |

x	0	0.13	0.22	0.32	0.46	0.57	0.69	0.82	0.92	1.0
y*	0	0.24	0.37	0.50	0.65	0.74	0.83	0.91	0.96	1.0

where *x* and *y** are mole fractions of n-heptane in liquid and vapour, respectively.

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- Q.5(a) What are the key components in multicomponent distillation? Describe with example. [2] 5 2
- Q.5(b) A feed 100 kmol/h of saturated liquid containing 10 mole % LNK, 55 mole % LK, and 35 mole % HK and is to be separated in a distillation column. The reflux ratio is 1.2 the minimum. It is desired to have 99.5 % recovery of the light key in the distillate. The mole fraction of the light key in the distillate should be 0.75. Equilibrium data: $\alpha_{LNK} = 4.0$, $\alpha_{LK} = 1.0$, $\alpha_{HK} = 0.75$. Find (i) (ii) (iii) (iv) Minimum number of stages required by Fenske method Minimum reflux ratio by Underwood method Number of ideal stages at $R = 1.2 R_{min}$ by Gilliland method Also find the number of ideal stages at rectifying section and the stripping section at the operating reflux ratio and location of feed stage.

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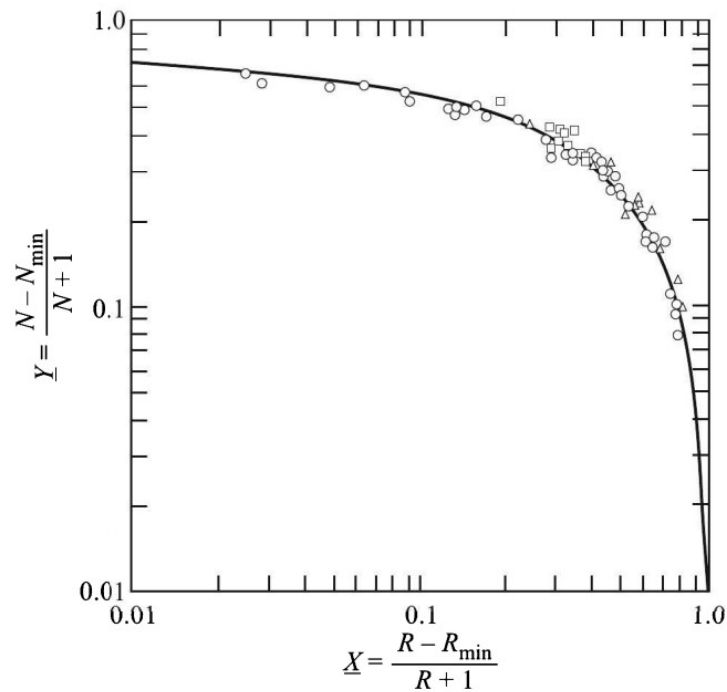


Fig 1: Graph used in Gilliland correlation for total no. of ideal stages