

LIQUID-LIQUID EXTRACTION

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PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- Description of liquid-liquid extraction
- Basic mass and energy balance equations
- Basic design and operating principles
- Uses of liquid-liquid extraction
- Limitations of liquid-liquid extraction
- Applications of liquid-liquid extraction in industries
- Differences with other unit operations

PROCESS DESCRIPTION

- Extraction is a process where one or more solute(s) are removed from one liquid phase (diluent) by transferring that/those the solute(s) to another liquid phase (or a solvent)
- Accordingly, extraction is suitable for separating materials that may decompose or denature at elevated temperature
- Normally, the diluent + the remaining solute is called the raffinate phase, while the second solvent
 + the solute is called the extract phase
- Frequently, one of the solvents is water or an aqueous mixture and the other is a nonpolar organic liquid

PROCESS DESCRIPTION (CONT'D)



Prodpran.Che.Engr.Tu.Ac.Th. 2021. [Online] available at:

http://prodpran.Che.Engr.Tu.Ac.Th/AE335/09%20liquid-liquid%20extraction.Pdf [accessed 1 april 2021].



WHEN IS IT USED?

An alternative to distillation:

- Where the components in the feed have close boiling points.
- Extraction in a suitable solvent may be more economic if the relative volatility is below 1.2.
- If the feed components form an azeotrope.
- If the solute is heat sensitive, and can be extracted in to a lower boiling solvent, to reduce the heat history during recovery

CHOOSING A SUITABLE SOLVENT

- Affinity for solute
- Density: the greater the density difference between the feed and extraction solvents, the easier it will be to separate the solvents.
- Miscibility
- Safety
- Cost



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BASIC DESIGN OF AN EXTRACTOR

- The number of stages required
- Column height
- Relative density of the solvents to be used
- Operating conditions
- Feed, solvent & raffinate compositions
- Distribution coefficient

LOCATING THE OPERATING POINT (HUNTER NASH'S APPROACH)





Google docs. 2021. Coulson richardson s chemical engineering. Vol. 6 chemical engineering design 4th ed.Pdf. [Online] available at: https://drive.Google.Com/file/d/0b2xntfjlgslwqxlmawvrtmxzyve/view [accessed 30 march 2021].

USES OF LIQUID-LIQUID EXTRACTION

- Extraction of valuable products from fermentation broth
- Removal of high boiling organics from waste water such as phenol, aniline, etc.
- Purification of heat sensitive materials such as pharmaceuticals, flavor, fragrances
- Recovery of products from reactions such as agricultural chemicals.

MOST COMMON INDUSTRIAL APPLICATIONS OF LLE

- Chemical industries: recovery of products from reactions, recovery of high boiling organics from wastewater, washing of acids/ bases from organic streams.
- Pharmaceuticals- separation of penicillin from fermentation liquors.
- Waste water treatment
- Petroleum refining- separating high purity products such as toluene, olefins.
- Food processing-refining of vegetable oils.

LESS COMMON INDUSTRIAL APPLICATION LIQUID-LIQUID EXTRACTION

- Purification of base metals
- Refining of precious metals
- Ore extraction





- It involves a great deal of time with laborious shaking
- Can result in formation of emulsions that are hard to break
- Consumes large amount of organic solvent
- Glassware must be cleaned after each use
- Generates considerable wastes
- Low selectivity
- Need to use high volumes of solvent which can lead to environmental pollution

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN LIQUID-LIQUID EXTRACTION (LLE) AND DISTILLATION

- LLE uses differences in solubilities of solutes in two solvents while distillation uses differences of boiling points of components in a mixture
- LLE uses selective solubility as a degree of separation while distillation uses relative volatility as a degree of separation
- LLE doesn't produce pure products while distillation produces almost pure products
- LLE uses a separating funnel while a distillation apparatus is used for distillation
- No new phases created during LLE while new phases are created by addition of heat during distillation
- LLE doesn't require heating and cooling provisions while distillation does



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