The Equation of Species Mass Balance in Terms of Combined

Molar quantities in Cartesian, cylindrical, and spherical coordinates for binary mixtures of A and B.

The general case, where the combined molar flux with respect to molar velocity (\underline{N}_A) , is given on page 1.

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Microscopic species mass balance, in terms of molar flux; Gibbs notation

$$\frac{\partial c_A}{\partial t} = -\nabla \cdot \underline{N}_A + R_A$$
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Microscopic species mass balance, in terms of combined molar flux; Cartesian coordinates

$$\frac{\partial c_A}{\partial t} = -\left(\frac{\partial N_{A,x}}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial N_{A,y}}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial N_{A,z}}{\partial z}\right) + R_A$$

Microscopic species mass balance, in terms of combined molar flux; cylindrical coordinates

$$\frac{\partial c_A}{\partial t} = -\left(\frac{1}{r}\frac{\partial (rN_{A,r})}{\partial r} + \frac{1}{r}\frac{\partial N_{A,\theta}}{\partial \theta} + \frac{\partial N_{A,z}}{\partial z}\right) + R_A$$

Microscopic species mass balance, in terms of combined molar flux; spherical coordinates

$$\frac{\partial c_A}{\partial t} = -\left(\frac{1}{r^2}\frac{\partial (r^2 N_{A,r})}{\partial r} + \frac{1}{r\sin\theta}\frac{\partial (N_{A,\theta}\sin\theta)}{\partial \theta} + \frac{1}{r\sin\theta}\frac{\partial N_{A,\phi}}{\partial \phi}\right) + R_A$$

Fick's law of diffusion, Gibbs notation: $\underline{N}_A = x_A(\underline{N}_A + \underline{N}_B) - cD_{AB}\nabla x_A$

$$= c_A \underline{v}^* - cD_{AB} \nabla x_A$$

Fick's law of diffusion, Cartesian coordinates:
$$\binom{N_{A,x}}{N_{A,z}}_{xyz} = \begin{pmatrix} x_A (N_{A,x} + N_{B,x}) - cD_{AB} \frac{\partial x_A}{\partial x} \\ x_A (N_{A,y} + N_{B,y}) - cD_{AB} \frac{\partial x_A}{\partial y} \\ x_A (N_{A,z} + N_{B,z}) - cD_{AB} \frac{\partial x_A}{\partial z} \end{pmatrix}_{xyz}$$

Fick's law of diffusion, cylindrical coordinates:
$$\begin{pmatrix} N_{A,r} \\ N_{A,B} \\ N_{A,Z} \end{pmatrix}_{r\theta z} = \begin{pmatrix} x_A \big(N_{A,r} + N_{B,r} \big) - c D_{AB} \frac{\partial x_A}{\partial r} \\ x_A \big(N_{A,\theta} + N_{B,\theta} \big) - \frac{c D_{AB}}{r} \frac{\partial x_A}{\partial \theta} \\ x_A \big(N_{A,z} + N_{B,z} \big) - c D_{AB} \frac{\partial x_A}{\partial z} \end{pmatrix}_{r\theta z}$$

Fick's law of diffusion, spherical coordinates:
$$\begin{pmatrix} N_{A,r} \\ N_{A,\theta} \\ N_{A,\phi} \end{pmatrix}_{r\theta\phi} = \begin{pmatrix} x_A \big(N_{A,r} + N_{B,r} \big) - c D_{AB} \frac{\partial x_A}{\partial r} \\ x_A \big(N_{A,\theta} + N_{B,\theta} \big) - \frac{c D_{AB}}{r} \frac{\partial x_A}{\partial \theta} \\ x_A \big(N_{A,\phi} + N_{B,\phi} \big) - \frac{c D_{AB}}{r} \frac{\partial x_A}{\partial \phi} \end{pmatrix}_{r\theta\phi}$$

NOTES:

- If component A has no sink, $\underline{N}_A = 0$.
- If A diffuses through stagnant B, $\underline{N}_B = 0$.
- If a binary mixture of A and B are undergoing steady equimolar counterdiffusion, $\underline{N}_A = -\underline{N}_B$.
- If, for example, two moles of A diffuse to a surface at which a rapid, irreversible reaction coverts it to one mole of B, then at steady state $-0.5\underline{N}_A = \underline{N}_B$.

$$cx_A = c_A = \frac{1}{M_A}(\rho_A) = \frac{1}{M_A}(\rho\omega_A) \qquad \qquad \left(\text{units: } c[=] \frac{mol \ mix}{vol \ soln}; \rho[=] \frac{mass \ mix}{vol \ soln}; c_A[=] \frac{mol \ A}{vol \ soln}; \rho_A[=] \frac{mass \ A}{vol \ soln}\right)$$

 $\underline{J}_A^* \equiv \text{molar flux relative to a mixture's molar average velocity, } \underline{v}^* \qquad \left(\text{units: } \underline{J}_A^*[=] \frac{mole \ A}{area \cdot time}\right)$

$$= c_A(\underline{v}_A - \underline{v}^*)$$

$$\underline{J}_A^* + \underline{J}_B^* = 0$$

 $\underline{N}_A \equiv c_A \underline{v}_A = J_A^* + c_A \underline{v}^* = \text{combined molar flux relative to stationary coordinates}$

$$\underline{N}_A + \underline{N}_B = c\underline{v}^*$$

 $\underline{v}_A \equiv \text{ velocity of species } A \text{ in a mixture, i.e. average velocity of all molecules of species } A \text{ within a small volume}$

$$\underline{v}^* = x_A \underline{v}_A + x_B \underline{v}_B \equiv \text{ molar average velocity}$$

Reference: R. B. Bird, W. E. Stewart, and E. N. Lightfoot, *Transport Phenomena*, 2nd edition, Wiley, 2002. (p. 515, 584)