

Important Formulas in Distillation Mass Transfer Operation PDF



**Formulas
Examples
with Units**

List of 20 Important Formulas in Distillation Mass Transfer Operation

1) Boil-Up Ratio Formula

Formula

$$R_v = \frac{V}{W}$$

Example with Units

$$1.8667 = \frac{11.2 \text{ mol/s}}{6 \text{ mol/s}}$$

Evaluate Formula

2) Equilibrium Vaporization Ratio for Less Volatile Component Formula

Formula

$$K_{LVC} = \frac{y_{LVC}}{x_{LVC}}$$

Example

$$0.192 = \frac{0.12}{0.625}$$

Evaluate Formula

3) Equilibrium Vaporization Ratio for More Volatile Component Formula

Formula

$$K_{MVC} = \frac{y_{MVC}}{x_{MVC}}$$

Example

$$1.9733 = \frac{0.74}{0.375}$$

Evaluate Formula

4) External Reflux Ratio Formula

Formula

$$R = \frac{L_0}{D}$$

Example with Units

$$1.5476 = \frac{6.5 \text{ mol/s}}{4.2 \text{ mol/s}}$$

Evaluate Formula

5) Feed Q-Value in Distillation Column Formula

Formula

$$q = \frac{H_{v-f}}{\lambda}$$

Example with Units

$$0.6061 = \frac{1000 \text{ J/mol}}{1650 \text{ J/mol}}$$

Evaluate Formula

6) Internal Reflux Ratio Formula

Formula

$$R_{\text{Internal}} = \frac{L}{D}$$

Example with Units

$$2.5 = \frac{10.5 \text{ mol/s}}{4.2 \text{ mol/s}}$$

Evaluate Formula



7) Minimum Number of Distillation Stages by Fenske's Equation Formula

Formula

$$N_m = \left(\frac{\log_{10} \left(\frac{x_D \cdot (1 - x_W)}{x_W \cdot (1 - x_D)} \right)}{\log_{10} (\alpha_{avg})} \right) - 1$$

Example

$$2.0266 = \left(\frac{\log_{10} \left(\frac{0.9 \cdot (1 - 0.2103)}{0.2103 \cdot (1 - 0.9)} \right)}{\log_{10} (3.2)} \right) - 1$$

Evaluate Formula 

8) Mole Fraction of MVC in Feed from Overall and Component Material Balance in Distillation Formula

Formula

$$x_F = \frac{D \cdot x_D + W \cdot x_W}{D + W}$$

Example with Units

$$0.4943 = \frac{4.2 \text{ mol/s} \cdot 0.9 + 6 \text{ mol/s} \cdot 0.2103}{4.2 \text{ mol/s} + 6 \text{ mol/s}}$$

Evaluate Formula 

9) Moles of Volatile component Volatilized by Steam with Trace amounts of Non-Volatiles Formula

Formula

$$m_A = m_S \cdot \left(\frac{E \cdot P_{\text{vapor}_{vc}}}{P - (E \cdot P_{\text{vapor}_{vc}})} \right)$$

Example with Units

$$1.1613 \text{ mol} = 4 \text{ mol} \cdot \left(\frac{0.75 \cdot 30000 \text{ Pa}}{100000 \text{ Pa} - (0.75 \cdot 30000 \text{ Pa})} \right)$$

Evaluate Formula 

10) Moles of Volatile component Volatilized by Steam with Trace amounts of Non-Volatiles at Equilibrium Formula

Formula

$$m_A = m_S \cdot \left(\frac{P_{\text{vapor}_{vc}}}{P - P_{\text{vapor}_{vc}}} \right)$$

Example with Units

$$1.7143 \text{ mol} = 4 \text{ mol} \cdot \left(\frac{30000 \text{ Pa}}{100000 \text{ Pa} - 30000 \text{ Pa}} \right)$$

Evaluate Formula 

11) Moles of Volatile component Volatilized from mixture of Non-Volatiles by Steam Formula

Formula

$$m_A = m_S \cdot \left(\frac{E \cdot x_A \cdot P_{\text{vapor}_{vc}}}{P - E \cdot x_A \cdot P_{\text{vapor}_{vc}}} \right)$$

Example with Units

$$0.878 \text{ mol} = 4 \text{ mol} \cdot \left(\frac{0.75 \cdot 0.8 \cdot 30000 \text{ Pa}}{100000 \text{ Pa} - 0.75 \cdot 0.8 \cdot 30000 \text{ Pa}} \right)$$

Evaluate Formula 

12) Moles of Volatile component Volatilized from mixture of Non-Volatiles by Steam at Equilibrium Formula

Formula

$$m_A = m_S \cdot \left(x_A \cdot \frac{P_{\text{vapor}_{vc}}}{P - x_A \cdot P_{\text{vapor}_{vc}}} \right)$$

Example with Units

$$1.2632 \text{ mol} = 4 \text{ mol} \cdot \left(0.8 \cdot \frac{30000 \text{ Pa}}{100000 \text{ Pa} - 0.8 \cdot 30000 \text{ Pa}} \right)$$

Evaluate Formula 



13) Murphree Efficiency of Distillation Column Based on Vapour Phase Formula

Formula

$$E_{\text{Murphree}} = \left(\frac{y_n - y_{n+1}}{y_n^* - y_{n+1}} \right) \cdot 100$$

Example

$$53.5 = \left(\frac{0.557 - 0.45}{0.65 - 0.45} \right) \cdot 100$$

Evaluate Formula 

14) Overall Efficiency of Distillation Column Formula

Formula

$$E_{\text{overall}} = \left(\frac{N_{\text{th}}}{N_{\text{ac}}} \right) \cdot 100$$

Example

$$37.7358 = \left(\frac{20}{53} \right) \cdot 100$$

Evaluate Formula 

15) Relative Volatility using Equilibrium Vaporization Ratio Formula

Formula

$$\alpha = \frac{K_{\text{MVC}}}{K_{\text{LYC}}}$$

Example

$$7.4333 = \frac{2.23}{0.3}$$

Evaluate Formula 

16) Relative Volatility using Mole Fraction Formula

Formula

$$\alpha = \frac{\frac{y_{\text{Gas}}}{1 - y_{\text{Gas}}}}{\frac{x_{\text{Liquid}}}{1 - x_{\text{Liquid}}}}$$

Example

$$0.4118 = \frac{\frac{0.3}{1 - 0.3}}{\frac{0.51}{1 - 0.51}}$$

Evaluate Formula 

17) Relative Volatility using Vapour Pressure Formula

Formula

$$\alpha = \frac{P_{\text{a}}^{\text{Sat}}}{P_{\text{b}}^{\text{Sat}}}$$

Example with Units

$$0.6667 = \frac{10 \text{ Pa}}{15 \text{ Pa}}$$

Evaluate Formula 

18) Total Feed Flowrate of Distillation Column from Overall Material Balance Formula

Formula

$$F = D + W$$

Example with Units

$$10.2 \text{ mol/s} = 4.2 \text{ mol/s} + 6 \text{ mol/s}$$

Evaluate Formula 

19) Total Pressure using Mole Fraction and Saturated Pressure Formula

Formula

$$P_{\text{T}} = (X \cdot P_{\text{MVC}}) + ((1 - X) \cdot P_{\text{LVC}})$$

Example with Units

$$153250 \text{ Pa} = (0.55 \cdot 250000 \text{ Pa}) + ((1 - 0.55) \cdot 35000 \text{ Pa})$$

Evaluate Formula 



20) Total Steam Required to Vaporize Volatile Component Formula

Formula

Evaluate Formula 

$$M_s = \left(\left(\left(\frac{P}{E \cdot P_{\text{vapor}_{\text{vc}}}} \right) - 1 \right) \cdot (m_{\text{Ai}} - m_{\text{Af}}) \right) + \left(\left(P \cdot \frac{m_c}{E \cdot P_{\text{vapor}_{\text{vc}}}} \right) \cdot \ln \left(\frac{m_{\text{Ai}}}{m_{\text{Af}}} \right) \right)$$

Example with Units

$$33.9858_{\text{mol}} = \left(\left(\left(\frac{100000_{\text{Pa}}}{0.75 \cdot 30000_{\text{Pa}}} \right) - 1 \right) \cdot (5.1_{\text{mol}} - 0.63_{\text{mol}}) \right) + \left(\left(100000_{\text{Pa}} \cdot \frac{2_{\text{mol}}}{0.75 \cdot 30000_{\text{Pa}}} \right) \cdot \ln \left(\frac{5.1_{\text{mol}}}{0.63_{\text{mol}}} \right) \right)$$



Variables used in list of Important Formulas in Distillation Mass Transfer Operation above

- **D** Distillate Flowrate from Distillation Column (*Mole per Second*)
- **D** Distillate Flowrate (*Mole per Second*)
- **E** Vaporizing Efficiency
- **E_{Murphree}** Murphree Efficiency of Distillation Column
- **E_{overall}** Overall Efficiency of Distillation Column
- **F** Feed Flowrate to Distillation Column (*Mole per Second*)
- **H_{v-f}** Heat Required to Convert Feed to Saturated Vapor (*Joule Per Mole*)
- **K_{LVC}** Equilibrium Vaporization Ratio of LVC
- **K_{MVC}** Equilibrium Vaporization Ratio of MVC
- **L** Internal Reflux Flowrate to Distillation Column (*Mole per Second*)
- **L₀** External Reflux Flowrate to Distillation Column (*Mole per Second*)
- **m_A** Moles of Volatile Component (*Mole*)
- **m_{Af}** Final Moles of Volatile Component (*Mole*)
- **m_{Ai}** Initial Moles of Volatile Component (*Mole*)
- **m_C** Moles of Non-Volatile Component (*Mole*)
- **m_S** Moles of Steam (*Mole*)
- **M_S** Total Steam Required to Vaporize Volatile Comp (*Mole*)
- **N_{ac}** Actual Number of Plates
- **N_m** Minimum Number of Stages
- **N_{th}** Ideal Number of Plates
- **P** Total Pressure of System (*Pascal*)
- **P_{LVC}** Partial Pressure of Less Volatile Component (*Pascal*)
- **P_{MVC}** Partial Pressure of More Volatile Component (*Pascal*)
- **P_T** Total Pressure of Gas (*Pascal*)
- **P_{a^{Sat}}** Saturated Vapour Pressure of More Volatile Comp (*Pascal*)

Constants, Functions, Measurements used in list of Important Formulas in Distillation Mass Transfer Operation above

- **Functions: In, ln(Number)**
The natural logarithm, also known as the logarithm to the base e, is the inverse function of the natural exponential function.
- **Functions: log₁₀, log₁₀(Number)**
The common logarithm, also known as the base-10 logarithm or the decimal logarithm, is a mathematical function that is the inverse of the exponential function.
- **Measurement: Amount of Substance** in Mole (mol)
Amount of Substance Unit Conversion ↻
- **Measurement: Pressure** in Pascal (Pa)
Pressure Unit Conversion ↻
- **Measurement: Molar Flow Rate** in Mole per Second (mol/s)
Molar Flow Rate Unit Conversion ↻
- **Measurement: Energy Per Mole** in Joule Per Mole (J/mol)
Energy Per Mole Unit Conversion ↻



- P_b^{Sat} Saturated Vapour Pressure of Less Volatile Comp (Pascal)
- $P_{\text{vapor}_{\text{VC}}}$ Vapor Pressure of Volatile Component (Pascal)
- q Q-value in Mass Transfer
- R External Reflux Ratio
- R_{Internal} Internal Reflux Ratio
- R_v Boil-Up Ratio
- V Boil-Up Flowrate to the Distillation Column (Mole per Second)
- W Residue Flowrate from Distillation Column (Mole per Second)
- X Mole Fraction of MVC in Liq Phase
- x_A Mole Fraction of Volatile Comp in Non-Volatiles
- x_D Mole Fraction of More Volatile Comp in Distillate
- x_F Mole Fraction of More Volatile Component in Feed
- x_{Liquid} Mole Fraction of Component in Liquid Phase
- x_{LVC} Mole Fraction of LVC in Liquid Phase
- x_{MVC} Mole Fraction of MVC in Liquid Phase
- x_W Mole Fraction of More Volatile Comp in Residue
- y_{Gas} Mole Fraction of Component in Vapor Phase
- y_{LVC} Mole Fraction of LVC in Vapor Phase
- y_{MVC} Mole Fraction of MVC in Vapor Phase
- y_n Average Mole Fraction of Vapour on Nth Plate
- y_{n+1} Average Mole Fraction of Vapour at N+1 Plate
- y_n^* Average Mole Fraction at Equilibrium on Nth Plate
- α Relative Volatility
- α_{avg} Average Relative Volatility
- λ Molal Latent Heat of Vaporization of Saturated Liq (Joule Per Mole)



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