

① Ideal Non-Isothermal PFRs

- Consider the general EBE

$$\frac{dE_{sys}}{dt} = \dot{Q} - \dot{W}_S + \sum_i F_i h_i, in - \sum_i F_i h_i, out$$

- In most instances \dot{W}_S term can be neglected. $h_{i,in}$ and $h_{i,out}$ are specific enthalpy [J/mol] at inlet and exit conditions resp.
- Also for SS op: $\frac{dE_{sys}}{dt} = 0$
- hence, the EBE for the entire reactor is given by: $\dot{Q} + \sum_i F_i h_{i,in} - \sum_i F_i h_{i,out} = 0$ ②
- however, F_i and h_i vary since comp. and T vary along the length of PFR as the rxn proceeds.

- general EBE on a ΔV element

- would be: $\Delta\dot{Q} + \left(\sum_i F_i h_i \right)_V - \left(\sum_i F_i h_i \right)_{V+\Delta V} = 0$ ③ $F_i, h_i, h_{i,in}, h_{i,out}, T_c$
- eq. ② in terms of specific enthalpy on a mass basis
- $\text{③} \Rightarrow \Delta\dot{Q} + \left(\sum_i m_i h'_i \right)_V - \left(\sum_i m_i h'_i \right)_{V+\Delta V} = 0$ ④ $(h'_i = [J/mol])$ $F_i \cong [mol/s], h_i = [J/mol]$
- let h' be the specific enthalpy of the reacting mixture (mass basis). and it is defined as: $h' = \frac{\sum m_i h'_i}{\sum m_i}$ ⑤
- ⑤ into ④ $\Rightarrow \Delta\dot{Q} + \left[\left(\sum_i m_i \right) h' \right]_V - \left[\left(\sum_i m_i \right) h' \right]_{V+\Delta V} = 0$ ⑥
- but $\sum_i m_i = m \cong$ total mass flow rate
- and m remains the same due to conservation of mass.
- hence, ⑥ $\Rightarrow \Delta\dot{Q} + m(h'|_V - h'|_{V+\Delta V}) = 0$ ⑦

- The $\Delta\dot{Q}$ Term

- let z be distance along the length of PFR
- $\Delta\dot{Q} = U_o(\Delta A)(T_a - T)$
- $\Delta A = \pi D \Delta z, \Delta V = \frac{\pi D^2}{4} \Delta z \Rightarrow \Delta z = \frac{4\Delta V}{\pi D^2}$
- $\Rightarrow \Delta\dot{Q} = \frac{4U_o}{D} \Delta V (T_a - T)$

- back to ⑦

- $\Rightarrow m(h'|_{V+\Delta V} - h'|_V) = \frac{4U_o}{D} \Delta V (T_a - T)$ ⑧
- taking the limit as $\Delta V \rightarrow 0$ $\Rightarrow m \frac{dh'}{dt} = \frac{4U_o}{D} (T_a - T)$ ⑨

- Specific Enthalpy

- Due to sensible heat: $m \frac{dh'}{\text{d}V} = m c_p' \frac{dT}{dV}$ c_p' is on a mass basis
- $\frac{kg}{s} \frac{J/kg}{m^3} \frac{kg}{s} \frac{J/kg \cdot K}{m^3} \frac{K}{m^3}$

Due to energy released or consumed in chemical rxn: $m \frac{dh'}{\text{d}V} = (\Delta H_{R,A})(-r_A)$

hence, eq. ⑨ becomes: $m c_p' \frac{dT}{dV} + (\Delta H_{R,A})(-r_A) = \frac{4U_o}{D} (T_a - T)$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{dT}{dV} = \frac{4U_o}{m c_p' D} (T_a - T) - \frac{(\Delta H_{R,A})(-r_A)}{m c_p'}$$
 ⑩

or if the heat capacities are expressed in a molar basis:

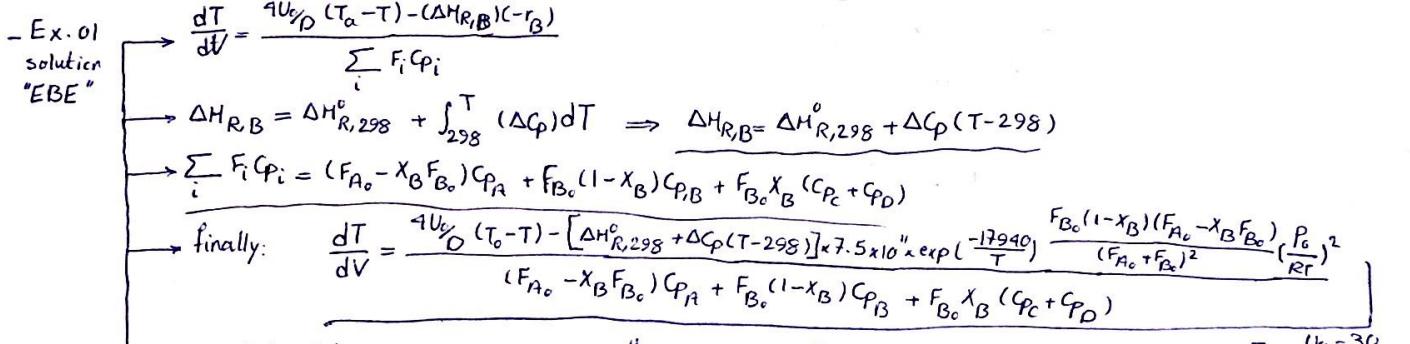
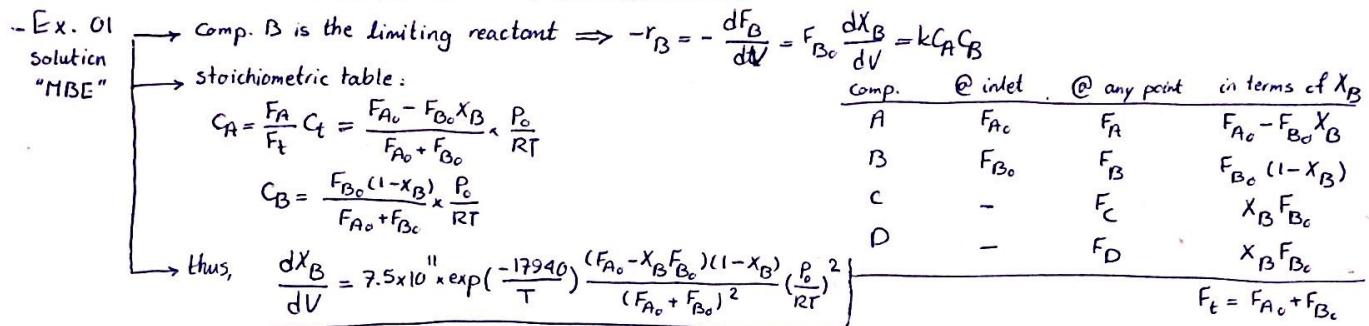
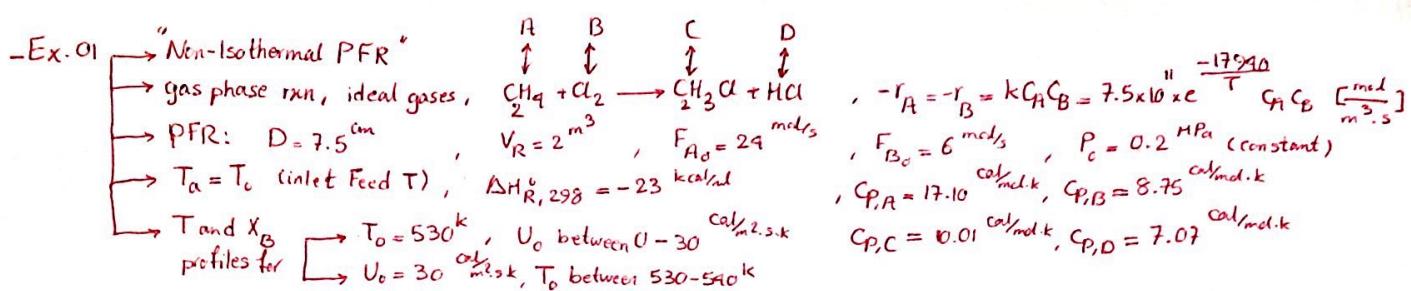
$$\frac{dT}{dV} = \frac{\frac{4U_o}{D} (T_a - T) - (\Delta H_{R,A})(-r_A)}{\sum_i F_i c_{p,i}}$$
 ⑪

- The comp. balance eq. for a PFR is given by: $\frac{dX_A}{dV} = \frac{1}{F_A c} (-r_A)$ ⑫

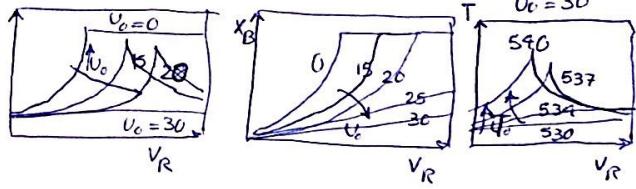
- To obtain T and X_A as a function of PFR volume, we must solve the above system of ODEs simultaneously.

- Note that

- $(-r_A)$ must be expressed in terms of X_A and T
- $c_{p,i}, \Delta H_{R,A} \sim \sim \sim$ as a function of T .
- F_i as functions of X_A



numerical solution using Runge-Kutta 4th order with T following initial conditions: @ $V_R = 0$; $T = T_c$, $X_B = 0$



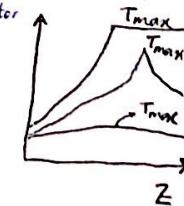
② Parametric Sensitivity of PFRs

In the previous example for a Non-Isothermal PFR we saw extreme responses in the T and Concentration profiles resulting from small changes in operating conditions. These types of extreme responses of a PFR occur for highly exothermic rxns when the reactor is operating under certain conditions. Such behavior is termed parametric sensitivity. Obviously, the most important problem associated with parametric sensitivity is to determine conditions under which this sensitivity is to be expected and what criteria may be established to ensure its absence. Such dramatic rise in T may → destroy catalyst which are T-sensitive. → causes fatigue in the reactor construction material. → lead to explosion.

Occurrence of "Hot-spots" in PFRs → "EBE" in a PFR: for a tubular PFR: $dV = \frac{\pi D^2}{4} dz$ ②, where z is the distance along the reactor. ② in ① $\Rightarrow \frac{dT}{dz} = \frac{\pi D U_0}{m C_p} (T_a - T) - \frac{(\Delta H_{R,A})(-r_A)}{m C_p} \left(\frac{\pi D^2}{4}\right)$ ③ → describes the variation in T along the length of the reactor. The "Hot-spot" T is defined as the max reactor T. T_{max} occurs when: $\frac{dT}{dz} = 0$ hence, at the hot-spot T, we have: $\frac{q U_0}{D} (T_a - T_{max}) = (\Delta H_{R,A})(-r_A)$ ④

$\frac{q U_0}{D} (T_a - T_{max})$ heat removed by heat transfer to surroundings at T_a

$(\Delta H_{R,A})(-r_A)$ heat generated by the rxn



⑥

- To establish some control over sensitivity
 - we can specify some allowable T_{max} and manipulate heat transfer coefficient U_0 and/or reactor wall T (T_a) such that at T_{max} : rate of generation of heat \leq rate of removal of heat ⑤
 - suppose at the hot-spot T, T_{max} , the reactor concentration is $C_{A,max}$.
 - we can rewrite eq. 5 as: $\frac{qU_0}{D} (T_a - T_{max}) = (\Delta H_{R,H}) [-r_A(T_{max}, C_{A,max})]$ ⑥ rxn rate @ T_{max} and corresponding to $C_{A,max}$
 - The problem is $C_{A,max}$ is not known apriori.
 - To obtain $C_{A,max}$ we must solve the ODEs of energy and material balance.
 - However, we can make a conservative estimate:
 - eq. 7 is true for powerlaw kinetics ($-r_A = kC_A^n$) $-r_A(T_{max}, C_{A,max}) < -r_A(T_{max}, C_{A_0})$ ⑦ \rightarrow reactor inlet concentration
 - ⑥, ⑦ $\Rightarrow \frac{qU_0}{D} (T_a - T_{max}) \leq (\Delta H_{R,A}) [-r_A(T_{max}, C_{A_0})]$ ⑧
 - hence, to avoid parametric sensitivity, we can specify T_{max} and manipulate U_0 and/or T_a such that the above inequality holds.
 - plot
 - Note that the two curves are obtained by specifying a T_{max} and evaluating $-r_A$.
 - $-r_A(T_{max}, C_{A_0})$ is known since we know C_{A_0} and specified T_{max} , but $-r_A(T_{max}, C_{A,max})$ is not known apriori.
 - The solid straight line's
 - intercept = T_a
 - slope = $\frac{qU_0}{D}$
 - and corresponds to the heat removal
 - $T_{max,2}$ is the design specified max T based on $-r_A(T_{max}, C_{A_0})$ curve.
 - the actual max T that will be obtained, however, is $T_{max,1}$.

