CO-ChemSep Nonequilibrium Modelling: the CAPE-OPEN Way

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What is ChemSep?

- Just another distillation column simulator.
- Features the original nonequilibrium column model.
- Widely used in academia.
- Few commercial users
 - despite considerable interest.



Nonequilibrium Stage Model



Nonequilibrium Stage Model

Nearly everybody has one! Aspen Tech Simulation Sciences ESSCOR Chemstations PSE and many more...

All inspired by the model in ChemSep!

Model Issues:

- 1. Mass transfer coefficients and interfacial areas
 - (48 models in ChemSep)
- 2. Hold up and pressure drop (24 models in ChemSep)
- 3. Flow models

Flow Modeling is Critical!

- Mixed flow
- Plug flow
- Dispersion flow



CO ChemSep: Why?

- Little commercial use
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 - (because it did not function with flowsheet simulators).

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 CAPE-OPEN provides a way to make ChemSep function with any CO process simulator.

ChemSep Architecture



CO ChemSep Architecture: Phase I



CO ChemSep Architecture: Phase I



CO ChemSep Architecture: Phase II



Two more concerns:

Equipment design
 Physical Properties

Equipment Design

- Bubble cap trays
- Sieve trays
- Valve trays
- Random packings
- Structured packings
- Rotating disc contactors
- and more
- design mode: computer
 simulation: own input!



Model requirements: Properties



Activity Coefficients Vapor pressures Fugacity coefficients

Heat capacities

K-values Enthalpies



Densities Viscosities Surface tension Thermal conductivities Diffusion Coefficients

Interfacial areas Mass transfer coefficients Heat transfer coefficients









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CO ChemSep: Issues

- Using CAPE-OPEN thermo greatly increases run time.
- Most simulation packages do not provide binary Maxwell-Stefan diffusion coefficients.
- SMILES and UNIFAC structures should be CO property constants.

What is ChemSep Now?

- More than just a distillation column simulator.
- Features the original nonequilibrium column model.
- Functions with your favorite process flowsheet simulator
 - as long as it is CAPE-OPEN compliant.
- Tested with Aspen Plus, HYSYS, COCO(?).





What's next for CO ChemSep?

- Three-phase nonequilibrium model
- Flow models
- Reactive distillation

