

Effect of surfactants on homogeneous regime stability in bubble columns

Mena¹, P., Ruzicka², M., Drahoš², J., Teixeira³, J., Rocha, F.¹

¹ Faculty of Engineering, University of Porto, 4200-465 Porto, Portugal

² Institute of Chemical Process Fundamentals, Czech Academy of Sciences, Rozvojova 135, 16502 Prague, Czech Republic (ruzicka@icpf.cas.cz)

³ Center of Biological Engineering, University of Minho, Braga, Portugal

Bubble column contactors are widely used in many technologies of chemical and food industry, biotechnology, and environmental areas. The key operational parameters depend strongly on the flow regime inside the apparatus. There are two basic flow regimes in bubble columns: homogeneous and heterogeneous. One regime can change for the other at critical parameter values. This study concerns the effect of the presence of an ionic agent (inorganic salt) in the liquid phase viscosity on the stability of the homogeneous regime. Experiments were performed in cylindrical bubble columns and the critical values of the gas flow rate were determined. An ambiguous effect of the salt concentration on the stability was indicated.

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