

Lecture 3  
Dynamic Modeling  
Part II: Writing Balances for  
Lumped and Distributed Parameter  
Systems

CHE4400

Professor Jay H. Lee  
Georgia Inst. Technology

# Lumped Parameter System

- Spatial dependence of variables is ignored.
  - Well-mixed system.
  - Systems with insignificant temperature or concentration gradient.
  - Variables are functions of time only, not spatial position.
  - Ordinary differential equation model.
- Examples
  - Mixer, CSTR
  - Tray of a distillation column
  - Steel ball for which heat conduction within is much faster than heat transfer to the surrounding.

# Systematic Procedure

- Draw the control volume. Inside C.V., all intrinsic properties modeled should be assumed same.
- Identify which balances are needed.
  - Changing volume, height  $\Rightarrow$  Total mass balance
  - Changing concentration  $\Rightarrow$  Component molar or mass balance.
  - Changing temperature  $\Rightarrow$  Energy balance
- Write down **mathematical expression for each term** appearing in the conservation equation – one by one.
- Put them together into equation.
- Use the chain rule, etc. to simplify.

# Examples

- To become good at it, you must try many different problems.  $\Rightarrow$  Do the Extra Credit HW.
- Several additional examples are posted as notes.

## 1. Continuous Stirred Tank w/ Heater

- Coupled mass and energy balance
- Rate of heat release into the tank is chosen as independent variable (I.V.).

## 2. Electrically Heated Stirred Tank

- Rate of energy addition to the heating coil is chosen as I.V.
- Another energy balance is needed to model the dynamics of the coil temperature.

## 3. Steam Heated Stirred Tank

- Temperature difference between steam and heating coil is what drives the heat transfer.
- “Quasi-steady-state” assumption for the coil temperature.

# Examples

- In the notes....(continued)

## **4. Nonisothermal Batch Reactor**

- **Component molar balances  $\Rightarrow$  concentrations**
- **Energy balance  $\Rightarrow$  temperature**
- **Isothermal assumption – energy balance not needed.**

## 5. Nonisothermal CSTR

- Total mass balance  $\Rightarrow$  height (volume)
- Component molar balances  $\Rightarrow$  concentrations
- Energy balance  $\Rightarrow$  temperature

# Examples

- In the notes....(continued)
  6. Single component vaporizer
    - Liquid phase mass balance  $\Rightarrow$  liquid volume
    - Vapor phase mass balance  $\Rightarrow$  vapor-phase pressure
    - Liquid phase energy balance  $\Rightarrow$  liquid temperature
    - Vapor phase energy balance  $\Rightarrow$  vapor temperature
  7. Single component vaporizer (Simplified)
    - Assume thermal equilibrium: No vapor-phase energy balance.
    - Assume VL equilibrium  $\Rightarrow$  vapor-pressure calculation (e.g., Antoine equation): No vapor-phase mass balance needed.

# Examples

- In the notes....(continued)

## 8. Binary Distillation Column

- Tray-by-tray (including condenser and reboiler) total mass and component mass balances
- Assume vapor-liquid equilibrium (vapor phase mole fraction and liquid phase mole fraction are related).
- Constant molar overflow (no energy balance needed).
- Assume some liquid flow equation (Francis-Weir formula)

## 9. Staged Binary Absorber

- Similar as distillation column if you assume trays are well-mixed for vapor-liquid equilibrium.

# Distributed Parameter System

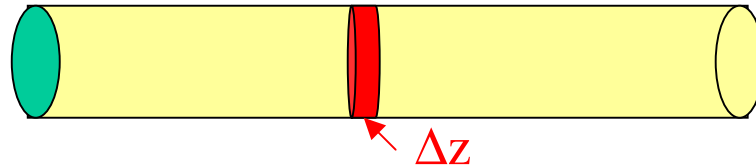
- Variables have spatial dependence
  - Instead of  $y(t)$ , you have  $y(t,z)$  [1-dimension]  $y(t,r,z)$  [2-dimension] , or  $y(t,z,r,\theta)$  [3-dimension].
- Type of equation
  - Lumped parameter system  $\Rightarrow$  ODEs
  - Distributed parameter system  $\Rightarrow$  PDEs
- Example
  - Counter-current heat exchanger
  - Plug-flow reactor or packed-tube reactor
  - Heat conduction through a plate
  - Almost all systems show some spatial variations (e.g., due to imperfect mixing) but many systems can be treated as lumped parameter system.

# Procedure for Obtaining PDEs

1. Determine the spatial dimension along which the variation is significant.
  - PFR- axial direction
  - Packed tube reactor with significant radial dispersion – axial and radial direction
  - Counter-current heat exchanger – axial direction
  - Heat conduction through a plate – x,y direction
  - Heat conduction through a sphere – radial direction
  - Continuous absorber – axial direction

# Procedure for Obtaining PDEs

2. Choose a differential volume with respect to the selected spatial direction.



3. Develop a lumped parameter system model for the differential volume.
4. Draw spatial derivative terms by letting  $\Delta z \rightarrow 0$ .

$$\lim_{\Delta z \rightarrow 0} \frac{T(t, z + \Delta z) - T(t, z)}{\Delta z} = \frac{\partial T}{\partial z}(t)$$

5. Write down appropriate boundary conditions.

# Examples in the Supplementary Notes

- **Double Pipe Steam Heat Exchanger**
  - Axial variation on the tube side
  - Lumped parameter approximation in the shell side (steam side)
- Plug Flow Reactor (Packed Tube Reactor)
  - Axial variation only
  - Ignore the radial dispersion  $D_p \frac{\partial^2 C_A}{\partial r^2}(t)$

# Solutions

- PDEs  $\xrightarrow{\text{“Discretization”}}$  a large set of ODEs
- The large set of ODEs can be analyzed and simulated (integrated numerically) as before (using methods like Euler, RK, Gear).
- Discretization:
  - **Finite difference method:** After establishing a grid, use

$$\frac{\partial T}{\partial z} \text{ at } z = z_i \approx \frac{T(z_{i+1}, t) - T(z_i, t)}{z_{i+1} - z_i} \text{ (forward difference)}$$

to write down the equation for each grid point.

- Finite element method

$$T(z, t) = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i(t) \phi_i(z), \quad \phi_i(z) : \text{polynomials of } z \Rightarrow \frac{\partial T}{\partial z} = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i(t) \frac{d\phi_i}{dz}$$

- See the notes for details.