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Commentary

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Effect of Operating Pressure on Design of Extractive Distillation Process Separating DMC-MeOH Azeotropic Mixture

Devrim B Kaymak

Department of Chemical Engineering, Istanbul Technical University, Maslak, Istanbul, Turkey

***Corresponding Author:** Dr. Devrim B Kaymak, Department of Chemical Engineering, Istanbul TechnicalUniversity, Maslak, Istanbul, Turkey, E-mail: devrim.kaymak@itu.edu.tr

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Introduction

Although dimethyl carbonate is defined as a green chemical, separation of dimethyl carbonate-methanol azeotropic admixture is an important issue for numerous dimethyl carbonate product processes. Extractive distillation process is considered as a favorable system for separating this admixture, but the recovery of entrainer still results in a significant loss of capital and operating costs. On the other hand, operating pressure is an important design variable for distillation columns since it has an important impact on column temperature and phase equilibrium. In this work, the effect of operating pressure is delved for an extractive distillation process separating the dimethyl carbonate-methanol admixture using methyl isobutyl ketone as entrainer. It's observed that the increase in the operating pressure of extractive distillation column significantly decreases the quantum of needed entrainer flowrate. As the result, a process with an extractive distillation column operating at 10 bar reduces total periodic cost and carbon dioxide emigrations by 34.1 and 29.8, independently compared to the conventional process with an extractive distillation column operating at atmospheric pressure.

Dimethyl Carbonate (DMC) stands out as an environmentally friendly “green” chemical because it has low ecotoxicity and it biodegradable. It has come more important agent in chemical diligence in recent times. DMC is preferred over Methyl Tert-Butyl Ether (MTBE) as a gasoline cumulative because it has 3 times advanced oxygen content than MTBE. It's also extensively used as a cover rather of dimethyl sulfate and phosphate in methylation and carbonylation responses. Also, DMC can be used as detergent fornon-aqueous electrolytes for lithium rechargeable batteries. There are several styles in the literature to produce DMC. The well-known conventional styles include the product of DMC by phosgenation of methanol, oxy-carbonylation of methanol and methyl nitrile process. Still, product by phosgene and methyl nitrile routes has difficulties due to the poisonous nature of phosgene and nitric oxide, independently. On the other hand, there are several CO_2- grounded processes defined as new product styles. This type of styles includes the product of DMC by direct conflation with methanol, alcoholysis of urea, and transesterification of Propylene Carbonate (PC) or Ethylene Carbonate (EC) with methanol.

One of the most favored styles in the assiduity is the oxy-carbonylation process, which has been certified by BAYER for marketable product of DMC. Still, because of the inordinate use of methanol as a reactant, the final product DMC forms a double azeotrope with the redundant methanol which isn't possible to separate using conventional distillation columns. Popular CO2- grounded styles similar as DMC product by circular alcoholysis of urea and transesterification of methanol with ethylene carbonate suffer also from the same problem. A review has been done on Ta and Nb recuperation by a fluid extraction process utilizing 4-methylacetophenone (4-MAcPh) as the natural stage. The 4-MAcPh was contrasted with methyl isobutyl ketone (MIBK) concerning extraction efficiencies (D qualities) at various centralizations of H2SO4 in the watery stage. The outcomes showed a comparative extraction of Nb for the two solvents. Nonetheless, for Ta, extraction productivity is expanded by a variable of 1.3 for 4-MAcPh. What's more, the MIBK solubilized totally after 6 mol·L−1 of H2SO4 against just a deficiency of 0.14-4% for 4-MAcPh somewhere in the range of 6 and 9 mol·L−1 of H2SO4. The capability of 4-MAcPh has additionally been contemplated to specifically recuperate Ta from a model capacitor squander arrangement. The outcomes showed selectivity for Ta within the sight of contaminations like Ag, Fe, Ni and Mn. The 4-MAcPh likewise presents the benefit of having physicochemical properties adjusted to its utilization in fluid extraction advancements, for example, blender pilgrims.

To separate DMC-MeOH azeotropic admixture, several ways have been studied in the literature similar as membrane separation, extractive distillation, and pressure swing distillation. Among them, the extractive distillation is considered as one of the most promising styles. In a study comparing the performance of extractive distillation and pressure swing distillation styles. Plant that the extractive distillation system consumes 71 lower energy than the pressure swing distillation system for DMC-MeOH separation. In extractive distillation, separation is carried out using an entrainer which is the heaviest element in the ternary admixture, and it doesn't form an azeotrope with any of the azeotropic factors. Several entrainers have been suggested in the literature for the separation of DMC-methanol azeotropic admixture using extractive distillation system. Some of the suggested entrainers are aniline phenol, methyl salicylate dimethyl oxalate, 1-butyl-3-methy-limidazolium dibutylphosphate and methyl isobutyl ketone.

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