CH2351 Chemical Engineering Thermodynamics II Unit – I, II

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Phase Equilibria

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Contents

Criteria for vapor-liquid equilibrium between phases in multi component non-reacting systems in terms of chemical potential and fugacity, estimation of fugacity of liquid, Raoult's law, constant temperature and constant pressure VLE (Pxy, Txy diagrams), effect of temperature and pressure on VLE, P-T diagram, deviations from ideality – positive and negative deviations, models for activity coefficient, azeotropes – minimum and maximum boiling azeotropes



Ideal Solution



Figure 9.1: Pxy diagram of ideal solution





Figure 9.2: Vaporization process of ideal solution (Pxy diagram)





Figure 9.3: Txy diagram of ideal solution



Deviations from Ideal Solution





Minimum Boiling Azeotrope







Maximum Boiling Azeotrope





x-*y* Diagrams















Figure 9.4 Isothermal *Pxy* diagram at 330 K computed from the Redlich-Kwong equation of state. Component 1 is an alkane; 2 is an aromatic. Broken vertical line represents a reversible isothermal expansion from one-phase liquid at A to one-phase vapor at E. Broken horizontal line is the vapor-liquid tie line at 10 bar. Filled squares mark pure-component vapor pressures at 330 K. Note that component 1 is more volatile than component 2.





Figure 9.6 Isobaric *Txy* diagram at 30 bar for the same alkane(1)-aromatic(2) mixture shown in Figure 9.4. The broken vertical line represents a reversible isobaric cooling from one-phase vapor at A to one-phase liquid at E. The broken horizontal line is the vapor-liquid tie line at 415 K. Filled squares are pure-component boiling points at 30 bar.





Figure 9.5 Effect of temperature on the *Pxy* diagram for the alkane(1)-aromatic(2) mixture of Figure 9.4. The 330 K-isotherm is subcritical, but the 430 K-isotherm has a critical point (dot) at 56.1 bar and $z_1 = 0.781$. Computed from Redlich-Kwong equation.





Figure 9.7 Effect of pressure on the *Txy* diagram for the alkane(1)-aromatic(2) mixture of Figure 9.6. At 30 bar all these mixtures are subcritical, but at 55 bar two critical points occur (dots): one at 423.55 K with $z_1 = 0.8075$ and another at 533.60 K with $z_1 = 0.2255$. Filled squares mark pure-component boiling points at 30 bar.



Figure 9.8 Pressure-temperature diagram for the alkane(1)-aromatic(2) mixture in Figures 9.4-9.7. Solid lines are pure vapor-pressure curves, ending at pure critical points (filled circles). Dashed line is the mixture critical line. Dash-dot lines are liquid constant-composition lines; small dashed lines are vapor constant-composition lines. Filled square at A is a vapor-liquid equilibrium point; it occurs at 14.5 bar, 386.7 K, $x_1 = 0.25$, $y_1 = 0.75$.

Deviation from Ideal Solution

- The activity coefficients express the departure from ideality and thus define the excess Gibbs energy of the solution.
- Deviation from ideality is said to be positive when $\gamma > 1$ (ln γ is positive) and negative when $\gamma < 1(\ln \gamma \text{ is negative})$.



Positive Deviation from Raoult's Law

 $P = \gamma_A x_A p_A^{sat} + \gamma_B x_B p_B^{s}$

 γ_i greater than 1

In γ_i positive







Negative Deviation From Raoult's Law





Azeotropes

- If azeotropes are not present, a fractional distillation can eventually separate the mixture into the pure components, with the component with the higher vapor pressure ending up as the distillate and the less volatile component (known as the residue) left in the distillation pot.
- For a minimum boiling azeotrope, a fractional distillation can produce a distillate with the azeotropic composition and a residue that is one of the pure components, depending on the composition of the starting mixture.
- For a maximum boiling azeotrope a fractional distillation can produce one of the pure components as the distillate, and a residue with the azeotropic composition.





Liquid + vapour equilibrium in the system water + ethanol at 60 °C. Filled circles represent liquid phase; open circles vapour phase









Pressure-Maximum Azeotrope



For the (liquid + vapour) equilibrium in the system {chloroform (C) + acetone (A)}, a minimum in the isothermal diagram (t = 35.2 °C, left, Apelblat et al. 1980)), goes together with a maximum in the isobaric diagram (right, Reinders and de Minjer 1940)











Positive homogeneous azeotropes in mixtures of ethanol(1) and benzene(2). The *Pxy* diagram is at 370 K, and the *Txy* diagram is at 2.5 bar. Filled circles locate the azeotropes.



Negative homogeneous azeotropes (dots) in mixtures of acetone(1) and chloroform(2). The *Pxy diagram is at 50°C; the Txy diagram is at 0.75 bar.*





Figure 14.3 Boiling temperature against composition phase diagram for $\{(x_1 \text{ or } y_1) C_6F_6 + (x_2 \text{ or } y_2) C_6H_6\}$ at a pressure of 0.664 MPa. Evident in the diagram is a minimum boiling azeotrope at point A and a maximum boiling azeotrope at point B. Reprinted with permission from W. J. Gaw and F. L. Swinton, "Occurrence of a Double Azeotrope in the Binary System Hexafluorobenzene + Benzene"; Nature (London), 212, 284 (1966). Copyright MacMillan Magazines Ltd.



VLE Calculations of Non-ideal Solutions

- Obtain γ_i from azeotropic composition data
- Evaluate model parameters of γ_i - x_i models based on the above data
- Make VLE calculation with $y_i P = \gamma_i \chi_j P_i^{sat}$





The **equilibrium flash** of a multicomponent liquid is also an isenthalpic process and may be visualized as a simple distillation process using a single equilibrium stage.





VLE Problems

Problem Name	Knowns	Unknowns to find
Bubble P	T, x _i	P, y _i
Dew P	T, y _i	P, x _i
Bubble T	P, X _i	T, y _i
Dew T	P, y _i	T, x _i
Flash	T, P, z _i	x _i , y _i , n ^v /n



Henry's Law & Raoult's Law

• As early as in 1803 William Henry showed empirically that the vapor pressure of a solute *i* is proportional to the concentration of solute *i*:

$$p_i = x_i k_{\mathbf{H},i}$$

where x_i is the mole fraction solute and $k_{H,i}$ is known as the **Henry's law constant**.

• More than 80 years later François Raoult demonstrated that at low concentrations of a solute, the vapor pressure of the solvent is simply

$$p_i = x_i p_i^*$$

where x_i is the mole fraction solvent and p_i^* is the vapor pressure of the pure solvent.

 Raoult's and Henry's laws are often termed 'limiting laws'. This use reflects that real solutions often follow these laws at infinite dilution only.





Comparison of Raoult's law and Henry's law





Schematic illustrations of the saturated vapor pressures above two different non-ideal solutions.

The continuous solid curves represent the behavior of the real solutions, the dashed lines represent Raoult's law and short solid lines represent Henry's law.





Example 7.22 pT-flash. A feed F is split into a vapor product V and a liquid product L in a flash tank (see Figure 7.4 on page 189). The feed is 50% pentane, 30% hexane and 20% cyclohexane (all in mol-%). In the tank, T = 390K and p = 5 bar. For example, we may have a heat exchanger that keeps constant temperature and a valve on the vapor product stream that keeps constant pressure. We want to find the product split and product compositions. Assume ideal liquid mixture and ideal gas (Raoult's law).

Comment. This is a quite close-boiling mixture and we have already found that at 5 bar the bubble point temperature is 382.64 K (Example 7.18) and the dew point temperature is 393.30 K (Example 7.20). The temperature in the flash tank must be between these temperatures for a two-phase solution to exist (which it does in our case since T = 390 K).

Solution. The feed mixture of pentane (1), hexane (2) and cyclohexane (3) is

$$z_1 = 0.5; \quad z_2 = 0.3; \quad z_3 = 0.2$$

We have $K_i = p_i^{\text{sat}}(T)/p$ and at T = 390K and p = 5 bar, we find with the Antoine parameters in Table 7.2:

$$K_1 = 1.685, \quad K_2 = 0.742, \quad K_3 = 0.532$$

Now, z_i and K_i are known, and the Rachford-Rice equation (7.50) is solved numerically to find the vapor split V/F = 0.6915. The resulting liquid and vapor compositions are (for details see the MATLAB code below):

> $x_1 = 0.3393, \quad x_2 = 0.3651, \quad x_3 = 0.2956$ $y_1 = 0.5717, \quad y_2 = 0.2709, \quad y_3 = 0.1574$



Example 7.23 Condenser and flash drum for ammonia synthesis. The exit gas from an ammonia reactor is at 250 bar and contains 61.5% H₂, 20.5% N₂ and 18% NH₃. The gas is cooled to $25^{\circ}C$ (partly condensed), and is then separated in a flash drum into a recycled vapor stream V and a liquid product L containing most of the ammonia. We want to calculate the product compositions (L and V) from the flash drum.

Data. In spite of the high pressure, we assume for simplicity ideal gas. Use vapor pressure data for ammonia from Table 7.2 and Henry's law coefficients for N_2 and H_2 from page 187. For ammonia, we assume ideal liquid mixture, i.e., $\gamma_{NH3} = 1$ (which is reasonable since the liquid phase is almost pure ammonia).

Solution. The feed mixture of H_2 (1), N_2 (2) and NH_3 (3) is

$$z_1 = 0.615, \quad z_2 = 0.205, \quad z_3 = 0.18$$

For ammonia, we have at T = 298.15 K and p = 250 bar (Raoult's law):

$$K_3 = \frac{p_3^{\text{sat}}(T)}{p} = \frac{9.83 \text{ bar}}{250 \text{ bar}} = 0.0393$$



For H_2 and N_2 , we have from the given data for Henry's coefficient at 25° C (298.15 K):

$$K_1 = \frac{H_1(T)}{p} = \frac{15200 \text{ bar}}{250 \text{ bar}} = 60.8$$
$$K_2 = \frac{H_2(T)}{p} = \frac{8900 \text{ bar}}{250 \text{ bar}} = 35.6$$

Now, z_i and K_i are known, and the Rachford-Rice equation (7.50) is solved numerically to find the vapor split V/F = 0.8500. The resulting liquid and vapor compositions of the products are

$$x_1 = 0.0119, \quad x_2 = 0.0067, \quad x_2 = 0.9814$$

 $y_1 = 0.7214, \quad y_2 = 0.2400, \quad y_3 = 0.0386$

This agrees well with flow sheet data from a commercial ammonia plant.

