

6. Control Elements

a. Transfer function



1. Unsteady-state component balances for species A (slurry)

$$V \frac{dc_A}{dt} = qc_{A0} - qc_A - Vkc_A \quad (1)$$

Where V = tank volume
 q = mass flow rate
 c_{A0} = inlet concentration
 c_A = product concentration

2. Rearrange equation (1) into:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dc_A}{dt} &= c_{A0} \left(\frac{q}{V} \right) - c_A \left(\frac{q-Vk}{V} \right) \\ \frac{dc_A}{dt} + c_A \left(\frac{q-Vk}{V} \right) &= c_{A0} \left(\frac{q}{V} \right) \\ \frac{dc_A}{dt} + c_A \left(\frac{1}{\tau} \right) &= c_{A0} \left(\frac{q}{V} \right) \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

Where $\tau = \frac{V}{q-Vk}$ is the time constant of the tank.

3. By taking Laplace transform,

$$\begin{aligned} sC_{A(s)} + C_{A(s)} \left(\frac{1}{\tau} \right) &= C_{A0(s)} \left(\frac{q}{V} \right) \\ C_{A(s)} \left(s + \frac{1}{\tau} \right) &= C_{A0(s)} \left(\frac{q}{V} \right) \\ \frac{C_{A(s)}}{C_{A0(s)}} &= \frac{\left(\frac{q}{V} \right)}{\left(s + \frac{1}{\tau} \right)} \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

4. By multiplying the numerator and denominator of equation (4) with τ , the transfer function can be expressed as,

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{C_A(s)}{C_{A0}(s)} &= \frac{\left(\frac{q}{V}\right)\tau}{\left(s+\frac{1}{\tau}\right)\tau} = \frac{\left(\frac{q}{V}\right)\tau}{(\tau s+1)} = \frac{\left(\frac{q}{V}\right)\tau}{(\tau s+1)} = \frac{\frac{q}{V} \times \frac{V}{q-Vk}}{\tau s+1} \\ \frac{C_A(s)}{C_{A0}(s)} &= \frac{\left(\frac{q}{q-Vk}\right)}{(\tau s+1)} \\ \frac{C_A(s)}{C_{A0}(s)} &= \frac{K_{P1}}{\tau s+1}\end{aligned}\quad (4)$$

Where $K_{P1} = \frac{q}{q+Vk}$ is the gain of the transfer function.

5. Energy balance of the tank,

$$\rho VC \frac{dT}{dt} = \rho q C (T - T_0) + (-\Delta H) V k c_A \quad (5)$$

Linearize (1) and (4), and note that $\frac{dc_A}{dt} = \frac{dc'_A}{dt}$ and $\frac{dT}{dt} = \frac{dT'}{dt}$

$$V \frac{dc'_A}{dt} = q c'_{A0} - q c'_A - V k c'_A \quad (6)$$

$$\rho VC \frac{dT'}{dt} = \rho q C T' - \rho q C T'_0 + (-\Delta H) V k c'_A \quad (7)$$

From equation (5), Laplace transform it to get

$$\begin{aligned}V \frac{dc'_A}{dt} + q c'_A + V k c'_A &= q c'_{A0} \\ (V_s + q + V k) C'_A(s) &= q C'_{A0} \\ C'_A(s) &= \frac{q C'_{A0}}{(V_s + q + V k)}\end{aligned}\quad (8)$$

From equation (6), Laplace transform it to get

$$\begin{aligned}\rho VC \frac{dT'}{dt} - \rho q C T' &= -\rho q C T'_0 + (-\Delta H) V k c'_A \\ (\rho VC - \rho q C_s) T'(s) &= -\rho q C T'_0 + (-\Delta H) V k c'_A \\ T'(s) &= \frac{-\rho q C T'_0 + (-\Delta H) V k c'_A}{(\rho VC - \rho q C_s)}\end{aligned}\quad (9)$$

Therefore, the transfer function is

$$\frac{T'(s)}{C_A'(s)} = \frac{(-\rho q C T_0' + (-\Delta H) V k c_A')(V_s + q + V k)}{(\rho V C - \rho q C_s) q C_{A0}'} \quad (10)$$

b. Order of reaction

The reaction is a first order reaction.

c. Variables

- i. Controlled variables: Concentration of outlet, outlet temperature
- ii. Manipulated variables: Biomass inlet flow rate (feed), heating rate of heaters
- iii. Disturbance variables: Tank pressure, presence of catalyst.

d. Type of control algorithm

PID controller because it improves the closed loop stability. The effect of derivative action is to increase the damping in the response and generally improve the stability by reducing the settling time. Therefore, it is useful in reducing the oscillation caused by the integral action in the system response.