

## CM3120: Module 4

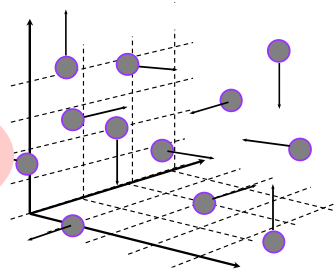
### Diffusion and Mass Transfer II

- I. Mass transfer in distillation and absorption
  - A. Film model
  - B. Penetration model
- II. Linear driving force model (mass transfer coefficient,  $k_x$ )
  - A. Review: no bulk convection
  - B. New: appreciable bulk convection
  - C. Predict mass transfer coefficients
  - D. Solve unsteady mass transfer problems
- III. Macroscopic species A mass balances
- IV. Dimensional analysis in mass transfer
  - A. Review—compare to heat
  - B. Engineering quantities of interest
  - C. Data correlations for  $k_x$  (Sh or  $Nu_{AB}$  correlations)
- V. Overall mass transfer coefficients

© Faith A. Morrison, Michigan Tech U.<sup>1</sup>

## CM3120: Module 4

Module 4 Lecture IV  
**Dimensional Analysis  
 in Mass Transfer**



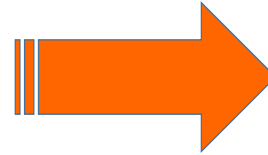
*Professor Faith A. Morrison*

Department of Chemical Engineering  
 Michigan Technological University

[www.chem.mtu.edu/~fmorriso/cm3120/cm3120.html](http://www.chem.mtu.edu/~fmorriso/cm3120/cm3120.html)

© Faith A. Morrison, Michigan Tech U.<sup>2</sup>

Continuing work with the linear driving force for mass transfer, i.e. mass transfer coefficients,  $k_c$



Linear Driving Force Model for Mass Transfer

CM3110  
Transport II  
Part II: Diffusion and Mass Transfer

Michigan Tech

Linear Driving Force Model for Mass Transfer

$$|N_A| = k_y |y_{A,bulk} - y_{A,i}|$$

Professor Faith A. Morrison  
Department of Chemical Engineering  
Michigan Technological University

Mass Transport "Laws"

We have 2 Mass Transport "laws"

Remaining Topics to round out our understanding of mass transport:

Fick's law of diffusion

- $D_{AB}$
1. Since we predict  $N_A$  with Fick's law, we can also predict a mass transfer coefficients  $k_y$  or  $k_c$ . *Relate  $k_c$  and  $D_{AB}$*
  2. 1D Unsteady models can be solved (if good at math) *Solutions are analogous to heat transfer*

Mass transfer coefficients

- $k_c$
3. Combine with macroscopic species A mass balance *Model macroscopic processes, design units*
  4. Are not material properties; rather, they are determined experimentally and specific to the situation (dimensional analysis and correlations)
  5. Facilitate combining resistances into overall mass transfer coefficients,  $K_L, K_G$ , to be used in modeling unit operations

Mass Transport "Laws"

We now have 2 Mass Transport "laws"

**Fick's Law of Diffusion**  $N_A = x_A(N_A + N_B) - cD_{AB} \nabla x_A$  Transport coefficient


Use: Combine with microscopic species A mass balance  
Predicts flux  $N_A$  and composition distributions, e.g.  $x_A(x, y, z, t)$   
1D Steady models can be solved  
1D Unsteady models can be solved (if good at math) ②  
2D steady and unsteady models can be solved by COMSOL ③  
Since we predict  $N_A$ , we can also predict a mass xfer coeff  $k_y$  or  $k_c$  ①  
Diffusion coefficients are **material** properties (see tables)

**Linear-Driving-Force Model**  $|N_A| = k_y |y_{A,bulk} - y_{A,i}|$

Use: Combine with macroscopic species A mass balance ③  
Predicts flux  $N_A$ , but **not** composition distributions  
May be used as a boundary condition in microscopic balances  
Mass-transfer-coefficients are **not material properties**  
Rather, they are determined experimentally and specific to the situation (dimensional analysis and correlations) ④  
Facilitate combining resistances into overall mass xfer coeffs,  $K_L, K_G$  ⑤



Dimensional Analysis in Mass Transfer




**Michigan Tech**

CM3110  
Transport II  
Part II: Diffusion and Mass Transfer

**Dimensional Analysis  
in Mass Transfer**

**“D.A.”**

④



**Professor Faith A. Morrison**  
Department of Chemical Engineering  
Michigan Technological University

5  
© Faith A. Morrison, Michigan Tech U.

Dimensionless Numbers	
Re – Reynolds = $\frac{\rho v D}{\mu}$ Fr – Froude = $\frac{v^2}{g D}$ Pe – Péclet <sub>h</sub> = RePr = $\frac{\rho v D^2}{\alpha}$ Pe – Péclet <sub>m</sub> = ReSc = $\frac{\rho v D^2}{D_{AB}}$	These numbers from the governing equations tell us about the relative importance of the terms they precede in the microscopic balances ( <b>scenario properties</b> ).
Pr – Prandtl = $\frac{c_p \mu}{k}$ Sc – Schmidt = $\frac{\mu}{\rho D_{AB}}$ Le – Lewis = $\frac{\alpha}{D_{AB}}$	These numbers compare the magnitudes of the diffusive transport coefficients $\nu, \alpha, D_{AB}$ ( <b>material properties</b> ).
f – Friction Factor = $\frac{F_{wall}}{(\frac{\rho v^2}{2})_{Ac}}$ Nu – Nusselt = $\frac{h D}{k}$ Sh – Sherwood = $\frac{h_m D}{D_{AB}}$	These numbers are defined to help us build transport data correlations based on the fewest number of grouped (dimensionless) variables ( <b>scenario properties</b> ).
St <sub>k</sub> = Nu/Pe <sub>h</sub> , St <sub>m</sub> = Sh/Pe <sub>m</sub> – Stanton	

mass transfer?

heat transfer?

**What do we do to understand complex flows?**

**Same strategy as:**

flows

- Turbulent tube flow
- Noncircular conduits
- Drag on obstacles
- Boundary Layers

heat transfer

- Forced-convection heat transfer coefficients
- Natural-convection heat transfer coefficients
- Problems with multiple kinds of physics

1. Find a simple problem that allows us to identify the physics
2. Nondimensionalize
3. Explore that problem
4. Take data and correlate
5. Solve real problems

Solve Real Problems.  
Powerful.

6  
© Faith A. Morrison, Michigan Tech U.

**Solve Real Problems. Powerful.**

**What do we do to understand complex flows?**

**mass transfer?**  
~~heat transfer?~~

**Same strategy as:**

**flows**

- Turbulent tube flow
- Noncircular conduits
- Drag on obstacles
- Boundary Layers

**heat transfer**

- Forced-convection heat transfer coefficients
- Natural-convection heat transfer coefficients
- Problems with multiple kinds of physics

Mass transfer

- From fluid to plate
- To a falling film
- In pipes and ducts
- Past submerged objects
- To/from bubbles, drops
- In agitated systems
- In fixed and fluidized beds
- In packed 2-phase contactors (absorption, distillation, cooling towers)

7  
© Faith A. Morrison, Michigan Tech U.

Dimensional Analysis in Mass Transfer

Let's review our review of dimensional analysis...

heat transfer

**CM3120, Lecture 5**

Heat Transfer: Steady vs. Unsteady

What is our usual strategy for complex phenomena?

Answer: Dimensional Analysis

CM3110: Momentum and Heat Xfer

Complex Heat Transfer – Dimensional Analysis

Experience with Dimensional Analysis (momentum):

- Flow in pipes at all flow rates (laminar and turbulent)  
Solution: Navier-Stokes, Re, Fr, L/D, dimensionless wall force =  $f; f = f(Re, L/D)$
- Rough pipes  
Solution: add additional length scale; then nondimensionalize
- Non-circular conduits  
Solution: Use hydraulic diameter as the length scale of the flow to nondimensionalize
- Flow around obstacles (spheres, other complex shapes)  
Solution: Navier-Stokes, Re, dimensionless drag =  $C_D; C_D = C_D(Re)$
- Boundary layers  
Solution: Two components of velocity need independent length scales

Let's review

8  
© Faith A. Morrison, Michigan Tech U.

Dimensional Analysis in Mass Transfer Review of dimensional analysis

CM3120 module 2

Complex Heat Transfer (CM3110)

CM3110 REVIEW

**How do we handle complex geometries, complex flows, complex machinery?**

Process scale

© Faith A. Morrison, Michigan Tech U.

Dimensional Analysis in Mass Transfer Review of dimensional analysis

CM3120 module 2

Complex Heat Transfer – Dimensional Analysis

CM3110 REVIEW

*(Answer: Use the same techniques we have been using in fluid mechanics)*

**Engineering Modeling (complex systems)**

- Choose an idealized problem and solve it
- From insight obtained from **ideal** problem, identify governing equations of **real** problem
- Nondimensionalize the governing equations; deduce dimensionless scale factors (e.g. Re, Fr for fluids)
- Design experiments to test modeling thus far
- Revise modeling (structure of dimensional analysis, identity of scale factors, e.g. add roughness lengthscale)
- Design additional experiments
- Iterate until useful correlations result

Process scale

© Faith A. Morrison, Michigan Tech U.

Dimensional Analysis in Mass Transfer
Review of dimensional analysis

CM3120 module 2

momentum transfer

Complex Heat Transfer – Dimensional Analysis

CM3110  
REVIEW

Experience with Dimensional Analysis (momentum):

- Flow in pipes at all flow rates (laminar and turbulent)  
**Solution:** Navier-Stokes,  $Re$ ,  $Fr$ ,  $L/D$ ,  
 dimensionless drag =  $f$ ;  $f = f(Re, L/D)$
- Rough pipes  
**Solution:** add additional length scale; then  
 nondimensionalize
- Non-circular conduits  
**Solution:** Use hydraulic diameter as the length  
 scale of the flow to nondimensionalize
- Flow around obstacles (spheres, other complex shapes)  
**Solution:** Navier-Stokes,  $Re$ , dimensionless  
 drag =  $C_D$ ;  $C_D = C_D(Re)$
- Boundary layers  
**Solution:** Two components of velocity  
 need independent lengthscales

11  
 © Faith A. Morrison, Michigan Tech U.

Dimensional Analysis in Mass Transfer
Review of dimensional analysis

CM3120 module 2

Correlations  
compared with data

momentum transfer

Turbulent flow (smooth pipe)

Rough pipe

Noncircular cross section

Around obstacles

12  
 © Faith A. Morrison, Michigan Tech U.

Dimensional Analysis in Mass Transfer Review of dimensional analysis

CM3120 module 2

Correlations compared with data

momentum transfer

13  
© Faith A. Morrison, Michigan Tech U.

Dimensional Analysis in Mass Transfer Review of dimensional analysis

CM3120 module 2

steady heat transfer

Heat Transfer: Steady vs. Unsteady

CM3110 REVIEW

How did Dimensional Analysis work for steady heat transfer?

Answer: Here's the method:

- Choose an idealized problem and solve it
- From insight obtained from **ideal** problem, identify governing equations of **real** problem
- Nondimensionalize the governing equations; deduce dimensionless scale factors (e.g. Re, Fr for fluids)
- Design experiments to test modeling thus far
- Revise modeling (structure of dimensional analysis, identity of scale factors, e.g. add roughness lengthscale)
- Design additional experiments
- Iterate until useful correlations result

14  
© Faith A. Morrison, Michigan Tech U.


Dimensional Analysis in Mass Transfer Review of dimensional analysis

CM3120 module 2

Choose "typical" or "characteristic" values; can only know if they are the right choices if the D.A. works.

steady heat transfer

**Forced Convection Heat Transfer**



CM3110 REVIEW

**Pipe flow**

z-component of the Navier-Stokes Equation:

$$\rho \left( \frac{\partial v_z}{\partial t} + v_r \frac{\partial v_z}{\partial r} + \frac{v_\theta}{r} \frac{\partial v_z}{\partial \theta} + v_z \frac{\partial v_z}{\partial z} \right) = -\frac{\partial P}{\partial z} + \mu \left( \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left( r \frac{\partial v_z}{\partial r} \right) + \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial^2 v_z}{\partial \theta^2} + \frac{\partial^2 v_z}{\partial z^2} \right) + \rho g_z$$

**Choose:**

**D** = characteristic length  
**V** = characteristic velocity  
**D/V** = characteristic time  
 $\rho V^2$  = characteristic pressure

- Choose "typical" values (*scale factors*)
- Use them to scale the equations
- Deduce which terms dominate

Choose "characteristic" values

15  
© Faith A. Morrison, Michigan Tech U.


Dimensional Analysis in Mass Transfer Review of dimensional analysis

CM3120 module 2

Choose "typical" or "characteristic" values; can only know if they are the right choices if the D.A. works.

steady heat transfer

**Forced Convection Heat Transfer**



CM3110 REVIEW

**Pipe flow**

non-dimensional variables:

time: $t^* \equiv \frac{tV}{D}$	position: $r^* \equiv \frac{r}{D}$  $z^* \equiv \frac{z}{D}$	velocity: $v_z^* \equiv \frac{v_z}{V}$  $v_r^* \equiv \frac{v_r}{V}$  $v_\theta^* \equiv \frac{v_\theta}{V}$	driving force: $P^* \equiv \frac{P}{\rho V^2}$  $g_z^* \equiv \frac{g_z}{g}$
------------------------------------	---	---	---

- Choose "typical" values (*scale factors*)
- Use them to scale the equations
- Deduce which terms dominate

Choose "characteristic" values

16  
© Faith A. Morrison, Michigan Tech U.

8



Dimensional Analysis in Mass Transfer Review of dimensional analysis  
CM3120 module 2

Oops, re-used the "\*" notation; here it is dimensionless variable, not molar average velocity

steady heat transfer

**Forced Convection Heat Transfer**

**CM3110 REVIEW**

**Pipe flow** non-dimensional variables:

time: $t^* \equiv \frac{tV}{D}$	position: $r^* \equiv \frac{r}{D}$ $z^* \equiv \frac{z}{D}$	velocity: $v_z^* \equiv \frac{v_z}{V}$ $v_r^* \equiv \frac{v_r}{V}$ $v_\theta^* \equiv \frac{v_\theta}{V}$	driving force: $P^* \equiv \frac{P}{\rho V^2}$ $g_z^* \equiv \frac{g_z}{g}$
------------------------------------	---	---	---

• Choose "typical" values (scale factors)  
• Use them to scale the equations  
• Deduce which terms dominate

Choose "characteristic" values

17  
© Faith A. Morrison, Michigan Tech U.

Dimensional Analysis in Mass Transfer Review of dimensional analysis  
CM3120 module 2

Choose "typical" or "characteristic" values; can only know if they are the right choices if the D.A. works.

steady heat transfer

**Forced Convection Heat Transfer**

**CM3110 REVIEW**

**Energy**

Microscopic energy balance:

$$\rho \hat{c}_p \left( \frac{\partial T}{\partial t} + v_r \frac{\partial T}{\partial r} + \frac{v_\theta}{r} \frac{\partial T}{\partial \theta} + v_z \frac{\partial T}{\partial z} \right) = k \left( \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left( r \frac{\partial T}{\partial r} \right) + \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial \theta^2} + \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial z^2} \right) + S$$

non-dimensional variables:

position: $r^* \equiv \frac{r}{D}$ $z^* \equiv \frac{z}{D}$	temperature: $T^* \equiv \frac{T - T_0}{(T_1 - T_0)}$	source: $S^* \equiv \frac{S}{S_0}$
---	--	---------------------------------------

Choose:  
 $T$  – use a characteristic interval (since distance from  $T = 0K$  is not part of this physics)  
 $S$  – use a reference source,  $S_0$

$S_0 \equiv \frac{(T_1 - T_0)V\rho\hat{c}_p}{D} [=] \frac{W}{m^2}$

18  
© Faith A. Morrison, Michigan Tech U.

Review of dimensional analysis

CM3120 module 2

**Micro E-Balance produces  $Pe = PrRe$**

Complex Heat Transfer – Dimensional Analysis CM3110 REVIEW

steady heat transfer

Non-dimensional Energy Equation

$$\left(\frac{\partial T^*}{\partial t^*} + v_r^* \frac{\partial T^*}{\partial r^*} + \frac{v_\theta^*}{r^*} \frac{\partial T^*}{\partial \theta} + v_z^* \frac{\partial T^*}{\partial z^*}\right) = \frac{1}{Pe} \left( \frac{1}{r^*} \frac{\partial}{\partial r^*} \left( r^* \frac{\partial T^*}{\partial r^*} \right) + \frac{1}{r^{*2}} \frac{\partial^2 T^*}{\partial \theta^2} + \frac{\partial^2 T^*}{\partial z^{*2}} \right) + S^*$$

Non-dimensional Navier-Stokes Equation

$$\frac{Dv_z^*}{Dt^*} = -\frac{\partial P^*}{\partial z^*} + \frac{1}{Re} (\nabla^2 v_z)^* + \frac{1}{Fr} g^*$$

Non-dimensional Continuity Equation

$$\frac{\partial v_x^*}{\partial x^*} + \frac{\partial v_y^*}{\partial y^*} + \frac{\partial v_z^*}{\partial z^*} = 0$$

$$Pe = PrRe = \frac{\hat{C}_p \mu \rho V D}{k \mu}$$

$$Pr = \frac{\hat{C}_p \mu}{k}$$

$\frac{Dv_z}{Dt} = \frac{\partial v_z}{\partial t} + v_r \frac{\partial v_z}{\partial r} + \frac{v_\theta}{r} \frac{\partial v_z}{\partial \theta} + v_z \frac{\partial v_z}{\partial z}$

19  
© Faith A. Morrison, Michigan Tech U.

Review of dimensional analysis

CM3120 module 2

The D.A. goes with a particular problem (a particular physics)

Here, the "engineering property of interest" is the heat transferred across the boundary,  $Q$ .

**Forced Convection Heat Transfer**

Linear driving force model  $\left| \frac{q_x}{A} \right| = h|T_1 - T_0|$

Apply at the interface:

$$(2\pi RL)(h)(T_1 - T_0) = Q = \iint_S [\hat{e}_r \cdot \vec{q}]_{surface} dS$$

$$(2\pi RL)(h)(T_1 - T_0) = Q = \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^L -k \frac{\partial T}{\partial r} \Big|_{r=R} R dz d\theta$$

Now, non-dimensionalize this expression as well.

Yields correlations for nondimensional heat transfer coefficient,  $h$

20  
© Faith A. Morrison, Michigan Tech U.

Dimensional Analysis in Mass Transfer Review of dimensional analysis

CM3120 module 2

The heat transferred from the fluid (LHS) equals the heat transferred into the wall (RHS).

steady heat transfer

**LHS**

$$h(\cancel{\pi DL})(\cancel{T_1 - T_0}) = \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^{L/D} -k \frac{\partial T^*}{\partial r^*} \Big|_{r^*=1/2} \frac{(\cancel{T_1 - T_0}) \cancel{D^2}}{2} dz^* d\theta$$

**RHS**

$$2\pi \left( \frac{hD}{k} \right) \left( \frac{L}{D} \right) = \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^{L/D} \frac{\partial T^*}{\partial r^*} \Big|_{r^*=1/2} dz^* d\theta$$

This is a function of Re and Pr through fluid  $\nu$  distribution and energy balance

**Nusselt number, Nu**  
(dimensionless heat-transfer coefficient)

$$Nu = Nu \left( T^*, \frac{L}{D} \right)$$

one additional dimensionless group

The engineering quantity of interest produces Nu

© Faith A. Morrison, Michigan Tech U. <sup>21</sup>

Dimensional Analysis in Mass Transfer Review of dimensional analysis

CM3120 module 2

The D.A. produces:  
 $Nu = Nu \left( Re, Pr, \frac{L}{D} \right)$

steady heat transfer

Complex Heat Transfer – Dimensional Analysis CM3110 REVIEW

According to our **dimensional analysis** calculations, the dimensionless heat transfer coefficient should be found to be a function of ~~four~~ <sup>three</sup> dimensionless groups:

no free surfaces

$$Nu = Nu \left( Re, Pr, Fr, \frac{L}{D} \right)$$

Now, do the experiments.

**Can only know if the D.A. is right, if the D.A. works.**

Peclet number

$$Pe \equiv \frac{\rho \hat{c}_p V D}{k} = \frac{\hat{c}_p \mu}{k} \frac{\rho V D}{\mu}$$

Prandtl number

$$Pr \equiv \frac{\hat{c}_p \mu}{k}$$

© Faith A. Morrison, Michigan Tech U. <sup>22</sup>

Dimensional Analysis in Mass Transfer
Review of dimensional analysis

CM3120 module 2

The experiments produce (turbulent flow):

$$Nu = 0.027Re^{0.8}Pr^{\frac{1}{3}}\left(\frac{\mu_b}{\mu_w}\right)^{0.14}$$

steady heat transfer

Complex Heat Transfer – Dimensional Analysis

Now, do the experiments.

Forced Convection Heat Transfer

- Build apparatus (*several* actually, with different D, L)
- Run fluid through the inside (at different  $v$ ; for different fluids  $\rho, \mu, \hat{C}_p, k$ )
- Measure  $T_{bulk}$  on inside;  $T_{wall}$  on inside
- Measure rate of heat transfer,  $Q$
- Calculate  $h$ :  $|Q| = hA|T_{bulk} - T_{wall}|$
- Report  $h$  values in terms of dimensionless correlation:

$$Nu = \frac{hD}{k} = f\left(Re, Pr, \frac{L}{D}\right)$$

It should only be a function of these dimensionless numbers (if our Dimensional Analysis is correct....)

AND IT WORKS!

23  
© Faith A. Morrison, Michigan Tech U.

Dimensional Analysis in Mass Transfer
Review of dimensional analysis

CM3120 module 2

We also applied D.A. to **unsteady heat transfer**:

Unsteady heat transfer

Let's nondimensionalize the governing equations and BCs.  
Let's sort out the various cases.

1D Heat Transfer: Unsteady State

Unsteady State Heat Conduction in a Semi-Infinite Slab

$$\frac{\partial T}{\partial t} = \frac{k}{\rho \hat{C}_p} \left( \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial x^2} \right) = \alpha \left( \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial x^2} \right)$$

thermal diffusivity  $\alpha = \frac{k}{\rho \hat{C}_p}$

Initial condition:  $t = 0 \quad T = T_0 \quad \forall x$

Boundary conditions:

$x = 0 \quad \frac{q_x}{A} = -k \frac{dT}{dx} = h(T_1 - T) \quad t > 0$

$x = \infty \quad T = T_0 \quad \forall t$

(Review:  
*How did we do this before?*)

24  
© Faith A. Morrison, Michigan Tech U.


Dimensional Analysis in Mass Transfer Review of dimensional analysis

CM3120 module 2

**We also applied D.A. to unsteady heat transfer:**

Unsteady heat transfer

We'll modify our solution for  
**Convective Heat Transfer**



Pipe flow

Dimensional Analysis

non-dimensional variables:

time: $t^* \equiv \frac{tV}{D}$	position: $r^* \equiv \frac{r}{D}$ $z^* \equiv \frac{z}{D}$	velocity: $v_r^* \equiv \frac{v_r}{V}$ $v_z^* \equiv \frac{v_z}{V}$	driving force: $P^* \equiv \frac{P}{\rho V^2}$ $g_z^* \equiv \frac{g_z}{g}$
------------------------------------	---	---	---

Energy

non-dimensional variables:

position: $r^* \equiv \frac{r}{D}$ $z^* \equiv \frac{z}{D}$	temperature: $T^* \equiv \frac{T - T_0}{(T_1 - T_0)}$	source: $S^* \equiv \frac{S}{S_0}$
---	--	---------------------------------------

Slight problem: We need to nondimensionalize  $t$  for the unsteady case also, but there is **no characteristic velocity** in thermal conduction in a solid.

Had to adjust the characteristic time

25  
© Faith A. Morrison, Michigan Tech U.

Dimensional Analysis in Mass Transfer Review of dimensional analysis

CM3120 module 2

**We also applied D.A. to unsteady heat transfer:**

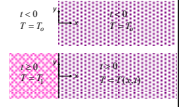
Unsteady heat transfer

Dimensional Analysis, Unsteady State Convection

Non-dimensionalize (eqns, BCs)

$$\frac{\partial T}{\partial t} = \alpha \left( \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial x^2} \right)$$

$$q_x = -k \frac{\partial T}{\partial x} = hA(T_1 - T)$$



non-dimensional variables:

position: $x^* \equiv \frac{x}{D}$	temperature: $Y \equiv \frac{(T_1 - T)}{(T_1 - T_0)}$	time: $t^* \equiv \frac{\alpha t}{D^2}$
---------------------------------------	--	--

This dimensionless time is called Fourier number Fo.

Fo – Fourier Number =  $\frac{\alpha t}{D^2}$

Had to adjust the characteristic time

26  
© Faith A. Morrison, Michigan Tech U.

Dimensional Analysis in Mass Transfer
Review of dimensional analysis

CM3120 module 2

We also applied D.A. to unsteady heat transfer:

$\frac{(T_1 - T)}{(T_1 - T_0)} = f\left(\frac{x}{D}, Fo, Bi\right)$

Unsteady heat transfer

In dimensionless form, we see that this problem reduces to

$$Y = Y\left(\frac{x}{D}, Fo, Bi\right)$$

Dimensionless quantities:

$$Y = \frac{(T_1 - T)}{(T_1 - T_0)}$$

$$t^* = Fo = \frac{\alpha t}{D^2}$$

$$x^* = \frac{x}{D}$$

$$Bi = \frac{hD}{k}$$

Y (dimensionless temperature interval)

**Fourier number** (dimensionless time)

**Biot number** (pronounced BEE-OH)  
Ratio of heat transfer resistance at the boundary to resistance in the solid. This is a transport issue.

3D Heat Transfer: Unsteady State  
Unsteady State Heat Conduction in a Semi-Infinite Slab

$$\frac{\partial T}{\partial t} = \frac{k}{\rho c_p} \left( \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial x^2} \right) = \alpha \left( \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial x^2} \right)$$

Initial condition:  $t = 0 \quad T = T_0 \quad \forall x$

Boundary conditions:

$x = 0 \quad \frac{\partial T}{\partial x} = -h \frac{T - T_1}{k} \quad t > 0$

$x = \infty \quad T = T_0 \quad \forall t$

(Heissler charts)

AND IT WORKS!

END REVIEW

© Faith A. Morrison, Michigan Tech U. <sup>27</sup>

Dimensional Analysis in Mass Transfer

Returning to our question:

### What do we do to understand complex mass transfer?

1. Find a simple problem that allows us to identify the physics
2. Non-dimensionalize:
  - a. Choose characteristic values
  - b. Produce a non-dimensional governing equation
  - c. Produce a non-dimensional engineering quantity of interest
3. Explore that problem
4. Take data and correlate (confirm D.A. for chosen problem)
5. Solve real problems with the correlation

The diagram shows a vertical cylindrical contactor. At the top, 'Liquid in' enters through a central pipe. Below it is a 'Distributor' with a grid of small holes. 'Gas out' exits from the side near the distributor. The main body of the cylinder is shaded, representing a porous medium. At the bottom, 'Liquid out' exits through a central pipe. A magnified circular view at the bottom right shows a network of interconnected pores, with a pink magnifying glass icon over it.

© Faith A. Morrison, Michigan Tech U. <sup>28</sup>

Dimensional Analysis in Mass Transfer

**Example 12:** What is the mass transfer through the walls of a permeable tube (laminar or turbulent flow)?

Assumptions:

1. Isothermal
2. Steady flow
3. Uniform inlet composition  $x_{A1}$
4. Constant interfacial liquid composition of  $x_{A0}$
5.  $\rho, \mu, c, D_{AB}$  all constant
6. Radial mass flux (negative)

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Total mass in} &= \int_0^L \int_0^{2\pi} +cD_{AB} \left. \frac{\partial x_A}{\partial r} \right|_{r=R} R d\theta dz \\ &= k_x (2\pi RL)(x_{A0} - x_{A1}) \end{aligned}$$

BSL2 p679 © Faith A. Morrison, Michigan Tech U. <sup>29</sup>

Dimensional Analysis in Mass Transfer

**Forced Convection Mass Transfer**

**Pipe flow**

$$k_x (2\pi RL)(x_{A0} - x_{A1}) = \int_0^L \int_0^{2\pi} +cD_{AB} \left. \frac{\partial x_A}{\partial r} \right|_{r=R} R d\theta dz$$

Next?

Dimensional Analysis in Mass Transfer

Returning to our question:

**What do we do to understand complex mass transfer?**

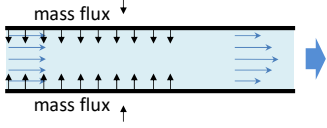
1. Find a simple problem that allows us to identify the physics
2. Non-dimensionalize:
  - a. Choose characteristic values
  - b. Produce a non-dimensional governing equation
  - c. Produce a non-dimensional engineering quantity of interest
3. Explore that problem
4. Take data and correlate (confirm D.A. for chosen problem)
5. Solve real problems with the correlation

BSL2 p679 © Faith A. Morrison, Michigan Tech U. <sup>30</sup>

Dimensional Analysis in Mass Transfer

### Forced Convection Mass Transfer

**Pipe flow**



non-dimensional variables:

<p>time:</p> $t^* \equiv \frac{tV}{D}$	<p>position:</p> $r^* \equiv \frac{r}{D}$ $z^* \equiv \frac{z}{D}$	<p>velocity:</p> $v_z^* \equiv \frac{v_z}{V}$ $v_r^* \equiv \frac{v_r}{V}$ $v_\theta^* \equiv \frac{v_\theta}{V}$	<p>driving force:</p> $P^* \equiv \frac{P}{\rho V^2}$ $g_z^* \equiv \frac{g_z}{g}$
--	--	---	--

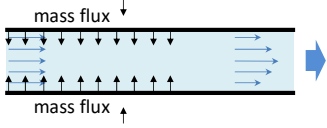
- Choose "typical" values (*scale factors*)
- Use them to scale the equations
- Deduce which terms dominate

© Faith A. Morrison, Michigan Tech U. <sup>31</sup>

Dimensional Analysis in Mass Transfer

### Forced Convection Mass Transfer

**Species A Mass**



Microscopic species A mass balance (no reaction):

$$c \left( \frac{\partial x_A}{\partial t} + v_r \frac{\partial x_A}{\partial r} + \frac{v_\theta}{r} \frac{\partial x_A}{\partial \theta} + v_z \frac{\partial x_A}{\partial z} \right) = cD_{AB} \left( \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left( r \frac{\partial x_A}{\partial r} \right) + \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial^2 x_A}{\partial \theta^2} + \frac{\partial^2 x_A}{\partial z^2} \right)$$

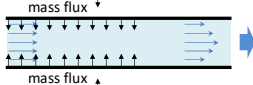
non-dimensional variables:

<p>position:</p> $r^* \equiv \frac{r}{D}$ $z^* \equiv \frac{z}{D}$	<p><b>composition</b></p> $x_A^* = \frac{(x_A - x_{A0})}{(x_{A1} - x_{A0})}$	<p>Choose:  <math>x_A</math> – use a characteristic interval</p>
--	--	--

© Faith A. Morrison, Michigan Tech U. <sup>32</sup>



Dimensional Analysis in Mass Transfer—Forced Convection



**Non-dimensional Species A Mass Equation**

$$\left( \frac{\partial x_A^*}{\partial t^*} + v_r^* \frac{\partial x_A^*}{\partial r^*} + \frac{v_\theta^*}{r^*} \frac{\partial x_A^*}{\partial \theta} + v_z^* \frac{\partial x_A^*}{\partial z^*} \right) = \frac{1}{\text{Pe}_m} \left( \frac{1}{r^*} \frac{\partial}{\partial r^*} \left( r^* \frac{\partial x_A^*}{\partial r^*} \right) + \frac{1}{r^{*2}} \frac{\partial^2 x_A^*}{\partial \theta^2} + \frac{\partial^2 x_A^*}{\partial z^{*2}} \right)$$

**Non-dimensional Navier-Stokes Equation**

$$\frac{Dv_z^*}{Dt^*} = -\frac{\partial P^*}{\partial z^*} + \frac{1}{\text{Re}} (\nabla^2 v_z^*) + \frac{1}{\text{Fr}} g^*$$

**Non-dimensional Continuity Equation**

$$\frac{\partial v_x^*}{\partial x^*} + \frac{\partial v_y^*}{\partial y^*} + \frac{\partial v_z^*}{\partial z^*} = 0$$

$$\text{Pe}_m = \text{ReSc} = \frac{VD}{D_{AB}}$$

$$\text{Sc} = \frac{\mu}{\rho D_{AB}}$$

Schmidt number  
(a material property)

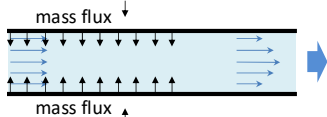
$$\frac{Dv_z}{Dt} \equiv \frac{\partial v_z}{\partial t} + v_r \frac{\partial v_z}{\partial r} + \frac{v_\theta}{r} \frac{\partial v_z}{\partial \theta} + v_z \frac{\partial v_z}{\partial z}$$

33  
© Faith A. Morrison, Michigan Tech U.

Dimensional Analysis in Mass Transfer

**Forced Convection Mass Transfer**

**Pipe flow** Now, non-dimensionalize this expression as well.



$$k_x(2\pi RL)(x_{A0} - x_{A1}) = \int_0^L \int_0^{2\pi} + cD_{AB} \frac{\partial x_A}{\partial r} \Big|_{r=R} R d\theta dz$$

$$\text{Sh} = \text{Nu}_{AB} = \frac{k_x D}{cD_{AB}} = \frac{1}{2\pi \left(\frac{L}{D}\right)} \int_0^L \int_0^{2\pi} - \frac{\partial x_A^*}{\partial r} \Big|_{r^*=\frac{1}{2}} d\theta dz^*$$

This is a function of Re and Sc through fluid  $\nu$  distribution and species A mass balance

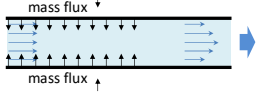
**Sherwood number, Sh**  
(dimensionless mass-transfer coefficient)

$$\text{Sh} = \text{Sh} \left( x_A^*, \frac{L}{D} \right)$$

one additional dimensionless group

34  
© Faith A. Morrison, Michigan Tech U.

Dimensional Analysis in Mass Transfer



According to our **dimensional analysis** calculations, the dimensionless heat transfer coefficient should be found to be a function of three dimensionless groups:

Peclet number

$$Pe_m = ReSc = \frac{VD}{D_{AB}}$$

Schmidt number

$$Sc = \frac{\mu}{\rho D_{AB}}$$

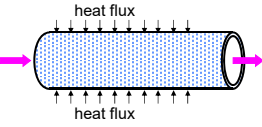
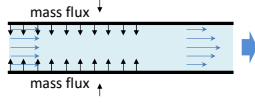
$$Sh = Sh \left( Re, Sc, \frac{L}{D} \right)$$

Now, do the experiments.

35  
© Faith A. Morrison, Michigan Tech U.

Dimensional Analysis in Mass Transfer

**Note** this development has been exactly the same as a related heat transfer development:

Complex Heat Transfer – Dimensional Analysis

CM3110 REVIEW

According to our **dimensional analysis** calculations, the dimensionless heat transfer coefficient should be found to be a function of four dimensionless groups:

↙ three

no free surfaces

Peclet number

$$Pe = \frac{\rho c_p VD}{k} = \frac{c_p \mu \rho VD}{k \mu}$$

Prandtl number

$$Pr = \frac{c_p \mu}{k}$$

$$Nu = Nu \left( Re, Pr, \frac{L}{D} \right)$$

Now, do the experiments.

Dimensional Analysis in Mass Transfer

According to our **dimensional analysis** calculations, the dimensionless heat transfer coefficient should be found to be a function of three dimensionless groups:

Peclet number

$$Pe_m = ReSc = \frac{VD}{D_{AB}}$$

Schmidt number

$$Sc = \frac{\mu}{\rho D_{AB}}$$

$$Sh = Sh \left( Re, Sc, \frac{L}{D} \right)$$

Now, do the experiments.

In many cases, heat and mass transfer are **analogous**

36  
© Faith A. Morrison, Michigan Tech U.

## Dimensional Analysis

These numbers tell us about the relative importance of the terms they precede.

**Dimensionless numbers from the Equations of Change** (microscopic balances)

momentum	<p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">Non-dimensional Navier-Stokes Equation</p> $\left(\frac{\partial v_z^*}{\partial t^*} + \underline{v}^* \cdot \nabla^* v_z^*\right) = -\frac{\partial P^*}{\partial z^*} + \frac{1}{\text{Re}}(\nabla^{*2} v_z^*) + \frac{1}{\text{Fr}}g^*$	<p style="margin: 0;"><b>Re</b> – Reynolds</p> <p style="margin: 0;"><b>Fr</b> – Froude</p>
energy	<p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">Non-dimensional Energy Equation</p> $\left(\frac{\partial T^*}{\partial t^*} + \underline{v}^* \cdot \nabla^* T^*\right) = \frac{1}{\text{RePr}}(\nabla^{*2} T^*) + S^*$	<p style="margin: 0;"><b>Pe</b> – Péclet<sub>n</sub> = RePr</p> <p style="margin: 0;"><b>Pr</b> – Prandtl</p>
mass	<p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">Non-dimensional Continuity Equation (species A)</p> $\left(\frac{\partial x_A^*}{\partial t^*} + \underline{v}^* \cdot \nabla^* x_A^*\right) = \frac{1}{\text{ReSc}}(\nabla^{*2} x_A^*)$	<p style="margin: 0;"><b>Pe</b> – Péclet<sub>m</sub> = ReSc</p> <p style="margin: 0;"><b>Sc</b> – Schmidt</p>

ref: BSL1, p581, 644 37

© Faith A. Morrison, Michigan Tech U.

## Dimensional Analysis

These numbers tell us about the relative importance of the terms they precede in the governing equations.

**Dimensionless numbers from the Equations of Change** (microscopic balances)

momentum	<p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">Non-dimensional Navier-Stokes Equation</p> $\left(\frac{\partial v_z^*}{\partial t^*} + \underline{v}^* \cdot \nabla^* v_z^*\right) = -\frac{\partial P^*}{\partial z^*} + \frac{1}{\text{Re}}(\nabla^{*2} v_z^*) + \frac{1}{\text{Fr}}g^*$	<p style="margin: 0;"><b>Re</b> – Reynolds</p> <p style="margin: 0;"><b>Fr</b> – Froude</p>
energy	<p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">Non-dimensional Energy Equation</p> $\left(\frac{\partial T^*}{\partial t^*} + \underline{v}^* \cdot \nabla^* T^*\right) = \frac{1}{\text{RePr}}(\nabla^{*2} T^*) + S^*$	<p style="margin: 0;"><b>Pe</b> – Péclet<sub>n</sub> = RePr</p> <p style="margin: 0;"><b>Pr</b> – Prandtl</p>
mass	<p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">Non-dimensional Continuity Equation (species A)</p> $\left(\frac{\partial x_A^*}{\partial t^*} + \underline{v}^* \cdot \nabla^* x_A^*\right) = \frac{1}{\text{ReSc}}(\nabla^{*2} x_A^*)$	<p style="margin: 0;"><b>Pe</b> – Péclet<sub>m</sub> = ReSc</p> <p style="margin: 0;"><b>Sc</b> – Schmidt</p>

**Oops! This is dimensionless  $\underline{v}$ , NOT molar average velocity, sorry!**

ref: BSL1, p581, 644 38

© Faith A. Morrison, Michigan Tech U.

## Dimensionless Numbers

Dimensionless numbers from the **Equations of Change**

**Re** – Reynolds =  $\frac{\rho v D}{\mu} = \frac{v D}{\nu}$

**Fr** – Froude =  $\frac{v^2}{g D}$

**Pe** – Péclet<sub>h</sub> = **RePr** =  $\frac{\hat{c}_p \rho v D}{k} = \frac{v D}{\alpha}$

**Pe** – Péclet<sub>m</sub> = **ReSc** =  $\frac{v D}{D_{AB}}$

**Pr** – Prandtl =  $\frac{\hat{c}_p \mu}{k} = \frac{\nu}{\alpha}$

**Sc** – Schmidt = **LePr** =  $\frac{\mu}{\rho D_{AB}} = \frac{\nu}{D_{AB}}$

**Le** – Lewis =  $\frac{\alpha}{D_{AB}}$

These numbers tell us about the **relative importance of the terms** they precede in the microscopic balances (*scenario properties*).

These numbers compare the **magnitudes of the diffusive transport coefficients**  $\nu, \alpha, D_{AB}$  (*material properties*).

39  
© Faith A. Morrison, Michigan Tech U.

## Dimensionless Numbers

Dimensionless numbers from the **Equations of Change**

**Re** – Reynolds =  $\frac{\rho v D}{\mu} = \frac{v D}{\nu}$

**Fr** – Froude =  $\frac{v^2}{g D}$

**Pe** – Péclet<sub>h</sub> = **RePr** =  $\frac{\hat{c}_p \rho v D}{k} = \frac{v D}{\alpha}$

**Pe** – Péclet<sub>m</sub> = **ReSc** =  $\frac{v D}{D_{AB}}$

**Pr** – Prandtl =  $\frac{\hat{c}_p \mu}{k} = \frac{\nu}{\alpha}$

**Sc** – Schmidt = **LePr** =  $\frac{\mu}{\rho D_{AB}} = \frac{\nu}{D_{AB}}$

**Le** – Lewis =  $\frac{\alpha}{D_{AB}}$

These numbers tell us about the **relative importance of the terms** they precede in the microscopic balances (*scenario properties*).

These numbers compare the **magnitudes of the diffusive transport coefficients**  $\nu, \alpha, D_{AB}$  (*material properties*).

**Transport coefficients**

40  
© Faith A. Morrison, Michigan Tech U.

## Dimensional Analysis

**Dimensionless numbers from the Engineering Quantities of Interest**

**momentum** × Dimensionless Force on the Wall (Drag)

$$f = \frac{1}{\pi L k_e} \int_0^{\frac{D}{2}} \int_0^{2\pi} \left( \frac{\partial v_z}{\partial r^*} \right) \Big|_{r^*=\frac{1}{2}} d\theta dz^*$$

**energy** × Newton's Law of Cooling

$$Nu = \frac{1}{2\pi L / D} \int_0^{\frac{D}{2}} \int_0^{2\pi} \left( \frac{\partial T^*}{\partial r^*} \right) \Big|_{r^*=\frac{1}{2}} dz^* d\theta$$

**mass xfer** × Dimensionless Mass Transfer Coefficient

$$Sh = \frac{1}{2\pi L k_c} \int_0^{\frac{D}{2}} \int_0^{2\pi} \left( -\frac{\partial x_A^*}{\partial r^*} \right) \Big|_{r^*=\frac{1}{2}} d\theta dz^*$$

These numbers are defined to help us build **transport data correlations** based on the fewest number of grouped (dimensionless) variables (*scenario property*).

$f$  – Friction Factor (Fanning)

$\frac{L}{D}$  – Aspect Ratio

$$f = \frac{\mathcal{F}_{drag}}{\left(\frac{1}{2}\rho V^2\right) A_c}$$

$Nu$  – Nusselt

$\frac{L}{D}$  – Aspect Ratio

$$Nu = \frac{hD}{k}$$

$St_h = \frac{h}{\rho V \hat{c}_p} = \frac{Nu}{RePr}$

$Sh$  – Sherwood

$\frac{L}{D}$  – Aspect Ratio

$$Sh = \frac{k_c D}{D_{AB}}$$

$St_m = \frac{k_c}{V} = \frac{Sh}{ReSc}$

$St$  – Stanton

41

© Faith A. Morrison, Michigan Tech U.

momentum  
energy  
mass

## Dimensionless Numbers

$Re$  – Reynolds =  $\frac{\rho VD}{\mu} = \frac{VD}{\nu}$

$Fr$  – Froude =  $\frac{V^2}{gD}$

$Pe$  – Péclet<sub>h</sub> =  $RePr = \frac{\hat{c}_p \rho VD}{k} = \frac{VD}{\alpha}$

$Pe$  – Péclet<sub>m</sub> =  $ReSc = \frac{VD}{D_{AB}}$

These numbers from the governing equations tell us about the relative importance of the terms they precede in the microscopic balances (*scenario properties*).

$Pr$  – Prandtl =  $\frac{\hat{c}_p \mu}{k} = \frac{\nu}{\alpha}$

$Sc$  – Schmidt =  $LePr = \frac{\mu}{\rho D_{AB}} = \frac{\nu}{D_{AB}}$

$Le$  – Lewis =  $\frac{\alpha}{D_{AB}}$

These numbers compare the magnitudes of the diffusive transport coefficients  $\nu, \alpha, D_{AB}$  (*material properties*).

$f$  – Friction Factor =  $\frac{\mathcal{F}_{drag}}{\left(\frac{1}{2}\rho V^2\right) A_c}$

$Nu$  – Nusselt =  $\frac{hD}{k}$

$Sh$  – Sherwood =  $\frac{k_c D}{D_{AB}}$

These numbers are defined to help us build transport data correlations based on the fewest number of grouped (dimensionless) variables (*scenario properties*).

$St_h = Nu/Pe_h, St_m = Sh/Pe_m$  – Stanton

42

© Faith A. Morrison, Michigan Tech U.

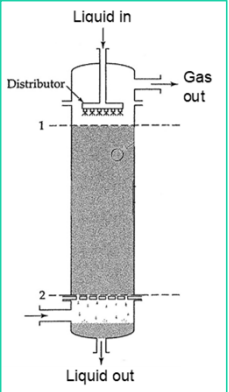
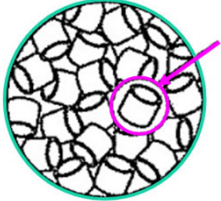
Dimensional Analysis in Mass Transfer

**Steps to produce correlations**

*Returning to our question:*

### What do we do to understand complex mass transfer?

1. Find a simple problem that allows us to identify the physics
2. Non-dimensionalize:
  - a. Choose characteristic values
  - b. Produce a non-dimensional governing equation
  - c. Produce a non-dimensional engineering quantity of interest
3. Explore that problem
4. Take data and correlate (confirm D.A. for chosen problem)
5. Solve real problems with the correlation

43  
© Faith A. Morrison, Michigan Tech U.

Dimensional Analysis in Mass Transfer

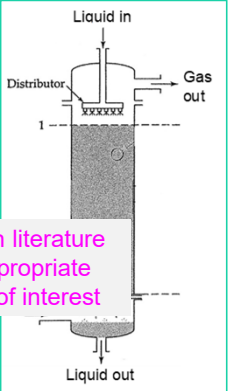
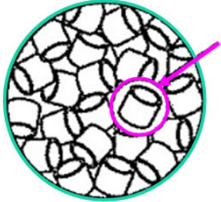
**Steps to use correlations**

*Returning to our question:*

### What do we do to understand complex mass transfer?

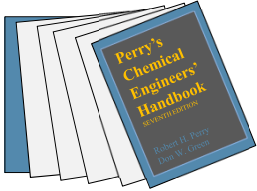
1. Find a simple problem that allows us to identify the physics
- ~~2. Non-dimensionalize.~~
  - ~~a. Choose characteristic values~~
  - ~~b. Produce a non-dimensional governing equation~~
  - ~~c. Produce a non-dimensional engineering quantity of interest~~
- ~~3. Explore that problem~~
- ~~4. Take data and correlate (confirm D.A. for chosen problem)~~
- ~~5. Solve real problems with the correlation (be sure to validate choice)~~

**2. Determine which literature correlation is appropriate for the problem of interest**

44  
© Faith A. Morrison, Michigan Tech U.

Dimensional Analysis in Mass Transfer



## Perry's Chemical Engineers' Handbook

7<sup>th</sup> edition (1997)  
Robert H. Perry  
Don W. Green

*See also:*  
(Green and Southard, 9<sup>th</sup> edition, 2019)

**Section 5: Heat and Mass Transfer**

**Authors of Mass Transfer:**  
Phillip C. Wankat  
Kent S. Knaebel

**Table 5-21: Correlations for Mass Transfer:** (pp 5-59 thru 5-77)

- From fluid to plate
- To a falling film
- In pipes and ducts
- Past submerged objects
- To/from bubbles, drops
- In agitated systems
- In fixed and fluidized beds
- In packed two-phase contactors (absorption, distillation, cooling towers)

(T)-theoretical  
(S)-semi-empirical  
(E)-empirical


© Faith A. Morrison, Michigan Tech U.

45

Dimensional Analysis in Mass Transfer

## Advice from Wankat and Knaebel

$$Sh = Sh(Re, Sc)$$



**Perry's Chemical Engineers' Handbook**  
7<sup>th</sup> edition (1997)  
Robert H. Perry  
Don W. Green

*See also:*  
(Green and Southard, 9<sup>th</sup> edition, 2019)

**Section 5: Heat and Mass Transfer**

**Authors of Mass Transfer:**  
Phillip C. Wankat  
Kent S. Knaebel

**Table 5-21: Correlations for Mass Transfer:** (pp 5-59 thru 5-77)

- From fluid to plate
- To a falling film
- In pipes and ducts
- Past submerged objects
- To/from bubbles, drops
- In agitated systems
- In fixed and fluidized beds
- In packed two-phase contactors (absorption, distillation, cooling towers)

1. Because of its importance, there are many studies of mass transfer in the literature
2. For simple geometries, theoretical results are obtainable (T)
3. For very complex systems, only empirical (E) forms can be found
4. Theoretical correlations can be "improved" by fitting to data, resulting in a semi-empirical correlation (S)
5. The major limits and constraints are listed in Perry's Table 5-21; many details are not included, however
6. Readers are *strongly encouraged* to check the references before using the correlations; look for comparisons to actual data
7. Even authoritative sources have typos

(Perry's, 7<sup>th</sup> ed, p 5-58)

46

© Faith A. Morrison, Michigan Tech U.

Dimensional Analysis in Mass Transfer


**MORE Advice from Wankat and Knaebel**

**$Sh = Sh(Re, Sc)$**

**When there are several correlations that are applicable (which often happens), how do we choose?**

1. Determine which correlations are closest to the situation under study (similarity of geometries, checking the range of dimensionless numbers and other parameters)
2. Check to see if correlations under consideration have been compared in the literature, both to each other, and to data
3. Check for “rules of thumb” shared by experts

(Perry's, 7<sup>th</sup> ed, p 5-58 through 5-60)



**Perry's Chemical Engineers' Handbook**  
7<sup>th</sup> edition (1997)  
Robert H. Perry  
Don W. Green

See also: (Green and Seider's 9<sup>th</sup> edition, 2018)

**Section 5: Heat and Mass Transfer**  
Authors of Mass Transfer:  
Philip C. Wankat  
Kent S. Knaebel

**Table 5-21: Correlations for Mass Transfer:** (pp 5-58 thru 5-77)

- From fluid to plate
- To a falling film
- In pipes and ducts
- Past submerged objects
- To/from bubbles, drops
- In agitated systems
- In fixed and fluidized beds
- In packed two-phase contactors (absorption, distillation, cooling towers)

47  
© Faith A. Morrison, Michigan Tech U.

Dimensional Analysis in Mass Transfer


**MORE Advice from Wankat and Knaebel**

**$Sh = Sh(Re, Sc)$**

**Rules of Thumb**

1. If arithmetic concentration difference was used to determine  $k$  for the correlation, that should only be used in such an expression
2. Semi-empirical correlations are often preferred to empirical (do *not* extrapolate empirical) or purely theoretical (can be far off; assumptions)
3. Correlations with a broader data base are preferred
4. Heat/mass transfer analogy is pretty good within its bounds; good heat transfer data (without radiation) can often be used to predict mass-transfer coefficients
5. Recent data is preferred over older data
6. With complex geometries,  $k_y a$  (or HTU) correlations are more accurate than  $k_y$  correlations
7. **If a mass-transfer correlation looks too good to be true, it probably is.**

(Perry's, 7<sup>th</sup> ed, p 5-60)



**Perry's Chemical Engineers' Handbook**  
7<sup>th</sup> edition (1997)  
Robert H. Perry  
Don W. Green

See also: (Green and Seider's 9<sup>th</sup> edition, 2018)

**Section 5: Heat and Mass Transfer**  
Authors of Mass Transfer:  
Philip C. Wankat  
Kent S. Knaebel

**Table 5-21: Correlations for Mass Transfer:** (pp 5-58 thru 5-77)

- From fluid to plate
- To a falling film
- In pipes and ducts
- Past submerged objects
- To/from bubbles, drops
- In agitated systems
- In fixed and fluidized beds
- In packed two-phase contactors (absorption, distillation, cooling towers)

48  
© Faith A. Morrison, Michigan Tech U.



### Routes to Mass Transfer Correlations

#### Theoretical

- Based on a model of the situation; can be solved for flux, and thus for  $k_x$
- All models have assumptions; how good the assumptions are determine how good the correlations are
- The heat-transfer analogy counts as a theoretical pathway

#### Semi-empirical

- Shortcomings in theoretical models may be “fixed” by adjusting a theoretically derived coefficient or exponent to achieve a better fit to the data
- The theoretical underpinnings give some hope that extrapolation outside the range of the data fit may be valid

#### Empirical

- A pure fit to the data is a convenient way to use data directly in downstream calculations
- With no theoretical underpinnings it is extremely unwise to use empirical correlations outside the range of the data fit

49

© Faith A. Morrison, Michigan Tech U.

### Routes to Mass Transfer Correlations

#### Theoretical

- Based on a model of the situation; can be solved for flux, and thus for  $k_x$
- All models have assumptions; how good the assumptions are determine how good the correlations are
- The heat-transfer analogy counts as a theoretical pathway

#### Semi-empirical

- Shortcomings in theoretical models may be “fixed” by adjusting a theoretically derived coefficient or exponent to achieve a better fit to the data
- The theoretical underpinnings give some hope that extrapolation outside the range of the data fit may be valid

#### Empirical

- A pure fit to the data is a convenient way to use data directly in downstream calculations
- With no theoretical underpinnings it is extremely unwise to use empirical correlations outside the range of the data fit

50

© Faith A. Morrison, Michigan Tech U.

The Heat/Mass Transfer Analogy

**Routes to Mass Transfer Correlations**

**Theoretical**

- Based on a model of the situation; can be solved for flux, and thus for  $k_x$
- All models have assumptions; how good the assumptions are determine how good the correlations are
- The heat-transfer analogy counts as a theoretical pathway

**Theoretical Pathway to Mass Transfer Coefficients:**

*The Heat/Mass Transfer Analogy*

**mass**

**Example:** A spherical medical pill dissolves slowly in a stagnant fluid (water). What is the mass transfer coefficient  $k_c$ ? What is the Sherwood number for this situation?

**heat**

**Example:** A spherical pellet of reacting solid slowly emits heats steadily into a stagnant fluid such that the surface temperature is constant. What is the heat transfer coefficient  $h$ ? What is the Nusselt number for this situation?

BSI 2 p321, problem 10B.1, p678 51 © Faith A. Morrison, Michigan Tech U.

The Heat/Mass Transfer Analogy

**Routes to Mass Transfer Correlations**

**Theoretical**

- Based on a model of the situation; can be solved for flux, and thus for  $k_x$
- All models have assumptions; how good the assumptions are determine how good the correlations are
- The heat-transfer analogy counts as a theoretical pathway

**heat**

**Example:** A spherical pellet of reacting solid slowly emits heats steadily into a stagnant fluid such that the surface temperature is constant. What is the heat transfer coefficient  $h$ ? What is the Nusselt number for this situation?

$T_\infty$

$T_R$

$R$

stagnant fluid

Solve.

BSI 2 p321, problem 10B.1 52 © Faith A. Morrison, Michigan Tech U.

The Heat/Mass Transfer Analogy

Routes to Mass Transfer Correlations

**Theoretical**

- Based on a model of the situation; can be solved for flux, and thus for  $k_x$
- All models have assumptions; how good the assumptions are determine how good the correlations are
- The heat-transfer analogy counts as a theoretical pathway

**mass**

**Example:** A spherical medical pill dissolves slowly in a stagnant fluid (water). What is the mass transfer coefficient  $k_c$ ? What is the Sherwood number for this situation?

$x_{A\infty}$

$x_{AR}$

$R$

stagnant fluid

Solve.

BSI 2 p321, problem 10B.1 53 © Faith A. Morrison, Michigan Tech U.

The Heat/Mass Transfer Analogy

Routes to Mass Transfer Correlations

**Theoretical**

- Based on a model of the situation; can be solved for flux, and thus for  $k_x$
- All models have assumptions; how good the assumptions are determine how good the correlations are
- The heat-transfer analogy counts as a theoretical pathway

**Theoretical Pathway to Mass Transfer Coefficients:**

*The Heat/Mass Transfer Analogy*

**Results for transfer from sphere to stagnant fluid:**

- Sh = Nu = 2
- Limited to low mass transfer rates ( $v^* \approx 0$ )
- At low mass transfer rates and stagnant fluid,  $J_A^* = \underline{N}_A$  and  $j_A = \underline{n}_A$ ; this makes it easy to convert units moles to mass

**Assumptions of the analogy between heat and mass**

- Constant physical properties
- Small net mass transfer rates
- No chemical reactions
- No viscous dissipation heating
- No absorption or emission of radiant energy
- No pressure diffusion, thermal diffusion, or forced diffusion

BSI 2 p681 54 © Faith A. Morrison, Michigan Tech U.

The Heat/Mass Transfer Analogy

Dimensional Analysis in Mass Transfer

**Theoretical Pathway to Mass Transfer Coefficients:**

*The Heat/Mass Transfer Analogy*

**Results for transfer from sphere to stagnant fluid:**

- $Sh = Nu = 2$
- Limited to low mass transfer rates ( $v^* \approx 0$ )
- At low mass transfer rates and stagnant fluid,  $j_A^* = \underline{N}_A$  and  $j_A = \underline{n}_A$ ; this makes it easy to convert units moles to mass

Routes to Mass Transfer Correlations

**Theoretical**

- Based on a model of the situation; can be solved for flux, and thus for  $k_x$
- All models have assumptions; how good the assumptions are determine how good the correlations are
- The heat-transfer analogy counts as a theoretical pathway

**Assumptions of the analogy between heat and mass**

1. Constant physical properties
2. Small net mass transfer rates
3. No chemical reactions
4. No viscous dissipation heating
5. No absorption or emission of radiant energy
6. No pressure diffusion, thermal diffusion, or forced diffusion

**Comment from the experts:**

“It would be very misleading to leave the impression that all mass transfer coefficients can be obtained from the analogous heat transfer coefficient correlations. For mass transfer we encounter a much wider variety of boundary conditions and other ranges of relevant variables.”

55  
© Faith A. Morrison, Michigan Tech U.

Dimensional Analysis in Mass Transfer

Routes to Mass Transfer Correlations

**Theoretical**

- Based on a model of the situation; can be solved for flux, and thus for  $k_x$
- All models have assumptions; how good the assumptions are determine how good the correlations are
- The heat-transfer analogy counts as a theoretical pathway

**Semi-empirical**

- Shortcomings in theoretical models may be “fixed” by adjusting a theoretically derived coefficient or exponent to achieve a better fit to the data
- The theoretical underpinnings give some hope that extrapolation outside the range of the data fit may be valid

**Empirical**

- A pure fit to the data is a convenient way to use data directly in downstream calculations
- With no theoretical underpinnings it is extremely unwise to use empirical correlations outside the range of the data fit

56  
© Faith A. Morrison, Michigan Tech U.

Dimensional Analysis in Mass Transfer

Routes to Mass Transfer Correlations

**Semi-Empirical**

- Shortcomings in theoretical models may be “fixed” by adjusting a theoretically derived coefficient or exponent to achieve a better fit to the data
- The theoretical underpinnings give some hope that extrapolation outside the range of the data fit may be valid

### Semi-Empirical Pathway to Mass Transfer Coefficients

Inspired by theoretical results and a model (a picture of how the mass transfer may be explained), correlations may be created that are then fine-tuned to match the data

For example, **Colburn’s extension of the Reynolds analogy**

57  
© Faith A. Morrison, Michigan Tech U.

BSL2 p681

Dimensional Analysis in Mass Transfer

Routes to Mass Transfer Correlations

**Semi-Empirical**

- Shortcomings in theoretical models may be “fixed” by adjusting a theoretically derived coefficient or exponent to achieve a better fit to the data
- The theoretical underpinnings give some hope that extrapolation outside the range of the data fit may be valid

### Reynolds Analogy, Colburn’s, Prandtl’s extensions

- Reynolds noted the similarities in mechanism between energy and momentum transfer
- He derived, for restrictive conditions ( $Pr = 1$ , no form drag), the following equation:
 
$$\frac{h}{\rho V_{\infty} \hat{C}_p} = St_h = \frac{f}{2} \quad \text{(Stanton number for heat transfer)}$$
- Coleburn modified the Reynolds result to work at more values of  $Pr$  and proposed the following:
 
$$St_h Pr^{2/3} = \frac{f}{2}$$
- This improved relationship does a better job of predicting heat transfer coefficients and
- Separating the turbulent core from the laminar sublayer in boundary layer flow allows it to be extended to mass transfer (Prandtl), resulting in a refined empirical correlation (WRF eqn 28-54)

58  
© Faith A. Morrison, Michigan Tech U.

BSL2 p681; WRF p580

Dimensional Analysis in Mass Transfer

### Routes to Mass Transfer Correlations

**Theoretical**

- Based on a model of the situation; can be solved for flux, and thus for  $k_x$
- All models have assumptions; how good the assumptions are determine how good the correlations are
- The heat-transfer analogy counts as a theoretical pathway

**Semi-empirical**

- Shortcomings in theoretical models may be “fixed” by adjusting a theoretically derived coefficient or exponent to achieve a better fit to the data
- The theoretical underpinnings give some hope that extrapolation outside the range of the data fit may be valid

**Empirical**

- A pure fit to the data is a convenient way to use data directly in downstream calculations
- With no theoretical underpinnings it is extremely unwise to use empirical correlations outside the range of the data fit

59  
© Faith A. Morrison, Michigan Tech U.

Dimensional Analysis in Mass Transfer

### Empirical Pathway to Mass Transfer Coefficients

Inspired by looking at data from a variety of systems, correlations may be created that are fine-tuned to match the data.

These may be based purely on dimensional analysis or there may be a model that the researchers have in mind.

Empirical models are judged by how accurately they represent the data.

**Routes to Mass Transfer Correlations**

**Empirical**

- A pure fit to the data is a convenient way to use data directly in downstream calculations
- With no theoretical underpinnings it is extremely unwise to use empirical correlations outside the range of the data fit

60  
© Faith A. Morrison, Michigan Tech U.

Dimensional Analysis in Mass Transfer

### Chilton-Colburn Analogy

Inspired by semi-empirical analogies such as the Reynolds Analogy, define the “j factors”:

$$j_H \equiv \frac{Nu}{RePr^{1/3}} = \frac{h}{\rho \hat{C}_p V_\infty} \left( \frac{\hat{C}_p \mu}{k} \right)^{2/3}$$

$$j_M \equiv \frac{Sh}{ReSc^{1/3}} = \frac{k_x}{c V_\infty} \left( \frac{\mu}{\rho D_{AB}} \right)^{2/3}$$

Compare to data.

#### Routes to Mass Transfer Correlations

**Empirical**

- A pure fit to the data is a convenient way to use data directly in downstream calculations
- With no theoretical underpinnings it is extremely unwise to use empirical correlations outside the range of the data fit

### Chilton-Colburn Analogy

$$j_H = j_M = \frac{f}{2}$$

*(f is the Fanning friction factor)*

© Faith A. Morrison, Michigan Tech U.

WRF p581

61

© Faith A. Morrison, Michigan Tech U.

Dimensional Analysis in Mass Transfer

### Chilton-Colburn Analogy

$$j_H = j_M = \frac{f}{2}$$

*(f is the Fanning friction factor)*

#### Chilton-Colburn Analogy

$$j_H \equiv \frac{Nu}{RePr^{1/3}} = \frac{h}{\rho \hat{C}_p V_\infty} \left( \frac{\hat{C}_p \mu}{k} \right)^{2/3}$$

$$j_M \equiv \frac{Sh}{ReSc^{1/3}} = \frac{k_x}{c V_\infty} \left( \frac{\mu}{\rho D_{AB}} \right)^{2/3}$$

#### Routes to Mass Transfer Correlations

**Empirical**

- A pure fit to the data is a convenient way to use data directly in downstream calculations
- With no theoretical underpinnings it is extremely unwise to use empirical correlations outside the range of the data fit

**Conditions:**

- Exact for flat plates
- Satisfactory in other geometries as long as form drag is not present
- Relates convective heat and mass transfer
- Permits evaluation of one transfer coefficient through information obtained on another
- Experimentally validated for gases and liquids within the ranges  $0.60 \leq Sc \leq 2500$ ,  $0.6 \leq Pr \leq 100$
- Constant physical properties data

© Faith A. Morrison, Michigan Tech U.

WRF pp581-2

62

© Faith A. Morrison, Michigan Tech U.

### Dimensional Analysis in Mass Transfer

Routes to Mass Transfer Correlations

**Theoretical**

- Based on a model of the situation; can be solved for flux, and thus for  $k_c$
- All models have assumptions; how good the assumptions are determine how good the correlations are
- The heat-transfer analogy counts as a theoretical pathway

**Semi-empirical**

- Shortcomings in theoretical models may be "fixed" by adjusting a theoretically derived coefficient or exponent to achieve a better fit to the data
- The theoretical underpinnings give some hope that extrapolation outside the range of the data fit may be valid

**Empirical**

- A pure fit to the data is a convenient way to use data directly in downstream calculations
- With no theoretical underpinnings it is extremely unwise to use empirical correlations outside the range of the data fit

## Final thoughts on Literature Mass-Transfer Coefficient Correlations

- Choose correlation carefully
- Check the original reference (how  $k_y$  defined, what are the assumptions, how well does it represent the data)
- With complex geometries,  $k_y a$  (or HTU) correlations are more accurate than  $k_y$  correlations

63

© Faith A. Morrison, Michigan Tech U.

### Mass Transport "Laws"

## We have 2 Mass Transport "laws"

Remaining Topics to round out our understanding of mass transport:

*Fick's law of diffusion*

}

- Since we predict  $N_A$  with Fick's law, we can also predict a mass transfer coefficient  $k_y$  or  $k_c$ . *Relate  $k_c$  and  $D_{AB}$*
- 1D Unsteady models can be solved (if good at math). *Solutions are analogous to heat transfer*

*Mass transfer coefficients*

}

- Combine with macroscopic species A mass balance. *Model macroscopic processes, design units*
- Are not material properties; rather, they are determined experimentally and specific to the situation (dimensional analysis and correlations).  $Sh = f(ReSc)$
- Facilitate combining resistances into overall mass transfer coefficients,  $K_L, K_G$ , to be used in modeling unit operations

64

© Faith A. Morrison, Michigan Tech U.

Mass Transport "Laws"

We now have 2 Mass Transport "laws"

**Fick's Law of Diffusion**

$N_A = x_A(N_A + N_B) - cD_{AB} \nabla x_A$

Use: Combine with microscopic species A mass balance

Predicts flux  $N_A$  and composition distributions, e.g.  $x_A(x, y, z, t)$

1D Steady models can be solved

1D Unsteady models can be solved (if good at math)

2D steady and unsteady models can be solved by COMSOL

Since we predict  $N_A$ , we can also predict a mass xfer coeff.  $k_y$  or  $k_c$

Diffusion coefficients are **material** properties (see tables)

Transport coefficient

---

**Linear-Driving-Force Model**  $|N_A| = k_y |x_{A,bulk} - x_{A,i}|$

Use: Combine with macroscopic species A mass balance

Predicts flux  $N_A$  but **not** composition distributions

May be used as a boundary condition in microscopic balances

Mass-transfer-coefficients are **not material properties**

Rather, they are determined experimentally and specific to the situation (dimensional analysis and correlations)

Facilitate combining resistances into overall mass xfer coeffs.  $K_L, K_G$


32




# Last topic

Overall Mass Transfer Coefficients


CM3110  
Transport II  
Part II: Diffusion and Mass Transfer

 Michigan Tech



**Overall Mass Transfer Coefficients**

5

 **Professor Faith A. Morrison**  
Department of Chemical Engineering  
Michigan Technological University