C13 Isotope Recovery From Natural Gas Using Batch Distillation Column

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## Relative Volatility for <sup>12</sup>CO/<sup>13</sup>CO System

In case of distillation of carbon monoxide, <sup>12</sup>CO has about 0.5% higher vapor pressure than <sup>13</sup>CO, or the relative volatility for the <sup>12</sup>CO/<sup>13</sup>CO system is 1.005.

From "Isotope Separation by Distillation"



## Alpha for <sup>12</sup>CO/<sup>13</sup>CO as a Function of Composition

X( <sup>12</sup> CO)	Y( <sup>12</sup> CO)	Alpha
0.1	0.100443	1.004925
0.2	0.200787	1.004924
0.3	0.301033	1.004926
0.4	0.401180	1.004926
0.5	0.501229	1.004928
0.6	0.601179	1.004927
0.7	0.701032	1.004931
0.8	0.800786	1.004932
0.9	0.900442	1.004933



## Relative Volatilities btn C12 & C13

Definition of relative volatility of component 'i' and component 'j' is:

$$\alpha_{ij} = \frac{K_i}{K_j} = \frac{\left(P_i/P\right)}{\left(P_j/P\right)} = \frac{P_i}{P_j} \quad (cc)$$

(component '' is defined as more volatile than component 'j')



#### **Shortcut:** Fenske Equation for Minimum Number of Stages

 Minimum number of stages can be determined using Fenske equation

$$N_{\min} = \frac{\ln\left[\frac{x_D/(1-x_D)}{(1-x_B)/x_B}\right]}{\ln\alpha} = \frac{\ln SF}{\ln\alpha}$$

□ SF (separation factor) is defined as:

$$SF = \left(\frac{x_{D,LK}}{x_{D,HK}}\right) \left(\frac{x_{B,HK}}{x_{B,LK}}\right)$$



#### **Feedstock Characterization**

Components	Mole Percent
12CO	50.0
13CO	50.0
Flow-rate (Kg-mole/hr)	100.0



## **C13 Property Calculation Using SRK**

We used Soave Modified Redlich-Kwong equation of state for the modeling of methane isotope separation.

$$P = \frac{RT}{V-b} - \frac{a \cdot \alpha}{V(V+b)}$$

- Parameter 'a' and 'b' are functions of critical temperature and pressure.
- Alpha value is functions of reduced temperature and acentric factor.
- Acentric factor of 13CO was adjusted to accurately estimate vapor pressure at a given temperature.



#### Comparison of <sup>13</sup>CO Vapor Pressure btn Correlation & Modified SRK Equation



 Acentric factor of <sup>13</sup>CO, ω was modified as 0.095 to fit the vapor pressure vs. temperature.



### Comparison of <sup>13</sup>CO Vapor Pressure btn Correlation & Modified SRK Equation

Temperature	Vapor Pressure of <sup>13</sup> CO	Vapor Pressure of <sup>12</sup> CO
70.0 K	16.07 kPa	16.25 kPa
80.0 K	69.44 kPa	69.98 kPa
90.0 K	210.46 kPa	211.56 kPa

 <sup>12</sup>CO has about 0.5% higher vapor pressure than <sup>13</sup>CO at 90.0 K.

$$\left|\frac{211.56 - 210.46}{211.56}\right| \times 100 = 0.52\%$$



# The End....



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