Determination of isotherms of L-ribose and L-arabinose on Dow99CA/320 for the design of pilot-scale SMB

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In the previous study, the isotherms of L-ribose and L-arabinose on Dow 50WX4-400mesh (modified to the Ca^{2+} form) was measured by single-step frontal analyses and those were confirmed by simulations. And, Lab-scale SMB unit was applied for the separation of L-sugars with high purities above 99%. In this study, Dow99CA/320 resin was chosen for scale-up study of pilot-scale SMB (Simulated Moving Bed) process. A small column (1.5 cm inner diameter and 15 cm bed height) was employed to measure the isotherms on Dow99Ca320. The isotherms of L-ribose and L-arabinose are the Langmuir isotherms with competitive behavior. Pilot-scale columns (5 cm inner diameter and 50 cm bed height) were made by BioCNS Co. and one of the pilot-scale columns was tested by upward and downward elution with short-pulse injection. The elution results were compared with simulations with Aspen ChromatographyTM. The comparison results between experiments and simulations were not agreed well. Several reasons for the unmatched results were considered and a study to improve is ongoing.