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**Contents**

**PLENARY LECTURES**

Meeting the challenge T. REG. BOTT	1
Green chemistry and the biorefinery JAMES CLARK	2
Adding value to chemical products E.L. CUSSLER	3
Innovation at interfaces CHARLES COONEY	4
A process systems engineering approach for managing the complexity RAFIQUL GANI	5
Development of crystallization processes for separating multicomponent mixtures KA MING NG	6
Educating chemical engineers for coming challenges S. FEYO DE AZEVEDO	7
<b>ORAL PRESENTATIONS: ADVANCING THE CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL ENGINEERING FUNDAMENTALS</b>	
Gas-liquid mass transfer in gas-liquid-liquid dispersions in a stirred tank: effect of spreading coefficient HENRIQUE J.O. PINHO, RUI SANTANA, SEBASTIÃO S. ALVES	9
Oxygen transfer characterization in three-phase reactors using silicone oil as vector GUILLERMO QUIJANO, FRÉDÉRIC THALASSO	11
Fluidization behaviour of different shaped large particulate food materials: effect of moisture and shape WUITHA SENADEERA	13
Modeling of a novel photoreactor for multiphase applications JOANA T. CARNEIRO, ROB BERGER, JACOB A. MOULIN, GUIDO MUL...	15
Evaluation of parameters and process conditions of the ethylbenzene dehydrogenation in a fixed bed reactor wrapped with permselective membrane PAULO JARDEL P. ARAÚJO, TERESA M. K. RAVAGNANI	17
Solubility of multifunctional associating molecules: measurements and thermodynamic modeling A.J. QUEIMADA, F.L. MOTA, S.P. PINHO, E.A. MACEDO	19
Diffusion coefficients and conductivities of 1-butyl-3-methylimidazolium-based ionic liquids CHUN-LI WONG, MENG-HUI LI	21
Inhibitor effect of selected anionic surfactants on the dissolution of calcium sulfate in aqueous brines CRISTIANA LOUREIRO, FÁTIMA FARELO, LURDES SERRANO, MANUEL PEREIRA	23
Crosslinked analogues of ionic-liquids – a versatile medium and catalysts for organic reactions ANDRZEJ W. TROCHIMCZUK, SYLWIA RONKA	25
Particle agglomeration in cyclones JÚLIO PAIVA, ROMUALDO SALCEDO, PAULO ARAÚJO	26
Extending Kozeny-Carman permeability model to highly porous media MANUEL MOTA, ALEXANDER YELSHIN	28
Optimal operating conditions for the separation of lactobionic acid, sorbitol, fructose and lactose using a 5-section pseudo-SMB ISRAEL PEDRUZZI, PEDRO SÁ GOMES, EDUARDO A.B. DA SILVA, ALÍRIO E. RODRIGUES	30
Observation of inertial particle motion in laminar flow in a stirred vessel NAOTO OHMURA, NAMI NISHIOKA, ALATENG TUYA, MOHAMED N. NOUI-MEHIDI, JIE WU, NORIHISA KUMAGAI, TEIJI TAKIGAWA	32
Assessment of the tartaric stability of wines deionised by electrodialysis PATRÍCIA A.M.H. SOARES, VÍTOR GERALDES, CRISTINA FERNANDES, PAULO CAMEIRA DOS SANTOS, MARIA NORBERTA DE PINHO	34
Characterization of a microporous titanosilicate AM-3 membrane – pure gas permeation PATRÍCIA F. LITO, SARA B. BARROS, JOÃO ROCHA, ZHI LIN, CARLOS M. SILVA	36
Pure Solvent Solubility of Some Pharmaceutical Molecules FÁTIMA L. MOTA, ANTÓNIO J. QUEIMADA, SIMÃO P. PINHO, EUGÉNIA A. MACEDO	38
Basicity promotion and mechanism aspect of liquid selective oxidation of alcohols on Au/Activated-Carbon catalyst JUNJIANG ZHU, JOSÉ L. FIGUEIREDO, JOAQUIM L. FARIA	40
Computer-aided phase equilibria prediction for organic systems: UNIFAC-CI. Analysis, revision and extension HUGO E. GONZÁLEZ, JENS ABILDSCOV, RAFIQUL GANI	42

## **Solubility of multifunctional associating molecules: measurements and thermodynamic modeling**

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### **Introduction**

Numerous molecules in the pharmaceutical, food and chemical industries present complex chemical structures with different functional group substitutions. Many of these groups such as amine, carboxyl and hydroxyl can form hydrogen bonds. To adequately describe the phase equilibria of these complex chemicals, models able to take into account association effects are required. Still, for model development and evaluation, experimental data on some representative systems are needed. In this work, new experimental measurements and literature data were combined to develop a methodology to model the phase equilibria of phenolic acids using the Cubic-plus-Association (CPA) equation of state. A comparison with the UNIQUAC activity coefficient model is also presented. Within the different classes of multifunctional associating molecules, phenolic compounds, due to their chemical and biological importance, are among the most important. Apart from being starting materials for many chemical syntheses, there is also huge evidence that some phenolic compounds have beneficial effects on human health.

### **Experimental**

Solid-liquid equilibria of hydroxybenzoic acids such as gallic, salicylic, syringic and protocatechuic acids and phenilpropenoic acids such as trans-cinnamic, ferulic, coumaric and caffeic acids were measured from 288 K up to 323 K using the analytical shake-flask and a synthetic DSC methods. Particular attention was given to aqueous solubilities. Besides solubility data, the melting properties (fusion enthalpies and temperatures) were also determined by DSC. The corresponding pH of the saturated aqueous solutions as well as the acid dissociation constants were determined by potentiometry with a glass electrode.

### **Modeling**

An activity coefficient model, the modified UNIQUAC proposed by Peres and Macedo (Peres and Macedo, 1996) and an equation of state, the CPA EoS (F. L. Mota, 2008) were evaluated for modeling the measured data, neglecting the heat capacity term in the general solid-liquid equilibria relation (Prausnitz et al., 1999).

As both the solutes and the solvent can associate (self and cross-association is present in these mixtures), the CPA EoS was also adopted in this work. As the studied phenolic acids are multifunctional associating molecules, a new methodology was proposed to take into account the different associating groups as well as their repetitions and ring positions in the chemical structure. Values for the associating energies and volumes of the acid groups will also be proposed. Different mixture results will be used to demonstrate the reliability of the proposed model.

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