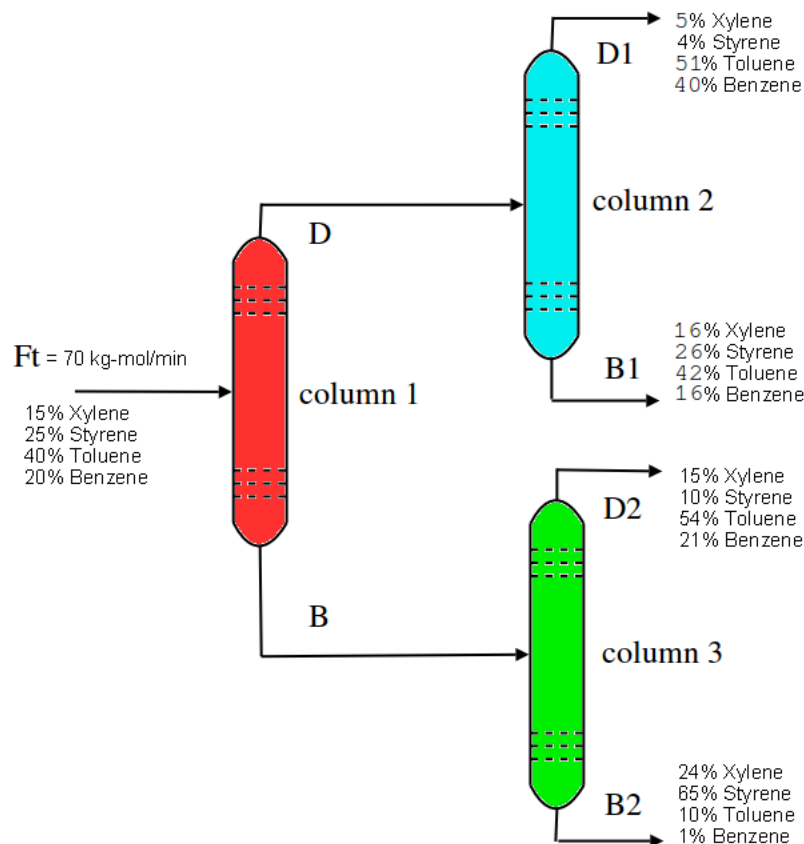


Chemical Separation Train: Xylene, Styrene, Toluene, and Benzene are separated in 3 distillation columns. Symbols F_t , D , B , D_1 , B_1 , D_2 , B_2 are molar flow rates in mol/min.



Balance Equations. The four Xylene separations imply balance equation $0.05D_1 + 0.16B_1 + 0.15D_2 + 0.24B_2 = 0.15(70)$ kg-mol, based on 1 min of operation. There are 3 other similar equations, for styrene, toluene and benzene. Multiply by 100 to produce the balance equations

$$\text{Xylene: } 5 D_1 + 16 B_1 + 15 D_2 + 24 B_2 = 15(70)$$

$$\text{Styrene: } 4 D_1 + 26 B_1 + 10 D_2 + 65 B_2 = 25(70)$$

$$\text{Toluene: } 51 D_1 + 42 B_1 + 54 D_2 + 10 B_2 = 40(70)$$

$$\text{Benzene: } 40 D_1 + 16 B_1 + 21 D_2 + 1 B_2 = 20(70)$$

Molar Flow Rates. Because D flows to column 2, then $D = D_1 + B_1$. Molar flow rates are computed individually in distillation column 2 as a linear combination of vector separations:

$$\begin{pmatrix} \text{Xylene molar flow rate} \\ \text{Styrene molar flow rate} \\ \text{Toluene molar flow rate} \\ \text{Benzene molar flow rate} \end{pmatrix} = \frac{D_1}{100} \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 4 \\ 51 \\ 40 \end{pmatrix} + \frac{B_1}{100} \begin{pmatrix} 16 \\ 26 \\ 42 \\ 16 \end{pmatrix}.$$

(a) Solve the balance equations for D_1 , B_1 , D_2 , B_2 .

Answers: About 18.35, 3.91, 27.78, 19.95.

(b) Compute the four individual molar flow rates for distillation column 2.

Answers: About 1.5, 1.75, 11.0, 7.97.

References: Linear Algebraic Equations, No Matrices (Math 2250)

<http://www.math.utah.edu/~gustafso/s2015/2250/linearequDRAFT.pdf>.

Michael Cutlip and Mordecai Shacham, *Problem Solving in Chemical Engineering with Numerical Methods*, Prentice-Hall (1998) ISBN-10: 0138625662.