

ABSTRACTMULTIPHASE STAGED PASSIVE REACTOR

A multi-phase staged passive reactor (10) for promoting interphasic interaction of a first substance in a liquid phase with a second substance in a non-miscible liquid phase, a solid phase or a gaseous phase. The reactor comprises a plurality of stages (C, D and E) which define a flow path for the substances in different phases. Each stage is shaped to define a substantially curved flow path (12) having a centre of curvature located to one side of the flow path (12). Thus, for example, stages (D) and (E) have a respective centre of curvature (14, 16), on opposite sides of the flow path (12) whereby, in use, as the substances flow through the reactor (10) particles of the second substance are forced to migrate through the first substance, first in one direction and then in substantially the reverse direction due to an inertial field of changing direction thus generated. Due to the differences in the relative densities of the respective phases, differential inertial forces are exerted on each phase as the mixture flows along the general flow direction of flow path (12) the interphasic interaction thus produced includes both mechanical interaction due to, for example, collisions and energy transfer, as well as chemical reactions due to, for example, oxidation and ion-exchange. There are no moving parts in the reactor (10) which is of relatively simple construction, and it is extremely efficient, achieving high reaction rates, high mass transfer rates and high mixing rates.

Figure 1(a) of the drawings is to accompany the Abstract when published.

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