Modeling of Liquid Hold-up in Fixed-bed Reactor for Fischer-Tropsch Synthesis

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Fischer–Tropsch synthesis mainly produces a wax which is a viscous liquid for long carbon chain. When a catalytic fixed-bed reactor is used for Fischer–Tropsch synthesis, the wax generated on a catalyst surface can keep adsorbing on the catalyst surface. This liquid hold-up causes significant pressure drop and clogging problems through the reactor. Thus, the model for liquid hold-up is required to design the size of reactor and catalyst particles. In this study, the liquid hold-up model considering structural and operational conditions was proposed based on empirical equations for convective mass transfer between the syngas flow and the wax–adsorbed catalyst. The developed model was validated by comparing with the experimental data from Knochen's work (2010).