P8-26_C (Comprehensive Problem on multiple reactions with heat effects) Styrene can be produced from ethylbenzene by the following reaction:

ethylbenzene
$$\longleftrightarrow$$
 styrene + H₂ (1)

However, several irreversible side reactions also occur:

ethylbenzene
$$\longrightarrow$$
 benzene + ethylene (2)

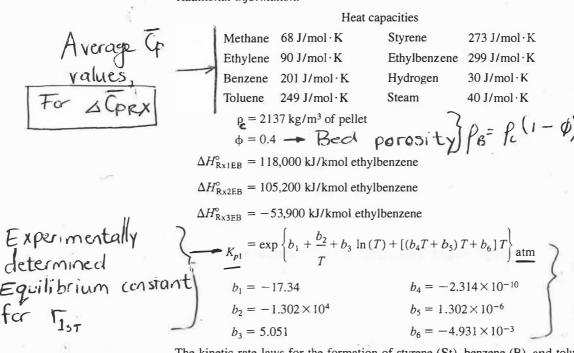
ethylbenzene +
$$H_2 \longrightarrow$$
 toluene + methane (3)



[J. Snyder and B. Subramaniam, Chem. Eng. Sci., 49, 5585 (1994)]. Ethylbenzene is fed at a rate of 0.00344 kmol/s to a 10.0-m3 PFR (PBR) along with inert steam at a total pressure of 2.4 atm. The steam/ethylbenzene molar ratio is initially [i.e., parts (a) to (c)] 14.5:1 but can be varied. Given the following data, find the exiting molar flow rates of styrene, benzene, and toluene along with $\tilde{S}_{St/BT}$ for the following inlet temperatures when the reactor is operated adiabatically.

- (a) $T_0 = 800 \text{ K}$
- **(b)** $T_0 = 930 \text{ K}$ **(c)** $T_0 = 1100 \text{ K}$
- (d) Find the ideal inlet temperature for the production of styrene for a steam/ethylbenzene ratio of 58:1. (Hint: Plot the molar flow rate of styrene versus T_0 . Explain why your curve looks the way it does.)
- (e) Find the ideal steam/ethylbenzene ratio for the production of styrene at 900 K. [Hint: See part (d).]
- (f) It is proposed to add a counter current heat exchanger with Ua = $100 \text{ kJ/m}^3/\text{min/K}$ where T_a is virtually constant at 1000 K. For an entering steam to ethylbenzene ratio of 20, what would you suggest as an entering temperature? Plot the molar flow rates and $S_{St/BT}$.

Additional information:



The kinetic rate laws for the formation of styrene (St), benzene (B), and toluene (T), respectively, are as follows. (EB = ethylbenzene)

