
Chapter 8. Liquid filtration

8.1 Introduction to Filtration theory.

8.2 The general filtration equation.

8.3 Compressible and incompressible cakes.

8.4. Incompressible filtration

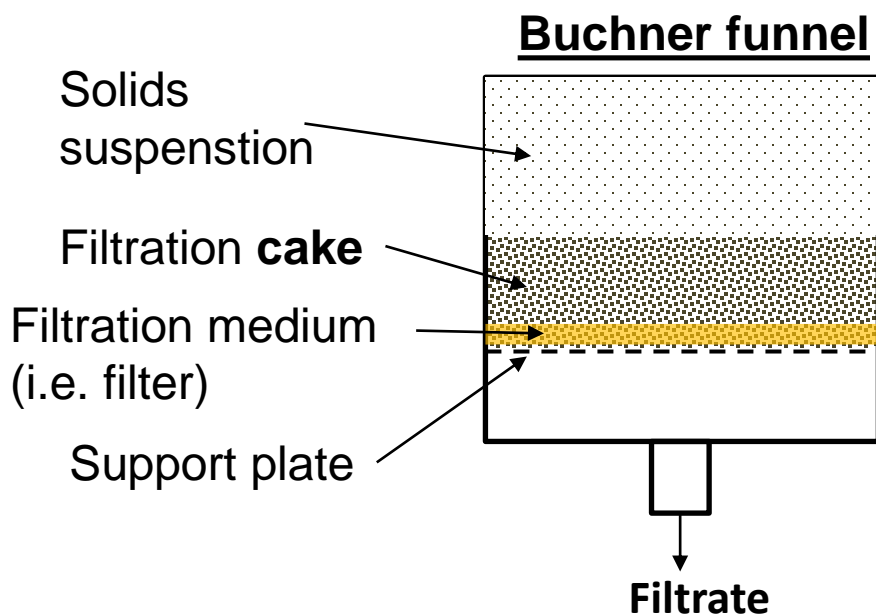
8.5 Filtration equipment: Design of plate and frame filters and of rotary vacuum filters

8.6 Compressible filtration

Coulsson and Richardson pp. 372-435

Introduction

The separation of solids from a suspension by means of a porous medium (i.e. filter) or screen which retain the solids and allows the fluid to pass is termed **filtration**. The pore size of the filter is in general larger than the particles. The filter works efficiently only after the deposit of some particles inside the filter pores.



Buchner filtration system

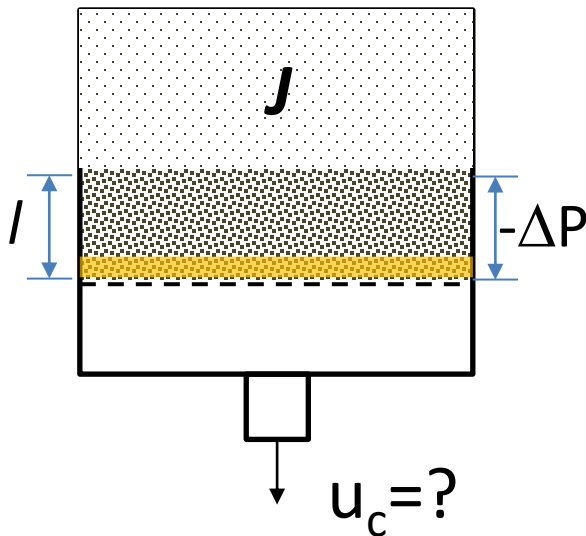


why is it needed a vacuum pump?

Introduction

The filtration operation involves the flow of a fluid through a bed of particles typically at a very low flow rate (laminar). The Kozeny Eq. (Chap 6) is used to describe filtration. There is the complication that the bed length, l , increases over time due to solids deposition in the filtration cake.

Any filtration system



J – concentration of solids [w/w]

l – cake length [m]

A – filter area [m²]

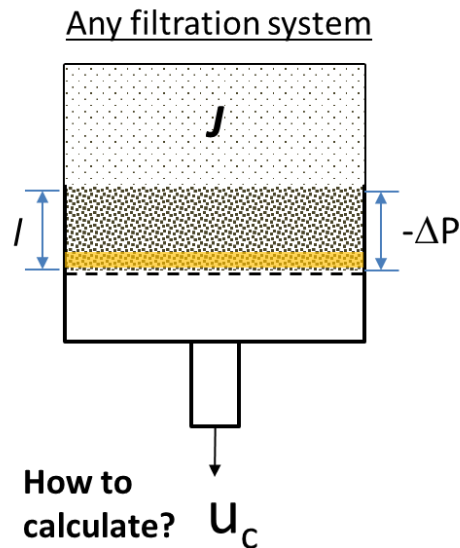
$(-\Delta P)$ – pressure drop across filter cake, [N/m²]

u_c – filtration rate [m/s]

$$u_c = \frac{1}{K''} \frac{e^3}{S_B^2} \frac{1}{\mu} \frac{(-\Delta P)}{l} \quad \text{Kozeny Eq.}$$

(l) increases over time

General filtration equation



$$u_c = \frac{1}{K''} \frac{e^3}{S_B^2} \frac{1}{\mu} \frac{(-\Delta P)}{l} \quad \text{Kozeny Eq.}$$

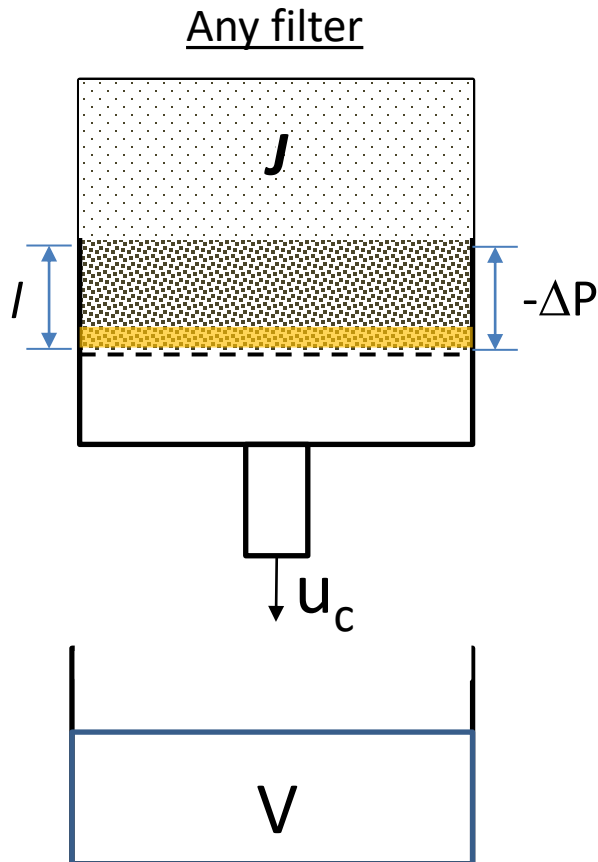
$= r^{-1}$

$$\Rightarrow u_c = \frac{(-\Delta P)}{r \mu l}$$

The cake specific resistance, $r[\text{m}^{-2}]$, is the inverse of permeability, $B[\text{m}^2]$, of Darcy's law. The higher the $r[\text{m}^{-2}]$ the more difficult is the flow of the fluid across the bed. **The value of r is normally obtained from a lab experiment**

$$r = \frac{K'' S_B^2}{e^3} = \frac{K'' S^2 (1 - e)^2}{e^3} = \text{Cake specific resistance, m}^{-2}$$

General filtration equation



$$u_c = \frac{(-\Delta P)}{r\mu l}$$

$$\frac{dV}{dt} = u_c A$$

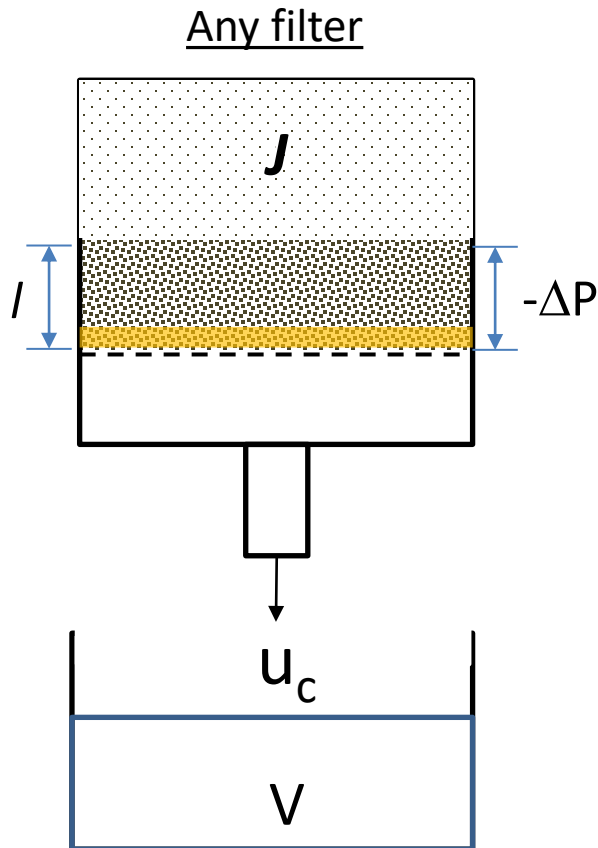
Volumetric flow are [m³/s]

$$\frac{dV}{dt} = \frac{A(-\Delta P)}{r\mu l}$$

General filtration
Equation neglecting
filter medium
resistance

V (m³) - Volume of filtrate recovered over time t (s); A – filter area [m²]

General filtration equation



$$\frac{dV}{dt} = \frac{A(-\Delta P)}{r\mu l} \quad \text{(General filtration equation neglecting filter medium resistance)}$$

What if the filter medium offers a resistance?

$$\frac{dV}{dt} = \frac{A(-\Delta P)}{r\mu(l + L)} \quad \text{(General filtration equation with filter medium resistance)}$$

L (m) – Filter medium resistance in terms of cake height equivalent

$$\text{total cake resistance} = rl, m^{-1}$$

$$\text{total filter resistance} = rL, m^{-1}$$

$$\text{total resistance} = r(l + L), m^{-1}$$

Incompressible/compressible filter cake

Incompressible cake.

The cake does not compact when applying pressure. The cake porosity remains constant thus the specific resistance, r , is constant

$$r = \text{constant}$$

$$v = \frac{Al}{V} = \frac{\text{volume of cake}}{\text{volume of filtrate}} = \text{constant}$$

$$\Rightarrow l = v \frac{V}{A} \quad (\text{cake length})$$

Compressible cake.

The cake compacts when applying pressure. The cake porosity decreases with increasing pressure. The specific resistance increases with pressure

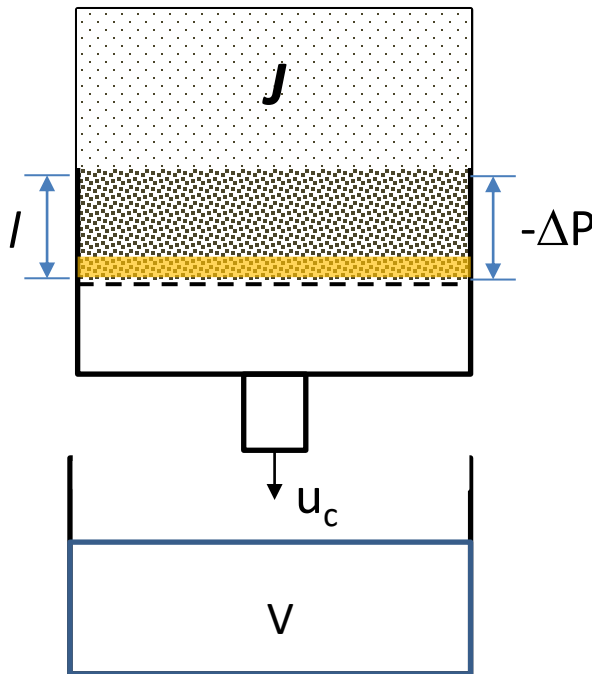
Cake specific resistance increases with $(-\Delta P)$

$$r = r'(-\Delta P)^n$$

$$v = \frac{Al}{V} = \frac{\text{volume of cake}}{\text{volume of filtrate}} \neq \text{constant}$$

Incompressible filtration with $L=0$

Let's consider the case of incompressible filtration with negligible filter medium resistance ($L=0$)



$$\frac{dV}{dt} = \frac{A(-\Delta P)}{r\mu l}$$

General Filtration Equation

$$l = v \frac{V}{A} \quad (\text{Incompressible cake})$$

$$\frac{dV}{dt} = \frac{A^2(-\Delta P)}{r\mu v V}$$

Incompressible Filtration Equation

$V \text{ (m}^3\text{)}$ - Volume of filtrate recovered over time $t \text{ (s)}$

Incompressible filtration with $L=0$

Case 1. The filtration equipment operates at constant $(-\Delta P)$

$$\frac{dV}{dt} = \frac{A^2(-\Delta P)}{r\mu v V} \quad \text{General filtration Eq. for incompressible cake}$$

If the filtration equipment operates at constant $(-\Delta P)$

$$\int_0^V V dV = \frac{A^2(-\Delta P)}{r\mu v} \int_0^t dt \quad \boxed{\frac{V^2}{2} = \frac{A^2(-\Delta P)}{r\mu v} t}$$

Question: is the filtrate flowrate $\frac{dV}{dt}$ = constant ?

Incompressible filtration with $L=0$

Case 2. The filtration equipment operates at constant flow rate

$$\frac{dV}{dt} = \frac{A^2(-\Delta P)}{r\mu v V} \quad \text{General filtration Eq. for incompressible cake}$$

If the flowrate is constant then $\frac{dV}{dt} = \frac{V}{t} = \text{constant}$

$$\frac{V}{t} = \frac{A^2(-\Delta P)}{r\mu v V}$$

$$V^2 = \frac{A^2(-\Delta P)}{r\mu v} t$$

Question: is the $(-\Delta P) = \text{constant}$?

Incompressible filtration with $L > 0$

Case 1. Filtration at constant $(-\Delta P)$

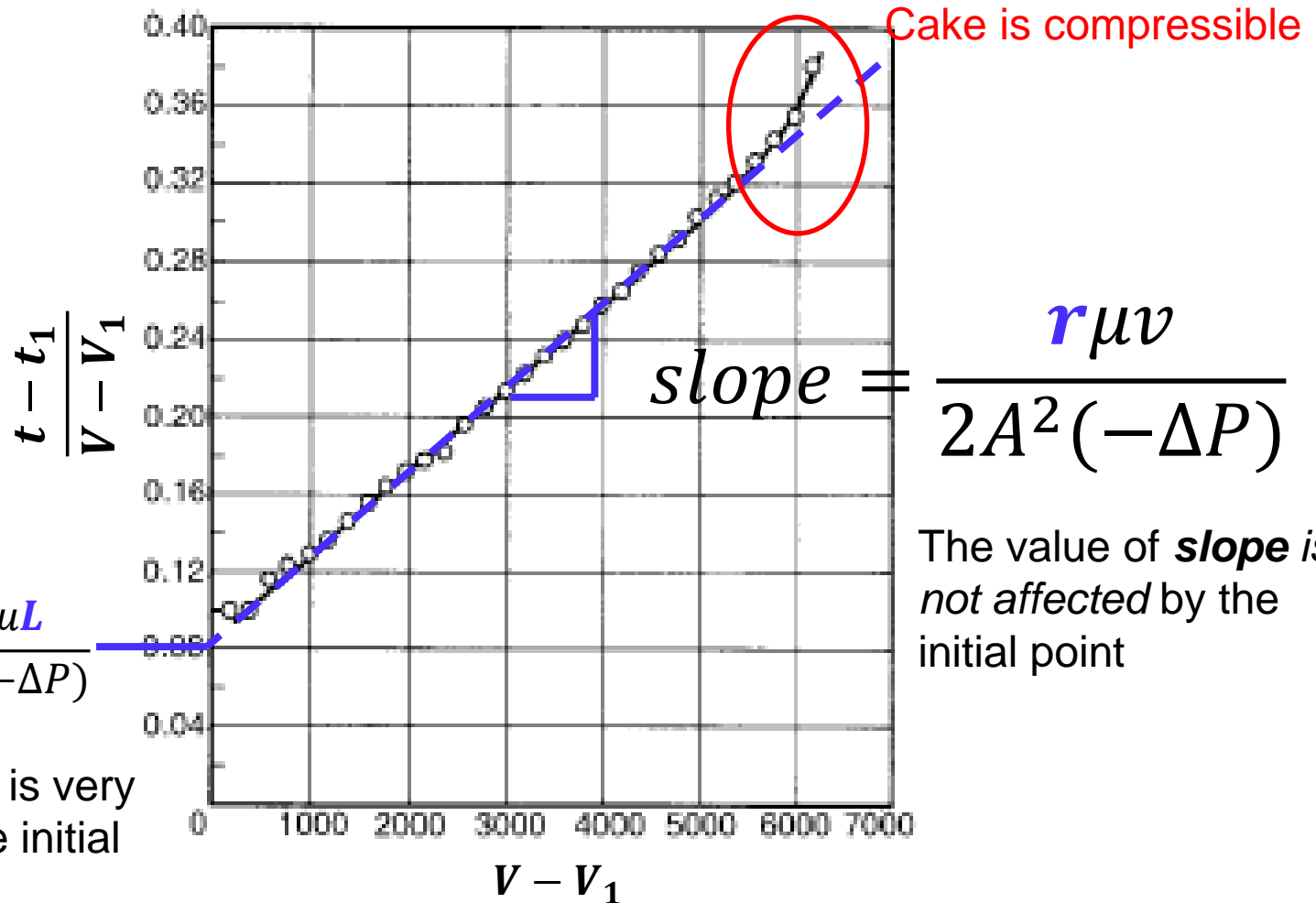
$$\frac{V^2}{2} + \frac{LA}{v} V = \frac{A^2(-\Delta P)}{r\mu v} t$$

$$\begin{aligned} t_1 &\rightarrow DV_1 \\ t_2 &\rightarrow DV_2 \\ \frac{V_2^2}{2} - \frac{V_1^2}{2} + \frac{LA}{v} (V_2 - V_1) &= \frac{A^2(-\Delta P)}{r\mu v} (t_2 - t_1) \end{aligned}$$

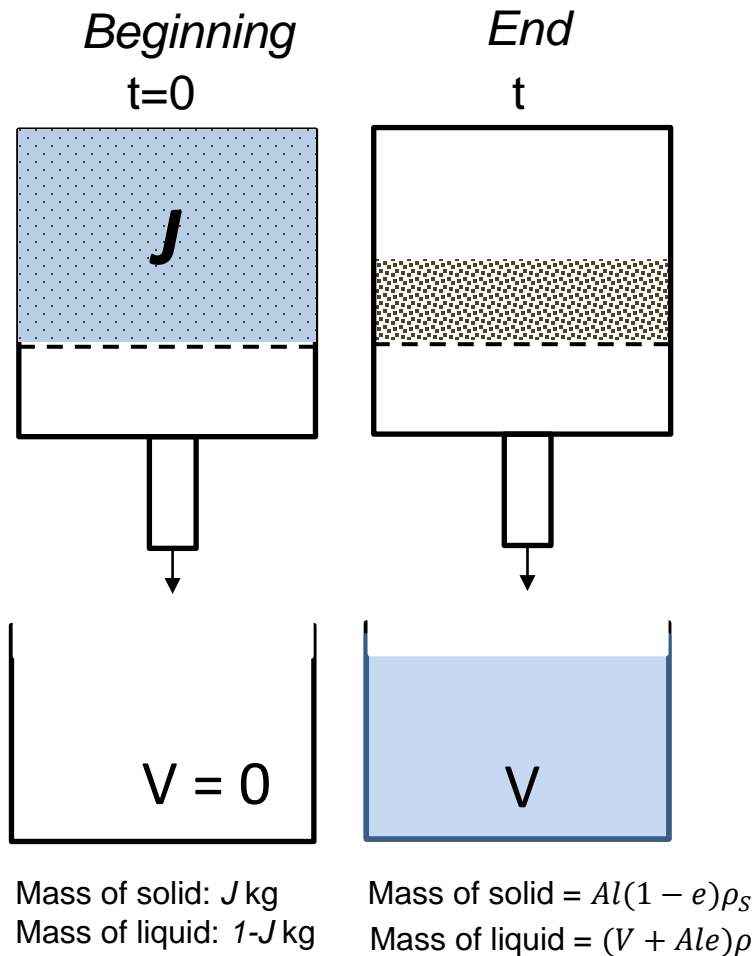
Case 2. Filtration at constant dV/dt

$$V^2 + \frac{LA}{v} V = \frac{A^2(-\Delta P)}{r\mu v} t$$

Filtration parameters (L , r)



Filtration parameter, v



Material balance:

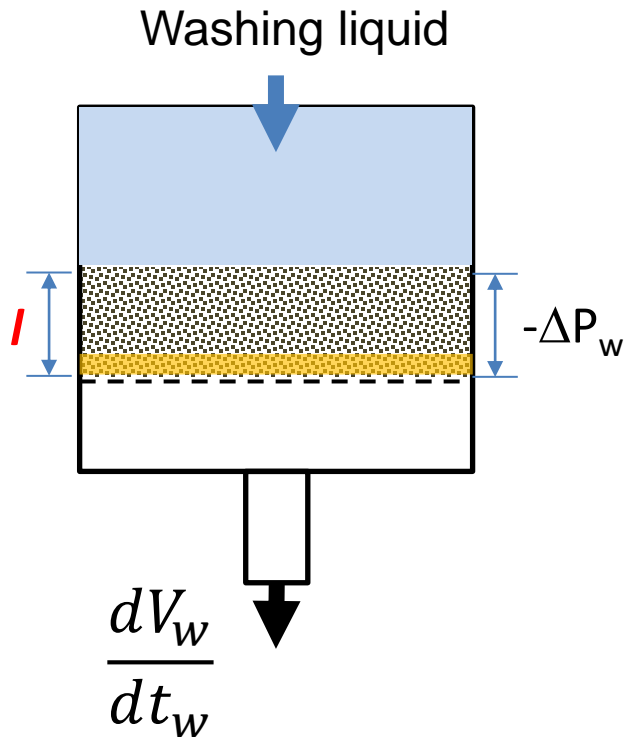
The mass of solids/liquid in the beginning of operation must be the same in the end of operation, thus:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{J}{1 - J} &= \frac{Al(1 - e)\rho_s}{(V + Ale)\rho} = \frac{\frac{Al}{V}(1 - e)\rho_s}{(1 + \frac{Al}{V}e)\rho} \\ &= \frac{v(1 - e)\rho_s}{(1 + ve)\rho} \end{aligned}$$

$$v = \frac{Al}{V} = \frac{J\rho}{(1 - J)(1 - e)\rho_s - Je\rho}$$

v is the volume of cake per unit volume filtrate and is a constant in incompressible filtration

Cake washing



- Cake washing is sometimes needed to remove impurities from the cake
- Cake washing starts after the end of filtration
- The cake length stays unchanged (i.e. l is the cake length obtained in the end of filtration)

washing flowrate:

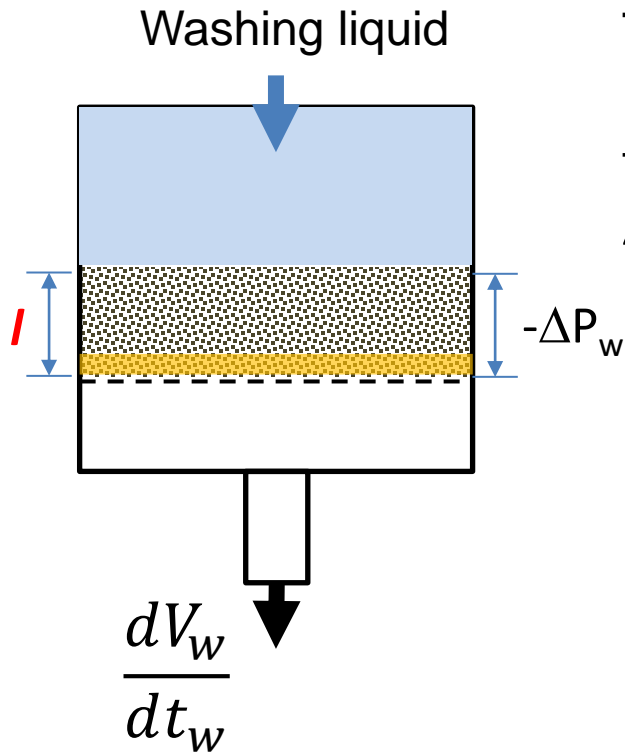
$$\frac{dV_w}{dt_w} = \frac{A(-\Delta P_w)}{r\mu(\textcolor{red}{l} + L)} = \text{const.}$$

Length of cake obtained in the end of filtration

V_w - Volume of spent washing liquid [m³]

t_w - Duration of washing [s]

Cake washing



The washing flowrate (dV_w / dt_w) is normally lower than the filtration rate at the end of filtration to maintain cake integrity. Typically $\Delta P_w \ll \Delta P$

$$\frac{dV_w}{dt_w} = \frac{A(-\Delta P)}{r\mu(l + L)} \times \frac{(-\Delta P_w)}{(-\Delta P)}$$

$$\frac{dV_w}{dt_w} = \left. \frac{dV}{dt} \right|_t \times \frac{(-\Delta P_w)}{(-\Delta P)}$$

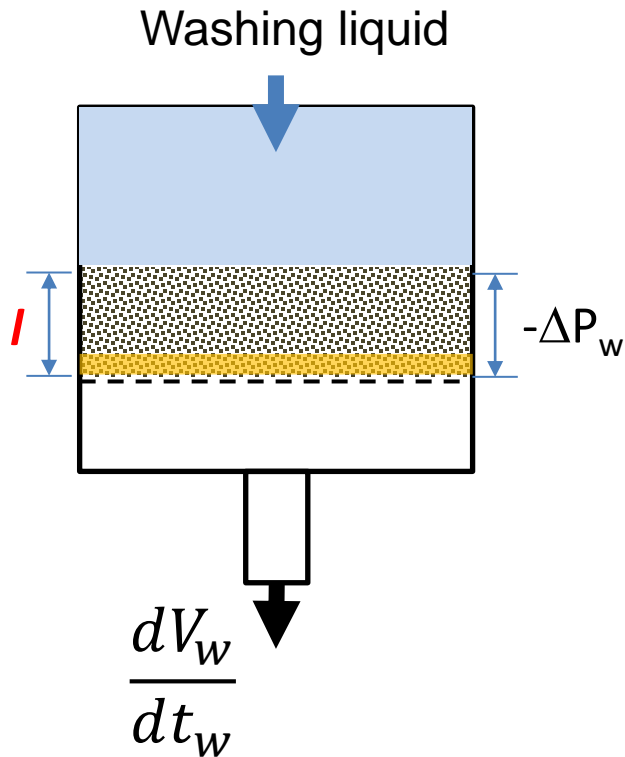
V_w - Volume of spent washing liquid [m^3]

t_w - Duration of washing [s]

Washing flowrate

Filtration flowrate in the end of filtration (time t)

Cake washing



V_w - Volume of spent washing liquid [m³]

t_w - Duration of washing [s]

$$\frac{dV_w}{dt_w} = \frac{A(-\Delta P_w)}{r\mu(l+L)} = \text{constant}$$

$$V_w = \frac{A(-\Delta P_w)}{r\mu(l+L)} t_w$$

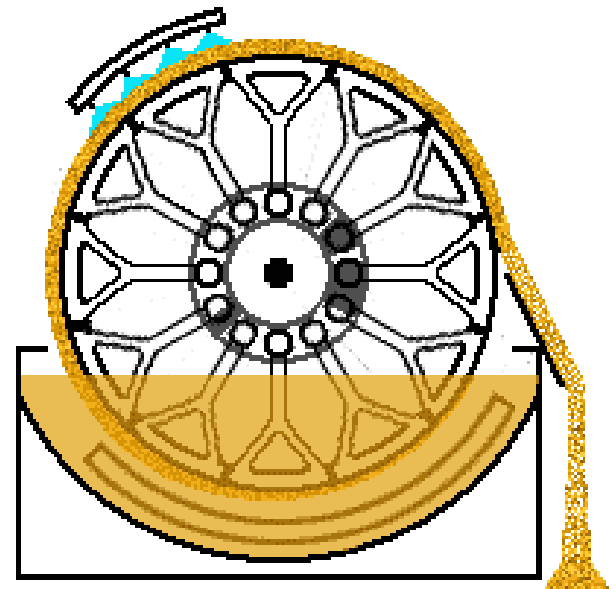
If cake is incompressible $l = vV/A \dots$

$$V_w = \frac{A^2 (-\Delta P_w)}{r\mu v(\mathbf{V} + \frac{LA}{v})} t_w$$

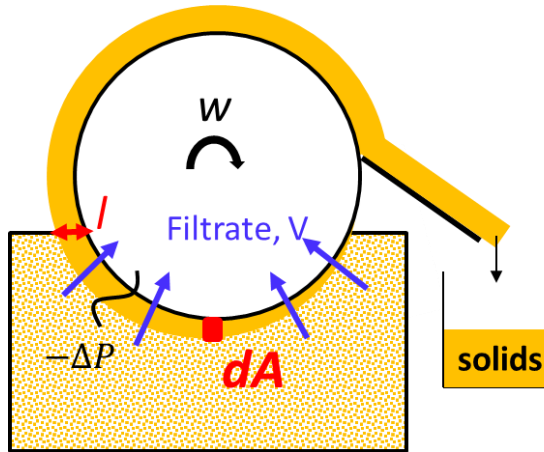
\mathbf{V} - volume of filtrate in the end of the filtration phase [m³]

Rotary vacuum filter

The rotary vacuum filter consists of a hollow drum partially submerged in a slurry vessel. The drum slowly rotates through the slurry. Vacuum is applied inside the drum. As the drum rotates through the slurry, the liquid is sucked through the filtration cloth, leaving solids to cake on the cloth surface while the drum is submerged. A knife (or blade) is positioned to scrape the product from the surface. It operates in continuous mode



Rotary vacuum filter



W – rotation speed, s^{-1}
 D – cylinder diameter, m
 H – cylinder length
 β – fraction of cylinder perimeter in contact with suspension

$A = \beta\pi DH$
 is the filtration area, m^2

Batch filtration Eq.

$$\frac{V^2}{2} = \frac{A^2(-\Delta P)}{r\mu v} t$$

- Incompressible cake
- Negligible filter resistance ($L=0$)
- $(-\Delta P)=\text{constant}$

$+ \frac{LA}{2} V$

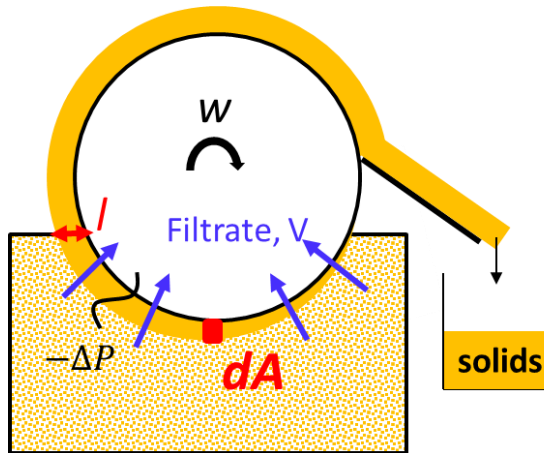
Rotary vacuum filter Eq.

$$\frac{V^2}{2} = \frac{(\beta\pi DH)^2(-\Delta P)}{r\mu v} \frac{\beta}{W}$$

$\frac{\beta}{W}$ = Cake residence time, seconds

V – filtrate volume (m^3) obtained after $\frac{\beta}{W}$ seconds

Rotary vacuum filter



W – rotation speed, s^{-1}
 D – cylinder diameter, m
 H – cylinder length
 β – fraction of cylinder perimeter in contact with suspension

$A = \beta\pi DH$
 is the filtration area, m^2

$Q=V/t$ is the filtrate flow rate, m^3/s

$$Q = \frac{V}{t} = \frac{V}{\beta/w}$$

Rotary vacuum filter Eq.

*valid for
gold
L=0*

$$Q^2 = \frac{2(\beta\pi DH)^2(-\Delta P)w}{r\mu\nu} \frac{1}{\beta}$$

$$Q \propto w^{0,5}$$

$$Q \propto \beta^{0,5}$$

$$Q \propto (-\Delta P)^{0,5}$$

Plate and frame press filter

The plate and frame press filter is composed by a sequence of frames and plates hold together by the press. The number of frames determines the filtration area. The solids cake accumulates inside the frame. It is a batch filtration process. When the frames are full of cake, the press is manually open and the cake removed from each frame. It may operate in (i) $dV/dt = \text{constant}$ or (ii) $(-\Delta P) = \text{constant}$

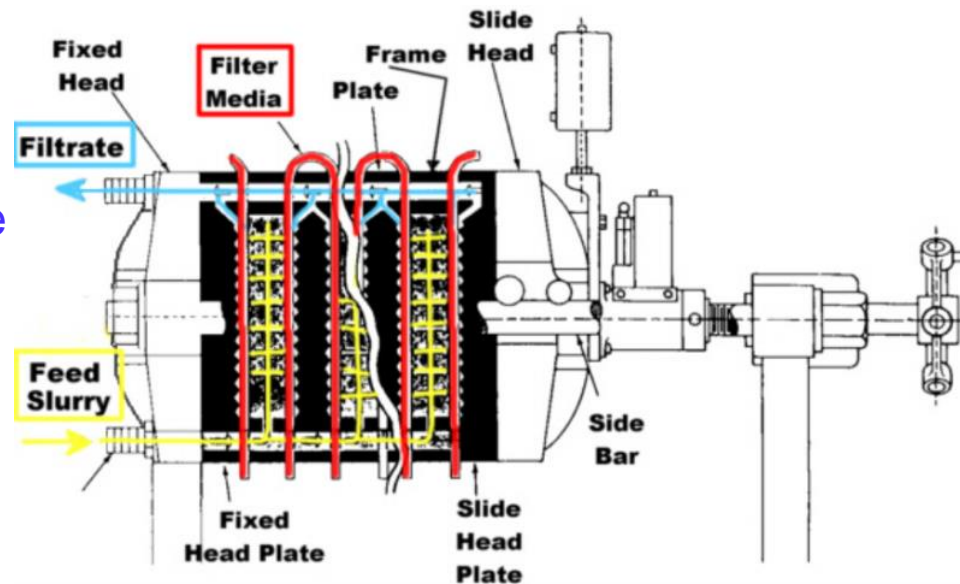
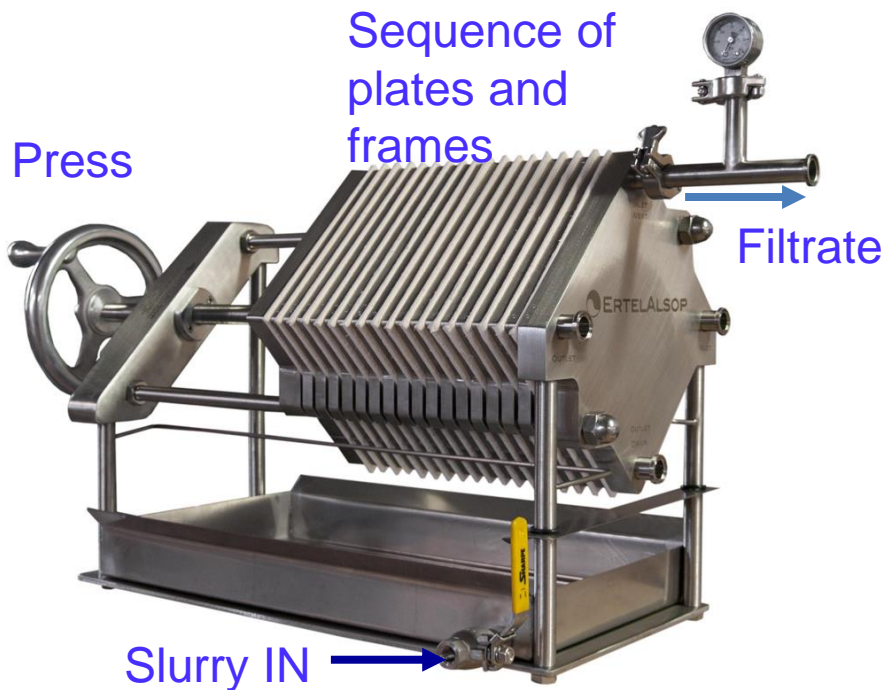
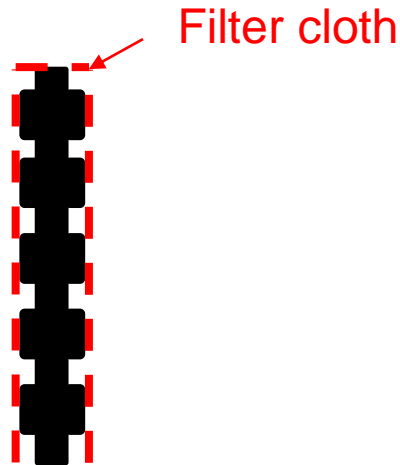


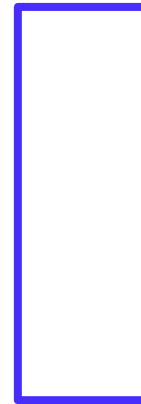
Plate and frame press filter

Plate



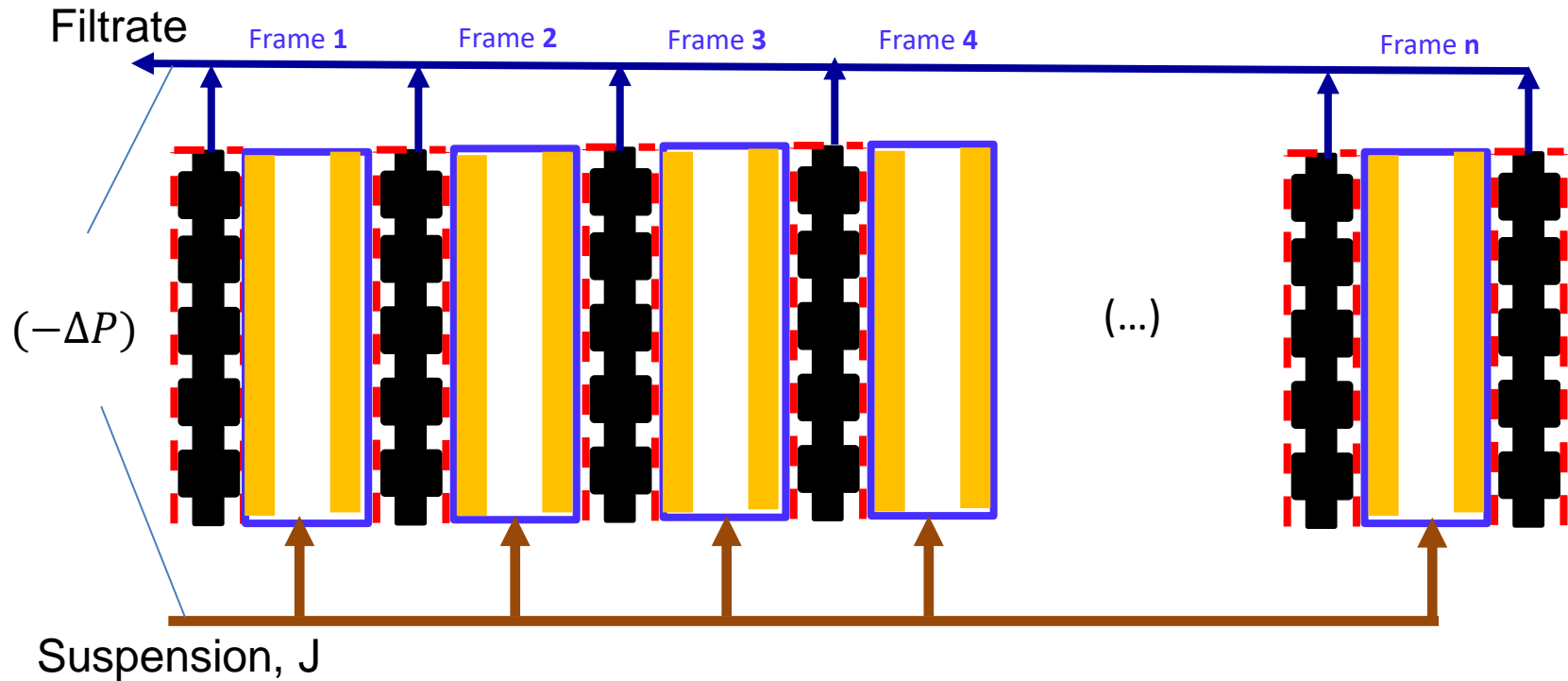
(support function; it is covered by the filter cloth)

Frame



(hollow rectangle that holds the filtration cake in the inner surface)

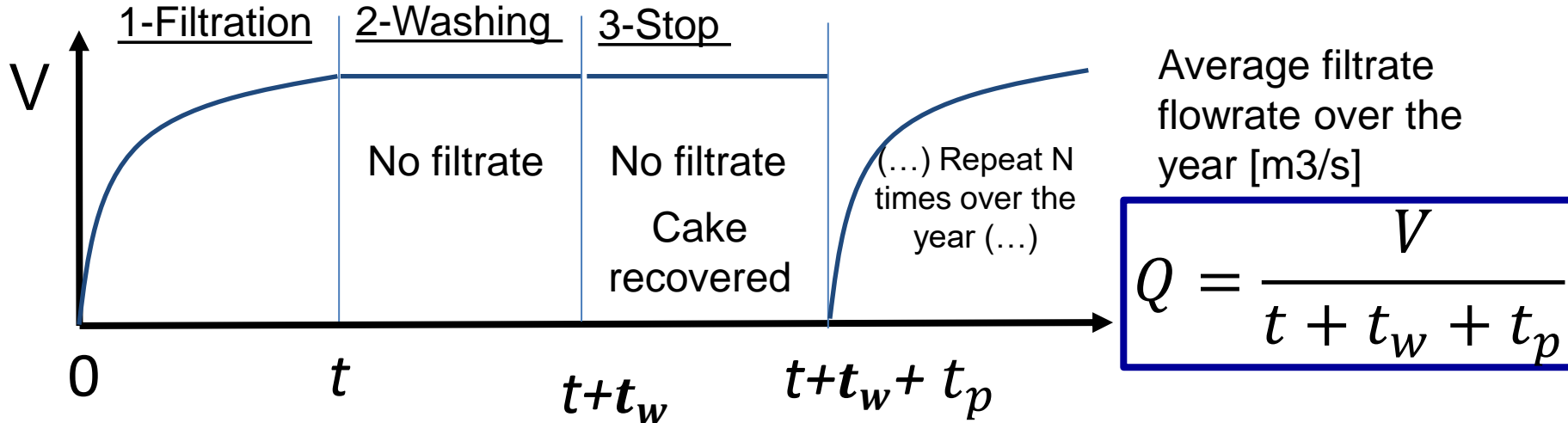
Plate and frame press filter



Filtration area: $A = (2a_{frame}) \times n$

Operation cycle

A PF filter operation is repeated N times over the year with 3 phases: (1 – Filtration, 2 – Washing, 3 – Stop) x N



t – duration of filtration [s] t_w – duration of the washing phase [s]

t_p – stop time (unlock the press, remove each frame, remove the cake from each frame, wash the frame, reassemble the press) [s]

1 – Filtration phase

If the cake is incompressible, the filtrate volume, V , recovered after filtration time, t , is given by Eqs 1A or 1B. The filtration area depends on the number of frames ($A = 2a_{frame}n$)

1A: If the filter operates at $(-\Delta P) = \text{const}$

$$\frac{V^2}{2} + \frac{LA}{v} V = \frac{A^2(-\Delta P)}{r\mu v} t$$

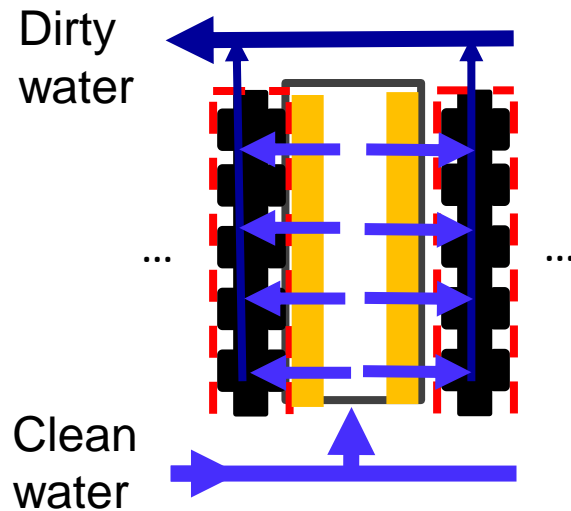
1B: If the filter operates at $dV/dt = \text{const}$

$$V^2 + \frac{LA}{v} V = \frac{A^2(-\Delta P)}{r\mu v} t$$

2 – Washing phase

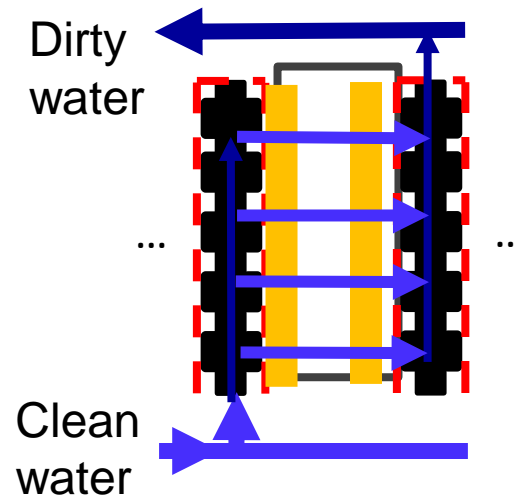
For the washing phase there are 2 possibilities:

“Simple” cake washing



- Washing fluid enters into the frame
- Cake erosion at the entry point
- Preferable flow channel close to the entry point
- Nonuniform washing

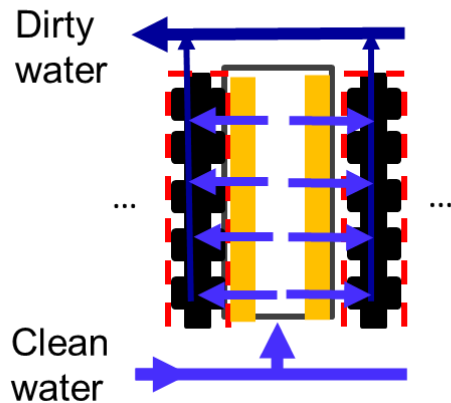
“Complete” cake washing



- Washing fluid enters into the plate
- Uniform flow distribution along frame surface
- Minimal cake erosion; facilitates detachment of cake from frame surface
- Uniform cake washing

2 – Washing phase

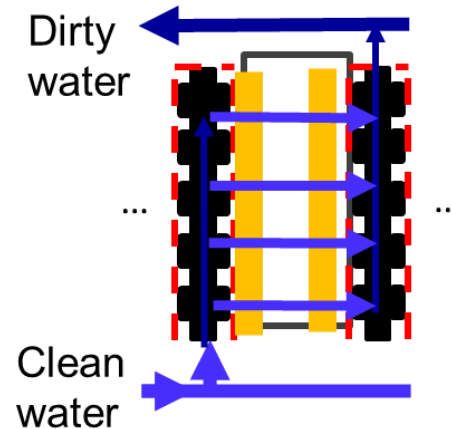
“Simple” cake washing



$$\frac{dV_w}{dt_w} = \frac{A(-\Delta P_w)}{r\mu(l + L)}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{dV_w}{dt_w} = \frac{(-\Delta P_w)}{(-\Delta P)} \frac{dV}{dt} \Big|_t$$

“Complete” cake washing



$$\frac{dV_w}{dt_w} = \frac{A/2(-\Delta P_w)}{r\mu(l + L) \times 2}$$

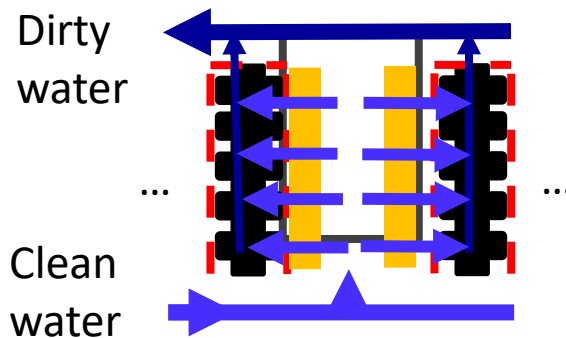
$$\Rightarrow \frac{dV_w}{dt_w} = \frac{1}{4} \frac{(-\Delta P_w)}{(-\Delta P)} \frac{dV}{dt} \Big|_t$$

∴ “Complete” washing flowrate 4x slower

2 – Washing phase

In the case of negligible filter resistance ($L=0$) and constant (V_w/V), the duration of the washing phase is proportional to the filtration phase, i.e. $t_w = \beta t$

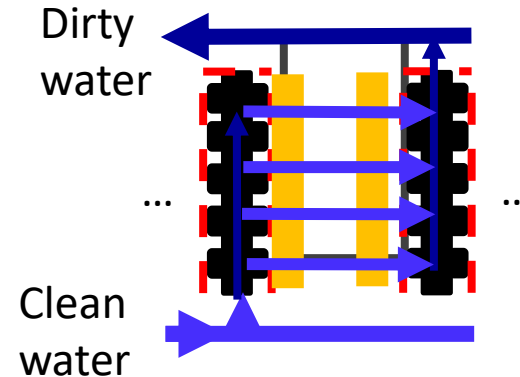
“Simple” cake washing



$$t_w = \left(2 \frac{\text{Constant} - \beta}{-\Delta P_w} \frac{V_w}{V} \right) t$$



“Complete” cake washing

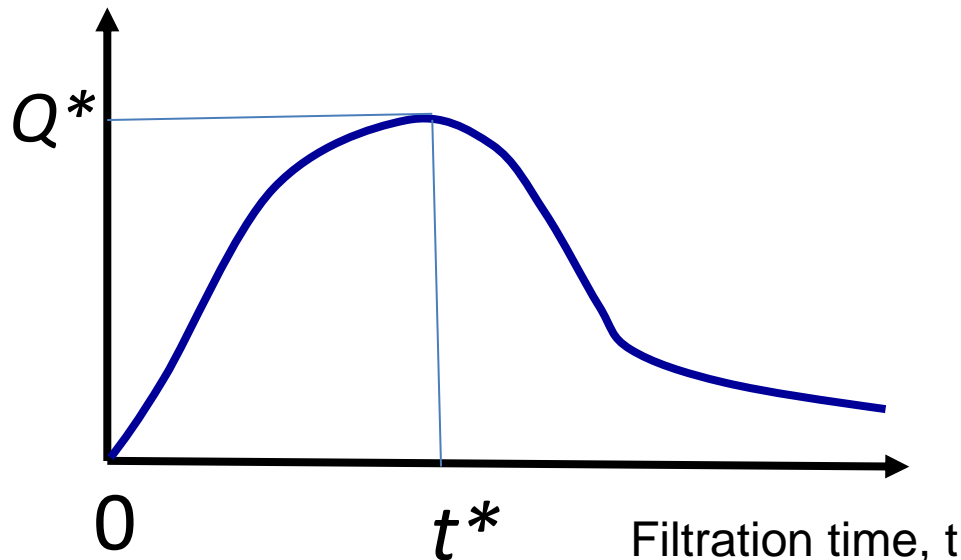


$$t_w = \left(8 \frac{\text{Constant} - \beta}{-\Delta P_w} \frac{V_w}{V} \right) t$$

∴ “Complete” washing flowrate 4x slower

Optimal operation cycle

The plate and frame press filter as an optimal operation cycle with maximum productivity. What is the optimal filtration time, t^* , such that the flowrate is at its maximum, Q^* ?



$$Q = \frac{V}{t + t_w + t_p}$$

t – degree of freedom

$$t_w = \beta t$$

$t_p = \text{constant}$

$$\frac{dQ}{dt} = 0 \Rightarrow t = \dots \quad \frac{dQ}{dV} = 0 \Rightarrow V = \dots$$

Optimal filtration cycle: what is the optimal filtration time, t , such that flowrate is maximized, Q ?

Without washing

$L = 0$



$$\frac{dQ}{dt} = 0 \Rightarrow t = t_p$$

with washing

$$t_w = \beta t$$

$$\frac{dQ}{dt} = 0 \Rightarrow t = \frac{t_p}{1 + \beta}$$



$L > 0$



$$\frac{dQ}{dV} = 0 \Rightarrow \frac{V^2}{2} = \frac{A^2(-\Delta P)}{r\mu v} t_p$$

$$\frac{V^2}{2} + \frac{LA}{v} V = \frac{A^2(-\Delta P)}{r\mu v} t$$

No explicit solution
(Numeric solution needed)

Exercises

VIII – FILTRAÇÃO

1.
 - a) Envia-se uma polpa, contendo 0,2 kg de sólido (massa específica 3.0) por kg de água, para um filtro rotativo de tambor com 0,6 m de comprimento e 0,6 m de diâmetro. O tambor roda a uma volta em 350 segundos e 20% da superfície filtrante está em contacto com a polpa em qualquer instante. Se se produzir filtrado ao caudal de 0,125 kg/s e se o bolo tiver uma porosidade de 0,5, que espessura de bolo se forma quando se filtra com um vácuo de 35 kN/m²?
 - b) Determine a resistência específica do bolo
 - c) O filtro rotativo avaria e há que efectuar a operação temporariamente num filtro prensa com caixilhos quadrados de 0,3 m. A prensa leva 100 s a desmontar e 100 s a montar novamente e, além disso, são precisos 100 s para retirar o bolo de cada caixilho. Se se pretender realizar a filtração à mesma velocidade global como antes, com uma pressão de funcionamento de 275 kN/m², qual é o número mínimo de caixilhos que há que usar e qual é a espessura de cada um deles? Supor os bolos incompressíveis e desprezar a resistência do meio filtrante.
2. Filtra-se uma polpa, que contém 100 kg de cré (densidade=3.0) por m³ de água, num filtro prensa de placas e caixilhos, que leva 15 min a desmontar, limpar e voltar a montar. Se o bolo de filtração for incompressível e tiver uma porosidade de 0,4, qual é a espessura óptima de bolo para uma pressão de filtração de 1000 kN/m²? Se o bolo for lavado a 550,65 kN/m² e se o volume total de água de lavagem empregue for um quarto do filtrado, de que modo é afectada a espessura óptima do bolo? Desprezar a resistência do meio filtrante e considerar a viscosidade da água igual a 1 cP. Num ensaio, uma pressão de 165 kN/m² produziu um caudal de água de 0,02 cm³/s através de um centímetro cúbico de bolo (A=1 cm² e l=1 cm) de filtração.
3. Um filtro prensa de pratos e caixilhos, a filtrar uma polpa, produziu um total de 8 m³ de filtrado em 30 minutos e 11 m³ em 60 minutos, altura em que se parou a filtração. Fazer a estimativa do tempo de lavagem em minutos se se usarem 3 m³ de água de lavagem. Pode desprezar-se a resistência do pano e usa-se em toda a operação uma pressão constante.
4. Na filtração de uma certa lama num filtro prensa de pratos e caixilhos, o período inicial efectua-se a caudal constante com a bomba de alimentação à capacidade máxima até que a pressão atinge 400 kN/m². Mantém-se depois a pressão neste valor durante o resto da filtração. O funcionamento a caudal constante demora 15 minutos e obtém-se um terço da totalidade de filtrado durante este período. Desprezando a resistência do meio filtrante, determinar:
 - (a) o tempo total de filtração e
 - (b) o ciclo de filtração com a bomba existente para a máxima capacidade diária, se o tempo para remover o bolo e voltar a montar a prensa for de 20 minutos. Não se lava o bolo.

5. Um filtro rotativo, a funcionar a 2 rpm, filtra 7.5×10^{-3} m³/s. A trabalhar sob o mesmo vácuo e desprezando a resistência do pano filtrante, a que velocidade se deve accionar o filtro para se obter uma velocidade de filtração de 1.5×10^{-2} m³/s?

6. Filtra-se uma polpa numa prensa de pratos e caixilhos que contém 12 caixilhos quadrados de 0,3 m e 25 mm de espessura. Durante os primeiros 200 s, eleva-se lentamente a pressão até ao valor final de 500 kN/m² e, durante este período, mantém-se constante o caudal de filtração. Após o período inicial, a filtração efectua-se a pressão constante e os bolos acabam de formar-se nos 15 minutos seguintes. Em seguida lavam-se os bolos a 375 kN/m² durante 10 minutos usando “lavagem completa”. Qual é o volume de filtrado que se recolhe por ciclo e que quantidade de água de lavagem é que se usa?

Tinha-se ensaiado previamente uma amostra de polpa, usando um filtro de folha de vácuo com 0,05 m² de superfície filtrante e um vácuo de 30 kN/m². O volume de filtrado recebido nos primeiros 5 minutos foi de 250 cm³ e, após mais 5 minutos, receberam-se mais 150 cm³. Supor o bolo incompressível e que a resistência do pano é a mesma na folha e no filtro prensa.

7. Filtra-se uma polpa numa prensa de pratos e caixilhos equipada com caixilhos de 25 mm de espessura. Durante os primeiros 10 minutos a bomba de polpa debita à capacidade máxima. Durante este período a pressão sobe até 500 kN/m² e obtém-se um quarto da totalidade do filtrado. A filtração leva mais uma hora para se completar a pressão constante e são necessários 15 minutos para esvaziar e reajustar a prensa.

Verifica-se que, se os panos forem previamente cobertos com auxiliar de filtração até uma profundidade de 1,6 mm, a resistência do pano reduz-se a um quarto do seu valor anterior. Qual será o aumento na capacidade de filtração da prensa se o auxiliar de filtração puder ser aplicado em 3 minutos?

8. Efectua-se filtração num filtro prensa de pratos e caixilhos, com 20 caixilhos quadrados de 0,3 m e 50 mm de espessura, e mantém-se constante o caudal de filtração durante os primeiros 5 minutos. Durante este período eleva-se a pressão a 350 kN/m² e obtém-se um quarto da totalidade de filtrado por ciclo. No fim do período de caudal constante, continua-se a filtração a uma pressão constante de 350 kN/m² durante mais 30 minutos, tempo ao fim do qual os caixilhos se encontram cheios. O volume total de filtrado por ciclo é 0,7 m³ e a desmontagem e montagem da prensa leva 8,3 minutos.

Decide-se usar um filtro de tambor rotativo, com 1,5 m de comprimento e 2,2 m de diâmetro, em lugar do filtro prensa. Supondo que a resistência do pano é a mesma nas duas instalações e que o bolo de filtração é incompressível, calcular a velocidade de rotação do tambor que conduz à mesma velocidade global de filtração que se obtinha com o filtro prensa. A filtração no filtro rotativo efectua-se a uma diferença de pressão constante de 70 kN/m² e o filtro funciona com 25% do tambor submerso na polpa em qualquer instante.

9. Pretende-se filtrar uma certa polpa para produzir 2,25 m³ de filtrado por dia de trabalho de 8 h. O processo efectua-se num filtro prensa com caixilhos quadrados de 0,45 m e uma pressão de trabalho de 450 kN/m². A pressão sobe lentamente durante um período de 5 minutos e, durante este período, mantém-se constante o caudal de filtração.