

- i) In the isothermal sum rates method for Liquid-Liquid Extraction, the tear variable is the Extract flow rate (V_j). This variable is related to other parameters in the algorithm through the sum rates relation, where the total Extract flow rate is the sum of the mole fraction of the Extract in each stage multiplied by the corresponding stage flow rates.

$$\text{Sum rates rel} \Rightarrow V_j^{k+1} = V_j^k \sum_{i=1}^n y_{i,j} \quad k \rightarrow \text{outer loop index}$$

- ii) Tear variable is initialised by assuming a perfect separation for feed components and neglecting solvent mass transfer to the raffinate phase. This provides approximate values for the existing raffinate and extract flows.

- iii) The tear variable V_j is updated iteratively in the algorithm. After an initial set is obtained, intermediate V_j values are obtained by linear interpolation. The rationale behind iteratively updating the tear variable is to iteratively improve the separation efficiency of the liq-liq extraction process ensuring that the computed values of V_j lead to a balanced extraction process.

- iv) The error criterion for convergence with the tear variable is typically based on the difference between the current and previous values of the tear variable. Normalisation of the tear variable may be required to ensure that the algorithm converges properly. Normalization helps maintain consistency in the calculations and prevents large changes in the tear variable that could lead to convergence issues.

- v) Mole fraction normalization in the algorithm involves using normalised values of the mole fractions of the components in the liquid phases ($x_{i,j}$ and $y_{i,j}$). This normalization is to ensure that computed values of the partition ratios ($K_{i,j}$) are consistent with the mass balances and other calculations in the algorithm. It helps to maintain accuracy and stability in the calculations.

$$x_{i,j} = \frac{x_{i,j}}{\sum x_{i,j}}$$