

Leaching is a preferential solution of one or more constituents of a solid mixture by contact with a liquid solvent.

Leaching. Originally referred to percolation of the liquid through a fixed bed of solids.

Lixivation is a less frequently used synonym of Leaching.

↳ It originally referred to leaching of alkali from wood ashes.

Decoction: It is a special case of leaching when where the solvent is at boiling temperature.

Elutriation or Elution: - When the soluble material is largely on the surface of an insoluble solid and is merely washed off by the solvent.

Leaching is most Extensively used in the Metallurgical Industry.

Many other chemicals also are separated by leaching: examples include sugar from sugar beet by leaching with hot water, vegetable oil from seeds like soyabean and cottonseed with organic solvent.

* Tea and Coffee are prepared by leaching.

- * Often the solid has to be given a pre-treatment-
Crushing and grinding are preferred in this regard,
that enhances leaching. This is a preferred.
route in metallurgical industry.
- * For extraction of product from vegetable and animal
bodies, which are cellular in str. The product to be
leached in most cases remains within the cell walls.
Which is to be leached out of the cell wall - Thus
leaching involves osmotic passage thru the cell wall.
It is however not desirable to crush everything, as that
would bring undesirable albumin and colloids to
the product.

Thus for extracting sugar from beets, The ~~sugar~~ sugar
beets are ~~are~~ cut into small wedge-shaped slices
called cossettes. This reduces the diffusion path.

Leaching Temperature.

It is generally desirable to do a leaching at as high
temperature as possible, as at higher temperature
the solubility is maximum. Also, ~~the temp~~ at
higher temperature, the viscosity is ~~is~~ lower and
diffusivity is higher.

Solution Mining: - In Place (in situ) Leaching.

This refers to percolation leaching of minerals
in place at the time, by the circulation of
solvent, over and thru' the ore body.

Calculation: -

It is for estimating the extent of leaching which can be obtained for a given procedure, that is to calculate the amount of soluble substance leached from a solid, knowing the initial solute content of the solid.

Stage Efficiency

Solid is leached with more than enough solvent to dissolve all the soluble solute present. If further there is no preferential adsorption of either solvent or solute by the solid,

If adequate time of contact of solid and solvent is permitted, then all the solute will dissolve in the solvent

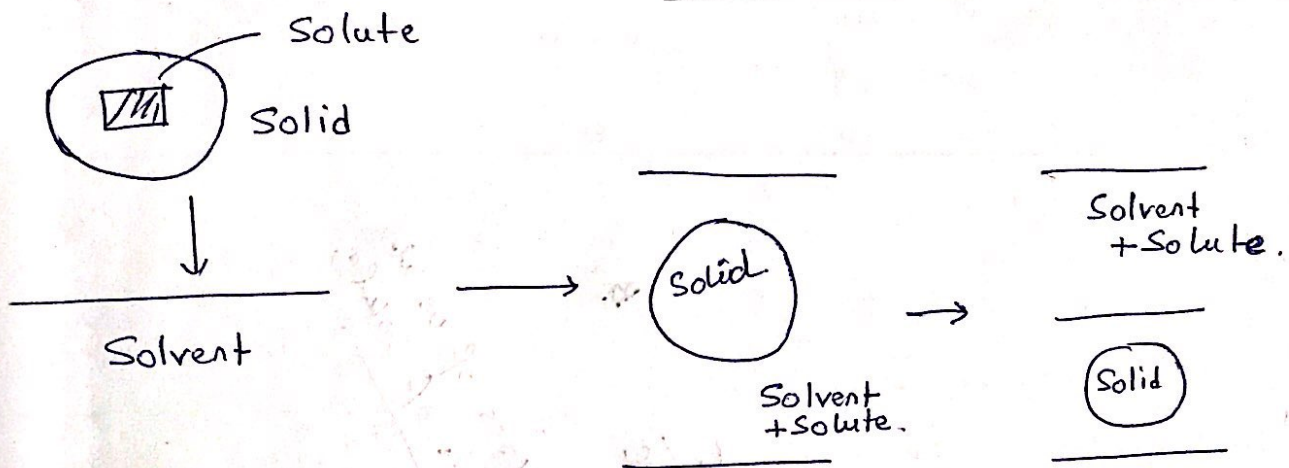
The ~~insol~~ insoluble solid is then separated from the liquid, ~~by~~ physically drainage, / settling / filtration etc. The entire operation constitutes one stage, This would be an eq'lbm. stage with 100% stage efficiency.

In practice, stage efficiencies are much less than this,

Because (1) the solute may not be completely dissolved, due to inadequate contact time, (2)

The liq solid mech ~~sepr~~ ^{separation} with 100% efficiency is impractical, and solid leaving the stage ~~will~~ will always retain some liquid and its associated dissolved solute.

In case solute is adsorbed ~~on~~ ^{on} liquid ~~by~~ the solid, even though equilibrium between the liq and solid phase is obtained, imperfect settling or drainage will result in lower efficiency.

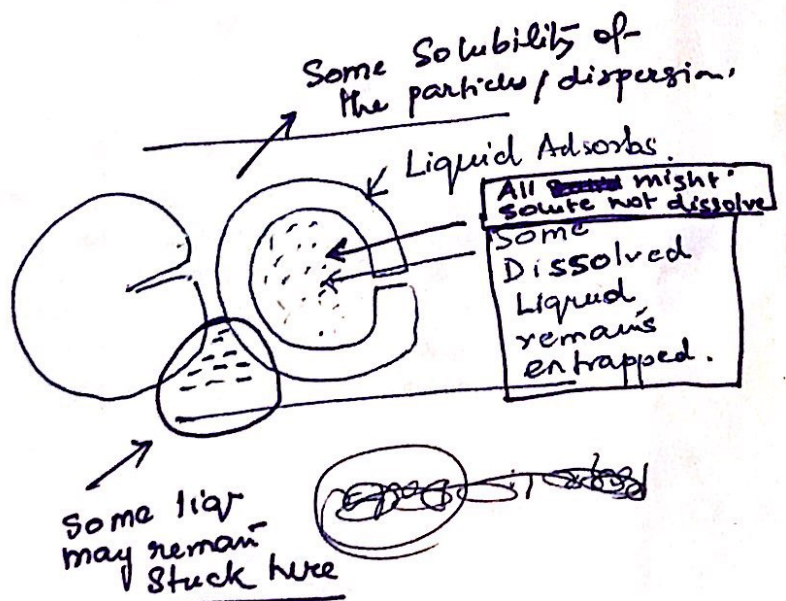


Inefficiency can be due to

- ① Solute ~~at~~ adhering on to the solid.
- ② Solution might be entrapped in the solid.
- ③ Some solid might be dissolved in the solvent / dispersed (Brownian motion, if solid particles too small),
- ④ ~~Not~~ All the solute might not dissolve from the ~~solid~~ solid to the solvent.

Time requirement is also an important factor.

- Some liquid can
- (1) Remain stuck inside the pores,
 - (2) Outside between the particles,
 - (3) Adsorb on the surface of the particles,



Solid to be Leached

B, Mass of insoluble.

F, Mass of A+C.

$$N_F = \frac{B}{A+C}$$

$$y_F = \frac{C}{A+C}$$

Leached Solid (E_1)

B, Mass of Insoluble.

E_1 = mass of (A+C)

$$N_1 = \frac{B}{E_1} = \frac{B}{(A+C)E_1}$$

$$y_1 = \frac{C \bar{u} E_1}{(A+C)E_1} = \frac{C \bar{u} E_1}{E_1}$$

Leached Solution (R_1)

R_1 = Mass of Soln.

$$x_1 = \frac{\text{mass of C}}{\text{mass of (A+C)}}$$

Leaching Solvent

R_0 , mass of Soln. (A+C)

$$x_0 = \frac{C}{A+C}$$

$$N_0 \approx 0$$

In leaching,

A → Solvent

B → Insoluble

C → Solute

*

In case the solution, no adsorption of solute occurs and, so that the withdrawn ~~solute~~ solution and solution associated with the solid, have same composition, and the tie lines becomes vertical,

The ~~equilibrium~~ equilibrium curve is a 45° line and, distribution coefficient is 1.

For a feed that is dry,

N = Ratio of Insoluble to Soluble Substance = $\frac{B}{C}$

And $y_F = 1.0$ ($y_F = \frac{C}{A+C}$, If dry $A=0$)

And for a pure Solvent (pure A)

$$N=0$$

$$x=0$$

Concept of Practical Equilibrium

Solid to be Leached.

B, Mass of Insoluble

F, Mass of A+C.

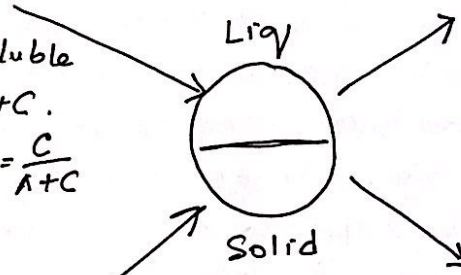
$$NF = \frac{B}{A+C}, y_F = \frac{C}{A+C}$$

Leaching Solvent-

R_0 = Mass of Soln. (A+C),

$$x_0 = \frac{C}{A+C},$$

$$N_0 \approx 0.$$



Leached Solution. (R)

R_1 = mass of Soln.

$$x_1 = \frac{\text{mass of C}}{\text{mass of (A+C)}}$$

$$N_{R1}$$

Leached Solid.

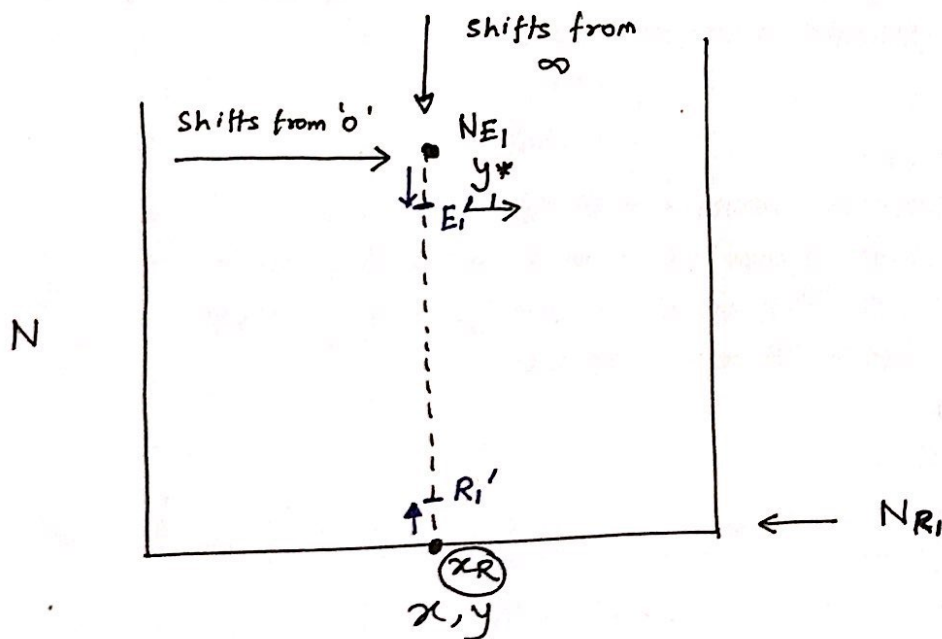
B_1 Mass of Insoluble.

E_1 , mass of A+C

$$N_1 = \frac{B}{E_1} = \frac{B}{(A+C)_{E1}}$$

$$y_1 = \frac{C \bar{u}_{E1}}{(A+C)_{E1}} = \frac{C \bar{u}_E}{E_1}$$

① We have a ~~sol~~ liquid. Whose Composition B, should be ideally zero, ~~as~~ ~~as~~



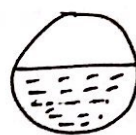
A = Solvent

C = Solute

B = Insoluble.

For the Leached Solid $\rightarrow N_{E1}$ or $N_1 = ?$ (Ideally ∞),

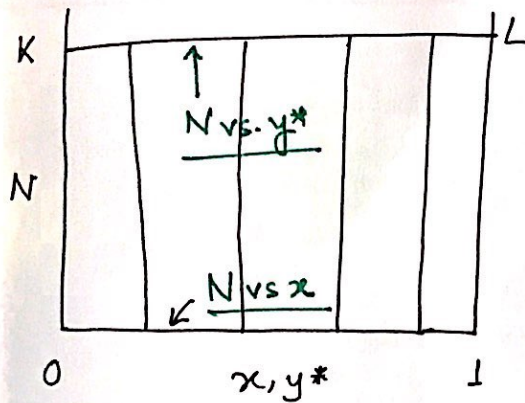
Practical Reality is



← You will have a high conc. Sludge.

Some typical Equilibrium Plots.

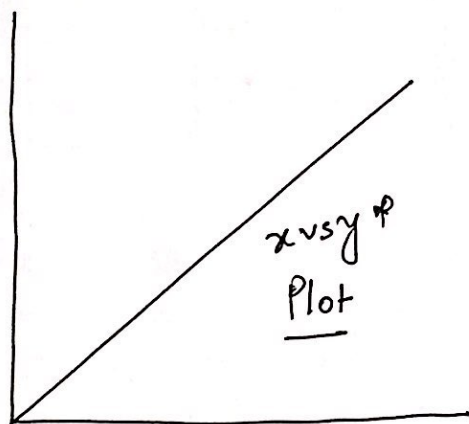
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Vertical tie line.

Here

- (1) No adsorption of any Solvent on the Leached Solid.
- (2) No dispersion of any Solid in the leached solution.

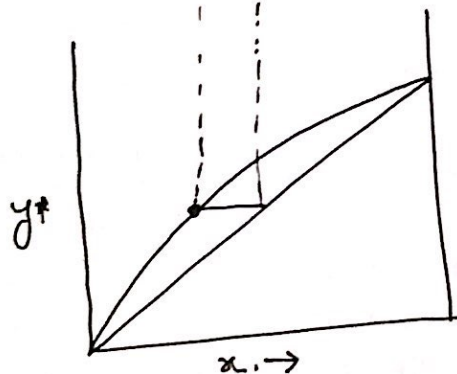
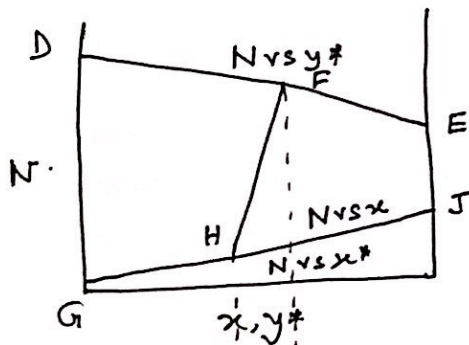


The graph indicates that the Solids are settled or drained, ~~at~~ to the same extent at all Solute Concentration.

This situation is referred to as constant overflow situation.

For both Cases the Solute has Solubility in the Solvent for all fractions

C is infinitely Soluble in A



* The line GHJ, which ~~is~~ provides the composition of the withdrawn solution, lies above $N=0$, ~~which~~ which is possible only when either Solid B has a limited Solubility in the Leached solution or, incompletely settled liquid, has been withdrawn.

The tie lines are not vertical.

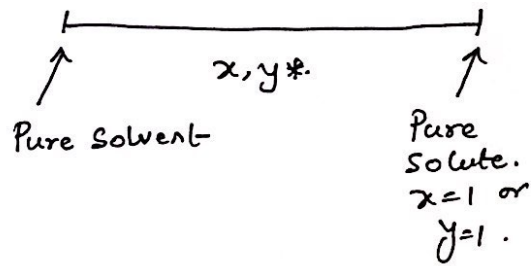
- (1) Insufficient time of Contact for the leaching solvent to dissolve all Solute.

- (2) Preferential adsorption of the Solute.

- (3) Solute is Soluble in the Solid B and distributes unequally into the Solid and liquid phases at equilibrium.

There was a major assumption in both the previous plots,

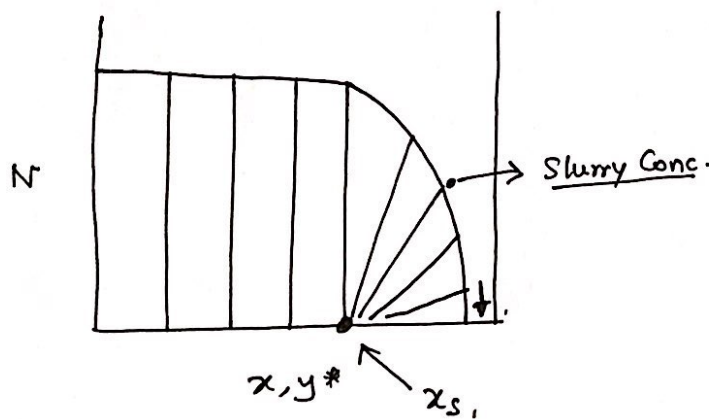
The assumption was that the solute has complete solubility for all values of solvent concentration!



* This will hardly happen.

* So, what is a more likely situation.

There will be a limiting solubility of the solute



Why does slurry conc. start reducing below B

$$N = \frac{B}{A-C}$$

* C. concentration increases.

So in this case, no clear solution stronger than x_s is possible.