

# Enhancement of Heat Transfer in the Separation Process of Ethanol from the Ethanol-Water Mixture by Using Surfactant: A Review

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## ABSTRACT

To study the various separation processes of mixed liquids. The production of bioethanol has gained attention recently because of two main reasons. First, it is used gradually as an oxygenated fuel instead of methyl t-butyl ether (MTBE). The second reason is related to its potential to be used as an alternative fuel. The economic competitiveness of the ethanol production process depends to a large extent on the amount of heat and energy used. To maximize the effectiveness of ethanol monetarily as a liquid fuel, the ethanol purification has been proposed several optimization steps related to purification of ethanol have been proposed because it requires more amount of thermal energy for distillation. Half of the creation of vitality is devoured by refining. To manage this high vitality request and improvement of the process, the concept of polygeneration and hydrothermal treatment, particularly in the case of small-scale ethanol plants, is generating more and more attention. In any case, the investigation of the bioethanol cycles show that refining is as yet the most utilized. Thermal integration of distillation and rectification is known to provide the greatest reduction in heat demand. The aim of this paper is to present a review of the experimental study of heat transfer enhancement, the time required, and energy consumption in the distillation or separation process of an ethanol-water mixture by the addition of surface-active agents (Surfactants).

**KEYWORDS:** Ethanol water separation, Distillation, Heat transfer, Surfactant

## I. INTRODUCTION

According to the current energy scenario worldwide, the most demand is fuel energy, as an increase in the costs of fuels and increasing the requirement of energy and also the global warming effects on the environment. These are the main key factors to produce renewable energy sources. So taking this aspect in mind, Biofuels are the better choice for the substitution of non-sustainable power sources. Biofuels are fluids or gases and they are produced using (sugar, vegetable oil, creature fats, wood, sawdust, grass, and horticultural waste). The two most broadly utilized biofuels are ethanol and biodiesel which is fluid-structure. Ethanol or ethyl liquor ( $C_2H_5OH$ ) is the fluid having no shading in this way fuel delivered by the maturation of sugar found in sugarcane, rice, potato skins, it is normally produced using wheat, corn, sorghum. The creation of ethanol utilizing a cycle like fermenting lager, where starch crops are changed over into sugars. The sugar is aged into ethanol and ethanol is then refined to its last shape which can be utilized as fuel. These days ethanol creation the most significant factor as of late as a result of two reasons. Initially, it is utilized as oxygenated fuel on account of methyl t-butyl ether (MTBE). The second reason it is used as fuel instead of petrol that means it is an alternative fuel. Ethanol is an ecological fuel of less toxic and it causes an impact on the environment when spilling occurs. If the fuel or ethanol is burned then there is the production of water. Hence because of this carbon dioxide and water, the reduction in pollution from petroleum products which is harmful to the environment are  $SO_x$  and  $NO_x$ . The solution for non-renewable energy sources, Petroleum products is to produce alternative fuels because the stocks of the crude oils are limited. Therefore, taking this aspect in mind the production of more amount of renewable energy sources is to be produced worldwide. Thus, the bioethanol gives more attention as a renewable fuel and having eventually maximum growing potential. However, the main task in the production of bioethanol is the separation of the highly pure form of ethanol, because it contains some amount of water. Hence these separating the ethanol from water is difficult due to the presence of azeotrope in the mixture. Therefore, for those kinds of obstructions, it is necessary to study the impacts or effects when mixing of surfactants into the water-ethanol concentration to produce pure ethanol. Now the surfactants (surface active agents) are used to reduce the surface tension of the liquid mixture.

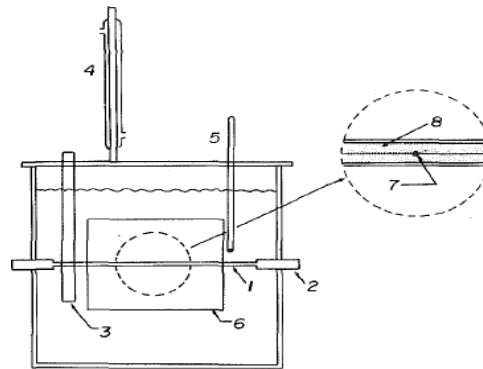
### What is mean by surfactant?

It is also known as a surface-active agent. It is a reducing agent that reduces the surface tension between two or more mixed liquids. This reduction of surface tension gives the better heat transfer rate to boil the liquids also consumes time taken for the boiling process

## II. LITERATUREREVIEW

Yang et al. [1] studied the impacts of surfactant used in the pool boiling process in which they used two sets of apparatus one is for pool boiling process in which how the boiling occurs by mixing of surfactant of a dilute solution and another is only for determining critical heat fluxes by adding surfactant. The difference between the two apparatus is the heat transfer surface. They used sodium lauryl benzene sulfate (SLBS), and sodium lauryl sulfate (SLS). Finally, they studied that the addition of surfactant in pool boiling gives better results in boiling.

Tzan et al. [2] investigated and studied that in pool boiling heat transfer, effects on the boiling process using surfactant while performing experiments. They perform their experiments in two ways in this sodium lauryl sulfate and n-propanol is used as a surfactant. The first way is by using more amount of surfactant (SLS) does not give a better boiling process. It has been observed that using less amount concentration of surfactant gives better nucleate boiling and high heat transfer coefficient and heat fluxes. The second way is the use of the same setup but a different mixture that is water and n-Propanol add (SLS) surfactant and the author conclude that SLS and n-propanol reduce the surface tension of water and also studied the importance of mass diffusion effect on the binary mixtures added with surfactant.

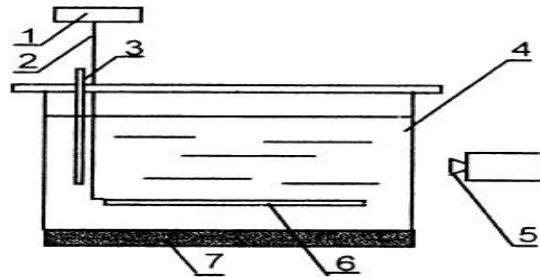


**Fig1.** Pool boiling apparatus. (1 Heating wire, 2 Nickel coated copper bar, 3 Glass tube, 4 reflux condenser, 5 Thermometer, 6 View window, 7 Thermocouple, 8 Silicon powder [1][2]

The above apparatus is an old technique used in past years for better and proper boiling of liquids using a surfactant.

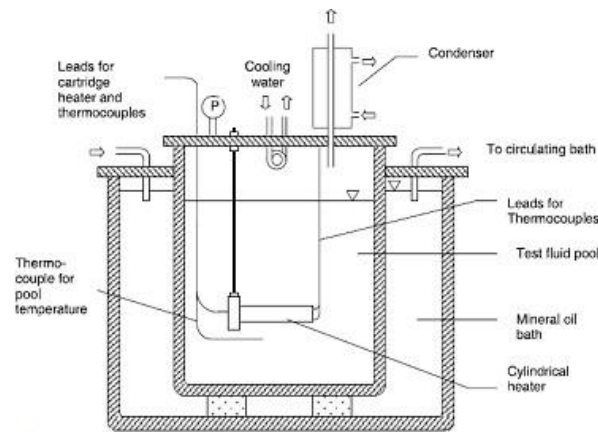
Tsann Wu et al. [3] studied heat transfer in nucleate boiling of water mixed with anionic and non-ionic surfactants in which 99% SDS (anionic) and Triton X-100 (non-ionic) are used for pool boiling process. In which they studied the impact of surfactant in the process of boiling in which the formation of vapor bubbles and their growth, but we cannot decide their capability. By experimenting, they got slight variations in the size of bubbles and their growth. The pool boiling occurs because of SDS 95%, SDS 99% is better compared with Triton X-100. Also, the warm move of soaked nucleate pool boiling of fluid arrangements of three surfactants on a level cylindrical radiator was examined tentatively and using photographic view examination is very simple to study.

Hetsroni et al. [4] investigated the impact on properties like surface tension and kinematic viscosity on the heat transfer coefficient in the nucleate pool boiling of water and pure water using a cationic surfactant. At less concentration below 530 ppm, the coefficient of heat transfer increases because of the reduction in surface tension. Elsewhere for maximum concentration like 1060 ppm, a decrease in coefficient of heat transfer because the kinematic viscosity gets increased. Also studied the variation in boiling behavior, the thermal pattern on heating surface, the effect on bubble growth in pool boiling heat transfer. For all these operations he uses pool boiling apparatus. For better understanding high-speed camera is kept to visualize the growth of the bubbles. Following is the apparatus were they used to perform experimentation.



**Fig2.** Apparatus of pool boiling on a tube. (1 temperature measurements, 2 Thermocouple, 3 supplementary heaters, 4 Window 5 High-speed camera 6 heating tube 7 Insulation. [4]

Wasekar et al. [5] experimented using a pool boiling apparatus for the boiling of pure water. In this, the aqueous solution of anionic (SDS, SLES) and non-ionic surfactants (Triton X-100, Triton X-305) are used with different molecular weights of (288.2, 422, 624, 1526). One change is made in an apparatus they use a cylindrical heater in the aqueous solution of surface-active agents. They studied that maximum heat transfer is enhanced in nucleate boiling with a decrease in surfactant molecular weight. The variation of growth in sizes of the bubbles at different concentrations of surfactant solution in ppm.

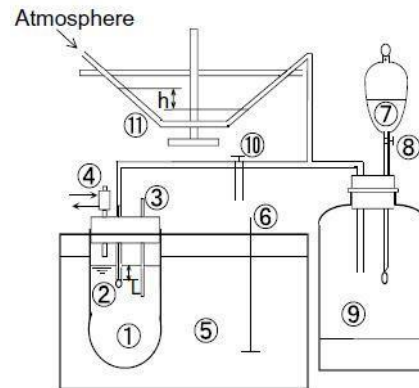


**Fig3.** Schematic of pool boiling apparatus [5]

Hetsroni et al. [6] Conducted experiments for subcooled water boiling with a surfactant solution for boiling. This experiment was performed by using two setups. In setup 1, the heater used is a tubular heater and in setup 2, a heater is of stainless-steel foil. In this experiment, the use of the Habon G solution as a surfactant to find various thermal properties that affect surface tension, viscosity, the thermal conductivity of the surfactant solution in subcooled boiling. Experimental results show that boiling curves are quite different for both fresh and degraded solutions. By using Hetsroni et al. [6] Conducted experiments for subcooled water boiling with a surfactant solution for boiling. This experiment was performed by using two setups. In setup 1, the heater used is a tubular heater and in setup 2, a heater is of stainless-steel foil. In this experiment, the use of the Habon G solution as a surfactant to find various thermal properties that affect surface tension, viscosity, the thermal conductivity of the surfactant solution in subcooled boiling. Experimental results show that boiling curves are quite different for both fresh and degraded solutions. Habon G solution in increasing concentration gives better heat transfer enhancement. Also said that before boiling there is a large vapor cluster formation because of degraded Habon G solution used and cluster formation is reduced by producing high heat flux which causes a reduction in the cluster and starts subcooled boiling.

Inoue et al. [7] studied the effect of surfactant on heat transfer coefficient and surface tension to enhance heat transfer in pool boiling of water and ethanol-water mixture. Different type of setup used for measuring different properties such as surface tension and heat transfer coefficient. The increase in the concentration of

surfactant gives a decrease in surface tension which decreases ethanol fraction because of this low ethanol fraction range there is an enhancement of heat transfer coefficient. They utilized the surfactant concentration upto 1000ppm to take results for studying boiling behavior, bubble formation various concentration, and heat transfer enhancements like the coefficient of heat transfer and heat flux. However with an increase in heat flux the coefficient of heat transfer decreases.



**Fig. 4** Apparatus for measuring surface tension. 1 Test vessel, 2 fine pipe, 3 thermometers, 4 condenser, 5 thermostat bath, 6 agitator, 7 oil, 8 valve, 9 pressure vessel, 10 valve, 11 manometer. [7]

Zhang et al. [8] studied many useful properties like equilibrium and dynamic surface tensions, wettability for various surfactant solutions by hypothesis estimation. In which the decrease in dynamic surface tension to an equilibrium value for a long time, it's the most difficult factor for the phase change phenomenon which causes an impact on the adsorption process of the surface-active agent, which is time-dependent.

Nafey et al. [9] experimented on heat transfer enhancement in solar water distillation by adding surfactant in it. They used an electric heater of 2000 watt was taken instead of natural heat (from the sun) to get the same input power. According to setup, the boiling pool consists of a mixture of freshwater and brine solution. The effect of surfactant addition with distinctive concentrations of SLS (Sodium lauryl sulfate) of 50, 100, 200, and 300ppm used in this experiment. They found that the concentration of additive greater than 300ppm was not affected by the day by day profitability of the system. The productivity was decreased by 6% when more than 400 ppm the concentration of additive taken and suggested that for increasing productivity the solution mixture surface tension must be decreased. Finally concluded that the separation of water brine solution water is getting filtered and separated from brine in the original form.

Ngema et al. [10] studied the methods for getting pure ethanol from water and ethanol mixture by pervaporation and extraction process. In pervaporation process does not require salt but in extraction process salt and also other additives used in this process.

Penget al. [11] studied the impact of surface-active agents with the refrigerant-based nanofluid in nucleate pool boiling heat transfer. The nanofluid made of Cu nanoparticle and R113 refrigerant, which is added with three different additives in the experiment those is (SDS) Sodium Dodecyl Sulfate, CTAB (Cetyl trimethyl Ammonium Bromide) and Sorbitan Monooleate. The experimental setup made in three sections test sections, boiling apparatus, and condensation loop are assembled to form one complete pool boiling apparatus to perform the nucleate boiling process. Their results show that with different percentages of three nanoparticles concentrations 0.1% wt, 0.5% wt, and 1% wt with Cu- R113, as well as pure R113 refrigerant which results in nucleate boiling heat transfer coefficient, is larger for Cu-R113 nanoparticle as compare to pure R113 refrigerant. Hence the maximum heat transfer enhancement occurs when a high concentration of nanoparticles was used.

Elghanam et al. [12] studied with the help of three different surfactants (SDS) sodium dodecyl sulfate, (SLES) Sodium lauryl ether sulfate acts as anionic and Triton X-100 acts as a nonionic surfactant used for boiling of distilled water. Their results show that using SDS and SLES gives an increase in heat transfer also the Triton X-100 gives an increase in heat transfer coefficient upto 500ppm beyond 500ppm gives insignificant enhancement found. Their heat transfer coefficient ranges from 194% for SLES up to 240% for SDS and 132% for Triton X- 100 which shows improved enhancement occurs.

A.R. Acharya, A.T. Pise [13] demonstrated the warmth move coefficient was expanded up to solvency furthest reaches of the surfactant in water. The expansion of the surfactant past as far as possible was practically steady or

somewhat diminishes the warmth move coefficient. The nearness of surfactant in water builds normal air pocket speed.

Acharya et al. [14] experimented was done using pool boiling apparatus for heat transfer enhancement in pool boiling using ammonium chloride ( $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$ ) as a surfactant. They studied that by using a small number of surfactant mixes with other solution gives good heat transfer rate required for the phase change of boiling application. They found that the concentration of  $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$  added up to 800 ppm with pure water gives average growth in the size of the bubble with high heat flux observed and also up to 2800 ppm enhancement can be made possible.

Gajghate et al. [15] studied the enhancement of pool boiling heat transfer with the addition of 2-Ethyl-1-Hexanol, in this, they use (500-1000 ppm) concentration in pure water and they found that it's sufficient for pool boiling purpose. Which causes a reduction in surface tension of the solution and starts the formation of bubbles at increasing excess temperature. The addition of surfactant concentration beyond the limit gives a bad impact on the boiling process.

Najim et al. [16] investigated using SDS, Nicotine as an innovative surfactant on a Nichrome wire heater to conduct pool boiling heat transfer experimentally. They studied how to measure surface tension and the dynamic viscosity of the solution. The bubble formation at various concentrations is shown in photographic view and high-speed video techniques of the boiling behavior can easily detect. By comparing SDS and Nicotine, nicotine gives the best heat transfer enhancement with 2500 ppm concentration of nicotine which is almost 50% less than water, as we know the nicotine is produced from plants and it is biodegradable too.

Acharya et al. [17] presented the literature review on the augmentation of heat transfer in boiling using surfactants. They studied the decrease in heat transfer rate with an increase in pressure and heat flow during the boiling process due to surface roughness. Also, the improvement can be made in the heat transfer coefficient by using a good surface-active agent in the boiling process. The main aim of this study was to perform pool boiling heat and mass transfer for  $\text{LiBr-H}_2\text{O}$  and water using surfactant and boiling behavior of the mixture with or without adding surfactant.

Kadam et al. [18] found that by using surfactant in water-ethanol mixture separation of ethanol is possible. This process was performed by the distillation process. In this, they found how much time needed, energy consumption for the process using surfactant as SDS (Sodium dodecyl sulfate), and SLBS (Sodium lauryl benzenesulphurated). Their results show that time for distillation of 10% and 20% ethanol (v/v) is less for SDS also the energy consumed for distilling the mixture is less for SDS compared with SLBS. By adding more amount surfactant results increase in specific gravity, SLBS gives variation in specific gravity which good for the enhancement of separation process.

R. Kadam et al. [19] Investigated the separation of ethanol from an ethanol-water mixture by a different surface-active agent such as SDS (Sodium dodecyl sulfate),  $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$  (Ammonium Chloride), SLBS (sodium lauryl ether sulfate). They found that time and energy required for these separation process is less for SDS as compared to  $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$  and SLBS that is for 10% and 20% (v/v) of ethanol and the concentration of surfactant up to 2500 ppm beyond this require more time and energy for the separation process. Finally said that SDS is good as compared with SLBS and  $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$ .



Fig.5 Distillation Apparatus [18][19]

K. Kadam et al. , R. Kadam et al. [18] [19] They conducted their experiment using the same distillation apparatus but with different surfactants. Concluded that further modifications shall be made for improving using this experimental setup.

Ali. H. Askar, S.A. Khadim, S.H. Mshehid [20] studied the surfactant's impact on the warmth move upgrade and dependability of nanofluid at steady divider temperature. Concluded that adding nanoparticles to the base

liquid enlarged the warmth move rate, and this growth expanded slowly as the focus expanded, where the greatest addition in the Nusselt number came to at the most elevated volume fixation. Managing stable nanofluid taking a shot at improving results.

### III. RESULTSVIEW

Studied the enhancement of heat transfer in the boiling process takes place at different conditions and different configurations and their results. Understanding the behavior of the boiling process. The most common thing in all is a surfactant, which is used for better boiling performance. Understanding the separation phenomenon [17][18] the time taken and energy required for separating ethanol from mixture. Further modifications can be made for improving results.

### IV. CONCLUSION

According to the literature survey, it is concluded that focusing on a study a reduction in time and conservation in the required energy required for boiling and mostly in the distillation process. By observing the performance surfactant of type ionic and anionic i.e SDS (Sodium Dodecyl sulfate), NH<sub>4</sub>Cl (Ammonium Chloride), SLBS (Sodium laurylbenzenesulfate) are mostly used and resulted from NH<sub>4</sub>Cl gives better results among all three. So there is a chance to improve by using different surfactants instead of NH<sub>4</sub>Cl. So instead of those above surfactants, we can perform by taking new surfactants that are not in use yet, hence there is scope for extending the research for better results. The main issue found from literature in the separation process that is to get pure ethanol from ethanol-water mixture requires lots of time and wasting energy on the separation process so while taking this aspect in mind further research shall be conducted and for this issue fractional distillation apparatus and a surfactant is beneficial.

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