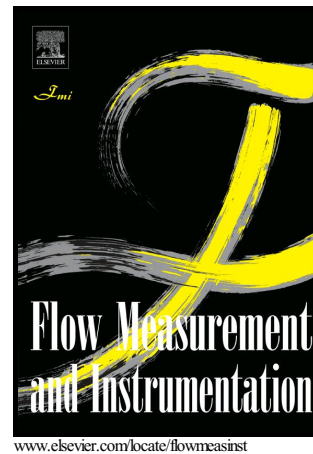


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Markus Lichti, Hans-Jörg Bart



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**Bubble Size Distributions with a Shadowgraphic Optical Probe****Markus Lichti and Hans-Jörg Bart**

M.Sc. Markus Lichti, Prof. Dipl.-Ing. Dr.-techn. Hans Jörg Bart, bart@mv.uni-kl.de

University of Kaiserslautern, Chair of Separation Science and Technology, P.O. Box 3049,  
67653 Kaiserslautern**Abstract:**

The in-line image analysis of local bubble size distributions (BSD) in a bubble column with a diameter of 0.1 m and superficial gas velocities up to 2.1 cm/s is presented. The BSD is acquired via a telecentric shadowgraphic image analysis using a modified Optical Multimode Online Probe (OMOP). The column is operated in batch mode by using different alcohol/water mixtures aerated with compressed air, purged through a sintered glass plate ( $d_p=100-160 \mu\text{m}$ ). At a total holdup up to 35%, the specific surface area is calculated out of the BSD by the optical method and compared to an empirical correlation.

Keywords: Bubble column; endoscopic measurement technique; multiphase flow; bubble size distribution

**1. Introduction**

Bubble columns are widely used in chemical industry for production of intermediates like terephthalic acid, acetic acid, oxo-alcohols, acetone, hydrogen peroxide or even of synthetic methane [1, 2]. They are usually non-agitated, which reduces investment costs and operated as e.g. as airlift loop reactor [3] or three phase slurry columns in Fischer-Tropsch-Synthesis [4], able to operate at high pressure and temperature. Nevertheless, the design of bubble columns is still a sophisticated procedure due to the complex hydrodynamics and its mutual dependency on chemical species transport (reactions and interfacial mass transfer). In a 'rule of thumb' basis design either the local flow phenomena at spargers, in dead zones, etc. are

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