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ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

Temperature controlled interval contact design for ultrasound assisted liquid-liquid extraction

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Highlights

- Ultrasound reactor for solvent extraction with temperature control is designed
- Methods are studied to contact the ultrasound transducer with the reaction mixture
- Closed interval contact proved to most robust
- Reactor can be scaled up 10 times without loss of relative yield improvement

Abstract

This work aims at constructing a design which integrates a direct (solid) contact method with temperature control for chemical process applications. To realise this integration a two-step approach is proposed. Firstly, temperature control is achieved by suspending the tubing in a temperature controlled and sonicated liquid medium (indirect contact). Secondly, direct contact elements are introduced at regular intervals along the tubing. Therefore, this design is termed the hybrid contact reactor, as it incorporates both direct and indirect approaches of ultrasound transfer. Furthermore, two possible configurations, open and closed interval connection to the tubing, were assessed. Both hybrid reactors performed better than the indirect contact reactor (20 to 27 % increase in yield) for residence times of less than 45 s and similar for residence times above. Even though the performance of the two hybrid designs was similar the closed interval resulted in more reproducible and distinct yields. This configuration was then scaled up 10 times in internal volume using a 2 mm ID tube. This design showed a relative performance similar to the interval contact design which gave the highest yields thus far for the same operating conditions.

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