

Classification of Reactions

In chemical reaction engineering probably the most useful scheme is the breakdown according to the number and types of phases involved, the big division being between the homogeneous and heterogeneous systems. A reaction is homogeneous if it takes place in one phase alone. A reaction is heterogeneous if it requires the presence of at least two phases to proceed at the rate that it does. It is immaterial whether the reaction takes place in one, two, or more phases; at an interface; or whether the reactants and products are distributed among the phases or are all contained within a single phase. All that counts is that at least two phases are necessary for the reaction to proceed as it does.

Simple Reactor Types

Batch

plug flow

mixed flow

C

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