

Extended Kalman filter algorithm for online parameter estimation for a pressure swing adsorption process

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Pressure swing adsorption (PSA) has been employed for a variety of gas separation processes such as the separation of oxygen from air, hydrogen from reformat mixture, and so forth. The operation of a PSA process involves a number of complicated steps, and numerical simulation studies have played a crucial role in finding new operating conditions that improve the feasibility of the process. To this end, a numerical model should be accurate enough to replace or minimize experimental studies. In this study, the extended Kalman filter algorithm has been proposed to accurately estimate the rate parameters of a PSA process such as LDF constants and effective diffusivity and applied to an experimental PSA process for CO₂ capturing using zeolite 13X. The method is based on the dynamic responses of bed temperatures during CO₂ adsorption and desorption together with the breakthrough curve information. For this, the effects of process parameters on the dynamic responses were investigated first using a numerical simulator and a method to relate key features of the dynamic responses to the process parameters has been proposed and experimentally applied.