

**CEN 3313**  
**MASS TRANSFER**

**Assoc. Prof. Ayşe Karakeçili**

**Assoc. Prof. Berna Topuz**



# Molecular Diffusion in Gases

## Equimolar Counter Diffusion in Gases

$$J_{Az}^* = J_{Bz}^*$$

The molar flux of **A from tank 1 to tank 2** must be the same as the molar flux of **B from tank 2 to tank 1**.

**Temperature and Pressure are constant.**



# Molecular Diffusion in Gases-

## Equimolar Counter Diffusion in Gases

$$J_{Az}^* = -J_{Bz}^*$$

$$\left[ -D_{AB} \frac{d(c_A)}{dz} \right] = - \left[ -D_{BA} \frac{d(c_B)}{dz} \right]$$

$$D_{AB} = D_{BA}$$

Molecular diffusivity is independent of concentration.



# Molecular Diffusion in Gases-

## Diffusion of A and B Plus Convection

$$v_i - v^* = \text{diffusion velocity} \rightarrow v_{Ad}$$

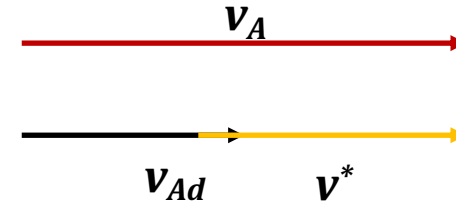
$v_A$  = velocity of A w.r.t. stationary coordinate

$v^*$  = molar average velocity w.r.t. stationary coordinate

**diffusion velocity indicates the motion of A relative to the local motion of the fluid stream**



stationary observer:  
A is moving faster than the  
bulk of the phase



# Molecular Diffusion in Gases-

## Diffusion of A and B Plus Convection

**Molar diffusion flux:**

$$J_{Az}^* \frac{\text{kg mol A}}{\text{s} \cdot \text{m}^2} = c_A v_{Ad} \frac{\text{kg mol A m}}{\text{m}^3 \text{ s}}$$

$$v_A = v_{Ad} + v^*$$

**Multiplying by  $c_A$**

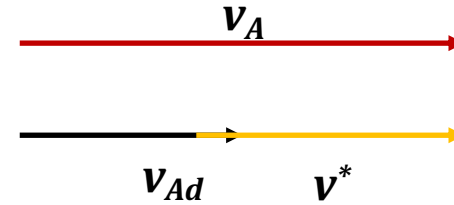
$$c_A v_A = c_A v_{Ad} + c_A v^*$$

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stationary observer:  
A is moving faster than the  
bulk of the phase



## Molecular Diffusion in Gases-Diffusion of A and B Plus Convection

$$\text{(Total flux)} = \text{(Diffusion flux)} + \text{(Convective flux)}$$

Total flux of A relative to the stationary point	=	Diffusion flux relative to moving fluid	+	Convective flux of A relative to the stationary point
$c_A v_A (= N_A)$		$c_A v_{Ad} (= J_{Az}^*)$		$c_A v^*$

**Total convective flux of the whole stream relative to the stationary point :**

$$c v^* = N = N_A + N_B; v^* = \frac{N_A + N_B}{c}$$

<b>Total flux of A</b>	=	<b>Diffusion flux</b>	+	<b>Convective flux of A</b>
$N_A$		$J_{Az}^*$		$c_A \left( \frac{N_A + N_B}{c} \right)$



## Molecular Diffusion in Gases- Diffusion of A and B Plus Convection

$$N_A = -cD_{AB} \frac{d(x_A)}{dz} + \frac{c_A}{c} (N_A + N_B)$$
$$N_B = -cD_{BA} \frac{d(x_B)}{dz} + \frac{c_B}{c} (N_A + N_B)$$

For equimolar counter-diffusion  $N_A = -N_B \rightarrow N_A + N_B = 0$

$$N_A = J_A^* = -N_B = -J_B^*$$



## References

1. Geankoplis, C.J., Transport Processes and Separation Process Principles, Prentice-Hall, Pearson Education, 2003
2. Incropera F. P., Dewitt D. P. , Bergman T.L., Lavine A.S., Fundamentals of Heat and Mass Transfer, John Wiley & Sons Inc.
3. Middleman S., An Introduction to Mass and Heat Transfer: Principles of Analysis and Design, John Wiley, High Education, 1997.
4. Cussler E.L., Diffusion : Mass Transfer in Fluid Systems, Cambridge University Press, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, 2009.
5. Bird R.B., Stewart W.E., Lightfoot E.N., Transport Phenomena, John Wiley & Sons, 1960.

