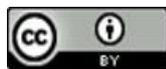


DOI: <http://doi.org/10.52716/jprs.v14i4.783>

## Effective Enhancement of CO<sub>2</sub> Mass Transfer in an Oscillatory Baffled Column: A Comparative Study

Omer I. Farhan<sup>1</sup>, Harith N. Mohammed<sup>2</sup>, Safaa M.R. Ahmed<sup>2\*</sup><sup>1</sup>Petroleum and Gas Refining Engineering Department, College of Petroleum Processes Engineering, Tikrit University, Tikrit, Iraq.<sup>2</sup>Chemical Engineering Department, College of Engineering, Tikrit University, Tikrit, Iraq.\*Corresponding Author E-mail: [Safaamohamed@tu.edu.iq](mailto:Safaamohamed@tu.edu.iq)

Received 02/08/2023, Revised 02/10/2023, Accepted 05/10/2023, Published 22/12/2024

This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).

### Abstract

CO<sub>2</sub>-water mass transfer was studied in a multi-orifice oscillatory baffled column (OBC) operated in a semi-batch system (batch liquid phase and continuous gas phase). The effect of column configurations, oscillation conditions and gas flow rates, on CO<sub>2</sub> concentration ratio ( $C/C_0$ ) in the gas phase, CO<sub>2</sub> concentration in water (g/l) and mass flux (g/m<sup>2</sup>.min) were examined. The experiments were conducted over a wide range of oscillation condition expressed by modified oscillatory Reynolds number ( $Re'_o = 0-1450$ ) and aeration rate, volume of gas per volume of liquid per minute, ( $vvm = 0-1$ ). The inlet gas stream consists of 15% v/v CO<sub>2</sub> (the rest is N<sub>2</sub>) used to simulate the emission of flue gas streams in industries. The results showed that the mass transfer enhancement increased with oscillation (frequency and amplitude) due to the improved mixing in the OBC. The OBC showed a higher enhancement in CO<sub>2</sub>-water mass transfer than that obtained with a bubble column (BC) (smooth column without baffles and oscillation), and baffled column (without oscillation). The maximum enhancement of CO<sub>2</sub> mass flux achieved in the OBC was 10-fold over the BC at  $Re'_o = 1449$  and  $vvm=0.8$ .

**Keywords:** GHGs, Gas-liquid system, mass transfer, oscillatory baffled column.

**التعزيز الفعال لنقل كتلة ثاني أكسيد الكربون في عمود متذبذب محير: دراسة مقارنة**

### الخلاصة:

تمت دراسة نقل كتلة ثاني أكسيد الكربون إلى الماء في عمود متذبذب متعدد الفتحات (OBC) يعمل في نظام شبه الدفعة (طور سائل دفعي وطور غاز مستمر). تم اختبار تأثير نوع العمود ومعدلات تدفق الغاز الداخلي وظروف التذبذب على نسبة تركيز ثاني أكسيد الكربون في الطور الغازي وتركيز ثاني أكسيد الكربون في الماء وتدفق الكتلة. أجريت التجارب على مدى واسع من ظروف التذبذب المعبر عنها بعدد رينولدز المتذبذب المعدل (0-1450) ومعدل التهوية، حجم الغاز لكل حجم سائل في الدقيقة (0-1). يتكون تيار الغاز الداخل من 15% v/v CO<sub>2</sub> والباقي هو نيتروجين المستخدم لمحاكاة انبعاث تيارات غاز المداخن في الصناعات. أظهرت النتائج أن تعزيز نقل الكتلة يزداد مع التذبذب (التردد والسعة) بسبب تحسن الخلط في ال

OBC أظهر تحسیناً أعلى في نقل كتلة CO<sub>2</sub> في الماء أكثر من ذلك الذي تم الحصول عليه باستخدام عمود فقاعي (BC) (عمود أملس بدون حواجز وتذبذب)، وعمود بحواجز (بدون تذبذب). كان الحد الأقصى لتعزيز تدفق كتلة ثاني أكسيد الكربون الذي تم تحقيقه في OBC هو 10 أضعاف أكثر من BC عند عدد رينولدز المتذبذب المعدل 1449 ومعدل حجم الغاز = 0.8.

## 1. Introduction:

Emission of greenhouse gases (GHGs) is one of the major challenges for all societies in the world [1]. Among all these greenhouse gases, carbon dioxide has the largest negative impact on the binary atmosphere for its massive emissions that result from burning fuels producing flue gases and causing global climate change [2]. In different industries that generate CO<sub>2</sub>, the concentration of CO<sub>2</sub> in the flue gas stream will vary depending on the emission source, and generally it is diluted with nitrogen and water vapor. The concentration of carbon dioxide in the flue gas stream may be about 12-15 vol. % for coal fuel, 3-8 vols. % for natural gas fuel and about 20 vol. % for the cement production industry and 3-8 vols. % in refineries [3] [4].

Intensification of gas dissolution in liquid requires the production of microbubbles and reduced mass transfer resistance around the surface of the gas bubbles [5]. Conventional gas-liquid columns (for example, packed column, bubble column, and spray column) face several operating problems such as immersion, loading, foaming, and orientation with difficulty in scaling-up these columns [6]. In a particular case, bubble columns (BCs) present a poor mass transfer performance at large gas aeration rate ( $Q_{gas}$ ) so the contact time is very short [5]. In addition, the complex flow structures, back mixing, and unexpected spike are the major drawbacks of BC [7].

Oscillatory baffled column (OBC) is a multi-stage mixing method that can efficiently intensify various multi-stage chemical and biological processes [8]. It is a regular column containing periodically spaced baffles with oscillatory flow generated by diaphragms, pistons, or bellows [9]. The interaction of the oscillatory flow with periodic contractions creates complex hydrodynamics with recirculating vortices, resulting in efficient mixing, improved mass and heat transfer, and compact geometry (i.e., low column length-to-diameter ratio) [10]. In addition, the mixing intensity can be changed by adjusting the oscillatory conditions (amplitude and frequency of oscillations) [11].

Oscillating flow allows sensitive control of mixing and residence times and offers a solution to many problems of conventional flow columns. Importantly, the oscillation-enhanced mixing is independent of the net flow rate, and thus it is possible to achieve a high level of mixing at lower flow rates (longer residence times) and Reynolds numbers. In addition, the mixing quality can be guaranteed during scaling-up [12] [13]. An important advantage of OBC is increased gas

retention, and a more uniform distribution of shear rates in OBC resulting in a thinner liquid film. In addition, the oscillation causes the formation of smaller bubbles [14].

Various baffle geometries have been used in literature (for example, integral, central axial baffles, helical baffles wire wool baffles, single-orifice baffles, multi-orifice baffles and disc and doughnut baffles) which present different degrees of mixing [12]. However, in the special case of gas-liquid system, multi-orifice design is recommended due to the wider operating range under the bubbling flow regime, higher mass transfer rates and allowing for good control of bubble size [7][9].

Although several studies investigated the dissolution of gases such as O<sub>2</sub>, O<sub>3</sub> and air in water using (OBC) [7] [8] [15]. The CO<sub>2</sub> dissolution in water using (OBC) has been poorly studied to date. Taslim et al. [16] used a pure stream of CO<sub>2</sub> with single orifice design. The results showed that a significant enhancement in mass transfer was achieved by OBC compared to that obtained by BC. Pereira et al.[5] had a concern about the bubble size distributions and scaling-down to very low superficial gas velocity ( $v_{vm} = 0.01-0.1$ ) when they studied dissolution of 5% v/v CO<sub>2</sub> in water using a multi-orifice baffled column. However, they did not focus strongly on the effect of the baffle geometry and oscillation conditions on the CO<sub>2</sub> dissolution.

The main aim of this study was to investigate the performance of OBC provided with multi orifices baffles design in enhancing the CO<sub>2</sub> mass transfer from the flue gas stream by increasing the dissolution of CO<sub>2</sub> in the liquid phase (water). This can be achieved through the objectives listed below:

- Study the solubility of carbon dioxide in water and compare the results with those obtained by bubble column.
- Study the ability of OBC to overcome the limitations of CO<sub>2</sub> mass transport over a wide range of fluctuation conditions.

### 1.1 Theory

The flow structure in OBCs is characterized by three dimensionless groups, the net flow Reynolds number ( $Re_n$ ), oscillatory flow Reynolds number ( $Re_o$ ) and Strouhal number ( $St$ ) (Equations (1-3)) [10].

$$Re_n = \frac{\rho u_{net} D}{\mu} \quad (1)$$

$$Re_o = \frac{2\pi f x_o \rho D}{\mu} \quad (2)$$

$$St = \frac{D}{4\pi x_o} \quad (3)$$

Where:  $\rho$  is the fluid density ( $\text{Kg/m}^3$ ),  $u_{net}$  is the net velocity (m/s),  $D$  is the column diameter (m),  $\mu$  is the dynamic viscosity (pa.s),  $f$  is the frequency of oscillation (Hz), and  $x_o$  is the amplitude of oscillation (center-to-peak), m.

The net flow Reynolds number controls the flow pattern of the fluids and when the liquid phase is batch (no liquid enters or leaves the column)  $Re_n$  equal to zero [17].  $Re_o$  describes the mixing intensity where the equation of  $Re_o$  is analog to that of  $Re_n$ , except  $u$  replaced by  $2\pi f x_o$  (the maximum oscillation velocity ( $\text{ms}^{-1}$ )) [18]. Strouhal number ( $St$ ) describes the effective propagation of vortices in the baffle cavity [19]. Both equations of  $Re_o$  and  $St$  mentioned above do not include any parameter that influence the flow behavior such as the orifice diameter ( $d_o$ ) and number of orifice ( $n$ ) [20]. In addition, the flow pattern in the multi-orifice design differs from the single-orifice design in that the influence of the number of orifice ( $n$ ), the orifice diameter ( $d_o$ ), and the orifice free open area ( $\alpha$ ) on the OBC performance should be considered [9]. Therefore, Pereira et al. [5] proposed "dimensionally modified oscillatory numbers" (Equations (4-6)) to describe the effect of the above parameters.

$$Re'_o = \frac{2\pi f x_o \rho}{\mu} \frac{D}{\sqrt{n}} \sqrt{\frac{1-\alpha}{\alpha^2}} = Re_o \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \sqrt{\frac{1-\alpha}{\alpha^2}} \quad (4)$$

$$St' = \frac{D}{4\pi x_o} \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} = St \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \quad (5)$$

$$\alpha = \frac{n d_o^2}{D^2} \quad (6)$$

Where,  $Re'_o$  is the modified Oscillatory Reynolds number,  $St'$  is the modified Strouhal number,  $\alpha$  is free baffle open area,  $n$  is orifice number per baffle.

## 2. Experimental setup and procedure:

### 2.1 Experimental set up

Figures (1) and (2) illustrate a schematic diagram and a graphical image of the experimental setup respectively. The setup consists of a 41mm inner diameter (ID) and an acrylic column with a height of 980 mm. The column was placed vertically on an oscillator fixed at the bottom of the

column. The piston (oscillator) movement was controlled by a variable speed motor. The oscillation frequency was controlled by changing the motor speed while the oscillation amplitude (center-to-peak amplitude) was controlled by adjusting the off-center position of a rod connected with in a rotating wheel. The oscillator is able to provide fluid oscillation frequency ( $f$ ) and center-to-peak amplitude ( $x_0$ ) in the ranges 0 - 10 Hz and 0–10 mm respectively. The MOBC was equipped with multi-orifice baffles spaced equally ( $l_b$ ) by  $1.5 D$ . The baffles were printed using a 3D- printer. These baffles were designed to fit closely to the internal wall of the column. In order to support the set of the baffles, they were fixed periodically with two stainless steel rods (3 mm in diameter). The specifications of the columns and the baffles are listed in Table (1). The entire volume of the column was 1.3 L while the working volume ( $V_L$ ) was fixed at 1 L. Distilled water was used as liquid phase media. The experiments were conducted in a semi-batch mode (batch liquid phase and continuous gas phase). The gas stream consists of 15% v/v  $\text{CO}_2$  and 85%  $\text{N}_2$  which was chosen to simulate the composition of the flue gas streams from industrial emission sources. The percentages of  $\text{CO}_2$  and gas flow rate ( $Q_{\text{gas}}$ ) were controlled by two calibrated gas rotameters (LZB-3WB, Darhor Co.). The gases were mixed using a three-way valve. The mixed gases flowed from the bottom to the column upward. All experiments were carried out at atmospheric pressure (the top end of column is open) and room temperature ( $\sim 25^\circ\text{C}$ ). Table (2) shows the experimental operating conditions.

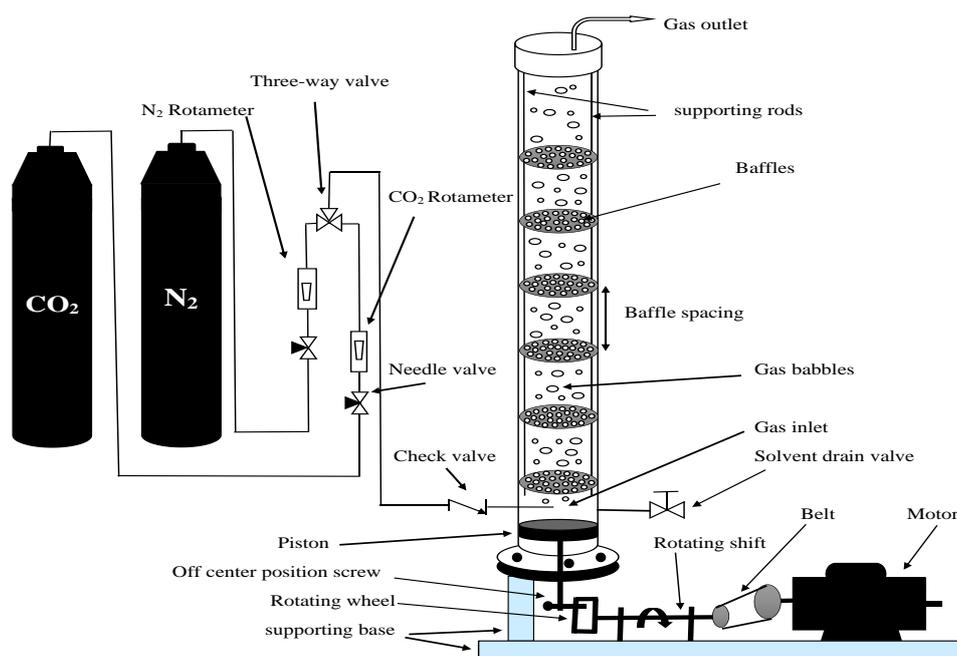
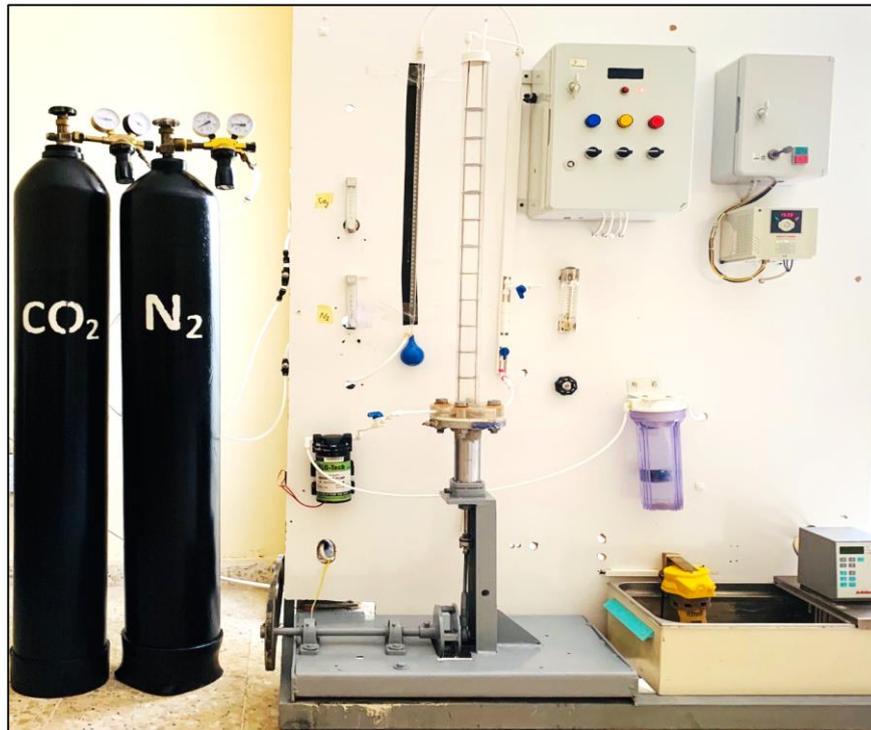


Fig. (1): A schematic diagram of the experimental setup

**Table (1): Baffles specification**

Baffles Design		
Number of orifices per baffle(n)	64	
Orifice diameter, mm	3	
Baffle thickness, mm	2	
Baffle open area, %	33	
Baffle spacing, mm	60	
Total no. of baffles inserted	12	
Construction material	ABS like Resin	



**Fig. (2): Photo of the experimental setup**

**Table (2): Operating condition**

Condition	Range
Oscillation frequency, $f$ (Hz)	0 - 3
Time, $t$ (min)	0-30
Oscillation amplitude, $x_o$ (mm)	0-6
Aeration rate, vvm	0-1
Oscillatory Reynolds number, $Re_o$	0- 5000
Modified oscillatory Reynolds number, $Re'_o$	0-1450

The CO<sub>2</sub> mass transfer experiments were carried out in three column configurations: bubble column (BC) (unbaffled column and no oscillation), baffled column (without oscillation) and a multi-orifice oscillatory baffled column (MOBC) at different oscillation condition. A sparger was not used because of its negligible effect on MOBC efficiency as the flow and bubble size are dominated by oscillation [21][22]. Prior each run, the column was filled with distilled water and the gas volumetric flow rate was adjusted to the required value to achieve the required total flow rate of 15% v/v CO<sub>2</sub> / 85% N<sub>2</sub> mixture. Samples were taken within a specific interval (1-30 minutes).

## 2.2 CO<sub>2</sub> concentration analysis

The CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations in the output gas stream were measured using a calibrated gas chromatography (GC) instrument (GC-2030 Nexis, Shimadzu, Japan). A gas sampler was used to collect the samples for analysis. The GC was equipped with a TCD detector and Rt-q-BOND column (RESTEK, USA) with dimensions of 30 m length, 0.53 mm ID, and 20 μm thickness. 0.5 ml of the sample was injected into the GC by a specific gas syringe (A-2, Luer Lock, RESTEK, USA) with a split ratio of 10.0 where the carrier gas is Helium (He). The detector and injector temperatures were 250 °C and 200 °C respectively. The data were acquired and analyzed using a software (lab solution) provided by Shimadzu.

The concentration ratio of CO<sub>2</sub> (C/C<sub>0</sub>) in the gas phase was calculated using eq. (7)

$$\frac{C}{C_0} = \frac{y_{CO_2}^{out}}{y_{CO_2}^{in}} \quad (7)$$

Where:

(C/C<sub>0</sub>) is the CO<sub>2</sub> concentration ratio in the gas phase,  $y_{CO_2}^{in}$  is the volume fraction of CO<sub>2</sub> in the input gas stream, and  $y_{CO_2}^{out}$  is the volume fraction of CO<sub>2</sub> in the output gas stream.

The the volumetric gas flow rates converted into mass rate and the difference between input and output CO<sub>2</sub> amounts which is the CO<sub>2</sub> dissolution in water (mass balance principles) and the CO<sub>2</sub> accumulate in water. The CO<sub>2</sub> concentration in water was plotted against running time producing a straight line where the slope of this line represents the absorption rate (g/l.min) then the mass flux calculated by eq. (8).

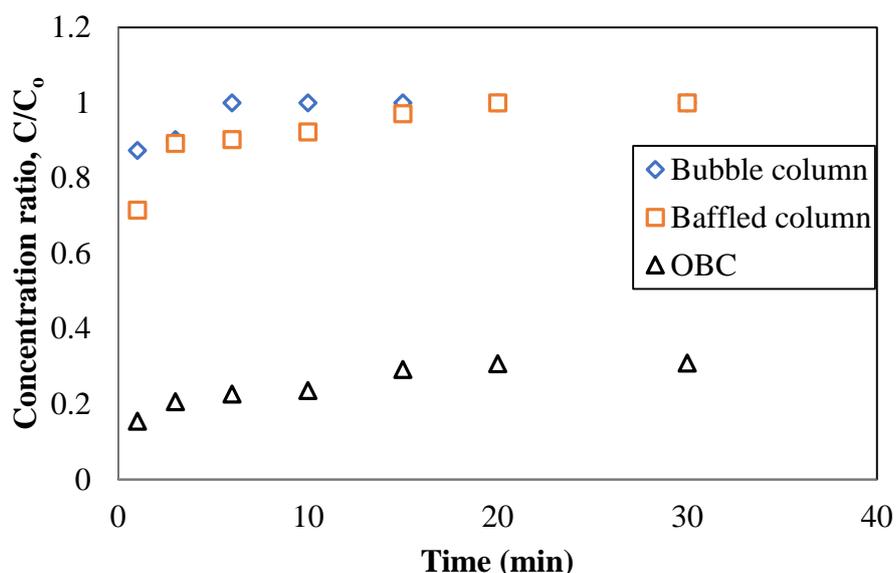
$$CO_2 \text{ mass flux} = \text{absorption rate} * \text{height of water in the column} \quad (8)$$

### 3. Results and Discussions:

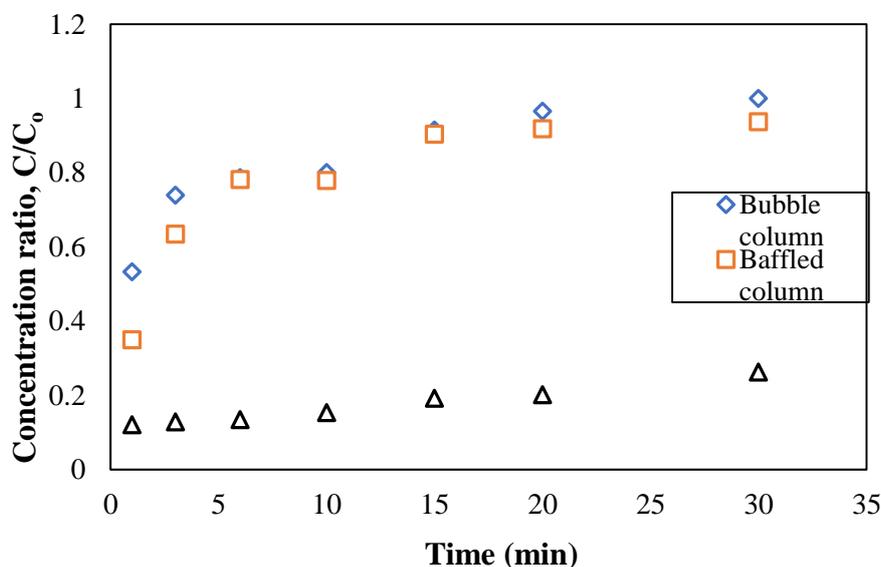
The concentration ratio of CO<sub>2</sub> ( $C/C_0$ ) in the gas phase, CO<sub>2</sub> concentration in water (g/l), and CO<sub>2</sub> mass flux (g/m<sup>2</sup>.min) were calculated in three column designs: a bubble column (smooth column, no baffles and no oscillation), BC, a baffled column (without oscillation), and an oscillatory multi-orifice baffled column (MOBC) (with baffles and oscillation), to evaluate the performance of MOBC comparing its results with that obtained by the baffled and bubble columns.

#### 3.1 Effect of column configuration on CO<sub>2</sub> mass transfer.

Figures (3 and 4) show the results of the CO<sub>2</sub> concentration ratio ( $C/C_0$ ) in the three column designs BC, baffled column and OBC at the maximum oscillation condition ( $f=3$  Hz,  $x_0=6$  mm,  $Re'_o=1449$ ), and  $vvm=0.6$  ( $Q_{gas}=600$  ml/min). In addition, Figure 4 shows the results of CO<sub>2</sub> concentration profiles in the three column designs at same condition.



**Fig. (3): The concentration ratio of CO<sub>2</sub> in gas phase ( $C/C_0$ ) vs time at  $vvm=0.6$  ( $Q_{gas}=600$  ml/min) and (for OBC,  $f=3$  Hz,  $x_0=6$  mm,  $Re'_o=1449$ ).**



**Fig. (4):** The concentration ratio of CO<sub>2</sub> in gas phase ( $C/C_0$ ) vs time at  $f = 3$  Hz,  $x_0 = 6$  mm,  $Re'_0 = 1449$ , and  $vvm = 0.2$  ( $Q_{gas} = 200$  ml/min).

As can be seen from Figures 3 and 4, the concentration ratio ( $C/C_0$ ) increased with time in the order: bubble column > baffled column > OBC. This means that OBC displays higher performance than the other column designs (smaller  $C/C_0$ ). This is due to the double effect of fluid oscillation and the multi-orifice baffles which results in a significant increase in gas-liquid mass transfer rates. The max value of concentration ratio in the OBC is approximately 5.8 times smaller than that in the bubble column where the  $C/C_0$  decrease from 0.87 to 0.15, this decreasing in concentration ratio indicating that the CO<sub>2</sub> dissolution in water by OBC is higher. the ( $C/C_0$ ) increased with time because the liquid phase (distilled water) becomes more loaded with CO<sub>2</sub>, thus the gas-liquid driving force to mass transfer decreases and the CO<sub>2</sub> concentration in water increased.

Figures (5 and 6) show that the CO<sub>2</sub> concentration in water increases in the order OBC > baffled column > BC. This behavior agrees with results obtained by [14][15][16].

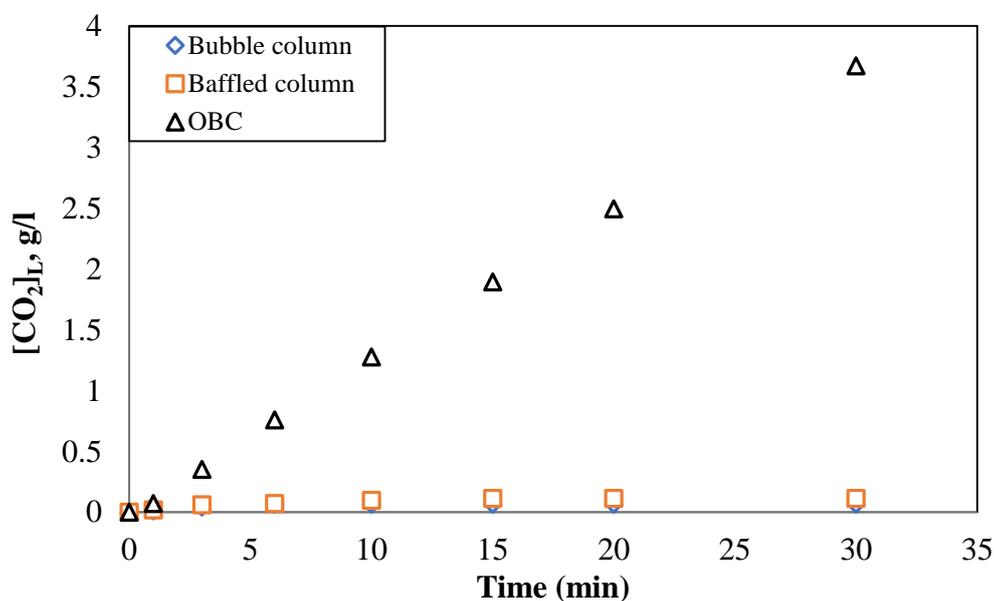


Fig. (5): CO<sub>2</sub> concentration in water vs time at  $vvm = 0.6$  ( $Q_{gas} = 600$  ml/min) and (for OBC,  $f = 3$  Hz,  $x_o = 6$  mm,  $Re'_0 = 1449$ ).

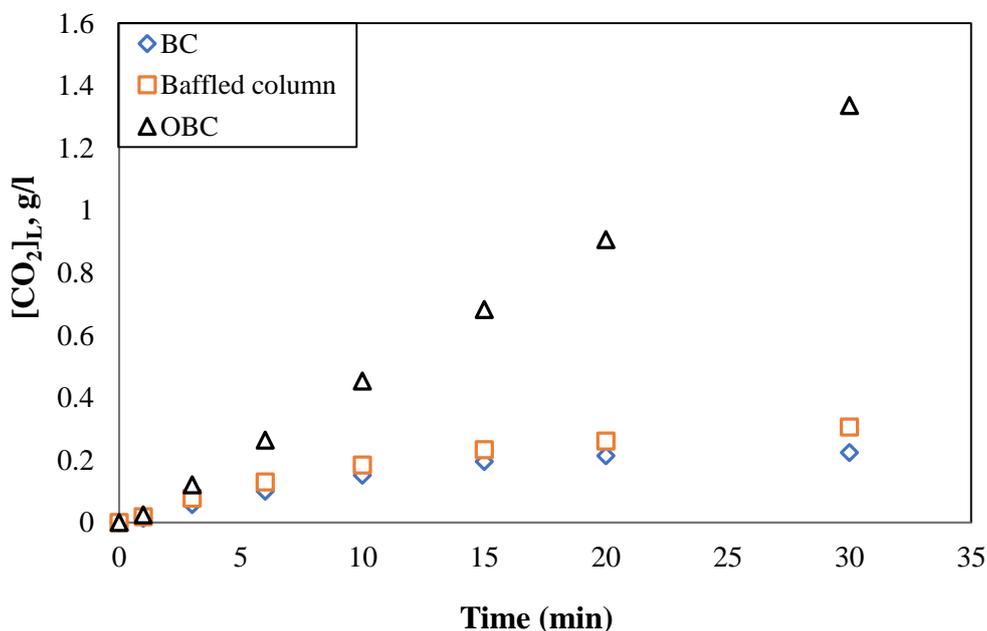


Fig. (6): CO<sub>2</sub> concentration in water vs time at  $f = 3$  Hz,  $x_o = 6$  mm,  $Re'_0 = 1449$ , and  $vvm = 0.2$  ( $Q_{gas} = 200$  ml/min).

Figures (3) to (6) revealed that the performance of BC and baffled column effective in dissolving CO<sub>2</sub> at time  $\leq 10$  minutes. At time  $>10$ , the concentration ratio becomes constant ( $\sim 1$ ), CO<sub>2</sub> concentration in water reached steady state due to the limitation of mass transfer where the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> that transferred from gas phase equals to the amount dissolved in liquid phase.

The increase in CO<sub>2</sub> concentration is due to the increase in CO<sub>2</sub> mass flow, where the mass flow was 9.424, 14.972 and 94.164 g/m<sup>2</sup>.min for BC, baffled column and OBC, respectively. This behavior may be due to the high resistance of the liquid film around the gas bubble, the large bubble size, and the small gas retention in the BC and baffled column [5].

The motion of the bubbles was tracked and the gas and liquid flow pattern was followed using normal observation at different conditions. As observed, the OBC exhibited a higher bubbly flow (i.e. a homogenous flow with small, uniform bubbles dispersed across the column) than other designs, confirming the highest performance of the CO<sub>2</sub> dissolution. This confirms the high efficiency of OBC as the bubble size distribution plays a key role in gas-liquid mass transfer systems. It is often recommended to use a bubble flow pattern in order to obtain a high mass transfer rate even at low gas flow rate since small bubbles have a high contact area which results in increased transfer between phases [7]. The BC showed a small number of large bubbles (the diameter of the bubbles is approximately equal to the diameter of the column) moving in an S-shape along the column. However, the heterogeneous flow in the baffled column is caused by the tight coalescence of the bubbles [23].

### 3.2 Effect of oscillation on the CO<sub>2</sub> concentration ratio

Figure (7) shows the dependency of the CO<sub>2</sub> concentration ratio on the oscillation condition.

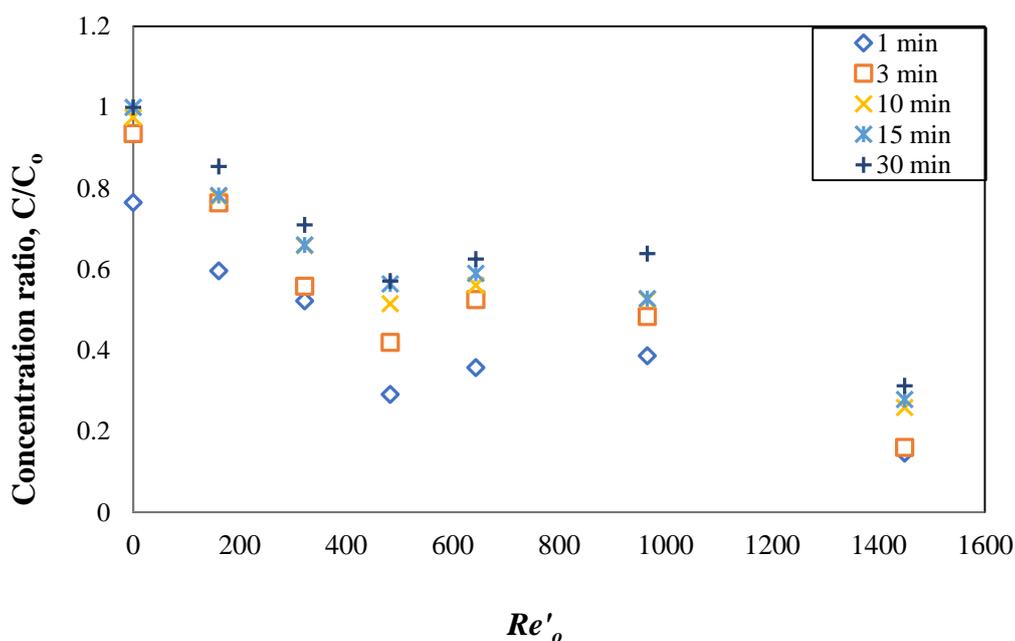
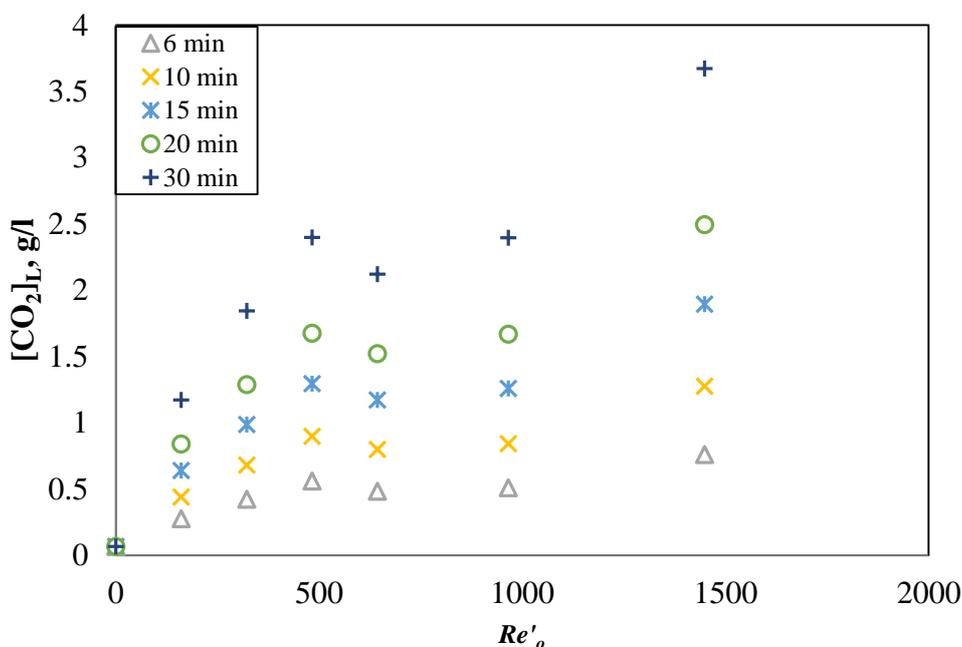


Fig. (7): Effect of  $Re'_o$  on CO<sub>2</sub> concentration ratio in the OBC at different times and at  $vvm=0.6$ .

It can be seen that the  $\text{CO}_2$  concentration ratio decreased when  $Re'_o$  increased from 0 to 483. However, at  $Re'_o = 644$  and  $966$  the effect of  $Re'_o$  on the concentration ratio becomes negligible. This behavior can be attributed to the individual effect of the oscillation parameters,  $f$  and  $x_o$  at  $Re'_o = 644$  and  $Re'_o = 966$  (for example, at  $f=1$  Hz and  $x_o = 4$ mm, and  $f=2$ Hz and  $x_o = 2$ mm  $Re'_o$  has at the same value, however, it shows different effect on the flow pattern so the enhancement will be different).

### 3.3 Effect of oscillation on the $\text{CO}_2$ mass transfer.

Figures (8 and 9) show the dependency of the  $\text{CO}_2$  concentration in water and  $\text{CO}_2$  mass flux on the oscillation condition respectively.



**Fig. (8): Effect of  $Re'_o$  on  $\text{CO}_2$  concentration in water at different times and at  $vvm=0.6$ .**

It can be seen from Figure (8), that the  $\text{CO}_2$  dissolution increased when  $Re'_o$  increased from 0 to 483. Hence, the  $\text{CO}_2$  concentration in water increased with  $Re'_o$  at all times. However, the same fluctuation can be observed where  $Re'_o=699$  give smaller  $\text{CO}_2$  concentration than those obtained at  $Re'_o= 483$ . At higher values of  $Re'_o$  the  $\text{CO}_2$  concentration changed significantly with time more than at lower values of  $Re'_o$  due to the enhancement obtained and continuity of dissolution. Figure (9) shows that at  $Re'_o < 500$  the mass flux increases with  $Re'_o$ , however, at  $Re'_o= 644-966$ , the flux decreases with  $Re'_o$  due to same reason illustrated above and it seen clearly at higher  $vvm$ . The maximum enhancement was achieved at  $Re'_o=1449$ . This enhancement resulted due to

increasing the bubble break-up and gas hold-up as the interaction between the oscillation and the multi-orifice baffles increased [15] [21] [24].

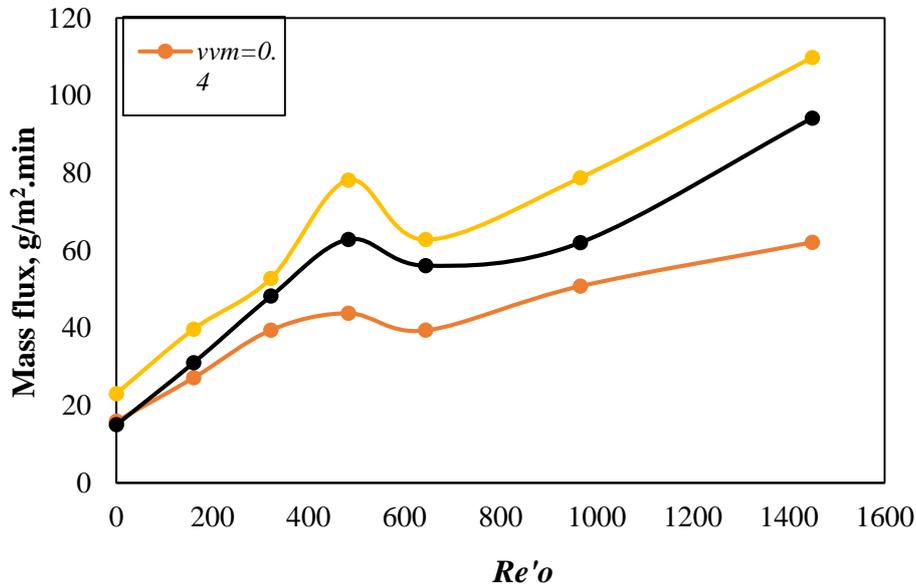


Fig. (9): Effect of  $Re'_0$  on the CO<sub>2</sub> mass flux (g/m<sup>2</sup>.min) in the OBC at different  $vvm$ .

### 3.4 Effect of gas flow rate on the CO<sub>2</sub> mass transfer.

Figures (10) to (12) show the effect of the gas volumetric flow rate expressed in ( $vvm$ ) term on the CO<sub>2</sub> concentration ratio ( $C/C_0$ ) in the gas phase and CO<sub>2</sub> concentration in water at a range of  $Re'_0$  values.

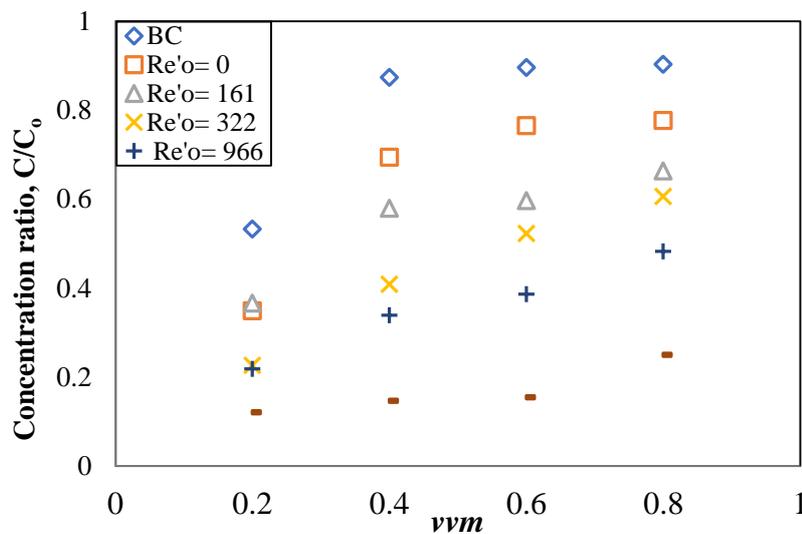


Fig. (10): Effect of the aeration rate ( $vvm$ ) on the CO<sub>2</sub> concentration ratio in the three columns at different  $Re'_0$  values

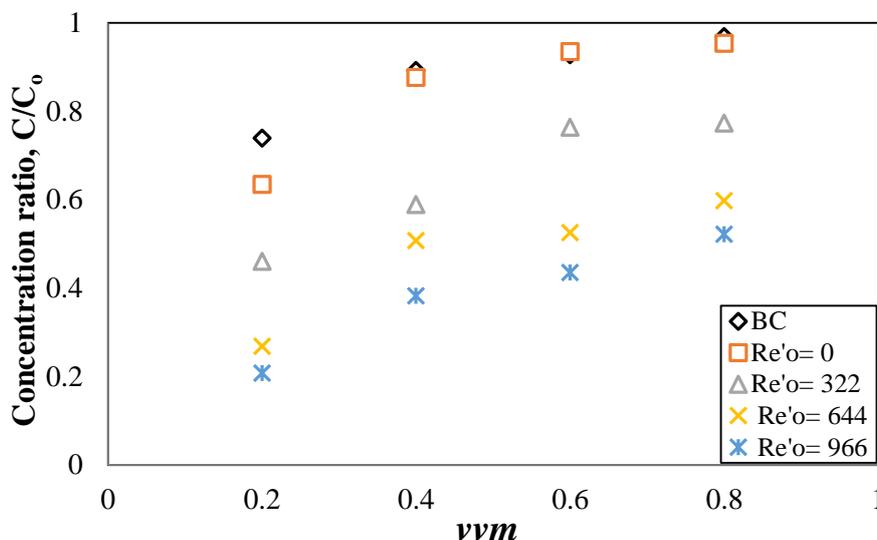


Fig. (11): The effect of the aeration rate ( $vvm$ ) on the  $CO_2$  concentration ratio at different  $Re'_0$  and 3 min

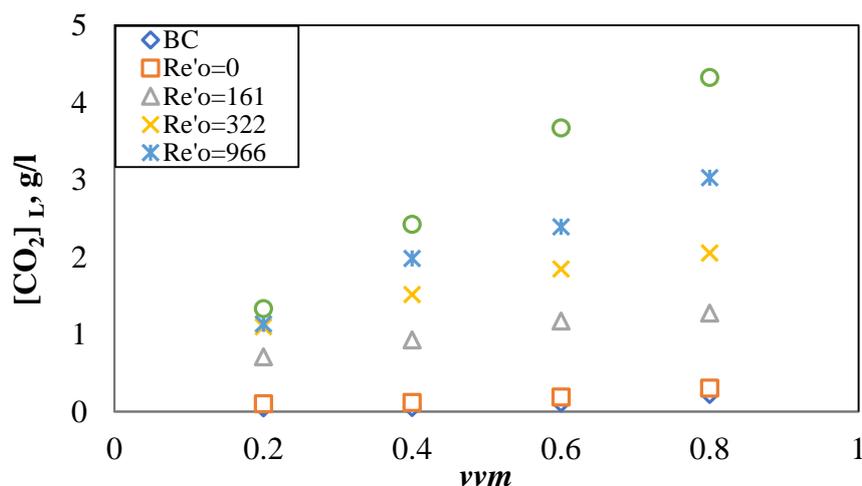
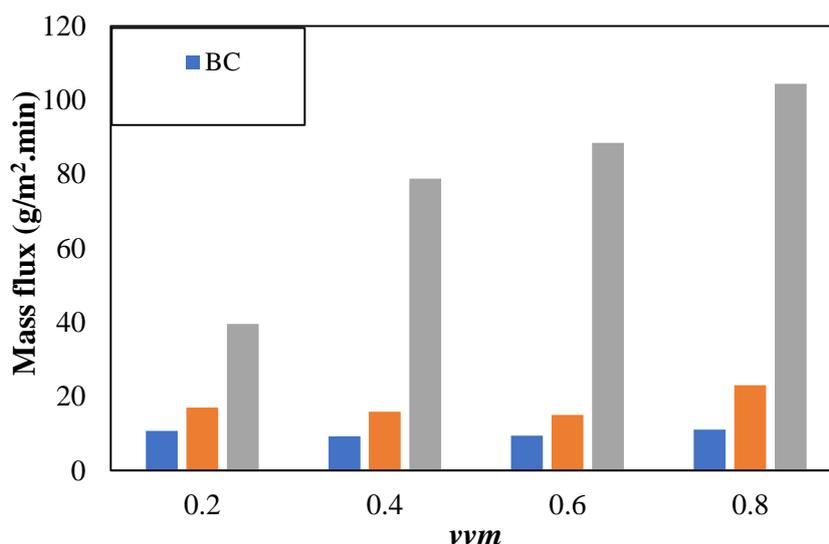


Fig. (12): Effect of the aeration rate ( $vvm$ ) on the  $CO_2$  concentration in water in the three columns at different  $Re'_0$  values

Figures (10) to (12) show similar trends where the  $CO_2$  concentration ratio and  $CO_2$  concentration in water increases with increasing  $vvm$ . This behavior is predictable, according to the definition of the aeration rate, at constant volume of liquid phase. An increase in  $vvm$  causing an increase in the population of bubbles, hence the contact area and gas holdup increase as well as the trapped bubbles in baffle zones increase [22]. In addition, an increase in  $vvm$  results in increasing the bubbles collision process hence the mass transfer rate increases [21]. This behavior occurred due to short bubble residence time, when  $vvm$  increases. In the other hand, an increase in  $vvm$  leads to increasing  $CO_2$  amount (as  $CO_2$  concentration in the input gas is

constant) thus the  $\text{CO}_2$  concentration in water increased with  $vvm$  as shown in Figure (12). However, at bubble and baffled columns the effect of  $vvm$  is small due to the poor performance of these column in dissolution of  $\text{CO}_2$  while at OBC the effect of  $vvm$  on  $\text{CO}_2$  concentration in water are clear this indicating the ability of OBC in processing even higher  $vvm$ . In addition, this increasing results instantly in enhancement of mass flux into water.

The summary of the  $vvm$  effect on the  $\text{CO}_2$  mass flux ( $\text{g}/\text{m}^2\cdot\text{min}$ ) in the three column configurations is shown in Figure (13). It's clear to observe that the mass flux increased in arrangement  $\text{OBC} > \text{baffled column} > \text{BC}$  for all  $vvm$ . Where the maximum increase in the  $\text{CO}_2$  mass flux obtained by OBC was 10-fold at  $Re'_o = 1449$  and  $vvm = 0.8$  compared with the results obtained by the bubble column (BC).



**Fig. (13): Effect of  $vvm$  on the  $\text{CO}_2$  mass flux ( $\text{g}/\text{m}^2\cdot\text{min}$ ) in the three column configurations (Bubble column, Baffled column and OBC), at  $Re'_o = 1449$ , for OBC**

#### 4. Conclusions

$\text{CO}_2$ -water mass transfer was investigated in a semi-batch mode using three column designs: bubble column (BC), baffled column and an oscillatory baffled column (OBC) over a wide range of operating conditions ( $Re'_o = 0-1450$ ,  $vvm = 0-1$ ). The baffled column (without oscillation) had a smallest effect on mass transfer of  $\text{CO}_2$ . The mass transfer enhancement (as concentration ratio to be smaller or increase in mass flux and  $\text{CO}_2$  concentration in water) increased with oscillation conditions and aeration rate ( $vvm$ ). The OBC demonstrated the highest performance where up to 10-fold of mass transfer enhancement was achieved over the bubble column. The  $\text{CO}_2$  mass flux increased from 11.02 to 109.82 ( $\text{g}/\text{m}^2\cdot\text{min}$ ) at  $vvm = 0.8$  and  $Re'_o = 1449$ .

**Nomenclature:**

GHGs	Greenhouse gases
MOBC	Multi-orifice oscillatory baffled column
BC	Bubble column
OBC	Oscillatory baffled column
GC	Gas chromatography
$St$	Strouhal number, dimensionless
$Re_n$	Net flow Reynolds number, dimensionless
$Re_o$	Oscillatory flow Reynolds number, dimensionless
$Re'_o$	The modified Oscillatory Reynold number, dimensionless
$St'$	The modified Strouhal number, dimensionless
$vvm$	aeration rate, the flowrate of gas per volume of liquid per minute
$Q_{gas}$	Volumetric flow rate of gas, ml/min
$C/C_o$	The concentration ratio of CO <sub>2</sub> in gas phase
$\mu$	viscosity, Pa. s
$\rho$	density, kg/m <sup>3</sup>
$\alpha$	Open cross-sectional area, dimensionless
$d_o$	Orifice diameter, m
$D$	OBC diameter, m
$f$	Oscillation frequency, Hz
$x_o$	oscillation amplitude, m
$l_b$	Baffle spacing, m
[CO <sub>2</sub> ] <sub>L</sub>	CO <sub>2</sub> concentration in water, g/l
$U_G$	Superficial gas velocity, m s <sup>-1</sup>
$t$	time, min
$n$	the number of orifices in baffle

## References:

- [1] F. Khosroabadi, A. Aslani, K. Bekhrad, and Z. Zolfaghari, “Analysis of Carbon Dioxide Capturing Technologies and their technology developments”, *Clean Eng Technol*, vol. 5, Dec. 2021, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.clet.2021.100279>
- [2] E. Mostafavi, O. Ashrafi, and P. Navarri, “Assessment of process modifications for amine-based post-combustion carbon capture processes”, *Clean Eng Technol*, vol. 4, Oct. 2021. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.clet.2021.100249>
- [3] L. O. Nord and O. Bolland, “Carbon dioxide emission management in power generation”, *John Wiley & Sons*, 2020.
- [4] U. Berge, M. Gjerset, B. Kristoffersen, and M. Lindberg, “CARBON CAPTURE AND STORAGE”, 2016. [Online]. Available: [www.zeroco2.no](http://www.zeroco2.no).
- [5] F. M. Pereira, D. Z. Sousa, M. M. Alves, M. R. Mackley, and N. M. Reis, “CO<sub>2</sub> dissolution and design aspects of a multiorifice oscillatory baffled column”, *Ind Eng Chem Res*, vol. 53, no. 44, pp. 17303–17316, Nov. 2014. <https://doi.org/10.1021/ie403348g>
- [6] H. A. Ahmed, H. N. Mohammed, O. S. Lateef, and G. H. Abdullah, “Simulation of CO<sub>2</sub> removal from pressurized natural gas stream contains high CO<sub>2</sub> concentration by absorption process using membrane contactors”, *Chemical Product and Process Modeling*, vol. 16, no. 1, pp. 1–19, Mar. 2021. <https://doi.org/10.1515/cppm-2019-0137>
- [7] S. M. R. Ahmed, A. N. Phan, and A. P. Harvey, “Mass transfer enhancement as a function of oscillatory baffled reactor design”, *Chemical Engineering and Processing - Process Intensification*, vol. 130, pp. 229–239, Aug. 2018. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cep.2018.06.016>
- [8] M. S. Lucas, N. M. Reis, and G. Li Puma, “Intensification of ozonation processes in a novel, compact, multi-orifice oscillatory baffled column”, *Chemical Engineering Journal*, vol. 296, pp. 335–339, Jul. 2016. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cej.2016.03.050>
- [9] S. M. R. Ahmed, A. N. Phan, and A. P. Harvey, “Scale-Up of Gas-Liquid Mass Transfer in Oscillatory Multiorifice Baffled Reactors (OMBRs)”, *Ind Eng Chem Res*, vol. 58, no. 15, pp. 5929–5935, Apr. 2019. <https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.iecr.8b04883>
- [10] M. Avila, D. F. Fletcher, M. Poux, C. Xuereb, and J. Aubin, “Mixing performance in continuous oscillatory baffled reactors”, *Chem Eng Sci*, vol. 219, Jun. 2020, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ces.2020.115600>

- [11] K. B. Smith and M. R. Mackley, “An experimental investigation into the scale-up of oscillatory flow mixing in baffled tubes”, *Chemical Engineering Research and Design*, vol. 84, no. 11 A, pp. 1001–1011, 2006. <https://doi.org/10.1205/cherd.05054>
- [12] P. Bianchi, J. D. Williams, and C. O. Kappe, “Oscillatory flow reactors for synthetic chemistry applications”, *J. Flow Chem*, pp. 475–490, 2020. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s41981-020-00105-6>
- [13] A. Laybourn, A. M. López-Fernández, I. Thomas-Hillman, J. Katrib, W. Lewis, C. Dodds, A. P. Harvey, and S. W. Kingman, “Combining continuous flow oscillatory baffled reactors and microwave heating: process intensification in the production of metal-organic frameworks”, *chemical engineering journal*, 2018. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cej.2018.09.011>
- [14] N. Reis, R. N. Pereira, A. A. Vicente, and J. A. Teixeira, “Enhanced gas-liquid mass transfer of an oscillatory constricted-tubular reactor”, *Ind Eng Chem Res*, vol. 47, no. 19, pp. 7190–7201, Oct. 2008. <https://doi.org/10.1021/ie8001588>
- [15] M. R. Hewgill, M. R. Mackley, A. B. Panditf, and S. S. Pannu, “Enhancement of Gas-Liquid Mass Transfer Using Oscillatory Flow in A Baffled Tube”, *Chem Eng Sci*, vol. 48, no. 4, pp. 799–809, 1993. [https://doi.org/10.1016/0009-2509\(93\)80145-G](https://doi.org/10.1016/0009-2509(93)80145-G)
- [16] T. Taslim and M. S. Takriff, “Gas-Liquid Mass Transfer in Continuous Oscillatory Flow Baffled Columnia”, *ASEAN Journal of Chemical Engineering*, vol. 4, no. 2, pp. 1-6, Dec. 2004. <https://doi.org/10.22146/ajche.50832>
- [17] M. Avila, B. Kawas, D. F. Fletcher, M. Poux, C. Xuereb, and J. Aubin, “Design, performance characterization and applications of continuous oscillatory baffled reactors”, *Chemical Engineering and Processing - Process Intensification*, vol. 180, Oct. 2022. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cep.2021.108718>
- [18] T. Mcglone, N. E. B. Briggs, C. A. Clark, C. J. Brown, J. Sefcik, and A. J. Florence, “Oscillatory flow reactors (OFRs) for continuous manufacturing and crystallization”, *Org. Process Res. Dev.*, vol. 19, no. 9, pp. 1186–1202, 2015. <https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.oprd.5b00225>
- [19] S. M. R. Ahmed, A. N. Phan, and A. P. Harvey, “Scale-Up of Oscillatory Helical Baffled Reactors Based on Residence Time Distribution”, *Chem. Eng. Technol.*, vol. 40, no. 5, pp. 907–914, May 2017. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ceat.201600480>

- [20] X. Ni and P. Gough, “On the discussion of the dimensionless groups governing oscillatory flow in a baffled tube”, *Chemical Engineering Science*, vol. 52, no. 18, pp. 3209-3212, 1997. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0009-2509\(97\)00104-8](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0009-2509(97)00104-8)
- [21] A. Al-Abduly, P. Christensen, A. Harvey, and K. Zahng, “Characterization and optimization of an oscillatory baffled reactor (OBR) for ozone-water mass transfer”, *Chemical Engineering and Processing - Process Intensification*, vol. 84, pp. 82–89, Oct. 2014. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cep.2014.03.015>
- [22] M. S. N. Oliveira and X. W. Ni, “Effect of hydrodynamics on mass transfer in a gas-liquid oscillatory baffled column”, *Chemical Engineering Journal*, vol. 99, no. 1, pp. 59–68, May 2004. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cej.2004.01.002>
- [23] A. Shaikh and M. H. Al-Dahhan, “A Review on Flow Regime Transition in Bubble Columns a Review on Flow Regime Transition in Bubble Columns”, *International Journal of Chemical Reactor Engineering*, vol. 5, no. 1, 2007. <https://doi.org/10.2202/1542-6580.1368>
- [24] M. S. N. Oliveira and X. Ni, “Gas hold-up and bubble diameters in a gassed oscillatory baaed column”, *Chemical Engineering Science*, vol. 56, no. 21-22, pp. 6143-6148, 2001. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0009-2509\(01\)00257-3](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0009-2509(01)00257-3)