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# Elements of Chemical Reaction Engineering

SIXTH EDITION

H. Scott Fogler



*Elements  
of Chemical  
Reaction  
Engineering*

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H. SCOTT FOGLER

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*Dedicated to*

*Janet Meadors Fogler*

*For her companionship, encouragement,  
sense of humor, love, and support throughout the years*

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# Introduction

The man who has ceased to learn ought not to be allowed  
to wander around loose in these dangerous days.

—M. M. Coady

## A. Who Is the Intended Audience?

This book was written with today's students in mind. It provides instantaneous access to information; does not waste time on extraneous details; cuts right to the point; uses more bullets to make information easier to access; and includes new, novel problems on chemical reaction engineering (e.g., solar energy).<sup>1</sup> The interaction between the text and Web site (<http://www.umich.edu/~elements/6e/>) breaks new ground and provides one of the most comprehensive active learning resources available. With the advent of sliders in both Wolfram and Python, students can explore the reactions and the reactor in which they occur, by carrying out simulation experiments and then writing a set of conclusions to describe what they found.

This book and interactive Web site are intended for use as both an undergraduate-level and a graduate-level text in chemical reaction engineering. The undergraduate course/courses usually focus on Chapters 1–13; the graduate course material includes topics such as diffusion limitations, effectiveness factors (discussed in Chapters 14 and 15), nonideal reactors, and residence time distribution (discussed in Chapters 16–18) along with the additional material and Professional Reference Shelf (PRS) on the Web site.

This edition emphasizes chemical reactor safety by ending each chapter with a safety lesson called *And Now... A Word From Our Sponsor-Safety (AWFOS–S)*. These lessons can also be found on the Web site at <http://umich.edu/~safeche/>.

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<sup>1</sup> This Introduction is a condensed version of the full Preface/Introduction found on the Web site (<http://www.umich.edu/~elements/6e/toc/Preface-Complete.pdf>).

## B. What Are the Goals of This Book?

### B.1 To Have Fun Learning Chemical Reaction Engineering (CRE)

Chemical reaction engineering (CRE) is a great subject that is fun to learn and is the heart of chemical engineering. I have tried to provide a little Michigan humor as we go. Take a look at the humorous YouTube videos (e.g., “Black Widow” or “Chemical Engineering Gone Wrong”) that illustrate certain principles in the text. These videos were made by chemical engineering students at the universities of Alabama and Michigan. In addition, I have found that students enjoy the Interactive Computer Games (ICGs) that, along with the videos, are linked from the CRE homepage (<http://www.umich.edu/~elements/6e/index.html>).

### B.2 To Develop a Fundamental Understanding of Reaction Engineering

The second goal of this book is to help the reader clearly understand the fundamentals of CRE. This goal is achieved by presenting a structure that allows the reader to solve reaction engineering problems through reasoning rather than through memorization and recall of numerous equations and the restrictions and conditions under which each equation applies (<http://www.umich.edu/~elements/6e/toc/Preface-Complete.pdf>).

### B.3 To Enhance Thinking Skills

A third goal of this text is to enhance critical thinking skills and creative thinking skills. How does the book help enhance your critical and creative thinking skills? We discuss ways to achieve this enhancement in Table P-2, Critical Thinking Questions; Table P-3, Critical Thinking Actions; and Table P-4, Practicing Creative Thinking, in the complete preface on the CRE Web site (<http://www.umich.edu/~elements/6e/toc/Preface-Complete.pdf>) and also from the Problem Solving Web site (<http://umich.edu/~scps/>).

## C. What Is the Structure of CRE?

### C.1 What Are the Concepts That Form the Foundation of CRE?

The strategy behind the presentation of material is to build continually on a few basic ideas in CRE to solve a wide variety of problems. The building blocks of CRE and the primary algorithm allow us to solve isothermal CRE problems through logic rather than memorization. We start with the Mole Balance Building Block (Chapter 1) and then place the other blocks one at a time on top of the others until we reach the Evaluate Block (Chapter 5), by which time we can solve a multitude of isothermal CRE problems. As we study each block, we need to make sure we understand everything in that block and be sure not to cut corners by leaving anything out so we don't wind up with a stack of cylindrical blocks. An animation of what happens to such a stack is shown at the end of Lecture 1 notes (<http://www.umich.edu/%7Eelements/6e/lectures/umich.html>).

For nonisothermal reactions, we replace the “Combine” building block in Figure I-1 with the “Energy Balance” building block because nonisothermal reactions almost always require a computer-generated solution. Consequently,

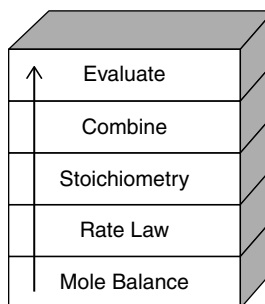


Figure I-1 Building blocks.

we don't need the "Combine" block because the computer combines everything for us. From these pillars and building blocks, we construct our CRE algorithm:

**Mole Balance + Rate Laws + Stoichiometry + Energy Balance + Combine → Solution**

## C.2 What Is the Sequence of Topics in Which This Book Can Be Used?

Margin Notes

The selection and order of topics and chapters are shown in Figure P-3 in the Complete Preface/Introduction on the Web site (<http://www.umich.edu/~elements/6e/toc/Preface-Complete.pdf>). There are notes in the margins, which are meant to serve two purposes. First, they act as guides or commentary as one reads through the material. Second, they identify key equations and relationships that are used to solve CRE problems.

## D. What Are the Components of the CRE Web Site?

The interactive companion Web site material has been significantly updated and is a novel, and integral part of this book. The main purposes of the Web site are to serve as an interactive part of the text with enrichment resources. The home page for the CRE Web site (<http://www.umich.edu/~elements/6e/index.html>) is shown in Figure I-2. For discussion of how to use the Web site and text interactively, see Appendix I.

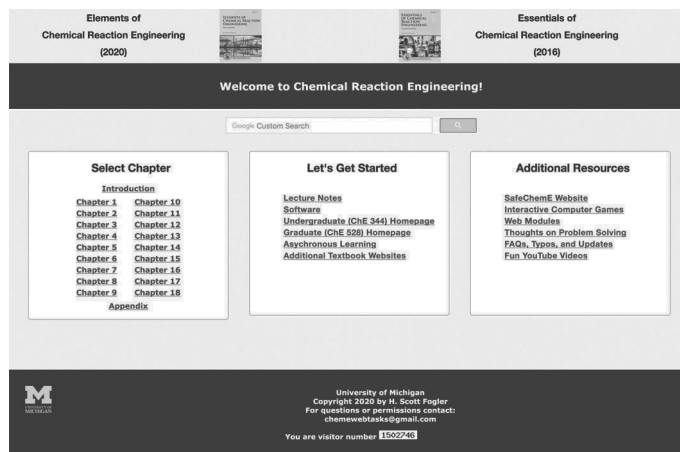


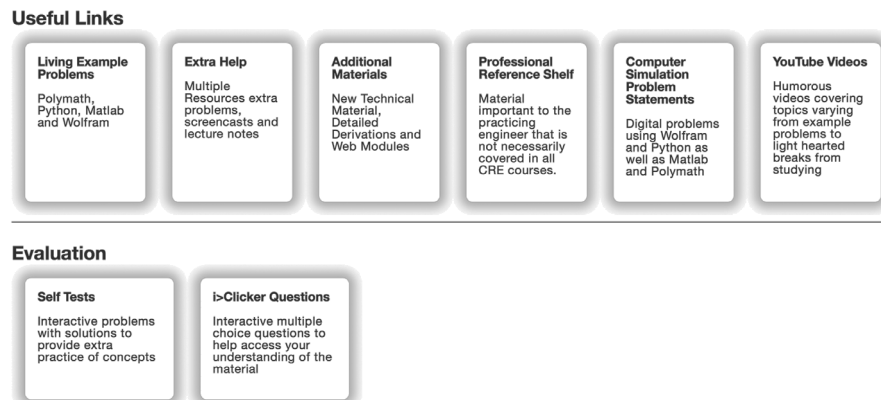
Figure I-2 Screen shot of the book's companion Web site (<http://www.umich.edu/~elements/6e/index.html>).

### The objectives of the Web site are fourfold:

- (1) To facilitate the interactive learning of CRE by using the companion Web site and Wolfram and Python sliders to explore Living Example Problems to gain a deep understanding of the reaction and the reactors in which they take place.
- (2) To provide additional technical material in the extended material and in the Professional Reference Shelf.
- (3) To provide tutorial information and self-assessment exercises such as the i>clicker questions.
- (4) To make the learning of CRE fun through the use of interactive games, LEP simulations, and computer experiments, which allow one to use Inquiry-Based Learning (IBL) to explore the concepts of CRE.

#### D.1 How to Use the Web Site

I would like to expand a bit on a couple of things that we use extensively, namely the useful links. These items can be accessed by clicking on the Chapter number on the Home Page. After clicking on Chapter 1 shown in Figure I-3, one will arrive at



**Figure I-3** Access to useful links  
(<http://www.umich.edu/~elements/6e/01chap/obj.html#/>).

The important point I want to make here is the list of all resources shown in Figures I-3 and I-4. In addition to listing the objectives for this chapter, you will find all the major hot buttons, such as

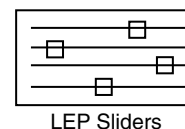


Figure I-4 Useful links.

The *Living Example Problems* (LEPs), including COMSOL, have all numerical Example Problems programmed and read for use with the click of a button. The *Extra Help* includes interactive notes, screen casts, and techniques that facilitate learning and studying. The *Additional Material* and *Professional Reference Shelf* provide expanded derivations and material that is relevant to CRE, but did not make the final cut owing to limitations of the thickness of the book; that is, students can't concentrate about CRE if their backpacks are so heavy they are suffering from carrying them. The *Self Tests* and *i>Clicker Questions* help readers gauge their level of understanding.

## D.2 Living Example Problems (LEPs)

What are LEPs? LEPs are **Living Example Problems** that are really simulations that can be used to carry out experiments on the reactor and the reactions occurring inside the reactor. Here, rather than being stuck with the parameter values the author gives, the LEPs allow you to change the value of a



LEP Sliders

parameter and see its effect on the reactor's operation. LEPs have been unique to this book since their invention and inclusion in the Third Edition of this title, published in 1999. However, Wolfram and Python have allowed us to take LEPs to a new level, resulting in a minor paradigm shift. The LEPs use simulation software, which can be downloaded directly onto one's own computer in order to "play with" the key variables and assumptions. Using the LEPs to explore the problem and asking "What if...?" questions provide students with the opportunity to practice critical and creative thinking skills. To guide students in using these simulations, questions for each chapter are given on the Web site (e.g., <http://www.umich.edu/~elements/6e/12chap/obj.html>).<sup>2</sup> In this edition, there are more than 80 interactive simulations (LEPs) provided on the Web site. It is the author's strong belief that using the LEP sliders will develop an intuitive feel for Chemical Reaction Engineering (CRE).

The simulations labeled **Stop and Smell the Roses** are comprehensive-interactive simulations that will provide significant insight and an intuitive feel for the reactor and the reaction when you take the time to explore the parameters using the Wolfram or Python sliders. #wellworthyourtime



<sup>2</sup> See Introduction section D and Appendix I for ideas on how to use the LEPs.



Figure I-5 shows a screen shot of the LEPs for Chapter 5. One simply clicks on the hot button of the desired programming language (Wolfram, Python) and the program loads, then uses the sliders to explore the reactors operating variables and the property parameters.

## Chapter 5: Isothermal Reactor Design: Conversion

### Living Example Problems

Note: When downloading Python code files over Chrome browser, you may see a security warning. We assure you that these files are secure and you may keep them on your computer.

Living Example Problem	Polymath™ Code	Python Code	MATLAB Code	Wolfram CDF Code *	AspenTech™
Example 5-3 Plug-flow reactor	<a href="#">LEP-5-3.pol</a>	<a href="#">LEP-5-3.py</a>	<a href="#">LEP-5-3.zip</a>	<a href="#">LEP-5-3.cdf</a>	
Example 5-4 Pressure Drop in a Packed Bed		<a href="#">LEP-5-4.py</a>		<a href="#">LEP-5-4.cdf</a>	
Example 5-5 Effect of pressure drop on conversion	<a href="#">LEP-5-5.pol</a>	<a href="#">LEP-5-5.py</a>	<a href="#">LEP-5-5.zip</a>	<a href="#">LEP-5-5.cdf</a>	
Example 5-6 Robert Worries what if...	<a href="#">LEP-5-6.pol</a>	<a href="#">LEP-5-6.py</a>		<a href="#">LEP-5-6.cdf</a>	
Example 5-7 Calculating X in a reactor with Pressure drop	<a href="#">LEP-5-7.pol</a>	<a href="#">LEP-5-7.py</a>	<a href="#">LEP-5-7.zip</a>	<a href="#">LEP-5-7.cdf</a>	Tutorial, ASPEN Backup File
Example 5-8 Reversible gas-phase reaction in a packed bed with pressure drop	<a href="#">LEP-5-8.pol</a>	<a href="#">LEP-5-8.py</a>	<a href="#">LEP-5-8.zip</a>	<a href="#">LEP-5-8.cdf</a>	

1. **LEP** : Click [here](#) to view LEP Tutorials
2. **Polymath** : Click [here](#) to view Polymath Tutorials
3. **Python** : Click [here](#) to view Python Tutorials
4. **MATLAB** : Click [here](#) to view MATLAB Tutorials
5. **Wolfram** : Click [here](#) to download Wolfram CDF Player. You can run the CDF code, download Wolfram CDF Player for free. Click [here](#) to view Wolfram Tutorials

Figure I-5 Living Example Problems (LEPs).

It has been shown that students using **Inquiry-Based Learning (IBL)** have a much greater understanding of information than students educated by traditional methods (*Univers. J. Educ. Res.*, 2(1), 37–41 (2014)).<sup>3,4</sup> The learning was most definitely enhanced when it came to questions that required interpretation such as, “Why did the temperature profile go through a minimum?” Each chapter has a section on Computer Simulations and Experiments that will guide students in practicing **IBL**. Students have commented that the Wolfram slider LEPs are a very efficient way to study the operation of a chemical reactor. For example, one can carry out a simulation experiment on the reactor (e.g., LEP 13-2) to investigate what conditions would lead to unsafe operation.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid, Adbi, A.

<sup>4</sup> Documentation of the advantages of IBL can be found at *Studies in Higher Education*, 38(9), 1239–1258 (2013), <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/03075079.2011.616584>.

You will note the tutorials listed just below the screen shot of the Living Example Problems page. There are 11 Polymath tutorials, and one LEP tutorial for each Polymath, Wolfram, Python, and MATLAB in later chapters. There are also six COMSOL tutorials. To access the LEP software you want to use, that is, Polymath, Wolfram, Python, or MATLAB, just click on the appropriate hot button, and then load and run the LEPs in the software you have chosen. Homework problems using the LEPs have been added to each chapter that requires the use of Wolfram, Python, and Polymath. The use of the LEP sliders will allow students to vary the reaction and reactor parameters to get a thorough understanding of the Computer Simulation Problems.

### D.3 Extra Help

The components of Extra Help are shown in Figure I-6.

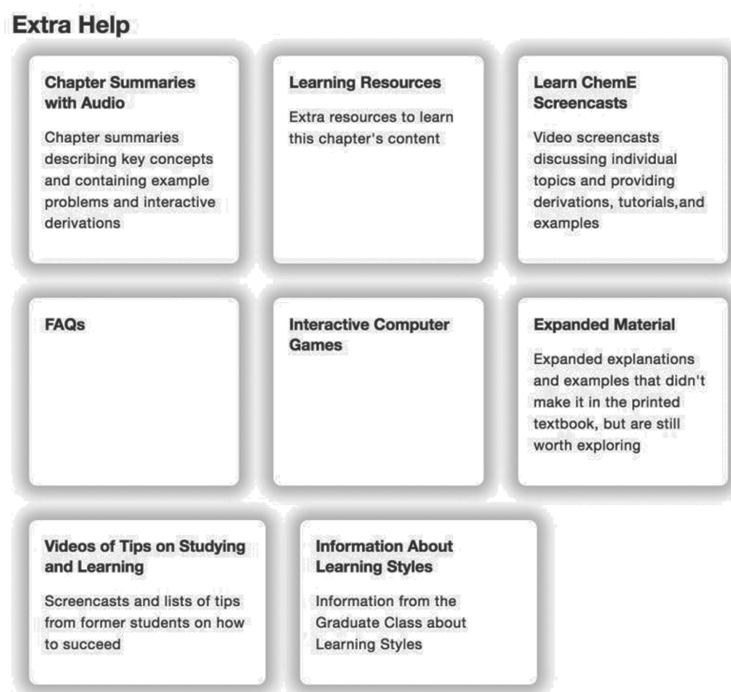


Figure I-6 Screen shot of Extra Help.

The *Learning Resources* give an overview of the material in each chapter through the *Interactive Summary Notes*. These notes include on-demand derivations of key equations, audio explanations, additional resources such as *Interactive Computer Games (ICGs)*, computer simulations and experiments, Web modules of novel applications of CRE, solved problems, study aids, *Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)*, Microsoft PowerPoint lecture slides, and links to *LearnChemE videos*. The Web modules consist of a number of examples that apply key CRE concepts to both standard and nonstandard reaction engineering problems (e.g., glow sticks, the use of wetlands to degrade toxic chemicals, and pharmacokinetics of death from a cobra bite). The Web modules can be loaded directly

from the CRE Web site ([http://www.umich.edu/~elements/6e/web\\_mod/index.html](http://www.umich.edu/~elements/6e/web_mod/index.html)). These resources are described in Appendix I.

#### D.4 Additional Material

The additional material shown in Figure I-7 includes derivations, examples, and novel applications of CRE principles that build on the CRE algorithm in the text.

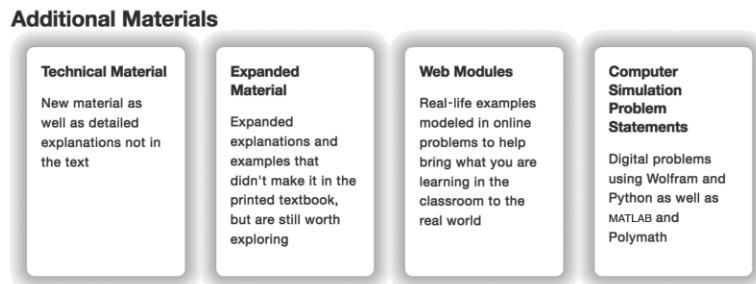


Figure I-7 Screen shot of Additional Materials.

#### D.5 Professional Reference Shelf

This material is important to the practicing engineer, such as details of the industrial reactor design for the oxidation of  $\text{SO}_2$  and design of spherical reactors and other material that is typically not included in the majority of chemical reaction engineering courses.

#### D.6 Computer Simulations, Experiments, and Problems

As discussed in section D.2, these problems help guide students to understand how the parameters and operating conditions affect the reaction and the reactors. These problems are in the printed version of the second edition of *Essentials of Chemical Reaction Engineering*, and the sixth edition of *Elements of Chemical Reaction Engineering*, but not in the printed version of the fifth edition of *Elements of Chemical Reaction Engineering*.

#### D.7 YouTube Videos

Here, you will find links to humorous YouTube videos made by students in Professor Alan Lane's 2008 chemical reaction engineering class at the University of Alabama, as well as videos from the University of Michigan's 2011 CRE class, which includes the ever-popular chemical engineering classic, "Reaction Engineering Gone Wrong." If you have a humorous YouTube video on CRE, I would be happy to consider linking to it.

## D.8 COMSOL

The COMSOL Multiphysics software is a partial differential equation solver that is used with Chapters 13 and 18 to view both axial and radial temperature and concentration profiles. For users of this text, COMSOL has provided a special Web site that includes a step-by-step tutorial, along with examples. See Figure 18-15 on page 964 and also (<https://www.comsol.com/books/elements-of-chemical-reaction-engineering-5th/models>). Further details are given in the Living Example Problems on the Web site.

## E. Why Do We Assign Homework Problems?

The working of homework problems facilitates a *true understanding* of CRE. After reading a chapter, the student may feel they have an understanding of the material. However, when attempting a new or slightly different application of CRE in a homework problem, students sometimes need to go back and reread different parts of the chapter to get the level of understanding needed to eventually solve the homework problem. **Polymath** is a most user-friendly software and is recommended to solve these end-of-chapter problems.

I would like to point out research has shown (J. Exp. Psychol. Learn. Mem. Cogn., 40, 106–114 (2014)) that if you ask a question of the material before reading the material you will have greater retention. Consequently, the first question of every chapter will have such a question on that chapter's material. For Chapter 1, the question is, "Is the generation term,  $G$ , the only term in the mole balance that varies for each type of reactor?" The questions that follow are qualitative in Q1-2<sub>A</sub> and Q2-3<sub>A</sub>, and so on.

It is recommended that students first work through *Computer Simulation Problems* that use MATLAB, Python, and Wolfram before going on to other problems. These example problems are a key resource. The subscript letter (A, B, C, or D) after each problem number denotes the difficulty of the problem (i.e., A = easy; D = difficult). The A- and B-level problems should be worked before tackling the more challenging homework problems in a given chapter.

## F. Are There Other Web Site Resources?

**CRE Web Site** (<http://www.umich.edu/~elements/6e/index.html>). A complete description of all the educational resources and ways to use them can be found in Appendix I.

**Safety Web Site.** During the past two years, a safety Web site has been developed for all core chemical engineering courses (<http://umich.edu/~safeche/>). A section at the end of each chapter called *And Now... A Word From Our Sponsor-Safety (AWFOS-S)* has taken the tutorials and distributed them in chapters throughout the text. A safety module for both the T2 Laboratory incident ([http://umich.edu/~safeche/assets/pdf/courses/Problems/CRE/344ReactionEngrModule\(1\)PS-T2.pdf](http://umich.edu/~safeche/assets/pdf/courses/Problems/CRE/344ReactionEngrModule(1)PS-T2.pdf)) and the Monsanto incident ([http://umich.edu/~safeche/assets/pdf/courses/Problems/CRE/344ReactionEngrModule\(2\)PS-Monsanto.pdf](http://umich.edu/~safeche/assets/pdf/courses/Problems/CRE/344ReactionEngrModule(2)PS-Monsanto.pdf)) can be found on the safety Web site. A safety algorithm is included in both of these modules.

### **What Entertainment Is on the Web Site?**

**A. YouTube Videos.** The humorous videos are discussed in Section D, what are the components of the CRE Web site, above.

**B. Interactive Computer Games (ICGs).** Students have found the Interactive Computer Games to be both fun and extremely useful for reviewing the important chapter concepts and then applying them to real problems in a unique and entertaining fashion. The following ICGs are available on the Web site:

- Quiz Show I (Ch. 1)
- Reactor Staging (Ch. 2)
- Quiz Show II (Ch. 4)
- Murder Mystery (Ch. 5)
- Tic Tac (Ch. 5)
- Ecology (Ch. 7)
- The Great Race (Ch. 8)
- Enzyme Man (Ch. 9)
- Catalysis (Ch. 10)
- Heat Effects I (Ch. 12)
- Heat Effects II (Ch. 12)

As you play these interactive games, you will be asked a number of questions related to the corresponding material in the textbook. The ICG keeps track of all the correct answers and at the end of the game displays a coded performance number that reflects how well you mastered the material in the text. Instructors have a manual to decode the performance number.

### **G. How Can One's Critical Thinking and Creative Thinking Skills Be Enhanced?**

(<http://umich.edu/~scps/html/probsolv/strategy/crit-n-creat.htm>)

A third goal of this book is to enhance critical and creative thinking skills. How does one enhance their critical thinking skills? Answer: By learning how to ask critical thinking questions and taking critical thinking actions of the type given on the Web site in Tables P-2 and P-3. Further discussion is found in the Complete Preface-Introduction on the Web site (<http://www.umich.edu/~elements/6e/toc/Preface-Complete.pdf>).

The goal to enhance creative thinking skills is achieved by using a number of problems that are open-ended to various degrees. With these, students can practice their *creative skills* by exploring the example problems, as outlined at the beginning of the homework problems of each chapter, and by making up and solving an original problem using the suggestions in Table P-4 on the Web site (<http://www.umich.edu/~elements/6e/toc/Preface-Complete.pdf>).

One of the major goals at the undergraduate level is to bring students to the point where they can solve complex reaction problems, such as multiple reactions with heat effects, and then ask "What if . . . ?" questions and look for optimum operating conditions and unsafe operating conditions. The solution to one problem exemplifies this goal: the Manufacture of Styrene (Chapter 12, Problem P12-26<sub>c</sub>). This problem is particularly interesting because two reactions are endothermic and one is exothermic.

- (1) Ethylbenzene → Styrene + Hydrogen: Endothermic
- (2) Ethylbenzene → Benzene + Ethylene: Endothermic
- (3) Ethylbenzene + Hydrogen → Toluene + Methane: Exothermic

The student could get further practice in critical and creative thinking skills by adding any of the following exercises (x), (y), and (z) to any of the end-of-chapter homework problems.

- (x) How could you make this problem easier? More difficult?
- (y) Critique your answer by writing a critical thinking question.
- (z) Describe two ways you could work this problem incorrectly.

## H. What's New in This Edition?

This textbook and Web site interaction is a mini paradigm shift in active learning. There is a symbiotic relationship between the Web site and the textbook that allows the student to get an intuitive feel of the reactions and reactors. Here the students use the software packages of Wolfram, Python, MATLAB, and Polymath to explore the reactions and the reactors. In addition, this edition maintains all the strengths of the previous editions of *Elements of Chemical Reaction Engineering* by using algorithms that allow students to learn chemical reaction engineering through logic rather than memorization. Figure I-8 shows the Extra Help associated with the Chapter 1 material.

### Chapter 1: Mole Balances



#### Extra Help

<p><b>Chapter Summaries with Audio</b></p> <p>Chapter summaries describing key concepts and containing example problems and interactive derivations</p>	<p><b>Learning Resources</b></p> <p>Extra resources to learn this chapter's content</p>	<p><b>Learn ChemE Screencasts</b></p> <p>Video screencasts discussing individual topics and providing derivations, tutorials, and examples</p>
<p><b>FAQs</b></p>	<p><b>Interactive Computer Games</b></p>	<p><b>Expanded Material</b></p> <p>Expanded explanations and examples that didn't make it in the printed textbook, but are still worth exploring</p>
<p><b>Videos of Tips on Studying and Learning</b></p> <p>Screencasts and lists of tips from former students on how to succeed</p>	<p><b>Information About Learning Styles</b></p> <p>Information from the Graduate Class about Learning Styles</p>	

Figure I-8 Screen shot of Extra Help.

The Web site has been greatly expanded to address the Felder/Solomon Inventory of Different Learning Styles<sup>5</sup> through interactive Summary Notes, i>clicker questions and Interactive Computer Games (ICGs). For example, as discussed in Appendix I the Global Learner can get an overview of the chapter

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.engr.ncsu.edu/stem-resources/legacy-site/>

material from the Summary Notes; the Sequential Learner can use all the i>clicker questions and  hot buttons; and the active learner can interact with the ICGs and use the  hot buttons in the Summary Notes.

The Web site for this new edition provides thorough interactive example problems using Polymath, Wolfram, Python, and MATLAB. These software packages are used to perform experiments on the reactor and the reactions and to then write a set of conclusions describing what the experiments revealed. In addition, there is a Safety Section at the end of each chapter that is linked to the safety Web site (<http://umich.edu/~safeche/>).

As with the past edition, an Aspen tech tutorial is provided for four example problems on the CRE Web site (<http://www.umich.edu/~elements/6e/software/aspen.html>).

### **And most importantly we have to always remember that:**

*Hopefully all intensive laws tend often to have exceptions. Very important concepts take orderly, responsible statements. Virtually all laws intrinsically are natural thoughts. General observations become laws under experimentation.*

## **I. How Do I Say Thank You?**

There are so many colleagues and students who contributed to this book that it would require another chapter to thank them all in an appropriate manner. I again acknowledge all my friends, students, and colleagues for their contributions to the sixth edition of *Elements of Chemical Reaction Engineering*. I would like to give special recognition as follows.

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