

Table of contents

Vorwort	iii
List of figures	xi
List of tables	xvii
Nomenclature	xix
1 Introduction	1
2 State of the art and basic knowledge	3
2.1 Definition and fundamentals of fine bubbles	3
2.1.1 Classification of fine bubbles	3
2.1.2 Fields of application for fine bubbles	4
2.1.3 Characteristics and physical models describing ultrafine bubbles . .	5
2.2 Hydrodynamics and mass transfer in bubbly flows	11
2.2.1 Fundamentals of rising bubbles in stagnant liquid	11
2.2.2 Mass transfer in two-phase systems	14
2.2.3 Hydrodynamic and mass transfer characteristics of microbubbles . .	18
2.3 Suitable reactor systems and generation principles for fine bubble aeration .	22
2.3.1 Design and hydrodynamics of aerated stirred tank reactors	22
2.3.2 Fine bubble generation principles	30
3 Experimental setups and procedure	35
3.1 Proof of stability for ultrafine bubbles in aqueous liquids	36
3.1.1 Ultrafine bubble generation by pressurized dissolution	36
3.1.2 Ultrafine bubble generation by ultrasonication	37
3.2 Three reactor setups to evaluate the performance using fine bubble aeration	38
3.2.1 Setup of fine bubble aerated bubble column reactor	39

Table of contents

3.2.2	Setup of jet reactor with injector nozzle fine bubble generator . . .	40
3.2.3	Setup of fine bubble aerated stirred tank reactor	43
3.2.4	Liquid systems for fine bubble aerated reactor setups	44
3.3	Setups for investigating local mass transfer effects at microscale bubbles . .	45
3.3.1	Setup for generating single microscale bubbles	45
3.3.2	Setup for measuring local concentration fields at a free rising microscale bubble	46
3.3.3	Setup for measuring local concentration gradients at a fixed microscale bubble	48
4	Measurement techniques	51
4.1	Nanoparticle Tracking Analysis	51
4.1.1	Principle and equipment	52
4.1.2	Application to ultrafine bubble liquids	53
4.2	Laser induced fluorescence	54
4.3	Confocal laser scanning microscopy	55
4.4	Determination of the gas hold-up from endoscopic measurements	57
5	Experimental results and discussion	59
5.1	Proof of stability for ultrafine bubbles in aqueous liquids	60
5.1.1	Evaluation of particle size distribution	60
5.1.2	Conclusion on the existence of ultrafine bubbles and their application to process industry	63
5.2	Evaluation and comparison of fine bubble aerated reactor concepts	64
5.2.1	Hydrodynamic characterization of fine bubble aerated bubble column reactor	64
5.2.2	Characterization of fine bubble aerated jet reactor systems	67
5.2.3	Comparison of fine bubble aerated jet and stirred tank reactor concepts	69
5.3	Characterization of the membrane aerated stirred tank reactor concept . . .	72
5.3.1	Hydrodynamics of membrane aerated stirred tank reactor	72
5.3.2	Mass transfer behavior of membrane aerated stirred tank reactor . .	82
5.4	Fundamental mass transfer characteristics of microscale bubbles	87
5.4.1	Visualization of local mass transfer effects at single microscale bubbles	87
5.4.2	Modeling of counterdiffusion effects at a single microscale bubble .	92
5.4.3	Evaluation of counterdiffusion effects in fine bubble swarms	94
5.4.4	Modeling of counterdiffusion effects in fine bubble swarms	100

6 Conclusion	103
References	105
Appendix A Technical data of the SOPAT probes	115
Appendix B Additional data for the fine bubble aerated jet reactor setup	117
Appendix C Additional data for the membrane aerated STR	119