10.213 Homework 9/29/99

Problem 10 Due 10/6

The consider the combination of a continuous steady state catalytic reactor followed by distillation with recycle of the unreacted products at steady state in which the following reaction takes place

$$CO + 2H_2 \rightarrow CH_3OH$$

Assume that half the reactants are consumed in each pass through the reactor. The distillation is produces a stream of methanol with 1% CO. The recycle stream contains 5% methanol. The flow rate of CO is maintained at 1 mole/min.

- a) What is the flow rate of hydrogen that must be added to the feed stream?
- b) What is the molar flow rate of the total feed stream to the reactor at steady state?
- c) What is the molar flow rate from the reactor at steady state?
- d) What is the composition of the recycle stream coming from the distillation column?