

THE ROLE OF MEMBRANE SURFACE CHARGE ON PROPERTIES  
AND THE PERFORMANCES OF POLYMERIC MEMBRANES  
FOR PROTEIN APPLICATION

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UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA TERENGGANU

2007



**THE ROLE OF MEMBRANE SURFACE CHARGE ON THE PROPERTIES AND  
THE PERFORMANCES OF POLYMERIC MEMBRANES FOR PROTEIN  
APPLICATION**

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**Research report submitted in partial fulfillment of  
the requirements for the degree of  
Bachelor of Technology (Environmental Technology)**

**Department Of Engineering Science  
Faculty of Science and Technology  
UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA TERENGGANU  
SESSION 2007**

**1100051102**



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PROJEK PENYELIDIKAN I DAN II**

Adalah ini diakui dan disahkan bahawa laporan penyelidikan bertajuk:

THE ROLE OF MEMBRANE SURFACE CHARGE ON THE PROPERTIES AND PERFORMANCES OF POLYMERIC MEMBRANES FOR PROTEIN APPLICATION oleh PANIMALAR A/P BASKARAN No.Matrik UK7714 telah diperiksa dan semua pembetulan yang disarankan telah dilakukan. Laporan ini dikemukakan kepada Jabatan Sains Kejuruteraan sebagai memenuhi sebahagian daripada keperluan memperolehi Ijazah SARJANA MUDA TEKNOLOGI (ALAM SEKITAR), Fakulti Sains dan Teknologi, Universiti Malaysia Terengganu.

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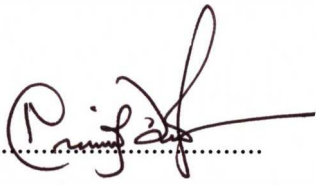
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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

I would like to express my appreciation and gratitude to my supervisor, En.Asmadi Ali for his guidance and invaluable assistance. I would also like to thank my co-supervisors, Dr. Amiza Mat Amin and Dr. Nora'aini Ali for their guidance. My heartfelt gratitude is forwarded to En.Rahman, En.Razali, En.Razman and all the staffs of Engineering Department, KUSTEM.

Not forgetting my thanks to my parents for their support to build confidence in me to carry out this project. I would also like to thank my coursemates Suryani and Mardiah and all those who had contributed directly and indirectly in helping me to carry out and to complete my research project.

Thank You.

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## LIST OF SYMBOL/ABBREVIATIONS

### Symbol/Abbreviation

PSF	-	Polysulfone
NMP	-	N-Methyl-2-Pyrrolidone
H <sub>2</sub> O	-	Water
UF	-	Ultrafiltration
MF	-	Microfiltration
MWCO	-	molecular weight cut off
BSA	-	Bovine Serum Albumin
EKA	-	Electro Kinetic Analyzer
RTU	-	Remote Titration Unit
Da	-	Dalton
mV	-	milivolt
NaCl	-	Sodium Chloride
$P_m$	-	Permeability
$C_p$	-	concentration of permeate
$C_f$	-	concentration of feed
$C_r$	-	concentration of retentate solution
$C_b$	-	bulk concentration

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## ABSTRACT

Ultrafiltration has become an alternative technology for protein separation over conventional bioseparation processes because of its high throughput of product. Although ultrafiltration is a useful method for protein separation, it is prone to biofouling. Fouling can be reduced by using membranes with suitable charge to the solute being filtered and this could also allow selective separation. A study to investigate the role of membrane surface charge and the influence of different polymer concentration on ultrafiltration membrane performance for protein separation has been performed. Asymmetric ultrafiltration membranes were produced using ternary composition consist of polysulfone, N-methyl-2-pyrrolidone and water by a dry/wet phase inversion using an electrically controlled flat sheet membrane casting machine. Based on BSA ultrafiltration experiment, rejection ranging from 94.3% to 100% was obtained for membranes fabricated with polymer concentrations of 11wt%, 13wt%, 15wt% and 17wt%. The optimum polymer concentration for protein separation is 17wt% which gave 100% rejection. A negative Zeta Potential (ZP) was obtained for all the membranes that consist of different polymer concentration. The most optimum ZP value for 100% BSA protein removal was -12.3mV, obtained for 17wt% membrane. This study has proposed that membrane with a higher negative charge is a suitable membrane for BSA protein separation. This research has indicated that polymer concentration and membrane surface charge affects the membrane performance and structural properties, consecutively enhancing the membranes ability for BSA separation.