

DEVELOPMENT OF ION-EXCHANGE MEMBRANES FOR PROTEIN (BSA) SEPARATION

CONTENTS

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DEVELOPMENT OF ASYMMETRIC BIO-SEPARATION MEMBRANES FOR  
PROTEIN (BSA) SEPARATION

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**JABATAN SAINS KEJURUTERAAN  
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**PENGAKUAN DAN PENGESAHAN LAPORAN  
PROJEK PENYELIDIKAN I DAN II**

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## TABLE OF CONTENT

	<b>Page</b>
<b>TITLE PAGE</b>	i
<b>CONFIRMATION AND APPROVAL OF REPORT</b>	ii
<b>ACKNOWLEDGMENT</b>	iv
<b>TABLE OF CONTENT</b>	v
<b>LIST OF TABLE</b>	x
<b>LIST OF FIGURE</b>	xii
<b>LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS / SYMBOL</b>	xiv
<b>LIST OF APPENDICES</b>	xvi
<b>ABSTRACT</b>	xvii
<b>ABSTRAK</b>	xviii
<b>CHAPTER 1</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES</b>
1.1	Membrane 1
1.2	Membrane Separation Process 2
1.3	Membrane Technology and Its Applications 4
1.4	Problem Statement 6
1.5	Objectives of Study 8
1.6	Scope of Study 9

## CHAPTER 2

## LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1	Ultrafiltration	10
2.2	Asymmetric Membrane and Dry/Wet Phase Inversion	12
2.3	Membrane Material for Ultrafiltration	13
	2.3.1 <i>Polysulfone (PSf)</i>	13
	2.3.2 <i>N-methyl-2-pyrrolidone</i>	15
	2.3.3 <i>Water (H<sub>2</sub>O)</i>	16
2.4	Effect of Different Polymer Concentrations on Asymmetric Ultrafiltration Membrane Structure and Performance	17
2.5	Effect of Shear Rate on Asymmetric Ultrafiltration Membrane Structure and Performance	19
2.6	Application of Asymmetric Ultrafiltration Membrane for Protein Separation Purposes	22
	2.6.1 <i>Protein</i>	23
	2.6.2 <i>Bovine Serum Albumin (BSA)</i>	25
2.7	Permeability, Pure Water Flux and Salt Flux in Ultrafiltration	27
2.8	Protein Bioseparation Through Ultrafiltration Membranes	28
2.9	Selectivity of Protein Separation in Ultrafiltration	29



2.10	Theoretical Approach of Steric Hindrance	
	Pore (SHP) Model	29

## CHAPTER 3 METHODOLOGY

3.1	Materials Selection	31
	3.1.1 Polysulfone (PSf)	32
	3.1.2 N-methyl-2-pyrrolidone (NMP)	32
	3.1.3 Water (H <sub>2</sub> O)	32
3.2	Methodology Overview	33
3.3	Membrane Preparation	34
	3.3.1 Preparation of Dope Formulation	35
	3.3.2 Titration Method	36
	3.3.3 Fabrication of Asymmetric Flat Sheet Membrane	37
3.4	Membrane Characterization	39
3.5	Preparation of Protein (BSA) Solution	40
	3.5.1 Phosphate Buffer Solution	40
3.6	Membrane Performance Analysis	41
	3.6.1 Pure Water Permeation	41
	3.6.2 NaCl Permeation	43
	3.6.3 NaCl Concentration Analysis	43
	3.6.4 Protein(BSA) Rejection	46
3.7	Protein Analysis	46
	3.7.1 Standard Curve	47
3.8	Flux Rate and Percentage of Rejection	49

3.9	Determination of the Pore Radius on the Membrane Surface	50
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## CHAPTER 4      RESULT AND DISCUSSION

4.1	Effect of Polymer Concentrations on the Membrane Performance	52
	4.1.1 <i>Pure Water Permeation Flux Measurement</i>	53
	4.1.2 <i>NaCl Rejection Measurement</i>	56
4.2	A Case Study on Protein (BSA) Separation Using PSf UF Membrane at Different Polymer Concentration	59
4.3	Effect of Shear Rate on the Membrane Performance of 17%PSf	64
	4.3.1 <i>Pure Water Permeation Flux Measurement</i>	64
	4.3.2 <i>NaCl Rejection Measurement</i>	66
4.4	A Case Study on Protein (BSA) Separation Using PSf UF Membrane at Different Shear Rate	68
4.5	Effects of Shear Rate on Controlling the Concentration Polarization and Membrane Fouling	73

4.6	Membrane Characterization Using Steric Hindrance Pore (SHP) Model	76
4.6.1	<i>Effect of Polymer Concentration on Membrane Pore Radius</i>	77
4.6.2	<i>Effect of Shear Rate on Membrane Pore Radius</i>	82
4.7	Membrane Morphology Study by Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM)	87
4.7.1	<i>Effect of Polymer Concentration on Membrane Morphology Structure</i>	87
4.7.2	<i>Effect of Shear Rate on Membrane Morphology Structure</i>	90
<b>CHAPTER 5</b>	<b>CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION</b>	
5.1	Conclusion	92
5.2	Recommendation	95
<b>REFERENCES</b>		97
<b>APPENDIX</b>		101
<b>VITAE</b>		125

## LIST OF TABLES

<b>No.</b>	<b>Table</b>	<b>Page</b>
2.1	Properties of NMP	16
2.2	Protein products	24
3.1	The properties of water	32
3.2	Binary dopes at different formulations	35
3.3	Ternary dopes at different formulations	36
3.4	Shows volume of NaCl and distilled water for making 50 ml of NaCl solution at different concentration ranging from 0 to 0.1M	44
3.5	Shows volume of NaCl and distilled water for making 50 ml of NaCl solution at different concentration ranging from 0 to 0.01M	44
3.6	Absorbance values measured with UV-vis spectrophotometer for five dilutions of BSA standard solution.	48
4.1	Permeability of membrane at different polymer concentration.	55
4.2	Summary of the permeability rates of commercial UF membranes and fabricated membranes*	55
4.3	BSA rejection at different polymer concentration with different applied pressure	60
4.4	Fluxes of PSf UF membrane in rejecting BSA molecules at different applied pressure	61
4.5	Permeability of membrane at different polymer concentration	65

4.6	BSA rejection at different shear rates with different applied pressure	69
4.7	Fluxes of PSf UF membrane in rejecting BSA molecules at different applied pressure	71
4.8	Shows the productivity and selectivity of PSf UF membrane in rejecting BSA at different pressure	75
4.9	Numerical results, membranes parameters obtained from SHP model and the convection and diffusion steric parameter at different polymer concentrations	77
4.10	The modeling results; values of $P_S$ , $\Delta x$ , $A_K$ , $r_p$ and $\Delta x/A_K$ at different polymer concentration.	78
4.11	BSA rejection at different polymer concentration	82
4.12	Numerical results, membranes parameters obtained from SHP model and the convection and diffusion steric parameter at different shear rates	83
4.13	The modeling results; values of $P_S$ , $\Delta x$ , $A_K$ , $r_p$ and $\Delta x/A_K$ at different shear rate	84
4.14	BSA rejection at different shear rates	86

## LIST OF FIGURES

No.	Figure	Page
1.1	Basic concept for membrane separation	2
1.2	Removal of four major pressure-driven membrane processes	3
2.1	Molecular structure of Polysulfone	14
2.2	Molecular structure of <i>N</i> -Methyl-2- Pyrrolidone (NMP)	15
2.3	Chemical structure of ribbon diagram of BSA in N, F and E form	27
2.4	Rejection of protein by membranes	29
3.1	Methodology overview	33
3.2	A schematic diagram of basic steps in membrane preparation	34
3.3	Apparatus setting for casting solution preparation	36
3.4	Apparatus that will set up for titration method	37
3.5	Semi-automated electrical casting machine	38
3.6	Shows a full set of scanning electron microscope (SEM)	39
3.7	Sterlitech dead end stirred cell on a magnetic stirrer	42
3.8	Shows NaCl calibration curve for NaCl concentration ranging from 0 to 0.001M	45
3.9	Shows NaCl calibration curve for NaCl concentration ranging from 0 to 0.01M	45
3.10	Shows BSA calibration curve for BSA concentration ranging from 0.0 to 2.0 mg/mL	48

4.1	Pure water flux for four different membranes of various polymers concentration	53
4.2	Effect of polymer concentration on NaCl performance based on percentage rejection fluxes	57
4.3	BSA rejection at the different polymer concentration of membrane	60
4.4	Fluxes of BSA at different polymer concentration of membrane	62
4.5	Pure water flux for four different membranes of various shear rates	64
4.6	Effect of shear rate on NaCl performance based on percentage rejection, flux and percentage rejection and flux	67
4.7	BSA rejection at different shear rate of membrane	70
4.8	Fluxes for BSA at different shear rate of membrane	71
4.9	Concentration polarization; concentration profiles under steady-state conditions	74
4.10	Pore radius and fluxes versus different polymer concentration.	79
4.11	Pore radius and percentage of rejection NaCl versus different polymer concentration.	80
4.12	Pore radius and fluxes versus different shear rate	85
4.13	Pore radius and percentage rejection of NaCl versus different shear rate	85
4.14	Shows SEM of cross section of PSf membrane at different polymer concentration	88
4.15	SEM of BSA molecular structures	89
4.16	Shows SEM of cross section of PSf membrane at different shear rate	91
4.17	Shows SEM of surface (skin) layer of PSf membrane at shear rate $704.93\text{s}^{-1}$	91

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS/ SYMBOLS

### Abbreviation/Symbol

$A_k$	Membrane porosity
BSA	Bovine Serum Albumin
$C_b$	Bulk concentration
$C_f$	Concentration of feed solution
$C_p$	Concentration of permeate solution
$C_r$	Concentration of retentate solution
$D_s$	Solute diffusivity for neutral molecule or generalized diffusivity for 1-1 type of electrolyte defined as $D_s = 2(D_1/D_2)/(D_1 + D_2)$
$F$	Faraday constant, 96487 C/mol
H <sub>2</sub> O	Water
$H_F, H_D$	Steric parameters related to wall correction factors under diffusion and convection conditions, respectively
$J_v$	Average solute flux over membrane surface
k	Mass transfer coefficient
MF	Microfiltration
MW	Molecular Weight
NF	Nanofiltration



NMP	<i>N</i> -Methyl-2-Pyrrolidone
NaCl	Sodium chloride
$P_m$	Permeability coefficients
$P_s$	Solute permeability
PSf	Polysulfone
$R$	Rejection
$r_p$	Pore radius
$r_s$	Solute radius
SEM	Scanning Electron Microscope
$S_F, S_D$	Distribution coefficient of solute by steric hindrance effect under diffusion and convection condition, respectively
UF	Ultrafiltration
$\Delta x$	Effective membrane thickness
$\eta$	Ratio of solute radius
$\sigma$	Reflection coefficient

## LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix		Page
A	BSA concentrations analysis for different polymer concentration	101
B	Pure water flux and rejection data for PSf UF membrane at polymer concentration 11%PSf	105
C	Pure water flux and rejection data for PSf UF membrane at polymer concentration 13%PSf	107
D	Pure water flux and rejection data for PSf UF membrane at polymer concentration 15%PSf	109
E	Pure water flux and rejection data for PSf UF membrane at polymer concentration 17%PSf	111
F	BSA concentrations analysis for different shear rates	113
G	Pure water flux and rejection data for PSf UF membrane at polymer concentration of 17%Psf at shear rate $176.23\text{s}^{-1}$	117
H	Pure water flux and rejection data for PSf UF membrane at polymer concentration of 17%Psf at shear rate $234.98\text{s}^{-1}$	119
I	Pure water flux and rejection data for PSf UF membrane at polymer concentration of 17%Psf at shear rate $352.47\text{s}^{-1}$	121
J	Pure water flux and rejection data for PSf UF membrane at polymer concentration of 17%Psf at shear rate $352.47\text{s}^{-1}$	123

## ABSTRACT

More recent studies have demonstrated that conventional process such as chromatography, electrophoresis, affinity purification, etc. widely used in protein separation and purification now days. However, these processes are limited to separation of protein solutes and shown that the purity of protein obtained significantly less. Ultrafiltration has become an alternative technology for protein separation over conventional bioseparation processes due to its high throughput of product. A systematic study on the influence of different polymer concentration and shear rate for ultrafiltration membrane in separating BSA protein was performed to determine the best formulation and shear rate condition. 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. The membrane morphology and pore radius had been characterized by using Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM) and Steric Hindrance Pore (SHP) model. The membrane performance was determined based on the pure water flux, sodium chloride and BSA protein solution permeation test. Analysis of BSA protein was analyzed by using UV-vis spectrophotometer. 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 exhibit 100% rejection. In conjunction to this profound polymer concentration, the effect of shear rate at  $176.23\text{s}^{-1}$ ,  $234.98\text{s}^{-1}$ ,  $352.47\text{s}^{-1}$  and  $704.93\text{s}^{-1}$  has been analyzed. This study has proposed that membrane fabricated at a shear rate about  $704.93\text{s}^{-1}$  with a polymer concentration of 17wt% is the optimum asymmetric polysulfone ultrafiltration membrane for BSA protein separation. This research has indicated that polymer concentration and shear rate affects the membrane performance and structural properties, consecutively enhancing the membranes ability for BSA separation.

## ABSTRAK

Kebanyakan kajian pada masa kini menunjukkan proses seperti kromatografi, elektroporisis dan lain-lain lagi biasanya digunakan secara meluas dalam proses pemisahan dan penulenan protein. Walaubagaimanapun, proses ini menghadkan pemisahan larutan protein dan menunjukkan protein tulen yang dihasilkan adalah kurang. Penuras ultra merupakan teknologi alternatif bagi pengasingan protein berbanding dengan proses pengasingan yang biasa disebabkan penghasilan produk yang tinggi. Satu kajian yang sistematik ke atas kesan kepekatan polimer dan kadar ricih yang berbeza bagi membran penuras ultra dalam pengasing protein Bovine Serum Albumin (BSA) telah dijalankan untuk menentukan kepekatan polimer dan kadar ricih yang terbaik. Membran penuras ultra asimetrik telah dihasilkan menggunakan komposisi campuran tiga bahan yang terdiri daripada polisulfon, N-metil-2-Pirrolidon dan air melalui kaedah pembalikkan fasa kering/basah dengan menggunakan mesin penghasilan kepingan rata elektrik. Morfologi dan jejari liang membran dicirikan menggunakan Mikroskop Pengimbas Elektron (SEM) dan model Liang Halangan Sterik. Ketelapan membran dan prestasi penyingkiran garam ditentukan berdasarkan fluks air tulen dan ujian ketelapan larutan natrium klorida dan protein BSA. Analisis protein BSA dilakukan menggunakan UV-vis spectrophotometer. Berdasarkan kajian penapis ultra BSA, penyingkiran protein BSA berjulat antara 94.3% hingga 100% telah diperolehi daripada membran dihasilkan dengan kepekatan polimer 11wt%, 13wt%, 15wt% dan 17wt%. Kepekatan polimer yang optimum bagi penghasilan protein BSA adalah 17wt%. Setara dengan kepekatan polimer yang optimum ini, kesan kadar ricih dalam julat  $176.23 \text{ s}^{-1}$  hingga  $704.93 \text{ s}^{-1}$  telah dianalisa. Kajian ini telah mencadangkan bahawa membran yang dihasilkan pada kadar ricih  $704.93 \text{ s}^{-1}$  dengan kepekatan polimer 17wt% merupakan membran polisulfone ultra penuras asimetrik yang sesuai bagi pengasingan protein BSA. Ini menunjukkan bahawa kepekatan polimer dan kadar ricih memberi kesan kepada prestasi dan ciri-ciri struktur membran di mana meningkatkan kebolehan membran dalam pengasingan protein BSA.