

OPTIMIZATION OF SUCCINIC ACID
PRODUCTION FROM IMMOBILIZED
ESCHERICHIA COLI

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Doctor of Philosophy

UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA PAHANG



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I hereby declare that the work in this thesis is based on my original work except for quotations and citations which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously or concurrently submitted for any other degree at Universiti Malaysia Pahang or any other institutions.

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TABLE OF CONTENT

DECLARATION	
TITLE PAGE	
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	ii
ABSTRAK	iii
ABSTRACT	iv
TABLE OF CONTENT	v
LIST OF TABLES	ix
LIST OF FIGURES	xi
LIST OF SYMBOLS	xiv
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	xv
CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background of Study	1
1.2 Problem Statement	2
1.3 Objective	4
1.4 Scope of Study	4
1.5 Rationale and Significance	6
CHAPTER 2 LITERITURE REVIEW	7
2.1 Introduction	7
2.2 Background of Succinic acid	8
2.3 Production of Succinic acid	11
2.3.1 Chemical – Based Method	11

2.3.2	Bioprocess Method - Fermentation Process	11
2.4	Glycerol Recovery as Raw Material for Succinic Acid Production	16
2.4.1	Glycerol Commercial	16
2.4.2	Glycerol Residue from Oleochemical Industries	18
2.4.3	Glycerol Pitch from Biodiesel Industries	21
2.5	Pre-treatment Process	22
2.5.1	Chemical Process	22
2.5.2	Physical Process	23
2.6	Factors Affecting Pre-treatment Process	25
2.6.1	pH	25
2.6.2	Temperature	26
2.6.3	Ratio of Solvent	26
2.7	Immobilized Cells	27
2.7.1	Type of Immobilized Cells	28
2.7.2	Factors Affecting Immobilized Cells	38
2.7.3	The Bacteria Applied in Cell Immobilization	40
2.7.4	The Comparison between The Free Cells and Immobilized Cell	44
2.7.5	Application and Advantages of Immobilized Cells	46
2.8	The Types of Fermentation Process	47
2.8.1	Submerged Fermentation	47
2.8.2	Solid State Fermentation Process	48
2.9	Aerobic and Anaerobic Fermentation	51
2.9.1	Factors Affecting Fermentation Process	52
2.10	Microorganisms in Succinic Acid Production	53
2.10.1	<i>Escherichia Coli</i>	55
2.10.2	Phases of Growth	57

2.10.3	Measurement of Growth	58
2.10.4	Factors Affecting Bacterial Growth	58
2.11	Statistical Model Using Response Surface Methodology (RSM)	61
2.12	Conclusion and Outlook	62
CHAPTER 3 METHODOLOGY		63
3.1	Introduction	63
3.2	Pre-treatment Process	68
3.2.1	Acid Catalyzed Pre-treatment for Recovery Method	68
3.2.2	Alkali-Catalyzed Transesterification	69
3.3	Characteristic of Material	70
3.3.1	Sample Preparation	70
3.4	<i>E. coli</i> Culture and Maintenance	75
3.4.1	Sources of <i>E. coli</i>	75
3.4.2	<i>E. coli</i> Maintenance	75
3.5	Kinetic Growth Profile of <i>E. coli</i>	80
3.5.1	Immobilization of <i>E. coli</i> in Sodium Alginate	80
3.5.2	Fermentation of <i>E. coli</i>	83
3.5.3	Optimization of Succinic Acid Production Using RSM	85
CHAPTER 4 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION		91
4.1	Characterization of Material	91
4.1.1	Physical Appearance and Observation of Glycerol Residue, Treated Glycerol and Commercial Glycerol	92
4.1.2	Properties of Glycerol Residue	94
4.1.3	The Functional Group of Glycerol	95
4.1.4	HPLC Analysis of Samples	99

4.2	Cell Immobilization	100
4.2.1	Physical Appearances of Bead	101
4.2.2	Entrapment Study	104
4.2.3	Cell Stability Study	105
4.2.4	Reusability of Cells	109
4.3	Fermentation of <i>E. coli</i>	111
4.3.1	Growth Profile of the <i>E. coli</i> K-12	111
4.3.2	Kinetic Study of Free Cells	114
4.3.3	Kinetic Study for Immobilized Cells	118
4.4	Optimization of Succinic Acid Production Using RSM	122
4.4.1	One Factor at a Time (OFAT)	123
4.4.2	Optimization of Parameters	131
4.4.3	Validation	149
	CHAPTER 5 CONCLUSION	152
5.1	Introduction	152
5.2	General Conclusion	152
5.3	Recommendation for Future Study	154
	REFERENCES	157
	APPENDIX A EXPERIMENTAL DATA	173
	APPENDIX B EXPERIMENTAL PICTURE	182
	APPENDIX C PREPARATION SAMPLE	184
	APPENDIX D LIST OF PUBLICATION	186

LIST OF TABLES

Table 2.1	The market demand and prices of succinic acid.	8
Table 2.2	Physical and Chemical Properties of Succinic acid	10
Table 2.3	Physical and chemical properties of glycerol	17
Table 2.4	Comparison of treated crude glycerol properties from oleochemical and biodiesel industries.	20
Table 2.5	Gel Formation Mechanisms for cell entrapment	35
Table 2.6	Applications of cell entrapment in hydrogels	36
Table 2.7	The cell immobilization effects on its physiology	39
Table 2.8	The types of bacteria applied in cells immobilization process.	41
Table 2.9	The comparison between free cells and immobilized cells fermentation	45
Table 2.10	The applications and advantages of immobilized cells	46
Table 2.11	Studies on submerged fermentation process using immobilized cells.	48
Table 2.12	Summary of solid state fermentation processes using immobilized cells.	50
Table 2.13	Raw materials for succinic acid production	52
Table 2.14	Summary of fermentation processes using immobilized cells.	54
Table 2.15	Comparison results of difference studies that produce succinic acid production with different substrate	56
Table 2.16	Elemental composition sources and functions	60
Table 3.1	The HPLC condition for pre-treatment and fermentation	72
Table 3.2	The parameter data for fermentation process	85
Table 3.3	List of the parameter for the free cells and immobilized cells.	86
Table 3.4	The design summary data for the experiment	88
Table 3.5	Experimental design for RSM	89
Table 3.6	The data for validation experiments	90
Table 4.1	The color and physical appearance of glycerol residue, treated glycerol and commercial glycerol.	92
Table 4.2	The characteristic and properties of glycerol residue.	94
Table 4.3	Comparing the functional group for treated glycerol and commercial glycerol	95
Table 4.4	The bacteria amount in certain condition during immobilization process.	104
Table 4.5	Effect of substrate on kinetic parameter, μ_{max} for free cells.	117

Table 4.6	Effect of substrate on kinetic parameter, μ_{max} for immobilized cells	120
Table 4.7	Comparison of results from different studies that produced succinic acid with different substrates	130
Table 4.8	Actual values of the experimental design with three parameters showing the experimental and predicted responses for succinic acid production.	133
Table 4.9	ANOVA table (partial sum of squares) for quadratic model (response: concentration of succinic acid)	136
Table 4.10	The percentage errors between the actual and predicted value for succinic acid production.	149
Table A. 1	Kinetic study free cells	173
Table A. 2	Kinetic study raw data for free cells	173
Table A. 3	Effect of substrate on kinetic parameter, μ_{max} for free cells	173
Table A. 4	Kinetic study immobilize cells	174
Table A. 5	Raw data kinetic study for immobilized cells	174
Table A. 6	Effect of substrate on kinetic parameter, μ_{max} for immobilized cell	174
Table A. 7	Total plate count for storage Stability (Temperature (-4 °C))	175
Table A. 8	Total plate count for Stability (Temperature (37 °C))	175
Table A. 9	Raw Data for Recycle	175
Table A. 10	Profile Growth	176
Table A. 11	Glycerol Remaining	176
Table A. 12	Raw Data for Kinetic Study Free cells	177
Table A. 13	Raw Data for Kinetic Study Immobilized cells	178
Table A. 14	Raw Data for Optimization	179
Table A. 15	Raw Data for OFAT and T-TEST (One sample)	180

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 2.1	Molecular structure of succinic acid	10
Figure 2.2	The glycerol residue from oleochemical industries	19
Figure 2.3	The physical properties (liquid form) of glycerol pitch from the biodiesel	22
Figure 2.4	The types of enzymes or cell immobilization methods.	28
Figure 2.5	Classification of immobilization cell systems according to the localization and nature of the microenvironment	29
Figure 2.6	The Adsorption on solid carrier	31
Figure 2.7	The covalent bonding in immobilization process	32
Figure 2.8	The immobilize cell of cross-linking method	33
Figure 2.9	The entrapment of cell within a porous matrik	34
Figure 2.10	The microencapsules of the cell in immobilization	38
Figure 2.11	<i>E. coli</i> cells on the Luria-Bertani (LB) medium plate.	57
Figure 3.1	The operational framework for this research	65
Figure 3.2	Steps for Pre-treatment process of glycerol recovery	66
Figure 3.3	Process flow of succinic acid fermentation	67
Figure 3.4	The process flow for the pre-treatment process of glycerol recovery.	68
Figure 3.5	The evaporation process to remove the methanol as a solvent using water evaporation process	70
Figure 3.6	The sample was determined by using High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC)	73
Figure 3.7	The Karl Fisher titration equipment for measure the moiture content.	74
Figure 3.8	One loop of <i>E. coli</i> was taken to inoculate a 50 ml medium culture.	76
Figure 3.9	<i>E. coli</i> cultured in Luria-Bertani agar medium in an anaerobic jar.	77
Figure 3.10	The sample of succinic acid production was centrifuged.	78
Figure 3.11	The dilution for pour plate counting method.	79
Figure 3.12	The immobilization process to produce the bead of <i>E. coli</i> .	81
Figure 3.13	The fermentation was conducted in an incubator.	83
Figure 3.14	The immobilized cells produced from the stock culture.	84
Figure 4.1	The layer of glycerol residue during glycerol recovery process	93
Figure 4.2	The FTIR Analysis for commercial glycerol	97

Figure 4.3	The FTIR Analysis for treated glycerol	98
Figure 4.4	The retention time for commercial grade glycerol.	99
Figure 4.5	The retention time for treated glycerol after pre-treatment process	100
Figure 4.6	Beads contain immobilized <i>E. coli</i> .	101
Figure 4.7	The surface of the bead observed after cell immobilization process.	102
Figure 4.8	SEM micrographs of <i>E. coli</i> cells immobilized on bead (alginate).	103
Figure 4.9	The total plate count of <i>E. coli</i> from day one to seven at -4 °C.	106
Figure 4.10	The total plate count of the <i>E. coli</i> from day one to seven at temperature	108
Figure 4.11	Results for the first and second batch of reusability.	110
Figure 4.12	Growth profile of <i>E. coli</i>	112
Figure 4.13	Glycerol remaining after fermentation process	112
Figure 4.14	Succinic acid production at different mass substrate for free cells for 16 hour fermentation.	115
Figure 4.15	The optical densities at different mass substrate for free cells for 16 hour fermentation.	115
Figure 4.16	The succinic acid production at different mass substrate.	119
Figure 4.17	The Optical densities for the succinic acid production at different mass substrate.	119
Figure 4.18	The effects of inoculum density on succinic acid production.	123
Figure 4.19	The effects of time on succinic acid production.	125
Figure 4.20	The effects of mass substrate on succinic acid production	128
Figure 4.21	Normal probability plots of residuals for succinic acid concentration	137
Figure 4.22	Residuals versus predicted response for succinic acid concentration	138
Figure 4.23	Residuals versus run response for succinic acid concentration	139
Figure 4.24	3D surface response graph for interaction between time and mass substrate on succinic acid production	140
Figure 4.25	Interaction effect graph between time and mass substrate in succinic acid production	141
Figure 4.26	The mechanism of <i>E. coli</i> in beads for immobilization process	144
Figure 4.27	The immobilization process in bead of entrapment method.	145
Figure 4.28	3D surface response graph for interaction between time and inoculums	146

Figure 4.29	Interaction effect graph between time and inoculum in succinic acid concentration.	146
Figure 4.30	3D surface response graph for interaction between mass substrate and inoculum in succinic acid production.	148
Figure 4.31	Interaction effect graph between mass substrate and inoculum in succinic acid production.	149
Figure 4.32	The desirability study in 3D for the factors time and mass substrate with inoculum of 15 %.	150
Figure 4.33	The desirability study (succinic acid concentration) in 3D for the factors time and mass substrate with inoculum of 15 %.	151
Figure B. 1	The SEM for the bead of <i>E. coli</i> .	182
Figure B. 2	The SEM for the bead surface of <i>E. coli</i> .	182
Figure B. 3	Kinetic Graph for free cells of <i>E. coli</i>	183
Figure B. 4	Kinetic Graph for immobilized of <i>E. coli</i>	183
Figure C. 1	Luria-Bertani agar medium (LB) in the plates.	184

LIST OF SYMBOLS

°C	degree celcius
Ca ²⁺	ion calcium
µm	micrometer
%	Percentage
3-D	Three- dimensional
g mol ⁻¹	gram per mol
g/l	gram per liter
kPa	kiloPascal
h	hour
L	liter
min	minute
ml	milliliter
n	Variable quantity
NAD ⁺	nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide
nm	nanometer
MT	metrik tons
OD	optical density
Pa.s	Pascal per second
rpm	rotation or revolution per minute
R _t	retention time
v/v	volume per volume
w/v	weight per volume
w/w	mass fraction (mass per mass)

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ATP	adenosine 5'-triphosphate
ZSI	Z source inverter
2FI	two factor interaction
ANOVA	analysis of variance
ATCC	American Type of Culture Collection
CDW	cell dry weight
CFU	colony forming unit
DM	dried matter
DOE	design of experiment
FFD	full factorial design
FTIR	Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy
H ₂ SO ₄	Sulfuric Acid
HPLC	high performance liquid chromatography
MONG	Matter-non-glycerol
NaOH	Sodium Hydroxide
Na ₂ CO ₃	Sodium Carbonate
OD	optical density
OFAT	one-factor-at-a-time
POME	palm oil mill effluent
SD	Standard deviation
RID	refractive index detector
RSM	response surface methodology

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ABSTRAK

Asid suksinik boleh dihasilkan daripada sisa gliserol dengan fermentasi daripada imobilisasi *Escherichia coli*. Kenaikan harga asid succinic adalah salah satu faktor asid succinic dihasilkan daripada sisa gliserol. Sebagai salah satu produk pengeluaran daripada oleochemical, gliserol kini telah menjadi sumber karbon yang banyak dan murah. Untuk mengurangkan kos penghasilan, sisa gliserol merupakan substrat alternatif untuk asid succinic dihasilkan. Selain itu, dengan menggunakan kaedah imobilisasi, sel-sel boleh digunakan semula untuk pengeluaran asid succinic. Oleh yang demikian, kajian ini dibuat bertujuan menghasilkan asid suksinik menggunakan gliserol yang di perolehi semula dari sisa industri oleokimia, dengan *E. coli* yang telah di imobilisasi. Perbandingan antara proses fermentasi menggunakan *E. coli* bebas dan imobilisasi dijalankan dengan mengambil kira faktor jisim substrat, ketumpatan inokulum dan masa fermentasi. Asid suksinik yang telah dihasilkan dari fermentasi sel imobilisasi kemudiannya di optimumkan menggunakan kaedah gerak balas permukaan. Kajian ini juga telah mengenalpasti ciri-ciri sel imobilisasi termasuk kestabilan sel dan kebolehan kitar semula manik semasa proses fermentasi. Kromatografi cecair prestasi tinggi digunakan bagi menganalisa kepekatan gliserol dan asid suksinik. Manakala, spektroskopi inframerah fourier transformasi digunakan bagi menganalisa kumpulan berfungsi gliserol. Salah satu kajian utama adalah kajian kinetik dari sel bebas dan sel-sel imobilisasi, yang mana mengkaji kesan substrat ke atas profil pertumbuhan mikroorganisma dan dengan pengeluaran asid suksinik. Keputusan yang diperolehi untuk kadar maksimum tertentu pertumbuhan, μ_{max} (hr^{-1}), adalah $0.031 h^{-1}$ dan K_S adalah 5.11 g untuk sel-sel imobilisasi, manakala bagi sel-sel bebas kadar pertumbuhan maksimum adalah $0.029 h^{-1}$ dan K_S adalah 4.03 g. Perbezaan antara sel-sel imobilisasi dan bebas adalah 6.9 % untuk μ_{max} (hr^{-1}) dan 26.8 % untuk K_S . Keputusan kajian membuktikan bahawa kepekatan substrat adalah salah satu faktor yang boleh memberi kesan keatas kadar pertumbuhan mikroorganisma. Dalam usaha untuk mengoptimumkan parameter untuk tujuan skala besar, keadaan optimum asid suksinik untuk proses fermentasi adalah pada masa 3.31 jam, substrat jisim 40 g dan ketumpatan inokulum 15%. Pada peringkat optimum ini, 124.09 g/L asid suksinik telah diperolehi. Jumlah hasil yang dihasilkan ialah 5.95 g succinic acid. Kajian ini telah berjaya dibangunkan untuk menghasilkan dan meningkatkan pengeluaran asid suksinik daripada sisa gliserol yang boleh diperbaharui dengan kaedah sel imobilisasi. Untuk sel-sel imobilisasi, pemilihan kaedah adalah penting untuk pengeluaran asid suksinik yang tinggi. Untuk mengurangkan kos pengeluaran asid suksinik, sel imobilisasi mempunyai kelebihan yang boleh dikitar semula sehingga 6 kitaran pengeluaran asid suksinik. Kajian lanjut perlu diambil untuk mengkaji struktur manik untuk pengeluaran asid suksinik yang tinggi dalam kaedah pemerangkapan.

ABSTRACT

Succinic acid can be produced from glycerol residue by fermentation of immobilized *Escherichia coli*. Increment of the price of succinic acid is one of the factors to produce the succinic acid from the waste of glycerol. As a by product of oleochemical production, glycerol has now become an abundant and cheap source of carbon. To reduce the production cost, the glycerol waste is an alternative substrate for succinic acid production. Besides, by using immobilization method, the cells can be reused for succinic acid production. Therefore, this study was aimed to produce succinic acid using glycerol recovered from industrial waste oleochemicals, with *E. coli* that have been immobilized. Comparison between fermentation process using free and immobilized *E-coli* is carried out by considering the mass of the substrate, the density of inoculum and fermentation time. Succinic acid that has been produced from immobilized cell fermentation was optimized using response surface methodology. The study also identified the characteristics of immobilized cells including cell stability and the ability to recycle beads during the fermentation process. High performance liquid chromatography was used to analyze the concentration of glycerol and succinic acid. While Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy was used to analyze the functional groups of glycerol. One of the main studies was the kinetic study of the free and immobilized cells, which studied the effect of the substrate on the growth profile of the microorganism and thus, the production of succinic acid. The results obtained for the maximum specific growth rate μ_{\max} (hr^{-1}) was 0.031 h^{-1} and the K_S was 5.11 g for the immobilized cells, while for the free cells, the maximum growth rate was 0.029 h^{-1} and K_S of 4.03 g. The difference between the immobilized and free cells was about 6.9 % for the μ_{\max} (hr^{-1}) and 26.8 % for the K_S . The results proved that the substrate concentration is one of the factors that may affect the microorganism growth rate. To optimize the parameters for scale-up purposes the optimum conditions observed for succinic acid fermentation process were time 3.31 h, mass substrate 40 g, and inoculum density 15%. At these optimum conditions, 124.09 g/L of succinic acid was obtained. The total yield obtained was 5.95 g of succinic acid. This study was successfully developed to produce and improve the succinic acid production from renewable glycerol residue using the immobilized cell method. For the immobilized cells, the selection method was important for high production of succinic acid. To reduce the cost of succinic acid production, the immobilized cells have the advantage of been able to be reused up to 6 cycles for succinic acid production. A further study should be carried out to investigate the structure of the beads for high production of succinic acid using the entrapment method.

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