

**METHANE PURIFICATION USING PVC MEMBRANE: PREPARATION,
CHARACTERIZATION AND PERFORMANCE STUDY**

RAJ KRISHNA ROSHAN A/L KANASAN

**BACHELOR OF CHEMICAL ENGINEERING
UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA PAHANG**

© RAJ KRISHNA ROSHAN (2017)

SUPERVISOR'S DECLARATION

I hereby declare that we have checked this thesis and in our opinion, this thesis is adequate in terms of scope and quality for the award of the degree of Bachelor of Chemical Engineering.

Signature :
Name of main supervisor : DR. SUNARTI BINTI ABD RAHMAN
Position : SENIOR LECTURER
Date :

STUDENT'S DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the work in this thesis is my own except for quotations and summaries which have been duly acknowledged. The thesis has not been accepted for any degree and is not concurrently submitted for award of other degree.

Signature :
Name : RAJ KRISHNA ROSHAN S/O KANASAN
ID Number : KC13041
Date :

Dedication

To my loving parents, who have given me all the love and knowledge from the beginning of birth, and also my beloved siblings who guided in all of my success and achievements in life.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First of all, I would like to thank my sincere gratitude to my advisor, Dr. Sunarti Bt. Abdul Rahman for the continuous support for my study and research, for her patience, motivation, enthusiasm, and immense knowledge. I am also grateful for her guidance for helping me all the time in research and writing of this thesis, and not to forget her support in overcoming numerous obstacles I have been facing through my studies and research.

Besides my advisor, I would also like to thank my co-researcher in this field of study, Mohamad Syafiq bin Abdul Wahab, who have assisted me a lot through this research and for the technical knowledge, for the sleepless nights we were working together before deadlines, and for all the fun we have had.

I would also like to thank the staffs of the UMP Chemical Laboratory for their guide, help and comments on my laboratory works. If it weren't for them, my laboratory work would not have finished in the allocated time.

Last but not least, I would like to thank my family, my parents, Kanasan s/o Krishnasamy and Tan Siew Eng, and my two siblings, Dashalini d/o Kanasan, and Vishanthini d/o Kanasan for providing me spiritual support and giving strength in doing this research and thesis.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
SUPERVISOR'S DECLARATION	ii
STUDENT'S DECLARATION	iii
DEDICATION	iv
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	v
ABSTRACT.....	vi
ABSTRAK.....	vii
TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	viii
LIST OF TABLES	x
LIST OF FIGURES	xi
LIST OF SYMBOLS	xii
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS.....	xiii
CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background of Study.....	1
1.2 Motivation	1
1.3 Problem Statement	2
1.4 Objectives.....	3
1.5 Scopes of Study.....	3
CHAPTER 2 LITERATURE REVIEW	4
2.1 Membrane in Gas Separation	4
2.2 The Materials.....	5
2.2.1 Polymeric Membrane.....	5
2.2.2 Metal Membrane	5
2.2.3 Ceramic Membrane.....	6
2.3 Membrane Structure	7
2.3.1 Asymmetric.....	7
2.3.2 Symmetric	8
2.4 Membrane Preparation	8
2.4.1 Phase separation.....	10
2.4.2 Laser Drilling	11
2.4.3 Film Stretching.....	11
2.4.4 Track-Etching	11
2.5 Membrane Application.....	12

2.6	The Configuration	13
2.6.1	Capillaries	13
2.6.2	Tubular	14
2.6.3	Hollow Fibres.....	14
2.6.4	Flat Sheets	14
2.7	Single Layer Membrane	15
2.7.1	PVC membrane	15
CHAPTER 3 MATERIALS AND METHODS.....		16
3.1	Materials and Chemicals	16
3.2	Methods.....	16
3.2.1	Plane Inversion Method	16
3.2.2	Homogenous Dope Solution Preparation for PVC Membrane.....	17
3.2.3	Membrane Casting and Dry/Wet Phase Inversion.....	18
3.2.4	Physical Characterization.....	18
3.2.5	CH ₄ /CO ₂ Separation Test.....	18
CHAPTER 4 RESULT AND DISCUSSION		20
4.1	Characterization of The PVC Membrane.....	20
4.1.1	Physical analysis using FTIR.....	20
4.1.2	Physical Characterization by SEM	24
4.2	Membrane Performance	27
CHAPTER 5 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION.....		33
5.1	Conclusion.....	33
5.2	Recommendation.....	34
REFERENCE.....		35
APPENDICES		38

LIST OF TABLES

Table No.	Title	Page
Table 1.3-1:	MSW data from Kg. Sg. Ikan landfill for 3 weeks	2
Table 2.3-1:	Comparison of Asymmetric and Symmetric Membrane	8
Table 2.4-1:	Membrane type, structure, preparation and application.	9
Table 2.4-2 :	Types of Phase Separation, Functions and Applications	10
Table 2.5-1:	Membrane application with corresponding membrane type	12
Table 3.2-1:	The component ratio of the dope solution.	17
Table 4.1-1:	FTIR absorption bands for each membrane sample for different dope solution.	21
Table 4.2-1:	The Performance of The PVC Membrane Using Methane, CH ₄	28
Table 4.2-2:	The Performance of The PVC Membrane Using Carbon Dioxide, CO ₂	28
Table 4.2-3:	Selectivity and Permeability of CO ₂ gas using PVC membrane for Robeson's Upper Bound Comparison	28

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure No.	Title	Page
Figure 2-1:	Mechanism of hydrogen permeation via metal membranes (Jian Xu, 2002)	6
Figure 2-2:	Asymmetric membrane structure (Angelo Basile, 2013)	7
Figure 2-3:	Cross section of a capillary membrane through SEM (Klaus-Viktor Peinemann et al., 2011)	14
Figure 3-1:	Membrane Production Step	16
Figure 4-1:	Chemical structure of Polyvinyl Chloride	20
Figure 4-2:	The spectra wavelength of the different composition of PVC membrane (a) 82% NMP, 18% PVC, (b) 80% NMP, 20% PVC, (c) 77% NMP, 23% PVC, (d) 75% NMP, 25% PVC	24
Figure 4-3:	200X Magnification of PVC Membrane Cross Sectional View, (a) 18:82, (b) 20:80, (c) 23:77, (d) 25:75	26
Figure 4-4:	1500X Magnification of PVC Membrane Cross Sectional View, (a) 18:82, (b) 20:80, (c) 23:77, (d) 25:75	26
Figure 4-5:	Permeability (Barrer) Vs PVC Composition (%)	30
Figure 4-6:	Selectivity, α Vs PVC Composition (%)	30
Figure 4-7:	Upper bound correlation for CO ₂ /CH ₄ separation (L.M. Robeson, 2008)	31
Figure 4-8:	Robeson Upper Bound Correlation	32

LIST OF SYMBOLS

wt% weight percentage

p_m permeance

$^{\circ}\text{C}$ degree Celcius

$^{\circ}\text{F}$ degree Fahrenheit

Greek

Δ delta

α selectivity

Units

\AA Angstrom

ft^2 square feet

ft feet

g gram

m^2 square meter

m^3 cubic meter

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

Al ₂ O ₃	Aluminium Oxide
CA	Cellulosic esters
CaCO ₃	Calcium Carbonate
Ca(OH) ₂	Calcium Hydroxide
CO ₂	Carbon dioxide
CH ₄	Methane
DVB	Divinylbenzene
ED	Electrodialysis
F	Filtration
FTIR	Fourier Transform Infra-Red spectroscopy
GP	Gas permeation
MF	Microfiltration
MOL	Milk of lime
NMP	N-Methyl-2-pyrrolidone
PA	Polyamide
PAN	Polyacrylonitrile
PC	Polycarbonate
Pd	Palladium
PE	Polyethylene
PES	Polyether sulfone
PEst	Polyester
PI	Polyimide
PP	Polypropylene
PS	Polysulfone
PTFE	Polytetrafluoroethylene
PV	Pervaporation
PVC	Polyvinylchloride
RO	Reverse Osmosis
S	Silicon Rubber
SEM	Scanning Electron Microscope
SiO ₂	Silicone dioxide
SO ₂	Sulphur dioxide
TiO ₂	Titanium dioxide
UF	Ultrafiltration
ZrO ₂	Zirconium dioxide