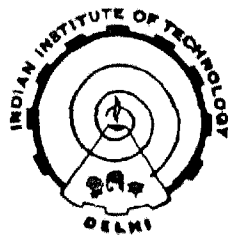


REMOVAL OF HEAVY METAL CHROMIUM ION BY REVERSE OSMOSIS PROCESS

by
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the award of the degree of
DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY*



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C E R T I F I C A T E

This is to certify that the thesis entitled 'Removal of heavy metal chromium ion by reverse osmosis', submitted by Ehanu Deb Thakur has been prepared under my supervision in conformity with rules and regulations of the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi. The research report and results presented in the thesis have not been submitted for any degree in any other university.



20/5/88

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(Bhanu Deb Thakur)

A B S T R A C T

Heavy metals, particularly chromium in hexavalent form is one of the most common contaminant encountered in effluent stream from engineering and chemical industries. Separation of these components by reverse osmosis, which in itself is a relatively new process has been studied to determine various operating parameters including membrane characteristics.

Membranes were prepared in the laboratory under controlled condition to study the influence of process conditions during the making of membrane as the ultimate separation efficiency. Evaporation time and annealing temperature were the two major factors found to be most important for this purpose.

Separation characteristics of the membrane made at optimum condition was studied under different operating condition both physical and chemical. The physical parameters were pressure and circulation flow rate temperature, where as chemical factors were like pH, presence of other ions, mixture of hexavalent and trivalent chromium etc.

A model has been developed to predict both the permeable flux and rejection of chromium at varying pressure and temperature conditions. This model has been successfully applied to explain the experimental results. The flow rate affects separation of chromium because of the concentration polarisation.

A model based on mass transfer consideration has been developed to predict the membrane performance. True rejection capacity of the membrane was determined and found to be quite high similar to the data being published for commercial and other membranes.

The effects of pH, chloride and sulphate ions have been observed to significantly effect the separation of hexavalent chromium in most cases reducing the rejection by as much as 30%. This effects have been explained in terms of charge density of permeating ions.

Results of separation studies with mixture of hexavalent and trivalent chromium system shows that Cr^{+3} suppresses the rejection of Cr^{+6} whereas its own rejection is maintained at a very high level i.e. near 99% and is not affected by the presence of Cr^{+3} . The suppression has been satisfactorily explained by the particular ion formation, its size and charge.

LIST OF FIGURES

-
- 1.1 Membrane Separation Processes Depending on the size of the Separating Species.
 - 1.2 Typical Reverse Osmosis unit with Pretreatment.
 - 1.3 Hollow Fine Fiber and Spiral Wound Module.
 - 3.1 Schematic Diagram of Reverse Osmosis set - up.
 - 3.2 Typical Section view of the Flat Disc Type R.O. Module.
 - 4.1 Variation of Viscosity of Casting Solution with Composition (CA Content).
 - 4.2 Effect of Evaporation time on Membrane Performance for Batch - 1.
 - 4.3 Effect of Evaporation time on Membrane Performance for Batch - 2.
 - 4.4 Effect of Evaporation time on Membrane Performance for Batch - 3.
 - 4.5 Effect of Annealing Temperature on Permeate Flux at Various Pressures of Operation.
 - 4.6 a. Permeate Flux at Different Liquid Temperatures for Various Pressures of Operation for M32.
 - 4.6 b. Permeate Flux at different liquid temperatures for various pressures of operation for M28
 - 4.7 % Relative Change in Permeate Flux and Viscosity (Inverse) against Varying Temperatures.
 - 4.8 Predicted and Experimental Permeate Flux at different Temperature and Pressure of Operation for M32.
 - 4.9 a. Experimental Results of Pressure Effect on Cr^{+6} Rejection with Feed Concentration - 327.
 - 4.9 b. Effect of Pressure on Permeate Flux and Cr^{+6} Rejection for Two Membrane (M12 & M14).

- 4.9 c. Experimental Results of Pressure Effect on Cr^{+6} Rejection with Feed Concentration - 500.
- 4.10 Effect of Pressure on a Low Permeability Membrane (M7).
- 4.11 a. Difference in Feed and Permeate Cr Concentration Against Pressure for M30.
- 4.11 b. Separation of Cr^{+6} and Cr^{+3} in Pure System.
- 4.12 Variation of Rejection of Cr^{+6} at Different Inlet Concentration for M12.
- 4.13 Effect of Circulation Flow Rate on Rejection of Cr^{+6} for Two Membrane Systems.
- 4.14 Permeate Flux Rate and Calculated Solute Concentration at Membrane Boundary for various Recirculation Flow Rate for M18.
- 4.15 Hysterisis Effect on Rejection of Cr^{+6} at Varying Flow Rate for M15.
- 4.16 Trial & Error Plot for the Estimation of Mass Transfer Coefficient for M20.
- 4.17 Estimated Mass Transfer Coefficient at Different Flow Rates for Two Membrane Modules Systems.
- 4.18 Calculated Real Rejection and Observed Rejection at Varying Feed Flow Rates.
- 4.19 a. Effect of pH on Rejection of Cr^{+6} and Permeate Flux for M28.
- 4.19 b. Effect of pH on Rejection of Cr^{+6} and Permeate Flux for M32 & M27.
- 4.20 Effect of Chloride Ion on Cr^{+6} Rejection for M24.
- 4.21 Rejection of Cr^{+6} Ion in Presence of K_2SO_4 for M24.
- 4.22 Rejection of Hexavalent Chromium and Manganese against Pressure in the Mixed System for M24.
- 4.23 Separation of Trivalent and Hexavalent Chromium in Pure State for M10.

- 4.24 a. Variation of Cr^{+6} separation from a Mixed Solution with different Ratios of Cr^{+6} and Cr^{+3} for M10.
- 4.24 b. Effect of the Presence of Cr^{+3} on % Rejection of Cr^{+6} from Mixed Solute system at different Operating Pressure.
- 4.24 c. Separation of Cr^{+6} and Cr^{+3} in Pure System.
- 4.25 Separation of Cr^{+6} from Solution of Fixed Ratio of $\text{Cr}^{+6} : \text{Cr}^{+3} = 1$ in Varying Total "Cr" Content for M24.
- 4.26 Effect of Temperature of Liquid on Rejection of Cr^{+6} at Different Pressures of Operation for M28.

LIST OF TABLES

- 4.1 Effect of casting solution composition and evaporation time on membrane characteristics.
- 4.2 Permeability constants of membranes M1, M2, M4 and M5.
- 4.3 Osmotic pressure of potassium dichromate solution at varying concentrations.
- 4.4 Slope for both trivalent and hexavalent chromium for two membranes.
- 4.5 Computed flow quotient, predicted and estimated 'k' values.
- 4.6 Rejection of hexavalent, trivalent and total chromium.
- 4.7 Permeation behaviour of Membrane M10 at varying process conditions.
- 4.8 Rejection of hexavalent chromium in presence of fixed trivalent concentration.
- 4.9 Permeation behaviour for M35 at varying process conditions.
- 4.10 Physical parameters at different temperatures.

S U B J E C T I N D E X

		PAGE No.
	Acknowledgement	i
	Abstract	ii
	List of Figures	iv
	List of Tables	vii
CHAPTER-1	I N T R O D U C T I O N	
1. 1	Introduction	1
1. 1. 1	Toxic materials and their effects	1
1. 1. 2	Uses of chromium	2
1. 1. 3	Toxicity of chromium	2
1. 2. 1	Conventional methods for chromium removal	2
1. 2. 1. 1	Reductive precipitation	3
1. 2. 1. 2	Ion-exchange process	4
1. 2. 1. 3	Line Coagulation and adsorption in activated carbon	4
1. 2. 2	Membrane separation process	5
1. 2. 3	Different membrane processes	5
1. 2. 3. 1	Microfiltration	7
1. 2. 3. 2	Ultrafiltration	7
1. 2. 3. 3	Reverse osmosis	8
1. 2. 4	Osmosis and reverse osmosis	9
1. 2. 4. 1	Advantages of reverse osmosis	9
1. 2. 4. 2	Membrane fouling	11
1. 3	Reverse osmosis membrane	12
1. 3. 1	Cellulose acetate membranes	12
1. 3. 2	Polyamide membrane	13

1.3.3	Composite membrane	13
1.4	Membrane modules	14
1.4.1	Flat membrane	14
1.4.2	Tubular membrane	14
1.4.3	Hollow fibre membrane	16
1.5	Reverse osmosis and its prospects	16
1.6	Objectives of the present work	17
CHAPTER-2	L I T E R A T U R E R E V I E W	
2.0	Introduction	18
2.1	Membrane Development	18
2.1.1	Structure of Reverse Osmosis Membranes	20
2.1.2	Role of non-solvent swelling agents	21
2.1.3	Role of other additives and solvents	22
2.1.4	Effects of casting environments	23
2.1.5	Effect of Gelation medium	27
2.1.6	Development of new membranes	28
2.2.1	Osmosis and Reverse Osmosis	30
2.2.2	Preferential sorption mechanism	30
2.2.2.1	Transport equation	31
2.2.2.2	Pressure effect	32
2.2.2.3	Effect of feed flow rate and temperature	33
2.2.3	Free energy parameter concept	34
2.2.3.1	Transport equation	34
2.2.4	Solution diffusion model	35
2.3.1	Type of membrane	39
2.3.2	Rejection of metal ions	40
2.3.3	Complexation of metal ion	41

CHAPTER-3

E X P E R I M E N T A L S E C T I O N

3.1	Introduction	43
3.2	Membrane preparation	43
3.2.1	Preparation of polymer solution	43
3.2.2	Casting of polymer solution	45
3.2.3	Gelation	46
3.2.4	Annealing	47
3.3.1	Reverse osmosis test unit	47
3.3.2	Membrane module	50
3.4.1	Membrane stabilization	52
3.4.2	Sample collection	54
3.5	Materials and methods	55

CHAPTER-4

R E S U L T S A N D D I S C U S S I O N

4.0	Introduction	57
4.1	Effect of casting environment	58
4.1.1	Viscosity of casting solution	58
4.1.2	Evaporation time	61
4.2	Membrane performance characteristics	67
4.2.1	Effect of pressure on permeability rate	67
4.2.2	Effect of temperature on pure water permeability	72
4.2.2.1	Experimental observation	72
4.2.2.2	Prediction of permeate flux at different temperatures	73
4.3	Separation of solute from potassium dichromate solution	80
4.3.1	Effect of pressure on solute rejection	80

4.3.2	Effect of initial feed concentration on solute rejection	91
4.3.3	Effect of feed flow rate on rejection of solutes	93
4.3.3.1	Experimental results and hysteresis	93
4.3.3.2	Mass transfer model	99
4.3.4	Effect of pH upon the rejection of hexavalent chromium	112
4.3.5	Effect of addition of chloride/sulphate ions on the rejection of hexavalent chromium	117
4.3.5.1	Effect of the presence of chloride ions	117
4.3.5.2	Effect of addition of sulphate ions	120
4.3.6	Effect of addition of potassium permanganate on the rejection of chromate ion	122
4.4	Rejection behaviour of a mixture of trivalent and hexavalent chromium	125
4.4.1	Separation of trivalent chromium	126
4.4.2	Separation of chromium from a mixed system of trivalent and hexavalent form	128
4.5	Effect of temperature on the rejection of solute	138
4.5.1	Model for prediction of solute rejection at any temperature	139
4.5.2	Experimental results with temperature variation of feed solution.	140
CHAPTER-5	SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION	144
	References	149
	Appendices	156