

Effect of Thermal Oxidation on Performance of Carbon Nanotubes-supported Polyimide Membrane for Isopropyl Alcohol Dehydration by Pervaporation = Efek Oksidasi Termal pada Membran Polimida dengan Lapisan Penopang Nanotube Karbon untuk Dehidrasi Isopropil Alkohol melalui Aplikasi Pervaporasi

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Abstrak

Meningkatnya aktivitas industri menghasilkan limbah industri yang mengandung pelarut organik secara signifikan. Teknologi pemisahan membran merupakan salah satu Solusi unggul untuk mengatasi limbah ini, khususnya melalui pervaporasi (PV) yang hemat energi dan berbasis mekanisme larutan-difusi. Studi ini mengkaji membran polimida (PI) dengan lapisan penopang nanotube karbon (CNT). Kombinasi ini menjanjikan karena stabilitas termal dan kimia PI yang tinggi serta potensi CNT dalam meningkatkan fluks. Namun, densitas PI yang relatif tinggi menyebabkan membran ini memerlukan modifikasi lanjutan untuk meningkatkan performanya. Membran dimodifikasi dengan oksidasi termal pada suhu 350 °C selama 4 dan 6 jam di dalam dua variasi atmosfer oksidatif berbeda, yakni , 99% Ar-1% O₂ dan udara terkompresi (~21% O₂). Berdasarkan uji dehidrasi isopropil alkohol (IPA), membran PI/CNT tanpa modifikasi menghasilkan fluks total sebesar 136.15 g/m².h dan kadar air permeat 90.55 wt%. Di sisi lain, membran yang dioksidasi menggunakan udara terkompresi selama 6 jam menunjukkan peningkatan performa dengan fluks total sebesar 428.42 g/m².h dan kadar air permeat 96.7 wt%. Berdasarkan hasil ini, modifikasi oksidasi termal terbukti dapat meningkatkan fluks dan kadar air permeat pada membrane PI/CNT untuk aplikasi PV dehidrasi.

.....Industrial activities generate significant wastewater containing organic solvents, which often goes untreated. Several technologies have been developed for treating organic solvent wastewater, one of them being membrane separation technology, specifically pervaporation (PV). PV offers a low-energy operation and separates molecules by the solution-diffusion mechanism. A selective polyimide (PI) membrane with a carbon nanotube (CNT) support layer is potentially beneficial for pervaporation due to PI's thermal and chemical stability and CNT's potential to enhance flux. However, membrane modification is needed to improve the flux of the dense PI selective layer. Thermal oxidation is a potential method to modify the membrane structure at a relatively low temperature in an oxidative atmosphere. This treatment alters the membrane's properties for pervaporation applications. Membrane thermal oxidation modification was conducted at 350 °C using two oxidative atmospheres, 99% Ar-1% O₂ and compressed air (~21% O₂). Each atmospheric condition was applied for two heating durations, 4 and 6 hours. In the isopropyl alcohol (IPA) dehydration PV test, the pristine PI/CNT membrane has a total flux of 136.15 g/m².h, with an average water content in the permeate of 90.55 wt%. In contrast, the PI/CNT membrane treated under compressed air for 6 hours exhibited a significantly higher total flux of 428.42 g/m².h and an average water content in permeate of 96.7 wt%. Therefore, thermal oxidation modification improved the membrane performance by increasing both total flux and average water content in the permeate.