

## PROGRESS OF NANOFILTRATION MEMBRANES

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## OVERVIEW

- **Introduction of Nanofiltration(NF)**
- **NF Application**
  - in Aqueous system
  - in Non-aqueous system
- **NF Membranes developed in KRICT**
  - Fouling resistant membrane
  - Solvent resistant membranes
- **Summary**

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## Application range of various membrane process

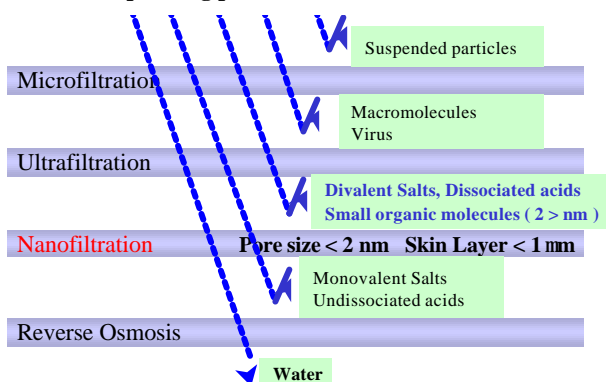
| Particle size               | atomic/ionic range  | low molecular range        | high molecular range                  | micro particle range | macro particle range    |
|-----------------------------|---|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| µm                          |   | 0.001                      | 0.01                                  | 0.1                  | 1.0                     |
| nm                          |   | 10                         | 10                                    | 100                  | 1000                    |
| Molecular weight            | 100 200   | 1000                       | 100,000                               | 500,000              |                         |
| Solute                      | aqueous salt<br>metal ion<br>sugar  | microsolutes               | colloidal silica<br>virus<br>proteins |                      | bacteria<br>yeast cells |
| Membrane separation process | electrodialysis<br>diffusion dialysis<br>reverse osmosis<br>gas separation<br>pervaporation | nanofiltration<br>dialysis | ultrafiltration                       |                      | microfiltration         |

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## NANOFILTRATION (NF) MEMBRANES

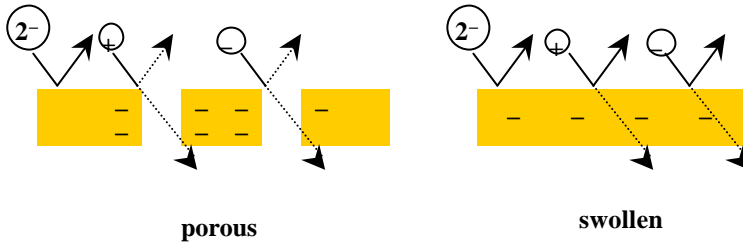
- Membranes whose performance is in **between those of UF and RO** (MWCO: 200-1000 g/mole)
- Good rejection of multivalent ions or organic materials with low molecular weight
- Low Operating pressure



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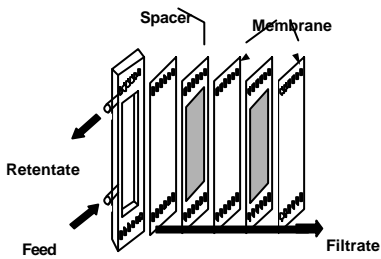
## Schematic drawing of separation of ions by negative nanofiltration membranes



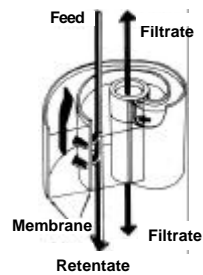
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## Membrane modules



(a) Plate type module

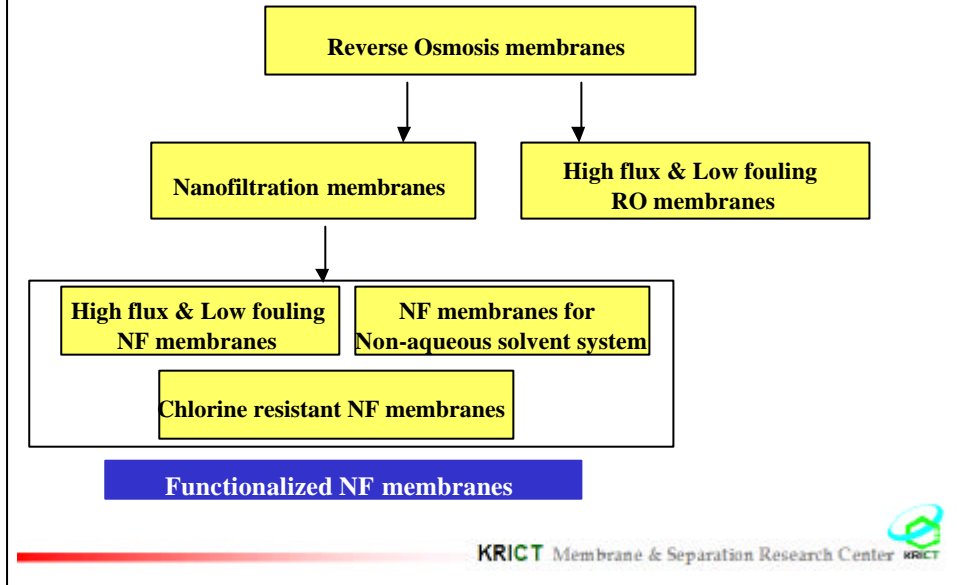


(b) Spiral-wound type module

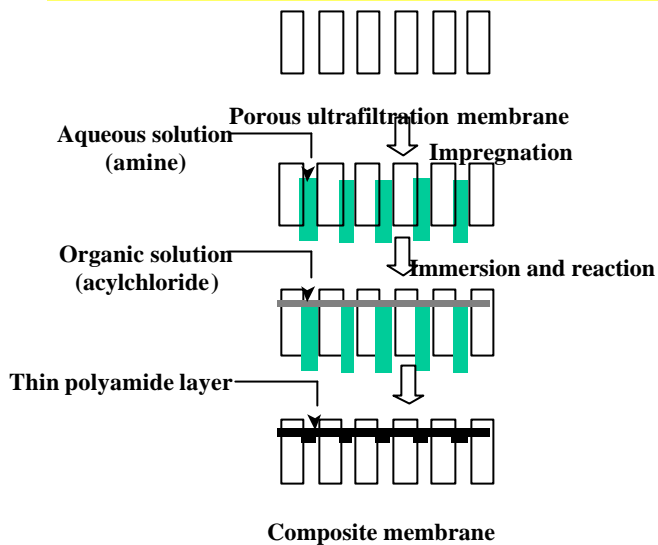
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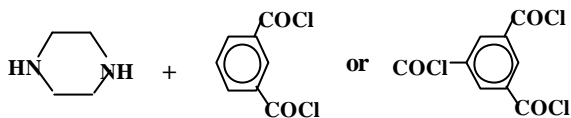
## Progress in Nanofiltration Membranes



## Preparation of composite polyamide membrane

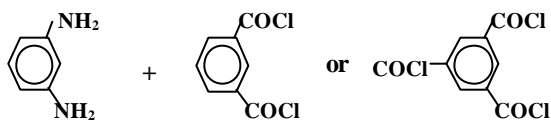


### Polypiperazineamide; NF membrane



NF-40(FilmTec); NTR-7250, NTR-729(Nitto Denko); UTC-20/50/60(Toray)

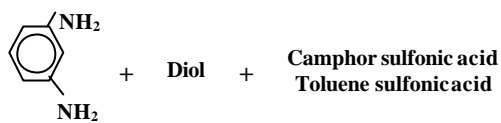
### Polyamide; RO & NF membrane



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### High flux RO & NF membranes



Aqueous solution



Significant flux enhancement due to the surface roughness increase

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**Low fouling RO & NF membranes**

**High flux RO & NF membrane**



**Coating neutral polymers or inorganic material**

**Fouling resistance due to the surface charge blocking**

**Solvent resistant NF membranes**

**Cross-linked PAN UF membrane**

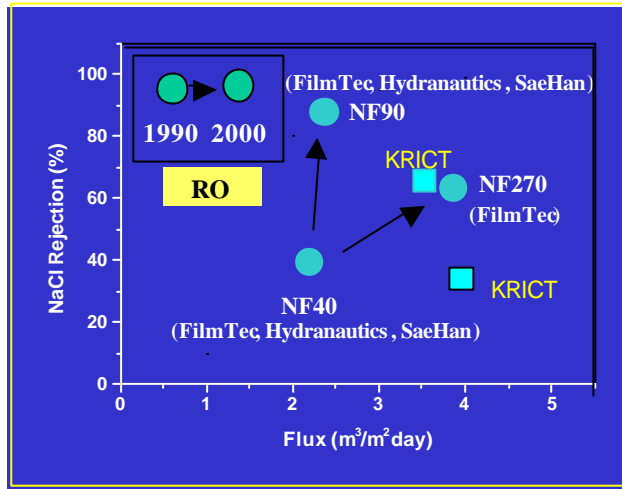


**Coating silicone**

**Kyriat weizmann: MPF series**

**Solvent resistant against almost all solvents; Large pore (400 – 700Da)**

## Progress of NF membranes

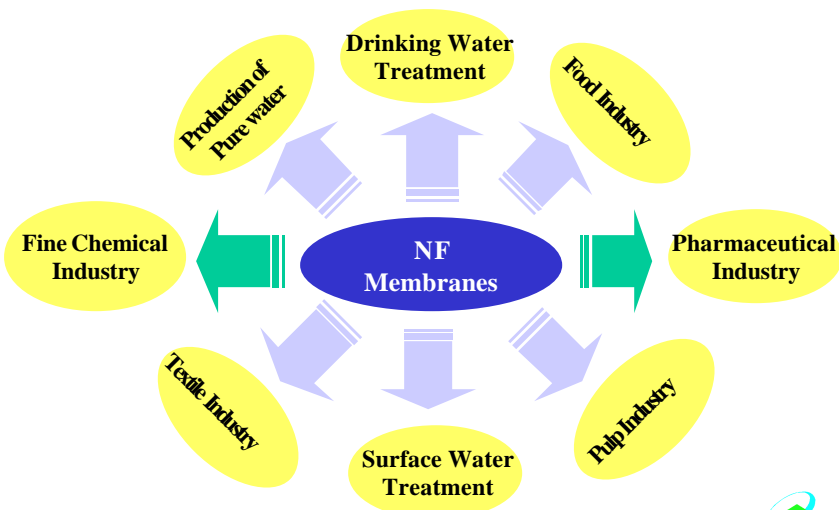


225 psi; 2000 ppm NaCl

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## EXTENSION OF NF APPLICATION



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## NF for Aqueous System

### A. Drinking and Process Water Treatment

- Water softening and Pure water production
- Potable Water Production\_
- Surface and Ground water Treatment

### B. Wastewater Treatment

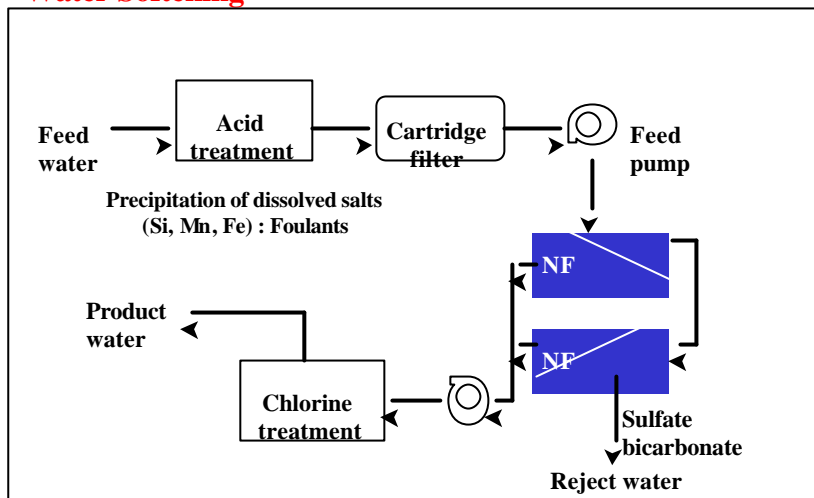
- Oily Wastewater
- Removal of Dye, VOC and Heavy Metals
- Chemical plant Wastewater
- Textile and Pulp Wastewater

### C. Food Industry

- Desalting of cheese whey and sea food processing
- Concentration of fruit juice
- Yeast Production



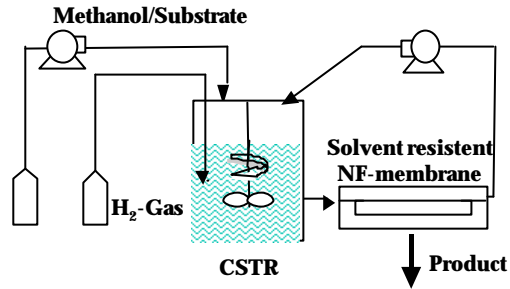
## Water Softening







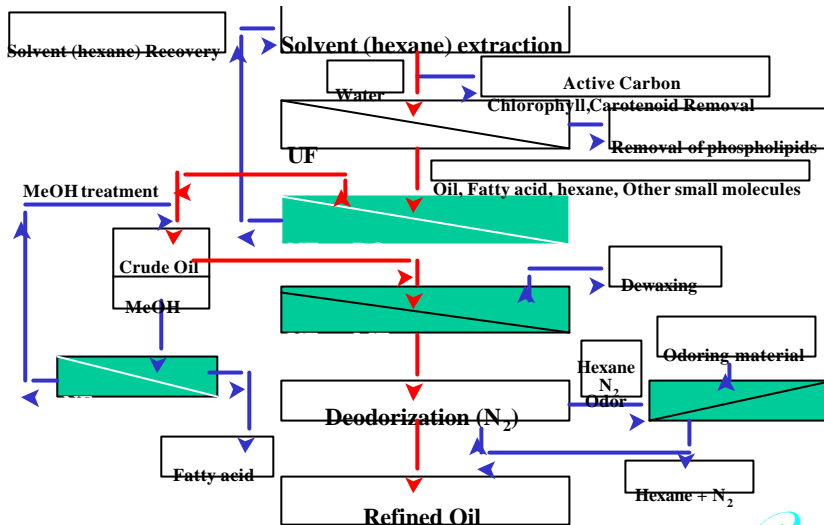
## NF Membranes for Catalytic Reactor



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## Membrane method for vegetable oil purification



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## NF membranes studied in KRICT

### 1. Polyamide NF membranes (interfacial polymerization)

NF-90 : > 90% rejection of NaCl; underground water treatment

NF-70 : > 70% ; underground water treatment

NF-40 : > 40% ; surface water treatment

NF-20 : > 20% ; surface water treatment

Development trend : High flux and low fouling

### 2. Organic solvent-resistant NF membranes

Low swelling and high flux in organic solution

High separation of small molecular solute in organic solution

### 3. PVA & Integrally skinned NF membranes

Low fouling and chlorine resistant

## Fouling-Resistant NF Membrane

### • Fouling

#### A. Foulants

- Humic acid
- Colloids
- Surfactants
- Proteins
- Mineral salts
- Silica

#### B. Problems

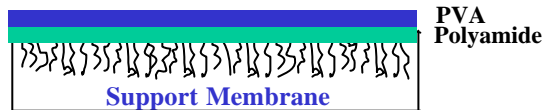
- Increasing operation and maintenance costs
- Deteriorating membrane performance
- Shortening membrane

#### C. Properties influencing fouling

- Surface structure (roughness, pore size)
- Electrokinetic characteristics ( $\xi$ -potential)
- Chemical property (hydrophobic-hydrophilic interaction)

## PVA-coated polyamide composite membrane

- **Polyamides**  
Piperazine & m-phenylene diamine  
Trimesoyl chloride
- **Poly(vinyl alcohol)**  
Poly(vinyl alcohol) 0.05 wt%  
Glutaraldehyde
- **Interfacial & Dip coating Method**
- **Support membrane**  
Polysulfone MWCO 50kDa
- **Other NF membranes**  
NF 70  
NF 70/PVA



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## Change of membrane performance by PVA coating

|               | PWF<br>(m <sup>3</sup> /m <sup>2</sup> day) | Rejection rate (%) |      |
|---------------|---|--------------------|------|
|               |   | PEG 200            | NaCl |
| PA            | 2.9   | 60                 | 8    |
| PA/PVA (1)    | 2.6   | 72                 | 13   |
| NF-70         | 1.7   | 81                 | 75   |
| NF-70/PVA (3) | 1.4   | 88                 | 83   |

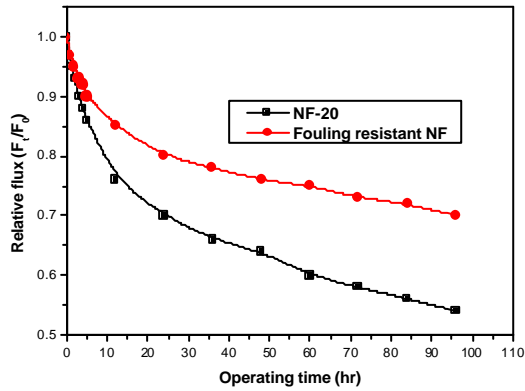
25 °C; 200 psi

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## Neutral polymer- or nano particle-coated polyamide composite membrane

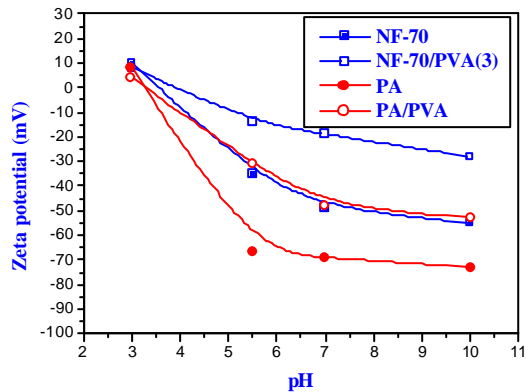
– Surface water treatment after microfiltrration



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## z-potential of PVA-coated NF membranes

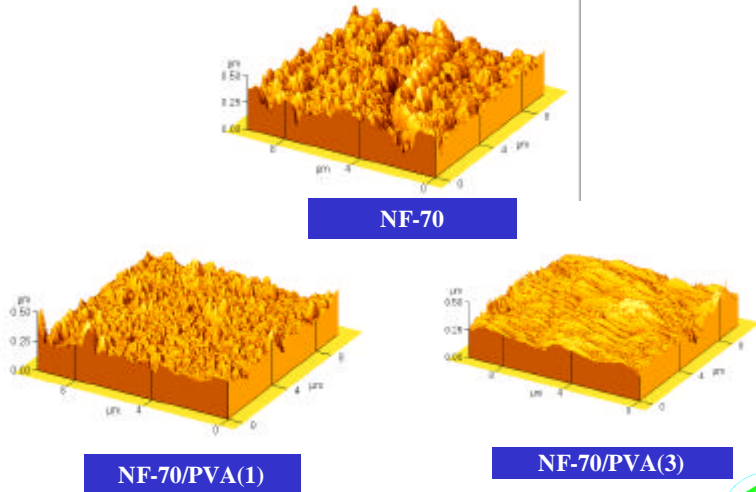


Electro-phoretic method; pH 7.0; 0.01M NaCl

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## AFM images of NF-70 & PVA/NF-70 membranes



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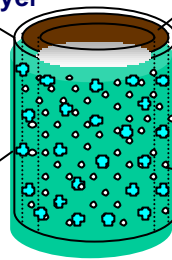
## Nano catalysts coated NF membranes

**Integral multifunctional antifouling nano-complex- membranes that would be efficient for the treatment of the waste-water through nano-catalytic-reaction and separation**

**Thin Microporous  
Polymer Coating Layer  
(Thickness < 2 μm)**

**Polymeric braid**

**Nano-Catalysts  
(Titania,  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ )**

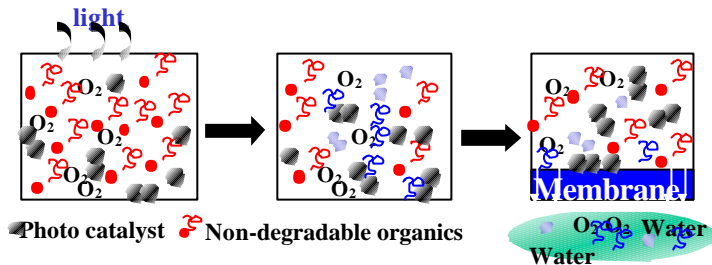


**Nano-size Pores  
Porosity : 40-50 %  
Size : 1-50 nm**

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## NF membrane-coupled Photo Catalyst Reactor

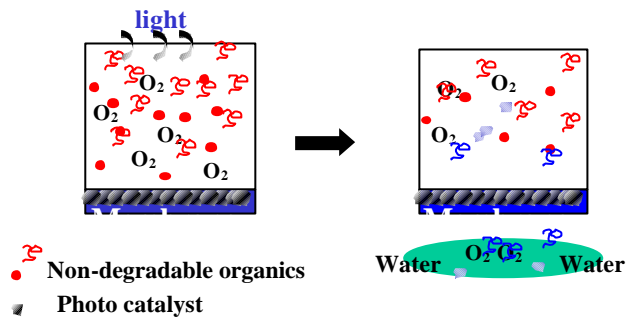


- Easy to recover the catalysts
- Need low-fouling NF membrane

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## Nano catalysts-coated NF membrane reactor



- No need to recover the catalysts
- Low fouling by catalytic degradation of organics

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## Solvent Resistant NF Membranes

### Commercial NF membrane for non-aqueous system

MPF series (Kyriat Weizmann): MWCOs of 700 and 400Da  
made with silicone

Advantage: high flux to organic solvent

Disadvantage: difficult to reduce pore size

### Objectives of the present work

- Develop various types of NF membranes which is stable in organic solvents
- Investigate the possibility to separate fatty acid in methanol and acetone solution



## Silicon Contained Polyamide NF Membranes

### – Polyamides

Piperazine & m-phenylene diamine  
Trimesoyl chloride

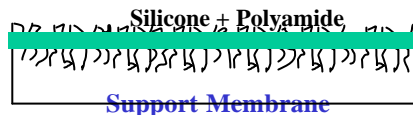
### – Silicones

Polydimethylsiloxane (prepolymer A & cross-linker B)

### – Interfacial & Dip coating Method

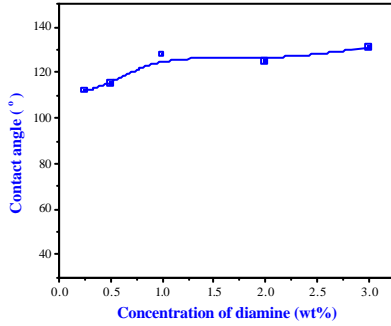
### – Support membrane

Phase inversion  
PAN/NMP (15/85 wt%)  
Coagulated in water

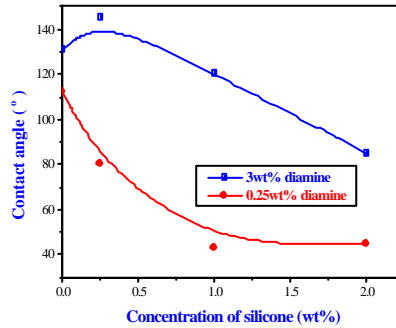




## Contact angle of polyamide and silicone-contained polyamide NF membranes



Polyamide

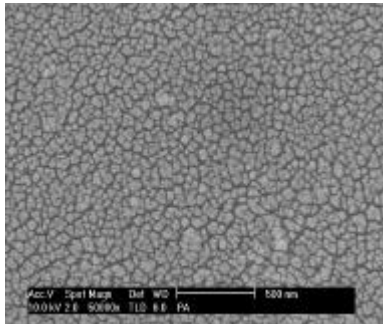


Silicone-based polyamide

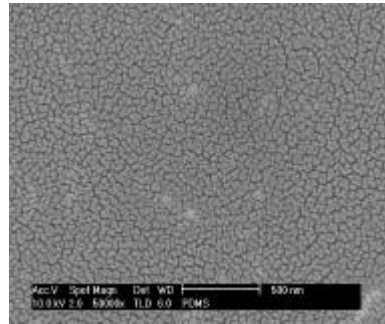
Advanced angle of droplet formed by CCl<sub>4</sub> in water



## SEM photographs of membrane surfaces



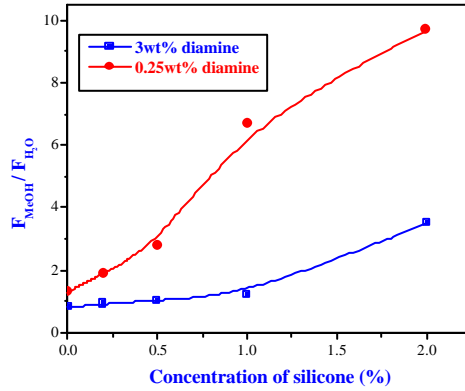
Polyamide



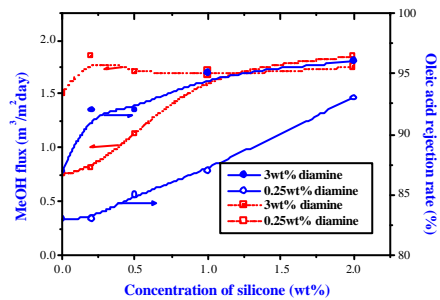
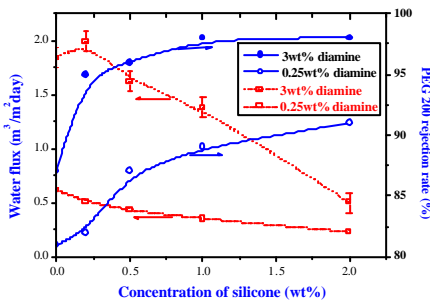
Silicone-based Polyamide



## Flux ratio of MeOH to water of polyamide membrane



## Performance of silicone-contained PA NF membranes in aqueous and MeOH solution



### Concentrations of Diamines, 0.25 wt%

| Silicone<br>Conc.<br>(wt%) | Solvent flux (TMD) |      |      |      |         |      |        |
|----------------------------|--------------------|------|------|------|---------|------|--------|
|                            | H2O                | MeOH | EtOH | IPA  | acetone | MEK  | Hexane |
| 0                          | 0.54               | 0.68 | 0.41 | 0.11 | 1.09    | 0.20 | -      |
| 0.2                        | 0.44               | 1.09 | 0.56 | 0.39 | 1.62    | 0.36 | 0.25   |
| 0.5                        | 0.31               | 1.44 | 0.85 | 0.44 | 2.03    | 0.68 | 1.12   |
| 1.0                        | 0.12               | 1.85 | 1.09 | 0.79 | 2.41    | 1.82 | 2.85   |
| 2.0                        | 0.09               | 1.75 | 1.29 | 0.88 | 2.58    | 1.85 | 2.89   |

25 °C; 200 psi

## SUMMARY

- Nanofiltration (NF) is rapidly growing in liquid phase separation for the removal of natural organic matter (NOM), multivalent salts, dyes, and small organic molecules.
- NF membranes with high flux, solvent resistance, and low fouling have been developed for the extension of NF application range.
- Membrane fouling is influenced by the membrane surface properties, such as surface roughness, charge, and hydrophobic-hydrophilic properties. PA membranes coated with a thin PVA layer or nano particles show very good fouling resistance.
- For a non-aqueous NF system, solvent resistance of the membrane materials, and solvent fluxes are key issues. NF membranes prepared by blending of polyamide and silicone polymer show high solvent flux and high rejection to small organic molecules.