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Gas Transport Phenomena through Polyurethane-based Heterogeneous Polymeric Systems

Min-Joung Kim, Bong-Kuk Sea, You-In Park, Kyung-Ho Youm*, Kew-Ho Lee
Membranes and Separation Research Center, Korea Research Institute Chemical Technology, * School of Chemical Engineering, Chungbuk National University

불균일상 폴리우레탄막의 기체투과 현상에 관한 연구

김민정, 서봉국, 박유인, 염경호*, 이규호
한국화학연구원 분리막다기능소재연구센터,
*충북대학교 화학공학부

1. Introduction

The scientific and commercial progress in the area of polymer blends during the past decades has been tremendous and was driven by the realization that, by blending, new materials can be developed and implemented more rapidly and economically.[1] Thermoplastic polyurethane are suitable materials for preparing gas separation membranes with high permeability. However, the use of polyurethane membrane for gas separation is limited by its low selectivity of separation gases.[2] In order to overcome this problem, a poly(amide-imide)(PAI) and a polycarbonate(PC), which possess high carbon dioxide selectivity compared to PU, have been chosen as the blend materials, prepared PAI/PU and PC/PU blend membranes. The objective of present study is a detailed investigation of the morphology and carbon dioxide transport

properties of PU-base blend membranes. Efforts have been made to correlate the permeation behavior with the existing theoretical models.

2. Exprimental

Thermoplastic polyurethane(PU)-based blend membranes were prepared by the solvent evaporation process. Polymer solutions of PC, PAI, and PU were prepared separately at concentration of 5 wt.% with varying blend ratio(PC or PAI:PU = 0:100, 5:95, 10:90, 15:85 wt.%). The mixture solution were poured into glass petri-dish and the solvent was evaporated at 80 ℃ and resulting membranes were dried in a vacuum oven for 3 days at 60 ℃. The morphology of PU based blend membranes was investigated by SEM. The permeabilities of pure gases and ideal separation factor through the PU-based blend membranes were measured by a soap film flowmeter. Sorption isotherms of CO_2 and N_2 in the polyurethane blend membranes were obtained by use of micro-balance(Cahn Instruments Inc., C-1000) and analyzed on the basis of dual-mode sorption model. The CO_2 selectivity from CO_2/N_2 mixture was calculated according to the ratio of gas composition at the feed side and the permeate side.

3. Results and discussion

Thermoplastic polyurethane-based membranes were prepared by the solvent evaporation process. The CO_2 separation properties of PU-based blend membranes with different blend ratio have been studied. The morphology of PU-based blend membranes was investigated by SEM. The resulting membranes were immiscible and phase separation occurred with increasing blend ratio. For PC/PU blend membranes, the CO_2 permeability of membranes were in the order of 14.82 ~ 38.11 × 10^{-10} $cm^3(STP) \cdot cm/cm^2 \cdot s \cdot cmHg$ as shown in Fig. 1. The CO_2 permeability of PAI/PU blend membranes were in the range of 9.89 ~ 15.37 × 10^{-10} $cm^3(STP) \cdot cm\ /cm^2 \cdot s \cdot cmHg$. As shown Fig. 2, the ideal separation factor of blend membranes increased with the increase in the molar content of dispersion media component from 0 to 15%.

4. Conclusion

The PU-based blend membrane showed high CO_2 permeation and the CO_2/N_2 selectivity of the blend membrane was improved with increasing blend ratio. CO_2 permeation behaviors of blend membranes were affect by blend composition. The permeation properties of PAI/PU blend membranes are directly comparable to existing commercial gas separation membranes. As a result, thermoplastic polyurethane(PU)-based blend membranes exhibit good perspective for future industrial application.

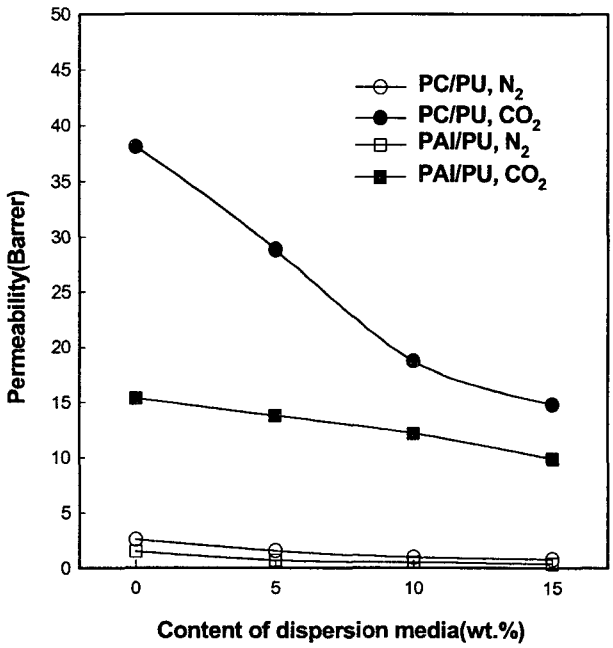

Fig. 1. The gas permeabilities of PU-based blend membranes as a function of blend ratio in membrane (T = 25 ℃, P = 6 atm).

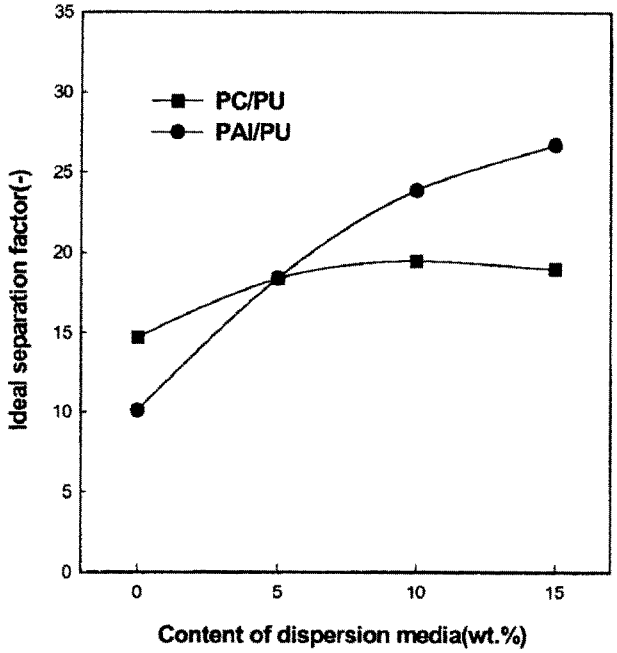

Fig. 2. The ideal separation factor of PU-based blend membranes as a function of blend ratio in membrane (T = 25 ℃, P = 6 atm).

5. References

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