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PII: S0376-7388(18)31185-2
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.memsci.2018.07.020>
Reference: MEMSCI16299

To appear in: *Journal of Membrane Science*

Received date: 1 May 2018
Revised date: 27 June 2018
Accepted date: 9 July 2018

Cite this article as: Wanyi Fu, Lan Wang, Fangjuan Chen, Xuezhi Zhang and Wen Zhang, Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) Ultrafiltration Membrane Fouling and Defouling Behavior: EDLVO Theory and Interface Adhesion Force Analysis, *Journal of Membrane Science*, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.memsci.2018.07.020>

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Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) Ultrafiltration Membrane Fouling and Defouling Behavior: EDLVO Theory and Interface Adhesion Force Analysis

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Abstract

To unravel fouling and defouling mechanisms of protein, saccharides and natural organic matters (NOM) on polymeric membrane during filtration, this study investigated filtration characteristics on polyvinyl chloride (PVC) ultrafiltration membranes with bovine serum albumin, dextran, humic acid as model foulants. Membrane fouling and defouling performances were analyzed through monitoring the flux decline during filtration and flux recovery during physical backwash. Physico-chemical properties (e.g., hydrophobicity and surface charge) of PVC membrane and foulants were characterized, which were used in the extended Derjaguin–Landau–Verwey–Overbeek (EDLVO) theory to calculate the interaction energies between membrane-foulant and foulant-foulant. The results showed that at the later filtration stages the

¹ The first and second authors contributed equally to this work.

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