Supplementary Information (SI) for Physical Chemistry Chemical Physics. This journal is © the Owner Societies 2025

Supporting Information

Molecular simulation and experimental study of the oligopeptide-mediated fouling mechanisms of polyamide reverse-osmosis membranes

Ken Kinooka,^{a,b} Keizo Nakagawa,^{a,c} Hideto Matsuyama,^{c,d} Yu Fujimura,^b Takahiro Kawakatsu,^b and Tomohisa Yoshioka*^{a,c}

^aGraduate School of Science, Technology and Innovation, Kobe University, 1-1 Rokkodai, Nada, Kobe 657-8501 Japan.

^bKurita Innovation Hub, Kurita Water Industries Ltd., 1-4-1 Daikanyama, Akishima, Tokyo 196-0005 Japan.

^cResearch Center for Membrane and Film Technology, Kobe University, 1-1 Rokkodai, Nada, Kobe 6578501 Japan.

^dDepartment of Chemical Science and Engineering, Kobe University, 1-1 Rokkodai, Nada, Kobe 657-8501, Japan

^{*} Corresponding author; Email: tom@opal.kobe-u.ac.jp

1. Simulation model

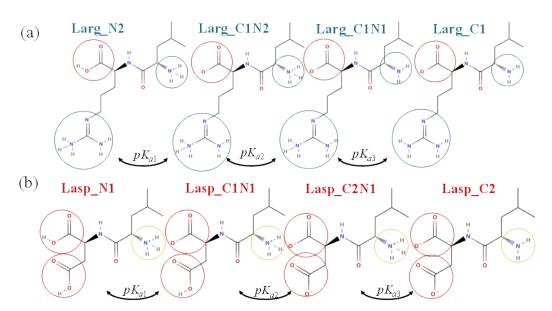


Figure S1. Foulant dissociation changes: (a) Larg and (b) Lasp.

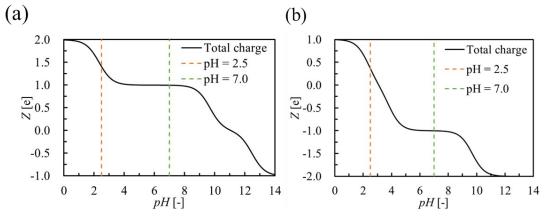


Figure S2. Net charges of the foulants according to pH: (a) Larg and (b) Lasp.

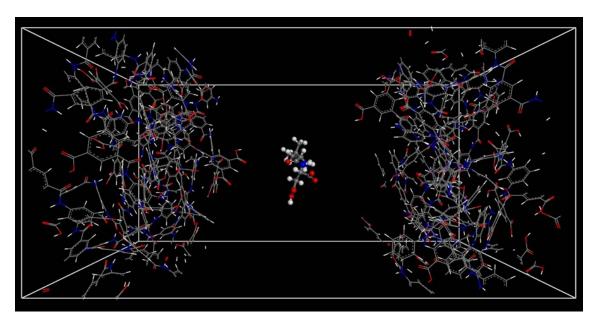


Figure S3. Behavior of the adsorption simulation of Model 2 (Lasp_C1N1/C0).

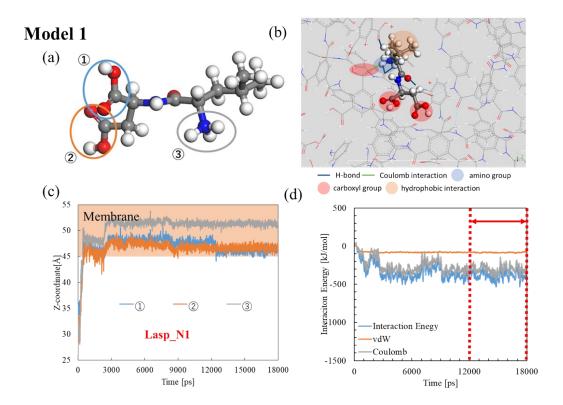


Figure S4. Model 1: (a) Lasp_N1 foulant model, (b) Snapshot of the foulant in the neighbourhood of PA membrane, (c) Z-coordinate change of the foulant along with time, and (d) Interaction energy between the PA membrane and the foulant. The dashed range was used to calculate the average value.

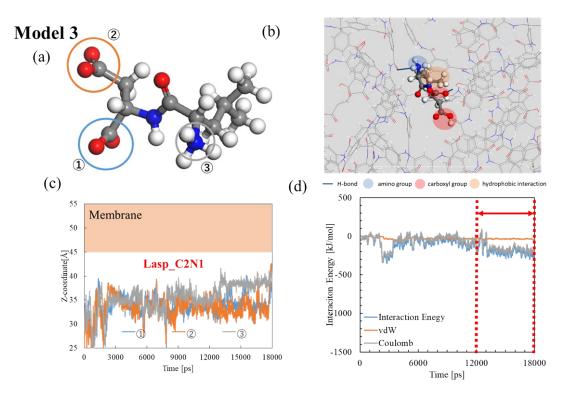


Figure S5. Model 3: (a) Lasp_C2N1 foulant model, (b) Snapshot of the foulant in the neighbourhood of PA membrane, (c) Z-coordinate change of the foulant along with time, and (d) Interaction energy between the PA membrane and the foulant. The dashed range was used to calculate the average value.

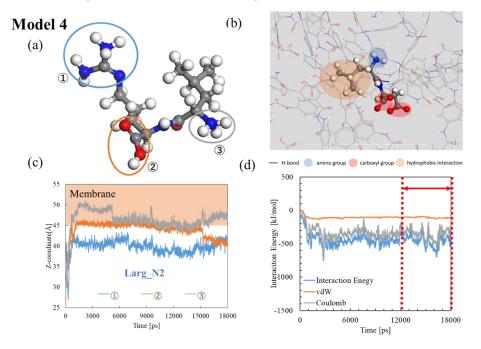


Figure S6. Model 4: (a) Larg_N2 foulant model, (b) Snapshot of the foulant in the neighbourhood of PA membrane, (c) Z-coordinate change of the foulant along with time, and (d) Interaction energy between the PA membrane and the foulant. The dashed range was used to calculate the average value.

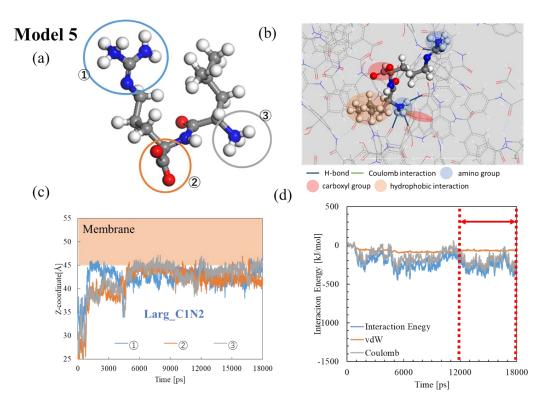


Figure S7. Model 5: (a) Larg_C1N2 foulant model, (b) Snapshot of the foulant in the neighbourhood of PA membrane, (c) Z-coordinate change of the foulant along with time, and (d) Interaction energy between the PA membrane and the foulant. The dashed range was used to calculate the average value.

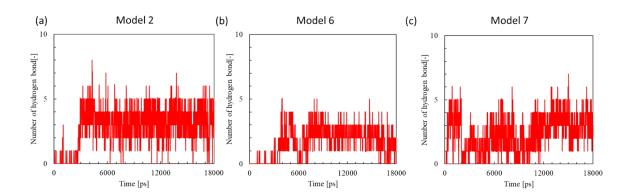


Figure S8. The relationship between time and the number of hydrogen bond between the membrane and the foulant (a) Model 2, (b) Model 6, (c) Model 7.

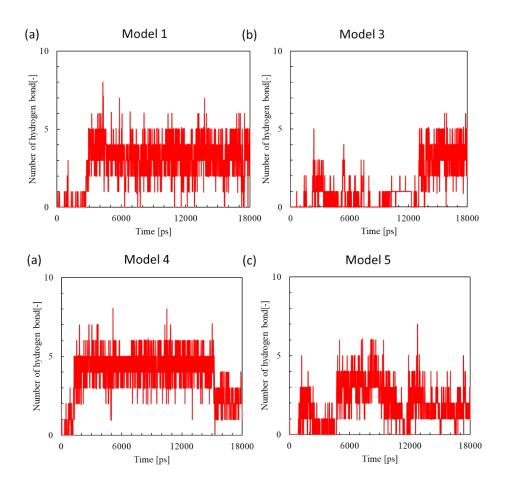


Figure S9. The relationship between time and the number of hydrogen bond between the membrane and the foulant (a) Model 1, (b) Model 3, (c) Model 4, (d) Model 5.

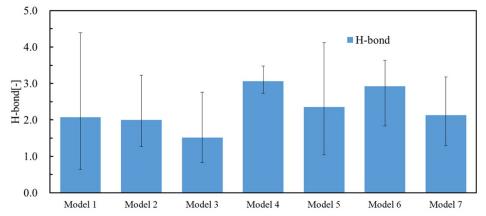


Figure S10. The average number of hydrogen bond for each model.

2. Membrane properties and performance

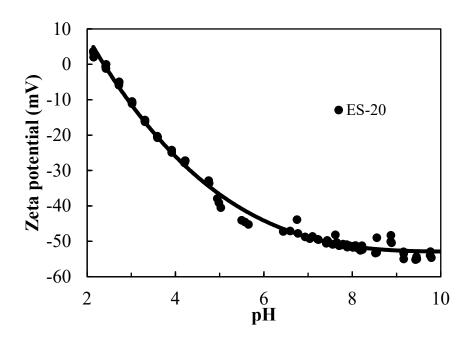


Figure S11. pH dependence of zeta potential of ES-20.

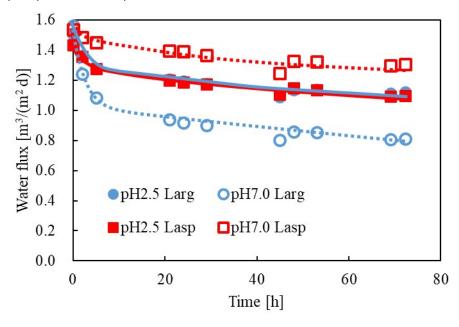


Figure S12. Changes in water flux for Larg and Lasp in ES-20 membranes with time.