

Table of contents

1 Thesis outline and Objectives	9
1.1. Thesis outline.....	9
1.2. Objectives	11
2 Summary/Resumen/Resum	15
2.1. Summary.....	15
2.2. Resumen.....	16
2.3. Resum	17
3 Introduction.....	21
3.1. Energy Context	21
3.2. Sustainable Chemistry and Process Intensification	23
3.3. Synthetic and alternative fuels	26
3.3.1. Natural gas	26
3.3.2. Hydrogen	30
3.3.2.1. Hydrogen production	30
3.3.2.2. Hydrogen uses	32
3.3.3. Synthetic fuels from Fischer-Tropsch synthesis	33
3.4. Membrane Technology and Reactors	36
3.4.1. Catalytic membrane reactors.....	38
3.4.2. Microreactors	40
3.4.3. H ₂ separation membranes	41
3.4.4. H ₂ O separation membranes	43
3.5. Membrane transport mechanisms.....	44
3.5.1. Pore-flow model.....	45
3.5.2. Solution-Diffusion model.....	46
3.5.3. Inorganic membranes	52
3.5.3.1. Zeolite membranes.....	52
3.5.3.2. Ceramic membranes	55
3.5.3.3. Metallic membranes	57

3.5.4.	Organic membranes: Polymer membranes	64
3.5.4.1.	Diffusion coefficient	66
3.5.4.2.	Solubility coefficient	70
3.6.	References.....	73
4	Methodology.....	83
4.1.	Material Synthesis.....	83
4.1.1.	Polymer materials	83
4.1.2.	Co-precipitation.....	85
4.1.3.	Catalyst.....	85
4.1.3.1.	Fischer-Tropsch reaction.....	85
4.1.3.2.	Methanation reaction	86
4.1.3.3.	Catalyst manufacturing process	87
4.2.	Membrane manufacture	87
4.2.1.	Polymer membranes.....	87
4.2.1.1.	Support material	87
4.2.1.2.	Coating process.....	90
4.2.1.3.	Inorganic fillers for Mixed Matrix Membranes (MMMs)	92
4.2.2.	Palladium membranes	94
4.2.2.1.	Sputtering coating.....	95
4.3.	Characterization techniques.....	95
4.3.1.	X-Ray diffraction (XRD)	95
4.3.2.	Rheology.....	97
4.3.3.	Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)	98
4.3.3.1.	Field emission scanning electron microscopy (FESEM)	99
4.3.3.2.	Focused Ion Beam (FIB)	100
4.3.4.	Thermal analysis methods.....	100
4.3.4.1.	Temperature-programmed reduction (TPR).....	100
4.3.4.2.	Thermogravimetric analysis (TGA).....	101
4.3.4.3.	Differential Scanning Calorimetry (DSC).....	101
4.3.5.	Gel Permeation Chromatography (GPC).....	102
4.3.6.	Gas chromatography (GC).....	102
4.4.	Permeation Modules	103
4.4.1.	Single gas permeances test	103
4.4.1.1.	Pressure Increase equipment	103

4.4.1.2.	Time-lag equipment.....	106
4.4.2.	Polymeric membrane module	106
4.4.3.	Palladium membrane module	108
4.4.4.	Fischer-Tropsch reaction module	110
4.4.5.	Methanation reaction module	111
4.5.	References.....	116

5 Development of composite ceramic-polymer membranes

121

5.1.	Introduction	121
5.2.	Results and discussion	122
5.2.1.	Fundamental characterization	122
5.2.2.	Viscosity study	124
5.2.3.	Membrane formation.....	129
5.2.4.	Microscopy analysis.....	131
5.2.5.	Permeation study	134
5.2.6.	High temperature permeation study	139
5.3.	Conclusions	143
5.4.	References.....	144

6 Polymer membranes for high temperature applications

149

6.1.	Introduction	149
6.2.	Results and discussion	150
6.2.1.	Composite Ceramic-Polymer Membranes	150
6.2.1.1.	Support material	150
6.2.1.2.	Membrane formation	151
6.2.1.3.	Gas transport properties.....	155
6.2.2.	Composite Polymer-Polymer Membranes/TFCMs	159
6.2.2.1.	Support material	159
6.2.2.1.	Membrane formation	160
6.2.2.2.	Gas transport properties.....	163
6.3.	Conclusions	167
6.4.	References.....	169

7 Mixed Matrix Membranes for high temperature applications	173
7.1. Introduction	173
7.2. Results and discussion	174
7.2.1. MMMs as Thick Films	174
7.2.1.1. Membrane formation	174
7.2.1.2. Thermal properties	176
7.2.1.3. Microstructural characterization	178
7.2.1.4. Gas transport properties	181
7.2.2. MMMs as TFCMs	191
7.2.2.1. Support material	191
7.2.2.1. Membrane formation	191
7.2.2.2. Microstructural characterization	191
7.2.2.3. Gas transport properties	192
7.3. Conclusions	196
7.4. References	198
8 Catalytic Membrane Reactor for CO₂ Methanation	203
8.1. Introduction	203
8.2. Results and discussion	204
8.2.1. Methanation catalyst	204
8.2.2. Membrane characterization	207
8.2.3. Catalytic membrane reactor	209
8.2.3.1. Reactor manufacture	209
8.2.3.2. Catalytic performance and water extraction	212
8.3. Conclusions	218
8.4. References	219
9 Use of Pd-based membrane under Fischer-Tropsch reaction conditions	223
9.1. Introduction	223
9.2. Results and discussion	224
9.2.1. Gas transport properties	224

9.2.1.1.	Pd-based membrane and N ₂ as sweep gas	224
9.2.1.2.	Pd-based membrane and syngas as sweep gas	226
9.2.1.3.	Pd-based membrane with a Cu protective layer and syngas as sweep gas	229
9.2.2.	Microstructural characterization	233
9.2.3.	Fischer-Tropsch reaction	235
9.3.	Conclusions	239
9.4.	References.....	241
10	General remarks and Conclusions.....	245
11	Acronyms, abbreviations and symbols	251
12	Figures list.....	257
13	Tables list	265
14	Scientific contribution	269