

1 Open and FAIR data for nanofiltration in organic media: A unified approach

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21 Abstract

22 Organic solvent nanofiltration (OSN), also called solvent-resistant nanofiltration (SRNF), has
23 emerged as a promising technology for the removal of impurities, recovery of solutes, and the
24 regeneration of solvents in various industries, such as the pharmaceutical and the
25 (petro)chemical industries. Despite the widespread use of OSN/SRNF, the presence of scattered,
26 non-standardized data, and the absence of openly accessible data pose critical challenges to the
27 development of new membrane materials and processes, their comparison to the state-of-the-
28 art materials, and their fundamental understanding. To overcome these hurdles, data from peer-
29 reviewed research articles and commercial datasheets were curated via a standardized
30 procedure to obtain an extensive dataset on the membrane materials, synthesis parameters,
31 operational conditions, physicochemical properties, and performance of OSN/SRNF membranes.
32 Thanks to a truly impressive joint effort of the OSN/SRNF community, the dataset contains, as
33 per April 2024, 5157 entries from 294 publications for 42 solvents under several process
34 parameters. This findable, accessible, interoperable, reproducible, and open (FAIR/O) dataset is
35 available on both the OSN Database and the newly inaugurated Open Membrane Database for
36 SRNF (OMD4SRNF). These databases provide multiple visualization and data exploration tools.
37 Here, the standardized procedure applied to curate the data and the functionality of the

38 databases are outlined, as well as the online user interface to deposit new data by external users
39 on the OMD4SRNF. This community-led project has been supported by all the co-authors of this
40 work. Most importantly, they additionally agreed to systematically deposit their future peer-
41 reviewed data on OSN/SRNF into the databases. We thereby pave the road for FAIR/O data in
42 the field of OSN/SRNF to increase transparency, enable more accurate data analysis, and foster
43 collaboration and innovation.

44 **Keywords**

45 Big data, OSN Database, Open Membrane Database, OMD4SRNF, organic solvent nanofiltration,
46 solvent-resistant nanofiltration

47

48 **Highlights**

49 • New FAIR/O dataset on OSN/SRNF membranes, with 5157 datapoints (as per April 2024),
50 containing synthesis parameters, operational conditions and membrane performance
51 metrics

52 • A data standardization protocol is proposed, following FAIR/O data practices, to allow
53 more accurate data comparison within the membrane community and beyond

54 • Inauguration of the Open Membrane Database for SRNF, called 'OMD4SRNF', that
55 includes a tool to submit data by external users

56 • Comprehensive data visualization and exploration tools available on the OSN Database
57 and the OMD4SRNF

58 • Community-led commitment to share future data on both the OSN Database and the

59 OMD4SRNF

60

61 1 Introduction

62 The urgent societal and environmental challenges the world is facing require an equally urgent
63 acceleration of solutions provided by, amongst others, research and technology. It is crucial to
64 tackle the most pressing challenges, such as providing affordable energy and clean water, as
65 highlighted by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals [1]. Membrane technology has
66 been proposed as a potential candidate to help reach these goals thanks to their high energy-
67 efficiency, modularity, compactness, absence of waste creation, and ease of operation,
68 compared to conventional separation techniques [2].

69 Membrane technology offers an alternative for energy- and solvent-intensive separations, such
70 as distillation, extraction, and chromatography [3]. It is already extensively used in desalination
71 [4], (waste)water treatment [5], and gas separations [6], among others, and is expected to play a
72 major role in future energy conversion and storage devices [7]. Different types of membrane
73 technologies exist, of which nanofiltration (NF) is of particular interest to reject molecules smaller
74 than 1000 g mol^{-1} , such as dyes and micropollutants, down to divalent ions from contaminated
75 water streams [8]. When NF membranes are used to treat organic media, the technology is called
76 organic solvent nanofiltration (OSN) or solvent-resistant NF (SRNF) [2, 9]. When small organic
77 molecules of similar size (usually less than 200 g mol^{-1}) need to be separated, organic solvent
78 reverse osmosis (OSRO) membranes can be used [10, 11]. OSN/SRNF and OSRO are receiving
79 increased attention in academia and in pharmaceutical, fine chemical, and oil industries, but their
80 progress and understanding is significantly hindered by, amongst others, the data management
81 practices in place [12, 13]. Although effort has been directed towards standardizing and

82 optimizing the reporting and measurement practices for OSN/SRNF applications [14], the
83 membrane synthesis and performance data currently present in literature is often scattered,
84 non-standardized, and blocked behind paywalls. These practices endanger accurate data
85 comparison, and hamper the development and understanding of new membrane materials and
86 processes [12].

87 The recent advances in computational power and digital storage efficiency have enabled the
88 (partial) digitalization of industrial, commercial, and research sectors. This digital transformation
89 has given rise to repositories and large databases that allow researchers to share and analyze
90 information [15]. When the data is additionally made findable, accessible, interoperable,
91 reusable, and open (FAIR/O), machine-actionability, verification, replication, and reuse of data is
92 facilitated [16]. Databases, either generic or domain-specific, play a critical role in developing
93 better theoretical models, identifying suitable materials for specific applications, and answering
94 key research questions [17].

95 While many research fields have already created and adopted large repositories in the 60s and
96 70s, such as the Protein Data Bank [18], the development of membrane-focused datasets and
97 databases has only recently begun. Existing databases, such as PolyInfo [19], the Polymer
98 Genome Project [20], the Cambridge Structural Database [21] and the Database of Zeolite
99 Structures [22], provide information about organic and inorganic materials, but have a limited
100 connection to membranes. In 2012, the first synthetic membrane-related database, the Polymer
101 Gas Separation Membrane Database, was established, but it has not been maintained since 2018
102 [23]. Recently, a small open access dataset on the upper-bound for OSRO was revealed [24]. The

103 first two large databases that focus on liquid separations with membranes are the OSN Database
104 [25] and the Open Membrane Database (OMD) [26], both established in 2021.

105 The OSN Database is a free, open access database focusing specifically on OSN/SRNF applications
106 and currently hosts more than 6000 entries with more than 250 000 manually curated or
107 calculated features on solute, membrane, solvent and process parameters [27]. Besides
108 providing freely available data and various data visualization options, the OSN Database also
109 allows machine learning [28] and contains enantiomer separation and solute rejection prediction
110 tools [29]. The OSN Database currently hosts performance data from commercial and custom-
111 made membranes from literature.

112 The OMD is a free, crowd-sourced, and open-access platform containing FAIR/O data on
113 membrane performance and physicochemical properties, as well as several membrane
114 performance calculators and unit converters [30]. As the initial OMD only contained data on RO
115 desalination membranes, it was coined 'OMD4RO' [26]. The data in the OMD is sourced from
116 peer-reviewed journals, patents, and commercial product datasheets, and can be explored via
117 different visualization tools. The data can also be exported as a text file for further processing.
118 Importantly, the OMD contains an online submission tool that enables users to upload their peer-
119 reviewed data so that the database is up to date with the newest scientific findings.

120 A new, large dataset containing the initial OSN data from the OSN Database expanded with a new
121 dataset from literature is now revealed. The applied data sourcing, curation, and standardization
122 procedures to obtain this dataset are outlined. The so-called OMD4SRNF, the sister database of
123 the OMD4RO, is hereby inaugurated and contains an online tool for submission of peer-reviewed
124 data by external users. The datasets will be shared between the OSN Database and OMD4SRNF,

125 and both databases will be maintained and kept open access. The data standardization proposed
126 herein follows FAIR data practices to allow more accurate data comparison and meta-analyses
127 within the membrane community and beyond. As all co-authors have committed to deposit their
128 peer-reviewed data of subsequent related research into both databases, the sustainable
129 digitalization of the OSN/SRNF field via FAIR/O data is ensured, together with the sincere hope
130 that every researcher in the field will contribute their data as well.

131 **2 Data sourcing and curation**

132 ***2.1 General constraints***

133 The OSN Database and the OMD4SRNF focus on mainly NF membrane performance, membrane
134 materials, synthesis parameters, and operational testing conditions in organic media. In
135 procuring data from literature, certain guidelines were followed to safeguard the scope of the
136 new dataset and respect the intellectual integrity of the reports.

137 First, only NF membranes tested in organic media are included with a molecular weight cut-off
138 (MWCO) value set between $200 - 1000 \text{ g mol}^{-1}$ as the main demarcation criterion [2]. However,
139 some membranes with a MWCO outside of this range are also included, provided that they are
140 part of a series of which at least one membrane possesses a MWCO inside the set range, either
141 within a series of synthesis parameters that were screened, or in at least one solvent or with one
142 solute. These exceptions are made to enable larger meta-analyses in the future. In addition,
143 largely all data available in literature regarding the separation of binary mixtures (mostly based
144 on toluene/ 1,3,5-triisopropylbenzene), which falls in the OSRO regime, have also been included.

145 However, since OSRO typically focuses on the separation of different solvents or other small
146 molecules (instead of solvent/solute separation more typical of OSN/SRNF), incorporation of
147 more OSRO data into the OMD4SRNF will be addressed in a future database. Furthermore, in
148 some OSRO applications there is no clear distinction between solvent/solute, thus many OSRO
149 membranes are characterized using a separation factor or C_p/C_r (concentration in permeate/
150 concentration in retentate) ratio, rather than with a rejection value. Multicomponent or non-
151 binary OSRO separations data will be therefore addressed in future versions of the database.

152 Second, all membrane types (*i.e.*, thin-film composite (TFC), thin-film nanocomposite (TFN),
153 integrally skinned asymmetric (ISA), dense, commercial, and inorganic) are included in the
154 dataset. Third, only filtrations performed with solutes in either pure solvents or binary solvent
155 mixtures are incorporated. Membranes tested exclusively in water and water-solvent mixtures
156 are not included at this point to distinguish from aqueous NF and solvent-tolerant NF [31],
157 respectively. These fields are considered separate domains with their own set of challenges and
158 optimization requirements, therefore requiring a separate database. However, aqueous
159 filtrations were included in the database if the same membrane was also tested in organic media.

160 To enable a better understanding of the membrane synthesis–structure–performance
161 relationships of OSN/SRNF membranes, detailed information on the membrane material,
162 structure, physicochemical properties, synthesis parameters, testing conditions, and membrane
163 performance is also collected. Overall, the aim is to strike a balance between the number of
164 collected parameters, the associated workload, and the database power, while sustaining
165 sufficient future submissions of novel data. The full list of the documented parameters is
166 presented in the Supporting Information. A more detailed ‘readme’ file, aimed at guiding users

167 through the data submission process, is available [online](#) and in the Supplementary Information.
168 Below, a general overview of the collected parameters and the rationale behind the selection are
169 given in more detail. Note that, despite our sustained effort to avoid erroneous data from
170 entering the databases, some errors might be present. Any suspicious datapoints can be flagged
171 by external users on the OMD4SRNF, resulting in temporarily removal from the dataset. The
172 founding team will then review these datapoints and resolve or permanently remove them.

173 **2.2 *Collected membrane parameters***

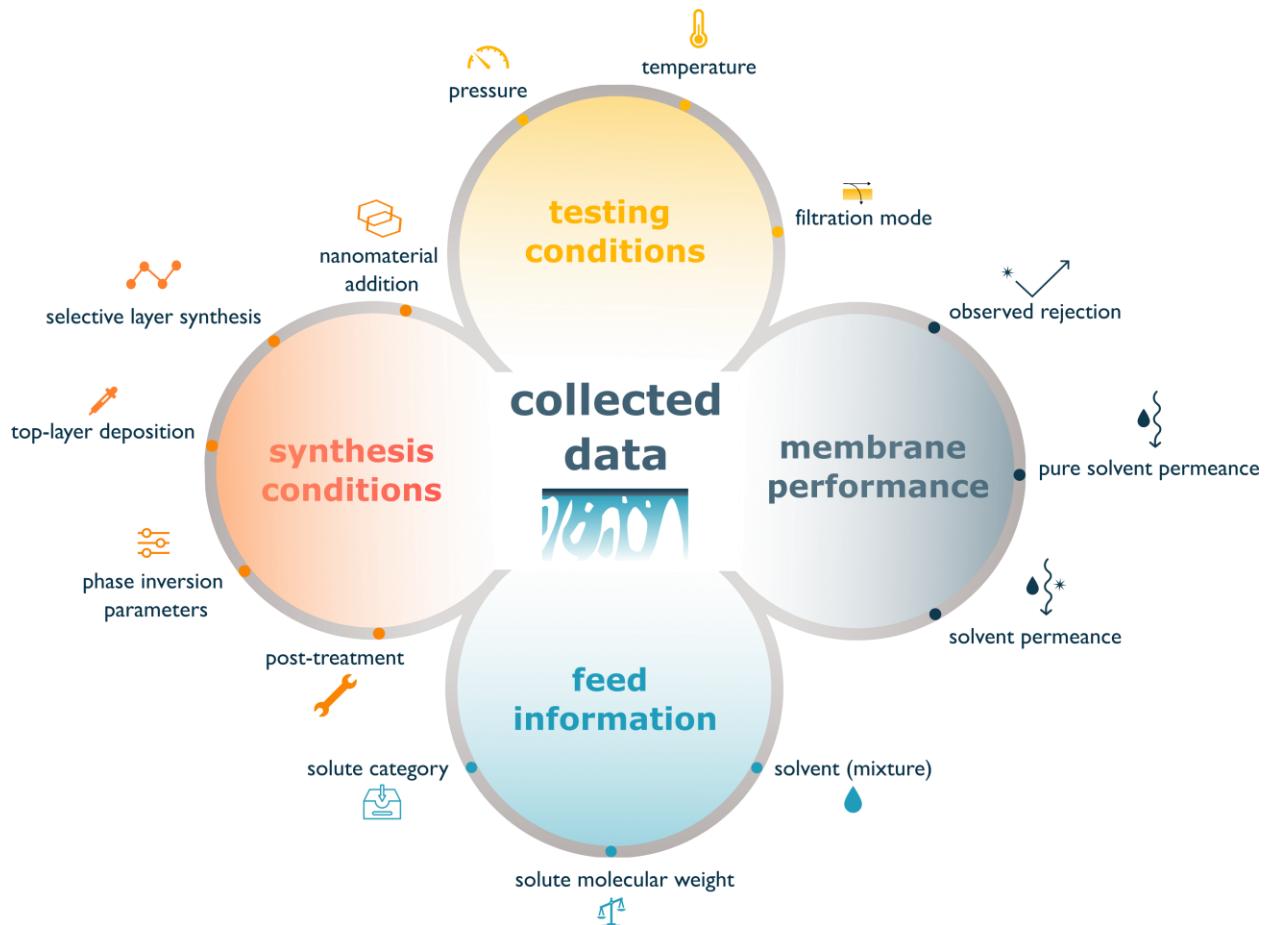
174 The membrane parameters that are collected for this dataset include the membrane material
175 and structure, the synthesis method, and the modifications applied during and after synthesis,
176 similar to the OMD4RO [26]. Membrane physicochemical properties, such as thickness, water
177 contact angle, and roughness, are optionally included as well.

178 Six common membrane categories are considered: ISA, TFC, TFN, inorganic (single-material or
179 composite), and free-standing (*i.e.*, dense, backing-free) materials, and are defined as follows
180 [32]. ISA membranes possess a dense skin supported by a porous substructure, prepared from a
181 single composition via phase inversion (alternatively called phase separation) [33]. TFC
182 membranes consist of a thin, selective layer (either fully organic or fully inorganic) on top of a
183 more open support, typically an ultrafiltration or microfiltration membrane [34]. TFN membranes
184 are structurally similar to TFC membranes but contain a nanomaterial (*e.g.*, metal organic
185 frameworks (MOFs), zeolites, graphene oxide) embedded in the selective layer [35]. For the
186 purpose of this work, the presence of nanomaterials in the top layer is required to qualify as a
187 TFN membrane. Nanomaterials present in other membrane parts are regarded as a modification

188 strategy instead. Inorganic membranes are mainly comprised of an inorganic material, such as
189 ceramics [36], and are subdivided here based on their structure. Single-material inorganic
190 membranes are comprised of a single inorganic material, while inorganic composite membranes
191 consist of a thin layer of an inorganic material, deposited on top of an inorganic support of a
192 different composition. Lastly, dense, free-standing membranes, were also considered. Although
193 not used in the industrial practice, these membranes are of crucial importance to understand
194 fundamental transport aspects and develop structure-property correlations needed to design
195 membranes and processes exhibiting enhanced permeability, rejection, and long-term durability
196 [37, 38]. Note that for certain membrane preparation methods, appointing a membrane category
197 is ambiguous *e.g.*, a selective layer grafted onto an ISA membrane. For ambiguous cases, the
198 classification presented in the source material is preferentially followed. Alternatively, a
199 membrane classification guide is also available in the ‘readme’ file.

200 A set of synthesis parameters was collected depending on the used membrane synthesis method,
201 including phase inversion and interfacial polymerization (IP) (**Figure 1**). Although the phase
202 inversion process is known to be very sensitive to a plethora of parameters [32, 33], not all
203 synthesis conditions are always reported by default in literature [14]. Therefore, a careful
204 selection of relevant synthesis parameters was made, including polymer chemistry, polymer
205 concentration and solvent (mixture) of the dope solution, non-solvent (mixture), additive nature
206 and concentration, and casting thickness. For inorganic membranes, only the chemistry was
207 included. For membranes derived from IP, information on the aqueous and organic phase, and
208 the monomer nature and concentration were collected. This is to, among other objectives,
209 further guide the efforts directed towards the synthesis of top layers to achieve a better

210 performance than obtainable with conventional polyamide-based top layers. The monomers and
211 additives were specified via their simplified molecular-input line-entry specification (SMILES)
212 string (Supporting Information). Next to IP, other thin-film deposition methods like spin coating,
213 dip coating, grafting, spray coating, kiss coating, layer-by-layer deposition, electrospray coating,
214 casting, pressurized filtration, and vacuum filtration were documented as well. Additional
215 parameters that are collected for TFN membranes were the embedded nanomaterial name, its
216 concentration and position during synthesis (*i.e.*, its dispersion either in the water phase or in the
217 organic one when using IP). For TFC and TFN membranes, support layer parameters are collected
218 as well, according to their support structure (*i.e.*, ISA, inorganic, fibrous or commercial).
219 Irrespective of the membrane structure, information on the membrane post-treatment
220 strategies, including the SMILES string of the chemical agents and their concentration, was also
221 documented.



222

223 **Figure 1.** Overview of the different categories for which data was collected as input for the dataset. The main categories are
 224 synthesis conditions, feed information, testing conditions, and membrane performance. The most important parameters per
 225 category are also shown.

226 2.3 *Collected testing parameters*

227 Other membrane applications, like RO or gas separations, are defined by a limited set of relevant
 228 feed compositions, allowing the compilation of trade-off plots and the accompanying upper
 229 bound relationship for membrane performance, of which both fields have greatly benefitted [26,
 230 39, 40]. Such convenient benchmarking tools have thus far been absent for the field of OSN/SRNF
 231 due to the quasi-infinite variety of used solute(s) and solvent(s), and the complexity of the
 232 resulting solute–solvent–membrane interactions. This complex interplay hinders direct
 233 comparison of membrane performance between different solvents, membrane chemistries,

234 different solutes of similar MW, and even between different operational conditions (*i.e.*, solute
235 concentration, temperature, transmembrane membrane pressure, detection methods) [14, 41].
236 In an attempt to enable more accurate membrane comparison, detailed information on the
237 membrane testing conditions was collected. Parameters related to the membrane rejection for
238 a specific solute (mixture) used in the feed solution include the solute concentration, MW and
239 category, as defined in reference [41]. Solute structures were represented by their unique SMILES
240 string, which is the default database representation for molecular structural data. SMILES also
241 allows to calculate various molecular properties using software packages like Mordred and RDKit
242 Python packages, as currently done in the OSN Database [28]. Several molecular descriptors and
243 physicochemical properties related to the solute and solvent of interest are also available on the
244 OMD4SRNF (Supporting Information). These descriptors, such as molar volume and dipole
245 moment, were included to help better understand certain observations, but are by no means
246 meant to be exhaustive. Next to solute information, data on other important experimental
247 conditions, such as filtration mode (*i.e.*, cross-flow and dead-end), temperature, transmembrane
248 pressure, and the nature of the solvent (mixture) were also collected.

249 **2.4 Collected membrane performance parameters**

250 To characterize membrane performance, observed solute rejection (R_{obs} , further denoted as R ,
251 **Eq. S1**), pure solvent permeance (*i.e.*, measured in the absence of solutes), solvent permeance
252 (*i.e.*, measured in the presence of solutes), and MWCO values were collected, only if explicitly
253 reported in the source material (**Eq. S2**). Note that R_{obs} can differ from the real solute rejection,
254 R_{real} , due to concentration polarization and fouling. However, due to the limited availability of

255 R_{real} in the literature, only R_{obs} is documented. Despite recognizing the potential significance of
256 fouling in some OSN/SRNF applications, no parameters related to these phenomena are collected
257 at this point due to the very limited number of available studies [42-44].

258 **3 Database content and functionalities**

259 **3.1 Database content**

260 The OSN Database and the OMD4SRNF are continuously growing databases, with the data on
261 both platforms being coupled. Both will remain separately accessible free of charge to exploit the
262 data via the different tools that exist on each platform. The OSN Database hosts existing datasets
263 (*i.e.*, Datasets 1–4) [25, 45-47], and an entirely new dataset (*i.e.*, Dataset 5) curated for the
264 purpose of this work and for the inauguration of the OMD4SRNF (**Table 1**). Now all 5 datasets are
265 available on both databases. Dataset 5 consists of 294 peer-reviewed articles, published between
266 1999 and 2024, and compiled from a literature search across 7 search engines (Supporting
267 Information, **Table S1**). Some additional peer-reviewed manuscripts that fulfill the general
268 dataset requirements but that were not found through the literature search, were provided by
269 the authors and were also incorporated. The datasets on the OSN Database and the OMD4SRNF
270 fall under a CC-BY-4.0 and a CC BY-NC-4.0 license, respectively.

271 **Table 1.** Information on the different datasets hosted by the OSN Database and the OMD4SRNF. A datapoint is one
272 individual value either collected from literature, or calculated from literature data (*e.g.*, solute MW calculation from
273 solute structure, permeance calculated from pressure and flux). A dataset is a compilation of several entries. A
274 database is a collection of datasets. Dataset 5 is based on available data as per April 2024.

Database	Dataset	Membrane types	Nr° of datapoints	Membrane chemical structure	Launch year	Ref.
OSN Database	Dataset 1	Commercial	44 342	No	2021	[47]

	Dataset 2	Commercial	2 840	Yes	2022	[25]
	Dataset 3	Commercial	9 336	Yes	2023	[46]
	Dataset 4	Commercial, tailor-made ISA	15 504	Yes	2023	[45]
	Total (1-4)	Commercial, tailor-made ISA	72 022	Partial	2021– 2023	[27]
OMD4SRNF & OSN Database	Dataset 5	Commercial, tailor-made TFC, tailor-made ISA	5 157	Yes	2024	This work
	Total (1-5)	Commercial, tailor-made ISA, tailor-made TFC	149 201	Yes	2024	This work

275

276 **3.2 *Online submission tool & database maintenance***

277 The OMD4SRNF contains an [online submission tool](#) that allows external users to deposit their
 278 peer-reviewed data in the database in a step-by-step fashion, and free of charge. The required
 279 input follows the same structure as outlined above, with a distinction made between mandatory
 280 and optional fields. Only submissions possessing a valid DOI that are published in a peer-reviewed
 281 journal are eligible for submission to the OMD4SRNF [26]. All data deposited by external users is
 282 checked for any errors by the OMD4SRNF team and then published on both the OMD4SRNF and
 283 the OSN Database. Additionally, a GitHub mirror repository of the dataset and the code base is
 284 available as an open-access backup.

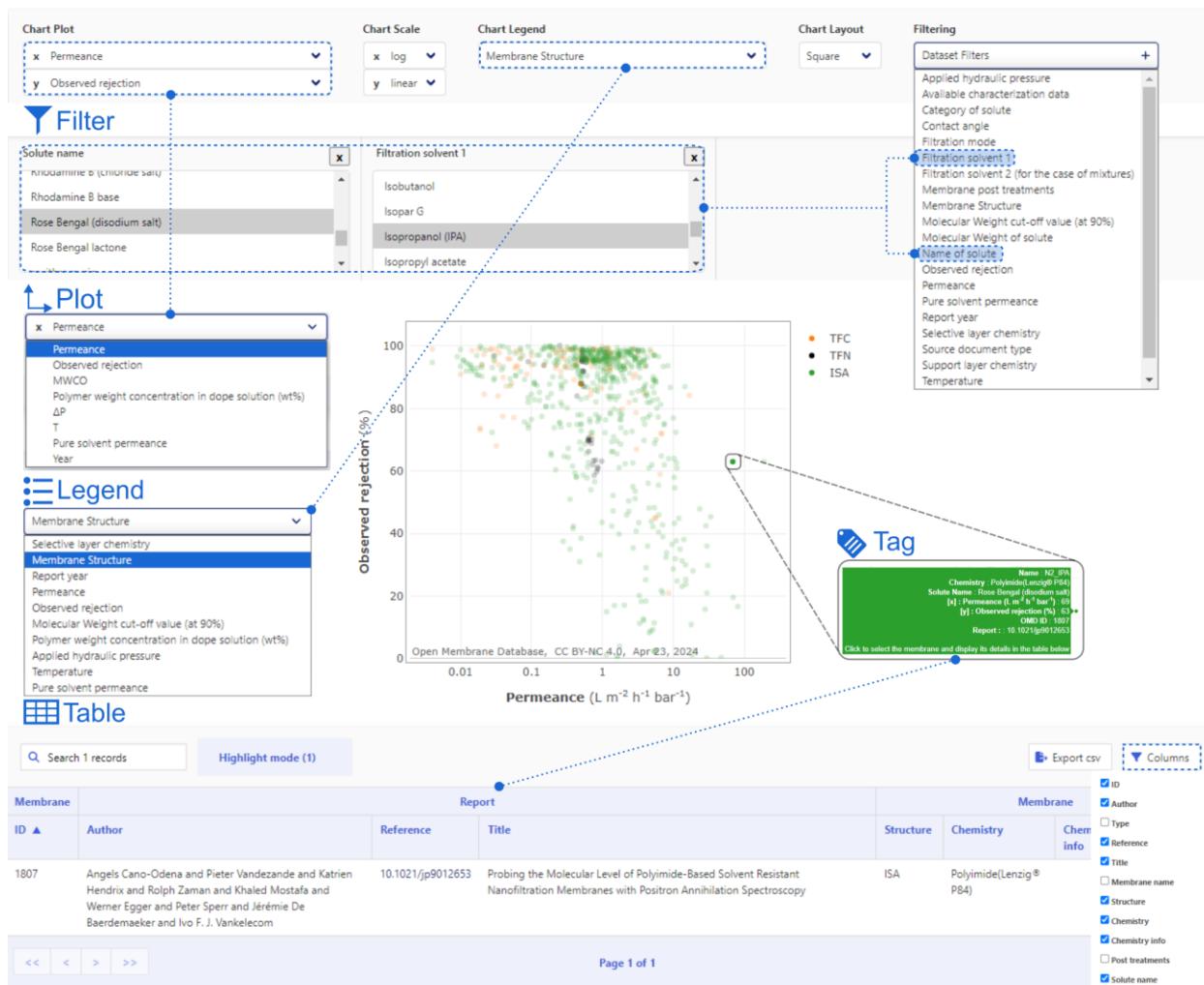
285 The sustainability of the OMD is currently directly dependent on the involvement of the
 286 membrane community by uploading their data. While the commitment of all co-authors to supply
 287 their future work is a step in the right direction, on-boarding the entire field of OSN/SRNF will
 288 require a shift in the academic structures in place so that contributing to the common good
 289 through, amongst others, FAIR/O data management is supported and domain-specific databases
 290 are valued [17, 48]. Several concrete actions are currently undertaken to advocate for and

291 accelerate this shift to ultimately ensure database sustainability. While the maintenance of the
292 OMD and the OSN Database is currently ensured by the founding teams of the respective
293 databases, an international call for so-called OMD ambassadors will be launched to further
294 involve the field. These ambassadors will be asked to encourage data supply and revise uploaded
295 data, similar to associate editors of journals. In addition, the OMD is advocating to partner up
296 with journals related to membrane technology, as they have the leverage to enforce data
297 publication in an open repository. The OMD can then be populated from such a repository by
298 data discovery tools, ensuring the longevity of the OMD. Lastly, sustained involvement of the
299 membrane societies would also be befitting as the aim of the OMD is to become a database-hub
300 for the entire field of membrane technology. Action is currently being undertaken to include
301 more detailed synthesis information on ceramic membranes and hollow fiber membranes, and
302 to expand the OMD from RO and OSN/SRNF to, amongst others, gas separation and ion-exchange
303 membranes.

304 3.3 *Data processing interface*

305 Dataset 1-5 can be explored on the OMD website through an interactive chart featuring various
306 search functionalities (**Figure 2**). Users can manipulate the chart layout to compare membrane
307 properties, synthesis parameters, filtration conditions, and membrane performances. The x and
308 y axes (in log-normal or linear scale) can be freely selected from a range of numerical properties
309 (e.g., (pure) solvent permeance, R_{obs} , MWCO, polymer concentration in dope solution, filtration
310 pressure and temperature, report year). The legend display can be altered between a selection
311 of quantitative (e.g., report year, (pure) solvent permeance, R_{obs}) and non-quantitative (i.e.,

312 selective layer chemistry and membrane structure) properties. At the time of writing, 21 different
313 filter types can be applied simultaneously to narrow down the displayed data, allowing facile data
314 analysis. Numerical filters (*e.g.*, solute MW) allow specification of a minimum-maximum value
315 range, while non-numerical filters (*e.g.*, filtration mode) permit selection of the desired value
316 from a list. Highlighting individual datapoints prompts a pop-up tag to display, where applicable,
317 the datapoint name, the membrane chemistry, solute name, database ID, digital object identifier
318 (DOI) of the source document, and the x and y coordinates. Alternatively, lasso or rectangle
319 selection tools allow highlighting multiple datapoints at once. All selected points are tabulated at
320 the bottom of the page together with additional information that can be selected by the users
321 via the displayed columns. The database plot and the data table can be exported as an image
322 (.png) and a data file (.csv), respectively. Note that the displayed or exported information can
323 potentially consist of a smaller number of datapoints compared to the entire dataset, as not all
324 collected parameters are always disclosed in the source material nor are they applicable to all
325 membrane categories.



326

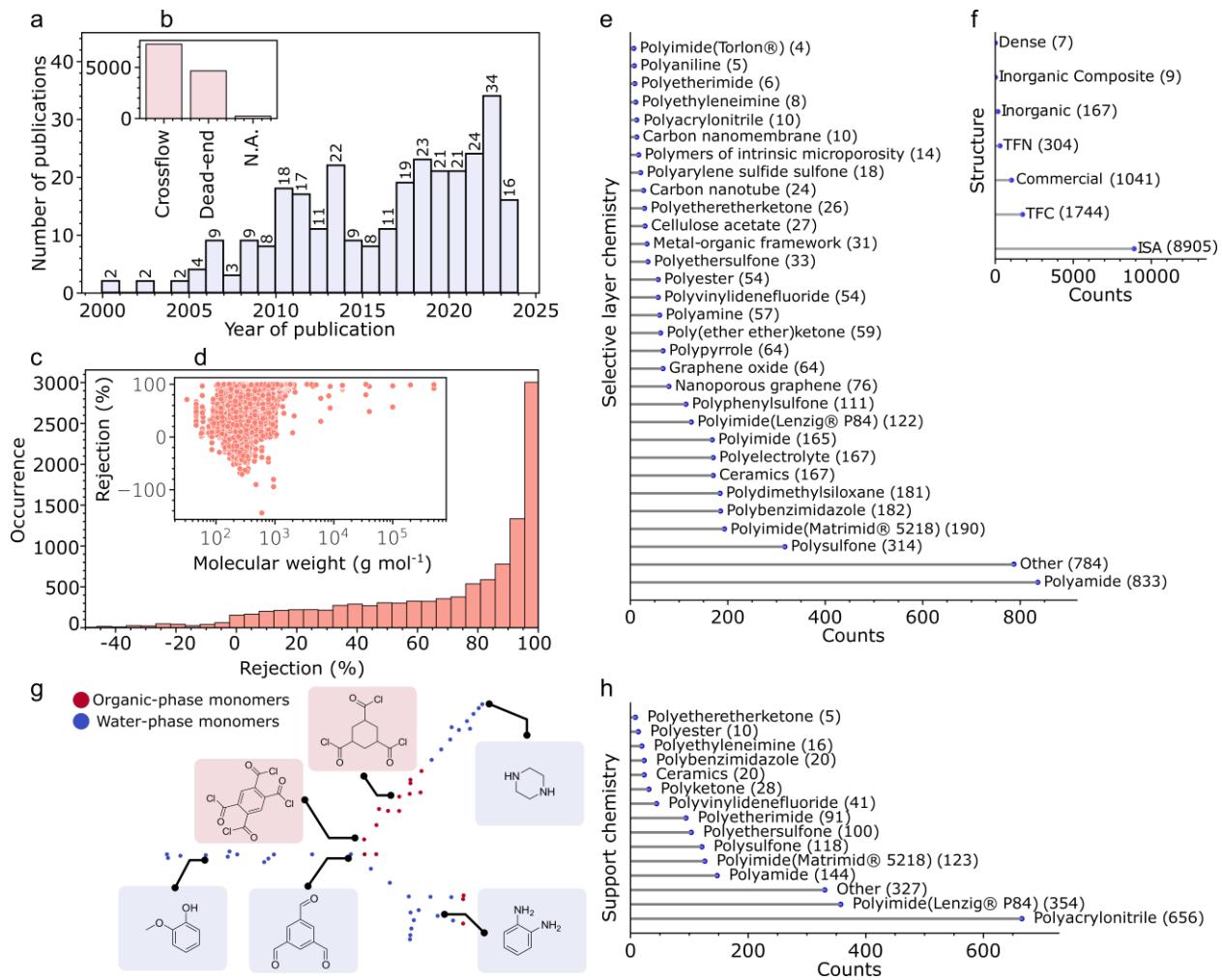
327 **Figure 2.** Visual representation of the user interface for data exploration on the Open Membrane Database (OMD). Different
 328 fields used for chart manipulation, filtering, and data retrieval are highlighted. 'Plot' and 'Legend' fields are used to manipulate
 329 the chart layout. Data can be extensively filtered using the 'Filter' fields. Selecting a datapoint from the chart will prompt a pop-
 330 up 'Tag' to display additional information. Selected datapoints are displayed in a filterable 'Table' at the bottom of the page,
 331 where different properties can be selected. The data table can be exported as a csv file. For illustration purposes, this image has
 332 been modified.

333 **3.4 Brief analysis of collected data**

334 As per April 2024, the newly compiled dataset (*i.e.*, Dataset 5, **Table 1**) contains data gathered
 335 from 294 publications from 2000 to 2024, adding up to 5157 datapoints (**Figure 3a**). A brief
 336 analysis of the dataset is given here to highlight some general observations about the field of
 337 OSN/SRNF and to spur the field to conduct more in-depth meta-analyses with *e.g.*, machine

338 learning tools. More than 7000 crossflow and 4500 dead-end filtration measurements are
339 included (**Figure 3b**), of which more than one third has a rejection value of > 90% (**Figure 3c**). The
340 dataset also consists of a wide range of solutes, as demonstrated by the high solute MW coverage
341 (**Figure 3d**), and a large set of chemistries, both for the active layer as well as for the support
342 layer (**Figure 3e,h**). Polyamides dominate the active layer chemistry while polyacrylonitrile is the
343 most common support chemistry. The most prevalent membrane structure in the dataset is ISA,
344 followed by TFC and commercial membranes (**Figure 3f**). By showcasing the monomers used
345 during IP for the synthesis of TFC membranes in a tree manifold approximation and projection
346 (TMAP) plot, the molecular structural similarity of the used monomers is discernible (**Figure 3g**).
347 The mostly used monomers are depicted as well. The diverse and comprehensive dataset opens
348 up the possibilities for future data exploration and analysis to achieve a better understanding of
349 membrane synthesis-structure-performance relationships and to accelerate the development of
350 novel membrane materials. The filtration data can also be used to design filtration systems for
351 specific separations, for example by using the Open Membrane System Design Tool [49] or
352 PROSYN® Membranes [50].

353



354

Figure 3. High-level summary of dataset 5 curated for this work. **a)** The number of publications over the years (2000 – 2024) with their yearly count. **b)** The crossflow versus the dead-end filtration ratios. N.A. indicates that the information was not available in the source document. **c)** Rejection histogram. **d)** Rejection as a function of the molecular weight. **e)** Different membrane structure types and their occurrence. ‘Other’ indicates that the chemistry was not available in the predefined options and had to be specified by the user. **f)** Different membrane structures and their occurrence. **g)** TFC monomer types visualized on a TMAP diagram. Structurally similar monomers are closer to each other. **h)** Different support structures and their occurrence.

361 4 Conclusions

362 With this initiative, the OSN/SRNF community stands united and presents a data standardization
363 and sharing approach that enables the sustainable digitalization of the field. A new dataset was
364 curated, compiling 294 peer-reviewed articles ranging from 2000 – 2024, and is available on the
365 OSN Database, as well as on the newly inaugurated OMD4SRNF. Membrane synthesis
366 parameters (including the membrane material, structure, support and top layer chemistry,

367 monomers, solvents, additives, and modifications), testing conditions, and membrane
368 performance are documented in detail. This large and diverse dataset, consisting of more than
369 5157 datapoints, allows investigating the synthesis-structure-performance relationship of
370 OSN/SRNF membranes from a variety of angles, enabling *e.g.*, meta-analyses, machine
371 actionability, and statistical data interpretation. External users are encouraged to submit their
372 latest peer-reviewed data via the online submission tool available on the OMD4SRNF, which is
373 then directly linked to the OSN Database. The commitment of all authors to supply their future
374 work to the databases is already a significant acceleration in the direction of large and FAIR/O
375 data, which paves the road for increased understanding and innovation in the field of OSN/SRNF.

376 CRediT author statement

377 **SVB:** Conceptualization, Methodology, Validation, Investigation, Data Curation, Writing - Original
378 Draft, Writing - Review & Editing, Visualization, Supervision, Project administration. **GI:**
379 Conceptualization, Software, Writing - Original Draft, Writing - Review & Editing, Visualization.
380 **GZ:** Conceptualization, Resources, Writing - Review & Editing, Funding acquisition. **IVK:**
381 Conceptualization, Resources, Writing - Review & Editing, Funding acquisition, Project
382 administration. **RV:** Conceptualization, Methodology, Validation, Investigation, Data Curation,
383 Writing - Original Draft, Writing - Review & Editing, Visualization, Supervision, Project
384 administration. **All other co-authors:** Data Curation, Writing - Review & Editing

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398 **Declaration of competing interest**

399 The authors declare that they do not have competing financial interests.

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