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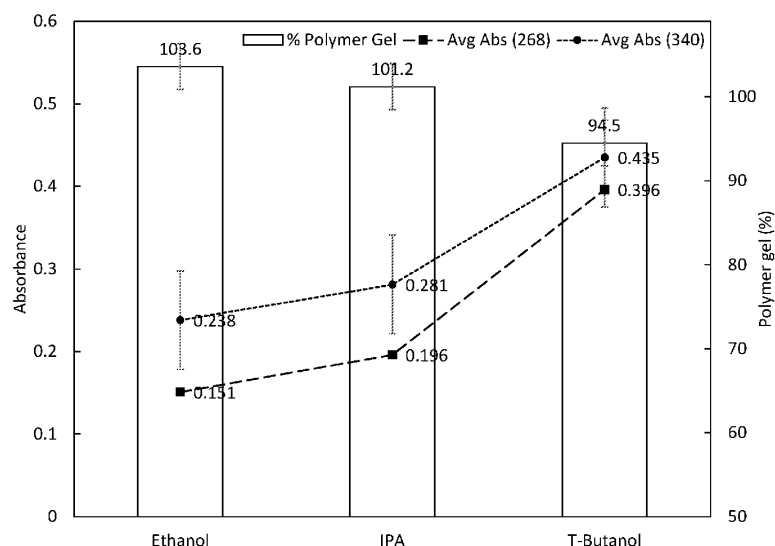
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Figure 1



(57) Abstract: There is provided a method of forming a cross-linked polymeric membrane, the method comprising: contacting a polymeric membrane with a cross-linking solution to form the cross-linked polymeric membrane, wherein the cross-linking solution comprises a cross-linker comprising at least one acyl halide functional group dissolved in a polar protic solvent. There is also provided a cross-linked polymeric membrane. In a preferred embodiment, hollow fiber polybenzimidazole (PBI) is crosslinked by trimesoyl chloride (TMC) or isophthaloyl chloride (IPC) in a solvent of ethanol or isopropyl alcohol (IPA).

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