



## Cibacron red dye removal in aqueous solution using Synthesized $\text{CuNiFe}_2\text{O}_5$ Nanocomposite: Thermodynamic and kinetic studies

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### Abstract

Dyes pollution is a major problem in the water, especially since the main factor is textile factories. The treatments for this problem through nanomaterials have taken a broad scope and many studies. In this study, ternary Novel metals oxide [ $\text{CuNiFe}_2\text{O}_5$ ] nanocomposite is successfully synthesized by Uv-irradiation presses with a maximum intensity wavelength at 365 nm. The nanocomposite was investigated by scanning and transmission electron microscopy measurements (SEM and TEM), and their crystal structure is obtained by the X-ray diffraction technique (XRD). The percentage of elements on the sample was determined by an Energy-dispersive X-ray spectroscopy (EDX) and X-ray mapping. The energy gap is equal to 2.48 eV calculated by photoluminescence spectroscopy (PL). Incorporating  $\text{CuNiFe}_2\text{O}_5$  NPs enhanced the uptake of Cibacron brilliant red dye (CBR). A faster CBR adsorption onto  $\text{CuNiFe}_2\text{O}_5$  nanocomposite at a contact time of 75 min. The Freundlich ( $R_2 > 0.9684$ ) and pseudo-second-order ( $R_2 > 0.9749$ ) models were most appropriate in the description of the adsorption process. A thermodynamic study was performed to calculate the  $\Delta G$ ,  $\Delta H$ , and  $\Delta S$  parameters of 1.415 kJ/mol, 7.63 J/mol K, and 20.8 J/mol. Finally, the novel synthesized nanocomposite is a good adsorbate surface for Cibacron brilliant red dye.

**Keywords:**  $\text{CuNiFe}_2\text{O}_5$  NPs, Cibacron brilliant red dye, UV-irradiation, adsorption.

### 1. Introduction

One of the biggest problems that a person faces in the current era is environmental pollution, the danger of which increases through various human activities, as it was found that environmental pollution has a close relationship with the population expansion in the world. [1] Water is one of the essential elements in sustaining life. Freshwater resources have recently witnessed a significant deterioration due to technological progress [2], as thousands of chemical compounds are discharged daily, directly or indirectly, to water sources without any treatment [3]. Therefore, researchers' water pollution problem has received significant attention in the modern era [1]. Organic materials are an essential part of the components of industrial wastewater. Organic pollutants are of high risk in terms of their long-term impact, as some cause cancerous diseases [4]. Dyes are considered to be organic pollutants in aqueous systems, and they include all compounds used to color textiles, leather, food, and other materials, which may cause many risks to all elements of the environment as a result of their high toxicity, especially when they are present in high

concentrations [5]. Reports of the World Health Organization indicate that most of the diseases spread in developing countries are caused by contamination of drinking water. Therefore, several researchers have used several methods to treat industrial water [6,7]. Several ways have been used to treat and remove organic pollutants in industrial water. Among them are chemical oxidation, photo-oxidation, ion exchange, reverse osmosis, and adsorption method [8]. The adsorption method on hard porous surfaces is one of the methods Reports of the World Health Organization indicate that Commonly used in purifying contaminated water, many surfaces such as wood, cellulose [9], activated carbon [10-12], and others were used. Many previous studies and research in which different adsorbents were used to adsorb the cibacron brilliant red B dye [13]. In this article, a compound composed of three metal oxides (ternary compounds) is abused: copper oxide, nickel oxide, and iron oxide [13]. The compound is prepared by irradiating ultraviolet light using a photovoltaic cell. Nano metal oxides  $\text{CuO}$ ,  $\text{NiO}$ , and  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ , because these oxides are environmentally friendly, have high

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Receive Date: 07 March 2021, Revise Date: 05 June 2021, Accept Date: 06 June 2021

DOI: 10.21608/ejchem.2021.66737.3437

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surface efficiency (large surface area), good electrical conductivity, low toxicity, and many other characteristics [14 – 16]. And the biological activity of a variety of bacteria and can absorb these characteristics in a single case [17, 18]. Combining these oxides together in the triple superposition form of nanostructures increases even more [19,20]. The aim of this project included Test the efficacy of a photo-prepared ternary CuNiFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> nanostructure in removing the Cibacron Brilliant Red B that is one of the dyes used at the Wasit Governorate textile factory, and the remainder are mostly discarded as a wastewater.

## 2. Experimental part

### 2.1 Synthesis of CuNiFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> Nanocomposite

All chemicals were used purchased from (BDH) and without any purification. CuNiFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> nanoparticles have been prepared by photo irradiation method, irradiation cell, as in figure 1, was used to irradiate copper nitrate, nickel nitrate, and Iron nitrate as sources of CuNiFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> nanoparticles. Immersed UV source (125 W mercury medium pressure lamp) is used with maximum light intensity at 365 nm. The cell contains a quartz tube like a jacket for immersion UV source in the solution of salts. Pyrex tube is used as a reactor. An ice bath cools the reactor to avoid rising temperatures due to UV irradiation [21,22]. Accordingly, 30 ml, 0.01 mole Cu(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, 30 ml, 0.01 mole Ni(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, and 30 ml, 0.01 mole Fe(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub> were mixed to gathers as a stoichiometric ratio (1:1:1). Then, 90 ml, 0.03 mole of urea is added slowly (drop per second) to the mixture and kept stirred at 30 min for 15 min. after that, the solution is irradiated by photocell for 30 min. The nanocomposite is precipitated as a red-brown (dark) powder; it is separated and washed several times with deionizing water (all steps done with centrifuge then decantation). The precipitate has dried in an oven at 100°C for 3 h and calcined at 400°C for 3 h. Black-brown color precipitate CuNiFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> nanoparticles have been obtained.

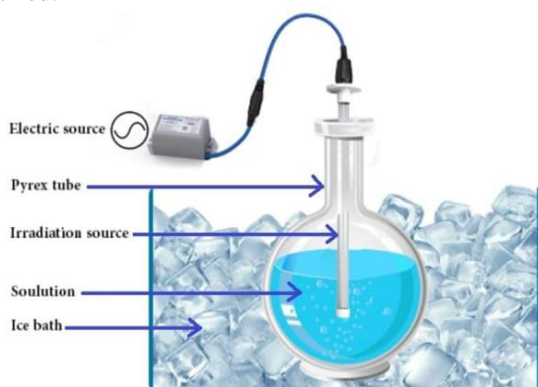


Figure .1. diagram of photolysis cell

### 2.2 Adsorption of Cibacron brilliant red B on CuNiFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> NPs

Ten-milliliter solutions were prepared by dissolving the dye in deionized water in the standard (500 ppm) solution of cibacron brilliant red B at different concentrations between 5 and 25 ppm. The CuNiFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> nanoparticles were added 0.01 g and shackled at selected temperatures at 288 K, 298 K, 308 K, 318 K, and 328 K for approximately 90 min. The following systems were filtered and used to determine the concentration of dye in the filtrate in a UV-visible absorption spectrophotometer [21-23].

$$Q_e = (C_0 - C_e) V_{sol} / M \quad (1)$$

Where  $Q_e$  (mg/g) is the adsorption capacity at equilibrium,  $C_0$  and  $C_e$  are concentrations of cibacron brilliant red B (mg/L) initially, and equilibrium,  $M$  is the mass of the CuNiFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> nanoparticles (g).  $V_{sol}$  is the volume of cibacron brilliant red B (L).

### 2.3 Characterization

Some techniques have been used to characterize the CuNiFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> nanoparticles sample. X-ray diffraction (XRD) Model D-5000 was used to investigate the composition of the specimens by using Cu-K $\alpha$  radiation ( $\lambda=0.154$ nm) source in  $2\theta$ . The XRD ( $10^\circ$  to  $80^\circ$ ) and measurement temperature (25 °C) are  $2\theta$  of CuNiFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> NPS [20]. Field emission scanning electron microscope (FE-SEM) model Jeol JSM-6010LV A total of 20  $\mu$ L was lowered over a grid of 300-mesh Cu and dried at room temperature. Photoluminescence measurements (PL) emission measured of CuNiFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> nanoparticles to calculate the energy gap of emission. TEM model Jeol JSM-6010LV observed sample morphologies with 500 X and 60 kX magnification with a 5kV accelerating violation. TEM analyzes the sample CuNiFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> nanoparticle powder discrete in the deionized and sonic water for approximately 15 minutes [21-23].

## 3. Results and discussion

### 3.1 XRD characterization of metals oxide Nanostructures

The composition of the specimen was investigated using X-ray diffraction (XRD) Model D-5000 with a Cu-K radiation ( $\lambda=0.154$ nm) source in  $2\theta$ . Figure 2 depicts the sample's XRD patterns Before and after calcination at 400 °C. Before calcination in fig 2, X-ray diffraction examination of the prepared particles before the incineration showed deflection peaks at an angle of  $11.71^\circ$ ,  $23.62^\circ$ ,  $36.06^\circ$ ,  $39.35^\circ$  and,  $61.85^\circ$  that belong to the prepared triple hydroxide chain Fe (n)

Cu (n) Ni (n) (OH) n. After burning the model with a degree of 400 °C, he gave deflection values at an angle of  $2\theta = 35.47, 38.72, 43.39, 48.42, 61.58, 62.95,$  and 75.09, which refer to the  $\text{CuNiFe}_2\text{O}_5$  nanoparticles, which refer to the hexagonal structure of the nanocomposite. The crystal size was determined using the Scherrer equation [21,23]. The crystal size was calculated to be approximately 15.23 nm.

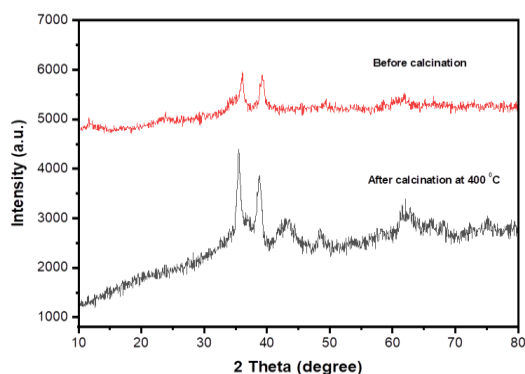


Fig.2. XRD graph of the  $\text{CuNiFe}_2\text{O}_5$  nanoparticles.

### 3.2 FE-SEM characterization

FE-SEM was used to investigate the surface morphology of pure  $\text{CuNiFe}_2\text{O}_5$  nanoparticles calcined at 400 °C, Fig.3. The production of semi-spherical aggregates as nearly uniform distribution for the prepared sample can be concluded from SEM analysis. The crystal nature of equal-sized synthesized nanoparticles is demonstrated.  $\text{CuNiFe}_2\text{O}_5$  nanoparticles have been discovered to have an average size of 18.68 nm, and are homogeneous with little aggregation due to their small size. These findings are nearly identical to those obtained from the Typical XRD pattern.

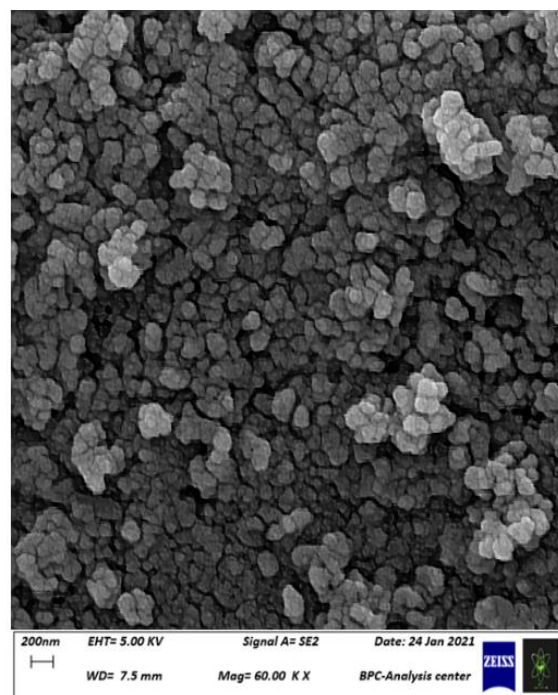
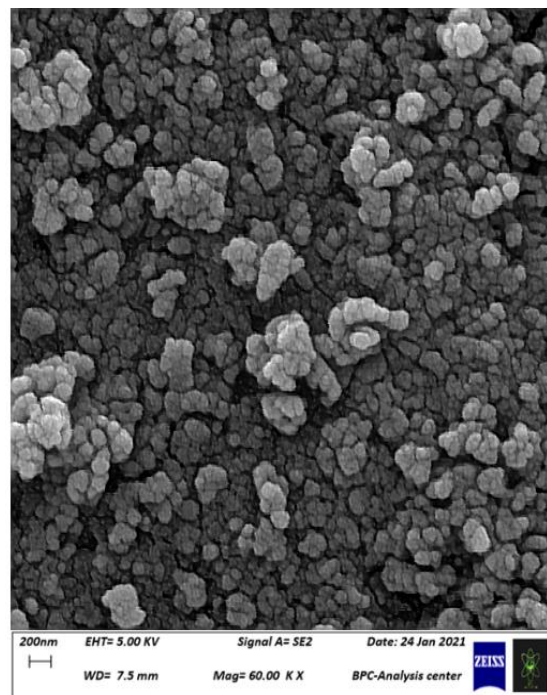


Fig.3. SEM micrographs of the  $\text{CuNiFe}_2\text{O}_5$  nanoparticles.

### 3.3 EDX characterization

The EDX spectrum of  $\text{CuNiFe}_2\text{O}_5$  nanoparticles is shown in Fig.4. Typical Iron, Nickel, Copper, and oxygen peaks are present in the spectrum. The results confirm the high purity of the synthesized

nanostructures. The theoretical calculations of the elements agree with the practical estimates obtained from the EDX measurement. Figure 5 indicates that CuNiFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> NPs have been spread well by the mixed catalyst's matrix. Further data indicate typical images of x-ray mapping to display the distribution of elemental components of a CuO, NiO, and Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> catalyst, which will support the dispersion of the catalyst element.

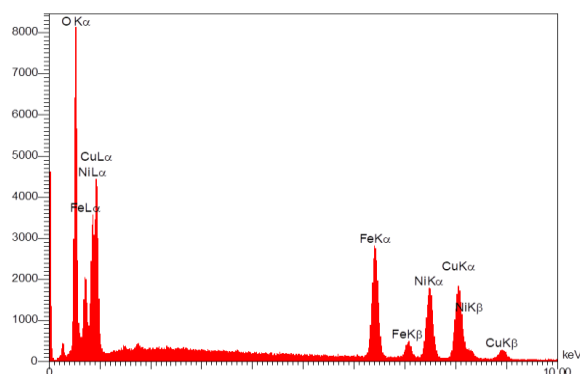


Fig.4. EDX spectrum of CuNiFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> NPs.

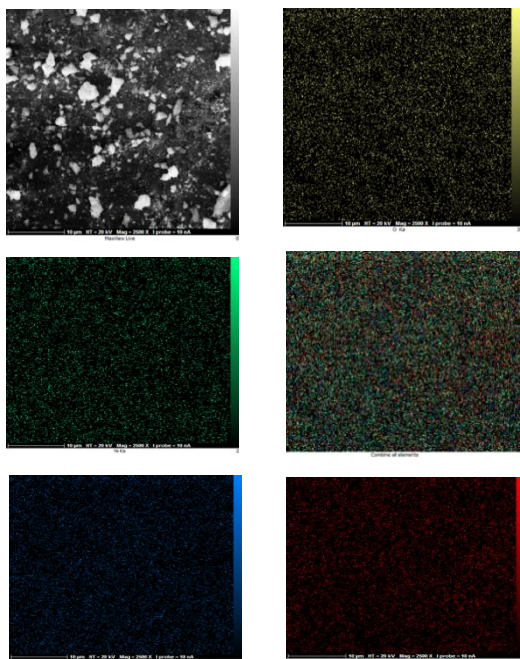
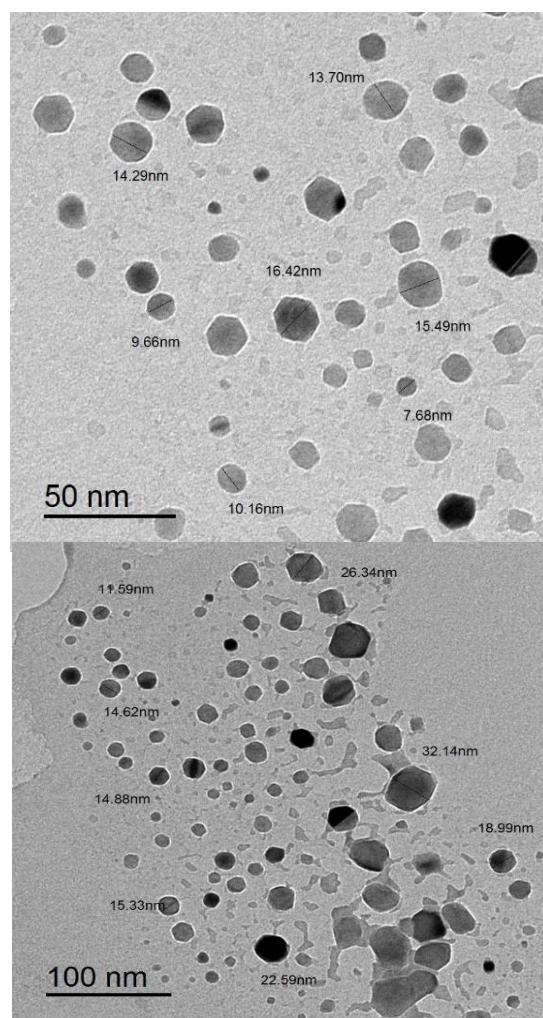


Fig.5. X-ray mapping of CuNiFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> NPs.

### 3.4 TEM spectroscopy

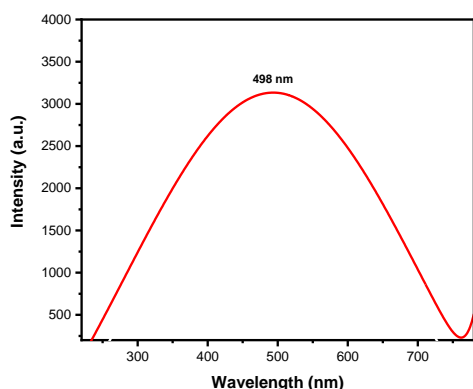
The TEM of CuNiFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> nanoparticles is shown in Figure 6. The TEM image of nanoparticles of different shapes and sizes is shown in Figure 6. The size of the particles varied between 6 to 16 nm. The larger particles may result from smaller nanoparticles' agglomeration with dimensions that match the XRD analysis described. The crystallite size is measured with XRD based on the expansion of Bragg's reflections because of the number of parallel lattice planes causing diffraction. The Scherrer equation parameter *k* approximates the crystallite shape factor; however, the size distribution is not considered, resulting in size values different from the TEM.

Fig.6. TEM micrographs of the CuNiFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> NPs



### 3.5 Photoluminescence measurements (PL)

Nano-powder of CuNiFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> nanoparticles calcined at 400 °C were analyzed using a solid-state photoluminescent (PL) spectrum (Perkin–Elmer spectrometer design LS55 with photomultiplier tube) for prepared its emissions. The behavior of the PL spectrum is highly influenced by the size distribution of nanoparticles, which can be derived from various sources. To measure the emission energy gap, Figure 7 shown the fluorescence spectra of CuNiFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> nanoparticles with a maximum wavelength of 498 nm. The PL spectra have a single peak in this case, with a nearly wide full width at half limit (FWHM).



According to the equation  $E_g \text{ (eV)} = 1240/\lambda$  [22], the energy gap was 2.48 eV.

#### Adsorption isotherms

The main stage in the adsorption analysis is to adjust the adsorption isotherm to the adsorption results to establish the interaction of the adsorption and the dye interact. The Freundlich and Langmuir models were considered in this work. In the following formula is shown the linear process of Freundlich adsorption [21-24]:

$$\log(Qe) = \log(kf) + \left(\frac{1}{n}\right) \log(Ce) \quad (2)$$

Kf and n are called Freundlich constants, representing adsorption capacity and adsorption intensity, respectively. As shown in Figure 8, The kf is recorded from the intercept, and n is recorded from the slope (0.832). This result is consistent with the proven physical adsorption [25]. The adsorption is more fitted with Freundlich isotherm model ( $R^2=0.968$ ).

Fig.7. The PL analysis of CuNiFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> NPs.

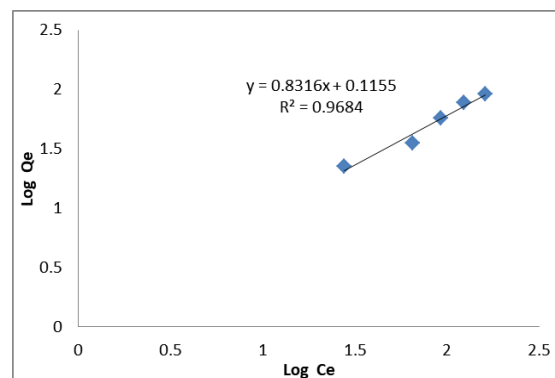


Fig.8. the Freundlich isotherm model plot at 298 K.

The data conforms to the Langmuir adsorption isotherm, as seen in the following formulation, [23-26]:

$$Ce/Qe = 1/(q_{max} K_L) + Ce/(q_{max}) \quad (3)$$

$K_L$  (mg/L) is the Langmuir constant, and  $q_{max}$  (mg/g) is the maximum amount of d cibacron brilliant red B. The dimensionless constant (RL) is also referred to as the separation factor that indicates and

$$RL = 1/(1 + K_L C_i) \quad (4)$$

$C_i$  (mg / L) is the initial concentration of the dye, and the RL values are all within the range of (0-1), which indicates that the dye has better adsorption on CuNiFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> NP as shown in Figure 9.

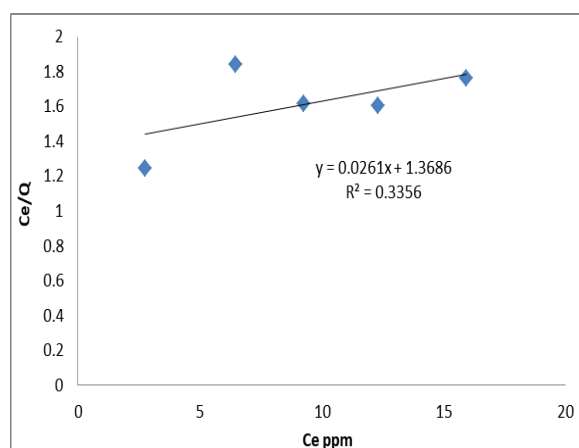


Fig.9. The Langmuir isotherm model at 298 K.

#### • Effect of contact time

In a series of experiments, 0,01 g CuNiFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> NPs with 10mL dye (10 ppm) was used to measure contact time to reach equilibrium time. At 200 rpm,

the mixture was shaken at 298 K. At the beginning of 30-45 minutes, adsorption is very rapid. The rapid adsorption comes from the strong bond between the active  $\text{CuNiFe}_2\text{O}_5$  nanoparticles and the dye. Due to the surface of the nanoparticles, the adsorption rate of the dye becomes a constant value after 75 minutes, as shown in Figure 10.

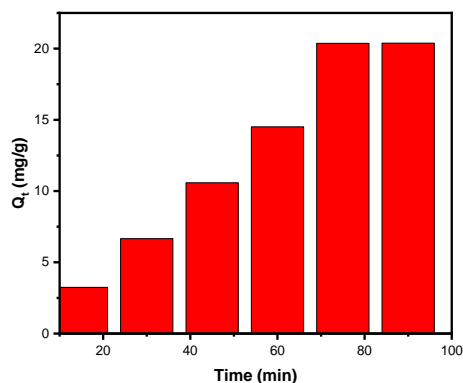


Fig.10. Effect of time on adsorption of dye onto the  $\text{CuNiFe}_2\text{O}_5$  NPs.

- Effect of adsorbent mass

The adsorbent efficiency was founded by adding various quantities of  $\text{CuNiFe}_2\text{O}_5$  NPs (0.01 g, 0.05 g, 0.1 g and 0.15 g) to 10 ppm of dye. At 200 rpm, the mixture was shaken at 298 K. The relationship between adsorption amount and mass is shown in the graph. First, due to the increase of active sites in nanocomposites, the adsorption speed is very fast. The rise in dye adsorption is shown in Figure 11. By increasing the quantity of  $\text{CuNiFe}_2\text{O}_5$  NPs mass.

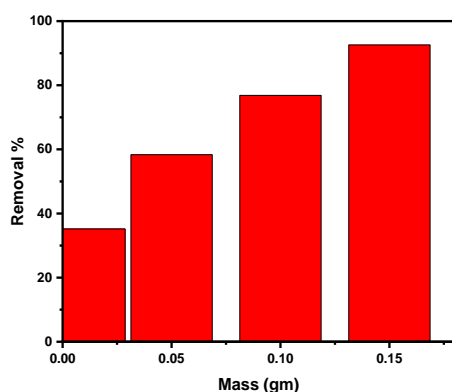


Fig.11. Effect of adsorbent mass on adsorption of dye onto the  $\text{CuNiFe}_2\text{O}_5$  NPs.

- Effect of Temperature

The temperature impact of dye adsorption on the  $\text{CuNiFe}_2\text{O}_5$  NP surface was studied at selected temperatures at 288K, 298 K, 308 K, 318 K, and 328 K [27,28]. With the rising temperature, the amount of dye adsorption solution increases. This results in the endothermic process, and the average value of  $\Delta H^\circ$  is positive. This demonstrates the mechanism of absorption and adsorption. As temperature increases, the diffusion molecules are absorbed in the holes, the rate of diffusion increases, and the strong bond is associated with the adsorbent. Thermodynamic parameters provide accurate data on adsorption-related changes in the inherent energy and should be evaluated appropriately. In this analysis, the following equations were used to measure the following adjustments to predict the mechanism of adsorption by using the free energy of adsorption ( $\Delta G^\circ$ ), entropy ( $\Delta S^\circ$ ) and enthalpy ( $\Delta H^\circ$ ) [23-28]:

$$\ln(Ke) = \frac{-\Delta H}{RT} + \frac{\Delta S}{R} \text{ -----(5)}$$

$$Ke = Q_e/C_e \text{ -----(6)}$$

$$\Delta G = \Delta H - T\Delta S \text{ -----(7)}$$

R is 8.314 J/mol K (gas constant), Ke is equilibrium constant, and T is the temperature in Kelvin (K). As a van't Hoff plot between  $\ln K$  and  $1/T$  in Fig.12, The  $\Delta H$  was 7.630514 kJ/mole determined by slope, which showed the interaction was endothermic. The  $\Delta S$  from the intercept were 20.8 J/mole that showed the adsorbed particles were as yet in steady movement on a superficial level. They were absorption and adsorption. The positive  $\Delta G$  value is equal to 1.415 KJ/mole at 298 K, which implies non-spontaneous adsorption.

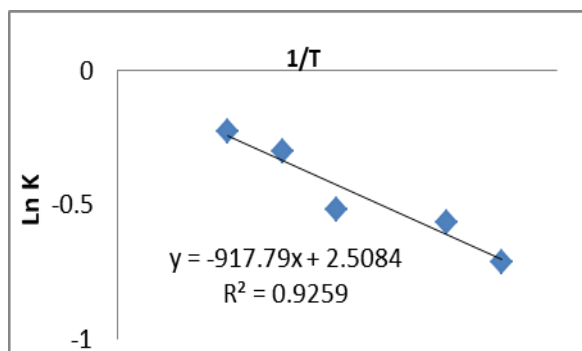


Fig.12. the van't Hoff plot between  $\ln K$  and  $1/T$ .

#### • Dynamics

The adsorption dynamics of dye on the surface adsorbents of  $\text{CuNiFe}_2\text{O}_5$  NPs are crucial in adsorbent applications. The dye study found the adsorption equilibrium time was around 75 min for 0.01 g of the nanocomposite adsorbents. Furthermore, classical and kinetic models in this study were used to portray the information of adsorption mentioned above as follows:

Pseudo-first-order model [23, 29]:

$$\ln(q_e - qt) = \ln(q_e) - k_1 t \quad \text{-----}(8)$$

Where  $q_e$  ( $\text{mg g}^{-1}$ ) is the adsorption capacity at equilibrium,  $qt$  ( $\text{mg g}^{-1}$ ) is the adsorbed amount of dye after time  $t$  (min), and  $k_1$  is the pseudo-first-order rate constant ( $\text{min}^{-1}$ ) and as shown in Fig.13.

The pseudo-second-order kinetic model can be expressed as [23, 30]:

$$\frac{1}{qt} = \frac{1}{k_2 q_e} + \frac{t}{q_e} \quad \text{-----}(9)$$

Where  $k_2$  is the pseudo-second-order rate constant, the pseudo-second-order model with a high association factor ( $R^2 > 0.9749$ ) can properly describe the kinetic information, Fig. 14.

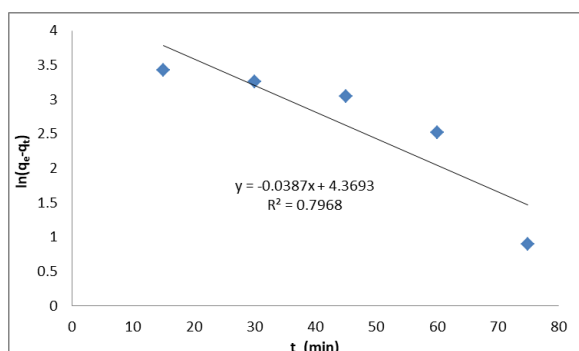


Fig.13. Dynamic of adsorption of dye pseudo-first-order.

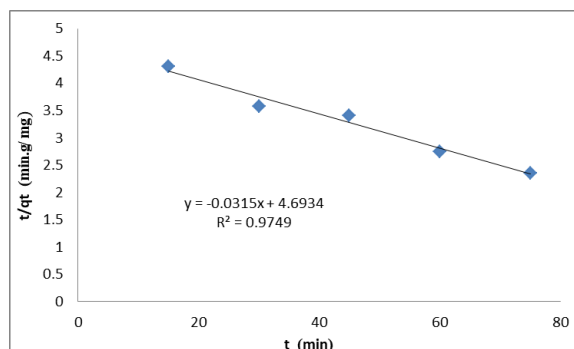


Fig.14. Dynamic of adsorption of dye pseudo-second-order.

## 4. Conclusion

In conclusion, high-quality  $\text{CuNiFe}_2\text{O}_5$  NPs were made by photochemical technique following XRD, SEM/EDX, PL, and TEM imaging. The range particulate size of  $\text{CuNiFe}_2\text{O}_5$  NPs was 6 to 16 nm, estimated by TEM. The adsorption properties shown are excellent for eliminating dye from watery solutions. Both kinetic and thermodynamic studies demonstrated the efficiency of  $\text{CuNiFe}_2\text{O}_5$  NPs adsorption. Freundlich and Langmuir isotherm models were well suited for the results. The adsorption is more fitted with Freundlich isotherm model. The thermodynamic indicate that the adsorption is endothermic and nonspontaneous. The enthalpy value ( $7.630514 \text{ kJ/mole}$ ) was calculated by the slope of the van't Hoff plot, which indicates the physical properties of adsorption. The pseudo-second-order with  $R^2 = 0.9749$  conformity to this adsorption.

## Conflict of interest

The authors not have any conflict of interest

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