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Adsorptive remediation of cobalt oxide nanoparticles by magnetized α -cellulose fibers from waste paper biomass

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Abstract

Remediation of engineered-nanomaterials is an up-coming major environmental concern. This study demonstrates adsorptive-remediation of cobalt oxide nanoparticles (CoO NPs) from the water. The α -cellulose-fibers were extracted from waste-paper biomass (WP- α CFs) and magnetized with Fe_3O_4 NPs (M-WP- α CFs). The XRD, FT-IR, and TGA were performed for detailed characterization of the newly developed bioadsorbent. The M-WP- α CFs was then applied for adsorptive remediation of CoO NPs. The adsorptive kinetics of CoO NPs adsorption onto the M-WP- α CFs reveals the pseudo-second-order model. The various adsorption isotherm studies revealed Langmuir is a best-fit isotherm. A prominently high adsorption capacity q_m (1567 mg/g) corroborated extraordinary adsorptive potential of M-WP- α CFs. Furthermore, CoO NPs were adsorbed onto M-WP- α CFs were analyzed by the XPS, VSM, and TEM. Therefore, this study gave rise WP biomass extracted and rapidly-separable nano-biocomposite of 'M-WP- α CFs' with a high-capacity for CoO NPs remediation, and can be further applied in remediation of several other engineered-nanomaterials.

Keywords: Sludge free remediation, engineered nanomaterials; cobalt oxide, paper waste, α -cellulose-fibers; Fe_3O_4 NPs

1. Introduction

Water is critically essential for sustaining life on earth. However, the quantity of the water, is declining at an alarming speed and magnitude in both developed and emerging nations. The concept of flowing pristine water bodies that once could impart psychological and economic richness to mankind, also remained healthy habitat to thousands of imperiled aquatic species is fading away quickly. The imbalance between needs and wants of overpopulation, unregulated industrialization, and uneducated agricultural activities has poisoned the water bodies of Earth beyond repair (Wagner et al., 2014). In recent years, the rapid increase in production of engineered nanoparticles (ENPs) with the arrival of nanotechnology resulted into enormous applications of nanomaterials in the form of various products or manufacturing as a process enhancers (Hutchison, 2016). Although, nanotechnology has gripped the imagination of academic and industrial innovators of this age with practical and futuristic applications; nonetheless, the subject has also spilled enormously practical ecological problems. The ENMs are being released into the environment through different ways, which are emerging as severe pollutants to air, water, and soil (Balmuri et al., 2017). Consequently, this menace has created a demand for the removal of such particulate matter from the ecosystem in general, but from water in particular. Recently, it has been speculated that the rheological properties of sludge are likely to be affected by NPs; however, little information is so far available about the behaviors of sludge in such conditions (You et al., 2018). Reijnder (Reijnders, 2006) suggested that most of the standard wastewater treatments are poorly suited to remove a range of NMs, it was also reinforced by (Wiesner et al., 2006), in regards to the current water treatment processes. In particular, interest in the effective removal of nanomaterials from wastewater thus could avoid the dispersions of NPs and contamination into the aquatic environment (Nowack & Bucheli,

2007). On the other hand, increasing use of ENMs in industrial processes and wastewater treatment plants will very likely lead to the discharge of such materials and cause adverse effects into the environment (Nowack & Bucheli, 2007).

The CoO NPs and their alloys are well-known catalysts for water oxidation, and also be used for modification of wide-band-gap of oxide semiconductors (Kazuhiko et al., 2016). Thus, NPs may enter into aquatic environment directly from the disposal of wastewater effluent, or indirectly from soils (Batley et al., 2013). However, little information is available about the pH influence, the behavior of cobalt, and biomolecules in the aqueous environment. Therefore, it is vital to discover the possible risks related to the specific NPs in the environment. The urinary cobalt concentrations were found to be highest in African copper belt population, thus monitoring of metal exposure, pathways of exposure, and health significance is not clear (Banza et al., 2009). Possible toxic effects of soluble oxide NMs on plant species, such as CoO NPs, have been recently investigated on *Allium ceca* (onion), (Ghodake et al., 2011) and *Glycine max* (soybean) (Quoc Buu et al., 2014). Faisal et al (Faisal et al., 2016), investigated DNA damage and cell death in *Solanum melongena* (eggplant) after exposure to CoO NPs via mitochondrial swelling and enhanced no signaling pathway. These studies demonstrate a strong need for effective removal of CoO NPs and the prevention of oxide NPs into the aquatic environment.

Cellulose is the most abundant biopolymer on the earth, is also being extensively recycled (Gomes et al., 2018). The valorization, co-pyrolysis, anaerobic digestion, and recycling can save landfill spaces and reduce the need for incineration of waste-paper biomass (WP), thus producing value-added products with fewer chances of air pollution (Fang et al., 2018). Every ton of recycled cellulose saves an average of 17 to 18 large trees plus energy related to pulping,

processing and finishing (Bajpai, 2014). In addition to this, α CFs, including abundant O-donating/ binding sites in its structure has made this material more viable for environmental-related applications, and has been extensively utilized as a bioadsorbent material for metal ions, dyes, pesticides and micro-pollutants (Cai et al., 2017; Singh & Ambika, 2018). In addition to this, an emerging area that could lead in future such as selective adsorption, aerobic oxidation, designing electrochemical devices, reformation nano- and meso-porous materials (Chen et al., 2014; Dutta et al., 2017; Nguyen et al., 2016; Shieh et al., 2013). In previous reports, immobilization of laccase, catalase, and many other enzymes were demonstrated by combining enzymes with metal-organic frameworks, alginic acid, and cellulose fibers to enhance the stability and recyclability of enzymes (Ghodake et al., 2018; Shieh et al., 2015). A α CFs has been extensively used in various industries of textiles, printing, dyeing, exploration, food, lithium-ion batteries, ceramics, and pharmacy because of their environmental friendliness, lightweight, low cost, and biodegradability (Nechyporchuk et al., 2017). Inspired by the superb adsorption ability of the cellulose, the biocompatibility, and the ease of separating magnetic NPs, here, this study present WP- α CFs coated by Fe_3O_4 NPs in the removal of CoO NPs from aqueous solutions.

In the current work, the nanocomposites (Fe_3O_4 magnetite into α -celluloses matrices) provides excellent mechanical, physical and chemical properties. As an exemplary nanomaterial, this study chose an industrially important CoO NPs previously used in numerous important toxicity studies. The potential use of M-WP- α CFs is identified as an efficient bioadsorbents for CoO NPs and a useful tool for ease of separation. The adsorptive isotherm models were investigated to elucidate the phenomenon of adsorption. Finally, after adsorption of CoO NPs on

M-WP- α CFs, detailed characterization techniques such as XPS, VSM, and TEM were deployed to rationalize the CoO NPs removal process. Obviously, the prepared M-WP- α CFs as novel supports for CoO NPs is promising and competitive for sludge free remediation practices.

2. Materials and methods

2.1. Chemicals

$\text{FeCl}_3 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$, $\text{FeCl}_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$, and $\text{NH}_3 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ were obtained from Daejung chemicals, South Korea. Pure cobalt (II, III) oxide (CoO NPs) having diameters of approximately 50 nm were purchased from Sigma Aldrich Chemicals. The CoO NPs in DI water were dispersed by sonication and used freshly in adsorption studies.

2.2. Preparation of recycled WP- α CFs

This study aims to extract the α CFs from WP as a high-yield cellulosic source. Typically, 10 g WP was soaked in alkali water for 12 h, and sonicated in an ultrasonic bath for 2 h at 30 °C. The white pulp sample was again treated with NaOH (17.5%, w/v) at 30 °C for 6 h to remove mannan, xylan, and lignin, and residual resin content, without losing of α CFs (Ghodake et al., 2018). The α -cellulose is long-chain cellulose, insoluble in NaOH solution (17 to 20%) (Phinichka & Kaenthong, 2018). The treated solution was filtered and pressed to remove excess NaOH, and rinsed the white pulp with DI water. Then, 1% (w/v) hydrochloric acid was used to treat alkali pulp. Finally, a large volume of cold DI water was flushed until the washings reached neutral pH value (Loader et al., 1997). The yield of α -cellulose was found about 59%; thus, generation of the α CFs from WP is facile, reproducible, and cost-effective. Lastly, a floppy

white powder of WP- α CFs was dried using the lyophilizer (Ilshin Biobase FD-8508). It is well known that higher the α -cellulose level better the quality of the bio-adsorbent and value-added products manufactured (Takagi et al., 2013).

2.3. Preparation of M-WP- α CFs

The preparation of WP- α CFs loaded with Fe_3O_4 was performed according to the previous report (Ghodake et al., 2018). Typically, dry powder of WP- α CFs (3 g) was dissolved in DI water (500 mL) and kept in bath sonication for 2 h (Power Sonics-520). The stock solution of $\text{FeCl}_3 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$ and $\text{FeCl}_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (ratio, 2:1) were prepared separately and allowed to dissolve on the magnetic stirrer. The WP- α CFs solution moved to the clean and dry beaker (1000 mL) and allowed to reach 60 °C condition under shaking conditions. At this time, $\text{FeCl}_3 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$ was added drop-wise and then $\text{FeCl}_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$ in the presence of nitrogen gas. 40 mL ammonia solution (25 %) added drop-wise to form crystalline Fe_3O_4 NPs onto the WP- α CFs surfaces. The black colored co-precipitate was refluxed for next 15 min at 60 °C. The synthesized M-WP- α CFs nanocomposite was washed thoroughly with the help of the external magnetic field, and the pure M-WP- α CFs was freeze-dried using the lyophilizer (Ilshin Biobase FD-8508). The freeze dried M-WP- α CFs was powdered and applied for adsorptive removal of CoO NPs.

2.4. Adsorption studies

To study the adsorption kinetics, CoO NPs (100 mg.L⁻¹) and M-WP- α CFs (100 mg.L⁻¹) was taken into the 50 mL of distilled water. The mixture was shaken at 200 rpm. The 2 ml sample was removed after 1, 3, 6, 9, 12, 24, 48, and 72 h. The M-WP- α CFs was removed magnetically and retained supernatant was analyzed by UV-vis spectroscopy. Further, the

adsorption isotherm was studied by taking increasing concentrations of the CoO NPs (25, 50, 100, 150, 200, 250, 300, 350, and 400 mg.L⁻¹) and M-WP-αCFs (100 mg.L⁻¹) in 10 ml of distilled water. The samples were shaken for 200 rpm for 48 h and residual concentrations of CoO NPs were measured spectrophotometrically. Effect of pH on adsorption of CoO NPs was determined in the range 4 to 9 for 12 h at 200 rpm and ambient temperature (22 °C). The quantitative adsorption of CoO NPs q_e (mg·g⁻¹) by M-WP-αCFs were calculated by using the following equation (1).

$$q_e = \frac{(C_0 - C_e)V}{W} \quad (1)$$

Where, C_0 (mg·L⁻¹) is the initial concentration of CoO NPs; C_e (mg·L⁻¹) is the residual concentration of the CoO NPs after removal; V is the volume of CoO NPs solution in L; W is the number of M-WP-αCFs in g.

2.5 Structural characterizations

The vibrating sample magnetometer (VSM) model Lakeshore, Model: 7407 was used to record the hysteresis magnetization curve of M-WP-αCFs. The thermogravimetric analyzer (TGA) was used to reveal thermal properties of WP-αCFs and M-WP-αCFs, typically ~5 mg dry sample was characterized with a TA Instruments Q-600 in temperature range (25–800 °C) and under steady nitrogen gas flow ~245 mL/min with heating rate (10 °C/min). X-ray diffraction (XRD) spectra of M-WP-αCFs was acquired using XRD model Ricaku Ultima IV provided with Cu Kα radiation ($\lambda = 1.5418 \text{ \AA}$). The XRD spectrum was noted in steps of 0.045° at a count time of 0.5 s in the range of 2θ from 10-90°. Fourier-transform infrared spectroscopy (FT-IR) studies

of WP- α CFs and M-WP- α CFs samples were performed using IR spectrometer (Thermo Electron Nicolet 6700) after preparing and drying KBR pellets, FT-IR spectrum was scanned from 500-4000 cm^{-1} with a resolution of 5 cm^{-1} for 5 scans. Tecnai-G² transmission electron microscope (TEM) was used for imaging, energy dispersive X-ray spectroscopy (EDS) and selected area by electron diffraction (SAED) pattern. TEM analysis of M-WP- α CFs was performed before and after remediation experiments using carbon-coated copper grids (300 mesh).

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Recycling and magnetization of WP- α CFs

Cellulose is a renewable biopolymer on the earth and it is mainly used to produce paper, napkins, cardstocks, and paperboard. Cellulose is abundantly available but important commercial raw materials and is mainly received from wood pulp and cotton fibers for manufacturing and practical use. Along with cellulose, WP contains a variety of inorganic and organic ingredients, various chemicals as phthalates, phenols, mineral oils, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and toxic metals, which can pollute the newly made paper products (Pivnenko et al., 2015). The paper industry waste, used WP is generally discarded in to waste site landfills, and cremation of waste-disposal leads us to wider questions about waste management and air pollution. WP can be recycled as briquettes for domestic and commercial use, like biochar briquettes or other common fuels (Xiu et al., 2018). Such as, proposals for recycling and converting cellulose into biofuels such ethanol is also under serious investigation to use as an alternative fuel. The demand for recycled or processed cellulose is constantly rising to address the WP problem and produce cellulose-based commercial and composite products. The α CFs have revealed for their great potential for improving mechanical and physical properties in biopolymer-based nanocomposites

(Rotaru et al., 2018). High cellulose content in the WP is promising to extract α CFs and use for preparing biopolymer-based nanocomposites for various environmental applications related to adsorption and catalysis of pollutants (You et al., 2018; Zare et al., 2018).

In this study, the WP reprocessed to form pure α CFs with a high-yield using combined mechanical and chemical treatments. Briefly, recycled WP pulp was prepared using blending, and sonication treatment, finally cleansed with sodium hydroxide treatment. The alkali treatment allowed to extract discrete α CFs from the matrixes of WP and to dissolve noncellulosic materials. This way, WP was successfully recycled to isolate α -CFs with a yield of about 59% (w/w). The carbohydrate portion of cellulose-containing materials does not dissolve in a sodium hydroxide (17.5%) solution at 20-30 °C is α -cellulose, which is a major constituent as compared to the β cellulose and γ cellulose. The use of ultrasonic cavitation combined with NaOH treatments found to be useful in improving the physical properties of recycled α -CFs through an increase in the surface area (Xiuyan et al., 2015). SEM images revealed the surface morphology of the α -CFs, the cylindrical structure consisting of stacked fibers having a size in the range of micrometer can be observed (see the supplementary materials). In one of the previous report, it was recommended that the WP fibers are the purest form of cellulosic materials for extraction of α -CFs with a yield of more than 60% wt/w (Ghodake et al., 2018). In further experiments, the white colored floppy powders of α -CFs derived from WP were found to be insoluble in DI water and shown usability in preparing Fe_3O_4 NPs based nanocomposites and applying in remediation of CoO NPs. Herein, WP extracted α CFs was established as a raw material to fabricate M-WP- α CFs a potential bio-adsorbents. This reports finally describes the role M-WP- α CFs in high-concentration remediation of CoO NPs from the water. The details of the report, adsorption

kinetics of CoO NPs and detailed characterization of the final nanoprodut, labelled as M-WP- α CF-CoO NPs are described and also illustrated in a graphical abstract.

3.2. Characterization of M-WP- α CFs

Pure cellulose consists of three kinds of atoms, oxygen, carbon, and hydrogen, which forms a straight-chain biopolymer having six-membered glucose rings with OH groups. FT-IR analysis of the samples was shown in the supplementary materials. Many of the FT-IR bands corresponds to WP- α CFs and M-WP- α CFs was identified, including 3371, 2917, 1430, 1375, 1161, 1053, and 897 cm^{-1} . FT-IR absorptions arise typically from nanocellulosic materials, lignin, and other contaminants were certainly not seen due to the high purity of the regenerated α CFs. Characteristic FT-IR bands of cellulose have been identified for OH stretching vibrations at 3371 cm^{-1} . The characteristic FT-IR bands of cellulose observed in the region 3600-3200 cm^{-1} is owed to the OH stretching frequencies of the cellulose. The 1375 cm^{-1} band is accountable to C-H bending vibrations, and it may also be suitable for identifying crystallinity of cellulose in ratio with the help of 2917 cm^{-1} band identified for asymmetric CH_2 stretching vibrations. Alternatively, the vibration peak at 1430 cm^{-1} has been acknowledged as a “crystallinity” absorption band, and its ratio with the 897 cm^{-1} vibration band also used to calculate crystallinity index of cellulose (Park et al., 2010). The 1161 cm^{-1} band is attributed to anti-symmetrical bridge C-O-C stretching vibrations, particularly from WP- α CFs. The 1018 and 1053 cm^{-1} band is recognized for C-O stretching vibration mode, and 1056 existed as a sharp peak in the FT-IR spectra of WP- α CFs (Abidi et al., 2014).

XRD analysis of the M-WP- α CFs was shown in the supplementary materials. The XRD of M-WP- α CFs exhibits five peaks that agree with the known reflex positions of magnetite ($2\theta =$

31.1, 37.5, 45.0, 59.4, and 65.5 °) due to the 220, 311, 400, 511, and 440 lattice planes, respectively, (JCPDS#19–0629). From the XRD patterns, characteristic peaks are in good agreement with the face-centered cubic lattice structure of the Fe_3O_4 . XRD results observed for M-WP- α CFs was similar to those reported in the literature (Silva et al., 2013). The XRD of M-WP- α CFs shows the same peaks as shown for those of uncoated Fe_3O_4 NPs, indicating that the surface coating by WP- α CFs does not affect the crystallinity of the core magnetite. The XRD measurements of bare and polyethylene glycol-coated Fe_3O_4 NPs used to identify the crystal phases, all the major peaks shown in the XRD pattern were identical to Fe_3O_4 NPs present onto the M-WP- α CFs (Mukhopadhyay et al., 2012).

TGA curves of WP- α CFs and M-WP- α CFs are presented in Fig. 1a. It revealed that M-WP- α CFs were started decay at a lower onset of temperature than that of pure WP- α -CFs. However, M-WP- α CFs had higher stability against temperature, representing forming of more residual mass remained (24%) up to a temperature of 800 °C (Fig. 1a). The Fe_3O_4 loading caused a difference in TGA results, the degree of crystallinity after magnetization of amorphous WP- α CFs was better due to the crystallinity of Fe_3O_4 NPs present onto the surfaces of the M-WP- α CFs. Furthermore, the recycled WP- α -CFs showed initial of weight loss at about 340 °C, which was slightly larger than that of the M-WP- α CFs. Particularly, Fe_3O_4 NPs must be contained in the incremental residual char of M-WP- α CFs, indicating Fe_3O_4 NPs must be deeply implanted in the matrices of the WP- α -CFs. This result syncs with the results mentioned above on the XRD and the ones that will be mentioned below in the description of VSM results. Comparable observation for cellulose, chitosan, and their magnetized cellulose-chitosan nanocomposite was recently reported by (Peng et al., 2014). The weight loss of cellulose in the region 200-350 °C

and 400-500 °C can be referred to the initiation of thermal degradation and complete decomposition of the composite, respectively (Ma et al., 2012).

3.3 Effect of pH on CoO NPs adsorption

The effect of pH values on the remediation of CoO NPs (mg.L^{-1}) and adsorptive behavior of M-WP- α CFs was first investigated in the pH range 4 to 9. The effect of the pH on the removal of CoO NPs was executed using 100 mg L^{-1} of M-WP- α CFs (Fig. 1b). The results of the non-treated samples exhibited that varying pH value of the CoO NPs solution had a minor effect on the maximum absorption wavelength and absorbance intensity (data not shown). The acidic pH was less favorable for adsorption of CoO NPs, and the efficiency at pH 4. It was observed that the adsorption of CoO NPs on M-WP- α CFs was started improving from pH 5 to 9 (Fig. 1b). It was seen that the adsorption of CoO NPs onto the M-WP- α CFs can be facilitated in a broad pH range from 5 to 9, make this method more practical and sustainable remediation of CoO NPs contaminated water samples. These results indicate increases the availability of negative charge density present onto the M-WP- α CFs, thus provides adsorption sites, and reinforces interactions among positively charged CoO NPs. On the other hand, M-WP- α CFs in the acidic solution was kept on protonated, and the excessive H^+ ions present onto the M-WP- α CFs hinders adsorption of CoO NPs. However, M-WP- α CFs turn into deprotonated in both neutral and alkaline solution; thus, electrostatic interaction facilitated higher adsorption efficiency for CoO NPs as reported in the recent report (Zhou et al., 2013).

3.4 Adsorption kinetics study

Kinetics of CoO NPs adsorption on the M-WP- α CFs were studied by applying the pseudo-first and second-order kinetic models. The equations of the pseudo-first-order and

second-order-models were expressed as following (Eq. (2)) and (Eq. (3)) (Kadam et al., 2013a; Kadam et al., 2013b).

$$q_t = q_e(1 - e^{-k_1 t}) \quad (2)$$

$$q_t = \frac{k_2 q_e^2 t}{1 + k_2 q_e t} \quad (3)$$

Where, q_e and q_t are the amount of CoO NPs adsorbed (mg g^{-1}) at equilibrium and at time t (min), respectively, and k_1 is the pseudo-first-order rate constant of adsorption (min^{-1}). While, k_2 ($\text{g mg}^{-1} \text{min}^{-1}$) is the second order rate constant. The values of k_1 , k_2 and q_{ecal} were calculated from the software OriginPro8. Figure 2 displayed the pseudo-first and second order adsorption kinetics of CoO NPs on M-WP- α CFs. Figure 2 clearly informs that CoO NPs adsorption achieves the equilibrium within 48 h with the equilibrium uptake amount of 573 mg g^{-1} . Table 1 lists the detailed sorption rate constants associated with pseudo-first and second-order kinetics model. The rate constant for pseudo-first-order and second-order, k_1 and k_2 , were obtained to be 0.673 and 0.0016, respectively (Table 1). The obtained results revealed that the q_{ecal} value of the pseudo-first-order was not close to the actual q_{exp} value (Table 1). However, the q_{ecal} values of pseudo-second order found to be closer to the q_{exp} value (Table 1). Compared to the first-order kinetic model, the pseudo-second-order kinetic model had a higher correlation coefficient (Table 1), suggesting that the CoO NPs adsorption on M-WP- α CFs is chemisorption rather than the physisorption. Therefore, the closeness of q_{ecal} and q_{exp} value in pseudo-second order with the higher correlation coefficient has corroborated that adsorption of CoO NPs on M-WP- α CFs follows the pseudo-second-order kinetic model, and gave an idea about the chemisorption-based adsorption phenomena.

3.5. Adsorption isotherms study

Equilibrium adsorption isotherm models such as; Langmuir, Freundlich, and Tempkin were investigated for the adsorption of CoO NPs on M-WP- α CFs (Fig. 3(a-c)). The isothermal adsorption process mechanism was studied by the non-linear fitting method using software OriginPro8. The Langmuir equation mainly assumes that the adsorption process is monolayer in nature. In comparison, the Freundlich isotherm empirical equation assumes a heterogeneous nature of the system. However, the Tempkin model represents the heat of the adsorption. The non-linear equations of the isotherm models; Langmuir (Eq. 4) (Langmuir, 1916), Freundlich (Eq. 5) (LeVan & Vermeulen, 1981), and Tempkin (Eq. 6) (Guacci et al., 1977), were represented as;

$$q_e = \frac{q_m K_a C_e}{1 + K_a C_e} \quad (4)$$

$$q_e = K_F C_e^{\left(\frac{1}{n}\right)} \quad (5)$$

$$q_e = \frac{RT}{b_T \ln(A_T C_e)} \quad (6)$$

Where, q_e is the CoO NPs adsorption capacity of the adsorbent at equilibrium (mg/g), C_e is the equilibrium concentration of CoO NPs in solution (mg/L), q_m is the maximum adsorption capacity (mg/g), and K_a , K_F , n , b_T and A_T are the constants of Langmuir, Freundlich, and Tempkin isotherm constants (Eqs. 4-6), respectively. Figure 3 represented the fitting pattern of the Langmuir, Freundlich, and Tempkin isotherms. The Langmuir adsorption found to be closely fit to the experimental data rather than Freundlich, and Tempkin isotherms. Table 2, enlists all

the constants and correlation coefficients (R^2) values of the studied isotherms. The correlation coefficients (R^2) for fitting of the Langmuir ($R^2 = 0.9903$), Freundlich ($R^2 = 0.9773$), and Tempkin ($R^2 = 0.9876$) isotherm models. From these observed R^2 values, it was concluded that the data obtained from the experiments gave fit best to the Langmuir model. As per the obtained R^2 values, adsorption of CoO NPs on the M-WP- α CFs followed the order of the isotherm models as: Langmuir > Tempkin > Freundlich. The maximum adsorption capacity (q_m) was observed to be 1567 mg/g, suggesting the very high capacity of the M-WP- α CFs to adsorb the CoO NPs from the water. The Langmuir adsorption pattern confirms the monolayer nature of the CoO NPs over the surface of the M-WP- α CFs. Figure 3 (d) represents the plot for separation factor (R_L). R_L factor was calculated to assess the favorability of the adsorption process. R_L factor mainly expressed as the following equation (Eq. 7),

$$R_L = \frac{1}{1 + K_a C_o} \quad (7)$$

Where, C_o is the initial CoO NPs concentration, and K_a is the obtained Langmuir isotherm constant. Based on the isotherm data, the R_L values gave an indicator of whether the adsorption process is (i) favorable ($R_L < 1$), (ii) unfavorable ($R_L > 1$), (iii) linear ($R_L = 1$), or (iv) irreversible ($R_L = 0$) (Kadam et al., 2016; Kadam & Lee, 2015). The R_L value for adsorption of CoO NPs on M-WP- α CFs was found to be fell in between 0 and 1 (Fig. 3d), corroborating a favorable adsorption dynamics.

3.6 Characterizations of M-WP- α CF-CoO NPs

After establishing the successful adsorption process and adsorption experiments, the CoO NPs adsorbed over the M-WP- α CFs was thoroughly characterized by XPS, VSM and TEM analyze.

Thorough characterization was needed to corroborate and support the obtained high-capacity and significant remediation of CoO NPs from water by M-WP- α CFs.

3.6.1 XPS analysis

Surface elemental analysis of CoO NPs loaded over M-WP- α CFs was carried out by XPS analysis. Supplementary material displays XPS spectrum of WP- α -CFs, M-WP- α CFs, and M-WP- α CF-CoO NPs. High resolution spectrum of C1s, O1s, Fe2p and Co2p from M-WP- α CF-CoO are also shown in the supplementary material. The WP- α -CFs gave binding energies of 284.2 and 532.88 eV of C1s and O1s, respectively. The M-WP- α CFs XPS spectrum showed the binding energies of 284.6, 532.94 and 710.85 eV of C1s, O1s and Fe2p, respectively. However, XPS spectrum of M-WP- α CF-CoO NPs exhibited the binding energies of 284.6, 530.17, 711.20 and 780.33 of C1s, O1s, Fe2p, and Co2p, respectively. Therefore, these obtained results were strongly corroborated a supermagnetic modification made in the WP- α CFs and successful loading of CoO NPs on M-WP- α CFs. The high-resolution spectrum of each peak, C1s, O1s, Fe2p and Co2p from M-WP- α CF-CoO NPs were displayed in supplementary material. The Fe₃O₄ NPs were evidenced by well-characterized Fe2p_{3/2} and Fe2p_{1/2} peaks with the binding energies of 711.90 and 724.60 eV, respectively (see in the supplementary material). The typical characteristic Co2p peak represents Co2p_{3/2} and Co2p_{1/2} at the binding energies of 780.5 and 795.06 eV, with their respective satellite peaks (as shown in the supplementary material). The observations revealed a well characterized and sharp Co2p peak and corroborated a highly efficient loading of CoO NPs over the M-WP- α CFs surface. Therefore, the overall XPS analysis confirmed the loading of CoO NPs over the M-WP- α CFs surface.

3.6.2 VSM analysis

The magnetization curve for M-WP- α CFs and M-WP- α CF-CoO NPs as shown in the supplementary material. Fe_3O_4 NPs entrapped onto the surfaces of the WP- α CFs have shown good magnetic response and are readily attracted to a magnet placed apart as shown in the supplementary material. The saturation magnetic moments obtained is about 7.42 emu g^{-1} for M-WP- α CFs, as shown in the supplementary material. As seen in the VSM response, the coercivity and remanence values of the M-WP- α CFs curve was detected to be zero, this indicating superparamagnetic nature. However, the less saturation magnetic moment values for the CoO NPs adsorbed M-WP- α CFs are found to be 7.21 emu g^{-1} , confirmed successful remediation of CoO NPs from the water. It is well known that magnetization saturation value is either affected by changes in the crystallinity, size, and the composition after use in various applications or loading of bulky material (Kadam et al., 2017; Wahajuddin & Arora, 2012). The obtained results revealed no significant change in magnetic saturation value. Therefore, the magnetic separation potential of the remediated product was successfully retained after the adsorption process. The magnetically modified WP- α CFs was prepared using a simple co-precipitation technique and was characterized comprehensively. The obtained remediation product showed that CoO NPs adsorbed onto the M-WP- α CFs have relatively high stability at broad pH and temperature range. Adsorption of CoO NPs within M-WP- α CFs was a well-established, and thus it was easy to avoid the release of CoO NPs back into the water. In addition to this, WP- α CFs loading with CoO NPs was favored by magnetite modification, suggests dual functionality of the developed bioadsorbent. Magnetic separation rate M-WP- α CFs was not reduced to a significant extent after deposition of CoO NPs on the exterior of the WP- α CFs, since robust bonding of Fe_3O_4 NPs,

which were formed through hydrogen bonding. Moreover, the M-WP- α CF-CoO NPs could be easily separated and recycled for further use from the reaction solution using magnetic force applied externally. These results show that the α -CFs from WP modified with Fe_3O_4 possess good supermagnetism. Such remediation products were separated from the reaction mixture; thus can be avoided to form secondary waste called sludge inherently hazardous, and used further for characterization and use.

3.6.3 TEM analysis

TEM analysis after the CoO NPs loading was also performed to reveal structural observations, elemental mapping, and EDS measurements (as shown in the supplementary material). TEM image of the CoO NPs showed a spindle, cuboidal and spherical shaped NPs with an average range of 10-20 nm were observed. TEM images of the M-WP- α CFs represented a CoO NPs loaded on the M-WP- α CFs surface. Very dense loading of CoO NPs onto M-WP- α CFs corroborated the obtained higher adsorption efficiency. The zoomed view of the TEM image of M-WP- α CF-CoO gave evidence of CoO NPs loading onto M-WP- α CFs surface. Furthermore, the very close look at the loaded CoO NPs from M-WP- α CF-CoO has revealed a typical lattice fringe regions of pure crystalline nature. The selected area electron diffraction (SAED) pattern of M-WP- α CF-CoO resembling the clear rings gave pure poly-crystalline nature of the loaded CoO NPs and Fe_3O_4 NPs. Moreover, the quantitative analysis of respective surface elements of M-WP- α CF-CoO was also made by TEM and EDS analysis. It showed a 92% (wt) of the surface cobalt element concentration. While, the surface concentration of Fe and C were observed to be 5.95 and 1.21 weight %, respectively. These all observed TEM results very strongly evidenced successful and high-capacity remediation of CoO NPs obtained by the

developed low-cost, rapidly-separable and inexpensive nano-composite of M-WP- α CFs. Since the WP- α -CFs surface has both CoO NPs and Fe₃O₄ NPs; visual mapping was needed to clear the presence and distribution of each particle. Therefore, high-angle annular dark-field scanning transmission electron microscopy (HAADF-STEM) was performed an elemental mapping from M-WP- α CF-CoO NPs. The obtained results were displayed in the supplementary material. The M-WP- α CF-CoO NPs surface was shown the distribution of C, Fe, and Co. (see in the supplementary material). Very dense distribution of Co was observed all over the surface of M-WP- α CFs. The obtained results visually confirmed the successful modification of WP- α CFs surface with the Fe₃O₄ NPs and further application of the M-WP- α CFs for successful higher-capacity remediation of CoO NPs from the water.

4. Conclusions

In summary, M-WP- α CFs was prepared, characterized, and applied for adsorptive-remediation of CoO NPs from the water. Adsorption kinetics followed a pseudo-second-order phenomenon. Langmuir adsorption isotherm model was best fit to the experimental data. RL factor values indicated favorable adsorption process. Effective adsorption of CoO NPs onto M-WP- α CF surfaces was verified by XPS, VSM, TEM, and EDS mapping. The derived bioadsorbent from the waste-biomass was desirable for CoO NPs remediation and rapidly-separable that avoids generation of hazardous secondary waste and sludge. Nevertheless, in keeping with the adsorption potential of the M-WP- α CFs, it can be explored for different nano-waste released into water.

Appendix A. Supplementary materials

E-supplementary data for this work can be found in e-version of this paper online

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Conflict of author

Authors declared the no conflict of author

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Table 1. Adsorption kinetic parameters, constants and regression coefficient values for CoO NPs adsorption on the M-WP- α CFs.

Adsorption Kinetics	
Pseudo first order kinetic model	Pseudo second order kinetic model
$q_{exp}=573$	$q_{exp}=573$
$q_{ecal}=502$	$q_{ecal}=548$
$k_1=0.673$	$k_2=0.0016$
$R^2=0.8649$	$R^2=0.9486$

Table 2. Different adsorption isotherm models studied and their obtained parameter values.

Isotherm model	Parameters	Obtained values
Langmuir	q_m (mg/g)	1567
	K_a (L/mg)	0.0071
	R^2	0.9903
Freundlich	K_F (mg/g)	68.920
	n	2.086
	R^2	0.9773
Tempkin	b_T	3.110
	A_T	0.07323
	R^2	0.9876

ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

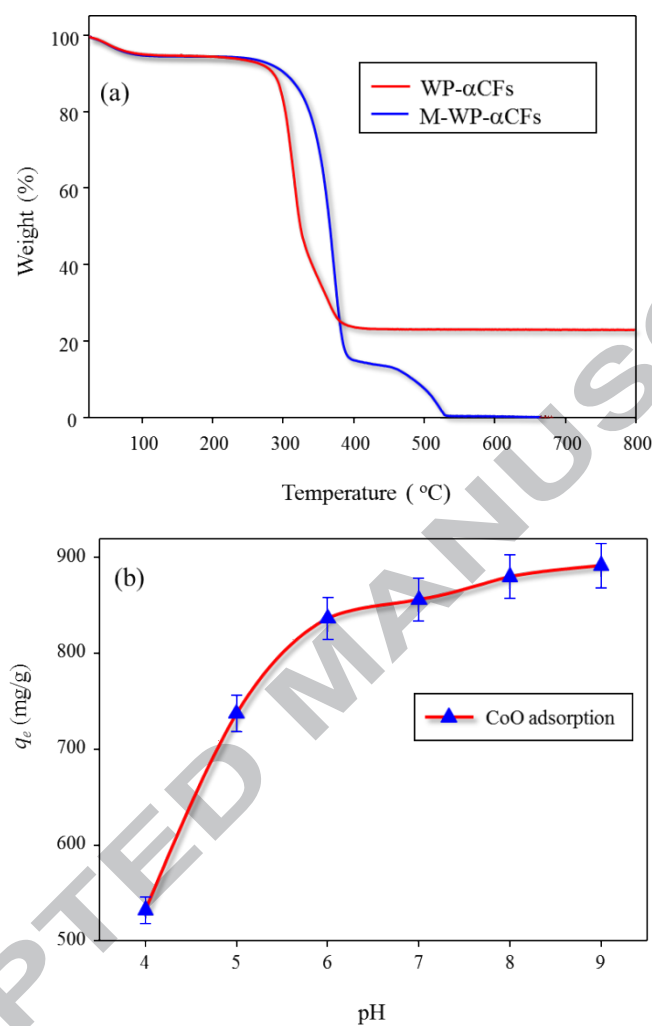


Fig. 1. (a) TGA pattern of WP- α CFs and M-WP- α CFs powder, and (b) effect of pH on adsorptive-removal of CoO (mg/g) by M-WP- α CFs.

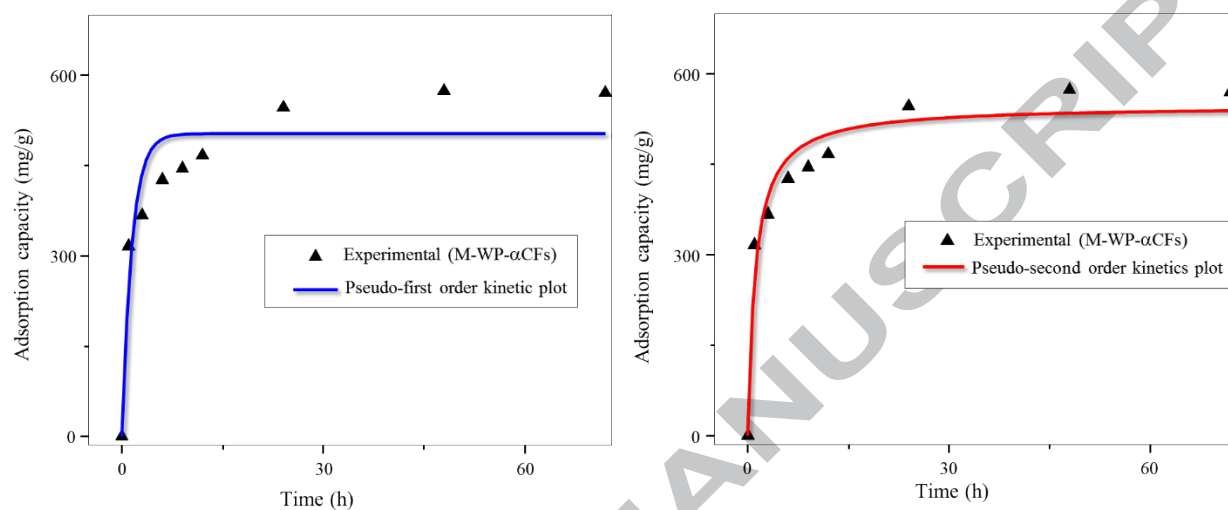


Fig. 2. (a) Pseudo-first order kinetic model for CoO adsorption on M-WP- α CFs (b) Pseudo-second order kinetic model for CoO adsorption on M-WP- α CFs.

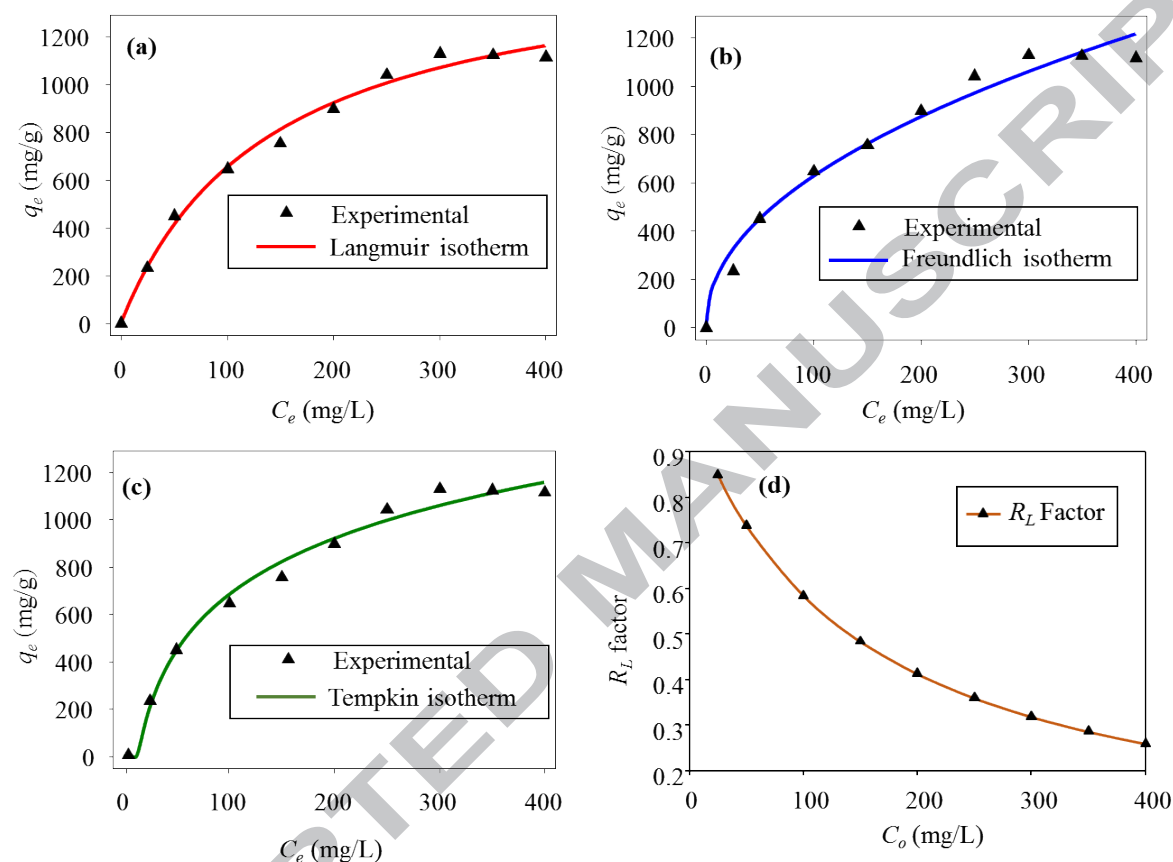
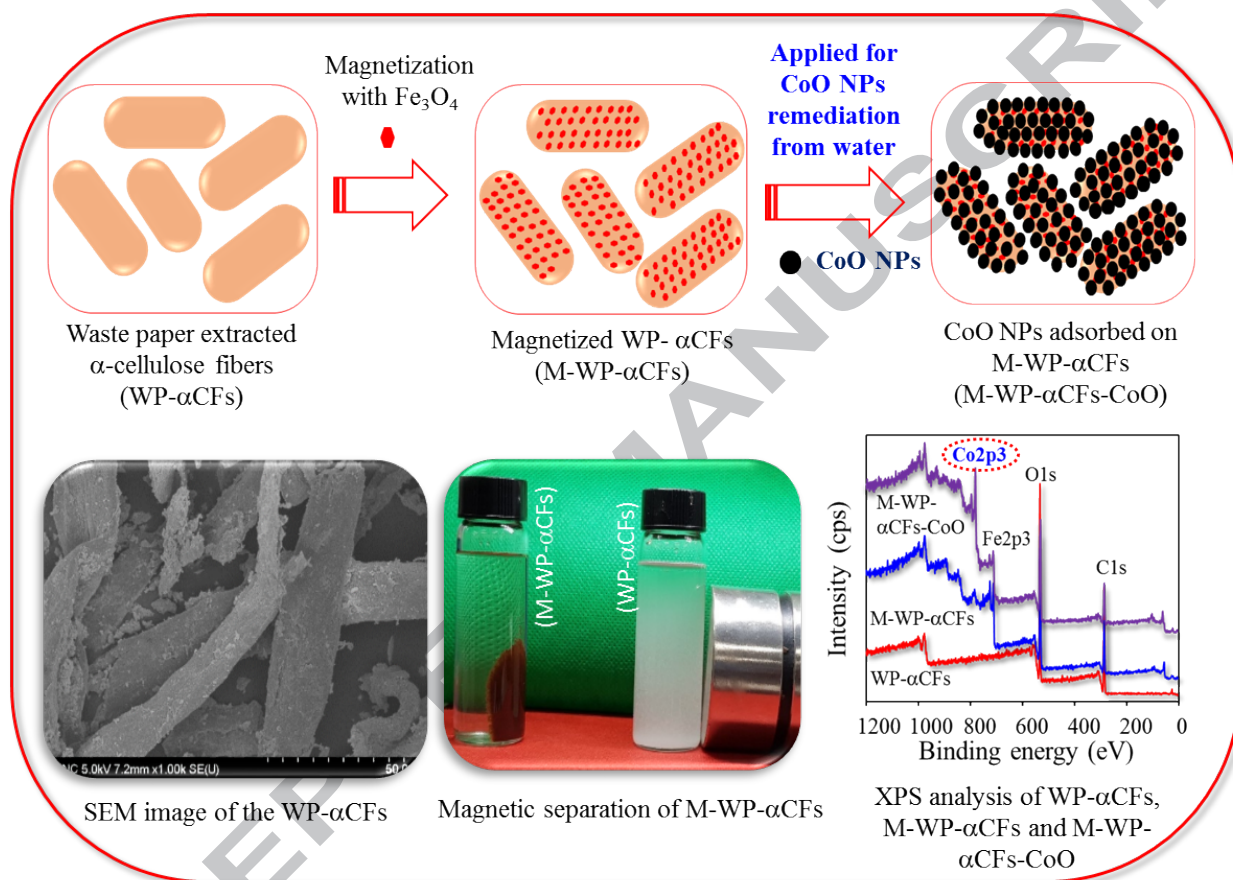


Fig. 3. Adsorption isotherms of CoO on M-WP-αCFs (a) Langmuir isotherm plot (b) Freundlich isotherm plot (c) Tempkin isotherm plot and (d) R_L factor values.

Graphical abstract



Research highlights

1. Office paper waste (WP) extracted α -cellulose fibers (α CFs) was magnetized
2. M-WP- α CFs presented an effective adsorptive-remediation of CoO NPs from the water
3. The adsorption kinetics followed a pseudo-second-order rate model
4. Langmuir adsorption isotherm model was best fit to the experimental data
5. M-WP- α CFs can be effective for remediation of engineered NPs from the water