

## Ability of Certain Clays in Decolorization of Lubricant oil



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### Abstract

Various types of clays (namely, yellow bentonite, brown bentonite, and Kaolin) of Iraqi Kurdistan have been used for decolorizing dark oils and compared with activated China clay and Iranian clay called (Rose); which are largely used for the industrial processing of mineral oils. Chemical analysis has been made for all clay samples for determination of their chemical compositions then different amounts (percentage) of each clay (3-11%w/v) have been used for the decolorizing process of the lubricant oil, that manufactured at Sulaimani city, at fixed temperature and particle size. Later, studies of different temperatures (150,200,250,300°C) at fixed amount of clay have been carried out to show the temperature effect on adsorption process. The decolorizing efficiency of clays was found to be in the following order; China clay, Iranian clay, Kaolin, yellow clay, brown clay. Also the effect of acid has been studied to activate and improve the adsorption process in the decolorization of dark lubricant oil. The adsorption isotherms data obtained were found to follow the Freundlich adsorption isotherm model.

**Keyword:** Bentonite, Kaolin, bleaching, mineral oil, adsorption.

### Introduction

The importance of the application of adsorption process in the refining is for the removal of undesirable, highly colored materials of an asphaltic or resinous nature from petroleum fractions. This application is almost as old as the petroleum industry itself. Bone char was used originally, first for the decolorizing of kerosene and finally for heavier oils, but was later displaced by fuller's earth which was found in 1893 to be effective for refining steam cylinder stocks[1]. The removal of asphaltic or resinous materials from lubricating oil stocks by acid-activated bentonite, fuller's earth and bauxite is still probably the most important commercial application of adsorption refining [2,3]. However, bentonite is one of the abundant types of soil, its mining and processing is very simple. The mines are open pit and bentonite is crushed, dried, pulverized or

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screened for granular products, classified, and bagged then loaded for many industrial applications [4,5). Bentonite was used as low cost materials in Silica, crude oils and fats as they have drastic power to reduce the levels of colored pigments substances such as carotenoides and chlorophyll, and also residues of phosphatides, soaps, traces of metals and oxidation products. These trace components can have a negative effect on the course of further processing and on the quality of the final product. Dosage of several adsorptions agents should be adapted to ensure the removal of these specific substances [6] However, as a result of widespread use of clay the regeneration of spent bleaching clay by heat treatment in a gas stream is possible and was performed in a thermogravimetric analysis system by SHU - CHEN HOU [7], and Abdulhamid Boukerrou [8]. In order to search for method of manufacturing better activated clay in an efficient way, attempt was made to activate local samples of bentonite of Garmian in the Kurdistan region of Iraq. SUN KWANSON[9,10]developed the useful data in deciding activation conditions. The effect of acid activation on some physicochemical properties of bentonite such as chemical composition, cation exchange capacity (CEC),

mineralogical distracting , specific area and specific micro pore-meso pore volume by sulphuric acid activation was studied by Muserref [11]. It was shown by N.Yildiz and A. Calimli[12]that structural changes were observed by treatment of three Turkish bentonite with  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$  and  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  These changes showed differences depending on exchangeable cations clay type and the ratio of additives. In addition investigation of the surface acidity of a bentonite modified by acid activation and also thermal treatment have been achieved by Muserref and others [13]the obtained result showed that the variations in specific pore volume , specific surface area and surface acidity are functions of the mass percent of the acid used in activation .Huseyin Topallar[14]showed in his study on the bleaching of sunflower- seed oil with bentonite that the forces between the adsorbent and adsorbate appear to be Van der waals forces and the type of adsorption is physical adsorption, it was shown that the Freundlich equation was more applicable than the Langmuir equation to the experimental adsorption isotherms. M.Razae[15]determined the optimum bleaching parameters for decolorizing of edible oils using acid activated bentonite and showed that the acid concentration, activation time and temperature affect the

bleaching power. Nevertheless alkaline activation of the montmorillonite [16] clay has been studied and it has been shown that sorption capacity of obtained samples enhance with enhancing retention clay time of activation and alkaline concentration in activation solution. Therefore the main object of this study is that; three different local samples of clays from Kurdistan region of Iraq were used for decolorization and were treated with acids,  $H_2SO_4$  and  $HCl$ , to enhance their bleaching power in the process of lubricant oil, which is produced in Sulaimani city of Iraq and also study the isotherms model that fit the experimental findings.

### Experimental preparation

a. Oil sample: the oil sample was taken directly from the oil refinery (Asia company) after a stage of acid treatment, the general properties of which were as follows

Specific gravity at  $15.6\text{ }^\circ\text{C} = 0.8878$

A.P.I gravity = 27.88

Viscosity at  $100\text{ }^\circ\text{C}/\text{Cst} = 11.65$

Flash point (c.o.c)  $^\circ\text{C} = 230$

Pour point  $^\circ\text{C} = 0.0$

b. Kaoline yellow bentonite and brown bentonite were taken from Garmian beds in Kurdistan crushed and screened. The mesh sizes were chosen to be  $200\mu\text{m}$ .

### Instruments

- spectrophotometer model Jenaway 6405 uv /vis. Single beam.
- Flame photometer, Jenaway PFP7, model 9003.
- Atomic absorption spectrophotometer model, braic WFX - 120.
- Stuart rotary evaporator RE 300.
- UK. e. Stuart water bath RE 300B /UK.

### Chemicals and reagents

All chemicals and reagents used were from Merck and Fluka and all are of analytical grade: hydroflouric acid, ammonium molybedate, quinoline, EDTA, E.B.T, ethanol, ammonium thiocyanate, ammonium ferric sulfate, hydrochloric acid, sodium hydroxide, sulphuric acid.

### Calibration curves

Calibration curves have been obtained for the determination of chemical composition using standard materials (GSB G 62020 - 9) and standard international conditions for atomic absorption [17] calibration curve for Na and K by flame photometer are with  $R^2=0.999$  and by Atomic absorption spectroscopy for Fe with  $R^2 = 0.9928$ .

### Procedures:

- Fixing  $\lambda_{max}$** : The dark oil was diluted ten times with light naphtha and

scanned in the spectrophotometer through wavelength light (350 - 800)nm. The spectrum plotted, and the wavelength at which maximum absorbance occurs detected, as shown Fig (1).

**b. Clay treatment :** 100 ml. dark oil was mixed with the adsorbent (3 - 11%W/V) in a round bottom flask of the rotary evaporator, the temperature of the oil bath fixed at the study temperature (150, 200, 250, and 300 °C).The vacuum pump was connected and mixed at this temperature continued for one hour and the slurry was cooled to 90 - 100 °C, filtered through a special cloth filter, the filtrate was diluted with light naphtha ten times, the absorbance was measured using 410 nm wavelength light.

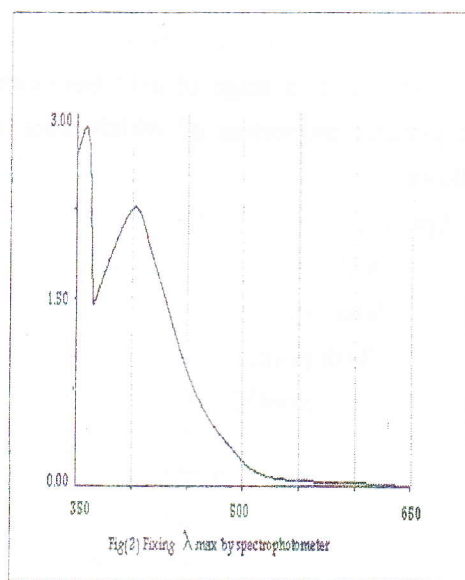
**c. Acid activation :** 100grams of the ground clay (dry basis, 110°C ) were placed in a one liter flask, heated by an electrical mantle ,400ml of 1:3.2(v/v) hydrochloric acid (d=1.16 g/ml, %w/v(HCl)=32) solution were added so that the HCl concentration is 10% (w/v) and the dry acid /clay ratio (w/w) was 0.40 kept for 24 hours then refluxed at 80 °C for 3 hours with constant stirring while hot, the clay suspension was transferred to a 5-liter beaker and washed by decantation with distilled water for at least 5 times

until it is  $Cl^-$  and  $Fe^{+3}$  free (pH =3.5-4.0). The acid activated was filtered in a

Buchner funnel, dried at 110 °C and reground to pass No. 200 mesh sieve (74mm)for the decolorization test.(the same method repeated for 20%HCl ,10% and 20%  $H_2SO_4$ )\*.

**d) Oil and active clay treatment :**100ml dark oil was mixed with the active clay (3-11%w/v) in a round bottom flask of the rotary evaporator the temperature of the oil bath fixed at 150 °C.The vacuum pump connected, mixing continued for one hour and then the slurry was cooled to 90-100 °C, filtered through a special cloth filter.

The filtrate was diluted with light naphtha ten times; the absorbance was measured using 410nm wave length light.



\* (i) 400 ml of 1:1.6 HCl acid added to 100gm clay so that the HCl concentration is 20%(w/v) and the dry acid/clay ratio (w/w) was 0.80.

(ii)  $H_2SO_4 = 98\%$  w/w  $H_2SO_4$ ,  $d=1.84$  400ml of 1:10 acid added to 100gm clay so that the  $H_2SO_4$  concentration is 10%(w/v) and the dry acid /clay ratio (w/w) was 0.40

(iii) 400 ml of 1:5 acid added to 100 gm clay so that the  $H_2SO_4$  concentration is 20%(w/v) and the dry acid/ clay ratio (w/w) was 0.80

### Procedures for chemical compositions

analysis, the procedures were adapted as mentioned on ref [18].

a. determination of  $SiO_2$  : by gravimetric method as (quinoline silico molybdate) .

b. determination of  $Al_2O_3$  : by gravimetric method as (aluminum oxinate).

c. Determination of  $Fe_2O_3$  : (i) by spectrophotometric method as (thiocyanate complexation) (ii) by atomic absorption spectrophotometer .

d. Determination of CaO and MgO : by titration method (complexometric titration with EDTA). Determination of total carbonate : as free carbonate .

### Results and discussion

The chemical compositions of all clay samples used in this work are shown in table (1). This table shows that the various components of the chemical analysis are between 99.12 and 99.8% which indicates the correctness of the analysis and the lack of considerable content of other components as occasionally observed in clays. The analysis shows great difference in  $SiO_2$ ,  $Al_2O_3$ , and  $CaCO_3$  content of the local clays (brown clay, yellow clay) in comparison with Kaolin, Iranian clay and China clay, that may be due to the contamination of local clays with organic substances in addition to their different genesis composition, that brown and yellow clays are dominantly  $CaCO_3$  content. The presence of the above could effect on their decolorization abilities of dark oils. The results shown in Fig (2) indicate clearly the efficiency of clays in the decolorization in the following order: China clay>Iranian clay>Kaolin clay>yellow clay>brown clay. As  $SiO_2$  and  $Al_2O_3$  content increase and  $CaCO_3$  decreases the efficiency of decolorizing increases. While the results shown in Figures. (3 - 7) indicate that, increasing temperature causes to increase the decolorizing abilities of the clays. Chemically speaking the speed of chemical reactions will double for every

increase of ten degrees Celsius. However, the rate of oxidation of the oil is increased approximately three times for each increase of the same ten degrees Celsius [19]. Hence, the oil temperature in the

process and operation should be kept at optimum. Vacuum helps to protect the oil from oxidation by contact with air at high temperature.

Table (1) The chemical composition of clay samples.

Costituents	Brown clay	Yellow clay	Kaolin clay	Iranian clay	China clay
SiO <sub>2</sub>	16.8	7.46	47.07	55.7	53.42
Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	3.33	3.86	35.05	13.13	10.06
Total CaO & MgO	8.34	8.81	1.37	3.77	10.18
K <sub>2</sub> O	0.28	0.57	0.1	0.3	0.12
Na <sub>2</sub> O	1.82	2	1.6	1.4	0.7
CaCO <sub>3</sub>	30.86	42.23			
Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	10.57	8.81	1.34	1.34	3.58
TiO <sub>2</sub>	0.27	0.21	1.19	0.33	0.52
Uncombined water	7.35	4.37	0.08	15.77	11.79
Loss on ignition	19.5	21.3	12	7.48	9.4
Total	99.12	99.62	99.8	99.22	99.77

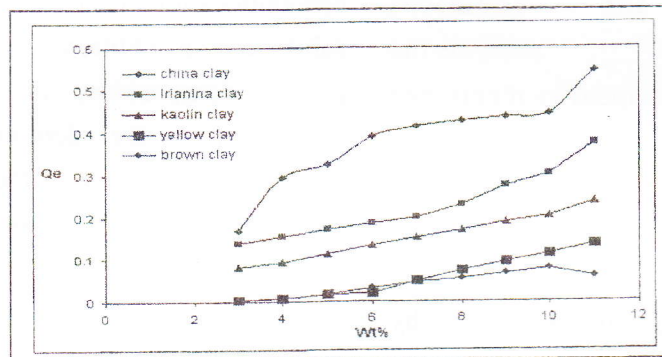


Figure (2) comparison of adsorption on different clays at 200 °C (Where Qe = X/m)

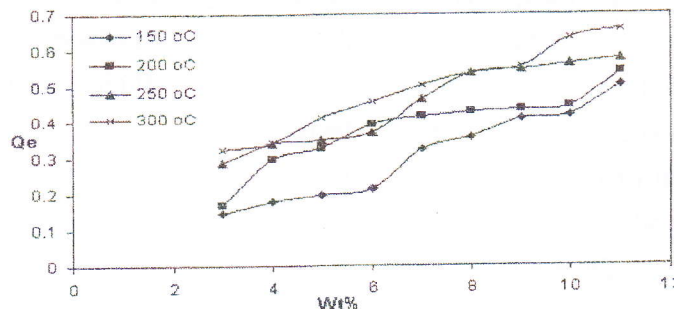
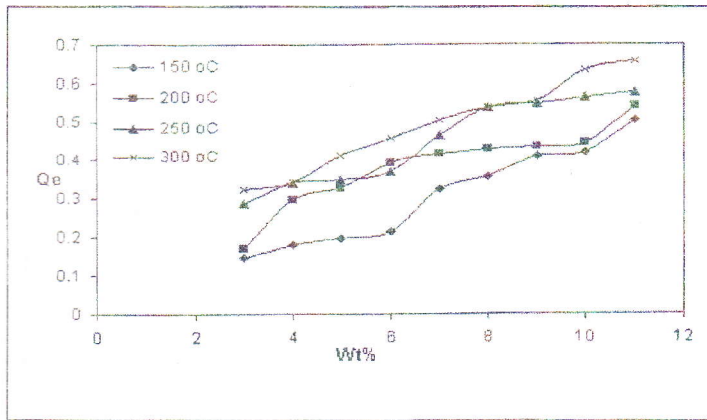
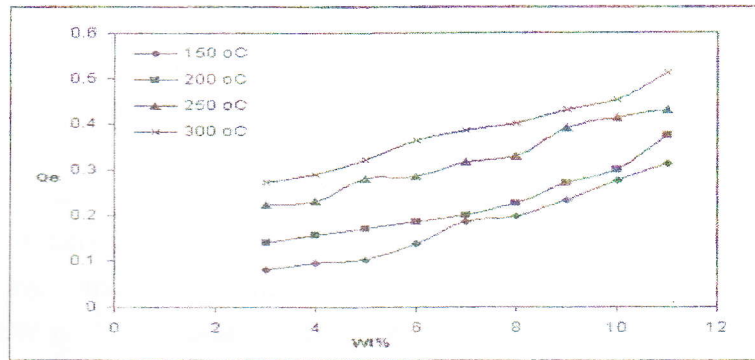


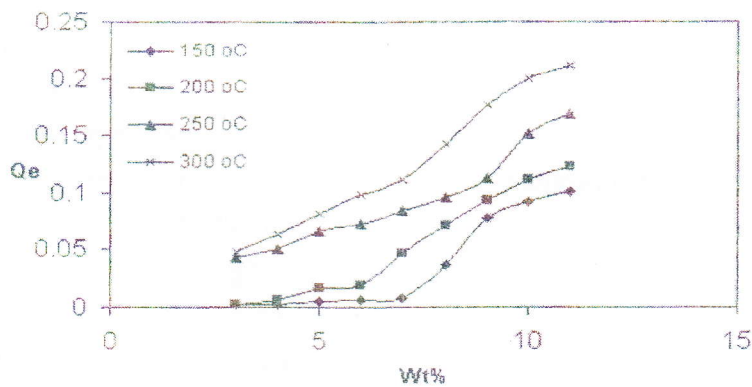
Figure (3) Comparison of adsorption by China clay at different temperature (where Qe=x/m)



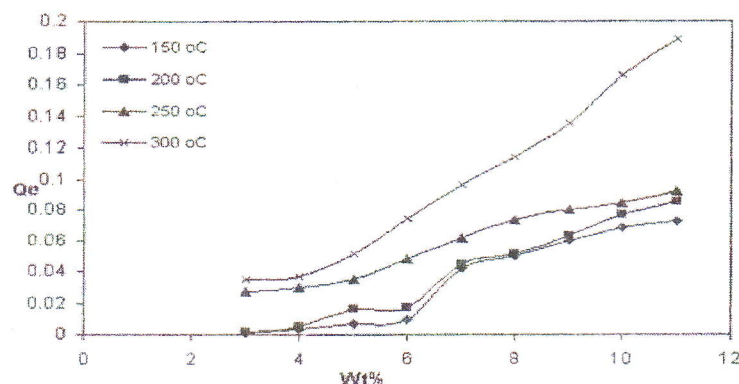
Figure( 4)Comparison of adsorption by Iranian clay at different temperature (where  $Q_e = X/m$ )



Figure( 5)Comparison of adsorption by Kaolin clay at different temperature (were  $Q_e = X/m$ )



Figure( 6 )Comparison of adsorption by Yellow clay at different temperature (where  $Q_e = X/m$ )



Figure( 7)Comparision of adsorption by Brown clay at different temperature

(were  $Q_e = X/m$ )

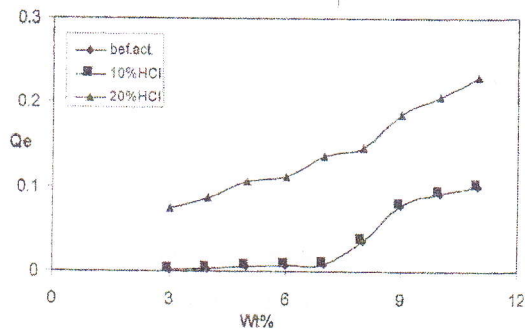
The clays were applied as powders of 200 mesh size and mixing was performed either with the dry clay or as mud or pulp with excess water. The last one is more convenient as the subsequent conversion of the water to steam helps to protect the oil from oxidation by air at high temperature. Then cooled slurry was mixed with light naphtha which makes easier the removal of spent clay by filter or may the diluted mixture is subjected to dewaxing process after removal of clay. On lighter lubricating distillate SAE 30, SAE 20 and lower the slurry was filtered without naphtha at a temperature of 90 - 100 °C. The time required for this treatment is generally about half to one hour and no great advantage was recognized for longer period treatment. The clay treatment was often applied after acid treatment, which serves to neutralize and to decolorize at the same time. This is

useful because neutralization of highly viscous stocks containing the products of the reaction with sulphuric acid almost impossible with aqueous alkali that emulsify the stock contents.

Therefore, different clays with different level of acid activation were applied to adsorb colored compounds in lubricant oil. Decolorizing capacity is quoted here as the quality criterion of the activated products, as it is an important index to evaluate the efficiency of the activated clays in the decolorization. Figure (8) to [10] show the improvement of the efficiency of the activated clays using 10% and 20% HCl and also results shown through figure (11) to (13) indicate the improvement of the efficiency of the activated clays using 10%, and 20 %H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. However, the adsorption capacity of the acid (HCl or H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) activation of the clays was significant; As

the intensity of the acid treatment is increased decolorizing ability for a given oil increases up to an optimum value, but with further treatment there is a decline in that ability. So in this an acid dependence pH may enhances and latter inhibits the sorption processes of adsorbate and in this physicochemical process may accompany by  $H^+$  and other cations release in to media. As a consequence of increasing acid % concentration, the exchangeable cation between the 2:1 layer leave first and are replaced by the  $H^+$  ions; Since only a small quantity of cations  $Mg^{+2}$ ,  $Fe^{+3}$  and  $Al^{+3}$  leaves from the 2:1 layers, the change in the composition percentage of oxide  $R_xO_y\%$   $\{R_xO = Al_2O_3 + Fe_2O_3 + MgO\}$  has been shown small [11] before activation, but as the acid concentration ( $HCl\%$  or  $H_2SO_4\%$ ) increases the cation dissolve easily from the clay layers, so the decrease in  $R_xO_y\%$  is great and has asignificant effect. Again it was observed the variation in specific pore volume , specific area, and surface acidity are modified by function of the acid that is used in activation [13] The variation of the metal cation exchange capacity (CEC) by the  $R_xO_y\%$  was studied also by Mu~erref [11] and he showed that, as the  $R_xO_y\%$  decrease by progressing activation, the CEC decreases linearly. Also the disappearance of some

of the octahedron, whose in clay structure  $Mg^{+2}$  cations in their centers are dissolved, leads to the disappearance of the excess negative charge originating from them and as a result the CEC decrease as the  $R_xO_y\%$  decreases. In addition to chemical composition and CEC, the specific surface area and micro pore-Meso pore volume of bentonite as important properties that will vary by acid activation and also vary by alkaline treatment The (BET) surface areas of bentonite sample show to decrees [12] with alkali  $Na_2CO_3$  activation because  $Ca^{+2}$  ions were exchanged by  $Na^+$  ion and this caused a decrease in the micro pore area and low surface areas for  $Na_2CO_3$  treated samples, while the surface areas for acid  $H_2SO_4$  treated sample has been shown to increase and reach a maximum and then decrease. This is in according to the our experimental results which indicates that the observed chemical structural and composition change after treatment with higher acid concentration caused an alteration of the morphology and consequently the surface properties of the local clay samples.



Fig(8) comparison of decolorization of lube oil by kaoline before and after activation by HCl at 150°C (were  $Q_e = X/m$ )

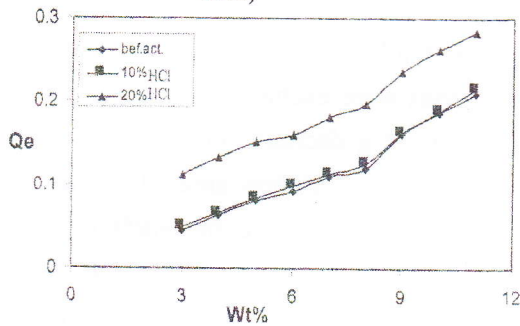
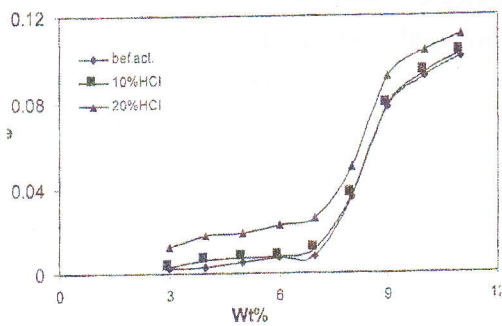
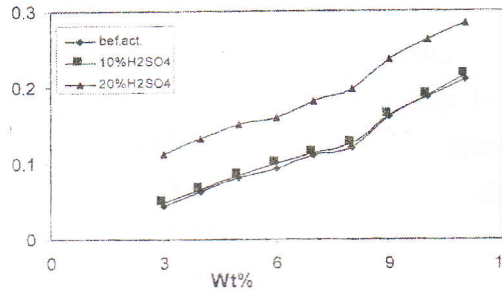


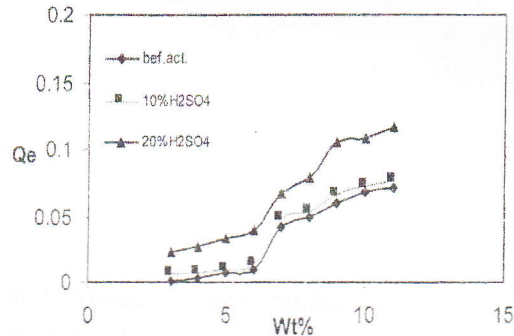
Fig. (9) Comparison of decolorize lube oil by brown clay before and after activation by HCl at 150°C (were  $Q_e = X/m$ )



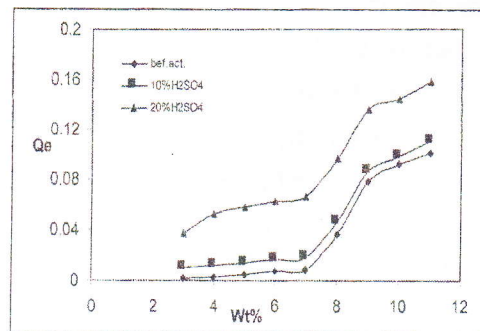
Fig(10) comparison of decolorization of lube oil by yellow clay before and after activation by HCl at 150°C (were  $Q_e = X/m$ )



Fig(11) comparison of decolorization of lube oil by kaoline before and after activation by  $H_2SO_4$  at 150°C (were  $Q_e = X/m$ )



Fig(12) Comparison of decolorization of lube oil by brown clay before and after activation by  $H_2SO_4$  at 150°C (were  $Q_e = X/m$ )



Fig(13) comparison of decolorization of lube oil by yellow clay before and after activation by H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> at 150°C (were Qe = X/m)

**Adsorption Isotherm:**

The experimental data have been tested, for bleaching of lubricant oil on to the Bentonite clays surface before activation and after activation with %10 HCl , on the Langmuir and Freundlich isotherm models [7].

Langmuir:

$$\frac{C}{X} = \frac{1}{b X_e} + \frac{C}{X_e} \quad \text{----- (1)}$$

Where X/m is the out of substance adsorbed pre gram of adsorbent, C is equilibration concentration for given amount of substance adsorbed (residual substance) and X<sub>e</sub> represent the maximum amount of adsorbed per amount of clay (retention capacity of clay).

Freundlich:

$$\frac{X}{m} = k C^n \quad \text{----- (2)}$$

where K and n are Constants.

Since the absorbance measurements were taken from experiments for the bleaching process of colored solution the relative amount substance adsorbed (X) and that at

equilibrium are obtained from the following equations (3 and 4):

$$X = \frac{A_0 - A_t}{A_0} \quad \text{----- (3)}$$

$$X_e = \frac{A_t}{A_0} = 1 - X \quad \text{----- (4)}$$

Where A<sub>0</sub> is the absorbance of unbleached lube. oil and A<sub>t</sub> is the absorbance of bleached oil at time t. Thus by, means of equations (3 and 4) and by writing X<sub>e</sub> instead of equilibrium residual substance C, the equations (1) and (2) are rearranged as following (1a) :

$$\frac{X_e}{X/m} = \frac{1}{a} + \left[ \frac{b}{a} \right] X_e \quad \text{----- (5)}$$

$$X/m = K X_e^n \quad \text{----- (6)}$$

By taking the logarithm of eq. ( 6) we get eq.(7)

$$\log X/m = \log K + n \log X_e \quad \text{----- (7)}$$

A plot of versus X<sub>e</sub> and log X/m versus log X<sub>e</sub> should give straight lines and the last squares analysis can be used to calculated the parameters (a, b, K) and (n) from intercept and slope of straight lines of the isotherms. Therefore the experimental data were plotted according to equations (5) and (7) give the relations shown at figs (14-15) which indicate very clearly,

according to the above interpretation that the adsorption process before and after activation are in accord with the Freundlich model more than langmuur model (straight lines for freundlich, but all points of the Langmuir isotherm plot were present randomly on the line). This means that the Freundlich equation is more applicable than the Langmuir equation to the adsorption isotherms in the process of bleaching of lube oil with all three types of clay used under our experimental condition. This shows also that there are a physical adsorption of one Layer with Van der

waals forces between the adsorbent and adsorbate.

### Conclusion

Studies show that the local clays (yellow clay and brown clay) have weak decolorizing power comparable with China clay and Iranian clay so they need acid activation to improve their decolorizing ability. While Kaolin can be used as good bleaching clay as its decolorizing power was shown as to be efficient for bleaching lubricating oils, that is probably result from well packed structure that not easily break down during sorption process on the clay surface.

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## توانای چەند جۆره گلیک له لابردنی رەنگی رۆنی چەور کردن

عبدالسلام رحیم کریم و محمد علی عبدالله و کریم جمعه جبرائیل

### پوختە

چەند جۆریکی جیوازلە له گلی کوردستانی عیراق، به ناوی بنتونایتی زەرد ، بنتونایتی قاوهیی و گله سەر به کارهینران له کرداری لابردنی رەنگی رۆنی چەور کردن وه بهراورد کران له گەل گلی چینی چالاکراو گلی لییرانی به ناوی (رۆز) که هەردووکیان زۆر به فراوانی به کار دههینری له گهرداره پیشهسازی یه کانی رۆنی کانزاییدا.

لیکۆئینهوهی کیمیایی تهواو بۆ ههموو جۆره گله به کار هاتوووهکان نه نجام درا وه به مه بهستی زانیینی پیکهاتی کیمیاییان و بری جیوازلە نوم گالنه به ریزهی (٣-١١٪) به کار هینران بۆ لابردنی رەنگی رۆنیکی چەور کردن که له شاری سلێمانی به رهههه دههینریته نهویش جیگرکردنی پلهی گهرمی (١٥٠، ٢٠٠، ٢٥٠، ٣٠٠ س) له سەر کرداری رۆمژینی گلهکان به به کارهینانی بریکی جیگر لهو گالنه . بئیرا که توانای رەنگ لابردنی گلهکان بهم زنجیرهیه :گلی چینی ، گلی لییرانی، گله سەر بنتونایتی زەرد ، بنتونایتی قاوهیی . ههروهها لیکۆئینهوهیهکی تر نه نجام درا له سەر کاریگهری یرشی بۆ چالاک کردن و چاک کردنی کرداری رۆمژینه که به یهوهست به البردنی رەنگی تاریکی رۆنی چەور کردنه که وه له نه نجامه کهی کۆنرایه وه . پاشان نه نجامی هیلکاری رۆمژینه که له پلهی گهرمی نهگوراوودا ده ریخست که په یرهوی مۆدیلی رۆمژینی فرندلج دهکات.

## قابلیة الاطیان المختلفة في ازالة لون زيت التزيت

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### الخلاصة

تم استخدام أنواع عديدة من اطيان كردستان العراق ، تحديداً (البنتوناييت الاصفر ، البنتوناييت البني ، و الكاولين ) في عملية ازالة اللون للزيوت الداكنة وتم مقارنتها مع الطين الصيني المنشط و الطين الايراني المسمى (روز) ، اللذان غالباً ما يستخدمان في العمليات الصناعية للزيوت المعدنية .

وقد انجز التحليل الكيميائي الكامل لكل انواع الاطيان المستخدمة لمعرفة التركيب الكيميائي و بعدها استخدمت نسب مختلفة (٢-١١٪ و/ح) من هذه الاطيان لازالة لون زيت التزيت المصنع في مدينة السليمانية بثبوت درجة الحرارة و حجم العبيبات ، كما تم دراسة تاثير درجة الحرارة (١٥٠ ، ٢٠٠ ، ٢٥٠ ، ٣٠٠ م) لكميات ثابتة من هذه الطيان على عملية الامتزاز ، وقد كانت تسلسل كفاءة ازالة اللون الاطيان كالتالي ( الطين الصيني ، الطين الايراني ، الكاولين ، البنتوناييت الاصفر ، البنتوناييت البني ) . وكذلك تم دراسة تاثير الحوامض على تنشيط الاطيان و تحسين كفاءتها لازالة لون زيوت التزيت الداكنة ، و اخيرا اظهرت النتائج بان عملية الامتزاز تكون بموجب معادلة ( فرندلش ) .