

Empirical investigation of treatment process of outlet waste water from petroleum industries

Abstract

Nowadays, lack of potable water, development of industries and population growth, extend desalination units. About 72% of the feed is drained into the sea as concentrated brine wastewater. This large amount of concentrated brine wastewater threatens sea ecosystem as thermal shocking and high salinity. The pretreatment of effluent stream from petroleum refinery is a logical solution to decrease damages which threaten the sea ecosystems. To reach the goal of Zero Discharge Process (ZDP) some experiments were conducted to decrease the total hardness of effluent stream from this desalination unit. So, the determination of the effects of some parameters is considered for decreasing of total hardness in this research. The experiments were conducted for three mineral coagulants by using each coagulant, separately also by coupled coagulants.

Keywords: treatment process, flocculation, sedimentation, water, calcium hardness, magnesium hardness

Volume 2 Issue 5 - 2017

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Received: October 18, 2016 | **Published:** March 30, 2017

Abbreviations: ZDP, zero discharge process; ZnO, zinc oxide; PbO, lead II oxide; TiO₂, titanium dioxide

Introduction

Published researches about the pretreatment of exit wastewater from desalination units are rare. Nowadays, lack of potable water, development of industries and population growth, extend desalination units. Although desalination units have been grown up, but exit brine stream is usually drained into the sea ecosystem.¹⁻⁴ Moreover, annually a large quantity of concentrated brine is discharged into the sea.^{5,6} By treatment of this saline wastewater, it is possible to eliminate the hazardous effects of salinity on sea ecosystem. Additionally two valuable matters, salt and sweet water can be produced. Total hardness and turbidity of wastewater must be reduced during pretreatment process of wastewater to produce Sodium Chloride salt.^{7,8} Coagulants are the matters used to decrease total hardness of wastewater. The pretreatment process includes 3 steps: coagulation, flocculation and sedimentation. Improving the efficiency of pretreatment process depends on water specifications and also the operating parameters.⁹⁻¹¹ The optimum mixing rate of first pretreatment reactor, type of coagulant, ratio of sodium carbonate to coagulant and sodium hydroxide to coagulant are some of the important factors in operating conditions. Polyelectrolytes or mixture of coagulants can be used to improve the efficiency of total hardness removal.^{8,12} In this research various binary mixtures of three mineral coagulants were investigated quantitatively and qualitatively. The optimum amounts of Sodium Carbonate to coagulant and Sodium Hydroxide to coagulant were studied for each coagulant individually. This shows that the best ratio for Sodium Carbonate to coagulant is three and for Sodium Hydroxide to coagulant is four.

Materials and methods

Materials

The experiments are managed for the wastewater of petroleum refinery. Three commercial mineral nano coagulants, zinc oxide (ZnO), lead II oxide (PbO) and titanium dioxide (TiO₂) are used in

the pretreatment process. Moreover in softening process Sodium Carbonate and Sodium Hydroxide must be added to the wastewater. The previous researches in this field are focused on finding the optimum ratio of Sodium Carbonate to coagulant and also Sodium Hydroxide to coagulant and these ratios are used in this work too. These proper values are 3 and 4 respectively.

Experimental apparatus

Experiments are held in two pretreatment reactors. The capacity of each reactor is 8 liter and each of them equipped by a mixer. The speed of the mixers can be changed by a "control box". Figure 1 shows the pre-treatment set up. 27 types of binary mixtures of coagulants are examined by three mentioned speeds. Total hardness removal reveals the efficiency of softening pretreatment process. The initial total hardness of wastewater is about 50696.3 ppm as (CaCO₃). The EC of the waste water is about 29543 micro mho per centimeter and with different pH values. The salinity of feed stream which is entrance to the first pretreatment reactor is about 7 percent. The results show the electrical conductivity, salinity and total hardness vanished, severely in this paper. In addition, the results show the turbidity amount of treated water is decreased in this study.

Results and discussion

The speed of mixer in the first pretreatment reactor is one of the major operating parameters which affects the size of coagulants and then as a result the softening efficiency. The total hardness removal reveals the efficiency of softening pretreatment process. Figure 1 shows the trend of total hardness removal. This illustrates that the speed of 90rpm in coagulation step increases the total hardness efficiently and also the mixture contains TiO₂ and ZnO has enough capacity to remove total hardness from 50696.3 to about 299 ppm as CaCO₃. However if this ratio increases to 8/2 or 9/1 the total hardness decreases just about 1.5%, so this is concluded that mixture contains 700cc of TiO₂ to 300cc of ZnO is beneficial economically. One of the important aspects on coagulation process is pH of wastewater. Also the pH value of clarified water is important in potable water. The total hardness can state the turbidity and electrical conductivity, also. All of

the obtained results which are shown in the Figures 1A–1I state the treatment is efficient. Experimental results show the ratio for TiO_2/ZnO

PbO and also for TiO_2/ZnO is 3/1.5. So, by increasing the amount of TiO_2 in the mixture the value of total hardness decreases.

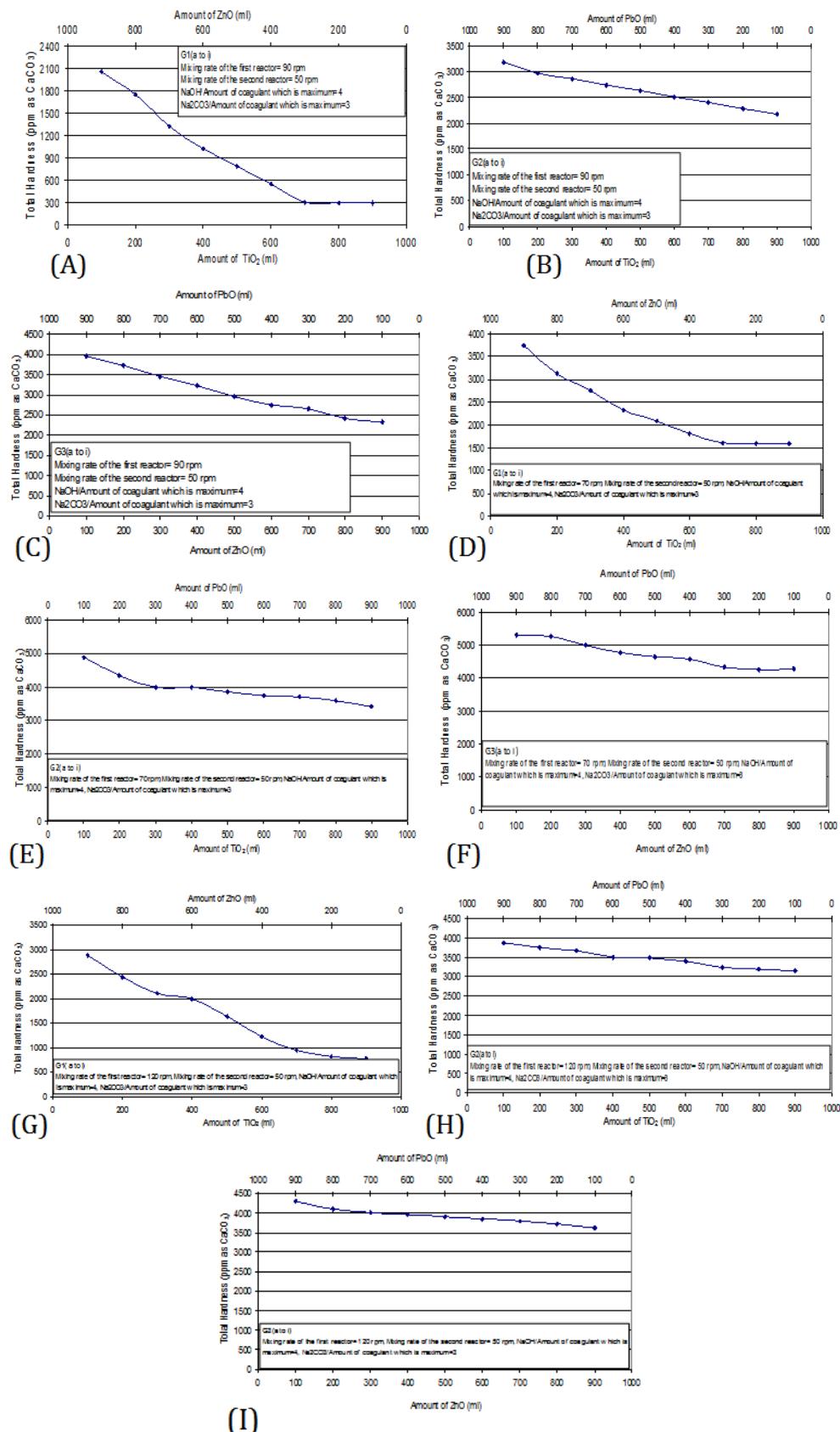


Figure 1 variation of total hardness versus amounts of binary mineral coagulant mixtures for different mixing speed.

Conclusion

This work focuses on the finding the major aspects for removing the total hardness of wastewater by different binary mixtures of mineral nano coagulants. The used wastewater is the effluent stream of petroleum refinery. The results reveal that the speed of 90rpm in coagulation step decreases the total hardness efficiently and a mixture containing TiO_2 and ZnO has higher capacity to remove total hardness comparing with the other coupled mixtures. The experiments show that another effective factor on coagulation step is the high ratio of number of anions to the number of cations of coagulant. This ratio for TiO_2/PbO and also for TiO_2/ZnO is 3/1.5. So, by increasing the amount of TiO_2 in the mixture the value of total hardness decreases.

Acknowledgements

None.

Conflict of interest

The author declares no conflict of interest.

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