

Article

Removal of Chromium (VI) from Water Using *Orange peel* as the Biosorbent: Experimental, Modeling, and Kinetic Studies on Adsorption Isotherms and Chemical Structure

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Abstract: The present work aims to assess the effectiveness and efficiency of orange peels as a low-cost biosorbent for removing Cr(VI) from an aqueous solution by the biosorbent process. The orange peels as adsorbent was characterized using different methods, such as FTIR, pH_{zpc}, equilibrium pH, TGA, XRD, SEM, and (BET). The tests were conducted in the batch mode, and the effects of different parameters, such as the pH, dosage of the biosorbent, influent Cr(VI), and time, on the biosorption of Cr(VI) were investigated. The adsorption kinetics proved that a contact time of 90 min resulted in the highest (approximately 97.8%) Cr(VI) removal, with an adsorption capacity of 4.96 mg/g. Moreover, the increase in the biosorbent dosage (from 1 to 10 g/L) resulted in the enhancement in the Cr(VI) removal effectiveness. Moreover, the pH of the solution also affected significantly the effectiveness of the removal. The tests were conducted under acidic pH solution conditions, and the prediction of the pH value at a zero charge (pH_{zpc}) was confirmed experimentally. Furthermore, the results from the batch-mode assays were successfully tested by an experimental design (full factorial design). The biosorption of Cr(VI) on orange-peels occurred mostly according to the pseudo-second-order kinetic model and the uptake of Cr(VI) was satisfactorily described by the Langmuir model.

Keywords: biosorption; chromium; water treatment; batch mode; kinetic; orange peels

1. Introduction

Chromium (Cr) is one of the most widely used chemicals in the industry thanks to its valuable effects in processing skin for tannery [1], textiles [2], wood and manufacturing dye [3] as well as in paint and paper [4] and in oil refining [5]. Cr(III) and Cr(VI) are two stable oxidation states of Cr that persist in the environment [6]. Cr (III) is essential for human nutrition, especially in glucose metabolism, while Cr(VI) is toxic for humans, animals, and bacteria. Cr(VI) compounds are known to be carcinogenic [7,8]. According to the World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines, the concentration thresholds of Cr(VI)

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Table of Contents Studies On Chemical Structure Reactivi

1. Understanding the eBook Studies On Chemical Structure Reactivi
 - The Rise of Digital Reading Studies On Chemical Structure Reactivi
 - Advantages of eBooks Over Traditional Books
2. Identifying Studies On Chemical Structure Reactivi
 - Exploring Different Genres
 - Considering Fiction vs. Non-Fiction
 - Determining Your Reading Goals
3. Choosing the Right eBook Platform
 - Popular eBook Platforms
 - Features to Look for in an eBook Studies On Chemical Structure Reactivi
 - User-Friendly Interface
4. Exploring eBook Recommendations from Studies On Chemical Structure Reactivi
 - Personalized Recommendations
 - Studies On Chemical Structure Reactivi User Reviews and Ratings
 - Studies On Chemical Structure Reactivi and Bestseller Lists

5. Accessing Studies On Chemical Structure Reactivi Free and Paid eBooks
 - Studies On Chemical Structure Reactivi Public Domain eBooks
 - Studies On Chemical Structure Reactivi eBook Subscription Services
 - Studies On Chemical Structure Reactivi Budget-Friendly Options
6. Navigating Studies On Chemical Structure Reactivi eBook Formats
 - ePUB, PDF, MOBI, and More
 - Studies On Chemical Structure Reactivi Compatibility with Devices
 - Studies On Chemical Structure Reactivi Enhanced eBook Features
7. Enhancing Your Reading Experience
 - Adjustable Fonts and Text Sizes of Studies On Chemical Structure Reactivi
 - Highlighting and Note-Taking Studies On Chemical Structure Reactivi
 - Interactive Elements Studies On Chemical Structure Reactivi
8. Staying Engaged with Studies On Chemical Structure Reactivi
 - Joining Online Reading Communities
 - Participating in Virtual Book Clubs
 - Following Authors and Publishers Studies On Chemical Structure Reactivi
9. Balancing eBooks and Physical Books Studies On Chemical Structure Reactivi
 - Benefits of a Digital Library
 - Creating a Diverse Reading Collection Studies On Chemical Structure Reactivi
10. Overcoming Reading Challenges
 - Dealing with Digital Eye Strain
 - Minimizing Distractions
 - Managing Screen Time
11. Cultivating a Reading Routine Studies On Chemical Structure Reactivi
 - Setting Reading Goals Studies On Chemical Structure Reactivi
 - Carving Out Dedicated Reading Time
12. Sourcing Reliable Information of Studies On Chemical Structure Reactivi
 - Fact-Checking eBook Content of Studies On Chemical Structure Reactivi
 - Distinguishing Credible Sources
13. Promoting Lifelong Learning

- Utilizing eBooks for Skill Development
- Exploring Educational eBooks

14. Embracing eBook Trends

- Integration of Multimedia Elements
- Interactive and Gamified eBooks

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