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<AT>Preparation of magnetic carbon nanotube nanocomposite for enhancing the separation of dissolved hydrocarbon from petroleum wastewater

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<ABS-Head><ABS-HEAD>Graphical abstract

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<ABS-HEAD>Highlights ► MWCNTs/ magnetite/SiO<sub>2</sub> were prepared using dip coating method. ► Application of MWCNTs/magnetite/SiO<sub>2</sub> in oil/water separation. ► The amphoteric MMWCNTs /SiO<sub>2</sub> have excellent affinity with oil-water separation. ► MMWCNTs /SiO<sub>2</sub> could be reused several times up to 5 times.

<ABS-HEAD>Abstract

<ABS-P>Multi-walled carbon nanotubes decorated with magnetite (MMWCNTs) were prepared then modified with silicon oxide (MMWCNTs/SiO<sub>2</sub>) and characterized using high-resolution transmission electron microscope (HRTEM), dynamic light scattering (DLS), thermal gravimetric analysis (TGA), Fourier transform infrared photometer (FTIR), and X-Ray diffraction techniques (XRD). A bench scale experimental setup was designed for the oil in water mixture separation of the prepared materials. Subsequently, individual and interaction effects of operational parameters, e.g., MMWCNTs and MMWCNTs/SiO<sub>2</sub> doses, initial oil concentration, pH and water salinity were investigated and optimized using response surface methodology (RSM) and ANOVA analysis at  $\alpha = 0.05$ . The results of experimental data were fitted with polynomial models developed using RSM, and the regression analysis with an  $R^2$  value of  $\approx 0.99$  showed the goodness of fit for the experimental results with predicted values. The experimental results showed higher oil/water separation for MMWCNTs/SiO<sub>2</sub> than MMWCNTs itself with a separation rate of 92.8% and 72.4%, respectively at 1 g/l of initial oil concentration. Compared with other approaches for fabricating oil-water materials, the as-prepared MMWCNTs/SiO<sub>2</sub> is a promising candidate for efficient oil-water separation even after 5 cycles.

<KWD>Keywords: Multiwall carbon nanotubes; magnetic nanocomposite; hydrocarbon separation; column studies; response surface optimization.

<H1>1. Introduction

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