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Degradation of ciprofloxacin antibiotic by Homogeneous Fenton oxidation: Hybrid AHP-PROMETHEE method, optimization, biodegradability improvement and identification of oxidized by-products

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Abstract

The main purpose of this experimental study was to optimize Homogeneous Fenton oxidation (HFO) 12 and identification of oxidized by-products from degradation of Ciprofloxacin (CIP) using hybrid AHP-13 PROMETHEE, Response Surface Methodology (RSM) and High Performance Liquid 14 Chromatography coupled with Mass Spectrometry (HPLC-MS). At the first step, an assessment was 15 made for performances of two catalysts (FeSO₄.7H₂O and FeCl₂.4H₂O) based on hybrid AHP-16 PROMETHEE decision making method. Then, RSM was utilized to examine and optimize the 17 influence of different variables including initial CIP concentration, Fe^{2+} concentration, $[H_2O_2]/[Fe^{2+}]$ 18 19 mole ratio and initial pH as independent variables on CIP removal, COD removal, and sludge to iron (SIR) as the response functions in a reaction time of 25 min. Weights of the mentioned responses as 20 well as cost criteria were determined by AHP model based on pairwise comparison and then used as 21 inputs to PROMETHEE method to develop hybrid AHP-PROMETHEE. Based on net flow results of 22 23 this hybrid model, FeCl₂.4H₂O was more efficient because of its less environmental stability as well as lower SIR production. Then, optimization of experiments using Central Composite Design (CCD) 24 under RSM was performed with the FeCl₂.4H₂O catalyst. Biodegradability of wastewater was 25 determined in terms of BOD₅/COD ratio, showing that HFO process is able to improve wastewater 26 biodegradability from zero to 0.42. Finally, the main intermediaries of degradation and degradation 27

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