**Extraction of heavy metals from contaminated soils using EDTA and HCl**

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**ABSTRACT**

**T**he present study examines the extraction of lead (Pb), cadmium (Cd) and nickel (Ni) from a contaminated soil by washing process. Ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid disodium salt (Na2EDTA) and hydrochloric acid (HCl) solution were used as extractants. Soil washing is one of the most suitable in-situ/ ex-situ remediation method in removing heavy metals. Soil was artificially contaminated with 500 mg/kg (Pb , Cd and Ni ).  A set of batch experiments were carried out at different conditions of extractant concentration , contact time, pH and agitation speed. The results showed that the maximum removal efficiencies of (Cd, Pb and Ni ) were (97, 88 and 24 ) % respectively using ( 0.1 M) Na2EDTA. While the maximum removal efficiencies using (1M) HCl were (98, 94 and 55)% respectively. The experimental data of batch extraction were applied in four kinetic models; first order, parabolic diffusion, two constant and Elovich model. The parabolic diffusion was the most fitted to the experimental data.

**Key words:** contaminated soil, heavy metals, soil washing, chemical extraction, kinetics.

**انتزاع المعادن الثقيلة من التربة الملوثة باستخدام EDTA و HCl**

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**الخلاصة**

في الدراسة الحالية تم دراسة الانتزاع للرصاص الكادميوم, والنيكل من التربة الملوثة باستخدام (Na2EDTA)Ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid disodium salt و HCl) Hydrochloric acid ) كمحاليل استخلاص .

 ان طريقة غسل التربة لازالة المعادن الثقيلة هي واحدة من أكثر طرق المعالجة الملائمة والتي تستخدم خارج وداخل المواقع الملوثة. تمت دراسة تربة التي يتم تلويثها مختبرياً بالعناصر التالية: الرصاص ، الكادميوم ، النيكل حيث كان تركيز الملوث 500 ملغم/كغم. في تجارب الدفعة التي اجريت على التربة تم دراسة ظروف مختلفة مثل تركيز المستخلص و زمن التماس والرقم الهيدروجيني وسرعة الاهتزاز. اظهرت نتائج تجارب الدفعة على ان الحد الأقصى لكفاءة الإزالة (97،88،24 )% للـ الكادميوم و الرصاص والنيكل على التوالي في عند استخدام (0.1) مولاريNa2EDTA. بينما الحد الأقصى لكفاءة الإزالة باستخدام (1) مولاري من HCl كان (98 ،94 ، 55)% . تم تطبيق البيانات والنتائج العملية المستحصلة من تجارب الدفعة في أربعة نماذج رياضية) first order ,parabolic diffusion , two constant و Elovich) ، وتبين إن نموذج (parabolic diffusion ) هو النموذج الرياضي الافضل لتمثيل البيانات والنتائج العملية.

**الكلمات الرئيسية:** تربة ملوثة,معادن الثقيلة، غسل التربة ، الانتزاع الكيميائي ،حركيات.

1. **INTRODUCTION**

Pollution of the soils with toxic metals is widespread across the globe, and threat in many countries today . It has become a major environmental concern in many parts of the world due to rapid industrialization, increased urbanization, modern agricultural practices and inappropriate waste disposal method. Accordingly, the cleanup of these soils is a difficult task for environmental engineering **Tandy, et al .,2004.**

Heavy metals are chemical elements with a specific gravity that is at least (5) times the specific gravity of water. They are often problematic environmental pollutants, with well-known toxic effects on living systems**, Evanko, et al., 1997.** They are introduced into the environment during mining, refining of ores, combustion of fossil fuels and industrial processes. They cannot be degraded or destroyed**, Davydova, 2005.**

 The contamination of surface and groundwater with highly mineralized mine waters or with compounds leached from mine dumps or tailings pose a very persistent environmental problem. Harmful contaminants, derived from such sources, enter the surface streams, settle in sediments, dissolve gradually and enter the environment as hazardous substances over long periods of time **,Phelelani,2007.**

 As one of the most suitable in-situ / ex-situ physical /chemical treatment technologies, soil washing has been successfully used for the treatment of soils contaminated with heavy metals, hydrocarbons and semi-volatile organic compounds **,Peters, 1999**. Soil washing usually employs different extractants such as acids, bases, chelating agents, electrolytes, oxidizing agents and surfactants **,Reddy,** and **Chinthamreddy, 2000**. Soil washing is fast emerging technologies that is used to treat/clean up contaminated soil with contaminants ranging from heavy metals to hydrocarbons **,Shumba, 2008.**

 The techniques are to separate the metal from soil by using chelating agents such as , ethylene diamminotetraacetic acid disodium salt Na2EDTA, which, can extract heavy metals from contaminated soils with high efficiency. Strong inorganic acid ,also, can be used as washing solutions in terms of reasonable cost and simple handling of the effluent solution. It is an effective solvent due to high its removal efficiency in extraction of heavy metal, especially hydrochloric acid (HCl) **,Isoyama,**and **Wada,2007.**

 Soil washing is a variable treatment alternative for metal contaminated sites chemical extraction to enhance the efficiency of heavy metals extraction. Process parameters in soil washing include the mode of extraction (batch or continueoud), extraction type and concentration, pH, electrolyte concentration, liquid-to-solid ratio (L/S), retention time. The soil related parameters are pH ,particle size distribution and mineral type of metal to be extracted and their concentration, distribution and physicochemical forms in the soils**,Tandy, et al .,2004.** .

**2. MATERIALS**

**2.1 soil**

Natural Iraqi soil samples were collected from depth not exceeded 20 cm below the ground surface. These samples were cleaned, dried and well stored with an additional sieving onto 2mm mesh to achieve satisfactory uniformity. **Table 1** summaries the physicochemical properties of the soil. The required tests for specifying the characteristics of soils are carried out at State Company of Geological Survey and Mining/ Ministry of Industry and Minerals.

**2.2 Contaminants**

To simulate the soil's lead , cadmium and nickel contamination, a solutions ofPb(NO3)2 ,Cd(NO3)2.4H2O , Ni(NO3)2.6H2O, respectively (which are manufactured by Analar Company/made in England) were prepared and added to the specimen to obtain representative concentration.Cd(NO3) 2.4H2O has a molecular weight of 308.47 g/mole and atomic weight of cadmium ions is112.4g/mole. For example, to prepare a soil sample with cadmium concentration of 500 mg/kg , 1.372 g of Cd(NO3) 2.4H2O dissolves in 500 ml of distilled water and added to 1 kg of dry soil.

**2.3 Na2EDTA (C10H14N2Na2O8.2H2O)**

Ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid disodium salt , is a very effective chelating agent*.* Its ability to bind heavy metal ions can be used to sequester these trace metals*,* is very stable and can be mixed with just about any phosphate containing fertilizer at basically any pH. It is very resistant to microbial degradation; therefore it remains quite stable in soils. It is of interest that EDTA has been used medically to promote removal of lead from the human body and also as an additive to render floor polishes with zinc binders amenable to detergent washing**,Joseph, et al., 1997.Table 2** summaries the Na2EDTA characteristics used in the present study.

**2.4 HCl**

Hydrochloric acid is a clear, colorless, highly-[pungent](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pungency%22%20%5Co%20%22Pungency)[solution](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Solution) of [hydrogen chloride](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hydrogen_chloride) ([H](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hydrogen%22%20%5Co%20%22Hydrogen)[Cl](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chlorine)) in water. It is a highly [corrosive](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corrosive), [strong](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Strong_acid)[mineral acid](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mineral_acid) with many industrial uses. HCl is found naturally in [gastric acid](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gastric_acid). HCl is very effective in the removal of heavy metals and achieve high removal efficiency in the case of natural pH with out neutralization to no loss the acidic property that are of high importance for the movement of contaminant sand solubility and thus easily extracted **,SRI, 2001.Table 3**summaries the HCl characteristics used in the present study.

**3. Experimental Procedure**

 Batch equilibrium tests are carried out to specify the best conditions of contact time, pH, concentration of extractant and agitation speed. This means that these tests are suited to identify the activity of the chemical extraction using Na2EDTA and HCl . Series of 250 ml flasks are employed, each flask contained 2 g of soil and 20 ml of ( Na2EDTA or HCl) extractant with a solid to liquid ratio (S/L) 1/10 , and contamination rate of 500 mg/kg .The Na2EDTA concentrations were (0.001,0.005,0.01,0.05 and 0.1) M , and HCl concentrations were (0.01,0.05, 0.1,0.5 and 1) M. pH values of the five HCl solutions were (2 ,1.7,1.44,1.16 and 1.08) respectively .The shaking of solutions were achieved by an orbital shaker(incubated AAH23212K,model S1-600R ,Korea ) at a speed of 200 and 250 rpm at temperature ( 25±1oC**)** at different contact time (1,2,3,4,5 and 6 hours) .

 Then the solution is filtered using a whatman No 42 filter paper. The supernatant was analyzed for heavy metal using atomic absorption spectrometry (AAS) (GBC, SensAA (Australia)). All tests were performed in triplicateand the results were presented as average of the duplicates extracts. Kinetic studies were investigated with different values of pH (4,7,10) for Na2EDTA .

The removal of each contaminant can be calculated using the following Eq.(1)**, Reddy,** and **Chinthamreddy, 2000.** as :

 Contaminant removal % =$\frac{contaminant mass in superntant \left(C\_{L}V\_{L}\right)}{initial contaminant mass in soil \left(C\_{S}M\_{S}\right)}×100\% $$\frac{contaminant mass in superntant \left(C\_{L}V\_{L}\right)}{initial contaminant mass in soil \left(C\_{S}M\_{S}\right)}×100\% $(1)

where:

CL: concentration of contaminant in supernatant (mg/L).

CS: concentration of contaminant in soil (mg/kg).

VL  :volume of supernatant ( L).

MS : dry mass of the soil (kg).

**4. Results and Discussion:**

**4.1 Effect of** **pH**

 Solution pH is an important factor determining the efficiency of extraction because it can influence the soil retention of metals by extraction **, Peters, 1999,** and effect the capability of extractant to extract the contaminants from soil through different mechanisms.

 **Fig. 1 shows** theeffect of pH on removal efficiency. Highest removal efficiencies (88% for Pb, 97% for Cd and 24% for Ni) were obtained at lower pH=4, because of protons (H+) can promote oxide dissolution, besides protons (H+) can react with soil surface sites (layer silicate minerals and /or surface functional group Al-OH, Fe-OH, and COOH groups) and enhance extraction of metals cations ,which are transferred into washing fluid. Also the mobility of heavy metals increased with the pH value of soil decreased. Hydroxo complexes tend to absorb protons in acidic pH, as a result, the concentration of effective anion in soil surface decreased and the ability of extracting heavy metals was weakened. However, further increase in pH values would cause a decreasing in removal efficiency. This may be attributed to the formation of negative (Pb , Cd and Ni) hydroxides Pb(OH)2ˉ, Cd (OH)2ˉand Ni(OH)2ˉ, which are precipitated from the solution making true extract studies impossible.

HCl solution concentrations of (0.01,0.05,0.1,0.5 and 1) M were used in the present study , pH values of these concentrations are (2, 1.7, 1.44, 1.16 and 1.08 ) respectively. NaOH did not added to neutralize the acid because this will reduce the acidic property or loss will overshadow(OH) instead of (H) and thus will reduce the movement of metals in polluted soil, which are necessary for the transfer of pollutants to the washing solution and therefore will prevent or reduce extraction. This agrees previous studies in the use of HCl. Also at pH < 2 this dissolution process replace ion exchange **,Kuo, et al.,2006.**

**4.2 Effect of Contact Time**

 Extraction time plays a very important role in soil washing. The percentages of removal of (lead, cadmium and nickel) were determined using Na2EDTA and HCl solutions. Heavy metals were estimated at different contact times (1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 hr) keeping the other parameters (pH, extractant concentration, and agitation speed) fixed. Metal removal efficiency by chemical extraction process depends on soil geochemistry (soil texture, cation exchange capacity, organic matter, particle size, and large surface area of contaminated soils allow extract of pollutants ).They were observed that the heavy metals removal increase as the contact time increase and it remains constant after reaching the equilibrium ,**Mohanty,** and **Mahindrakar, 2011.** Because of a large amount of extractant became exhausted , the extraction rate is controlled by the rate at which the extract is transported from the soil exterior to the interior sites of the extractant, because buffering capacity for soil reaching equilibrium. However, further increase in contact time had no significant effect on heavy metals removal. **Figs.2** and **3** show the effect contact time on extraction (Pb, Cd and Ni) using Na2EDTA and HCl .

**4.3 Effect of Extractant Concentration**

 Chelating agent modify metal concentration in soil solution by forming various soluble complexes , thus enhance metal removal **(Reddy andChinthamreddy,2000).** Different concentrations (0.001,0.005,0.01,0.05 and 0.1M ) of Na2EDTA were used in the present study. The soil washing with Na2EDTA extractant was at pH=4. For the extraction of contaminated soil using HCl extractant, different concentrations of HCl (0.01,0.05,0.1,0.5 and 1M) were used . No pH adjustment was made in the experiments of soil extraction by HCl. The extraction of heavy metals from contaminated soil using Na2EDTA and HCl was at solid/liquid ratio 1/10 and shaking speed 200 rpm.

 Removal of the three metals increased with increasing Na2EDTA and HCl concentrations and this agree with result of **Kirpichtchikova, et al., 2006.** This may due to the soil’s properties, such as metals distribution and physicochemical forms in the soil .

 High concentrations achievedacidic mediumwhich isessentialforthemovement of pollutantsand ease oftransmissionandexchangeofionswithwashingsolutions. Also this was expected that the higher concentrations of extractant in soil, the greater availability of extraction.

The extraction were carried out using different dosage of extractants as shown in **Figs.4** and **5.**

**4.4 Effect of Agitation Speed**

Effect of agitation on removal efficiency is shown in **Figs .6** and **7.** These figures showed that the removal efficiency decrease after 200 rpm speed. This may due to stick a part of the contaminated soil on inside surface of volumetric flask neck during the operation of thermostatic mixer which lowers the extraction of metals. Therefore, 200 rpm was taken as the best agitation speed where maximum removal efficiency can be obtained .

**4.5 Kinetic Models for Soil Washing**

In order to examine the heavy metals extraction mechanism, kinetic data were fitted with four mathematical models: first order, parabolic diffusion, two constant and elovich model. **Min, et al., 2008** presented the linear forms of these mathematical models as shown in **Table 4** which were applied for experimental data in the present study.

**2.5.1 First order kinetic model**

The first-order model is generally expressed as below Eq.(2) (Kue and Lotes, 1973 ):

**lnqt= lnq0-k1t** (2)

Where qt and q0 are amount of contaminant desorbed (mg/kg) after time period of extraction , k1 is first order rate constant (s-1).

**2.5.2 Parabolic diffusion kinetic model**

Khater and Zaghloul proposed parabolic diffusion kinetic model, which can be written as Eq.(3) , **Khater and Zaghloul, 2002**.

 **qt=q0 +kp t0.5** (3)

Where kp= is diffusion rate constant (mg contaminant/ kg) -0.5

**2.5.3 Two-constant kinetic model**

The two-constant model is generally expressed as below Eq.(4) , **Dang et al.,1994** :

**qt=atb** (4)

Where a= is initial contaminant desorption rate constant (mg contaminant/kg/s)b , b= is contaminant desorption rate coefficient (mg contaminant/kg)-1

**2.5.4 Elovich Kinetic Model**

A widely used equation to describe the kinetics of chemical desorption is the Elovich Eq.(5) ,**Polyzopoulos et al., 1986**:

**qt= 1/βs ln αs βs +1/βs lnt**  (5)

Where αs= is initial contaminant desorption rate (mg contaminant/kg/s),βs=is contaminant desorption constant (mg contaminant/kg)-1

The kinetic constants of each model were obtained using Microsoft excel software. From calculating the coefficient of determination (R2) of each model ,the best fit model can be found.

This fitting can be intercept by the higher coefficients of determination (R2) as shown in **Tables 5** and  **6.**

The parabolic diffusion model provided the best correlation {coefficient of determination (R2) } with experimental data.

**5. CONCLUSION**

1- The batch result indicated that several factors such as extraction or equilibrium time, initial pH of the solution, extractant concentration and agitation speed affect the extraction process. The best values of these factors that will achieve the maximum removal efficiency of heavy metals can be summarized as follow:

1. Using Na2EDTA as extractant, the best contact time was three hours for removing lead and four hours for removing cadmium and nickel .
2. Using HCl as extractant, the best contact time was four hours for removing lead and cadmium, and five hours for nickel.
3. The best pH value was 4 when using Na2EDTA .
4. Maximum removal percentage of lead, cadmium and nickel in batch extraction was obtained at concentrations of 0.1 M Na2EDTA and 1 M HCl.

e- The agitation speed 200 rpm gave higher removal efficiencies compared with 250 rpm.

2- The removal efficiency of extraction increase with:

1. Increase time until reach equilibrium time.
2. Decrease pH solution.
3. Increase extractant concentration.
4. Decrease agitation speed to a certain limit.

 3- The sequence of heavy metals removal was Cd >Pb>Ni.

4-The parabolic diffusion model provided the best correlation with experimental data.

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**NOMENCLATURE**

a= is initial contaminant desorption rate constant (mg contaminant/kg/s)b

b= is contaminant desorption rate coefficient (mg contaminant/kg)-1

A= the intercept ; B: the slope

CL= concentration of contaminant in supernatant (mg/L).

CS= concentration of contaminant in soil (mg/kg).

k1= is first order rate constant (s-1)

kp= is diffusion rate constant (mg contaminant/ kg) -0.5

MS = dry mass of the soil (kg).

qt, q0= are amount of contaminant desorbed (mg/kg) after time period of extraction

S0 = initial pollutant content in soil (concentration of contaminant in soil ) (mg/kg).

S= pollutant removal content at time (concentration of removal from soil

 with time) (mg/kg).

t: contact time (hour).

VL  :volume of supernatant ( L).

αs= is initial contaminant desorption rate (mg contaminant/kg/s)

βs=is contaminant desorption constant (mg contaminant/kg)-1

**Table 1.**Composition and properties soil used in the present study .

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| --- | --- |
| **Property** | **Soil** |
| Particle size distribution (ASTM D 422)Sand (%)Silt (%)Clay (%) | 1.563.535 |
| Cation Exchange Capacity (meq/100g) | 12.5 |
| Initial pH | 8.3 |
| Background concentration of cadmium (mg/kg) | nill |
| Background concentration of nickel (mg/kg) | 3.52 |
| Background concentration of lead (mg/kg) | 15 |
| Organic matter (%) | 0.49 |
| Organic carbon (%) | 0.16 |
| Electrical conductivity EC (µS/cm) | 593 |
| Surface area (m2/g) | 22.776 |
| Bulk density (g/cm3) | 1.1317 |
| Porosity (n) | 0.493 |
| Specific weight | 2.69 |
| Soil classification | Silty clay loam |

**Table 2.** Physical and chemical properties of Na2EDTA.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Property | Value |
| Molecular weight | 372.24 g/mole gggg/mole |
| Density  | 1.01 g/cm3 |
| pH (5% solution) | 4.3- 4.7 |
| Water – in soluble matter | 0.003% |
| Chloride (Cl) | 0.004% |
| Nitrilotriacetate N(CH2COO)3 | 0.05% |
| Sulphate (SO4) | 0.02% |
| Calcium(Ca) | 0.002% |
| Copper (Cu) | 0.0001% |
| Iron (Fe) | 0.0005% |
| Lead (Pb) | 0.0005% |
| Magnesium (Mg) | 0.001% |
| Potassium (K) | 0.002% |

**Table 3.** Physical and chemical properties of HCl.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Property** | **Value** |
| Molecular weight | 36.46 g/mole |
| Minimum assay | 35% |
| Specific density | 1.19 g/cm3 |
| Sulphate (SO4) | 0.0005% |
| Sulfite (SO3) | 0.001% |
| Free chlorine (Cl) | 0.0001% |
| Heavy metals (as Pb) | 0.0005% |
| Iron (Fe) | 0.0002% |
| Arsenic (As) | 0.0001% |

**Table 4.** The mathematical models applying to fit experimental data . **Min, et al., 2008**

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| --- | --- |
| **Model** | **Linear form** |
| First -order | ln(S0–S) = A -Bt |
| Parabolic diffusion | S = A + Bt 1/2 |
| Two-constant | lnS = A + Blnt |
| Elovich | S = A + Blnt |

where:

t: contact time (hour).

S0 : initial pollutant content in soil (concentration of contaminant in soil )

 (mg/kg).

S: pollutant removal content at time (concentration of removal from soil

 with time) (mg/kg).

A: the intercept ; B: the slope.

**Table 5.**The coefficient of determination (R2) of kinetic models for single component system using Na2EDTA**.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Models** | **Coefficient of determination (R2)** |
| **Pb** | **Cd** | **Ni** |
| First -order |  0.591 |  0.753 |  0.896 |
| Parabolic diffusion | 0.9286 | 0.8514 | 0.8946 |
| Two-constant | 0.6048 | 0.6544 | 0.7438 |
| Elovich | 0.4495 | 0.7758 | 0.7758 |

**Table 6.**The coefficient of determination (R2) of kinetic models for single component system using HCl.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Models** | **Coefficient of determination (R2)** |
| **Pb** | **Cd** | **Ni** |
| First -order | 0.078 | 0.821 | 0.333 |
| Parabolic diffusion | 0.7818 | 0.843 | 0.7646 |
| Two-constant | 0.0132 | 0.7758 | 0.7146 |
| Elovich | 0.0317 | 0.8523 | 0.7537 |

1. **Lead**
2. **Cadmium**
3. **Nickel**

**Figure 1.**Effect of pH on removal efficiency of *(lead, cadmium and nickel)*  as a function of contact time using Na2EDTA (Na2EDTA concentration = 0.1M ;speed = 200 rpm) .

**Figure 2.**Removal efficiency of *(lead, cadmium and nickel)* as a function of contact time using Na2EDTA (pH =4; Na2EDTA concentration =0.1M; speed=200 rpm) .

**Figure 3.**Removal efficiency of *(lead, cadmium and nickel )* as a function of contact time using HCl (pH =1.08; HCl concentration =1M;speed=200rpm) .

1. **Lead**
2. **Cadmium**

**(c)Nickel**

**Figure 4.**Effect of Na2EDTA concentration on removal efficiency of *(lead, cadmium and nickel)* as a function of contact time (pH =4; speed=200 rpm) .

1. **Lead**

**(b)Cadmium**

**(c)Nickel**

**Figure 5.**Effect of HCl concentration on removal efficiency of *(lead, cadmium and nickel)*  as a function of contact time (speed =200 rpm) .

**Figure 6.**Effect of agitation speed on removal efficiency of (*lead,cadmium and nickel* ) as a function of contact time using Na2EDTA (Na2EDTA concentration =0.1M; pH =4**) .**

**Figure 7.**Effect of agitation speed on removal efficiency of (*lead,cadmium and nickel* ) as a function of contact time using HCl (HCl concentration =1M; pH =1.08) .