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Adsorption of Nickel ions Ni(II) from aqueous solution by using the Nb2O5/CdSnano composites.

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Abstract : Nowadays ,development of materials based on coupled photocatalysts in sorption process for removal of heavy metal ions from waste water has been considered by many researchers . In this study, new coupled catalysts Nb₂O₅/CdS was prepared by the wet commixing method at different ratios of (0.75:0.25, 0.6:0.4, 0.5:0.5, 0.85:0.15, 0:1, 1:0, Nb2O5:CdS) .Calcination was tested at different temperature 200 $^{\circ}$ C,500 $^{\circ}$ C and 800 $^{\circ}$ C for 4 hours. The prepared powder was characterized by X-ray diffraction. The result showed that (0.85:0.15) percentage at 800 $^{\circ}$ C has higher activity than other ratio at different temperature. Furthermore, the mass for the catalyst, initial of concentration for Ni (NO₃)₂, effect of temperature, effect of PH. The experimental data for the Ni cation was analyzed by isotherms and kinetics equation in

The experimental data for the NI cation was analyzed by isotherms and kinetics equation in which the isotherm of the cation and Nb2O5\CdS was fitted well with the freundlich and Langmuir models, respectively. The kinetic study followed pseudo-second order mode, finally the prepared nanocomposite can be used as agood adsorbent for metal cation from waste water. **Keywords :** couple Nb2O5/CdS nanocomposite, wet commixing method, heavy metal ion Ni (II)removal, Adsorption photodegradation.

Introduction

Nowadays, removal of heavy metal ions from waste water is an important environ mental concern, owing to a vast industrial discharge of different toxic material, and particularly metal ions into environment several methods such as precipitation, cementation ion exchange and membrane processes ,electro-deposition, solvent extraction, adsorption, etc. have been used for removal of hazardous metal ions¹.

Most of these methods suffer from several disadvantages such as high reagent and energy requirements , in complete heavy metal ion removal generation of toxic sludge, and long desorption time. In particular adsorption method has provided a feasible option, both effectively and economically for removal of pollutants from waste water². In this regard, various materials such as zeolites, activated carbon, clays, agricultural wastes biomass and polymers were introduced as adsorbents^{3,4}.

The pollution of water with toxic organic compounds, heavy metal ions and dyes imposes ecological and public problem due to hazardous and irrecoverable effects of such pollutants on human health and the environment⁵⁻⁸. Adsorption is a convenient separation process, in which the adsorbed compounds may refer to organic, mineral or natural source ⁹⁻¹².

Nb is in group 5 transition element niobium-oxygen mainly exists in the form of stiochiometric oxides such as NbO, Nb2O3, NbO2 and Nb2O5. It gives a n-type semiconducting property with a band gap of about

3.4 EV. ⁽¹⁰⁾·Nb2O5 exhibits a variety of crystalline allotropes, with orthorhombic (T-Nb2O5), pseudo-hexagonal (TT-Nb2O5), tetragonal (M-Nb2O5) and monoclinic (H-Nb2O5). ¹³

CdS is a group II–VI semiconductor, and as such, CdS nanoparticles have generated great interest due to their unique size-dependent chemical and physical properties .CdS has a band gap energy of 2.42 eV atroom temperature, and it shows great potential for uses in photochemical catalysis, solar cells, nonlinear optical materials and various luminescence devices .^{14,15}

Experimental

Materials

Chemical materials used in this work is Niobium pentoxideNb2O5, Cadmium sulphide CdS, Ni(NO₃)₂ and other inorganic chemicals including HCL, NaOH solution and all solvents were purchased from merch (Germany).

Preparation and characterization of couple Nb₂O₅/CdS

 Nb_2O_5 / Cds composite was prepared by the wet commix method, that involved using Nb_2O_5 with CdS powders as initial materials, and adding 10ml of distilled water, then mixed by Magnetic stirrer hot plate three hours after that drying in the oven at 100° c for one hour, the calcination of this was provided using Furnace at 800° c for 4 hours. The preparedNb₂O₅/ CdS was characterized by x-ray diffraction (XRD), FTIR spectroscopy.

Adsorption experiments:

Adsorption of heavy metal cation Ni^{+2} was performed by mixing0.1g (optimum amount)of synthesized nanoadsorbent (Nb₂O₅\CdS) with 100ml of metal ion solution 500ppm in the flask with a magnetic stirrer at temperature (23° C)for 60 min .The PH of solution was adjusted with 1M of HCL, NaOH solution using PH meter .The nano adsorbents were separated by centrifuge ,and the concentration at cation Ni⁺² before and after adsorption was measured by Uv-visible spectrophotometer .

In addition, the adsorption isotherms were investigated by comparing the freundlich ,Langmuir and temkin isotherm models with the experimental data .also the kinetic studies were conducted using the pseudo-first and pseudo -second order .the adsorption amount qt (mg g) was calculated using the following equation

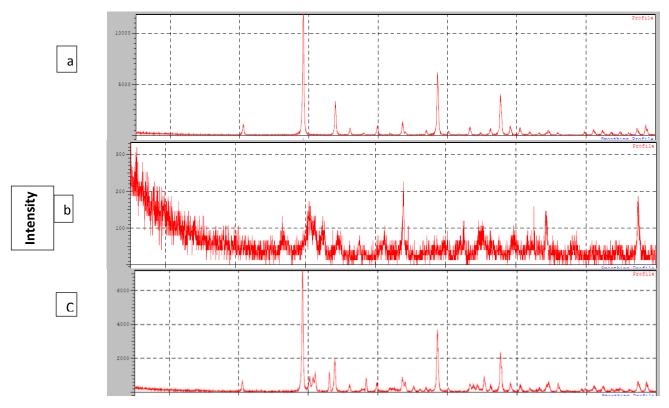
$Qt = (C_o - C_t \setminus m) V \dots (1)$

Where C_o and C_t are the concentration of cation Ni²⁺ in the solution before and after adsorption period of time mg\L respectively ,m(g) is the mass of nano-adsorbent and, V(L) is the volume of the cation Ni²⁺ solution.

Result and Discussion

X-ray diffraction patterns

The formation and crystalline nature of nano adsorbents are also supported by XRD patterns. The Nb₂O₅ and CdS are characterized by x-ray diffraction(XRD), and compared with couple Nb₂O₅/CdS. Figure 1.a. show different peaks of Nb2O5 apparent in the shape of the spectrum represent 2θ at (29.1993 , 48.5727, 57.6540, 33.8265, 43.5250, 78.6291, 20.5662, 39.8886).Figure 1b.Showsdifferent peaks apparent of CdS in the spectrum represent 2θ at (77.3992, 43.9213, 30.5576, 31.1819, 64.3029, 32.5703, 34.7182, and 41.2730).While in figure1c. of (Nb₂O₅/CdS) show that different peaks, at 2 Theta (29.1805,48.5498, 57.6326, 33.8154, 33.0343, 31.0088, 55.2794, 38.3226, 65.9035) notes appear peaks in spectrum at 2 Theta (33.0343, 31.0088, 55.2794, 38.3226, 65.9035) not found in two initial material (Nb₂O₅,CdS)



2 Theta Figure 1: X-ray diffraction spectrum of: A. Niobium pentoxideNb2O5B. CdSC. couple Nb2O5/CdS.

The average crystallite size of the nanocomposite can be calculated by using the Debye–Scherer equation.¹⁶, results are shown in table 1.

D= K λ/FWCOSe

Where D, represent the average particle size,K is a dimension shape factor $0.9,\lambda = \text{is X-ray wavelength}$,FW is the full width at half the maximum.

and o is Bragg angle.

According to Scherer equation .our results demonstrated that the mean diameter of nano particles in the photocatalyst was estimated to be 45.48nm.

Catalyst	2Theta (deg.)	FWHM (deg)	Average Particle Size/nm
Nb ₂ O ₅	29.1993	0.22060	37.25
	48.5727	0.19910	43.86
	57.6540	0.20860	43.58
	33.8265	0.22800	36.47
	43.5250	0.21620	39.60
	78.6291	0.22400	46.04
	20.5662	0.22000	36.86
	39.8886	0.20660	41.00
CdS	77.3992	0.44000	23.17
	43.9213	0.54000	15.87

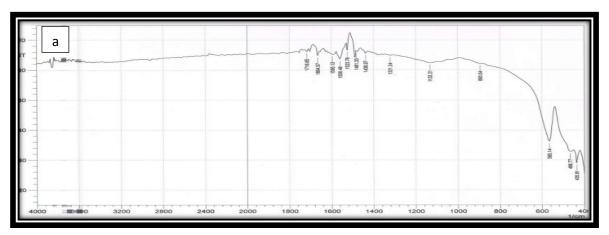
	30.5576 31.1819 64.3029 32.5703 34.7182	$\begin{array}{c} 0.61000 \\ 0.52000 \\ 0.44000 \\ 0.30000 \\ 0.32000 \end{array}$	13.50 15.87 21.35 27.60 26.05
Nb ₂ O _{5\} CdS	41.2730	0.28000	30.39
	29.1805	0.20730	39.71
	48.5498	0.19960	43.72
	57.6326	0.20690	43.86
	33.8154	0.20280	41.12
	33.0343	0.16050	51.91
	31.0088	0.19520	42.38
	55.2794	0.19780	45.44
	38.3226	0.17160	49.14
	65.9035	0.18200	52.10

Fourier Transition for Infrared spectrum (FT-IR)

FTIR analysis was carried out on a Bruker Tensor 27spectrometer (Brucker ,Karlsruhe ,Germany) (KBrum⁻¹).the FTIR spectra of nanoparticles were shown in fig.2(a,b,c). Study of the double prepared catalyst was achieved by using Fourier Transform Infrared (FTIR). All spectra were recorded at the wavenumber ranged from 400-4000 cm-1. Figure 2.a is characteristic of the sample niobium pentoxide Nb₂O₅ that show the peaks at (435.91, 466.77, 565.14, 893.04, 1132.21, 1321.24, 1436.97, 1481.33, 1523.76, 1558.48, 1595.13, 1664.57, 1716.65, 3741.90) (3741.90) cm-1 return to absorption water band in the sample , and bending band at 1716.65 cm-1 while the spectral appears the vibration modes assigned to Nb-O in the spectral range (910-850) cm-1 for Nb-O ¹⁷.

Figure 2. b. Appear the peaks at (499.56, 597.93, 1109.07, 1390.68, 1425.40, 1587.42, 1602.85, 1764.87, 2243.21, 2436.09, 2908.65, 3427.51, 3485.37,).the peaks (3485.37 and 3427.51) cm-1 are returning to stretching and bending vibration for two water band these peaks indicate the hydroscopic character of the sample (CdS)

Figure2.c. Appear the peaks at (422.41, 470.63, 565.14, 893.04, 999.13, 1058.92, 1126.43, 1226.73, 1516.05, 1548.84, 1600.92, 1653.00, 1707.00, 1774.51, 2362.80). the peak at 1600.92 cm-1 also can see in spectrum of CdS but in the couple appear less intensity, the peak at 565.14, 893.04cm-1 return to the initial material Nb_2O_5 , the new peaks observe at (422.41, 470.63, 999.13, 1058.92, 1126.43, 1226.73, 1518.05, 1548.84, 1653.00, 1707.00, 1774.51,2362.80).



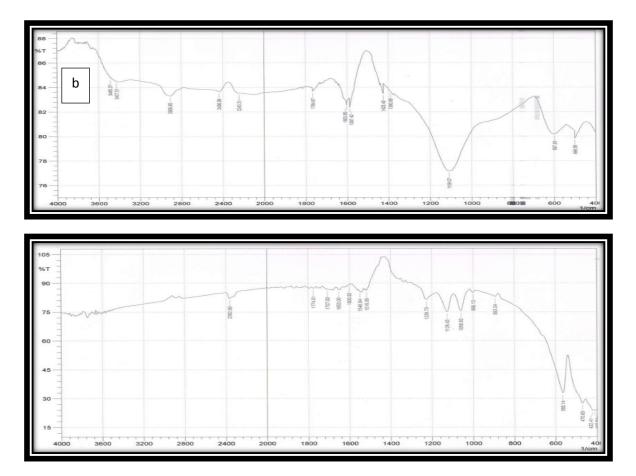
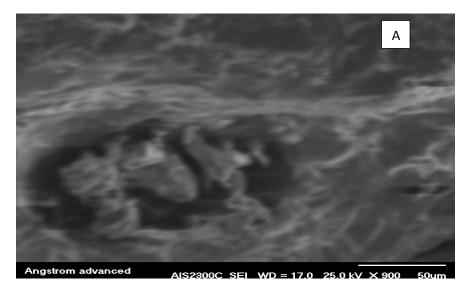
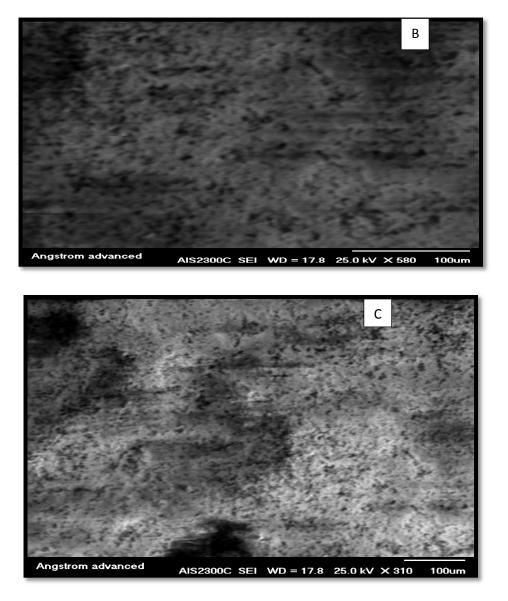


Figure 2: FTIR Spectrum for a. Niobium pentoxide (Nb2O5) b. CdS and c. Couple of Nb2O5\CdS

Scanning Electron Microscope SEM :

The particle were irregular in shape and mostly present in aggregates . The size of the particles was varied from 70-80nm .





Figures3.A) Nb2O5, B) CdSand C)Nb2O5\CdS.

Figures show the images of SEM there are no obvious induced surface porosity and there is no evidence of agglomeration indicating good dispersion without observable aggregation.

Photocatalytic experiments

Effect adsorbent dose

Adsorbent doses used was (0.02gm, 0.05gm, 0.1gm, 0.15gm) at time of 60 min with initial concentration of Ni(NO₃)₂ 2000mg/L at room temperature (23 °C), and the obtained data are shown in Fig3. The figure shows that the removal percentage increases with increasing adsorbent dose due to increased surface area and the available of a more adsorption number of active sites.^(18,19), but at a high amount of the catalyst more than 0.1g the removal percentage was decreased due to an accumulation that is causing an increase in the particle size and decrease in specific surface area which leads to decrease in the number of surface active sites.¹¹

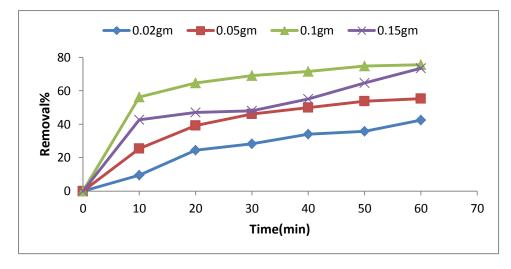


Fig.(4) Effect of adsorbent dosage on percentage removal of Ni(NO3)2.

Effect of Initial Concentration

Used initial Ni(NO₃)₂concentration and effect on removal efficiency at constant adsorbent dose 0.1gm, 23°C, and time at 60 min. It was also found that the removal efficiency decreased as the initial concentration increased, as shows in fig.4the removal percentage is decreased due to reduced surface area and saturated the active sites²².

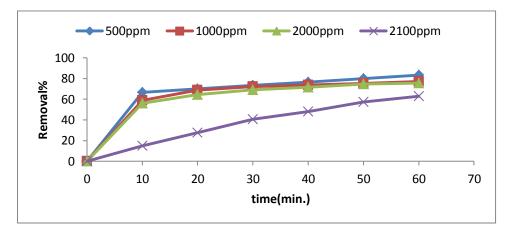


Fig.(5) Effect of initial concentration on removal efficiency.

Effect of temperature

The effect was studied of temperature on removal of Ni(NO₃)₂ using catalyst at different temperature ranging from (15-30C°). Figure5, shows the effect of temperature on the removal of Ni(NO3)2 at a fixed initial concentration500 ppm and 0.1gm Nb2O5\CdS catalyst, and indicates that removal percentage of Ni(NO3)2 increases with increase of temperature because an increase in the mobility of the adsorbate molecules and the presence of the pores on the surface of the adsorbent particles.Noted similar observations and they suggested that the increase in temperature increase the rate of diffusion of the adsorbate molecules across the external boundary layer and in the internal pores of the adsorbent particle. This is due to the total volume and the possibility of the adsorbent pores, an increase of the number of active sites for the adsorption as well as an increase in the mobility of the adsorbate molecules.²³

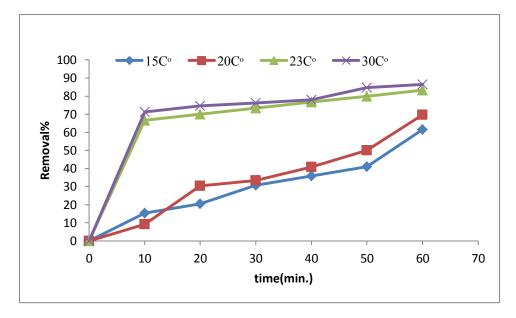


Figure 5. Effect of temperature on removal efficiency

Effect of pH

The pH of the ion solution affects the surface charge of the adsorbent, the degree of ionization of the materials, and the dissociation of adsorbate on the active sites of the adsorbent. The percentage removal of ion at different pH values is plotted in Fig 6. The percentage removal increased when pH was increased from 2 to3. In low pH value, binding sites are generally protonated or positively charged (by the hydronium ions). Thus, repulsion occurs between the metal cation and the adsorbent at a higher pH value; binding sites start deprotonating, and makes adsorbent available for metal binding. In general, cation binding increases as pH increases²⁴.

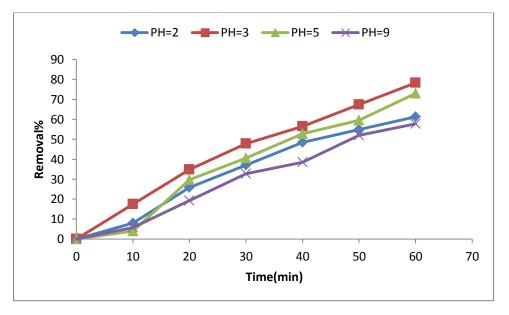


Figure 6. Effect of PH on removal efficiency

Adsorption isotherms

The adsorption isotherms designate how solute interact with the sorbent ,leading to finding the best equilibrium position in the adsorption process .several isotherm models can be used to investigate adsorption data. In the present work ,the adsorption isotherm were studied by the Langmuir, Freundlich and Temkin

models .The Langmuir model is often used to describe the equilibrium adsorption isotherm of homogeneous system which is presented by the following equation in the linear form. 25

$$C_e \setminus Q_e = 1 \setminus Q_m K_L + C_e \setminus Q_m \dots (2)$$

Where Ce and Qe are the equilibrium concentration (mg|l) and equilibrium adsorption capacity (mg|g) respectively, Qm is the maximum metal ion adsorption capacity (mg|g) and KL is the Langmuir constant related to the adsorption energy (L|mg).the isotherm constant were calculated from the plot between Ce\Qe and Ce.

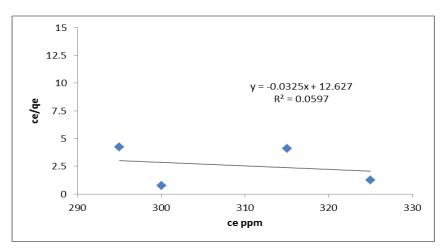


Figure 7 : Langmuir isotherm for adsorption of Ni(II)

The freundlich adsorption isotherms is the oldest equation and its use indicates the heterogeneity of adsorption sites the Freundlich equation²⁶

 $Log Q_e = log k_f + 1 \ n \ log c_e \dots \dots \dots \dots \dots \dots (3)$

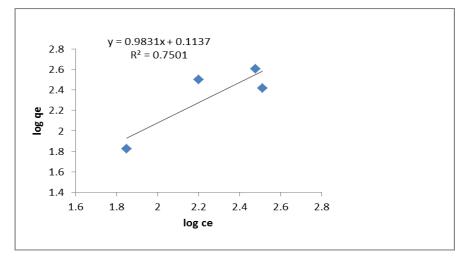


Figure 8 : Freundlich isotherm for adsorption of Ni(II)

Where k_f is a constant related to the adsorption capacity and $1\n$ is an experimental parameter related to the adsorption intensity which defines the affinity of the process to be a chemisorptions n<1of a physisorption n>1.the Q_eand c_e already were mentioned. The Temkin isotherm takes into account of indirect adsorbate – adsorbate interactions on adsorption isotherms .The temkin isotherm model is given by the following equation⁽²⁷⁾

 $Qe=B \ln A+B \ln Ce....(4)$

Where B and A (l\mg) are temkin constant .the B and A isotherm constants were Calculated from the plot between Q_e and lnC_e .

By comparing the R^2 Vlues of these isotherm for the tested metal ion, the most appropriate and suitable equation can be obtained for the fitting the experimental data .

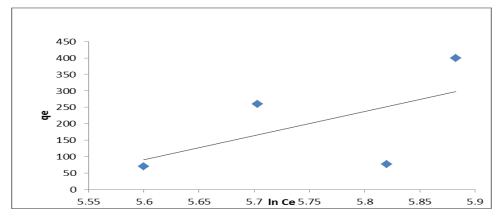


Figure 9: Temkin isotherm for adsorption of Ni(II)

Adsoption Kinetics

The kinetic study of adsorption processes expresses important data about the efficiency of adsorption .the adsorption kinetics of metal ion Ni²⁺ with Nb₂O₅\ CdS nanocomposites were studied by two kinetic model :pseudo first and pseudo second order models .for the equation (5,6) respectively.²⁸

Pseudo first order model

 $Log (Q_e-Q_t) = log Q_e-(k_1 \setminus 2.303)t \dots (5)$

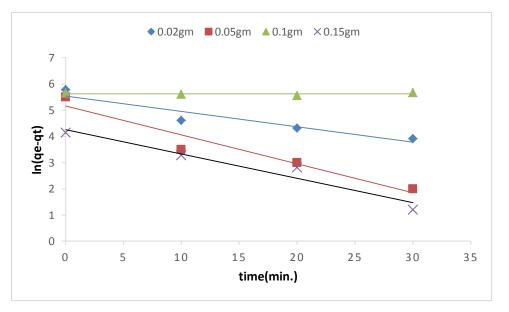


Fig.10. Pseudo first order

Pseudo second order model

 $t \setminus Q_t = (1 \setminus k_2 Q e^2) + (1 \setminus Q_e) t \dots (6)$

where Q_t (mg\g) is adsorption capacity of the metal ion on an adsorbent at time t(min.), Q_e (mg\g) is the adsorption capacity at equilibrium, k_1 (min-¹) and k_2 (g.mg min¹⁻), R^2 is correlation coefficient .are the kinetic parameters of these models were calculated and given in the figures and tables.

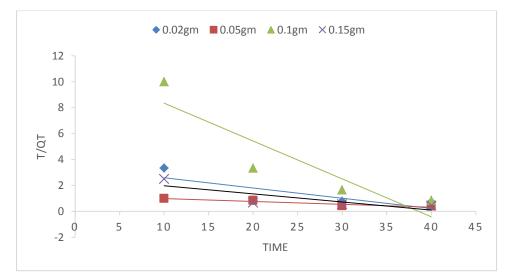


Fig.11.Pseudo second order

Table2: Adsorption constants for pseudo first ,second order isotherms and Langmuir, Freundlich, Temkin.

Weight(gm)	model Pseudo second order			
	qeexp.(mg\g)	qecal.(mg\g)	K2(min1-)	R2
0.02gm	400	3.42	0.007	0.8193
0.05gm	260	45.04	0.0004	0.9014
0.1 gm	70	12.62	0.001	0.6368
0.15gm	76.66	16	0.0014	0.6851
Weight(gm)	Pseudo first order model			
	qeexp.(mg\g)	qecal.(mg\g)	K1(min1-	R2
0.02gm	400	276.44	0.0589	0.0002
0.05gm	260	253.99	0.05	0.8973
0.1 gm	70	172.25	0.1101	0.931
0.15gm	76.66	70.17	0.0929	0.9437
Adsorption isotherms	parameters	Ni ²⁺		
langmuir	Q m	30.769		
	K _L	3.502		
	\mathbf{R}^2	0.0597		
Freundlich	k _f	1.120		

	n	1.01
	R ²	0.7501
Temkin	А	239
	В	732.44
	R^2	0.3351

From the results that are summarized in Table2,3, it can be seen that the value of the correction factor ((R2) that are obtained from Freundlich model is higher than that for Langmuir isotherm. This means that, this process is agreed with Freundlich model. The value of (n) that represents the number of adsorbed layers is (1.01) in this case adsorption processes were followed Freundlich adsorption isotherm.

The value of the correction factor ((R_2) that are obtained from pseudo second order is(0.636-0.9014) higher than R_2 for pseudo first order ,this means that followed pseudo second order.

Conclusion

In summary, the excellent photocatalystnano-composite was synthesized successfully by wet commixing method the nano-adsorbents were characterized by FTIR ,XRD .the results confirmed that the new catalyst was nanocomposite and the average particle size is equal to (45.48nm) and FTIR bands were new and shifted from their location in the modified catalyst Nb2O5\CdS than their location in separatelyCdS and Nb2O5 respectively .

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