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## Preparation of Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/HAp nanoparticles from eggshells with highly adsorption capacity for methylene blue

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### ABSTRACT

Multifunctional materials have become one of the most interesting research subjects in recent years. Hydroxylapatite (HAp) coating on the surface of iron oxide (Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>) nanoparticles allow to obtain material with adsorbable and magnetic properties. This study aims to salvage recycled eggshell to successfully produce adsorbent nanoparticles and evaluate treatment ability of methylene blue (MB) dyes in water. The magnetic nanomaterial was synthesized by a simple and inexpensive method. The X-ray diffraction technique was employed to characterize the structure of nanoparticles. The as-synthesized nanoparticles were analyzed by Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy technique to determine the presence of functional groups and bonds in the molecule. The surface morphology of as-synthesized Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/HAp nanoparticles was studied by transmission electron microscopy. The magnetic properties of Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> nanoparticles and Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/HAp nanoparticles were evaluated by vibrating sample magnetometer technique. The typical synthesized-HAp were dispersed rod-like particles with about 10 nm in width and 50 nm in length, the other part of final material was dispersed in spherical shape and their magnetism was 16.2 emu.g<sup>-1</sup>. The adsorption of MB was conducted with 89.6% yield at pH 8.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The development of industrialization leads to increases in environmental pollution, especially dye pollutants in the aquatic environment, which poses serious threats to public health and ecological systems. Among the pollutants of concern, methylene blue (MB) has been considered as one of the major water environmental pollutants, it predominates in surface water and groundwater. Because of the negative effects of MB, its removal from water is an urgent matter. Many studies to find

solutions to treat water supply and wastewater have been carried out. Techniques to remove MB from wastewater include biological treatment (El-Naas et al., 2009), coagulation (El-Gohary & Tawfik, 2009), redox (Gomes et al., 2008), membrane filtration technology (Dâas & Hamdaoui, 2010), and a combination of many other methods (Wu et al., 2011). However, adsorption is probably the most common method in practical use thanks to its simplicity and high efficiency as well as versatility and suitability for most practical wastewater treatment processes.

Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> is a material with high potential applications in many fields. In this study, the main purpose of using Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> as a magnetic because its supermagnetic helps to easy recovery by external magnetic fields which reduce the amount of waste discharged into the environment (Hu, Chen, & Lo, 2005; Hu, Lo, & Chen, 2004; Oliveira et al., 2004; Shin & Jang, 2007; Yavuz et al., 2006). However, due to their high oxidization and instability in various acidic media, Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> MNPs are not very stable under ambient conditions. In addition, the naked Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> MNPs are very susceptible to oxidation in air, which can significantly lose their magnetism and beneficial dispersibility. Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> MNPs should be protected by coating it with a layer to maintain the stability and strength of the individual particles. Inorganic coating materials have shown superiority in nanostructure tuning, good dispersion, ultrafinesness, and uniformity.

Among the variety of coating materials, hydroxyapatite (HAp) coating offers a great potential to form a nanocomplex with Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> nanoparticles. The complex structure has made HAp a material with many applications such as high biocompatibility with tissues and cells, so it is studied and applied in many fields such as biomedicine (Manatunga et al., 2017), especially in the field of environmental treatment and improvement (Lin, Pan, Chen, Cheng, & Xu, 2009). It does not only show the ability to treat metals, but also reduce the amount of dissolved organic pollutants when hydroxyapatite is introduced into wastewater samples (Oubagha et al., 2017). However, it also has the disadvantage of having difficulty in separating from the background environment after processing. Therefore, with the remarkable benefits of Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> and the special properties of hydroxyapatite, the combination of these two materials will create a magnetic composite material with outstanding properties while overcoming the limitations of the original materials. Therefore, hydroxyapatite was synthesized from eggshells as the best choice because eggshells are common waste sources that help to limit environmental pollution as well as create valuable materials serving life (Gergely et al., 2010; Thien et al., 2021).

Herein, this study presents the synthesis of Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/HAp adsorbent material from eggshells by-product, and investigates the ability of MB treatment using the as-synthesized material through the average adsorption efficiency, desorption

ability, and the maximum adsorption capacity in comparison with other materials.

## 2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

### 2.1. Materials

Ferric chloride hexahydrate (FeCl<sub>3</sub>.6H<sub>2</sub>O, 99%), sodium hydroxide (NaOH, 96%), hydrochloric acid (HCl, 36 - 38%), sodium chloride (NaCl, 99.5%), nitric acid (HNO<sub>3</sub>, 67%), diammonium phosphate ((NH<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>HPO<sub>4</sub>, 99%) and ammonia solution (NH<sub>4</sub>OH, 25 - 28%) purchased from Xilong, China; sodium borohydride (NaBH<sub>4</sub>, 99%, Merck, Spain), and polyvinylpyrrolidone (PVP, 1 wt%, Sigma-Aldrich, USA), eggshells (GO supermarket, Can Tho). In this study, ethanol (C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>OH, 96%), hydrogen peroxide (H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, 30%), and distilled (DI) water were obtained from chemical joint stock companies (Southern chemicals joint stock company and Ngan Huong Chemical Co., Ltd.).

### 2.2. Methods

#### 2.2.1. Adsorbent preparation

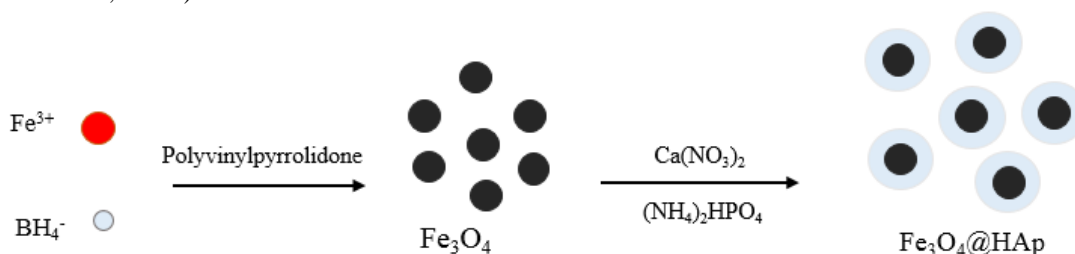
Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> nanoparticles were synthesized by wet chemical reduction technique (Chaki et al., 2015). The synthesis process is based on the study Thanh et al. (2021). Briefly, 10 mL FeCl<sub>3</sub>.6H<sub>2</sub>O 25 mM was added slowly into 20 mL PVP 1% solution, and the mixture was stirred for 10 min with the speed of 400 rpm. Then, 10 mL NaBH<sub>4</sub> 125 mM solution was added dropwise into the above mixture, stirred for 30 min under vigorous mechanical stirring at room temperature, constantly. The solution darkens shortly and turns completely black. The obtained Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> nanoparticles were collected by using a permanent magnet, washed many times with distilled water and ethanol until neutral pH, and dried at 60°C for 2 h.

Preparation Ca(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> as the precursor for HAp synthesis. The eggshell powder used in the experiment was pretreated by stripping the membrane off the eggshell, soaking in H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, rinsing with water, drying, and then finely ground and sifted by Test sieve 0.105 mm to obtain the uniform particles. 60 mL HNO<sub>3</sub> 0.5 M solution was added to 1.5 g eggshell powder, which was stirred with the speed of 500 rpm for 1 h under vigorous stirring. After the reaction, the mixture was carried out the filtration, Ca(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> 0.25 M solution was obtained. (Nhu, 2021).

The obtained Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> nanoparticles were coated by HAp derived from eggshell powder to maintain the stability and strength of the magnetic nanoparticles.

0.1 g of  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$  nanoparticles were suspended in 40 mL  $\text{Ca}(\text{NO}_3)_2$  0.25 M solution, which was ultrasonically dispersed for 10 minutes. Twenty milliliters of  $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{HPO}_4$  0.3 M solution was added dropwise to the  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$  suspension under overhead stirring, the pH of the solution was maintained between 10 and 12 by using ammonia solution (Thien et al., 2021). The reaction mixture was

further stirred at  $90^\circ\text{C}$  for 2 h and stored for another 12 h (Gu, He, & Wu, 2014). The resulting hydroxyapatite-coated  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$  nanoparticles were thoroughly washed with DI water and collected by external magnetic fields, followed by drying at  $60^\circ\text{C}$  for 5 h. The obtained material is referred to as  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4/\text{HAp}$  nanoparticles. (Nhu, 2021).



**Figure 1. Schematic diagrams of the preparation of  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4/\text{HAp}$  sorbent**

### 2.2.2. Adsorbent characterization

Powder X-ray diffraction (XRD) patterns of the nanoparticles were collected on a powder diffraction meter (D2 PHASER, BRUKER, USA), primarily used for phase identification of crystalline material. Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy (FT-IR) determines the presence of functional groups and linkages in the molecule of the adsorbent materials (Agilent FTIR Cary 630 instrument, USA). A high-resolution technique used to reveal structural details, size distribution, and morphology of nanoparticles is transmission electron microscopy (TEM) (JEOL-1010 instrument, Japan). Vibrating sample magnetometer (VSM) (MicroSence EZ9 instrument, USA) was used to determine the magnetic property of  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$  and  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4/\text{HAp}$ . In addition, ultraviolet-visible (UV-Vis) absorption spectrophotometer (Model Cary 300 UV-VIS Agilent, USA) was used to determine the concentration of MB solution before and after adsorption by  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4/\text{HAp}$ .

### 2.3. Adsorption experiments

For the adsorption experiments, 100 mL MB solution 40 ppm was mixed with 0.5 gram  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4/\text{HAp}$  in 4 hours under overhead stirring 200 rpm. During the experiments, the system was continuously stirred, and at the end of the adsorption process, the mixture was separated by using a permanent magnet to obtain two phases. The adsorbent after the adsorption would be further analyzed by FT-IR method while MB concentrations before and after the adsorption experiments were measured by using a double beam

UV-Vis spectrophotometer (Model Cary 300 UV-Vis Agilent, USA) at a wavelength of 664 nm. The equilibrium adsorbed concentration,  $q_e$ , was calculated according to the equation:

$$q_e = \frac{(C_0 - C_e)V}{M} \quad (1)$$

where  $C_0$  ( $\text{mmol.L}^{-1}$ ) is the initial concentration of MB,  $C_e$  ( $\text{mmol.L}^{-1}$ ) is the equilibrium concentration in solution,  $V$  (L) is the total volume of solution, and  $M$  (g) is the sorbent mass.

### 2.4. Desorption experiments

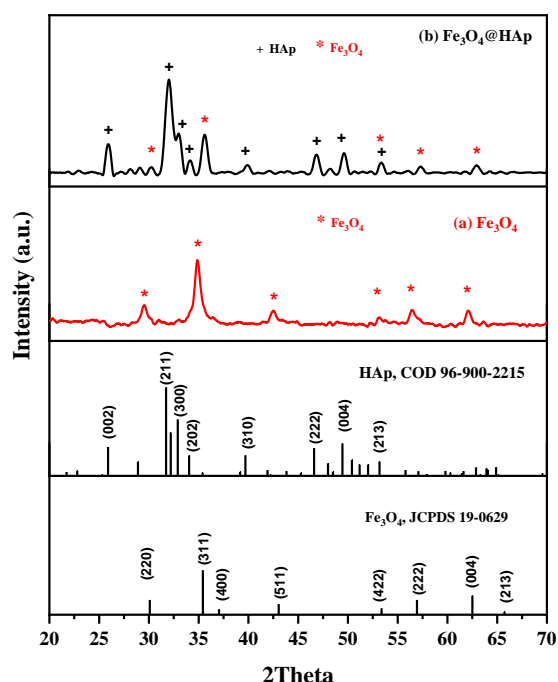
For recovery experiments, the used adsorbent was dispersed into 100 mL DI water and stirred under 200 rpm for 3 h at room temperature. The mixture was separated into two phases by using a permanent magnet, the solution was removed while the powder was retained in flask. Then, the synthesized  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4/\text{HAp}$  MNPs were dried at  $60^\circ\text{C}$ . The recycling material was further confirmed by infrared spectroscopy (FT-IR).

## 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 3.1. XRD analysis

XRD characterization was employed to further verify the presence of  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$  and HAp. The XRD pattern analysis shows the existence of  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$  under HAp layer as shown in Figure 2. For  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ , diffraction peaks with  $2\theta$  at  $30.22^\circ$ ,  $35.62^\circ$ ,  $42.49^\circ$ ,  $53.29^\circ$ ,  $57.32^\circ$ , and  $63.01^\circ$  were observed and in good agreement with the JCPDS No. 19-0629, which are assigned to the corresponding (220), (311), (511), (422), (222) and (004) indices of the cubic inverse spinel structure of pure  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$

nanoparticles (Dâas & Hamdaoui, 2010; Han et al., 2014). The stability of the crystalline phase of  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$  nanoparticles under HAp coating was confirmed when five characterization peaks of  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$  were also observed for  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4/\text{HAp}$  spectra. On the other hand, diffraction angles of  $25.89^\circ$ ,  $31.98^\circ$ ,  $32.98^\circ$ ,  $34.13^\circ$ ,  $39.88^\circ$ ,  $46.86^\circ$ ,  $49.6^\circ$ , and  $53.35^\circ$  indicate the appearance of hydroxyapatite layer, which are attributed to (002), (211), (300), (202), (310), (222), (004), and (213), respectively, which belong to HAp (COD No. 96-900-2215), suggesting the formation of HAp phase (Kim, Sambudi, & Cho, 2019). Therefore, it can be seen that  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4/\text{HAp}$  is completely formed with  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$  MNPs that is enveloped by a HAp layer.

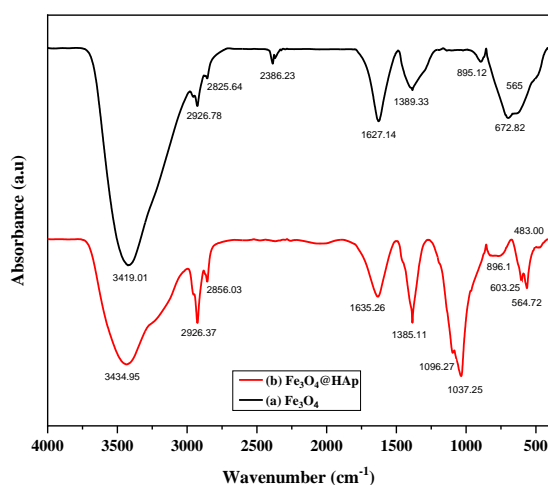


**Figure 2. X-ray diffraction patterns of (a)  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$  nanoparticles and (b)  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4/\text{HAp}$  composites nanoparticles**

Additionally, in  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4/\text{HAp}$  pattern, peaks of  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$  have relatively low intensity value due to their small size and be covered by HAp in comparison with another research ( Yang et al., 2010), it can be explained as the result of a thick layer HAp that covering  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$  with the morphology of rod-like particles and the reaction condition is far different with simple wet chemical reduction technique for  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$  and no calcining step for HAp forming in this study.

### 3.2. FT-IR analysis

In order to further confirm the presence of functional groups and bonds of  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4/\text{HAp}$ , FT-IR spectra were measured. As shown in Figure 3, Fe–O vibration appears the characteristic absorption at  $1389\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and at  $565\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , which corresponds to the Fe–O bond of bulk magnetite phase on two samples (Dâas & Hamdaoui, 2010). However, these bands result shift to wavenumbers at  $564.72\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $1385\text{ cm}^{-1}$  because of the overlap of HAp-coated forms on the surface of MNPs. Another reason is that a principal effect of finite nanoparticle size is the breaking of bonds for surface atoms that leads the rearrangement of inlocalized electrons on the particle surface. In addition, the split of the bands is attributed to the split of the energy levels of the quantized  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$  nanoparticles (Ma et al., 2003).



**Figure 3. FT-IR spectra of (a)  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ , (b)  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4/\text{HAp}$**

The new absorption peak of  $\text{PO}_4^{3-}$ -derive bands were at the wavelengths of  $1037.05\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (stretching mode), and at  $601\text{--}603\text{ cm}^{-1}$  related to the asymmetric P-O vibrations and O-P-O bonds correspondingly were noted at  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4/\text{HAp}$  sample (Tanaka et al., 2012). The highlight of this study is that no impured bands, especially  $\text{CO}_3^{2-}$ -derived bands are no observed from FT-IR result though the powdered eggshells were not calcined. Moreover, a broad band observed at  $1635.26\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $1627.14\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , which responds to O–H vibrations recorded at  $1626\text{--}1637\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , and  $3400\text{--}3425\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ,  $2926\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $2856\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (Chaki et al., 2015) was attributed to the stretching modes of water molecules due to the existence of surface hydroxyl of HAp and DI water used as solvent (S. Yang et al., 2015). The results

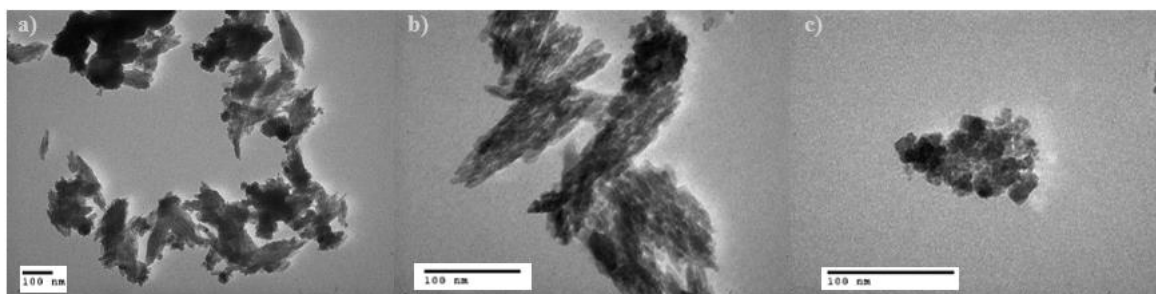
verified the formation of calcium hydroxyapatite on the  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$  surface, HAp-layer not only maintains the stability and strength of magnetic nanoparticles, but also elevates potential applications of the combined material.

### 3.3. TEM analysis

The morphology and size of the synthesized  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ /HAp composite samples were presented in Figure 4 at different magnification. The TEM images demonstrate that the NPs consist of many ultra-fine particles that agglomerate together to form clusters (Nga et al., 2018). However, at greater magnifications (Fig 4b and 4c), the resulting images are relatively clear in which the composite structure with light contrast HAp layer and dark contrast particle of  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ .

The result suggests that  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$  were uniform NPs about 10 nm with the nanoparticles are almost spherical in shape, similarly to previous studies

(Chaki et al., 2015; Dâas & Hamdaoui, 2010). Besides that, the typical synthesized-HAp were dispersed rod-like particles with about 10 nm in width and 50 nm in length (Gu et al., 2014), part of final material was dispersed in spherical shape (Figure 4c). The morphology of HAp was investigated and resembled the study of Kim et al. (2019) which explains the agglomeration of nano-size rod-like materials by using the wet precipitation method, the magnetic attraction and Van der Waals force among iron oxide were considered (Abidin et al., 2020). In addition, the morphologies of HAp changed from granular to rod-like particles when the pH changed and the temperature increased (Liu et al., 2003). Furthermore, the experimental conditions were not stable so that the final product was not homogeneous, which has HAp rod and sphere in shape in somewhere. Nonetheless, the result was still ensured the HAp-coated on  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$  MNPs, it can infer that the hydrophilic  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$  MNPs were successfully coated by a HAp shell.



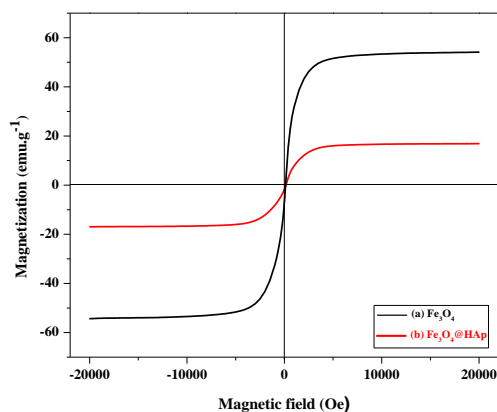
**Figure 4. TEM images of  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ /HAp nanoparticles with different magnification 20000X (a), 60000X(b) and 80000X (c)**

### 3.4. Magnetization

Magnetic properties of the as-synthesized  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$  and  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ /HAp samples was studied with the help of VSM, which were shown in Figure 5. From this figure, it is worth noting that the coercive field and remanence magnetization is very small (approximately zero). These are characteristics of super paramagnetic particles (Chaki et al., 2015). The value of saturation magnetization ( $M_s$ ) is  $54.14 \text{ emu.g}^{-1}$  for  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ , and  $16.23 \text{ emu.g}^{-1}$  for  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ /HAp, respectively. The reduced  $M_s$  can be explained by the covering of the HAp surrounding the  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$  MNPs, which weakens the magnetic properties when HAp was not magnetic (Z.-p. Yang et al., 2010). In addition, the thick layer of HAp with rod-like shape and uneven dispersion of magnetic NPs relying on TEM images are further reasons that the saturation magnetization of the final material is lower than other studies. Besides, saturation

magnetization and coercivity values were also influenced by many factors as crystallite size, microstrain, presence of parasitic phases, cation distribution, interparticle interaction, etc. (Vučinić-Vasić et al., 2019).

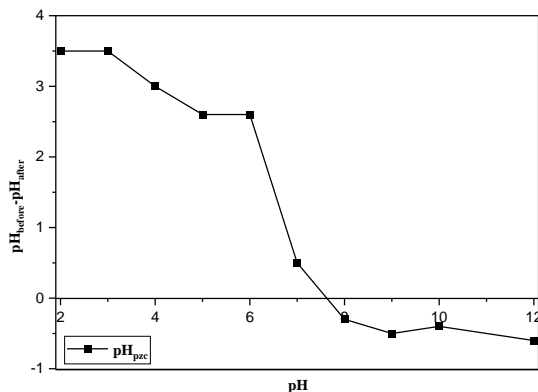
Although its  $M_s$  reduces,  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ /HAp still ensures the superparamagnetic properties and is still sufficiently strong to be magnetically separable when a magnetic field was applied. The result indicates that the superparamagnetic property of the  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ /HAp nanoparticles creates a favorable condition for preventing them from aggregation as well as giving them ability to redisperse rapidly when the magnetic field is removed, which is critical for their application in industrial catalysis, environmental protection, biomedical and bioengineering field (Z.-p. Yang et al., 2010).



**Figure 5. Magnetization curves of (a)  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$  NPs, (b)  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4/\text{HAp}$  NPs**

### 3.5. Methylene Blue adsorption and desorption

#### 3.5.1. Point of zero point measurements



**Figure 6. Point of zero charge of  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4/\text{HAp}$  nanoparticles**

The surface charge measured as point of zero charge is presented in Figure 6 for the  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4/\text{HAp}$  nanoparticles. The point of zero charge ( $\text{pH}_{\text{pzc}}$ ) of the synthesized- $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4/\text{HAp}$  was found to be 7.7 after the measurements. At pH below the  $\text{pH}_{\text{pzc}}$ , the surface of the material is positively charged (Barka et al., 2008; Corami et al., 2008). As mentioned above, the positively charged surface sites on the synthesized material and MB cations have the electrostatic repulsions which do not favor the adsorption. Actually, at the acidic medium, the competition of excess protons ( $\text{H}^+$ ) with MB cations occur for active adsorption sites of  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4/\text{HAp}$  could also explain the lower adsorption. On the other hand, at pH values higher than  $\text{pH}_{\text{pzc}}$ , the sorbent surface becomes negatively charged because of the adsorption of  $\text{OH}^-$  from the solution. It helps to increase in electrostatic attraction forces,

acting between the surface and the cations of the adsorbate which contributes to a greater cation sorption at higher pH.

#### 3.5.2. Adsorption efficiency

The experiment of MB removal using  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4/\text{HAp}$  was triplicated and the removal efficiency was reported in Table 1. After 40-min reaction,  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4/\text{HAp}$  can remove up to 89.6% Methylene Blue, this result is corresponding to the study of Anuar et al. (2019). In addition, the adsorption results were compared with the adsorption yield of  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$  at about 45%, HAp is about 50% after 4 hours (Abidin et al., 2020) and  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4/\text{HAp}$  was calculated upto 89% from this study. It can be explained as the specific surface area of adsorbent nanoparticles increase, which compared to pure HAp (Abidin et al., 2020; Gu et al., 2014), and  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$  MNPs are not stable without HAp coated-layer (Zheltova et al., 2020). Furthermore, this proves that the material has not only physical adsorption but also chemical adsorption, which enhances the adsorption capacity to degrade MB (Abidin et al., 2020). Indeed, 0.5 g  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4/\text{HAp}$  in 40 min stirring, the material can adsorb 40 ppm MB solution with the adsorption efficiency of up to 89.6%, therefore,  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4/\text{HAp}$  will be an excellent candidate for adsorption process.

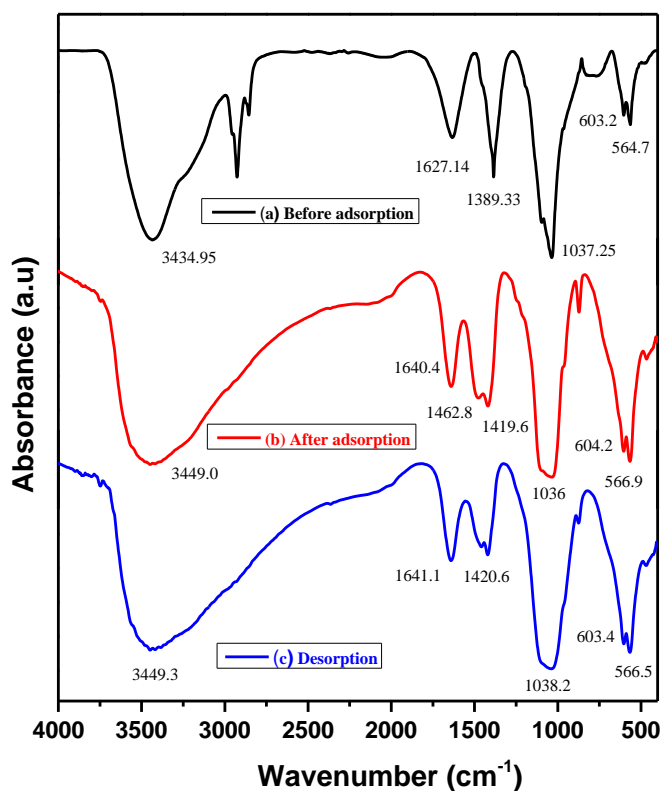
The adsorption ability of  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4/\text{HAp}$  on MB can be further confirmed in Figure 7. There are some changes in FT-IR spectra of  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4/\text{HAp}$  before and after adsorption process. It could be seen that the stretching vibration adsorption band of hydroxyl groups at  $3449 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  was broadening as well as the new stretching vibration adsorption bands  $1419 - 1470 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  were attributed to benzene ring framework from MB (Allam et al., 2016), this proved that MB was adsorbed by related groups of  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4/\text{HAp}$ . Moreover, after adsorption, the absorption bands of P-O or O-P-O groups at  $1036 - 1038 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  were also broadened. Additionally, hydrogen bond from MB, which forms nitrogen atoms has the propensity for forming hydrogen bond with hydroxyl groups from  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4/\text{HAp}$  surface when having awful attracting electron ability and less atom radius. It was reported that a strong H-bonding interaction between P-OH group of HAp particles and N of the MB molecule could contribute to the adsorption of MB molecules (Sharma & Das, 2013). The nitrogen atom of MB might interact with  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  groups of HAp via Lewis acid-base interaction (Bouyarmene et al., 2010).

Nevertheless, based on some previous studies on MB adsorption using HAp (Abidin et al., 2020; Allam et al., 2016), the adsorption is mostly a physical process. Due to the porous structure of HAp layer, Methylene Blue molecules have the tendency of passing through the layers of the material at first, then were adsorbed on the surface before diffusing into the porous structure of HAp. Additionally, electrostatic interaction and Van der

Waals force have a part in keeping the MB molecules been onto the adsorbent surface. At pH above 8, as mentioned in  $pH_{pzc}$  results, the electrostatic attraction between the negative charge of the material and the positive charge of the dye is significant, which leads to increase the percentage of adsorption of the dye onto the surface of the material.

**Table 1. MB removal efficiency of Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/HAp**

pH	Time (h)	m (mg)	Co (mg.L <sup>-1</sup> )	C <sub>MB</sub> (mg.L <sup>-1</sup> )	Removal (%)
8	4	500	40	4.21	89.5
				4.25	89.4
				4.08	89.8
<b>Average removal efficiency (%)</b>					<b>89.6±0.2</b>



**Figure 7. FT-IR spectra of (a) Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/HAp, (b) after adsorption, (c) after desorption**

Evaluating the desorption ability, nanomaterials were compared by FT-IR result. The intensity of the stretching vibration adsorption bands 1419-1470 cm<sup>-1</sup> (benzene ring) significantly decreases since a large amount of concentration of MB was removed by the electrostatic interaction of DI water, and nanoporous was replaced H<sub>2</sub>O molecules. This explains for the adsorption bands of O-H were broader than the original material. In addition, the

intensity is not significantly reduced since nano-adsorbent has porous structure, corresponding to a long adsorption time, desorption also takes a long time to desorb completely. Besides, the O-P-O bond at wavenumber 1036 cm<sup>-1</sup> was expanded, possibly due to MB adsorption process, then the bond of Hap was broken down. It is suggested that the adsorption process is a physical adsorption process based on the Van der Waals electrostatic force.

### 3.5.3. The maximum adsorption capacity

Adsorption capacity is the amount of adsorbate that is taken up by the adsorbent per unit mass of the adsorbent. Table 2 shows the adsorption capacity of Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/HAp relying on its adsorption process. Furthermore, the adsorbent still gives promising results in removing Methylene Blue, which is around 89.6% in the first process. The removal efficiency decreases to 69.8% in the second process and only 43.5% in the last process. It can be seen that after 3 times adsorption, the adsorption capacity of the material shows a significant drop compared to the first time. Through the results, the maximum

adsorption capacity is calculated as  $q_{\max} = 16.4 \text{ mg}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$ .

Table 3 shows the comparison in maximum adsorption capacity of various adsorption materials used to remove MB under different conditions. The maximum adsorption capacity  $q_{\max}$  of Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/HAp was higher than that of HAp-Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>-100 in previous study (Abidin et al., 2020) with the same reaction conditions. However, when compared with other materials, the maximum adsorption capacity is even lower. It is explained that each material will have various structural components so the adsorption capacity will be different, leading to the different adsorption capacity.

**Table 2. Adsorption capacity of Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/HAp**

pH	Time (h)	m (mg)	C <sub>0</sub> (mg.L <sup>-1</sup> )	C <sub>MB</sub> (mg.L <sup>-1</sup> )	Removal (%)	q <sub>c</sub> (mg.g <sup>-1</sup> )
8	4	500	40	4.15	89.6	7.17
				12.1	69.8	5.76
				22.6	43.5	3.48

**Table 3. The comparison in maximum adsorption capacity of various adsorbents for removing MB**

Absorbent	pH	Time (h)	m(g)	q <sub>max</sub> (mg.g <sup>-1</sup> )	References
BC-HAp	8	10	1	21.1	(Li et al., 2018)
Carbon made from Almond Burk	5.7	0.9	0.5	76.3	(Rahimian & Zarinabadi, 2020)
CuO-A	7	3.5	0.4	36.5	(Saruchi et al., 2019)
HAp-Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> -100	-	4	0.5	12.4	(Abidin et al., 2020)
Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> /HAp	8	4	0.5	16.4	This work

## 4. CONCLUSIONS

The successful synthesis of Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/HAp nanoparticles from eggshells and its adsorption capacity for MB from aqueous solution are reported. HAp synthesized from eggshell by-products was successfully coated on Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> MNPs with a simple, easy and optimized process. In addition, using eggshell by-products is considered a solution for reducing significantly waste into the environment. The characteristic results show that Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/HAp nanoparticles were successfully synthesized by wet precipitation from available materials, the morphology and size of adsorbent relatively small, and superparamagnetic property of the Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/HAp

nanoparticles are still ensured which is suitable for the adsorption process. Lastly, at contact time of 40 min, initial MB concentration of 40 ppm, 0.5 g of material and pH 8, the maximum adsorption efficiency was 89.6%, and maximum adsorption capacity was calculated as  $16.4 \text{ mg}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$ .

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