



Complex doping of d-block elements cobalt, nickel and cadmium in magnesio-silicate composite and its use in the treatment of aqueous waste

M.M. Abou-Mesalam^{a,*}, M.R. Abass^a, M.A. Abdel-Wahab^a, E.S. Zakaria^a,
A.M. Hassan^b, H.F. Khalil^b

^aAtomic Energy Authority, Hot Labs, Centre, P. Code 13759, Cairo, Egypt, emails: mabumesalam@yahoo.com (M.M. Abou-Mesalam), mohamed.ragab2014300@yahoo.com (M.R. Abass), mabumesalam@hotmail.com (M.A. Abdel-Wahab), essam_zakaria@yahoo.com (E.S. Zakaria)

^bFaculty of Science, Al-AZhar University, Cairo, Egypt, emails: alimhassanuk@yahoo.co.uk (A.M. Hassan), Hazem.khalil@azhar.edu.eg (H.F. Khalil)

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ABSTRACT

Magnesio-silicate and metal *in situ* doping composites have been synthesized by sol-gel technique. The structure of these composites was established by chemical analysis, X-ray diffraction, thermogravimetric, and differential thermal analyses, Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy and X-ray fluorescence analysis. Magnesio-silicate and *in situ* doping of nickel, cobalt, and cadmium composites were found to have the formulas $\text{MgSi}_{4.26}\text{O}_{9.53}\cdot 2.17 \text{H}_2\text{O}$, $\text{Ni}_{2.36}\text{Mg}_{0.043}\text{Si}_{2.91}\text{O}\cdot 1.29 \text{H}_2\text{O}$, $\text{Co}_{1.45}\text{Mg}_{0.03}\text{Si}_{2.7}\text{O}\cdot 1.26 \text{H}_2\text{O}$, and $\text{CdMg}_{0.059}\text{Si}_{1.24}\text{O}_{1.12}\cdot 0.83 \text{H}_2\text{O}$, respectively. The capacities of these materials for some heavy metals such as Ni^{2+} , Co^{2+} , and Cd^{2+} were investigated and the data obtained showed that magnesio-silicate has a higher capacity for the cations compared to *in situ* doping of heavy metal composites. Distribution coefficients in nitric acid medium have been evaluated to explore the separation potentiality of magnesio-silicate for Ni^{2+} , Co^{2+} , and Cd^{2+} ions. Sorption isotherms for all cations were investigated and the data showed the applicability of Freundlich isotherm for all cases.

Keywords: Magnesio-silicate; *In-situ*; Distribution; Capacity; Isotherm

1. Introduction

Nowadays, inorganic ion-exchange materials play an important role in analytical chemistry, based originally on their thermal and radiation resistance as well as their chemical attack [1]. The development of new inorganic ion exchangers with characteristic properties still needs attention and their utility in diverse fields is yet to be explored. Synthetic ion exchangers are used for a wide range of different application, ranging

from environmental remediation [2,3], water softening [3], hydrometallurgy [3], biochemistry [4], catalysis [5], and selective adsorption [6,7] to medical applications [8]. Abou-Mesalam and El-Naggar have synthesized different inorganic ion-exchange materials based on silicate salts prepared [6,9] and used for removal of some heavy metals from industrial and hazardous wastes.

In this work, magnesio-silicate and its doping with some heavy metals such as nickel, cobalt, and cadmium as inorganic ion-exchange materials were synthesized using sol-gel technique. The doping

*Corresponding author.

materials were investigated using different analytical technique and represented a new ion-exchange character compared the original ones. Structure formulas and analytical applications of magnesio-silicate and its dopants for the recovery of some heavy metal from the aqueous waste solution were conducted.

2. Experimental

All reagents and chemicals used were of analytical grade and used without further purifications.

2.1. Synthesis of magnesio-silicate composite

Magnesio-silicate ion-exchange material was synthesized as reported earlier by Abou-Mesalam and El-Naggar. [6,9] by the dropwise addition of equimolar solutions (0.05 M) of magnesium chloride to sodium metasilicate with volumetric ratio for (Mg/Si) equal 1.5 with continuous stirring in a water bath adjusted at $60 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$. The mixed solutions were immediately hydrolyzed in demineralized water. Diluted ammonia solution was added to the mixture until complete precipitation attained. The precipitate formed was kept in the mother solution to overnight standing. The precipitate was washed several times with distilled water, and then washed by 0.1 M HNO_3 to remove impurities and Cl^- ions. The precipitate is rewashed by distilled water to remove NO_3^- ions. After drying at $60 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$, solid was poured in near boiling distilled water heated at $80 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$ to break the solid and remove air trapped inside the solid, then redried at $60 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$. The obtained solid was grained and stored at room temperature.

2.2. In-situ doping magnesio-silicate composite

Doping of some heavy metal such as Ni^{2+} , Co^{2+} , and Cd^{2+} ions with magnesio-silicate ion-exchange material was synthesized as reported earlier [6,9] by the dropwise addition of equimolar solutions (0.05 M) of magnesium chloride to sodium metasilicate and MCl_2 with volumetric ratio 1:1.5:1 for M: Mg: Si, where M is Ni^{2+} , Co^{2+} , and Cd^{2+} ions with continuous stirring in a water bath adjusted at $60 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$. The mixed solutions were immediately hydrolyzed in demineralized water with the same procedure as magnesio-silicate prepared.

2.3. Composition and characterization of synthesized composites

The stoichiometry of the constituents in magnesio-silicate and metal *in situ* doping composites were

determined using Philips sequent ion X-ray spectrometer-2400. The solid samples were ground to very fine powders and then mixed with polyvinyl methacrylate as a binder to facilitate the pressing process. The mixture was pressed in a sample holder of 40 mm diameter aluminum cups and pressed on pressing machine at 20 psi to produce a sample with the diameter of 40 and 50 mm thickness. The concentrations of magnesium, silicone, nickel, cobalt, and cadmium were measured according to Super-Q quantitative application program.

Samples of magnesio-silicate and metal *in situ* doping composites (20 mg) were analyzed for DTA and TGA with sample holder made of Al_2O_3 in N_2 atmosphere using a Shimadzu DTG-60/60H. The heating rate was maintained at $20^\circ\text{C}/\text{min}$ with using alumina powder as reference material.

IR spectra of magnesio-silicate and metal *in situ* doping composites were carried out by mixing the solid with potassium bromide in ratio 1:5 and ground to a very fine powder. A transparent disc was formed in a moisture-free atmosphere. The FTIR spectra were recorded using BOMEMFTIR spectrometer in the range $400\text{--}4,000\text{ cm}^{-1}$.

X-ray diffraction patterns of magnesio-silicate and metal *in situ* doping composites were carried out using a Shimadzu XD-D1, X-ray diffractometer with Cu-K_α radiation tube source ($\lambda = 1.5406\text{ \AA}$) and graphite monochromator operating at 30 kV and 30 mA. The measurements were done in 2θ ranges from 5 to 90 with scan speed $2^\circ/\text{min}$.

2.4. Sorption and equilibrium time

All the measurements of equilibrium were done by shaking 0.05 g of MgSi ion exchanger with 2.5 ml of Ni^{2+} , Co^{2+} , and Cd^{2+} ion solutions in a shaker thermostat at $25 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$ with $V/m = 50\text{ ml/g}$ and natural pH due to these optimum conditions. After each time interval, the shaker is stopped and the solution is separated at once from the solid. The filtrate was taken to analyze for the determination of the concentration of the metal ions by atomic absorption spectrometer (AAS).

2.5. Effect of batch factor and/or composite dose (V/m)

Batch factor was optimized by shaking different weights of composite with different volume of Ni^{2+} , Co^{2+} , and Cd^{2+} ion solutions (50 ppm) to obtain varying V/m ratios ($V/m = 25, 50, 100, 200, \text{ and } 400\text{ ml/g}$). After an equilibrium, the solutions were separated and the filtrate was taken to analyze for the determination of the concentration of the metal ions by AAS.

2.6. Capacity measurements

Repeated batch equilibration of 50 ppm metal chloride solutions Ni^{2+} , Co^{2+} , and Cd^{2+} ions with the solid material in V/m ratio 50 ml/g was carried out for the capacity evaluation. The mixture was shaken in a shaker thermostat at $25 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$ and natural pH due to these optimum conditions. After overnight standing, the solid was separated and the concentration of the metal ions was measured by AAS. The capacity value was calculated by the following equation:

$$\text{Capacity} = \text{Uptake} \times C_o \times \frac{V}{m} \text{ mg/g} \quad (1)$$

where C_o is the initial concentration of the ions in solution, V is the solution volume, and m is the mass of the ion exchangers.

2.7. Distribution and selectivity studies

The distribution coefficient (K_d) of some heavy metals such as Ni^{2+} , Co^{2+} , and Cd^{2+} ions on magnesio-silicate sorbent was determined by batch equilibration. The mixture was placed in shaker thermostat adjusted at $25 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$ for 30 min (time within an equilibrium was attained). After equilibrium, the solutions were separated by centrifugation. Ni^{2+} , Co^{2+} , and Cd^{2+} ion concentrations were determined by AAS. The distribution coefficient (K_d) and Separation factor (α_B^A) were calculated using the following equations:

$$K_d = \frac{(A_o - A_{\text{eq.}})}{(A_{\text{eq.}})} \times \frac{V}{m} \text{ ml/g} \quad (2)$$

$$\text{Separation factor } (\alpha_B^A) = K_d(B)/K_d(A) \quad (3)$$

where A_o and $A_{\text{eq.}}$ are the concentrations of the ions in solutions before and after equilibration, respectively, V is the solution volume, m is the exchanger mass, and $K_d(A)$ and $K_d(B)$ are the distribution coefficients for the two competing species A and B in the ion-exchange system.

2.8. Sorption isotherm studies

Sorption isotherms of Ni^{2+} , Co^{2+} , and Cd^{2+} ions on magnesio-silicate sorbent were determined over the entire concentration range (5×10^{-4} to 10^{-1} M) at constant V/m ratio of 50 ml/g. The experiments were carried out in shaker thermostat at $25 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$. The equilibrium concentration ($C_{\text{eq.}}$) and amount uptake (W/m) were calculated in mmol/g as follows:

$$\frac{W}{m} = \text{uptake} \times C_o \times \frac{V}{m} \text{ mmol/g} \quad (4)$$

$$C_{\text{eq.}} = C_o \times [(1 - \text{uptake})]/100 \quad (5)$$

where C_o is the initial concentration of ions (M), V is the solution volume (ml), and m is the mass of the exchanger (g). Plot of C against C/W and/or $\log C_{\text{eq.}}$ against $\log W/m$ were performed to obtain the required isotherm.

3. Results and discussion

The scope of this work was the attempt to synthesize a high chemical stable inorganic ion-exchange material with high selectivity for some heavy metals. Inorganic ion-exchange materials magnesio-silicate (MgSi) and metal *in situ* doping composites Ni-MgSi, Co-MgSi, and Cd-MgSi have been synthesized with complete characterization for the four ion-exchange materials.

IR spectra of MgSi, Ni-MgSi, Co-MgSi, and Cd-MgSi composites were represented in Fig. 1. In this figure, five characteristic bands can be observed in the regions $\sim 2,800 - 3,625$, $\sim 1,625$, $\sim 1,000$, 780, and $\sim 480 \text{ cm}^{-1}$. The main absorption band observed for MgSi, Ni-MgSi, Co-MgSi, and Cd-MgSi at $3,625 - 2,820 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ can be attributed to the stretching mode of free water and OH groups absorbed on the composites. The intensity of this band is decreased by the *in situ* doping of Ni^{2+} , Co^{2+} , and Cd^{2+} ions with magnesio-silicate composite. The strong bands appear at $\sim 1,625 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ represents the bending mode of water molecules absorbed on MgSi, Ni-MgSi, Co-MgSi, and Cd-MgSi [10]. The absorption band at $1,000 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ is due to the metal-oxygen bonds [11–18]. The band at $\sim 780 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ is due to the Mg–OH deformation vibration or overlapping of the Si–O and Si–OH [15–19], and Mg–O bonds in the structure [20]. The bands at 567

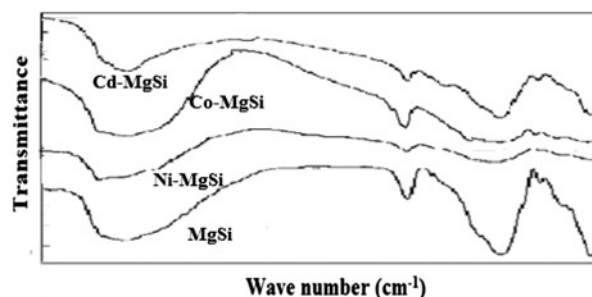


Fig. 1. IR spectra of magnesio-silicate and *in situ* doping composite.

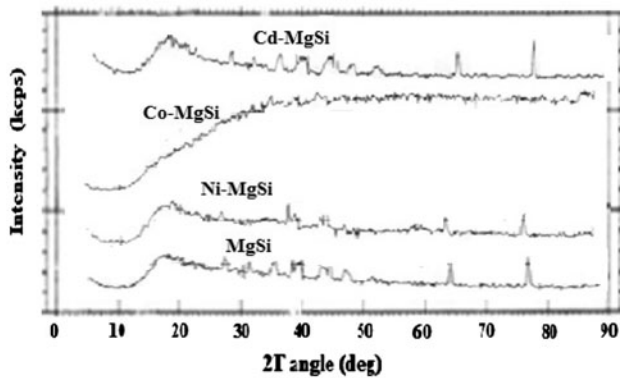


Fig. 2. XRD patterns of magnesio-silicate and *in situ* doping composites.

and 480 cm^{-1} are assigned to Si–O–Mg and Si–O–Si bending vibrations, respectively [19]. The bands between 416 and 465 cm^{-1} are associated with metal–oxygen bonds (Ni–O, Co–O, Cd–O) [21,22].

X-ray diffraction of MgSi, Ni-MgSi, Co-MgSi, and Cd-MgSi composites was represented in Fig. 2. From this figure, it is clear that magnesio-silicate and metal *in situ* doping composites M-MgSi have crystalline structure. The crystallinity of magnesio-silicate was increased by *in situ* doping of Ni^{2+} and Cd^{2+} ions and decreased with the *in situ* doping of Co^{2+} with magnesio-silicate. This variation may be related to the role of ion radius of *in situ*, where the radius of Co^{2+} ion is smaller than Ni^{2+} and Cd^{2+} ions. This means that the ions hold with the water in the texture of the composite according to unhydrated order $\text{Co}^{2+} > \text{Ni}^{2+} > \text{Cd}^{2+}$ and leads to an increase in the water content and weakness of the crystallinity. These results were agreed with the data obtained from XRD of composites materials treated at different heating temperature [6]. The crystallinity of the prepared materials slightly improved with the increase in heating temperatures from 50°C to $850 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$, and there is a sharp improvement of crystallinity occurs at $850 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$.

Differential thermal and thermogravimetric analyses (DTA and TGA) of magnesio-silicate and metal *in situ* doping composites were given in Fig. 3. In DTA curve of MgSi (Fig. 3), one endothermic peak is appeared at 104.92°C . This peak may be due to the loss in water molecule [23]. Exothermic peak at 333.92°C may be due to the decomposition of residual OH-groups and condensation of non-bonded oxygen [24]. Another exothermic peak appeared at 862.09°C mainly attributed to the formation of crystalline mixed oxide [6]. The DTA curve of Ni-MgSi (Fig. 3), two endothermic peaks are appeared at 100.82 and 472.58°C . The first peak may be due to the loss in

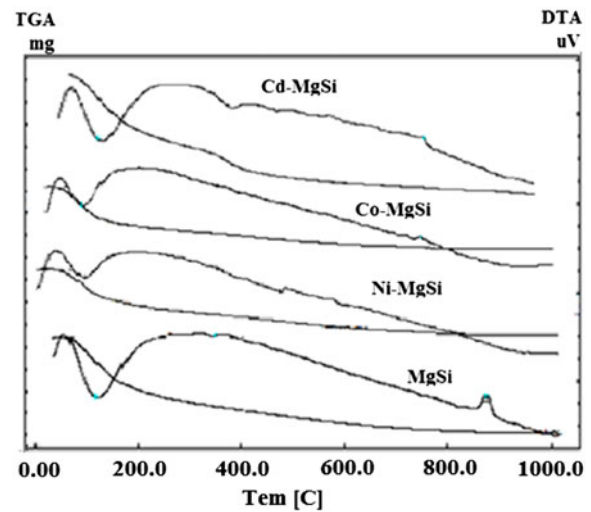


Fig. 3. DTA and TGA for magnesio-silicate and *in situ* doping composites.

water molecule [23] and the second peak is due to the loss of chemical bond water [25]. Two exothermic peaks appeared at 210.3 and 512.2°C . The first peak may be due to the decomposition of residual OH-groups and condensation of non-bonded oxygen [24] and the second peak may be due to the phase change to metal oxide. The DTA curve of Co-MgSi (Fig. 3), one endothermic peak is appeared at 86.77°C . This peak may be due to the loss in water molecule [25]. Two exothermic peaks are appeared at 210.3 and 745.46°C . The first peak may be due to the decomposition of residual OH-groups and condensation of non-bonded oxygen [24] and the second peak may be due to the phase change to metal oxide. The DTA curve of Cd-MgSi (Fig. 3), two endothermic peaks are appeared at 107.31 and 376.45°C . The first peak may be due to the loss in water molecule and the second peak is due to the loss in chemical bond water [25]. One exothermic peak appeared at 770.01°C that may be due to the phase change to metal oxide.

From the data of TGA in Fig. 3, it was found that the weight losses for magnesio-silicate and *in situ* doping composites are continued up to 700°C , and no weight loss occurred in the range ~ 700 – $1,000^\circ\text{C}$. This supporting the fact that MgSi, Ni-MgSi, Co-MgSi, and Cd-MgSi have a good thermal stability comparing with the other inorganic ion exchangers. The weight loss of MgSi, Ni-MgSi, Co-MgSi, and Cd-MgSi with the heating temperature indicates that a 17.325, 17.22, 19.53, and 15.92% weight loss is obtained when the sample is calcinated at 800°C for MgSi, Ni-MgSi, Co-MgSi, and Cd-MgSi, respectively.

Table 1

The proposed molecular formulas for magneso-silicate and *in situ* doping composites

Composite	Molecular formula
Magneso-silicate	$\text{MgSi}_{4.26}\text{O}_{9.53} \cdot 2.17 \text{H}_2\text{O}$
Nickel magneso-silicate	$\text{Ni}_{2.36}\text{Mg}_{0.043}\text{Si}_{2.91}\text{O} \cdot 1.29 \text{H}_2\text{O}$
Cobalt magneso-silicate	$\text{Co}_{1.45}\text{Mg}_{0.03}\text{Si}_{2.7}\text{O} \cdot 1.26 \text{H}_2\text{O}$
Cadmium magneso silicate	$\text{CdMg}_{0.059}\text{Si}_{1.24}\text{O}_{1.12} \cdot 0.83 \text{H}_2\text{O}$

The chemical composition of MgSi, Ni-MgSi, Co-MgSi, and Cd-MgSi based on the elemental analysis obtained from X-ray fluorescence spectrometer and DTA-TGA thermograms whose mass loss permitted calculating the amount of water contained in the matrix by the expression:

$$18n = \frac{X(M + 18n)}{100} \quad (6)$$

where X is the percent mass loss of the water, n is the number of moles of water, and M is the molar mass of the compound without water molecules [26]. An X value was found 11.6, 8.93, 11.32, and 8.23% for MgSi, Ni-MgSi, Co-MgSi, and Cd-MgSi, respectively. The molecular formulas of magneso-silicate and metal *in situ* doping composites were calculated and tabulated in Table 1.

The variation of adsorption percentage of Ni^{2+} , Co^{2+} , and Cd^{2+} ions onto magneso-silicate with shaking time was carried as shown in Fig. 4. It is seen that the percent uptake increases with the increase in shaking time and maximum adsorption was observed at 25 min for Cd^{2+} ion and at 30 min for Ni^{2+} and Co^{2+} ions on magneso-silicate. Therefore, we can consider that these times are sufficient to attain equilibrium for Ni^{2+} , Co^{2+} , and Cd^{2+} ions onto magneso-silicate and used for all further experiments.

Effect of batch factor and/or composite dose (V/m) on the percent uptake of Ni^{2+} , Co^{2+} , and Cd^{2+} ions onto magneso-silicate ion exchanger was investigated using V/m ratio's 25, 50, 100, 200, and 400 ml/g. The results were represented in Fig. 5. From this figure, it is clear that retention of Ni^{2+} , Co^{2+} , and Cd^{2+} ions on the magneso-silicate ion exchanger decreases with increasing the V/m ratio and the ratio 25 ml/g is the best ratio for maximum retention value.

The capacity of magneso-silicate for Ni^{2+} , Co^{2+} , and Cd^{2+} ions was determined at $25 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$ and natural pH due to these optimum conditions. The data are represented in Table 2. Table 2 indicated that the affinity sequence for all cations is $\text{Co}^{2+} > \text{Ni}^{2+} > \text{Cd}^{2+}$. This sequence is in accordance with the unhydrated radii

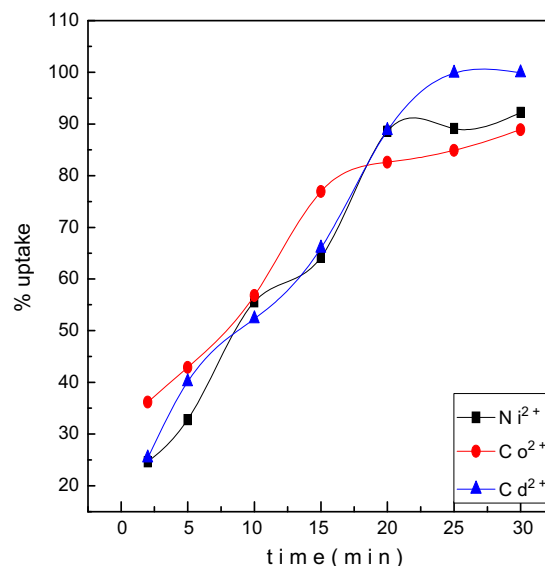


Fig. 4. Effect of contact time on % uptake of Ni^{2+} , Co^{2+} , and Cd^{2+} ions onto magneso-silicate at $25 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$.

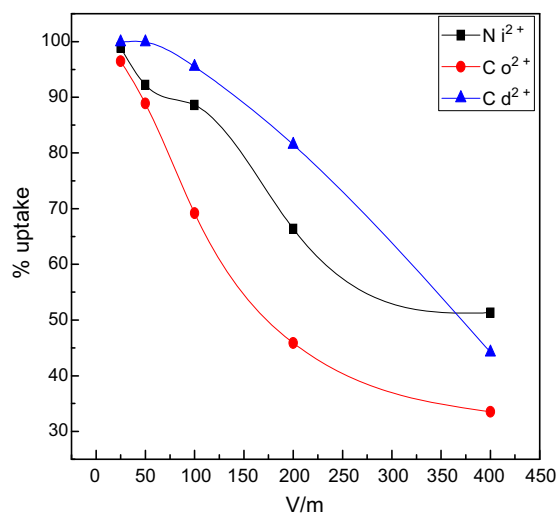


Fig. 5. Effect of V/m on % uptake of Ni^{2+} , Co^{2+} , and Cd^{2+} ions on the MgSi ion exchanger at $25 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$.

of the exchanging ions. The ions with smaller unhydrated radii easily enter the pores of the exchanger, resulting in higher adsorption [27]. The high capacity of magneso-silicate for cobalt ion may be due to the higher complexing ability of cobalt with the presence in more than one oxidation state.

The capacity of *in situ* doping composites metal magneso-silicate for Ni^{2+} , Co^{2+} , and Cd^{2+} ions was studied and the results are tabulated in Table 2. The data in Table 2 showed that the capacity of Ni-MgSi and Co-MgSi composites for Ni^{2+} , Co^{2+} , and Cd^{2+} ions

Table 2

Capacities of magnesio-silicate and *in situ* doping composites for Ni²⁺, Co²⁺, and Cd²⁺ ions at 25 ± 1 °C

Ion exchangers	Water content (%)	Cation	Capacity (mg/g)
MgSi	17.33	Ni ²⁺	9.0125
MgSi _{4.26} O _{9.53} ·2.17 H ₂ O		Co ²⁺	10
		Cd ²⁺	8.4375
NiMgSi	17.22	Ni ²⁺	0.3
Ni _{2.36} Mg _{0.043} Si _{2.91} O·1.29 H ₂ O		Co ²⁺	3.51
		Cd ²⁺	2.37
CoMgSi	19.53	Ni ²⁺	5.65
Co _{1.45} Mg _{0.03} Si _{2.7} O·1.26 H ₂ O		Co ²⁺	6.1175
		Cd ²⁺	4.81

is lower than that obtained for MgSi by 0.21 and 0.6 values, respectively, with the sequence order; Co²⁺ > Ni²⁺ > Cd²⁺ for Co-MgSi and the sequence order; Co²⁺ > Cd²⁺ > Ni²⁺ for Ni-MgSi. These results suggest that the composite keeps cavity for exchangeable ions in the framework by *in situ* doping of these cations with MgSi. The product will show selectivity for the exchangeable ions just as to be retained in ion memory after exchanging particular ion with other ion to maintain fundamentally original structures by *in situ* doping of these cations with MgSi. Similar results were obtained by Abou-Mesalam and El-Naggar for magnesio-and magnesium alumino-silicates [6].

Distribution coefficient is an important parameter to explore the separation potentiality of magnesio-silicate for Ni²⁺, Co²⁺, and Cd²⁺ ions. The distribution coefficients (K_d) and separation factors (α) for the mentioned cations of the range (10⁻³ to 2 M) HNO₃ medium were calculated and tabulated in Table 3. The data in Table 3 indicated that the distribution coefficients have the affinity sequence Ni²⁺ ≥ Co²⁺ ≥ Cd²⁺ for magnesio-silicate. This sequence supports the sorption of metal ions in unhydrated state. The separation factors for the studied cations were calculated and indicated that Co²⁺ ion has a higher separation factor.

The data in Table 3 shows the inverse proportion of the removal percentage with the [H⁺] ion concentration. The ion mobility of Ni²⁺, Co²⁺, and Cd²⁺ ions are decreased by increasing hydrogen ion concentration. The decrease in the ion mobilities may be explained by an increase in the frictional forces exerted on the ions due to the change of the nature of hydrogen bonds in water [28–30]. As the proton concentration increases, the following water cluster ions are formed H₃O⁺, H₅O₂⁺, H₇O₃⁺, H₉O₄⁺ modifying the structure of water and thus the ion–water interaction [30]. Also, the sorbent takes up the H⁺ ions from the solution; hence, the surface becomes positively charged, which eventually restricts the uptake of Ni²⁺, Co²⁺, and Cd²⁺ ions [30].

Table 3

 K_d values and separation factors (α) for Ni²⁺, Co²⁺, and/or Cd²⁺ ions onto magnesio-silicate at 25 ± 1 °C

[H ⁺]	K_d ml/g and (α)	Ni ²⁺	Co ²⁺	Cd ²⁺
0.001	K_d (α)	24,950	24,950 (1)	2,319.67 (0.09) (0.09)
0.01	K_d (α)	24,950	24,950 (1)	158.42 (7 × 10 ⁻³) (7 × 10 ⁻³)
0.1	K_d (α)	24,950	24,950 (1)	323.15 (0.013) (0.013)
0.5	K_d (α)	24,950	41.24 (0.002)	5.43 (2 × 10 ⁻⁴) (0.1317)
1	K_d (α)	54.17	314.96 (5.82)	60.35 (1.12) (0.19)
2	K_d (α)	0.51	39.45 (78.10)	0.5 (1.0) (0.013)

The nature of adsorption processes for Ni²⁺, Co²⁺, and Cd²⁺ ions on magnesio-silicate was investigated by gradual increase in the sorbate concentration and measuring the amount sorbed at each equilibrium concentration. The Freundlich isotherm most widely used mathematical model, given an empirical expression encompassing the surface heterogeneity and exponential distribution of active sites and their energies was tested in the following equation [31]:

$$\log \frac{W}{m} = K + K' \log C_{eq.} \quad (7)$$

where W/m is the amount uptake, $C_{eq.}$ is the equilibrium concentration, K' and K are the Freundlich constants measure the adsorption intensity and

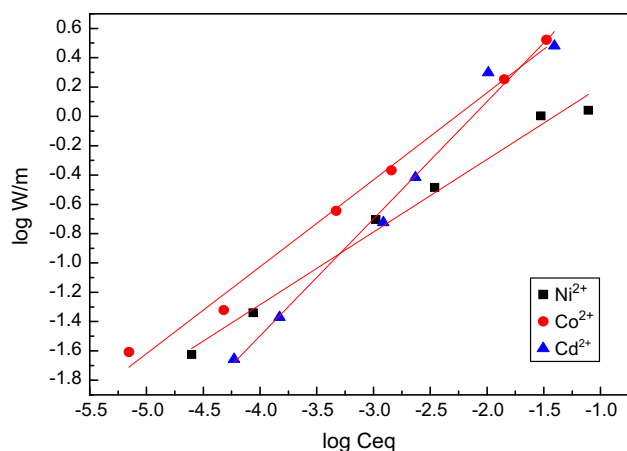


Fig. 6. Freundlich adsorption isotherm for the adsorption of Ni^{2+} , Co^{2+} , and Cd^{2+} ions on magnesio-silicate at $25 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$.

Table 4

Freundlich parameters for adsorption of Ni^{2+} , Co^{2+} , and Cd^{2+} ions on magnesio-silicate at $25 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$

Composite	Ions	K'	K
MgSi	Ni^{2+}	0.49594	0.015
	Co^{2+}	0.59315	0.014
	Cd^{2+}	0.80022	0.015

adsorption capacity of the sorbent, respectively, and computed from the slope and intercept of the linear relationship.

Plots of $\log W/m$ against $\log C_{\text{eq}}$ linear relationships were obtained for all cases as shown in Fig. 6 for magnesio-silicate. The data in Fig. 6 show the applicability of Freundlich isotherm for all cases and all of Ni^{2+} , Co^{2+} , and Cd^{2+} ions are physically sorbed on magnesio-silicate. The values of adsorption capacity (K) and adsorption intensity (K') for Ni^{2+} , Co^{2+} , and Cd^{2+} ions on magnesio-silicate were computed from the linear relationships in Fig. 6 and tabulated in Table 4. As seen from Table 3, the numerical values of ($K' < 1$) suggest the surface of the sorbent of heterogeneous type [31]. Also the numerical value of (K') is only reduced at lower equilibrium concentrations. Freundlich sorption isotherm does not predict any saturation of the solid surface thus envisages infinite surface coverage mathematically. Similar results were also reported for the adsorption of Zn^{2+} , Cu^{2+} , Cd^{2+} , and Ni^{2+} ions on poly acrylamide acrylic acid impregnated with silico-titanate ion exchanger [32] and UO_2^{2+} and Th^{4+} ions on titanium antimonate [33] (Table 4).

Similar results obtained for the value of K' was found to be less than unity for the adsorption of (Pb^{2+} 0.34), (Cd^{2+} 0.29), and (Zn^{2+} 0.16) on antimonite acid [34]. (Cd^{2+} 0.60), (Zn^{2+} 0.89) on iron(III) titanate [35]. (Cu^{2+} 0.86), (Co^{2+} 0.83), (Zn^{2+} 0.79), (Cd^{2+} 0.79), (Cs^+ 0.86), and (Fe^{3+} 0.71) on magnesio-silicate and (Cu^{2+} 0.68), (Co^{2+} 0.59), (Zn^{2+} 0.77), (Cd^{2+} 0.83), (Cs^+ 0.86), and (Fe^{3+} 0.77) on magnesium alumino-silicate [9].

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