

SOLAR ASSISTED PHOTO FENTON FOR COST EFFECTIVE DEGRADATION OF TEXTILE EFFLUENTS IN COMPARISON TO AOPS

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ABSTRACT

Solar assisted Photo Fenton was compared with advanced oxidation processes for their color and COD removal efficiency and cost effectiveness. H₂O₂ alone appeared to be inefficient to reduce color and COD content of any effluent. The performance of Fenton process was slightly better, color and COD removals were 45 % and 63% respectively. Photo Fenton treatment of blue effluent resulted into color and COD removal of 56 % and 66 % respectively. In case of black effluent, the removal of these parameters was 39 % and 84% respectively. However, application of solar radiation (18 hours) resulted in substantial color and COD removal (i.e. 52 % and 88 % respectively for black effluent and 61 % and 85 %, respectively for blue effluent). Solar assisted photo Fenton proved as the most energy and cost effective (100 to 150 times less as compared to UV/Fe/H₂O₂ and O₃) process among all AOPs, although ozone completely decolorized the effluent and showed more than 87% COD removal in an alkaline medium (pH 9) but at very high cost. The electrical energy requirements of the tested processes followed the increasing order UV/Fe/H₂O₂ < O₃ < H₂O₂ < Fe/H₂O₂ < Solar/ Fe/H₂O₂.

KEYWORDS: Solar radiation, Ozone, Fenton, Photo Fenton, EE/O, Textile effluent.

INTRODUCTION

The textile dyeing and finishing industry is particularly known for its high water consumption in addition to the use of large amounts of chemicals (Arslan *et al.*, 2000) characterizing textile industry wastewater as high COD, BOD, dissolved solids contents and high color (Sevimli and Kinaci, 2002). It is estimated that between 10 to 15 % of the total dyes used in textile production and dyeing process is discharged in wastewater (Pavlostathis and Beydilli, 2005), rendering it toxic and unamenable to biological treatment (Bali *et al.*, 2004). The extensive use of the synthetic dyes causes severe ecological problems as well (Shah *et al.*, 2003). Especially, certain azo dyes are either toxic or can be converted (an-aerobically or in the presence of reducing agents) to carcinogenic and mutagenic compounds such as aromatic amines. Dyes contained by industrial effluents are often highly persistent and must be treated before discharging into water bodies (Shah *et al.*, 2003; Konsowa, 2003).

There is variety of treatment methods, ranging from conventional physico-chemical methods to the most sophisticated advanced oxidation processes. Conventional methods are usually limited by high costs and production of large amount of sludge, which requires further treatment or deposition (Moreira *et al.*, 2000; Alaton, 2003; Arslan *et al.*, 2000) and use of biological techniques are also limited due to slow reaction rate and complexity. However, application of AOPs in the treatment of wastewaters has become popular. They are considered the most promising alternative to the traditional treatment technologies based on the generation of hydroxyl radicals, which can be used for non-specific oxidation of a wide range of organic compounds and color removal (Yasar *et al.*, 2006; Huang *et al.*, 2008). Application of solar radiation for photo catalytic advanced oxidation

process is also a very fascinating and fast developing area and is used for wastewater treatment (Wadley and Waite, 2002). The ultraviolet light or near UV light reacts with photo catalyst to produce hydroxyl radicals that rapidly destroy the chemical bonds of the contaminants (Wadley and Waite, 2002). Several dyes utilized by textile industries (including azo reactive dyes) have been successfully degraded by the above technique (Georgiou *et al.*, 2002; Bali *et al.*, 2004). Photolysis of Hydroxyl ferric ion can produce ferrous ion and hydroxyl radical. The ferrous ion Fe (II) reacts with molecular oxygen generating ferric ion and Hydrogen peroxide, then the ferric ion can go through the reactions. The hydroxyl radicals OH• generated in this process can react with and oxidize most organic pollutants (Hu *et al.*, 2003).

The objective of the present study was optimization of the oxidant concentrations as well as process conditions such as reaction pH, temperature and exposure time in terms of overall COD and color removal (%) efficiencies for an effective system to treat different dye bath effluents. Secondly to compare the efficiency of photo Fenton process using UV light sources of both natural (solar radiation) and artificial UV lamp. Finally cost benefit analysis of Advanced Oxidation Process in terms of energy requirements of ozonation, Fenton and Photo Fenton (both solar radiations UV light assisted Fenton and artificial UV light assisted Fenton) was carried out.

EXPERIMENTAL MATERIAL AND METHODS

Sampling of Textile Wastewater

Samples were taken from dye bath of black shade and blue shade respectively. Black shade is result of a recipe of yellow, black and red dyes, and blue shade is a combined effect of blue, red and yellow dyes. Tables 1 and 2 represent the characteristics of the effluents. Both samples were first filtered using filtration assembly. For Black effluent dilution was done by taking 200 ml of filtered solution in an Erlenmeyer volumetric flask and filled up to 1000ml by distilled water and covered with aluminum foil. The blue effluent was not diluted.

Table 1. Characteristics of black effluent

Ciba yellow FN2R	0.2575 %
Ciba Red FNR	0.0041 %
Ciba Black WNN	3.3990 %
Acetic Acid	0.20 g l ⁻¹
Glauber Salt	80.0 g l ⁻¹
Soda Ash	30.0 g l ⁻¹
pH	10.5
Wavelength	581 nm
Reactive Group	Vinyl Sulphones (--SO ₂ .CH ₂ .CH ₂ .L)
Temperature	60 °C

Table 2. Characteristics of Ice blue effluent

Lev blue EFFN	0.1049 %
Lev Yellow CA	0.0010 %
Lev Brill Red EBA	0.0040 %
H ₂ O ₂ (50%)	3.0 g l ⁻¹
Acetic Acid	0.20 g l ⁻¹
Glauber Salt	20.0 g l ⁻¹
Soda Ash	7.0 g l ⁻¹
PH	10.5
Wavelength	634 nm
Reactive Group	Vinyl Sulphones (--SO ₂ .CH ₂ .CH ₂ .L)
Temperature	60 °C

Hydrogen Peroxide Experiments

The experimental assembly was consisted of a graduated Pyrex glass beaker and a magnetic stirring setup. The experiment was carried out in batch mode. Analytical grade 35 % Hydrogen peroxide from Merck was used. A 200 ml of effluent was taken in a Pyrex glass beaker. H₂O₂ was

added to it by micropipette, temperature was set to 25°C by heating the wastewater and continuous stirring was done for 60 minutes. The color removal efficiency of H₂O₂ was determined by using UV visible spectrophotometer at the wavelength of 581 nm for Black effluent and 634 nm for Ice Blue effluent. COD reduction was investigated after stirring time of 10 min, 30 min, and 60 min.

Fenton Experiments

Filtered and diluted effluent was used in each run. The optimal dose of H₂O₂ was taken 0.8 ml l⁻¹ and 1.0 ml l⁻¹ for Black and Blue effluent respectively. FeSO₄ was used as a catalyst (oven dried at 180 °C for 4 hours). Stirring was carried out for first 5 minutes followed by 60 min settling time. The optimal dose of H₂O₂ was crossed check by keeping FeSO₄ dose constant and varying H₂O₂ doses. The Fenton efficiency was also checked on different pH values i.e. 3, 5, 7 and 9 by repeating the experiment.

Photo-Fenton Experiments

Three boxes made of transparent acrylic were used for the experimentation. Each box was 5 x 5 x 40 cm dimensions with a volume up to 1000 ml. Experiments were carried out in batch mode. A low pressure UV lamp of 108 watt power was used for irradiation. Optimal doses of H₂O₂/ FeSO₄ were added to sample and after 5 min stirring and one hour stay time; sample was exposed to 80 min irradiation. Color and COD removal efficiency of Photo-Fenton was checked at time interval of 20 min at pH 5, 7 and 9.

Solar UV Assisted Photo-Fenton Experiments

The same experimental setup was used for this process except the source of UV irradiation. Solar light was used to irradiate the effluent. After adding dose of H₂O₂/ Fe⁺² sample was stirred for 5 minutes and was exposed to sunlight for 3 days. Color and COD removal efficiencies were determined after every 2-hour at pH 7 and 3 for both effluents.

Ozonation

Ozonation was carried out in a bubble column reactor. The internal diameter of reactor was 3.3 cm. Ozone was generated by an ozone generator of Enaly (Model HGOZ/1000). Ozone was bubbled through effluent via diffusers placed at the bottom of the reactor. A 200 ml industrial effluent was used in each run. In order to investigate the influence of pH, experiments were conducted at pH 5, 7, 9 and 10. The efficacy of ozone treatment was determined at time varying from 10 to 60 minutes with 10 minutes interval by using UV visible Spectrophotometer at the wavelength of 581 nm for Black effluent and 634 nm for Blue effluent.

Calculation of Energy Requirement and Cost

Operating costs are directly affected by the treatment performance of the applied AOPs. To facilitate a comparison of reaction efficiencies, powerful scale-up parameters called EE/O (electrical energy required to remove a pollutant by one order of magnitude in one m³ of water or wastewater) was employed. EE/O demonstrates a direct link to the electrical efficiency of an advanced oxidation process, independent of the nature of the system and therefore allows for comparison of different AOPs technologies. Such figure-of-merit is necessary not only to compare AOP technologies but also to provide the requisite data for scale-up and economic analyses for comparison with conventional treatment. EE/O values have been calculated by applying the following empirical relationship (Azbar *et al.*, 2004; Yasar *et al.*, 2006).

$$EE/O = \frac{P \times t \times 1000}{V \times 60 \times \log \frac{C_0}{C_t}} \quad (1)$$

where:

P = the power input of the UV-lamp or the ozone generator or magnetic stirrer (kW)

t = oxidation time (minutes)

V = the volume of the effluent (liter)

C₀ = initial concentration of contaminant

C_f = final concentration of contaminant

Equation 1 is valid only for batch operation. Cost of AOPs can be calculated from Equation 2:

$$\text{Cost (\$ m}^{-3}\text{)} = \text{EEO (kWh m}^{-3}\text{)} \times \text{Energy Cost (\$ kWh}^{-1}\text{)} \quad (2)$$

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Efficiency of Hydrogen Peroxide

Figures 1 and 2 represent the effect of H_2O_2 dose on the removal efficiency (%) of H_2O_2 . It appears that efficiency of H_2O_2 alone is negligible and maximum color and COD removal at 60 min stirring time was only 21 % and 32 % for blue effluent and 21 % and 44 % for black effluent, respectively. There is an increase in the removal efficiency with an increase in the dose. However, that increase is just marginal. After the optimal dose, increase in the dose of H_2O_2 results into a decrease of color and COD removal because of its OH-radical scavenging property (Aleboye *et al.*, 2005). Results reveal that blue color effluent is slightly resistant to H_2O_2 treatment.

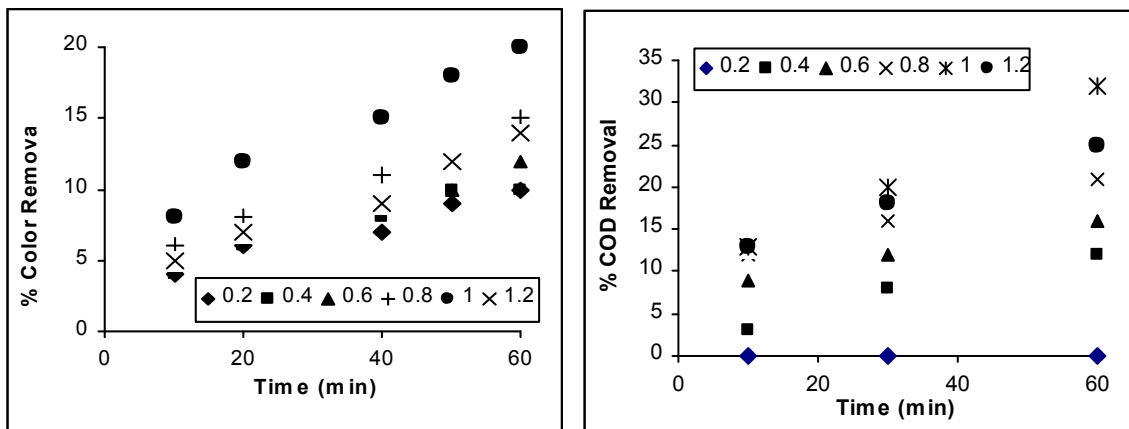


Figure 1. Efficiency of H_2O_2 alone for color and COD removal for blue effluent at pH 10.5
 H_2O_2 Dose: 0.2 ml l⁻¹, 0.4 ml l⁻¹, 0.6 ml l⁻¹, 0.8 ml l⁻¹, 1.0 ml l⁻¹, 1.2 ml l⁻¹

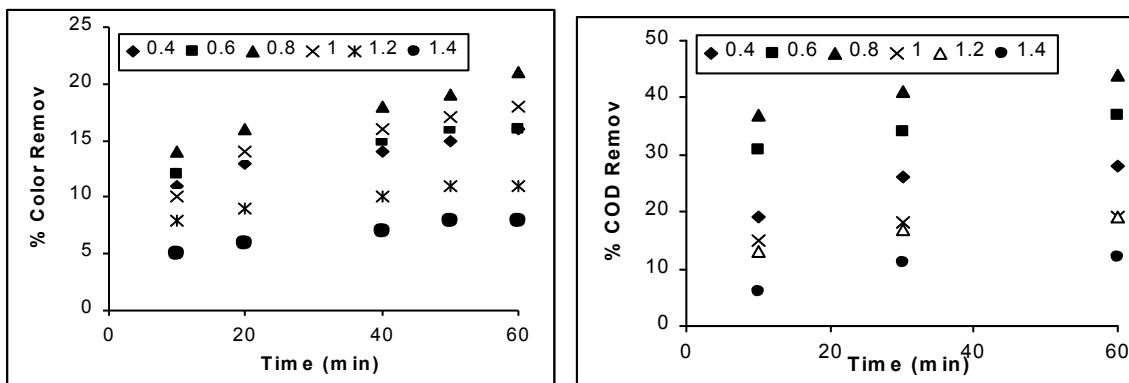


Figure 2. Efficiency of H_2O_2 alone on color and COD removal for black effluent at pH 10.5
 H_2O_2 Dose: 0.4 ml l⁻¹, 0.6 ml l⁻¹, 0.8 ml l⁻¹, 1.0 ml l⁻¹, 1.2 ml l⁻¹, 1.4 ml l⁻¹

Fenton Process

The performance of H_2O_2 as an oxidant can be enhanced by generating highly activated species ($\text{OH}\cdot$) by adding iron salt to the effluent (Balcioglu and Arslan, 2001). It is evident from the results (Figures 3 and 4) that an increase in the concentration of FeSO_4 increases the color and COD removal (23 % and 38 % for blue effluent and 22 % and 81 % for black effluent respectively at $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2/\text{Fe}$ ratio of 1:50 for blue effluent and 0.8:40 for black effluent). It is evident that an increase in the FeSO_4 content beyond the optimal dose is associated with the decrease in the efficiency of Fenton process as most of the H_2O_2 dosage is consumed in the early stage of the Fenton reaction and unutilized quantity of iron salts left in the system, which contributes to an increase in the TDS content of the effluent thus decreasing the process efficiency.

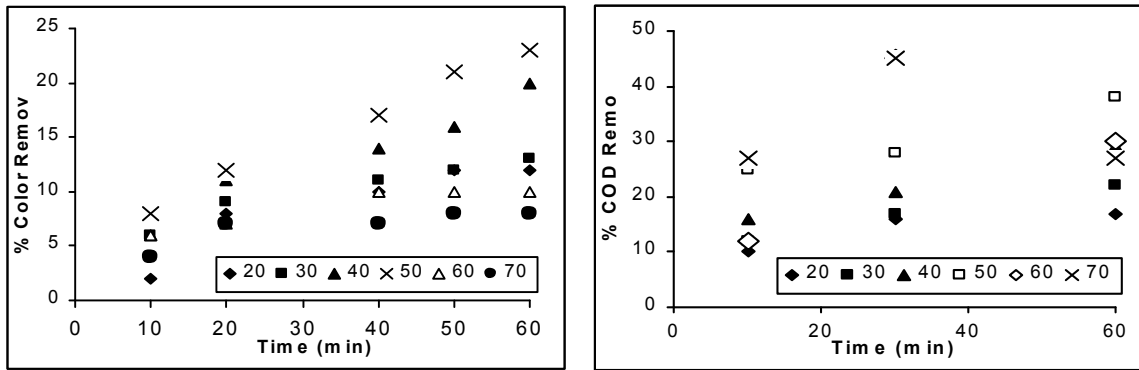


Figure 3. Efficiency of Fenton on color and COD removal for blue effluent at pH 7 and $H_2O_2 = 1.0 \text{ ml l}^{-1}$; $FeSO_4 = 20, 30, 40, 50, 60$ and 70 mg l^{-1}

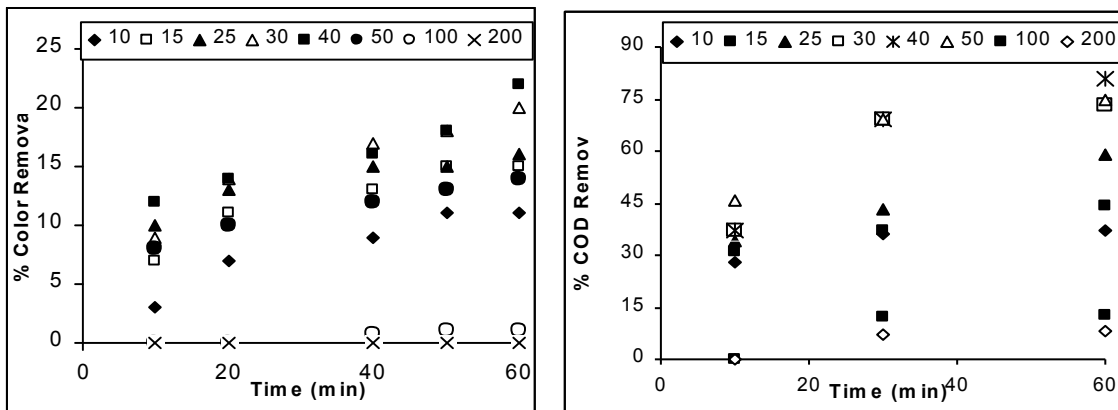


Figure 4. Efficiency of Fenton on color and COD removal for black effluent at pH 7 and $H_2O_2 = 0.8 \text{ ml l}^{-1}$; $FeSO_4 = 10, 15, 25, 30, 40, 50, 100$ and 200 mg l^{-1}

The Effect of H_2O_2 Dose on the Performance of Fenton Process

To make Fenton process viable with other processes it is essential that its application should represent a low cost operation, which basically implies a better control of H_2O_2 dosage. The effect of initial H_2O_2 concentration on treatment efficiency was investigated by varying H_2O_2 concentration (0.6 ml l^{-1} , 0.8 ml l^{-1} and 1.0 ml l^{-1}) while keeping optimal iron dose of 40 mg l^{-1} at pH 7. Fenton treatment was carried out to optimize the H_2O_2 dose again as a cross check. Results (Figure 5) show that the dose of 0.8 ml l^{-1} was optimal for black effluent. Color and COD removal was maximum as more $OH\bullet$ radicals were produced at this dose (Bali *et al.*, 2004).

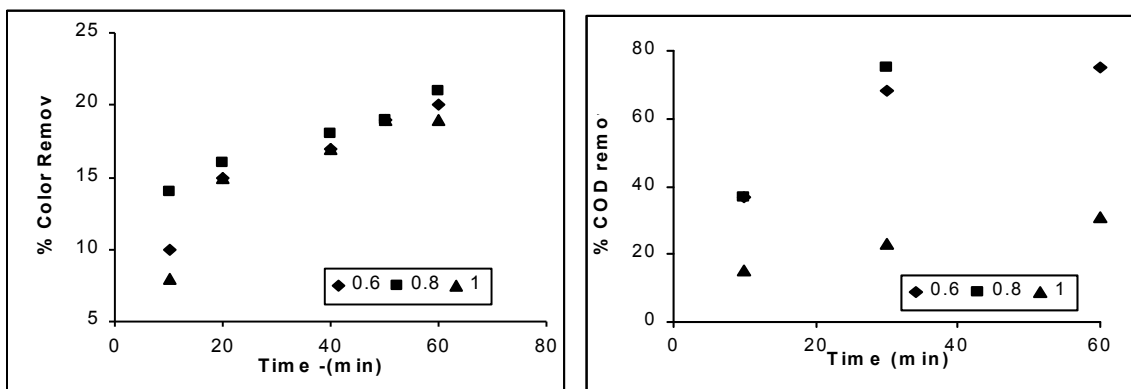


Figure 5. Color and COD removal efficiency of Fenton for black effluent at pH 7 and $FeSO_4 40 \text{ mg l}^{-1}$ and varying H_2O_2 Dose ($0.6, 0.8$ and 1.0 ml l^{-1})

The Effect of varying pH on Color and COD Removal by Fenton Process

The pH of effluent is an important parameter, which influence the performance of Fenton's process as pH controls the production rate of hydroxyl radicals. While treating blue effluent with Fenton, the pH was varied from 3 to 9 (Figure 6). At pH 3 maximum color and COD removal of 45 % and 63 %, respectively was observed. Several researches (Neamtu *et al.*, 2003; Hsueh *et al.*, 2005 Lucas and Peres, 2007; Yasar *et al.*, 2007a) reported the similar results at the same pH. But further increase in the pH from 5 to 9, decreases the color removal efficiency from 45 % to 11 % and COD removal efficiency from 63 % to 37 %. The decrease in the color and COD removal efficiencies is due to the coagulation of hydroxyl complex of ferric, formed during the reaction (Solzhenko *et al.*, 1995) as both ferrous and ferric ions precipitate out during the reaction. Fenton Process also works well at neutral pH 7 and found to be favorable for the degradation of pollutant molecules when there is more cationic concentration in the effluent (Alaton *et al.*, 2001). Figure 7 shows that maximum color and COD removal of 22 % and 81 %, which was observed at pH 7 in case of black effluent.

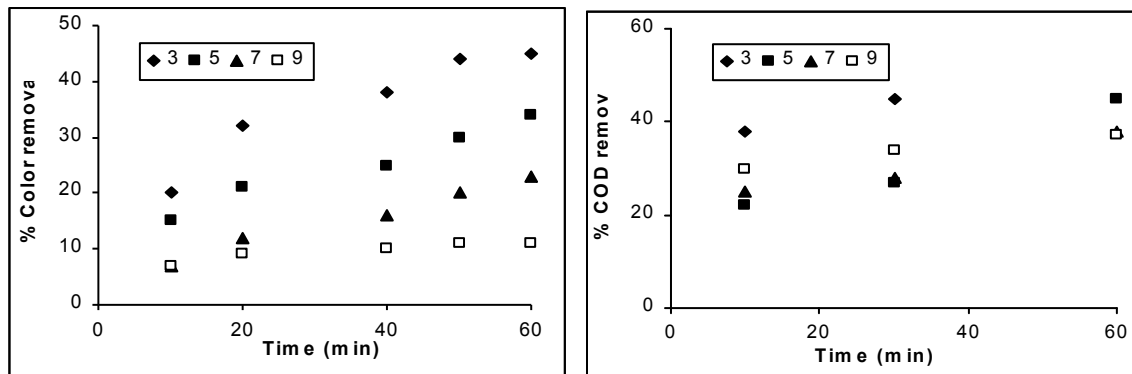


Figure 6. Efficiency of Fenton on % age color and COD removal for blue effluent at optimal dose of $H_2O_2=1.0 \text{ ml l}^{-1}$ and $FeSO_4= 50 \text{ mg l}^{-1}$ at various pH (3, 5, 7 and 9)

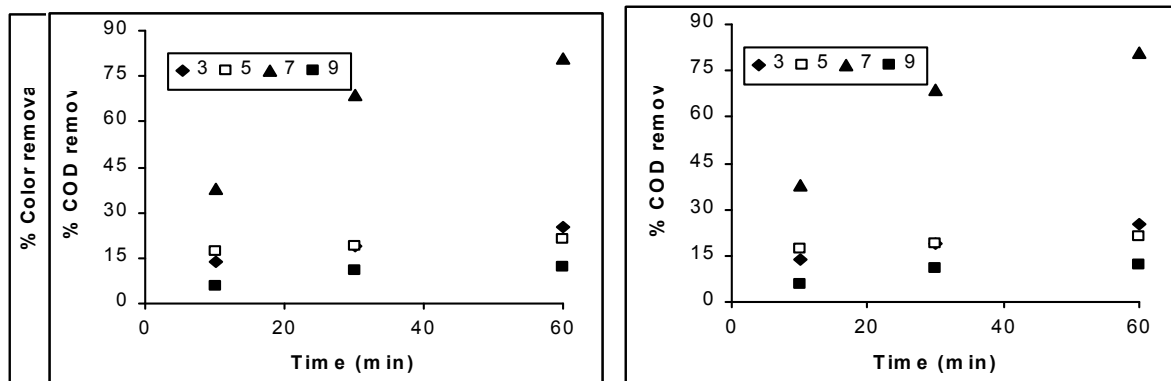


Figure 7. Efficiency of Fenton on % age color and COD removal for black effluent at optimal dose of $H_2O_2=1.0 \text{ ml l}^{-1}$ and $FeSO_4= 50 \text{ mg l}^{-1}$ at various pH (3, 5, 7 and 9)

The Efficiency of Photo-Fenton Process

Figures 8 and 9 represent the color and COD efficiency of Photo-Fenton Process when UV source was a low-pressure lamp. UV irradiation between 60 to 80 minutes showed substantial color and COD reduction (56 % and 66 % for blue effluent and 39 % and 84 % for black effluent) because of the ability of the process to generate more hydroxyl radicals leading to the high rate of degradation of organic pollutants coupled with the enhancement of removal efficiency due to iron salt solubility (Bali *et al.*, 2004). After treatment a slight residual color of the effluent owes to the compounds such as dissolved iron or ferro-organo complexes.

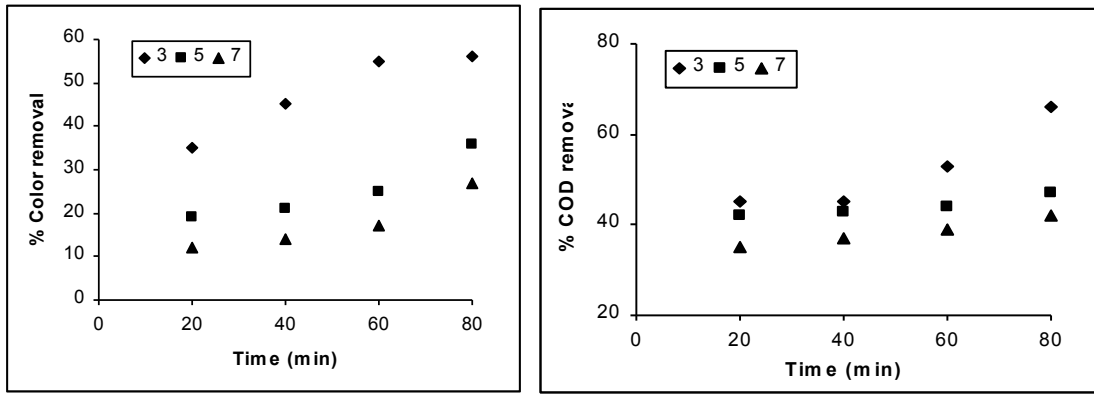


Figure 8. Efficiency of Photo-Fenton on % age color and COD removal for blue effluent at optimal doses of $H_2O_2=1.0\text{ ml l}^{-1}$ and $FeSO_4= 50\text{ mg l}^{-1}$ at various pH (3, 5 and 7)

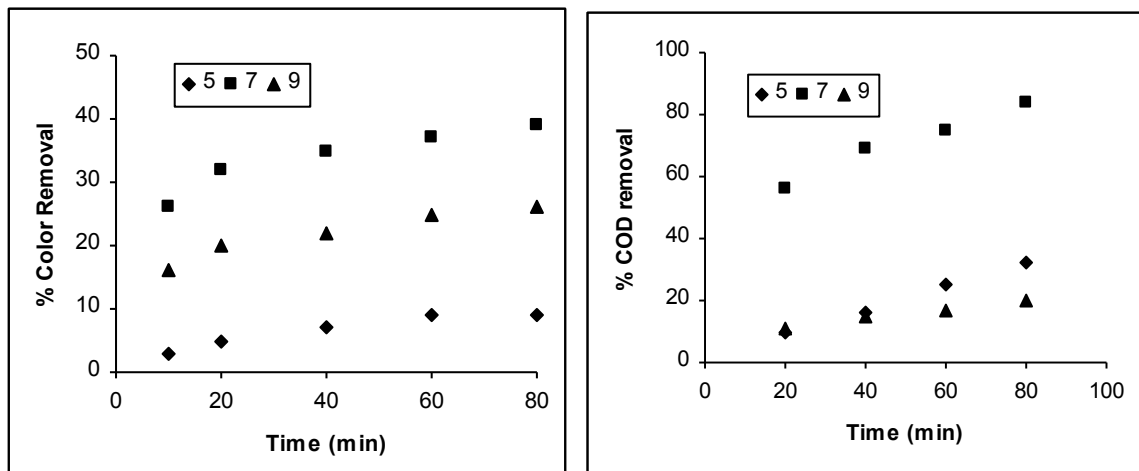


Figure 9. Efficiency of Photo-Fenton on % age color and COD removal for black effluent at optimal doses of $H_2O_2=0.8\text{ ml l}^{-1}$ and $FeSO_4= 40\text{ mg l}^{-1}$ at various pH (5, 7 and 9)

Tables 3 and 4 show the efficiency of Photo-Fenton Process with UV source as Sunlight. Color and COD removal efficiency was 61 % and 85 % for blue effluent and 52 % and 88 % for black effluent respectively after 18 hours exposure to sunlight. The solar light proved to be better for color and COD reduction for the both effluents as compared to UV lamp (Hu *et al.*, 2003).

Table 3. Efficiency of Photo-Fenton on % age color and COD removal for blue effluent at optimal doses of $H_2O_2=1.0\text{ ml l}^{-1}$ and $FeSO_4= 50\text{ mg l}^{-1}$ at pH 3 and UV source was Sunlight

Days	Time (Hours)	Light intensity (Watt)	Color removal (%)	COD removal (%)
1	2	1.3	20.0	52.0
	4	1.0	21.0	56.0
	6	0.3	24.0	60.0
2	8	1.7	27.0	67.0
	10	1.8	31.0	74.0
	12	1.4	32.0	78.0
3	14	1.4	37.0	82.0
	16	1.4	46.0	83.0
	18	0.3	61.0	85.0

Table 4. Efficiency of Photo-Fenton on % age color and COD removal for black effluent at optimal doses of $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2=0.8 \text{ ml l}^{-1}$ and $\text{FeSO}_4= 40 \text{ mg l}^{-1}$ at pH 7 and UV source was Sunlight

Days	Time (Hours)	Light intensity (Watt)	Color removal (%)	COD removal (%)
1	2	1.6	30.0	25.0
	4	1.5	38.0	42.0
	6	0.5	42.0	49.0
2	8	1.2	47.0	59.0
	10	0.8	49.0	69.0
	12	0.4	50.0	75.0
3	14	1.2	51.0	81.0
	16	0.6	52.0	82.0
	18	0.5	52.0	88.0

Ozonation

Ozone is considered to be highly feasible and promising to decolorize wastewater among all AOP's (Arslan *et al.*, 2000) and has proved a potential alternative for COD removal but it is very costly. Table 5 and Figure 10 display the efficiency of ozonation process for color and COD removal. Increase in color and COD removal is evident with increase in ozonation time. At pH 5 and 20 min ozone exposure time there was almost 100 % color and COD removal in case of blue effluent. However, black effluent proved slightly resistant, and showed color and COD removal of 98 % and 69 %, respectively at ozone exposure time of 60 min. Reaction pH also influences on the performance of the ozonation process as it works very well both in acidic (Neamtu *et al.*, 2003) and alkaline pH (Sevimli and Kinaci, 2002 ;Yasar *et al.*, 2007b). Complete decolorization was achieved at pH 5 because of the direct reactivity of ozone molecule with the effluent. High color and COD removal (100 % color and COD removal in case of blue effluent and 100 % color and 87 % COD removal in case of black effluent) at pH 9 can be attributed to the maximum generation of hydroxyl radicals (Konsowa, 2003). In fact, at neutral pH less color and COD removal at first 10 min of ozonation is because of the fact that production of hydroxyl radical was less and it didn't act as molecular ozone.

Table 5. Efficiency of Ozonation on % age color and COD removal for blue effluent at various pH

pH	Color removal (%) at time (min)		COD removal (%) at time (min)	
	10	20	10	20
5	99.0	100.0	85.0	100.0
7	89.0	99.0	86.0	97.0
9	99.0	100.0	86.0	100.0
10	99.0	100.0	86.0	100.0

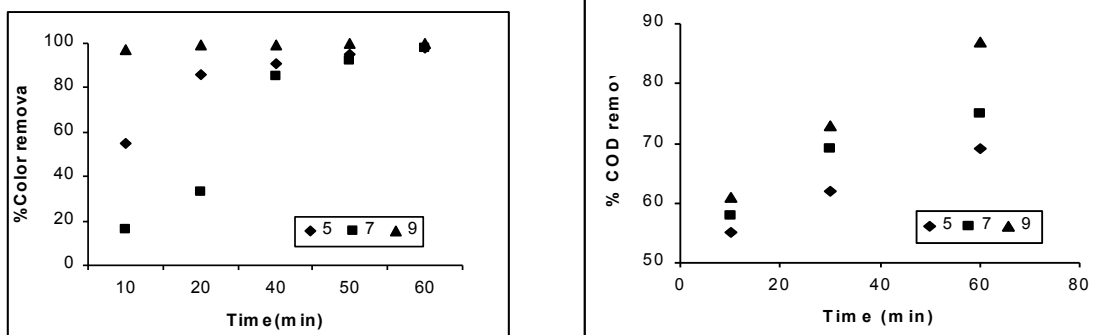


Figure 10. Efficiency of Ozonation on % age color and COD removal for black effluent at various pH (5, 7 and 9)

Comparison of Energy Requirements for Color and COD Removal of Ice Blue and Black Dye Solutions with AOP's

In energy intense treatment process such as ozone and UV induced photochemical processes like Photo-Fenton, the design variables, i.e., exposure to UV radiation and order of magnitude of contaminant concentration removal can be combined into a single function, Electrical Energy per Order of Pollutant Removal (EE/O). The EE/O is powerful scale up parameter and a measure of the treatment rates obtained in a fixed volume of contaminated water as a function of the applied specific energy.

Table 6. Comparison of Electrical Energy requirements & operating Cost by different processes of AOP's used for Blue effluent

Process	Color			COD		
	% Removal	EE/O (kWh m ⁻³)	Cost (\$ m ⁻³)	% Removal	EE/O (kWh m ⁻³)	Cost (\$ m ⁻³)
H ₂ O ₂	21.0	8.0	0.3	32.0	8.0	0.3
Fenton	45.0	0.7	0.03	63.0	0.8	0.03
Photo-Fenton (lamp)	56.0	43.0	9.0	66.0	46.0	9.8
Photo- Fenton (sunlight)	61.0	0.3	0.01	85.0	0.4	0.02
Ozonation	100.0	38.0	8.0	100.0	38.0	8.0

Table 7. Comparison of Electrical Energy requirements & operating Cost by different processes of AOP's used for Black effluent

AOP's	Color			COD		
	% Removal	EE/O (kWh m ⁻³)	Cost (\$ m ⁻³)	% Removal	EE/O (kWh m ⁻³)	Cost (\$ m ⁻³)
H ₂ O ₂	21.0	8.0	0.3	44.0	8.0	0.3
Fenton	21.8	0.66	0.03	81.0	0.98	0.04
Photo-Fenton (UV lamp)	39.0	40.0	8.2	84.0	59.5	13.0
Photo- Fenton (sunlight)	52.0	0.3	0.01	88.0	0.5	0.02
Ozonation	100.0	19.5	4.0	87.0	33.4	7.3

It is apparent from Table 6 and 7 that for blue and black effluent photochemical process (UV lamp) consumes more electrical energy as compared to non-photochemical processes. Photo-Fenton's process (sunlight) seemed to show a satisfactory color and COD and to be economically more viable choice. Fenton proved to be the second best option in terms of energy consumption and color and COD removal.

CONCLUSIONS

Following conclusions have been drawn from the study,

- H₂O₂ alone was not efficient for decolorization and COD reduction of textile effluent because of less oxidation potential and scavenging effect of H₂O₂ beyond a certain dose. The performance of H₂O₂ as an oxidant was slightly enhanced by the addition of iron salt to the effluent in the Fenton process.
- Photo-Fenton process via UV lamp considerably removed the color and COD. While Ozonation was proved to be highly feasible and promising technique to decolorize and reduce COD from textile effluent but at very high cost. Photo-Fenton (sunlight) proved to be the most cost effective and efficient procedure for the color and COD removal among all AOP's, whereas Fenton process to be the second best option. The electrical energy requirements of the tested processes followed the increasing order UV/Fe/H₂O₂ < O₃ < H₂O₂ < Fe/H₂O₂<UV (solar).

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