

1 **Optimization Approach to Evaluate the Solar, UV and LED Visible Light Fenton Processes**  
2 **for Pollutant Degradation in Landfill Leachate**

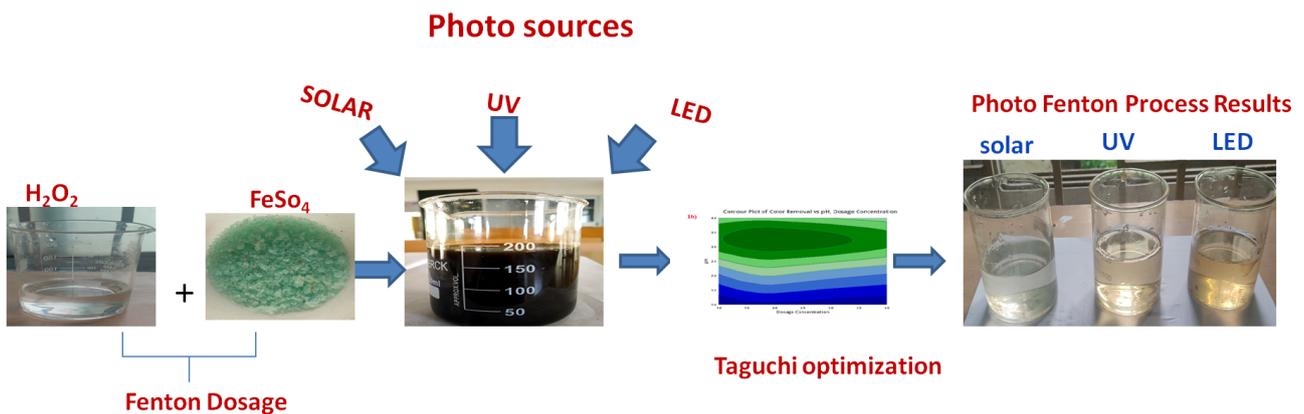
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9 **GRAPHICAL ABSTRACT**



Graphical Abstract: Optimization Approach to Evaluate the Solar, UV and LED Visible Light Fenton Processes for Pollutant Degradation in Landfill Leachate

10

11 **Abstract**

12 In the current study, three different photo-assisted sources were used to evaluate the photo-Fenton  
13 oxidation process for the pollutant degradation of mature landfill leachate. Solar, UV, and LED  
14 visible light photo sources were adopted in this Fenton process. Fenton dosages ( $FeSO_4:H_2O_2$ )  
15 1:30, 1.5:30, 2:30, and 2.5:30g/L were used in the investigation, which was conducted under a  
16 variety of pH settings (2 to 3.5) and at experimental reaction duration of 30, 60, 90, and 120  
17 minutes. To analyze and compare the efficiency of the solar, UV, and LED visible light photo

18 Fenton processes for pollutant degradation, Taguchi experimental design orthogonal arrays (L16)  
19 was employed. To analyse the significance of this experimental design for landfill leachate  
20 treatment, Larger the Better was selected. The highest levels of pollutant degradation in the Solar  
21 Photo Fenton method was identified when compared to UV, and LED visible light photo Fenton  
22 processes. The maximum removal of 95% color, 83% COD, 89% TSS, 94% Cr, 86% Cd, and 93%  
23 Cu was achieved in Solar Photo Fenton process at pH-3, Fenton dosage 1.5:30 g/L and reaction  
24 period 60 minutes.

25 **Key words:** Landfill leachate, UV, LED visible light photo Fenton process, Solar, Taguchi method.

26

## 27 **1. Introduction**

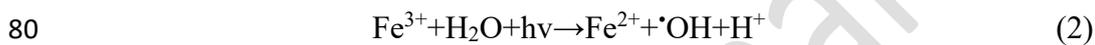
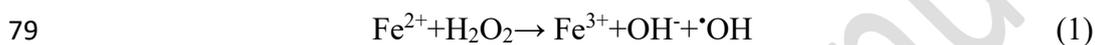
28 The production of wastewater was mostly a result of human activity in the earlier days, it was not  
29 considered as a serious issue. However, as urbanisation and population grew, these wastewaters  
30 later had a significant negative impact on the environment (Giusti, 2009). The increase in trash  
31 output on both developed and developing countries caused serious environmental, economic, and  
32 social issues (Dharmarathne and Gunatilake, 2013). Solid wastes in India have emerged as the  
33 major environmental issue because of its high population density. The landfill leachates were  
34 regarded as a significant environmental concern since they have a major impact on soil, surface and  
35 ground water (Mohan and Gokul, 2022). Leachate wastewater is highly contaminated, foul-  
36 smelling, dark-brown colored liquids that are formed when rainwater seeps through landfill layers  
37 and when organic wastes decompose (Ghaffariraad and Ghanbarzadeh Lak, 2021). The environment  
38 and aquatic organisms are harmed by the different organic chemicals, heavy metals, ammonia  
39 nitrogen, soluble salts, BODs, CODs, suspended particles, etc. that are present in landfill leachate  
40 (Christensen et al., 2001). The extremely concentrated ammonia nitrogen concentration of leachates  
41 creates a variety of issues, including rapid eutrophication, algae growth, and dissolved oxygen  
42 depletion (Niza et al., 2021). Landfill age, kind of trash disposed of, percolation, climatic

43 conditions, and other variables all influence the composition of the leachate. Based on their age  
44 leachate from landfills are divided into three categories: young (5 years), intermediate (5–10 years),  
45 and mature or stable leachates (>10 years) (Amor et al., 2015).

46 Treatment of leachate is necessary to control the ground water pollution, soil pollution and air  
47 pollution; however it is challenging because of leachate's intricate structure. The numerous  
48 available procedures for the treatment of landfill leachates include biological treatment methods,  
49 membrane processes, coagulation, flocculation, and AOP (Avsar et al., 2007). Biological treatments  
50 were considered as an efficient method for treating young leachates because of its higher  
51 BOD<sub>5</sub>/COD ratio. However, it was not preferred for treating mature leachate (Li et al., 2017) since it  
52 contains high molecular weight contaminants, higher concentration of N<sub>2</sub> and other organic matter  
53 (Klein et al., 2017) which are not easily biodegradable. One of the efficient methods to treat mature  
54 leachates was the physicochemical treatment process. Among the various physicochemical  
55 processes, AOP method was most preferred since it was cost effective and has good removal  
56 efficiency. Biodegradability of mature leachate was improved by AOP (Deng and Englehardt,  
57 2008). AOP uses Reactive Oxygen Species (ROS) for the mineralization of organic contaminants  
58 (Ma et al., 2021). By using reactive chemicals species like hydroxyl radicals (OH<sup>•</sup>), the most  
59 recalcitrant molecules were degraded into bio-degradable compounds (Gogate and Pandit, 2004).  
60 The various technologies of AOP include photo catalytic oxidation, Fenton and Fenton-like  
61 oxidation, ozonation, electrochemical oxidation and SR-AOPs. In general, combined AOP  
62 technologies were preferred over individual AOP because it exhibits higher oxidation efficiency.

63 The ROS was efficiently generated by different AOP combinations that include TiO<sub>2</sub>/UV, H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>/  
64 UV, UV/Fe<sup>2+</sup>/H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, UV/O<sub>3</sub>, Fenton/ Photo Fenton, Fenton/ Electro Fenton and so on (Abdelhaleem  
65 and Chu, 2020; Rocha et al., 2011). Henry J. Fenton was discovered the Fenton process in 1894  
66 (Vorontsov, 2019). One of the efficient technologies used in AOP is the Photo Fenton method. The  
67 Fenton technique was frequently enhanced by using a variety of photo sources. Based on the  
68 applied photo sources, the Photo Fenton process is classified as Solar photo Fenton, Visible light

69 photo Fenton and UV light photo Fenton. Hydroxyl radicals are used as the main oxidizing agent in  
70 this process. The combination of ferrous ions and H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> forms the Fenton reagent. The Fenton's  
71 reagent always uses a catalyst for the reaction process. The effective removal of contaminants was  
72 achieved by combining high concentrated H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> and low concentrated ferrous ions. However, it  
73 cannot be directly applied to the contaminated surface since it kills the surface microorganisms  
74 (Hartmann et al., 2010). The regeneration of ferrous ions and exhibiting of more hydroxyl radicals  
75 in the Photo Fenton process Eq.(1) and (2) highly enhances the degradation of organic contaminants  
76 when compared to any other conventional Fenton methods (Primo et al., 2008 and Bautitz et al.,  
77 2007). To produce the hydroxyl radicals, Hydrogen peroxide was being decomposed by ferric ions  
78 under the presence of UV irradiation and under acidic conditions (Poblete and Perez 2020).



81 In these reaction cycles complexes and hydroxides of iron ions were the major contributors. This  
82 reaction can be driven by visible and UV light because of the broad absorption bands of these  
83 complexes. Generally, Design of experiments (DOE) was used to examine the association of  
84 multiple input factors and key output responses. There are several methods available to analyze the  
85 design in DOE. The most commonly used methods are Response Surface Methodology and  
86 Taguchi OA method of analysis. The orthogonal array experimental optimisation design was put  
87 forwarded by Taguchi. In this design the effect of various factors on the performance characteristic  
88 were examined in a condensed set of experiments. The parameters which affects a process and the  
89 levels at which these factors should be fluctuated can be found by Taguchi method. Selection of the  
90 proper orthogonal array was the most important process in TOA methodology. It was selected by  
91 number of parameters and their levels (Fralely et al., 2006). Compared with other DOE methods,  
92 Taguchi was quiet easy and convenient to use. Results obtained from Taguchi analysis closely  
93 match the actual values. Taguchi analysis was performed using many software's like design expert

94 and Minitab. However, Minitab statistical software has many graphical outputs and user friendly  
95 tools to analyze. Data transformation, analysis of variance, correspondence analysis, regression  
96 analysis, multivariate analysis of variance, analysis of covariance, factor analysis, neural network,  
97 correlation was also done by minitab software (Okagbue et al., 2021). The present study focusses on  
98 solar, UV, and LED visible light photo Fenton processes used to treat landfill leachate. It also  
99 compares and examines the pollutant degradation effects of each process by using Taguchi  
100 statistical experimental method in Minitab software (Version 21.1.0).

## 101 **2. Material and Methods**

### 102 *2.1. Materials*

#### 103 *2.1.1. Raw leachate wastewater collection and chemicals used*

104 The matured landfill leachate samples were obtained from a dumpsite in Dindigul, Tamil Nadu, at  
105 various time periods between the months of March and April at same point of source. In order to  
106 stop the material from decomposing, it was kept at 4°C. Every chemical utilised in analytical grade  
107 was acquired from Merck. Chemicals utilised in this study included diluted HCl (1.0 N), sodium  
108 chloride solution (0.1 N), Ferrous sulphate powder ( $\text{FeSO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$ =278.01), buffer solution,  
109 hydrogen peroxide (30% W/V), and NaOH (1.0 N). Treated supernatant wastewater samples were  
110 filter through Wattman filter paper No.40 and pollutant concentrations in leachate samples before  
111 and after treatment were determined, and the effectiveness of the three methods (Solar Photo  
112 Fenton, UV Photo Fenton and LED visible Fenton process) for removing pollutants was compared.

#### 113 *2.1.2 Analytical procedures*

114 Physico-chemical characteristics of collected leachate sample were studied before and after  
115 treatment according to the guild lines of standard methods (APHA, 2013). Turbidity was measured  
116 using Portable turbidity meter (model: 331, make: Deep Vision) and values were recorded in  
117 nephelometric turbidity units (NTU). pH meter(model:111120306,make:Deep vision) used to

118 measure and also adjust the pH value, UV-visible spectrophotometer (Model: DR6000, make:  
119 HACH, CO., USA) was used to calculate color removal, gravimetric method to determine total  
120 solids, total suspended solids and total dissolved solids, Heavy metal concentration in before and  
121 after the treatment of leachate sample was studied using Atomic absorption spectroscopy (AAS)  
122 (model name – Shimadzu Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer AA6300; ROM version-1.03)

## 123 2.2. Experimental setup

### 124 2.2.1. Solar Photo Fenton, UV Photo Fenton and LED visible Fenton process

125 Solar photo Fenton study was carried out in the open sunlight at terrace of main building,  
126 University college of Engineering, Dindigul. The study was performed with 1000ml glass beaker  
127 with magnetic stirrer to achieve even mixing (Pignatello et al., 2006). 500ml wastewater sample was  
128 taken for each study. UV and visible light Fenton process carried out with artificial light sources of  
129 Super 395nm UV light (size of UV lamp – 3.5 cm × 8.5 cm) and Wipro LED B22 Bulb Base with  
130 50 lumen coverage. Stable radiation was maintained in UV and LED visible light Fenton process at  
131 room temperature in laboratory. pH level was varied from 2 to 3.5, FeSO<sub>4</sub> concentration varied  
132 from 1 to 2.5 g/L while H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (30% W/V) concentration was maintained at 30 g/L, reaction times of  
133 30, 60, 90, and 120 were chosen for this study. Based on the findings of the preliminary  
134 investigation, the control variable limitations were fixed. Bubbles rising during the advanced  
135 oxidation process served as indicators that the oxidation process had begun in a solution. Leachate  
136 wastewater sample was combined with prepared Fenton Solution, and then the sample was taken  
137 into open atmosphere to conduct solar Photo Fenton experiment. The UV and visible light photo  
138 Fenton processes were identical to the solar photo Fenton experiment, but artificial photo sources  
139 were used. In place of sunlight, Wipro LED B22 Bulb Base with 50 lumen coverage and Super  
140 395nm UV light (3.5 cm x 8.5 cm in size) were utilised in the UV and LED Visible Light Fenton  
141 procedure. Using the following equation, the percentage elimination of the response variables  
142 Color, COD, TSS, Cr, Cd, and Cu was computed (3).

143 Prepared Fenton Solution was mixed with leachate wastewater sample, then the sample was  
144 taken out to open place to triggering the oxidation process. UV and visible light photo Fenton  
145 process were same as solar photo Fenton process, but UV radiation was artificially used. Super  
146 395nm UV light (size of UV lamp – 3.5 cm × 8.5 cm) and Wipro LED B22 Bulb Base with 50  
147 lumen coverage light sources were used in UV and LED Visible Light Fenton process as a  
148 replacement for sun light. The percentage removal of response variables Color, COD, TSS, Cr, Cd  
149 and Cu was calculated using the following Eq.(3).

$$150 \quad R = \frac{\text{(Initial Value of response variable – Final value of response variable)} \times 100}{\text{(Initial value response variable)}} \quad (3)$$

152 Where,

153 R(%) - Removal efficiency in percentage

#### 154 2.2.2. Taguchi experimental design

155 The experiments were examined and optimized by Taguchi experimental design method. It was an  
156 orthogonal array design. It is an efficient method when compared to other design methodologies  
157 since it enables desired parameter optimization to be less than or equal to 90%. In this present study  
158 three different type of photo Fenton process (Solar, UV, and Visible light) were individually  
159 analyzed by Taguchi method. Control factors such as pH, dosage, Time and their levels were fixed  
160 in this Taguchi experimental design. It was furnished in Table 1. From the findings of the  
161 preliminary one-time classical investigation, each level of the control parameters was fixed.

#### 162 2.2.3. Signal-to-Noise Ratio S/N

163 The S/N ratio clearly identifies uncontrollable variables or undesirable noise in the experimental  
164 input and output parameters. According to Minitab's S/N ratios there are three types of  
165 performance characteristics: Larger the better, smaller the better and nominal the better. To

166 evaluate the experimental design for the treatment of leachate for all three experimental  
167 procedures, larger the better choice was selected from Eq(4).

$$168 \quad S/N = -10 \times \log (\Sigma (1/Y^2)/n) \quad (4)$$

169 Where Y = responses for the given factor level combination

170 n = number of responses in the factor level combination.

#### 171 2.2.4. ANOVA

172 Analysis of variance (ANOVA), which is used to confirm the significance of the model, describes  
173 the importance of the experimental modal and provides extensive information on the most  
174 influencing factor for this Photo Fenton process. The findings of an ANOVA are widely applied to  
175 analyse the interaction behaviour among the control variables and responses. Each factor underwent  
176 a qualitative significance analysis using the F and P values. The design is considered significant if  
177 the probability value (p value) is less than or equal to 0.05. F value greater than Fcr value for each  
178 factor confirm that the adequacy of the modal. The total degrees of freedom (DF), Adjusted mean  
179 squares (adj MS) Adjusted sums of squares (adj SS), S value and R<sup>2</sup> value also can obtained from  
180 ANOVA; it is easy to predict the significance of the experimental design.

### 181 3. Result and Discussion

#### 182 3.1. Physio-chemical Characteristics of matured landfill leachate wastewater

183 The obtained matured landfill wastewater samples had the following physio-chemical properties as  
184 follows- pH 8.5, dark brown color with high colloidal nature, foul odour, 562 mg/L of BOD<sub>5</sub>, 960  
185 NTU of turbidity, 2521 mg/L of COD, 5513 mg/L of Total solids, 4327 mg/L of Total dissolved  
186 solid , 1214 mg/L of Total suspended solids, the heavy metal concentration was 1.198 mg/L of  
187 chromium, 0.2 mg/L of cadmium, 0.77 mg/L of copper.

188 3.2 Comparative analysis of Photo Fenton oxidation process: Solar, UV and LED visible light  
189 photo

190 In this present investigation, the control factor levels of the pH, Fenton Dosage, and reaction time  
191 were chosen as the same values for solar, UV, and LED visible light photo Fenton experiment. All  
192 the three photo Fenton experiments showed the best pollutant reduction efficiency in pH 3. Fenton  
193 reaction was often quite active at pH 3 or lower. Solution in an acidic environment (2-4) promotes  
194 the formation of more OH<sup>·</sup> ions, which results in a high rate of oxidation (Pignatello et al., 2006;  
195 Silva et al., 2015 and Kavitha et al., 2005). From the study, it was observed that Fenton process  
196 heavily depends on the rate of OH<sup>·</sup> ions scavenged because when pH values greater than 3  
197 demonstrated less pollutant degradation potential. Higher pH causes the reaction between ferric ions  
198 and H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> to produce more ferric hydroxo species, which reduces the effectiveness of pollutant  
199 degradation (Karale et al., 2014; Ipek Gulkaya et al., 2006 and Badawy et al., 2006). The pH is a  
200 significant factor in molar fraction of iron –inorganic, iron-organic and iron-water species (Silva,et  
201 al., 2015), so the effectiveness of pollutant removal was greatly influenced by pH.

202 In this solar, UV, and LED visible light Fenton investigation, the dosage concentration of FeSO<sub>4</sub>  
203 was adjusted from 1 to 2.5 g/L while 30 g/L of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> dosage remained constant. Pollutant  
204 degradation effectiveness was excellent up to a dosage of 2 g/L, but as the dosage increased, iron  
205 precipitation formed, which slowed down the reaction. Higher concentration of FeSO<sub>4</sub> dosage  
206 induced the self – hindrance of OH<sup>·</sup> radical which reduce the pollutant degradation efficiency, OH<sup>·</sup>  
207 + Fe<sup>2+</sup> → Fe<sup>3+</sup> + OH<sup>-</sup> (Du and Qiu 2013), because both H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> and Fe<sup>2+</sup> can serve as radical  
208 scavengers. Several researches believed that the ideal dosage of these two compounds was crucial  
209 to achieving high pollutant degradation efficiency (Tang and Tassos, 1997 ; Kochany and  
210 Lugowski, 1998). In the photo Fenton experiment H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> initiate superior effect in oxidizing organic  
211 complexes and producing of more oxygen ions in the presence of Fe<sup>2+</sup> ion (Panizza and Cerisola,  
212 2001). Fenton experiment is also activated at lower Fe<sup>2+</sup> ion concentrations, but the removal is  
213 inefficient. The photo Fenton method is more preferable than classical Fenton method since it

214 results in less iron sludge formation by decreasing the dosage of catalyst and Solar sources (Solar or  
215 UV) increase the utilization of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (Bandala et al., 2009; Giri and Golder, 2014 and Xiao et al.,  
216 2014).

217 There were four different time intervals used for the solar, UV, and LED visible light photo Fenton  
218 processes: 30, 60, 90, and 120 minutes. Maximum results for the Solar Fenton procedure at 60  
219 minutes of reaction time were 95% of color, 83% of COD, and 89% of TSS. At 120 minutes of  
220 reaction time, the UV and LED visible Fenton processes demonstrated maximum of color 93% and  
221 90%, COD 79% and 81% and TSS 87% and 84% removal efficiencies respectively. In comparison  
222 to UV and LED visible Fenton processes, the solar Fenton process demonstrated good removal  
223 efficiency in a shorter reaction time. According to (Jyoti Katara and Reshma Patel 2018), the solar  
224 Fenton process outperformed the UV Fenton method in terms of pollutant degrading efficiency.  
225 Temperature and UV radiation intensity may be to causes for the pollutant's fast deterioration in the  
226 solar Fenton reaction. The study was done in the morning at 10:30 am - 12.30 pm, when the outside  
227 temperature varied from 34 to 36°C and the inside room temperature was between 31 and 33°C.  
228 High temperature boosts the effectiveness of pollutant degradation by increasing OH<sup>•</sup> production  
229 and H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> consumption (Zazo et al., 2011). The production of more hydroxyl radicals (OH<sup>•</sup>) by the  
230 ferrous ions and hydrogen peroxide (H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>) combination in the treatment method, high COD  
231 removal was achieved (Lucas et al., 2007 ; Gallard and De Laat 2000). During the Fenton process,  
232 hydroxyl radicals convert all the minerals in wastewater into CO<sub>2</sub>, water, and inorganic compounds.  
233 The study was carried out on Fenton process for landfill leachate using two standard high-pressure  
234 mercury-vapor immersion lamps (100 W and 450 W) and a specially made 8 W 365 nm UVA-LED  
235 lamp (Tejera et al., 2021). With an 8 W 365 nm UVA-LED lamp, COD could be removed 90%,  
236 whereas high pressure mercury vapour immersion lamps demonstrated poor COD removal. UV  
237 radiation improves the usage of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> concentration and speeds up the photolysis process on each  
238 small organic molecule, but the visible light photo Fenton process requires a long processing time  
239 and higher energy consumption. Using 14 W UV lamps at 1.1 g/L Fe ion and 5.5 g/L H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>

240 concentration, 84.43% of COD and 92.54% of total PAHs were removed from landfill leachate  
241 wastewater (Singa et al., 2018). The three treatment methods virtually always used the ideal Fenton  
242 dose concentration. Optimum Fenton dosage concentration was almost common in the all three  
243 treatment method. In comparison to UV radiation from artificial sources, solar sources was higher  
244 in pollutant degradation because more active photons from high light wave length of solar induced  
245 high reaction rate in comparison to the other two artificial photo sources. In the current  
246 investigation, it was found that pH and UV radiation both had a significant impact on the pollutant  
247 degradation in landfill leachate wastewater in all three Fenton processes. In comparison to the  
248 standard Fenton method, the solar photo Fenton procedure demonstrated greater pollutant degrading  
249 efficiency (Vilar et al., 2012).

### 250 3.3. Statistical Experimental Result

251 In Taguchi experimental optimization techniques, OA L16 ( $4^{3}$ ) was used to optimize the process  
252 variables using minitab statistical software (Version 21.1.0). pH, Dosage concentration and Time  
253 were taken as a control variables and color, COD, TSS, Cr, Cu and Cd were taken as a responses.  
254 All the experimental values were analyzed in three times and average values noted. Experimental  
255 results of solar, UV and LED visible light photo Fenton process corresponding to L16 design were  
256 presented in Table 2, Table 3 and Table 4 respectively. Totally 16 number of runs were performed  
257 for each solar, UV and LED visible light Photo Fenton method. Solar Fenton process achieved  
258 maximum amount of color 95%, COD 83%, TSS 89%, Cr 94%, Cd 86% and Cu 93% at control  
259 factors level 3 pH (pH 3), level 2 dosage (Dosage 1.5:30 g/L) and level 2 (60 minutes) reaction  
260 time. From Table 3 and Table 4 it was observed that UV and Visible light photo Fenton method  
261 needed higher reaction time to show the better removal efficiency. Photo Fenton mechanism highly  
262 depends on the emission frequency of the light source, availability and absorption rate of  
263 photoactive species (Pignatello et al., 2006).

264 Figure 1 illustrates the S/N ratio, which describes how each control factors affects each response.  
265 The control variables pH, dose concentration ( $\text{Fe}^{2+}/\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ ), and reaction time were plotted in the S/N  
266 ratio graph's X axis, and each response (Color, COD, TSS, Cr, Cd, and Cu) was plotted in the  
267 graph's Y axis. S/N ratio graph clearly demonstrate that pH played a major role in the elimination of  
268 color, COD, TSS, Cr, Cd, and Cu in all three of the treatment processes—solar, UV, and LED.

269 Tables 5 and 6 display the ANOVA results for the solar, UV, and LED visible light photo Fenton  
270 processes. For all three processes (Solar, UV, and LED Fenton process), almost all of the p values  
271 were less than 0.05, and larger F values indicate that the designs were significant. In the ANOVA  
272 results, pH had a very high SN value, demonstrating that pH was an important factor in the  
273 breakdown of pollutants throughout all treatment stages. Table 7 gives the detailed summary report  
274 of Taguchi experimental design results of these three types of Fenton process. From Table.7, it was  
275 observed that R value more than 99% for all the control variables for all the three methods, it is  
276 evident that the good correlation between the each responses and each operating variables. Almost  
277 all the methods achieved more 97% of adj  $R^2$  value; it also confirms the significance of this design.  
278 Less residual error (less than 50%) in total run indicates the results to be reliable (Pourjafar et al.,  
279 2013 and Reyhani, et al., 2015). F value should be greater than  $F_{cr}$  value otherwise the design was  
280 not significant (Sousa, et al., 2020). In this robust design DF value for each factor is 3 a residual  
281 error is 6 so the confidence level is more than 95% for all the factors in these three methods.  $F_{cr} <$   
282  $F$ , it confirms that this design is significant.

283 Figures 2 and 3 illustrated interaction effect of pH and dosage concentration on color and Cr  
284 removal in 2D Contour plots. The well-conditioned elliptical form is strong indication that the pH  
285 and dose concentration for the elimination of color and Cr interact more. Solar Fenton technology  
286 removed up to 95% of the color and 94% of the Cr, UV Fenton technology removed up to 93% of  
287 both the color and Cr, and LED visible light technology removed up to 90% of the color and 91% of  
288 the Cr. In this study the heavy metals concentration of before and after the treatment was analysed  
289 with AAS. The Fenton process was a suitable choice for removing phenol, cyanide, and Cr (VI).

290 Compared to TiO<sub>2</sub>/UV, the H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>/UV method demonstrated a quicker decrease of chromium  
291 (Golbaz et.al., 2013). Municipal wastewater can be successfully treated with the solar photo Fenton  
292 technique to remove heavy metals (Cr 92%, Pb 100%, Cu 72.4%, Cd 100%, Ni 36%, Fe 94%, Zn  
293 58%) (Chaudhary et.al., 2012 and Barwal et.al., 2015).

294 Figure.4 a, b and c furnished the probability plot of removal efficiency of Solar, UV and LED  
295 visible light Fenton process. It is confirmed that all of the control variables and responses had a  
296 positive interaction impact on one another because all of the anticipated and observed values are  
297 followed in a straight line and the 95% confidence limit is displayed. Solar photo Fenton  
298 technology has been described as being both affordable and appropriate for complex industrial  
299 wastewater (Malato et al., 2013).

#### 300 4. Conclusion

301 According to the findings of this investigation, with one hour of reaction time at an acidic pH, the  
302 solar-assisted Fenton process successfully removed color, COD, TSS, Cr, Cu, and Cd from landfill  
303 leachate wastewater, whereas the other two methods required longer reaction times. Using the  
304 Taguchi technique, the most accurate data and relationships between controls and responses may be  
305 gathered and analysed with the fewest number of experimental designs. The findings of this  
306 experiment demonstrate that generation and rate of scavenging of hydroxyl radicals in the process  
307 highly depends on pH and UV radiation. The three techniques' R<sup>2</sup> values were greater than 99%,  
308 which demonstrated the model's good suitability. The solar, UV, and LED visible light Fenton  
309 processes are all effective at removing pollutants from landfill leachate wastewater while generating  
310 a less amount of sludge as compared with other Physico- chemical methods. However, solar photo  
311 Fenton process has higher removal efficiency and uses a naturally occurring energy source in  
312 comparison to the other two artificial photo sources. Organic pollutant and heavy metal reduction in  
313 landfill leachate wastewater can be accomplished using the competitive and promising solar photo  
314 Fenton process.

315 **Future directions**

316 Economical contribution of these three processes has to be investigated. There have also been other  
317 studies done on the efficiency of micro pollutant degradation. Investigating various UV sources and  
318 wave lengths may improve the efficiency of pollutant degradation.

319

320

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324 Laboratory facilities.

325 **Conflict of Interest**

326 The authors declare that there are no competing interests associated with this research work.

327 **Author contributions**

328 **First author** collected wastewater samples, conducted all the experimental studies, analysed the  
329 results and prepared the manuscript.

330 **Second author** analysed the result finding, validated the results and reviewed the manuscript

331 **References**

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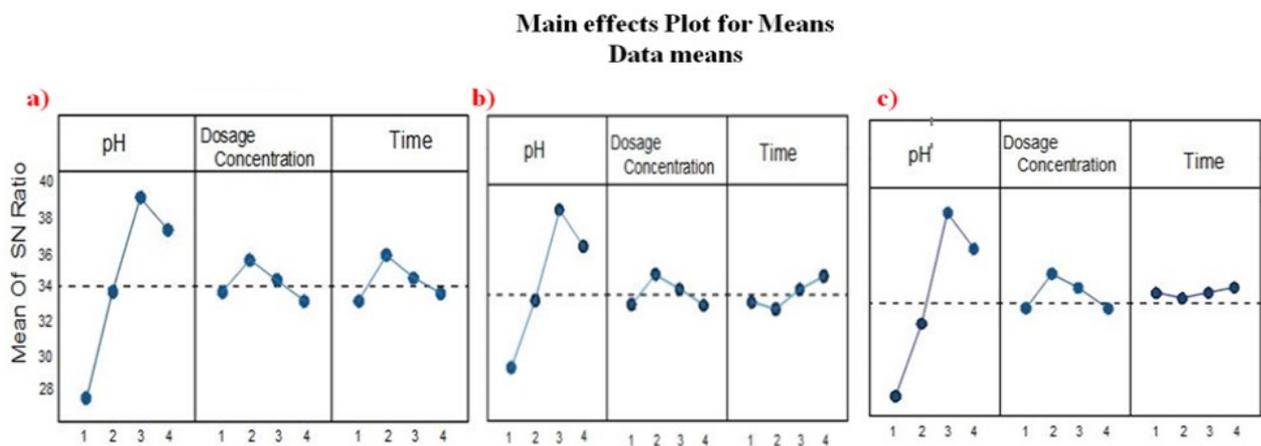
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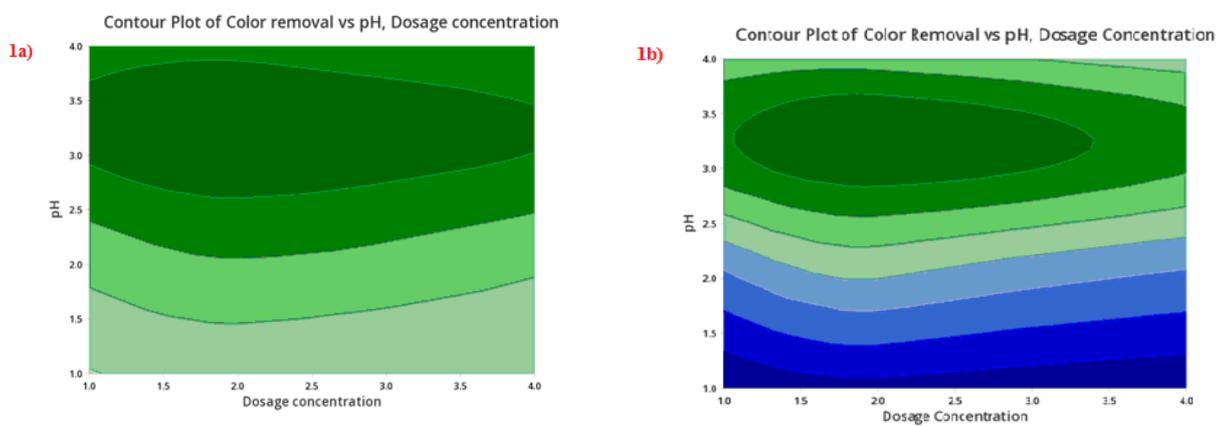
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494 **Figure 1.** S/N ratio Plot for color removal with each control factors for Solar (a), UV (b) and LED  
 495 visible light (c)

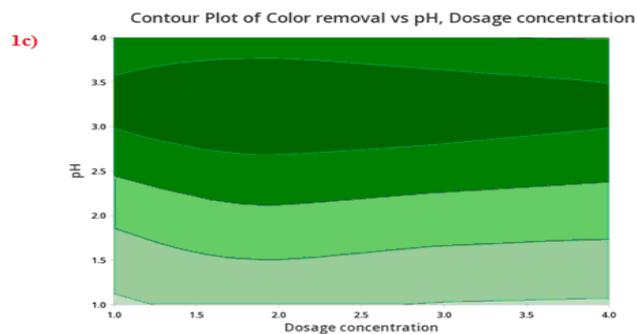


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497 **Figure 2.** 2D Contour plot for removal of color by using Solar (1a), UV (1b) and LED visible light  
 498 photo Fenton (1c)

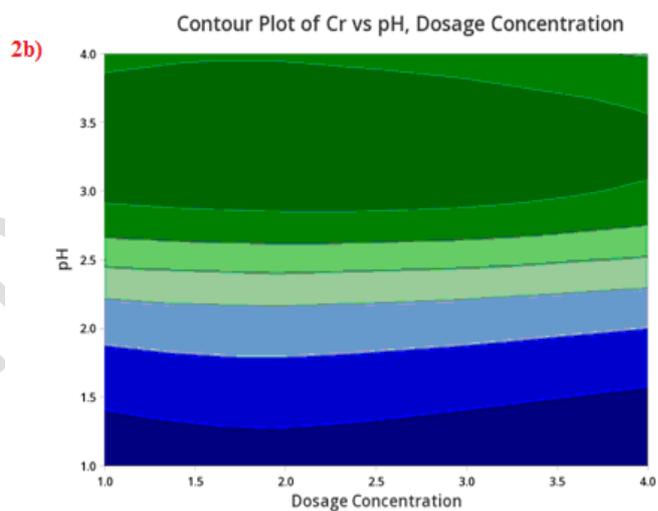
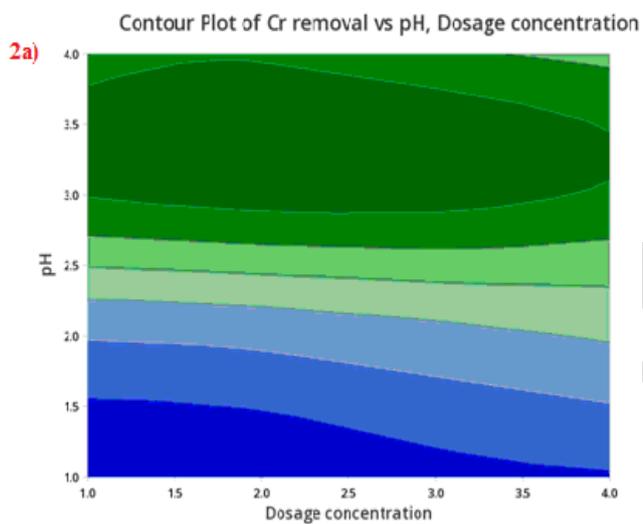


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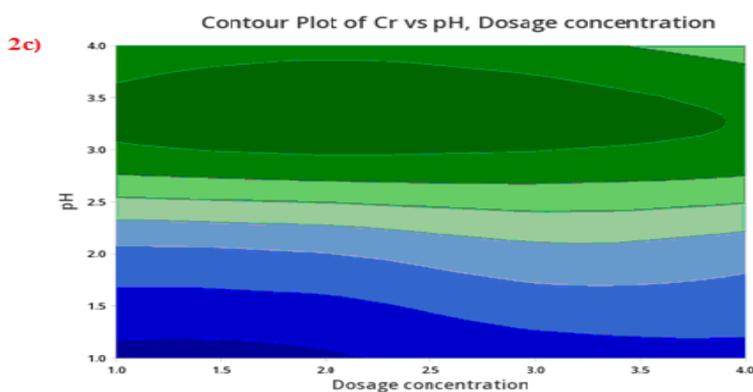
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501 **Figure 3.** 2D Contour plot for removal of Cr by Solar (2a) , UV (2b) and LED visible light photo  
 502 Fenton (2c)



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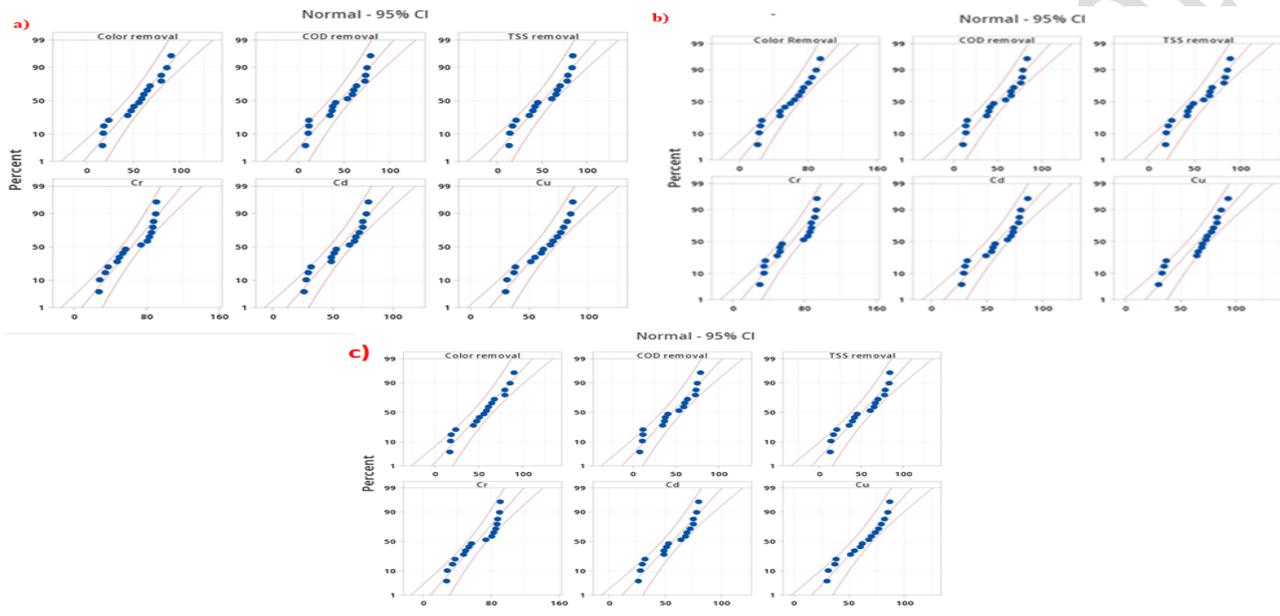
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510 **Figure 4.** Probability plot for removal Efficiency of Solar (a), UV (b) and LED visible light (c)

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Fenton process



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513 **Table 1.** Operating factors and their levels

Factors	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
pH	2	2.5	3	3.5
Dosage(g/L) (FeSO <sub>4</sub> : H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> )	1:30	1.5:30	2:30	2.5:30
Time (min)	30	60	90	120

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523 **Table 2.** Experimental results corresponding to L 16 design of solar Photo Fenton process

<b>Run</b>	<b>pH</b> <b>(Level)</b>	<b>Dosage</b> <b>(Level)</b>	<b>Time</b> <b>(Level)</b>	<b>Color</b> <b>(%)</b>	<b>COD</b> <b>(%)</b>	<b>Total</b> <b>Suspended</b> <b>Solids</b> <b>(%)</b>	<b>Cr</b> <b>(%)</b>	<b>Cd</b> <b>(%)</b>	<b>Cu</b> <b>(%)</b>
1	1	1	1	22	13	19	35	30	35
2	1	2	2	27	15	25	37	32	37
3	1	3	3	25	13	21	35	29	33
4	1	4	4	23	10	18	31	27	30
5	2	1	2	60	45	49	58	57	73
6	2	2	1	48	37	43	55	54	69
7	2	3	4	53	40	45	50	49	70
8	2	4	3	46	39	43	53	55	68
9	3	1	3	85	76	82	92	84	85
10	3	2	4	87	79	87	90	82	83
11	3	3	1	72	70	86	90	80	88
12	3	2	2	95	83	89	94	86	93
13	4	1	4	75	65	67	86	70	68
14	4	2	3	73	63	69	88	73	70
15	4	3	2	78	68	69	88	74	74

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532 **Table 3.** Experimental results corresponding to L 16 design of UV Photo Fenton process

<b>Run</b>	<b>pH</b> <b>(Level)</b>	<b>Dosage</b> <b>(Level)</b>	<b>Time</b> <b>(Level)</b>	<b>Color</b> <b>(%)</b>	<b>COD</b> <b>(%)</b>	<b>Total</b> <b>Suspended</b> <b>Solids</b> <b>(%)</b>	<b>Cr</b> <b>(%)</b>	<b>Cd</b> <b>(%)</b>	<b>Cu</b> <b>(%)</b>
1	1	1	1	19	11	16	30	28	33
2	1	2	2	25	14	23	32	30	33
3	1	3	3	21	14	19	37	33	38
4	1	4	4	20	10	15	39	34	40
5	2	1	2	46	39	39	51	51	64
6	2	2	1	58	43	47	53	55	71
7	2	3	4	53	40	45	57	61	73
8	2	4	3	43	37	43	61	65	79
9	3	1	3	82	76	80	90	77	81
10	3	2	4	93	81	87	93	82	91
11	3	3	1	88	75	86	93	80	87
12	3	4	2	79	70	78	88	77	85
13	4	1	4	69	62	65	84	71	77
14	4	2	3	73	65	68	88	74	76
15	4	3	2	65	60	63	82	71	70
16	4	4	1	61	59	60	77	66	65

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540 **Table 4.** Experimental results corresponding to L 16 design of LED Visible light Photo Fenton

<b>Run</b>	<b>pH</b> <b>(level)</b>	<b>Dosage</b> <b>(level)</b>	<b>Time</b> <b>(level)</b>	<b>Color</b> <b>(%)</b>	<b>COD</b> <b>(%)</b>	<b>Total</b> <b>Suspended</b> <b>Solids</b> <b>(%)</b>	<b>Cr</b> <b>(%)</b>	<b>Cd</b> <b>(%)</b>	<b>Cu</b> <b>(%)</b>
1	1	1	1	17	11	14	28	26	30
2	1	2	2	24	12	21	29	28	31
3	1	3	3	19	12	17	35	30	37
4	1	4	4	18	8	13	38	32	38
5	2	1	2	44	37	36	48	49	62
6	2	2	1	56	41	45	50	53	68
7	2	3	4	51	38	42	57	51	55
8	2	4	3	48	35	40	54	49	51
9	3	1	3	80	74	78	88	75	79
10	3	2	4	90	79	84	91	80	87
11	3	3	1	86	75	83	90	78	85
12	3	4	2	80	73	79	87	75	82
13	4	1	4	65	61	67	81	69	74
14	4	2	3	68	64	70	86	72	77
15	4	3	2	61	59	65	83	68	70
16	4	4	1	59	54	61	74	64	66

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548 **Table 5.** ANOVA for SN ratios of Color removal by Solar, UV, and LED Visible light Photo  
 549 Fenton process

Source	DF	Seq SS	Adj SS	Adj MS	F	P
<u>Analysis of Variance for SN ratios of Color removal by solar photo Fenton</u>						
pH	3	835.506	835.506	311.835	460.7	0.000
Dosage	3	7.704	7.704	2.568	3.79	0.039
Time	3	2.831	2.831	0.944	1.39	0.033
Residual Error	6	6.061	6.061	0.677		
Total	15	852.102				
<u>Analysis of Variance for SN ratios of Color removal by UV photo Fenton</u>						
pH	3	345.799	345.799	181.933	207.2	0.000
Dosage	3	9.459	9.459	3.153	3.59	0.036
Time	3	1.701	1.701	0.567	0.65	0.013
Residual Error	6	7.267	7.267	0.878		
Total	15	364.226				

Analysis of Variance for SN ratios of Color removal by LED Visible Light photo Fenton

pH	3	307.833	307.833	69.2777	1303.20	0.000
Dosage	3	3.877	3.877	1.2924	24.31	0.001
Time	3	1.368	1.368	0.4559	8.58	0.014
Residual Error	6	0.319	0.319	0.0532		
Total	15	313.397				

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552 **Table 6.** ANOVA for SN ratios of Cr removal by Solar, UV, and LED Visible light Photo Fenton

Source	DF	Seq SS	Adj SS	Adj MS	F	P
<u>Analysis of Variance for SN ratios of Cr removal by Solar Photo Fenton</u>						
pH	3	338.724	338.724	79.5745	834.96	0.000
Dosage	3	4.135	4.135	1.3783	14.46	0.004
Time	3	1.773	1.773	0.5909	6.20	0.029
Residual Error	6	0.189	0.189	0.0630		
Total	15	344.821				
<u>Analysis of Variance for SN ratios of Cr by UV photo Fenton</u>						
pH	3	407.833	407.833	69.2777	1303.20	0.000
Dosage	3	3.877	3.877	1.2924	24.31	0.001
Time	3	1.368	1.368	0.4559	8.58	0.014
Residual Error	6	0.319	0.319	0.0532		
Total	15	413.397				
<u>Analysis of Variance for SN ratios of Cr by Visible light photo Fenton</u>						
pH	3	216.536	216.536	58.8453	708.87	0.000
Dosage	3	2.821	2.821	0.9403	11.33	0.007

Time	3	0.524	0.524	0.1747	2.10	0.021
Residual Error	6	0.498	0.498	0.0830		
Total	15	220.379				

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559 **Table 7.** Summary of contribution of each factor for Solar, UV and LED visible light Fenton  
560 process.

Treatment Method	Solar			UV light			LED visible light		
	S	R-sq (%)	R-sq Adj (%)	S	R-sq (%)	R-sq Adj (%)	S	R-sq (%)	R-sq Adj (%)
Color	0.1652	99.90	99.69	0.9752	99.30	98.99	0.9752	99.30	98.99
COD	0.6854	99.29	98.67	0.4754	99.56	99.27	0.4754	99.56	99.27
TSS	0.3140	99.55	97.75	0.5240	99.45	99.07	0.5240	99.45	99.07
Cr	0.2511	99.92	99.60	0.2313	99.82	99.65	0.2313	99.82	99.65
Cd	0.7196	99.18	98.90	0.9186	99.00	98.47	0.9186	99.00	98.47
Cu	0.3464	99.80	99.00	0.3534	99.85	99.26	0.3534	99.85	99.26

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