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Kinetics, Isotherms, and Thermodynamics Studies on Adsorption of Methyl Green Dye Onto Diferent Zeolites

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Received: 28 September 2023 / Accepted: 21 December 2023 © The Author(s), under exclusive licence to Springer Science+Business Media, LLC, part of Springer Nature 2024

Abstract

The adsorption of methyl green (MG) dye from aqueous solutions over diferent zeolite samples was investigated. Five types of zeolites H-Y (HY), H-BETA (Beta), NH_4 -Mordenite (MOR), NH_4 -ZSM-5 (ZSM-5), and NH_4 -Ferrierite (FERR) were obtained and characterized by X-Ray difraction analysis (XRD), Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy (FTIR), inductively coupled plasma (ICP) elemental analysis, N_2 sorption measurements, and scanning electron microscopy (SEM). The obtained characterization results pointed out to several signifcant diferences between the investigated samples such as morphological structure, textural properties, aluminium content, and the counter cation. The adsorption capacities of HY, Beta, and MOR zeolites using MG were determined to be 41.54, 25.05 mg/g, and 40.57, respectively. On the other hand, FERR and ZSM-5 exhibited the smallest adsorption capacity. The process of adsorption was optimized in terms of a number of variables, including contact time, adsorbent dosage, solution pH, dye concentration, and solution temperature. Moreover, the kinetics, isotherm, and thermodynamic parameters of adsorption were calculated. The Langmuir isotherm model had the best correlation with the experimental data, and the kinetics studies showed that the adsorption followed pseudo-second order kinetics. Moreover, the mechanism of adsorption process was proposed and discussed.

Keywords Zeolites · Adsorption · Methyl green · Kinetics · Langmuir

1 Introduction

As a result of increasing the human industrial activities, several pollutants are released continuously to air, water streams and soil [\[1\]](#page-11-0). These contaminations are considered a real thread to the environment and can create several health problems to human in addition to the other to the ecological life [[2](#page-11-1)]. Organic dyes are one of the most common contaminants found in wastewater [[3\]](#page-11-2). Dyes are released to the water streams from textile, food, dyeing, painting and other industries [[4](#page-11-3)]. Dyes have a signifcant environmental impact, in which 1 ppm of some dyes can change the colour of water streams which makes it unusable [[5](#page-11-4)]. Furthermore, cationic dyes have been found to be more harmful than anionic dyes [\[6\]](#page-12-0). The removal of dye from wastewater is a major ecological issue around the

world. There are several techniques for removing organic dyes, which including ozonation, aerobic treatment, biodegradation [[7\]](#page-12-1), oxidative catalytic degradation [\[8](#page-12-2)], coagulation [\[9\]](#page-12-3), electrochemical degradation [[10\]](#page-12-4), membrane separation $[11]$ $[11]$ $[11]$, and adsorption techniques $[12-15]$ $[12-15]$ $[12-15]$ $[12-15]$. One of the most common methods for removing organic dyes is adsorption, since it is simple, easy, cost-effective, efficient, and safe. MG is one of the dyes, which is applying on a large scale in several industries such as colouring of textile [[16\]](#page-12-8), plastic, and leather [[17](#page-12-9)]. MG also has some applications in medicine, gelatine flm awareness, and biological applications [\[18–](#page-12-10)[20\]](#page-12-11). However, there are some health issues regarding the use of MG dye, because it was reported that it can cause severe skin burns and eye damage, therefore, the removal of this dye from water streams is crucial. Several studies were reported about the removal of MG dye from water streams. Belmedani et al. [[21](#page-12-12)] reported the removal of MG dye from aqueous solutions by using activated carbon as a strong adsorbent in a spontaneous exothermic process. In another study, Mahmoud et al. [[22](#page-12-13)] investigated the same target by using hydrated zinc oxide doped silica gel by. Moreover, Charaf

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et al. [\[23](#page-12-14)] utilized the Sejnane clay as an adsorbent for MG. It has been reported that the adsorption process is endothermic and spontaneous chemisorption process. Finally, Hamdy et al. [[24\]](#page-12-15) reported the use of modifed three-dimensional mesoporous silica to adsorb MG. The reported results showed that the adsorption capacity has improved from 15 mg/g for neat silica to 248 mg/g for the modifed mesoporous silica.

Zeolites are a distinct class of solid materials with numerous applications in industrial processes and pollution management. Zeolites are hydrated aluminosilicate minerals with a polyhedral three-dimensional framework based on $[SiO₄]$ and $[AIO₅]$ compounds, which can be found in both natural and synthetic types. These compounds are joined to one another by their oxygens, forming a regular network of interconnecting pores and tunnels [\[25\]](#page-12-16). Zeolites have a unique structure and properties that enable excellent adsorption of a variety of pollutants in the environment. In addition, zeolite has a large surface area, which is a critical feature for adsorbents. Natural zeolite has a surface area around $20-50 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$, however, the surface area of synthetic zeolite can reach 1000 m^2/g . Zeolites have intracrystalline voids account for 20–50 percent of its total crystal volume in most types [[26](#page-12-17), [27](#page-12-18)]. According to international zeolite association (IZA), there are more than 150 types of zeolites were fabricated with diferent features such as morphological and textural properties and Al content. Many zeolites types are commercialized and are applying in several applications such as adsorption, dehydration, and catalysis [\[28\]](#page-12-19). Zeolite was perfectly applied as a sorbent material for many pollutants such as heavy metals and dyes. Cravotto et al. [\[29\]](#page-12-20) reported the use of modifed zeolite Y for the removal of methylene blue dye. It was reported that the modifed zeolite with its high adsorption capacity is stable for the consecutive four runs. In another study, Mouni et al. [[30\]](#page-12-21) used 4A zeolite in the removal of malachite green dye, and it was reported that the process is a spontaneous endothermic process. Ginting et al. reported the use of modifed zeolite-iron chloride for the removal of Cr(VI), while Sarangi et al. [[31\]](#page-12-22) reported the use of Zeolite X in the removal of Cd^{2+} and Zn^{2+} . Finally, Ibrahim et al. [\[15\]](#page-12-7) reported the adsorption behaviour of home-made zeolite, entitled "black zeolite". The prepared material exhibited high adsorption behaviour in the removal of methylene blue dye from an aqueous solution.

To the best of the available knowledge, there is no systematic study for the removal of MG dye over diferent zeolites. In the current study, the research team compared -for the frst time- the adsorption behaviour of fve types of commercially available zeolites (HY, Beta, MOR, ZSM-5, and FERR) in the removal of MG, as a model cationic dye, from aqueous solution under several conditions. The thermodynamic parameters as well as the kinetics of the removal process are reported and discussed.

2 Experimental

2.1 Chemicals

Methyl green $(C_{26}H_{33}Cl_2N_3)$ was selected as cationic dye and it was purchased from VWR Chemicals BDH®, Atlanta, USA. Hydrochloric acid (HCl, 37%) and sodium hydroxide (NaOH, 98%) were obtained from Sigma-Aldrich®, Darmstadt, Germany. The investigated zeolites H-Y, H-Beta, $NH₄$ -Mordenite, NH₄-ZSM-5 and NH₄-Ferrierite were purchased from Zeolyst®, Pennsylvania, USA. The obtained zeolite samples are coded as HY, Beta, MOR, ZSM-5, and FERR; respectively. These codes will be fxed in the entire study. The entire chemicals were used without any further treatment or purifcation.

2.2 Characterization Techniques

The five zeolite samples were characterized by using XRD, ICP, FTIR, SEM, and BET surface area analysis. In details, XRD were acquired on a Bruker D2 PHASER benchtop, Massachusetts, USA, with CuK radiation, wavelength=1.5418, to analyse the crystallinity of the zeolite samples. SEM analysis was used to examine the morphology of the investigated zeolite samples by using Jeol model 6360-LVSEM, USA. The exact concentration of Al in each zeolite sample was determined using ICP elemental analysis. The samples were digested before being microwaved for 90 min. The products of digestion were then passed through flters and washed multiple times. At last, the concentration of Al was determined using inductively coupled plasma optical emission spectroscopy, Thermo Scientifc, ICAP 7000 series, component No: 1340910, Qtegra Software, Germany [32]. Using the N₂ uptake data, the ultrastructural parameters of the fabricated catalyst samples (total surface area, pore size, and pore diameter) were determined. Nitrogen adsorption/desorption isotherms were obtained at 77 K on NOVA 2000e QuantaChrome instrument, Florida, USA. The pore size distribution was calculated using the Barret-Joyner-Halenda (BJH) model from the adsorption branch. Previously, the samples had been evacuated for 16 h at 623 K. The BET method was used to calculate the surface area (S_{BET}) of the samples, while Lippens and Boer's t-plot method was used to estimate the pore volume (V_{pore}) . The produced catalytic samples were analysed using Fourier transform infrared (FTIR) spectroscopy on an Agilent Cary 630 FTIR Spectrometer, Santa Clara, California, USA. The spectra were taken at ambient conditions in the range 4000–400 cm−1 with a spectral resolution of 4 cm^{-1} .

2.3 Adsorption Study

The adsorption performance of different zeolites for the removal of MG dye was investigated using a batch procedure at room temperature. The dye solutions (100–200 mg/L) were prepared by diluting a stock MG solution (1000 mg/L) with distilled water. A UV–visible spectrophotometer (Double Beam, Shimadzu, 1800, Japan) was used to determine the initial and remaining concentration of MG dye in solutions at λ_{max} of MG (i.e., 632 nm), which corresponds to the maximum absorption of MG. The various parameters that afect the adsorption percentage (%R) and adsorption capacity (q_e) , such as pH, temperature, contact time, adsorbent dosage, and initial concentration, were investigated. The parameters infuencing the adsorption rate were investigated by altering one of the parameters while maintaining the others constant.

The percent of MG dye adsorption (%*R*) was determined by employing the equation:

$$
\%R = \frac{(C_o - C_e)}{C_o} \times 100
$$
 (1)

The amount of MG dye adsorbed at equilibrium per unit mass of adsorbent was determined according to the following equation:

$$
q_e = \left(C_o - C_e\right) \cdot \frac{V}{m} \tag{2}
$$

The adsorption capacity q_e in mg/g is equal to q_t at equilibrium, where q_t is the adsorption capacity (mg/g) at time t.

Where V is the volume of MG solution in (L), and (m) the amount of adsorbent in (g), C_0 and C_e are the initial concentration and equilibrium concentration (mg/L) of MG.

Moreover, to understand the adsorption mechanism of MG dye onto zeolites (HY, Beta and MOR), three diferent kinetic models (the pseudo-frst-order model, the pseudosecond-order model, and the Elovich model) were employed to calculate the kinetic parameters. The following are the corresponding linear expressions of the kinetic equations:

$$
\ln (q_e - q_t) = \ln q_e - k_1 t \tag{3}
$$

$$
\frac{t}{q_t} = \frac{1}{k_2 q_e^2} + \frac{t}{q_e} \tag{4}
$$

$$
q_t = \frac{1}{\beta} \ln(\alpha \beta) + \frac{1}{\beta} \ln t \tag{5}
$$

where:

 k_1 is the rate constant in the pseudo-first-order model, $min.⁻¹$

 α is the initial adsorption rate mg/(g⋅min).

 β is adsorption constant g/mg,

Furthermore, the mechanism of transferring dye molecules from solutions to the solid surface of the absorbent material can be explained using the intra-particle difusion model for Weber and Morris.

$$
q_t = k_{diff}t^{1/2} + C
$$
\n⁽⁶⁾

where k_{diff} is the intra-particle diffusion rate constant (mg/g. $min^{1/2}$ and C is a constant referring to the boundary layer width (mg/g).

Given that there is no interaction between neighbouring adsorbed molecules and that adsorption sites have uniform energies, the Langmuir isotherm explains monolayer adsorption on a homogeneous surface. The linear forms of the Langmuir isotherm model can be represented as follows:

$$
\frac{C_e}{q_e} = \frac{1}{K_L \cdot q_{max}} + \frac{C_e}{q_{max}} \tag{7}
$$

Furthermore, the multilayer adsorption on the heterogeneous adsorbent surface is explained by the Freundlich isotherm.

$$
log q_e = \frac{1}{n} log C_e + log K_F
$$
\n(8)

Another isotherm established by Dubinin and Radushkevich can be utilized to examine equilibrium data. It's used to calculate the mean free energy (E) of adsorption, which is used to diferentiate between chemical and physical adsorption.

$$
\ln q_e = \ln q_{D-R} + \beta \varepsilon^2 \tag{9}
$$

$$
\varepsilon = RT \ln \left(1 + \frac{1}{C_e} \right) \tag{10}
$$

 q_{D-R} , β and ε are adsorption capacity of MG (mol/kg), the D–R constant (mol^2/kJ^2) and the Polanyi potential respectively.

 β is the constant that is connected to the mean free energy (E) of adsorption, which may be calculated using the given equations:

$$
E = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\beta}}\tag{11}
$$

The thermodynamics of MG adsorption were studied using isotherms at four temperatures: 293, 303, 313 and 318 K. The following equations were used to evaluate the thermodynamic parameters.

$$
\ln K_d = \frac{\Delta S}{R} - \frac{\Delta H}{RT}
$$
\n(12)

$$
\Delta G^{\circ} = -RT \ln K_d \tag{13}
$$

Where ΔG is the free energy of adsorption (kJ/mol), R is the universal gas constant $(J/mol \cdot K)$, ΔS is the entropy change (J/mol.K), ΔH is the enthalpy change (kJ/mol), T is the temperature in Kelvin, and K_d is the thermodynamic equilibrium constant (dimensionless), whose values are calculated depending on the Langmuir constant (K_{I}) [[33](#page-12-24)]. The slope and intercept of a plot of $ln K_d$ vs. 1/T could be used to determine H and S.

3 Results

3.1 The Characterization of Zeolite Samples

The degree of crystallization of zeolite samples was investigated by using the x-ray difraction technique, the obtained patterns are plotted in Fig. [1](#page-3-0). In general, all the investigated zeolites exhibited high crystallinity without any unknown phase(s), which reveals the high purity of the samples. MOR exhibited the peaks at 9.77°, 18.07°, 20.34°, 26.14°, 28.89°, 30.39° and 37.00° 2θ. These peaks can be referred to the lattice planes of (110), (200), (131), (041), (060), (441), and (531). This crystalline structure is matched with the indexed reference (JCPDS Card # 29–1257) [\[34\]](#page-12-25). ZSM-5

Fig. 1 a The XRD difractograms **b** Williamson-Hall (W–H) plots of the investigated zeolite samples

Table 1 Estimated values of size (L), dislocations (δ), strain (ε_{ave}), and x-ray density (ρ_{x-ray}) for the investigated zeolite samples

Sample	Scherrer cal $Lave$ (nm)	δ_{ave} (nm ⁻²)	ρ_{x-ray} (g/cm ³)	ε_{ave}
НY	99.90	0.0016	7.32	0.0124
Beta	13.99	4.9040	7.46	0.1606
FERR	77.11	0.0098	7.30	0.0210
$ZSM-5$	12.07	0.0074	7.38	0.0151
MOR	68.87	0.0016	7.36	0.0128

Fig. 2 FTIR Spectra of the fve investigated zeolite samples

sample exhibited peaks at 7.9°, 8.9°, 23.2°, and 24.0° which are assigned to the (101), (200), (501), and (303) planes of the MFI framework as indexed in the standard card number of JCPDS-44–0003) [\[35](#page-12-26)]. On the other hand, FERR sample exhibited the distinguished peaks which matched with the reference index of JCPDS fle 98–007-5475. Beta sample exhibited two peaks at 7.6° and 22.4° which corresponding to the lattice planes of (101) and (302). According to the JCPDS 48–0038 cards, these peaks are relative to the BEA zeolite phase [\[36](#page-12-27)]. Finally, HY sample exhibited peaks which can be corresponding to the monoclinic planes of (002), (111), (200), (202), (202), (113), (311), (113) and (220) as indexed in the reference of JCPDS:43–0168 [\[37](#page-12-28)]. The determined values of L, δ , ε , ρ_{x-ray} and S are provided in Table [1.](#page-4-0)

FTIR analysis was performed on the fve zeolite samples studied. Figure [2](#page-4-1) shows the obtained spectra. Beta display two absorption bands at 525 and 575 cm⁻¹, which are typical of the structure's fve- and six-membered rings. The O–Si–O asymmetric stretching vibration is represented by the band around 1092 cm⁻¹ [\[38\]](#page-12-29). The spectrum of ZSM-5 revealed a strong band at 620 cm^{-1} , which is the characteristic band of MFI-type zeolites with twice five rings' structures. HY [[39\]](#page-12-30) revealed that a band at 982 cm−1 corresponds to the Si–O, SiO-Al, and Al–OH asymmetric and symmetric stretching vibrations that are associated with the internal TO_4 structure $(T=Si, Al)$, whereas bands at 1146 and 790 cm⁻¹ correspond to the asymmetric and symmetric stretching vibrations associated to the external TO_4 structure (T=Si, Al), respectively. The band around 1389 cm−1 corresponds with the Faujasite (FAU-type zeolite) structure's double-ring external link. Furthermore, vibrational stretches related to the Si–O group have been observed in MOR samples at 1040 cm^{-1} . The wavelengths 800 cm⁻¹, 550 cm⁻¹, and 468 cm⁻¹ are associated with Al–O–Al vibrations, Si–O-Si vibrations, and internal asymmetric stretching of Al-O and Si–O [[40](#page-12-31)].

The aluminium content in the fve investigated zeolite samples was obtained from the producer. The highest aluminium content was found in HY sample (20wt% aluminium), while zeolite Beta contains the smallest aluminium content (only 0.33 wt%). In Table [2](#page-4-2), the amount of aluminium as obtained from the producer is listed in the five investigated samples. One additional diference was also obtained from the producer, the counter cations in the framework. HY and Beta have protons (H^+) as counter cations, while MOR, ZSM-5 and FERR have ammonium cations (NH_4^+) .

 $N₂$ physisorption measurement was performed to measure the textural properties of the investigated zeolites. HY exhibited the highest surface area (720 m²/g), while the FERR exhibited the lowest surface area (only $400 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$). Surprisingly, the pore diameter of HY, Beta, and ZSM-5 was higher than 2 nm, which means that the pores in the three samples are in the range of mesoporous materials. Moreover, FERR

Adsorbent	Al content $(\%)$	Counter cation	Textural properties			
			Surface area (m^2/g)	Pore volume $\rm (cm^3/g)$	Pore diameter (nm)	
HY	20	H^+	720	0.11	5.6	
Beta	0.33	H^+	615	0.23	4.8	
MOR	5	$NH4+$	493	0.21	0.99	
FERR	2	NH_4^+	400	0.19	1.1	
$ZSM-5$	\overline{c}	$NH4+$	420	0.24	5.9	

Table 2 Textural properties of the investigated zeolite samples

and MOR have pore diameter in the range of microporous materials. The textural properties of the five investigated samples are listed in Table [1](#page-4-0). Figure [3](#page-5-0) shows the N_2 isotherms of the fve applied zeolite samples. HY and Beta samples showed the IV isotherms, which can be related to the mesoporous character according to IUPAC classifcation. On the other hand, MOR exhibited type III isotherm as an indication for the microporous character. However, ZSM-5 and FERR exhibited isotherms between type III and type IV, more investigation maybe required to explore this behaviour.

SEM analysis was used to investigate at the morphology of the fve applied zeolite samples. Figure [4](#page-6-0) displays the obtained micrographs. The fve samples collectively shown substantial crystallization. HY displayed a crystalline phase with a few aggregates and partially duplicated octahedral crystals [[41\]](#page-12-32). MOR showed merged aggregated prism-like crystals [[42](#page-12-33)], while Beta showed sphere-like particle form [[43\]](#page-12-34). Finally, ZSM-5 showed the hexagonal crystal structure of the aggregate [\[44](#page-13-0)].

3.2 The Adsorption Performance of Zeolite Samples

The adsorption performance of the five types of zeolites towards MG dye was tested and the adsorption capacities are shown in Fig. [5](#page-6-1). For this comparison, 25 ml of MG solutions of diferent concentrations (100, 110, 120, 130, and

140 mg/l) were added to 0.05 g of each zeolite with stirring for 60 min. The results demonstrate that zeolite HY and MOR zeolites exhibited the highest MG dye removal. Furthermore, Beta came third after HY and MOR samples, and it exhibited higher adsorption capacity than ZSM-5 and FERR. The observed trend was true over the entire investigated MG concentrations. The adsorption capacity can be set in the order of $HY \approx MOR > Beta > ZSM-5 > FERR$. Based on the obtained results, the best performed three samples; HY, MOR, and Beta were chosen for the optimization study.

3.2.1 Efect of Solution pH

The pH of the solution has a significant impact on the adsorbent and adsorbate properties. Therefore, the effect of pH on the adsorption percentage of MG onto the most performed zeolite samples; HY, Beta, and MOR was investigated over the pH range of 3–9. The pH was adjusted by using 0.1 M NaOH or 0.1 M HCl solutions. The effect of the pH was investigated through mixing 0.05 g of zeolite with 25 ml of MG solution (100 mg/L) and stirred at 600 rpm for 60 min. After that, the suspension was fltered to separate the zeolite sample from the solution. As seen in Fig. [6,](#page-6-2) it is observed that the MG adsorption percentage increases with increasing pH. It was found that the highest adsorbed amount of MG was at $pH=9$.

Fig. 3 The N_2 isotherms of the zeolite samples as received from N_2 adsorption/desorption measurements

Fig. 4 SEM micrographs of the fve investigated zeolite samples

Fig. 5 The capacity of adsorption (mg/g) of MG dye over the difer-

This result agrees the reported results about the efect of pH on the adsorption of MG dye. Asim Khan et al. [[45\]](#page-13-1) reported that the best adsorption capacity was obtained at basic medium because at low pH , the excess of $H⁺$ cations compete the dye molecules to adsorb faster on the surface of the adsorbent. Moreover, Tanaydina et al. [[46](#page-13-2)] and Hamdy et al. $[24]$ $[24]$ reported the same conclusion, and the best efficiency was obtained at basic medium.

3.2.2 Efect of Contact Time

Adsorption time is a signifcant parameter in adsorption investigations. The efect of contact time on MG adsorption was investigated by using time intervals ranging

.ā

Fig. 6 Effect of initial pH solution on the adsorption percentage of MG dye. (Adsorption conditions: C_0 =100 mg/L, adsorbent dos $age = 2 g/L$, time = 60 min, T = 298 K)

from 5 to 240 min. Figure [7](#page-7-0) shows that the amount of MG adsorbed onto HY, Beta, and MOR zeolites nearly reached steady state in 60 min. Adsorption began with a linear rise, followed by a steady state. Therefore, 60 min was selected as the optimal contact time in subsequent experiments. The adsorption removal percentage (R, %) of MG were determined to be 91.58, 46.97 and 87.2% using HY, Beta and MOR, respectively.

Fig. 7 The effect of contact time on adsorption percentage of MG dye. (Adsorption conditions: C_0 =100 mg/L, adsorbent dos $age = 2 g/L$, T = 298 K)

3.2.3 Efect of the Adsorbent Dosage

The adsorbent dosage for the adsorption studies were varied (0.02 to 0.1 g), keeping other parameters constant. The effects of adsorbent dosage on MG adsorption are presented in Fig. [8.](#page-7-1) The adsorption rate of MG increases gradually with the increase in the adsorbent amount. The removal percentage of MG dye increases from 79.5 to 97.8% by HY, from 19.8 to 85.7% by Beta, and from 59.1 to 98.3% by MOR, for an initial concentration of 100 mg/l. Typically, increasing the adsorbent dosage increases the percentage of dye removal, whereas increasing the adsorbent dose increases the number of sorption sites at the adsorbent surface. As a result, 0.1 g was chosen as the optimal dosage in subsequent experiments.

Fig. 8 The effect of adsorbent dosage on adsorption percentage of MG (Adsorption conditions: $C_0 = 100$ mg/L, time=60 min, $T = 298 K$

3.2.4 Efect of Initial Concentration

By generating an adsorbent-adsorbate solution with a fxed adsorbent dosage (0.1 g) and varied MG concentrations (100 to 200 mg/L) and whirling them together at room temperature for 60 min, one can test the infuence of starting concentration. The initial dye concentration has a signifcant impact on the dye's rate of adsorption. The ratio of dye concentration to active binding sites on an adsorbent surface determines the impact of the initial concentration factor. Figure [9](#page-7-2) shows how the percentage of dye removal decreases as the original dye concentration rises; this may be because the adsorption sites on the adsorbent surface are saturated.

3.2.5 Adsorption Kinetics

As shown in Table [3](#page-8-0), the adsorption data is more ftted to the pseudo-second-order model based on the correlation coefficient (R^2) values. The calculated values of q_e from the pseudo-second-order model (48.76 mg/g), (25.14 mg/g) and (44.84 mg/g) agree well with the experimental results (48.31 mg/g), (24.94 mg/g) and (43.59 mg/g), respectively. On the other hand, if the pseudo-frst-order model is used, the experimental values of q_e are totally different.

The relation between adsorption capacity (q_t) and time $(t^{1/2})$ calculated from experimental data are shown in Fig. [10](#page-8-1) (d). A linear approximation of the experimental data for HY, Beta and MOR zeolites gives two overlapping straight lines, which refer to two stages of MG diffusion on the zeolites. The kinetic parameters depicted in Table [4](#page-8-2) were calculated using the second segment.

3.2.6 Isotherm Study

There are various isotherm models that can be used to explain the interaction between adsorbate and adsorbent.

Fig. 9 Effect of initial concentration on adsorption percentage of MG onto zeolites. (Adsorption conditions: adsorbent dosage = 4 g/L , $time = 60$ min, $T = 298$ K)

Table 3 Kinetic parameters for the adsorption of MG

model	Adsorbent	HY	Beta	MOR
	q_e experimental (mg/g)	47.96	24.52	43.59
Pseudo 1st model	k_1 (min ⁻¹)	0.0202	0.0176	0.0122
	q_e (mg/g)	8.756	5.033	4.746
	\mathbb{R}^2	0.976	0.857	0.903
Pseudo 2nd model	k_2 (g/mg.min)	0.00601	0.00961	0.00634
	q_e (mg/g)	48.54	24.88	44.84
	\mathbb{R}^2	0.9999	0.9999	0.9896
Elovich model	α (mg/g.min)	1.28×10^{6}	2.53×10^{3}	6.64×10^{9}
	β (g/mg)	0.3818	0.4975	0.6326
	R^2	0.965	0.9254	0.9628

Fig. 10 The kinetic models for MG adsorption onto HY, Beta and MOR zeolites as pseudo-frst-order (**a**), pseudo-second-order (**b**), Elovich model (**c**), and intra-particle difusion model (**d**)

Langmuir, Freundlich, Dubinin-Radushkevich, and other isotherm models are examples. These isotherm models were investigated with various dye concentrations at constant pH, temperature, and adsorbent concentration.

As shown in Table [5](#page-9-0) and Fig. [11](#page-9-1) (a), the correlation coefficient (\mathbb{R}^2 >0.99) indicates that the adsorption data are better ftted to the Langmuir adsorption model than the

Table 5 Parameters of Langmuir, Freundlich, and Dubinin-Radushkevich equations for MG adsorption isotherms

Models	Parameters	HY	Beta	MOR
Langmuir model	K_{L}	0.699	4.707	0.846
	$q_m(mg/g)$	41.54	25.05	40.57
	R^2	0.999	0.994	0.999
Freundlich model	$K_{\rm F}$	24.37	9.618	25.16
	1/n	0.147	0.326	0.132
	R^2	0.904	0.871	0.918
Dubinin-Radu-	q_{D-R} (mol/kg)	0.17	0.29	0.15
shkevich (D-R)	E (kJ/mol)	21.32	13.61	22.36
model	\mathbb{R}^2	0.8298	0.7671	0.8526

Fig. 11 The linearized isotherms according to Langmuir (**a**), Freundlich (**b**) and Dubinin Radushkevich (**c**) models

Freundlich isotherm to explain the adsorption of MG on HY, Beta, and MOR.

3.2.7 Thermodynamic Study

The computed values of the thermodynamic parameters are displayed in Table [6.](#page-10-0) The G values in this study were all negative, demonstrating that the adsorption of MG onto various zeolites was spontaneous, which is enhanced by temperature. Additionally, the positive value of S indicates increased randomness at the solid–liquid interface during the adsorption process. Moreover, it was found that the enthalpy change value was positive when adsorbing MG over Beta, indicating endothermic adsorption. In contrast, in the adsorption of MG over zeolites HY and MOR, the ΔH value was negative, indicating exothermic adsorption. (Fig. [12\)](#page-10-1)

4 Discussion

4.1 The Proposed Adsorption Mechanism

As seen from the results, HY, Beta, and MOR exhibited the best adsorption performance. On the other hand, ZSM-5 and FERR showed less adsorption affinity towards MG dye. The explanation of the obtained results is not straight forward because several parameters are participating in the determination of the adsorption affinity. The parameters which affect the adsorption affinity are surface area, pore size, OH surface density, and Al content. MG undergoes ionization in water and two positive charge are locating on nitrogen atoms make it a perfect cationic dye. In zeolite, the replacement of $Si⁴⁺$ by Al^{3+} creates negative charge on Al atoms. These negative charges is permanent and cannot be removed, therefore, $Al³⁺$ ions which tetrahedrally coordinated in zeolite need counter cations (such as H^+ or NH^+) to neutralize the negative charge. Hence, the positive charges on nitrogen ions in the dye can strongly attracted to the negative charges on Al sites ① and also deprotonated silanol groups ② as seen in Fig. [13.](#page-10-2) Logically, as the number of Al^{3+} increases in the zeolite framework, more negative centres are formed, and more dye molecules can be adsorbed. This can explain why MOR is more active than Beta although Beta has high surface area than MOR, but it has very small Al content. On the other hand, another parameter must be considered, which is the repulsion between the adsorbed dye molecules on the zeolite surface. That is why there is no big diference between zeolite HY and MOR in adsorption capacity although HY has 4 times higher Al content. But repulsion force hindered the adsorption on the Al^{3+} rich surface. As reported in the study of Hartanto et al. [[47\]](#page-13-3), another medium attraction can promote the adsorption of organic dyes over zeolite, which is the attraction between the delocalised π electron in dye

HY	T. °C	T,K	1/T	KL	Kd	ln Kd	Slope	Intercept	ΔH	ΔS	ΔG
	20	293	0.00341	0.682927	313, 101.5	12.6543	2443.3	4.3896	-20.31	36.50	-30.83
	30	303	0.00330	0.635514	291,364.1	12.5823	2443.3	4.3896			-31.70
	40	313	0.00319	0.429577	196,948.4	12.1907	2443.3	4.3896			-31.72
	45	318	0.00314	0.363057	166,450.9	12.0225	2443.3	4.3896			-31.79
Beta	T, ^o C	T,K	1/T	KL	Kd	ln Kd	Slope	Intercept	ΔН	ΔS	ΔG
	20	293	0.00341	0.321918	147,589.7	11.9022	-4053	25.661	33.70	213.35	-28.99
	30	303	0.00330	0.418994	192,096.4	12.1658	-4053	25.661			-30.65
	35	308	0.00325	0.656098	300,801	12.6142	-4053	25.661			-32.30
	45	318	0.00314	0.957895	439,166	12.9926	-4053	25.661			-34.35
MOR	T. ^o C	T,K	1/T	KL	Kd	ln Kd	Slope	Intercept	ΔH	ΔS	ΔG
	20	293	0.00341	0.406504	186,369.9	12.1355	2020.5	5.1954	-16.80	43.19	-29.56
	30	303	0.00330	0.287197	131,671.3	11.7881	2020.5	5.1954			-29.70
	40	313	0.00319	0.25	114,617.5	11.6494	2020.5	5.1954			-30.31
	45	318	0.00314	0.233728	107, 157.2	11.5821	2020.5	5.1954			-30.62

Table 6 The thermodynamic parameters for adsorption of MG onto HY, Beta, and MOR

Fig. 12 lnK_d versus 1/T plots for MG adsorption on zeolites (HY, Beta, and MOR)

Fig. 13 The proposed mechanism of MG adsorption over the diferent zeolite samples

benzene ring and the hydrogen atoms in the adsorbents ③ and ④. This can explain the high adsorption of zeolite Beta which has hydrogen ions as a counter cations for the small Al^{3+} content. Finally, hydrogen bonding \circledcirc can play a role in the adsorption affinity of the zeolite samples. In addition to the high surface area and the wide pore volume which offers high accessibility to dye molecules to travel inside the pores of the crystals. These two factors gave advantage for Beta over FERR and ZSM-5.

4.2 Activity comparison

Several studies were performed to investigate the efficiency of different adsorbents in the removal of MG dye. The adsorption capacity (mg/g) for the diferent adsorbents from literature is compared with that of commercial zeolites of the current study in Table [7](#page-11-5).

The data listed in Table [7](#page-11-5) shows that the zeolite samples can work in an efficient way as good adsorbents in the removal of MG dye. HY exhibited the second best adsorption capacity after the activated carbon samples. Moreover, HY and MOR exhibited better efficiency than three siliceous **Table 7** A comparison between the adsorption capacity (mg/g) for the diferent adsorbents from literature with that of commercial zeolites of the current study

mesoporous materials and two reported MOF samples. The listed data opens a new window for further improvement in zeolite samples to be the best synthetic adsorbent for cationic dyes.

5 Conclusion

The commercially available zeolite materials have signifcant diferences such as morphological structure, textural properties, aluminium ratio, and the counter cation. Due to such diferences, there is a remarkable diference in adsorption affinity of the zeolite samples. The current study pointed out to the great variation in the adsorption affinity of zeolite samples towards the cationic MB dye. The Al content plays the important factor in the adsorption affinity towards the investigation dye. While surface area and the pore diameter showed also significant effect on the adsorption affinity. However, the counter cation in zeolite framework did not show a major efect on zeolite adsorption of cationic dye. The samples HY, Beta, and MOR exhibited the most adsorption afnity towards MG dye. HY and MOR showed very similar behaviour, however, Beta exhibited diferent mechanism most likely due to the very small content of Al ions. The overall adsorption process was found to be spontaneous endothermic process over Beta sample, while it was spontaneous exothermic over HY and MOR. Moreover, the adsorption process belongs to the physical type with a monolayer coverage.

Acknowledgements The authors extend their appreciation to the Deanship of Scientifc Research at King Khalid University for funding this work through large group Research Project under grant number RGP2/236/44

Author contributions F.A.I. and A.A.A. performed the experimental study and M.S.H. wrote the manuscript and supervised the entire work

Funding The current research was funded from the Deanship of Scientifc Research at King Khalid University for funding this work through large group Research Project under grant number RGP2/236/44.

Data Availability The data of the current research are available upon request from the corresponding author.

Declarations

Conflict of interest The author declare no confict of interest.

Ethical approval Not applicable.

Consent to participate Not applicable.

Consent for publication Authors of the current manuscript are agree to publish it in the current form.

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