

Improvement Coagulation Process in Removing Turbidity and Total Organic Carbon from Contaminated Water by Mixing Two Coagulants

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Abstract

Turbidity previously linked with the presence of pathogens has been eradicated by the coagulation process. Coagulation is a chemical treatment procedure that removes solids from water by changing the electrostatic charges of particles suspended in water. The eradication of turbidity and total organic carbon (TOC) has been investigated in this research by adding coagulants such as alum and FeCl_3 respectively in concentrations (0, 5, 15, 25, 35, 45mg/L) to water in each jar on a jar measure. And studying the effect of the coagulant concentration on the removal of turbidity and total organic carbon (TOC). The concentration used (0,5,15,25,35 mg/L) in each jars in the jar test. The speed of flash and slow mixing got initially by testing with three different speeds (flash mixing 400,300,220rpm) and (slow mixing 50,60,70rpm) and then selecting the one that provided the least turbidity and total organic carbon. The same procedure done with three different pH of water (6,7,25,8) to study the effect of pH on coagulation. The findings show that FeCl_3 is more successful at removing turbidity and total organic carbon. It has been observed that 220 rpm, 50 rpm, 6 pH yields the best outcomes. Mixing of two Coagulant alum and FeCl_3 was studied to improve coagulation process and reduce the cost of coagulant. Mixing of two coagulants was made with proportions (Alum100%+ FeCl_3 0%, Alum75%+ FeCl_3 25%, Alum50%+ FeCl_3 50%, Alum25%+ FeCl_3 75%, Alum0%+ FeCl_3 100%). Best removal of turbidity and TOC at 25 mg/L (75 percent Alum25%+ FeCl_3 75%). This study proved that Mixing coagulation improves the coagulation process in removing turbidity and total organic carbon.

Keywords: Turbidity, Coagulation, Total organic carbon, Flocculation

1. Introduction

Coagulation is a chemical treatment process that removes solids from water by altering the electrostatic charges of suspended particles. During this method, small, highly charged molecules are put into the water to disrupt the charges on particles, colloids, or oily materials in suspension. Coagulation is a technique for eliminating and dealing with turbidity in water [1], [2]. The employment of coagulant and flocculation supports such as alum, ferric chloride, and long-chain polymers is one of the most widely used processes for eliminating suspended particles in drinking water [3], [4], [5]. If the turbidity of the water is not too high, the natural organic materials (NOM) content decide the coagulant demand [6]. Coagulation is a step in the traditional water treatment process. The appearance of a destabilizing colloid in a water stream is the first distinctive characteristic of this phase. Organic and inorganic particles may be presented in these colloids. According to recent research, natural organic materials (NOM), notably the dissolved organic carbon reservoir, have a significant stabilizing impact on inorganic particles in water. When organic goods are spontaneously occurring, O'Melia discovered that the coagulation kinetics of inorganic particulates were determined by the properties and concentration of natural organics rather than the inorganic particles themselves [7].

Turbidity is the major factor of light scattering or reflection. High turbidity may make disinfection harder and offer a breeding ground for bacteria. Turbidity may be used to determine the amount of gross phosphorus and suspended particles in streams [8]. Turbidity may be a better substitute for stream flow when estimating suspended-sediment loads [9]. There for, Turbidity peaks are thought to be potential pathogen breakthroughs. It is an essential metric for controlling microbial risk in drinking water treatment. The electrostatic characteristics of various microbial surfaces as a function of turbidity as a pathogen indication [10], [11], [12]. The dilution area around the diffusers for a non-stratified water column may be delineated using turbidity as an environmental tracer [13]. The adding of particle size analysis, total suspended solids, reactive suspended solids, suspended solids concentration, total dissolved solids, and other water quality indicators can be used to determine turbidity. In addition to these measurements, secondary measurements, such as phytoplankton species, sediment source, composition, sediment transport, and flux, can aid in the classification of turbidity. [14].

Coagulation performance is affected by a number of parameters, including particle size and type, the quantity and structure of dissolved solid normal organic matter (NOM), the chemical and physical properties of the water, the coagulant's form, dosage, and pH. [15], [16], [17]. The

efficacy of coagulation is determined by a number of factors, some of which are related to environmental conditions. Rainfall events can cause rapid changes in the properties of fresh water, including B. increases in turbidity, Natural organic matter(NOM), and microbial burden. [18]. These anomalies can affect standard water treatment (sedimentation, coagulation, and filtration), increasing the need for coagulants.

In recent years, researchers have focused on this specific topic and proposed an alternative strategy to enhance coagulation performance during precipitation, such as minimizing turbidity by increasing alkalinity. [19], [20], using ion exchange for NOM regulation [21], and defining a turbidity-based index to identify rainy periods that disrupt care [22]. The jar test is Typically employed to identify coagulation and flocculation processes. During the coagulation phase, the neutralization or reduction of the charge on the suspended particles, or the charge corresponding to the zeta potential on the minuscule particles in the water, causes them to indiscriminately repel each other, maintaining the separation of the small colloidal particles as they float. The flocculation/coagulation process neutralizes or reduces the negative charge of the particles. The van der Waals attraction is then utilized to promote the initial aggregation of finely suspended matter and colloidal particles, thereby producing microflow. Flocculation employs polymers with long chain lengths, such as flocculants, to mechanically combine or aggregate microfluidic particles into expansive aggregates. Standard coagulation/flocculation unit method [23] is divided into three phases:

- 1) Rapid or Rapid Mixing: After adding the necessary chemicals (coagulants/flocculants and, if necessary, pH adjusters), the effluent is vigorously mixed.
- 2) Slow blending (coagulation and flocculation): at this stage, effluent undergoes minimal coagulation and flocculation. Stir to form broad granules and rapidly separate.
- 3) Sedimentation: The flocculation-produced particles must settle and then be discarded.

Traditionally, the coagulation mechanism is used to eliminate turbidity, which is frequently caused by the presence of microorganisms. Today, however, it is frequently adapted or altered to decrease total organic carbon (TOC) [24]. Thus, enhanced coagulation has been described as the progression from hazy to hazy plus natural organic matter (NOM) elimination in conventional coagulation. In addition to total organic carbon and alkalinity, other conditions, such as the form and concentration of coagulant and the purity of organic matter, must be considered. [25], [26], [27], [28], [29][30]. Selecting the most effective coagulant(s), increasing coagulant dosages, and adjusting pH are all parts of enhanced coagulation [31], [32], [33].

Traditional inorganic coagulants have numerous disadvantages, including high chemical costs and possible health hazards [34]. Since these metals are believed to be harmful to humans and other living organisms, the level of Aluminum or Iron that occurs in drinking water despite

increased coagulation is of grave concern, as they can cause Alzheimer's disease, osteoporosis, anemia, and anorexia Aluminum[35], [36].

Numerous researchers have studied Coagulation and fluctuation process [37], [38]. The previous studies investigated the effectiveness of aluminum sulfate (alum) and $FeCl_3$ in coagulation each one a lonely and comparing between them in efficiency of removal of turbidity and total organic carbon but the current study in addition to use each coagulant (aluminum sulfate (alum) and $FeCl_3$) a lonely. Both coagulants (aluminum sulfate (alum) and $FeCl_3$) together is used to improve the coagulation in removing turbidity and total organic carbon because mixing the coagulant increase the ionic compound that leading to adhere with organic pollutant in the water. The effect of rapid and slow mixing, pH of water is studied by making a lot of experiments to determine the optimum speed of mixing and adjust pH of the water to understand the mechanism of coagulation and fluctuation process to be able to enhance this technology in water treatment.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 Chemicals and equipments

2.1.1 Chemicals

1. Contaminated Water Properties listed in Table .1

Table 1 Contaminated Water Properties

| Turbidity | Total Organic Carbon | pH |
|-----------|----------------------|------|
| 102NTU | 2.8326 mg/L | 7.25 |

2. Coagulants

- a. alum (aluminum sulfate, $Al_2(SO_4)_3 \cdot n H_2O$).
- b. $FeCl_3$

2.1.2 Equipments

1. jar tester
2. Turbidirect, Lori bond
3. Multi N/C(3100), analytik jena(company)

2.2 Experimental Procedure

1. The alum (aluminum sulfate, $Al_2(SO_4)_3 \cdot n H_2O$) (1gm) and $FeCl_3$ (1gm) powder were weighed and dissolved in the 1-liter water separately.

2. The various test jars (wise stir® jar tester) were filled with water (102NTU, 2.8326 mg/L TOC). A coagulant such as alum was added in each jar as listed in **Table .2** and mixed at 400rpm for 1min. The speed was slowed to 70rpm in 10 min followed by a slow down to 0 rpm in 15 min. The alum was allowed to sediment at the bottom of the jar. Supernatant turbidity was measured by (Turbidirect, Lori bond) and TOC was measured by (Multi N/C(3100), analytik jena(company)).

Table 2 Concentration of Coagulants add in Jars

| Sequence of Jars | | | | | |
|------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Jar | Jar | Jar | Jar | Jar | Jar |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |

| Concentration of Coagulant mg/L | 0 | 5 | 15 | 25 | 35 | 45 |
|---------------------------------|---|---|----|----|----|----|
|---------------------------------|---|---|----|----|----|----|

3. A similar procedure was repeated for $FeCl_3$. However, the initial speed was 300,220 rpm for 1 min, followed by 60,50 rpm in 10 min. Again supernatant turbidity and TOC were measured.

4. Mixing the two coagulants (alum and $FeCl_3$) and making the treatment mentioned in the above procedure. the concentration of the mixture of the two coagulants are as **Table .2** mg/L respectively and the Coagulants percentage of the mixture listed in **Table .3** and repeated the experiment with every concentration at this percentage repeating all the procedures above with water of PH 6, 7.25, and 8.5 to study the pH effect.

Table 3 Percentage of Coagulants
Coagulant

| A= $FeCl_3$ | B=Alum (Sulfate Alminium) |
|-------------|---------------------------|
| 0% | 0% |
| 0% | 100% |
| 25% | 75% |
| 50% | 50% |
| 75% | 25% |
| 100% | 0% |

3.RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The standard method used in removal the turbidity and total organic carbon from the polluted water is the coagulation and fluctuation process by using jarrest equipment. Many researchers used the same technique [37], [38].

3.1 Coagulants Used in The Current Study.

1.Alum ($Al_2(SO_4)_3 \cdot 18H_2O$).

This study examined the effect of combining coagulation (Alum and $FeCl_3$) on the removal of turbidity and total organic carbon (TOC). Alum a trivalent salt, has a greater capacity for coagulation than the majority of electrolytes. After a series of hydrolytic reactions, the Al^{3+} trivalent ion dissociates into aqua metal complexes and numerous mononuclear species are produced (hydroxo-alum in this case). This mononuclear ion has a positive charge, allowing it to bind to negatively charged clay or silica particles in the solution, causing them to coagulate. [39], [40]. Previous studies are similar to current study in utilizing Alum in Coagulation [41], [42].

2. $FeCl_3$

Fe^{2+} mononuclear ions are produced by $FeCl_3$ coagulant neutralize negative charge of impurities in the water . In

the present study $FeCl_3$ eliminated turbidity and total organic carbon(TOC) more effectively than alum as shown in **Figs.1.(a) and (b), 2.(a) and (b), 3.(a) and (b)**. Numerous authors reported comparable results[2], [24], [43], [44], [45] . Since $FeCl_3$ has a higher active metal content and a higher molecular weight of Fe, $FeCl_3$ has a far larger total usable surface than alum[42], [46], [47].

3.2 Effect of flash mixing speed on turbidity removal and total organic carbon contained.

Flash mixing make coagulant disperse in the water lead to neutralize negative charge with positive charge. In the present investigation, experiments were conducted at different flash mixing rates (400, 300, and 220 rpm) to examine the impact of flash mixing producing the least turbidity. 220 revolutions per minute effectively eradicate turbidity and total organic carbon(TOC). **Fig 1.(a) and (b)** below shows that the removal of turbidity and total organic carbon (TOC) decreased as the speed of flash mixing increased because in extreme fast speed mixing make particles repel each other instead of neutralizing that prevents making flocs in slow mixing[48] .

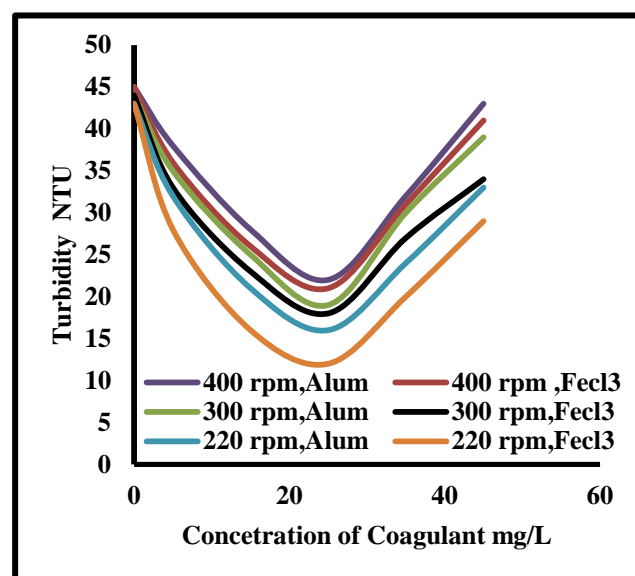
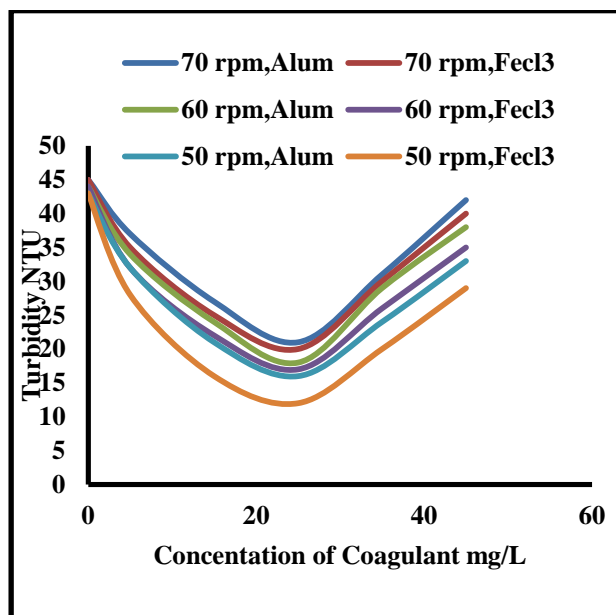
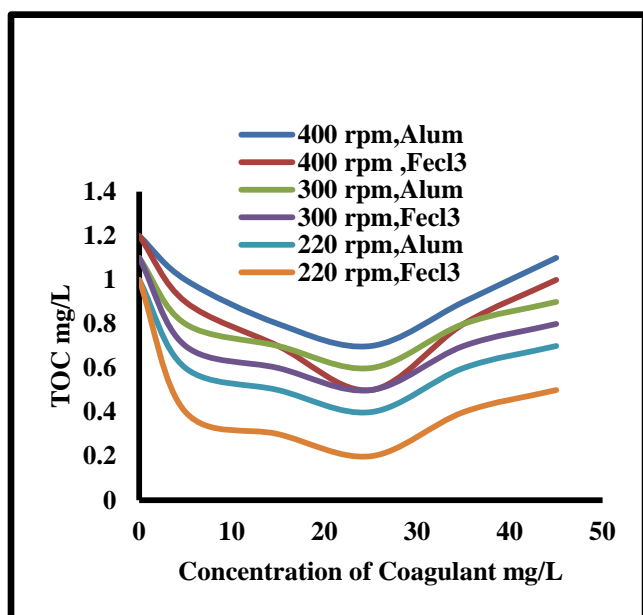


Fig.1 Effect of alum and $FeCl_3$ at different flash mixing speed.(a)On turbidity



(b) On total organic carbon

Fig.2 Effect of alum and FeCl₃ at different slow mixing speed (a)On turbidity.

3.3 Effect of slow mixing speed on turbidity removal and total organic carbon contained

slow mixing makes positive and negative charges of impurities and coagulants that formed in rapid mixing stage attract each other with enough time 10 min to form floc that sediment in the third stage to settle and then remove it from the water. Figs 2.(a) and (b) shows that as slow mixing increases the removal of turbidity and total organic carbon decreases because powerful slow speed prevents making flocs and breaking them and settle in the jars that lead to fail the removal [49] Due to decreased floc shearing during initial floc formation, a slower mixture speed can improve turbidity removal at lower concentrations [50]. The optimal rate for sluggish blending in the current study was determined to be 50 rpm.

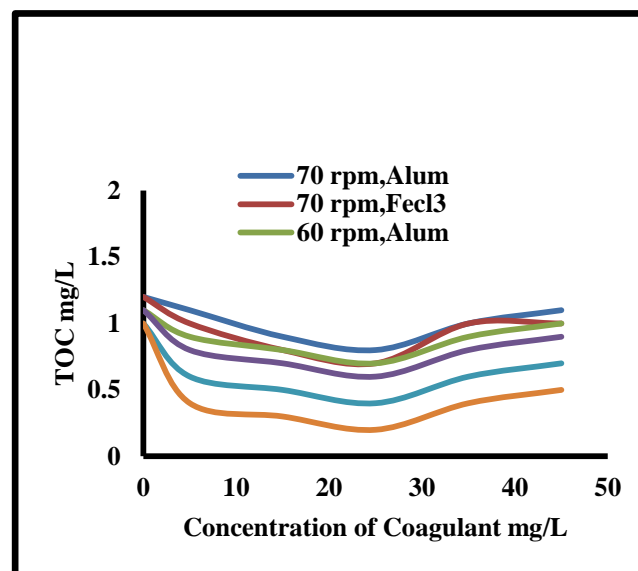


Fig. b On total organic carbon.

3.4 Effect of pH on turbidity removal and total organic carbon

pH regulation is one of the most significant aspects of coagulation. The optimal pH for removing natural organic materials (NOM) varies with the type of water [51]. It affects the surface charge of colloids, and the pH at which coagulation occurs is the most important factor in assuring effective coagulation [52] [53]. In the current study as the pH of the water decreased, turbidity and total organic carbon (TOC) also decreased. As shown in Figs 3.(a) and (b) due to the fact that the coagulation powers of both coagulants (alum and ferric chloride) increased as pH decreased. The explanation of this result is the pH of water is crucial to the coagulation process. Since acidic

coagulants consume alkalinity from water, the pH must be decreased to increase coagulation and prevent the addition of a heavy coagulant [51]. The optimal removal of turbidity and total organic carbon TOC in the present study in water with a pH of 6 at the flocculation mixing speeds of 50 rpm (10 min), flash mixing speeds of 220 rpm (1 min), and sedimentation time of 15 min. Similar results have been published by prior authors [15], [54] [55]. Another study has done by [56] gave opposite results and explained the discrepancy between his study and the current study that the suspension predominantly employed a sweep-coagulation mechanism. Therefore, disparities in suspension properties, specifically particle size, the volume of solids in the travertine suspension used is also greater than the particle size in the current increased coagulating power and, can be explained Since all travertine and selective granules are negatively charged although the higher pH [57]. Another study conflicts with current study conclusion [58], [59]

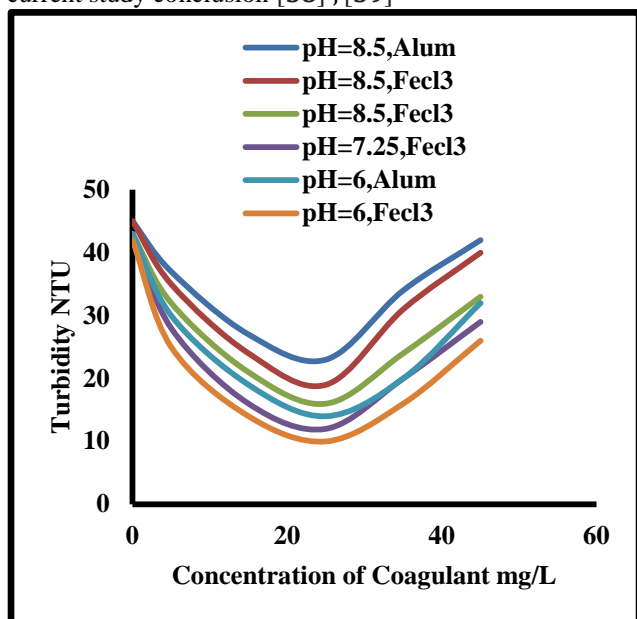


Fig.3 Effect of pH on alum and FeCl₃ coagulation (a) On turbidity .

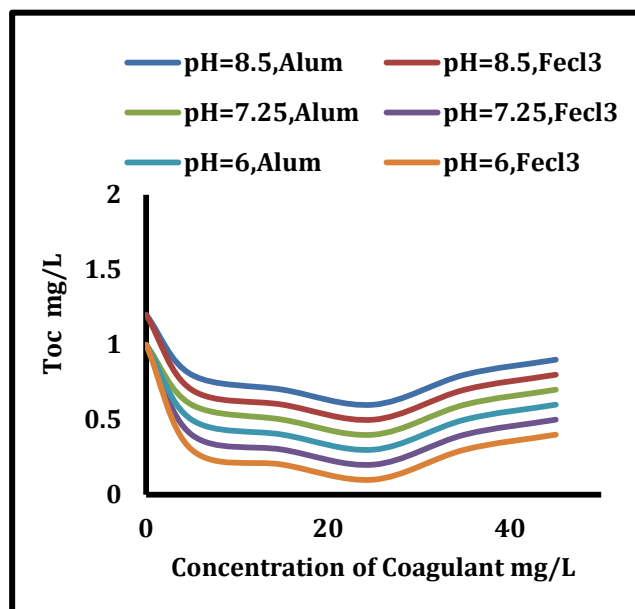


Fig . b On total organic carbon .

3.5 Effect of coagulant concentration on turbidity and total organic carbon removal.

Different concentrations of coagulant (0,5,15,25,35 mg/L) were put in each jar in the jar test to show the increasing of coagulant dosage effect . It is shown in Fig 1.(a) and (b), Fig 2.(a) and (b) , Fig 3.(a) and (b) as coagulant concentration increasing the removal of turbidity and total organic carbon increased until reach 25 mg/L begin to decrease the removal [41], [47].

3.6 Comparison between Alum and FeCl₃

The turbidity and total organic carbon of water decreased as coagulant concentrations increased. As more coagulants failed to eliminate turbidity and TOC, the turbidity and TOC of water at high coagulant concentrations increased. Since charge neutralization is dominant at low doses and the sweep-flocculation process becomes dominant at very high doses, as shown in Fig 1.(a) and (b), Fig 2.(a) and (b) , Fig 3.(a) and (b) an excess amount may have a negative effect on coagulation due to colloidal particle destabilization and charge reversal formation [58], [59]. Numerous authors reported comparable results [2], [39], [40], [42], [43]. Since FeCl₃ has a higher active metal content and a higher molecular weight of Fe, FeCl₃ has a far larger total usable surface than alum [40], [43].

3.7 Effect of alum and FeCl₃ mixture on turbidity and total organic carbon removal

FeCl₃ is more effective than alum, so adding a percentage of FeCl₃ to alum increased its efficacy. The purpose of this research is to increase the efficiency of alum by adding a percentage of FeCl₃ rather than using FeCl₃ alone, as shown in Fig. 4 (a) and (b). Since FeCl₃ is more expensive than alum, the blending reduces the cost. Best removal of turbidity and TOC at 25 mg/L (75 percent

FeCl₃ and 25 percent Alum). The previous study agreed with this result [38].

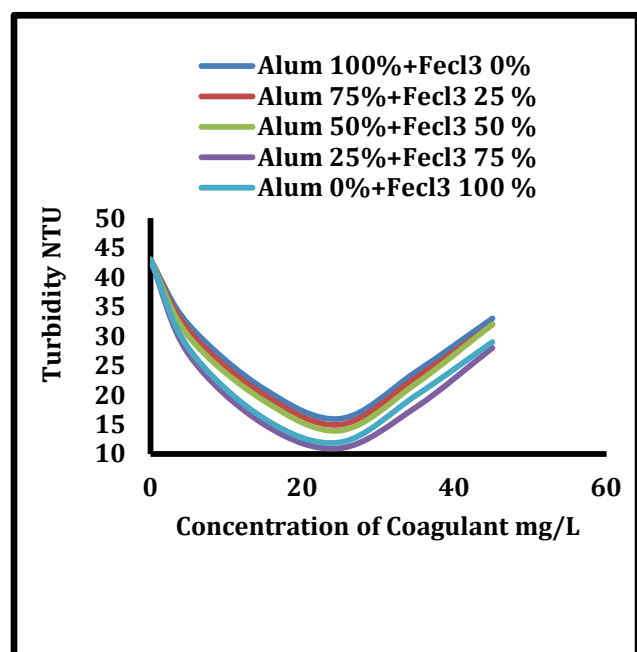


Fig. 4 a Effect of the mixture of alum and FeCl₃ on turbidity removal

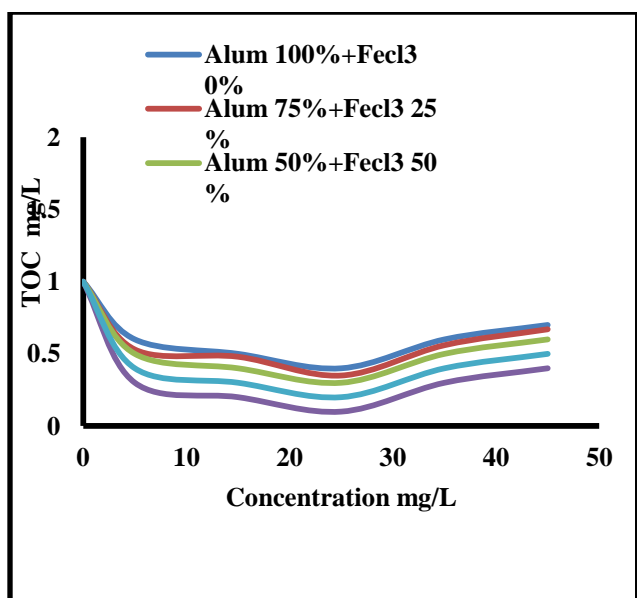


Fig. 4 b. Effect of the mixture of alum and FeCl₃ on turbidity removal.

CONCLUSION

The conclusion of the study is that combining coagulants improves the efficacy of removing turbidity and TOC. In addition, the optimal conditions for rapid blending coagulation were determined through a series of experiments. The three fastest velocities are 220, 300, and

400 revolutions per minute. It has been determined that the top three sluggish combining velocities are (50, 60, and 70 rpm), with 50 rpm producing the finest results. Concerning slow mixing speed, it was discovered that reducing slow mixing speed increases the efficacy of removing turbidity. Finally, the optimal water pH was determined using three distinct values (6, 7.25, and 8), and 6 pH yielded the finest results. In conclusion, the results indicate that FeCl₃ was more effective than alum at removing turbidity and total organic carbon (TOC).

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