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**INVESTIGATION OF Ni-AL HYDROXIDE WITH SILVER ADDITION AS AN ACTIVE SUBSTANCE OF ALKALINE BATTERIES (p. 6-11)****Valerii Kotok**

Ukrainian State University of Chemical Technology, Dnipro, Ukraine  
 Federal State Educational Institution of Higher Education  
 "Vyatka State University", Kirov, Russian Federation  
**ORCID:** <http://orcid.org/0000-0001-8879-7189>

**Vadym Kovalenko**

Ukrainian State University of Chemical Technology, Dnipro, Ukraine  
 Federal State Educational Institution of Higher Education  
 "Vyatka State University", Kirov, Russian Federation  
**ORCID:** <http://orcid.org/0000-0002-8012-6732>

**Sergey Vlasov**

National Mining University, Dnipro, Ukraine  
 Federal State Educational Institution of Higher Education  
 "Vyatka State University", Kirov, Russian Federation  
**ORCID:** <http://orcid.org/0000-0002-5537-6342>

Layered double hydroxides with different ratios of nickel and aluminum in the presence of Ag<sup>+</sup> ions and without silver have been synthesized: Ni:Al – 80:20 %, Ni:Al:Ag – 80:15:5 % and 75:15:5 %. The obtained nickel hydroxide powders have a structure similar to  $\alpha$ -Ni(OH)<sub>2</sub> with a large number of crystal lattice defects. As a result of galvanostatic charge-discharge cycling, it was revealed that the addition of silver in the chemical synthesis stage increases the hydroxide utilization coefficient at fast discharges but decrease it at slow discharges. A possible mechanism that explains the influence of added silver during synthesis on discharge characteristics of hydroxide powders was proposed. The mechanism is that silver oxide, which is a semiconductor, is mixed with hydroxide and increases the specific conductivity of the powder. Increased electrical conductivity has a positive effect on charge effectiveness, because the initial phase has lower electrical conductivity than the oxidized form – NiOOH. Because the charge involves two processes – the main process of active material charging and evolution of molecular oxygen, the electrical conductivity would play a key role in the electrode charging. At low electrical conductivity and fast charge, the current would primarily be consumed by the side process of oxygen evolution. In case of slow charges, additional electrical conductivity due to the presence of silver oxide would not have a great effect on charge effectiveness, because under such conditions the own conductivity of hydroxide is sufficient. Additionally, the presence of silver oxide would decrease the hydroxide content, which in turn would decrease the utilization coefficient that is calculated from the total mass of the powder.

**Keywords:** nickel hydroxide, alkaline secondary battery, Ni(OH)<sub>2</sub>, layered double hydroxide, silver oxide.

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**MECHANOACTIVATION OF PORTLAND CEMENT IN THE TECHNOLOGY OF MANUFACTURING THE SELF-COMPACTING CONCRETE (p. 12-17)****Ivan Barabash**Odessa State Academy of Civil Engineering and Architecture,  
Odessa, UkraineORCID: <http://orcid.org/0000-0003-0241-4728>**Darya Harashchenko**Odessa State Academy of Civil Engineering and Architecture,  
Odessa, Ukraine, 65029ORCID: <http://orcid.org/0000-0003-1518-866X>

This paper examines the intensive separation technology for producing a self-compacting concrete (SCC). We substantiate the proposed technology of SCC production through the effective control over viscosity of cement-water compositions, which to a large extent ensure the mobility of concrete mixes. A separate preparation of cement-water compositions at a high-speed mixer with its subsequent mixing with fillers in a regular concrete mixer profoundly changes the priorities in the production technology of a concrete mix. We substantiate the idea on that the use of the separation technology could optimize the modes of high-speed mixing in order to separately prepare the highly concentrated cement-containing suspensions under conditions of intensive hydrodynamic impacts on them. Particular attention is paid to studying the effect of content of the superplasticizer of polycarboxylate type Relaxol-Super PC, microsilica, and polypropylene fibers, on effective viscosity of the cement-containing suspension. Comparative analysis of influence of the original formulation factors on its value is described. It was found that the mechanoactivation of a cement-containing suspension in the presence of the admixture Relaxol-Super PC leads to the complete destruction of its original structure, which is necessary for the uniform distribution of microsilica and polypropylene fibers in the volume.

We describe the features of grain composition, rendering exclusive fluidity to the concrete mix, as well as the possibility of laying it in the mold without vibration. The intensive separation technology makes it possible to obtain SCC with the F4, F5 grades for fluidity, and compressive strength at the age of 28 days not less than 55 MPa.

We have scientifically substantiated and experimentally confirmed the effectiveness of mechanical activation for the separation technology of self-compacting concrete mixes and the high-strength concretes based on them.

**Keywords:** mechanoactivation, self-compacting concrete, effective viscosity, superplasticizer, polycarboxylate, microsilica, polypropylene fibers.

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## STUDY OF THE OXIDATION KINETICS OF NITRITE IONS BY POTASSIUM FERRATE(VI) (p. 18-25)

**James Carr**

University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, Nebraska, USA  
**ORCID:** <http://orcid.org/0000-0002-3985-7226>

**Irina Goncharova**

Kyiv National University of Trade and Economics, Kyiv, Ukraine  
**ORCID:** <http://orcid.org/0000-0001-7867-9154>

**Dmitriy Golovko**

Ukrainian State University of Chemical Technology,  
 Dnipro, Ukraine  
**ORCID:** <http://orcid.org/0000-0003-0379-083X>

**Charles McLaughlin**

Montana State University, Bozeman, Montana, USA  
**ORCID:** <http://orcid.org/0000-0002-2872-7434>

**Igor Golovko**

Ukrainian State University of Chemical Technology, Dnipro,  
 Ukraine  
**ORCID:** <http://orcid.org/0000-0001-5273-2818>

**John Erickson**

Novartis Consumer Health, Lincoln, Nebraska, USA  
**ORCID:** <http://orcid.org/0000-0001-7605-6252>

The oxidation kinetics of nitrite to nitrate ions by potassium ferrate(VI) in a wide range of pH, from neutral to alkaline medium has been studied. Two series of kinetic experiments based on the different technologies for obtaining potassium ferrate(VI) were conducted. In the first series of experiments, crystalline potassium ferrate(VI) was prepared by the chemical synthesis. In the pH range 6.5–11, solid  $K_2FeO_4$  was added to solutions of nitrite ions at known concentration and pH. Kinetic studies were performed under pH and ionic strength controlled conditions. Half times for these experiments ranged from milliseconds to a few minutes. In the second series of experiments, solutions of  $K_2FeO_4$  were generated by the electrochemical synthesis. Alkaline solutions of potassium ferrate(VI) in 8.0 M KOH were obtained at  $t=20$  °C by electrochemical dissolution of steel plates ( $S=10$  cm<sup>2</sup>) containing: C – 0.16 %; Mn – 0.43 %; Si – 0.04 %; S – 0.03 %; P – 0.04 %; the rest is Fe. The experiments were performed with fresh solutions of potassium ferrate(VI) and solutions, aged after the synthesis for several days. Kinetic studies were performed under nitrite concentrations controlled conditions. Half times in this case were in the range of several minutes to hours. It is found out that the maximum reaction rate is achieved by aging solution  $K_2FeO_4$  after the synthesis for 8 days. Both methods show that the oxidation rate is controlled by the concentration of protonated ferrate,  $HF_4O_4^-$ . The dependence of the observed rate constants on pH, nitrite concentrations and ionic strength has been investigated. The true rate constants of reaction are found. Particular orders of the reaction by nitrite and ferrate ions and the overall order of the reaction are calculated. The oxidation rate constant of water by Fe(VI) is found. The studies presented in this paper are important because the oxidation kinetics of harmful inorganic and organic substances by ferrates(VI) of alkali metals is widely used to determine the optimal parameters of technological processes for the purification of surface water, industrial wastewater and air.

**Keywords:** potassium ferrate(VI), nitrite ions, oxidation kinetics, ferrate(VI) synthesis, alkaline solutions.

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**SYNTHESIS OF MAGNETITE NANOPARTICLES STABILIZED BY POLYVINYLPIRROLIDONE AND ANALYSIS OF THEIR ABSORPTION BANDS (p. 26-32)**

**Maria Pasichnyk**

Mykolaiv National University  
named after V. O. Sukhomlinsky, Mykolaiv, Ukraine  
ORCID: <http://orcid.org/0000-0003-3213-9720>

**Elena Kucher**

Mykolaiv National University  
named after V. O. Sukhomlinsky, Mykolaiv, Ukraine  
ORCID: <http://orcid.org/0000-0002-9963-6855>

**Lyudmila Hyrlyia**

Mykolaiv National Agrarian University, Mykolaiv, Ukraine  
ORCID: <http://orcid.org/0000-0002-8964-4253>

We report results of studying the synthesis of magnetite nanoparticles. The formed dispersions were explored with the use of the spectrophotometric method. The spectra of optical absorption of nanomagnetite dispersions were analyzed using the theory of plasmon oscillations. Synthesis of nanoparticles was performed in the aqueous

solution and with the use of 3.5 % polyvinylpyrrolidone as dispersed medium. The ratio of salts of ferrum (III)/(II) was 1.5:1. Working concentrations of reactive substances were chosen, which resulted in the formation of stable dispersions of nanoparticles with magnetic properties. It was shown that when changing the amount and the method of introduction of ammonia solution into the system, more stable dispersions of nanoparticles are formed. As a result of the research into surface plasmon resonance of magnetite nanoparticles dispersions, it was found that all synthesized solutions are characterized by a maximum of absorption at the wavelength of 350 nm, however, intensity of absorption bands directly depends on dimensions of the particles. Magnetite nanoparticles, synthesized with the use of 3.5 % polyvinylpyrrolidone (PVP) as dispersed medium, are characterized by existence of three bands at 350 nm, 950 nm, and 1,050 nm. The possible mechanism of stabilization of magnetite nanoparticles in polyvinylpyrrolidone was proposed. In the course of the study, it was found that polyvinylpyrrolidone, on the one hand, contributes to nucleation, and on the other hand, effectively stabilizes nanoparticles.

**Keywords:** nanoparticles, magnetite, plasmon resonance, polyvinylpyrrolidone (PVP), absorption bands, radius of nanoparticles, aggregation resistance.

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### FORMATION OF OXIDE FUELS ON VT6 ALLOY IN THE CONDITIONS OF ANODIAL POLARIZATION IN SOLUTIONS H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> (p. 33-38)

Alexei Pilipenko

National Technical University  
«Kharkiv Polytechnic Institute», Kharkiv, Ukraine  
ORCID: <http://orcid.org/0000-0001-5004-3680>

Hanna Pancheva

National Technical University  
«Kharkiv Polytechnic Institute», Kharkiv, Ukraine  
ORCID: <http://orcid.org/0000-0001-9397-3546>

Viktoriya Deineka

National University of Civil Defences of Ukraine, Kharkiv, Ukraine  
ORCID: <http://orcid.org/0000-0002-5781-7092>

Roman Vorozhbiyan

National Technical University  
«Kharkiv Polytechnic Institute», Kharkiv, Ukraine  
ORCID: <http://orcid.org/0000-0002-0864-2281>

Marina Chyrkina

National University of Civil Defences of Ukraine, Kharkiv, Ukraine  
ORCID: <http://orcid.org/0000-0002-2060-9142>

We report results of research into a process of electrochemical oxidation of the titanium alloy VT6 in solutions of H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. It is shown that the character of forming dependences for alloy samples depends on the magnitude of current density. At  $j < 0.5 \text{ A} \cdot \text{dm}^{-2}$ , a continuous oxide film does not form at the surface of the alloy; the assigned value for voltage is not reached. At  $j > 0.5 \text{ A} \cdot \text{dm}^{-2}$ , a continuous oxide film forms at the surface of the alloy; a linear character of dependences is observed. The films obtained under these conditions relate to the interferential-colored films. A film thickness limit is defined by the assigned magnitude of  $U$  and does not depend on other parameters of the electrolysis. For the series of identical values for  $U$ , dependence of  $\tau$ - $j$  has a linear shape. The color of the oxide film is determined by the value of voltage and does not depend on the current density and electrolyte concentration. We established a correspondence between a color of the film and the magnitude of  $U$  in

the range of 10–100 V. This effect is due to the fact that the formation of a film at anodic polarization occurs in the presence of a gradient in the potential whose quantity for titanium is a constant magnitude. Increasing the assigned magnitude of  $U$  leads to a proportional increase in the maximum thickness of the oxide, which determines its color. Results of our study on determining the effect of electrolysis parameters on the characteristics of oxide films made it possible to substantiate the mode for obtaining  $TiO_2$  films at the surface of the alloy VT6. The data obtained form the basis for the development of technology for electrochemical oxidation of titanium implants in order to render functional properties to their surface.

**Keywords:** oxide films, titanium dioxide, implant, electrochemical oxidation, forming dependence.

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## RESEARCH INTO STRUCTURE FORMATION AND PROPERTIES OF THE FIBERREINFORCED AERATED CONCRETE OBTAINED BY THE NONAUTOCLAVED HARDENING (p. 39-46)

Oksana Pozniak

Lviv Polytechnic National University, Lviv, Ukraine  
ORCID: <http://orcid.org/0000-0002-2848-7856>

Myroslav Sanytsky

Lviv Polytechnic National University, Lviv, Ukraine  
ORCID: <http://orcid.org/0000-0002-8609-6079>

**Igor Zavadsky**

Lviv Polytechnic National University, Lviv, Ukraine  
**ORCID:** <http://orcid.org/0000-0001-7432-0013>

**Serhii Braichenko**

Lviv Polytechnic National University, Lviv, Ukraine  
**ORCID:** <http://orcid.org/0000-0002-5503-422X>

**Andriy Melnyk**

Ferozit LTD, Lviv, Ukraine  
**ORCID:** <http://orcid.org/0000-0001-7246-5227>

We have investigated the influence of the ratio cement:fly-ash and the temperature of mixing water on the properties of aerated concrete mixes and aerated concrete. It was established that the rational cement-fly ash ratio is 1:1; the mixing water temperature is 40 °C. Experimental research confirmed that the introduction of waste from salt processing and metakaolin to the formulation of binding compositions leads to the formation, rather than the metastable hexagonal calcium hydro-aluminates, of the stable compounds in the structure of partitions between pores of the hydrocalumite and hydro-carboaluminate type. That allowed the targeted structure formation of partitions between pores of the non-autoclaved aerated concrete, which improves the density of partitions and the strength of aerated concrete. It is shown that the introduction of polypropylene fibers to composition of aerated concrete does not affect the kinetics of swelling of the aerated concrete array. However, the introduction of polypropylene fibers improves the strength of aerated concrete based on the modified binding composition containing metakaolin by 47 %, the modified binding composition containing carbonate-containing waste – by 32 %. For the aerated concrete of the B1.5–B2 class of strength, at a density within 615–625 kg/m<sup>3</sup>, the estimated coefficient of thermal conductivity is 0.16 W/(m·K), which makes it possible to reduce heat losses through external enclosures.

Thus, there is reason to assert the possibility of the targeted control over the processes of forming a strong structure of partitions between pores using the modified binding compositions containing supplementary cementitious materials. The application of polypropylene fibers enables the reinforcement of aerated-concrete array, forming a strong structural frame of partitions between pores, and ensuring greater strength of the non-autoclaved aerated concrete.

**Keywords:** non-autoclaved aerated concrete, kinetics of swelling, density, strength, polypropylene fiber.

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**STUDY OF THE EFFECT OF MICELLAR CATALYSIS ON THE STRENGTH OF ALKALINE REACTIVE POWDER CONCRETE (p. 46-51)**

**Alexsander Shishkin**

Kryvyi Rih National University, Kryvyi Rih, Ukraine  
**ORCID:** <http://orcid.org/0000-0003-3331-1422>

**Alexsandra Shishkina**

Kryvyi Rih National University, Kryvyi Rih, Ukraine  
**ORCID:** <http://orcid.org/0000-0003-3997-7591>

Under certain conditions, an increase in the rate of hydration of the binding substance increases the strength of concrete at compression. This is especially true for the reactive powder concretes.

We studied the effect of surface-active substances, capable of forming micelles, on the rate of formation and the resulting magnitude of strength at compression of the alkaline reactive powder concretes. A particular feature of our research was studying the simultaneous action of surface-active substance that forms micelles and a reactive powder or a filler on the change in the strength of concretes. It was found that the specified micellar solutions and reaction powders change the character of formation of strength of the alkaline reactive powder concretes. The rate of strength formation over the early stages increases due to the micellar catalysis of hydration of blast-furnace granular slag, while their enhanced compressive strength is maintained at the late stages of hardening.

Strength of the alkaline reactive powder concretes, when applying the surface-active substances that form micelles, reaches 260 % of the strength of such concretes without any additives.

It was proved that the micellar catalysis could be used to control the hardening processes of a binding substance, consisting of blast-furnace granular slag and an alkaline component, and to form the strength of the resulting artificial stone. That shortens the time required for concrete to achieve the designed strength and improves the absolute magnitude of the compressive strength of such concretes at the age of 28 days.

**Keywords:** blast-furnace granular slag, alkali, micellar catalysis, concrete strength, powder concrete, micelles, surface-active substances.

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## RESEARCH OF THE TREATMENT OF DEPLETED NICKELPLATING ELECTROLYTES BY THE FERRITIZATION METHOD (p. 52-60)

**Gennadii Kochetov**

Kyiv National University of Construction and Architecture,  
Kyiv, Ukraine

ORCID: <http://orcid.org/0000-0003-0041-7335>

**Tatiana Prikhna**

V. Bakul Institute for Superhard Materials, Kyiv, Ukraine

ORCID: <http://orcid.org/0000-0002-9458-8479>

**Oleksandr Kovalchuk**

Kyiv National University of Construction and Architecture,  
Kyiv, Ukraine

ORCID: <http://orcid.org/0000-0001-6337-0488>

**Dmitry Samchenko**

Kyiv National University of Construction and Architecture,  
Kyiv, Ukraine

ORCID: <http://orcid.org/0000-0003-3305-8180>

Considerable attention has been paid recently to the development of comprehensive recycling of industrial wastewater, which provides for an appropriate degree of purification for both organization of circulation water supply, and subsequent disposal of waste of water treatment. The improved ferritization process, which allows decreasing original concentration of nickel ions in depleted electrolytes of nickel plating from 50–100 g/dm<sup>3</sup> to <0.2 mg/dm<sup>3</sup>, was presented. The experimental ferrite-reactor with the use of the traditional thermal and electromagnetic pulse method of activation of ferritization process in the range of generating frequencies of up to 0.9 kHz was developed. Economic benefits of the use of the electromagnetic pulse activation compared to the high temperature one were identified. Kinetics of extraction of nickel and iron ions from aqueous solutions was explored. The impact of the basic technological parameters of ferritization at different ways of activation was experimentally determined. The most effective results of treatment of highly concentrated wastewater were achieved using the electromagnetic pulse (T=20 °C) and thermal (T=70 °C) way of activation of the ferritization process at the original ration of concentration Fe<sup>2+</sup>/Ni<sup>2+</sup> within 3/1–4/1, total concentration of ions of heavy metals of 20–25 g/dm<sup>3</sup>, original pH of the reaction mixture of 9.5 and duration of ferritization process of 15 min. Research into phase composition and physical properties of ferritization sediments was performed. Comparative analysis of sediment volumes at different ways of compaction was carried out. Sediments are mainly characterized by the crystalline structure, ferromagnetic properties, and considerable chemical resistance. This provides for actual environmental ways of recycling, which makes it possible to avoid the loss



of valuable and, at the same time, toxic metal – nickel. The proposed comprehensive process of recycling liquid industrial waste prevents pollution of the environment, ensures effective and efficient use of water, raw materials, and power in the system of galvanic production.

**Keywords:** wastewater treatment, ferritization, industrial production, electrolytes of nickel plating, heavy metals, waste, disposal.

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### MATHEMATICAL MODEL OF OBTAINING A HYDROCARBON FUEL BASED ON THE FISCHER-TROPSCH PATHWAY IN A STATIONARY LAYER OF THE COBALTBASED CATALYST (p. 60-70)

**Yurii Zakharchuk**

National Technical University of Ukraine  
“Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute”, Kyiv, Ukraine  
ORCID: <http://orcid.org/0000-0002-9774-1942>

**Yurii Beznosyik**

National Technical University of Ukraine  
“Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute”, Kyiv, Ukraine  
ORCID: <http://orcid.org/0000-0001-7425-807X>

**Liudmyla Bugaieva**

National Technical University of Ukraine  
“Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute”, Kyiv, Ukraine  
ORCID: <http://orcid.org/0000-0003-2576-6048>

Studying the kinetics of the Fischer-Tropsch process is a rather important task, since this process is very sensitive to the temperature mode, as well as to the characteristics of the catalyst. In addition, a given process is accompanied by many side reactions that negatively affect the rate and selectivity of the reaction. The Fischer-Tropsch synthesis is an alternative source for obtaining high-quality fuel from coal or biomass rather than petroleum. Therefore, investigating the kinetics of the Fischer-Tropsch reaction, in order to improve the selectivity and activity of catalysts, and to determine the rate constants of chemical reactions, is a relevant problem.

The choice of the catalyst is one of the main factors affecting the quality and product yield for the Fischer-Tropsch synthesis. We fabricated two samples of cobalt catalysts for conducting the experi-

ments. The first sample of the catalyst  $\text{Co}/\gamma\text{-Al}_2\text{O}_3$  contains cobalt nanoparticles of the same size. The second sample of the catalyst  $(\text{Co})/\gamma\text{-Al}_2\text{O}_3$  was obtained by the method of impregnating the carrier with a solution of cobalt nitrate. The catalyst, obtained through the method of impregnation of  $(\text{Co})/\gamma\text{-Al}_2\text{O}_3$ , demonstrated a higher activity, larger by an order of magnitude than the monodispersed catalysts. However, the monodispersed catalyst showed high selectivity for the lower hydrocarbons.

In order to calculate the kinetics of the Fischer-Tropsch process and to find the reaction rate constants, we developed a software module in the programming environment MS Visual Studio 2017 in the programming language C# using the .NET Framework v4.6 technologies.

By using the developed program module, we calculated reaction rate constants of the Fischer-Tropsch process. After analyzing the data obtained, one can see that the relative error is within 2...3 %, demonstrating the adequacy of the proposed model to solve the inverse problem of chemical kinetics. Therefore, we can state that a given model for the calculation of rate constants could be applied to study the Fischer-Tropsch process.

**Keywords:** Fischer-Tropsch reaction, cobalt catalyst, inverse problem of kinetics, rate constant.

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