

# Tổng hợp xanh vật liệu khung kim loại-hữu cơ $\text{Cu}_3\text{BTC}_2$ loại bỏ methylene blue trong môi trường nước

## TÓM TẮT

Nghiên cứu này trình bày kết quả nghiên cứu tổng hợp, mô tả đặc trưng và khả năng hấp phụ của vật liệu khung cơ kim trên cơ sở Cu(II) và phối tử hữu cơ 1,3,5-benzene tricarboxylate (Cu-BTC). Cu-BTC được tổng hợp bằng phương pháp vi sóng đơn giản và được đo FTIR, SEM, XRD để kiểm tra đặc tính liên kết, hình thái, cấu trúc tinh thể. Cu-BTC được sử dụng làm chất hấp phụ để loại bỏ thuốc nhuộm họ azo như methylene blue (MB) trong nước. Các nghiên cứu về ảnh hưởng của pH, nồng độ, thời gian hấp phụ cho thấy loại bỏ MB theo mô hình hấp phụ đẳng nhiệt Freundlich và mô hình động học biểu kiến bậc hai. Do đó, cơ chế hấp phụ MB đa lớp trên bề mặt Cu-BTC không đồng nhất và chịu ảnh hưởng của lực hút tĩnh điện. Những đặc trưng này cho thấy Cu-BTC là vật liệu hứa hẹn trong việc loại bỏ MB ra khỏi nước thải định hướng ứng dụng tiềm năng trong xử lý môi trường.

**Keywords:** *Hóa học xanh, vật liệu khung kim loại-hữu cơ, kỹ thuật vi sóng, methylene blue, xử lý môi trường.*

# Green synthesis of metal-organic framework material Cu<sub>3</sub>BTC<sub>2</sub> removes methylene blue from aqueous media

## TÓM TẮT

This study presents the results of the synthesis, characterization, and adsorption capacity of organometallic framework materials based on Cu(II) and the organic ligand 1,3,5-benzene tricarboxylate (Cu-BTC). Cu-BTC was synthesized by simple microwave method, and FTIR, SEM, and XRD were measured to check the bonding, morphology, and crystal structure properties. Cu-BTC is an adsorbent to remove azo dyes such as methylene blue (MB) from water. Studies on the effects of pH, concentration, and adsorption time showed that MB was removed according to the Freundlich isotherm adsorption model and the apparent second-order kinetic model. Therefore, the multilayer MB adsorption mechanism on the Cu-BTC surface is heterogeneous and influenced by electrostatic attraction. These characteristics show that Cu-BTC is a promising material for removing MB from wastewater with potential applications in environmental treatment.

**Từ khóa:** *Green chemistry, metal-organic frameworks, microwave method, methylene blue, environment treatment.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Textile industry wastewater has severe impacts on living organisms. It must be treated to a certain extent before being released into the environment. Dyeing process wastewater contains non-biodegradable and high-toxic pigments<sup>1,2</sup>, which have been found to damage the balance<sup>3-6</sup> and integrity of ecological systems<sup>7-9</sup> and have carcinogenic effects on long-term exposure<sup>10-13</sup>. Therefore, wastewater treatment in the textile dyeing industry has become a concern on a global scale<sup>14-16</sup>. In this context, researchers have proposed metal-organic frameworks (MOFs) as one of the effective methods to remove dye wastewater<sup>17-20</sup>. Because MOF exhibits high adsorption capacity in dye removal with tunable pore diameter and surface morphology compared with other conventional adsorbent materials such as activated carbon<sup>21-23</sup>, carbon nanotubes<sup>24-26</sup>, zeolite<sup>27-29</sup>... In addition, the metal-organic framework material also has a significant photocatalytic activity for the treatment of different dye types<sup>30-34</sup>. These studies also evaluated the effectiveness of these MOFs in the process of dye removal from wastewater. Metal-organic frameworks based on copper (II) have also been synthesized, modified, combined, doped, hybridized... and evaluated for their ability to remove dyes in water environments<sup>35-40</sup>.

Many studies have applied different synthesis methods to fabricate copper based metal-organic frameworks. Solvothermal, one-step in situ growth, pre-grinding methods have all been studied to synthesize this material<sup>41-44</sup>. Synthesis of MOFs has also been of interest to meet green chemistry requirements where selection of synthesis elements has been based on reduced energy input, safe reaction solvents (such as water and supercritical solvents), continuous manufacturing method, and performance design of MOFs through theoretical predictions<sup>45-47</sup>. In this study, copper-based metal-organic framework (Cu-BTC) was synthesized green by microwave method using water/ethanol mixed solvent mixture. Cu-BTC was also evaluated for its ability to remove dyes in water by pure adsorption mechanism and simultaneous catalytic-adsorption mechanism.

## 2. EXPERIMENTAL

### 2.1. Chemicals, equipment and tools

Copper (II) chloride dihydrate (CuCl<sub>2</sub>·2H<sub>2</sub>O) (99%, Xilong Chemical Co., Ltd., Guangdong, China). 1,3,5-benzene tricarboxylic acid (H<sub>3</sub>BTC) (98%, Shanghai Macklin Biochemical Co., Ltd., Shanghai, China). Ethanol solution (C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>OH) (96%, Duc Giang Chemical, Vietnam). Methylene blue (C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>18</sub>ClN<sub>3</sub>S, MB) (≥ 85%, Merck, Germany) Duc Giang Chemical,

Vietnam). Sodium hydroxide (NaOH) (> 96%, Duc Giang Chemical, Vietnam). Hydrochloric acid (HCl) (> 35%, Duc Giang Chemical, Vietnam). Double distilled water.

Electrolux microwave oven (50 Hz, 1050 W), China. Drying cabinet, China. Ultrasonic Cleaner Ultrasonic Cleaner JP-060S, China. Centrifuge Hettich Universal 320, Germany. Test tube shaker HY-4, Jiangsu, China. Shec qualitative filter paper, Shanghai, China. Laboratory glassware and some other common tools.

## 2.2. Material synthesis

The material was synthesized from  $\text{CuCl}_2$  as follows: Weigh 1.7 g of  $\text{CuCl}_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$  into a 250 mL beaker, then add 100 mL distilled water, add 2.8 g  $\text{H}_3\text{BTC}$  acid, stir well. Put the glass cup in the microwave (reaction conditions are 45 min, 80 °C). Next, filter and wash the precipitate with ethanol and distilled water 5 times using an ultrasonic cleaner, and then centrifuge at 7,000 rpm for 10 min with a centrifuge to obtain a very blue solid product. Then, the solid product is dried at 120 °C for 2 hours in a drying oven. Store the synthetic material in a tightly closed plastic container and use it for the following experiments.

## 2.3. Techniques and methods

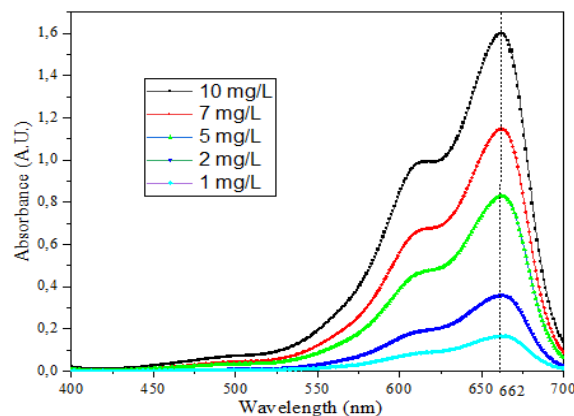
**Characterizations.** Determination of the bonding characteristics of the Cu-BTC metallurgical framework by infrared spectroscopy method FTIR in the 400 to 4000  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  wavelength range. SEM Hitachi S-4800 field emission scanning electron microscope (SEM) with magnification capability up to 100,000 times to measure the size and shape of nanostructured materials. The crystal structure of the Cu-BTC metallurgical framework material in powder form was analyzed through X-ray diffraction analyzer-D8-Advance. At 1.54 Å in a copper X-ray tube (Cu- $\text{K}\alpha$ ), the device is operated at 44 mA and 40 kV voltage. The scanning speed is 0.2 °/min to measure materials in the range (2 $\theta$ ) from 10 ° to 70 °.

**Methylene blue adsorption.** The MB solution (1 g/L) was diluted with distilled water twice to prepare the required MB solution concentrations (10, 20, 30, 40, and 50 mg/L). Methylene blue (MB) was used as a dye to study the adsorption capacity of the synthesized Cu-BTC organometallic framework. The pH of the MB solution was normalized with 1 M NaOH solution and 1 M HCl solution. Conducting experiments on the influence of pH on the MB adsorption process. 10 mg of Cu-BTC was added

to each test tube containing 20 mL of MB solution. Each glass test tube with MB solution pH of 3, 5, 7, 9, and 11, respectively, was sealed with a rubber stopper, put into a closed light-blocking cabinet, and a light cabinet to study the effect of light. Then, the test tubes were thoroughly mixed by ultrasonic washing for 15 min, shaken with a shaker at 200 rpm at room temperature to filter the solution, and finally photometrically. UV-Vis spectrum at maximum absorption wavelength to determine MB concentration based on the linear equation from the MB standard curve. Experiments to investigate the effect of pH on dye handling were carried out under the same conditions. Sample dilution was performed with double distilled water if the MB solution concentration value exceeded the maximum adsorption limit of the graph containing the MB calibration curve. Investigation of the kinetics of the adsorption process by influencing factors of pH, adsorption time, and initial MB solution concentration with the same amount of Cu-BTC adsorbent at equilibrium time was studied the same as above. The maximum wavelength of the MB solution is determined to be 662 nm. The equation can determine the concentration of MB solution at time t (unit is mg/L) to be

$$C = (\text{Abs} - 0.0216) / 0.01587 \quad (R^2 = 0.9985),$$

where A is the light absorption intensity.



**Figure 1.** UV-Vis spectra of the MB standard sample at 400 to 700 nm wavelengths.

The MB removal efficiency of the material is calculated according to the equation:

$$H = \frac{C_0 - C_t}{C_0} \times 100\%$$

The adsorption capacity was calculated according to the formula:

$$q_t = \frac{V \times (C_0 - C_t)}{m}$$

Where  $C_0$  and  $C_t$  are the initial concentration of MB solution and at time  $t$  (mg/L), respectively;  $V$  is the volume of MB solution used (L), and  $m$  is the mass of Cu-BTC (g).

*Isothermal and kinetics of MB adsorption.* Langmuir, Freundlich, and Temkin adsorption models are used to describe the adsorption equilibrium as follows:

$$\text{Langmuir model: } \frac{1}{q_e} = \frac{1}{q_m} + \frac{1}{K_L q_m C_e}$$

$$\text{Freundlich model: } \ln q_e = \ln K_F + \frac{1}{n} \ln C_e$$

$$\text{Temkin model: } q_e = K_T \ln C_e + K_T \ln f$$

In which  $q_e$  is the adsorption capacity at the equilibrium time (mg/g),  $q_m$  is the maximum adsorption capacity (mg/g),  $K_L$ ,  $K_F$  and  $K_T$  are the Langmuir, Freundlich, Temkin adsorption constants (L/mg), respectively;  $C_e$  is the concentration of adsorbent at the time of equilibrium (mg/L);  $n$  is Freundlich's linear constant,  $f$  is Temkin's isotherm constant (L/g). The Langmuir adsorption model assumes that all adsorption sites have the same affinity and reach a maximum value for the adsorbent and adsorbate after forming a monolayer on a uniform adsorbent surface at a specific temperature and no interactions between the adsorbed molecules. In contrast to the Langmuir model, the Freundlich model assumes that the adsorption surface energy is heterogeneous. The  $n$  value represents the deviation from the linearity, the heterogeneity of the adsorption site. If  $n$  is between 1 and 10, then the adsorption is favorable. The larger  $n$  is, the higher the heterogeneity of the adsorption site. The Temkin is a chemical adsorption model based on the interaction between positive and negative charges.

To elucidate the adsorption kinetic process of MB on Cu-BTC, three apparent kinetic models, namely first-order, second-order, and intra-particle diffusion, are considered to explain the experimental data:

First-order apparent kinetic model:

$$\ln(q_e - q_t) = \ln(q_e) - k_1 t$$

Second-order apparent kinetic model:

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

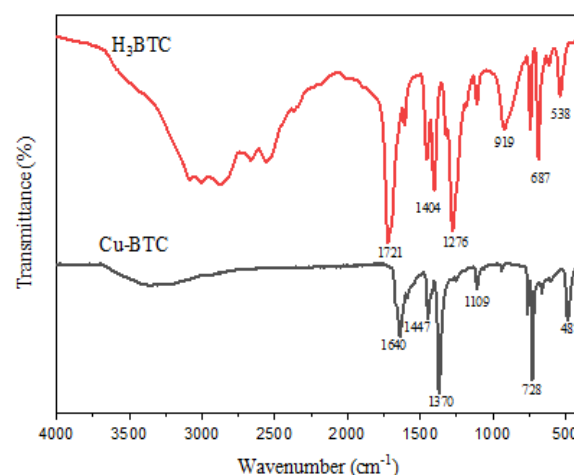
Particle diffusion model:  $q_t = k_t t^{1/2} + C$

In which  $q_e$ ,  $q_t$  is the adsorption capacity at equilibrium time and at time  $t$  on the material (mg/g), respectively;  $k_1$  is the first-order apparent adsorption rate constant ( $\text{min}^{-1}$ ),  $k_2$  is the second-order apparent adsorption rate constant ( $\text{g/mg.min}$ );  $C$  is the blocking coefficient in the particle and  $k_t$  is the diffusion rate constant in the particle ( $\text{mg/g.min}^{1/2}$ ).

### 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

#### 3.1. Characterization

The FTIR spectra of the  $\text{H}_3\text{BTC}$  sample and the Cu-BTC organometallic framework material (Figure 1) contain characteristic peaks at  $\sim 1640$ ,  $\sim 1447$ , and  $\sim 1370 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ . FTIR spectrum of Cu-BTC using KBr in the  $400\text{--}1700 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  range. The peaks at  $\sim 1640$ ,  $\sim 1447$ , and  $\sim 1370 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  characteristically bond the carboxylate group  $\text{COO}^-$  in Cu-BTC, indicating the formation of Cu-BTC organometallic framework material<sup>48-49</sup>. The broad bands at  $3346 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  are believed to be OH bonds and water adsorbed on the Cu-BTC surface. In addition, no peak was observed in the range of  $1680\text{--}1750 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ , which shows no free  $\text{H}_3\text{BTC}$  ligand in the Cu-BTC material. The range  $1500\text{--}1400 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  represents the  $\text{C}=\text{C}$  bond in the aromatic ring<sup>49</sup>. The FTIR shows the carbonyl group in  $\text{H}_3\text{BTC}$  peaks at  $1721 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ <sup>50</sup>. The  $\text{CO-C}$  bond in Cu-BTC is demonstrated by the appearance of the peak at about  $1109 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ . The  $827\text{--}1153 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  range belonged to the  $\text{OC}=\text{O}$  and  $\text{CO}$  bond of 1,4 benzene dicarboxylic acid. At  $487 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $728 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ , it is assigned the CH bond of the benzene ring and the Cu-O bond form between the carboxylic groups of  $\text{H}_3\text{BTC}$  and Cu(II), respectively.<sup>51,52</sup>

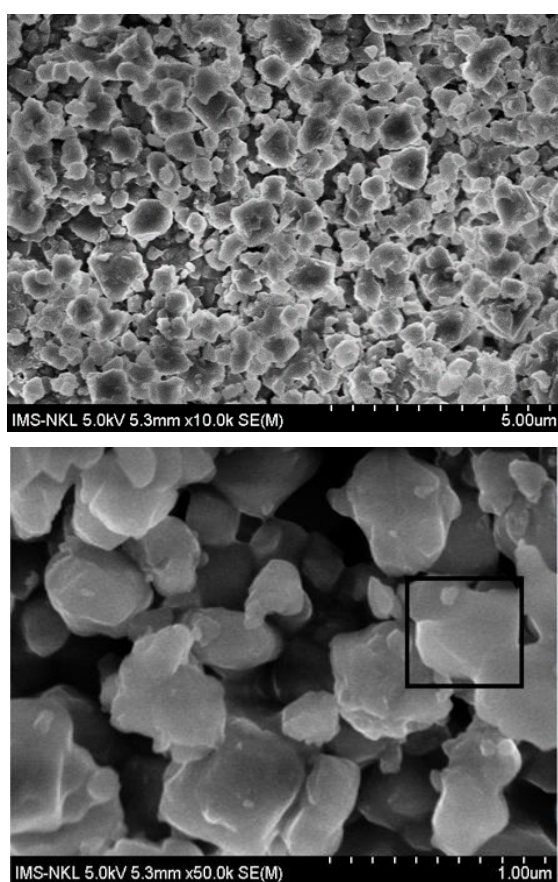


**Figure 2.** FTIR spectrum of  $\text{H}_3\text{BTC}$  and Cu-BTC.

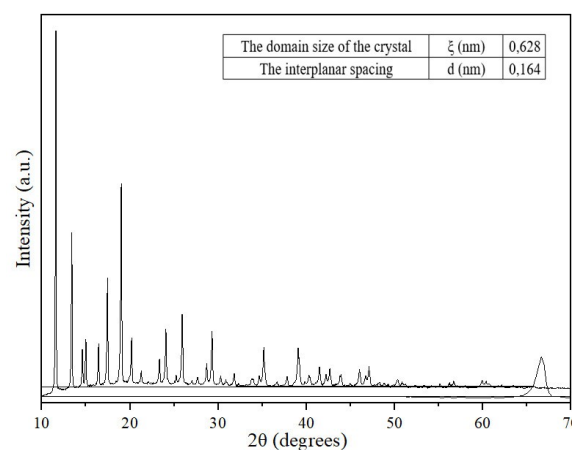
SEM image of Cu-BTC material in Figure 3. Cu-BTC crystal particles have an octahedral shape. Cu-BTC morphology is consistent with other reported SEM images<sup>48</sup>. Some particles that do

not have a characteristic morphology in the SEM images are fused particles of Cu-BTC crystals.

X-ray diffraction (XRD) analysis examined the crystal structure of the powdered Cu-BTC in Figure 4. The characteristic peaks are found in the Cu-BTC crystalline in the range up to  $2\theta$ , namely  $11.6^\circ$ ,  $13.5^\circ$ ,  $14.9^\circ$ , and  $16.6^\circ$  corresponding to the crystal faces (222), (400), (420), (422) and is consistent with the published study<sup>48</sup>, which shows that metal-organic frameworks is successfully fabricated. The peak with the highest intensity at  $2\theta = 11.59^\circ$  is related to the high degree of crystallinity of the material<sup>51</sup>. The crystallite size of the structure at  $2\theta = 11.6^\circ$  is 0.628 nm. XRD and SEM spectrum results show the successful fabrication of Cu-BTC.



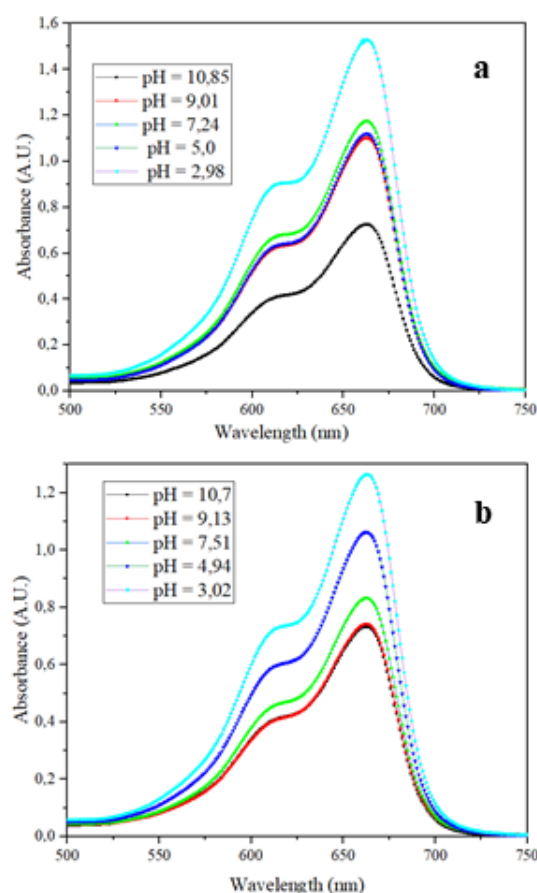
**Figure 3.** SEM images of Cu-BTC.



**Figure 4.** XRD patterns of Cu-BTC.

### 3.2. Removal of methylene blue

The ability and mechanism of MB dye adsorption of Cu-BTC were investigated and predicted through adsorption experiments. The isotherm of the adsorption process explains the reaction mechanism between MB molecules and Cu-BTC, helping to optimize the factors affecting the adsorption process. Kinetic models were studied to better explain the reaction mechanism by analyzing adsorption capacity over time.



**Figure 5.** Effect of pH on the adsorption process (a) and the simultaneous adsorption-catalysis process (b) using Cu-BTC material.

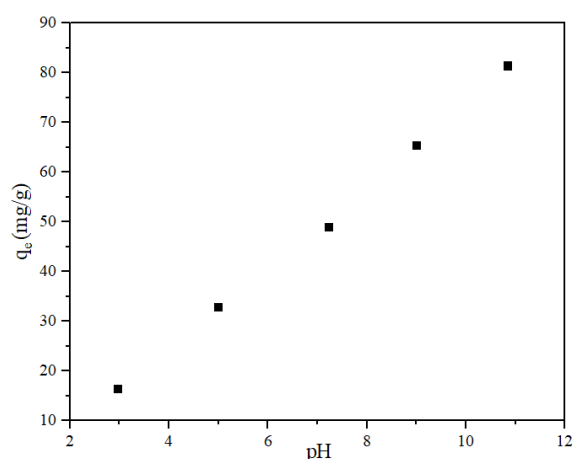


The effects of pH light intensity on the adsorption capacity of MB (10 mg/L) on Cu-BTC were investigated. Experimental conditions: 25 °C, 0.011 g Cu-BTC. The results in Figure 5 and Table 1 show that Cu-BTC can adsorb MB, and the adsorption efficiency of the material when illuminated is similar to when it is not decorated. Therefore, research will focus on the adsorption process. In an alkaline environment ( $\text{pH} > 7$ ), the adsorption efficiency is better than in an acidic environment ( $\text{pH} < 7$ ). However, the adsorption capacity does not change much with pH 7 or higher. When pH is 7 to 11, MB solution containing Cl<sup>-</sup> reacts with NaOH to form NaCl. The mass of NaCl reduces the adsorption on the adsorbent surface. On the other hand, pH does not affect the wavelength shift of the maximum adsorption in this case (Figure 5). Therefore, this study chooses  $\text{pH} = 7.0 \pm 0.6$  as the optimal choice for future experiments.

**Table 1.** Effect of pH on removal of MB after 30 minutes of Cu-BTC in adsorption and simultaneous adsorption-catalysis processes.

pH	A	C <sub>t</sub> (mg/L)	H (%)	q <sub>t</sub> (mg/g)
<i>Adsorption process</i>				
2.98	1.53	9.49	98.3	982.7
5.00	1.12	6.92	98.7	987.4
7.24	1.17	7.24	98.7	986.8
9.01	1.10	6.80	98.8	987.6
10.85	0.72	4.43	99.2	991.9
<i>Simultaneous adsorption-catalysis process</i>				
3.02	1.26	7.83	98.6	985.8
4.94	1.06	6.56	98.8	988.1
7.51	0.83	5.11	99.1	990.7
9.13	0.74	4.54	99.2	991.7
10.70	0.73	4.48	99.2	991.9

Note: Experimental conditions include 25 °C, 0.011 g Cu-BTC, and 20 mL of 10 mg/L MB solution.



**Figure 6.** Effect of pH on the adsorption capacity of MB.

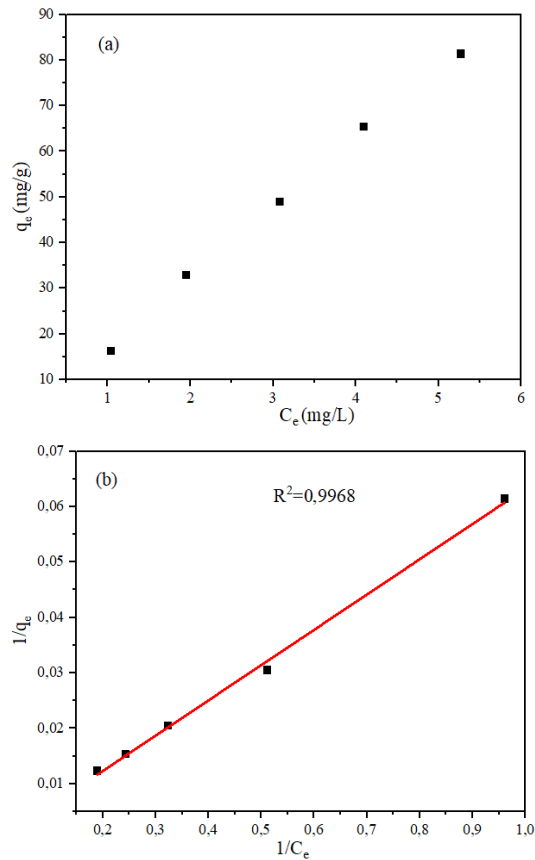
From Figure 6, the adsorption capacity of MB (mg/g) increases as the pH increases from 3 to 11. Experimental conditions include a temperature of 25 °C; the dosage of Cu-BTC is 0.55 g/L; Initial concentrations of MB were 10, 20, 30, 40, and 50 mg/L. It shows that the increased surface charge of Cu-BTC increases the adsorption degree of MB dye. When pH is low, the surface of Cu-BTC is positively charged, H<sup>+</sup> ions increase, and MB cation decreases, reducing the amount of adsorption<sup>51</sup>.

### 3.3. Isothermal and Kinetics of MB adsorption

Figure 7 shows the isotherm modeling results of MB onto Cu-BTC, and the model parameters of the three isotherms are summarized in Table 2. The Freundlich isotherm model fits the concentration quite well. Test (correlation coefficient  $R^2 = 0.9968$ ). The Temkin model ( $R^2 = 0.9503$ ) fits reasonably well. The value  $n = 1.014$  for the Freundlich isotherm model demonstrates the suitability of this model with experimental data. The results show the adsorption mechanism on heterogeneous surfaces, heterogeneous surfaces, and multilayer adsorption, which is also consistent with the characteristics of the synthesized materials. However, the maximum adsorption capacity of the material calculated according to the Langmuir model reached 2,462.8 mg/g, higher than the adsorption capacity of other materials, such as nano Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> (161.8 mg/g), tannic acid/graphene nanocomposite (200 mg/g)<sup>48</sup>. Due to its high adsorption capacity and simple synthesis process, Cu-BTC is considered one of the essential materials for MB removal.

**Table 2.** Parameter values of Langmuir, Freundlich, and Temkin adsorption isotherm equations of MB on Cu-BTC.

Isotherms	Parameters	Value
<b>Langmuir</b>	$q_m$ (mg/g)	- 2462,854
	$K_L$ (L/mg)	0.0064
	$R^2$	0.9968
<b>Freundlich</b>	$K_F$ (L/mg)	16.10
	$n$	1,014
	$R^2$	0.9968
<b>Temkin</b>	$K_T$ (L/mg)	0.0245
	$f$	0.0001
	$R^2$	0.9503



**Figure 7.** The adsorption isotherm of MB on Cu-BTC (a), (b) Langmuir adsorption model, (c) Freundlich adsorption model, (d) Temkin adsorption model.

Initial concentration and adsorption time are essential parameters for the adsorption capacity of MB on Cu-BTC. As shown in Table 3, at the same initial concentration, the adsorption capacity of MB on the Cu-BTC organometallic framework material increased as the adsorption time increased. Similarly, in Figure 10a, at five different initial concentrations of MB of 10, 20, 30, 40, and 50 mg/L, the adsorption capacity of MB on the Cu-BTC organometallic framework material increased when The initial concentration of MB increased. That shows that the adsorption efficiency depends on the adsorption time and initial concentration of MB.

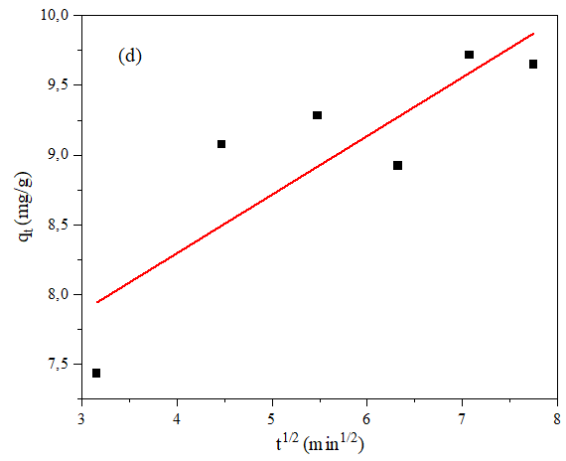
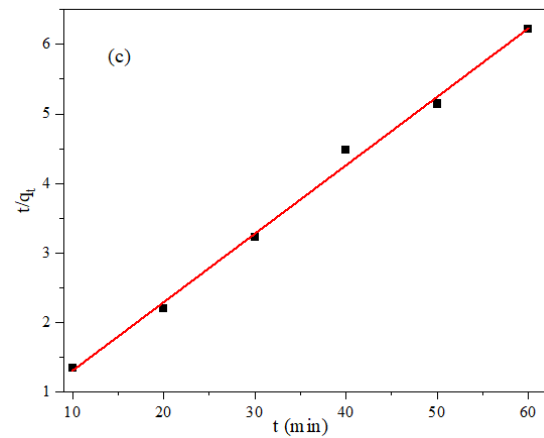
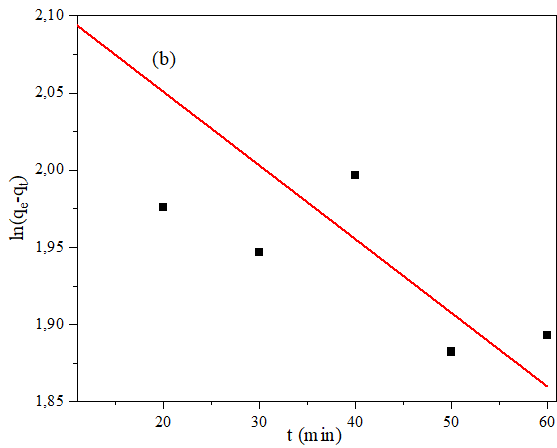
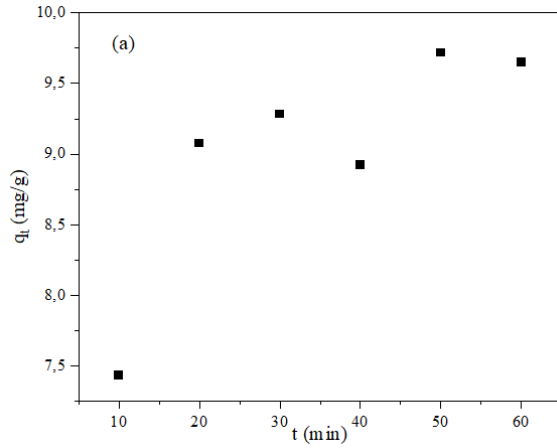
**Table 3.** Effect of time on MB adsorption of Cu-BTC in the adsorption process.

Time (minutes)	A	$C_t$ (mg/L)	H (%)	$q_t$ (mg/g)
0	1.96	12.23	97.8	977.8
10	0.96	5.91	98.9	989.3
20	0.82	5.01	99.1	990.9
30	0.80	4.89	99.1	991.1

40	0.83	5.09	99.1	990.7
50	0.76	4.65	99.2	991.5
60	0.77	4.69	99.1	991.5

Note: Experimental conditions are pH = 7.24; 25 °C, 0.011 g Cu-BTC; 20 mL of MB solution, initial concentration of MB is 10 mg/L.

The three models are shown in Figure 8, and their kinetic parameters are presented in Table 4.



**Figure 10.** Effect of time on adsorption capacity (a), model of apparent first-order (b), apparent second-order (c), intra-particle diffusion (d) for MB adsorption on Cu-BTC.

Note: Experimental conditions are pH = 7.24; 25 °C, 0.011 g Cu-BTC; 20 mL of MB solution, the initial concentrations of MB are 10, 20, 30, 40, and 50 mg/L, respectively.

**Table 4.** Parameters of the apparent kinetic equation of MB adsorption onto Cu-BTC with an initial 10 mg/L concentration.

Kinetic model	Parameter	Value
First-order apparent model	$k_1$ (min <sup>-1</sup> )	-8.10 <sup>-5</sup>
	$q_{e,cal}$ (mg/g)	8.55
	$q_{e,exp}$ (mg/g)	16.29
	$R^2$	0.5957
Second-order apparent model	$k_2$ (g/mg.min)	0.0296
	$q_{e,cal}$ (mg/g)	10.16
	$q_{e,exp}$ (mg/g)	16.29
	$R^2$	0.9948
Intraparticle diffusion model	$k_i$ (mg/g.min <sup>1/2</sup> )	0.42075
	$C$ (mg/g)	6.61
	$R^2$	0.6692

From Table 4, it can be seen that the correlation coefficient  $R^2$  of the apparent quadratic model ( $R^2 = 0.9948$ ) is more significant than that of the clear first-order model ( $R^2 = 0.5957$ ), and the model experimental diffusion pattern ( $R^2 = 0.6692$ ). In addition, the equilibrium adsorption



capacity value calculated according to the apparent quadratic kinetic equation ( $q_{e,cal}$ ) is much closer to the experimentally calculated adsorption capacity value ( $q_{e,exp}$ ) than the value. The adsorption capacity value was calculated according to the apparent first-order kinetic equation. These results indicate that the apparent first-order model does not describe the adsorption process. From that, the apparent second-order kinetic model describes the MB adsorption process for the entire adsorption time. However, the apparent first- and second-order models could not determine the diffusion mechanism of MB adsorption on Cu-BTC MOFs, so the intra-particle diffusion model was used to determine the diffusion mechanism. Table 4 shows that the correlation coefficient model  $R^2$  of the particle diffusion kinetics model ( $R^2 = 0.6692$ ) is lower than that of the apparent quadratic model. The adsorption process is related to the diffusion of particles. Dispersed in the particles, it is not the only factor affecting adsorption. Therefore, the adsorption process occurs in an apparent second-order pattern and is controlled by other factors such as pH.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

This study used a simple microwave method to synthesize Cu-BTC organometallic framework material to remove MB in water. The synthesized Cu-BTC MOFs have octahedral morphology. Studies on the effects of pH, concentration, and adsorption time showed that MB was removed according to the Freundlich isotherm adsorption model and the apparent second-order kinetic model. Therefore, the multilayer MB adsorption mechanism on the surface of Cu-BTC MOFs is not uniform and is influenced by electrostatic attraction. These characteristics show that Cu-BTC MOFs are ideal for further research on MB removal from wastewater and potential applications in environmental research.

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