Applications for Laboratory Column Tests in Evaluating Arsenic Adsorption Media

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November 2005
Outline

- To column test, or to batch test, that is an interesting question
- Rapid small scale column tests
- Incipient breakthrough column tests
- Dynamic modeling of column tests – a new AwwaRF project
- Arsenic sensing needs for column tests
Arsonic Concentrations in 4 states are well below accepted health risk levels

Baja Nte Coahuila Nuevo Leon Tamaulipas

As Concentration, ug/L

N = 22
N = 47
N = 39
N = 39

arsenic concentrations in 4 states are well below accepted health risk levels
Arsenic concentrations in Sonora above US & WHO standards but below Mexican Standards

N = 154 samples
61 cities were sampled

As Concentration, ug/L

Sonora

24.146
14.39
8.0488
2.6829
Arsenic Concentrations high in Chihuahua

N = 154 Samples
27 cities were sampled

As Concentration, ug/L

Chihuahua

59.103
15.356
11.609
6.3325
Locations of Highest Arsenic Occurrence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>As Avg</th>
<th>As, ug/L</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Caborca</td>
<td>Sonora</td>
<td>17.88</td>
<td>30.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hermosillo</td>
<td>Sonora</td>
<td>11.42</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lazaro Cardenas</td>
<td>Sonora</td>
<td>66.9</td>
<td>66.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oribe de Alba</td>
<td>Sonora</td>
<td>62.3</td>
<td>62.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NuevoDelicias</td>
<td>Chihuahua</td>
<td>51.67</td>
<td>53.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>El Saucillo</td>
<td>Chihuahua</td>
<td>40.16</td>
<td>58.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jimenez</td>
<td>Chihuahua</td>
<td>87.1</td>
<td>266.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
To column test, or to batch test, that is an interesting question

- **When are batch tests useful:**
  - Mechanistic understanding of arsenic removal
  - Validating quality control during media production
  - When enough batch tests are conducted in parallel with column tests, rough correlations of full-scale performance can be estimated from batch tests

- **What do laboratory column tests provide that batch tests do not:**
  - Kinetic effects of particle size
  - Preloading effects from competing ions
  - Used material for leaching tests
  - More “realistic” estimates of full-scale design life

- **What do pilot tests provide that lab column tests can not provide:**
  - Information of media attrition over time & backwashing
  - Exposure to media under variable influent groundwater conditions and air/water temperatures
  - Pressure build-up
  - Ability to handle wastestreams
  - Operator education
What is a Rapid Small Scale Column Test (RSSCT)?

- Rapid Small Scale Column Tests (RSSCTs) were initially developed by Crittenden and others for evaluating organic compound removal on activated carbon.

- Fundamentally, the concept is to scale the hydrodynamics and mass transport from full-sized media in a pilot or full scale reactor down to smaller test media in a small-scale bench-top continuous flow test.
Advantages of RSSCT

- RSSCTs can be conducted in a fraction of the time required of pilot tests (1% to 10% of the time)
- RSSCTs require less water than pilot tests, and can be conducted under controlled laboratory conditions
- RSSCTs are generally cheaper than pilot tests
- RSSCTs are continuous flow tests and allow evaluation of dynamic behavior and competition reactions that are more representative than batch tests
- RSSCTs were used during the USEPA ICR for organic carbon removal by GAC
- RSSCTs facilitate comparison of media and water quality effects
Arsenic Adsorption on Porous Media

\[
\frac{\partial q(r,t)}{\partial t} = D_s \left( \frac{\partial^2 q(r,t)}{\partial r^2} + \frac{2}{r} \frac{\partial q(r,t)}{\partial r} \right)
\]
RSSCT Scaling Equations

1. Empty bed contact time (EBCT) of the small scale (sc) RSSCT column is proportional to that of a larger column (LC) based upon the ratio of the adsorbent media radius (R)

\[
\frac{EBCT_{sc}}{EBCT_{LC}} = \left( \frac{R_{sc}}{R_{LC}} \right)^{2-x}
\]

2. We have demonstrated that diffusivities are proportional to media radius

\[
x = \frac{\log \left( \frac{R_{sc}}{R_{LC}} \right)}{\log \left( \frac{D_{s,sc}}{D_{s,LC}} \right)} \approx 1
\]

3. Loading rates (V) should be adjusted to minimize pressure loss and bed compaction. We recommend \( Re_{sc} \times Sc \) of 2000

\[
\frac{V_{sc}}{V_{LC}} = \left[ \frac{R_{LC}}{R_{sc}} \right] \times \frac{Re_{sc} \times Sc}{Re_{LC} \times Sc}
\]

Supporting Publications:
Badruzzaman et. al (2004), Water Research, 38 (18)
Westerhoff et. al. (2005), J of Env. Engg-ASCE, 131(2)
Badruzzaman et. al (2005), ACS Symposium Series, Vol-915
RSSCT Column Preparation

- Crush full-scale media
- Weight sieve media – usually to 100x140 mesh
- Weigh prescribed mass and add to column
- Backwash column to remove fines
- Tap column to compress bed
- Add more media as needed to get to prescribed mass and packed bed length
- Place effluent tube above media elevation to prevent air entrainment
- Condition with DI water
- Start test
PD Scaling “works” with different GFH Mesh Sizes

![Graph showing arsenic concentration against BV (bed volume) for different GFH mesh sizes](image)

- **GFH (140x170)**
- **GFH (100x140)**
RSSCT-PD vs Pilot
RSSCT Validation – a few of many (pilot- vs RSSCT-scale arsenic breakthrough)

- **GFH**
  - PD-RSSCT
  - Pilot Test

- **E33**
  - RSSCT
  - Pilot

- **ArsenX**
  - RSSCT: Spherical media (100x140 mesh)
  - Pilot Test: Spherical full-size media

- **Arizona Groundwater**
  - Influent Arsenic = 12 ppb
Comparison of New Media

Influent As(V) = 20 to 22 ppb
Scottsdale 4E water, pH~8.4

RSSCT Effluent Concentration (ppb)

Bed Volumes Treated

Influent As(V) = 20 to 22 ppb
Scottsdale 4E water, pH~8.4

NEXT
Englehard
E33
Mel RS-AF
DOW
Mel RS-AT
Batch tests with same media

Scottsdale 4E water
pH=8.6
Evaluation of New FeGAC Media
(AwwaRF#3079)

Modified Scottsdale GW
As Concentration = 24.8 ppb
pH = ~ 7
EBCT = 4 min
Media size = 100 x140
Evaluation of Agglomerated Nanoparticle Based Titanium Media (Effect of very short EBCTs)
AwwaRF#3077

EBCT = 0.5 min (Flow = 22 mL/min, Re = 2.24, Re*Sc = 2000)
EBCT = 0.5 min (Flow = 11 mL/min Re = 1.12, Re*Sc = 1000)
EBCT = 0.25 min (Flow = 22 mL/min, Re = 2.24, Re*Sc = 2000)
EBCT = 0.1 min (Flow = 22 mL/min, Re = 2.24, Re*Sc = 2000)

Scottsdale 4E
100x140 Dow GTO
Initial pH 7.83
Incipient breakthrough column tests

- Use very short columns
- Can use full-size or crushed media
- Short duration tests (< 1 day)
- Initial breakthrough is related to external mass transfer (not diffusion within the media)
- Provide kinetic information for modeling
- Facilitates studies of kinetic limitations of media
- Provide rapid assessment of media formulations or possibly evaluate remaining adsorption capacity of used media
Example Data with Three Full-size Iron Adsorbents

NSF53 Challenge water
As(V)~100ppb
pH= 8.5
1 cm-media (10x40 mesh)
Incipient Breakthrough Data with 100x140 mesh media (AwwaRF #3098)

Iron Based Porous media
Mesh size = 100x140
pH 8.5 with 10 mM NaHCO3
Initial As(V) = 88 ppb

Effluent Arsenic (ppb)

Bed volumes Treated

- 1cm
- 2cm
- 5cm
Dynamic modeling of column tests
A New AwwaRF project (#3098)

**Goals:**
- Surface complexation modeling is the appropriate technique for characterizing single and multi-solute adsorption equilibrium in these systems.
- While a crucial first step, adsorption equilibrium relationships alone are inadequate for predicting the performance and bed life of a continuous-flow packed bed, and verification of surface complexation models must include field-scale validation.
- Thus, a surface complexation model must be integrated into a dynamic mass transport model.

**Project Tasks**
1. Compile Existing Literature
2. Single Solute Arsenate Adsorption Isotherms (E33, GFH, GTO)
3. Multi-Solute Adsorption Isotherms
4. Surface Complexation Model Parameters
5. Packed-Bed Dynamic Mass Transport Model
6. Model Validation
## Link Equilibrium
### Surface Complexation Models

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Reaction</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Log K</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>$FeOH_(s) + H_3AsO_4(aq) \leftrightarrow FeH_2AsO_4(s) + H_2O$</td>
<td>Inner-sphere</td>
<td>4.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>$FeOH_(s) + H_3AsO_4(aq) \leftrightarrow FeHAsO_4^-_4(s) + H_3^+(aq) + H_2O$</td>
<td>Inner-sphere</td>
<td>2.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>$FeOH_(s) + H_3AsO_4(aq) \leftrightarrow FeAsO_4^-_4(s) + 2H_3^+(aq) + H_2O$</td>
<td>Inner-sphere</td>
<td>-2.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>$FeOH_(s) + H_3AsO_3(aq) \leftrightarrow FeH_2AsO_3(s) + H_2O$</td>
<td>Inner-sphere</td>
<td>4.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>$FeOH_(s) + H_3AsO_3(aq) \leftrightarrow FeHAsO_3^-_3(s) + H_3^+(aq) + H_2O$</td>
<td>Inner-sphere</td>
<td>-2.70</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

with Dynamic Mass Transport Models

$$\frac{\partial q(r, t)}{\partial t} = D_s \left( \frac{\partial^2 q(r, t)}{\partial r^2} + \frac{2}{r} \frac{\partial q(r, t)}{\partial r} \right)$$
Arsenic sensing needs for column tests

- Column testing could be facilitated by semi-continuous, autonomous arsenic detection
- Commercialized systems are being developed (TraceDetect)
- ASU is developing its own micro-fiber ASV system

Fig. 4 Linear sweep anodic stripping voltammograms (background subtract) for increasing levels of arsenic in 10 μg/L steps (curves a-j) in the 1M HNO₃ along with the background response (dotted line). Accumulation potential and time, -0.3 V and 90 sec, respectively. Other conditions, as in Fig. 1.
3.1) Detection of Spiking Arsenic in Ground Water

Conditions: electrolyte, ground water in 1 M nitric acid (9:1 vol. ratio)

Sample, 0, 20, 40, 60, 80, 100, 120, 140 and 160 ppb As

Fig. 4 Linear sweep anodic stripping voltammograms (background subtract B) for a arsenic in 1 μg/L steps in the 1M HNO₃ along with the background response (dotted line). Accumulation potential and time, -0.3 V and 210 sec.
Summary

- Batch and column tests have their place and should be used to address specific questions.

- Rapid small scale column tests (RSSCTs) are relatively easy to conduct in parallel and are useful in evaluating different media, variable water quality, or simply screening effects of competing ions in a given water.

- Incipient column tests are very rapid, but do not necessarily simulate a full-scale application.

- Linking equilibrium models with dynamic packed bed transport models will likely shed new light on adsorption competition effects and effects of changes in surface chemistry on arsenic adsorption.

- On-line arsenic sensors are necessary to automate lab column testing and field system monitoring.
Acknowledgements

Mohammad Badruzzaman, Troy Benn
USEPA (Tom Sorg) & AwwaRF
Battelle (LiL) Wang, Ab Chen
Cities of Scottsdale, Mesa & Phoenix
NCS Consulting & Damon S. Williams Inc.
Salt River Project & Joseph Wang

ASU / National Science Foundation Water Quality Center