

ISSN 2181-8622

Manufacturing technology problems



Scientific and Technical Journal Namangan Institute of Engineering and Technology

INDEX  COPENICUS
I N T E R N A T I O N A L

**Volume 10
Issue 2
2025**



THERMAL ACTIVATION OF PLUMS

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Abstract: The activation process by thermal pyrolysis is critical in producing carbonaceous adsorbents based on local food waste. This article describes the initial pyrolysis and carbonization processes for obtaining activated carbons with high adsorption properties from plum pits. The research methods were carried out based on examples presented in the literature, test results obtained on devices that meet the requirements of world standards, and GOST standard indicators. It also allows understanding the mechanisms of optimal conditions for converting biomass-based food waste into valuable adsorbent material.

Keywords: adsorption, desorption, adsorbate, isotherm, plum seed waste, pyrolysis, tar, ash content, moisture, benzene.

Introduction. Several scientists around the world have conducted scientific research on the pyrolysis of agricultural waste and the production of various carbon materials [1; 7 p., 2; 102-110 p., 3; 1115-1126 p., 4; 29 p., 5; 137 p., 6; 152 p., 7; 288 p.]. To process plant waste and obtain new products, it is very important to first study the adequacy of the raw material base. In this regard, many local plants that have stabilized due to the favorable climate in each country, region, and area are of particular importance. Among these resources, the plum plant, which is grown in large quantities around the world, is characterized as a product that is grown primarily due to its palatability, healing properties, and cheapness. It has been announced through special websites that this plant is grown in various regions of our country, and the largest amount falls in the Namangan region. This work presents the conditions and technological parameters for obtaining adsorbents with high sorption capacity by thermal activation of a local plant, plum seeds.

Methods. The characteristics of the pore structure at temperatures below 77 K, i.e., the total pore volume (V_{Σ}), the specific surface area (S), and the pore radius (R), were analyzed by nitrogen adsorption using a Quantachrome Nova 1000e static adsorption device. For this purpose, the test samples were prepared by vacuum treatment at 100 °C for 12 hours. Curves representing the dependence of the adsorption amount on the residual pressure were plotted using the BET method [8; 166-167 p.]. The average value of the pore diameter was determined by the BET method using the formula $D_{\text{avr}} = 4V/S$ [9; 21956-21960 p.]. The t-Plot method was used to determine the micropore volume [10; 13266-13274 p.]. (BJH) i.e., Barrett-Joyner-Halenda. The mesopore volume was determined using the Horvat-Kawazoe (HK) method. The distribution of micropores according to their size and volume (average size 1.15-1.17 nm) was analyzed using the Horvat-Kawazoe (HK) method [11; 734-750 p.].

Results and their discussion. The effect of temperature and time on the physical-chemical and adsorption parameters of the carbonizate activated by temperature was studied.

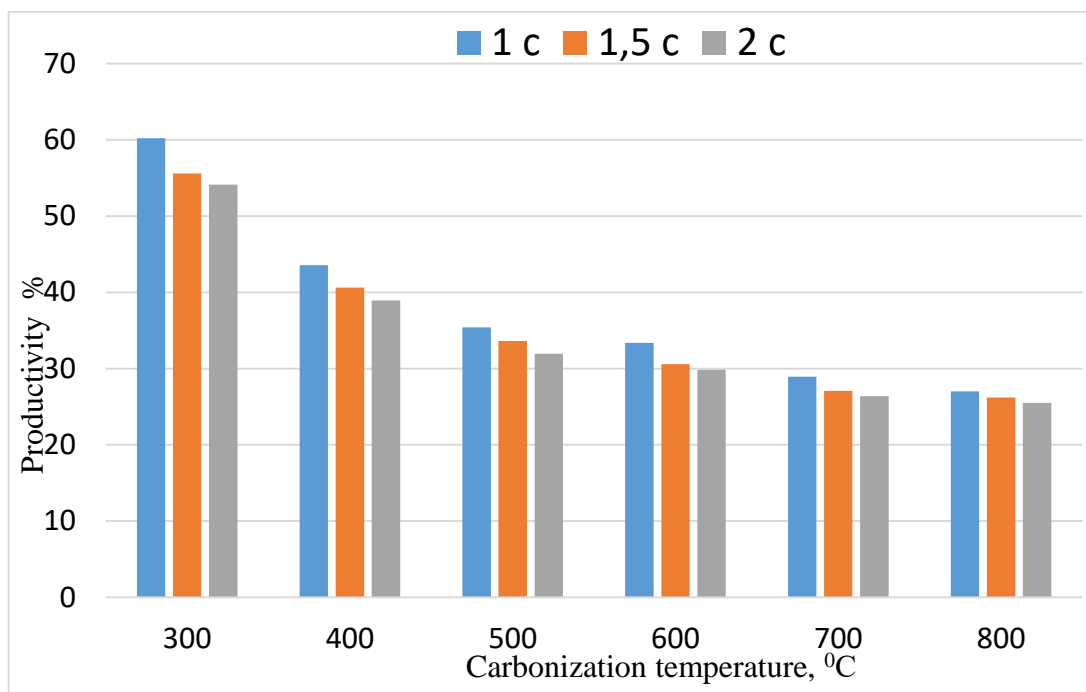


Figure 1. Histogram of the effect of temperature and time on mass loss

The blue column, representing the carbonizate thermally pyrolyzed for 1 hour, is particularly noteworthy for its minimal mass loss compared to the others. This indicates that the carbonization process is not sufficient to obtain the expected product within this period. The almost close indicators of the 1.5-hour (brown) and 2-hour (gray columns allow us to conclude that a 1.5-hour carbonization period is the most optimal for plum seed peel. This period is sufficient for the decomposition and release of organic components in the seed peel.

Changes and features representing the carbonization process were analyzed within this research work.

Table 1. Effect of the carbonization process on mass loss (pyrolysis time 1.5 hours)

T, °C	Product release, %			Humidity, %	Ash content, %
	coal	tar	gaseous		
300	55,61	11,2	10,7	3,772	1,21
400	55,61	15,4	43,97	3,561	1,32
500	33,61	21,8	44,59	3,475	1,34
600	30,57	22,3	44,59	2,902	1,45
700	27,07	12,4	44,59	2,896	1,58
800	26,21	10,7	63,09	2,702	1,91

Experimental part. Initially, a block diagram was created to conduct the research work. Figure 2 describes the block diagram for obtaining plum seed adsorbent.

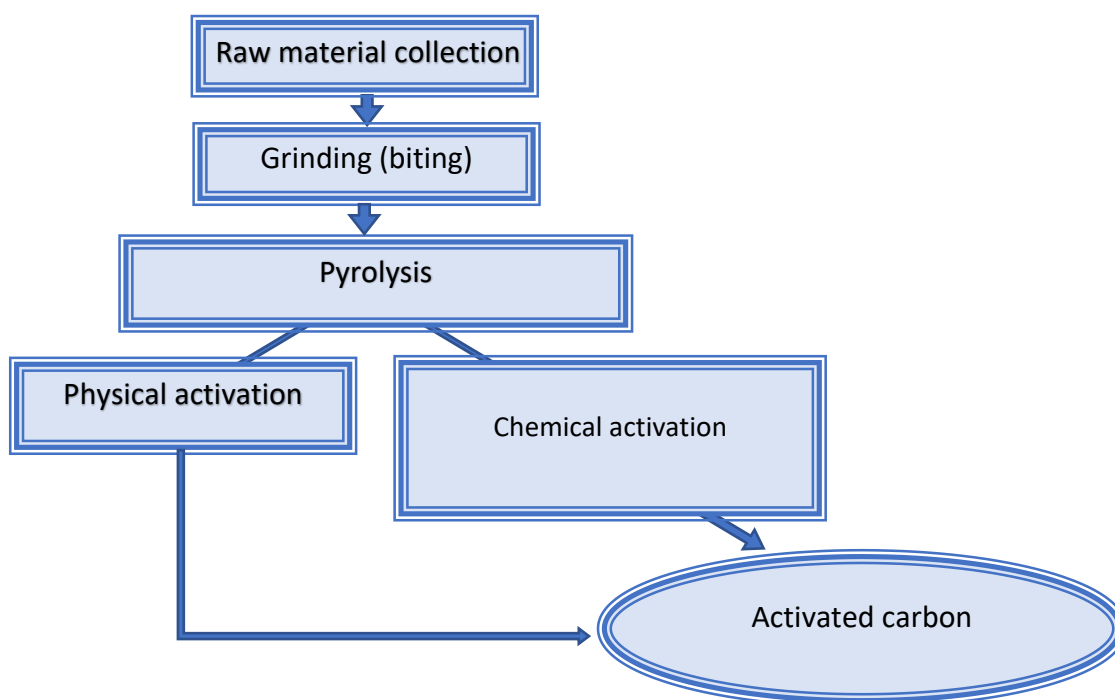


Figure 2. Flow chart of the process of obtaining activated carbon from plum seeds

The thermal pyrolysis of crushed plum kernels in laboratory conditions was carried out in a pyrolysis device with a stainless steel reactor with a height of 1 m and a diameter of 0.055 m (Fig. 2) in an argon atmosphere at a flow rate of 40 ± 1 ml / s.

The device has the following working principle: initially, 1) 500 g of raw material (dry) is placed on the mesh installed on the reinforcing mesh of the inner part of the pyrolysis furnace, and the furnace lid is closed with the necessary fittings. Argon gas is supplied to the flow furnace using gas control, pressure control, and inert atmosphere control, and is maintained. In addition, (2) a thermocouple is always placed in a separate part of the furnace, and (4) the current is connected. Initially, the speed is selected for the slow activation method, and pyrolysis is started at a heating rate of $5^{\circ}\text{C}/\text{min}$.

The temperature was 24°C , the current was 30 volts. With this current, the temperature could be raised to 300°C . Argon gas was supplied to maintain the stability of the environment every 100°C . In each experiment from 400°C to $800 \pm 20^{\circ}\text{C}$, the set values for the heating intensity of the raw material, the final temperature, time, and the expected product yield were monitored. The volatile and liquid components, possibly resins, in the raw material were discharged through special outlet holes of the reactor and (5) fell into the resin trap. The volatile gases and condensates released from the resin trap were collected in the condensate trap (6), and the gases were analyzed using (7) [12; 030054 1-5 p].

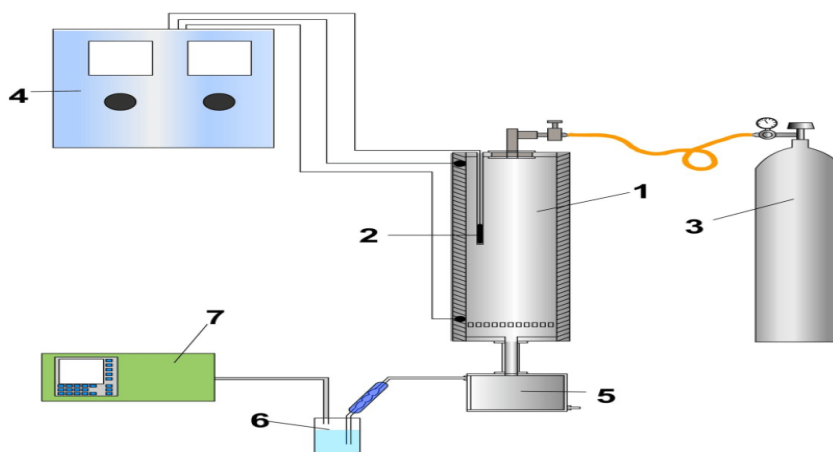


Figure 3. Laboratory experimental pyrolysis device

1-pyrolysis furnace, 2-thermocouple, 3-argon (nitrogen), 4-electronic control box, 5-resin holder, 6-condensate holder, 7-gas analyzer



Figure 4. *a) plum kernel peel; b) carbonization of plum seed husk*

Conclusions. As a result of the studies, it was observed that the release of tar and gaseous carbonaceous substances in coal is at its highest in the range of 500-600 °C and decreases at temperatures above that. The results of these observations allow us to optimize the physicochemical and adsorption properties of the expected activated carbons, as well as to control the activation duration and temperature, and to select for processing by physical and thermochemical methods during the study.

The scientific data presented in this research work will serve as the basis for the creation of environmentally friendly technologies for the rational use of waste, not only from the agro-industrial sector, but also from the food industry, for the utilization and processing of organic materials.

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CONTENTS

TECHNICAL SCIENCES: COTTON, TEXTILE AND LIGHT INDUSTRY

Kadirov K., Xoldorov B., To'xtashev A.	3
Analysis of power quality indicators in light industry enterprises	
Monnopov J., Kayumov J., Maksudov N.	15
Evaluation of deformation properties of highly elastic knitted fabrics in sportswear design	
Nazarova M., Musayeva G., Mirzaraximova S.	22
Study of clothing quality control and analysis	
Abdullayev R.	28
Theoretical basis of technological parameters of the new pneumo-mechanical gin machine	
Bakhritdinov B.	33
Increase production volume by regeneration of cotton	
Otamirzayev A.	38
Measures to dangermine during the initial processing of cotton	
Kamolova M., Abdukarimova M., Mahsudov Sh.	42
Measures to dangermine during the initial processing of cotton	
Shogofurov Sh., Jurabayev N., Xolikov K.	55
Analysis of the technology of obtaining knitted fabrics with patterns and their physical and mechanical properties	
Jurabayev N., Shogofurov Sh., Yusupov S.	64
Study of the physical and mechanical properties of hosiery products made from bamboo yarn	

TECHNICAL SCIENCES: AGRICULTURE AND FOOD TECHNOLOGIES

Nasriddinov B., Serkaev Q., Yo'Ichiev A.	70
Effect of solvent compositions on oil indicators in cotton oil extraction	
Yulchiev A., Yuldashev Sh.	79
Economic efficiency in the production of cream-perfumed soap	
Ikromova Y., Ikromov F., Khamdamov A., Xudayberdiyev A.	85
Modeling of primary distillation process of vegetable oil miccella	
Ismailov M., Adashev B.	92
Prevention of external flood formation on the surface of heat exchanger pipes	

CHEMICAL SCIENCES

Tajibayeva N., Ergashev O.	99
Nanofibers based on chitosan and synthetic polymers: a review of properties and applications	

Kuchkarova D., Soliyev M., Ergashev O.	
Quantitative determination of adsorption activity of adsorbents obtained on the basis of cotton stalk and cotton boll	104
Abdullaxanova G., Ergashev O.	
Differential heat and entropy of adsorption of methanethiol in sodalite	112
Paygamova M., Khamzakhojayev A., Ochilov A., Paygamov R.	
Physicochemical properties of carbon adsorbents derived from renewable biomass	121
Kochkarova R.	
Use of electron spectra in determining the coordination number of central atoms of complex compounds based on Ni(II) and Co(II) ions	131
Yusupova M., Mamadjonova M., Egamberdiev S., Abduvohidov I.	
Study of the conditions for the aminolysis of secondary polycarbonate	136
Ikramova G., Askarova O., Siddikov D., Karimov A., Botirov E.	
Chemical components of perovskia kudrjashevii	142
Kaxarova M., Soliyev M.	
Types of plant growth regulators and their application in agriculture	147
Juraboev F.	
Investigation of the synthesis of acetylene amino alcohols and the study of their biological activity	151
Salikhanova D., Usmonova Z.	
Thermal activation of plums	155
Kadirxanov J., Urinov A.	
Development of composite materials for corrosion protection of main gas and oil pipelines with increased chemical adhesion	160
Sotiboldiev B.	
Synthesis of hybrid composites of polysaccharides based on methyltrimethoxysilane	167
Jumayeva D., Nomonova Z.	
Chemical characterization of raw materials used for adsorbent production	174
Muratova M.	
Method for producing a fire retardant agent with nitric acid solutions of various concentrations	183
Shamuratova M., Abdikamalova A., Eshmetov I.	
Physicochemical properties and results of sem analysis of soils in the regions of Karakalpakstan	192
Dadakhanova G., Soliev M., Nurmonov S.	
Composition of oil products and methods of separation of individual substances	199

Hoshimov F., Bektemirov A., Ergashev O.	206
Effectiveness of the drug "Akaragold 72%" against cotton spider mites	
Abdirashidov D., Turaev Kh., Tajiyeu P.	213
Analysis of the physicochemical properties of polyvinyl chloride and the importance of mineral fillers in increasing its fire resistance	

TECHNICAL SCIENCES: MECHANICS AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

Makhmudjonov M., Muminov Kh., Tilavkhanova L.	219
Classification and analysis of level measurement methods	
Mukhammadjanov M.	226
Digital modeling of the heat transfer process in oil power transformers in operation	
Mukhtorov D.	230
Investigation of drying efficiency in a solar installation with composite polyethylene film depending on the product thickness	
Tursunov A., Shodmanov J.	239
Advancing sustainable environmental strategies in the cotton industry through dust emission reduction	
Saidov O.	247
Event-driven process orchestration in e-governance: modeling asynchronous integration patterns	
Obidov A., Mamajanov Sh.	252
Organization of scientific and research processes based on information and digital technologies in higher education	
Turdaliyev V., Akbarov A., Toychieva M.	259
Theoretical study of the vibration of chain networks	
Abdusattarov B., Xamidov S.	265
Modeling the process of separating cotton particles from air in the working chamber of a cotton gin	
Toirov O., Amirov S., Khalikov S.	272
Diagnostics of the condition of elements of electric power supply substation	

ADVANCED PEDAGOGICAL TECHNOLOGIES IN EDUCATION

Mukhtorov D., Jamoldinov K.	281
Development and improvement of drying technologies in a solar dryer	
Uzokov F.	291
Graphical solution of systems of equations in two-and three-dimensional spaces using MS excel	

ECONOMICAL SCIENCES

Yuldashev K., Kodirov X.

Financing of pre-school educational institutions based on public-private partnerships and their results **299**

Boltaboev D.

Specific aspects of labor resource management in different countries **304**
