Research Article

Wastewater Purification from Permanganate Ions by Sorption on the Ocimum basilicum Leaves Powder Modified by Zinc Chloride

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The powder of Ocimum Basilicum leaves was treated by zinc chloride (ZnCl₂) and applied as a new and low-cost sorbent for extraction of permanganate anions (MnO₄⁻) from liquid phase. The functional groups of the ring stretching vibration, –NH₂ deformation, stretching of C-O, stretching of CH, and stretching of –NH were found in the sorbent of zinc chloride Ocimum basilicum leaves powder (ZCOBLP) at 1516.21, 1629.33, 1047.00, 2929.88, and 3294.93 cm⁻¹, respectively. This adsorbent has 8.3 pHZPC, 117.27 m²·g⁻¹ surface area, 0.00711 cc·g⁻¹ pore volume and average pore diameter of 264.14 Å. The outcomes of sorption experiments designate the positive impact for temperature, time of agitation, and started concentration of MnO₄⁻ and negative impact for pH. The optimal conditions were 1300 mg·L⁻¹ as started adsorbate concentration, 55°C as solution temperature, agitation time of 420 min, and pH of 1.5. The outcomes of the equilibrium and dynamic approve that this sorption is spontaneous and heat-absorbing process, and the obtained data were described well by isotherm model of Langmuir and 2nd-order dynamic model. The capacities of this sorption were 588.235, 625.000, 666.667, and 714.286 mg·g⁻¹ at 25, 35, 45, and 55 (°C), respectively. The superior sorption capacities of the uncostly ZCOBLP will make it successfully used for MnO₄⁻ ions extraction from liquid phases.

1. Introduction

Potassium permanganate (KMnO₄) is broadly used for a large number of applications; it is largely applied as a very strong oxidizing agent in laboratories and chemical industries. KMnO₄ is used for medical purposes, especially skin conditions [1]. The List of World Health Organizations of Essential Medicines considered potassium permanganate as one of the harmless and most active medicines in the health system [2]. It is also widely used in water treatment to remove chemical elements and compounds that cause unwanted color and odor like iron and hydrogen sulfide gas [3–5]; its primary function was to oxidize colors, cyanide, and phenols [6–10], and currently it is used to stop the growth of some organisms in the water [11]. According to the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) report, KMnO₄ was classified recently as a hazardous and harmful substance to human health. Direct exposure to permanganate causes shortness of breath, burns to the skin, and pain in the eyes; it may also
cause some damage to the nervous system as it causes shock and nervous collapse [12], while continuous exposure to it causes long-term toxic effects.

To remove potassium permanganate from water before it is released as wastewater, several technologies and techniques such as biological degradation, ion exchange, membrane separation, oxidation by chemical agents, and sorption have been developed and implemented [11, 13]. Sorption is one of the most widely utilized techniques due to its simplicity, high sorption capacity, environmental friendliness, nontoxicity, and availability of a large range of sorbents [11].

Activated carbon is widely used as a sorbent for water purification from KMnO4 [14]; for instance, coconut shells, corncob, and bone have been used to synthesize activated carbon and applied for KMnO4 sorption from aqueous solutions [14, 15]. Charcoal and activated carbon were modified by H2SO4 and used for removing of KMnO4 from wastewater [11, 16]. In spite of the impressive effectiveness of activated carbon, the cost of preparing is very high. Other materials like metallic oxides nanoparticles (NPS) have been used as sorbents for purification wastewater from different dyes [17–23]. On the other hand, many researchers have used cheap and available materials in their areas as sorbents to get rid of water-pollution dyes. For instance, sugar beet pulp [24], seed shells [25], powder of mango leaf [26], the shell of cashew nut [27], the substrate of spent mushroom pulp [28], natural clay [29], powder calcined of corncob [30], and powder of neem leaves [31] were applied to remove different dyes from wastewater. Lately, the modified leaves powders of Nitraria retusa, neem, and sage plants have been used for KMnO4 removal from aqueous samples [32, 33].

The Ocimum basilicum plants present in various geographical areas, sometimes called Reyhan or Habag, the leaves of these plants distinguished in a distinctive aromatic scent without any toxic properties. Its unique smell and lack of any toxicity enabled many peoples to use it as a flavoring for food and tea. In ancient times, its leaves were also used in folk medicine for many symptoms like skin infection and colic ulcer [34]. Recently, powder of its seeds was applied for removing of heavy metals from water [35–37]. Moreover, Ocimum basilicum has been practical in order to remove the Congo red dye from water [38]. Up to now, there is no study of the use of Ocimum basilicum leaves as a low-cost sorbent for permanganate removal. Therefore, the present work aims to manufacture a new sorbent from leaves of the Ocimum basilicum and to investigate its removal ability of KMnO4 from aqueous medias. Parameters of thermodynamics, isotherms, and kinetics will be also investigated, as the factors that impact the performance of KMnO4 sorption by this sorbent will also be inspected.

2. Methodology

2.1. Sorbent Modification. The Ocimum basilicum plants were brought from the local market, and the leaves were separated and isolated from the rest of the plant. The leaves were cleaned with distilled water before being air-dried for two weeks. Using a manual milling equipment, the dried leaves were ground into a powdery state and sieved to a mesh size of 0.5 to 2 mm. A 150 g of the resulting powder was refluxed in 2500 mL a round-bottom flask with 1000 mL of ZnCl2 solution (30% w/w) at a boiling point for 120 min, followed by cooling at room temperature and filtration. The remaining solid was boiled with 500 mL HCl (0.1 M) for 40 min to remove ZnCl2 from the sample; then, the solid sample was obtained by filtration, and to make sure that the sample does not contain any HCl acid, the solid sample was washed repeatedly by distilled water and oven-dried at 130°C for 30 h. Finally, the obtained powder was stored for sorption processes.

2.2. Characterization of Sorbent. Fourier transform infrared (FTIR) spectroscopy (Nicolet iS5 of Thermo Scientific FT-IR) was used to characterize the zinc chloride Ocimum basilicum leaves powder (ZCOBLP) sorbent. The measurements were carried out between 4000 and 400 cm−1 in order to identify sorbent functional groups that could be useful in the sorption of permanganate from wastewater. The morphology of ZCOBLP before and after sorption also was recognized by using Microscopy of Scanning Electron (SEM), whereas the surface area and porosity of the synthesized sorbent were measured using the surface analyzer technique (NOVA-2200 Ver. 6.11). The pH of solution at which the ZCOBLP surface is uncharged (pHZPC) was estimated according to Theydan and Ahmed’s method [25], where three 500 mL solutions of 0.1 M, 0.01 M, and 0.001 M NaNO3 have been prepared, as well as a series of six 50 mL solutions with varied pH values ranging from 1 to 11 for each of these three solutions, using 0.1 M HCl or NaOH solutions. In 100 mL glass bottles, each of these solutions was combined with 0.1 g of ZCOBLP. These bottles were shaken for 20 h at room temperature (25°C) and 140 rpm in shaker incubator. The differences between the start and final pH values (pHf−pHi) were calculated and plotted against pHf to estimate the pHZPC value of the sorbent utilized in this study.

2.3. Impact of Experimental Conditions

2.3.1. Contact Time Impact. To determine the sorption equilibrium time and investigate the effect of agitation time, 0.03 g of ZCOBLP was shaken with 15 mL of 200, 300, and 400 mg L−1 of KMnO4 solutions at various times (5, 15, 30, 45, 90, 180, 300, 420, 600, 840, and 960 min), 25°C, 140 rpm, and initial solution pH conditions. The remaining KMnO4 concentrations in the filtrate was identified by UV/visible spectrometer at λ = 525 nm. The following equation was used for computing the sorption quantities (qt):

\[ q_t = \frac{V(C_0 - C_t)}{m} \]  

A \( q_t \) (mg g−1) belongs to the adsorbed quantity of KMnO4 at any time. V and m are the volume solution and ZCOBLP mass. \( C_0 \) and \( C_t \) are KMnO4 concentrations at initial and time t, correspondingly.
2.3.2. Impact of pH. To examine the influence of pH solution on KMnO₄ sorption by ZCOBLP from aqueous solutions batch sorption experiment was done. 15 mL of 700 mg·L⁻¹ KMnO₄ at different pH values ranged from 1.5 to 11 was added to six amber flasks containing 0.03 g of ZCOBLP absorbent. Solutions of each 0.1 M NaOH or 0.1 M HCl were used to adjust of pH values. Automatic shaker was used for shaking the six bottles for 20 h at 25°C and 140 rpm. For each sample, the filtration process was done followed by determining the remaining concentration of KMnO₄ using a 6800 UV-visible spectrophotometer (Jenway) at λmax 525 nm. 

2.3.3. Temperature and Concentration Effects. To investigate the effects of temperature and primary KMnO₄ concentration on ZCOBLP sorption, 15 mL of different concentrations (200–1500 mg·L⁻¹) of KMnO₄ solutions was mixed with 0.03 g of the ZCOBLP in 30 mL amber bottles, followed by shaking of each mixture for 20 h at 25, 35, 45, and 55°C temperatures and 140 rpm, followed by filtration and UV-visible measurements. The sorption amounts (qe) of KMnO₄ by ZCOBLP sorbent were assessed using equation (2). Finally, the qe values were schemed versus C₀ (mg·g⁻¹) for each temperature.

2.4. Equilibrium Experiments. The experimental data of Section 2.3.3 were examined by the Langmuir, Freundlich, and Temkin models represented by equations (3)–(6), one-to-one:

\[
\frac{C_e}{q_e} = \frac{1}{q_{\text{max}}K_L} + \frac{C_e}{q_{\text{max}}},
\]

\[
R_L = \frac{1}{1 + K_LC_0},
\]

\[
\ln q_e = \ln K_F + \frac{1}{n}\ln C_e,
\]

\[
q_e = B_1\ln K_T + B_1\ln C_e,
\]

where \(q_{\text{max}}\) is (mg·g⁻¹) the maximum sorption capacity, \(R_L\) is the dimensionless factor, \(K_L\), \(K_F\), and \(K_T\) are the constants of Langmuir, Freundlich, and Temkin, correspondingly. \(N\) is the sorption intensity and \(B_1\) is the constant correlated to sorption heat.

The parameters of thermodynamic like enthalpy, entropy, and free energy changes (\(\Delta H^°\), \(\Delta S^°\), and \(\Delta G^°\)) of this sorption were assessed using the following equations, where \(R\) is the general gas constant (0.008314 kJ·K⁻¹·mol⁻¹) and \(T\) is the temperature (K):

\[
\ln \left(\frac{q_e}{C_e}\right) = \frac{\Delta H^°}{RT} + \frac{\Delta S^°}{R},
\]

\[
\Delta G^° = \Delta H^° - T\Delta S^°.
\]

2.5. Kinetic Experiments. In order to evaluate kinetic parameters of KMnO₄ sorption by ZCOBLP, the obtained results from Section 2.3.2 were analyzed using 1st-order, 2nd-order, and intraparticle distribution models demonstrated in the following linear expressions:

\[
\log(q_e - q_t) = \log q_e - K_1 t \quad \text{2.303,}
\]

\[
t = \frac{1}{K_2q_e} + \frac{t}{q_e},
\]

\[
q_t = K_{\text{diff}} \sqrt{t} + C,
\]

where \(q_e\) and \(q_t\) are the KMnO₄ amount of sorption at equilibrium and the removed KMnO₄ amount from solution after every interval of time, correspondingly. \(C\) is a dynamic constant associated with the width of boundary layer. The constants of 1st-order, 2nd-order, and intraparticle distribution models are \(K_1\), \(K_2\), and \(K_{\text{diff}}\) respectively.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Properties of ZCOBLP. The outcomes got from experiments of pHzpc (pH of the solution at which the net charge on the sorbent surface is zero) and sorbent surface analyzer are registered in Table 1. The obtained results approve that ZCOBLP has suitable surface area, pore volume, and pore diameter which have significant impacts on the sorption act of each sorbent.

The types of the functional groups present on the surface of ZCOBLP which play an imperative role in the sorption process were summarized with their absorption bands in Table 2. As can be seen in this table, the functional groups of the ring stretching vibration, –NH₂ deformation, stretching of C-O, stretching of CH, and stretching of –NH, were found in the sorbent of ZCOBLP at 1516.21, 1629.33, 1047.00, 2929.88, and 3294.93 cm⁻¹, correspondingly. Moreover, there is no any peak related to stretching of –Cl, which confirms that ZCOBLP become free from Cl ions (Cl⁻) after sample washing.

The ZCOBLP microstructures (spectrum of SEM) before and after sorption are illustrated in Figures 1(a) and 1(b), respectively. As shown in Figure 1, the sorption altered the surface roughness of the ZCOBLP significantly. Its surface was heterogeneous prior to sorption, indicating the presence of pores of various shapes and sizes. Nevertheless, after the sorption of MnO₄⁻ ions, a thick layer of adsorbate was seen covering the pores, giving the surface a smooth shape.
3.2. Impact of Experimental Conditions

3.2.1. Impact of Contact Time. Sorption of 15 mL of 200, 300, and 400 mg·L$^{-1}$ of KMnO$_4$ solution by 0.03 g of ZCOBLP performed at various times (5 to 960 min), 25°C, 140 rpm, and initial solution pH to examine the effect of agitation time and to identify the equilibrium sorption time. The values of $q_e$ were calculated and plotted against contact time ($t$) as revealed in Figure 2. As can be seen in Figure 2, the $q_e$ values for each concentration significantly increased in the range of (5–45 min), indicating that the majority of sorption sites were empty at this time. Then, as the contact time increases in the range of 45–300 min, the values of $q_e$ steadily increased because the sorption sites began to be partially occupied by MnO$_4^{2-}$ ions. Moreover, there is not any change in the values of $q_e$ that can be observed (Figure 2) after 300 min. The outcomes of this section agreed well with those reported for MnO$_4^{2-}$ sorption by Nitraria retusa [32].

3.2.2. Impact of pH. Figure 3 proves the results related to the effect of solution pH on sorption of MnO$_4^{2-}$ by ZCOBLP (pH$_{ZPC} = 8.3$). This figure indicates that $q_e$ of this sorption is slowly and suddenly decreased when pH values of MnO$_4^{2-}$ elevated from 1.5 to 7 and from 7 to 11, respectively. The first decreasing was because of decreasing the attraction force between the negative ions of MnO$_4^{2-}$ and the positive charges present on the surface of ZCOBLP (pH < pH$_{ZPC}$), which are decreased when pH increased in the range of (1.5–7) [29], whereas the fast decreasing obtained in the values of $q_e$ at pH over 7 was as a result of the force of repulsion between the negatively charged ZCOBLP surface (pH > pH$_{ZPC}$) and anions of MnO$_4^{2-}$ [29]. Similar outcomes were reported for MnO$_4^{2-}$ sorption by Nitraria retusa [32].

3.2.3. Temperature and Concentration Effects. The results of experiments associated with the impact of temperature and concentration of MnO$_4^{2-}$ solution on this sorption are represented in Figure 4. As illustrated in this figure, the amount of MnO$_4^{2-}$ adsorbed by ZCOBLP ($q_e$) is increased when the adsorbate concentration elevated from 200 to 1300 mg·L$^{-1}$ and almost be invariable over 1300 mg·L$^{-1}$. Because when the adsorbate concentration was increased in the range of 200–1300 mg·L$^{-1}$, the mass transfer resistance between the aqueous solution of MnO$_4^{2-}$ and the solid surface of ZCOBLP was reduced, resulting in an increase in the values of $q_e$ [34], whereas there is not any vacant active site that will be available to adsorb extra ions of MnO$_4^{2-}$ when the adsorbate concentration increased over 1300 mg·L$^{-1}$.

### Table 1: Results of pH$_{ZPC}$ and BET surface analyzer of the sorbent used in this work.

| Properties              | Obtained results        |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| pH$_{ZPC}$              | 8.3                     |
| Surface area            | 117.27 m$^2$·g$^{-1}$   |
| Total pore volume       | 0.00711 cc/g            |
| Average pore diameter   | 264.144 Å               |

### Table 2: The FT-IR spectrum’s absorption bands and their functional groups.

| Absorption band (cm$^{-1}$) | Functional group         |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1516.21                     | Ring stretching vibration |
| 1629.33                     | –NH$_2$ deformation       |
| 1047.00                     | Stretching of C-O        |
| 2929.88                     | Stretching of CH         |
| 3294.93                     | Stretching of –NH        |

![Figure 1: SEM spectrum of ZCOBLP (a) before and (b) after sorption.](image)
Therefore, \( q_e \) be invariable after this concentration. Figure 4 also identifies that \( q_e \) of this sorption is positively affected by temperature. Because the movement energy of MnO\(_4^–\) ions is increased and the solution viscosity is decreased by elevating temperature [39], these outcomes confirm that this sorption is an endothermic process. Similar thing was noted for MnO\(_4^–\) by neem leaves powder [33].

3.3. Dynamic Parameters. The dynamic models of 1st-order, 2nd-order, and intraparticle diffusion were used to analyze the experimental data from Section 2.3.1 in order to determine the kinetic parameters for MnO\(_4^–\) ions sorption by ZCOBLP. The plots of these three dynamic models are depicted in Figures 5–7 for 1st-order, 2nd-order, and intraparticle diffusion, one-to-one.

The dynamic constants of this sorption were calculated from the slopes and intercepts of these plots (Figures 5–7) and recorded in Tables 3 and 4. According to these three figures, the best linear plots can be observed in Figure 5. Moreover, in comparison between \( R^2 \) values of the 1st- and the 2nd-order models (Table 3), \( R^2 \) values of 2nd order are higher than those of 1st order. Furthermore, experimental values of \( q_e (q_{e,exp}) \) are almost equal to the values of \( q_e (q_{e,cal}) \), which were calculated by applying the dynamic model of 2nd order and differ from the values of \( q_e (q_{e,cal}) \) obtained by using the first-order dynamic model. All of these observations strongly confirm that this sorption follows the 2nd-order dynamic model, which indicates that the MnO\(_4^–\) ions are adsorbed on the surface of ZCOBLP by chemical bands.

The same outcomes were reported for sorption of MnO\(_4^–\) ions by activated carbon [15] and chemical modified sage leaves powder [40].

Figure 7 of intraparticle diffusion and values of \( R^2 \). Table 4 shows that the entire time range could not be fitted by a straight line, but it could be divided into two linear sections, implying that the sorption of MnO\(_4^–\) ion could be influenced by many processes. By increasing the adsorbate concentration, the values of parameter \( C \) were increased from 44.782 to 69.870 in area 1 and from 97.732 to 150.030 in region 2, implying that the thickness of the boundary layer was positively affected by the concentration of MnO\(_4^–\) ions solution (Table 4). It is also worth noting that none of the plots in Figure 7 traveled through the origin, suggesting that intraparticle diffusion was not the only rate-limiting step and that some other process must have coexisted with intraparticle diffusion.

Very close results relating to intraparticle diffusion were obtained for sorption of MnO\(_4^–\) ions by chemical modified sage leaves powder sorbent [40].

3.4. Isotherm Parameters. The data of the experiments performed in Section 2.3.3 were also analyzed by models of Langmuir, Freundlich, and Temkin to determine the maximum sorption capacity and isotherm constant of this sorption. The plots of these models are shown in Figure 8 (Langmuir), Figure 9 (Freundlich), and Figure 10 (Temkin). The constants values of each isotherm model were computed from the slopes and intercepts of its plots and documented in Table 5.

The higher values of \( R^2 \) that were obtained by applying the model of Langmuir (Table 5) along with Figures 8–10 prove that the plots of Figure 8 (Langmuir) are more linear than those of the other two figures. This means that this sorption follows Langmuir model further than the other two models, confirming a monolayer sorption and homogeneity of the effective sites on the surface of ZCOBLP. The values of \( R_L \) (ranged from 0.01616 to 0.07084) and \( 1/n \) (ranged from 0.402 to 0.494) (Table 5) are less than unity, indicating the favorability of the experimental conditions applied in this
Table 3: Parameters of the 1st- and 2nd-order dynamic models for MnO$_4^-$ sorption by ZCOBLP.

| $C_0$ (mg/L) | $q_{e, exp}$ (mg/g) | Pseudo-first-order kinetic model | Pseudo-second-order kinetic model |
|--------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
|              |                     | $q_{e1, cal}$ (mg/g) | $K_1$ (h$^{-1}$) | $R^2$ | $q_{e2, cal}$ (mg/g) | $K_2$ (g/mgh) | $R^2$ | Rate     |
| 200          | 98.288              | 27.7332                      | 0.0092                     | 0.875 | 100.000            | 0.00088      | 0.999 | 0.088417 |
| 300          | 147.792             | 59.8136                      | 0.0083                     | 0.927 | 151.515            | 0.00037      | 0.999 | 0.055462 |
| 400          | 165.826             | 46.4943                      | 0.0044                     | 0.873 | 166.667            | 0.00046      | 0.999 | 0.076336 |
study. Similar trends were noticed in the case MnO$_4^-$ ions sorption by *Nitraria retusa* leaves powder [32], neem leaves powder [33], and another low-cost sorbent [40].

It can also be seen from Table 5 that the sorbent prepared and used in this study has superior sorption capacities towards MnO$_4^-$ ions; this confirms that this low-cost, high-effective sorbent will receive more attention in the purification of water and wastewater from MnO$_4^-$ ions. Additionally, these capacities increased from 588.235 mg·g$^{-1}$ to 714.286 mg·g$^{-1}$ when temperature elevated from 25 °C to 55 °C, confirming the endothermic sorption as mentioned in Section 3.2.3.

### 3.5. Thermodynamic Constants

The thermodynamic constants of this sorption were evaluated from slopes and intercepts of the plots shown in Figure 11 and documented in Table 6. It can be noted that the Δ$H^\circ$ and Δ$S^\circ$ values are positive (Table 6), confirming an endothermic sorption and decreasing the randomness due to occurrence of the sorption process [41]. Additionally, all Δ$H^\circ$ values (Table 6) are higher than 20.9 kJ/mol, which confirms the chemisorption process [25]. These outcomes are totally similar to those results previous observed by Al-Aoh and Bani-Atta [17, 40].

Moreover, the positive values of Δ$S^\circ$ are decreased with increasing the concentration of MnO$_4^-$ in the solution, evidencing that the concentration of MnO$_4^-$ ions is the most effective variable in this sorption.

The negative values of Δ$G^\circ$ (Table 6) indicate the spontaneity of this sorption. The similar outcomes were reported for sorption of MnO$_4^-$ ions by sage leaves powder [40] and neem leaves powder [33].

Furthermore, there is an accordance between the outcomes of thermodynamic and kinetic studies, where both of them confirm that the ions of MnO$_4^-$ were chemically adsorbed on the surface of ZCOBLP.

### 4. Comparison Study

For comparison, the sorption capacities of the sorbent (ZCOBLP) used in this research towards MnO$_4^-$ anions and capacities of some selected sorbent earlier used for sorption of MnO$_4^-$ anions from liquid phases are documented in Table 7. The ZCOBLP has higher sorption capabilities than *Nitraria retusa* leaves powder, modified carbonaceous
materials, activated charcoal, and activated carbon generated from animal bone, carbon corncob, and coconut shells, as demonstrated in Table 7.

5. Conclusions

In this research, the characterization of zinc chloride *Ocimum basilicum* leaves powder (ZCOBLP) and its efficiency for sorption of MnO$_4^-$ at various operative conditions were studied. Characterization results exhibited that ZCOBLP has five functional groups on its surface, pH$_{ZPC} = 8.3$ and surface area = 117.27 m$^2$·g$^{-1}$. The dynamic constants of this sorption were determined using first- and second-order dynamic models, as well as the equation of intraparticle diffusion.

The equilibrium results of this sorption were analyzed by models of Temkin, Freundlich, and Langmuir. The results of
sorption experiments approve that concentration of MnO$_4^-$, temperature, and time of contact have positive influences on this sorption, while pH has a negative influence. The achieved dynamic constants confirm that 2nd-order dynamic model was the best model that can be applied for this sorption. The equilibrium results show that MnO$_4^-$ sorption by ZCOBLP is a spontaneous and heat-absorbing process, with the Langmuir model being the optimal isotherm model to use. The sorption capacities got in this work were 588.235, 625.000, 666.667, and 714.286 mg g$^{-1}$ at 25, 35, 45, and 55°C, correspondingly. ZCOBLP will be successfully employed for decontamination of chemically polluted wastewaters due to its inexpensive price and availability, as well as its sufficient sorption capability for MnO$_4^-$.

**Data Availability**

No data were used to support this study.

**Conflicts of Interest**

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

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