

Fe₃O₄-loaded Ion Exchange Resin for Chromatographic Separation of Boron Isotopes: Experiment and Numerical Simulation

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August 31, 2020

Abstract

Fe₃O₄-loaded ion exchange resin composites (Fe₃O₄@Resin) were optimally constructed through ion exchange and co-precipitation of Fe²⁺ and Fe³⁺ on strong acid ion exchange resin. The as-synthesized Fe₃O₄@Resin composite was sophisticatedly characterized and investigated for 10B/11B separation including effect of pH, kinetics and isotherms through batch adsorption experiment which can be well described by pseudo-second order kinetics and Langmuir model. In the chromatographic column packed with Fe₃O₄@Resin, 10B was selectively retained with a high dynamic separation factor of 1.312. Considering the consistency between simulated and experimental breakthrough curves within Fe₃O₄@Resin packed column, chromatographic 10B/11B separation performance was simulated under various conditions which were further optimized by response surface methodology method. Consequently, the annual yield of 10B reached the maximum of 612 g with feed concentration of 7.567 g·L⁻¹, flow rate of 38.57 mL·min⁻¹, the length of column of 45 cm. In addition, five-cycle adsorption/regeneration experiments indicated its merit of reusability.

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