

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	2
CERTIFICATE	4
DECLARATION	5
LIST OF TABLES.....	10
LIST OF FIGURES.....	11
GENERAL ABBREVIATIONS	13
CHEMICAL ABBREVIATIONS	14
ABSTRACT	15
CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION	18
1.1 Background.....	18
1.2 Sources and the effects of nitrate	18
1.3 Need of the study	20
1.4 Objectives of the Study.....	25
1.5 Organization of the Thesis	26
CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW.....	27
2.1 General methods for removal of aqueous nitrate from water and wastewater.....	27
2.1.1 Biological method	27
2.1.2 Catalytic Hydrogenation.....	29
2.1.3 Ion Exchange.....	30
2.1.4 Photo Reduction	31
2.1.5 Nano Zero Valent Iron.....	32
2.1.6 Electro-coagulation	33
2.1.7 Summary of general treatment methods of nitrate.....	34
2.1.8 Findings from Literature Survey.....	35
2.2 Electrochemical Reduction (ECR) of aqueous nitrate from water and wastewater	36
2.2.1 Literature survey on ECR of nitrate	36
2.2.2 Findings from the Literature	41
CHAPTER 3: MATERIALS AND METHODOLOGY	43
3.1 Chemicals and Material Sources.....	43
3.2 Analysis method of NO ₃ -N, NO ₂ -N, NH ₃ -N and N ₂ -N.....	43
3.2.1 Experiments with Ag-PVA beads	43
3.2.2 Experiments with AgMPs	44

3.2.3 Experiments with Ti/Co ₃ O ₄	44
3.3 Experimental Work	45
3.3.1 Preparation of catalyst and mixed metal oxide (MMO) electrode	45
3.3.1.1 Preparation of Ag-PVA beads.....	45
3.3.1.2 Preparation of Ag-MPs.....	46
3.3.1.3 Preparation of mixed metal oxide (Ti/RuO ₂) electrode	47
3.3.1.4 Preparation of Ti/Co ₃ O ₄ plate	47
3.3.2 Experimental setup for ECR of nitrate.....	48
3.3.2.1 Nitrate Reduction in an undivided cell.....	48
3.3.2.2 Nitrate Reduction in a divided cell	49
3.3.2.3 Oxidation of ammonia at the anode in a divided cell	49
3.3.3 ECR of nitrate using a spatially suspended Ag-PVA beads.....	50
3.3.3.1 Effect of the absence and presence of Ag-PVA beads in an undivided cell	50
3.3.3.2 Effect of the absence and presence of Ag-PVA beads in a divided cell	50
3.3.3.3 Effect of concentration of Ag-PVA beads	50
3.3.3.4 Effect of various cathode materials in the absence and presence of Ag-PVA beads.....	51
3.3.3.5 Effect of various current densities in the presence of Ag-PVA beads	51
3.3.3.6 Effect of initial nitrate concentration in the presence of Ag-PVA beads.....	51
3.3.3.7 Reusability of Ag-PVA beads	51
3.3.3.8 ECR of nitrate in real groundwater	52
3.3.4 ECR of nitrate using spatially suspended catalyst AgMPs	52
3.3.4.1 Effect of the absence and presence of AgMPs in an undivided cell	52
3.3.4.2 Effect of the absence and presence of AgMPs in a divided cell	52
3.3.4.3 Effect of concentration of AgMPs	52
3.3.4.4 Effect of inter-electrode distance in the presence of AgMPs	53
3.3.4.5 Effect of various cathode materials in the absence and presence of AgMPs ..	53
3.3.4.6 Effect of various current densities in the presence of AgMPs	53
3.3.4.7 Effect of initial nitrate concentration in the presence of AgMPs.....	53
3.3.4.8 Oxidation of ammonia on the anode in the anodic compartment	53
3.3.4.9 Reusability of AgMPs	54
3.3.4.10 ECR of nitrate in real water (groundwater)	54
3.3.5 Treatment of metal finishing wastewater containing high-concentration nitrate using ECR	54

3.3.5.1 Effect of initial nitrate concentration	54
3.3.5.2 Effect of current density	55
3.3.5.3 Reusability of Ti/Co ₃ O ₄ electrode	55
3.3.5.4 Effect of molar ratio of Mg:NH ₄ :PO ₄ on struvite formation.....	55
3.3.6 ANALYTICAL METHODS	62
3.3.6.1 Characterisation of Ag-PVA beads	62
3.3.6.2 Characterisation of AgMPs	62
3.3.6.3 Characterisation of Ti/Co ₃ O ₄	62
3.3.6.5 Characterisation of struvite	63
CHAPTER 4: RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	64
4.1 ECR of Nitrate using Ag-PVA beads as a spatially suspended catalyst	64
4.1.1 Morphological study of Ag-PVA beads	64
4.1.2 Nitrate removal in an undivided cell	66
4.1.3 Nitrate removal in a divided cell	67
4.1.3.1 Effect of concentration of Ag-PVA beads	69
4.1.3.2 Effect of cathode material	70
4.1.3.3 Effect of current density	73
4.1.3.4 Effect of the initial nitrate concentration	74
4.1.3.5 Reusability of Ag-PVA beads	75
4.2 ECR of Nitrate using AgMPs	77
4.2.1 Morphological study of AgMPs	77
4.2.2 Crystallographic study of AgMPs.....	78
4.2.3 Nitrate removal in an undivided cell	80
4.2.4 Nitrate removal in a divided cell	81
4.2.4.1 Effect of concentration of AgMPs	83
4.2.4.2 Effect of inter-electrode distance.....	85
4.2.4.3 Effect of the cathode material	86
4.2.4.4 Effect of current density	89
4.2.4.5 Effect of initial nitrate concentration	90
4.2.4.6 Simultaneous nitrate reduction-ammonia oxidation for TN removal	92
4.2.4.7 Reusability of AgMPs	94
4.3 Mechanism of catalytic electrochemical nitrate removal in the presence of a spatially suspended silver catalyst.....	97
4.4 ECR of nitrate in groundwater using spatially suspended catalyst	100

4.5 ECR of high nitrate concentration in metal finishing wastewater using catalyst-coated cathode (Ti/Co ₃ O ₄)	104
4.5.1 XRD analysis of Ti/Co ₃ O ₄	105
4.5.2 Effect of the initial nitrate concentration.....	106
4.5.3 Effect of current density	109
4.5.4 Reusability of Ti/Co ₃ O ₄	111
4.5.5 Struvite formation for ammonia removal	114
4.5.5.1 Effect of molar ratios of Mg:NH ₄ :PO ₄ on struvite formation for removal of ammonia	115
REFERENCES.....	119
CHAPTER 5: CONCLUSION	117
Recommendation.....	140
Publications.....	140
Conferences	140
Annexure.....	141