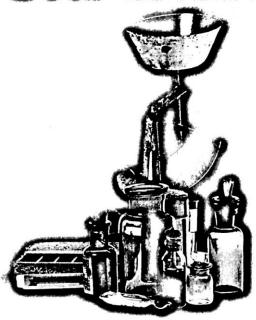
# CHEMICAL ENGINEERING AND CHEMICAL TECHNOLOGIES CONFERENCE





DAKAWA KATANIANA KATANIANA

CONTENTS	2	141	DEVELOPMENT OF METHODOLOGY FOR THE DETERMINATION OF DUCKNISH ST.
6	CHEMICAL ENGINEERING & CHEMICAL TECHNOLOGIES		PHD L. LOGOYDA, DR. D. KOROBKO, PHD N. ZARIVNA
	IN DEBEND DECENTATIONS	<b>35</b>	NANOSCALE CHARACTERIZATION OF BIMETTALIC AU-CU SUPPORTED NANOPARTICLES SUMEYA BEDRAME: WAHIRA BENDEDDOUCHE ZOLIKHA FANDI REDDILABE RAPHIPA
= 22	SIMULATION OF THE POWER CABLE PROCESSING	157	MILD COMMON AGENTS FOR SUPPRESSING P. CANALICULATA EGGS HATCHABILITY NOOR HAXYIEAH MOHD SAILEH DACHYAR ARRAIN WIRDA AVINI
ឌ	LOW LEVEL LIQUID HANDLING IN CRUDE DISTILLATION COLUMN TRAYS  ANCHII ARDRA VIIAY SINGH R	165	THE EFFECTS OF ZNO CRYSTALS ON THE BARRIER PROPERTIES OF LOPE POLYMER TUGGE BENAT, MUALLA ONER
SS	THIN LAYER DRYING MATHEMATICAL MODELLING OF ORTHOSIPHON STAMINEUS HERBAL PI ANT LAVES IISING PAGE MODE	167	PRODUCTION AND CHARACTERIZATION OF SILICA AEROGELS FROM RICE HULL ASH SILICA Tölay merve temel, sevil yöcel, yeliz elalmis, burcu karakuzu
	SRIYANA ABDUILAH, ABDUI RAZAK SHAARI, IBNI HAJAR RUKUNUDIN, MUHAMMAD SYARHABIL AHMAD	51	FORMULATION OF BIOADHESIVE GELS USING MODIFIED CARRAGEENANS N. Moulai-Mostefa, S. Lefnaoui
4	AUGMENTATION OF HEAT TRANSFER AND TURBULENCE FOR BETTER PERFORMANCE OF PHOTOVOLTAIC PANEL	175	POSTER PRESENTATIONS
2	SYED MUHD YAHTA, SYEU FAHAD ARWEK AND SANDERV SANGRI FT-IR STUDY OF THE NANOSURFACE PHENOMENA OF METALLIC NANOPARTICLES AND	E	SYNTHESIS OF DENDRIMERS USED AS SORBENTS, BASED ON THE FORMATION OF Copolymer for capture organic acids
	NANOWIRES I. MARKOVA — DENEVA		RICARDO CASTRO CEPEDA, LUIS GUZMAN 10FRE, OSCAR VALDES, LEONARDO SILVA SANTOS, ADOLFO MARICAN, CLAUDIA VERGARA
E	SUBCLONING AND EXPRESSION OF RECOMBINANT HUMAN PARATHYROID HORMONE RHPTH Ry bision strategy in e coll	6/1	ENHANCED CR8 + ADSORPTION CAPACITY OF THE NEW POLY(ACRYLAMIDE)/ MANNYMORII DANTE MANDCOMPOSTE HYDROGET E BY IMMORITYM CENEULLING
	SADEGH MAJDI, ELAHE ESFAHANI, HOSSEIN AMANI, GHASEM NAJAF POUR D, MAJID SHAHBAZI		MICROALESE MICROALESE DEMET AYDINOĞLU, ÖZKAN AKGÜL, VILDAN BAYRAM, SINAN SEN
82	SYNTHESIS OF THE FATTY ACID METHYL ESTER CATALYZED BY IONIC LIQUIDS WOJCIECH KRASODOMSKI AND JOANNA OLEKSIK	<b>5</b>	CHEMICAL CHARACTERIZATION OF WASTE WATER OF INDUSTRIAL UNIT IN ANNABA AREA (ALGERIA)
8	SYNTHESIS OF THE FATTY ACID METHYL ESTER CATALYZED BY CATIONITES INANNA RI FKSIK AND WORDERFH KRASODOMSKI	183	MOHAMED KAHOUL AND NASSIMA DERBAL Hydronycic cytiny on the boom temperatides como
82	ZEOLITE SYNTHESIS FROM TUNGBILEK FLY ASH WITH ALKALINE HYDROTHERMAL METHOD: EFFECT OF NAOH/FLY ASH RATIO	3	TIB NMR. N.N-DIETHYL-N-METHYL-N-(2-METHOXETINYL)AMMONUM TETRAFLUOROBORATE Koji Saihara, Hideyuki Fujimoto, Yukihiro Yoshimura, akio shimizu.
97	OZGUL DERE OZDEMIR AND SABRIYE PISKIN CHARACTERIZATION OF THE BERGAMA GOLD MINE WASTE F DIIR M YI DIRIM A S. KIPCAK, E. MOROYDOR DERUN, S. PISKIN	185	EFFECT OF PRESSURE AND TEMPERATURE ON THE VIABILITY, MORPHOLOGY AND FUNCTION OF RAT PRIMARY ASTROCYTES KEUI NEI, KAZUYUKI NAKAJIMA, SHINICHI YAMAMOTO, AKID SHIMIZII
105	ULTRASONIC SYNTHESIS OF COPPER BORATES AT 70°C S. KAVCI, F. T. SENBERBER, A. S. KIPCAK, E. MOROYDOR DERUN, S. PISKIN	187	AGGREGATION BEHAVIOR OF SYMMETRICAL AND UNSYMMETRICAL 1,3-DIALKYLIMIDAZOLIUM Bromides in aquedus solutions
E	THE INVESTIGATION OF THE ELEMENT CONTENTS IN THE APPLE JUICE F. Demir, A. S. Kipcak, O. Dere Ozdemir, E. Moroydor Derun, S. Piskin	189	MINURU SATIU, KAZUMA ABE, MASATO ITO AND AKIO SHIMIZU Study of the influence of high hydrostatic pressure processing on
121	THE INVESTIGATION OF THE ELEMENT CONTENTS IN THE CLASSIC, DECAF AND FILTER CAREFES		PKESEKVAJIUN AND FREE AMINO ACID OF MINCED FISH Ayako yamasaki and akio shimizu
হ	A. S. KIPCAK, F. DEMIR, O. DERE OZDEMIR, E. MOROYDOR DERUN, S. PISKIN DETERMINATION OF THE ZINC SULFATE, TINCALCONITE AND BORIC ACID MOLAR RATIO IN	<u>2</u>	SYNTHESIS OF 3,4-DIHYDROPYRIMIDINDNE USING ZINC NITRATE AS A CATALYST UNDER SOLVENT FREE CONDITIONS MAHINA KOHACH I EI A BENNINI SALIHA AFRADA
	THE PRODUCTION OF ZINC BORATES A.S. KIPCAK, F.I. SENBERBER, E. MOROYDOR DERUN, N. TUGRUL, S. PISKIN	193	EFFECT OF THE SCHOUTS STRUCTURE ON THE PHOTOCATALYTIC DEGRADATION OF METHYLENE DITTORY OF THE PHOTOCATALYTIC DEGRADATION OF METHYLENE
85	REGIOSELECTIVE REDUCTION OF THE ENONE SYSTEM TO DIENE SYSTEM Khaled Shawakfeh, raed al-20ubi		GHANIA FOURA AND AHCÈNE SOUALAH

STUDY OF THE RESISTANCE TO CRACK PROPAGATION IN THERMAL INSULATION MATERIALS SEDDIK BOURAS, INES ZERIZER AND FARID GHELDANE SURFACE PARAMETERS AND THERMO-GRAVIMETRIC ANALYSIS FOR PARENT AND MODIFIED NANO-ZEOLITES CORRELATED WITH THEIR CATALYTIC ACTIVITY	SYNTHESIS OF APPROPRIATE OLEGINOUS BIOMASS FOR BIOFUEL PRODUCTION A. C. AHMIA, F. DANANE, R. BESSAH, R. ALLOUNE, M.AZIZA EFFECT OF COBALIT AND ANYMONY ON ZINC ELECTROWINING USING SULFATE SOLUTIONS	VLAUDSLAVA STEPANDVA, ERDUAN MEHMED, PETAR ILIEV, BISERKA LUCHEVA  STRUCTURAL, MORPHOLOGICAL AND SWELLING PROPERTIES OF NOVEL POLY(NAAA-CO-HEA)/ MG-AL-CL LAYERED DOUBLE HYDROXIDE NANDCOMPOSITE HYDROGELS  OZIEM YILMAZ, AYGA BAL, MEHMET KORAY GÖK,	SYNERGISTIC EFFECT OF YTTRIUM NITRATE AND POTASSIUM IODIDE ON THE INHIBITION OF THE CORROSION OF CARBON STEEL AST IN H2SO4 0,5M SIHEM OUCHENANE, SIHEM ABDERRAHMANE, AMEL SEDIK, SAMEH ATHMANI THERMODYNAMIC STUDY OF THE CYSTEINE ADSORPTION ON COPPER SURFACE IN HNO3 1M	AMEL SEDIK, SIHEM ABDERRAHMANE, SIHEM OUCHENANE, AMEL GHARBI Characterization Study of Sepiolite and Borogypsum minerals for the Synthesis of New Generation Materials	F. I. SENBERBER AND S. PISKIN CFD SIMULATIONS FOR BENZENE NITRATION REACTION IN A MICROREACTOR S. KOUADRI MOUSTEFAI, W. HARCHOUCHE, B. BENSABER ELIMINATION OF HERBICIDE THE METRIBUZIN (C8H14N4OS) BY THE METHOD OF ADSORPTION ON DIFFERENT MEDIA ADSORBENTS TO KNOW; THE MAGHNITE MAGHNIA THE	CHARCOAL (POWDER — GRAIN) AND THE ZEOLITES B. A. REGUIG, A. BETTAYEB, A. YAHIAOUI, A. BENYOUCEF Index	Yan.				
245	261	279	289 301	303	313	23	3				
			p.e.								13.5
195 ONE-POT SYNTHESIS OF 3,4-DIHYDROPYRIMIDIN- 2(1 H)-ONES: VARIATION OF SQIVENT AND THE AMOUNT OF HCL LEILA BINNINI, SALIHA MENAD, KAHINA KOUACHI, 197 OPTIMIZATION STUDIES FOR TARTARIC ACID RECOVERY FROM INDUSTRIAL RED AND WHITE TARTAR WASTES	MAHENDRA ARYAL AND MARIA LIAKOPOULOU-KYRIAKIDES 199 ANTIOXIDANT ACTIVITY OF THE EXTRACTS DERIVED FROM WINE INDUSTRY BYPRODUCTS AND CORRELATION TO THEIR ANTHOCYANIN CONTENT EVANGELOS TRIKAS, MARIA MELIDOU, RIGINI PAPI,	GEORGE ZACHARIADIS AND DIMITRIOS KYRIAKIDIS  201 FLOW PHENOMENA OF DROPLETS IN T-JUNCTION MICROCHANNELS USING MICRO-PIV TSUNG-SHENG SHEU, BO-RENG PENG, HERCHANG AY, 203 NEW DISCRETE SQUARE METAL-DNA NANOSTRUCTURES. SYNTHESIS, SELF-ASSEMBLY, AND		207 CHARACTERIZATION OF ALLOY STEELS PRODUCED BY SINTERING FEO.4C2CU2NIO.7MO AND FEI.4C2CU2NIO.7MO SAID MÉCHACHTI, SALIM SERRAI, OMAR BENCHIHEUB	215 DETERMINATION OF METHYL MERCURY AND INORGANIC MERCURY IN NATURAL WATERS USING ETHYLATION OR PROPYLATION COMBINED WITH AN AUTOMATED PURGE AND TRAP— GAS CHROMATOGRAPHY—PYROLYSIS—ATOMIC FLUORESCENCE SPECTROMETRY SYSTEM (MERX-M) ABUBAKER SHARIF		221 ELECTROLUMINESCENT PROPERTIES OF LIGHT-EMITTING ELECTROCHEMICAL CELLS BASED ON CATIONIC IRIDIUM COMPLEXES WITH OXAZOLE-BASED ANCILLARY LIGANDS JIYOON HEO AND YOUNGSON CHOE	223 LIQUID CRYSTALS STATIONARY PHASES USE FOR THE ANALYSIS OF VOLATILE AROMA COMPOUNDS IN ESSENTIAL OILS S. BOUDAH, S. SEBIH, I.P. BAYLE	225 NANOSTRUCTURED ACID/BASE MATERIALS VIA NITRIDATION ABDELRAHMAN ALI AND ROBERT MOKAYA	237 SEPARATION OF STAPHYLOCOCCUS AUREUS CAUSING SERIOUS INFECTIONS BY ELECTROPHORETIC TECHNIQUES MARIE VYKYDALOVÁ-TESAROVÁ, MARIE HORKÁ, DANA MORREVYKYDALOVÁ-TESAROVÁ, MARIE HORKÁ,	239 SORPTION BEHAVIOUR OF LEAD, CADMIUM, COPPER, AND ZINC IN MINE SOIL Lotti mouni, lazhar belkhiri, abdelkrim bouzaza, fateh zouggaghe, mourad tafre

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# STRUCTURAL, MORPHOLOGICAL AND SWELLING PROPERTIES OF NOVEL POLY(NAAA-CO-HEA)/ MG-AL-CL LAYERED DOUBLE HYDROXIDE NANOCOMPOSITE HYDROGELS

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### **Abstract**

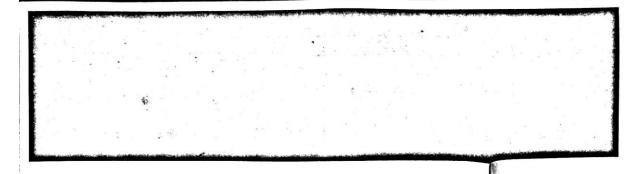
the objective of this study is to investigate the effects of the Mg-Al-Cl layered double hydroxide (Mg-Al-Cl LDH) on the swelling, morphological and structural properties of the poly(sodium acrylate-co-2-hydroxyethyl acrylate) [poly(NaAAco-HEA)] hydrogel. Acrylate monomer based novel nanocomposite hydrogels containing Mg-Al-Cl LDH [poly(NaAA-co-HEA)/ Mg-Al-Cl LDHs] were synthesized by using the equal mole amounts of NaAA and HEA as monomers, potassium persulfate-bisulfite as initiator, N,N-methylenebisacrylamide (NMBA) as crosslinker and different amounts (1, 3, 5 % of total monomer weight) of Mg-Al-Cl LDH. The formation, morphological and structural properties of poly(NaAA-co-HEA)/Mg-Al-Cl LDHs were investigated by Fourier Transform Infrared (FTIR) Spectroscopy, X -ray Diffraction (XRD) Pattern and Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM) analyses. Swelling behaviors of poly(NaAA-co-HEA)/ Mg-Al-Cl LDHs were also examined in distilled water. The results show that poly(NaAA-co-HEA)/ Mg-Al-Cl LDHs have been formed. As the content of Mg-Al-Cl LDHs increased, equilibrium swelling degree of the nanocomposite hydrogels in distilled water decreased due to the Mg-Al-Cl LDHs acting as crosslinking agent. It is then concluded that the poly(NaAA-co-HEA)/ Mg-Al-CI LDHs synthesized in this study may be used as an alternative water absorbent.

**Keywords:** Mg-Al-Cl Layered double hydroxides, nanocomposite hydrogels, 2-hydroxyethyl acrylate, sodium acrylate.

# Introduction

The layered double hydroxides (LDHs), also called anionic clays, are composed of positively charged layers with interlayer exchangeable anions. LDHs have physical and chemical properties that are surprisingly similar to the properties of clay mineral. Its general composition can be represented as  $[M^{II}_{3.x} M^{III}_{x} (OH)_{z}]^{x+} [A^{e}_{x/q}.nH_{z}O]$ , where  $M^{II}$  and  $M^{III}$  are divalent and trivalent cations, respectively, and  $A^{e}$  is an exchangeable anion (Lee et al., 2005). The layer metal cations can be chosen among a wide selection, such as  $Mg^{z*}$ ,  $Ni^{z*}$ ,  $Zn^{z*}$ ,  $Ai^{J*}$ ,  $Fe^{J*}$ , etc., as with the interlayer anion (Figure1), that can be inorganic or organic in nature (Ardanuy et al., 2010). In recent years, LDHs have been used as nanoparticles for preparing

279



polymer-based nanocomposites. The use of LDHs as nanoparticles is advantageous due to their versatility in chemical composition and allow multiple interactions with the polymer (Özgümüş et al., 2013; Kovanda et al., 2010; Hoyo et al., 2007).

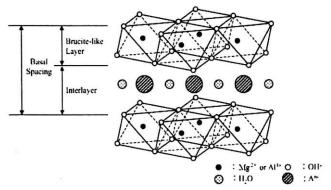


Figure 1. Schematic representation of Mg-Al LDH (Ardanuy et al., 2010).

In this study, the effects of the Mg-Al-Cl layered double hydroxide (Mg-Al-Cl LDH) on the swelling, morphological and structural properties of the poly(NaAA-co-HEA) hydrogel were investigated. In our previous study, Mg-Al-Cl LDH was prepared by the coprecipitation method and characterized using FTIR, XRD and SEM techniques (Özgümüş et al., 2013). Acrylate monomer based novel nanocomposite hydrogels containing Mg-Al-Cl LDH [poly(NaAA-co-HEA)/ Mg-Al-Cl LDHs] were synthesized by using NaAA and HEA as monomers, potassium persulfate—bisulfite as initiator, NMBA as cross-linker and different amounts (1, 3, 5 % of total monomer weight) of Mg-Al-Cl LDH. The formation, morphological and structural properties of poly(NaAA-co-HEA)/ Mg-Al-Cl LDHs were investigated by FTIR, XRD and SEM analyses. Swelling behaviors of poly(NaAA-co-HEA)/ Mg-Al-Cl LDHs were also examined in distilled water.

# Experimental

# **Preparation of Nanocomposite Hydrogels**

Novel poly(NaAA-co-HEA)/ Mg-Al-Cl LDHs (NH-LDHs) containing Mg-Al-Cl LDH, synthesized in our previous study (Özgümüş et al., 2013), were prepared by free radical chain polymerization of NaAA and HEA in Mg-Al-Cl LDH suspension. Firstly, Mg-Al-Cl LDH was suspended in water thoroughly under ultrasonic irradiation. NaAA and HEA monomers and NMBA (0.5% of total monomer moles) were dissolved in suspended Mg-Al-Cl LDH and taken in cylindrical glass tubes. After sealing the tubes with rubber caps, the solution was purged with nitrogen gas for 20 min eliminate dissolved oxygen in the system. The polymerization was performed at 80°C by introducing of initiator (1 X 10<sup>4</sup> mole) (1% of total monomer moles). After 3h reaction time at 80°C, the hydrogels were separated, cut into discs in 5-mm length and washed with water for 1'week. Then, nanocomposite hydrogels

were dried und prepared witho conditions appli

Symbols hydrog

H

NH-1L

NH-3L

Swelling Sto The swellin distilled water The amount of swelling degree

**Table** 

where W<sub>dr</sub> swollen sampl

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### CHEMTECH '14

were dried under vacuum at 40°C. The hydrogel poly(NaAA-co-HEA) (H) was also prepared without using Mg-Al-Cl LDH to compare the results. Details about the conditions applied to synthesize the nanocomposite hydrogels are listed in Table 1.

Symbols of the hydrogels	Monomers NaAA/HEA (mole)	NMBA (mole %)	Mg-Al-Cl LDH (wt %)
н	0.005/0.005	5x10 <sup>-5</sup>	0
NH-1LDH	0.005/0.005	5x10 <sup>-5</sup>	1
NH-3LDH	0.005/0.005	5x10 <sup>-5</sup>	3
NH-5LDH	0.005/0.005	5×10 <sup>-5</sup>	5

Table 1. The feed compositions of the nanocomposite hydrogels.

# **Swelling Studies of the Nanocomposite Hydrogels**

The swelling characteristics of the nanocomposite hydrogels were measured in distilled water through, tea-bag method, gravimetric analysis (Dalaran et al., 2009). The amount of the water absorbed by the samples was given as the equilibrium swelling degree ( $Q_{\rm eq}$ ) and was calculated by eq. (1).

$$Q_{e} = (W_{wet} - W_{dry}) / W_{dry}$$
 (1)

where  $W_{\text{dry}}$  is the weight of the dried sample and  $W_{\text{wet}}$  is the weight of the swollen sample.

### Instruments

FTIR spectra of the samples were taken as KBr disks (sample/ KBr=1/250, w/w) using Digilab Excalibur-FTS 3000MX model FTIR Spectrophotometer operating in the range of 4000–650 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

XRD patterns were obtained using a Rigaku D/Max-2200/PC X-Ray Powder Diffractometer (Japan) using CuK $\alpha$  radiation ( $\lambda$ =1.5406 nm) at 30 mA, 40 kV, a scanning speed of 1°/min from 20=5° to 20=30°.

The scanning electron microscopy (SEM) images of the samples were obtained using a Quanta FEG 450 Scanning Electron Microscopy (USA) scanning electron microscopy.

# **Results and Discussion**

# **XRD Analysis**

Figure 2 illustrates the typical diffraction peak from XRD powder patterns of Mg-Al-CI LDH and the corresponding nanocomposite hydrogel incorporated with 3 wt. % Mg-Al-CI LDH (NH-3LDH).

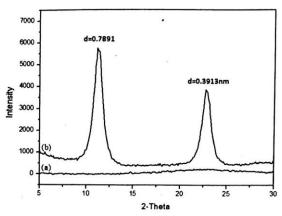


Figure 2. XRD patterns of (a) NH-3LDH (b) Mg-Al-Cl LDH.

There are two intense diffraction peaks for Mg-Al-Cl LDH, the main strong peak approximately at 20= 11.3° corresponding to d= 0.7891 nm and the other sharp peak approximately at 20= 22.9° corresponding to d= 0.3913 nm, while no diffraction peak appears for nanocomposite hydrogel sample NH-3LDH (3 wt% Mg-Al-Cl LDH), it was attributed that Mg-Al-Cl LDH sheets are exfoliated and uniformly dispersed in poly(NaAA-co-HEA) hydrogel network.

### FT-IR Analysis

FTIR analysis reveals that the nature of change in hydrogel matrix and Mg-AI-CI LDH during the formation of the nanocomposite. The FTIR spectra of Mg-Al-CI LDH, H and NH-3LDH are shown in Figure 3a. FTIR spectrum of the Mg-Al-CI LDH showed characteristic absorption bands; the intense and broad band at about 3200-3700 cm<sup>-1</sup> region (max. at 3510 cm<sup>-1</sup>) was related to the asymmetric and symmetric stretching mode of hydrogen-bonded OH groups in the hydroxyl layers; the small shoulder at approximately 3050 cm<sup>-1</sup> was assigned to hydroxyl interactions with carbonate ions impurities in the interlayer, and has been attributed to the bridging mode H,O-CO, 2. The weak absorption band corresponding to the H<sub>2</sub>O deformation bending vibration was also seen at 1653 cm<sup>-1</sup> as a function of the interlamellar anions such as CO<sub>3</sub>-2. The sharp absorption band at 1372 cm<sup>-1</sup>, the small shoulder and weak band at 863 and 651 cm<sup>-1</sup> attributed to unidentate carbonate symmetric stretching vibrations (O-C-O bond) for the LDH with CO<sub>3</sub><sup>-2</sup> anions incorporated into the interlayer. An additional broad shoulder at 1500-1550 cm<sup>-1</sup> regions attributed to the formation of bicarbonate ions due to the proton transfer from the hydroxide sheets to the carbonate ion. A series of bands in spectra which were recorded at 1000-400 cm<sup>-1</sup> region are complicated due to the presence of lattice translational modes (Özgümüş et al., 2013).

In the spectra of the H Figure 3c the characteristic band at 3449 cm<sup>-1</sup>, 2957 and 1579 cm<sup>-1</sup> was attributed to the the asymmetric and symmetric stretching mode

of OH groups in the HEA units on the copolymer structure, stretching vibration of CH<sub>2</sub> groups and C=O asymmetric stretching in the carboxylate anion, respectively. This was confirmed by another peak at 1405-1400 cm<sup>-1</sup> region (max. 1415 cm<sup>-1</sup>), which is related to the symmetric stretching mode of the carboxylate groups and OH groups of the HEA monomer units. The main contribution to the absorption band at 1732 cm<sup>-1</sup> is from the C=O bonds stretching vibrations of the ester groups of HEA monomer units. Other bands at

1167, 1078 and 888 cm<sup>-1</sup> corresponding to the C-O bonds vibrations of the monomers units, and OH groups vibrations of the monomer units were observed, respectively (Sadeghi et al., 2013).

The overall changes in the structure of Mg–Al–Cl LDH and H, depending on the formation of the NH-3LDH with exfoliated structure, were also investigated by FTIR analysis. A careful comparison of all the FTIR spectra indicates definite differences mainly in the absorption bands, appearing at approximately at 1750–1500 cm<sup>-1</sup>, 1500–1300 cm<sup>-1</sup> and 1000–600 cm<sup>-1</sup>. As observed from the NH-3LDH spectra, the absorption bands observed at 3050, 1653, 1372 and 1000–600 cm<sup>-1</sup> (max at 863, 750 and 651 cm<sup>-1</sup>) in the FTIR spectra of the Mg–Al–Cl LDH disappeared. All these changes and the disappearances of the some bands are associated with the formation of the NH-3LDH with exfoliated structure. Namely, the monomers NaAA and HEA, the crosslinker NMBA and Mg–Al–Cl LDH physically or chemically interacted to form a network structure during the copolymerization reaction. Therefore, the layers of the Mg–Al–Cl LDH were exfoliated. These results are consistent with those of the powder XRD spectra for Mg–Al–Cl LDH, H and NH-3LDH.

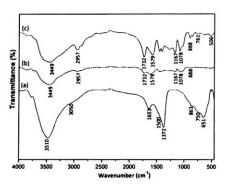


Figure 3. FTIR spectra of (a) Mg-AI-CI LDH (b) NH-3LDH nanocomposite hydrogel and (c) H hydrogel.

# SEM Analysis

In order to examine the surface morphology of the Mg-Al-Cl LDH, H and NH-3LDH, the SEM micrograph were taken at different magnification. Figure 4-6 represent the SEM micrographs for these products. Micrograph, is shown in Figure 4, revealed that Mg-Al-Cl LDH exhibits bead-like fine particle aggregates consisting of nanometer size (Özgümüş et al., 2013). The SEM images of H hydrogel (Figure

·H.

ne main strong and the other 3 nm, while no DH (3 wt% Mg-1 and uniformly

x and Mg-AI-CI f Mg-AI-CI LDH, CI LDH showed out 3200-3700 and symmetric yers; the small eractions with to the bridging . O deformation 2 interlamellar small shoulder ate symmetric orporated into ons attributed the hydroxide re recorded at e translational

cm<sup>-1</sup>, 2957 and retching mode

# CHEMTECH '14

5) also demonstrate that H hydrogel has porous surface. NH-3LDH nanocomposite hydrogel showed some interesting morphological features when compared to H hydrogel (Figure 6). In addition, it can be seen from SEM images that the NH-3LDH nanocomposite hydrogel has a fiber-like structure, non-porous surface morphology and also exhibited large, open, channel-like structure, its shape is significantly different than that of the Mg–Al–Cl LDH and H. These results are also increasing evidence the occurrence of fully exfoliation between the Mg–Al–Cl LDH layers and H during the formation of the NH-3LDH nanocomposite hydrogel, as demonstrated our earlier study (Özgümüş et al., 2013).

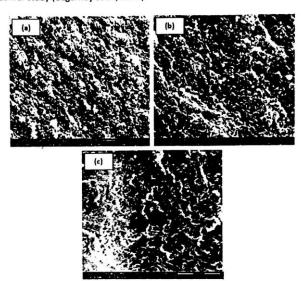


Figure 4. SEM images of Mg-AI-CI LDH at different magnification: (a)40000x, (b)  $80000 \times$  and (c) 150000 x.

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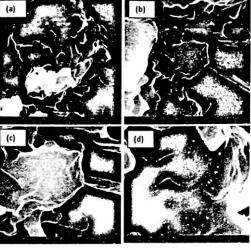


Figure 5. SEM images of H hydrogel at different magnification: (a)40000x, (b)  $80000\times$ , (c)  $150000\times$  and (d)  $300000\times$ .

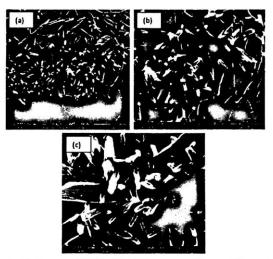
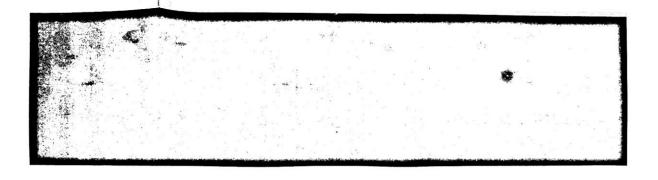


Figure 6. SEM images of NH-3LDH at different magnification: (a)40000x, (b)  $80000\times$  and (c) 150000x.

285



(a)40000x, (b)

Effect of Mg-Al-Cl LDH Content on Swelling Capacity

The data in Figure 7 clearly showed also that, swelling capacity of the nanocomposite hydrogels decreased 30%, 48% and 82% with increasing amount of Mg-Al-CI LDH from 1 to 5 wt%, respectively. Mg-Al-CI LDH, which are called hydrotalcite-like compound, it is incorporated into the polymer matrix, may acts as additional co-crosslinking points similar to clay powder. The reason for the decrease in the Q<sub>e</sub> value of the NH-LDHs is most likely due to the additional co-crosslinking points effect of the Mg-Al-CI LDH (Özgümüş et al., 2013).

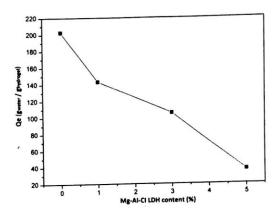


Figure 7. The effect of the content of Mg-Al-CI LDH on the water absorbency of nanocomposite hydrogels

Conclusion

A series of nanocomposite hydrogels containing Mg-Al-CI LDH [poly(NaAAco-HEA)/ Mg-Al-Cl LDHs] were synthesized by free radical chain polymerization of NaAA and HEA in Mg-Al-Cl LDH suspension. FTIR analysis showed that the nanocomposite hydrogels were successfully obtained. Furthermore, XRD analysis of the samples showed that Mg-Al-Cl LDH layers were exfoliated in the hydrogel structure. According to the SEM images, NH-3LDH has has a fiber-like structure, non-porous surface morphology and its shape is significantly different from that of the Mg-Al-Cl LDH and H. Swelling studies showed that swelling capasity of the nanocomposite hydrogels decreased 30%, 48% and 82% with increasing amount of Mg-Al-Cl LDH from 1 to 5 wt%, respectively. It is then concluded that the poly(NaAA-co-HEA)/ Mg-AI-CI LDHs synthesized in this study may be used as an alternative water absorbent.

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