

## Sigmoid Neutralization Response of Acidic Soapstock Waste by Mineralized Phosphorite Residues: A 4-Parameter Logistic Approach

<sup>1\*</sup>Shamuratov S.X., <sup>1</sup>Baltayev U.S., <sup>2</sup>Alimov U.K., <sup>3</sup>Jabbarov M.E., <sup>4</sup>Madaminov A.E.

<sup>1</sup>Urgench State University named after Abu Rayhon Biruni, Uzbekistan

<sup>2</sup>Institute of General and Inorganic Chemistry, Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Uzbekistan

<sup>3</sup>Mamun University, Khiva, Uzbekistan

<sup>4</sup>Urgench State Pedagogical Institute, Uzbekistan

\* Corresponding author email: shamuratovsx@gmail.com

### ABSTRACT

This study investigates the neutralization behavior of an acidic wastewater (AWW)–mineralized mass (MM) system at mass ratios ranging from 100:10 to 100:40, processed at 333 K for 30 min. The evolution of pH as a function of MM dosage and the corresponding CaO content (%) in the solid phase were quantitatively evaluated. The solution pH increased sigmoidally from 4.10 to 7.30, while the CaO content rose from 23.92% to 36.96%, approaching a saturation plateau at higher MM dosages. The pH–dose relationship was described using four-parameter logistic (4PL), Gompertz, and Weibull models, all showing a high goodness of fit ( $R^2 \geq 0.97$ ). Model comparison based on AICc and BIC criteria indicated that the Gompertz model provided the best statistical performance, whereas the 4PL model ensured clearer physicochemical interpretability. A strong positive correlation between pH and CaO content was established (Pearson  $r = 0.9649$ ,  $n = 7$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ), enabling estimation of CaO content from pH values. Numerical inversion of the 4PL model combined with a multi-model ensemble approach was used to determine optimal MM dosages for target pH levels. The recommended operating conditions were identified as 100:32 for pH 6.5, 100:36 for pH 6.8, and 100:38 for pH 7.0, with a stabilization zone observed at 100:37–100:40.

**Keywords:** neutralization, dose–response, 4-parameter logistic (4PL), pH–CaO correlation, operational optimization.

### Information about authors:

**Shamuratov Sanjarbek Xusinbay ugli**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Technical Sciences, Associate Professor at the Faculty of Chemical Technology, Urgench State University named after Abu Rayhon Biruni, Urgench, H. Olimjon Street 14, 220100, Uzbekistan. Email: shamuratovsx@gmail.com; ORCID ID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1040-1807>

**Baltaev Umidbek Sotimbayevich**  
Candidate of Technical Sciences, doctoral student in the Faculty of Chemical Technologies, Urgench State University named after Abu Rayhon Biruni, Urgench, H. Olimjon Street 14, 220100, Uzbekistan. Email: umid.bo@urdu.uz; ORCID ID: <https://orcid.org/0009-0004-5636-3318>

**Alimov Umarbek Kadirbergenovich**  
Doctor of Technical Sciences, leading scientific researcher at the Institute of General and Inorganic Chemistry, Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan, 77, Mirzo Ulugbek, Tashkent 100170, Uzbekistan. Email: umaralihonalimov@mail.ru; ORCID ID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5608-5304>

**Jabbarov Majidbek Erzodovich**  
Non-government Educational Institution Mamun University, Khiva, Uzbekistan. Email: jabbarovmajidbek2@gmail.com; ORCID ID: <https://orcid.org/0009-0001-5987-0057>

**Madaminov Azimbek Egamberganovich**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Pedagogical Sciences, Associate Professor in the Faculty of Natural and Applied Sciences, Urgench State Pedagogical Institute 1-A, Gurlan str, Urgench city, 220100, Uzbekistan. Email: azimbekmadaminov66@gmail.com; ORCID ID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3482-8071>

## Introduction

Acidic wastewater generated during the processing of soapstock in the fat-and-oil industry represents a significant environmental challenge due to its low pH, high salt content, and elevated concentrations of organic and inorganic contaminants [[1], [2], [3]]. Improper handling or disposal of such effluents may lead to soil

acidification, groundwater contamination, and adverse effects on aquatic ecosystems. Therefore, the development of effective and resource-efficient neutralization strategies remains an important task for both environmental protection and industrial sustainability [[4], [5], [6], [7]].

In parallel, large volumes of mineralized phosphorite residues are accumulated during phosphate mining and beneficiation, particularly in

the Central Kyzylkum region [[8], [9], [10]]. These low-grade materials are typically characterized by high CaO content and limited direct industrial use, resulting in long-term storage and associated environmental risks. Recent studies have highlighted the potential of such calcium-rich mineral residues to serve as neutralizing agents for acidic waste streams, thereby enabling simultaneous wastewater treatment and waste valorization [[11], [12], [13], [14]].

Neutralization processes involving heterogeneous mineral systems often exhibit non-linear behavior due to buffering effects, phase transformations, and saturation phenomena [[15], [16], [17]]. However, many previous studies have relied on linear or simplified empirical approaches, which do not adequately describe the full pH response over a wide range of reagent dosages. In particular, the sigmoidal nature of pH variation during neutralization and its quantitative relationship with solid-phase CaO enrichment have received limited attention in the context of waste-derived mineral reagents [[18], [19]].

The objective of this study is to investigate the neutralization of acidic wastewater using mineralized phosphorite mass from the Central Kyzylkum region, with a focus on the sigmoidal pH-dose response and its mathematical description. By applying four-parameter logistic (4PL), Gompertz, and Weibull models, the work aims to identify optimal operating mass ratios and to establish a quantitative relationship between solution pH and CaO content in the solid phase. This approach provides a predictive basis for process optimization under experimentally defined conditions.

## Experimental part

**Materials.** As feedstocks, the present study used AWW produced during the acid treatment of cottonseed soapstock at “Urganch Yog'-Moy” JSC and MM stored in the Central Kyzylkum region. According to the results of laboratory analyses, the AWW had pH 2.0 (strongly acidic), COD of 947.2 mg O<sub>2</sub>·L<sup>-1</sup>, BOD<sub>5</sub> of 380.2 mg O<sub>2</sub>·L<sup>-1</sup>, and total hardness of 140.5 mg·eq·L<sup>-1</sup>. Major cations were Na<sup>+</sup> (43,158 mg·L<sup>-1</sup>), Mg<sup>2+</sup> (1,824 mg·L<sup>-1</sup>), Ca<sup>2+</sup> (300 mg·L<sup>-1</sup>), and NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup> (100 mg·L<sup>-1</sup>), while major anions were SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> (48,145 mg·L<sup>-1</sup>), Cl<sup>-</sup> (38,116 mg·L<sup>-1</sup>), and HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> (3,446 mg·L<sup>-1</sup>). Besides, AWW contained 2.1 wt% total organics and 1.64 wt% total SO<sub>3</sub>. The

phosphorite residues of the Central Kyzylkum region represented low-grade mineralized mass of the following composition, wt%: P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> 15.09, CaO 43.17, Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> 1.22, Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> 1.34, MgO 1.21, F 1.7, CO<sub>2</sub> 14.01, SO<sub>3</sub> 2.17, and moisture 9.11. Due to the high CaO content, these residues can be used as the basic neutralizing agent for AWW treatment. The combined use of AWW and MM not only reduces ecological hazards but also opens up new sources of secondary raw materials for fertilizers and other products [[20], [21], [22], [23]].

In order to investigate neutralization, AWW and MM were mixed at different mass ratios from 100:10 to 100:40, enabling quantitative assessment of pH changes upon increasing phosphorite addition. Mixing was performed at 333 K ( $\approx$ 60 °C) to accelerate acid-base reactions and ensure a homogeneous medium. Each experiment was carried out under intense agitation for 30 min, during which the liquid phase reached quasi-equilibrium. Afterwards, the mixtures were dried at 353 K ( $\approx$ 80 °C) to eliminate moisture and accurately determine CaO in the final solid phase; such drying conditions also contribute to residual acid reactions being completed [[22], [23]]. In systematic variation through the mass ratios, the pH increased from 4.10 to 7.30, while the content of CaO in the solid phase increased from 23.92 wt% to 36.96 wt% (Table 1).

**Methods.** All experimental procedures reported in this study were carried out by the authors under laboratory conditions. Standard analytical methods cited from the literature were used solely as reference protocols for measurements, whereas sample preparation, neutralization experiments, data acquisition, and data processing were performed independently within the framework of this work.

This methodological approach offered the possibility to obtain a complete picture of the neutralization process, find the optimum mass ratio, and obtain reliable data for mathematical modeling. Moreover, experimental conditions were chosen considering realistic technological parameters in accordance with industrial reprocessing practice. pH and CaO content were selected as main performance indicators of the neutralization efficiency. pH was measured using a laboratory pH meter with an ion-selective electrode; the instrument was calibrated before each run with standard buffer solutions (pH 4.00, 7.00, and 9.18).

In order to avoid the effects of temperature, the measurements were performed after attaining equilibrium at 333 K for every mixture.

**Table 1** - Composition of neutralization products derived from acidic wastewater (AWW) and the Central Kyzylkum mineralized phosphorite mass

Mass ratio (AWW:MM)	pH	CaO, %
<b>100:10</b>	4.1	23.92
<b>100:15</b>	4.81	27.95
<b>100:20</b>	5.62	28.66
<b>100:25</b>	5.9	32.68
<b>100:30</b>	6.33	35.48
<b>100:35</b>	6.74	36.74
<b>100:40</b>	7.3	36.96

The measurement of the content of CaO was done using the traditional method of complexometric titration using an EDTA solution to titrate calcium ions ( $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ ), and murexide indicator. To maintain analytical accuracy, each assay was carried out in triplicate and mean values were provided as a result. Additionally, some of the samples were confirmed through the gravimetric method, where calcium was precipitated from solution as  $\text{CaCO}_3$ , and the mass correlation between that precipitation and the amount of CaO was determined mathematically via stoichiometry. The estimated overall analytical uncertainty was controlled to  $\pm 0.02$  for pH and  $\pm 0.3\%$  for CaO. The use of both complexometric and gravimetric methods enabled the researcher to collect a reliable dataset that is suitable for the mathematical modeling of neutralization reactions. For a mechanistic yet parsimonious description of the process, the four-parameter logistic (4PL) model was adopted, as it captures the sigmoidal pH-dose dependence effectively. The general form of the 4PL used in this work is:

$$y(x) = A1 + \frac{A2 - A1}{1 + \left(\frac{x}{x_0}\right)^{-n}}$$

Here,  $A1$  denotes the initial lower asymptote (acid-region pH),  $A2$  the upper asymptote (neutral/alkaline region),  $x$  the half-response mass (dose at which  $\text{pH} \approx (A1+A2)/2$ ), and  $n$  the transition

steepness, which reflects buffer capacity and the sharpness of the reaction front [24].

Parameter estimation was performed by nonlinear least squares; starting values were anchored to the observed minimum and maximum pH, and 95% confidence intervals were obtained by bootstrap resampling ( $\geq 1000$  replicates) [25]. Model selection relied on AICc [26] and BIC [27], with the lowest scores indicating the preferred specification. As alternatives to 4PL, Weibull and Gompertz functions were also evaluated. Weibull model (four-parameter, CDF form):

$$y(x) = A2 - (A2 - A1)e^{-\left(\frac{x}{\lambda}\right)^\beta}$$

Here,  $\lambda$  is the scale parameter, and  $\beta$  is the shape parameter; in practice, the Weibull specification captures the gradual, decelerating approach to the plateau as the dose increases.

Gompertz model.

$$y(r) = A1 + (A2 - A1) e^{-\exp[-k(x-x_0)]}$$

This model describes an initial lag phase, a period of accelerating growth, and a final brief saturation stage; it is thus better suited to asymmetric response curves [28]. All models were validated by residual diagnostics (residuals vs. fitted values, Q-Q plots, and Cook's distance) and weighted regression was applied when heteroscedasticity was detected. The key benefit of the 4PL formulation derives from the physicochemical interpretability of the parameters:  $A1$  corresponds to the starting acidic baseline,  $A2$  to the final neutral/alkaline plateau,  $x_0$  to the half-response dose (i.e., operational mass ratio at the midpoint of the process), and  $n$  describes the transition steepness (i.e., process sensitivity), thereby elevating the analysis of neutralization from simple empirical observation to a predictive, parametric basis. In this regard, numerical inversion of the 4PL model was also implemented to calculate the required mass ratio for a given target pH, which allows for actionable decisions in industrial practice. In all, the 4PL constitutes a rigorous mathematical representation of full sigmoidal neutralization behavior and returns results that are at once reliable and practically useful, while Weibull and Gompertz provide supporting checks and further insight when asymmetry in the process response is present.

Although standard analytical approaches reported in the literature were used as methodological references, all experimental work and data presented in this article were generated by the authors.

## Results and Discussion

The results presented below were obtained exclusively from experiments conducted in this study. All data points correspond to independently performed neutralization tests at defined AWW:MM mass ratios, and no secondary or literature-derived datasets were used in the analysis.

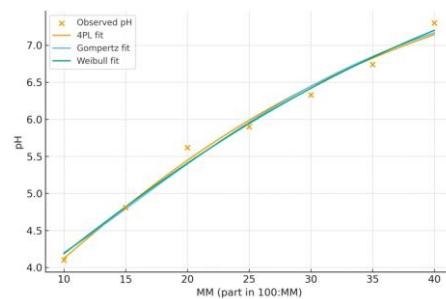
The AWW:MM ratios tested in this research ranged from 100:10 to 100:40, all trials carried out on day 333 K; all agitation times lasted 30 minutes and were performed according to protocols described in the 'Materials and Methods' section. The solution's pH was monitored after each experiment, and the mass fraction of CaO contained within the solid portion of the solution was computed and expressed as a percentage of that solution mass. Solutions were two-point calibrated with buffers, one at pH 4.00 and the other at pH 7.00, before obtaining the pH measurements of each solution; all solutions were corrected for temperature variations by using ATC. The electrodes utilized for pH measurements were cleaned before each use, and electrode drift was accounted for. The results of CaO determinations were obtained through STN methods; sample treatments and measurements of ions using the ion-selective electrode were consistently performed in the same manner from run to run. The major contributors to uncertainty associated with analysing the data were identified as, but are not limited to, electrode drift, the effects of ionic strength, and the potential for heterogeneity in the samples being analysed; therefore, the responses obtained from calibrating and controlling test solutions were completed before each measurement series began. The resulting raw dataset covered AWW:MM points 100:10, 100:15, 100:20, 100:25, 100:30, 100:35, and 100:40. The corresponding pH values were 4.10, 4.81, 5.62, 5.90, 6.33, 6.74, and 7.30, and CaO contents were 23.92%, 27.95%, 28.66%, 32.68%, 35.48%, 36.74%, and 36.96%, respectively (Table 1). Descriptive statistics confirmed data stability and controlled dispersion. For pH, N = 7, min = 4.10, max = 7.30, mean = 5.829, SD = 1.105, and CV = 18.95% (Table 2).

**Table 2** - Descriptive statistics for pH and CaO (%): N, Min, Max, Mean, SD, CV (%)

Metric	N	Min	Max	Mean	SD*	CV, %
pH	7	4.10	7.30	5.829	1.105	18.95
CaO, %	7	23.92	36.96	31.770	5.035	15.85

\*SD — sample standard deviation; CV (%) = SD / Mean × 100.

For CaO, N=7, a minimum of 23.92% to a maximum of 36.96%. The mean CaO content was 31.770% with SD=5.035 and CV=15.85%. This data preliminarily indicates that there is a sigmoidal increase with respect to the pH levels and near-saturation of CaO. The dataset is sufficiently informative for future stages of modelling. The increase of the AWW:MM ratio caused an increase in the pH of the solutions. An initial monotonic increase and a distinct sigmoidal response was seen as the AWW:MM ratio was increased from 100:10 to 100:40. The growth rate of the pH-response increased between the AWW:MM ratios of 100:20 - 100:30, followed by a plateau from 100:35 - 100:40. This response demonstrated that the Neutralisation process occurred stepwise during Buffering and Carbonation. Four-parameter Logistic, Gompertz, and Weibull Models were fitted to the pH-dose data according to the procedures and constraints set forth in Materials and Methods; these three models all fitted the data adequately with minor differences in goodness of fit. The Gompertz model yielded the lowest AICc and BIC and thus emerged as the preferred specification; its  $R^2 = 0.989$  indicates a high explanatory power. The Weibull model achieved  $R^2 = 0.987$  with competitive AICc/BIC values. Although the 4PL model also produced  $R^2 \approx 0.989$ , it was penalized more strongly by AICc and therefore ranked slightly lower. Figure 1 presents the observed points and the three fitted curves on a single plot, clearly illustrating the sigmoidal trajectory.

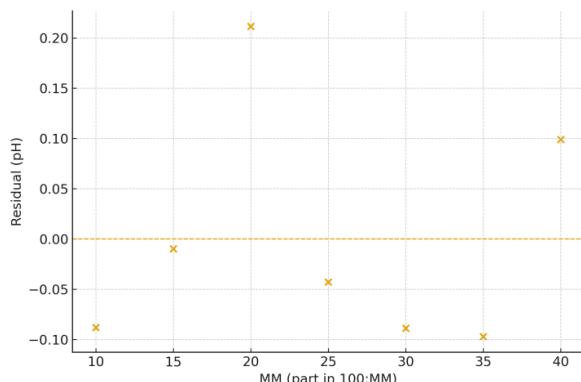


**Figure 1** - pH vs. MM: observed data points with fitted 4PL, Gompertz, and Weibull curves

Figure 2 residual distribution for the best-fitting model, confirming the absence of systematic patterns.

Random dispersion of the residuals around zero indicates that the model is correctly specified. The physical interpretation of the 4PL parameters is convenient: the lower asymptote is  $A_1 \approx 3.03$  and the upper asymptote is  $A_2 \approx 9.50$ . For 4PL, the half-response dose  $EC_{50}$  ( $x_0$ )  $\approx 27.93$ , meaning that the response reaches its midpoint at this dose, and the slope parameter  $n \approx 1.55$  reflects a moderately sharp transition. In the Gompertz model, the upper asymptote is  $a \approx 8.82$ , while the shape parameter  $c \approx 0.043$  indicates a gradually advancing neutralization front; the half-response occurs at  $x_{50} \approx 11.87$ , i.e., at a lower dose. For the Weibull model,

the upper asymptote is  $a \approx 9.50$  and the shape parameter  $c \approx 0.659$ , capturing dynamics that accelerate initially and then decelerate; the corresponding half-response is  $x_{50} \approx 14.18$ , which marks the dose yielding the median response. Table 3 reports the goodness-of-fit indicators— $R^2$ , AICc, and BIC—enabling direct comparison among the models.



**Figure 2** - Residuals for the best-fitting model (Weibull).

Random dispersion of the residuals around zero indicates that the model is correctly specified. The physical interpretation of the 4PL parameters is convenient: the lower asymptote is  $A_1 \approx 3.03$ , and the upper asymptote is  $A_2 \approx 9.50$ . For 4PL, the half-response dose  $EC_{50}$  ( $x_0$ )  $\approx 27.93$ , meaning that the response reaches its midpoint at this dose, and the slope parameter  $n \approx 1.55$  reflects a moderately sharp transition. In the Gompertz model, the upper asymptote is  $a \approx 8.82$ , while the shape parameter  $c \approx 0.043$  indicates a gradually advancing

neutralization front; the half-response occurs at  $x_{50} \approx 11.87$ , i.e., at a lower dose. For the Weibull model, the upper asymptote is  $a \approx 9.50$  and the shape parameter  $c \approx 0.659$ , capturing dynamics that accelerate initially and then decelerate; the corresponding half-response is  $x_{50} \approx 14.18$ , which marks the dose yielding the median response. Table 3 reports the goodness-of-fit indicators— $R^2$ , AICc, and BIC—enabling direct comparison among the models.

The table also includes an interpretation of the  $EC_{50}$  ( $x_0$ ) and  $n$  parameters to guide practical dose selection. While the Gompertz model attains the lowest AICc/BIC, indicating the statistically preferred specification, the 4PL parameters remain the most operationally intuitive.

**Table 3** - Parameter estimates and goodness-of-fit statistics for pH models (4PL, Gompertz, Weibull)

Model	4PL	Gompertz	Weibull
Lower asymptote ( $y \downarrow$ )	3.03	~0.00	~0.00
Upper asymptote ( $y \uparrow$ )	9.50	8.82	9.50
$EC_{50}$ , $x_{50}$	27.93	11.87	14.18
$n$ (slope/shape)	1.55	0.043	0.659
$R^2$	0.989	0.989	0.987
AICc	-2.998	-17.255	-15.903
BIC	-23.214	-25.417	-24.066

Accordingly, we recommend balancing statistical optimality with physicochemical interpretability. For example, in production terms, the 4PL  $x_0$  points to the transition region around pH = 6.2–6.3. By contrast, Gompertz and Weibull emphasize the early-transition segment more strongly and are useful for assessing reagent economy. Residual diagnostics confirmed adequacy across the main domain, with minor edge deviations that may arise from buffer phases and solid-phase formation. Overall, the pH–dose response corroborates the multistage nature of neutralization. In the next step, the CaO–dose results are integrated to recommend a clear optimal dose window. In the AWW–MM system, the association between pH and CaO (%) is strongly positive: Pearson  $r = 0.96490$ ,  $n = 7$ ,  $p = 0.000435$  (Table 4).

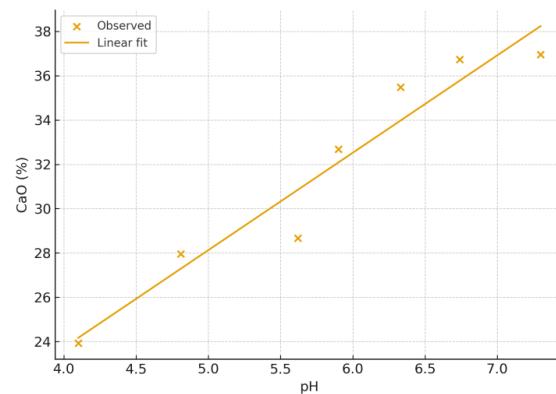
**Table 4** - Pearson correlation (pH vs. CaO), significance, sample size, 95% confidence interval for r, and linear regression summary (slope, intercept, R<sup>2</sup>).

Metric	Value
Pearson r	0.96490
p-value	0.000435
n (observations)	7
95% CI (r, lower)	0.77494
95% CI (r, upper)	0.99498
Linear slope, dCaO/dpH	4.39823
Slope 95% CI (lower)	3.02215
Slope 95% CI (upper)	5.77431
Intercept (CaO % at pH = 0)	6.13460
R <sup>2</sup>	0.93104

This implies that as pH increases, the CaO fraction in the solid phase also increases monotonically; the 95% confidence interval for the Pearson correlation is [0.77494, 0.99498]. A simple linear regression ( $\text{CaO} = 6.13460 + 4.39823 \cdot \text{pH}$ ) yielded  $R^2 = 0.93104$ , indicating that  $\approx 93\%$  of the variance in CaO is explained by pH (Figure 3). In the scatter plot of Figure 3 (markers = observations), the least-squares regression line shows that a one-unit increase in pH raises CaO by  $\approx 4.40\%$  (95% CI for the slope: [3.02215, 5.77431]).

These quantitative results are mechanistically consistent with: (a) consumption of free acidity during neutralization, leading to a pH rise; (b) increasing buffering strength (phosphate–calcium and carbonate buffers) as pH grows; (c) formation of carbonate and Ca–phosphate phases (e.g., brushite/apatite), which transfers Ca species to the solid phase and increases CaO (%); and (d) emergence of a plateau at high pH due to solubility constraints and slower phase-growth kinetics.

As a result, CaO can be practically predicted from on-line pH control; for example, at  $\text{pH} \approx 6.8$ ,  $\text{CaO} \approx 6.13460 + 4.39823 \times 6.8 \approx 36.0\%$ . The strong, monotonic pH–CaO association, together with the plateau observed in the upper segment of the pH–dose curve (zone of sharply diminishing marginal gains) forming around 100:37–100:40, informed the dose selection for target pH. Accordingly, the required doses were obtained by numerical inversion of the 4-parameter logistic (4PL) model (the primary specification described in Materials and Methods) and stabilized via triangulation with Gompertz, Weibull, and local linear interpolation (see Table 5).

**Figure 3** - Relationship between pH and CaO (%) in the AWW-MM system (n = 7).

Markers indicate observations; line shows the least-squares linear fit ( $\text{CaO} = 6.13460 + 4.39823 \cdot \text{pH}$ );  $R^2 = 0.93104$ ;  $p < 0.001$ ).

All computations were interpreted strictly within the observed range (MM = 10–40). For each target pH, the ensemble median across the four approaches was adopted as the recommended dose, whereas the model min–max defined the operational control window.

**Table 5** - Target pH → recommended dose (100:MM), based on 4PL inversion with multi-model triangulation (Gompertz, Weibull, and local linear interpolation)

Target pH	6.5	6.8	7.0
4PL (MM)	30.67	34.63	37.63
Gompertz (MM)	32.55	36.38	38.74
Weibull (MM)	32.00	35.52	37.57
Linear interp. (MM)	32.07	35.54	37.32
Ensemble median (MM)	32.07	35.98	37.60
Recommended (100:MM)	100:32	100:36	100:38*
Operational window	100:31– 100:33	100:35– 100:37	100:37– 100:40

Accordingly, the most suitable settings are pH 6.5 →  $\approx 100:32$ , pH 6.8 →  $\approx 100:36$ , and pH 7.0 →  $\approx 100:38$ . Because the last setting lies very close to the onset of the plateau, a cost-aware operating policy is to start at 100:37 and, under on-line pH control, adjust 37 → 38 only if required.

## Conclusions

The neutralization of acidic wastewater by the Central Kyzylkum mineralized mass exhibited a clear sigmoidal pH response within the investigated mass ratio range of 100:10–100:40. Under the applied conditions (333 K, 30 min), the solution pH increased from 4.10 to 7.30, while the CaO content in the solid phase rose from 23.92% to 36.96%, indicating progressive incorporation of calcium-bearing components during neutralization.

Mathematical description of the pH–dose relationship using four-parameter logistic (4PL), Gompertz, and Weibull models demonstrated a high goodness of fit ( $R^2 \geq 0.97$ ). Although the Gompertz model showed the most favorable statistical criteria (AICc/BIC), the 4PL model provided parameters with clearer physicochemical interpretation, enabling identification of the transition region and the onset of saturation. Based on model inversion and multi-model comparison, the optimal operating mass ratios were determined as 100:32 for pH 6.5, 100:36 for pH 6.8, and 100:38 for pH 7.0, with a stabilization (plateau) zone observed at 100:37–100:40.

A strong positive correlation between pH and CaO content was established (Pearson  $r = 0.9649$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ), demonstrating that pH can serve as a reliable operational indicator for estimating CaO

enrichment in the solid phase under the investigated conditions. This relationship provides a quantitative basis for process control and dose selection during neutralization.

The conclusions of this study are limited to experimentally measured pH and CaO parameters and their mathematical interpretation. Potential effects related to corrosion behavior, environmental impact, carbonation processes, and the agronomic suitability of the solid product were not evaluated and therefore remain outside the scope of the present work. These aspects should be addressed in future investigations.

**Conflicts of interest.** On behalf of all authors, the corresponding author states that there is no conflict of interest.

**CRediT author statement:** **S. Shamuratov:** Conceptualization, Methodology, Software, Data curation, Writing draft preparation, Supervision, Software, Validation, Reviewing and Editing; **U. Baltaev, U. Alimov, M. Jabbarov, A. Madaminov:** Visualization, Investigation.

**Formatting of funding sources.** This research did not receive any specific grant from funding agencies in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors.

**Cite this article as:** Shamuratov SX, Baltaev US, Alimov UK, Jabbarov ME, Madaminov AE. Sigmoid Neutralization Response of Acidic Soapstock Waste by Mineralized Phosphorite Residues: A 4-Parameter Logistic Approach. Kompleksnoe Ispolzovanie Mineralnogo Syra = Complex Use of Mineral Resources. 2027; 342(3):80-89. <https://doi.org/10.31643/2027/6445.32>

## Қышқыл сабын қалдықтарының сигмоидты бейтараптандыру реакциясында минералданған фосфорит қалдықтарын пайдалану: 4 параметрлі логистикалық тәсіл

<sup>1\*</sup>Шамуратов С.Х., <sup>1</sup>Балтаев У.С., <sup>2</sup>Алимов У.К., <sup>3</sup>Жаббаров М.Э., <sup>4</sup>Мадаминов А.Э.

<sup>1</sup>Абу Райхон Беруни атындағы Ургенч мемлекеттік университеті, Өзбекстан

<sup>2</sup>Өзбекстан Республикасы Ғылым академиясының Жалпы және бейорганикалық химия институты, Өзбекстан

<sup>3</sup>Мамун университеті, Хива, Өзбекстан

<sup>4</sup>Ургенч мемлекеттік педагогикалық институты, Өзбекстан

Мақала келді: 9 желтоқсан 2025  
Сараламадан етті: 6 қаңтар 2026  
Қабылданды: 16 қаңтар 2026

### ТҮЙІНДЕМЕ

Бұл зерттеуде 333 K температурада және 30 минут өндеу уақытында 100:10–100:40 массалық қатынастарда «қышқылды ағынды су (AWW) – минералданған масса (MM)» жүйесінің бейтараптану процесінің жүрісі зерттелді. MM дозасына байланысты pH өзгерісі және қатты фазадағы CaO мөлшері (%) сандық түрде бағаланды. Ерітінді pH мәні 4,10-нан 7,30-ға дейін сигмоидалы түрде артты, ал CaO мөлшері 23,92%-дан 36,96%-ға дейін есіп, MM-нің жоғары дозаларында қанығу платосына жақындалды. «pH-доза» тәуелділігі төртпараметрлі логистикалық (4PL), Гомпертц және Вейбулл модельдері арқылы сипатталды, олардың барлығы жоғары сәйкестік дәрежесін көрсетті ( $R^2 \geq 0,97$ ). AICc және BIC критерийлері негізінде жүргізілген модельдерді салыстыру нәтижесінде Гомпертц моделі ең жақсы статистикалық көрсеткіштерге ие екені анықталды, ал 4PL моделі физика-химиялық түрғыдан неғұрлым айқын интерпретацияланатын параметрлерді қамтамасыз етті. pH пен

	<p>СаO мөлшері арасында күшті оң корреляция орнатылды (Пирсон коэффициенті <math>r = 0,9649</math>, <math>n = 7</math>, <math>p &lt; 0,001</math>), бұл СаO мөлшерін pH мәндері арқылы бағалауға мүмкіндік береді. 4PL моделін сандық көрі есептеу мультиформельді ансамбльдік тәсілмен біріктіріліп, берілген pH деңгейлері үшін MM-нің оңтайлы дозаларын анықтау мақсатында қолданылды. Ұсынылған жұмыс режимдері pH 6,5 үшін 100:32, pH 6,8 үшін 100:36 және pH 7,0 үшін 100:38 болып анықталды, ал тұрақтану аймағы 100:37–100:40 аралығында байқалды.</p>
	<p><b>Тұйын сөздер:</b> бейтаралтандыру, доза-реакция тәуелділігі, төрт параметрлі логистикалық модель (4PL), pH-СаO корреляциясы, технологиялық процессті оңтайландауды.</p>
<p><b>Шамуратов Санжарбек Хусинбайұлы</b></p>	<p><b>Авторлар тұралы қыпарат:</b> Техника ғылымдарының философия докторы, Әбу Райхан Беруни атындағы Үргеніш мемлекеттік университеттің химия-технология факультетінің доценті, Үргеніш қаласы, X.Олимжон көшесі 14, 220100, Өзбекстан. Email: shamuratovsx@gmail.com; ORCID ID: <a href="https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1040-1807">https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1040-1807</a></p>
<p><b>Балтаев Үмітбек Сотымбайұлы</b></p>	<p>Техника ғылымдарының кандидаты, Әбу Райхан Беруни атындағы Үргеніш мемлекеттік университеттің химиялық технологиялар факультетінің докторанты, 220100, X.Олимжон көшесі 14, Үргеніш, Өзбекстан. Email: umid.bo@urdu.uz; ORCID ID: <a href="https://orcid.org/0009-0004-5636-3318">https://orcid.org/0009-0004-5636-3318</a></p>
<p><b>Алимов Умарбек Кадирбергенович</b></p>	<p>Техника ғылымдарының докторы, Өзбекстан Республикасы Ғылым академиясының Жалпы және бейорганикалық химия институтының жетекші ғылыми қызметкері, 100170, Мирзо Улугбек, 77, Ташкент, Өзбекстан. Email: umaralihonalimov@mail.ru; ORCID ID: <a href="https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5608-5304">https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5608-5304</a></p>
<p><b>Жаббаров Мажидбек Ерзодович</b></p>	<p>Мамун университетті мемлекеттік емес білім беру мекемесі, Хива, Өзбекстан. Email: jabbarovmajidbek2@gmail.com; ORCID ID: <a href="https://orcid.org/0009-0001-5987-0057">https://orcid.org/0009-0001-5987-0057</a></p>
<p><b>Мадаминов Азимбек Эгамбергенович</b></p>	<p>Педагогика ғылымдарының философия докторы, Үргеніш мемлекеттік педагогикалық институтының жаратылыстары және қолданбалы ғылымдар факультетінің доценті, Гүрлөн көшесі, 1-А, Үргеніш, 220100, Өзбекстан. Email: azimbekmadaminov66@gmail.com; ORCID ID: <a href="https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3482-8071">https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3482-8071</a></p>

## Сигмоидная нейтрализационная реакция кислых отходов соапстока с использованием минерализованных остатков фосфоритов: 4-параметрический логистический подход

<sup>1\*</sup>Шамуратов С.Х., <sup>1</sup>Балтаев У.С., <sup>2</sup>Алимов У.К., <sup>3</sup>Жаббаров М.Э., <sup>4</sup>Мадаминов А.Э.

<sup>1</sup>Ургенчский государственный университет имени Абу Райхона Беруни, Узбекистан

<sup>2</sup>Институт общей и неорганической химии Академии наук Республики Узбекистан, Ташкент

<sup>3</sup>Университет Мамун, Хива, Узбекистан

<sup>4</sup>Ургенчский государственный педагогический институт, Узбекистан

### АННОТАЦИЯ

В настоящем исследовании изучается поведение процесса нейтрализации системы «кислотные сточные воды (AWW) – минерализованная масса (MM)» при массовых соотношениях от 100:10 до 100:40 при температуре 333 К и продолжительности обработки 30 мин. Количественно оценена зависимость изменения pH от дозировки MM, а также соответствующее содержание СаO (%) в твердой фазе. Значение pH раствора возрастало по сигмоидальной зависимости от 4,10 до 7,30, в то время как содержание СаO увеличивалось с 23,92% до 36,96%, приближаясь к плато насыщения при более высоких дозировках MM. Зависимость «рН-доза» была описана с использованием четырехпараметрической логистической (4PL), моделей Гомпертца и Вейбулла, которые показали высокую степень аппроксимации ( $R^2 \geq 0,97$ ). Сравнение моделей на основе критерииов AIСс и ВIC показало, что модель Гомпертца обеспечивает наилучшие статистические показатели, тогда как модель 4PL обладает более четкой физико-химической интерпретируемостью. Установлена сильная положительная корреляция между pH и содержанием СаO (коэффициент Пирсона  $r = 0,9649$ ,  $n = 7$ ,  $p < 0,001$ ), что позволяет оценивать содержание СаO по значениям pH. Численное обращение модели 4PL в сочетании с мультиформельдным ансамблевым подходом было использовано для определения оптимальных доз MM при заданных значениях pH. Рекомендуемые рабочие условия составили 100:32 для pH 6,5, 100:36 для pH 6,8 и 100:38 для pH 7,0, при этом зона стабилизации наблюдалась в диапазоне 100:37–100:40.

**Ключевые слова:** нейтрализация, зависимость доза-отклик, четырёхпараметрическая логистическая модель (4PL), корреляция pH-СаO, оптимизация технологического процесса.

### Информация об авторах:

Доктор философии по техническим наукам, доцент химико-технологического факультета Ургенчского государственного университета имени Абу Райхана Беруни, 220100, улица X. Олимджона, 14, Ургенч, Узбекистан. Email: shamuratovsx@gmail.com; ORCID ID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1040-1807>

Поступила: 9 декабря 2025

Рецензирование: 6 января 2026

Принята в печать: 16 января 2026

Шамуратов Санжарбек Хусинбайұлы

<b>Балтаев Умидбек Сотимбаевич</b>	Кандидат технических наук, докторант факультета химических технологий Ургенчского государственного университета имени Абу Райхана Беруни, 220100, улица Х. Олимджона, 14, Ургенч, Узбекистан. Email: umid.bo@urdu.uz; ORCID ID: <a href="https://orcid.org/0009-0004-5636-3318">https://orcid.org/0009-0004-5636-3318</a>
<b>Алимов Умарбек Кадирбергенович</b>	Доктор технических наук, ведущий научный сотрудник Института общей и неорганической химии Академии наук Республики Узбекистан, 100170, Мирзо Улугбек, 77, Ташкент Узбекистан. Email: umaralihonalimov@mail.ru; ORCID ID: <a href="https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5608-5304">https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5608-5304</a>
<b>Жаббаров Мажидбек Ерзодович</b>	Негосударственное образовательное учреждение Мамунский университет, Хива, Узбекистан. Email: jabbarovmajidbek2@gmail.com; ORCID ID: <a href="https://orcid.org/0009-0001-5987-0057">https://orcid.org/0009-0001-5987-0057</a>
<b>Мадаминов Азимбек Эгамберганович</b>	Доктор философии по педагогическим наукам, доцент факультета естественных и прикладных наук Ургенчского государственного педагогического института, 220100, ул. Гурлана, 1-А, Ургенч, Узбекистан. Email: azimbekmadaminov66@gmail.com; ORCID ID: <a href="https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3482-8071">https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3482-8071</a>

## References

[1] Ahmed A, & Geed SR. Sustainable refinery waste management through biotechnological interventions: Health impacts, historical successes, and emerging solutions. *Environmental Research.* Elsevier BV. 2025. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envres.2025.120967>

[2] Sattar S, Hussain R, Shah SM, Bibi S, Ahmad SR, Shahzad A, Zamir A, Rauf Z, Noshad A, & Ahmad L. Composition, impacts, and removal of liquid petroleum waste through bioremediation as an alternative clean-up technology: A review. *Heliyon.* 2022; 8(10): e11101. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.heliyon.2022.e11101>

[3] Burks SL. Review of pollutants in petroleum refinery wastewaters and effect upon aquatic organisms. *Environment International.* Elsevier BV. 1982. [https://doi.org/10.1016/0160-4120\(82\)90117-9](https://doi.org/10.1016/0160-4120(82)90117-9)

[4] ISCC System GmbH. ISCC Guidance Waste and Residues From Food ... ISCC. 2025.

[5] Casali B, Brenna E, Parmeggiani F, Tessaro D, Tentori F. *Sustain. Chem.* 2021; 2:74–91. <https://doi.org/10.3390/suschem2010006>

[6] United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), & International Fertilizer Industry Association (IFA). Environmental aspects of phosphate and potash mining. Paris: UNEP & IFA. 2001. ISBN 92-807-2052-X

[7] Orris GJ, Dunlap P, & Wallis JC. Phosphate occurrence and potential in the region of Afghanistan, including parts of China, Iran, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan (with a section on geophysics by Jeff Wynn) (Open-File Report 2015–1121). U.S. Geological Survey. 2015. <https://doi.org/10.3133/ofr20151121>

[8] Safirova E. The mineral industry of Uzbekistan in 2022. In U.S. Geological Survey, 2022 Minerals Yearbook (Advance Release). U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Geological Survey. 2025. <https://www.usgs.gov/centers/nmic/minerals-yearbook>

[9] Levine RM, & Wallace GJ. The mineral industries of the Commonwealth of Independent States in 2001. In U.S. Geological Survey, 2001 Minerals Yearbook (Vol. III, Area Reports: International, Europe and Central Eurasia. U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Geological Survey. 2003, 6.1–6.32. <https://doi.org/10.3133/myb2001v3>

[10] Xudoyberdiev J, Reymov A, Kurbaniyazov R, Namazov Sh, Badalova O, & Seytnazarov A. Mineral composition of nodular phosphorite of Karakalpakstan and its processing into simple superphosphate. *E3S Web of Conferences.* 2023; 449:06005. <https://doi.org/10.1051/e3sconf/202344906005>

[11] Ruan Y, Han H, & Li L. Review on beneficiation techniques and reagents used for phosphate ores. *Minerals.* 2019; 9(4):253. <https://doi.org/10.3390/min9040253>

[12] Bazhirova K, Zhantsov K, & Kolesnikov A. Acid-free processing of phosphorite ore fines into composite fertilizers using the mechanochemical activation method. *Journal of Composites Science.* 2024; 8(5):165. <https://doi.org/10.3390/jcs8050165>

[13] Jurayev RS, Eshkulov BR, & Kakhkhorov NT. Production of Complex and Mixed Fertilizers by Acidic Processing of Phosphorites. *Engineering Proceedings.* 2024; 67(1): 59. <https://doi.org/10.3390/engproc2024067059>

[14] Jasinski SM. Phosphate rock. In U.S. Geological Survey, Mineral commodity summaries U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Geological Survey. 2025, 134–135. <https://doi.org/10.3133/mcs2025>

[15] Gessner PK, & Hasan MM. Freundlich and Langmuir isotherms as models for the adsorption of toxicants on activated charcoal. *Journal of pharmaceutical sciences.* 1987; 76(4):319–327. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jps.2600760412>

[16] Jarnerud T, Karasev AV, & Jönsson PG. Neutralization of Acidic Wastewater from a Steel Plant by Using CaO-Containing Waste Materials from Pulp and Paper Industries. *Materials* (Basel, Switzerland). 2021; 14(10):2653. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ma14102653>

[17] Jeppu GP, & Clement TP. A modified Langmuir-Freundlich isotherm model for simulating pH-dependent adsorption effects. *Journal of contaminant hydrology.* 2012; 129–130:46–53. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jconhyd.2011.12.001>

[18] Dasgupta A, Chandel MK. Enhancement of biogas production from organic fraction of municipal solid waste using acid pretreatment. *SN Appl. Sci.* 2020; 2:1437. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s42452-020-03213-z>

[19] Balarak D, Mostafapour FK, Azarpira H, & Joghataei A. Langmuir, Freundlich, Temkin and Dubinin–radushkevich Isotherms Studies of Equilibrium Sorption of Ampicilin unto Montmorillonite Nanoparticles. *Journal of Pharmaceutical Research International*. 2017; 20(2):1-9. <https://doi.org/10.9734/JPRI/2017/38056>

[20] Sotimboev Ilgizarbek, Umidbek Baltaev, Sanjarbek Shamuratov, Ruzimov Shamsiddin, Umarbek Alimov, and Mirzabek Saporboyev. Technical and Economic Efficiency of Processing Acidic Wastewater from the Oil and Fat Industry into Necessary Agricultural Products. *E3S Web of Conferences*. EDP Sciences. 2024. <https://doi.org/10.1051/e3sconf/202456303072>

[21] Turatbekova, Aidai, Malokhat Abdukadirova, Sanjarbek Shamuratov, Bakhodir Latipov, Mirzabek Saporboyev, Jafar Shamshiyev, and Yusuf Makhmudov. “Investigation of the Effect of Fertilizers on the Biochemical and Physical Characteristics of Carrots (*Daucus Carota L.*). *E3S Web of Conferences*. EDP Sciences, 2024. <https://doi.org/10.1051/e3sconf/202456303074>

[22] Yuldasheva A, Shamuratov S, Kurambayev S, & Radjabov M. Mathematical Analysis of CaO Content Variation in Acidic Wastewater and Mineralized Mass Mixture from Central Kyzykum Phosphorite Based on Exponential Decay Model. *Kompleksnoe Ispolzovanie Mineralnogo Syra = Complex Use of Mineral Resources*. 2025; 339(4):79–86. <https://doi.org/10.31643/2026/6445.42>

[23] Shamuratov Sanjarbek, Umid Baltaev, Sanobar Achilova, Umarbek Alimov, Shafoat Namazov, and Najimuddin Usanbaev. Enhancement of Availability of High Calcareous Phosphorite by Neutralization of Acid Effluent and Composting of Cattle Manure. *E3S Web of Conferences*. EDP Sciences. 2023. <https://doi.org/10.1051/e3sconf/202337703004>

[24] MyAssays. (n.d.). Four-parameter logistic regression. Retrieved from <https://www.myassays.com/four-parameter-logistic-regression.html>

[25] Efron B. Bootstrap methods: Another look at the jackknife. *Annals of Statistics*. 1979; 7(1):1–26. <https://doi.org/10.1214/aos/1176344552>

[26] Hurvich CM, & Tsai C-L. Regression and time series model selection in small samples. *Biometrika*. 1989; 76(2):297–307. <https://doi.org/10.1093/biomet/76.2.297>

[27] Schwarz G. Estimating the dimension of a model. *Annals of Statistics*. 1978; 6(2):461–464. <https://doi.org/10.1214/aos/1176344136>

[28] Ritz C, Baty F, Streibig JC, & Gerhard D. Dose-response analysis using R. *PLOS ONE*. 2015; 10(12):e0146021. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0146021>