

# Reuse and Recycle Solutions in Refineries by Ozone-Based Advanced Oxidation Processes: A Statistical Approach

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## Abstract

Fresh water sources are under pressure globally by the increasing population and consequently increasing production, which increases the water demand day by day. Thus, decreasing the industrial fresh water demand and wastewater production became crucial both for the water availability in the future and for its impact to the environment. This study examined the ozone-based treatments as the possible solution to a refinery to treat the effluent already treated by the traditional techniques to reach the final requirements for reuse and recycle purposes. Based on the screening tests performed by fractional factorial design revealed that the significant parameters for the treatment were ozone feed ratio, H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> amount and processing time while pH was found insignificant for this case. Based on the box-Behnken response surface methodology for effluent collected after biological treatment, the significant parameters were optimized as the ozone ratio of 0.9 g/h, H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> amount of 47 mg/L and 60 min duration. However, in case of increasing the H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> amount to 80 mg/L the duration can be minimized to 37.5 min decreasing the energy and reagent consumption costs by a 37%, reaching a final total organic carbon (TOC) under 4 mg/L, that is the target for reuse possibilities.

**Keywords:** Ozone/H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>; refinery wastewater; sustainability; AOPs; experimental design

## 1. Introduction

Water scarcity is a worldwide issue even for the countries with significant source of water (Dias et al., 2012). For many industries, economic and environmental impact of the wastewater forms a driving force to find sustainable solutions for its management in terms of the hazard to the environment, especially to the human and animal health (Boczka and Fernandes, 2017; Escudero et al., 2017). Petroleum industry is one of those industries that produce significant amount of wastewater, which is sometimes more than the amount of processed crude oil depending on the configuration of the plant and the type of crude oil (El-Naas et al., 2014; Mota et al., 2008).

Petroleum downstream industry composes of a series of separation and treatment steps that process thousands of barrels of crude oil per day into valuable products

44 grouped as light, middle and heavy distillates (i.e. petroleum gas, gasoline,  
45 kerosene, fuel oil, asphalt)(Al Zarooni and Elshorbagy, 2006; Srikanth et al., 2018).  
46 Due to the complex and large scale continuous processing, high amount of wastes of  
47 different nature are generated (Srikanth et al., 2018), wastewater being among the  
48 most important one. Although substantial progress has already been made over the  
49 last few years to reduce its volume, still now for every 1000 m<sup>3</sup>/h of raw water  
50 required for refinery processes, 200-600 m<sup>3</sup>/h of wastewater are discharged(IFP  
51 Energies nouvelles, 2010).Wastewater management is, therefore, essential to  
52 decrease the amount of raw water need for the processing and the produced  
53 wastewater generated (e.g. production line including vapor condensation, process  
54 water and spent caustic in crackers, cooling tower and pump/compressor cooling)  
55 (Jafarinejad and Jiang, 2019). The composition of the wastewater may be different  
56 depending on the plant configuration. However, in general, it may contain  
57 biodegradable or recalcitrant organic and inorganic compounds, which are very toxic,  
58 and the treatment efficiencies must be evaluated case by case for each plant and  
59 process (Bustillo-Lecompte et al., 2015). Integrated approaches including end-of-  
60 pipe treatment and reuse/recycle solutions considering the natural water cycle must  
61 be applied for sustainable water management(Jia et al., 2019).

62 Ozone-based AOPs, including single ozonation and UV/H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>/O<sub>3</sub> combinations, are  
63 fast and effective treatments to mineralize a wide number of organic compounds,  
64 and especially unsaturated and aromatic hydrocarbons in contaminated water(Mota  
65 et al., 2008; Ziabari et al., 2016). Thus, ozone-based treatments for either synthetic  
66 refinery wastewater (SRW) or real refinery wastewater (RRW) have been studied  
67 several times (Chen et al., 2014; Mota et al., 2008; Rajasekhar Pullabhotla et al.,  
68 2008).

69 Coelho et al. compared different AOPs treatments including ozonation for petroleum  
70 refinery sour water with initial dissolved organic carbon (DOC) of 300-440 mg/L. The  
71 authors compared H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>,H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>/UV, UV, photocatalysis, ozonation, Fenton and photo-  
72 Fenton. The most efficient treatment was photo-Fenton yielding up to 83% DOC  
73 removal. In contrast, single ozonation removed only 35% of DOC(Coelho et al.,  
74 2006).Souza et al. studied several homogeneous AOPs for industrial reuse purposes  
75 in a Brazilian refinery. The wastewater treated in this study (initial TOC = 12-19 mg  
76 C/L) was collected after biological treatment to enhance the quality of the effluent by  
77 AOPs before the reverse osmosis application. They found that around 90% of TOC  
78 removal can be achieved through UV/O<sub>3</sub> combination, while the single UV or  
79 O<sub>3</sub>treatments led to a maximum removal of 10% and 20%, respectively (depending  
80 on the UV power and O<sub>3</sub> concentration)(Souza et al., 2016).

81 The presence of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> during the ozone treatment has been found to improve  
82 organics degradation (Boczka and Fernandes, 2017) via a O<sub>3</sub> decomposition to  
83 produce HO• (Mota et al., 2008). However, this fact may change by the composition  
84 of the wastewater, which varies by the stage where the water is collected (before or  
85 after the pretreatment of secondary treatment). Boczka et al. studied the treatment  
86 of wastewaters from petroleum bitumen by O<sub>3</sub> and O<sub>3</sub>/H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> methods at basic pH, the  
87 latter being the most effective method to reduce COD (up to 43%), which make this  
88 system valid as a pretreatment method (Boczka et al., 2017).

89 Besides finding the most efficient treatment for a case, identification and optimization  
90 of the significant operational parameters is fundamental. Experimental design may

91 give a complete picture of the system response to the changes of the different  
92 variables with less amount of experiments, and consequently, less resources and  
93 time (Narendran et al., 2019). Depending on the purpose, the applications may vary  
94 as either screening designs (factorial designs) or optimization designs (response  
95 surface designs)(Sahu et al., 2018).

96 This study explores the efficiency of ozone-based advanced oxidation processes  
97 (AOPs) as treatment method for reusing and recycling purposes in a refinery in  
98 Turkey, for which we presented the efficiencies of solar light-based AOPs in a  
99 previous study (Demir-Duz et al., 2019). Here, it is aimed the study of the O<sub>3</sub>/H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>  
100 system to achieve great values of mineralization in refinery wastewaters collected  
101 after secondary treatment to fulfill with the water standards for reusing and, hence,  
102 reduce the refinery water demand. With this motivation, a final TOC value lower than  
103 4 mg C/L was established as the target to reach for water reuse in cooling towers in  
104 the plant (cooling/boiling water) or as firewater. The study composed of preliminary  
105 screening on SRW to determine the working boundaries for experimental design and  
106 optimization studies on RRW. SRW was used to ensure the stable experimental  
107 conditions reducing RRW consumption. Thus, experimental design for screening  
108 was performed on SRW only to understand the role of parameters on the removal  
109 efficiency. Based on the well-established parameter effects, experimental design for  
110 optimization was done specifically for RRW collected in two different stages of the  
111 refinery treatment system to decide the placement of AOPs that may achieve the  
112 reuse aims.

## 113 **2. Experimental**

### 114 **2.1 Materials**

115 Synthetic refinery wastewater (SRW) was prepared from the mixture of toluene  
116 (Sigma-Aldrich, 99.5%), xylene (Panreac, 98%), phenol (Sigma-Aldrich, 99-100%),  
117 o-cresol (Sigma-Aldrich, 99%), naphthalene (Acros Organic, 99%), nonane (Sigma-  
118 Aldrich, 99%), hexadecane (Sigma-Aldrich, 99%), ammonium chloride, sodium  
119 bicarbonate (Sigma-Aldrich, 99.9%) and sodium chloride (Fluka, 99.5%). Sulfuric  
120 acid and sodium hydroxide solutions were used to adjust pH. H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (Acros Organic,  
121 35wt%) was used in peroxone experiments while potassium iodide (Sigma-Aldrich,  
122 KI) was used for trapping remaining ozone. Dichloromethane (DCM, Sigma-Aldrich,  
123 99.5%), acetonitrile (ACN, Riedel-de Haën, 99.9%) and phosphoric acid (Sigma-  
124 Aldrich, 85%) were used for analytical procedures.

125 Preparation procedure and characteristic properties of the SRW are given in our  
126 previous study (Demir-Duz et al., 2019). The detailed composition can be found in  
127 supplementary information (SI), **Table S1**.

128 Real refinery wastewater (RRW) was collected from a petroleum refinery located in  
129 Turkey at two different stages after biological treatment denominated as RRW1 and  
130 RRW2.

131 The organic composition of the effluents determined by GC-MS analyses contained  
132 mainly long chain alkanes after the traditional treatments applied in the refinery  
133 supported by the characteristic analyses results obtained during the collection month  
134 as presented in **Table 1**, where SD\* and SD\*\* presents the standard deviation of the

135 measurements. Initial characterization is also given in **Table 1** for all kinds of  
 136 wastewater (synthetic or real effluents) treated in this study.

137 **Table 1** Characterization of wastewaters

Characteristics of the water treated in the experiments								
		TOC (mg C/L)	COD (mg O <sub>2</sub> /L)	pH				
	SRW	68	236	8				
	RRW1	15.3	40	8.2				
	RRW2	27	80	7.5				
Average characteristics of RRW								
	Suspended Solid (mg/L)	Oil & Grease (mg/L)	COD (mg O <sub>2</sub> /L)	TOC (mg C/L)	pH	C5-C10 TPH (mg/L)	C10-C40 TPH (mg/L)	
	RRW1	43.3	22.6	108.2	39.3	7.1	11	0.05
	SD*	11.1	1.4	22.7	27.2	0.2	0.67	0.02
	RRW2		<10	40	13.7	6.5	12.1	0.08
	SD**			20.4	6	0.3	1.16	0.01

138

## 139 2.2 Treatment procedure

140 Peroxone experiments were performed in a laboratory-scale semi-batch setup as  
 141 illustrated in **Figure S1**. Ozone was produced from pure oxygen by using Anseros  
 142 ozone generator (COM-AD-02 or COM-AD-04 depending on the required O<sub>3</sub>  
 143 amount) and fed into the reactor with a volume of 1L containing 300 mL of effluent by  
 144 an inert, porous diffuser. Residual ozone concentration of the outlet gas stream was  
 145 measured by Anseros ozone analyzer (GM-6000-RTI). For the treatment of SRW  
 146 and RRW1, required amount of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> was added at once just before starting the O<sub>3</sub>  
 147 feed, while discontinuous addition of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> was also considered for RRW2 beside the  
 148 former method. For the discontinuous addition, required amount of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> was added  
 149 equally at four times each 15 min from 0 to 45 min. The first addition was done  
 150 before O<sub>3</sub> feed.

151 Preliminary experiments were conducted with SRW to determine a working range of  
 152 parameters initially. Two levels of O<sub>3</sub> concentration were considered as minimum  
 153 and maximum (1.16 g/h and 4.14 g/h, respectively). The effect of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> and  
 154 O<sub>3</sub> dosage, time and pH were roughly examined. Experiments were conducted during  
 155 90 min. Single ozone studies were also conducted in order to examine the effect of  
 156 H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> presence in the reaction medium.

157 Detailed, statistical analysis of the independent variables was carried out by  
 158 fractional factorial design as the screening test for the SRW with the boundaries  
 159 determined according to the preliminary experiments. The optimization was  
 160 assessed by Box-Behnken design-based response surface methodology for RRW1  
 161 according to the initial screening experiment results conducted with SRW.

162 The treatment conditions of RRW2 were determined according to the optimization  
 163 boundaries of RRW1 with the expectations of similar consumption behavior since the  
 164 water specifications were similar although RRW2 contained rather higher initial TOC

165 and COD. Thus, the suitability of the model obtained for RRW1 for other effluents  
166 was evaluated, which results highly interesting in case of changes of the wastewater  
167 characteristics depending on the processing of the plant in general.

168 For the experiments conducted with RRW, ozone consumption was studied in detail  
169 to enlighten the questions related to minimum required O<sub>3</sub> amount that should be fed  
170 into the reactor. To do so, firstly blank studies were performed by passing O<sub>3</sub> directly  
171 through the measurer and the produced O<sub>3</sub> was recorded every minute by the ozone  
172 detector. Later, during the reactions, ozone content of the reactor outlet was  
173 recorded every minute. Applied O<sub>3</sub> dose was calculated roughly based on the mass  
174 balance (**Equation 1**).

175

$$176 \quad \text{O}_3 \text{ (reacted + dissolved)} = \text{O}_3 \text{ (inlet)} - \text{O}_3 \text{ (outlet)} \quad (1)$$

177

### 178 **2.3 Analytical methods**

179 Total organic carbon (TOC) was chosen as the response of the experimental design  
180 to estimate the mineralization degree during experiments. TOC analyses were  
181 carried out with a Shimadzu TOC-L (CSN 638-91109-48) analyzer.

182 Ozone consumption was monitored by Anseros ozone analyzer in order to observe  
183 the required amount of O<sub>3</sub> that must be fed to the reactor.

184 GC-MS and HPLC were used for qualitative and quantitative analyses of the  
185 samples. Before GC-MS analysis, compounds were extracted from either the raw or  
186 treated water according to the method developed and explained elsewhere (Demir-  
187 Duz et al., 2019).

### 188 **2.4 Design of experiments**

189 There are many factors affecting the impact of the treatment. Thus, design of  
190 experiments is getting crucial to know the most important variables that must be  
191 controlled during the treatment to reach a cost-effective treatment. This information  
192 can be obtained easily by means of the statistical analysis of a set of experiments in  
193 a short time with less resources than the classical experimental plan based on  
194 keeping the variables constant in turn.

195 Statistical analysis of the treatment responses was performed by Minitab 17  
196 Statistical Software. Preliminary statistical assessments of the degradation efficiency  
197 depending on the chosen factors and their possible interactions were carried out by  
198 2 level fractional factorial design for screening experiments, which is a widely used  
199 method to identify the factors having larger effects on the response (Montgomery,  
200 2017). Further optimization has been then performed by Box-Behnken design with  
201 only those significant factors obtained by the former design. Box-Behnken is a three-  
202 level fractional factorial design that is efficient in the number of required experiments  
203 (Jamshidnezhad, 2015). The independent variables and their levels are presented in  
204 **Table 2**. Experiments were randomized to take the unexplained variability of the  
205 response into account (Rodríguez-Chueca et al., 2016).

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207

**Table 2** Independent variables of the experimental design

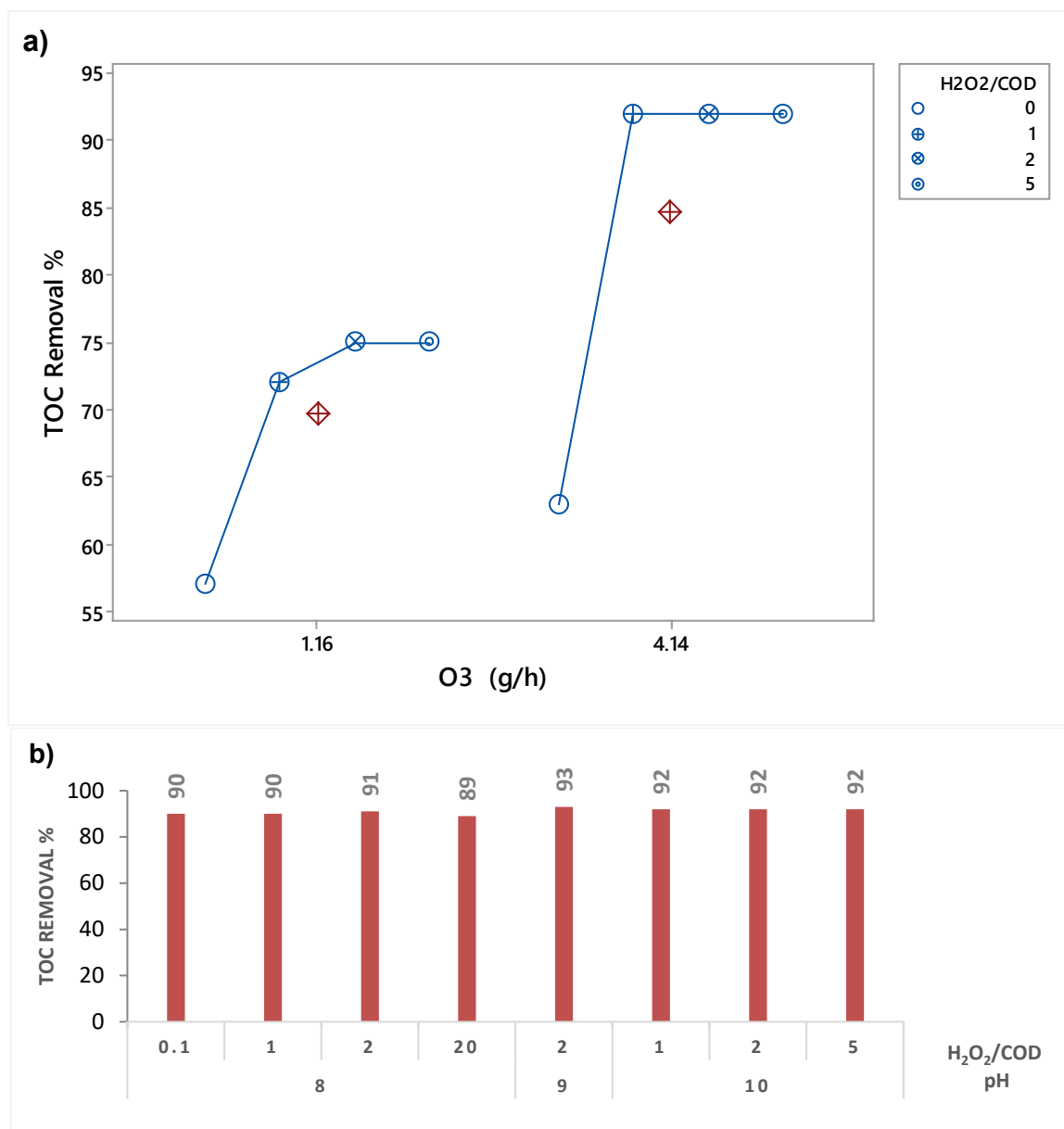
	Level of Value	A: H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> (mg/L)	B: O <sub>3</sub> (g/h)	C: Time	D: pH
<b>Fractional</b>	-	23.65	0.9	15	6
<b>Factorial</b>	+	473.8	2.7	90	11
<b>Box-</b>	-	4	0.9	15	N/A
<b>Behnken</b>	+	80	2.7	60	N/A

208

### 209 3. Results & discussion

#### 210 3.1 Preliminary experiments on SRW

211 Preliminary ozone and peroxone experiments were conducted with SRW at pH 10  
 212 since alkaline pH has been reported in several researches as favorable for ozone-  
 213 based treatments (Boczkaj and Fernandes, 2017; Jiménez et al., 2019; Ribeiro et al.,  
 214 2015). According to TOC analyses, higher ozone dosage led to higher TOC removal.  
 215 Thus, 57% and 63% of TOC removal was achieved by 90-min single ozonation with  
 216 the O<sub>3</sub> concentration of 1.16 g/h and 4.14 g/h, respectively. Although ozone itself  
 217 presented relatively good effectiveness on the oxidation of components,  
 218 ozone/H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> process was much more effective to treat this kind of wastewater. In this  
 219 case, TOC removal values ranging between 74% and 91% were observed after 90-  
 220 min treatment with an O<sub>3</sub> concentration of 1.16 g/h and 4.14 g/h, respectively, and  
 221 variable concentrations of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>/COD ratio (w/w) of 1, 2 and 5). The effect of  
 222 H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> and O<sub>3</sub> concentrations on the treatments conducted at pH 10 during 90 min is  
 223 presented in **Figure 1-a** in detail. Blue symbols represent the means of first factor  
 224 (H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>/COD) at each level of the second factor (O<sub>3</sub> dose), while red symbols  
 225 represent the means of each level of the second factor. Notably, the H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> addition to  
 226 the system increased the TOC removal efficiency; however, an increase in the  
 227 H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> dose did not produce changes in the TOC removal at all, indicating that  
 228 presence of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> is necessary to improve the oxidation rate; meanwhile its  
 229 concentration appears to be insignificant for this system. Thus, further studies were  
 230 made at lower H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> concentrations and variable pH with a constant O<sub>3</sub> concentration  
 231 of 4.14 g/h, and results are presented in **Figure 1-b**.



232

233  
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236

**Figure 1a)** The effect of variable H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> and O<sub>3</sub> concentrations on treatment efficiency of SRW at a constant pH 10; **b)** The effect of variable H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> concentration and pH on treatment efficiency of SRW at a constant O<sub>3</sub> concentration of 4.14 g/h.

237 As previously seen, for the treatment of SRW by the ozone/H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> process, the  
238 amount of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> did not change the TOC removal rate significantly, especially for the  
239 high O<sub>3</sub> dose applications. The same behavior was found with varying the pH of the  
240 medium. These results may be assigned to the reaction of ozone with hydroxyl and  
241 hydroperoxide ions, which initiates the ozone decomposition reaction in water to  
242 yield superoxide ion that might make the amount of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> insignificant (Beltran,  
243 2004). This fact has been confirmed by very few amount of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> addition (for  
244 H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>/COD (w/w)=0.1, which used 23.6 mg/L H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>), which again achieved 90% of  
245 removal by 4.14 g/h O<sub>3</sub> dosing while that of single ozonation reached only to 63%.  
246 Thus, detailed statistical analysis was performed in order to determine the significant  
247 factors and their interaction for peroxone treatment in a complex matrix, which may  
248 not be achieved by the method that consists of the variation of one variable while  
249 keeping the others constant (Deligiorgis et al., 2008). As the amount of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> was

250 insignificant when the O<sub>3</sub> amount was high, the highest level of the O<sub>3</sub> amount was  
251 chosen between 1.16 g/h and 4.14 g/h avoiding the excessive O<sub>3</sub> consumption, while  
252 the minimum amount was kept lower than 1.16 g/h.

### 253 **3.2 Experimental design**

#### 254 **3.2.1 Fractional factorial design for peroxone treatment of SRW**

255 2-level fractional factorial design of peroxone treatment has been performed with  
256 SRW in order to determine the significant parameters that should be controlled for  
257 the RRW treatments. Initially, four variables as H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> amount, O<sub>3</sub> amount, time and  
258 pH change have been considered to examine closely. Three replications on the  
259 center points were also performed to ensure reproducibility and reliability of the  
260 results, requiring 11 experiments (2<sup>4-1</sup>+3) in total. **Table S2** presents the set of  
261 experiments and the obtained response based on TOC removals.

262 The analysis of variance (ANOVA), given in **Table S3**, indicated that neither pH nor  
263 the 2-way interactions between H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> concentration and time or pH were significant  
264 for the model. However, since pH was the main variable and it had an effect in terms  
265 of 4-way interactions, only the 2 way interactions that showed P-values higher than  
266 0.05 have been excluded from the model, which is generally preferable to simplify  
267 the system whenever possible (Hayder et al., 2014).

268 Thus, the simplified model (with the **equation 2**) presented a regression coefficient  
269 (R<sup>2</sup>) of 99.95% and adjusted R<sup>2</sup> of 99.86%. P value of the lack-of-fit was also 0.681  
270 (>0.05), which indicated that model and the data were well fitted and the variations  
271 around the model were negligible (Shafiei et al., 2018). On the other hand, 4-way  
272 interaction term was totally confounded with the center point term and its P value  
273 exhibits a significant curvature in the model.

274

$$275 \text{ TOC Removal} = 84.467 + 1.988 A + 4.637 B + 19.512 C - 0.488 D - 3.312 A*B -$$
$$276 \quad \quad \quad 21.629 A*B*C*D \quad \quad \quad (2)$$

277 Residual plots presented in **Figure S2** showed normal distribution of the residuals  
278 that scattered randomly around zero.

#### 279 **3.2.2 Response surface methodology by Box-Behnken design for RRW1**

280 Petroleum refinery effluents contain large variety of compounds from inorganic to  
281 organic that are poorly biodegradable (de Abreu Domingos and da Fonseca, 2018;  
282 Stepnowski et al., 2002). Due to the complex nature of the effluents, organic  
283 fractions are represented by bulk parameters such as TOC, COD and BOD, which  
284 are easier parameters to observe, rather than detailed analytical methods  
285 (Jafarinejad and Jiang, 2019).

286 In this study, TOC was chosen as the key parameter because of its simple and fast  
287 measurement. Besides, TOC is one of the common parameters that must be  
288 measured to determine the water quality before discharging or recycling through the  
289 processes. Although the target values are changeable depending on the plant, in our



290 case, it was determined a final TOC value lower than 4 mg C/L to take the place of  
 291 fresh water need of cooling/boiling tower after treatment.

292 According to the initial assessment of variables and their interactions by 2-level  
 293 fractional factorial design, Box-Behnken design has been performed for RRW1 with  
 294 three variables as H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (mg/L), O<sub>3</sub> (g/h) and time. pH has been excluded to simplify  
 295 the process since it was mainly found insignificant for the treatment. Experiments  
 296 were conducted at its natural pH=8.2 according to the set of experiments proposed  
 297 by the software, which are given in **Table S4**.

298 ANOVA data of the design(**Table 3**) presented insignificant effects of 2-way  
 299 interactions. However, although their P-value was higher than 0.05, in terms of the  
 300 negative effect on S and R<sup>2</sup>, they were kept in the model. Model contained two  
 301 squared effects (A\*A and C\*C) with P-value< 0.05 which showed the presence of  
 302 curvature in the response surface.

303 **Table 3** ANOVA obtained for RRW1 by Box-Behnken design with predicted  
 304 Optimum conditions and the responses by the model.

Analysis of Variance					
Source	DF	Adj SS	Adj MS	F-Value	P-Value
Model	7	5085.53	726.5	34.61	0
Linear	3	3914.11	1304.7	62.15	0
A	1	2850.13	2850.13	135.78	0
B	1	168.91	168.91	8.05	0.025
C	1	895.07	895.07	42.64	0
Square	2	1007.32	503.66	23.99	0.001
A*A	1	897.63	897.63	42.76	0
C*C	1	158.42	158.42	7.55	0.029
2-Way Interaction	2	164.11	82.05	3.91	0.072
A*B	1	70.31	70.31	3.35	0.11
B*C	1	93.8	93.8	4.47	0.072
Error	7	146.94	20.99		
Lack-of-Fit	5	123.71	24.74	2.13	0.35
Pure Error	2	23.23	11.62		
Total	14	5232.47			

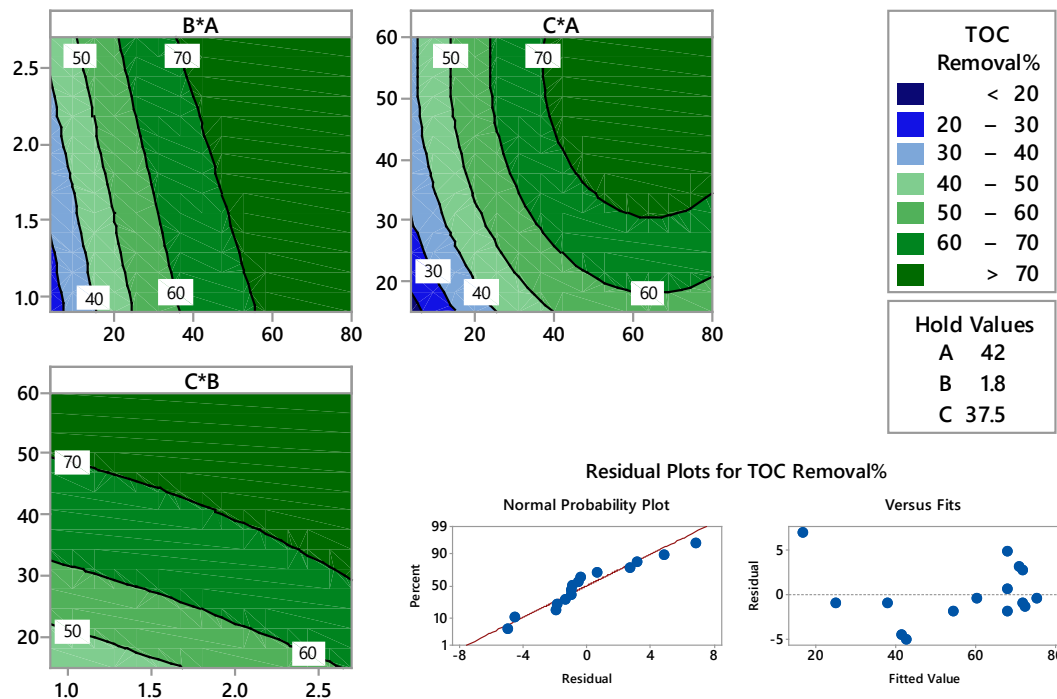
Levels			Response Values				
C <sub>H2O2</sub> (mg/L)	C <sub>O3</sub> (g/h)	Time (min)	TOC Removal %		Final TOC (mg C/L)	Desirability value	TOC Removal observed SD%
			Observed	Predicted			
70	0.9	60	77.08	81.16	3.51	1	0.58
47	0.9	60	77.68	75.26	3.3	1	0.2

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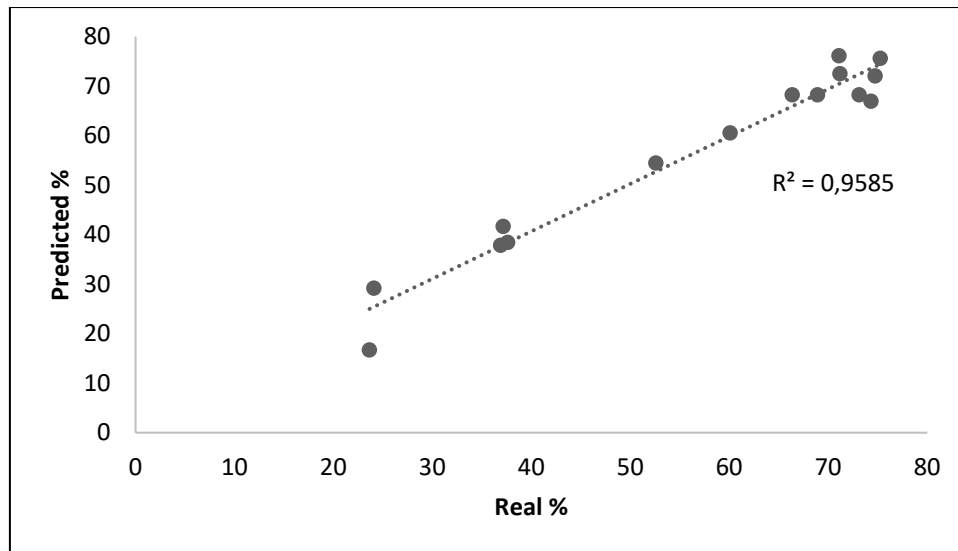
307 TOC Removal = - 42.0 + 1.622 A + 19.22 B + 1.868 C - 0.01077 A\*A -  
 308 0.01290 C\*C - 0.1226 A\*B - 0.239 B\*C (3)

309  
 310 Residual plots given in **Figure 2** showed normal distribution of the residuals that  
 311 scattered randomly around zero. Contourplots present the effect of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> amount (A),  
 312 O<sub>3</sub> amount (B) and time (C) on the response. When time was set at its middle value,  
 313 the amounts of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> and O<sub>3</sub> exhibit an opposite balance to reach the same TOC  
 314 removal. That is, in case of increase in O<sub>3</sub> concentration, H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> dosing may be  
 315 decreased and vice versa. On the other hand, when the O<sub>3</sub> amount was set at 1.8  
 316 g/h, optimum removal can be achieved with H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> amount between 40-80 mg/L by a  
 317 30-60 min treatment. **Figure 3** indicates how predicted values fitted with the  
 318 responses achieved.  
 319

### Contour Plots of TOC Removal%



320  
 321 **Figure 2** Residual and contour plots obtained by Box-Behnken design for RRW1,  
 322 where A = the amount of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (mg/L), B= the amount of O<sub>3</sub> feed (g/h), C = time  
 323 (min)



324  
325 **Figure 3** Experimental responses versus predicted responses by Box-Behnken  
326 design applied for RRW1

327 According to **Table 3**, the quadratic model obtained by the Box-Behnken design  
328 (**equation 3**) with a Model F-value of 34.61 was considered significant. The lack of fit  
329 of 2.13 indicates that there is a good fit of the model relative to pure error. This is  
330 seen, in addition, with the regression coefficient ( $R^2$ ) of 97.19%, adjusted  $R^2$  of  
331 94.38% and predicted  $R^2$  of 82.43% that presents the adequate match of the model  
332 and the response. Therefore, the model was used to determine the optimized  
333 parameters for the current process. **Table 3** also presents the optimum conditions  
334 predicted by the model with the desirability of 1 and their responses either the  
335 observed or the predicted ones which had low standard deviation (SD) as expected.

### 336 **3.3 Treatment assessment by TOC**

337 Considering the feasibility of the ozone-based treatment for the treatment of RRW1,  
338 the boundaries that were determined for the response surface methodology were  
339 kept reasonable in terms of the costs of the operation and the resources.

340 According to the optimized parameters presented in Table, it is possible to reach the  
341 final TOC requirements with the  $H_2O_2$  amount down to 47 mg/L when the treatment  
342 lasts 60 min keeping the  $O_3$  feed rate at 0.9 g/h. However, considering the cost of  $O_3$   
343 production, it can be more realistic to apply the parameters given in Run 15 in **Table**  
344 **S4**, which could reduce the operation time down to 37.5 min rather than 60 min while  
345 increasing the  $H_2O_2$  amount to 80 mg/L. Thus, some of the energy requirement for  
346 the  $O_3$  formation from  $O_2$  and for other operations could be saved by increasing the  
347 consumption of the reagent. A comparison between these two cases was performed  
348 in terms of energy and reagent consumptions (**Table 4**). The calculation of electrical  
349 energy per order (EEO) for  $O_3$  treatment was reported before by Jiménez et al. by  
350 the **equation 4**, where the P is rated power, V is the volume of effluent treated, t is  
351 the treatment duration and  $TOC_i$  and  $TOC_f$  is initial and final TOC values (Jiménez et  
352 al., 2019).

353

$$EEO \left( \frac{kWh}{m^3} \right) = \frac{P(kW) * t(h) * 1000}{V(L) * \log \left( \frac{TOC_i}{TOC_f} \right)} \quad (4)$$

354 The rated power (P) was calculated as 0.19 kW including 0.002 kW of stirring, 0.008  
 355 kW for ozone measurer with O<sub>3</sub>destruction catalyst and 0.009 kW for ozone  
 356 generator, which was calculated by for the constant O<sub>3</sub> production of 0.9 kg/h that  
 357 was used for the optimum conditions obtained by the model (ozone generator  
 358 consumed around 10 kW/Kg O<sub>3</sub> according to the supplier).As the reagents,38,57  
 359 m<sup>3</sup>/h of oxygen (with a unit price of 3 Eur/m<sup>3</sup> (Boconline, 2019))gas for O<sub>3</sub> generation  
 360 and H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> with a unit price of 346 Eur/m<sup>3</sup> were consumed. Thus, 37% of total cost  
 361 could be saved by changing parameters. Also, since the operation and reagent costs  
 362 of the large-scale operations are lower than those of laboratory scale operations, the  
 363 saving can be higher for scaled-up operations.

364 **Table 4**Energy consumption comparison of different operation parameters

365

Treatment Conditions					Costs per unit			
$C_{H_2O_2}$ (g/m <sup>3</sup> )	Required 35% H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> (L/m <sup>3</sup> )	O <sub>3</sub> (kg)	Time (h)	EEO (kWh/m <sup>3</sup> )	O <sub>2</sub> (Eur/m <sup>3</sup> )	35% H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> Eur/m <sup>3</sup>	Cost of energy (Eur/kWh)	
Case 1	47	0.07	1	95.1				
Case 2	80	0.12	0.625	67.1	3	346	0.148	
Calculated cost per treatment								
Case 1				Case 2				
35% H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> Eur/m <sup>3</sup>	Energy (Eur/m <sup>3</sup> )	O <sub>2</sub> (Eur/m <sup>3</sup> )	Total (Eur/m <sup>3</sup> )	35% H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> Eur/m <sup>3</sup>	Energy (Eur/m <sup>3</sup> )	O <sub>2</sub> (Eur/m <sup>3</sup> )	Total (Eur/m <sup>3</sup> )	Cost save
0.025	14	116	130	0.042	10	72	82	37%

366

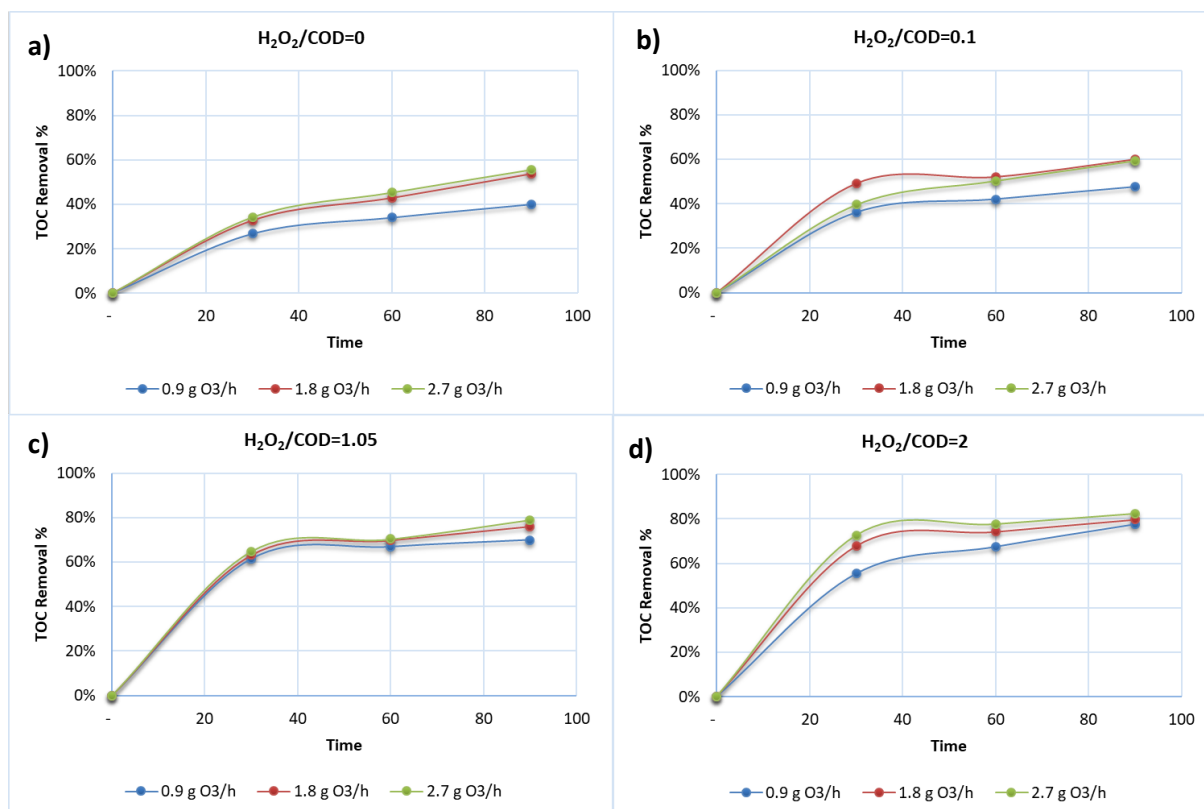
367 In accordance with the treatment conditions and response of RWW1, RRW2 was  
 368 treated within the parameter boundaries that were considered for RRW1 to compare  
 369 the treatment impact depending on the changing characteristics. The initial treatment  
 370 of RRW2 conducted with the optimized parameters of RRW1 (**Table 3**) resulted in an  
 371 average TOC removal of 67%, by which final TOC reached ca. 9 mg C/L. Thus,  
 372 although the boundaries for H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> and O<sub>3</sub> were kept at the same range, treatment  
 373 time was enlarged up to 90 min rather than 60 min to check whether the target final  
 374 TOC can be reached.

375 **Figure 4** presents the effect of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> addition to the system. For all cases, most of the  
 376 total organic carbon was removed in 30 min in the presence of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>. However, in the  
 377 absence of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (**Figure 4a**), TOC removal reached up to 56% with an O<sub>3</sub> dosing of  
 378 2.7 g/h after 90 min treatment, while the treatment efficiency of 1.8 g O<sub>3</sub>/h was  
 379 already 54%. Ozone depletion (calculated by residual O<sub>3</sub> measured during both  
 380 experiments) was higher at the highest feed rate, indicating that even if ozone  
 381 dissolved in RRW2 can be increased, reacted ozone does not increase, which  
 382 showed the unnecessary of excessive amount of O<sub>3</sub> feed for the treatment. In the  
 383 presence of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, even with small addition of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (**Figure 4b**), TOC removal  
 384 efficiency was slightly increased in 30 min (10% more than the treatment without

385 H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>). When the H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>/COD ratio (w/w) was increased to 1.05 (**Figure 4c**), 30-min  
386 treatment efficiency reached around 60% regardless to the O<sub>3</sub> feed amount, while  
387 that of the H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>/COD ratio (w/w) 2 (**Figure 4d**) varied between 55% to 75%  
388 depending on the O<sub>3</sub> feed ratio. This behavior could be explained by the changes in  
389 radicals that competed to attack the organic contaminants faster than the other while  
390 changing the intermediate product. Thus, the reaction pathway may change  
391 depending on the by-products occurred during the treatment. Bourgin et al.  
392 explained the similar behavior of the selectivity of direct reaction of ozone and the  
393 O<sub>3</sub>/H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> treatment due to the hydroxyl radicals on the abatement of some  
394 micropollutants from water (Bourgin et al., 2017).

395 In the best of the cases giving the maximum removal, the final TOC reached for  
396 RRW2 was 5.15 mg C/L. This value was obtained by using the highest amounts of  
397 reagents after 90-min treatment, which were H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>/COD ratio (w/w) of 2 and 2.7 g  
398 O<sub>3</sub>/h. On the other hand, the target TOC (4 mg C/L) could only be reached by  
399 discontinuous addition of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> rather than its initial addition at once. When the  
400 required amount of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (160 mg/L for the H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>/COD ratio (w/w) of 2) was added at  
401 4 times (40 mg/L for each addition in every 15 min), final TOC of 3.32 mg C /L was  
402 reached after 90-min treatment. This suggests that, in those cases where the H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> is  
403 added at once for RRW2 treatment, there is an excessive H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> present in the  
404 solution which likely acts as a scavenger, thus consuming the HO· generated.  
405 Although the O<sub>3</sub> depletion (measured as the difference between feed rate and  
406 residual rate) is higher at higher concentrations of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (because of the interactions  
407 between them), the rate may vary due to the scavenging effect of excessive H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>  
408 (and hydroxyl ion) in reacting with hydroxyl radical, which negatively affects the  
409 organics degradation/mineralization.

410



411  
412 **Figure 4** RRW2 Treatment efficiencies of ozone-based studies depending on the  
413 varied  $H_2O_2/COD$  ratios (w/w) between 0-2.

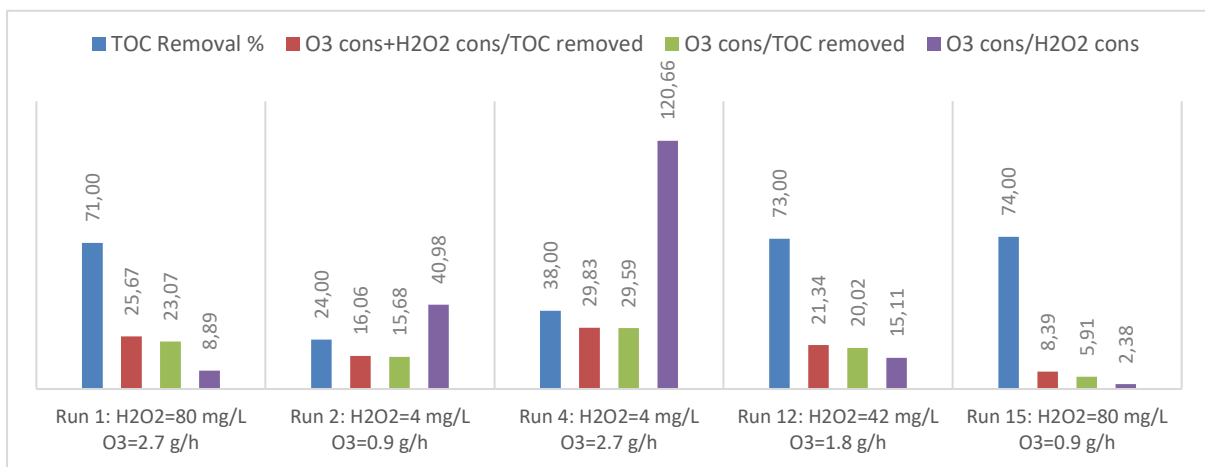
414 Then, the compositional difference between RRW1 and RRW2 affects to the  
415 treatment efficiencies or required amounts of reagents. In this case, RRW2 present  
416 higher amount of recalcitrant products (likely saturated alkanes) than RRW1 having  
417 an inhibiting effect on the ozonation treatment. Thus, fluctuations in the water  
418 properties and components that can occur either during the production or in the  
419 different points of each plant pretreatment may affect to the ozonation efficiency to  
420 achieve the water requirements to reuse.

### 421 3.4 Oxidant consumption

422 The contour plots present a relationship between  $H_2O_2$  and  $O_3$  (**Figure 2**), which  
423 motivates further attention to oxidant consumption behavior during the treatments.  
424 Thus, initially, ozone consumption (calculated from residual monitored during the  
425 reactions) has been considered as a significant indicator to find the optimized  
426 amount of oxidant to be fed into the system. **Figure S3** shows the importance of the  
427 initial  $O_3$  feed rate recorded during the experiments conducted with RRW1. The time  
428 factors have been selected according to the case of reaching to 0.9 g feed (Feed(g)  
429 =  $O_3$  dose (g/h)\*t (h)). Thus,  $O_3$  dosing was performed during 60 min, 30 min and 20  
430 min for 0.9 g/h, 1.8 g/h and 2.7 g/h  $O_3$  feed, respectively. According to the obtained  
431 results, when the feed rate was kept at 0.9 g/h, increasing  $H_2O_2$  amount did not  
432 change the  $O_3$  consumption rate, which reached only up to 9% of the feed amount.  
433 However, when the feed rate increased to 1.8 g/h and 2.7 g/h, consumed amount of  
434  $O_3$  increased to 25% when the  $O_3$  feed reached to 0.9 g. Besides, increasing the feed  
435 rate from 1.8 g/h to 2.7 g/h did not change either the  $O_3$  consumption or the TOC  
436 removal significantly, which presented the high amount of  $O_3$  feed to be redundant.

437 Khuntia et al., reported the similar consumption increase with increasing O<sub>3</sub> dose  
 438 (Khuntia et al., 2018).

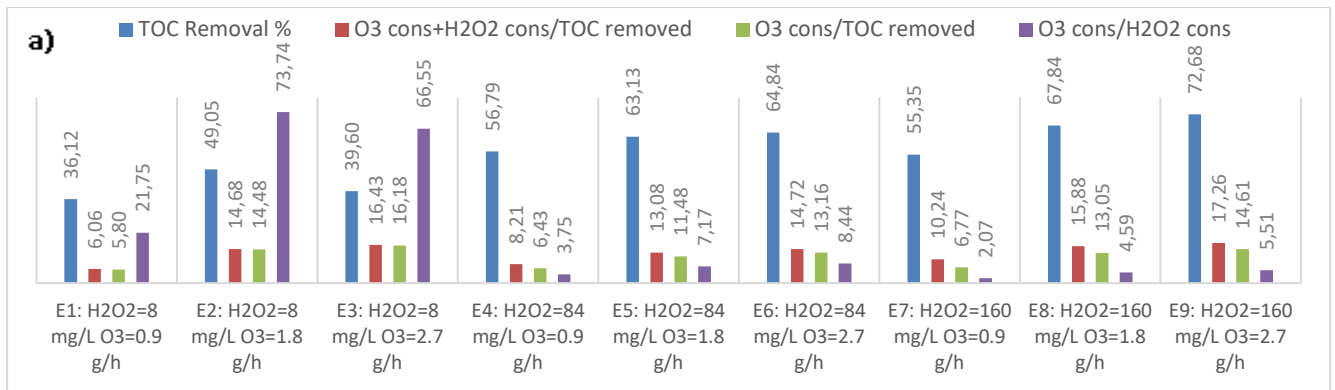
439 **Figure 5** exhibits the significance of the optimum oxidant feed for the maximum TOC  
 440 removal for the experiments conducted with RRW1 during 37.5 min. The number of  
 441 run represents the conditions of the experiments given in **Table S4** previously. The  
 442 green data present the ratio of consumed O<sub>3</sub> amount calculated based on the  
 443 **equation 1** to remove TOC (mole/mole), while the purple data present the ratio  
 444 between consumed O<sub>3</sub> and consumed H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (mole/mole). The consumed amount of  
 445 H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> was determined by the semi-quantitative strips that gives a range of  
 446 concentration in mg/L. In case of any detected H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> amount in the samples,  
 447 calculations were made based on the lower scale of the range assuming the higher  
 448 amount of reagent consumption. Notably, when an insufficient amount of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> was  
 449 added to the reactor (i.e. 4 mg/L) as in the case of Run 2 and 4, most of the  
 450 O<sub>3</sub> seems not to react with the organic matter, reaching a low %TOC removal and,  
 451 therefore, being ineffective treatment conditions. On the other hand, when higher  
 452 amount of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (i.e. 80 mg/L) was fed as in the cases of Run 1 and Run 15, the  
 453 oxidants resulted more efficient in removing the carbon content. In these cases, both  
 454 the O<sub>3</sub>cons/TOC and O<sub>3</sub>cons/H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>cons ratios decrease compared to the former  
 455 cases. Indeed, conditions used in Run 15 were markedly more efficient in terms of  
 456 effective consumption of oxidants reaching the higher TOC removal while reducing  
 457 the unreacted oxidant amount. This result totally agrees with the optimized  
 458 conditions found previously through box-Behnken response surface methodology to  
 459 achieve lower costs maintaining high TOC removal, as presented in section 3.3.



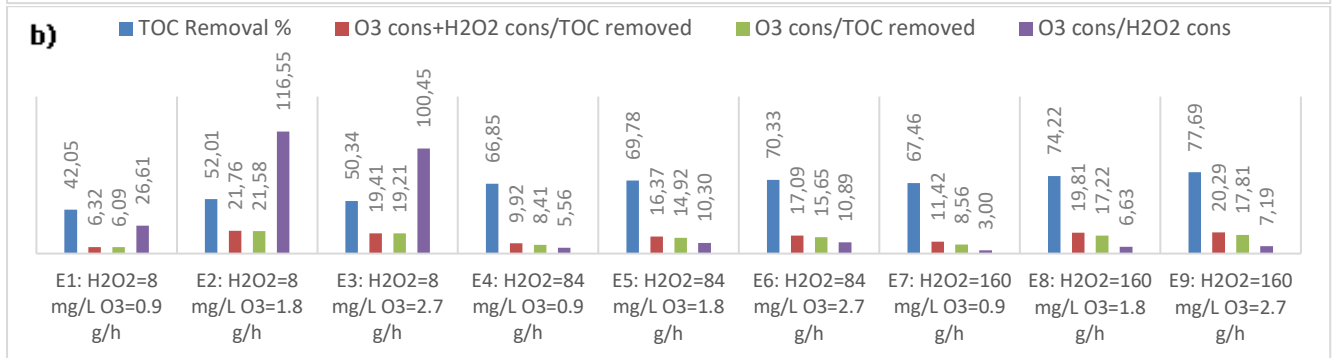
460 **Figure 5** The oxidant consumption ratios (mole/mole) compared to TOC removal %  
 461 for RRW1 treatment during 37.5 min  
 462

463 In case of the treatment of RWW2, similar consumption behavior was obtained.  
 464 When the treatment ends in 30 min (**Figure 6a**), the most effective reagent  
 465 consumption was achieved with 160 mg/L of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> and 0.9 g/h O<sub>3</sub>(E7) reaching 55%  
 466 of TOC removal. The increase in O<sub>3</sub> dose resulted in higher TOC removal; however,  
 467 this also cause an increase in O<sub>3</sub> wastage. On the other hand, increasing the  
 468 reaction time to 90 min (**Figure 6c**) led to higher TOC removals still preserving the  
 469 effective consumption of the reagents. Nevertheless, again the optimum conditions  
 470 can be determined according to the cost analysis for each case.

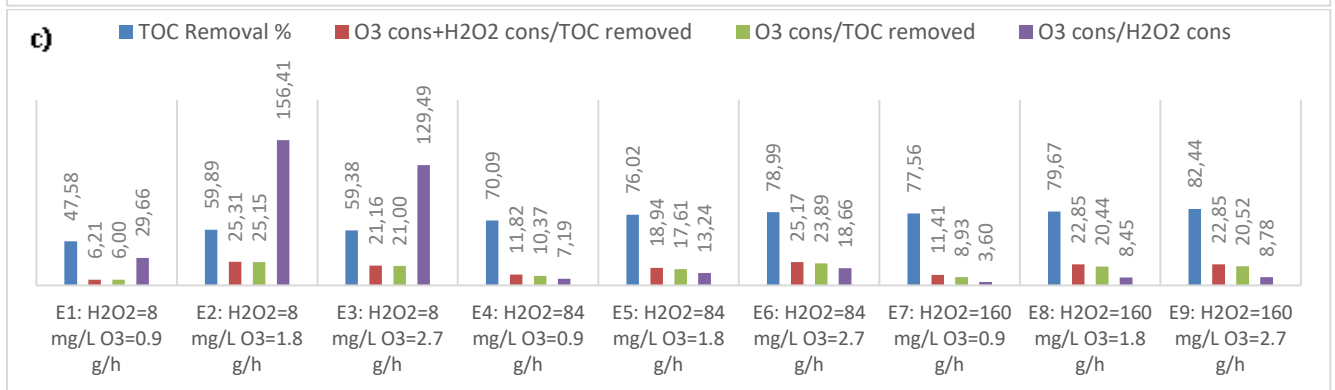
471



472



473



474 **Figure 6** The oxidant consumption ratios ( mole/mole) compared to TOC Removal %  
 475 for RRW2 treatment a) 30 min, b) 60 min, c) 90 min

#### 476 4. Conclusions

477 This study presented the ozone-based treatment of effluents from a petroleum  
 478 refinery in Turkey. The selection of optimal conditions for effective degradation of two  
 479 wastewater effluents after biological treatment was studied using fractional factorial  
 480 design; whereas, the optimization of the significant parameters was performed by  
 481 Box-Behnken response surface methodology.

482 According to the screening results obtained by the fractional factorial design, it was  
 483 found that both the reagents concentration used for the treatment and the time were  
 484 very significant for the treatment efficiency, while pH was found insignificant in terms  
 485 of its effect on TOC removal. The optimized parameters by Box-Behnken design  
 486 indicated that it is possible to reach the TOC requirements for reuse purposes by  
 487 adjusting the amount of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> and reaction time at low feed O<sub>3</sub> rates. Thus,  
 488 optimization allows reducing operational costs maintaining the process effectiveness  
 489 to reach the established target. The ratio between consumed O<sub>3</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> played a  
 490 crucial role for an optimum treatment either in terms of efficiency or for the operation



491 costs. However, the effect of initial characteristics of the effluents must be taken into  
492 account to determine the appropriate oxidant feed.

493 According to local water specifications for reclamation, peroxone treatment appears  
494 as a promising technique for water polishing allowing water recycling in refineries.  
495 The final characteristics of the treated water make it suitable to be reused in the  
496 plant's cooling towers or stored for fire extinction or cleaning purposes, which are the  
497 major water consumption sources of a refinery. This allows decreasing substantially  
498 the raw water consumption and generates a positive impact at different levels: social,  
499 economic and environmental.

500 An important point concerns to the fluctuation in the characteristics of the effluent,  
501 which was found rather significant in the treatment efficiency and the operational  
502 conditions that should be adjusted. This is especially important for real applications  
503 in situ, since the water variability in the refinery is highly expected with time and  
504 season. However, we have shown here that this problem may be overcome by  
505 means of detailed statistical approaches, which may be extrapolated to a refinery  
506 scenario through the development of a decision support system.

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