

## Comparison of Au(III) Sorption on Amine-Modified Silica (AMS) and Quaternary Amine-Modified Silica (QAMS): A Thermodynamic and Kinetics Study

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**Abstract:** Amine-Modified Silica (AMS) and Quaternary Amine-Modified Silica (QAMS) has been synthesized through the sol-gel process for adsorption Au(III) in aqueous solution. The aim of this work was to compare the effect of addition three methyl group of AMS to form QAMS on its character, thermodynamics and kinetics parameter of sorption of Au(III) in aqueous solution. Characterizations performed by FT-IR, XRD, SEM and BET analyzer. Sorption study was carried out in a batch system under the various experimental conditions including the effect of medium acidity, a variation of Au(III) concentration (thermodynamics study), and variation of contact time (kinetics study). Optimum pH of sorption Au(III) on AMS was 3 and shift into 5 on QAMS. Thermodynamics sorption study by Langmuir isotherm models indicates that there was an increase of sorption capacity from 37.94 mg/g (AMS) to 74.47 mg/g (QAMS). Kinetics sorption studies by Lagergren, Ho, and RBS models indicate that the sorption Au(III) in this research fitted well with the RBS models. The addition of 3 methyl group also increased the sorption rate of Au(III) on QAMS ( $k_a = 77.29 \text{ min}^{-1} (\text{mole/L})^{-1}$ ) over AMS ( $k_a = 69.22 \text{ min}^{-1} (\text{mole/L})^{-1}$ ) and reinforce the electrostatic interaction between active site of QAMS.

**Keywords:** sorption; AMS; QAMS; kinetics study; thermodynamic study

### ■ INTRODUCTION

Rare, precious and strategic metals, especially gold are very important. Commercial value and toxicity are the two properties of these metals which warrant their recovery from solution. Gold is introduced into the water from leach mining and waste solution from metal finishing industries [1]. Gold is widely used in many fields such as catalysts in various chemical processes, in electrical and electronic industries, in medicine and jewelry [2]. Growing demand for gold is of great economic interest to the recovery of this metal from aqueous and waste solutions as mineral stocks have started to decline [3]. There are several methods, such as ion-exchange, liquid-liquid extraction, membrane filtration, and sorption, available in the literature for the removal of precious metals from aqueous solutions [4].

Of major interest, sorption process can be defined as a surface phenomenon by which a multicomponent fluid (gas or liquid) mixture is attracted to the surface of solids adsorbents and forms attachment via the physical or chemical bond. Sorption process is recognized as the most efficient, promising and widely used fundamental approach for the recovery of precious metals, mainly hinges on its simplicity, economically viable, technically feasible and socially acceptable [5]. In the development of adsorbent, silica gel is very important material because it can be used as a support material possesses some advantages such as high mechanical and chemical properties, high porosity, large surface, no swelling, resistant in the microbial attack, resistant in decay radiation and heat-stable [6]. In addition, chelating agents can be easily chemically bonded to the support,

that affording higher stability. Silica contains functional groups of silanol (-Si-OH) and siloxane (-Si-O-Si-) on the surface which is allowing to be modified with active groups specific to certain targets [7].

In order to organize, establish and understand an adequate design model for the sorption process from aqueous media, isotherms, kinetics, and thermodynamic studies are essential basic prerequisites. In perspective, equilibrium relationship, known as sorption isotherm, describes how sorbate interacts with the sorbent materials, and thus are critical for optimization of the sorption mechanism pathways, expression of the surface properties and capacities of sorbent. The mathematical association which establishes a significant role towards the modeling analysis, operational design and applicable practice of the sorption systems is normally represented by plotting a graph between solid-phase and its residual concentration [8]. One of the well-known sorption isotherm basic approaches was Langmuir monolayer sorption [9]. From the same approach, Rusdiarso et al. [10] derive kinetics equation –known as RBS kinetics model– which is expected can relate to the isotherm sorption (Langmuir) parameters and kinetic parameters.

In the endeavor to explore novel adsorbent, the development of silica was studied by many researchers for many past decades. In present work, silica was modified by amines synthesized to adsorb precious metal ion, Au(III). The privilege of these materials (AMS and QAMS) has been compared with the previous research. The comparison of thermodynamic data (Langmuir [9] and Freundlich isotherm [11]) and kinetics study (Lagergren [12], Ho [13], and RBS kinetics model [10]) of these AMS and QAMS was criticized in this paper.

## ■ EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

### Materials

Materials used for preparing the sorbent were sodium hydroxide (NaOH), 3-aminopropylmethylsiloxane (3-APTMS), hydrochloric acid (HCl), dimethylformamide (DMF), acetonitrile, toluene, sodium bicarbonate, and methyl iodide. All reagents were analytical grade purchased by Merck. Co, Germany without further purification. A solution of Au(III) was prepared in our

laboratory by dissolving gold in an aquaregia solution. Rice husk raw material was taken from Gunung Kidul, Yogyakarta.

### Instrumentation

The functional group of materials was identified with Fourier Transform Infra-Red (FTIR) spectrophotometer Shimadzu IR prestige 21. The crystal structure was analyzed using Shimadzu X-ray diffraction (XRD) and using Cu K $\alpha$  radiation ( $\lambda = 1.5406 \text{ \AA}$ ) operated at 40 kV and 30 mA. The surface morphology and particle size were examined using a JEOL SSM-6510 LA Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM). Specific surface area analysis was conducted by Surface Area Analyzer (SSA) BET Quantum 600. The determination of metal ion concentrations was performed with a Flame Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer (FAAS, Shimadzu AA 6650).

### Procedure

#### *Synthesis of AMS and QAMS*

Synthesis QAMS was conducted by sol-gel process from rice husk raw material. Rice husk ash was treated with NaOH 2 M, followed by boiling and stirring for 4 h to generate red filtrate of Na-Silicate. The Na-Silicate was then dissolved in distilled water to obtain a high-quality Na-Silicate solution. HCl was then slowly added to the hydrated Na-Silicate to obtain Silica Gel (SG). Into another 100 mL of Na-Silicate solution, 3-aminopropylmethylsiloxane (3-APTMS) was added followed by adding of HCl 2 M dropwise until pH reaches 5 to generate sol of AMS. Sol of AMS then aged for  $3 \times 24$  h until the gel was formed. The gel was then washed with distilled water until free of acid (neutral). This product (AMS) was then filtered, and the filtrate (gel) dried at 60 °C for 6 h.

QAMS was synthesized by refluxing the mixture of 12 g of AMS, 20 mL of DMF, 20 mL of acetonitrile, 20 mL of toluene, and 2 mL of methyl iodide at 70 °C for 6 h. Simultaneously, 4 mL of methyl iodide was added to it drop wisely. The mixture was then filtered, and the filtrate was washed in sequence with distilled water, NaHCO<sub>3</sub> 2% (w/v), and distilled water. The filtrate was dried at 80 °C for 6 h to form QAMS.

### Effect of medium acidity

At first, a series of 20 mL of Au(III) 100 mg/L was prepared and their acidity was adjusted to 2.0, 3.0, 4.0, 5.0, and 6.0 by adding HCl 0.1 M solution. Into every Au(III) solution, 0.1 g of the sorbent was poured and then stirred for 2 h. After filtering through 2.5  $\mu\text{m}$  hole membrane filter, the concentration of Au(III) in the supernatant was analyzed by using FAAS. Sample and blank solutions were analyzed under same conditions. The amount of sorbed Au(III) was considered to be the difference between the initial and the remaining amount of the reacting solution each time a sample was analyzed.

### Thermodynamic study

The thermodynamic study (sorption isotherm) experiments were carried out using a batch type reactor using 50 mL Erlenmeyer in a water bath at  $25 \pm 0.01$  °C. As much as 0.1 g of sorbents was interacted with and stirred in 20 mL of solutions containing the various concentrations of Au(III) (10, 25, 50, 100, 150, 200 and 250 mg/L) at the optimum pH for 2 h and then aged for 24 h. After separating the supernatants, the concentration of Au(III) in the supernatant was determined by FAAS. Under the same condition with the sample solution, the blank solution was also analyzed.

### Kinetics study

The kinetics experiments also were carried out using a batch type reactor using 50 mL Erlenmeyer in a water

bath at  $25 \pm 0.01$  °C. The volume of sorption medium was 20 mL, the initial metal ion concentration was 100 mg/L, and the acidity was adjusted at the optimum pH. Into each solution, 0.1 g of the sorbent was added and then stirred continuously at 5, 10, 15, 30, 45, 60 and 120 min. The sample was immediately filtered through 2.5  $\mu\text{m}$  hole filter, and the concentration of Au(III) in the supernatant was analyzed by using FAAS. Sample and blank solutions were analyzed under the same conditions. The amount of Au(III) sorbed was considered to be the difference between the initial and the remaining amount in the reacting solution each time a sample was analyzed.

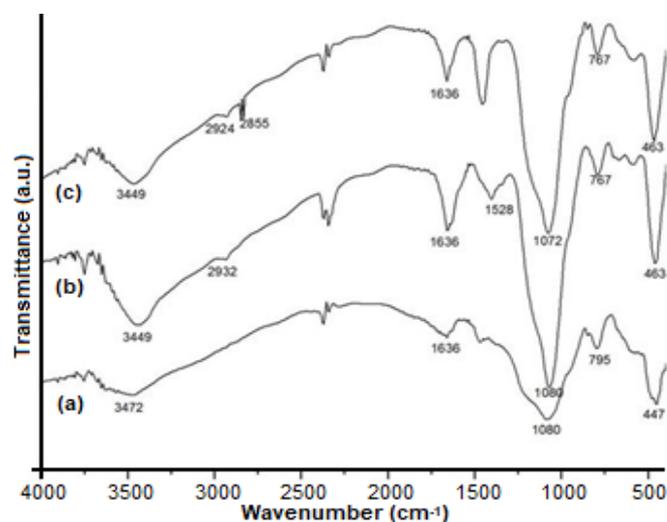


Fig 1. FT-IR spectra of (a) SG, (b) AMS, and (c) QAMS

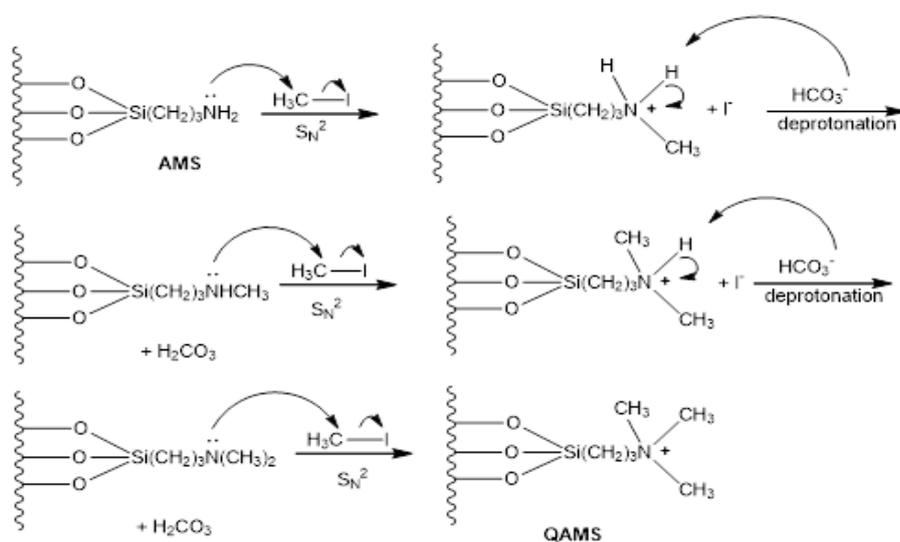


Fig 2. The structure of AMS and QAMS and the proposed mechanism of formation QAMS from AMS

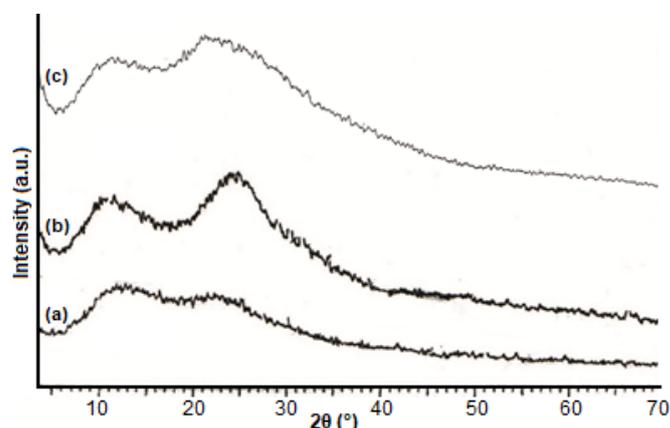
## ■ RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Characterization of Materials

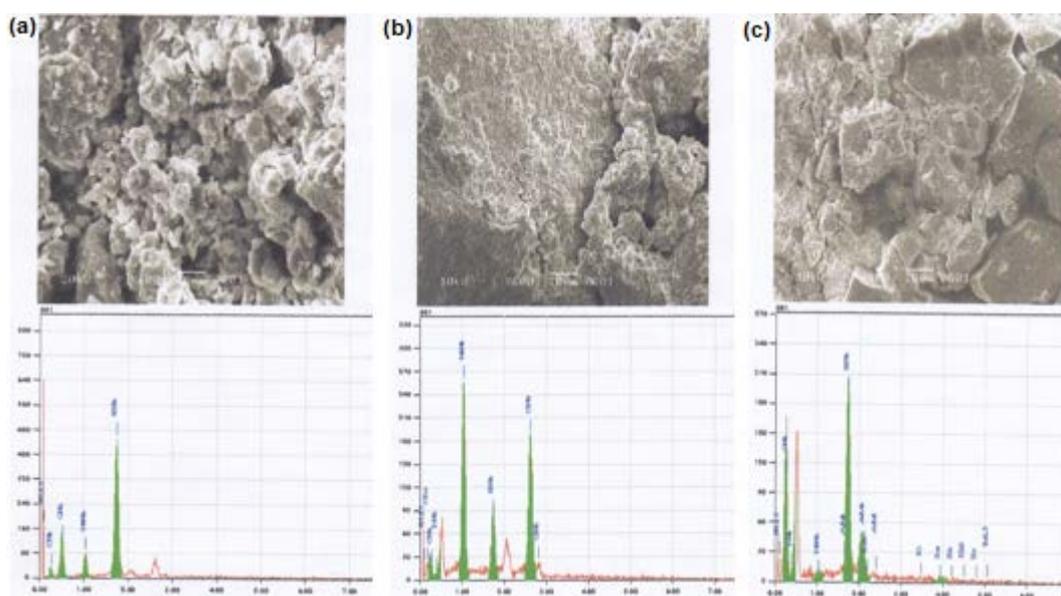
FT-IR spectra show that the difference between functional groups of SG, AMS, and QAMS can be observed qualitatively (Fig. 1). Characteristic functional group of SG at  $447\text{ cm}^{-1}$  was identified as bend vibration of Si-O from siloxane group (Si-O-Si),  $1080\text{ cm}^{-1}$  as asymmetric stretching of Si-O, and  $1636\text{ cm}^{-1}$  as bend vibration of Si-O from silanol group [14]. Absorption at  $1528\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (bend vibration of N-H from  $-\text{NH}_2$  group) in AMS indicated the AMS still have  $-\text{NH}_2$  group, however, SG and QAMS do not have this absorbance that indicate there are no  $-\text{NH}_2$  group in SG and QAMS. Stretching vibration of C-H from methyl group at  $2855\text{ cm}^{-1}$  [15] emerged only in QAMS which indicate formed  $-\text{CH}_3$  at QAMS. The differences between AMS and QAMS was a disappearing peak at  $1528\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , and a new emerging peak at  $2855\text{ cm}^{-1}$  in QAMS, indicated the transformation of N-H from  $-\text{NH}_2$  group to  $[-\text{N}^+(\text{CH}_3)_3]$ . The structure of AMS and QAMS and the proposed mechanism of formation AMS to QAMS can be seen in Fig. 2.

XRD diffractogram of AMS and QAMS show that these all material are non-crystalline (amorphous), and  $\text{SiO}_2$  character emerges at  $2\theta = 20\text{--}25^\circ$  [16-18]. This condition also reported by Della et al. [19] that there is no significant change in diffractogram peak of incinerating

time of rice husk ash to form SG. The diffractogram of SG, AMS, and QAMS shows in Fig. 3. The surface morphology by SEM-EDX analysis before and after methylation of AMS and QAMS shows that the surface morphology of QAMS more heterogenic than AMS. QAMS shows more cavities from methylation process (Fig. 4). From EDX data, AMS only consist of elements Si, O, Na, and N. However, in QAMS there is iodine (I) from  $\text{CH}_3\text{I}$  (Fig. 2) as a residual element of methylation process. The residual iodine from methyl iodide in QAMS (1.09% (w/w)) higher than AMS (0.23% (w/w)). Additionally, the percentage of carbon in QAMS higher than AMS, this indicates that methylation occurred on a



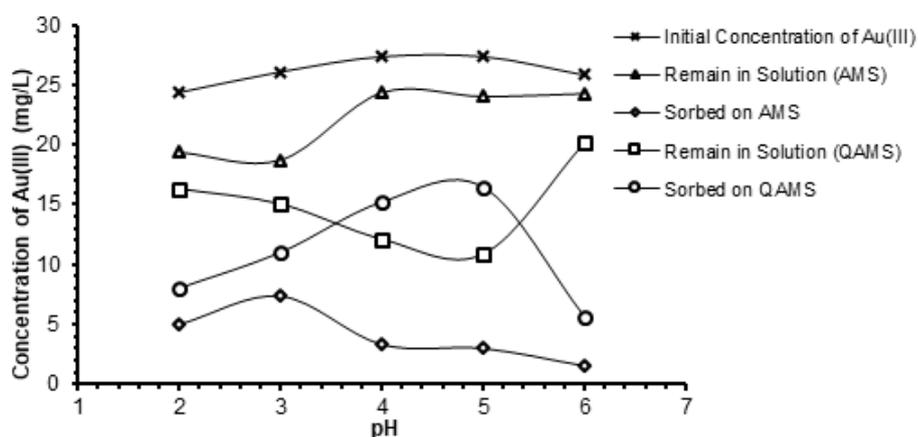
**Fig 3.** The diffractogram pattern from XRD analysis of (a) SG, (b) AMS, and (c) QAMS



**Fig 4.** Morphological and elemental analysis by SEM-EDX of (a) SG, (b) AMS, and (c) QAMS

**Table 1.** Elemental analysis by EDX of SG, AMS, and QAMS

Elements	SG		AMS		QAMS	
	Mass (%)	Atom (%)	Mass (%)	Atom (%)	Mass (%)	Atom (%)
C	-	-	37.36	19.58	50.51	63.93
O	8.29	27.14	-	-	-	-
N	-	-	10.28	20.97	18.78	20.34
Na	-	-	0.41	0.25	-	-
Si	91.72	72.86	32.53	32.80	28.70	15.50
I	-	-	-	-	1.90	0.23

**Fig 5.** Effect of medium acidity of sorption Au(III) on AMS (red) and QAMS(blue)

quaternary group of carbon. The EDX analysis of SG, AMS, and QAMS was shown in Table 1.

### Effect of Medium Acidity

In acid condition, AMS which have an amino group (-NH<sub>2</sub>) will be protonated to formed -NH<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup> which will electrostatically interact with [AuCl<sub>4</sub>]<sup>-</sup>. The presence of Cl<sup>-</sup> would also compete with [AuCl<sub>4</sub>]<sup>-</sup> which caused by the increasing of medium acidity. The optimum pH of Au(III) sorption on AMS occurred at pH = 3 (Fig. 5). In pH above 3, sorption Au(III) decreased dramatically because of the formation of several dominant species in solution, i.e. [AuOHCl<sub>3</sub>]<sup>-</sup>, [Au(OH)<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>]<sup>-</sup>, and Au(OH)<sub>3</sub> [20]. Sorption of Au(III) on QAMS was affected by solution acidity. Generally, sorption of Au(III) on QAMS increased by increasing the pH solution. In pH < 5, sorbed Au(III) was relatively small because of higher concentration of H<sup>+</sup> which affect the electrostatic interaction between active site of QAMS, [-N<sup>+</sup>(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>] and [AuCl<sub>4</sub>]<sup>-</sup>. The optimum pH of Au(III) sorption on QAMS was 5. In pH > 5, the

concentration of H<sup>+</sup> ion was relatively small. Oppositely, the concentration of OH<sup>-</sup> ion was higher and Au(OH)<sub>3</sub> was formed which affect the decreasing sorption of Au(III) on QAMS. The excess of OH<sup>-</sup> ion also increased the competition between [AuCl<sub>4</sub>]<sup>-</sup> and OH<sup>-</sup> on the active site of QAMS [-N<sup>+</sup>(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>].

### Thermodynamics Study

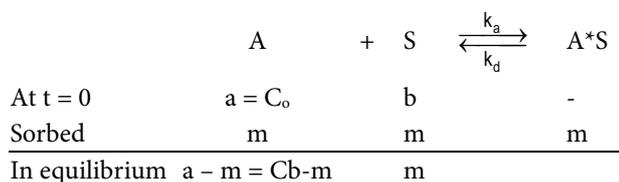
Thermodynamic study especially determination of capacity and sorption energy of Au(III) on sorbent (AMS and QAMS) was plotted using Langmuir and Freundlich isotherm models.

$$\text{Langmuir isotherm model: } \frac{C}{m} = \frac{1}{b}K + \frac{C}{b}$$

$$\text{Freundlich isotherm model: } \log m = \log B + \frac{1}{n} \log C$$

where C, the equilibrium concentration in solution; b, Langmuir's sorption capacity; K, Langmuir's constant of equilibrium; m, metal sorbed/g sorbent at equilibrium; B, Freundlich isotherm capacity and n, constants.

Langmuir isotherm model can be written derive from this model:



where a = C<sub>o</sub> is initial concentration of A (mol/L); m is the amount of A sorbed/g S in equilibrium (mol/g); and a - m = C is concentration/remain of A in equilibrium (mol/L). The equilibrium constant, K can be written as:

$$K = \frac{[A^*S]}{[A][S]} = \frac{m}{(b-m)C_e} \quad (1)$$

Eq. (1) can be rearranged:

$$m = \frac{KC_e b}{1 + KC_e} \quad (2)$$

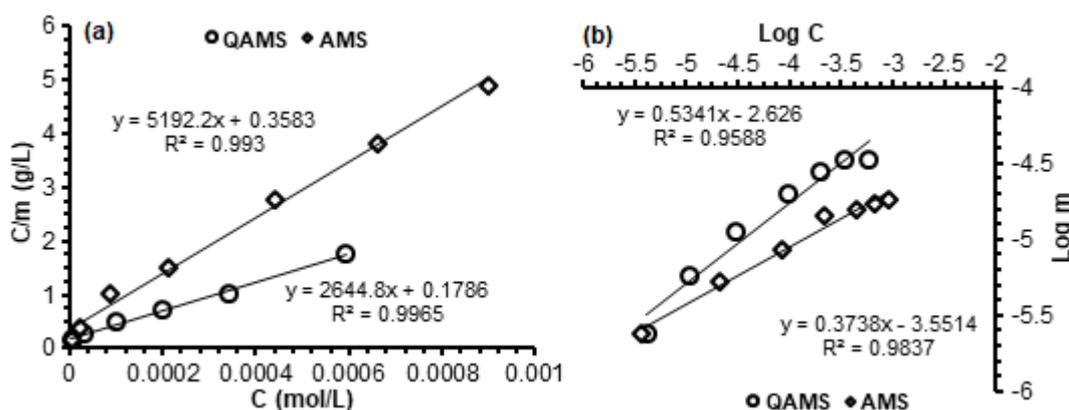
The linear form of Eq. (2) can be written as Eq. (3) that we know as well-known Langmuir isotherm model [9]:

$$\frac{C_e}{m} = \frac{1}{Kb} + \frac{1}{b}C_e \quad (3)$$

If it is assumed that the sorption follows the Langmuir isotherm model, the sorption capacity (b) and constant of equilibrium (K) can be calculated respectively

from the slope and intercept of plot between C/m and C. If it is assumed that the sorption follows the Freundlich, isotherm model, the sorption capacity (B) can be obtained from the intercept of plot between ln m versus ln C. The application of the two models resulted in the sorption parameters shown in Table 2. Compared to the Freundlich model, the experimental data appeared fitted better in Langmuir isotherm model (Fig. 6). The plot of Langmuir isotherm model of Au(III) on both AMS and QAMS yielded better linearity (R<sup>2</sup> AMS = 0.993; QAMS = 0.997) than Freundlich model (R<sup>2</sup> = 0.984; 0.959), indicated that the sorption of Au(III) follows the monolayer models.

The Langmuir isotherm model is designed for monolayer sorption of species on a homogeneous surface with the same sorption energy for all active site regardless of the degree of coverage, while the Freundlich is for multilayer sorption on heterogeneous surface with the frequency of sites associated with free energy of sorption decrease exponentially with the increase of free energy [5]. If we assume [-N<sup>+</sup>(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>] is the responsible group for the sorption of metal ions, then the capacity (monolayer or mono-energy) Langmuir sorption may indicate the number of this group.



**Fig 6.** The linearity of Langmuir (a) and Freundlich isotherm models (b) of 20 mL Au(III) 100 mg/L sorption onto 0.1 g AMS (pH = 3) and 0.1 g QAMS (pH = 5)

**Table 2.** Thermodynamics parameter by Langmuir and Freundlich isotherm models of Au(III) sorption in 0.1 g sorbents in 20 mL series of concentration Au(III) solutions

Sorbents	Langmuir			Freundlich		
	b (mg/g)	K (mole/L) <sup>-1</sup>	R <sup>2</sup>	B (mg/g)	n	R <sup>2</sup>
AMS	37.94	14491	0.993	55.34	2.68	0.984
QAMS	74.47	14809	0.997	466.02	1.84	0.959

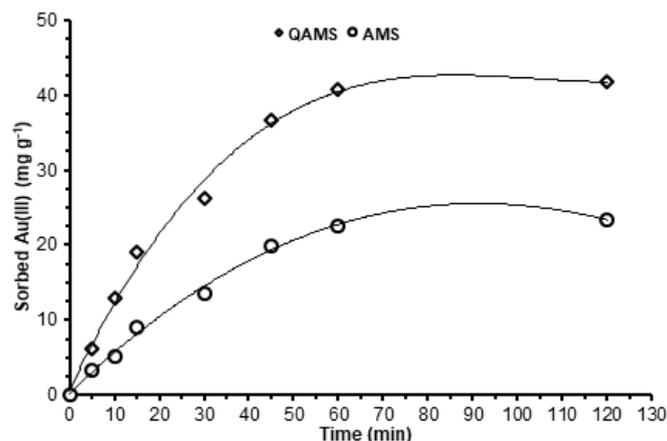
**Table 3.** Specific surface area, total pore volume, and pore diameter of SG, AMS, and QAMS by SAA using gas nitrogen

Materials	Specific surface area ( $\text{m}^2 \text{g}^{-1}$ )	Total pore volume ( $\text{mL g}^{-1}$ )	Pore diameter ( $\text{\AA}$ )
SG	103.505	0.092	1.7826
AMS	98.410	0.080	1.6798
QAMS	164.682	0.804	9.7623

It was proved by better linearity of Langmuir isotherm model than Freundlich because metal ions will occupy the active site that has the strongest interaction first and then followed by the occupation of metal ions with lower energy active site. Whereas, capacity (multilayer or multi-energy) indicates the Freundlich sorption capacity  $[-\text{N}^+(\text{CH}_3)_3]$  and another active site together. Interactions occurred allegedly as electrostatic forces between the metal ions with active sites of QAMS.

Determining specific surface area, total pore volume, and pore diameter of SG, AMS, and QAMS using Surface Area Analyzer (SAA) can be seen in Table 3. From the table, AMS relatively had specific surface area and smaller total pore volume than SG. It can be deduced that SG was partially covered by 3-APTMS after modification SG to form AMS. SAA shows that surface area of QAMS increase from  $98.41 \text{ m}^2 \text{g}^{-1}$  (AMS) to  $164.68 \text{ m}^2 \text{g}^{-1}$  (QAMS). The main modification in AMS formation was to increase the chain of the alkyl group (propyl) with amino ( $-\text{NH}_2$ ) end and to change the silanol ( $-\text{Si}-\text{OH}$ ) to the siloxane ( $-\text{Si}-\text{O}-\text{Si}-$ ). This propyl ( $-(\text{CH}_2)_3-$ ) has an important role as support to  $-\text{NH}_2$  which have lone pair electron as a donor to form complex compound to Au(III) by a covalent coordination bond.

The result of this modification was proved by Langmuir isotherm model that monolayer sorption capacity of QAMS ( $74.47 \text{ mg g}^{-1}$ ) was higher than AMS ( $37.94 \text{ mg g}^{-1}$ ). The increase of sorption capacity can be explained by the positive charge of QAMS ( $[-\text{N}^+(\text{CH}_3)_3]$ ) that lead the electrostatic interaction with a negative charge of  $[\text{AuCl}_4]^-$ . Furthermore, three methyl group was a donating electron group that promotes lone pair electron given to Au(III). This material, QAMS also had higher sorption capacity of Au(III) compared to MNSA ( $17.7 \text{ mg g}^{-1}$ ) [2], LMCC ( $70.34 \text{ mg g}^{-1}$ ) [21],  $\text{SiO}_2$ -arg

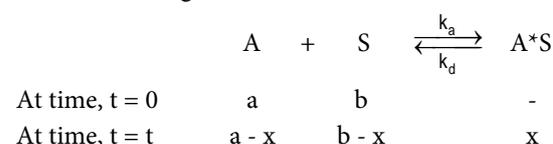
**Fig 7.** Sorption profile as function of time of 20 mL Au(III) 100 mg/L onto (a) 0.1 g QAMS in pH 5 and (b) 0.1 g AMS in pH 3 at 27 °C, 1 atm

( $52.79 \text{ mg g}^{-1}$ ) [6], and 4-amino-4-nitro azobenzene modified chitosan ( $69.93 \text{ mg g}^{-1}$ ) [22] but still had a lower sorption capacity compared to GMCCR ( $169.98$ ) [2].

### Kinetics Study

The sorption profile of Au(III) as a function of interaction time is presented in Fig. 7. The sorption of Au(III) was initially rapid and then went slower. The initial rapid sorption was observed for the first 40 min and then went slower after 60 min. After 120 min, it was relative no additional sorbed Au(III) on sorbent (AMS and QAMS), so it can be argued that the sorption has reached equilibrium.

Considering the sorption of Au(III) on sorbent is an equilibrium process as same as an initial model to derive the Langmuir isotherm model illustrated below:



where A is a metal Au(III) or another metal; S is a sorbent (AMS and QAMS);  $k_a$  is the sorption rate constant and  $k_d$  desorption rate constant.

If  $a$  is the initial concentration of metal A (mol/L),  $b$  is the Langmuir sorption capacity (mol/L), and  $x$  is the number of A is adsorbed on the S (mol/L), so the equation rate can be written:

$$r_{ads} = \frac{dx}{dt} = k_a(a-x)(b-x) - k_d x \quad (4)$$

After integration Eq. (4) generate new kinetics model known as RBS kinetics model, Eq. (5) which previously studied:

$$\ln\left(\frac{ab - x_e x}{x_e - x}\right) = k_a \left(\frac{ab - x_e^2}{x_e}\right) t - \ln\left(\frac{x_e}{ab}\right) \quad (5)$$

In this work, sorption rate of Au(III) onto AMS and QASM was studied by

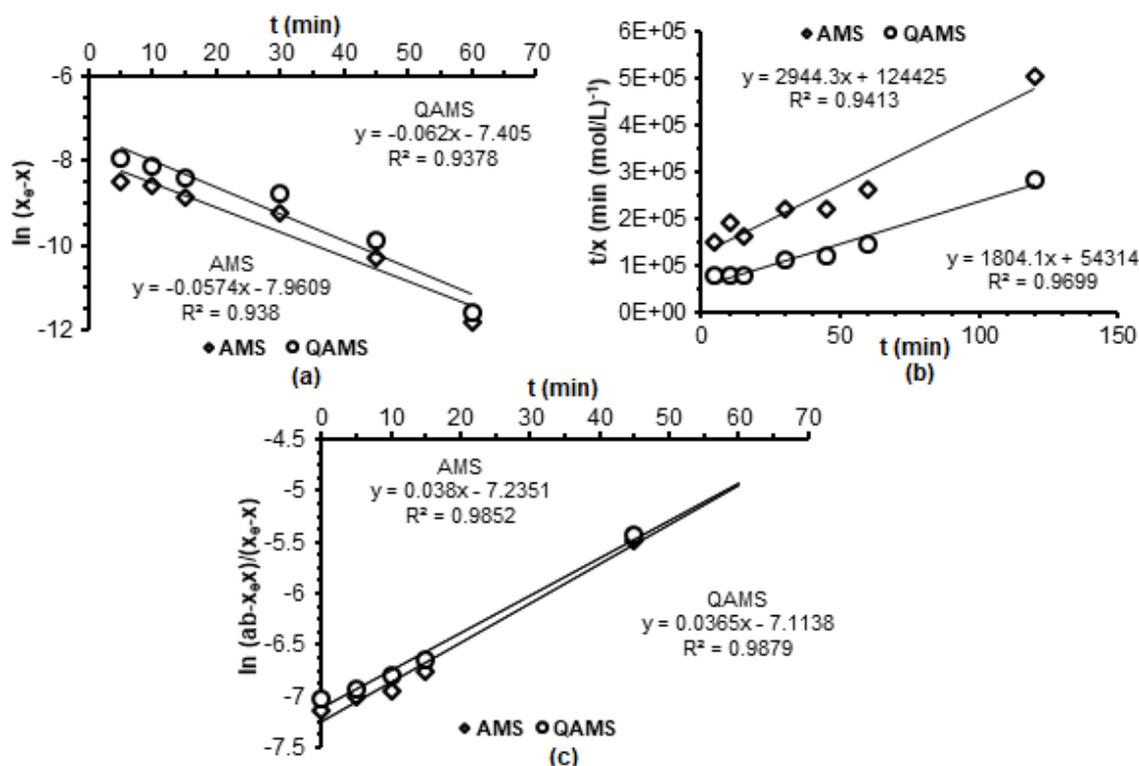
Pseudo-first Order Lagergren:  $\ln(x_e - x) = \ln x_e - k_{lag} t$ ;

Pseudo-second Order Ho:  $\frac{t}{x} = \frac{1}{k_{Ho} x_e^2} + \frac{t}{x}$ ;

and RBS kinetics model which was previously worked by Rusdiarso et al. on sorption  $Zn^{2+}$  onto horse dung humic acid [10]. Application of these three kinetics model shows in Table 4. From the linearity, we can see that RBS kinetics model was the most suitable which represent the real system. It shows that the sorption rate constant ( $k_a$ ) of QAMS ( $77.29 \text{ min}^{-1} (\text{mole/L})^{-1}$ ) was higher than AMS ( $69.22 \text{ min}^{-1} (\text{mole/L})^{-1}$ ) and the desorption rate constant ( $k_d$ ) of QAMS ( $4.74 \times 10^{-3} \text{ min}^{-1}$ ) was lower than

**Table 4.** Linearity and sorption rate parameter of sorption 200 mg sorbents on sorption 100 mL Au(III)  $100 \text{ mg L}^{-1}$  in pH 5.0 at  $27^\circ \text{C}$

Materials	Lagergren		Ho		RBS			
	$R^2$	$k_{lag} (\text{min}^{-1})$	$R^2$	$k_{Ho} (\text{min}^{-1} \text{mol}^{-1} \text{L})$	$R^2$	$k_a (\text{min}^{-1} \text{mol}^{-1} \text{L})$	$k_d \times 10^{-3} (\text{min}^{-1})$	$k_a/k_d (\text{mol}^{-1} \text{L})$
AMS	0.938	0.0574	0.941	69.67	0.985	69.22	10.37	6676
QAMS	0.938	0.0620	0.970	59.93	0.988	77.29	4.74	16308



**Fig 8.** The linearity of Pseudo-first Order Lagergren (a), Pseudo-second Order Ho (b), and RBS kinetics model (c) of 100 mL Au(III)  $100 \text{ mg/L}$  sorption onto 0.2 g AMS (pH = 3) and 0.2 g QAMS (pH = 5)

AMS ( $10.37 \times 10^{-3} \text{ min}^{-1}$ ). These numbers indicate that Au(III) was sorbed faster on QAMS than on AMS; however, after it was sorbed, QAMS had the stronger interaction with Au(III) compare with Au(III) with QAMS. This strong interaction might be caused by reinforcement of active site of QAMS due to increasing interaction resulted from 3 methyl group addition. The sorption energy also proved that sorption energy of QAMS was higher than AMS.

The RBS kinetics model was derived from the same models generated by Langmuir isotherm model, so the parameters of these equations should be related. The value of equilibrium constant ( $K_L$ ) from Langmuir was  $14491 \text{ (mole/L)}^{-1}$  and  $14809 \text{ (mole/L)}^{-1}$  for AMS and QAMS, respectively. From RBS kinetic model,  $K_{RBS}$  was counted as  $k_a/k_d$ . The value of  $K_{RBS}$  for AMS and QAMS was  $6676 \text{ (mole/L)}^{-1}$  and  $16309 \text{ (mole/L)}^{-1}$ , respectively. The value of  $K_{RBS}$  and  $K_L$  of QAMS had almost similar magnitude compared to the value of  $K_{RBS}$  and  $K_L$  of AMS.

From our previous work, there was a strong relationship between the condition of the initial concentration of sorbate (a) and the sorption capacity (b). If the ratio of a and b is relatively equal, the Pseudo-second order Ho tend to have good linearity, oppositely if a are much higher than b, Pseudo-first Order Lagergren and RBS kinetics models tend to have good linearity [10]. Langmuir isotherm study (Table 4) show that there was increasing of sorption capacity of AMS ( $37.94 \text{ mg g}^{-1}$ ) to QAMS ( $74.47 \text{ mg g}^{-1}$ ) on Au(III) sorption. This kinetics work applied 0.2 g of sorbents on sorption of 100 mL Au(III)  $100 \text{ mg L}^{-1}$  so that the ratio of a:b can be calculated in mole/L unit ( $\text{Ar Au} = 196.97$ ). The ratio of a:b of AMS was  $5.077 \times 10^{-4} : 3.852 \times 10^{-4} \approx 4:3$ . Addition of three methyl groups to AMS to form QAMS increased the sorption capacity so that the ratio will be  $5.077 \times 10^{-4} : 7.562 \times 10^{-4} \approx 4:6$ . The change from AMS to QAMS has been practically rising the sorption capacity twice that affected to the value of sorption rate constant ( $k_a$ ) and desorption rate constant ( $k_d$ ).

The change of  $k_a$  and  $k_d$  will lead to the change of comparison on these  $K_{RBS}$  and  $K_L$ . The linearity of kinetics models Sorption energy, E generated from calculation Langmuir data  $E = -RT \ln K$  of AMS and QAMS was

$23.90 \text{ kJ/mole}$  and  $23.95 \text{ kJ/mole}$ , respectively. Sorption energy from calculation  $E = -RT \ln (k_a/k_d)$  was quite close –especially for QAMS– from that was  $21.95 \text{ kJ/mole}$  and  $24.19 \text{ kJ/mole}$  for AMS and QAMS, respectively. All these relations of kinetics data and isotherm data proved that they are connected in a certain condition (ratio between initial concentration (a) and sorption capacity (b) from Langmuir isotherm model).

## ■ CONCLUSION

It was successfully proved that the addition of three methyl group on AMS to formed QAMS would change the sorption characteristic of the material. This change increased the specific surface area, total pore volume, and pore diameter, without destroying the crystal structure. The optimum pH of Au(III) sorption shifted from 3 (AMS) to 5 (QAMS), where it has many advantages in sorption of Au(III). The sorption capacity of QAMS increased approximately twice and exceeded the sorption capacity of several previous researchers on Au(III) sorption. The increase in rate sorption of Au(III) on QAMS indicated that QAMS have the stronger interaction with Au(III) than AMS.

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