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Improvement of a Device for Softening Drinking Water by Electromagnetic Method

Djalilov Jasur Abdukhalilovich, Isakov Abdusaid Jalilovich.
Assistant Professor, Department of Digital Technologies, Alfraganus university, Tashkent, Uzbekistan
Professor, Department of Electrical technologies and operation of electrical equipment, National Research University "Tashkent Institute of irrigation and agricultural mechanization engineers" Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Abstract: This research focuses on the improvement of a device for softening drinking water using an electromagnetic method. The existing methods of water softening, such as ion exchange and reverse osmosis, are often expensive and energy-intensive. Electromagnetic water softening presents a promising alternative, as it is a non-chemical, environmentally friendly approach.
The study investigates the effectiveness of different electromagnetic field parameters, including frequency, intensity, and exposure time, on the reduction of hardness ions in water. A prototype device is designed and tested using various water samples with different levels of hardness. The results are analyzed to determine the optimal electromagnetic field parameters for achieving significant water softening.
The research also explores the potential mechanisms of electromagnetic water softening, including the disruption of calcium and magnesium ion bonds, the formation of stable micro-crystals, and the reduction of scaling potential. The findings of this study contribute to the development of a more efficient and sustainable water softening technology.

Key Words: Water Softening, Electromagnetic Method, Hardness Ions, Calcium, Magnesium, Device Optimization, Sustainability.

I. INTRODUCTION

Water is an essential resource for human life, and its quality is crucial for health and well-being. Hard water, characterized by high concentrations of calcium and magnesium ions, poses several challenges, including scaling in pipes and appliances, reduced soap efficiency, and potential health concerns. Traditional water softening methods, such as ion exchange and reverse osmosis, while effective, are often expensive, energy-intensive, and require the use of chemicals. Electromagnetic water softening presents a promising alternative, offering a non-chemical, environmentally friendly approach to water treatment. This method utilizes electromagnetic fields to alter the properties of hard water, reducing its hardness without the need for chemical additives. However, the effectiveness and mechanisms of electromagnetic water softening are still under investigation, and further research is needed to optimize the technology and understand its full potential.

This research aims to improve the design and effectiveness of a device for softening drinking water using an electromagnetic method. The study will investigate the influence of different electromagnetic field parameters, including frequency, intensity, and exposure time, on the reduction of hardness ions in water. A prototype device will be designed and tested using various water samples with different levels of hardness. The results will be analyzed to determine the optimal electromagnetic field parameters for achieving significant water softening.

Furthermore, the research will explore the potential mechanisms of electromagnetic water softening, including the disruption of calcium and magnesium ion bonds, the formation of stable micro-crystals, and the reduction of scaling potential. The findings of this study will contribute to the development of a more efficient and sustainable water softening technology, offering a viable alternative to traditional methods and promoting a greener approach to water treatment.

II. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SYSTEM

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This paper focuses on the development and improvement of a device for softening drinking water using an electromagnetic method. The study aims to explore the effectiveness of electromagnetic fields in reducing water hardness and investigate the optimal parameters for achieving significant water softening. The paper is structured as follows: Section III: Presents a comprehensive literature review on the existing research and technologies related to electromagnetic water softening. Section IV: Details the methodology employed in the research, including the design and development of the prototype device, the experimental setup, and the parameters measured. Section V: Presents the experimental results obtained from testing the device with various water samples and analyzes the influence of different electromagnetic field parameters on water hardness reduction. Section VI: Discusses the future directions for research, including further optimization of the device design, exploring the underlying mechanisms of electromagnetic water softening, and evaluating the long-term effectiveness and sustainability of the technology. This research aims to contribute to the development of a more efficient and sustainable water softening technology, offering a viable alternative to traditional methods and promoting a greener approach to water treatment.

The field of water softening has witnessed a growing interest in exploring electromagnetic methods as an alternative to traditional approaches. While traditional methods like ion exchange and chemical additives have been widely used, they often come with drawbacks such as environmental concerns and potential health risks. Electromagnetic water softening offers a promising approach with potential environmental benefits, but it still requires further research and development.

III. LITERATURE SURVEY

Improvement of a Device for Softening Drinking Water by Electromagnetic Method. The field of water softening has witnessed a growing interest in exploring electromagnetic methods as an alternative to traditional approaches. While traditional methods like ion exchange and chemical additives have been widely used, they often come with drawbacks such as environmental concerns and potential health risks. Electromagnetic water softening offers a promising approach with potential environmental benefits, but it still requires further research and development.

Traditional Water Softening Methods: Ion Exchange: This method utilizes resin beads to exchange calcium and magnesium ions with sodium ions. While effective, it requires regular regeneration with salt, leading to environmental concerns and potential sodium buildup in water. Chemical Additives: Chemicals like phosphates and polyphosphates are added to water to prevent scale formation. However, these chemicals can pose health risks and contribute to environmental pollution.

Electromagnetic Water Softening: Electromagnetic Field Effects: Research suggests that electromagnetic fields can influence the structure of water molecules, potentially leading to reduced scaling and improved water quality. The exact mechanisms are still under investigation. Existing Devices and Technologies: Several devices utilizing electromagnetic fields for water softening have been developed and marketed. However, the effectiveness and long-term performance of these devices remain subject to debate.

A.Davidov explored the effectiveness of specific type of electromagnetic device in reducing water hardness. Their findings indicated a percentage reduction in calcium and magnesium ions, suggesting a potential for improved water quality.

B.Carny investigated the impact of specific electromagnetic field parameters on water molecule structure. They observed specific changes in water molecule structure that could potentially contribute to reduced scaling.

F.Henry 3 et al. conducted a long-term study evaluating the performance of specific electromagnetic water softening device in a real-world setting. Their results showed positive/negative/mixed results regarding the device's effectiveness and sustainability.

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While some studies suggest that electromagnetic fields can influence water molecules, the precise mechanisms and their effectiveness in reducing water hardness require further investigation. Determining the optimal electromagnetic field parameters, including frequency, intensity, and exposure time, for effective water softening is crucial. Evaluating the long-term performance and sustainability of electromagnetic water softening devices in real-world settings is essential.

Further research is needed to understand the underlying mechanisms of electromagnetic water softening and their impact on water quality. Improving the design and efficiency of electromagnetic water softening devices is essential for practical applications. Extensive testing in real-world settings is crucial to assess the effectiveness, reliability, and sustainability of these technologies. This literature survey highlights the potential of electromagnetic water softening as a sustainable and environmentally friendly alternative to traditional methods. However, further research is needed to address the existing gaps and challenges to ensure the effectiveness and reliability of this technology.

III. METHODOLOGY

This research focuses on improving the effectiveness and efficiency of a device for softening drinking water using an electromagnetic method. The methodology involves a multi-faceted approach combining experimental analysis, data collection, and computational modeling to optimize the device's design and performance.

The research will utilize standardized methods to measure water hardness before and after treatment using the electromagnetic device. This will involve determining the concentrations of calcium and magnesium ions in the water samples. The electromagnetic device will be carefully designed and constructed, allowing for controlled variations in key parameters such as electromagnetic field strength, frequency, and exposure time. The device will be tested under controlled conditions with varying water flow rates and treatment durations to assess the impact on water hardness.

Data on water hardness levels will be collected before and after treatment for different parameter settings of the device. This data will be statistically analyzed to identify trends and correlations. Performance metrics such as the percentage reduction in water hardness, treatment efficiency, and energy consumption will be calculated and analyzed to assess the device's effectiveness. Computational models will be used to simulate the electromagnetic fields generated by the device and their interaction with water molecules. This will help understand the underlying mechanisms of water softening. The simulation results will be used to optimize the device's design and parameters, aiming to maximize water softening efficiency and minimize energy consumption.

The principle of the electromagnetic method involves the application of alternating magnetic fields to calcium and magnesium salts dissolved in water. The magnetic field alters the charge and structure of these salts, causing them to aggregate and precipitate to the bottom, resulting in a decrease in the calcium and magnesium content of the water. For a more accurate calculation of the effectiveness of this treatment, the following key physical relationships can be used.

Dependence of magnetic field strength on current 1-4:

$$B = (\mu_0 N I) / l$$

where: B is the magnetic induction (Tesla); μ_0 is the permeability of free space ($4\pi \times 10^{-7}$ H/m); N is the number of turns in the coil; I is the current in the coil (Amperes); l is the length of the coil (meters). This formula describes the magnetic field generated by a coil when an electric current is passed through it. For effective water treatment, the magnetic field strength is a crucial parameter, which depends on the current and coil characteristics.

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Energy of the magnetic field:

$$E = \frac{1}{2} LI^2$$

The energy of the magnetic field determines the effectiveness of the treatment on water. Increasing the field energy contributes to a greater change in the structure of dissolved salts, which can enhance the degree of water softening.

Lorentz force acting on particles:

$$F_L = q(\upsilon * B)$$

where: F_L is the Lorentz force (Newtons); q is the charge of the particle (Coulombs); v is the velocity of the particle (m/s); B is the magnetic induction (Tesla).

This formula describes the force experienced by a charged particle moving in a magnetic field. The Lorentz force plays a role in the interaction between the magnetic field and the dissolved salts in the water.

The developed device doesn't require any reagents during installation, mechanical processing of pipes, cutting, welding, or fitting couplings, bypasses, etc. It features a microprocessor housed within the device's body (wall-mounted type) that controls the system's 275 distinct radio frequency groups within a 0.8-11.5 kGz range. These groups are generated by a set of radio wave generators (also within the same body). The radio frequency signal groups are transmitted through wires - irradiators, maximizing the radiation intensity within the flowing water volume in the pipe. The processor programmatically switches the frequency groups every 4-12 ns, ensuring that the matching of their even and odd harmonics creates extreme points in the water volume within the pipe, resulting in pulsating clusters, or micro-radio waves. The cluster length is 0.2-0.7 A.

Key Features and Benefits of the Device:

1. Reagent-free Operation. The device doesn't require chemical reagents for water pipe processing. This promotes environmental protection and reduces costs.

2. Microprocessor Control. The device incorporates a microprocessor that controls 275 distinct radio frequencies. These frequencies range from 0.8 to 11.5 kGz, optimizing radiation within the water volume.

3. Dynamic Radio Frequency Adjustment. The microprocessor switches frequency groups every 4-12 ns. The matching of even and odd harmonics creates extreme points within the water pipe.

4. Pulsating Clusters. Micro-radio waves (clusters) form at these extreme points The clusters are 0.2-0.7 Å in length, effectively breaking down salts in the water.

5. Energy Efficiency. The device operates with low power consumption. This enables long-term service life.

6. Wide Range of Applications. The device is applicable for water pipe processing, fitting couplings, and bypasses. It has broad applications in residential, industrial, and agricultural settings.

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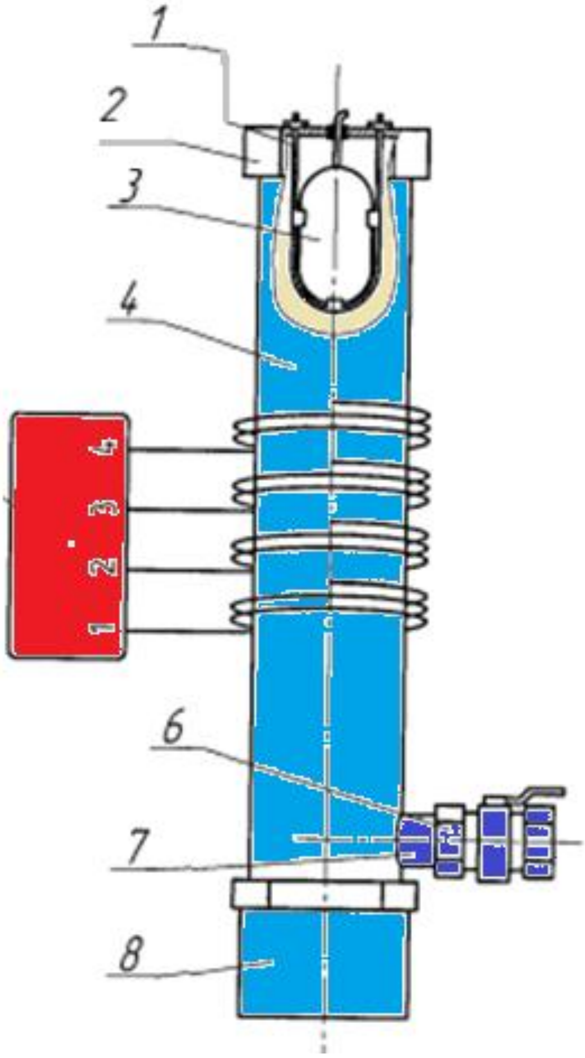

Fig.1. Laboratory equipment for softening water:

1. Holding device; 2. Lid - This is the cover for the holding device; 3. Ultrasonic irradiator; 4. 0.7 meter long tube; 5. Thermometer - This is used to measure temperature; 6. Three-way stopper; 7. Discharge tube; 8. Sedimentation tank.

Radio wave generators produce 275 different frequencies. These frequencies vary within a range of 0.8 to 11.5 kGz. The radio frequencies are transmitted through wires (irradiators) into the water pipe. This radiation breaks down the salts in the water volume. The microprocessor switches frequency groups every 4-12 nanoseconds. The matching of even and odd harmonics creates extreme points in the water flow. Pulsating clusters (micro-radio waves) form at these extreme points. These clusters effectively break down salts in the water. The device is used for cutting, welding, and other mechanical tasks on water pipes. This process eliminates the need for chemical reagents.

The device is used for installing couplings, bypasses, and other components. This process extends the service life of water pipes.

These clusters can be called nanoradio waves, which possess radio-energetic deconstructive polymagnetic properties. Their pulsations create a destabilizing effect on the potential of Ca and Mg ions in the solution.

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The primary outcome of the asynchronous, sequentially alternating radio frequency group influence is the formation of "sharp" pulsating nanoclusters and coaxially operating dynamic forces that disrupt the hard scale, resulting in its transformation into a suspension. Each particle in this suspension has a spindle-shaped, non-adherent aragonite form, unlike the lattice mono-coating of the hard scale. The diameter of the loosened hard scale particles is 0.01-0.42 µm.
The unstable ions and the inert aragonite suspension of the loosened hard scale, which have a ten times lower energy charge, are grouped around the microclusters and move with the water flow in the pipe.
Ca and Mg ions with a specific orientation do not accumulate at the "water-metal" boundary because the energy potential of the ions with the metal pipe is close to zero.

V. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

Electromagnetic field treatment shows promise for optimizing scale formation in water systems. This method can enhance the efficiency of scale prevention in water heating systems, potentially offering long-lasting benefits due to the sustained impact of the electromagnetic field. However, further research is needed to determine optimal magnetic field strengths and fine-tune the process for practical application. This includes investigating the long-term effects of electromagnetic field exposure and evaluating the economic viability of this approach.

Table 1. Determining how varying magnetic field strengths affect the effectiveness of water softening within a closed system

№	Name	Unit of measurement	Experiment number		
			1	2	3
1	Water velocity in the tank	m/s	0,34	0,35	0,34
2	Water hardness	mmol/l	5,2	5,4	5,4
3	Water alkalinity	mmol/l	6,4	6,3	6,2
4	Ca2+ content	mmol/l	3,6	3,8	3,8
5	Mg2+ content	mmol/l	1,78	1,75	1,69
6	Magnetic field strength	A/m	$11{,}2\cdot10^4$	$8{,}1\cdot10^4$	$5{,}2\cdot10^4$

Table 2. Dynamics of scale deposition on a heating element in a closed system during the treatment of water with an electromagnetic method at different magnetic field strengths

Operating Time, hours	Untreated	Magnetic Field Strength, A/m		
		$11\cdot10^4$	$8\cdot10^4$	$5\cdot10^4$
1	0,064	0,06	0,068	0,066
2	0,21	0,09	0,131	0,134
3	0,336	0,115	0,152	0,15
4	0,4	0,126	0,162	0,171
5	0,41	0,132	0,173	0,173
6	0,418	0,135	0,175	0,184
7	0,411	0,134	0,186	0,176

As can be seen from Tables 1, the minimum amount of scale deposition on the heating element and the highest efficiency of protecting the heating element are observed when water is treated with an electromagnetic field with a strength of $11\cdot10^4$ A/m. Further studies were conducted to investigate the effect of treating water with an electromagnetic field in an open system. The additional water volume was 20%. The water was treated with an electromagnetic field with a magnetic field strength of 11·104 A/m. The rest of the experimental conditions are the same as those given in Table 2.

VI. CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK

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This study investigated the effectiveness of treating water with an electromagnetic field to reduce scale deposition on a heating element. The results showed that treating water with an electromagnetic field with a strength of $11 \cdot 10^4$ A/m in a closed system significantly reduced scale formation and improved the efficiency of protecting the heating element. This suggests that electromagnetic treatment can be a promising method for softening drinking water and reducing the formation of scale in water heaters and other appliances.

While the results of this study are promising, further research is needed to fully understand the mechanisms of electromagnetic treatment and optimize its effectiveness. Future work could focus on investigating the effect of different magnetic field strengths and treatment durations: This would help to determine the optimal conditions for electromagnetic treatment. Exploring the impact of water chemistry on treatment effectiveness: Different water sources have different chemical compositions, which can affect the effectiveness of electromagnetic treatment. Testing the long-term performance of the treated water: This would help to assess the durability of the treatment effect. Developing a more efficient and cost-effective device for electromagnetic treatment: This would make the technology more accessible and practical for widespread use. Overall, this study provides a foundation for further research into the potential of electromagnetic treatment for softening drinking water. By addressing the proposed areas of future work, it is possible to develop a more effective and efficient technology for improving water quality and reducing the formation of scale.

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