



Effect of Temperature and Nanoparticle Concentration on the Viscosity of Glycerine-water based SiO₂ Nanofluids

M. L.R. Chaitanya Lahari , P. Haseena Bee, P.H.V. Sessa Talpa Sai , K.S. Narayanaswamy, S. Devaraj, K.V. Sharma

Abstract: Dynamic viscosity of SiO₂/22nm nanofluids prepared in a glycerine-water (30:70 by volume) mixture base liquid, referred to as GW70, is measured experimentally. Nanofluids with concentrations of 0.2, 0.6, and 1.0 percent are produced, and viscosity measurements are carried out at temperatures ranging from 20 to 80 °C using a LVDV-2T model Brookfield Viscometer. The particle size and elemental composition of nanoparticles are determined using FESEM and EDX. XRD images confirm the SiO₂ peaks in the crystalline structure. The rheology of nanofluids is influenced by the nanoparticle's concentration. In the experimental temperature and concentration range, nanofluids show Newtonian behavior. The viscosity of nanofluids enhanced as particle concentration increased and reduced as temperature increased. For 1.0 percent vol. concentration at 20°C, the maximum viscosity value is achieved, and for 0.2 percent vol. concentration at 80°C, the lowest viscosity value is observed. The viscosity of the glycerine-water base fluid was also determined at 20, 40, 60, and 80 degrees Celsius. The viscosity ratio of nanofluids to the base liquid is found to be more than one for all the nanofluids. This viscosity data is useful to estimate HTC of glycerine-water-based silica nanofluids.

Keywords: Nanofluids, Glycerine-Water Base Liquid, SiO₂, Viscosity, FESEM.

I. INTRODUCTION

Nanofluids are used for improved heat transmission and cooling processes in many industries. They are also being used in energy harvesting and thermal management systems such as microelectromechanical systems, electronic cooling systems, microfluidics, pharmacy, automobile and medical, etc. [1–3] As a consequence, this relatively new type of fluids is emerging as a hotly debated topic among researchers all around the world.

The majority of previous studies explored the higher thermal properties, especially TC of these NF's and emphasized their possible applications in many areas. Studies on the viscosity variations of these nanofluids with nanoparticle size, shape, type, concentration, temperature are comparatively less. [4–9] Viscosity, on the other hand, is an essential characteristic of fluids, particularly in terms of its practical uses in fluid movement and heat transmission. The viscosity of the heat transfer fluid greatly influences the pumping power and HTC. Thermal conductivity accounts for the majority of published papers on nanofluids (56%) followed by viscosity (24%), and other thermal and physical characteristics account for the remainder. In recent years, however, there has been a modest rise in the research on the VST of NF's. Nanofluids have a substantially greater viscosity than their base fluids, which rise with increasing NP concentration. The VST findings of nanofluids cannot be predicted using current classical models. All newly suggested empirical correlations, on the other hand, are based on fitting experimental findings and are neither generally recognized nor applicable to other kinds of nanofluids. [10–13] Furthermore, many literature searches on the viscosity of nanofluids showed significant dispersion and inconsistency. The viscosity findings from various research groups, even for the identical nanofluids, varied significantly, as described in the published reviews. The use of various nanoparticle sizes and purity, type of equipment used to measure or geometries, the shear rate examined, the magnitude of clustering, and different methods of preparation may all contribute to the inconsistency and scattered results. Furthermore, the impact of NP concentration on the VST of nanofluids has received the greatest attention among the research. The effect of additional factors such as rise in temperature, type of base liquids, preparation methods, and particle size, type, and shape on the VST of NF's must be investigated to fully use nanofluids' enhanced thermal characteristics in different applications. [14–18] Most nanofluids surpass conventional HT fluids used as base fluids in terms of heat transmission, despite their high viscosity. Prasher et al. [19] utilized thermal and hydraulic research and showed that if the increase in VST of nanofluids is 4 times higher than the relative rise in TC of NF over the base liquid, then the NF can be useful in heat transfer enhancement.

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This implies that if a nanofluid's TC increases by 25% at a particular ' ϕ ' value of nanoparticles, the rise in VST of that nanofluid at that same ' ϕ ' must be within 100% of the base fluids to surpass it in heat transfer. Although the mixing of NP's increases the viscous nature of the base liquid, the enhanced thermal and physical properties of the NF's will compensate for this shortcoming. This makes the use of nanofluids an emerging candidate for cooling and HT applications.

II. VISCOSITY STUDIES OF NANOFLUIDS

Masuda et al. [20] determined the VST of water-based Al₂O₃/13nm; SiO₂/12nm NF for a range of volume concentration of 1.30 to 4.30% and 1.10-2.40% respectively in the temperature range of 31-86°C. A viscosity enhancement of 300 and 200 percent for Al₂O₃ and SiO₂ respectively were reported. **Pak and Cho [21]** experimented with Al₂O₃ with 13nm and TiO₂ with 27nm nanofluids in water for volume concentrations of 0.99-10% and reported viscosity enhancement of 150 and 200 percent at 25°C. **Heris et al. [22]** used water-Al₂O₃/20nm; CuO/29nm nanofluids for particle loading of 0.2-3.0% and observed maximum viscosity enhancement of 40 and 60 percent respectively at 24°C. **Azmi et al. [23]** used SiO₂/50nm in water up to 4.0 volume concentrations and observed viscosity enhancement of 49% at 30°C. **Namburu et al. [24,25]** experimented with 0.6-12% concentrations of CuO/29nm in water and obtained a maximum viscosity enhancement of 350% at 35°C. They also dispersed SiO₂ particles of 29, 50, and 100nm size in EG-water in the wt. ratio 60:40 to measure viscosity and specific heat in temperature ranging from -30-50°C. The viscosity of SiO₂ nanofluids enhanced with concentration at about 1.8 times compared to the base liquid and decreased exponentially with temperature. For the same volumetric concentration of 8% viscosity increment was more for lower particle diameter. With a 10% concentration of SiO₂ the specific heat was 12% lower than base liquid. **Akili et al. [26]** contrasted the viscosity of non-porous EG and glycerol-based silica /15-22nm nanoparticles, in the concentrations of 0.5-2.0% and measured properties for a range over 30-80°C. A reduction in viscosity of 95% and 80% for SiO₂ nanofluid was observed in base liquids Glycerol and EG respectively. The viscosity of the nanofluid must be determined before accurate pumping power, Prandtl and Re numbers, and the HTC can be calculated. Only a few researches have looked at the rheological characteristics of silicon dioxide nanoparticle suspensions, and there is no data on the VST of SiO₂ NF's in a glycerine-water base liquid that the author is aware of. As a result, these measurements are critical for the effective use of NF's in different applications. Silicon dioxide nanoparticles are the cheapest nanoparticles, with a minimal study on their rheological characteristics, making them an intriguing test subject. The nanofluids were prepared and the viscosity was determined using silicon dioxide nanoparticles (22nm) in various concentrations. These NP's were mixed in a base liquid of glycerine and water (30:70 by volume) and then tested for rheological properties at temperatures ranging from 20 to 80 degrees Celsius.

III. EXPERIMENTATION

A. Preparation of nanofluids

SiO₂ nanofluids of 0.2, 0.6 and 1.0% concentration are prepared using a two-step dispersion synthesis technique. A 70:30 mixture of glycerine-water in 30:70 ratio by volume referred to as GW70, is used as a base liquid. SiO₂ nanoparticles with an average size of 22nm are procured from Sigma Aldrich. Homogenous solutions of three separate nanofluids with the above ϕ values are produced by magnetic stirring for two hours and then ultrasonicated for one hour. Ultrasonication is a commonly used method for mixing extremely entangled or aggregated nanoparticles at a frequency of 40 kHz with a power output of 100W. The produced SiO₂ nanofluids are shown in **Figure 1** at $\phi = 0.2, 0.6, \text{ and } 1.0\%$.



Fig. 1 SiO₂ Nanofluids of 0.2, 0.6 and 1.0% Concentration in glycerol-water (30:70) Base Liquid

B. Measurement of Viscosity:

The viscosity of NF's at various ' ϕ ' values and in different base fluids is an essential factor to consider when choosing dispersion conditions. The viscosity of NF's was evaluated at different shear rates using a Brookfield LVDV-2T touch screen model viscometer shown in **Figure 2**. This programmable device may be used for data gathering as well as control. When the instrument is begun to measure viscosity, the auto-zero setting allows the initial zero measurements to be set. The viscosity test and torque, spindle rotation speed, and temperature may all be set according to the user's needs. A calibrated spring immerses the suitable spindle supplied with the instrument in the test solution. To raise the measurement temperatures in 5°C increments, a constant temperature bath is utilized. As a reference fluid, the device is calibrated by conducting experiments initially using deionized water. The spindle rotates inside the fluid and generates torque. Viscosity is computed using this torque and other input parameters. In this experiment, a constant temperature bath is utilized to raise the temperature to between 10 and 100°C. More descriptions about the working principle and specifications of LVDV-2T Brookfield Viscometer are reported by **Lahari et al. [27]**.

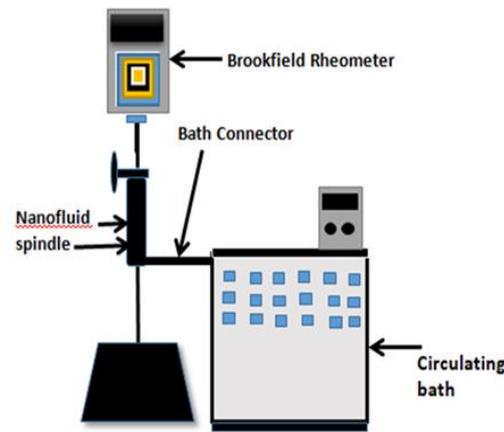


Fig. 2: Experimental setup of LVDV-2T Brookfield Viscometer

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. Characterization of SiO₂ Nanoparticles:

FESEM micrographs of SiO₂ nanoparticles are shown in **Figure 3**. SiO₂ nanoparticles have an average particle size (APS) of 22nm. The FESEM picture shows a uniform and monodispersed particle distribution. EDX spectroscopy of silica nanoparticles is shown in **Figure 4**. This spectrum measures the elemental composition of SiO₂ nanoparticles. As illustrated in Figure 4, silica and oxygen have elemental weight percentages of 38.72 and 61.28, respectively, and atomic percentages of 26.47 and 73.53. The oxygen and silica binding energies are shown by the peaks at 0.5 and 1.8 keV, respectively.

XRD peaks with corresponding crystalline values of SiO₂ NP's are shown in **Figure 5**. XRD analysis of SiO₂ nanoparticles is carried out using a powder X-ray diffractometer with a diffraction angle (2 thetas) between 0 and 80 degrees. Broadenings of the peaks due to the nanocrystalline size of the particles can be observed. Three peaks belonging to the planes of silica appear at (101), (200), and (220) peaks. Both EDX and XRD pattern shows no impurities other than the presence of Silica and Oxygen elements.

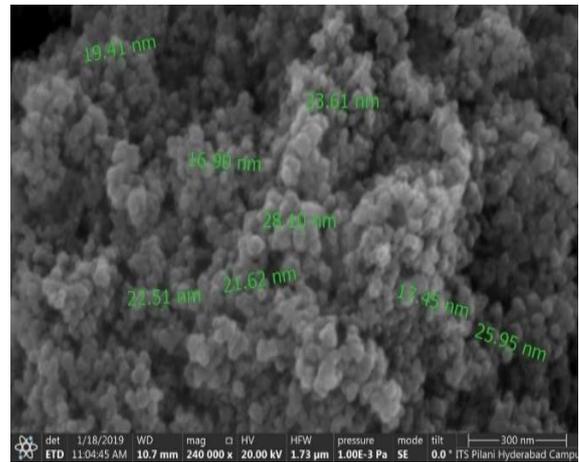
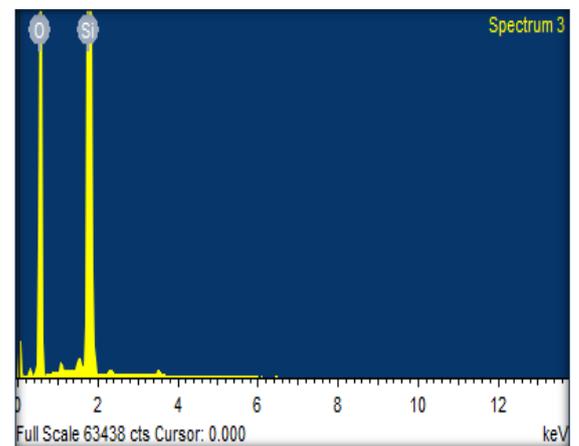


Fig. 3 FESEM Micrographs of SiO₂ Nanoparticles (APS-22nm)



Element	Weight %	Atomic %
O	61.28	73.53
Si	38.72	26.47

Fig. 4 EDX Spectroscopy of SiO₂ Nanoparticles with Elemental Composition

B. Viscosity of Base Liquid and SiO₂ Nanofluids:

Dynamic viscosity variation of base liquid with concentration and temperature is illustrated in **Figure 6**. The data is compared with the values estimated with the theoretical model developed by **Cheng [28]** valid for aqueous mixtures. The viscosity of GW mixture for $\phi = 0 - 100\%$; $T = 0 - 100^\circ\text{C}$ in power form can be estimated with Eqs. (1) – (6).

$$a = 0.705 - 0.0017T \quad (1)$$

$$b = (4.9 + 0.036T)a^{2.5} \quad (2)$$

$$\alpha = 1 - C_m + \frac{abC_m(1 - C_m)}{aC_m + b(1 - C_m)} \quad (3)$$

$$\mu_w = 1.790 \exp\left(\frac{(-1230 - T)T}{36100 + 360T}\right) \quad (4)$$

$$\mu_g = 12100 \exp\left(\frac{(-1233 + T)T}{9900 + 70T}\right) \quad (5)$$

$$\mu_{gw} = \mu_w^\alpha \mu_g^{1-\alpha} \quad (6)$$

Where a, b are coefficients; g and w represent glycerol and water, α is the weighing factor in the range of 0 to 1; C_m is glycerol concentration in mass. The viscosity of glycerol μ_g is obtained in centipoise (or 0.001Ns/m²) and T is in °C. Empirical data deviated to a maximum of 14% with the computed values using Eqs. (1) – (6).

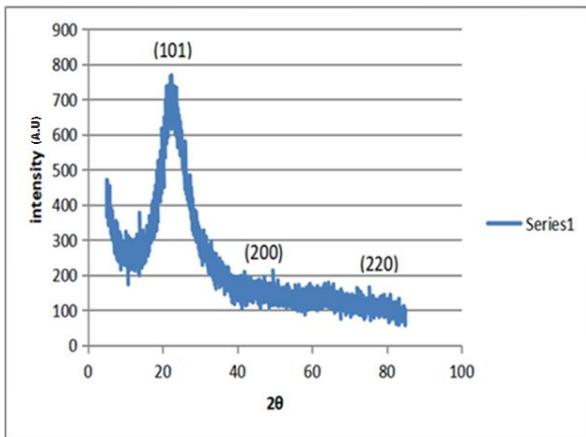


Fig.5 XRD Image of SiO₂ nanoparticles

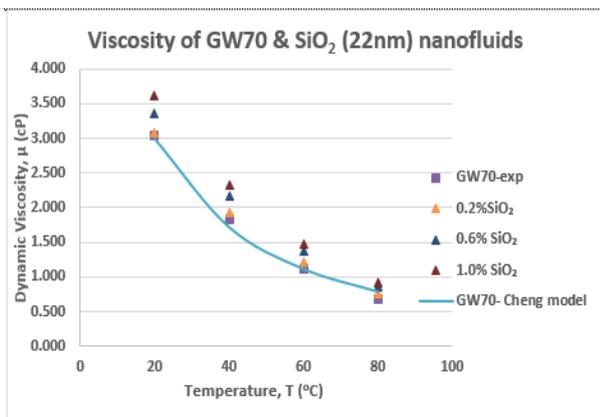


Fig. 6 Viscosity of GW70 and SiO₂ nanofluids

Figure 6 also illustrates the dynamic viscosity variation of SiO₂ NF's along with GW70 base liquid against 'T' and 'φ'. The viscosity of nanofluids is seen to rise with 'φ' and decrease with 'T' in the studied range of 20-80°C. At elevated temperatures, intermolecular distance from each other increases causing decreased viscosity. At 20°C and 0.2% concentration, the enhancement in viscosity is 1.46%. The enhancement in VST of SiO₂ NF's at φ = 1.0% and at 20°C is 18.93% higher than the GW70.

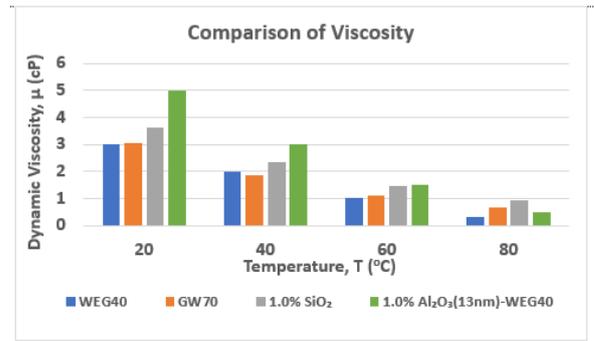


Fig. 7 Comparison of Viscosity of GW70 and SiO₂ nanofluids

Jensen et al. [29] observed that “water acts as a lubricant, softening the hydrogen bonding which contributed to the macroscopic viscosity of the glycerol-water mixture”. Takamura et al. [30] observed that “the increase in viscosity of glycerol-water mixtures with the addition of glycerol is highly non-linear” and the variation in the aqueous phase was over three orders of magnitude. Viscosity is reported to be independent of the material and increase with concentration, decrease raise in 'T' and 'φ'. Machrafi [31] reported that the density of the nanoparticles, nanofluid, base fluid influences the nanofluid VST. The average particle size of SiO₂ considered in this work is 22nm and the density of SiO₂ nanoparticles is 2220 kg/m³. Viscosity data of SiO₂ nanofluids in GW70 base liquid is not available in published works for comparison. Azmi et al. [32] determined the viscosity of water-EG in 60:40 as a base liquid at 20°C to be 3.0cp which is similar to GW70 viscosity at 20°C. Therefore, the viscosity of Al₂O₃/13nm nanofluid is taken for comparison which is shown in Figure 7. The viscosity of Al₂O₃ (13nm) nanofluids is greater at 20°C and 40°C which might be due to the smaller size of the particle. Figure 8 depicts the viscosity ratio of NF's to base liquid in terms of temperature and 'φ'. The viscosity ratio is the ratio of the nanofluids' viscosity to that of the base liquid. The fact that the ratio is greater than one indicates that the mixing of NP's increases the viscosity of the liquid over the base liquid. For all concentrations, the VST enhanced with the addition of NP's and declined with the increase in temperature. Azmi et al. [23] observed a similar pattern in his work.

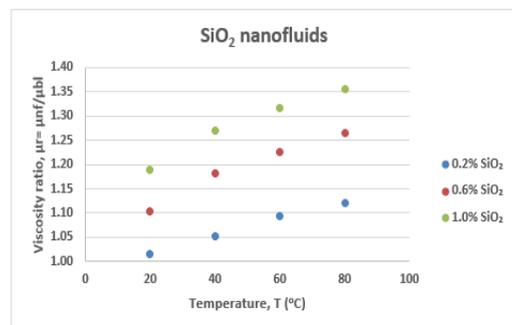


Fig.8: Variation of Viscosity Ratio with Temperature and Concentration

V. CONCLUSION

SiO₂ nanoparticles of $\phi = 0.2, 0.6,$ and 1.0% vol. concentrations are dispersed in a 70:30 ratio of the water-glycerine base fluid. The viscosity of the prepared nanofluids was measured in the range of 20-80°C using Brookfield Viscometer. The VST of nanofluids increased as ‘ ϕ ’ of nanoparticles increase and reduced as the temperature increase.

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NOMENCLATURE

APS	Average Particle Size
BF	Base Fluid
BL	Base Liquid
EDX	Energy Dispersive X-Ray
EG	Ethelyn Glycol
FESEM	Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope
HTC	Heat Transfer Coefficient
HT	Heat Transfer
NF	Nano Fluid
NP	Nano Particle
T	Temperature
TC	Thermal Conductivity
VST	Viscosity
ϕ	Particle Concentration

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