The Analysis of the Structural Parameters of Magnetic Fluids with SAXS and MGA Techniques


South-West State University, 94, 50 let Octyabrya St., 305040 Kursk, Russia

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Purpose – to study the structural parameters of the magnetite particles surrounded by the surfactant in the various carrier liquids using SAXS and based on the magnetization curve obtained applying ballistic method. The samples of the magnetite magnetic fluid based on water, engine oil and kerosene were investigated in this paper. Methodology – three samples of magnetic fluid were chosen for studying. Samples No 1 and No 2 were obtained at the UNESCO department of “Energy Conservation and Renewable Energy Sources”, Belarusian National Technical University. Sample No 3 was obtained in the Fundamental Scientific Research Laboratory of Applied Ferrohydrodynamics of Ivanovo State Power Engineering University. SAXS experiment was conducted using Anton Paar SAXSess mc² analyzer at the Regional Centre of Nanotechnology of Southwest State University. Originality / value – The value of this work is to obtain new data on the physical parameters of the magnetic fluid samples. Findings – the derived surfactant shell width, which for the samples No 2, 3 was 1.8–1.9 nm, for the sample No 1 surfactant shell width was 3.5 nm, the excess of the calculated width of the surfactant layer can be explained due to the presence of a double layer of stabilizer.

Keywords: Magnetic fluid, Magnetite nanoparticles, Stabilizer, SAXS, Magnetization curve.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Magnetic fluid (MF) is a nanodisperse colloidal system, which is formed on the basis of magnetite particles with sizes of 10 nm and a carrier liquid. Magnetic fluid is stabilized with surfactants to get aggregative stability [1–2].

The objective of the work is to study structural parameters of the magnetite particles surrounded by a surfactant in different carrier liquids on the basis of small angle X-ray scattering (SAXS) data and the magnetization curve obtained applying ballistic method. The samples of magnetite MF based on water, engine oil and kerosene were examined in the paper.

2. MAIN PART OF THE STUDY

Three magnetic fluids were chosen as the samples for the study. Samples No 1 and No 2 were obtained at the UNESCO department of “Energy Conservation and Renewable Energy Sources” of Belarusian National Technical University. Sample No 3 was obtained in the Fundamental Scientific Research Laboratory of Applied Ferrohydrodynamics of Ivanovo State Power Engineering University. Samples characteristics are presented in Table 1.

All the samples were obtained using chemical condensation method from the liquid with surfactants. For sample No 1 a double layer of surfactant was used because the carrier liquid is polar [3].

Magnetic parameters of the samples given in Table 1 are obtained from the magnetization curves applying ballistic method in the Nanoscale acoustics laboratory of Southwest State University. Initial magnetic susceptibility is calculated according to the extrapolation of the initial segment of the dependence \( M(H) \); the saturation magnetization is calculated according to the extrapolation of the final segment of the dependence \( M(1/H) \).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Carrier liquid</th>
<th>Magnetite concentration ( \phi ), vol. %</th>
<th>Saturation magnetization ( M_S ), kA/m</th>
<th>Initial magnetic susceptibility ( \chi_L )</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Water</td>
<td>6,3</td>
<td>28,9</td>
<td>0,96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Engine oil</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>35,6</td>
<td>0,93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Kerosene</td>
<td>10,6</td>
<td>32,2</td>
<td>2,76</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Surfactant of the sample No 1 is oleic acid + sodium oleate, the sample No 2, 3 – oleic acid.

3. EXPERIMENTAL TECHNIQUES

The first part of the work was to study MF structural parameters using small angle X-ray scattering method (SAXS).

SAXS experiment was carried out using Anton Paar SAXSess mc² analyzer at the Regional Centre of Southwest State University. The function of scatterin \( I_{\text{sax}}(q) \) depending on the scattering vector \( q = (4\pi/\lambda)\sin(\delta/2) \) was obtained, where \( \lambda \) is the X-ray wavelength, \( \delta \) is the scattering angle. The measurements were carried out at a constant temperature equal to 20 °C; the sample was dropped onto the cover glass and then it was fixed in the holder and exposed to radiation for 15 minutes in vacuum at pressure \( p \leq 4 \text{ mbar} \) and wavelength equal \( \lambda = 0,1542 \text{ nm} \). The background curve of the cover glass and of the solvent, as well as the dark background were subtracted from the resulting dispersion curve [4].

The resulting curve is processed using GIFT software package. The experimental curve was approxi-
The assumption that it is ball-shaped particles of the size distribution is the ratio of the magnetic energy of the particle to its mean magnetic moment. The magnetic moment can be written down \[ M \text{sat} = \frac{M_s}{n}, \]

where \( M_s \) is the MF saturation magnetization; \( n \) is the initial magnetic susceptibility of the MF; \( \chi_M \) is the MF initial magnetic susceptibility; \( n_0 \) is the magnitude of the magnetic moment of the particle; \( \langle m^2 \rangle \) is the average square of the magnetic moment of the particle; \( \langle m^2 \rangle \) is the magnetite saturation magnetization; \( M_s \) is the MF saturation magnetization; \( \chi_M \) is the initial magnetic susceptibility; \( n \) is the quantitative concentration of magnetic particles.

In this case it is assumed that the magnetic moment of magnetite nanoparticles is equal to the product of their volume by the specific saturation magnetization of magnetite.

4. DISCUSSION OF THE RESULTS

Applying the two described above methods the functions of the MF nanoparticle size distribution, the values of the average diameter of the magnetite particles and of the diameter of the prevailing in number particles were obtained (see Table 2 and Fig. 1).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample No</th>
<th>Average diameter of nanoparticles, nm</th>
<th>The diameter of the prevailing nanoparticles, nm</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ballistic method</td>
<td>SAXS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>5.9</td>
<td>6.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>6.4</td>
<td>5.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>9.4</td>
<td>7.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The calculated average particle sizes using above mentioned methods differ from each other in the range of 3% to 18% which can be explained by the sensitivity of the methods to different factors determining the final result of the measurements. The size of the prevailing nanoparticles obtained applying the SAXS method ex-
ceeds the size of prevailing nanoparticles calculated according to the ballistic method.

This can be explained the following characteristic features of the methods:

The method of determining the structural parameters of magnetic nanoparticles according to the magnetization curve is based only on the analysis of the magnetic properties of ferromagnetic cores of the particles, so it does not give any information concerning the surfactant shells.

The SAXS method provides information on the structural parameters of the surfactant shell due to the X-rays scattering on the gradient of the electron density created by a shell [9].

These facts allow evaluating the size of the shells of surfactant nanoparticles for magnetic fluids with different bases. The results are presented in Table 3.

Table 3 – Evaluation of the structural parameters of surfactant shells

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Magnetic fluid</th>
<th>Carrier liquid</th>
<th>Surfactant</th>
<th>Surfactant shell width, nm</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Water</td>
<td>Oleinic acid + sodium oleate</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Engine oil</td>
<td>Oleinic acid</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Kerosene</td>
<td>Oleinic acid</td>
<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The data for samples No 2 and No 3 are consistent with the effective sizes of a molecule of oleinic acid (about 2 nm) given in [6], [11]. In sample No 1 the excess of ~ 1.8 times of the calculated width of the surfactant shell can be explained due to the presence of a double layer of the stabilizer.

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REFERENCES