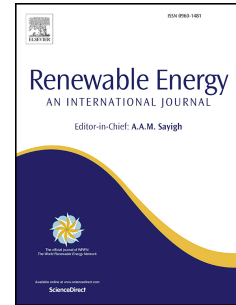


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Stability and photo-thermal conversion performance of binary nanofluids for solar absorption refrigeration systems

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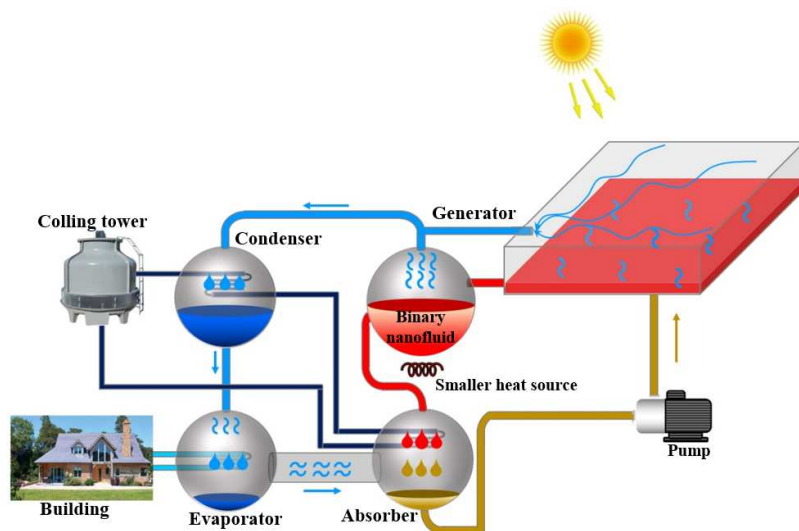
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Graphical abstract



1
2 **Stability and Photo-Thermal Conversion Performance of Binary Nanofluids for Solar**
3 **Absorption Refrigeration Systems**

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8 **ABSTRACT**

9 The photo-thermal conversion characteristics of a long-term stable binary nanofluid
10 (nanoparticles in 50 wt% lithium bromide-50 wt% water) were investigated in this work. The
11 stability of the binary nanofluid against the agglomeration and sedimentation process was
12 evaluated by a high-speed centrifuge analyzer and transmission electron microscopy. The photo-
13 thermal conversion efficiency of the nanofluid was also studied using a solar simulator.
14 Experimental results indicated that the use of the binary nanofluid could significantly increase
15 the light trapping efficiency and, therefore, the bulk temperature, which in turn could increase
16 the evaporation rate due to surface localized heat generation. The experimental results showed
17 the increase of 4.2 and 4.9 percent solar radiative energy in the form of sensible heat after
18 addition of 64 and 321 mg/l iron oxide NPs to the pure water, respectively. The increasing
19 percent is 4.9% and 11.9% for latent heat efficiency in the presence of 64 and 321 mg/l iron
20 oxide NPs, respectively. Possessing both high stability and excellent photo-thermal conversion
21 rate, rod shape iron oxide nanoparticles is suggested to be a potential candidate used for the solar
22 absorption refrigeration systems.

23 *Keywords:* Log-term Stable Binary Nanofluid, Lithium Bromide, Solar Absorption Refrigeration
24 System, Photo-Thermal Conversion.

25 **1. Introduction**

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26 Utilizing solar light as a green energy to run the air conditioning systems is a promising
27 technique to replace the conventional systems driven by electricity. Solar-driven absorption
28 refrigeration technology has the potential to reduce the peak electricity demand and the global
29 warming. A binary fluid, Lithium Bromide (LiBr)-water, is one of the common fluids that is
30 widely used for solar thermal air conditioning applications [1, 2]. The schematic flow diagram of
31 a conventional absorption chillers is shown in (Fig. 1a). The absorption refrigeration process
32 works using binary fluid of an absorbent (frequently LiBr) and a refrigerant (water) [1]. In this
33 system, the compressor is replaced by an absorber, a solution pump and a heat source
34 substituting the electrical power for the vapor compression. Briefly, an absorption refrigeration
35 process which uses LiBr absorbent, operates in four key stages:

36 -The diluted LiBr in water is pumped from the absorber into the generator. In the generator, the
37 solution is heated which leads to vaporize the refrigerant. Then, the vapor flows to the condenser
38 and the concentrated LiBr solution flows to the absorber.

39 -The cooling water absorbs the heat of condensation from the vapor in condenser, changing the
40 refrigerant into a liquid phase.

41 -The liquid water is pumped to the evaporator and expands through spraying on the top of the
42 chilled water tubes. The pressure and temperature of refrigerant drop in during the expansion. At
43 low pressure of evaporator, the water vaporizes and removes the energy of chilled water in tubes.

44 -In the last stage, the vaporized water moves from the evaporator to the absorber. In the absorber,
45 the vapor and vapor absorption heat are adsorbed by the concentrated LiBr solution and the
46 cooling water, respectively. Therefore, the concentrated solution returns to a diluted state which
47 is, then, pumped to the generator to complete the refrigerant cycle.

48 The absorption chillers are more environmentally friendly as compared to the vapor compression
49 systems since (i) no chlorofluorocarbons and derivatives are used in the process, (ii) moving
50 parts are only pumps and hence operate smoothly without generating noise. Furthermore, solar
51 thermal, biomass or another renewable source of energy can be used to drive the absorption cycle
52 (Fig. 1b). It has been reported that by dispersing the stable nanoparticles (NPs) into the water,
53 more solar light energy could be trapped which could further improve the system efficiency [3,
54 4] and the heat transfer phenomena. Therefore, the efficiency of solar air conditioner could be

55 increased by using a LiBr based nanofluids. It has been suggested that with appropriate
56 modification of the system, the added NPs could improve the solar absorption leading to the
57 increase of the separation effect and at the same time the absorption efficiency [5].

58 However, a number of challenges need to be solved first, and one in the forefront is the NPs
59 stability issue. The concentration of LiBr salt differs from one design to another and varied in
60 different parts of absorption refrigeration system that falls into a large range of 10-50 weight
61 percent [6, 7]. Though there are plenty of works published on the topic of nanofluids and
62 nanofluids stability, nearly all were based on a single base fluid, either water or oil. The stability
63 of NPs in a pure fluid is relatively easy to be achieved, however for a binary fluid, especially
64 with a high ionic component such as LiBr, it is much more difficult. The high concentration of
65 LiBr would compress the electrical double layer (EDL) around NPs (Fig. 1b). The combined
66 magnetic and Van-der-Waals attractive forces would dominate the electrostatic repulsion, which
67 results in the agglomeration of NPs. There are basically two possible approaches to achieve a
68 good dispersion and stability of NPs: particle morphology control and extra steric stabilization.
69 Colloid chemistry suggested that when the size of particles in a fluid is smaller than a critical
70 size, R_c , Brownian motion of NPs (diffusion) would overcome the sedimentation to form a stable
71 dispersion [8]. In addition, the decrease of electrostatic repulsion force arising from the
72 compression of EDL could be compensated by an effective functionalizing of NPs that promotes
73 the steric repulsion. In addition, the photo-thermal conversion characteristic of a binary nanofluid
74 is barely studied; albeit, a large number of publications have been reported for pure liquids [9,
75 10].

76 This work aims to evaluate the photo-thermal conversion efficiencies of long-term stable NPs
77 dispersions into a binary fluid including high concentrations of LiBr. Iron oxide NPs is selected
78 as a low cost and promising NPs in absorbing solar energy [11, 12]. Steric stabilization with
79 careful selection of stabilizers is used to form stable NPs dispersions whose performance is
80 assessed by a high-speed centrifuge method via a LUMiSizer. The photo-thermal conversion and
81 evaporation rate analysis of the engineered NPs dispersions are investigated under a solar
82 simulator.

83

84

85 **Fig. 1.** (a) Conventional and solar-based air conditioning, (b) compression of electrical double
86 layer in high ionic media.

87

88 2. Experiment

89 2.1. Material and Characterization

90 Among various NPs synthesis techniques, chemical precipitation reaction inside the nanodroplets
91 of a reverse microemulsion (RM) is a versatile method for synthesizing and functionalizing of
92 tiny NPs simultaneously [13, 14]. Moreover, the stabilizers in the structure of RM could control
93 the growth rate of different crystal facets of NPs, which leads to form different NPs
94 morphologies (e.g. spheres, rods or disks) [15]. The nanoparticles were prepared based on
95 Massart co-precipitation reaction inside RM droplets [16]. The RM consisted of cyclohexane as
96 the continuous oil phase, sorbitane monooleate (Span 80, HLB=4.3), polyethylene glycol
97 sorbitan monolaurate (Tween 80, HLB=15) as the surfactants, propyl alcohol as cosolvent and an
98 aqueous solution as the dispersed phase [17]. All the mentioned components, LiBr and Citric
99 acid were obtained from Sigma-Aldrich Ltd., in analytical grade. Different concentrations of
100 Ferrous Chloride (0.01 and 0.05 molar) were used for NPs preparation at the room temperature
101 and 70°C. The concentration of other reactants was prepared based on chemical stoichiometry
102 with Ferrous Chloride. The Sodium Hydroxide solution as the reduction agent was added drop
103 wise to the RM for a period of 10 min and was stirred over 4 h to complete the reaction. The
104 formed NPs were analyzed by UV-Spectrophotometer (Shimadzu, UV 1800), Transmission
105 Electron Microscope (FEI Tecnai TF20 TEM), Dynamic Light Scattering (Malvern Zetasizer
106 ZS) and Dispersion Analyzer Centrifuge (LUMiSizer, Lum GmbH, Berlin, Germany). The
107 concentration of nanoparticles in nanofluids was estimated using Varian 240FS Atomic
108 Absorption Spectrophotometry (Varian Ltd, USA).

109 2.2. Solar experimental setup

110 A simulator was used for obtaining the photo-thermal conversion characteristics of NPs in order
111 to minimize the experimental uncertainties under direct sun light (Fig.2c). This sun simulator

112 provides a radiation spectrum which matches the solar spectra, and the intensity can be varied by
113 using suitable filters. This device is certified to IEC 60904-9 2007 edition, JIS C 8912 and
114 ASTM E 927-05 standards. All the characteristics of experimental set-up has been provided in
115 Table 1.

116 Table 1. characteristics of experimental set-up.

117 In the experiments, the pure water or nanofluid was placed in the sample container and a Fresnel
118 lense was used to focus the sunlight. A digital weighing scale was used to measure the
119 evaporated mass change. In order to investigate the temperature distribution inside the sample,
120 K-type thermocouples were used among which 6 thermocouples were put inside the solar
121 receiver to measure the temperature gradient along the light pathway; one thermocouple was put
122 above the surface of testing sample, and another was used to measure the ambient temperature. A
123 data acquisition system connected to a PC was used to record the readings from thermocouples
124 and digital weighing scale under the Lab VIEW environment. Before the experiment, the sample
125 containers were washed carefully with the pure water of ambient temperature, and all the
126 samples were put inside a fridge and maintained at the same starting temperature (20 °C). During
127 the preparation stage, all nanofluids were avoided to be exposed to the sunlight. There are other
128 assumptions in the process of measuring and calculation of photo-thermal conversion efficiency.
129 Assuming that the radiation from the sun simulator light source was projected on the sample
130 suspension entirely, that is, the radiation spot was no greater than the cylindrical container.
131 Moreover, the effect of dust and tiny particles in the air on the light source radiation was ignored.
132 In addition, the irradiation intensity was assumed to be constant and stable during the
133 experiments (attenuation of irradiation was ignored).

134

135 **Fig.2.** a) Experimental set up of solar-driven evaporation, b) testing container containing binary
136 nanofluid under 10 sun solar radiation and c) schematic place of thermocouples.

137 *2.3. Photo-thermal conversion evaluation*

138 Three kinds of efficiencies were applied to quantify and compare the effect of NPs on the photo-
139 thermal efficiency including sensible efficiency (η_s), latent efficiency (η_l) and loss efficiency

140 (η_{loss}) [18]. For solar experimental system in the current study, the sum of efficiencies is equal to
 141 one as follows:

$$\eta_s + \eta_l + \eta_{loss} = 1 \quad (1)$$

142 The sensible efficiency (η_s) can be calculated using Eq. (1) [19].

$$\eta_s = \frac{(c_w m_w + c_n m_n) \Delta T}{IA \Delta t} \quad (2)$$

143 where c_w and c_n are the specific heat of water and the nanoparticles (J/g.°C); m_w and m_n are the
 144 mass of water and the nanoparticles respectively (g); I is the radiation intensity (w/m²); and A is
 145 the illumination area of the sample (m²); Δt is the time interval (s); ΔT is the temperature rise of
 146 sample suspension in the Δt time interval (°C). The photo-thermal conversion efficiency is
 147 proportional to the average value of temperature change and therefore the temperature is
 148 calculated based on the average of 6 different measure points. The temperature difference
 149 between the nanoparticles and the base fluid (here water) is negligible for low intensity
 150 continuous radiation and the nanoparticles mass is negligible compared to the water mass [20].
 151 Therefore, Eq. (2) can be re-written as:

$$\eta_s = \frac{(c_w m_w + c_n m_n) \Delta T}{IA \Delta t} \approx \frac{c_w m_w}{IA} \cdot \frac{\Delta T}{\Delta t} \quad (3)$$

152 The latent efficiency (η_l) was used to calculate the ratio of vaporization heat to the total radiation
 153 as follow [21]:

$$\eta_l = \frac{P_{steam}}{IA \Delta t} = \frac{r_w \Delta m_s}{IA \Delta t} \quad (4)$$

$$IA \Delta t = 10 \times 10^3 \text{ (W/m}^2\text{)} * \pi * (1.5 \times 10^{-2} \text{ m})^2 * 40 \text{ min} * 60 \text{ s}$$

154 where P_{steam} is the amount of solar energy consumption for producing steam, r_w is the evaporative
 155 latent heat of water and Δm_s is the vaporized mass loss during the period of Δt .

156 The physical and thermal properties such as density and specific heat of the nanofluid are
 157 calculated using different Eq. 5 and 6 at the mean bulk temperature [22].

$$\rho_{nf} = \phi \cdot \rho_n + (1 - \phi) \cdot \rho_w \quad (5)$$

$$c_{nf} = \frac{\phi \cdot (\rho_{NP} c_n) + (1 - \phi) \cdot (\rho_w c_w)}{\rho_{nf}} \quad (6)$$

158 where ρ is density (g/ml) and ϕ is nanoparticle volume fraction.

159 **3. Results and Discussion**

160 *3.1. Binary nanofluid preparation and characterization*

161 Fig.3a illustrates the procedure of preparation and functionalizing of iron oxide NPs. The
162 following steps have been applied after the formation of NPs inside RM:

163 -Organic and aqueous phase separation were done by destabilizing the RM via addition of extra
164 pure water. In this stage, NPs remains inside the organic phase since the tail of stabilizer
165 molecules are hydrophobic/oiliphilic. In fact, the NPs surface was covered with a single layer of
166 stabilizer molecules so that the tail of stabilizer is free in organic phase.

167 -Phase transformation of NPs from organic phase to aqueous phase was performed by the
168 formation of double layer stabilizer molecules (admicelles) around NPs. After modification of
169 NPs functionalization, the hydrophilic head of stabilizer molecules is free inside the aqueous
170 phase that results in switching of hydrophobic NPs to hydrophilic one [23]. The hydrodynamic
171 average size of NPs, before and after phase transformation, confirmed the formation of stabilizer
172 admicelles around particles. The average hydrodynamic size of NPs was obtained equal to
173 7.31 ± 0.35 nm and 11.5 ± 0.98 nm before and after phase transformation, respectively. Around 4.6
174 nm increment in hydrodynamic size is an evidence for the formation of admicelles around the
175 NPs. Fig. 3b and c illustrate the TEM images of NPs and mechanisms of rod shape appearance,
176 respectively. The TEM images disclose the conversion of spherical morphology to rod shape by
177 increasing the temperature and reactants concentration. Attachment of stabilizer molecules on the
178 surface of primary nuclei, change of crystal facet growth rate (Fig. 4c) and stretching of spherical
179 droplets of RM to ellipsoidal shape across the shear rate direction (Fig. 4c) could be the main
180 reasons for rod shape morphology appearance [24]. Table 2 provides further information about
181 the concentration and morphology of the final iron oxide NPs.

182

183 **Fig. 3.** The procedure of preparation and functionalizing of iron oxide NPs, (b) effect of
184 temperature and reactant concentration on the morphology of iron oxide NPs and (c, d)
185 mechanisms of rod NPs appearance.

186 Table 2. The characterization of iron oxide NPs at different conditions.

187 50 weight percent of LiBr was added to different amount of iron oxide nanofluids to produce a
188 binary nanofluid of LiBr. A dispersion analyzer (LUMiSizer 6110) instrument was used to
189 determine the stability of binary nanofluids, Fig. 4a [25]. A Near-Infrared (NIR) light source
190 scans the sample during a high speed centrifugation and the stability of binary nanofluids were
191 determined based on final transmission pattern of the NIR light. The binary nanofluids (0.5 ml)
192 were filled in a polycarbonate capillary cell (Fig. 4b) and centrifuged for about 3 h (255 profile
193 and 44 interval) at 3150 rpm (lightfactor1, 25 °C, 870 nm NIR LED) which is equivalent to 6
194 months in real condition. The instability curves of different samples are shown in Fig. 4c.

195 The transmission curves of the binary nanofluids in Fig. 4d display a region of complete
196 absorption, indicating a polydisperse sedimentation pattern without observing any particle-
197 particle attachments [26]. Moreover, the thin width regions of NIR transmission pattern imply
198 the high stability of samples for a long period of time.

199 **Fig. 4.** (a) Schematic configuration of the analytical centrifuge system LUMiSizer [20], (b)
200 polycarbonate capillary cell containing samples after centrifugation process(c) instability profile
201 and (d) NIR transmission pattern of binary nanofluids.

202

203 Fig. 5a, b also illustrate binary nanofluid samples and TEM photo of NPs (FeCl_3 : 0.05 M,
204 $T_{\text{em}}=22$ °C) after 6 months immobility that clearly verifies the long shelf-life of binary
205 nanofluids.

206 **Fig. 5.** (a) binary nanofluid samples, (b) TEM and SAED images of NPs (FeCl_3 : 0.05 M,
207 $T_{\text{em}}=22$ °C) after six months immobility.

208

209 *3.2. Photo-thermal efficiency of binary nanofluid*

210 Fig.6 shows the UV-visible absorption spectra of the resulting nanofluids. The shift of UV
211 spectra to the right side could be due to increasing the NPs concentration. According to Fig. 6,
212 the rod shape particles have a slightly wider UV-visible adsorption spectrum, and they were used
213 for further analysis of photo-thermal conversion efficiency.

214 **Fig. 6.** UV-vis absorption spectra of iron oxide nanofluids with normalized absorbance.

215 Fig. 7 illustrates increasing of the nanofluids bulk temperature and deionized water under solar
216 radiative intensity of 10 sun ($\sim 10000 \text{ W/m}^2$) for 40 min during which the temperature was
217 recorded. After 40 min illumination, the solar simulator was shut down, and samples were stayed
218 for cooling down. According to Fig. 7a, the temperature of deionized water increased slowly, and
219 reached only to 52 °C after 40 min illumination. Only 0.73 g water was evaporated during 40 min,
220 and the maximum evaporation rate reached only to 0.46 mg/s. In the first 20 min, temperature
221 inside the volume was non-uniform and the largest temperature difference was 5 °C. That could
222 be due to the light intensity decreases along the optical depth which results in a higher absorption
223 rate at the surface of NPs. After that, temperature gradient shrinks to less than 2°C indicating
224 higher surface evaporation rate could reduce the surface temperature increasing rate, leading to a
225 more uniform temperature profile. Addition of rod shape iron oxide NPs into water could
226 improve the temperature obviously (Fig. 7b, c). For iron oxide nanofluid with the concentration
227 of 64 and 321 mg/L, the highest temperature reached to 61 and 66 °C after 40 min illumination
228 that is 17 and 27 percent higher than pure water, respectively. For both nanofluids, the surface
229 temperature was higher, and the mean temperature was more non-uniform compared to the pure
230 water and the non-uniformity of temperature was proportional to the NPs concentration.

231 **Fig.7.** Comparison of temperature of thermocouples, mass change, evaporation rate of binary
232 nanofluid and deionized water under 10 sun illumination: a) deionized water, b) 64 mg/L rod
233 shape, c) 321 mg/L rod shape.

234 The surface and bottom temperature of samples are more clearly illustrated in Fig. 8. According
235 to Fig. 8, the highest temperature (TC6) was elevated while the lowest temperature (TC1) was
236 decreased after increasing of particle's concentration. For instance, TC1 was obtained as 55.7 °C
237 at t=40 min for 64 mg/L concentration of rod shape NPs, whilst it is estimated as 50.5 °C at 321

238 mg/L. Higher concentration of NPs led to a high non-uniform temperature distributions and
239 energy accumulations onto the surface, producing a localized heat at the surface of NPs that is
240 beneficial for the steam evaporation systems.

241

242 **Fig. 8.** a) Bottom temperature (TC1) and b) surface temperature (TC6) of different binary
243 nanofluids versus time under both 10 sun.

244 The highest evaporation rate raised to 0.80 mg/s for 321 mg/L NPs rod shape concentration,
245 almost twice of that of deionized water (0.46 mg/s). According to radiative heat transfer process
246 [27], more solar radiative energy will be converted to the thermal form when the concentration of
247 NPs is increased. As mentioned before, the lower bulk temperature was observed for higher
248 concentrations of NPs, indicating less sensible heat at the higher concentrations of NPs. The
249 sensible heat and latent heat (energy consumed to evaporate water) have been calculated and
250 illustrated in Fig. 9.

251 **Fig. 9.** a) Sensible heat and b) latent heat of different concentrations of NPs versus time under 10
252 sun.

253 The latent heat reached to 3800 J after 40 min light illumination for 321 mg/L NPs, but for the
254 water, it is obtained less than 2000 J under the same condition at the same time, which means
255 NPs absorbed more radiative energy to convert it to the latent form and evaporate water. In order
256 to investigate the energy conversion efficiency, percentage of sensible heat and latent heat under
257 10 sun are presented in Fig.10.

258 **Fig.10.** Energy efficiency calculated from converted latent and sensible heat.

259 Fig. 10 clearly shows that iron oxide NPs increased the total energy absorption of solar radiative
260 energy. For example, total efficiency for the pure water is 33.6%, but it is estimated as 42.8% for
261 64 mg/L spherical NPs. Increasing of NPs concentration will slightly increase the energy
262 conversion efficiency, which is in agreement with the results of other researches [5, 28].
263 Increasing the NPs concentration will increase the latent heat efficiency significantly but increase
264 the sensible heat efficiency slightly. This indicates that increasing the concentration of NPs will

265 absorb more solar energy and allocate more absorbed energy to evaporate the water. The purpose
266 of adding NPs into solar receiver is not only to increase the photon trapping efficiency but also to
267 evaporate more water under lower bulk temperatures.

268

269 **4. Conclusions**

270 In the recent years, solar air conditioning has been applied as a green and environmentally
271 friendly system for temperature, humidity and distribution of air controlling. In this study, a high
272 stable binary iron oxide nanofluid (50 wt% LiBr) was synthesized for applying in solar
273 absorption air conditioning purpose.

274 -Uniform spherical and rod shape NPs were produced by RM method. The particles obtained
275 with lower concentrations of NPs were small, spherical and monodispersed, whilst the NPs were
276 converted to rod shape by increasing the concentration.

277 -Phase transformation method is used to engineer the stability of the nanofluid by the formation
278 of a double layer of stabilizer molecules around the NPs. The stability analysis of NPs in the
279 presence of 50 wt. % of LiBr confirmed obtaining the long-term stability of final nanofluid
280 (beyond 6months).

281 -The analysis of bulk temperature increase and surface evaporation rate of iron oxide based
282 nanofluids under solar simulator highlights their efficient photo-to-thermal energy conversion
283 and the consequently enhanced vaporizing ability. Both sensible heat and latent heat capture
284 were boosted for nanofluid, while the increasing rate of latent heat was higher than that of
285 sensible heat by increasing the NPs concentration.

286 -Superior stability of binary nanofluid against the agglomeration and proper photo-to-thermal
287 energy conversion efficacy support the use of proposed novel binary nanofluid in solar vapor
288 adsorption refrigeration systems.

289

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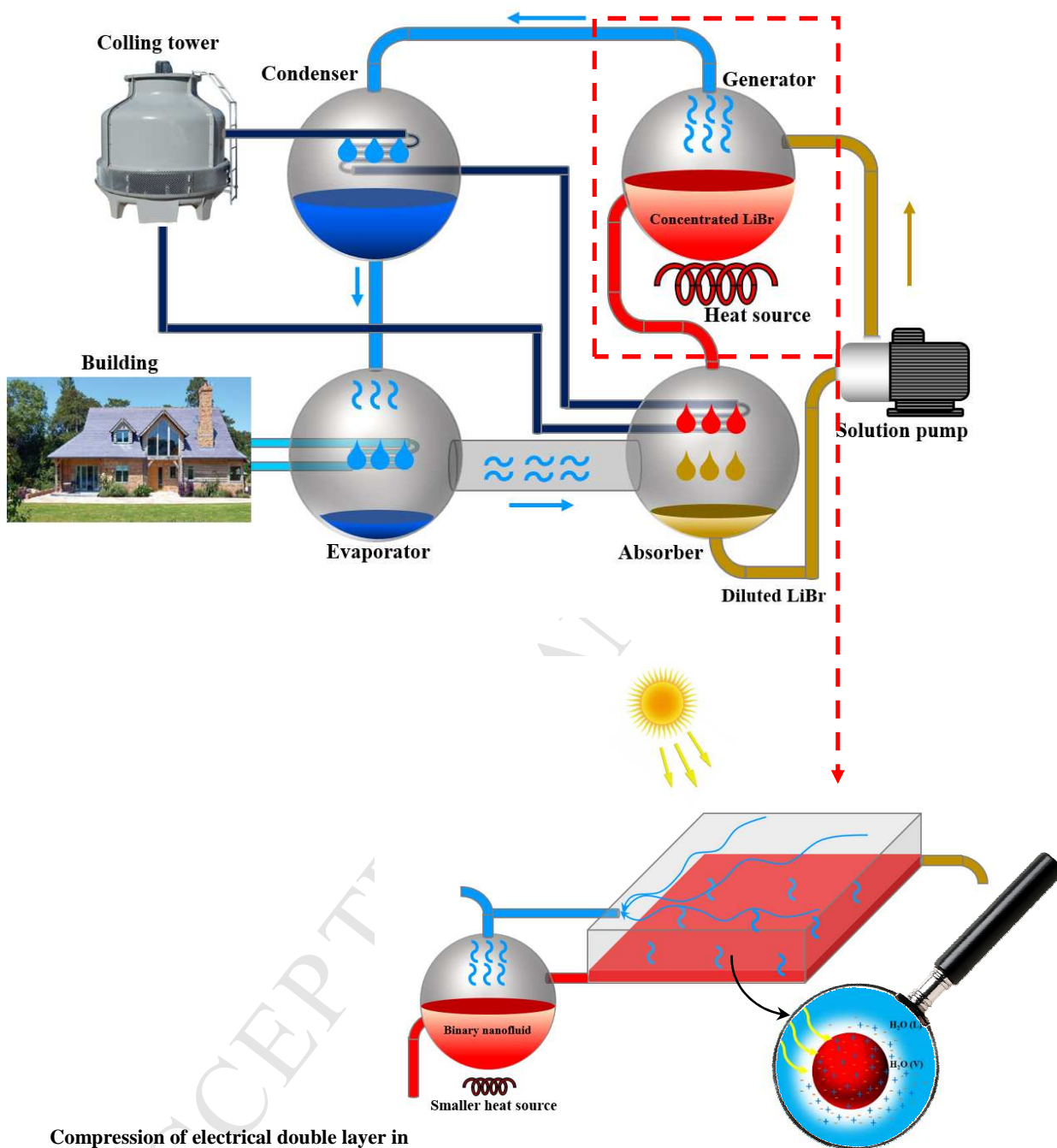
Table 1. characteristics of experimental set-up.

Sun simulator model	ORIEL ^R Sol3A TM Class AAA solar simulator (Newport)
Fresnel lens type	5 inches Diameter, eo ^R Edmund optics, 30 cm focal distance
Digital balance type and accuracy	DV114C Ohaus, 4 digits accuracy
Thermocouple number, type, precision and distance from each other	8, Omega TT-T-40-SLE, precision of $\pm 0.5^{\circ}\text{C}$, 3 mm
Sample container dimension	Cylindrical vessel with 30 mm diameter and 40 mm height
Distance of sun simulator light source from top of Fresnel lens	30 cm
Distance of Fresnel lens from top of sample	30 cm
Wight of sample inside digital balance	20 ml of pure water or nanofluid

Table 2. The characterization of iron oxide NPs at different conditions.

Reaction conditions	Morphology	Concentration measured by AAS (ppm)	TEM image processing		
			Average size	Polydispersity index	Aspect ratio of rod NPs
FeCl ₃ : 0.01 M Tem: 22 °C	Spherical	64	2.1	0.059	1
FeCl ₃ : 0.05 M Tem: 22 °C	Spherical	298	5.4	0.029	1
FeCl ₃ : 0.01 M Tem: 70 °C	Mix Spherical/Rod	61	3.6	0.263	-
FeCl ₃ : 0.05 M Tem: 70 °C	Rod	321	7.3	0.042	2.66

(a)



(b)

Compression of electrical double layer in high salt concentration

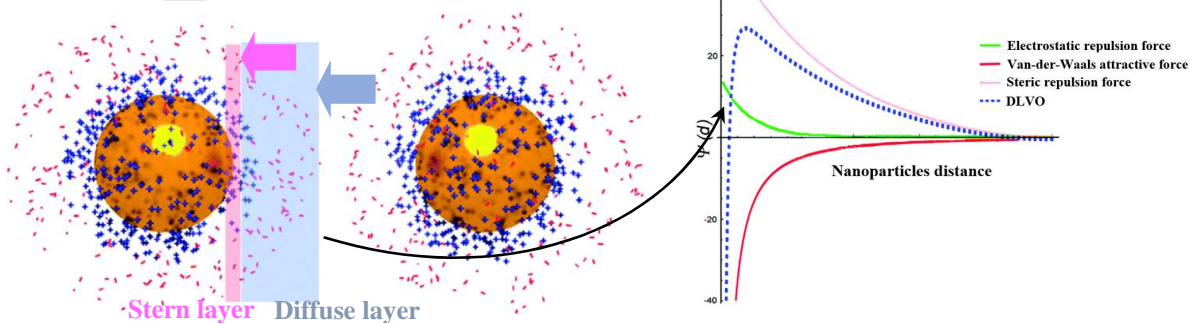


Fig. 1. (a) Conventional and solar-based air conditioning, (b) compression of electrical double layer in high ionic media.

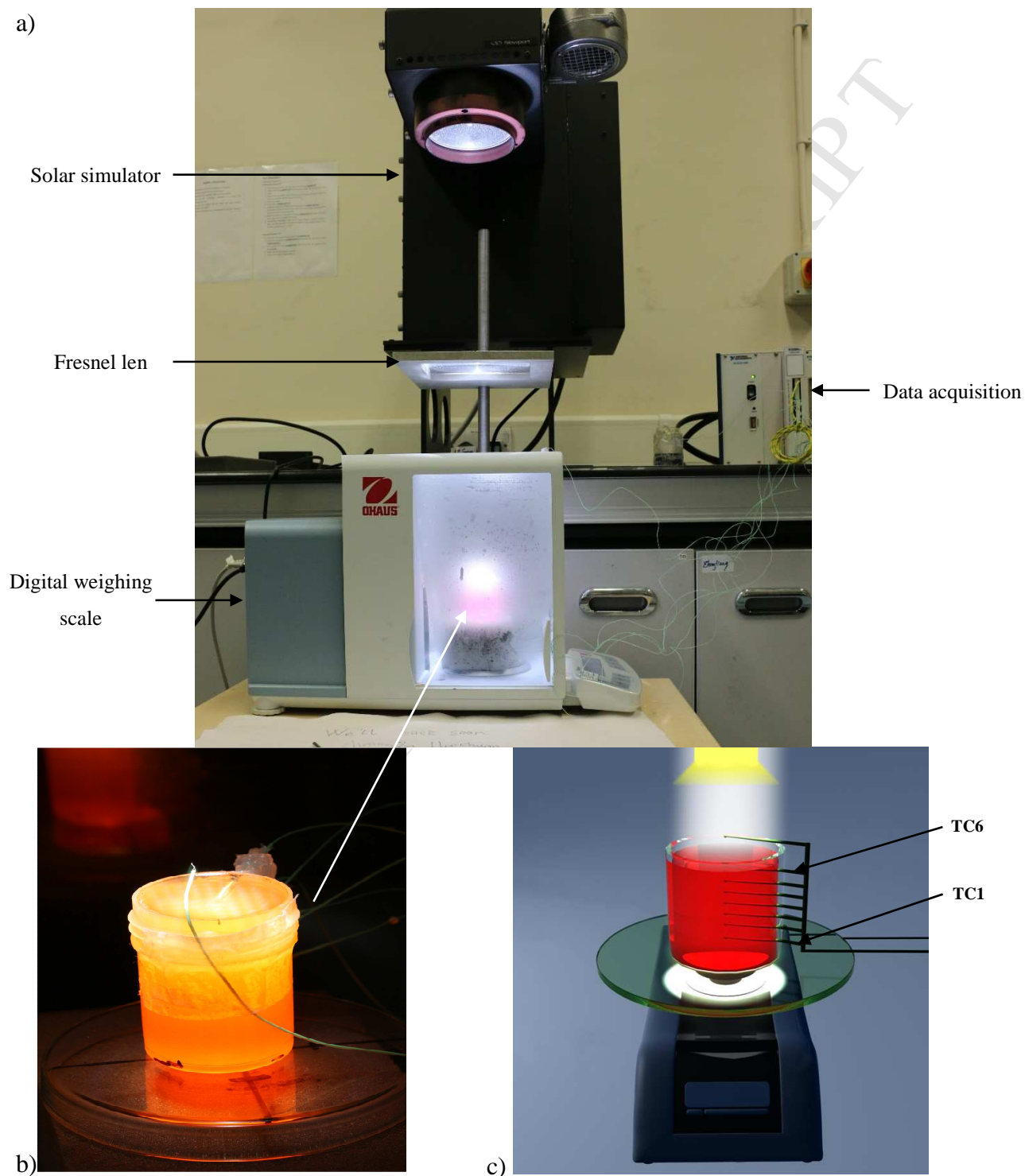
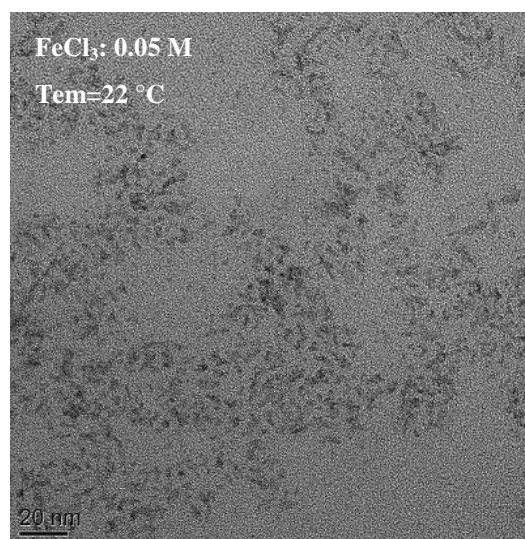
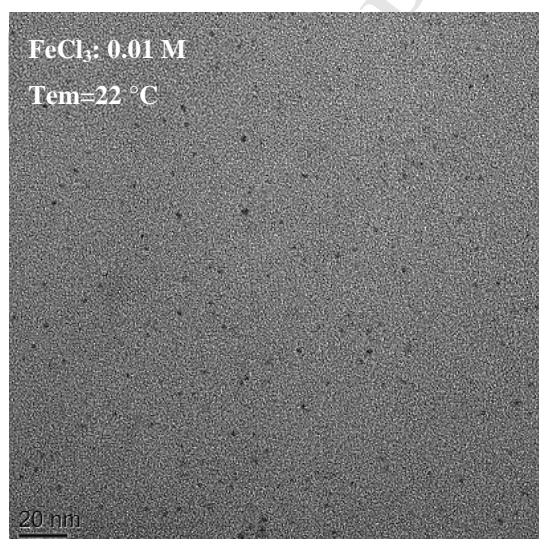
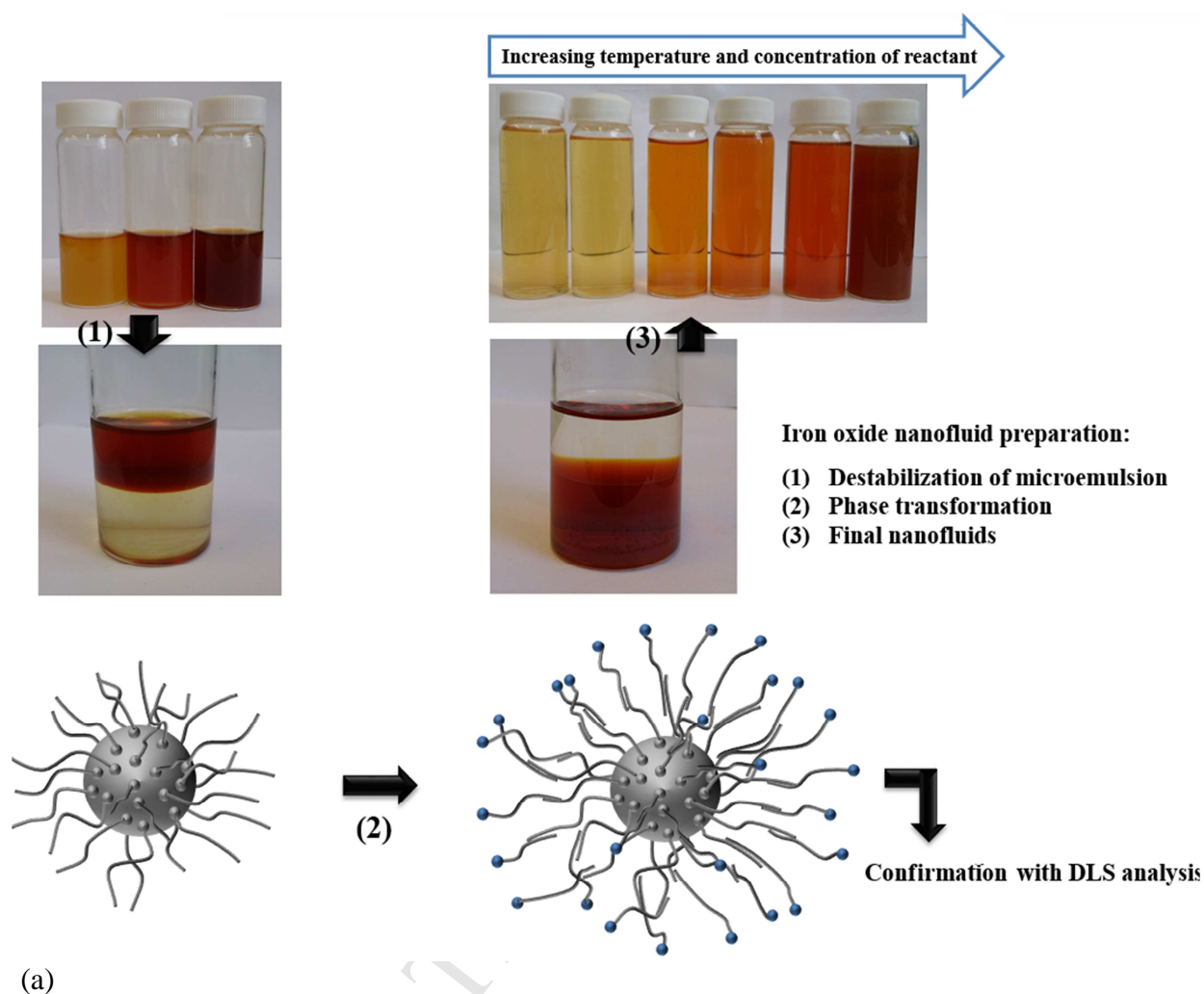


Fig. 2. a) Experimental set up of solar-driven evaporation, b) testing container containing binary nanofluid under 10 sun solar radiation and c) schematic place of thermocouples.



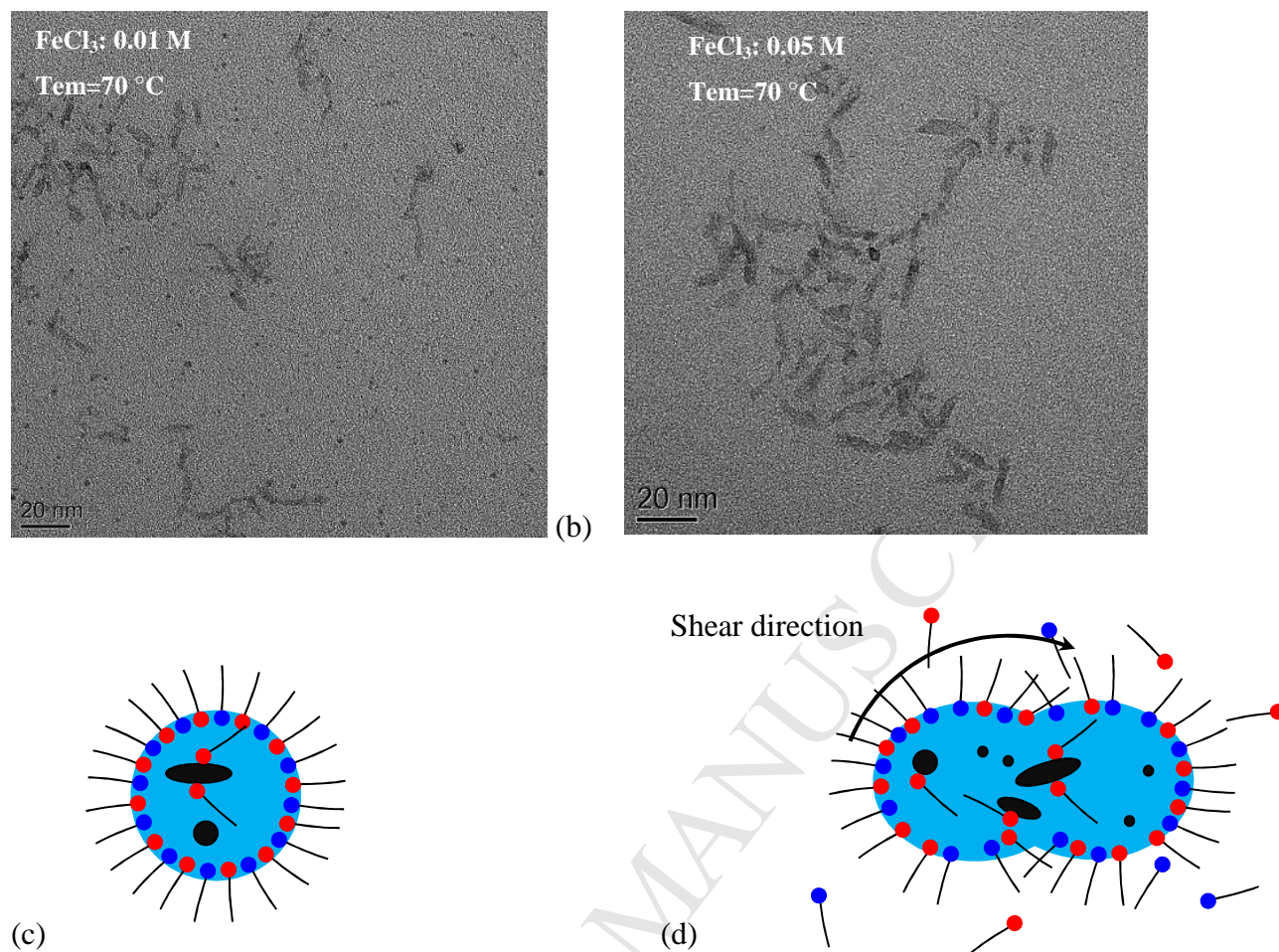


Fig. 3. The procedure of preparation and functionalizing of iron oxide NPs, (b) effect of temperature and reactant concentration on the morphology of iron oxide NPs and (c, d) mechanisms of rod NPs appearance.

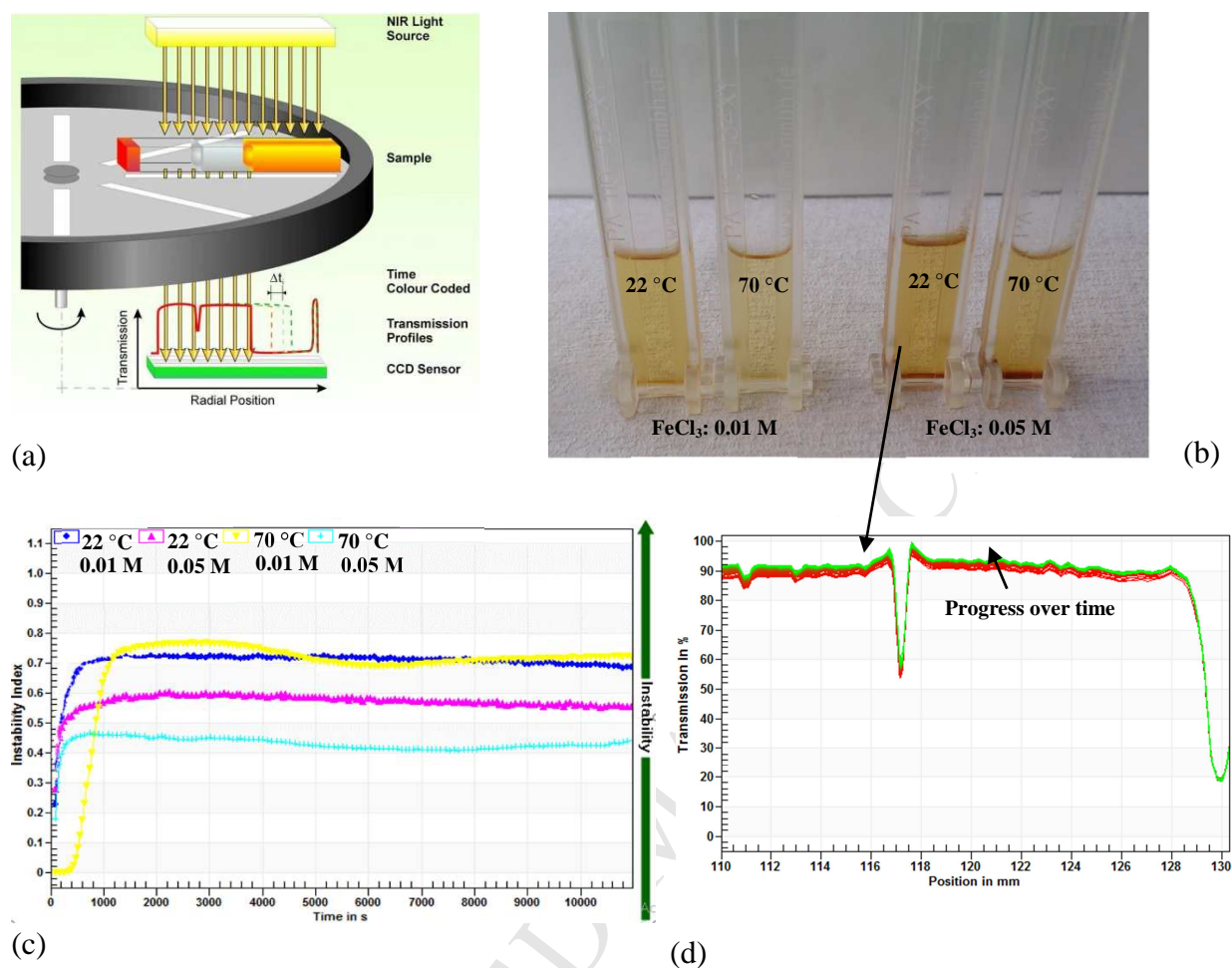


Fig. 4. (a) Schematic configuration of the analytical centrifuge system LUMiSizer [20], (b) polycarbonate capillary cell containing samples after centrifugation process (c) instability profile and (d) NIR transmission pattern of binary nanofluids.

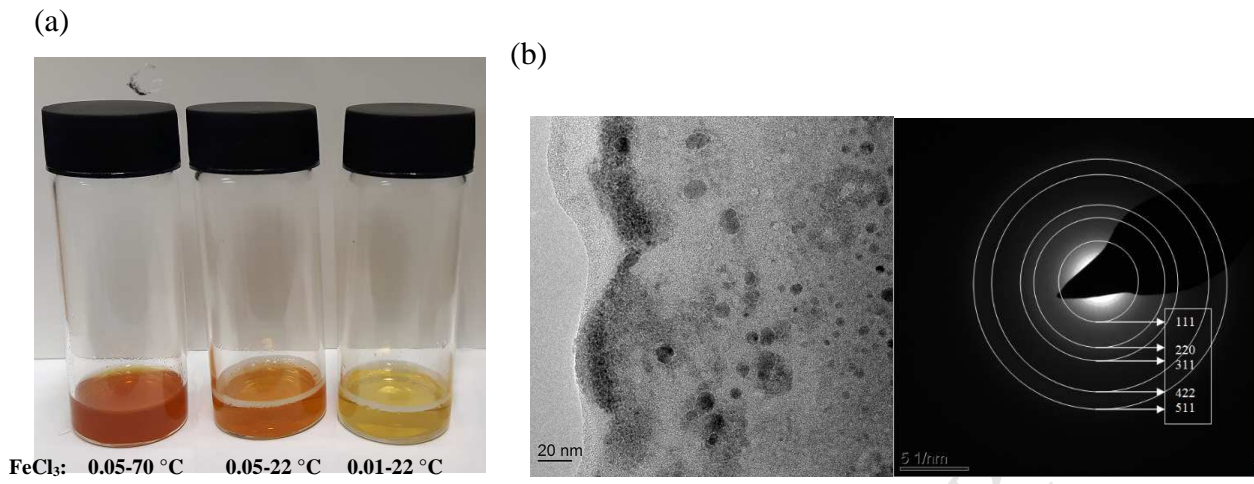


Fig. 5. (a) binary nanofluid samples, (b) TEM and SAED images of NPs (FeCl₃: 0.05 M, Tem=22 °C) after six months immobility.

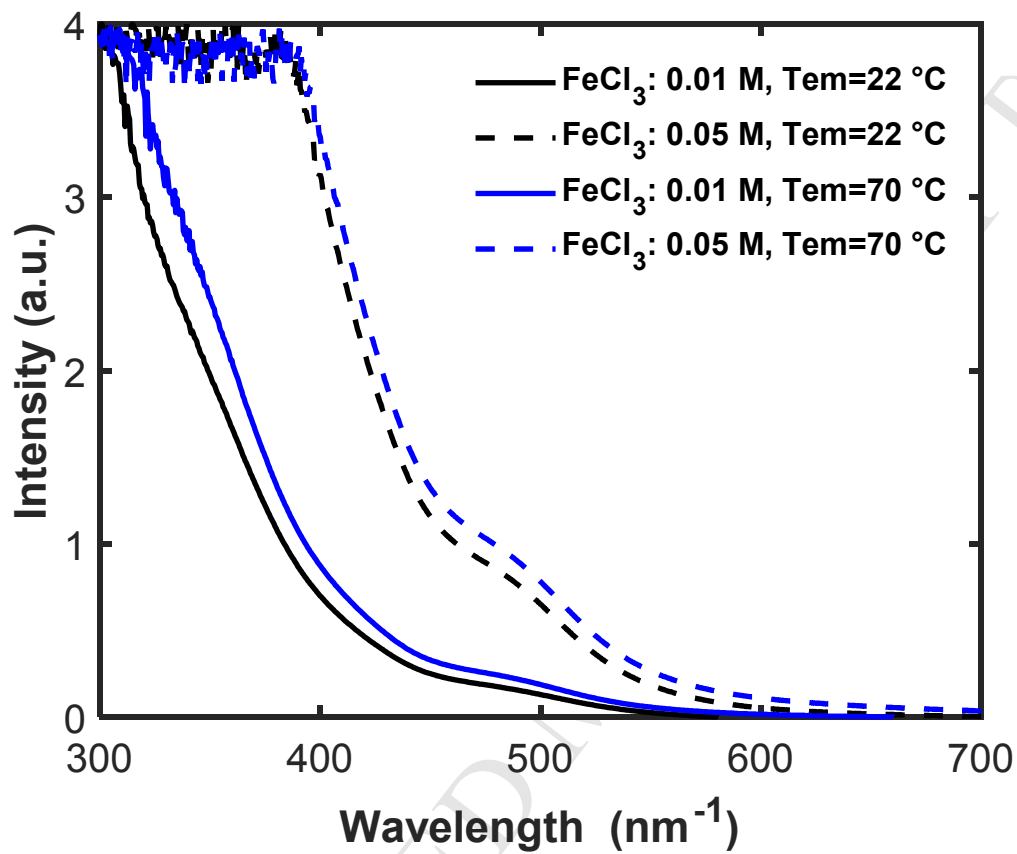


Fig. 6. UV-vis absorption spectra of iron oxide nanofluids with normalized absorbance.

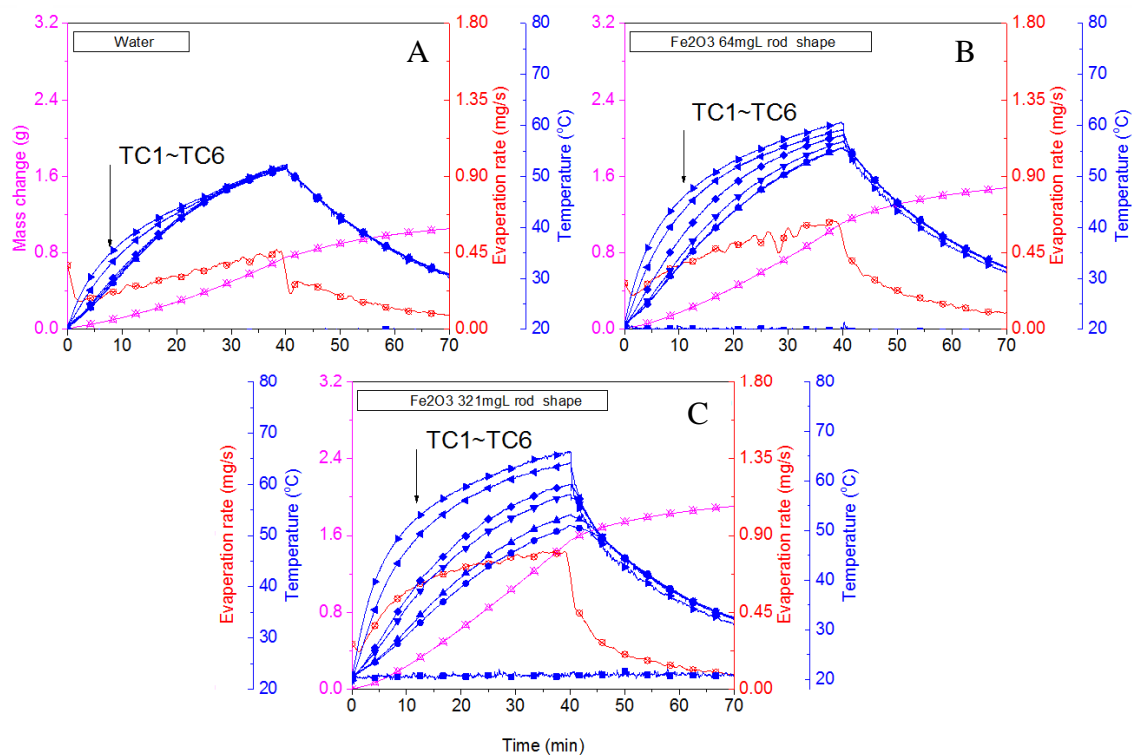


Fig.7. Comparison of temperature of thermocouples, mass change, evaporation rate of binary nanofluid and deionized water under 10 sun illumination: a) deionized water, b) 64 mg/L rod shape, c) 321 mg/L rod shape.

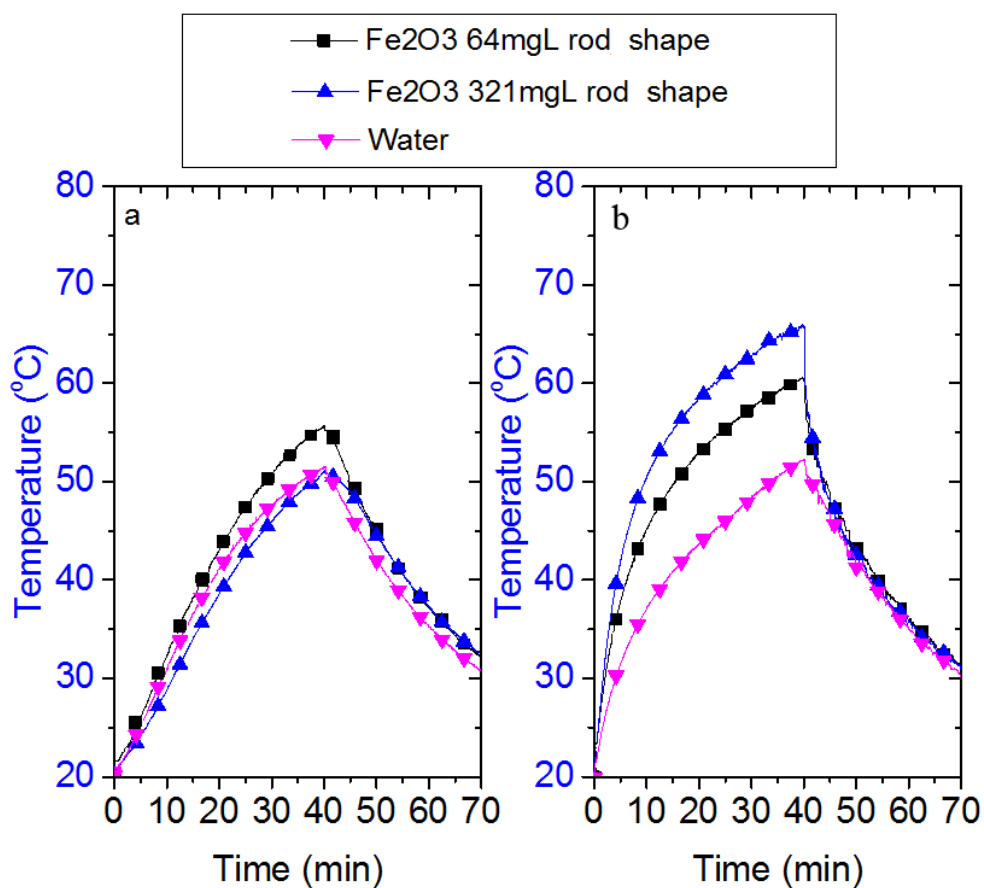


Fig. 8. a) Bottom temperature (TC1) and b) surface temperature (TC6) of different binary nanofluids versus time under both 10 sun.

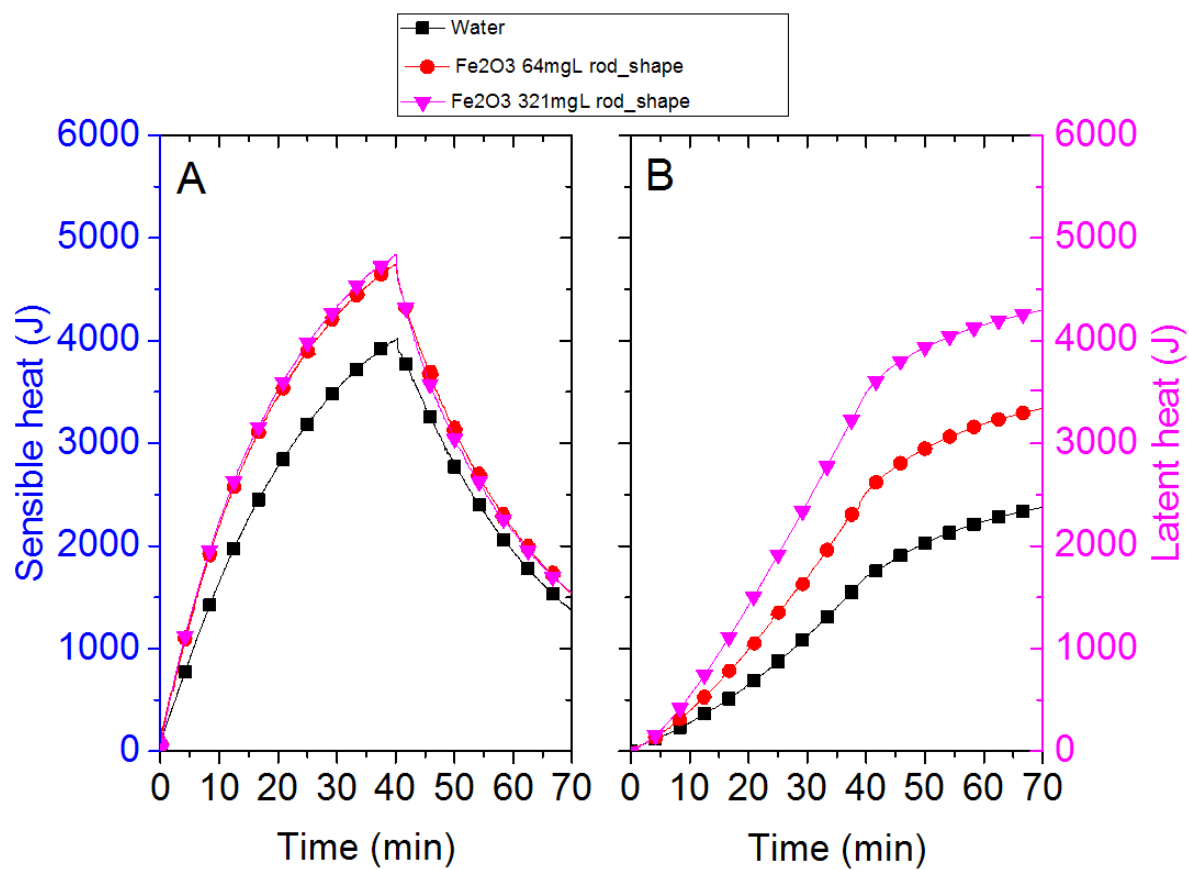


Fig. 9. a) Sensible heat and b) latent heat of different concentrations of NPs versus time under

10 sun.

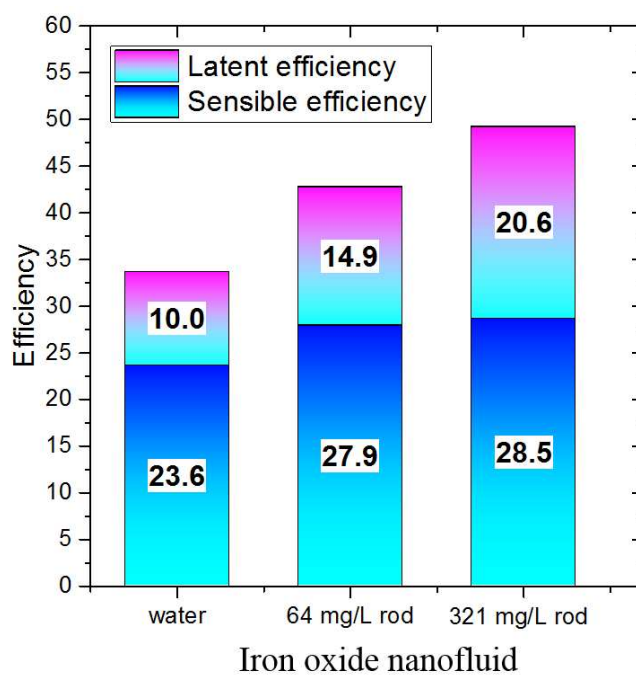


Fig.10. Energy efficiency calculated from converted latent and sensible heat.

Highlights

High stable nanoparticles have been synthesized in lithium bromide/water solution.

Photo-thermal conversion and solar evaporation properties of binary nanofluids were studied.

4.2 and 4.9% of sensible heat increasing was observed in presence of 64 and 321 mg/l of NPs, respectively.

4.9 and 11.9% of latent heat increasing was observed in presence of 64 and 321 mg/l of NPs, respectively.