

THE STUDY OF VISCOSITY-TEMPERATURE DEPENDENCE AND ACTIVATION ENERGY FOR PALM OIL AND SOYBEAN OIL

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ABSTRACT

In fluid transport, precise knowledge or estimation of fluids behaviour is very necessary, for mass flow and heat transfer computations. In this study, physicochemical analysis of palm oil and soybean oil were conducted, in addition to an equation modeling the relationship between the energy (E_a) and the pre-exponential factor (A). Later, two other parameters; the Arrhenius temperature (T) and Arrhenius activation temperature (T^*) were introduced to buttress the veracity of the model used. The model is very useful in engineering since it would make for the estimation of the missing parameter value and its derivatives. The goodness of the result is strongly reinforced by the regression coefficient. The results indicate that the model which best fits the major defining parameters are logarithmic in nature. All the parameters studied showed that the two oil samples are good feed stock for biodiesel production and confirms their relevance in electric voltage transformers.

KEYWORDS: Physicochemical, Viscosity, Arrhenius Parameters, Equation Modeling, Temperature, Vegetable Oil.

INTRODUCTION

Viscosity is one of the physicochemical properties of fluids that are in demand for optimizing and designing industrial processes, especially in transport equations, nutrition, chemical, cosmetic, and pharmaceutical industries (Ouerfelli et al., 2013; Herráez et al., 2008; Irving, 1977; Benson, 1976; Dean, 1987; Glasstone et al., 1941; Lee and Lee, 2001; Qunfang and Yu-Chun, 1999; Macías-Salinas et al., 2003; Belgacem, 2001; Viswanath et al., 2007; Hichri et al., 2013; Das et al., 2013; Das et al., 2012; Dallel et al., 2014; Ben Haj-Kacem et al., 2014). The viscosity of fluids is determined both by collision among particles and by the force fields which determines interactions among molecules. The theoretical description of viscosity is therefore quite complex (Ben Haj-Kacem et al., 2014).

Hence, several models have been proposed in literature based on Eyring theory and other empirical relations that are not always applicable to a large number of mixtures (Ouerfelli et al., 2013; Herráez et al., 2008; Lee and Lee, 2001; Qunfang and Yu-Chun, 1999; Macías-Salinas et al., 2003; Belgacem, 2001). Vegetable oils are very relevant for their nutritional purposes and for several industrial products spanning across fuels, skin care products, flow measurement, heat exchange, sterilization, freezing, and numerous operations, high pressure lubricants and alkyd resins for paint (Rewolinski, 1985; Agbo et al., 1992; Kamel and Kakuda, 1992; Nouredini et al., 1992; Ibemesi, 1993; Foidl et al., 1996; Eromosole and Paschal, 2002). They are used in frying, cooking, salad dressing, shortening of pasty etc (Bakker et al., 1997). They mainly consist of lipids with some other minor

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components including antioxidants, colorants, flavors and emulsifiers (Fasina *et al.*, 2006). Some of these compounds occur naturally and some are added during the manufacturing process. The presence of hydrocarbons or mineral oils such as n-alkenes in vegetable oils has also been reported (Johnson, and Saikia, 2009). Vegetable oils act as carriers of fat-soluble vitamins (A, D, E, and K) and play important sensory and functional roles in food products. They provide the most concentrated source of energy, supply essential fatty acids linoleic and linolenic acids which are precursors for important hormones, the prostaglandins and responsible for growth, provide satiety and increases the palatability of food (Atasie *et al.*, 2009).

Previous studies (Steffe, 1992; Noureddini *et al.*, 1992; Abramovic and Klofutar, 1998; Santos *et al.*, 2005; Bhatia *et al.*, 1990; Kapseu *et al.*, 1991; Kashulines *et al.*, 1991; Liew *et al.*, 1991; Dandik *et al.*, 1992; Noureddini *et al.*, 1992; Liew *et al.*, 1991; Dandik *et al.*, 1992) had based on the viscosities of different oils, organic compound, water and their derivatives as a function of temperature, storage age, and intensity of light, pressure, molecular weight and density of liquid. Also it has been shown that some plants have seeds whose oils may be of immense values (Eromosele and Eromosele, 1993; Eromosele *et al.*, 1994; Eromosele *et al.*, 1998). It has also been well established that temperature has a strong influence on the viscosity of fluid products with viscosity generally decreasing with increase in temperature (Rao, 1999). Several researchers have reported the viscosity of vegetable oils at room temperature (Timms; 1985; Krishna, 1993; Kokini, 1993; Rao, 1999). At higher temperature, oil must have sufficient viscosity to carry loads. Hence heavier oils are used at higher temperature. Similarly, light oils are used at low ambient temperature. Studies have also been carried out on the effect of temperature on the viscosity of some vegetable oils at temperatures less than 110°C (Coupland and McClements, 1977; Toro-Vazquez and Infante-Guerrero, 1993; Rao, 1999) and at temperatures between 150–180°C (Miller *et al.*, 1994).

Viscosity is the property of a fluid that determines its resistance to flow. It is an indicator of flow ability of lubricating oil and through its film strength, viscosity values are used in evaluating load carrying capacity, in denoting the effect of temperature changes and for determining the presence of contaminants in used oil during service. Absolute viscosity values are required in all ball bearing design calculations and in the technical design of other lubrication engineering.

Since the easiest experimental set-up to be used is simple shear viscosity, the dependence of the shear viscosity of a fluid with temperature has been shown

to be in the general form of the Arrhenius-type though initially written by De Guzman (1913), and then developed by Eyring (1936; 1937) for numerous Newtonian classic solvents (Fasina and Colley, 2008), which can be expressed as:

$$\ln \eta = \left(\frac{E_a}{R}\right) \frac{1}{T} + \ln A$$

1

where R, E_a , and A are respectively the gas constant (8.31 JK⁻¹mol⁻¹), the Arrhenius activation energy, and the pre-exponential factor of the Arrhenius equation for the liquid system. There is no negative sign in front of E_a since equation 1 is derived from viscosity and not from the rate of the phenomenon as in the original Arrhenius equation. The equation can be deduced from simple thermodynamic considerations where flow is believed to be a local transition of a molecule or a group of molecules between one state (before flowing) to another (after flow occurred) having to overcome an energy barrier (Tatiana and Patrick, 2015). One of the most common models assumes that the flow is controlled by the presence of free volume enabling molecules to jump from one place to another. Such mechanism implying a relation between free volume and viscosity was first found empirically by Batschinski (1913).

The plot of the logarithm of viscosity versus the reciprocal of absolute temperature (1/T) for numerous liquid systems is practically linear and the Arrhenius parameters, which are the activation energy (E_a) and the pre-exponential factor (A), are thus independent of temperature over the temperature ranges (from 278.15 to 328.15)K approximately around the room temperature at constant atmospheric pressure. Using both graphical and linear least-squares fitting methods, the slope of the straight line is equal to (E_a/R) and the intercept on the ordinate equals 'ln A'. In addition to these two main parameters, there is a third parameter called the Arrhenius temperature (T_A) derived from the intercept with the abscissa as:

$$T_A = \frac{-E_a}{R \ln A}$$

2

Equation (2) simplifies the viscosity-temperature dependence equation following the Eyring (Dean, 1987; Viswanath *et al.*, 2007; Eyring, 1936; Eyring and Hirschfelder, 1937; H. Eyring and John, 1969) equation as;

$$\ln \eta = \left(\frac{E_a}{R}\right) \left(\frac{1}{T} - \frac{1}{T_A}\right)$$

3

For homogenous dimensions (Glasstone, Laidler and Eyring, 1941), we can as well calculate another parameter termed the Arrhenius activation

temperature (T^*) as an additional variable for other statistical investigations:

$$T^* = \frac{E_a}{R}$$

4

Equation 1 can be derived from the thermodynamic standpoint where the flow is seen as a local transition of a molecule or a group of molecules between one state (position before flowing) to another (position after flow occurred) having to overcome an energy barrier. One of the most common models assumes that the flow is controlled by the presence of free volume enabling molecules to jump from one place to another. Such mechanism implying a relation between free volume and viscosity was first empirically propounded by Batschinski (1913). For small molecules where forces resisting flow are mainly linked to interaction forces, there is a good correlation between activation energy (E_a) and the heat of vaporization at temperatures where there are large fractions of free volume (Vinogradov and Malkin, 1980).

The focus of the present study is to investigate the physicochemical behaviour of two samples of vegetable oil and also the dependence of their viscosities on temperature. The relationship between the viscosities of palm oil and soybean oil with temperature variations will be found by fitting equations.

METHODOLOGY

Materials: The vegetable oil is available in local supermarkets and specialty shops. All oil was stored at room temperature (at about 20 °C) and in a dark place before the analysis. The chemicals used in cleaning or removing traces of solvent are suitable organic solvents like CCl_4 , ether, petroleum spirit or benzene. The apparatus used were Red Wood Viscometer, stop watch, Kohlrausch flask, thermometer, filter paper. Prior to the experiment, the oil was thoroughly filtered through a muslin cloth to remove solid particles that may clog the jet.

Methods: The viscometer was leveled with the help of leveling screws and the outer bath was filled with water for determining the viscosity at 90 °C and below. The jet was closed with a ball valve and then the test oil was poured into the cup, up to the tip of the indicator. A clean dry Kohlrausch flask was immediately placed below and directly in line with discharging jet while a clean thermometer, a stirrer was inserted into the cup and covered with a lid. The water bath was heated slowly with constant stirring and when the oil in the cup reached a certain temperature, the heating was stopped. The ball valve was lifted, the oil from the jet flows into the flask as the stop-watch was immediately engaged. The stop watch was disengaged when the lower meniscus of the oil reaches the 50 ml mark on the neck of receiving flask as we record the time taken. The same procedures were repeated to get more readings at different temperatures.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Figures 1 to 4 indicate the obtained results from the research:

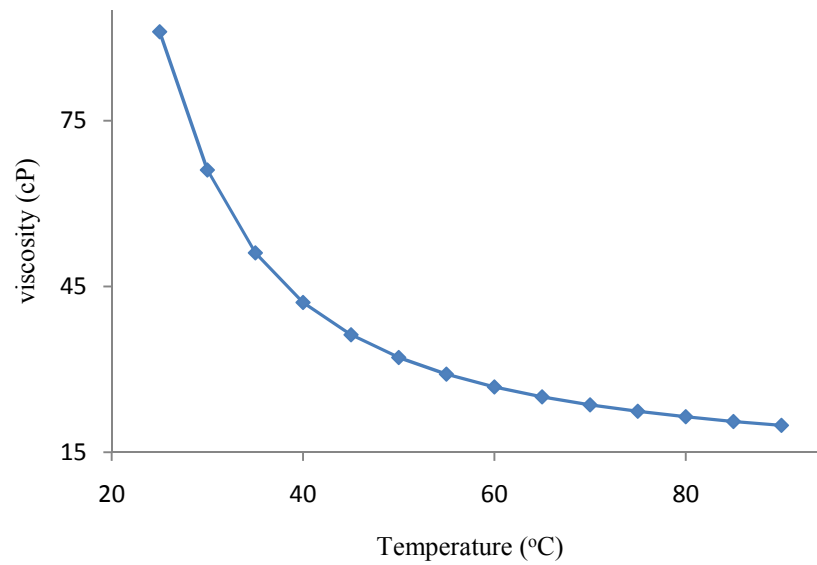


Figure 1: Variation of Viscosity (Centipoise) with Temperature (°C) for Palm Oil

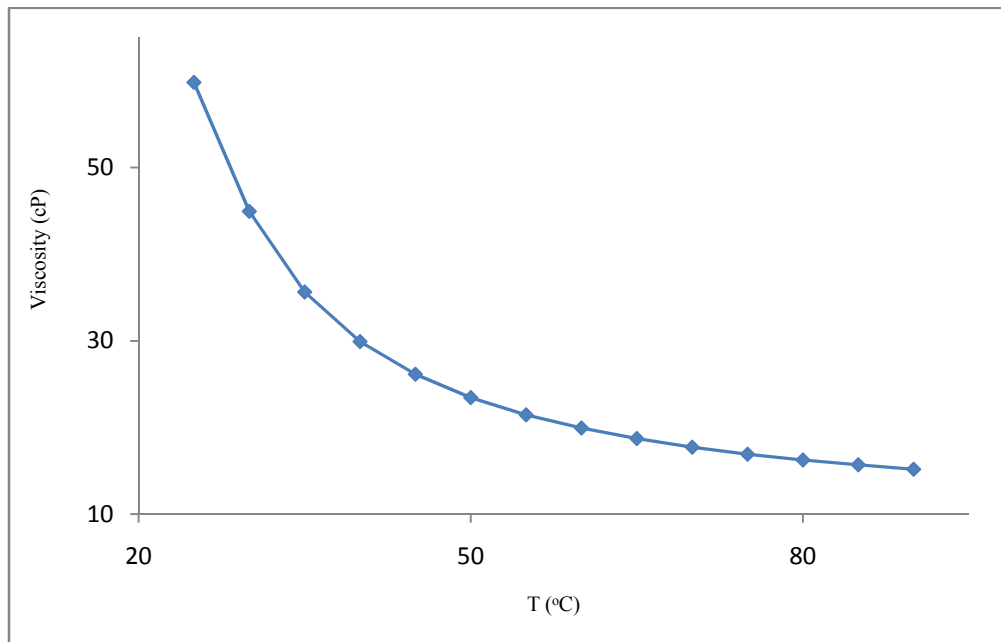


Figure 2: Variation of Viscosity (Centipoise) with Temperature (°C) for Soybean Oil

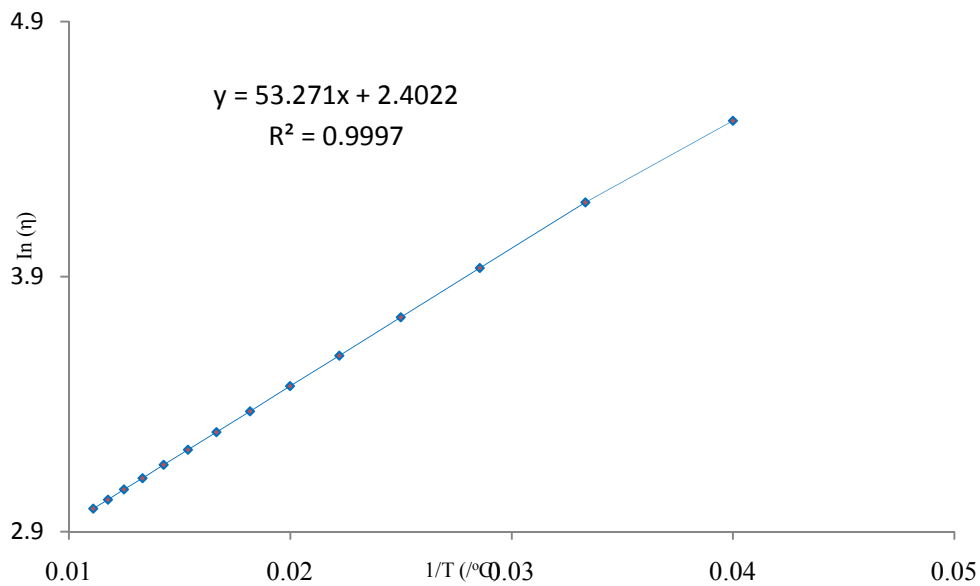


Figure 3: Natural Log of Viscosity (ln η) Versus Inverse of Temperature (°C⁻¹) for Palm Oil

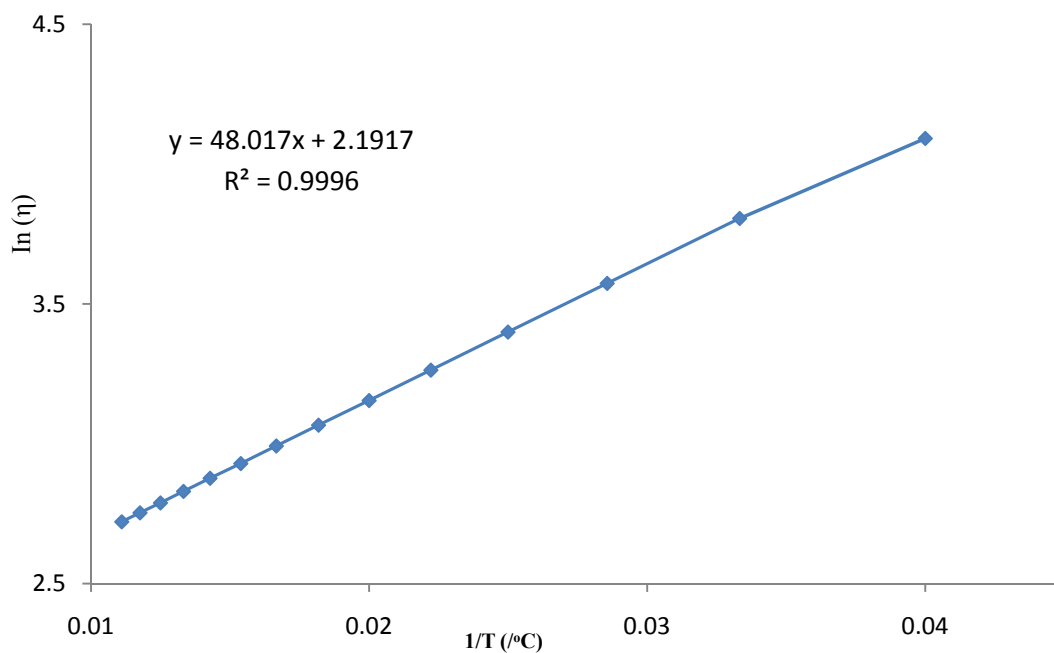


Figure 4: Natural Log of Viscosity (ln η) Versus Inverse of Temperature (°C⁻¹) for Soybean Oil

As a result of increased industrial and nutritional processes, the need for oil and their close derivatives has increased culminating into the search for oils from different varieties of seeds. Hence, palm oil and soybean oil were extracted, analyzed and some of their physicochemical properties were compared. With the help of Microsoft Excel Package, rheological measurements were all conducted in the linear regime in order to estimate the Newtonian viscosity as a function of temperature, from which other relevant parameters were estimated using equations 1, 2 and 4. For the palm oil, we obtained that the Activation energy E_a (442.68201 J/mole), Entropic (pre-exponential) factor A (11.04745406 cP), Arrhenius temperature T_A (-22.17592207 °C) and the Arrhenius activation temperature T^* (53.271 °C), respectively. While the results for the soybean oil show that 399.02127 J/mole, 8.950415896 cP, -21.90856413 °C, 48.017°C we obtained respectively for the same quantities.

Figures 1 and 2 indicate the variation of viscosity with temperature; it can be observed that the viscosity decreases with increasing temperature. With an increase in temperature, there is an increase in the molecular interchange as the molecules move faster. The molecular interchange occurring in liquids is similar to what is obtained in a gas, except that there is substantial addition of cohesive forces between the molecules of a liquid unlike those of the gases. The impact of increasing the temperature of a liquid is to reduce the cohesive forces while simultaneously increasing the rate of molecular interchange. The former effect causes a decrease in the shear stress while the latter causes it to increase. The result is that liquids show a reduction in viscosity with increasing temperature while it increases in gases, with the drag force remaining the same. Its very needful to understand the influence of temperature on the viscosity of fluid, especially in engines where the lubricating oil is heated to very high temperatures due to combustion of the fuel, hence it is important to ascertain if the oil will be viscous enough to lubricate the moving parts of the engine at such temperatures. Peradventure the fluid loses its viscosity at such high temperatures; the fluid may start to evaporate. Contrarily, in refrigerating compressors, we have very low temperatures on the suction side of the compressor and high temperature on the discharge side. Therefore, any fluid to be used as lubricant should be able to maintain its viscosity at both extremes. The fluid that can sustain those operating temperatures should only be selected, otherwise the very aim of using such fluid is defeated. The coefficients of regressions for the graph of the natural log of viscosity versus reciprocal of temperature (Figures 3 and 4) for palm oil and soybean oil show

0.9997 and 0.9996 respectively. This indicates very good fit. Most importantly, the aforementioned properties of our oil samples show a linear behaviour by obeying the Arrhenius viscosity model (Equation 4) and there appears a remarkable statistical non-parametric correlation between the activation energy (E_a) and the entropic factor (A), so also the Arrhenius temperature (T_A) for both samples.

Results showed that the model which best fits the relationship between the Arrhenius parameters is a logarithmic type correlating the activation energy (E_a) to the Arrhenius temperature (T_A). Concerning the hydraulic calculations of fluid transportations and for energy transfer (Aymen *et al.*, 2015), we have reduced the model using single variable without losing significant accuracy. The equation used in the present work allows for redefining the Arrhenius equation by using a single parameter (Ben Haj-Kacem *et al.*, 2014 and Kirkwood *et al.*, 1949) instead of two parameters (Irving, 1977) using experimental viscosity data at several temperatures. We hereby re-emphasize that this model would be very useful in different fields of physical and chemical sciences (Ike and Ezike, 2018; Ike and Dikko, 2018;), especially in measuring an unknown parameter when the other quantity is available in engineering sciences (Das *et al.*, 2012) or evaluated by some relevant theories suggested in the literature (Viswanath *et al.*, 2007). From the results, it can be concluded that viscosity increases exponentially when the activation energy decreases. Because viscosity with small activation energy does not require much energy to reach the transition state, it should proceed faster than a reaction with larger activation energy. Also, viscosity or chemical reactions occur more rapidly at higher temperatures. This is because thermal energy controls the motion at the molecular level. As the temperature rises, molecules move faster and collide more vigorously, greatly increasing the likelihood of bond cleavages and rearrangements.

CONCLUSION

We have determined values of viscosity Arrhenius parameters such as the activation energy (E_a), entropic factor (A), Arrhenius temperature (T_A) and Arrhenius activation temperature (T^*) for palm oil and soybean oil. Practically all of them obey the linear Arrhenius behavior. The overall results suggest some potential applications for the seed oils. From the viscosity-temperature profiles the oils can be utilized as biodiesel and lubricating oil base stock, although it may be necessary to examine their viscosities under extreme temperatures. It can be concluded from this study that temperature affects the viscosity of vegetable oils at temperatures between 25–90°C, with

viscosity decreasing exponentially and linearly with increase in temperature. Furthermore, a supplementary relationship between the viscosity Arrhenius parameters and the properties of numerous liquids at diverse temperatures can prove how the statistical approach employed here can predict the properties of other fluid yet to be studied.

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