



# Enhanced Magnetorheological Performance of Carbonyl Iron Suspension Added With Barium Ferrite Nanoparticle

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Hard-magnetic barium ferrite (BF) nanoparticles with a hexagonal plate-like structure were used as an additive to a carbonyl iron (Cl) microparticle-based magnetorheological (MR) fluid. The morphology of the pristine Cl and Cl/BF mixture particles was examined by scanning electron microscopy. The saturation magnetization and coercivity values of each particle were measured in the powder state by vibrating sample magnetometry. The MR characteristics of the Cl/BF MR fluid measured using a rotation rheometer under a range of magnetic field strengths were compared with those of the Cl-based MR fluid. The flow behavior of both MR fluids was fitted using a Herschel–Bulkley model, and their stress relaxation phenomenon was examined using the Schwarzl equation. The MR fluid with the BF additive as the magnetic field strength increased. Furthermore, the BF nanoparticles embedded in the space between the Cl microparticles improved the dispersion stability and the MR performance of the MR fluid.

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# INTRODUCTION

Magnetorheological (MR) fluids consisting of soft-magnetic particles suspended in a medium liquid, including silicone oil and mineral oil, are field-responsive functional materials that can be finely controlled from the liquid-like state to a solid-like phase under an applied magnetic field strength (H) (Svåsand et al., 2009; Sedlačík et al., 2010; Susan-Resiga et al., 2010; Qiao et al., 2012; Ashtiani et al., 2015). Without H, the particles in an MR fluid are dispersed randomly in the MR suspension, following a Newtonian fluid-like behavior at their low-particle volume concentrations. Under an applied H, the field-induced magnetic polarization interactions of the magnetic particles result in the formation of a chain-like form in the parallel direction of the applied H within several tens of milliseconds (Vasiliev et al., 2016). During this rapid and reversible phase transition, the chain structures in the MR fluid undergo breaking and reformation processes, resulting in changes in their viscoelastic characteristics, including shear stress, shear viscosity, and dynamic moduli under an applied magnetic field (Li et al., 2000, 2004; Ahamed et al., 2016). This technology has been introduced to industrial sections, such as damping devices, engine mounts, and MR polishing machines (Choi et al., 2003; Yang et al., 2010; Mao et al., 2014).

Soft-magnetic particles are widely adopted as the dispersed part of the MR fluids, owing to their negligible magnetic hysteresis and supreme magnetization value of saturation (Kordonskii et al., 1999). Among their family, carbonyl iron (CI) microparticles have attracted considerable attention as disperse particles owing to their large magnetic permeability, low coercivity, spherical shape, and appropriate micron size (Bombard et al., 2005). Despite these advantages, the high density of CI microparticles can lead to problems, such as sedimentation and abrasion, which are of concern with long-term industrial applications.

Several techniques have been introduced to overcome these problems, including coating the surface of magnetic microspheres with polymeric or inorganic materials and adding various additives, such as organic clay and inorganic nanoparticles (Vicente et al., 2003; Fang and Choi, 2008; López-López et al., 2008; Aruna et al., 2019). On the other hand, the process of applying a polymeric coating of CI microparticles to decrease the difference in density between the CI microspheres and the non-magnetic fluid is too difficult and complex for industrial application. This is because the coating process is strongly influenced by various factors, such as the reaction temperature, time, and the molar ratio between monomer and initiator. Therefore, the addition of additives to CI-based MR suspensions is rather simple and reliable (Jang et al., 2005; Liu et al., 2015; Han et al., 2019; Aruna et al., 2020; Maurya and Sarkar, 2020).

Various additives, such as organic clays, carbon nanotubes, celluloses, and inorganic particles, have been introduced in MR fluid systems to enhance the sedimentation stability of magnetic particles composed predominantly of MR fluids (Machovsky et al., 2014; Bae et al., 2017; Bossis et al., 2019; Gopinath et al., 2021). On the other hand, non-magnetic additives tend to reduce the MR effect, even though they can solve the sedimentation problem. Thus, the addition of magnetic materials as an additive is an efficient method to increase the sedimentation stability and MR effect of suspensions (Hajalilou et al., 2016; Zhang et al., 2020). Ngatu and Wereley (2007) added iron nanowires of diameter ranging from 5 to 250 nm to the MR fluid to improve the MR effect and the dispersion stability. Han et al. (2020) used hollow-Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> particles fabricated using a solvothermal process as an additive to reduce the sedimentation problem and enhance MR properties of CI-based MR fluid. Recently, Jang et al. (2015) and Kim et al. (2017) added hard-magnetic particles, such as y-Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and CrO<sub>2</sub>, respectively, to CI-based MR fluids and reported improvement in both the MR behavior and suspension stability.

Barium ferrite (BaFe<sub>12</sub>O<sub>19</sub>) (BF) with a non-circular plate-like structure and the perpendicular magnetic moment has attracted considerable interest as a high-performance permanent magnet because of its high magnetocrystalline anisotropy, high Curie point, relatively high magnetic saturation (*Ms*) value and coercive force, and superior chemical stability and corrosion resistance (Choi et al., 2000; Wei et al., 2020). Furthermore, non-circular hexagonal plate-like particles have a slower sedimentation rate than spherical or rod-like particles, such as  $\gamma$ -Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and CrO<sub>2</sub>. These hard magnetic particles that have a special shape could increase the Ms value of the CI particles, which is related directly to improving the MR efficiency of MR suspensions. In addition, hard magnetic particles are better able to adhere to the surface of CI particles as an additive, thus increasing the strength of the chain and the tendency to reform broken chain structures during operation. Therefore, BF particles were newly introduced as an additive, and their sedimentation stability was expected to be superior to previously reported additives.

This study examined the sedimentation stability and MR performance of MR suspensions by adding nano-sized BF particles as an additive between micron-sized CI particles. CI-based MR fluids were fabricated using silicone oil, and the BF additive was added to examine the effect of the additive. Their MR behaviors were measured using a rotation rheometer, and the sedimentation stability was recorded using a Turbiscan (MA2000, Formulaction, Toulouse, France).

## **EXPERIMENTAL**

#### **Materials**

The CI [Badische Anilin-und-Soda-Fabrik (BASF), standard CM grade, particle density: 7.90 g/cc, diameter: about 4  $\mu$ m, Germany] microspheres with their *Ms* of 209.5 emu/g and silicone oil (Shin-Etsu Chemical Co., Ltd., KF-96, viscosity: 100 cSt, Japan) were used as a dispersed and a continuous part of the MR fluids, respectively. The hard-magnetic BF (density: 5.28 g/cm<sup>3</sup>, Toda Co., Tokyo, Japan) particle was introduced as an additive material. The physical properties of the BF are well-reported with its diameter of 0.13  $\mu$ m and the aspect ratio of 0.1, corresponding to its thickness of 0.013  $\mu$ m (Kwon et al., 1997; Choi et al., 2000).

## Sample Preparation

Barium ferrite nanoparticles, used as an additive, were prepared by sonication for 1 h and dried. Three different MR fluids were prepared. The CI microparticle-based MR fluid without the additive was made by suspending 50 wt% of CI microspheres in silicone oil (50 wt%). To examine the additive effect, a 0.5 wt% concentration of BF particles with *Ms* of 63.8 emu/g was mixed in silicone oil (49.5 wt%), and CI microparticles (50 wt%) were then added. Furthermore, the pure BF nanoparticle-based MR fluid (50 wt%) was also prepared for comparison. The MR fluid with the additive is called a CI/BF-based MR fluid. A vortex (IKA, Korea. Ltd., GENIUS3) and sonicator (HWASHIN CO., Ltd., Powersonic 410) were used to disperse the magnetic particles uniformly during sample preparation.

## Characterization

The surface morphologies of the CI, BF, and CI/BF systems were observed using a high-resolution scanning electron microscopy (HR-SEM, SU-8010, Hitachi, Tokyo, Japan). The dispersion stability of the MR fluids was investigated using a Turbiscan (MA2000, Formulaction, Toulouse, France), and the static magnetic characteristics of the magnetic particles were examined by making them in a powder form through a vibrating sample magnetometer (VSM) (7307, Lakeshore, LA, USA). The particle densities were measured using a gas pycnometer (AccuPyc 1330, Micromeritics, Norcross, GA, USA). Their MR properties were examined using a rotation rheometer (MCR 302, Anton-Paar, Graz, Austria) attached to a device for applying the magnetic field.

# **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

**Figures 1a–c** present SEM images of pristine CI, BF, and their mixtures, respectively. **Figure 1a** shows the pristine CI with a spherical shape and a smooth surface. The mean diameter of the pure CI particle was  $\sim 3 \,\mu$ m. As shown in **Figure 1b**, BaFe<sub>12</sub>O<sub>19</sub> had a hexagonal plate-like structure with a mean size of 700 nm. **Figure 1c** exhibited a mixture of pure CI particles and a small amount of BaFe<sub>12</sub>O<sub>19</sub> particles. Hexagonal plate-like BaFe<sub>12</sub>O<sub>19</sub> particles were attached to the space between pure CI particles. Their hard-magnetic properties, nano size, and unique structure were expected to enhance the MR efficiency and suspension stability by occupying the space between the CI microspheres.

The static magnetic characteristics of the pristine CI, BF, and CI/ BF mixture particles were measured in the powder form *via* VSM, with an applied H from -15 to 15 kOe at room temperature. **Figure 2** shows the magnetic moment as a function of H, in which the measured  $M_s$  and coercivity ( $H_c$ ) of the BF particles were 63.8 emu/g and 1.74 kOe, respectively (Ko et al., 2009). When the 0.5 wt.% of BF particles were added to pure CI, the  $M_s$  value of the CI/BF mixture particles appeared to be slightly increased. Overall, BF particles, which exhibit hard-magnetic properties with magnetic hysteresis, could improve the MR performance in the magnetic response of a CI microparticle-based MR fluid, as shown in **Figure 2** (Moon et al., 2016).

Two types of MR fluids were used to measure the MR property. One contained 50 wt.% pure CI microparticles dispersed in 100 cS of silicone oil, and the other contained 0.5 wt.%  $BaFe_{12}O_{19}$  particles added at the same ratio as the CI microparticles in the same silicone oil. The measurements were taken using a parallel-plate rotation rheometer under a controlled shear rate mode. For each test, a certain amount of MR suspensions was dropped in the gap of the parallel-plate geometry device and the base plate.

The flow tests were carried out at shear rates in the range of 0.1 to 200 s<sup>-1</sup> under an applied H of 0 to 343 kA/m. Figure 3 shows the shear stress  $\tau$  (a, c) and shear viscosity (b, d) data as a function of the shear rate  $(\dot{\gamma})$  under various H for all of the three MR fluids, in which the closed and open symbols refer to an MR fluid without and with BF additive, respectively. According to **Figures 3A,C**,  $\tau$  of the three MR suspensions increased linearly with increasing shear rate without an applied H, indicating that three MR fluids exhibited Newtonian fluid-like characteristics. On the other hand, the non-Newtonian fluid property of nonlinearity between  $\tau$  and  $\dot{\gamma}$ , when exposed to external H, was prominent in the three MR samples. This is because the chainlike structure of the magnetized particles was built up by strong magnetic dipole-dipole (D-D) interactions (Zhang and Widom, 1995). In particular, at each H, a CI-based MR fluid containing the BF additive showed higher  $\tau$  values than those without BF nanoparticles over the entire shear rate range. By applying H,



**FIGURE 1** | Scanning electron microscopy images of (a) pure carbonyl iron (CI) microparticles, (b)  $BaFe_{12}O_{19}$  nanoparticles, and (c) CI/  $BaFe_{12}O_{19}$  mixture.

hexagonal plate-like structured BF particles, which were relatively smaller than CI microparticles, filled the space between the CI microparticles. These structural characteristics promoted the response to the magnetic field, forming stronger chain structures and improving the MR performance. The 0.5 wt% additive concentration was used because too much additive in the MR fluid resulted in a significant increase in shear viscosity without increasing the MR performance (Iglesias et al., 2012; Moon et al., 2016). In addition, the pure BF-based MR fluid has relatively less shear stress and shear viscosity, which can also be predicted and explained with its low *Ms* value and hard-magnetic property.

On the other hand, the flow behaviors of the two MR suspensions were fitted using the Herschel-Bulkley model to



**FIGURE 2** | Vibrating sample magnetometer data of pure carbonyl iron (CI) (CM grade),  $BaFe_{12}O_{19}$ , and CI/BaFe<sub>12</sub> $O_{19}$  0.5 wt% mixture.

analyze typical steady-shear behavior. This model was expressed as follows:

$$\tau = \tau_{\rm y} + {\rm K} \dot{\gamma}^{\rm n}, \ \tau \ge \tau_{\rm y}$$
 (1)

where  $\tau_y$  is the yield stress, depending on the applied *H*, shape, and particle concentration, and  $\dot{\gamma}$  is the shear rate (Choi et al., 2001; Jang et al., 2015). Both K and n are denoted as the consistency index and power-law exponent, respectively. The  $\tau$  curves of pristine CI and CI/BF-based MR suspensions were fitted very well to the Herschel–Bulkley Equation (1) at each magnetic field strength. **Figure 3A** presents two MR fluids as a solid line and dotted line (Cvek et al., 2016). **Table 1** lists the optimal parameters obtained from Equation (1), showing the Herschel–Bulkley model.

Similarly, the shear viscosity graphs for both MR fluids showed the same behavior over the shear rates at various H, as presented in **Figure 3B**. The viscosities of both MR fluids increased with increasing H and exhibited shear-thinning behavior; hence, the viscosity decreased with increasing shear rate. Note that the increase in shear viscosity had an important influence on the MR characteristics (Hong et al., 2013). As H increased, the magnetization of the CI microspheres also



FIGURE 3 | (A) Shear stress and (B) shear viscosity of CI/ BaFe12O19 mixture-based MR fluid (open symbol) and pure carbonyl iron (CI)-based magnetorheological (MR) fluid (closed symbol), shear stress (C), and shear viscosity (D) of pure barium ferrite (BF)-based MR fluid as a function of shear rate under various magnetic field strengths.

TABLE 1   The optimal parameters in Herschel-Bulkley (HB) model equ	uation obtained from shear stress data.
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MR fluid	Parameters	Magnetic field strength (kA/m)			
		86	171	257	343
Cl	τ <sub>dy</sub>	463	1,333	2,100	2,506
	К	158.8	72.6	43.1	29.3
	п	0.362	0.569	0.703	0.795
Cl/BaFe <sub>12</sub> O <sub>19</sub> (0.5 wt%)	$ au_{ m dy}$	556	1,646	2,581	2,994
	К	172.2	65.1	46.9	43.7
	п	0.354	0.611	0.717	0.737

increased consistently, interfering with the free movement of the particles due to chain formation, thereby increasing the shear viscosity of the MR suspension. While the magnetic D– D interactions between the magnetic microspheres are parallel to the applied stimuli direction, the flow is perpendicular to the stimuli direction. Therefore, the shear viscosity is represented as apparent shear-thinning behavior, resulting from the sheardeformation of the chain structure over the entire  $\dot{\gamma}$  range (Hong et al., 2013; Wang et al., 2019).

Without *H*, the CI/BF-based MR suspension showed slightly larger shear viscosity than the MR suspension without the BF nanoparticles because of the reduced hydrodynamic volume by the added BF particle concentration. Under an applied *H*, the shear viscosity of the MR suspension containing the BF additive was higher than that without BF nanoparticles. This suggests that the strength of the chain structure was increased by the added hard magnetic nanoparticles, and the shear stress was increased.

**Figure 4** shows the relationship between the  $\tau_y$  and *H* for both CI microparticles and CI/BF-based MR suspensions. Dynamic  $\tau_y$ , which is one of the important rheological parameters, was acquired by extrapolating the  $\tau$  at zero  $\dot{\gamma}$  limit for each *H*. In general, the  $\tau_y$  is expressed by the power-law of *H*, as given in Equation (2):

$$\tau_y \propto H^{\alpha}$$
 (2)

The magnetic-field-dependent  $\tau_y$  can be divided into two parts depending on the applied *H* (Ginder et al., 1996). At a low *H*,  $\tau_y$  is proportional to  $H^2$ , following the polarization model due to the attraction force between the magnetized particles (Bossis et al., 1997, 2019). When the magnetic field strength increases to an intermediate value,  $\tau_y$  will change to  $H^{3/2}$ , which is similar to the conduction model (Choi et al., 2001). This can be considered an increase in localized magnetization saturation that can decrease the MR performance. At the intermediate value, where local saturation becomes dominant, the equation for the  $\tau_y$  is given as follows:

$$\tau_{\rm v} = \sqrt{6}\phi\mu_0 M_s^{1/2} H^{3/2} \tag{3}$$

where  $\varphi$  is the magnetic particle volume fraction and  $\mu_0$  is the free space permeability (Genç and Phulé, 2002). When a sufficient *H* was applied, all of the particles reached full saturation and

became an independent relationship with *H*.

$$\tau_{\gamma}^{\,\,\text{sat}} = 0.086 \phi \mu_0 M_s^{\,\,2} \tag{4}$$

To analyze the flow effect for MR fluids more accurately and to determine the relationship between  $\tau_y$  and H, the universal yield stress equation was proposed in the presence of a critical  $H(H_c)$  as follows (Fang et al., 2009):

$$\tau_{y}(H) = \alpha H^{2}\left(\frac{\tanh\sqrt{H/H_{c}}}{\sqrt{H/H_{c}}}\right)$$
(5)

where  $\alpha$  is dependent on the susceptibility of the MR fluid,  $\varphi$ , and particle shape (Ginder et al., 1996; Bossis et al., 2019). H<sub>c</sub> is a boundary value dividing the  $\tau_y$  behavior of the MR suspensions, in which  $\tau_y$  represents two limiting values with respect to *H* as follows (Chae et al., 2015):

$$\tau_y = \alpha H^2 (H \ll H_c)$$
  

$$\tau_y = \alpha \sqrt{H_c} H^{3/2} (H \gg H_c)$$
(6)

**Figure 4** shows the relationship between  $\tau_y$  and *H* for both MR suspensions. The  $H_c$  values of both the CI- and CI/BF-based MR fluids were 171 kA m<sup>-1</sup>. A universal yield stress function was obtained using the following:  $H_c$  and  $\tau_y$  ( $H_c$ ) = 0.762 $\alpha H_c^2$ ,

$$\hat{\tau} = 1.313\hat{H}^{3/2}\tanh\sqrt{\hat{H}} \tag{7}$$

The results were fitted onto a single line using this generalized universal yield stress function, as demonstrated in **Figure 5**.

The dynamic oscillation measurements of the MR samples include both the strain amplitude and frequency sweep tests to examine the viscoelastic characteristics of both MR suspensions with and without BF nanoparticles under different *H* up to 343 kA/m. **Figure 6** presents data from the strain amplitude sweep measurements in the strain value from  $10^{-2}$  to  $10^2$  at a fixed angular frequency ( $\omega$ ). This test was carried out to select the linear viscoelastic region ( $\gamma_{LVE}$ ) before performing the frequency sweep test. Overall, the storage modulus (G') of the CI/BF MR fluid was slightly larger than that of the MR fluid without an additive in the entire strain range, suggesting that the fluid rigidity was enhanced by the BF additive (Wei et al., 2010). In particular, the G' of both MR suspensions showed a steady plateau region up to  $3 \times 10^{-2}$  %, which was called the LVE region.



**FIGURE 4** Dynamic yield stress as a function of magnetic field strength for both pure carbonyl iron (CI)-(square symbol) and CI/BaFe<sub>12</sub>O<sub>19</sub> mixture-based magnetorheological (MR) fluids (triangle symbol).



When the strain exceeded a certain level, the storage modulus decreased sharply with increasing strain. This behavior is called the Payne effect, and it was attributed to an irreversible change in the microstructure of the material because of a sufficiently large strain (Gong et al., 2012).

The frequency sweep test was taken with a given strain of  $3 \times 10^{-2}$ %, as determined by the previous amplitude sweep test. **Figure 7** presents G' as a function of  $\omega$  at a constant strain for two MR fluids. When H was not applied, the G' of both MR fluids was not large enough, and fluid-like characteristics were observed. When the H was applied, the G' of both MR fluids showed a stable region over the entire  $\omega$ , and the value increased gradually with increasing H. This suggests that the two MR fluids transitioned from a fluid-like state to a solid-like state under the influence of H, and a stronger chain structure was formed as H increased. Furthermore, when comparing the two MR fluids over



**FIGURE 6 |** Strain amplitude sweep test for pure carbonyl iron (CI; closed symbol) and CI/BaFe<sub>12</sub>O<sub>19</sub> mixture–(open symbol) based magnetorheological (MR) fluids under various magnetic field strengths.



the entire frequency range, the G' of the MR fluid containing the additive was larger than that of the fluid without an additive.

As shown in **Figure 8**, the solid-like behaviors of the two MR fluids can be interpreted more closely by the Schwarzl equation for deriving their stress relaxation modulus, G(t), which was calculated using the G' and loss (G'') modulus values obtained in the frequency sweep experiment shown in **Figure 7**. The Schwarzl equation is expressed as Equation 8 below (Chae et al., 2015):

$$G(t) \approx G'(\omega) - 0.566G''(\omega/2) + 0.203G''(\omega)$$
(8)

The G(t) of both MR suspensions showed steady plateau behaviors under an applied magnetic field, unlike G(t) in the absence of a magnetic field over time. In other words, the relaxation feature did not appear as a function of time (**Figure 8**). Thus, the stable solid-like behavior of both MR fluids was





studied as a function of time because of the strongly increased interactions between the CI particles under an external *H*.

As shown in **Figure 9**, the sedimentation stability of both MR fluids was investigated using Turbiscan in cylindrical glass cells, each containing a 40-mm MR fluid. The measurements were carried out by illuminating a light source from the bottom to the top at regular intervals (Buron et al., 2004). From the measurements, the transmission was plotted as a function of time (Upadhyay et al., 2013). Initially, the transmission of both MR fluids was close to zero. The absence of transmitted light indicates that the scattered light was not transmitted through the uniformly suspended particles in the MR fluid. After a few minutes, the transmission of a pristine CI-based MR fluid increased faster than that of a fluid containing the BaFe<sub>12</sub>O<sub>19</sub> additive for the same time. This is because pure CI-based MR

fluid particles aggregated more easily than the CI/BaFe<sub>12</sub>O<sub>19</sub>based MR fluid particles and precipitated quickly to the bottom of the cell over time, showing slightly higher transmission. On the other hand, the CI/BaFe12O19-based MR fluid exhibited a low transmission due to the additive, showing a stable and improved dispersion state. This was attributed to the reduced particle density from the BaFe12O19 nanoparticles attached between the CI particles. The distance between the centers of the two magnetic particles determined the interaction between the particles, and for the two magnetic plates, this distance is the thickness of the particles. However, this value is significantly less than that of two spherical or elongated particles (Lisjak and Mertelj, 2018). As a result, the D-D interactions between two plate-like particles are strong, resulting in better stability of the MR suspension. Therefore, the addition of BaFe<sub>12</sub>O<sub>19</sub> magnetic particles improved the sedimentation stability compared with the pristine CI-based MR suspension.

#### CONCLUSIONS

This study examined the effects of a hard-magnetic BF additive on a CI-based MR fluid. SEM and TEM revealed the morphology of the BF nanoparticles adsorbed in empty spaces between CI microspheres. The magnetic characteristics of the BF nanoparticles were confirmed using VSM. Two types of MR fluids with and without the BaFe12O19 additive in CI-based MR fluids were prepared to compare the rheological behavior and sedimentation stability under various H. The flow behavior of both MR fluids followed a typical Herschel-Bulkley model when an external H was applied, and a CI-based MR fluid with the BaFe<sub>12</sub>O<sub>19</sub> additive exhibited improved MR characteristics, such as the yield stress, shear viscosity, and dynamic modulus with increasing H. Furthermore, the sedimentation stability of the CI-based MR fluid with the BaFe<sub>12</sub>O<sub>19</sub> additive was improved remarkably by the reduced particle density due to the effect of the additive in the space between CI microspheres. Based on these results, synergistic effects were demonstrated to improve the MR properties and sedimentation stability of the ferromagnetic BaFe<sub>12</sub>O<sub>19</sub> additive for a pure CI-based MR fluid.

# DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

The raw data supporting the conclusions of this article will be made available by the authors, without undue reservation.

# **AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS**

HJC and HSJ designed the experiments. HSJ conducted the measurements. HSJ and QL analyzed the experimental data. HJC acquired the funding. All authors contributed to the article and approved the submitted version.

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**Conflict of Interest:** The authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

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