

# Evaporation and wetting behavior of silver-graphene hybrid nanofluid droplet on its porous residue surface for various mixing ratios

F.R. Siddiqui<sup>1</sup>, C.Y. Tso<sup>2</sup>, S.C. Fu<sup>3</sup>, H.H. Qiu<sup>1</sup>, Christopher Y. H. Chao<sup>3\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Hong Kong

<sup>2</sup>School of Energy and Environment, City University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong

<sup>3</sup>Department of Mechanical Engineering, The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong

\* Corresponding Author Tel.: +852 3917 2800

E-mail Address: [cyhchao@hku.hk](mailto:cyhchao@hku.hk)

Postal Address: Department of Mechanical Engineering, The University of Hong Kong, Pokfulam Road, Hong Kong

## Abstract

Droplet evaporation has a high heat removal capacity and widely used in the form of spray cooling or dropwise cooling of various heat dissipating devices. However, due to the limiting heat flux removal capacity of conventional fluids, such as water, these cannot be used in thermal management of high heat flux devices. In this research, the evaporation of silver (Ag)-graphene (GNP) hybrid nanofluid droplet and its residue effects on the evaporation of subsequent Ag-GNP hybrid nanofluid droplet, due to its synergistic thermal properties, is experimentally investigated for various mixing ratios, from MR-1 (0.1(Ag):0.9(GNP)) to MR-5 (0.9(Ag):0.1(GNP)), and different residue sizes. A theoretical model is also proposed for hybrid nanofluid droplet evaporation and semi-empirical relations are developed to estimate the hybrid nanofluid droplet spreading over its residue surface. The results show a substantial increase in the droplet evaporation rate with increasing residue size and decreasing mixing ratio. MR-1 hybrid nanofluid droplet gives the highest evaporation rate (up to 370%) on its highly wetted residue surface, while the evaporation rate significantly drops moving from MR-2 to MR-5 hybrid nanofluid droplets on their partially wetted residue surfaces. Moreover, the evaporation rate substantially increases (up to 240%) with increasing residue size for MR-1 hybrid nanofluid droplet resting on its residue

31 surface, however, the effect of residue size on droplet evaporation rate considerably diminishes  
 32 moving from MR-2 to MR-5 hybrid nanofluid droplets resting on their respective residues.

33 **Keywords:** Droplet evaporation; wetting; hybrid nanofluid; porous residue; droplet spreading.

34

35 **Nomenclature**

$A_s$	Droplet surface area, $m^2$	$V_{sd}$	Volume of second droplet, $\mu l$
$a_p$	Areal porosity	$V_{as}$	Droplet volume above residue surface, $\mu l$
$C$	Total molar concentration, $kmolm^{-3}$	$V_{bs}$	Droplet volume below residue surface, $\mu l$
$D$	Mass diffusivity, $m^2s^{-1}$	$V_{net}$	Net droplet volume, $\mu l$
$\dot{E}_{ins}$	Instantaneous evaporation rate, $\mu ls^{-1}$	$x_v$	Vapor mole fraction
$\dot{E}_{net}$	Net evaporation rate, $\mu ls^{-1}$	<b>Greek Letters</b>	
$\dot{E}''_{ins}$	Instantaneous evaporation flux, $\mu ls^{-1}m^{-2}$	$\rho$	Density, $kgm^{-3}$
$g$	Gravitational constant, $ms^{-2}$	$\gamma_{lv}$	Droplet surface tension, $mNm^{-1}$
$h$	Height, m	$\gamma_{sv}$	Surface free energy, $mNm^{-1}$
$h_c$	Characteristic height, m	$\gamma_{sl}$	<b>Solid-liquid</b> interfacial tension, $mNm^{-1}$
$l_{ca}$	Capillary length, m	$\varphi$	Relative humidity
$M$	Molar mass, g/mol	$\theta_{qe}$	Quasi-equilibrium contact angle
$MR$	Mixing ratio	$\theta_d$	Dynamic contact angle
$P_a$	Ambient Pressure, Pa	$\theta_s$	Static contact angle
$P_{v,sat}$	Saturation vapor pressure, Pa	$\theta_y$	Young contact angle
$r$	Roughness ratio	$\theta_a$	Apparent contact angle
$R_a$	Average surface roughness, $\mu m$	$\emptyset_{qe}$	Quasi-equilibrium contact diameter, m
$R$	Universal gas constant, $Jmol^{-1}K^{-1}$	$\emptyset_d$	Dynamic contact diameter, m
$T$	Temperature, K	$\emptyset_s$	Static contact diameter, m
$t$	Time, s	$\emptyset_f$	Mean Feret diameter, m
$VES$	Vapor equilibrium surface	$\tau$	Droplet spreading time scale, s
$V_{fd}$	Volume of first droplet, $\mu l$	$\mu$	Viscosity, Pas

## 36 **1. Introduction**

37 Droplet evaporation is a universal phenomenon and finds a range of engineering applications such  
38 as spray cooling, printing, spray painting, fuel injection, and hotspot cooling in microelectronics.  
39 It is a phase change process with higher heat transfer rates as compared to the single-phase heat  
40 transfer processes. The evaporating droplet removes heat by utilizing the latent energy of its  
41 molecules until it transforms into a vapor. Despite all these advantages, thermal management of  
42 high heat flux devices ( $10^6$ - $10^7$  W/m<sup>2</sup>) [1] is increasingly becoming a challenge thus limiting the  
43 use of conventional fluids (such as water) for such applications. Therefore, advanced thermal  
44 fluids, such as nanofluids with high heat removal capacity, are needed to address such challenges.

45

46 Nanofluid is the dispersion of very fine nano-sized particles in the base fluid (such as water), which  
47 substantially improves its thermal properties and is widely reported by researchers [2–4].  
48 However, nanofluids do not possess overall hydrothermal properties, such as high stability and  
49 high thermal conductivity. For instance, metal (such as copper) nanofluids show high thermal  
50 conductivity but poor dispersion stability. On the other hand, metal-oxide (such as Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>)  
51 nanofluids exhibit high dispersion stability but low thermal conductivity. Due to this reason, single  
52 particle nanofluids are not suitable for heat transfer applications as they do not possess overall  
53 hydrothermal characteristics [5]. Recently, another class of nanofluid (known as the hybrid  
54 nanofluid) is investigated, which has resulted in better overall hydrothermal properties and is  
55 prepared by dispersing two different nanoparticle types (metal, metal-oxide or non-metal) in the  
56 base fluid. Also, the presence of two different nanoparticle types has a synergistic thermal effect,  
57 thus making the hybrid nanofluid a highly conductive fluid, which is not the case with single  
58 particle nanofluid. At even low particle concentration, hybrid nanofluids are reported to exhibit  
59 higher thermal conductivity than single particle nanofluids [6–9]. The synergistic thermal  
60 conductivity in the hybrid nanofluid is due to a thermal pathway created by one nanoparticle type  
61 with another nanoparticle type, thus reducing the overall thermal contact resistance between the  
62 nanoparticles and the surrounding molecules of the base fluid [10]. For this reason, the synergistic  
63 thermal effect in hybrid nanofluid highly depends on the inter-particle compatibility. It is the  
64 synergistically advanced thermal properties of the hybrid nanofluid that makes it a suitable  
65 candidate for thermal management of high heat flux applications.

66

67 The application of hybrid nanofluid in a phase change process, such as droplet evaporation, may  
68 result in a high heat removal rate and keep the surface temperatures within safe levels. There are  
69 several parameters that affect the evaporation rate of a sessile droplet such as the surface  
70 temperature, humidity, surface roughness and droplet surface tension, to name a few [11–13].  
71 Besides, the droplet pinning or de-pinning effect over the substrate also affects its evaporation rate  
72 [14,15]. As reported by many researchers, the suspended nanoparticles in the nanofluid droplet  
73 migrate towards the edge and deposit near the three-phase contact line, which results in a droplet  
74 pinning effect during the evaporation process [16–21]. Other factors, such as the droplet contact  
75 angle, viscosity, and suspended nanoparticle type and concentration also influence the droplet  
76 evaporation rate [22–25]. Approximate solutions have also been developed to predict the  
77 evaporation rate of sessile droplets [26–28]. Moreover, the suspended nanoparticles in the sessile  
78 nanofluid/hybrid nanofluid droplet do not apparently improve the evaporation process, when all  
79 the three phases (droplet, solid substrate and the air) are in thermal equilibrium [14,21].

80  
81 During evaporation, the concentration of suspended nanoparticles in the hybrid nanofluid droplet  
82 increases with time, and finally deposit over the substrate to form a nanostructured porous residue  
83 surface. Although, many researchers have reported the formation of different residue patterns as a  
84 result of nanofluid or hybrid nanofluid droplet evaporation [29–32], there is still a lack of research  
85 on how the deposited residue affects the evaporation rate of the subsequent hybrid nanofluid  
86 droplet resting on its surface formed by the first evaporating hybrid nanofluid droplet. This  
87 phenomenon may be highly relevant to hybrid nanofluid based spray cooling or dropwise cooling  
88 applications, where the residue formed by the first evaporating hybrid nanofluid droplet may  
89 improve the evaporation rate of the subsequent hybrid nanofluid droplets, and thus may have a  
90 higher cooling effect in such applications.

91  
92 In our previous study [14], we have shown that the deposited residue substantially improves the  
93 wetting properties of the copper substrate. This tremendously increases the evaporation rate  
94 (~163-196%) of the subsequent hybrid nanofluid droplet resting on the residue surface as  
95 compared to the pure copper surface. Also, high surface wettability of the deposited residue  
96 improves spreading dynamics of the subsequent hybrid nanofluid droplet, resulting in large liquid-  
97 vapor interfacial area and high evaporation rates. Moreover, the suspended nanoparticles increase

98 disjoining pressure near the droplet edge, thus improving droplet spreading over the substrate [33–  
99 35]. Droplet spreading, which affects the evaporation rate of subsequent droplet over the residue  
100 surface, is divided into three main regimes, the inertial spreading regime (high inertial forces), the  
101 capillary spreading regime (high capillary forces) and the gravitational spreading regime  
102 (gravitational forces affect spreading) [36].

103

104 This study aims to investigate the evaporation rate of the Ag-GNP hybrid nanofluid droplet on two  
105 different types of surfaces, i.e. a pure copper surface and a residue surface formed by the  
106 evaporation of first Ag-GNP hybrid nanofluid droplet. It is a well-known fact that nanofluid or  
107 hybrid nanofluid droplet leaves behind a residue on the substrate at the end of evaporation [29–  
108 32]; however, there is no study to date on how this residue affects the wettability and evaporation  
109 rate of the subsequent hybrid nanofluid droplet that sits over the residue surface. The deposited  
110 residue may transform the substrate into a highly wetted surface, which may improve the spreading  
111 and evaporation rate of the subsequent droplet resting on it. Besides having a synergistic thermal  
112 conductivity of the Ag-GNP hybrid nanofluid droplet, which may result in high evaporation rates,  
113 its droplet residue also plays a key role, which is to further enhance the evaporation rate of the  
114 subsequent Ag-GNP hybrid nanofluid droplet resting on its surface. Therefore, the evaporation  
115 rate of the subsequent Ag-GNP hybrid nanofluid droplet is investigated for various residue sizes,  
116 resulting from the evaporation of first Ag-GNP hybrid nanofluid droplet. Moreover, this study also  
117 highlights the fundamental underlying mechanisms that affect the hybrid nanofluid droplet  
118 evaporation rate, such as the wetting characteristics, spreading dynamics and residue surface  
119 properties.

120

121 The main novelty of this research is to study the effect of the Ag-GNP hybrid nanofluid mixing  
122 ratio on droplet evaporation rate. The droplet wetting characteristics, as well as the residue surface  
123 properties, vary considerably with the varying mixing ratio, which eventually affects the droplet  
124 evaporation rate. Therefore, the proposed research is focused to determine the Ag-GNP hybrid  
125 nanofluid mixing ratio which gives the highest evaporation rate on its respective residue surface.  
126 Another novel aspect of proposed research is the manipulation of subsequent hybrid nanofluid  
127 droplet wetting characteristics (contact angle and contact diameter), based on the residue size of  
128 first evaporated hybrid nanofluid droplet. Droplet wetting manipulation can be important for

129 applications, such as the dropwise hotspot cooling in microelectronics, where the residue size of  
130 the first evaporated hybrid nanofluid droplet can be used to manipulate the contact angle and,  
131 eventually, the evaporation rate of the subsequent hybrid nanofluid droplet. Based on the above  
132 discussion, the main objectives of this research are as follows:

133

- 134 • To study the effect of Ag-GNP hybrid nanofluid mixing ratio on droplet evaporation rate;
- 135 • To study the effect of residue size, resulting from the evaporation of first hybrid nanofluid  
136 droplet, on the evaporation rate of the subsequent hybrid nanofluid droplet;
- 137 • To identify the residue surface properties that affect the droplet evaporation rate.

138

## 139 **2. Experimental Methodology**

140 In this section, we firstly discuss the experimental techniques that were used in the synthesis of  
141 the Ag-GNP hybrid nanofluid. Later, we discuss the methodology that we used to study the droplet  
142 evaporation, droplet spreading, and wetting and residue characterization of the Ag-GNP hybrid  
143 nanofluid.

144

### 145 **2.1. Hybrid Nanofluid Synthesis**

146 The Ag-GNP hybrid nanofluid was prepared by a two-step method, in which Ag and GNP  
147 nanoparticles were dispersed in water, pre-treated and then ultra-sonicated for two hours [37]. **A**  
148 **detailed procedure for synthesis of the Ag-GNP hybrid nanofluid and criteria for selecting this**  
149 **combination (Ag-GNP) in proposed research is discussed in our previous study [14].** Both, GNP  
150 (carbon>70% and oxygen>10% by weight, polycarboxylate functionalized) and Ag (particle  
151 size<100nm, polyvinylpyrrolidone) nanoparticles were purchased from Sigma Aldrich and the  
152 prepared Ag-GNP hybrid nanofluid samples were found stable for several hours. The Ag-GNP  
153 hybrid nanofluid was prepared at a fixed particle concentration of 0.1% volume fraction (as the  
154 particle concentration effect on the droplet evaporation rate was not the main focus of our research)  
155 and various mixing ratios (as shown in Table 1). The droplet evaporation rate and its residue  
156 wetting behavior for the Ag-GNP hybrid nanofluid was investigated **and compared with Ag and**  
157 **GNP nanofluids**, as discussed in the following sub-section 2.2.

## 2.2. Droplet Evaporation, Spreading and Wetting Measurements

In this section, we first discuss the experimental technique that we used to study the Ag-GNP nanofluid/hybrid nanofluid droplet evaporation and wetting characteristics (contact angle and contact diameter) over the residue surface, formed by the evaporation of first Ag-GNP nanofluid/hybrid nanofluid droplet. In the second part, we discuss the same experimental technique but with slightly different settings, to study the spreading behavior of the subsequent Ag-GNP nanofluid/hybrid nanofluid droplets over their respective residue surfaces.

The experimental setup and procedure to measure the droplet evaporation rate and wetting characteristics (such as the contact angle and contact diameter) using an optical tensiometer is explained in detail in our previous study [14]. The main advantage of using an optical tensiometer is that the droplet volume, along with its wetting properties, can be measured at each time step. The temperature inside the test section of tensiometer was kept the same as the room temperature  $T=22\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ , to keep all the three phases (droplet, substrate and air) at thermal equilibrium. Wet air, at an extremely low flow rate (to minimize the advection effects), was introduced into the environmental chamber covering the test section of the tensiometer to maintain the relative humidity fixed at  $\varphi=0.3$ , in all our experiments. The reason to keep a low relative humidity of  $\varphi=0.3$  in our experiments was to reduce the droplet evaporation time, as droplets take more time to evaporate at high humidity values. As the humidity effect on droplet evaporation rate was not the main focus of our research, therefore, it was fixed at  $\varphi=0.3$  in all our experiments. The droplet images during the evaporation process were recorded at 14 frames per second. The measurements for Ag-GNP nanofluid/hybrid nanofluid droplet evaporation and wetting properties follow a two-step process as discussed by Siddiqui et al. [14]. We used four different droplet volume ratios ( $V_{fd}/V_{sd}$ ) as 1, 5, 10 and 20 in our experiments, where we fixed the volume of the second droplet as  $V_{sd}=3\mu\text{l}$ , while only the volume of the first droplet ( $V_{fd}$ ) was increased to allow spreading of the second droplet onto the residue developed by the first droplet. We performed each experiment three times at different locations on the copper surface.

The droplet evaporation and wetting experiments were followed by the experiments on spreading dynamics of the Ag/GNP nanofluid/hybrid nanofluid droplets over their respective residue surfaces, by using the same optical tensiometer technique. The residue samples were prepared by

189 following the same two-step process [14] as used in the droplet evaporation experiments. However,  
190 due to the fast spreading dynamics, which only lasted for a few seconds, the droplets were recorded  
191 at a high frame rate of 28 frames per second. The tensiometer video camera recorded the droplet  
192 images as it came out of the dispenser until it reached a quasi-equilibrium state (droplet spreading  
193 ends macroscopically). The experimental techniques used in residue characterization are discussed  
194 in the following sub-section 2.3.

195

### 196 **2.3. Residue Measurements**

197 The porous structure of the Ag-GNP nanofluid/hybrid nanofluid droplet residues were  
198 characterized by using a scanning electron microscope (TM 3030, Hitachi, Japan). Each  
199 measurement was performed three times at different locations on a residue surface, using 3000x  
200 magnification. The micrographs were post-processed using an ImageJ software, in order to  
201 determine the pore size (Feret diameter) and residue areal porosity, with a maximum mean  
202 standard deviation of 0.135  $\mu\text{m}$  and 2.3%, respectively. The roughness parameters (surface  
203 roughness ( $R_a$ ) and roughness ratio ( $r$ )) of droplet residues were measured by using an optical  
204 profiler (NPFLEX, Bruker, USA), with a maximum mean standard deviation of 0.26  $\mu\text{m}$ . A 10x  
205 objective and a green light for illumination were used during the surface roughness measurements.  
206 The surface free energy ( $\gamma_{sv}$ ) of each droplet residue was measured on an optical tensiometer, by  
207 using a polar fluid (water) and a dispersive fluid (diiodomethane) based on OWRK/Fowkes model  
208 [38], with a maximum mean standard deviation of 1.7mN/m. Also, the droplet surface tension ( $\gamma_{lv}$ )  
209 and its solid-liquid interfacial tension ( $\gamma_{sl}$ ) were measured using an optical tensiometer.

210

### 211 **3. Theoretical Modelling of Ag-GNP Nanofluid/Hybrid Nanofluid Droplet Evaporation on** 212 **its Porous Residue Surface**

213 A theoretical model is developed to estimate the instantaneous evaporation rate of the subsequent  
214 Ag-GNP nanofluid/hybrid nanofluid droplet over the residue surface developed by the first  
215 evaporated Ag-GNP nanofluid/hybrid nanofluid droplet. The schematics of the Ag-GNP  
216 nanofluid/hybrid nanofluid droplet over its respective residue surface is shown in Fig. 1(a). The  
217 droplet height is denoted as  $h_1$ , while the height of the vapor equilibrium surface (VES) is denoted  
218 as  $h_2$ , as illustrated in Fig. 1(a). The vapor equilibrium surface (VES) is the hypothetical surface  
219 above the droplet, where the vapor concentration is in equilibrium with the ambient conditions,



220 i.e.,  $x_{v,2} = \varphi_2 x_{v,1}$  where  $\varphi_2=0.3$ . Moreover, fully saturated vapor conditions ( $x_{v,1} = P_{v,sat}/P_a$ )  
 221 are assumed at the droplet-air interface, while the air-vapor mixture above the droplet is assumed  
 222 as an ideal gas.

223 As both the droplet and the substrate are at room temperature and all the three phases (droplet,  
 224 substrate and air) are at thermal equilibrium in this study, the proposed evaporation model is based  
 225 on Fick's Law of mass diffusion and isothermal steady-state assumption. Although wet air (at  
 226 extremely low flow rate) was induced inside the environmental chamber to control humidity in our  
 227 experiments, the stationary medium approximation [39] is considered in the proposed model with  
 228 negligible advection effects. Based on our experimental observation, only droplet height varies,  
 229 while the contact diameter remains constant (pinning effect) during droplet evaporation. Therefore,  
 230 one-dimensional diffusion along the height ( $h$ ) is assumed in our model, as shown in Fig. 1 (b).  
 231 Furthermore, all droplets are assumed as spherical caps (negligible gravitational effect), since the  
 232 contact radius remains within the capillary length ( $l_{ca} = \sqrt{\gamma_{lv}/\rho g}$ ) during droplet spreading over  
 233 the residue surface. As the droplet size is larger than the residue surface roughness by 2-3 orders  
 234 of magnitude in our proposed study, Wenzel approximation [40] holds and the nanofluid/hybrid  
 235 nanofluid droplet is assumed to completely fill the pores underneath it. The evaporation model is  
 236 developed based on three input parameters as the droplet height ( $h_l$ ), quasi-equilibrium contact  
 237 diameter ( $\Phi_{qe}$ ) and the vapor concentration gradient  $dx_v/dh$ . The instantaneous droplet  
 238 evaporation flux  $\dot{E}''_{ins}$  ( $\mu l/s.m^2$ ) is determined as [39]:

$$240 \quad \dot{E}''_{ins} = \frac{-MCD}{\rho} \left( \frac{dx_v}{dh} \right), \quad (1)$$

241  
 242 and the instantaneous droplet evaporation rate  $\dot{E}_{ins}$  ( $\mu l/s$ ) is given as:

$$244 \quad \dot{E}_{ins} = \frac{-MCD}{\rho} \left( \frac{dx_v}{dh} \right) A_s, \quad (2)$$

245  
 246 where  $M$ ,  $C$ ,  $D$ ,  $\rho$  and  $A_s$  are the molar mass of water (g/mol), total molar concentration of air-  
 247 vapor mixture (mol/m<sup>3</sup>), mass diffusivity of vapor into the air (m<sup>2</sup>/s), water density (kg/m<sup>3</sup>) and  
 248 the droplet-air interfacial area (m<sup>2</sup>), respectively.  $dx_v/dh$  is the vapor concentration gradient  
 249 between the droplet-air interface ( $x_v = x_{v,1}$ ) and the vapor equilibrium surface ( $x_v = x_{v,2}$ ), as

250 shown in Fig. 1(a). The total molar concentration of air-vapor mixture ( $C$ ) above the droplet is  
 251 determined from the ideal gas law as:

$$252 \quad C = P_a/RT, \quad (3)$$

254 where  $P_a$  and  $T$  are the ambient pressure and temperature as 101.325 kPa and 22 °C (room  
 255 temperature), respectively, and  $R$  is the universal gas constant ( $R=8.314$  J/molK). Since  $A_s =$   
 256  $\pi[(\phi_{qe}/2)^2 + h_1^2]$ , equation (2) can be written as:

$$257 \quad \dot{E}_{ins} = k \left( \frac{dx_v}{dh} \right) [(\phi_{qe}/2)^2 + h_1^2], \quad (4)$$

258  
 259 where  $k = -\pi MCD/\rho$  is a constant,  $\phi_{qe}$ (m) is the quasi-equilibrium contact diameter (contact  
 260 diameter at an instant when droplet spreading ends macroscopically) and  $h_l$ (m) is the droplet  
 261 height. The unknowns in equation (4) are  $\phi_{qe}$ ,  $h_1$  and  $dx_v/dh$  and, therefore, we need to develop  
 262 relations for each of these unknowns. We first develop a relation to determine the quasi-  
 263 equilibrium contact diameter ( $\phi_{qe}$ ) for considered nanofluid/hybrid nanofluid droplets. Although  
 264 we have measured  $\phi_{qe}$  in our experiments, we further develop a relation based on the Young  
 265 equation and droplet geometry, and subsequently compare the theoretical and measured values of  
 266  $\phi_{qe}$  (see Fig. 4(c)). The droplets studied in proposed research exhibit different quasi-equilibrium  
 267 contact diameters, due to their different surface tensions as well as varying surface chemistry, and  
 268 surface roughness of their corresponding residues. The Young equation is given as [41]:  
 269  
 270

$$271 \quad \theta_y = \cos^{-1} \left( \frac{\gamma_{sv} - \gamma_{sl}}{\gamma_{lv}} \right), \quad (5)$$

272  
 273 where  $\theta_y$  is the Young contact angle and  $\gamma_{sv}$ ,  $\gamma_{sl}$  and  $\gamma_{lv}$  are the interfacial tensions at the three-  
 274 phase contact line of a sessile droplet. Based on the Wenzel effect [42], we get:  
 275  
 276

$$277 \quad \theta_{qe} = \cos^{-1}(r \cos \theta_y), \quad (6)$$

278

279 where  $r$  is the roughness ratio and  $\theta_{qe}$  is the contact angle at a quasi-equilibrium state. The  
 280 measured values for  $r$ ,  $\theta_a$  and interfacial tensions ( $\gamma_{sv}$ ,  $\gamma_{sl}$  and  $\gamma_{lv}$ ) for Ag-GNP nanofluid/hybrid  
 281 nanofluid droplets and their respective residue surfaces are given in Table 1. It should be noted  
 282 that  $\theta_{qe}$  is the theoretical contact angle, while  $\theta_a$  is the measured or apparent contact angle at a  
 283 quasi-equilibrium state. The quasi-equilibrium contact angle ( $\theta_{qe}$ ) from equation (6) is used to  
 284 determine the quasi-equilibrium contact diameter ( $\phi_{qe}$ ), as given by the following spherical-cap  
 285 equation:

$$286 \quad \phi_{qe} = \left( \frac{24V_{as} \sin \theta_{qe} (1 + \cos \theta_{qe})}{\pi (2 + \cos \theta_{qe}) (1 - \cos \theta_{qe})} \right)^{1/3} . \quad (7)$$

288 where  $V_{as}$  is the droplet volume above the residue surface. It should be noted that equation (7) is  
 289 only applicable for unbounded residue surfaces, where the droplet spreading is not restricted by  
 290 the residue boundaries. For cases, where the droplet contact diameter is the same as the residue  
 291 diameter (completely wetted residue),  $\phi_{qe}$  is considered equal to the residue diameter. As the  
 292 droplet spreads over the residue surface, it fills the pores underneath it and, therefore, the net  
 293 droplet volume ( $V_{net}=3\mu\text{l}$ ) is equal to the sum of the droplet volume above the residue surface  
 294 ( $V_{as}$ ) and the droplet volume below the residue surface ( $V_{bs}$ ). The droplet volume above the residue  
 295 surface is given as:

$$296 \quad V_{as} = V_{net} - V_{bs} , \quad (8)$$

297 The droplet volume below the residue surface is determined as:

$$298 \quad V_{bs} = \pi a_p R_a (\phi_{qe}/2)^2 . \quad (9)$$

299 where  $a_p$  and  $R_a$  are the areal porosity and average surface roughness of the droplet residue  
 300 respectively, and their measured experimental data is shown in Table 2. Since the variation in  
 301 droplet volume above the residue surface ( $V_{as}$ ) occurs due to evaporation, as well as the droplet  
 302 entrainment into the residue pores during the droplet spreading process, the droplet evaporation  
 303 rate is determined in the interval when the droplet reaches a quasi-equilibrium state (droplet

309 spreading ends at macroscopic scale), until the end of the evaporation process. Another unknown  
 310 term in the equation (4) is the droplet height ( $h_1$ ), which is determined from the spherical-cap  
 311 geometry as:

$$312$$

$$313 \quad h_1 = \sqrt{\frac{\phi_{qe}^2}{2(1+\cos\theta_s)} - \frac{\phi_{qe}^2}{4}} . \quad (10)$$

314 where  $\theta_s$  is the static contact angle and this varies with time during the droplet evaporation process  
 315 (see Fig. 5). We have determined relations for two unknown terms ( $\phi_{qe}, h_1$ ) of equation (4) and  
 316 now we determine a relation for term  $dx_v/dh$ . An empirical model is developed to estimate the  
 317 term  $dx_v/dh$ , as a function of the static contact angle, mixing ratio and  $V_{fd}/V_{sd}$ , by using our  
 318 experimental data. The non-dimensional form of this equation is given as:

$$319$$

$$320$$

$$321 \quad \frac{A}{h_c} \frac{dx_v}{dh} = B f\left(\theta_s, MR, \frac{V_{fd}}{V_{sd}}\right) , \quad (11)$$

322 where  $A$  and  $B$  are the equation coefficients and  $h_c$  is the characteristic height equal to  $A/B$ . As  
 323 both  $A$  and  $B$  are equal to unity,  $h_c = 1\text{mm}$ . Thus,  $\phi_{qe}, h_1$  and  $dx_v/dh$  from equations (7), (10) and  
 324 (11) are used in equation (4) respectively, to determine the instantaneous evaporation rate of all  
 325 studied droplets. It must also be noted, that in equation (4), both  $\phi_{qe}$  and  $h_1$  are the theoretical  
 326 values, while  $dx_v/dh$  is obtained from the empirical model as discussed in the supplementary  
 327 material. The height ( $h_2$ ) of the vapor equilibrium surface (VES) can be determined from Equation  
 328 (11) as:

$$329$$

$$330$$

$$331 \quad x_{v,2} - x_{v,1} = f\left(\theta_s, MR, \frac{V_{fd}}{V_{sd}}\right) h_c (\tilde{h}_2 - \tilde{h}_1) , \quad (12)$$

$$332$$

$$333 \quad h_2 = \tilde{h}_2 h_c = \left( \frac{x_{v,2} - x_{v,1}}{f\left(\theta_s, MR, \frac{V_{fd}}{V_{sd}}\right)} \right) + h_1 . \quad (13)$$

334

## 335 4. Results and Discussion

336 This section is divided into three main parts. In the first part, the evaporation rate of all considered  
337 nanofluid and hybrid nanofluid droplets for various droplet volume ratios ( $V_{fd}/V_{sd}$ ) is discussed.  
338 The second part includes discussion on main factors that affect the droplet evaporation rate, such  
339 as the wetting behavior of the nanofluid/hybrid nanofluid droplets on their respective residue  
340 surfaces. The droplet spreading dynamics over the residue surface is considered, followed by the  
341 discussion on wetting behavior, at both the quasi-equilibrium state and during the droplet  
342 evaporation process. The last part is focused on the residue characterization, in which the surface  
343 chemistry, porosity and roughness parameters are analyzed, in order to understand how these  
344 parameters affect the droplet evaporation rate.

345

### 346 4.1. Droplet Evaporation Rate

347 The net evaporation rate of the Ag/GNP nanofluid and hybrid nanofluid droplets on various  
348 substrates is illustrated in Fig. 2(a). The results show that the droplet evaporation rate is almost the  
349 same for all mixing ratios when copper is used as a substrate. However, the net evaporation rate  
350 varies remarkably, depending on the hybrid nanofluid mixing ratio and the droplet residue size  
351 (i.e.,  $V_{fd}/V_{sd}$ ). It is observed that the net evaporation rate is increased by about 4 times, as  $V_{fd}/V_{sd}$  is  
352 increased from 1 to 20 in GNP nanofluid and MR-1 hybrid nanofluid droplets. However, the effect  
353 of  $V_{fd}/V_{sd}$  on evaporation rate starts diminishing, moving from MR-2 to MR-5 hybrid nanofluid  
354 droplets, until we reach the Ag nanofluid droplet. For the Ag nanofluid droplet, the residue size  
355 has an inverse effect on the droplet evaporation rate. That is, the evaporation rate decreases with  
356 an increasing value of  $V_{fd}/V_{sd}$ . The main reason for anomalous evaporation rate of the Ag nanofluid  
357 droplet is the increase in surface roughness with increasing residue size, which consequently  
358 increases the non-wetting characteristics of the residue surface (Wenzel effect [42]), as further  
359 discussed in sub-section 4.2. It is also shown in Fig. 2(a) that the evaporation rate is considerably  
360 increased for GNP nanofluid and MR-1 to MR-3 hybrid nanofluid droplets, residing on their  
361 respective residue surfaces (for  $V_{fd}/V_{sd} \geq 5$ ), as compared to that on the copper surface.

362

363 Fig. 2(b) shows a linear relationship between the net droplet evaporation rate and the quasi-  
364 equilibrium interfacial surface area, for all considered nanofluid/hybrid nanofluid droplets.  
365 Furthermore, the net droplet evaporation rate decays as a power law function of the quasi-

366 equilibrium contact angle, as shown by the inset in Fig. 2(b). This shows that large quasi-  
367 equilibrium contact angle and small quasi-equilibrium interfacial surface area leads to low droplet  
368 evaporation rate. The variation in droplet height ( $h_1$ ) and VES height ( $h_2$ ) with the residue size  
369 ( $V_{fd}/V_{sd}$ ) of the Ag-GNP nanofluid/hybrid nanofluid droplets, at a quasi-equilibrium state is shown  
370 in Fig. 2(c). It is noticed that the droplet height ( $h_1$ ) is considerably reduced (by about 4 times), as  
371  $V_{fd}/V_{sd}$  is increased from 1 to 20 for GNP nanofluid and MR-1 hybrid nanofluid droplets. The VES  
372 is also shifted downwards with decreasing droplet height ( $h_1$ ), however, the difference between  $h_1$   
373 and  $h_2$  grows substantially with increasing values of  $V_{fd}/V_{sd}$ . This is because the VES height ( $h_2$ ) is  
374 not considerably affected by the variation in the droplet height ( $h_1$ ). Moreover,  $V_{fd}/V_{sd}$  has a  
375 reduced effect on the droplet height ( $h_1$ ) and the VES height ( $h_2$ ), as we move from MR-2 to MR-  
376 5 hybrid nanofluid. Conversely, for the Ag nanofluid, the droplet height ( $h_1$ ) increases as  $V_{fd}/V_{sd}$  is  
377 increased, which consequently increases the VES height ( $h_2$ ). The main reasons for varying droplet  
378 height ( $h_1$ ), with increasing values of  $V_{fd}/V_{sd}$ , are discussed in the next sub-section 4.2.

379  
380 The variation in volume with time during the course of Ag-GNP nanofluid/hybrid nanofluid  
381 droplet evaporation is presented in Fig. 3. The volume is normalized with respect to the initial  
382 droplet volume ( $V_i$ ) at a quasi-equilibrium state, while the time is normalized with respect to the  
383 total evaporating time ( $t_f$ ) for each droplet on the Cu surface. The main reason for normalizing time  
384 with respect to the Cu surface is to compare the total droplet evaporation time on each residue  
385 surface with that on the Cu surface. It is noticed that the total evaporation time on Cu surface and  
386 residue surface with  $V_{fd}/V_{sd}=1$  is almost the same for all studied nanofluid/hybrid nanofluid  
387 droplets. However, the evaporation time is significantly reduced, as  $V_{fd}/V_{sd}$  is increased from 5 to  
388 20 for GNP nanofluid and MR-1 hybrid nanofluid droplets. Furthermore,  $V_{fd}/V_{sd}$  has a reduced  
389 effect on the total evaporation time, moving from MR-2 to MR-5 hybrid nanofluid droplets.  
390 Conversely, the evaporation time of the Ag nanofluid droplet on its residue surface is higher than  
391 that on the Cu surface. It is noticed that the theoretical results obtained from equation (4) agree  
392 well with the experimental data, as illustrated in Fig. 3. The main factors responsible for different  
393 evaporation rates of Ag-GNP nanofluid/hybrid nanofluid droplets are discussed in the following  
394 sub-section 4.2.

395

#### 4.2. Spreading Dynamics and Wetting Characteristics

The spreading dynamics and wetting behavior of the studied nanofluid/hybrid nanofluid droplets, over their respective residue surfaces, play a key role in the net droplet evaporation rate. This is because the evaporation rate depends on the droplet-air interfacial area, which in turn depends on the droplet spreading and wetting behavior over the residue surfaces. This section is divided into three main parts. In the first part, the spreading dynamics of the nanofluid/hybrid nanofluid droplets over their respective residue surfaces is discussed. The second part is focused on wetting behavior at a quasi-equilibrium state, when the droplet spreading ends at the macroscopic scale. In the last part, the variation in the static contact angle and contact diameter, induced by the droplet evaporation, is discussed for all considered droplets.

Fig. 4(a) and (b) shows the spreading dynamics of Ag-GNP nanofluid/hybrid nanofluid droplets over their respective residue surfaces at  $V_{fd}/V_{sd}=20$ . It must be noted that the spreading nanofluid/hybrid nanofluid droplets do not reach their residue boundaries at  $V_{fd}/V_{sd}=20$ . Therefore, the droplet spreading remains unbounded, and is only affected by the residue surface properties and interfacial tensions at the three-phase contact line. It is noticed that all droplets initially undergo a very high spreading rate in the inertial regime (first few points in Fig. 4(a) and (b)), which is followed by the capillary regime, in which the capillary forces overcome inertial forces, until we reach a quasi-equilibrium state. As shown in Fig. 4(a) and (b), GNP nanofluid and MR-1 hybrid nanofluid droplets show significant spreading, due to highly wetted surfaces, resulting from high roughness ( $r$ ) and surface free energy of their respective residues (Table 1). Such a rapid spreading over highly wetted residue surfaces results in a large droplet-air interfacial area, which substantially improves the droplet evaporation rate. Despite having relatively low surface tension for MR-2 to MR-5 hybrid nanofluid droplets (Table 1), the droplet spreading is reduced, due to the low surface roughness and surface free energy of their residues. On the other hand, the Ag nanofluid droplet spreads inwardly in the inertial regime (as shown in the inset of Fig. 4(a)) due to its non-wetted residue, and quickly attains a quasi-equilibrium state, as compared to other droplets. As the spreading is in the outward direction for GNP nanofluid and MR-1 to MR-5 hybrid nanofluid droplets, a semi-empirical asymptotic relation is developed, to estimate the dynamic contact diameter ( $\varnothing_d$ ) as a function of spreading time ( $t$ ), and given as:

427 
$$\Phi_d = \Phi_{qe} \left(1 - e^{-\frac{t}{\tau}}\right)^n, \quad (14)$$

428  
 429 where  $\tau$  is the droplet spreading time scale to reach a quasi-equilibrium state and includes both the  
 430 initial inertial spreading and the subsequent capillary spreading regimes and given as:

431  
 432 
$$\tau = \frac{\pi^7 \mu V_{as}^{4/3}}{\gamma_{lv} R_a \Phi_{qe}^2}. \quad (15)$$

433  
 434 For the Ag nanofluid droplet, spreading is in the inward direction, due to a highly non-wetted  
 435 residue surface, and the dynamic contact diameter ( $\Phi_{d,Ag}$ ) is estimated by the following semi-  
 436 empirical relation:

437  
 438 
$$\Phi_{d,Ag} = \Phi_{qe} \left(1 + e^{-\frac{t}{\tau}}\right)^n, \quad (16)$$

439  
 440 where,

441  
 442 
$$\tau_{Ag} = \frac{\mu V_{as}^{4/3}}{\gamma_{lv} R_a \Phi_{qe}^2}. \quad (17)$$

443  
 444 where  $n$  is equal to 0.1, 0.033, 0.034, 0.011, 0.133, 0.055 and 0.042 for GNP nanofluid, MR-1  
 445 hybrid nanofluid, MR-2 hybrid nanofluid, MR-3 hybrid nanofluid, MR-4 hybrid nanofluid, MR-5  
 446 hybrid nanofluid and Ag nanofluid droplets. The semi-empirical equations (15) and (17),  
 447 pertaining to the droplet spreading time scale, were developed using the experimental data. It is  
 448 noticed in Fig. 4(a) that the droplet spreading time scale ( $\tau$ ) is increased, as we move from GNP  
 449 nanofluid to MR-5 hybrid nanofluid, followed by a very low value of  $\tau$  for Ag nanofluid. Such a  
 450 low value of droplet spreading time scale for the Ag nanofluid droplet is also evident from the  
 451 experimental data shown in Fig. 4(a), in which the droplet after a short inertial regime (shown in  
 452 the inset) quickly gains a quasi-equilibrium state. The dynamic contact angle ( $\theta_d$ ) of spreading  
 453 droplets, at any instantaneous time ( $t$ ), is determined by solving an implicit equation for a  
 454 spherical-cap, with known values of  $V_{as}$  (equation (8)) and  $\Phi_d$  (equations (14) and (16)), and given  
 455 as:

456



$$3V_{as}\sin\theta_d(\cos\theta_d + 1) + \frac{\pi\phi_d^3}{4}(\cos\theta_d - 1)\left(1 + \frac{\cos\theta_d}{2}\right) = 0 . \quad (18)$$

458  
 459 It is noted that the semi-empirical results from equations (14) and (16) as well as theoretical results  
 460 from equation (18) agree well with the experimental data, as shown in Fig. 4(a) and (b). Since the  
 461 droplet evaporation rate depends on the spreading behavior, these relations can be used to predict  
 462 the spreading dynamics of the Ag-GNP nanofluid/hybrid nanofluid droplets over their respective  
 463 residue surfaces. Fig. 4(c) shows the quasi-equilibrium contact angle ( $\theta_{qe}$ ) and the quasi-  
 464 equilibrium contact diameter ( $\phi_{qe}$ ) for all considered nanofluid/hybrid nanofluid droplets at  
 465  $V_{fd}/V_{sd}=20$ . The insets of Fig. 4(c) illustrate the droplet images at a quasi-equilibrium state. It is  
 466 observed that both GNP nanofluid and MR-1 hybrid nanofluid droplets show promising wetting  
 467 characteristics (low contact angle and large contact diameter) on their highly wetted residue  
 468 surfaces, which results in large evaporation rates. However, the wetting properties are adversely  
 469 affected (high contact angle and small contact diameter), moving from MR-2 to MR-5 hybrid  
 470 nanofluid droplets, while poor wetting is observed for the Ag nanofluid droplet on its highly non-  
 471 wetted residue surface, which results in low evaporation rates. The quasi-equilibrium contact angle  
 472 and contact diameter for all considered droplets at  $V_{fd}/V_{sd}=20$  are correlated by an exponential  
 473 function, as shown in Fig. 4(c). Also, the contact angle and contact diameter obtained from  
 474 equations (6) and (7) at a quasi-equilibrium state show a good agreement with the experimental  
 475 data.

476  
 477 Fig. 4(d) shows the effect of the droplet residue size ( $V_{fd}/V_{sd}$ ) on the quasi-equilibrium contact  
 478 angle ( $\theta_{qe}$ ) of the Ag-GNP nanofluid/hybrid nanofluid droplets. It is observed that the GNP  
 479 nanofluid and MR-1 hybrid nanofluid droplets completely wet their respective residues, with  
 480  $\theta_{qe} \approx 100^\circ$ ,  $\theta_{qe} \approx 41^\circ$ ,  $\theta_{qe} \approx 22^\circ$  for  $V_{fd}/V_{sd}=1$ ,  $V_{fd}/V_{sd}=5$  and  $V_{fd}/V_{sd}=10$ , respectively. However,  
 481 the residue at  $V_{fd}/V_{sd}=20$  remains partially wetted, despite having a highly wetted surface  
 482 ( $\theta_{qe} \approx 10^\circ$ ). It is also noteworthy that the droplets do not spread beyond the residue boundaries,  
 483 for  $V_{fd}/V_{sd}=1$  to  $V_{fd}/V_{sd}=10$ , due to the low surface free energy of the Cu surface ( $\gamma_{sv} = 33$  mN/m).  
 484 This suggests that the droplet wetting characteristics (contact angle and contact diameter) can be  
 485 manipulated by its residue size, for cases where the droplets reach up to the residue boundaries.  
 486 **Increasing residue size increases droplet spreading on a highly wetted residue surface for GNP**  
 487 **nanofluid and MR-1 hybrid nanofluid droplets. This increases the interfacial surface area and the**

488 **droplet evaporation rate.** Moreover, MR-2 and MR-3 hybrid nanofluid droplets completely wet  
489 their residues for  $V_{fd}/V_{sd}=1$  ( $\theta_{qe} \approx 100^\circ$ ) and  $V_{fd}/V_{sd}=5$  ( $\theta_{qe} \approx 41^\circ$ ), while partial wetting is  
490 observed for  $V_{fd}/V_{sd}=10$  ( $\theta_{qe} \approx 26^\circ$ ) and  $V_{fd}/V_{sd}=20$  ( $\theta_{qe} \approx 24^\circ$ ). MR-4 and MR-5 hybrid nanofluids  
491 and Ag nanofluid only show complete wetting for  $V_{fd}/V_{sd}=1$  ( $\theta_{qe} \approx 100^\circ$ ), while their residues  
492 remain partially wetted for  $V_{fd}/V_{sd}=5$ ,  $V_{fd}/V_{sd}=10$  and  $V_{fd}/V_{sd}=20$ . Furthermore, unlike other  
493 nanofluid/hybrid nanofluid droplets, the quasi-equilibrium contact angle for the Ag nanofluid  
494 droplet increases with increasing values of  $V_{fd}/V_{sd}$ . This is because of the increase in surface  
495 roughness with residue size (as shown in Table 2), which makes the surface increasingly non-  
496 wetted, as the residue size is increased.

497

498 Fig. 5 shows the variation in contact angle and contact diameter, due to the Ag-GNP  
499 nanofluid/hybrid nanofluid droplet evaporation on the Cu surface, and their respective residue  
500 surfaces, for different values of  $V_{fd}/V_{sd}$ . It is noticed that the droplet remains pinned for most part  
501 of the droplet evaporation (constant contact diameter), while some depinning is observed near the  
502 end of the droplet evaporation, for all considered nanofluid/hybrid nanofluid droplets. The main  
503 reason for the pinning effect in the studied droplets is the migration of nanoparticles/hybrid  
504 nanoparticles near the three-phase contact line of the evaporating droplet. On the other hand, the  
505 contact angle varies with time during the course of the nanofluid/hybrid nanofluid droplet  
506 evaporation. It is observed that the contact angle reduction rate is almost the same for all studied  
507 droplets, when Cu and residue with  $V_{fd}/V_{sd}=1$  are used as substrates. **As both Cu and residue with**  
508  **$V_{fd}/V_{sd}=1$  show poor wettability ( $\theta_{qe} \approx 100^\circ - 140^\circ$ ) for all studied droplets, this results in small**  
509 **liquid-vapor droplet interfacial areas and subsequently low evaporation rates.** Moreover, the  
510 contact angle reduction rate is non-uniform for these cases. On the other hand, the contact angle  
511 reduction rate is nearly constant for all nanofluid/hybrid nanofluid droplets (except the Ag  
512 nanofluid droplet), when  $V_{fd}/V_{sd} \geq 5$ . For the Ag nanofluid droplet, evaporation occurs at non-  
513 uniform contact angle reduction rates for all  $V_{fd}/V_{sd}$  values, due to a highly non-wetted residue  
514 surface. In order to understand the underlying mechanisms for wetting transition, from a highly  
515 wetted GNP nanofluid/MR-1 hybrid nanofluid droplet residue surface ( $\theta_{qe} \approx 10^\circ$ ) to a highly non-  
516 wetted Ag nanofluid droplet residue surface ( $\theta_{qe} \approx 142^\circ$ ), all droplet residues are characterized,  
517 as discussed in the next sub-section 4.3.

518

### 4.3. Droplet Residue Surface Characteristics

The residue surface properties such as the porosity and surface roughness directly affect the droplet evaporation rate. A porous surface with high surface roughness leads to high droplet spreading on its surface and it increases the liquid-air interfacial area and the droplet evaporation rate. The measured data on residue surface properties is shown in Table 2. It is noticed that the mean Feret Diameter (pore size), areal porosity and surface roughness decrease, as we proceed from GNP nanofluid/MR-1 hybrid nanofluid to MR-5 hybrid nanofluid/Ag nanofluid droplet residues. Conversely, the mean Feret Diameter, areal porosity and surface roughness increase with increasing residue size, for each nanofluid/hybrid nanofluid droplet residue. A similar trend is observed for variation in droplet evaporation rate with respect to the mixing ratio and the residue size. This suggests that the evaporation rate of subsequent droplet is affected by the residue surface properties. It must also be noted that the droplet volume ( $V_{fd}$ ) in Table 2 refers to the volume of the first nanofluid/hybrid nanofluid droplet, which we used to develop the residue on the Cu surface. More details on residue surface properties, such as the residue surface morphology and pore size distribution, can be obtained from supplementary material.

The droplet evaporation rate also depends on the residue surface free energy. The surface free energy of the Cu surface, as well as the Ag-GNP nanofluid/hybrid nanofluid droplet residue surfaces, is shown in Fig. 6. It is observed that the surface free energy decreases, as we move from the GNP nanofluid droplet residue to the Ag nanofluid droplet residue. The surface free energy of each residue is compared with the uncorrected (includes roughness effects) surface free energy, as shown in Fig. 6. It is noticed that the GNP nanofluid and MR-1 hybrid nanofluid droplet residues give the highest uncorrected surface free energy, with large polar components, which results in highly wetted surfaces, and eventually give high evaporation rates for respective droplets residing on these surfaces. However, the surface free energy, as well as its polar component, decrease, as we move from MR-2 to MR-5 hybrid nanofluid droplet residue, and this results in partially wetted surfaces and consequently gives low droplet evaporation rates. The copper surface, and the Ag nanofluid droplet residue surface, both show very low surface free energy values, with negligible polar components, which results in non-wetted surfaces, and gives extremely low evaporation rates for droplets residing on these surfaces.

## 5. Conclusions

Although droplet evaporation offers high heat transfer rates due to a phase change process, such techniques are still not effective for thermal management of high heat flux devices due to the limiting heat removal capacity of conventional fluids, such as water. To address this issue, we have investigated the droplet evaporation of the Ag-GNP hybrid nanofluid, due to its synergistic thermal properties, for various mixing ratios and residue sizes. As a main novelty of our work, we have shown that the evaporation rate of the subsequent Ag-GNP hybrid nanofluid droplet, resting on its residue surface, varies significantly with varying mixing ratio and residue size. Another novelty lies in a range of wetting behavior, from highly wetted GNP nanofluid and MR-1 hybrid nanofluid droplet residues to an extremely non-wetted Ag nanofluid droplet residue, while having partially wetted MR-2 to MR-5 hybrid nanofluid droplet residues. We also showed that large spreading of GNP nanofluid and MR-1 hybrid nanofluid droplets over their respective wetted residues increases the droplet-air interfacial area and it increases the droplet evaporation rate. Moreover, all residues have a porous structure with varying pore size and areal porosity. Also, the residue surface roughness increases with increasing porosity, which leads to increasing wettability and evaporation rate of the subsequent droplets resting on such residue surfaces. Following are the main conclusions of this study:

- MR-1 hybrid nanofluid droplet gives the highest evaporation rate (370% higher than that of the Ag nanofluid droplet) due to a highly wetted residue surface for  $V_{fd}/V_{sd}=20$ .
- The evaporation rate is remarkably increased by about 285% as  $V_{fd}/V_{sd}$  is increased from 1 to 20 for GNP nanofluid and MR-1 hybrid nanofluid droplets resting on their respective residue surfaces.
- The evaporation rate substantially drops moving from MR-2 to MR-5 hybrid nanofluid droplets, while Ag nanofluid droplets give the least evaporation rates for  $V_{fd}/V_{sd}\geq 5$ .
- High droplet spreading is achieved in GNP nanofluid and MR-1 hybrid nanofluid droplets, while the droplet spreading is reduced when moving from MR-2 to MR-5 hybrid nanofluid droplets on their respective residue surfaces.
- The quasi-equilibrium contact angle increases from about  $10^\circ$  in GNP nanofluid and MR-1 hybrid nanofluid droplets to about  $142^\circ$  in Ag nanofluid droplets on their respective residue surfaces.

- 581 • The quasi-equilibrium contact angle is reduced from  $100^\circ$  to  $10^\circ$  for GNP nanofluid and  
582 MR-1 hybrid nanofluid droplets as  $V_{fd}/V_{sd}$  is increased from 1 to 20.
- 583 • The pore size (Feret diameter) and areal porosity increase with increasing residue size,  
584 while they decrease with increasing mixing ratios (MR-1 to MR-5) of hybrid nanofluid  
585 droplet residues.

586

### 587 **Acknowledgements**

588 The funding for this research is provided by the Hong Kong PhD Fellowship Scheme (HKPFS),  
589 the Hong Kong Research Grant Council via Collaborative Research Fund (CRF) account C6022-  
590 16G, General Research Fund (GRF) account 16206918 and Early Career Scheme (ECS) account  
591 21200819.

592

### 593 **References**

- 594 [1] M.A. Ebadian, C.X. Lin, A Review of High-Heat-Flux Heat Removal Technologies, *J. Heat*  
595 *Transfer.* 133 (2011). <https://doi.org/10.1115/1.4004340>.
- 596 [2] C.Y. Tso, S.C. Fu, C.Y.H. Chao, A semi-analytical model for the thermal conductivity of  
597 nanofluids and determination of the nanolayer thickness, *Int. J. Heat Mass Transf.* 70 (2014)  
598 202–214. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijheatmasstransfer.2013.10.077>.
- 599 [3] S. Fu, C. Tso, Y. Fong, C.Y.H. Chao, Evaporation of Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-water nanofluids in an  
600 externally micro-grooved evaporator, *Sci. Technol. Built Environ.* 23 (2017) 345–354.  
601 <https://doi.org/10.1080/23744731.2016.1250562>.
- 602 [4] C.Y. Tso, C.Y.H. Chao, Study of enthalpy of evaporation, saturated vapor pressure and  
603 evaporation rate of aqueous nanofluids, *Int. J. Heat Mass Transf.* 84 (2015) 931–941.  
604 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijheatmasstransfer.2015.01.090>.
- 605 [5] F.R. Siddiqui, C.Y. Tso, K.C. Chan, S.C. Fu, C.Y.H. Chao, On trade-off for dispersion  
606 stability and thermal transport of Cu-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> hybrid nanofluid for various mixing ratios, *Int.*  
607 *J. Heat Mass Transf.* 132 (2019) 1200–1216.  
608 <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijheatmasstransfer.2018.12.094>.
- 609 [6] G.M. Moldoveanu, G. Huminic, A.A. Minea, A. Huminic, Experimental study on thermal

- 610 conductivity of stabilized Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and SiO<sub>2</sub> nanofluids and their hybrid, *Int. J. Heat Mass*  
611 *Transf.* 127 (2018) 450–457.  
612 <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijheatmasstransfer.2018.07.024>.
- 613 [7] S. Suresh, K.P. Venkitaraj, P. Selvakumar, M. Chandrasekar, Synthesis of Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>–Cu/water  
614 hybrid nanofluids using two step method and its thermo physical properties, *Colloids*  
615 *Surfaces A Physicochem. Eng. Asp.* 388 (2011) 41–48.  
616 <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1016/j.colsurfa.2011.08.005>.
- 617 [8] M.J. Nine, M. Batmunkh, J.-H. Kim, H.-S. Chung, H.-M. Jeong, Investigation of Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-  
618 MWCNTs Hybrid Dispersion in Water and Their Thermal Characterization, *J. Nanosci.*  
619 *Nanotechnol.* 12 (2012) 4553–4559. <https://doi.org/10.1166/jnn.2012.6193>.
- 620 [9] M. Batmunkh, M.R. Tanshen, M.J. Nine, M. Myekhlai, H. Choi, H. Chung, Thermal  
621 Conductivity of TiO<sub>2</sub> Nanoparticles Based Aqueous Nanofluids with an Addition of a  
622 Modified Silver Particle, *Ind. Eng. Chem. Res.* 53 (2014) 8445–8451.  
623 <https://doi.org/10.1021/ie403712f>.
- 624 [10] M.R. Han, Z. H, Yang, B., Kim, S. H., Zachariah, Application of hybrid  
625 sphere/carbonnanotube particles in nanofluids, *Nanotechnology.* 18 (2007) 105–109.
- 626 [11] M. Radiom, C. Yang, W.K. Chan, Dynamic contact angle of water-based titanium oxide  
627 nanofluid, *Nanoscale Res. Lett.* 8 (2013) 282. <https://doi.org/10.1186/1556-276X-8-282>.
- 628 [12] D. Chakraborty, G.S. Sudha, S. Chakraborty, S. DasGupta, Effect of submicron particles on  
629 electrowetting on dielectrics (EWOD) of sessile droplets, *J. Colloid Interface Sci.* 363  
630 (2011) 640–645. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jcis.2011.07.077>.
- 631 [13] S.J. Hong, T.H. Chou, Y.Y. Liu, Y.J. Sheng, H.K. Tsao, Advancing and receding wetting  
632 behavior of a droplet on a narrow rectangular plane, *Colloid Polym. Sci.* 291 (2013) 347–  
633 353. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00396-012-2797-5>.
- 634 [14] F.R. Siddiqui, C.Y. Tso, S.C. Fu, C.Y.H. Chao, H.H. Qiu, Experimental Investigation On  
635 Silver-Graphene Hybrid Nanofluid Droplet Evaporation And Wetting Characteristics Of Its  
636 Nanostructured Droplet Residue, in: *ASME-JSME-KSME 2019 8th Jt. Fluids Eng. Conf.*,  
637 San Francisco, 2019: pp. 1–8. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1115/AJKFluids2019-5049>.

- 638 [15] T.A.H. Nguyen, A. V Nguyen, Increased Evaporation Kinetics of Sessile Droplets by Using  
639 Nanoparticles, *Langmuir*. 28 (2012) 16725–16728. <https://doi.org/10.1021/la303293w>.
- 640 [16] R.D. Deegan, O. Bakajin, T.F. Dupont, G. Huber, S.R. Nagel, T.A. Witten, Contact line  
641 deposits in an evaporating drop, *62* (2000) 756–765.
- 642 [17] R.D. Deegan, Pattern formation in drying drops, *Phys. Rev. E - Stat. Physics, Plasmas,*  
643 *Fluids, Relat. Interdiscip. Top.* 61 (2000) 475–485.  
644 <https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevE.61.475>.
- 645 [18] F.-C. Wang, H.-A. Wu, Pinning and depinning mechanism of the contact line during  
646 evaporation of nano-droplets sessile on textured surfaces, *Soft Matter*. 9 (2013) 5703–5709.  
647 <https://doi.org/10.1039/C3SM50530H>.
- 648 [19] R. V Craster, O.K. Matar, K. Sefiane, Pinning, Retraction, and Terracing of Evaporating  
649 Droplets Containing Nanoparticles, *Langmuir*. 25 (2009) 3601–3609.  
650 <https://doi.org/10.1021/la8037704>.
- 651 [20] C. Zhang, X. Zhu, L. Zhou, Morphology tunable pinning force and evaporation modes of  
652 water droplets on PDMS spherical cap micron-arrays, *Chem. Phys. Lett.* 508 (2011) 134–  
653 138. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cplett.2011.04.041>.
- 654 [21] X. Zhong, A. Crivoi, F. Duan, Sessile nanofluid droplet drying, *Adv. Colloid Interface Sci.*  
655 217 (2015) 13–30. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cis.2014.12.003>.
- 656 [22] R.D. Deegan, O. Bakajin, T.F. Dupont, G. Huber, S.R. Nagel, T.A. Witten, Capillary flow  
657 as the cause of ring stains from dried liquid drops, *Nature*. 389 (1997) 827–829.  
658 <https://doi.org/10.1038/39827>.
- 659 [23] K. Sefiane, R. Bennacer, Nanofluids droplets evaporation kinetics and wetting dynamics on  
660 rough heated substrates, *Adv. Colloid Interface Sci.* 147–148 (2009) 263–271.  
661 <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cis.2008.09.011>.
- 662 [24] M. Moghiman, B. Aslani, Influence of nanoparticles on reducing and enhancing evaporation  
663 mass transfer and its efficiency, *Int. J. Heat Mass Transf.* 61 (2013) 114–118.  
664 <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijheatmasstransfer.2013.01.057>.

- 665 [25] R.-H. Chen, T.X. Phuoc, D. Martello, Effects of nanoparticles on nanofluid droplet  
666 evaporation, *Int. J. Heat Mass Transf.* 53 (2010) 3677–3682.  
667 <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijheatmasstransfer.2010.04.006>.
- 668 [26] H. Hu, R.G. Larson, Evaporation of a Sessile Droplet on a Substrate, *J. Phys. Chem. B.* 106  
669 (2002) 1334–1344. <https://doi.org/10.1021/jp0118322>.
- 670 [27] R.G. Picknett, R. Bexon, The Evaporation of Sessile or Pendant Drops in Still Air, *J. Colloid*  
671 *Interface Sci.* 61 (1977) 336–350.
- 672 [28] Y.O. Popov, Evaporative deposition patterns : Spatial dimensions of the deposit, *Phys. Rev.*  
673 *E.* 71 (2005) 1–17. <https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevE.71.036313>.
- 674 [29] H.H. Lee, S.C. Fu, C.Y. Tso, C.Y.H. Chao, Study of residue patterns of aqueous nanofluid  
675 droplets with different particle sizes and concentrations on different substrates, *Int. J. Heat*  
676 *Mass Transf.* 105 (2017) 230–236.  
677 <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijheatmasstransfer.2016.09.093>.
- 678 [30] P.J. Yunker, T. Still, M.A. Lohr, A.G. Yodh, Suppression of the coffee-ring effect by shape-  
679 dependent capillary interactions, *Nature.* 476 (2011) 308–311.  
680 <https://doi.org/10.1038/nature10344>.
- 681 [31] T.P. Bigioni, X.-M. Lin, T.T. Nguyen, E.I. Corwin, T.A. Witten, H.M. Jaeger, Kinetically  
682 driven self assembly of highly ordered nanoparticle monolayers, *Nat. Mater.* 5 (2006) 265–  
683 270. <https://doi.org/10.1038/nmat1611>.
- 684 [32] M. Amjad, Y. Yang, G. Raza, H. Gao, J. Zhang, L. Zhou, X. Du, D. Wen, Deposition pattern  
685 and tracer particle motion of evaporating multi-component sessile droplets, *J. Colloid*  
686 *Interface Sci.* 506 (2017) 83–92. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jcis.2017.07.025>.
- 687 [33] A. Nikolov, K. Kondiparty, D. Wasan, Nanoparticle Self-Structuring in a Nanofluid Film  
688 Spreading on a Solid Surface, *Langmuir.* 26 (2010) 7665–7670.  
689 <https://doi.org/10.1021/la100928t>.
- 690 [34] K. Kondiparty, A.D. Nikolov, D. Wasan, K.-L. Liu, Dynamic Spreading of Nanofluids on  
691 Solids. Part I: Experimental, *Langmuir.* 28 (2012) 14618–14623.  
692 <https://doi.org/10.1021/la3027013>.



- 693 [35] D.T. Wasan, A.D. Nikolov, Spreading of nanofluids on solids, *Nature*. 423 (2003) 156–159.  
694 <https://doi.org/10.1038/nature01591>.
- 695 [36] V.M. Starov, M.G. Velarde, C.J. Radke, *Wetting and Spreading Dynamics*, Taylor and  
696 Francis, 2007.
- 697 [37] F.R. Siddiqui, C.Y. Tso, K.C. Chan, S.C. Fu, C.Y.H. Chao, Dataset on critical parameters  
698 of dispersion stability of Cu/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> nanofluid and hybrid nanofluid for various ultra-  
699 sonication times, *Data Br.* 22 (2019) 863–865.
- 700 [38] F.M. Fowkes, Attractive forces at interfaces, *Ind. Eng. Chem.* 56 (1964) 40–52.  
701 <https://doi.org/10.1021/ie50660a008>.
- 702 [39] F.P. Incropera, D.P. DeWitt, T.L. Bergman, A.S. Lavine, *Fundamentals of Heat and Mass*  
703 *Transfer*, John Wiley and Sons, 2007. <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.0703993104>.
- 704 [40] A. Marmur, Soft contact : measurement and interpretation of contact angles, *Soft Matter*. 2  
705 (2006) 12–17. <https://doi.org/10.1039/b514811c>.
- 706 [41] T. Young, An Essay on the Cohesion of Fluids, *Philos. Trans. R. Soc. London*. 95 (1805)  
707 65–87.
- 708 [42] R.N. Wenzel, Resistance of solid surfaces to wetting by water, *Ind. Eng. Chem.* 28 (1936)  
709 988–994. <https://doi.org/10.1021/ie50320a024>.

710

711

712

713

714

715

716

717 Table 1 Data on roughness ratio, contact angle and interfacial tensions for various droplets and  
 718 their respective residues ( $V_{fd}/V_{sd} = 20$ )

<b>Nanofluid/Hybrid Nanofluid</b>	<b>Roughness ratio <math>r</math></b>	<b>Apparent contact angle <math>\theta_a</math></b>	<b>Surface tension <math>\gamma_{lv}</math> (mN/m)</b>	<b>Surface free energy <math>\gamma_{sv}</math> (mN/m)</b>	<b>Solid-liquid interfacial tension <math>\gamma_{sl}</math> (mN/m)</b>
<b>GNP</b>	1.351±0.143	8.57±0.89	72.433±0.121	56.075±0.274	3.071±0.363
<b>MR-1 0.1(Ag):0.9(GNP)</b>	1.379±0.095	9.49±0.13	68.752±0.130	56.671±0.193	7.523±0.174
<b>MR-2 0.3(Ag):0.7(GNP)</b>	1.305±0.157	26.06±0.06	64.558±0.226	55.138±0.327	10.724±0.298
<b>MR-3 0.5(Ag):0.5(GNP)</b>	1.216±0.073	24.41±0.32	67.812±0.478	60.074±0.217	9.312±0.267
<b>MR-4 0.7(Ag):0.3(GNP)</b>	1.238±0.126	41.44±0.07	63.288±0.172	57.468±0.194	19.173±0.138
<b>MR-5 0.9(Ag):0.1(GNP)</b>	1.191±0.087	52.19±3.08	59.546±0.170	52.291±0.329	21.652±0.327
<b>Ag</b>	1.194±0.138	142.64±0.52	58.927±0.209	43.962±0.285	83.163±0.243

719

720

721

722 Table 2 Surface properties of nanofluid/hybrid nanofluid residues

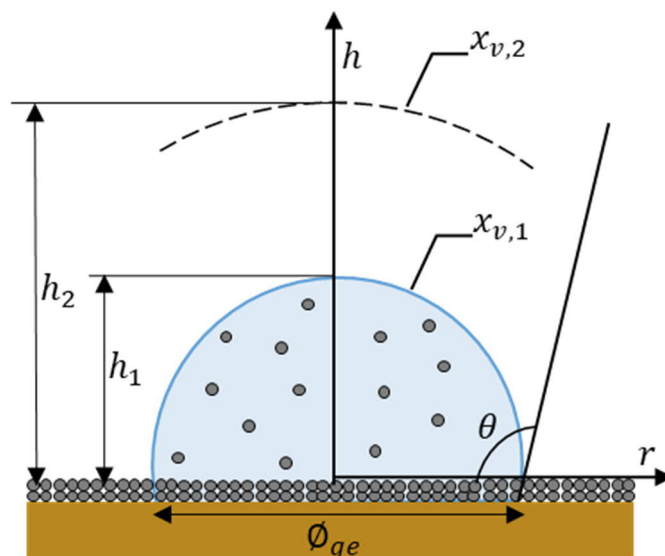
Residue	Droplet Volume $V_{fd}(\mu\text{l})$	Average Roughness $R_a(\mu\text{m})$	Mean Feret Diameter $\phi_f(\mu\text{m})$	Areal Porosity $a_p(\%)$
GNP	3	0.596±0.018	0.742±0.044	4.224±0.204
	15	1.399±0.260	0.751±0.132	23.362±0.632
	30	1.174±0.159	0.703±0.073	24.028±1.145
	60	1.960±0.161	0.740±0.059	24.483±0.655
MR-1	3	0.626±0.094	0.255±0.006	17.157±0.846
	15	1.142±0.228	0.517±0.012	23.702±0.816
	30	1.362±0.223	0.780±0.033	25.826±0.589
	60	2.310±0.212	0.674±0.005	29.017±1.817
MR-2	3	0.977±0.152	0.736±0.015	18.694±1.445
	15	1.510±0.158	0.796±0.006	19.388±0.949
	30	1.747±0.190	0.687±0.078	20.034±1.243
	60	1.826±0.202	0.618±0.027	23.469±0.139
MR-3	3	0.824±0.099	0.695±0.023	14.299±0.260
	15	1.500±0.176	0.786±0.052	19.352±0.870
	30	1.792±0.231	0.753±0.101	21.066±2.226
	60	1.816±0.240	1.026±0.135	26.854±1.549
MR-4	3	0.376±0.100	0.745±0.043	16.193±0.860
	15	1.299±0.157	0.722±0.021	18.918±1.761
	30	1.688±0.197	0.756±0.019	20.404±1.834
	60	1.606±0.201	0.711±0.022	21.006±0.886
MR-5	3	0.322±0.035	0.408±0.008	7.651±0.666
	15	1.303±0.029	0.542±0.018	16.467±0.601
	30	1.574±0.141	0.543±0.024	16.841±0.067
	60	1.604±0.071	0.576±0.022	17.010±0.394
Ag	3	0.127±0.028	0.344±0.017	7.188±0.220
	15	1.038±0.014	0.385±0.048	7.674±0.497
	30	0.598±0.016	0.338±0.017	8.240±0.419
	60	0.914±0.071	0.390±0.004	8.814±0.571

723

724

725

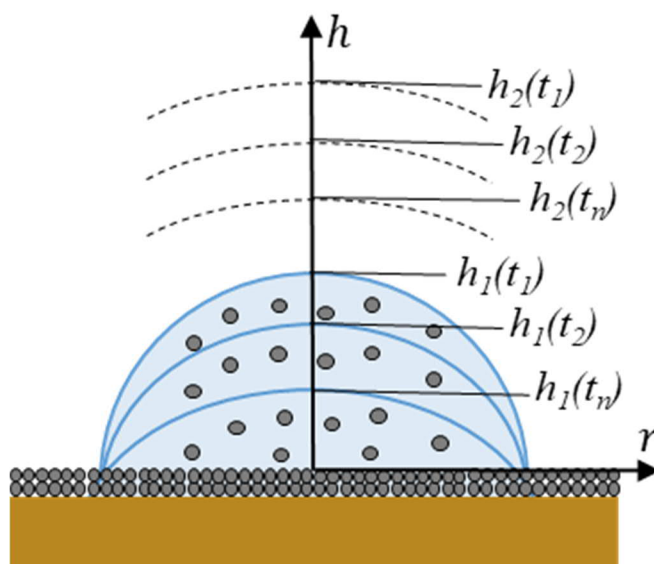
726



(a)

727

728

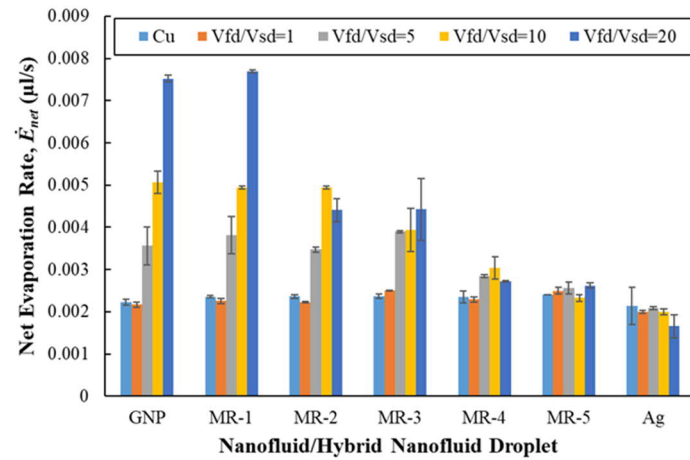


(b)

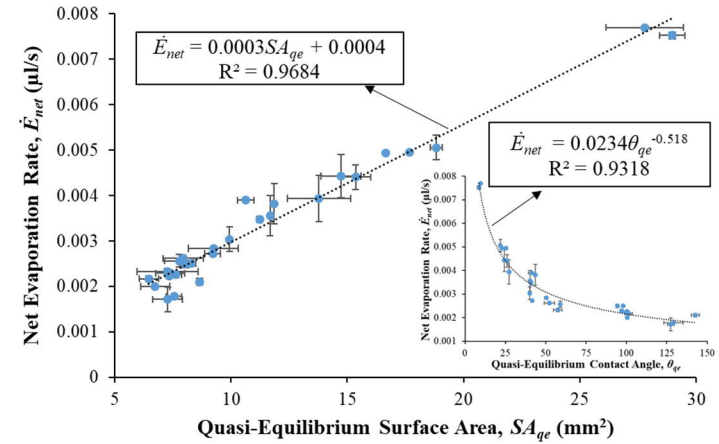
729 Fig. 1 (a) Ag-GNP nanofluid/hybrid nanofluid droplet evaporation over its residue surface. The  
730 suspended nanoparticles (grey balls) in the droplet settle down to form a porous residue surface  
731 during the evaporation process, (b) Schematics showing the evaporation of a pinned droplet with  
732 varying contact angle over its residue surface over a period of time  $t_n$

733

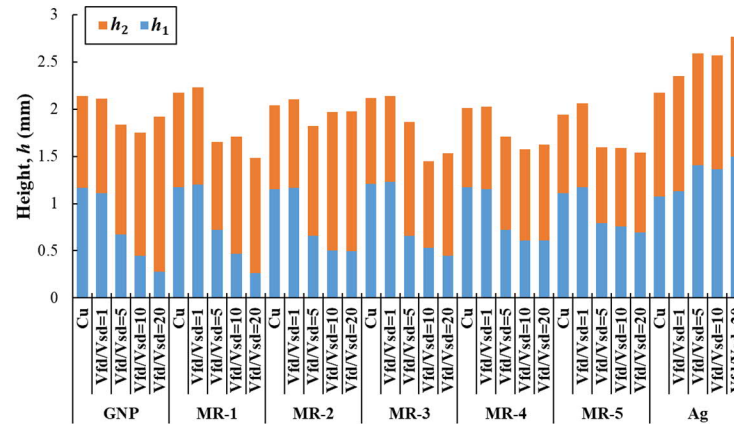
734



(a)

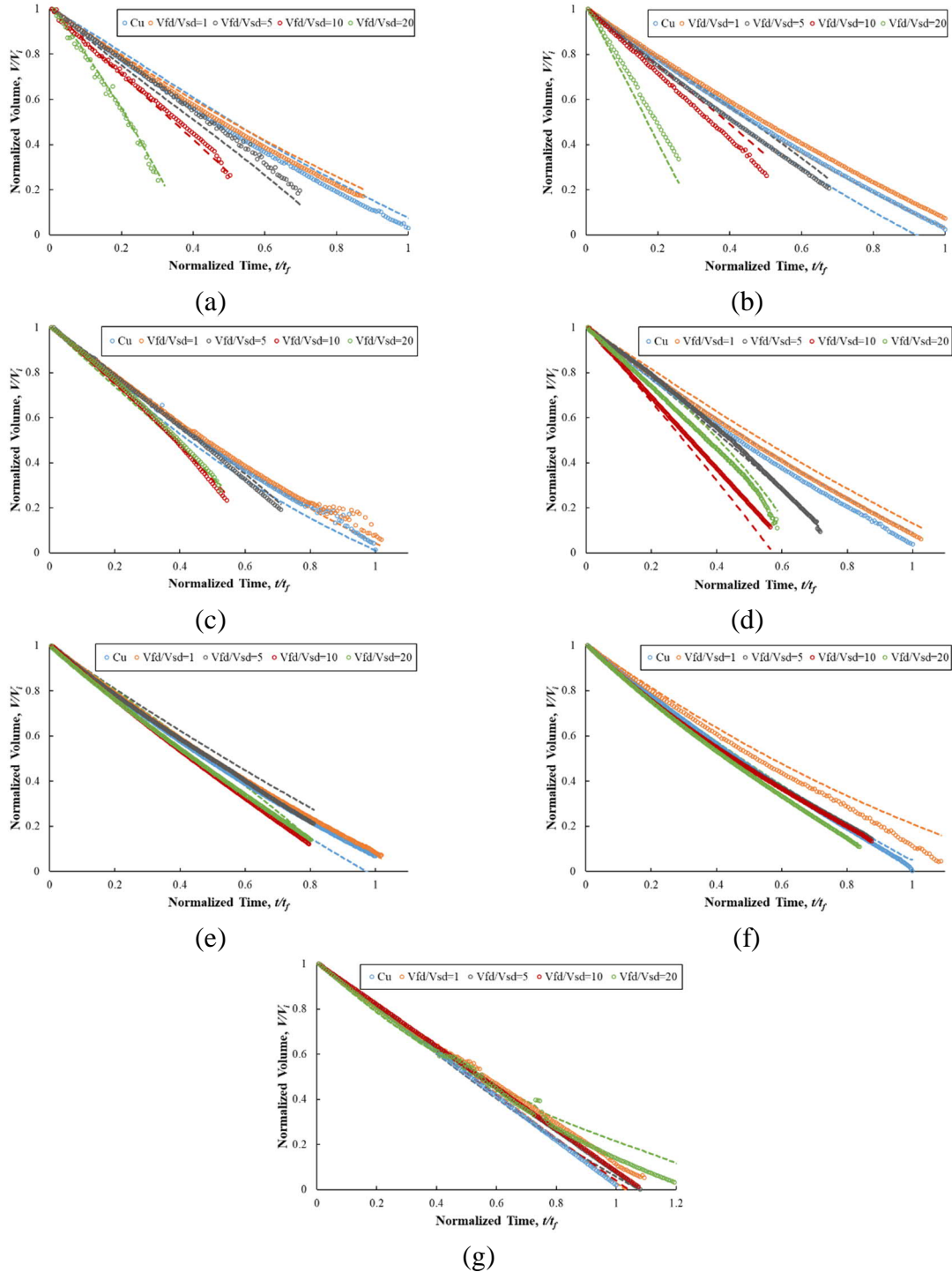


(b)

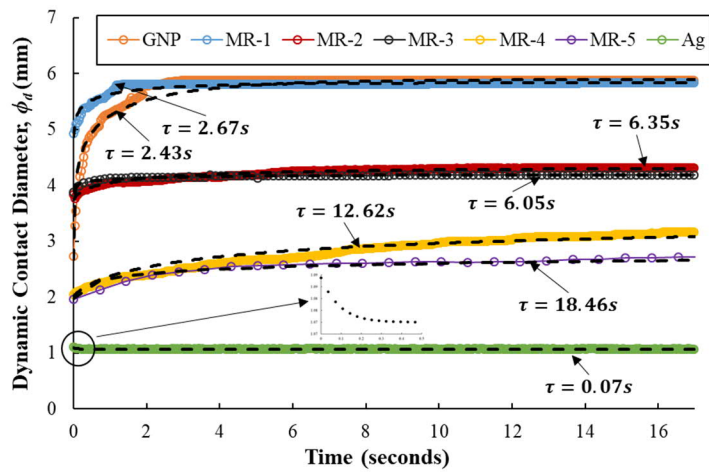


(c)

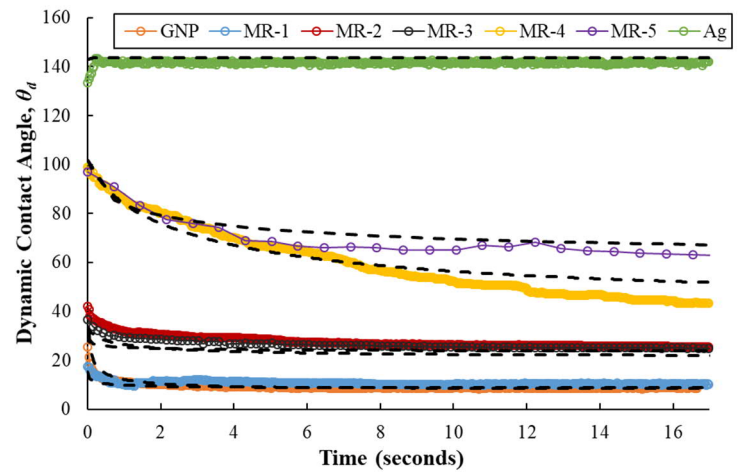
735 Fig. 2 (a) Net evaporation rate of Ag-GNP nanofluid/hybrid nanofluid droplets over Cu surface and their respective residue surfaces,  
 736 (b) Net evaporation rate dependence on quasi-equilibrium surface area, (c) Variation of droplet height ( $h_1$ ) and VES height ( $h_2$ ) for Ag-  
 737 GNP nanofluid/hybrid nanofluid droplets sitting on Cu surface and their respective residue surfaces at quasi-equilibrium state.



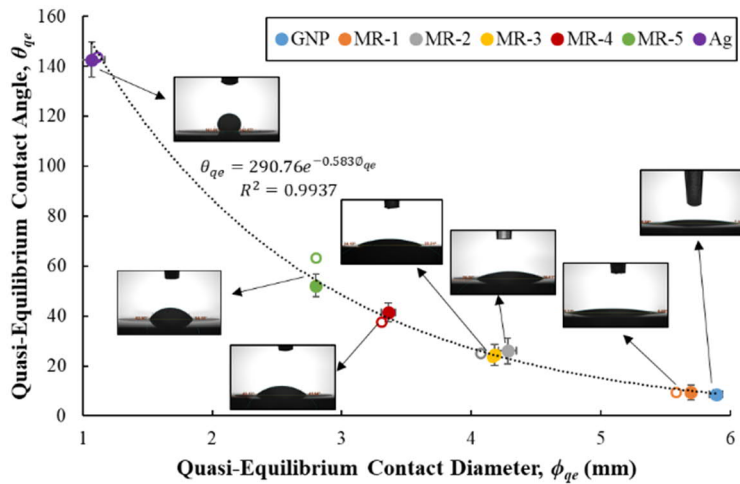
738 Fig. 3 Droplet volume variation with time for (a) GNP nanofluid, (b) MR-1 hybrid nanofluid, (c)  
 739 MR-2 hybrid nanofluid, (d) MR-3 hybrid nanofluid, (e) MR-4 hybrid nanofluid, (f) MR-5 hybrid  
 740 nanofluid and (g) Ag nanofluid droplets on Cu surface and respective residue surfaces. Unfilled  
 741 markers represent the experimental data while dashed lines represent the theoretical result from  
 742 equation (4).



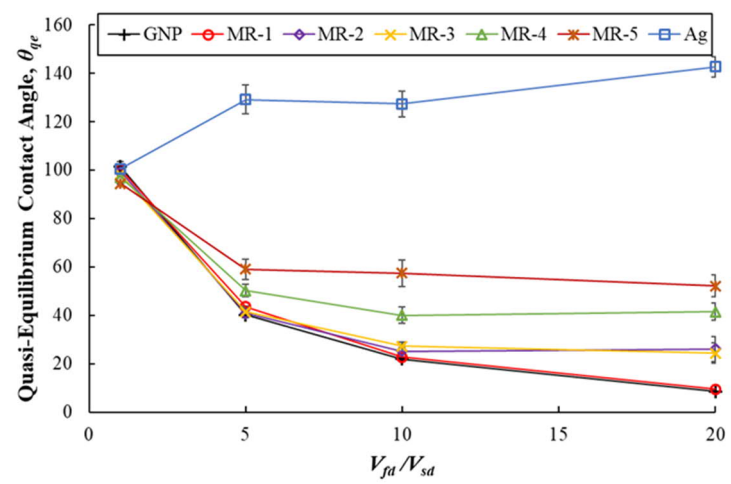
(a)



(b)

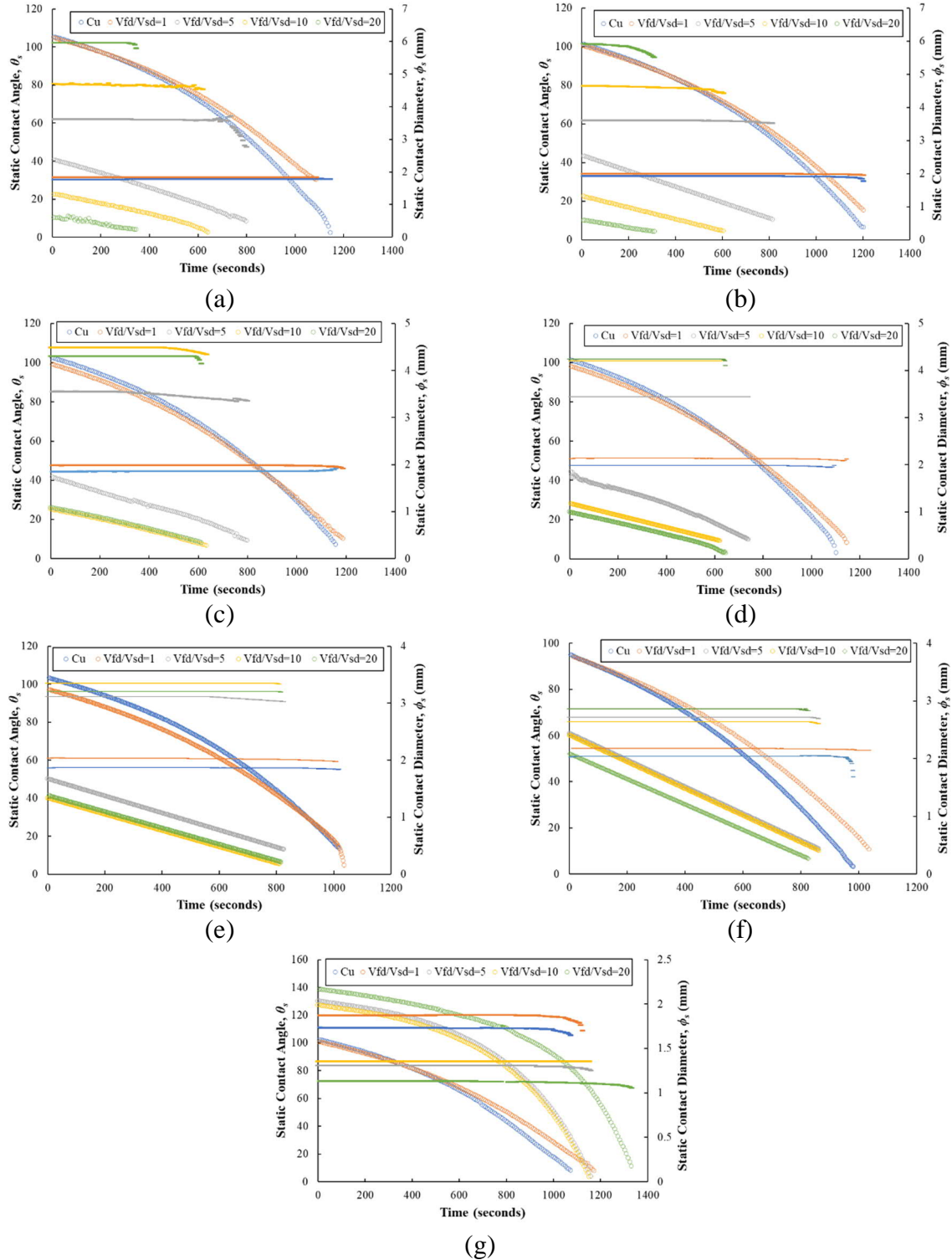


(c)



(d)

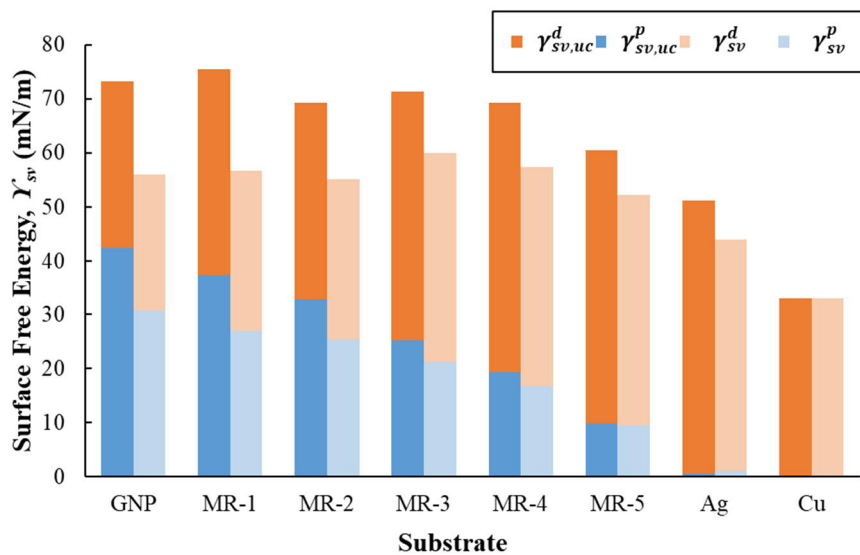
743 Fig. 4 Nanofluid/hybrid nanofluid droplet spreading over respective residue surfaces showing (a) dynamic contact diameter and (b)  
 744 dynamic contact angle with time for  $V_{fd}/V_{sd}=20$ . Colored markers represent experimental data and dashed lines represent theoretical  
 745 result, (c) Experimental (filled markers) and theoretical (unfilled markers) contact angle and contact diameter at quasi-equilibrium  
 746 state for nanofluid/hybrid nanofluid droplets at  $V_{fd}/V_{sd}=20$ , (d) Quasi-equilibrium contact angle variation with factor  $V_{fd}/V_{sd}$ .



747 Fig. 5 Static contact angle (unfilled circles) and contact diameter (dashed markers) variation with  
 748 time during evaporation for (a) GNP nanofluid, (b) MR-1 hybrid nanofluid, (c) MR-2 hybrid  
 749 nanofluid, (d) MR-3 hybrid nanofluid, (e) MR-4 hybrid nanofluid, (f) MR-5 hybrid nanofluid  
 750 and (g) Ag nanofluid droplets.



751  
752  
753  
754  
755  
756



757  
758  
759  
760  
761  
762  
763

Fig. 6 Surface free energy of Cu surface and Ag-GNP nanofluid/hybrid nanofluid droplet residue surfaces. Superscripts  $p$  and  $d$  represent the polar and dispersive components, while subscript  $sv,uc$  represent the roughness uncorrected surface free energy.

## Supplementary Material

764  
765  
766  
767  
768  
769  
770  
771  
772  
773  
774  
775  
776  
777  
778  
779  
780  
781  
782  
783  
784  
785  
786  
787  
788  
789  
790  
791

### A. Empirical Model for term $dx_v/dh$

An empirical model is developed for term  $dx_v/dh$  pertaining to equation (11) of our main article as a function of the static contact angle ( $\theta_s$ ), mixing ratio ( $MR$ ) and droplet volume ratio  $V_{fd}/V_{sd}$ . The values for  $MR$  used in our empirical model are 0, 0.1, 0.3, 0.5, 0.7, 0.9 and 1 for GNP, MR-1, MR-2, MR-3, MR-4, MR-5 and Ag respectively. The values used for  $V_{fd}/V_{sd}$  are 0, 1, 5, 10 and 20, where the value 0 corresponds to the droplet resting on a pure copper surface. The developed empirical model contains higher order polynomial terms to fit a large amount of experimental data (6332 data points) and due to the variability in  $dx_v/dh$  values with changing  $\theta_s$ ,  $MR$  and  $V_{fd}/V_{sd}$  values. For this reason, higher order interaction terms are also included in our empirical model to increase the model accuracy. The redundant terms with low coefficient values and p value > 0.05 were removed from the model to obtain a non-hierarchical model while it was ascertained that the model accuracy is not compromised. However, some terms with p value < 0.05, despite having very low coefficient values, were kept in the model as their removal affected the model accuracy. The proposed empirical model is given as:

$$\frac{dx_v}{dh} = a + \sum_{i=1}^n \left[ b_i \left( \frac{V_{fd}}{V_{sd}} \right)^i + c_i (MR)^i + d_i (\theta)^i + \sum_{j=1}^k \left( e_{ij} (MR)^i \left( \frac{V_{fd}}{V_{sd}} \right)^j + f_{ij} (\theta)^i \left( \frac{V_{fd}}{V_{sd}} \right)^j + g_{ij} (\theta)^i (MR)^j + \sum_{m=1}^p h_{ijm} \theta^i MR^j \left( \frac{V_{fd}}{V_{sd}} \right)^m \right) \right] \quad (A.1)$$

The coefficient of determination ( $R^2$ ), the adjusted coefficient of determination ( $R^2$ -adj) and the predicted coefficient of determination ( $R^2$ -pred) of this model is 94.14%, 94.10% and 93.98% respectively. This suggests that the proposed high fidelity model can be extrapolated to predict  $dx_v/dh$  with high level of confidence. Table A.1 shows the coefficient values for all terms used in our model. All coefficient values are used up to the 10 decimal places due to high sensitivity of the proposed model as shown in Table A.1. The residual plots in Fig. A.1 (a) and (b) show that the model fits the experimental data with high accuracy.

792 **B. Residue Morphology and Pore Size Distribution**

793 The SEM micrographs of nanostructured residues, developed by evaporating 60  $\mu\text{l}$  of Ag-GNP  
794 nanofluid/hybrid nanofluid droplets over the Cu substrate, are shown in Fig. B.1. It is observed  
795 that all residue surfaces have a porous structure, with varying pore size and shapes. Since GNP  
796 particles exist in the form of stacked sheets, the pores created by the deposition of GNP particles  
797 during the GNP nanofluid droplet evaporation are different in size and shape, as compared to the  
798 ones created by the spherical Ag nanoparticles during the Ag nanofluid droplet evaporation. It  
799 must also be noted that the residue formed by Ag nanofluid droplet is not uniform (as shown in  
800 Fig. B.1 (g)), which indicates possible agglomeration of spherical Ag nanoparticles due to the  
801 increased particle concentration during the droplet evaporation process, thus resulting in non-  
802 uniform deposition with some large clustered Ag particles in the residue.

803  
804 Fig. B.2 shows the pore size distribution for various residue sizes (from  $V_{fd} = 3 \mu\text{l}$  to  $V_{fd} = 60 \mu\text{l}$ ) of  
805 Ag-GNP nanofluid/hybrid nanofluid droplets. It is observed that a large proportion of pores exist  
806 in sub-micron scale, while only a few are above 1  $\mu\text{m}$  size, for all droplet residues. A large  
807 proportion of sub-micron pores are even below 0.5  $\mu\text{m}$  in size, as shown in Fig. B.2. It is further  
808 noticed that the number of pores above 1  $\mu\text{m}$  size increases, as the residue size is increased (from  
809  $V_{fd} = 3 \mu\text{l}$  to  $V_{fd} = 60 \mu\text{l}$ ).

810

811

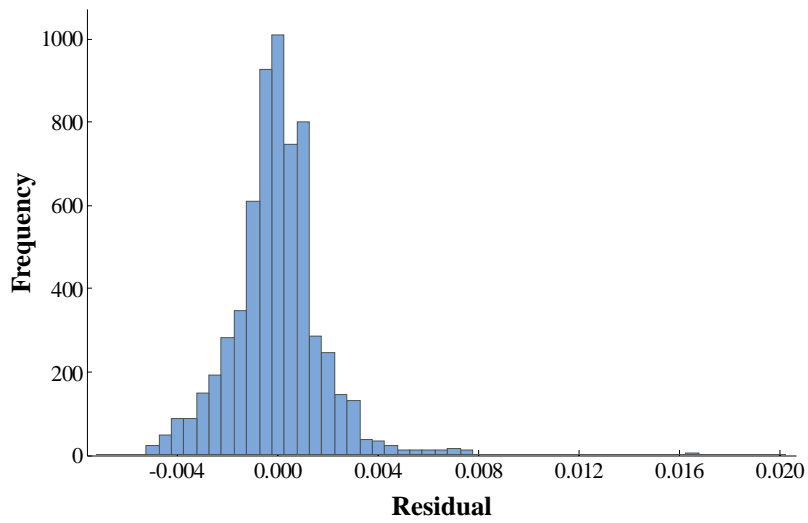
812

813

814 Table A.1 Coefficient values for different terms used in equation (A.1)

Coefficient	Value	Coefficient	Value	Coefficient	Value	Coefficient	Value
$a$	0.0317573471	$c_4$	2.5615539109	$f_{23}$	-	$f_{24}$	-
$b_1$	-0.0025278216	$d_4$	-	$g_{23}$	-	$g_{24}$	-0.0000023049
$c_1$	0.0151831037	$e_{13}$	0.0013147213	$e_{32}$	0.0086316105	$e_{33}$	0.0003042131
$d_1$	-	$f_{13}$	0.0000703085	$f_{32}$	-	$f_{33}$	-
$b_2$	0.0006233281	$g_{13}$	-0.0278015847	$g_{32}$	-	$g_{33}$	-
$c_2$	-0.2498280817	$e_{22}$	0.0190898913	$e_{41}$	-	$e_{42}$	-0.0105948253
$d_2$	-	$f_{22}$	-	$f_{41}$	-	$f_{42}$	-
$e_{11}$	0.0399835796	$g_{22}$	0.0000033475	$g_{41}$	-	$g_{42}$	-
$f_{11}$	-	$e_{31}$	-0.1472236199	$h_{113}$	-	$e_{51}$	0.1057676989
$g_{11}$	-	$f_{31}$	-0.0000000072	$h_{122}$	-0.0000855998	$f_{51}$	-
$b_3$	-0.0000732252	$g_{31}$	-	$h_{131}$	0.0012069307	$g_{51}$	-
$c_3$	-	$h_{112}$	0.0000095663	$h_{212}$	-	$h_{114}$	0.0000000303
$d_3$	-0.0000000149	$h_{121}$	0.0004073719	$h_{221}$	-	$h_{123}$	-
$e_{12}$	-0.0139787722	$h_{211}$	-0.0000035763	$h_{311}$	-	$h_{132}$	0.0000549784
$f_{12}$	-0.0002364804	$b_5$	-	$b_6$	-	$h_{141}$	-0.0012308752
$g_{12}$	0.0061591758	$c_5$	-4.4061392885	$c_6$	2.0923883089	$h_{213}$	-0.0000000014
$e_{21}$	-	$d_5$	-	$d_6$	-	$h_{222}$	0.0000000696
$f_{21}$	0.0000026388	$e_{14}$	-0.0000349963	$e_{15}$	-	$h_{231}$	-
$g_{21}$	-	$f_{14}$	-0.0000065444	$f_{15}$	0.0000001805	$h_{312}$	-0.0000000001
$h_{111}$	-0.0001361987	$g_{14}$	0.0386800317	$g_{15}$	-0.0172854142	$h_{321}$	0.0000000106
$b_4$	0.0000023456	$e_{23}$	-0.0019666568	$e_{24}$	0.0000449429	$h_{411}$	-

815

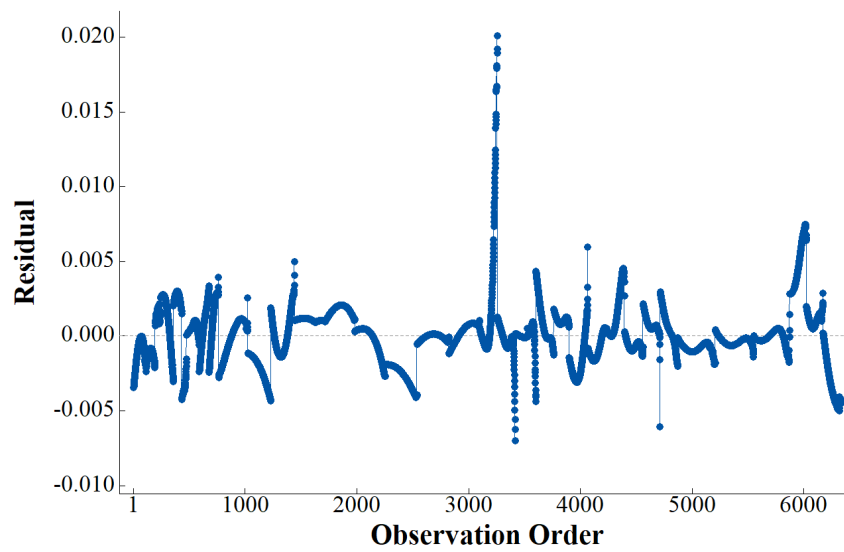


816

817

818

(a)



819

820

(b)

821 Fig. A.1 (a) Histogram of residuals and (b) Residual versus order plot pertaining to the empirical  
822 equation (A.1)

823

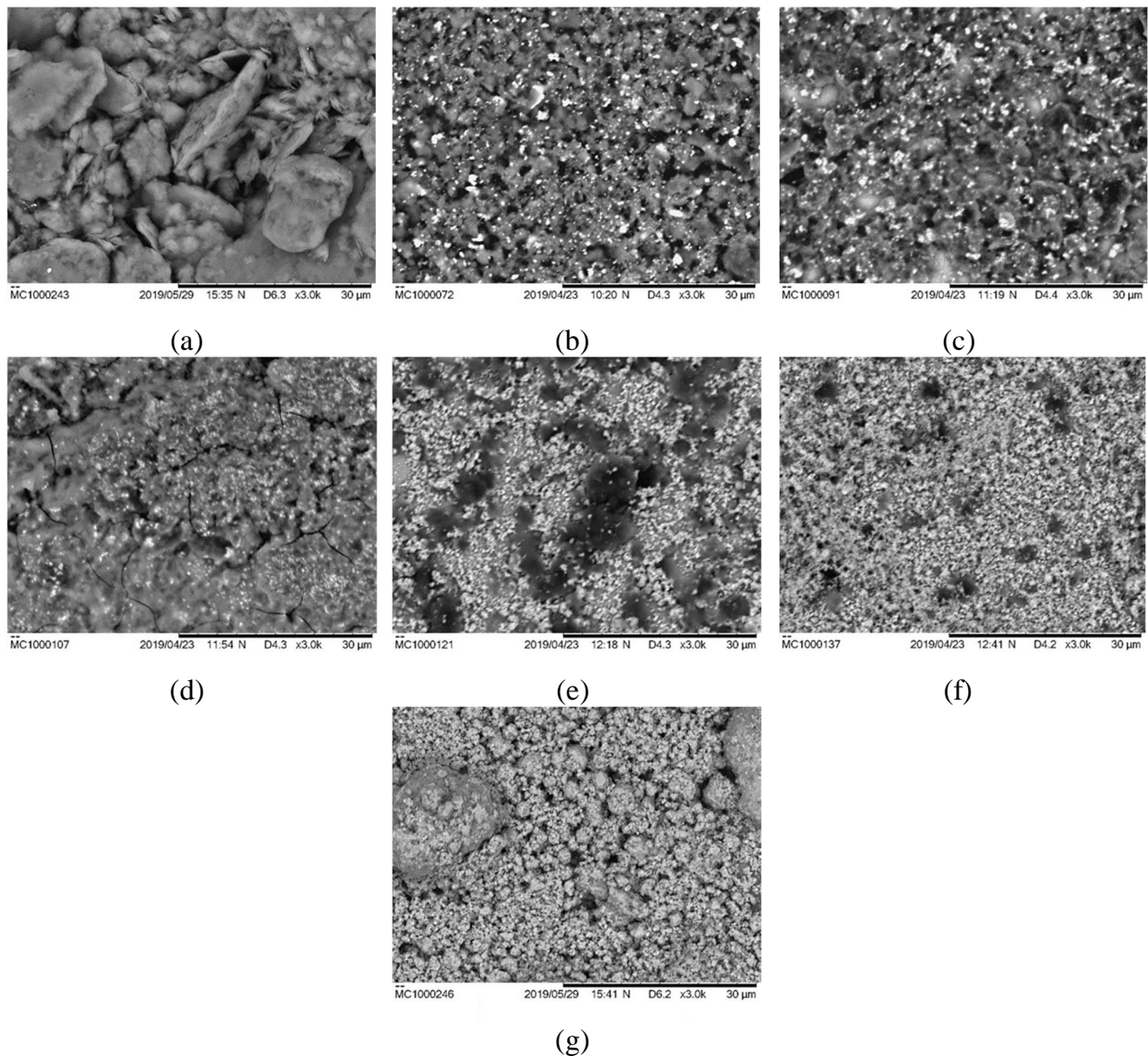
824

825

826

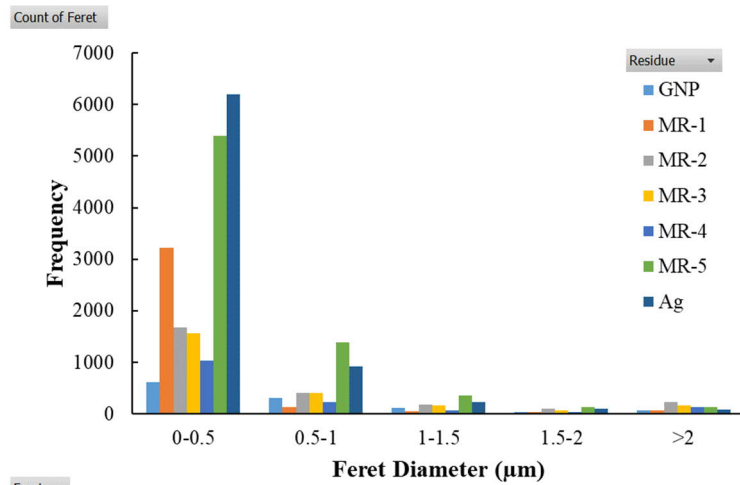
827

828

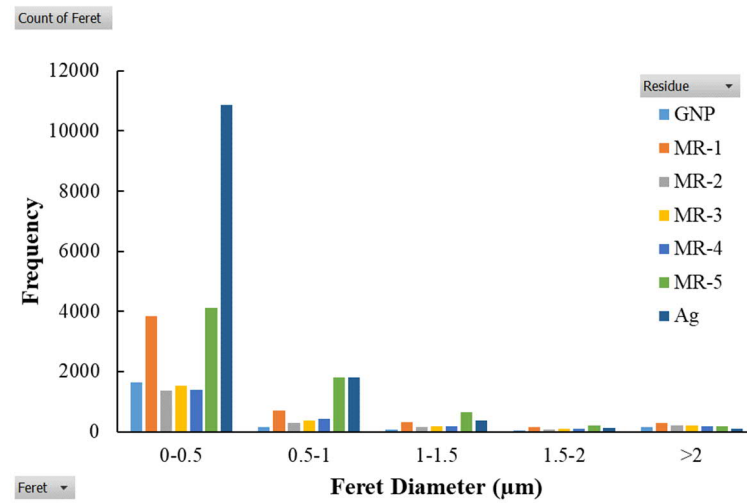


829 Fig. B.1 SEM micrographs of residues developed from 60µl volume of (a) GNP nanofluid, (b)  
830 MR-1 hybrid nanofluid, (c) MR-2 hybrid nanofluid, (d) MR-3 hybrid nanofluid, (e) MR-4 hybrid  
831 nanofluid, (f) MR-5 hybrid nanofluid and (g) Ag nanofluid droplets on Cu substrate.

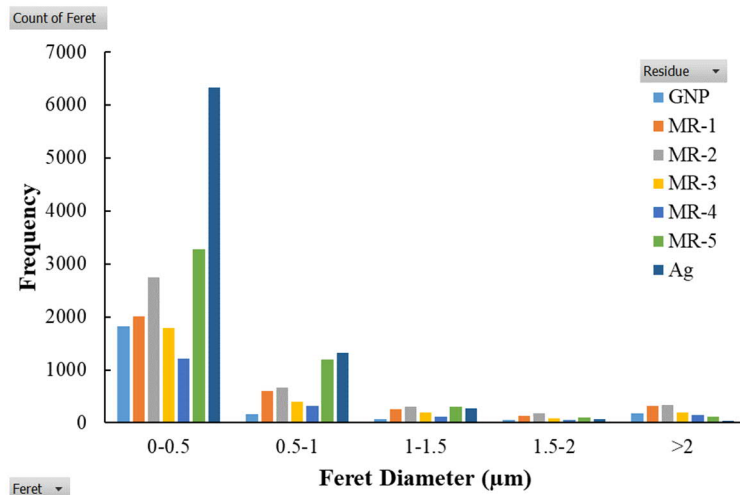
832



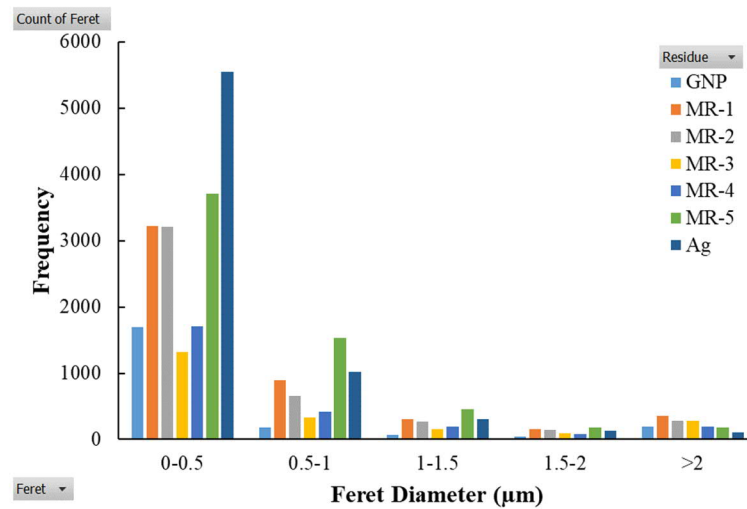
(a)



(b)



(c)



(d)

833 Fig. B.2 Pore size distribution for various mixing ratios of Ag-GNP hybrid nanofluid droplet residue corresponding to (a)  $V_{fd} = 3\mu\text{l}$ ,  
 834 (b)  $V_{fd} = 15\mu\text{l}$ , (c)  $V_{fd} = 30\mu\text{l}$  and (d)  $V_{fd} = 60\mu\text{l}$ .