Analysis of Algal Polysaccharides as Drag Reducing Agents



Yang He

Chemical Engineering Department





Overview

• Drag force and drag reducing agents(DRA)



• Algal polysaccharides and industrial gums (galactomannans)



• Results

Drag Reducing Agents(DRA): Long chain polymer chemicals that when injected into a pipeline where the fluid is turbulent modifies the flow regime by reducing the frictional pressure drop along the pipeline length

What DRA do?

- Can either provide an increase in flow resulting in a much higher throughput or maintain the same flow rate but with a substantial decrease in energy to save energy cost
- Do not coat the pipeline wall, modify the fluid viscosity or have any chemical reaction with the oil
- Inhibiting turbulent bursts near the pipe wall, increase laminar sub layer

Drag formation and reduction





Drag reducing agents used in this study

Red microalgae Porphyridium sp.

Galactomannan series



Galactose to mannose ratios

Red microalgae Porphyridium sp. polysaccharides procedure





Drag in a pipe system calculation



 $P_{1,2}$ - pressure measured at points 1 and 2

- h_L head loss
- g acceleration due to gravity
- ρ density of the fluid
- f friction factor
- D pipe diameter
- L pipe length

w- with additive

w/o- without additive

Darcy-Weisbach equation



Generally definition of percentage drag reduction

$$\mathrm{DR}(\%) = \left(1 - \frac{f_w}{f_{w/o}}\right) \times 100$$

Drag reduction for galactomannans

galactose

mannose



*used by permission of Dr. Azadeh M. Pourmir

Drag reduction for galactomannans



mannose



^{*}used by permission of Dr. Azadeh M. Pourmir



Drag reduction for galactomannans

*used by permission of Dr. Azadeh M. Pourmir



*used by permission of Dr. Azadeh M. Pourmir



Drag reduction effectiveness with time

Effect of Polysaccharide Concentration for Red microalgae Porphyridium sp.



Comparison of Drag Reduction Effectiveness



Conclusion

▶ Drag Reduction ↑ with [polysaccharides] up to 26% at 200 ppm

 \blacktriangleright Drag Reduction \propto ratio of galactose to mannose

Red microalgae *Prophyridium sp.* has the potential to be used as a DRA Drag reduction ability up to 25% at 100 ppm



Time (min)