Magnetic susceptibility of ferrofluids determined from diffusion coefficient of a tracer

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Linear response methods allow studying magnetic susceptibility relaxation in isotropic colloidal magnetic fluids. We show a relationship between the susceptibility of macroscopic magnetization at thermal equilibrium and the diffusion constant of a tracer particle. The comparison of the predicted frequency-dependent susceptibility with computer simulations shows their agreement. Besides, at a low concentration of particles, it has the expected Debye behavior. However, the initial susceptibility yields only the qualitative trends of the existing experiments at a low volume fraction of particles and its temperature dependence.

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1. Introduction

Presently, Altern Current magnetic techniques measure the dynamic magnetic susceptibility of ferrofluids in the absence of external magnetic fields [1-3]. It uses the fact that the Brownian motion of the particles becomes affected by the fluctuations of the macroscopic magnetization created by the Altern currents. Consequently, this technique provides a way to determine several equilibrium properties, including; the particle shape and its diameter [4-6], phase transitions characterization [7], the rotational diffusion coefficient of a ferromagnetic particle in a polymer solution [8,9]. It also allows the measurement of the viscosity of the supporting media [1]. Ferrofluids are magnetic colloids made of nanometric size ferromagnetic particles dispersed in a solvent. The particles possesses a rigidly attached magnetic moment and perform Brownian relaxation as a single object. The study of the equilibrium dynamics of magnetic fluids have become necessary because their collective behavior is related to diverse technological applications among others in Breast-cancer thermoablation [10] and hyperthermia health treatments [11–14]. Yet, the frequency domain behavior of the complex magnetic susceptibility serves to test statistical microscopic models of this property. Recent interesting experiments [15, 16] have also investigated the effect of temperature and volume fraction of particles on the behavior of the initial magnetic susceptibility in the zero frequency domain. From the theoretical viewpoint, the interpretations of the observed initial susceptibilities have reached a successful agreement with experiments [15]. However, the explanation of the observed frequency relaxation of the dynamical susceptibility modulus remains nowadays an open problem. Attempts to explain the observed susceptibility of ferrofluids use FokkerPlanck equation perspectives of non-interacting particles systems [17–19]. Their further development to include magnetic colloids of moderate concentration where direct interaction among particles is meaningful lead to mean-field theories cast into a Smoluchowski equation [15, 20, 21]. In most of these papers, colloidal particles perform only rotational Brownian relaxation of their orientations. A comprehensive account of the experiments [1, 15, 22] remains still a stringent test on existing theories [15, 20, 21]. The Fokker-Planck equation method describes the dynamics of a single particle through the probability density of its orientational degrees of freedom. In the present manuscript, however, we adopt a linear response theory and apply it further to attain a relationship between the magnetic susceptibility with the coherent intermediate scattering function at thermal equilibrium. This scattering function is the equilibrium correlation of particles' density of homogeneous fluids without external fields. To our knowledge, the determination of the dynamical susceptibility in ferrofluids using such dynamical structure factor constitutes a promising perspective not considered before investigating the magnetic susceptibility. Consequently, this approach includes equal footing both for the rotation and the translational diffusion of the particles. Thus, it constitutes a novel approach worth investigating to study ferrofluids' magnetic relaxation. We compared this method with experiments on the initial susceptibility in ferrofluids and found qualitatively similar trends as in the observed data at a low density of particles. Whereas our comparison with original simulations on the dynamical susceptibility and with reports of other researchers on this relaxation function yields a good agreement. For increasing frequency of relaxation, the imaginary part of the susceptibility shifts, whereas there is a reduction of the amplitude of its real component. These behaviors occur for increasing magnetic interaction among the particles when they form chain-like structures. These findings agree qualitatively with the relaxation behavior of the susceptibility observed experimentally [22, 23]. Our expression of the magnetic susceptibility possesses as memory kernel the dynamical structure factor. This kernel is a function of the time-dependent translational and rotational self-diffusion coefficient of a tracer particle in the colloid. Thus, our expression of susceptibility is directly related to the measured tracer diffusion and the structure factor of the colloid. Experimentally, both of these equilibrium properties are feasible to obtain with small-angle neutron scattering techniques [24–30]. In what follows, we first present our adaptation of the linear response method in Section II to obtain the colloidal dynamic susceptibility in terms of the intermediate scattering function. In Sec. III, we compare the susceptibility moduli with original computer simulations and those provided by other authors. There is also the comparison of the static susceptibility with experimental data.

2. Linear response method for the magnetic susceptibility

In this section, we shall adapt the expression of the magnetic susceptibility within linear response theory for infinite systems of polarizable molecular fluids to magnetic colloids. For this purpose we follow the microscopic derivation of the correlation functions of bulk polarization for dense polar fluids of [31]. We consider an isotropic ferrofluid made of N identical spherical particles of diameter d, mass per particle m_0 and moment of inertia $I = m_0 d^2/10$, which occupies a volume V, and is thermally equilibrated at temperature T. Each particle possesses a constant magnetic dipole moment $\mu \mathbf{u}$ of strength μ with orientation \mathbf{u} given by the polar angles $\Omega = (\theta, \varphi)$ in the Laboratory frame, θ and φ are the polar and azimuthal angles, and $\rho = N/V$ is the number density. We adopt the International System of units in the Sommerfeld convention [32] for the magnetic induction of a magnetically polarizable material given as $\mathbf{B} = \mu_0 (\mathbf{H} + \mathbf{M})$ with $\mu_0 = 4\pi \times 10^{-7} \text{A/m}^2$ the permeability of vacuum and H is the magnetic field with M the magnetization. The energy of a particle (in free space) with magnetic moment $\mu \mathbf{u}$ under the external field \mathbf{H}^0 is defined as $U = -\mu_0 \mu \mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{H}^0$. For two point-like dipolar (dd) particles with constant magnetic moment $\mu \mathbf{u}_i$ and positions in the Laboratory frame \mathbf{r}_i , i = 1, 2, the mutual potential energy of their interaction is $U_{dd}(r_{12}) = (\mu_0 \mu^2 / 4\pi) (\mathbf{u}_1 \cdot \nabla_{\mathbf{r}1}) (\mathbf{u}_2 \cdot \nabla_{\mathbf{r}2}) / |\mathbf{r}_1 - \mathbf{r}_2|$ with $\nabla_{\mathbf{r}}$ the gradient operator [33]. A colloid of particles with this pairwise interaction develops a magnetic polarization as a response to an external field. In terms of the internal field of the fluid H in Fourier reciprocal and frequency spaces is $\mathbf{M}(\mathbf{k},\omega) = \int d\mathbf{r} \operatorname{Exp}[i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{r}] \int_0^\infty dt \operatorname{Exp}[-i\omega t] \mathbf{M}(\mathbf{r},t) = \hat{\chi}(\mathbf{k},\omega) \cdot \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{k},\omega) = \mathbf{B}/\mu_0 - \mathbf{H} \text{ or } \mathbf{B} = \mu_0 \hat{\mu}_r \cdot \mathbf{H}, \text{ where}$ $\hat{\chi}(\mathbf{k},\omega) = \hat{\mu}_r(\mathbf{k},\omega) - \mathbf{1}$. $\hat{\chi}$ and $\hat{\mu}_r$ are intensive properties that do not depend on the sample shape and size [31].

This implies $\hat{\chi}$ depends only on the short range particle correlations about $r_c \approx 2\pi/k_{\rm max}$ of the maximum peak of the liquid structure factor. In this case particle correlations are more important. Furthermore, the used experimental magnetic fields of wave vector **k** are spatially inhomogeneous on large wave length compared to r_c . At this long wave length limit, $kr_c \ll 1$, $k = |\mathbf{k}|$, the susceptibility $\hat{\chi}$ is independent of the magnitude and direction of k. Such a condition can be assumed to be reached experimentally. It is expressed by the relationship $\lim_{k\to 0} \hat{\chi}(\mathbf{k}, \omega) = \chi(\omega) \mathbf{1}$. Because of the internal field H depends on the state of the material, therefore, the response is re-written in terms of the external field \mathbf{H}^{0} . That is to say $\mathbf{M}(\mathbf{k},\omega) = \hat{\chi}^{0}(\mathbf{k},\omega) \cdot \mathbf{H}^{0}(\mathbf{k},\omega)$ where $\hat{\chi}^0(\mathbf{k},\omega)$ is independent of $\mathbf{H}^0(\mathbf{k},\omega)$, a property determined from the microstructure of the liquid whereas $\hat{\chi}(\mathbf{k},\omega)$ does not. Following the same approximations as in [31] and selecting k parallel to axis-Z the magnetic polarization and fields satisfy $\mathbf{H}(\mathbf{k},\omega) = \mathbf{H}^0(\mathbf{k},\omega) - \hat{\mathbf{k}}\hat{\mathbf{k}}\mathbf{M}(\mathbf{k},\omega)$ where $\hat{\mathbf{k}} = \mathbf{k}/k$. From the above relationships is $\mathbf{H} = [\mathbf{1} - \hat{\mathbf{k}}\hat{\mathbf{k}} \cdot \hat{\chi}^0] \cdot \mathbf{H}^0 =$ $[\mathbf{1} + \hat{\mathbf{k}}\hat{\mathbf{k}} \cdot \hat{\chi}]^{-1} \cdot \mathbf{H}^0$, and using the independence condition of the susceptibility on wave number the transversal \perp and normal || components of $\hat{\chi}^0$ (and of $\hat{\mu}_r$), can be obtained from $\hat{\chi}^0 = (\mathbf{1} - \hat{\mathbf{k}}\hat{\mathbf{k}})\chi^0_{\perp} + \hat{\mathbf{k}}\hat{\mathbf{k}}\chi^0_{\parallel}$. From the experimental condition, a k independent susceptibility is derived from $\lim_{k\to 0} \chi^0_{\perp}(\mathbf{k},\omega) = \chi(\omega) = \mu_r(\omega) - 1$, and $\lim_{k\to 0} \chi_{\parallel}^0(\mathbf{k},\omega) = \chi(\omega)/(1+\chi(\omega)) = (\mu_r(\omega)-1)/\mu_r(\omega).$ Either of these expressions yield $\chi(\omega)$. The total susceptibility is the average $\chi = \lim_{k\to 0} (2\chi_{\perp}^0 + \chi_{\parallel}^0)/3$ which it has the right ideal Debye limit (see below). The magnetic polarization of the fluid under the field \mathbf{H}^0 can be known from the variation of the fluid internal energy. To proceed, we follow [31] and consider the Hamiltonian up to first order in dipolar contributions $H_{h^0} = -\sum_{j=1}^{N} \mu \mathbf{u}_j \cdot \mathbf{H}^0(\mathbf{r}_j) = -\int d\mathbf{r} \sum_j \mu \mathbf{u}_j \delta(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_j) \cdot \mathbf{H}^0(\mathbf{r})$. The change in internal energy due to a varying local magnetic field $0 \leq \mathbf{h}^0 \leq \mathbf{H}^0$ can be written as $U_{H^0} = -(1/2) \int d\mathbf{r} \mathbf{M} \cdot \mathbf{H}^0 = \int_0^{H^0} d\mathbf{h}^0 \cdot \mathbf{H}^0$ $\nabla_{h^0} \langle H_{h^0} \rangle_{h^0}$ with $\langle ... \rangle_{h^0}$ the statistical average in the presence of \mathbf{h}^0 . And ∇_{h^0} the functional derivative with respect to the local field \mathbf{h}^0 . The average in the internal energy can be approximated to lowest order in ${f h}^0$ as $\langle ... \rangle_{h^0} = \langle ... \rangle +$ $[\nabla_{h^0}\langle ...\rangle_{h^0}] \cdot \mathbf{h}^0$. Thus, $U_{H^0} = -(1/2) \int d\mathbf{r} \langle \sum_j \mu \mathbf{u}_j \delta(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{u}_j) \rangle d\mathbf{r}$ $|\mathbf{r}_i\rangle_{h^0} \cdot \mathbf{H}^0$. From which it results for the liquid magnetization under the external field $\mathbf{M}(\mathbf{k},\omega) = \langle \sum_{j} \mu \mathbf{u}_{j} \delta(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_{j}) \rangle_{H^{0}}$. This molecular average can be evaluated following the methods of [31, 34]. To linear order in the field \mathbf{H}^0 , the magnetization has the general form

$$\mathbf{M}(\mathbf{k},\omega) = \hat{\chi}^0(\mathbf{k},\omega) \cdot \mathbf{H}^0. \tag{1}$$

Note that $\hat{\chi}^0$ is independent of the field \mathbf{H}^0 . The susceptibility matrix that results is $\hat{\chi}^0(\mathbf{k},\omega) = (4\pi\mu_o\beta/V)[\langle \mathbf{M}(\mathbf{k},t=0)\mathbf{M}(-\mathbf{k},t=0)\rangle + i\omega \int_0^\infty dt e^{i\omega t} \langle \mathbf{M}(\mathbf{k},t)\mathbf{M}(-\mathbf{k},t)\rangle]$. The magnetization is a slow variable which, however, as we have shown above it is completely determined from the knowledge of the magnetic susceptibility. Because of this fact, it is not required an independent dynamical equation for the slow variable $\mathbf{M}(\mathbf{k},t)$. We notice that the correlation function of the magnetization in the integrand above is related to the microstructure formed by the particles in the colloid. This fact can be seen by constructing in reciprocal space the macroscopic fluctuation in magnetization $\mathbf{M}(\mathbf{k},t) = \mu \int d\mathbf{r} d\Omega e^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{r}} \mathbf{u}(t) \delta n(\mathbf{r},\Omega,t)$. Here $\delta n(\mathbf{r},\Omega,t) = n(\mathbf{r},\Omega,t) - n^{eq}(\mathbf{r},\Omega)$ is the fluctuation in the instantaneous particle's concentration $n(\mathbf{r},\Omega,t) = \sum_{i=1}^{N} \delta(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_i(t)) \delta(\Omega - \Omega_i(t))$ about its equilibrium value $n^{eq}(\mathbf{r},\Omega) = \langle n(\mathbf{r},\Omega,t) \rangle$. The solid angle is defined by $d\Omega = \sin\theta d\theta d\varphi$, and $\langle ... \rangle$ is a canonical ensemble average. The time correlation function matrix of magnetization has rank three and it is given by the thermal average

$$\mathbf{C}(\mathbf{k},t) = \langle \mathbf{M}(\mathbf{k},t)\mathbf{M}^{\dagger}(\mathbf{k},0)\rangle$$
$$= \mu^{2} \left\langle \sum_{i,j=1}^{N} e^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot(\mathbf{r}_{i}(t)-\mathbf{r}_{j}(t))}\mathbf{u}_{i}(t)\mathbf{u}_{j}^{\dagger}(t) \right\rangle.$$
(2)

Where \dagger means transpose and conjugate. We made use also of the Fourier transform definition $f(\mathbf{k}) = \int d\mathbf{k} e^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{r}} f(\mathbf{r})$ of a function f. The spherical harmonic representation of \mathbf{u}_i yields the components of the correlator (2) as

$$C_{lm;l'm'}(k,t) = \frac{4\pi\mu^2}{3} i^{l-l'} \left\langle \sum_{i,j=1}^{N} e^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot(\mathbf{r}_i(t)-\mathbf{r}_j(t))} Y_{lm}^*(\mathbf{u}_i(t)) \right\rangle$$
$$\times Y_{l'm'}(\mathbf{u}_j(t)) \right\rangle := \frac{N\mu^2}{3} S_{lm;l'm'}(k,t), \quad (3)$$

which defines the coherent intermediate scattering function $S_{lm;l'm'}(k,t)$ [35], where $l = 0, 1, 2, ..., \infty$ and $-l \le m \le l$. Notice that the initial time value of this dynamical function is the static structure factor which according to Eq. (3) has the definition $S_{lm;l'm'}(\mathbf{k},0) = \langle \delta n_{klm}^* \delta n_{kl'm'} \rangle / N$. Thus, $S_{lm;l'm'}(k,t)$ is also the dynamical structure factor, with the microscopic density

$$n_{klm}(t) := \sum_{i=1}^{N} e^{-i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{r}_i} Y_{lm}(\hat{\mathbf{u}}_i(t))$$

By selecting the intermolecular frame $\mathbf{k} = (0, 0, k = |\mathbf{k}|)$ the structure factor simplifies to depend on two indices $S_{lm;l'm'}(k,0) = S_{,m}^{ll}(k)$. Therefore the longitudinal (||) zzand transversal (\perp) xx components to wave vector \mathbf{k} of the susceptibility now read as [31]

$$\chi_{||}^{0}(\mathbf{k},\omega) = \frac{4\pi\mu_{0}\beta\rho}{N} \left[\mathbf{C}_{zz}(\mathbf{k},0) + i\omega \int_{0}^{\infty} dt \mathrm{e}^{i\omega t} \mathbf{C}_{zz}(\mathbf{k},t) \right],$$
$$\chi_{\perp}^{0}(\mathbf{k},\omega) = \frac{4\pi\mu_{0}\beta\rho}{N} \left[\mathbf{C}_{xx}(\mathbf{k},0) + i\omega \int_{0}^{\infty} dt \mathrm{e}^{i\omega t} \mathbf{C}_{xx}(\mathbf{k},t) \right],$$
(4)

with $\beta = 1/k_{\rm B}T$ and $k_{\rm B}$ the Boltzmann constant. In Eqs. (4), we use the spherical harmonic components of the intermediate scattering function. Due to the spatial symmetry of the

pair potential of a dipolar liquid, the main components of Eq. (3) are completely determined from the spherical harmonic projections l = 0, m = 0, 1. Therefore, the correlation functions derived from (2) now become [31,36]

$$C_{zz}(k,0) = \frac{N\mu^2}{3} S_{,m=0}^{l=1l=1}(k),$$

$$C_{xx}(k,0) = \frac{N\mu^2}{3} S_{,m=1}^{l=1l=1}(k),$$

$$C_{zz}(k,t) = \frac{N\mu^2}{3} S_{,0}^{11}(k,t),$$

$$C_{xx}(k,t) = \frac{N\mu^2}{3} S_{,1}^{11}(k,t).$$
(5)

Thus, it results at the overdamped regime $\omega = 0$ for both of Eq. (3)

$$\chi_{||}^{0}(k,0) = \frac{\beta\rho\mu_{0}\mu^{2}}{3}S_{,0}^{11}(k),$$

$$\chi_{\perp}^{0}(k,0) = \frac{\beta\rho\mu_{0}\mu^{2}}{3}S_{,1}^{11}(k).$$
 (6)

In the limit $\rho \to 0$, the structure factor $S^{11}_{,m}(k) \to 1$, then $\chi^0_{||}(k,0) = \chi^0_{\perp}(k,0) = 4\pi\lambda\rho^*/3 := \chi_L$ yields the Langevin static susceptibility with dipole coupling $\lambda := \mu^2\mu_0/4\pi k_B T d^3$ and reduced density $\rho^* := \rho d^3$. The result of using Eqs. (5) and (6) are the complex susceptibility components [31,36]

$$\chi_{||}^{0}(k,\omega) = \chi_{L} \left[S_{,0}^{11}(k) + i\omega S_{,0}^{11}(k,\omega) \right],$$

$$\chi_{\perp}^{0}(k,\omega) = \chi_{L} \left[S_{,1}^{11}(k) + i\omega S_{,1}^{11}(k,\omega) \right].$$
(7)

Equations (7) summarizes the main results that we will use in this manuscript from the known theory of dynamic susceptibility of molecular fluids.

2.1. Modeling the magnetic Susceptibility of magnetic tracers

In this section, we derive a new expression of the susceptibility of magnetic colloids. It depends on the dynamical structure factor $S_{,m}^{ll}$ of the suspension of magnetic particles, and for which we provide its explicit analytical form. The susceptibilities (7) depend on the intermediate scattering functions $S_{,1}^{11}(k,\omega), S_{,0}^{10}(k,\omega)$. In Ref. [37] we derived these functions from a hydrodynamic theory. They are given at the overdamped limit $Iz/\zeta_r^0, m_0z/\zeta^0 \ll 1$, by the expression

$$S_{,m}^{ll}(k,z) = \frac{S_{,m}^{ll}(k)}{z + \frac{1}{S_{,m}^{ll}(k)} \left(\frac{k^2 D^0 \zeta^0}{\zeta_{\text{tras}}(z)} + \frac{l(l+1)D_r^0 \zeta_r^0}{\zeta_{\text{rot}}(z)}\right)}, \quad (8)$$

with the Laplace parameter $z = i\omega$, and $D^0 := k_B T/\zeta^0$ and $D_r^0 := k_B T/\zeta_r^0$. To make a specific application of the general formulas for the magnetic susceptibility (7), we use the

experimental condition $k \to 0$. In addition, we need to determine the projections of the static structure factor $S_{,m}^{ll}(k=0)$. These static properties can be provided either by experiment, theory of liquid approaches or through simulation calculations. In Eq. (8), the time dependence of the total friction coefficients of a magnetic tracer particle in the colloid are given by their translational friction functions $\zeta_{\text{tras}}(t) = \zeta^0 + \Delta \zeta(t)$, and similarly for rotational movement $\zeta_{\text{rot}}(t) = \zeta_r^0 + \Delta \zeta_r(t)$. The Stokes frictions on the tracer due to the presence of the solvent are $\zeta^0 = 3\pi\eta_{\text{sol}}d^2$, and $\zeta_r^0 = \pi\eta_{\text{sol}}d^3$ with η_{sol} the viscosity of the solvent. The additional contribution to the translational friction due to direct interactions is [37]

$$\begin{split} \Delta \zeta(t) &= \frac{k_{\rm B}T}{6\pi^2 \rho} \int_0^\infty dk k^4 \sum_{l=0}^{1} \\ &\times \sum_{m=-l}^l \left[\frac{S_{,m}^{ll}(k) - 1}{S_{,m}^{ll}(k)} \right]^2 S_{,m}^{ll*}(k;t). \end{split}$$
(9)

Whereas the coefficient of its rotational friction is [37]

$$\Delta \zeta_{r}(t) = \frac{k_{\rm B}T}{3\pi^{2}\rho} \int_{0}^{\infty} dkk^{2} \sum_{l=0}^{1} \sum_{m=-l}^{l} [f_{1} + f_{2} + f_{3}] \\ \times \left[\frac{S_{,m}^{ll}(k) - 1}{S_{,m}^{ll}(k)}\right] S_{,m}^{ll*}(k;t), \\ f_{1} := \frac{(m+l)(l+1-m)}{2} \left[\frac{S_{,m-1}^{ll}(k) - 1}{S_{,m-1}^{ll}(k)}\right], \\ f_{2} := \frac{(l-m)(m+1+l)}{2} \left[\frac{S_{,m+1}^{ll}(k) - 1}{S_{,m+1}^{ll}(k)}\right], \\ f_{3} := m^{2} \left[\frac{S_{,m}^{ll}(k) - 1}{S_{,m}^{ll}(k)}\right].$$
(10)

We point out that Eq. (9) and (10) of the tracer's friction can also be expressed in terms of the pair interaction potential between particles (see [38]). The propagator in Eq. (9) and (10) $S_{,m}^{ll*}(k,t)$ is referred to a reference frame with origin at the tracer's center of mass. Next, we introduce the decoupling approximation [37] for this quantity as $S^*(t) \approx S^s(t)S^c(t)$ where the $S^s(z)$ is the (self) tracer's propagator defined below. Similarly, $S^c(t)$ is the collective or host particles' propagator referred to the Laboratory coordinate. From Eq. (8), we obtained for tracer (self, s) scattering function $S_{,m}^{ll,s}(k,z) = 1/[z + (k^2 D^0 \zeta^0 / \zeta_{tras}(z) + l(l + 1) D_r^0 \zeta_r^0 / \zeta_{rot}(z))]$. Whereas for the cloud (c) of other particles diffusing around the tracer the propagator is from Eq. (8) $S_{,m}^{ll,c}(k,z) = S_{,m}^{ll}(k)/[z + (k^2 D^0 + l(l + 1) D_r^0)/S_{,m}^{ll}(k)]$. Due to the decoupling approximation, the Laplace transform of the propagator $\int_0^\infty dt e^{-i\omega t} S_{,m}^{ll*}(k;t)$ is

$$S_{,m}^{ll*}(k;\omega) = \frac{S_{,m}^{ll}(k)}{+i\omega + k^2 D^0 [\frac{1}{S_{,m}^{ll}(k)} + \frac{D(\omega)}{D^0}] + l(l+1) D_r^0 [\frac{1}{S_{,m}^{ll}(k)} + \frac{D_r(\omega)}{D_r^0}]},$$
(11)

with $D(\omega) = k_{\rm B}T/\zeta_{tras}(\omega)$, $D_r(\omega) = k_{\rm B}T/\zeta_{rot}(\omega)$. Substitution of Eqs. (8) in (7) yields the result

$$\chi_{||}^{0}(k,\omega) = \frac{\chi_{\rm L}S_{,0}^{11}(k)}{1 - i\omega\tau_{,0}^{11}(k,\omega)}$$
$$\chi_{\perp}^{0}(k,\omega) = \frac{\chi_{\rm L}S_{,\pm1}^{11}(k)}{1 - i\omega\tau_{,\pm1}^{11}(k,\omega)},$$
(12)

where $\chi_L = 8\lambda\phi$, $\phi = \pi\rho d^3/6$, $\tau_{,m}^{11}(k,\omega) := S_{,m}^{ll}(k)/[k^2D(\omega) + 2D_r(\omega)]$, $m = 0, \pm 1$. The total susceptibility then reads, $\chi = (2\chi_{\perp}^0 + \chi_{\parallel}^0)/3$,

$$\frac{3\chi(k,\omega)}{\chi_{\rm L}} = \frac{S^{11}_{,0}(k)}{1 - i\omega\tau^{11}_{,0}} + \frac{2S^{11}_{,\pm1}(k)}{1 - i\omega\tau^{11}_{,\pm1}}.$$
 (13)

At the low density of particles and considering the hydrodynamic limit, Eq. (12) yields as a consistency check the ideal paramagnetic gas Debye susceptibility

$$\lim_{\rho \to 0} \lim_{k \to 0} \chi(k, \omega) = \frac{\chi_{\rm L}}{1 - i\omega\tau_D},\tag{14}$$

where $\tau_D = \lim_{\rho \to 0} \lim_{k \to 0} \tau_{\pm 1}^{11}(k, \omega) = \lim_{\rho \to 0} S_{,m}^{11}(0)/2D_r(\omega) = 1/2D_r^0$ is the Debye relaxation time.

3. Approximate expressions of the susceptibility

The intermediate scattering function of Eq. (3) has the following exact expression for the self (s) part $S_{,m}^{ll,s}(k,t) = (4\pi\mu^2/3N)i^{l-l'} \langle \sum_{i=j=1}^{N} e^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot(\mathbf{r}_i(t)-\mathbf{r}_j(t))} Y_{lm}^*(\mathbf{u}_i(t)) Y_{l'm'}(\mathbf{u}_j(t)) \rangle$. We derived a closed expression of this function in Ref. [37], and it is given above. Because we consider two approximate expressions for the dynamic structure factor, namely $S_{,m}^{ll}(k,t)$ and $S_{,m}^{ll,s}(k,t)$, we applied these two dynamical correlation functions to Eqs. (7). Using first $S_{,m}^{ll}(k,t)$, Eq. (8), for the propagator the result is Eq. (13), whereas from (7) the self part becomes

$$\frac{\chi^s(k,\omega)}{\chi_{\rm L}} = \frac{1}{1 - i\omega\tau},$$

$$\tau := 1/[k^2 D(\omega) + 2D_r(\omega)]. \tag{15}$$

Finally, our expression of susceptibility is the average of Eqs. (13) and (14)

$$2\frac{\chi^{average}(k,\omega)}{\chi_{\rm L}} = \frac{S^{11}_{,0}(k)}{3(1-i\omega\tau^{11}_{,0})} + \frac{2S^{11}_{,\pm1}(k)}{3(1-i\omega\tau^{11}_{,\pm1})} + \frac{1}{1-i\omega\tau}.$$
 (16)

Equation (16) is the main theoretical result of this manuscript. In the next section, we provide applications of this approach using material parameters of typical ferrofluids. For this purpose in what follows, we shall denote $\chi^{\text{average}}(k,\omega)$ simply as $\chi(k,\omega)$.

4. Results and discussion

In this section, we use the susceptibility formula, Eq. (16), outlined above and apply it to material data of a known sterically stabilized ferrofluid Fe_2O_3 [39, 40]. Then, we will compare theory predictions versus Brownian simulation calculations for the thermal equilibrium susceptibility from low up to high particles volume fraction and as a function of magnetic dipole interactions of the particles. In this numerical work, we modeled the ferrofluid by the total potential energy $U_{\rm T} = U_{\rm LJ}(r) - U_{\rm LJ}(r = 2^{1/6}\sigma) + U_{dd}(r)$, $r \leq 2^{1/6}\sigma$ which has a Lennard-Jones short-range repulsive part $U_{\rm LJ}(r) = 4\epsilon_0((\sigma/r)^{12} - (\sigma/r)^6)$ with $r > 2^{1/6}\sigma$ and strength ϵ_0 . This part represents the repulsive interaction that stabilizes the suspension, and σ is the distance from the origin where $U_{\rm LJ}(r = \sigma) = 0$. The truncated Lennard-Jones $U_{\rm LJ}$ yields the short-range repulsion between pair of particles at

contact. The equilibrium states correspond to typical material parameters such as those from [39-42], and they span magnetic dipole moment on the order of $\mu_m = 2.3352 \times 10^{-19}$ Am^2 at room temperature T = 300 K. For aqueous ferrofluids, the solvent viscosity is $\eta_{sol}~=~0.852~\times~10^{-3}$ Kg/ms, $d = 10^{-8}m, m_0 = 2.707 \times 10^{-21}$ Kg, and we set the strength $\epsilon_0 = k_B T$. For the simulations, we used the Lammps package [43] and restricted our study to the overdamped diffusive regime. As a result of the simulation, we attained the equilibrium position and orientation of the particles. The simulation of the susceptibility derives from the standard formula $\chi(t) = \chi_L(1-i\omega) \int_0^\infty dt \langle \mathbf{u}(t) \cdot \mathbf{u}^{\dagger}(0) \rangle \operatorname{Exp}[-i\omega t].$ Meanwhile, for the theory predictions, the structure factor projections $S^{11}_{,m}(k)$ required in Eq. (16) are provided analytically within [44] in the Mean Spherical Approximation. This approximation is valid for a low concentrated dipolar liquid of identical spheres, and at small strength dipolar coupling. We made calculations of the dynamical susceptibility (16) versus the frequency at the experimental condition of $k \rightarrow 0$, from low up to moderate values of reduced dipole coupling $0 \le \lambda \le 6.17$, and reduced density in the range $0 \le \rho^* \le 0.9$. The magnetic susceptibility is of the general form $\chi(\omega) = \chi'(\omega) + i\chi''(\omega)$.



FIGURE 1. Semi-logarithmic plot of normalized susceptibility $\chi(\omega)/\chi(0)$ versus reduced frequency $\omega t_{\rm B}$ at six increasing values of dipole coupling: (a) $\lambda = 0.5$, (b) $\lambda = 1$, (c) $\lambda = 1.5$, (d) $\lambda = 2$, (e) $\lambda = 2.5$, and (f) $\lambda = 3$ and moderately concentrated ferrofluid of reduced density $\rho^* = 0.2$. The continuous lines are from theory Eq. (16) (with k = 0) which is compared with the Brownian dynamic simulations (symbol \circ) adapted from [20]. Dash line is the Debye model, Eq. (14). Theory calculations use the Mean Spherical Approximation for the structure factor projections $S_{,0}^{00}(r)$. We note that theory, Eq. (16) deviates from simulations at the highest dipole coupling starting from $\lambda = 3$ (see Fig. 1(f)).



FIGURE 2. Frequency-dependent susceptibility $\chi(\omega)$ as a function of reduced frequency ωt_B . Theory of Eq. (16) (continuous line) versus simulation results (symbol \circ) adapted from [20] depicted at the higher concentration of particles $\rho^* = 0.6$ than the system of Fig. 1, and for $\lambda = 1$. The dashed line depicts the ideal paramagnetic gas. We observe that at this high concentration of particles, theory, Eq. (16), still captures all features of the simulations.

In Fig. 1, we compared the predictions of Eq. (16) (continuous lines) with the simulations of [20] for a monodisperse ferrofluid (symbol \circ) at various thermodynamic states of equilibrium with low density of particles $\rho^* = 0.2$ and dipole couplings $\lambda = 0.5, 1, 1.5, 2, 2.5, 3$. We note that theory (16) starts to deviate from the simulations only at the highest dipole strength considered $\lambda = 3$, see Fig. 1(f). This inaccuracy is due to the failure of Mean Spherical approximation to capture correctly the microstructure at high dipole interactions. The dashed line corresponds to the ideal Debye model of a paramagnetic gas given by Eq. (14).

In Fig. 2 is made the comparison of Eq. (16) (continuous lines) against the simulation data (symbol \circ) reported in Ref. [20] for the same but higher concentrated monodisperse ferrofluid than in Fig. 1. In this plot authors of [20] used a single value of dipole strength $\lambda = 1$ and higher density of particles $\rho^* = 0.6$ with respect to Fig. 1. Yet, we find there is an agreement between their simulations and our model of Eq. (16). Additionally, we compared in Figs. 3 and 4, the frequency-dependent susceptibility of (16) with our original Brownian dynamic simulations.

In Fig. 3 depicts χ' (with black continuous line) and χ'' with gray line (red color online) for the fixed reduced density $\rho^* = 0.1$, and for increasing dipole strength $\lambda = 1.31, 2.37, 3.37$ and 4.0, respectively. Simulation results are represented with black symbol \circ for the real component of susceptibility χ' , and a gray circle (red color online) for the imaginary part χ'' . Whereas the dashed line symbols are the Debye theory of Eq. (14). We recall from the expression



FIGURE 3. The semi-logarithmic plot of the Magnetic susceptibility $\chi(\omega)/\chi(0)$ versus dimensionless frequency $\omega t_{\rm B}$. This figure provides comparisons of our original simulations (symbol \circ) with theory (continuous line) of Eq. (16) at k = 0 for low density of particles $\rho^* = 0.1$, and four increasing values of dipole coupling λ . The right column of panels depict the results of our simulations for the magnetic susceptibility components as Cole-Cole plots, versus theory Eq. (16). The dotted line is the ideal gas Debye theory of Eq. (14).

of $S_{,m}^{ll,s}(k,t)$ that k = 0 ignores the translational diffusion $D(\omega)$ of the magnetic particles. Therefore, there is only rotational diffusion of these interacting colloidal particles. We can observe in Fig. 3 that there is an agreement between the theory of Eq. (16) with our simulations calculations. We observe quantitative differences between them starting from the highest dipole moment $\lambda = 4.0$. On the other hand, Debye theory Eq. (14) only agrees at low dipole moment $\lambda = 1.31$ with Eq. (16) and simulations, see the first panel on the top of Fig. 3. This ideal Debye model deviates even more from theory (16) and our simulation results for increasing dipole moment and density.

Figure 4 shows results for the case of a highly concentrated ferrofluid with $\rho^* = 0.9$.

Figures 3 and 4 include the so-called magnetic Cole-Cole plots of the imaginary component χ'' versus the real part χ' (calculated with equation (16) in the hydrodynamic limit k = 0 and plotted with black line). The symbol \circ represents simulations. In these figures, we depict the Debye theory (dotted line).

In Fig. 5 are depicted comparisons of dynamic susceptibility from Eq. (16) at the hydrodynamic limit k = 0 and seven increasing values of dimensionless dipole strength $\lambda = 1.31, 2.37, 3.37, 4, 4.6, 5.36, 6.17$ and for two reduced densities $\rho^* = 0.1, 0.5$. We notice from these plots that there is a frequency shift to lower values of the imaginary contribution χ'' as the dipole moment was raised from $\lambda = 1.31$



FIGURE 4. Same properties and description as in Fig. 3 at the highest reduced density $\rho^* = 0.9$.



FIGURE 5. The semi-logarithmic plot of normalized susceptibility $\chi(\omega)/\chi(0)$ versus reduced frequency $\omega t_{\rm B}$ at two increasing values of reduced density $\rho^* = 0.1, 0.5$, and seven values of increasing (denoted by the arrows' direction) dipole coupling $\lambda = 1.31, 2.37, 3.37, 4, 4.62, 5.36, 6.17$. We observe in these figures, a shift to lower values of the frequency in χ'' and a reduction of the slop (and amplitude) of χ' as the dipole moment per particle is increased and consequently an enhancement of the particle-particle interactions. At $\lambda = 4$, there appear chain formations by the particles.



FIGURE 6. Initial susceptibility $\chi(\omega = 0) = \chi[\phi]$ as a function of the particles magnetic concentration ϕ_m . Black lines depicts $\chi[\phi] \approx \chi_L(1 + 5\chi_L/18 + 11\chi_L^2/96)$ as derived from Eq. (16) for $\phi \ll 1$. Experiments adapted from [15] are given by symbols • for a magnetite in kerosene ferrofluid at temperature T = 300 K. Best fitting particle's interaction strength used in the theory above was $\lambda = 2.81$ and the approximation $\phi \approx \phi_m$ was used. The exact theory $\chi(\omega = 0) = \chi_L(1 + \chi_L/3 + \chi_L^2/144)$ adapted from [15] is depicted with grey line (red color online). Here $\chi_L = 8\lambda\phi$.

up to 4.0 where there is chain formation as observed in simulations (not depicted). Experimentally chain formation is currently observed in similar conditions [41]. Whereas the magnitude of χ' drops to lower values (the slop of the branch diminish from $\omega t_{\rm B} = 0$ where $\chi' = 1$ up to $\omega t_{\rm B} = 10^3$ where $\chi' = 0$ confirming qualitatively the observations of [22]. Authors of [22] used an ionically stabilized ferrofluid Fe_3O_4 in NaCl electrolyte solutions. They concluded that a decrease of χ' is related to particle aggregation and the frequency shift of χ'' peak is due to a larger hydrodynamic size of the cluster (chain). Remmer et al. observed similar behaviors for the susceptibility of CoFe₂O₄ nanoparticles dissolved in viscoelastic media of gelatin [23]. Our approach can be applied to study mixtures of magnetic with non-magnetic colloids. We derived from our dynamic susceptibility model (16) its static value at $\omega = 0$. This observable was determined under the experimental condition of $k \to 0$, and in the limit of small volume fraction $\phi \ll 1$. Under this condition on $\phi \ll 1$ and $\lambda \ll 1$, the Mean Spherical Approximation for the structure factors appearing in (16) are expanded in a Taylor series expansion. The approximated expression of initial susceptibility that resulted is $\chi[\phi] \approx \chi_L(1 + 5\chi_L/18 + 11\chi_L^2/96)$ which differs from the known exact expression $\chi[\phi] \approx \chi_L(1 + \chi_L/3 + \chi_L^2/144)$ demonstrated by Ivanov *et al.* (here $\chi_L = 8\lambda\phi$) [15, 16]. We compared first our approximated susceptibility with the experiments of [15] as a function of volume fraction of magnetic colloidal particles.

Figure 6 compares the best fit using our expression $\chi[\phi] \approx \chi_L(1 + 5\chi_L/18 + 11\chi_L^2/96)$ (black line) to the experiments of the magnetic suspension studied in [15] at room



FIGURE 7. Initial susceptibility $\chi(\omega = 0)$ as a function of absolute temperature *T*. Black lines depict the approximated theory $\chi[\phi] \approx \chi_L(T)(1+5\chi_L(T)/18+11\chi_L(T)^2/96$ derived from Eq. (16) at $\phi << 1$. Experimental data with symbols • were adapted from [15]. Exact theory adapted from [15] is depicted with grey line (red color online). For the approximated theory from (16) the best fitting values to the experiments occur from top to bottom as ($\phi = 0.068, \lambda = 4.25$), (0.042, 2.45), and (0.12, 1.4), respectively.

temperature T = 300 K (black dots). We find that the best fit occurs with the single value $\lambda = 2.81$, whereas the gray line (red color online) is the theory for the initial susceptibility $\chi(\omega = 0) = \chi_L(1 + \chi_L/3 + \chi_L^2/144)$ used by authors Ivanov *et al.* to interpret their data.

In Fig. 7 it is given the comparison of our expression of the initial susceptibility $\chi[\phi] \approx \chi_L(1+5\chi_L/18+11\chi_L^2/96)$ (black lines) versus temperature with those experiments of Ivanov *et al.* (gray lines, red color online) for their first three low volume fractions of particles (see Fig. 6 in Ref. [15]). In this case, the Langevin susceptibility $\chi_L(T)$ is temperature dependent, and its correction to account for this dependency is considered in Refs. [15, 16].

Thus, our static susceptibility becomes $\chi[\phi] \approx$

 $\chi_L(T)(1 + 5\chi_L(T)/18 + 11\chi_L(T)^2/96)$ where $\chi_L(T) = \chi_L(1 - \beta_1(1 - \phi)(T - T_*))(1 - \beta_2T^2)T_*/[(1 - \beta_2T_*^2)^2T]$ [15, 16]. The data $T_* = 285$ K, $\beta_1 = 0.87 \times 10^{-3}/$ K, $\beta_2 = 8 \times 10^{-7}/$ K² were taken from the same experiments in Ref. [15]. We see that we can find qualitative agreement with the experiments of [15] by using $(\phi, \lambda) = (0.068, 4.25), (0.092, 2.45), (0.12, 1.4)$. The gray lines (red colour online) are the results of the correct equation of Ivanov *et al.* $\chi(\omega = 0) = \chi_L(T)(1 + \chi_L/3 + \chi_L^2/144)$ which yields agreement with their data for $\lambda = 5.1, 2.8, 1.6$ for the same ϕ as above, respectively.

5. Conclusions

In this paper, we presented the adaptation of the linear response method for the susceptibility of polar liquids to the frequency-dependent susceptibility of magnetic colloids in terms of the dynamical structure factor. Comparing the predicted initial magnetic susceptibility with existing reported experiments yields the general trends of those observations as a function of the colloid's volume fraction and temperature. Our calculations of the magnetic susceptibility using material data of typical ferrofluids such as Fe_2O_3 yields good agreement with simulations at low dipole moments per particle and density. Finally, our approach enables us to determine magnetic susceptibility in mixtures of magnetic and non-magnetic colloids.

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