

# Effect of Temperature on Rheological Behavior of Liquid Milk and Its Impact to Adequacy of Thermal Process

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**Keywords:** Milk Rheology, Temperature, Sterilization.

**Abstract:** Temperature is one of the factors affecting fluid flow characteristics and the thermal adequacy in milk sterilization in an aseptic system. This research is aimed to study density and rheology of milk at temperature of 20-80 °C and its effect to Reynold number and thermal sterility. Four different kinds of commercial milk were used. The density and rheological properties were measured by using densitometer a Brookfield Viscometer DV II, respectively. The results showed that the milks were Newtonian. Temperature affected the density and viscosity of the liquid milk and consequently affected the Reynolds number. Increased temperatures lead to decreased density and decreased viscosity which could be well described using an Arrhenius model. Combined effect of increased temperature on decreased density and viscosity resulted in increased Reynolds numbers. This indicated that Reynolds number is more affected by the value of viscosity rather than density, as temperature increased. Under a full-scale production set up in one of the milk factories, the four kinds of liquid milk exhibited turbulent fluid flow properties (Reynolds number more than 4000). Therefore, decreased viscosity and density of milk at elevated temperature did not adversely affect adequacy of aseptic thermal process at a constant flow rate.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

Milk is one of the good sources of protein, vitamin, fat, and minerals with relatively short shelf life (Miller 2007). Pasteurization and sterilization are often used to extend its shelf life. Milk consumption in Indonesia is relatively low as compared to other countries. However, the growth of milk consumption in Indonesia is increasing, which is believed to be associated with the growing of middle-income population (15% within 10 years) (USDA 2016). This market growth drives the milk industry to increase the production of safe and high-quality milk to be able to compete in the market.

Sterilization is more favorable to preserve liquid milk due to its longer shelf life and handling convenience. Liquid milk is commonly sterilized using an aseptic system in which the milk is held at a temperature of around 140°C for few seconds in a holding tube to achieve a minimum sterility level. The Government of Republic of Indonesia requires that thermally sterilized food should have  $F_0$  of at least 3.0 minutes to ensure product safety (BPOM, 2016).

Thermal sterilization is determined by two main

factors i.e. time and temperature. Minimum residence time of the milk in holding tube is strongly affected by its rheological properties (viscosity ( $\mu$ ), flow behavior index ( $n$ ), and consistency index ( $K$ )) and Reynold number ( $Re$ ). Depending on its  $Re$ , flow of milk in the holding tube can be either laminar ( $Re < 4000$ ) or turbulent ( $Re > 4000$ ). For milk flowing in a specific geometry and a constant volume rate,  $Re$  is affected by both milk viscosity and density.

Rheological properties of milk and the effect of temperature on milk's rheology is well studied. McCarty and Singh (2009) reported that milk with fat content less than 40% (w/w) measured at temperature above 40°C shows Newtonian behavior. Several researchers studied the effect of temperature on milk viscosity (Cheng, Barbano, and Drake, 2019 and Deshpande & Walsh, 2017). Viscosity of milk decreases as temperature increases. However, no study has shown the effect of temperature on milk viscosity and milk density. Therefore, it is important to study the effect of temperature on milk viscosity and density to be able to predict its effect on the Reynold number and finally assess its possible effect to the adequacy of a thermal process in a holding tube during sterilization process.

## 2 MATERIAL AND METHOD

### 2.1 Material

Four types of UHT milk i.e. full cream, chocolate milk 1, chocolate milk 2, and strawberry milk were used in this study. The equipment used were density meter Anton Paar DMA 35 and Brookfield Viscometer RVDV-II Pro, water bath, and hotplate.

### 2.2 Method

#### 2.2.1 Density Measurement

Milk density was measured using portable densitometer Anton Paar model DMA 35. Milk density at different temperatures (20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, dan 80°C) were measured.

#### 2.2.2 Characterization of Rheological Properties

Shear stress of the sample was measured using Brookfield viscometer RVDV-II Pro at different spindle speed i.e. 0.5, 1.0, 2.0, 2.5, 4.0, 5.0, 10.0, 20.0, 50.0, dan 100.0 rpm. Shear rate was calculated from the spindle speed using the following formula:

$$\gamma_w = \frac{2\pi RN}{\delta} \quad (1)$$

where  $\gamma_w$  is shear rate (s<sup>-1</sup>), R is radius of the spindle (cm), N is rotational speed of the spindle (RPM),  $\delta$  is gap between spindle and container wall (cm).

#### 2.2.3 Thermal Process Adequacy Analysis

Thermal process adequacy expressed as  $F_o$  value is calculated using the following formula

$$F_o = \frac{t_{\min}}{10^{\left[\frac{121.1 - T_{ho}}{z}\right]}} \quad (2)$$

Where

$$t_{\min} = \frac{L}{V_{\max}} \quad (3)$$

L is minimum length of holding tube,  $V_{\max}$  is speed of fastest moving particles,  $T_{ho}$  is product temperature at the outlet of holding tube, z value is 10°C, and  $t_{\min}$  is minimum residence time of milk in the holding tube.  $V_{\max}$  is obtained from average velocity and their relation depends on Re. For a

Newtonian liquid, Re can be calculated using the following formula:

$$Re = \frac{\rho DV}{\mu} \quad (4)$$

Where  $\rho$  is density (kg/m<sup>3</sup>), D is diameter of the holding tube (m), V is average speed of milk flowing in holding tube (m/s), and  $\mu$  is viscosity (Pa.s).

## 3 RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### 3.1 Milk Density

Density of milk is the intrinsic physical parameter of milk contributing to flow properties. Figure 1 shows that effect of temperature on density of different milk. Milk density decreased as function of time. At a temperature of 20°C, milk density ranges from 1.0319 to 1.0596 g/ml. whereas at a temperature of 80°C, the density ranged between 1.0037 g/ml and 1.0335 g/mL. Similar observation was reported by Minim, Coimbra, and Minim (2002) and Munir et. al. (2016). Kumbar, and Nedomova (2015) stated that density of fresh and UHT milk at different fat contents (0.5, 1.5 dan 3.0 %) decreases at higher temperatures. Moreover, density of full cream milk was markedly lower compared to chocolate and strawberry milk. It was believed to be associated with higher fat content of full cream milk (McCarthy and Singh (2009), Munir et. al. (2016) and Alcantara et. al. (2012)).

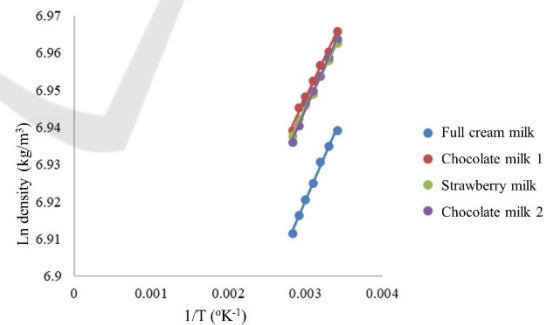


Figure 1: Effect of temperature on milk density. The lines represent corresponding Arrhenius model of each sample.

The dependence of milk density to temperature was well described using Arrhenius model in which natural logarithmic of density is plotted against  $1/T$  (°K). Table 1 shows the Arrhenius model of the four samples including their activation energy. Full cream milk exhibited higher activation energy compared to the three other milks. It indicated that density of full cream milk was more sensitive to temperature change.

Table 1: Arrhenius model and activation energy for density of four different milks.

Milk	Arrhenius model	Activation energy, $\text{kJ mol}^{-1}$	$R^2$
Fullcream	$B_A = 6.7759 \exp(48.116/T)$	$5.7873 \times 10^3$	0.9958
Chocolate 1	$B_A = 6.8166 \exp(43.715/T)$	$5.2579 \times 10^3$	0.9972
Strawberry	$B_A = 6.8184 \exp(42.290/T)$	$5.0866 \times 10^3$	0.9925
Chocolate 2	$B_A = 6.8052 \exp(46.546/T)$	$5.5985 \times 10^3$	0.9930

### 3.2 Milk Rheology

Rheological properties of milk determine flow characteristic of the milk flowing in holding tube during sterilization process. One of the important rheological parameters of milk is its viscosity. Under a specific sterilization system, milk with higher viscosity flows at lower velocity. For a non-Newtonian fluid, viscosity can be strongly influenced by shear rate. The milks used in this study showed Newtonian behavior in which its viscosity was not influenced by shear rate.

Figure 2 shows flow curves of the chocolate milk 1 measured at different temperatures. Shear stress increased as function of shear rate. At a constant shear rate, higher shear stress was observed for milk measured at lower temperature. Relation between shear rate ( $\dot{\gamma}$ ) and shear stress ( $\tau$ ) of the milk was well explained using Power Law model ( $\tau = K\dot{\gamma}^n$ ).

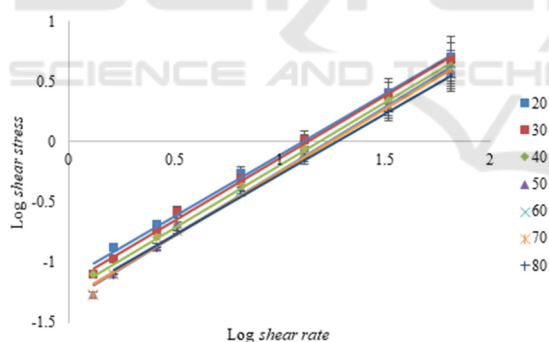


Figure 2: Flow curve of chocolate milk 1 at different temperatures. The lines represent corresponding power law model of each sample.

Two rheological parameters extracted from power law model were flow behavior index ( $n$ ) and consistency index ( $K$ ). Table 2 shows that flow behavior index of milks was close to 1. It means that the milks were Newtonian at temperature range of 20-80°C (Toledo, 2012). Similar observation for milk measured at 25, 35, 45, 55 dan 65 °C (Roozi et. al. (2007)), milk containing fat content less than 40% (McCarthy and Singh, 2011), milk containing soluble solid less than 20% (Morison, Phelan and Bloore, 2013). Rao (2007) stated that fluid containing low

molecular weight substances exhibited Newtonian behavior (linear relation between shear stress and shear rate). In addition, Table 3 shows the effect of temperature on the consistency index ( $K$ ) of milks. Consistency index of full cream milk was lower than chocolate milk 1. Index consistency of milks decreased as function of temperatures.

Table 2: Flow behavior index ( $n$ ) of full cream milk and chocolate milk 1 measured at different temperatures.

Temperature (°C)	Flow behavior index( $n$ )	
	Fullcream milk	Chocolate milk 1
20	1.0610	1.0176
30	1.0502	1.0356
40	1.0300	1.0455
50	1.0738	1.0691
60	1.0084	1.0570
70	0.9605	1.0493
80	1.0202	1.0093

Table 3: Consistency index ( $K$ ) of full cream milk and chocolate milk 1 measured at different temperatures.

Temperature (°C)	Consistency index ( $K$ )	
	Full cream milk	Chocolate milk 1
20	0.0408	0.0743
30	0.0410	0.0673
40	0.0411	0.0573
50	0.0321	0.0486
60	0.0356	0.0495
70	0.0397	0.0503
80	0.0304	0.0528

Since the milks exhibited Newtonian behavior, its viscosity was independent of shear rate. Figure 3 shows viscosity of the milks measured at temperature of 20-80 °C. Viscosity of the milks decreased as temperature increased. Similar trends were also found in other reports (Flauzino et. al., 2009, Bozikova and Hlavac, 2013, and Kumbar and Nedomova, 2015). The Arrhenius model used to describe the temperature dependence of viscosity fitted well to the experimental data. Fitting parameters including the activation energy of the Arrhenius model for temperature dependence of viscosity is presented in Table 4. Activation energy of chocolate milk 2 was the highest indicating that viscosity of chocolate milk 2 was the most sensitive to temperature change (Cuah et. al., 2008). Goat milk was reported to have lower activation energy of  $6.2736 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$  (Gabas et. al., 2012). Whereas Velez Ruiz (1998) reported that activation energy of milk concentrated ranged between 2.42 and 11.8 kcal  $\text{g mol}^{-1}$ . Activation energy of milk cream, fermented milk, and whey protein were reported to be higher. Activation energy of milk cream, fermented milk, and whey protein were  $20.5 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$  (Flauzino et. al., 2009),  $19.57 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$  (Goncalves et. al., 2017), and  $19.92 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$  (Tello et. al., 2009), respectively.

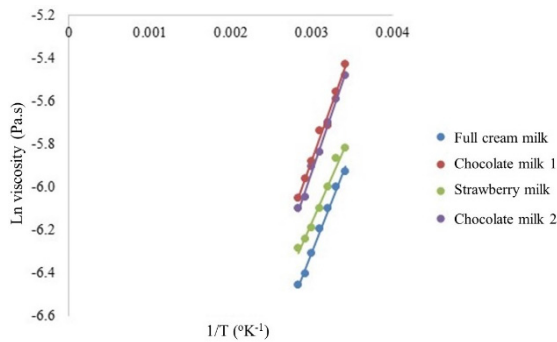


Figure 3: Effect of temperature on viscosity of different milks measured at different temperatures. The lines represent corresponding Arrhenius model of each sample.

Table 4: Arrhenius model and activation energy for viscosity of four different milks.

Sample	Arrhenius model	E <sub>a</sub> (kJ mol <sup>-1</sup> )	R <sup>2</sup>
Full cream milk	$B_A = 9.197 \exp(964.21/T)$	8.0164	0.9932
Chocolate milk 1	$B_A = 9.033 \exp(1052.30/T)$	8.7488	0.9881
Strawberry milk	$B_A = 8.766 \exp(866.44/T)$	7.2036	0.9836
Chocolate milk 2	$B_A = 9.234 \exp(1102.00/T)$	9.1620	0.9949

### 3.3 Reynold Number and Thermal Process Adequacy

Milk is often processed using an aseptic system in which thermal sterilization is carried out in a holding tube for few second at temperature of around 140°C (Varzakas & Labropoulos, 2007). Minimum residence time of the milk in the holding tube is controlled by fastest moving particles in the milk. It is almost impossible and impractical to directly measure velocity of fastest moving particles. Velocity of fastest moving particle can be quantitatively predicted from its average velocity obtained from flow rate of the milk. However, the relation between maximum velocity and average velocity of milk flowing in a holding tube depends on dimensionless Reynold number defined as  $rDV/m$ . Milk flow is under turbulent condition if the Reynold number is higher than 4000. It has been shown that both density ( $\rho$ ) and viscosity ( $\mu$ ) of milk decreased as temperature increased. Combined effect of density and viscosity of milk, flowing in a commercial holding tube, on Reynold number as temperature increased is shown in Figure 4. Reynold number increased as temperature increased for all the samples.

Increased Reynold number along with increase in temperature indicated that decreased viscosity had a more dominant effect than decreased density. This effect could also be observed from the activation energy of viscosity change (Table 4) which were

higher than activation energy for density change (Table 1). The higher the activation energy, the more sensitive the parameter to temperature change.

Figure 4 shows that Reynold number of the milks was higher than 4000 which mean that the flow of the milk was turbulent. For turbulent flow, velocity of fastest moving particle determining minimum residence time is  $1.23 \times$  average velocity (Steffe, 1996). However, since increased temperature resulted in higher Reynold number, the flow characteristic of the milks in the holding tube remained turbulent. Therefore, the effect of decreased density and viscosity which resulted in increased Reynold number did not adversely affect the safety of sterilized milk.

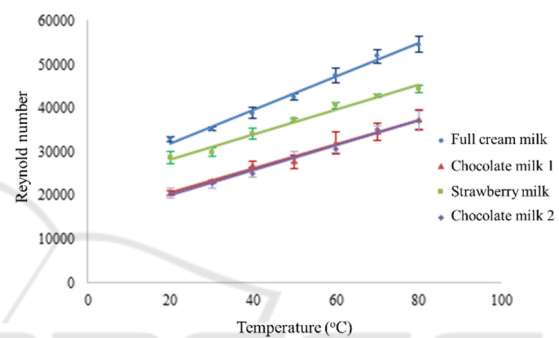


Figure 4: Effect of temperature in Reynold number of different milks.

## 4 CONCLUSIONS

Density and viscosity of milk are two intrinsic properties of milk which may affect fluid dynamic inside a holding tube. Density of four commercially available milk i.e. full cream milk, chocolate milk 1, strawberry milk, and chocolate milk 2 were lower when measured at different temperature. The four different kind of milk showed Newtonian behavior at different measurement temperatures (20-80°C). Viscosity the milks decreased as function of temperature. Milk density and viscosity dependence on temperature were well described using Arrhenius model. Viscosity is found to be more temperature dependent than density. Effect of density to Reynold number was the opposite of viscosity effect to Reynold number. However, combined effect of increased temperature on density and viscosity resulted in higher Reynold number. Therefore, under a constant flow rate, milk sterilization in a holding tube at higher temperature did not reduce minimum residence time and consequently did not reduce thermal process adequacy.



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