

## 〈総 説〉

# 機能性流体（ER流体／磁性流体／MR流体／電界共役流体） の特性と応用技術

Characteristics and Applied Technologies of Functional Fluids  
(ERF, MF, MRF and ECF)

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### Abstract

ER fluids, magnetic fluids and MR fluids contain dispersed small particles in the size range from nanometer to dozens of micrometers. The apparent viscoelastic properties of these fluids change reversibly greatly by applying an electric or magnetic field. EC fluids (or EHD fluids) can generate active flow (liquid jet) by applying a high DC voltage. Currently, these fluids are classified as functional intellectual materials that can be actively controlled by an electrical or magnetic signal. The possible applications for functional fluids are numerous as a control element that will support future actuator technology, because functional fluids are relatively easy to adapt to mechanical systems.

In this paper, the characteristics and operating mechanisms of functional fluids are summarized including the results of our research, and application development examples that utilize each functionality will be briefly introduced.

キーワード：機能性流体、ER流体、磁性流体、MR流体、電界共役流体

**Keywords** : functional fluids, ER fluids, Magnetic fluids, MR fluids, EC fluids

### 1. はじめに

機能性流体（Functional fluids）とは、通常の流体を人工的に調製し、物理化学的性質を外部刺激（電界、磁界、光、温度など）の制御によって大幅に変化でき、かつ工業的に応用可能な機能性を発揮できる流体の総称である。工業分野に有効活用が期待できる主な機能性流体と

しては、①電気粘性流体（Electro-rheological Fluids : ER 流体）、②磁性流体（Magnetic Fluids (or Ferrofluids) : M (or F) 流体）、③磁気粘性流体（Magneto-rheological Fluids : MR 流体）、④電界共役流体（Electro-conjugate Fluids (or Electro-hydrodynamic Fluids) : EC (or EHD) 流体）の4種類が挙げられる。

機能性流体は、通常の水や油などでは見られ

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