

## Supplementary data

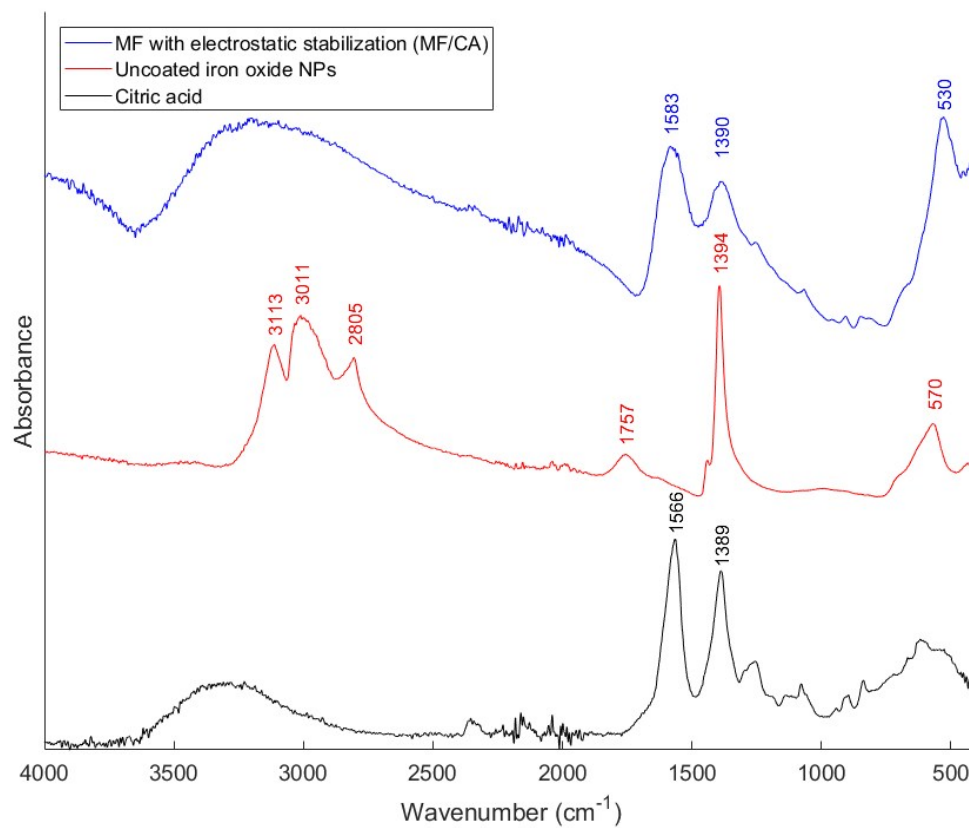


Figure S1. ATR-FTIR spectra measured from dried solutions of electrostatically stabilized magnetic fluid, uncoated iron oxide nanoparticles and citric acid. The pH of MF/CA sample was ~7 and that of the reference samples was adjusted to ~7.

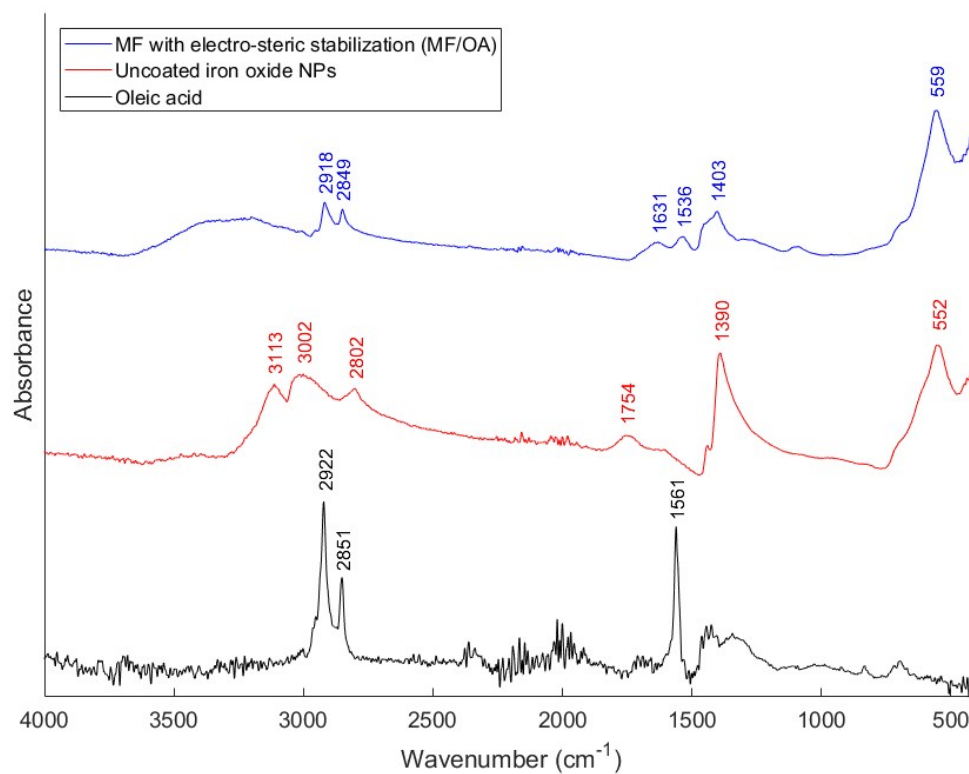


Figure S2. ATR-FTIR spectra measured from dried solutions of electro-sterically stabilized magnetic fluid, uncoated iron oxide nanoparticles and oleic acid. The pH of MF/OA sample was  $\sim 9$  and that of the reference samples was adjusted to  $\sim 9$ .