

## Heat transfer enhancement with nanofluids: A review of recent applications and experiments

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### ABSTRACT

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Since the 1990's, nanofluids have been one of the abundantly preferred newcomer technology invented to assist in electronic and heat transfer purposes. Their thermophysical properties and heat transfer performance make nanofluids highly demanded to overcome the current issues in the world. In this paper, a vast number of applications using nanofluids are reviewed as well as an epitome on the challenges in their respective areas. Additionally, recent research papers for specific applications of nanofluids in improving heat transfer efficiency were outlined while the experimental and theoretical methods were discussed in the articles and journals is summarized in this paper including the effects of thermal properties on the performance of nanofluids. In a nutshell, this review of experimental research extracted from most recent papers, published from 2011 to 2016, is a review on the latest updates in the nanofluids and heat transfer community to help anyone in concern of the topic and enough information to select nanofluids based on their needed applications.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Conventional fluids, such as deionized (DI) water or ethylene glycol (EG), used as the common working fluids in heat transfer applications have inherently low thermal conductivity relative to metals as well as metal oxides. Therefore, solid particles (Np) are added to these fluids to enhance their thermal conductivity. The product of this suspension is called a nanofluid, a term proposed by Choi in 1995 of the Argonne National Laboratory, U.S.A. [1].

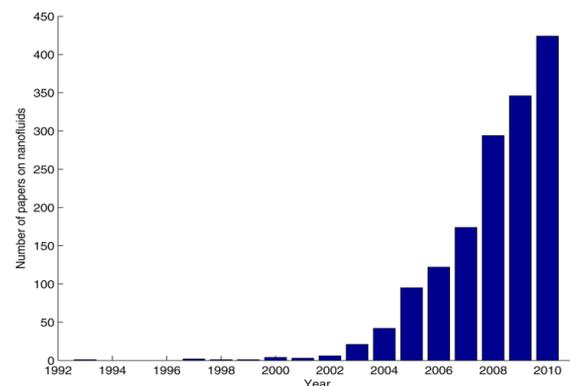
Figure 1 is a representative graph of the emerging growth of publications written by the nanofluids and heat transfer community produced by Gianluca Puliti et al. [2] for the research papers published between years 1992-2010. Based on the graph presented, the numbers of papers published in the total of 8 years have increased from less than 100 in 2004 to a total of more than 1200 in 2010. Experimental and analytical researches were done in various papers such as M. Sheikholeslami et al. [3-5] and A. Tohidi et al. [6] published a 2015 and 2016 paper on a mathematical research on the heat transfer properties of nanofluid in certain applications.

Figure 2 shows the number of papers mentioned in this review according to its year published. In this paper we present an overview of the literature dealing with the recent evolution of the nanofluid community.

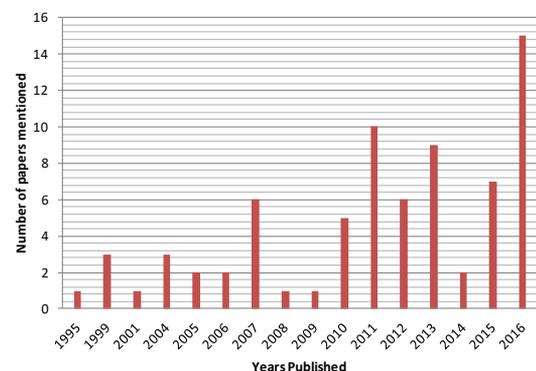
Nanofluids are suspensions of metallic or non-metallic nanopowders of sizes less than 100nm in a base liquid. Modern nanotechnology provides new opportunities to process and produce materials with average crystallite sizes below 50 nm [2]. Several types of np have been used for enhancing thermal conductivity including copper oxide, titanium dioxide, alumina trioxide, silver, diamond, etc.

Based on previous studies, it can be summarized that decreasing the size of np enhances the thermal conductivity incredibly. Aside from that, increasing the volume fraction percentage of nanoparticle against base fluid will increase the

thermal conductivity. However, the addition of macro and microsized particles excessively can create problems like agglomeration and sedimentation. Hence, several experiments that have been performed contain no more than 2.0 vol % of nanoparticle added to the base fluid.



**Figure 1.** Growth of publications on nanofluids



**Figure 2.** Published papers mentioned

In this paper, several experimental studies are discussed as their rig set up and purposes are highlighted. Papers published in the set of 6 years, from 2011 to 2017, were researched and compared briefly on the design and applications. Experimental set ups differing from using natural convection, fibre glass, to changing the number and positions of thermocouples have affected their outcome and the use of nanofluid as a heat transfer medium is the main core of all the researches discussed. As we approach an era of optimization and enhancement of properties, nanofluid researchers will have a summary in this review paper as grounds to build their research around.

## 2. OVERVIEW OF APPLICATIONS OF NANOFUIDS

Most nanofluids are applied in technologies where the efficiency of the product is highly dependable on the heat transfer efficiency and enhancing it with the least cost, space, and material is considered a big achievement in the industry. An increase in any of these factors, i.e.  $h$ , surface area, and temperature difference will increase the heat flow in the system. As the  $\Delta T$  and  $h$  are often limited due to the working condition and the used material, many technologies nowadays are aiming to increase the heat transfer area in order of maximizing the heat flow; for example, hybrid cars [7-8].

### 2.1 Heat exchangers

The application of nanofluids in heat exchanger industry includes plate heat exchangers, shell and tube heat exchangers, compact heat exchangers, and double pipe heat exchangers [9]. In a general view, Kaufui V. et al. [10] presented an article explaining the role of nanofluids in industries of heat transfer, automotive, electronic, and biomedical applications. Several published papers [10-18] were involved in heat transfer industries such as industrial cooling applications, smart fluids, nuclear reactors, and extraction of geothermal power and other energy sources respectively.

### 2.2 Automotive

Nanofluids in the automotive industry are widely discussed by heat transfer researchers in the past; many of which have experimented nanofluids with the efficiency of heat transfer via the coolant and engine fuel. Both applications rely on the high-thermal conductivity of nanofluids. The cooling and low friction properties of nanofluids also introduced them to applications in automotive through brakes and lubrication [10]. Some papers on nanofluids [19-20] talk about heat transfer enhancements to use in automotive applications.

### 2.3 Electronics

Current technologies use microchips which require an efficient cooling system. Based on H. B. Ma et al. [21], in combination with thin film evaporation, the nanofluid oscillating heat pipe (OHP) cooling system will be able to remove heat fluxes over  $10 \text{ MW/m}^2$  and serve as the next generation cooling devices that will be able to handle the heat dissipation coming from new technologies. Other papers [14-15, 22-23] discuss shortly the contribution of their nanofluid researches in the electronic industry.

## 2.4 Biomedical

Nanodrug Delivery, Cancer Therapeutics, Cryopreservation, Nanocryosurgery, and Sensing & Imaging are five of the most common applications of nanofluid in the biomedical industry [24]. Kaufui V. et al. [10] stated that there is a new initiative which takes advantage of several properties of certain nanofluids to use in cancer imaging and drug delivery. Magnetic nanofluids are to be used to guide the particles up the bloodstream to a tumor with magnets and allow doctors to deliver high local doses of drugs or radiation without damaging nearby healthy tissue.

## 2.5 Nuclear

As one of the major industries where heat transfer is required as one of its main processes, the nuclear industry is also one of the major applications of nanofluid. The cooling of nuclear reactor cores is an important stage of nuclear reacting and nanofluids have played a role in the process. In a study done by Hadad et al. [13] investigated the thermal hydraulic attribution of  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3/\text{water}$  nanofluid as coolant in a VVER-1000 nuclear reactor core by using a CFD code based on finite volume method for single-phase and two-phase mixture models to find  $h$  and pressure drop. In a study by S. J. Kim et al. [12], nanofluids are used as the main reactor coolant for pressurized water reactors (PWRs). It could enable significant power uprates in current and future PWRs, thus enhancing their economic performance with at least 32% higher critical heat flux (CHF) and a 20% power density uprate in current plants without changing the fuel assembly design and without reducing the margin to CHF.

## 3. RESEARCH METHOD ANALYSIS

### 3.1 Nanofluid preparation

Throughout the evolution of nanofluids used for enhancing heat transfer efficiency, many types of material, metal and non-metal alike, were used. The most common nanoparticle materials used for nanofluid preparation are alumina and copper. Recently after 2015 alone, there have been more than 125 highly cited research papers investigating alumina nanofluids solely for heat transfer purposes. To name a few papers by Rashid Purrajab et al., G. Srinivas Rao et al., Heydar Maddah et al, and Vijaya Kumar et al. [25-27, 17] could be mentioned. Veeranna Sridhara et al. [28] have profusely summarized on the many experiments done by various researchers in the nanofluids community which uses alumina, alumina trioxide, and alumina oxide etc.

Eastman JA, S. Lee, MS Liu, Jana S [29-31], and many more have done experiments on copper np and copper oxide in both water and ethylene glycol base fluid. Most experiments in previous papers have used nanofluid or nanoparticle purchased from by chemical companies.

Few of the researchers have produced their own nanofluids via several methods [31-23]. Generally, there are two fundamental methods to produce nanofluids; the single-step direct evaporation method and the two-step method. Single-step method consists of the direct evaporation and condensation of the nanoparticle materials in the base liquid to produce stable nanofluids. In the latter, the np is obtained by different methods first and then are dispersed into the base

liquid [17, 28]. In a review by X. Q. Wang et al. [32], the two-step method is extensively used in the synthesis of nanofluids considering the available commercial nanopowders supplied by several companies. In this method, np were first produced and then dispersed the base fluids. Generally, ultrasonic equipment is used to intensively disperse the particles and reduce the agglomeration of particles.

After preparation, several steps are to be taken before they are able to be experimented for its heat transfer properties. Tests that should be carried out are such as characterization and functionalization. Methods for both of these tests include using x-ray diffractometry, FTIR, TGA, TEM, and Raman spectroscopy. Details differ according to material. For example, in the paper written by Ahmad Amiri et al. [23], functionalization of hydrogen exfoliated graphene (HEG) is done by synthesizing HEG with concentrated H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>:HNO<sub>3</sub> with ratio of 3:1 whereas in a research done by Yan Deng et al [22], graphene sheets were functionalized with presynthesized polymer via a combination of atom transfer nitroxide radical coupling chemistry with the grafting-onto strategy.

Stabilization is also an important part in preparing the nanofluid used for the industry as it will render biphasic heat transfer. In an excerpt taken from a study on the h of CuO in water by M. Naraki et al. [33], nanofluid used has been stabilized with variations of pH and using Sodium Dodecyl Sulfonate (SDS) surfactant. Figure 3 shows an example photo of nanofluids before and after stabilization [23]. After the processes have been done, the nanofluid obtained is used in experimental set ups testing the properties and other matters [34-38].



Figure 3. Stable(right) & unstable(left) nanofluids

### 3.2 Experimental rig set up

Various experimental sets were set up by researchers in the heat transfer division of nanofluid applications. Most experiments use the same concept where a test section consisting of a number of temperature indicators is used together with a cooling reservoir and a few other data collecting devices attached for additional information besides the main results. Regular experimental set ups include supply tank, pumping device, heating tank, copper coil, gate valve, rotameter, test section, and a data acquisition system [39-41]. The main objective of the experimental set ups designed in past and future researches is to obtain the temperature drop of the car radiator to study the heat transfer properties of the experiment.

In an experiment by S. Zeinali Heris et al. [42], it was thoroughly explained that the experimental set-up consisted of a flow loop similar to the general experimental set up as shown

in Figure 4. The Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> nanofluid flows inside the inner tube while saturated steam entered annular section, which created constant wall temperature boundary condition. Flow rates were measured directly from time required to fill the glass vessel as one of the results of the nanofluid properties.

Figure 5 shows a schematic diagram similar to the experimental set up by S. Zeinali Heris et al. [42] was employed in an experimental study conducted by Maryamalsadat Lajvardi et al. [43]. Both aimed to find the heat transfer properties of different nanofluids. The former experimented on alumina trioxide while the later obtained the properties of ferric chloride. The flow loop of the experimental set up in Maryamalsadat's research included a peristaltic pump and a test section. Eight thermocouples are connected at throughout the heat transfer test section to measure the wall temperature. In order to minimize the heat loss from the test section, the whole test section was thermally isolated as done by S. Zeinali Heris. Both experiments were conducted towards a straight single circular tube.

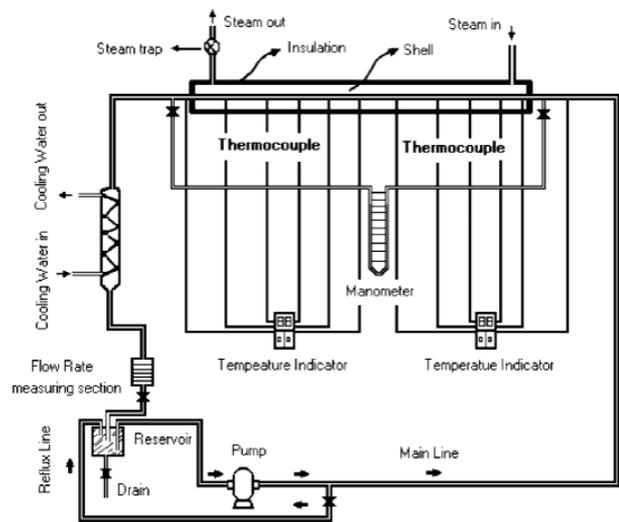


Figure 4. Experimental set up for Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> nanofluid

In 2011, a similar experimental set was set up in an article from the Nanoscale Research Letters by Sundara Ramaprabhu et al. [44]. The flow loop included a pump with flow controlling valve system, a reservoir and a test section. Instead of eight, only four T-type thermocouples were mounted on the test section from the inlet of the test section to measure the wall temperature distribution, and two further T-type thermocouples were inserted into the flow at the inlet and exit of the test section to measure the bulk temperatures of nanofluids. This might be due to its size and has not affected the results of thermal properties. Similar to its predecessors, this experiment tested graphene nanofluid by changing its volume fraction percentage and Reynolds number to understand the heat transfer properties.

Another experiment on Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> was done to investigate the convection heat transfer and friction factor in 2011 by L. Syam Sundar et al. [45]. The experimental set up is as shown in Figure 6. The experimental setup consists of copper tube of internal diameter 0.014 m, a chiller, collecting tank, a storage tank, data acquisition system, personal computer and pump. L. Syam Sundar et al. has stated that the space between the test section and the outer casing is filled with rock wool insulation, differing from previously stated papers which used fiber glass for heat isolation.

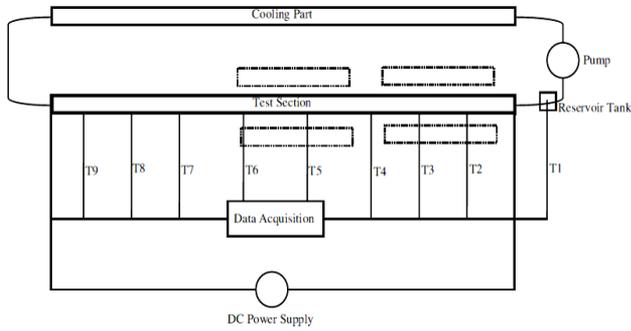


Figure 5. Experimental set up for Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> nanofluid

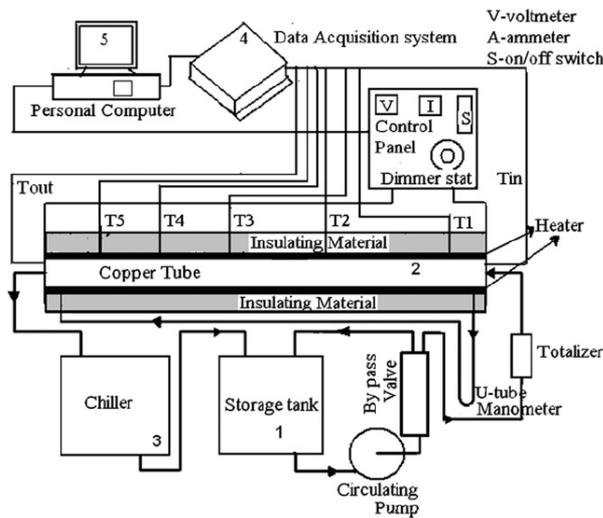


Figure 6. Experimental set up for Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> nanofluid

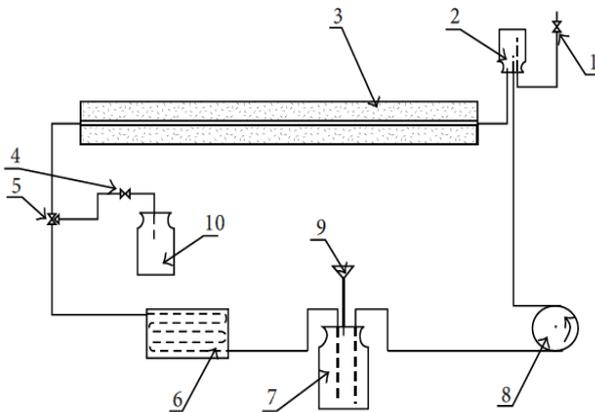


Figure 7. Experimental set up for Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> nanofluid

- (1) Steam trap, (2) Water tank, (3) Test section, (4) Switch,
- (5) Vacuum valve, (6) Air cooler, (7) Reservoir tank, (8) Pump, (9) Funnel, (10) Collection tank

A self-made simplified experimental set was used by Jie Ma et al. [46] in 2013 as shown in schematic diagram in Figure 7. Although the experimental set up is simplified, the thermocouples used in this research was more than used in Sundara Ramaprabhu, Maryamalsadat and Zeinali Heris et al. Jie ma et al. used 14 thermocouples, which might have contributed to its more accurate and better results. As for the process of the experiment conducted, nanofluids flow inside the copper tube and pass through the test section for heat exchanger. The test chamber is covered by a heat-insulating

shield with 10cm thickness for blocking the heat lost. The flow rate of fluid is controlled and manipulated by a peristaltic type pump to ease the change of Reynolds number. This experiment specifically disposed the idea of conventional base liquids such as oil and ethylene glycol for its fewer adequacies for high heat flux application.

A more recent and specific research was done by M. Naraki et al. [33] for the effects of copper oxide nanofluid on the h when tested in a car radiator. This was one of the first tests experimented on an actual car radiator instead of a single tube. The schematic of experimental system, Figure 8, used in this experiment has a test section with a cross flow heat exchanger (an automobile radiator) which was installed inside the air flow channel and its configuration is the louvered fin-and-tube type.

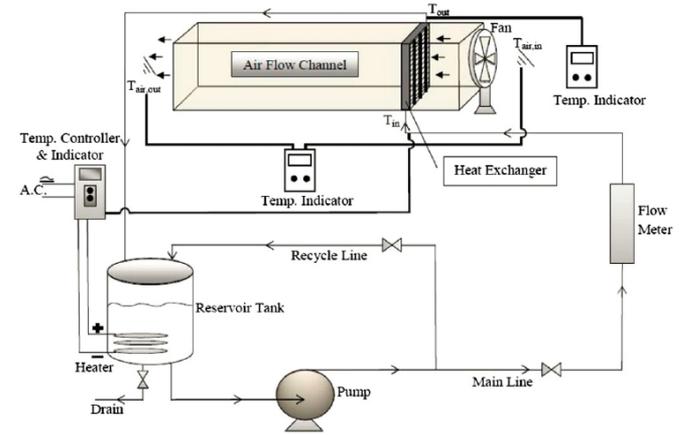


Figure 8. Experimental set up for CuO nanofluid

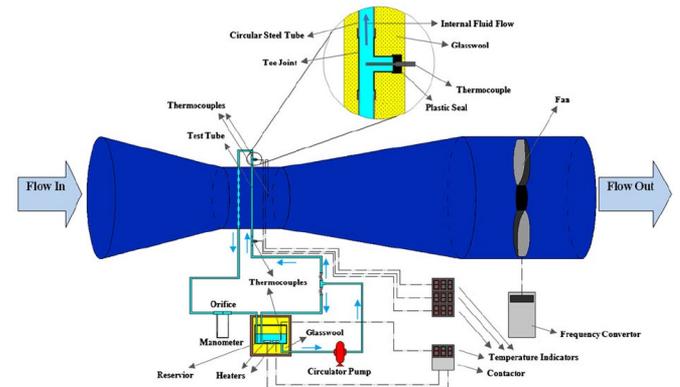


Figure 9. Experimental set up for Ag nanofluid

Also in the same year, Mansor Hemmati et al. [47] studied on the thermal conductivity of silver np in dilute water for use in the cross flow of air (tunnel). The experimental set up is shown in Figure 9. The test section was insulated with fibre glass to avoid heat loss to the environment. The ambient airflow was driven to the test section by a centrifugal fan. The rotations per minute of the wind tunnel fan and the air speed were controlled by an inverter which provided frequency control with different accuracies. The velocity of the cross flow of air was measured by a pitot-static tube.

In 2016, there were more experimental researches on alumina as thermal conductivity enhancers additional to the many journal papers in previous years. Figures 10-11 were from two distinguish papers published in early 2016 on the use of alumina as nanofluids for thermal property enhancement.

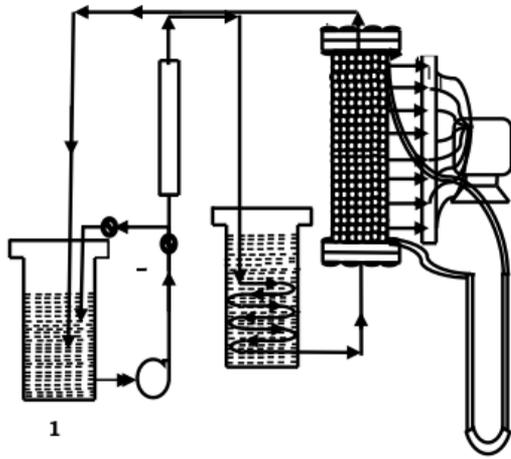


Figure 10. Experimental set up for Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>

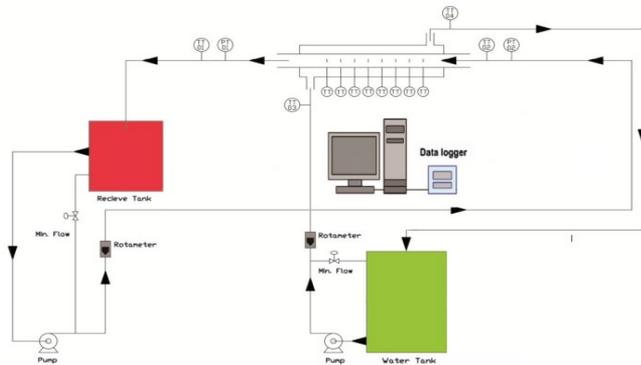


Figure 11. Experimental set up for ethylene glycol-based Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>

Figure 10 shows an experiment done by G. Srinivas Rao et al. [26] to investigate heat transfer properties of alumina nanofluid. Heydar Maddah et al. [27] published a research on alumina nanofluid with an experimental set as seen in Figure 11. The working fluids were circulated through the loop by using variable speed pumps of suitable capacity. As seen in the figures, both experiments were on alumina nanofluid but the setup is quite different. The former experiments under forced convection circumstance while the later studies the nanofluid properties with turbulent flow.

Rashid Pourrajab et al. [25] experimented with a similar experimental set with S Zeinali Heris and Maryamalsadat et al. Rashid Pourrajab et al. has experimented on alumina trioxide just as many of the previous papers did but under forced convection circumstances. Heat flux is adjusted by varying the voltage while the heat transfer section was isolated a thick insulation consisting of a layer of ceramic fiber blanket and a layer of ceramic fiber rope at the outer surface to prevent radial heat loss to the surroundings. The results were satisfying at 22.5% increase in heat transfer at 0.9% vol fraction while the increase in S Zeinali's were 47% at 1.6% vol fraction. This makes S. Zeinali Heris et al.'s research on a single tube higher in enhancement by 4.3%.

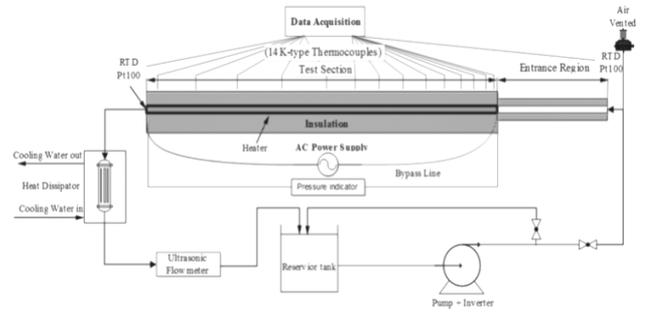


Figure 12. Experimental set up for graphene nanofluid

An experimental test bed was constructed by Hossein Akhavan-Zanjani et al. [48] and used to study the hydro dynamically fully developed laminar forced convection of the water-based Graphene nanofluid through a horizontal circular tube at constant wall heat flux in Figure 12, a complete opposite of the turbulent flow variable used in previous paper by Heyda Maddah et al. but similar in terms of nanofluid used.

A different approach was done by Sudev Das et al. [49] where comparison of heat transfer properties was done between untreated and treated, coated and uncoated copper heating surfaces instead of varying nanofluid vol fraction only. Nevertheless, the procedures lead to a similar purpose which is the enhancement of  $h$ . The set up in Figure 13 is the experimental set up designed in Sudev Das et al.'s research which resulted in a significant enhancement of heat transfer with treated silicon dioxide nanofluid coated with copper. Figure 14 is an experimental set up by Devanesan Madhesh et al. [50]. The directional flows relating to the hot and cold streams were set using the control valves in counter current mode such that the overall effectiveness of the heat exchanger was expected to be enhanced. The specially designed sample holding system was dedicated for thermal conductivity measurement of liquid samples.

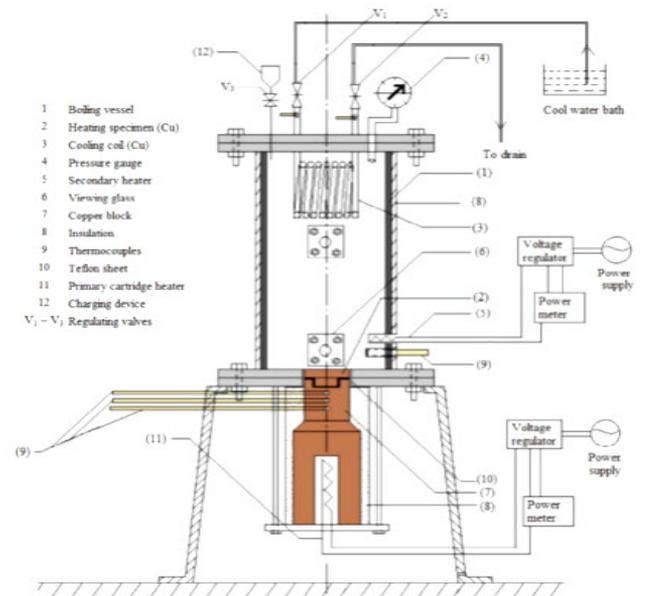
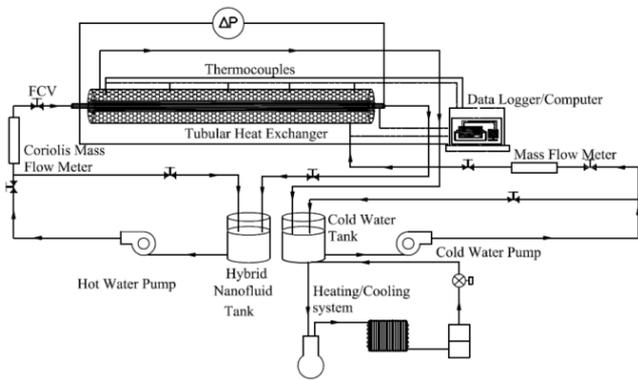
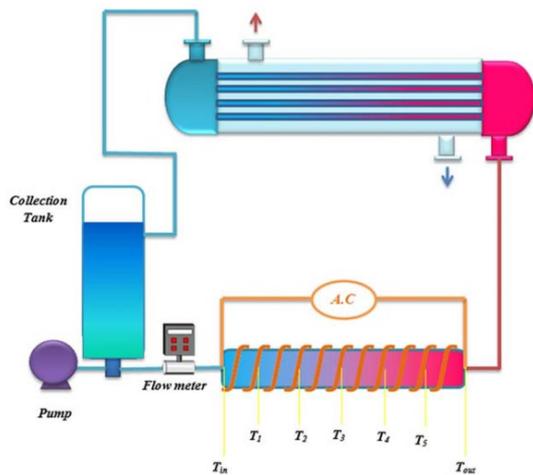


Figure 13. Experimental set up for SiO<sub>2</sub>-CuO nanofluid



**Figure 14.** Experimental set up for Ag & Cu in tubular heat exchanger

Figure 15 shows a sketch of the experimental apparatus used in this study for measuring the convective  $h$  in the laminar flow domain. The whole test section was heated by an element linked to an AC power supply to obtain a constant heat flux and to minimize the heat loss; a thermal insulating layer covered the heater as well. Wall temperature measurement was taken by the thermocouples at five equal intervals from each other. These temperatures were measured by the thermocouples directly, and then a signal was sent to the software sector [51].



**Figure 15.** Experimental set up for CNT-TiO<sub>2</sub>

Many more experiments were done on the thermal conductivity of nanofluids where diagrams of the experimental set up were not provided in their excerpt. Most of the experiments done using the same set up of either hot wires or consisting of a flow loop containing several sections such as temperature, pressure and flow rate measuring units, heating and cooling sections and flow controlling system. Some of these can be read about in journal articles by G. DeWitt et al., Songping Li et al, Xinwei Wang et al., J. A. Eastman et al., and Shou-Zhu Guo et al. [30, 49-52] etc.

Aside from experimental research, some researchers took a numerical approach to analyse the heat transfer conductivity of nanofluids. Said articles include the researches by John Philip et al., M. A. A. Hamad et al., S. M. Aminossadati et al., and M. Sheikholeslami et al. [4, 53-55] etc.

Mahdi Benzema et al. [56] wrote a research paper reporting a numerical investigation of steady and laminar mixed convection flow within an irregular ventilated enclosure,

crossed by Cu–Water nanofluid while K. Ragui et al. [57] discussed the hydrodynamic and thermal characteristics of Ag–water nanofluid, filling a differentially heated cubic enclosure, numerically.

### 3.3 Variables

The most important part of the experiments is the variables taken into account in obtaining desired results. Although the variables manipulated are usually the same among most researches – volume fraction %, some experiments change type of nanoparticle material [46]. A paper by Philip D. Myers Jr. et al. [18] focuses on temperature (melting points of materials) as a manipulated variable to investigate thermal properties while Fatih Selimefendigil et al. [58] focused on varying the SiO<sub>2</sub> np' Rayleigh number. Weerapun Duangthongsuka et al. [59-60], in contrary, researched on the thermal performance and pressure-drop characteristics of nanofluid-cooled heat sinks by comparing their pin fin configurations besides the effect of nanofluid presence.

**Table 1.** Table of constant, manipulative, and responding variables

Manipulated Variables	Responding Results
Nanoparticle material	Thermal conductivity (W/m K)
Nanoparticle size (nm)	Specific heat capacity (J/kg K)
Volume fraction (%)	Nanofluid density (kg/m <sup>3</sup> )
Base density (kg/m <sup>3</sup> )	Dynamic viscosity (N.s/m <sup>2</sup> )
Temperature (C)	Friction factor
Reynolds number	Nusselt number

Table 1 shows the variables, which are vastly used, that could be kept constant or manipulated by researchers based on their objectives and the results obtained for heat transfer efficiency analysis. Aside from the normal variables used, the most important variable that needs to be considered is the types of material used to make the nanofluid. The natural properties of the material used make the most significant difference in the resultant thermal conductivity. Based on recent studies, there have been countless experiments on alumina, copper and iron for their ability to enhance thermal conductivity efficiency. These nanoparticle used vary in decoration, size and volume fractions. Decorated nanofluids include diamond-copper, kerosene-alumina, silver-graphene, copper-HEG, and Ag-MWCNT [21, 38, 61-63] etc.; where most of their sizes vary between 20nm – 60nm. Although the concentrations of nanofluid dispersed in the base fluid are usually between 0.01% - 2.5%, some uses as low as 0.005% [41] and as high as 10% [45].

## 4. RESEARCH RESULTS ANALYSIS: THERMAL CONDUCTIVITY

Thermal conductivity has been the main interest of a good deal of researchers using nanofluids in applications. Based on previous researches, Table 2 is a summary on the most studied materials and their best results on thermal conductivity enhancement. It can be seen that as the volume concentration increases, the thermal conductivity subsequently increases. Several concluded that increase in temperature also resulted in a significant enhancement in thermal conductivity.

In line with that, the Reynolds number decreases with every increase of volume concentration, thus usually decreasing the

Nusselt number and decreasing the ratio of convective to conductive heat transfer across the boundary. In few cases, though it is minor, the friction factor also increases due to increase of volume fraction. For example, in an experiment on Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> by L. Syam Sundar et al. [42], the h is enhanced by 30.96% while friction factor is increased by 10.01% at 0.6% volume concentration.

**Table 2.** Summary of thermal conductivity enhancement of nanofluids

Material	Volume Fraction (%)	Thermal Conductivity Enhancement (%)	References
Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	7.8	23	[53]
CuO	0.4	8	[33]
MWCNT in Poly ( $\alpha$ -olefin)oil	1.0	150	[64]
MWCNT in water	0.6	38	[65]
Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	4.3	15	[39]
Graphene in DI water	0.05	16	[41]
Graphene in EG	0.08	1	[41]
Ag	0.9	69.3	[9]
TiO <sub>2</sub>	5	30	[66]
SiO <sub>2</sub>	0.03	7.57	[58]

## 5. DISCUSSION

While alumina and copper are widely experimented with decoration of silver, kerosene and nitrate salts [18, 61, 38], the concept of decoration is indefinitely underexposed.

Graphene is one of the least explored nanofluids, with less than 40 researchers discussing on its heat transfer abilities alone and even lesser researchers experimenting with decorations of the nanofluid. With few repeated decoration materials by some researchers, Table 3 shows the known and published articles on decorated graphene used for thermal conductivity applications.

From Table 2, graphene in DI water has the highest thermal conductivity enhancement with the lowest volume fraction. From a 0.05% volume fraction of f-HEG dispersed DI water based nanofluid shows an enhancement in thermal conductivity of about 16% at 25°C and 75% at 50°C.

All of the material coating the graphene as decoration has their own characteristics which can benefit several applications. Au has fluorescence, luminescence, and electrochemical characteristics that make it excellent sensory and environmental devices [67]. Based on the paper written by Hu et al. [70], silver has outstanding robustness upon being bent down 100 times to 5 mm with and without encapsulation. Paint & Coatings Industry magazine [71] explained in an article that with the effect of heats of immersion of a particle in water, SiO<sub>2</sub> is high up in the ranking of high solubility, at a level of 2-6 ppm, which makes it credible for solubility and heat transfer purposes while being economical. Nitrogen is said to remain covalently bounded to the surface of graphene in the form of hydrazones, amines, aziridines or other similar

structures in an article by Wei Gao et al et al [68, 72-73]. Copper is generally known as a medium in enhancing heat transfer activities whereas the high permittivity of poly (vinylidene fluoride) attracted the interest for the polymer/graphene composite for heat transfer enhancement in an article in 2011 [69].

**Table 3.** Research on decorated graphene nanofluids

Material Doped	Research	Results	Ref.
Au	Optical properties	SERS enhancement factors of ranging from 9 to 20	[67]
Ag	Synthesis and application	Synthesized successfully without any surfactant 0.01 vol % enhances 122% h	[34]
SiO <sub>2</sub>	Stability	Hydrophilicity, stability, thermal conductivity improved rather than using surfactant (SDBS)	[50]
Nitrogen	Preparation, characterization, viscosity, thermal conductivity	0.06 vol % enhances 36.78% h	[68]
CuO	Synthesis and transport properties	0.05 vol % enhances 28% h	[62]
Poly(vinylidene fluoride)	Permittivity, thermal conductivity and thermal stability	0.5 vol % enhances 200% h 7.5 vol % had a permittivity higher than 300	[69]
Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> ceramics	Thermal energy storage	Low sheet electrical resistance and high thermal conductivity graphene/ceramic nanofluid may play important role in thermal management applications	[14]

Regarding the experimental rig set ups discussed, Table 4 analyses the nanofluids used and outcomes of each experiments.

Every experimental set up were designed specifically and intentionally by authors to investigate heat transfer properties. However, given that each equipment and components have significant advantages; authors have received different outcomes and delivered substantial results for further researchers to delve into optimizing experimental design to obtain optimum results based on research purposes.

It can be seen that the use of laminar or turbulent flow, number of thermocouples, types of test section and many more can have slight or heavy effect towards final results. One clear example of this is the difference between the experiments done by G. Srinivas Rao et al and Heydar Maddah et al on the heat transfer activities of Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>. Both researched on the same nanofluid but the former received a 14.6% increment in h with a 0.5 vol% while the later enhanced thermal activities by 4.2% with the same amount of 0.5vol% of the nanofluid. Therefore it can be concluded that experimental set ups should be designed based on the author's sources and objectives; the results will differ.

**Table 4.** Experimental design outcomes summary

Experiment/Figure	Nanofluid	Outcome
S. Zeinali Heris et al. (Fig. 4)	Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	Increase in h due to presence of np is much higher than the prediction of single phase heat transfer correlation used with nanofluid properties.
Maryamalsadat Lajvardi et al. (Fig. 5)	FeCl <sub>3</sub>	Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> magnetic np dispersed in water cannot enhance convective heat transfer in laminar flow regime in the absence of magnetic field but particularly significant under the influence of an applied magnetic field and magnetic nanoparticle volume fraction.
L. Syam Sundar et al. (Fig. 6)	Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	h is enhanced by 30.96% and friction factor by 10.01% at 0.6% volume concentration.
Jie Ma et al. (Fig. 7)	Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	Increased concentration of np is disadvantage to improve the forced h under transition region with present investigated conditions.
M. Naraki et al. (Fig. 8)	CuO-H <sub>2</sub> O	h increases with the enhancement in the nanofluid concentration from 0 to 0.4 vol% and decreases with increase of nanofluid inlet temperature from 50C to 80C.
Mansor Hemmati et al. (Fig. 9)	Ag-DI	Measured thermal conductance, ef- fectiveness, and external Nu are ±4.1%, ±3.7%, and ± 4.3%, respectively with 0.005%, 0.01%, and 0.02% volume fraction.
G. Srinivas Rao et al. (Fig. 10)	Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	The enhancement in heat transfer with 6mm glass beads, at Reynolds number of 500 and 3000 is respectively greater by 14.6% for 0.5% nanofluid concentration.
Heydar Maddah et al. (Fig. 11)	Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	Maximum thermal enhancement at 4.2% with Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> /EG nanofluid 0.5 vol% in corrugated tube with twisted tape at twist ratio 2.
Hossein Akhavan-Zanjani et al. (Fig. 12)	Graphene	Enhancement 10.3% for thermal conductivity and 14.2% for h at Re 1850 with 0.02 vol% in a laminar forced heat transfer inside a circular tube.
Sudev Das et al. (Fig. 13)	SiO <sub>2</sub> -CuO	Electron beam physical vapor deposition (EBPVD) coating approach used to fabricate nanofluid which caused reduction of about 36% in the incipience superheat and 58% enhancement in h.
Devanesan Madhesh et al(Fig. 14)	Ag & Cu	At nanofluid 1.0 vol%, h and Nu were augmented by 52% and 47.5% for Ag nanofluids, 27.6% and 24.3% for CuO nanofluids, respectively, in turbulent flow.
L. Megatif et al. (Fig. 15)	CNT-TiO <sub>2</sub>	Significant enhancement of h (about 38%) was achieved by using 0.2 wt% CNT-TiO <sub>2</sub> hybrid NFs at 38C in laminar flow.

## 6. CONCLUSIONS

Based on previous literatures, many applications would be more efficient with the help of nanofluids. It is concluded that the presence of nanofluids generally increases the h and thermal conductivity. Aside from that, other properties such as stability, hydrophilicity, and electrical resistance could also be enhanced with the right nanofluids used.

It is clear that there is much more space to explore in the nanofluid research community especially doped and decorated nanofluids. Decorated nanofluids help enhance all characteristics. While graphene np have excellent heat transfer properties as an individual nanofluid, doped graphene np portrayed higher potential in heat transfer and other applications as well. Copper oxide doped on graphene np, as the most used decorated np, caused an enhancement of 28% in thermal conductivity with 0.05 vol% while graphene nanofluid increased 16% of heat transfer with the same 0.05 vol%. Additionally, silver excels in stability causing silver doped graphene nanofluids to be synthesized without any surfactants. Obviously, further research of unlikely pairs of doped np for nanofluids could be done in the future for exploration of higher purposes of nanofluids.

Furthermore, having stability and cost of nanofluid preparation and experimental rigs is a major issue in the nanofluid industry. Actual heat exchangers used in the industry are also increasing in price by the week due to the economy. Further commercialization and additions to theoretical and experimental research is suspected to solve these challenges while increasing the potential of nanofluids.

The various methods of experimental research for thermal conductivity were summarized efficiently in this review paper. Heat transfer related experiments for nanofluids were analyzed and the slight change in research objectives definitely changes in the setup of experimental rigs. Although the experimental methods were common and almost alike among most researchers, methods of nanofluid preparation are inconsistent between many researchers.

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## NOMENCLATURE

T	Thermocouple
CP	Specific heat, J. kg <sup>-1</sup> . K <sup>-1</sup>
g	Gravitational acceleration, m.s <sup>-2</sup>
k	Thermal conductivity, W.m <sup>-1</sup> . K <sup>-1</sup>
h	H, W/m <sup>2</sup> .K
ppm	Parts per million

np	Nanoparticle
Nu	Nusselt number
H	Hydrogen
N	Nitrogen
Ag	Silver
Si	Silica
Fe	Ferum
Ti	Titanium
O	Oxide
Al	Alumina
Cl	Chloride
Cu	Copper
Au	Aurum
DI	Distilled water
SDS	Sodium Dodecyl Sulfonate
Vol%	Volume fraction percentage, %
Wt%	Weight fraction percentage, %
m	Meter, m
PWR	Pressurized water reactors
CHF	Critical heat flux
CFD	Computational fluid dynamics
FTIR	Fourier transforminfrared spectroscopy
TGA	Thermogravimetric analysis
TEM	Transmission electron microscopy
SEM	Scanning electron microscopy
AC	Alternating current power supply
MWCNT	Multi walled carbon nanotube
HEG	Heavy ethylene glycol

## APPENDIX

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