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Abstract: Latest trend of miniaturization of thermal systems, calls for the improvement in their efficiency. Nanofluid contains the nanoparticles having large surface area and improves the thermal efficiency. This enhancement is the function of different mechanisms and parameter. This paper explores the heat transfer nature of nanofluids by addressing the experimental studies available in literature and conducting an experimental study using water based Copper oxide nanofluids. Nanoparticles were characterized by X-ray diffraction analysis and Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscopy to confirm the material, size and morphology of the nanoparticles. Thermal conductivity analysis has been performed at 30°C, 40°C and 50°C with 0.1%,0.5% and 1% concentration by weight. Mechanism of agglomeration, concentration and size of particles are found to be more significant in affecting the heat transfer. The maximum enhancement of 22.9 % in thermal conductivity is found in case of 1% weight concentration nanofluids consisting of small size (20nm) nanoparticles at temperature of 50°C.

Keywords: heat transfer, temperature, volume concentration, nanofluids, clusters.

#### I. INTRODUCTION

Colloidal suspensions of solid nanoparticles in base fluids are known as nanofluids [1]. Nanoparticles like nanocomposites, nanocrystalline materials, carbon nanotubes (CNT) and ceramic particles etc. and conventional liquids like water, engine oil etc. may be used to synthesize nanofluids. One step and two step methods are meant for small and large scale synthesis respectively. The ultrasonication and magnetic stirring of mixture may be used to get even, stable and durable suspension. Surfactants or functionalized nanoparticles may also be added for increasing stability of nanofluid, if required. Size in nanoscale and large specific area of nanoparticles show higher thermal conductivity, uniformity along with obstruction in flow channel and stability of suspension than that of mixtures consisting of fluids and micro-sized or macro-sized solid particles. They also show minimum

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clogging and abrasion in flow passages. Heat transfer is through conduction as well as convection. To get maximum heat transfer at constant temperature potential or surface area, value of coefficient of heat convection may be increased which further depends upon the fluid properties, velocity and surface geometry. These days, the research is focused on the enhancement of cooling rate by altering the fluid properties. However, agglomeration is a major problem in the analysis of nanofluids. In this process the colloidal particles mutually interact and form agglomerates or clusters in dispersed medium. They form clusters of small particles by combining with each other which settled down due to gravity and decrease the shelf life of nanofluids. Nanofluids have been primarily used in coolant for heat transfer systems like heat exchangers, electronic system and radiators etc. Now days, hybrid nanofluids are gaining more popularity. Hybrid nanofluids are obtained by dispersing nanoparticles of at least two different materials in common base fluid in order to get the advantages of materials as a single material can not possess all the desirable properties. This paper is an attempt to explore heat transfer nature of nanofluids by addressing experimental studies based on properties, mechanisms and factors which influence the heat transfer process.

#### II. THERMOPHYSICAL PROPERTIES

# A. Thermal conductivity

It is the property by virtue of which nanofluids conduct heat. It depends upon various factors like temperature, size, concentration, surface area and shape of nanoparticles. Transient hot wire method is precise and less time consuming method to measure thermal conductivity. Vallejo et al. [2] reported that higher temperature results in enhancement of thermal conductivity. Nikulin et al. [3] reported that thermal conductivity increase with increase in particle concentration.

# B. Specific heat

It is the amount of heat needed to increase the temperature of 1gm of nanofluid by 1°C. It is linked with heat storage or heat transfer. Specific heat of base fluids is increased when nanoparticles are added. It can be estimated by using a relation given by Xuan and Roetzel [4]. It is measured by using Differential Scanning Calorimeter (DSC) or simple calorimeter.

## C. Viscosity

It is the internal resistance to the flow of nanofluids which depends upon size, concentration and shape of particles. According to Einstein [5] nanofluids were consisted of viscous fluid and spherical nanoparticles. Viscosity influences the pumping power and heat transfer rate.



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Yan Liu et al. [6] conducted number of experiments to investigate the viscosity hybrid nanofluids and nanofluids consisting of TiO<sub>2</sub>, Ag and Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and engine oil.

They reported that hybrid nanofluid showed lower viscosity than single particle nanofluids. Generally, viscosity

decreases with rise in temperature.

Different relations for the properties have been derived on the basis of experimental findings. Table 1 shows the equations and apparatus used by researchers for thermo physical properties. Terms used have their usual meanings.

Table- I: Thermo physical properties chart

Property	Equation	Apparatus	Reference
Thermal Conductivity	$k_{nf} = \frac{2k_{bf} + k_p + 2\phi(k_p - k_{bf})}{2k_{bf} + k_p - \phi(k_p - k_{bf})} k_{bf}$	KD Pro KS-1 sensor	[7]
Specific Heat	$C_{nf} = \frac{(1-\phi) \rho_{\text{bf}} \cdot C_{bf} + \phi \cdot \rho_{\text{p}} \cdot C_{\text{p}}}{\rho_{nf}}$	Differential Scanning Calorimeter	[4]
Viscosity	$\frac{\eta_{nf}}{\eta_f} = 1 + 2.5(\phi), \qquad \phi = \left(\frac{M_p}{M_p + M_f}\right) \times 100$	DV-III Ultra Viscometer	[5]

Fluid properties are functions of temperature, concentration, size etc. Out of different fluid properties, thermal conductivity directly influences the heat transfer rate [1].

# III. MECHANISMS DESCRIBING THERMAL BEHAVIOUR

#### A. Brownian motion

Nanoparticles suspended in base fluids exhibit motion of zig-zag nature which is known as Brownian motion. It is described by the mean velocity in a preferred direction. High temperature tends to increase this motion. Mallick et al. [8] estimated heat transfer rate and found excellent agreement with test data up to 5% accuracy. However, some researcher found Brownian motion to be too slow to contribute in heat transfer enhancement [9, 10, 11]. Y. Cang et al. [12] compared the experimental and predicted data of test and reported over prediction and under prediction inaccuracy.

# **B.** Agglomeration

Due to the forces of attraction, nanoparticles grouped together and form clusters. Size of the cluster affects the thermal conductivity [13]. Tendency for agglomeration increases as the size of nanoparticles is decreased [14]. According to Keblinski et al. [15] the clusters having loosely packed structures result in greater heat transfer enhancement than compact clusters. Heat transfer is enhanced up to some extent due to agglomeration [16]. However, the excessive agglomeration decreases the thermal conductivity. This may be due to sedimentation of clusters. To get stable suspensions these clusters are broken down by physical and chemical methods. Physical methods include ultrasonication and high pressure homogenization. Ultrasonication is of two types prob sonication and bath sonication. In chemical methods surfactants or functionalized particles are added to the suspensions to change surface properties of the particles. Hwang et al. [17] proposed a new method of using two micro-channels to break the clusters and get stable suspensions. In general agglomeration decreases the thermal conductivity and disturbs the stability. To overcome this problem, smaller size nanoparticles with low volumetric concentrations may be used.

# C. Thermophoresis

Thermophoresis is produced due to the thermophoretic force which observed when a temperature gradient exist in nanofluids. Force of temperature gradient in temperature fields play important role. Nanoparticles in the hot region acquire higher kinetic energy due to high temperature and push the cold region nanoparticles. Thus, direction of the temperature gradient is opposite to the directions in nanoparticles flow [18,19].

### D. Interfacial liquid layer

This layer is formed between the surfaces of nanoparticles and liquid. It slips and enhances thermal conductivity [20, 21]. This enhancement is directly proportional to thickness of this layer [15]. Interfacial Liquid layer may be considered as a separate third component of nanofluid along with nanoparticles and base liquid.

# IV. PARAMETERS AFFECTING THERMAL BEHAVIOUR

### A. Temperature

Temperature can affect the agglomeration by varying the motion of nanoparticles. Duangthongsuk et al. [22] conducted experiment with TiO2/water nanofluids. They reported that rise in temperature and particle concentration resulted rise of heat transfer rate. Vajjha et al. [23] studied nanofluids at different temperatures. Linear relationship was reported between heat transfer and temperature. Syam Sundar et al. [24] conducted experiment with Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/EG and Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/water 20°C to 60 °C. They also reported the same relation.

#### **B.** Volume concentration

According to Masuda et al. [25] heat transfer rate and particle concentration show linear relationship in case of Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>/water nanofluid. Lee et.al [26] also witnessed the linear relationship. Nanofluids containing the CNTs show a sudden increase even at small concentrations [27, 28]. Generally, heat transfer rate

varies directly with volume concentration [9, 13].



However, some researchers reported a nonlinear behaviour also [29, 30]. Agglomeration may be responsible for such nonlinear relationships.

#### C. Size of nanoparticles

In case of CNT, both diameter and length of tube are considered. Generally, shape of nanoparticles has been supposed to be spherical. Wang et al. [31] performed experiment on CuO based nanofluids having nanoparticles of different size. They reported that heat transfer rate varies directly with size of nanoparticles. Similar results were reported by other researchers also [32, 25]. Size also affects the viscosity of nanofluids which further affects heat transfer. He et al. [12] reported a linear relation between viscosity and size of nanoparticles in case of TiO2/distilled water nanofluid whereas Namburu et al. [33] reported non-linear relationship. Michael Beck et.al [34] studied water and EG based seven nanofluids consisting of alumina nanoparticles of diameter varying from 8nm to 282 nm. They witnessed the decreased heat transfer in case of nanofluids containing nanoparticles of size more than 50nm.

## D. Shape of nanoparticles

Choi et al. [35] studied water and EG based nanofluids

consisting of spherical and cylindrical nanoparticles of SiC. They found more heat transfer enhancement through cylindrical particles (22.9%) than spherical shaped (15.8%). According to Murshed et al. [36] cylindrical particles are more efficient than spherical particles. Xie et al. [16] studied three different water based nanofluids consisting of CNTs, silver nanowires and copper nanowires. They reported that tube like particles improved heat transfer enhancement to large extent. Chen et al. [37] studied nanofluids consisting of spherical nanoparticles and cylindrical nanoparticles. They reported that difference in enhancement is not large. Hashemian et.al [38] replaced cylindrical tubes of heat exchanger with conical tubes of same weight. They found 54% improvement in heat transfer. Generally, the cylindrical particles show more enhancement than spherical.

#### E. Material of nanoparticles

Different materials have different thermal conductivities. Out of CuO and  $Al_2O_3$  heat transfer ability of alumina is high. However, heat transfer ability of nanofluids containing CuO particles was more than nanofluids containing  $Al_2O_3$  particles [25]. This may be due to more agglomeration of  $Al_2O_3$  nanoparticles than of CuO.

Table- II: Summary of thermal conductivity enhancement

Nanofluid Parameter studied		Thermal conductivity Enhancement	Reference	
Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> /water	volume concentration (4.3%)	32.4%	Masuda et al. [25]	
CuO/ EG, CuO/water, Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> /EG and Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> /water	volume concentration (4%)	20%	Lee et al. [26]	
CuO/EG	size (10nm) volume concentration( 0.3%)	40%	Eastman et al.[32]	
Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> /EG, Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> /water	Size (8nm - 282 nm)	increase up to size 50nm beyond that start decreasing	Michael et.al [34]	
CuO/EG	Size (23.6nm) volume concentration (4%)	20 %	Masuda et al.[25]	
Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> /EG, CuO/EG, Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> /water,CuO/water	temperature (298 K - 363K) volume concentration (10%)	increased with rise in temperature and concentration	Vajjha et al. [23]	
MWCNTs/engine oil	volume concentration (4 %)	150%	Choi et.al [28]	
TiO <sub>2</sub> /water	temperature (15°C - 35 °C) volume concentration (0.2% - 2%)	26% increased with rise in temperature and concentration	Duangthongsuk et al.[22]	
Graphene nanosheets/water	weight concentration (0.05, 0.075 & 0.1 %)	35.6 % at 0.1 wt. % Increased with concentration	Ghozatloo et al.[39]	
Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> - CuO/ water	volume concentration (0.5-1.5 %)	21% at 1.5 vol. %	Tushar et al.[40]	
TiO <sub>2</sub> -SiO <sub>2</sub> /EG-water	different mixture ratio of TiO <sub>2</sub> -SiO <sub>2</sub> (20:80, 40:60, 50:50, 60:40 & 80:20) at 1% volume concentration	35.32% at 40:60 mixture ratio and at 70°C	Hamid et al. [41]	
Graphene oxide/ water-EG	weight concentration (0.01-0.1 %)	13.04% at 0.1 wt.%	Sajjad et al.[42]	
TiO <sub>2</sub> - CNT/water	weight concentration (0.1-0.2 %)	38% at 0.2 wt. %	Megatif et al.[43]	
Graphene nanoplatelets/ Havoline –water	temperature (298K to 343K)	73%	Vallejo et al. [2]	
Graphene nanoplatelets/water	weight concentration (0.025, 0.05, 0.075 and 0.1 %)	13 - 160 %	Sadeghinezhad et al.[44]	

It is observed that  $Al_2O_3$ ,  $TiO_2$ ,  $SiO_2$ , CNT,  $SiO_2$ , CuO,  $Fe_2O_3$ , CuO, CNT and graphene oxide nanoparticles are generally used by the researchers. Out of different types of nanofluids carbon based nanofluids especially grapheme shows significant improvement in

heat transfer [39, 44].

This enhancement depends on thermo physical properties, thermal transport mechanisms and different parameters as discussed.

#### F. Relative importance of parameters

A number of properties and parameters were studied by the researchers making the nanofluid systems complex. Table 2 presents the summary of various studies. Elena et al. [45] made an attempt to identify the critical parameters and properties and prepared table 3 by summarizing general results found from the literature. The parameters and properties are listed columns and rows respectively. The weightage of 1.0, 0.5, 0.25 and 0.0 was assigned to the parameters for strong, medium, weak and no dependence respectively on the basis of experimental findings [46].

Symbols used in table 3 have following meaning:

"↑" represents increase in property as parameter is increased

" $\downarrow$ " represents decrease in property as parameter is increased

"S" represents strong dependence (100%) of property on parameter.

"M" represents medium dependence (50%) of property on parameter.

"W" represents weak dependence (25%) of property on parameter. "N" represents no dependence (0%) of property on parameter.

"V" represents which may vary from system to system.

Vol. concentration Temperature Size Shape Material Thermal conductivity  $S \uparrow$  $S \downarrow$ S W Viscosity S  $S\downarrow$ V W W W Stability S↓ W S Specific heat  $S \downarrow$ N N S S S S ↑ Heat transfer coefficient S ↑ 2.75 4.00 2.75 3.00 Relative Importance 4.25

Table- III: Thermophysical properties chart [45]

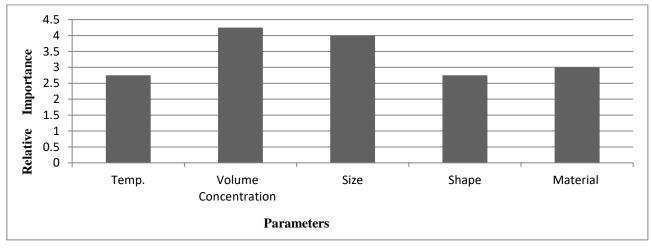


Fig.1. Relative importance of parameters

Relative significance of different parameter can be calculated by total scores as shown in table 3. It is found that volume concentration and size are the dominant parameters. Fluid properties describing the heat transfer characteristics show strong dependence on both of the dominant parameters. This method may be used to manipulate properties by adjusting desirable parameters in order to improve heat transfer rate. Because no material possess all the desirable properties, so different materials having different desirable properties may be dispersed in base fluids to get hybrid nanofluids.

To study the effect of temperature, particle concentration and temperature on the thermal conductivity of nanofluid as well as to demonstrate the findings of previous studies of various researchers, an experiment was conducted by preparing water based CuO nanofluids.

#### V. DESIGN OF EXPERIMENT

## A. Preparation of nanofluid

CuO nanoparticles of two different size (20nm and 50nm) were purchased from Nanoshel Company, Willmington United States. Two step method was used to prepare six samples of nanofluids at 0.1 %, 0.5 % and 1% weight concentration by dispersing specified amount of nanoparticles in distilled water without using any surfactant. Magnetic stirring was performed on the samples for one hour followed by ultrasonication for next three hour to get homogeneous mixture. Specifications as provided by the supplier are given in table 4.

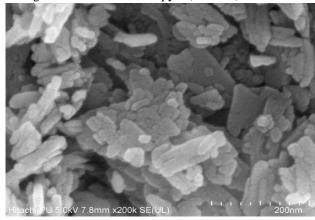


Table-IV: Composition of CuO nanoparticles.

Parameter	Value
Color	Black
Morphology	Spherical
Density	0.79g/cm <sup>3</sup>
Weight	79.54 g/mol
Purity	99.9%
S	< 0.01%
Si	<0.02%
Mg	<0.02%
Al	<0.01%

nanoparticles having 50nm size were performed to characterize material's morphology and size. XRD results showed that characteristic peaks located at different  $2\theta$  confirmed the structure of CuO. The average crystal size using Debye Scherrer formula was found to be 48.7 nm. FESEM images showed the average diameter to be 50nm. Nanoparticles were found to be spherical but tending to form clusters.

X-ray Diffraction (XRD) analysis and Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscopy (FESEM) of CuO



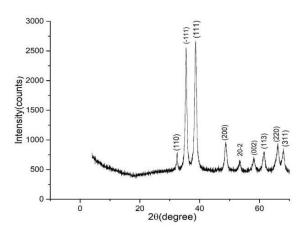


Fig. 2(a). FESEM image of CuO nanoparticles (50nm) (b). XRD of CuO nanoparticles (50nm)

Table-V: Mean thermal conductivity(W/mK) table of distilled water and nanofluids with various concentrations.

Temperature	Distilled water	0.1 wt. %		0.5 wt. %		1 wt. %	
(°C)	(W/mK)	Size, 20nm	Size, 50nm	Size, 20nm	Size, 50nm	Size, 20nm	Size, 50nm
30	0.598	0.625	0.610	0.648	0.619	0.660	0.631
40	0.612	0.640	0.631	0.673	0.644	0.685	0.656
50	0.620	0.667	0.660	0.695	0.682	0.762	0.723

Table-VI: Thermal conductivity enhancement (in % age) using different samples of nanofluid.

Temperature	0.1 wt. %		0.5 wt. %		1 wt. %	
(°C)	Size, 20nm	Size, 50nm	Size, 20nm	Size, 50nm	Size, 20nm	Size, 50nm
30	4.51	2.0	8.36	3.51	10.36	5.51
40	4.57	3.10	9.96	5.22	11.9	7.18
50	7.58	6.45	12.09	10.0	22.90	16.61

# B. Thermal conductivity measurement

KD2 Pro thermal analyzer (Decagon Devices, USA) was used for the measurement along with a water bath to get randomly selected three different temperatures i.e. 30°C, 40°C and 50°C. Samples were kept inside the bath after getting the required temperature for further 10 minutes to achieve equilibrium. Three replicates of each reading were taken for all the samples and base fluid i.e. distilled water. Mean values were recorded in table 5.

#### C. Results analysis

Data of the experiment reveals that heat transfer is increased with increase in concentration of CuO nanoparticles in all the cases. The prepared nanofluids show almost linear increase in thermal conductivity with increase in temperature at all concentration. Enhancement in thermal conductivity of 1 wt. % CuO/distilled water nanofluid

containing small size(20nm) particles at 50°C is maximum i.e. 22.9 % and at 30°C is 10.36 % when compared with that of base fluid. This may be due to increased Brownian motion i.e. nanoparticles become more active with the rise in temperature and transfer more heat energy.

Heat transfer using CuO/distilled water nanofluid containing small size (20nm) nanoparticles is greater than the heat transfer using nanofluids containing large size (50nm) nanoparticles at the same particle concentration. It is found that small size nanoparticles affect thermal properties more. This shows the inverse relationship of heat transfer rate with with size of the particles.

Thus the experimental data validates the general trends of parameters in affecting heat transfer using nanofluids as witnessed by various researchers.

#### VI. CONCLUSION

Heat transfer behavior of nanofluids is explored by addressing experimental studies performed by various researchers. To demonstrate the general findings related to the parameters affecting thermal conductivity, experimental results have been obtained by preparing and measuring thermal conductivity of CuO/ distilled water nanofluids at different concentrations (0.1%, 0.5% and 1% by weight) and temperatures (30°C, 40°Cand 50°C). The prepared nanofluids were found stable for a week without any surfactant. The main findings are listed below:

- 1. Nanofluids show more heat transfer as compare to base fluids. Thermal conductivity directly influences the heat transfer behaviour of nanofluid.
- 2. Agglomeration of nanoparticles is the significant mechanism which affects stability and heat transfer.
- 3. The volume concentration and size of nanoparticles are found to be relatively more significant in affecting the heat transfer
- 4. Maximum enhancement of 22.9 % in thermal conductivity is found in case of 1% weight concentration nanofluids consisting of small size (20nm) nanoparticles at temperature of 50°C.
- 4. Both concentration of particles and temperature shows linear relationship with thermal conductivity or heat transfer enhancement.
- 5. Heat transfer decreases with increase in size of the particles dispersed in base fluids.
- 6. Full understanding of heat transfer behavior of nanofluids is still lacking and lot of research is required aiming at practical applications in this area.

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