

# Variation in the Properties of Nanofluids due to Change in Temperature and Concentration of Nanoparticles

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**Abstract**—Various materials have been developed by the researchers in the field of engineering. Nano materials are the one of the examples of such materials that occupies a major area in engineering. Now many researchers are concentrating on nanofluids. Nanofluids are the suspension of nano sized particles in the conventional fluid. These fluids are environmental friendly and provides better performance than currently using fluids. Nanofluids plays a vital role in many thermal applications such as heat transfer enhancement, automotive industries, nuclear reactors as well as food, biomedicines as it exhibits with superior thermal properties over conventional fluids. Heat exchangers are widely used in industries for transferring heat from one medium to another. The design of heat exchanging system largely depends upon the selection of suitable heat transfer fluid for heat dissipation. Improving the thermal conductivity is the key idea to improve the heat transfer characteristics of conventional fluids. Because solids have larger value thermal conductivity than a conventional fluid hence suspension of metallic solid fine particles into the fluid is expected to improve the thermal conductivity of that fluid. Nanofluids are special kind of fluids containing a small quantity of nano sized particles (usually less than 100nm) that are uniformly and stably suspended in a base liquid. Commonly used nanomaterials are  $Al_2O_3$ ,  $TiO_2$ ,  $CuO$ ,  $ZnO$ , carbon nana tubes, single-walled carbon nana tubes (SWCNT), multi-walled carbon nana tubes (MWCNT) etc. The aim of this review articles is to present the open literature describing the recent advancement in nanofluids technology including the application of nanofluids in the various areas of industries.

**Keywords**—Nanofluids, Heat exchangers, Thermal conductivity, Heat transfer enhancement, Carbon nanotubes.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Heat transfer is one of the most common process in power generation systems, refineries, IC engines, used for numerous purpose such as cooling, heating and chemical process. In many thermal applications conventional fluid water, engine oil, ethylene Glycol are used but these fluids possess limited capabilities in terms of thermo-physical properties hence imposes several restrictions on the use of conventional fluids. In order to improve the thermal properties of conventional fluids many strategies have employed and various researches have been conducted. As the solids have high value of thermal conductivity then fluids hence the value of thermal conductivity can be expected to increase by suspending some metallic particles in the base fluids.

Nanofluid is a colloidal suspension of nano- particles in the conventional fluids which possess enhanced thermo-physical properties such viscosity, thermal conductivity, thermal diffusivity and heat transfer coefficient compared the conventional fluids water, oil [1-8]. The conventional fluids can be water, ethylene glycol, mixture of water and EG, diethylene glycol, engine oil, vegetable oil, paraffin, kerosene, pump oil [9-11]. To reduce the friction and enhance the anti-wear properties carbon based nana particles can be used to prepare nanofluids [12]. In this field Novoselov et al. discovered graphene which is most studied [13]. Graphene is a single layer of carbon atoms bonded by  $sp^2$  hybridization and forms hexagonal structure [14-16]. Macro-sized particles possess problems such as chocking, sedimentation, scale-sludge which is not in case of nanofluids. Because of high surface to volume ratio the nanofluids have good heat transfer enhancement compared to conventional fluids [17]. According to Eastman et al. water based nanofluid with 5%  $CuO$  nanoparticle can enhanced the thermal conductivity approximately 60% [18]. Masuda et al. investigated the thermo-physical properties of  $Al_2O_3$  and  $TiO_2$  suspended water based nanofluids and reported that the thermal conductivity increased 32% and 11% respectively as compared to base fluid [19]. Das et al. studied the temperature dependent behaviour of thermal conductivity of  $Al_2O_3$  and  $CuO$  suspended nana particles in water between the range of  $21^{\circ}C$  to  $51^{\circ}C$  and concluded that the value of thermal conductivity increases with the particle concentration as well as temperature of nanofluid [20]. Kole and Dey et al. concluded the better dispersion and fragmentation of  $ZnO$  nana particles in ethylene-glycol nana fluids. They reported 40% thermal conductivity enhancement by 3.5% (volume) suspension of  $ZnO$  nana particles at  $30^{\circ}C$  [21]. Abdolbaqi et al. studied the water based  $TiO_2$  nanofluid in the temperature range  $30^{\circ}C$  to  $80^{\circ}C$  with different concentration range and concluded that the thermal conductivity decreases with increasing temperature and increases with the increase of concentration [22]. Khedher et al. performed experiment to determine the electrical and thermal conductivity BioGlycol based  $Al_2O_3$  nanofluids with the different concentration in the temperature range of  $30^{\circ}C$  to  $80^{\circ}C$  and observed that as the temperature and concentration of nana particles increases the electrical conductivity also increases. The electrical conductivity at

0.5 volume % concentration is measured to be 154  $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$  [23]. Mohammad Rafiqul Islam et al. investigated the thermal and electrical conductivity of 50/50 water ethylene-glycol based  $\text{TiO}_2$  nanofluid and concluded that the thermal conductivity increases with the increase of both temperature and particle concentration. They measured the electrical conductivity at .05% concentration and 0.5%

concentration from 20°C to 70°C and found the enhancement 91% and 52% respectively [24]. This article summarizes the properties of nanofluids and enhancement of heat transfer with the application of nanofluid. This article presents a comparative study of the effect of various nano particles and different concentration on thermal conductivity.

Table 1. Thermal conductivity of various materials in w/mk

| Sr. No. | Material            | Specification   | Thermal Conductivity (w/mk) |
|---------|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| 1.      | Metallic solids     | Silver          | 429                         |
| 2.      |                     | Gold            | 317                         |
| 3.      |                     | Aluminum        | 237                         |
| 4.      |                     | Copper          | 401                         |
| 5.      | Nonmetallic solids  | Silicon         | 148                         |
| 6.      |                     | Alumina         | 35                          |
| 7.      |                     | CNT             | 2000                        |
| 8.      |                     | Diamond         | 600                         |
| 9.      | Nonmetallic liquids | Water           | 0.613                       |
| 10.     |                     | Ethylene Glycol | 0.253                       |

## II. PREPARATION OF NANOFLUIDS

Nanofluids are the colloidal suspension of nano particles in the conventional fluid. Here it must be clear that the nanofluid is not only the simple mixing and dispersion of nano particles in the base fluid. It is the most significant stage in the use of nano particles or any nanostructured materials to enhance the thermal characteristics of conventional heat transfer fluids. If the nano particles are not prepared properly then agglomeration of solid particles can take place which in turn results in poor thermo-physical properties. Some dispersive agents can be added to improve the stability of nanofluids but it reduces the thermal conductivity of nanofluids.

Nanofluids can be prepared by two methods first one is one step method and another is two step method. Preparation of nanofluid by one step method comprises the preparation of nano particles and fabrication of nanofluid simultaneously [33-34]. One step nanofluid preparation reduces the chances of agglomeration because the steps of dispersion of particles, drying, storage and transportation in the base liquid media are combined. Preparation of nanofluid highly depends upon the dispersion of nano particles. Proper dispersion can be achieved by either ultrasonic vibration till proper dispersion or mixing the nano particles first with distilled water [35]. The two step method for nanofluid preparation is a common technique in which nano particles are fabricated initially as dry powders by physical or chemical method and after that they are dispersed in the base fluid [36-37]. N.A. Usri et al. prepared nanofluids by two step method taking distilled water and ethylene glycol in 60-40 ratio with alumina nano particles. The average size of alumina particles were 13nm in diameter [30]. K. Abdul Hamid et al. prepared nanofluid with  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  nano particles with average particle size 13nm in water ethylene glycol base fluid. In order to improve the dispersion of nano particles Sonication process was employed for two hours [38]. Xuefeng Shao et al. fabricated  $\text{TiO}_2$  - $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  nanofluids by mixing certain amount of TiNTs and TiNSs powder with deionized water. This suspension was

subjected to magnetic stirrer for 30 minutes and ultrasonic cleaner for one hour to improve its stability [39]. Saritkumar das et al. explained some methods to improve the stability of nanofluids. By addition of surface activators, proper dispersion of nano particles in base fluid and control of pH, the sedimentation can be avoided [40].

## III. PROPERTIES OF NANOFLUIDS

In order to evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of a nanofluid in heat transfer applications one must determine the thermo-physical properties of nanofluid such as thermal conductivity, heat transfer coefficient, density and viscosity etc.

Thermal conductivity of a fluid is the ability to transfer or conduct heat. This is a very important thermo-physical property that must be demonstrated to evaluate the capability of fluid for heat transfer applications. Hence higher thermal conductivity of nanofluids is desired for heat transfer applications. The thermal conductivity of nanofluids depends upon some parameters such as particle size, concentration of nano particles, temperature etc. Yoo et al. reported enhancement of thermal conductivity of  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  nanofluid with the control of pH and found maximum value of thermal conductivity at pH value 10.94 [41]. Lee et al. studied the effect of pH on thermal conductivity of water based CuO nanofluids and concluded that as the pH of dispersion decreased the thermal conductivity enhancement increases [42]. Assael MJ et al. concluded that addition of appropriate surface modifier in proper amount results in enhanced thermal conductivity [43]. Moosavi et al [44], Xie et al [45] and Timofeeva et al [46] showed the high thermal conductivity enhancement for the NFs with low thermal conductivity base liquids than that with higher thermal conductivity [44-46]. Thermal conductivity enhancement of nanofluid depends upon the geometrical shape of the particles. Research shows that the thermal conductivity enhancement for cylindrical shaped particles is more than spherical [47]. Gahdimi et al. investigated water based  $\text{TiO}_2$  nanofluids with SDS

surfactant and two ultrasonic process, horn and bath. Maximum value of thermal conductivity was observed in bath type ultrasonic in the presence of SDS [48]. Researchers have also reported the effect of particle crystal structure and concentration of particles on the thermal conductivity. Higher thermal conductivity as well as good viscosity is required for heat transfer applications. Viscosity is defined as internal resistance among the layers of fluid which possess fluid flow which plays a significant

role in thermal application of nanofluids [49]. Mahbubul et al. reported that the that the viscosity increases linearly as the concentration of nana particles increases but some other researchers found non-linear behaviour of viscosity and nanoparticles concentration [50]. Drzazga et al. investigated the effect of surfactant on the viscosity. They added nonionic surfactant in water based CuO nanofluids and concluded that the addition of surfactant increases the viscosity of nanofluids [51].

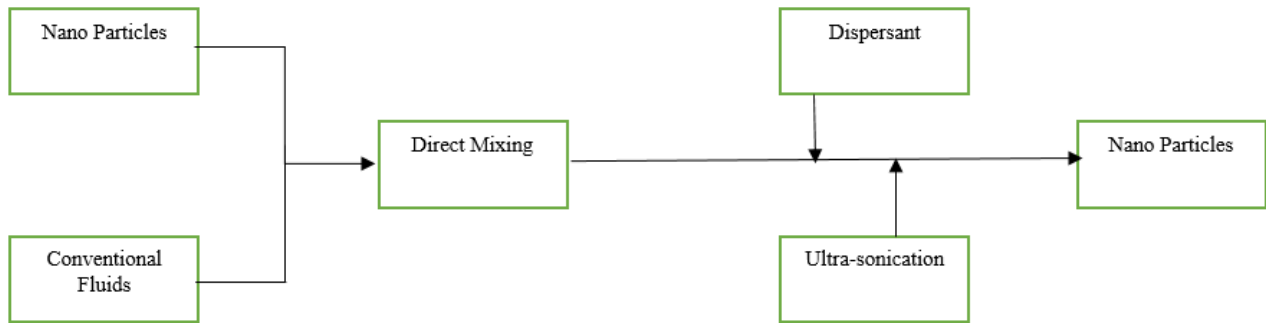


Fig 2.1 Schematic for nana fluid preparation

Table 2. Effect of temperature range on thermal conductivity enhancement

| Sr. No. | Nano particle                  | Base fluid      | Concentration (Vol. %) | Enhancement in TC (%) | Reference |
|---------|--------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------|
| 1.      | Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> | Water           | -                      | 32                    | 19        |
| 2.      | TiO <sub>2</sub>               | Water           | -                      | 11                    | 19        |
| 3.      | CuO                            | Water           | 3.5                    | 14                    | 25        |
| 4.      | ZnO                            | Ethylene glycol | 3.5                    | 40                    | 21        |
| 5.      | Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> | 50:50 W:EG      | .5                     | 5.8                   | 27        |
| 6.      | Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> | 60:40 W:EG      | .5                     | 4                     | 27        |
| 7.      | Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> | 40:60 W:EG      | .5                     | 8.9                   | 27        |
| 8.      | CuO                            | Water           | 3.5                    | 40                    | 26        |
| 9.      | CuO                            | W-EG            | 5                      | 23                    | 28        |
| 10.     | Graphene                       | EG              | 5                      | 86                    | 29        |
| 11.     | Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> | W-EG            | .2                     | 6.9                   | 30        |
| 12.     | Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> | W-EG            | .4                     | 7.3                   | 30        |
| 13.     | Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> | W-EG            | .6                     | 14.6                  | 30        |
| 14.     | TiO <sub>2</sub>               | 60:40 W:EG      | .2                     | 1.94                  | 31        |
| 15.     | TiO <sub>2</sub>               | 60:40 W:EG      | 1                      | 4.38                  | 31        |

Table 3. Effect of various nana materials and concentration on thermal conductivity enhancement

| Sr. No. | Nano particle                  | Temperature (°C) | Concentration (vol. %) | Enhancement in TC (%) | Reference |
|---------|--------------------------------|------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------|
| 1.      | TiO <sub>2</sub>               | 20-70            | 0.05                   | 5.19                  | 24        |
| 2.      | TiO <sub>2</sub>               | 20-70            | 0.1                    | 4.5                   | 24        |
| 3.      | TiO <sub>2</sub>               | 20-70            | 0.5                    | 4.08                  | 24        |
| 4.      | CuO                            | 15-50            | 0.8                    | 15.6-24.56            | 32        |
| 5.      | Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> | 15-50            | 0.8                    | 9.81-17.89            | 32        |

#### IV. APPLICATIONS OF NANOFLUID

Nanofluids have wide range of applications in the different fields such as lubrication, surface coatings, biomedical applications and thermal applications. In industries cooling and heating is most essential task hence heat transfer

applications have gained more importance. SM Peyghambarzadeh et al. reported the application of nanofluids in transport systems such as automobile radiators [52]. Recent trends are showing the application of nanofluids in solar collectors. The conventional direct

absorption solar collector is well known technology however the efficiency is limited by the absorption capacity of working fluids. Li et.al investigated the performance of tubular solar collector using  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3/\text{water}$ ,  $\text{ZnO}/\text{water}$  &  $\text{MgO}/\text{water}$  nanofluids and concluded that 95% of incoming radiation can be absorbed with the volume fraction of nanofluids less than 10 ppm [53]. Khullar et al. studied aluminum based nanofluids on concentric parabolic solar collectors. The nanofluid was prepared by suspending 0.05% volume of aluminum in thermal VP-1 base fluid and compared the results with conventional collectors they found 5-10% enhancement in thermal efficiency [54]. Otanicar et.al reported the effect of nanofluids on the efficiency and concluded enhancement up to 5%. They found that while using graphite based nanofluids with 30 nm particle size the thermal efficiency can be increased 3% and 5% increment in thermal efficiency can be obtained by silver nana particles of 20 to 40 nm [55]. C. Paul et al. concluded that heat capacity of  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  based nanofluid increased by 23% and by using silicon nana particles the enhancement was found 26% [56].

M.Faizaletal. investigated the flat plate solar collector by using MWCNT based nanofluids. They studied on the size of flat plate collector and reported 37% reduction in size with MWCNT based nanofluids [57]. Donzelli et al. concluded that some special nanofluids can be used as smart materials to control the flow of heat [58]. Kim et al. performed experiments to check the feasibility of nanofluids in nuclear reactor application [59]. Nanofluids can also be used as coolant in radiators which allows better positioning and smaller size of radiators. Singh et al concluded that the use of high thermal conductive nanofluids leads up to 5% fuel saving and up to 10% reduction in frontal area of radiator [60]. Nano fluids also have applications in the field of electronic for microchip cooling and in the field of biomedical nanofluids can be used in Nano drug delivery, Cryopreservation and cancer therapy.

## V. CONCLUSION

Nanofluids are the best alternatives to the conventional fluids and shows better performance and thermo-physical properties than conventional fluids.

- Stability of nanofluid can be increased by the addition of surfactants and ultra-sonication.
- Electrical conductivity of nanofluids are higher than base fluids.
- Thermal conductivity of conventional fluid can be increased by using nana particles.
- Thermal conductivity of nanofluids depends upon the geometrical shape and size of particles as well as on the concentration of nana particles.
- Heat transfer coefficient increases as the temperature increases.
- Efficiency of solar collector can be enhanced by using nanofluids instead of conventional fluids.

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