

Supplementary Information for the paper: Nanofluids for Solar Thermal Collection and Energy Conversion

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This document contains additional information that we used in conducting the simulation and experiments.

Table 1 - Commonly used nanoparticles (left) and base fluids (right) used to synthesize nanofluids [4]

Nanoparticle Materials	Base Fluids
Aluminium Oxide - Al ₂ O ₃	Ethylene Glycol
Copper Oxide - CuO	Ethylene Oxide
Iron(III) Oxide - Fe ₂ O ₃	Ethanol
Magnesium Oxide - MgO	Glycerol
Silicon dioxide - SiO ₂	Kerosene
Titanium dioxide - TiO ₂	Toluene
Zinc oxide - ZnO	Water
Silver - Ag	
Aluminium - Al	
Gold - Au	
Copper - Cu	
Iron - Fe	
MWCNTs	

Table 2 - Specific heat capacity models

Model	Expression	Remarks	ϕ (%)	d_p (nm)	T (°C)
Pak and Cho (1)	$c_{p,nf} = c_{p,f}(1 - \phi) + c_{p,p}\phi$	Theoretical Equation	-	-	-
Xuan and Roetzel (2)	$c_{p,nf} = \frac{\rho_f c_{p,f} (1 - \phi) + \rho_p c_{p,p} \phi}{\rho_{nf}}$	Theoretical Equation	-	-	-
Sekhar and Sharma (3)	$c_{p,nf} = c_{p,f} 0.8429 \left(1 + \frac{T_{nf}}{50}\right)^{-0.3037} \left(1 + \frac{d_p}{50}\right)^{0.4167} (1 + \phi)^{2.272}$	Empirical Equation	0-4	15-50	20-50

Table 3 - Thermal conductivity models

Model	Expression	Remarks	ϕ (%)	d_p (nm)	T (°C)
Pak and Cho (1)	$k_{nf} = k_f (1 + 7.74 \phi)$	Empirical Equation	-	13	25
Bruggeman (4)	$k_{nf} = 0.25 k_f \left[(3\phi - 1) \frac{k_p}{k_f} + [3(1 - \phi) - 1] + \sqrt{\Delta_B} \right]$ $\sqrt{\Delta_B} = \left[(3\phi - 1) \frac{k_p}{k_f} + (3(1 - \phi) - 1) \right]^2 + 8 \frac{k_p}{k_f}$	Theoretical Equation Valid for high-volume concentrations, spherical particles and random distributions. No limitation on the concentration For low concentrations, the Bruggeman model shows almost the same result as the Maxwell–Garnett’s model.	-	-	-
Mintsa et al. (5)	$k_{nf} = k_f (1 + 1.72\phi)$	Empirical Equation	0-18	36, 46	20-50
Hamilton–Crosser (6)	$k_{nf} = k_f \frac{k_p + (n - 1)k_p + (n - 1)\phi(k_p - k_f)}{k_p + (n - 1)k_f + \phi(k_f - k_p)}$	Theoretical Equation Valid for spherical and non-spherical particles. For spherical nanoparticles, $n = 3$ (also called Wasp or Maxwell Model) For cylindrical nanoparticles, $n = 6$.	0-4	-	-
Lu and Lin (7)	$k_{nf} = k_f (1 + 2.25\phi + 2.27\phi^2)$	Theoretical Equation Valid for spherical nanoparticles	-	-	-
Yu and Choi (8)	$k_{nf} = k_f \frac{k_p + 2k_p + 2\phi(k_p - k_f)(1 + \beta)^3}{k_p + 2k_f + \phi(k_f - k_p)(1 + \beta)^3}$ $\beta = \frac{h}{d_p * 0.5}$ Nanolayer thickness, $h = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \left(\frac{4 M_f}{\rho_f N_A} \right)^{1/3}$ Avagadro constant, $N_A = 6.023 \times 10^{23}$ per mol M_f = Molar mass of fluid $\left(\frac{g}{mol} \right)$ $k_{pe} = k_p \frac{[2(1 - \gamma) + (1 + \beta)^3(1 + 2\gamma)] \gamma}{-(1 - \gamma) + (1 + \beta)^3(1 + 2\gamma)}$ $\gamma = \frac{k_{layer}}{k_p}$	Theoretical Equation Modified Maxwell Model that considers nanolayer effect. Valid for spherical nanoparticles. Suggests the new approach that adding smaller (<10-nm diameter) particles could be potentially better than adding more particles	< 20	-	-
Chon et al. (9)	$k_{nf} = k_f \left(1 + 64.7 \phi^{0.746} \left(\frac{d_f}{d_p} \right)^{0.369} \left(\frac{k_p}{k_f} \right)^{0.746} Pr^{0.9955} Re^{1.2321} \right)$ $Re = \frac{\rho_f k_B T}{3 \pi \mu_f^2 l_f} \quad Pr = \frac{c_{p,f} \mu_f}{k_f}$ $l_f = \text{fluid mean free path}$ $k_B = 1.38 \times 10^{-23} \text{ m}^2 \text{ kg s}^{-2} \text{ K}^{-1}$	Empirical Equation Considers effect of Brownian motion of the nanoparticles in the nanofluid	1	11-150	20-70

Table 4 - Viscosity models

Model	Expression	Remarks	ϕ (%)	d_p (nm)	T (°C)
Einstein (10)	$\mu_{nf} = (2.5\phi + 1)\mu_f$	Theoretical Equation Spherical Particles	≤ 2	-	-
Ho et al. (11)	$\mu_{nf} = \mu_f (1 + 2.93\phi + 222.4\phi^2)$	Empirical Equation	0–4	33	15-40
Maiga et al. (12)	$\mu_{nf} = \mu_f (1 + 7.3\phi + 123\phi^2)$	Empirical Equation	0-5	13, 28	25
Batchelor (13)	$\mu_{nf} = \mu_f (1 + 2.5\phi + 6.2\phi^2)$	Theoretical Equation Spherical Particles	-	-	-
Nguyen et al. (14)	$\mu_{nf} = \mu_f (1 + 0.025\phi + 0.015\phi^2)$	Empirical Equation Spherical Particles	1-9.4	36, 29	20-75
Brinkman (15)	$\mu_{nf} = \mu_f(1 - \phi)^{-2.5}$	Theoretical Equation Spherical Particles	< 5	-	-
Masoumi et al. (16)	$\mu_{nf} = \mu_f + \frac{\rho_p V_B d_p^2}{72 C \delta}$ $V_B = \frac{1}{d_p} \left(\frac{18 k_B T}{\pi \rho_p d_p} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}$ $k_B = 1.38 \times 10^{-23} \text{ m}^2 \text{ kg s}^{-2} \text{ K}^{-1}$ $C = \mu_f^{-1} [(C_1 d_p + C_2)\phi + (C_3 d_p + C_4)]$ $C_1 = -1.133 \times 10^{-6}$ $C_2 = -2.771 \times 10^{-6}$ $C_3 = 9 \times 10^{-8}$ $C_4 = -3.93 \times 10^{-7}$	Empirical Equation	0-5	28, 36	22-65

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