

Cu and CuO Nanoparticles in Heat Transfer Applications: A Comprehensive Review

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Abstract

This review highlights the role of Copper (Cu) and Copper Oxide (CuO) nanoparticles in enhancing heat transfer through mono, binary, and ternary nanofluids. Mono nanofluids consistently improved thermal conductivity, viscosity, pressure drop, and heat transfer coefficient, with higher gains at higher concentrations. Binary systems showed synergistic effects, with CuO–MWCNT yielding maximum conductivity, CuO–TiO₂ showing Newtonian behavior, and Cu with Al₂O₃ and TiO₂ achieving peak conductivity at a 40:40:20 ratio. Ternary mixtures of Cu, CuO, and Al₂O₃ offered further conductivity enhancement but with larger pressure drops, notably at 60:20:20. Overall, nanoparticle selection, base fluid, and mixing proportion are key to balancing thermal performance with hydrodynamic penalties.

1. Introduction

Transfer of heat using a fluid medium is of critical importance in various applications like Refrigeration, Power Plants, Automobile and Heat Exchangers. When heat transfer takes place through fluid medium, convection mode is dominant, and accordingly rigorous research has been done to improve convective heat transfer co-efficient. Heat transfer co-efficient is strongly dependent on thermal conductivity of circulating fluid medium. Of various techniques used to improve thermal conductivity and hence convective heat transfer co-efficient, Nanofluids have emerged as one of the promising alternatives. Nanofluids are fluids containing stable suspensions of solid particles with size less than 100 nm in various base fluids.

Nomenclature

EG	Ethylene Glycol
MEG	Mono Ethylene Glycol
CNT	Carbon Nanotubes
MWCNT	Multiwalled Carbon Nano Tubes
CNF	Carbon Nanofibre
CMC	Carboxy Methyl Cellulose

The topic has been of importance to many researchers since many years. Pure Metals, Metal Oxides, Metal Carbides, Metal Nitrides as well as different forms of carbon are used as nanoparticles with base fluids like water, ethylene glycol and oil. Variations in parameters like weight concentration, volume concentration, flow temperature, flow velocity, particle size etc have been incorporated to study their effects on various properties like thermal conductivity, viscosity, pressure drop, heat transfer co-efficient etc. Extensive research has been conducted in the field of mono, hybrid, and ternary nanofluids, leading to numerous experimental and theoretical studies. A significant number of review papers have also been published, highlighting the advancements and challenges associated with each category. A concise summary of the key findings and developments from the existing literature is presented in Tables 1, 2, 3, and 4.

Table 1 List of topics covered by review papers on nanofluids

Topics
Synthesis methods, characterizations, stability tests, thermophysical properties (thermal conductivity, specific heat capacity, and viscosity) [1].
Effects on Prandtl Number, Reynold Number and Heat Transfer Co-efficient due to variation in Density, Specific Heat, Thermal Conductivity and Viscosity [2].
Applications of nanofluids in various segments like solar water heating, cooling: engine; electronics; transformer oil, improving efficiency of diesel generator, increasing efficiency of chillers & domestic refrigerator, cooling in nuclear reactors, defense and space [3].
Nanofluid preparation methods to find suitable method. (Includes review of Preparation method for 11 non-metallic nanofluids viz. SiO ₂ , TiO ₂ , Al ₂ O ₃ , ZnO, CuO, Fe ₂ O ₃ , AlN, and CNT along with preparation methods for gold, silver and copper nanofluids [4].
Investigation on mechanism of heat transfer enhancement wherein two models used to derive relations for heat transfer co-efficient. One is conventional where nanofluids are treated as the single-phase fluids and another approach is considering multiphase feature of the nanofluid with dispersed nanoparticles [5].
Preparation Methods, Thermophysical Properties, Stability, Friction Factor, Various Correlations and Challenges [6]
Summary of various experimental and numerical studies and an overview of heat transfer mechanisms responsible for the change in thermal performance of heat pipes [7]
Summary of experimental studies that analyze both mono and hybrid nanofluids for single phase convective heat transfer devices viz. tubular heat exchangers, plate heat exchangers and heat sinks as well as for two phase convective heat transfer device viz. heat pipe. [8]
Different factors affecting viscosity of nanofluids including nanofluid preparation methods, particle shape, particle size, temperature, volume fraction effects. [9]
Describes four possible reasons for increase in thermal conductivity on nanofluids viz. (a) Brownian motion (b) Layering of liquid at liquid/particle interface (c) Nature of heat transport in nanoparticles (d) Effects due to clustering of nanoparticles [10]
Effects of concentration, shape, size and flow rate of Nanoparticles on Nusselt number, heat transfer coefficient, thermal conductivity, thermal resistance, friction factor and pressure drop [11]
Nanofluids research for heat transfer application addressing the challenges in formulation, practical application with mechanism understanding [12]
Thermal conductivity of hybrid nanofluids including research done by numerical, experimental, and ANN (artificial neural networking) studies, Parameters affecting thermal conductivity viz. type, concentration & size of nanoparticles; base fluid type, temperature, type of surfactant, variation of pH and sonication time.

Preparation of hybrid nanofluids, methods to measure and enhance stability, methods to measure thermal conductivity and reasons for enhancement of thermal conductivity [13]

Forced convective heat transfer coefficient of the nanofluids: Experimental and numerical investigation [14]

Improvement of heat transfer using nanofluids, research done on preparation of nanofluids and enhancement of stability, Thermo-physical & heat transfer characteristics of nanofluids, Effect of factors viz. particle shape & size, temperature, surfactant on thermal conductivity [15]

Theoretical and Experimental studies on the thermal conductivity of nanofluids, Analysis of effect of various factors like shape, temperature & concentration on thermal conductivity of nanofluids [16]

Table 2 Summary of research: mono nanofluids

Nanofluid	Parameters studied
CuO-water	Density and viscosity [17] Convective heat transfer coefficient thermal conductivity, viscosity, and pressure loss [18] Turbulent convective heat transfer performance and pressure drop [19] Viscosity and thermal conductivity [20] Nusselt Number [21] Nusselt number and Friction Factor [22]
Al ₂ O ₃ /Water	Thermal resistance of heat pipe [23] Thermal conductivity and specific heat [24] Viscosity and Thermal Conductivity [25] Heat Transfer Coefficient [26] Heat Transfer Rate [27]
CuO/Oil	Density, thermal conductivities, viscosities and specific heat capacity [28] Heat transfer and pressure drop characteristics [29]
CuO/EG	Zeta Potential, Absorbance and Thermal Conductivity [30]
Cu/Water	Convective and overall heat transfer coefficient, thermal resistance [31]
TiO ₂ /Water	Convective Heat Transfer Coefficient [32] Stability, viscosity, thermal conductivity [33]
SiC/Water	Viscosity, Thermal Conductivity [34]
AlN/EG	Friction factor, Nusselt number [35] Viscosity, thermal and electrical conductivity [36]
AlN/Polypropylene glycol	Rheological Behavior [37]
Ag/Water	LMTD, Effectiveness (of heat exchanger), convective heat transfer coefficient and pressure drop [38]
Mg (OH) ₂ /water	Thermal conductivity and stability [39]
Graphene/Water	Pressure Drop, Convective Heat Transfer Coefficient, Nusselt Number [40]
Graphene oxide/water	Average Nusselt Number and Friction factor [41]
Graphene nanoplatelet (GNP)/water	Convective heat transfer coefficient and pressure drop [42]

ZnO/Water	Viscosity and thermal conductivity [43]
SiO ₂ /Water	Heat transfer co-efficient and friction factor [44]
Fe/EG	Thermal conductivity, Dynamic Viscosity [45]
ZrO ₂ /water	Solid-liquid (S-L) interfacial thermal resistance [46]
AlN/Ethanol	Thermal Conductivity [47]
Cordierite-based Glass-Ceramic/AlN	Thermal Conductivity, Flexural strength, Fracture Toughness [48]
Fe ₃ O ₄ (magnetic nanoparticles)/water	Viscosity, Thermal Conductivity [49]
ZnO/Oil, MgO/Oil	Viscosity, Thermal conductivity [50]
Al ₂ O ₃ /water, Al ₂ O ₃ /EG	Heat transfer coefficient [51]
	Heat Transfer Enhancement, Wall Shear Stress [52]
Al ₂ O ₃ /water, TiO ₂ /water	Heat transfer characteristics [53]
AlN/EG, AlN/Proylene glycol	Thermal conductivity and viscosity [54]
Au/toluene, Al ₂ O ₃ /water, and CNF/water	Thermal conductivity and thermal diffusivity [55]
CuO, TiO ₂ , MgO, MWCNT, Al ₂ O ₃ and ZnO water based	Electrical Conductivity, Viscosity, and Density [56]
(MWCNT), Fullerene, CuO, SiO ₂ with base fluids water, EG and oil	Thermal conductivity and stability [57]
CuO/water, MgO/water, TiO ₂ /water, ZrO ₂ /water, Al ₂ O ₃ /water	Thermal conductivity [58]
Al ₂ O ₃ /water, CuO/water, SiO ₂ /water, ZnO/Water	Thermal conductivity and viscosity [59]
CuO/water, TiO ₂ /water, CuO/EG, TiO ₂ /EG	Thermal conductivity and Convective heat transfer coefficient [60]

Table 3 Summary of research: hybrid nanofluids, mono nanofluids with binary base fluids & hybrid nanofluids with binary base fluids

Nanofluid	Parameter Studied
Cu-TiO ₂ /Water	Convective heat transfer coefficient, Nusselt number, Overall heat transfer coefficient [61]
CuO-Ag/Water	Heat Transfer in presence of Radiation, Heat Generation & Chemical Reaction [62]
Al ₂ O ₃ -MWCNT/Water	Heat transfer rate, Collector efficiency, Pressure drop, Environmental effect (CO ₂ emission and water consumption) [63]
Al ₂ O ₃ -Ag/Water	Thermal Conductivity [64]
Cu-Al ₂ O ₃ /Water	Viscosity, absorbency and extinction coefficient [65]
Cu-Al ₂ O ₃ /EG	Thermal Conductivity [66]
Cu - ZnO/Water	Convective heat transfer coefficient, pressure drop, Nusselt number [67]
Al ₂ O ₃ -AlN/Water	Nusselt Number, Pumping Power [68]
Cu-Al ₂ O ₃ /Kerosene	Thermal conductivity, Dynamic viscosity, Rheological characteristics [69]
SiO ₂ -CuO/C	Specific heat, Thermal conductivity, Viscosity [70]
Al ₂ O ₃ -MWCNT/Water	Natural convection heat transfer coefficient, Nusselt number [71]
	Pressure drop, Heat transfer coefficient [72]
Al ₂ O ₃ -ZnO/Water	Specific Heat Capacity, Viscosity [73]
Al ₂ O ₃ -Fe/Water	Specific Heat Capacity, Thermal Conductivity, Viscosity [74]
MgO-MWCNT/ EG	Thermal conductivity ratio [75]
MWCNT-SiO ₂ /AE40	Relative Viscosity [76]
Fe ₃ O ₄ -Ag/EG	Viscosity measurement at different shear rate [77]
CuO/EG-Water	Thermal Conductivity [78]
	Rheological Behavior [79]
MgO / EG-Water	Thermal Conductivity [80]
CuO/EG-Water, Al ₂ O ₃ / EG-Water	Heat transfer coefficient, Skin friction coefficient [81]
MgO/Water-EG	Thermal Conductivity [82]
CNT /Water-EG	Average Nusselt Number [83]
Al ₂ O ₃ -CuO/Water-EG	Thermal conductivity, Viscosity, Stability [84]
MWCNT-SiO ₂ /EG-Water	Viscosity with respect to Shear rate [85]
Cu-TiO ₂ /Water-EG	Thermal conductivity [86]

Table 4 Summary of research: ternary nanofluids

Nanofluid	Parameter Studied
Cu-MgO- TiO ₂ /Water	Dynamic Viscosity, Thermal Conductivity, Specific Heat Capacity, Density [87]
MWCNT-TiO ₂ -ZnO/Water-EG	Thermal Conductivity [88]

Despite extensive work on nanofluids, limited attention has been given to the comparative and combined use of metals and their corresponding oxides, such as Cu and CuO. Since metals provide superior thermal conductivity and oxides offer better stability, understanding their individual and synergistic effects is essential for optimizing

nanofluid design. This gap highlights the need for systematic studies that evaluate both Cu- and CuO-based mono, binary, and ternary nanofluids across different operating conditions. Both nanoparticles can be effectively suspended in water, ethylene glycol, oils, and other fluids, making them versatile for engineering applications. Together, they enable the design of nanofluids that balance thermal performance with long-term stability, which is critical for practical systems such as heat exchangers, solar collectors, and electronic cooling. The present paper provides a critical and comprehensive review focused on Copper (Cu) and Copper Oxide (CuO) nanoparticles. The use of Cu and CuO nanoparticles in mono, binary, and ternary nanofluids is systematically analyzed. To account for the influence of the base fluid, studies involving water, ethylene glycol, various oils, and carboxymethyl cellulose have been included. The review considers the effects of several key parameters, including weight and volume concentration, temperature, fluid velocity, sonication time, and particle size. The resulting variations in thermophysical properties—such as thermal conductivity, viscosity, density, and heat transfer coefficient—are thoroughly discussed.

2. CuO as Nanoparticle

Khedkar, R. S et al. [89] investigated the effect of incorporating CuO nanoparticles with two different base fluids: water and mono-ethylene glycol. The study utilized CuO nanoparticles with an average size of 25 nm. Thermal conductivity enhancement was examined by varying both the nanoparticle volume concentration and sonication time. The results demonstrated that the thermal conductivity of water increased from 0.586 W/m·K to 0.775 W/m·K, while for mono-ethylene glycol, the enhancement ranged from 0.268 W/m·K to 0.346 W/m·K. Notably, a maximum increase of 32% in effective thermal conductivity was observed at the highest volume concentration when water was used as the base fluid. The influence of sonication time on thermal conductivity was also explored. It was found that a sonication time of 1 hour yielded optimal results, beyond which thermal conductivity began to decline. This reduction was attributed to nanoparticle agglomeration or clustering, which negatively impacts thermal performance. The variation in thermal conductivity with respect to both volume concentration and sonication time is illustrated graphically in Fig. 1.

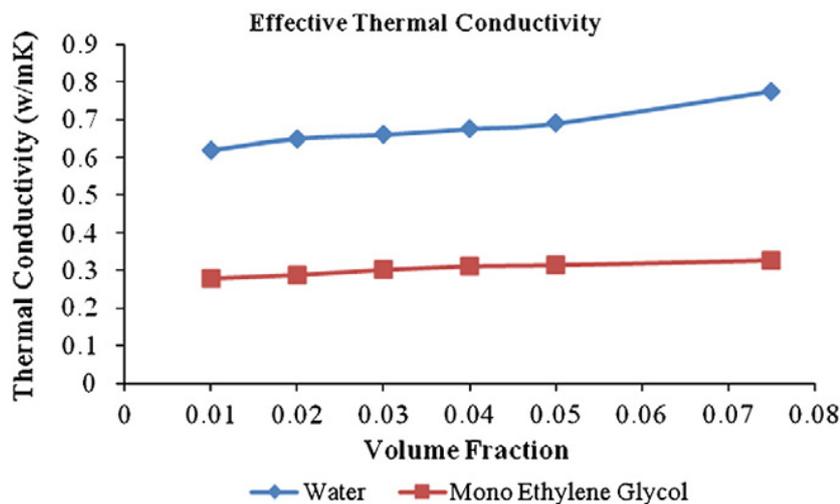


Fig. 1 (a) Variation in thermal conductivity with variation in volume fraction of CuO in water and MonoEthylene Glycol

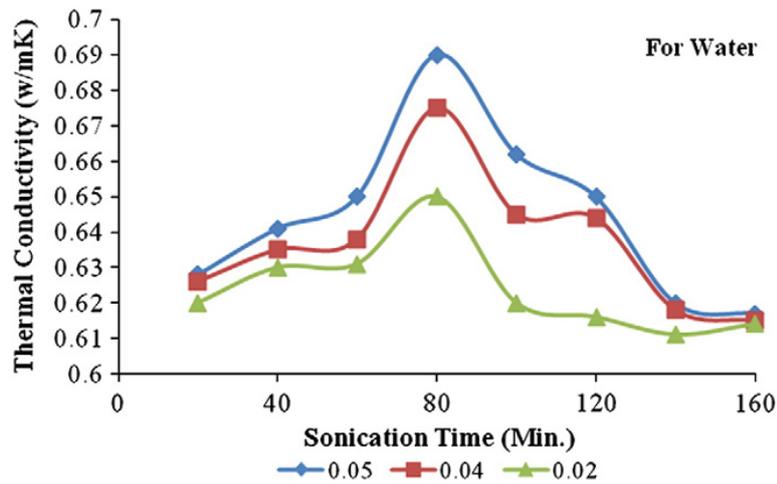


Fig. 1 (b) Variation in thermal conductivity with variation in Sonification time for CuO - water

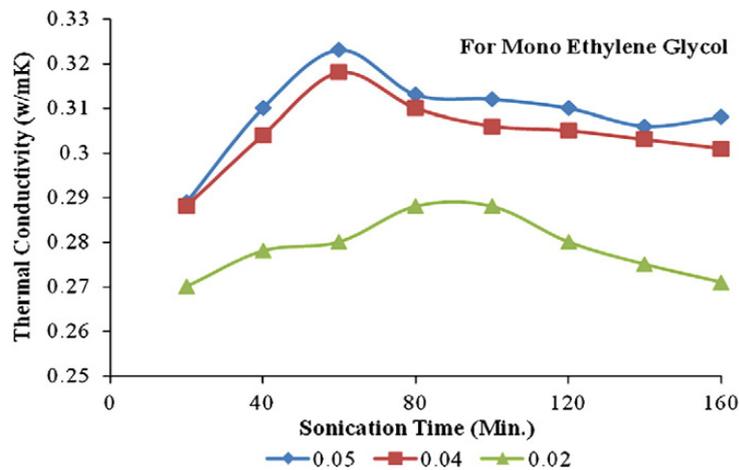


Fig. 1 (c) Variation in thermal conductivity with variation in sonification time for CuO – MonoEthylene Glycol

The effect of using carboxymethyl cellulose (CMC) as a base fluid on heat transfer performance was investigated by [90]. Three metal oxide nanoparticles— Fe_2O_3 (30–60 nm), Al_2O_3 (20–30 nm), and CuO (40 nm)—were employed in the study. A shell-and-coil heat exchanger configuration was used, with the nanofluid circulating on the shell side and water on the tube side. Key variables included the weight concentration of nanoparticles (ranging from 0.2% to 1%), the flow rate of the cold fluid (0.5 to 5 LPM), and nanofluid temperature (varied between 40°C and 60°C). The study presented results for both thermal conductivity and wettability of the nanofluids. Among the three metal oxides tested, CuO nanoparticles demonstrated the highest wettability. In terms of thermal conductivity, the nanofluids exhibited enhancements of 13%, 26%, and 37% for Fe_2O_3 , Al_2O_3 , and CuO respectively at 1% weight concentration and a temperature of 50°C. The comparative thermal conductivity results for the three metal oxides are illustrated in Fig. 2.

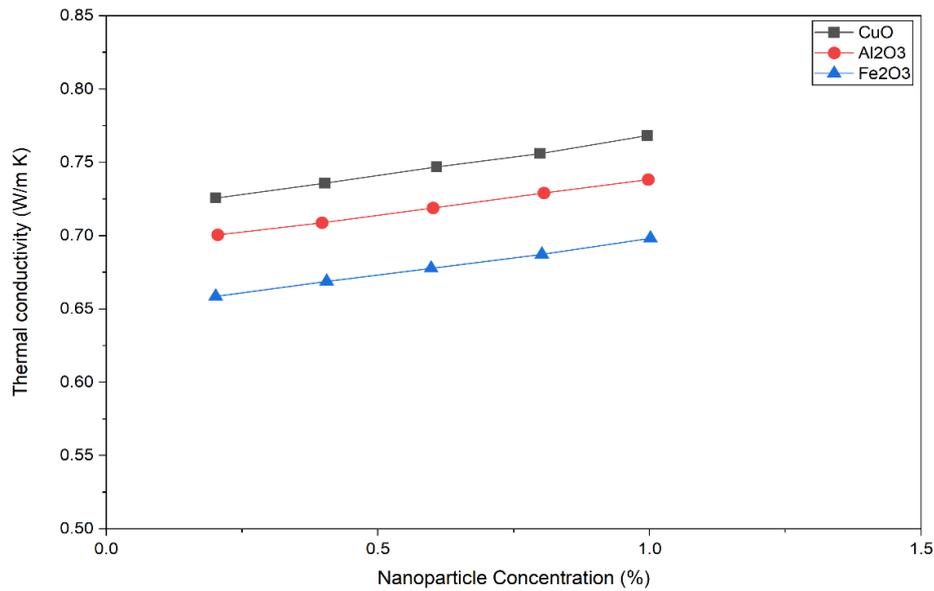


Fig. 2 Variation in thermal conductivity with variation in volume fraction in CuO, Al₂O₃, Fe₂O₃ [90]

Investigation of heat transfer and fluid flow characteristics was done by [91] on corrugated plate heat exchanger using 4 different nanoparticles - (Al₂O₃ -30 nm, SiC-40 nm, CuO-30 nm and Fe₃O₄ -25 nm) with water as basefluid. Results were collected for variations in weight concentration (0.05% - 1%) and flow rate (3 – 9 L/m). Increase in overall heat transfer co-efficient was least (4.8%) for CuO while it was highest (6%) for Fe₃O₄. It was also observed that for weight concentration of 0.05%, CuO showed highest heat transfer co-efficient. Collecting and comparing further results, optimum weight concentration for SiC and CuO was concluded to be 0.5% while for Al₂O₃ and Fe₃O₄, it was 1%. At optimum weight concentration, the pressure drop was found to increase by 9.5% for CuO. (Second highest of the four nanoparticles)

Similar experimentation was done by [92] on solar flat plate collector using six different nanoparticles viz. MWCNT, Graphene, CuO, Al₂O₃, TiO₂ and SiO₂. In addition to results for thermophysical properties viz. thermal conductivity, viscosity, specific heat and density, the results for exergy efficiency, entropy generation as well as collector efficiency are presented. The measurement of thermophysical properties are reported for variation in volume concentration as fixed temperature. It was concluded that thermal conductivity, viscosity and density increases with increase in particle volume concentration while specific heat decreases. Of all the nanoparticles, CuO reported highest rise in density and viscosity. The results for the same are shown in Fig. 3.

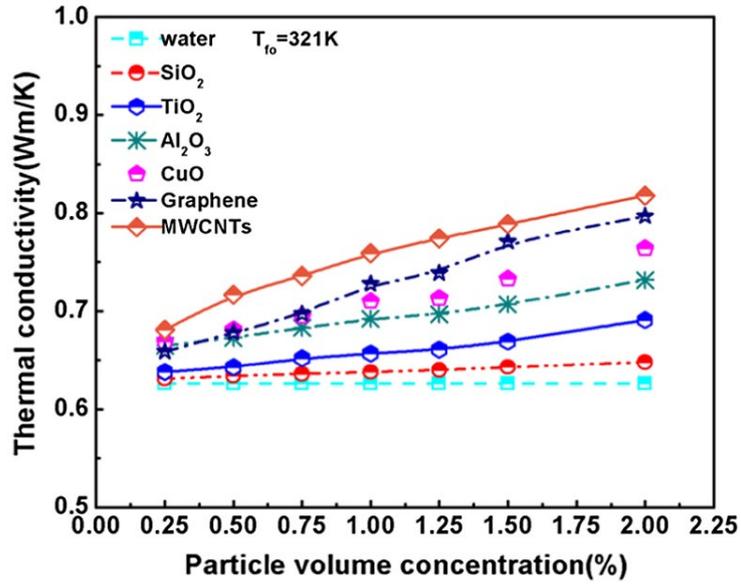


Fig. 3 (a) Variation in thermal conductivity with variation in volume concentration for SiO₂, TiO₂, Al₂O₃, CuO, Graphene, MWCNT [92]

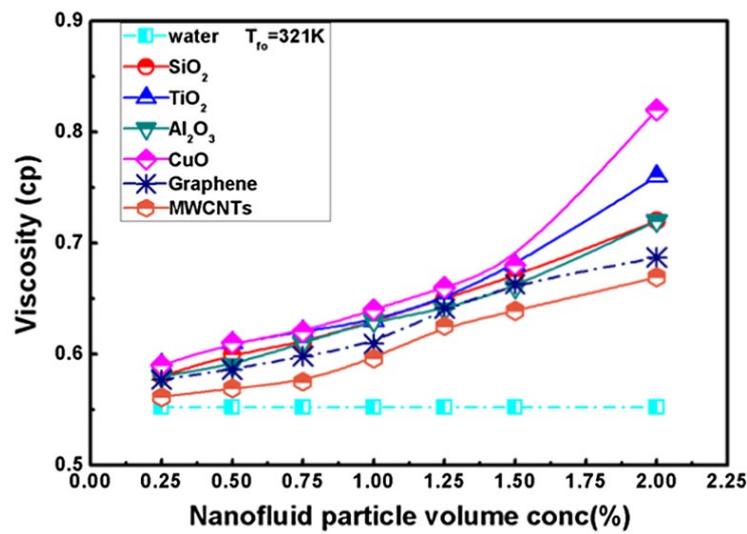


Fig. 3 (b) Variation in viscosity with variation in volume concentration for SiO₂, TiO₂, Al₂O₃, CuO, Graphene, MWCNT [92]

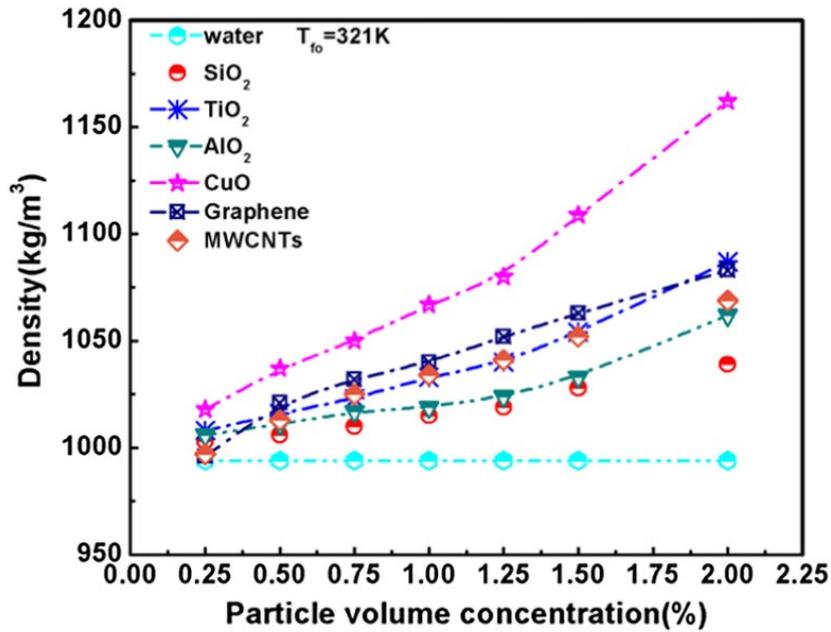


Fig. 3 (c) Variation in density with variation in volume concentration for SiO₂, TiO₂, Al₂O₃, CuO, Graphene, MWCNT [92]

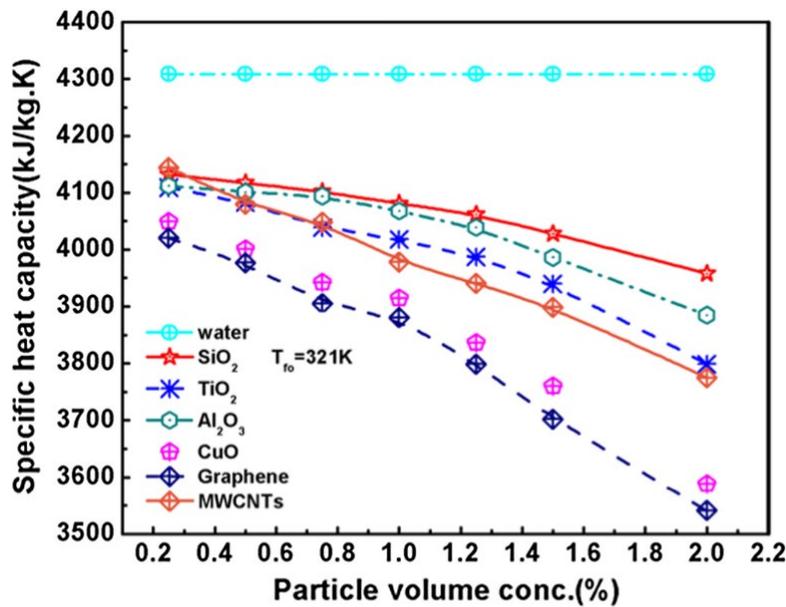


Fig. 3 (d) Variation in thermal conductivity with variation in volume concentration for SiO₂, TiO₂, Al₂O₃, CuO, Graphene, MWCNT [92]

CuO has also been investigated in combination with aluminum oxide, titanium oxide, silicon oxide, MWCNT and various other oxides as a *hybrid nanofluid* also to improve heat transfer. Results of few of them are described.

Bahrami, M. et al. [93] investigated results for viscosity variation and decided on the behavior of fluid [Newtonian/non-Newtonian] by preparing hybrid nanofluid with equal volumes of Fe and CuO. Binary mixture of water and ethylene glycol was used as base fluid and volume concentration of hybrid nanofluid was varied. It was concluded that the fluid exhibited Newtonian behavior with low concentration and non-Newtonian (shear thinning behavior) at high concentration. Effect on convective heat transfer and Nusselt number with CuO/MWCNT-oil nanofluid was reported by [94]. The aim was to assess the effect of different nanoparticle volume concentration in the ratio 1:1 and 1:2 [CuO:MWCNT]. Results for density, specific heat and thermal conductivity for mono as well as hybrid nanofluids are also presented. It was observed that for CuO-oil, the density-increase

and specific heat-decrease were highest. Local Nusselt number showed an increase with increase in volume concentration. Addition of 3% CuO increase Nusselt number by 78%. However, it was quite lower than 1:2 proportion of CuO:MWCNT. Prandtl number and hence thermal boundary layer were observed to be less for hybrid fluid than mono nanofluid and higher than base fluid.

Asadi, A. et al. [95] studied rheological behavior and dynamic viscosity of CuO-TiO₂/water hybrid nanofluid. X-ray diffraction, Fourier-Transform Infrared Spectroscopy and Field Emission Microscopy tests were conducted to examine chemical, atomic and surface structures of nanoparticles. Dynamic viscosity measurement was done with variation in temperature and volume concentration with fixed proportion (1:1) of both nanoparticles. In order to decide the behavior of fluid, effect of shear rate was also reported. With the shear rate of 30 m/s and temperature range of 25 – 50° C, the hybrid nanofluid exhibited Newtonian behavior. Results for dynamic viscosity variations indicated decrease in viscosity with rise in temperature at given volume concentration. Also at any given temperature, viscosity is reported to increase with increase in volume concentration. The highest viscosity was reported at 1% volume and 25°C.

Xuan, Y. et al. [96] investigated convective heat transfer coefficient and friction factor for turbulent flow using Cu-water nanofluid. The effect of variation in volume concentration (0.3 – 2%) and Reynold number (10,000-25,000) is reported. The heat transfer co-efficient improved with increase in both – volume concentration and Reynold number. However, it was pointed out that one of the studies with Al₂O₃ (13nm) and TiO₂ (27nm) reported heat transfer coefficient to be 12% less at 3% volume concentration. Hence selection of volume fraction, dimensions and material properties of the nanoparticles are critical. Similar to heat transfer coefficient, Nusselt Number also showed similar trend i.e., increase with increase in volume concentration and Reynold number. At 2% volume concentration, increase of 39% was reported. Two reasons are attributed for increased heat transfer: One is the higher value of thermal conductivity of suspended particles and second is the chaotic movement of particles which accelerates energy exchange.

Convective heat transfer and pressure drop characteristics for laminar flow inside uniformly heated circular pipe were investigated [97]. Al₂O₃-Cu/water hybrid nanofluid is tested with fixed 0.1% volume concentration. Results for changes in Nusselt number and friction factor are presented. Nusselt number, which is directly proportional to heat transfer coefficient is reported to increase by 13.56% for small volume concentration of 0.1%. The increase was 6.09% with use of alumina alone, which indicates the role of Cu nanoparticles. Also, it was concluded that even with less improvement in thermal conductivity, rise in Nusselt number was high due to flattened velocity profile. Friction factor was recorded to be higher for hybrid nanofluid than mono fluid as well as bas fluid. The reason attributed to the same is increased viscosity due to clustering, surface adsorption and migration of particles towards centre due to Brownian motion. The increase in friction factor for hybrid nanofluid was reported to be 16.97% when compared to water, while for mono nanofluids, it is reported to be 6%. Fig. 4 shows the results described.

Amiri, M. et al. [98] investigated effect on thermal conductivity of water and ethylene glycol using SiO₂-Cu nanoparticles. SiO₂ nanoparticles with copper modified surface is synthesized and dispersed in water and ethylene glycol base fluids. It is reported that the new synthesized particle had density similar to SiO₂ and thermal conductivity similar to Cu. Also, it did not possess the limitation of quick oxidation when exposed to air, which is usually found in metallic nanoparticles. Results for thermal conductivity are collected for 0.5% and 0.1% of SiO₂/water and 0.25%, 0.5% and 1% of hybrid nanofluid. Addition of SiO₂ increased thermal conductivity in both – water and EG. However, the effect was more pronounced in EG than water due to less thermal conductivity of EG. Changing percentage from 0.5 to 1 did not highlight much change in conductivity due to less value of thermal conductivity of SiO₂. Results for hybrid nanofluid was higher than mono nanofluid. Fig. 5 shows variation in thermal conductivity for mono and hybrid nanofluids.

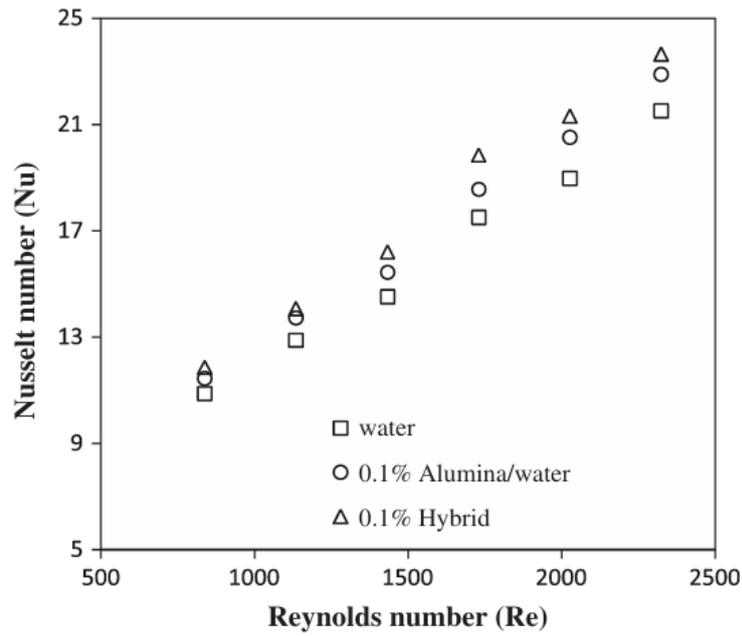


Fig. 4 (a) Variation in Nusselt number with variation in Reynolds number for Al_2O_3 -Water and Al_2O_3 -Cu-Water [97]

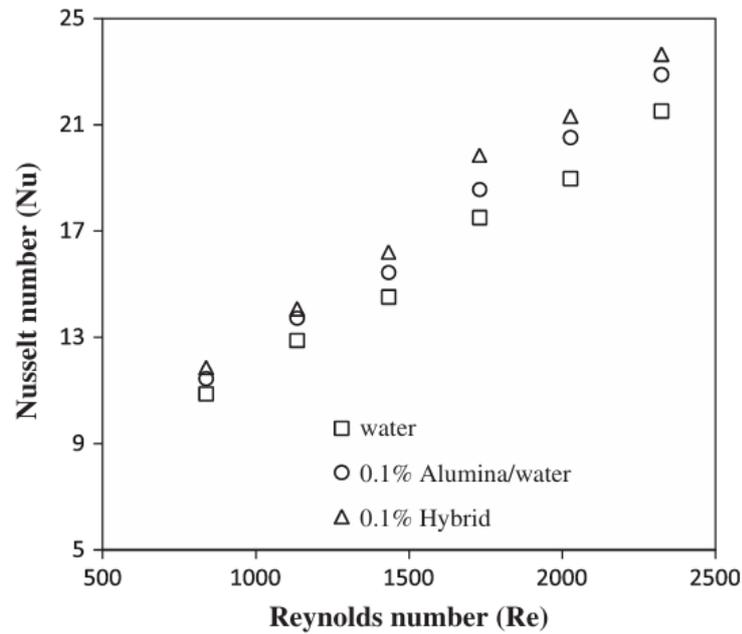


Fig. 4 (b) Variation in friction factor with variation in Reynolds number for Al_2O_3 -Water and Al_2O_3 -Cu-Water [97]

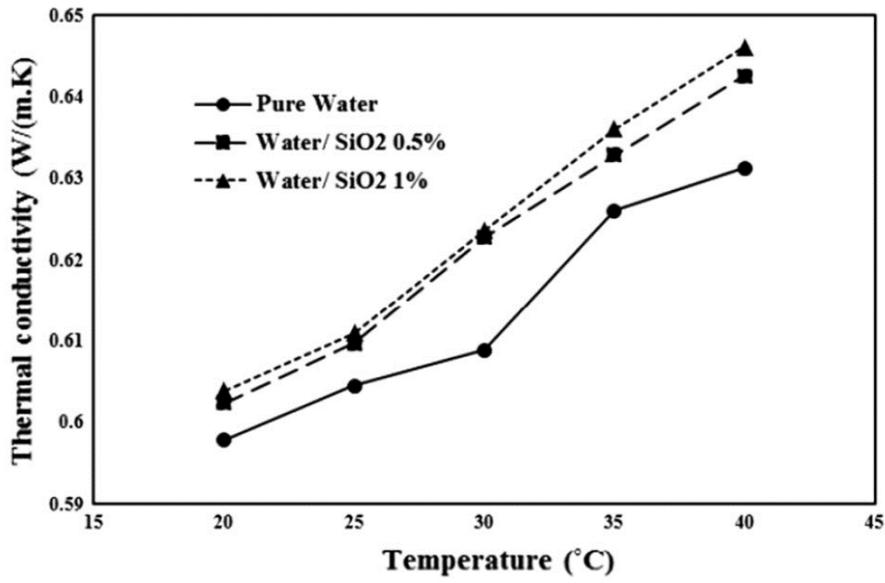


Fig. 5 (a) Variation in thermal conductivity with variation in Temperature for SiO₂-water [98]

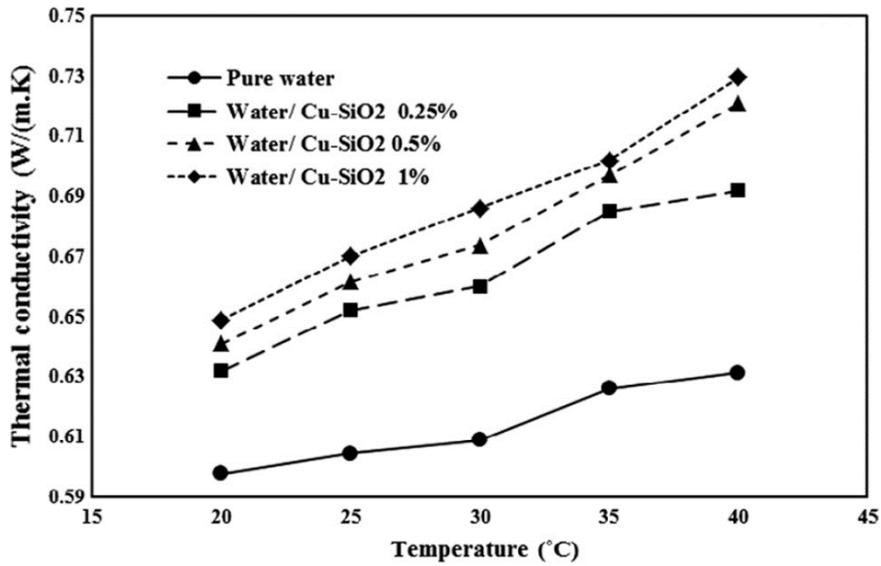


Fig. 5 (b) Variation in thermal conductivity with variation in Temperature for Cu-SiO₂/water [98]

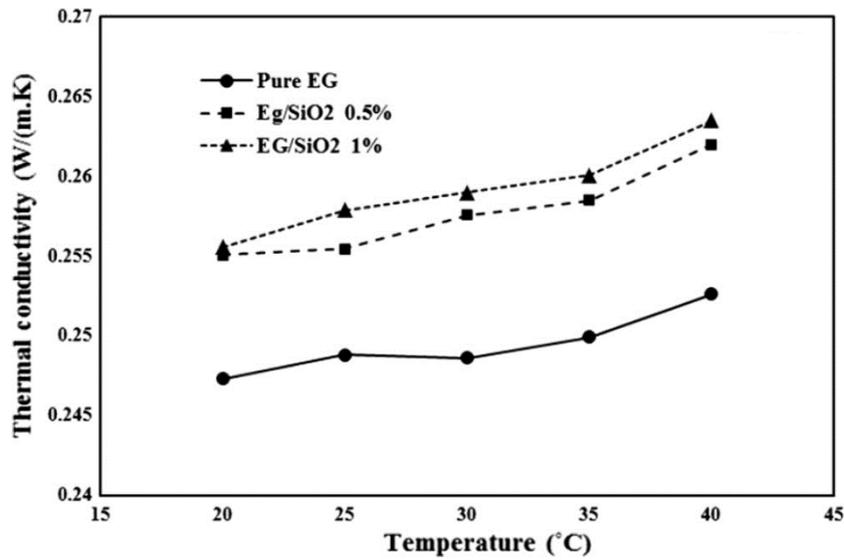


Fig. 5 (c) Variation in thermal conductivity with variation in temperature for SiO₂-EG [98]

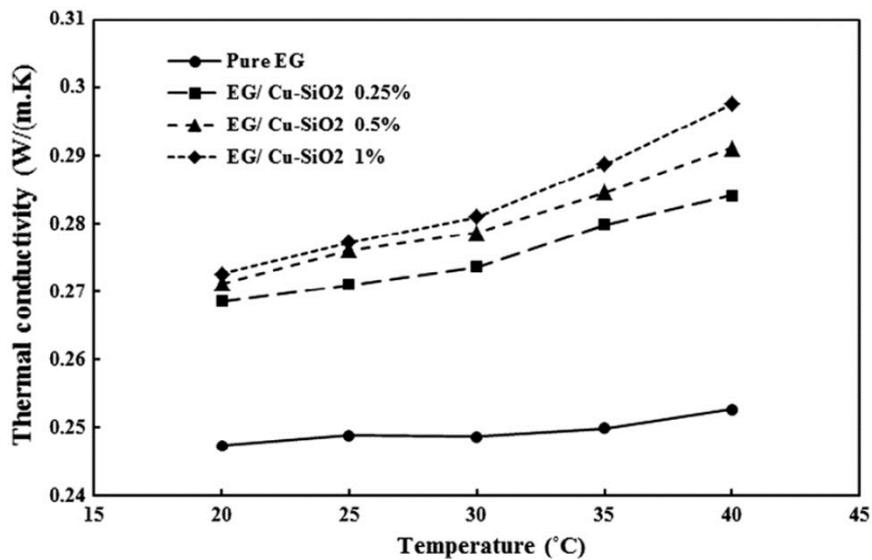


Fig. 5 (d) Variation in thermal conductivity with variation in temperature for Cu- SiO₂/EG [98]

Investigation on variation in dynamic viscosity and thermal conductivity was carried out by Dezfulizadeh, A et al. [99] using ternary nanofluid – Cu-SiO₂-MWCNT/water (as shown in Fig. 6). Variation in temperature [15°C – 65°C] and volume concentration are incorporated. Viscosity decreased with increase in temperature at given volume concentration, similar to the previous case studies. The decrease was much smoother and uniform at low concentrations than at high concentration. At any given temperature, viscosity increased with increase in volume concentration. Results for thermal conductivity indicated increase with increase in temperature at given volume concentration. The rise was steep until concentration of 1% and became gentle till 2.5%. The reason attributed to the increase in conductivity is Brownian motion of nanoparticles.

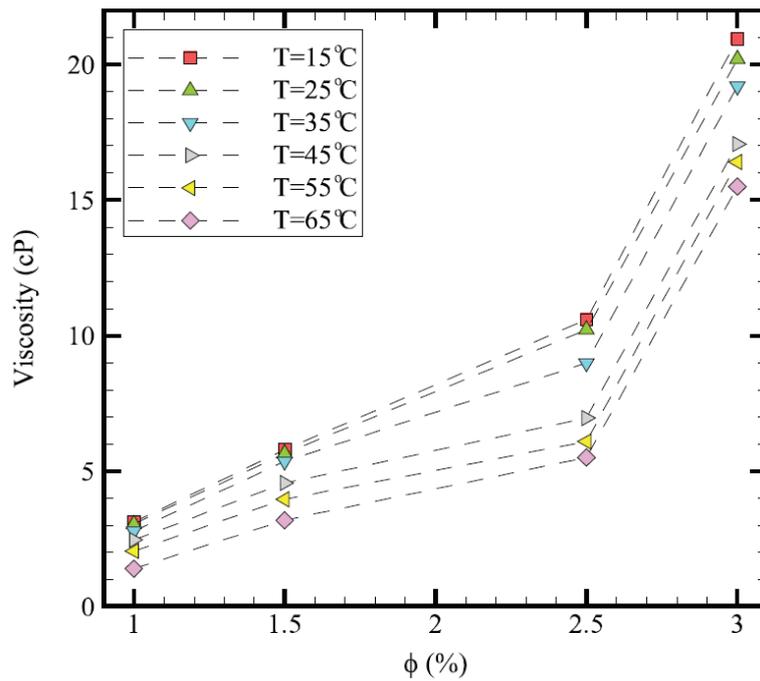


Fig. 6 (a) Variation in viscosity with variation in volume concentration at different temperatures for Cu-SiO₂-MWCNT/water [99]

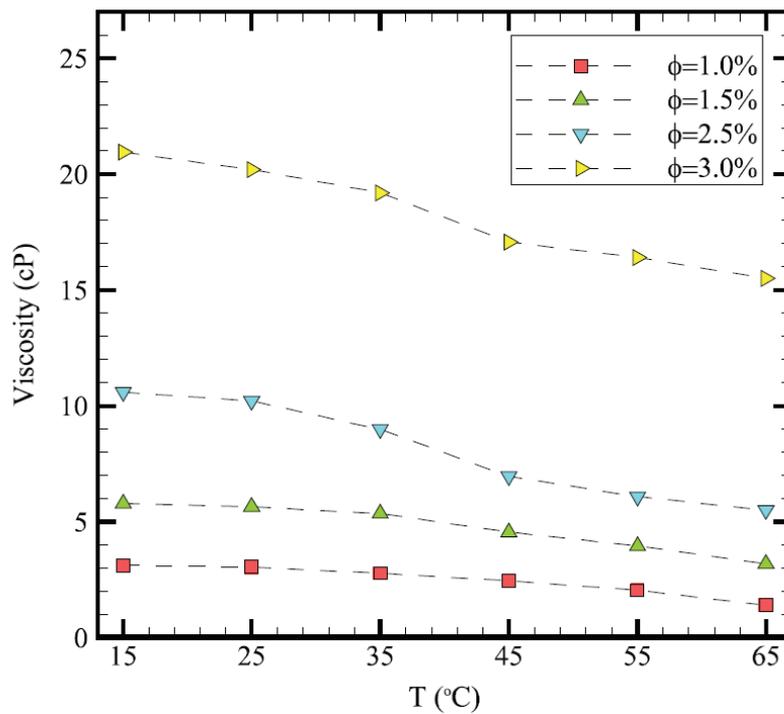


Fig. 6 (b) Variation in viscosity with variation in temperature at different volume concentration for Cu-SiO₂-MWCNT/water [99]

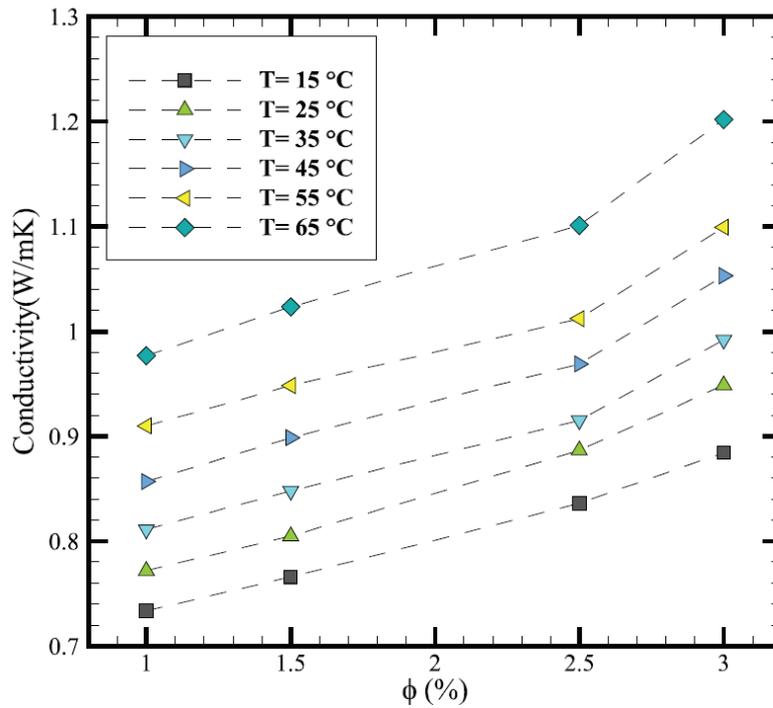


Fig. 6 (c) Variation in thermal conductivity with variation in volume concentration at different temperatures for Cu-SiO₂-MWCNT/water [99]

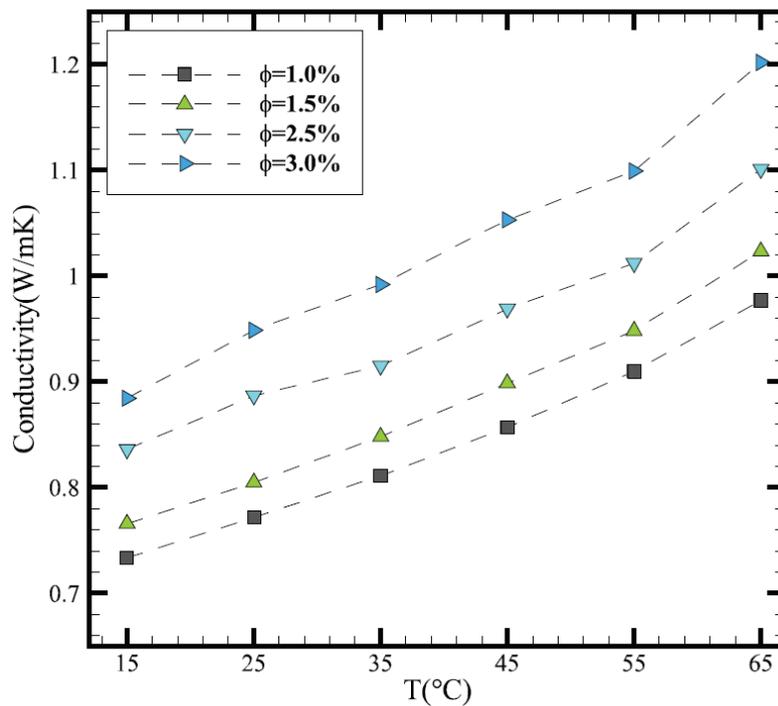


Fig. 6 (d) Variation in thermal conductivity with variation in temperature at different volume concentration for Cu-SiO₂-MWCNT/water [99]

Xuan, Z et al. [100] investigated the performance of ternary nanofluid combining Al₂O₃-TiO₂-Cu/Water. Measurements for shear stress, thermal conductivity and viscosity are reported for temperature variation (20 – 60°C) and volume concentration variation (0.005 – 1%). Sensitivity analysis for viscosity and thermal conductivity, at 1% volume concentration, were done to find optimum mixing ratio. Also, economic analysis is

conducted to decide optimum volume concentration for laminar and turbulent flow regimes. Average particle size for Al_2O_3 , TiO_2 and Cu nanoparticles were 20nm, 40nm and 50nm respectively. Due to large size of Cu particles, the interparticle space is filled by remaining nanoparticles, thereby increasing thermal conductivity of fluid. Based on sensitivity analysis, 40:40:20 (Al_2O_3 : TiO_2 : Cu) was concluded optimum for high thermal conductivity and low viscosity. Viscosity results indicated decrease in viscosity with increase in temperature and decrease in volume proportion. Thermal conductivity increased with increase in temperature and volume proportion. When compared with base mono nanofluids, thermal conductivity of ternary nanofluids was highest while TiO_2 /Water exhibited highest viscosity. Economic analysis suggested use to 0.7% volume proportion of nanofluid for laminar flow and 1% volume proportion of nanofluid for turbulent flow.

Investigation with ternary nanofluid combining Al_2O_3 , Cu and CuO was carried out by [101]. The results are presented for full flow regime i.e laminar – transition – turbulent regime with volume proportion of 0.02%. Differences in Nusselt number, pressure drop and friction factor when compared with mono nanofluids are reported. Mixture ratios with 20:50:30, 20:60:20, 30:30:40, 30:50:20 and 60:20:20 [Al_2O_3 :Cu:CuO] are used for fixed volume proportion of 0.02%. Results for viscosity indicated an increase due to particle addition. Mixture ratio had very less effect on viscosity. However, results for thermal conductivity exhibited variation with mixture ratio with highest shown by 60:20:20. In order to measure heat transfer parameters, variation in flow rate [10-90 L/h] and temperature [30-35°C] were incorporated. Pressure drop increased with increase in Reynold Number and did not change much with varying mixture ratio. Also, it increased with addition of nanoparticles with ternary nanofluid showing less pressure drop than mono nanofluids. Friction factor showed decrease with increase in Reynold number and addition of nanoparticles. Start of transition from laminar to turbulent shifted to lower Reynold number due to nanoparticles. Nusselt number of ternary nanofluids increased by 45.6% compared to water while for Al_2O_3 /water, the increase was 20.1%. This indicates that use of ternary nanofluid exhibited better heat transfer. Mixture ratio 30:30:40 exhibited 1.73 times higher Nusselt number compared to CuO (1.36 times). A tabulated form of parameters studied for various nanofluids is given in Table 5.

Table 5 Summary of studied parameters for various mono and hybrid nanofluids, highlighting thermal, flow, and heat transfer characteristics

Nanoparticle	Parameter Studied
CuO-water & CuO-MEG	Thermal Conductivity
CuO/CMC, Fe ₂ O ₃ /CMC, Al ₂ O ₃ /CMC	Thermal Conductivity, Wettability
Al ₂ O ₃ /water, SiC/water, CuO/water, Fe ₃ O ₄ /water	Heat transfer co-efficient, Pressure drop
MWCNT/water, Graphene/water, CuO/water, Al ₂ O ₃ /water, TiO ₂ /water, SiO ₂ /water	Thermal conductivity, Viscosity, Density, Specific heat
CuO-Fe/Water-EG	Viscosity
CuO-MWCNT/oil	Density, specific heat, Nusselt number
CuO-TiO ₂ /water	Viscosity
Cu-Water	Nusselt number, heat transfer co-efficient
Al ₂ O ₃ -Cu/Water	Friction factor, Nusselt number
SiO ₂ -Cu/Water, SiO ₂ -Cu/EG	Thermal conductivity, Viscosity
Cu-SiO ₂ -MWCNT/water	Thermal conductivity, Viscosity
Al ₂ O ₃ -TiO ₂ -Cu/water	Viscosity, Thermal conductivity, Sensitivity & Economic Analysis.
Al ₂ O ₃ -Cu-CuO/water	Viscosity, Thermal conductivity, Pressure drop, Friction factor, Nusselt number

3. Conclusion

This paper compares Copper (Cu) and Copper Oxide (CuO) nanoparticles in nanofluids across various base fluids. Cu generally provides higher thermal conductivity gains, while CuO offers better chemical stability and dispersion but with higher viscosity and density penalties. Hybrid and ternary mixtures (e.g., Cu- Al_2O_3 , CuO-MWCNT, Cu- Al_2O_3 - TiO_2) show improvements in conductivity, Nusselt number, and heat transfer coefficient compared to their mono parts. The enhancement in thermophysical properties exhibited by both nanoparticles is not consistent across all nanofluids, as the variations can be attributed to factors such as particle size and shape, concentration, dispersion stability, interfacial interactions with the base fluid, temperature dependence, and the possible

formation of aggregates or clusters. However, key challenges persist viz. nanoparticle agglomeration and clustering reduce long-term stability; viscosity rise and pressure drop increase pumping power requirements; and optimal concentration and mixing ratios vary widely between systems. Future research should focus on surfactants and surface modification for stability, predictive modeling of thermophysical behavior, and techno-economic studies to establish industrial feasibility.

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Conflict of Interest

Authors declare that there is no conflict of interest regarding the publication of the paper.

Author Contribution

*The authors confirm contribution to the paper as follows: **Selection of research papers for review:** Hani Chotai, Rupeshkumar V. Ramani, J H Markna; **study of research papers and draft preparation of manuscript:** Hani Chotai; **suggestions of required modifications and best suitable approach for publication:** J H Markna, Bharat Kataria. All authors reviewed the draft and approved the final version of the manuscript.*

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