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Performance Investigation of Evacuated Tube Collector using Different Nano fluids Applied to Winter Climatic Conditions in Egypt

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ABSTRACT

In this paper, the performance of the evacuated tube solar collector is investigated theoretically by the TRNSYS program. The simulation is conducted during the winter of 14th February-2019 in Cairo – Egypt. In this simulation, water and Nanofluids are working fluids. The types of Nanofluids are CeO2/water, WO3/water and AL2O3/water. The simulation is conducted at0.015%, 0.025%, 0.035% and 0.045% (volume concentrations). The mass flux rate and tilt angle are 0.017 kg/s.m2and 450; respectively. The results show that the collector has the highest performance using nanofluids at studied concentrations. At 12:00 PM, the highest useful energy gain can be obtained from CeO2/water Nanofluid at 0.045% concentration, while thermal efficiency is higher by 34.2% than water. The nanofluidWO3/water presents low performance than that of CeO2/water and AL2O3/water. The thermal efficiencies ofAL2O3/ water and WO3/ water Nanofluids are higher than water by 28.4% and 12.5%; respectively, at concentration of 0.045% and 12:00PM.

Key words: Evacuated Tube Collector, TRNSYS, Nano fluid.

NOMENCLATURE

A	Collector aperture area	[m ²]	Subscr	ipts
Ср	Specific heat capacity	[J/kg/k]	а	absorbed
F_R	Heat removal factor	[-]	amb	ambient
Ι	Solar radiation intensity	$[W/m^2]$	bf	Base fluid
k	Thermal conductivity	[W/m.K]	с	Collector
Ż	Heat energy	[kg/s]	f	Fluid
Т	Temperature	[W]	i	Inlet
U	Overall heat losses coefficient	[W]	0	Outlet
		[W]	L	Losses
Greek	Letters	[°C]	hl	Heat losses
τ	Transmittance	[-]	nf	Nanofluid
α	Absorptance	[-]	np	Nano-particle:
η	Efficiency of collector	[%]	rad	Radiation
ρ	Density	[kg/m ³]	и	useful

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International Journal of Advances in Scientific Research and Engineering (ijasre), Vol 6 (1), January-2020 ϕ concentration of nano-particles [-] Abbreviations ETC Evacuated Tube Collector TRNSYS Transient Systems Simulation

 WO_3

Tungsten trioxide Nano-particles

AL₂O₃ Aluminum Oxide Nano-particles

Cerium Oxide Nano-particles

1. INTRODUCTION

CeO₃

There are many studies available in literature for solar heating and cooling system simulation by means of transient system simulation software (TRNSYS). In this section, the survey focused on the researches related to TRNSYS simulation of solar heating and cooling systems starting with Buonomo et al. [1] presented TRNSYS simulation study for solar cooling system for peak energy consuming according to Italy conditions. The solar cooling system analyzed using base water and AL_2O_3 water nanofluid. Fathima et al. [2] conducted study for the performance analysis of evacuated tube solar collector using TRNSYS modeling with different nanofluidssuch as AL₂O₃, Silica, copper, carbon nanotube and aluminum. Solar cooling system with absorption chiller simulated by Asim et al. [3] using TRNSYS. Absorption chiller was powered by hot water from evacuated tube collector during system simulation. Ayompe et al. [4] performed a comparison between flat plate collector and evacuated tube collector by means of TRNSYS, type 73 used to model flat plate collector and type 538 for evacuated tube collector. The results showed that the useful energy delivered by evacuated tube collector was higher than that of flat plate collector. Yang et al. [5] established paper for thermal performance of solar heating system using TRNSYS simulation. Analysis included inlet and outlet temperatures of the collector, temperature distribution through storage tank and collector efficiency. Fan et al. [6] developed different TRNSYS models for evacuated tube heat pipe solar collector. First model was with flat fins and the other was with curved fins. Abdunnabi and Loveday [7] performed TRNSYS optimization analysis for two new models of thermosyphon solar collector compared with standard model. They concluded that the modified models gave a good agreement with the standard one and can be used to simulate the thermosyphon systems. Mohammed et al. [8] reported TRNSYS simulation for solar water heating system works with 10 m² flat plate collector to provide a hot water for 25 persons. The system was provided with auxiliary heater and the solar fraction of the system obtained by 69%. The maximum auxiliary energy needed for the system was during December month according to Baghdad, Iraq conditions. Different concentration levels for evacuated tube solar collector are simulated using TRNSYS modeling by Ali et al. [9]. The research determined that higher performance can be obtained at higher concentration levels. Mohasseb and Kasaeian[10] presented a comparison study between evacuated tube and flat plate solar collectors. The comparison simulated by means of TRNSYS program using Type 1b for flat plate and Type 71 for evacuated tube collector. The research concluded that the evacuated tube collector is better than the flat plate collector for both hot and cold climate conditions. Utham et al. [11] simulated the performance a solar cooling system according to India climate conditions. TRNSYS simulation included the optimization of storage tank volume, collector tilt angle and solar collector area. Assilzadeh et al. [12] developed a TRNSYS model for solar driven LiBr – H₂O absorption chiller in Malaysia, the results reported that the optimum solar collector area, storage tank volume and collector slope are 35m², 0.8m³ and 22°; respectively for 3.5 kW of chiller capacity. Gill and Fung [13] presented a study for solar heating system simulation for green house in Toronto, Canada. The results concluded that the solar heating system with gray water heat recovery system saves up to 80% of energy consuming. A new TRNSYS model for thermosyphon flat plat collector was developed by Kalogirou et al. [14]. Type 99 as new model was used instead of standard TRNSYS model of Type 45a, the results showed a good agreement between the data collected by Type 99 and the experimental work. Abdunnabi et al. [15] analyzed solar water heating system using TRNSYS program and validation of the system experimentally to measure the effectiveness of software. Different configuration of forced circulation of solar collector was investigated. The results reported that there was discrepancy between the experimental and the simulation due to the position of controlling sensor of circulating pump. Cao et al [16] performed TRNSYS simulation for solar water heating system according to real conditions. Various measured parameters were investigated by simulation such collector outlet water temperature, storage tank temperature and auxiliary heating.

Much researchers developed TRNSYS simulation for solar heating and cooling systems but the numerical studies of performance of solar collector using nanofluids are few. Also, the study of the performance of the evacuated solar collector(ETC) in the winter of Cairo - Egypt is not studied.So, in this work will be investigated the behavior of solar heating systemat winter climatic conditions of Cairo -Egypt. This study is conducted for different types of nanofluids and various concentrations.

International Journal of Advances in Scientific Research and Engineering (ijasre), Vol 6 (1), January-2020 2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 System modeling

The performance of evacuated solar collector is investigated by TRNSYS 17 [17], the system components are selected from the program library. The mathematical model for each component is formulated by FORTRAN code. In the present work Fig. 1 presents the TRNSYS model of solar heating system, according to this figure the model consists of standard evacuated tube collector TYPE 71, storage tank TYPE 60c, dual pipe fan coils TYPE 600, differential temperature controller TYPE 2b, weather data processor TYPE 15-6 TM2 according to weather conditions in Cairo – Egypt, TYPE 114 single speed pump for circulation of the working fluid, TYPE 14h used to adjust the pump operation schedule, the operation time is adjusted from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM and the resulting data file is plotted by TYPE 65.

The evacuated solar collector ETCis the main component of the solar system, which has different parameters.

Table [1]TRNSYS input parameters for evacuated tube collector			
Parameter	Value	Units	
Number of collector in series	1		
Collector aperture area (A _c)	1.59	m^2	
Fluid specific heat	4.18	kJ/kg.K	
Flow rate at test condition	0.017	Kg/s.m ²	
Intercept efficiency	0.55		
Negative 1st order efficiency coefficient	12	kJ/hr.m ² .K	
Negative 2nd order efficiency coefficient	0.036	kJ/hr.m ² .K	
Collector slope	45	Degrees	



Fig. 1 TRNSYS model block diagram for solar heating system

International Journal of Advances in Scientific Research and Engineering (ijasre), Vol 6 (1), January-2020 2.2 Governing Equations

TRNSYS mathematical model and governing equations are as the following:

$$Q_{u} = Q_{a} - Q_{hl}$$

$$\dot{Q}_{hl} = \dot{Q}_{Rad \cdot L} + \dot{Q}_{Conv \cdot L} + \dot{Q}_{Cond \cdot L}$$

$$(1)$$

$$(2)$$

$$\dot{Q}_{u} = \dot{m}_{f} C p_{f} \left(T_{f,o} - T_{f,i} \right)$$
(3)

The collector efficiency can be calculated by;

$$\eta_{c.} = \frac{\dot{m}_f C p_f \left(T_{f,o} - T_{f,i} \right)}{I_{rad} A_{coll.}}$$

$$\tag{4}$$

$$=F_{R}\left(\tau\alpha\right) -F_{R}U_{L}\left(\frac{\Delta T}{I_{nad}}\right) -F_{R}U_{L}\left(\frac{\Delta T}{I_{nad}}\right)^{2}$$
(5)

$$\eta_c = a_0 - a_1 \left(\frac{T_{f,i} - T_{anb}}{I_{rad}} \right)$$
(6)

Where a_0 and a_1 are constants of collector efficiency. These constants are changed according to the operating conditions. These parameters are specified in Table [1].

The physical properties of nanofluid which are density (ρ), specific heat capacity (C_p) and thermal conductivity (k) are calculated as the following equations:

$$\rho_{nf} = \rho_{np} \left(\varphi \right) + \rho_{bf} \left(1 - \varphi \right) \tag{7}$$

$$Cp_{nf} = \frac{\left(\rho Cp\right)_{np}\left(\varphi\right) + \left(\rho Cp\right)_{bf}\left(1-\varphi\right)}{\left(\varphi\right)\rho_{np} + \rho_{bf}\left(1-\varphi\right)} \tag{8}$$

$$k_{nf} = \mathbf{k}_{bf} \left(1 + 8.733\varphi\right) \tag{9}$$

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The simulation is performed with different nanofluids. The nanofluids are CeO₂, WO₃ and AL₂O₃. CeO₂ and WO₃nanofluids are simulated according to *Sharafeldin* and *GyulaGrof* [18-19] while AL₂O₃ nanofluid is simulated according to *Javad and Sidik* [20]. From these studies, the efficiency constants are shown in Table [2] at mass flux rate 0.017 kg/m² s.

Table [2] Efficien	cy constants for CeO ₂	, WO ₃ and AL ₂ O ₃ n	anofluids, [18-20]
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Nanofluid type	Volume concentration	Efficiency Parameters	
		\mathbf{a}_0	a 1
	0.015%	0.660	16.227
	0.025%	0.712	17.785
CeO ₂ nanofluid	0.035%	0.743	20.855
	0.045%	0.752	25.432
	0.015%	0.664	26.751
WO popofluid	0.025%	0.685	32.073
WO3nanonulu	0.035%	0.709	33.952
	0.045%	0.736	32.387
	0.015%	0.386	1.567
AL_2O_3 nanofluid	0.025%	0.427	1.668
	0.035%	0.467	1.768
	0.045%	0.508	1.868

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International Journal of Advances in Scientific Research and Engineering (ijasre), Vol 6 (1), January-2020 3.1. Work Validation

Figures 2 and 3 show a comparison between prediction and experimental results. The validation uses CeO2/water and WO3/water as working fluids[18-19]. The comparison applied at mass flux rate of 0.017 kg/s.m², collector area of 1.59m². The concentrations of CeO₂/water and WO₃/water are 0.035% and 0.042%; respectively. Fig. 1 shows the thermal optical efficiency $F_R(\tau\alpha)$ of ETC using CeO₂/water nanofluid, the predicted thermal optical efficiency is recorded 0.752 while the experimentally value is 0.743. The predicted energy losses coefficient (-F_R.U_L) increases by about 5.8% than that of experimental.

Fig. 2 shows the thermal optical efficiency $F_R(\tau \alpha)$ and energy losses coefficient of ETC with WO3/water. The prediction result of thermal optical efficiency and energy losses coefficient are decreases by 3.9% and 12.7%; respectively, than experimental results. So, can be seen that a good agreement between the TRNSYS results and the experimental results.



Fig. 1 Comparison between simulation results and experimental work for CeO₂ water nanofluid



3.1 Performance of ETC using CeO₂/water

The results will be presented the performance of solar heating systemon14th February, 2019. This day is selected for this investigation because it is considered mid-winter season and a clear sky day.

The intensity of solar radiation in Cairo- Egypt on 14^{th} February is shown in Fig.3. From this figure it can be seen that the intensity of the solar radiation increases with increasing daylight time. The solar radiation records the maximum value at 12:00 PM (985 W/m²) and drops to low values for the rest of the day.

The difference of working fluid temperature through ETC is important parameter to give a clear picture of performance of solar heating system.Fig. 4 illustrates the variation of the temperature difference across the collector using CeO₂/waterat different concentrations.The temperature difference has the same trend of solar radiation intensity. Also, it can be seen that the water has the lowest temperature difference while the nanofluid has high values at 12:00 PM. The temperature difference is directly proportional to the increase in the concentration of nanofluids. For nanofluids concentration of 0.015%, 0.025%, 0.035% and 0.045%, the temperature differences are higher than water by 27.8%, 31.6, 33.7% and 35.6%; respectively. That is because the nano-particles increase the thermal conductivity.Fig. 5 shows the useful heat gain of ETC using CeO₂/water nanofluid and water during daylight time. For all nanofluid concentrations, the useful heat gain increases to the maximum value at 12:00PM.



Fig.3 Solar radiation intensity through ETC with daylight time on 14th of February

Fig.4 ETC temperature difference with CeO₂nanofluid at different concentrations versus water

Fig. 5 shows the useful heat gain of ETC using CeO₂/water nanofluid and water during daylight time. For all nanofluid concentrations, the useful heat gain increases to the maximum value at 12:00PM. The useful heat gains are707 W, 744 W, 767 W, 790 W and 526 W for concentrations of 0.015%, 0.025%, 0.035%, 0.045% and water; respectivelyat 12:00PM. That is result to the high temperature difference.

Fig.6 indicates the thermal efficiency of ETC using CeO_2 nanofluid with different concentrations and water as working fluids. The thermal efficiency is high due to higher concentration of nanofluid compared to water. At 12:00 PM, the thermal efficiency for concentrations of 0.015%, 0.025%, 0.035% and 0.045% are increased by 25.7%, 29.3%, 31.5% and 34.2%; respectively, compared with the thermal efficiency of water.





Fig. 6 ETC efficiency versus time for CeO₂nanofluid at different concentrations versus water

The optical efficiency $F_R(\tau \alpha)$ and energy losses coefficient (-F_R.U_L) of ETC can be calculated from Eq.(10) [21]:

$$\eta_c = F_R \left(\tau \alpha \right) - F_R U_L \left(\frac{T_{f,i} - T_{amb}}{I_{rad}} \right)$$
(10)

Table [3] illustrates the optical efficiency of ETC FR($\tau \alpha$) and energy losses coefficient (-F_R.U_L) for CeO₂nanofluid. At [(Ti-Ta)/I] is equal to zero the thermal efficiency of the ETC gives a higher value. The thermal optical efficiency of CeO₂nanofluidincreases with increasing nanofluid concentration. The energy loss coefficients decrease when concentration is low.

Working fluid	Optical efficiency $F_R(\tau \alpha)$	Energy losses coefficient (-F _R .U _L)[W/m ² .K]
Base water	0.471	15.08
0.015%	0.632	16.25
0.025%	0.682	17.87
0.035%	0.752	22.06
0.045%	0.813	24.83

Table [3]ETC optical efficiency and energy loss coefficients for CeO₂ with different concentrations

3.2 Performance of ETC using WO₃/ water

This section discusses the performance of ETC usingwater and WO₃Nano fluidas working fluid. The nanofluid has volumetric concentrations of 0.015%, 0.025%, 0.035%, and 0.045%. The relation between the temperatures differences with daylight time are illustrated in Fig. 7.As seen from this figure, the temperature differences of WO₃/water are high than that of base water. At 12:00 PM, the temperature difference are increased than that water by about 8.5%, 9.4%, 13.2% and 15.3%, at volumetric concentrations of 0.015%, 0.025%, 0.035% and 0.045%; respectively.

Fig. 8 indicates the useful heat gain from ETC using water and WO₃/water during daylight time. For all concentrations of nanofluid WO₃/water, the useful heat gain reaches maximum value at 12:00PM. The useful heat gains increase with increasing

International Journal of Advances in Scientific Research and Engineering (ijasre), Vol 6 (1), January-2020 volumetric concentration. At volumetric concentration of 0.045%, the useful heat gains is higher than that of water by 1.14 times at 12:00PM. This also can be attributed to the high temperature difference.









Fig. 9 ETC efficiency versus time for WO₃ nanofluid at different concentrations versus water

Fig. 9 demonstrates the thermal efficiency of ETC at different concentrations of WO3/water nanofluid. At certain time of 12:00 PM, the thermal efficiency of WO₃/water is higher than the thermal efficiency of water by 5.7%, 6.5%, 10.5 and 12.6%, at concentrations of 0.015%, 0.025%, 0.035%, and 0.045%; respectively.

The optical efficiency of ETC $F_R(\tau \alpha)$ and energy losses coefficient ($-F_R.U_L$) for WO₃/water are illustrated in Table [4]. The highest thermal optical efficiency and highest energy loss coefficient of ETC using WO3/water occur at 0.025% concentration.

Working fluid	Optical efficiency $F_R(\tau \alpha)$	Energy losses coefficient (-F _R .U _L)[W/m ² .K]
Base water	0.471	15.08
0.015%	0.595	26.45
0.025%	0.679	33.93
0.035%	0.636	26.74
0.045%	0.705	32.36

International Journal of Advances in Scientific Research and Engineering (ijasre), Vol 6 (1), January-2020 Table [4]ETC optical efficiency and energy loss coefficients for WO₃ with different concentrations

3.3 Performance of ETC using AL_2O_3 /water

Fig. 10indicates the temperature difference through the collector using water and AL_2O_3 /water nanofluid. The water has lowest temperature difference while the highest value can be achieved by AL_2O_3 /water nanofluids. At 12:00 PM, the temperature differences of AL_2O_3 /water arehigher than water by about 8%, 16.7%, 23.7% and 29.8% for a concentration of 0.015%, 0.025%, 0.035% and 0.045%; respectively.

The variation of useful heat gain from ETC using water and AL_2O_3 /water nanofluid are shown in Fig. 11.With AL2O3 /water nanofluid, the useful heat gains have higher values than water. At 12:00PM, the useful heat gains are555 W, 613 W, 669 W and 727 W for concentrations of 0.015%, 0.025%, 0.035% and 0.045%; respectively while the useful heat gains of water is 526 W.









Fig. 12 ETC efficiency versus time for AL₂O₃nanofluid at different concentrations versus water

Fig. 12shows the thermal efficiency of ETC working with water and AL_2O_3 / water nanofluid. Thermal efficiency is directly proportional to the increased volumetric concentration. At 12:00 PM and at concentrations of 0.015%, 0.025%, 0.035% and 0.045%, the thermal efficiency is higher by 6.2%, 15.1%, 22.4% and 28.4%; respectively, compared with water.

The optical efficiency of ETC $F_R(\tau\alpha)$ and energy losses coefficient (- $F_R.U_L$) for AL_2O_3 / water nanofluid are illustrated in Table [5]. The thermal optical efficiency of AL_2O_3 / water nanofluid reaches to 0.447 at 0.045% concentrationwhereas the highest value of energy loss coefficient is 1.92 W/m²K at concentration of 0.045%.

Working fluid	Optical efficiency $F_R(\tau \alpha)$	Energy losses coefficient (-F _R .U _L)[W/m ² .K]
Base water	0.471	15.08
0.015%	0.37	1.62
0.025%	0.41	1.73
0.035%	0.447	1.82
0.045%	0.487	1.92

Table [5]ETC optical efficiency and energy loss coefficients for WO3 with different concentrations

3.4 Comparison between different nanofluids

This section will discuss ETC performance using different types of nanofluids. This comparison is conducted at 0.017 kg/m²s mass flux rate and volumetric concentration 0.045%.

Fig. 13 illustrates the variation of the temperature difference across the collector using various nanofluids and water as working fluids. With nanofluids the temperature differences are higherthan the temperature difference of base water. At 12:00 PM, the temperature differences for CeO_2 /water, AL_2O_3 /water and WO_3 /water nanofluids are 35.6%, 29.8% and 15.3% higher than water; respectively. That is because the thermal conductivity increases by nano-particles.

Useful heat gain from ETC with nanofluids compared with the water is showed in Fig. 14. For all working fluids, the useful heat gain increases to the higher value at 12:00PM. The useful heat gains of CeO2/ water, AL_2O_3 / water and WO₃/water nanofluids at 12:00PM are higher than water by 50.2%, 38.2% and 14.3%; respectively. This can be attributed to the high temperature difference.



Fig.13 Temperature difference through ETC with different nanofluids and water

Fig.14 Useful heat gain by ETC with different nanofluids and water



Fig. 15 ETC efficiency versus time for different nanofluids and water

Fig 15 shows the thermal efficiency of ETC using nanofluids and water as working fluids. The thermal efficiencies of CeO_2 / water, WO_3 / water and AL_2O_3 / water nanofluids are higher compared with the water at the same concentration. At 12:00 PM, the thermal efficiencies of CeO_2 / water, AL_2O_3 / water and WO_3 / water nanofluids increase by 34.2%, 28.4% and 12.5%; respectively, compared with the thermal efficiency of water.

International Journal of Advances in Scientific Research and Engineering (ijasre), Vol 6 (1), January-2020 5. CONCLUSION

This paper presents theoretical study to investigate the performance characteristics of ETC using varied nanofluid types and different concentrations in weather data of Cairo – Egypton 14th February. The simulation is performed using water, CeO₂/ water, WO₃/ water and AL₂O₃/ water nanofluids as working fluids. From this simulation it can be concluded that:

- 1. Using water nanofluids, the performance of ETC is much higher compared with the water at study concentrations.
- 2. At concentration of 0.045%, the performance of ETC using CeO₂/ water nanofluid gives higher temperature difference and higher thermal efficiency by 35.6 % and 34.2%; respectively compared with the water.
- 3. At 12:00 PM and 0.045% nanofluid concentration, the temperature difference, useful heat gain and thermal efficiency of WO₃/water are increased by 15.3%, 14.3% and 12.6%; respectively, compared with water.
- 4. The temperature difference, useful heat gain and thermal efficiency of AL₂O₃/water are higher than that waterby 29.8%, 38.2% and 28.4%; respectively, at 0.045% concentration.
- 5. For CeO_2 /water, the useful heat gain changes from 707W to 790 W when the concentration is varied from 0.015% to 0.045% at midday.
- 6. At 12:00 PM, the thermal efficiency of ETC using AL_2O_3 / water are increased than that of water by 6.2% and 28.4% when the concentrations are 0.015 and 0.045%; respectively.
- 7. The thermal optical efficiency of CeO2 nanofluid increases from 0.632 to 0.813 when nanofluid concentrations are 0.015 and 0.045%; respectively.

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