
Numerical Investigation of Heat Transfer of CuO Nanofluid Using Eulerian-Eulerian Two Phase Model

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To cite this article:

Farhad Abbassi Amiri, Mohsen Nazari, Mohammad Mohsen Shahmardan. Numerical Investigation of Heat Transfer of CuO Nanofluid Using Eulerian-Eulerian Two Phase Model. *International Journal of Mechanical Engineering and Applications*. Vol. 5, No. 5, 2017, pp. 259-268.

doi: 10.11648/j.ijmea.20170505.14

Received: September 8, 2017; **Accepted:** September 20, 2017; **Published:** September 26, 2017

Abstract: In this study, laminar forced convection of CuO nanofluid is numerically investigated in sudden expansion microchannel with expansion ratio of 3:1 and isotherm walls. The importance and developments of microfluidic devices, like expansion microchannel, has caused that the investigation of the flow and the heat transfer of nanofluid in sudden expansion microchannel to be so important. On the other hand, the two phase models can be used instead of single phase model very well. Among two phase models, Eulerian-Eulerian model is very efficient because of considering the relative velocity and temperature of the phases and the nanoparticle concentration distribution. An Eulerian two-fluid model is considered to simulate the nanofluid flow inside the microchannel and the governing mass, momentum and energy equations for both phases are solved using the finite volume method. It can be observed that the Eulerian two phase model of the CuO nanofluid enhances the heat transfer instead of using pure water as a coolant. Reynolds number and nanoparticle volume concentration increase the average Nusselt number, while the pressure drop increases only slightly. Also, the heat transfer increases with decrease in the nanoparticle diameter.

Keywords: Nanofluid, Heat Transfer, Microchannel, Two Phase, Eulerian-Eulerian

1. Introduction

Choi is the first researcher that has used the nanofluid [1]. Concentration on the modeling of the thermal conductivity of nanofluid has thrived by the other researchers [2-4]. Recently, the concentration is on the heat transfer and fluid flow behavior of nanofluid.

There are many experimental works for nanofluid on macro and micro-scales [5-8]. Wen and Ding [5] studied the heat transfer of Al_2O_3 -water nanofluid in a copper tube under the constant heat flux. Their measurements in the heat transfer of Al_2O_3 -water nanofluid showed an enhancement in the entrance region of the tube. They explained that the particle migration reduces the thickness of the thermal boundary layer and causes this behavior in the heat transfer of the nanofluid. Heris et al. [6] investigated CuO-water and Al_2O_3 -water nanofluids in an annular tube. They compared the results of the experimental study and the homogeneous model and realized the under-estimation of the homogeneous model in the heat transfer enhancement, especially in higher

nanoparticle volume concentration. Homogeneous (single phase) and two-phase models are commonly used in the numerical study of the heat transfer and fluid flow of the nanofluid. In single phase model, the velocity and temperature of the base fluid and the particles are the same. Most studies in this field are done by using the single phase model [3, 9, 10]. In two phase model, the base fluid and particles are considered as two different phases in despite of the single phase model and both phases have different velocities and temperatures. Also, the interactions between the phases are so important in the governing equations of the two phase models.

Behzadmehr et al. [11] studied the turbulent convection of the nanofluid in a circular tube by using a two phase mixture model. After comparing their results with an experimental study, they reported that the mixture model has more coincidence to the experimental study in compared to the homogeneous model. Mirmasoumi and Behzadmehr [12] also used the two phase mixture model for studying the mixed convection of the nanofluid in a tube. Mirmasoumi

and Behzadmehr [13] and Akbarinia and Laur [14] studied the effect of the nanoparticle size on the mixed convection of the nanofluid by the mixture model. An increase in the heat transfer of the nanofluid with decrease in the nanoparticle size was observed in both studies. Kurowski *et al.* [15] simulated the nanofluid flow by three different mixture, homogeneous and Eulerian-Lagrangian models in a minichannel. The results of all models were almost the same. Fard *et al.* [16] used single and two phase models for studying the heat transfer of the nanofluid inside a tube. They investigated a 0.2% CuO-water and compared the results with experimental ones and reported that the average relative error between the two phase model and experimental data was 8% while it was 16% for the single phase model.

Keshavarz and Mohammadi [17] investigated the thermal performance of Al_2O_3 -water nanofluid in minichannel heat sink by using single and two phase models. In their study, it has been observed that the two-phase models have more coincidence with the experimental results in comparison to the single phase model, however, it is not sensible in low volume concentration but by increasing the particle volume concentration up to 1% or in high Reynolds number, the deviation between the single phase model and the experimental data increases. Shariat *et al.* [18] studied the impact of nanoparticle mean diameter and the buoyancy force on laminar mixed convection nanofluid flow in an elliptic duct by using two-phase mixture model. They reported that in certain Reynolds and Richardson numbers, the average Nusselt number increases with decrease in the nanoparticle diameter as well as with increase in Richardson number. A. Ramiar *et al.* [19] optimized the heat transfer of two phase modeling of nanofluid in a sinusoidal wavy channel using Artificial Bee Colony technique. A two phase model is applied to investigate different governing parameters, namely: Reynolds number, nonfluids volume fraction and amplitude of the wavy wall. For optimization process, a recent spot-lighted method, called Artificial Bee Colony (ABC) algorithm, is applied, and the results are shown to be in a good accuracy in comparison with another well-known heuristic method, i.e. particle swarm optimization (PSO). The results have indicated that the effect of utilizing nanoparticles and increasing Reynolds number is more intensified on growing the average Nusselt number than variations of the amplitude of the wavy wall. Omid Ali Akbari *et al.* [20] used a modified two-phase mixture model of nanofluid flow and heat transfer in a 3-D curved microtube. This study numerically investigated the laminar mixed-convection heat transfer of different water-copper nanofluids inside a microtube with curvature angle of 90° , using a finite volume method. The results showed that the heat transfer and hydraulics behavior of nanofluids in curved geometries is to some extent different with other geometries and flat surfaces due to presence of buoyancy and centrifugal forces at the same time.

P. Hanafizade *et al.* [21] studied the single and two-phase models for magnetite nanofluid forced convection in a tube. This study has compared two-phase and single-phase approaches in simulating forced convective heat transfer of Fe_3O_4 -water nanofluid in both developing and fully

developed regions of a tube under constant heat flux. Results of the two-phase models have been compared with that of the best single-phase model and the collected experimental data. It is concluded that considering the Brownian motion effect in the static Maxwell model significantly improves the accuracy. However, the presented correlations for thermal conductivity and viscosity lead to the closest results to the experimental data. M. Ziad Saghir *et al.* [22] investigated Two-phase and single phase models of flow of nanofluid in a square cavity. The numerical results have been compared with the specific condition of the experimental data, resulting in 1% discrepancy when using the single phase model. However, higher discrepancy with up to 10% when using the two phase model was found. Farhad Abbassi *et al.* [23] have studied the flow Bifurcation of the CuO nanofluid in the microchannel and reported the average Nusselt number enhancement with decrease in the expansion ratio of the microchannel.

In this work, the laminar forced convection of the CuO nanofluid in a sudden expansion microchannel with expansion ratio of 3:1 and isotherm walls is studied by two-phase model of the Eulerian-Eulerian. The governing equations of mass, momentum and energy are discretized using the finite volume method and the modified SIMPLE algorithm is used for solving the flow equations of both phases. The modified SIMPLE algorithm has been created as a new strategy in order to solve the governing equations and accelerates the SIMPLE algorithm. The effects of the nanoparticle size and volume concentration and Reynolds number on the average Nusselt number are investigated. The Sudden expansion microchannels can be used as a microfluidic rectifier, like: Tesla rectifier, simple nozzle/diffuser structures and cascaded nozzle/diffuser structures. Because of the considering the relative velocity and temperature between phases and the nanoparticle volume concentration distribution, Eulerian-Eulerian model is more efficient in comparison to the other two phase model.

Numerical investigation of nanofluid flow and heat transfer in a sudden expansion microchannel by using the Eulerian-Eulerian two phase model and applying the modified SIMPLE algorithm is a new work in the field of nanofluid heat transfer in a microfluidic system.

2. Governing Equations

The geometry of this study is a sudden expansion microchannel with expansion ratio of 3:1 that is shown in Figure 1. The laminar flow of considered nanofluid that is the mixture of water and copper nanoparticles, enters the microchannel with uniform velocity and temperature and exchanges heat with the isothermal walls of the microchannel. The upstream length and height of the microchannel (L_1, h), the downstream length and height of microchannel (L_2, h) and the reattachment length after the expansion region (L_r) are shown in Figure 1.

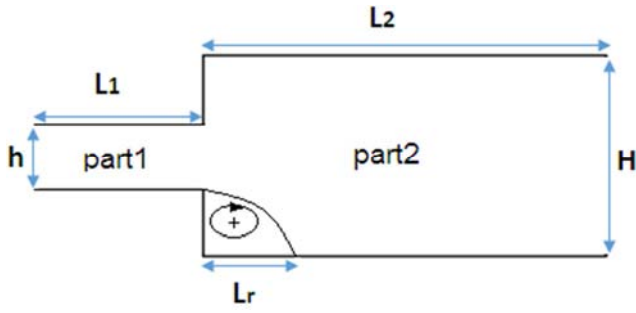


Figure 1. The sudden expansion microchannel.

Considering the steady state, laminar and Eulerian-Eulerian two phase model, the governing equations for the base liquid and nanoparticle phases can be written as follows.

2.1. Continuity Equations

Continuity equations for solid and liquid phases in the cartesian coordinate system are as follows:

$$\frac{\partial(\varphi_l \rho_l u_l)}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial(\varphi_l \rho_l v_l)}{\partial y} = -\varphi_l \frac{\partial p}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x}(\varphi_l \mu_l \frac{\partial u_l}{\partial x}) + \frac{\partial}{\partial y}(\varphi_l \mu_l \frac{\partial u_l}{\partial y}) + (F_d)_x + (F_{vm})_x \tag{1}$$

$$\frac{\partial(\varphi_p \rho_p u_p)}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial(\varphi_p \rho_p v_p)}{\partial y} = -\varphi_p \frac{\partial p}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x}(\varphi_p \mu_p \frac{\partial u_p}{\partial x}) + \frac{\partial}{\partial y}(\varphi_p \mu_p \frac{\partial u_p}{\partial y}) + (F_{col})_x - (F_d)_x - (F_{vm})_x \tag{2}$$

Where $(F_{col})_x$, $(F_d)_x$, $(F_{vm})_x$, P and μ are the particle-particle interaction, drag, virtual mass (added mass) forces, pressure and viscosity, respectively. Here, the lift force between the phases can be neglected because of the small size of the nanoparticles.

$$\frac{\partial(\varphi_l \rho_l u_l v_l)}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial(\varphi_l \rho_l v_l v_l)}{\partial y} = -\varphi_l \frac{\partial p}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x}(\varphi_l \mu_l \frac{\partial v_l}{\partial x}) + \frac{\partial}{\partial y}(\varphi_l \mu_l \frac{\partial v_l}{\partial y}) + (F_d)_y + (F_{vm})_y \tag{3}$$

$$\frac{\partial(\varphi_p \rho_p u_p v_p)}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial(\varphi_p \rho_p v_p v_p)}{\partial y} = -\varphi_p \frac{\partial p}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x}(\varphi_p \mu_p \frac{\partial v_p}{\partial x}) + \frac{\partial}{\partial y}(\varphi_p \mu_p \frac{\partial v_p}{\partial y}) + (F_{col})_y - (F_d)_y - (F_{vm})_y \tag{4}$$

The force terms in the momentum equations are defined as

$$F_d = -\beta(\vec{V}_l - \vec{V}_p) \tag{5}$$

$$F_{vm} = 0.5\varphi_p \rho_l \frac{D}{Dt}(\vec{V}_l - \vec{V}_p) \tag{6}$$

$$F_{col} = G(\varphi_l)\vec{V}\varphi_l \tag{7}$$

Where \vec{V} is the velocity vector.

Here, β , G and d_p are the friction coefficient, the particle-

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x}(\varphi_l \rho_l u_l c_{pl} T_l) + \frac{\partial}{\partial y}(\varphi_l \rho_l v_l c_{pl} T_l) = \frac{\partial}{\partial x}(\varphi_l k_{eff,l} \frac{\partial T_l}{\partial x}) + \frac{\partial}{\partial y}(\varphi_l k_{eff,l} \frac{\partial T_l}{\partial y}) - h_v(T_l - T_p) \tag{8}$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x}(\varphi_p \rho_p u_p c_{pp} T_p) + \frac{\partial}{\partial y}(\varphi_p \rho_p v_p c_{pp} T_p) = \frac{\partial}{\partial x}(\varphi_p k_{eff,p} \frac{\partial T_p}{\partial x}) + \frac{\partial}{\partial y}(\varphi_p k_{eff,p} \frac{\partial T_p}{\partial y}) + h_v(T_l - T_p) \tag{9}$$

Here, T , k_{eff} , C_p and h_v are the temperature, effective thermal conductivity, heat capacity at constant pressure and volume interphase heat transfer coefficient, respectively. For spherical nanoparticles h_v can be calculated as

$$h_v = \frac{6(1-\varphi_l)}{d_p} h_p \tag{10}$$

Here, h_p is the fluid-particle heat transfer coefficient that

$$\frac{\partial(\varphi_l \rho_l u_l)}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial(\varphi_l \rho_l v_l)}{\partial y} = 0 \tag{1}$$

$$\frac{\partial(\varphi_p \rho_p u_p)}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial(\varphi_p \rho_p v_p)}{\partial y} = 0 \tag{2}$$

Where u , v , x , y , ρ and φ are axial and vertical velocity, axial and vertical direction, density and volume concentration, respectively. Subscripts l and p show the base liquid and nanoparticle phases, respectively. Also, for volume concentration of the phases we have

$$\varphi_l + \varphi_p = 1 \tag{3}$$

2.2. Momentum Equations

Momentum equations for solid and liquid phases in cartesian coordinate system and in X and Y directions are as follows:

Equations in the X-direction are

$$\frac{\partial(\varphi_l \rho_l u_l)}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial(\varphi_l \rho_l v_l)}{\partial y} = -\varphi_l \frac{\partial p}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x}(\varphi_l \mu_l \frac{\partial u_l}{\partial x}) + \frac{\partial}{\partial y}(\varphi_l \mu_l \frac{\partial u_l}{\partial y}) + (F_d)_x + (F_{vm})_x \tag{4}$$

$$\frac{\partial(\varphi_p \rho_p u_p)}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial(\varphi_p \rho_p v_p)}{\partial y} = -\varphi_p \frac{\partial p}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x}(\varphi_p \mu_p \frac{\partial u_p}{\partial x}) + \frac{\partial}{\partial y}(\varphi_p \mu_p \frac{\partial u_p}{\partial y}) + (F_{col})_x - (F_d)_x - (F_{vm})_x \tag{5}$$

Equation in the Y-direction

In these equations, the gravitational force is neglected because of the small size of the microchannel and the equations can be written as follows

$$\frac{\partial(\varphi_l \rho_l u_l v_l)}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial(\varphi_l \rho_l v_l v_l)}{\partial y} = -\varphi_l \frac{\partial p}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x}(\varphi_l \mu_l \frac{\partial v_l}{\partial x}) + \frac{\partial}{\partial y}(\varphi_l \mu_l \frac{\partial v_l}{\partial y}) + (F_d)_y + (F_{vm})_y \tag{6}$$

$$\frac{\partial(\varphi_p \rho_p u_p v_p)}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial(\varphi_p \rho_p v_p v_p)}{\partial y} = -\varphi_p \frac{\partial p}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x}(\varphi_p \mu_p \frac{\partial v_p}{\partial x}) + \frac{\partial}{\partial y}(\varphi_p \mu_p \frac{\partial v_p}{\partial y}) + (F_{col})_y - (F_d)_y - (F_{vm})_y \tag{7}$$

particle interaction modulus and the nanoparticle diameter, respectively.

2.3. Energy Equations

The base fluid and particle phases are considered as incompressible fluids and the viscous dissipation and radiation are neglected. So, the energy equations in cartesian coordinate system can be written as

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x}(\varphi_l \rho_l u_l c_{pl} T_l) + \frac{\partial}{\partial y}(\varphi_l \rho_l v_l c_{pl} T_l) = \frac{\partial}{\partial x}(\varphi_l k_{eff,l} \frac{\partial T_l}{\partial x}) + \frac{\partial}{\partial y}(\varphi_l k_{eff,l} \frac{\partial T_l}{\partial y}) - h_v(T_l - T_p) \tag{8}$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x}(\varphi_p \rho_p u_p c_{pp} T_p) + \frac{\partial}{\partial y}(\varphi_p \rho_p v_p c_{pp} T_p) = \frac{\partial}{\partial x}(\varphi_p k_{eff,p} \frac{\partial T_p}{\partial x}) + \frac{\partial}{\partial y}(\varphi_p k_{eff,p} \frac{\partial T_p}{\partial y}) + h_v(T_l - T_p) \tag{9}$$

is obtained from experimental correlations.

The Nusselt number is calculated from the temperature difference between the nanofluid mean temperature and the microchannel walls:

$$Nu = \frac{(hD_h)}{k_l} = q'' D_h / k_l (T_w - T_m) \tag{10}$$

Here, q'' , h and D_h are the wall convective heat transfer

flux, convective heat transfer coefficient and the microchannel hydraulic diameter, respectively. The mean temperature of the nanofluid is calculated as follow

$$T_m = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^p (\int \rho_i u_i c_{pi} T_i dA)}{\sum_{i=1}^p (\int \rho_i u_i c_{pi} dA)} \quad (15)$$

Where the integration is applied on the microchannel cross section.

According to the equations (11) and (12), the wall convective heat transfer flux can be obtained as

$$X = \frac{x}{D_h}, Y = \frac{y}{D_h}, U_i = \frac{u_i}{u_{in}}, V_i = \frac{v_i}{u_{in}}, P = \frac{p-p_{in}}{\rho_l u_{in}^2}, \theta_i = \frac{T_i - T_{in}}{T_w - T_{in}}, Re_i = \frac{u_{in} D_h \rho_i}{\mu_i}, Pr_i = \frac{\rho_i c_{pi} u_i}{k_i} \quad (18)$$

Where $i=1, p$ indicates the liquid and particle phases.

2.5. Boundary Conditions

Base fluid and the particle phases enter the microchannel with the same uniform axial velocity at the inlet. At the outlet of the microchannel, the velocity boundary condition is considered for the outflow of the both phases. In this work, the non-slip boundary condition at the walls is assumed for both phases.

For thermal boundary conditions, the microchannel walls are isothermal and the outflow temperature boundary condition is considered for both phases. Since the length of the microchannel is too long, the variations of the outflow velocity and temperature in x -direction are assumed as follow

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} = 0, \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} = 0, \frac{\partial T}{\partial x} = 0 \quad (19)$$

3. Numerical Method

In this study, the governing equations are solved numerically in Fortran. The finite volume method is used for discretizing the governing equations. The first order upwind

$$q'' = (\varphi_l k_{eff,l} \frac{\partial T_l}{\partial y})_w + (\varphi_p k_{eff,p} \frac{\partial T_p}{\partial y})_w \quad (16)$$

Considering the local heat transfer coefficient, the average heat transfer coefficient is

$$\bar{h} = \frac{1}{L} \int_0^L h dx \quad (17)$$

2.4. Non-Dimensionalization

The non-dimensional form of the governing equations are obtained, using the following non-dimensional parameters:

scheme is used for discretizing the convection-diffusion term. The SIMPLE algorithm is used for the pressure-velocity coupling [24, 25] and the discretized governing equations are converted to a set of algebraic equations that is solved iteratively. In this study, A new strategy is created in order to modify the SIMPLE algorithm by obtaining a new pressure correction equation with the combination of the continuity equations of base fluid and the particle phases. The under-relaxation coefficients are used for velocity and pressure in order to accelerate the convergence of the algorithm. In this algorithm, the source term of the pressure correction equation is considered as the convergence criterion.

4. Grid Independence Study

Independency of the results versus the number of grid points is investigated by calculating the average Nusselt number for various numbers of grid points and Reynolds numbers. Table 1 shows the average Nusselt numbers for four different numbers of grid points and $Re=100$. The grid 3 is selected for this study as it can be seen that the average Nusselt numbers between the 3 and 4 grids have a negligible difference.

Table 1. Grid-independency study results for $\varphi_p=0.01$ and $Re=100$.

Grid	1	2	3	4
	$N_y \times N_x$	$N_y \times N_x$	$N_y \times N_x$	$N_y \times N_x$
Part1	10 × 15	20 × 50	30 × 100	40 × 120
Part2	30 × 45	60 × 150	90 × 300	120 × 360
All cells	1500	10000	30000	48000
Average Nusselt	7. 214875	7. 654121	7. 988713	8. 014657

5. Validation

To validate the results of this study, the reattachment length for the pure water ($\varphi_p=0.0$) at different Reynolds numbers is calculated and compared to Scott *et al.* [26] results in order to investigate the accuracy of the code. Table 2 and Figure 2 show the reasonable coincidence between the different amounts of the reattachment length of these two studies and the maximum deviation is less than 4%.

Table 2. Comparison between reattachment length of this study and Scott's one.

Reynolds number (Re)	Reattachment length $\frac{L_r}{h}$	Reattachment length $\frac{L_r}{h}$ [26]
50	5.3	5.1
100	9.3	9.7
150	14.6	15
200	20	20

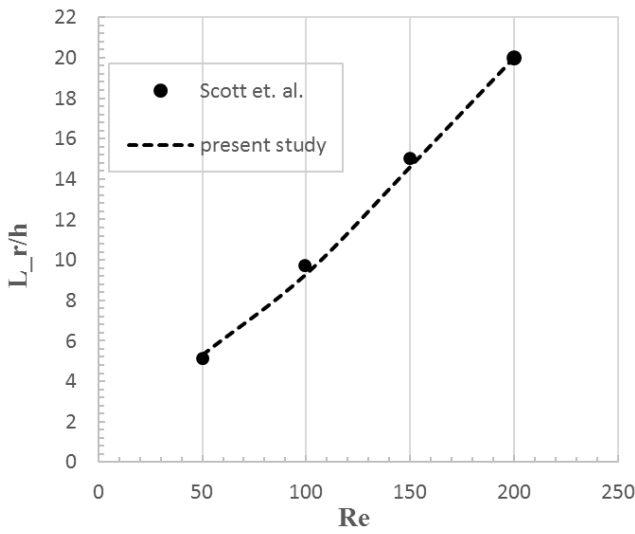


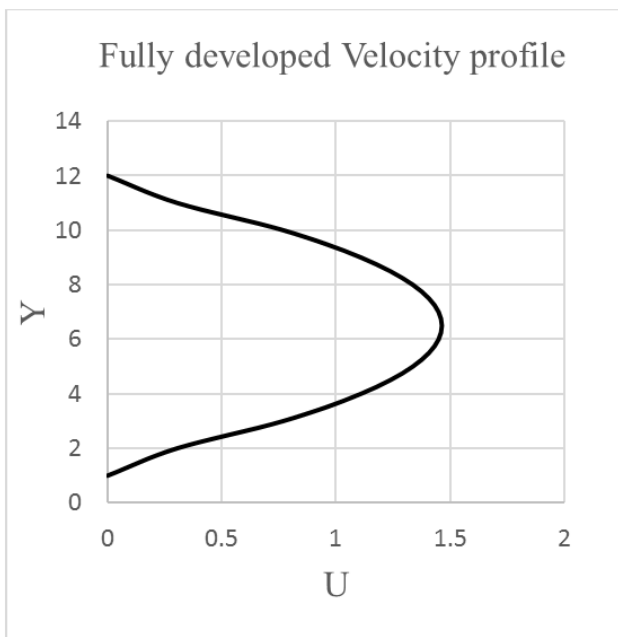
Figure 2. Comparison between reattachment length of this study and Scott's one for different Reynolds number.

6. Results and Discussion

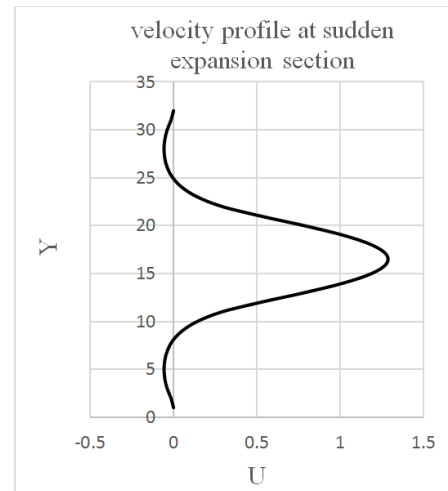
6.1. Distribution of Velocity, Temperature and Nanoparticle Volume Concentration

Figures 3-5 show the distributions of velocity, temperature and nanoparticle volume concentration at $\phi_p=0.01$, $Re=100$ and $d_p=100$ nm in the three main parts of sudden expansion microchannel including fully developed region of part 1, fully developed region of part 2 and the sudden expansion section of the microchannel.

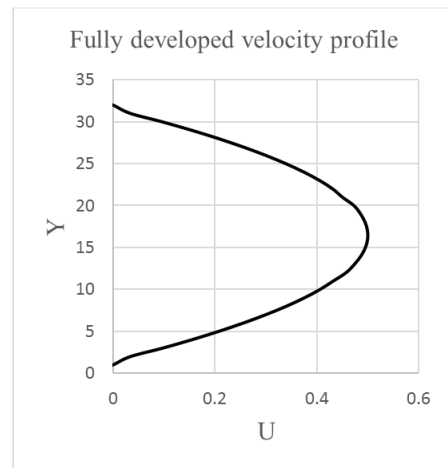
6.1.1. Velocity Distribution



a) Fully developed region of part 1



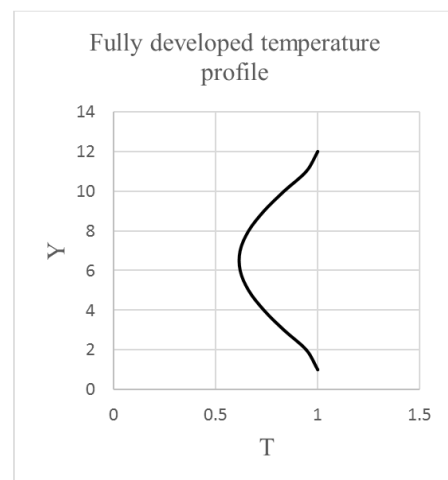
b) Sudden expansion section of microchannel



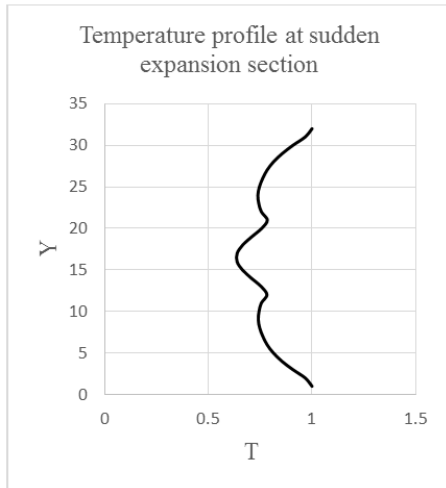
c) Fully developed region of part 2

Figure 3. Velocity distributions at three main regions of sudden expansion microchannel a) Fully developed region of part 1 b) Sudden expansion section of microchannel c) Fully developed region of part 2.

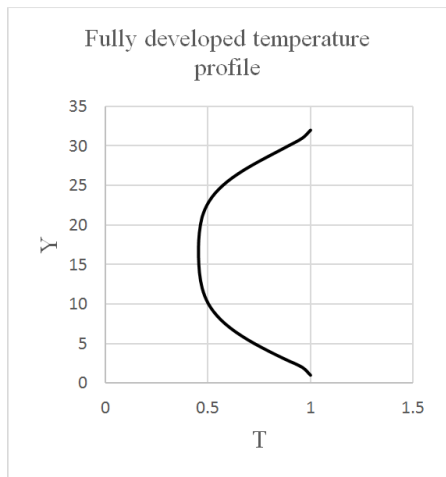
6.1.2. Temperature Distribution



a) Fully developed region of part 1



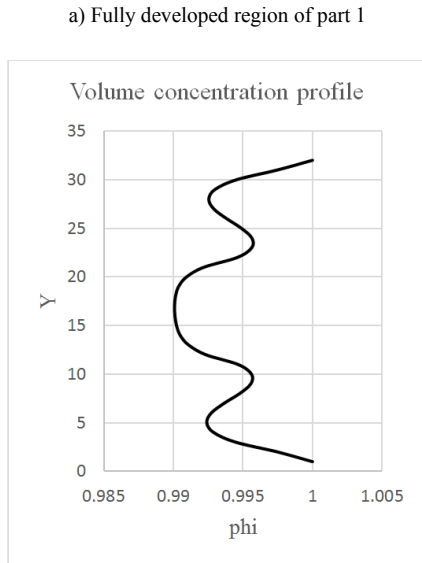
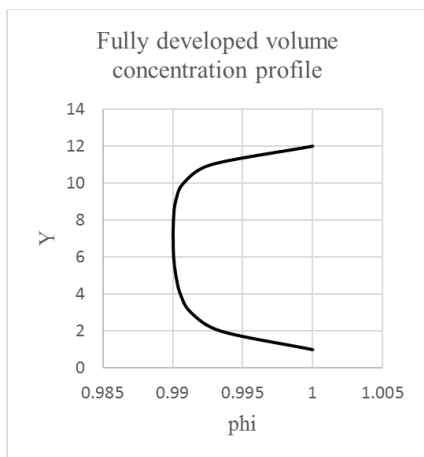
b) Sudden expansion section of microchannel



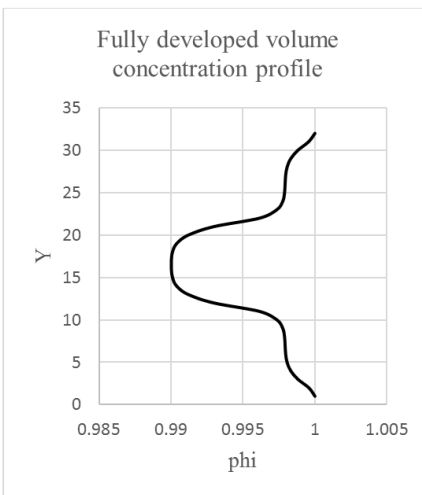
c) Fully developed region of part 2

Figure 4. Temperature distributions at three main regions of sudden expansion microchannel a) Fully developed region of part 1 b) Sudden expansion section of microchannel c) Fully developed region of part2.

6.1.3. Distribution of Nanoparticle Volume Concentration



b) Sudden expansion section of microchannel



c) Fully developed region of part 2

Figure 5. Distribution of nanoparticle volume concentration at three main regions of sudden expansion microchannel a) Fully developed region of part 1 b) Sudden expansion section of microchannel c) Fully developed region of part 2.

6.2. Nanoparticles Effect on the Velocity and Temperature Field

Figure 6 shows the nanoparticle effect on the velocity field at $\phi_p=0.01$ and $Re=50$ and the velocity contours of the nanofluid (base fluid and nanoparticle) and the pure water are compared to each other. It can be seen that nanoparticles have very small effect on the velocity distribution and increase the hydrodynamic entrance length slightly because of the very small size and volume concentration. Due to this reason, the nanofluid pressure drop increases slightly in comparison to the pure water.

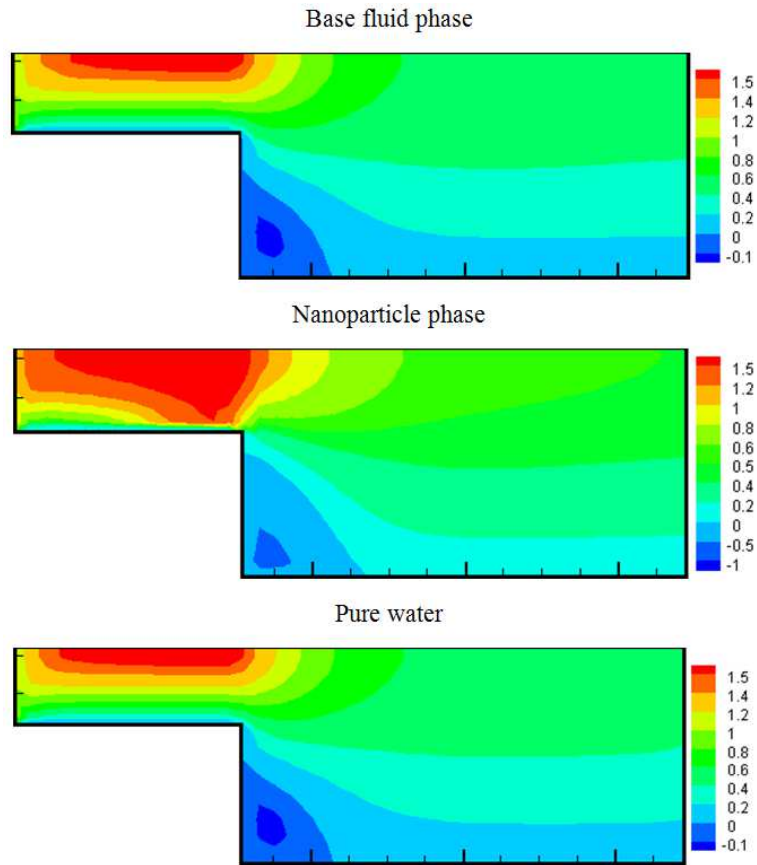


Figure 6. Velocity contours for nanofluid (base fluid and nanoparticle) and pure water at $\phi_p=0.01$ and $Re=50$.

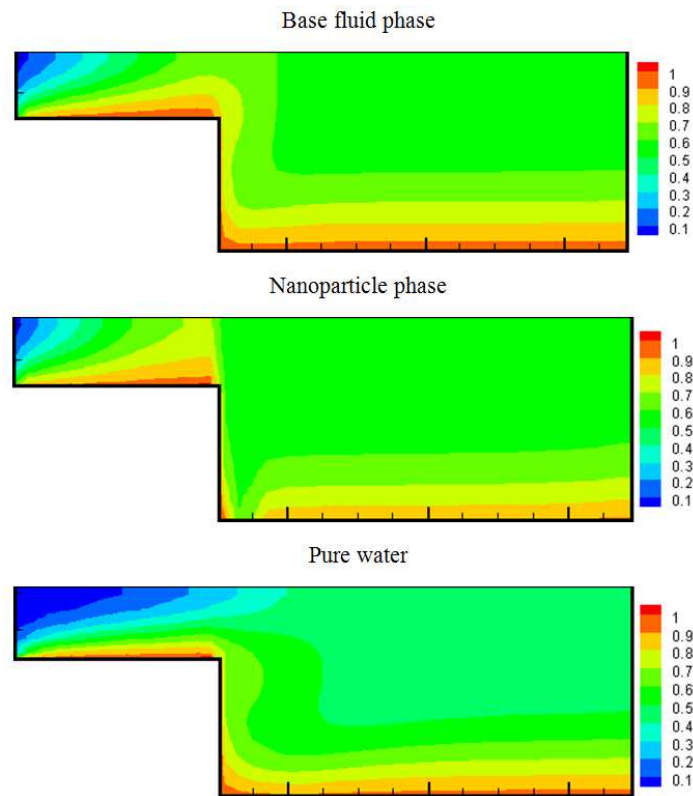


Figure 7. Temperature contours for nanofluid (base fluid and nanoparticle) and pure water at $\phi_p=0.01$ and $Re=50$.

Figure 7 shows the nanoparticle effect on the temperature field at $\phi_p=0.01$ and $Re=50$ and the temperature contours of the nanofluid (base fluid and nanoparticle) and the pure water are compared to each other. It has been observed that the development of the thermal boundary layer increases remarkably due to the presence of the nanoparticles that increase the fluid thermal conductivity and consequently increase the wall convective heat transfer flux. In this study, the distance that thermal boundary layer development of the nanofluid occurs, is $\frac{L_2}{6}$ after the sudden expansion section while this is $\frac{L_2}{4}$ for the pure water, so nanoparticles defer the thermal development.

6.3. Nanoparticle Volume Concentration Effect on the Nanofluid Heat transfer

Figure 8 illustrates the pressure drop for $d_p=100$ nm when the nanoparticle volume concentration changes. From Figure 8 it has been observed that the pressure drop increases with increase of the particle volume concentration but it is small for all Reynolds numbers. The previous studies also reported this behavior of the pressure drop [7 and 8]. As it is said in the previous part, this behavior occurs due to the small effect of the nanoparticles on the velocity field.

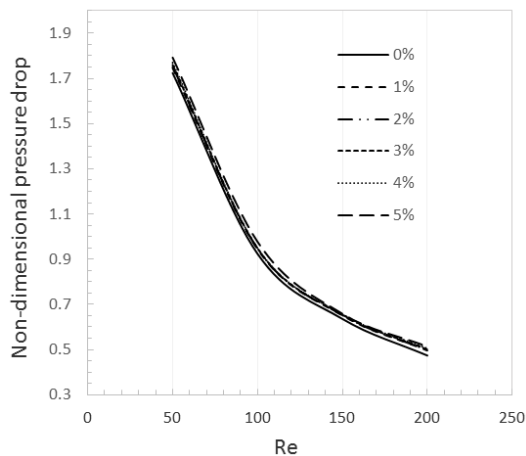


Figure 8. Non-dimensional pressure drop versus Reynolds number for different volume concentration and $d_p=100$ nm.

Figure 9 depicts the effect of Reynolds number and the nanoparticle volume concentration on the average Nusselt number for $d_p=100$ nm. It has been observed that the average Nusselt number increases with increase in Reynolds number and nanoparticle volume concentration. Therefore, this behavior of the nanofluid make it an effective working fluid in the cooling systems. Reynolds number increases the convection effects and the presence of more nanoparticles increases the thermal conductivity of the nanofluid and these reasons cause the higher heat transfer of it. Also, this result has been reported by the previous experimental and numerical studies for microchannels [8, 9].

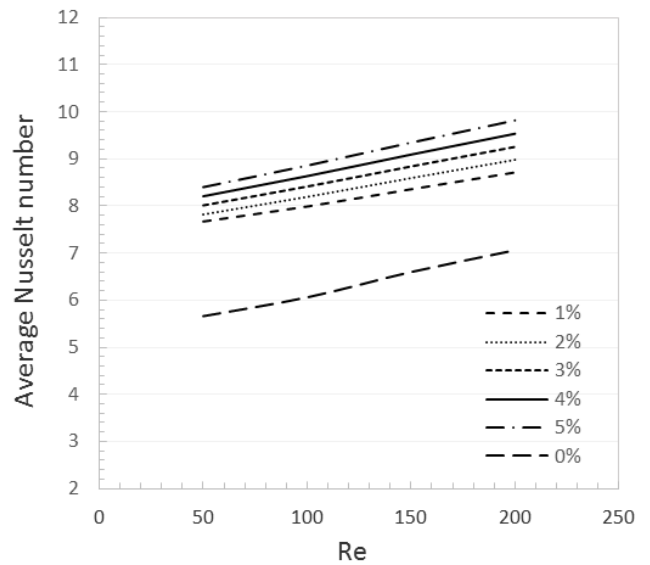


Figure 9. Average Nusselt number versus Reynolds number for different volume concentration and $d_p=100$ nm.

Figure 10 shows the effect of Reynolds number and nanoparticle volume concentration on the nanofluid average Nusselt number that has been normalized by the pure water Nusselt number for $d_p=100$ nm. As it is presented in the previous part, the presence of the nanoparticles increases the thermal conductivity of the nanofluid and consequently increases its heat transfer. Also, this result can be seen from Figure 10 that the average Nusselt number ratio increases with an increase in the nanoparticle volume concentration for every Reynolds number. Another important observation in Figure 10 is that the lower Reynolds number affects more on increasing the heat transfer ratio for a definite nanoparticle volume concentration.

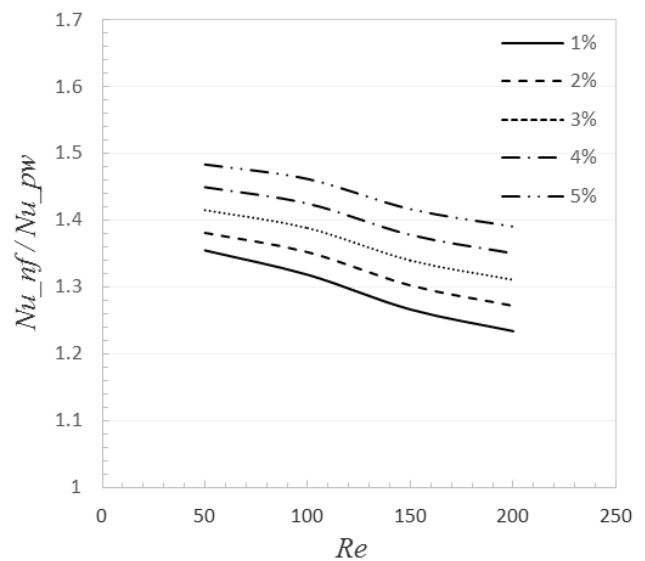


Figure 10. Nanofluid average Nusselt number normalized by the pure water Nusselt number versus Reynolds number for different nanoparticle volume concentration and $d_p=100$ nm.

6.4. Nanoparticle Diameter Effect on the Nanofluid Heat Transfer

Figure 11 shows the nanoparticle diameter effect on the percentage enhancement in average Nusselt number in comparison to pure water flow for different nanoparticle volume concentration and $Re=200$. In Figure 11 the enhancement of heat transfer increases with decrease in the nanoparticle diameter as well as with increase in the nanoparticle volume concentration. For instance, at $\phi_p=0.02$, the copper nanoparticles with $d_p=50$ nm increase the heat transfer enhancement 5% more than the copper nanoparticles with $d_p=100$ nm. In fact, By decreasing the nanoparticle size, the interaction face between nanoparticles and fluid increases that enhances the nanoparticle Brownian motion and causes the heat transfer enhancement.

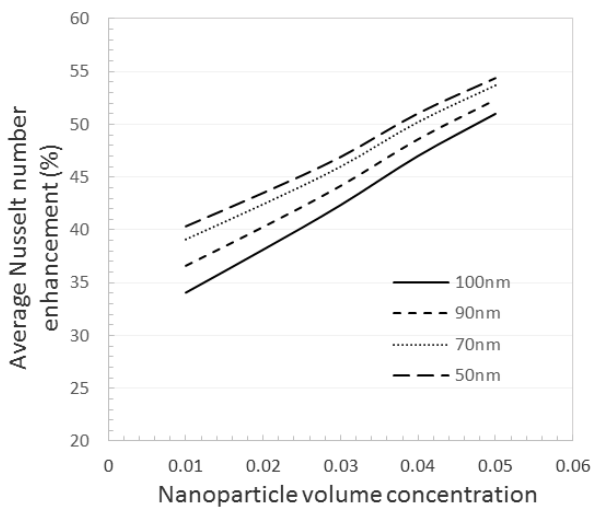


Figure 11. Percentage enhancement in average Nusselt number in comparison to pure water flow versus nanoparticle volume concentration for different nanoparticle diameter and $Re=200$.

7. Conclusion

In this study, laminar forced convection of CuO nanofluid is numerically investigated in sudden expansion microchannel with isotherm walls and expansion ratio of 3:1. A two-phase model is considered to simulate the nanofluid flow inside the microchannel. The finite volume method is used for solving the governing mass, momentum and energy equations of the both phases. In solving the equations for both phases, the SIMPLE algorithm is used and modified by combination of the continuity equations of the both phases and a new pressure correction equation is created in order to accelerate this algorithm. All in all, the Eulerian – Eulerian two-phase model of the CuO nanofluid shows higher heat transfer enhancement in comparison to pure water. The average nusselt number increases with increase in Reynolds number and nanoparticle volume concentration, while the increase in the pressure drop is small. For a constant volume concentration, the lower Reynolds number causes the larger average Nusselt number ratio. However, the average Nusselt number increases with decrease in the nanoparticle diameter so that a 2% copper-water nanofluid, for 50 nm particle size, the

enhancement in heat transfer is 5% more in comparison to 100 nm particle size. This investigation of CuO nanofluid heat transfer in sudden expansion microchannel is so important because of it's innovative numerical technique for solving the governing equations in the SIMPLE algorithm and using the Eulerian-Eulerian two phase model instead of single phase model very well.

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