

HEAT TRANSFER IN AN ARRAY OF STAGGERED TUBE USING  
COMPUTATIONAL FLUID DYNAMIC(CFD) METHOD

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“I declare that all parts of this report are the result of my own work, except a few sections which were extracted from other resources as being mention”

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Date:

“I confess that have been read this outstanding piece of works and at my this piece of work is acceptable from the scope and the quality for the awarded Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering (Thermal-Fluids)”

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Date : 12 MAY 2009 .....

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## ABSTRACT

The purpose of this project is to carry out an analysis in order to determine the heat transfer in an array of staggered tube at a different transverse pitch to diameter ratio. Besides that, this project aims to find the best geometrical parameter of transverse pitch to diameter ratio of staggered tube with the higher performance of heat transfer rate and to validate the simulation result with experimental result with both geometrical parameter are fixed. This project is focus on the staggered tube bundle application design of condenser in air-conditioning since the heat transfer rate is not maximum. So, simulation of air passing through the heated staggered tube at arrangement of staggered tube with transverse pitch to diameter ratio,  $S_T/D$  is 2.2, 2.0 1.8 and 1.6 had done to enhanced the heat transfer rate. The method used in this project is by using Computational Fluid Dynamic(CFD) with FLUENT software to simulate air flows through an array of heated staggered tube at different transverse pitch to diameter ratio, where from there we can obtain or observed the results of heat transfer rate of each cases. From the simulation result, the maximum air temperature drop occurs at transverse pitch to diameter ratio,  $S_T/D=1.6$ . The staggered tube arrangement with  $S_T/D=1.6$  give better heat transfer rate from the others. The percentage different of heat transfer rate between simulation result and experimental result at inlet velocity range from 1.15m/s to 3.59m/s is in the range of 17% to 35%. Heat transfer rate is increased as the nusselt number is increased.

## ABSTRAK

Tujuan eksperimen ini adalah untuk menjalankan analisis untuk menentukan pemindahan haba dalam satu tatasusunan tiub berperingkat pada berlainan nisbah menegak antara garis pusat dua tiub dan diameter tiub. Selain itu, tujuan projek ini adalah untuk mendapatkan nilai geometri yang terbaik bagi nisbah menegak antara dua garis pusat tiub dan diameter tiub yang mempunyai kadar pemindahan haba yang tinggi dan untuk mengesahkan keputusan analisis/simulasi dengan keputusan eksperimen pada kedua-dua nilai geometri yang tetap. Projek ini tertumpu pada aplikasi permodelan susunan tiub berperingkat bagi kondenser pada penyaman udara kerana kadar pemindahan habanya adalah tidak maksimum. Jadi, simulasi udara merentasi susunan tube berperingkat tersebut dijalankan pada nisbah jarak menegak antara garis pusat dua tiub dan diameter tiub( $S_T/D$ ) bersamaan dengan 2.2, 2.0, 1.8 dan 1.8 masing-masing untuk mempertingkatkan kadar pemindahan haba. Kaedah yang digunakan dalam projek ini ialah dengan menggunakan Computational Fluid Dynamic(CFD) dengan perisian FLUENT untuk menjalankan simulasi udara merentasi susunan tiub panas berperingkat pada berlainan nisbah jarak menegak antara garis pusat dua tiub dan diameter tiub( $S_T/D$ ) di mana dari situ kita dapat mendapatkan keputusan kadar pemindahan haba pada setiap kes. Daripada keputusan simulasi, penurunan tekanan maksimum adalah pada  $ST/D=1.6$ . Kadar pemindahan haba adalah terbaik pada  $ST/D=1.6$  berbanding dengan lain. Peratus perbezaan kadar pemindahan haba antara keputusan simulasi dan keputusan eksperimen pada julat halaju udara masuk antara 1.14m/s hingga 3.59m/s adalah antara 17% hingga 35%. Kadar pemindahan haba meningkat apabila nilai nusselts number meningkat.

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## LIST OF SYMBOLS

$\dot{Q}$	=	heat transferred rate, W
$C_p$	=	constant pressure specific heat, J/kg.K
$T_w$	=	wall temperature, K
$T_s$	=	surface temperature, K
$T_{in}$	=	Hot stream of inlet temperature, K
$T_{out}$	=	Hot stream of outlet temperature, K
$T_{\infty}$	=	fluid free stream temperature, K
$\rho_{Air}$	=	the density of air, kg/m <sup>3</sup>
$\rho$	=	density, kg/m <sup>3</sup>
$\nu$	=	kinematic viscosity of air, kg/ms
$w$	=	the flow rate over entire cross sectional area, W
$N$	=	number of tube
$\Delta T$	=	The temperature difference
$c_{pL}$	=	the specific heat capacity
$Pe_l$	=	amount of energy, W
$\alpha$	=	heat transfer coefficient
$T_{avg}$	=	Average temperature
$C_c$	=	specific heat for cold fluid
$C_h$	=	specific heat for hot fluid
$k_f, \lambda$	=	air thermal conductivity evaluated at $T_f$
$C_{min}$	=	smaller specific heat
$C_r$	=	heat capacity ratio

$U$	=	overall heat transfer coefficient
$F_p$	=	Fin pitch, mm
$F_t$	=	Fin thickness, mm
$S_1$	=	tube span wise pitch
$S_D$	=	Diagonal pitch, mm
$S_L$	=	Longitudinal pitch, mm
$S_T$	=	Transverse pitch, mm
$h$	=	Convection heat transfer coefficient, $W/m^2 \cdot K$
$h$	=	specific enthalpy, kJ/kg
$k$	=	thermal conductivity, W/mK
$\mu$	=	Dynamic viscosity
$F$	=	Correction factor
$S_T^*$	=	Transverse pitch to diameter ratio
$S_L^*$	=	Longitudinal pitch to diameter ratio
$Nu_D$	=	Nusselt number based on diameter
$Nu_D, N_L$	=	Nusselt number based on diameter and numbers of tubes
$Pr$	=	Prandtl number
$Re_D$	=	Reynolds number
$Ma$	=	Mach number
$\Delta P$	=	static pressure drop, Pa
$Nu$	=	Nusselt number
$A_s$	=	Surface area, $m^2$
$A$	=	Area, $m^2$
$V$	=	velocity, m/s
$D$	=	diameter, mm
$L$	=	length of tube, mm
$E$	=	Effectiveness

## LIST OF ABBREVIATION

DM	=	Design Modeler
CAD	=	Computer Aided Design
GGI	=	Generalized Grid Interface
CFD	=	Computational Fluid Dynamic
RANS	=	Reynolds–Averaged Navier–Stokes
CAE	=	Computer Aided Eengineering
NTU	=	Number of Transfer Units
LMTD	=	Log Mean Temperature Different
2-D	=	Two -dimensional
3-D	=	Three –dimensional
e.g	=	Example

## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of Project

Heat transfer is the kind of energy transfer that may take place between material bodies as a result of a temperature difference from a hot to a colder body in such a way that the body and surroundings reach thermal equilibrium. Heat transfer always occurs from a hot body to a cold one as a result of the second law of thermodynamic. Where there is a temperature difference between objects in proximity, heat transfer between them can never be stopped; it can only be slowed down..The driving force for heat transfer is the difference in temperature levels between the hot and cold fluids, the greater the difference the higher the rate at which the heat will flow between them. With complex processing sequences the designer must optimize the temperature levels at each stage to maximize the total rate of heat flow.

There are three mechanism of heat transfer which is conduction, convection, and radiation. Conduction is the transfer of thermal energy from a higher temperature region to a lower temperature region through direct molecular communication within a medium or between mediums in direct physical contact without a flow of the material medium. And acts to equalize temperature differences. It is also described as heat energy transferred from one material to another by direct contact.

Radiation is the transfer of heat through electromagnetic radiation. Hot or cold, all objects radiate energy at a rate equal to their emissivity times the rate at which energy would radiate from them if they were a black body. No medium is necessary for radiation to occur; radiation works even in and through a perfect vacuum. The energy from the Sun travels through the vacuum of space before warming the earth. Also, the only way that energy can leave earth is by being radiated to space.

Convection is a combination of conduction and the transfer of thermal energy by fluid circulation or movement of the hot particles in bulk to cooler areas in a material medium. There are two type of convection process which is free convection and force convection. When heat is carried by the circulation of fluids due to buoyancy from density changes induced by heating itself, then the process is known as free convection heat transfer. But for my case study, it is focused on forced convection heat transfer. Forced convection occurs when pumps or fans or other means are used to propel the fluid and create an artificially induced convection current.

The phenomena of heat transfer plays an important role in many industrial applications. The design of virtually all systems require the application of heat transfer principles. This includes applications in the automotive, computer, and aerospace industries. Automotive engineers are constantly being challenged in designing vehicles that may involve increasing the heat rejection of the radiator, shielding components from the hot exhaust manifold and pipes, or to increase cooling around the brake rotors. Cooling of sensitive electronic components in computers, the internal combustion of rockets, satellites, HVAC systems, microwaves, power plants, housing insulation, and underground water pipes are several other areas where heat transfer must be addressed. Clearly, the list of applications can be extended considerably. It is a subject with a widespread of importance in our everyday life.

Through understanding this knowledge and how to apply it, one can strongly influence the design of a broad range of engineering problems. Poor heat transfer performance can caused the life spent equipment become very short because each

equipment have their specific life spent of heat. Others, it also importance to avoid from dangers and waste. So, we should design the heat exchanger with the application of pitch to diameter ratio to enhanced the heat transfer rate across it.

The cross-flow over tube arrays has wide practical applications in the design of heat exchangers, in flow across over head cables, in cooling systems for nuclear power plants and in cooling system in steam generation power plant. For these reasons, numerous measurements of cross flow in tube bundles have been made to advanced a physical understanding of such flows. There have been a considerable amount of theoretical and experimental work committed to the studies of different aspects of flow around in in-lined tube bundles, staggered tube bundles or in asymmetric tube bundles the arrangements. Experimental studies on flows in tube bundles focused on measurement of heat transfer and pressure drop and discussion the characteristics of the flow across tube bundle at different pitch to diameter ratio.

There are two different tube bundle arrangement in predicting the air flows across tube bundle which is in line tube bundle and staggered tube bundle. Both arrangement may result to the different heat transfer performance and heat flow characteristic. Staggered tube arrangement have higher heat transfer performance compared to in line tube its higher surface area exposed to environment. Schematic drawing of in line and staggered tube bundle are shows as Figure 1.1.

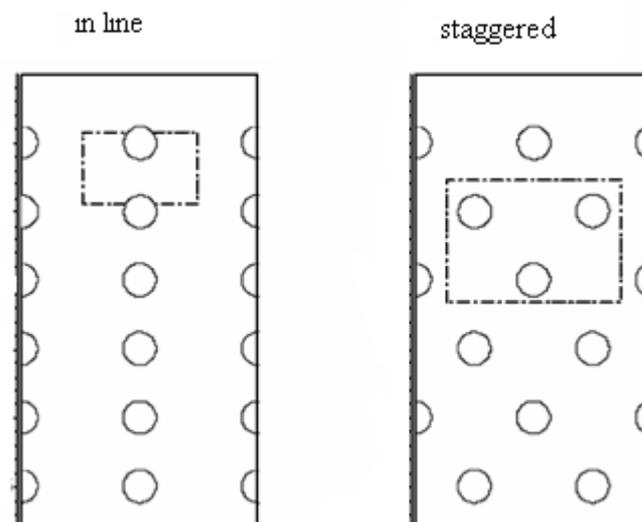


Figure 1.1: Schematic cross-section of the tube arrays used in investigation.

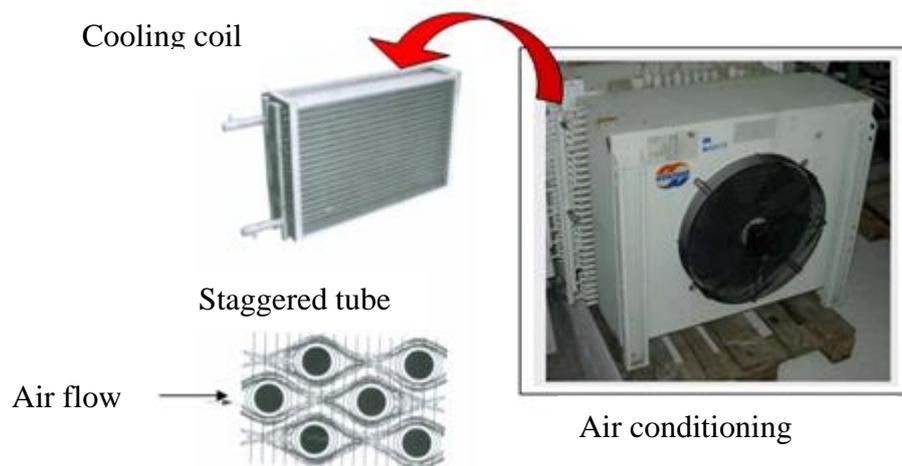


Figure 1.2: The location of staggered tube in air conditioning.  
(Source: DUNHAM)-BUSH Catalog)

## 1.2 Objective

The objective of this project is as below:

- a) To determine the heat transfer in an array of staggered tube tube at different transverse pitch to diameter ratio.
- b) To validate the simulation result with experimental result.

### 1.2.1 Problem Statement

Tube arrays are scale models of typical heat exchanger geometries (condenser) for cooling system in aircon. Type of arrangement of tube bundle with their pitch to diameter ratio can effect the performance of heat exchanger. To overcoming this problem, CFD simulation is used to simulate air flow across an array of staggered tube bundle. From the CFD result, we choose the optimum parameters pitch to diameter ratio. After CFD simulation running we can optimum transverse pitch to diameter ratio with to the higher performance of heat transfer rate.

Experimental result will be used to validate the CFD simulation result with both geometrical parameters are fixed.

Cross flow in a tube bundles has application in design of heat exchanger for cooling system. In order to design it, we have to investigate heat transfer air flow in an array of staggered tube regarding with their geometrical parameters especially at a pitch to diameter ratio to optimizing the heat transfer across it.

### **1.5 Scopes**

- a) The scope of this project is to construct two dimensional(2-D) staggered tube Computational Fluid Dynamic(CFD) geometry.
- b) To simulate periodically air flow around the bundle of staggered tube,
- c) To set-up the experimental work and
- d) To compute both result between experimental and simulation result.

### **1.6 Benefit of study**

The benefit of this study is to improve the heat transfer rate and longer the equipment life cycle. Others, it also importance to avoid from dangers and waste

## CHAPTER 2

### LITERATURE REVIEW

#### 2.1 Introduction

The development of certain project needs to be done systematically and does not exceed the time limit. In order to solve this problem, a concrete planning needs to be done. There are a few things that need to be taken off when doing research to complete this chapter. Literature reviews are important to know what the other researches achieved during their research on the related investigations. From that, the comparison between experimental and simulations results can be achieved to evaluate a good conclusion.

The heat exchangers are thermal equipment present in almost all industrial sectors, playing an essential role in many processes and systems. Increasing the efficiency of this equipment determines functioning conditions and performance of technological assemblies. Heat transfer to or from a bundle of tubes in cross flow is relevant to numerous industrial applications such as steam generation in a boiler or air cooling in the coil of an air conditioner.

The overall heat transfer coefficient for across flow heat exchanger is made up of three components: the surface heat transfer coefficient for the fluid flowing through the tubes, the thermal conductivity and thickness of the tube material and the surface heat transfer coefficient for the fluid flowing over the external surface of the tubes. For a better dimensioning of these devices there is necessary a better

evaluation of the convective heat transfer coefficients [1]. The characteristics of the heat exchanger can be established either directly by experimental measurements or by numerical simulations. The experimental measurements are needed in order to develop new the new heat exchanger designs, and for the establishment of the optimal operational parameters [2]. In the case of a gas, which in my case is air, flowing throughout a bundle of tubes, the assessment of the effective heat transfer coefficient is very important seeing that in general there are the lowest convective heat transfer coefficients, which influence the effective global heat transfer coefficients. Making a piece of equipment as compact as possible for obtaining a heat transfer rate as big as possible is the main concern in the research activity of heat exchangers.

Previous study of An Experimental and Numerical Investigation of Tube Bank Heat Exchanger Thermofluids proposes and assesses the effectiveness of a dual design strategy, which combines empirical and numerical analyses of heat exchanger thermofluid performance. Empirical analysis serves to provide initial design specifications, while performance is optimized using CFD. The test vehicle consists of a staggered tube bank heat exchanger arrangement ( $S_T^* = S_L^* = 3.0$ ). Good agreement is obtained between the empirical relationships developed by Martin [3] for heat transfer and Gaddis and Gnielinski [4] for pressure drop, and corresponding CFD predictions for Reynolds numbers varying from 1,749 to 17,491. Numerical flow field predictions are found to be accurately predicted relative to particle image velocimetry(PIV) measurements for a Reynolds number of 700. This study therefore provides a degree of confidence in using empirical correlations to undertake an initial sizing of tube bank heat exchanger design, to be refined for application specific environments using CFD analysis.

For turbulence flow, “k-epsilon” turbulence model is widely used, the specification of epsilon at an inlet boundary is often arbitrary. Results from direct numerical simulation (DNS) of turbulence are used to determine accurate values of epsilon and a procedure for the specification of epsilon is proposed. Reynolds averaged predictions of turbulent flow in a turbine passage are presented to illustrate the shortcomings of common turbulence models; certain constraints are proposed for improving the prediction. Exact renormalization is used to provide an estimate of

turbulent eddy diffusivity. Scalar turbulent dispersion from a line heat source is studied for moderate and high Prandtl number fluids.

## 2.2 Previous study

### 2.2.1 Research Article 1

***Experimental and numerical investigation of turbulent cross-flow in a staggered tube bundle*** by S.S Paul, S.J. Ormiston, and M.F Tachie, Department of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering, University of Manitoba Canada.

This paper presents the results of measurements and numerical predictions of turbulent cross-flow in a staggered tube bundle. The bundle consists of transverse and longitudinal pitch-to-diameter ratios of 3.8 and 2.1, respectively.

The experiments were conducted using a particle image velocimetry technique, in a flow of water in a channel at a Reynolds number of 9300 based on the inlet velocity and the tube diameter. A commercial CFD code, ANSYS CFX V10.0, is used to predict the turbulent flow in the bundle. The steady and isothermal Reynolds–Averaged Navier–Stokes (RANS) equations were used to predict the turbulent flow using each of the following four turbulence models: a k-epsilon, a standard k-omega, a k-omega-based shear stress transport, and an epsilon-based second moment closure. The epsilon-based models used a scalable wall function and the omega-based models used a wall treatment that switches automatically between low-Reynolds and standard wall function formulations.

The experimental results revealed extremely high levels of turbulence production by the normal stresses, as well as regions of negative turbulence production. The convective transport by mean flow and turbulent diffusion were observed to be significantly higher than in classical turbulent boundary layers. As a result, turbulence production is generally not in equilibrium with its dissipation rate. In spite of these characteristics, it was observed that the Reynolds normal stresses