



Review Article

Thermal Performance and Efficiency Enhancement in Evacuated Tube Solar Collectors Using Various Nanofluids

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ABSTRACT

This research reviews various studies on the effect of using nanofluids in evacuated tube solar collectors (ETSC). The initial segment of this study elaborates on the importance of using the ETSCs and categorizes these collectors in terms of classification and application. The second segment evaluates the physical properties of nanofluids incorporated in the solar system collector and presents some applications of nanofluids. The last segment of the research reviews the works of a group of researchers who have already applied nanofluids to evacuated tube solar collectors for various purposes, including increasing the heat transfer coefficient and improving efficiency. Among the prevalent nanofluids employed in solar applications, Al_2O_3 , CuO , and TiO_2 feature prominently, whereas Ag , WO_3 , and CeO_2 find limited application in the solar context. Furthermore, nanofluids within the size range of 1–25 nm, 25–50 nm, and 50–100 nm constitutes 54%, 25%, and 11% of the applications, respectively. Particularly noteworthy, the single-walled carbon nanotubes/water (SWCNT/water) heat pipe showcases the most remarkable efficiency enhancement, achieving an impressive 93.43% improvement.

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1. INTRODUCTION

In conjunction with the increase in the population and the increase in demand for energy, fossil fuels threaten the environment, which is the main cause of emissions that cause pollution and climate change. For this reason, it was and is necessary to seek alternative sources of energy that are less harmful, clean, and inexpensive (Al-Bawwat et al., 2023; Al-Bawwat et al., 2023; Marmoush et al., 2018; Rezk et al., 2019; Zambolin & Del Col, 2010). Renewable energy sources such as solar energy are among the most widely used. Solar energy is clean, safe for the environment, less harmful than fossil fuels, and relatively cheap because the main source of its provision is the sun, which is free (Gomaa, et al., 2020; Gomaa et al., 2020). However, there are still limitations with respect to the use of solar energy, including the relatively low energy density compared to other renewable energy sources; and the difficulty exploiting it during evening and night times or in unsuitable weather conditions. With this said, a new trend attempts to improve the efficiency of solar collectors with highly effective technologies that improve the use of collectors in inappropriate conditions (Ayompe & Duffy, 2013; Selvakumar et al., 2014). There are several types of solar collectors, such as flat-plate collectors (FPC), evacuated tube collectors (ETC), parabolic collectors, etc. and they are used based on several factors, including the required temperature and the purpose of use (Morrison et al., 1984).

The ETSC has a strong heat derivation capability due to

vacuum insulation and selective surface coating of absorber components, making them suitable for foggy or severely cold circumstances. Additionally, the working fluid is a component that must receive the highest amount of heat from the collector, and changing it into nanofluid from pure fluids is one of the most common ways to accelerate heat transfer in the collectors under study (Elsheikh et al., 2018). A fluid that contains a small amount of uniformly distributed, suspended nanometer-sized particles, with an average size of under 100 nm in the base fluid, is referred to as a nanofluid (Estellé et al., 2017; Kolsi et al., 2017; Selimefendigil & Öztöp, 2019). The ability to completely understand the heat fluid transfer mechanism of conduction in nanofluids and to identify possible enhancements is presently a major difficulty in the field of nanofluids. To fully understand the dynamic and static nature of these systems, future research on nanofluids is about to achieve its primary objective (Das, 2008). Recently, numerous researchers have presented multiple strategies for employing nanofluids as the working fluid in solar collectors. The current work offers a thorough overview of the most recent advances in the use of a nanofluid in evacuated tube solar collectors. This study aims to evaluate how efficiently they contribute to the overall efficiency of an evacuated tube solar collector system. Numerous researchers have also noted improvements in the thermo physical characteristics and heat transfer coefficient of nanofluids in comparison to basic fluids. This research conducted a review-based investigation into the significance of nanofluids in the performance of evacuated tube solar collector systems.

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1.1. Solar collector types

Sunlight is collected by solar collectors and converted into heat which is, in turn, transferred to the working fluid (usually water or air). Solar collectors are characterized by a variety of forms and one's choice depends on the temperature that the collectors are expected to reach, their main purpose, and the working temperature specific to each type in a specific range (low, medium, and high) (Muhammad et al., 2016; Sayed et al., 2022). The FPC is generally recommended and suitable for application within the temperature range of 20–80 °C and is applicable to domestic water heating. The outlet temperature of this collector type (FPC) is considered low, given the losses resulting from the glass cover and its lack of a sun tracking system. Therefore, the efficiency is considered to be lower than other types (Tang et al., 2010). Evacuated tube solar collectors are mostly used for medium-operating temperatures between 50-200 °C. The ETSC is often used in domestic water heating and this type is more suitable than FPC in case of cold weather conditions (the presence of clouds) (Papadimitratos et al., 2016).

Parabolic Trough collectors represent moving or tracking collectors that track the sun throughout the day and they are mostly used in power plants. This type is considered a viable option due to its commercial and technological advantages as well as its ability to couple with fossil fuel systems to facilitate higher outlet system temperatures at night. The temperature of the Parabolic Trough collector system ranges between 400 and 500 °C (Gomaa et al., 2020; Gomaa et al., 2020; X. Li et al., 2019). The Compound Parabolic Collectors (CPC), generally fixed, do not have a sun tracking system. The CPC is effective in collecting and focusing the sun's rays at a certain angle of incidence with a temperature range of 60–240 °C (Arunkumar et al., 2016). Parabolic Dish Reflectors (PDR) are used at high temperatures and can achieve an excess of 1500 °C. This collector type is similar to an electric generator upon exploiting solar energy and converting it into electricity. The parabolic dish reflector collector fully tracks the sun rays (L. Li & Dubowsky, 2011).

1.2. An overview of evacuated tube solar collectors

There are three ETSC categories namely Thermo-syphon, U-pipe, and Heat pipe and the mechanism of each one has been studied.

1.2.1. Thermo-syphon

The collector consists of about 15 to 40 tubes and it is connected to a horizontal tank directly. Heat is transmitted in the Thermo-syphon collector through the convection of water. As the sun's radiation targets the tubes at the top of the tank, the temperature of the water inside the tubes increases and is replaced by cold water due to the density difference (Budihardjo et al., 2007). Figure 1 represents the actual thermosyphon solar water heater (Tang & Yang, 2014).

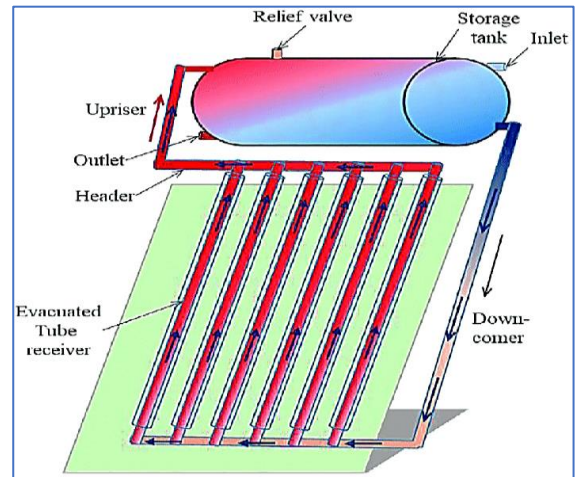


Figure 1. Thermo-syphon solar collectors.

1.2.2. U-pipe evacuated tubular solar collector

The U-pipe ETSC is considered the most common type used for several reasons including its simple geometric shape and high thermal efficiency. This type consists of tubes in the shape of a U made of copper. The liquid inside these tubes is heated as a result of solar radiation, and the heat energy is transmitted to a storage tank through a heat exchanger (Nie et al., 2017). Figure 2 represents three sections: the evaporator, the adiabatic, and the condenser. The evaporator's working fluid boils because of the external heat source, as shown in Figure 2(a). Heat is released to the cooling medium when vapor passes through the adiabatic portion, as illustrated in Figure 2(b), and into the condenser section (Figure 2(c)), which is above it. Due to the gravity, the condensed liquid flows back to the evaporator part (Nie et al., 2017).

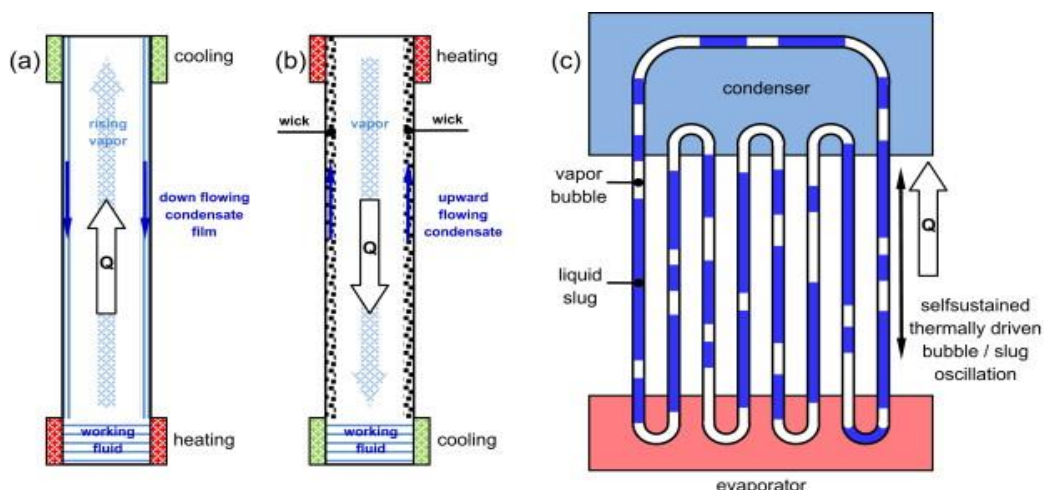


Figure 2. U-pipe ETSC (a) heating (evaporator), (b) cooling (adiabatic), and (c) condenser processes.

1.2.3. Heat pipe

This type is characterized by very high thermal conductivity and a low level of vaporizable fluid. The mechanism of this type is released to the evaporation condensation cycle. In the evaporation mechanism, the sun radiation is released to the collector and fluid to make the phase of evaporation. The condensation mechanism, which ensures the flow of heat, is transferred to the heat sink ([Daghigh & Shafieian, 2016](#); [Hayek](#)

[et al., 2011](#)). The design of a typical direct solar thermal absorption collector using a nanofluid as the working fluid is shown in Figure 3(a). Figure 3(b) shows a typical direct solar thermal absorption system with a separate freshwater circuit and a closed-loop nanofluid circuit. Figure 3 represents the heat pipe solar water heater ([Daghigh & Shafieian, 2016](#)).

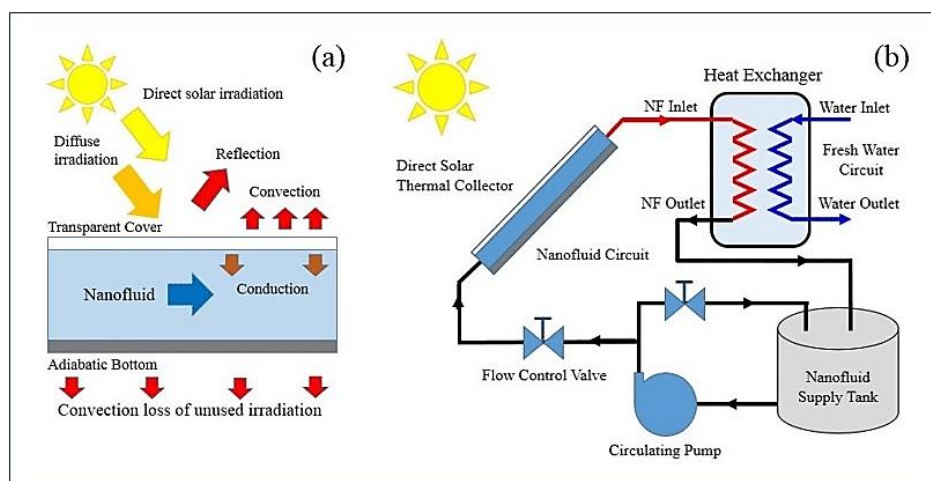


Figure 3. Heat Pipe solar collectors.

2. THERMOPHYSICAL PROPERTIES OF NANOFLUIDS

Nanofluid is a liquid or suspension mixture that is prepared by mixing certain fluids such as water, oil, and glycol with metallic (Cu, Al, Zn, Ni, Si, Fe, Ti, Au, Ag) or non-metallic (Al_2O_3 , CuO, SiC, ZnO, TiO_2) nanoparticles ranging in size from 1–100 nm in diameter.

Several previous studies have made attempts to improve the thermal-physical properties of the nanoparticle, including thermal conductivity, specific heat, and viscosity. The nanoparticle is then mixed with a fluid. Nanoparticles are used to improve the thermal properties of fluids and the enhancement of the properties of nanofluid depends on several factors, e.g., the concentration of nanoparticles, the shape and size of nanoparticles, and the temperature of the working fluid ([Lee et al., 2008](#)).

Nanofluids exhibit several properties, including the thermal conductivity of nanoparticles, which is one of their most significant properties, nanofluid dispersion rate, nanofluid concentration, and nanoparticle size. Al_2O_3 thermal conductivity and nanofluid concentration were found to be linearly related ([Hong et al., 2005](#)). For copper to have a higher thermal conductivity value, it is essential to increase the surface area of nanoparticles ([Alsboul et al., 2022a, 2022b](#); [M. S. Liu et al., 2006](#)).

Nanoparticles have different specific heats depending on their type and concentration. Specific heat (C) is defined as the amount of heat needed to increase a unit mass by one degree Celsius. According to the results, the specific heat decreased as the volume fraction of Al_2O_3 increased ([Sajadi & Kazemi, 2011](#)).

A critical characteristic of any heat transfer system is the convective transfer of heat. Heat transfer coefficient values must be determined in terms of how nano properties and volume fractions change over time. The value of the heat transfer coefficient increases by 47% when the nanoparticle

size of Al_2O_3 is 27–56 nm in diameter and volume fractions of 0.6–1.6% ([Wen & Ding, 2004](#)). Water enhanced by TiO_2 nanoparticles delivers a 22% higher heat transfer coefficient than pure water when TiO_2 nanoparticles are added ([Zhou & Ni, 2008](#)).

2.1. Potential of nanofluids

In recent years, nanofluids have attracted much more attention. Improving thermal properties is the main goal of using metallic and non-metallic nanoparticles in various applications. Nanofluids are used in many applications including heat transfer applications such as the extraction of geothermal power, heating building, and nuclear system cooling; biomedical applications such as sensing and imaging and nano drug delivery; and energy applications such as Energy Storage and Solar Absorption ([Al-Rawashdeh et al., 2021](#); [Chand, 2017](#); [Gomaa et al., 2022](#); [Marashli et al., 2022](#)).

There are many advantages of applying nanofluids in the solar system. As a result of their small size and large surface area, nanoparticles possess many characteristics, which increase the absorption of solar energy. In addition, nanofluids are characterized by their high density, high heat transfer coefficient, and high conductivity, enhancing the effectiveness of thermal properties ([Elsheikh et al., 2018](#)). Nanofluids have disadvantages including restricted use and high costs, the latter being the most important. In addition, they require certain chemicals and manufacturing conditions as well as advanced equipment ([Wang et al., 2022](#)).

2.2. Nanofluid-based performance of an evacuated tube solar collector

In the same operating conditions, ETSC enjoys higher efficiency, which is defined as the proportion of heat energy that a solar thermal collector produces to the total solar energy it receives, than FPC ([Tong & Cho, 2015](#)), and it is important

to note that the efficiency of ETSC varies from type with type. It was found that the heat pipe type was more efficient than the U-pipe type by approximately 8% on sunny days, whereas the U-pipe type performed better on cloudy days ([Zambolin & Del Col, 2010](#)). Many studies have investigated the incorporation of nanofluid in different types of ETSC extensively. These research studies pursued the objective of identifying the impact of nanofluid on the performance and efficiency of the ETSC. The thermosyphon ETSC efficiency increased when TiO₂ was used as a nanofluid with a 30-50 nm diameter at a flow rate of 2.7 liters per minute, approximately 16.7% more efficient than water ([Mahendran et al., 2012](#)). The enhancement of maximum thermal performance and energy efficiency of the U-shaped pipe ETSC can be achieved at 12.2% and 5.4%, respectively, by incorporating TiO₂ as a heat transfer fluid ([Muhammad, 2016](#)). The thermal conductivity of the nanofluid increases as the TiO₂ volume fraction increases in thermosyphon ETSC ([Hosseini & Shafiey Dehaj, 2021](#)). The use of CuO nanoparticles improves the efficiency of the U-tube ETSC. The highest efficiency of ETSC was determined to be 69.1% when 400 nm of CuO was added as a nanoparticle ([Hussein, 2016](#)). The addition of CuO to the thermo-syphon ETSC increases the temperature of the outside air used in heating operations and this method improves the efficiency by as much as 14 percent, compared to the water-based method ([Sharafeldin & Gróf, 2019](#)).

The maximum efficiency of the thermosyphon ETSC was achieved at 57.63% with a 40 nm diameter by incorporating Al₂O₃ as a nanoparticle ([Kim et al., 2017](#)). Adding Al₂O₃ to the U-tube ETSC yielded a maximum efficiency of 72.4% at a diameter of 20 nm ([Ghaderian & Sidik, 2017](#)). The addition of WO₃ as a nanoparticle to the thermosyphon ETSC resulted in a 21% increase in the nanofluid temperature difference ([Z. H. Liu et al., 2013](#)). Generally, the utilization of WO₃ nanoparticles in ETSCs is restricted ([Kang et al., 2019](#)). Moreover, the inclusion of CeO₂ as a nanoparticle in the thermosyphon ETSC elevated the temperature difference for nanofluids by up to 37.3% compared to pure water ([Sharafeldin & Gróf, 2018](#)). Introducing Ag nanoparticles into the thermosyphon ETSC raised energy efficiency from 20.7% to 40% compared to pure water ([Ozsoy & Corumlu, 2018](#)). In the U-tube ETSC, ZnO/Ethylene-glycol nanoparticles achieved a maximum efficiency of 62.87%, and increasing nanoparticle volume concentration enhanced the thermal conductivity of ZnO/Ethylene-glycol with water nanofluids ([Kaya & Arslan, 2019](#)). Implementing nanofluids in heat pipe ETSCs reduced fuel consumption by approximately 67.7%, with CuO nanoparticles and TiO₂ nanoparticles increasing system performance by 12% and 5%, respectively ([Daghigh & Zandi, 2019](#)). A mixture of Ag nanoparticles (30 nm), ZrO₂ nanoparticles (50 nm), and water as a base fluid in the thermosyphon ETSC improved thermal performance compared to pure water due to the high thermal conductivity of Ag and ZrO₂ ([Hussain et al., 2015](#)). The use of MgO/water nanofluid exhibited superior thermal performance in heat pipe ETSCs compared to pure water ([Dehaj & Mohiabadi, 2019](#)).

To enhance the heat transfer rate, hybrid nanofluids with high thermal conductivity are employed. The addition of ZnFe₂O₄ and water as a hybrid nanofluid led to a 42.99% increase in the

convective heat transfer coefficient ([Gupta et al., 2020](#)). Assessing different concentrations of Al₂O₃ and CuO nanoparticles on the thermal performance of ETSC heat pipes revealed optimal conditions resulting in thermal performance enhancement of 20-54% and energy efficiency improvement of 15-38% ([Eidan et al., 2018](#)). For U-tube ETSCs, Ag, ZnO, and MgO nanoparticles were tested in various concentrations alongside ethylene glycol-pure water (EG-PW). The highest collector efficiency, 68.7%, was achieved with Ag/EG-PW as a heat transfer fluid, while pure water yielded an efficiency of 26.7%. Additionally, reductions of 855.5 kg and 7.2 kg per year in CO₂ and SO₂ generation were observed ([Kaya & Arslan, 2019](#)).

Increasing nanoparticle concentration improved thermal conductivity, leading to a more efficient solar collector. Among MWCNT, CuO, Al₂O₃, TiO₂, and SiO₂ nanofluids, the greatest efficiency enhancement of 62.8% compared to pure water was attained with MWCNT nanofluid in U-tube ETSCs ([Kim et al., 2016](#)). Heat pipe ETSCs with varying volumes of Al₂O₃ and CuO nanoparticles demonstrated better heat transfer with CuO/H₂O as the nanoparticle volume to water ratio increased, showing a 6.70% improvement over Al₂O₃/H₂O under the same conditions ([Merican & Yurddaş, 2019](#)). In thermo-syphon ETSCs, the addition of

SiO₂/water nanofluids enhanced heat transfer and heat flux, with the increased mass fraction of SiO₂ resulting in higher thermal conductivity ([Yan et al., 2017](#)). Utilizing TiO₂/water as a nanofluid enhanced the performance of thermosyphon ETSCs, where higher mass flow rates led to increased thermal efficiency and reduced entropy generation ([Gan et al., 2018](#)). For U-tube ETSCs, MWCNT combined with water improved efficiency by 4%, and CO₂ and SO₂ emissions were reduced by 1600 kg and 5.3 kg, respectively ([Tong et al., 2015](#)). The utilization of SWCNT with water as a nanofluid in heat pipe ETSCs led to enhanced collector efficiency, with a maximum efficiency of 93.43% ([Sabiha et al., 2015](#)). The addition of MWCNT/water nanofluid to thermosyphon ETSCs improved thermal efficiency by over 20% ([Shanbedi et al., 2014](#)). Heat transfer was enhanced by approximately 1.23% with CuO/water nanofluid in thermo-syphon ETSCs ([Z. H. Liu et al., 2007](#)). Similarly, the use of Fe₂O₃/Water nanofluid in thermo-syphon ETSCs led to a heat transfer coefficient increase of about 1.15% ([Huminić & Huminić, 2013](#)). The application of GNP-COOH/Water nanofluid in thermo-syphon ETSCs increased heat transfer coefficients by over 66%, and CuO/water nanofluid led to a more than 160% increase ([Amiri et al., 2015](#); [Yang & Liu, 2012](#)).

When Iron oxide/water, TiO₂/water, Graphene/Acetone, and SiC/water nanofluid are used in thermosyphon ETSC, the thermal resistance will be reduced by about 35% ([Huminić & Huminić, 2011](#)), 24% ([Buschmann & Franzke, 2014](#)), 70.3% ([Asirvatham et al., 2015](#)), and 6.1% ([H. jie Li et al., 2018](#)), respectively.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1. Comparison of Nanofluids Used In The Evacuated Tube Solar Collector

In the initial stages, prior research undertook a comparison of the performance of distinct ETSC designs across various

liquids and nanofluids, a depiction of which can be observed in Figure 4.

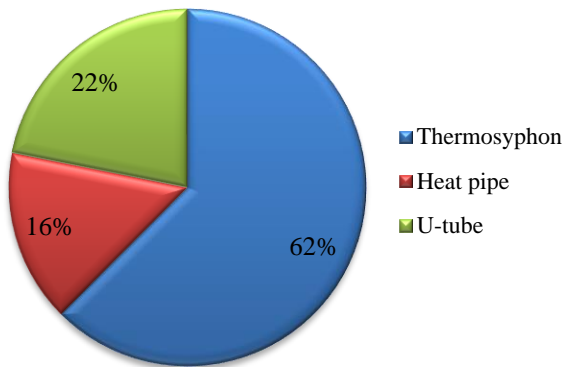


Figure 4. Prior studies have used nanofluids in a variety of ETSCs.

Based on the insights presented in Figure 4, it becomes evident that the Thermo-syphon ETSC design holds the dominant position, while the U-tube configuration is preferable when compared to the heat pipe design. This analysis has yielded the following distribution: approximately 62% of the previous research centered around the implementation of thermo-syphon ETSCs, 22% focused on U-tube variations, and the remaining 16% explored heat pipe configurations, each coupled with diverse nanofluid formulations in an endeavor to enhance thermal efficiency. Further investigation into previous research reveals the utilization of a diverse array of nanofluids, some of which have been employed repeatedly, as shown in Figure 5.

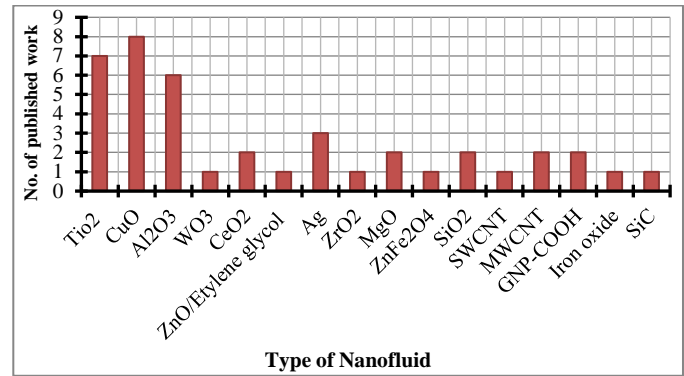


Figure 5. Nanofluids were used in previous ETSC studies.

Figure 5 visually presents the distinct contributions of various nanofluid types within prior research endeavors. Among these, TiO₂, CuO, and Al₂O₃ emerge as the most prevalent choices for integration into ETSC designs. Conversely, nanofluids like WO₃, ZrO₂, SWCNT, and SiC were utilized less frequently. As reported by Ref. (Sabiha et al., 2015). A noteworthy achievement was noted in Ref. (Sabiha et al., 2015), attesting to a maximum efficiency improvement of 93.43% in heat pipe ETSCs through the utilization of SWCNT/water nanofluids. For a comprehensive comparison of the outcomes stemming from Nanofluid application in ETSCs aimed at enhancing thermal performance through various approaches, refer to Table 1.

Table 1. Analyses of past studies of the effects of nanofluids on ETSCs.

Type of ETSC	Nanofluid	Size (nm)	Thermal Enhancement	Ref.
Thermo-syphon	TiO ₂ /Water	30–50	The efficiency increased by about 16.7% compared to water, which equals 73%.	(Mahendran et al., 2012)
U-tube	TiO ₂ /Water	40–60	Thermal conductivity and maximum efficiency were achieved at up to 5.4% and 12.2%, respectively.	(Muhammad, 2016)
Thermo-syphon	TiO ₂ /Water	30–50	The thermal conductivity of a nanofluid increases with increasing TiO ₂ volume fractions.	(Hosseini & Shafiey Dehaj, 2021)
U-tube	CuO/Water	400	The efficiency at a maximum of about 69.1% was achieved.	(Hussein, 2016)
Thermo-syphon	CuO/Water	50	The temperature of the outside air used in heating operations increased and the efficiency was improved by up to 14% when compared to water.	(Sharafeldin & Gróf, 2019)
Thermo-syphon	Al ₂ O ₃ /Water	40	Maximum efficiency reached 57.63% when the Al ₂ O ₃ nanoparticle was added to water as a nanofluid.	(Kim et al., 2017)
U-tube	Al ₂ O ₃ /Water	20	Maximum efficiency reached 72.4% when the Al ₂ O ₃ nanoparticle was added to water as a nanofluid.	(Ghaderian & Sidik, 2017)
Thermo-syphon	WO ₃ /Water	90	The temperature difference between nanofluids and pure water was improved by as much as 21%.	(Z. H. Liu et al., 2013)
Thermo-syphon	CeO ₂ /Water	25	The temperature difference was improved for a nanofluid maximally by 37.3% compared to pure water.	(Sharafeldin & Gróf, 2018)
Thermo-syphon	Ag/Water	-	The ratio of enhancement in temperature between nanofluids and pure water reached 37.3%.	(Ozsoy & Corumlu, 2018)
U-tube	ZnO/Ethylene-glycol	30	The maximum efficiency of ZnO/Ethylene-glycol was 62.87%, and an increase in nanoparticle volume concentration was associated with an increase in thermal conductivity.	(Kaya & Arslan, 2019)

Type of ETSC	Nanofluid	Size (nm)	Thermal Enhancement	Ref.
Heat pipe	CuO/Water TiO ₂ /Water	-	The thermal performance of the system increased by about 12% by using CuO and by using TiO ₂ , it increased by 5%.	(Daghighi & Zandi, 2019)
Thermosyphon	Ag/water ZrO ₂ /water	30 50	The high thermal conductivity of Ag and ZrO ₂ improved the thermal performance of the system in comparison with pure water.	(Hussain et al., 2015)
Heat pipe	MgO/water	20	As compared with pure water, MgO/water nanofluid enhanced the thermal performance of heat pipe ETSCs.	(Dehaj & Mohiabadi, 2019)
Thermosyphon	ZnFe ₂ O ₄ /water	-	There was a 42.99% increase in the convective heat transfer coefficient.	(Gupta et al., 2020)
Heat pipe	Al ₂ O ₃ /water CuO/water	25 50	The thermal performance and efficiency were enhanced by 20–54 and 15–38 percent, respectively.	(Eidan et al., 2018)
U-tube	Ag/ EG-PW ZnO/EG-PW MgO/ EG-PW	-	According to the results, the highest collector efficiency was achieved with Ag/EG-PW, which was higher than 26.7% than pure water and EG-PW. As a result, the maximum value of reducing CO ₂ and SO ₂ generation was 855.5 kg and 7.2 kg per year, respectively.	(Kaya & Arslan, 2019)
U-tube	MWCNT/water	-	The maximum efficiency reached 62.8 %, in comparison to 20 % with pure water.	(Kim et al., 2016)
Heat pipe	Al ₂ O ₃ /water CuO/water	-	Better results were obtained for CuO/H ₂ O, and increasing the nanoparticle volume ratio increased heat transfer. In contrast, Al ₂ O ₃ /H ₂ O demonstrated a 4.13% increase in heat transfer.	(Mercan & Yurddaş, 2019)
Thermosyphon	SiO ₂ /water	50	The thermal conductivity of SiO ₂ /water nanofluids increased with an increase in the mass fraction of SiO ₂ .	(Yan et al., 2017)
Thermosyphon	TiO ₂ /water	21	In general, the higher the mass flow rate, the greater the thermal efficiency and the lower the generation of entropy.	(Gan et al., 2018)
U-tube	MWCNT/water	10-20	This increase in efficiency was accompanied by a reduction in CO ₂ and SO ₂ emissions of 1600 kg and 5.3 kg, respectively.	(Tong et al., 2015)
Heat pipe	SWCNT/water	-	The maximum efficiency of the collector was found to be 93.43 %.	(Sabiha et al., 2015)
Thermosyphon	MWCNT/water	10-20	The thermal efficiency was enhanced by more than 20%.	(Shanbedi et al., 2014)
Thermosyphon	CuO/water	50	Heat transfer was enhanced by about 1.23%.	(Z. H. Liu et al., 2007)
Thermosyphon	Fe ₂ O/Water	4-5	Heat transfer was enhanced by about 1.15%.	(Huminić & Huminić, 2013)
Thermosyphon	GNP- COOH/Water	-	This led to a more than 66% increase in the heat transfer coefficient.	(Yang & Liu, 2012)
Thermosyphon	CuO/water	30	This led to a more than 160% increase in the heat transfer coefficient.	(Amiri et al., 2015)
Thermosyphon	Iron oxide/water	4-5	The thermal resistance was reduced by about 35%.	(Huminić & Huminić, 2011)
Thermosyphon	TiO ₂ /water	42	The thermal resistance was reduced by about 24%.	(Buschmann & Franzke, 2014)
Thermosyphon	Graphene/Acetone	-	The thermal resistance was reduced by about 24%.	(Asirvatham et al., 2015)
Thermosyphon	SiC/water	30-50	The thermal resistance was reduced by about 6.1%.	(H. jie Li et al., 2018)

Table 1 illustrates a comparative analysis of the impact of employing distinct nanofluid variants in ETSC applications. The utilization of nanofluids leads to a notable enhancement in both efficiency and overall performance. This phenomenon is attributed to the diverse selection of nanofluids integrated into different ETSC protocols. While certain nanofluid types contribute to efficiency improvement, others augment thermal conductivity or refine temperature differentials. Some nanofluids result in reduced fuel consumption across varying degrees, whereas others engender escalated heat transfer coefficients or decreased thermal resistances.

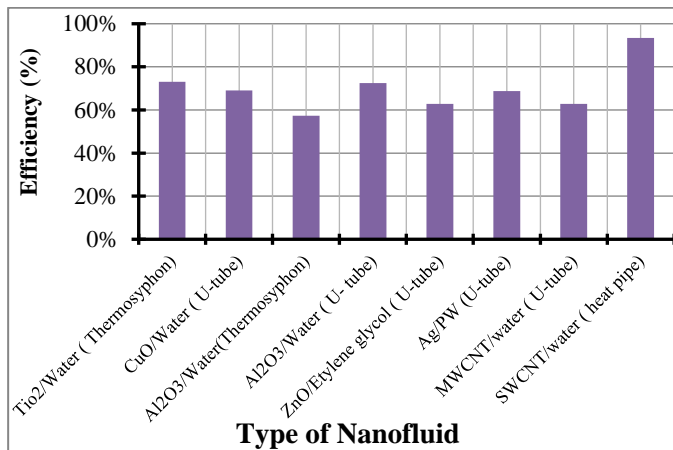


Figure 6. Efficiency of ETSC under various types of Nanofluid.

Figure 6 showcases the varied impact of nanofluids on the efficiency values of ETSCs. The highest alleged efficiency enhancement of 93.43% originated from SWCNT/water (Sabiha et al., 2015), followed by 72.4% achieved by Al₂O₃ in U-tube ETSCs (Kim et al., 2017), and subsequently 62.87% for ZnO/Ethylene-glycol nanofluids (Ozsoy & Corumlu, 2018). In contrast, the lowest efficiency, noted as 57.63%, was recorded in previous research using Al₂O₃ in Thermosyphon ETSCs (Ghaderian & Sidik, 2017). It's evident from Figure 6 that the use of Al₂O₃/water in U-tube ETSCs achieves greater effectiveness compared to its application in Thermosyphon ETSCs.

Enhancing the heat transfer coefficient stands as a paramount objective in employing nanofluid materials within ETSCs. Table 1 exhibits diverse nanofluid types with varying concentrations and sizes, each contributing to the improvement of the heat transfer coefficient. Notably, CuO/water with a size of 30 nm led to a remarkable increase of over 160% in the heat transfer coefficient, as depicted in Table 1 (Amiri et al., 2015). Furthermore, when utilizing the same nanofluid (CuO/water) but with a size of 50 nm, heat transfer is enhanced by approximately 1.23% (Yang & Liu, 2012). The reduction of thermal resistance was also a key target of nanofluid implementation in ETSCs. Employing TiO₂/water with a size of 42 nm led to a reduction in thermal resistance by around 24% (Buschmann & Franzke, 2014). Conversely, using SiC/water with a nearly identical volume size contributed to a reduction in thermal resistance by 6.1% (H. jie Li et al., 2018).

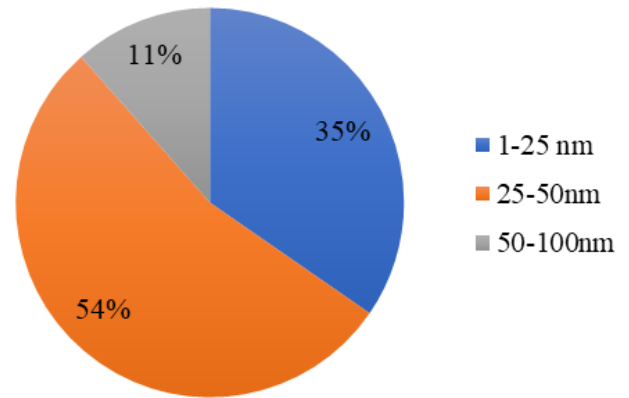


Figure 7. Used of different sizes of Nano Particle.

One of the most formidable challenges confronting researchers while engaging with nanofluids pertains to the size of nanoparticles. Consequently, the judicious selection of nanofluid sizes holds paramount significance for this study. Illustrated in Figure 7 is the application of nanoparticles of varying sizes in ETSCs. Within the spectrum of sizes studied, the range spanning 25-50 nm emerges as the most frequently employed. Throughout the research experiments, it was discerned that approximately 35% and 54% of nanofluids, characterized by sizes within the intervals of 1-25 nm and 25-50 nm respectively, were subjected to investigation. Furthermore, 11% of the selected nanofluids possessed sizes within the 50-100 nm range.

4. CONCLUSION

The research encompasses a collection of papers delving into the applications of nanofluids in ETSCs. These studies encompass a variety of nanofluid types, each characterized by a diverse range of sizes, and employed across different ETSC configurations. Each distinct nanofluid type has successfully achieved its designated objective within a particular context - the enhancement of thermal performance and system efficiency.

- ETSCs exhibit superior thermal efficiency compared to FPCs due to their operation at elevated temperatures.
- Three classifications of ETSCs were investigated, with Thermo-syphon emerging as the most prominent, accounting for 62% of the total research, followed by U-tube at 22%, and heat pipe at 16%.
- Prevalent nanofluids employed in ETSCs consist of Al₂O₃, CuO, and TiO₂, whereas Ag, WO₃, and CeO₂ are less commonly utilized.
- Nanoparticle size significantly influences the efficiency of various solar collectors. Research indicates that 54% of the studied nanofluids maintained an average size ranging from 25 to 50 nm, 25% fell within the 1 to 25 nm range, and 11% had sizes between 50 and 100 nm.
- Prior research identified the highest efficiency enhancement as 93.43% achieved by SWCNT/water in a heat pipe configuration, followed by 72.4% through the utilization of Al₂O₃ in U-tube ETSCs.

Nanofluids exhibit considerable potential in enhancing heat transmission, attributed in part to the heightened heat conductivity stemming from the inclusion of suspended

ultrafine particles. Enhancing the heat transfer coefficient stands as a pivotal objective in adopting nanofluid materials within ETSCs. Previous endeavors demonstrated a 160% increase in the heat transfer coefficient using water/CuO (30 nm).

Conflict of interest

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest in relation to this research, whether financial, personal, authorship or otherwise, that could affect the research and its results presented in this paper.

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