Research Article

Heat transfer and fluid flow analysis for turbulent flow in circular pipe with vortex generator

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Abstract

The performance of heat transfer enhancement (HTE) using modified inserts (MIs) as a vortex generator in pipe flow and fluid flow analysis using computational fluid dynamics (CFD) are evaluated in this article. The MIs are fastened to the central rod, and the circular sections of the MIs touched the circular wall of the test pipe. Heat transfer and fluid flow analyses are carried out for the various pitch to diameter ratios (P/D) and angles of the MIs. P/D ratios of 3, 4 and 6 and MIs angles of 15°, 30°, 45°, 60° and 90° are considered for experimental analysis. CFD analysis is carried out for P/D ratios of 3, 4 and 6 and MIs angles of 30°, 45° and 90°. Nusselt number (Nu/Nus) and friction factor (f/fs) ratios are evaluated using the same Reynolds number between 8000 and 17,000 in the experimental study. The MIs encourage the wall and core fluid to be combined thus helps in HTE. It is found that, as the P/D ratio increases, the Nu/Nus and f/fs decrease. If the distance between the MIs increases, the mixing of fluid weakens. With decreasing the P/D ratio, Nu/Nus increases. Increased fluid mixing leads to a higher coefficient of heat transfer and higher values of pressure drop. A P/D ratio of 4 and MIs angle of 45° results in greater heat interaction than others. Finally, recommendations for the best P/D ratio and angles of MIs are made for improved HTE on fluid flow through a circular pipe.

- Article Highlights Modified inserts (MIs) are used inside the test pipe to check the heat transfer enhancement at various angles. Also, compared the performance with and without MIs.
- Fluid flow analysis is checked by CFD (Fluent) in Ansys software.
- Fluid flow patterns for various MIs angles and P/D ratios are compared.

Keywords Angle of modified insert · Fluid flow analysis; heat transfer enhancement · Vortex generator

Abbreviations

- I Test pipe length (m)
- Um Mean fluid velocity (m/s)
- ΔP Pressure drop (N/m²)
- f Friction factor (-)
- Q Heat transfer rate (W)
- m Mass flow rate of fluid (kg/s)

- c_p Specific heat of fluid at constant pressure (J/kgK)
- T Temperature (°C)
- h Heat transfer coefficient (W/m²K)
- A Area of the heated region of test pipe (m²)
- Nu Nusselt number (-)
- D Inner diameter of the pipe (m)
- k Thermal conductivity of the fluid (W/mK)

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Greek symbols

- P Fluid density (kg/m3)
- η Heat transfer enhancement efficiency

Subscript

- i Inlet
- o Outlet
- s Smooth test pipe/test pipe without MIs

1 Introduction

Since the coefficient of heat transfer for gas is generally lower than liquid or two-phase flow, the output of the heat exchanger is often limited to the gas side. This improvement in heat transfer performance with reduced volume and cost of production continues to inspire research in the gas side HTE. There is a market for small-size and lightweight heat exchangers for high-performance heat transferring devices. Increasing the coefficient of heat transfer or increasing the surface area, or both can have a positive impact on capital and operating costs. HTE using inserts often results in losses in terms of pressure drop (ΔP). Circular pipe inserts are the most commonly used for HTE because they are easy to build and do not require material deformation on the inside surface of the pipe. Twisted tapes (TTs) and wire coil (WC) are the most commonly used inserts [1].

Webb et al. [2] studied rib roughness characteristics in turbulent flow through the pipe. It was observed that there is boundary layer separation and reattachment, hence repeated rib surface could be seen as a problem. At the rib, separation occurs, forming a free shear layer that re-attaches downstream from the separation point at 6-8 rib height. In the vicinity of their attachment point, a maximum heat transfer coefficient occurs. The local heat transfer coefficients for the separation flow area are greater than those of an uninterrupted boundary layer. Fiebig [3] studied five different forms of plate channel heat exchangers, showing the standard plate-fin surface for gas flow. It was observed in this analysis that the VGs surface provides greater savings in the surface area of the heat exchanger and thus in the volume of the heat exchanger. Manglik and Bergles [4] established heat transfer and ΔP correlations for laminar and turbulent regimes with TTs inserts. The formation of correlation is focused on various effect. Eiamsa-ard [5] studied the heat transfer and friction characteristics in a horizontal double heat exchanger with and without TT inserts. It was observed that the best improvement for heat transfer is a single continuous tape than discontinuous tape strips as an insert. Naphon and Suwagrai [6] performed experiments using TTs, they reported

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HTE and flow characteristics of a circular tube heat exchanger using a Y-shaped insert. Dang and Wang [25] studied convective HTE mechanisms in a circular tube with a twin coil type insert. Wijayanta et al. [26] and Chokphoemphun et al. [27] investigated HTE of internal flow using punched delta winglet vortex generators (PDWVGs), PDWVGs provide higher heat transfer and pressure loss than plain tube was observed. The hydro-thermal efficiency of rectangular winglet vortex generators (RWVGs) was tested numerically and experimentally by Liu et al. [28], the results indicate that the RWVGs can agitate the cold fluid from the central flow area to the tube wall, thus improving the mixing of hot and cold fluids. Awais and Bhuiyan [29] Summarized the HTE and ΔP using Delta winglet vortex generators provide better thermal output than rectangular type, found Optimum angle of attack of 30° and 45° for HTE. Gallegos and Sharma [30] provides a review on the use of flexible plates i.e., flags as vortex generators inside a channel for HTE technology. Mahanthesh et al. [31] investigates the heat transfer properties of a nanofluid flowing over a rotating disc in the presence of a magnetic field and a convective boundary condition. Rasool and Shafiq [32] used a nonlinearly settled stretching sheet/surface, line up the MHD, heat sink/source, and convective boundary conditions in chemically reactive radiative Powell-Eyring nanofluid flow through Darcy tube. The effects of binary chemical reaction, thermal radiation, and Soret-Dufour effects on a constant incompressible Darcy-Forchheimer flow of nanofluids were studied by Rasool et al. [33].

The use of heat exchanging devices in the various application has been increased. Hence to increase the heat transfer rate is a crucial issue from a heat-saving point of view. The heat-saving challenge encourages the researcher to find an alternative to heat transfer technology. By studying the previous work, motivation for the fabrication of modified insert to enhance the heat transfer rate is developed.

The objective of the present work is to investigate HTE and fluid flow characteristics in the circular test pipe using MIs as a VGs. The use of WC, TTs, etc. as VGs for HTE is popular, but very little literature is available on the use of circumferential VGs in a circular tube. The attempt here is to get high HTE with less ΔP . Specially designed insert assemblies have been used for this purpose and results for the Reynolds number between 8000 and 17,000 are obtained.

In this paper, an experimental study is performed using MIs. Gap analysis is obtained from the exhaustive literature review which encouraged in designing MIs. Comparison of present experimental study is carried out with twisted tape insert for the validation. CFD analysis is also performed to check the flow behaviours in the test pipe with and without MIs. Finally, a conclusion is presented for heat transfer enhancement, pressure drop and fluid flow analysis.

2 Experimental setup

An experimental testing facility is built to measure the coefficient of heat transfer in a smooth and MIs-fitted pipe. As shown in Fig. 1, the Schematic of the testing facility and photograph of the test set are shown in Fig. 2.

Blower drives fluid into the test section (the air is taken as a working fluid in this study). In the test section, a venturimeter mounted before the test section measures mass flow rate and fluid velocity. To measure ΔP across the venturimeter, a U-tube manometer containing water as a manometric fluid is connected to the two pressure taps attached at the entrance and throat of the venturimeter. The ΔP in the test pipe is also measured by U-tube manometer connected across the inlet and outlet



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Fig. 2 Photograph of the experimental setup

of the test pipe. The test section is made of stainless steel pipe, has a wall thickness of 0.5 mm with 1000 mm length (I) and 25 mm inner diameter (D). The test pipe is wounded by a nichrome wire for induction heating. The heat loss to the surroundings is prevented by insulation provided over nichrome wire. The regulated power is provided to the nichrome wire via dimmer-stat, which supplies the test pipe with uniform heat flux. The fluid inlet and outlet temperatures were measured by precalibrated thermocouples.

The geometry of typical MIs is shown in Fig. 3a, b shows pipe fitted with MIs and Fig. 3c shows the CAD model of MIs fitted insert. Figure 4 shows the photograph of MIs fastened on a mild steel rod.

The circular geometry of the test pips has been occupied by the MIs. MIs are made from aluminium sheets 0.4 mm thick. The MIs are cut into the circular section of 25 mm diameter. At a definite axial pitch, and a definite angle from the axis of the test pipe, in the flow direction, MIs are fastened to a 3 mm mild steel rod. In the test section length (I) with the help of mean fluid velocity (Um), fluid density (ρ) and pressure drop (ΔP), the friction factor (f) is determined (as shown in Eq. 1) [17].



Fig. 4 Photograph of modified insert fitted on the central rod

$$f = \frac{\Delta p}{\rho\left(\frac{l}{D}\right)\left(\frac{Um^2}{2}\right)} \tag{1}$$

The friction factor is based on actual experimental conditions.

Heat carried (Q) by fluid flows through the test pipe is determined in terms of the mass flow rate of fluid (m), the specific heat of fluid at constant pressure (c_p), an inlet temperature of the fluid (T_i) and outlet temperature of the fluid (T_o) by Eq. 2 [17]:

$$Q = mc_p \left(T_o - T_i \right) \tag{2}$$

Average heat transfer coefficient (h) based on net heat transfer rate (Q) and area of heated region of the test pipe (A) is calculated by Eq. 3 [17]:

$$h = \frac{Q}{A(T_o - T_i)} \tag{3}$$

The Nusselt number (Nu) for fully developed flow through the test pipe with Mis is calculated in terms of heat transfer coefficient (h), an inner diameter of the pipe (D) and thermal conductivity of the fluid (k) by Eq. 4 [17]:

$$Nu = \frac{hD}{k} \tag{4}$$

For various Reynolds number, the pitch to diameter ratio and MIs angle, the experimental and CFD analysis



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$$\eta = \frac{Nu}{Nus} \tag{5}$$

3 Result and discussion

3.1 Experimental analysis of heat transfer enhancement

The test pipe diameter was taken as the hydraulic diameter for the fluid flow. Experimentation is performed for a fully developed flow. An experimental investigation is conducted for the various P/D ratio, various MIs angle and the various fluid flow rate. For Reynolds numbers between 8000 and 17,000 (turbulent flow), the results obtained are discussed in this paper. The results of this study are presented as the Nu/Nus and f/fs to influence the MIs performance parameter based on the same Reynolds number. Nu is the experimental value of the Nusselt number in the presence of the MIs. Nus is the experimental value of the Nusselt number of the test pipe without MIs for the same Reynolds number. f/fs is the friction factor ratio of the experimental value of the friction factor of pipe without and with MIs for the same Reynolds number. Figures 5 and 6 shows the variation of Nu/Nus and f/fs respectively for P/D = 3. Figures 7 and 8 shows the variation of Nu/Nus and f/fs respectively for P/D = 4. Figures 9 and 10 shows the variation of Nu/Nus and f/fs respectively for P/D = 6.

3.2 Validation of experimental results

To validate the present experimental results, the experimental results of test pipe fitted with MIs are compared with an experimental study carried out for twisted tape inserts by Salam et al. [17].



Fig. 6 Variation of f/fs with Reynolds Number at P/D=3

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Fig. 7 Variation of Nu/Nus with Reynolds Number at P/D=4









Fig. 8 Variation of f/fs with Reynolds Number at P/D=4

Reynolds Number at P/D=6



Fig. 10 Variation of f/fs with Reynolds Number at P/D = 6

Fig. 11 Variation of Nu/Nus with Reynolds Number at

P/D = 3 for MIs and Twisted

tape







Fig. 12 Variation of Nu/Nus with Reynolds Number at P/D=4 for MIs and Twisted tape

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Figures 11, 12, 13 shows the comparison of heat transfer enhancement efficiency (Nu/Nus) for MIs and Twisted tape used by Salam et al. [17]. For twisted tape as an insert, it is observed that the Nu/Nus ratio increases as the Reynolds number increase hence twisted tape is a good alternative as an insert for a higher Reynolds Number. For MIs as an insert, it is observed that the trend of Nu/Nus ratio is different for different MIs angles and P/D ratios. Since the best result is obtained for MIs angle of 45° and P/D ratio of 4, a comparison of heat transfer enhancement using twisted tape is made with this. From Fig. 14 it is observed that, for MIs angle of 45° and P/D ratio of 4, as the Reynolds number increases Nu/Nus ratio also increase and it is much higher than twisted tape inserts for the same Reynolds number. Table 1 shows the percent improvement in heat transfer enhancement efficiency (Nu/Nus) of MIs for MIs angle of 45° and P/D ratio of 4 over the twisted tape. Hence present paper recommends the use of MIs with an angle of 45° and







Fig. 14 Comparison of heat transfer enhancement efficiency (Nu/Nus) between MIs (MIs angle = 45° and P/D = 4) and Twisted tape

Table 1Percent improvementof heat transfer enhancementefficiency (Nu/Nus) of MIs (MIsangle = 45° and P/D = 4) overthe Twisted tape

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Sr. no.	Reynolds Number	Nu/Nus (MIs)	Nu/Nus (Twisted tape)	Percent improvement in Nu/Nus of MIs over the twisted tape (%)
1	8514	2.14	1.64	30.66
2	11148	2.42	1.81	33.93
3	13269	2.23	1.89	18.05
4	15095	2.50	1.96	27.55
5	16722	2.78	2.02	37.90

P/D ratio of 4 for better heat transfer enhancement and low ΔP in a circular pipe at all ranges of Reynolds number.

3.3 Fluid flow analysis using CFD

The main difficulty in the experimental investigation is to check the fluid flow behaviour through a test pipe. Hence CFD analysis is used to check fluid flow behaviour only through the test pipe. CFD analysis is an alternative to various methods available to check fluid behaviour and it is readily available in various software. Hence, to study the behaviour of fluid flow in the test pipe with and without MIs, CFD (Fluent) tool is used in the Ansys software. Ansys 2019 R3 version is utilized for fluid flow analysis. Fluid flow analysis using CFD is performed for test pipe with and without MIs. MIs is considered for P/D ratios of 3, 4 and 6 and angles of MIs of 90°, 45° and 30°. The average values of experimental analysis for velocities, temperatures and pressures are taken for CFD analysis.

Table 2. shows the results of CFD analysis for fluid flow and heat transfer. Table 3. shows the fluid flow pattern through the pipe with and without MIs in the form of streamlines.

From Tables 2 and 3 it is observed that temperature increases from inlet to outlet gradually. Wall fluid absorbs heat from the test pipe first, then the core fluid absorbs heat from its adjacent hot layer of fluid. Cold fluid enters the test pipe, as it progresses in the test pipe cold fluid gets heated.

The velocity of the fluid in the smooth pipe is uniform throughout near the wall of the pipe but the velocity of fluid flowing through the core of the pipe increase first then decrease. When the fluid flowing through the pipe fitted with MIs, the velocity of the fluid is very less (sometimes reaches zero m/s) in the line of MIs and higher in another region.

The pressure of the fluid at the entry of the pipe is very high, but as the fluid progresses in the pipe, pressure decreases and reaches the atmospheric pressure at the outlet in the smooth pipe. But in the pipe fitted with MIs, very high ΔP was observed (sometimes fluid reaches to vacuum in the line MIs).

Flow pattern (streamlines) observed straight for the smooth pipe but as the MIs angle decreases from 90 to 30° streamlines showed a behaviour change. For MIs angles of 90° and 45° streamlines are almost the same, in these angles of MIs streamlines are straight in the vacant region and streamlines deviate in the MIs region in the test pipe. Streamlines are highly disturbed for MIs angle of 30°, streamlines move in the circular pattern while moving in the test pipe.

On the flow pattern i.e., streamlines, there is a great influence of P/D ratio and MIs angle. At MIs angle of 30°, for P/D of 3 and 4, flow is highly disturbed and swirling action observed but for P/D ratio of 6, flow is uniform and streamlines are seemed to be straight which implies increased P/D ratio recommendation for uniformed flow.

4 Conclusion

It is observed that, as the P/D ratio of the MIs increases, the Nu/Nus and f/fs decreases. The MIs encourages the wall and core fluid to be mixed. As the distance between the MIs increases, the mixing of fluid weakens. With decreasing the P/D ratio, Nu/Nus increases. Increased fluid mixing contributes to a higher coefficient of heat transfer and higher values of ΔP . A P/D = 4 results in better heat interaction than others.

Next, a fixed Reynolds number has been taken and the MIs angle is varied. As the MIs angle decreases from 90 to 15°, the Nu/Nus and f/fs decreases. Nu/Nus and f/ fs increase with increasing MIs angle. With an increase in MIs angle, the Nu/Nus values indicate a small increase. The greater MIs angle implies a longer mixing zone between the core and the wall fluid, enhancing the coefficient of heat transfer. The cross-stream mixing also induces a greater ΔP . To fasten the MIs with the central rod, the projection of the MIs is necessary. This protrusion adds to the flow resistance, thus increasing the value of f/fs. This, on the other hand, increases the mixing of fluids and facilitates increased heat transfer. The best results have been obtained for optimum MIs angle values = 45° and P/D = 4.

Present experimental work is compared with twisted tape insert for the validation and authenticity of the experiment. It is observed that, MIs shown greater HTE than the twisted tape insert in the same range of Reynolds number.

Fluid flow analysis is also carried out in this work using the CFD tool. Using the CFD tool heat transfer, velocity, ΔP patterns and fluid flow behaviour are studied. Fluid flow analysis is explained in detail in the result and discussion section and related images are displayed in Tables 2 and 3. Matching results are found in HTE for experimental and CFD studies.

From the future research point of view, it is very important to consider a higher MIs angle (Maximum 90°) for HTE. In this work higher ΔP and disturbed flow pattern observed for MIs angle 30° and it would increase for MIs angle 15° further which is certainly not recommended for the future research point of view.

Table 2 Results of CFD analysis for fluid flow and heat transfer



P/D Tatio	wis angle	lest pipe with Mis		
P/D = 3	90°	Temperature variation (K)	Unit 1000000000000000000000000000000000000	AN5YS 2019/A3
			6 c 100 5.00 m) 6.275 0.225	7

Table 2 (continued) P/D ratio MIs angle Test pipe with MIs Velocity variation (m/s) ANSYS 1 Pressure variation (Pa) ANSYS 7 45° Temperature variation (K) ANSYS $\boldsymbol{\prec}$ Velocity variation (m/s) 7

Table 2 (continued)

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P/D ratio	MIs angle	Test pipe with MIs	
		Pressure variation (Pa)	Pressure 1.800e+05 1.900e+05 1.900e+05 1.910e+05 9.857e+04 7.800e+04 4.0300e+03 4.3701e+04 1.640e+04 4.0300e+03 4.3255e+04 Pal
			2 100 0.00 m) →
	30°	Temperature variation (K)	State State <td< td=""></td<>
			× معرف معرف المعرف ا
		Velocity variation (m/s)	Ling Ling 1 </td
			0 0.00 (rd) 0.00 (rd)
		Pressure variation (Pa)	Pressure Concert 4 2000 4 200
			9 <u>000</u> 0.000 pm

Table 2 (continued)

P/D ratio	Mls angle	Test pipe with MIs	
P/D=4	90°	Temperature variation (K)	Temperature Constitut AMSYS 3.306+02 3.2746+02 3.206+02 3.2746+02 3.206+02 3.2746+02 3.206+02 3.3006+02 3.306+02 3.006+02 3.006+02 3.006+02 3.006+02 3.006+02 1 1
		Velocity variation (m/s)	Long Long Hold
		Pressure variation (Pa)	ALSYS 3.3536-002 2.671+02 2.7178+02 1.397e+02 1.39
	45°	Temperature variation (K)	



Table 2 (continued)

P/D ratio	MIs angle	Test pipe with MIs		
		Pressure variation (Pa)	Prosection 1 272-274 1 272-274	ANSYS Refer 1
			5 <u>5.00</u> PN <u>5.05 5.00</u> PN	× ×
P/D=6	90°	Temperature variation (K)	Terrent terret t	ANSYS
			0 0.000 0.200 ms	×
		Velocity variation (m/s)	Vecchy 1788-01 1788-01 1788-01 1788-01 1788-01 1788-01 1788-01 1778	INSYS
		Pressure variation (Pa)	ревлие Сонтакт Сонтакт 1	ANSTS CORD
			0 <u>8159</u> 000 mg Z	الم

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Table 2 (continued) P/D ratio MIs angle Test pipe with MIs 45° Temperature variation (K) -1 Velocity variation (m/s) ANSYS -1 Pressure variation (Pa) -1 30° Temperature variation (K) ANSYS -1

Table 2 (continued)



Table 3 The fluid flow pattern through the pipe with and without MIs in the form of streamlines



Table 3 (continued)

P/D ratio	MIs angle	
P/D=4	90°	
	45°	2013 2023 Velocity Streaming 1 1.410e+01 1.058e+01 7.050e+00 3.525e+00 0 0.000e+00 0 (m sh1] 1
	30°	2 <u>100</u> <u>1000</u>
P/D=6	90°	New Column New Column 1.558e+01 1.558e+01 7.790e+00 3.895e+00 0.0000e+00 0

Table 3 (continued)



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Declarations

Conflict of interest On behalf of all authors, the corresponding author states that there is no conflict of interest.

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