

Effect of Mass Flow Rate in a Shell and Tube Heat Exchanger of Different Inner Tube Geometries during Solidification of Phase Change Material

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ABSTRACT

The current work consists of a theoretical and experimental investigation of the impact of mass flow rate on the solidification process of phase change materials (PCM) for various inner tube geometries of heat exchangers. The heat exchanger consists of an outer shell filled with paraffin wax as a PCM. Simultaneously, three tested inner tube shapes with the same cross-sectional area are circular, elliptical with minor axis bending, and elliptical with major axis bending. Water was used as the heat transfer fluid (HTF) at two and four L/min flow rates inside the inner tube. A three-dimensional ANSYS simulation was constructed to examine the thermal behaviour of heat exchangers incorporating PCM. The findings demonstrated that when the mass flow rate of HTF decreased, so the solidification time increased. Furthermore, compared to other tube forms, circular tubes offer longer-lasting heat absorption from phase shift materials through the heat transfer fluid. Also, the results show that the heat transfer process between PCM and HTF is controlled by natural convection. Solidification begins near the inner tube and then moves towards the casing (horizontal axis at 0°, then inclined axis at 45°, followed by the vertical axis at 90°). Moreover, it was observed that the maximum theoretical and experimental thermal efficiencies recorded were (67.7%, 71.6%,) for the circular inner tube followed by (49.2%, 53.2%) for the elliptical inner tube with minor axis bending and (44.6%, 48.1%) for the elliptical inner tube with major axis bending at a water volumetric flow rate of 2 L/min, respectively.

1. Introduction

Due to the escalating demand for energy and the exhaustion of traditional energy sources, a global energy crisis has emerged. Additionally, these resources possess limited quantities, and there is a rising trend in fuel costs and environmental apprehensions [1]. Thermal energy storage systems (TESS) must be developed in order to handle the problems that come up when producing and using energy. Among these storage systems, the most suitable

option for this usage is the latent heat storage systems (LHSS) based on phase change materials (PCM). Several computational and experimental investigations have been carried out to improve and optimize the thermal behavior of LHSS devices [2-4]. PCM such paraffin wax [5] and erythritol [6] in vertical and horizontal heat exchangers for latent heat thermal storage units [7, 11] is also employed. Mahdi et al. [12] conducted a comparison between two scenarios: inserting the PCM in the inner tube and placing it in the annulus. It was

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discovered that the process of solidification takes a lengthier amount of time when the substance is placed in the inner tube compared to when it is placed in the annulus. Sadeghi et al. [13] recommended increasing the number of PCM layers in order to effectively absorb a significant amount of thermal heat in its latent form. Liu et al. [14] and Elmeriah et al. [15] found that the discharging operation of stearic acid is little influenced by the Reynolds number of HTF (water). Avci, et al. [16] and Agarwal et al. [17] also found that the charging operation of PCM occurs radially upwards because of buoyancy force. Furthermore, the upper zone arrives at the melting point before the lower zone. Seddegh et al. [18] concluded the natural convection plays a significant role in the heat transfer process during the solidification phase. The observed phenomenon was attributed to the influence of buoyant forces, as documented by Jesumathy et al. [19]. Hosseini et al. [20], was found that as the temperature of HTF increases, the rate at which the melt front progresses from the pipe to the shell increases, leading to a reduced duration of the melting process. In contrast, the discharging time increased due to the used of eccentric geometric shapes for the inner tube [21] and it reducing with increased the number of tubes inside the shell Esapour, et al. [22].

A conduction-convection model is created to examine the impact of natural convection within PCM during the melting and solidification stages of a cascade Latent Heat Thermal Energy Storage System (LHSSS). This model is then compared to a pure conduction model. The phase change processes in both mixed model and pure conduction models are simulated using the effective heat capacity approach. The simulation findings showed that at higher intake velocity of HTF, the heat transfer processes inside PCM are mostly governed by conduction. The findings also indicated that the intake temperature of HTF significantly influences the reduction in the time required for charging and discharging [23].

Aljumaily et al. [24] presented theoretical and practical investigations to improve thermal storage system thermal efficiency by changing inner tube geometry. Pentagonal, hexagonal,

square, rectangular, and circular with the same exterior surface area were chosen. The shell contains phase transition ingredient paraffin wax, while water, a Heat Transfer Fluid, flows through the inner tube at two liters per minute. All chosen geometric shapes were simulated in 3D using ANSYS Fluent 2020 R2 [25]. Using the HTF, the circular tube absorbed heat from the PCM better than the other types. Furthermore, increased in the average Nusselt number with increased the number of tubes inside the shell [26]. According to Shen, et al. [27], the positioning of the heat transfer fluid tubes can impact the thermal characteristics of a multi-tube storage unit. The radius of the pipes had a significant impact on the discharging/charging time as noted Kibria, et al., [28]. While, the shell/reduce model had the lower period in strong convection, followed by the shell/tube model and then the nozzle/shell model Korawan et al. [29]. Seddegh et al. [30] used numerical simulation to confirm these findings. The influence of altering the angle of inclination on a heat exchanger filled with PCM such as (paraffin wax in Kousha et al. [31], steric acid in Mehta et al. [32]), paraffin wax-fins inner tube Siyabi et al. [33], and copper nanoparticles and steel/nickel alloys as porous media Jourabian et al. [34] were examined. The results showed a decrease in the PCM temperature with an increase in the tilt angle of the thermal storage unit from 00 to 900. Ajarostaghi et al [35] conducted a numerical study on the impact of different inner tube geometries. The results indicate a substantial enhancement in heat transmission for a semicircular heat exchanger as compared to the inner tube of a conventional tube-in-tube heat exchanger. The convection connection of the copper plate between the moving fluids can account for this phenomenon. The expanded fins on either side of the heat exchanger are virtually visible. Additionally, Da Veiga and Meyer [36] found that using a semicircular heat exchanger leads to significant improvements in heat transfer compared to a traditional tube-in-tube heat exchanger. Albaldawi et al. [37] found that the addition of copper Lessing rings with PCM reduces the time of melting operation in the LHSS unit. In addition, Longeon et al. [38]

employed graphite foam to enhance the thermal conductivity of PCM in heat exchangers with finned inner. While the insertion of metallic foam and adding the number of tubes leads to an enhancement rate of discharging and charging, as noted by Esapour et al. [39]. In addition, the increase in the Biot number led to a decrease in the efficiency of the heatsink, as mentioned by Ghalambaz, and Zhang et al. [40]. As demonstrated by Wang et al. [41] and Begum et al. [42], the solidification and melting operation of hexagon/tube and shell/tube systems is significantly influenced by the mass flow rate and inlet temperature of HTF. Thus, Akgu'n et al. [43] suggested utilizing a reduced mass flow rate of HTF. Furthermore, it has been observed by Jian-you [44] that the charging time decreases as the HTF's inlet temperature rises [45-47]. A computational technique known as "alternative iteration between temperature and thermal resistance" was created by Kibria et al. [48] to investigate the heat transfer in these systems between the PCM and the HTF. While, Hamza and Aljabair [49] evaluation of thermal performance factor by hybrid Nano fluid and twisted tape inserts in heat exchanger.

This study aims to investigate the effect of mass flow rate on different inner tube geometries both theoretically and practically. The shapes consist of a circular tube, an elliptical inner tube with a bend along the major axis and an elliptical inner tube with a bend along the minor axis. In addition, to examining the thermal characteristics of the LHSS unit during solidification process. To ensure laminar flow, a water flow rate of 2 and 4 L/min was selected.

2. System description

Figure 1. and 2 show the schematic diagrams of LHSSs with the PCM which consists an aluminum shell with the following dimensions (1.5 mm thick, 1-meter-long, and 160 mm in diameter). The shell was partitioned into three distinct areas, namely A, B, and C, each region containing holes distributed at different angles (90 degrees, 45 degrees, and 0 degrees) to fix the (36) thermocouples in different locations. Three concentric shapes were used inside the shell. The first shape is a circular tube with the following dimensions (1.5 mm thick, 1500 mm long, and 54 mm in diameter). The second shape is an elliptical inner tube with a major axis bending. It has dimensions of 60 mm for the main diameter, 47.5 mm for the secondary diameter, and a length of 1,5 m. The third shape consists of an elliptical inner tube that is bent along its minor axis, while keeping the same dimensions as the second variant. All the tested shapes are made of copper and the working fluid inside the tubes is water (see Figure 3). While, the paraffin wax from Al-Daura Refinery / Iraq with the thermal physical properties in Table 1. The shell is surrounded by four ring heaters with the following specifications (diameter 160 mm and 2160 watts) for melting paraffin wax. The shell was insulated with asbestos tape with the following specifications (0.05 m thick and 0.37 W/m thermal conductivity rate). As well as KYMCO pipes with the following specifications (with a thermal conductivity ratio of 0.037 W / m, a length of 1 meter, and a diameter of 178 mm).

Table 1: Utilized materials' thermo-physical properties

Materials Properties	PCM	Water	Aluminum	Copper	Insulation
Melting temperature [K]	334	-	-	-	-
Density in solid state [kg/m ³]	894.56	-	2719	8978	-
Density in liquid state [kg/m ³]	783.42	998.2	-	-	-
Specific heat in solid state [J/kg K]	1659	-	871	381	-
Specific heat in liquid state [J/kg K]	2460	4182	-	-	-
Latent heat of fusion [J / kg]	235512.5	-	-	-	-
Thermal conductivity in solid state [W / m K]	0.259	-	202.4	387.6	0.043
Thermal conductivity in liquid state [W / m K]	0.158	0.6	-	-	-
Dynamic viscosity [kg/m.s]	0.01405	0.001003	-	-	-
Solidus temperature [K]	318.5	-	-	-	-
Liquidous temperature [K]	339	-	-	-	-
Thermal expansion coefficient [1/K]	0.000307	-	-	-	-

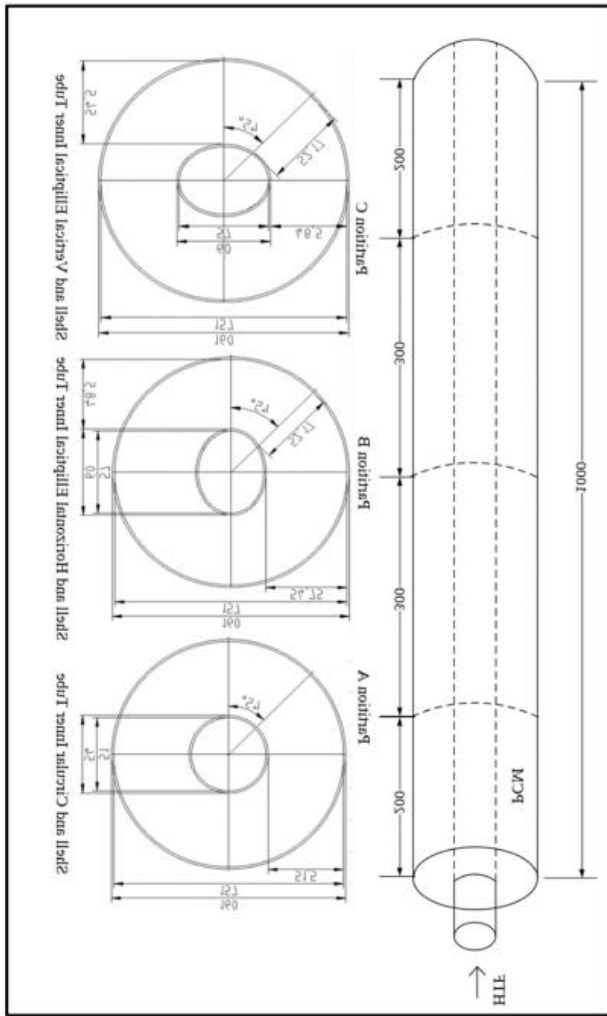


Figure 1. Shell and tube geometries considered for the study

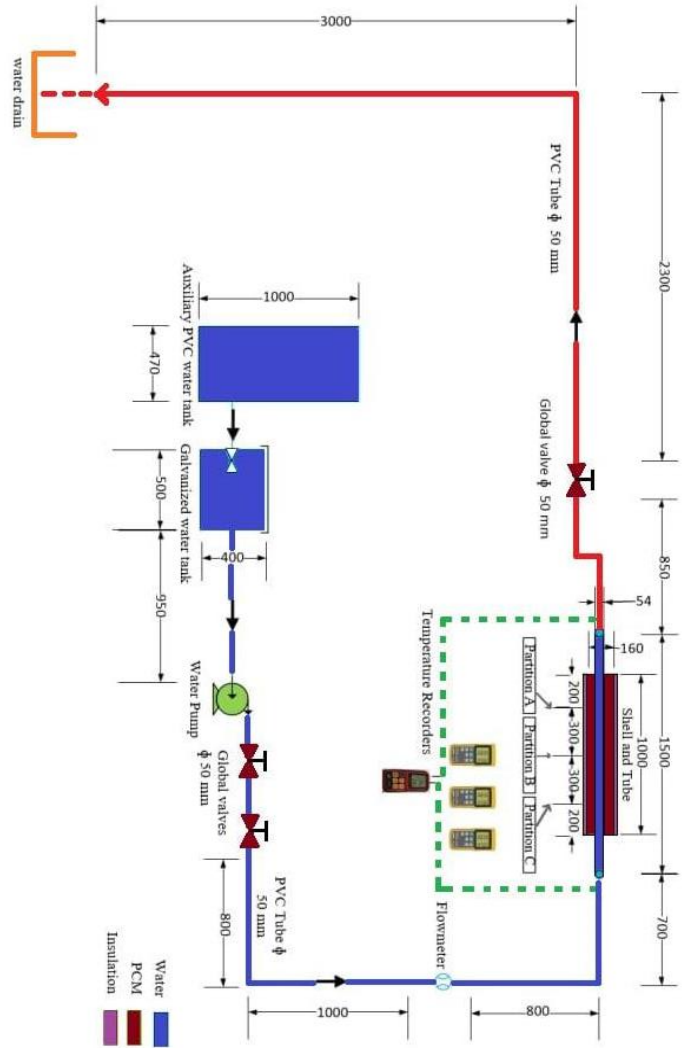


Figure 2. An illustration of the experimental system, with all dimensions given in millimeters



Figure 3. Photo of the shell and tube heat exchanger used in the study

The equation for the instantaneous energy transferred can be expressed as follows: during the solidification and melting process, from the PCM to the heat transfer fluid [12,50,51]:

$$Q_{dis} = \dot{m} \cdot C_p \cdot (T_{f,out} - T_{f,in}) \quad (1)$$

$$Q_{dis} = \sum q_{dis} \Delta t \quad (2)$$

The variables C_p and m represent specific heat and the mass flow rate of HTF respectively. $T_{f,in}$ and $T_{f,out}$ refer to the temperatures of the entering and outlet water, while transient state operation, the equation for energy accumulation while charging and discharging can be expressed as follows [12,51]:

$$Q_{h.e.,dis} = M_{h.e.} \cdot C_{p,H.E.} \cdot (T_{ini} - T_{end}) \quad (3)$$

Where T_{end} and T_{ini} are end, initial of paraffin wax temperature, $C_{p,H.E.}$, $M_{H.E.}$ are specific heat and mass of the empty heat exchanger. The cumulative energies exchangeable with paraffin wax can be expressed as follow [12,51]:

$$Q_{dis,PCM} = Q_{dis} - Q_{dis,h.e.} \quad (4)$$

The LHSS's theoretical efficiency is expressed as follows [12,51]:

$$\eta_{THEO} = \frac{Q_{dis,PCM}}{Q_{dis,max}} \quad (5)$$

For the solidification and melting process, the theoretical maximum energy, or total energy received or delivered by the PCM, can be expressed as follows [12,51].

$$Q_{dis,max} = M_{pcm} [C_{p,pcm} \cdot (F \cdot L) \cdot (T_{liquidus} - T_{solidus}) + C_{p,pcm} \cdot (T_{ini} - T_{liquidus})] \quad (6)$$

Where is the difference between the liquidus temperature ($T_{liquidus}$) and the solidus temperature ($T_{solidus}$) of PCM, the M_{pcm} , $C_{p,pcm}$ are the mass and specific heat of paraffin wax, (L) the latent heat of fusion and (F) liquid fraction.

3. Numerical simulation

The ANSYS-Fluent 2020 R 2 software was utilized to model the solidification process of PCM for varied inner tube geometries under varying flow rates. In order to maintain stability and equilibrium at the boundary between the

liquid and solid phases, a technique known as the enthalpy method was employed during the process of discharging the PCM [12,14]. The analysis takes into account the following assumptions: (II) The flow of the heat transfer fluid is described by Newtonian fluid behavior, with laminar flow and being incompressible. (III) The phase change material is uniform throughout and has the same properties in all directions. (V) The water's input temperature (HTF) remains constant at 299 K; (VI) The influence of viscous dissipation is deemed negligible. (VII) The shell's outer surface is completely insulated, preventing any heat from being lost to the surrounding environment. Heat transfer occurs exclusively between HTF and PCM.

The equation for total volumetric enthalpy and temperature can be represented by the following expression [12] [51]:

$$\frac{\partial \rho H}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho V H) = \nabla \cdot (K \nabla T) + C \quad (7)$$

The symbol H indicates the total volumetric enthalpy, which includes both latent and sensible heat. The symbol k represents thermal conductivity, ρ represents the density of the paraffin wax, V represents the velocity and the source term is C [51].

$$H = FL + H \quad (8)$$

$$H = \int_{T_{REF}}^T C_p dT + H_{REF} \quad (9)$$

In the mushy zone, where the liquid percentage (F) ranges from 0 to 1, T_{REF} , temperature reference 299 K, H_{REF} enthalpy of reference, and C_p specific heat, temperature.

$$F = \begin{cases} 0 & T < T_S \\ \frac{T-T_S}{T_L-T_S} & T_S \leq T \leq T_L \\ 1 & T > T_L \end{cases} \quad (10)$$

The energy equation after Substantial Eq. 2 and 4 into Eq. 1 being as followed [51].

$$\frac{\partial \rho H}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho V Z) = \frac{\partial \rho FL}{\partial t} - \nabla \cdot (\rho V FL) - \nabla \cdot (K \nabla T) + C \quad (11)$$

The momentum equation can be expressed as [51]:

$$\frac{\partial \rho v}{\partial t} + \nabla(\rho v v) = -\nabla P + \nabla(\mu \nabla V) + \rho g + \frac{(1-F)^2}{F^3 + \epsilon} v A_{mush} \quad (12)$$

Where L is the latent heat fusion, $A_{mush} = 10^5$ is the soft region constant that functions as a velocity-damping factor during PCM discharging, and $\epsilon = 0.001$ is a tiny value that is not divisible by zero.

To solve the problem of the little density difference, their method is called The Boussinesq approximation is a mathematical simplification used in fluid dynamics to model the behaviour of a fluid with small density variations. This method is based on the assumption that the density of the fluid remains constant, and it does not take into account the effects of body force in the momentum equation.

Then the momentum equation can be expressed as [51].:

$$\frac{\partial \rho_0 v}{\partial t} + \nabla. (\rho_0 v v) = (\rho - \rho_0) g + \frac{(1-F)^2}{F^3 + \epsilon} v A_{mush} - \nabla P + \nabla. (\mu \nabla v) \quad (13)$$

$$\beta \rho_0 (T - T_0) = (\rho - \rho_0) g \quad (14)$$

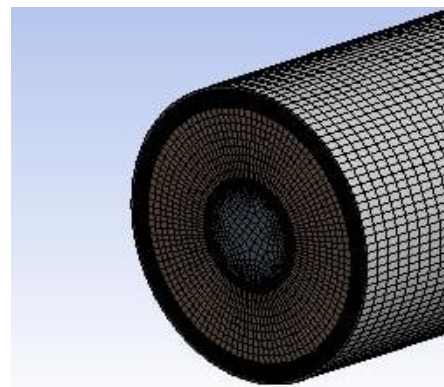
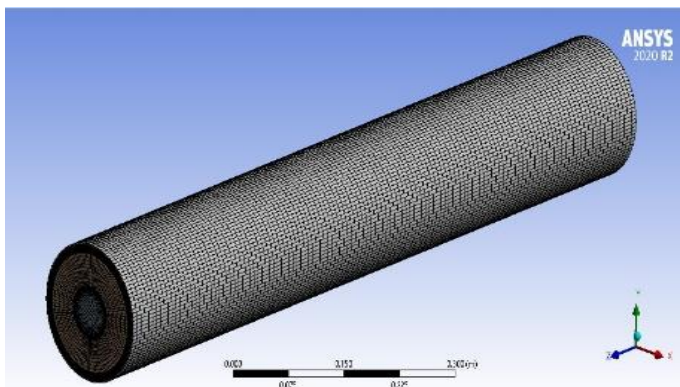
The continuity can be calculated form [51]:

$$\nabla. (\rho v) + \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} = 0 \quad (15)$$

3.1 Numerical Setup

A Computational Fluid Dynamics is a method of studying and solving problems in fluid mechanics using information combination and numerical analysis. The inner pipe is built

with three different geometries: an elliptical inner tube with bending along the major axis, an elliptical inner tube with bending along the minor axis, and a circular pipe. In order to enhance the accuracy of numerical simulation outcomes and reduce the margin of error. The mesh independence test was conducted by choosing different numbers of sample mesh elements (5) and determining the mass percentage that ensures the calculations do not diverge. According to the results, the mesh element sizes for the various shapes—a circular tube, a shell, a shell with an elliptical inner tube bending major axis, and an elliptical inner tube bending minor axis—were, in that order, 1452238, 1103634, and 1099818 (see Figure 4). Additionally, the transitory formulation employs a first-order implicit method, Density, pressure, body forces, liquid fraction, momentum update, and energy have the following respective relaxation factors: 1, 0.3, 1, 0.9, 0.7, and 1. A second-order upwind approach was used to estimate the momentum and energy equations, while a second-order method was used to estimate the pressure energy equation. Furthermore, the pressure and velocity coupling was chosen using the SIMPLE technique, to resolve equations and simulate the process of solidification and distribution of temperature for various geometric forms. Figure 5 and Table 2 display the parameters used to simulate the specified chosen.



A

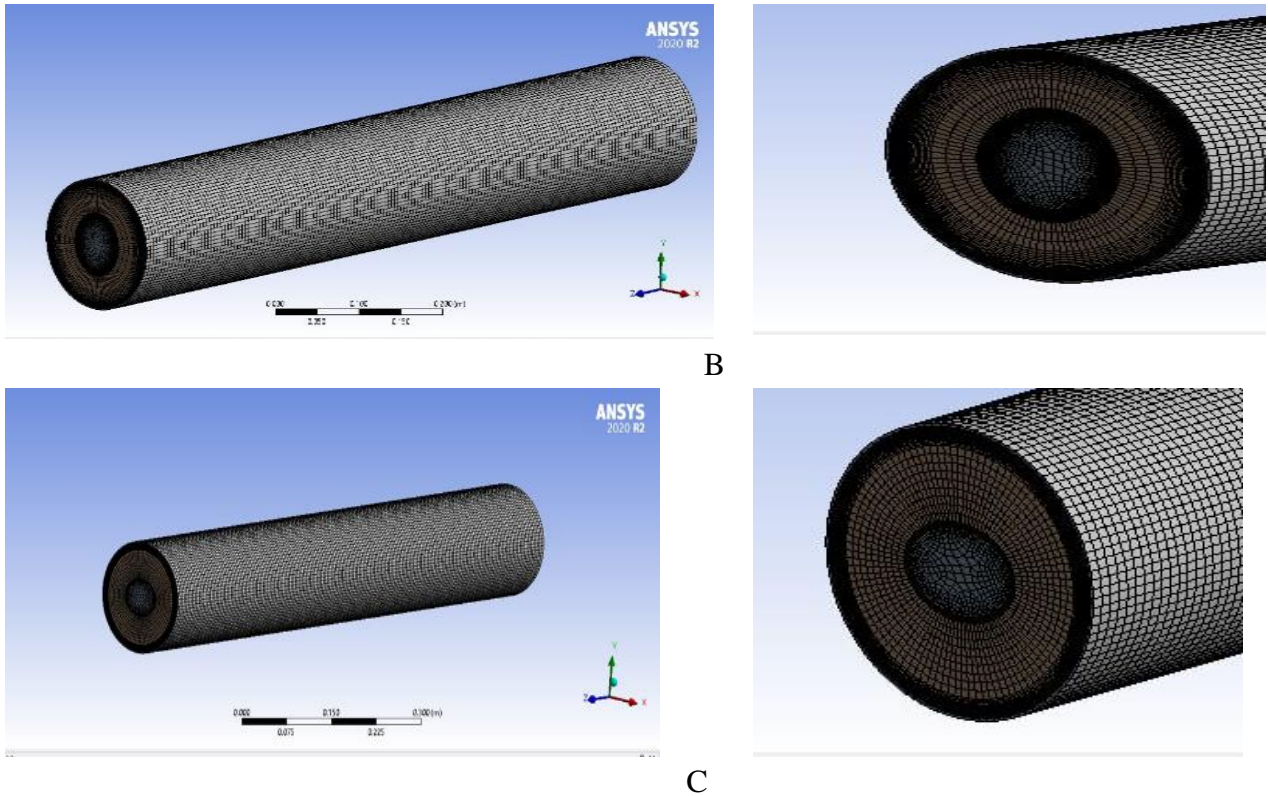


Figure 4. Mesh Generation of (A) Circular Tube-Shell, (B) Elliptical Inner Tube with Major-Shell, and (C) Minor Axis Bending-Shell

The current work involves the development of 3-D models to simulate different states. This process consists of four parts, which are as follows:

During the melting process, the heat flux measured 4300 W/m^2 . The solidification process occurs at a temperature of 299 K. Also, all walls, save for the one between the HTF and PCM, were assumed to be insulated. Furthermore, this specific condition has been

selected to enhance the exchange of thermal energy between the PCM and HTF. Moreover, the material and thickness of each wall were determined. The gauge pressure at the exit was set to zero Pascal's, and the boundary condition was defined as the outflow boundary for the heat transfer fluid. In addition, the chosen boundary condition type at the inlet is speed entry (HTF). The time step size is 0.05 seconds. The iteration limit was set to 10, the initial temperature was set to 345 K and the time step was 500,000.

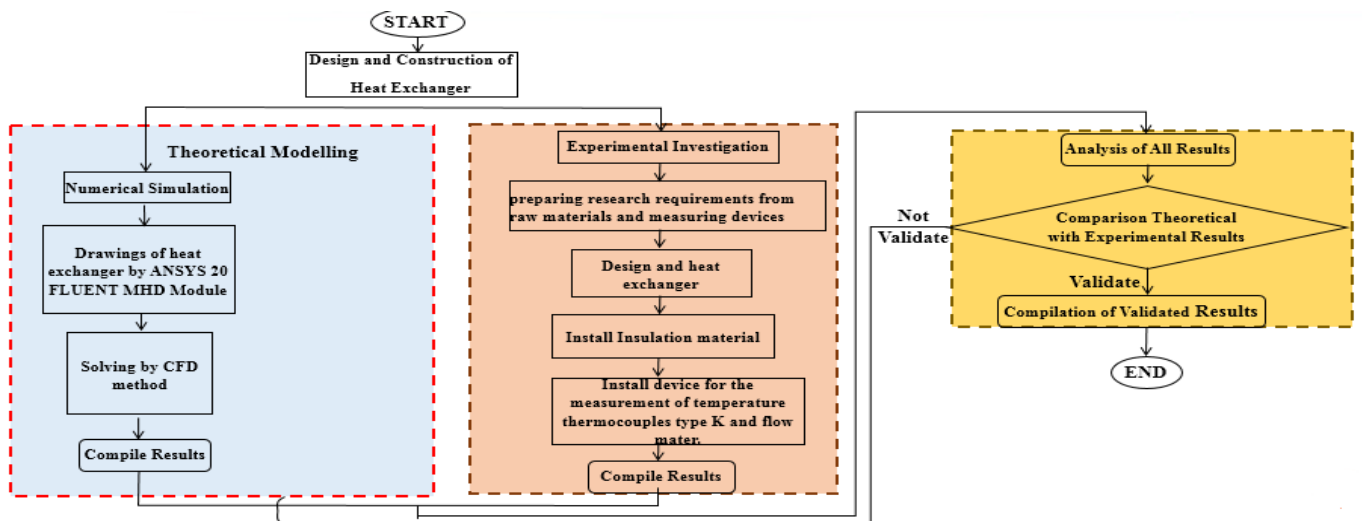


Figure 5. Flow chart of experiment and simulation

Table 2: Characteristics of every geometric shape put to the test

Geometrical Shapes Models	Volume Flow Rate of HTF (L / min)	Velocity m / sec	Reynolds Number
Shell /Circular Tube	2	0.01631	952.363
Shell /elliptical inner tube with major axis bending	2	0.0172	978.024
Shell /elliptical inner tube with minor axis bending	2	0.0172	978.024
Total Number of Tests	3		

In order to achieve robust practical results, it is necessary to calculate the reliability of the outputs. There are other investigators who have introduced various ways for uncertainty analysis. The technique involves considering the uncertainties associated with each of these characteristics in order to accurately calculate the overall investigative error. To calculate the investigative error, a parameter such as T, produced from an applied examination, can be linked to a series of independent parameters (S₁, S₂, S₃, ..., S_n), and so on [52].

$$T = T(S_1, S_2, S_3, \dots, S_n) \quad (16)$$

And, the subsequent formula states the relation between the proportions of certain discrepancies in the parameters.

$$\partial N = \frac{\partial T}{\partial S_1} \partial S_1 + \frac{\partial T}{\partial S_2} \partial S_2 + \dots + \frac{\partial T}{\partial S_n} \partial S_n \quad (17)$$

Also, results (N_T) uncertainty is stated by:

$$N_T = \left[\left(\frac{\partial T}{\partial S_1} N_1 \right)^2 + \left(\frac{\partial T}{\partial S_2} N_2 \right)^2 + \left(\frac{\partial T}{\partial S_n} N_n \right)^2 \right]^{\frac{1}{2}} \quad (18)$$

Dividing equation (12) by equation (10) gives

$$\frac{N_T}{T} = \left[\left(\frac{\partial T}{\partial S_1} \frac{N_1}{T} \right)^2 + \left(\frac{\partial T}{\partial S_2} \frac{N_2}{T} \right)^2 + \left(\frac{\partial T}{\partial S_n} \frac{N_n}{T} \right)^2 \right]^{\frac{1}{2}} \quad (19)$$

And, the created errors via the measuring devices of temperature as well as rate of flow rate being (±0.75%) and (±4%) for the temperature and rate of mass flow, correspondingly. In addition, the quantity of error investigated for the rate of heat transfer formula relies upon numerous variables.

$$Q = F(\Delta T, \dot{m}) \quad (20)$$

$$\frac{\partial Q}{\partial \dot{m}} = C_p \Delta T \quad (21)$$

$$\frac{\partial Q}{\partial \Delta T} = C_p \dot{m} \quad (22)$$

And, heat transfer (N_Q) uncertainty is stated as:

$$\frac{N_Q}{Q} = \left[\left(\frac{\partial Q}{\partial \dot{m}} \frac{N_{\dot{m}}}{Q} \right)^2 + \left(\frac{\partial Q}{\partial \Delta T} \frac{N_{\Delta T}}{Q} \right)^2 \right]^{\frac{1}{2}} \quad (23)$$

Where:

$$N_{\dot{m}} = \text{error}_{\dot{m}} \dot{m} \quad (24)$$

$$N_{\Delta T} = \text{error}_{\Delta T} \Delta T \quad (25)$$

Substituting the whole terms values into equation (23) gives

$$\frac{N_Q}{Q} = 6\%$$

4. Results and discussions

A study was conducted to investigate the effects mass flow rate of different geometrical shapes of inner tubes (elliptical inner tube with minor axis bending, circular tube, and elliptical inner tube with major axis bending) on the discharge performance of an LHSS unit. Specifically, this involves a comparison between the experimental and simulation methodologies. There was a total of 6 tests conducted.

4.1 Validation case study

A comparison was conducted between the findings of this study, specifically the solidification process of PCM through a circular tube, and the results of previously published research [51]. In their work, Seddegh et al. [51] conducted a numerical analysis of energy storage utilizing a horizontal shell-and-circular inner tube configuration, employing Paraffin Wax (RT 50) with a melting temperature range of 318-324 K. The experiment was conducted with a water flow rate of 2.5 l/min. The shell was constructed using iron, with an interior diameter measuring 85 mm and a thickness of 2.5 mm. The inner tube, composed of copper, was positioned at the center with a diameter of 22 mm. This study investigated a heat exchanger consisting of Paraffin wax, which has a melting temperature of 345 K, and an aluminum shell with an inner diameter of 160 mm and a thickness of 1.5 mm. The inner tube, composed of copper, was positioned at the center with a

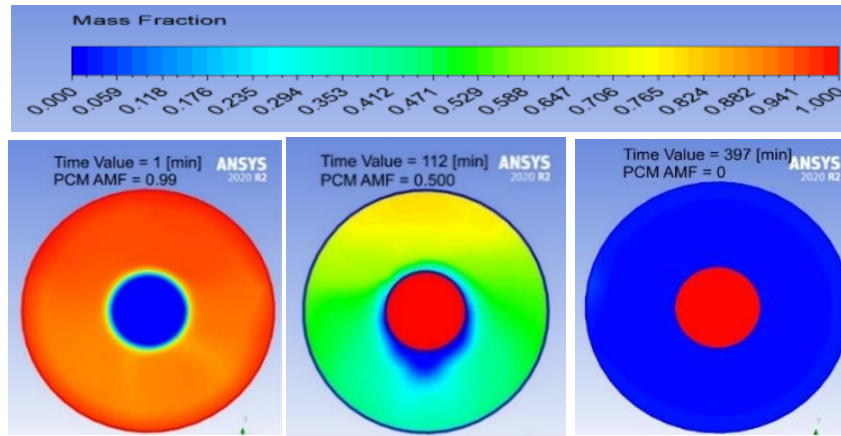
diameter of 54 mm. Both investigations utilized water as the heat transfer fluid (HTF) that cycled through the inner tube. The findings demonstrated a strong alignment between the current and prior results, as depicted in Figure 6

and Table 3. Furthermore, the results demonstrated a strong correlation between the experimental investigations of thermal efficiency and numerical simulation, as depicted in Figure 6.

Table 3: Comparison results for validation case study

Mass fraction	Time (min) for Present results	Time (min) for Results of [51]
0.99	1	1
0.5	112	120
0	397	450

A: Present results



B: Results of [51]

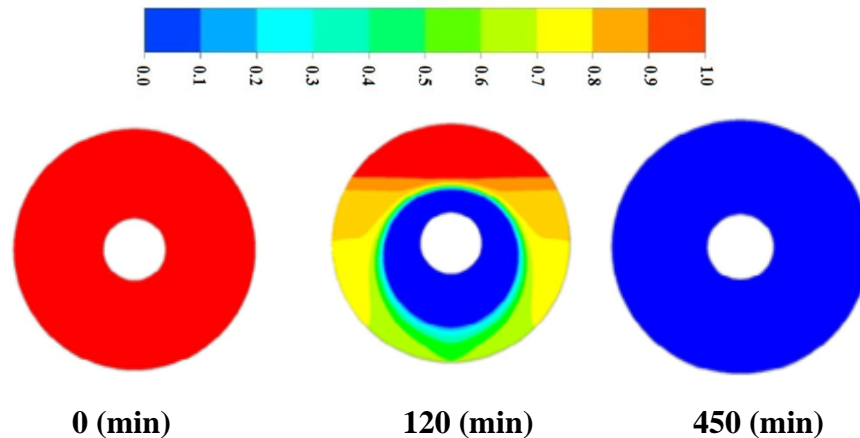


Figure 6. Numerical validation for the contours of the fraction of liquid during discharging in a horizontal regime

4.2 Present case study

When the melting process is completed and the PCM temperature reaches 345 K, cold water is pumped in to start the solidification process. After that, the readings are recorded after every two minutes. For all tested geometries, Figure. 7 shows the results of the average mass fraction (AMF) values at (1, 0.5, and 0) during the solidification process. The results show that the heat transfer process between PCM and HTF is controlled by natural convection. solidification

begins near the inner tube and then moves towards the casing (horizontal axis at 0°, then inclined axis at 45°, followed by the vertical axis at 90°). Then the conduction dominates the heat transfer because of the PCM's increased solidification layer thickness and decreased thermal conductivity in the vicinity of the wall of the HTF tube, thus the solidification time is increased. For a concentric elliptical inner tube with major axis bending/shell at 2 L/min, Similar trend is shown to was previously described. However, the temperature

distribution and liquid mass fraction contours over radial distance show that discharging is faster than in the circular inner tube scenario. In addition, the liquid portion of paraffin wax declines after discharging (0.98 at 1 min, 0.74 at 22 min, 0.50 at 83 min, 0.25 at 306 min, and 386 min). While a concentric elliptical inner tube with a minor axis bending and 2 L/min HTF volumetric flow, the liquid fraction and temperature show behavior similarly as mentioned above. These figures demonstrate the discharge time reduction with radial distance compared to other geometric shapes. For all test geometry at 4 L/min, the results demonstrate the same performance as previously described for the same mass flow rate, see Figure 8. Although, the contour of the liquid mass fractions indicate that the discharging time is shorter in comparison to the same case at a mass flow rate of 2 L/min, see Figure 9.

Figure 10 shows the numerical temperature distribution for all tests of geometry shapes at 2, 4 L/min. The temperature of the PCM gradually decreases in all parts until the fluid percentage hits 0.25, at which point solidification becomes evident first on the horizontal axis (0°) then the inclined axis (45°), and finally the vertical axis (90°). The outcomes showed that the other two models had the same pattern. The solidification times did, however, varied noticeably, with the (shell / elliptical inner tube with slight axis bending) exhibiting a faster solidification time compared to the (shell / elliptical inner tube with major axis bending) and the (shell / circular tube). Furthermore, it can be observed that the temperatures at section A exhibit a greater decrease compared to those at section B and section C (see Figure 11). This discrepancy may be attributed to the significant heat transfer occurring between HTF and PCM in the first segment of the experimental heat exchanger, as depicted in Figure 12.

When water at a temperature of 299 Kelvin is forced through a pipe inside a container, the material inside the container that undergoes a change in state starts to become solid. The transmission of heat from PCM to HTF in the inner tube leads to a gradual decrease in the liquid portion of PCM. The heat transfer initially takes place by convection and subsequently

through conduction when the paraffin undergoes a phase transition from liquid to solid. As the PCM undergoes solidification, it emits more heat to HTF.

Figure 13 illustrates the numerical and experimental heat transfer obtained from HTF through PCM discharging at flow rates of 2 and 4 L/min. During the initial stage, heat transfer is mostly dominated by convective heat transfer, resulting in a high heat transfer rate across all geometric shapes. Over time, the rate of heat transfer decreases because of the existence of PCM layer near the inner tube wall. Moreover, the results show heat gained from HTF during paraffin wax discharging increased with decrease the mass flow rate of HTF for all geometrical shapes tested during discharging operation. The maximum achievable heat transfer obtained was 1117.8 kJ, occurring at a temperature of 310 degrees Celsius. This was seen in the shell/circular inner tube configuration, with a liquid percentage of 0.25 and a flow rate of 2 L/min.

During the discharge process, the objective is to transfer all the absorbed energy to HTF in accordance with the principle of energy conservation, which states that the energy gained must be equal to the energy lost. However, the occurrence of this phenomenon is prevented due to the absorption of energy by the aluminium shell and the copper inner tube in the exchanger. Figure 14 displays the cumulative energy exchanged with PCM (experimental and numerical) throughout the discharging operation at flow rates of 2 and 4 L/min for all geometrical form tests. In all geometric shapes, the rate of cumulative energy transfer from the paraffin wax to the HTF is high at the start of the process because of convection heat transfer, which is the dominant form of heat transfer during this interval. After some time, the heat transfer rate slows down due to the presence of a PCM layer near the inner tube wall. Additionally, the low thermal conductivity of PCM all this leads to conduction heat transfer becoming the dominant process. Furthermore, the results display the net cumulative energy gain from paraffin wax to HTF through the PCM discharging operation increased with decrease the mass flow rate of HTF. At 310 minutes, the

shell/circular inner tube's maximum theoretical cumulative energy was 1045.2 kilojoules, with a liquid fraction of 0.25 and a flow rate of 2 liters per minute.

Figure 15 displays the experimental and numerical thermal efficiency during the discharging operation at flow rates of 2 and 4 L/min for all geometrical form tests. The results for all investigated geometric shapes exhibit a rapid initial rise in thermal efficiency. This phenomenon is caused by the transmission of heat through convection, which is dominant throughout much of this period. Over time, the rate of heat transmission reduces because of the low thermal conductivity of PCM and the proximity of the PCM layer to the inner tube

wall. Consequently, this resulted in the regulation of the heat transfer mechanism by conduction. Also, the results demonstrated that the theoretical thermal efficiency exhibited an upward trend when the mass flow rate of HTF decreased. The shell/circular tube system achieved a maximum theoretical thermal efficiency of 67.7% at a liquid percentage of 0.25 and a flow rate of 2 L/min, after 310 minutes.

Table 4. presents the actual and theoretical heat transfer parameters of the LHSS unit during the discharging operation at different water volumetric flow rates (2 and 4 L/min) for all examined geometrical forms.

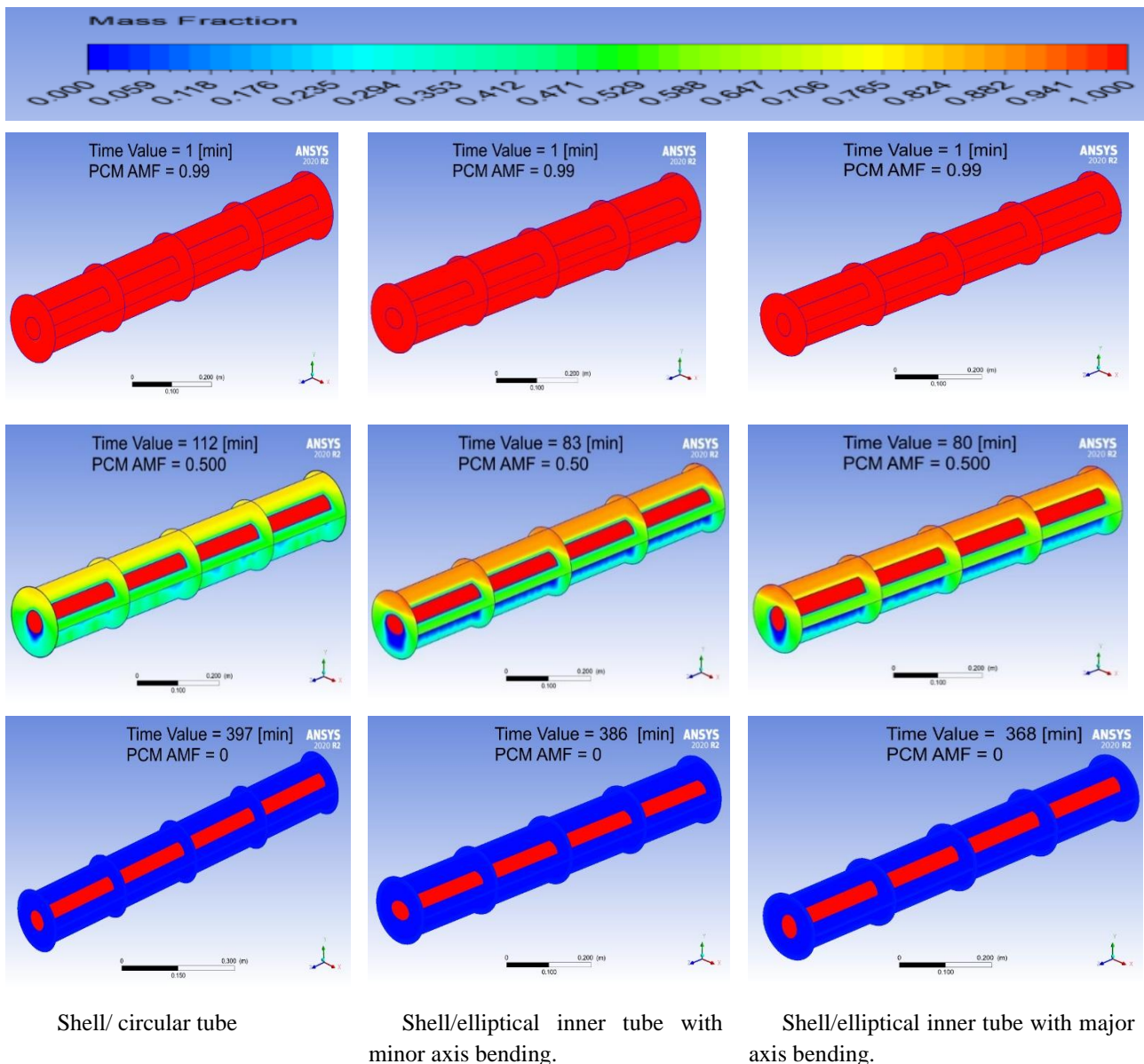


Figure 7. Mass fraction contour for three different geometric forms tested at a flow rate of 2 L/min

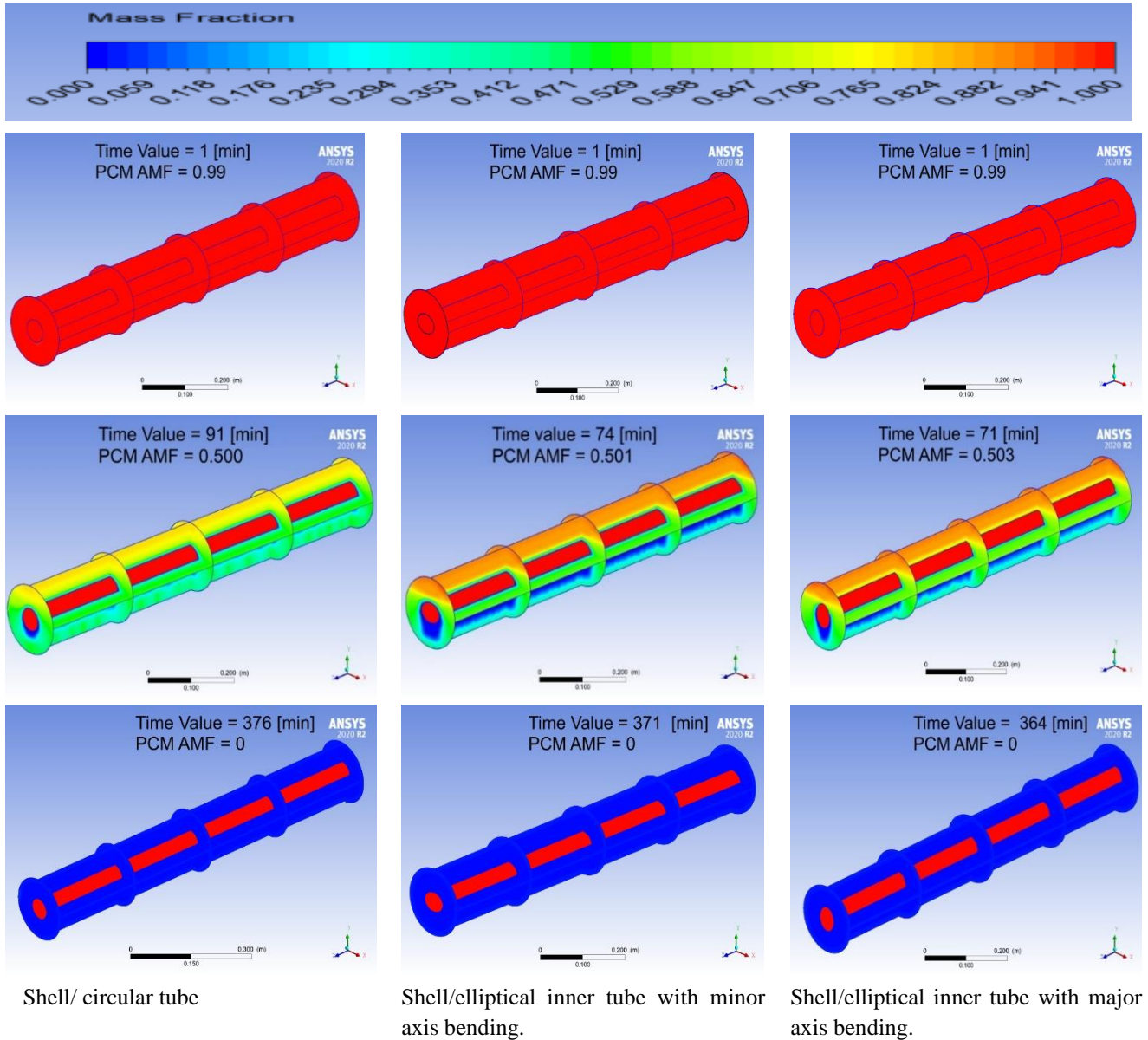


Figure 8. Mass fraction contour for three different geometric forms tested at a flow rate of 4 L/min.

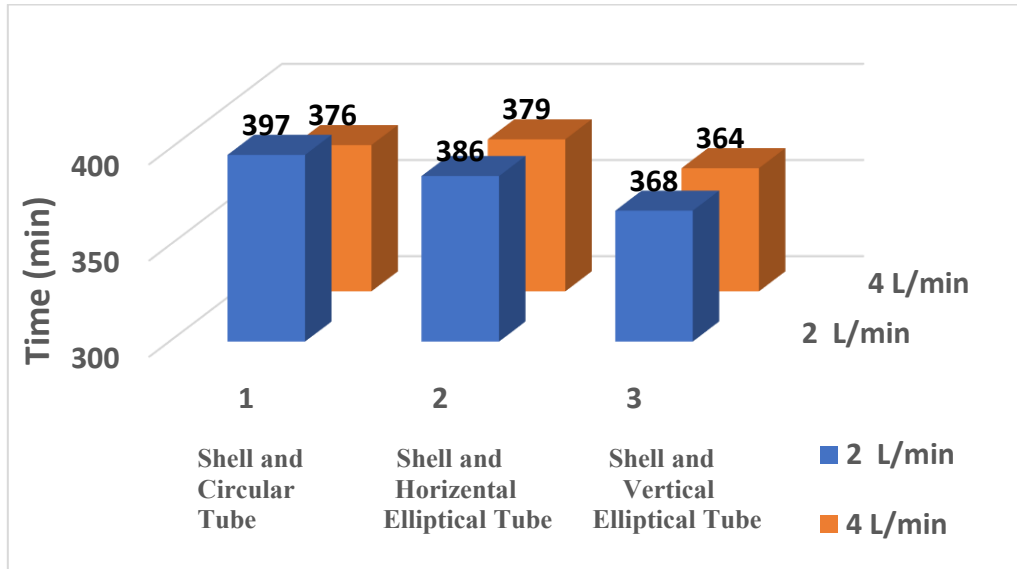
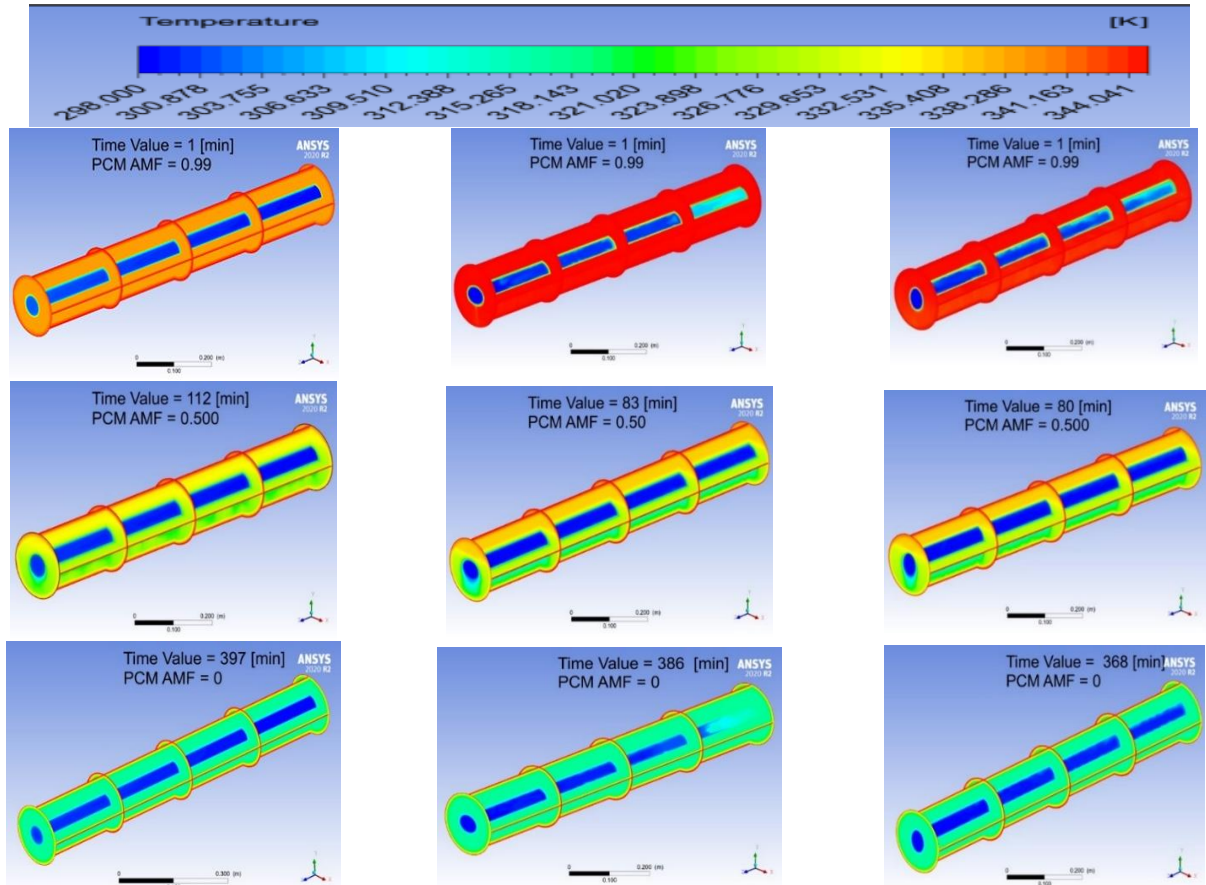


Figure 9. Discharging time of PCM at HTF of (2 and 4 l/min).

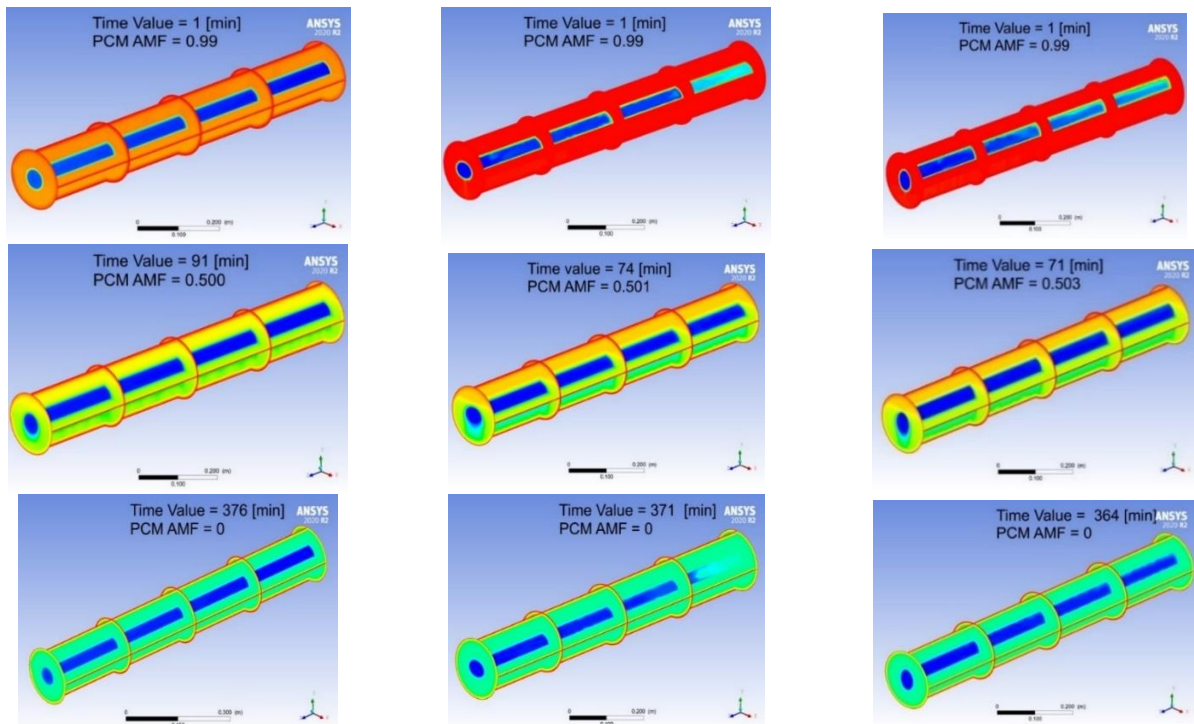


Shell/ circular tube

Shell/elliptical inner tube with minor axis bending.

Shell/elliptical inner tube with minor axis bending.

Figure. 10-A: Temperature contour for three different geometric shapes tested at a flow rate of 2 L/min.



Shell/ circular tube

Shell/elliptical inner tube with minor axis bending.

Shell/elliptical inner tube with minor axis bending.

Figure. 10-B: Temperature contour for three different geometric shapes tested at a flow rate of 4 L/min.

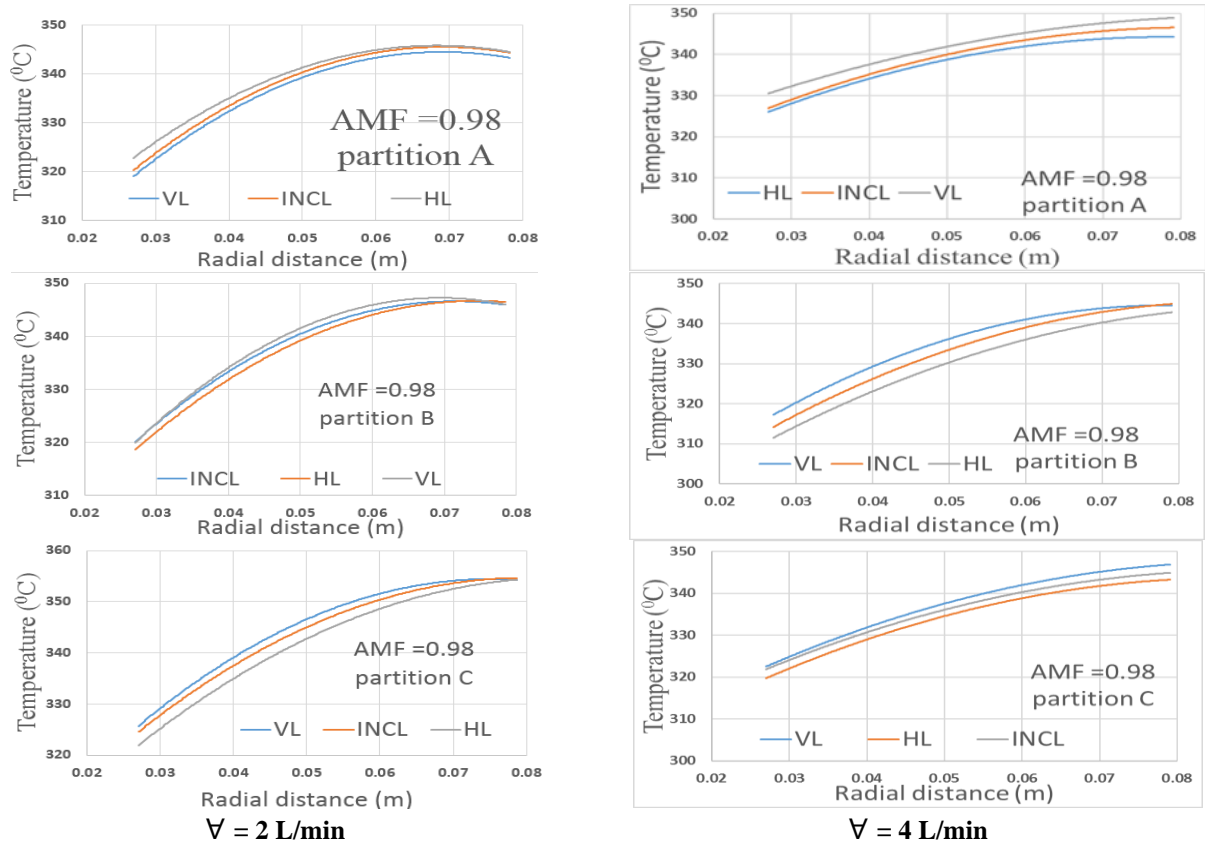


Figure. 11-A: Radial temperature distribution at three partitions of LHSS unit with circular inner tube at (2 and 4 l/min) of HTF for average mass fraction 0.98.

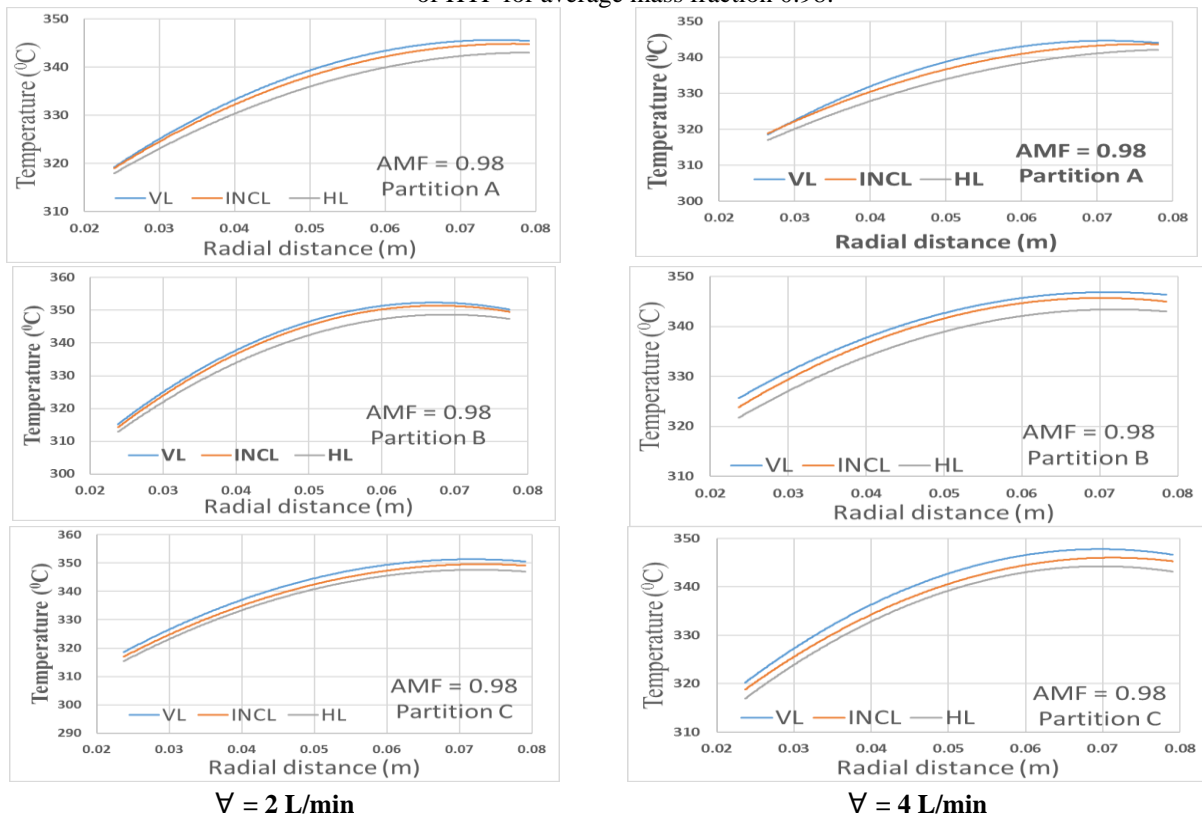


Figure. 11-B: Radial temperature distribution at three partitions of LHSS unit with elliptical inner tube with major axis bending discharging process of PCM and four values of AMF, at (2 and 4 l/min) of HTF for average mass fraction 0.98.

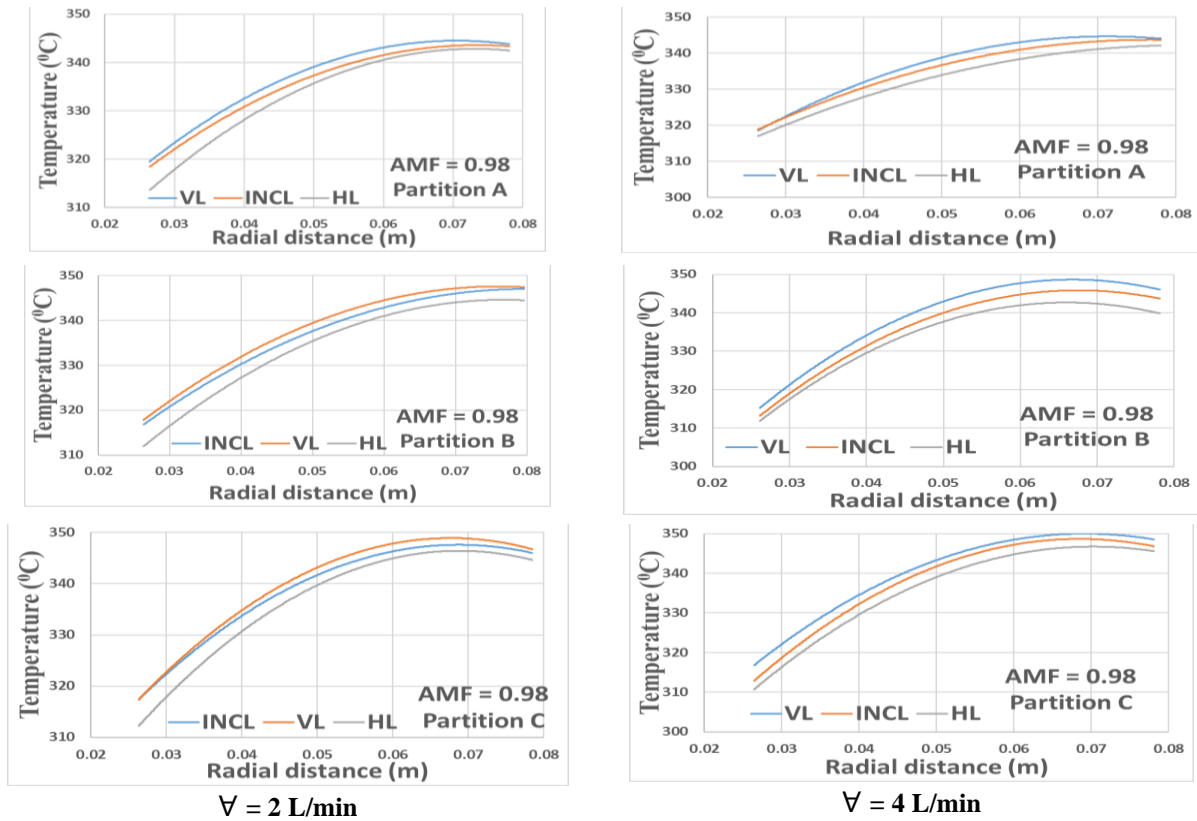


Figure. 11-C: Radial temperature distribution at three partitions of LHSS unit with elliptical inner tube with minor axis bending discharging process of PCM and four values of AMF, at (2 and 4 l/min) of HTF for average mass fraction 0.98.

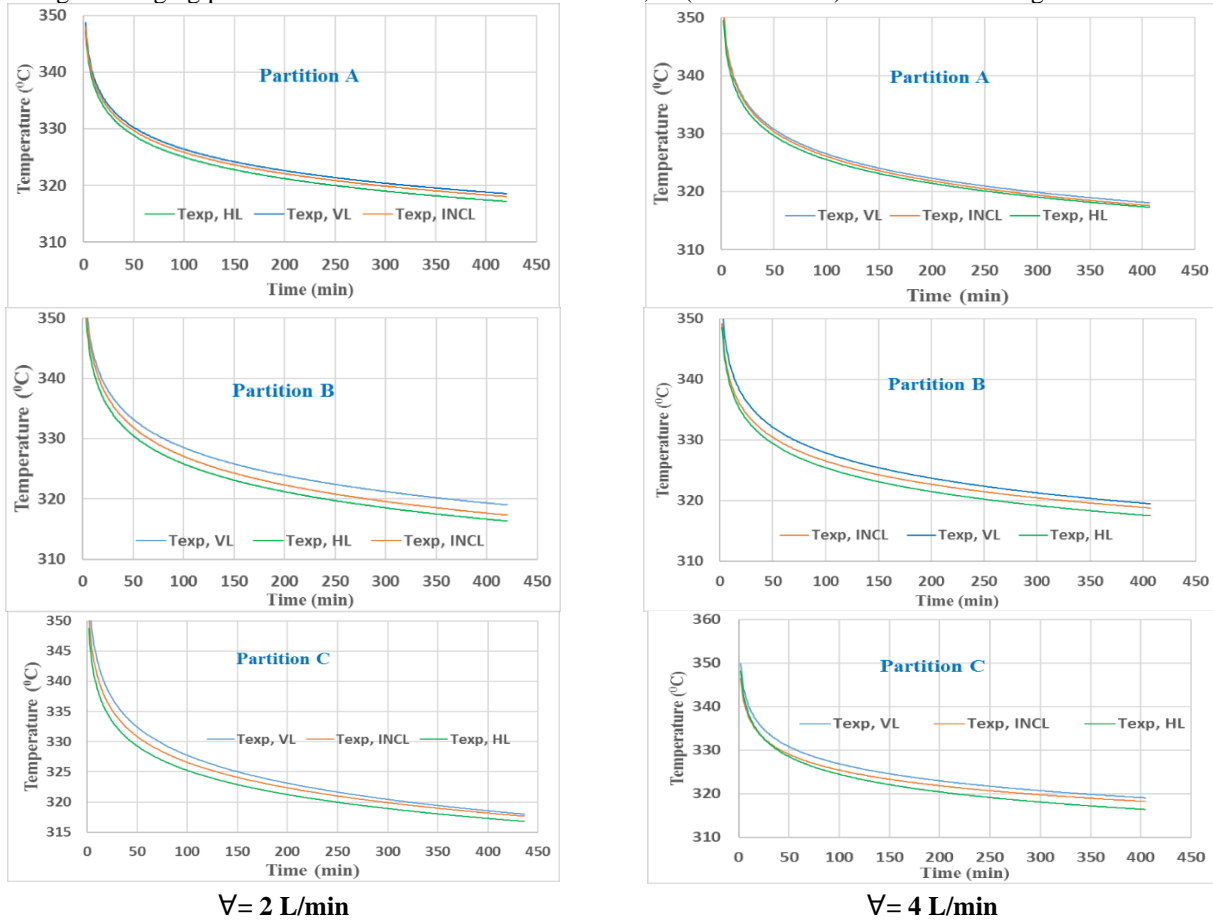


Figure. 12-A: Experimental temperature variation with time at three partitions of LHSS unit (A, B, and C) with circular inner tube with minor axis bending solidification operation of PCM.

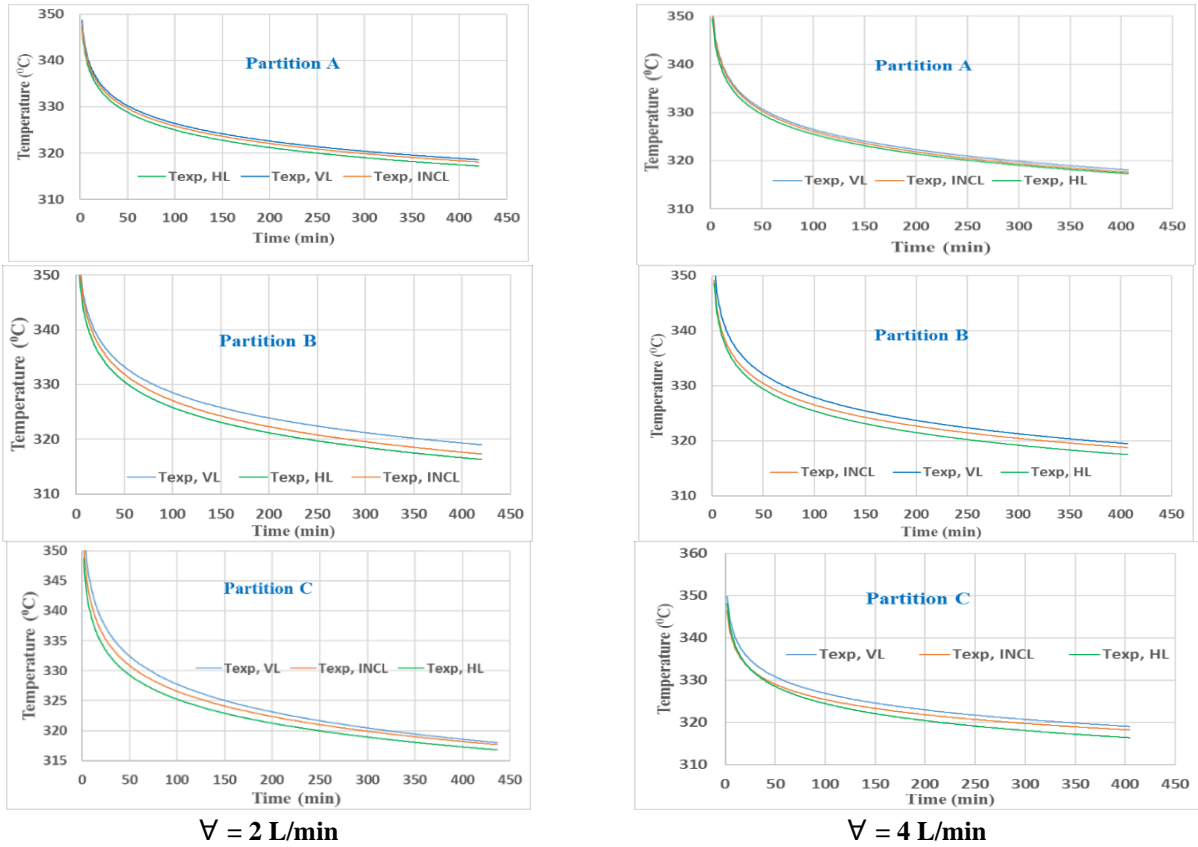


Fig. 12-B: Experimental temperature variation with time at three partitions of LHSS unit (A, B, and C) with elliptical inner tube with minor axis bending solidification operation of PCM.

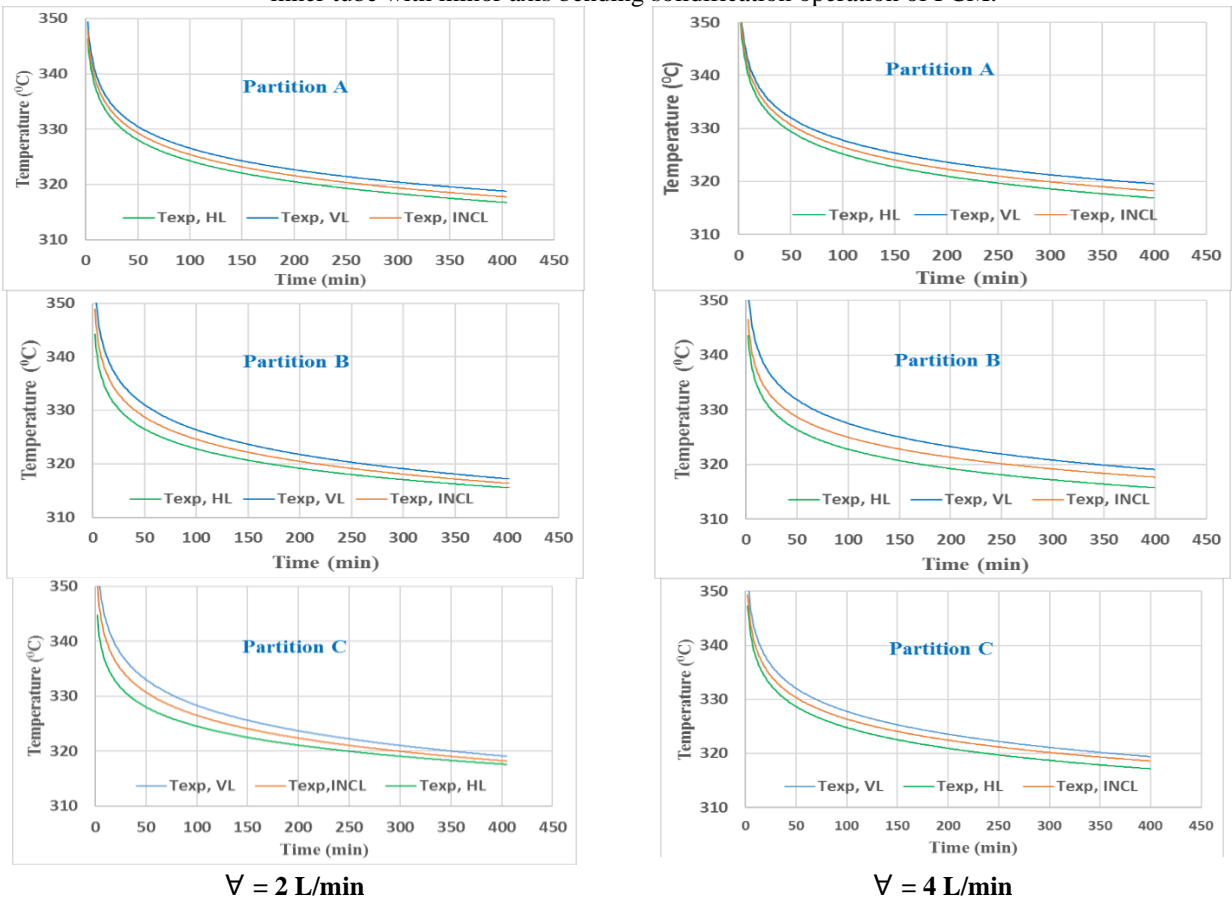
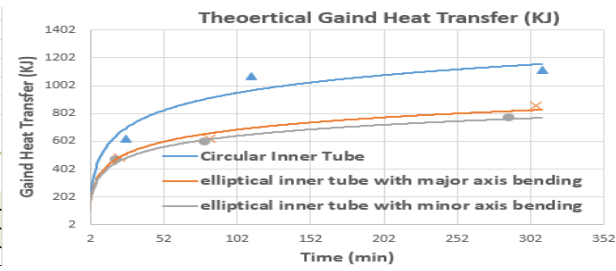
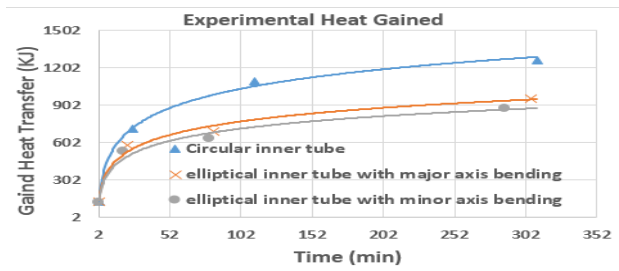


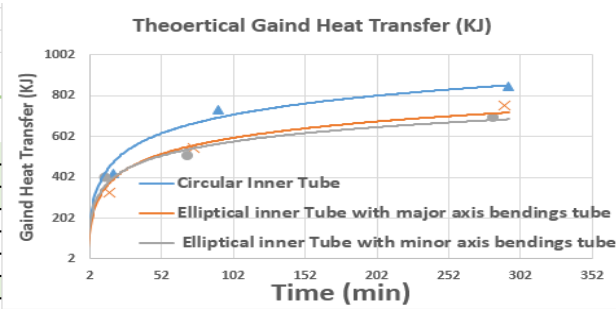
Figure. 12-C: Experimental temperature variation with time at three partitions of LHSS unit (A, B, and C) with elliptical inner tube with major axis bending solidification operation of PCM.



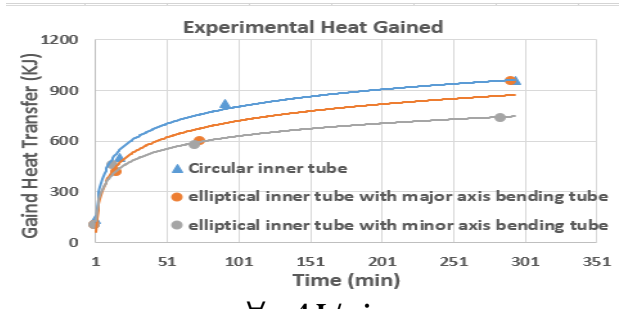
$\nabla = 2 \text{ L/min}$



$\nabla = 2 \text{ L/min}$



$\nabla = 4 \text{ L/min}$

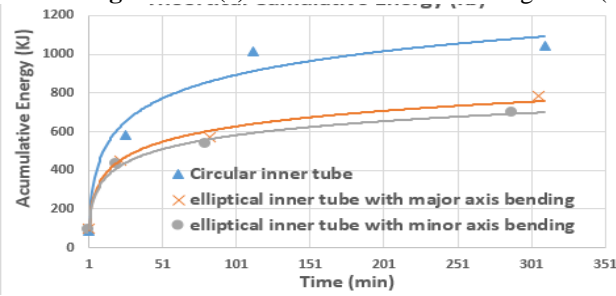


$\nabla = 4 \text{ L/min}$

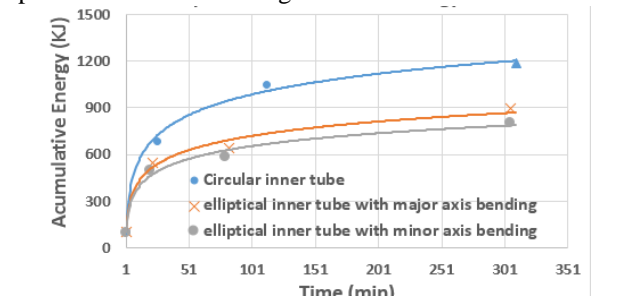
(a) Theoretical heat transfer gained

(b) Experimental heat transfer gained

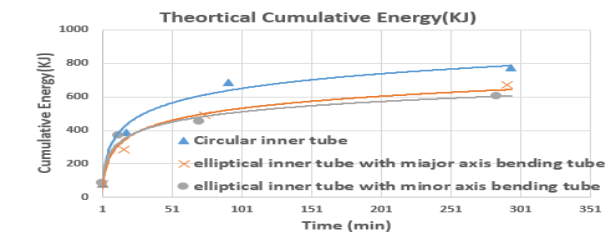
Figure. 13: (a) Theoretical heat transfer gained (b) Experimental heat transfer gained at 2 and 4 L/min.



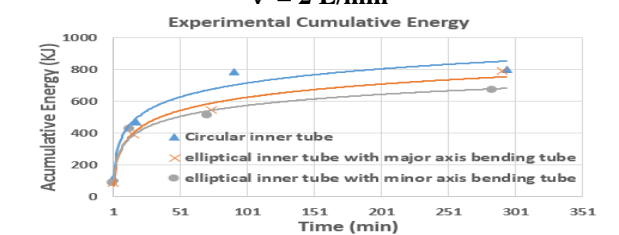
$\nabla = 2 \text{ L/min}$



$\nabla = 2 \text{ L/min}$



$\nabla = 4 \text{ L/min}$

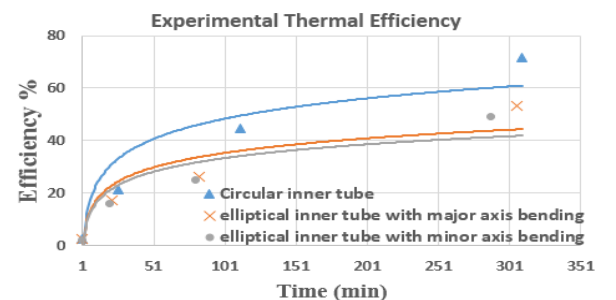


$\nabla = 4 \text{ L/min}$

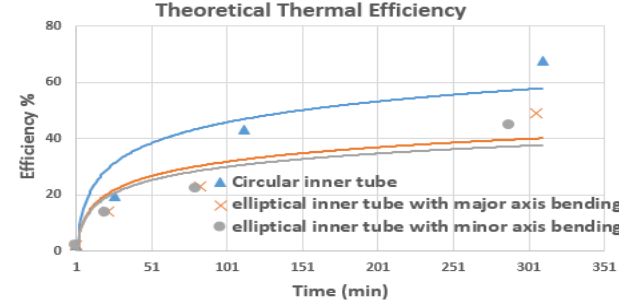
(a) Theoretical cumulative energy exchanged

(b) Experimental cumulative energy exchanged

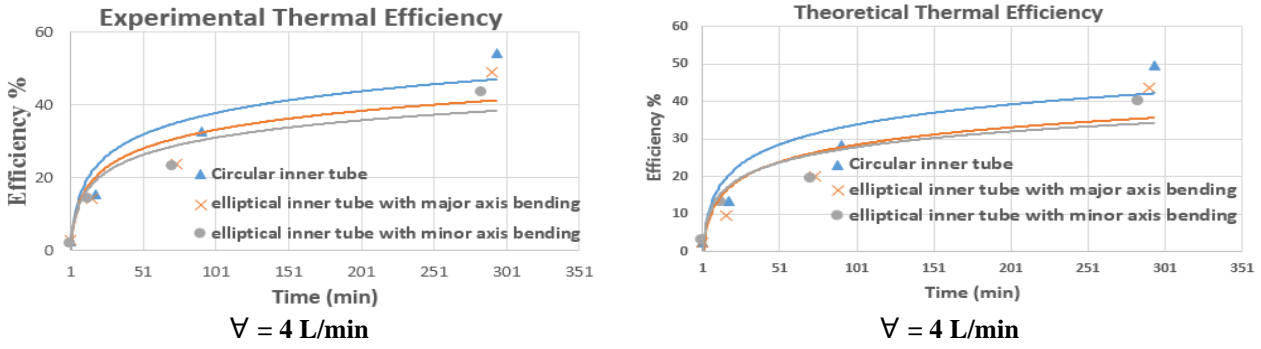
Figure. 14: (a) Theoretical Cumulative Energy Exchanged (b) and Experimental Energy Exchanged at 2 and 4 L/min



$\nabla = 2 \text{ L/min}$



$\nabla = 2 \text{ L/min}$



(a) Experimental Thermal Efficiency (b) Theoretical Thermal Efficiency
Figure. 15-A: (a) Theoretical Thermal Efficiency (b) Experimental Thermal Efficiency at 2 and 4 L/min

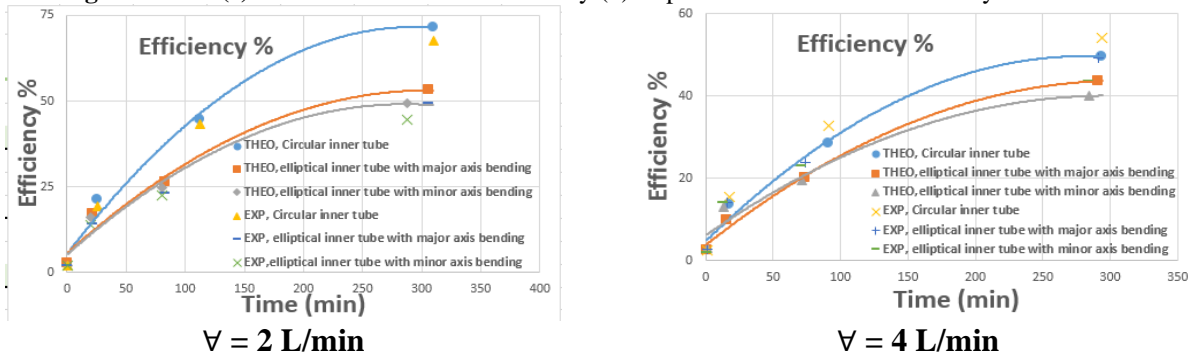


Figure. 15-B: Comparison between theoretical and experimental thermal efficiency at 2 and 4 L/min.

Table 4. Heat transfer characteristics and efficiency

HTF L/min	Geometrical shape	Time (min)	AMF	Gained Heat transfer (KJ)		Net Cumulative Energy (KJ)		Thermal Efficiency %		Efficiency Percentage Error
				Theo	EXP	Theo	EXP	Theo	EXP	
2	Shell and circular tube	1	0.98	104.3	125.9	87.3	103.7	1.81	2.31	0.216
		26	0.75	618.2	708.7	585.1	683.9	19.4	21.3	0.089
		112	0.50	1070.1	1092.3	1017.4	1050	43.19	44.7	0.034
		310	0.25	1117.8	1260.8	1045.2	1190.2	67.7	71.6	0.054
	Shell and elliptical inner tube with major axis bending tube	1	0.98	103.5	123.6	99.3	103.9	2.1	2.5	0.160
		22	0.75	483.3	576.3	449.6	544.4	14.02	17.01	0.176
		83	0.50	622.8	689.7	569.3	642.1	23.03	26.3	0.124
		306	0.25	859.1	955.1	785.1	893.6	49.2	53.2	0.075
	Shell and elliptical inner tube with minor axis bending tube	1	0.98	98.2	115.3	92.5	95.02	1.92	2.01	0.045
		20	0.75	464.1	530.1	431.3	498.4	13.6	15.9	0.142
		80	0.50	593.4	629.4	539.6	582.7	22.3	24.8	0.101
		288	0.25	770.5	872.7	696.4	801.3	44.6	48.1	0.093
4	Shell and circular tube	1	0.98	97.3	139.3	77.5	117.5	2.53	2.46	0.028
		18	0.75	423.2	503.2	387.3	469.7	13.4	15.3	0.124
		91	0.50	731.8	825.4	684.9	783.1	28.3	32.7	0.135
		294	0.25	849.4	958.6	772.6	800.39	49.6	54.2	0.085
	Shell and elliptical inner tube with major axis bending tube	1	0.98	82.5	102.1	77.3	85.3	2.5	2.73	0.084
		16	0.75	325.7	415.3	285.3	391.2	9.7	14.1	0.312
		74	0.50	546.8	597.6	492.7	547.5	20.1	23.7	0.152
		291	0.25	752.9	953.1	674.1	789.1	43.6	49.1	0.112
	Shell and elliptical inner tube with minor axis bending tube	1	0.98	88.3	102.4	83.4	85.3	2.98	2.01	0.483
		13	0.75	401.4	458.13	369.7	426.6	13.1	14.2	0.077
		71	0.50	504.5	576.3	453.1	512.8	19.4	23.1	0.160
		284	0.25	693.8	732.18	604.4	671.2	40.1	43.5	0.080

5. Conclusion

Based on the numerical simulation and experimental results, analysed how the mass flow rate and different geometric shapes of the inner tube affect the thermal performance of the LHSS unit during solidification. Several conclusions have been derived:

1. Natural convection dominates the heat transmission mechanism in all examined geometries during the solidification process, mostly due to the buoyancy force. Subsequently, the heat transfer is regulated by conduction, necessitating a longer duration to accomplish the solidification process.
2. For all tests, both the heat gained and net cumulative energy gain from paraffin wax to HTF decreased with increased the mass flow rate of HTF during the solidification process.
3. The circular inner tube has a slower response time for solidification because the center of the tube is far from the circular wall. In contrast, the center of the tube in the other shapes is closer to the wall.
4. The shell and circular tube exhibited the highest heat transfer process, resulting in the largest obtained and accumulated energy. This process achieved an efficiency of 66.37% for a duration of 240.5 minutes, specifically at a liquid percentage of 0.25. First, the inner tube undergoes bending along its major axis, followed by bending along its minor axis.
5. The maximum experimental and theoretical thermal efficiency of the paraffin wax discharging operation were in case the circular inner/shell tube with (71.6 % and 67.70 %) respectively at volumetric flow of the HTF (2 l/min) and 0.25 liquid fraction during 310 min. While, minimum experimental and theoretical efficiency of the PCM discharging operation were in case elliptical inner tube with minor axis bending/shell with (43.5 % and 40.1 %) respectively, at flow of the HTF (4 l/min) and 0.25 liquid fraction during 284 min.

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