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▶ To cite this version:

Atiyeh Aghaei Sarvari, Saeed Zeinali Heris, Mousa Mohammadpourfard, Seyed Borhan Mousavi, Patrice Estellé. Numerical investigation of TiO2 and MWCNTs turbine meter oil nanofluids: Flow and hydrodynamic properties. Fuel, 2022, 320, pp.123943. 10.1016/j.fuel.2022.123943. hal-03670044

HAL Id: hal-03670044 https://hal.science/hal-03670044v1

Submitted on 23 Sep 2022

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1	Numerical investigation of TiO ₂ and MWCNTs turbine meter oil
2	nanofluids: Flow and hydrodynamic properties
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10 Abstract

11 The main aim of the present study is to evaluate the influence of multi-walled carbon 12 nanotubes (MWCNTs) and TiO₂ nanoparticles (NPs) on lubricant and fluid flow within natural gas turbine meters. In light of this purpose, disparate concentration of TiO₂ NPs (0.1, 0.2, and 13 0.3 wt%), various volume flow rates 0.14, 0.35, and 0.12 $\frac{cm^3}{s}$ were employed for experimental 14 analyses. In the facet of simulation, Gambit software version 2. 4. 6 to mesh oil pathway and 15 Fluent software version for solving the equations were utilized. It was revealed that the pressure 16 17 drop in the presence of nanoparticles was increased. Moreover, there was an increase in 18 pressure drop value with raising the NPs concentration; for instance, the pressure drop value 19 of MWCNTs-containing nanofluids at the volume flow rate of 0.35 cm enhanced from 92.72 20 Pa to 94.64 Pa as the NPs concentration raised from 0.1 to 0.3. Furthermore, modeling 21 outcomes corroborated the uptrend in pressure drop value by increasing the volume flow rate and reported the maximum pressure drop value of $0.12 \frac{cm^3}{s}$. On the other hand, the numerical 22 results revealed that the friction coefficient is directly and inversely proportional to NPs 23

concentration and the volume flow rates, sequentially. Additionally, with increasing the
volume flow rate, the entrance length increased, and reaching the developed state was delayed.
It is worth noting as the final finding of this study that increasing the NPs concentration resulted
in decreasing the entrance length and the fast reaching of the developed state.

Keywords: Nanofluid; Lubricant; MWCNTs; TiO₂ nanoparticles; Gas turbine-meter; Pressure
 drop.

30 Nomenclature

- 31 Q Flow rate $(m^3 s^{-1})$
- 32 U Velocity (m s⁻¹)
- 33 A Cross-section area (m^2)
- 34 K Local energy dissipation coefficient
- 35 g Gravitational acceleration (m² s⁻¹)
- 36 Re Reynolds number
- 37 L Length (m)
- 38 wt Nanoparticle weight fraction (%)
- 39 D Diameter (m)
- 40 P Pressure (kg m⁻¹ s⁻²)
- 41 F Coefficient of friction
- 42 Greek letters
- 43 μ Kinematic viscosity (mm² s⁻¹)
- 44 ρ Density (kg m⁻³)
- 45 Subscripts
- 46 e Entrance

- 47 nf Nanofluid
- 48 bf Base fluid

49 **1. Introduction**

50 Tribology is the science of control and handling of wear, friction, and lubrication. 51 Lubrication is a method of preventing friction and abrasion of moving surfaces that lump 52 together. The friction is undesirable in most machines, so it is always attempted to be reduced 53 or eliminated. Friction also causes erosion, noise, reducing durability, and heat generation of 54 the equipment. Loss of energy is the most significant problem caused by wear and friction [1, 55 2]. Good lubricant quality is required to reduce friction and improve the performance of parts 56 of a machine or surfaces that are in contact with each other. Since most oils cannot be used 57 directly or purely, they are mixed with certain additives to improve their viscosity and 58 properties, most of which are nanomaterials [3-6]. Nanoparticles can enhance the tribological 59 and anti-wear characteristics of oils by one of the following mechanisms (1) rolling effect, 60 which can occur in the presence of small spherical nanoparticles rolling between the two 61 contacting surfaces altering the sliding friction to rolling friction, (2) in the mending effect the 62 mass loss will be compensated due to the incorporation of nanoparticles from the physical film, (3) nanoparticles polish the contact surface and decrease the surface roughness, and (4) 63 64 nanoparticles protect the contacting surfaces by providing a stable tribo-film [7]. Nano 65 lubricants are mainly used in the turbine meter to reduce friction and wear in bearings. Most 66 turbine meters are equipped with a lubrication system that changes the oil pump's size based 67 on the turbine meter's capacity. Constant lubrication of the turbine meter is required to achieve 68 a longer service life.

69 Carbon nanotubes (MWCNTs) have attracted attention due to their remarkable properties,
70 such as small size, high surface density, and weak covalent bonds, leading the plates to slip on

each other, reducing the friction of the contact plates in the lubrication system [8-13]. In
addition, MWCNTs/nanofluid has excellent physicochemical and heat transfer properties viz.
thermal conductivity, high thermal stability, high viscosity index, low pour point, and high
flash point [14-23].

Titanium dioxide (TiO₂) nanoparticles are used in many industries because of their excellent heat transfer, lubricity, optical, electrical, and catalytic properties. These applications include industrial pigments, environmental clean-up photocatalysts, skin protectors in sunscreens, and lubricants as additives [24-29]. Many investigations have shown the anti-friction characteristics of TiO₂ nanoparticles due to their inherent anti-friction functionality, ease of synthesis, and low toxicity [30-33].

81 Different parameters of nanoparticles such as structure, functional surface groups, and 82 concentrations affect the tribological properties of lubricants. The shape of the nanoparticles is 83 another crucial parameter; the nanospheres experience more pressure at a given load than the 84 nanoparticles because the former contact surface area is much smaller. Therefore, using layer 85 nanoparticles can minimize the deformation of the wear surfaces [34-38]. Studies have shown 86 that even a small concentration of nanoparticles can effectively improve the tribological 87 properties. However, all the operating system parameters must be considered to find the optimum concentration for the minimum coefficient of friction [39-42]. Numerous studies have 88 89 been conducted to investigate the effect of TiO₂ nanoparticles and MWCNTs on the 90 tribological properties of base fluid, which in most cases improved the performance of the 91 lubricants and oils [43-50].

Heris et al. [51] investigated the thermal conductivity of turbine oil-based nanofluids inside a circular tube under laminar flow and constant flow rate. Three different nanofluids were prepared using TiO₂, CuO, and Al₂O₃ nanoparticles at different concentrations. The results showed an increase in heat transfer coefficient and Nusselt number with the addition of

96 nanoparticles. They also introduced a parameter as the ratio of nanofluid pressure drop to base 97 fluid pressure drop and observed that this parameter was always greater than one. In other 98 words, the addition of nanoparticles increased the pressure drop. Hosseinzadeh et al. [52] 99 evaluated the effect of magnetic field and nanoparticle concentrations on heat transfer 100 coefficient and friction in the presence of water and Fe₃O₄ nanoparticles. The experiments were 101 performed inside a horizontal tube with a diameter of 7 mm and a length of 1 meter in different 102 Reynolds numbers. The results showed that the Nusselt number increased with the addition of 103 nanoparticles and Reynolds numbers. Additionally, the same result was observed with 104 increasing magnetic field strength. The presence of nanoparticles increased the coefficient of 105 friction but increasing the intensity of the magnetic field had no significant effect on the 106 coefficient of friction. Furthermore, increasing the Reynolds number decreased the coefficient 107 of friction. Ahmad Ali et al. [53] conducted a study to assess the effect of TiO₂ and Al₂O₃ 108 nanoparticles on the thermophysical and tribological characteristics of engine oil. The 109 outcomes revealed that the coefficient of friction decreased by $40 \sim 50\%$ and the tire wear rate 110 decreased by 20~30%. They concluded that adding nanoparticles could remarkably enhance the thermophysical and tribological properties of engine oil. Borda et al. [54] examined the 111 112 effect of Cu nanoparticles on mineralized and synthesized oil-based esters considering different 113 concentrations. Their findings exhibited that the addition of Cu nanoparticles did not have a 114 good effect on friction and wear on the synthesized oil. However, adding these nanoparticles 115 to mineral oil decreased the coefficient of friction and improved the wear properties, especially 116 at 0.3 wt% of the nanoparticles. Laad et al. [55] added TiO₂ nanoparticles to improve the 117 lubricating oil properties. Nanofluids were prepared at different concentrations, 0.3, 0.4, and 0.5 wt%. A pin-on-disc tribometer was used to perform abrasion and friction tests. The results 118 119 showed that the coefficient of friction increased with increasing the nanoparticles 120 concentration. They asserted that the addition of this nanoparticle could reduce the amount of 121 wear and coefficient of friction and improve the lubricant properties. Curà et al. [56] studied 122 the effect of graphene nanoplates on the tribological performance of lubricants considering 123 different concentrations. It was observed that the addition of the used nanoparticles could 124 significantly improve the tribological features of the lubricants. Hussein et al. [57] 125 experimentally examined the effect of MWCNT/water nanofluids on heat transfer attributes 126 and pressure drop at diverse concentrations ranging from 0.075–0.25 wt%. The experiments 127 were conducted inside a circular mini tube under a laminar flow condition. The results showed 128 that as the nanoparticle concentration increased, the coefficient of friction, the coefficient of 129 heat transfer, and pressure drop increased. A 10% increase in pressure drop was reported at the 130 highest concentration of nanoparticles. The effect of adding MWCNTs and graphene 131 nanoplatelets on the thermal properties of the diesel oil at different concentrations and flow 132 rates were assessed by Naddaf et al. [58]. The outcomes confirmed that the thermal properties 133 of the prepared nanofluids were dependent on the concentration of nanoparticles. They further 134 reported that both the convective heat transfer coefficient and the pressure drop increased with 135 the addition of nanoparticles. Mousavi et al. [59] investigated the thermophysical and rheological properties of MoS₂/diesel oil-based nano lubricants. A pin-on-disc friction and 136 137 wear tester was employed to evaluate the friction and anti-wear properties. The highest 138 viscosity and viscosity index were observed at the highest concentration in the study, 0.7 wt%. 139 Ajeel et al. [60] evaluated the simultaneous effect of corrugated walls and turbulent flow of 140 nanofluids on thermohydraulic performance. The experiments were conducted at diverse Reynolds numbers ranging in 10,000–30,000 and a heat flux of $10000 \frac{W}{m^2 K}$. Three different 141 142 channel shapes were considered as a semicircular, wavy channel, trapezoidal wavy channel, 143 and straight channel. The nanofluids were prepared in volumetric percentages of 1% and 2% of Al₂O₃. The results showed that the nanofluid flow inside the trapezoidal corrugated channel 144 145 increased 63.54% of the heat transfer coefficient and 1.37 times the pressure drop compared to

the straight channel. Pourpasha et al. [61] assessed the effect of CNT on the thermophysical and tribological features of turbine oil meter nano lubricants. The thermophysical properties of lubricating oil such as viscosity index, kinematic viscosity, flash point, pressure drop, and coefficient of friction were measured. It was found that the addition of CNT could enhance lubrication characteristics and improve the thermophysical of the turbine meter oil nano lubricants.

152 Based on the performed literature survey, most studies in the field of heat transfer characteristics of nano lubricants announce a positive effect on the friction-reduction behavior 153 154 and thermophysical characteristics considering different nano additives. However, in the 155 previous investigations, none of the studies were conducted while considering TiO₂ and 156 MWCNTs nanoparticles in the turbine meter oil. Furthermore, heat transfer characteristics and 157 tribological behaviors of the TiO2 and MWCNTs nano lubricants have not been well-158 understood. It is worth mentioning that different effective parameters such as concentration of 159 nanoparticles, flow rates, and pressure drops were comprehensively studied in this study.

In this study, to the best of our knowledge, lubrication oil simulation has been measured inside the turbine for the first time. The velocity profiles, pressure drop values, coefficient of friction of the base fluid, and nano lubricants considering MWCNTs and TiO₂ nanoparticles considering different weight percentages and volume flow rates were comprehensively investigated.

165 **2. Experimental Section**

166 **2.1. Materials**

167 Table 1 lists the specifications of the gas turbine meter oil manufactured by Shell Oil 168 Company, USA. The TiO_2 and MWCNTs were commercially purchased from SkySpring 169 Nanomaterials, USA, and US Research Nanomaterials, USA, respectively. These data were

- reported by Pourpasha et al. [61]. Table 2 represents the specifications of the used
 nanomaterials. Figures 1 and 2 represent the SEM images of TiO₂ nanoparticles and MWCNTs,
 respectively. The specification of nanofluids is listed in Table 3.
- 173

Table 1 Specifications of gas turbine meter oil.

Properties	Unit	ASTM standard	Value
Density	Kg/m ³	D1298	775
Viscosity at 40°C	cSt	D445	21.88
Viscosity at 100°C	cSt	D445	4.6
Viscosity index (VI)	_	D2270	130
Pour point	°C	D97	-40
Flash point	°C	D92	220

175

Table 2 Physical properties of nanoparticles.

Nanoparticles	Morphology	Purity (%)	Average diameter (nm)	Density (kg/m ³)	Color
TiO ₂	Spherical	99.5	10	4230	White
MWCNTs	Cylindrical	>95	13	2100	Black/Gray





Fig. 1. SEM image of TiO₂ nanoparticles.



Fig. 2. SEM image of MWCNTs.



Nanofluid	Density (kg/m ³)	Viscosity at 40°C (cSt)
0 (Base oil)	775	21.88
0.1 wt% TiO ₂	776	21.407
0.2 wt% TiO ₂	776.4	21.645
0.3 wt% TiO ₂	777	21.826
0.1 wt% MWCNTs	775.8	21.651
0.2 wt% MWCNTs	776.4	21.852
0.3 wt% MWCNTs	777	22.071

184 **2.2.** Methods for experiment

The velocity inlet is essential information needed for modeling nanofluid flow through the gas turbine meter conduit. The oil pathway and the pump were used to measure the velocity. Figure 3 shows the oil inlet pathway for the velocity measurement system. A certain amount of oil was pumped through the oil pump to the oil pathway to measure inlet velocity. The inlet velocity was determined by measuring the time to complete oil outflow using equation 1.

$$Q = U \times A \tag{1}$$

190 where *Q* is the volume flow rate (m³/s), *U* is the velocity (m/s), and *A* is the cross-sectional 191 area (m²).





Fig. 3. Turbine meter oil inlet pathway for the velocity measurement system.

194 **2.3.** The pressure drops from theoretical relationships

Two types of energy loss for pipes can be considered: first is the loss due to the change in the diameter of the pipes and the types of joints (minor loss). Second is the loss due to friction in the pipes (major loss), higher than the other. Factors such as changing the diameter of the pipes and the existence of different types of joints (knees, valves, and curvature in the pipes.) cause the deformation of the flow lines resulting in energy loss. The following formula can calculate this type of loss [62]:

$$h_f = K \frac{U^2}{g} \tag{2}$$

$$\Delta P = \rho g h_f \tag{3}$$

In the above relation, K is the local energy dissipation coefficient (the empirical coefficient obtained from the corresponding tables without dimension), U is the velocity (m/s) (the inlet 203 velocity), ΔP is the pressure drop (Pa), ρ as density (kg/m^3) , and g is the gravitational 204 acceleration (m^2/s) .

Depending on the shape and geometry, this type of pressure loss involves a pressure drop caused by the presence of a knee and a sudden change in the cross-sectional area. The coefficient of local energy loss resulting from the cross-sectional area change can be obtained from equation 4 [63]:

$$K = \left(1 - \frac{A_1}{A_2}\right)^2 \tag{4}$$

209 where A_1 is a small cross-section and A_2 is a large cross-section.

The simulation has been performed at a constant temperature without heat transfer, steadystate condition, and under the laminar flow condition. The frictional pressure drop is dependent on the friction between the fluid and the pipe, which is shown for a circular pipe with the Darcy-Weisbach relation.

$$\Delta P = F_D \times \frac{\rho L}{2} \times \frac{U^2}{D} \tag{5}$$

$$F_D = \frac{64}{Re} \tag{6}$$

$$Re = \frac{\rho UD}{\mu} \tag{7}$$

214 Where ΔP is pressure drop [Pa], F_D is coefficient of friction, D is diameter [m], L length of 215 pipe [m], ρ is density [Kg/m³], U is velocity [m/s], and μ is viscosity [kg/m.s].

216 **2.4.** Developing entrance length and developed flow and theoretical relationships

For laminar flow, the hydrodynamic entrance length can be obtained from the followingequation [64]:

$$\frac{l_e}{D} = 0.058 \, Re$$

220 where l_e is the entrance length and D is the diameter of the pipe.

221 **3.** Numerical simulation

222 **3.1.** Simulation of nanofluids

223 As mentioned, this study aims to simulate the flow of nanofluids inside the oil pathway. Single-phase and general two-phase methods are used to model the flows involving 224 225 nanoparticles. In the two-phase approach, nanofluids are considered two different liquid and 226 solid phases with different momentums. The equations resulting from the two-phase theory are 227 difficult to deal with and cannot be easily applied for nanofluids. In the single-phase approach, 228 both the fluid phase and nanoparticles are considered a single homogeneous phase. Since the 229 particles are ultrafine and become easily fluidized, all the equations of continuity, motion, and 230 energy for pure fluid may be directly extended to nanofluids. In this study, due to the low 231 concentration of nanoparticles and the experimental determination of properties such as 232 viscosity and density, the homogeneous model has been used to simulate the nanofluid flow 233 through the gas-turbine oil meter path.

234 **3.2.** Governing Equations

The pressure drop is obtained from the continuity and momentum balance equations.Equations 5, 7, and 8 represent these equations.

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \nabla (\rho \vec{v}) = 0 \tag{7}$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}(\rho\vec{v}) + \nabla (\rho\vec{v}\vec{v}) = -\nabla P + \nabla \tau + \rho\vec{g} + \vec{F}$$
(8)

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Accepted manuscript / Final version

$$\frac{\Delta P}{L} = F_D * \frac{\rho}{2} * \frac{V^2}{D} \tag{9}$$

238

where P is the static pressure, ΔP is a pressure drop, $\rho \vec{g}$ and \vec{F} are the gravitational body force and exterior body forces, F_D is coefficient of friction, and *D* is diameter [63].

In the homogeneous model, the thermophysical properties of nanofluid such as viscosityand density must be used in continuity, momentum, and energy equations.

In the present study, experimental values of viscosity and density are given by Pourpasha etal. [61] were used in the continuity and momentum equations.

243 **3.3.** Boundary conditions and needed information

244 The purpose of this present study is to investigate the effect of MWCNTs and TiO₂ 245 nanoparticles on the modeling of lubricant fluid flow within gas turbine meters. A lubrication 246 system is necessary due to the high degree of wear and coefficient of friction of the bearings. 247 In this regard, the lubricating oil pathway inside the gas turbine meters has been investigated 248 and simulated. The CMM scanner scans the oil path in figure 4.. The condition used as the 249 boundary condition is the inlet velocity is 0.00483, 0.0409, and 0.012 (m/s). The dimension of 250 the oil pathway is shown in figure 5. The oil pathway from part 1 to part 4 is iron, and part 5 is 251 steel. The simulation is performed at a constant temperature without heat transfer, steady-state 252 condition, and under the laminar flow condition.



254

Fig. 4. (a) Scanned and (b) the real photo of the turbine meter oil pathway.



255

256

Fig. 5. Dimension of oil pathway.

257 **3.4.** Numerical Analysis

The oil pathway is meshed by Gambit software version 2. 4. 6 and the equations have been solved by Fluent software version 19.1. ANSYS-FLUENT software has been used to solve the 260 governing equations discretized with a double-precision solver using the SIMPLEC algorithm. 261 The convergence criteria for continuity, momentum, and energy equations were all set to 10^{-6} .

For the mesh independence check, figure 6 is plotted, and given the optimal number of cells, 368462 is selected. The absolute convergence criteria for the continuum equation and the velocity equation with residuals below have been considered.



265

266

Fig. 6. Pressure drop variations versus cell number.

267 **4. Results**

268 4.1. Results of TiO₂/turbine meter oil nanofluids

This section discusses the effect of increasing volume flow rate and mass percent of nanoparticles on pressure drop, coefficient of friction, and velocity profile. Furthermore, the effect of simultaneous mass percent of nanoparticles and volume flow rate on pressure drop and coefficient of friction are discussed. Different results are presented in Table 4 to compare the outlet velocity of the simulation and the theoretical relationships. The differences between experimental and numerical values of outlet velocities are 2.48%, emphasizing the accuracy and correctness of the numerical simulation. Table 5 lists the pressure drop values of TiO₂/turbine meter oil nanofluid at volume flow rates of 0.14, 0.35, and $1.2 \frac{cm^3}{s}$. Figure 7 shows

277 the effect of TiO₂ concentration on the pressure drop variations as a function of flow rate.

278

 Table 4 The velocity values of modeling and theoretical relationships.

Fluid	Inlet velocity (m/s)	Modeling outlet	Theoretical outlet	Difference (%)
		velocity (m/s)	velocity (m/s)	
Base oil	0.00483	0.0106	0.01087	2.48

Table 5 Modeling and theoretical pressure drop values of TiO₂ nanofluids at different flow rates.

Concentration (wt%)	Flow rate $(\frac{cm^3}{s})$	Modeling pressure drop (Pa)	Theoretical pressure drop (Pa)	Difference
				(%)
0 (base oil)	0.14	36.28	36.44	0.439
	0.35	90.59	90.64	0.055
	1.2	314.91	310.74	1.342
0.1 TiO ₂	0.14	36.73	36.90	0.461
	0.35	91.68	92.60	0.994
	1.2	318.65	313.17	1.750
0.2 TiO ₂	0.14	37.15	37.31	0.429
	0.35	92.72	93.08	0.387
	1.2	322.20	316.80	1.705
0.3 TiO ₂	0.14	37.50	37.67	0.451
	0.35	93.60	93.62	0.021
	1.2	325.19	319.81	1.682



Fig. 7. The effect of TiO₂ concentration on the pressure drop variations as a function of flow rate.

284 The maximum difference between the values of the pressure drop obtained from the 285 simulation and the theoretical pressure drop is 1.75%, indicating acceptable accuracy of the 286 simulation. According to figure 7 and Table 5, it can be seen that by increasing the 287 concentration of TiO₂ nanoparticles at a given volume flow rate, the pressure drop increased 288 due to the increased viscosity. As the concentration of the nanoparticles increases, the 289 interaction between the nanoparticles increases, which also increases the viscosity. According to equation 5, the increment of viscosity can lead to an increase in pressure drop. To illustrate, 290 by increasing the concentration from 0.1 to 0.3 wt% at a flow rate of $1.2 \frac{cm^3}{s}$, the pressure drop 291 292 reached 318.65 Pa from 325.19 Pa. The higher the flow rates and the concentrations, the more 293 pressure drop. The reason for this variation can be due to the insignificant change in viscosity 294 at lower concentrations since nanoparticles could not affect the viscosity. Other scholars have 295 indicated similar results in the experimental investigation [57, 58].

Figure 8 exhibits pressure drop variation of TiO₂ nanofluids at different volume flow rates. According to figure 8 and Table 5, it can be seen that as the flow rate increased, pressure drop increased for all concentrations, as it is followed by the fluid velocity increase and the direct

299 relationship of pressure drop with fluid velocity (equation 5). Additionally, considering 300 equation 7, the Reynolds number is related to tube length, velocity, viscosity, and nanofluid 301 density. Given the constant length of the tube and minor changes in viscosity and density, the 302 leading cause of the pressure drop is related to an increase in flow rate. The highest pressure drop rate at any given concentration is related to the highest flow rate. For instance, by 303 increasing the volume flow rate from 0.14 to $1.2 \frac{cm^3}{s}$, the pressure drop increased from 36.34 304 305 Pa to 318.65 Pa for 0.1 wt% TiO₂ nanofluid; thus, the volume flow rate has a significant effect 306 on the pressure drop. In a study conducted by Mousavi et al. [59], the pressure drop variations 307 of the prepared nanofluids in a tube were investigated. Their findings were consistent with the 308 modeling results.



309

310

Fig. 8. Pressure drop variation of TiO₂ nanofluids at different volume flow rates.

Figure 9 represents the effect of volume flow rate on the pressure drop ratio of TiO₂ nanofluids and pure oil. It can be seen that the increase in the volume flow rate of all prepared TiO₂ nanofluids led to a decrease in the pressure drop of the nanofluid to the base fluid. As the settling probability decreases; there will be a reduction in the high-volume flow rate, the ratio of nanofluid pressure drop to base fluid pressure drop. By increasing the flow rate at the same concentration, the number of nanoparticles per volume was reduced, leading to a decrease in apparent viscosity. Also, this pressure drop ratio intensified with an increase in the concentration of nanoparticles at given volume flow rates. Pourfarhang et al. [65] studied the nanofluid flowing inside a car radiator and found that with increasing flow, the ratio of pressure drop to the base fluid decreases, and this result is consistent with the outputs of the simulation.



321

322

Fig. 9. Pressure drop ratio of TiO_2 nanofluids to base oil at different flow rates.

323 To investigate the coefficient of friction variations (Darcy's Weisbach coefficient of 324 friction), the coefficient of friction of a pipe with a larger diameter was called F_1 . The coefficient of friction of a pipe with a smaller diameter was called F_2 . Table 6 is provided to 325 326 compare the changes made on the coefficient of friction. Based on Table 6, the increase in the 327 concentration of nanoparticles led to an increase in the coefficient of friction. At higher 328 concentrations, the viscosity of the fluid and the coefficient of friction increased due to the 329 agglomeration of nanoparticles. It is also apparent that as the volume flow rate increases, the coefficient of friction decreases since the coefficient of friction is inversely related to the fluid 330

velocity (Eq. 5). Many researchers have also found that the coefficient of friction increases
with the increasing concentration of nanoparticles and decreases with the increasing flow rate
[1, 2, 59, 66].

Concentration (wt%)	Inlet velocity (m/s)	<i>F</i> ₁	<i>F</i> ₂
0 (base oil)	0.00483	45.88	31.37
	0.012	18.47	12.64
	0.0409	5.42	3.61
0.1 TiO ₂	0.00483	46.38	31.90
	0.012	18.67	12.78
	0.0409	5.48	3.78
0.2 TiO ₂	0.00483	46.89	32.00
	0.012	18.87	12.92
	0.0409	5.54	3.80
0.3 TiO ₂	0.00483	47.30	32.32
	0.012	19.04	13.03
	0.0409	5.59	3.83

Table 6 Coefficient of friction at different concentrations and velocities of TiO₂ nanofluids.

Figure 10 shows the effect of adding TiO₂ nanoparticles on the velocity profile and reaching the fully developed state. It shows the state of the velocity profile at the tube's inlet for the base fluid and nanofluids containing 0.1, 0.2, and 0.3 wt% of TiO₂ nanoparticles at a volume flow rate of 0.14 $\frac{cm^3}{s}$. In addition, with the addition of TiO₂ nanoparticles and increasing the concentration of nanoparticles, reaching the developed state occurs faster. Adding TiO₂ nanoparticles led to an increase in viscosity; thus, considering equations 7 and 8, Reynolds number and the entrance length decreased, and reaching the fully developed state occurredfaster.



Fig. 10. Velocity profile of TiO₂ nanofluids at pipe inlet at a volume flow rate of $0.14 \left(\frac{cm^3}{s}\right)$ and different concentrations.

343

346 Figure 11 exhibits the effect of volume flow rate of 0.2 wt% TiO₂ nanofluid on the velocity 347 profile. It shows the velocity profile status at the inlet of the pipe containing 0.2 wt% of TiO₂ 348 nanoparticles at different volume flow rates. It is observed that the increase of flow rate can 349 delay reaching the developed state. Because with increasing flow, the velocity increases, and 350 according to Equation 7, the Reynolds number increases. According to Equation 8, with 351 increasing Reynolds number, the entrance length increases, and reaching the fully developed 352 state is delayed. Gholinia et al. [67] examined the nanofluid flow inside a circular cylinder and 353 observed that increasing the velocity caused the development state to be delayed.



Fig. 11. Velocity profile of 0.2 wt% TiO₂ nanofluids at pipe inlet considering different volume
 flow rates.

357 4.2. Results of MWCNTs/turbine meter oil nanofluid

The effect of increasing the concentration of MWCNTs and volume flow rate on pressure drop, coefficient of friction, and velocity profile are discussed in this section. Moreover, the simultaneous effect of increasing the concentration of nanoparticles and volume flow rate on pressure drop are scrutinized.

Table 7 lists the pressure drop values of MWCNTs nanofluids at different volume flow rates. Figure 12 shows the effect of MWCNTs concentration on the variations of the pressure drop as a function of flow rate.

365

Table 7 Modeling and theoretical pressure drop values of MWCNTs nanofluids at different flow

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rates.

Concentration (wt%)	Flow rate $(\frac{cm^3}{s})$	Modeling pressure drop (Pa)	Theoretical pressure drop (Pa)	Difference (%)
0 (base oil)	0.14	36.28	36.44	0.439
	0.35	90.59	90.64	0.055
	1.2	314.91	310.74	1.342
0.1 MWCNTs	0.14	37.14	37.32	0.482
	0.35	92.72	92.80	0.086
	1.2	322.19	318.63	1.117
0.2 MWCNTs	0.14	37.47	37.68	0.557
	0.35	93.60	93.69	0.096
	1.2	325.18	319.81	1.679
0.3 MWCNTs	0.14	38.00	38.18	0.471
	0.35	94.64	94.65	0.010
	1.2	328.73	323.41	1.645





flow rate.

371 According to Figure 12 and Table 7, the pressure drop of the nanofluid can be increased by 372 increasing the concentration of MWCNTs at a given volume flow rate. The main reason for the 373 increased viscosity is that as the concentration of MWCNTs increases, the collision between 374 the MWCNTs increases because of increased random motion and increases viscosity. Due to the direct relationship of pressure drop with a viscosity (Eq. 5), pressure drop at higher 375 376 percentages of MWCNTs shows a higher increase. At low concentrations of MWCNTs, the 377 upward pressure drop of nanofluid is much lower than that of high nanofluid concentrations. 378 In other words, at a low concentration of MWCNTs, the increase in pressure drop is not very 379 noticeable due to the unremarkable change in viscosity of nanofluids at low concentrations.

380 Figure 13 shows pressure drop variation of MWCNTs nanofluids at different volume flow 381 rates. According to Figure 13 and Table 7, it can be concluded that by increasing the volume 382 flow rate, the pressure drop increases, since the increase in volume flow rate results in an 383 increase in fluid velocity and the direct relationship between pressure drop and fluid velocity 384 (Eq. 5). To illustrate, at a 0.3 wt% concentration of MWCNTs, the pressure drop was raised 385 from 38 Pa to 94.64 Pa and then to 328.78 Pa. The results show the significant effect of 386 increasing discharge on increasing pressure drop. In a study conducted by Hussein et al. [57] 387 on a current-carrying nanofluid in a circular – mini - tube, they observed that with increasing 388 flow rate, the pressure drop increased, which was quite similar to the simulation results.





Fig. 13. Pressure drop variation of MWCNTs nanofluids at different volume flow rates.

391 Figure 14 exhibits the effect of volume flow rate and concentration of MWCNTs on pressure drop. It can be seen that by increasing the volume flow rate at all concentrations, the pressure 392 393 drop of nanofluids to the base fluids decreased. As the volume flow rate increased, the rate of 394 fluid coalescence increased, and the fluid dispersion became uniform. Since nanoparticles' 395 effect was the least at the lowest concentration, nanofluid properties were close to base fluid properties, and the lowest proportion of pressure drop could be seen at the lowest nanoparticle 396 397 concentration and the highest volume flow rates. Moreover, the probability of sedimentation 398 decreases with the trend. As a result of the high-volume flow rate, the pressure drop rate relative 399 to the base fluid decreased. Therefore, using nanofluids in high volume flow rates will cause 400 less pressure drop and be more appropriate. In the research of Pourfarhang et al. [65] and 401 Naddaf et al. [58], it was observed that the pressure drop ratio of nanofluid to the base fluid 402 decreased with increasing flow rate.





Fig. 14. Pressure drop ratio of MWCNTs nanofluids to base oil at different flow rates.

Table 8 lists the coefficient of frictions at different concentrations of MWCNTs nanofluids. Considering Table 8, as the concentration of MWCNTs increased, the coefficient of friction increased. It is also apparent that as the volume flow rate increased, the coefficient of friction decreased because the coefficient of friction is inversely related to the fluid velocity (Eq. 5).

409 Figure 15 presents the effect of adding MWCNTs on the velocity profile and reaching the 410 fully developed state. It shows the status of the velocity profile at tube inlet for base fluid and nanofluids containing 0.1, 0.2, and 0.3 wt% of MWCNTs at a volume flow rate of 0.35 $\frac{cm^3}{s}$. As 411 412 can be seen, with the addition of MWCNTs and increasing the concentration of MWCNTs, 413 reaching the developed state can be faster. The Reynolds number decreased with the addition 414 of MWCNTs since they could increase the viscosity. According to Equation 8, with decreasing 415 Reynold number, the entrance length decreases and reaches the fully developed state. The same 416 experimental results were reported in a study conducted by Bao et al. [68].

417

Concentration (wt%)	Inlet velocity (m/s)	F ₁	F ₂
0 (base oil)	0.00483	45.88	31.37
	0.012	18.47	12.64
	0.0409	5.42	3.61
0.1 MWCNTs	0.00483	46.96	32.08
	0.012	18.89	12.78
	0.0409	5.54	3.80
0.2 MWCNTs	0.00483	47.34	32.36
	0.012	19.05	12.93
	0.0409	5.59	3.83
0.3 MWCNTs	0.00483	47.83	32.70
	0.012	19.25	13.18
	0.0409	5.65	3.87

419	Table 8 Coefficient of friction at different concentrations and velocities of MWCNTs nanofluids.



422 **Fig. 15.** Velocity profile at pipe inlet at a volume flow rate of $0.35 \left(\frac{cm^3}{s}\right)$ and different 423 concentrations of MWCNTs.

Figure 16 shows the variations of the velocity profile at the inlet of the tube for nanofluids containing 0.1, 0.2, and 0.3 wt% of MWCNTs at a volume flow rate of $0.35 \frac{cm^3}{s}$. Increasing flow rate can delay the developed state because the velocity increases, and according to Equation 7, the Reynolds number increases. According to Equation 8, with increasing Reynolds number, the entrance length increases, and reaching the developed state is delayed.





Fig. 16. Velocity profile of 0.3 wt% MWCNTs nanofluids at different volume flow rates.

431 **4.3.** Comparison of the results of TiO₂ and MWCNTs nanofluids

432 Based on the acquired findings, it can be concluded that at a constant concentration of 433 nanoparticles, the MWCNTs/turbine meter oil nanofluid had a higher pressure drop and friction 434 coefficient than TiO₂/turbine meter oil nanofluid. This phenomenon occurred due to the larger 435 dimensions of MWCNTs (13 nm) than the TiO₂ nanoparticles (10 nm). The number of particles 436 in the nanofluid containing MWCNTs was greater than the nanofluid containing TiO₂ 437 nanoparticles. Thus, increasing these particles' movement and random motion increased the pressure drop of MWCNTs/turbine meter oil nanofluid. Additionally, due to the shape of the 438 439 MWCNTs, they were more likely to be agglomerated and be more viscous; accordingly, they 440 increased the pressure drop and coefficient of friction.

Figure 17 shows the velocity profile of nanofluids containing TiO₂ and MWCNTs at different positions. It is observed that nanofluids containing MWCNTs developed faster than nanofluids containing TiO₂. Since the viscosity of MWCNTs/turbine meter oil was higher than
that of TiO₂/turbine meter oil, the Reynolds number was further reduced and developed faster.
Toghraei et al. [69] simulated the flow of a fluid containing platinum and copper
nanoparticles into a nanochannel. They reported that since the size of platinum particles was
larger than copper, the nanofluid containing platinum developed faster.



449 **Fig. 17.** Velocity profile of 0.2 wt% TiO₂ and MWCNTs nanofluids at a flow rate of 0.14 450 $\frac{cm^3}{s}$ at different positions.

451 **5.** Conclusion

448

This simulation aimed to investigate the effect of MWCNTs and TiO₂ nanoparticles on the performance of the gas turbine meter oil. Moreover, the pressure drop and coefficient of friction of TiO₂/turbine meter oil and MWCNTs/turbine meter oil nanofluids were studied. 455 With the increase of concentration of nanoparticles, the pressure drop increased due to the 456 higher viscosity of the prepared nanofluids at higher concentrations. Furthermore, As the 457 volume flow rate increased, the nanofluid pressure drop increased. It was further observed that 458 the coefficient of friction increased with the increase of nanoparticles concentration at a 459 constant volume flow rate. Considering each nanofluid, it was concluded that the coefficient 460 of friction was inversely related to the volume flow rate. Concerning the physical 461 characteristics of the pipe, it was reported that at higher concentrations of nanoparticles, a faster 462 fully developed state occurred. Moreover, the MWCNTs/turbine meter oil nanofluids 463 represented a higher coefficient of friction and pressure drops compared to the TiO₂/turbine meter oil nanofluid. 464

465 **Author contribution:**

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Borhan Mousavi:, Formal analysis, Writing original draft. Patrice Estellé: Validation,
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