

## Special issue on IMAT/ICSERA conferences in 2021

Patrice Estellé, Ummikalsom Abidin, Natrah Kamruzaman, Normah Mohd-Ghazali

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#### Special Issue about IMAT/ICSERA conferences in 2021

#### Patrice Estellé \*, Ummikalsom Abidin, Natrah Kamruzaman, Normah Mohd-Ghazali <sup>v</sup>

#### Univ Rennes, LGCGM, F-35000 Rennes, France

#### Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, 81310 Johor Bahru, Johor, Malaysia

Corresponding authors: \* patrice.estelle@univ-rennes1.fr; \* normah@mail.fkm.utm.my



Patrice Estellé Univ Rennes, LGCGM, France Associate Editor JTAC



Ummikalsom Abidin Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia



Natrah Kamruzaman Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia



Normah Mohd-Ghazali Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia Chair of ICSERA 2021

The International Meeting on Advances in Thermofluids (IMAT) is an initiative to bring together academicians, research scientists, and all interested parties from all over the world in a common platform to foster discussion, exchange ideas for the exploration of future research in the fields of fluid mechanics, heat transfer, thermodynamics, combustion, and all topics related to thermal fluids. IMAT has been conducted annually since 2008, held on a rotational basis between Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM), National University of Singapore (NUS), and Universitas Indonesia (UI) with Kyushu University joining in 2019.

Meanwhile, the International Conference on Saving Energy in Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning (ICSERA), which started in 2009, is held every two years. The conference is a continuous effort to address issues related to effective and efficient energy use in the air-conditioning and refrigeration industry, a major contributor to increasing energy demand and environmental impact. Under the umbrella of the Society of Air-conditioning and Refrigerating Engineers of Korea (SAREK), ICSERA is either held in Korea or Indonesia with UTM hosting for the first time in 2021. The Hanoi University of Science and Technology in Vietnam hopes to hold the 8<sup>th</sup> ICSERA sometime in July or August of 2023 while the date and venue for the 13<sup>th</sup> IMAT is yet to be determined.

During the last conferences in 2021, both organized by UTM, it was decided on the proposal of P. Estellé, an Associate Editor in JTAC and invited speaker in the ICSERA conference, to select the best papers presented in both conferences for possible publication in JTAC as a Special Issue. Among these selected papers, and after the regular and rigorous review process, the following original articles have been finally published.

The first paper, by Hidayat Mat *et al.* [1], reports a CFD numerical simulation of the fluid flow of boron nitride nanotube nanofluid in a microchannel heat sink at 30 and 50 °C

compared to water and base fluid containing surfactant. Similar boron nitride nanotube nanofluids, at various mass content, were investigated in [2] to simultaneously minimize the thermal resistance and pressure drop in a rectangular microchannel heat sink and improve its overall performance using multi-objective genetic algorithm (MOGA).

In [3], Tan *et al.* examined from a CFD analysis the efficiency of a ceiling-mounted air curtain in reducing particle distribution in a surgical zone considering different air supply diffusers and air curtains combinations. In the paper from Yu *et al.* [4], the effects of various temperatures and humidity ratios of regeneration air on the performance of a desiccant dehumidifier using a polymer as an adsorbent are investigated considering the adsorption/desorption amount, average moisture removal capacity, and latent energy ratio of the regeneration process as key performance indexes. The performance of an adsorption heat transformer cycle was analysed in [5] for possible applications in the waste heat upgrade and thermal desalination. Based on an equilibrium model developed using adsorption characteristics and isotherm data, five types of commercially available silica gels and three types of zeolites were studied as adsorbents.

Three other papers deal with combustion problems. In the first one, the one-step irreversible Arrhenius kinetics is applied to numerically describe the biogas supersonic combustion, well known as detonation, with nitrogen (N<sub>2</sub>) dilution. The three model parameters including the temperature exponent n, the activation energy  $E_a$ , and the pre-exponential factor  $A_r$  is used to describe biogas detonation velocities [6]. The second article in this field, from Selvam et al. [7], investigates both combustion and flow characteristics inside a modified trapped vortex combustor, characterised by a variable guide vane ratio between length of column guide vane inside the cavity and height of the cavity, for improving the performance and reduce the NOx emission. The Arrhenius rate of the one-step methane/air reaction mechanism was considered in this study, as well as the effect of the incoming velocity. The laminar burning velocity, hydrodynamic instability, and diffusive-thermal instability of biogas/N<sub>2</sub>O oxide were experimentally and numerically studied at different equivalence ratios by Elhawary et al. [8]. The spherical propagating premixed flames for various mixtures of biogas-N<sub>2</sub>O were determined in this study using the constant volume combustion vessel at 303 K and atmospheric pressure considering two mechanisms to estimate the predicted combustion characteristics of biogas/N<sub>2</sub>O mixtures.

Also, Azmi and Padzillah [9] analysed the effect of volute aspect ratio on the secondary flow characteristics of a mixed flow turbine volute at different operating conditions. The flow characteristics were analysed for four-volute designs with constant volute area-to-centroid radius ratio (A/r) and different volute aspect ratio. Finally, the last paper of this SI, is dedicated to the prediction of the boiling heat transfer coefficient of R32 inside a horizontal multiport mini-channel tube from both experiments and artificial neural networks modelling [10].

We hope that these contributions will be useful for the scientific community. Finally, we would like to thank again JTAC for agreeing to publish this special issue and the assistance of S. Korda in managing this SI. Last, we encourage researchers in the field of thermofluids and energy in refrigeration and air-conditioning to participate in the next IMAT & ICSEA conferences for sharing new results and extending their network with new partners in Asia.

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