

THERMAL PERFORMANCE OF STAGGERED BARE TUBE BANK HEAT EXCHANGER AS AIR PRE-HEATER FOR SEAWEED CONVECTIVE DRYER

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Abstrak Pemanfaatan energi limbah panas pengering dengan suhu keluar < 55 C melalui penukar kalor tube bank bare staggered sebagai pemanas awal udara untuk pengeringan rumput laut. Penelitian bertujuan untuk mendapatkan kecepatan udara efektif dimana kinerja termal maksimum dan suhu udara keluar penukar kalor. Metode penelitian eksperimental dengan memvariasikan kecepatan udara 0,5 hingga 2,5 m/s pada ST, SL, D dan L konstan. Pengambilan data terukur kecepatan udara bebas, suhu fluida dingin, dan suhu fluida panas setelah sistem mencapai keadaan tunak. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa semakin meningkat kecepatan udara bebas maka semakin besar pula kinerja termal dan koefisien konveksi masing-masing sebesar 38,77% dan 38,05% pada kecepatan udara bebas maksimum. Sebaliknya semakin besar kecepatan udara bebas maka suhu keluar akan semakin menurun sebesar 99,60%, dimana suhu udara keluar maksimum berada pada kecepatan udara bebas 2,5 m/s sebesar 303,6 K atau kenaikan sebesar 1,9 derajat. Disimpulkan bahwa sebaiknya penukar kalor ini beroperasi pada kecepatan udara bebas 1,0 m/s guna menjaga keseimbangan kinerja termal dan suhu udara keluar.

Kata kunci: Penukar kalor tube bank, tata letak staggered bare tube, kinerja termal, pemanas awal udara, suhu udara keluar

Abstract Utilization of drying waste heat energy with an outlet temperature < 55 °C through a bare staggered tube bank heat exchanger as an air preheater for drying seaweed. The research aims to obtain the effective air velocity at maximum thermal performance and the heat exchanger exit air temperature. Experimental research method by varying the air velocity from 0.5 to 2.5 m/s at constant S_T , S_L , D , and L . Retrieval of measured data on free air velocity, cold fluid temperature, and hot fluid temperature after the system reaches a steady state. The research results show that the greater the free air speed, the greater the thermal performance and convection coefficient, respectively 38.77% and 38.05% at maximum free air velocity. On the other hand, the greater the free air velocity, the more the exit temperature will decrease by 99.60%, where the maximum exit air temperature is at a free air velocity of 2.5 m/s of 303.6 K or an increase of 1.9 degrees. It was concluded that this heat exchanger should operate at a free air velocity of 1.0 m/s to maintain a balance in thermal performance and exit air temperature.

Keywords: Tube bank heat exchanger, staggered bare tube layout, thermal performance, air preheater, outlet air temperature.

1. INTRODUCTION

Energy is required for several practical functions, including transportation [1–3], mobility [4], food preparation [5], water purification [6], communication [7], and others [8]. Population and global economic expansion have contributed to increased energy use over time, with end-use energy efficiency gradually increasing with technological advances and energy efficiency legislation. However, this increase is not always enough to offset the rise in demand for energy services, such as commodity production and consumption [9]. In addition, the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine has caused an energy crisis that has directly affected households' heating, cooling, and transportation energy costs [10].

The challenges due to energy shortages and environmental pollution are increasing [11]. This is mainly caused by the lack of fossil fuel reserves, unbalanced energy supply, air contamination, global warming, climate change, acid rain, and ozone damage in the stratosphere [12–16]. Therefore, all countries worldwide are starting to rely on existing resources to become a sustainable 'green' development pattern [17], limiting fuel oil quality and price and controlling pollutant emissions [18]. To anticipate the energy crisis and control pollutants, various efforts have been made to design and optimize energy systems focused on finding new energy sources or increasing efficiency [19]. Increase the use of renewable energy, such as solar energy [20–23], biomass energy [24–28], wind energy [29], geothermal energy [30–32], ocean current energy [33] dan hydrocarbon energy [34–36]. to meet household needs, heating, cooling and transportation. One way to increase efficiency and prevent energy loss is by recycling energy, namely diverting energy wasted as waste heat into the consumption cycle using a heat exchanger [37–44]. The use of a bare staggered tube bank heat exchanger in this study is expected to save electrical energy and reduce waste heat temperature before it is discharged into the environment. This will reduce global warming and global energy consumption.

The heat produced in fuel combustion or chemical reactions that are no longer utilized effectively is called 'waste heat' and is ultimately discharged into the environment [45–47]. Waste heat recovery approaches can be converted into other proper forms of energy without additional

electrical energy [48], and is considered an effective measure for a sustainable eco-friendly development mode in various industries [49]. Facts show that more than 50% of the energy used is wasted as waste heat that can be used as an energy source [47], [50], [51]. Waste heat recovery energy conservation technology equipment, one of which is a heat exchange [47], where the type of heat exchanger is a plate heat exchanger [52–55], tube bank heat exchanger [56–61], shell and helical coil heat exchangers [62–69], shell and tube heat exchangers [70–73], dan shell and serpentine tube heat exchangers [74–78].

The heat exchanger is a device designed for efficient heat transfer from one medium to another, where the media are separated by a wall so that they do not mix [79]. A tube bank heat exchanger is a cross-flow tubular heat exchanger consisting of several rows of tubes, where hot fluid flows internally in the tube. In contrast, cold fluid flows externally outside the tube, so heat exchange occurs in cross-flow over the tube [80]. Crossflow tube bank heat exchangers are used in many applications, such as the power industry, biomedicine, air cooling systems (economizers and evaporators), polymer processing, and biological systems [81]. The thermal performance of a tube bank heat exchanger is influenced by geometric parameters, namely tube pitch (L) [82], tube size, transverse pitch tube (S_T), longitudinal pitch tube (S_L), tube length (H) [83], tube configuration (in-line and staggered) [84]. Flow parameters include Reynolds number (Re), air flow speed (u_e) [85] and fluid parameters namely Prandtl number (Pr), friction force (f) and pressure drop (ΔP) [57, 86].

Generally, convective drying suffers from various disadvantages, such as long processing times and high energy costs [87]. Existing industrial drying techniques consume 20-25% of the total energy supplied [88–91], while around 30-40% of the energy is wasted -waste into the environment as waste heat [92–94], where the temperature of waste heat from convective dryers is usually < 55 °C [95]. The problem of energy waste can be overcome if energy-saving strategies are implemented to recover waste heat in the exhaust airflow of the dryer [96]. Tube bank heat exchangers as waste heat recovery systems can reduce fuel waste and global warming [47]. Furthermore, the temperature of the hot air that comes out will be used to heat the cold air to reduce fuel consumption and lower the

waste heat temperature through a bare staggered tube bank heat exchanger, which is applied for the convective drying process.

Various studies have been carried out regarding bare staggered bank tube heat exchangers, including evaluating the volumetric density of heat transfer from circular and elliptical configurations of staggered external flow from bare and fin tube banks. It turns out that the relative heat transfer reaches 80% at a speed of 10.0 m/s or $Re = 10,600$ with a three-way elliptical configuration ($S/2b$, e , ϕ_f) [97]; a numerical study evaluated the heat transfer speed of circular and elliptical bare staggered configurations, external flow, by varying the air velocity 0.1, 0.13, 0.3, 0.65 m/s, experimentally. It turns out that the relative heat transfer reaches 20% with an equilateral triangle elliptical configuration ($S/2b$, e , ϕ_f) [98]; the thermal-hydraulic performance study was evaluated by considering the effects on the heat transfer rate and pressure drop along the bare tubes. The fin geometric parameters were varied with the ratio of longitudinal fin length to tube diameter (L/D) = 0.50-1.50 [47]; studying the influence of front air conditions and tube wall temperature on the thermohydraulic performance of the heat exchanger bare tube bank and regular finned by varying the air speed 5–20 m/s by simulation. It turns out that the heat transfer coefficient and pressure drop are strongly influenced by the frontal air condition [99]. Study the air side friction equation and heat transfer characteristics for bare tube bank air heat exchanger coolers with variations in tube diameter of 0.5-2 mm and pitch ratio of 1.2 - 4.0 and air velocity from 0.5 - 7.0 m/s in simulation. It turns out that the predictions of the friction equation are more than 80% correlated based on experimental data sources [100]. Based on various studies on staggered bare tube heat exchangers, there is no information regarding the application of staggered bare tube bank heat exchangers as initial air heaters for seaweed convective dryers.

Although there is a lot of research on the thermal performance of bare staggered tube bank heat exchangers, which correlates with the convection coefficient and total heat transfer, there is not much information regarding the study of the total heat transfer of bare staggered tube bank heat exchangers as a waste heat recovery system. The innovation implemented in this research is the introduction of a bare staggered tube bank heat exchanger as a convective dryer

waste heat recovery. For this reason, the main focus of this research is the introduction of a bare staggered tube bank heat exchanger by varying the air velocity from 0.5 to 2.5 m/s at the longitudinal pitch ratio (S_L/D) and transverse pitch ratio (S_T/D) specific, which indicates that the heat transfer of the bare staggered tube bank heat exchanger will be further accelerated. This research study is theoretically based on experimental data by examining the average convection coefficient, which will lead to calculating the total heat transfer of the heat exchanger. This research aims to obtain the effective air velocity at which the thermal performance and exit air temperature of the staggered bare tube bank heat exchanger are maximum.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

2.1. Experimental equipment and setup

As an initial air heater for seaweed convective dryers, the staggered bare tube heat exchanger consists of two parts, namely the shell and the staggered bare tube bank, the fabrication of which is presented in Figure 1. This research has designed a staggered bare tube heat exchanger as an initial air heater for seaweed convective dryers by considering simulation results using Ansys software.

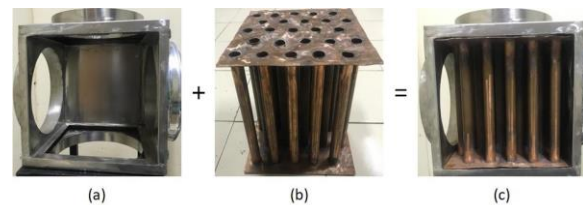


Figure 1. Fabrication steps of bare staggered shell and tube bank; (a) shell, (b) staggered bare tube bank, (c) final assembly of shell and staggered bare tube bank.

Heat transfer to or from a bank (or Bundles) of tubes in crossflow is relevant to various industrial applications. Its geometric arrangement is shown schematically in Figure 2. Typically, one fluid moves through the tube while a second fluid of a different temperature passes through the tube. In this section, a convection heat transfer mechanism occurs, which is related to cross-flow through the pipe.

The rows of tubes in the bank can be staggered in the direction of the fluid velocity as shown in Figure 3. This configuration is characterized by tube diameter (D), transverse pitch distance (S_T),

longitudinal pitch distance (S_L), and diagonal pitch distance (S_D) measured between tube centers.

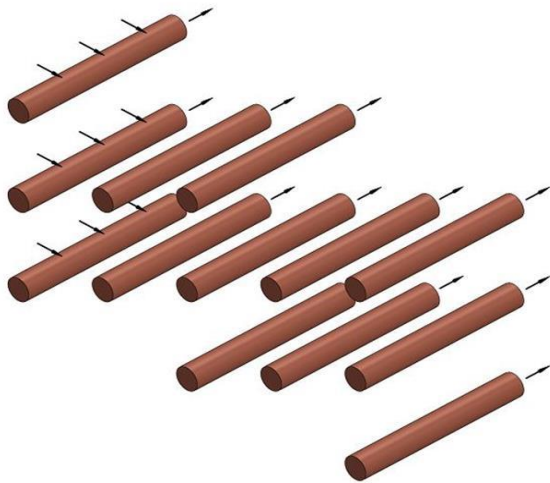


Figure 2. Schematic of a tube bank in cross flow

Display the geometric parameters of the staggered bare tube heat exchanger as an initial air heater for application in seaweed convective dryers. In total, the geometric characteristics of the staggered bare tube heat exchanger are presented in Table 1.

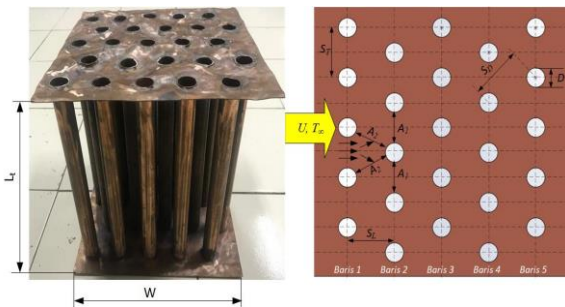


Figure 3. Geometric parameters of heat exchanger tube bank bare staggered

The heat exchanger shell component is made of G.304 stainless steel and has a heat conductivity value of 14.9 W/m.K. The heat exchanger shell wall consists of an adiabatic wall and an isothermal wall. The adiabatic walls are covered with asbestos tape insulation 0.17 m thick between the inner and outer stainless steel. The tube bank heat exchanger component is pure copper with a heat conductivity value of 401 W/m.K.

Table 1. Geometric characteristics of the staggered bare tube heat exchanger.

Parameters	Value (m)
Longitudinal pitch distance (S_L)	0,051
Transverse pitch distance (S_T)	0,051

Diagonal pitch distance (S_D)	0,057
Tube diameter (D_T)	0,0254
Tube length (L_T)	0,030
Tube bank width (W)	0,030
Channel diameter (D_{ch})	0,0282
Inner shell height ($H_{sh,i}$)	0,035
Outer shell height ($H_{sh,o}$)	0,038
Gap distance (G_s)	0,0023
Inner shell width ($B_{sh,i}$)	0,035
Outer shell width ($B_{sh,o}$)	0,038

Supporting components for operating a staggered bare tube heat exchanger are; sauna heater, mini centrifugal blower type MC.DE.125, temperature data logger and control box. To regulate the blower rotation using PWM which is connected to the TX4S-14s temperature control and reading the rotation (rpm) using a tachometer located in the control box. Likewise, the heat input is regulated using PWM to regulate the electric current so that the output power is as desired. 16 channel thermocouple data loggers with a tolerance of ± 1 °C, to measure the temperature of the drying media on; inlet, outlet of tube bank heat exchanger. All temperature measurements use a K-type thermocouple connected to a 16 channels temperature data logger. Calibrate the thermocouple at a water temperature of 100 °C. Hot wire anemometer with a tolerance of $\pm 3\% \pm 0.1$ digits, to measure the air velocity of hot fluid and cold fluid entering and leaving the heat exchanger. Recording of measured data in the form of temperature, speed, humidity and heat input begins when operating conditions reach steady state.

2.2. Research procedure

A schematic diagram of the research procedure is presented in Figure 4. In this research, the hot fluid and cold fluid cycles occur simultaneously. Hot fluid is air heated by the heater, and cold fluid is air.

The experiment began by setting the heater power to 400 W, the air velocity to 0.5 m/s, and the hot fluid inlet temperature to 50 °C on the box controller. The cold fluid circulating outside the tube will flow into the blower, then through the heater, where the cold fluid will be heated to become hot fluid, reaching 50 °C before entering the inlet of the test section. If the temperature exceeds 50 °C, the heater will automatically be

disconnected from electricity, and vice versa. If steady conditions have been reached, the process of collecting measured data in temperature and speed begins.

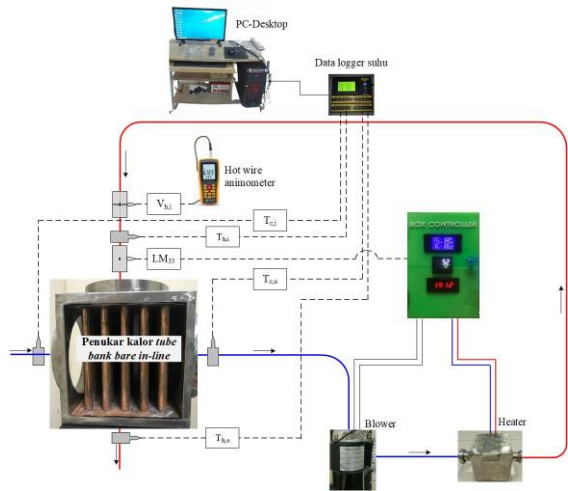


Figure 4. Schematic diagram of research procedures

The test section is provided with a staggered bare tube heat exchanger as an initial air heater with several columns of 5 and several rows of 5. A 0.025 KW centrifugal blower with an air handling capacity of 135 cubic meters per hour is used to supply air as a working fluid at a temperature of 50 °C. The airflow speed is measured with a hot wire anemometer before entering the test section (staggered bare tube heat exchanger). The transverse and longitudinal pitch distance ratio is kept constant for all selected free-air speed settings.

The test section (staggered bare tube heat exchanger) was designed and fabricated to perform several experiments to investigate the heat transfer parameters within the range of operational parameters presented in Table 2.

Schematic diagram of the research procedure with the layout of the LM35 temperature sensor and GM8903 speed sensor, as follows:

- 1) Measure the temperature of the hot fluid at the inlet and outlet of the heat exchanger (namely, $T_{h,i}$ and $T_{h,o}$).
- 2) Measurement of the temperature of the cold fluid entering and leaving the heat exchanger (i.e., $T_{c,i}$ and $T_{c,o}$).
- 3) Air velocity measurement at the heat exchanger inlet (i.e., $V_{h,i}$).

The results of recording measured data will be stored on the anemometer memory card and temperature data logger which is connected

automatically to the Desktop PC. Measured data collection was carried out for ± 1 hour until the temperature of the cold fluid leaving the test section had reached a constant condition.

Table 2. Operational parameter range of staggered bare tube heat exchanger.

Parameters	Range
P_h , (W)	400
u_∞ , (m/s)	0.5, 1, 1.5, 2, 2.5
$T_{h,i}$, (K)	323
D_T , (m)	0,0254
N_T	5
N_L	5
L_T , (m)	0,3
S_L , (m)	0,051
S_T , (m)	0,051
S_D , (m)	0,057

2.3. Data Reduction

Based on Figure 5, presents a schematic illustration of the staggered bare tube heat exchanger research procedure. If it is assumed that the heat exchanger operates at a steady state, where potential energy, conduction, and radiation heat transfer are neglected. To obtain heat exchanger heat transfer, the reduction equation is described as follows:

2.3.1. Maximum air velocity of tube bank

In the case of a staggered bare tube bank heat exchanger as an initial air heater, the free flow velocity of the cold fluid (u) at the inlet is measured with a hot wire anemometer. Maximum air speed can occur in the transverse plane (A_T) or the diagonal plane (A_D), presented in Figure 5.

To determine the maximum air speed occurring in the transverse or diagonal plane, an evaluation of the maximum air speed is carried out using equation (1), which is obtained from [101]:

$$S_D = \left[S_L^2 + \left(\frac{S_T}{2} \right)^2 \right]^{1/2} < \left(\frac{S_T + D}{2} \right) \quad (1)$$

If the staggered bare tube bank heat exchanger satisfies the inequality above, then the maximum speed occurs in the diagonal plane (A_D). Therefore, the maximum speed in the diagonal

plane can be previously estimated using equation (2), which is quoted from [47]:

$$V_{\max} = \frac{2(S_D - D)U_{\infty}}{S_T} \quad (2)$$

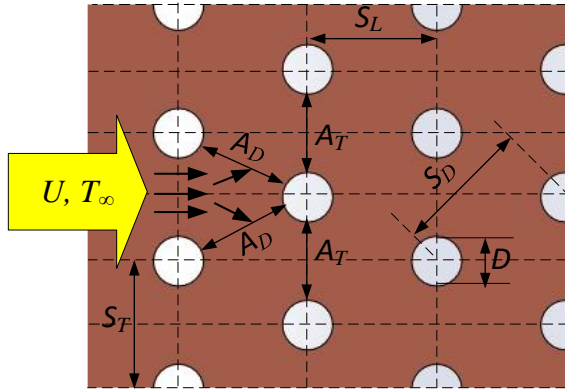


Figure 5. Sketch diagram of maximum air velocity in a staggered bare tube heat exchanger.

On the other hand, bare staggered tube banks do not satisfy the inequality above, so the maximum speed occurs in the transverse plane (A_T), so the maximum air speed in the transverse plane is estimated using equation (3), which is quoted from [58, 102]:

$$V_{\max} = \frac{S_T \cdot U_{\infty}}{(S_T - D)} \quad (3)$$

2.3.2. Maximum Reynolds number of tube bank

In the case of a staggered bare tube bank heat exchanger as an initial air heater where, the Reynolds number for air crossing the tube bank is calculated based on the maximum speed and equivalent hydraulic diameter using equation (4), which is obtained from [103]:

$$Re_{\max} = \frac{\rho \cdot V_{\max} \cdot D_h}{\mu} \quad (4)$$

2.3.3. Tube bank average Nusselt number

The Nusselt number represents a measure of convection heat transfer compared to conductive heat transfer, which is evaluated based on the Zukauskas correlation using equation (5), which is obtained from [104]:

$$\overline{Nu}_D = C_2 \cdot C_1 \cdot Re_{D,\max}^m \cdot Pr^{0,36} \left(\frac{Pr}{Pr_s} \right)^{1/4} \quad (5)$$

For the range of Reynolds numbers considered in this study, the exponent value m is 0.60 [105]. The value of the constant C_1 varies depending on the tube bank arrangement. The magnitude is $0,35(S_T/S_L)^{1/5} = 0,07$ for the tube bank arrangement considered in this study. Equation (5) applies to tube banks where the number of rows is not more than 20. If the number of rows is less than 20, the correction factor C_2 must be included in the calculation. The C_2 value for five rows of tube banks is 0.92 [47].

2.3.4. Tube bank average convection coefficient

The average convection heat transfer coefficient for the air flow across the staggered bare tube bank is calculated using equation (6), which is obtained from [106]:

$$\bar{h} = \frac{\overline{Nu}_D \cdot k}{D_T} \quad (6)$$

2.3.5. Tube bank logarithmic mean temperature difference

The temperature distribution in the flow in the staggered bare tube bank heat exchanger is not uniform, so it is necessary to use the logarithmic average temperature difference, calculated using equation (7), which is quoted from [78, 107, 108]:

$$\Delta T_{lm} = \frac{(T_s - T_i) - (T_s - T_o)}{\ln \left(\frac{T_s - T_i}{T_s - T_o} \right)} \quad (7)$$

where T_o is the exit air temperature of the staggered bare tube bank heat exchanger (K) which can be calculated using equation (8), which is quoted from [104]:

$$T_o = T_s - (T_s - T_i) \exp \left(- \frac{\pi D N \bar{h}_m}{\rho U_{\infty} N_T S_T c_p} \right) \quad (8)$$

2.3.6. Total tube bank heat transfer

The total heat transfer from the staggered bare tube bank heat exchanger depends on the average heat transfer coefficient, the total heat transfer surface area, and the logarithmic average temperature difference of the tube bank, calculated using equation (9), which is quoted from [109]:

$$Q_{tot} = \bar{h} \cdot (N\pi DL_T) \Delta T_{lm} \tag{9}$$

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of experimental research on the staggered bare tube bank heat exchanger as an initial air heater carried out based on research procedures and Table 2, range of operational parameters, obtained measured data in the form of free air velocity and temperature, which are presented in Table 3.

Based on Table 3, an analytical study was carried out to examine the thermal performance of the staggered bare tube bank heat exchanger which will be described based on cross flow.

Table 3. Experimentally measured data of staggered bare tube bank heat exchanger.

Q*: 400 W; D: 0,0254 m; N_T: 5; N_L: 5; L: 0,3 m;
 S_L: 0,051 m; S_T: 0,051; S_D: 0,057; C₁: 0,27;
 C₂: 0,92; m: 0,63.

Parameters	Range				
u (m/s)	0,5	1,0	1,5	2,0	2,5
T _i (K)	301,7	301,5	301,3	301,1	301,0
T _o (K)	303,6	303,3	302,7	302,5	302,4
T _{s,1} (K)	318,5	317,9	317,6	317,3	317,1
T _{s,2} (K)	318,4	318,1	317,8	317,5	317,2

3.1. Maximum air speed and Reynolds number of tube bank

This section explains the behavior of the maximum air velocity curve in the minimum transverse (A_T) plane and the maximum Reynolds number in a staggered bare tube bank heat exchanger illustrated in Figure 6.

As can be seen in the figure 6, as the air velocity increases, the maximum air speed increases by 20%. This is caused by the increasing free air speed, where the free air speed is directly proportional to the maximum air velocity. The maximum air speed at a free air speed of 2.5 m/s is 4.981 m/s, and the minimum at a free air speed of 0.5 m/s is 0.997 m/s.

Likewise, the greater the free air velocity, the more the Reynolds number increases by 19.90%. This is caused by increased maximum air speed, where maximum air speed is directly proportional to the Reynolds number. The maximum Reynolds number obtained at a free air speed of 2.5 m/s is 788.59, and the minimum Reynolds number obtained at a free air speed of 0.5 m/s is 156.91.

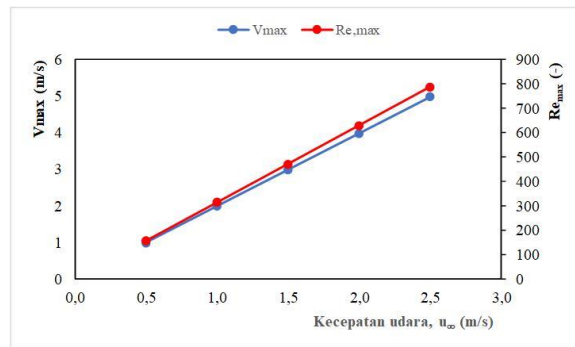


Figure 6. The behavior of air velocity and maximum Reynolds number curves of a staggered bare tube bank heat exchanger.

3.2. Average Nusselt number and convection coefficient tube bank

This section explains the behavior of the Nusselt number and the average convection coefficient curves in the staggered bare tube bank heat exchanger illustrated in Figure 7.

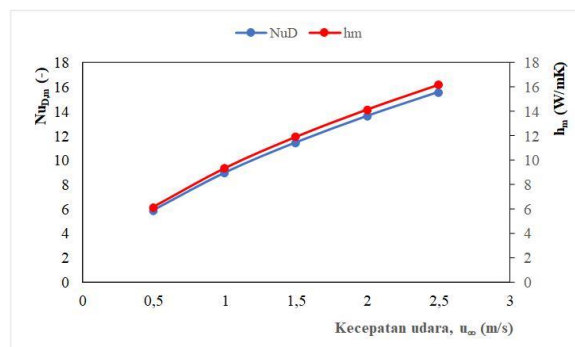


Figure 7. The behaviour of the Nusselt number and average convection coefficient curves of a staggered bare tube bank heat exchanger.

As shown in Figure 7, the average Nusselt number increases by 37.95% as the air velocity increases. This is because the maximum air speed increases, resulting in the Reynolds number growing so that the Nusselt number increases where the Reynolds number is directly proportional to the average Nusselt number. The maximum average Nusselt number is at a free air speed of 2.5 m/s of 15.56, and the minimum is at a free air speed of 0.5 m/s of 5.91.

Likewise, the greater the free air velocity, the greater the average convection coefficient of 38.05%. This is caused by the increasing average Nusselt number, where the average convection coefficient is directly proportional to the Nusselt number. The maximum average convection coefficient is found at a free air speed of 2.5 m/s of 16.19 W/m²K, and the minimum is found at a

free air speed of 0.5 m/s of 6.16 W/m²K.

3.3. Total heat transfer, the temperature of the cold and hot fluid leaving the tube bank

This section explains the behavior of the total number of heat transfer and the exit air temperature in the staggered bare tube bank heat exchanger curves, which is illustrated in Figure 8.

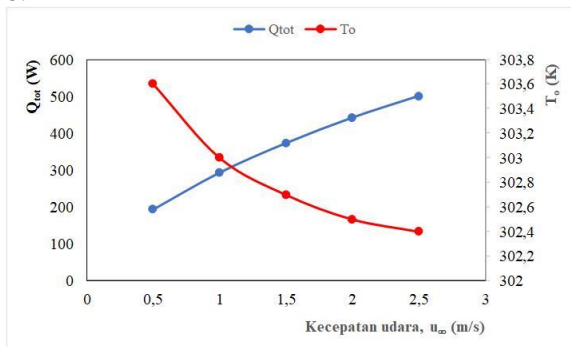


Figure 8. The behaviour of the total heat transfer and air temperature leaving curves of a staggered bare tube bank heat exchanger.

It can be seen in the figure 8 that the greater the air speed, the total heat transfer increases by 38.77%. This is caused by the increasing average convection coefficient resulting in the total heat transfer also increasing where the total heat transfer is directly proportional to the average convection coefficient. The maximum total heat transfer is found at a free air speed of 2.5 m/s of 500.02 W and a minimum at a free air speed of 0.5 m/s of 193.85 W.

On the other hand, the greater the free air velocity, the lower the exit air temperature of the staggered bare tube bank heat exchanger by 99.60%. This is caused by the decreasing temperature gradient between the tube surface temperature and the inlet air temperature of the staggered bare tube bank heat exchanger, where the temperature gradient between the tube surface temperature and the inlet air temperature is directly proportional to the outlet air temperature. The maximum exit air temperature is at a free air speed of 0.5 m/s at 303.6 K and the minimum at 2.5 m/s at 302.4 K.

4. CONCLUSION

The results of experimental research on the thermal performance of a staggered bare tube bank heat exchanger by varying the free air velocity are concluded as follows:

1. The effective free air velocity is at 2.5 m/s, and thermal performance increases by 38.77%.
2. The greater the free air speed, the more the exit air temperature will decrease by 99.60%, where the maximum exit air temperature is at a free air speed of 2.5 m/s of 303.6 K or an increase of 1.9 degrees. This means contributing to savings in electrical energy consumption.

LIST OF NOTATIONS

A_T	Transverse throat width of the tube bank (m ²)
$B_{sh,i}$	Inner shell width (m)
$B_{sh,o}$	Outer shell width (m)
C_1	Constanta
C_2	Correction factor
D_{ch}	Channel diameter (m)
D_T	Tube diameter (m)
G_s	The gap distance between the shell and tube bank (m)
$H_{sh,i}$	Inner shell height (m)
$H_{sh,o}$	Outer shell height (m)
h_m	Average convection coefficient (W/m ² K)
\bar{h}	Average convection coefficient (W/m ² K)
k	Fluid thermal conductivity (W/m.K)
L_T	Tube length (m)
m	Exponent
Nu	Nusselt numbers
Nu_{Dm}	The average Nusselt number
\overline{Nu}_D	The average Nusselt number
N_T	Number of rows of tubes in the transverse direction.
N_L	Number of rows of tubes in the longitudinal direction.
P_h	Heater power (W)
Pr	Prandtl numbers
Pr_s	Prandtl number near the wall surface.
Q_{tot}	Total heat transfer (W)
Re	Reynolds Number
Re_{max}	Maximum Reynolds number
S_D	Diagonal tube spacing (m)
S_L	Longitudinal tube spacing (m)
S_T	Transverse tube spacing (m)
T_{hi}	Hot fluid inlet temperature (K)
T_i	Air temperature entering the tube bank (K)
T_o	Air temperature leaving the tube bank (K)
T_s	Tube surface temperature (K)

U_{∞}	Free flow velocity of air at the entrance of the tube bank (m/s)
V_{\max}	Maximum fluid velocity in the tube bank (m/s)
W	Bank tube width (m)
ΔT_{\ln}	Logarithmic mean temperature gradient (K)
ρ	Air density (kg/m ³)
μ	Dynamic viscosity of fluids (N-s/m ²)
ν	Fluid kinematic viscosity (m ² /s)

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