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Numerical study of the global heat transfer coefficient in a shell-and-tube heat exchanger with a CFD software

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Abstract : In this study, the authors analyze the performance of a shell-and-tube heat exchanger with a CFD model done in ANSYS, and compare the results obtained from the simulation with the ones gotten form the laboratory bank. The study, done in parallel and crossflow in both laboratory and simulations, gave results well into the typified error margin for heat exchangers (close to 20%). The study's heat transfer coefficient was aprox. 12,8%-25,5% off compared to calculations done with experimental data. For the heat transfer rate, there was a divergence present because of the model used on the simulation. This divergence was more pronounced at high flows, increasing at higher temperatures and diminishing at lower temperatures.

Keywords: Shell and Tube Heat Exchanger, CFD Modelling, Software simulation.

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