



Optimization of accuracy in estimating the dynamic viscosity of MWCNT-CuO/oil 10W40 nano-lubricants



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ABSTRACT

Artificial neural network (ANN) is one of the best models with good performance for predicting laboratory data. Due to its high accuracy, this design can be a suitable alternative to frequent and costly testing. In this study, the viscosity (μ_{nf}) of MWCNT-CuO (10-90)/Oil 10W40 nano-lubricant is modeled by ANNs by experimental data. μ_{nf} is measured in $\varphi = SVF = (0.05-1\%$ and temperature range $T = 5$ to 55°C to train the ANNs. To check the precision of predicted data by ANN, mean square error (MSE), regression coefficient, and also margin of deviation (MOD) are used. The optimal structure was selected from among 400 ANN samples for MWCNT-CuO (10:90)/Oil 10W40 nano-lubricant, which has two hidden layers and the number of 4 and 8 neurons, as well as *tansig* and *logsig* transfer functions. The inputs of the ANN model are solid volume fraction (SVF or φ), temperature (T), and shear rate (SR), and the output of the ANN is the μ_{nf} . A comparison shows that the ANN calculates the laboratory data more accurately.

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1. Introduction

Extensive research was carried out in the field of nano today, so that most researchers in various fields of this field, such as nanofluids (NFs), nanopowders, nanofibers, nanocomposites, etc., have conducted extensive studies [1–12]. Nanoscience is used in various scientific fields, one of the most important of which is in the field of fluids and heat transfer. Because since ancient times, fluids have been used in various applications such as lubrication, heat transfer, pumping, etc. they were tested in numerical, analytical and experimental ways [13–17], and for this reason, the use of nanotechnology can have a great impact on the performance of fluid-containing systems. Also, extensive research was done to investigate and increase the heat transfer coefficient and improve viscosity in various processes and industries [18]. In 1995, to increase the thermal

conductivity of base fluids (BFs), the idea of using nanoparticles (NPs) in BFs was proposed [19]. NPs dispersed in composites or fluids maintain a much higher surface-to-volume ratio compared to particles in the range of millimeters and micrometers. Hence, mechanical and physical properties increase with increasing surface area [20–22]. Since nanofluids (NFs) are considered suspensions of NPs (smaller than 100 nm) in BFs, heat transfer occurs on the surface of suspended NPs. On the other hand, many researchers have tried to use this method to significantly increase the thermophysical properties of BFs [23]. The increase in fluid properties ultimately leads to the reduction of equipment size, reduction of industrial unit costs, and higher energy efficiency [24–27]. For this purpose, scientists have always tried to produce new NFs and identify factors affecting thermophysical properties. μ_{nf} and k_{nf} can affect NF applications. Various experimental studies show that adding more NPs to BFs can increase the μ_{nf} and k_{nf} [28–29].

In addition, one of the important parameters that can increase the k_{nf} is increasing the temperature [30–34]. Various studies show that changes in temperature and SVF can also affect μ_{nf} . Any temperature increase can decrease the μ_{nf} . However, the addition of NPs can increase μ_{nf} [35–39]. In investigating the characteristics of NFs, some equations are proposed to predict the behavior of NFs. These equations are useful to make laboratory research more

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practical. Table 1 lists the studies that led to new empirical equations. Fig. 1.

For more than a decade, the use of artificial intelligence to model the behavior of systems have received much attention (see Fig. 2). The results show that this method has high accuracy compared to the classical method. On the other hand, in recent years, this method was increasingly used to model the behavior and thermophysical properties of NFs [44]. Esfe et al.[45] used ANN to estimate the laboratory findings of MWCNT-MgO (25:75)/SAE40 NF in different parameters (T, SVF, and SR). The ANN was used by the MLP method with LM algorithm. The optimal structure with 5 and 8 neurons in the first and second layers has been selected among different structures.The MOD for the grid data set is in the range of less than $-1\% < MOD < +1\%$. It shows high accuracy and a great ability to predict data.

Researchers who study NFs tried, by designing ANNs with different algorithms, to predict the k_{nf} or μ_{nf} . In this type of modeling, the effects of different factors, such as SVF, temperature, particle size, k_{nf} , type of BF, NPs, and their density can be investigated. Table 2 shows some investigations on the modeling of NFs.

Raising the quality of oils by enhancing their viscosity is one of the main concerns of scientists. As mentioned before, adding NPs to BFs can fulfill this need. The prediction of μ_{nf} is one of the

aspects of the studies on fluids. In general, the rheological behavior of fluids can be distributed into two categories: Newtonian and non-Newtonian. A fluid is Newtonian if there is a linear relation between SR and shear stress, but if there is not a linear relation between SR and shear stress, the fluid has a non-Newtonian behavior [50–55]. In a study on ethylene glycol/ZrO₂ NF, Goharshadi et al. [56] showed that this NF atSVF = 0.01 %, 0.02 % and 0.04 % shows Newtonian behavior at T = 25 to 45 °C. However, in SR = 70–120 s^{−1}, the this NF shows a non-Newtonian behavior. Esfe et al. [57] measured the k_{nf} of MWCNT-MgO/water-EG NF in seven SVFs from 0.015 to 0.96 % and in T = 30 to 50 °C. The cost-effectiveness evaluation of the k_{nf} data shows that the hybrid NFs are better than the mono NFs. In the study on Ag/oil NF, Aberoumand et al. [58] examined the μ_{nf} of Ag/oil NF. The μ_{nf} atSVF = 0.12 % to 0.72 % and T = 25–60 °C was measured. The results show that with any increase in SVF, the NF's behavior shifts from Newtonian to non-Newtonian. In addition, NFs had non-Newtonian and Newtonian behaviors at T < 35 °C, respectively. Several investigations show that utilize of CNTs, even in small quantities, can also have a important influence on thermophysical propertieess of NFs. Hemmat Esfe research team [59–60] has done a lot of research in the field of hybrid NFs and is one of the pioneer groups in this field. Comparison of the μ_{nf} of MWCNT-TiO₂/10W40

Table 1
Investigations on prediction of the thermophysical properties of NFs.

Ref.	NPs	BF	The purpose of the experiment	Conclusion
[40]	Al ₂ O ₃	Water	Enhancing solar systems efficiency	2.1 % difference between the RSM and CFD results.
[41]	DWCNT	Water	Thermal performance improvement	The maximum coefficient of thermal performance in $\phi = 0.365$.
[42]	SWCNT	EG	μ_{nf}	The correlation and experimental results overlap or have a small deviation
[43]	SiO ₂	Bio Glycol/Water	μ_{nf}	Correlations with a maximum deviation of 3 % for estimating

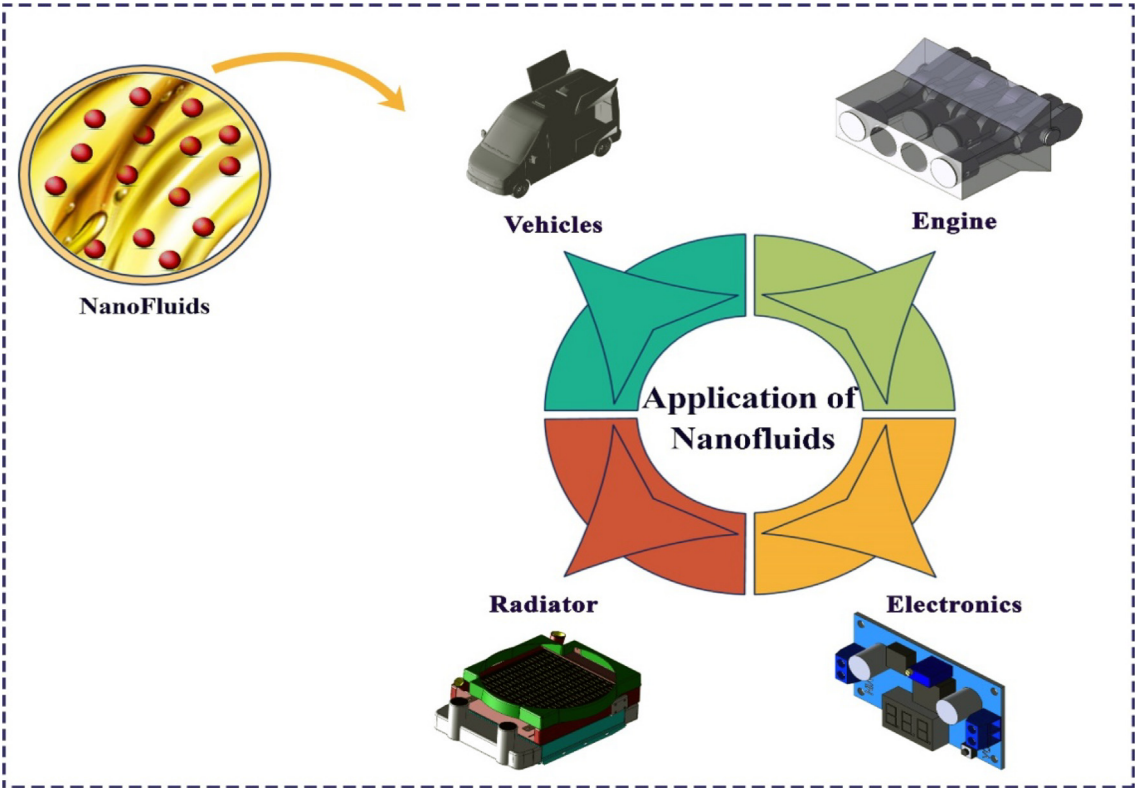


Fig. 1. Applications of NFs.

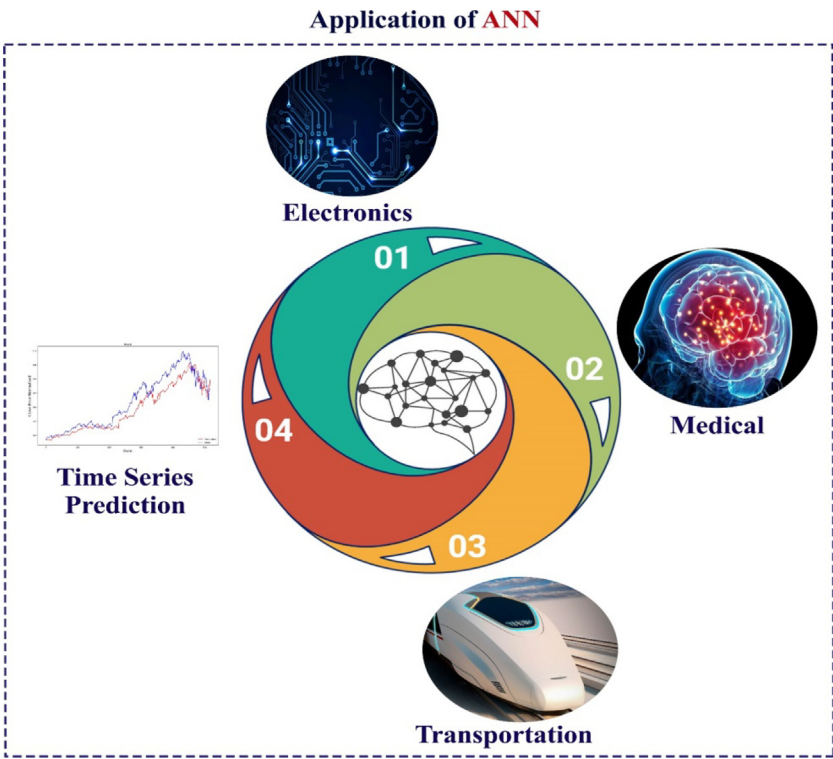


Fig. 2. Utilization of artificial intelligence for modeling the behavior of fluids.

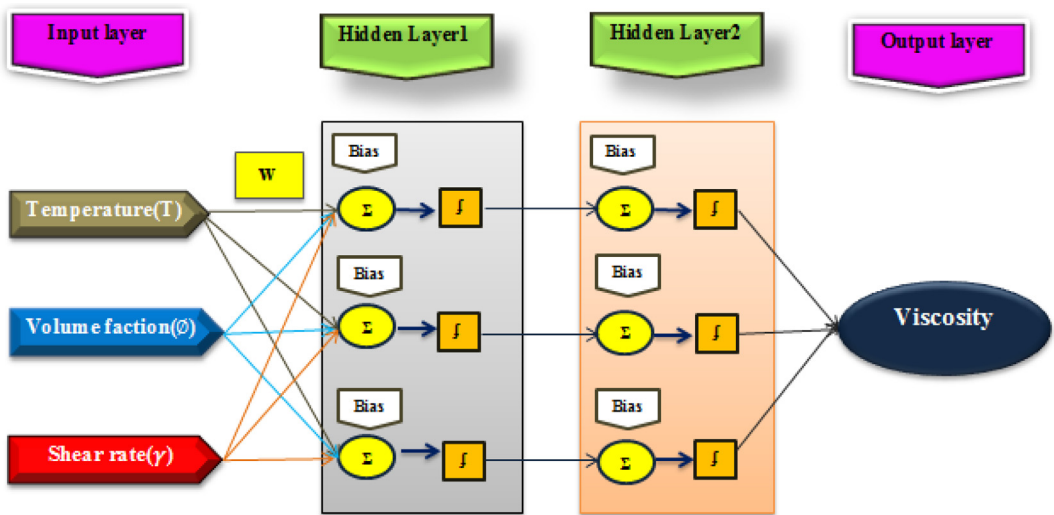


Fig. 3. Topology of ANN.

Table 3
Parameters of the top 4 ANN examples.

Candidate Topology No.	Structure	Function 1	Function 2	R	Train	Val	Test
1	[3 5]	tansig	logsig	0.9999422	0.9999441	0.9999516	0.9999389
2	[3 8]	logsig	tansig	0.9999648	0.9999754	0.9999383	0.9999028
3	[4 6]	tansig	logsig	0.9999656	0.9999753	0.9999807	0.9999124
4	[4 8]	tansig	logsig	0.9999744	0.9999859	0.9998709	0.9999098

Table 2
Studies on modeling of NF properties through artificial intelligence technique to predict properties.

Errors	ANN topology	ANN outputs	ANN inputs	Number of data	NFs	Ref.
The values of R^2 and RMSE and total AARD% were estimated at 0.99996 and 0.0089 and 0.2 in the μ_{nf} estimation, respectively. MSE = 4.73×10^{-4} AARD = 1.27 % $R^2 = 0.971875$ RMSE = 1.109×10^{-4} MAPE = 3.717 % SSE = 1.55×10^{-6} $R^2 = 0.995$	3–4–3	μ_{nf}	SVF, T, μ_{bf} , ρ_{np} , NP size	1490	Different NPs and BFs	[46]
RMSE = 5.824×10^{-5} MAPE = 1.489 % SSE = 1.889×10^{-7} $R^2 = 0.9998$	3–14–1	k_{nf}	SVF, T	285	Al ₂ O ₃ /Water	[47]
	5–14–1	μ_{nf}	SVF, T, μ_{bf} , ρ_{np} , d_{np}	399	Al ₂ O ₃ /Water	[48]
	5–14–1	μ_{nf}	SVF, T, μ_{bf} , ρ_{np} , d_{np}	140	CuO/Water	[49]

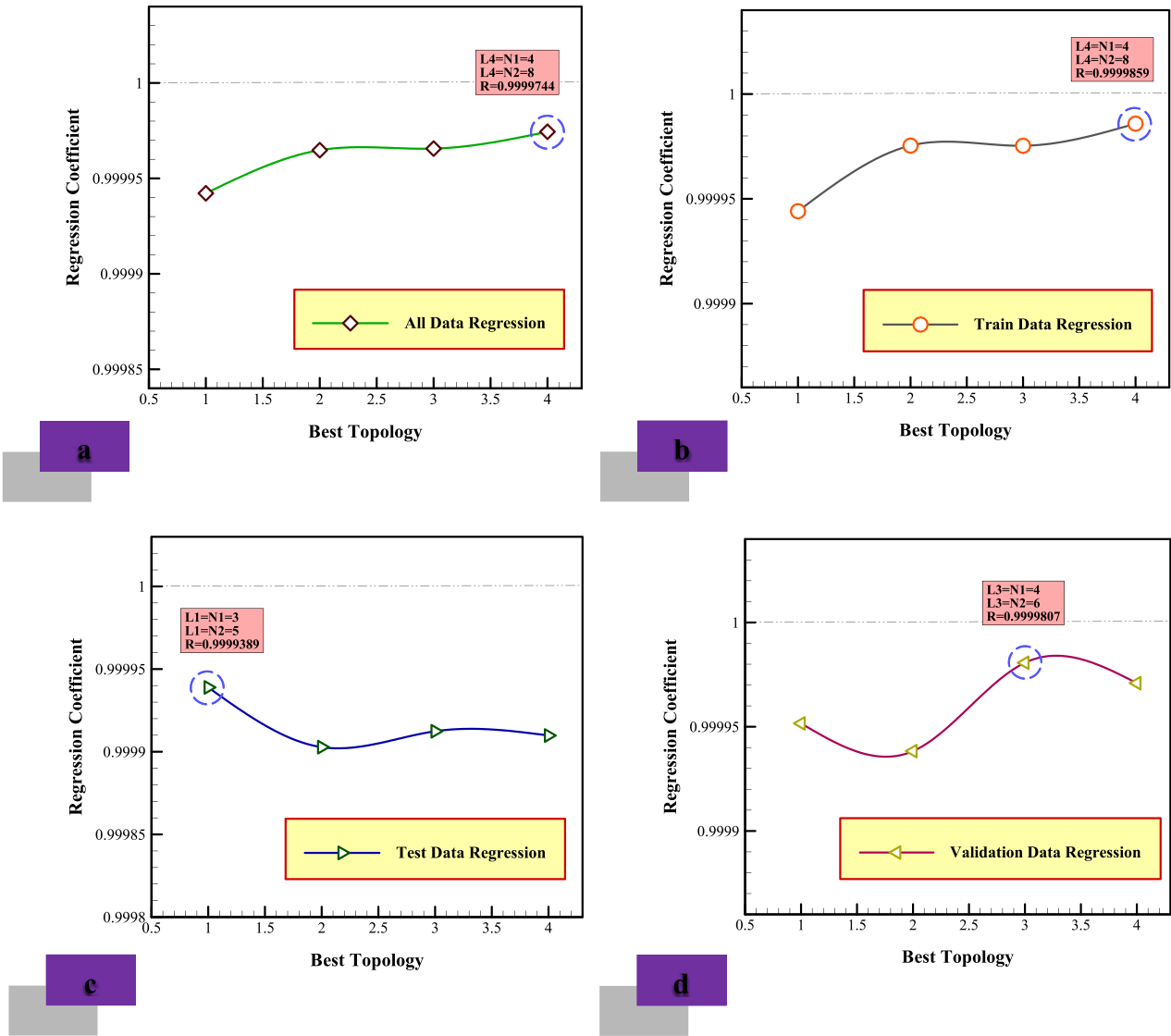


Fig. 4. The regression in terms of hidden layer neurons.

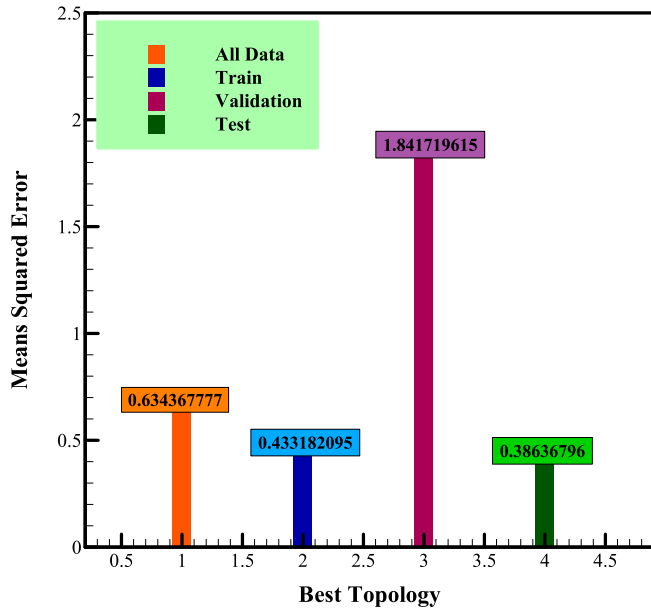


Fig. 5. The MSE in terms of hidden layer neurons.

NF at different percentages (10–90 % and 45–55 %), $T = 15\text{--}55\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ and $SVF = 0.25\text{--}1\%$ was done. The SR parameter is considered to evaluate the μ_{nf} . In all types of NFs, the μ_{nf} decreases by about 80 % with increasing temperature. Also, experimental results show that increasing the percentage of CNTs has a significant effect on the non-Newtonian behavior of NFs, and this increase in the percentage of CNTs increases the shear-thinning behavior of NFs.

In the present study, an optimized ANN was used to accurately estimate the μ_{nf} of MWCNT-CuO (10 % – 90 %)/10W40 NF under different conditions (temperature, SVF and SR). The selected structure is selected after measuring and evaluating the number of neurons and the activation function in each layer. According to the authors, no research was done on modeling the μ_{nf} of MWCNT-CuO (10 % – 90 %)/10W40 NF. Also, to increase the accuracy of data estimation, different structures are studied in the design of ANN and the most optimal structure is selected.

2. About ANN

ANN is one of the important branches of artificial intelligence that has the ability to learn the relationship between several sets of data and can store each of these data for similar cases. [61–62]. The data proposed by ANN has high accuracy and performance. ANN modeling has wide applications in various sciences, a limited

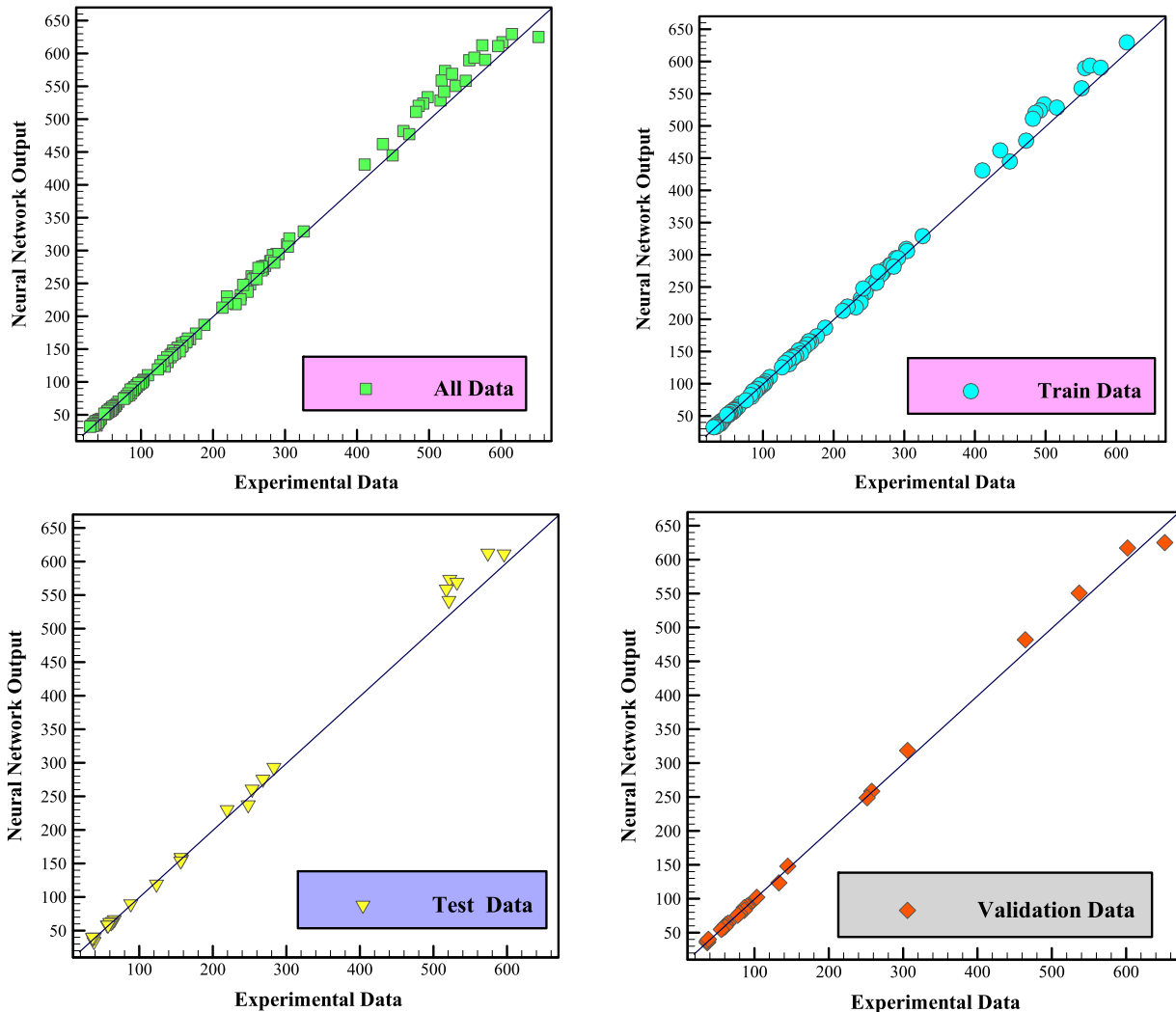


Fig. 6. Evaluation of the proposed ANN model data with laboratory data.

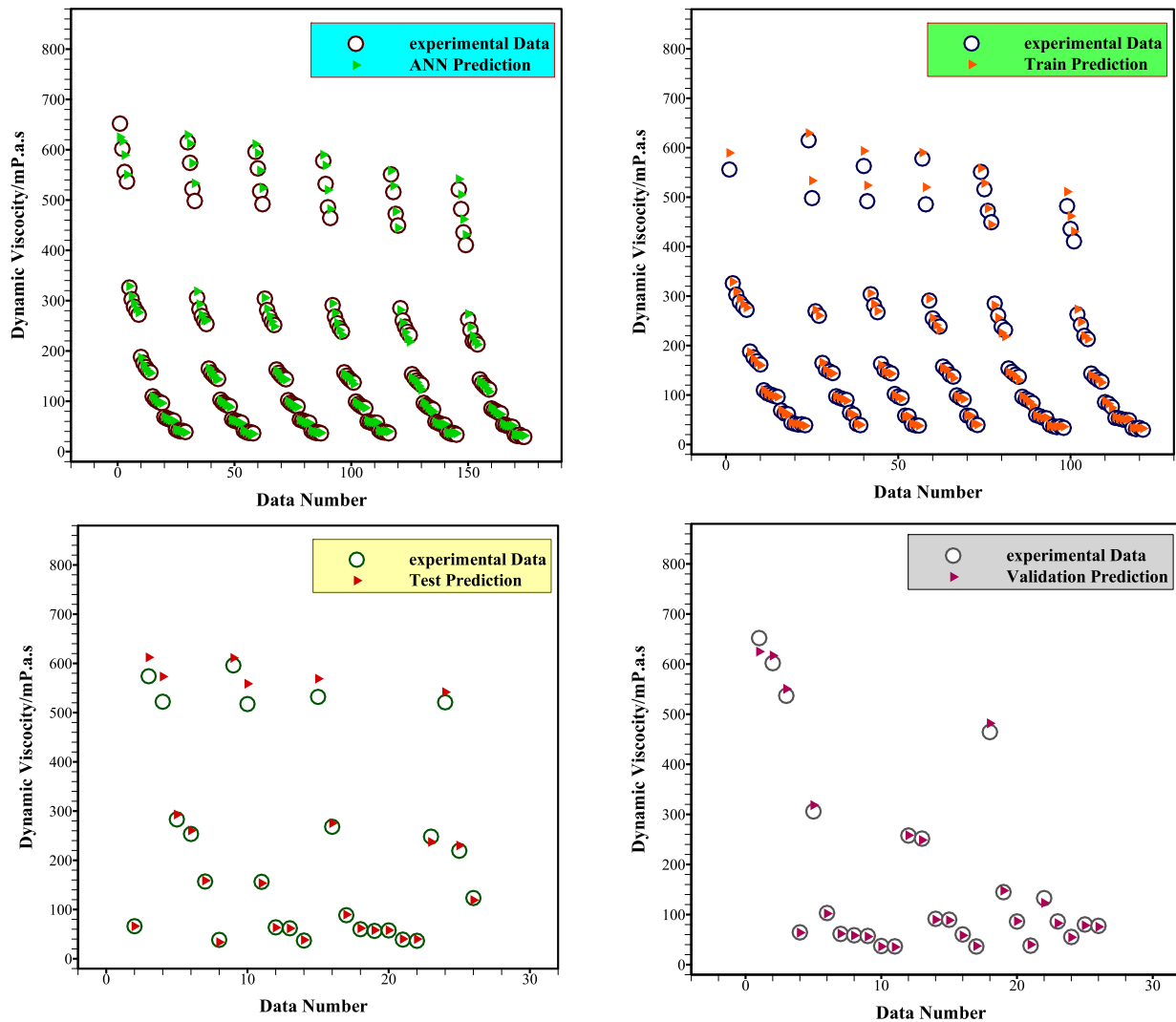


Fig. 7. Comparison between proposed ANN data with laboratory data.

number of which can be mentioned, including medical sciences, astronomy, and pharmaceuticals. [63–64]. Recently, ANN is used to estimate complex problems. These networks are trained to predict the rheological properties of nanomaterials. Some researchers used ANNs to predict the behavior of nanofluids. In recent years, researchers used this efficient tool in their studies due to ANN's ability to estimate the μ_{nf} [65–66]. Summary of past studies shows that there is still no accurate theory for determining the μ_{nf} , and the existing classical models for NFs are used, which are not very accurate. MLP is one of the most important neural network models. [67–68]. The activation position of a neuron in the ANN is determined by the activation function. [70,71].

3. Laboratory data and ANN training

In the current work, the μ_{nf} of a hybrid nano-lubricant was computed with modeling experimental data by ANNs, for which the MLP-ANN algorithm was utilized. For this purpose, the laboratory data of μ_{nf} includes 174 data for the ANN modeling procedure. ANN inputs are divided into three kinds including temperature, SR and SVF, and the ANN output is the μ_{nf} . Sigmoid activation function is used for each layer of this modeling. Each function is *tan-sigmoid* and *log-sigmoid*. The selected structure is then selected from the above set of network structure, which has 4 and 8 morons in each

layer. In each part of this modeling, the number of each neuron and the activation function for the hidden layers were set to define the optimal ANN structures. The input data for ANN is divided into three collections of training, validation, and testing. Of the 174 experimental μ_{nf} data, 70 % of the data was evaluated in the training stage, 15 % was used for the validation stage, and 15 % of the data was used to assess performance. The foremost sample from the 400 investigated samples to forecast the μ_{nf} is plotted in Fig. 3.

To analyze and check the performance of the ANNs, the regression coefficients for different stages are reported in Table 1. According to Table 1, the highest value of R belongs to the fourth structure, which has 4 and 8 neurons in each hidden layer and is equal to 0.9999744. In Table, 4 optimal structures were presented among different network structures.

4. Results and discussion

After defining the optimal structure among different network structures based on the number of neurons and hidden layers in the ANN, it is necessary to analyze and check the performance of the proposed data. Regression (R) coefficients for different steps are drawn in 4 separate sections. Regression coefficients close to 1 indicate high accuracy of this model. As you can see in Fig. 4, R for the data set is more than 0.999. In this section, the results

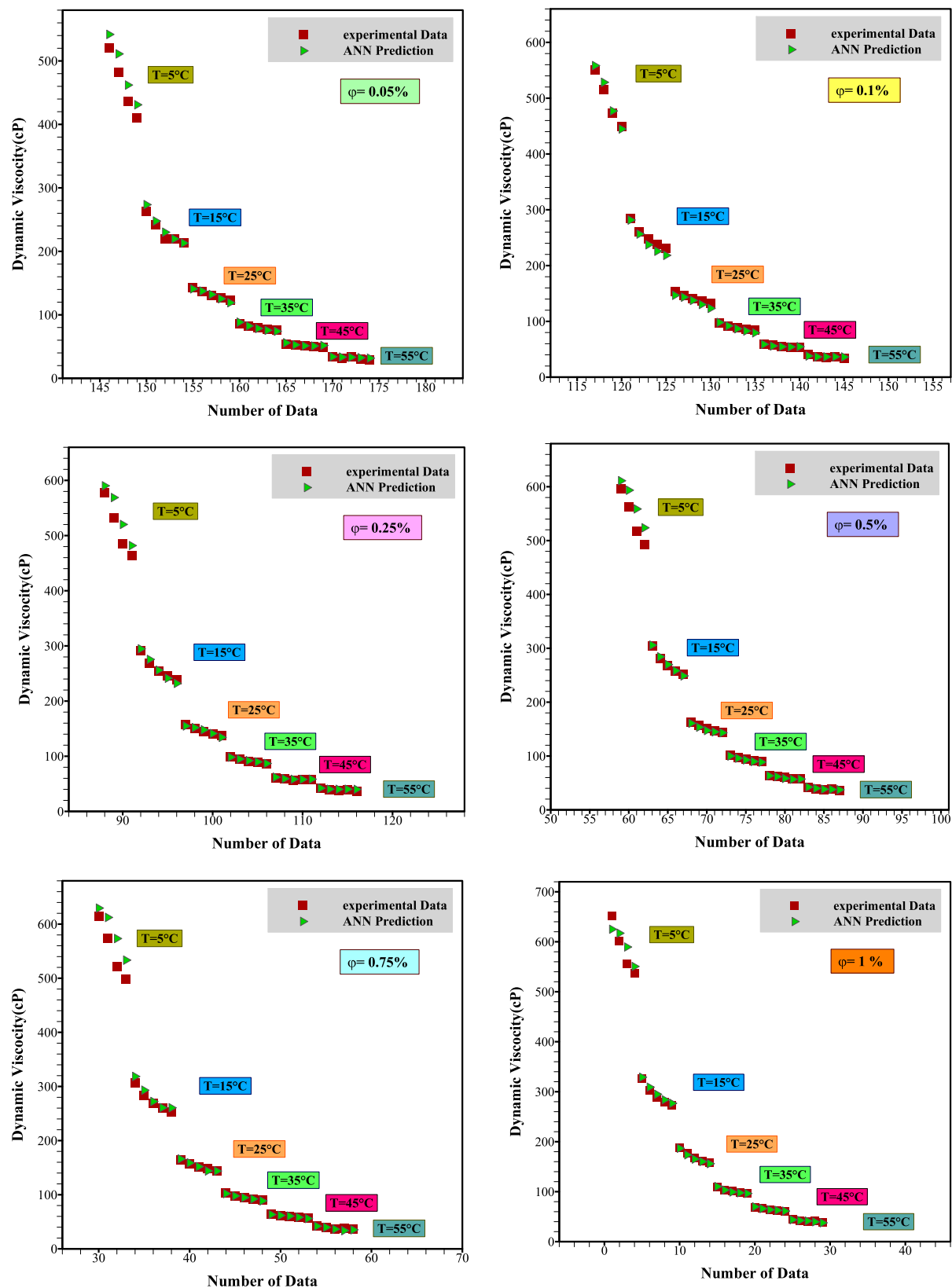


Fig. 8. Comparison of ANN by experimental data.

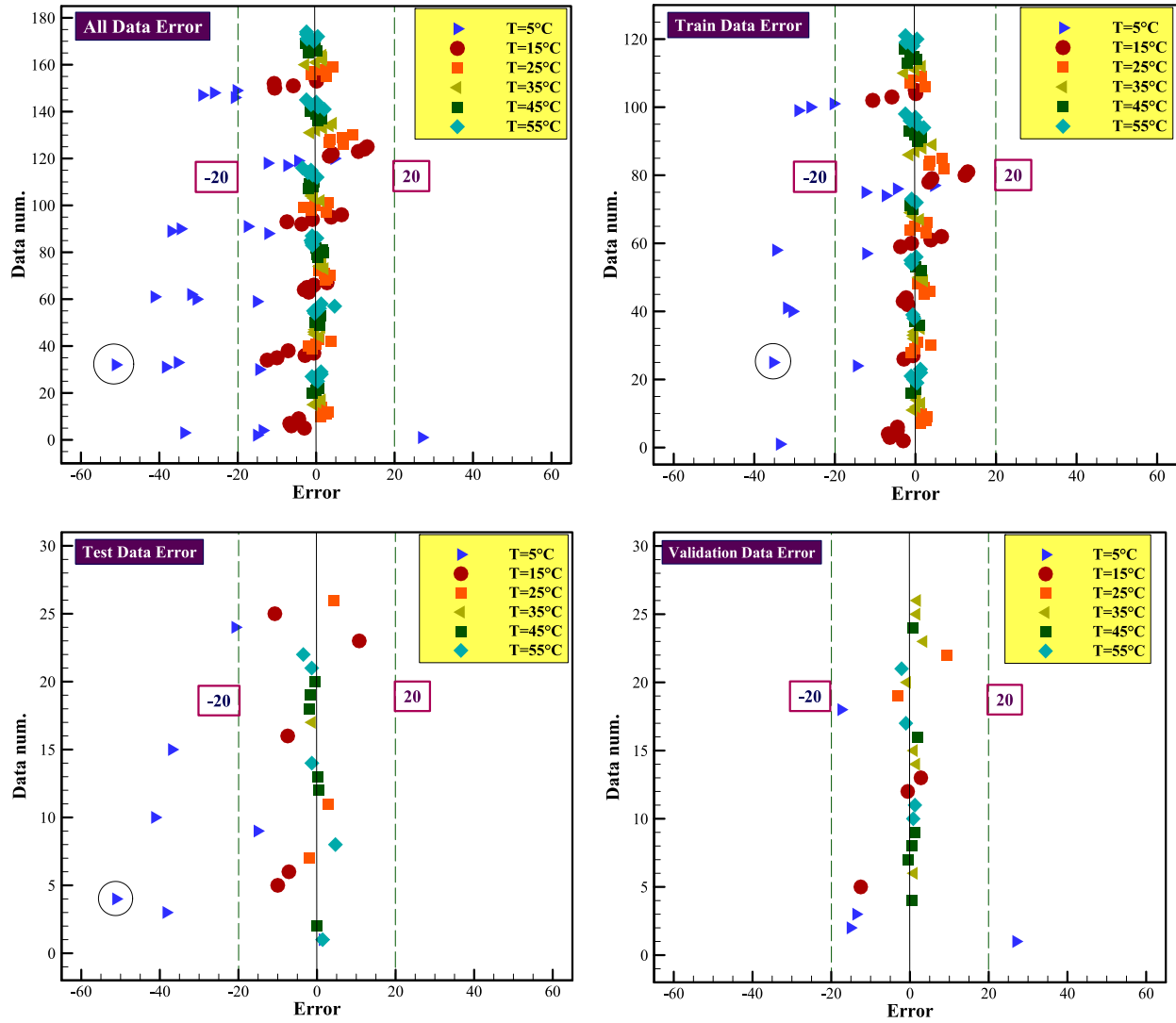


Fig. 9. Calculated error values.

of R are more important than other coefficients, which is equal to 0.9999744 and belongs to fourth structure.

In this part of the research, the different stages of the ANN based on accuracy and proper performance were evaluated to introduce the best ANN model selected from the MSE criterion. The MSE is according to Eq. 1, which is between experimental data and predicted data. As shown in Fig. 5, the MSE in the training phase is lower than other phases. Based on Eq. 1, the MSE value is 0.433182095.

$$MSE = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N (\mu_{rel|Exp} - \mu_{rel|Pred})^2$$

In Fig. 6, the results of the laboratory data are evaluated with the proposed ANN data for different stages. As shown in Fig. 6, there is a good match between the proposed data and the experimental data. This shows the high accuracy of ANN data compared to other data.

Fig. 7 compares the ANN results at different stages, with experimental data collection at different SVFs using the ANN technique. According to Fig. 7, a good homogeneity can be seen between all the data proposed by ANN with the experimental data, which indicates the proper performance and correctness of the proposed data of the ANN model with practical data.

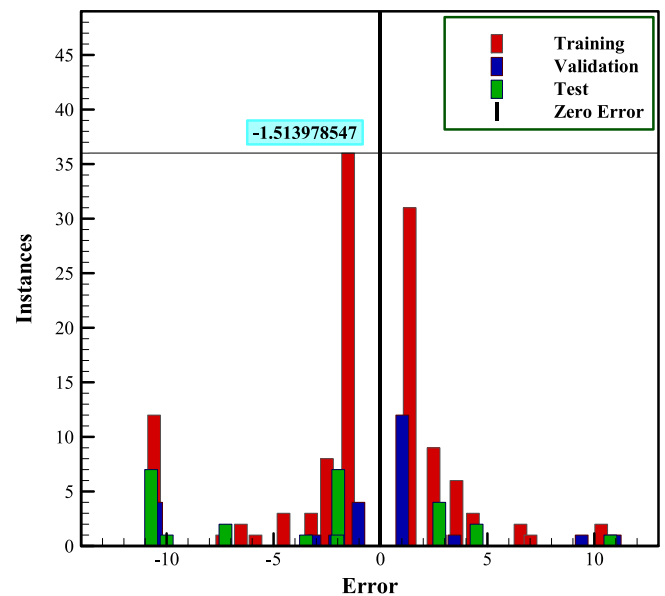


Fig. 10. Histogram plot.

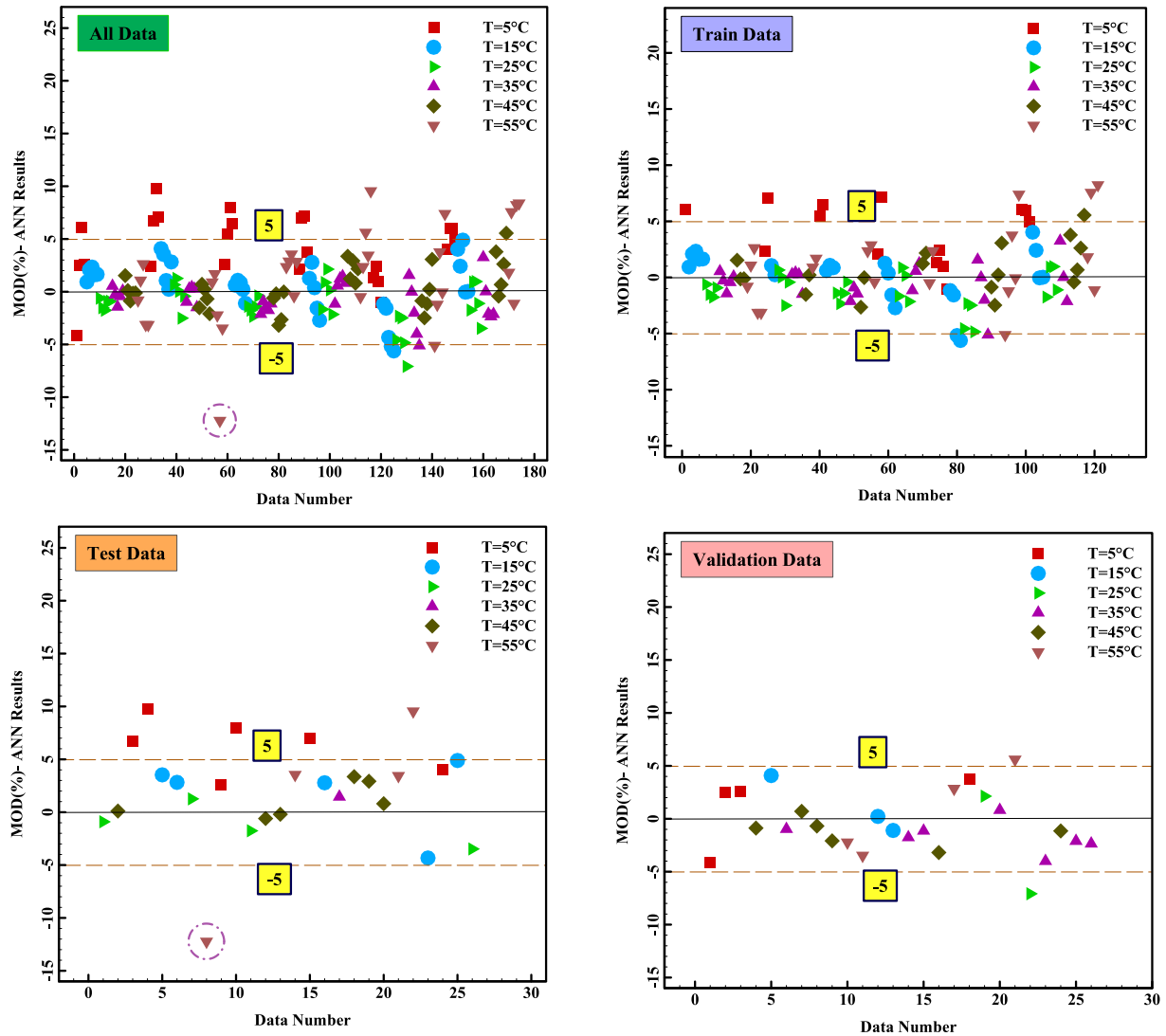


Fig. 11. MOD diagrams.

In Fig. 8, the laboratory data and ANN data are drawn and compared separately in different temperature ranges for $SVF = 0.05\%$ – 1% . According to Fig. 8, it is observed that at low temperatures such as $T = 25^\circ\text{C}$, there is no good agreement between the data, but with the increase in temperature, the agreement of the proposed ANN data with the experimental data increases, and this indicates the high accuracy and accuracy of the proposed data by ANN.

Fig. 9 predicts μ_{nf} -related errors and compares the data of different stages for collected data in 4 separate parts. Based on Fig. 9, the maximum error is between ± 20 , which shows the high precision of the predicted viscosities from the ANN model. As shown in Fig. 9, the highest error at $T = 5^\circ\text{C}$ was seen in all data, training, and testing stages in the range greater than -20 . The least error in the validation stage is less than ± 20 .

The error histogram of the proposed ANN data for different stages is shown in Fig. 10. If the data error is closer to the origin or zero, this indicates the high accuracy of this modeling. According to Fig. 10, most of the data are in the range of less than ± 10 . Also, the training stage has the lowest error and the highest type of frequency and is equal to -1.513978547 .

According to Fig. 11, the proposed ANN can have an acceptable adjustment with the benchmark line, and therefore the experimen-

tal data can estimate μ_{nf} with a maximum error of less than 5% . The concept of MOD is used to better understand the deviation of data from the actual values of ANN modeling outputs. This value is obtained from Eq. (2). The maximum MOD for all data and test data is in the range of less than -15% , which shows the correctness of the predicted data from the proposed correlation for estimating the μ_{nf} of MWCNT-CuO/10W40 nano-lubricant.

$$MOD(\%) = \frac{\mu_{Pre} - \mu_{Exp}}{\mu_{Exp}} \times 100 \quad (2)$$

The μ_{nf} of the MWCNT-CuO/10W40 nano-lubricant is calculated according to Eq. (3) [69] based on the $e\mu_{bf}$ and at different SVF for μ_{nf} :

$$\mu_{nf} = \mu_{bf}(1 + 10.6SVF + 10.6SVF^2) \quad (3)$$

By comparing the results of the predicted data by ANN, the proposed new data is plotted versus the laboratory data in Fig. 12. This comparison was performed at $SR = 3999\text{ s}^{-1}$ and $T = 5, 25$ and 35°C and various $SVFs$. As shown in Fig. 12, the ANN technique was more capable of predicting data. The results of mathematical relationship calculations and ANN data show that with increasing T and SVF , the μ_{nf} of There is a slight deviation between the data

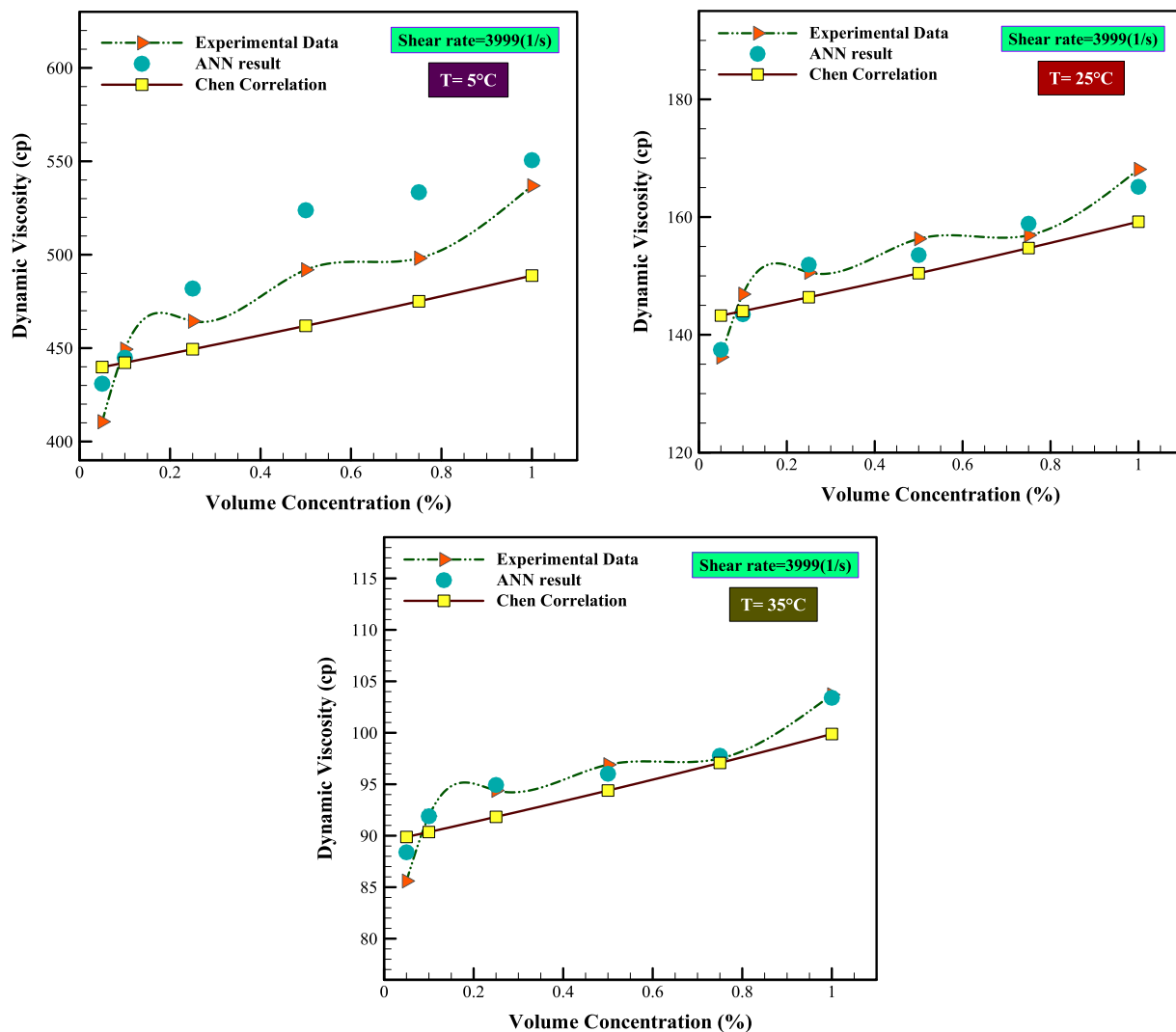


Fig. 12. Comparison between different methods.

of the mathematical relationship with the laboratory data, but as you can see, as the temperature increases, the agreement between the proposed data and the experimental data increases, and this indicates the high accuracy of ANN data compared to the computational data.

5. Conclusion

Due to the high benefits of NFs in changing the proper functioning of heat transfer such as reactors or vehicles, in this study, the research was done to estimate the μ_{nf} of MWCNT-CuO (10:90)/10W40 nano-lubricant using ANN. Also, a set of from the experimental data set in terms of T (T = 55–55 °C), and SVF = 0.05 %–1% was used for μ_{nf} modeling by ANN. Based on the studies, the following can be mentioned:

- The design of this ANN was done with the MLP method and LM algorithm.
- To evaluate the accuracy of the proposed model by ANN, MSE, regression coefficient and also MOD were used.
- The optimal model with 4 and 8 neurons in each hidden layer was presented among 400 different ANN structures.
- The results of the data error check show that the proposed data have an error of less than $-20 < \text{error} < +20$.

- μ_{nf} The data comparison results (laboratory, computational and proposed model) show that the data of the proposed model is better and more accurate than the computational data.
- Laboratory investigations are very time-consuming and require a lot of laboratory equipment, so it is suggested to use ANN model for prediction of μ_{nf} .

Declaration of Competing Interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

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