

Original Article

Mixing Zone of Single Port Submerged Diffuser with Threaded Outlet for Thermal Discharge from Thermal Power Stations

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Abstract - A lot of Thermal power stations use a once-through cooling system, which causes thermal pollution. That led to changes in the properties of water (physical, chemical and biochemical properties). A single-port submerged diffuser is a method used for the disposal of hot water, and it is in the middle between the surface and the multi-port submerged discharge in comparison with cost and dilution. This study aimed to examine the mixing zone of a single port submerged diffuser with a threaded outlet discharging hot water in ambient water. Three flow rate ratios (Q_r) between hot water and ambient water flow were considered (0.2, 0.4, and 0.67). The measurements were at three different water depth ratios; the water depth ratios (H) were 1, 2 and 3. The temperature difference was plotted as $(\Delta T_f / \Delta T)$. The single port submerged diffuser was tested with and without threads, and the results were compared. The study included two types of threads great and fin pitch. The experimental results showed that for a single port submerged diffuser with a great threaded outlet at $H = 1, 2$ and 3 and $Q_r = 0.2$, the mixing zone maximum temperature ratio (ΔT_{max}) increased by 1.41%, 1.54% and 62.5%, respectively. The results also showed that, at $H = 1, 2$ and 3 and $Q_r = 0.4$, the ΔT_{max} increased by 3.61%, 1.45% and 58.97%, respectively. For $Q_r = 0.67$, the ΔT_{max} increased by 6.4%, 1.37% and 18.18%, respectively. The experimental results also showed that, for fin threaded outlet at $Q_r = 0.2$, the ΔT_{max} increased by 2.74%, 7.14% and 36%, respectively. Also, at $Q_r = 0.4$, the ΔT_{max} increased by 2.35%, 8% and 29.09%, respectively. For $Q_r = 0.67$, the ΔT_{max} increased by 1.15%, 5.19% and 3.51%, respectively. The results also included the average temperature at the end of measurements (ΔT_e) increased by different values in the studied cases. The thread has a bad effect on the temperature distribution in the mixing zone due to the spread obstruction of the hot water in the outlet area. The small thread size has a good effect compared with the great one. Finally, adding a thread at the diffuser outlet does not reduce the mixing zone but increases it and thus reduces temperature dilution.

Keywords - Thermal power station, Submerged diffuser, Mixing zone, Temperature distribution.

1. Introduction

Regarding the Cooling systems of thermal power stations, they use water as a cooling fluid, where cooling water is drawn from any water source, condensed to reject heat and recirculated to the water source (i.e. thermal discharge). This causes thermal pollution, changing the water's chemical, physical and biochemical properties. This reduces the thermal power station efficiency, leading to design limitations that increase cooling system costs. There are two types of cooling systems. These are "once-through cooling systems", where water is drawn from a source and heat is discharged back to the water source as surface discharge or submerged discharge. The mixing zone of thermal discharge is divided into three regions [1]. These regions are near-field, intermediate-region, and far-field regions. The thermal discharge mixing zone characteristics depend on the jet momentum, discharge buoyancy, spreading due to turbulence, ambient density stratification, water-source current configuration, solid boundaries and heat exchange at the surface.

A single-port submerged diffuser is a method used for the disposal of hot water, and it is in the middle between the surface and the multi-port submerged discharge in comparison with cost and heat dilution. Many researchers studied single-port submerged diffuser discharge, such as Ashmawy et al. [2] studied a mixing zone single-port submerged diffuser clogged by the free rotating propeller, and it was found that the propeller increased dilution of hot water discharged from the diffuser. George and Panayotis [3] analyzed dilution from a round vertical jet blocked by a thin concentric disc; results disclosed that blocking the diffuser outlet with a disc increased the dilution rate compared to the unblocked one. Lilun and Lee [5] studied jet blocked with the pierced disc. The results disclosed that using pierced disc raises the dilution rate. Wen-xin et al. [6] studied the buoyant jet from a square diffuser blocked with a square disc discharge in static ambient. Alton et al. [7] scrutinized the thermal plume dilution rate results from a hot water jet discharged vertically from a single port diffuser. The plume height and cross-section area were assessed as functions in nozzle distance, where thermistor



probes were implemented to measure the temperature downstream of the diffuser.

Huang et al. [8] scrutinized the dilution of a single-port diffuser. They established 2 semi-practical-equations (i.e. one for centerline dilution and the other for surface dilution). Equations were ruled by the continuity equation and could predict dilution in the near-field area, transition area, and far-field- area. Experiments and measurements designated the constants of the equations. Zeng and Huai [9] conducted experiments to verify a numerical model predicting round buoyant jets in crossflow behavior. Experiments were executed to different cross-jet velocity ratios. Apparent was that the velocity ratio is a very effective parameter for thermal discharge in cross-flow. Marmorino et al. [10] investigated the surface temperature distribution due to the power station cooling system thermal discharge. An infrared camera captured the temperature field. Obviously, in the case of receiving water, the buoyant jet moves symmetrically. In the water current case, the plume stretches downstream. Paik [11]

implemented computational fluid dynamics to investigate the mixing of single-port-diffuser thermal discharge. The governing equations were solved by 2nd-order finite-volume. The model was verified against experimental measurements. Apparently, a computational fluid dynamic could simulate thermal discharges with reasonable accuracy.

This study aimed to examine the mixing zone of a single port submerged diffuser with a threaded outlet discharging hot water in ambient water.

2. Experimental Setup and Procedure

A hydraulic research institute built an experimental model to study the adding coarse-thread at the diffuser outlet. The experimental setup and the instruments required to perform the experimental measurements are illustrated schematically in Fig.1, while Fig.2 shows a photograph of the experimental model arrangement.

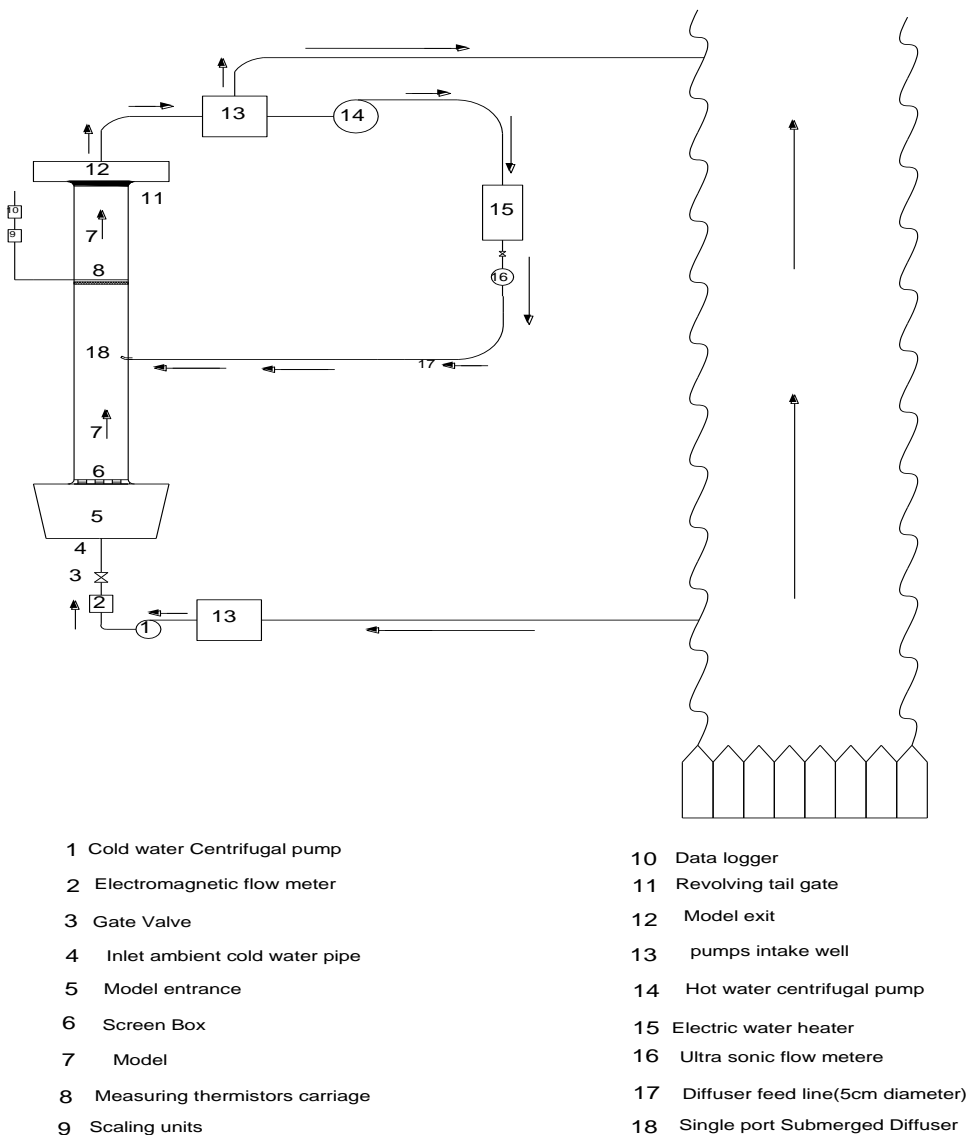


Fig. 1 Schematic diagram for experimental setup

Experimental model dimensions are 18 m long, 2 m wide, and 1.5m height; the weir has 2 m wide and 0.4 m high. The box contains stones to dissipate energy at the inlet and to avoid any disturbance in the flow. A turning tailgate adjusted the model's water depth by regulating the gate's height. The model ambient water pump flow rate (Q) and head (h) were 0.07 m³/s 10 m. The hot water pump flow rate and head were 0.012 m³/s and 12 m. Electromagnetic and ultrasonic flow meters were used to measure the flow rate of ambient hot water, respectively. The electric water heater worked as a heat source for hot water. To Achieve Flow similarity, the Reynolds number (Re) model was ≥ 2000 and $Fr < 1$ for the model flow [3]. That means the internal friction force can be neglected, so the gravity force is dominant, and all operating conditions were selected to keep satisfactory similarity [4]. Thus similarity between open channel flow and rigid boundaries model is achieved. Experimental work was accomplished to examine the mixing zone of a single port submerged

diffuser with a threaded outlet discharging hot water in ambient water. The diffuser outlet diameter is 0.05 m, inclined angle of 30° in the horizontal direction and 20° in the vertical direction. Water depths above the diffuser surface were one, two and three times the diffuser outlet diameter. The temperature difference (ΔT) between the ambient and hot waters was determined as a constant value of 10 C°. Surface temperature was measured across the model using thermistors. Fig. 3 shows a single port submerged diffuser with a threaded outlet, and Fig. 4 shows the measurement instruments. Three flow rate ratios (Q_r) between hot and ambient water flow were considered 0.2, 0.4, and 0.67. The temperature difference was plotted as $(\Delta T_f / \Delta T)$. Three water depth ratios above diffuser (H) of 1, 2, and 3 were also considered. The single port submerged diffuser was tested with and without thread, and the results were compared.



Fig. 2 The experimental model arrangement

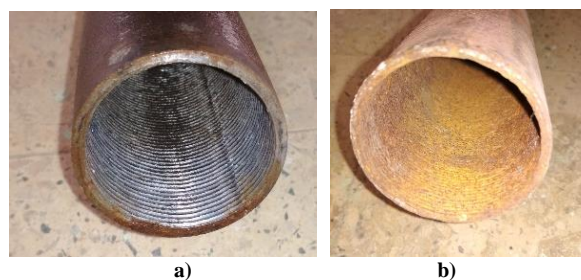


Fig. 3 Single port submerged diffuser with (a) great threaded outlet (b) fin threaded outlet

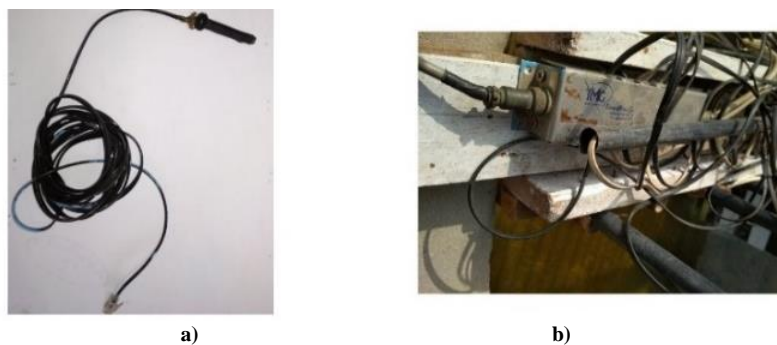




Fig. 4 Measurement instrumentations (a) Temperature measuring system. (b) Measuring sensor box. (c) Sensors connector, Data acquisition. (d) Temperature carriage. (e) Ultrasonic flow meter. (f) Electromagnetic flow meter.

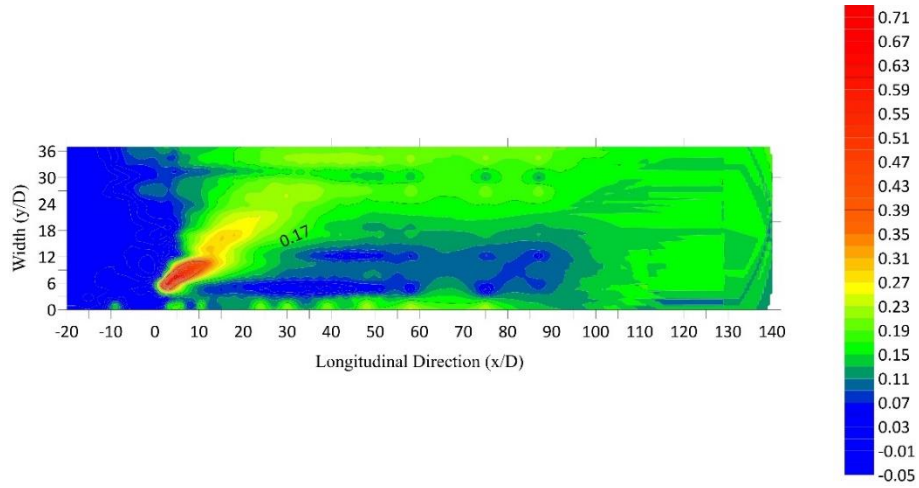
3. Results and Discussion

The single port submerged diffuser was tested with and without thread, and the results will discuss in this section. Analysis was executed on the diffuser with threaded results to study the impact of temperature difference on the mixing zone. Hot and ambient water temperatures were continuously measured and adjusted as necessary. The surface temperature distribution was measured across the model using thermistors after reaching steady-state conditions. The surface temperature distribution was measured upstream and downstream of the diffuser. Temperature readings were taken at the selected positions for each experiment. Data acquisition was set to collect temperature measurements three times at each run at each position. In the longitudinal and transverse directions, ΔT was $10\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$. It was apparent that for $H = 1, 2,$ and 3 at $\Delta T = 10\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$, where 3 flow ratios were considered $Q_r = 0.2, 0.4,$ and 0.67 . Hot and ambient water temperatures were continuously measured and adjusted as needed. Figures 5, 6 and 7 present the mixing zone temperature distribution for diffusers without threads at $H = 1, 2$ and 3 , respectively and for the three studied flow ratios. The figures clear the variation of the temperature difference ($\Delta T_f / \Delta T$) in the studied area (mixing zone). The mixing zone length was selected in the longitudinal direction to be $160D$ and the vertical direction $36D$. The

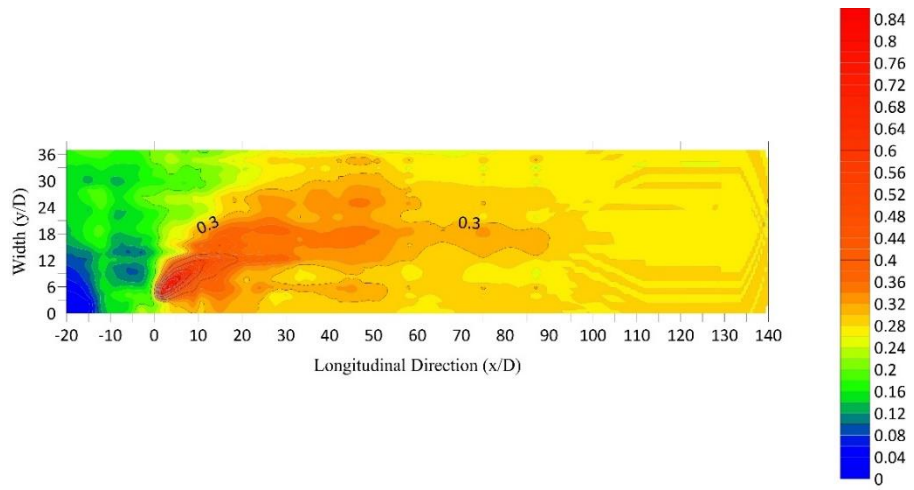
longitudinal and vertical lengths were sufficient to clear the temperature distribution; after that, the temperature change was not clear. From the figures, it is clear that the increase in the flow ratio at the same depth causes an increase in the water temperature in all areas because of the large amount of hot water amount. The most effective area-to-temperature distribution is from 0 to $100D$. The downstream area has small affected by the hot water. The results show the figures also that the temperature difference decreases with the increase of the depth because of the buoyance effect.

The effect of large thread on the temperature distribution is cleared in figures 8, 9 and 10. It is clear from the figures that the thread has a bad effect on the temperature distribution in the mixing zone due to the spread obstruction of the hot water in the outlet area.

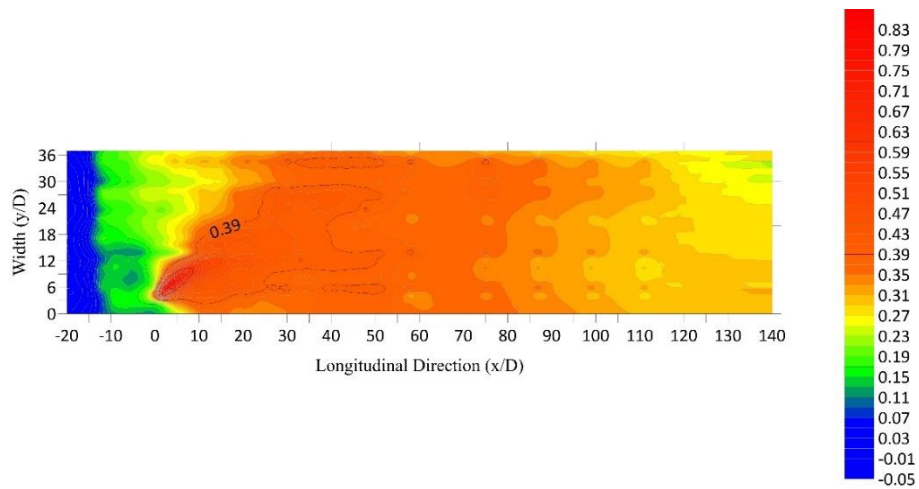
The effect of small thread on the temperature distribution is cleared in figures 11, 12 and 13. It is clear from the figures that the thread has a bad effect on the temperature distribution in the mixing zone due to the spread obstruction of the hot water in the outlet area. The small thread is better than the large thread in temperature distribution.



(a) $Q_r = 0.2$

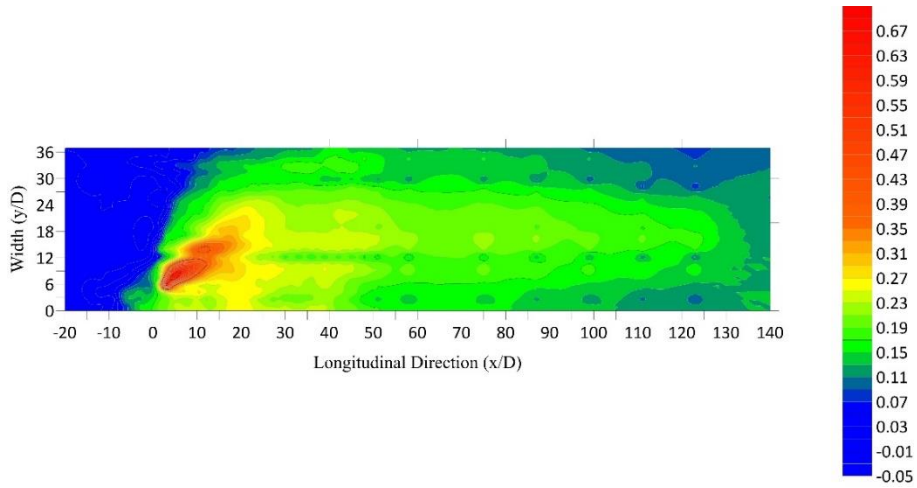


(b) $Q_r = 0.4$

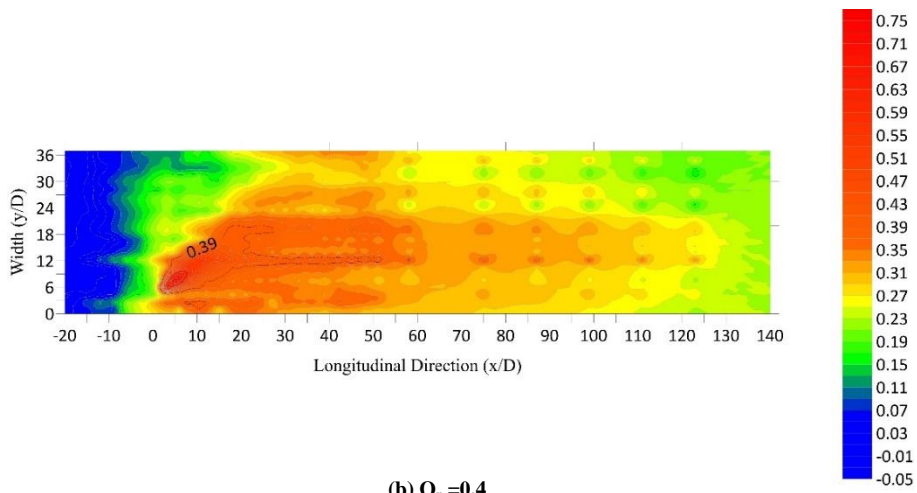


(c) $Q_r = 0.67$

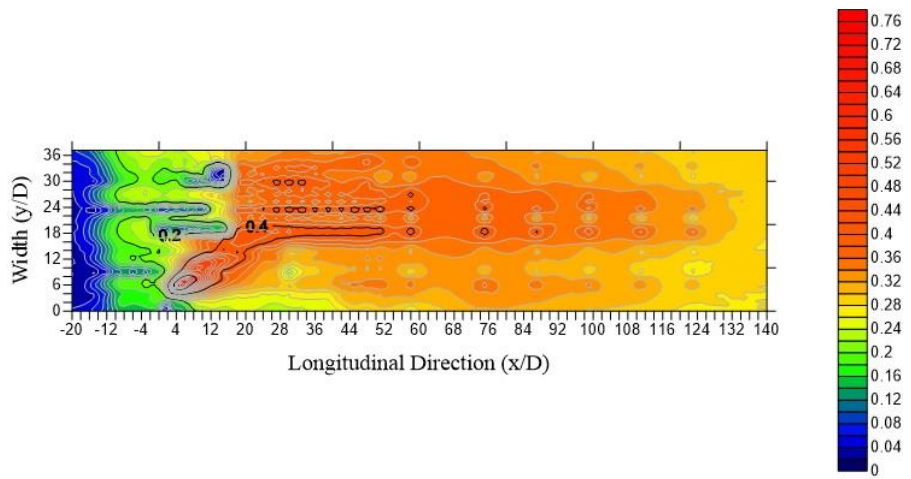
Fig. 5 Mixing zone at H=1 for (a) $Q_r = 0.2$. (b) $Q_r = 0.4$. (c) $Q_r = 0.67$



(a) $Q_r = 0.2$

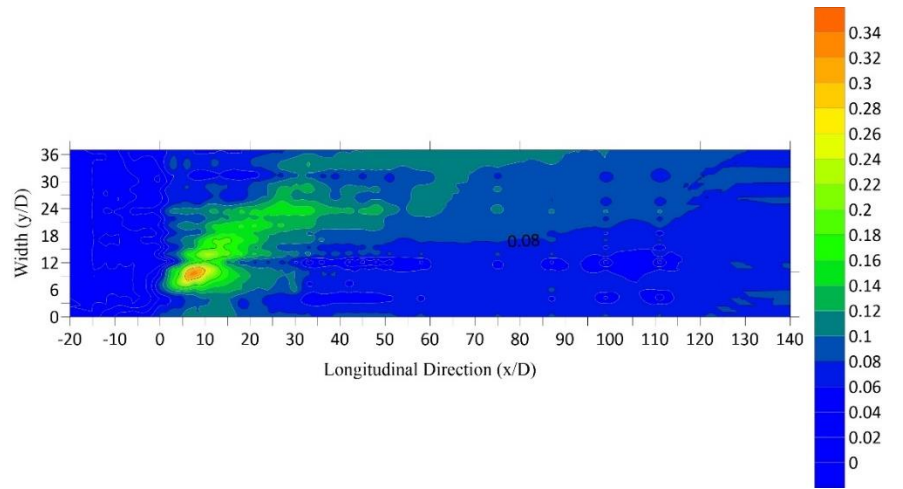


(b) $Q_r = 0.4$

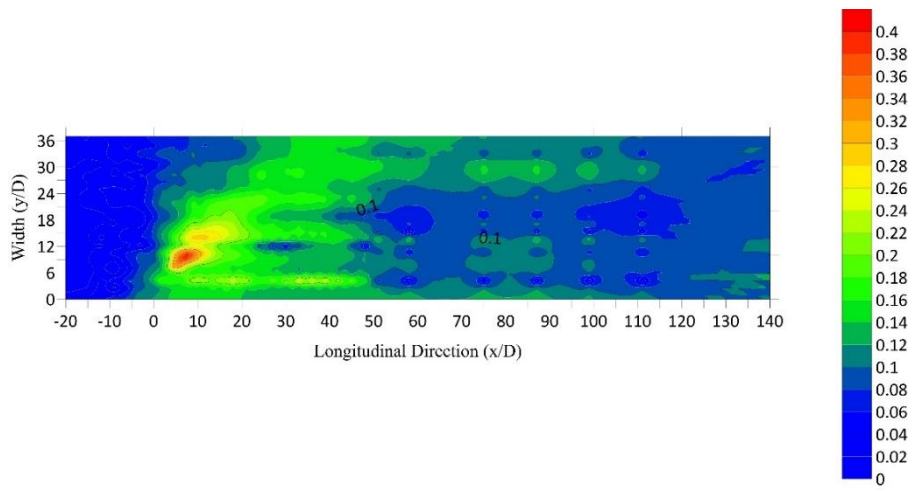


(c) $Q_r = 0.67$

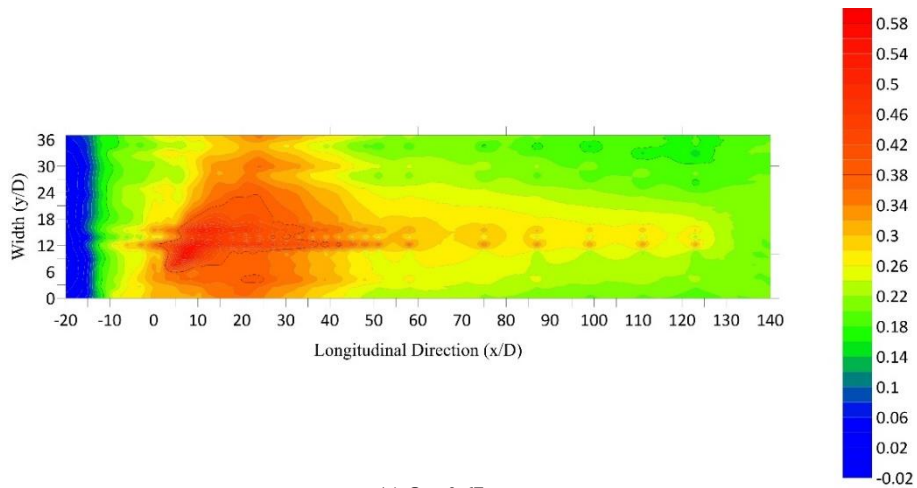
Fig. 6 Mixing zone at $H=2$ for (a) $Q_r = 0.2$. (b) $Q_r = 0.4$. (c) $Q_r = 0.67$



(a) $Q_r=0.2$



(b) $Q_r=0.4$



(c) $Q_r=0.67$

Fig. 7 Mixing zone at $H=3$ for (a) $Q_r = 0.2$. (b) $Q_r = 0.4$. (c) $Q_r = 0.67$

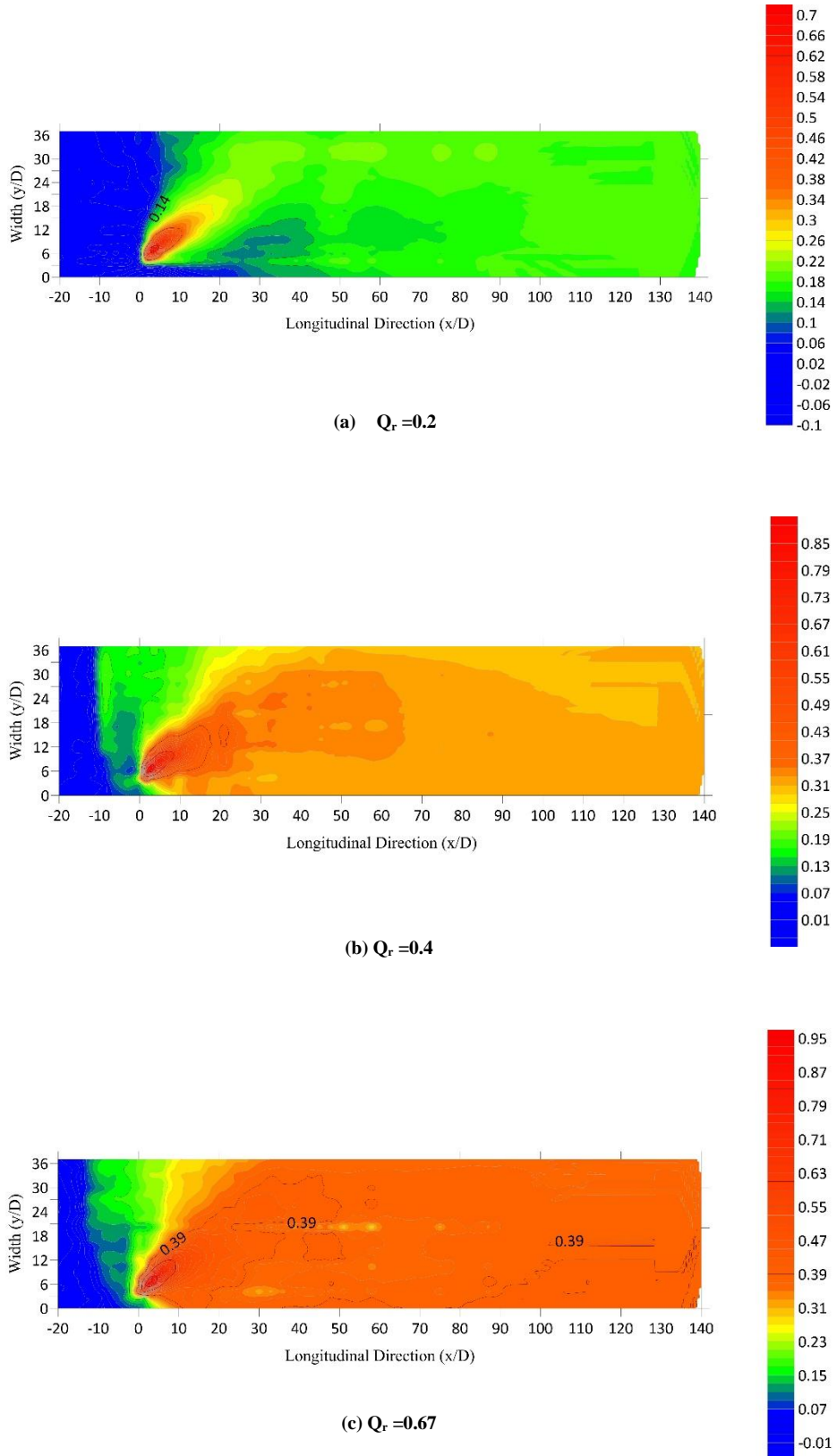
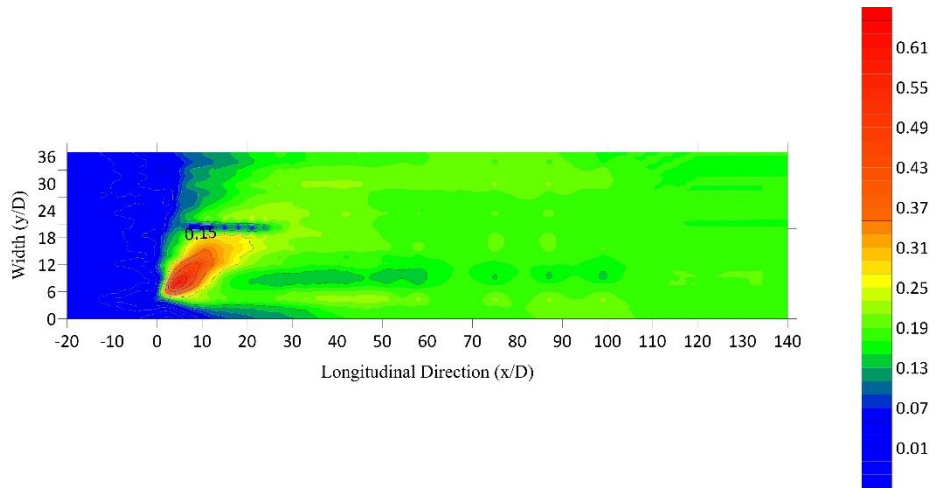
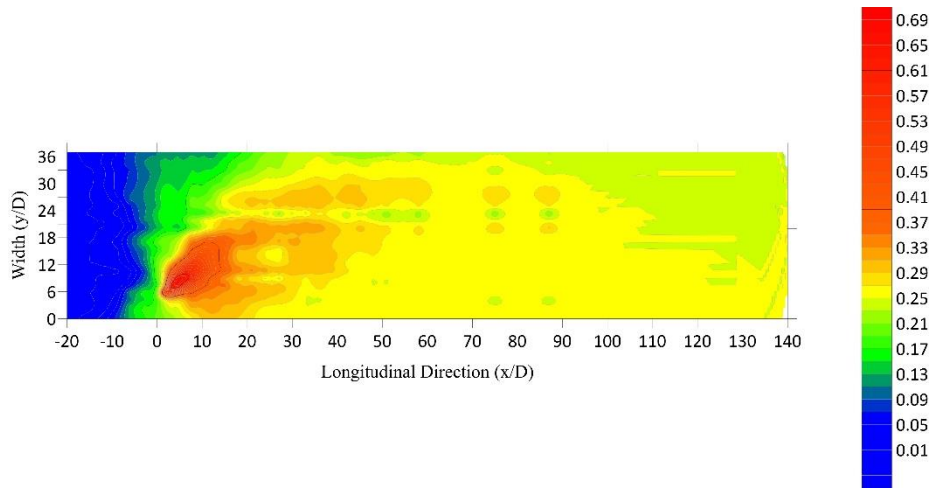


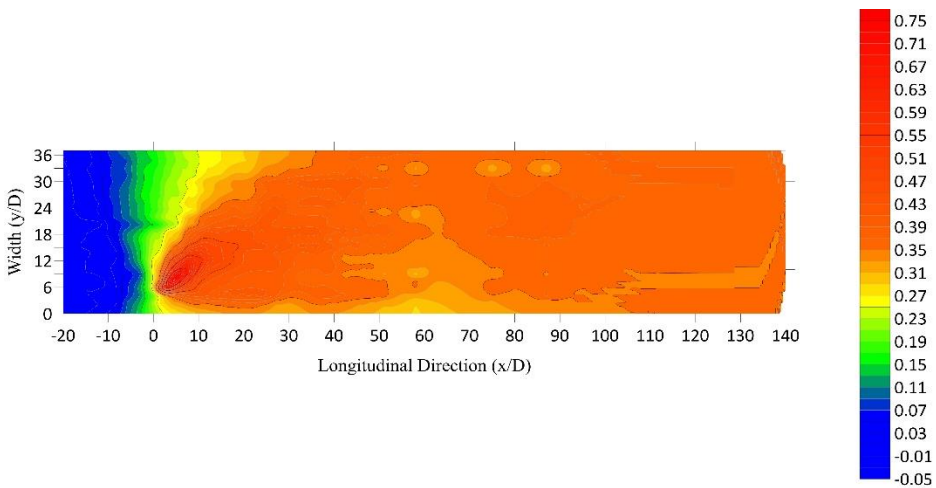
Fig. 8 Mixing zone at $H=1$ for (a) $Q_r = 0.2$. (b) $Q_r = 0.4$. (c) $Q_r = 0.67$ for a diffuser with a large thread



(a) $Q_r = 0.2$

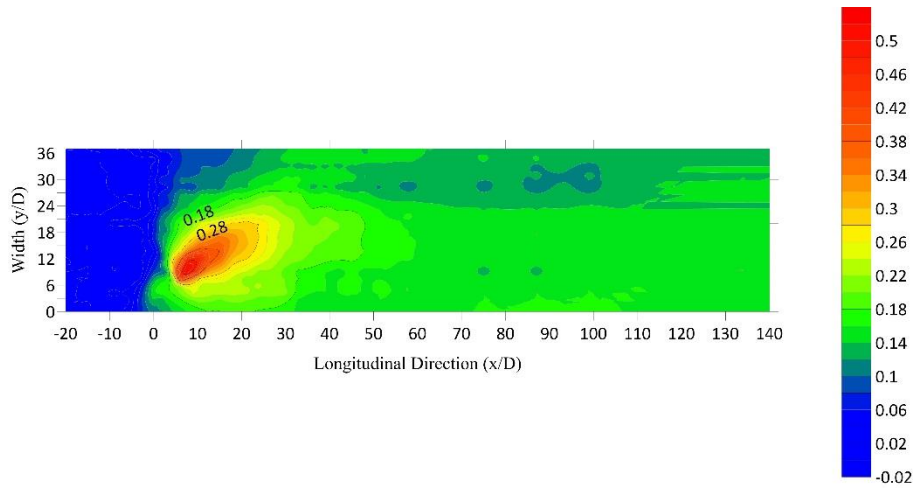


(b) $Q_r = 0.4$

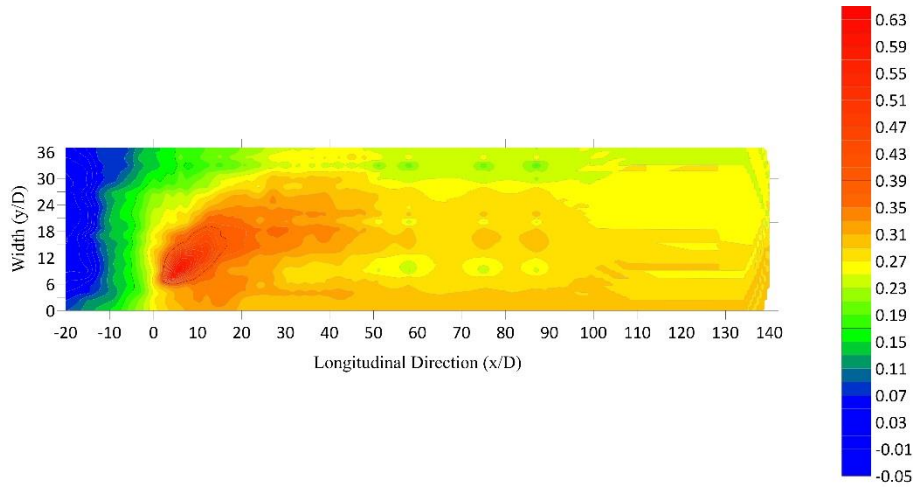


(c) $Q_r = 0.67$

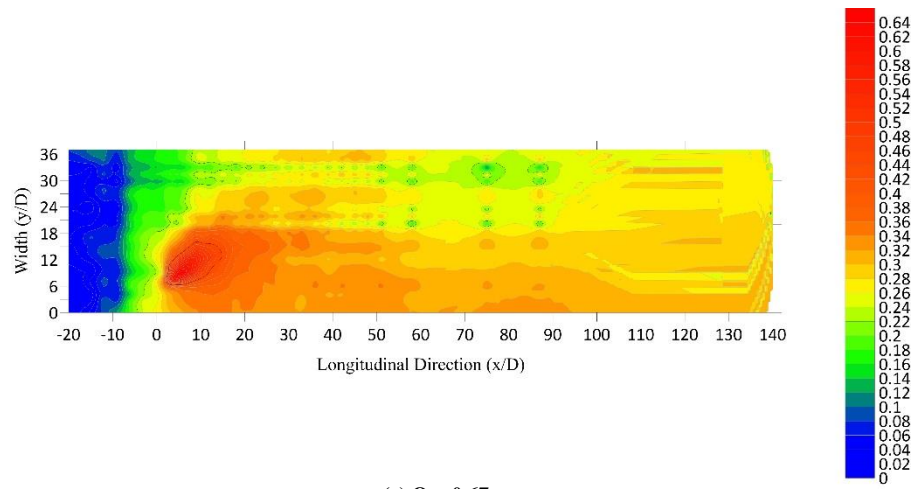
Fig. 9 Mixing zone at $H=2$ for (a) $Q_r = 0.2$. (b) $Q_r = 0.4$. (c) $Q_r = 0.67$ for a diffuser with a large thread



(a) $Q_r = 0.2$



(b) $Q_r = 0.4$



(c) $Q_r = 0.67$

Fig. 10 Mixing zone at $H=3$ for (a) $Q_r = 0.2$. (b) $Q_r = 0.4$. (c) $Q_r = 0.67$ for a diffuser with a large thread

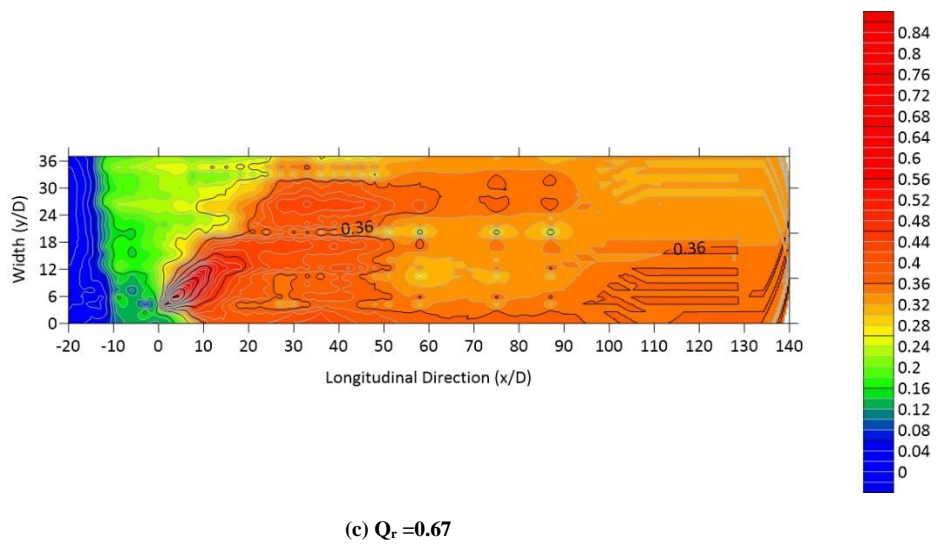
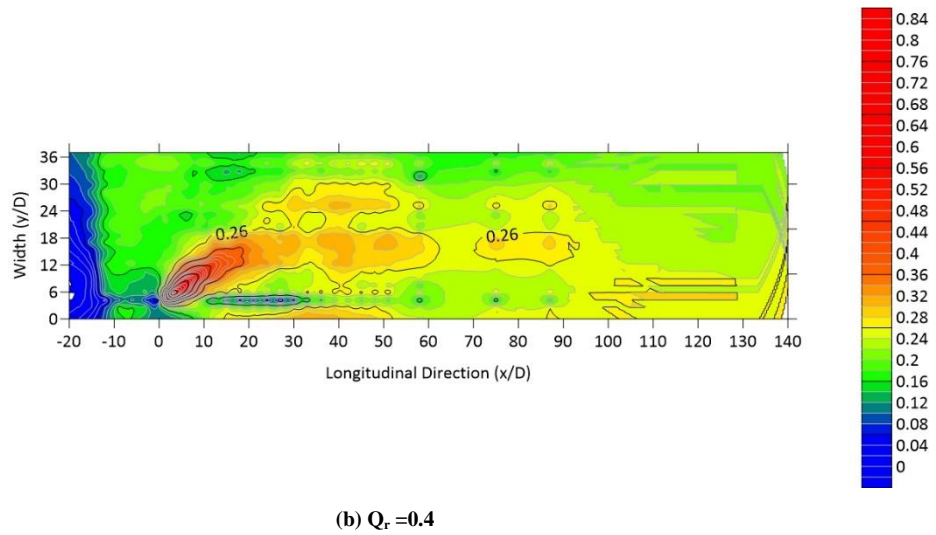
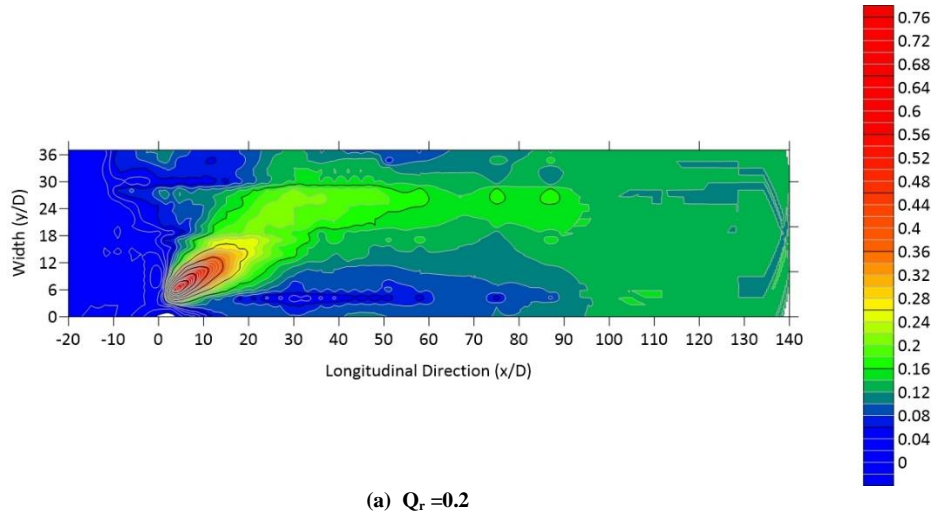
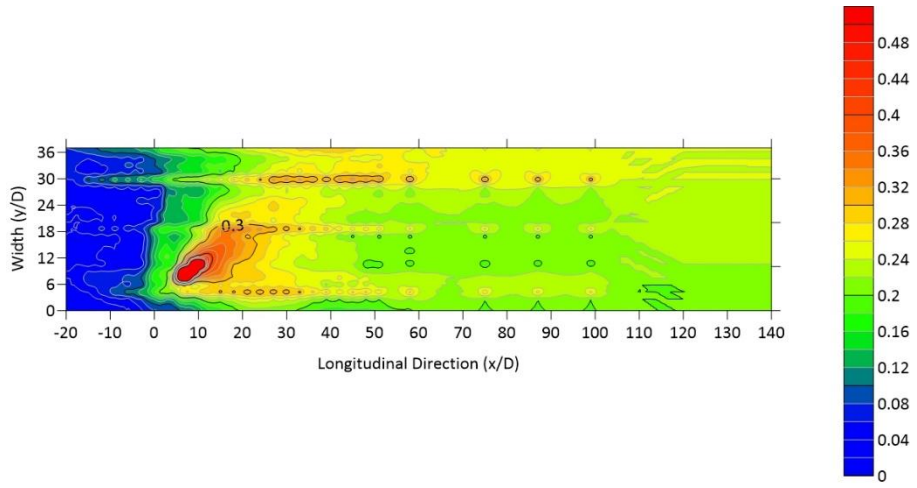
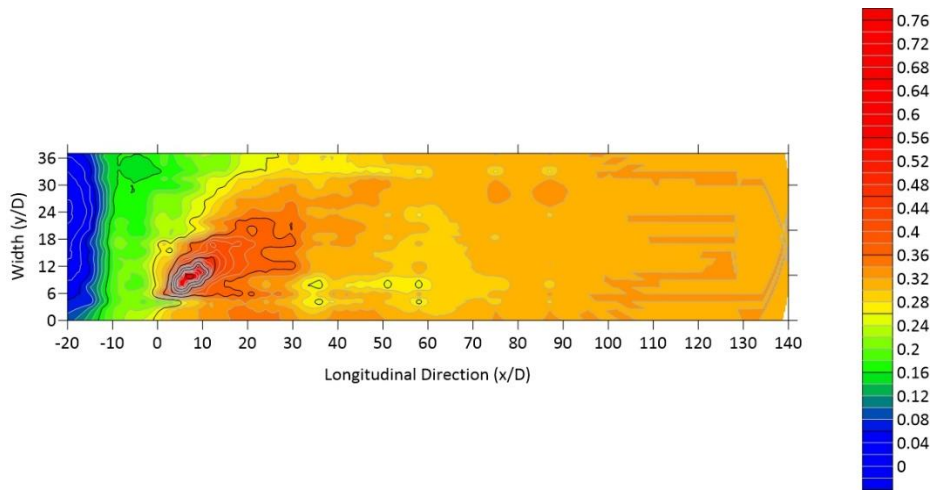


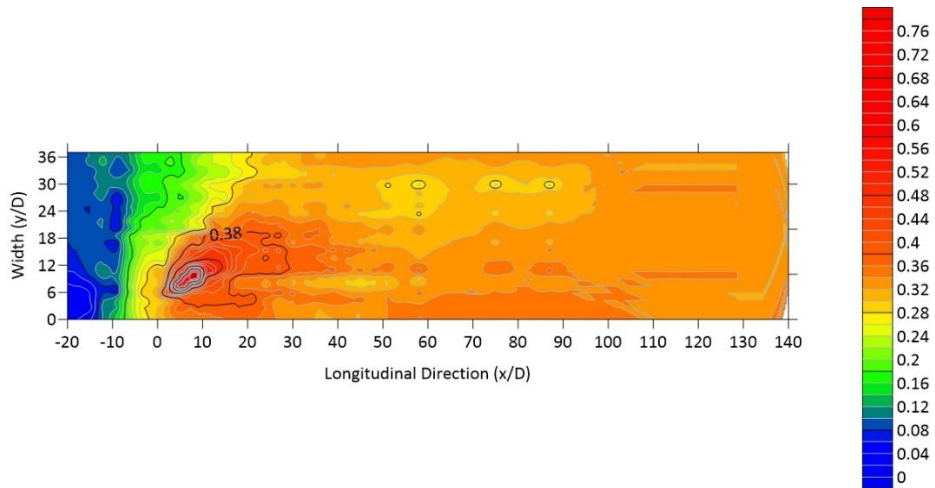
Fig. 11 Mixing zone at $H=1$ for (a) $Q_r = 0.2$. (b) $Q_r = 0.4$. (c) $Q_r = 0.67$ for a diffuser with a small thread



(a) $Q_r = 0.2$



(b) $Q_r = 0.4$



(c) $Q_r = 0.67$

Fig. 12 Mixing zone at $H=2$ for (a) $Q_r = 0.2$. (b) $Q_r = 0.4$. (c) $Q_r = 0.67$ for a diffuser with a small thread

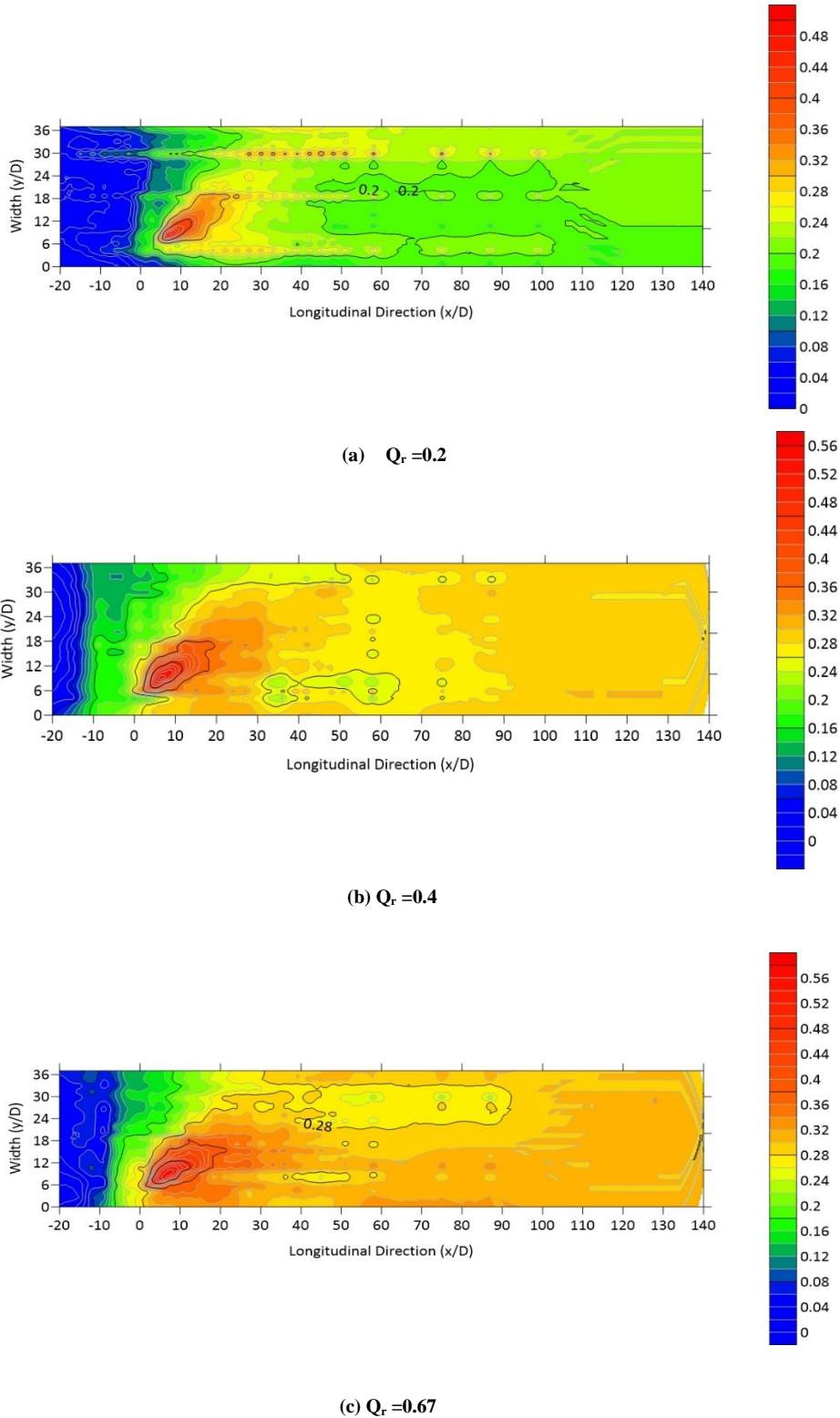


Fig. 13 Mixing zone at $H=3$ for (a) $Q_r = 0.2$. (b) $Q_r = 0.4$. (c) $Q_r = 0.67$ for a diffuser with a small thread

The variation of temperature ratio versus longitudinal direction up to $140D$ for submerged diffuser without threads for $H=1, 2$ and 3 are clear in figures 14, 15 and 16. From the figures, one can see that the temperature ratio starts upstream with a lower ratio to arrive at the maximum ratio at the diffuser exit, then starts to reduce. The

variation of the temperature ratio with longitudinal direction after $100D$ is clearly small. The variation after $100D$ can be negligible. It is also clear from the figures that, at the depth increase, the maximum temperature ratio decreases due to buoyance. The results also show that the flow ratio affects the temperature variation in the

longitudinal direction; increasing the flow ratio causes an increase in the temperature ratio. Finally, the results clearly show that the fine thread has a lower temperature

variation than the great thread. The great thread also has temperature variation lower than the diffuser without thread.

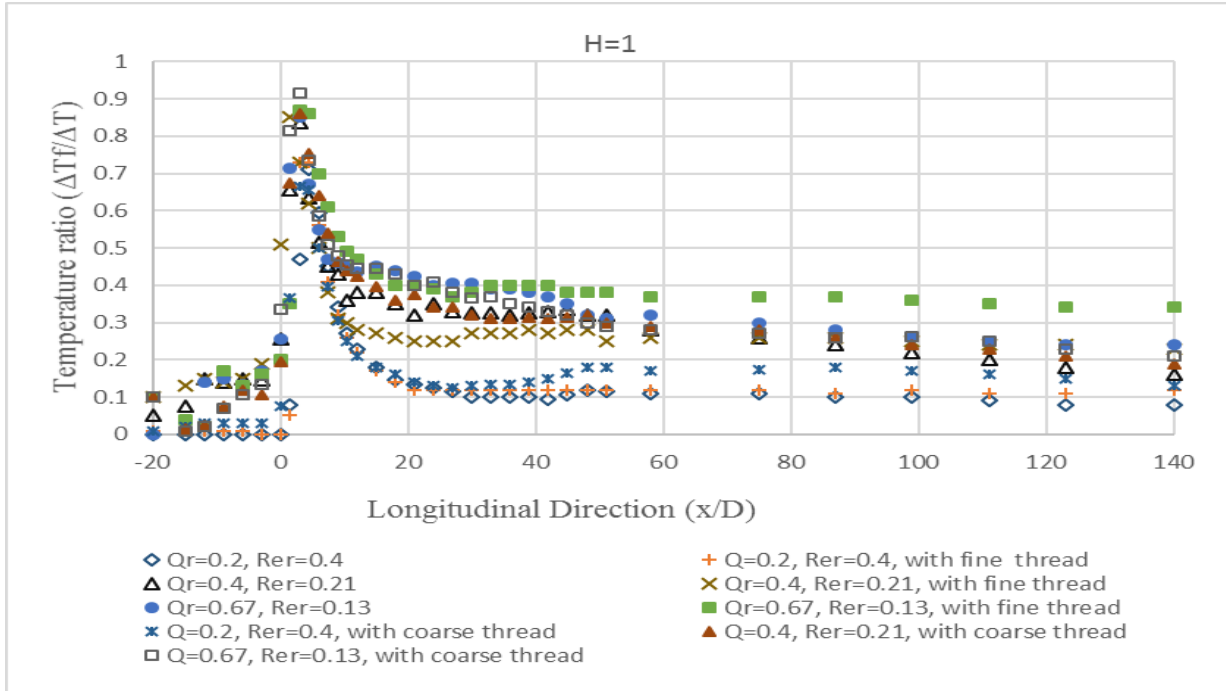


Fig. 14 Comparison between the dilution of plume center temperature ratios at $\Delta T = 10\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ at $H=1$ for the diffuser with and without thread

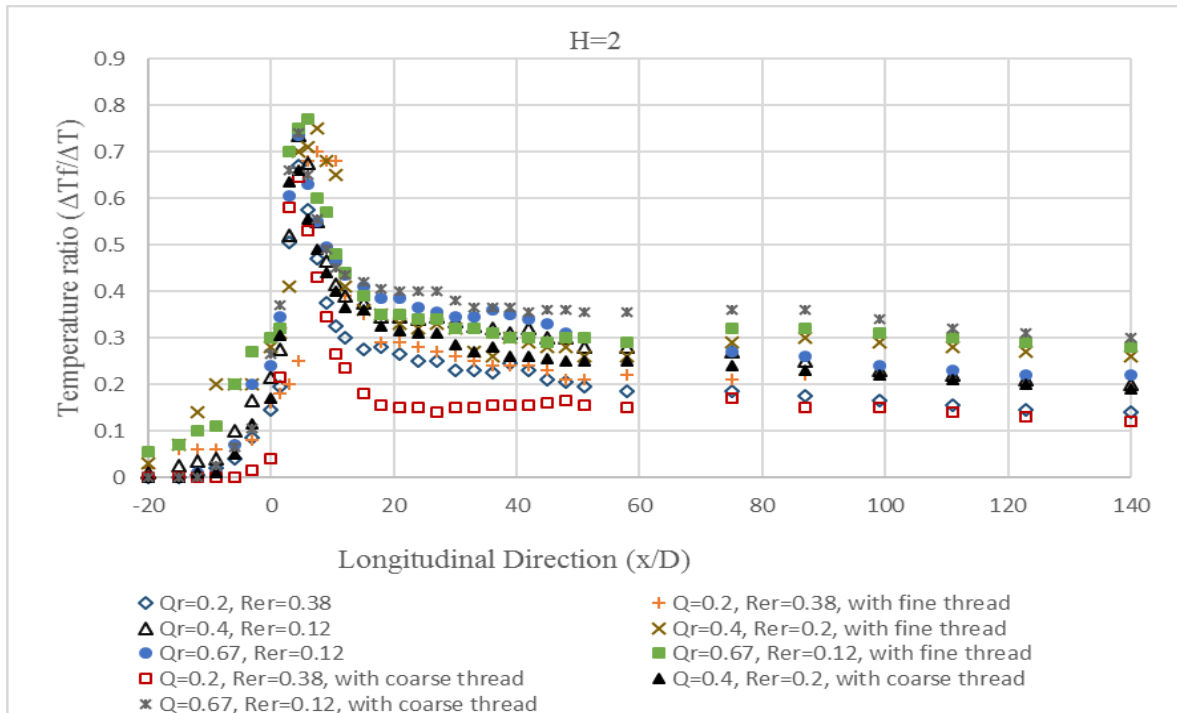


Fig. 15 Comparison between the dilution of plume center temperature ratios at $\Delta T = 10\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ at $H=2$ for the diffuser with and without thread

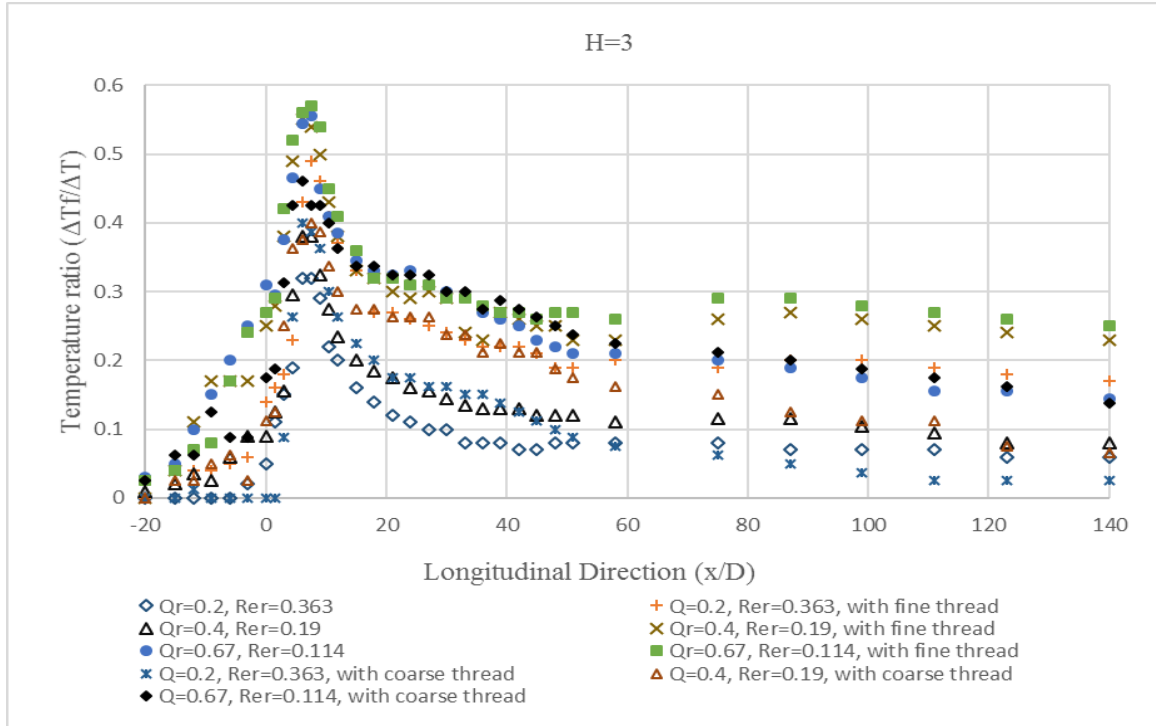


Fig. 16 Comparison between the dilution of plume center temperature ratios at $\Delta T = 10\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ at $H=3$ for the diffuser with and without thread

Table 1. ΔT_m and ΔT_e for diffuser without and with large thread

H	Q_r	Re_r	ΔT_m thread	ΔT_e thread	ΔT_m	ΔT_e	ΔT_m change (%)	ΔT_e change (%)
1	0.2	0.4	0.72	0.18	0.71	0.137	1.41	31.39
	0.4	0.21	0.86	0.32	0.83	0.22	3.61	45.45
	0.67	0.13	0.915	0.38	0.86	0.31	6.40	22.58
2	0.2	0.38	0.66	0.18	0.65	0.1	1.54	80.00
	0.4	0.2	0.7	0.26	0.69	0.19	1.45	36.84
	0.67	0.12	0.74	0.36	0.73	0.27	1.37	33.33
3	0.2	0.363	0.52	0.14	0.32	0.07	62.50	100.00
	0.4	0.19	0.62	0.27	0.39	0.09	58.97	200.00
	0.67	0.114	0.65	0.28	0.55	0.18	18.18	55.56

Table 2. ΔT_m and ΔT_e for diffuser without and with fine thread

H	Q_r	Re_r	ΔT_m fine thread	ΔT_e fine thread	ΔT_m	ΔT_e	ΔT_m change (%)	ΔT_e change (%)
1	0.2	0.4	0.73	0.17	0.71	0.137	2.74	19.41
	0.4	0.21	0.85	0.27	0.83	0.22	2.35	18.52
	0.67	0.13	0.87	0.32	0.86	0.31	1.15	3.13
2	0.2	0.38	0.7	0.22	0.65	0.1	7.14	54.55
	0.4	0.2	0.75	0.29	0.69	0.19	8.00	34.48
	0.67	0.12	0.77	0.37	0.73	0.27	5.19	27.03
3	0.2	0.363	0.50	0.21	0.32	0.07	36.00	66.67
	0.4	0.19	0.55	0.28	0.39	0.09	29.09	67.86
	0.67	0.114	0.57	0.29	0.55	0.18	3.51	37.93

It was found that adding a thread at the outlet of the diffuser based on analysis, plume center temperature ratios (ΔT_m) and average temperature ratio at the end of measurements (ΔT_e) were listed in tables (1) and (2). The flow ratios $Q_r = 0.2, 0.4,$ and 0.67 at Reynolds number ratios (Re_r) are listed in the tables.

From table (1), the results show that for a single port submerged diffuser with a great threaded outlet at $H= 1,$ the mixing zone maximum temperature ratio (ΔT_{max}) increased by 1.41%, 3.61%, and 6.4%, the average temperature at the end of measurements (ΔT_e) increased by (31.39%, 45.45 % and 22.58 %) compared to diffuser without thread.

For $H=2$, the mixing zone maximum temperature ratio (ΔT_{max}) increased by 1.54%, 1.45%, and 1.37%, and the average temperature at the end of measurements (ΔT_e) increased by 80%, 36.84 % and 33.33 % compared to diffuser without thread.

For $H=3$, the mixing zone maximum temperature ratio (ΔT_{max}) increased by 62.5%, 58.97%, and 18.18%, and the average temperature at the end of measurements (ΔT_e) increased by 100%, 200 % and 55.56 % compared to diffuser without thread.

From table (2), the results show that it was found that adding a thread at the diffuser outlet increases the maximum temperature of the mixing zone. Temperature ratios across the model were increased compared with the diffuser without thread. The average temperatures at the end of measurements were increased compared with the diffuser without thread. Adding a thread at the outlet of the diffuser does not reduce the mixing zone but increases it and thus reduces temperature dilution.

4. Conclusion

The thermal power stations use a once-through cooling system, which causes thermal pollution. That led to changes in the properties of water. The experimental study was carried out at a single port submerged diffuser

with and without thread. The experimental results showed that for a single port submerged diffuser with a large threaded outlet at $H=1$, the mixing zone maximum temperature ratio (ΔT_{max}) increased by 1.41%, 3.61%, and 6.4%, the average temperature at the end of measurements (ΔT_e) increased by (31.39%, 45.45 % and 22.58 %) compared to diffuser without thread. For $H=2$, the mixing zone maximum temperature ratio (ΔT_{max}) increased by 1.54%, 1.45%, and 1.37%, and the average temperature at the end of measurements (ΔT_e) increased by 80%, 36.84 % and 33.33 % compared to diffuser without thread. For $H=3$, the mixing zone maximum temperature ratio (ΔT_{max}) increased by 62.5%, 58.97%, and 18.18%, and the average temperature at the end of measurements (ΔT_e) increased by (100%, 200 % and 55.56 %) compared to diffuser without thread.

Finally, adding a thread at the diffuser outlet increased the maximum temperature of the mixing zone. Adding a thread at the diffuser outlet increased Temperature ratios across the model compared with the diffuser without thread. The average temperatures at the end of measurements were increased compared with the diffuser without thread. Adding a thread at the outlet of the diffuser does not reduce the mixing zone but increases it and thus reduces temperature dilution.

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