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Optimization of Process Parameters of Ground Source Heat Pumps for Space Heating Applications with Taguchi Method

Araştırma Makalesi / Research Article

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ABSTRACT

In this paper, optimization of the influence of the process parameters of ground source heat pump (GSHP) with the double U tube heat exchanger for space heating applications was performed. The coefficient of performance (COP_{sys}) in GSHP system was investigated during experimental measurements with various process parameters; space air inlet/outlet temperatures ($T_{i,sa}$ and $T_{o,sa}$) and soil inlet/outlet temperatures ($T_{i,wa}$ and $T_{o,wa}$). Taguchi method performed for obtained the optimum process conditions on the COP_{sys} in GSHP system. Taguchi experimental design considered as L16 orthogonal array. The most influence of process parameter on the COP_{sys} in GSHP system was evaluated by using analysis of variance (ANOVA) and signal/noise (S/N) ratio. The optimum process parameter was determined as A4B1C1D1 for COP_{sys} in GSHP with ANOVA analysis. The optimum levels were computed as $T_{i,sa}$ at Level 1 (32 °C), the $T_{o,sa}$ at Level 2 (17°C), the $T_{i,wa}$ at Level 2 (6°C) and and the $T_{o,wa}$ at Level 1 (9°C). The most significant parameter on the COP_{sys} for space heating applications of GSHP system were found as $T_{i,sa}$ and $T_{o,sa}$ with 48.4 %..

Keywords: Taguchi method, ANOVA, ground source heat pump, COP_{sys} , heating applications absorbent, refrigeration.

1. INTRODUCTION

Ground source heat pump (GSHP) systems of the space heating and cooling applications were one of the promising technologies as regards evaluations ground energy [1-3]. GSHP system was drawn energy stored under the ground during winter months for space heating applications. The absorbed ground temperature was higher than the ambient temperature. Therefore, coefficient of performance (COP_{SYS}) of GSHP obtained higher than the system performance [4-5]. Also, ground heat exchangers (GHX) provided connection between the heat pump and the ground and affected of the efficiency of GSHP. GSHP systems was the most important for space heating systems in winter months, as the systems reduced significant electric consumption in the place. GSHP system with these advantages can be evaluated parametrically and the efficiency can be increased. In previous studies, the optimal utilization of the space cooling and heating of the GSHP systems were evaluated with some optimization techniques. The various process parameters of vertical ground coupled heat pump (VGCHP) system were performed by Esen and Turgut [6]. The process parameters in VGCHP for varying depth of boreholes and temperatures of condenser and evaporator were optimized by using Taguchi method. The author computed COP with helping ANOVA and S/N ratio. Ramniwas et al. [7] investigated effect of the process operation of a ground coupled heat pumps (GCHP) system with Taguchi method for space heating applications. The author was determined the most important parameter of the value COP of a GCHP system

as the condenser outlet temperature. The optimization of ground heat exchanger parameters of GSHP for space heating applications with Taguchi method was evaluated by Sivasakthivelet. al., [4]. The GSHP systems to utilize ground energy for space heating and cooling applications was set up and performed by Pandey et. al., [8]. Also, the author performed by using Taguchi method to determine optimum length of GHX for heating and cooling applications. Sivasakthivel et al. [9] presented the optimum process parameters of a GSHP system for both heating and cooling operations. The author obtained the best COP for the case of heating and cooling situations during experimental measurements. The influence of the parameters a solar assisted GCHP system was performed with Taguchi method for heating application by Verma and Murugesan [10]. Also, the optimum solar collector area and ground heat exchanger length for COP in GSHP systems was determined. Özdemir and Özkaya designed vertical ground source heat pump system with the single tube heat exchanger for Ankara conditions. They reported that R407c and water+antifreezewere used as working fluids for heat pump system and single

U-tube heat exchanger, respectively. According to the experimental results, they found out the performance of the system as 3.12 for the heating season [10]. Hu et al., conducted energy and exergy analyzes under different control strategies to improve the performance of a ground source heat pump system for a building in Wuhan, China. According to their analysis, the use of flow control and variable flow pump has shown to improve the performance of the system [11]. Xia et al., experimentally investigated a vertical and horizontal type ground source heat pump and made an optimization for control. Experimental results suggest that the energy

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consumption of the system increases with the use of a variable speed pump and the energy consumption decreases by about 8% during the heating and cooling season [12]. Verma and Murugesan in the performance of solar assisted ground source heat pump a different mass flow rates were determined for the Indian winter conditions. 0.23, 0.28, and 0.33 kg / s mass flow rate throughout the day in experiments have determined that the COP value reaches the maximum value at low flow rates [13]. Sivasakthivel et al. investigated the soil heat exchanger in a ground source heat pump system as single and double U-tube. The thermal performance analysis of single and double U-tube heat exchangers has been discussed in this paper by focusing on its effectiveness, ground temperatures, heat extraction-injection rate and its effects on surrounding ground formations. The calculations according to the experimental results show that the average efficiency of the single U-tube heat exchanger in the heating and cooling modes is 0.34 and 0.40 respectively, 0.46 and 0.57 for the double U-tube, respectively [14].

In this work, optimization of the process parameters was performed in GSHP systems with the double U tube heat exchanger for space heating applications using Taguchi experimental design method. The obtained results were analyzed using a signal-to-noise (S/N) ratio and ANOVA method to determine the percentage contribution of each parameter on COP_{sys} in GSHP systems. The main objective of the present study was to optimize the process parameters in the GSHP systems using Taguchi experimental design method.

2. MATERIALS AND METHOD

2.1 System Descriptions

The main objective of this work is to heat a space by means of the GSHP systems. A schematic view of the GSHP system is shown in Figs. 1 and 2.



Figure 2. General view of the experimental setup used for space heating applications in GSHP

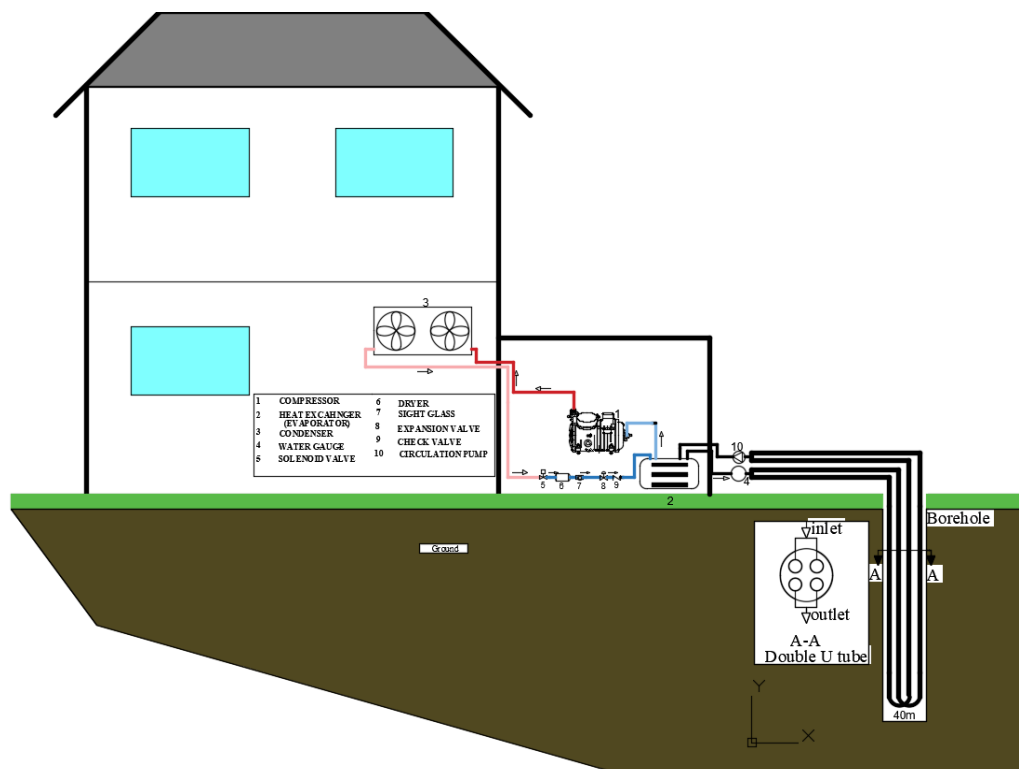


Figure 1. Schematic diagram of GSHP for space heating applications

The working fluid was water-antifreeze mixture. In the heating cycle, the water-antifreeze mixture circulated in the soil transfers heat from the soil to the evaporator, after the refrigerant vaporizes in the evaporator. It is compressed by the compressor into the condenser and the refrigerant circulated through the condenser enters the expansion valve after condensing due to heat transfer. After the pressure of the refrigerant is reduced at the expansion valve, the cycle is completed when the

$$COP_{sys} = \frac{\dot{Q}_c}{\dot{W}_c + \dot{W}_{ef} + \dot{W}_{cp}} \quad (1)$$

The \dot{Q}_c of the GSHP system is calculated by the following equation:

$$\dot{Q}_c = \dot{m}_a c_{p,a} (T_{i,sa} - T_{o,sa}) \quad (2)$$

Table 1. Main components and characteristics in GSHP

Place: Ankara, Turkey (Latitude 39.56 °K; Longitude 32.14 °D)	
Annual average weather information:	
Average outside temperature	287.5K
Average soil temperature (1 m)	288.6K
Cooling ambient information:	
Volume	21 m ³
Comfort temperature	293 K
Heat pump information:	
Capacity	1.85 kW
Compressor type / power	Hermetic/ 1 HP, 0.736 kW
Evaporator type	HS 10; Kontherm
Condenser type	AC30-30EQ Plate heat exchanger
Condenser fan	1046 m ³ /h
Refrigerant	R407c
Soil heat exchanger information:	
Heat exchanger type	Vertical
Double U-tube material	Polythene, SDR-11
Borehole length	40 m
Double U-tube diameter	32 mm
Borehole diameter	180 mm
Circulation pump information:	
Type	Rio-C25-70
Powers	40,62, 83 W

refrigerant returns to the evaporator. The air that contacts with the condenser and is blown into the room with the help of a fan, heats the room. The main components of the system and characteristic information are given in Table 1. The air flow rate was determined via a TESTO 435 air speed meter.

2.2 Thermodynamic Analysis

The COP_{sys} of the GSHP system for heating applications is calculated by the following equation [11-12]:

where \dot{Q}_c is an amount of heat transferred from the condenser to the space depending on the air flow rate passing through the fan on the condenser and the inlet and outlet temperatures of the air to the condenser. The amount of heat transferred to the soil by the mixture of water and antifreeze circulated in the soil heat exchanger is calculated by Eq. 3 [11-12].

$$\dot{Q}_{SHE} = \dot{m}_{wa} c_{p,wa} (T_{o,wa} - T_{i,wa}) \quad (3)$$

Table 2. Uncertainty of measurement devices in GSHP

Uncertainty types (W)	Uncertainty of measurement and calculation
Mass flow (\dot{m}_a)	$\pm 2 \times 10^{-5}$ kg s ⁻¹
Space air outlet temperatures ($T_{o,sa}$)	± 0.1 °C
Space air inlet temperatures ($T_{i,sa}$)	± 0.1 °C
Specific heat ($c_{p,a}$)	± 0.01 kJ kg ⁻¹ °C ⁻¹
Total energy consumption (W_T)	± 0.01 kW
The performance of system (COP _{sys})	± 2.146 % kW

2.3. Uncertainty Analysis

In experimental studies, the accuracy of measurement data is as important as experimental results. The measurement devices used in the experiments have measurement sensitivities. During measurement, the uncertainties due to the measurement sensitivities of the devices must be calculated. In this study, sensitivity and uncertainty of measurement devices uncertainties were given Table 2. The uncertainty was performed using the following equation [13-14]:

$$W = [(x_1)^2 + (x_2)^2 + + (x_n)^2]^{1/2} \quad (4)$$

3. EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN AND OPTIMIZATION

In this paper, the effects of the air inlet/outlet temperatures and soil inlet/outlet temperatures of COP_{sys} in GSHP systems were performed. The full factorial experimental test was designed for the four factors and levels with as L16 orthogonal array as shown in Table 3 and Table 4. The control factors and their corresponding levels were given as shown in Table 3.

Table 3. Assignment of the levels to the factors in GSHP

Symbol	Process Parameter	Levels			
		1	2	3	4
A	T _{i,sa}	26	28	30	32
B	T _{o,sa}	17	19	21	23
C	T _{o,wa}	9	9.5	10	10.5
D	T _{i,wa}	6	6.5	7	7.5

Table 4. Experimental design using L16 orthogonal array in GSHP

Experiment no.	A	B	C	D
1	1	1	1	1
2	1	2	2	2
3	1	3	3	3
4	1	4	4	4
5	2	1	2	3
6	2	2	1	4
7	2	3	4	1
8	2	4	3	2
9	3	1	3	4
10	3	2	4	3
11	3	3	1	2
12	3	4	2	1
13	4	1	4	2
14	4	2	3	1
15	4	3	2	4
16	4	4	1	3

The factor and levels for COP_{sys} for heating applications in GSHP systems were considered as T_{i,sa}, T_{o,sa}, T_{i,wa} and T_{o,wa}. The main of the optimization was decreased test time and cost. Therefore, Taguchi design proposed and performed to investigate the full parameter with a small number of experimental tests in order to decrease the experimental tests. The Taguchi method provided a simple, efficient and systematic approach to specifying the optimum process in GSHP systems. The experimental design can determined the effect of the control factor in GSHP systems. The design can be provided of determining the optimal process conditions of highest COP_{sys} in GSHP systems for heating system [15-21]. The test results were evaluated with a signal-to-noise (S/N) ratio to evaluate of quality characteristics with desired values. The quality characteristics in S/N ratio were debated with three categories, i.e. the lower the better, the higher the better, and the nominal the better. This study aimed to optimize the best COP_{sys} in GSHP systems. Therefore, a higher- the-better has been performed to measure the S/N ratio. The-higher-the-better quality formula used for calculating S/N ratio was given below [16, 17-20]:

$$\eta = -10 \log \left(\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{y_i^2} \right) \quad (5)$$

where η is the S/N ratio for the higher-the-better case (unit: dB), and yi represents the COP in GSHP systems obtained from the experimental results and n the number of repetitions in a trial [16, 17-21]. The S/N ratios were presented in Table 5.

Also, ANOVA analysis was performed to determine of the effect the design process on quality characteristic [16, 18-21]. The ANOVA analysis can be determined the most significant factors in GSHP system. The COP_{sys} values for space heating applications were evaluated by ANOVA analysis. The percent contribution ratios (PCR) were compute by ANOVA analysis. The PCR for COP values for space heating applications can be indicated the degree of influence of the process parameter in GSHP system. The PCR formula was given below [16-20]:

$$PCR = \left(\frac{SS_A - (V_e) \cdot (v_A)}{SS_T} \right) \times 100 \quad (6)$$

where SS_A is the sum of squares for parameter A, V_e is the variance of error, v_A is the degrees of freedom of parameter A, and SS_T is the total sum of squares [16-22].

Table 5. Experimental results and S/N ratio, (η), for COP_{sys} of space heating system in GSHP

Experiment no.	A (°C)	B (°C)	C (°C)	D (°C)	COP _{sys}	
					Measured	S/N (dB)
1	26	17	9	6	2,95306	9,4054
2	26	19	9,5	6,5	2,34127	7,3890
3	26	21	10	7	1,72948	4,7583
4	26	23	10,5	7,5	1,31769	2,3962
5	28	17	9,5	7	3,56485	11,0408
6	28	19	9	7,5	2,95306	9,4054
7	28	21	10,5	6	2,34127	7,3890
8	28	23	10	6,5	1,72948	4,7583
9	30	17	10	7,5	4,17664	12,4165
10	30	19	10,5	7	3,56485	11,0408
11	30	21	9	6,5	2,95306	9,4054
12	30	23	9,5	6	2,34127	7,3890
13	32	17	10,5	6,5	4,58844	13,2333
14	32	19	10	6	4,17664	12,4165
15	32	21	9,5	7,5	3,56485	11,0408
16	32	23	9	7	2,95306	9,4054

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1. Experimental Results

In this study, the characteristics properties of GSHP located in Ankara, Turkey were investigated. The tests for space heating applications in GSHP were conducted between January and February of 2016 winter season. To determine of the COP_{sys} in GSHP, the $T_{i,sa}$, $T_{o,sa}$, $T_{i,wa}$ and $T_{o,wa}$ values were continuously obtained during experimental periods of the ambient conditions. The obtained temperature values of GSHP were presented in Fig. 3.

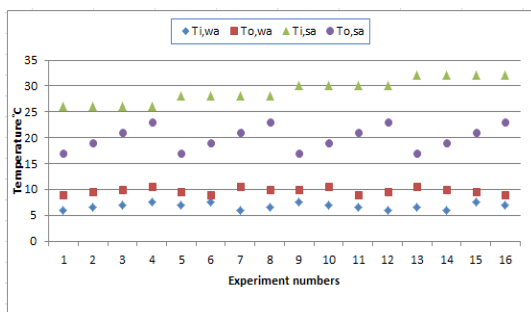


Figure 3. The temperature variations corresponding experimental measurements in GSHP

The most important parameter in GSHP system was found as average of $T_{i,wa}$ and $T_{o,wa}$ temperatures. The average of $T_{i,wa}$ and $T_{o,wa}$ temperatures were measured as 6.75 °C and 9.75 °C respectively. On the other hand,

the average of $T_{i,sa}$ and $T_{o,sa}$ was obtained as 29 °C and 20 °C for space heating applications in GSHP. The best COP_{sys} value in GSHP system was obtained that the $T_{i,sa}$ and $T_{o,sa}$ temperatures were 17 °C and 32 °C. The COP_{sys}, soil temperature $T_{s,40m}$, and ambient air temperature T_e change obtained from experimental tests were given as shown in Fig. 4.

At a depth of 40 meters ($T_{s,40m}$), the temperature is measured at between 11 °C and 12 °C the experimental tests were determined as 2.95, 1.45 and 11.37 °C, respectively. As investigated in Fig 4., the COP_{sys} value in GSHP system was obtained as between 4.58 and 1.36 values.. The average COP_{sys} value, environmental temperature and temperature of the soil of the GSHP system during

4.2. Optimization Results

The results of COP_{sys} for space heating applications in GSHP system of each test were presented in Table 6. The test results were converted into S/N ratio using Eq. (5). The S/N ratio was given in Tables 5 for all responses. The main effect for mean and S/N ratio was illustrated in Figs. 5. The effect of process parameters on COP_{sys} for space heating applications in GSHP system was presented as shown in Table 6 and Fig. 5. It can be seen that the optimum values corresponds to process parameters were given as peak point as shown in Fig. 5.

The optimum process parameters and levels on the COP_{sys} for space heating applications of GSHP system was found to be A₄B₁C₁D₁ as shown in Table 6. The optimum process parameters on the COP_{sys} for space heating applications of GSHP system were computed as the T_{i,sa} at Level 1 (32 °C), the T_{o,sa} at Level 2 (17°C), the T_{i,wa} at Level 2 (6°C) and and the T_{o,wa} at Level 1 (9°C). The improvement in S/Nratio from the initial process parameters to the level of optimal process parameters was 6.6199 dB.

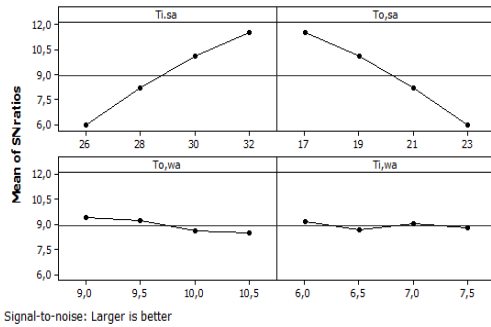


Figure 5. Mean S/N ratio graph for COP_{sys} for space heating applications in GSHP

Table 6. Results of confirmation tests for COP_{sys} in GSHP

	Initial process parameters	Optimal process parameters	
		Prediction	Experimental
Level	A ₂ B ₃ C ₂ D ₄	A ₄ B ₁ C ₁ D ₁	A ₄ B ₁ C ₁ D ₁
COP _{sys}	2.14127	4.68844	4.58843
S/N ratio (dB)	6.6134	14.8115	13.2333
Improvement of S/N ratio	6.6199 dB (100%)		
Prediction error (dB)	1.5782		
Improvement of S/N ratio for COP =	6.6199 dB (50.75%).		

The degree of importance of each process parameter was determined using Eq. (6) for T_{i,sa}, T_{o,sa}, T_{i,wa} and T_{o,wa} corresponding each response. The PCR on the COP_{sys} for space heating applications of GSHP system was given in Tables 8. It can be observed from Table 8 that T_{i,sa} and T_{o,sa} have the greatest influence on the COP_{sys} for space heating applications of GSHP system followed by T_{o,wa}. The contributions process parameters, PCR, on the COP_{sys} for space heating of GSHP system were computed as Level A (48.40 %), Level B (48.40 %), Levels C (1.31 %) and D (<0.01 %). In addition, the residual error

Table 7. Results of ANOVA for COP_{sys} in GSHP

Source	DoF	SS	MS	F-test	P-coefficient	PCR (%)
A	3	69.133	23.0443	129.51	0.001	48.40
B	3	69.133	23.0443	129.51	0.001	48.40
C	3	2.388	0.7959	4.47	0.125	1.31
D	3	0.534	0.1779	1.00	0.500	0.00
Residual error	3	0.534	0.1779			1.88
Total	15	141.721				100

DoF: Degrees of freedom; SS: Sequential sum of squares; MS: Mean sum of squares

derived from ANOVA results for COP_{sys} for space heating of GSHP system was calculated as 1.88 % as presented in Table 7.

5. CONCLUSIONS

This paper presented the optimization of process parameters : in GSHP systems with the double U tube heat exchanger for space heating applications with by using the Taguchi method and ANOVA analysis. The main results drawn from this work were as follows

- The COP_{sys} values for space heating applications of GSHP system were as between 4.58 and 1.31 during experimental measurements.
- T_{i,sa} and T_{o,sa} has the greatest influence with 48.4 % on the COP_{sys} for space heating applications of GSHP system followed by T_{o,wa}.
- Quality characteristics depend on parameters and levels combination with by using the S/N ratio was investigated and derived experimental results. The optimum process parameters for COP_{sys} in GSHP systems were determined to be A₄B₁C₁D₁.

- T_{i,sa} at Level 1 (32 °C), the T_{o,sa} at Level 2 (17°C), the T_{i,wa} at Level 2 (6°C) and the T_{o,wa} at Level 1 (9 °C) with ANOVA techniques for COP_{sys} in GSHP systems were determined the best process parameters conditions.
- The improvement in S/Nratio of COP_{sys} in GSHP from the initial process parameters to the level of optimal process parameters was 6.6199 dB.
- Taguchi experimental design method was applied to reduce maximum cost and time. This

method was an efficient and effective method for optimization of COP_{sys} in ground source heat pumps.

SUBSCRIPTS

GSHP - ground source heat pump

SHE - soil heat exchanger

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NOMENCLATURE

COP_{SYS}	- performance of whole system, [-]	\dot{Q}_{SHE}	- heat transferred from the condenser to the soil, [kW]
$T_{i,sa}$	- space air inlet temperatures, [°C]	\dot{m}_{wa}	- flow rate of mixture of water and antifreeze, [kg s ⁻¹]
$T_{o,sa}$	- space air outlet temperatures, [°C]	$c_{p,a}$	- specific heat of the air, [kJ kg ⁻¹ °C ⁻¹]
$T_{i,wa}$	- soil inlet temperatures, [°C]	S/N	- signal-to-noise, [-]
$T_{o,wa}$	- soil outlet temperatures, [°C]	η	- S/N ratio, [-]
\dot{Q}_c	- heat transferred from the condenser to the space, [kW]	$c_{p,wa}$	- specific heat of mixture of water and antifreeze, [kJ kg ⁻¹ °C ⁻¹]
\dot{W}_c	- power of compressor, [kW]	PCR	- percent contribution ratio, [-]
\dot{W}_{ef}	- power of fan, [kW]	SS _A	- sum of squares, [-]
\dot{W}_{cp}	- power of circulation pump, [kW]	SS _T	- total sum of squares, [-]
\dot{W}_T	- total energy consumption, [kW]	V_e	- variance of error, [-]
\dot{m}_a	- air flow rate, [kg s ⁻¹]	ν_A	is the degrees of freedom, [-]