



Heat and Mass Transfer in the Boundary Layer Flow along a Vertical Isothermal Reactive Plate near Stagnation Point: Existence of Dual Solution

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ABSTRACT

Heat and mass transfer in a steady stagnation point boundary layer flow of viscous incompressible fluid through highly porous media along a vertical isothermal plate is investigated. The plate surface reacts with the flowing fluid and inert specie is produced that diffuses inside the boundary layer. The mass flux of the specie at the plate is taken directly proportional to specie concentration at the plate. The governing equations of continuity, momentum, energy and specie diffusion are transformed into ordinary differential equation using the similarity transformation and solved numerically using Runge-Kutta method along with shooting technique. It is found that the system of ordinary differential equations possesses dual solution. The velocity, heat and specie concentration distribution are obtained for different parameters and presented through figures. Skin-friction coefficient, Nusselt number and Sherwood number at plate for various physical parameters are discussed numerically and presented through tables.

Keywords: Stagnation point flow, Reactive surface, Specie generation, Dual solution.

NOMENCLATURE

a	positive constant [s^{-1}]	Re	Reynolds number $\left\{ = \frac{U_{\infty} x}{\nu} \right\}$
C	concentration of the specie in the fluid [$mol\ m^{-3}$]	Sc	Schmidt number $\left\{ = \frac{\nu}{D} \right\}$
C_{∞}	concentration of the specie in fluid far away	Sh	Sherwood number
C_f	skin-friction coefficient	T	temperature of the fluid [K]
C_p	specific heat at constant pressure [$J\ Kg^{-1}\ K^{-1}$]	T_{∞}	temperature of the fluid far away from plate [K]
Da	specie generation parameter $\left\{ = \frac{k_o \sqrt{Re}}{\left(\frac{D}{\nu} \right) a} \right\}$	T_w	temperature of the plate [K]
D	diffusion coefficient [$m^2\ s^{-1}$]	u, v	velocity components along x - and y -directions, respectively [ms^{-1}]
f	dimensionless stream function	x, y	cartesian coordinates [m] from plate [$mol\ m^{-3}$]
G_T	buoyancy parameter $\left\{ = \frac{Gr}{Re^2} \right\}$	β^*	coefficient of expansion with concentration [mol^{-1}]
Gr	Grashof number $\left\{ = \frac{g\beta(T_w - T_{\infty})x^3}{\nu^2} \right\}$	β	coefficient of thermal expansion [K^{-1}]
G_C	modified buoyancy parameter $\left\{ = \frac{Gr_M}{Re^2} \right\}$	μ	coefficient of viscosity [$kg\ m\ s^{-1}$]
Gr_M	modified Grashof number $\left\{ = \frac{g\beta C_w x^3}{\nu^2} \right\}$	κ	coefficient of thermal conductivity [$Wm^{-1}K^{-1}$]
		ρ	density of the fluid [kgm^{-3}]

g	acceleration due to gravity of the Earth [m s^{-2}]	ϕ	dimensionless concentration $\left\{ = \frac{C - C_\infty}{C_\infty} \right\}$
\tilde{K}	permeability of porous media [H m^{-1}]	θ	dimensionless temperature $\left\{ = \frac{T - T_\infty}{T_w - T_\infty} \right\}$
K	permeability parameter $\left\{ = \frac{\nu}{\tilde{K} c} \right\}$	η	dimensionless variable
k_0	reaction rate [s^{-1}]	ν	kinematic viscosity $\left\{ = \frac{\mu}{\rho} \right\}$ [m^2s^{-1}]
Nu	Nusselt number	ψ	stream function
Pr	Prandtl number $\left\{ = \frac{\mu C_p}{\kappa} \right\}$		
R	interfacial reaction rate constant $\{ = xk_0 \}$ [ms^{-1}]		

1. INTRODUCTION

Studies involving the flow along reactive surface has grown due to its implicit occurrence in applications like contamination transport from surfaces, acid mine drainage remediation, waste disposal, fluid rock interaction in hydrothermal system, metal oxide coating of surfaces, reactive flow of gases adjacent to surfaces etc. Example, the fluid is sprayed for cleaning the surface; the contamination at the surface reacts with the fluid and washed away. The processing of micro electro mechanical system (MEMS) requires deposition or selective removal of specie at/from the surface. So, flow along reactive surface also has several utilities in micro/macro engineering, material science, environmental science etc. The above mentioned fluid flow, heat and mass transfer models are parameterized by dimensionless quantities such as Damkohler number, Reynolds number, Prandtl number, buoyancy parameter etc. and hence the interplay among these parameters decides the dynamics of the flow. [Chambré and Young \(1958\)](#) pioneered the study of chemically reacting specie that diffuses inside the boundary layer. [Erikson et al. \(1966\)](#) examined heat and mass transfer with suction or injection on the flat plate. [Chin \(1975\)](#) observed the mass transfer on continuously moving sheet electrode. [Murray and Carey \(1998\)](#) studied the growth of metal oxide on the reactive surface in chemical transport phenomena where the specie concentration is proportional to mass flux at the surface. [Succi et al. \(2002\)](#) analyzed reactive microflows over catalytic surface using Lattice Boltzmann Simulation. [Liu et al. \(2008\)](#) observed the boundary layer modeling of reactive flow over porous surface with angled injection. [Chamkha and Aly \(2011\)](#) studied heat and mass transfer in stagnation point flow of polar fluid through porous media and analysed the effects of Soret & Dufour and specie consumption. [Chamkha and Ahmed \(2011\)](#) obtained similarity solution to unsteady boundary layer flow of viscous fluid near stagnation point of porous body in the presence of heat generation/absorption and chemical reaction. [Hayat et al. \(2012\)](#) observed mixed convection stagnation point flow of a non-Newtonian fluid on stretching sheet with convective boundary condition. [Mahapatra and Nandy \(2013\)](#) presented mathematical analysis for the magneto hydrodynamic (MHD) axi-symmetric stagnation-point flow and heat transfer over a shrinking sheet with different thermal boundary conditions.

In the present paper, the convective flow of a viscous incompressible fluid in highly porous media near a stagnation point of an isothermal vertical plate is investigated. The plate is reactive to the fluid and produces inert specie, which diffuses inside the boundary layer. The specie concentration at the plate is taken proportional to mass flux at the plate ([Murray and Carey, 1998](#)) as the boundary condition. The partial differential equations governing the flow are equations of continuity; momentum, energy and specie diffusion, which are transformed into ordinary differential equations using the similarity transformation and then solved numerically. The interplay between various obtained dimensionless parameters is explained. While converting the reactive surface boundary condition into dimensionless form, a parameter Da , Damkohler number, is obtained which parameterizes the degree of specie generation. Da is the parameter due to which the system of ordinary differential equations has a dual solution.

2. FORMULATION OF THE PROBLEM

Consider a steady laminar stagnation point flow of a viscous incompressible fluid through porous media along a vertical isothermal plate. The plate surface is considered to react with the fluid and produces inert specie that would diffuse into the fluid. The flux of the specie at the plate is taken directly proportional to specie concentration at the plate. The x -axis is taken along the plate and y -axis is normal to the plate and the flow is confined in half plane $y > 0$ as shown through [Fig.1](#).

The potential flow arrives from the y -axis and impinges on plate, which divides at stagnation point into two streams and the viscous flow adheres to the plate. The velocity distribution in the potential flow is given by $U_\infty(x) = ax$ and $V_\infty(y) = -ay$, where a is a positive constant. Following [Yih \(1998\)](#) and [Wu et al. \(2005\)](#), the linear Darcy term representing distributed body force due to porous media is retained while the non-linear Forchheimer term is neglected, thus the governing equations of continuity, momentum, energy and specie are given by

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} = 0, \quad (1)$$

$$u \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} = v \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} + g\beta(T - T_\infty) + g\beta^*(C - C_\infty) + U_\infty \frac{dU_\infty}{dx} - \frac{v}{\tilde{K}}(u - U_\infty) \quad (2)$$

$$u \frac{\partial T}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial T}{\partial y} = \frac{\kappa}{\rho C_p} \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial y^2}, \quad (3)$$

$$u \frac{\partial C}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial C}{\partial y} = D \frac{\partial^2 C}{\partial y^2}. \quad (4)$$

The boundary conditions are

$$y = 0: \quad u = 0, v = 0, T = T_w, -D \frac{\partial C}{\partial y} = RC$$

[Murray and Carey (1998)],

$$y \rightarrow \infty: u \rightarrow U_\infty = ax, T \rightarrow T_\infty, C \rightarrow C_\infty. \quad (5)$$

3. METHOD OF SOLUTION

All Introducing the stream function $\psi(x, y)$ such that

$$u = \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial y} \quad \text{and} \quad v = -\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x}, \quad (6)$$

where $\psi(x, y) = \sqrt{av} x f(\eta)$ and the dimensionless variable

$$\eta = y \left(\frac{a}{v} \right)^{1/2}, \quad (7)$$

the system of Eq. (1) to Eq. (4) is reduced to system of ordinary differential equations, given as

$$f''' + ff'' - f'^2 + G_T \theta + G_C \phi - K(f' - 1) + 1 = 0, \quad (8)$$

$$\theta'' + Pr f \theta' = 0, \quad (9)$$

and

$$\phi'' + Sc f \phi' = 0. \quad (10)$$

It is observed that the Eq. (1) is identically satisfied.

The boundary condition Eq. (5) are reduced to

$$f(0) = 0, f'(0) = 0, f'(\infty) = 1, \theta(0) = 1, \theta(\infty) = 0, \phi'(0) = -Da(1 + \phi(0)) \quad \text{and} \quad \phi(\infty) = 0. \quad (11)$$

The Eqs. (8), (9) and (10) along with boundary conditions Eq. (11) form a system of coupled non-linear ordinary differential equations. The system is solved

using Runge-Kutta fourth order method along with shooting technique (Conte and Boor, (1981); Sharma and Singh, (2010)).

4. SKIN FRICTION COEFFICIENT

Skin-friction coefficient at the plate is given by.

$$C_f = 2(Re)^{-1/2} f''(0) \quad (12)$$

5. NUSSELT NUMBER

The rate of heat transfer in terms of the Nusselt number at the plate is given by

$$Nu = -(Re)^{1/2} \theta'(0). \quad (13)$$

6. SHERWOOD NUMBER

The rate of mass transfer in terms of the Sherwood number at the plate is given by :

$$Sh = -(Re)^{1/2} \phi'(0). \quad (14)$$

7. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

It is seen from Table 1 that with the increase in parameter Da the skin friction, the rate of heat transfer, the rate of mass transfer and specie concentration at the plate increase. This is explained by a fact that the parameter Da is the specie generation parameter, therefore the increase in Da increases the influx of specie from plate to fluid, which in turn increases the specie concentration in the fluid, as is seen in Fig. 4. The increase in specie concentration in fluid results in the increase in modified buoyancy force and so the fluid velocity increases which is depicted in Fig. 2. The flowing fluid exerts drag (measured as skin friction) on the plate, and as the fluid velocity increases the plate experiences more drag i.e. skin friction increases. Adding, the increase in fluid velocity would mean that heat is convected better and so the fluid temperature decreases with the increase parameter Da , as seen in Fig. 3. The decrease in fluid temperature therefore increases the heat influx at the plate.

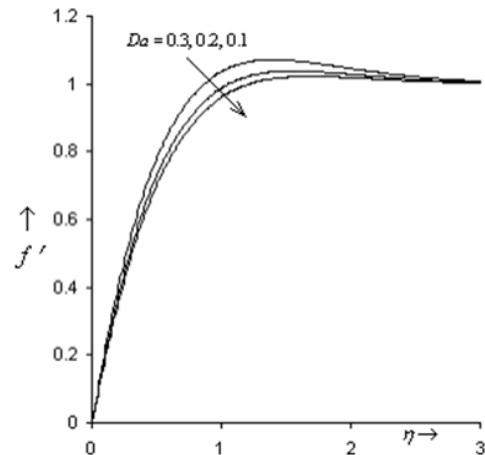


Fig. 2. Velocity distribution versus η when $G_T = 1.0$, $G_C = 0.5, K = 1, Pr = 1.0, Sc = 0.5$.

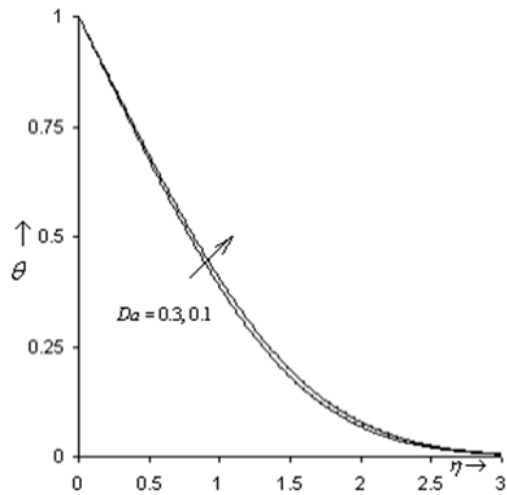


Fig. 3. Temperature distribution versus η when $G_T=1.0$, $G_C=0.5, K=1, Pr=1.0, Sc=0.5$.

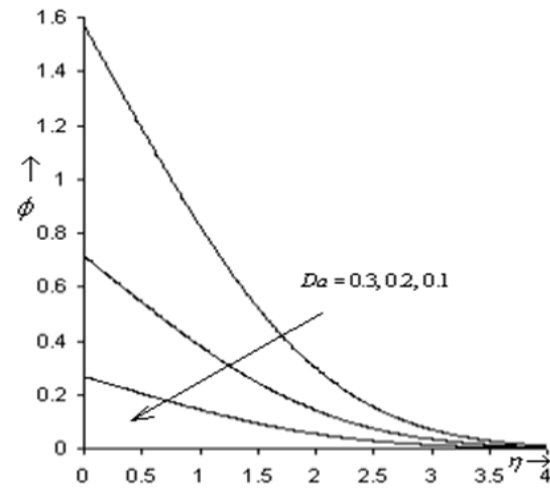


Fig. 4. Concentration distribution versus η when $G_T=1.0, G_C=0.5, K=1, Pr=1.0$ & $Sc=0.5$.

Table 1 Numerical value of $f''(0)$, $\theta'(0)$, $\phi'(0)$ and $\phi(0)$ for different value of parameters.

$G_T=1.0, G_C=0.5, K=1.0, Pr=1.0, Sc=0.5$				
Da	$f''(0)$	$-\theta'(0)$	$-\phi'(0)$	$\phi(0)$
0.1	2.0751	0.6346	0.1266	0.2667
0.2	2.1764	0.6430	0.3425	0.7128
0.3	2.3678	0.6583	0.7713	1.5712
0.4	2.7944	0.6902	1.8208	3.5520
0.5	3.8125	0.7568	4.8055	8.6116
Sc	$G_T=1.0, G_C=0.5, K=1.0, Pr=1.0, Da=1.5$			
10	3.0021	0.6686	13.7553	8.1702
20	2.3150	0.6398	5.7476	2.8317
30	2.1911	0.6349	4.2576	1.8384
40	2.1415	0.6331	3.6410	1.4273
50	2.1148	0.6321	3.2975	1.1983
K	$G_T=1.0, G_C=0.5, Pr=1.0, Da=0.2, Sc=0.5$			
1	2.1764	0.6430	0.3425	0.7128
5	2.9629	0.6679	0.3356	0.6783
10	3.7163	0.6852	0.3313	0.6565
Pr	$G_T=1.0, G_C=0.5, K=1.0, Da=0.2, Sc=0.5$			
0.71	2.1972	0.5607	0.3412	0.7061
7.0	2.0518	1.3375	0.3487	0.7437
15.0	2.0060	1.7552	0.3502	0.7513
G_T	$G_C=0.5, K=1.0, Da=0.2, Pr=1.0, Sc=0.5$			
0.5	2.1764	0.6430	0.3425	0.7128
3.0	2.9376	0.6937	0.3274	0.6372
5.0	3.6497	0.7354	0.3172	0.5860
G_C	$G_T=1.0, K=1.0, Da=0.2, Pr=1.0, Sc=0.5$			
0.5	2.1764	0.6430	0.3425	0.7128
2.0	2.6004	0.6760	0.3320	0.6601
4.0	3.0756	0.7099	0.3227	0.6135

Table 1 shows that with the increase in Schmidt number (Sc) the skin friction, heat transfer, mass flux and the specie concentration at the plate decrease. The Schmidt number is the property of fluid and measures its affinity for specie; larger is the Schmidt number lesser is the affinity to specie. Therefore the specie concentration is higher at lower Schmidt number, which is seen in **Fig. 7**. Also, the specie concentration at the plate is larger for smaller Schmidt number, which directly implies greater mass flux due to taken initial condition at plate for specie. Further, high specie concentration in fluid increases the modified buoyancy, which increases fluid velocity, as shown in **Fig. 5**, and so the skin friction is higher at low Schmidt number. Further higher is fluid velocity lesser is the fluid temperature, which can be observed in **Fig. 6** and hence higher is the heat flux (heat transfer) at the plate. The parameter K measures the porosity of the medium; higher the value of K lesser is the porosity. As K increases velocity boundary thickness decreases, and thus the velocity and skin friction increases.

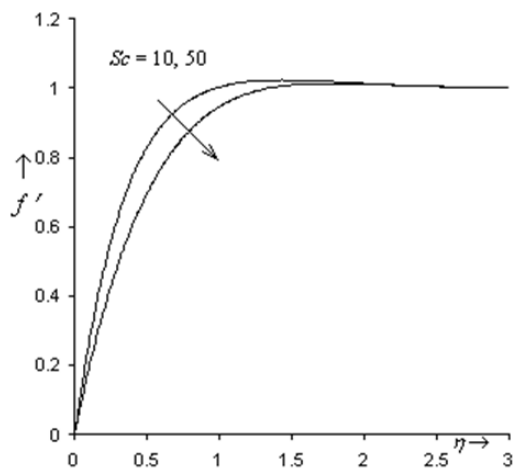


Fig. 5. Velocity distribution versus η when $Da = 1.5$, $G_T = 1.0$, $G_C = 0.5$, $K = 1$ & $Pr = 1.0$

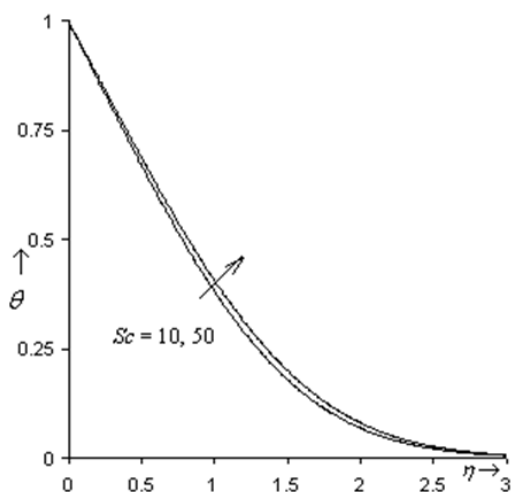


Fig. 6. Temperature distribution versus η when $Da = 1.5$, $G_T = 1.0$, $G_C = 0.5$, $K = 1$ & $Pr = 1.0$

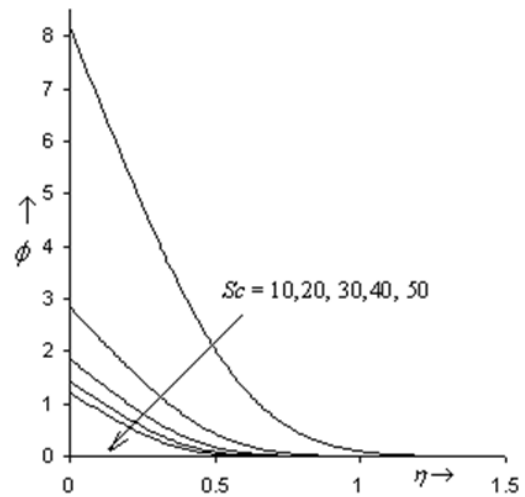


Fig. 7. Concentration distribution versus η when $Da = 1.5$, $G_T = 1.0$, $G_C = 0.5$, $K = 1$ & $Pr = 1.0$

This is observed in **Fig. 8** and **Table 1**, respectively. The increase in fluid velocity leads to better convection, so the fluid temperature decreases at higher value of K and thereby increasing the heat flux.

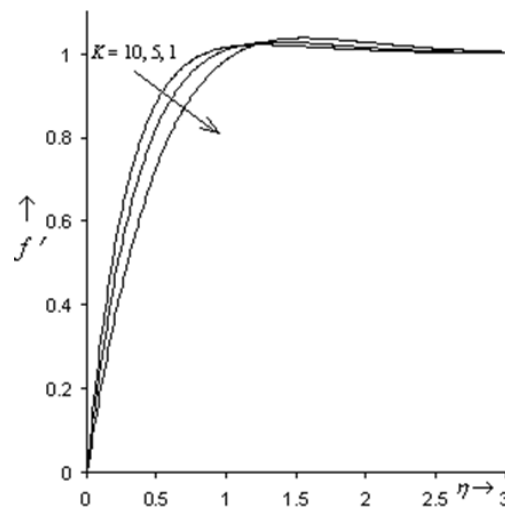


Fig. 8. Velocity distribution versus η when $G_T = 1.0$, $G_C = 0.5$, $Pr = 1.0$, $Sc = 0.5$ & $Da = 0.2$.

The same is seen in **Fig. 9** and **Table 1**. Further, **Fig. 10** and **Table 1** show that specie concentration in the fluid decreases with the increase in fluid velocity due to increase in K and so the mass flux decreases at the plate. **Table 1** depicts that with the increase Prandtl number (Pr), skin friction decreases, while the rate of heat transfer, mass transfer and specie concentration increase. Prandtl number is the fluid property and measures the thermal conductivity. Smaller is the Prandtl number better is the thermal conductivity and thicker is the thermal boundary layer. So the fluid temperature is high for low Prandtl fluid, as is observed in **Fig. 12**. The increase in fluid temperature decrease the temperature gradient at the plate thus the rate of heat transfer is less for fluid of low Pr . Higher fluid temperature leads to more buoyancy force (evaluated by $T - T_\infty$) which increases the fluid velocity and also the

skin friction in the case of low Prandtl number. This is exactly what is seen in Fig. 11.

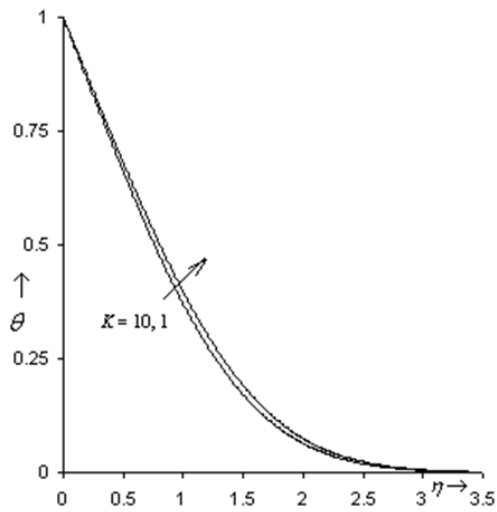


Fig. 9. Temperature distribution versus η when $G_T = 1.0$, $G_C = 0.5$, $Pr = 1.0$, $Sc = 0.5$ & $Da = 0.2$.

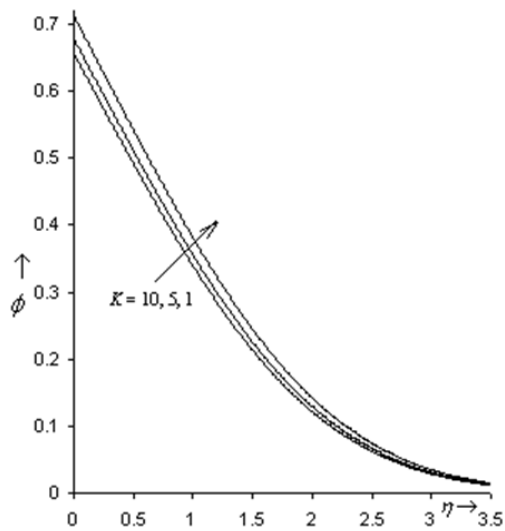


Fig. 10. Concentration distribution versus η when $G_T = 1.0$, $G_C = 0.5$, $Pr = 1.0$, $Sc = 0.5$ & $Da = 0.2$.

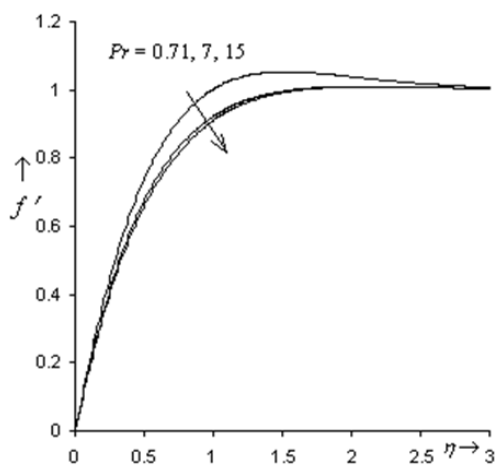


Fig. 11. Velocity distribution versus η when $Da = 0.2$, $G_T = 1.0$, $G_C = 0.5$, $K = 1$ & $Sc = 0.5$

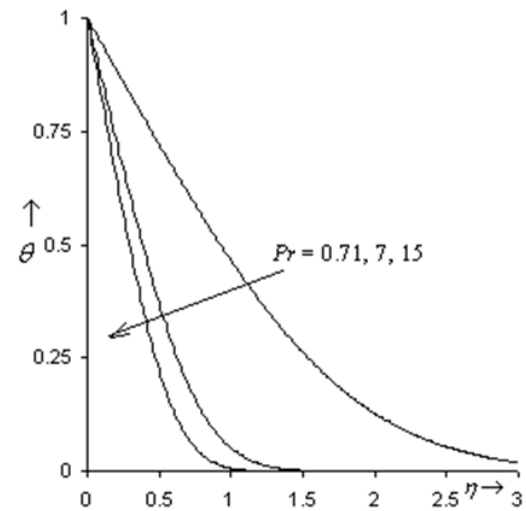


Fig. 12. Temperature distribution versus η when $Da = 0.2$, $G_T = 1.0$, $G_C = 0.5$, $K = 1$ & $Sc = 0.5$

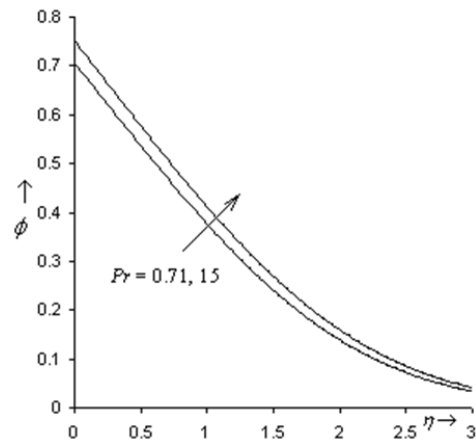


Fig. 13. Concentration distribution versus η when $Da = 0.2$, $G_T = 1.0$, $G_C = 0.5$, $K = 1$ & $Sc = 0.5$

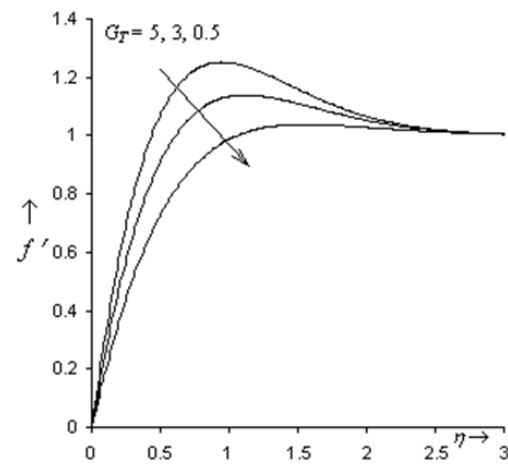


Fig. 14. Velocity distribution versus η when $Da = 0.2$, $G_C = 0.5$, $K = 1$, $Sc = 0.5$ & $Pr = 1.0$

High fluid velocity for low Pr leads to decrease in specie concentration because of better diffusion, which is depicted in Fig. 13. The increase in G_T means the

increase of buoyancy force therefore the fluid velocity increases which in turn would convect heat and diffuse mass better in the fluid resulting decrease in fluid temperature and specie concentration and so the heat flux increase at the plate, while rate of mass flux decreases due to taken initial condition for specie at the plate. The similar explanation, as for increase in G_T also holds for increase in G_C . These are presented in the Figs. 14-19 and Table 1.

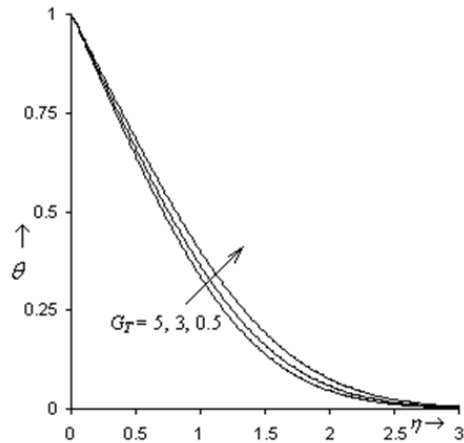


Fig. 15. Temperature distribution versus η when $Da = 0.2$, $G_C = 0.5$, $K = 1$, $Sc = 0.5$ & $Pr = 1.0$

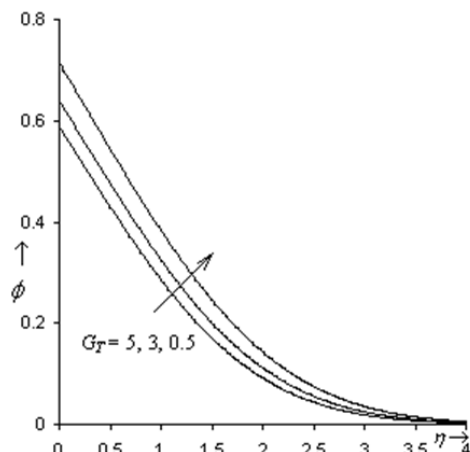


Fig. 16. Concentration distribution versus η when $Da = 0.2$, $G_C = 0.5$, $K = 1$, $Sc = 0.5$ & $Pr = 1.0$

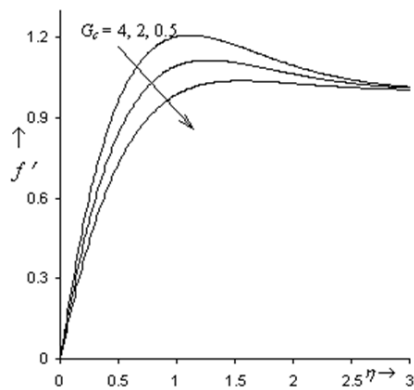


Fig. 17. Velocity distribution versus η when $Da = 0.2$, $G_T = 1.0$, $K = 1$, $Pr = 1.0$ & $Sc = 0.5$

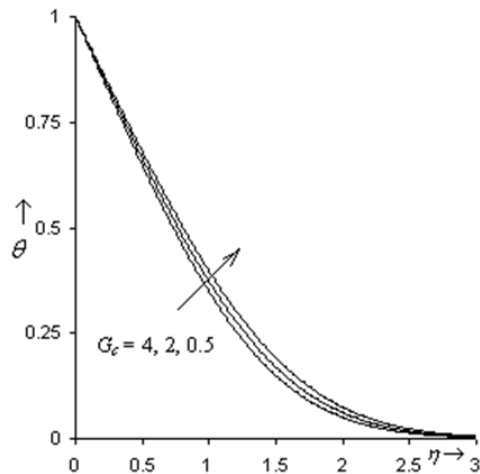


Fig. 18. Temperature distribution versus η when $Da = 0.2$, $G_T = 1.0$, $K = 1$, $Pr = 1.0$ & $Sc = 0.5$

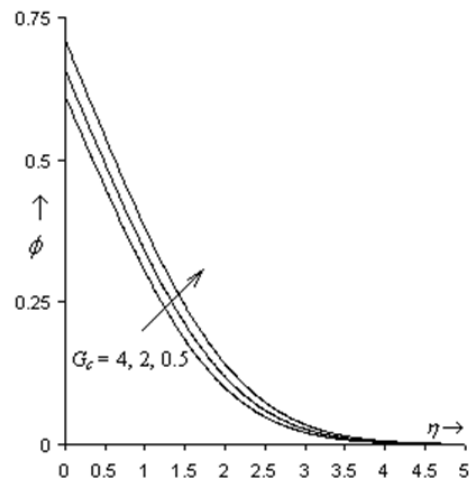


Fig. 19. Concentration distribution versus η when $Da = 0.2$, $G_T = 1.0$, $K = 1$, $Pr = 1.0$ & $Sc = 0.5$

Table 2 shows that for given value of Da , system of differential Eqs. 8, 9 and 10 with boundary conditions Eq. (11) have two values of $f''(0)$, $\theta'(0)$, $\phi'(0)$, $\phi(0)$ i.e. two solutions for one value of Da , which are called as first and second solution. It is seen in Table 2 that the first and second solution have positive value of $f''(0)$, which means that flowing fluid exerts drag on the static plate. The positive value of rate of heat transfer at plate i.e. $-\theta'(0) > 0$, depicts that heat transfer is from plate to fluid. Above two observations are in tune with the fluid flow and heat transfer phenomena. However, looking at the value of specie concentration at plate, $\phi(0)$, the second solution shows that $\phi(0)$ is negative which suggests that specie is consumed by the plate. This is practically impossible. The first solution has positive value for $\phi(0)$, which is acceptable. It is noteworthy in the case of first solution that specie concentration at plate rises aggressively with the increase in Da . Figs. 20, 21 and 22 show that both first and second solution are asymptotic in behavior and in accordance with boundary conditions and are thus mathematically correct. So, it can be suitably commented that although

the system has dual solution at higher Da , first solution is practically acceptable. Dual solutions in case of boundary layer flow have been reported earlier in literature by different authors. [Chin et al. \(2007\)](#), [Ishak et al. \(2008\)](#) have presented dual solution numerically

using Keller Box Scheme for mixed convection flow. Here, it is important to point that Runge-Kutta fourth order method along with shooting technique is computationally able to capture the dual solution.

Table 2 Numerical value of $f''(0)$, $\theta'(0)$, $\phi'(0)$ and $\phi(0)$ for different value of parameter Da , showing existence of dual solution

Da		$G_T=1.0, G_C=0.5, K=1.0, Pr=1.0, Sc=0.5$			
		$f''(0)$	$-\theta'(0)$	$-\phi'(0)$	$\phi(0)$
1.0	I st Sol ⁿ	10.8926	1.0169	60.1655	59.1655
	II nd Sol ⁿ	1.4907	0.5872	-1.4229	-2.4229
1.1	I st Sol ⁿ	14.4656	1.1123	99.0541	89.0492
	II nd Sol ⁿ	1.5483	0.5922	-1.2829	-2.1662
1.2	I st Sol ⁿ	18.7750	1.2093	155.1917	128.3264
	II nd Sol ⁿ	1.5885	0.5956	-1.1825	-1.9854
1.3	I st Sol ⁿ	23.8797	1.3072	233.6301	178.7154
	II nd Sol ⁿ	1.6180	0.5980	-1.1076	-1.8520
1.4	I st Sol ⁿ	29.8417	1.4057	340.3394	242.0996
	II nd Sol ⁿ	1.6405	0.5999	-1.0498	-1.7498
1.5	I st Sol ⁿ	36.7243	1.5046	482.2821	320.5214
	II nd Sol ⁿ	1.6582	0.6014	-1.0039	-1.6692

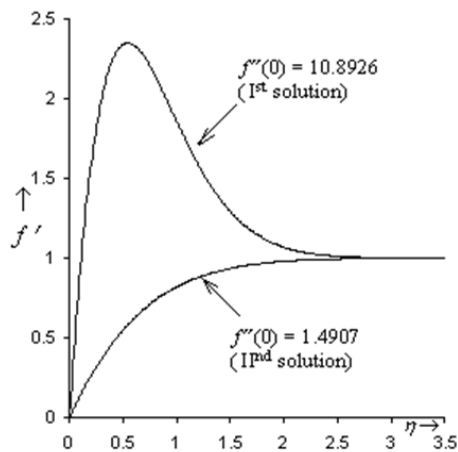


Fig. 20. Velocity distribution versus η when $Da = 1.0, G_T = 1.0, G_C = 0.5, K = 1, Pr = 1.0$ & $Sc = 0.5$

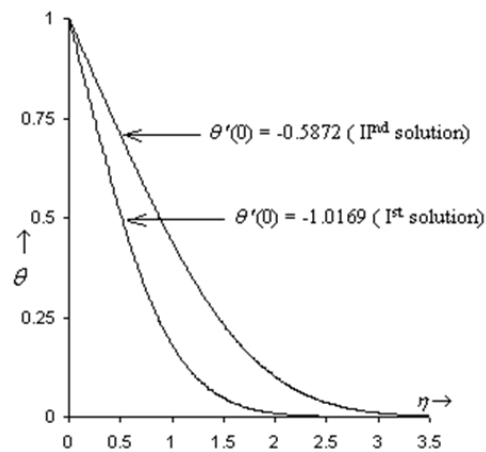


Fig. 21. Temperature distribution versus η when $Da = 1.0, G_T = 1.0, G_C = 0.5, K = 1, Pr = 1.0$ & $Sc = 0.5$

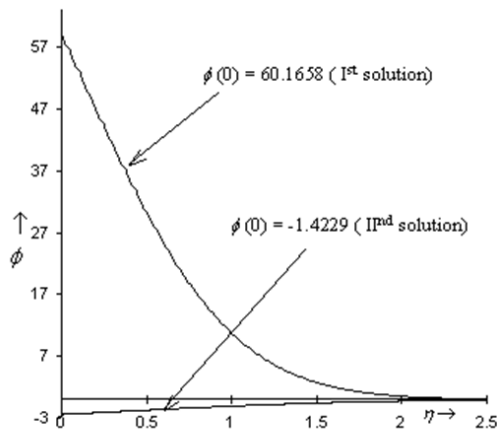


Fig. 22. Concentration distribution versus η when $Da = 1.0$, $G_T = 1.0$, $G_C = 0.5$, $K = 1$, $Pr = 1.0$ & $Sc = 0.5$

8. CONCLUSION

1. The skin friction increases coefficient with the increase in parameters Da , K , G_T or G_C and decreases with the increase in parameters Sc or Pr .
2. The heat flux at plate increases with the increase in parameters Da , K , Pr , G_T or G_C and decreases with the increase in parameter Sc .
3. The specie mass flux and concentration at plate increase with the increase in parameters Da or Pr while decreases with the increase in parameters Sc , K , G_T and G_C .
4. The fluid velocity increases with the increase in parameters, Da , K , G_T or G_C while decreases with the increase in parameters Sc or Pr .
5. The fluid temperature increases with the increase in parameter Sc , while decreases with increase in parameter Da , K , Pr , G_T or G_C .
6. The specie concentration in the fluid increases with increase in Da or Pr , while it decreases with the increase in parameters Sc , K , G_T or G_C .

The system of ordinary differential equations governing flow, heat and mass transfer has dual solution.

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