A scientific report on heat transfer analysis in mixed convection flow of Maxwell fluid over an oscillating vertical plate

Ilyas Khan¹, Nehad Ali Shah² & L. C. C. Dennis³

This scientific report investigates the heat transfer analysis in mixed convection flow of Maxwell fluid over an oscillating vertical plate with constant wall temperature. The problem is modelled in terms of coupled partial differential equations with initial and boundary conditions. Some suitable non-dimensional variables are introduced in order to transform the governing problem into dimensionless form. The resulting problem is solved via Laplace transform method and exact solutions for velocity, shear stress and temperature are obtained. These solutions are greatly influenced with the variation of embedded parameters which include the Prandtl number and Grashof number for various times. In the absence of free convection, the corresponding solutions representing the mechanical part of velocity reduced to the well known solutions in the literature. The total velocity is presented as a sum of both cosine and sine velocities. The unsteady velocity in each case is arranged in the form of transient and post transient parts. It is found that the post transient parts are independent of time. The solutions corresponding to Newtonian fluids are recovered as a special case and comparison between Newtonian fluid and Maxwell fluid is shown graphically.

Exact solutions for mixed or free convection flow of viscous fluid problems are abundance in literature. However, such solutions for non-Newtonian fluids are rare, particularly for Maxwell fluids, such solutions do not exist. Generally, in non-Newtonian fluids, the relation which connects shear stress and shear rate is non-linear and the constitutive relation forms equations of non-Newtonian fluids which are higher order and complex as compared to Navier-Stokes equation governing the flow of viscous fluid. Due to this high nonlinearity, closed form solutions for non-Newtonian fluid flows are not possible for the problems with practical interest. More exactly, when such fluids problems are tackled via Laplace transform technique, often the inverse Laplace transforms of the transformed functions do not exist. Due to this difficulty, the researchers are usually using numerical procedures for finding the inverse Laplace transform. However, those solutions are not purely regarded as exact solutions.

Due to the great diversity in the physical structure of non-Newtonian fluids, researchers have proposed a variety of mathematical models to understand the dynamics of such fluids. Mostly, these models fall in the subcategory of differential type fluids or rate types fluids. However, a keen interest of the researchers is seen in studying rate types fluids due to the fact that they incorporate both the elastic and memory effects together. The first and the simplest viscoelastic rate type model which is still used widely to account for fluid rheological effects is called Maxwell model. This model can be generalized to produce a plethora of models. Initially, the Maxwell fluid model was developed to describe the elastic and viscous response of air. However, after that, it was frequently used to model the response of various viscoelastic fluids ranging from polymers to the earth’s mantle. After the pioneering work of Friedrich, on fractional derivatives of Maxwell fluid, several other investigations were carried out in this direction.

Among them, Haitao and Mingyu studied fractional Maxwell model in channel, Jamil et al. analyzed unsteady flow of generalized Maxwell fluid between two cylinders. In another investigation, Jamil et al.,
examined helices of fractionalized Maxwell fluid whereas Jamil et al. provided a short note on the second problem of Stokes for Maxwell fluids. Zheng et al. developed exact solutions for generalized Maxwell fluid for oscillatory and constantly accelerating plate motions, Zheng et al. used the same fluid model for heat transfer study due to a hyperbolic sine accelerating plate. Qi and Liu studied some duct flows of a fractional Maxwell fluid. Tripathi applied fractional Maxwell model to study peristaltic transport in uniform tubes. Zierep and Fetecau examined energetic balance for the Rayleigh-Stokes problem of Maxwell fluid. Among some other important studies on Maxwell fluids, we mention here the important contributions of Jamil et al., Vieru and Rauf, Vieru and Zafar, and Khan et al. However, in all these investigations, heat transfer analysis was not considered. More exactly, phenomenon of heat transfer due to mixed convection was not incorporated in all the above studies. Therefore, the focal point of this work is to analyze Maxwell fluid over an oscillating vertical plate with constant wall temperature and to establish exact solutions using the Laplace transform method. The obtained results consideration of heat transfer analysis in Maxwell fluid has industrial importance since many problems of physical interest involve heat transfer such as automotive industry (radiator, cooling circuits, lamps), aerospace (de-icing system, cooling systems), in chemical process industry (heat recovery systems, heat exchangers), energy (kilns, boiler, cross flow heat exchangers, solar panels) and home appliance (ovens, household heaters).

Mathematical formulation of the problem

Let us consider unsteady mixed convection flow of an incompressible Maxwell fluid over an oscillating vertical flat plate moving with oscillating velocity in its own plane. Initially, at time $t = 0$ the fluid and the plate are at rest with constant temperature $T_\infty$. At time $t = 0^+$ the plate is subjected to sinusoidal oscillations so that the velocity on the wall is given by $V = U_0 H(t) \cos(\omega t)$, resulting in the induced Maxwell fluid flow. More exactly, the plate begins to oscillate in its plane ($y = 0$) according to $V = U_0 H(t) \cos(\omega t)$; where the constant $U_0$ is the amplitude of the motion, $H(t)$ is the unit step function, $i$ is the unit vector in the vertical flow direction and $\omega$ is the frequency of oscillation of the plate. At the same time $t = 0^+$, the temperature of the plate is raised or lowered to a constant value $T_w$. The velocity decays to zero and temperature approaches to a constant value $T_\infty$. The equations governing the Maxwell fluid flow related with shear stress and heat transfer due to mixed convection are given by the following partial differential equations:

$$\rho \left(1 + \lambda \frac{\partial}{\partial t}\right) \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = \mu \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} + \left(1 + \lambda \frac{\partial}{\partial t}\right) \rho \beta (T - T_\infty),$$

$$\left(1 + \lambda \frac{\partial}{\partial t}\right) \tau(y, t) = \mu \frac{\partial u(y, t)}{\partial y},$$

$$\rho c_p \frac{\partial T}{\partial t} = k \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial y^2}.$$  

The appropriate initial and boundary conditions are:

$$u(y, 0) = 0; \quad T(y, 0) = T_\infty;$$

$$u(0, t) = U_0 H(t) \cos(\omega t); \quad T(0, t) = T_w;$$

$$u(\infty, t) = 0; \quad T(\infty, t) = T_\infty.$$  

Introducing the following non-dimensional quantities:

$$u^* = \frac{u}{U_0}, \quad y^* = \frac{y U_0}{\nu}, \quad t^* = \frac{t U_0^2}{\nu}, \quad \omega^* = \frac{\omega U_0}{U_0}, \quad \tau^* = \frac{\tau U_0}{\mu U_0}, \quad \theta = \frac{T - T_\infty}{T_w - T_\infty},$$

$$\lambda = \frac{\sqrt{\mu U_0^2}}{\nu}, \quad Gr = \frac{\nu \beta (T_w - T_\infty)}{U_0^2}, \quad Pr = \frac{\mu c_p}{k},$$

into Eqs (1–3), we get

$$\left(1 + \lambda \frac{\partial}{\partial t}\right) \frac{\partial u(y, t)}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial^2 u(y, t)}{\partial y^2} + \left(1 + \lambda \frac{\partial}{\partial t}\right) Gr \theta(y, t),$$

$$\left(1 + \lambda \frac{\partial}{\partial t}\right) \tau(y, t) = \frac{\partial u(y, t)}{\partial y},$$
\[
\Pr \frac{\partial \theta(y, t)}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial^2 \theta(y, t)}{\partial y^2},
\]

with the corresponding initial and boundary conditions:

\[
u(y, 0) = 0, \quad \theta(y, 0) = 0, \quad y > 0;
\]

\[
u(0, t) = H(t) \cos(\omega t); \quad \theta(0, t) = 1; \quad y > 0,
\]

\[
u(\infty, t) = 0; \quad \theta(\infty, t) = 0.
\]

**Solution of the problem**

**Temperature.** Taking Laplace transform of Eqs (8), (10), (11), and using initial condition (9), we obtain

\[
\frac{\partial^2 \bar{\vartheta}(y, q)}{\partial y^2} - \Pr q \bar{\vartheta}(y, q) = 0,
\]

\[
\bar{\vartheta}(0, q) = \frac{1}{q}, \quad \bar{\vartheta}(y, q) \to 0 \text{ as } y \to \infty.
\]

The solution of the partial differential equation (12) subject to conditions (13) is given as:

\[
\bar{\vartheta}(y, q) = \frac{1}{q} \exp(-y/\sqrt{\text{Pr} \cdot q}).
\]

Taking the inverse Laplace transform and using (A1), we obtain:

\[
\theta(y, t) = \text{erfc} \left( \frac{y/\sqrt{\text{Pr}}}{2\sqrt{t}} \right).
\]

**Velocity field.** Taking the Laplace transform of Eqs (6), (10), (11), and using initial conditions, we obtain

\[
(1 + \lambda q) q \bar{\pi}(y, q) = \frac{\partial^2 \bar{\pi}(y, q)}{\partial y^2} + (1 + \lambda q) \text{Gr} \bar{\vartheta}(y, q),
\]

\[
\bar{\pi}(0, q) = \frac{q}{q^2 + \omega^2}, \quad \bar{\pi}(y, q) \to 0, \text{ as } y \to \infty.
\]

Using Eq. (14) in Eq. (16), we have

\[
\frac{\partial^2 \bar{\pi}(y, q)}{\partial y^2} - (1 + \lambda q) q \bar{\pi}(y, q) = -\text{Gr} \frac{(1 + \lambda q)}{q} \exp(-y/\sqrt{\text{Pr} \cdot q}).
\]

Solve the partial differential Eq. (18), we have:

\[
\pi(y, q) = \frac{q}{q^2 + \omega^2} \exp(-y/\sqrt{q(\lambda q + 1)})
- \text{Gr} \frac{(\lambda q + 1)}{q^2[q(\lambda q + 1)]} \exp(-y/\sqrt{q(\lambda q + 1)})
+ \text{Gr} \frac{(\lambda q + 1)}{q^2[q(\lambda q + 1)]} \exp(-y/\sqrt{\text{Pr} \cdot q}).
\]

The last equality can be written in equivalent form as:

\[
\pi(y, q) = \frac{q}{q^2 + \omega^2} \exp(-y/\sqrt{q(\lambda q + 1)})
- \frac{\text{Gr}}{\lambda} \left[ \frac{a\lambda - 1}{a^2 q} + \frac{1}{a q} + \frac{1 - a\lambda}{a^2 q - a} \right] \exp(-y/\sqrt{q(\lambda q + 1)})
+ \frac{\text{Gr}}{\lambda} \left[ \frac{a\lambda - 1}{a^2 q} + \frac{1}{a q} + \frac{1 - a\lambda}{a^2 q - a} \right] \exp(-y/\sqrt{\text{Pr} \cdot q}),
\]

where \(a = \frac{1 - \sqrt{\text{Pr}}}{\lambda} \).
Figure 1. Velocity and temperature profiles for mixed convection flow over a hot vertical plate at $T_w$ exposed to plate at $T_\infty$.

Figure 2. Profiles of temperature for Prandtl number $Pr$ variation for different time $t$. 
Let

\[
F(y, q) = \exp(-y\sqrt{q^2 + q}) = \exp \left\{ -y\sqrt{\lambda} \sqrt{q + \frac{1}{2\lambda}} - \left( \frac{1}{2\lambda} \right)^2 \right\},
\]

(21)

\[
\Pi_i(y, q) = \exp(-y\sqrt{\lambda} \sqrt{q}),
\]

\[
h_i(y, t) = \mathcal{L}^{-1}\{\Pi_i(y, q)\} = \begin{cases} 
\frac{y\sqrt{\lambda} \exp \left( -\frac{y^2 \lambda}{4t} \right)}{2t^{1/2} \pi^1}; & y > 0, \\
\delta(t); & y = 0.
\end{cases}
\]

(22)

Taking the inverse Laplace transform of Eq. (21), we obtain:

Figure 3. Profiles of velocity for Grashof number Gr variation for different time t.
\[
\int_0^t \frac{y^2 \lambda}{2 \pi t} \exp \left( \frac{y^2 \lambda}{4t} - \frac{1}{2\lambda} t \right) + \frac{1}{2\lambda} \exp \left( -\frac{1}{2\lambda} t \right) 
\]

\[
\int_0^t \frac{y^2 \lambda}{2 \pi t} \exp \left( \frac{y^2 \lambda}{4t} - \frac{1}{2\lambda} t \right) + \frac{1}{2\lambda} \exp \left( -\frac{1}{2\lambda} t \right) 
\]

\[
f(y, t) = L^{-1}\{F(y, q)\} = \begin{cases} f_1(y, t); & y > 0 \\ \delta(t); & y = 0 \end{cases}
\]

\[
G(q) = \frac{a\lambda - 1}{a^2q} + \frac{1}{a^2q} + \frac{1 - a\lambda}{a^2q - a}
\]

Taking the inverse Laplace of Eq. (25), we obtain

\[
g(t) = \frac{a\lambda - 1}{a^2}H(t) + \frac{1}{a}t + \frac{1 - a\lambda}{a^2} \exp(at),
\]

Figure 4. Profiles of velocity for Prandtl number Pr variation for different time t.
where $\delta(\cdot)$ being Dirac distribution.

Applying inverse Laplace transform to Eq. (20) and using convolution product, we obtain

$$u(y, t) = L^{-1}\{\exp(-y\sqrt{Pr})\} = \begin{cases} 
\frac{y\sqrt{Pr} \exp\left(-\frac{y^2\Pr}{4t}\right)}{2t\sqrt{\pi t}}; & y > 0, \\
\delta(t); & y = 0
\end{cases}$$

(27)

Shear stress. Applying Laplace transform to Eq. (7), we obtain

$$(1 + \lambda q) \tau(y, q) = \frac{\partial \tilde{\pi}(y, q)}{\partial y}.$$  

(29)
Figure 6. Profiles of shear stress for Prandtl number Pr variation for different time t.

\[ \frac{\partial \tau(y, q)}{\partial y} = -\frac{q\sqrt{q(\lambda q + 1)}}{q^2 + \omega^2} \exp(-y\sqrt{q(\lambda q + 1)}) + Gr G(q)\sqrt{q(\lambda q + 1)} \]
\[ \times \exp(-y\sqrt{q(\lambda q + 1)}) - Gr G(q)\sqrt{Prq} \exp(-y\sqrt{Prq}). \]  

(30)

Put Eq. (30) into Eq. (29), we obtain

\[ \tau(y, q) = A(q)F(y, q) + GrB(q)F(y, q) - GrC(q)\Pi(y, q), \]  

(31)

where

\[ A(q) = -\frac{q\sqrt{q(\lambda q + 1)}}{(q^2 + \omega^2)(\lambda q + 1)}, \]  

(32)

\[ B(q) = G(q)\frac{\sqrt{q(\lambda q + 1)}}{\lambda q + 1}, \]  

(33)

\[ C(q) = G(q)\frac{\sqrt{Prq}}{\lambda q + 1}. \]  

(34)

Applying the inverse Laplace transform to Eqs (31), (32), (33) and (34), we obtain
\[ \tau(y, t) = a(t) * f(y, t) + Gr \ b(t) * f(y, t) - Gr \ c(t) * h_1(y, t), \] (35)

with

\[ a(t) = \frac{\omega}{\lambda} \int_0^t \sin \omega(t - z) \exp \left( -\frac{z}{2\lambda} \right) I_0 \left( \frac{z}{2\lambda} \right) dz, \] (36)

\[ b(t) = g(t) * \left[ \frac{1}{\alpha^2\lambda} \int_0^t I_0 \left( \frac{z}{2\lambda} \right) dz - \frac{1 - \alpha}{\alpha \lambda} \int_0^t I_1 \left( \frac{z}{2\lambda} \right) \exp \left( -\frac{z}{2\lambda} - a(t - z) \right) dz \right], \] (37)

\[ c(t) = g(t) * \left[ k(t) + \frac{1}{\alpha \lambda} \int_0^t k(s) ds + \alpha - k(t) - a \int_0^t \exp \left( -a(t - s) \right) k(s) ds \right], \] (38)

where * represents convolution product and \( k(\cdot) \) is defined in Appendix (A3).

**Solutions in the absence of Buoyancy force (limiting case)**

In this case, when \( Gr = 0 \) the solution corresponding to oscillating boundary motion can easily be obtained from Eqs. (28) and (35). Such solutions are already obtained by Corina et al.\(^{10} \).

**Newtonian fluid (\( \lambda = 0 \)). Velocity.**

\[ u(y, t) = \int_0^t \cos \omega(t - s) f(y, s) ds - \frac{Gr}{1 - Pr} t * g(y, t) + \frac{Gr}{1 - Pr} t * g(t) * h(y, t), \] (39)

\[ f(y, t) = L^{-1} \{ \exp (-y^2/4t) \} = \begin{cases} \frac{y \exp \left( -\frac{y^2}{4t} \right)}{2t^{3/2}}; & y > 0, \\ \delta(t); & y = 0 \end{cases} \] (40)
\[ h(y, t) = L^{-1}\{\exp(-y\sqrt{Pr/q})\} = \begin{cases} y\sqrt{Pr} \exp\left(-\frac{y^2}{4t}\right); & y > 0 \\ \delta(t); & y = 0 \end{cases} \]

Shear stress.

\[ \tau(y, t) = -\cos(\omega t) * \phi_1(y, t) + \frac{Gr}{1 - Pr} g(t) * \phi_2(y, t) - \frac{Gr}{1 - Pr} g(t) * \phi_3(y, t) \]

where

\[ \phi_1(y, t) = L^{-1}\{\sqrt{q} \exp(-y\sqrt{q})\} = \frac{y^2 - 2t}{4t^2} - \sqrt{\pi t} \exp\left(-\frac{y^2}{4t}\right); \quad \text{Re}(y^2) > 0, \]

\[ \phi_2(y, t) = L^{-1}\left\{\frac{1}{q\sqrt{q}} \exp(-y\sqrt{q})\right\} = 2\frac{\sqrt{7}}{\pi} \exp\left(-\frac{y^2}{4t}\right) - y \operatorname{erfc}\left(\frac{y}{2\sqrt{t}}\right), \]

\[ \phi_3(y, t) = L^{-1}\left\{\frac{1}{q\sqrt{q}} \exp(-y\sqrt{Pr/q})\right\} = 2\frac{\sqrt{12}}{\pi} \exp\left(-\frac{Pr}{4t}\right) - y\sqrt{Pr} \operatorname{erfc}\left(\frac{y\sqrt{Pr}}{2\sqrt{t}}\right). \]

Numerical results and discussions

The geometry of the problem is given in Fig. 1. In order to get some physical insight of the results corresponding to oscillating velocity on the boundary, some numerical calculations have been carried out for different values of pertinent parameters that describe the flow characteristics. All physical quantities and profiles are dimensionless. Also all profiles are plotted versus \(y\). Figure 2 presents the temperature profiles for different values of time \(t\) and Prandtl number \(Pr\) variation. The fluid temperature is a decreasing function with respect to Prandtl number \(Pr\) whereas an oscillating behavior is observed for Grashof number. Moreover, it is found that in the absence of free convection term, the already published results can be recovered as a special case. From the plotted results, it is found that temperature decreases with increasing Prandtl number where as an oscillating behavior is observed for Grashof number.

Conclusions

This study reports the first exact solution for unsteady mixed convection problem of Maxwell fluid via Laplace transform method. Expressions of velocity, shear stress and temperature are obtained and then plotted graphically for various embedded parameters. The solution corresponding to Newtonian fluid problem is recovered as a special case. Moreover, it is found that in the absence of free convection term, the already published results can be recovered as a special case. From the plotted results, it is found that temperature decreases with increasing Prandtl number; however, for large time the temperature decays later. Velocity decreases with increasing Prandtl number whereas an oscillating behavior is observed for Grashof number.

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**Acknowledgements**
The authors acknowledge with thanks the Deanship of Scientific Research (DSR) at Majmaah University, Majmaah Saudi Arabia for technical and financial support through vote number 37/97 for this research project.

**Author Contributions**
I.K. formulated the problem. N.A.S. solved the problem. L. C. C. Dennis performed the numerical simulations and prepared the results. I.K. and N.A.S. wrote the physical discussion of the figures. I.K. and N.A.S wrote main manuscript text. L. C. C. Dennis proof read the manuscript.

**Additional Information**
**Supplementary information** accompanies this paper at http://www.nature.com/srep

**Competing financial interests:** The authors declare no competing financial interests.

**How to cite this article:** Khan, I. and Shah, N. A. A scientific report on heat transfer analysis in mixed convection flow of Maxwell fluid over an oscillating vertical plate. *Sci. Rep.* **7**, 40147; doi: 10.1038/srep40147 (2017).

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Correction to: Scientific Reports https://doi.org/10.1038/srep40147; published online 15 March 2017; updated 17 May 2018

In the original version of this Article, the author L. C. C. Dennis was inadvertently omitted from the Author Contributions statement and the Supplementary Information.

The Author Contributions statement,

“I.K. formulated the problem N.A.S. solved the problem and prepared the figures. I.K. and N.A.S. wrote the main manuscript text. Both authors reviewed the manuscript.”

now reads:

“I.K. formulated the problem. N.A.S. solved the problem. L. C. C. Dennis performed the numerical simulations and prepared the results. I.K. and N.A.S. wrote the physical discussion of the figures. I.K. and N.A.S wrote main manuscript text. L. C. C. Dennis proof read the manuscript.”

In addition, the Acknowledgements section was omitted and now reads:

“The authors acknowledge with thanks the Deanship of Scientific Research (DSR) at Majmaah University, Majmaah Saudi Arabia for technical and financial support through vote number 37/97 for this research project.”

These errors have now been corrected in the HTML and PDF versions of the Article, and in the accompanying Supplementary Information.

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