Article

Application of Approximate Analytical Technique Using the Homotopy Perturbation Method to Study the Inclination Effect on the Thermal Behavior of Porous Fin Heat Sink

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Abstract: This article presents the homotopy perturbation method (HPM) employed to investigate the effects of inclination on the thermal behavior of a porous fin heat sink. The study aims to review the thermal characterization of heat sink with the inclined porous fin of rectangular geometry. The study establishes that heat sink of an inclined porous fin shows a higher thermal performance compared to a heat sink of equal dimension with a vertical porous fin. In addition, the study also shows that the performance of inclined or tilted fin increases with decrease in length–thickness aspect ratio. The study further reveals that increase in the internal heat generation variable decreases the fin temperature gradient, which invariably decreases the heat transfer of the fin. The obtained results using HPM highlights the accuracy of the present method for the analysis of nonlinear heat transfer problems, as it agrees well with the established results of Runge–Kutta.

Keywords: approximate analytical analysis; heat sink; porous fin; homotopy perturbation method

1. Introduction

With the increasing demand for high-performance electronic systems of miniaturized packaging, electronic cooling, and subsequently, the thermal enhancement of heat transfer components is rapidly gaining more attention. To achieve miniaturized packaging, the challenge to trade off size with efficiency often comes at a design cost. One key design consideration is the issue of excess heat building up within the thermal components, which could lead to the eventual damage of the electronic circuitry and overall functional breakdown of such electronic systems.

A key approach to achieve compact, thermally efficient electronic systems is to effectively improve heat dissipation between the device surface and the surrounding environment using extended surface or fin. Fin application is identified as a viable approach for enhancing thermal performance of different systems following the research breakthrough of [1]. Consequently, research on heat transfer using porous fin has become one of the emerging research areas for engineers and scientists, since, for the same weight, porous fin is established to show better performance than solid fins of equal dimension [2,3].

Different authors have applied different methods including analytical, numerical, and hybrid; i.e. a combination of two or more methods to investigate the thermal behaviour of fin under different operating conditions. Example of these methods include: Runge–Kutta [4–6], Galerkin’s method of weighted residual [7,8], least squares method [9], and various collocation methods, including
Haar wavelet [10,11], spectral [12], Chebychev [13–15], spectral element [16], Legendre [17], Adomian decomposition method [18,19], differential transform method [20–22], variational iteration method [23], homotopy analysis method [24], and hybrid methods [25–27].

Furthermore, in the quest to enhance the performance of fins, especially porous fins, different authors are investigating various thermal characteristics of porous fin including material, geometry, orientation, and composition are investigated to achieve heat transfer enhancement and augmentation. Since the heat sink is a critical component of most electronic systems, several authors have carried out different investigations on how the orientation of the heat sink as a composite unit affects its overall thermal performance [28,29]. Nevertheless, to the best of our knowledge, a study on the effect of inclination on the thermal performance of solid or porous fin heat sinks has not been carried out in the literature.

In this article, the homotopy perturbation method (HPM) is applied to theoretically investigate the effect of inclination and internal heat generation on the thermal behavior of a porous fin heat sink. HPM is an efficient approximate analytical approach useful for boundary value problems as shown in the present work and is independent on a small parameter in the governing equation. Furthermore, HPM handles the conditions at the boundaries without necessarily representing them, thereby obtaining the solution at every point without the presence of an unknown. The study aims at thermal characterization of heat sink with inclined porous fins of rectangular geometry. The rest of the article is organised as follows: The physical model of the process will be presented in Section 2. In Section 3, the developed nonlinear governing equation is solved using HPM. The parametric results of the study are discussed in Section 4. The summarized conclusions from the analysis are presented in Section 5.

2. Problem Formulation

Figure 1 shows a heat sink of vertical fins. The geometry of the porous fin is of the length $L$, thickness $t$ and is exposed on both faces to a convective–radiative environment at temperature $T_\infty$. To simplify the formulation of fin problem, we made the following assumptions:

- Porous media is homogeneous and saturated with single-phase fluid.
- The interaction between the saturated fluid and medium is governed by Darcy’s model.
- Thermo-physical characteristics of the porous fin with that of the fluid are constant.
- Fin tip is adiabatic.
where the inclination angle is expressed as “$\beta$” which is “0” for the vertical fin.

On introducing the dimensionless parameters in Equation (7) into Equation (4)
We arrive at

\[ X = \frac{\tau}{T}, \quad \theta = \frac{T_b - T}{T_b - T_a}, \quad S_h = \frac{\rho_c \kappa^2 \theta}{\kappa^2}, \quad M^2 = \frac{h_c/\kappa^2}{T_b - T_a}, \]

\[ Q = \frac{q_c/\kappa^2}{T_b - T_a}, \quad \gamma = \lambda (T_b - T_a) \quad (7) \]

We arrive at

\[ \frac{d^2 \theta}{dX^2} - S_h \theta^2 - M^2 \theta + M^2 Q(1 + \gamma \theta) = 0 \quad (8) \]

Therefore, Equation (8) becomes the nonlinear dimensionless thermal model, and the dimensionless boundary condition becomes

\[
\begin{align*}
X &= 0, \quad \frac{d\theta}{dX} = 0 \\
X &= 1, \quad \theta = 1 
\end{align*}
\quad (9)
\]

3. Method of Solution using HPM

The dimensionless nonlinear thermal equation of Equation (8) is solved using HPM. Therefore, to solve the present problem, a homotopy construction for Equation (8) is generated as:

\[ H(\theta, p) = (1 - p) \left[ \frac{d^2 \theta}{dX^2} \right] + p \left[ \frac{d^2 \theta}{dX^2} - S_h \theta^2 - M^2 \theta + M^2 Q(1 + \gamma \theta) \right] \quad (10) \]

Here \( p \in [0, 1] \) is an embedding parameter, and for \( p = 0 \) and \( p = 1 \), we have

\[ \theta(X, 0) = \theta_0(X), \quad \theta(X, 1) = \theta_1(X) \quad (11) \]

It is worth noting that as \( p \) increases from 0 to 1, \( \theta(X, p) \) changes from \( \theta_0(X) \) to \( \theta_1(X) \).

Assume the solution of Equation (8) is expressed as a series in \( p \) as:

\[ \theta(X) = \theta_0(X) + p \theta_1(X) + p^2 \theta_2(X) + p^3 \theta_2(X) + \ldots = \sum_{i=0}^{n} p^i \theta_i(X) \quad (12) \]

Then by substituting Equation (12) into Equation (10) and expanding the equation while terms of the same order of \( p \) are collected together, the resulting expression will appear in form of a polynomial in \( p \). Moreover, by equating the coefficients of the polynomial in \( p \) to zero, we derive a set of differential equations and their corresponding boundary conditions as

\[
\begin{align*}
p^0 : \quad & \frac{d^2 \theta_0}{dX^2} (X) = 0, \quad \theta_0(0) = 1, \quad \theta_0'(1) = 0 \\
p^1 : \quad & \frac{d^2 \theta_1}{dX^2} + M^2 Q \gamma \theta_0 - S_h \theta_0^2 - M^2 \theta_0 + M^2 Q = 0, \quad \theta_1(0) = 0, \quad \theta_1'(1) = 0 \\
p^2 : \quad & \frac{d^2 \theta_2}{dX^2} + M^2 Q \gamma \theta_1 - S_h \theta_0 \theta_1 - M^2 \theta_1 = 0, \quad \theta_2(0) = 0, \quad \theta_2'(1) = 0 \\
p^3 : \quad & \frac{d^2 \theta_3}{dX^2} + M^2 Q \gamma \theta_2 - S_h \theta_0 \theta_2 - 2S_h \theta_0 \theta_1 - M^2 \theta_1 + M^2 Q = 0, \quad \theta_3(0) = 0, \quad \theta_3'(1) = 0 \\
p^4 : \quad & \frac{d^2 \theta_4}{dX^2} - M^2 \theta_3 - 2S_h \theta_0 \theta_2 - 2S_h \theta_0 \theta_1 + M^2 Q \gamma \theta_3 = 0, \quad \theta_4(0) = 0, \quad \theta_4'(1) = 0 \\
p^5 : \quad & \frac{d^2 \theta_5}{dX^2} - S_h \theta_1 \theta_3 + M^2 Q \gamma \theta_4 - M^2 \theta_4 - S_h \theta_1 \theta_2 - 2S_h \theta_0 \theta_4 = 0, \quad \theta_5(0) = 0, \quad \theta_5'(1) = 0 \\
p^6 : \quad & \frac{d^2 \theta_6}{dX^2} + M^2 Q \gamma \theta_5 - 2S_h \theta_0 \theta_3 - 2S_h \theta_0 \theta_4 - M^2 \theta_5 - 2S_h \theta_2 \theta_3 = 0, \quad \theta_6(0) = 0, \quad \theta_6'(1) = 0 
\end{align*}
\]
\[ p^7 : \frac{d^2 \theta_7}{dx^2} + M^2 Q \gamma \theta_6 - 2s_h \theta_1 \theta_5 - 2s_h \theta_0 \theta_6 - M^2 \theta_6 - 2s_h \theta_2 \theta_4 = 0, \theta_7(0) = 0 \theta'_7(1) = 0 \] (20)

\[ p^8 : \frac{d^2 \theta_8}{dx^2} + M^2 Q \gamma \theta_7 - 2s_h \theta_3 \theta_4 - 2s_h \theta_1 \theta_6 - M^2 \theta_7 - 2s_h \theta_0 \theta_7 - 2s_h \theta_2 \theta_5 = 0, \theta_8(0) = 0 \theta'_8(1) = 0 \] (21)

\[ p^9 : \frac{d^2 \theta_9}{dx^2} - 2s_h \theta_1 \theta_6 - 2s_h \theta_2 \theta_6 + M^2 Q \gamma \theta_8 - s_h \theta^2 - 2s_h \theta_3 \theta_5 - 2s_h \theta_1 \theta_7 - M^2 \theta_9 = 0, \theta_9(0) = 0 \theta'_9(1) = 0 \] (22)

On solving the above Equations (13)–(22), we arrived at

\[ \theta_0(X) = 1 \] (23)

\[ \theta_1(X) = \frac{[M^2[1 - Q(1 + \gamma)] + 5h]}{2} (X^2 - 1) \] (24)

\[ \theta_2(X) = \frac{[M^2[1 - Q(1 + \gamma)] + 5h]}{24} (M^2 + 2s_h - M^2 Q \gamma) (X^4 - 6X^2 + 5) \] (25)

\[ \theta_3(X) = \begin{bmatrix}
\frac{S_h \left[ \frac{M^2[1 - Q(1 + \gamma)] + 5h}{2} \right]^2}{12} + \\
\frac{2s_h \left[ \frac{M^2[1 - Q(1 + \gamma)] + 5h}{2} \right]^2}{12} + \\
\frac{5(M^2 + 2s_h - M^2 Q \gamma) \left[ \frac{M^2[1 - Q(1 + \gamma)] + 5h}{2} \right]^2}{12} + \\
\frac{115 \left[ \frac{M^2[1 - Q(1 + \gamma)] + 5h}{2} \right]^2}{360} + \\
\frac{61(M^2 + 2s_h - M^2 Q \gamma) \left[ \frac{M^2[1 - Q(1 + \gamma)] + 5h}{2} \right]^2}{360} 
\end{bmatrix} \] (26)

In the same manner, the expressions for \( \theta_4(X), \theta_5(X), \theta_6(X), \theta_7(X), \theta_8(X) \) are obtained. However, these expressions are too large to be included in this paper.

Nevertheless, from the above definition, the solution of Equation (8) in HPM domain can, therefore, be expressed as:

\[ \theta(X) = \theta_0(X) + p\theta_1(X) + p^2\theta_2(X) + p^3\theta_3(X) + p^4\theta_4(X) + p^5\theta_5(X) + p^6\theta_6(X) + p^7\theta_7(X) + p^8\theta_8(X) + \ldots \] (27)

Again, it worth noting that for all values of \( p \) between 0 and 1, we obtain the best result at \( p = 1 \). Therefore, by using \( p = 1 \) produces the approximate expression of Equation (27),

\[ \theta(X) = \lim_{p \to 1} \theta(X) = \theta_0(X) + \theta_1(X) + \theta_2(X) + \theta_3(X) + \theta_4(X) + \theta_5(X) + \theta_6(X) + \theta_7(X) + \theta_8(X) + \ldots \] (28)

Furthermore, by substituting Equations (23)–(26) into Equation (28), we arrive at:
The fin efficiency is obtained from the integration shown below:

\[
\eta = \int_{0}^{1} \left[ 1 - \frac{\left[M^2[1-Q(1+\gamma)] + S_h\right]}{2} (1 - X^2) + \frac{\left[M^2[1-Q(1+\gamma)] + S_h\right]}{24} (M^2 + 2S_h - M^2Q_\gamma) \right] (X^4 - 6X^2 + 5) \, dx
\]
\[ \eta = 1 - \left[ \frac{M^2[1 - Q(1 + \gamma)] + S_h}{2} + \frac{2[M^2[1 - Q(1 + \gamma)] + S_h](M^2 + 2S_h - M^2\gamma)}{15} \right] \]

\[
+ \frac{1}{216} S_h \left( \frac{M^2[1 - Q(1 + \gamma)] + S_h}{2} \right)^2 + \left( M^2 + 2S_h - M^2\gamma \right) \left( \frac{M^2[1 - Q(1 + \gamma)] + S_h}{2} \right) \left( M^2 + 2S_h - M^2\gamma \right) \]

\[
+ \left( \frac{S_h}{5} \right) \left( \frac{M^2[1 - Q(1 + \gamma)] + S_h}{2} \right)^2 + \left( M^2 + 2S_h - M^2\gamma \right) \left( \frac{M^2[1 - Q(1 + \gamma)] + S_h}{2} \right) \left( M^2 + 2S_h - M^2\gamma \right) \]

\[
+ \left( \frac{11S_h}{30} \right) \left( \frac{M^2[1 - Q(1 + \gamma)] + S_h}{2} \right)^2 + \left( M^2 + 2S_h - M^2\gamma \right) \left( \frac{M^2[1 - Q(1 + \gamma)] + S_h}{2} \right) \left( M^2 + 2S_h - M^2\gamma \right) \]

\[
+ \left( \frac{S_h}{60} \right) \left( \frac{M^2[1 - Q(1 + \gamma)] + S_h}{2} \right)^2 + \left( M^2 + 2S_h - M^2\gamma \right) \left( \frac{M^2[1 - Q(1 + \gamma)] + S_h}{2} \right) \left( M^2 + 2S_h - M^2\gamma \right) \]

\[
+ \left( \frac{S_h}{8} \right) \left( \frac{M^2[1 - Q(1 + \gamma)] + S_h}{2} \right)^2 + \left( M^2 + 2S_h - M^2\gamma \right) \left( \frac{M^2[1 - Q(1 + \gamma)] + S_h}{2} \right) \left( M^2 + 2S_h - M^2\gamma \right) \]

\[
+ \left( \frac{S_h}{5} \right) \left( \frac{M^2[1 - Q(1 + \gamma)] + S_h}{2} \right)^2 + \left( M^2 + 2S_h - M^2\gamma \right) \left( \frac{M^2[1 - Q(1 + \gamma)] + S_h}{2} \right) \left( M^2 + 2S_h - M^2\gamma \right) \]

\[
+ \left( \frac{S_h}{12} \right) \left( \frac{M^2[1 - Q(1 + \gamma)] + S_h}{2} \right)^2 + \left( M^2 + 2S_h - M^2\gamma \right) \left( \frac{M^2[1 - Q(1 + \gamma)] + S_h}{2} \right) \left( M^2 + 2S_h - M^2\gamma \right) \]

\[
+ \left( \frac{S_h}{6} \right) \left( \frac{M^2[1 - Q(1 + \gamma)] + S_h}{2} \right)^2 + \left( M^2 + 2S_h - M^2\gamma \right) \left( \frac{M^2[1 - Q(1 + \gamma)] + S_h}{2} \right) \left( M^2 + 2S_h - M^2\gamma \right) \]

\[
+ \left( \frac{S_h}{2} \right) \left( \frac{M^2[1 - Q(1 + \gamma)] + S_h}{2} \right)^2 + \left( M^2 + 2S_h - M^2\gamma \right) \left( \frac{M^2[1 - Q(1 + \gamma)] + S_h}{2} \right) \left( M^2 + 2S_h - M^2\gamma \right) \]

\[
+ \left( \frac{S_h}{1} \right) \left( \frac{M^2[1 - Q(1 + \gamma)] + S_h}{2} \right)^2 + \left( M^2 + 2S_h - M^2\gamma \right) \left( \frac{M^2[1 - Q(1 + \gamma)] + S_h}{2} \right) \left( M^2 + 2S_h - M^2\gamma \right) \]

4. Results and Discussion

The developed analytical solutions presented in Section 3 are simulated in MATLAB and the results are presented in Figures 2–7.

From Figure 2, the inclination effect on the performance of the porous fin is highlighted. It can be seen from Figure 2 that the inclined porous fin exhibits improved thermal performance than the corresponding vertical heat sink of equal dimension. In addition, the thermal performance of the inclined or tilted fin increases with decrease in the length–thickness aspect ratio of the fin. In addition, Figure 3 shows the effect of porosity on the temperature distribution of the fin. From Figure 3, it can be observed that the temperature of the porous fin decreases and drops rapidly as the porosity parameter increases. This overall implication of this effect is that increase in porosity improves the performance of the fin.

Figure 4 shows the effect of heat generated internally on the temperature distribution of porous fin, whilst Figure 5 presents the influence of the temperature-dependent internal heat generation on the temperature distribution of the fin. From both Figures 4 and 5, it can be observed that as the temperature gradient of the fins decreases, the internal heat generation parameters increases, which consequently decreases the rate of heat transferred in the fin.
Figure 3. Porosity effect on the performance of the inclined fin.

Figure 4. Effect of heat generation on the performance of the inclined fin.

Figure 5. Effect of temperature-dependent heat generation on the performance of the inclined fin.

From Figures 6 and 7, we highlight the effects of thermo-geometric and porosity variable on the efficiency ratio of the inclined fin to vertical fin. From the figures, it can be observed that the efficiency
ratio of the inclined fin to the vertical fin is greater than one for all cases considered. Moreover, the increased temperature distribution by convection in the inclined porous fin is due to the effective shorter length of the fin caused by the tilted angle, $\beta$ as depicted in Figure 1c.

![Figure 6](image-url)  
**Figure 6.** Thermo-geometric variable effect on efficiency ratio of inclined to vertical porous fins.

![Figure 7](image-url)  
**Figure 7.** Porosity variable effect on efficiency ratio of inclined to vertical porous fins.

From Table 1, we highlight a comparison of the present study using HPM with an established numerical result of Runge–Kutta. From Table 1, it could be seen that the result of HPM agrees excellently with the established result of Runge–Kutta which validates the accuracy of the present method for analysis of nonlinear heat transfer problem.

| $x$  | Numerical Method (Runge-Kutta) | HPM (Present Study) | Absolute Error |
|------|-------------------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| 0.00 | 0.863499231                   | 0.863499664        | 0.000000433    |
| 0.05 | 0.863828568                   | 0.863829046        | 0.000000478    |
| 0.10 | 0.864817909                   | 0.864817539        | 0.000000449    |
| 0.15 | 0.866465743                   | 0.866465743        | 0.000000439    |
| 0.20 | 0.868776261                   | 0.868776261        | 0.000000448    |
| 0.25 | 0.871751104                   | 0.871751104        | 0.000000451    |
| 0.30 | 0.875393404                   | 0.875393404        | 0.000000455    |
| 0.35 | 0.879707472                   | 0.879707010        | 0.000000462    |
Table 1. Cont.

| x  | Numerical Method (Runge-Kutta) | HPM (Present Study) | Absolute Error |
|----|--------------------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| 0.40 | 0.884696967                   | 0.884696500        | 0.000000467    |
| 0.45 | 0.890367650                   | 0.890367181        | 0.000000469    |
| 0.50 | 0.896725569                   | 0.896725096        | 0.000000473    |
| 0.55 | 0.903777531                   | 0.903777060        | 0.000000471    |
| 0.60 | 0.911531120                   | 0.911530658        | 0.000000462    |
| 0.65 | 0.919994710                   | 0.919994259        | 0.000000451    |
| 0.70 | 0.929177488                   | 0.929177056        | 0.000000432    |
| 0.75 | 0.939089476                   | 0.939089079        | 0.000000397    |
| 0.80 | 0.949741555                   | 0.949741203        | 0.000000352    |
| 0.85 | 0.961145491                   | 0.961145189        | 0.000000302    |
| 0.90 | 0.973313964                   | 0.973313764        | 0.000000200    |
| 0.95 | 0.986260599                   | 0.986260549        | 0.000000055    |
| 1.00 | 1.000000000                   | 1.000000000        | 0.000000000    |

5. Conclusions

In this article, the effect of inclination on the thermal behavior of a porous fin heat sink has been investigated using HPM. From the analysis, it is established that the inclined porous fin in heat sink shows improved thermal performance than the corresponding vertical heat sink of the same size and geometry. In addition, the thermal performance of the inclined or tilted fin increases as the aspect ratio of the fin decreases. Furthermore, the study reveals that as the internal heat generation parameter increases the dimensionless temperature profile of the porous fin increases, which consequently, increases the rate of heat transfer in the fin. The obtained results using HPM in this work highlight the efficiency of the method for the analysis of nonlinear heat transfer problems.

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Abbreviations

Terminology

| Term | Definition |
|------|------------|
| A    | Fin cross-sectional area |
| A_b  | Base area of the fin |
| A_s  | Fin surface area |
| h_eff| Heat coefficient at fin base |
| c_p  | Specific heat of the fluid passing through the porous fin |
| K    | Permeability |
| M    | Thermo-geometric parameter |
| m    | Saturated fluid mass flowage |
| Nu   | Nusselt number |
| P    | Fin perimeter |
| t    | Fin thickness |
| q    | Rate of heat transfer |
| X    | Dimensionless length |
| q    | Internal heat generation |
| Gr   | Grashoff’s number |
| β    | Inclination angle |
Sh Porosity term.
M Convective heat parameter
T Temperature
T\text{a} Ambient temperature
T\text{b} Temperature at the base of the fin
V Average velocity of the fluid passing through the porous fin

**Greek Symbols**
\(\beta\) Inclination angle
\(\theta\) Temperature (Dimensionless)
\(\eta\) Fin efficiency
\(\beta_\text{th}\) Coefficient of thermal expansion
\(v\) Kinematic viscosity
\(\rho\) Fluid density

**Subscripts**
s Solid properties
\(f\) Fluid properties
\(\text{eff}\) Effective porous properties

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