Galerkin Approach for the Study of Urea Concentration Distribution in Artificial Kidney in Hemodialysis

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Received: Nov 18, 2018
Revised: Dec 22, 2018
Accepted: Dec 23, 2018

Abstract: Hemodialysis is the process of purifying the blood which removes the waste product such as urea from blood through the semi-permeable membrane of dialyzer. In dialyzer, the rate of blood flow velocity is maintained around five times less than the dialyzed flow velocity during hemodialysis. The study focuses on the urea concentration distribution in the blood during dialysis using partial differential equation of diffusion process developed by J. N. Kapur, assuming blood is Newtonian, and laminar flow. The solution of urea concentration is obtained using Galerkin approximation method associated with appropriate boundary conditions.

Keywords: Diffusion process, Galerkin method, Urea concentration, Hemodialysis, Conjugate BVP

1. Introduction

Dialysis is primarily used to provide an artificial replacement for lost of kidney function due to renal failure. Dialysis treatment replaces waste removal like urea through the semi-permeable membrane of artificial kidney which is performed by the dialyzer through diffusion process. Various dialyzers are in use; especially parallel plate dialyzer and hollow dialyzer. The first successful hemodialysis treatment in human was reported in 1944 [10]. A 67-year old woman in urea coma who regained consciousness after 11 hours of hemodialysis is considered to be first successful treated patient with Kolff’s dialyzer in 1945 [3]. Before a mass transfer in dialyzers assumed that (a) the urea concentration of the solute in the dialyzed is zero or constant everywhere and that (b) the mass transfer resistance in the dialyzed is constant and may be added linearly to the resistance of membrane to give a composite resistance [2]. Very few articles are available working in mathematical model for hemodialysis. Cooney et al. [2] were first to work in this direction. They studied mass transfer in semi-infinite parallel plate dialyzers solving convective diffusion equation for blood and dialyzates. Their work was further extended by J. N. Kaptur in conjugate boundary value problem [5].

The present study is based on the model that consists of the partial differential equation defining the process of diffusion in artificial kidney, especially in circular duct dialyzer. The solution of the model equation is obtained in the form of urea concentration in blood and
dialyzate by using the Galerkin approximation method by converting a continuous problem (such as a differential equation) to a discrete problem. In principle, it is equivalent to applying the method of variation of parameter to a function space, by converting the equation to a weak formulation. The Galerkin method of residuals is the most common method of calculating the global stiffness matrix in finite element method [1,9]. The aims of Galerkin’s method is the production of a linear system of equations, and so we build its matrix form. The matrix of Galerkin equation is symmetric.

To apply Galerkin’s method, we determine a sequence of functions satisfying the following conditions is determined.

- Each of the functions is continuously twice differentiable.
- Each function satisfies boundary conditions.
- The functions are linearly independent.
- The sequence of function is complete.

2. Mathematical Equations

The dialyzate is maintained more than blood flow in hemodialysis process. The flow of blood and dialyzate in a circular duct is considered to be axi-symmetric, i.e. it is symmetric about an axis. We use the cylindrical co-ordinates \((r, \theta, z)\), where the components of velocity, namely \(v_r\) along the radial vector perpendicular to the axis, \(v_\theta\) perpendicular to the axis and the radius vector, and \(v_z\) parallel to the axis of \(z\). For axi-symmetric case, we take \(v_\theta = 0\). We also consider the velocity of solute is in the fully developed flow and so \(v_z = 0\) (Fig. 1).

![Circular dialyzer](image1.png)

**Fig 1: Circular dialyzer**

The basic governing equation of urea concentration in an incompressible fully developed flow of fluid in a circular duct in cylindrical co-ordinate is given by [5]

\[
\frac{\partial C}{\partial t} + v(r, t) \frac{\partial C}{\partial z} = D \left( \frac{\partial^2 C}{\partial r^2} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial C}{\partial r} + \frac{\partial^2 C}{\partial z^2} \right)
\]

where \(C(r, z, t)\) is the concentration of urea in the fluid and \(v(r, t)\) is the fluid velocity in the fully developed flow and \(D\) is the diffusivity of the fluid. The magnitude of the convective term as compared to the diffusion term is given by the dimensional Peclet number \(Pe = \frac{v_m R}{D}\), where \(v_m\) is the maximum velocity in the fluid which occurs at the center of the blood vessel and \(R\) is the radius of the duct. The value of \(Pe\) may be as large as 15,000 for the hemodialyzer [4]. So the longitudinal diffusion term can be neglected and then the above convection diffusion equation simplifies to steady case:
Blood: \[ D_1 \left( \frac{\partial^2 C_1}{\partial r^2} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial C_1}{\partial r} \right) = v_1(r) \frac{\partial C_1}{\partial z} \] (1)

Dialyzate: \[ D_2 \left( \frac{\partial^2 C_2}{\partial r^2} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial C_2}{\partial r} \right) = v_2(r) \frac{\partial C_2}{\partial z} \] (2)

where \( C_1(r, z) \) and \( C_2(r, z) \) be the urea concentration in blood and dialyzate regions respectively, \( D_1, D_2 \) be their respective diffusivities in the blood and dialyzate regions, and \( v_1(r), v_2(r) \) be the velocity distributions in blood and dialyzate regions determined from Newtonian fluid motion equation which depend on their viscosity coefficient, pressure gradient and the radii \( r_1, r_2 \) of inner and outer tubes.

The approximation boundary conditions are:

i) \( \frac{\partial C_1}{\partial r} = 0 \) at \( r = 0 \) (3)

ii) \( \frac{\partial C_2}{\partial r} = 0 \) at \( r = r_2 \) (4)

iii) \(- D_1 \left[ \frac{\partial C_1}{\partial r} \right]_{r=r_1} = -D_2 \left[ \frac{\partial C_2}{\partial r} \right]_{r=r_1} = P [C_1(r_1, z) - C_2(r_2, z)] = P [C_1(z) - C_2(z)] \) (5)

where \( P \) is the permeability of the membrane of dialyzer.

3. Solution of the Model Equations

Applying the Laplace transform on convective diffusion equations for blood and dialyzate.

\[ D_1 \left( \frac{\partial^2 \tilde{C}_1}{\partial r^2} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial \tilde{C}_1}{\partial r} \right) = v_1(r)(s \tilde{C}_1 - C_{10}) \] (6)

\[ D_2 \left( \frac{\partial^2 \tilde{C}_2}{\partial r^2} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial \tilde{C}_2}{\partial r} \right) = v_2(r)(s \tilde{C}_2 - C_{20}) \] (7)

where \( \tilde{C}_1(r, s) \) and \( \tilde{C}_2(r, s) \) are the Laplace transform of \( C_1(r, z) \) and \( C_2(r, z) \), \( C_{10} \) and \( C_{20} \) are initial urea concentration in blood and dialyzate. Similarly applying the Laplace transform on the boundary conditions (3) - (5)

i) \( \frac{\partial \tilde{C}_1}{\partial r} = 0 \) at \( r = 0 \) (8)
\[
\frac{\partial C_1}{\partial r} = 0 \quad \text{at} \quad r = r_2 \quad (9)
\]

\[
-D_1 \left[ \frac{\partial C_1}{\partial r} \right]_{r=r_1} = -D_2 \left[ \frac{\partial C_2}{\partial r} \right]_{r=r_1} = P [C_1(s) - C_2(s)] \quad (10)
\]

where \( \bar{C}_1(s) = \bar{C}_1(r_1, s), \bar{C}_2(s) = \bar{C}_2(r_1, s) \) at \( r = r_1 \)

To apply Galerkin approach, we try with the following solutions for equations (6) and (7)

\[
\bar{C}_1(r, s) - \bar{C}_2(s) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \left( a_i + b_i r^{2i} \right) f_i(s) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} h_i(r) f_i(s) \quad (12)
\]

\[
\bar{C}_2(r, s) - \bar{C}_1(s) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \left( A_i + B_i (r - r_1)^{2i} \right) F_i(s) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} H_i(r) F_i(s) \quad (13)
\]

where the sequence of functions \( f_i(s) \) and \( F_i(s) \), \( 1 \leq i \leq n \) satisfy the conditions to apply Galerkin approach. The above two tried solutions consists \( (2n + 2) \) functions

\( f_1(s), f_2(s), f_3(s), \ldots, f_n(s) \); \( F_1(s), F_2(s), F_3(s), \ldots, F_n(s) \) and \( \bar{C}_1(s), \bar{C}_2(s) \) and the \( 4n \) constants.

\( a_1, a_2, a_3, \ldots, a_n \); \( b_1, b_2, b_3, \ldots, b_n \); \( A_1, A_2, A_3, \ldots, A_3 \); \( B_1, B_2, B_3, \ldots, B_n \).

\[
-D_1 \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \sum_{i=1}^{n} [a_i + b_i r^{2i}] f_i(s) = -D_2 \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \sum_{i=1}^{n} [A_i + B_i (r - r_1)^{2i}] F_i(s)
\]

\[
P[\bar{C}_1(s) - \bar{C}_2(s)] = P[\bar{C}_2(s) - \bar{C}_1(s)] \quad (14)
\]

If we put,

\[
-2ib_i D_1 r_1^{2i-1} = C, \quad -2ib_i D_2 (r - r_1)^{2i-1} = C
\]

\[
P [A_i + B_i (r - r_1)^{2i}] = C, \quad -P [A_i + B_i (r - r_1)^{2i}] = C \quad (16)
\]

We find values of \( a_i, b_i, A_i, B_i \), where \( C \) is a constant value, and using (14) in (13).

\[
\sum_{i=1}^{n} f_i(s) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} F_i(s) = Q(s), \quad \text{say} \quad (17)
\]

For simplicity our calculation, we assume \( Q(s) = \frac{K}{s} \) and then using equation (16) and (17)

\[
\bar{C}_1(s) - \bar{C}_2(s) = \frac{C}{p} Q(s), \quad \bar{C}_2(s) - \bar{C}_1(s) = -\frac{C}{p} Q(s)
\]

Both equations give,

\[
L [C_1(z) - C_2(z)] = \frac{C}{p} Q(s) \quad (18)
\]

Then,

\[
Q(s) = \frac{p}{c} \frac{[C_1(z) - C_2(z)]}{s} \quad (19)
\]

Thus from equation (17), (18), (19), we get

\[
\sum_{i=1}^{n} f_i(s) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} F_i(s) = \left[ \frac{C_{10} - C_{20}}{s} \right] \quad (20)
\]

Without loss of generality, if we assume \( C = P \),

\[
a_i = 1 + \frac{r_1 P}{2i D_1} = 1 + \frac{Sh_w}{2i}; \quad b_i = -\frac{r_1 P}{2i D_1} = -\frac{1}{2i} \frac{Sh_w}{2i}
\]

\[
A_i = -1 - \frac{(r_2 - r_1) P}{2i D_2} = -1 - \frac{sh_w}{2i}; \quad B_i = \frac{1}{2i} \frac{(r_2 - r_1)^2}{D_2} = -\frac{1}{2i} \frac{Sh_w}{(r_2 - r_1)^2} \quad (21)
\]

Then, the equation (20) to (22)
\[ a_i > 0 \, , \, b_i < 0 \, , \, A_i < 0 \, , \, B_i > 0 \, , \, h_i(r_1) > 0 \, , \, H_i(r_1) < 0 \]

The orthogonality relation gives,

\[ \int_{r_1}^{r_2} R_1(r, s) h_j(r) r \, dr = 0, \text{ for all } j = 1, 2, 3, ..., n \tag{23} \]

\[ \int_{r_1}^{r_2} R_2(r, s) H_j(r - r_2) \, dr = 0, \text{ for all } j = 1, 2, 3, ..., n \tag{24} \]

Then,

\[ \sum_{i=1}^{n} (a_{ij} + s b_{ij} r^2) f_i(s) = p_j [s \tilde{C}_2(s) - C_{10}] \tag{25} \]

\[ \sum_{i=1}^{n} (A_{ij} + s B_{ij} (r - r_1)^2) F_i(s) = P_j [s \tilde{C}_1(s) - C_{20}] \tag{26} \]

where,

\[ a_{ij} = -D_1 \int_{r_1}^{r_2} \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial h_j(r)}{\partial r} h_j(r) \, dr, \]

\[ b_{ij} = \int_{r_1}^{r_2} v_1(r) h_i(r) h_j(r) r \, dr, \quad p_j = \int_{r_1}^{r_2} v_1(r) h_j(r) r \, dr, \]

\[ A_{ij} = D_2 \int_{r_1}^{r_2} \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial H_i(r)}{\partial r} H_j(r - r_2) \, dr, \]

\[ B_{ij} = \int_{r_1}^{r_2} v_2(r) H_i(r) H_j(r - r_2) \, dr, \quad P_j = -\int_{r_1}^{r_2} v_2(r) h_j(r - r_2) \, dr \]

Here \((a_{ij})\) and \((b_{ij})\) are symmetric matrices with all positive elements. If \(v_2(r) > 0\), then the dialyzate flow is in the same direction as blood flow and if \(v_2(r) < 0\), then the dialyzate flow is in the opposite direction of the blood flow. \(B_{ij}\) is symmetric and has all negative elements and if \(v_2(r) > 0\) has all positive elements if \(v_2(r) < 0\). All \(p_j\)’s are negative and \(P_j\)’s are negative if \(v_2(r) > 0\) and positive if \(v_2(r) < 0\). Let us denote

\[ g_i(s) = \frac{f_i(s)}{s \tilde{C}_2(s) - C_{10}} \tag{27} \]

\[ G_i(s) = \frac{F_i(s)}{s \tilde{C}_1(s) - C_{20}} \tag{28} \]

After simplification, we get

\[ \sum_{i=1}^{n} (a_{ij} + s b_{ij}) g_i(s) = p_j; \, j = 1, 2, 3, ..., n \tag{29} \]

\[ \sum_{i=1}^{n} (A_{ij} + s B_{ij}) G_i(s) = P_j ; \, j = 1, 2, 3, ..., n \tag{30} \]

From these equations we can obtain \(g_i(s)\) and \(G_i(s)\), and we find that each is a rational function of \(s\) whose numerator is a polynomial of \((n - 1)\)th degree and denominator is a polynomial of \(n\)th degree, and is denoted by \(R(n - 1, n)\). From equations (20), (27), (28), we obtain

\[ \sum g_i(s) = \sum \frac{f_i(s)}{s \tilde{C}_2(s) - C_{10}} \quad \text{and} \quad s \tilde{C}_2(s) - C_{10} = \frac{C_{10} - C_{20}}{s \sum g_i(s)} \tag{31} \]

\[ \sum G_i(s) = \sum \frac{F_i(s)}{s \tilde{C}_1(s) - C_{10}} \quad \text{and} \quad s \tilde{C}_1(s) - C_{10} = \frac{C_{10} - C_{20}}{s \sum G_i(s)} \tag{32} \]

Both \(\sum g_i(s)\), \(\sum G_i(s)\) are \(R(n - 1, n)\) functions and

\[ \tilde{C}_2(s) = \frac{C_{10}}{s} + \frac{C_{10} - C_{20}}{s^2 \sum g_i(s)}, \quad \tilde{C}_1(s) = \frac{C_{20}}{s} + \frac{C_{10} - C_{20}}{s^2 \sum G_i(s)} \]

which are \(R(n, n + 1)\) functions. Using equation (31) and (32), we have
\[ g_i(s) = \frac{f_i(s)}{sC_2(s) - C_{10}}, \quad s\tilde{C}_2(s) - C_{10} = \frac{f_i(s)}{g_i(s)} \]
\[ G_i(s) = \frac{F_i(s)}{sC_1(s) - C_{20}}, \quad s\tilde{C}_1(s) - C_{20} = \frac{F_i(s)}{G_i(s)} \]

Putting the value of \( g_i \) from equation (27) in equation (31)
\[ \frac{C_{10} - C_{20}}{s\sum g_i(s)} = \frac{f_i(s)}{g_i(s)}, \quad f_i(s) = \frac{C_{10} - C_{20}}{s\sum g_i(s)} \frac{g_i(s)}{g_i(s)} \]

Similarly, putting the value of \( G_i \) from equation (28) in equation (32)
\[ \frac{C_{10} - C_{20}}{s\sum G_i(s)} = \frac{F_i(s)}{G_i(s)} \frac{G_i(s)}{G_i(s)} \]
\[ F_i(s) = \frac{C_{10} - C_{20}}{s\sum G_i(s)} \frac{G_i(s)}{G_i(s)} \]

Both \( f_i(s) \) and \( F_i(s) \) are \( R(n - 1, n) \) functions, we then obtain \( C_1(z), C_2(z), C_1(r, z), C_2(r, z) \)
using the following Laplace Inverses,
\[ C_1(z) = L^{-1}(\tilde{C}_1(s)), \quad C_2(z) = L^{-1}(\tilde{C}_2(s)) \]
\[ C_1(r, z) - C_2(z) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} (a_i + b_ir^{2i})L^{-1}(f_i(s)) \]
\[ C_2(r, z) - C_1(z) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} (A_i + B_i(r - r_1)^{2i})L^{-1}(F_i(s)) \]

The above equations give for urea concentration in blood and dialyze.

4. Numerical Results and Discussion

In our simulation results, the integrals for \( A_{ij} \) and \( B_{ij} \) are evaluated using Simpson’s \( \frac{1}{3} \) rule. A parallel plate dialyzers have two side by side \( 15cm \times 90cm \) blood path per layer, that is about 0.54m² of membrane per layer. According to Cooney et al. [2], blood channel height is normally about 0.03cm under dynamic conditions. Blood flow rates in dialyzer is about 100cm³/min per layer. Dialyze flow rate is considered 500 cm³/min per layer. Cooney et al. has experimentally observed that urea concentration in blood side around the permeable membrane is approximately five times more than in dialyze side. This results that urea concentration in blood side at any instant must be more than the urea in dialyze side.

The urea diffuses through semi-permeable membrane of dialyzer within the temperature range 27°C – 37°C. Within these temperature range, the investigators [10] suggested the membrane diffusivity values \( 0.265 \times 10^{-5} \text{cm}^2/\text{sec} \) at 27°C and 37°C respectively. Cooney et al. [10] has considered the inner radius of dialyzer \( 0.03cm \), and the total radius of the dialyzer as \( 0.06cm \). They observed that \( D_1 = 10^{-5} \text{cm}^2/\text{sec} \), \( D_2 \) and is greater than \( D_1 \).

Cooney et al. [2] has experimentally observed that the urea concentration in blood side around the permeable membrane is approximately five times more than in dialyze side. The observation is exhibited in the simulated results of Fig. 1 and 2. In our simulated result, we observe same behavior in urea concentration distribution at the same radial distance measured from \( r = 0 \) in blood side and \( r = r_1 \) from dialyze side. This is due to the fact of the adjustment of flow in blood and dialyze side during hemodialysis process. In hemodialysis process, concentration is assumed to be maximum at the axis, i.e. \( r = 0 \). It then decreases
towards the semi-permeable membrane. This shows that the urea concentration in blood is left five times less than after it passing through the semi-permeable membrane. These results satisfying the condition that blood velocity is five times less than the velocity dialyzate.

For various values of urea concentration in blood and assuming the other parameter values as: $v_1 = 100 \text{ cm}^3/\text{min}$, $v_2 = 500 \text{ cm}^3/\text{min}$, $r_1 = 0.03 \text{ cm}$, $r_2 = 0.06 \text{ cm}$, $P = 0.285 \times 10^{-5} \text{ cm}^2/\text{sec}$, $D_1 = 10^{-5} \text{ cm}^2/\text{sec}$, $D_2 = 1.5 \times 10^{-5} \text{ cm}^2/\text{sec}$

Assuming the parameter values: $v_1 = 100 \text{ cm}^3/\text{min}$, $v_2 = 500 \text{ cm}^3/\text{min}$, $r_1 = 0.03 \text{ cm}$, $r_2 = 0.06 \text{ cm}$, $P = 0.285 \times 10^{-5} \text{ cm}^2/\text{sec}$, $D_1 = 10^{-5} \text{ cm}^2/\text{sec}$, $D_2 = 1.5 \times 10^{-5} \text{ cm}^2/\text{sec}$,
$C_{10}$ = initial condition of urea concentration in blood, $C_{10}$ = initial condition of urea concentration in dialyzate.

5. Conclusion

From the study, it is observed the differences between the urea concentration in blood and dialyzate. It is due to decrease in the urea concentration in blood and increase in urea pass through the semi-permeable membrane in dialyzate during dialysis process. The blood velocity in dialyzate governs the velocity of urea concentration of dialyzate.

Acknowledgement: The first author acknowledges UGC Nepal for providing financial support under M.Phil Research Support 2073/2074 scheme to prepare this article.

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