Numerical analysis of forced convection heat transfer in a rectangular micro-channel totally filled with Ag/water nano fluid in slip flow regime using the lattice Boltzmann method

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Abstract. Numerical simulation reported on heat transfer and fluid flow in a two-dimensional rectangular micro channel totally filled with Ag/water. The first –order slip/jump boundary conditions were uniformly imposed to the up and bottom walls. The governing conservation equations are translated in dimensionless form using the thermal Single Relaxation Time (T-SRT) modified Lattice Boltzmann Method (LBM) with double distribution functions (DDFs). The viscous dissipations effects are adopted into the energy equation. Effects of nanoparticle volume fraction φ, slip coefficient, B, on the flow of Nano fluid and heat transfer were studied. The results were interpreter in terms of slip velocity; temperature jump and Nusselt number. Based on the results found, it can be concluded that decreasing the values of slip coefficient enhances the convective heat transfer coefficient and consequently the Nusselt number (Nu) but increases the slip velocity at the wall and temperature jump values.

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## Nomenclature

| Symbol | Description |
|--------|-------------|
| $B = \beta / h$ | Dimensionless slip coefficient |
| $D_H = 2h$ | Hydraulic diameter (m) |
| $c$ | Lattice speed (m.s$^{-1}$) |
| $d_f$ | Molecular diameter of the base fluid (pure water), (nm) |
| $d_p$ | Nanoparticle diameter (nm) |
| $e$ | Density of internal energy |
| $c_i$ | Discrete velocity in direction $i$ |
| $f_i, g_i$ | Distribution function in direction $i$ |
| $f_{i_{eq}}, g_{i_{eq}}$ | Equilibrium distribution function in direction $i$ |
| $H, L$ | Dimensionless height and length of the microchannel (m) |
| $f_{i, g_i}$ | Modified distribution functions |
| $L_s$ | Slip length (m) |
| $Z_i$ | Heat dissipation |
| $\text{Nu}_x$ | Local Nusselt number along the microchannel wall |
| $R$ | Gas constant |
| $Pr = \nu_{ef} / \alpha_{ef}$ | Prandtl number |
| $Re = \rho_{ef} u_{ef} D_H / \mu_{ef}$ | Reynolds number |
| $T_i$ | Inlet temperature (K) |
| $T_w$ | Wall temperature (K) |
| $r$ | Accommodation coefficient |
| $t$ | Time (s) |
| $u, v$ | Velocity (m.s$^{-1}$) |
| $U, V$ | Dimensionless velocity |
| $x, y$ | Cartesian coordinates (m) |
| $X, Y$ | Dimensionless coordinates |
| $u_i$ | Inlet flow velocity (m.s$^{-1}$) |
| $U_s$ | Dimensionless slip velocity |

### Greek symbols

| Symbol | Description |
|--------|-------------|
| $\theta = T / T_i$ | Dimensionless temperature |
| $\Delta x$ | Lattice step |
### 1 Introduction

Heat transfer in fluids led to many practical and industrial applications, including transportation (combustion engines), energy supply, air conditioning, and electronics cooling... The recent considerable development of research treating with nanofluid for certain applications induce an improvement of heat transfers by introducing into a pure
fluid a low concentration of nanoparticles. The intensity of heat transfer depends strongly on the conductivity and thermal capacity of the heat transfer fluids. Then, nanofluids are colloidal solutions obtained by dispersing solid particles of nanometric size in a base fluid. Therefore, some of these solutions have been found to contribute more in the enhancement of heat transfer under certain conditions.

There are many studies concerning nanofluid in different geometries, some researchers have reported the flow and heat transfer of the nanofluid in microchannels [1–4]. For instance, Karimipour et al. [5] simulated the Cu-water nanofluid in a microchannel for slip condition. In addition, the lattice Boltzmann method are sued to simulate each problems related to heat transfer of nanofluids in microchannels [6, 7].

According to the above literature, the present study deals with laminar forced convection heat transfer of Ag-Water nanofluids in a microchannel using Lattice Boltzmann method. Our attention focused on the effects of emerging parameter’s on the slip velocity, temperature jump and Nusselt number.

2 Problem statement

2.1 Geometry details

The schematic diagram of the present computational domain is illustrated in Figure 2. The velocity and temperature profiles at the inlet are considered as \( u_i \) and \( T_i \). The wall temperature is set to \( T_w = 2T_i \). The open straight channel of height H consists of upper and lower walls of length L. In the present simulation Reynolds number is fixed to be 0.01.

2.2 Lattice Boltzmann model

The Lattice Boltzmann equation with a single relaxation time from the BGK model was adopted in this study and it can be expressed as:

\[
\tilde{f}_i (x + \tilde{v}_i dt, t + dt) - \tilde{f}_i (x, t) = -\frac{dt}{\tau_f + 0.5dt} \left( \tilde{f}_i - f_i^s \right) \tag{1}
\]

\[
\tilde{g}_i (x + \tilde{v}_i dt, t + dt) - \tilde{g}_i (x, t) = -\frac{dt}{\tau_g + 0.5dt} \left( \tilde{g}_i - g_i^s \right) - \frac{\tau_g dt}{\tau_g + 0.5dt} f_i Z_i \tag{2}
\]

\( f \) and \( g \) indicated the density momentum and internal energy distribution functions respectively. The discrete distribution function \( \tilde{f}_i \) and \( \tilde{g}_i \) with velocity \( c_i \) at position \( x \) and time \( t \) are given by [8]:

\[
\tilde{f}_i = f_i + \frac{dt}{2\tau_f} \left( f_i - f_i^s \right) \tag{3}
\]

\[
\tilde{g}_i = g_i + \frac{dt}{2\tau_g} \left( g_i - g_i^s \right) + \frac{dt}{2} f_i Z_i \tag{4}
\]
This model can be defined as:

\[ Z_i = (\tilde{c}_i - \tilde{u}) D_j \tilde{u}, \quad D_j = \tilde{c}_j + \tilde{c}_j N \]  

(5)

\( Z_i \) and \( D_j \) represent the effect of heat dissipation and the material derivative along the direction \( \tilde{c}_i \). \( \tau_e \) and \( \tau_\eta \) are the hydrodynamic and thermal relaxation times, respectively.

\( f^i \) and \( g^i \) are the equilibrium distribution function.

In this study, the 2-D nine-bit model (D2Q9) is used (Fig. 1).

This model can be defined as:

\[ f^e_i = \omega_0 \rho \left[ 1 + \frac{3 \tilde{c}_i \tilde{u}}{c^2} + \frac{9(\tilde{c}_i \tilde{u})^2}{2c^4} - \frac{3(u^2 + v^2)}{2c^2} \right] \]  

(6)

\[ g^0_i = -\omega_0 \left[ \frac{3\rho e(u^2 + v^2)}{2c^2} \right] \]  

(7)

\[ g^0 g^1_{1,2,3,4} = \omega_0 \rho \left[ 1.5 + 1.5 \frac{\tilde{c}_i \tilde{u}}{c^2} + 4.5 \left( \frac{\tilde{c}_i \tilde{u}}{c^2} \right)^2 - 1.5 \left( \frac{u^2 + v^2}{c^2} \right) \right] \]  

(8)

\[ g^5 g^6_{5,6,7,8} = \omega_0 \rho \left[ 3 + 6 \frac{\tilde{c}_i \tilde{u}}{c^2} + 4.5 \left( \frac{\tilde{c}_i \tilde{u}}{c^2} \right)^2 - 1.5 \left( \frac{u^2 + v^2}{c^2} \right) \right] \]  

(9)

where

\[ \tilde{u} = (u, v), \tilde{x} = (x, y), \quad \rho e = \rho RT, \quad c^2 = 3RT \] and \( T \) is the temperature, \( w_i \) are set as:

\( w_e = 4/9, \ w_{1,4} = 1/9 \) and \( w_{5,8} = 1/36 \). The D2Q9-discrete velocity model is given as [9]:

\[ \tilde{c}_0 = (0, 0), \]

\[ c_i = \left( \cos \frac{i-1}{2} \pi, \sin \frac{i-1}{2} \pi \right) c, i = 1, 2, 3, 4 \]  

(10)

\[ \tilde{c}_i = \sqrt{2} \left( \cos \left( \frac{i-5}{2} \pi + \frac{\pi}{4} \right), \sin \left( \frac{i-5}{2} \pi + \frac{\pi}{4} \right) \right) c, i = 5, 6, 7, 8 \]

The hydrodynamic and thermal variables can be determined by [10]:

\[ \rho = \sum_i \tilde{f}_i \]  

(11)

\[ \rho \tilde{u} = \sum_i \tilde{c}_i \tilde{f}_i \]  

(12)
\[
\rho \equiv \sum_i \hat{s}_i \frac{d}{2} \sum_i f_i Z_i \quad (13)
\]

The kinematic viscosity and the thermal diffusivity are given by:
\[
\nu = \gamma_f RT, \quad \alpha = 2\gamma_f RT \quad (14)
\]

### 3 Nanofluid

The properties of the nanofluid are obtained using the following relations [11]:
\[
\rho_{nf} \equiv \rho_f + (1-\varphi) \rho_s \quad (15)
\]
\[
\left(\rho c_p\right)_{nf} \equiv \varphi \left(\rho c_p\right)_{f} + (1-\varphi) \left(\rho c_p\right)_{s} \quad (16)
\]
\[
\alpha_{nf} \equiv \frac{k_{nf}}{\left(\rho c_p\right)_{nf}} \quad (17)
\]

Using the Brinkman model [11] the effective dynamic viscosity is:
\[
\mu_{nf} = \mu_f \left(1-\varphi\right)^{2.5} \quad (18)
\]

The nanofluid thermal conductivity as a function of liquid and solid conductivities is expressed as following [11]:
\[
k_{nf} = k_f \left(1 + \frac{k_s A_s}{k_f A_f} + \frac{A_s}{k_f k_s} P_c \frac{P_e A_f}{A_s}\right) \quad (19)
\]

Where
\[
A_e = \frac{d_e}{d_i} \frac{\varphi}{1-\varphi}, \quad P_e = \frac{u_a d_i}{\alpha_f}, \quad u_a = \frac{2k_s T}{\pi \mu_f d_i^2}, \quad (20)
\]
\[
k_s = 1.3807 \times 10^{-21} J / K, \quad C = 36000
\]

In which \(P_e\) is the Peclet number with the brownian motion velocity of particles \(u_a\) and \(k_s\) is the constant of Boltzmann.

### 3.1 Boundary condition

Non-equilibrium bounce back model, normal to the boundary, is used for inlet and outlet hydrodynamic boundary conditions. In this model, distribution functions are reflected in suitable ways to satisfy the equilibrium conditions and improve accuracy.
\[ \tilde{f}_1 = \tilde{f}_3 + \frac{2}{3} \rho_{in} u_{in} \]
\[ \tilde{f}_5 = \tilde{f}_7 + \frac{1}{2} \left( \tilde{f}_4 - \tilde{f}_2 \right) + \frac{1}{6} \rho_{in} u_{in} \]
\[ \tilde{f}_8 = \tilde{f}_6 + \frac{1}{2} \left( \tilde{f}_4 - \tilde{f}_2 \right) + \frac{1}{6} \rho_{in} u_{in} \]
\[ \tilde{f}_3 = \tilde{f}_1 - \frac{2}{3} \rho_{out} u_{out} \]
\[ \tilde{f}_7 = \tilde{f}_5 - \frac{1}{2} \left( \tilde{f}_4 - \tilde{f}_2 \right) - \frac{1}{6} \rho_{out} u_{out} + \frac{1}{2} \rho_{out} u_{out} \]
\[ \tilde{f}_6 = \tilde{f}_8 + \frac{1}{2} \left( \tilde{f}_4 - \tilde{f}_2 \right) - \frac{1}{6} \rho_{out} u_{out} + \frac{1}{2} \rho_{out} u_{out} \]

The unknown inlet and outlet thermal distribution functions are estimated using the known inlet temperature profile and non-equilibrium bounce back model as follows [12, 13]:

\[
\tilde{g}_1 = \frac{6 \rho_{in} e_{in} + 3 d \sum\limits_i f_j Z_i - 6 \left( \tilde{g}_5 + \tilde{g}_2 + \tilde{g}_3 + \tilde{g}_4 + \tilde{g}_6 + \tilde{g}_7 \right)}{2 + 3 u_{in} + 3 u_{in}^2} \]

\[
\tilde{g}_5 = \frac{6 \rho_{in} e_{in} + 3 d \sum\limits_i f_j Z_i - 6 \left( \tilde{g}_5 + \tilde{g}_2 + \tilde{g}_3 + \tilde{g}_4 + \tilde{g}_6 + \tilde{g}_7 \right)}{2 + 3 u_{in} + 3 u_{in}^2} \]

\[
\tilde{g}_8 = \frac{6 \rho_{in} e_{in} + 3 d \sum\limits_i f_j Z_i - 6 \left( \tilde{g}_5 + \tilde{g}_2 + \tilde{g}_3 + \tilde{g}_4 + \tilde{g}_6 + \tilde{g}_7 \right)}{2 + 3 u_{in} + 3 u_{in}^2} \]

\[
\tilde{g}_6 = \frac{6 \left( \tilde{g}_1 + \tilde{g}_5 + \tilde{g}_8 \right) - 3 d \sum\limits_i \left( \frac{c_{\text{in}}}{c} \right) f_j Z_i - 6 \left( \rho e u_{\text{out}} \right)}{2 - 3 u_{out} + 3 u_{out}^2} \]

\[
\tilde{g}_3 = \frac{6 \left( \tilde{g}_1 + \tilde{g}_5 + \tilde{g}_8 \right) - 3 d \sum\limits_i \left( \frac{c_{\text{in}}}{c} \right) f_j Z_i - 6 \left( \rho e u_{\text{out}} \right)}{2 - 3 u_{out} + 3 u_{out}^2} \]

\[
\tilde{g}_7 = \frac{6 \left( \tilde{g}_1 + \tilde{g}_5 + \tilde{g}_8 \right) - 3 d \sum\limits_i \left( \frac{c_{\text{in}}}{c} \right) f_j Z_i - 6 \left( \rho e u_{\text{out}} \right)}{2 - 3 u_{out} + 3 u_{out}^2} \]

\[
\tilde{g}_8 = \frac{6 \left( \tilde{g}_1 + \tilde{g}_5 + \tilde{g}_8 \right) - 3 d \sum\limits_i \left( \frac{c_{\text{in}}}{c} \right) f_j Z_i - 6 \left( \rho e u_{\text{out}} \right)}{2 - 3 u_{out} + 3 u_{out}^2} \]
Concerning the boundary conditions of the walls of the microchannels, the boundary condition of sliding is applied for the hydrodynamic field. Ngoma and Erchiqui [14] considered $\beta$ for the slip length coefficient and defined the slip velocity $u_s$ for the liquid inside the microchannel on the fixed walls as follows:

$$u_s = \pm \beta \frac{d u_{\text{fluid}}}{d y} \bigg|_{y=0,h}$$  \hfill (25)

The dimensionless form is written as:

$$U_s = \pm B \frac{d U}{d Y} \bigg|_{Y=0,1}$$  \hfill (26)

To define the slip velocity in LBM, the specular reflective bounce back model (combination of bounce back and specular boundary condition) is applied in this work. For example for the bottom wall, the unknown distribution functions are approximated by:

$$\tilde{f}_2 = \tilde{f}_d$$
$$\tilde{f}_5 = (1 + r) \tilde{f}_s$$
$$\tilde{f}_6 = (1 - r) \tilde{f}_7$$  \hfill (27)

The accommodation factor, $r$, is chosen appropriately [15]. In analogy with the slip phenomenon, the temperature jump can be simulated on the microchannel walls by an equation as follows [16] :

$$\Delta T_w = T_{\text{fluid}}(y \rightarrow \text{wall}) - T_w = \zeta \frac{\partial T_{\text{fluid}}}{\partial Y} \bigg|_{w}$$  \hfill (28)

where $\zeta$ is the temperature jump distance. For dimensionless temperature at the wall, it can be obtained from this equation:

$$\theta - \theta_w = \frac{B}{Pr} \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial Y} \bigg|_{Y=0,1}$$  \hfill (29)

Using the diffuse scattering boundary condition, the temperature jump for the bottom wall is written as below in LBM, based on the internal energy distribution function [17] :

$$g_{2.5,6} = \frac{3}{\rho_w \epsilon_{w}} g_{e_{2.5,6}} (\rho_u \mu_w e_w) (g_4 + g_7 + g_8)$$  \hfill (30)

The top wall temperature jump is also calculated similarly. The local Nusselt number is given as [5] :

$$Nu_s = \left( \frac{k_{ns}}{k_f} \right) \frac{q_D H}{\Delta T_k} = \left( \frac{k_{ns}}{k_f} \right) \frac{D_H \left( \partial T / \partial y \right)_{w}}{(T_w - T_{\text{bulk}})}$$  \hfill (31)

3.2 Grid independency and validation

Trial computations have been performed using three mesh sizes, i.e. $700 \times 35$, $800 \times 40$ and $900 \times 45$ for nanoparticles concentration $\varphi = 0$ and slip coefficient $B = 0.01$. The
numerical results for different grids are shown in Table 1, due to small difference between the results of the last two grid sizes, a uniform grid with $800 \times 40$ was chosen to obtain the best agreement between accuracy and computation time.

To validate the developed code, the comparison of the values obtained by Santra et al. [18] for the average Nusselt number (for different Reynolds number: $Re = 50$, $Re = 100$ and $Re = 200$) of a forced convection of cold Cu–water nanofluid in a macro channel with hot walls. The figure 3 demonstrated good agreement with those of Santra et al. [18].

In the present computation, the Reynolds number and the Prandtl number are chosen to be $Re = \frac{\rho_{nf} u_{nf} D}{\mu_{nf}}$, $Pr = \frac{\nu_{nf}}{\alpha_{nf}}$ and are calculated for the nanofluid mixture at $\phi = 0\%$ (pure water), $\phi = 0.02 = 2\%$ and $\phi = 0.04 = 4\%$, and the Reynolds number is fixed 1. The effects of slip Velocity on the walls and heat transfer are examined, the slip Velocity coefficient is chosen from 0.005 to 0.02.

Table 1

|           | $\rho$ (Kg/m$^3$) | $K$ (W/m·K) | $\mu$ (Pa·s) | $c_p$(J/K gK) |
|-----------|-----------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|
| Ag        | 3970            | 429         | -            | 235           |
| Water     | 997.1           | 0.613       | $8.91 \times 10^{-4}$ | 4179          |

Table 2

Grid Independency for $Re = 1$, $Pr = 0.7$, $\phi = 0$ and $B = 0.015$

| Grids   | 700×35 | 800×40 | 900×45 |
|---------|--------|--------|--------|
| Nu      | 7.18   | 7.23   | 7.25   |
| $C_f/Re$| 21.04  | 21.10  | 21.13  |

Acknowledgments

The first author is currently completing her doctorate. In addition, she did advanced internships at the Laboratory of physical Acoustics /Sapienza University to perform numerical simulations under the supervision of Prof. A. D'Orazio. The authors express their gratitude to the universities and institutes concerned for their assistance.
4 Results and discussions

It is worth recalling that the laminar forced convection heat transfer of a Ag/water in a microchannel is studied numerically by using Lattice Boltzmann method.

Figures 4 and 5 portray the variations of $sU$ and $s/g84$ along the microchannel’s walls at $B = 0.005$, $B = 0.01$ and $B = 0.02$ for $\phi = 0.04$. It can be depicted at the inlet, the slip velocity and temperature jump start from their maximum values and decrease asymptotically along the wall and approach constant values. Large values of $B$ induce an improvement in both $U_s$ and $\theta_s$.

The effects of $\phi$ on $xNu$ and temperature jump ($\theta_s$) along the microchannel wall are shown in Figures 6 and 7 at $B = 0.005$ for $\phi = 0$, $\phi = 0.02$ and $\phi = 0.04$, respectively. It is interesting to note that $xNu$ and $\theta_s$ have the same tendency. Then, they start with largest value at entrance decrease to reach an asymptotic value along walls and approach constant values. Moreover, they increase with $\phi$. However, this effect is more pronounced for $xNu$.

Figure 9 portrays that the temperature jump around the entrance region occurs a higher values, which has the most temperature gradient near the wall.

Figure 8 demonstrates the variations of $xNu$ along the microchannel walls at $B = 0.005$, $B = 0.01$ and $B = 0.02$ for $\phi = 0$, $\phi = 0.02$ and $\phi = 0.04$. It can be noted $xNu$ augments with $\phi$; but declines with $B$. Temperature gradient between the nanofluid particles on the wall and their neighbor ones adjacent to the wall, diminishes at larger $B$; as a result $xNu$ becomes less amount at recent case.

5 Conclusion

Laminar forced convection heat transfer of Ag–water nanofluid in a microchannel is simulated using a double population LBM–BGK method. The effects of different volume fractions of Argent nanoparticles and slip coefficient were investigated on the slip velocity, temperature jump and Nusselt number for $Re=0.01$.

The numerical obtained results confirmed higher $\phi$ corresponds to larger $xNu$. Moreover, it was stated that larger values of $B$ induces a decreasing in $xNu$ and larger values of $U_s$ and $\theta_s$. At the entrance region, the temperature jump reaches a high values along the microchannel walls especially which has the most temperature gradient between the walls and nanofluid. As a result, to increase $xNu$ in micro liquid flows, it is recommended to use nanofluid with $\phi = 4\%$ and at low values of slip coefficient as like $B = 0.005$. However, the effect of $\phi$ is more pronounced compared to $B$. 

https://doi.org/10.1051/e3sconf/202132104008
Fig. 1. Lattice structure for distribution function

Fig. 2. The schematic diagram of the microchannel

Fig. 3. Validation for the averaged Nusselt number vs. the results of Santra et al. [18] (Line: present work, symbols: Santara et al. [18])
Fig. 4. $U_s$ along the microchannel wall at $B = 0.005$, $B = 0.01$ and $B = 0.02$ for $\phi = 0.04$

Fig. 5. $\theta_s$ along the microchannel wall at $B = 0.005$, $B = 0.01$ and $B = 0.02$ for $\phi = 0.04$
Fig.6. $Nu_x$ along the microchannel wall at $B = 0.005$ for $\phi = 0$, $\phi = 0.02$ and $\phi = 0.04$

Fig.7. $\theta_s$ along the microchannel wall at $B = 0.005$ for $\phi = 0$, $\phi = 0.02$ and $\phi = 0.04$
Fig. 8. The variation of $Nu_x$ along the microchannel wall at $B=0.005$, $B=0.02$ and $B=0.01$ for $\phi = 0$, $\phi = 0.02$ and $\phi = 0.04$

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