Unsteady Three Dimensional Free Convection Heat and Mass Transfer Flow Embedded in a Porous Medium with Periodic Permeability and Constant Heat and Mass Flux

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Abstract We analyse an unsteady three dimensional free convection flow with combined heat and mass transfer over a vertical plate embedded in a porous medium with time dependent suction velocity and transverse sinusoidal permeability. The unsteadiness is due to the time dependent suction velocity. The governing equations with the boundary conditions are first converted into dimensionless form by non-similar transformations and then resulting system of coupled non-linear partial differential equations are solved by series expansion method. The effects of different parameters are shown on velocity (u), cross flow velocity (w), temperature (θ), Concentration (C), Skin friction (τ_x) and Nusselt number (Nu) graphically. We observe that skin friction is higher in air (Pr=0.71) than in water (Pr=7) but result differs for Nusselt number.

Keywords Free convection, Heat flux, Mass flux, Porous medium, Three dimensional and Unsteady

1. Introduction

The phenomenon of free convective flow with simultaneous heat and mass transfer has been a subject of interest of many researchers because of its varied applications in natural sciences, engineering sciences and in industry. Such phenomenon is observed in buoyancy induced motions in the atmosphere, in bodies of water, quasi-solid bodies such as earth, etc. Free convective flows with periodic permeability through highly porous media play an important role in chemical engineering, turbo-machinery and in aerospace technology. Such flow include several practical applications, for example, geothermal reservoirs, drying of porous solids, thermal insulation, enhanced oil recovery, packed-bed catalytic reactors, cooling of nuclear reactors and underground energy transport.

In view of these applications various investigators have worked on the subject but restricted themselves to two dimensional flows. But situations may arise when the flow field may be essentially three dimensional, for example, when suction velocity, porous medium, temperature on the body etc. varies sinusoidaly. Ahmed[2] has studied heat and mass transfer on free convective three dimensional unsteady flows over a porous vertical plate. Aboeldahab and Azzam[1] have studied unsteady three dimensional combined heat and mass transfer for convective flow over a stretching surface with time dependent chemical reaction. Sahin[13] studied oscillatory three dimensional flow and heat and mass transfer through a porous medium in presence of periodic suction. Singh and Gupta[14]have studied MHD free convective flow of a viscous fluid through a porous medium bounded by an oscillating porous plate in slip flow regime with mass transfer.

Radiative heat transfer flow is very important in manufacturing industries for the design of reliable equipments, nuclear plants, gas turbines and various propulsion devices for aircraft, missiles, satellites and space vehicles. Similarly, the effects of thermal radiation on the forced and free convection flows are important in the content of space technology and processes involving high temperature. Based on these applications, England and Emery[6] studied the thermal radiation effect of an optically thin gray gas bounded by a stationary vertical plate. Hayat et al.[8] studied the effect of thermal radiation on the flow of a second grade fluid. Raptis et al.[11] studied the effects of radiation in an optically thin gray gas flowing past a vertical infinite plate in presence of a magnetic field. Cookey et al.[5] studied the influence of viscous dissipation and radiation on unsteady MHD free convection flow past an infinite heated vertical plate in a porous medium with time dependent suction. Ghosh and B’eg[7] have done a theoretical analysis of radiative effects on transient free convection heat transfer past a hot vertical surface in porous media.

Flows through porous medium are of principle interest because these are quite prevalent in nature. Such flows have many engineering applications, viz., in the fields of Petroleum technology to study the movement of natural gas, oil
and water through the oil reservoirs, in chemical Engineering for filtration and purification process, and seepage of water in river beds to study the underground water resources. In view of these applications, different scholars have made a series of investigation where porous medium is either bounded by horizontal or vertical surfaces. Chaudhary and Sharma[4] studied the three dimensional unsteady convection and mass transfer flow through a porous medium. Ahmed and Ahmed[3] studied oscillatory three dimensional flow through a porous medium with viscous dissipative heat. Singh and Sharma[15] studied three dimensional free convective flow and heat transfer through porous medium with periodic permeability. Sahin[12] studied transient three dimensional flows through a porous medium with transverse permeability oscillating with time.

In a geothermal region a situation may arise when velocity slip at the boundary may occur. In many practical applications, the particle adjacent to the solid surface no longer takes the velocity of the surface, it has a finite tangential velocity and it slips along the surface. The flow regime is called the slip flow regime. Jain and Sharma[10] and Jain and Gupta[9] have studied three dimensional convective flow with slip boundary conditions and suction velocity varying sinusoidally.

Thus, the aim of this paper is to study an unsteady three dimensional free convective heat and mass transfer flow through a porous medium with constant heat and mass flux and periodic permeability in slip flow regime. Hence, numerical calculations up to the fourth level of truncation were carried out to investigate the effects of permeability parameter (K), velocity slip parameter (h), thermal Grashof number (Gr), mass Grashof number (Gc), suction parameter (Ka) and periodic permeability in slip flow regime. Hence, numerical calculations up to the fourth level of truncation were carried out to investigate the effects of permeability parameter (K), velocity slip parameter (h), thermal Grashof number (Gr), mass Grashof number (Gc), suction parameter (Ka) and periodic permeability in slip flow regime. Consequently, the following governing equations of the flow are given by:

\[
\begin{align*}
\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + v \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} + w \frac{\partial u}{\partial z} &= \frac{1}{\rho} \left( \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial z^2} \right) - \frac{w}{K_0} u, \\
\frac{\partial v}{\partial t} + v \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} + w \frac{\partial v}{\partial z} &= \frac{1}{\rho} \left( \frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial z^2} \right) - \frac{w}{K_0} v, \\
\frac{\partial w}{\partial t} + v \frac{\partial w}{\partial y} + w \frac{\partial w}{\partial z} &= -\frac{1}{\rho} \left( \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial z^2} \right) - \frac{w}{K_0} w, \\
\frac{\partial T}{\partial t} + v \frac{\partial T}{\partial y} + w \frac{\partial T}{\partial z} &= \frac{1}{\rho c_p} \left( \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial z^2} \right) - \frac{1}{\rho c_p} \frac{\partial q}{\partial y}, \\
\frac{\partial \theta}{\partial t} + v \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial y} + w \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial z} &= D \left( \frac{\partial^2 \theta}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 \theta}{\partial z^2} \right),
\end{align*}
\]

where T is the temperature, C is the concentration, g is acceleration due to gravity, β is the coefficient of thermal expansion, β* is the coefficient of expansion with concentration, P is the pressure and ρ, ν, k, Cρ, and D are density, kinematic viscosity, thermal conductivity, specific heat at constant pressure and diffusion coefficient respectively.

The boundary conditions are given by:

\[
\begin{align*}
y &= 0; & u &= U_0 + L_1 \frac{\partial u}{\partial y}, & v &= -V_0(1 + A e^{\gamma y}), & w &= 0, \\
T &= T_\infty; & \frac{\partial T}{\partial y} &= -\frac{q}{\rho c_p}, & \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial y} &= -\frac{m}{D}, \\
y &\to \infty; & u &\to 0, & v &\to 0, & P &\to P_\infty, & T &\to T_\infty, & C &\to C_\infty,
\end{align*}
\]

where q and m are uniform heat and concentration flux at the plate respectively. The local radiant for the case of optically thin gray gas is expressed by:

\[
\frac{\partial q}{\partial y} = -4a^* \sigma^* (T_\infty^4 - T^4)
\]

We assume that the temperature differences within the flow are sufficiently small such that T^4 may be expressed as a linear function of the temperature. This is accomplished by expanding T^4 in a Taylor series about T∞ and neglecting the higher order terms, thus:

\[
T^4 \approx 4T_\infty^3 T - 3T_\infty^4,
\]

by using (8) and (9) we obtain

\[
\frac{\partial q}{\partial y} = -16a^* \sigma^* T_\infty^2 (T_\infty - T),
\]

where σ* is Stephen-Boltzmann constant and a* is absorption coefficient.

On introducing the following non-dimensional quantities:

\[
y^* = \frac{y}{d}, z^* = \frac{z}{d}, u^* = \frac{u}{U_0}, v^* = \frac{v}{V_0}, w^* = \frac{w}{V_0}, P^* = \frac{P}{\rho V_0^2},
\]

\[
(\frac{T - T_\infty)}{T_\infty}, C = \frac{C - C_\infty}{C_\infty}, D = \frac{D}{d^2}, \theta = \frac{\theta}{\rho c_p}, K^* = \frac{K}{d^2}, T^* = \frac{T}{d}, \lambda = \frac{\lambda}{d}.
\]

Equations (2) to (6), using (10), in non-dimensional form after dropping the asterisk are:

\[
\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial w}{\partial y} = 0,
\]

\[
\frac{\partial v}{\partial t} + v \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} + w \frac{\partial u}{\partial z} = Gr(\theta + GcC(1 + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial z^2})) - \frac{u (1 + \epsilon)}{K_0}.
\]
3. Solution of the Problem

Since the amplitude of the suction velocity $\epsilon (\ll 1)$ is very small, we now assume the solution of the following form:

$$f(y, z, t) = f_0(y) + \epsilon f_1(y, z, t) + \epsilon^2 f_2(y, z, t) + \cdots$$

where $f$ stands for any of $u, v, w, \theta, \Phi$ and $C$.

When $\epsilon=0$ the problem is reduced to well-known two-dimensional flow with constant injection and suction at the plate and are governed by the following equations:

$$\frac{\partial v_0}{\partial t} + v_0 \frac{\partial v_0}{\partial y} + w_0 \frac{\partial v_0}{\partial z} = -\frac{\partial p}{\partial y} + \frac{1}{\kappa} \left( \frac{\partial^2 v_0}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 v_0}{\partial z^2} \right) - \frac{v_0 (1 + \cos \pi x)}{K \lambda},$$

and comparing the coefficients of identical powers of $\epsilon$, neglecting those of $\epsilon^2, \epsilon^3$...etc., the following first order equations are obtained:

$$\frac{\partial v_0}{\partial t} + v_0 \frac{\partial v_0}{\partial y} + w_0 \frac{\partial v_0}{\partial z} = -\frac{\partial p}{\partial y} + \frac{1}{\kappa} \left( \frac{\partial^2 v_0}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 v_0}{\partial z^2} \right) - \frac{v_0 (1 + \cos \pi x)}{K \lambda},$$

with corresponding boundary conditions as:

$$y = 0: u_0 = 1 + h_1 \frac{\partial u_0}{\partial y}, v_0 = -\left(1 + A \epsilon \Phi \right),$$

$$w_0 = 0, \frac{\partial w_0}{\partial y} = -1, \frac{\partial C_0}{\partial y} = -1, \theta = \pi, C \rightarrow C, P \rightarrow P_\infty.$$

where

$$\text{Gr} = \frac{\rho \beta \Phi \epsilon}{\nu \kappa b^2} \quad \text{(thermal Grashof number)},$$

$$\text{Gc} = \frac{\rho \mu \lambda}{\nu u_0 b^3} \quad \text{(mass Grashof number)},$$

$$h_1 = \frac{L_1}{d} \quad \text{(velocity slip parameter)},$$

$$\text{Pr} = \frac{\nu}{\lambda} \quad \text{(Prandtl number)},$$

$$\text{Sch} = \frac{\frac{\nu}{d}}{D} \quad \text{(Schmidt number)},$$

$$R = \frac{16 \sigma \epsilon \epsilon^2 \pi^2}{V_b^3} \quad \text{(radiation parameter)}.$$
\[ C_{12} \rightarrow 0, P_{12} \rightarrow 0. \]

Hence from equations (35) to (44) under the equation (45) the solution of \( u_1, v_1, \theta_1, C_1, w_1 \) and \( P_1 \) are obtained as:

\[
u_1 = \left\{ A_6 e^{x_9 y} + J_{10} e^{x_9 y} + J_{11} e^{x_8 x_1 y} + J_{12} e^{x_1 y}\right\} \text{Cosh}\ z + \left\{ A_6 e^{x_9 y} + J_{15} e^{x_1 y} + J_{16} e^{x_7 x_1 y} + J_{17} e^{x_7 x_1 y} + J_{18} e^{x_7 x_1 y} + J_{19} e^{x_7 x_1 y} + J_{20} e^{x_7 x_1 y} + J_{21} e^{x_7 x_1 y} + J_{22} e^{x_7 x_1 y} \text{Cosh}\ z \right\} \text{Cosh}\ z \]

\[
w_1 = \left\{ -A \pi x_9 e^{x_9 y}\right\} \text{Cosh}\ z + \left\{ A_6 e^{x_9 y}\right\} \text{Cosh}\ z + \left\{ J_4 e^{x_9 y}\right\} \text{Cosh}\ z
\]

\[
\text{C}_1 = \left\{ A_6 e^{x_9 y}\right\} \text{Cosh}\ z + \left\{ J_4 e^{x_9 y}\right\} \text{Cosh}\ z + \left\{ A_7 e^{x_9 y}\right\} \text{Cosh}\ z + \left\{ J_6 e^{x_9 y}\right\} \text{Cosh}\ z.
\]

\[ P_1 = 0. \]

4. Skin Friction

Once the velocity component \( u \) is known, we can now calculate an important parameter dimensionless skin friction in the main flow and the transverse direction as:

\[
\tau_x = \frac{\rho_0 \nu_0}{0} \left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} \right)_{y=0} = \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} \left. \right|_{y=0} + \epsilon \left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} \right)_{y=0} = \left\{ m_1 x_3 + Z_1 x_1 - Z_1 C + \epsilon \left\{ A_6 x_{17} + J_{10} x_9 + J_{11} x_9 + J_{12} x_9 + J_{13} x_9 + J_{14} x_9 + J_{15} x_9 + J_{16} x_9 + J_{17} x_9 + J_{18} x_9 + J_{19} x_9 + J_{20} x_9 + J_{21} x_9 + J_{22} x_9 + J_{23} x_9 + J_{24} x_9 \right\} \right. \}
\]

\[
\tau_z = \frac{\rho_0 \nu_0}{0} \left( \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} \right)_{y=0} = \epsilon \left( \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} \right)_{y=0} = \epsilon \left\{ A_7 x_3 e^{x_9 y} - J_{13} x_3 \text{Cosh}\ z \right\}.
\]

5. Nusselt Number

Another important physical parameter of interest viz. Nusselt number is given by:

\[
Nu = \frac{1}{\theta(0)} \frac{m_1 + \epsilon (J_1 + J_3) e^{x_9 y} + (J_4 + J_5) K \omega \pi z}{m_1 + \epsilon (J_1 + J_3) e^{x_9 y} + (J_4 + J_5) K \omega \pi z}.
\]

6. Results and Discussions

In order to point out the effects of different parameters on velocity (\( u \)), cross flow velocity (\( w \)), temperature (\( \theta \)), concentration (\( C \)), skin friction (\( \tau \)) and the rate of heat transfer (\( Nu \)) the following discussions are set out. Numerical calculations are carried out for different values of the permeability parameter(K), velocity slip parameter(h), thermal
Grashof number (Gr), mass Grashof number (Gc), suction parameter (λ), Prandtl number (Pr) and Schmidt number (Sc). The values of Prandtl number (Pr) are chosen to be 0.71 and 7 which approximately represent air and water respectively at 20°C. The values of Gr and Gc are chosen arbitrarily. We fix $\epsilon=0.05$, $n=0.1$ and $t=1$, $A=0.5$ (except concentration).

In figure 1, velocity distribution is plotted against $y$, fixing $z=0.25$, and $R=0.2$. It is evident from this figure that the velocity increases with increase in K, $h_1$, $\lambda$, and Gr. Interpreting physically, increase in the permeability parameter (K) increases the flow which leads to increase in velocity. We further notice that increasing Gc decreases the velocity on the plate but rises as we move away from the plate. We have specially observed the result in air (Pr=0.71) and water (Pr=7) choosing values of Sc as 0.61 and 1.002. We observe that for same Sc velocity is higher in air than in water, this is due to the fact that air is lighter than water. Also we notice that for both the basic fluids air and water velocity is higher for Sc=0.61 and lower for Sc=1.002. We have made observations for K=$\infty$ viz. free flow and notice that the velocity increases. When K=$\infty$ and $h_1=0$ (no slip), the velocity drops in comparison with $h_1\neq0$ and when K=$\infty$, $h_1=0$ and $\lambda=0$ (suction parameter is zero), velocity decreases very slightly as we move away from the plate.

The cross flow velocity component ($w$) is due to transverse suction velocity distribution applied through the plate at rest. This secondary flow component is shown in figure 2, plotted against $y$ and taking water as the fluid (Pr=7). We notice that $w$ increases on increasing $z$ and as $\lambda$ increases, $w$ decreases near the plate but increases as we move away from the plate.

Temperature profiles in air (Pr=0.71) are plotted against $y$ in figure 3. We notice that temperature falls on increasing K and R where as temperature rises on increasing $\lambda$. Also for negative of radiation (absorption) temperature increases. It is specially observed that in case of free flow (K=$\infty$) temperature dips this is due to the fact that the distance between the particles increases and hence the temperature drops. For K=$\infty$, temperature rises in both the cases when $\lambda=0$ and R=0.
Further we see that temperature is lower in water (Pr=7) as compared in air (Pr=0.71).

In figure 4, Concentration profiles are plotted against $y$, fixing $z=0.25$. We observe that concentration decreases on increasing $K$, $Sc$ and $A$ whereas it increases on increasing $\lambda$. Observations made for free flow $K=\infty$ and $\lambda=0$, shows that the concentration decreases. Interpreting physically, we can say that when we increase the permeability parameter ($K$) it increases the gap between the particles of the fluid leading to decrease in concentration.

Skin friction in main flow direction is plotted against $K$ in figure 5. We observe that skin friction increases on increasing $Gr$, $Gc$, $\lambda$ and $z$, on the other hand skin friction increases on decreasing $h_1$ and $R$. For negative of radiation (absorption) skin friction increases. Increase in skin friction due to $Gc$ is more than that due to $Gr$. Also we specially observe that skin friction is higher in air (Pr=0.71) than in water (Pr=7), this is due the fact that velocity is higher in air than in water.

In figure 6, Nusselt number profiles are plotted against $K$. We notice that for water (Pr=7), the rate of heat transfer decreases on increasing $\lambda$ and same happens on decreasing $z$. Further we observe that for both the basic fluids air (Pr=0.71) and water (Pr=7), the rate of heat transfer decreases on decreasing $R$. Also we specially observe that when both $\lambda=0$ and $R=0$ the rate of heat transfer falls. It is generally observed that the rate of heat transfer is higher in water than in air.
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