Stability Analysis of Unsteady Hybrid Nanofluid Flow Past a Permeable Stretching/Shrinking Cylinder

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ABSTRACT
The study of boundary layer flow has gained considerable interest owing to its extensive engineering applications. Thus, this numerical study aims to develop a mathematical hybrid nanofluid model and perform a stability analysis of unsteady flow in the hybrid Al2O3-Cu/H2O nanofluid past a permeable stretching/shrinking cylinder. The partial differential equations are converted into a system of nonlinear ordinary differential equations by selecting suitable similarity transformation and solved using the bvp4c code in the MATLAB program. The findings revealed that the existence of dual solutions is visible and successfully disclosed the fluid flow separation points. The skin friction coefficient and the local Nusselt numbers of Al2O3-Cu/H2O increase with the inclusion of the suction parameter, which consequently boosts the heat transfer efficiency. The coefficient of skin friction over the permeable stretching/shrinking cylinder is reduced when the unsteadiness parameter is diminished. In addition, the presence of the unsteadiness parameter actively promotes heat transfer degradation on the permeable stretching/shrinking cylinder. Stability analysis indicates that a stable and physically realizable solution appeared in the first solution, whereas the second solution is unstable.

Keywords: Stability analysis; unsteady flow; hybrid nanofluid; stretching/shrinking cylinder; dual solutions

1. Introduction

In recent decades, conventional heat transfer fluids such as ethylene glycol mixture, water, and mineral oil are considered poor heat transfer fluids. It is also well understood that the thermal conductivity of such fluids performs a major role in the coefficient of heat transfer. Consequently, Choi and Eastman [1] developed a genius idea of nanofluid to provide better thermal conductivity compared to conventional fluids. Later on, an innovative type of nanofluid, for example, hybrid nanofluid, is now being adopted to support the necessary heat-conducting processes. This modern form of working fluid has attracted many researchers. The effect of thermal conductivity between nanofluids and hybrid nanofluids was assessed by Das [2], while Hamzah et al., [3] concluded that

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the hybrid nanofluid’s efficiency is usually defined by its dispersion’s stability, volume concentration, and mixing ratios. Numerous studies have been performed on various aspects of hybrid nanofluids [4-9].

Earlier studies indicated that the unsteady flow activity exhibits an odd pattern instead of the steady flow due to the different time-based conditions, which distorted boundary layer distinction and fluid motion structure [10-11]. Nevertheless, with an inclusive understanding of the unsteady flow application in engineering practices, the new design approaches that facilitate system performance, reliability, and cost reduction of many fluids dynamic devices are feasible [12]. Tie-Gang et al., [13] examined the unsteady viscous flow toward an expanding stretching cylinder, Ramesh et al., [14] performed a numerical analysis of unsteady contracting cylinder in nanofluid with magnetic effect, while Tabassum et al., [15] presented multiple solutions in an unsteady stretching cylinder.

According to Ganesan and Loganathan [16], the study of fluid flow toward a cylinder is crucial and essential to the industries, especially inflow prediction, heat transfer, and pollutant diffusion about invasive bodies, particularly piping intrusions of a magnet, casting procedures, and salt domes. Buchlin [17] reported that the curvature of the cylinder and its misalignment with the main flow has a significant influence on convective heat transfer. Datta et al., [18] and Kumari and Nath [19] testified that the suction/injection effect toward a thin cylinder might be useful in the nuclear reactors cooling process during a power outage where a coolant is injected to cool the surface. Some available literature on the flow of a deformable cylinder can be assessed through [20-24].

The goal of the current work is to fulfil the research gap on the previous literature, specifically in the study of boundary layer flow toward the stretching/shrinking cylinder. The major contribution in performing this numerical research is the successful development of a mathematical hybrid nanofluid model past an unsteady flow in Al₂O₃-Cu/H₂O past a permeable shrinking/stretching cylinder. Also, the presence of dual solutions is identified; hence a stability analysis is performed to observe the solutions’ reliability. The bvp4c code in the MATLAB system is utilised to execute the numerical computations. The new findings are substantially in line with prior literature. This research is unique, and all numerical results obtained are original. In addition, this significant contribution may help to better understand and improve industrial development, especially in the manufacturing and process sectors.

2. Mathematical Formulation

An unsteady hybrid nanofluid flow past a permeable stretching/shrinking cylinder is analysed. Figure 1 demonstrates the schematic problem flow where \((x,r)\) is the coordinate system, and the working fluid is supposed to flow in the \(x\)–axis while the \(r\)–coordinate is normal to it. We also claimed that the deformable (stretching/shrinking) circular cylinder has a constant radius, \(a\) and consists of linear velocity, \(U_w(x)\) with uniform characteristic velocity, \(u_0\) where \(U_w(x) = u_0 x / L(1 - \beta t)\). Besides, the constant mass flux is indicated by \(v_w(r)\), thus \(v_w(r) < 0\) and \(v_w(r) > 0\) signify the suction and injection conditions, respectively. From the above assumptions, it is possible to describe the governing boundary layer equations as such [21-25]

\[
\frac{\partial (ru)}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial (rv)}{\partial r} = 0, \tag{1}
\]
\[
\begin{align*}
\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial u}{\partial r} &= \mu_{\text{nlf}} \left( \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial r^2} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial u}{\partial r} \right), \\
\frac{\partial T}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial T}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial T}{\partial r} &= \frac{k_{\text{nlf}}}{(\rho C_p)_{\text{nlf}}} \left( \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial r^2} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial T}{\partial r} \right).
\end{align*}
\]

(2)

(3)

and the boundary conditions are

\[
u = v_w(r), \quad T = T_w \left( \frac{x}{L} \right), \quad \text{at} \quad r = a,
\]

\[
u \to 0, \quad T \to T_w \quad \text{as} \quad r \to \infty.
\]

(4)

At this point, \( u \) and \( v \) are the velocity components of \( \text{Al}_2\text{O}_3\)-Cu/H\(_2\)O involving \( x \) – and \( r \) – axis, respectively, \( T \) is the temperature, \( \mu_{\text{nlf}} \) is the dynamic viscosity, \( k_{\text{nlf}} \) is the thermal conductivity, \((\rho C_p)_{\text{nlf}}\) is the heat capacity, while \( \rho_{\text{nlf}} \) is the density of \( \text{Al}_2\text{O}_3\)-Cu/H\(_2\)O. It is assumed that

\[
T_w = \left( T_{w0} + T_{w1} \left( \frac{x}{L} \right) \right) \left( 1 - \beta t \right) \left( 1 - \beta t \right),
\]

where \( T_{w0} \) is the characteristic temperature and \( L \) is the characteristic length. The parameter of stretching/shrinking is symbolised by \( \lambda \) with \( \lambda > 0 \) and \( \lambda < 0 \) represent stretching and shrinking cylinder, respectively, while \( \lambda = 0 \) indicated a rigid cylinder. Further, Table 1 offers the nanoparticles’ thermophysical properties of H\(_2\)O, Al\(_2\)O\(_3\), and Cu, as demonstrated by Abu Nada and Oztop [26]. Meanwhile, the correlation coefficient of Al\(_2\)O\(_3\)-Cu/H\(_2\)O described by Ghalambaz et al., [27] and Takabi and Salehi [28] is presented in Table 2.

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**Table 1**

The H\(_2\)O, Al\(_2\)O\(_3\) and Cu thermophysical properties [26]

| Physical properties | H\(_2\)O | Al\(_2\)O\(_3\) | Cu |
|---------------------|---------|----------------|----|
| \( \rho \) (kg / m\(^3\)) | 997.1   | 3970           | 8933 |
| \( C_p \) (J / kgK)  | 4179    | 765            | 385  |
| \( k \) (W / mK)     | 0.613   | 40             | 400  |
Table 2
The alumina-copper/water (Al₂O₃-Cu/H₂O) correlation coefficient [27,28]

| Properties                  | Al₂O₃-Cu/H₂O |
|------------------------------|-------------|
| Density                     | \( \rho_{luf} = (1 - \phi_{luf}) \rho_f + \phi_{luf} \rho_{Al} + \phi_{luf} \rho_{Cu} \) |
| Thermal capacity            | \( (\rho C_p)_{luf} = (1 - \phi_{luf}) (\rho C_p)_{f} + \phi_{luf} (\rho C_p)_{Al} + \phi_{luf} (\rho C_p)_{Cu} \) |
| Dynamic viscosity           | \( \mu_{luf} = \frac{1}{(1 - \phi_{luf})^{2.5}} \) |
| Thermal conductivity        | \( k_{luf} = \left[ \frac{\phi_{k_{Al}} + \phi_{k_{Cu}}}{\phi_{luf}} \right] + 2k_f + 2(\phi_{k_{Al}} + \phi_{k_{Cu}} - 2\phi_{luf} k_f) \) \( + 2k_f - (\phi_{k_{Al}} + \phi_{k_{Cu}} + \phi_{luf} k_f) \) |

Now, we introduced

\[ u = \frac{u_0 x}{L(1 - \beta t)} f'(\eta), \quad v = -\frac{a}{r} \sqrt{\frac{u_0 v_f}{L(1 - \beta t)}} f(\eta), \]
\[ \theta(\eta) = \frac{T-T_\infty}{T_w - T_\infty}, \eta = \frac{u_0}{v_f L(1 - \beta t)} \left( r^2 - a^2 \right). \]

(5)

hence \( v = -\frac{a}{r} \sqrt{\frac{u_0 v_f}{L(1 - \beta t)}} S. \)

The above similarity variables are employed to transform the partial differential equations by replacing Eq. (5) into Eq. (2)-(4), the resulting equations are formulated

\[ \frac{\mu_{luf}}{\mu_f} \left[ (1 + 2 \gamma \eta) f'' + 2 \gamma f' \right] + \left( f - \frac{\varepsilon}{2} \right) f'' - (\varepsilon + f') f' = 0, \]

(6)

\[ \frac{k_{luf}}{k_f} \left[ (1 + 2 \gamma \eta) \theta'' + 2 \gamma \theta' \right] + \left( f - \frac{\varepsilon}{2} \right) \theta'' - 2(\varepsilon + f') \theta = 0, \]

(7)

subject to the boundary conditions

\[ f(0) = S, \quad f'(0) = \lambda, \quad \theta(0) = 1, \]
\[ f'(\eta) \to 0, \quad \theta(\eta) \to 0, \quad \text{as} \ \eta \to \infty, \]

(8)

where primes denote differentiation with respect to \( \eta \), \( \gamma = \sqrt{v_f L(1 - \beta t)/u_0 a^2} \) is the curvature parameter, \( \Pr = \mu_f C_p/k_f \) is the Prandtl number, and \( \varepsilon = \beta L/u_0 \) represents the unsteadiness parameter. The physical quantities of concern are \( C_f = \tau_u/\rho_f U_w^2 \), which is the skin friction
coefficient and \( \text{Nu}_x = \frac{x q_w}{k_f (T_w - T_{\infty})} \) is the local Nusselt number. Here, \( \tau_w = \mu_{hf} \left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial r} \right)_{r=a} \) and 
\( q_w = -k_{hf} \left( \frac{\partial T}{\partial r} \right)_{r=a} \) are the skin friction coefficient and heat flux along the permeable shrinking/stretching cylinder, respectively. Using the information mentioned above, finally, we obtain:

\[
\text{Re}_{x}^{1/2} C_f = \frac{\mu_{hf}}{\mu_f} f^*(0), \quad \text{Re}_{x}^{1/2} \text{Nu}_x = - \frac{k_{hf}}{k_f} \theta'(0),
\]

where \( \text{Re}_x = u_0x^2 / v_f L(1 - \beta \tau) \).

3. Stability Analysis

A stability analysis is implemented by perceiving the efforts of Merkin [29] and Merrill et al., [30] since the existence of dual solutions is confirmed in the boundary value problem (6) and (7). Now, a new conversion of similarity is proposed under the unsteady-state query

\[
u = \frac{u_0 x}{L(1 - \beta \tau)} \frac{\partial f}{\partial \eta}(\eta, \tau) \quad v = \frac{a}{r} \sqrt{\frac{u_0 v_f}{L(1 - \beta \tau)} f(\eta, \tau)}, \quad \theta = \frac{T - T_{\infty}}{T_{\infty} - T_{\infty}},
\]

\[
\eta = \frac{u_0}{v_f L(1 - \beta \tau)} \left( \frac{\tau^2 - a^2}{2a} \right), \quad r = \frac{u_0 t}{L(1 - \beta \tau)}.
\]

Employing Eq. (10) into Eq. (6) and Eq. (7), the following equations are secured

\[
\frac{\mu_{hf}}{\rho_{hf}} \frac{\mu_f}{\rho_f} \left[ (1 + 2 \gamma \eta) \frac{\partial^3 f}{\partial \eta^3} + 2 \gamma \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial \eta^2} \right] + \left( f - \frac{\varepsilon \eta}{2} \right) \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial \eta^2} - \left( \varepsilon + \frac{\partial f}{\partial \eta} \right) \frac{\partial f}{\partial \eta} - \frac{1}{(1 + \beta \tau)} \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial \eta \partial \tau} = 0,
\]

\[
\frac{1}{\text{Pr}} \left[ \frac{K_{hf}}{K_f} \right] \left[ (1 + 2 \gamma \eta) \frac{\partial^2 \theta}{\partial \eta^2} + 2 \gamma \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial \eta} \right] + \left( f - \frac{\varepsilon \eta}{2} \right) \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial \eta} - 2 \left( \varepsilon + \frac{\partial f}{\partial \eta} \right) \theta - \frac{1}{(1 + \beta \tau)} \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial \tau} = 0,
\]

with respect to

\[
f(0) = S, \quad \frac{\partial f}{\partial \eta}(0) = \lambda, \quad \theta(0) = 1,
\]

\[
\frac{\partial f}{\partial \eta}(\eta) \to 0, \quad \theta(\eta) \to 0,
\]

Consistent with the idea by Weidman et al., [31] to scrutinise the steady flow stability \( f(\eta) = f_0(\eta) \) and \( \theta(\eta) = \theta_0(\eta) \), we write
\[ f(\eta, \tau) = f_0(\eta) + e^{-\alpha \tau} F(\eta), \]
\[ \theta(\eta, \tau) = \theta_0(\eta) + e^{-\alpha \tau} G(\eta), \]

where \( \omega \) is the undetermined eigenvalue parameter, while \( F(\eta) \) and \( G(\eta) \) are relatively small to \( f_0(\eta) \) and \( \theta_0(\eta) \). The eigenvalue problem (11) and (12) results in an infinite group of eigenvalues \( \omega_1 < \omega_2 < \omega_3 \ldots \) that detect a stable flow and early decay when \( \omega \) is positive. In contrast, when \( \omega \) is negative, early growth of perturbations is detected, revealing the erratic flow. Substituting Eq. (14) into Eq. (11) and Eq. (12), we have

\[
\frac{\mu_{\text{ref}}}{\rho_{\text{ref}}|\rho_f|} \left[ (1+ 2\gamma \eta) \frac{\partial^3 F}{\partial \eta^3} + 2\eta \frac{\partial^2 F}{\partial \eta^2} \right] + \left( f_0 - \frac{\varepsilon}{2} \eta \right) \frac{\partial^2 F}{\partial \eta^2} - F \frac{\partial^2 f_0}{\partial \eta^2} + \left( \omega - \varepsilon \right) \frac{\partial F}{\partial \eta} = 0,
\]

and the boundary conditions are as follows

\[
F(0, \tau) = 0, \quad \frac{\partial F}{\partial \eta}(0, \tau) = 0, \quad G(0, \tau) = 0,
\]
\[
\frac{\partial F}{\partial \eta}(\eta) \rightarrow 0, \quad G(\eta) \rightarrow 0.
\]

The achievable eigenvalues could be deliberated via relaxing a boundary condition [32]. In the current analysis, we set \( f_0(\eta) \) and \( \theta_0(\eta) \) were implemented via \( \tau \rightarrow 0 \). Consequently, the resulting linearised eigenvalue problem is determined

\[
\frac{\mu_{\text{ref}}}{\rho_{\text{ref}}|\rho_f|} \left[ (1+ 2\gamma \eta) F'' + 2\gamma F' \right] + \left( f_0 - \frac{\varepsilon}{2} \eta \right) F'' - F f_0'' - 2f_0' F' + (\omega - \varepsilon) F' = 0,
\]

and the boundary conditions are as follows

\[
F(0, \tau) = 0, \quad F'(0, \tau) = 0, \quad G(0, \tau) = 0,
\]
\[
F'(\eta) \rightarrow 0, \quad G(\eta) \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as} \quad \eta \rightarrow \infty.
\]
4. Results and Discussion

The resulting nonlinear ordinary differential equations presented in Eq. (6)-(8) can be solved numerically using the bvp4c function in MATLAB software. Typically, the use of multiple initial guess values provides more than one solution. The significance of the present results is evaluated with Khashi’ie et al., [20] and Waini et al., [33], who performed the numerical analysis by using the bvp4c technique, while Devi and Devi [34] employed the Runge-Kutta-Fehlberg integration method along with the Nachtsheim-Swigert shooting iteration technique. Noticeably, the current results correspond remarkably to the previous literature, as shown in Table 3.

Table 3

| Approximation values of Re^{1/2} C_f by certain values of \( \phi_1 \) when \( \varepsilon = \gamma = S = 0, \phi_1 = 0.1, \lambda = 1 \) and \( Pr = 6.135 \) |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| \( \phi_1 \) | Present result | Khashi’ie et al., [20] | Waini et al., [33] | Devi and Devi [34] |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 0.005          | -1.328754      | -1.327098       | -1.327098       | -1.327310          |
| 0.02           | -1.416377      | -1.409490       | -1.409490       | -1.409683          |
| 0.04           | -1.535214      | -1.520721       | -1.520721       | -1.520894          |
| 0.06           | -1.657219      | -1.634119       | -1.634119       | -1.634279          |

Figure 2 and Figure 3 describe the effect of the suction parameter \( S \) on the skin friction coefficient \( f''(0) \) and heat transfer rate \( -\theta'(0) \) past a permeable stretching/shrinking cylinder in Al\(_2\)O\(_3\)-Cu/H\(_2\)O. More than one solution is documented in the shrinking \( (\lambda < 0) \) cylinder, while a unique solution can be observed as the cylinder stretches \( (\lambda > 0) \). Figure 2 reveals that an increment in \( S \) will conclusively boosts \( f''(0) \) in the first solution. The suction phenomenon on a permeable stretching/shrinking cylinder will potentially promote stability of the boundary layer. Subsequently, the suction lowers the pressure in such an outward flow on the bodies, thereby reducing the boundary layer thickness and accentuating the velocity gradient of the permeable cylinder by evacuating the fluid alongside the surface with low momentum. The first solution conveys an augmentation in \( -\theta'(0) \) as \( S \) escalates through the permeable cylindrical surface, as demonstrated in Figure 3. Note that the suction effect authorises the hybrid Al\(_2\)O\(_3\)-Cu/H\(_2\)O nanofluid molecules to dominate the cylindrical surface and then literally improve the heat transfer performance.
Figure 4 and Figure 5 depict the variants of velocity $f'(\eta)$ and temperature distribution profiles $\theta(\eta)$ when $S$ varied. All profiles clearly satisfy the far-field boundary conditions (8) asymptotically when $\eta_\infty = 15$ is executed. This encourages the relevance of the results obtained and also supporting the existence of the dual solution. Additionally, $f'(\eta)$ increases in the first solution when $S$ improves while decreases in the second solution, as presented in Figure 4. Also, it is noted that the thickness of the boundary layer decreases with the addition of $S$ in the first solution, while this result shows an opposite trend in the second solution. This may have been due to the occurrence of the backward flow on the permeable shrinking cylinder, resulting in reversing patterns of the second solution. The variants of $\theta(\eta)$ in the hybrid Al$_2$O$_3$-Cu/H$_2$O nanofluid over a permeable shrinking cylinder is displayed in Figure 5. The analysis supports the results obtained in Figure 3, which portrays the reduction trend in the temperature distributions as $S$ improves. The decrease in the hybrid Al$_2$O$_3$-Cu/H$_2$O nanofluid temperature reduces the hybrid nanofluid’s thermal conductivity and gradually increases the heat transfer performance.

Figure 6 and Figure 7 display the decrement in the first solution for both $f^*(0)$ and $-\theta'(0)$ against $\varepsilon$ when the unsteadiness parameter $\varepsilon$ decreases. Figure 6 captures that as $\varepsilon$ reduced, the first solution has declined in $f^*(0)$ whereas a reversal result is shown in the second solution. The reduction in $\varepsilon$ corresponds to the boundary layer thickness extension and reduces the velocity gradient of the permeable shrinking cylinder; hence $f^*(0)$ dropped. The total sum of nanoparticle volume fraction ($\phi_1 = \phi_0 = 0.01$), which equals to 2%, may also trigger the reduction of $f^*(0)$ due to the upsurge in the viscosity of hybrid nanofluids past the shrinking cylinder. Furthermore, according to the outcomes produced in Figure 7, $-\theta'(0)$ is diminished in the first solution while $\varepsilon$ reduced. From the present evidence, the authors may summarise that $\varepsilon$ significantly facilitates the degradation of heat transfer in the shrinking cylinder. Even then, if several regulatory parameters are taken into account, the authors would also like to advise that these outcomes may vary.
On the other note, Figure 8 and Figure 9 are prepared to demonstrate the impact of $\varepsilon$ toward $f'(\eta)$ and $-\theta'(0)$, respectively. As exemplified in Figure 8, the first solution diminishes in response to the declining of $\varepsilon$, whereas the second solution revealed contradictory outcomes. The temperature profiles, $\theta(\eta)$ in Figure 9 support the trend seen in Figure 7, which demonstrates the changes in temperature as $\varepsilon$ decreased.

Finally, a stability analysis was further carried out and presented in Table 4. The smallest eigenvalues $\omega_1$ with positive value elucidate the property of the solution stability to resolve the permitting disturbances. Thus, the flow is stable. It also suggests an early deterioration in the appearance of disruptions. Meanwhile, when $\omega_1$ appears negative, the flow is represented unstable as it evokes an initial extension of interruptions.
5. Conclusion

This study explores the impact of suction and unsteadiness parameters in hybrid nanofluid over a permeable shrinking cylinder. More than one solution is visible when the cylindrical surface shrunk. An augmentation in the suction parameter promotes boundary-layer stability and also improving heat conductivity. A reduction in the unsteadiness parameter reduces the coefficient of skin friction with the opposing flow over the permeable shrinking cylinder. Further, the local Nusselt number outcomes conclude that the unsteadiness parameter strongly encourages the heat transfer deterioration in the permeable shrinking cylinder. Eventually, the stability analysis is performed since the dual solutions are proven to exist. The analysis of solution stability has confirmed the steadiness and constancy of the first solution, whereas the second solution is unconvincing and unstable.

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