

Double Diffusive Flow in a Porous Medium Embedded with Vertical Annulus with Power Law Heating

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Abstract

The present paper deals with the evaluation of double diffusive flow in a porous medium fixed with vertical wall. The boundary conditions are such that the vertical plate is heated with power law coefficient and far away medium is maintained at lower temperature T_c . The vertical plate is maintained at higher concentration C_w and far away medium is subjected to low concentration C_c . The study is carried out to know the heat and mass transfer behavior inside the porous region due to power law heating. The heat and mass transfer behavior is explored with respect to various parameters such as Lewis number, buoyancy ratio, Rayleigh number etc.

Keywords — Porous media, vertical plate, power law heating, Finite element method

I. INTRODUCTION

The study of heat transfer and fluid flow behaviour in porous medium has found numerous applications in industry as well as engineering disciplines that have led to an extensive research by many eminent researchers during the last few decades. The various challenges related to the applications such as; the contamination of chemicals in the soil, grain storage installations, cryogenic containers, migration of moisture through the air contained in fibrous insulations and so on, have motivated towards extensive research in this particular area. The fundamental concept pertaining to the flow through porous medium has been dealt meticulously in the books [1-5]. The details of the free convective heat transfer is reported by many researchers recently [6-30]. However, the research related to the combined heat and mass transfer has found more intricate challenges due to the complexity of the phenomenon, which has also been addressed, yet comparatively to the lesser extent [31-47]. The effect of Rayleigh number, Lewis number and buoyancy ratio on Nusselt and Sherwood number in a porous enclosure was reported by Bourich et al. [31] and the correlation between the various parameters were discussed. However, in another study, they

investigated the partially heated porous enclosure, to study the Double-diffusive natural convection [32]. The buoyancy induced heat and mass transfer from a vertical plate was reported by Lai and Kulacki [33]. They concluded that the effect of the Lewis number has most pronounced effect on the concentration field than on the temperature and flow fields. Similar study pertaining to the convective heat and mass transfer was investigated to explore various aspects in the literature [34-45]. An attempt has been made to demonstrate the evaluation of double diffusive flow due to power law heating at inner radius in a porous medium fixed with vertical annulus. This is an extension of previous work [45] where isothermal heating was considered. However, the current work focusses the variable heating at hot surface. The mathematical model is described in detail in [45] thus we are not going too detail into it. The governing equations for natural convection in porous annulus are given as:

$$u = \frac{-K}{\mu} \frac{\partial p}{\partial r}, \quad w = \frac{-K}{\mu} \left(\frac{\partial p}{\partial z} + \rho g \right) \quad (1)$$

$$u \frac{\partial T}{\partial r} + w \frac{\partial T}{\partial z} = \alpha \left(\frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left(r \frac{\partial T}{\partial r} \right) + \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial z^2} \right) \quad (2)$$

$$u \frac{\partial C}{\partial r} + w \frac{\partial C}{\partial z} = D \left(\frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left(r \frac{\partial C}{\partial r} \right) + \frac{\partial^2 C}{\partial z^2} \right) \quad (3)$$

Corresponding boundary conditions are:

$$\text{at } r = r_i, T = T_\infty + (\lambda)^2, C = C_w, u = 0, \quad (4)$$

$$\text{at } r = r_o, T = T_\infty, C = C_\infty, w = 0$$

where λ is power law coefficient.

II. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The above mentioned equations subjected to boundary condition (4) are solved with the help of finite element method by using triangular elements. Results are obtained for different values of power law coefficient. Figure 1 illustrates the variation in isotherms, iso-concentration and streamlines for two values of λ . This figure is obtained by keeping other parameters as $Ra=50$, $N=0.2$ and $Le=2$, $Rr=1$ and $Ar=1$. The temperature distribution is different from the case of constant heating of inner radius [45]. It is

seen that the high temperature lines appear in the upper section of annulus whereas low temperature lines start from lower section of annulus. This could be attributed to high thermal energy in upper section due to nonzero value of λ . It is further seen that the higher amount of porous medium towards the outer radius is occupied by low thermal energy at $\lambda = 1$ as compared to the case of $\lambda = 0.33$. It is seen that the iso-concentration lines move towards the hot surface due to increase in the value of λ . This indicates that the mass transfer increases with increase in power law coefficient. The flow cell moves towards the cold surface due to increase in power law coefficient.

III. CONCLUSION

An attempt is made to understand the heat and mass transfer behaviour in an annular cylinder containing porous medium. Finite element method is used to solve the governing equations. The results indicated that the porous medium has low thermal energy at outer region due to high value of λ . The mass transfer increases with increase in λ .

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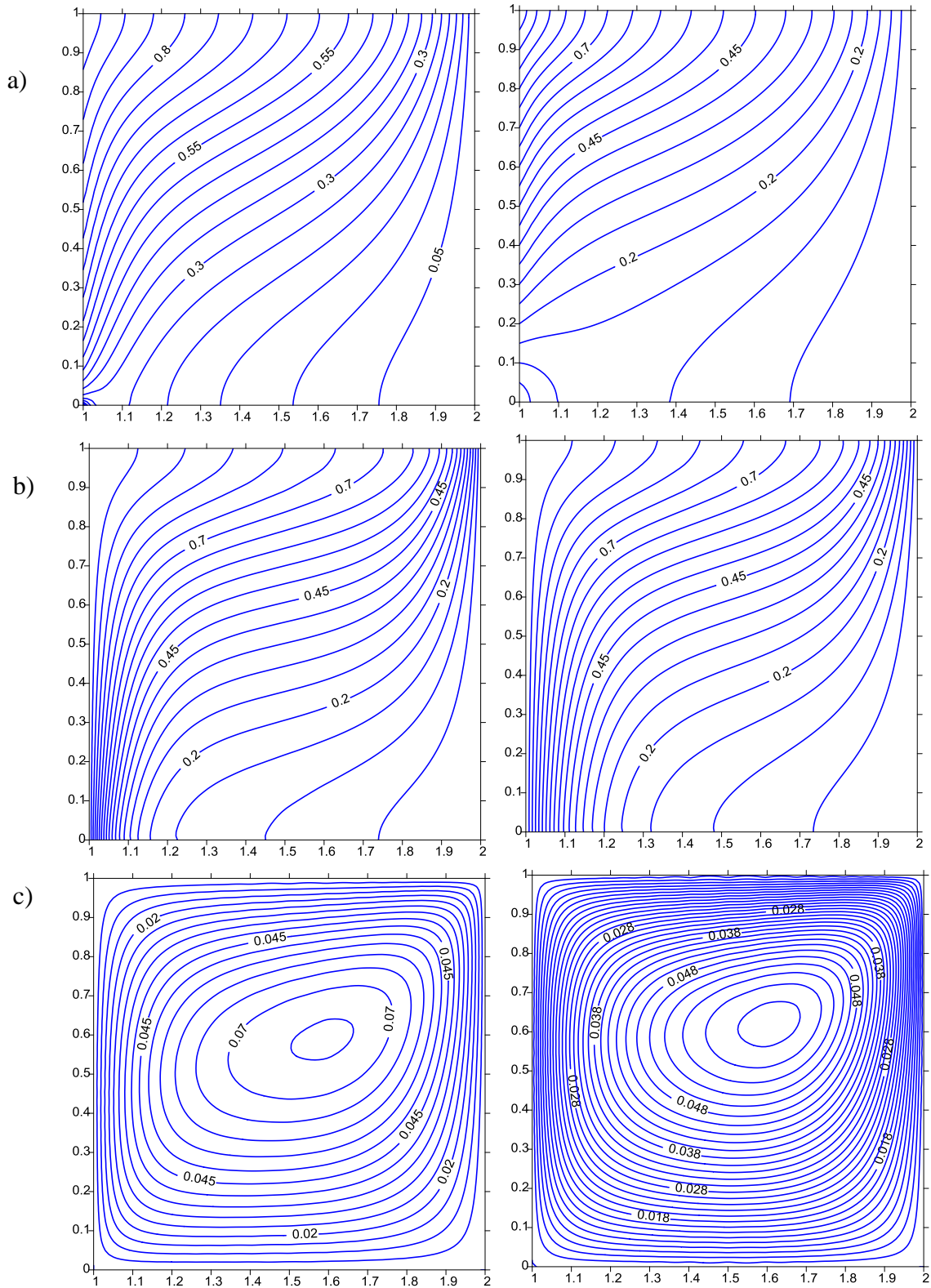


Figure 1: a) Isotherms b) Isoconcentration lines c) Streamlines at
Left $\lambda = 0.33$ Right $\lambda = 1$