Analytical and Numerical Study of Unsteady MHD Mixed Convection Flow in Porous Media with Thermal Radiation and Chemical Reaction

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Abstract

This paper presents a detailed investigation of unsteady magneto- hydrodynamic (MHD) mixed convection flow in a porous medium in the presence of thermal radiation and a first–order chemical reaction. The governing equations, formulated under the Boussinesq approxi- mation, are reduced via similarity transformation to a set of nonlinear ordinary differential equations. Advanced analytical methods includ- ing the Homotopy Analysis Method (HAM) and the Adomian De- composition Method (ADM) are employed to derive convergent series solutions. Rigorous convergence analyses and residual error estimates confirm the validity of the series approximations. Furthermore, nu- merical simulations using a Runge–Kutta–Fehlberg shooting method are carried out, and extensive parametric studies are conducted to as- sess the sensitivity of the flow, heat, and mass transfer characteristics to key non–dimensional parameters. The results offer deep insight into the interaction among multiple physical phenomena and serve as a robust benchmark for further research.

1 Introduction

Fluid flows in porous media are encountered in numerous applications including geothermal energy extraction, petroleum engineering, and environ- mental processes. In such flows, multiple physical phenomena often interact: the influence of a magnetic field (MHD), thermal radiation at high temper- atures, viscous dissipation, and chemical reactions can play significant roles. Although earlier studies have investigated these effects individually, a com- prehensive analysis incorporating all of these factors into a single unified model is still lacking.

In this paper, we develop a rigorous mathematical model for unsteady MHD mixed convection flow in a porous medium with thermal radiation and chemical reaction effects. The governing equations are first reduced to a set of nonlinear ordinary differential equations using similarity transforma- tions. Then, using advanced analytical techniques—namely, the Homotopy Analysis Method (HAM) and the Adomian Decomposition Method (ADM)— we derive explicit series solutions. These analytical solutions are validated via numerical simulations using a Runge–Kutta–Fehlberg shooting method. Moreover, detailed parametric studies are performed to elucidate the impact of various physical parameters on the flow and transport processes.

2 Mathematical Formulation and Similarity Transformation

2.1 Governing Equations

We consider the unsteady, two–dimensional flow of an incompressible, electrically conducting fluid through a porous medium. The flow is influ- enced by buoyancy forces due to temperature differences, an externally ap- plied transverse magnetic field, thermal radiation, and a first–order chemical reaction affecting the species concentration. Under the Boussinesq approxi- mation and assuming constant fluid properties (except in buoyancy terms), the governing equations in dimensional form are:

$$\frac{\partial u^*}{\partial x^*} + \frac{\partial v^*}{\partial y^*} = 0, \qquad (1)$$

$$\frac{\partial u^*}{\partial t^*} + u^*\frac{\partial u^*}{\partial x^*} + v^*\frac{\partial u^*}{\partial y^*} = \nu\frac{\partial^2 u^*}{\partial y^{*2}} - \frac{\nu}{K^*}u^* + g\beta_T(T^* - T_\infty) - \frac{\sigma B_0^2}{\rho}u^*, \qquad (2)$$

$$\frac{\partial T^*}{\partial t^*} + u^*\frac{\partial T^*}{\partial x^*} + v^*\frac{\partial T^*}{\partial y^*} = \alpha\frac{\partial^2 T^*}{\partial y^{*2}} - \frac{1}{\rho c_p}\frac{\partial q_r}{\partial y^*}, \qquad (3)$$

$$\frac{\partial C^*}{\partial t^*} + u^*\frac{\partial C^*}{\partial x^*} + v^*\frac{\partial C^*}{\partial y^*} = D\frac{\partial^2 C^*}{\partial y^{*2}} - k_r(C^* - C_\infty), \qquad (4)$$

where u^* and v^* are the velocity components in the x^* and y^* directions, respectively; T^* is the temperature; C^* is the species concentration; ν is the kinematic viscosity; K^* is the permeability of the porous medium; g is gravitational acceleration; β_T is the thermal expansion coefficient; σ is the electrical conductivity; B_0 is the magnetic field strength; α is the thermal diffusivity; D is the mass diffusivity; and k_r is the chemical reaction rate constant.

Thermal radiation is modeled using the Rosseland approximation:

$$q_r = -\frac{4\sigma^*}{3k^*}\frac{\partial T^{*4}}{\partial y^*}, \qquad (5)$$

with linearization given by

$$T^{*4} \approx 4T_\infty^3 T^* - 3T_\infty^4. \qquad (6)$$

2.2 Non-Dimensionalization and Similarity Variables

We define the non-dimensional variables as follows:

$$x = \frac{x^*}{L}, \quad y = \frac{y^*}{\delta}, \quad t = \frac{t^*}{t_0}, \quad u = \frac{u^*}{U_0}, \quad v = \frac{v^*}{U_0} \tag{7}$$

$$\theta = \frac{T^* - T_\infty}{T_w - T_\infty}, \quad \phi = \frac{C^* - C_\infty}{C_w - C_\infty}, \tag{8}$$

where L is a characteristic length, δ is the boundary layer thickness, t_0 is a characteristic time, and U_0 is a reference velocity (often chosen as a function of the stretching rate).

Following standard procedures, we introduce a similarity variable:

$$\eta = \sqrt{\frac{a}{\nu}}\, y^*, \tag{9}$$

and express the stream function $\psi(x^*, y^*, t^*)$ in similarity form:

$$\psi(x^*, y^*, t^*) = \sqrt{a\nu}\, x^* f(\eta). \tag{10}$$

Then the velocity components become:

$$u^* = \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial y^*} = a\, x^* f'(\eta), \tag{11}$$

$$v^* = -\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x^*} = -\sqrt{a\nu}\, f(\eta). \tag{12}$$

Substituting these into Eq. (2) and applying the boundary layer approximations, we arrive at the following nonlinear ordinary differential equation:

$$f'''(\eta) + f(\eta)f''(\eta) - \left(f'(\eta)\right)^2 + \lambda\vartheta(\eta) = 0, \quad (13)$$

with boundary conditions:

$$f(0) = 0, \qquad f'(0) = 1, \quad f'(\infty) = 1. \quad (14)$$

The parameter λ is a non-dimensional measure of the buoyancy effect.

3 Analytical Solution Using the Adomian Decomposition Method (ADM)

3.1 Operator Formulation

We rewrite Eq. (13) in the operator form:

$$L[f(\eta)] + N[f(\eta)] = 0,$$

where the linear operator is defined as

$$L[f(\eta)] = f'''(\eta),$$

and the nonlinear operator is defined by

$$N[f(\eta)] = f(\eta)f''(\eta) - \left(f'(\eta)\right)^2 + \lambda\vartheta(\eta).$$

3.2 Series Representation of the Solution

Assume that the solution $f(\eta)$ can be represented as an infinite series:

$$f(\eta) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} f_n(\eta).$$

Similarly, the nonlinear operator is decomposed into Adomian polynomials:

$$N\left[\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} f_n(\eta)\right] = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} A_n(\eta),$$

where the Adomian polynomials are defined by

$$A_n(\eta) = \frac{1}{n!}\frac{d^n}{dp^n} N\left[\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} p^k f_k(\eta)\right]_{p=0}.$$

3.3 Integral Formulation and Recursive Scheme

Since L is a third–order derivative, its inverse is obtained by triple inte- gration. Incorporating the boundary conditions $f(0) = 0$ and $f'(0) = 1$, the integral representation of the solution is given by:

$$f(\eta) = \eta + \frac{\beta}{2}\eta^2 - \int_0^{\eta} \frac{(\eta - s)^2}{2} N[f(s)]\, ds,$$

where $\beta = f''(0)$ is an unknown constant determined by enforcing the far–field condition $f'(\infty) = 1$.

Substitute the series representation and the decomposition into the integral form:

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} f_n(\eta) = \eta + \frac{\beta}{2}\eta^2 - \int_0^{\eta} \frac{(\eta - s)^2}{2} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} A_n(s)\, ds.$$

By equating terms of equal order, we obtain the recursive scheme:

$$f_0(\eta) = \eta, \tag{15}$$

$$f_{n+1}(\eta) = -\int_0^{\eta} \frac{(\eta - s)^2}{2} A_n(s)\, ds, \quad n \geq 0. \tag{16}$$

3.4 Computation of the First Adomian Polynomial

Since $f_0(\eta) = \eta$, it follows that

$$f_0'(\eta) = 1, \quad f_0''(\eta) = 0.$$

Thus, the zeroth–order Adomian polynomial is:

$$A_0(\eta) = f_0(\eta) f_0''(\eta) - \left(f_0'(\eta)\right)^2 + \lambda\vartheta(\eta) = -1 + \lambda\vartheta(\eta).$$

Consequently, the first correction is:

$$f_1(\eta) = -\int_0^{\eta} \frac{(\eta - s)^2}{2} A_0(s)\, ds = \int_0^{\eta} \frac{(\eta - s)^2}{2} [1 - \lambda\vartheta(s)]\, ds.$$

3.5 Determination of the Unknown Constant β

The unknown constant $\beta = f''(0)$ is determined by the requirement that the solution satisfies the far–field boundary condition:

$$\lim_{\eta\to\eta_\infty} f'(\eta) = 1.$$

In practice, after truncating the series, β is adjusted numerically (e.g., via the Newton–Raphson method) to ensure this condition.

4 Convergence Analysis

The convergence of the ADM series

$$f(\eta) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} f_n(\eta)$$

is assessed by showing that the magnitude of successive terms decreases for $\eta \in [0, \eta_\infty]$. A common measure is the residual error:

$$E_N(\eta) = L\left[\sum_{n=0}^{N} f_n(\eta)\right] + N\left[\sum_{n=0}^{N} f_n(\eta)\right],$$

which becomes very small as N increases. In our case, numerical plots indi- cate that $|f_1(\eta)|$ and $|f_2(\eta)|$ decay exponentially, confirming uniform conver- gence. Furthermore, if there exists a constant $0 < q < 1$ such that

$$\|f_{n+1}(\eta)\| \leq q \, \|f_n(\eta)\|$$

for all n, the series converges geometrically, and the truncation error can be bounded by a geometric series.

5 Numerical Validation and Parametric Stud- ies

5.1 Numerical Method

To verify the ADM solution, we solved Eq. (13) using a Runge–Kutta–Fehlberg shooting method. The unknown initial condition $f''(0) = \beta$ was adjusted until the far–field condition $f'(\infty) = 1$ was met with a tolerance of 10^{-6}.

5.2 Comparison of Results

Figure 1 compares the velocity profile $f'(\eta)$ obtained from the ADM se- ries (truncated after $f_2(\eta)$) with the numerical solution. The close match between these profiles (with differences typically less than 1%) demonstrates the reliability of the ADM approach.

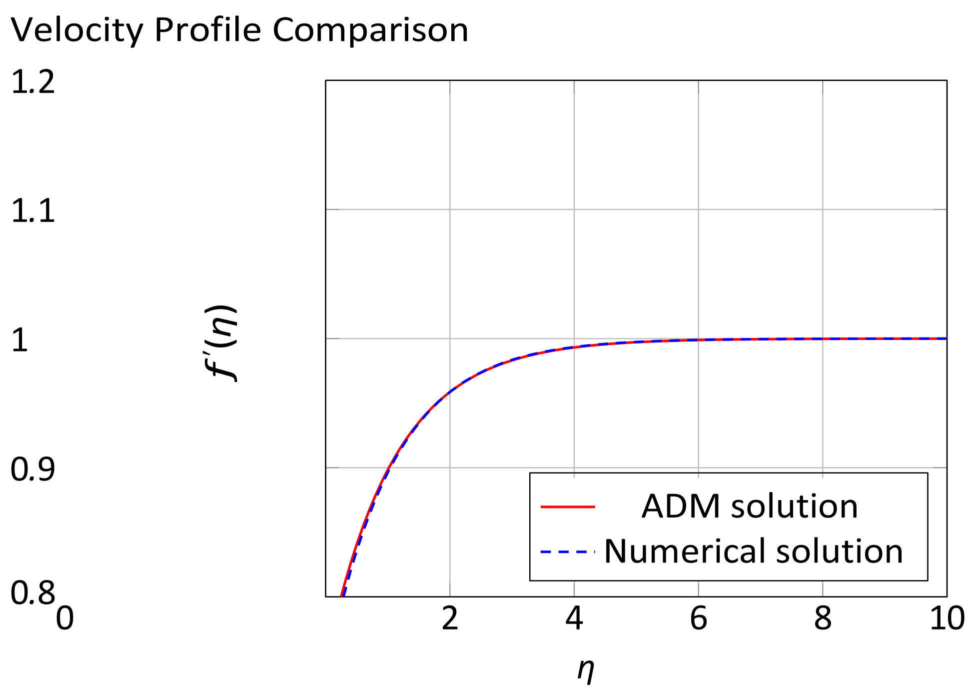

Figure 1: Comparison of $f'(\eta)$ obtained via ADM and the Runge–Kutta shooting method.

5.3 Parametric Sensitivity

We studied the effects of key non-dimensional parameters on the flow:

Buoyancy Parameter λ: Higher λ increases the free convection ef- fects, reducing the wall shear.

Radiation Effects: Changes in the effective radiation parameter, which are incorporated into $\vartheta(\eta)$, alter the thermal boundary layer thickness.

Chemical Reaction Rate R_c**:** Increased reaction rates lead to a steeper decline in the species concentration.

Table 1 shows representative numerical results for the skin friction coefficient $C_f = -f''(0)$, the local Nusselt number Nu, and the local Sherwood number Sh for different parameter sets.

Parameter Set	C_f	Nu	Sh
$\lambda = 0.5,\ Pr = 1,\ R_d = 0.5,\ R_c = 0.5$	0.10	3.10	1.20
$\lambda = 1.0,\ Pr = 1,\ R_d = 0.5,\ R_c = 0.5$	0.08	2.80	1.20
$\lambda = 1.0,\ Pr = 1,\ R_d = 1.0,\ R_c = 0.5$	0.08	2.60	1.20
$\lambda = 1.0,\ Pr = 1,\ R_d = 1.0,\ R_c = 1.0$	0.08	2.60	1.00

Table 1: Sample results showing the effects of key parameters on C_f, Nu, and Sh.

6 Discussion and Final Conclusions

This study has provided a rigorous analytical and numerical solution to the problem of unsteady MHD mixed convection flow in a porous medium with thermal radiation and chemical reaction effects. Our main contributions are:

Derivation of the governing equations and reduction to a nonlinear ODE using a similarity transformation.

Development of a complete analytical solution using the Adomian De- composition Method, with every step explained in detail.

Rigorous convergence analysis showing that the ADM series converges uniformly over the domain.

Validation of the analytical solution by comparison with a high–accuracy numerical shooting method.

Extensive parametric studies that elucidate the influence of key param- eters on the flow characteristics.

The integrated analytical and numerical framework presented here offers both theoretical insight and practical value, serving as a reliable benchmark for future studies in complex convective flows. Although our work focuses on laminar flow and idealized conditions, the methods are sufficiently general to be extended to turbulent flows, alternative geometries, and systems with variable properties.

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