

**EFFECTS OF CHEMICAL REACTION ON AN UNSTEADY MHD FREE CONVECTION FLUID FLOW THROUGH A POROUS MEDIUM WITH OSCILLATING TEMPERATURE**J Anand Rao<sup>1</sup> and S Shivaiah<sup>2</sup><sup>1</sup>Department of Mathematics, Osmania University, Hyderabad-500007, India.<sup>2</sup>Department of Mathematics, BVRIT, Narsapur, Medak-502313, India.Email: [anandrao\\_jakkula@yahoo.com](mailto:anandrao_jakkula@yahoo.com), [sreddy7@yahoo.co.in](mailto:sreddy7@yahoo.co.in)**Abstract:**

Aim of the paper is to investigate an unsteady magnetohydrodynamic free convection fluid flow through a porous medium with oscillating temperature here, taking into account of the homogeneous chemical reaction of first order. The dimensionless governing equations are solved numerically by using finite element technique. The effects of the various physical parameters on the velocity, temperature and concentration are discussed numerically and presented through graphs and Tables. The skin-friction coefficient, the Nusselt number and the Sherwood number at the plate are discussed and their numerical values for various values of physical parameters are presented through tables.

**Key words:** chemical reaction, MHD, oscillating temperature, finite element method.

**1 Introduction:**

The present trend in the field of chemical reaction analysis is to give a mathematical model for the system to predict the reactor performance. The effect of a chemical reaction depend whether the reaction is heterogeneous or homogeneous. This depends on whether they occur at an interface or as a single phase volume reaction. In most cases of chemical reactions, the reaction rate depends on the concentration of the species itself. A reaction is said to be of the order  $n$ , if the reaction rate is proportional to the  $n^{\text{th}}$  power of the concentration. In particular, a reaction is said to be first order, if the rate of reaction is directly proportional to concentration itself.

The flow of a viscous incompressible fluid past an infinite isothermal vertical impermeable plate was solved by Soundalgekar [1]. The effect of mass transfer on the flow past an infinite vertical

plate in the presence of constant heat flux has been studied by Soundalgekar et al [2]. Kafousias et al [3]. have studied the effects of free convection currents and the Stoke's problem for the flow of viscous incompressible fluid past an infinite porous plate with constant suction. Free convection effects on flow past a moving vertical infinite porous plate were studied by Perdikis et al [4]. The transient effect in natural convection cooling of vertical parallel plates was studied by Joshi [5]. MHD transient free-convection flow past a semi-infinite vertical plate with constant heat flux was studied by Gokhale et al [6]. Bejan and Khair [7] presented an analysis of heat and mass transfer about a vertical plate in porous medium they considered concentration gradient which assists or opposes thermal gradient. Chamkha [8] investigated unsteady convective heat and mass transfer past a semi-infinite vertical permeable moving plate with heat absorption where it was found that increase in solutal Grashof number enhanced the concentration buoyancy effects leading to an increase in the velocity.

In all these investigations, the viscous dissipation is neglected. The viscous dissipation heat in the natural convective flow is important, when the flow field is of extreme size or at low temperature or in high gravitational field. Gebhart [9] that the viscous dissipative heat in natural convective flow is important when the flow field is of extreme size or extremely low temperature or in high gravity field. Soundalgekar et al [10]. studied the effect of an incompressible, viscous dissipative fluid past an infinite vertical porous plate with constant suction. The unsteady transient free convection flow of an incompressible dissipative viscous fluid past an infinite vertical plate is consider Sreekanth et al [11]. on taking into account viscous dissipative heat under the influence of a uniform transfers magnetic field. The effect of applied magnetic field on transient free-convective flow in a vertical channel was studied by Jha [12].

The effect of chemical reaction on MHD flows also plays an important role. This effect depends on whether the reaction is heterogeneous or homogeneous, in turn depends on whether they occur at an interface or single phase volume reaction. In well- mixed systems, the reaction is heterogeneous, if it takes place at an interface and homogeneous, if takes place in solution. In the most cases of chemical reactions, the reaction rate depends on the concentration of the species. Muthucumaraswamy and Ganesan [13] investigated the diffusion and first order chemical reaction on impulsively started infinite vertical plate with variable temperature. The effects of chemical reaction, heat and mass transfer on boundary layer flow over a porous wedge with heat radiation in the presence of suction or injection was studied by Kandasamy et al [14]. Muthucumaraswamy and Janakiraman [15] investigated the mass transfer effects on isothermal vertical oscillating plate in the presence of chemical reaction. Radiative heat and mass transfer effects on moving isothermal vertical plate in the presence of chemical reaction was studied by muthucumaraswamy et al [16].

The objective of the present paper is to analyze the effects of chemical reaction on an unsteady MHD free convection fluid flow through a porous medium with oscillating temperature into account. The governing equations are transformed by using unsteady similarity transformation and the resultant dimensionless equations are solved by using the finite element method. The effects of various governing parameters on the velocity, temperature, concentration, skin-friction coefficient, Nusselt number and Sherwood number are shown in figures and tables and discussed in detail.

## 2 Mathematical Analysis:

An unsteady two dimensional flow of an incompressible, electrically conducting and chemically reacting viscous fluid along an infinite vertical plate, that is a porous medium with oscillating temperature is considered. Let the  $x'$ -axis is taken along the plate in the vertically upward direction and the  $y'$ -axis is taken normal to the plate. At time  $t' > 0$ , the plate is given an impulsive motion in the vertical direction against gravitational field with constant velocity  $u_0$ . At the same time concentration level is also raised to  $C_w$  and temperature of the plate is raised to  $T_w$ . It is also assumed that there exists first order chemical reaction between the fluid and the species concentration. Then under usual Boussinesq's approximation the unsteady flow is governed by the following equations:

Momentum equation

$$\frac{\partial u'}{\partial t'} = \nu \frac{\partial^2 u'}{\partial y'^2} + g\beta(T - T_\infty) + g\beta^*(C - C_\infty) - \frac{\sigma B_0^2}{\rho} u' - \frac{\nu}{k'} u' \quad (1)$$

Energy equation

$$\frac{\partial T}{\partial t'} = \alpha \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial y'^2} + \frac{\mu}{\rho c_p} \left( \frac{\partial u'}{\partial y'} \right)^2 \quad (2)$$

Diffusion equation

$$\frac{\partial C}{\partial t'} = D \frac{\partial^2 C}{\partial y'^2} - k'_r (C - C_\infty) \quad (3)$$

The initial and boundary conditions are as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} t' \leq 0: \quad u' = 0, \quad T = T_\infty, \quad C = C_\infty, & \quad \text{for all } y' \\ t' > 0: \quad u' = 0, \quad T = T_w + \varepsilon(T_w - T_\infty)\cos\omega t', \quad C = C_w, & \quad \text{at } y' = 0 \\ u' = 0, \quad T = T_\infty, \quad C = C_\infty & \quad \text{as } y' \rightarrow \infty \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

To reduce the above equations into non-dimensional form, let us introduce the following non-dimensional quantities are:

$$\begin{aligned} u = \frac{u'}{u_0}, \quad y = \frac{u_0 y'}{\nu}, \quad t = \frac{u_0^2 t'}{\nu}, \quad K = \frac{u_0^2 k'}{\nu^2}, \quad \theta = \frac{T - T_\infty}{T_w - T_\infty}, \quad \phi = \frac{C - C_\infty}{C_w - C_\infty} \\ Pr = \frac{\nu \rho c_p}{k} = \frac{\nu}{\alpha}, \quad Sc = \frac{\nu}{D}, \quad Gr = \frac{g\beta\nu(T_w - T_\infty)}{u_0^3}, \quad Gm = \frac{g\beta^*\nu(C_w - C_\infty)}{u_0^3}, \\ Ec = \frac{U_0^2}{c_p(T_w - T_\infty)}, \quad k_r = \frac{k'_r \nu}{u_0^2}, \quad M = \frac{\sigma B_0^2 \nu}{\rho u_0^3} \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

In view of the equations (5) and Equations (1) - (3) reduce to the following dimensionless form.

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} + Gr\theta + Gm\phi - \left(M + \frac{1}{K}\right)u \quad (6)$$

$$\frac{\partial \theta}{\partial t} = \frac{1}{Pr} \frac{\partial^2 \theta}{\partial y^2} + Ec \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial y}\right)^2 \quad (7)$$

$$\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t} = \frac{1}{Sc} \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial y^2} - k_r \phi \quad (8)$$

The initial and boundary conditions in non-dimensional form are:

$$\begin{aligned} t \leq 0: & \quad u = 0, \quad \theta = 0, \quad \phi = 0, & \text{for all } y \\ t > 0: & \quad u = 0, \quad \theta = 1 + \varepsilon \cos \omega t, \quad \phi = 1, & \text{at } y = 0 \\ & \quad u \rightarrow 0, \quad \theta \rightarrow 0, \quad \phi \rightarrow 0, & \text{as } y \rightarrow \infty \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

### 3 Method of solution:

The linear functional for equation (6) over a typical line segment element  $(e)$ ,  $(y_j \leq y \leq y_k)$  is

$$J^{(e)}(u) = \frac{1}{2} \int_{y_j}^{y_k} \left\{ \left(\frac{\partial u^{(e)}}{\partial y}\right)^2 + M_1 u^{(e)2} + 2u^{(e)} \frac{\partial u^{(e)}}{\partial t} - 2u^{(e)} (Gr\theta + Gm\phi) \right\} dy = \text{minimum.}$$

Where  $M_1 = M + \frac{1}{K}$ .

Let  $u^{(e)} = N_j u_j + N_k u_k$  be the linear piecewise approximation solution over the element  $(e)$ ,  $(y_j \leq y \leq y_k)$ , where  $u_j, u_k$  are the values of the function  $u$  at the ends of the element  $(e)$  and

$N_j = \frac{y_k - y}{y_k - y_j}, N_k = \frac{y - y_j}{y_k - y_j}$  are the basis functions. One obtains

$$\frac{1}{l^{(e)}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u_j \\ u_k \end{bmatrix} + \frac{M_1 l^{(e)}}{6} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u_j \\ u_k \end{bmatrix} + \frac{l^{(e)}}{6} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \dot{u}_j \\ \dot{u}_k \end{bmatrix} - (Gr\theta + Gm\phi) \frac{l^{(e)}}{2} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = 0$$

where dot denotes the differentiation with respect to  $t$  and  $l^{(e)} = y_k - y_j$ . Assembling the element equations for two consecutive elements  $y_{i-1} \leq y \leq y_i$  and  $y_i \leq y \leq y_{i+1}$ , the following is obtained:

$$\frac{1}{l^{(e)}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & 0 \\ -1 & 2 & -1 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u_{i-1} \\ u_i \\ u_{i+1} \end{bmatrix} + \frac{M_1 l^{(e)}}{6} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 4 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u_{i-1} \\ u_i \\ u_{i+1} \end{bmatrix} + \frac{l^{(e)}}{6} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 4 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \dot{u}_{i-1} \\ \dot{u}_i \\ \dot{u}_{i+1} \end{bmatrix} = (Gr\theta + Gm\phi) \frac{l^{(e)}}{2} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Now put row corresponding to the node  $i$  to zero, the difference schemes with  $l^{(e)} = h$  is

$$(u_{i-1}^{\bullet} + 4u_i^{\bullet} + u_{i+1}^{\bullet}) = \frac{1}{h^2}(6 - M_1 h^2)(u_{i-1} + u_{i+1}) + \frac{1}{h^2}(12 + 4M_1 h^2)u_i + 6(Gr\theta + Gm\phi)$$

Applying the trapezoidal rule, the following system of equations in Crank-Nicholson method are obtained:

$$\begin{aligned} \left(1 - 3r + \frac{1}{2}rM_1 h^2\right)u_{i-1}^{j+1} + (4 + 6r + 2rM_1 h^2)u_i^{j+1} + \left(1 - 3r + \frac{1}{2}rM_1 h^2\right)u_{i+1}^{j+1} = & \left(1 + 3r - \frac{1}{2}rM_1 h^2\right)u_{i-1}^j \\ & + (4 - 6r - 2rM_1 h^2)u_i^j + \left(1 + 3r - \frac{1}{2}rM_1 h^2\right)u_{i+1}^j + 6k(Gr\theta_i^j + Gm\phi_i^j) \end{aligned} \quad (10)$$

Now from equations (7) and (8), following equations are obtained:

$$\begin{aligned} (Pr - 3r)\theta_{i-1}^{j+1} + (4Pr + 6r)\theta_i^{j+1} + (Pr - 3r)\theta_{i+1}^{j+1} = & (Pr + 3r)\theta_{i-1}^j + (4Pr - 6r)\theta_i^j + (Pr + 3r)\theta_{i+1}^j \\ & + 6r Pr Ec(u_{i+1}^j - u_i^j)^2 \end{aligned} \quad (11)$$

$$\begin{aligned} (2Sc + k_r Sc - 6r)\phi_{i-1}^{j+1} + (8Sc + 4k_r Sc + 12r)\phi_i^{j+1} + (2Sc + k_r Sc - 6r)\phi_{i+1}^{j+1} = & \\ (2Sc - k_r Sc + 6r)\phi_{i-1}^j + (8Sc - 4k_r Sc - 12r)\phi_i^j + (2Sc - k_r Sc + 6r)\phi_{i+1}^j \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

Here  $r = \frac{k}{h^2}$  and  $h, k$  are mesh sizes along  $y$ -direction and time  $t$ -direction respectively.

Index  $i$  refers to the space and  $j$  refers to the time. In the above equations (10)–(12) taking  $i = 1(1)n$  and using initial and boundary conditions (9), the following tri-diagonal system of equations are obtained:

$$AU = B \quad (13)$$

$$D\theta = E \quad (14)$$

$$F\phi = G \quad (15)$$

where  $A, D$  and  $F$  are tri-diagonal matrices of order -  $n$  and whose elements are given by

$$a_{i,i} = 4 + 6r + 2rM_1 h^2, \quad d_{i,i} = 4Pr + 6r, \quad f_{i,i} = 8Sc + 4k_r Sc + 12r \quad i = 1(1)n$$

$$a_{i-1,j} = a_{i,j-1} = 1 - 3r + \frac{1}{2}rM_1 h^2, \quad d_{i-1,j} = d_{i,j-1} = Pr - 3r,$$

$$f_{i-1,j} = f_{i,j-1} = 2Sc + k_r Sc - 6r \quad i = 2(1)n$$

Here  $U, \theta, \phi$  and  $B, E, G$  are column matrices having the  $n$ -components  $u_i^{j+1}, \theta_i^{j+1}, \phi_i^{j+1}$  and  $u_i^j, \theta_i^j, \phi_i^j$  respectively. The solutions of the above system of equations are obtained by using Thomas algorithm for velocity, temperature and concentration. Also, the numerical solutions for these equations are obtained by  $C$  – program. In order to prove the convergence and stability of Ritz finite element method, the computations are carried out for slightly changed values of  $h$  and  $k$  by running the same  $C$  – program. No significant change was observed in the values of  $u, \theta$  and  $\phi$ . Hence, finite element method is convergent and stable.

### Skin-friction, Rate of heat and Mass Transfer

$$\text{Skin-friction coefficient } (C_f) \text{ is given by } C_f = \left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} \right)_{y=0} \quad (16)$$

$$\text{Heat transfer coefficient } (Nu) \text{ at the plate is } Nu = - \left( \frac{d\theta}{dy} \right)_{y=0} \quad (17)$$

$$\text{Mass transfer coefficient } (Sh) \text{ at the plate is } Sh = - \left( \frac{d\phi}{dy} \right)_{y=0} \quad (18)$$

### 4 Results and discussion:

In order to analyze the results, the numerical computations has been carried out for various values of the material parameters such as thermal Grashof number , solutal Grashof number, Magnetic parameter, Permeability parameter, Prandtl number, Eckert number, Schmidt number and chemical reaction parameter respectively. The effects of these parameters on the velocity, temperature, concentration, skin-friction coefficient and heat and mass transfer coefficients in terms of Nusselt number and Sherwood number have been discussed. The numerical calculations of these results are presented graphically in figures. Here we fixed  $\varepsilon = 0.1$  and  $wt = 0$ .

The velocity profiles for different values of the thermal Grashof number  $Gr$  are shown in Fig.1. It is observed that an increase in  $Gr$  leads to arise in the values of velocity. For the case of various values of the solutal Grashof number  $Gm$  , the velocity profiles are displays in Fig.2. It is noticed that an increase  $Gm$  leads to arise in the values of velocity.

The effect of magnetic field parameter  $M$  on the velocity is shown in Fig.3. The velocity decreases with an increase in the magnetic parameter. Fig.4. shows the effect of the permeability of the porous medium parameter  $K$  on the velocity distribution. It is found that an increase in  $K$  leads to arise in the values of velocity

For different values of the Prandtl number  $Pr$ , the velocity and temperature profiles are plotted in Figs 5(a) and 5(b). It is observed that the increasing values of  $Pr$  results in a decreasing the velocity and temperature distribution.

The velocity and temperature profiles are shown in Figs 6(a) and 6(b) for different values of Eckert number  $Ec$ . An increase in Eckert number  $Ec$  leads to increase in both velocity and temperature.

The effects of Schmidt number  $Sc$  on the velocity and concentration profiles are plotted in Figs 7(a) and 7(b) respectively. It is found that an increase in  $Sc$  leads to a decrease in both the values of velocity and concentration.

Figs 8(a) and 8(b) illustrates the behavior velocity and concentration for different values of chemical reaction parameter  $k_r$ . It is observed that an increase in  $k_r$  leads to a decrease in both the values of velocity and concentration.

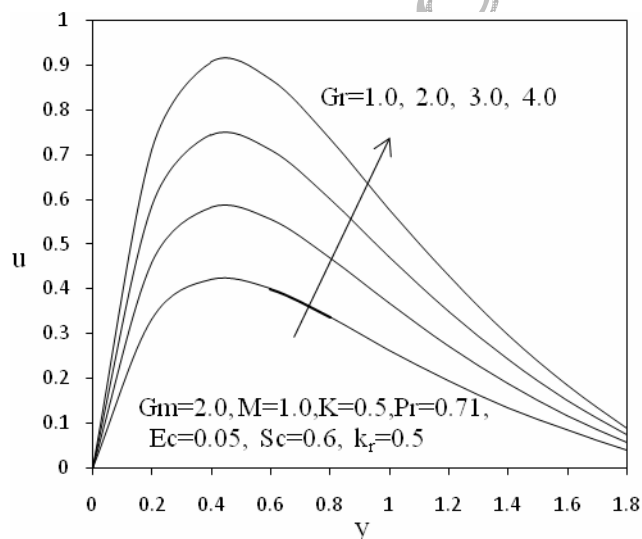


Fig.1. Velocity profiles for different values of Gr

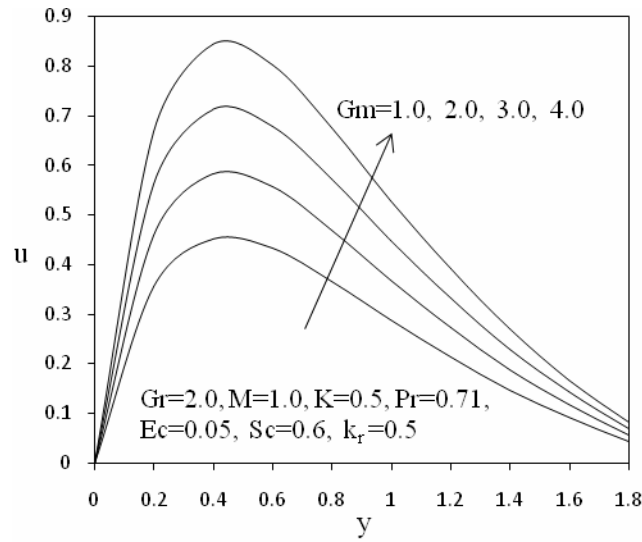


Fig.2. Velocity profiles for different values of  $Gm$

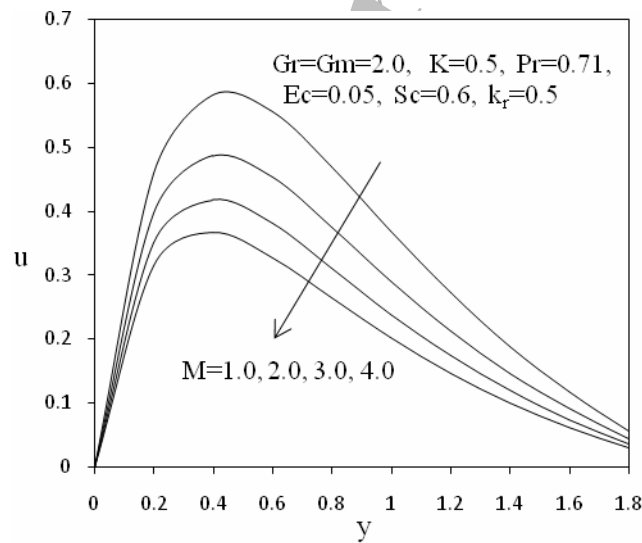


Fig.3. Velocity profiles for different values of  $M$



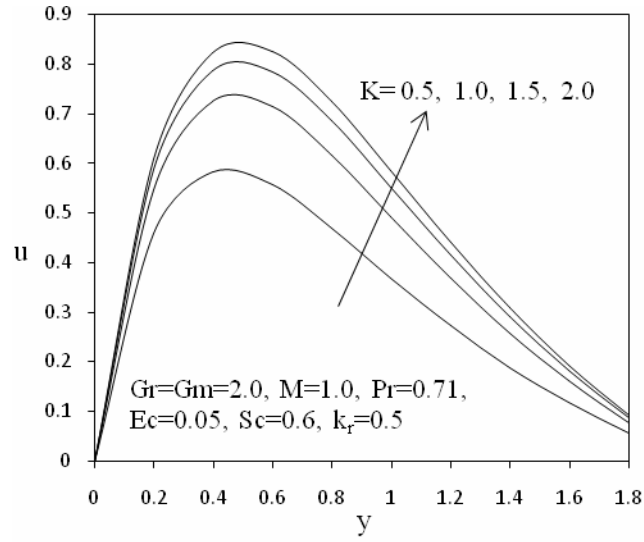


Fig.4. Velocity profiles for different values of  $K$

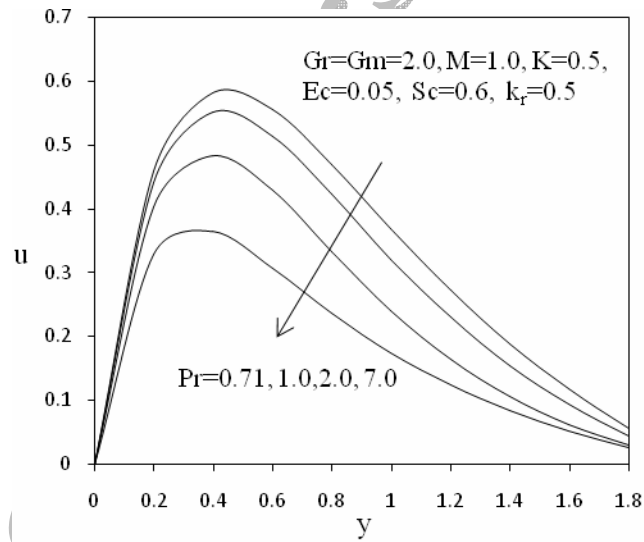


Fig.5(a). Velocity profiles for different values of  $Pr$

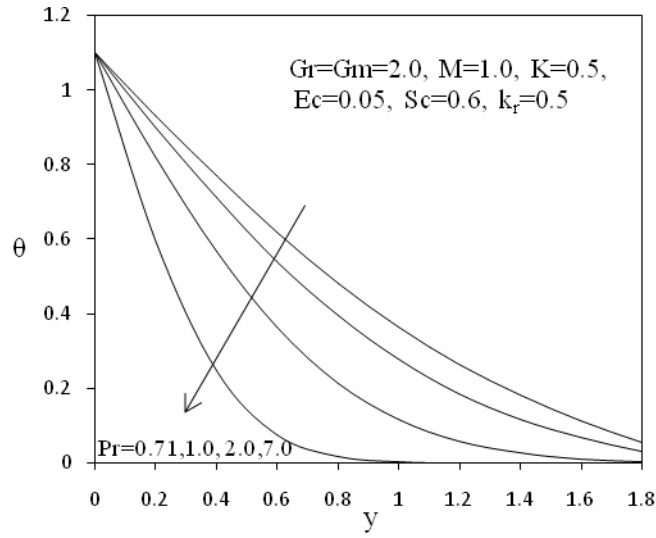


Fig.5(b). Temperature profiles for different values of Pr

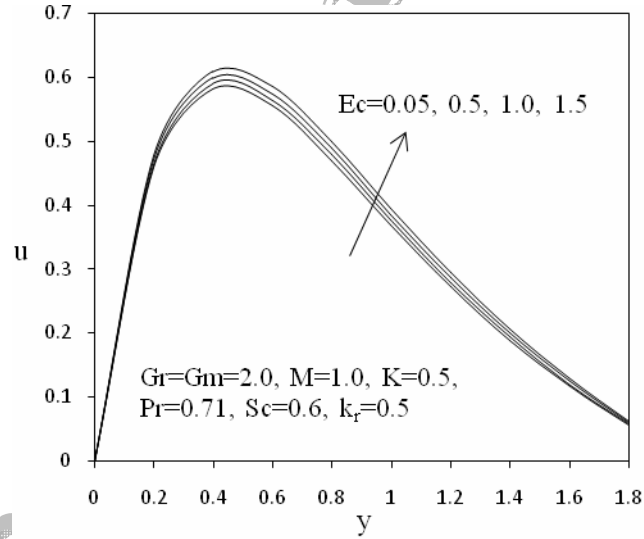


Fig.6(a). Velocity profiles for different values of Ec

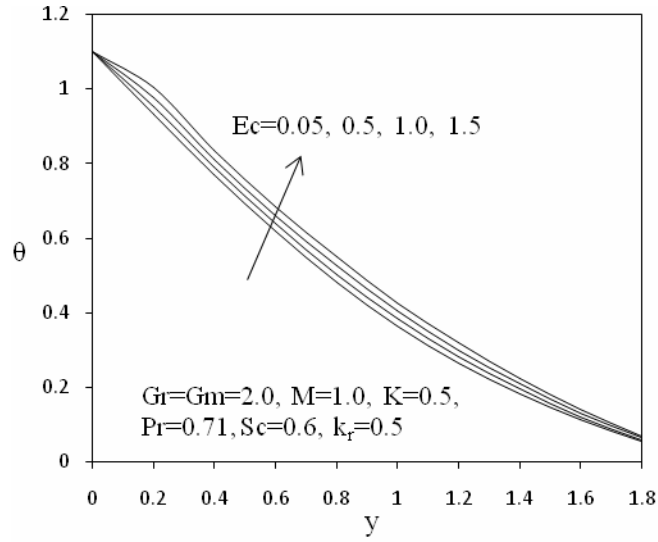


Fig.6(b). Temperature profiles for different values of  $Ec$

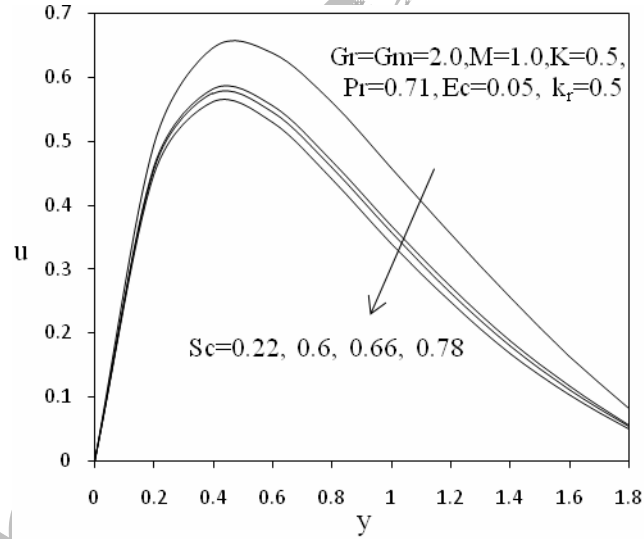


Fig.7(a). Velocity profiles for different values of  $Sc$

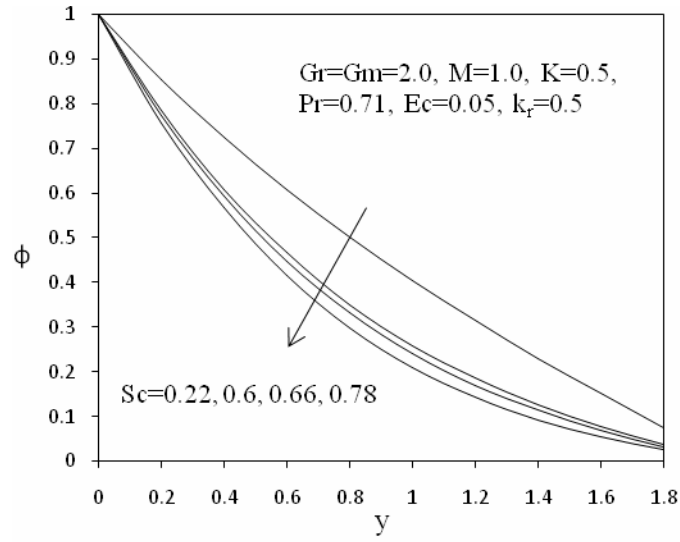


Fig.7(b). Concentration profiles for different values of  $Sc$

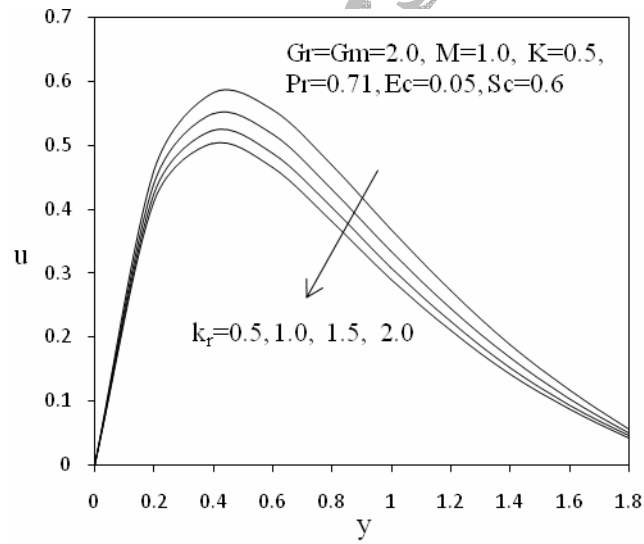


Fig.8(a). Velocity profiles for different values of  $k_r$

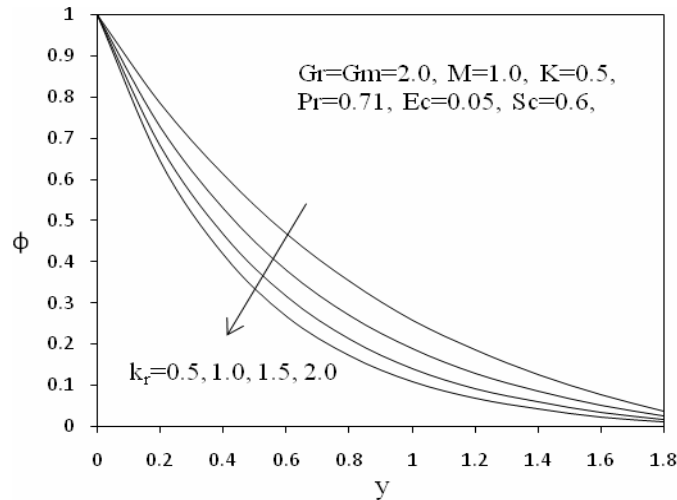


Fig.8(b). Concentration profiles for different values of  $k_r$

The effects of  $Gr$ ,  $Gm$ ,  $M$ ,  $K$ ,  $Pr$ ,  $Ec$ ,  $Sc$  and  $k_r$  on the skin-friction  $C_f$ , Nusselt number  $Nu$ , Sherwood number  $Sh$  are shown in Tables 1 to 3. From Table 1, it is observed that as  $Gr$  or  $Gm$  or  $K$  increases, the skin-friction coefficient increases, where as the skin-friction coefficient decreases as  $M$  increases. From Table 2, it is noticed that as  $Ec$  increases, the skin-friction coefficient increases while the Nusselt number increases and  $Pr$  increases, the skin-friction coefficient decreases while the Nusselt number decreases. From Table 3, it is found that as  $Sc$  or  $k_r$  increases, the skin-friction coefficient decreases while the Sherwood number decreases.

Table 1 : Effect of  $Gr$ ,  $Gm$ ,  $M$  and  $K$  on  $C_f$

( $Pr=0.71$ ,  $Ec=0.05$ ,  $Sc=0.6$ ,  $k_r=0.5$ )

$Gr$	$Gm$	$M$	$K$	$C_f$
2.0	2.0	1.0	0.5	1.6160
4.0	2.0	1.0	0.5	2.4959
2.0	4.0	1.0	0.5	2.3592
2.0	2.0	2.0	0.5	1.4434
2.0	2.0	1.0	1.0	1.8599

Table 2 : Effect of  $Pr$  and  $Ec$  on  $C_f$  and  $Nu$

( $Gr=2.0$ ,  $Gm=2.0$ ,  $M=1.0$ ,  $K=0.5$ ,  $Sc=0.6$ ,  $k_r=0.5$ )

$Pr$	$Ec$	$C_f$	$Nu$
0.71	0.05	1.6160	0.4152
7.0	0.05	1.2710	1.2989
0.71	0.5	1.6324	0.3056

Table 3 : Effect of  $Sc$  and  $k_r$  on  $C_f$  and  $Sh$   
 ( $Gr=2.0$ ,  $Gm =2.0$ ,  $M =1.0$ ,  $K =0.5$ ,  $Pr =0.71$ ,  $Ec=0.05$ )

$Sc$	$k_r$	$C_f$	$Sh$
0.22	0.5	1.7081	0.3794
0.60	0.5	1.6160	0.5813
0.22	1.0	1.6691	0.4820

## 5 Conclusions:

In this paper, the governing equations for Effects of chemical reaction on an unsteady MHD free convection fluid flow through a porous medium with oscillating temperature, on taking into account viscous dissipative heat has been presented. Employing the highly efficient Ritz finite element method, the leading equations are solved numerically. The results illustrate the flow characteristics for the velocity, temperature, concentration, skin-friction, rate of heat and mass transfer and show how the flow fields are influenced by the material parameters on the problem. The conclusions from these results are:

1. The velocity increases with the increase in thermal Grashof number and solutal Grashof number.
2. The velocity decreases with an increase in the magnetic parameter.
3. The velocity increases with an increase in the permeability of the porous medium parameter.
4. An increase in the Eckert number increases the velocity and temperature.
5. An increase in the Prandtl number decreases the velocity and temperature.
6. An increase in the radiation parameter leads to increase in the velocity and temperature.
7. The velocity as well as concentration decreases with an increase in the Schmidt number.
8. The velocity as well as concentration decreases with an increase in the chemical reaction parameter.

## Nomenclature

$u'$	velocity of the fluid	$u$	dimensionless velocity
$\sigma$	fluid electrical conductivity	$g$	acceleration due to gravity
$T$	temperature of the fluid in near the plate	$C$	species concentration in the fluid
$t'$	time	$t$	dimensionless time
$\beta$	coefficient of volume expansion due to temperature	$\beta^*$	coefficient of volume expansion due to concentration
$\rho$	density	$\mu$	viscosity of the fluid

$\nu$	kinematic viscosity	$M$	magnetic parameter
$k$	thermal conductivity	$c_p$	specific heat at constant pressure
$Sc$	Schmidt number	$Pr$	Prandtl number
$K$	Permeability parameter	$D$	mass diffusion coefficient
$k_r$	chemical reaction parameter	$Ec$	Eckert number
$Gr$	free-convection parameter due to temperature	$Gm$	free-convection parameter due to concentration
$\theta$	dimensionless temperature	$\phi$	dimensionless concentration

### Subscripts

$w$	condition at the wall
$\infty$	free stream conditions

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