Research Article

Effect of Microstructure and Exothermic Reaction on the Thermal Convection in an Enclosure of Nanoliquid with Continuous and Discontinuous Heating from below

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Effect of continuous and discontinuous external heating and internal exothermic reaction on thermal convection of micropolar nanoliquid is studied in the present work. The liquid in the enclosure is a water-based nanoliquid containing Cu nanoparticles. The governing equations are solved numerically using the iterative finite difference method (FDM). The studied parameters are the material viscosity ($0 \leq K \leq 6$), nanoparticles volume fraction ($0.0 \leq \phi \leq 0.2$), and the internal heating ($0.0 \leq G \leq 2.0$). It is found that the convective flow acceleration by adding nanoparticles is retarded by the microrotation and the suppression has a great impact on the weak exothermic reaction for both cases. Increasing the internal reaction decreases the heat transfer rate at the hot wall but increases the heat transfer rate at the cool wall for both cases, Newtonian or micropolar nanoliquid.

1. Introduction

Today electrical machines are commonly used in the industry. It is desirable to have machines which are as small, efficient, and long lasting. To be able to make the machines smaller without reducing the power, it is important to get a better cooling of the machine, preferably by using natural convection. The convection describes the exchange of thermal energy between physical systems depending on the thermal, velocity, and pressure, by dissipating heat. Heat transfer rate could be improved by modifying thermophysical properties of the liquid. Using solid nanoparticles having very high thermal conductivities dispersed in liquid would substantially modify the liquid properties. This technique is proposed by Choi [1] and the new liquid is called nanoliquid. Nanoparticles are basically metal, oxides, and some other compounds such as graphene. This engineered liquids have potential applications, for example, heat exchanger, building construction, micro electromechanical systems, nuclear reactors, geothermal power, solar cells, electronics cooling, and so forth. Khanafar et al. [2] and Jou and Tseng [3] obtained 25% augmentation in the heat transfer rate with 20% weight fractions of the suspended Cu nanoparticles. The Ag, Cu, CuO, Al$_2$O$_3$, or TiO$_2$ nanoparticles are utilized by Öğüt [4]. They reported 155% augmentation in the heat transfer rate utilizing 20% weight fractions of the Ag nanoparticles. Rashmi et al. [5] filled the enclosure with Al$_2$O$_3$ nanoparticle. They reported a reduction in heat transfer rate with an increment percentage of the nanoparticle for a particular heating parameter. Sheikhzadeh et al. [6] considered the Brownian and thermophoresis diffusions and found the heat transfer reduction by increasing the bulk volume fraction of nanoparticles. Boulahia et al. [7] observed that the heat transfer rate increases with decreasing the nanoparticle diameter and the highest values of the heat transfer rate occur at 25nm diameter. Motlaghc and Soltanipour [8] reported about 26% augmentation in the heat transfer rate with 4% weight fractions of the solid nanoparticles. Liao [9] investigated systematically the influence of the Rayleigh number on the heat transfer behavior with increasing Al$_2$O$_3$ nanoparticle volume fraction to 6%. He built a correlation equation for reproducing the critical Rayleigh number with the averaged temperature.

Heat transfer performance strongly depends on the media, i.e., liquid. Aydin and Pop [10] and Saleem et al. [11] showed that micropolar liquid give lower heat transfer values than those of the Newtonian liquid. Micropolar liquid is
a subset of the non-Newtonian liquid. It is composed of dumb-bell structural molecules or small and stiff cylindrical components, for example, liquid mixtures, polymer liquid, animal blood, and engine oil. The earlier study of micropolar liquid in enclosures was conducted by Jena and Bhattacharyya [12]. They compared convection stability for several values of micropolar liquid parameters. Wang and Hsu [13] studied the influence of material parameter, geometry aspect ratio, and geometry orientation for the enclosure filled with micropolar liquid at unsteady and stationary conditions. They found that angles of inclination at the maximum values of the heat transfer were coincident for various micropolar liquid in the range of aspect ratio 1.75 to 0.75. Hsu and Chen [14] concluded that thermal performance of a micropolar liquid reduces with the vortex viscosity enhancement and stability of micropolar liquid is higher than that of the stability of Newtonian liquid. A heat sources effect was later included by Hsu et al. [15]. Hsu and Hong [16] investigated the microstructure in an open cavity and found that increasing the Grashof number increases both heat transfer rate and liquid circulation. Gibanov et al. [17] found that an increase in the vortex viscosity parameter leads to attenuation of the convective flow and heat transfer inside a trapezoidal enclosure. Later, Miroshnichenko et al. [18] analyzed the effects of convective flow and heat transfer inside a trapezoidal enclosure and obtained an essential heat exchanger, and the heater location on streamlines, isotherms, and Rayleigh number, Prandtl number, vortex viscosity parameter. Turk and Tezer-Sezgin [20] observed that the streamlines and microrotation contours are similar to altering magnitudes. Recently, Ali et al. [21] observed that the expansion of isotherms toward the top boundary surface for greater values of the micropolar parameter and the Nusselt numbers decrease with change in the behavior of the liquid from Newtonian to micropolar.

The vehicle of the current investigation is to study a natural convection heat transfer in a square enclosure filled with micropolar nanoliquid when the bottom boundary is continuously and discontinuously heated at \( T_h \) temperature. The top boundary is adiabatic, while the side boundaries walls have constant \( T_c \) temperature where \( T_c < T_h \). The liquid in the enclosure is a water-based nanoliquid containing Cu nanoparticles. Quadratic heat profile is assumed to be generated internally by the exothermic reaction. The bottom boundary is continuously and discontinuously heated while the top boundary is adiabatic and side boundaries walls have constant low temperature. The governing equation is based on conservation laws of mass, momentum, and energy with appropriate rheological models and equations. For micropolar nanoliquid flow the continuity equation, linear momentum equation, angular momentum equation and energy equations are given as follows:

\[
\nabla^2 u = \frac{\partial \omega}{\partial y} \\
\nabla^2 v = \frac{\partial \omega}{\partial x} \\
\rho_n (u \cdot \nabla \omega) = (\mu + \kappa) \nabla^2 \omega - \kappa \nabla^2 N + g (\rho \beta) \frac{\partial (T - T_h)}{\partial x} \\
\rho_n j (u \cdot \nabla N) = \gamma \nabla^2 N - 2 \kappa N + \kappa \omega \\
u \cdot \nabla T = \alpha_n \nabla^2 T + \frac{\lambda}{(\rho C_p) n} (T - T_c)^2
\]

where subscript \( nl \) is nanoliquid, \( u \) and \( v \) are the velocity components along \( x \) and \( y \) axes, \( T \) is the liquid temperature, \( N \) is the component of the microrotation vector normal to the \( xy \) plane, \( g \) is the magnitude of the acceleration due to gravity, \( \rho \) is the density, \( \mu \) is the dynamic viscosity, \( \kappa \) is the vortex viscosity, \( \gamma \) is the spin-gradient viscosity, \( j \) is the microinertia density, and \( n \) is a constant with values \( 0 \leq n \leq 1 \), with \( n = 0 \), called strong concentration of microelements. Further, we assume that \( \gamma_n \) has the following form:

\[
\gamma_n = \left( \frac{\mu_n + \kappa}{2} \right)
\]
The viscosity of the nanoliquid can be approximated as
viscosity of a base liquid if it contains dilute suspension of
fine spherical particles, which is given by Brinkman [25] as
\[
\frac{\mu_{nl}}{\mu_{bl}} = \left(1 - \phi^2\right) \phi
\]
(7)
where \(\phi\) is the solid volume fraction of nanoparticles. Thermal diffusivity of the nanoliquid is
\[
\alpha_{nl} = \frac{k_{nl}}{(\rho C_p)_{nl}}
\]
(8)
where the heat capacitance of the nanoliquid given is
\[
(\rho C_p)_{nl} = (1 - \phi)(\rho C_p)_{bl} + \phi(\rho C_p)_{sp}
\]
(9)
and \(k_{nl}\) stands for the effective thermal conductivity of nanoliquid restricted to spherical nanoparticles is approximated by the Maxwell-Garnetts (MG), Öğüt [4] model:
\[
k_{nl} = \frac{k_{sp} + 2k_{bl} - 2\phi(k_{bl} - k_{sp})}{k_{sp} + 2k_{bl} + \phi(k_{bl} - k_{sp})}
\]
(10)
The thermophysical properties of liquid and the solid copper
phases are given by Khanafar et al. [2]. The appropriate the boundary conditions are as follows:
\[
u = \nu = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial y} = 0
\]
(11)
\[\text{at} \quad y = \ell\]
\[
u = \nu = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad T = T_c
\]
(12)
\[\text{at} \quad x = 0\]
\[
u = \nu = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad T = T_c
\]
(13)
\[\text{at} \quad x = \ell\]
\[u = \nu = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad T = T_h \quad \text{or} \quad T = (T_h - T_c) \sin \left(\frac{\pi x}{\ell}\right) + T_c
\]
(14)
\[\text{at} \quad y = 0\]

Writing in stream function–vorticity formulation and per-
forming nondimensionalization, the dimensionless form of the
governing equations is expressed as follows:
\[
\nabla^2 \psi = -\Omega
\]
(16)
\[
\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial y} \frac{\partial \Omega}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} \frac{\partial \Omega}{\partial y} = \left(\frac{\mu_{nl}}{\mu_{bl}} + K\right) \frac{\rho_{bl}}{\rho_{nl}} \nabla^2 \Omega - K \frac{\rho_{nl}}{\rho_{bl}} \nabla^2 N
\]
(17)
\[+ \frac{Ra_{bl}}{Pr_{bl} \rho_{bl} \rho_{bl}} \partial \Theta
\]
\[+ \frac{K \rho_{bl} \Omega}{\rho_{nl}} \]
\[+ \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial y} \frac{\partial N}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} \frac{\partial N}{\partial y} = \left(\frac{\mu_{nl}}{\mu_{bl}} + 2\right) \frac{\rho_{bl}}{\rho_{nl}} \nabla^2 N - 2K \frac{\rho_{nl}}{\rho_{bl}} \nabla^2 N
\]
(18)
\[+ \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial y} \frac{\partial \Theta}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} \frac{\partial \Theta}{\partial y} - G \Theta^2
\]
(19)

The dimensionless boundary conditions are as follows:
\[
\psi = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{\partial \Theta}{\partial y} = 0
\]
(20)
\[\text{at} \quad Y = 1\]
\[
\psi = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \Theta = 0
\]
(21)
\[\text{at} \quad X = 0\]
\[
\psi = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \Theta = 0
\]
(22)
\[\text{at} \quad X = 1\]
\[
\psi = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \Theta = 1 \quad \text{or} \quad \Theta = \sin (\pi X)
\]
(23)

3. Numerical Method and Validation

The governing equations are categorized as elliptical partial
differential equation; one of the well-known methods to solve
these equations is using iterative finite difference method.
Central difference method is utilized for discretizing the
first and second derivative of the governing equations while
backward difference method is utilized for discretizing the
insulated boundary. The finite difference form of equation
relating the energy equation (19) is
\[
\left(\frac{k_{nl}(\rho C_p)_{bl}}{k_{bl}(\rho C_p)_{nl}} \right) \left[ \frac{\Theta_{i+1,j} - 2\Theta_{i,j} + \Theta_{i-1,j}}{\Delta X^2} \right] + \frac{\Theta_{i,j+1} - 2\Theta_{i,j} + \Theta_{i,j-1}}{\Delta Y^2} = S_{i,j}
\]
(24)
This can be simplified as

\[
\Theta_{i,j} = \frac{1}{2(1 + \Delta X^2/\Delta Y^2)} \left[ \Theta_{i+1,j} + \Theta_{i-1,j} \right] + \frac{\Delta X^2}{\Delta Y^2} \left( \Theta_{i,j+1} + \Theta_{i,j-1} \right) + \frac{\Delta X^2}{\Delta Y^2} \left( \frac{k_{bl}(pCp)_{bl}}{k_{sl}(pCp)_{sl}} S_{i,j} \right)
\]

where

\[
S_{i,j} = \frac{\Delta X}{\Delta Y} \left( \frac{\Psi_{i,j+1} - \Psi_{i,j-1}}{2} \right) \left( \frac{\Theta_{i+1,j} - \Theta_{i-1,j}}{2\Delta X} \right) - \frac{\Delta X}{\Delta Y} \left( \frac{\Psi_{i+1,j} - \Psi_{i-1,j}}{2} \right) \left( \frac{\Theta_{i,j+1} - \Theta_{i,j-1}}{2\Delta Y} \right) - G \left( \frac{\Theta_{i+1,j} + \Theta_{i-1,j} + \Theta_{i,j+1} + \Theta_{i,j-1}}{4} \right)^2
\]

The computation is assumed to move through the grid points from the east to the west and the south to the north. The finite difference form of equation relating the stream function (16), vorticity (17), and microrotation (18) could be presented in the same way. Good approximation of the vorticity at the boundaries is the most critical step in the stream function-vorticity formulation. The vorticity is calculated by

\[
\Omega = - \frac{g(\Psi_{i,j} - \Psi_{i,j})}{2(\Delta Y)^2}
\]

Similar expressions are written for the left and right walls. Next, the solutions of the algebraic equations are performed using Gaussian SOR iteration. The unknowns \( \Psi, \Omega, \Theta, \) and \( N \) are calculated until the following criterium of convergence is fulfilled:

\[
\max \left| \frac{\Theta_{i,j}^{n+1} - \Theta_{i,j}^n}{\Theta_{i,j}^n} \right| \leq \varepsilon
\]

where \( \varepsilon \) is either \( \Psi, \Omega, \Theta, \) or \( N \) and \( n \) represents the iteration number and \( \varepsilon \) is the convergence criterion. Finally, the integration of average Nusselt number is done by using Simpson rule. The unknowns are calculated until the following criterium of convergence is fulfilled:

\[
\max \left| \frac{\Theta_{i,j}^{n+1} - \Theta_{i,j}^n}{\Theta_{i,j}^n} \right| \leq \varepsilon
\]
The decrease of the strength convective flow circulation is with the increase of \( K \). The reducing is more significant for lower values of \( G \). The strengths of the convective flow circulation between Newtonian and micropolar liquid are different. The maximum flow magnitude decreases by increasing the internal heating parameter for the Newtonian liquid. However, maximum flow magnitude increases by increasing the internal heating parameter for the micropolar liquid (\( K = 2, 4, 6 \)). The maximum flow strength of continuous heating case is slightly higher than the maximum flow strength of discontinuous heating case for the considered viscosity and internal heating parameters.

Figure 6 shows the variations of average Nusselt number at bottom (left) and average Nusselt number at side (right) against \( K \) by varying \( \phi \) for continuous case 1 (top) and discontinuous heating case 2 (bottom) at \( G = 1.0 \). Apparently, as the nanoparticles concentration increases, the average Nusselt number at the bottom and side increases, revealing the significant role of the improved thermal properties of the nanoliquid in heat transport. The nanoparticles concentration modifies the heat transfer properties of the nanoliquid significantly. This is due to the fact that the thermal conductivity of the base liquid is weak and the addition of nanoparticles enhances the thermal conductivity of the nanoliquid. The microrotation effect is boosted in the low solid concentration and gets weaker as the concentration of the nanoparticles rises. Here it is doubted how the suppressing reaction of the microstructure on the thermal performance varies with the solid volume fraction. For each nanoparticles concentration, the effect of the material parameter was observed to suppress the thermal performance along the bottom and side wall for both cases, since an enhanced vortex viscosity increases the global viscosity of the liquid circulation, thus reducing the heat transfer rate. Indeed, the quadratic internal heating modifies the convective flow especially at the upper region.

An increase in material parameter reduces the average Nusselt number for cases 1 and 2 as shown in Figure 7. For both cases and fixed \( K \), increasing the internal reaction decreases the heat transfer rate at the bottom but increases the heat transfer rate at the cool side. The continuous heating is observed to gain better thermal performance than the discontinuous heating case. This is due to the fact that the continuous thermal condition generates uniform heat along the heated plate that support the buoyancy. At the side cool wall, for \( G = 0.5 \), the heat transfer rate decreases by \( K \), then after reaching a sufficiently large \( K \) value the heat transfer rate tends to be stagnant. This interesting result indicates that average Nusselt number at cool wall tends to be identical between Newtonian and micropolar nanoliquid for the weak internal heating at discontinuous heating case. This is due to the weak internal convective flow and nonuniform external convective flow being unable to produce the buoyancy.

### Table 1: \( |\Psi_{\text{max}}| \) against internal heating parameter with different \( K \) for continuous case at \( \phi = 0.1 \).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>( G )</th>
<th>( K = 0 )</th>
<th>( K = 2 )</th>
<th>( K = 4 )</th>
<th>( K = 6 )</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>2.3522</td>
<td>1.2945</td>
<td>0.9082</td>
<td>0.6891</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>2.3519</td>
<td>1.3061</td>
<td>0.9269</td>
<td>0.7130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>2.3482</td>
<td>1.3161</td>
<td>0.9448</td>
<td>0.7357</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>2.3401</td>
<td>1.3234</td>
<td>0.9610</td>
<td>0.7587</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>2.3233</td>
<td>1.3240</td>
<td>0.9723</td>
<td>0.7789</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Figure 3: Comparison of computed streamlines with Aydin and Pop [10] results for continuous heating left wall at $\phi = 0$, $Ra = 10^6$, $Pr = 0.71$, $K = 0, 2$.

Table 2: $|\Psi_{\text{max}}|_{\text{min}}$ against internal heating parameter with different $K$ for discontinuous case at $\phi = 0.1$.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>G</th>
<th>$K = 0$</th>
<th>$K = 2$</th>
<th>$K = 4$</th>
<th>$K = 6$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>2.1126</td>
<td>1.1531</td>
<td>0.8002</td>
<td>0.6003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>2.1130</td>
<td>1.1631</td>
<td>0.8154</td>
<td>0.6186</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>2.1112</td>
<td>1.1721</td>
<td>0.8304</td>
<td>0.6373</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>2.1064</td>
<td>1.1796</td>
<td>0.8448</td>
<td>0.6566</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>2.0981</td>
<td>1.1848</td>
<td>0.8581</td>
<td>0.6786</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5. Conclusions

The main purpose of the present research is to investigate the influence of continuous and discontinuous heating bottom surface and parabolic internal reaction profile on the liquid circulation, thermal distribution, and heat transfer characteristics due to convective heat transfer of micropolar nanoliquid. The dimensionless forms of the model equations...
Figure 5: Streamlines and isotherms evolutions of nanoliquid (solid lines) and base liquid (dashed lines) by varying the material parameter for discontinuous heating corresponding to case 2 at $G = 1.0$. 

(a) $K = 2$

$|\Psi_{\min}^{\text{max}}|_{hf} = 1.1474, |\Psi_{\min}^{\text{max}}|_{inf} = 1.171$

(b) $K = 4$

$|\Psi_{\min}^{\text{max}}|_{hf} = 0.82352, |\Psi_{\min}^{\text{max}}|_{inf} = 0.82961$

(c) $K = 6$

$|\Psi_{\min}^{\text{max}}|_{hf} = 0.64788, |\Psi_{\min}^{\text{max}}|_{inf} = 0.63668$
Figure 6: Variations of average Nusselt number at bottom (left) and average Nusselt number at side (right) against K by varying $\phi$ for continuous case 1 (top) and discontinuous heating case 2 (bottom) at $G = 1.0$.

are solved using the iterative finite difference technique. The important findings of the current analysis are as follows:

(1) The convective flow acceleration by adding nanoparticles is retarded by the microrotation and the suppression has a great impact on the weak exothermic reaction for both cases.

(2) In general, the heat transfers at hot and cool walls of micropolar nanoliquid are less than that of the Newtonian nanoliquid for both cases. The heat transfer at cool wall tends to be identical between Newtonian and micropolar nanoliquid for the weak exothermic reaction at discontinuous heating case.

(3) The heat transfer at hot and cool walls increases as the solid volume fraction of the nanoparticles increases for both cases.

(4) Increasing the internal reaction decreases the heat transfer at the hot wall but increases the heat transfer at the cool wall for both cases, Newtonian or micropolar nanoliquid.

Data Availability

The data used to support the findings of this study are included within the article.
Figure 7: Variations of average Nusselt number at bottom (left) and average Nusselt number at side (right) against K by varying $\phi$ for continuous case 1 (top) and discontinuous heating case 2 (bottom) at $G = 1.0$.

Conflicts of Interest

The author declares there are no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

References


