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Research Note

# Non-axisymmetric stagnation-point flow and heat transfer of a viscous fluid on a stationary cylinder

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## KEYWORDS

Non-axisymmetric stagnation-point flow;  
 Heat transfer;  
 Stationary cylinder;  
 Viscous fluid;  
 Numerical solution;  
 Non-uniform transpiration.

**Abstract.** The steady-state viscous flow and heat transfer in the vicinity of a non-axisymmetric stagnation point of an infinite stationary cylinder with non-uniform normal transpiration,  $U_0(\varphi)$ , and constant wall temperature are investigated. The impinging free stream is steady and with a constant strain rate,  $\bar{k}$ . A reduction in Navier-Stokes and energy equations is obtained by use of appropriate similarity transformations. The semi-similar solution of the Navier-Stokes equations and energy equation has been obtained numerically using an implicit finite-difference scheme. All the solutions above are presented for Reynolds number,  $Re = \bar{k}a^2/2\nu$ , ranging from 0.01 to 100 for different values of Prandtl number and for selected values of transpiration rate function,  $S(\varphi) = U_0(\varphi)/\bar{k}a$ , where  $a$  is cylinder radius and  $\nu$  is kinematic viscosity of the fluid. Dimensionless shear stresses corresponding to all the cases increase with increase in Reynolds number and transpiration rate function. The local coefficient of heat transfer (Nusselt number) increases with the increasing transpiration rate function and Prandtl number.

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## 1. Introduction

The effects of non-uniform normal transpiration on a stationary cylinder with different types of transpiration rate function, which are of interest in certain special manufacturing processes, textile technology, printing industry, water-show technology, cooling and centrifugal processes in industry, and calcinations of cement, have not yet been considered. Our motivation is originally to produce frictionless situations in fluids and insulated surfaces in heat transfer by means of certain types of movements and temperature difference. Since

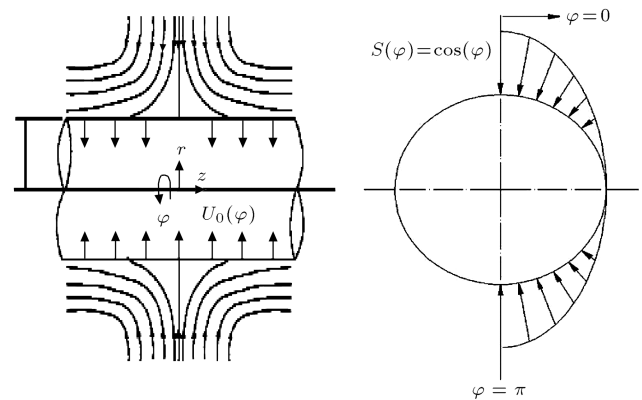
the decay of viscosity in a fluid and diffusion of heat in a medium are naturally exponential, selection of the corresponding function in this study serves appropriate examples. Besides, our study generalizes the problem of stagnation-point flow and heat transfer of a fluid on a stationary cylinder.

There are many solutions of the Navier-Stokes and energy equations regarding the problem of stagnation-point flow and heat transfer in the vicinity of a flat plate or a cylinder. These studies started by Hiemenz [1] who obtained an exact solution of the Navier-Stokes equations governing the two-dimensional stagnation-point flow on a flat plate, and were continued by Homann [2] with an analogous axisymmetric study and by Howarth [3] and Davey [4], whose results for stagnation-point flow against a flat plate for asymmetric cases were presented. Wang [5,6] was

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the first to find an exact solution for the problem of axisymmetric stagnation-point flow on an infinite stationary circular cylinder; this was continued by Gorla's works [7-11], which are a series of steady and unsteady flows and heat transfer over a circular cylinder in the vicinity of the stagnation point for the cases of constant axial movement and the special case of axial harmonic motion of a non-rotating cylinder. Cuning et al. [12] have considered the stagnation-point flow problem on a rotating circular cylinder with constant angular velocity; Grosch and Salwen [13] as well as Takhar et al. [14] studied special cases of unsteady viscous flow on an infinite circular cylinder. The most recent works of the same types are the ones by Saleh and Rahimi [15] and Rahimi and Saleh [16,17], which are exact solution studies of a stagnation-point flow and heat transfer on a circular cylinder with time-dependent axial and rotational movements, as well as studies by Abbasi and Rahimi [18-21], which are exact solutions of stagnation-point flow and heat transfer but on a flat plate. Some existing compressible flow studies, but in the stagnation region of bodies and by using boundary layer equations, include the study by Subhashini and Nath [22] as well as Kumari and Nath [23,24], which are in the stagnation region of a body, and the work by Katz [25] as well as those of Afzal and Ahmad [26], Libby [27], and Gersten et al. [28], which are all general studies in the stagnation region of a body. Recently, Mohammadiun and Rahimi [29] and Mohammadiun et al. [30] considered the stagnation-point flow and heat transfer of a viscous, compressible fluid problem on a stationary circular cylinder.

All the studies mentioned above consider the axisymmetric flow and heat transfer and none has considered the effect of flow being non-axisymmetric, except [31] which is for the moving cylinder. In the present analysis, the problem of non-axisymmetric stagnation-point flow and heat transfer of a viscous fluid on a stationary cylinder with non-uniform transpiration and constant wall temperature are considered for the first time. A reduction in Navier-Stokes and energy equations is obtained by use of appropriate similarity transformations. The semi-similar solution of these equations is obtained numerically using an implicit finite-difference scheme. All the solutions above are presented for Reynolds number,  $Re = \bar{k}a^2/2\nu$ , ranging from 0.01 to 100 for different values of Prandtl number and for selected values of transpiration rate function,  $S(\varphi) = U_0(\varphi)/\bar{k}a$ , where  $a$  is cylinder radius and  $\nu$  is kinematic viscosity of the fluid. Dimensionless shear-stresses corresponding to all the cases increase with increase in Reynolds number and transpiration rate function. The local coefficient of heat transfer (Nusselt number) increases with increasing transpiration rate function and Prandtl number.



**Figure 1.** Schematic diagram of a stationary cylinder under radial stagnation flow.

## 2. Problem formulation

Flow is considered in cylindrical coordinates  $(r, \varphi, z)$  with corresponding velocity components  $(u, v, w)$ ; see Figure 1. An external axisymmetric radial stagnation-point flow of strain rate  $\bar{k}$  impinges on the cylinder of radius  $a$ , centered at  $r = 0$ . Because of existence of a selected transpiration function shown below, a laminar steady incompressible flow is formed and heat transfer of a viscous fluid happens in the neighborhood of a non-axisymmetric stagnation point of a stationary infinite circular cylinder with constant wall temperature.

The steady Navier-Stokes and energy equations in cylindrical polar coordinates governing the non-axisymmetric incompressible flow and heat transfer are as follows [32]:

Mass:

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial r} + \frac{u}{r} + \frac{\partial w}{\partial z} = 0. \quad (1)$$

$r$ -momentum:

$$u \frac{\partial u}{\partial r} + w \frac{\partial u}{\partial z} = -\frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial p}{\partial r} + v \left[ \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial r^2} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial u}{\partial r} - \frac{u}{r^2} + \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial \varphi^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial z^2} \right]. \quad (2)$$

$z$ -momentum:

$$u \frac{\partial w}{\partial r} + w \frac{\partial w}{\partial z} = -\frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial p}{\partial z} + v \left[ \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial r^2} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial w}{\partial r} + \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial \varphi^2} + \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial z^2} \right]. \quad (3)$$

Energy:

$$u \frac{\partial T}{\partial r} + w \frac{\partial T}{\partial z} = \alpha \left[ \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial r^2} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial T}{\partial r} + \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial \varphi^2} + \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial z^2} \right], \quad (4)$$

where  $p$ ,  $\rho$ ,  $\nu$ , and  $T$  are the fluid pressure, density,

kinematic viscosity, and temperature inside the boundary layer and after occurrence of the impingement, respectively. The boundary conditions for the velocity field are:

$$\begin{aligned} u(r, 0) &= u(r, 2\pi), \\ r = a : \quad w &= 0, \quad u = -U_0(\varphi). \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

And the two boundary conditions with respect to  $\varphi$  are:

$$r \rightarrow \infty : \quad w = 2\bar{k}z, \quad u = -\bar{k} \left( r - \frac{a^2}{r} \right), \quad (6)$$

$$\frac{\partial u(r, 0)}{\partial \varphi} = \frac{\partial u(r, 2\pi)}{\partial \varphi}, \quad (7)$$

in which, Eq. (5) represents no-slip conditions on the cylinder wall and the relations in Eq. (6) show that the viscous flow solution approaches, in a manner analogous to the Hiemenz flow, the potential flow solution as  $r \rightarrow \infty$  [12]. This can be confirmed by starting from continuity equation as the following:

$$-\frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r}(ru) \frac{\partial w}{\partial z} = \text{Constant} = 2\bar{k}z,$$

and integrating it in  $r$  and  $z$  directions with boundary conditions:  $w = 0$  when  $z = 0$ ; and  $u = -U_0(\varphi)$  when  $r = a$ .

For the temperature field, we have:

$$\begin{aligned} r = a : \quad T &= T_w = \text{Constant}, \\ r \rightarrow \infty : \quad T &\rightarrow T_\infty. \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

The two boundary conditions with respect to  $\varphi$  are:

$$\begin{aligned} T(r, 0) &= T(r, 2\pi), \\ \frac{\partial T(r, 0)}{\partial \varphi} &= \frac{\partial T(r, 2\pi)}{\partial \varphi}, \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

where,  $T_w$  is the cylinder surface temperature and  $T_\infty$  is the free-stream temperature.

A reduction in the Navier-Stokes equations is obtained by applying the following similarity transformations:

$$\begin{aligned} u &= -\frac{\bar{k}a}{\sqrt{\eta}} f(\eta, \varphi), \quad w = 2\bar{k}f'(\eta, \varphi)z, \\ p &= \rho \bar{k}^2 a^2 P, \end{aligned} \quad (10)$$

where  $\eta = \left(\frac{r}{a}\right)^2$  is dimensionless radial variable. Transformations in Eq. (10) satisfy Eq. (1) automatically and their insertion into Eqs. (2) and (3) yields a coupled system of differential equations in terms of  $f(\eta, \varphi)$  and

an expression for the pressure:

$$\eta f''' + f'' + \frac{1}{4\eta} \frac{\partial^2 f'}{\partial \varphi^2} + \text{Re} [1 + ff'' - (f')^2] = 0, \quad (11)$$

$$\begin{aligned} P - P_0 &= -\frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{f^2}{\eta} \right) - \left( \frac{f'}{\text{Re}} \right) \\ &\quad - \frac{1}{4\text{Re}} \int_1^\eta \frac{1}{\eta^2} \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial \varphi^2} d\eta - 2 \left( \frac{z}{a} \right)^2, \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

where  $\text{Re} = \frac{\bar{k}a^2}{2\nu}$  is the Reynolds number and prime sign indicates differentiation with respect to  $\eta$ . From conditions in Eqs. (5)-(7), the boundary conditions for Eqs. (11) and (12) are obtained as follows:

$$\eta = 1 : \quad f'(1, \varphi) = 0, \quad f(1, \varphi) = S(\varphi), \quad (13)$$

$$\eta \rightarrow \infty : \quad f'(\infty, \varphi) = 1, \quad (14)$$

$$f(\eta, 0) = f(\eta, 2\pi), \quad \frac{\partial f(\eta, 0)}{\partial \varphi} = \frac{\partial f(\eta, 2\pi)}{\partial \varphi}, \quad (15)$$

in which,  $S(\varphi) = \frac{U_0(\varphi)}{\bar{k}a}$  is the transpiration rate function. Note that Eqs. (11) and (12) are the complete forms of Eqs. (9) and (11) in [15]. These equations are the same if transpiration rate is constant.

For the sake of brevity, only results for the selected values of  $S(\varphi) = \cos(\varphi)$  and  $S(\varphi) = \cos(2\varphi)$  are shown in this paper.

To transform the energy equation into a non-dimensional form, we introduce:

$$\theta(\eta, \varphi) = \frac{T(\eta, \varphi) - T_\infty}{T_w - T_\infty}. \quad (16)$$

Making use of Eqs. (10) and (16) in the energy equation, and with neglecting the small dissipation terms, we have:

$$\eta \theta'' + \theta' + \frac{1}{4\eta} \frac{\partial^2 \theta}{\partial \varphi^2} + \text{RePr} (f\theta') = 0, \quad (17)$$

with boundary conditions as:

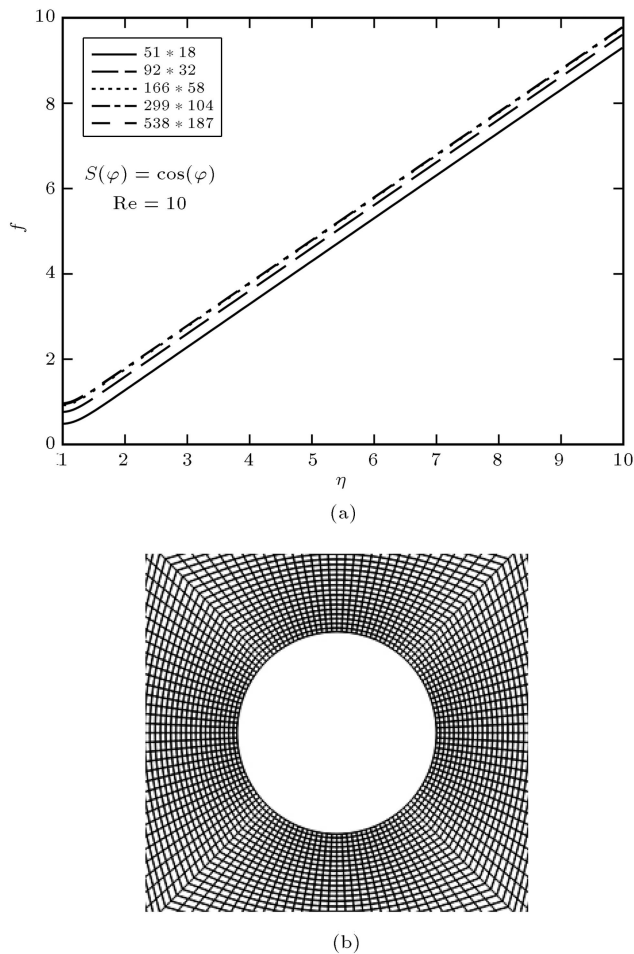
$$\eta = 1 : \quad \theta(1, \varphi) = 1,$$

$$\eta \rightarrow \infty : \quad \theta(\infty, \varphi) = 0, \quad (18)$$

$$\theta(r, 0) = \theta(r, 2\pi), \quad \frac{\partial \theta(r, 0)}{\partial \varphi} = \frac{\partial \theta(r, 2\pi)}{\partial \varphi}. \quad (19)$$

Note that Eq. (17) is the complete form of Eq. (14) in [15]. These equations are the same if transpiration rate is constant.

Eqs. (11) and (17), along with boundary conditions (13), (14), (15), (18), and (19), have been



**Figure 2.** (a) Sample profiles of  $f(\eta, \varphi)$  distributions on the cylinder for various mesh sizes at  $Re = 10$  and  $S(\varphi) = \cos(\varphi)$ . (b) Sample of grid system.

solved numerically by an implicit, iterative tri-diagonal finite difference method similar to that discussed by Blottner [33]. To assess the grid independence of the numerical scheme, the distributions of the function  $f(\eta, \varphi)$  against  $\eta$  on the cylinder were initially tested with different  $(\eta, \varphi)$  mesh sizes of  $51 \times 18$ ,  $92 \times 32$ ,  $166 \times 58$ ,  $299 \times 104$ , and  $538 \times 187$  in Figure 2(a). In this set of mesh sizes, as can be seen, the coefficient of 1.8 was used in each test to increase the number of mesh grids in both directions of  $\eta$  and  $\varphi$ . It was found that the variations of the function distributions,  $f(\eta, \varphi)$ , on the cylinder were not significant between  $(\eta, \varphi)$  and mesh sizes of  $(166 \times 58)$ ,  $(299 \times 104)$ , and  $(538 \times 187)$ . Hence, a grid of  $(299 \times 104)$  in  $\eta - \varphi$  directions was applied for the computational domain in the cylinder. Fine, non-uniform grid spacing was used in the  $\eta$ -direction to capture the rapid changes, such as grid lines, being closer packed near the walls. On the other hand, a uniform mesh was implemented in the  $\varphi$ -direction. Figure 2(b) illustrates a sample of computational meshes used in this investigation [34].

### 3. Shear-stress

The shear-stress at the cylinder surface is calculated from [12]:

$$\sigma = \mu \left[ \frac{\partial w}{\partial r} \right]_{r=a}, \quad (20)$$

where  $\mu$  is the fluid viscosity. Using Eq. (10), the shear stress at the cylinder surface for semi-similar solutions becomes:

$$\sigma = \mu \frac{2}{a} [2\bar{k}z f''(1, \varphi)] \Rightarrow \frac{\sigma a}{4\mu\bar{k}z} = f''(1, \varphi). \quad (21)$$

Results for  $\sigma a / 4\mu\bar{k}z$  against  $\varphi$  for different values of Reynolds number and transpiration rate functions will be presented later.

### 4. Heat transfer coefficient

The local heat transfer coefficient and rate of heat transfer for the defined wall temperature case are given by:

$$h = \frac{q_w}{T_w - T_\infty} = \frac{-k \left( \frac{\partial T}{\partial r} \right)_{r=a}}{T_w - T_\infty} = -\frac{2k}{a} \frac{\partial \theta(1, \varphi)}{\partial \eta}, \quad (22)$$

where:

$$q_w = -\frac{2k}{a} \frac{\partial \theta(1, \varphi)}{\partial \eta} (T_w - T_\infty),$$

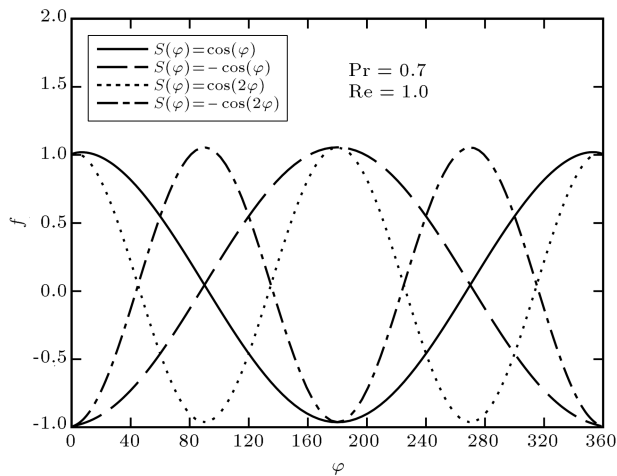
and in terms of Nusselt number:

$$Nu = \frac{ha}{2k} = -\theta'(1, \varphi). \quad (23)$$

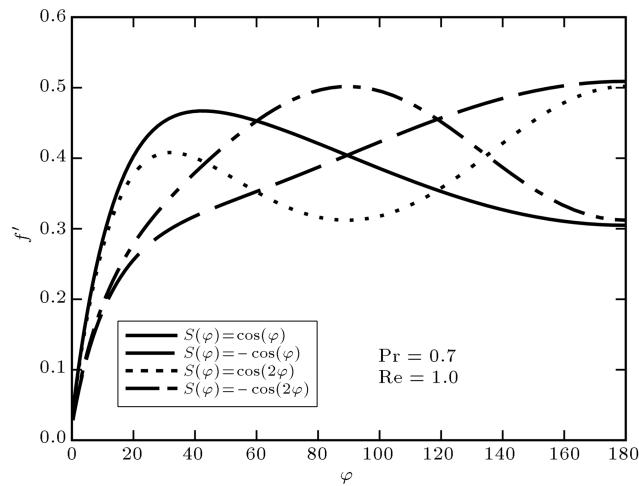
### 5. Presentation of results

In this section, solution of semi-similar Eqs. (11) and (17) along with surface shear stresses for prescribed values of surface temperature, with the selected values of Reynolds and Prandtl numbers and transpiration rate function, are presented. For the sake of brevity, only results for selected values of  $S(\varphi) = \cos(\varphi)$  and  $S(\varphi) = \cos(2\varphi)$  are shown in this paper:

- a)  **$S(\varphi) = \cos(\varphi)$ :** Effects of transpiration rate function on function  $f(\eta, \varphi)$  against  $\varphi$  for  $Pr = 0.7$  and selected value of Reynolds number,  $Re = 1.0$ , are shown in Figure 3. In this figure, negative  $S(\varphi)$  is blowing rate and positive  $S(\varphi)$  is the suction rate. It is evident from this figure that as transpiration rate function increases, the  $f$  function increases and if  $S(\varphi)$  decreases, the  $f$  function decreases. It is interesting to note that as  $S(\varphi)$  increases, the depth of diffusion of the fluid velocity field in radial direction increases. Sample profiles of

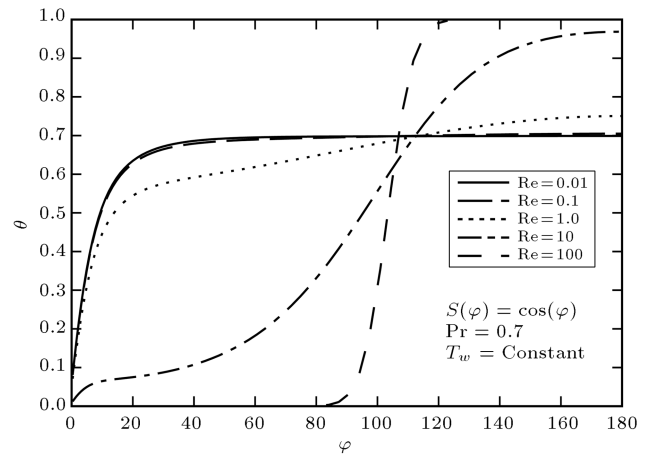


**Figure 3.** Variations of  $f(\eta, \varphi)$  in terms of  $\eta$  and  $\varphi$  at  $Pr = 0.7$  and  $Re = 1.0$ , for different values of transpiration rate function.

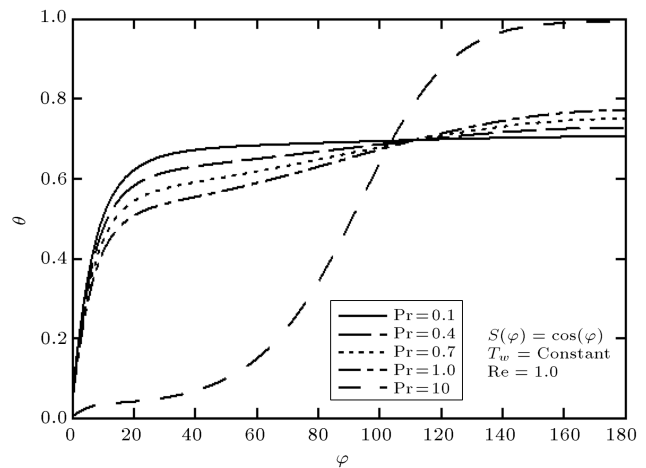


**Figure 4.** Variations of  $f'(\eta, \varphi)$  in terms of  $\eta$  and  $\varphi$  at  $Pr = 0.7$  and  $Re = 1.0$ , for different values of transpiration rate function.

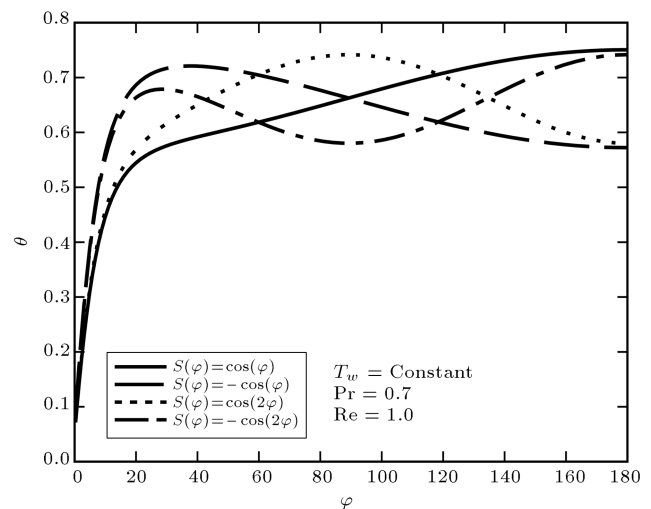
the  $f'(\eta, \varphi)$  function in terms of  $\varphi$  are depicted in Figure 4 for selected values of Reynolds number and transpiration rate function. From this figures, the initial slope of the  $f'$  function increases with increasing Reynolds number and transpiration rate function. In fact, the increase in transpiration rate function and Reynolds number decreases the thickness of the boundary layer. Effect of variation of Prandtl number and Reynolds number on  $\theta(\eta, \varphi)$  function in terms of  $\varphi$  for the case of constant surface temperature and  $S(\varphi) = \cos(\varphi)$  is shown in Figures 5 and 6. As Prandtl number and Reynolds number increase, the depth of diffusion of the thermal boundary layer decreases and therefore, the heat-transfer coefficient increases. Sample profiles of the  $\theta(\eta, \varphi)$  function in terms of  $\varphi$  for  $Re = 1.0$  and  $Pr = 0.7$  are presented in Figure 7 for selected values of transpiration rate function. It is seen that



**Figure 5.** Variations of  $\theta(\eta, \varphi)$  in terms of  $\eta$  and  $\varphi$  at  $Pr = 0.7$  and  $S(\varphi) = \cos(\varphi)$ , for different values of Reynolds number.

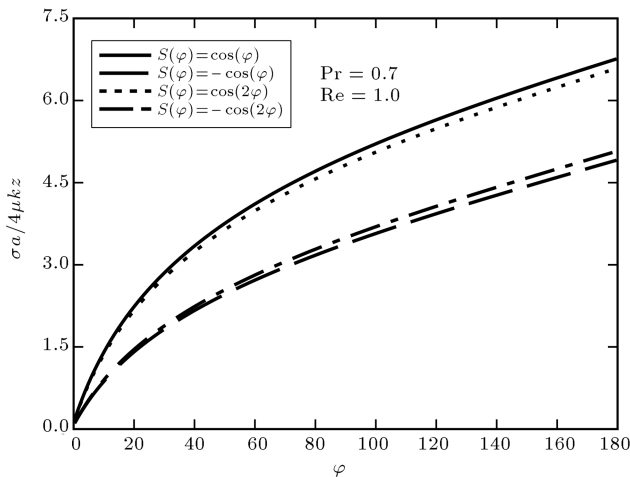


**Figure 6.** Variations of  $\theta(\eta, \varphi)$  in terms of  $\eta$  and  $\varphi$  at  $Re = 1.0$  and  $S(\varphi) = \cos(\varphi)$ , for different values of Prandtl number.

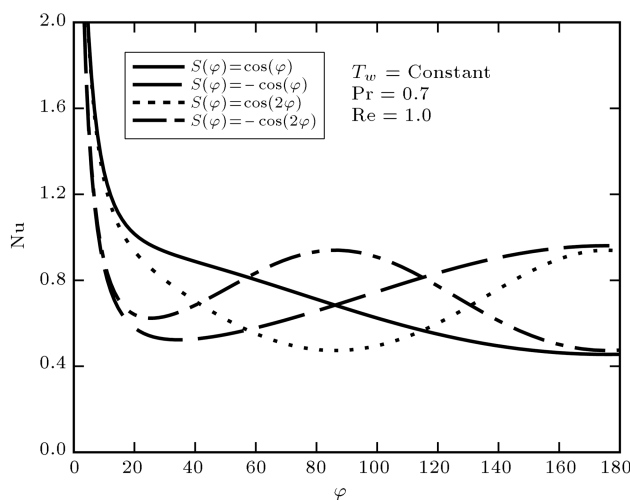


**Figure 7.** Variations of  $\theta(\eta, \varphi)$  in terms of  $\eta$ , and  $\varphi$  at  $Pr = 0.7$  and  $Re = 1.0$ , for different values of transpiration rate function.

as the rate of transpiration rate function increases, the depth of diffusion of the temperature field decreases and thus, the heat transfer coefficient increases. Sample profiles of surface shear stress against  $\varphi$  for  $Re = 1.0$ ,  $Pr = 0.7$ , and  $S(\varphi) = \cos(\varphi)$  are shown in Figure 8 for selected values of Reynolds number and transpiration rate function. The increase in transpiration rate function and Reynolds Number increases the wall shear stress in  $\varphi$  direction and on the other hand causes the value of fluid velocity in this direction to approach its value in inviscid flow, rapidly. In fact, the increase in transpiration rate function and Reynolds number decreases the thickness of the boundary layer. Sample profiles of the Nusselt number (local heat transfer coefficient) for  $Re = 1.0$ ,  $Pr = 0.7$ , and  $S(\varphi) = \cos(\varphi)$  are shown in Figure 9 for selected



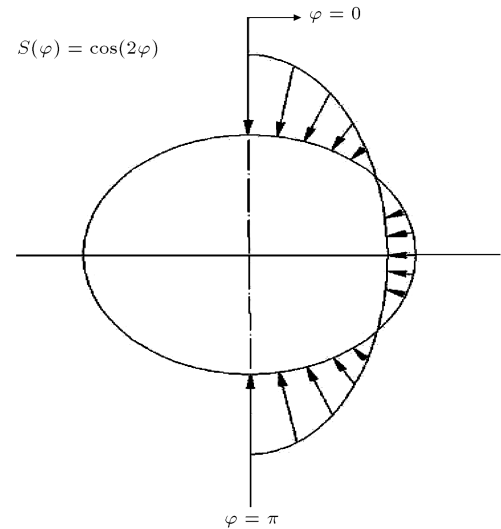
**Figure 8.** Variations of shear stress in terms of  $\varphi$  for different values of Reynolds number, and different values of transpiration rate function.



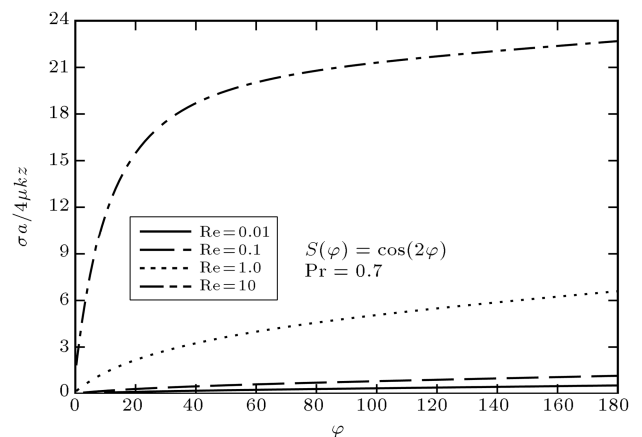
**Figure 9.** Variations of Nusselt number in terms of  $\varphi$  for different values of Prandtl number, and different values of transpiration rate function.

values of Prandtl number and transpiration rate function. Nusselt number increases as Prandtl number and transpiration rate function increase.

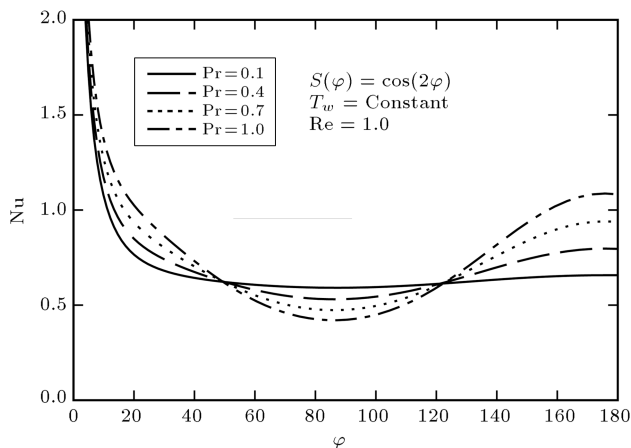
- b)  **$S(\varphi) = \cos(2\varphi)$ :** Sample profiles of surface shear stress against  $\varphi$  for  $Pr = 0.7$  and  $S(\varphi) = \cos(2\varphi)$  (drawn in Figure 10) are shown in Figure 11 for selected values of Reynolds number. The increase in Reynolds number increases the wall shear stress in  $\varphi$  direction and on the other hand, causes the value of fluid velocity in this direction to approach its value in inviscid flow, rapidly. In fact, the increase in Reynolds number decreases the thickness of the boundary layer. Sample profiles of the Nusselt number (local heat transfer coefficient) for  $Re = 1.0$  and  $S(\varphi) = \cos(2\varphi)$  are shown in Figure 12 for selected values of Prandtl number. Nusselt number increases as Prandtl number increases. To assist the fluid flow behavior, streamlines have been plotted in Figure 13 for



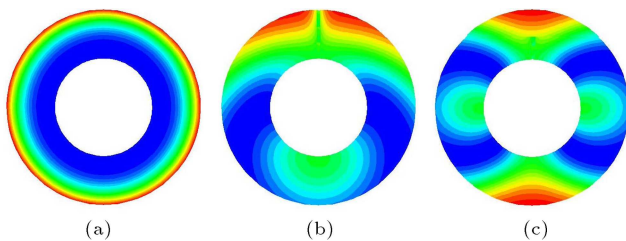
**Figure 10.** Schematic diagram of the transpiration function,  $S(\varphi) = \cos(2\varphi)$ .



**Figure 11.** Variations of shear stress in terms of  $\varphi$  for different values of Reynolds number.



**Figure 12.** Variations of shear stress in terms of  $\varphi$  for different values of transpiration rate function.



**Figure 13.** Variations of streamlines for different values of transpiration rate function at  $Re = 10$ : (a)  $S(\varphi) = 0$ ; (b)  $S(\varphi) = \cos(\varphi)$ ; and (c)  $S(\varphi) = \cos(2\varphi)$ .

different values of transpiration rate function at  $S(\varphi) = 0$ ,  $S(\varphi) = \cos(\varphi)$ ,  $S(\varphi) = \cos(2\varphi)$ , and  $Re = 10$ .

## 6. Conclusions

The steady-state viscous flow and heat transfer in the vicinity of a non-axisymmetric stagnation point of an infinite stationary cylinder with non-uniform normal transpiration  $U_0(\varphi)$  and constant wall temperature have been investigated. Numerical solutions of the Navier-Stokes equations and energy equation have been derived in this problem. A reduction in these equations has been obtained by use of appropriate similarity transformations. The semi-similar solution of the Navier-Stokes equations and energy equation has been obtained numerically using an implicit finite-difference scheme. All the solutions above have been presented for Reynolds number ranging from 0.01 to 100 for different values of Prandtl number and for selected values of transpiration rate function. For all transpiration rate functions, with increase in Reynolds number, both components of the velocity field increase and for all transpiration rate functions, with increase in Prandtl number, the temperature field decreases. Dimensionless shear stresses corresponding to all the cases increase with increase in Reynolds number and

transpiration rate function. The local coefficient of heat transfer (Nusselt number) increases with the increasing transpiration rate function and Prandtl number. For the case of axisymmetric stagnation-point flow,  $f = f(\eta)$ ,  $f' = f'(\eta)$ , and  $S(\varphi) = 0$  or  $\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial \varphi^2} = 0$ ,  $\frac{\partial^2 f'}{\partial \varphi^2} = 0$ , and  $\frac{\partial^2 \theta}{\partial \varphi^2} = 0$ , and similarity variables and components of velocity by Wang [5], as well as energy equation by Gorla [7] and Saleh and Rahimi [15], are reached.

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