



Cooling a hot obstacle in a rectangular enclosure by using a MHD nanofluid with variable properties

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Abstract

In this study, the cooling of a hot obstacle in a rectangular cavity filled with water-CuO nanofluid is examined numerically. This cavity has an inlet and outlet, and the cold nanofluid comes from the left side of the cavity and goes out from the opposite side, after cooling the hot obstacle. All walls are insulated, and the SIMPLER algorithm is employed for solving the governing equations. The effects of fluid inertia, the magnetic field strength, the volume fraction of nanoparticles, and the place of the outlet on the heat transfer rate are scrutinized. According to the results, the average Nusselt number builds up as the outlet place goes down. In other words, when the outlet is located at the bottom of the cavity, the rate of the heat transfer is maximum. Moreover, by increasing the Reynolds number and volume fraction of nanoparticles, the average Nusselt number builds up as well.

1. Introduction

As far as conventional fluids have low thermal conductivity, they have limited the heat transfer rate in industry. Therefore, for enhancing the heat transfer, using nanofluid, dilute suspensions of nanoparticles in liquids, can be introduced as a practical approach. Quite a few studies have been conducted and devoted to extract empirical models for nanofluids and using these models in practical examples in nature and industry. Besides, introducing some applications of nanofluids in cooling systems is a recent and hot research topic that attracted the attention of different researchers [1-8]. Aghaei et al. [2] considered a trapezoidal enclosure and by employing the the finite volume method, they

scrutinized the velocity field and temperature distribution in such enclosure. The working fluid was water accompanied by Cu nanoparticles which leads to considering the magnetic field in the enclosure. They found out that volume fraction of nanoparticles has a direct effect on increasing the Nusselt number and entropy generation, whilst this behaviour is reversed for the Hartmann number; and as the Hartmann number augments, both of the aforementioned numbers will be reduced. In another numerical simulation, Abbaszadeh et al. [1] employed KKL model for CuO-water nanofluid in order to consider the effects of the brownian motions of nanoparticles. The algorithm which they used was SIMPLER with the aim of finite volume method in order to solve the set of naverir-stokes

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equations (for obtaining the flow field) and energy equation (for measuring the temperature field). As far as their problem geometry was a parallel plate microchannel, they considered the slip boundary condition in their walls, and magnetic field effects is reflected in their study by the Hartmann number. They demonstrated that increasing the fluid inertia force, the nanoparticles density and magnetic field effect will cause an increment in total entropy generation and the average Nusselt number. In another study, Ababaei et al. [9] with the goal of finding the optimum location of the impediments for enhancing the heat transfer rate inside a microchannel, employed the FVM numerical method. In their study, the working nanofluid was Al_2O_3 -water whose characteristics have been obtained by Khanafer and Vafaei's [10] model that is a variable properties model. Again, they endorsed that increasing the momentum of the nanofluid will result in the enhancement of the heat transfer inside the microchannel. Therefore, it would be beneficial if we keep the Reynolds number high enough to augment the Nusselt number. With the same reason, the total entropy generation would be increased. Very recently, Hashim et al. [11] studied the heat transfer enhancement of Al_2O_3 -water inside a wavy cavity using finite element numerical method. They did partial heating from the bottom wall whilst the side wavy walls were isothermal and the top wall was insulated. They used different types of oscillations for the wavy walls to find the optimum case in terms of increasing the Nusselt number. They showed that nanoparticles caused an increase in the heat transfer rate inside the cavity.

The literature review clarifies that the problem of cooling a hot square-shaped obstacle inside an enclosure has not received considerable attention. Thus, the principle objective of the current study is to analyze the cooling of a hot obstacle numerically whilst the magnetic field effects are reflected in the enclosure. The enclosure walls are insulated and the effects of fluid inertia, magnetic field strength, volume fraction of nanoparticles, and the place of outlet on heat transfer rate have been scrutinized. The study has been conducted for $\text{Re}=1-100$, $\text{Ha}=0-40$, and $\phi=0-4\%$.

2. Mathematical formulation

The geometry of the enclosure is shown in Fig. 1. The cold nanofluid enters from the left side and after cooling the hot impediment, it goes out from the opposite site. All of the enclosure walls are insulated and the ratio of the length to width of the enclosure is two. The working nanofluid is MHD CuO-water nanofluid (Table 1).

The Navier-Stokes equations accompanied by energy equations for laminar and forced convection of the nanofluid flow are given by:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x}(\rho_{nf}u) + \frac{\partial}{\partial y}(\rho_{nf}v) = 0 \quad (1)$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x}(uu) + \frac{\partial}{\partial y}(vu) = \frac{1}{\rho_{nf}} \times \left[-\frac{\partial p}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(\mu_{nf} \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left(\mu_{nf} \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} \right) - \sigma_{nf} B_0^2 u \right] \quad (2)$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x}(uv) + \frac{\partial}{\partial y}(vv) = -\frac{1}{\rho_{nf}} \frac{\partial p}{\partial y} + \quad (3)$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(\nu_{nf} \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} \right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left(\nu_{nf} \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} \right)$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x}(uT) + \frac{\partial}{\partial y}(vT) = \quad (4)$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(\alpha_{nf} \frac{\partial T}{\partial x} \right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left(\alpha_{nf} \frac{\partial T}{\partial y} \right)$$

and v are representative of velocity fields in this 2D environment in x and y directions, respectively. Dynamic viscosity is μ , electrical conductivity is σ , fluid density is ρ , c_p is heat capacity at constant pressure, and k is the thermal conductivity.

The dimensionless parameters for casting the mentioned equations into the non-dimensional form are as follows:

$$(X, Y) = \frac{(x, y)}{L}, \quad (U, V) = \frac{(u, v)L}{\alpha_{bf}}, \quad (5)$$

$$\theta = \frac{T - T_c}{\Delta T}, \quad P = \frac{\rho L^2}{\rho_{nf} \alpha_{bf}^2}$$

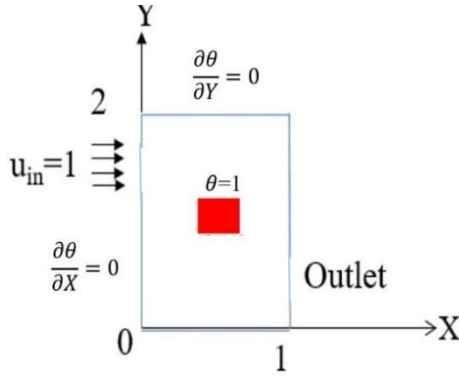


Fig. 1. Problem configuration.

Table 1. Thermo-physical properties of water as base fluid and CuO nanoparticles [12].

	ρ (kg/m ³)	c_p (J/kgK)	k (W/m K)	d_{np} (nm)	σ (Ω m) ⁻¹
Pure water	997.1	4179	0.613	-	0.05
CuO	6500	540	18	29	10 ⁻¹⁰

where $\Delta T = T_h - T_c$. Hence, the representation of the non-dimensionalized equations is:

$$\frac{\partial U}{\partial X} + \frac{\partial V}{\partial Y} = 0 \quad (6)$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial X}(UU) + \frac{\partial}{\partial Y}(VU) = -\frac{\partial P}{\partial X} + \quad (7)$$

$$\frac{\rho_{bf}}{\rho_{nf}\mu_{bf}} \frac{1}{\text{Re}} \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial X} \left(\mu_{nf} \frac{\partial U}{\partial X} \right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial Y} \left(\mu_{nf} \frac{\partial U}{\partial Y} \right) \right] - \frac{\sigma_{nf}}{\sigma_{bf}} \frac{\rho_{bf}}{\rho_{nf}} \frac{\text{Ha}^2}{\text{Re}} U$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial X}(UV) + \frac{\partial}{\partial Y}(VV) = -\frac{\partial P}{\partial Y} + \quad (8)$$

$$\frac{\rho_{bf}}{\rho_{nf}\mu_{bf}} \frac{1}{\text{Re}} \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial X} \left(\mu_{nf} \frac{\partial V}{\partial X} \right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial Y} \left(\mu_{nf} \frac{\partial V}{\partial Y} \right) \right]$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial X}(U\theta) + \frac{\partial}{\partial Y}(V\theta) = \frac{(\rho c_p)_{bf}}{k_{bf}(\rho c_p)_{nf}} \times \quad (9)$$

$$\frac{1}{\text{RePr}} \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial X} \left(k_{nf} \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial X} \right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial Y} \left(k_{nf} \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial Y} \right) \right]$$

The Reynolds, Hartmann and Prandtl numbers are defined, respectively, as:

$$\text{Re} = \frac{u_0 L}{\nu_{bf}}; \quad \text{Ha} = B_0 L \sqrt{\frac{\sigma_{bf}}{\mu_{bf}}}; \quad \text{Pr} = \frac{\nu_{bf}}{\alpha_{bf}} \quad (10)$$

The density, the heat capacity, the volume expansion coefficient [2] and the diffusivity coefficient of the nanofluid are calculated as:

$$\rho_{nf} = (1-\phi)\rho_f + \phi\rho_s \quad (11)$$

$$(\rho c_p)_{nf} = (1-\phi)(\rho c_p)_f + \phi(\rho c_p)_s \quad (12)$$

$$(\rho\beta)_{nf} = (1-\phi)(\rho\beta)_f + \phi(\rho\beta)_s \quad (13)$$

$$\alpha_{nf} = \frac{k_{nf}}{(\rho c_p)_{nf}} \quad (14)$$

In the Maxwell and Brinkman model, the viscosity [13] and thermal conductivity coefficient [14] dependent on the volume fraction of nanofluid are obtained from Eqs. (15) and (16).

$$\mu_{nf} = \mu_f (1-\phi)^{-2.5} \quad (15)$$

$$k_{nf} = k_f \left[\frac{(k_s + 2k_f) - 2\phi(k_f - k_s)}{(k_s + 2k_f) + \phi(k_f - k_s)} \right] \quad (16)$$

In Koo and Kleinstreuer model [15], the thermal conductivity coefficient and viscosity are also dependent on the temperature and the Brownian motion of nanoparticles. In this model, the thermal conductivity coefficient and viscosity are obtained from Eqs. (17) and (18), respectively. The static part of the thermal conductivity coefficient and viscosity are obtained from Eqs. (15) and (16), respectively, and the Brownian part of the thermal conductivity coefficient and viscosity are calculated from Eqs. (15-18).

$$\mu_{nf} = \mu_{static} + \mu_{Brownian} \quad (17)$$

$$k_{nf} = k_{static} + k_{Brownian} \quad (18)$$

where

$$k_{Brownian} = 5 \times 10^4 \lambda \phi \rho_f c_{p,f} \sqrt{\frac{\kappa T}{\rho_s d_p}} \zeta(T, \phi) \cdot \rho_s$$

and d_p are density and the radius of the nanoparticles, respectively. For the water-CuO nanofluid, the λ and ζ functions are estimated experimentally, and for the interval of $300 < T(K) < 325$,

$$\begin{aligned}\lambda &= 0.0137(100\varphi)^{-0.8229} \text{ for } \varphi \leq 1\% \\ \lambda &= 0.0011(100\varphi)^{-0.7272} \text{ for } \varphi > 1\%\end{aligned}\quad (19)$$

κ is the Boltzmann constant

($\kappa = 1.3807 \times 10^{-23} \text{ J/K}$). μ_{Brownian} is also obtained from the following relation:

$$\mu_{\text{Brownian}} = \frac{k_{\text{Brownian}}}{k_f} \times \frac{\mu_f}{Pr} \quad (20)$$

The local Nusselt number is:

$$Nu = - \left(\frac{k_{nf}}{k_f} \right) \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial n} \bigg|_{\text{wall}} \quad (21)$$

where n is the normal direction from the hot obstacle. Thus, the average Nusselt number can be calculated by integrating Eq. (21) along the hot obstacle:

$$Nu_{av} = \frac{\int_L Nu dL}{\int_L dL} \quad (22)$$

3. Numerical implementation

The numerical method used in this study is called SIMPLER algorithm and Finite Volume Method (FVM). In this method, initially, a fine grid should be defined over the problem domain and around each node, a volume is considered. Then, after integrating and discretizing equations, the PDEs will be simplified. Then, with the help of line-by-line TDMA solver, the discretized equations are solved.

3.1. Grid independence test

If the results of a numerical simulation depends on the grids size, the accuracy of the results will be overshadowed. Thus, we run a grid independency test to ensure the accuracy of the results. Our test is for CuO-water nanofluid in the enclosure at $Re=100$ and $Ha=0$. The obtained average Nusselt number for different grids is presented in Table 2. It shows that 41×81 is the most suitable grid size, which ensures grid independency.

Table 2. Average Nusselt number in $Ha = 40$ and $Re = 10$ $\phi = 0.03$.

Grid size	Nu_{av}	Relative difference
41×21	19.14	-
81×41	16.10	13.46
161×81	16.38	1.74

3.2. Computer program verification

In order to ascertain the validity of the computer used in this study, some cases of Xu et al. [16] are modeled with the current program and their results are evaluated in Fig. 3. Also, the geometry of the Xu et al. [16] is presented in Fig. 2. In Fig. 3 the streamlines are depicted as the Lewis number changes. The plots show an excellent conformance between our simulation and those of Xu et al. [16] which ensures the accuracy of the modeling results. Also, it should be noted that the ratio of thermal diffusivity to mass diffusivity is considered as the Lewis number.

4. Results and discussion

In the present numerical study, navire-stokes and energy equations have been solved in an enclosure filled with water-CuO nanofluid. There is a hot obstacle in the middle of the enclosure and all of the walls of the enclosure are adiabatic. Different dimensionless parameters such as Re , Ha , and φ have been considered as the inputs and their influence has been monitored by calculating the Nu_{avg} . This study was conducted for $Re=1-100$, $Ha=0-40$, and $\varphi=0-4\%$.

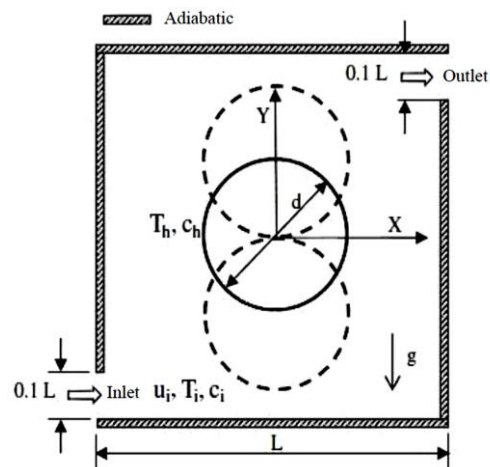


Fig. 2. The geometry of the Xu et al. [16].

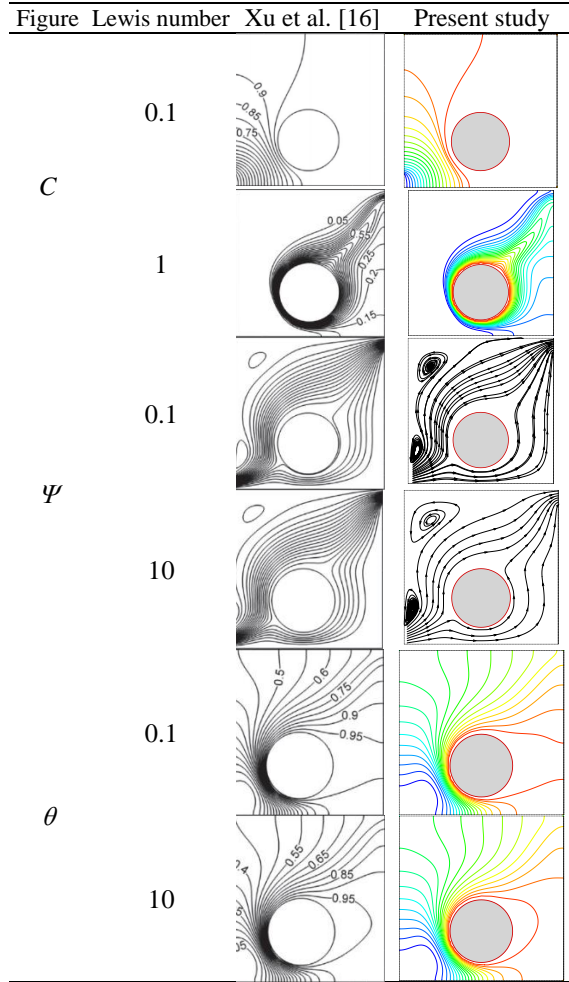


Fig. 3. Comparisons of the present study and the study of Xu et al [16].

4.1. The effects of the outlet place

Streamlines and isothermal lines versus the outlet place of the enclosure is displayed in Fig. 4 for $Re=10$, $Ha=20$, and $\phi=4\%$. Generally, when the outlet is at the bottom of the cavity, the streamlines are more irregular and as a result, the velocity of the nanofluid is higher. Furthermore, when the outlet is located at the top of the cavity, most of the streamlines exit from the cavity directly and the intensity of the flow in the bottom of the obstacle is low. However, when the outlet is placed at the bottom of the cavity, the flow is divided symmetrically between both sides of the hot obstacle that shows the intensity of the flow is the same at the both sides of the obstacle. Moreover, the streamlines for the nanofluid and pure fluid have no visible difference.

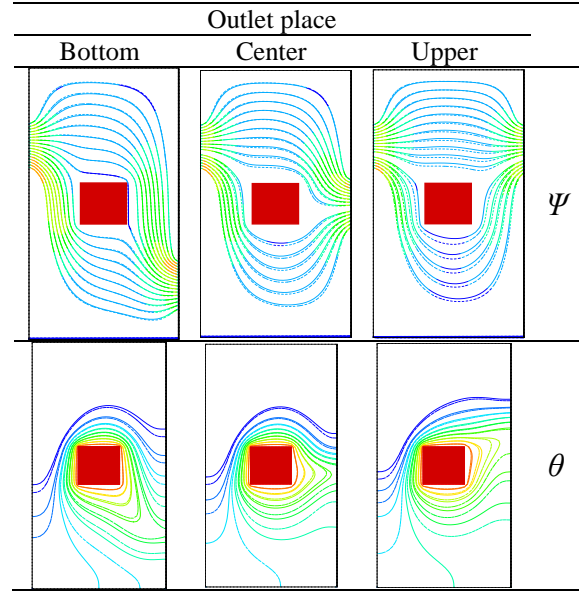


Fig. 4. Streamlines and isothermal lines versus the outlet place of the enclosure in $Re=10$, $Ha=20$, and $\phi=4\%$ for nanofluid (—) and pure fluid (---).

Regarding the isothermal lines, in all cases, the isothermal lines are drawn from the hot obstacle to the outlet. Moreover, when the outlet is located at the top of the cavity, a cold region is seen at the top of the obstacle; and when the outlet goes down, the dimension of this region increases significantly and as a result, the cold lines enter around the hot obstacle. This phenomenon leads to compressing the isotherm lines over the hot obstacle and as a result, the temperature gradient through the cavity increases and finally, the rate of heat transfer augments. Furthermore, the isothermal lines for pure fluid are closer to the hot obstacle in comparison to isothermal lines for nanofluid due to the fact that the diffusivity of fluid is lower than nanofluid ($\alpha_{bf} < \alpha_{nf}$).

Fig. 5 shows the heat transfer rate on the hot surfaces of the obstacle in terms of outlet place in $Re=20$, $Ha=10$, and $\phi=4\%$. As it is crystal clear from this figure, the Nu_{avg} decreases as the place of the outlet goes down.

In Fig. 6, the local Nusselt number variations on the upper and bottom surfaces of the hot obstacle in terms of outlet place are illustrated in $Re=20$, $Ha=10$, and $\phi=4\%$. Generally, the local Nusselt number is more in the upper surface of the obstacle than the lower surface as far as the

fluid, which reaches the top surface, is colder than the fluid, which reaches the lower surface; and as a result, in the top surface the heat capacity is by far more than the lower surface. In Fig. 7, variations of the local Nusselt number on the left and right surfaces of the hot obstacle in terms of outlet place are illustrated in $Re=20$, $Ha=10$, and $\varphi = 4\%$. . Generally, the Nu_{loc} is more in the left surface of the obstacle than the right surface since the fluid that reaches the left surface is colder than the fluid that reaches the right surface; as a result, in the left surface the heat capacity is by far more than the right surface.

4.2. Streamlines and isotherm lines

Variations of the streamlines for different hartmann and Reynolds numbers in $\varphi = 4\%$ are dispalyed in Fig. 8.

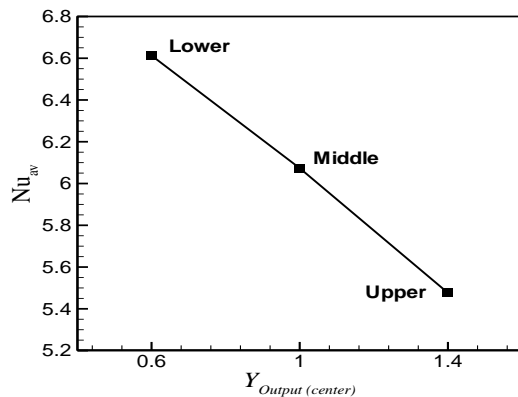


Fig. 5. Average Nusselt number variations on the hot surfaces of the obstacle in terms of outlet palce in $Re=20$, $Ha=10$, and $\varphi = 4\%$.

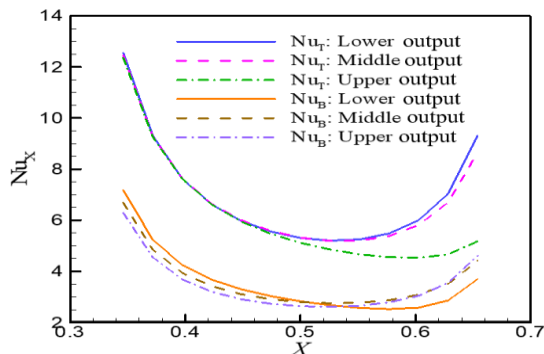


Fig. 6. Variations of the Nu_{loc} on the upper and bottom surfaces of the hot obstacle in terms of outlet place in $Re=20$, $Ha=10$, and $\varphi = 4\%$. .

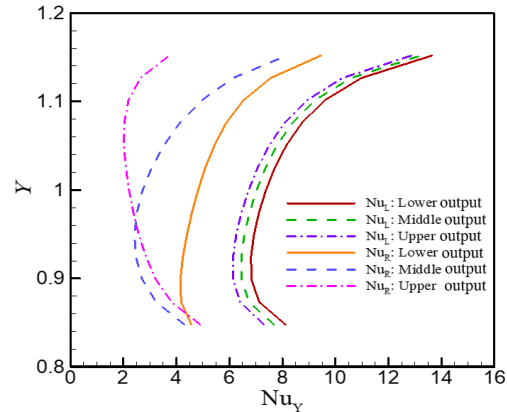


Fig. 7. Variations of the local Nusselt number on the left and right surfaces of the hot obstacle in terms of outlet place in $Re=20$, $Ha=10$, and $\varphi = 4\%$. .

In $Ha=0$ and when there is no magnetic field, by increasing the Reynolds number, the flow is not layered anymore and it is drawn to the outlet. In high Reynolds number, the momentum force are intensified and they overcome the viscosity forces and as a result, a second counter clockwise vortex is created at the top of the cavity; and as the Reynolds number augments, its dimension rises too. Moreover, in Hartmann numbers of 20 and 40, the variation of the Reynolds number have no visible effects on the flow and the flow is completely governed by the magnetic field since the flow becomes weaker as the Ha increases. Furthermore, by increasing the Hartmann number from 20 to 40, it is obvious that the deviation of the streamlines reduces and the flow is drawn to the walls. This phenomenon occurred as far as the magnetic forces have a direct but negative relationship with the velocity of thwe flow ($-\frac{Ha^2}{Re}U$). So, in regions where

the horizontal velocity is more, the magnetic forces weakens the flow more and the streamlines lose their deviations.

Fig. 9. shows the variations of the isothermal lines for different hartmann and Reynolds numbers in $\varphi = 4\%$ for nanofluid and base fluid. In $Re=1$ and in all of the Hartmann numbers, the flow is cold near the entrance and as it makes a contact with the hot obstacle, it becomes warmer; and the isothermal lines are spreaded through the cavity; and a lower temperature gradient is seen on the hot obstacle. By increasing the Reynolds number, the isothermal

lines are more compressed and the dimension of the cold region near the entrance augments. So, the isothermal lines approaches the hot obstacle more and more as the Reynolds number augments; and as a result, the heat transfer increases. It is worth mentioning that with the augmentation of the Hartmann number, the general pattern of the isothermal lines sees no changes. Finally, it should be noted that the temperature gradient on the hot obstacle is lower for nanofluid than pure fluid.

4. 3.Velocity profile and temperature field

Variations of the dimensionless temperature relative to the horizontal location in the central section of the enclosure in different Reynolds number for $Ha=20$, and $\varphi = 4\%$ are shown in Fig. 10.

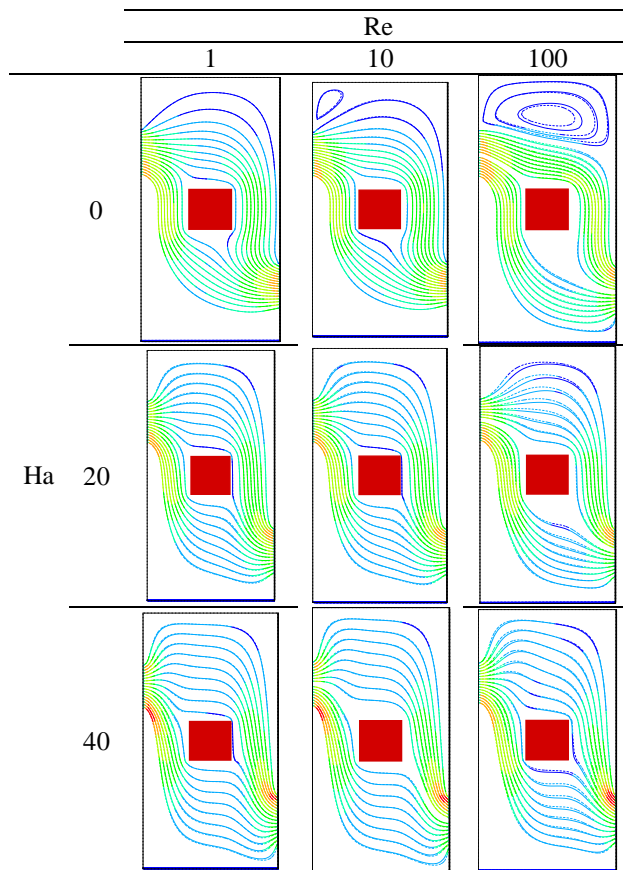


Fig. 8. Variations of the streamlines for different hartmann and Reynolds numbers in $\varphi = 4\%$. for nanofluid(—) and pure fluid(---).

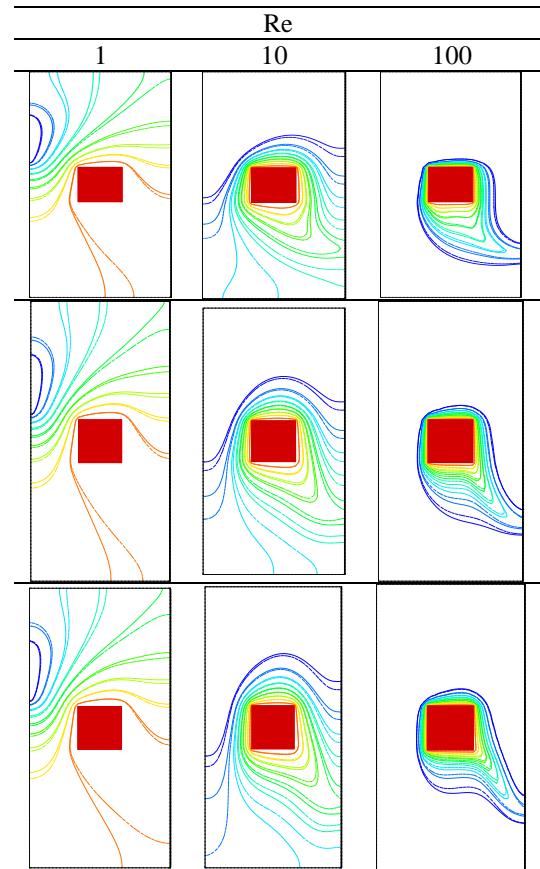


Fig. 9. Variations of the isothermal lines for different hartmann and Reynolds numbers in $\varphi = 4\%$. for nanofluid(—) and pure fluid(---).

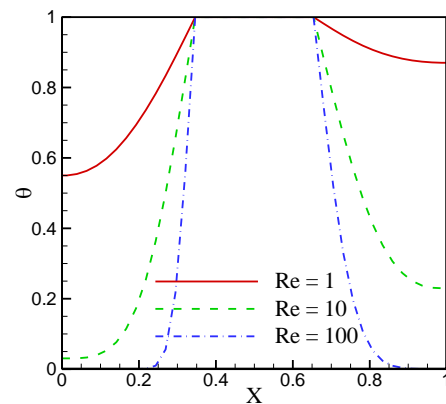


Fig. 10. Variations of the dimensionless temperature relative to the horizontal location in the central section of the enclosure in different Reynolds numbers for $Ha=20$, and $\varphi = 4\%$. .

According to this figure, by increasing the Reynolds number, the horizontal temperature gradient increases on the hot obstacle and as a

result, the heat transfer increases. In Fig. 11 and similar to the horizontal case, the vertical temperature gradient increases on the hot obstacle and as a result, the heat transfer increases. Figs. 12 and 13, show the variations of the dimensionless velocity relative to the horizontal and vertical location in the central section of the enclosure in different Reynolds numbers for $Ha=20$, and $\phi = 4\%$.

According to these figures, by increasing the Reynolds number from 1 to 10, no changes are seen as far as the magnetic forces have control over the flow. But, when the $Re=100$, the flow pattern changes somehow and the momentum forces increase.

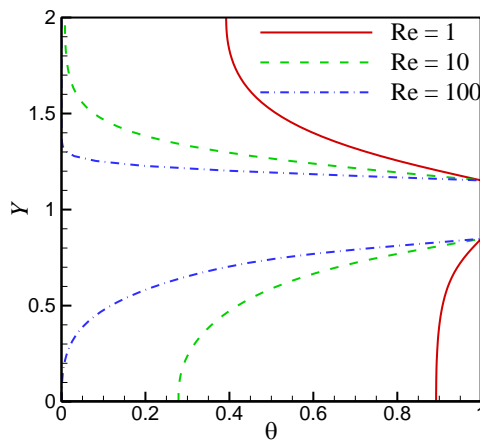


Fig. 11. Variations of the dimensionless temperature relative to the vertical location in the central section of the enclosure in different Reynolds for $Ha=20$, and $\phi = 4\%$.

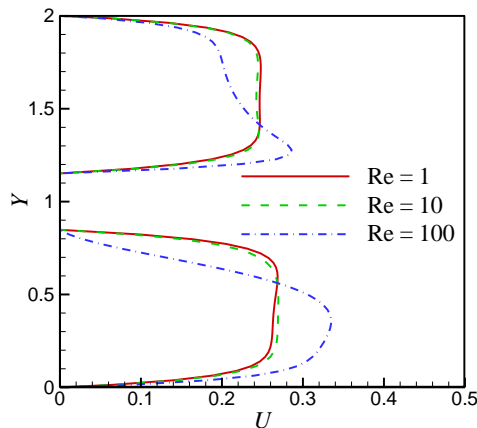


Fig. 12. Variations of the dimensionless velocity relative to the horizontal location in the central section of the enclosure in different Reynolds numbers for $Ha=20$, and $\phi = 4\%$.

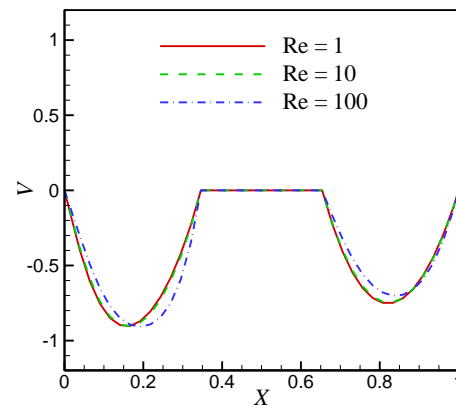


Fig. 13. Variations of the dimensionless velocity relative to the vertical location in the central section of the enclosure in different Reynolds numbers for $Ha=20$, and $\phi = 4\%$.

4.4. Heat transfer rate

Fig. 14. illustrates the variations of the average heat transfer rate in terms of the Reynolds number in $Ha=20$ and in different volume fractions of nanoparticles. According to this figure, by increasing the Reynolds number, the Nusselt number and heat transfer augment since the temperature gradient increases over the hot obstacle. Also, increasing the volume fraction of nanoparticles results in the augmentation of the heat transfer. Furthermore, and based on Fig. 15. the average Nusselt number and heat transfer have an inversed relationship with the magnetic field force and increasing the Hartmann number leads to decreasing the heat transfer.

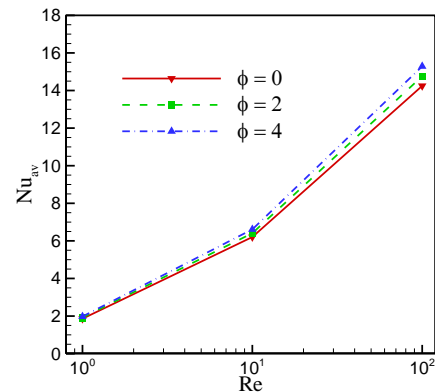


Fig. 14. Variations of the average Nusselt number in terms of Reynolds number in $Ha=20$ and in different volume fractions of nanoparticles.

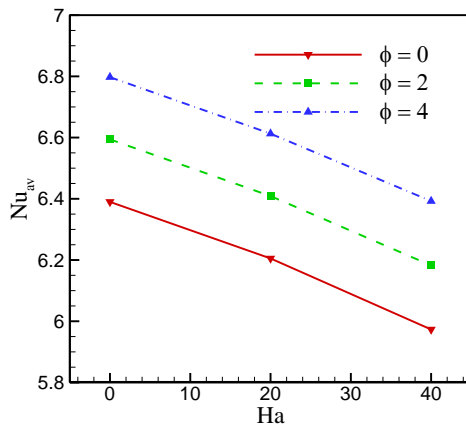


Fig. 15. Variations of the average Nusselt number in terms of Hartmann number in $Re=10$ and in different volume fractions of nanoparticles.

5. Conclusions

In this study, the SIMPLER algorithm and Finite Volume Method are employed to investigate the MHD effects on the flow structure and heat transfer of a water-CuO nanofluid in order to chill a hot obstacle inside a rectangular cavity. The walls of the cavity are insulated, and the effects of fluid inertia, magnetic field strength, volume fraction of nanoparticles on the heat transfer rate are investigated. The study is conducted for $Re=1-100$, $Ha=0-40$, and $\phi=0-4\%$. The results show that:

1. When the outlet is at the bottom of the cavity, the streamlines are more irregular, and as a result, the velocity of the nanofluid is more.
2. The Nu_{avg} decreases as the place of outlet goes down.
3. By increasing the Reynolds number, the horizontal temperature gradient increases on the hot obstacle, and as a result, the heat transfer increases.
4. The average Nusselt number and heat transfer have an inversed relationship with the Ha , and increasing the Ha leads to decrease the heat transfer.

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