



Flow and heat transfer past a permeable power-law deformable plate with orthogonal shear in a hybrid nanofluid

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Received 4 February 2020; revised 1 May 2020; accepted 21 May 2020
 Available online 4 June 2020

KEYWORDS
 Stretching/shrinking surface;
 Three dimensional;
 Hybrid nanofluid;
 Heat transfer;
 Dual solutions

Abstract This study concerns the three-dimensional hybrid nanofluid flow and heat transfer due to a deformable (stretching/shrinking) plate with power-law velocity and orthogonal surface shear. The flow due to the shrinking sheet is maintained with the imposition of wall mass suction. The effect of adding Cu and Al₂O₃ nanoparticles are represented by a homogeneous mixture model with the modified thermophysical properties. Two types of thermophysical properties for hybrid nanofluids are discussed and compared in this interesting work. The three-dimensional model is then, reduced into a relevant set of ordinary differential equations using similarity transformation. The results are generated using the bvp4c solver and presented in the tables and graphs. Duality of solutions are observed in both stretching and shrinking regions, however, only the first solution is proved to be stable and realistic. Surprisingly, the heat transfer rate augments when the power law velocity is used. The hybrid nanofluid with an upsurge of copper volume fraction also reduces the rate of heat transfer.

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 Peer review under responsibility of Faculty of Engineering, Alexandria University.

1. Introduction

Flow induced by a stretching sheet has been topic of interest for most researchers in the area of fluid dynamics due to its applicability in many industrial and engineering sectors. Crane

[1] focused on stretching flow with linear velocity and obtained the suited exact solution of the Navier-Stokes equations. Banks [2] reported the boundary layer solutions of flow due to a power-law stretching surface ($u = ax^n$) with zero pressure gradient. Later, Weidman [3] proposed three generalizations of Banks' power law stretching for three-dimensional flow; first extension by including an arbitrary transverse shear $\alpha(y)$ with $v = 0$ so that $u = ax^n\alpha(y)$, second extension by letting $u = a[x + \alpha(y)]^n$ with $v = 0$ and the last generalization by considering an orthogonal power-law shearing motion so that $u = ax^n$ and $v = bx^n$. Previously in 2013, Weidman [4] showed that a transpiration (suction) effect was necessary to induce the uniform shear flow while the combination of linear stretching and shear flows could exist without the transpiration. Weidman [5] investigated orthogonal linear stretching and shearing motions due to an impermeable surface while Weidman et al. [6] analyzed the rotating flow past an impermeable surface with biaxial linear stretching and shearing motions. Goldstein [7] discussed the behaviour of shrinking sheet which produced a backward or reverse flow. Different with stretching flow, the shrinking flow was shown to discontinue without the transpiration (suction) effect as discovered by Miklavčič and Wang [8]. They showed that no solution was attained when suction $s < 2$ (in their notation), unique at $s = 2$ and dual solutions when $s > 2$. Fang [9] investigated the boundary layer flow induced by a shrinking sheet with power-law or nonlinear velocity. Fang [9] found the existence of multiple solutions within the certain range of suction and power index controlling parameters. However, both literatures [8,9] did not report on the flow stability.

A new generation of fluid with good thermal performance is beneficial to fulfil the industrial or technological needs. Hybrid nanofluid combines a base fluid (i.e. water, ethylene glycol, mixture of ethylene glycol and water) with two different types of nanoparticles (i.e. metal oxides, metals, carbon materials). According to Suresh et al. [10], the combination of least and suitable amounts of copper nanoparticles into the alumina matrix could maintain the stability of the resulting hybrid nanofluid. Alumina nanoparticle has a good chemical inaction and stability although the thermal conductivity is lower than the copper nanoparticle. Mansoury et al. [11] analyzed the heat transfer performance of parallel flow heat exchangers using alumina-water nanofluid. They found that the double-pipe heat exchanger had the maximum heat transfer enhancement than the plate heat exchanger and two shell-and-tube heat exchangers. The natural convection heat transfer of CuO-water nanofluid in a U-shaped enclosure equipped by a baffle was numerically investigated by Ma et al. [12]. They showed that an increase in nanoparticle volume fraction led to the increment of average Nusselt number. Further, the reviews on the applications, preparation and thermophysical properties of the regular and hybrid nanofluids have been conducted by these researchers (see Jana et al. [13], Sarkar et al. [14], Sidik et al. [15], Akilu et al. [16], Babu et al. [17], Sundar et al. [18], Leong et al. [19], Humnic and Humnic [20] and Sajid and Ali [21]). Further, the research on hybrid nanofluids consisting of nano-encapsulated phase change materials also attract many researchers (see Ghalambaz et al. [22–24] and Hajjar et al. [25]). The heat transfer process related to a cavity also has been subject of interest due to its numerous engineering operations such as in heat

exchangers, HVAC (heating, ventilation and air conditioning) and building insulation. Chamkha et al. [26] performed the numerical simulation for hybrid Cu-Al₂O₃/water nanofluid flow and heat transfer from a cavity. Ghalambaz et al. [27] analyzed Ag-MgO hybrid nanofluid flow and heat transfer inside a porous square cavity using the local thermal non-equilibrium (LTNE) model. They found that the usage of hybrid nanoparticles reduced the flow strength and heat transfer rate. The thermogravitational convection of hybrid Al₂O₃-SiO₂/water nanofluid in a porous chamber was scrutinized by Sheremet et al. [28].

Devi and Devi [29,30] modified the thermophysical correlations for hybrid nanofluid and used them along with the single phase nanofluid mathematical model by Tiwari and Das [31] to stretching flow problems. The thermophysical properties had an excellent agreement with the existing experimental data by Suresh et al. [10]. This single phase model by Tiwari and Das [31] was frequently adopted because it featured the effect of governing nanoparticle volume fraction in heat transfer rate. However, this model was restricted to the spherical-shaped nanoparticle only [32]. For nanofluid particularly using Cu-Al₂O₃ hybrid nanoparticles, Waini et al. [33,34] reported the existence of dual solutions using nonlinear and linear stretching/shrinking plate velocity, respectively. Meanwhile, Waini et al. [35] studied the transpiration effects on hybrid nanofluid flow induced by power-law stretching/shrinking sheet with uniform shear flow. They also reported that the heat transfer rate enhanced for both stretching and shrinking cases with the accretion of copper volume fraction. However, Khashi'ie et al. [36] revealed that the enhancement of copper volume fractions could reduce the heat transfer rate for the shrinking case as a result of higher suction, which is in accordance with findings by Waini et al. [33,34]. Lund et al. [37] examined hybrid Cu-Al₂O₃/water nanofluid flow over a nonlinear shrinking sheet with the presence of viscous dissipation. They perceived two solutions and concluded that the increasing values of copper or alumina nanoparticles diminished the heat transfer rate. Other numerical works on hybrid nanofluid flow due to stretching and shrinking surfaces were also considered by Dinarvand et al. [38–40], Aly and Pop [41], Farooq et al. [42] and Khashi'ie et al. [43,44].

Therefore, inspired by the above-mentioned literatures, the present work focuses on the hybrid nanofluid flow and heat transfer induced by a power-law (nonlinear) stretching/shrinking plate with orthogonal surface shear as studied by Weidman [3]. The novelty of the present work is by including the energy equation (heat transfer observation) and utilizing the homogeneous mixture model with modified thermophysical properties as studied by Devi and Devi [29,30] to represent the hybrid Cu-Al₂O₃/water nanofluid which is not considered by Weidman [3] and other researchers. In the present investigation, 10% (0.1) alumina volumetric concentration is fixed whereas the effect of varied copper volumetric concentration and other parameters are investigated. The availability of two solutions are observed; hence the transpiration effect is also within the scope of study. The authors believe that no similar work has been considered or published by other researchers. The finding will benefit other researchers in predicting the behaviour of nanofluids (traditional and hybrid) flow and relevant parameters for heat transfer performance.

2. Mathematical formulation

The present work accentuates the extension of Banks [2] problem reported by Weidman [3] using Cu-Al₂O₃/water hybrid nanofluid. Consider the three-dimensional flow utilizing the Cartesian coordinate (x, y, z) where x and y are the streamwise and spanwise directions, respectively while z is normal to the plate as shown in Fig. 1. The corresponding velocities (u, v, w) are assumed align with the Cartesian coordinate (x, y, z). One of the generalization of Banks' power-law stretching by including an orthogonal power-law shearing motion of the sheet/plate (see Weidman [3]). The plate motion is $u_w = ax^n$ and $v_w = bx^n$. Further, it is assumed that the wall temperature (T_w) is constant and higher than the ambient temperature (T_∞) because the heat transfer process occurs from the plate to the ambient fluid.

The governing boundary layer equations are constituted by the continuity, streamwise and spanwise momentum equations together with the energy equation (see Weidman [3], Devi and Devi [29,30])

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial w}{\partial z} = 0, \tag{1}$$

$$u \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} + w \frac{\partial u}{\partial z} = \nu_{hnf} \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial z^2}, \tag{2}$$

$$u \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} + w \frac{\partial v}{\partial z} = \nu_{hnf} \frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial z^2}, \tag{3}$$

$$u \frac{\partial T}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial T}{\partial y} + w \frac{\partial T}{\partial z} = \alpha_{hnf} \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial z^2}, \tag{4}$$

while the boundary conditions are

$$\begin{aligned} u(x, y, 0) &= \lambda u_w, \quad v(x, y, 0) = \lambda v_w, \\ w(x, y, 0) &= w_0, \quad T(x, y, 0) = T_w, \end{aligned} \tag{5}$$

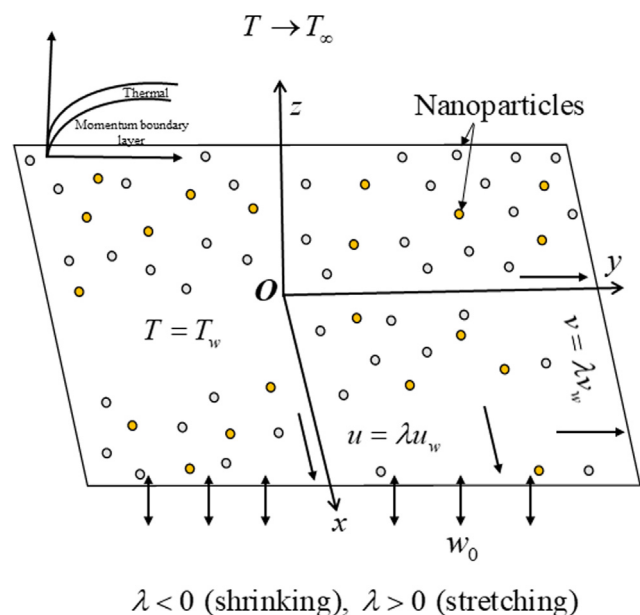


Fig. 1 The physical model and coordinate system.

$$u(x, y, z) \rightarrow u_w, \quad v(x, y, z) \rightarrow v_w, \quad T(x, y, z) \rightarrow T_\infty \text{ as } z \rightarrow \infty \tag{6}$$

where T is the hybrid nanofluid temperature, $\nu_{hnf} = \mu_{hnf} / \rho_{hnf}$ denotes the kinematic viscosity of the hybrid nanofluid, $\alpha_{hnf} = k_{hnf} / (\rho C_p)_{hnf}$ stands for the thermal diffusivity of the hybrid nanofluid while k_{hnf} , $(\rho C_p)_{hnf}$, μ_{hnf} and ρ_{hnf} represent the thermal conductivity, heat capacity, dynamic viscosity and density of the hybrid nanofluid, correspondingly. In addition, λ is the stretching/shrinking parameter (constant) with $\lambda > 0$ symbolizes the stretching sheet, $\lambda < 0$ for the shrinking sheet and $\lambda = 0$ refers to a static plate.

2.1. Thermophysical properties

The physical properties between nanofluid and hybrid nanofluid are elucidated in Table 1 where s, f, nf and hnf represent nanoparticles, regular fluid, mono and hybrid nanofluids, respectively. ϕ is the nanoparticles volume fraction; ϕ_1 stands for first nanoparticle volume fraction while ϕ_2 for second nanoparticle volume fraction. In the present work, we adopt the thermophysical properties for Cu-Al₂O₃/water hybrid nanofluid proposed by Devi and Devi [29,30] which has been validated with the experimental work of Suresh et al. [10]. Devi and Devi [29] fixed the volumetric concentration of alumina as $\phi_1 = 0.1$ (10%) while varied the volumetric concentration of copper nanoparticles. It is assumed that the alumina nanoparticles were dispersed into the pure water to form Al-water nanofluid. Copper nanoparticles were then added to create the Cu-Al₂O₃/water hybrid nanofluid. However, a few of pre-suppositions are also examined for the physical model:

- The nanofluid is assumed to be stable; hence the effect of nanoparticles aggregation and sedimentation is omitted.
- The nanoparticles are uniform with a spherical shape.
- The base fluid and nanoparticles are maintained in a thermal equilibrium state.

The thermo-physical properties of the water, alumina and copper nanoparticles as envisaged by Khanafer et al. [45] and Oztop and Abu-Nada [46] are exemplified in Table 2.

It is worth mentioning that there is also another practical correlations of hybrid nanofluids as discussed by Babu et al. [17], Takabi and Salehi [47], Ghalambaz et al. [48] and Tayebi and Chamkha [49]. In the model, the volume fraction of hybrid nanoparticles is represented by the addition of both nanoparticles such that $\phi_{hnf} = \phi_1 + \phi_2$ while the density, heat capacity, dynamic viscosity and thermal conductivity are summarized in Table 3.

2.2. Similarity transformation

According to Weidman [3], the continuity Eq. (1) is fulfilled if the similarity variables for the velocities are

$$\begin{aligned} u &= ax^n f(\eta), \quad v = bx^n g(\eta), \quad w = -\frac{\sqrt{ax^n}}{\mu} \left[nx^{n-1} f(\eta) + x^n \frac{\mu_x}{\mu} (\eta f'(\eta) - f(\eta)) \right], \\ \eta &= \sqrt{\frac{a}{\nu}} \mu(x) z, \end{aligned} \tag{7}$$

where $\mu = \mu(x)$ and $\mu_x = d\mu/dx$. Using (7), the x- and y-momentum equations (see Eqs. (2) and (3)) are

Table 1 The physical properties of nanofluid and hybrid nanofluid (see Devi and Devi [29,30]).

Properties	Nanofluid	Hybrid nanofluid
Density (ρ)	$\rho_{nf} = (1 - \phi)\rho_f + \phi\rho_s$	$\rho_{hnf} = (1 - \phi_2) \left[\frac{(1 - \phi_1)\rho_f}{\phi_1\rho_{s1}} \right] + \phi_2\rho_{s2}$
Heat Capacity (ρC_p)	$(\rho C_p)_{nf} = (1 - \phi)(\rho C_p)_f + \phi(\rho C_p)_s$	$(\rho C_p)_{hnf} = (1 - \phi_2) \left[\frac{(1 - \phi_1)(\rho C_p)_f}{\phi_1(\rho C_p)_{s1}} \right] + \phi_2(\rho C_p)_{s2}$
Dynamic Viscosity (μ)	$\frac{\mu_{nf}}{\mu_f} = \frac{1}{(1 - \phi)^{2.5}}$	$\frac{\mu_{hnf}}{\mu_f} = \frac{1}{(1 - \phi_1)^{2.5}(1 - \phi_2)^{2.5}}$
Thermal Conductivity (k)	$\frac{k_{nf}}{k_f} = \left[\frac{k_s + 2k_f - 2\phi(k_f - k_s)}{k_s + 2k_f + \phi(k_f - k_s)} \right]$	$\frac{k_{hnf}}{k_f} = \left[\frac{k_{s2} + 2k_{bf} - 2\phi_2(k_{bf} - k_{s2})}{k_{s2} + 2k_{bf} + \phi_2(k_{bf} - k_{s2})} \right]$ where $\frac{k_{bf}}{k_f} = \left[\frac{k_{s1} + 2k_f - 2\phi_1(k_f - k_{s1})}{k_{s1} + 2k_f + \phi_1(k_f - k_{s1})} \right]$

Table 2 Thermo-physical properties (see Khanafer et al. [45] and Oztop and Abu-Nada [46]).

Physical properties	Water	Al ₂ O ₃	Cu
ρ (kg/m ³)	997.1	3970	8933
C_p (J/kg K)	4179	765	385
k (W/mK)	0.6130	40	400

$$\left(\frac{\mu_{hnf}/\mu_f}{\rho_{hnf}/\rho_f} \right) \mu^2 f''' + \left(nx^{n-1} - \frac{\mu_x}{\mu} x^n \right) f f'' - nx^{n-1} f^2 = 0 \tag{8}$$

$$\left(\frac{\mu_{hnf}/\mu_f}{\rho_{hnf}/\rho_f} \right) \mu^2 g''' + \left(nx^{n-1} - \frac{\mu_x}{\mu} x^n \right) f g'' - nx^{n-1} f' g' = 0 \tag{9}$$

Following Weidman [3], to possess a similarity equation, the following term was adopted

$$\frac{\mu_x}{\mu} = \frac{Kn}{x} \tag{10}$$

and using integration by parts

$$\mu(x) = Cx^{Kn} \tag{11}$$

such that K and C are constants. Apply Eqs. (10) and (11) into the momentum equations in (8) and (9) so that

$$\left(\frac{\mu_{hnf}/\mu_f}{\rho_{hnf}/\rho_f} \right) f''' + \left(\frac{nx^{n-1} - Knx^{n-1}}{C^2 x^{2Kn}} \right) f f'' - \frac{nx^{n-1}}{C^2 x^{2Kn}} f^2 = 0 \tag{12}$$

$$\left(\frac{\mu_{hnf}/\mu_f}{\rho_{hnf}/\rho_f} \right) g''' + \left(\frac{nx^{n-1} - Knx^{n-1}}{C^2 x^{2Kn}} \right) f g'' - \frac{nx^{n-1}}{C^2 x^{2Kn}} f' g' = 0 \tag{13}$$

Hence, by letting the coefficients of $f f''$ and $f g''$ equal to 1,

$$K = \frac{n-1}{2n}, \quad C = \sqrt{\frac{n+1}{2}} \tag{14}$$

and Eqs. (12) and (13) are simplified into

$$\left(\frac{\mu_{hnf}/\mu_f}{\rho_{hnf}/\rho_f} \right) f''' + f f'' - \frac{2n}{n+1} f^2 = 0 \tag{15}$$

$$\left(\frac{\mu_{hnf}/\mu_f}{\rho_{hnf}/\rho_f} \right) g''' + f g'' - \frac{2n}{n+1} f' g' = 0 \tag{16}$$

Using (7), (10), (11) and (14), the same procedure is conducted to transform the energy Eq. (4) with $\theta(\eta) = \frac{T - T_\infty}{T_w - T_\infty}$, so that, we get

$$\frac{1}{Pr} \frac{k_{hnf}/k_f}{(\rho C_p)_{hnf}/(\rho C_p)_f} \theta'' + f \theta' = 0 \tag{17}$$

In addition, the mass flux parameter is given by

$$w_0 = -\frac{\sqrt{av_f}}{\mu(x)} \left(\frac{n+1}{2} \right) x^{n-1} S \tag{18}$$

and the transformed boundary conditions are

$$f(0) = S, \quad g(0) = 0, \quad f'(0) = g'(0) = \lambda, \quad \theta(0) = 1, \tag{19}$$

$$f'(\eta) \rightarrow 0, \quad g'(\eta) \rightarrow 0, \quad \theta(\eta) \rightarrow 0, \quad \text{as } \eta \rightarrow \infty$$

Table 3 The thermophysical correlations of hybrid nanofluids (see Babu et al. [17], Takabi and Salehi [47], Ghalambaz et al. [48] and Tayebi and Chamkha [49]).

Properties	Hybrid Nanofluid
Density (ρ)	$\rho_{hnf} = (1 - \phi_{hnf})\rho_f + \phi_1\rho_{s1} + \phi_2\rho_{s2}$
Heat Capacity (ρC_p)	$(\rho C_p)_{hnf} = (1 - \phi_{hnf})(\rho C_p)_f + \phi_1(\rho C_p)_{s1} + \phi_2(\rho C_p)_{s2}$
Dynamic Viscosity (μ)	$\frac{\mu_{hnf}}{\mu_f} = \frac{1}{(1 - \phi_{hnf})^{2.5}}$
Thermal Conductivity (k)	$\frac{k_{hnf}}{k_f} = \left[\frac{\left(\frac{\phi_1 k_1 + \phi_2 k_2}{\phi_{hnf}} \right) + 2k_f + 2(\phi_1 k_1 + \phi_2 k_2) - 2\phi_{hnf} k_f}{\left(\frac{\phi_1 k_1 + \phi_2 k_2}{\phi_{hnf}} \right) + 2k_f - (\phi_1 k_1 + \phi_2 k_2) + \phi_{hnf} k_f} \right]$

where $Pr = \nu_f/\alpha_f = (C_p\mu)_f/k_f$ is the Prandtl number and S is the mass flux parameter (constant) for permeable surface with $S > 0$ for suction and $S < 0$ for injection.

We point out that the present model is reduced to Weidman [3] (see 3rd extension of Bank's problem) if $\phi_1 = \phi_2 = 0$ (viscous fluid), $S = 0$ (impermeable flat plate) and $\lambda = 1$ (stretching sheet) are considered. However, Weidman [3] omitted the energy equation, hence no heat transfer analysis was presented. Further, Eqs. (15) and (19) also can be reduced to Miklavčič and Wang [8] (linear shrinking) and Fang [9] (nonlinear shrinking) when viscous fluid and permeable flat plate are examined. Like Weidman [3], Miklavčič and Wang [8] and Fang [9] also did not consider the energy equation.

The reduced skin friction coefficients C_{fx} and C_{fy} along the x and y axes and the local Nusselt number Nu_x , are defined as

$$C_{fx} = \frac{\tau_{wx}}{\rho_f \mu_w^2}, \quad C_{fy} = \frac{\tau_{wy}}{\rho_f \mu_w^2}, \quad Nu_x = \frac{xq_w}{k_f(T_f - T_\infty)}, \quad (20)$$

where τ_{wx} and τ_{wy} are the shear stresses in x - and y - directions while q_w is the surface heat flux

$$\tau_{wx} = \mu_{hmf} \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial z} \right)_{z=0}, \quad \tau_{wy} = \mu_{hmf} \left(\frac{\partial v}{\partial z} \right)_{z=0}, \quad q_w = -k_{hmf} \left(\frac{\partial T}{\partial z} \right)_{z=0}. \quad (21)$$

Using (7), (20) and (21), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} Re_x^{1/2} C_{fx} &= \sqrt{\frac{n+1}{2}} \frac{\mu_{hmf}}{\mu_f} f''(0), \\ Re_y^{1/2} C_{fy} &= \sqrt{\frac{n+1}{2}} \frac{\mu_{hmf}}{\mu_f} g''(0), \\ Re_x^{-1/2} Nu_x &= -\sqrt{\frac{n+1}{2}} \frac{k_{hmf}}{k_f} \theta'(0), \end{aligned} \quad (22)$$

where $Re_x = u_w(x)x/\nu_f$ and $Re_y = v_w(y)y/\nu_f$ are the local Reynolds number.

3. Temporal stability

The temporal stability analysis is necessary to detect the real (physical) solution if dual or multiple solutions exist. However, Weidman [50] proved that there are two physical solutions available from the multiple solutions. Hence, it is inappropriate to declare the first solution is always stable without validating through the stability analysis. It is worth to mention that the first or upper branch solution refers to the first solution which satisfies the boundary condition. The stability formulation is briefly discussed by Khashi'ie et al. [51,52] for nanofluid and Waini et al. [33–35], Khashi'ie et al. [36,43,44] and Lund et al. [37] for hybrid nanofluid. The flow stability is formulated by considering a time variable $\tau = au^2t$ into a new set of unsteady (with time) governing equations as suggested by Merkin [53].

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} + w \frac{\partial u}{\partial z} = \nu_{hmf} \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial z^2}, \quad (23)$$

$$\frac{\partial v}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} + w \frac{\partial v}{\partial z} = \nu_{hmf} \frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial z^2}, \quad (24)$$

$$\frac{\partial T}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial T}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial T}{\partial y} + w \frac{\partial T}{\partial z} = \alpha_{hmf} \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial z^2}, \quad (25)$$

The new simplified similarity transformation is

$$\begin{aligned} u &= ax^n \frac{\partial f(\eta, \tau)}{\partial \eta}, \quad v = bx^n \frac{\partial g(\eta, \tau)}{\partial \eta}, \quad \eta = \sqrt{\frac{a}{\nu_f}} \sqrt{\frac{n+1}{2}} x^{\frac{n+1}{2}} z, \quad \tau = a \left(\frac{n+1}{2} \right) x^{n-1} t, \\ w &= -\frac{\sqrt{a\nu_f}}{\sqrt{\frac{n+1}{2}} x^{\frac{n+1}{2}}} \left[nx^{n-1} f(\eta, \tau) + x^{n-1} \left(\frac{n-1}{2} \right) \left(\eta \frac{\partial f(\eta, \tau)}{\partial \eta} - f(\eta, \tau) \right) \right], \end{aligned} \quad (26)$$

The final form of the transformed differential equations after inserting Eq. (26) into the unsteady Eqs. (23)–(25) are

$$\left(\frac{\mu_{hmf}/\mu_f}{\rho_{hmf}/\rho_f} \right) \frac{\partial^3 f}{\partial \eta^3} + f \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial \eta^2} - \frac{2n}{n+1} \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial \eta} \right)^2 - \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial \eta \partial \tau} = 0 \quad (27)$$

$$\left(\frac{\mu_{hmf}/\mu_f}{\rho_{hmf}/\rho_f} \right) \frac{\partial^3 g}{\partial \eta^3} + f \frac{\partial^2 g}{\partial \eta^2} - \frac{2n}{n+1} \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial \eta} \frac{\partial g}{\partial \eta} \right) - \frac{\partial^2 g}{\partial \eta \partial \tau} = 0 \quad (28)$$

$$\frac{1}{Pr} \frac{k_{hmf}/k_f}{(\rho C_p)_{hmf}/(\rho C_p)_f} \frac{\partial^2 \theta}{\partial \eta^2} + f \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial \eta} - \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial \tau} = 0 \quad (29)$$

while the former condition (19) become

$$\begin{aligned} f(0, \tau) &= S, \quad g(0, \tau) = 0, \quad \frac{\partial f(0, \tau)}{\partial \eta} = \lambda, \quad \frac{\partial g(0, \tau)}{\partial \eta} = \lambda, \quad \theta(0, \tau) = 1, \\ \frac{\partial f(\eta, \tau)}{\partial \eta} &\rightarrow 0, \quad \frac{\partial g(\eta, \tau)}{\partial \eta} \rightarrow 0, \quad \theta(\eta, \tau) \rightarrow 0, \quad \text{as } \eta \rightarrow \infty. \end{aligned} \quad (30)$$

The perturbation equations as imposed by Weidman et al. [54] is substituted into Eqs. (27)–(30) so that

$$\frac{\mu_{hmf}/\mu_f}{\rho_{hmf}/\rho_f} F''' + f_0 F'' - \left(\frac{4n}{n+1} f_0' - \gamma \right) F' + f_0'' F = 0, \quad (31)$$

$$\frac{\mu_{hmf}/\mu_f}{\rho_{hmf}/\rho_f} G''' + f_0 G'' - \left(\frac{2n}{n+1} f_0' - \gamma \right) G' - \frac{2n}{n+1} F' g_0' + F g_0'' = 0, \quad (32)$$

$$\frac{1}{Pr} \frac{k_{hmf}/k_f}{(\rho C_p)_{hmf}/(\rho C_p)_f} H'' + F \theta_0' + f_0 H' + \gamma H = 0, \quad (33)$$

with the homogeneous boundary condition

$$\begin{aligned} F(0) &= 0, \quad F'(0) = 0, \quad G(0) = 0, \quad G'(0) = 0, \quad H(0) = 0, \\ F(\eta) &\rightarrow 0, \quad G'(\eta) \rightarrow 0, \quad H(\eta) \rightarrow 0, \quad \text{as } \eta \rightarrow \infty. \end{aligned} \quad (34)$$

The perturbation equations (see Weidman et al. [54]) are

$$\left. \begin{aligned} f(\eta, \tau) &= f_0(\eta) + e^{-\gamma\tau} F(\eta), \\ g(\eta, \tau) &= g_0(\eta) + e^{-\gamma\tau} G(\eta), \\ \theta(\eta, \tau) &= \theta_0(\eta) + e^{-\gamma\tau} H(\eta), \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (35)$$

where $f_0(\eta) = f(\eta)$, $g_0(\eta) = g(\eta)$, $\theta_0(\eta) = \theta(\eta)$ and γ is an eigenvalue. The equations in (35) are important to test the solutions' stability where the sign value of the smallest eigenvalue γ_1 will determine the real (physical) solution. Harris et al. [55] suggested that by substituting a suitable far-field boundary condition ($F(\infty), G(\infty)$ or $H(\infty)$) with a new condition, a nontrivial solution/eigenvalue can be gained. Hence, in the study, $F(\infty) \rightarrow 0$ in Eq. (35) is replaced with $F'(0) = 1$ and the new condition to replace the homogeneous boundary condition is

$$\begin{aligned}
 &F(0) = 0, F'(0) = 0, F''(0) = 1, G(0) = 0, G'(0) = 0, H(0) = 0, \\
 &G'(\eta) \rightarrow 0, H(\eta) \rightarrow 0, \text{ as } \eta \rightarrow \infty.
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{36}$$

The flow stability is analysed using the bvp4c solver (continuation code from the steady flow). The resulting smallest eigenvalue may determine the real (physical) solution; $\gamma_1 > 0$ indicates the real (physical) solution while negative γ_1 implies the unreal solution.

4. Results and discussion

Matlab software through the bvp4c function is utilized as the main tool for the numerical computation. Similarity differential equations as stated in Eqs. (15)–(17) together with the condition (19) are computed to observe the flow and heat transfer characteristics while the non-uniqueness of the solutions are also being the main interest of the present work. Two set of initial guesses are required to find the non-unique solutions which fulfil all the far field boundary conditions ($f'(\eta) \rightarrow 0, g'(\eta) \rightarrow 0, \theta(\eta) \rightarrow 0$). In the present work, $\eta_\infty = 15$ is used for searching the possible similarity solutions (first and second) with the disparate values of the governing parameters as highlighted in the figures and tables. For the verification of the present method, the model when $\phi_1 = \phi_2 = 0, \lambda = -1$ and $n = 1$ is solved and graphically presented. Fig. 2 shows that the result is in conjunction with Miklavčič and Wang [8] where dual solutions are obtainable when $S > 2$, no solution when $S < 2$ and distinctive solution at $S = 2$.

In addition, Tables 4 and 5 elucidate the comparison values of $f''(0)$ and $-\theta'(0)$ between present correlation (following Devi and Devi [29,30]), correlation in Table 3 (following Takabi and Salehi [47] and Ghalambaz et al. [48]) and those by Waini et al. [34] when $Pr = 6.2, S = 2.1, \lambda = -1$ and $\phi_1 = 0, \phi_2 = 0.2$ (Cu-water nanofluid). The comparison values are in a good agreement; hence, it shows that the present method is applicable to solve the current problem. For future reference, we also include the values of $Re_x^{1/2}C_{fx}$ and $Re_x^{-1/2}Nu_x$ when $n > 1$ (nonlinear shrinking velocity) which are not considered by Waini et al. [34]. The value of $Re_x^{1/2}C_{fx}$ and $Re_x^{-1/2}Nu_x$ of first solution increase when n is

added which implies that the Cu-water nanofluid with nonlinear shrinking case has greater heat transfer rate than the linear shrinking case.

Tables 6 and 7 present the values of $Re_x^{1/2}C_{fx}$ and $Re_x^{-1/2}Nu_x$, respectively when $S = 2.5, \lambda = -1, \phi_1 = 0.1, n = 1$ and various ϕ_2 using thermophysical properties of hybrid nanofluid in Table 1 (following Devi and Devi [29,30]) and Table 3 (following Takabi and Salehi [47] and Ghalambaz et al. [48]) for future reference. It is worth to point out that the values of $Re_x^{1/2}C_{fx}$ and $Re_y^{1/2}C_{fy}$ are same, hence we only provide the value of $Re_x^{1/2}C_{fx}$ in Table 6. Both correlations have same values of $Re_x^{1/2}C_{fx}$ and $Re_x^{-1/2}Nu_x$ when a reduced case of nanofluid is considered ($\phi_2 = 0$). Meanwhile, both correlations show a similar pattern where $Re_x^{1/2}C_{fx}$ (first and second solutions) increases and $Re_x^{-1/2}Nu_x$ (first and second solutions) decreases as ϕ_2 increases.

Here, the parameters are specified within the range of $0 \leq \phi_2 \leq 0.02, 2 < S \leq 2.5$ and $1 \leq n \leq 3$ while the values of $Pr = 6.2, \phi_1 = 0.1$ and $\eta_\infty = 15$ are immovable. These values are used based on the main literatures and occurrence of the non-unique solutions. The numerical solutions are presented in the tables and graphs. First solution as displayed in Figs. 3–10 is assigned to the first solution which fulfil Eq. (19). Table 8 assembles the critical (minimal/maximal) values with different n, S and ϕ_2 . The critical value λ_c is the joint point of two solutions (first and second) where no unique or multiple solutions may exist when $\lambda < \lambda_c$. Boundary layer starts separating when $\lambda < \lambda_c$ and at this condition, Eqs. (15)–(17) cannot be used to observe the flow characteristics. λ_c also known as separation point and usually locates at the shrinking region ($\lambda < 0$). This is one of the reasons why the authors consider shrinking flow. Based on Table 8, the separation point can be extended when ϕ_2 and S increase whereas the addition of n reduces λ_c . A boost in suction and copper nanoparticles volume fraction can delay the separation. Surprisingly, linear stretching/shrinking velocity ($n = 1$) is better than the power-law velocity ($n = 2, 3$) in preventing the separation.

The dual solutions can be reached for both alumina-water nanofluid ($\phi_1 = 0.1, \phi_2 = 0$) and Cu-Al₂O₃/water hybrid nanofluid ($\phi_1 = 0.1, \phi_2 = 0.01, 0.02$) only if the suction parameter is imposed as exhibited in Figs. 3 and 4. The values of the reduced skin friction coefficients in x - and y -directions are same since the hybrid nanofluid flow is axisymmetric. An upsurge of the copper nanoparticles volume fraction lead to the reduction of suction's critical or minimal value where $S_c = 2.09471$ ($\phi_2 = 0$), $S_c = 2.06125$ ($\phi_2 = 0.01$) and $S_c = 2.03172$ ($\phi_2 = 0.02$). The values of the reduced skin friction coefficients (first solution) increase when ϕ_2 is increased. It also evident from Fig. 3, both $Re_x^{1/2}C_{fx}$ and $Re_y^{1/2}C_{fy}$ (first solution) slightly escalate as S enhances which applicable for all values of ϕ_2 . Fig. 4 reveals that the alumina-water nanofluid has higher heat transfer rate than hybrid Cu-Al₂O₃/water nanofluid when the flow is induced by the shrinking sheet ($\lambda = -1$). However, the enhancement of suction's strength can boost the heat transfer rate for both nanofluids. Suction acts as a booster for the heated fluid motion towards the sheet/plate and consequently, increase the $Re_x^{-1/2}Nu_x$.

Figs. 5–8 display the variations of $Re_x^{1/2}C_{fx}, Re_y^{1/2}C_{fy}$ and $Re_x^{-1/2}Nu_x$ against λ with the accretion of power exponent n , suction parameter S and copper nanoparticles

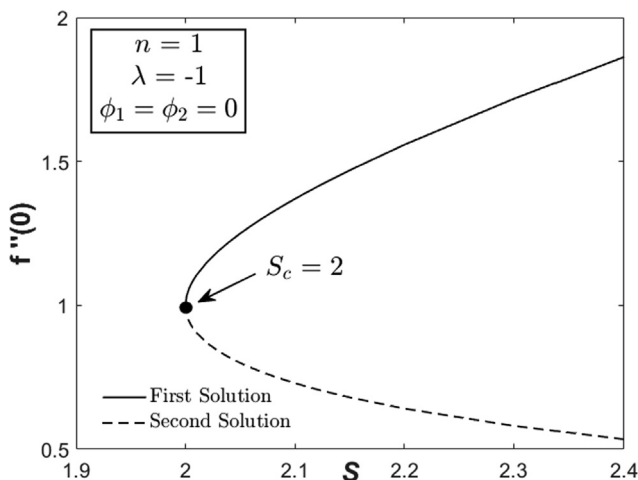


Fig. 2 $f''(0)$ against S when $n = 1$.

Table 4 Comparison values of $f''(0)$ with Waini et al. [34] when $S = 2.1$ and $\lambda = -1$ for Cu-water nanofluid ($\phi_2 = 0.2$).

	Present (Correlation in Table 1)		Present (Correlations in Table 3)		Waini et al. [34]	
	First solution	Second solution	First solution	Second solution	First solution	Second solution
$n = 1$	2.528970 (4.417930)	0.584729 (1.021479)	2.528970 (4.417930)	0.584729 (1.021479)	2.528984 (-)	0.584729 (-)
$n = 2$	2.407222 (5.150351)	0.186276 (0.398546)	2.407222 (5.150351)	0.186276 (0.398546)	-	-
$n = 3$	2.342192 (5.786453)	0.091798 (0.226790)	2.342192 (5.786453)	0.091798 (0.226790)	-	-

() indicates the value of $Re_x^{-1/2}C_{fx}$ and $Re_y^{-1/2}C_{fy}$

Table 5 Comparison values of $-\theta'(0)$ with Waini et al. [34] when $S = 2.1$ and $\lambda = -1$ for Cu-water nanofluid ($\phi_2 = 0.2$).

	Present (Correlation in Table 1)		Present (Correlation in Table 3)		Waini et al. [34]	
	First solution	Second solution	First solution	Second solution	First solution	Second solution
$n = 1$	6.822453 (11.910011)	6.693105 (11.684207)	6.822453 (11.91001)	6.693105 (11.684207)	6.822454 (-)	6.693105 (-)
$n = 2$	6.817936 (14.577066)	6.669567 (14.259847)	6.817936 (14.57706)	6.669567 (14.259847)	-	-
$n = 3$	6.815464 (16.826043)	6.666046 (16.457159)	6.815464 (16.82604)	6.666046 (16.457159)	-	-

() indicates the value of $Re_x^{-1/2}Nu_x$.

Table 6 Comparison values of $Re_x^{-1/2}C_{fx}$ between correlations of hybrid nanofluids in Table 1 and Table 3 when $S = 2.5$, $\lambda = -1$, $\phi_1 = 0.1$, $n = 1$ and various ϕ_2 .

	Present (Correlation in Table 1)		Present (Correlation in Table 3)	
	First solution	Second solution	First solution	Second solution
$\phi_2 = 0$	2.594178	0.645222	2.594178	0.645222
$\phi_2 = 0.01$	2.776053	0.653350	2.781516	0.655350
$\phi_2 = 0.02$	2.956487	0.662716	2.967257	0.666894
$\phi_2 = 0.03$	3.135633	0.673176	3.151544	0.679725

Table 7 Comparison values of $Re_x^{-1/2}Nu_x$ between correlations of hybrid nanofluids in Table 1 and Table 3 when $S = 2.5$, $\lambda = -1$, $\phi_1 = 0.1$, $n = 1$ and various ϕ_2 .

	Present (Correlation in Table 1)		Present (Correlation in Table 3)	
	First solution	Second solution	First solution	Second solution
$\phi_2 = 0$	14.609110	14.537865	14.609110	14.537865
$\phi_2 = 0.01$	14.577530	14.497776	14.572071	14.491916
$\phi_2 = 0.02$	14.545834	14.457310	14.536181	14.447358
$\phi_2 = 0.03$	14.514012	14.416449	14.500420	14.402851

concentration ϕ_2 . The values of $Re_x^{-1/2}C_{fx}$ and $Re_y^{-1/2}C_{fy}$ of first solution for Cu-Al₂O₃/water hybrid nanofluid enhance with the increment of n and S for the shrinking case ($\lambda < 0$) as presented in Figs. 5 and 6. However, contrary results are obtained for the stretching case ($\lambda > 0$). Besides, $Re_x^{-1/2}C_{fx}$ and $Re_y^{-1/2}C_{fy}$ of second solution decrease with the increment of n and S for both stretching and shrinking cases. It is noted that n is a power exponent parameter for the velocity distribution; $n = 1$ denotes the linear form of stretching/shrinking velocity while $n > 1$ indicates the nonlinear or power-law velocity. As manifested in Fig. 7, the nonlinear form of plate motion can

develop the heat transfer rate for both cases. It seems that the heat transfer rate for stretching case are always greater than shrinking case for all selected values of n . Fig. 8 reveals that the value of $Re_x^{-1/2}Nu_x$ deteriorates with the increment of copper nanoparticles volume fraction for both stretching and shrinking cases. Like Fig. 7, the heat transfer rate are greater for stretching case.

Figs. 9 and 10 demonstrate the velocities in both x - y -directions and temperature profiles when $\lambda = 1$ (stretching), $\lambda = -1$ (shrinking), $n = 1$ (linear plate motion) and $n = 2$ (nonlinear plate motion). Fig. 9 reveals that the first solution

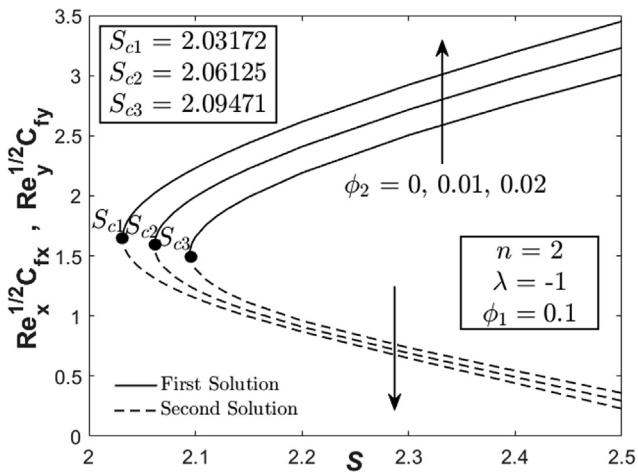


Fig. 3 $Re_x^{1/2}C_{fx}$ and $Re_y^{1/2}C_{fy}$ towards S for various ϕ_2 .

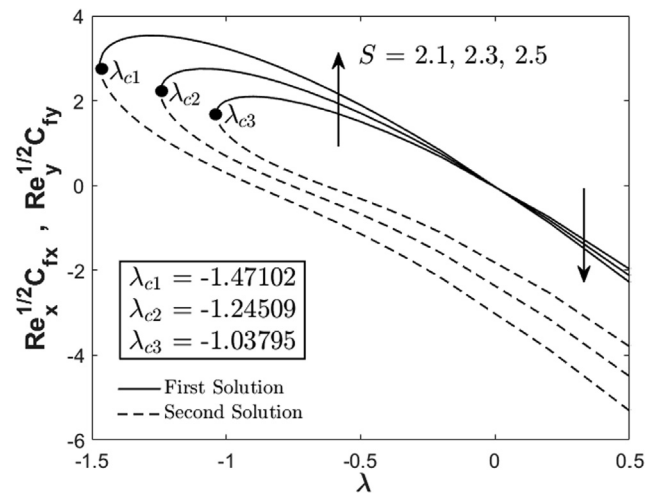


Fig. 6 $Re_x^{1/2}C_{fx}$ and $Re_y^{1/2}C_{fy}$ towards λ for various S when $n = 2$ and $\phi_2 = 0.01$.

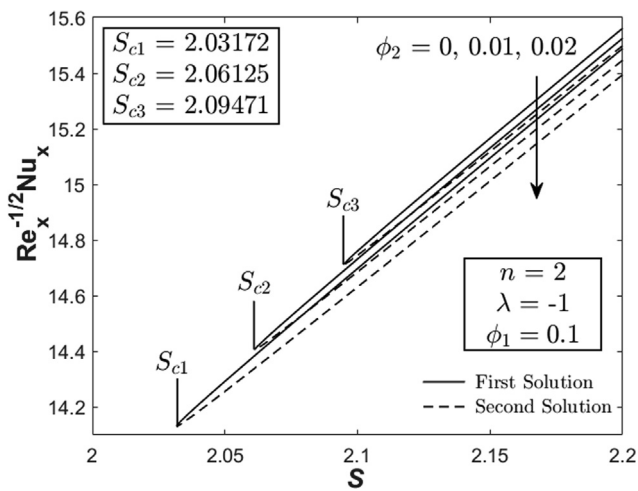


Fig. 4 $Re_x^{-1/2}Nu_x$ towards S for various ϕ_2 .

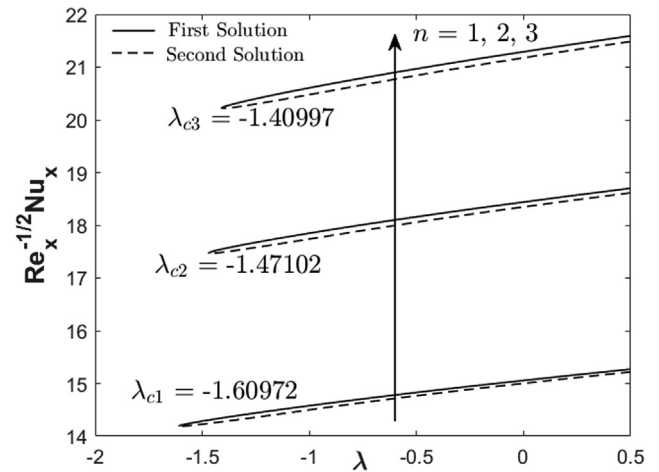


Fig. 7 $Re_x^{-1/2}Nu_x$ towards λ for various n when $S = 2.5$ and $\phi_2 = 0.01$.

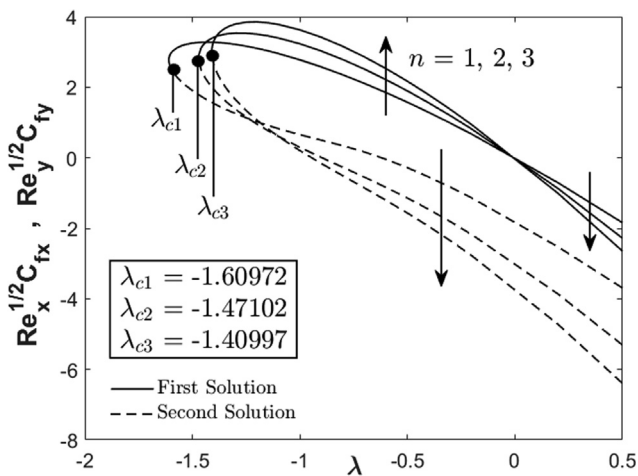


Fig. 5 $Re_x^{1/2}C_{fx}$ and $Re_y^{1/2}C_{fy}$ towards λ for various n when $S = 2.5$ and $\phi_2 = 0.01$.

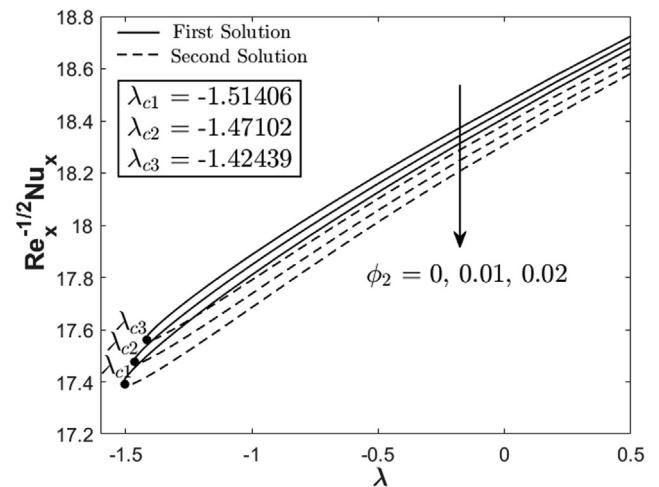


Fig. 8 $Re_x^{-1/2}Nu_x$ towards λ for various ϕ_2 when $S = 2.5$ and $n = 2$.

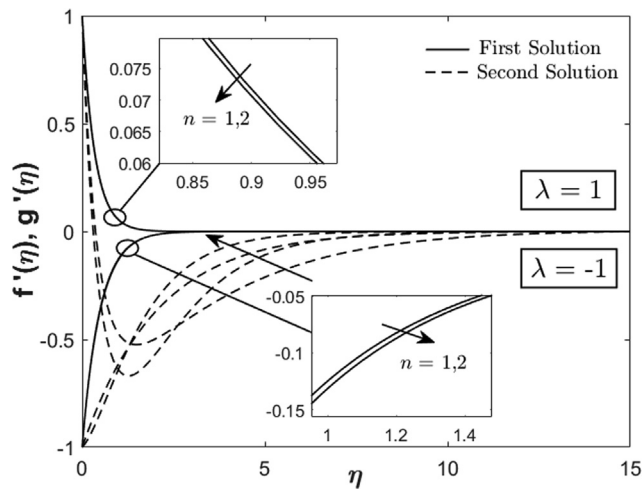


Fig. 9 $f'(\eta)$ and $g'(\eta)$ for stretching and shrinking cases when $\phi_2 = 0.01$ and $S = 2.5$.

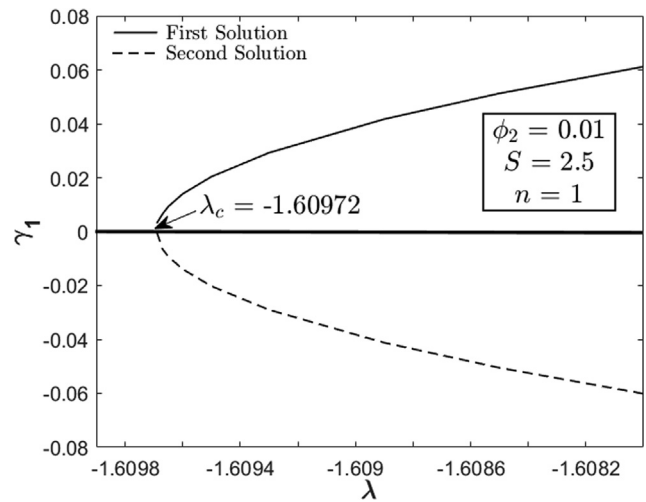


Fig. 11 γ_1 of first and second solutions against λ when $\phi_2 = 0.01$, $S = 2.5$ and $n = 1$.

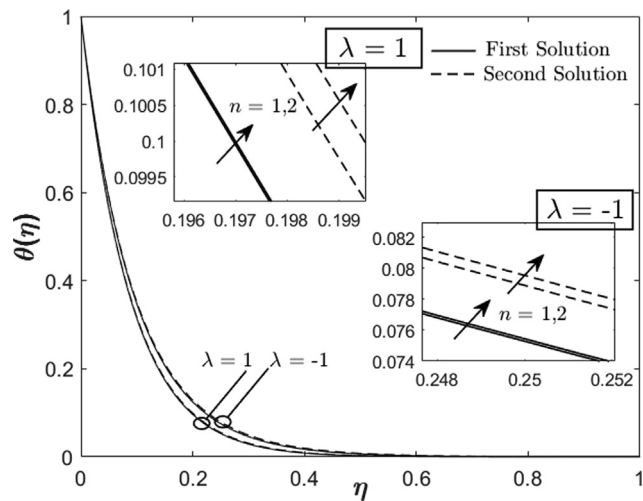


Fig. 10 $\theta(\eta)$ for stretching and shrinking cases when $\phi_2 = 0.01$ and $S = 2.5$.

Table 8 Critical values λ_c for assorted values of n , S and ϕ_2 .

S	n	ϕ_2	λ_c
2.5	2	0	-1.42439
2.5	2	0.01	-1.47102
2.5	2	0.02	-1.51406
2.3	2	0.01	-1.24509
2.1	2	0.01	-1.03795
2.5	1	0.01	-1.60972
2.5	3	0.01	-1.40997

of both velocities is symmetric when $\lambda = 1$ and $\lambda = -1$. However, the second solution has different characteristics and seemed to be unstable. The temperature of hybrid nanofluid intensifies as n increases for both stretching and shrinking cases as displayed in Fig. 10. Fluid temperature is seemed to be higher for the shrinking case than the stretching case. Fig. 11 expounds the smallest eigenvalue γ_1 of first and second

solutions towards $\lambda_c = -1.60972$. This result is achieved by solving Eqs. (31)–(33) and (36) through the efficient `bvp4c` function. $\gamma_1 > 0$ implies that the first solution is undoubtedly stable whereas the second solution is unreal. In addition, both (first and second) γ_1 approach to 0 as $\lambda \rightarrow \lambda_c$ which complies with Merkin [53]. This signifies that the first and second solutions bifurcate at the critical value.

5. Conclusions

The present problem emphasizes the three-dimensional flow and heat transfer of Cu-Al₂O₃/water hybrid nanofluid towards a power law (nonlinear) permeable stretching/shrinking sheet with orthogonal surface shear. The conclusions are as follows:

- The flow due to the shrinking sheet is possible with two solutions if the suction parameter $S > 2$ is applied. The stretching flow up to $\lambda = 0.5$ also has dual solutions.
- The separation point can be extended when ϕ_2 and S increase whereas the addition of n accelerates the boundary layer separation. The linear plate velocity is better in holding the separation process than the nonlinear velocity for this problem.
- Alumina-water nanofluid has higher heat transfer rate than hybrid Cu-Al₂O₃/water nanofluid when the flow is induced by the nonlinear shrinking sheet.
- The enlargement of S and n can increase the heat transfer rate whereas the opposite result is obtained for the ϕ_2 .
- The stability analysis affirms that the first (upper branch) solution is stable whereas the second (lower branch) solution is unstable.
- The temperature profile increases with the enhancement of nonlinear parameter n for both stretching and shrinking cases. However, the temperature profile of stretching flow is lower than the shrinking flow.

Declaration of Competing Interest

There are no conflict of interest between the authors.

Acknowledgements

The financial support through the Fundamental Research Grant Scheme (FRGS)–5540309 from Ministry of Education (Malaysia) and JURNAL/2019/FTKMP/Q00048 from Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka are appreciatively acknowledged including the support from Universiti Putra Malaysia. The authors wish also to express their thanks to the very competent Reviewers for the very good comments and suggestions.

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