

# Hiemenz flow over a shrinking sheet in a hybrid nanofluid

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## ABSTRACT

This study investigates the Hiemenz flow of hybrid nanofluid over a shrinking sheet. The similarity equations are obtained using similarity variables and then solved using the bvp4c solver. The outcomes showed that dual solutions occur for the shrinking case, in the range of  $-1.24657 < \lambda \leq -1.1$  with  $\lambda_c = -1.24657$  is the point of bifurcation between the solutions. Meanwhile, the solution is unique for  $\lambda > -1.1$ . Besides, the heat transfer rate is intensified with the rise of hybrid nanoparticles. Moreover, as hybrid nanoparticles increases, the friction on the surface is increased for  $\lambda < 1$ , while it is decreased for  $\lambda > 1$ , and no friction occurs when  $\lambda = 1$ . Finally, these solutions are tested using the stability analysis where the outcomes found that the first solution is stable and acceptable.

## Introduction

Historically, there are several types of boundary layer flow problems that have been developed in a fluid dynamic field, for example, the stagnation point flow. The stagnation point of the fixed surface in the boundary layer flow problem was initially explored by Hiemenz [1], and extended by Homann [2] to the case of the axisymmetric flow. Ariel [3] considered the hydromagnetic effects on the flow field where an analytical solution is obtained for the problem. Moreover, Wang [4] reported the flow on a shrinking sheet, and then this work was extended by Ishak et al. [5] to the case of the micropolar fluid. Further, the Hiemenz flow problems with several effects are also considered by numerous researchers [6–10].

Previously, most industrial processes use regular fluid in their cooling systems. However, an advanced fluid termed as ‘nanofluid’ given by Choi and Eastman [11], could enhance the fluid’s heat transfer rate. Nanofluid consists of a single nanoparticle that suspended in the base fluid. The utilizing of nanofluid in heat transfer enhancement is considered by several researchers [12–17]. Furthermore, studies have shown that a significant increment in the heat transfer rate of nanofluid is attained when the hybrid nanoparticle is employed. The experimental works by Turcu et al. [18] and Jana et al. [19] were the earlier studies that utilizing the hybrid nanoparticles. Besides, Suresh et al. [20] conducted the experimental work using  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3\text{-Cu}$  hybrid nanoparticle to study the enhancement of the fluid thermal conductivity.

Apart from that, Devi and Devi [21] studied the flow over a

stretching surface containing  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3\text{-Cu}$ /water with MHD effects. The new mathematical correlations of hybrid nanofluid are introduced in their studies and found that the results from the modeling data and experimental data of Suresh et al. [20] are in good agreement. Then, Ghalambaz et al. [22] consider the stagnation point flow of  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3\text{-Cu}$ /water hybrid nanofluid towards a vertical plate. The flow over a wedge considered by Hassan et al. [23] and Mahanthesh et al. [24] with  $\text{Cu-Ag}$  and  $\text{MoS}_2\text{-Ag}$  hybrid nanoparticles, respectively. Besides, Waini et al. [25–29] inspected the dual solutions of the hybrid nanofluid flow. Also, the problem is continuously studied by various researchers [30–36] with various physical conditions. Additionally, the review papers of nanofluid [37–40] and hybrid nanofluid [41–47] can be found in the literature for further reading. Apart from that, some studies in the field of fluid mechanics can be found in Refs. [48–50].

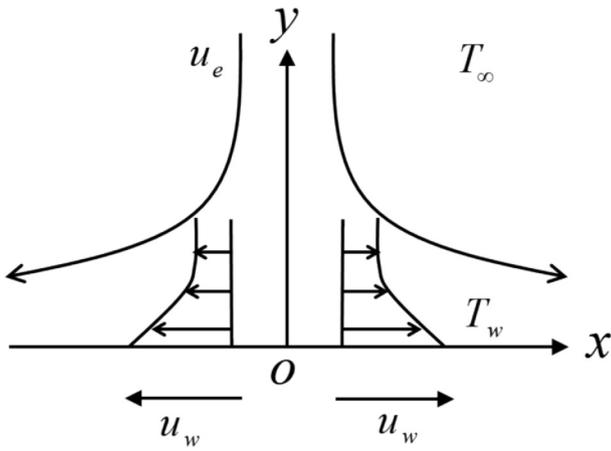
Thus, we consider the Hiemenz flow over a shrinking sheet with the effect of hybrid nanoparticles ( $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3\text{-Cu}$ ). Besides, the dual solutions are attained and their stabilities are determined by the stability analysis. The numerical results are displayed in tables and figures, and then will be discussed theoretically.

## Mathematical formulation

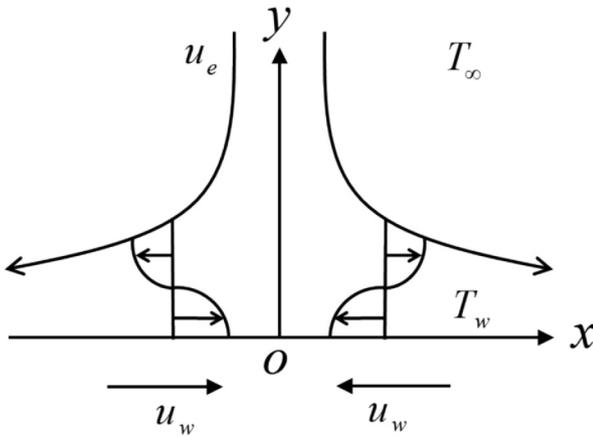
The Hiemenz flow of a hybrid nanofluid on a stretching/shrinking surface is considered. The flow configuration of the problem is illustrated in Fig. 1. Here, the free stream velocity is taken as  $u_e(x) = U_e x$ , while the surface velocity is  $u_w(x) = U_w x$  with  $U_e$  and  $U_w$  are constants.

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(a) Stretching surface



(b) Shrinking surface

Fig. 1. The flow configuration.

The ambient  $T_\infty$  and the surface  $T_w$  temperatures are also constants. Therefore, the governing equations are (see Ariel [3], Tiwari and Das [13], Devi and Devi [21]):

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

$$u \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} = u_e \frac{du_e}{dx} + \frac{\mu_{hnf}}{\rho_{hnf}} \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2}, \tag{2}$$

$$u \frac{\partial T}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial T}{\partial y} = \frac{k_{hnf}}{(\rho C_p)_{hnf}} \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial y^2}, \tag{3}$$

subject to:

$$\begin{aligned} v = 0, \quad u = u_w(x), \quad T = T_w, \\ u \rightarrow u_e(x), \quad T \rightarrow T_\infty \quad \text{as } y \rightarrow \infty \end{aligned} \tag{4}$$

where the velocity components along the  $x$ - and  $y$ -axes are represented by  $u$  and  $v$ , and the temperature is given by  $T$ . Further, Table 1 presents the thermophysical correlations of nanofluid [14] and hybrid nanofluid [21]. Meanwhile, Table 2 displays the properties of nanoparticles and water [14]. Note that  $Al_2O_3$  (subscripts  $p1$ ) and  $Cu$  (subscripts  $p2$ ) are the nanoparticles and their volume fractions are symbolised by  $\varphi_1$  and  $\varphi_2$ , respectively. Moreover, the subscripts  $f$ ,  $nf$ , and  $hnf$  are represent the fluid, nanofluid, and hybrid nanofluid, respectively.

Considering the following dimensionless variables (see White [51]):

$$\psi = (U_e \nu_f)^{1/2} x f(\eta), \quad \theta(\eta) = \frac{T - T_\infty}{T_w - T_\infty}, \quad \eta = (U_e / \nu_f)^{1/2} y, \tag{5}$$

where  $\nu_f$  is the fluid kinematic viscosity and the stream function  $\psi$  is defined as  $u = \partial\psi/\partial y$  and  $v = -\partial\psi/\partial x$ . Then, Eq. (1) is identically satisfied and one gets:

$$u = U_e x f'(\eta), \quad v = -(U_e \nu_f)^{1/2} f(\eta), \tag{6}$$

Thus, Eqs. (2) and (3) become:

$$\frac{\mu_{hnf}/\mu_f}{\rho_{hnf}/\rho_f} f'''' + ff'' + 1 - f'^2 = 0, \tag{7}$$

$$\frac{1}{Pr} \frac{k_{hnf}/k_f}{(\rho C_p)_{hnf}/(\rho C_p)_f} \theta'' + f\theta' = 0, \tag{8}$$

subject to:

$$\begin{aligned} f(0) = 0, \quad f'(0) = \lambda, \quad \theta(0) = 1, \\ f'(\eta) \rightarrow 1, \quad \theta(\eta) \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as } \eta \rightarrow \infty. \end{aligned} \tag{9}$$

where the Prandtl number  $Pr$  and the stretching/shrinking parameter  $\lambda$  are defined as [52]

$$Pr = \frac{(\mu C_p)_f}{k_f}, \quad \lambda = \frac{U_w}{U_e}, \tag{10}$$

with  $\lambda > 0$  and  $\lambda < 0$  indicate the stretching and shrinking cases, respectively, while  $\lambda = 0$  indicates the rigid surface. Note that for  $\varphi_1 = \varphi_2 = 0$  (regular fluid) and  $\lambda = 0$  (rigid surface), Eq. (7) reduces to those of the classical Hiemenz problem, see White [51].

The physical quantities of interest are the skin friction coefficients  $C_f$  and the local Nusselt number  $Nu_x$  which are defined as

$$C_f = \frac{\mu_{hnf}}{\rho_f u_e^2} \left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} \right)_{y=0}, \quad Nu_x = -\frac{x k_{hnf}}{k_f (T_w - T_\infty)} \left( \frac{\partial T}{\partial y} \right)_{y=0}, \tag{11}$$

where the surface shear stress  $\tau_w$  and the surface heat flux  $q_w$  are respectively given by

$$\tau_w = \mu_{hnf} \left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} \right)_{y=0}, \quad q_w = -k_{hnf} \left( \frac{\partial T}{\partial y} \right)_{y=0}. \tag{12}$$

Using (5), (11) and (12), we get

$$Re_x^{1/2} C_f = \frac{\mu_{hnf}}{\mu_f} f''(0), \quad Re_x^{-1/2} Nu_x = -\frac{k_{hnf}}{k_f} \theta'(0), \tag{13}$$

where the local Reynolds number is  $Re_x = u_e x / \nu_f$ .

### Temporal stability analysis

Results show that Eqs. (7)–(9) admit the dual solutions for several physical parameters: one corresponding to the first solution and the other is the second solution. Consequently, the temporal stability analysis is required to determine the stable solution in the long run (see Merkin [53]; Weidman et al. [54]). To do this, we consider the unsteady case of Eqs. (2) and (3), where Eq. (1) remains unchanged.

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} = u_e \frac{du_e}{dx} + \frac{\mu_{hnf}}{\rho_{hnf}} \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2}, \tag{14}$$

$$\frac{\partial T}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial T}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial T}{\partial y} = \frac{k_{hnf}}{(\rho C_p)_{hnf}} \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial y^2}. \tag{15}$$

Based on Eq. (5), the new variables are given as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \psi = (U_e \nu_f)^{1/2} x f(\eta, \tau), \quad \theta(\eta, \tau) = \frac{T - T_\infty}{T_w - T_\infty}, \\ \eta = (U_e / \nu_f)^{1/2} y, \quad \tau = U_e t, \end{aligned} \tag{16}$$

Substituting (16) into (14) and (15), after linearization, one gets

**Table 1**  
Thermophysical properties of nanofluid and hybrid nanofluid.

Properties	Nanofluid	Hybrid nanofluid
Dynamic viscosity	$\mu_{nf} = \frac{\mu_f}{(1 - \varphi_1)^{2.5}}$	$\mu_{hnf} = \frac{\mu_f}{(1 - \varphi_1)^{2.5}(1 - \varphi_2)^{2.5}}$
Density	$\rho_{nf} = (1 - \varphi_1)\rho_f + \varphi_1\rho_{p1}$	$\rho_{hnf} = (1 - \varphi_2)[(1 - \varphi_1)\rho_f + \varphi_1\rho_{p1}] + \varphi_2\rho_{p2}$
Heat capacity	$(\rho C_p)_{nf} = (1 - \varphi_1)(\rho C_p)_f + \varphi_1(\rho C_p)_{p1}$	$(\rho C_p)_{hnf} = (1 - \varphi_2)[(1 - \varphi_1)(\rho C_p)_f + \varphi_1(\rho C_p)_{p1}] + \varphi_2(\rho C_p)_{p2}$
Thermal conductivity	$\frac{k_{nf}}{k_f} = \frac{k_{p1} + 2k_f - 2\varphi_1(k_f - k_{p1})}{k_{p1} + 2k_f + \varphi_1(k_f - k_{p1})}$	$\frac{k_{hnf}}{k_f} = \frac{k_{p2} + 2k_f - 2\varphi_2(k_{nf} - k_{p2})}{k_{p2} + 2k_f + \varphi_2(k_{nf} - k_{p2})}$ where $\frac{k_{nf}}{k_f} = \frac{k_{p1} + 2k_f - 2\varphi_1(k_f - k_{p1})}{k_{p1} + 2k_f + \varphi_1(k_f - k_{p1})}$

**Table 2**  
Thermophysical properties of nanoparticles and water.

Properties	Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	Cu	water
C <sub>p</sub> (J/kgK)	765	385	4179
ρ (kg/m <sup>3</sup> )	3970	8933	997.1
k (W/mK)	40	400	0.613
Prandtl number, Pr			6.2

$$\frac{\mu_{hnf}/\mu_f}{\rho_{hnf}/\rho_f} \frac{\partial^3 f}{\partial \eta^3} + f \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial \eta^2} + 1 - \left( \frac{\partial f}{\partial \eta} \right)^2 - \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial \eta \partial \tau} = 0, \tag{17}$$

$$\frac{1}{Pr} \frac{k_{hnf}/k_f}{(\rho C_p)_{hnf}/(\rho C_p)_f} \frac{\partial^2 \theta}{\partial \eta^2} + f \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial \eta} - \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial \tau} = 0. \tag{18}$$

The boundary conditions are

$$f(0, \tau) = 0, \quad \frac{\partial f}{\partial \eta}(0, \tau) = \lambda, \quad \theta(0, \tau) = 1, \\ \frac{\partial f}{\partial \eta}(\eta, \tau) \rightarrow 1, \quad \theta(\eta, \tau) \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as } \eta \rightarrow \infty. \tag{19}$$

Then, the steady solution  $f = f_0(\eta)$  and  $\theta = \theta_0(\eta)$  of Eqs. (7)–(9) are perturbed by the perturbation functions as follows (see Weidman et al. [54]):

$$f(\eta, \tau) = f_0(\eta) + e^{-\gamma\tau}F(\eta), \\ \theta(\eta, \tau) = \theta_0(\eta) + e^{-\gamma\tau}G(\eta), \tag{20}$$

where  $F(\eta)$  and  $G(\eta)$  are comparatively small compared to  $f_0(\eta)$  and  $\theta_0(\eta)$ . By employing Eq. (20), Eqs. (17) and (18) become:

$$\frac{\mu_{hnf}/\mu_f}{\rho_{hnf}/\rho_f} F''' + f_0 F'' + f_0' F - 2f_0' F' + \gamma F = 0, \tag{21}$$

$$\frac{1}{Pr} \frac{k_{hnf}/k_f}{(\rho C_p)_{hnf}/(\rho C_p)_f} G'' + f_0 G' + \theta_0' F + \gamma G = 0, \tag{22}$$

subject to:

$$F(0) = 0, \quad F'(0) = 0, \quad G(0) = 0, \\ F'(\eta) \rightarrow 0, \quad G(\eta) \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as } \eta \rightarrow \infty. \tag{23}$$

Following Harris et al. [55], without loss of generality, we set the value  $F'(0) = 1$  to obtain the eigen values  $\gamma$ .

**Results and discussion**

Now, the numerical computations are conducted using the bvp4c solver (see Shampine et al. [56]). The convergence of the solution strictly depends on the boundary layer thickness ( $\eta \rightarrow \infty$ ) and the initial guess. This convergence issue is also influenced by the value of the selected parameters. The numerical procedures are explained as follows: First, Eqs. (7) and (8) are reduced to a system of ordinary differential equations of the first order. Now, Eq. (7) can be written as:

$$f = y(1), \quad f' = y'(1) = y(2), \tag{24a}$$

$$f'' = y'(2) = y(3), \tag{24b}$$

$$f''' = y'(3) = -\frac{\rho_{hnf}/\rho_f}{\mu_{hnf}/\mu_f} (y(1)y(3) + 1 - y(2)^2), \tag{24c}$$

while Eq. (8) reduces to:

$$\theta = y(4), \quad \theta' = y'(4) = y(5), \tag{25a}$$

$$\theta'' = y'(5) = -Pr \frac{(\rho C_p)_{hnf}/(\rho C_p)_f}{k_{hnf}/k_f} y(1)y(5), \tag{25b}$$

and the boundary condition (9) becomes:

$$y_a(1) = 0, \quad y_a(2) = \lambda, \quad y_a(4) = 1, \\ y_b(2) \rightarrow 1, \quad y_b(4) \rightarrow 0. \tag{26}$$

where the subscript *a* denotes the condition at the surface and the subscript *b* denotes the condition at the free stream. Then, Eqs. (24) to (26) are coded in Matlab software and their solutions are obtained by the bvp4c solver. The solver will then run and the outcomes are printed out as numerical values and graphs.

Note that the classical Hiemenz problem can be obtained by taking  $\varphi_1 = \varphi_2 = 0$  (regular fluid) and  $\lambda = 0$  (rigid surface). For this special case, we obtain the value of  $f''(0) = 1.232588$ . This result is comparable to those reported by Wang [4] and Bachok et al. [6]. Besides, the comparison values of  $f''(0)$  for several  $\lambda$  when  $\varphi_1 = \varphi_2 = 0$  are also provided in Table 3. The present results are satisfactory with the mentioned literature. Moreover, the values of  $Re_x^{1/2} C_f$  and  $Re_x^{-1/2} Nu_x$  under various parameters when Pr = 6.2 are calculated and presented in Table 4. For the case of rigid surface ( $\lambda = 0$ ), it shows that the values of  $Re_x^{1/2} C_f$  and  $Re_x^{-1/2} Nu_x$  are accelerated with the rise of  $\varphi_2$ . These physical quantities are higher for Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-Cu/water ( $\varphi_1 = 0.05$ ) rather than that Cu/water ( $\varphi_1 = 0$ ). Besides, the reduction of  $Re_x^{1/2} C_f$  and the increment of  $Re_x^{-1/2} Nu_x$  are observed for larger  $\lambda$ , in the range of  $-0.5 \leq \lambda \leq 0.5$ . Additionally, the values of  $Re_x^{1/2} C_f$  and  $Re_x^{-1/2} Nu_x$  for Cu/water ( $\varphi_1 = 0, \varphi_2 = 0.05$ ) when  $\lambda = -0.5, 0, 0.5$  are comparable to those obtained by Waini et al. [26].

Figs. 2 and 3 illustrate the variations of  $Re_x^{1/2} C_f$  and  $Re_x^{-1/2} Nu_x$  against  $\lambda$  for  $\varphi_2 = 0, 0.03, 0.05$  when  $\varphi_1 = 0.05$  and Pr = 6.2. Results show that as  $\varphi_2$  increases, the friction on the surface is increased for  $\lambda < 1$ , while it is decreased for  $\lambda > 1$ , and no friction occurs when  $\lambda = 1$ .

**Table 3**  
Values of  $f''(0)$  with different  $\lambda$  for regular fluid. ( $\varphi_1 = \varphi_2 = 0$ ).

$\lambda$	Wang [4]	Bachok et al. [6]	Present results
2	-1.88731	-1.887307	-1.887307
1	0	0	0
0.5	0.71330	0.713295	0.713295
0	1.232588	1.232588	1.232588
-0.5	1.49567	1.495670	1.495670
-1	1.32882	1.328817	1.328817
-1.15	1.08223	1.082231	1.082231
	[0.116702]	[0.116702]	[0.116702]
-1.2		0.932473	0.932473
		[0.233650]	[0.233650]
-1.2465	0.55430	0.584281	0.584281
		[0.554297]	[0.554296]

Note: [ ] Second solution.

**Table 4**  
Values of  $Re_x^{1/2}C_f$  and  $Re_x^{-1/2}Nu_x$  for various values of  $\phi_1$ ,  $\phi_2$  and  $\lambda$ .

$\phi_2$	$\lambda$	$\phi_1 = 0(\text{Cu}/\text{water})$		$\phi_1 = 0.05(\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3\text{-Cu}/\text{water})$	
		$Re_x^{1/2}C_f$	$Re_x^{-1/2}Nu_x$	$Re_x^{1/2}C_f$	$Re_x^{-1/2}Nu_x$
0	0	1.232588	1.127964	1.408763	1.229275
0.03		1.425110	1.213918	1.605715	1.317395
0.05		1.553850	1.269379	1.738637	1.374810
0.05	-0.5	1.885501	0.706314	2.109729	0.791231
		[1.885501]	[0.706314]		
0	0	1.553850	1.269379	1.738637	1.374810
		[1.553850]	[1.269379]		
0.5	0.5	0.899208	1.733859	1.006144	1.856885
		[0.899208]	[1.733859]		

Note: [ ] Results by Waini et al. [26].

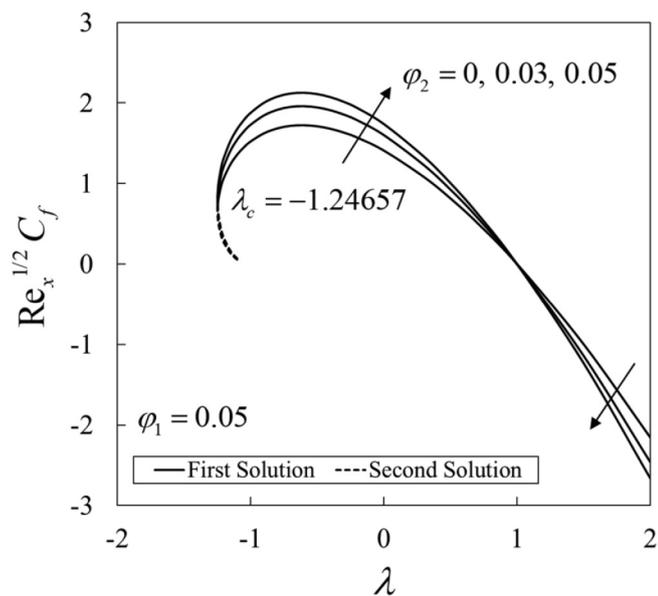


Fig. 2. The variation of  $Re_x^{1/2}C_f$  against  $\lambda$  for various values of  $\phi_2$ .

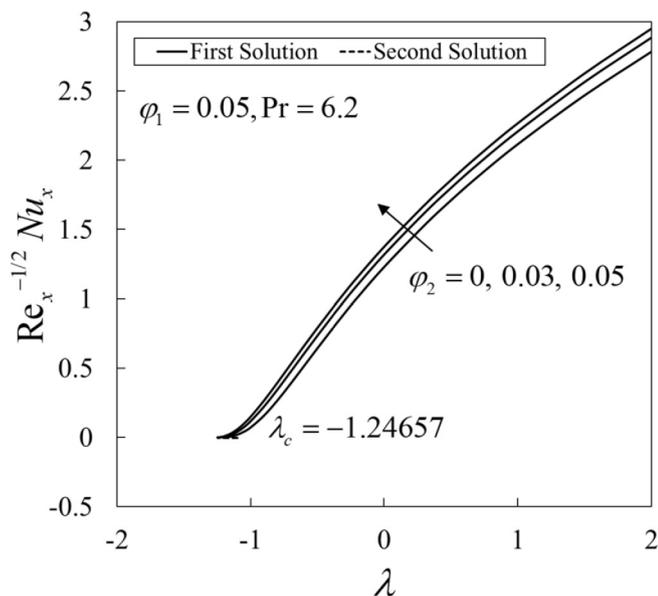


Fig. 3. The variation of  $Re_x^{-1/2}Nu_x$  against  $\lambda$  for various values of  $\phi_2$ .

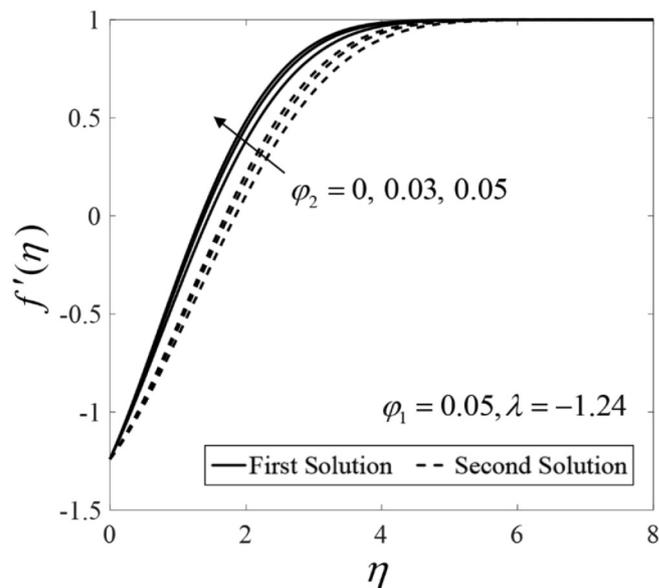


Fig. 4. Effect of  $\phi_2$  on  $f'(\eta)$ .

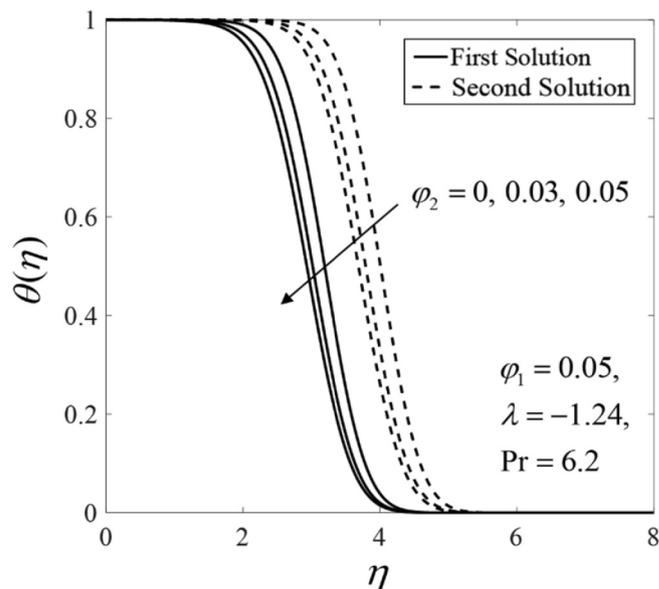


Fig. 5. Effect of  $\phi_2$  on  $\theta(\eta)$ .

Besides, the heat transfer rate is intensified with the rising of  $\phi_2$ . From the numerical computations, the non-uniqueness of the solutions are found for the shrinking case, in the range of  $-1.24657 < \lambda \leq -1.1$  with  $\lambda_c = -1.24657$  is the point of bifurcation between the solutions. Meanwhile, the solution is unique for  $\lambda > -1.1$ .

On the other hand, Figs. 4 and 5 provides the velocity  $f'(\eta)$  and the temperature  $\theta(\eta)$  profiles for  $\phi_2 = 0, 0.03, 0.05$  when  $\phi_1 = 0.05$ ,  $\lambda = -1.24$ , and  $Pr = 6.2$ . Results show that the increase in  $\phi_2$  inclines the velocity profiles  $f'(\eta)$  for both solution branches, however, it reduces the temperature profiles  $\theta(\eta)$ . Besides, Figs. 6 and 7 show the effect of  $\lambda$  on  $f'(\eta)$  and  $\theta(\eta)$  when  $\phi_1 = \phi_2 = 0.05$  and  $Pr = 6.2$ . It is seen that the first and second solutions of  $f'(\eta)$  and  $\theta(\eta)$  are getting closer to each other for smaller  $\lambda$ . These solutions are merged at a critical value of  $\lambda$ , i.e  $\lambda_c = -1.24657$  where they are terminated.

The variations of  $\gamma$  against  $\lambda$  when  $\phi_1 = \phi_2 = 0.05$  is portrayed in Fig. 8. The solution's stability is subjected to the sign of  $\gamma$  as described by the perturbation function, given in Eq. (17). For the positive value of  $\gamma$ ,  $e^{-\gamma\tau} \rightarrow 0$  when  $\tau \rightarrow \infty$ . Meanwhile, the negative value of  $\gamma$  gives

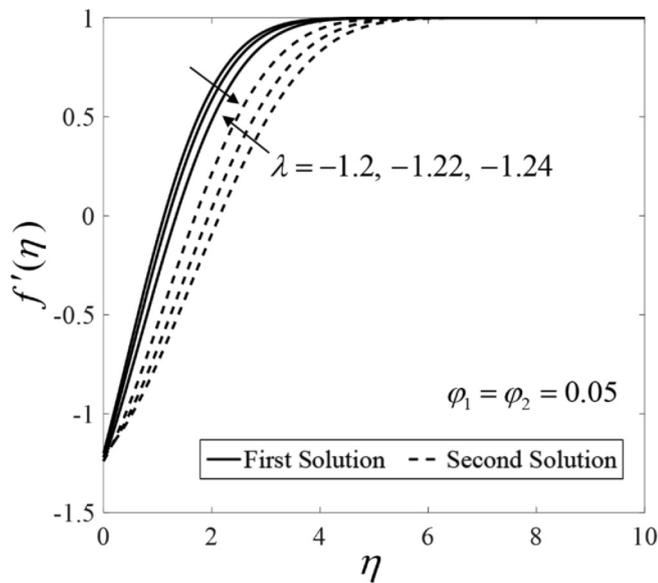


Fig. 6. Effect of  $\lambda$  on  $f'(\eta)$ .

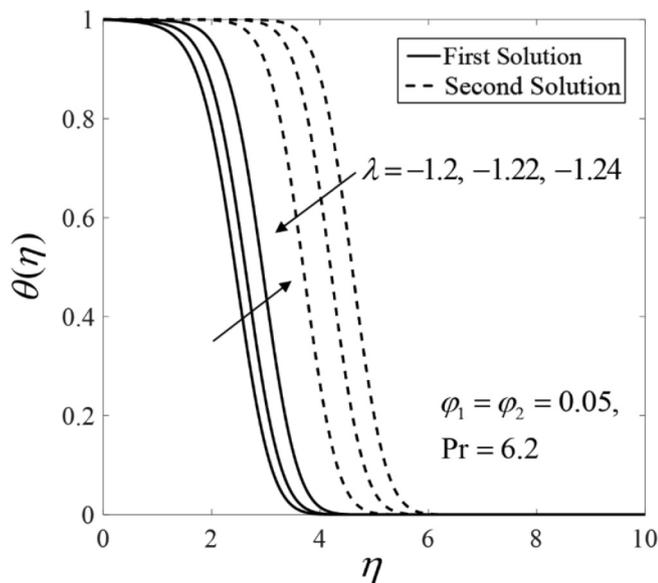


Fig. 7. Effect of  $\lambda$  on  $\theta(\eta)$ .

$e^{-\gamma\tau} \rightarrow \infty$  when  $\tau \rightarrow \infty$ . These behaviours show that the solution converges and in a stable mode for the first solution. However, the solution diverges and in an unstable mode for the second solution.

**Conclusions**

The Hiemenz flow on a shrinking surface containing hybrid nanoparticle ( $Al_2O_3-Cu$ ) was accomplished. The impact of several physical parameters on the behaviour of the flow was examined. It was revealed that the solutions are not unique for a certain range of the shrinking strength, i.e.  $-1.24657 < \lambda \leq -1.1$ , whereas the solution is unique for  $\lambda > -1.1$ . The bifurcation between the first and the second solutions occurred at  $\lambda_c = -1.24657$  for all values of  $\varphi_2$  considered. Meanwhile, the heat transfer rate intensified with  $\varphi_2$ . Moreover, as  $\varphi_2$  increased, the increment of the friction on the surface was observed for  $\lambda < 1$ , while it decreased for  $\lambda > 1$ , and no friction at the fluid–solid interface when  $\lambda = 1$ . The first and second solutions of  $f'(\eta)$  and  $\theta(\eta)$  merged and terminated at  $\lambda_c = -1.24657$ . Lastly, the temporal stability of the dual solutions was tested where the results showed that the first solution is

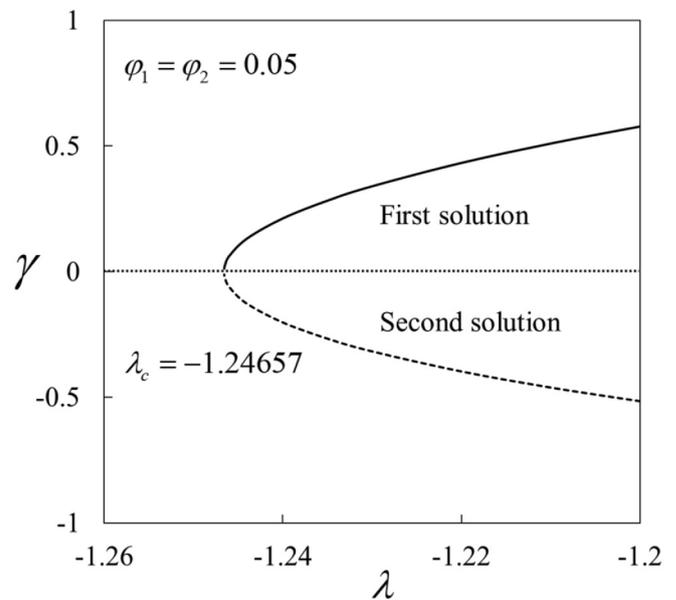


Fig. 8. The variation of  $\gamma$  against  $\lambda$ .

stable in the long run.

**Declaration of Competing Interest**

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

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**Author statement**

IP and AI formulate the problem. IW performs the numerical computation. All authors contribute equally in writing the paper.

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