

**HOMOTOPY ANALYSIS SOLUTIONS OF MHD FLOW AND HEAT TRANSFER  
OF A VISCOELASTIC FLUID FLOW OVER AN EXPONENTIALLY STRETCHING SHEET  
EMBEDDED IN A THERMALLY STRATIFIED MEDIUM**

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**ABSTRACT**

*MHD boundary layer flow and heat transfer of a viscoelastic fluid over an exponentially stretching sheet embedded in a thermally stratified medium subject to radiation and suction are examined. Using similarity transformation the governing boundary layer non-linear partial differential equations are converted into non-linear ordinary differential equations. Homotopy analysis method (HAM) is applied to get series solution. The convergence of the obtained series solution is discussed explicitly. It is found that the heat transfer rate at the surface increases in presence of thermal stratification. Fluid velocity decreases with increasing magnetic parameter. Fluid velocity decreases with increase of suction parameter. It is noticed that the temperature decreases with increase of suction parameter. Temperature gradient increases considerably with increase of stratification parameter.*

**Keywords:** MHD flow, exponentially stretching sheet, suction, thermally stratified medium, HAM.

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**INTRODUCTION**

In recent years, the study of non-Newtonian fluids has achieved a lot success due to their practical applications in various fields like manufacturing of foods and papers, manufacturing of plastic sheets, etc. The study of boundary layer flow over a continuous solid surface moving with a constant speed was first studied by Sakiadis [1] in 1961. Later Crane [2] extended this problem to a stretching sheet whose surface velocity varies linearly with a certain distance from a fixed point. Chang [3] derived a closed form solution of the non-Newtonian flow problem of Rajgopal *et al.* [4]. Char [5] discussed the effects of magnetic field and power law surface temperature on heat and mass transfer from a continuous flat surface. Heat and mass transfer characteristics in the presence of transverse magnetic field were obtained by Abel *et al.* [6]. Raptis [7], Abel and Gousia [8] analysed the viscoelastic fluid flow and heat transfer in the presence of thermal radiation under various physical conditions.

Most of the researchers concentrated on the flow analysis caused by stretching the sheet linearly. Magyari and Keller [9] focused on heat and mass transfer on boundary layer flow due to an exponentially continuous stretching sheet. Elbashbeshy [10] examined the flow and heat transfer characteristics over an exponentially stretching continuous surface with suction. Bidin and Nazar [11] presented the numerical solutions for the problem of boundary layer flow over an exponentially stretching sheet in the presence of radiation.

The flow due to a heated surface immersed in a stable stratified viscous fluid has been investigated experimentally and analytically by Yang *et al.* [12]. Recently, Mukhopadhyay [13] analysed the MHD boundary layer flow and heat transfer towards an exponentially stretching sheet embedded in a thermally stratified medium by taking suction into account.

Hence, the aim of the present work is to study the characteristics of MHD boundary layer flow and heat transfer of a viscoelastic fluid over an exponentially stretching sheet embedded in a thermally stratified medium in the presence of suction and radiation using HAM [14, 15].

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## MATHEMATICAL FORMULATION

Consider the flow of an incompressible viscoelastic electrically conducting fluid past a flat heated sheet coinciding with the plane  $y = 0$  and the flow being confined to  $y > 0$ . The flow is generated due to stretching the sheet exponentially by the application of two equal and opposite forces along the  $x$ -axis. So that the sheet is stretched keeping the origin fixed. A variable magnetic field of strength  $B$  is applied in the direction to normal the plate. The sheet is of temperature  $T_w(x)$  and is embedded in a thermally stratified medium of variable temperature  $T_\infty(x)$  where

$T_w(x) > T_\infty(x)$ . It is assumed that  $T_w(x) = T_0 + b e^{\frac{x}{2L}}$ ,  $T_\infty(x) = T_0 + c e^{\frac{x}{2L}}$  where  $T_0$  is the reference temperature,  $b > 0, c \geq 0$  are constants.

The equations of continuity, momentum, energy and concentration for the flow of viscoelastic fluid are

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

$$u \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} = \nu \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} - k_0 \left( u \frac{\partial^3 u}{\partial x \partial y^2} + v \frac{\partial^3 u}{\partial y^3} - \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x \partial y} + \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial y^2} \right) - \frac{\sigma B^2}{\rho} u, \quad (2)$$

$$\rho C_p \left( u \frac{\partial T}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial T}{\partial y} \right) = k \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial y^2} - \frac{\partial q_r}{\partial y}, \quad (3)$$

where  $u$  and  $v$  are the velocity components in  $x$  and  $y$  directions,  $\nu$  is the kinematic viscosity,  $k_0$  is the elastic parameter,  $\rho$  is the fluid density,  $\sigma$  is the electrical conductivity of the fluid,  $T$  is the temperature in the boundary layer,  $k$  is the thermal conductivity,  $q_r$  is the radiative heat flux.

The boundary conditions are

$$\begin{aligned} u = U_w = U_0 e^{\frac{x}{L}}, \quad v = -V(x), \quad T = T_w, \quad \text{at } y = 0, \\ u \rightarrow 0, \quad T \rightarrow T_\infty \quad \text{as } y \rightarrow \infty. \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

Here, the subscripts  $w, \infty$  refer to the surface and ambient conditions, respectively.  $U_w$  is the stretching velocity,  $U_0$  is the reference velocity,  $L$  is the reference length,  $V(x) > 0$  is velocity of suction and  $V(x) < 0$  is velocity of blowing,  $V(x) = V_0 e^{\frac{x}{2L}}$ , a special type of velocity at the wall is considered. Here  $V_0$  is the initial strength of suction.

It is assumed that the variable magnetic field  $B(x)$  is of the form:

$$B(x) = B_0(x) e^{\frac{x}{2L}},$$

where  $B_0$  is the constant magnetic field.

The equation of continuity is satisfied by the stream function  $\psi(x, y)$  defined by

$$u = \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial y}, \quad v = -\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x}.$$

Following Rosseland approximation, the radiative heat flux is

$$q_r = -\frac{4\sigma^*}{3k^*} \frac{\partial T^4}{\partial y},$$

where  $\sigma^*$  is the Stefan-Boltzman constant and  $k^*$  is the mean absorption coefficient. Further, we assume that the temperature difference within the flow is such that  $T^4$  is expressed as a linear function of temperature. Hence, expanding  $T^4$  in Taylor series about  $T_\infty$  and neglecting higher order terms, we obtain

$$T^4 \cong 4T_\infty^3 T - 3T_\infty^4.$$

Now, we introduce the following similarity transformations to convert the partial differential equations into ordinary differential equations:

$$\left. \begin{aligned} u &= U_0 e^{\frac{x}{L}} f'(\eta), \quad \eta = y \sqrt{\frac{U_0}{2Lv}} e^{\frac{x}{2L}}, \quad \psi(x, y) = \sqrt{2vLU_0} f(\eta) e^{\frac{x}{2L}}, \\ v &= -\sqrt{\frac{vU_0}{2L}} e^{\frac{x}{2L}} (f(\eta) + \eta f'(\eta)), \quad \theta(\eta) = \frac{T - T_\infty}{T_w - T_0}, \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (5)$$

where  $\eta$  is the similarity variable,  $f$  is the dimensionless stream function,  $\theta(\eta)$  is a dimensionless temperature of the fluid in the boundary layer region.

Substituting Equation (5) in Equations (2) to (4), we obtain

$$2f'^2 - ff'' = f''' - k_1 \left( 3f'f''' - \frac{1}{2}ff'''' - \frac{3}{2}f''^2 \right) - Mf', \quad (6)$$

$$\left( 1 + \frac{4}{3}R \right) \theta'' + Pr(f\theta' - f'\theta) - PrStf' = 0, \quad (7)$$

where  $k_1 = \frac{k_0 U_w}{Lv}$  is the dimensionless viscoelastic parameter,  $M = \frac{2\sigma B_0^2 L}{\rho U_0}$  is the magnetic parameter,

$R = \frac{4\sigma^* T_\infty^3}{k^* k}$  is the radiation parameter,  $Pr = \frac{v\rho C_p}{k}$  is the Prandtl number,  $St = \frac{c}{b}$  is the stratification parameter.

$St > 0$  implies a stably stratified environment, while  $St = 0$  corresponds to an unstratified environment.

The transformed boundary conditions are

$$\left. \begin{aligned} f &= 0, \quad f' = S, \quad \theta = 1, \quad \varphi = 1 \quad \text{at} \quad \eta = 0, \\ f' &= 0, \quad \theta = 0, \quad \varphi = 0 \quad \text{as} \quad \eta \rightarrow \infty. \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (8)$$

where  $S = \frac{V_0}{\sqrt{\frac{U_0 v}{2L}}} > 0$  (or  $< 0$ ) is the suction (or blowing) parameter.

### HAM Solution

In this section, we employ HAM to solve the equations (6) and (7) subject to the boundary conditions (8). We choose the initial guesses  $f_0$  and  $\theta_0$  of  $f$  and  $\theta$  in the following form

$$\begin{aligned} f_0(\eta) &= 1 - e^{-\eta}, \\ \theta_0(\eta) &= e^{-\eta}. \end{aligned}$$

The linear operators are selected as

$$\begin{aligned} L_1(f) &= f''' - f', \\ L_2(\theta) &= \theta'' - \theta, \end{aligned}$$

which have the following properties

$$\begin{aligned} L_1(C_1 + C_2 e^\eta + C_3 e^{-\eta}) &= 0, \\ L_2(C_4 e^\eta + C_5 e^{-\eta}) &= 0, \end{aligned}$$

where  $C_1, C_2, C_3, C_4$  and  $C_5$  are the arbitrary constants.

If  $p \in [0, 1]$  denotes the embedding parameter and  $\hbar_1$  and  $\hbar_2$  are the non-zero auxiliary parameters then we construct the following zeroth-order deformation equations

$$(1-p)L_1[f(\eta; p) - f_0(\eta)] = p\hbar_1 N_1[f(\eta; p)], \quad (9)$$

$$(1-p)L_2[\theta(\eta; p) - \theta_0(\eta)] = p\hbar_2 N_2[f(\eta; p), \theta(\eta; p)], \quad (10)$$

Subject to the boundary conditions

$$\begin{aligned} f(0; p) &= 0, & f'(0; p) &= S, & f'(\infty; p) &= 0, \\ \theta(0; p) &= 1, & \theta(\infty; p) &= 0. \end{aligned} \quad (11)$$

Based on equations (6) and (7), we define the nonlinear operators  $N_1$  and  $N_2$  as

$$\begin{aligned} N_1[f(\eta; p)] &= \frac{\partial^3 f(\eta; p)}{\partial \eta^3} - 2 \left( \frac{\partial f(\eta; p)}{\partial \eta} \right)^2 + f(\eta; p) \frac{\partial^2 f(\eta; p)}{\partial \eta^2} \\ &\quad - k_1 \left( 3 \frac{\partial f(\eta; p)}{\partial \eta} \frac{\partial^3 f(\eta; p)}{\partial \eta^3} - \frac{1}{2} f(\eta; p) \frac{\partial^4 f(\eta; p)}{\partial \eta^4} - \frac{3}{2} \left( \frac{\partial^2 f(\eta; p)}{\partial \eta^2} \right)^2 \right) - M \frac{\partial f(\eta; p)}{\partial \eta}, \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

$$N_2[f(\eta; p), \theta(\eta; p)] = \left( 1 + \frac{4}{3}R \right) \frac{\partial^2 \theta(\eta; p)}{\partial \eta^2} + \text{Pr} \left( f(\eta; p) \frac{\partial \theta(\eta; p)}{\partial \eta} - \frac{\partial f(\eta; p)}{\partial \eta} \theta(\eta; p) \right) - \text{Pr} S \left( \frac{\partial f(\eta; p)}{\partial \eta} \right), \quad (13)$$

When  $p = 0$  and  $p = 1$ , we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} f(\eta; 0) &= f_0(\eta) & f(\eta; 1) &= f(\eta), \\ \theta(\eta; 0) &= \theta_0(\eta) & \theta(\eta; 1) &= \theta(\eta). \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

Thus, as  $p$  increases from 0 to 1 then  $f(\eta; p)$  and  $\theta(\eta; p)$  vary from initial approximations to the exact solutions of the original nonlinear differential equations.

Now, expanding  $f(\eta; p)$  and  $\theta(\eta; p)$  in Taylor's series w.r.to  $p$ , we have

$$f(\eta; p) = f_0(\eta) + \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} f_m(\eta) p^m, \quad (15)$$

$$\theta(\eta; p) = \theta_0(\eta) + \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \theta_m(\eta) p^m, \quad (16)$$

where  $f_m(\eta) = \frac{1}{m!} \left. \frac{\partial^m f(\eta; p)}{\partial p^m} \right|_{p=0},$

$$\theta_m(\eta) = \frac{1}{m!} \left. \frac{\partial^m \theta(\eta; p)}{\partial p^m} \right|_{p=0}. \quad (17)$$

$$f(\eta; p) = f_0(\eta) + \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} f_m(\eta) p^m, \quad (15)$$

$$\theta(\eta; p) = \theta_0(\eta) + \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \theta_m(\eta) p^m, \quad (16)$$

where  $f_m(\eta) = \frac{1}{m!} \left. \frac{\partial^m f(\eta; p)}{\partial p^m} \right|_{p=0},$

$$\theta_m(\eta) = \frac{1}{m!} \left. \frac{\partial^m \theta(\eta; p)}{\partial p^m} \right|_{p=0}. \quad (17)$$

If the initial approximations, auxiliary linear operators and non-zero auxiliary parameters are chosen in such a way that the series (15) to (16) are convergent at  $p = 1$ , then

$$f(\eta) = f_0(\eta) + \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} f_m(\eta), \quad (18)$$

$$\theta(\eta) = \theta_0(\eta) + \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \theta_m(\eta). \quad (19)$$

Differentiating Equations (9) and (10)  $m$  times w.r.to  $p$ , setting  $p = 0$ , and finally dividing with  $m!$ , we get the  $m$ th-order deformation equations as follows

$$L_1(f_m(\eta) - \chi_m f_{m-1}(\eta)) = \hbar_1 R_m^f(\eta), \quad (20)$$

$$L_2(\theta_m(\eta) - \chi_m \theta_{m-1}(\eta)) = \hbar_2 R_m^\theta(\eta), \quad (21)$$

with the following boundary conditions

$$\begin{aligned} f_m(0) = 0, \quad f_m'(0) = 0, \quad f_m'(\infty) = 0, \\ \theta_m(0) = 0, \quad \theta_m(\infty) = 0, \end{aligned} \quad (22)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} R_m^f(\eta) = & f_{m-1}''' - 2 \sum_{i=0}^{m-1} f_{m-1-i}' f_i' + \sum_{i=0}^{m-1} f_{m-1-i} f_i'' \\ & - k_1 \left( 3 \sum_{i=0}^{m-1} f_{m-1-i}' f_i'' - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=0}^{m-1} f_{m-1-i} f_i'''' - \frac{3}{2} \sum_{i=0}^{m-1} f_{m-1-i} f_i''' \right) - M f_{m-1}', \end{aligned} \quad (23)$$

$$R_m^\theta(\eta) = \left( 1 + \frac{4}{3} \right) \theta_{m-1}'' + Pr \left( \sum_{i=0}^{m-1} f_{m-1-i}' \theta_i' - \sum_{i=0}^{m-1} f_{m-1-i} \theta_i'' \right) - Pr St f_{m-1}', \quad (24)$$

$$\chi_m = \begin{cases} 0, & m \leq 1, \\ 1, & m > 1. \end{cases} \quad (25)$$

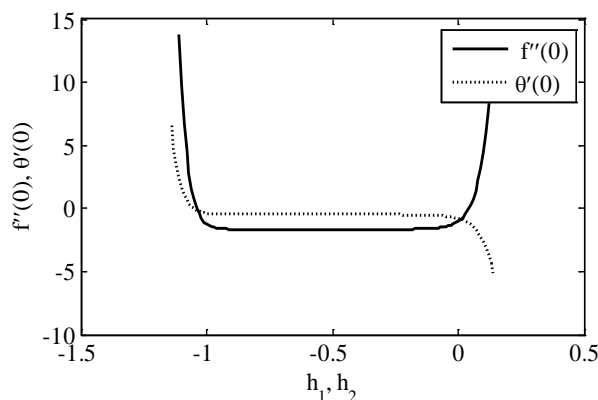
If we let  $f_m^*(\eta)$ ,  $\theta_m^*(\eta)$  and  $\phi_m^*(\eta)$  as the special solutions of  $m$ th order deformation equations, then the general solution is given by

$$\begin{aligned} f_m(\eta) &= f_m^*(\eta) + C_1 + C_2 e^\eta + C_3 e^{-\eta}, \\ \theta_m(\eta) &= \theta_m^*(\eta) + C_4 e^\eta + C_5 e^{-\eta}, \end{aligned} \quad (26)$$

where the integral constants  $C_i$  ( $i = 1$  to  $5$ ) are determined using the boundary conditions.

### Convergence of HAM solution

The convergence region and rate of approximation of series solutions obtained using HAM are mainly dependent on the non-zero auxiliary parameters  $\hbar_1$  and  $\hbar_2$ . In order to find the appropriate values of  $\hbar_1$  and  $\hbar_2$ ,  $\hbar$ -curves are plotted in Fig. 1. From the figure, it is clear that the valid regions of  $\hbar_1$  and  $\hbar_2$  are about  $[-1.0, 0.0]$ . Our computations indicate that the series converge in the whole region of  $\eta$  when  $\hbar_1 = \hbar_2 = -0.75$ . The convergence of homotopy solution for different orders of approximations is given in Table 1.



**Figure 1:**  $\hbar$ -curves of  $f''(0)$  and  $\theta'(0)$  for 20<sup>th</sup> order approximation when  $k_1 = 0.1, M = 0.5, R = 0.5, Pr = 0.71, St = 0.2, S = 0.1$ .

**Table 1:** Convergence of HAM solution for different orders of approximations when  $k_1 = 0.1, M = 0.5, R = 0.5, Pr = 0.71, St = 0.2, S = 0.1$ .

Order	$-f''(0)$	$-\theta'(0)$
5	1.644127	0.484227
10	1.645532	0.461557
15	1.645720	0.451515
20	1.645701	0.450992
25	1.645705	0.450961
30	1.646704	0.450954
35	1.646704	0.450961
40	1.646704	0.450954
45	1.646704	0.450951
50	1.646704	0.450951

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

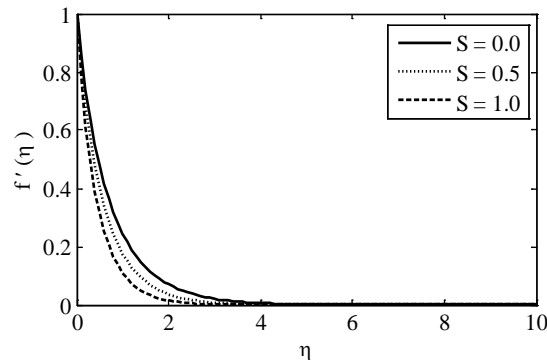
To ensure the accuracy of the applied method, the values of heat transfer rate  $-\theta'(0)$  are compared with the available results in the literature and are presented in Table 2.

**Table 2:** Comparison of  $-\theta'(0)$  for different values of  $M, R, Pr$  when  $k_1 = St = S = 0.0$ .

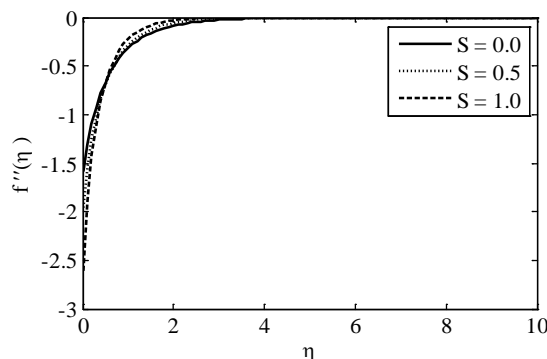
$M$	$R$	$Pr$	Bidin and Nazar [11]	Seini and Makinde [16]	HAM
0.0	0.0	1.0	0.9547	0.954811	0.954783
0.0	0.0	3.0	1.8691	1.869069	1.869067
0.0	1.0	1.0	0.5315	--	0.531503
1.0	0.0	1.0	0.8611	0.861509	0.861427
0.0	1.0	1.0	--	--	0.334521
1.0	0.1	2.14	--	-0.268846	-0.268849

In the present study, the following default parameter values are adopted for computations:

$$k_1 = 0.1, M = 0.5, R = 0.5, Pr = 0.71, St = 0.2, S = 0.1.$$

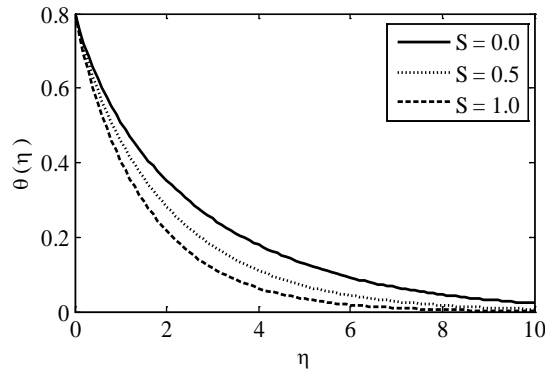


**Figure 2a:** Velocity  $f'(\eta)$  for different values of  $S$

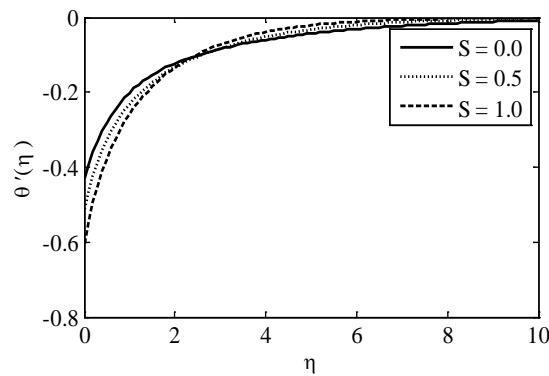


**Figure 2b:** Shear stress  $f''(\eta)$  for different values of  $S$ .

Figures 2a and 2b illustrates the effects of suction parameter  $S$  on velocity and shear stress profiles, respectively, for exponentially stretching sheet. From figure 2a it is observed that velocity decreases significantly with increasing suction parameter. From Figure 2b, it is very clear that the shear stress decreases initially with the suction parameter  $S$ , but shear stress increases significantly after a certain distance  $\eta$  from the sheet. It is observed that, when the wall suction ( $S > 0$ ) is considered, this causes a decrease in the boundary layer thickness and the velocity field is reduced.

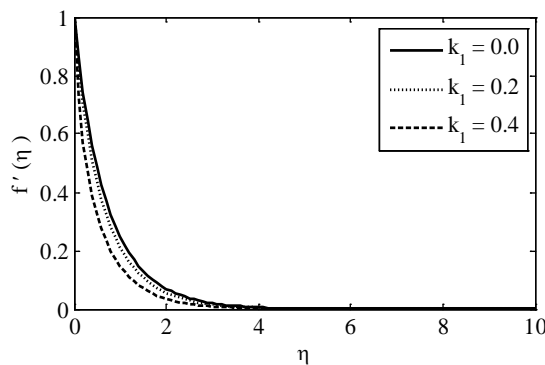


**Figure 2c:** Temperature  $\theta(\eta)$  for different values of  $S$ .

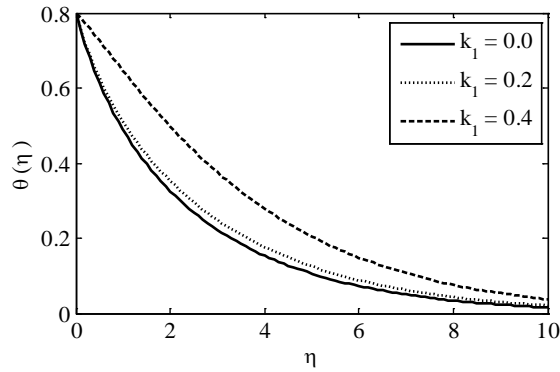


**Figure 2d:** Temperature gradient  $\theta'(\eta)$  for different values of  $S$ .

Figures 2c and 2d represent the temperature and temperature gradient profiles for variable suction parameter  $S$ . From figure 2c it is seen that temperature decreases with increasing suction parameter. The temperature gradient decreases initially with the suction parameter  $S$ , but it increases after a certain distance  $\eta$  from the sheet. Far away from the wall, such feature is smeared out Figure 2d. Thus, suction at the surface has a tendency to reduce both the hydrodynamic and thermal boundary layer thicknesses.



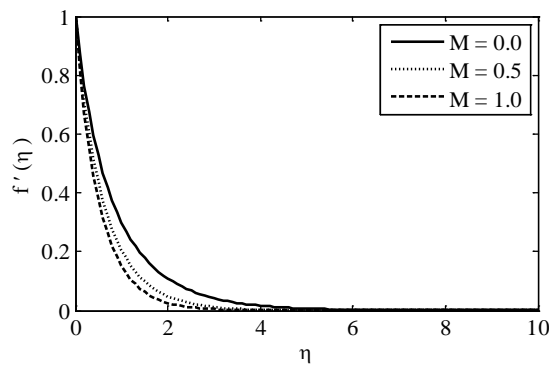
**Figure 3a:** Velocity  $f'(\eta)$  for different values of  $k_1$ .



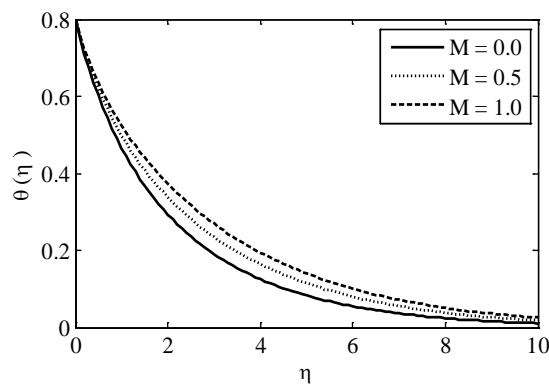
**Figure 3b:** Temperature  $\theta(\eta)$  for different values of  $k_1$ .

The effect of viscoelastic parameter on velocity and temperature is shown in Figures 3a and 3b. As shown in the figures velocity is decreasing while temperature is increasing with the increase of  $k_1$ . This is due to the tensile stress introduced by viscoelasticity which causes transverse contraction of the boundary layer.

Figures 4a and 4b illustrate the influence of magnetic parameter on velocity and temperature profiles. As  $M$  increases, the Lorentz force which has the tendency to slow down the motion of the fluid also increases. Hence, the velocity of the fluid decreases whereas temperature increases.



**Figure 4a:** Horizontal velocity  $f'(\eta)$  for different values of  $M$ .

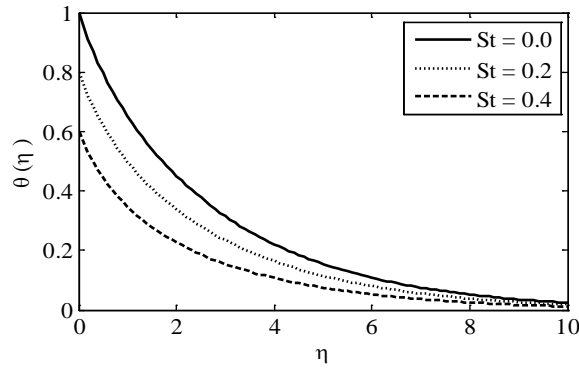


**Figure 4b:** Temperature  $\theta(\eta)$  for different values of  $M$ .

Figure 5a is the graphical representation of temperature profiles  $\theta(\eta)$  for several values of stratification parameter  $St$ . It is found that the temperature decreases as the stratification parameter  $St$  increases.

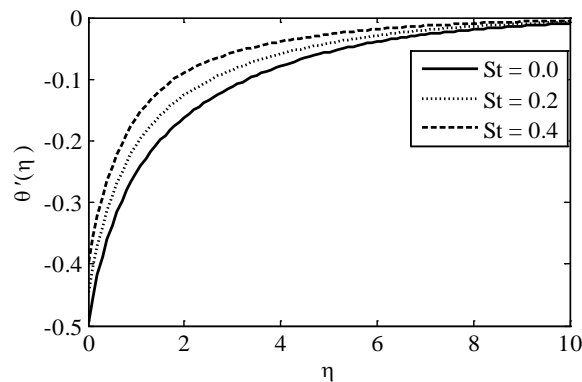
The temperature gradient increases with an increase in stratification parameter  $St$  as shown in the figure 5b.



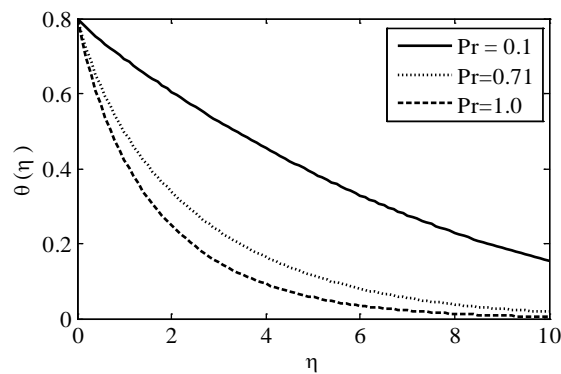


**Figure 5a:** Temperature  $\theta(\eta)$  for different values of  $St$  .

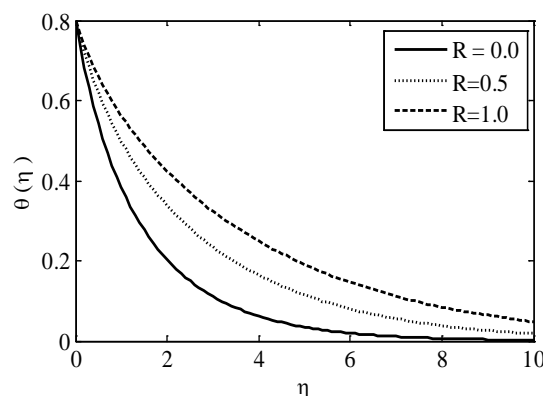
In case of higher Prandtl values the diffusion of heat away from the heated surface is very slow when compared to the smaller Prandtl values. Hence temperature decreases with the increase Prandtl number as shown in the figure 6.



**Figure 5b:** Temperature gradient  $\theta'(\eta)$  for different values of  $St$  .



**Figure 6:** Temperature  $\theta(\eta)$  for different values of  $Pr$  .



**Figure 7:** Temperature  $\theta(\eta)$  for different values of  $R$  .

The effect of radiation parameter  $R$  on temperature is displayed in Fig. 9. It is noticed that the temperature increases with the increase of  $R$ . This is due to the fact that the thermal boundary layer thickness increases with the increase of radiation parameter.

## CONCLUSIONS

In the present analysis MHD boundary layer flow and heat transfer towards an exponentially stretching sheet embedded in a thermally stratified medium subject to suction and radiation are described. The effect of suction as well as magnetic parameter on a viscoelastic incompressible fluid is to suppress the velocity field which in turn causes the enhancement of the skin-friction coefficient. Rate of transport is reduced with the increasing magnetic field. The temperature decreases with increasing values of the stratification parameter.

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