

# Group Symmetry and Similarity Solutions for MHD Mixed-Convection Flow of Power-Law Fluid over a Non-Linear Stretching Surface

R. M. Darji and M. G. Timol

**Abstract**—Using deductive group symmetry analysis, similarity solutions are derived for the magnetohydrodynamic (MHD) boundary layer flow of power-law fluid over a non-linear stretching surface. The system of partial differential equations governing the problem is transformed into the system of ordinary differential equations by deriving similarity transformation. Similarity solutions of transformed boundary layer equations are produced numerically using classical Runge-kutta fourth order method for wide range of flow parameters. The effect of magnetic field is studied on various relevant physical quantities for a typical non-Newtonian power-law fluid.

**Index Terms**—Group symmetry, Power-law fluid, similarity solution, boundary layer.

**MSC 2010 Codes** – 76A05, 76M55, 54H15

## I. INTRODUCTION

THE formulation of the group-theoretic method, also called symmetry analysis, is contained in the general theories of continuous transformation groups that were introduced and treated extensively by Lie about 130 years ago. Symmetry groups or simply symmetries are invariant transformations which do not alter the structural form of the equation under investigation [1]. A special form of Lie group of transformations, known as deductive group (See [5], [6], [7], [8]), at most general approach to derive the similarity transformation. In the present paper we derive possible similarity solutions of the non-linear partial differential equations under consideration. The boundary layer flow of Newtonian fluids past stretching sheet was first discussed by Crane [9]. Later on same problem was extended by several researchers for different physical situations. All these work is restricted to Newtonian fluids and in literature rare work found regarding Non-Newtonian fluids. Many types of Non-Newtonian fluids have found in literature but the most useful type is the power law fluid. The rheological model for power-law fluid is given by [12]

$$\tau_{ij} = -P\delta_{ij} + K \left| \sum \sum e_{lm} e_{lm} \right|^{\frac{n-1}{2}} e_{ij}$$

where  $P$  is the pressure,  $\delta_{ij}$  is the Kronecker delta and  $K$  and  $n$  are consistency and flow behaviour indices of the fluid. When

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$n > 1$  the fluid is described as dilatant,  $n < 1$  pseudoplastic and when  $n = 1$  it is simply the Newtonian fluid. Recently couple different analysis have been carried out by Prasad et al. [13], [14] for power law fluid.

In virtue of these works, we apply the deductive group symmetry analysis to analyse the particular boundary layer problem of power-law fluid.

## II. PROBLEM FORMULATION

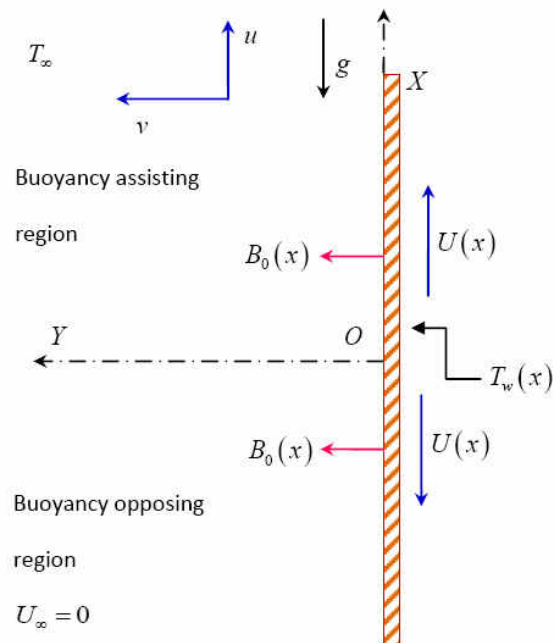


Fig. 1. Flow geometry of the problem

Consider two-dimensional steady state, mixed convection boundary layer flow of an electrically conducting power-law fluid under the effect of a transverse magnetic field  $B_0(x)$  due to a stretching vertical heated sheet, as shown in Fig. 1. Let the temperature of the ambient fluid be  $T_\infty$ . The continuous stretching sheet is assumed velocity of the form  $U(x) = bx^m$  and temperature of the form  $T_w(x)$  where  $b$  is the stretching constant,  $x$  is the distance from the slot and  $L$  is the reference length. It is also assumed that the magnetic Reynolds number  $Re_m$  is very small; i.e.  $Re_m = \mu_0 \sigma b L \ll 1$  where  $\mu_0$  is the magnetic permeability and  $\sigma$  is the electric conductivity. We

neglect the induced magnetic field. The governing equations of the problem are given by, [16]

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

$$u \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} = -\nu \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left( -\frac{\partial u}{\partial y} \right)^n - \frac{\sigma B_0^2}{\rho} u \pm g \beta (T - T_\infty) \tag{2}$$

$$u \frac{\partial T}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial T}{\partial y} = \alpha \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial y^2} \tag{3}$$

where  $u$  and  $v$  are the velocity components in the  $x$  and  $y$  direction, respectively,  $\nu$  is the kinematic viscosity of the fluid,  $n$  is the power law index,  $\rho$  is the fluid density,  $g$  is the acceleration due to gravity,  $\beta$  is the coefficient of thermal expansion. Let  $T$  be the temperature of the fluid and  $\alpha$  be the thermal diffusivity of the fluid.

The corresponding boundary conditions are:

$$\left. \begin{aligned} u(x, 0) &= U(x) \quad [=bx^m] \\ v(x, 0) &= 0 \\ T(x, 0) &= T_w(x) \\ u(x, y) &\rightarrow 0, \quad T(x, y) \rightarrow T_\infty \quad \text{as } y \rightarrow \infty \end{aligned} \right\} \tag{4}$$

### III. NON-DIMENSIONAL GOVERNING EQUATIONS

In the above equations setting  $T - T_\infty = \theta$ , they can made dimensionless using the following quantities,

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \bar{x} &= \frac{Gr_x}{L} x, \quad \bar{y} = (Re_x \cdot Gr_x)^{1/(n+1)} \frac{y}{L}, \\ \bar{u} &= \frac{u}{U}, \quad \bar{v} = (Re_x/Gr_x)^{1/(n+1)} \frac{v}{U}, \\ \bar{\tau}_{\bar{y}\bar{x}} &= (Re_x/Gr_x)^{-1/(n+1)} \frac{\tau_{yx}}{\rho U^2}, \\ \bar{\theta} &= \frac{\theta}{T_w - T_\infty}, \quad \bar{\theta}_{\bar{w}} = \frac{T_w}{T_w - T_\infty}, \quad Pr = \frac{\alpha}{\nu}, \\ Re_x &= \frac{U^2 - n L^n}{\nu}, \quad Gr_x = \frac{L^3}{\nu^2} g \beta (T_w - T_\infty) \end{aligned} \right\} \tag{5}$$

where  $L$  is reference length,  $\nu$  is kinematic viscosity,  $Re_x$  is local Reynolds number,  $Gr_x$  is local Grashof number,  $T_\infty$  ambient temperature,  $T_w$  is temperature of plate,  $U$  is velocity (main stream velocity in  $X$ -direction),  $Pr$  is Prandtl number. Substitute the values in equations (1) to (4) and dropping the asterisks (for simplicity), we get

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} = 0 \tag{6}$$

$$u \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} = n \left( -\frac{\partial u}{\partial y} \right)^{n-1} \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} - S(x) u + \lambda \theta \tag{7}$$

$$u \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial y} = \frac{1}{3Pr} \frac{\partial^2 \theta}{\partial y^2} \tag{8}$$

Where  $S(x) = \frac{\sigma B_0^2(x)}{\rho}$  is the magnetic field strength and  $\lambda = \pm Gr_x/Re_x$  is the buoyancy or mixed convection parameter. Introducing non-dimensional stream function  $\psi$  such that  $u = \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial y}$  and  $v = -\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x}$  which satisfies equation (6) identically. Equations (6) to (8) become

$$\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial y} \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial y \partial x} - \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial y^2} = n \left( -\frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial y^2} \right)^{n-1} \frac{\partial^3 \psi}{\partial y^3} - S(x) \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial y} + \lambda \theta \tag{9}$$

$$\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial y} \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial y} = \frac{1}{3Pr} \frac{\partial^2 \theta}{\partial y^2} \tag{10}$$

Together with boundary conditions:

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial y}(x, 0) &= cx^m, \quad c = b \left( \frac{L}{Gr} \right)^m \\ \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x}(x, 0) &= 0 \\ \theta(x, 0) &= \theta_w(x) \\ \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial y}(x, y) &\rightarrow 0, \quad \theta(x, y) \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as } y \rightarrow \infty \end{aligned} \right\} \tag{11}$$

### IV. APPLICATION OF DEDUCTIVE GROUP SYMMETRY METHOD

#### A. The Group Systematic Formulation

Consider a one parametric group in one-parameter say ' $a$ ',  $C_G$  of the form:

$$C_G : \quad \bar{Q} = \aleph^Q(a) s + \aleph^Q(a) \tag{12}$$

Where  $Q$  stands for  $x, y, \psi, \theta, S$  whereas  $\aleph$ 's and  $\aleph$ 's are real-valued and are at least differentiable in the real argument  $a$ . To transform the differential equation, transformations of the derivatives of  $\psi$  are obtained from  $C_G$  via chain-rule operations:

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \bar{Q}_i &= \left( \frac{\aleph^Q}{\aleph^i} \right) Q_i \\ \bar{Q}_{ij} &= \left( \frac{\aleph^Q}{\aleph^i \aleph^j} \right) Q_{ij} \end{aligned} \right\}; \quad Q = \psi, \theta, S; \quad i, j = x, y \tag{13}$$

Equations (9) and (10) are said to be invariantly transformed, for some functions  $\xi_1(a)$  and  $\xi_2(a)$  whenever,

$$\frac{\partial \bar{\psi}}{\partial \bar{y}} \frac{\partial^2 \bar{\psi}}{\partial \bar{y} \partial \bar{x}} - \frac{\partial \bar{\psi}}{\partial \bar{x}} \frac{\partial^2 \bar{\psi}}{\partial \bar{y}^2} - n \left( -\frac{\partial^2 \bar{\psi}}{\partial \bar{y}^2} \right)^{n-1} \frac{\partial^3 \bar{\psi}}{\partial \bar{y}^3} + \bar{S}(\bar{x}) \frac{\partial \bar{\psi}}{\partial \bar{y}} - \lambda \bar{\theta} = \xi_1(a) \left[ \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial y} \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial y \partial x} - \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial y^2} - n \left( -\frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial y^2} \right)^{n-1} \frac{\partial^3 \psi}{\partial y^3} + S(x) \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial y} - \lambda \theta \right] \tag{14}$$

$$\frac{\partial \bar{\psi}}{\partial \bar{y}} \frac{\partial \bar{\theta}}{\partial \bar{x}} - \frac{\partial \bar{\psi}}{\partial \bar{x}} \frac{\partial \bar{\theta}}{\partial \bar{y}} - \frac{1}{3Pr} \frac{\partial^2 \bar{\theta}}{\partial \bar{y}^2} = \xi_2(a) \left[ \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial y} \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial y} - \frac{1}{3Pr} \frac{\partial^2 \theta}{\partial y^2} \right] \tag{15}$$

Substituting the values from the equations (12) and (13) in above system of equations, yields

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{(\aleph^\psi)^2}{\aleph^x (\aleph^y)^2} \left[ \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial y} \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial y \partial x} - \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial y^2} \right] \\ & - n \frac{(\aleph^\psi)^n}{(\aleph^y)^{2n+1}} \left( \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial y^2} \right)^{n-1} \frac{\partial^3 \psi}{\partial y^3} + (\aleph^S S + \aleph^S) \frac{\aleph^\psi}{\aleph^y} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial y} - \lambda (\aleph^\theta \theta + \aleph^\theta) \\ & = \xi_1(a) \left[ \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial y} \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial y \partial x} - \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial y^2} - n \left( \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial y^2} \right)^{n-1} \frac{\partial^3 \psi}{\partial y^3} + S \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial y} - \lambda \theta \right] \end{aligned} \tag{16}$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{\aleph^\psi \aleph^\theta}{\aleph^x \aleph^y} \left[ \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial y} \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial y} \right] - \frac{\aleph^\theta}{(\aleph^y)^2} \left[ \frac{1}{3Pr} \frac{\partial^2 \theta}{\partial y^2} \right] \\ & = \xi_2(a) \left[ \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial y} \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial y} - \frac{1}{3Pr} \frac{\partial^2 \theta}{\partial y^2} \right] \end{aligned} \tag{17}$$

The invariance of equations (16) and (17) together with boundary conditions, implies that

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \aleph^\theta &= \aleph^S = \aleph^y = \aleph^\psi = 0 \\ \frac{(\aleph^\psi)^2}{\aleph^x (\aleph^y)^2} &= \frac{(\aleph^\psi)^n}{(\aleph^y)^{2n+1}} = \frac{\aleph^S \aleph^\psi}{\aleph^y} = \aleph^\theta = \xi_1(a) \\ \frac{\aleph^\psi \aleph^\theta}{\aleph^x \aleph^y} &= \frac{\aleph^\theta}{(\aleph^y)^2} = \xi_2(a) \end{aligned} \right\} \tag{18}$$

These yields,

$$\aleph^x = (\aleph^y)^3, \quad \aleph^\psi = (\aleph^y)^2, \quad \aleph^\theta = \frac{1}{\aleph^y}, \quad \aleph^S = \frac{1}{(\aleph^y)^2} \tag{19}$$

The one-parameter group  $G$ , sub-group of  $C_G$  is of the form:

$$G : \left\{ \begin{array}{l} G_S : \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \bar{x} = (\aleph^y)^3 x + \aleph^x \\ \bar{y} = \aleph^y y \end{array} \right. \\ \bar{\psi} = (\aleph^y)^2 \psi \\ \bar{\theta} = \frac{1}{\aleph^y} \theta \\ \bar{S} = \frac{1}{(\aleph^y)^2} S \end{array} \right. \quad (20)$$

**B. Absolute Invariants of Group**

If  $\eta = \eta(x, y)$  is the absolute invariant of the independent variables  $x$  and  $y$  then, the three absolute invariants for the dependent variables  $\psi, \theta$  and  $S$  are:

$$g_j(x, y, \psi, \theta, S) = F_j(\eta), \quad j = 1, 2, 3 \quad (21)$$

A function  $g(x, y, \psi, \theta, S)$  is an absolute invariant of a one-parameter group if it satisfies the following first-order linear partial differential equation [20], [21]

$$\sum_{i=1}^5 (\alpha_i Q_i + \beta_i) \frac{\partial g}{\partial Q_i} = 0, \quad Q_i = x, y, \psi, \theta, S \quad (22)$$

Where

$$\alpha_i = \left. \frac{\partial \aleph^i}{\partial a} \right|_{a=a^0} \quad \text{and} \quad \beta_i = \left. \frac{\partial \aleph^i}{\partial a} \right|_{a=a^0} \quad i = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 \quad (23)$$

and  $'a^0'$  denotes the value of parameter  $'a'$  which yields the identity element of the group  $G$ .

Since  $\aleph^\theta = \aleph^S = \aleph^y = \aleph^\psi = 0$  implies that  $\beta_2 = \beta_3 = \beta_4 = 0$  and from (23) we get  $\alpha_1 = 3\alpha_2 = \frac{3}{2}\alpha_3 = -\frac{1}{3}\alpha_4 = -\frac{3}{2}\alpha_5$ .

The equation (22) reduces to

$$(\alpha_1 x + \beta_1) \frac{\partial g}{\partial x} + \alpha_2 y \frac{\partial g}{\partial y} + \alpha_3 \psi \frac{\partial g}{\partial \psi} + \alpha_4 \theta \frac{\partial g}{\partial \theta} + \alpha_5 S \frac{\partial g}{\partial S} = 0. \quad (24)$$

The absolute invariant of independent variable owing the equation (24) is  $\eta = \eta(x, y)$  given by first order linear partial differential equation

$$(\alpha_1 x + \beta_1) \frac{\partial \eta}{\partial x} + \alpha_2 y \frac{\partial \eta}{\partial y} = 0.$$

Using the definitions of  $\alpha_i$ 's, we get

$$(x + \kappa) \frac{\partial \eta}{\partial x} + \frac{y}{3} \frac{\partial \eta}{\partial y} = 0, \quad \text{where } \kappa = \frac{\beta_1}{\alpha_1} \quad (25)$$

Solving by variable separable method, we get

$$\eta(x, y) = y(x + \kappa)^{-1/3} \quad (26)$$

Similarly for the dependent variables we have from (24),

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} F(\eta) = \psi(x + \kappa)^{-2/3} \\ G(\eta) = \theta(x + \kappa)^{1/3} \\ H(\eta) = S(x + \kappa)^{2/3} \end{array} \right\} \quad (27)$$

Since  $S(x)$  is independent of  $y$ ,  $H(\eta)$  must be constant say  $h$  (known as magnetic strength).

Hence set of absolute invariants for the group  $G$  is given by,

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \psi = (x + \kappa)^{2/3} F(\eta) \\ \theta = (x + \kappa)^{-1/3} G(\eta) \\ S = h(x + \kappa)^{-2/3} \end{array} \right\} \quad (28)$$

**C. Reduction to Ordinary Differential Equation**

Substituting the values of partial derivatives in equation (9) and (10), one can derive

$$n(-F'')^{n-1} F''' - \frac{1}{3}(F')^2 + \frac{2}{3} F F'' - h F' + \lambda G = 0 \quad (29)$$

$$2F G' + G F' - \frac{1}{Pr} G'' = 0 \quad (30)$$

Also for the requirement of similarity solution the temperature near wall,  $\theta_w$  must be proportional to  $(x + \kappa)^{-1/3}$ . That is it should be of the form  $\theta_w = \theta_0(x + \kappa)^{-1/3}$ ,  $\theta_0$ ,  $\theta_0$  is some constant and the prescribe velocity is the form  $U(x) = x^{1/3}$ . This is the precise restriction for the existence of similarity solution.

The relevant boundary conditions become,

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} F(\eta = 0) = 0, \quad F'(\eta = 0) = c, \quad F'(\eta \rightarrow \infty) = 0 \\ G(0) = \theta_0, \quad G(\eta \rightarrow \infty) = 0 \end{array} \right\} \quad (31)$$

Further the local skin friction coefficient is given by

$$\frac{1}{2} C_f (Re_x)^{1/(n+1)} = [-f''(0)]^n$$

**V. NUMERICAL SOLUTION**

The transformed non-linear system of ordinary differential (29) and (30) subject to the boundary conditions (31) is solved numerically by using the classical Runge-Kutta fourth order method. The appropriate algorithm is used in Matlab.

First, the boundary value problem reduced to system of five first order simultaneous ODE by

$$\frac{df_i}{d\eta} = F_i(\eta, f_1, f_2, \dots, f_n); \quad (i = 1, 2, \dots, 5 = n) \quad (32)$$

According to this, the system of ordinary differential equations (29) and (30) will reduce to the system of first ODEs as,

$$f_1 = F, \quad f_2 = F', \quad f_3 = F'', \quad f_4 = G, \quad f_5 = G'$$

And

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} F_1 = f_2, \quad F_2 = f_3, \\ F_3 = \left( \frac{1}{3} f_2^2 - \frac{2}{3} f_1 f_3 + h f_2 - \lambda G \right) \div n(-f_3)^{n-1} \\ F_4 = f_5, \quad F_5 = Pr(2f_1 f_5 + f_2 f_4) \end{array} \right\}$$

The boundary conditions become,

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} f_1(0) = 0, \quad f_2(0) = c, \quad f_4(0) = \theta_0 \\ f_2(\eta_\infty) = f_4(\eta_\infty) = 0 \end{array} \right\}$$

Here dashes denote differentiation with respect to  $\eta$ . Next, after choosing  $\eta_\infty$  (the numerical infinity) an initial guess for the missing initial condition is made and the uniform step length  $\Delta\eta$  for all the numerical solutions is chosen for  $[0, \eta_\infty]$ . For the numerical infinity we have considered  $\eta_\infty = 3$  and the step length  $\Delta\eta = 0.25$ . Further without loss of generality we take the values of  $c$  and  $\theta_0$  unity. The numerical solutions are obtained for various flow parameter like  $Pr, \lambda, h$  subject to different flow index  $n$ . (See Figs. 2 to 8)

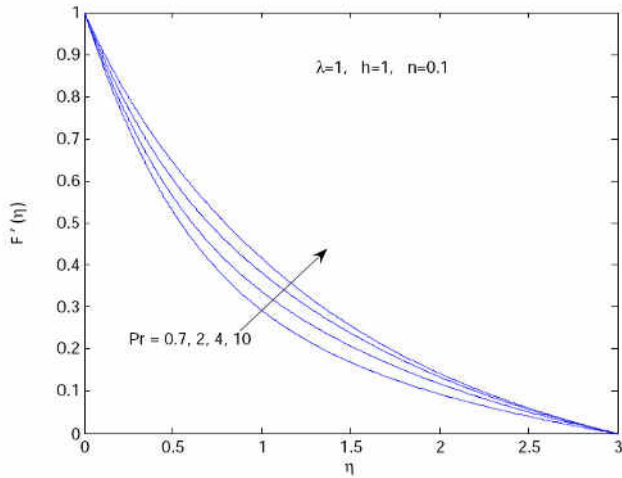


Fig. 2. Dimensionless velocity profile for various  $Pr$

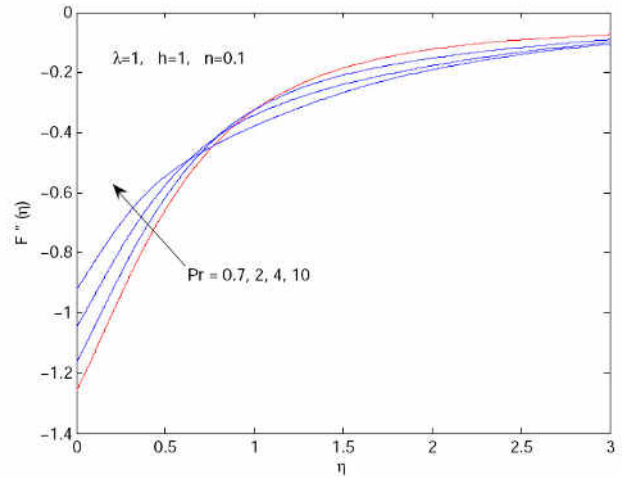


Fig. 4. Dimensionless slope of velocity profile for various  $Pr$

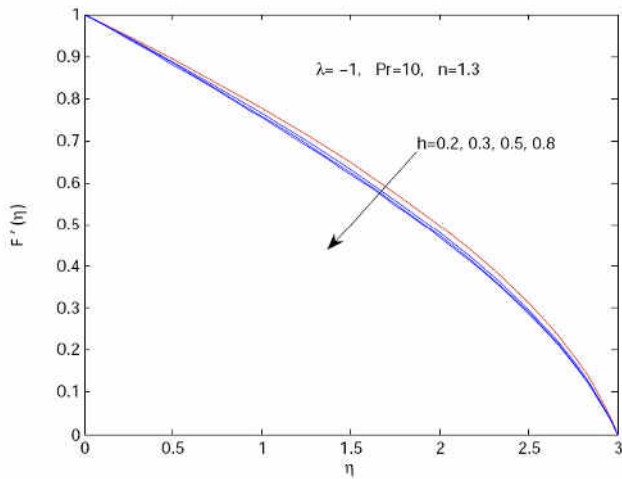


Fig. 3. Dimensionless velocity profile for various  $h$

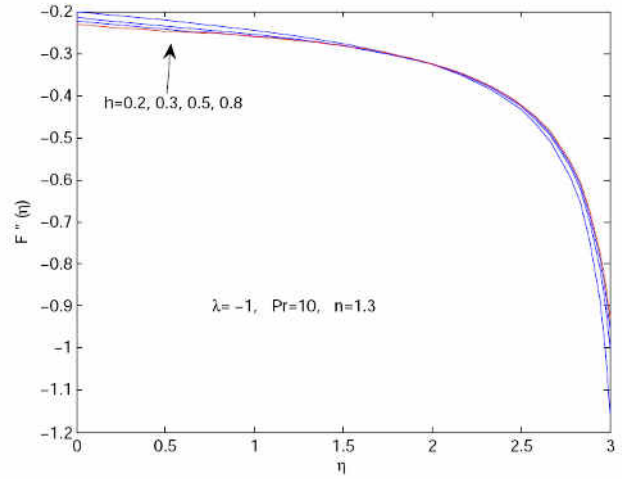


Fig. 5. Dimensionless slope of velocity profile for various  $h$

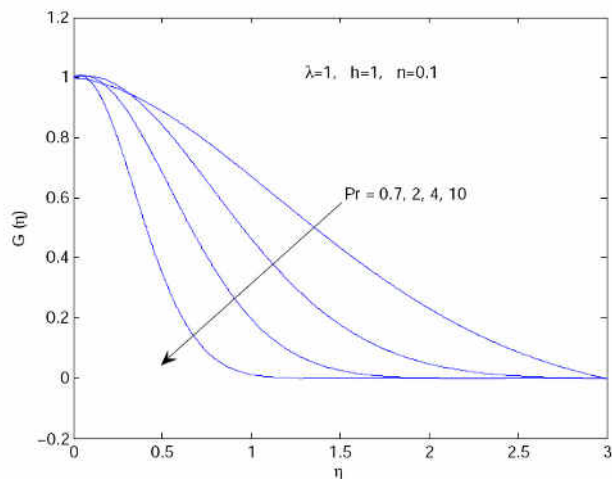
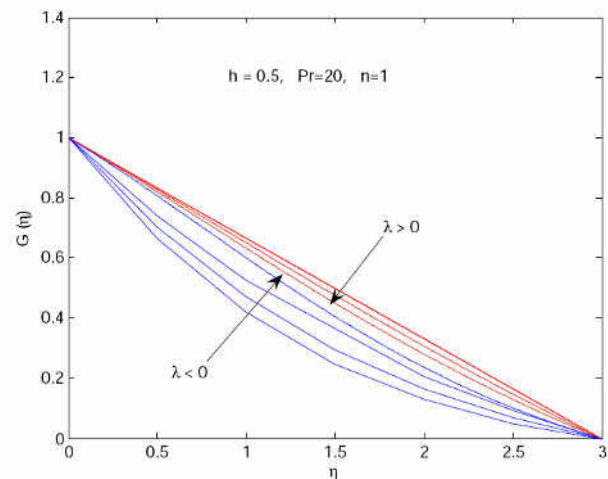
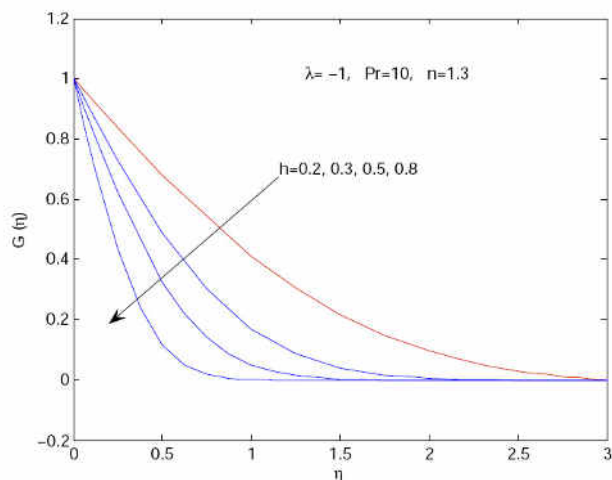
VI. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

- Figs. 2, 3 are plotted for the horizontal velocity profiles  $F(\eta)$  for different values of  $Pr$  and  $h$  for shear thinning fluids ( $n = 0.1$ ), and shear thickening fluids ( $n = 1.3$ ) respectively, controlling other fluid parameters. Both the cases show the trends to decrease the velocity under the effect of other flow parameters. Also Figs. 4,5 provide the trends for slope of horizontal velocity profile. In virtue of these profiles it is observed that the local skin friction coefficient depending  $f''(0)$  increases under the effect of various flow parameters.
- In Figs. 6, 7, 8 temperature profiles  $G(\eta)$  are plotted for different values of the physical parameters. Fig. 6 is plotted for the effect of  $Pr$  on temperature. Increase in  $Pr$  leads to decrease the temperature that leads to decrease in the thickness of the thermal boundary layer. This is consistent with the physical situation that thermal boundary layer thickness decreases as  $Pr$  increases in buoyancy assisting forces. Fig. 7 depicts the temperature

profiles for different values of  $h$  for shear thickening fluid (dilatant). Fig 8 differed the temperature profiles for buoyancy assisting forces ( $\lambda > 0$ ) from the buoyancy opposing forces ( $\lambda < 0$ ).

VII. CONCLUSION

In the present paper, first time we have derived a general group of transformations using the deductive group symmetry method - a typical case of lie group method for a particular boundary layer problem. The governing system of PDEs transformed into the system of ODE subject to the similarity requirement, by employing the derived transformations. Numerical solutions are produced by Runge-Kutta fourth order scheme using Matlab computational algorithm.

Fig. 6. Dimensionless temperature profile for various  $Pr$ Fig. 8. Dimensionless temperature profile for various  $\lambda$ Fig. 7. Dimensionless temperature profile for various  $h$ 

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