

# Unsteady Flow of Two Immiscible Viscous Fluids Over a Naturally Permeable Bed

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## ABSTRACT

The unsteady flow of two viscous, incompressible and immiscible fluids in a long parallel channel of which the upper one is impervious and lower one is porous of infinite thickness is considered by taking a pressure gradient of the form  $Pe^{\alpha}$ , where  $P$  and  $\alpha$  are constants. Beavers and Joseph's slip condition at the permeable interface and the generalised Darcy's law in the porous region have been used. The analysis reveals that the flow depends upon the Reynolds numbers for the upper and lower fluids, slip parameter and the porous parameter. The effect of slip parameter  $a$  and the porous parameter  $\sigma$  on the flow are studied in detail.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The analysis of fluid flows of immiscible liquids has been a popular area of research since several years. Russell and Charles<sup>1</sup> have examined the effect of a less viscous liquid such as water on the laminar flow of a high viscous liquid. They have shown that the pressure gradient required for the flow of the high viscous liquid can be reduced if water is injected into the channel. Considering the flow of a tighter fluid with less viscosity over a heavier fluid with high viscosity in a parallel plate channel, Bird et al.<sup>2</sup> have shown that the fluid having less viscosity flows more rapidly than that with high viscosity. Kapur and Shukla<sup>3</sup> have extended the analysis of the flow of two immiscible liquids discussed by Bird et al.<sup>2</sup> to the case of time-dependent pressure gradient. They have noticed that as the Reynolds numbers for the two flows increase the interface velocity, the flux and skin friction at the plates decrease. In a recent

paper **Sai and Agarwal**<sup>4</sup> have investigated the flow of two immiscible fluids with different densities and viscosities under constant pressure gradient in a parallel plate channel bounded by a rigid wall at the top and a permeable bed of infinite thickness at the bottom. Using Darcy's law for the flow in the permeable medium and Beavers and Joseph's slip **condition**<sup>5</sup> at the permeable interface it has been shown that the fluid velocity and mass flux increase with permeability of the bed.

The objective of the present paper is to discuss the effect of time dependent pressure gradient on the rectilinear **flow** of a two-layer Newtonian fluid in a channel with an impermeable upper wall  $y = h$  and a permeable lower wall  $y = -h$ ; the fluid interface is at  $y = 0$ . The **flow** in the porous medium  $y \leq -b$  is taken to be spatially uniform. It is assumed that the fluids are viscous, incompressible and immiscible and the flow in the three **zones** is in the  $x$ -direction and is driven by a common time dependent pressure gradient, say,  $Pe^{ct}$  where  $c$  is a quantity with dimension  $t^{-1}$  and the porous medium is assumed to be homogeneous and isotropic so that its permeability is constant. The positive value for  $c$  is taken for a mathematical convenience. However, such a positive constant could model a non-autonomous system in which, time increasing pressure gradient can be maintained by a source. The two layer flow problems are of wide industrial importance, and examples of their application include in-tube condensers, (for example, air cooled condensers in process plants), petroleum industry, certain types of waste-heat boilers, in the area of ground water technology and many others.

## 2. FORMULATION AND SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM

Consider the fully developed laminar flow of two viscous, incompressible, immiscible fluids between two parallel plates subject to a pressure gradient of the form  $Pe^{ct}$  where  $P$  and  $c$  are constants and  $t$  is the time. The lower plate of the channel is permeable and is of infinite thickness while the upper plate is rigid. Choosing the origin midway between the plates, taking  $y$ -axis perpendicular to the plates, and  $x$ -axis in the direction of the flow, the equations governing the flow can be written as

$$\frac{\partial^2 u_i}{\partial y^2} - \frac{\rho_i}{\mu_i} \frac{\partial u_i}{\partial t} = \frac{1}{\mu_i} \frac{\partial p}{\partial x} \quad (1)$$

where  $u_i(y, t)$  is the velocity,  $\mu_i$  the coefficient of viscosity and  $\rho_i$  is the density of the two fluids. The subscripts  $i = 1, 2$  denote the two fluids where  $i = 1$  and  $2$  correspond to the lighter and heavier fluids respectively.

The **generalised** Darcy's **law**<sup>6</sup> governing the flow in the porous medium is given by

$$\frac{\rho_2}{\epsilon} \frac{\partial u_3}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial p}{\partial x} - \frac{\mu_2}{k} u_3 \quad (2)$$

where  $\epsilon$  and  $k$  are the porosity and permeability of the medium.

Now introducing the relations  $u_i = v_i e^{ct}$  and  $\partial p / \partial x = -Pe^{ct}$ , the Eqns. (1) and (2) can be written as

$$\frac{d^2v_1}{dy^2} - \frac{M_1^2}{h^2}v_1 = \frac{-P}{\mu_1} \tag{3}$$

and

$$\frac{v_3\mu_2}{Ph^2} = \frac{\sigma}{M_2^2 + \sigma^2\epsilon} \tag{4}$$

where the Reynolds number  $M_1^2 = \frac{ch^2}{\nu_1}$ ,  $\nu_1 = \frac{\mu_1}{\rho_1}$  and  $\sigma = \frac{h}{\sqrt{k}}$

The boundary conditions appropriate for the problem are

$$v_1 = 0 \quad \text{at} \quad y=h \tag{5}$$

$$v_1 = v_2 = v_0 \quad \text{at} \quad y = 0$$

and 
$$\mu_1 \left( \frac{\partial v_1}{\partial y} \right) = \mu_2 \left( \frac{\partial v_2}{\partial y} \right) \quad \text{at} \quad y = 0 \tag{6}$$

$$\frac{\partial v_2}{\partial y} = \frac{\alpha}{\sqrt{k}}(v_B - v_3) \quad \text{at} \quad y = -h$$

where

$$v_2 = v_B \quad \text{at} \quad y = -h \tag{7}$$

The relation (7) is the Joseph Beavers' condition where  $\alpha$  is a non-dimensional quantity which depends upon the structure of the porous material.

Solving Eqn. (1) subject to the conditions of Eqns. (5) to (7) we get

$$v_1 = \frac{V_0 \sinh M_1(1 - \bar{y})}{\lambda \sinh M_1} + \frac{1}{M_1^2} \left[ 1 - \frac{\sinh M_1(1 - \bar{y}) + \sinh M_1\bar{y}}{\sinh M_1} \right] \tag{8}$$

$$v_2 = V_0 \frac{\cosh M_2(1 + \bar{y})}{\cosh M_2} + \frac{1}{M_2^2} \left[ - \frac{\cosh M_2(1 + \bar{y})}{\cosh M_2} + \alpha\sigma(v_B - v_3) \frac{\sinh M_2\bar{y}}{M_2 \cosh M_2} \right] \tag{9}$$

where

$$V_1 = \frac{v_1\mu_1}{Ph^2}, \quad V_2 = \frac{v_2\mu_2}{Ph^2}, \quad V_0 = \frac{v_0\mu_2}{Ph^2}, \quad \bar{y} = \frac{y}{h}$$

$$\lambda = \frac{\mu_2}{Pl}, \quad V_B = \frac{v_B\mu_2}{Ph^2} \quad \text{and} \quad V_3 = \frac{v_3\mu_2}{Ph^2}$$

in which the non-dimensional interface velocity

$$V_0 = \frac{M_2}{Z} \left[ \alpha \sigma \left\{ \frac{1 - \cosh M_2}{M_2^2} - V_3 \alpha \sigma \frac{\sinh M_2}{M_2} \right\} + \frac{X}{M_2} \left\{ \frac{\sinh M_2}{M_2} + \frac{\cosh M_2 X \tanh (M_1/2)}{M_1} + \alpha \sigma v_3 \right\} \right] \quad (10)$$

Where

$$X = M_2 \cosh M_2 + \alpha \sigma \sinh M_2$$

$$Z = X \left( M_2 \sinh M_2 + \frac{M_1 \cosh M_2}{\lambda \tanh M_1} \right) + \alpha \sigma M_2$$

and the velocity at the porous surface

$$V_B = \frac{M_2}{X} \left[ V_0 + \alpha \sigma V_3 \frac{\sinh M_2}{M_2} - \frac{1 - \cosh M_2}{M_2^2} I \right] \quad (11)$$

Now it can be readily shown that the velocities  $V$ , and  $V_2$  have their maximum values at

$$\bar{y}_1 = \frac{1}{2M_1} \log \left[ - \left( \frac{1 + \psi_1 e^{M_1}}{1 + \psi_1 e^{-M_1}} \right) \right] \quad (12)$$

and

$$\bar{y}_2 = \frac{1}{2M_2} \log \left[ - \left( \frac{1 - \psi_2 e^{-M_2}}{1 + \psi_2 e^{M_2}} \right) \right] \text{ respectively.} \quad (13)$$

In these relations  $\bar{y}_1 = \frac{y_1}{h}$ ,  $\bar{y}_2 = \frac{y_2}{h}$ ,  $\psi_1 = \frac{M_1^2 V_0 - \lambda}{\lambda}$

and  $\psi_2 = \frac{M_2^2 V_0 - 1}{\alpha \sigma M_2 (V_B - V_3)}$

The mass flow rate (non-dimensional)  $G$  is given by

$$G = \frac{M_2 \mu_2}{P h^3 \rho_2} = V_0 \left[ \frac{\tanh (M_1/2)}{M_1 \gamma} + \frac{\tanh M_2}{M_2} \right] + \frac{\lambda}{M_1^2 \gamma} \left[ 1 - \frac{\tanh (M_1/2)}{(M_1/2)} \right] + \frac{1}{M_2^2} \left[ 1 - \frac{\tanh M_2}{M_2} \right] + \frac{\alpha \sigma}{M_2^2} [V_3 - V_B] [\tanh M_2] [\tanh (M_2/2)] \quad (14)$$

Where

$$\gamma = \frac{\rho_2}{\rho_1} \quad \text{and} \quad M_2^2 = \frac{M_1^2 \gamma}{\lambda}$$

The fractional increase of mass flow rate  $\phi_1$  due to the permeability is given by

$$\phi_1 = \frac{G - G_c}{G_c} \quad (15)$$

Where  $G_c$  the limiting value of  $G$  as  $\sigma \rightarrow \infty$  and it denotes the mass flow rate in the case of channel with no permeable bed.

The fractional increase in the mass flow rate  $\phi_2$  due to unsteady pressure gradient is obtained as

$$\phi_2 = \frac{G - G_B}{G_B} \tag{16}$$

where  $G_B$  is the limiting value of  $G$  as  $M_1$  or  $M_2$  tends to zero.

The non-dimensional skin friction coefficients  $T_1$  and  $T_2$  respectively at the permeable bed and at the upper wall are obtained at

$$T_1 = \frac{\tau_1}{Ph} = \alpha\sigma(V_B - V_3) \tag{17}$$

and

$$T_2 = \frac{\tau_2}{Ph} = \frac{1 - \cosh M_1}{M_1 \sinh M_1} - \frac{V_0 M_1}{\lambda \sinh M_1} \tag{18}$$

### 3. DISCUSSION

The ordinates  $\bar{y}_1$  and  $\bar{y}_2$  at which the velocity of the fluids in the upper and lower halves assume maximum values are calculated for different values of  $\alpha$  and  $\sigma$ . These results are graphically presented in Fig. 1. The slip velocity  $V_B$  at the interface of the

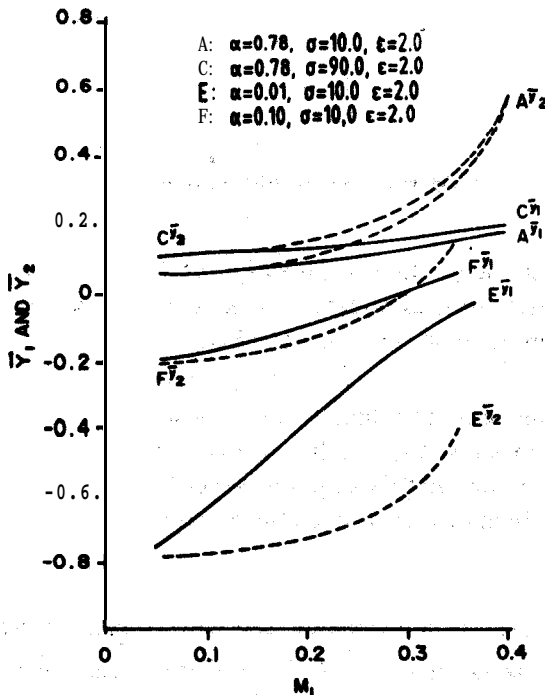


Figure 1. Plots of  $\bar{y}_1$  and  $\bar{y}_2$  against  $M_1$  for different values of  $\alpha$  and  $\sigma$ .

A:  $\alpha=0.78$ ,  $\sigma=10.0$ ,  $\epsilon=2.0$ , B:  $\alpha=1.45$ ,  $\sigma=10.0$ ,  $\epsilon=2.0$   
 C:  $\alpha=0.78$ ,  $\sigma=90.0$ ,  $\epsilon=2.0$ , D:  $\alpha=1.45$ ,  $\sigma=90.0$ ,  $\epsilon=2.0$   
 H:  $\alpha=0.10$ ,  $\sigma=50.0$ ,  $\epsilon=2.0$ , I:  $\alpha=0.78$ ,  $\sigma=50.0$ ,  $\epsilon=2.0$

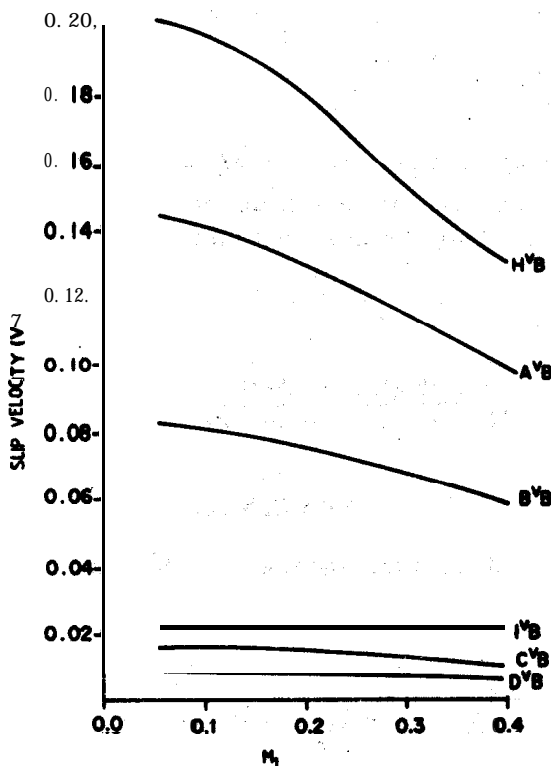


Figure 2. Slip velocity  $V_B$  versus  $M_1$ .

permeable bed and the **lower** fluid is given in Fig. 2 for various values of  $a$  and  $\sigma$ . The flow characteristics such as interface velocity  $V_0$ , mass flow rate  $G$ , fractional increase of mass flow rates  $\phi_1$  and  $\phi_2$  and skin friction coefficients  $T_1$  and  $T_2$  are displayed in Fig. 3.

From Fig. 1 it can be noticed that  $\bar{y}_1$ ,  $\bar{y}_2$  are positive or negative depending upon  $a$  and  $\sigma$ . The negative values of  $\bar{y}_1$  and the positive values of  $\bar{y}_2$  are inadmissible. From this, it is interesting to note that the upper or lower fluid will have maximum velocity depending upon  $a$  is high or low. It can also be noticed that  $\bar{y}_1$  and  $\bar{y}_2$  increase as  $\sigma$  or  $M_1$  increases.

From Fig. 2 it can be found that the velocity at the porous surface  $V_B$  decreases as  $a$  increases. This effect is more pronounced when  $\sigma$  takes higher values.

Figure 3, clearly shows that  $V_0$ ,  $G$ ,  $\phi_1$ ,  $\phi_2$  decrease as  $a$  or  $\sigma$  increases. Further it is also seen that skin friction coefficients  $T_1$  at the permeable bed increases with  $a$  or  $\sigma$  while the skin friction coefficient  $T_2$  decreases as  $a$  or  $\sigma$  increases.

A:  $\alpha=0.78, \sigma=10.0, \epsilon=2.0$ , 8:  $\alpha=1.45, \sigma=10.0, \epsilon=2.0$   
 C:  $\alpha=0.78, \sigma=90.0, \epsilon=2.0$ , E:  $\alpha=0.01, \sigma=10.0, \epsilon=2.0$   
 F:  $\alpha=0.10, \sigma=10.0, \epsilon=2.0$ , K:  $\alpha=0.01, \sigma=10.0, \epsilon=2.0$

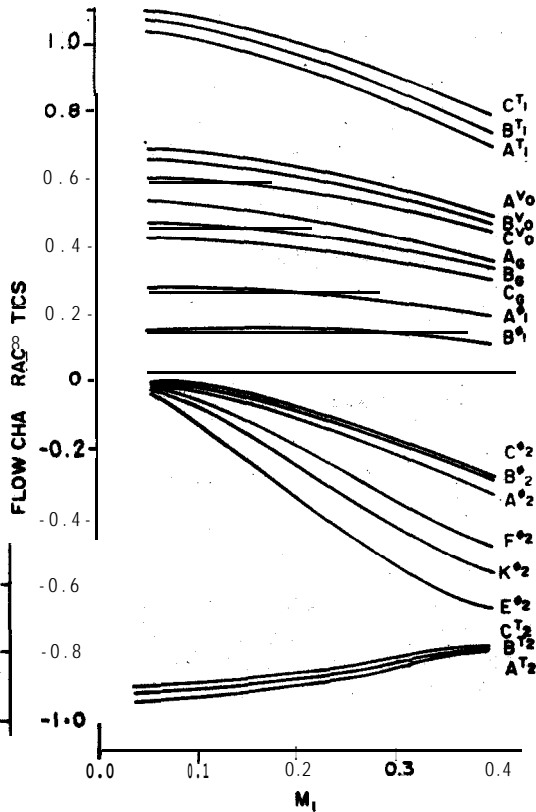


Figure 3. Flow characteristics versus  $M_1$ .

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