

AN EMPIRICAL CORRELATION FOR ISOTHERMAL PARALLEL PLATE CHANNEL COMPLETELY FILLED WITH POROUS MEDIA

by

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This study reports a simple empirical correlation for friction factor and Nusselt number for laminar, steady-state, hydraulically and thermally fully developed flow in isothermal parallel plate channel completely filled with porous media. The study is carried out using a finite difference numerical analysis. The Darcy-Brinkman-Forchheimer model is used to model the flow inside the porous media. The empirical correlations are developed to relate friction factor and Nusselt number to Darcy and Forchheimer coefficient.

Key words: *heat transfer, porous media, forced convection, empirical formula, friction factor*

Introduction

Heat transfer enhancement strategy has been used for various types of industrial applications such as shell-and-tube type heat exchangers, electronic cooling devices, thermal regenerators, and internal cooling of gas turbine blades. Enhancing the internal cooling of the channels is achieved by different augmentation techniques such as jet impingement [1], porous inserts [2], roughness elements [3], ribs, baffles [4], porous fins [5], or two-phase cooling [6]. Heat exchanger industries are seeking more compact and more cost-effective heat exchanger manufacturing techniques [7], which lead the way to use porous fins to augment heat transfer [8, 9].

Carman [10] and Collins [11] have investigated the fluid flow through porous material using Darcy's law. Beavers and Joseph [12] first investigated the fluid mechanics at the interface between a fluid layer and a porous medium over a flat plate. Closed-form analytical solutions for forced convection in parallel-plate ducts and in circular pipes partially filled with porous materials were obtained by Poulikakos and Kazmierczak [13] for constant wall heat flux. Poulikakos and Renken [14] presented the numerical results computed for a constant wall temperature and completely filled ducts. Vafai and Thiyagaraja [15] obtained an analytical approximate solution for the same problem based on matched asymptotic expansions for the velocity and temperature distributions. Later on, Vafai and Kim [16] presented an exact solution for the same problem. The problem of forced convection in channels partially filled with porous media was numerically investigated by Jang and Chen [17] using Darcy-Brinkman-Forchheimer model.

Implementing Darcy-Brinkman model, analytical solutions were obtained by Chikh *et al.* [18] for the problem of forced convection in an annular duct partially filled with a porous medium. The same problem was investigated numerically by the same group based on the

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Darcy-Brinkman-Forchheimer model [19]. The transient behavior of a flow inside a parallel-plate channel partially filled with porous media was investigated by Al-Nimr and Alkam [20, 21].

Several experimental and numerical studies have been conducted to provide a deeper understanding of the transport mechanism of the momentum and the heat transfer in porous media. Hwang and Chao [22] showed that the smaller size of pore density can decrease the entrance length and increase the local Nusselt number in their packed bed experiment using sintered material. They introduced two-equation model to overcome heat transfer over prediction of conventional one equation model and showed the existence of non-equilibrium thermal condition between the fluid and the solid matrix. Kim *et al.* [23] experimentally investigated an asymmetrically heated packed bed filled with foam materials. Kim *et al.* [23] have developed correlation equations for friction factor and Nusselt number for different foam materials as function of Darcy number, Reynolds number, and Prandtl number. Recently, Huang *et al.* [24] experimentally and numerically showed that heat augmentation can be achieved by inserting porous medium in the core of the flow. Similar finding was reported earlier by Hamdan *et al.* [25] where numerical analysis of laminar flow between two constant temperature parallel plates shows enhancement in heat transfer by inserting porous substrate in the core of the flow. Rachedi and Chikh [26] numerically studied forced convection cooling in the presence of porous inserts in electronic devices. Results showed that the temperature dropped down by half. The effect of shape and location of porous insert is investigated numerically by Teamah *et al.* [27] to identify the parameters that can offer higher heat transfer with minimum pressure drop. Teamah *et al.* [27] reported the effect of the porous insert thickness and Darcy number on the velocity profiles, the local Nusselt number, the average Nusselt number, and the pressure drop.

From literature, the availability of general correlation for calculating friction factor and Nusselt number is limited to specific material such aluminum metal foam [23]. In this work, the author intention is to produce general empirical correlations describing the thermal performance via porous media. Such empirical correlations are highly desirable by applied engineers. The present numerical study reports the impact of different dimensionless parameters such as Darcy, Forchheimer, Reynolds, and relative thermal conductivity for steady-state fully developed laminar flow in isothermal parallel-plate channels filled with porous media. Darcy-Brinkman-Forchheimer model is used to describe the flow inside the porous domain.

Mathematical model

A schematic diagram for the problem under consideration is shown in fig. 1. The figure presents a 2-D isothermal parallel-plate channel with porous media sandwiched between two parallel plates. A steady-state flow enters the channel with a uniform velocity distribution, U_i , constant temperature, T_i , and constant pressure P_i . The Forchheimer-Brinkman-Darcy model is adopted assuming laminar, single-phase, boundary layer flow with no internal heat generation, and neglecting viscous dissipation and axial conduction. Also, it is assumed that the porous medium is homogeneous, isotropic, consolidated, saturated with fluid, with invariant thermal properties, and chemically stable. The fluid is homogeneous, incompressible, and in-local thermal equilibrium with the solid matrix. On the basis of the dimensionless parameters given in the nomenclature, the equations of continuity, momentum, energy, and integral continuity for flow inside porous domains, reduce to the following dimensionless equations:

$$\frac{\partial U}{\partial X} + \frac{\partial V}{\partial Y} = 0 \quad (1)$$

$$U \frac{\partial U}{\partial X} + V \frac{\partial U}{\partial Y} = \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial P}{\partial X} + \nu \frac{\partial^2 U}{\partial Y^2} - \left(\frac{\nu}{Da} U + AU^2 \right) \quad (2)$$

$$U \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial X} + V \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial Y} = k \frac{1}{Pr_1} \frac{\partial^2 \theta}{\partial Y^2} \quad (3)$$

$$\int_0^1 \rho U dY = U_o \quad (4)$$

The equations in this problem are non-linear partial differential equations. These equation are second order in Y-direction and first order in the X-direction and hence two boundary conditions in Y-direction are defined for each variable U , V , and θ . While one boundary condition is defined in X-direction for each variable U , V , θ , and P .

In eq. 2, the diffusion term in axial direction is neglected following the boundary layer approximation for the developing region which is canceled in the fully developed region due to the fully developed velocity profile. In eq. 3, axial conduction is neglected. Axial conduction, usually, is neglected if the conventional Peclet number is larger than 10 [28]. When the ratio of pore diameter to channel width is of the order of 0.01, it implies that axial conduction may be neglected if the modified Peclet number, Pe^* , is of order larger than 0.1 [28].

The momentum equation has the following boundary conditions:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{At } X = 0, \text{ and } 0 < Y < B, \quad U_1 = U_i \text{ and } V_1 = 0 \\ \text{For } X > 0, \text{ and } Y = 0, \quad U_2 = U_1 = V_2 = V_1 = 0 \\ \text{For } X > 0, \text{ and } Y = B, \quad U_2 = U_1 = V_2 = V_1 = 0 \end{aligned}$$

The energy equation has the following boundary conditions:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{At } X = 0, \text{ and } 0 < Y < B, \quad \theta_1 = 0 \\ \text{For } X > 0, \text{ and } Y = 0, \quad \theta_w = 1 \\ \text{For } X > 0, \text{ and } Y = B, \quad \theta_w = 1 \end{aligned}$$

The friction factor, and the local Nusselt number are defined as:

$$f = \frac{2\Delta P}{\rho_1 U_i^2} \left(\frac{D_h}{B} \right) \quad (5)$$

$$Nu = \frac{2hb}{k_1} = k \frac{2}{1 - \theta_{MC}} \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial Y} \Big|_{Y=0} \quad (6)$$

Numerical solution

The governing differential equations are transformed into the corresponding finite difference equations and are applied to a 2-D uniform grid. The 2-D of the grid under consideration simulate the axial and the transverse variables. The non-linear terms in momentum equation

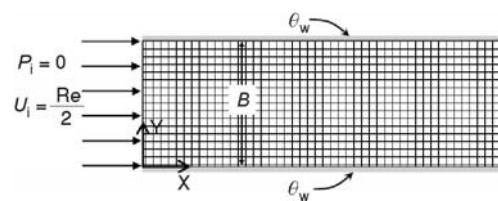


Figure 1. A schematic diagram of the problem under consideration

were linearized using the lagging technique by Hoffman and Frankel [29]. Following [29], the linearized implicit finite difference equations are derived using a second-order central difference scheme for the transverse derivatives, and first-order backward scheme for the axial derivatives. The convergence analysis of the present numerical scheme has been performed, and it is found that the derived finite difference equations resemble a consistent representation of the differential equations, and yet, the solution is unconditionally stable (*i. e.* the solution is available and approach true solution for any value of $\Delta X \rightarrow 0$ and $\Delta Y \rightarrow 0$). The linearized momentum finite difference equations, together with the boundary conditions, are transformed to a set of algebraic equations.

Table 1. Grid independent study by changing mesh size [m]×[n]. The table shows the Nusselt number in the developing region at $X = 0.1$ and $Re = 200$ for $Da = 0.01$ and $A = 0.01$

	ΔX	0.001	0.0001	0.00005
	[m]	200	2000	4000
ΔY	[n]			
0.02	50	18.8124	18.8449	18.8467
0.01	100	19.048	19.1402	19.1456
0.005	200	19.1199	19.2599	19.2687

The finite difference energy equations are transformed to tridiagonal set of algebraic equations that are solved by Matlab7 [30] matrix inverse techniques. The convergence criteria for all variable are set to the default used in Matlab matrix inverse algorithm which is $1 \cdot 10^{-15}$. A grid refinement procedure has been performed through numerical experimentations and reported in tab. 1. As shown in tab. 1, the optimum choice is found to be $\Delta X = 0.0001$ and $\Delta Y = 0.005$.

Results and discussion

The present problem is solved by means of an implicit finite difference scheme over a 2-D mesh which consists of the independent variables, X and Y . The adopted scheme is discussed in more detail by Hamdan *et al.* [25]. In order to examine the validity of this study, several investigation strategies are employed. First, a computer run is made with a high value of the Darcy number, $Da \rightarrow \infty$, and a very low value of the microscopic inertial coefficient, $A = 0$. The result of this run is so close to our knowledge of the clear flow between two-parallel plate ducts. Second, the numerical solution velocity profile for flow between two-parallel-plate channel filled with porous media using Brinkman-Darcy model ($Da = 0.01$ and $A = 0$) is compared with Poulidakos and Kazmierczak [13] which shows excellent agreement as shown in fig. 2(a). The value of Nusselt number at the isothermal walls of parallel-plate duct is shown in fig. 2(b) and compared to literature which reports for fully developed a Nusselt value of 7.54 for clear duct [31] and 9.87 for a duct filled with porous media using Brinkman-Darcy model with $Da \rightarrow 0$ and $A = 0$ [32].

The results obtained in this study have been computed using the following operating and design parameters: $Pr = 0.72$, $k_R = 1$, $\mu_R = 1$, $\rho_R = 1$, $Re = 2U_i = 200$. The experimental work by Kim *et al.* [23] generally agrees with the correlation suggested by Beavers and Sparrow [33] which represents an attempt to develop a correlations for friction factors (f) and Nusselt number (Nu) for the aluminum foams. This study proposes a general friction factor (f) correlation for fully porous channel with known value of Darcy and Forchheimer number. The following corre-

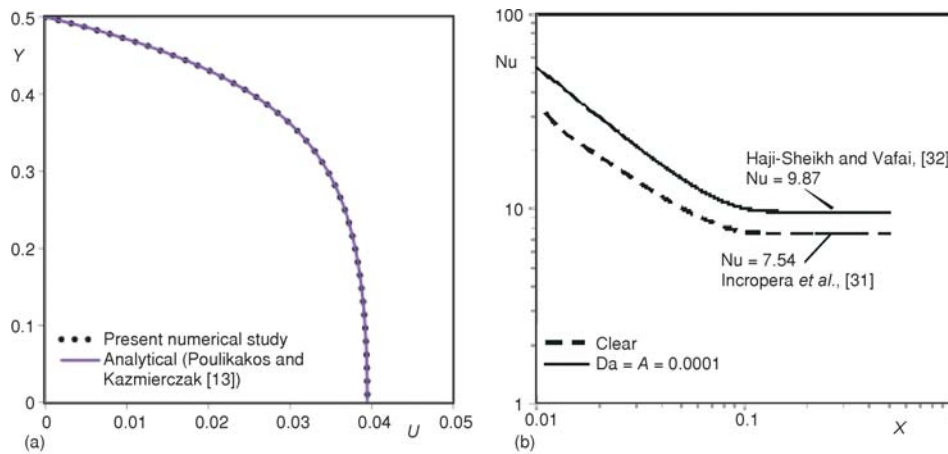


Figure 2. Validation study results; (a) the fully developed velocity profile for $Da = 0.01$ and $A = 0$, and (b) local Nusselt number for clear duct and fully filled with porous media with $Da \rightarrow 0$ and $A = 0$

lation is proposed based on the knowledge that Darcy-Brickman model is linearly independent while the Forchheimer term is the one forcing the problem to be non-linear for the fully developed steady state flow. Hence, the following empirical friction factor correlation with maximum 5.4% deviation for $100 < Re < 2000$ is suggested:

$$f = \frac{96}{Re} + \frac{8.45}{Da Re} + 5.0A^{0.961} \quad (7)$$

The first term represents the friction factor due to wall shear force ($f_1 = 96/Re$), the second term ($f_2 = 8.45/DaRe$) represents Darcy friction portion, and third term represents Forchheimer friction part due to the second order velocity, ($f_3 = 5.0A^{0.961}$).

To get a correlation of Nusselt number for flow between isothermal parallel plate the Nusselt number is calculated using the developed computation model for different value of Darcy number, Forchheimer number, and Reynolds number. The following empirical Nusselt number correlation with maximum 3.1% deviation for $100 < Re < 2000$ is suggested:

$$Nu = k \left[7.54 + \frac{f_2}{f} \left(\frac{0.023}{0.011 + Da} \right) + \frac{f_3}{f} \left(\frac{2.1}{1 + A^{-0.4}} \right) Re^{0.04} \right] \quad (8)$$

The deviation in the correlation was calculated with respect to the CFD results and were calculated for friction factor as $Deviation = |f_{Correlation} - f_{CFD}|/f_{CFD}$ and for Nusselt number as $Deviation = |Nu_{Correlation} - Nu_{CFD}|/Nu_{CFD}$. The Nusselt number correlation approaches clear isothermal clear parallel plate channel Nusselt number value of 7.54 for $Da \rightarrow \infty$, $A \rightarrow 0$, and $k \rightarrow 1$. The second term in eq. (8) is due to Darcy effect which does not depend on Reynolds number. Such behavior agrees with earlier work where only Darcy-Brickman model is imposed, such as the work of Poulikakos and Kazmierczak [13]. Poulikakos and Kazmierczak [13] reported that Reynolds has not effect on Nusselt number for laminar fully developed steady-state flow. However as inertia effect increases, the Forchheimer coefficient effect become more pronounce. Hence, for Forchheimer-Brinkman-Darcy model, Reynolds number has moderate effect on Nusselt number as shown in the third term in eq. (8) and hence Reynolds number appeared in the third term with small power value of 0.04. Such behavior also agrees with earlier work done by Kim *et al.* [23] whom proposed an empirical Nusselt number correlation from aluminum foam materials.

The correlations (7) and (8) are assessed against the numerical analysis for different values of Darcy and Forchheimer coefficient and the results are presented in figs. 3 to 6. As shown in fig. 3, as Darcy number increases the friction coefficient decreases and reaches to asymptotic value depending on the Forchheimer coefficient. Also Nusselt number will decrease with the increase of Darcy number and reach asymptotic value depending on the Forchheimer coefficient. From Darcy definition as permeability decrease Darcy number decreases forcing faster flow to pass next to the wall and hence enhances the heat transfer and increase Nusselt number.

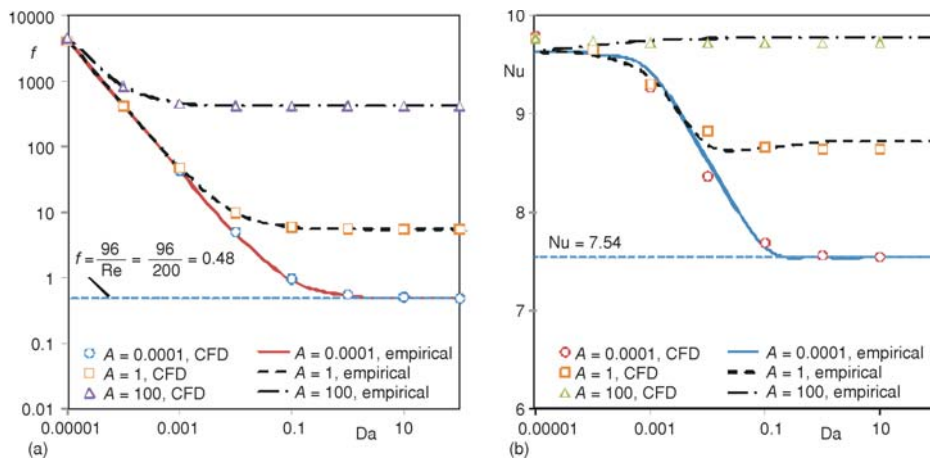


Figure 3. The effect of Darcy number for $Re = 200$ on (a) friction factor and (b) Nusselt number

The opposite trend is expected for Forchheimer coefficient friction factors as shown in fig. 4 nevertheless with higher order effect since as shown in eq. (2) the Forchheimer coefficient is related to the second order of velocity. The Forchheimer coefficient has been investigated by different scientist and many relations have been developed based on porous cavity shapes. As shown in fig. 4(a), as Forchheimer coefficient increase the friction factor increase.

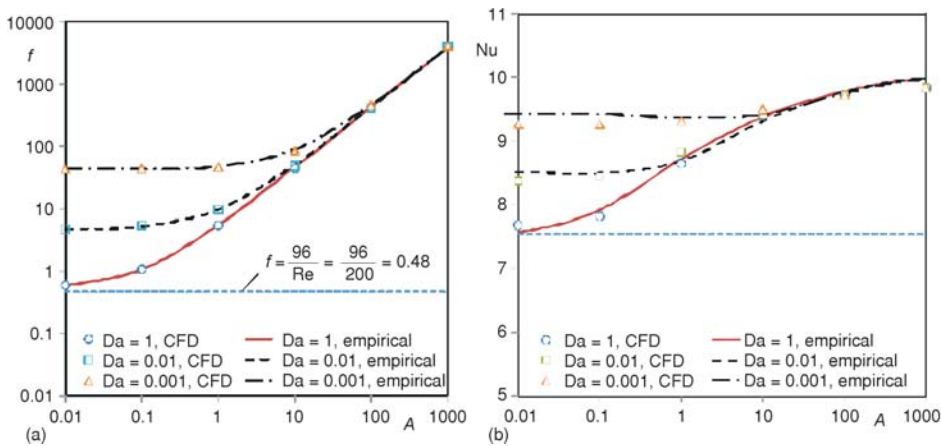


Figure 4. The effect of Forchheimer coefficient for $Re = 200$ on (a) friction factor and (b) Nusselt number

From fig. 5(a), it is clear that as Reynolds number increases the friction factor decreases since the effect of shear to inertia forces decreases with the increase in Reynolds number. However for high Forchheimer coefficient, the friction factor asymptotic value as low Reynolds number which mean that inertia forces is more pronounce effect and that Forchheimer coefficient is more related to pressure drag. As shown in fig. 5(b) (CFD results), the Reynolds number has no effect on Nusselt number when Forchheimer coefficient is very small. While for high Forchheimer coefficient, the effect of Reynolds number on Nusselt number is more pronounced.

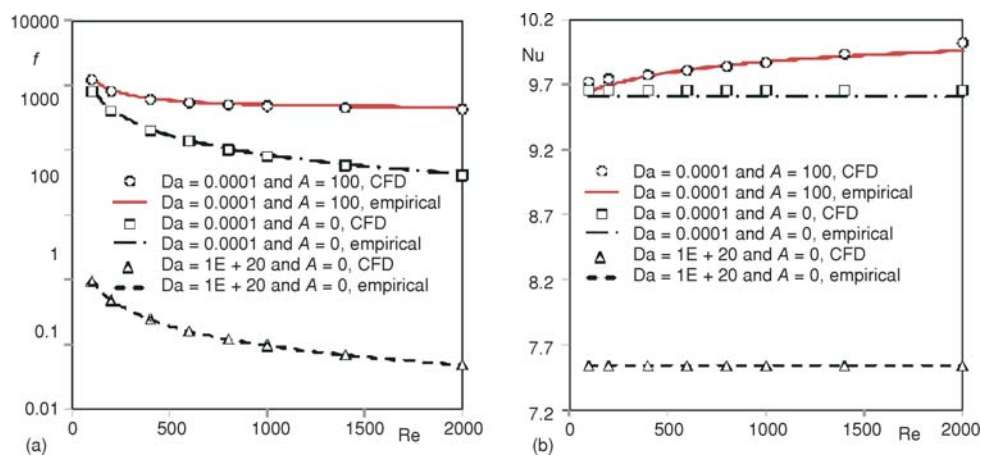


Figure 5. The effect of Reynolds number for different values of Darcy number and Forchheimer coefficient on (a) friction factor, and (b) Nusselt number

This can be explained that Darcy number is related to friction drag while Forchheimer coefficient is related to pressure drag. Hence when Darcy number is the dominating factor compared to Forchheimer coefficient, then the flow behave as internal fully developed flow where Nusslet number is expected to be independent of Reynolds number for laminar flow. However when Forchheimer coefficient is the dominated factor compared to Nusslet number, it is expected that the flow behave more likely as external flow where inertia forces becomes important and hence Nusselt number is highly dependent on Reynolds number.

Finally in fig. 6, as expected the relative thermal conductivity have direct effect on Nusselt number and as relative thermal conductivity increases the Nusselt number increases linearly as shown in fig. 6 and as indicated in eq. (8).

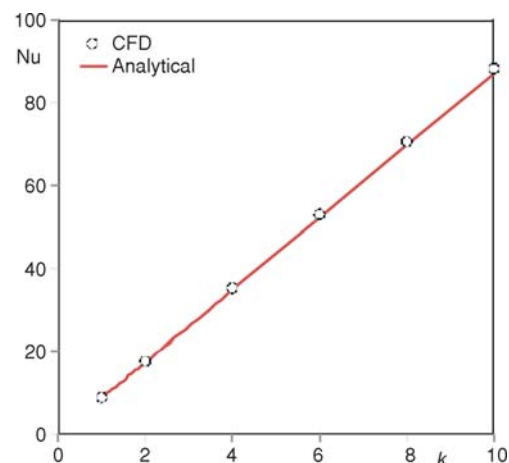


Figure 6. The effect of thermal conductivity ratio on Nusselt number for $Re = 200$, $Da = 0.01$, and $A = 1$

Conclusions

A numerical investigation on the flow and convective heat transfer characteristics for

isothermal parallel plate channel filled with porous media has been performed. The following conclusion can be stated.

- Friction factor and Nusselt number for flow between isothermal walls of parallel-plate duct can be described using simple empirical correlations that depend on Darcy number and Forchheimer coefficient and is suggested by this study.
- Darcy friction term is directly related to friction drag inside the porous matrix. So as Darcy decrease then permeability decrease which is highly dominated by increase in surface area and hence by friction drag.
- Forchheimer friction term is directly related to pressure drag inside the porous matrix. So as Forchheimer coefficient is highly dominated by frontal and blockage area and hence by pressure drag.
- For porous media that consists of straight holes, one expects that friction drag is the dominated force and hence Darcy number plays the main role in describing friction factor.
- For porous media that consists of spherical hole and many blockage areas, one expects that pressure drag force is the dominated force and hence Forchheimer coefficient plays a role in describing friction factor.

Nomenclature

A	– microscopic inertial or form drag coefficient, $(= \varepsilon Fb/\rho_R(K)^{1/2})$, [–]	U	– dimensionless volume averaged axial velocity $(= uB/v_1)$, [–]
B	– dimensionless channel height, $(= b/b = 1)$, [–]	u	– axial velocity, $[\text{ms}^{-1}]$
b	– dimensional channel height, [m]	v	– transverse velocity, $[\text{ms}^{-1}]$
C_1	– specific heat constant of the fluid, $[\text{kJkg}^{-1}\text{K}^{-1}]$	V	– dimensionless transverse velocity $(= vb/v_1)$, [–]
Da	– Darcy number, $(= K/b^2)$, [–]	X	– dimensionless axial co-ordinate $(= x/b)$, [–]
D_h	– hydraulic diameter, $(= 2b)$, [m]	x	– dimensional axial co-ordinate, [m]
d	– dimensional pore diameter, [m]	Y	– dimensionless transverse co-ordinate $(= y/b)$, [–]
F	– Forchheimer coefficient $(= 1.8)/(180\varepsilon^5)$, [–]	y	– dimensional transverse co-ordinate, [m]
f	– friction factor, $(= 2\tau/\rho u^2)$, [–]	<i>Greek symbols</i>	
f_1	– friction factor component due to wall, [–]	α	– thermal diffusivity $(= k\rho/C)$, $[\text{m}^2\text{s}^{-1}]$
f_2	– friction factor due to Darcy effect, [–]	Δ	– increment in numerical mesh network space
f_3	– friction factor due to Forchheimer effect, [–]	ε	– porosity, [–]
h	– local heat transfer coefficient, $[\text{Wm}^{-2}\text{K}^{-1}]$	θ	– dimensionless temperature $[= (T - T_i)/(T_w - T_i)]$, [–]
K	– permeability of the porous substrate, $[\text{m}^2]$	θ_{MC}	– dimensionless mixing cup temperature $[= (T_{MC} - T_i)/(T_w - T_i)]$, [–]
k_1	– thermal conductivity of the fluid, $[\text{Wm}^{-1}\text{K}^{-1}]$	μ	– dynamic viscosity, $[\text{Pa}\cdot\text{s}]$
k_2	– thermal conductivity of porous domain $[= k_f\varepsilon + k_s(1 - \varepsilon)]$, $[\text{Wm}^{-1}\text{K}^{-1}]$	ν	– kinematics viscosity, $[\text{m}^2\text{s}^{-1}]$
k	– thermal conductivity ratio, $(= k_2b/k_1)$, [–]	ρ	– density, $[\text{kgm}^{-3}]$
m	– number of grid in X-direction, [–]	τ	– shear, $[\text{Nm}^{-2}]$
Nu	– local Nusselt number $(= h_2b/k_1)$, [–]	<i>Subscripts</i>	
n	– number of grid in Y-direction, [–]	1	– fluid domain property
P	– dimensionless pressure, $(= pb^2/\rho_1v_1^2)$, [–]	2	– porous domain property
Pe^*	– modified Peclet number $(= U_i d^2/D_k\alpha)$, [–]	MC	– mixing cup
Pr	– Prandtl number of the fluid, $(= C_1\mu_1/k_1)$, [–]	i	– inlet
p	– pressure, [Pa]	w	– wall
T	– temperature, [K]		
T_{CM}	– mixing cup temperature $[= \int_0^y C_2\rho_2u_2T_2dy/(C_2\rho_1U_1y)]$, [K]		

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