



# Numerical analysis of natural convection of Cu–water nanofluid filling triangular cavity with semicircular bottom wall

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## Abstract

This study provides numerical analysis of the free convection of copper–water-based nanofluid filling a triangular cavity with semicircular bottom wall. The cavity sidewalls are maintained at cold temperature, while the semicircular wall is maintained at hot temperature. The other wall segments are thermally insulated. To control the energy transport within the cavity, a uniform magnetic field is applied horizontally. The physical domain is discretized according to the control volume finite element method which has been used to solve the governing equations. The physical and geometrical aspects of the current problem are investigated by inspecting the impacts of Rayleigh number, Hartman number, aspect ratio and the volume fraction of the Cu nanoparticles. Decreasing the radius of the hot semicircle enlarges the average Nusselt number at the absence of the magnetic field. When the magnetic field is applied, this effect is conversed within  $Ra \leq 10^4$ . This conversed impact does not hold up when  $Ra$  is raised to  $10^5$ . The numerical results are correlated in a sophisticated correlation of the average Nusselt number with other parameters.

**Keywords** Nanofluid · Natural convection · Magnetic field · CVFEM · Nusselt number

## List of symbols

$Ha$	Hartmann number (–)	$Nu_{ave.}$	Average Nusselt number (–)
$Pr$	Prandtl number (–)	$k$	Thermal conductivity ( $W m^{-1} K^{-1}$ )
$B_0$	Magnetic field (–)	$u, v$	Velocity components in $x$ and $y$ directions, respectively ( $m s^{-1}$ )
$c$	Specific heat ( $J kg^{-1} K^{-1}$ )	$Ra$	Rayleigh number (–)
$T$	Temperature (K)	AR	Aspect ratio (–)
$Nu_{loc.}$	Local Nusselt number (–)	$p$	Pressure term (Pa)

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## Greek symbols

$\beta$	Thermal expansion coefficient ( $K^{-1}$ )
$\rho$	Density ( $kg m^{-3}$ )
$\mu$	Dynamic viscosity ( $kg m^{-1} s^{-1}$ )
$\nu$	Kinematic viscosity ( $m^2 s^{-1}$ )
$\sigma$	Electrical conductivity ( $\Omega^{-1} m^{-1}$ )
$\phi$	Nanoparticles volume fraction (–)
$\theta$	Dimensionless temperature

## Subscripts

f	Base fluid
nf	Nanofluid
s	Solid nanoparticles

### Introduction

In recent years, researchers have used many methods to increase the heat transfer coefficient. One of them is to add metallic nanoscale particles to the base fluids. This combination, which is called ‘nanofluid,’ has higher thermal conductivity than normal fluids. Many studies have been done on the flow and heat transfer of the nanofluids [1–21]. The mixed convection of Cu–water nanofluid in lid-driven trapezoidal cavities under the magnetic field effect was analyzed by Chamkha and Ismael [1]. Nanofluid natural convection flow and heat transfer in a circular-wavy cavity were studied by Hatami et al. [2]. Magneto-hydrodynamic (MHD) nanofluid toward a stagnation point flow over a permeable stretching surface was studied by Bhatti and Rashidi [3]. They detected that the velocity of the fluid grows due to greater impact of magnetic field and porosity parameter. The buoyancy-driven heat transfer increment in a sinusoidal heated enclosure applying hybrid nanofluid was studied by Tayebi and Chamkha [4]. Dogonchi and Ganji [5] examined the unsteady squeezing magneto-hydrodynamic flow and heat transfer of nanofluid between two parallel plates under the impacts of thermal radiation and Cattaneo–Christov heat flux model. Nanofluid flow and heat transfer between non-parallel plates under the magnetic field were analyzed by Dogonchi and Ganji [6]. Mixed convection of Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>–water nanofluid over permeable wedge considering aggregation effects was studied by Ellahi et al. [7]. Squeezing unsteady nanofluid flow between two parallel plates was explored by Dib et al. [8].

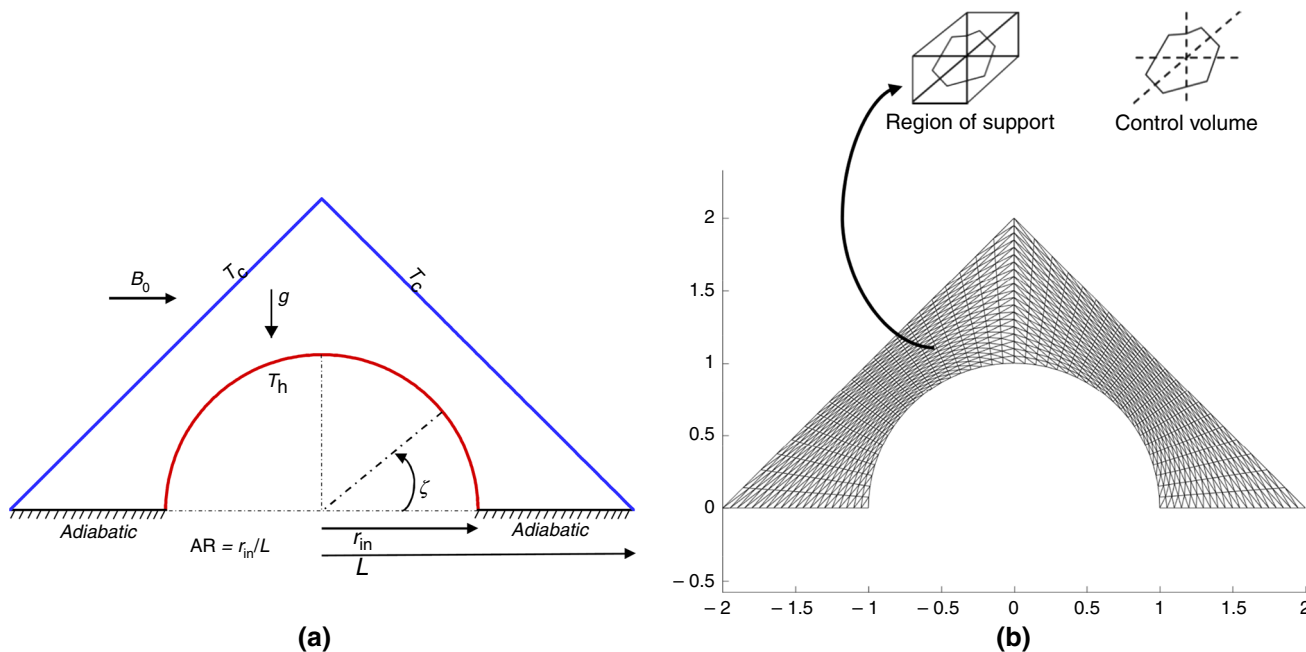
Hayat et al. [9] investigated the nanofluid flow through a porous space with convective conditions and heterogeneous–homogeneous reactions. Hayat et al. [10] studied the impacts of homogeneous–heterogeneous reactions on the nanofluid flow. Rashidi et al. [11] explored the impact of the thermal radiation on the magneto-hydrodynamic buoyancy flow of nanofluid over a stretching sheet. Williamson nanofluid flow over a porous shrinking/stretching sheet under the thermo-diffusion and thermal radiation impacts was discussed by Bhatti and Rashidi [12].

Despite its active enhancement of heat transfer, the mixed convection is fulfilled by nanofluids as extra strategy to enhance heat transfer in enclosures. With the aid of nanofluids, variant enclosure geometries, inner rotating bodies, impinging jet mechanism, moving wall mechanisms have been studied by [22–27].

Researchers have also focused on the natural convection of nanofluids and normal fluids in the enclosures [28–42]. Natural convection of nanofluid and entropy generation in a cavity with variable temperature side walls were investigated by Sheremet et al. [28]. They applied Buongiorno’s mathematical model in their work. Ghalambaz et al. [29] examined the phase-change heat transfer of nanofluid in a

**Table 1** Thermo-physical properties of water and nanoparticles

	$\rho/\text{kg m}^{-3}$	$C_p/\text{J kg}^{-1} \text{K}^{-1}$	$k/\text{W mK}^{-1}$
Copper (Cu)	8933	385	401
Pure water	997.1	4179	0.613



**Fig. 1** a Physical model and coordinate system b grid distribution

cavity heated from below. Alsabery et al. [30] perused the conjugate natural convection of nanofluid in a cavity considering sinusoidal temperature variations on both horizontal sides. The impact of magnetic field and internal heat generation on the free convection flow of nanofluid in a rectangular cavity was studied by Rashad et al. [31]. Their results indicate that the average Nusselt number diminishes as the Hartmann number or the solid volume fraction raises, while the opposite treatment happens with the raise in magnetic field inclination angle. Natural convection of nanofluid inside a porous wavy cavity considering the impact of thermal dispersion was examined by Sheremet et al. [32]. They demonstrated that the heat transfer rises with Rayleigh number, dispersion parameter and undulation number, while convective flow is abated with a rise in undulation number, flow inertia parameter and dispersion parameter. Natural convection of nanofluid in a portion cavity was studied by Bararnia et al. [33]. They applied the lattice Boltzmann method to solve governing equations. Abu-Nada et al. [34] investigated the convective heat transfer increment in horizontal concentric annuli applying nanofluids. Jou and Tzeng [35] did numerical research of natural convective heat transfer increment in rectangular enclosures filled with nanofluids. Dogonchi et al. [36] explored the nanofluid natural convective heat transfer in a wavy enclosure. They stated that for higher Rayleigh number there is an optimum volume fraction of nanofluid in which the average Nusselt number is maximum. Selimefendigil et al. [37] investigated the generation of entropy in entrapped trapezoidal enclosures filled with nanofluid under the influence of magnetic field. Sheremet et al. [38] studied the free convection of nanofluid in a partially heated wavy porous cavity considering the impacts of Brownian diffusion and thermophoresis. Recently, Selimefendigil and Oztop [43] have developed a mathematical model based on proper orthogonal decomposition and polynomial interpolation among modal coefficients to study the 3D natural convection of CuO–water nanofluid-filled trapezoidal cavity with corrugated wall.

This paper studies Cu–water nanofluid natural convection flow and heat transfer in a triangular enclosure of semicircular bottom wall under the magnetic field impact employing the Control Volume Finite Element Method (CVFEM). Cooling of circular hot surfaces using a high-thermal-conductivity medium like nanofluid is of major importance in

industrial applications. The circular surface can simulate a heat exchanger pipe or solidification of melting metal. The existence of the magnetic field is to control these physical problems. The impacts of effective parameters such as Rayleigh number, volume fraction of nanofluid, Hartmann number and aspect ratio on flow and heat transfer characteristics are explored and demonstrated graphically.

### Problem description

Cu–water nanofluid natural convection flow in an enclosure under the magnetic field is investigated. Physical model and sample grid distribution of the present paper are shown in Fig. 1. The inner circular wall is maintained at a constant temperature  $T_h$ , while the outer inclined walls are maintained at a constant temperature  $T_c$  such that  $T_h > T_c$ . In addition, the horizontal walls are adiabatic. Under the Boussinesq approximation, the continuity, momentum and energy equations for steady two-dimensional Cu–water nanofluid natural convection flow in the enclosure can be stated as:

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

$$u \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} = -\frac{1}{\rho_{nf}} \frac{\partial p}{\partial x} + \frac{\mu_{nf}}{\rho_{nf}} \left( \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} \right) \tag{2}$$

$$u \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} = -\frac{1}{\rho_{nf}} \frac{\partial p}{\partial y} + \frac{\mu_{nf}}{\rho_{nf}} \left( \frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial y^2} \right) + \beta_{nf} g (T - T_c) - \frac{\sigma_f B_0^2}{\rho_{nf}} v \tag{3}$$

**Table 3** Impact of grid size on the average Nusselt number ( $Nu_{ave}$ ) when  $Ra = 10^5$ ,  $\phi = 0.04$ ,  $Ha = 50$  and  $AR = 0.5$

Grid dimension (radial direction × angular direction)	$Nu_{ave}$
31 × 101	4.041443
41 × 131	4.068598
51 × 161	4.076842
61 × 191	4.078895
71 × 221	4.078636
81 × 251	4.077489

**Table 2** Comparison between present results and other works for the average Nusselt number ( $Nu_{ave}$ )

$Ra$	Present work	Khanafer et al. [45]	%Error	De Vahl Davis [46]	%Error
$10^3$	1.1307	1.118	1.136	1.118	1.136
$10^4$	2.2674	2.245	0.998	2.243	1.087
$10^5$	4.5851	4.522	1.395	4.519	1.463
$10^6$	8.8341	8.826	0.0918	8.799	0.399

$$u \frac{\partial T}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial T}{\partial y} = \frac{k_{nf}}{(\rho C_p)_{nf}} \left( \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial y^2} \right) \quad (4)$$

Here  $u$  and  $v$  are the velocities in the  $x$  and  $y$  directions, respectively,  $T$  is the temperature,  $P$  is the pressure,  $\sigma_f$  is the electric conductivity of the fluid, and  $B_0$  is the magnetic field. Further,  $\rho_{nf}$  is the nanofluid effective density,  $(\rho C_p)_{nf}$

is the nanofluid heat capacitance,  $\beta_{nf}$  is the nanofluid thermal expansion coefficient,  $\mu_{nf}$  is the nanofluid effective dynamic viscosity, and  $k_{nf}$  is the thermal conductivity of nanofluid which are defined as follows:

$$\rho_{nf} = (1 - \phi)\rho_f + \phi\rho_s \quad (5)$$

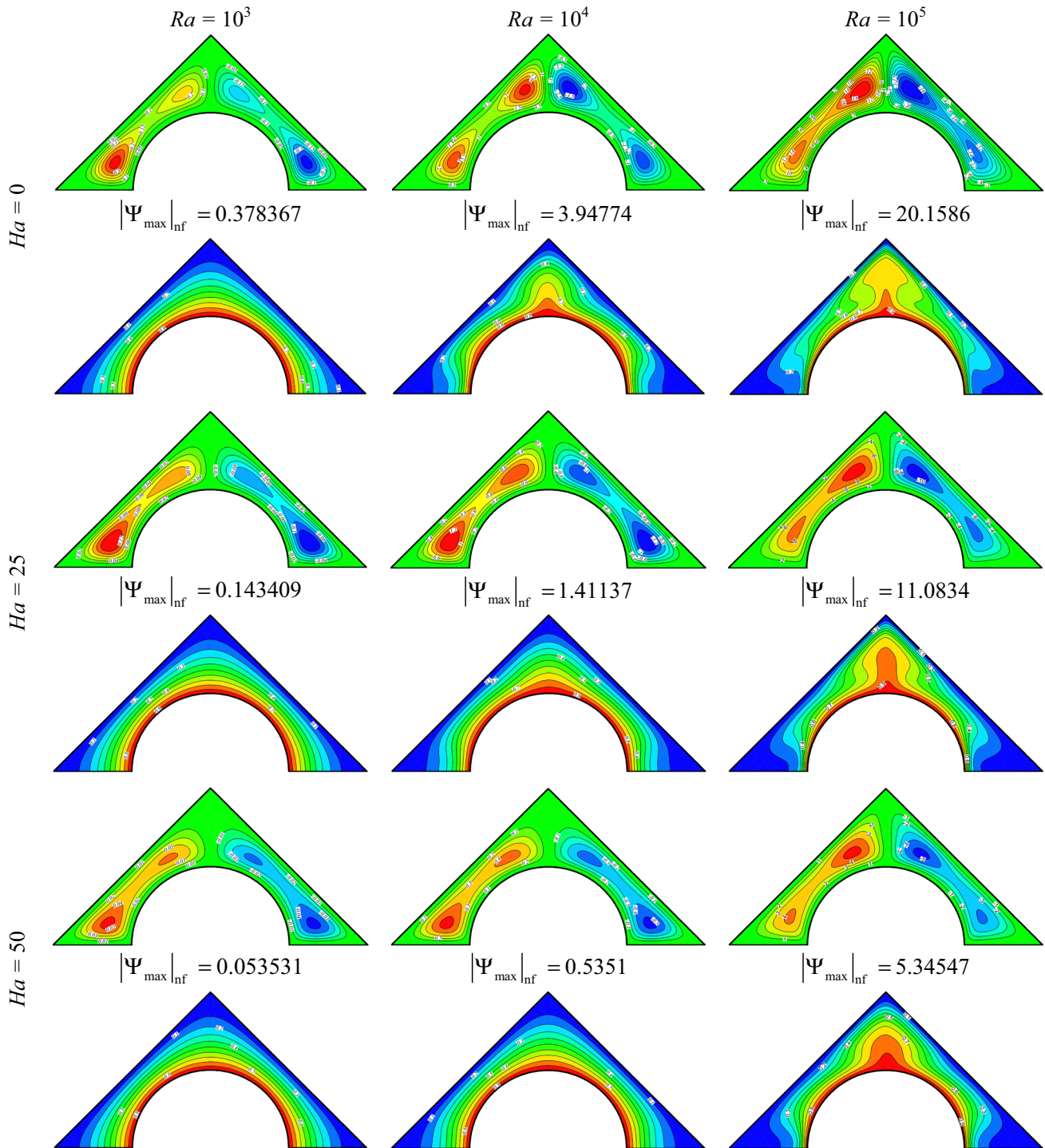


Fig. 2 Streamlines and isotherms for different values of  $Ra$  and  $Ha$  when  $\phi = 2\%$  and  $AR = 0.5$

$$(\rho C_p)_{nf} = (1 - \phi)(\rho C_p)_f + \phi(\rho C_p)_s \tag{6}$$

$$(\beta)_{nf} = (1 - \phi)\beta_f + \phi\beta_s \tag{7}$$

$$\mu_{nf} = \frac{\mu_f}{(1 - \phi)^{2.5}} \tag{8}$$

$$\frac{k_{nf}}{k_f} = \frac{k_s + 2k_f - 2\phi(k_f - k_s)}{k_s + 2k_f + 2\phi(k_f - k_s)} \tag{9}$$

The nanofluid thermo-physical properties are stated in Table 1.

The stream function and vorticity are defined as follows:

$$u = \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial y}, \quad v = -\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x}, \quad \omega = \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} \tag{10}$$

We define these dimensionless variables as:

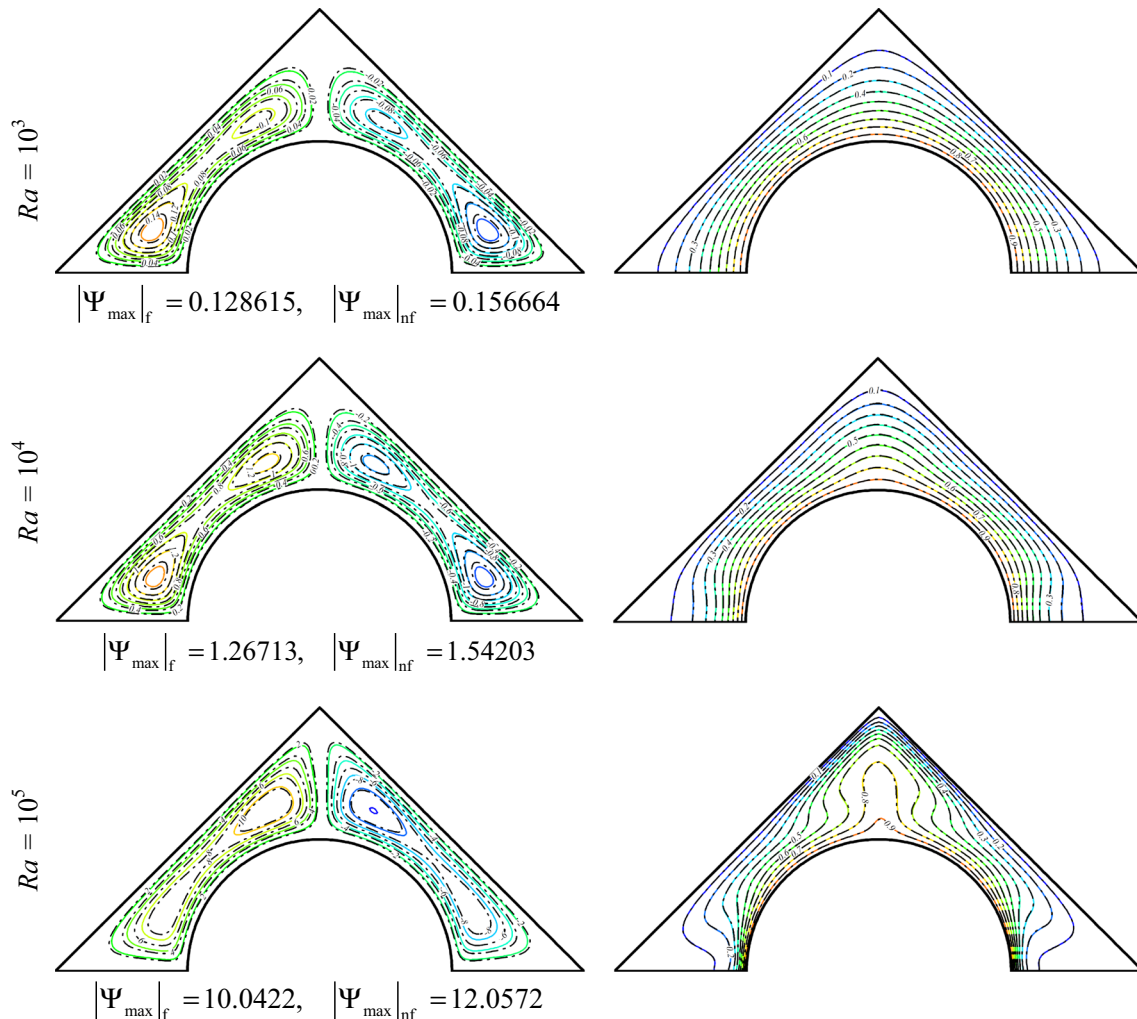
$$\begin{aligned} X = \frac{x}{L}, \quad Y = \frac{y}{L}, \quad \Omega = \frac{\omega L^2}{\alpha_f}, \quad \Psi = \frac{\psi}{\alpha_f}, \quad U = \frac{uL}{\alpha_f}, \\ V = \frac{vL}{\alpha_f}, \quad \theta = \frac{T - T_c}{T_h - T_c} \end{aligned} \tag{11}$$

By applying these dimensionless variables, the governing equations reduce to non-dimensional form:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial Y} \frac{\partial \Omega}{\partial X} - \frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial X} \frac{\partial \Omega}{\partial Y} = \frac{\mu_{nf} \rho_f}{\mu_f \rho_{nf}} \text{Pr} \left( \frac{\partial^2 \Omega}{\partial X^2} + \frac{\partial^2 \Omega}{\partial Y^2} \right) + \frac{\beta_{nf} Ra \text{Pr}}{\beta_f} \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial X} \\ + \frac{\rho_f Ha^2 \text{Pr}}{\rho_{nf}} \frac{\partial^2 \Psi}{\partial X^2} \end{aligned} \tag{12}$$

$$\frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial Y} \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial X} - \frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial X} \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial Y} = \frac{k_{nf} (\rho C_p)_f}{k_f (\rho C_p)_{nf}} \left( \frac{\partial^2 \theta}{\partial X^2} + \frac{\partial^2 \theta}{\partial Y^2} \right) \tag{13}$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 \Psi}{\partial X^2} + \frac{\partial^2 \Psi}{\partial Y^2} = -\Omega \tag{14}$$



**Fig. 3** Comparison of the streamlines and isotherms between nanofluid (dashed lines) and pure fluid (solid line) for different values of  $Ra$  when  $Ha = 25$  and  $AR = 0.5$

Subject to the boundary conditions:  
 $\theta = 1$  on the inner circular wall  
 $\theta = 0$  on the outer inclined walls  
 $\frac{\partial \theta}{\partial n} = 0$  on the two other adiabatic walls  
 $\Psi = 0$  on the all walls

where  $Pr = \nu_f / \alpha_f$  is the Prandtl number,  $Ra = g\beta_f(T_h - T_c)L^3 / \alpha_f \nu_f$  is the Rayleigh number and  $Ha = B_0 L \sqrt{\sigma_f / \mu_f}$  is the Hartmann number.  
 (15) The Local and average Nusselt number along the hot circular wall can be stated as:

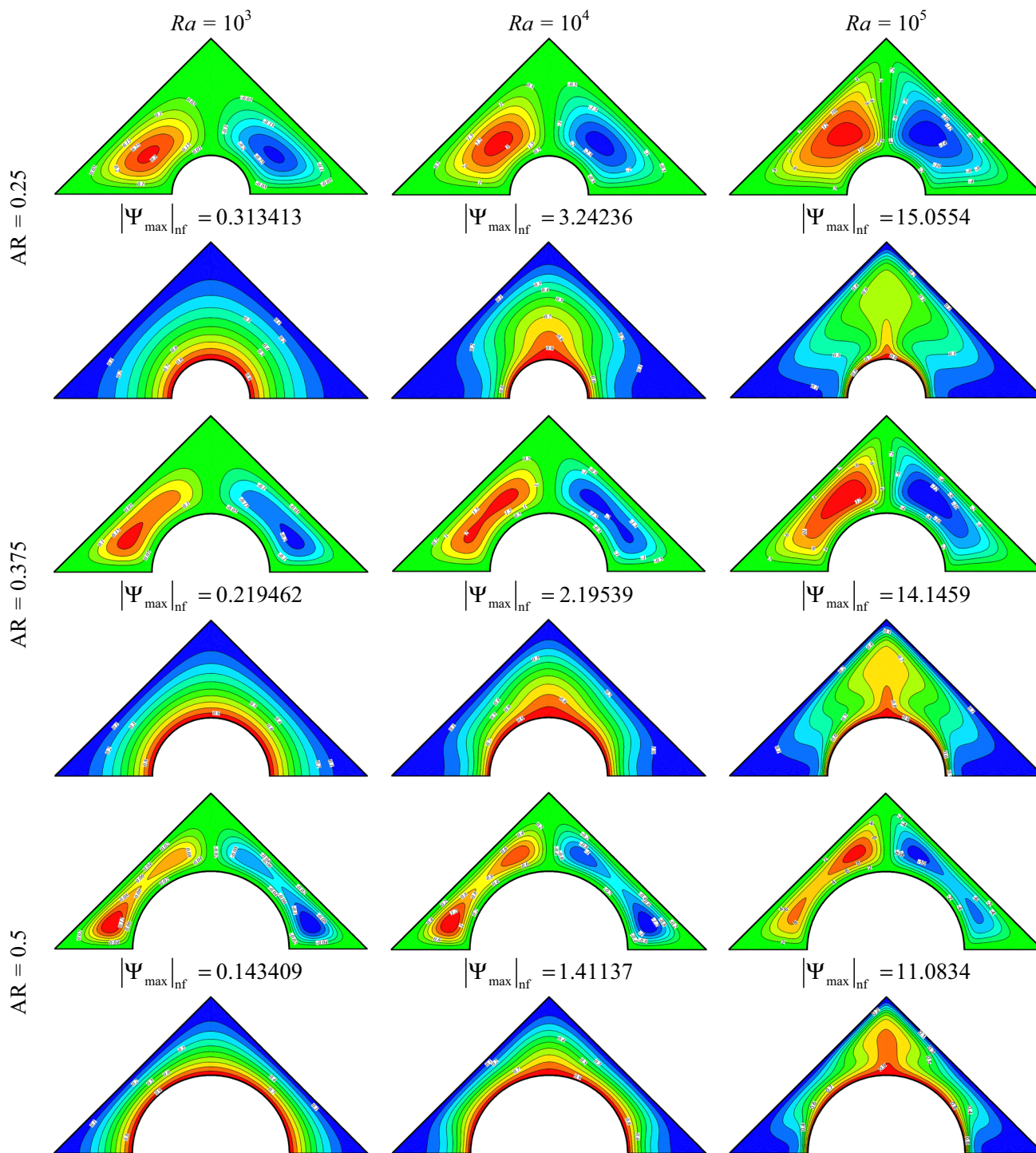


Fig. 4 Streamlines and isotherms for different values of  $Ra$  and  $AR$  when  $\phi = 2\%$  and  $Ha = 25$

$$Nu_{loc.} = -\frac{k_{nf}}{k_f} \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial n} \tag{16}$$

$$Nu_{ave.} = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^\pi Nu_{loc.} d\zeta \tag{17}$$

where  $n$  is the direction normal to the inner circular wall.

### Numerical solution

The target of this part is to discuss the impacts of the effective parameters of this paper such as: Rayleigh number ( $Ra$ ), volume fraction of nanofluid ( $\phi$ ), Hartmann number ( $Ha$ ) and aspect ratio ( $AR$ ), on the nanofluid natural convection in an enclosure. The governing equations are solved via Control Volume Finite Element Method (CVFEM) [44]. In accordance with the physical geometry

mentioned above, we codified the CVFEM in a FORTRAN code and validated it by comparing its results with other studies stated in the literature [45, 46] (see Table 2). Table 2 delineates very good agreements between various results. It is worth mentioning that mesh-independent test has been carried out with respect to the average Nusselt number as shown in Table 3, which demonstrates that the grid of  $61 \times 191$  should be chosen for this study.

### Results and discussion

In this category, the numerical results obtained from varying the physical and geometrical parameters are displayed and discussed. Figure 2 portrays the alteration of the streamlines and isotherms with Rayleigh number (horizontally) and Hartman number (vertically) for aspect

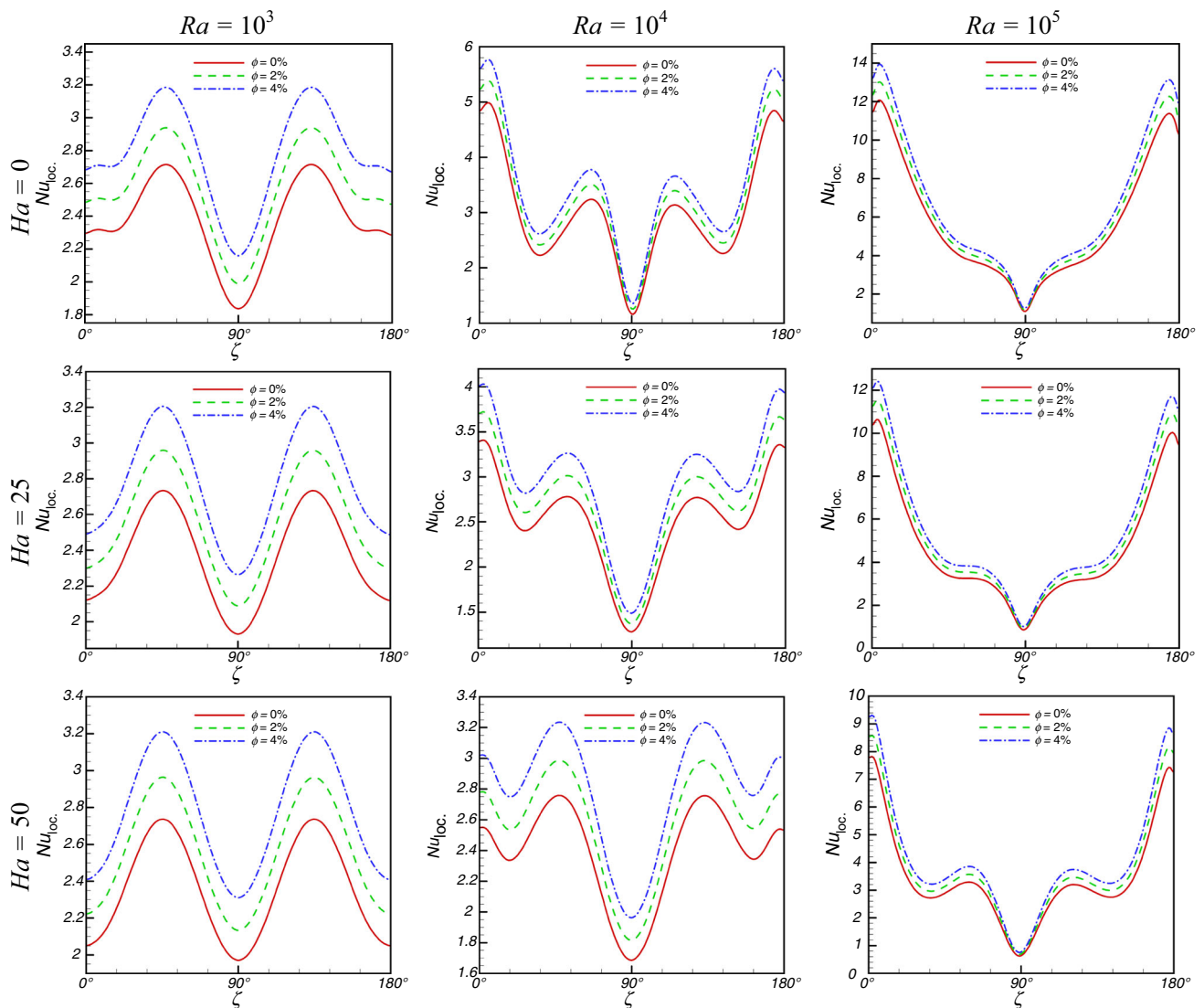


Fig. 5 Local Nusselt number ( $Nu_{loc.}$ ) for different values of  $Ra$ ,  $Ha$  and  $\phi$  when  $AR = 0.5$

ratio  $AR = 0.5$  and volume fraction  $\phi = 0.02$ . The convective currents protrude from the semicircle wall toward the vertex of the cavity; thus, the streamlines form in two main counter rotating double-eyed vortices on both sides of the cavity. At  $Ha = 0$ , the magnetic drag force is absent; thus, the strength of the streamlines increases robustly and the isotherms pattern changes from uniform to plume-like behavior with increasing  $Ra$ . When the magnetic field is switched on and set at  $Ha = 25$ , the strengths of the streamlines decrease by 62, 64 and 45% at  $Ra = 10^3, 10^4$  and  $10^5$ , respectively, whereas they increase strongly with increasing  $Ra$ . The plume-like isotherms at this magnetic field are seen at  $Ra = 10^5$  only. When the magnetic field is further increased such that  $Ha = 50$ , more reduction in streamlines strength compared with  $Ha = 0$  is seen, which

is characterized by 85.8, 86.4 and 73.5% reduction at  $Ra = 10^3, 10^4$  and  $10^5$ , respectively. The strength of the streamlines magnify by one order of magnitude with  $Ra$ , while the isotherms show less protruding front in such a way that even at  $Ra = 10^5$ , the plume behavior looks hesitant.

Figure 3 depicts comparison between streamlines and isotherms of pure fluid and nanofluid for different  $Ra$  numbers at  $AR = 0.5$  and  $Ha = 25$ . These lines are mostly consistent, but the enhancement in the streamlines strength due to the addition of the nanoparticles ( $\phi = 4\%$ ) is 21.8, 21.7 and 20% at  $Ra = 10^3, 10^4$  and  $10^5$ , respectively. These enhancements are accounted for the enhanced thermal conductivity, which boosts the convective currents. At  $Ra = 10^5$ , the convective currents are already strong, as

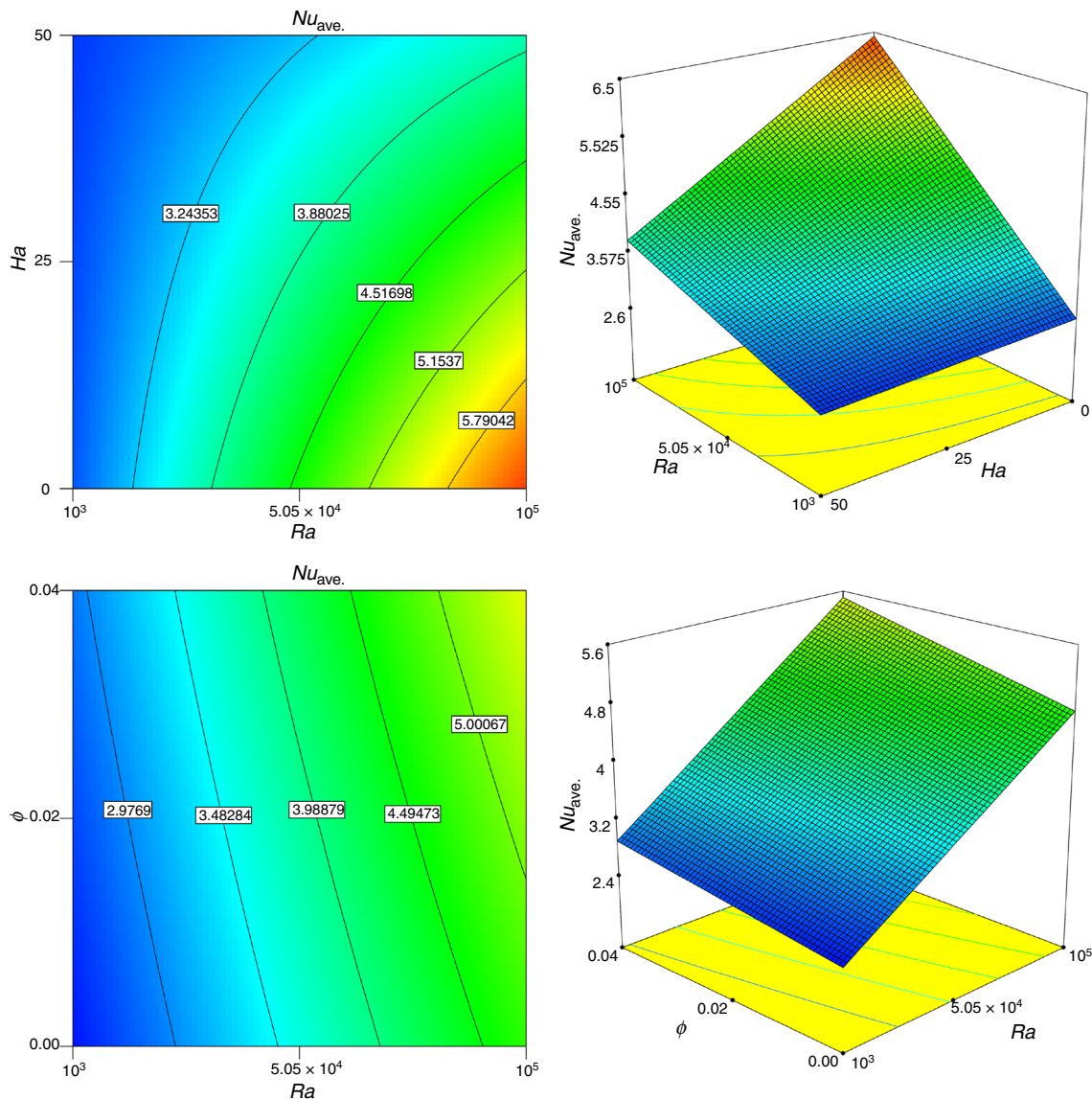


Fig. 6 Average Nusselt number ( $Nu_{ave}$ ) for different values of  $Ra$ ,  $Ha$  and  $\phi$  when  $AR = 0.5$



such; the enhancement due to the nanoparticles addition is somewhat less than other lower values of  $Ra$ .

Figure 4 elucidates the effect of the space of cavity on the streamlines and the isotherms for different  $Ra$  number at  $Ha = 25$  and  $\phi = 0.02$ . The first row depicts the lowest aspect ratio ( $AR = 0.25$ ), which corresponds to the larger feasible space; the nanofluid circulates freely and thus consists of single-eye attitude. When  $AR$  increases to 0.375, the feasible space is reduced; therefore, the recirculation shrinks and weakens in the form of 30, 32.3 and 6% according with  $Ra$  values of  $10^3$ ,  $10^4$  and  $10^5$ , respectively. When  $AR$  is further increased to 0.5, the feasible space is more limited resulting in more shrink circulation with double-eye attitude, and extra weakening in the streamline strength reach to 54, 56 and 26% at corresponding to  $Ra$  values of  $10^3$ ,  $10^4$  and  $10^5$ ,

respectively. It is worth noting that the reduction in the circulation strength with  $AR$  is less at  $Ra = 10^5$ ; this is due to the dominance of the buoyancy force which is still effective despite the space limitation. The effect of aspect ratio can obviously be characterized by the appearance of thermal stratification which can be seen at the larger free space ( $AR = 0.25$ ) at  $Ra = 10^5$  due to the domination of the natural convection. At other aspect ratios, the plume-like appearance reveals the influence of the natural convection.

Figure 5 presents the local Nusselt number along the semicircle hot wall for different values of  $Ra$ ,  $Ha$  and  $\phi$  at  $AR = 0.5$ . At  $Ra = 10^3$ , the buoyancy force is relatively weak and the isotherms are almost uniform around the semicircle hot wall; therefore, we can see the “M”-shaped curves of Nusselt number manifest maximal values at

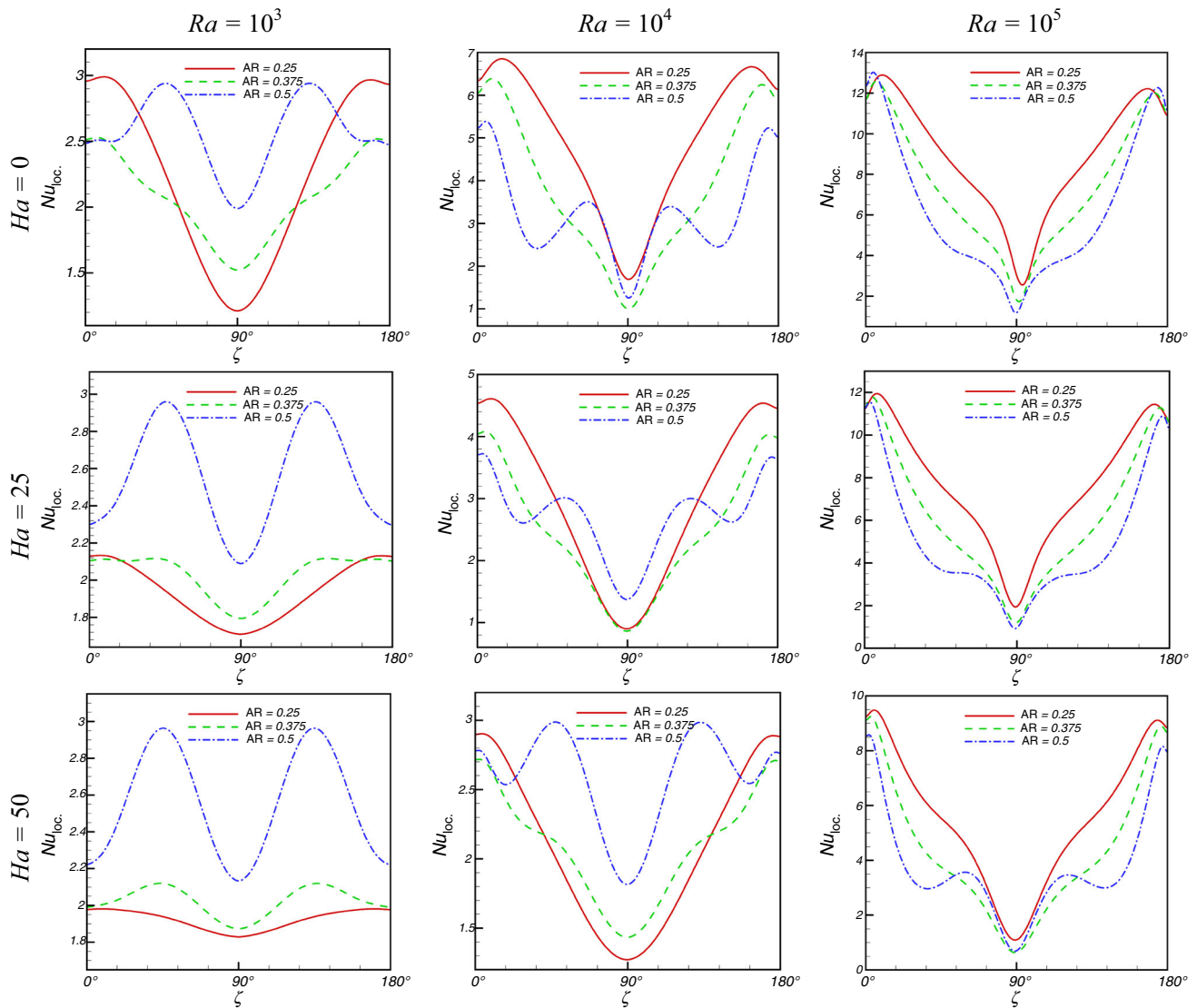


Fig. 7 Local Nusselt number ( $Nu_{loc}$ ) for different values of  $AR$  when  $\phi = 2\%$

$\zeta = 45^\circ$  and  $135^\circ$  where at these two locations, the distance to the cold walls is minimal. At  $\zeta = 90^\circ$ , the distance to the vertex of the cavity is maximum; thus, minimum Nusselt number is recorded here. It is obvious that Hartman number has little impact at  $Ra = 10^3$ , because the buoyancy force is already weak. At  $Ra = 10^4$ , the buoyancy force is stronger; thus, the convective currents rise resulting in steeper thermal boundary layer along the hot surface except at  $\zeta = 90^\circ$ , where the protruding isotherms thicken the thermal boundary layer, causing significant reduction in Nusselt number there. The effect of  $Ha$  is identified by lowering the Nusselt number along the hot surface. In

addition, with increasing  $Ha$ , the Nusselt values look indolent and prominent at the edges of the surface and at  $\zeta = 45^\circ$ , respectively. At  $Ra = 10^5$ , the fluctuations in Nusselt number disappear especially when  $Ha \leq 25$ . This is because the vigor buoyancy force forms the plume-like isotherm at  $\zeta = 90^\circ$ , which means quite thick boundary layer causing the steep reduction in Nusselt number. Hartman number impedes the buoyancy force; thus, little fluctuation is seen when  $Ha = 50$ . However, the role of the nanoparticles is more pronounced at lower  $Ra$  values where they enhance the Nusselt number by enhancing the thermal conductivity. It is worth noting that at  $\zeta = 90^\circ$ , the two

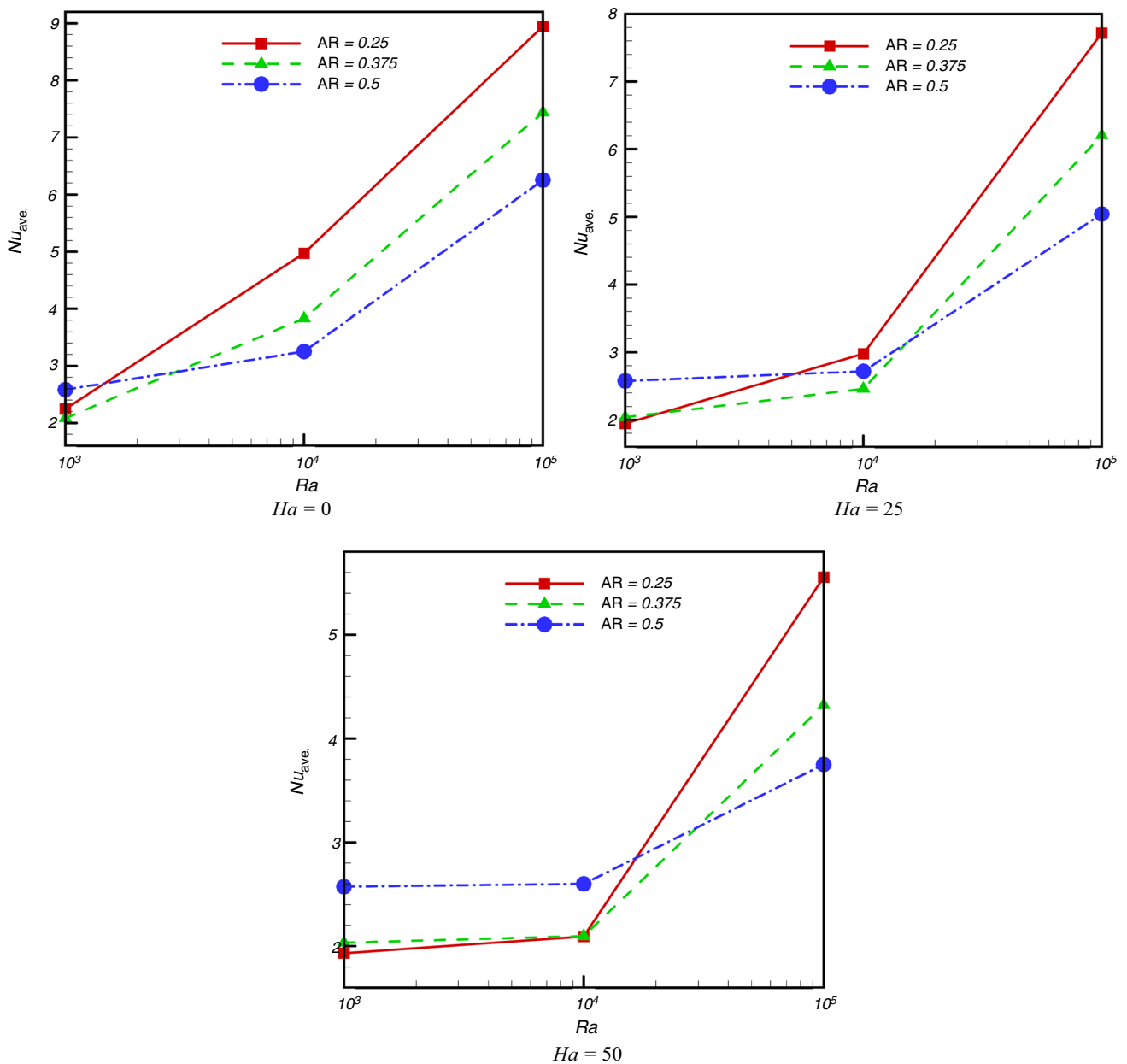


Fig. 8 Average Nusselt number ( $Nu_{ave.}$ ) for different values of AR

circulations are met, and then, the nanofluid intensification is low; thus, increasing the volume of nanoparticles is ineffective.

Figure 6 depicts contour maps and surface presentation of the average Nusselt number for different ranges of  $Ra$ ,  $Ha$  and  $\phi$  at  $AR = 0.5$ . This figure elucidates that  $Nu_{ave}$  augments with  $Ra$  rapidly for zero magnetic field ( $Ha = 0$ ), while it increases slowly with  $Ra$  for higher  $Ha$  numbers. This is due to the adverse effects of the buoyancy and Lorentz forces. On the other hand, the volume fraction of nanoparticles gives bit linear increase in  $Nu_{ave}$  compared with  $Ra$  number.

Figure 7 portrays the impact of the aspect ratio on the local Nusselt number along the hot surface for different  $Ra$  and  $Ha$  numbers at  $\phi = 0.02$ . The attribution of the local Nusselt number of  $AR = 0.5$  is stated in Fig. 5. However, for lower  $AR$  values, the hot surface becomes farer from the cold sidewalls and more nanofluid fills the cavity, as such; the fluctuation of the local Nusselt number is notably reduced. The fluctuation decreases more and more with increasing  $Ha$  number. Nevertheless, the minimum local Nusselt number is still recorded at  $\zeta = 90^\circ$  owing to the reason stated above.

Although the decrease of  $AR$  means decreasing the segment of the source, which heats up the nanofluid, we see antithetical increase in the average Nusselt number. This behavior, as displayed in Fig. 8, refers to the feasible space that provides reinforced circulation resulting in transporting more energy. On the other hand, when the magnetic field is switched on, the feasible space occupies more fluid subjecting to the magnetic force; thus, adverse impact of decreasing aspect ratio is seen when  $Ra \leq 10^4$ . Nevertheless, this adverse impact does not hold up at higher  $Ra$  number where the buoyancy force is strong enough in such a way that the strong circulation resists the drag effect exerted by the magnetic field.

Most of the founded numerical data are utilized in establishing a comprehensive correlation relating the average Nusselt number with  $Ra$ ,  $Ha$  and  $\phi$ . The variation of Nusselt number with the aspect ratio  $AR$  manifests sophisticated behavior, and including  $AR$  in predicting the correlation can results in an unhandy correlation. Thus, we included only one value of the aspect ratio, that is  $AR = 0.5$ . The regression analysis has resulted in the following correlation;

$$\begin{aligned} Nu_{avg} = & 2.47844 + 3.51621 \times 10^{-5} \\ & \times Ra - 1.20336 \times 10^{-3} \times Ha + 12.16801 \\ & \times \phi - 5.02473 \times 10^{-7} \times Ra \times Ha \\ & + 9.45666 \times 10^{-5} \times Ra \times \phi - 0.066757 \\ & \times Ha \times \phi \end{aligned}$$

where  $10^3 \leq Ra \leq 10^5$ ,  $0 \leq Ha \leq 50$ ,  $0.0 \leq \phi \leq 4\%$  and  $AR = 0.5$ .

It reveals the enhancing role of both Rayleigh number and the volume fraction of the nanoparticles and the depressing action of Hartman number. However, it has very good correlation factor,  $R^2 = 0.9832$ . This correlation facilitates the handy prediction of the average Nusselt number of the present geometry within the mentioned parameters ranges.

## Conclusions

Natural convection in a triangular cavity with semicircle base filled with Cu–water nanofluid is studied numerically using control volume finite element method. The cavity is subjected to a constant transverse magnetic field, which generates a downward acting Lorentz force. The following observations are drawn from the results.

- When the magnetic field is amplified by raising Hartman number from 0 to 50, the strength of the streamlines drops by 85.8, 86.4 and 73.5% at  $Ra = 10^3$ ,  $10^4$  and  $10^5$ , respectively.
- Increasing the volume fraction of the copper nanoparticles from 0 to 0.04, the streamlines strengthen by 21.8, 21.7 and 20% at  $Ra = 10^3$ ,  $10^4$  and  $10^5$ , respectively, even in the presence of the magnetic field.
- Increasing the radius of the hot semicircle limits the space of nanofluid circulation and significantly weakens its strength. This attitude is less effective at high Rayleigh number.
- At the absence of the magnetic field, decreasing the radius of the hot semicircle enlarges the average Nusselt number. For nonzero magnetic field, this effect is conversed when  $Ra \leq 10^4$ . This conversed impact does not hold up when  $Ra$  is raised to  $10^5$ .
- The controlled magnetic field provides good appliance by which the hot surfaces could be brought under effective operational performance.
- The established sophisticated correlation of the average Nusselt number contributes in determining the overall heat transfer with respect of Rayleigh number, Hartman number and the volume fraction of Cu nanoparticles.

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