

# Mixed Convection from Tandem Semi-Circular Cylinders Arranged in a Vertical Channel

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**ABSTRACT:** Semi-circular cylinders provide better space economy than circular and other non-circular cylinders. The cylinders are frequently used in a tandem arrangement in heat transfer equipment. The present study aims to obtain the flow and heat transfer characteristics for the tandem arrangement of semi-circular cylinders. The cylinders are placed in a vertical channel with a blockage ( $\beta$ ) of 0.2. The upward flow under the reverse gravity is considered here. The influence of various parameters such as Reynolds number ( $Re$ ), Prandtl number ( $Pr$ ), Richardson number ( $Ri$ ), and spacing between cylinders ( $YC$ ) is observed. The governing parameters are varied in a range of  $1 \leq YC \leq 6$ ,  $1 \leq Re \leq 50$ ,  $0.7 \leq Pr \leq 50$ , and  $0 \leq Ri \leq 2$ . The numerical results are obtained by solving governing equations using FVM (Finite volume method). The velocity field, thermal field, drag coefficient ( $CD$ ), pressure coefficient ( $C_p$ ), and average Nusselt number ( $Nu_{avg}$ ) are presented. The increase in  $Re$  and  $Pr$  has enhanced the  $Nu_{avg}$  and  $CD$ , whereas  $Ri$  and  $YC$  have shown complex dependency. The obtained results show that the mutual interaction of upstream and downstream cylinders has vanished for  $YC > 4$ . The upstream and downstream cylinders have shown different behavior at identical operating conditions. The drag coefficient for the upstream cylinder varies with  $YC$  for  $1 \leq Re \leq 10$ , whereas for  $10 \leq Re \leq 50$ , it shows negligible change except for the case of  $Pr = 0.7$  and  $Ri = 2$ . The drag on the downstream cylinder increases monotonically with an increase in  $YC$ . The average Nusselt number for both cylinders increased with an increase in  $YC$  except for the downstream cylinder at  $Re = 1$  and  $Pr = 0.7$ . Overall, the complex interplay of governing parameters has been observed in the flow and thermal characteristics.

**KEYWORDS:** Mixed convection; Semi-circular cylinder; Blockage ratio; Reynolds number; Richardson number; Nusselt number; Drag coefficient.

## INTRODUCTION

Heat transfer from cylinders of circular and non-circular cross-sections are closely related to the existing industrial processes and applications like different types of heat exchanging equipment, solar power systems, oil and gas distribution lines, cooling of various hardware system used in IT industries, thermal treatment of foodstuffs in

continuous processing facilities, etc. [1,2]. The cylinders of the circular cross-section are very common in industry and household applications due to their simple construction and well-settled available technology for more than a hundred years. Due to recent technological developments, the cylinders of other cross-sections are

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**Table 1: Comparison of values of  $Nu_{avg}$  and  $C_D$  of forced convection heat transfer from a cylinder of a particular cross-section to a Newtonian fluid.**

S. No.	Cross-section of the cylinder	Operating conditions	$Nu_{avg}$	$C_D$	Reference
1	Circular	$Re = 40, Pr = 50$	14.0	1.4987	[24]
2	Equilateral triangular	$Re = 50, Pr = 50$	19.3	...	[25]
3	Semi-circular	$Re = 40, Pr = 50$	16.7	1.54	[26]
4	Square with its side at $45^\circ$ to the incident flow	$Re = 40, Pr = 50$	15.4	0.51	[27]
5	Square with its side in line with incident flow	$Re = 40, Pr = 50$	12.6	0.95	[28]

also used for specific purposes and gaining popularity day by day. In this context, several research works were conducted over the years and explored the physics behind heat transfer from non-circular cylinders. These studies are needed to understand and improve our engineering applications, leading to new technology for specific applications. It will also help to deal with the space constraints and efficiency of the thermal systems.

The cylinders of non-circular cross-sections, like semi-circular, square, triangular, elliptical, etc., are also widely used in recent heat transfer applications. Solar water heating, novel heat transfer processes for electronic equipment cooling, chimney stacks, nuclear reactor cooling, cooling towers, building works, oil and gas pipelines, material processing, etc. [3-7] are examples of such applications. In the broad class of non-circular cylinders, the semi-circular cross-section has the natural benefit of occupying less space to deal with space economy compared to other non-circular and circular cross-sections. The comparison of the performance of cylinders of different types of cross-sections in forced convection heat transfer to Newtonian fluids is listed in Table 1. This table shows that semi-circular cylinders offer the highest value of  $Nu_{avg}$  and the lowest value of  $C_D$ . Hence, it can be regarded as one of the best options for heat transfer from cylinders to fluids. Several studies relating to applications of the semi-circular cylinder are found in various references listed here [2,8-23]. Most relevant and recent studies related to the present work from the available body of literature are summarized here. In one of the preliminary numerical simulation works, Chandra and Chhabra [11] explored the flow and thermal characteristics of a heated semi-circular cylinder without confinement to fluids of Newtonian nature in a range of  $0.01 \leq Re \leq 40$  and  $Pr \leq 100$ . They reported the drag coefficients, recirculation length, Nusselt number, and critical Reynolds number for the range of governing parameters. In the continuation, they said the beginning of flow separation at Reynolds number of 0.575 and vortex shedding at

Reynolds number of 39.75. These critical Reynolds number values were observed to be lesser than their counter values for circular and square cylinder cylinders. Heat transfer at the curved surface was found to be more than the value at the flat surface of the semi-circular cylinder.

Further, they [10] extended the work for power-law fluids also. They found a more intense impact of the power-law index at higher Prandtl numbers. The other orientation of the semi-circular cylinder, with a flat side parallel to the direction of fluid movement, was also presented by Gode et al. [2] for  $0.01 \leq Re \leq 120$  and  $1 \leq Pr \leq 50$  and reported flow to be steady up to  $Re = 120$ . Furthermore, Bhinder et al. [12] worked on momentum and thermal characteristics in the vicinity of a heated semi-circular cylinder at different angles (0-180 degrees) to the airflow at  $80 \leq Re \leq 180$  and confirmed three types of separation zones according to incidence angle values. Another study by Chandra and Chhabra [13] shows heat transfer characteristics from unconfined heated semi-circular cylinders to fluids under mixed convection. They worked on Newtonian and power-law fluids at operating conditions of  $1 \leq Re \leq 30$ ,  $1 \leq Pr \leq 100$ , and  $0 \leq Ri \leq 2$ . The maximum local Nusselt number was shifted from the corner to the front stagnation point when a value of  $Re$  went from 1 to higher values. The pressure coefficient value was also seen as a maximum at the front stagnation point at all times. The increase in the value of the Richardson number resulted in an increase in the drag coefficient and average Nusselt number.

Further, the effect of buoyancy perpendicular to flow direction on a semi-circular cylinder confined in a channel was numerically investigated by Sukesan and Dhiman [15] for  $Re = 1-40$ ,  $Ri = 0-4$ ,  $Pr = 0.71-50$  and  $\beta$  (confinement ratio) as 0.1667-0.5. They have reported the drag coefficients and Nusselt numbers as dependent on  $Ri$  or  $\beta$ . They observed an increment in the drag coefficients and Nusselt number due to a rise in  $Ri$  and  $\beta$  values at every Reynolds number other than 1 in case of an increase in  $Nu$ .

In our previous work, a numerical study on the semi-circular cylinder was done for heat transfer under buoyancy [20] for the operating parameters as  $0.2 \leq \beta \leq 0.8$ ,  $1 \leq Re \leq 50$ ,  $0.7 \leq Pr \leq 50$  and  $0 \leq Ri \leq 2$ . They observed a steady flow for a complete range of Reynolds numbers. The maximum pressure coefficient and  $C_D$  value increased with a rise in  $\beta$  value for the channel. The values of  $C_D$  and  $Nu_{avg}$  (at all conditions except  $Re = 1$ ) also exhibited to increase with the buoyancy of the flow.

Furthermore, multiple cylinder arrangements can be seen in industrial/practical engineering applications like solar water heaters, cooling of a nuclear reactor, cooling of electronic equipment, etc. Multiple cylinder arrangements are classified as tandem/in-line, side by side, and staggered. In this context, the available literature is summarized in the following text. Few researchers [29] experimentally investigated heat transfer from cylinders to air under gravity for an operating range of  $0.01 \leq Re_f \leq 45$  and temperature difference in a range of more than 30 °C and proposed different correlations. Another group of researchers [30] conducted simulation work for circular cylinders in tandem orientation on buoyancy added heat transfer at a distance ( $Y_C$ ) of 1.5-7 in adiabatic confined walls at  $\beta = 0.1$ -0.67,  $Re = 40$ ,  $Pr = 0.7$  and  $Ri = 0.1$ -10. It was observed that the overall heat transfer coefficient was increased at larger cylinder spacing at  $\beta < 0.33$ . Moreover, the value of  $Nu_{avg}$  of the upstream cylinder was reported independent of the distance between cylinders, although the value of  $Nu_{avg}$  of downstream one showed dependency on cylinder spacing. At  $Ri \leq 1$ , the value of  $Nu_{avg}$  of the upstream cylinder was seen as higher compared to the downstream one. Further, in another study [31], numerical mixed convection heat transfer was also investigated from cylinders in tandem between vertical plates for cylinder spacing ( $Y_C$ ) as 1.5. Simulations were carried out for operating parameters as  $\beta = 0.4$ -0.67,  $Re = 50$ -100,  $Pr = 0.7$  and  $-5 \leq Ri \leq 5$ . For  $\beta = 0.4$  and  $Re = 50$ , the  $Nu_{avg}$  value was reported to increase with a rise in the value of  $Ri$ .

Chatterjee [1] numerically studied heat transfer for cylinders of the square cross-section in tandem arrangement and placed with a distance of four widths of the cylinder in a channel for  $\beta$  value as 0.25 under gravity effect. The study was conducted with the vertical flow of air ( $Pr = 0.7$ ) at  $1 \leq Re \leq 30$  and  $-1 \leq Ri \leq 1$ . They observed that, for a higher value of  $Re$ , the size of recirculation zones behind cylinders was reported to decrease with an increase in  $Ri$ . Heat transfer from cylinders increased with an increase

in the buoyancy effect. Higher heat transfer was also observed for the downstream cylinder than for the upstream one. These effects may be because of the combined shape of the cylinder and operating parameters.

Mixed convection heat transfers from semi-circular cylinders in different arrangements have also been studied by different investigators. The semi-circular (inclined) with a square cylinder in the tandem arrangement was studied by Sisodia et al. [19], and flow as well as thermal characteristics were presented for  $Pr = 0.71$ ,  $10 < Re < 45$ ,  $0 \leq \alpha$  (incidence angles)  $\leq 180^\circ$  and  $0 \leq Ri \leq 2$  in crossflow. The joint influences of thermal buoyancy with the angle of incidence were explored, and they reported the critical values as  $Re > 40$ ,  $Ri = 0.5$  at  $\alpha = 30^\circ$  and  $Re \leq 20$  at  $\alpha = 90^\circ$ ,  $Ri = 0.5$  for the onset of vortex shedding. They found a minimum value of  $Nu_{avg}$  when the flat side of the semi-circular cylinder was oriented parallel to the flow direction. Buoyancy-aided heat transfer [32] was studied from semi-circular cylinders in the tandem arrangement between vertical confinement for  $\beta = 0.2$ ,  $Y_C = 3$ ,  $Re = 200$ ,  $Pr = 0.7$  and  $-1 \leq Ri \leq 1$ . They reported an influence of the upstream cylinder on the downstream with lower heat transfer from the later one. Both cylinders showed the value of  $Nu_{avg}$  as higher for buoyancy-assisted cases. In another study by Parthasarathy et al. (2017), the optimum number of semi-circular cylinders on a side-by-side arrangement and the optimum gap between the cylinders were studied for  $Re = 100$  with air. They reported no significant interaction in the flow for space between cylinders greater than four times diameter and concluded good heat transfer downstream of the cylinders at a lower gap. Furthermore, some studies are also available on the flow and heat transfer from porous bluff bodies for potential application in developing heat transfer devices for electronic cooling, solar heating, etc. [33-35].

The above literature review shows that the bank of semi-circular cylinders has a scope for the development of efficient and compact heat transfer technology. This literature review also reveals that the present study about the semi-circular cylinder in tandem arrangements under channel confinement is missing in the available body of literature. It is important in sophisticated cooling applications such as efficiently cooling electronic components under confined spaces. The recent developments in the electronic industry involve the miniaturization of electronic components and gadgets with high efficiency. The increased efficiency

The diagram illustrates a vertical channel of width  $L$  and total height  $N+M$ . The top section of height  $N$  is designated as the 'Outflow' region, and the bottom section of height  $M$  is designated as the 'Inflow' region. Both the left and right vertical boundaries are labeled 'Adiabatic wall'. At the bottom of the channel, there is a semi-circular region with radius  $Y_c$  and center point  $O$ . The wall temperature is denoted as  $T_w$  (Wall-temperature). The inflow conditions at the bottom are specified as  $(V_\infty, T_\infty)$ . A coordinate system  $(X, Y)$  is centered at  $O$ . Gravity  $g$  acts downwards. The channel is divided into two regions by a horizontal line at height  $N$  from the bottom.

Here, 2D simulations are executed to explore the flow and thermal characteristics around semi-circular cylinders in tandem in the presence of the gravity effect. A pair

At the channel entrance, the inlet parabolic velocity

Table 2: Results of validation work.

Operating parameters	Chandra and Chhabra [13]	Farouk and Guceri [41]
	$Re = 20, Pr = 0.7$	$Re = 58.01, Pr = 0.7, Ri = 4.12$
Literature values	$C_{DP} = 1.313$ [13] $C_D = 1.993$ [13] $Nu_{avg} = 3.64$ [13]	$Nu_{avg} = 6.63$ [41]
Present values	$C_{DP} = 1.315$ $C_D = 1.995$ $Nu_{avg} = 3.52$	$Nu_{avg} = 6.40$

profile is considered, as shown in the above equation. To tackle the entrance effect, a sufficiently sizeable computational inlet domain has been used for each case. It is already known that the large inlet domain can vanish the inlet disturbances, and the change in the velocity gradients is stabilized before approaching the first cylinder.

Channel walls:  $u = 0, v = 0$  and  $\partial\theta/\partial x = 0$

Cylinder surface:  $u = 0, v = 0$  and  $\theta = 0$

Centreline of the channel ( $x = 0$ ): Laminar flow,  $u = 0, \partial v/\partial x = 0$  and  $\partial\theta/\partial x = 0$

Channel exit: Fully developed flow,  $\partial\phi/\partial y = 0$ , where  $\phi = u, v$  and  $\theta$

The solutions of the above governing equations (1-4) are calculated and reported in terms of different flow and thermal variables as  $u, v, p$ , and  $\theta$ . Further, these variables are used to calculate parameters such as total drag coefficient, pressure coefficient, local Nusselt number and average Nusselt number. The values of the above essential parameters are defined in equations 5-8.

$$C_D = \frac{F_D}{\frac{1}{2}\rho v_\infty^2 D} \tag{5}$$

$$C_P = \frac{P_S - P_\infty}{\frac{1}{2}\rho v_\infty^2} \tag{6}$$

$$Nu = -\frac{\delta\theta}{\delta n_s} \tag{7}$$

$$Nu_{avg} = \frac{1}{S} \int_S Nu . dS \tag{8}$$

Numerical Methodology

A two-dimensional mesh model of the present problem is prepared in the Gambit pre-processor. Combinations of triangular and quadrilateral meshes are used to prepare an equivalent mesh model. Fine meshes are used near the cylinders to capture the high gradients of different property values, and coarser meshes are used away from cylinders. More than 99.99% of meshes have skewness as low as in a range of 0-0.4, and the value of maximum skewness

of the rest of the meshes is found as 0.605. Further, a two-dimensional, steady, and pressure-based solver of the Ansys Fluent is used to solve governing equations (1-4), in particular, the operating conditions of the problem. A laminar viscous model is used to depict the flow behavior in the study. The momentum and energy equations have been solved using a second-order upwind scheme where the SIMPLE (Semi Implicit Methods for Pressure Linked Equations) technique is adopted for pressure velocity coupling. The numerical tolerance limits for the residuals for continuity and momentum equations (1-3) are set down as  $10^{-8}$  and  $10^{-15}$  for energy equation (4). The above details of numerical solutions are in-line with our previous work [20].

To ensure the reliability of the solution technique with the choice of numerical parameters to be used in simulation experiments, previous studies [13,41] have been selected to validate our numerical methodology. The comparison of reproduced results with literature values is presented in table 2. The reproduced results for selected studies show that the results are accurate within  $\pm 3.5\%$ . The extended details of validation works are given in our previous work [20]. Therefore, the proposed methodology is adequate to study mixed convection heat transfer from confined semi-circular cylinders.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Domain and Grid Independence

Before moving further, it is always good to choose a suitable domain size and mesh size for simulation problems to optimize time and computational resources. Optimized domain and mesh provide accurate solutions, independent of their size. Initially, inlet domain independence test is conducted at  $m = 30, 40$  and  $50, n = 60$  for extreme values of operating parameters as  $Y_C = D$  &  $6D, Re = 1$  &  $50, Pr = 0.7$  &  $50$  and  $Ri = 0$  &  $2$ . Simulated values of  $C_{D1}, C_{D2}, Nu_{avg1}$  and  $Nu_{avg2}$ , at different values of  $m$ , are obtained and presented in Table 3. For  $m = 40$  and  $50$  (Table 3), the changes in  $C_{D1}, C_{D2}, Nu_{avg1}$  and  $Nu_{avg2}$  are observed to be a maximum of 1.1%.



Table 3: Results of inlet domain independence tests.

$Y_C$	$m$	$n$	$Re$	$Pr$	$Ri$	$C_{D1}$	$C_{D2}$	$Nu_{avg1}$	$Nu_{avg2}$
1	30	60	1	0.7	0	17.91	14.18	0.7464	0.3345
	40					17.84	14.15	0.7463	0.3346
	50					17.84	14.16	0.7463	0.3346
	30		50	50	2	2.05	0.810	20.55	7.160
	40					2.09	0.804	20.88	7.050
	50					2.11	0.800	20.97	7.030
6	30	60	1	0.7	0	22.32	22.32	0.915	0.3006
	40					22.31	22.33	0.915	0.3006
	50					22.31	22.33	0.915	0.3006
	30		50	50	2	2.170	1.926	20.90	16.67
	40					2.210	1.936	21.10	16.66
	50					2.240	1.941	21.20	16.64

Table 4: Results of outlet domain independence tests.

$Y_C$	$m$	$n$	$Re$	$Pr$	$Ri$	$C_{D1}$	$C_{D2}$	$Nu_{avg1}$	$Nu_{avg2}$
1	40	50	1	0.7	0	17.84	14.15	0.7463	0.3346
		60				17.84	14.15	0.7463	0.3346
		50	50	50	2	2.092	0.8042	20.88	7.049
		60				2.092	0.8042	20.88	7.049
6	40	50	1	0.7	0	22.32	22.33	0.9153	0.3006
		60				22.32	22.33	0.9153	0.3006
		50	50	50	2	2.213	1.936	21.10	16.66
		60				2.213	1.936	21.10	16.66

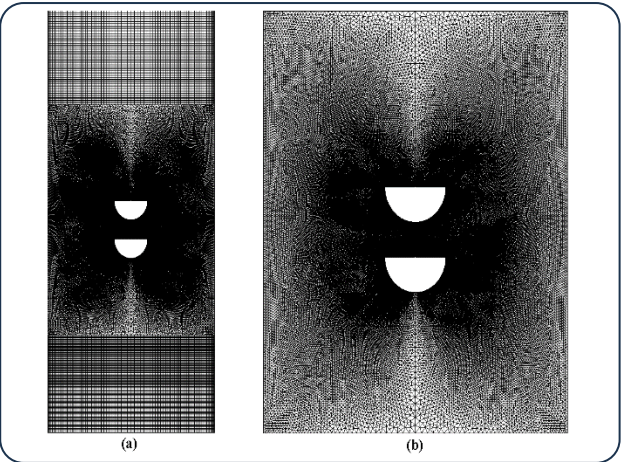


Fig. 2: Zoom view of grid (G1) used in grid independence study for  $Y_C = 1$ .

Therefore,  $m = 40$  has been chosen as the optimized value of inlet domain size for the present work. Then, outlet domain independence test is conducted for value of  $n = 50$  &  $60$  and other parameters as  $m = 40$ ,  $Y_C = D$  &  $6D$ ,  $Re = 1$  &  $50$ ,  $Pr = 0.7$  &  $50$  and  $Ri = 0$  &  $2$ . The values of  $C_{D1}$ ,  $C_{D2}$ ,  $Nu_{avg1}$  and  $Nu_{avg2}$ , at both values of  $n$ , are obtained and reported in Table 4. For  $n = 50$  and  $60$  (Table 4), the maximum change in the values of  $C_{D1}$ ,  $C_{D2}$ ,  $Nu_{avg1}$  and  $Nu_{avg2}$  is observed as  $0.002\%$ . Therefore,  $n = 50$  has been selected as the optimized value of outlet domain size. Further, two different grids (G1 and G2) are used to run the grid independence tests with an optimized domain for extreme operating conditions [20]. The results of these simulations are reported in Table 5, and the maximum change in  $C_{D1}$ ,  $C_{D2}$ ,  $Nu_{avg1}$  and  $Nu_{avg2}$  is observed as  $0.49\%$ . Therefore, optimized grid G1 is finalized for further simulations at all operating conditions of the study, as given in Fig. 2.

Flow characteristics

The flow characteristics are provided in this section in terms of streamline profiles, pressure variation and the drag coefficient for the chosen range of the governing parameters.

Streamline profiles

Fig. 3 shows streamline profiles at extreme values of  $Re$ ,  $Pr$  and  $Ri$  for  $Y_C = 1, 3, 5$  and  $6$ . At  $Re = 1$  and  $Y_C = 1$ , the streamlines follow the body shape and are attached to cylinders because of the domination of viscous forces at low  $Re$ . Further, a wake formation is seen in the space between the cylinders for the complete range of  $Pr$  and  $Ri$ . This wake formation is due to the obstruction created by the downstream cylinder to the upcoming flow. At  $Re = 1$  and higher values of  $Y_C = 3, 5$  and  $6$ , the streamlines are again found attached to both the cylinders without wake formation at low  $Re$ . Specifically, for  $Y_C \geq 3$ , the streamlines of the first cylinder are reported to be unaffected by the second cylinder in all cases of  $Re = 1$ . It can be said here that the presence of the second (downstream) cylinder is not affecting the flow dynamics of the upstream cylinder. Moreover, this phenomenon is not changed during the increase of  $Pr$  and  $Ri$  values for every set of  $Y_C$ .

Furthermore, at a higher value of  $Re = 50$ , the wake formation behind the upstream cylinder has been observed at all  $Y_C$ ,  $Pr$  and  $Ri$  values except for  $Pr = 50$  and  $Ri = 2$ . It can be seen here that the wake size is decreasing with

Table 5: Results of grid independence tests.

$Y_C$	Re	Pr	Ri	Grid	$\delta$	$n_p$	$G_N$	$C_{D1}$	$C_{D2}$	$Nu_{avg1}$	$Nu_{avg2}$
1	1	0.7	0	G1	0.007	184	132152	17.837	14.15	0.7463	0.3346
				G2	0.0048	268	226352	17.833	14.15	0.7464	0.3345
	50	50	2	G1	0.007	184	132152	2.0920	0.8042	20.88	7.05
				G2	0.0048	268	226352	2.0929	0.8045	20.83	7.04
6	1	0.7	0	G1	0.007	184	132152	22.316	22.33	0.9153	0.3006
				G2	0.0048	268	248138	22.312	22.33	0.9153	0.3006
	50	50	2	G1	0.007	184	177216	2.2129	1.936	21.10	16.66
				G2	0.0048	268	248138	2.2131	1.937	21.05	16.57

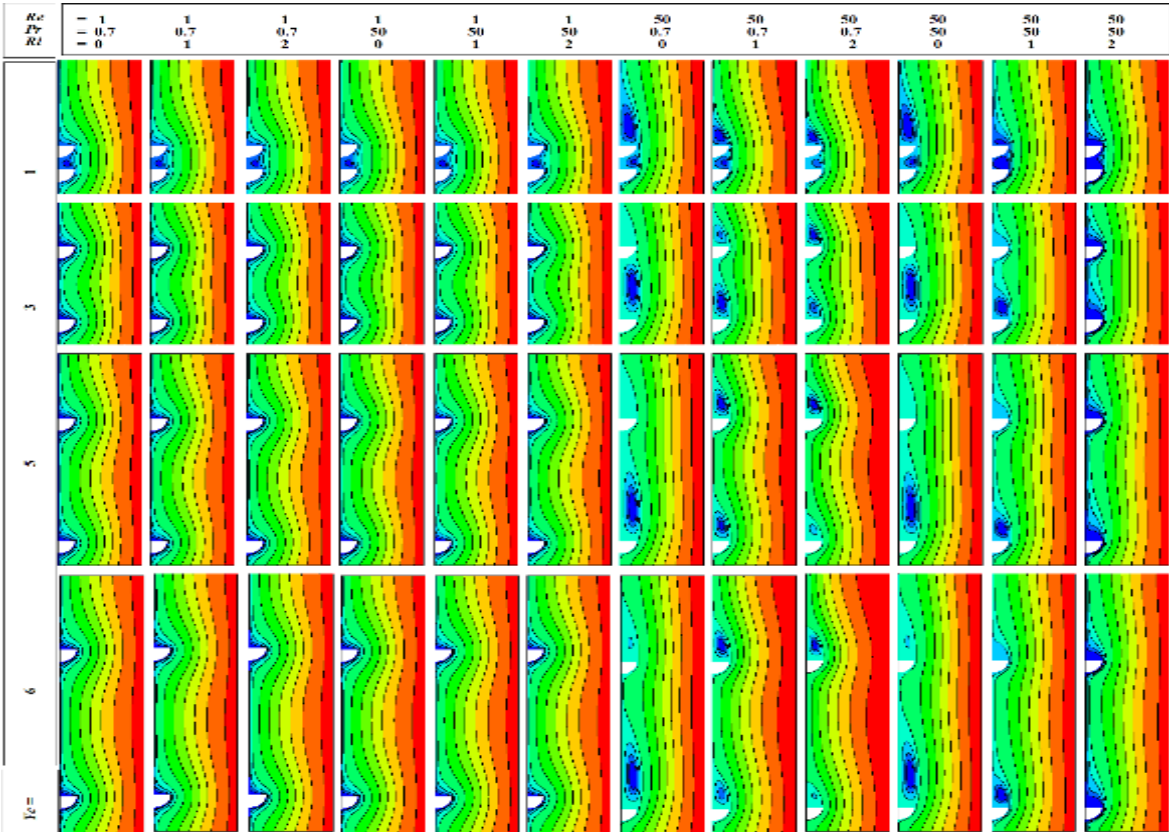


Fig. 3: Streamline profiles at different values of  $Y_C$ ,  $Re$ ,  $Pr$  and  $Ri$ .

The increasing value of  $Ri$ . As  $Ri$  increases, the influence of the gravity (body force) is increased in the opposite direction to the flow, leading to the wake vanishing at  $Ri = 2$ . At  $Re = 50$  and  $Ri = 0$ , the wake size behind the upstream cylinder is found to increase, which is evident due to the increased influence of the inertial forces with rising  $Re$ . Again, the wake size increases with an increase in the space between the cylinders for  $1 \leq Y_C \leq 5$ . Further increment in  $Y_C$  value to 6, no change in wake size is observed due to the negligible influence of the downstream cylinder on the upstream one. At  $Re = 50$  and  $Ri = 1$ , the wake size behind the upstream cylinder is found to increase for  $1 \leq Y_C \leq 3$  and

then to decrease for  $5 \leq Y_C \leq 6$ . At  $Re = 50$ ,  $Ri = 2$  and  $Pr = 0.7$ , wake size behind the upstream cylinder is also found to increase for  $1 \leq Y_C \leq 3$  and then decrease for  $5 \leq Y_C \leq 6$ . Further, at  $Re = 50$  and  $Ri = 0$ , the wake size behind the downstream cylinder decreases in size as the value of  $Y_C$  increases. At  $Re = 50$ ,  $Ri = 1$  and  $Pr = 0.7$ , wake size behind the downstream cylinder decreases at  $1 \leq Y_C \leq 3$ , later increasing and becoming constant in a range of  $5 \leq Y_C \leq 6$ . At  $Re = 50$ ,  $Ri = 2$  and  $Pr = 0.7$ , wake size behind downstream cylinder is found to increase for  $1 \leq Y_C \leq 3$  and later has become constant in the range of  $3 \leq Y_C \leq 6$ . At  $Re = 50$ ,  $Pr = 50$  and  $Ri = 1$ , wake size behind the downstream

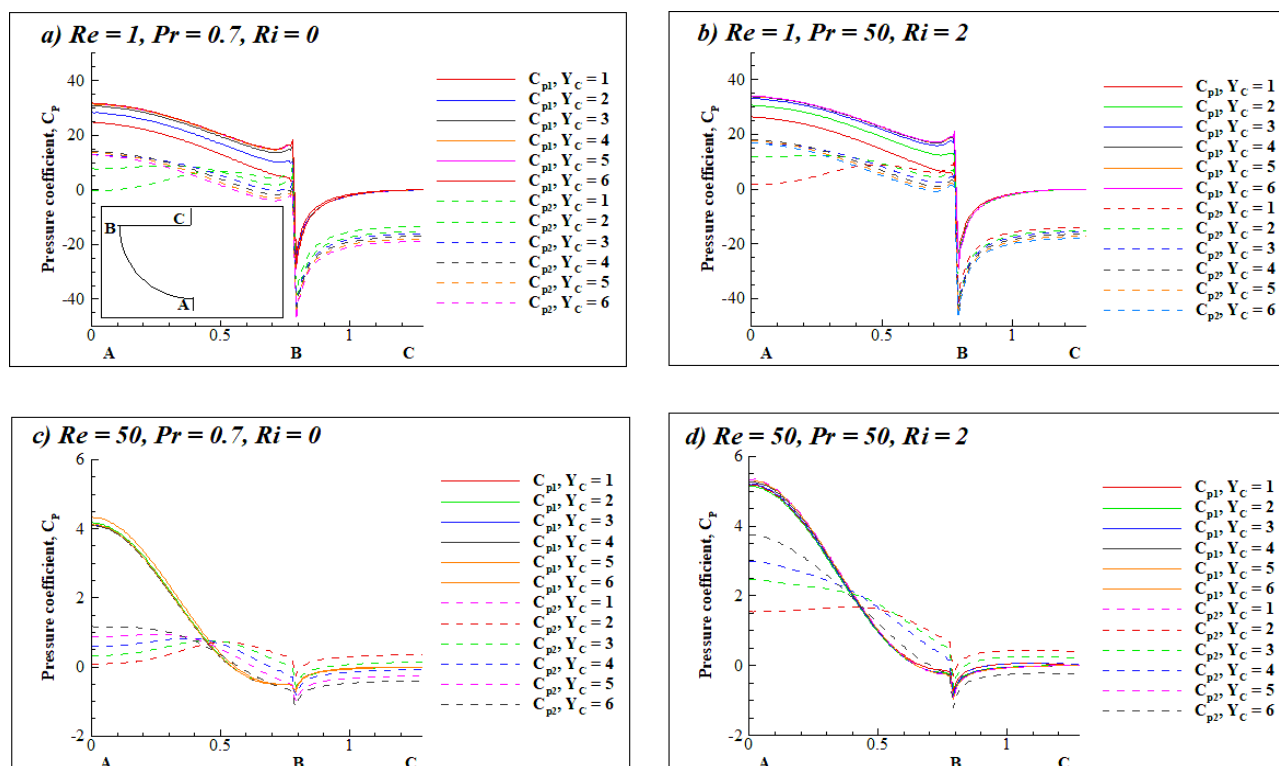


Fig. 4: Variation of pressure coefficients at cylinder surface for different values of  $Re$ ,  $Pr$ ,  $Ri$  and  $Y_C$ .

cylinder is observed to be constant with an increase in the value of  $Y_C$ . At  $Re = 50$ ,  $Pr = 50$ , and  $Ri = 2$ , the wake behind the downstream cylinder has almost disappeared for all values of  $Y_C$ . These phenomena are the result of the complex influence of the governing parameters on the flow field. Therefore, the wake sizes behind both cylinders show complex dependence on  $Y_C$  and  $Ri$ .

#### Variation of pressure coefficients

Detailed flow behavior is explored with the values of pressure coefficients ( $C_p$ ) around the surfaces of semi-circular cylinders. The value of  $C_p$  is used to measure pressure recovery at a particular surface location of the cylinder compared to the pressure value at the entrance ( $P_\infty$ ). Fig. 4 shows the variation of pressure coefficients ( $C_{p1}$  and  $C_{p2}$ ) for both cylinders at different distance values between cylinders ( $Y_C$ ) at extreme values of  $Re$ ,  $Pr$ , and  $Ri$ . For  $Re = 1$ ,  $Pr = 0.7$  and  $Ri = 0$ , magnitudes of  $C_{p1}$  values are higher than values of  $C_{p2}$  at the curved surface of the cylinder at all values of  $Y_C$ , but reverse phenomena have been observed at the flat surface of the cylinder. This is because the curved surface of the upstream cylinder is facing the upcoming flow direction. For the upstream cylinder, the values of  $C_{p1}$  are found in accordance with the literature values [20]. The values of  $C_{p1}$

on curved surface are increased due to a change in value of  $Y_C$  from 1 to 4, but values of  $C_{p1}$  on flat surface are reported to be almost constant with an increase in values of  $Y_C$ . It shows the influence of the downstream cylinder presence and  $Y_C$ . In case of the downstream cylinder, initially,  $C_{p2}$  values are increased with increase in  $Y_C$  values from 1 to 3, then there is a cross-over between points A and B and a reverse trend is seen. The magnitudes of  $C_{p2}$  at the flat side of the cylinder are also increased with an increase in  $Y_C$  value. A similar variation of magnitudes of  $C_{p1}$  and  $C_{p2}$  values have been observed at curved surface and flat surface of cylinders for  $Re = 1$ ,  $Pr = 50$  and  $Ri = 2$ , with variation in  $Y_C$  values.

For  $Re = 50$ ,  $Pr = 0.7$  and  $Ri = 0$ , values of  $C_{p1}$  and  $C_{p2}$  are compared at the curved surface of the cylinder surface and have shown complex behavior at all values of  $Y_C$ . For similar  $Re$ ,  $Pr$  and  $Ri$  values, magnitudes of  $C_{p1}$  at the flat surface are lower than  $C_{p2}$  at  $Y_C = 1$  to 3 and higher than  $C_{p2}$  at  $Y_C = 4$  to 6. The values of  $C_{p1}$  at curved surface are reported to decrease with an increase of  $Y_C$  in range of 1-3 only, reverse as observed at  $Re = 1$ . Conversely, the values of  $C_{p1}$  at flat surfaces are reported to be almost constant with an increase in values of  $Y_C$ . The variation of magnitudes of  $C_{p2}$  at the curved surface is reported to show complex behavior with a change in value of  $Y_C$ .



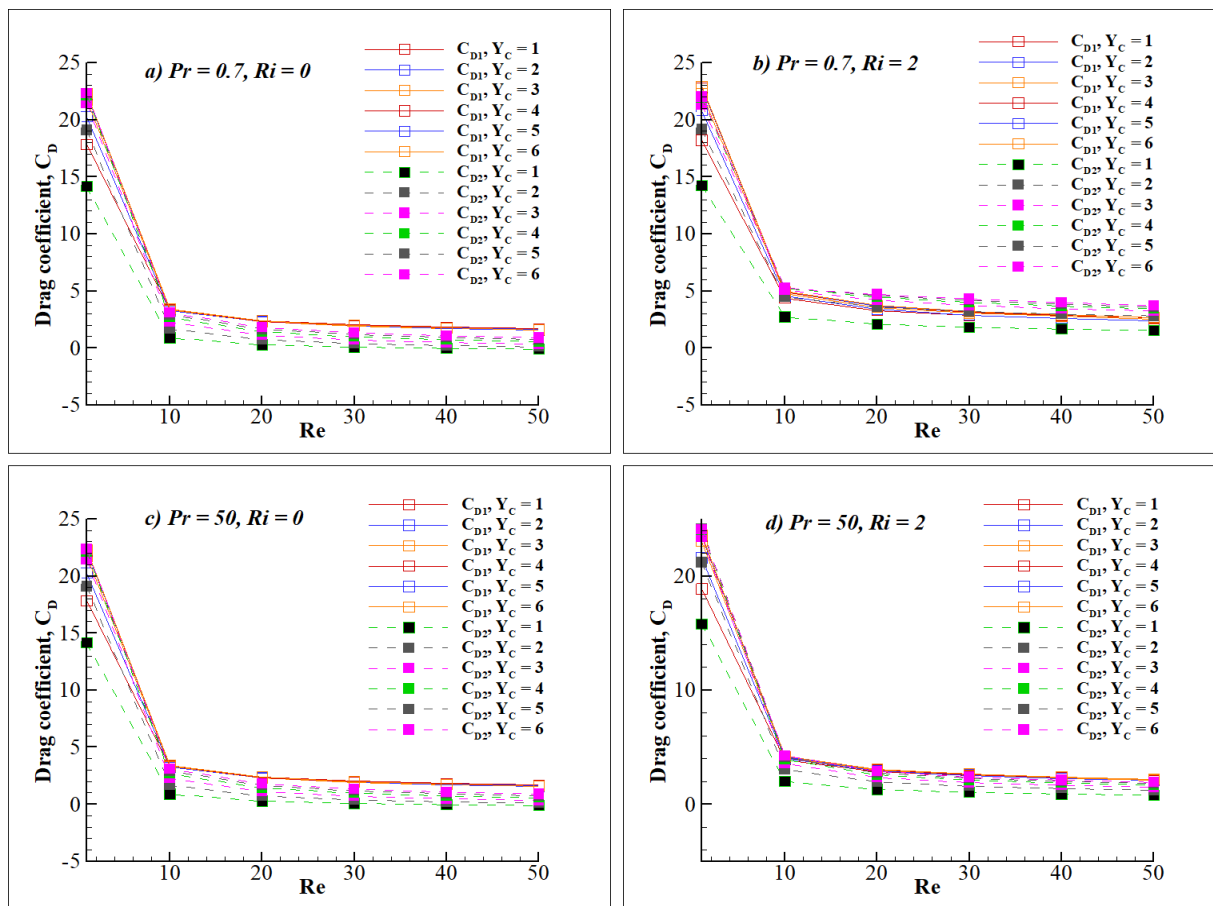


Fig. 5: Variation of drag coefficients with Reynolds numbers at different values of  $Pr$ ,  $Ri$  and  $Y_c$ .

The magnitudes of  $C_{p2}$  values at the flat side of the cylinder are decreased with the increase of  $Y_c$  values. At  $Re = 50$ ,  $Pr = 50$ , and  $Ri = 2$ , the values of  $C_{p1}$  at curved surface are increased with the increase of  $Y_c$  in intervals of  $Y_c = 1-6$ . Otherwise, the variation of patterns of  $C_{p1}$  as well as  $C_{p2}$  with  $Y_c$  at  $Re = 50$ ,  $Pr = 50$ , and  $Ri = 2$  are found to be similar as reported at  $Re = 50$ ,  $Pr = 0.7$  and  $Ri = 0$ . For all cases, complex dependency of pressure coefficient on the governing parameters has been observed, and no clear trend has been found.

### Drag coefficients

The drag coefficient is a measure of the total drag force on a cylinder due to fluid flow phenomena. It is helpful to determine the pressure drop across a bluff body and is used to evaluate the stability of the bluff body in the flow field. The estimated values of drag coefficients are used in the engineering/design calculations to develop engineering systems/equipment such as heat exchangers, underwater pipelines, power distribution lines (high tension lines), etc.

The drag coefficients on both cylinders, as the functions of  $Re$ ,  $Y_c$ ,  $Pr$  and  $Ri$ , are given in Fig. 5. The thorough observations of Fig. 5 show that the individual values of  $C_{D1}$  and  $C_{D2}$  are decreased with an increase of  $Re$  for all values of other parameters. A similar trend of drag coefficients was also reported in our previous work on unconfined semi-circular cylinder [13]. Significant changes in drag values have been observed in the lower  $Re$  range ( $Re = 1-10$ ). This may be due to the thick hydrodynamic boundary layer compared to its higher range of  $Re$  (as  $Re = 10-50$ ). This happened due to the domination of viscous forces over inertia forces at lower  $Re$ , which is in line with the phenomenon reported in the literature [42,43].

Further, in Fig. 5, for  $Ri = 0$  and  $Pr = 0.7$  and 50, the value of  $C_{D1}$  is higher than  $C_{D2}$  for  $1 \leq Y_c \leq 4$  and  $Re \geq 10$ . This trend is obvious because the upstream cylinder is directly facing the upcoming flow, whereas the second cylinder is facing the downstream flow from the first cylinder. The difference in  $C_{D1}$  and  $C_{D2}$  for a particular set

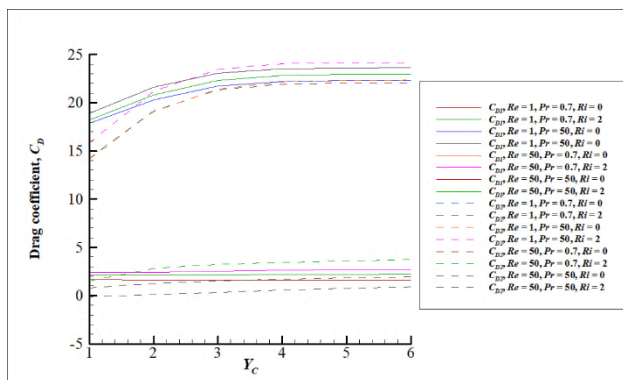


Fig. 6: Variation of Drag coefficients with values of  $Y_c$  at different values of  $Re$ ,  $Pr$  and  $Ri$ .

of operating conditions is decreased as the  $Y_c$  value is increased. This trend is deviating at  $Y_c = 5, 6$  and  $Re = 1$ . This phenomenon shows that the influence of upstream cylinder on the downstream cylinder is decreasing with the rising  $Y_c$  value. The  $C_{D1}$  value is found to increase with the value of  $Y_c$  at  $Re = 1-10$ , whereas for  $Re = 10-50$ , the value of  $C_{D1}$  has shown a negligible increase with an increase in value of  $Y_c$ . It concludes that the value of  $Y_c$  has negligible influence on  $C_{D1}$  and the upstream cylinder behaves like a single-cylinder at whole range of  $Re$ . The  $C_{D2}$  are seen to increase with an increase of  $Y_c$  and  $Re$  for its complete ranges ( $1 \leq Y_c \leq 6$ ;  $1 \leq Re \leq 50$ ). This trend shows that the presence of the upstream cylinder influences the downstream cylinder even at  $Y_c = 6$  and all  $Re$  values. Further, For  $Ri = 2$  and  $Pr = 0.7$ ,  $C_{D1}$  value is found to be higher as compared to  $C_{D2}$ , only for operating sets of  $Re = 1, Y_c = 1-6$ ;  $Re = 10, Y_c = 1-2$ ; and  $Re = 20-50, Y_c = 1$  only. For  $Ri = 2$  and  $Pr = 50$ , the value of  $C_{D1}$  is found to be higher as compared to  $C_{D2}$  for all operating sets of  $Re$  and  $Y_c$  except  $Re = 1, Y_c = 3-6$  and  $Re = 10, Y_c = 6$ . These values of  $C_{D1}$  and  $C_{D2}$  are also increased with an increase in  $Y_c$  value for all  $Re$  values. The effect on  $C_{D1}$  and  $C_{D2}$  is due to the combined and mixed influence of the governing parameters and flow geometry.

Fig. 6 shows a variation of the drag coefficients at both cylinders concerning the distance between cylinders at extreme values of other operating conditions  $Re = 1$  and  $50$ ,  $Pr = 0.7$  and  $50$ , and  $Ri = 0$  and  $2$ . Drag coefficients at  $Re = 1$  are found significantly higher as compared to values at  $Re = 50$  at all other operating conditions. It is due to the domination of viscous forces at a low value of  $Re$ . At  $Re = 1$ , the values of  $C_{D1}$  and  $C_{D2}$  are increased with a rise in  $Y_c$  value for  $1 \leq Y_c \leq 4$ . Afterward, drag coefficient values

remain unchanged in the range of  $4 \leq Y_c \leq 6$ . Hence, the presence of the upstream cylinder has negligible influence on the downstream cylinder for  $4 \leq Y_c \leq 6$ . Further, at  $Re = 50$ , the  $C_{D1}$  remains almost constant and the value of  $C_{D2}$  increases with an increase in  $Y_c$  value. Moreover, the  $C_{D1}$  value increases with a rise in  $Ri$  for all  $Re, Pr$  and  $Y_c$  values. The value of  $C_{D2}$  is increased as value of  $Ri$  increases for all values of  $Re, Pr$  and  $Y_c$  except at  $Re = 1, Pr = 0.7$  and  $3 \leq Y_c \leq 6$ . At  $Ri = 0$ , the values of  $C_{D1}$  and  $C_{D2}$  are seen as constant, with the rising  $Pr$  value for all  $Re$  and  $Y_c$  values. Both drag coefficients at  $Ri = 2$  are increased with  $Pr$  value at  $Re = 1$  and decrease at  $Re = 50$ . Hence, the  $C_{D1}$  and  $C_{D2}$  values show the complex functional dependencies on the governing parameters considered in the present work.

### Thermal characteristics

The thermal characteristics of the chosen flow configuration (Fig. 1) are presented as the isotherm profiles and the average Nusselt number for the ranges of the parameters considered here.

### Isotherm profiles

Isotherm profiles depict the variation of temperature and temperature gradients in the flow field. In this view, the isotherm profiles around heated cylinders are shown in Fig. 7 for various sets of  $Y_c, Re, Pr$  and  $Ri$  values. The crowing of isotherms nearby a solid surface result in a thin thermal boundary layer and a higher heat transfer rate. The crowding of isotherms around both cylinders is observed at a higher value of either  $Re$  or  $Pr$  for every set of  $Y_c$  and  $Ri$ . Isotherms have negligible change with increase in  $Ri$  values at all sets of  $Re, Pr$  and  $Y_c$  except  $Re = 50$  and  $Pr = 50$ . At  $Re = 50$  and  $Pr = 50$ , isotherms show great impact of  $Ri$ . This may be due to the high Peclet number ( $Re.Pr$ ), and shows higher convective heat transfer than the diffusive heat transfer. This heat transfer further increased in the presence of two nearby bluff bodies and the influence of buoyancy force at  $Ri = 2$ . So, this phenomenon is more prominent at  $Ri = 2$  than  $Ri = 0$ .

In other words, the boundary layers of both cylinders are overlapped and showed significant interaction at the lower value of  $Re, Pr$  and  $Y_c$ . The thermal boundary layers of both cylinders are observed to be separated from each other at a higher value of  $Re, Pr$  and  $Y_c$ . This influence is seen more at  $Re = 50, Pr = 50$ . At  $Re = 50, Pr = 50$  and  $Y_c$

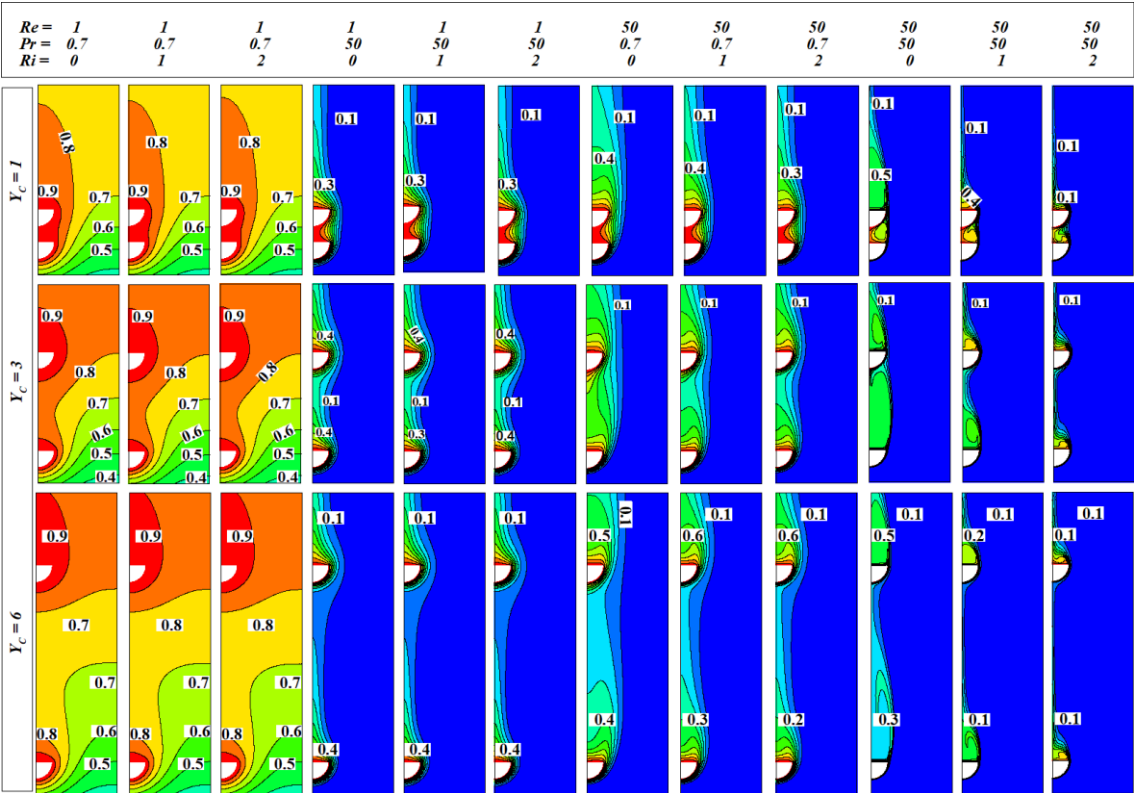


Fig. 7: Isotherm profiles at different values of  $Y_C$ ,  $Re$ ,  $Pr$  and  $Ri$ .

$\geq 3$ , the impact of the upstream cylinder on the downstream cylinder is negligible due to the shortened boundary layer, and the presence of the upstream cylinder does not affect the flow and thermal field of the downstream cylinder. At  $Y_C = 6$ , a similar pattern has been seen for  $Re = 50$  at all values of other parameters.

**Average Nusselt Number ( $Nu_{avg}$ )**

The dimensionless heat transfer coefficient is presented in the form of the average Nusselt number ( $Nu_{avg}$ ) for the current ranges of the parameters. The variation of values of  $Nu_{avg}$  for both semi-circular cylinders are represented in Fig. 8 at  $Y_C = 1, 3$  and  $6$ ;  $Pr = 0.7$  and  $50$ ; and  $Ri = 0, 1$  and  $2$ . The inspection of Fig. 8 shows that the values of  $Nu_{avg}$  are monotonically increasing with an increase in  $Re$  at every value of  $Y_C$ ,  $Pr$  and  $Ri$ . Further,  $Nu_{avg}$  is increasing with an increase in  $Pr$  for all sets of  $Y_C$ ,  $Re$  and  $Ri$ . The  $Nu_{avg}$  are found more in the case of the upstream cylinder ( $Nu_{avg1}$ ) as compared to the downstream cylinder ( $Nu_{avg2}$ ) at all operating conditions. This is because the upstream cylinder faces the upcoming flow at the initial temperature (low temperature), releases heat to the fluid due to a higher

thermal gradient, and attains the increased fluid temperature. After the upstream cylinder, there is a downstream cylinder with the same temperature. The fluid approaches the downstream cylinder with a higher temperature than the inlet temperature. So, the downstream cylinder's thermal gradient is reduced, leading to a lower heat transfer rate and lower value of  $Nu_{avg2}$ .

Further, the difference in the values of  $Nu_{avg1}$  and  $Nu_{avg2}$  is decreased with an increase in  $Y_C$  because of the decreasing influence of the upcoming cylinder and the larger convection region among the two cylinders by increasing the value of  $Y_C$ . This larger convection region limits the higher temperature zone near the upstream cylinder, and the approaching fluid to the downstream cylinder gets cool. So, the heat transfer from the downstream cylinder increases at higher  $Y_C$ . Furthermore, the values of  $Nu_{avg}$  at  $Pr = 0.7$  are increased with  $Ri$ , but  $Nu_{avg}$  at  $Pr = 50$  is varied in a mixed/complex pattern with a variation of  $Ri$  at all  $Y_C$  and  $Re$ .

Furthermore, Fig. 9 presents the average Nusselt numbers ( $Nu_{avg1}$  and  $Nu_{avg2}$ ) for both cylinders with variation in distance between cylinders ( $Y_C$ ) for various sets of  $Re$ ,  $Pr$  and  $Ri$ . The values of  $Nu_{avg1}$  and  $Nu_{avg2}$  at  $Re = 50$

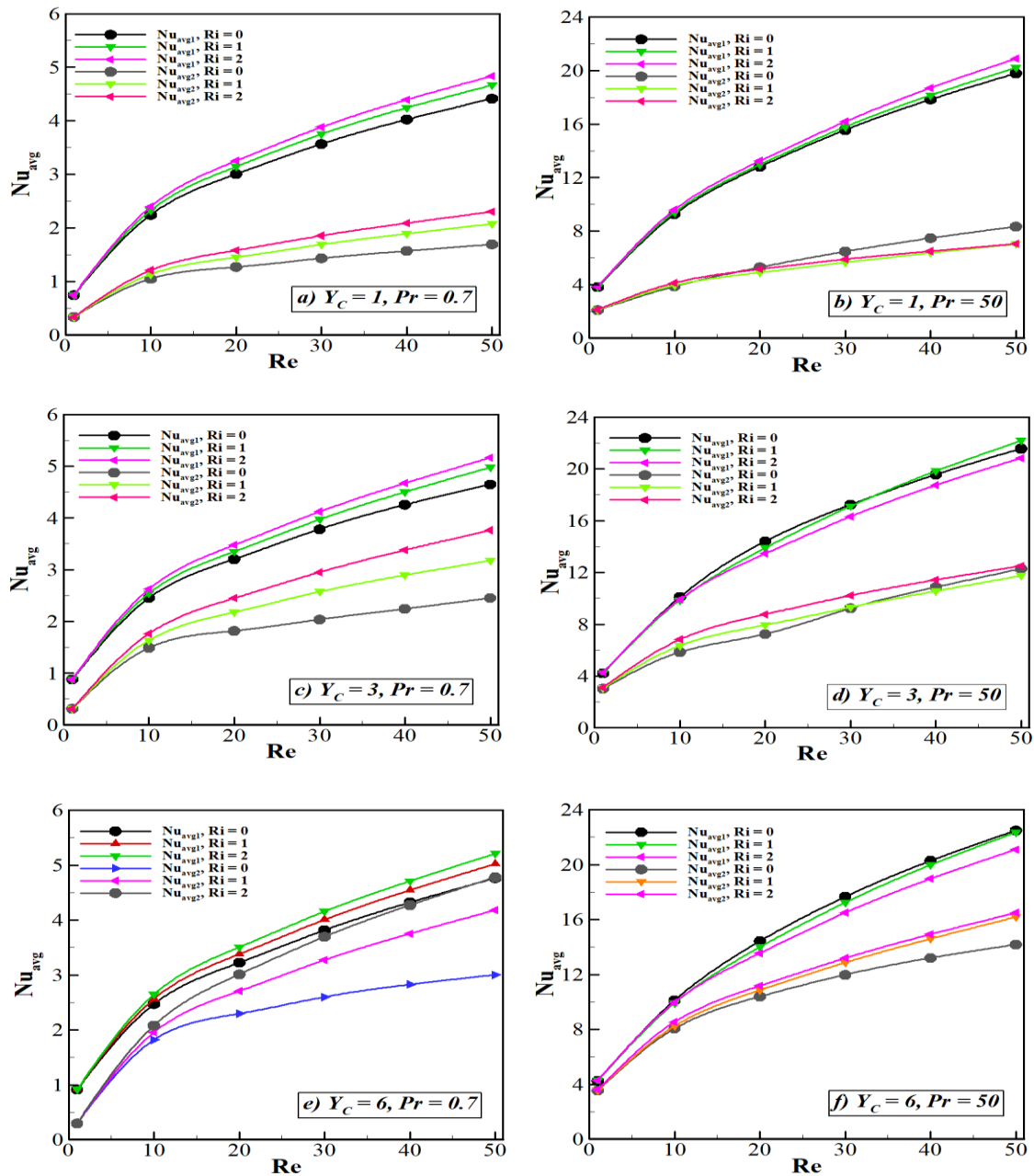


Fig. 8: Variation of average Nusselt number with Reynolds numbers at different values of  $Y_c$ ,  $Pr$  and  $Ri$ .

are higher and varied by a change in values of  $Ri$ , as compared to their corresponding values at  $Re = 1$ , with no change with  $Ri$ . The value of  $Nu_{avg1}$  at  $Pr = 0.7$  increases little due to a rise in  $Y_c$  value and, afterwards, remains almost constant at both values of  $Re = 1$  and 50. At a higher value of  $Pr (= 50)$ , a similar trend of  $Nu_{avg1}$  has been observed with an increase in  $Y_c$  value. Further,  $Nu_{avg2}$  values at  $Pr = 0.7$  are reported to be constant at  $Re = 1$ , whereas it increases at  $Re = 50$  with  $Y_c$ . At a higher value

of  $Pr (= 50)$ ,  $Nu_{avg2}$  has been increased with an increase in  $Y_c$  value at both  $Re$  values ( $= 1$  and 50). Therefore, the effect of cylinder spacing on heat transfer coefficient is more dominant at a higher  $Re$  value.

## CONCLUSIONS

This study presented flow and thermal characteristics for semi-circular cylinders in a tandem arrangement under vertical confinement ( $\beta = 0.2$ ) for Newtonian fluids.

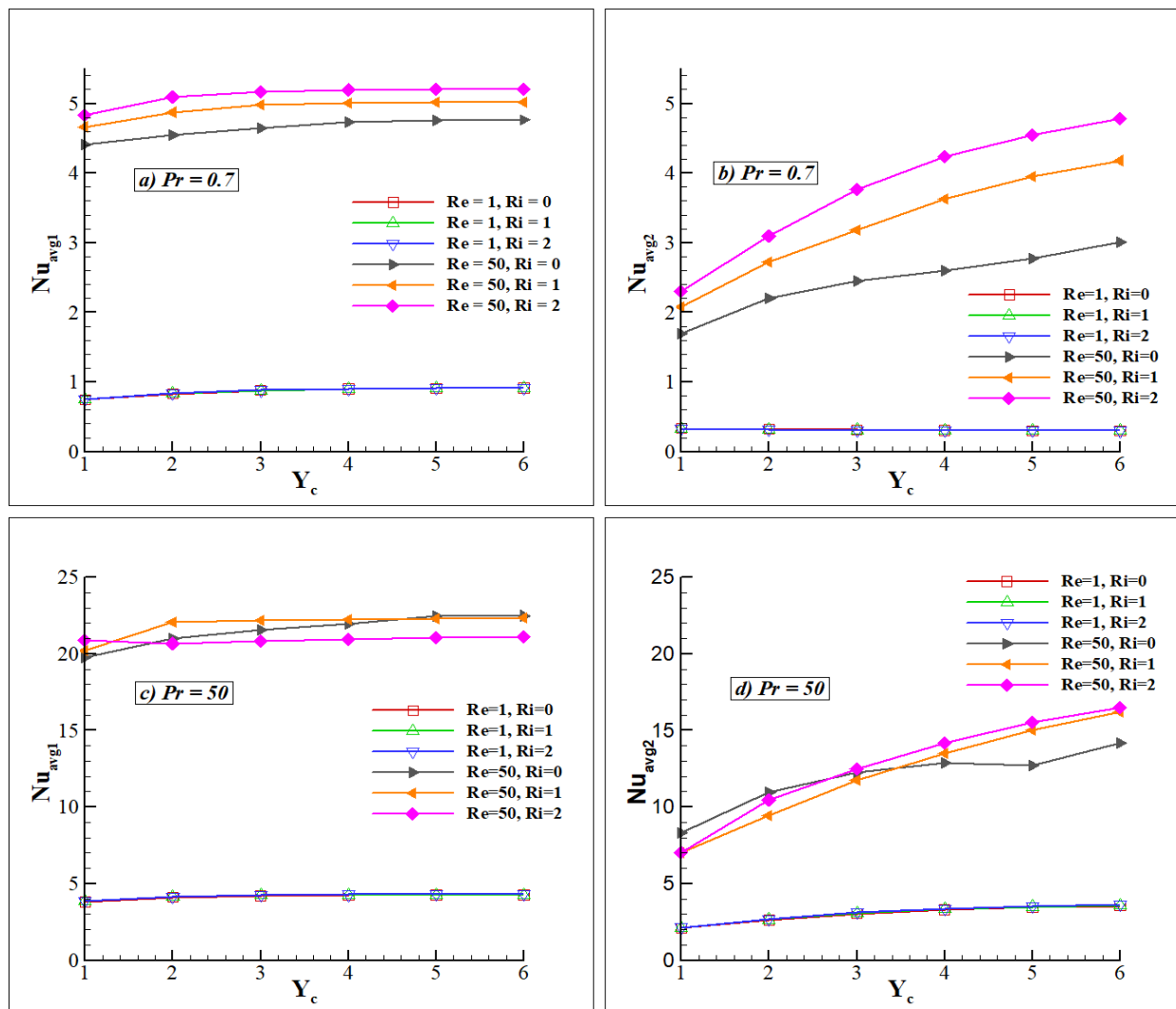


Fig. 9: Variation of average Nusselt number with the distance between cylinders at different values of  $Pr$ ,  $Re$ , and  $Ri$ .

The interaction of upstream and downstream cylinders showed complex dependency with all the governing parameters. The spacing between cylinders ( $Y_c$ ) significantly affected the streamlines, pressure coefficient, drag coefficient, isotherms profile and average Nusselt number. Specifically, the value of the drag coefficient for an upstream cylinder depends on  $Y_c$  for  $1 \leq Re \leq 10$ . But in the range of  $10 \leq Re \leq 50$ , the drag coefficient for the upstream cylinder has shown no change with respect to the value of  $Y_c$  except for the case of  $Pr = 0.7$  and  $Ri = 2$ . Moreover, the value of the drag coefficient for the downstream cylinder has increased with the increase in the value of  $Y_c$ , irrespective of its  $Re$  value. A substantial change in drag coefficients at  $Re = 1$  has been seen for  $Y_c \leq 4$ . Further, higher heat transfer from cylinders has been

observed at higher cylinder spacing. The average Nusselt number of both cylinders has increased with an increase in the value of  $Y_c$  except for the case of  $Re = 1$  and  $Pr = 0.7$  for a downstream cylinder. Moreover, the rise in  $Re$  and  $Pr$  enhanced the values of  $Nu_{avg}$  and  $C_D$ , whereas  $Ri$  showed complex dependency. The highest  $Pr$  value used in the study has been 50, considering its practical importance even in the use of high viscous or high molecular weight fluids (e.g. Polymer melts, sucrose solutions, light organic oils, etc.) in chemical, food, petroleum, and oil industries. The present work will be helpful for the further development of more efficient and effective heat transfer equipment. The multivariable optimization of flow and heat transfer parameters may be considered for further extension of this work. A multivariate method for the flow



and heat transfer analysis can also be proposed for future work [44,45].

Nomenclature

Drag coefficient at the surface of semi-circular cylinder (dimensionless)	$C_D$
Drag coefficient at the surface of upstream semi-circular cylinder (dimensionless)	$C_{D1}$
Drag coefficient at the surface of downstream semi-circular cylinder (dimensionless)	$C_{D2}$
Specific heat capacity of the fluid (J/kg K)	$c_p$
Pressure coefficient at the surface of upstream semi-circular cylinder (dimensionless)	$C_{P1}$
Pressure coefficient at surface of downstream semi-circular cylinder (dimensionless)	$C_{P2}$
Diameter of the cylinder (m)	$D$
Total number of the elements in computational domain (dimensionless)	$G_N$
Drag force per unit length of the cylinder (N/m)	$F_D$
Width of the rectangular channel (m)	$L$
Distance of inlet domain (m)	$M$
Dimensionless distance of inlet domain [=M/D] (dimensionless)	$m$
Distance of outlet domain (m)	$N$
Dimensionless distance of outlet domain [=N/D] (dimensionless)	$n$
Number of grid points on the surface of the cylinder (dimensionless)	$n_p$
Local Nusselt number (dimensionless)	$Nu$
Average Nusselt number of cylinder surface (dimensionless)	$Nu_{avg}$
Average Nusselt number of upstream cylinder surface (dimensionless)	$Nu_{avg1}$
Average Nusselt number of downstream cylinder surface (dimensionless)	$Nu_{avg2}$
Fluid pressure (Pa)	$P$
Static pressure at cylinder surface (Pa)	$P_s$
Fluid pressure at channel inlet (Pa)	$P_\infty$
<b>Prandtl number [= <math>c_p\mu/k</math>] (dimensionless)</b>	<b><math>Pr</math></b>
Reynolds number [= $DV_\infty\rho/\mu$ ] (dimensionless)	$Re$
Richardson number [= $g\beta_v(T - T_\infty)D/V_\infty^2$ ] (dimensionless)	$Ri$
Fluid absolute temperature (K)	$T$
Fluid temperature at the inlet section (K)	$T_\infty$
Wall temperature of cylinder (K)	$T_w$
Fluid velocity in X-direction (m/s)	$U$

Fluid velocity in Y-direction (m/s)	$V$
Average velocity at channel inlet (m/s)	$V_\infty$
Cartesian co-ordinates (m)	$X, Y$
Distance between centres of the cylinders (m)	$Y_C$

Greek Letters

Blockage ratio of confinement [= D/L] (dimensionless)	$\beta$
Coefficient of thermal volumetric expansion of fluid ( $K^{-1}$ )	$\beta_v$
Grid spacing at the surface of the cylinder (dimensionless)	$\delta$
Fluid density ( $kg/m^3$ )	$\rho$
Fluid density at temperature of $T_\infty$ ( $kg/m^3$ )	$\rho_\infty$
Fluid temperature (dimensionless)	$\theta$

Subscripts

Film temperature	$f$
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