

# Unsteady state heat transfer analysis of a convective-radiative rectangular fin using Laplace Transform-Galerkin weighted residual method

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**Abstract.** The present investigation is concerned with the development of non-power series solutions for the unsteady state nonlinear thermal model of a radiative-convective fin having temperature-variant thermal conductivity using Laplace transform-Galerkin weighted residual method. In the study, it is demonstrated that the symbolic solutions do not involve a large number of terms, complex mathematical analysis, high computational cost, and time as compared to the power series solutions in previous studies. The solutions allow effective predictions of the extended surface thermal performance over a large domain and time. The results of the non-power series solutions are verified numerically, and very good agreements are established. Parametric studies are carried out with the aid of the symbolic non-power solutions. It is found that as the conductive-convective and conductive-radiative increase, temperature distribution decreases since the rate of heat transfer becomes augmented and hence, the fin thermal efficiency is improved. Additionally, when the thermal conductivity of the fin increases, the temperature distribution in the passive device increases. The temperature increases with time at the different positions in the fin. Following the time histories of the solution, it is shown that unsteady state solutions converge to a steady state as time progresses. It could therefore be stated the developed non-power series analytical solutions provide a good platform for comparison of the nonlinear thermal analyses of fins in thermal systems.

**Keywords:** analytical solution, rectangular fin, temperature-dependent, Laplace transform, Galerkin weighted residual method.

## Nomenclature

$A_c$	Fin cross sectional area
$A_r$	Ratio of the surface area to cross-section area
$c_p$	Specific heat capacity
$E$	Electric field
$h$	Coefficient of convective heat transfer
$Ha$	Hartman number
$k$	Fin thermal conductivity
$k_b$	Fin thermal conductivity at the base temperature
$L$	Fin length
$Mc$	Adimensional convective parameter
$Nr$	Adimensional radiation parameter
$P$	Fin perimeter

$t$	Time
$T$	Fin temperature
$T_{\infty}$	Ambient temperature
$T_L$	Fin base temperature
$u$	Axial velocity
$V$	Macroscopic velocity of electrons
$x$	Fin axial distance
$X$	Adimensional fin length
$\beta$	Nonlinear thermal conductivity coefficient
$\varepsilon$	Fin material emissivity
$\delta$	Fin thickness
$\tau$	Dimensionless time
$\theta$	Adimensional temperature
$\theta_L$	Adimensional temperature at the fin base
$\rho$	Fin material density
$\sigma$	Stefan-Boltzmann constant
$\sigma_m$	Electric conductivity
$\sigma_{m.k}$	Electric conductivity per unit Kelvin

## 1. Introduction

Indisputably, there are increasing applications of passive devices for heat transfer augmentations and enhancements in thermal and electronic systems [1]. The importance of the passive devices has provoked a large volume of research in literatures. The theoretical investigations of thermal damage problems and heat transfer enhancement by the extended surfaces have attest to the facts that the controlling thermal models of the passive devices are always nonlinear. Consequently, the nonlinear thermal models have been successfully analyzed in the past studies with the aids of approximate analytical, semi-analytical, semi-numerical, and numerical methods. In such previous studies, Jordan et al. [8] adopted optimal linearization method to solve the nonlinear problems in the fin while Kundu and Das [9] utilized Frobenius expanding series method for the analysis of the nonlinear thermal model of the fin. Khani et al. [10] and Amirkolaei and Ganji [11] applied homotopy analysis method. In a further analysis, Aziz and Bouaziz [12], Sobamowo [13], Ganji et al. [14] and Sobamowo et al. [15] employed methods of weighted residual to explore the nonlinear thermal behaviour of fins. In another studies, methods of double decomposition and variation of parameter were used by Sobamowo [16] and Sobamowo et al. [17], respectively to study the thermal characteristics of fins. Also, differential transformation method has been used by some researchers such as Moradi and Ahmadikia [18], Sadri et al. [19], Ndlovu and Moitsheki [20], Mosayebidarchech et al. [21], Ghasemi et al. [22] and Ganji and Dogonchi [23] to predict the heat transfer behaviour in the passive devices. With the help of homotopy perturbation method, Sobamowo et al. [24], Arslanturk [25], Ganji et al. [26] and Hoshyar et al. [27] scrutinized the heat flow in the extended surfaces. However, these studies are for thermal analysis of fin under assumed constant heat transfer coefficient. The cases of heat transfer with variable heat transfer coefficient along the passive device varies has also be investigated [28-35]. Such analysis helps in providing the needed information on the efficiency, effectiveness, and design date of the extended surfaces under various boiling modes [33-44].

Although, as pointed out in the review of the previous studies, there are various approximate analytical and numerical solutions that gained applications in solving the thermal problems [45-52], most of these solutions involve power series. Indubitably, such power series solutions require rigorous solution procedures with inherent large number of terms which are not convenient for use in practice [15]. Therefore, the advantages of generating non-power series analytical solutions to the nonlinear transient problems are very obvious as such solutions allow effective

thermal predictions of the extended surface over a large domain and time. Also, the solutions reduce the complex mathematical analysis that gives analytic expressions involving large number terms, high computational cost and time as compared to the power series solutions in previous studies. Hence, the present investigation is concern with the development non-power series analytical solutions for the transient nonlinear thermal model of a radiative-convective fin having temperature-variant thermal conductivity using Laplace transform-Galerkin weighted residual method (LT-GWRM). The developed symbolic solutions are used to examine the impacts of thermal model parameters on performance of fin.

## 2. Problem formulation

Given a solid rectangular fin having a variable thermal conductivity and exposed to convective-radiative environment at temperature  $T_\infty$  and heat transfer co-efficient  $h$  as in Fig. 1. Assuming that the extended surface is isotropic, homogeneous, and saturated with constant thermo-physical properties. It is taken that the heat transfer is one-dimensional along fin length. The prime surface is in perfectly thermal contact with fin base and there is no heat gain or loss at fin tip.

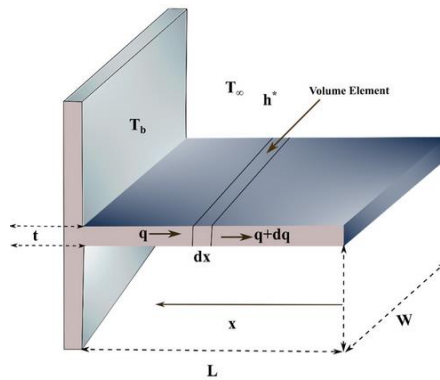


Fig. 1. Schematic of convective-radiative longitudinal fin

Thermal energy equation based on model assumptions is expressed as:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( k(T^*) \frac{\partial T^*}{\partial x} \right) - \frac{Ph}{A_{cr}} (T^* - T_\infty) - \frac{\sigma P \epsilon}{A_{cr}} (T^{*4} - T_\infty^4) = \rho c_p \frac{\partial T^*}{\partial t} \quad (1)$$

In the case that there is a small temperature difference between the base and the tip of the fin, the term  $T^{*4}$  in Eq. (3) could be expressed as a linear function of fin temperature as:

$$T^{*4} = T_\infty^4 + 4T_\infty^3(T^* - T_\infty) + \dots \cong 4T_\infty^3 T^* - 3T_\infty^4 \quad (2)$$

Substitution of Eq. (2) into Eq. (1), we have:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( k(T^*) \frac{\partial T^*}{\partial x} \right) - \frac{Ph(T^* - T_\infty)}{A_{cr}} - \frac{4\sigma \epsilon P T_\infty^3 (T^* - T_\infty)}{A_{cr}} = \rho c_p \frac{\partial T^*}{\partial t} \quad (3)$$

where thermal conductivity is expressed as a linear law:

$$k(T^*) = k_b (1 + \gamma(T^* - T_\infty)) \quad (4)$$

Therefore, Eq. (3) becomes:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( (1 + \gamma(T^* - T_\infty)) \frac{\partial T^*}{\partial x} \right) - \frac{hP(T^* - T_\infty)}{k_b A_{cr}} - \frac{4\sigma\epsilon PT_\infty^3(T^* - T_\infty)}{k_b A_{cr}} = \frac{\rho c_p}{k_b} \frac{\partial T^*}{\partial t}. \quad (5)$$

The initial condition is:

$$T^* = T_0, \quad \text{when } t = 0, \text{ for } 0 < x < L, \quad (6)$$

The boundary conditions for the fin with insulated tip are given as:

$$\frac{dT^*}{dx} = 0, \quad \text{at } x = 0, \text{ for } t > 0, \quad (7a)$$

$$T^* = T_b, \quad \text{at } x = L, \text{ for } t > 0. \quad (7b)$$

Using the following dimensionless parameters of Eq. (8) in Eqs. (5)-(7):

$$X = \frac{x}{L}, \quad \theta = \frac{T^* - T_\infty}{T_b - T_\infty}, \quad \tau = \frac{k_b t}{\rho c_p L^2}, \quad Mc = \frac{PhL^2}{A_{cr} k_b}, \quad Nr = \frac{4\sigma\epsilon PT_\infty^3 L^2}{A_{cr} k_b}, \quad \beta = \gamma(T_L - T_\infty), \quad (8)$$

we arrived at the dimensionless forms of the governing as follows:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial X} \left[ (1 + \beta\theta) \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial X} \right] - (Mc + Nr)\theta = \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial \tau}. \quad (9)$$

Expansion Eq. (9), we have:

$$\frac{\partial^2 \theta}{\partial X^2} + \beta\theta \frac{\partial^2 \theta}{\partial X^2} + \beta \left( \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial X} \right)^2 - (Mc + Nr)\theta = \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial \tau}, \quad (10)$$

and the dimensionless initial is given as:

$$\theta = \theta_0, \quad \text{when } \tau = 0, \text{ for } 0 < X < 1, \quad (11)$$

and the adimensional boundary conditions for the fin are given as:

$$\frac{\partial \theta}{\partial X} = 0, \quad \text{at } X = 0, \text{ for } \tau > 0, \quad (12a)$$

$$\theta = 1, \quad \text{at } X = 1, \text{ for } \tau > 0, \quad (12b)$$

### 3. Analytical solutions for the thermal problems using integral transforms

The thermal model in Eq. (10) is nonlinear and such can be solved numerically or by approximate analytical methods. However, the computational methods are approximate methods with inherent high computational cost and time. The approximate solutions involve power series with the rigorous solution procedures and large number of terms are not convenient for use in practice. Therefore, the obvious advantages of generating non-power series analytical solutions to the nonlinear problems are very much important and this is given in the present study. Such non-power series solutions allow effective thermal predictions of the extended surface over a large domain and time. Also, the non-power series solutions reduce the complex mathematical analysis that gives analytic expressions involving large number terms, high computational cost and time. Therefore, it very important to find analytical or close form solutions to the thermal problems under investigations. Such symbolic solution will provide better physical insights into the importance of thermo-physical parameters than the numerical methods. In the generation of the

analytical solutions to differential equations, the practical significance of transform methods facilitates observation of great many properties and hidden views, of both mathematical and physical interest, which are not yet well known and have not met with proper appreciation. Consequently, using Laplace transforms, analytical solutions are developed for the heat transfer models.

### 3.1. Laplace transform method (LT)

The LT of function  $f(t)$  and corresponding inversion are enumerated as:

$$F(s) = \int_0^{\infty} e^{-st} f(t) dt, \tag{13}$$

$$f(t) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{s-i\infty}^{s+i\infty} e^{-st} F(s) dt, \tag{14}$$

where  $s = a + ib$  ( $a, b \in R$ ) is a complex number.

### 3.2. Applying LT method to the nonlinear thermal model

Applying Laplace transform to Eq. (10), provides the following solutions:

$$\frac{d^2 \tilde{\theta}}{dX^2} + \beta \tilde{\theta} \frac{d^2 \tilde{\theta}}{dX^2} + \beta \left( \frac{d\tilde{\theta}}{dX} \right)^2 - (Mc + Nr) \tilde{\theta} = s \tilde{\theta}. \tag{15}$$

Collecting like terms, we have:

$$\frac{d^2 \tilde{\theta}}{dX^2} + \beta \tilde{\theta} \frac{d^2 \tilde{\theta}}{dX^2} + \beta \left( \frac{d\tilde{\theta}}{dX} \right)^2 - (s + Mc + Nr) \tilde{\theta} = 0, \tag{16}$$

with boundary conditions in Laplace domain are:

$$\begin{aligned} s > 0, \quad X = 0, \quad \frac{\partial \tilde{\theta}}{\partial x} &= 0, \\ s > 0, \quad X = 1, \quad \tilde{\theta} &= \frac{1}{s}. \end{aligned} \tag{17}$$

An approximate solution of the form:

$$\tilde{\theta}(X, s) = \phi_o(X, s) + \Omega \phi_1(X, s). \tag{18}$$

Which is given as:

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\theta}(X, s) &= \frac{\cosh \sqrt{(s + Mc + Nr)} X}{s \cosh \sqrt{(s + Mc + Nr)}} \\ &+ \Omega \left[ \frac{\cosh \left[ 2\sqrt{(s + Mc + Nr)} \right] X}{s \cosh \left[ 2\sqrt{(s + Mc + Nr)} \right]} - \frac{\cosh \sqrt{(s + Mc + Nr)} X}{s \cosh \sqrt{(s + Mc + Nr)}} \right]. \end{aligned} \tag{19}$$

Which identically satisfies the boundary conditions of Eq. (17).

Substituting Eq. (18) into Eq. (16), one has:

$$\frac{d^2[\phi_o(X, s) + \Omega\phi_1(X, s)]}{dX^2} + \beta[\phi_o(X, s) + \Omega\phi_1(X, s)] \frac{d^2[\phi_o(X, s) + \Omega\phi_1(X, s)]}{dX^2} + \beta \left( \frac{d[\phi_o(X, s) + \Omega\phi_1(X, s)]}{dX} \right)^2 - (s + Nc + Nr)[\phi_o(X, s) + \Omega\phi_1(X, s)] = f(X, s). \quad (20)$$

According to Galerkin process, the coefficient  $\Omega$  can be found by defining the condition:

$$\int_0^1 f(X, s) \phi_1(X, s) dX = 0, \quad (21)$$

$$\int_0^1 \left\{ \frac{d^2[\phi_o(X, s) + \Omega\phi_1(X, s)]}{dX^2} + \beta[\phi_o(X, s) + \Omega\phi_1(X, s)] \frac{d^2[\phi_o(X, s) + \Omega\phi_1(X, s)]}{dX^2} + \beta \left( \frac{d[\phi_o(X, s) + \Omega\phi_1(X, s)]}{dX} \right)^2 - (s + Nc + Nr)[\phi_o(X, s) + \Omega\phi_1(X, s)] \right\} \phi_1(X, s) dX = 0. \quad (22)$$

where:

$$\tilde{\phi}_o(X, s) = \frac{\cosh\sqrt{(s + Mc + Nr)}X}{s \cosh\sqrt{(s + Mc + Nr)}}, \quad (23)$$

$$\tilde{\phi}_1(X, s) = \left[ \frac{\cosh\left[2\sqrt{(s + Mc + Nr)}\right]X}{s \cosh\left[2\sqrt{(s + Mc + Nr)}\right]} - \frac{\cosh\sqrt{(s + Mc + Nr)}X}{s \cosh\sqrt{(s + Mc + Nr)}} \right]. \quad (24)$$

After substitution of Eqs. (23) and (24) into Eq. (22) and integrate, one arrives at:

$$\lambda_1\Omega^2 + \lambda_2\Omega + \lambda_3 = 0. \quad (25)$$

The solution of Eq. (25) is:

$$\Omega = \frac{-\lambda_2 \pm \sqrt{\lambda_2^2 - 4\lambda_1\lambda_3}}{2\lambda_1}, \quad (26)$$

where:

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda_1 = & \frac{\beta}{s} \left[ -\frac{2}{3} \tanh^2 \left[ 2\sqrt{(s + Mc + Nr)} \right] - \frac{27}{40} \tanh \left[ 2\sqrt{(s + Mc + Nr)} \right] \right. \\ & + \frac{1}{3} \tanh^3 \left[ \sqrt{(s + Mc + Nr)} \right] + \frac{3}{5} \tanh \left[ \sqrt{(s + Mc + Nr)} \right] \\ & + \frac{177}{40} \tanh \left[ 2\sqrt{(s + Mc + Nr)} \right] \tanh^2 \left[ \sqrt{(s + Mc + Nr)} \right] \\ & - 4 \tanh \left[ \sqrt{(s + Mc + Nr)} \right] \tanh^2 \left[ 2\sqrt{(s + Mc + Nr)} \right] \\ & \left. - \frac{96}{15} \left( \tanh \left[ 2\sqrt{(s + Mc + Nr)} \right] \right) \left( \frac{1 - \tanh^2 \left[ \sqrt{(s + Mc + Nr)} \right]}{1 + \tanh^2 \left[ \sqrt{(s + Mc + Nr)} \right]} \right) \right] \\ & + \frac{3}{8} \sqrt{(s + Mc + Nr)} \left\{ 1 - \tanh^2 \left[ \sqrt{(s + Mc + Nr)} \right] \right\}^2 \left( \frac{\tanh \left[ 2\sqrt{(s + Mc + Nr)} \right]}{\tanh^2 \left[ \sqrt{(s + Mc + Nr)} \right]} \right) \left. \right\}, \quad (27a) \end{aligned}$$

$$\lambda_2 = \frac{\beta}{s} \left[ \frac{14}{5} \tanh \left[ \sqrt{(s + Mc + Nr)} \right] - \frac{2}{3} \tanh^2 \left[ \sqrt{(s + Mc + Nr)} \right] - \frac{31}{40} \tanh \left[ 2\sqrt{(s + Mc + Nr)} \right] - \frac{59}{40} \tanh \left[ 2\sqrt{(s + Mc + Nr)} \right] \tanh^2 \left[ \sqrt{(s + Mc + Nr)} \right] - \frac{32}{15} \left( \tanh \left[ 2\sqrt{(s + Mc + Nr)} \right] \right) \left( \frac{1 - \tanh^2 \left[ \sqrt{(s + Mc + Nr)} \right]}{1 + \tanh^2 \left[ \sqrt{(s + Mc + Nr)} \right]} \right) \right] \quad (27b)$$

$$- \frac{5}{8} \sqrt{(s + Mc + Nr)} \left\{ 1 - \tanh^2 \left[ \sqrt{(s + Mc + Nr)} \right] \right\}^2 \left( \frac{\tanh \left[ 2\sqrt{(s + Mc + Nr)} \right]}{\tanh^2 \left[ \sqrt{(s + Mc + Nr)} \right]} \right) \left. \right] \times \frac{3}{2s} \left[ \sqrt{(s + Mc + Nr)} \left[ \tanh^2 \left[ 2\sqrt{(s + Mc + Nr)} \right] - 1 \right] - \tanh \left[ 2\sqrt{(s + Mc + Nr)} \right] \left[ \frac{1}{3} \tanh^2 \left[ \sqrt{(s + Mc + Nr)} \right] - \frac{1}{2} \right] \right],$$

$$\lambda_3 = \frac{\beta}{s} \left[ \frac{1}{3} \tanh^3 \left[ \sqrt{(s + Mc + Nr)} \right] - \frac{1}{2} \tanh \left[ \sqrt{(s + Mc + Nr)} \right] + \frac{1}{4} \sqrt{(s + Mc + Nr)} \left\{ 1 - \tanh^2 \left[ \sqrt{(s + Mc + Nr)} \right] \right\}^2 \left( \frac{\tanh \left[ 2\sqrt{(s + Mc + Nr)} \right]}{\tanh^2 \left[ \sqrt{(s + Mc + Nr)} \right]} \right) \right] \quad (27c)$$

It is shown from Eq. (26) that  $\Omega$  has two roots. However, it is established that the appropriate root is the one that gives  $\beta\Omega \leq 0$ . The other root gives some kinds of temperature distributions which are physically meaningless.

Also, practical root of  $\Omega$  which includes Eqs. (27) illustrates that the inversion of Eq. (18) will be very difficult to find analytically. Therefore, the inverse Laplace transform of Eq. (18) was found numerically evaluated using Simon’s approach given as:

$$\theta(X, \tau) = \frac{e^{a_p \tau}}{\tau} \left[ \frac{1}{2} \tilde{\theta}(X, a_p) + \sum_{n=1}^N \text{Re} \left[ \tilde{\theta} \left( X, a_p + i \frac{n\pi}{\tau} \right) (-1)^n \right] \right], \quad (28)$$

where optimally,  $a_p \tau = 4.7$ .

For the steady state,  $\tau \rightarrow \infty$ , we have:

$$\theta(X) = \frac{\cosh \sqrt{(Mc + Nr)} X}{\cosh \sqrt{(Mc + Nr)}} + \Psi \left[ \frac{\cosh \left[ 2\sqrt{(Mc + Nr)} \right] X}{\cosh \left[ 2\sqrt{(Mc + Nr)} \right]} - \frac{\cosh \sqrt{(Mc + Nr)} X}{\cosh \sqrt{(Mc + Nr)}} \right], \quad (29)$$

where in the solution of Eq. (31):

$$\xi_1 \Psi^2 + \xi_2 \Psi + \xi_3 = 0. \quad (30)$$

Which gives:

$$\Psi = \frac{-\xi_2 \pm \sqrt{\xi_2^2 - 4\xi_1 \xi_3}}{2\xi_1}, \quad (31)$$

where:

$$\begin{aligned} \xi_1 = & \beta \left[ -\frac{2}{3} \tanh^2 \left[ 2\sqrt{(Mc + Nr)} \right] - \frac{27}{40} \tanh \left[ 2\sqrt{(Mc + Nr)} \right] \right. \\ & + \frac{1}{3} \tanh^3 \left[ \sqrt{(Mc + Nr)} \right] + \frac{3}{5} \tanh \left[ \sqrt{(Mc + Nr)} \right] \\ & + \frac{177}{40} \tanh \left[ 2\sqrt{(Mc + Nr)} \right] \tanh^2 \left[ \sqrt{(Mc + Nr)} \right] \\ & - 4 \tanh \left[ \sqrt{(Mc + Nr)} \right] \tanh^2 \left[ 2\sqrt{(Mc + Nr)} \right] \\ & - \frac{96}{15} \left( \tanh \left[ 2\sqrt{(Mc + Nr)} \right] \right) \left( \frac{1 - \tanh^2 \left[ \sqrt{(Mc + Nr)} \right]}{1 + \tanh^2 \left[ \sqrt{(Mc + Nr)} \right]} \right) \\ & \left. + \frac{3}{8} \sqrt{(Mc + Nr)} \left\{ 1 - \tanh^2 \left[ \sqrt{(Mc + Nr)} \right] \right\}^2 \left( \frac{\tanh \left[ 2\sqrt{(Mc + Nr)} \right]}{\tanh^2 \left[ \sqrt{(Mc + Nr)} \right]} \right) \right], \end{aligned} \quad (32)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \xi_2 = & \beta \left[ \frac{14}{5} \tanh \left[ \sqrt{(Mc + Nr)} \right] - \frac{2}{3} \tanh^2 \left[ \sqrt{(Mc + Nr)} \right] - \frac{31}{40} \tanh \left[ 2\sqrt{(Mc + Nr)} \right] \right. \\ & - \frac{59}{40} \tanh \left[ 2\sqrt{(Mc + Nr)} \right] \tanh^2 \left[ \sqrt{(Mc + Nr)} \right] \\ & - \frac{32}{15} \left( \tanh \left[ 2\sqrt{(Mc + Nr)} \right] \right) \left( \frac{1 - \tanh^2 \left[ \sqrt{(Mc + Nr)} \right]}{1 + \tanh^2 \left[ \sqrt{(Mc + Nr)} \right]} \right) \\ & - \frac{5}{8} \sqrt{(Mc + Nr)} \left\{ 1 - \tanh^2 \left[ \sqrt{(Mc + Nr)} \right] \right\}^2 \left( \frac{\tanh \left[ 2\sqrt{(Mc + Nr)} \right]}{\tanh^2 \left[ \sqrt{(Mc + Nr)} \right]} \right) \\ & \times \frac{3}{2} \left[ \sqrt{(Mc + Nr)} \left[ \tanh^2 \left[ 2\sqrt{(Mc + Nr)} \right] - 1 \right] \right. \\ & \left. - \tanh \left[ 2\sqrt{(Mc + Nr)} \right] \left[ \frac{1}{3} \tanh^2 \left[ \sqrt{(Mc + Nr)} \right] - \frac{1}{2} \right] \right], \end{aligned} \quad (33)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \xi_3 = & \beta \left[ \frac{1}{3} \tanh^3 \left[ \sqrt{(Mc + Nr)} \right] - \frac{1}{2} \tanh \left[ \sqrt{(Mc + Nr)} \right] \right. \\ & \left. + \frac{1}{4} \sqrt{(Mc + Nr)} \left\{ 1 - \tanh^2 \left[ \sqrt{(Mc + Nr)} \right] \right\}^2 \left( \frac{\tanh \left[ 2\sqrt{(Mc + Nr)} \right]}{\tanh^2 \left[ \sqrt{(Mc + Nr)} \right]} \right) \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (34)$$

Fin efficiency is given for the transient state as:

$$\eta = \int_0^1 \tilde{\theta}(X, s) dX = \frac{\tanh \left[ \sqrt{(s + Mc + Nr)} \right]}{s \left[ \sqrt{(s + Mc + Nr)} \right]} \left[ 1 - \Omega \left( \frac{\tanh^2 \left[ \sqrt{(s + Mc + Nr)} \right]}{1 + \tanh^2 \left[ \sqrt{(s + Mc + Nr)} \right]} \right) \right]. \quad (35)$$

While for the steady state as:

$$\eta = \int_0^1 \theta(X) dX = \frac{\tanh \left[ \sqrt{(Mc + Nr)} \right]}{\left[ \sqrt{(Mc + Nr)} \right]} \left[ 1 - \Psi \left( \frac{\tanh^2 \left[ \sqrt{(Mc + Nr)} \right]}{1 + \tanh^2 \left[ \sqrt{(Mc + Nr)} \right]} \right) \right]. \quad (36)$$

Using Laplace transform, the exact analytical solution for the linear thermal model  $\beta$ :



$$1 + \frac{4}{\pi} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{2n-1} e^{-\frac{[(2n-1)^2\pi^2+(Mc+Nr)]t}{4}} \cos \left[ \frac{(2n-1)\pi X}{2} \right]. \quad (37)$$

It is very difficult to provide an explicit exact analytical solution to the nonlinear thermal model in this work. Therefore, the nonlinear model was also solved numerically using Crank-Nicolson finite different method. The finite difference method for the nonlinear thermal model in Eq. (11) is:

$$\begin{aligned} & \left( \frac{\theta_{i+1}^{n+1} - 2\theta_i^{n+1} + \theta_{i-1}^{n+1} + \theta_{i+1}^n - 2\theta_i^n + \theta_{i-1}^n}{2\Delta^2 X} \right) \\ & + \beta(\theta_i^n) \left( \frac{\theta_{i+1}^{n+1} - 2\theta_i^{n+1} + \theta_{i-1}^{n+1} + \theta_{i+1}^n - 2\theta_i^n + \theta_{i-1}^n}{2\Delta^2 X} \right) \\ & + \beta \left( \frac{\theta_{i+1}^{n+1} - \theta_{i-1}^{n+1} + \theta_{i+1}^n - \theta_{i-1}^n}{4\Delta X} \right)^2 - (Mc + Nr)\theta_i^n = \left( \frac{\theta_i^{n+1} - \theta_i^n}{\Delta\tau} \right). \end{aligned} \quad (38)$$

The FDM for the initial condition is:

$$\theta_i^o = 0. \quad (39)$$

While FDM for boundary conditions become:

$$\frac{\theta_1^n - \theta_{-1}^n}{2\Delta X} = 0 \Rightarrow \theta_1^n = \theta_{-1}^n, \quad \theta_M^n = 1. \quad (40)$$

#### 4. Results and discussion

The solutions of LT-GWRM are developed and shown in Figs. 2-10. However, Table 1 shows comparison of the results of finite difference method (FDM) and LT-GWRM for the nonlinear thermal models while Figs. 2 presents comparison of nonlinear thermal model results of LT-GWRM with the results of FDM using another set of the model parameters.

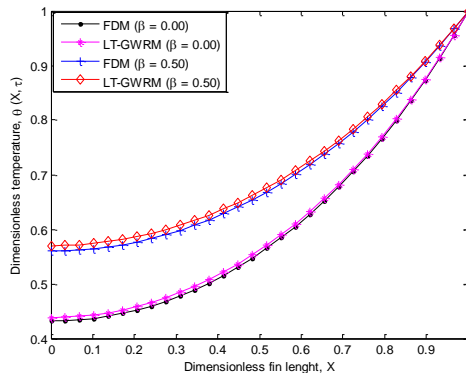


Fig. 2. Comparison of nonlinear model results of FDM and LT-GWRM

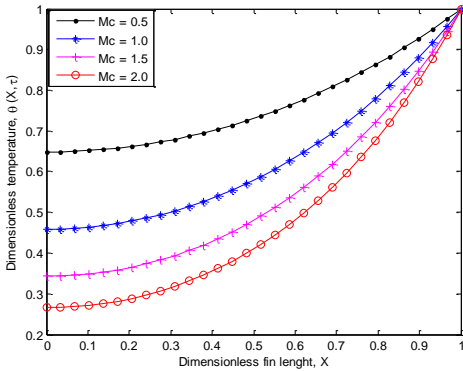
Fig. 3, 4 and 5 illustrate the effects of conductive-convective, conductive-radiative and magnetic field parameters on the temperature profiles of the fin, respectively. From the figures, as the conductive-convective, conductive-radiative and magnetic field parameters increase, it is shown that fin thermal distribution decreases. It can be seen in Fig. 3 that the decrease in the temperature of the fin as a result of increase in the conductive-convective parameter reveals that an increase in

the heat dissipation capability of the fin or increase in the surface heat loss as the coefficient of the heat transfer increases. It could be stated that when the coefficient of heat transfer increases, it significantly enhances the heat flow from the fin base and the surrounding fluid at the surface of the fin tends to convect more heat away from the fin surface thereby reducing the temperature distribution in the fin and continuous enhance the rate of heat transfer through the fin.

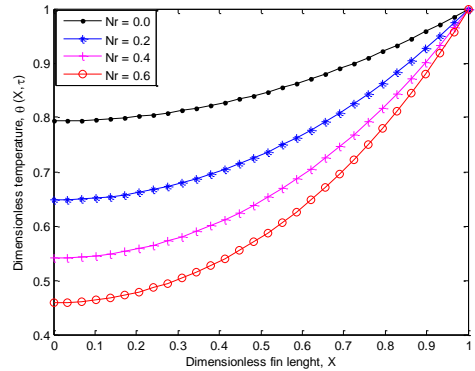
**Table 1.** Comparison of results when  $\beta = 0.5$

X	FDM	LT-GWRM
0.0000	0.7897	0.7873
0.2000	0.7991	0.7963
0.4000	0.8225	0.8201
0.6000	0.8624	0.8605
0.8000	0.9223	0.9206
1.0000	1.0000	1.0000

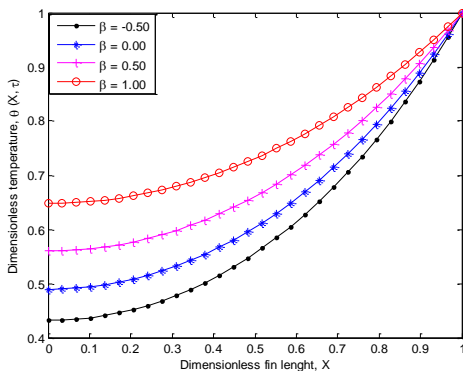
In Fig. 4, where it is shown that the fin temperature decreases as the value of conductive-radiative parameter increases. This is because as more heat is released from the surface of the fin through thermal radiation, the intensity of the radiative cooling increases i.e. the fin loses heat to the ambient fluid effectively and consequently, fin temperature drops.



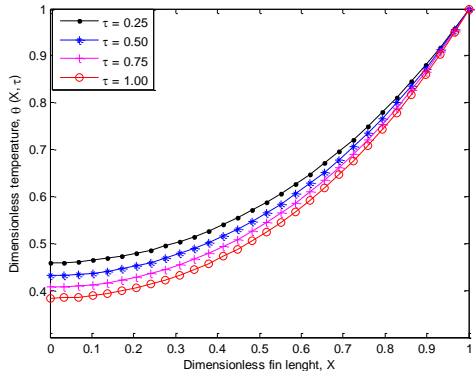
**Fig. 3.** Effects of conductive-convective parameter on fin thermal distribution



**Fig. 4.** Effects of conductor-radiative parameter on fin thermal distribution



**Fig. 5.** Impacts of thermal conductivity factor on the fin thermal distribution



**Fig. 6.** Effects of time on the fin thermal distribution

Fig. 5 shows the effect of the fin thermal conductivity on the transient thermal behaviour of the extended surface. The figure shows when the fin thermal conductivity and thermal

conductivity gradient increase, the fin temperature increases, the fin temperature increases. This is because, increase in the fin thermal conductivity and the thermal conductivity gradient causes an increase in the local temperature of the fin and makes the heat conducted through the fin increases, thereby the fin heat dissipation capability or surface heat loss to reduce. Moreover, a material of high thermal conductivity tends to store more heat than dissipating it as compared to a material of low thermal conductivity that dissipates heat more easily. It could therefore be said that when a high heat dissipation process is required as in the case compact and miniaturized equipment in thermal system applications such as cooling of electronic systems and devices, it is suggested that a material of relatively low thermal conductivity should be used. Fig. 6 shows the temperature profiles at different times while Fig. 7 illustrates the temperature histories at different positions in the fin. It could be observed that at the different positions in the fin, the temperature increases with an increase in time. The time histories of the solution shows that transient solutions converge to a steady state and the fin tip temperature increases as time progresses.

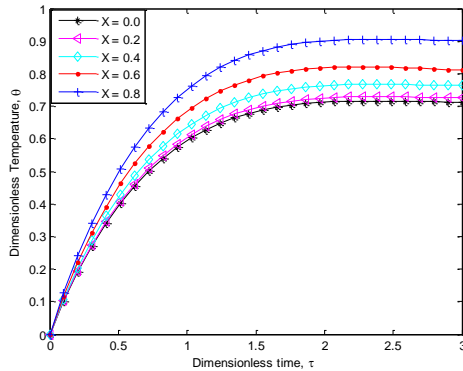


Fig. 7. Temperature history in the fin at various locations in the fin

## 5. Conclusions

In this paper, with the aid of Laplace transform-Galerkin weighted residual method, non-power series solutions have been developed for the analysis of transient nonlinear thermal behaviour of conductive-radiative-convective fin with varying thermal conductivity. The verifications of the results of the solutions were done by comparing the results of the analytical solutions with the result of a numerical method. It was established that very good agreements were found. Parametric studies in the work showed that the conductive-convective and conductive-radiative parameters increase, the fin's thermal profile reduces while fin's heat transfer capability is augmented and hence, the fin thermal efficiency is augmented. However, the fin's thermal profile is enhanced through the fin as value of the thermal conductivity term amplifies. At the different positions in the fin, the temperature grows as the time evolution progresses. The time histories of the solution shows that transient solutions converge to a steady state and the fin tip temperature increases as time progresses. This study serves to provide a good platform of comparison of results for the future works on nonlinear transient thermal analyses of fin. In our further study in the future, we will do a comparative study of two analytical solutions of power and non-power series. Such study will establish a relative advantage of the symbolic solutions over one another.

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## Data availability

The datasets generated during and/or analyzed during the current study are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

## Author contributions

Sobamowo M. Gbeminiyi: formulation of overarching research goals and aims. Development or design of methodology; creation of models. Management and coordination responsibility for the research activity planning and execution. Oversight and leadership responsibility for the research activity planning and execution, mentorship external to the core team. Application of mathematical and computational techniques to analyze the problem. Programming, software development; designing computer programs; implementation of the computer code and supporting algorithms; testing of existing code components.

Yinusa Ahmed Amoo: programming, software development; designing computer programs; implementation of the computer code and supporting algorithms; testing of existing code components.

Dere Zainab Olabisi: preparation, creation and/or presentation of the published work. Provision of study materials, computing resources. Acquisition of the financial support for the project leading to this publication. Conducting a research and investigation process.

Saheed Rasheed Olatunji: preparation, creation and/or presentation of the published work. Provision of study materials, computing resources.

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## Conflict of interest

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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