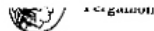


numbers. The existence of the maximum provides limited opportunities to enhance at angular, differentially heated cavities, which would possibly be potentiated in cavities with rotating horizontal walls, and in tall cavities with multiple divisions. From a theoretical point of view of  $S$  at which the maximum overall Nusselt number occurs at a given  $Ra$  is shown to characterize the transition from a shallow cavity regime to a slender cavity regime.

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#### ESTIMATION OF THE OCCURANCE OF THE PHASE-CHANGE PROCESS IN SPHERICAL COORDINATES

Domingo Alberto Tarzia  
Depto Matemática-CONICET, FCE (Univ. Austral Paraguay 1950,  
(2000) Rosario-Argentina.  
e-mail: tarzia@uaufce.edu.ar  
and  
Cristina Vilma Turner  
FaMAP-CONICET, UNC, Ciudad Universitaria  
(5016) Córdoba Argentina  
e-mail: turner@mate.uncor.edu

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#### ABSTRACT

We study heat conduction problems in spherical coordinates with mixed boundary conditions. We obtain sufficient and/or necessary conditions among the data in order to get a phase-change process. For the spherical coordinates case we consider a problem in a hollow sphere  $r_1 < r < r_2$ , where the boundary conditions are the heat flux ( $q > 0$ ) on the surface  $r = r_1$  and the temperature the surface ( $b > 0$ ) on the surface  $r = r_2$ , and an initial condition in the hollow sphere is also considered. We analyse both, the case with or without source. We explicit the relation between the heat flux  $q$ , the fixed temperature  $b$  and the thermal conductivity  $k$  of the initial phase, in order to have a change of phase in the material. © 1999 Elsevier Science Ltd

#### Introduction

Heat transfer problems with phase-change such as melting and freezing have been studied in the last century due to their wide scientific and technological applications. The modeling of solidification systems is a problem of a great mathematical and industrial significance. Phase-change problems appear frequently in industrial process and other problems of technological interest [1,3,5,9,10]. For example, a review of a long bibliography on moving and free boundary problems

equation, particularly concerning the Stefan problem, is presented in [17] with a large  $\gamma$ .

By heat conduction problems in spherical coordinates with mixed boundary conditions. Sufficient and/or necessary conditions among the data in order to estimate the occurrence of a phase change process. We consider a heat conduction problem in a hollow sphere  $r_1 < r < r_2$ . Boundary conditions are the heat flux ( $q > 0$ ) on the surface  $r = r_1$  and the temperature on the surface  $r = r_2$ , and an initial condition in the hollow sphere is also considered. We study the case with or without source. We explicit the relation among the heat flux  $q$ , the temperature  $b$  and the thermal conductivity  $k$  of the initial phase, in order to have a change of material. We suppose, without loss of generality, that the phase-change temperature  $\theta_0$  is a function of the data monotonicity the corresponding phase-change interface begins at  $r = r_1$ .

By the following heat conduction problem: we consider a hollow sphere with radii  $r_1, r_2$  and initial temperature  $\theta_0 = \theta_0(r) \geq 0$ , having a heat flux  $q = q(t) > 0$  on the internal surface  $r = r_1$  and a temperature condition  $b = b(t) > 0$  on the external surface ( $r = r_2$ ). Then the heat conduction problem for the initial (liquid) phase is given by the following mathematical

$$k(\theta_{rr} + \frac{2}{r}\theta_r) = \rho c \theta_t, \quad r_1 < r < r_2, \quad t > 0; \quad (1.1)$$

$$\theta(r, 0) = \theta_0(r), \quad r_1 \leq r \leq r_2; \quad (1.2)$$

$$k\theta_r(r_1, t) = q(t), \quad t > 0; \quad (1.3)$$

$$\theta(r_2, t) = b(t), \quad t > 0. \quad (1.4)$$

Assume that the data satisfy the hypotheses that ensure the existence and uniqueness of the solution of the Problem P<sub>s</sub>.

Under the following two possibilities can occur:

1. The heat conduction problem is defined for all  $t > 0$ ;

2. There exists a time  $T_w < \infty$  (called, a waiting-time) such that another phase (i.e., the solid phase) occurs for  $t > T_w$  and then we will have a solidification process, i.e. a two-phase Stefan problem. In this case, there exists a front (free-boundary)  $r = s(t)$  which separates the liquid and solid phases whose initial position is given by  $s(T_w) = r_1$ . Moreover, for  $t < T_w$  we have a heat conduction problem for the initial liquid phase.

These two only possibilities depend on the data  $\theta_0, q, k, b$ . We try to clarify this dependence by finding necessary or sufficient conditions on data in order to estimate the different possibilities.

In [6,12,13] the unidimensional one-phase Stefan problem with prescribed flux or convective boundary conditions at  $x = 0$  is studied. This paper was motivated by [2,14,16], where some explicit results were obtained for the one-dimensional case. First we analyse the heat conduction problem in spherical coordinates (Ps), and then we study the corresponding problem with a source term.

### Heat Conduction Problems in Spherical Coordinates

#### Without a Source Term

In order to study the possibilities a) and b) for the problem P<sub>s</sub> we consider the steady-state heat conduction problem (called Problem P<sub>∞</sub>), corresponding to (1.1)-(1.4), which is given by:

$$\theta''_{rr} + \frac{2}{r}\theta'_r = 0, \quad r_1 \leq r \leq r_2;$$

$$\theta_{\infty}(r_2) = b > 0; \quad k\theta'_{\infty}(r_1) = q > 0,$$

where  $b$  and  $q$  are positive constants.

The solution of Problem P<sub>∞</sub> is given by:

$$\theta_{\infty}(r) = b + \frac{q}{k} r_2^2 \left( \frac{1}{r_2} - \frac{1}{r} \right), \quad r_1 \leq r \leq r_2. \quad (2.1)$$

The temperature at the interior surface  $r = r_1$  is given by  $\theta_{\infty}(r_1) = b + \frac{q}{k} r_2^2 \left( \frac{1}{r_2} - \frac{1}{r_1} \right)$  and we can conclude that if the heat flux  $q$  satisfies the following inequality,

$$q > Q_{\infty} = kb \frac{r_2}{r_1} \frac{1}{(r_2 - r_1)}, \quad (2.2)$$

then the temperature  $\theta_{\infty}(r_1) < 0$ , that means that we have a steady state phase-change process [14]. This condition is also a necessary condition to have a change of phase [15]. From this, it is natural to think that we can expect to have a change of phase for the evolution case (Problem P<sub>s</sub>), if  $q > Q(t)$  (with  $Q(t) > Q_{\infty}$ ) for  $t > t_Q$ , for a suitable positive time  $t_Q$ .

The answer to this question is given below.

we will obtain sufficient condition on data of problem (Ps) in order to get a waiting time possibility b).

By 1:

data  $q = q(t)$ ,  $\theta_0 = \theta(r)$ , and  $b = b(t)$  verify the following conditions:

$$\begin{cases} q(t) \leq q_0, 0 < t \leq t_0; \\ \beta_0 \leq \theta_0(r) \leq \beta_1, \theta_0'(r) \geq 0, & r_1 \leq r \leq r_2; \\ b(t) \geq \beta_1, b'(t) \geq 0, t > 0; \end{cases}$$

exists a "waiting time"  $T_w > 0$  for Problem (Ps) and its expression is given by

$\min(t_0, T_w)$  where

$$\begin{cases} +\infty & \text{if } 1 - \frac{\beta_0 k}{r_1 q_0} \leq 0 \\ \frac{r_1^2}{\alpha} \left( H_1^{-1} \left( 1 - \frac{\beta_0 k}{r_1 q_0} \right) \right)^2 & \text{if } -\frac{\beta_0 k}{r_1 q_0} + 1 > 0. \end{cases} \quad (2.3)$$

$H_1^{-1}$  is the inverse function of  $H_1$  where  $H_1(x) = \exp(x^2) \operatorname{erfc}(x)$ .

to prove the result it is sufficient to show that  $\theta(r, t) \geq 0$  for  $r_1 \leq r \leq r_2$  and  $0 \leq t \leq T_w$ .

1.

waiting time  $T_w$  increases with the parameter  $\beta_0$  (the lower bound for the initial tem-

Property 1 implies that the model of heat conduction, given by problem Ps, under the condition (i-iii) is only valid for  $t < T_w$ .

temperature  $\theta$ , the solution of Problem Ps, is a non decreasing function of variable  $r$ , by the maximum principle, i.e.  $\theta_r(r, t) \geq 0$  for all  $r_1 \leq r \leq r_2, t > 0$ , when the following conditions

$$\theta_r(r) \geq 0, \quad r_1 \leq r \leq r_2;$$

$$b'(t) \geq 0, \quad t > 0;$$

$$q = q(t) > 0, \quad t > 0.$$

hold.

The temperature  $\theta$  can be written as  $\theta = \theta_\infty + U_0 + \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} U_m$ , where  $U_0$  and  $U_m$  satisfy the following problems:

Problem  $P_{U_0}$

Problem  $P_{U_m}$

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha(U_{0,r} + \frac{1}{r} U_{0,r}) &= U_{0,r}, & \alpha(U_{1,r} + \frac{1}{r} U_{1,r}) &= U_{1,r}, \\ U_0(r, 0) &= \theta_0(r) - b \leq 0, & U_1(r, 0) &= -r^2 \left( \frac{1}{r_2} - \frac{1}{r_1} \right) > 0 \\ U_{0,r}(r_1, t) &= 0, & U_{1,r}(r_1, t) &= 0 \\ U_0(r_2, t) &= 0, & U_1(r_2, t) &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

By the maximum principle  $U_0 \leq 0$  and  $U_m \geq 0$ . Using [11] the solution  $U_m$  can be written down as:

$$U_m(r, t) = \frac{1}{r} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{R(\beta_m r)}{N(\beta_m)} e^{-\alpha \beta_m^2 t} \int_{r_1}^{r_2} \rho r^2 \left( \frac{1}{\rho} - \frac{1}{r_2} \right) R(\beta_m \rho) d\rho, \quad r_1 < r < r_2, t > 0 \quad (2.4)$$

$$\text{where } R(\beta_m r) = \beta_m \cos(\beta_m(r - r_1)) + \frac{1}{r_1} \sin(\beta_m(r - r_1)), \quad (2.5)$$

$$N(\beta_m) = \frac{1}{(\beta_m^2 + \frac{1}{r_1^2})(r_2 - r_1) + \frac{1}{r_1}} \quad (2.6)$$

with  $\beta_m > 0$  (for  $m \in \mathbb{N}$ ) are the solutions of the equation:

$$t g(\beta_m(r_2 - r_1)) = -\beta_m r_1, \text{ and } \beta_m > 0. \quad (2.7)$$

By some computation and taking into account (2.7) the function  $R$  can be written only in sine terms as:

$$R(\beta_m r) = -\sqrt{\beta_m^2 + \frac{1}{r_1^2}} \sin(\beta_m(r_2 - r)), \quad (2.8)$$

and then we can compute the integral

$$\int_{r_1}^{r_2} \rho r^2 \left( \frac{1}{\rho} - \frac{1}{r_2} \right) R(\beta_m \rho) d\rho = \frac{r_2^2}{\beta_m} \sqrt{\beta_m^2 + \frac{1}{r_1^2}} \cos(\beta_m(r_1 - r_2)). \quad (2.9)$$

Therefore  $U_m$  can be written as

$$U_m(r, t) = -\frac{r_2^2}{r} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left( \frac{\beta_m^2 + \frac{1}{r_1^2}}{N(\beta_m)} \right) e^{-\alpha \beta_m^2 t} \frac{\sin(\beta_m(r_2 - r)) \cos(\beta_m(r_1 - r_2))}{\beta_m} \quad (2.10)$$

for  $r_1 < r < r_2, t > 0$  and then we have

$$U_m(r, t) = -\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{e^{-\alpha \beta_m^2 t}}{N(\beta_m)}, t > 0. \quad (2.11)$$

Theorem 2.

Let  $\theta$  be the solution of Problem Ps, with the initial and boundary data satisfying the following hypotheses:

- (i)  $\theta_0(r) \leq b(0), \quad r_1 \leq r \leq r_2;$
- (ii)  $\theta_0(r) \geq 0, \quad r_1 < r < r_2;$
- (iii)  $b(t) > 0, \quad \dot{b}(t) > 0, \quad t > 0;$
- (iv)  $q(t) > 0, \quad t > 0.$

there exists a curve  $q = Q(t)$  in the first quadrant of the plane  $(q, t)$  such that if  $q > Q(t)$ ,  $t > t^*$ , we have a phase change process for the material where  $t^*$  is defined by

$$t^* = \frac{1}{\alpha \beta_m^2} \log \left( \frac{\sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{1 - \beta_m}{r_1^2 (1 - \beta_m)} N(\beta_m)}{r_1^2 (1 - \beta_m)} \right), \quad (2.12)$$

any  $\gamma = \frac{r_2}{r_1} \in (1, \gamma_0]$  with a suitable  $\gamma_0 > 1$ .

Since  $\theta_r \geq 0$  we will only check the temperature  $\theta$  at  $r = r_1$ , that is

$$\theta(r_1, t) \leq b + \frac{q}{k} \left( \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{e^{-\alpha \beta_m^2 t}}{N(\beta_m)} + r_1^2 \left( \frac{1}{r_2} - \frac{1}{r_1} \right) \right),$$

so  $U_0(r_1, t) \leq 0$ , and  $\beta_m$  is increasing with  $m$ .

Therefore we have  $\theta(r_1, t) \leq 0$  when

$$q \geq Q(t) = \frac{bk}{r_1^2 \left( \frac{1}{r_1} - \frac{1}{r_2} \right) - e^{-\alpha \beta_m^2 t} \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{N(\beta_m)}}$$

$t^*$ , where  $t^*$  is the value that makes

$$r_1^2 \left( \frac{1}{r_2} - \frac{1}{r_1} \right) + e^{-\alpha \beta_m^2 t^*} \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{N(\beta_m)} = 0,$$

see (2.12).

The value  $t^*$  is great than zero if and only if  $H_2(\gamma) > 1$ , where  $H_2(x)$  is defined by the following relation

$$H_2(x) = 2 \frac{\sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{1 - \beta_m}{1 + \beta_m^{2m+1}}}{x - 1},$$

$$\lambda_m = \beta_m(r_2 - r_1); \quad \gamma = \frac{r_2}{r_1}.$$

After some mathematical manipulation we can conclude that  $H_2(\gamma) > 1$  for some  $(1, \gamma_0]$  with an adequate constant  $\gamma_0 > 1$ .

Remark 2.

i) If we consider the  $(t, q)$  plane and we define the following set  $S = \{(t, q) | q > Q(t), t \geq t^*\}$ , in the first quadrant then we have a two-phase problem for all  $(t, q) \in S$ , and  $\frac{r_2}{r_1} \in (1, \gamma_0]$ .

ii) We can obtain an upper estimation of the time  $t^*$  defined by (2.12). Since  $\beta_m \geq \left( \frac{2m-1}{2(r_2-r_1)} \right) \pi$  we can deduce

$$\sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\left( \beta_m^2 + \frac{1}{r_1^2} \right) (r_2 - r_1) + \frac{1}{r_1}} \leq \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{4(r_2 - r_1)}{(2m-1)^2 \pi^2} = \frac{r_2 - r_1}{2}.$$

Then the upper bound for  $t_Q$  is given by the following inequality:

$$t_Q \leq \frac{1}{\alpha \beta_m^2} \log \left( \frac{r_2}{r_1} \right). \quad (2.13)$$

Heat Conduction Problems in Spherical Coordinates With a Source Term

Let  $\theta$  be the solution of the following heat conduction problem with a constant source term  $g$  in spherical coordinates:

Problem  $P_g$ :

$$\theta_t - \alpha(\theta_{rr} + \frac{2}{r}\theta_r) = \frac{g}{\rho c}, \quad r_1 < r < r_2, t > 0;$$

$$\theta(r, 0) = \theta_0(r), \quad r_1 < r < r_2;$$

$$k\theta_r(r_1, t) = q > 0, \quad t > 0; \quad \theta(r_2, t) = b > 0, \quad t > 0.$$

The steady-state solution for the problem  $P_g$  is given by (8)

$$\begin{aligned} \theta_{\infty}(r) &= -\frac{g}{6k} r^2 - \left( \frac{g}{3k} r_1^2 + \frac{q}{k} r_1^2 \right) \frac{1}{r} + b + \frac{g}{6k} r_2^2 + \frac{q}{k} r_2^2 + \frac{g}{3k} r_2^2 \\ &= b + \frac{g}{k} \left[ -\frac{r^2}{6} + \frac{r_1^2}{6} - \frac{r_1^2}{3r} + \frac{r_1^2}{3r_1} \right] + \frac{g}{k} \left[ -\frac{r^2}{6} + \frac{r_2^2}{6} \right], \quad r_1 < r < r_2. \end{aligned} \quad (2.14)$$

Property 3:

We obtain the following properties in order to determine the sign of the steady-state temperature  $\theta_{\infty}$  (i.e. the phase of the material).

(i) If  $g > 0$ , then the function  $\theta_{\infty}$  is of non-constant sign (there are two-phases within the material)

if and only if  $\theta_{\infty}(r_1) < 0$ , that is  $q > Q_{\infty}^g = \frac{6kr_1}{r_1(r_2-r_1)} \left[ b + \frac{g}{k} \left( \frac{r_1^2}{3r_1} + \frac{r_2^2}{6} - \frac{r_1^2}{6} \right) \right]$  and  $g > g_0$

with  $g_0 = \frac{b \frac{6k}{r_1}}{-\frac{r_1^2}{6} + \frac{r_2^2}{6} + \frac{r_1^2}{3r_1}} > 0$ .

$q < 0$ , then  $\theta_{\infty}$  of non-constant sign if and only if  $g < 0$  and  $\theta_{\infty}(r_m) < 0$ , where  $r_m$  is the solution of the equation  $\theta_{\infty}(r_m) = 0$  in  $(r_1, r_2)$ , where  $r_m = \sqrt[3]{r_1^3 + \frac{g}{\beta r_1}}$  and  $\theta_{\infty}(r_m) < 0$  if  $(\frac{r_2}{r_1})^3 > 1 + \frac{3g}{\beta r_1^3}$ .

Remark 3

If all  $r_2 > r_1$  we have that  $\frac{r_2^3}{2} + \frac{r_2^2}{6} + \frac{r_1^3}{3r_2} > 0$ .

Now we shall consider the possibility of the occurrence of the phase-change process in the evolution problem Pg. From the above results it is natural to think that we can expect to have a change in the evolution case if  $q \geq Q^g(t) \geq Q_{90}^g > 0$  for  $t > t_{Q,g}$ , with  $t_{Q,g} > 0$ .

Remark 4.

If  $\theta(z, t)$  be the solution of the problem Pg with the hypotheses of the Theorem 2 then there is a curve  $q = Q^g(t)$  in the  $(g, t)$  plane (for each positive  $g$ ) such that if  $q > Q^g(t)$  and  $t \geq t^*$ , a change of phase for a suitable  $t^* > 0$ .

The temperature  $\theta$  is given by  $\theta = \theta_{\infty} + u_0 + \frac{g}{k}u_1 + \frac{g}{k}u_2$ , where  $u_0$  satisfies problem Pu with the initial data  $u_0(r, 0) = \theta_0(r) - b \leq 0, r_1 < r < r_2$ ;  $u_1$  satisfies problem Pu with the initial data  $u_1(r, 0) = \frac{r^2}{6} + \frac{r^2}{3r} - (\frac{r_1^2}{3r_2} + \frac{r_1^2}{6})$ ; and  $u_2$  satisfies the problem Pu with the initial data  $u_2(r, 0) = r_1^2 [\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{r_2}]$ .

We can compute the temperature at  $r_1$  and we get

$$\begin{aligned} \theta(r_1, t) &= u_0(r_1, t) + \frac{g}{k}u_1(r_1, t) + \frac{g}{k}u_2(r_1, t) \\ &= \frac{g}{6k}r_1^2 - \left(\frac{g}{3k}r_1^2 + \frac{g}{k}r_1^2\right) \frac{1}{r_1} + b + \frac{g}{6k}r_1^2 + \frac{gr_1^3}{3kr_2} + \frac{gr_1^2}{kr_2} \leq \\ &\leq \frac{g}{k} \left[ \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{e^{-\alpha\beta m^2 t}}{N(\beta m)} - r_1 + \frac{r_1^2}{r_2} \right] + b + \frac{g}{k} \left[ -\frac{r_1^2}{2} + \frac{r_1^2}{6} + \frac{r_1^3}{3r_2} \right] \\ &\leq \frac{g}{k} \left[ e^{-\alpha\beta t} \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{N(\beta m)} - r_1 \frac{(r_2 - r_1)}{r_2} \right] + b + \frac{g}{k} \left[ -\frac{r_1^2}{2} + \frac{r_1^2}{6} + \frac{r_1^3}{3r_2} \right] \leq 0, \end{aligned}$$

if  $t > t^* = t_{Q,g}$  such that

$$q \geq k \frac{b + \frac{g}{k} \left[ \frac{r_1^2}{2} - \frac{r_1^2}{6} + \frac{r_1^3}{3r_2} \right]}{(-e^{-\alpha\beta t}) \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{N(\beta m)} + \frac{r_1}{r_2} (r_2 - r_1)}$$

and  $t^*$  given by the solution of the equation  $e^{-\alpha\beta t} \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{N(\beta m)} - \frac{r_1}{r_2} (r_2 - r_1) = 0$ , that is

$$t^* = \frac{1}{\alpha\beta} \log \left( \frac{\sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{N(\beta m)}}{r_1 \left( \frac{1}{r_1} - \frac{1}{r_2} \right)} \right),$$

which is greater than zero by the same argument used in the proof of the Theorem 2.

**Conclusion**

We have obtained sufficient condition on data for a heat conduction problem with mixed boundary conditions in order to estimate a phase-change process for a hollow sphere with radii  $r_2 > r_1$  with or without a constant heat source within the domain.

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**Nomenclature**

- $c$  specific heat,  $[J/K \cdot g \cdot K]$
- $k$  thermal conductivity,  $[W/m \cdot K]$
- $t$  time,  $[s]$
- $r$  radial space variable,  $[m]$
- $q$  heat flux on the face  $r = r_1$ ,  $[K \cdot g/s^2]$
- $\delta$  temperature on the face  $r = r_2$ ,  $[K]$

**Greek symbols**

- $\rho$  mass density,  $[Kg/m^3]$
- $\theta$  temperature,  $[K]$
- $\theta_0$  initial temperature,  $[K]$
- $\gamma = \frac{r_2}{r_1} > 1$  adimensional constant.
- $\alpha = \frac{k}{\rho c}$  thermal diffusivity,  $[m^2/s]$

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### EFFECT OF DARCY, FLUID RAYLEIGH AND HEAT GENERATION PARAMETERS ON NATURAL CONVECTION IN A POROUS SQUARE ENCLOSURE: A BRINKMAN-EXTENDED DARCY MODEL

S.Das  
Mechanical Engineering Department  
Regional Engineering College  
Rourkela 769 008  
Orissa, INDIA

R.K.Sahoo  
Mechanical Engineering Department  
Regional Engineering College  
Rourkela 769 008  
Orissa, INDIA

(Communicated by J.P. Hartnett and W.J. Minkowycz)

### ABSTRACT

A Pressure-velocity solution for natural convection for fluid saturated heat generating porous medium in a square enclosure is analysed by finite element method. The numerical solutions obtained for wide range of fluid Rayleigh number,  $Ra_f$ , Darcy number,  $Dn$ , and heat generating number,  $Q_0$ . The justification for taking these non-dimensional parameters independently is to establish the effect of individual parameters on flow patterns. It has been observed that peak temperature occurs at the top central part and weaker velocity prevails near the vertical walls of the enclosure due to the heat generation parameter alone. On comparison, the modified Rayleigh number used by the earlier investigators [4,6], can not explain explicitly the effect of heat generation parameter on natural convection within an enclosure having differentially heated vertical walls. At higher Darcy number, the peak temperature and peak velocity are comparatively more, resulting in better enhancement of heat transfer rate. © 1999 Elsevier Science Ltd