

Simulating Magnetorheological Fluid under Shear Mode for Braking System

Karthik Bhathire, Dipankar Chatterjee, Mayank Mani, Purab Kalro,
Tushar Singhal, Nabarun Dutta, Ashwin Ganesh

Final Year Student of VIT Vellore, School of Mechanical Engineering, India
Final Year Student of VIT Vellore, School of Mechanical Engineering, India
Final Year Student of VIT Vellore, School of Mechanical Engineering, India
Final Year Student of VIT Vellore, School of Mechanical Engineering, India
Final Year Student of VIT Vellore, School of Mechanical Engineering, India
Final Year Student of VIT Vellore, School of Mechanical Engineering, India
Final Year Student of VIT Vellore, School of Mechanical Engineering, India
Corresponding author: Karthik Bhathire

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ABSTRACT:

This mini project work intends to simulate the braking effect and to calculate the Braking Torque obtained by the MRFBS for varying magnetic field intensity (namely 0 T / 0.5 T / 1 T / 2 T) on 3 mm thickness rim and 400 mm inner diameter (ID). The software of choice for simulation shall be ANSYS v15.0. The rim is simulated in different magnetic field intensity for the different magnetic field intensities to find the suitable field intensity for the given rim model.

Keywords: Brake, disc, magneto-rheological fluid, braking force, Simulations Simulating magnet or rheological behavior under shear mode for automobile braking application

I. INTRODUCTION:

With the advent of IC Engines, the pace at which mankind travels across the globe was redefined. Hence new and more efficient braking systems had to be evolved along with stringent standards to monitor various aspects such as braking distance, the brake temperature, braking force, etc. Currently, the disc brake has proven to be the choice of mechanism employed in almost every road transport vehicle. However, as a paradigm shift is being observed, the IC engine powered vehicle is anticipated to soon be substituted by electricity powered vehicle. This emerging trend would also demand a new braking system and the magneto-rheological braking system has revealed some promising results.

A magneto-rheological fluid (MRF) is a

smart fluid. The MRF Braking System (MRFBS) works by keeping an MRF between two parallel plates attached to the wheel. Then, on application of a magnetic field, the viscosity of the MRF can be increased, and due to the friction generated by Shear Force between the MRF and the braked disc, the vehicle can be brought to a halt. The advantage that the MRFBS possesses is that very precise control of the magnetic field is possible and hence the shear force that is applied can be very precisely controlled. Hence, the MRFBS provides a very precise control over the braking force that needs to be deployed in a certain condition. Also, MRFBS boasts a reaction time of 15ms. That is, the braking action is initiated within 15ms after the driver activates the magnetic field via the brake pedal.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW:

Magnetorheological Fluid:

A magneto-rheological fluid (MRF) consists of a water or synthetic oil or silicone oil-based media with micro or nano sized particles suspended in it. The particle size is small enough to remain suspended in the media via Brownian motion hence avoiding a solid-liquid phase separation due to stagnation. On application of a magnetic field, the viscosity of this MRF can be varied as the suspended particles line up along the magnetic field. The viscosity can vary to an extent where the MRF starts to behave as a visco-elastic fluid.

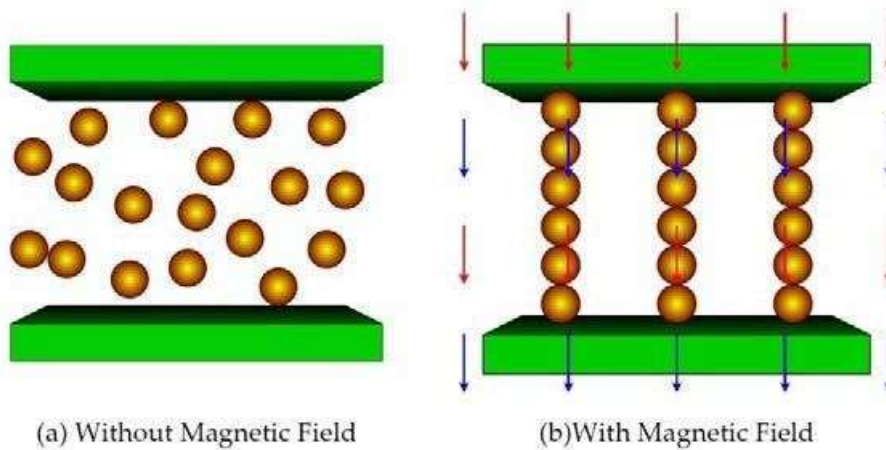


Figure 1: MRF Behaviour under magnetic field.

The MRF can be used in 3 Modes:

a) Valvemode:

Here, the MRF flows between two fixed parallel plates and at some patch in the flow the magnetic field is applied. This causes the viscosity of the fluid to increase in the patch where the magnetic field is applied. This causes a drop in

flow velocity and an increase in fluid density in the patch where magnetic field is applied. Hence, magnetic field acts as a virtual valve that can be used to throttle the flow of MRF. This is widely used in dampening systems and shock absorbers with MRF technology.

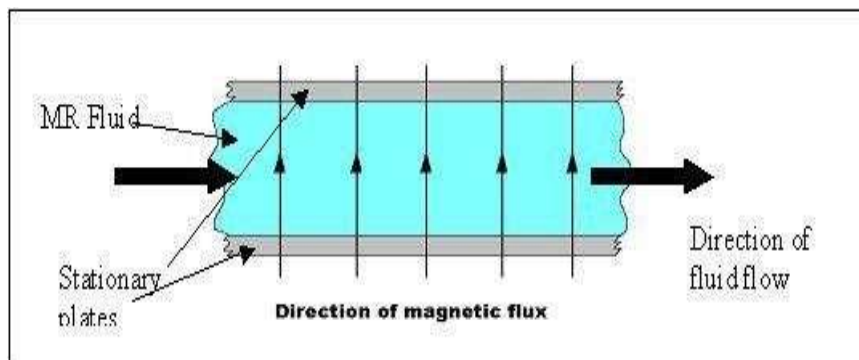


Figure 2: Valve Mode.

b) Shear Mode:

In this method, the quantity of MRF is fixed between a fixed plate and a moving plate. As the magnetic field is applied, a shear force is experienced on the moving plate. This mode of operation is applicable for MRFS.

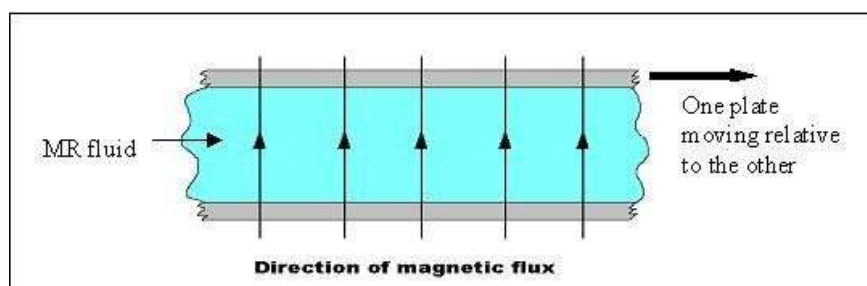


Figure 3: Shear Mode.

c) Squeeze Mode:

Here, one plate moves perpendicular relative to the other and the MR fluid in between is squeezed and under a magnetic field poses a resistance to this squeezing motion.

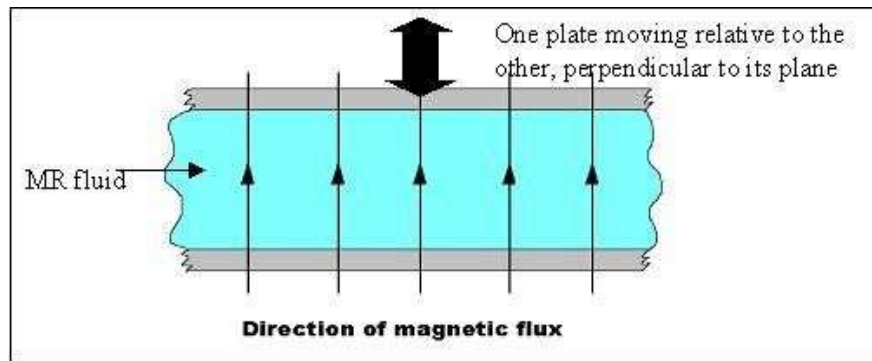


Figure 4: Squeeze Mode.

The Bingham model of an MR fluid includes a variable rigid perfectly plastic element connected in parallel to a Newtonian viscosity element, so that the stress-strain constitutive relationship can be expressed as-

$$\tau = \tau_y (H) \text{sgn}(\dot{\gamma}) + \eta \dot{\gamma}$$

where, τ is the shear stress, τ_y is the yielding shear stress controlled by the magnetic field, η is the Newtonian viscosity independent of the applied magnetic field, $\dot{\gamma}$ is the shear strain rate and $\text{sgn}(\cdot)$ is the signum function.

III. METHODOLOGY AND SIMULATION:

Geometry:

The cross section of an MRFBS under shear mode is described in Figure 5.

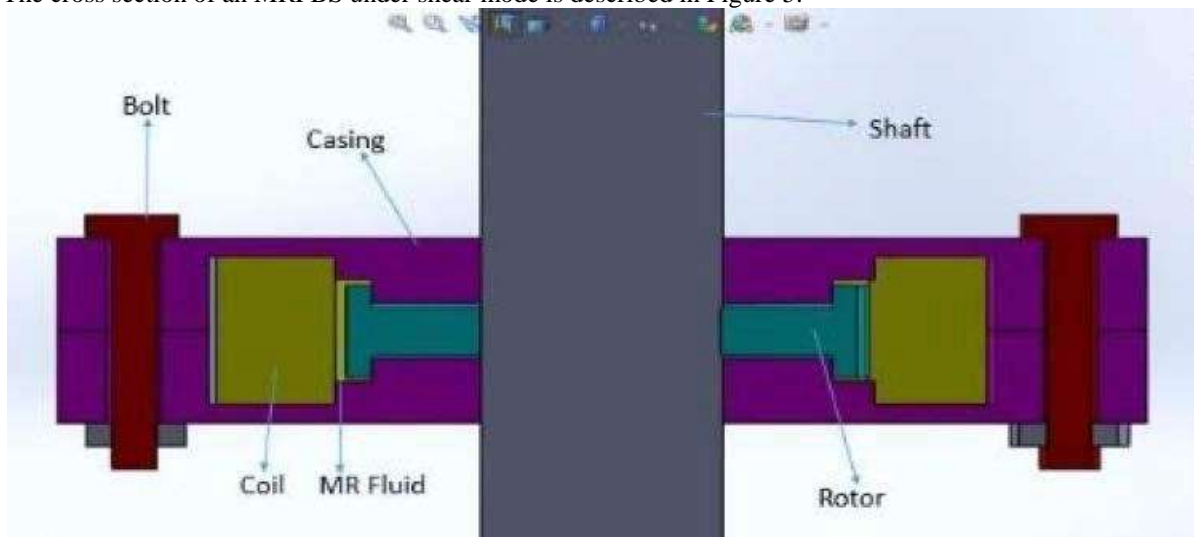


Figure 5: Typical MRFBS Arrangement (Cross Section).

Hence the MR fluid element will be in the gap that varies as per design between 1mm to 5mm. The fluid element geometry constructed as shown in fig

ure 6 as it is being import from the Solidworks. The diameter of wheel (ID of the ring in the geometry) is taken as 400mm and thickness of 3mm.

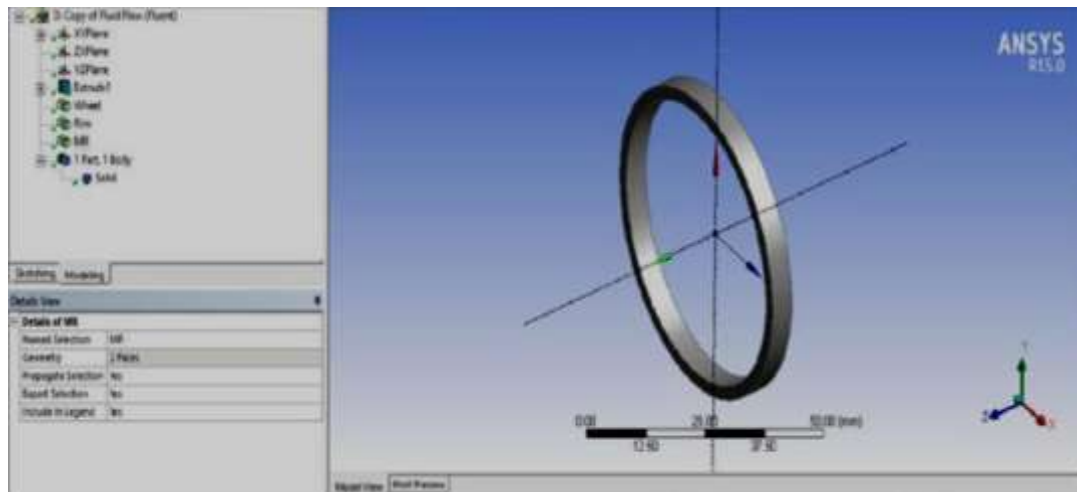
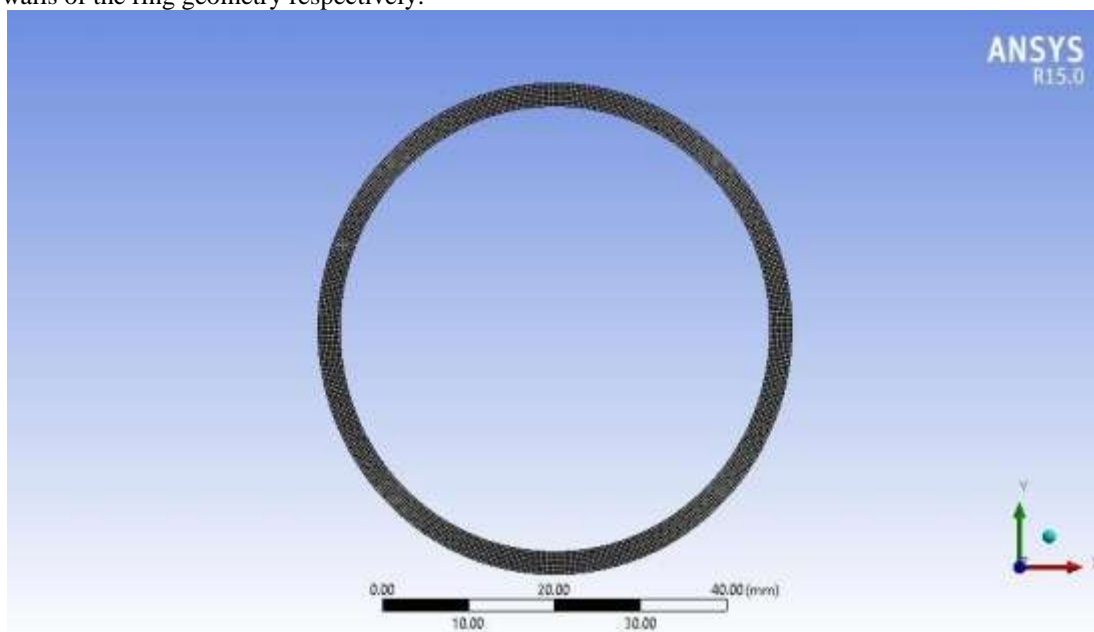


Figure 6: Geometry of Fluid element in the clearance gap.

Meshing:

The ring periphery was divided into 500 parts and mapped face meshing was applied to the body. Also Named Selections of Rim, Wheel, MR_Wall was assigned to the inner surface, outer surface, and the two side walls of the ring geometry respectively.



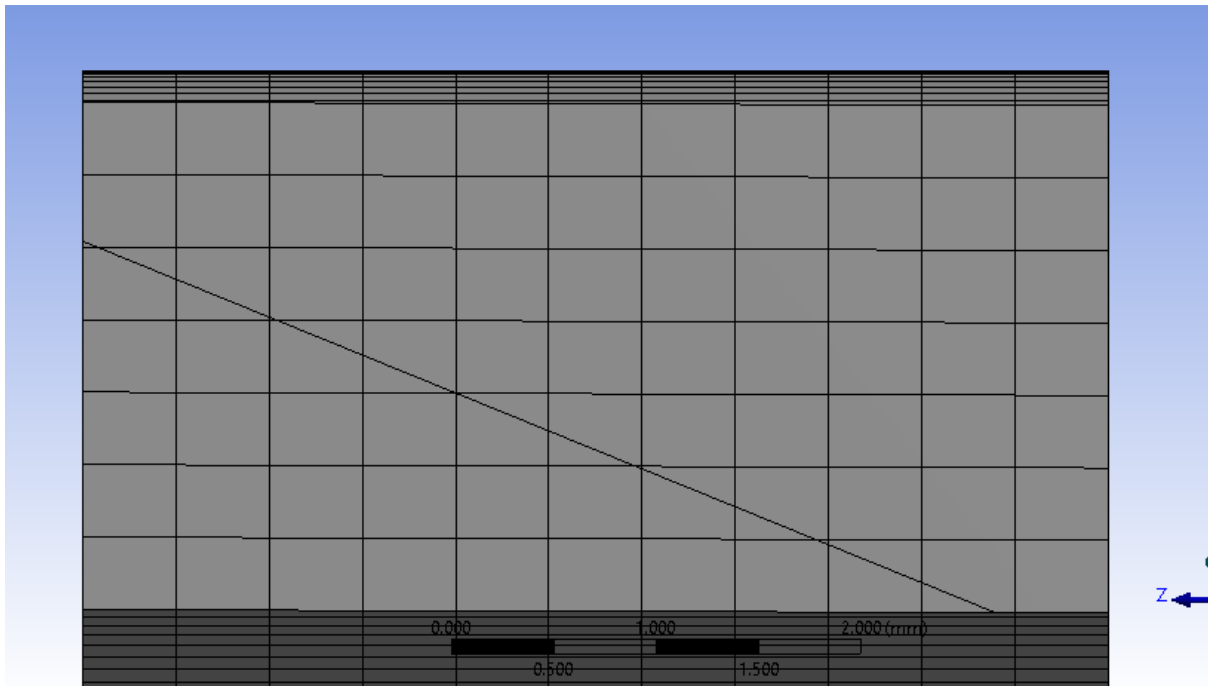


Figure 7: Meshing of Geometry.

Figure 8: Cross Section of the ring geometry with meshing.

Fluent Set-Up:

- For simulating MRF, and the interaction of MRF with external magnetic field, the MHD (Magneto-HydroDynamics) module in ANSYS Fluent was activated.

- For accessing MHD, first the Fluent solver was initialized with Parallel Solver and 2 cores. Also, Double Precision was enabled.
- In CLI, to access add-on modules, the command- “define/models/addon- module” was typed. Then “1” is typed to access MDH.

```
define/models/addon-module
invalid command [define]

> define/models/addon-module
Fluent Addon Modules:
  0. None
  1. MHD Model
  2. Fiber Model
  3. Fuel Cell and Electrolysis Model
  4. SOFC Model with Unresolved Electrolyte
  5. Population Balance Model
  6. Adjoint Solver
  7. Single-Potential Battery Model
  8. Dual-Potential MSMD Battery Model
Enter Module Number: [0]
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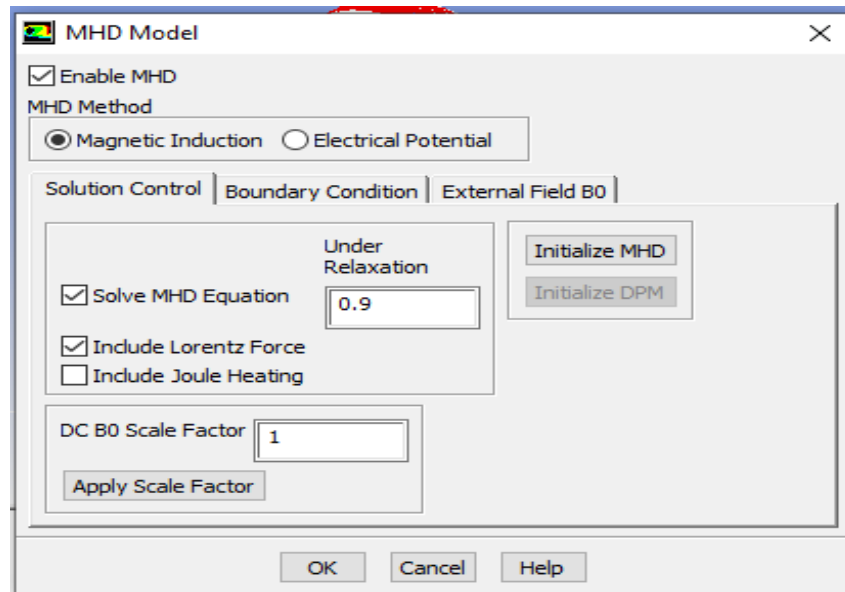


Figure 9: MHD Access Command
 Figure 10: Setting Up MHD Module

In Models, MHD appears, and the MHD module is set up as follows:

- Under External Field “B0”, the values of X, Y, Z external field was given progressively 0T/0.5T/1T/2T.
- After entering each of the above external field values, the external field was initialized by the “Initialize MHD” command.
- In the **Model**, viscous model was changed to standard k- ϵ turbulent model.
- Under **Materials**, the default fluid “Air” properties was edited to MRF as it was found to have same density/viscosity/Magnetic Permeability values as that of MRF. The existing values were slightly changed. The Fluid was then renamed to MRF.
- In boundary conditions, the Wheel was given

velocity inlet and was given a rotation of 250RPM or 26rads/sec (Average RPM of an automobile wheel travelling at 40kmph).

- The Rim was given Pressure outlet and under USD tab the magnetic field was set up to same value as B0.
- The Second Order Upwind Scheme was selected for greater precision. And the values were initialized using “Hybrid Initialization”.
- For all calculations and computations here onwards, the value of Yield Point is taken to be 75kPa, initial viscosity is taken to be 0.25 Pa s and density is considered to be 3.5g/cc.
- The number of iterations was set to 600 and the solver was run till convergence was achieved.

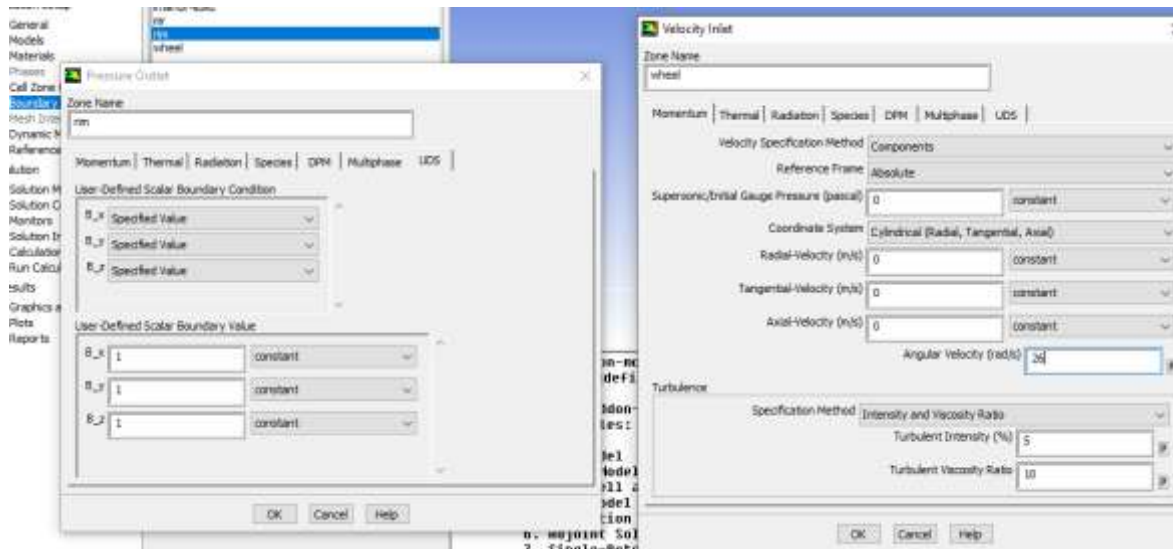


Figure 11: Boundary Conditions

Contours:

For 0T (i.e., no magnetic field) (Residues converged after 107 iterations.):

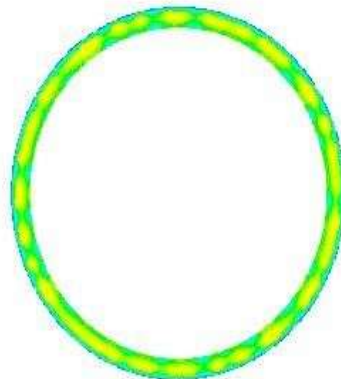
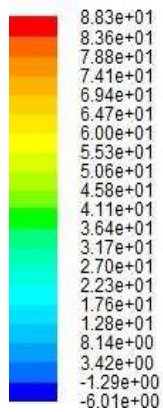


Figure 12. (i): Static Pressure (Pa) Contour

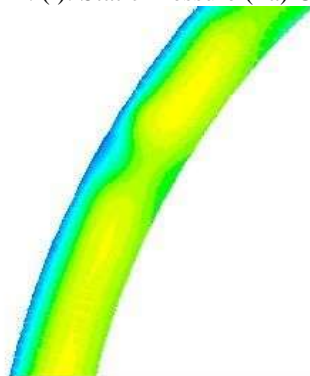
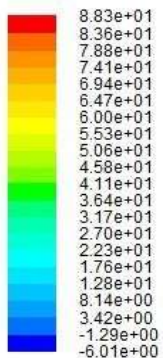


Figure 12. (ii): Static Pressure (Pa) Contour

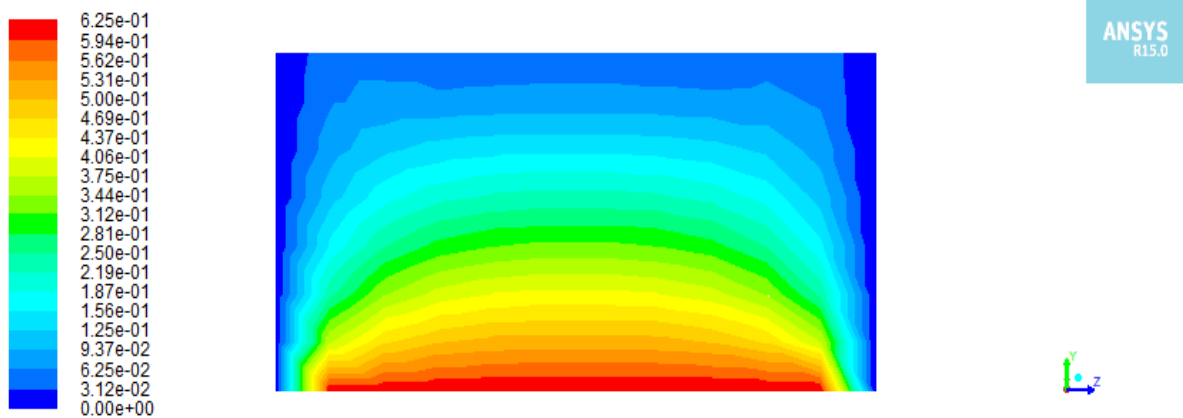
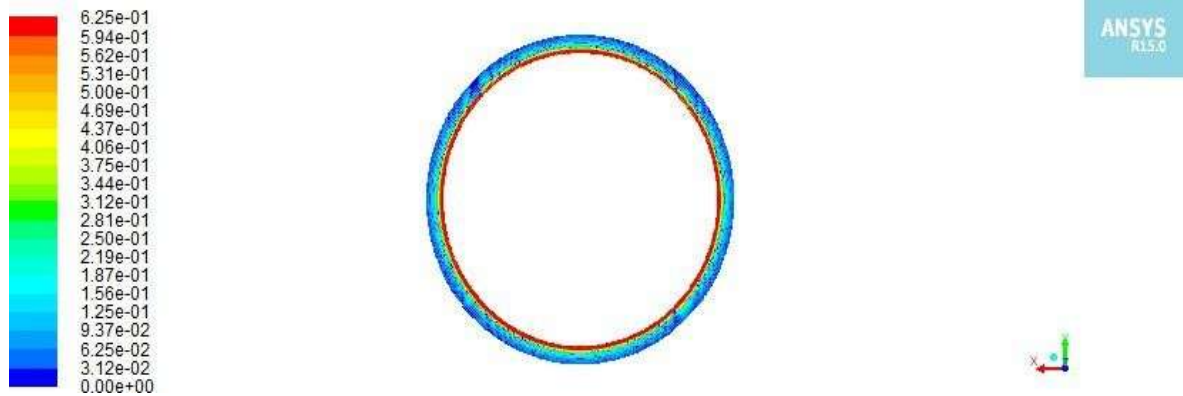


Figure 12. (iii): Velocity Magnitude (m/s) Contour
Figure 12. (iv): Velocity Magnitude (m/s) Contour



Figure 12. (v): Skin Friction Coefficient Contour

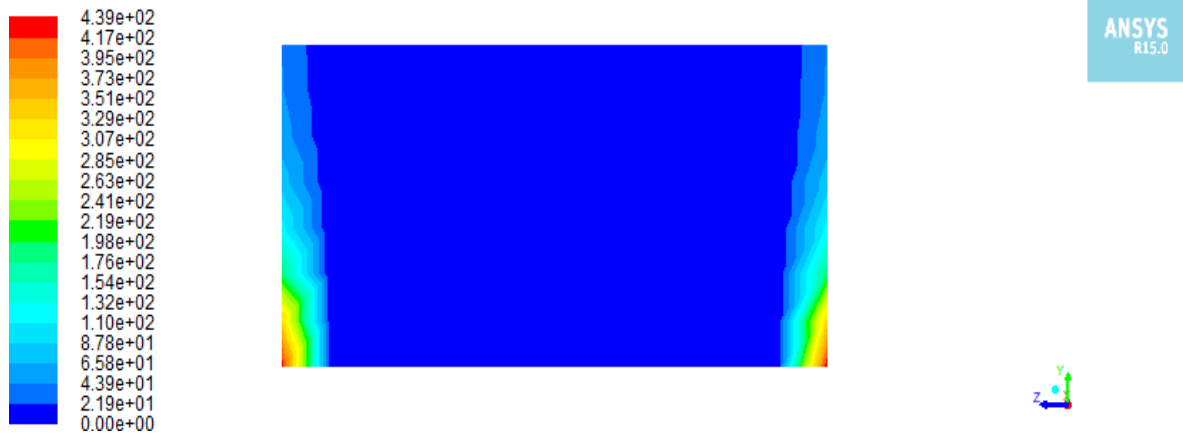


Figure 12. (vi): Wall Shear Stress Contour

For 0.5 T (Residues converged after 91 iterations.):

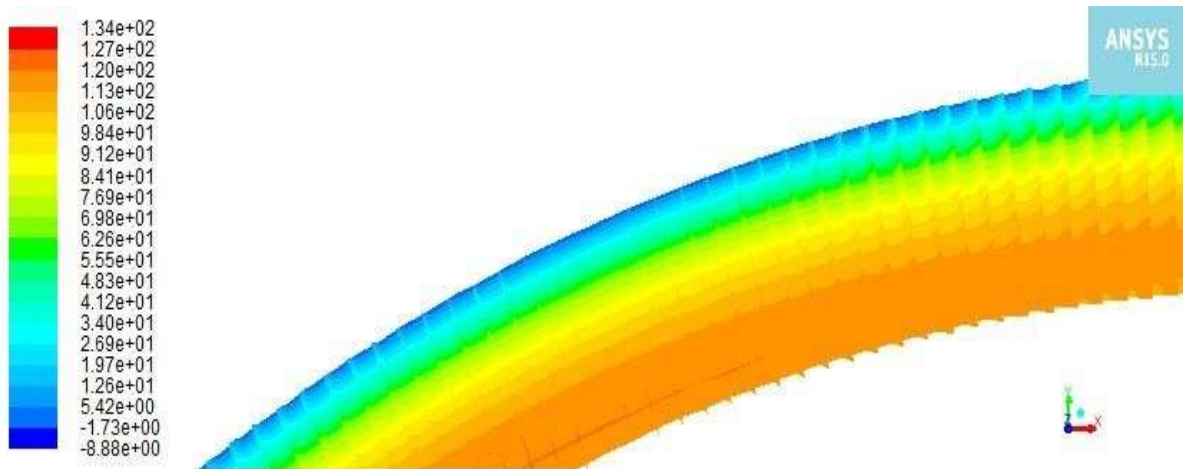


Figure 13. (i): Static Pressure (Pa) Contour

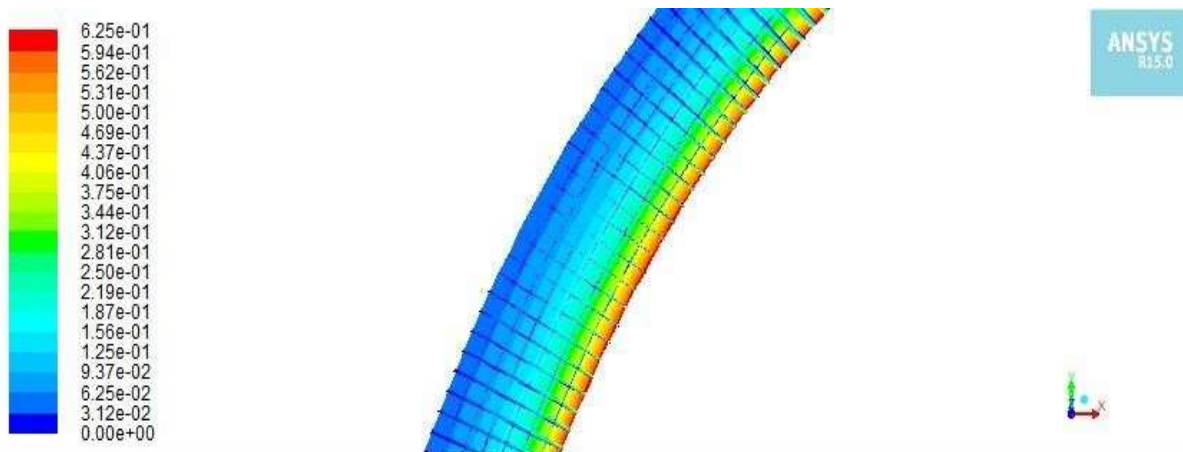


Figure 13. (ii): Velocity Magnitude (m/s) Contour

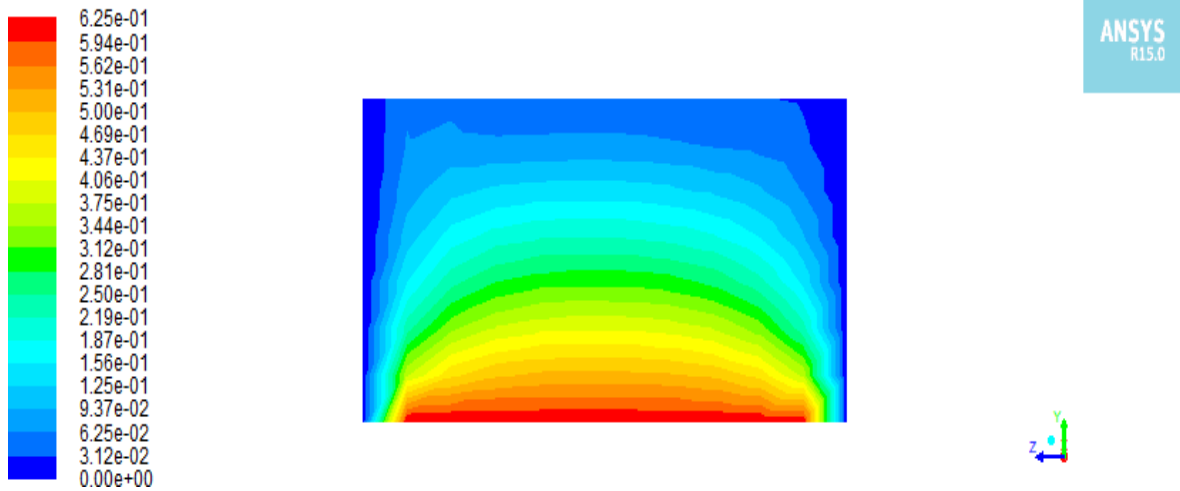


Figure 13. (iii): Velocity Magnitude (m/s) Contour

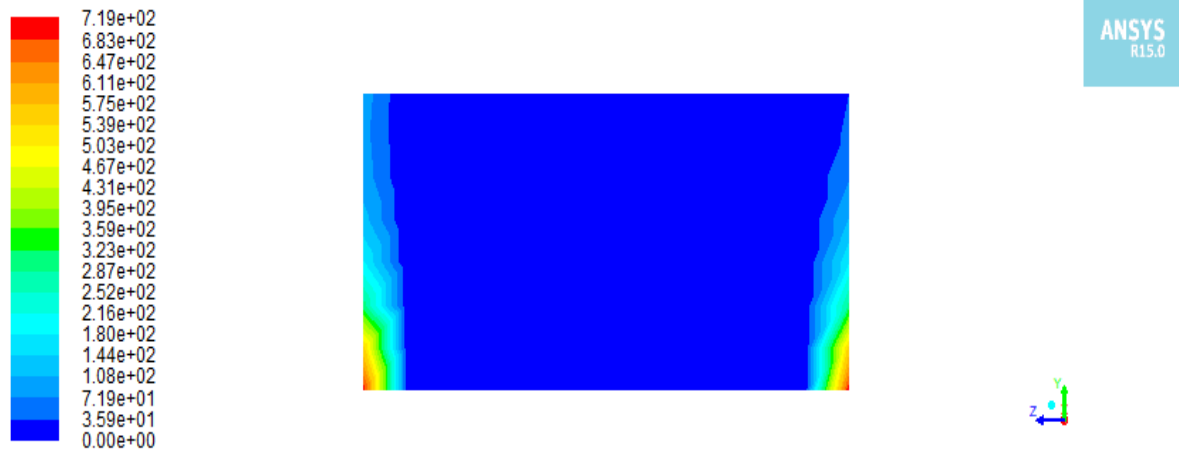


Figure 13. (iv): Skin Friction Coefficient Contour

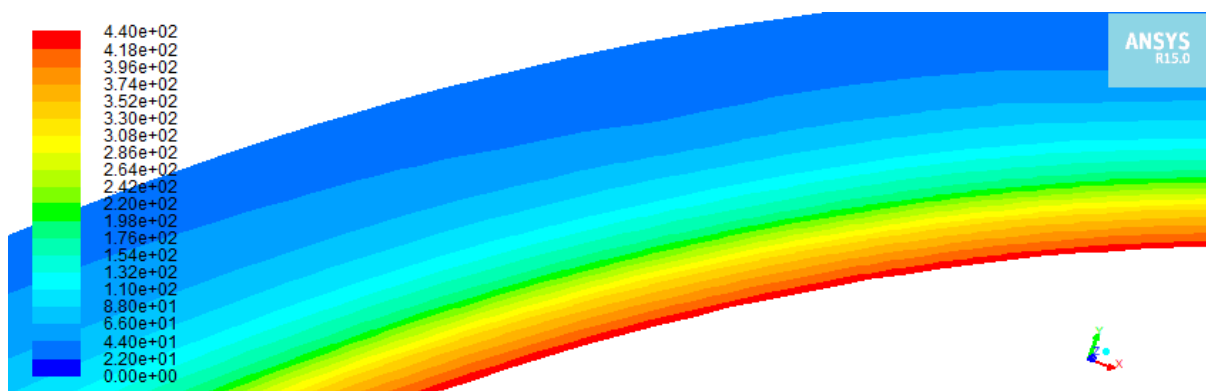


Figure 13. (v): Wall Shear Stress Contour

For 1.0 T (Residues converged after 81 iterations.):



Figure 14. (i): Static Pressure (Pa) Contour

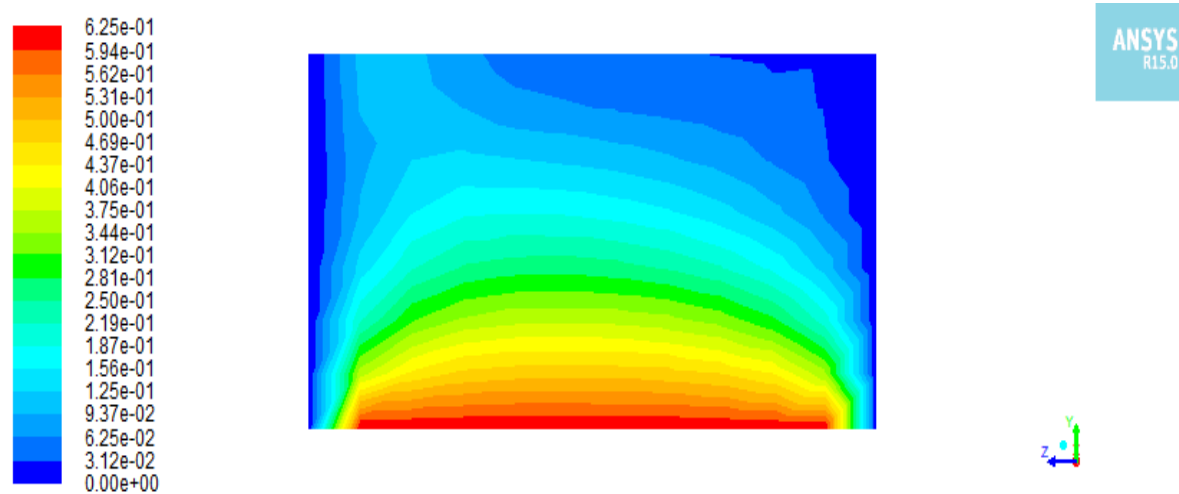


Figure 14. (ii): Velocity Magnitude (m/s) Contour

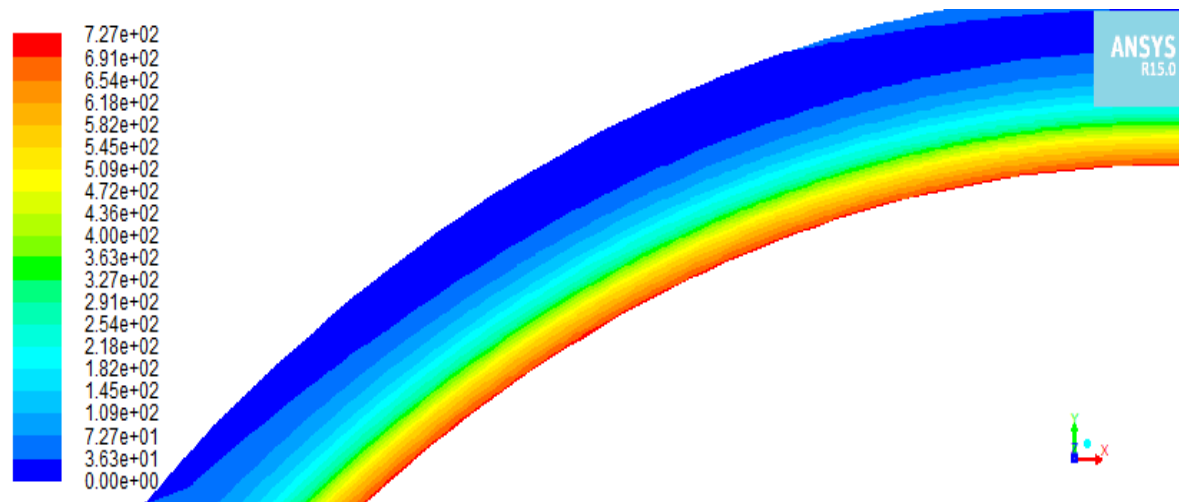


Figure 14. (iii): Skin Friction Coefficient Contour

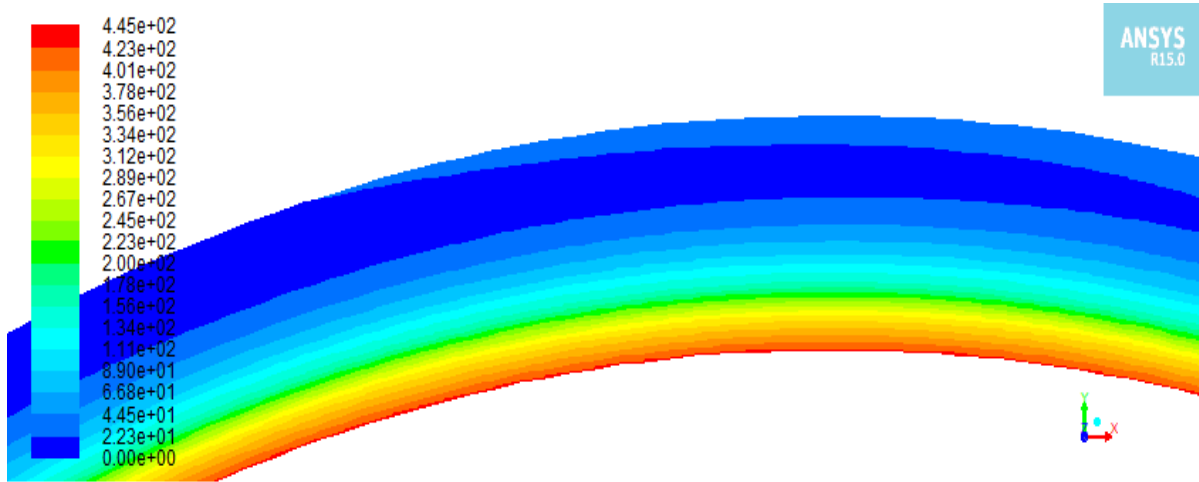


Figure 14. (iv): Wall Shear Stress Contour

For 2.0 T (Residues converged after 66 iterations.):

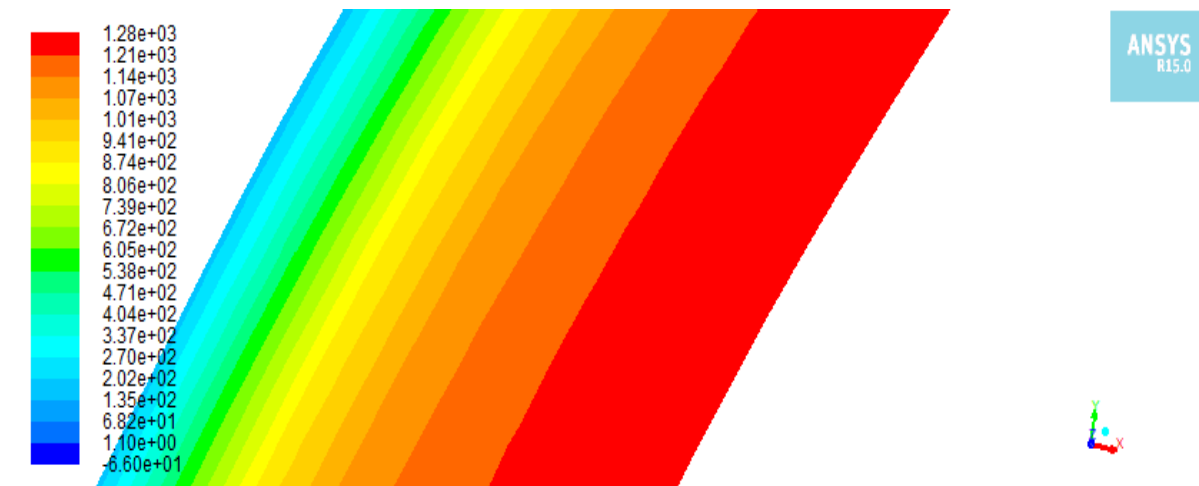


Figure 15. (i): Static Pressure (Pa) Contour

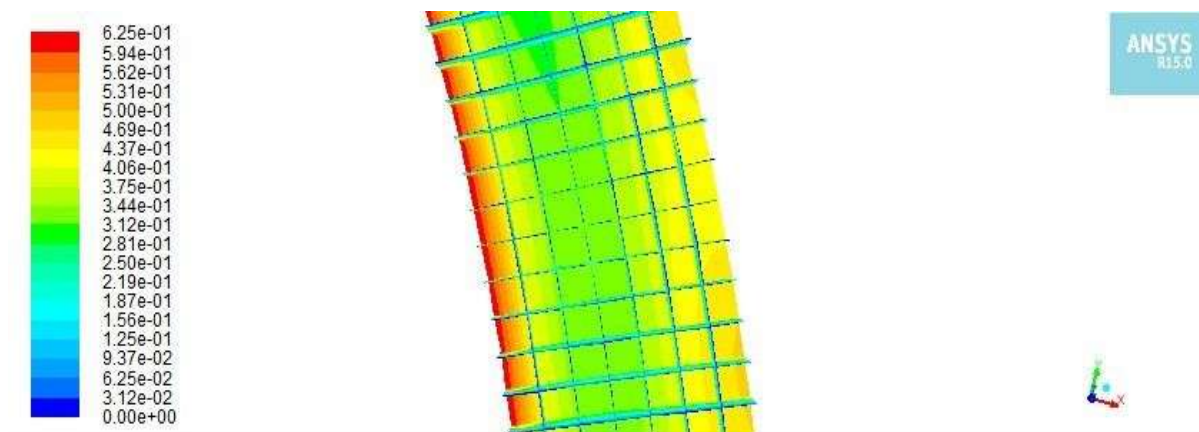


Figure 15. (ii): Velocity Magnitude (m/s) Contour

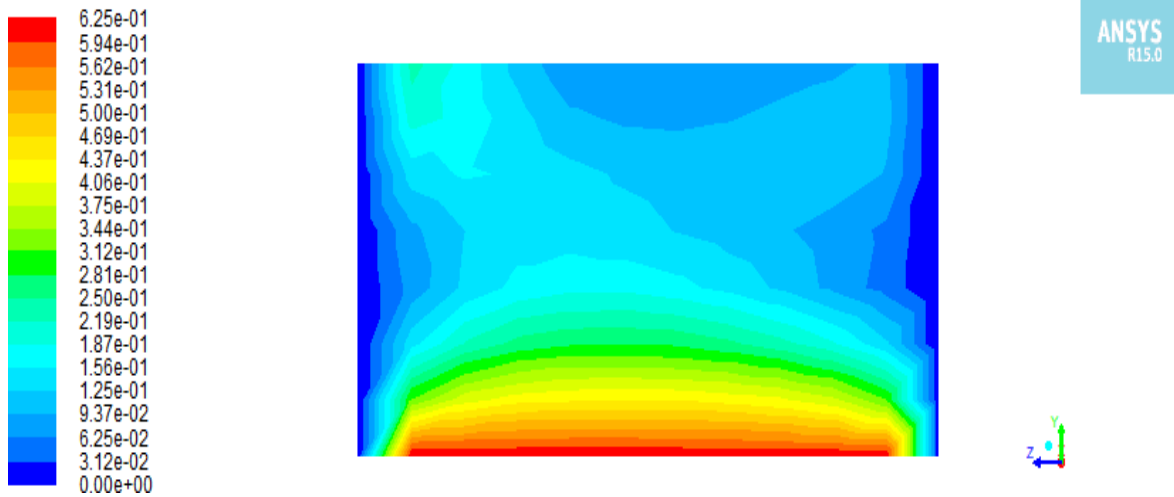


Figure 15. (iii): Velocity Magnitude (m/s) Contour

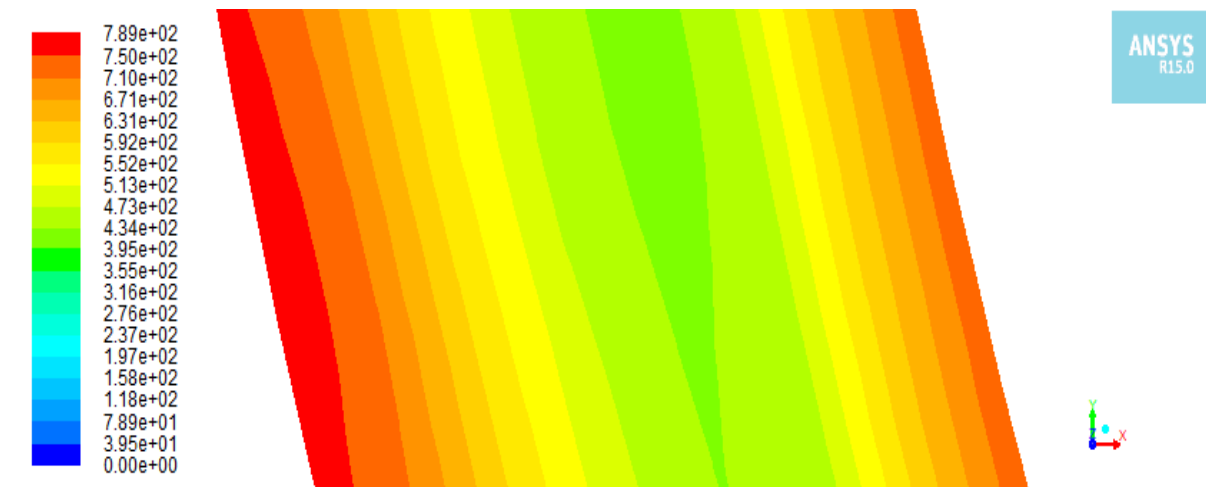


Figure 15. (iv): Skin Friction Coefficient Contour

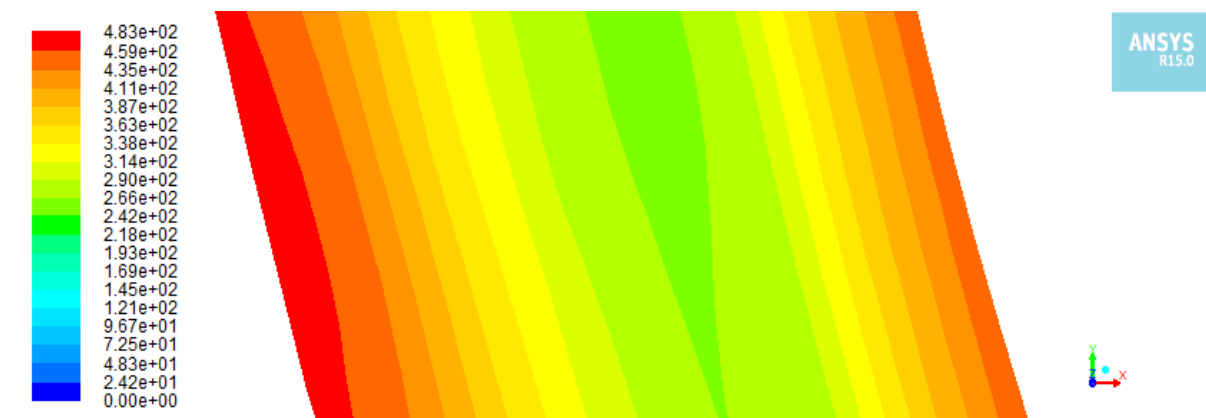


Figure 15. (iv): Wall Shear Stress Contour

Inference:

- For static pressure contour, it can be inferred that for Figure 12. (i), (ii), 13. (i), 14. (i) and 15. (i) as the magnetic field intensity increased, the static pressure in the fluid is observed to

be increased.

As for the 0 T, the average pressure was found to be around 41-60 Pa (average 50.5 T) as for 0.5 T, 1.0 T and 2.0 T it was 62.6-127 Pa (average 95Pa), 167-355Pa (average 261Pa) and 605-1280Pa (average 942.5Pa) respectively in which pressure is increased in the lower portion of the rim. The exponential increase was seen for the pressure contour when the magnetic field intensified.

- For velocity magnitude contour, it can be inferred that for Figure 12. (iii), (iv), 13. (ii), (iii), 14. (ii) and 15. (ii), (iii) as the magnetic field intensifies, the velocity magnitude is dissipated among the layer of the MRF and the value of velocity dissipation was found to be same as RPM was fixed for this case but the proper dissipation was found when the magnetic field increased.
- For the skin friction coefficient, it can be inferred that for Figure 12. (v), 13. (iv), (iii), 14. (iii) and 15. (iv) as the skin friction coefficient increases. It can also be attributed with the increase of static pressure increase. As for the 0T, the average pressure was found to be around 0.00-717 (average ~0 since 0 magnitude contour is present) as for 0.5 T, 1.0 T and 2.0 T it was 35.9-719 (average 287), 0.00-727 (average 363.5) and 355-789 (average 572) respectively.

The same pattern is observed for the wall shear stress as the values are different from the skin friction but the pattern was identical. It can also be inferred that skin friction coefficient is directly proportional with the wall shear stress.

IV. RESULT AND DISCUSSION:

- As evident from the velocity contours and static pressure contours that the velocity contour plot in a given cross section of the fluid element suggests that as the magnetic field intensity is increased, the velocity gradient increases as well as the static pressure.
- It is worth noting that it the velocity of fluid in contact with the wheel is having maximum velocity and the fluid in contact with the rim is almost stationary in all the cases (excluding the 0 T in which no magnetic field is applied so consecutively no change occurs). However, the gradient with which the fluid velocity approaches zero increases as External Magnetic Field increases. (i.e., the red region in the contour plot reduces in size)
- From the skin friction coefficient contours the friction coefficient (As observed in the

contours) is directional proportional to the braking torque being applied.

The braking torque T can be calculated as:

$$T = (2 \times \mu \times P \times A) / 2$$

As average pressure (P) can be obtained from Post processing of fluent (and can also be seen in pressure contour graphs above)

A is braking surface area. Hence in case of MRFBS, it can be taken as

$$\pi \times d \times t$$

Where t is the thickness of the ring (0.003m) shaped geometry and d is the diameter (0.4m)

Hence,

$$T = \mu \times P \times \pi \times d \times t$$

Substituting values, the braking torque for 0.5T, 1T and 2T are found to be:

41.115 Nm, 143.066 Nm and 812.959 Nm whereas for 0 T it is 0 Nm as skin friction coefficient is taken as 0. Hence, it can be observed that as the magnetic intensity increases, the braking torque increases exponentially. To increase the magnetic field strength, the voltage must be increased. Hence, to deploy more braking power and to attain greater deceleration, higher voltage must be applied keeping a threshold to ensure the safety of the rim and thus the vehicle wheel stability.

V. CONCLUSIONS:

Braking time decreases as the voltage increases with increase in applied current and voltage, there is an increase in braking torque. For a Wheel rotation at 250 rpm, and a magnetic field of 2T, the maximum braking torque of 812.959 Nm was observed. This braking torque is enough to bring a vehicle of 1-1.5 tonne from 40 kmph to a complete stop. Hence the braking distance would be less than which is at par with conventional braking system. Problems encountered include agglomeration and in-use thickening (IUT) as well as rusting and crusting. Again, the limited magnetic field intensity should be so that the structure of the rim should not be deteriorated as well as optimal braking torque is observed.

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