



# Thermodynamically coupled heat and mass flows in a reaction-transport system with external resistances

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## ABSTRACT

Considerable work has been published on mathematically coupled nonlinear differential equations by neglecting thermodynamic coupling between heat and mass flows in reaction-transport systems. The thermodynamic coupling refers that a flow occurs without or against its primary thermodynamic driving force, which may be a gradient of temperature, or chemical potential, or reaction affinity. This study presents the modeling of thermodynamically coupled heat and mass flows of two components in a reaction-transport system with external heat and mass transfer resistances. The modeling equations are based on the linear nonequilibrium thermodynamics approach by assuming that the system is in the vicinity of global equilibrium. The modeling equations lead to unique definitions of thermodynamic coupling (cross) coefficients between heat and mass flows in terms of kinetic parameters and transport coefficients. These newly defined parameters need to be determined to describe coupled reaction-transport systems. Some representative numerical solutions obtained by MATLAB illustrate the effect of thermodynamic coupling coefficients on the change of temperature and mass concentrations in time and space.

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## 1. Introduction

Considerable work has been published on mathematically coupled nonlinear differential equations for reaction-transport systems in porous catalyst by neglecting the thermodynamic coupling. Here the thermodynamic coupling refers that a flow (i.e. heat or mass flow or a reaction velocity) occurs without its primary thermodynamic driving force, or opposite to the direction imposed by its primary driving force. The principles of thermodynamics allow the progress of a process without or against its primary driving force only if this process is coupled with another spontaneous process. This is consistent with the statement of second law, which states that a finite amount of organization may be purchased at the expense of a greater amount of disorganization in a series of coupled processes.

Thermodynamically coupled chemical reaction-transport systems control the behavior of many transport and rate processes in physical, chemical and biological systems, and require a through analysis accounting the induced flows by cross effects [1–9]. Many published work, including some recent ones [10–12], on reaction-diffusion systems mainly consider mathematically coupled nonlinear differential relationships. More than 50 years ago, Turing [13] demonstrated that a reaction-diffusion system with appropriate nonlinear kinetics can cause instability in a homogeneous steady state and generate stable concentration patterns. Also the thermo-

dynamic coupling in the membranes of living cells plays major role in the respiratory electron transport leading to synthesizing adenosine triphosphate [6,14,15]. Another important thermodynamic coupling takes place between the hydrolysis of adenosine triphosphate and the molecular transport of substrates in active transport. The coupling between a scalar process of the hydrolysis and a vectorial process of the mass flow creates the molecular pumps responsible for uphill transport [1,14,15]. Therefore, incorporation of thermodynamic coupling into the modeling of reaction-diffusion systems, such as active transport, may be a vital step in describing these complex biochemical cycles.

Two previous studies presented the modeling equations and approximate solutions for reaction-transport systems with thermodynamic coupling between heat and mass flows [4] and between transport processes and chemical reaction [5] without external resistances. This study presents the modeling equations for thermodynamically coupled heat and mass flows in a three-component system with an elementary chemical reaction and with external transport resistances. Therefore, it is a through analysis accounting the cross effects as well as external effects. The modeling is based on the linear nonequilibrium thermodynamics (LNET) formulations by assuming that the system is in the vicinity of global equilibrium (GE). The LNET formulation does not require the detailed mechanism of the thermodynamic coupling [6,15]. The modeling equations have produced some unique parameters related to thermodynamic couplings between heat and mass flows. These parameters combine the kinetic parameters and transport coefficients and control the cross effects. Some representative

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**Nomenclature**

$a_i$	parameters in Eq. (37)	$t$	time, s
$A$	chemical affinity, J/mol	$T$	temperature, K
$c_p$	specific heat capacity, J/(kg K)	$w_i$	mass fraction of component $i$
$Da$	Damköhler number	$X$	thermodynamic force
$D_S$	effective diffusion coefficient for the substrate S, m <sup>2</sup> /s	$z$	dimensionless distance
$D_D$	coupling coefficient related to the Dufour effect, J m <sup>2</sup> /(mol s)		
$D_T$	coupling coefficient related to the thermal diffusion (Soret) effect, mol/(m s K)		
$E$	activation energy of the chemical reaction, J/mol	<b>Greek letters</b>	
$h$	heat transfer coefficient, J/(m <sup>2</sup> K)	$\beta$	thermicity group, dimensionless
$h_i$	partial enthalpy, J/kg	$\beta'_S$	thermicity group for thermodynamically coupled processes, dimensionless
$\Delta H_r$	reaction enthalpy, J/kg	$\varepsilon$	dimensionless parameter related to Soret effect in Eq. (42)
$H^E$	excess specific enthalpy, J/kg	$\Phi$	volumetric entropy generation rate, W/(m <sup>3</sup> K)
$j$	diffusive mass flux, mol/(m <sup>2</sup> s)	$\gamma$	Arrhenius group, dimensionless
$J_q$	conduction heat flux, W/m <sup>2</sup>	$\phi$	dimensionless temperature, Eq. (40)
$J_r$	volumetric reaction rate, mol/(m <sup>3</sup> s)	$\varphi$	diffusivity ratios, Eq. (42)
$k$	effective thermal conductivity, W/(m K)	$\mu$	chemical potential, J/mol
$k_g$	external mass transfer coefficient, m/s	$\theta$	dimensionless composition, Eq. (40)
$k_v$	first order reaction rate constant, 1/s	$\lambda$	relation in Eq. (16)
$k_0$	frequency in the Arrhenius equation, 1/s	$\nu$	stoichiometric coefficient
$L$	characteristic half thickness, m	$\rho$	density, kg/m <sup>3</sup>
$Le$	Lewis number	$\tau$	dimensionless time
$L_{ik}$	phenomenological coefficients	$\omega$	dimensionless parameter related to Dufour effect in Eq. (42)
$L_{qr}$	element of coupling coefficient between chemical reaction and heat flow, mol K/(m <sup>2</sup> s)		
$L_{ir}$	element of coupling coefficient between chemical reaction and mass flow of component $i$ , mol <sup>2</sup> K/(J m <sup>2</sup> s)	<b>Subscripts</b>	
$n$	number of components	D	Dufour
$nr$	number of chemical reactions	eq	equilibrium
$Nu$	Nusselt number	P	product
$Q_i^*$	heats of transport for component $i$ , kJ/kg	q	heat
$R$	gas constant, J/(mol K)	r	reaction
$Sh$	Sherwood number	s	surface
		T	thermal diffusion

solutions of thermodynamically and mathematically coupled partial differential equations are presented to illustrate the effects of coupling on the behavior of temperature and mass concentrations in time and space.

**2. Modeling equations**

We consider a single porous catalyst pellet that catalyzes the elementary reaction  $\nu_S S + \nu_B B \rightarrow \nu_P P$  with a first order kinetics based on the S. The well known balance equations are

$$\rho \frac{\partial w_S}{\partial t} = -\nabla \cdot \mathbf{j}_S + \nu_S J_r \quad (1)$$

$$\rho \frac{\partial w_B}{\partial t} = -\nabla \cdot \mathbf{j}_B + \nu_B J_r \quad (2)$$

$$\rho c_p \frac{\partial T}{\partial t} = -\nabla \cdot \mathbf{J}_q + (-\Delta H_r) J_r + \rho \sum_{i=1}^2 \sum_{j=1}^2 H_{ij}^E D_{ji} \nabla w_i \nabla w_j \quad (3)$$

where

$$\rho D_{il} = \sum_{j=1}^2 L_{ij} f_{jk} \mu_{kl}, \quad f_{jk} = \delta_{jk} + \frac{w_k}{w_n}, \quad \mu_{kl} = \left( \frac{\partial \mu_k}{\partial w_l} \right)_{T,P} \quad (i, k, l = 1, 2)$$

and  $\delta_{jk}$  is the Kronecker delta,  $w_i$  is the mass fraction of component  $i$ ,  $\mathbf{j}_i$  the vector of mass flow of component  $i$ ,  $\mathbf{J}_q$  is the vector of reduced heat flow  $\mathbf{J}_q = \mathbf{q} - \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbf{j}_i h_i$ ,  $\mathbf{q}$  is the total heat flow,  $h_i$  is the partial molar enthalpy of species  $i$ , and  $\Delta H_r$  is the heat of reaction,  $\nu_i$  is

the stoichiometric coefficient, which is negative for reactants,  $H_{ii}^E = (\partial^2 H^E / \partial w_i^2)_{T,P}$ , ( $i = 1, 2$ ), and  $H^E$  is the excess specific enthalpy or heat of mixing, and the parameters  $D_{ij}$  are the diffusion coefficients. The reaction velocity  $J_r$  in terms of frequency  $k_0$  and activation energy  $E$  for a first order elementary reaction is

$$J_r = k_0 \exp\left(-\frac{E}{RT}\right) \rho_S \quad (4)$$

By using the Fick and Fourier laws in one-dimensional domain of  $y$ -direction and neglecting any thermodynamic couplings and excess enthalpy effects, Eqs. (1)–(3) become

$$\rho \frac{\partial w_S}{\partial t} = \rho D_S \frac{\partial^2 w_S}{\partial y^2} + \nu_S J_r \quad (5)$$

$$\rho \frac{\partial w_B}{\partial t} = \rho D_B \frac{\partial^2 w_B}{\partial y^2} + \nu_B J_r \quad (6)$$

$$\rho c_p \frac{\partial T}{\partial t} = k \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial y^2} + (-\Delta H_r) J_r \quad (7)$$

where  $D_i$  is the effective diffusivity for component  $i$ , and  $k$  the effective thermal conductivity. The initial and boundary conditions with external resistances are

$$t = 0, \quad w_S = w_{S0}, \quad w_B = w_{B0}, \quad T = T_0 \quad (8)$$

$$y = \pm L, \quad \rho \frac{\partial w_S}{\partial y} = \frac{k_{gS}}{D_S} (w_{Sb} - w_{Ss}),$$

$$\rho \frac{\partial w_B}{\partial y} = \frac{k_{gB}}{D_B} (w_{Bb} - w_{Bs}), \quad \frac{\partial T}{\partial y} = \frac{h_f}{k} (T_b - T_s) \quad (9)$$

$$y = 0, \quad \frac{\partial w_S}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial w_B}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial T}{\partial y} = 0 \quad (\text{symmetry conditions}) \quad (10)$$

where  $k_{gi}$  is the extra particle mass transfer coefficient for component  $i$ , and  $h_f$  is the heat transfer coefficient, indices  $b$  refers to bulk fluid conditions, and  $L$  is the half thickness of the slab. Eq. (9) represents the external mass and heat transfer resistances, respectively. Diffusion may reduce averaged rates relative to that obtained if the concentration was everywhere  $w_{SS}$  and  $w_{BS}$ . This limitation is known as the effectiveness factor [16,17].

### 3. Phenomenological equations

Reaction-transport systems represent open and nonequilibrium systems with thermodynamic forces of temperature gradient, concentration gradient, and affinity. For the chemical reaction-transport system considered, the local rate of energy dissipation [3–6,12] due to local rate of entropy production  $\Phi$  ( $\Phi = \sum j_i X_i$ ) is

$$T\Phi = \mathbf{J}_q \cdot \nabla \ln T - \mathbf{j}_S \cdot (\nabla \mu_S)_{T,P} - \mathbf{j}_B \cdot (\nabla \mu_B)_{T,P} + J_r A \geq 0 \quad (11)$$

where  $(\nabla \mu_i)_{T,P} = \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} (\partial \mu_i / \partial w_i) \nabla w_i$ ,  $\mu_i$  is the chemical potential of species  $i$ , and  $A$  is the affinity ( $A = -\sum v_i \mu_i$ ). Eq. (11) consists of scalar processes of chemical reactions and vectorial processes of heat and mass flows, while it excludes pressure, viscous, electrical, and magnetic effects.

We have a linear relationship between the reaction velocity and the chemical affinity for an elementary reaction if  $|A/(RT)| \ll 1$  [5,6,14,15]

$$J_r = L_{rr} A = \frac{k_f \rho w_{S,eq}}{R} A \quad (12)$$

where  $k_f$  is the forward reaction rate, and the coefficient  $L_{rr}$  with the Arrhenius equation is defined by  $L_{rr} = [\rho k_0 \exp(-E_f/RT) w_{S,eq}]/R$ . Eq. (12) indicates that the value of  $L_{rr}$  is dependent on the rate constant and consequently on the equilibrium concentration  $w_{S,eq}$  and the amount of chemical catalyst. Some selected biological pathways occur at near GE conditions [14], and for some chemical reactions the formalism of LNET can be used in wider ranges than usually expected [21].

Eq. (11) identifies the independent conjugate flows  $j_i$  and forces  $X_k$  to be used in the linear phenomenological equations  $j_i = \sum_k L_{ik} X_k$  when the system is in the vicinity of GE [5,18–20]. For an  $n$ -component system and with  $nr$ -number of chemical reactions with mass flows relative to center of mass, the phenomenological equations for heat, mass, and reaction flows become

$$-\mathbf{J}_q = L_{qq} \nabla \ln T + \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} \sum_{l=1}^{n-1} L_{qjfk} \mu_{kl} \nabla w_l - \mathbf{L}_{qr} A \quad (13)$$

$$-\mathbf{j}_i = L_{iq} \nabla \ln T + \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} \sum_{l=1}^{n-1} L_{ijfjk} \mu_{kl} \nabla w_l - \mathbf{L}_{ir} A \quad (14)$$

$$-J_{ri} = \mathbf{L}_{rq} \cdot \nabla \ln T + \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} \sum_{l=1}^{n-1} f_{jk} \mu_{kl} \mathbf{L}_{rj} \cdot \nabla w_l - \sum_m^{nr} L_{im} A_m \quad (15)$$

For the reaction-transport system with three components of S, B, and P, Eqs. (13)–(15) reduce to

$$-\mathbf{J}_q = L_{qq} \nabla \ln T + (L_{qS} \lambda_{SS} + L_{qB} \lambda_{BS}) \nabla w_S + (L_{qS} \lambda_{SB} + L_{qB} \lambda_{BB}) \nabla w_B - \mathbf{L}_{qr} A \quad (16)$$

$$-\mathbf{j}_S = L_{Sq} \nabla \ln T + (L_{SS} \lambda_{SS} + L_{SB} \lambda_{BS}) \nabla w_S + (L_{SS} \lambda_{SB} + L_{SB} \lambda_{BB}) \nabla w_B - \mathbf{L}_{Sr} A \quad (17)$$

$$-\mathbf{j}_B = L_{Bq} \nabla \ln T + (L_{BS} \lambda_{SS} + L_{BB} \lambda_{BS}) \nabla w_S + (L_{BS} \lambda_{SB} + L_{BB} \lambda_{BB}) \nabla w_B - \mathbf{L}_{Br} A \quad (18)$$

$$-J_r = \mathbf{L}_{rq} \cdot \nabla \ln T + (\mathbf{L}_{rS} \lambda_{SS} + \mathbf{L}_{rB} \lambda_{BS}) \cdot \nabla w_S + (\mathbf{L}_{rS} \lambda_{SB} + \mathbf{L}_{rB} \lambda_{BB}) \cdot \nabla w_B - L_{rr} A \quad (19)$$

where

$$\lambda_{ij} = \sum_{k=1}^2 f_{ik} \mu_{kj}$$

The coefficients  $L_{ij}$  represent the phenomenological coefficients, which are related by various constraints, such as Onsager's reciprocity, Gibbs–Duhem equation at equilibrium, and the choice of reference frame for diffusivities. Some of the phenomenological coefficients  $L_{ik}$  may be identified using Fick's, Fourier's, and the mass action laws [5]. The cross coefficients ( $L_{Sq}$  or  $L_{qS}$ ) may be represented by the Soret coefficient ( $s_T$ ), or the thermal diffusion coefficient ( $D_T$ ), which are related to each other by  $s_T D_S = D_{T0}$ . The Soret coefficient changes in the range  $10^{-2}$ – $10^{-3}$  1/K for gases, nonelectrolytes, and electrolytes, however it might be larger for polymer solutions [6,15]. We may define two new effective diffusion coefficients ( $D_T$  and  $D_D$ ) that are related to the thermal diffusion  $D_T = L_{Sq} T^{-2}$  and the Dufour effect  $D_D = L_{qS} \lambda_S / T$ . For  $L_{qS} = L_{Sq}$ , we have  $D_D = D_T T \lambda_S$ , which is proved experimentally [15]. For liquids, the diffusion coefficient  $D$  is of the order of  $10^{-5}$  cm<sup>2</sup>/s, and the thermal diffusion coefficient  $D_T$  is of the order of  $10^{-8}$ – $10^{-10}$  cm<sup>2</sup>/(s K). For gases, the order of magnitude for  $D$  and  $D_T$  is  $10^{-1}$  cm<sup>2</sup>/s, and  $10^{-4}$ – $10^{-6}$  cm<sup>2</sup>/(s K), respectively [15,18–21].

Eqs. (16)–(19) can be modified with some transport coefficients [4–6,18–20], and we have

$$-\mathbf{J}_q = k \nabla T + \rho D_{DS} \nabla w_S + \rho D_{DB} \nabla w_B - \mathbf{L}_{qr} A \quad (20)$$

$$-\mathbf{j}_S = D_{TS} \nabla T + \rho D_S \nabla w_S + \rho D_{SB} \nabla w_B - \mathbf{L}_{Sr} A \quad (21)$$

$$-\mathbf{j}_B = D_{TB} \nabla T + \rho D_{BS} \nabla w_S + \rho D_B \nabla w_B - \mathbf{L}_{Br} A \quad (22)$$

$$-J_r = \mathbf{L}'_{rq} \cdot \nabla T + \mathbf{L}'_{rS} \cdot \nabla w_S + \mathbf{L}'_{rB} \cdot \nabla w_B - L_{rr} A \quad (23)$$

where

$$k = L_{qq}/T, \quad \rho D_{il} = \sum_{j=1}^2 L_{ij} \lambda_{jl} = \sum_{j=1}^2 \sum_{k=1}^2 L_{ijfjk} \mu_{kl}$$

$$D_{DS} = Q_S^* D_{SS} + Q_B^* D_{BS}, \quad D_{DB} = Q_S^* D_{SB} + Q_B^* D_{BB}, \quad D_{TS} = L_{Sq} \frac{1}{T},$$

$$D_{TB} = L_{Bq} \frac{1}{T}, \quad \mathbf{L}'_{rS} = \mathbf{L}_{rS} \lambda_{SS} + \mathbf{L}_{rB} \lambda_{BS}, \quad \mathbf{L}'_{rB} = \mathbf{L}_{rS} \lambda_{SB} + \mathbf{L}_{rB} \lambda_{BB},$$

$$\mathbf{L}'_{rq} = \mathbf{L}_{rq} \frac{1}{T}$$

Here we assumed that  $D_S = D_B$  and  $D_{SB} = D_{BS}$ . These equations are based on the chain rule and the Gibbs–Duhem equation at constant temperature and pressure  $\nabla_T \mu_n = -\sum_{i=1}^{n-1} (w_i/w_n) \nabla_T \mu_i$ .  $Q_i^*$  is the heat of transport defined by  $Q_i^* = (J_q/J_i)_{\nabla T=0, \mathbf{j}_{k \neq i}=0}$ , and is a measure of local heat exchange necessary to maintain isothermal conditions during diffusion of component  $i$ . The two independent heats of transport in terms of phenomenological coefficients are

$$Q_S^* = (L_{qS} L_{BB} - L_{qB} L_{BS})/U \quad (24)$$

$$Q_B^* = (L_{qB} L_{SS} - L_{qS} L_{SB})/U \quad (25)$$

where

$$U = L_{SS} L_{BB} - L_{SB} L_{BS}$$

If we can control the temperature and concentration gradients, the coupling coefficients between the chemical reaction and the flows of mass and heat may be determined by the following relations

$$\mathbf{L}_{rS} = \mathbf{L}_{Sr} = \left( \frac{\mathbf{j}_S}{A} \right)_{\nabla w_S=0, \nabla w_B=0, \nabla T=0} = \left( \frac{\partial \mathbf{j}_S}{\partial A} \right)_{\nabla w_S, \nabla w_B, \nabla T} \cong \left( \frac{\Delta \mathbf{j}_S}{\Delta A} \right)_{\nabla w_S, \nabla w_B, \nabla T}$$

$$\mathbf{L}_{rB} = \mathbf{L}_{Br} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{J}_B \\ A \end{pmatrix}_{\nabla w_S=0, \nabla w_B=0, \nabla T=0} = \left( \frac{\partial \mathbf{J}_B}{\partial A} \right)_{\nabla w_S, \nabla w_B, \nabla T} \cong \left( \frac{\Delta \mathbf{J}_B}{\Delta A} \right)_{\nabla w_S, \nabla w_B, \nabla T}$$

$$\mathbf{L}_{rq} = \mathbf{L}_{qr} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{J}_q \\ A \end{pmatrix}_{\nabla w_S=0, \nabla w_B=0, \nabla T=0} = \left( \frac{\partial \mathbf{J}_q}{\partial A} \right)_{\nabla w_S, \nabla w_B, \nabla T} \cong \left( \frac{\Delta \mathbf{J}_q}{\Delta A} \right)_{\nabla w_S, \nabla w_B, \nabla T}$$

Eqs. (20)–(23) reduce to the following conductance matrix form of linear phenomenological equations

$$-\mathbf{J} = \mathbf{L}\mathbf{X} \tag{26}$$

where

$$\mathbf{J} = \begin{pmatrix} J_q \\ J_S \\ J_B \\ J_r \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{L} = \begin{bmatrix} L'_{11} & L'_{12} & L'_{13} & L'_{14} \\ L'_{21} & L'_{22} & L'_{23} & L'_{24} \\ L'_{31} & L'_{32} & L'_{33} & L'_{34} \\ L'_{41} & L'_{42} & L'_{43} & L'_{44} \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{X} = \begin{pmatrix} \nabla T \\ \nabla w_S \\ \nabla w_B \\ A \end{pmatrix}$$

Onsager’s reciprocal relations states that  $L'_{ij} = L'_{ji}$  if  $j_i$  and  $j_j$  have the same parity under time reversal, and  $L'_{ij} = -L'_{ji}$  if  $j_i$  and  $j_j$  have the opposite parity. In the absence of pertinent symmetries or invariances, all types of cross-couplings are possible and lead to nonvanishing cross coefficients  $L'_{ij} \neq 0$  ( $i \neq j$ ). If the structure of the system is invariant with respect to some or all of the orthogonal transformations, then the invariance will eliminate certain cross-couplings and their cross-coefficients will vanish. If these symmetries are not exact then the corresponding cross-couplings would be weak and negligible.

As Eqs. (20)–(23) show, for the nonvanishing cross coefficients  $L'_{ij} \neq 0$  ( $i \neq j$ ), all the forces contribute for each flow, and hence the thermodynamic couplings exist between vectorial processes of heat and mass flows, and between vectorial and scalar processes of reaction and transport. Coupling between vectorial and scalar processes is possible only in an anisotropic medium according to the Curie–Prigogine principle [15], which states that “a scalar thermodynamic force such as chemical affinity, which has the high symmetry of isotropy, cannot cause a diffusion flow, which has lower symmetry because of its directionality.” Generally, irreversible processes of different tensorial character do not couple with each other in an isotropic medium. Therefore, the cross-coefficients between the chemical reaction and transport processes of heat and mass  $\mathbf{L}_{Sr}$ ,  $\mathbf{L}_{rS}$ ,  $\mathbf{L}_{qr}$ , and  $\mathbf{L}_{rq}$  would vanish in an isotropic medium, or would have vectorial character due to morphology of the interface, or due to compartmental structure causing an anisotropic character. For example, in active transport in biological cells, the hydrolysis of ATP is coupled with the flow of sodium ions outside of the cell. The flow direction is controlled by the structure of the membrane and thermodynamic coupling mechanisms in mitochondria. The medium may be locally isotropic, although it is not spatially homogenous. In this case, the coupling coefficients are associated with the whole system [11,12].

#### 4. Thermodynamically coupled reaction-transport systems

By substituting Eqs. (20)–(23) into Eqs. (1)–(3), we have [5,6,20]

$$\rho \frac{\partial w_S}{\partial t} = \nabla \cdot (D_{TS} \nabla T + \rho D_S \nabla w_S + \rho D_{SB} \nabla w_B - \mathbf{L}_{Sr} A) + (\mathbf{L}'_{rS} \cdot \nabla T + \mathbf{L}'_{rS} \cdot \nabla w_S + \mathbf{L}'_{rB} \cdot \nabla w_B - L_{rr} A) \tag{27}$$

$$\rho \frac{\partial w_B}{\partial t} = \nabla (D_{TB} \nabla T + \rho D_{BS} \nabla w_S + \rho D_B \nabla w_B - \mathbf{L}_{Br} A) + (\mathbf{L}'_{rB} \cdot \nabla T + \mathbf{L}'_{rS} \cdot \nabla w_S + \mathbf{L}'_{rB} \cdot \nabla w_B - L_{rr} A) \tag{28}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \rho c_p \frac{\partial T}{\partial t} = & \nabla \cdot (k \nabla T + \rho D_{DS} \nabla w_S + \rho D_{DB} \nabla w_B - \mathbf{L}_{qr} A) \\ & + (-\Delta H_r) (-\mathbf{L}'_{rq} \cdot \nabla T - \mathbf{L}'_{rS} \cdot \nabla w_S - \mathbf{L}'_{rB} \cdot \nabla w_B + L_{rr} A) \\ & + \rho (H_{SS}^E D_{SS} \nabla^2 w_S + (H_{BB}^E D_{BS} + H_{SS}^E D_{SB}) \nabla w_S \cdot \nabla w_B \\ & + H_{BB}^E D_{BB} \nabla^2 w_B) \end{aligned} \tag{29}$$

Eqs. (27)–(29) are valid for systems containing no pressure gradients, no surface effects, and no gravitational or other external body forces. These relationships represent the mathematically and thermodynamically coupled chemical reaction-transport systems. The thermodynamic coupling consists the coupling between vectorial processes of transport (heat and mass flows) as well as between scalar (chemical reactions) and transport processes. Therefore, the effective transport coefficients become the elements of related effective transport coefficient tensors. When ideal mixing of components is considered, excess enthalpy will vanish in Eq. (3) and Eq. (29).

Eqs. (27)–(29) also represent the evolution equations in time and space for thermodynamically and mathematically coupled transport and chemical reaction systems. They allow the stability analysis to be performed to predict possible bifurcation in time and space depending upon the flows, forces, transport coefficients, and kinetic parameters beside the other controlling parameters, such as the distance from GE.

Eqs. (27)–(29) can be reduced to some specific coupled phenomena cases. If we neglect the thermodynamic coupling between chemical reaction and transport processes, all the cross-coefficients  $\mathbf{L}_{Sr}$ ,  $\mathbf{L}_{rS}$ ,  $\mathbf{L}_{Br}$ ,  $\mathbf{L}_{rB}$ ,  $\mathbf{L}_{qr}$ , and  $\mathbf{L}_{rq}$  vanish, and Eqs. (27)–(29) reduces to

$$\rho \frac{\partial w_S}{\partial t} = \nabla \cdot (D_{TS} \nabla T + \rho D_S \nabla w_S + \rho D_{SB} \nabla w_B) - L_{rr} A \tag{30}$$

$$\rho \frac{\partial w_B}{\partial t} = \nabla \cdot (D_{TB} \nabla T + \rho D_{BS} \nabla w_S + \rho D_B \nabla w_B) - L_{rr} A \tag{31}$$

$$\rho c_p \frac{\partial T}{\partial t} = \nabla \cdot (k \nabla T + \rho D_{DS} \nabla w_S + \rho D_{DB} \nabla w_B) + (-\Delta H_r) L_{rr} A \tag{32}$$

Here, Eqs. (30)–(32) neglect the excess enthalpy,  $H^E$ .

#### 4.1. Special case: one-dimensional reaction-transport in a simple slab

For a one-dimensional transport with constant density  $\rho$  in a simple slab geometry, Eqs. (30)–(32) become

$$\frac{\partial \rho_S}{\partial t} = D_{TS} \left( \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial y^2} \right) + D_S \left( \frac{\partial^2 \rho_S}{\partial y^2} \right) + D_{SB} \left( \frac{\partial^2 \rho_B}{\partial y^2} \right) - k_0 \exp \left( -\frac{E}{RT} \right) \rho_S \tag{33}$$

$$\frac{\partial \rho_B}{\partial t} = D_{TB} \left( \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial y^2} \right) + D_{BS} \left( \frac{\partial^2 \rho_S}{\partial y^2} \right) + D_B \left( \frac{\partial^2 \rho_B}{\partial y^2} \right) - k_0 \exp \left( -\frac{E}{RT} \right) \rho_S \tag{34}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \rho c_p \frac{\partial T}{\partial t} = & k \left( \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial y^2} \right) + D_{DS} \left( \frac{\partial^2 \rho_S}{\partial y^2} \right) + D_{DB} \left( \frac{\partial^2 \rho_B}{\partial y^2} \right) \\ & + (-\Delta H_r) k_0 \exp \left( -\frac{E}{RT} \right) \rho_S \end{aligned} \tag{35}$$

The initial and boundary conditions are the same as in Eqs. (8)–(10).

#### 4.2. Maximum temperature difference

By eliminating the reaction terms in Eqs. (33) and (35) at steady state, and integrating once from the pellet center ( $L = 0$ ) to surface with the boundary conditions, we have

$$\left(D_S + \frac{D_{DS}}{(-\Delta H_r)}\right) \frac{d\rho_S}{dy} \Big|_L + \left(D_{SB} + \frac{D_{DB}}{(-\Delta H_r)}\right) \frac{d\rho_B}{dy} \Big|_L + \left(D_{TS} + \frac{k}{(-\Delta H_r)}\right) \frac{dT}{dy} \Big|_L = 0 = \frac{k_{gS}}{D_S} \left\{ \left(D_S + \frac{D_{DS}}{(-\Delta H_r)}\right) (\rho_{Sb} - \rho_{Ss}) + \left(D_{SB} + \frac{D_{DB}}{(-\Delta H_r)}\right) (\rho_{Bb} - \rho_{Bs}) \right\} + \left(D_{TS} + \frac{k}{(-\Delta H_r)}\right) \frac{h_f}{k} (T_b - T_s) \tag{36}$$

From the right-hand side, we have the temperature difference between surface and bulk fluid temperatures by assuming that  $k_{gS} = k_{gB} = k_g$  and  $k_S = k_B = k$

$$T_s - T_b = \left(\frac{Sh}{Nu}\right) [a_1(\rho_{Sb} - \rho_{Ss}) + a_2(\rho_{Bb} - \rho_{Bs})] \tag{37}$$

where

$$a_1 = \frac{D_S(-\Delta H_r) + D_{DS}}{D_{TS}(-\Delta H_r) + k}, \quad a_2 = \frac{D_{SB}(-\Delta H_r) + D_{DB}}{D_{TS}(-\Delta H_r) + k}$$

and Sh and Nu are the Sherwood and Nusselt numbers, respectively

$$Sh = \frac{k_g L}{D_S}, \quad Nu = \frac{h_f L}{k}$$

After the second integration of Eq. (36) from the pellet center to surface, and some arrangements, the total temperature difference ( $T - T_b$ ) becomes

$$T - T_b = a_1(\rho_{Ss} - \rho_S) + a_2(\rho_{Bs} - \rho_B) + (T_s - T_b) \tag{38}$$

The first two terms of the right-hand side represent the internal temperature difference, while the third term is the external temperature difference. Substituting Eq. (37) into Eq. (38), we have

$$T - T_b = a_1 \left[ (\rho_{Ss} - \rho_S) + \frac{Sh}{Nu} (\rho_{Sb} - \rho_{Ss}) \right] + a_2 \left[ (\rho_{Bs} - \rho_B) + \frac{Sh}{Nu} (\rho_{Bb} - \rho_{Bs}) \right] \tag{39}$$

By multiplying the both side of Eq. (39) by  $(\rho_{Ss}/T_s)$  and after arranging, we have

$$\phi - \phi_b = \beta'_S(1 - \theta_S) + \beta'_B(1 - \theta_B) + \frac{Sh}{Nu} (\theta_{Sb} - 1)(\beta'_S + \beta'_B) \tag{40}$$

where

$$\phi = \frac{T}{T_s}, \quad \phi_b = \frac{T_b}{T_s}, \quad \theta_S = \frac{\rho_S}{\rho_{Ss}}, \quad \theta_B = \frac{\rho_B}{\rho_{Bs}}, \quad \theta_{Sb} = \frac{\rho_{Sb}}{\rho_{Ss}} = \frac{\rho_{Bb}}{\rho_{Bs}},$$

$$\rho_{Ss} = \rho_{Bs}, \quad \beta'_S = \left(\frac{D_S(-\Delta H_r) + D_{DS}}{D_{TS}(-\Delta H_r) + k}\right) \frac{\rho_{Ss}}{T_s},$$

$$\beta'_B = \left(\frac{D_{SB}(-\Delta H_r) + D_{DB}}{D_{TS}(-\Delta H_r) + k}\right) \frac{\rho_{Ss}}{T_s}$$

Eq. (40) is the relationships between the dimensionless temperature  $\phi$  and compositions  $\theta_S$  and  $\theta_B$  at steady state and with thermodynamic couplings. The maximum temperature difference occurs when  $\theta_S = 0$  and  $\theta_B = 0$ , and Eq. (40) becomes

$$\phi_{max} - \phi_b = \left(1 + \frac{Sh}{Nu} (\theta_{Sb} - 1)\right) (\beta'_S + \beta'_B) \tag{41}$$

The value of  $\beta'_i$  is a measure of nonisothermal effects at surface conditions for component  $i$  when heat and mass flow are thermodynamically coupled. Eq. (41) contains the cross effects due to thermodynamic couplings as well as the external resistance effects on the maximum temperature difference in a catalyst pellet.

### 5. Some representative solutions and discussions

Eqs. (33)–(35) reduce to the following dimensionless forms

$$\frac{\partial \theta_S}{\partial \tau} = \varepsilon_S \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial z^2} + \frac{\partial^2 \theta_S}{\partial z^2} + \varphi_S \frac{\partial^2 \theta_B}{\partial z^2} - Da_S \theta_S \exp \left[ \gamma \left( 1 - \frac{1}{\phi} \right) \right] \tag{42}$$

$$\frac{\partial \theta_B}{\partial \tau} = \varepsilon_B \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial z^2} + \varphi_B \frac{\partial^2 \theta_S}{\partial z^2} + \delta \frac{\partial^2 \theta_B}{\partial z^2} - Da_S \theta_B \exp \left[ \gamma \left( 1 - \frac{1}{\phi} \right) \right] \tag{43}$$

$$\frac{1}{Le} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial \tau} = \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial z^2} + \omega_S \frac{\partial^2 \theta_S}{\partial z^2} + \omega_B \frac{\partial^2 \theta_B}{\partial z^2} + Da_S \beta \theta_S \exp \left[ \gamma \left( 1 - \frac{1}{\phi} \right) \right] \tag{44}$$

where

$$z = \frac{y}{L}, \quad \tau = \frac{D_S t}{L^2}, \quad \gamma = \frac{E}{RT_s}, \quad Le = \frac{k_e / \rho C_p}{D_S}$$

$$Da_S = \frac{L^2 k_0 \exp(E/RT_s)}{D_S}, \quad \beta = \frac{(-\Delta H_r) D_S \rho_{Ss}}{k T_s}, \quad \varepsilon_S = \frac{D_{TS} T_s}{D_S \rho_{Ss}}$$

$$\varepsilon_B = \frac{D_{TB} T_s}{D_S \rho_{Ss}}, \quad \varphi_S = \frac{D_{SB}}{D_S}, \quad \varphi_B = \frac{D_{BS}}{D_S}, \quad \delta = \frac{D_B}{D_S}, \quad \omega_S = \frac{D_{DS} \rho_{Ss}}{k T_s}$$

$$\omega_B = \frac{D_{DB} \rho_{Ss}}{k T_s}$$

The initial and boundary conditions become

$$\begin{aligned} \tau = 0 & \quad \theta_S = \theta_{S0} \quad \theta_B = \theta_{B0} \quad \phi = \phi_0 \\ z = \pm 1, \tau > 0 & \quad \frac{\partial \theta_S}{\partial z} = Sh(\theta_{Sb} - 1), \quad \frac{\partial \theta_B}{\partial z} = Sh(\theta_{Bb} - 1), \\ & \quad \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z} = Nu(\phi_b - 1) \\ z = 0, \tau > 0, & \quad \frac{\partial \theta_S}{\partial z} = \frac{\partial \theta_B}{\partial z} = \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z} = 0 \end{aligned} \tag{45}$$

Here the coefficients  $\varepsilon_S, \varepsilon_B, \omega_S, \omega_B$  are the cross effects representing the thermodynamic couplings between heat and mass flows of species S and B, respectively.  $Da_i$  is the Damköhler number for component  $i$ , and measures the intrinsic rates of the reactions relative to that of the diffusions.

Eqs. (42)–(45) reduce to the following stationary equations with thermodynamically coupled heat and mass flows

$$\varepsilon_S \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial z^2} + \frac{\partial^2 \theta_S}{\partial z^2} + \varphi_S \frac{\partial^2 \theta_B}{\partial z^2} - Da_S \theta_S \exp \left[ \gamma \left( 1 - \frac{1}{\phi} \right) \right] = 0 \tag{46}$$

**Table 1**

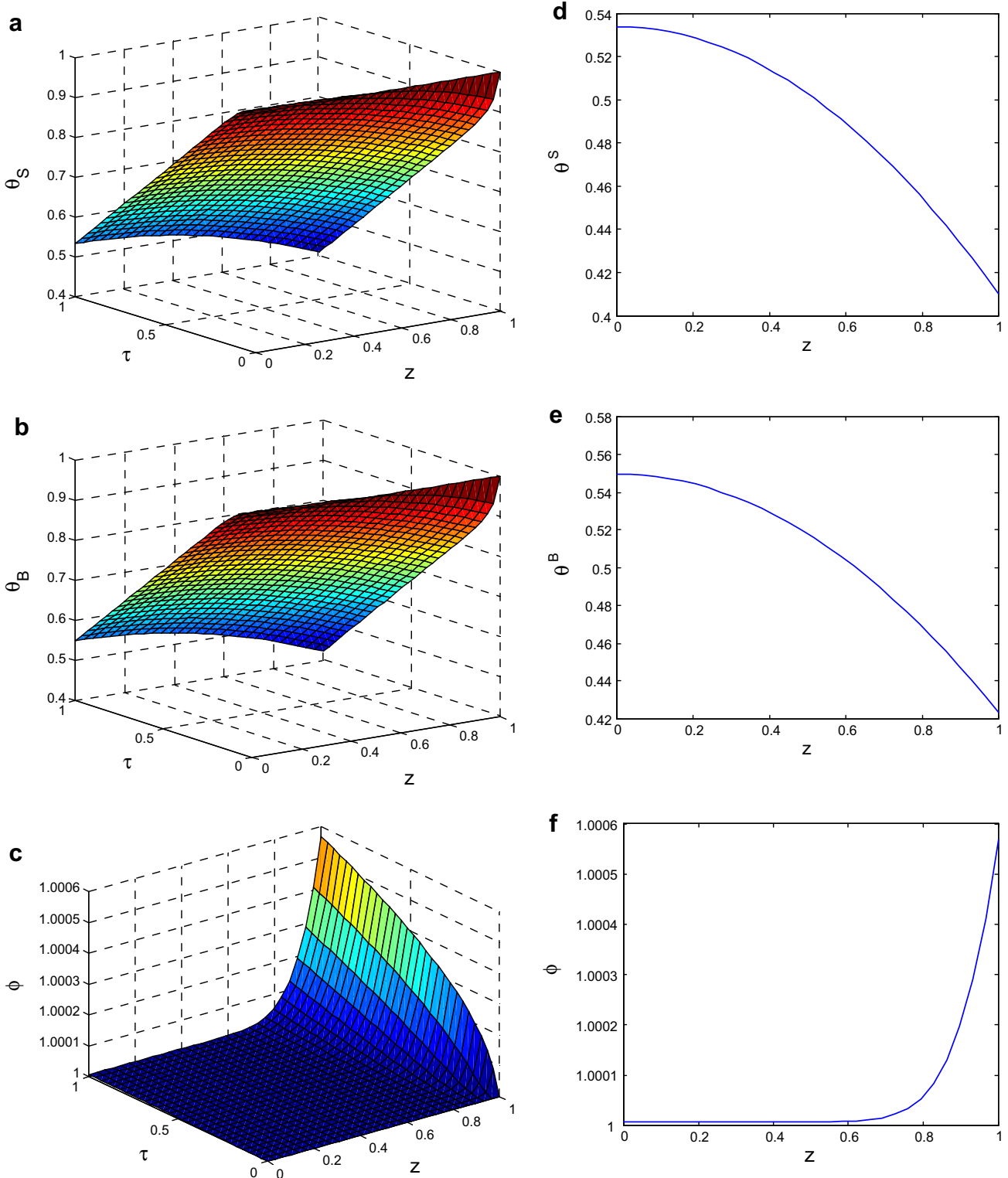
Some transport, kinetic, surface, and external resistance parameters for the reaction-diffusion system with heat effects [4,5,17].

Parameters	Parameters used in Fig. 1	Parameters used in Fig. 2	Lower bound of parameters [17]	Upper bound of parameters [17]
$\beta = (-\Delta H_r) D_S \rho_{Ss} / (k T_s)$	0.1	0.1	0 (exothermic)	1
$\gamma = E / (RT_s)$	10	10	0	60
$Le = k_e / (\rho C_p D_S)$	0.01	0.01	0.001	100
$Sh = k_g L / D_S$	5	5	0.1	5000
$Nu = h_f L / k$	0.25	0.25	0.01	50
$Sh / Nu$	20	20	1	2000
$Da_S = L^2 k_0 \exp(E / (RT_s)) / D_S$	0.01	0.01	0.005	100
$\varepsilon_S = \frac{D_{TS} T_s}{D_S \rho_{Ss}}$	0.0001	0.01		
$\varepsilon_B = \frac{D_{TB} T_s}{D_S \rho_{Ss}}$	0.0001	0.01		
$\varphi_S = D_{SB} / D_S$	1	1		
$\varphi_B = D_{BS} / D_S$	1	1		
$\delta = D_B / D_S$	1	1		
$\omega_S = \frac{D_{DS} \rho_{Ss}}{k T_s}$	0.0001	0.01		
$\omega_B = \frac{D_{DB} \rho_{Ss}}{k T_s}$	0.0001	0.01		
$\theta_{Sb} = \rho_{Sb} / \rho_{Ss}$	1.1	1.1		
$\theta_{Bb} = \rho_{Bb} / \rho_{Ss} = \theta_{Bb}$	1.1	1.1		
$\phi_b = T_b / T_s$	0.98	0.98		

$$\varepsilon_B \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial z^2} + \varphi_B \frac{\partial^2 \theta_S}{\partial z^2} + \delta \frac{\partial^2 \theta_B}{\partial z^2} - Da_S \theta_B \exp \left[ \gamma \left( 1 - \frac{1}{\phi} \right) \right] = 0 \quad (47)$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial z^2} + \omega_S \frac{\partial^2 \theta_S}{\partial z^2} + \omega_B \frac{\partial^2 \theta_B}{\partial z^2} + Da_S \beta \theta_S \exp \left[ \gamma \left( 1 - \frac{1}{\phi} \right) \right] = 0 \quad (48)$$

The MATLAB is used to solve the thermodynamically and mathematically coupled systems of Eqs. (42)–(45) by using the parameters listed in Table 1, which also lists lower and upper bounds for some of the parameters [17]. The chemical reaction is slow, as  $Da_S = 0.01$ . Figs. 1 and 2 display the dynamic behavior of the mass



**Fig. 1.** Dimensionless compositions and temperatures in time and space with  $\varepsilon_S = \varepsilon_B = 0.0001$ ,  $\omega_S = \omega_B = 0.0001$  and the parameters listed in Table 1: (a) behavior of component S, (b) behavior of component B, (c) behavior of temperature, (d) behavior of component S at  $\tau = 1$ , (e) behavior of component B at  $\tau = 1$ , (f) behavior of temperature at  $\tau = 1$ .

concentration and temperature surfaces at two different set of cross coefficients  $\varepsilon_S = \varepsilon_B = 0.0001$  and  $\varepsilon_S = \varepsilon_B = 0.01$ , and  $\omega_S = \omega_B = 0.0001$  and  $\omega_S = \omega_B = 0.01$  while keeping all the other parameters the same as listed in Table 1. Therefore, Figs. 1 and 2 display the effects of thermodynamic couplings between heat and mass flows, and compares such effects at two levels of cross coefficients of  $\varepsilon$  and  $\omega$ . Here, for the purpose of comparison, it was assumed that  $\varepsilon_S = \varepsilon_B = \omega_S = \omega_B$  at the upper and lower limits

as well as  $D_S = D_B$ ; obviously the cross coefficients  $\varepsilon$  and  $\omega$  as well as the diffusion coefficients as  $D_S$  and  $D_B$  may be different. Figs. 1d–f and 2d–f display the mass concentrations and temperatures at the end point where the dimensionless time  $\tau = 1$ .

The surfaces of temperatures and mass concentrations depend on the values of coefficients representing the thermodynamic couplings and the assigned values of other parameters. As Figs. 1c and 2c show, for the higher values of cross coefficients of  $\varepsilon$ , and  $\omega$ , the

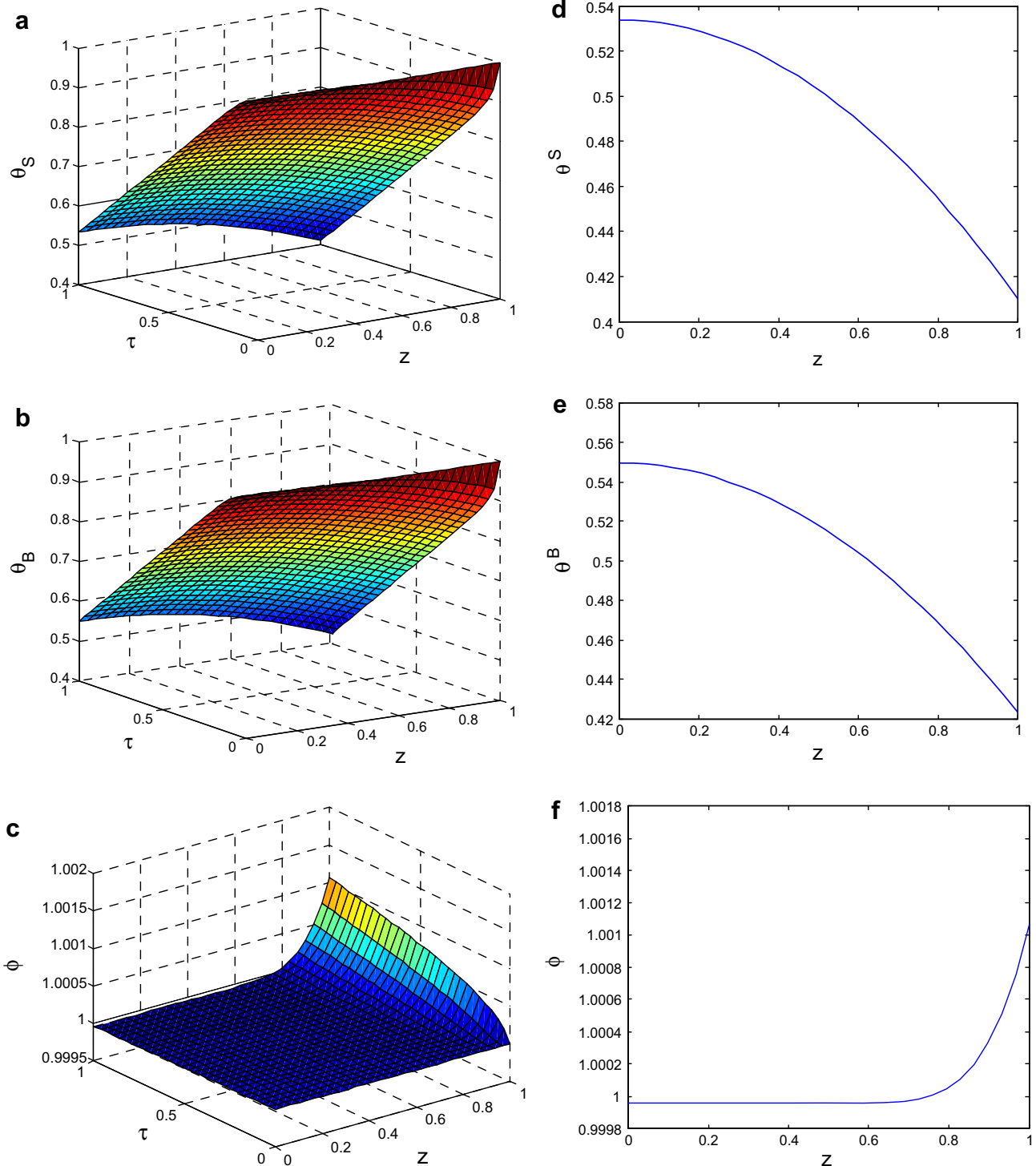


Fig. 2. Dimensionless compositions and temperatures in time and space with  $\varepsilon_S = \varepsilon_B = 0.01$ ,  $\omega_S = \omega_B = 0.01$  and the parameters listed in Table 1: (a) behavior of component S, (b) behavior of component B, (c) behavior of temperature, (d) behavior of component S at  $\tau = 1$ , (e) behavior of component B at  $\tau = 1$ , (f) behavior of temperature at  $\tau = 1$ .

value of  $\phi$  increases slightly (from 1.0006 approximately to 1.0011) and the nonequilibrium region (nonisothermal) shrinks slightly at  $\tau = 1$ . The changes in the mass concentrations are marginal with the changes of the cross coefficients and with the assigned values for parameters and coefficients. Due to the thermodynamic couplings hence the cross effects, there are excessive numbers of parameters controlling the behavior of temperatures and concentrations. Therefore, the results very much depend upon the magnitude and accuracy of the various parameters and coefficients used for internal and external parts of the system. The representative solutions are obtained based on several assumptions, such as equal diffusivities and surface concentrations for the components S and B. Therefore, the results are representative and approximate, and based on the values of parameters listed in Table 1.

## 6. Conclusions

The balance equations are derived for thermodynamically and mathematically coupled heat and mass flows in a chemical reaction-transport system with external resistances to heat and mass flows. There are no thermodynamic couplings between chemical reaction and transport processes of heat and mass flows. These modeling equations are based on the linear nonequilibrium thermodynamics approach assuming that the system is in the vicinity of global equilibrium. They are capable of displaying the cross effects due to thermodynamic couplings on the mass compositions and temperatures as well as the effects of external resistances in time and space. The modeling equations have revealed some unique cross coefficients, which control thermodynamic couplings between the vectorial processes of heat and mass flows. These coefficients combine some measurable kinetic parameters, transport coefficients, and boundary values. Determinations of these coefficients may lead to a better understanding of the effects of thermodynamic couplings in reaction-transport phenomena.

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