

A numerical solution on pore diffusion equation with a volume of limited bath boundary condition using the finite difference method

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ABSTRACT

Numerical approaches have long been used to examine material behaviors that are governed by diffusion. The surface water and groundwater become polluted with regard to time. The pollutants travel from place to place in extended time intervals interacting with the solid soil particles. The diffusion of solute with solid soil particles idealized as spheres are studied in this dissertation. The objective was to numerically simulate diffusion through a sphere. A steady-state finite difference method was used to study the diffusion in a sphere. It was assumed that a bulk liquid solution interacts with solid spheres through a diffusion limited process which is equivalent to a volume of limited bath boundary condition. A sphere of radius 0.07 cm is placed in the beaker containing the solution. The radius of the sphere is divided into 15 nodes each of radius 0.005 cm. Initially, the sphere is free from the solute. As time progresses the diffusion in the sphere takes place. The solute from outside the sphere gets infused in the sphere. By using a numerical technique, the concentration at different nodes at different time intervals is studied. The process is carried out for two different solutions with different concentration values.

Key words: finite difference method, numerical techniques, pour diffusion

HIGHLIGHTS

- The goal of this research is to numerically simulate diffusion through a sphere.
- By using a numerical technique, the concentration at different nodes at different time intervals is studied.

INTRODUCTION

Diffusion is one of the transport phenomena that occurs in nature. A unique feature of diffusion is that without requiring any bulk motion it results in mixing or mass transport. So the word diffusion should not be confused with the other similar words 'convection' and 'advection', which are the other two types of transport processes that use the method of bulk motion to transfer particles from one position to another new position (Anguelov *et al.* 2005; Hannaoui *et al.* 2013; Rao *et al.* 2022). In the Latin language, the word 'diffundere' means 'to spread out'. Diffusion can be explained in two different ways: 1. A phenomenological methodology by applying Fick's laws of diffusion and its calculational part. 2. An atomistic point, which explains the random walk of the particles (Bonilla & Bhatia 2011; Hayat *et al.* 2022).

The phenomenological methodology deals with Fick's laws and their applications; in this case, the diffusive flux is directly proportional to the negative gradient of the concentration. Particles move from a higher concentration region to a lower concentration region. Later, numerous generalizations for the study of Fick's laws were introduced in the fields of thermodynamics (Schumaker & Kentler 1998).

In the atomistic point, the random motion or the random walk of diffusive particles is considered diffusion. Whereas in case of molecular diffusion, the movement of all the particles is self-propelled with current energy. 'Random walk of small particles with suspension in a fluid was discovered in 1827 by Robert Brown' (Alvarez-Ramirez & Valdes-Parada 2009; Basha *et al.* 2022; Bilal *et al.* 2022). Diffusion plays a main role in water resource engineering and environmental engineering. The contending process consists of diffusion through natural organic matter and diffusion through intraparticle nanopores (Prakash *et al.* 2010).

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The main objective is to study the behavior of diffusion of solutions of different concentrations taking place in a sphere of radii 0.07 cm with respect to time at different radii of the sphere. This helps to know how the sphere gets saturated and the time it takes for the concentration to reach its centre. (i) Development of code on C++ programming to obtain results of diffusion in the sphere. (ii) Results to be plotted on graphs with respect to time.

PROBLEM DEFINITION

Pore diffusion equation

In the case of radial diffusion for constant diffusion coefficient, the diffusion equation takes the form:

$$\frac{\partial C}{\partial t} = D \left(\frac{\partial^2 C}{\partial r^2} + \frac{2}{r} \frac{\partial C}{\partial r} \right) \quad (1)$$

Substituting $u = Cr$,
Equation (1) becomes,

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = D \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial r^2} \quad (2)$$

Since this is the equation for one-dimensional linear flow, the explanations of many complications regarding radial flow in a sphere can be solved from those of the analogous linear problems.

Diffusion from a well stirred solution of limited volume

The problem and method of solution are very similar to those of the plane paper and the results can be obtained without explanation. Let us take a sphere occupying the space $r < a$, whereas the volume of the limited bath of solution (other than the space taken by a sphere) is V . The concentration of solute in the solution is always uniform and its initial value is. Firstly, the sphere doesn't contain any solute (Kucherenko *et al.* 2000; Sousa 2009). The overall amount of solute in the sphere after time t is given as a fraction of the consistent quantity after infinite time by the following relation (Weber *et al.* 1991; Ley *et al.* 2006; Li & Huang 2010; Yong *et al.* 2014; Zhang & Zhang 2014).

$$\frac{M_t}{M_\infty} = 1 - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{6\alpha(\alpha+1) \exp(-Dq_n^2 t/a^2)}{9+9\alpha+q_n^2 \alpha^2} \quad (3)$$

where the q_n s are the non-zero roots of

$$\tan q_n = \frac{3q_n}{3 + \alpha q_n^2} \quad (4)$$

Also, $\alpha = 3V/(4\pi a^3)$ the ratio of the volumes of solution and sphere, or if there is a partition factor K between the solute in equilibrium in the sphere and the solution, $\alpha = 3V/(4\pi a^3 K)$. The parameter α is expressed in terms of the final fractional uptake of solute by the sphere by the relation.

$$\frac{M_\infty}{VC_o} = \frac{1}{1 + \alpha}$$

Reasons for development of numerical solutions

A large number of mathematical solutions have developed throughout the theoretical solution process, with the majority of the answers taking the form of infinite series. Their application to actual concerns might provide complications.

First, the numerical assessment of the solutions is seldom easy.

Second, the analytical approaches and solutions are mostly limited to simple geometries and constant diffusion parameters such as the diffusion coefficient.

In other words, they are only applicable to linear versions of the boundary conditions and diffusion equations. This may be a significant constraint in polymer systems because the diffusion coefficient is often concentration dependent.

Numerical analysis approaches enable the solution of mathematical problems that are more closely related to real-world situations.

Experimental data

Data inputs

It includes all the data used in the study of diffusion in a sphere with respect to time. By using this data the calculations have been carried out which are necessary to find the concentration of contaminant diffused in the sphere at different radii with respect to time interval.

The following are the parameters of spherical particles for simulation for one-dimensional ADRE with pore diffusion.

1. Radius: (i) 0.07 cm
2. Concentration: (i) 70 and (ii) 14,000
3. Intraparticle porosity, $n_{pk} = 0.3$
4. Effective diffusion coefficient, $D_{ak} = 1.11e^{-06} \text{ m}^2/\text{day}$ for TCE
 $D_{ak} = 0.148e^{-06} \text{ cm}^2/\text{s}$ for TCE
5. Volume of bulk, $V_{\text{bulk}} = 0.3 \text{ cm}^3$
6. Volume of solids = 1 cm^3
7. Total volume, $V_T = 1 - n$
 $V_T = 1 - 0.3 = 0.7 \text{ cm}^3$
8. Volume of one particle, $V_1 = \frac{4\pi r^3}{3}$
9. No. of particle per unit, $Np = \frac{V_T}{V_1}$ ($Np = 487$ when $r = 0.07 \text{ cm}$)

Mathematical formulation

Initial numerical formulation

The diffusion equation for a single particle with radius r is given in the following (McGill & Schumaker 1996; Shahraeeni & Hoorfar 2013).

$$\frac{\partial C}{\partial t} = D \left(\frac{\partial^2 C}{\partial r^2} + \frac{2}{r} \frac{\partial C}{\partial r} \right)$$

Alternatively,

$$\frac{\partial C}{\partial t} = \frac{D}{r^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left(r^2 \frac{\partial C}{\partial r} \right)$$

Discretization for the individual particle is:

$$D_a \frac{\partial^2 C}{\partial r^2} = D_a \frac{C_{i+1}^t - 2C_i^t + C_{i-1}^t}{\Delta r^2}$$

By applying boundary conditions

$$\frac{C_i^{t+\Delta t} - C_i^t}{\Delta t} = D \left(\frac{C_{i+1}^t - 2C_i^t + C_{i-1}^t}{\Delta r^2} + \frac{2}{r} \frac{C_{i+1}^t - C_{i-1}^t}{2\Delta r} \right)$$

$$C_i^{t+\Delta t} = \left[D_a \left(\frac{1}{(\Delta r)^2} + \frac{1}{r_i(\Delta r)} \right) C_{i+1}^t \right] - \left[D_a \left(\frac{2}{(\Delta r)^2} \right) - 1 \right] C_i^t + D_a \left[\frac{1}{(\Delta r)^2} - \frac{1}{r_i(\Delta r)} \right] C_{i-1}^t$$

METHODOLOGY

Finite difference method

Differential equations contain a large number of equations and it is very difficult to solve all these equations. It includes more steps and it is a laborious work to solve without error. Solving manually may lead to a large number of errors in bulk.

To solve differential equations manually or numerically is a lengthy process. So the derivative steps in the equations should be substituted with finite difference estimates. This gives us a series of equations that can be easily solved at a time by using explicit methods or can be solved concurrently by using implicit methods to get values of the dependent function y_i equivalent to values of the independent function x_i in the domain.

A type of mathematical expression, similar to partial differential equation, is estimated by analogous expressions, which suggest values at only a finite number of discrete points (Niedermeier & Loehr 2005; Johannesson 2009; Slavík & Stehlík 2014). Analytical solution is continuous and numerical solution is discrete. The basic philosophy of finite difference methods is to replace derivatives with algebraic difference quotients, resulting in a system of algebraic equations which can then be solved. So for the purpose of studying finite difference equations, we must define a way how we are going to discretize our domain of calculation.

The boundary conditions

Basically there exist three types of boundary conditions for the simplification of partial differential equations:

1. Dirichlet boundary condition: It gives the surface value of the function $T = f(r, t)$.
2. Neumann boundary condition: It gives the normal derivative value of a function on the surface like,

$$\frac{\partial T}{\partial n} = f(r, t)$$

3. Robin boundary condition: In a region Ω to obtain the value of elliptical partial differential equation, this condition stipulates the summation of α, u and the normal derivative value of $u = f$ at all the points of the boundary of the region Ω , with α and f actually given.

In order to solve the diffusion equation we need some initial condition and boundary conditions. The initial condition gives the concentration in the limited bath at $t = 0$. Physically this means that we need to know the concentration distribution in the sphere immersed in a limited bath at a moment to be able to predict the future distribution.

DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

A sphere of radius 0.07 cm is taken in a beaker containing contaminant water of limited volume with its concentration. Slowly the contaminant gets diffused inside the sphere. The sphere is divided into 15 nodes, each of radii 0.005 cm. The diffusion of contaminant takes place with respect to time. The value of contaminant at different radii at different time intervals is found by applying numerical technique.

The experiment is carried out for two different samples with their concentration, $C = 70$ and $C = 14,000$. The experiment is carried out for different concentration values to know how the values of diffusion vary at different time intervals whereas all the other parameters remain constant. The diffusion in the sphere takes place as the concentration of contaminant water is higher than the concentration in the sphere. With an increase in time, the diffusion of contaminant is carried out. The graphs are drawn with respect to results obtained for different time intervals. The graphs show the values of concentration at different radii at time t . The values of concentration are plotted on the Y-axis and the values of radii are plotted on X-axis at time t .

Results when $R = 0.07$ cm, $C = 70$

Figure 1 shows the value of concentration as 70 at radii 0.07 cm the diffusion is yet to take place. Here, the concentration on the outer periphery of the sphere is the same as that of contaminant water.

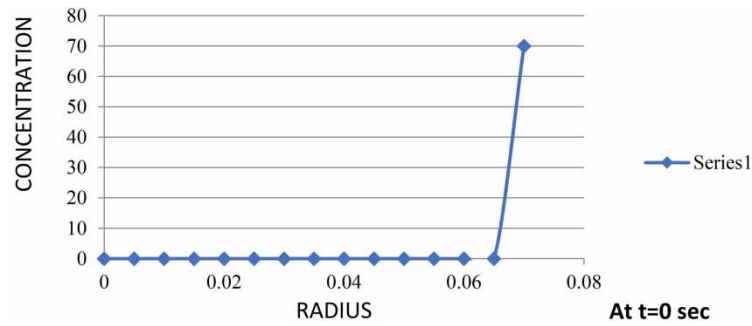


Figure 1 | The value of concentration result when $R = 0.07$ cm, $C = 70$ at $t = 0$ s.

Figure 2 shows the concentration values at different radii as the diffusion has been carried for time $t = 3,000$ s. The value of concentration at node 15 has decreased to 68.85, C at different nodes can be seen in Figure 2.

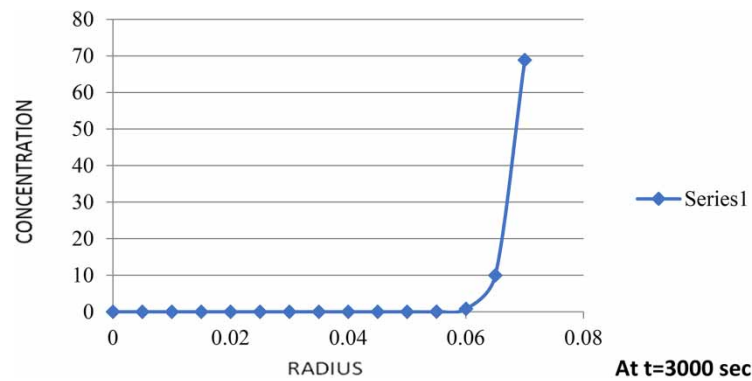


Figure 2 | The value of concentration result when $R = 0.07$ cm, $C = 70$ at $t = 3,000$ s.

Figure 3 shows the concentration values at different radii as the diffusion has been carried for time $t = 3,600$ s. The value of concentration at node 15 has decreased to 68.61, C at different nodes can be seen in Figure 3.

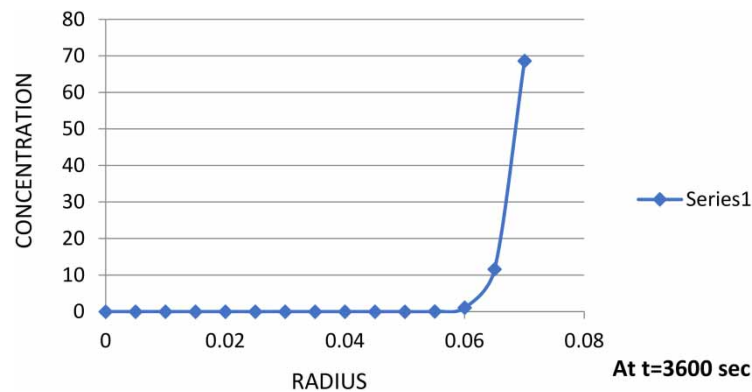


Figure 3 | The value of concentration result when $R = 0.07$ cm, $C = 70$ at $t = 3,600$ s.

Figure 4 shows the concentration values at different radii as the diffusion has been carried for time $t = 6,000$ s. The value of concentration at node 15 has decreased to 67.60, C at different nodes can be seen in Figure 4.

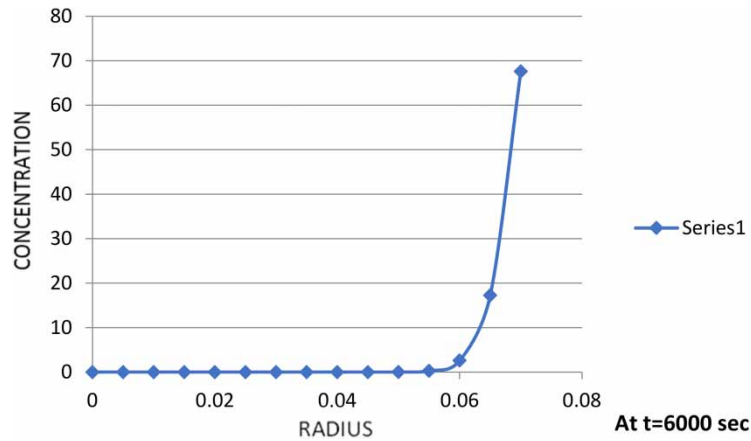


Figure 4 | The value of concentration result when $R = 0.07$ cm, $C = 70$ at $t = 6,000$ s.

Figure 5 shows the concentration values at different radii as the diffusion has been carried for time $t = 15,000$ s. The value of concentration at node 15 has decreased to 63.49, C at different nodes can be seen in Figure 5.

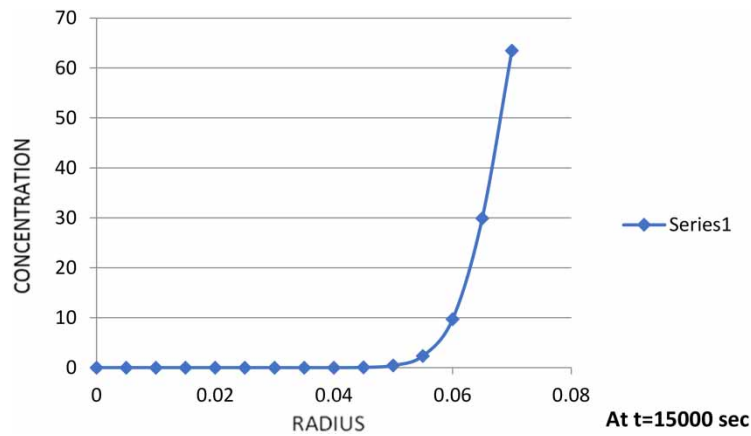


Figure 5 | The value of concentration result when $R = 0.07$ cm, $C = 70$ at $t = 15,000$ s.

Figure 6 shows the concentration values at different radii as the diffusion has been carried for time $t = 18,000$ s. The value of concentration at node 15 has decreased to 62.06, C at different nodes can be seen in Figure 6.

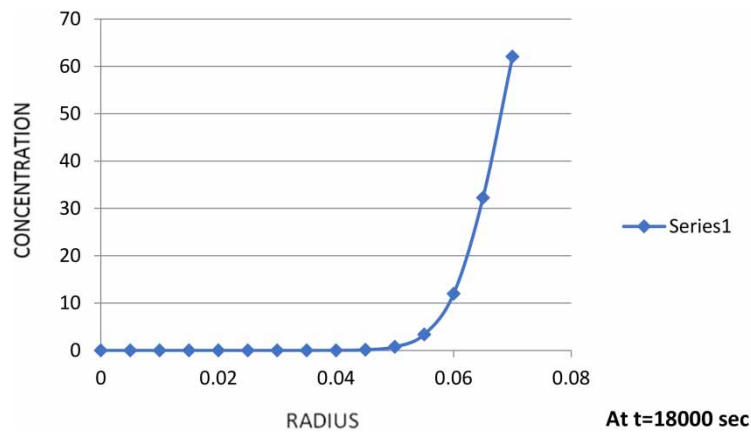


Figure 6 | The value of concentration result when $R = 0.07$ cm, $C = 70$ at $t = 18,000$ s.

Figure 7 shows the concentration values at different radii as the diffusion has been carried for time $t = 27,000$ s. The value of concentration at node 15 has decreased to 57.77, C at different nodes can be seen in Figure 7.

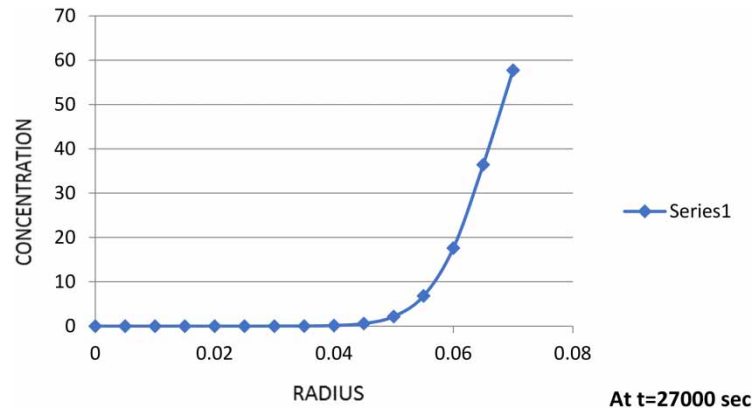


Figure 7 | The value of concentration result when $R = 0.07$ cm, $C = 70$ at $t = 27,000$ s.

Figure 8 shows the concentration values at different radii as the diffusion has been carried for time $t = 36,000$ s. The value of concentration at node 15 has decreased to 53.55, C at different nodes can be seen in Figure 8.

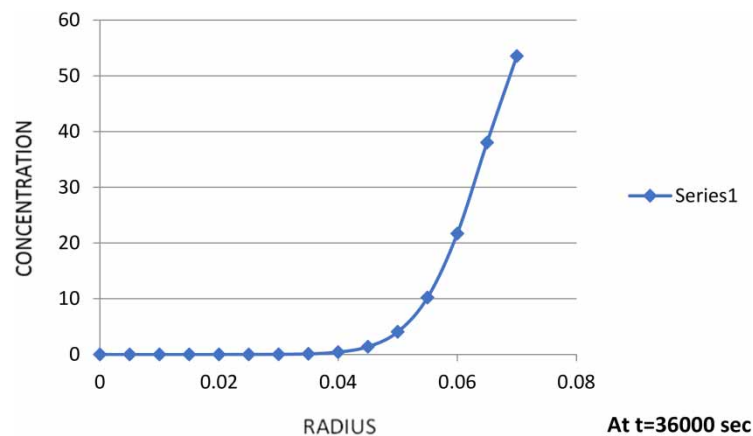


Figure 8 | The value of concentration result when $R = 0.07$ cm, $C = 70$ at $t = 36,000$ s.

Figure 9 shows the concentration values at different radii as the diffusion has been carried for time $t = 39,000$ s. The value of concentration at node 15 has decreased to 52.18, C at different nodes can be seen in Figure 9.

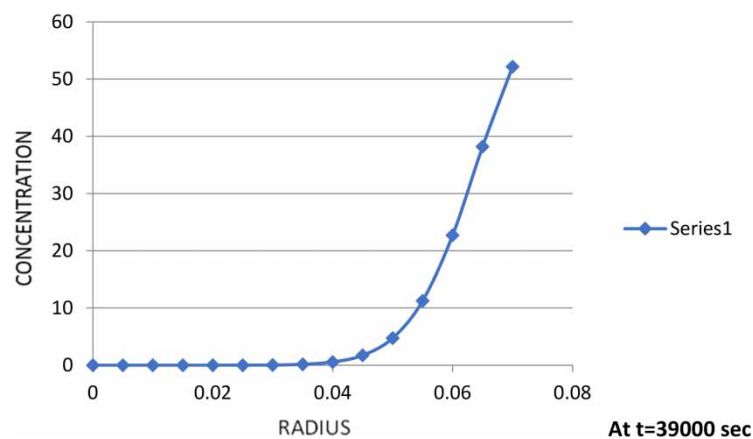


Figure 9 | The value of concentration result when $R = 0.07$ cm, $C = 70$ at $t = 39,000$ s.

Figure 10 shows the concentration values at different radii as the diffusion has been carried for time $t = 45,000$ s. The value of concentration at node 15 has decreased to 49.49, C at different nodes can be seen in Figure 10.

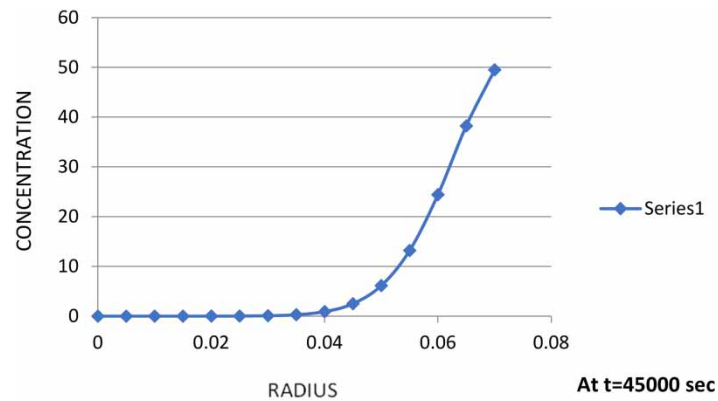


Figure 10 | The value of concentration result when $R = 0.07$ cm, $C = 70$ at $t = 45,000$ s.

Figure 11 shows the concentration values at different radii as the diffusion has been carried for time $t = 51,000$ s. The value of concentration at node 15 has decreased to 46.89, C at different nodes can be seen in Figure 11.

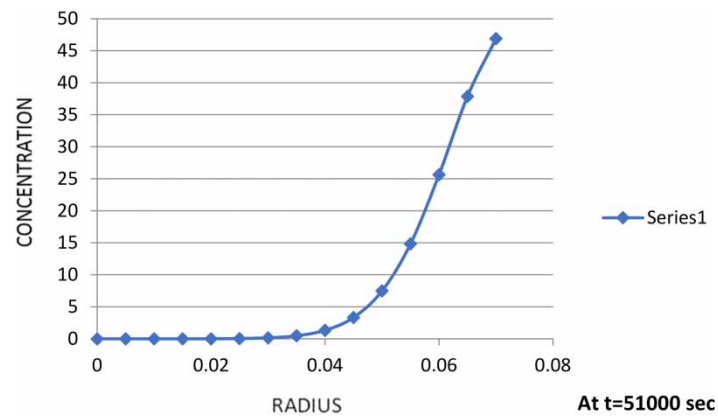


Figure 11 | The value of concentration result when $R = 0.07$ cm, $C = 70$ at $t = 51,000$ s.

Figure 12 shows the concentration values at different radii as the diffusion has been carried for time $t = 54,000$ s. The value of concentration at node 15 has decreased to 45.62, C at different nodes can be seen in Figure 12.

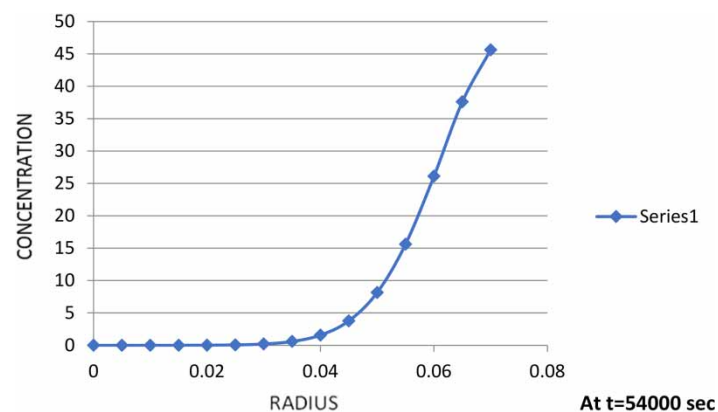


Figure 12 | The value of concentration result when $R = 0.07$ cm, $C = 70$ at $t = 54,000$ s.

Figure 13 shows the concentration values at different radii as the diffusion has been carried for time $t = 63,000$ s. The value of concentration at node 15 has decreased to 41.97, C at different nodes can be seen in Figure 13.

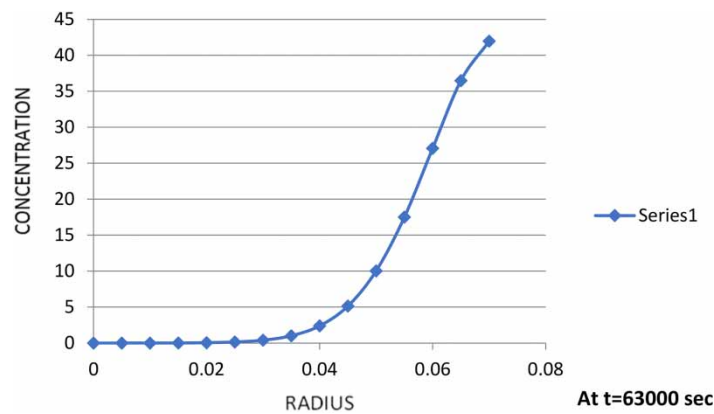


Figure 13 | The value of concentration result when $R = 0.07$ cm, $C = 70$ at $t = 63,000$ s.

Figure 14 shows the concentration values at different radii as the diffusion has been carried for time $t = 66,000$ s. The value of concentration at node 15 has decreased to 40.80, C at different nodes can be seen in Figure 14.

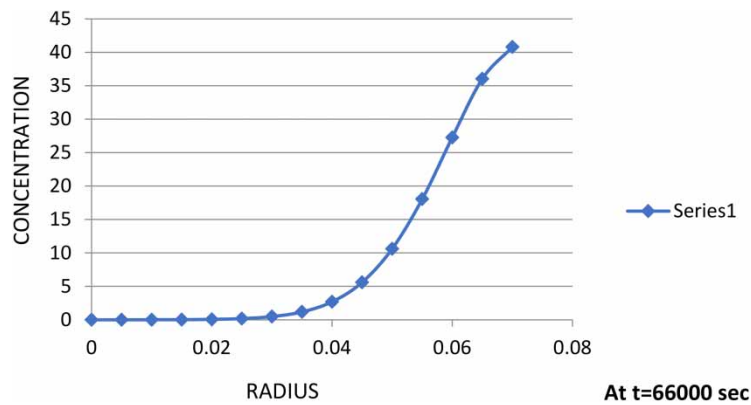


Figure 14 | The value of concentration result when $R = 0.07$ cm, $C = 70$ at $t = 66,000$ s.

Results when $R = 0.07$ cm and $C = 14,000$

Figure 15 shows the value of concentration as 14,000 at radii 0.07 cm and the diffusion is yet to take place. Here, the concentration on the outer periphery of the sphere is the same as that of contaminant water.

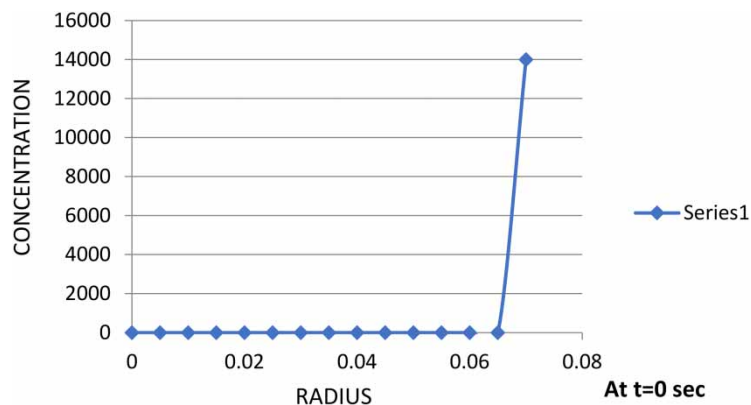


Figure 15 | The value of concentration result when $R = 0.07$ cm, $C = 14,000$ at $t = 0$ s.

Figure 16 shows the concentration values at different radii as the diffusion has been carried for time $t = 3,000$ s. The value of concentration at node 15 has decreased to 13,770.69, C at different nodes can be seen in Figure 16.

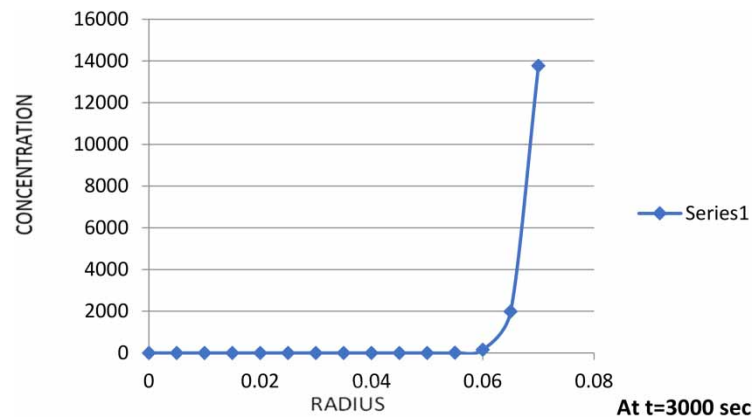


Figure 16 | The value of concentration result when $R = 0.07$ cm, $C = 14,000$ at $t = 3,000$ s.

Figure 17 shows the concentration values at different radii as the diffusion has been carried for time $t = 3,600$ s. The value of concentration at node 15 has decreased to 13,722.04, C at different nodes can be seen in Figure 17.

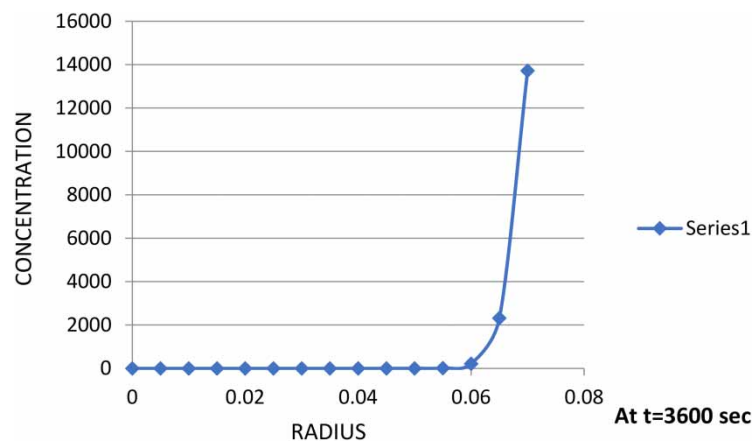


Figure 17 | The value of concentration result when $R = 0.07$ cm, $C = 14,000$ at $t = 3,600$ s.

Figure 18 shows the concentration values at different radii as the diffusion has been carried for time $t = 6,000$ s. The value of concentration at node 15 has decreased to 13,520, C at different nodes can be seen in Figure 18.

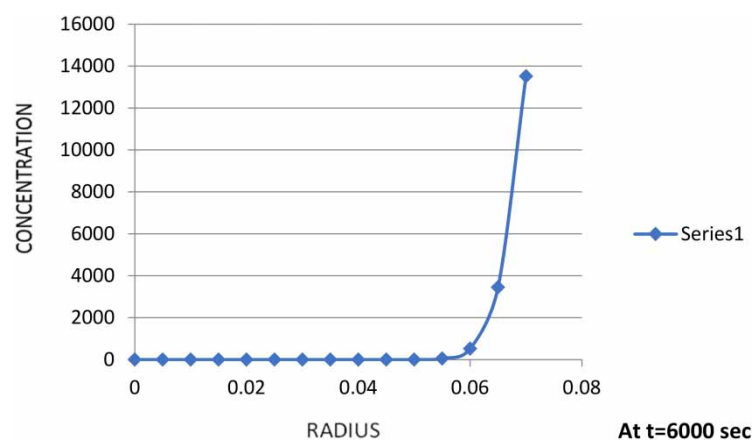


Figure 18 | The value of concentration result when $R = 0.07$ cm, $C = 14,000$ at $t = 6,000$ s.

Figure 19 shows the concentration values at different radii as the diffusion has been carried for time $t = 15,000$ s. The value of concentration at node 15 has decreased to 12,698.59, C at different nodes can be seen in Figure 19.

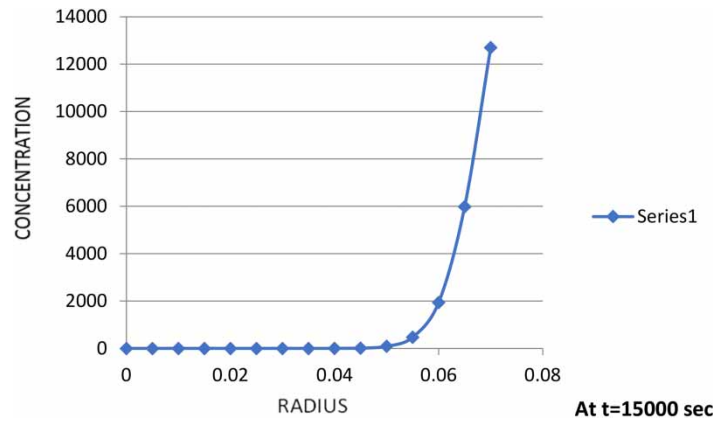


Figure 19 | The value of concentration result when $R = 0.07$ cm at $t = 15,000$ s.

Figure 20 shows the concentration values at different radii as the diffusion has been carried for time $t = 18,000$ s. The value of concentration at node 15 has decreased to 12,413.80, C at different nodes can be seen in Figure 20.

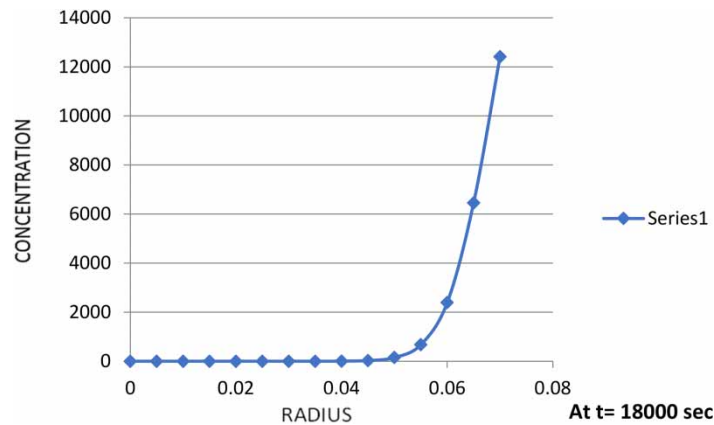


Figure 20 | The value of concentration result when $R = 0.07$ cm at $t = 18,000$ s.

Figure 21 shows the concentration values at different radii as the diffusion has been carried for time $t = 27,000$ s. The value of concentration at node 15 has decreased to 11,554.99, C at different nodes can be seen in Figure 21.

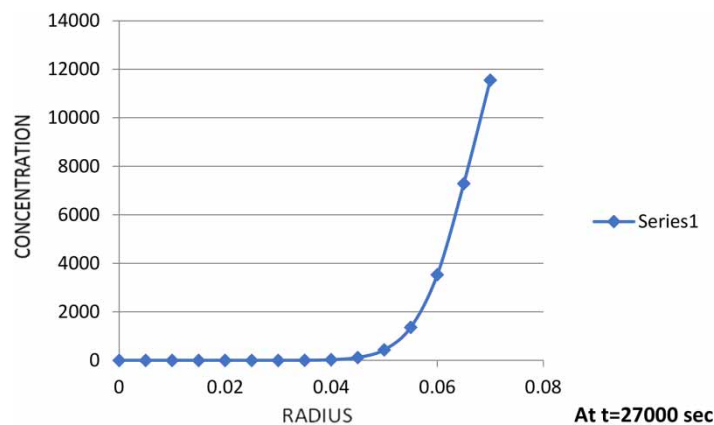


Figure 21 | The value of concentration result when $R = 0.07$ cm at $t = 27,000$ s.

Figure 22 shows the concentration values at different radii as the diffusion has been carried for time $t = 36,000$ s. The value of concentration at node 15 has decreased to 10,711.51, C at different nodes can be seen in Figure 22.

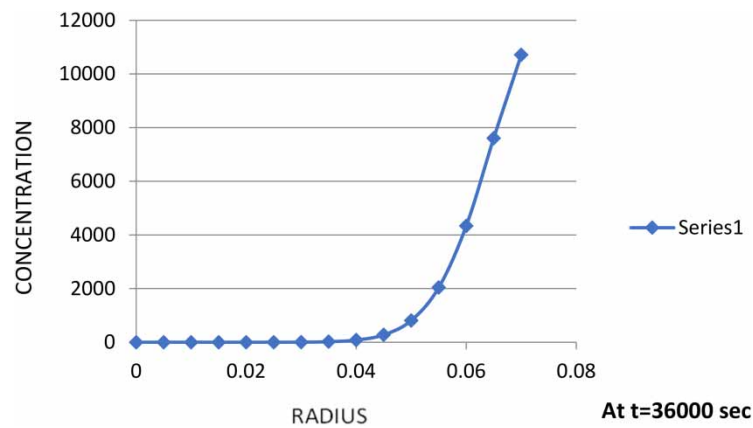


Figure 22 | The value of concentration result when $R = 0.07$ cm at $t = 36,000$ s.

Figure 23 shows the concentration values at different radii as the diffusion has been carried for time $t = 39,000$ s. The value of concentration at node 15 has decreased to 10,436.75, C at different nodes can be seen in Figure 23.

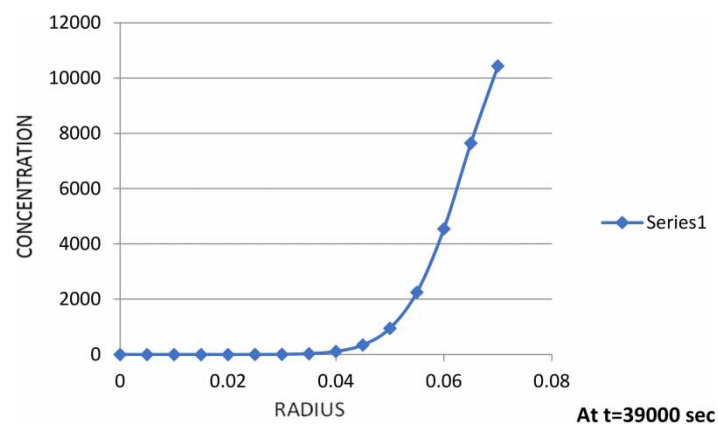


Figure 23 | The value of concentration result when $R = 0.07$ cm at $t = 39,000$ s.

Figure 24 shows the concentration values at different radii as the diffusion has been carried for time $t = 45,000$ s. The value of concentration at node 15 has decreased to 9,899.09, C at different nodes can be seen in Figure 24.

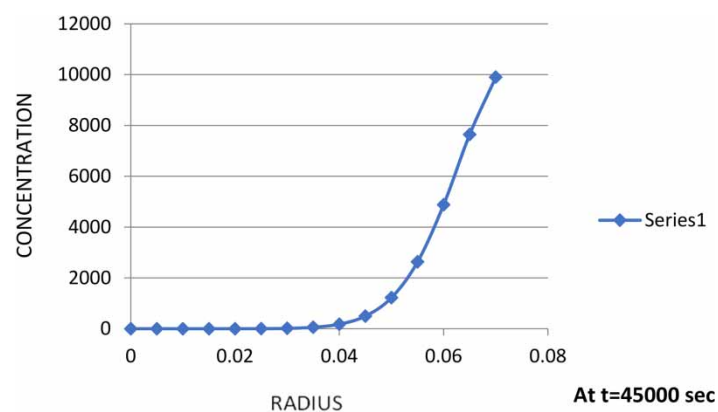


Figure 24 | The value of concentration result when $R = 0.07$ cm at $t = 45,000$ s.

Figure 25 shows the concentration values at different radii as the diffusion has been carried for time $t = 51,000$ s. The value of concentration at node 15 has decreased to 9,378.78, C at different nodes can be seen in Figure 25.

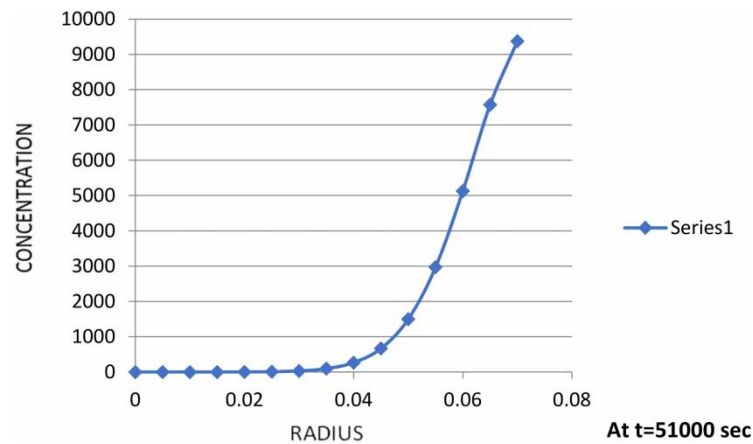


Figure 25 | The value of concentration result when $R = 0.07$ cm at $t = 51,000$ s.

Figure 26 shows the concentration values at different radii as the diffusion has been carried for time $t = 54,000$ s. The value of concentration at node 15 has decreased to 9,125.54, C at different nodes can be seen in Figure 26.

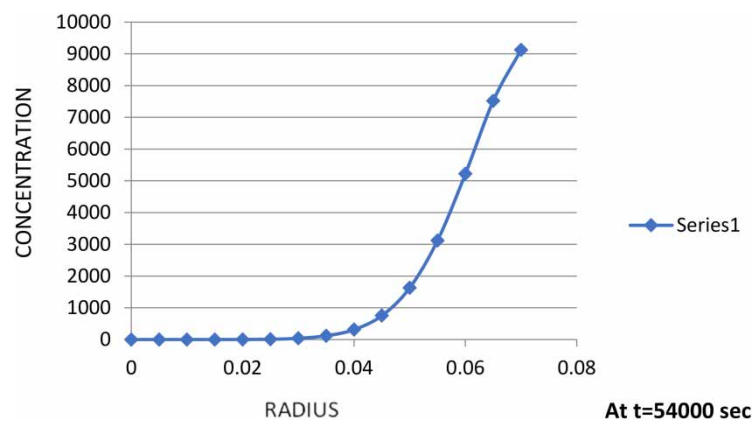


Figure 26 | The value of concentration result when $R = 0.07$ cm at $t = 54,000$ s.

Figure 27 shows the concentration values at different radii as the diffusion has been carried for time $t = 63,000$ s. The value of concentration at node 15 has decreased to 8,394.57, C at different nodes can be seen in Figure 27.

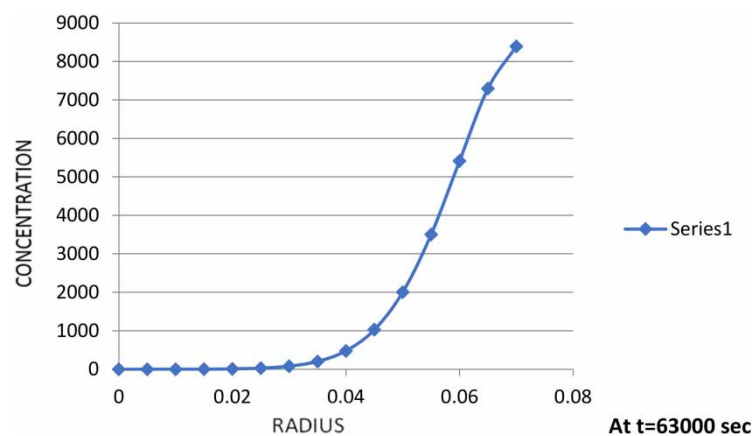


Figure 27 | The value of concentration result when $R = 0.07$ cm at $t = 63,000$ s.

Figure 28 shows the concentration values at different radii as the diffusion has been carried for time $t = 66,000$ s. The value of concentration at node 15 has decreased to 8,160.66, C at different nodes can be seen in Figure 28.

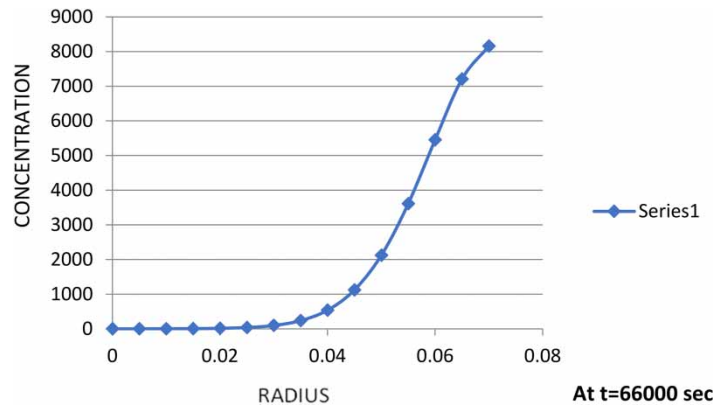


Figure 28 | The value of concentration result when $R = 0.07$ cm at $t = 66,000$ s.

Combined results when $R = 0.07$ cm and $C = 70$

Figure 29 shows the concentration values at different radii as the diffusion has been carried out for different time intervals. C at different nodes can be seen in Figure 29.

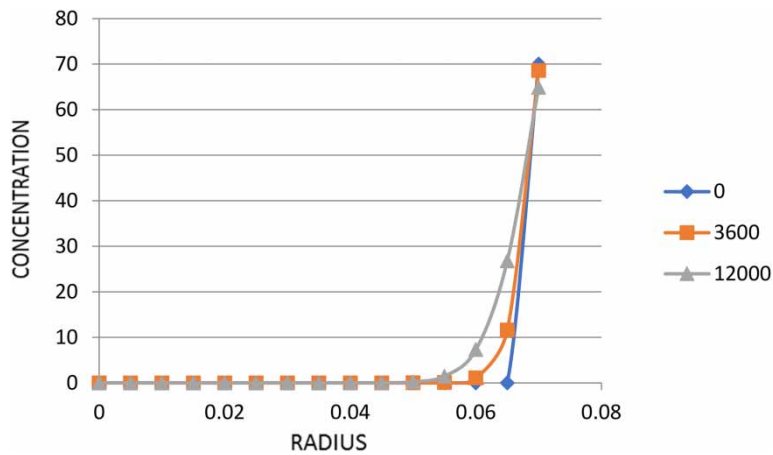


Figure 29 | The value of concentration result when $R = 0.07$ cm, $C = 70$ intervals.

Figure 30 shows the concentration values at different radii as the diffusion has been carried out for different time intervals. C at different nodes can be seen in Figure 30.

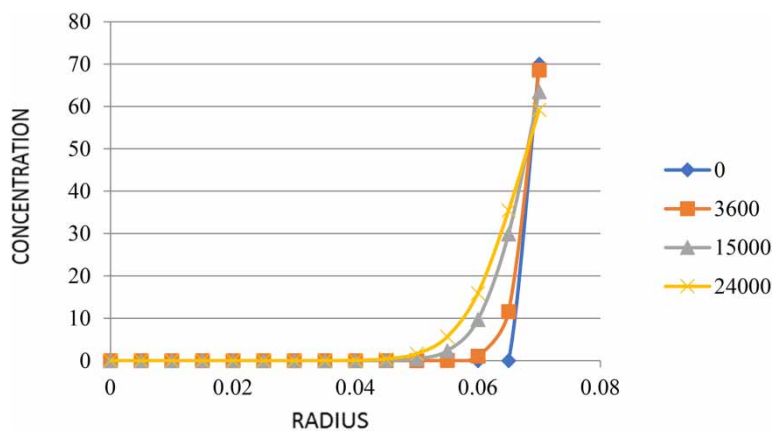


Figure 30 | The value of concentration result when $R = 0.07$ cm, $C = 70$ at different time intervals.

Figure 31 shows the concentration values at different radii as the diffusion has been carried out for different time intervals. The value of concentration at node 15 has decreased, C at different nodes can be seen in Figure 31.

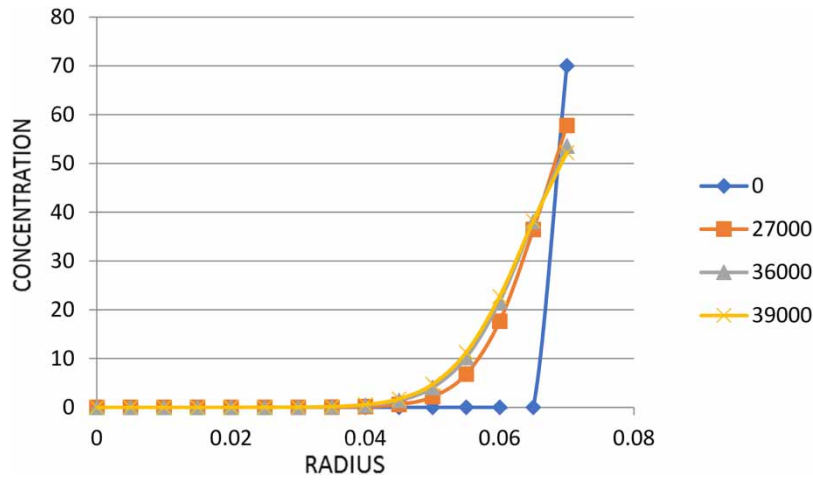


Figure 31 | The value of concentration result when $R = 0.07$ cm, $C = 70$ at different time intervals.

Figure 32 shows the concentration values at different radii as the diffusion has been carried out for different time intervals. The value of concentration at node 15 has decreased, C at different nodes can be seen in Figure 32.

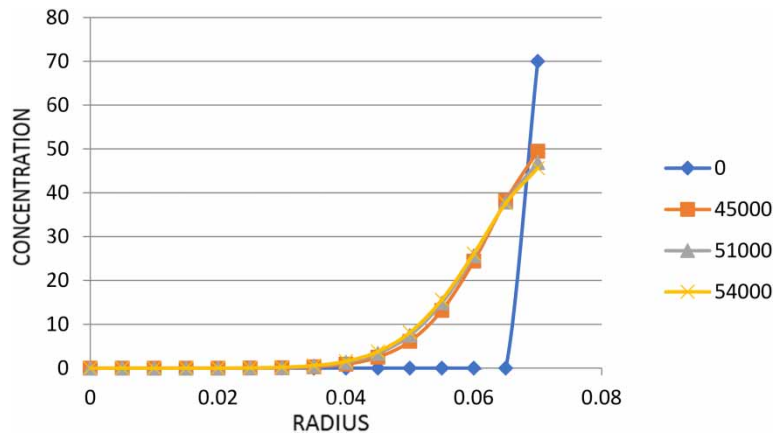


Figure 32 | The value of concentration result when $R = 0.07$ cm, $C = 70$ at different time intervals.

Figure 33 shows the concentration values at different radii as the diffusion has been carried out for different time intervals. The value of concentration at node 15 has decreased, C at different nodes can be seen in Figure 33.

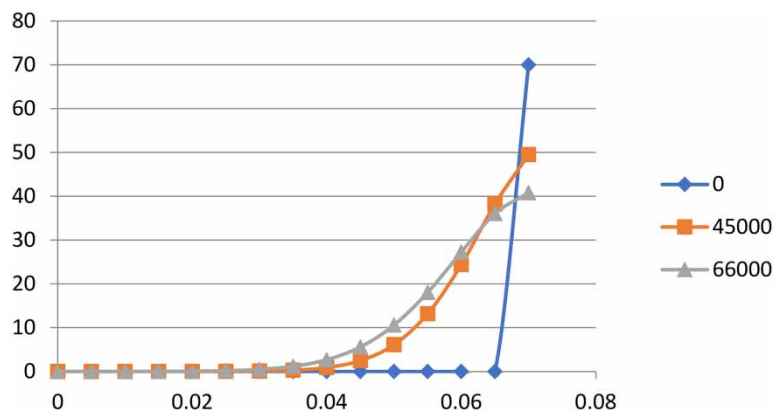


Figure 33 | The value of concentration result when $R = 0.07$ cm, $C = 70$ at different time intervals.

Figure 34 shows the concentration values at different radii as the diffusion has been carried out for different time intervals. The value of concentration at node 15 has decreased, C at different nodes can be seen in Figure 34.

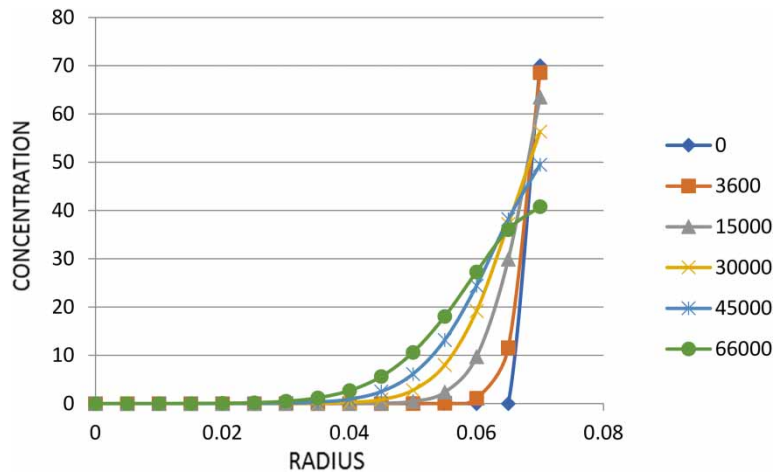


Figure 34 | The value of concentration result when $R = 0.07$ cm, $C = 70$ at different time intervals.

Combined results when $R = 0.07$ cm and $C = 14,000$

Figure 35 shows the concentration values at different radii as the diffusion has been carried out for different time intervals. The value of concentration at node 15 has decreased, C at different nodes can be seen in Figure 35.

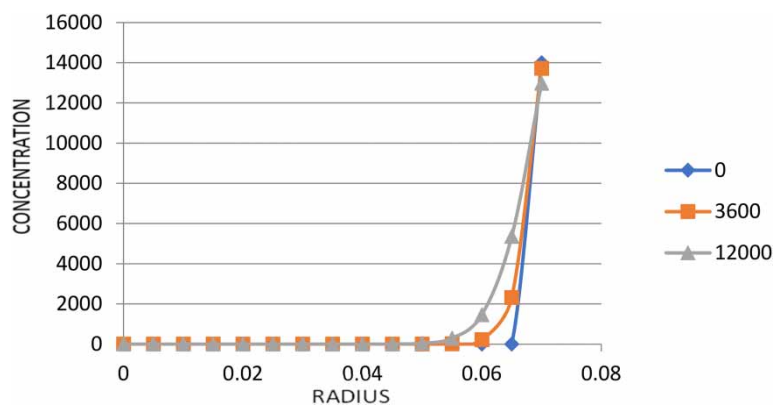


Figure 35 | The value of concentration result when $R = 0.07$ cm, $C = 14,000$ at different time intervals.

Figure 36 shows the concentration values at different radii as the diffusion has been carried out for different time intervals. The value of concentration at node 15 has decreased, C at different nodes can be seen in Figure 36.

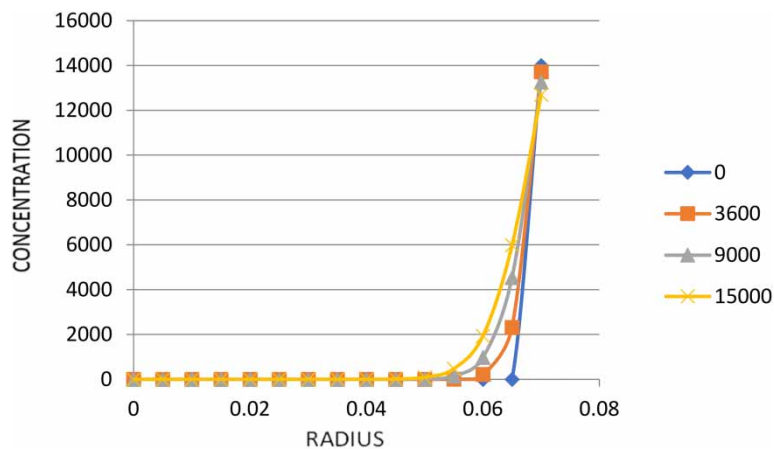


Figure 36 | The value of concentration result when $R = 0.07$ cm, $C = 14,000$ at different time intervals.

Figure 37 shows the concentration values at different radii as the diffusion has been carried out for different time intervals. The value of concentration at node 15 has decreased, C at different nodes can be seen in Figure 37.

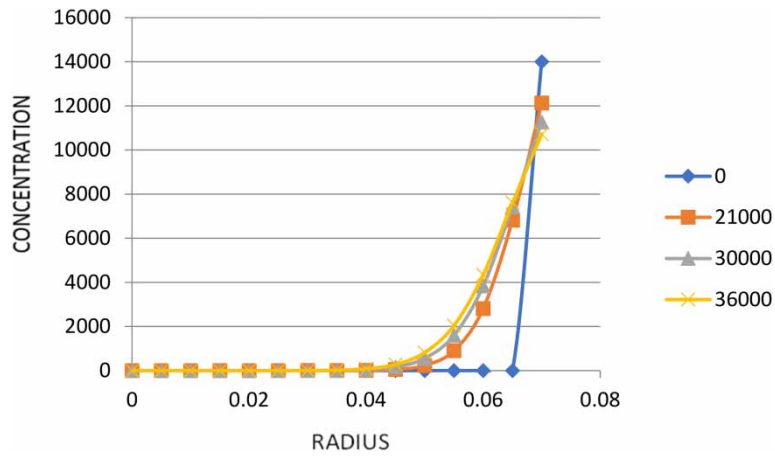


Figure 37 | The value of concentration result when $R = 0.07$ cm at different time intervals.

Figure 38 shows the concentration values at different radii as the diffusion has been carried out for different time intervals. The value of concentration at node 15 has decreased, C at different nodes can be seen in Figure 38.

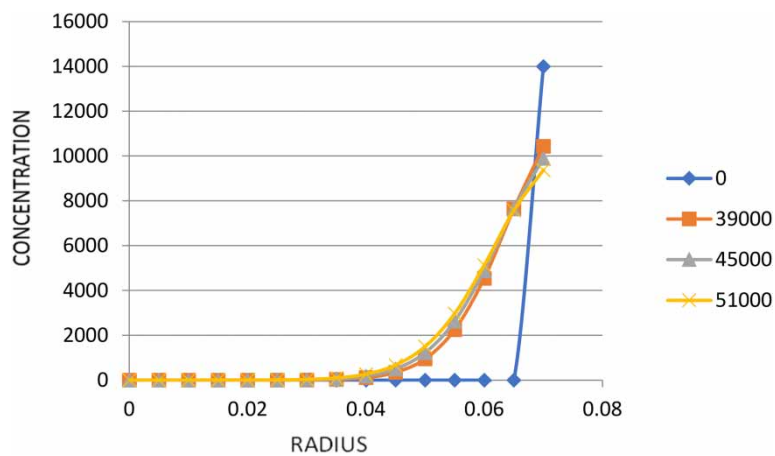


Figure 38 | The value of concentration result when $R = 0.07$ cm at different time intervals.

Figure 39 shows the concentration values at different radii as the diffusion has been carried out for different time intervals. The value of concentration at node 15 has decreased, C at different nodes can be seen in Figure 39.

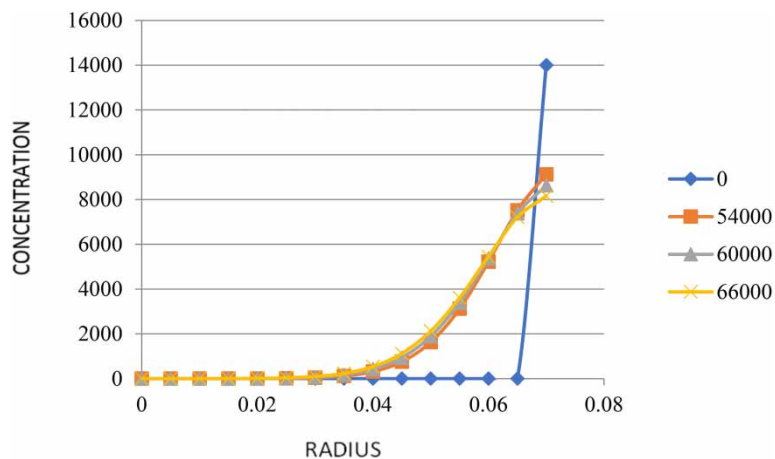


Figure 39 | The value of concentration result when $R = 0.07$ cm at different time intervals.

Figure 40 shows the concentration values at different radii as the diffusion has been carried out for different time intervals. The value of concentration at node 15 has decreased, C at different nodes can be seen in Figure 40.

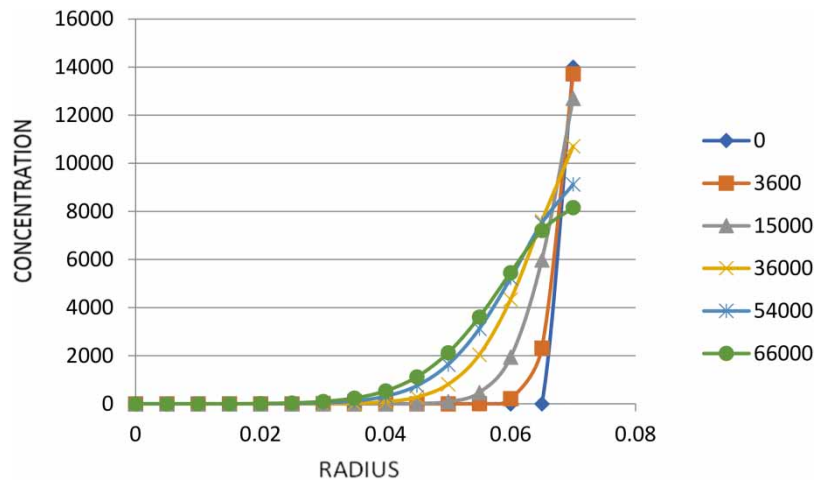


Figure 40 | The value of concentration result when $R = 0.07$ cm at different time intervals.

CONCLUSION

In this paper, we have numerically studied the diffusion process taking place in a sphere of radius 0.07 cm placed in a volume of limited bath boundary condition initially with a concentration value of 70 and then with a concentration of 14,000. With the help of numerical techniques, the results have been obtained by developing a programming on the entire process taking place at different radii of the sphere. From the numerical results, the graphs have been plotted to study the values of concentration diffused in the sphere at different radii at different time intervals.

The diffusion process is studied for two different concentrations whereas the other parameters remained the same. So we can easily know the time taken for the diffusion of solute to reach the centre of the sphere.

DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

Data cannot be made publicly available; readers should contact the corresponding author for details.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare there is no conflict.

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