Introduction to Convection

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Recall the convection overview





where C_f is the local friction factor





where h is the *local heat transfer coefficient*



The velocity and temperature profiles for flow over a surface is given by:

$$u(y) = Ay + By^2 - Cy^3$$

$$T(y) = D + Ey + Fy^2 - Gy^3$$

Obtain the expressions of friction factor and heat transfer coefficients in terms of the constants A, B, C, D, E, F and G and the free stream velocity U_{∞} and T_{∞} , and the fluid properties ρ , μ , C_p and k

Sol:

$$u(y) = Ay + By^{2} - Cy^{3}$$

$$T(y) = D + Ey + Fy^{2} - Gy^{3} \text{ and } T_{s} = T(0) = D$$

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial y} = A + 2By - 3Cy^{2}$$

$$\tau_{w} = \mu \frac{\partial u}{\partial y}\Big|_{y=0} = \mu A$$

$$\frac{\partial T}{\partial y} = E + 2Fy - 3Gy^{2}$$

$$q_{w}'' = -k \frac{\partial T}{\partial y}\Big|_{y=0} = -kE$$

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$$h = \frac{q_{w}''}{(T_{s} - T_{\infty})} = \frac{-kE}{(D - T_{\infty})}$$

Concept of Average Heat Transfer Coefficient









For any arbitrary shape





$$\overline{h} = \frac{1}{A_s} \int_{A_s} h dA_s$$
 or, for unit width: $\overline{h}_L = \frac{1}{L} \int_0^L h dx$



Example:

The local heat transfer coefficient for flow over a flat plate varies as $h_x = Kx^{-n}$, x = Distance from leading edge

Find the average heat transfer coefficient for a plate of length *x*. Compare it with the local heat transfer coefficient at the same location

$$\overline{h}_{x} = \frac{1}{x} \int_{0}^{x} h_{x} dx = \frac{1}{x} K \int_{0}^{x} x^{-n} dx$$

$$= \frac{K}{(-n+1)} \frac{1}{x} x^{(-n+1)} = \frac{Kx^{-n}}{(1-n)} = \frac{h_{x}}{1-n}$$

$$\int_{x}^{3} \frac{1}{1-n} \frac{h_{x}}{h_{x}} \frac{1}{1-n}$$

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Nondimensional number in flow: Re

Reynolds number: ratio of inertia forces to viscous forces in the fluid

 $\operatorname{Re} = \frac{\operatorname{inertia \ forces}}{\operatorname{viscous \ forces}} = \frac{\rho V \delta}{\mu} = \frac{V \delta}{\nu}$

.

At large *Re* numbers, the inertia forces, which are proportional to the density and the velocity of the fluid, are large relative to the viscous forces; thus the viscous forces cannot prevent the random and rapid fluctuations of the fluid (turbulent regime).

Nondimensional numbers for Convection

Nusselt number: non-dimensional heat transfer coefficient

$$Nu = \frac{h\delta}{k} = \frac{q_{conv}}{q_{cond}} \qquad Nu = \frac{h}{k/L} = \frac{h\Delta T}{\frac{k}{L}\Delta T} = \frac{Convective heat flux}{Conductive heat flux}$$

where δ is the characteristic length, i.e. *D* for the tube and *L* for the flat plate. Nusselt number represents the enhancement of heat transfer through a fluid as a result of convection relative to conduction across the same fluid layer.



Nusselt Number & non-dimensional temperature

Nondimensional Temperature: e

$$\theta = \frac{\left(T - T_{\infty}\right)}{\left(T_{s} - T_{\infty}\right)}; \quad y^{*} = \frac{y}{L}$$

$$h = \frac{-k_f \left. \partial T \right|_{y=0}}{\left(T_s - T_\infty\right)} = \frac{\left(T_s - T_\infty\right)}{\left(T_s - T_\infty\right)} \frac{k_f}{L} \left. \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial y^*} \right|_{y^*=0} = \frac{k_f}{L} \left. \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial y^*} \right|_{y^*=0}$$
$$\frac{\left. \partial \theta}{\left. \partial y^* \right|_{y^*=0}} = \frac{hL}{k} = Nu$$



A few more words about the Nu

- Nusselt number can be looked upon as the nondimensional temperature gradient at the wall (over which convection is taking place)
- Nu can represented as the ratio of convective to conductive heat fluxes for a given configuration
- A Nusselt number of order unity would indicate a sluggish motion little more effective than pure fluid conduction: for example, laminar flow in a long pipe
- A large Nusselt number means very efficient convection: For example, turbulent pipe flow yields *Nu* of order 100 to 1000
- The useful thing about Nu is that for hydrodynamically and thermally similar flow conditions a single correlation / expression of Nu can be applied for various flow velocity, temperature difference and fluid properties

• What is the difference between Nu and Bi?
$$Nu = \frac{hL}{k_f}$$
; $Bi = \frac{hL}{k_{solid}}$
Helps us to evaluate convective heat transfer for thermally and hydrodynamically similar flows from known correlations (and we

Helps us to check if the conduction within the solid is fast enough (w.r.t. the convective transport) so that the temperature within the solid is nearly uniform (and we can use lumped capacitance model)

Local and average Nusselt Number



Average Nusselt Number:

$$\overline{Nu}_x = \frac{\overline{h_x}x}{k} = \frac{x}{xk} \int_0^x h_x dx = \frac{1}{k} \int_0^x \frac{kNu_x}{x} dx = \int_0^x \frac{Nu_x}{x} dx$$

Prandtl Number $\Pr = \frac{Momentum Diffusivity}{Thermal Diffusivity} = \frac{v}{\alpha} = \frac{\mu C_p}{k}$



Indicates the relative thickness of hydrodynamic to thermal boundary layers





Typical Pr Range

Liquid metals: ~10⁻² (k is very high);

gases : 0.7 – 1;

water: 5—7;

Oils: 50 - 100 (μ is very high)

Types of Convection: Forced and free



Mixed Convection = Both forced and free convections are significant

Types of flows: Internal and External



