

NOTES: Natural convection



NATURAL CONVECTION

≠

BUOYANCY

◦ IN FORCED CONVECTION FLUID MOTION IS CAUSED BY APPLIED PRESSURE GRADIENTS. THIS IS ACCOMPLISHED BY PUMPS, FANS, BLOWERS, ETC.

◦ IN **NATURAL** OR FREE CONVECTION, FLUID MOTION IS CAUSED BY _____.

• CONSIDER A RUBBER DUCKIE FLOATING BENEATH THE SURFACE OF A BATHTUB:

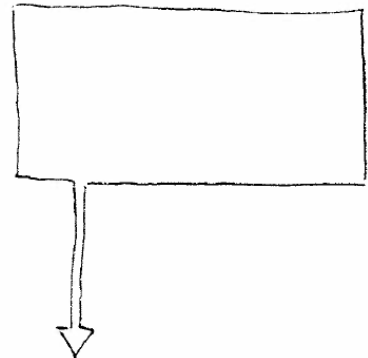


TWO FORCES ACT ON THE DUCKIE:

THE NET UPWARD FORCE IS, THEN

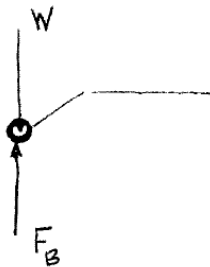
$$F_{NET} =$$

=



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NOW RATHER THAN A RUBBER DUCKIE, LET'S SAY YOU'VE GOT
A FLUID PARTICLE THAT'S _____ IT A MEDIUM THAT'S _____



$$F_{NET,UP} =$$

↑
WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT ρ OF HOT FLUIDS COMPARED TO ρ OF COLD FLUIDS?

WE SEE, THEN THAT

_____ CAUSE

_____ CAUSE

_____ .

AND WHERE THERE'S _____ THERE'S CONVECTION.

THAT'S NATURAL CONVECTION!

A CLOSE LOOK AT $\Delta \rho$:

$$\rho \equiv$$

$$\rho \approx$$

$$\therefore \Delta \rho \approx$$

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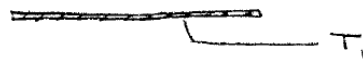
$$F_{NET,UP} \approx$$

- IF $T > T_{\infty}$
- IF $T < T_{\infty}$

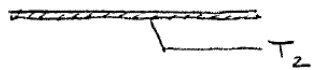
CONSIDER TWO PLATES SEPARATED BY AN INITIALLY STILL FLUID.



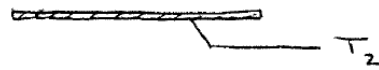
FLUID



FLUID



(a)



(b)

SUDDENLY WE HEAT ONE OF THE PLATES. IN (a) WE HEAT THE TOP PLATE SUCH THAT $T_1 > T_2$. IN (b), $T_2 > T_1$.

What happens?

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IF BUOYANCY MOVES FLUID, WHAT OPPOSES THE MOTION? *

_____.

LET'S DEFINE A DIMENSIONLESS NUMBER THAT MEASURES THE RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF THESE FORCES:

$$Gr = \frac{\rho \beta g \Delta T L^3}{\mu^2} = \frac{\rho \beta g \Delta T L^3}{\mu^2}$$

$$= \frac{\rho \beta g \Delta T L^3}{\mu^2}$$



$Gr =$

HIGH Gr MEANS _____.

LOW Gr MEANS _____.

* (STRICTLY TRUE FOR $Pr > 1$.)