

# EEN-1020 Heat transfer

## Week 5: Natural Convection

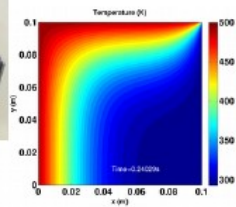
Prof. Ville Vuorinen  
November 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> 2019  
Aalto University, School of Engineering

**Week 1:** Energy conservation, heat equation, conduction Fourier/Newton

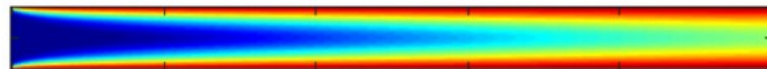


$$\frac{\partial T}{\partial t} \approx \frac{1}{\Delta x} \left( k \frac{\partial T(x+\Delta x/2, t)}{\partial x} - k \frac{\partial T(x-\Delta x/2, t)}{\partial x} \right)$$

**Week 2:** Fin theory, conduction, intro to convection

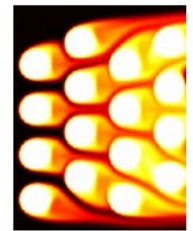


**Week 3:** convective heat transfer – internal flow (channel)



**Week 4:** convective heat transfer – external flow (fin systems)

**Week 5:** natural convection, boiling, correlations

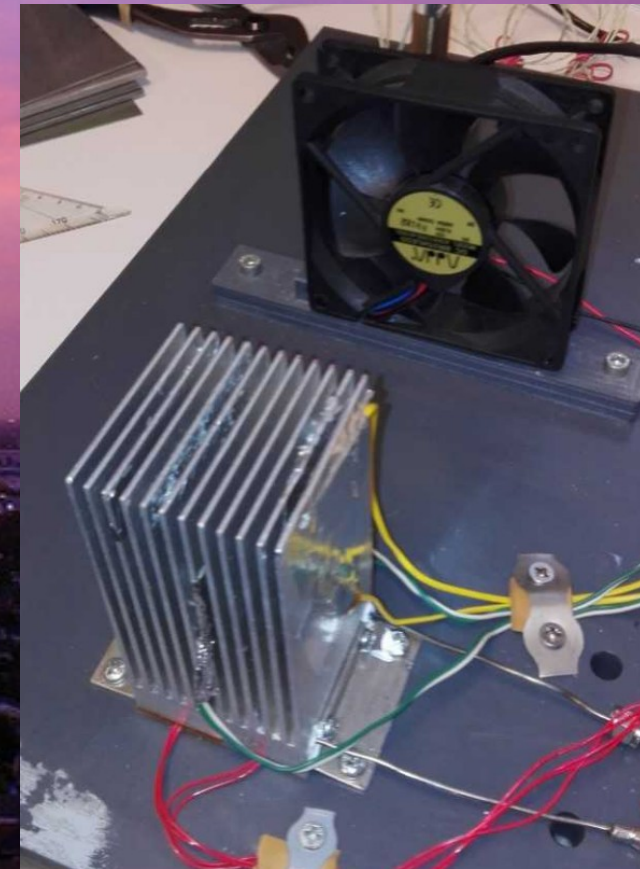


Warm fluids are lighter than cold fluids → ability to rise against gravity.



In 2018, we switched off the fan in the class room demo system.

We could consider that natural convection (or radiation) is the remaining cooling mechanism. **Consequence:** the heat exchanger became extremely hot! From energy conservation, it is easy to calculate  $dT/dt = q/mc_p \rightarrow$  e.g. 0.25K/s !





**Recommended reading:** Ch 9 “Free Convection” selective parts from “Principles of Heat and Mass Transfer”, Incropera

**Remember:** These slides may contain typos or other mistakes so please be cautious when reading.

**Remember:** Fluid and solid properties depend in reality on thermodynamic conditions so please use always values taken from a proper source (e.g. Incropera Appendix contains some reasonable values)



In heat transfer course, we have “4 friends” who typically help us to approach and solve any problem

1) Energy conservation (“**J/s**” thinking)

2) Fourier’s law

3) Newton’s cooling law

4) Bonus “helpers”:

4.1) heat eqn, conv.-diff. eqn (relatives of friend #1)

4.2) Navier-Stokes eqn (momentum conservation)

4.3) non-dimensional numbers (follow from the other friends)



## Recap on CD-equation i.e. thermal energy conservation under convection/diffusion

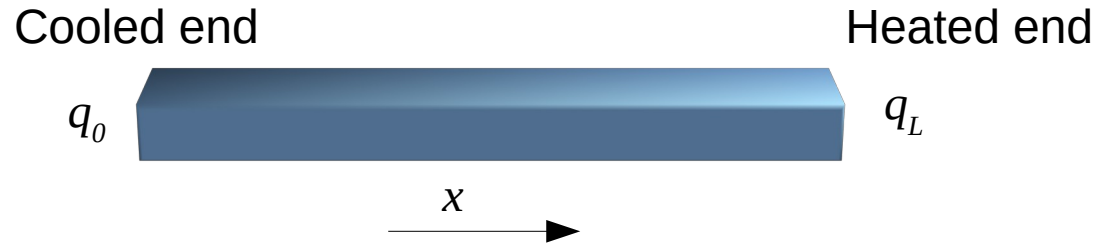
$$\frac{\partial T}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial T}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial T}{\partial y} = \alpha \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial x^2} + \alpha \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial y^2}$$



# On week 4 we discussed that Fourier's law is essentially connected to the diffusion terms

Consider 1d conduction in a rod heated from both ends

$$\rho c_p \frac{\partial T}{\partial t} = k \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial x^2}$$



Considering evolution of mean temperature  $T_m$  we integrated 1d heat eqn over rod volume  $V=AL$  noting that the differential volume element  $dV = Adx$

$$\rho c_p AL \frac{1}{L} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \int_0^L T(x, t) dx = kA \int_0^L \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial x^2} dx$$

Now, the RHS can be integrated directly which gives:

$$c_p m \frac{dT_m(t)}{\partial t} = A [q_L - q_0]$$

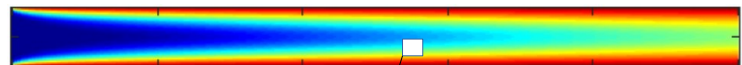


- Rate of change of total thermal energy = *heat rate in* – *heat rate out*
- “**Friend #1**” (J/s) observed
- “**Friend #2**” (Fourier) observed

$$\text{Fourier: } q = k \frac{\partial T}{\partial x}$$

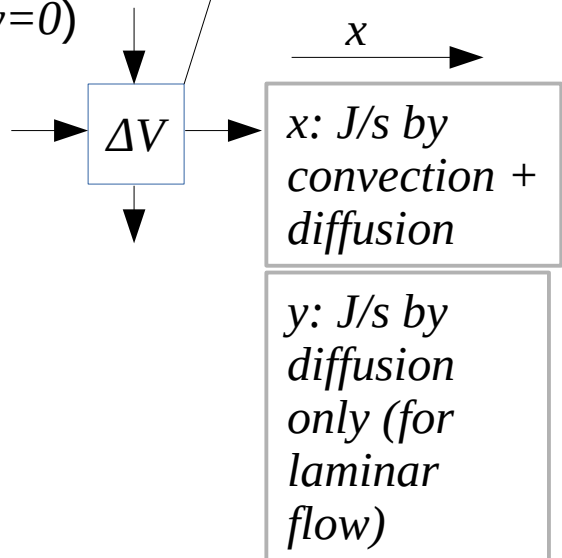


# What remains unanswered is the convection terms – do they really represent energy conservation ?



Consider for a moment pure **convection** in a channel ( $v=w=0$ )

$$\rho c_p \frac{\partial T}{\partial t} + \rho c_p \frac{\partial uT}{\partial x} + \rho c_p \frac{\partial vT}{\partial y} + \rho c_p \frac{\partial wT}{\partial z} = 0$$



Considering evolution of temperature  $T(x,y,t)$  we integrate over a small volume  $\Delta V = \Delta x \Delta y \Delta z$

$$\rho c_p \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \int_{\Delta V} T(x,t) dV = \rho c_p \left[ \int_{\Delta V} u \frac{\partial T}{\partial x} dV \right]$$

We see that for mean temperature  $T_m$  of a volume  $\Delta V$  with mass  $m$

$$c_p m \frac{dT_m}{dt} = c_p \rho [u_{m,out} T_{m,out} - u_{m,in} T_{m,in}] \Delta y \Delta z$$

+Diffusion terms from previous slide

$$+ [Q_{x,out} - Q_{x,in} + Q_{y,out} - Q_{y,in}]$$

**Conclusions:**

- Rate of change of total thermal energy = *heat rate in* – *heat rate out*
- “**Friend #1**” (J/s) **observed**
- **Indeed, energy transported by convection and diffusion**

Recall week 1

$$q = c_p \rho U A \Delta T$$







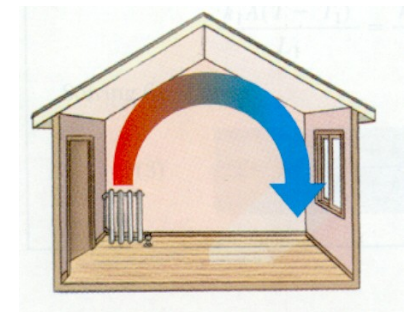
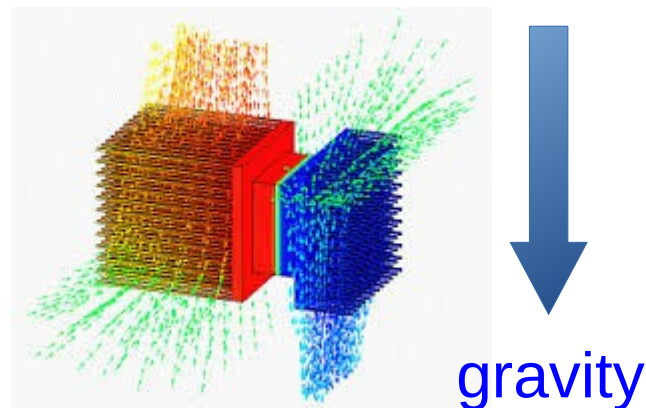
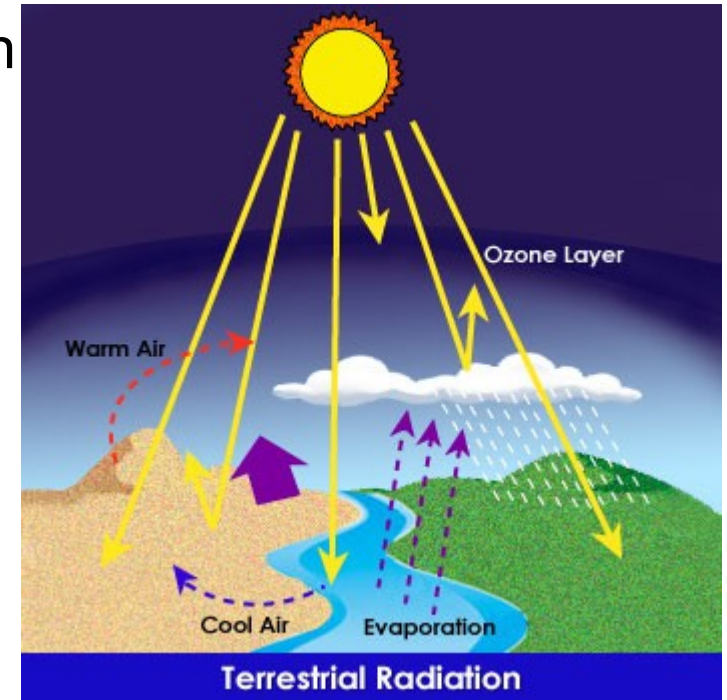
# Lecture 5.1 Theory: Natural convection (free convection)

**ILO 5:** Student can choose Nusselt number correlation equations for different situations including natural convection.



# Topics covered

- Governing equations in natural convection
- Non-dimensional numbers
- Stable vs unstable configurations
- Boundary layers in natural convection
- Velocity order of magnitude in natural convection





# Two sides of natural convection

## Advantages:

- **Cooling:** if NC provides enough cooling then no extra fans needed
- **Heating:** air may circulate naturally in pipelines; often pumping is still needed
- **Heating:** heated room air can become distributed by slow currents

## Disadvantages:

- **Cooling:** NC is a slow cooling mechanism (e.g. thick thermal boundary layers, low Nusselt numbers)
- **Ventilation:** NC can lead to unsteady behavior of air if large human crowds provide extensive heat (e.g.  $1000 \cdot 100\text{W} = 100\text{kW}$ ) → must be accounted for in ventilation design
- **Energy production:** “It is always there” → Always somehow present as  $\sim L^3$  dependent parameter → system size L dependent, sensitive phenomenon



RADIATION: NOT CONSIDERED HERE

**Why a drink can cools ? Faster cooling horizontally or vertically ? What difference would it make ?**

Newton

$$q = hA_s(T_s - T_\infty)$$



Physical mechanism behind  $h$  ?

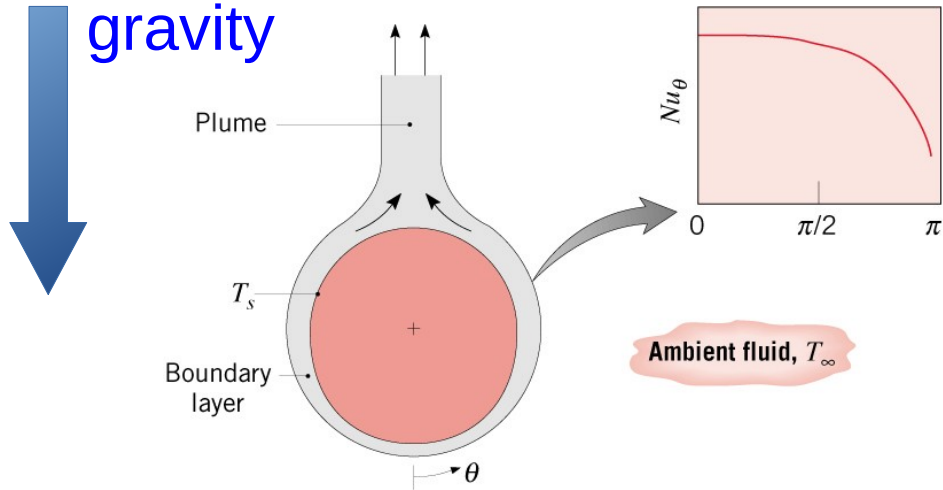




# Nusselt number correlation for a horizontal cylinder



# Horizontal cylinder



$$Ra = \frac{g\beta(T_s - T_\infty)L^3}{\nu\alpha} = \frac{\text{Buoyancy force}}{\text{Viscous force}}$$

$$Ra_D < 10^{12}$$

$$\bar{Nu}_D = 0.60 + \frac{0.387 Ra_D^{1/6}}{[1 + (0.559/Pr)^{9/16}]^{8/27}}$$

What happens when  $Ra_D \rightarrow 0$ ?

$$\bar{Nu}_D = \frac{\bar{h}D}{k}$$



Figure: V.Vuorinen (2016)

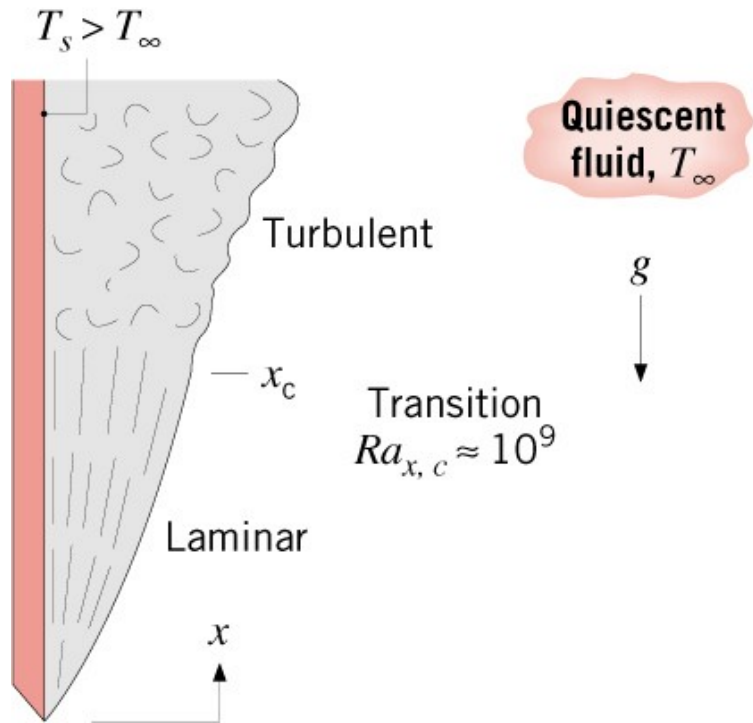


Nusselt number correlation for  
a vertical plate





NC creates flow against gravity → near-wall boundary layers → possibility for laminar to turbulence transition → critical Rayleigh number



Critical Rayleigh number

$$Ra_c = 10^9$$

Since  $Ra_c \sim L^3$  vertical plane wall boundary layers become turbulent at a critical length.

Laminar

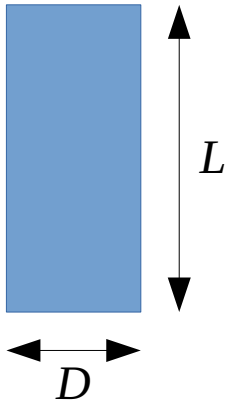
$$\bar{Nu}_L = 0.68 + \frac{0.670 Ra_L^{1/4}}{[1 + (0.492/Pr)^{9/16}]^{4/9}}$$

All conditions

$$\bar{Nu}_L = \left[ 0.825 + \frac{0.387 Ra_L^{1/6}}{[1 + (0.492/Pr)^{9/16}]^{8/27}} \right]^2$$



Which way does a can cool faster in the fridge:  
horizontally or vertically ?



$$D = 0.06\text{m}, L = 0.17\text{m}$$

$$Ra = \frac{g\beta(T_s - T_\infty)L^3}{\nu\alpha} = \frac{\text{Buoyancy force}}{\text{Viscous force}}$$

These two correlations could be used to approach the problem (ignoring the end effects).

$$\bar{Nu}_D = 0.60 + \frac{0.387 Ra_D^{1/6}}{[1 + (0.559/Pr)^{9/16}]^{8/27}}$$

$$\bar{Nu}_L = \left[ 0.825 + \frac{0.387 Ra_L^{1/6}}{[1 + (0.492/Pr)^{9/16}]^{8/27}} \right]^2$$

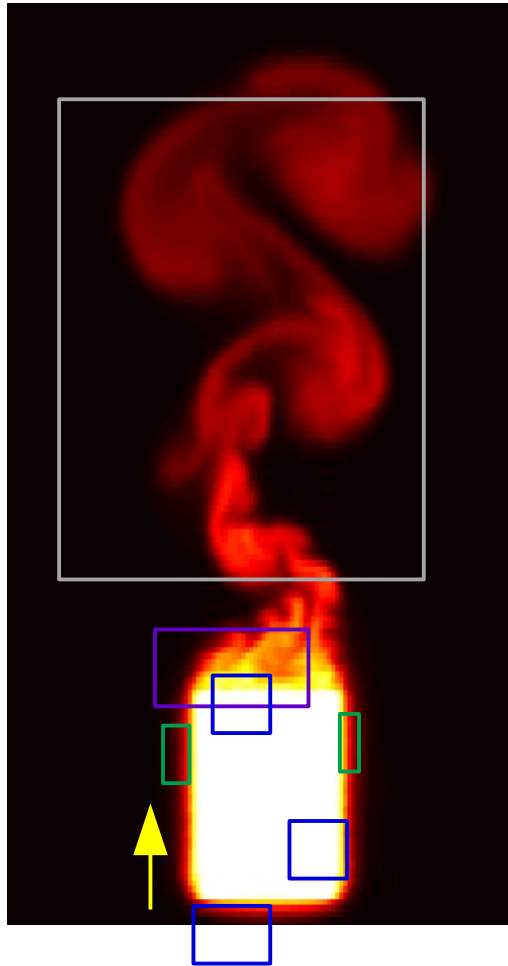


# Some physical steps how heat transfer away from a can in natural convection

**Step 1:** Conduction from the wall to the fluid and conduction in the thermal boundary layer (TBL).

**Step 2:** Heated fluid starts rising upwards already when conducting in the TBL

**Step 3:** Accelerated flow forms **viscous and thermal** boundary layers around the can.



**Step 5:** fluid rises constantly and the hot air is “**self-transported**” away from the object in a plume which poses fluid dynamical structures (e.g. vortices, turbulence)

**Step 4:** fluid motion becomes 3d and turbulence starts to transport heat from the top surface



# Governing equations

**Note:** In forced convection the Reynolds number was of very high importance. In natural convection the Rayleigh (and/or Grashof) number is typically the key driving parameter distinguishing also between laminar and turbulent conditions.

**Note:** here we do not discuss the mixed convection case where  $Re$  and  $Ra$  may both be relevant.



# Important numbers

Grashof number

$$Gr = \frac{g\beta(T_s - T_\infty)L^3}{\nu^2} = \frac{\text{Buoyancy force}}{\text{Viscous force}}$$

$L \rightarrow$  characteristic length scale of surface/object

$\beta \rightarrow$  thermal expansion coefficient

Thermal expansion coefficient

$$\beta = -\frac{1}{\rho} \left( \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial T} \right)_p$$

Rayleigh number (Ra and Gr closely related)

$$Ra = \frac{g\beta(T_s - T_\infty)L^3}{\nu\alpha} = \frac{\text{Buoyancy force}}{\text{Viscous force}}$$

$\alpha =$  thermal diffusivity,  $\nu =$  kinematic viscosity



**Note:** Thermal expansion coefficient for ideal gas

$$p = \rho RT$$

$$\beta = -\frac{1}{\rho} \left( \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial T} \right)_p = -\frac{1}{\rho} \left( \frac{\partial [p/RT]}{\partial T} \right)_p = \frac{p}{\rho RT^2} = 1/T$$

**Note:** for other fluids values of the expansion coefficient have been tabulated.



# Assumptions in Boussinesq approximation

- density is assumed to have a well defined mean part and a fluctuation part

$$\rho = \rho_o - \left( \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial T} \right)_p \Delta T$$

or

$$\rho = \rho_o - \beta \rho_o \Delta T$$

Fluctuation part of density contributing to a buoyancy force in the Boussinesq approximation

- **thermodynamic pressure is assumed to be almost constant** (often a very good assumption because speed of sound is typically high in comparison to other velocities\*)
- **temperature will then be a function of density**
- when temperature of a point in space increases, the density decreases
- it leads to a buoyancy force promoting motion against gravity (“**hot air balloon effect**”)
- we can think that pointwise fluctuations of temperature from the mean ( $T' = T - T_{ref}$ ) promote/drive the flow into motion

**\*Note:** e.g. in a typical flame pressure is almost constant but density and temperature depend very strongly on position (low density in hot parts).



# Governing equations (here 2d) in natural convection in the Boussinesq approximation

## Navier-Stokes (momentum)

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} = \frac{-1}{\rho} \frac{\partial p}{\partial x} + \nu \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + \nu \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} - g_x \beta (T - T_\infty)$$

$$\frac{\partial v}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} = \frac{-1}{\rho} \frac{\partial p}{\partial y} + \nu \frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial x^2} + \nu \frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial y^2} - g_y \beta (T - T_\infty)$$

**Buoyancy force:** tries to promote motion into opposite direction from gravity

## Convection-diffusion for temperature (energy equation)

$$\frac{\partial T}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial T}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial T}{\partial y} = \alpha \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial x^2} + \alpha \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial y^2}$$

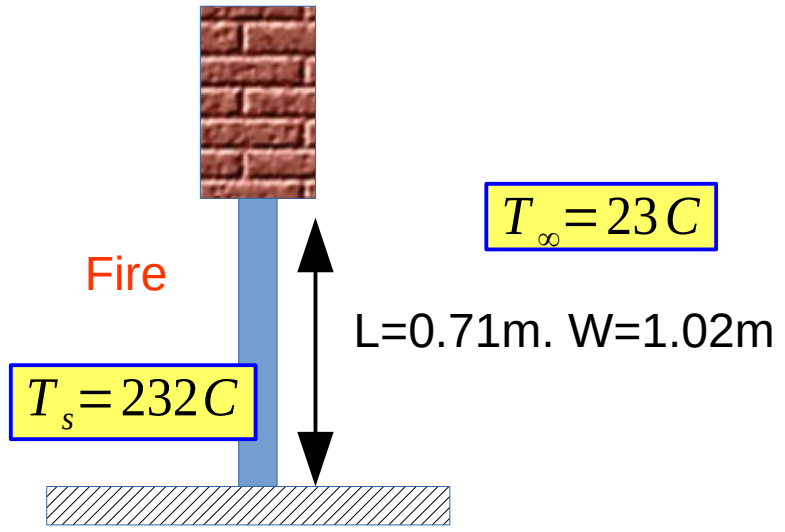




# Example 9.2: Glass window of a fireplace – relevance HW5

**Estimate:**

- convection heat rate



$$Ra = \frac{g\beta(T_s - T_\infty)L^3}{\nu\alpha} = 1.813 \cdot 10^9 > Ra_c$$

$$\bar{Nu}_L = \left[ 0.825 + \frac{0.387 Ra_L^{1/6}}{\left[ 1 + (0.492/Pr)^{9/16} \right]^{8/27}} \right]^2 = 147$$

$$\bar{h} = \frac{\bar{Nu}_L k}{L} = 7.0 \text{ W/m}^2 \text{ K}$$

$$q = \bar{h} A_s (T_s - T_\infty) = 1060 \text{ W}$$

**Note 1:**

$$q_{rad} = \epsilon A_s \sigma (T_s^4 - T_\infty^4) = 2355 \text{ W}$$

**Note 2:** What would be T on the Opposite side of glass ?



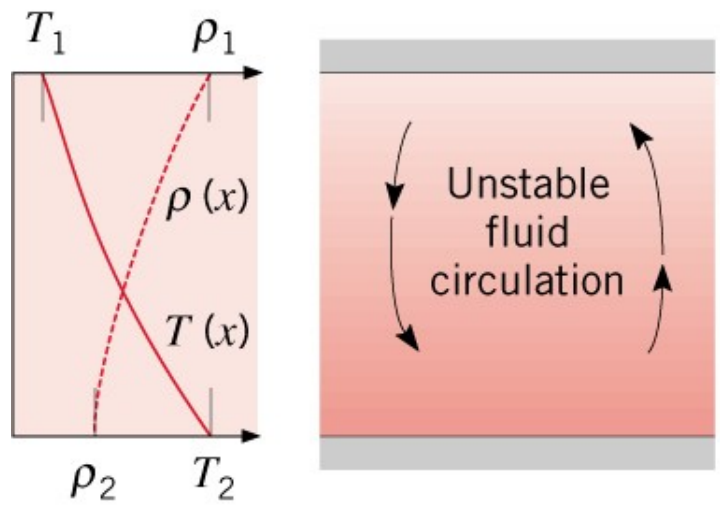
# Flow in confinements



# Unstable vs stable configurations

cold

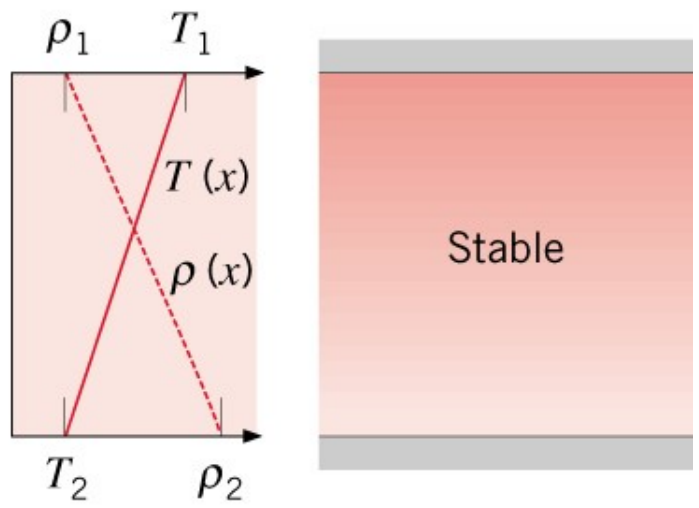
hot



$$\frac{dT}{dx} > 0, \frac{d\rho}{dx} < 0$$

(a)

x  
g



$$\frac{dT}{dx} < 0, \frac{d\rho}{dx} > 0$$

(b)

hot

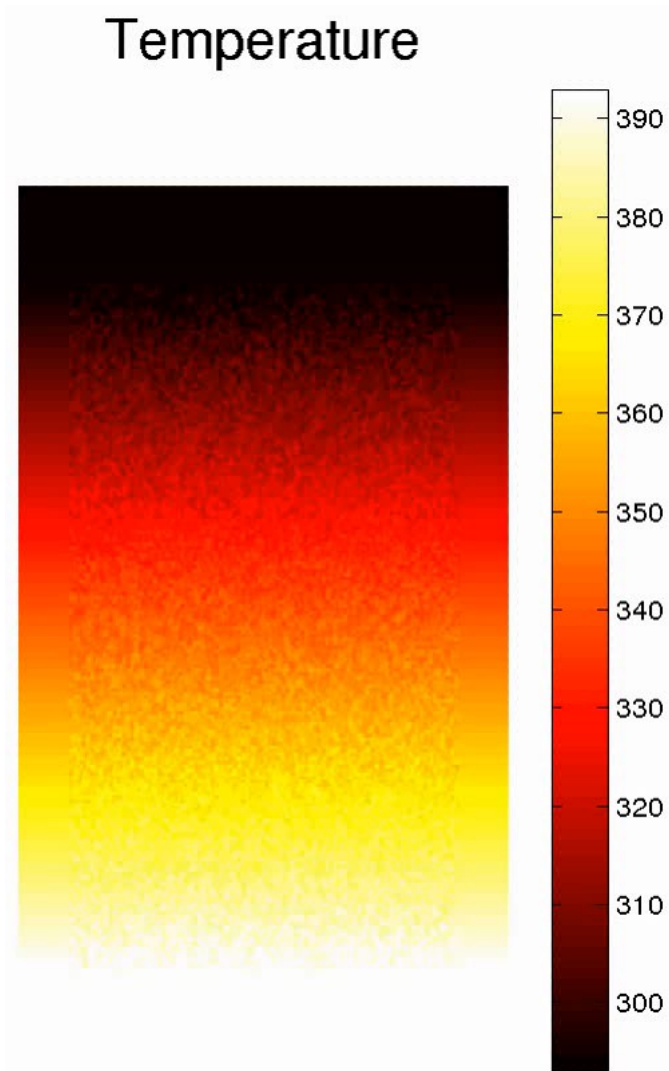
cold

gravity





# Case: Enclosed, tight water-filled kettle on the stove



**Case:** enclosed “kettle” on the stove with space-dependent heating at the walls (linearly decreasing towards the top).

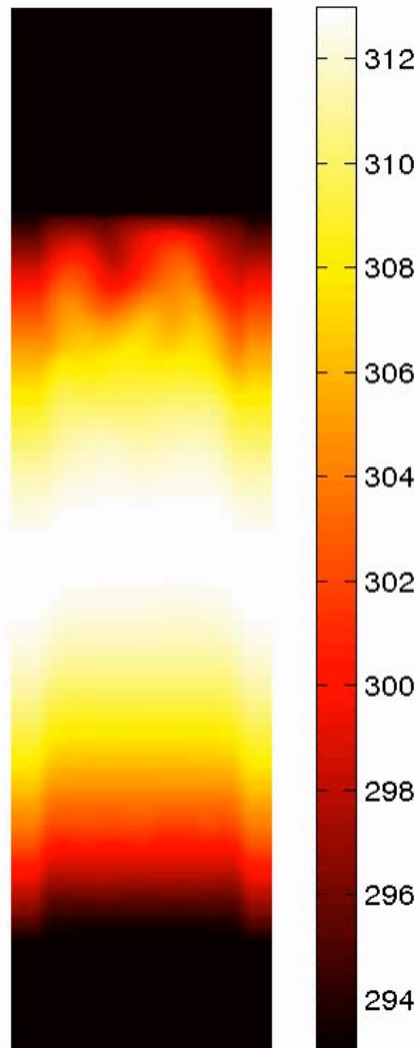
**Question 1:** Does the schematic on stable vs unstable configuration explain what happens here?

**Question 2:** Does a steady state solution exist when time  $\rightarrow$  infinity?



# Case: Enclosed furnace with space-dependent wall heating

Temperature



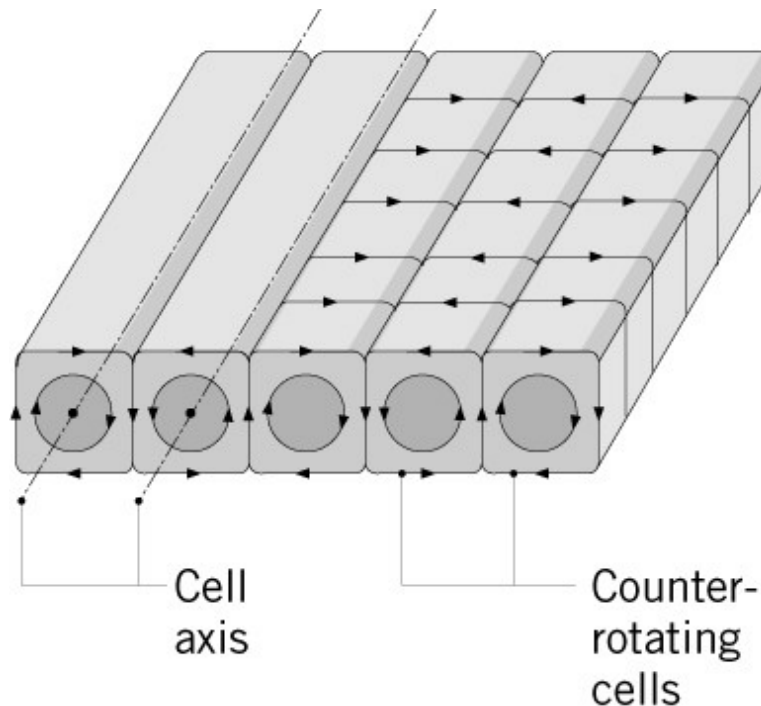
**Recall some previous slides:**  
Stable vs unstable configuration

**Case:** enclosed “furnace” with space-dependent heating at the walls (cold at top and bottom parts, hot in the center).

**Question:** Does the schematic picture from the previous slide (stable vs unstable configuration) explain what happens?

# Enclosed cavities, heating from below

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OM0I2YPVMf8>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jFI5KaAqfXI>



$$Ra < Ra_c = 1708$$

$$\bar{Nu}_L = \frac{\bar{h}L}{k} = 1$$

Case 2: Thermally unstable but regular cell patterns

$$1708 < Ra_L < 5 \cdot 10^4$$

Case 3: Flow is turbulent

$$3 \cdot 10^5 < Ra_L < 7 \cdot 10^9$$

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gSTNxS96fRg&t=56s>



# **Lecture 5.2 Numerical approach from 2018: HW4/heating problem changed to a cooling problem**



**STEP 1:** download the `heat2dfins` code from MyCourses and extract – by right clicking mouse - to new folder `Week5`.

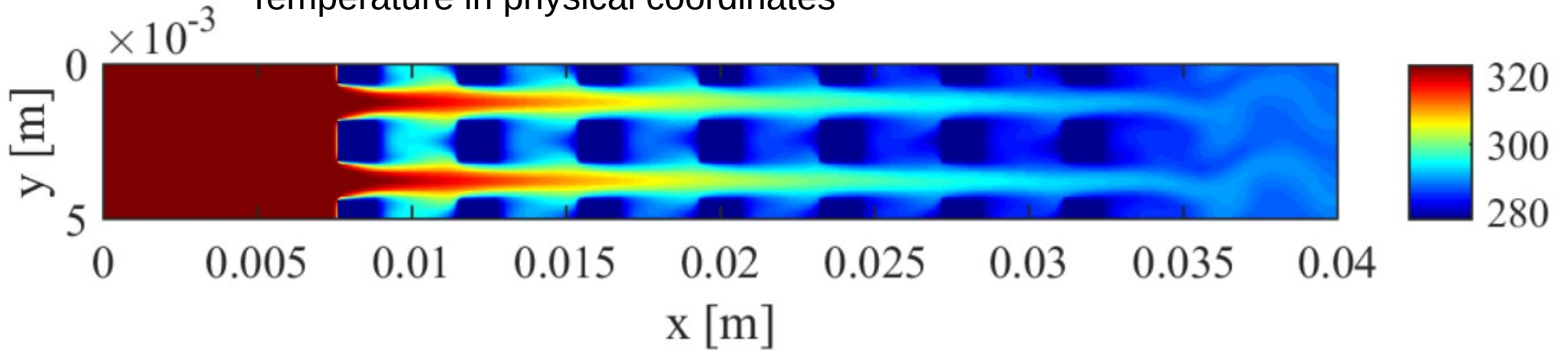
**STEP 2:** make sure you study the fin array now + choose the `VisualizeResultsFull` in `heat2dfins` **for** loop.

```
%load VeldataSingle.mat    % single fin
% or instead
load Veldata.mat          % pin fin array
```

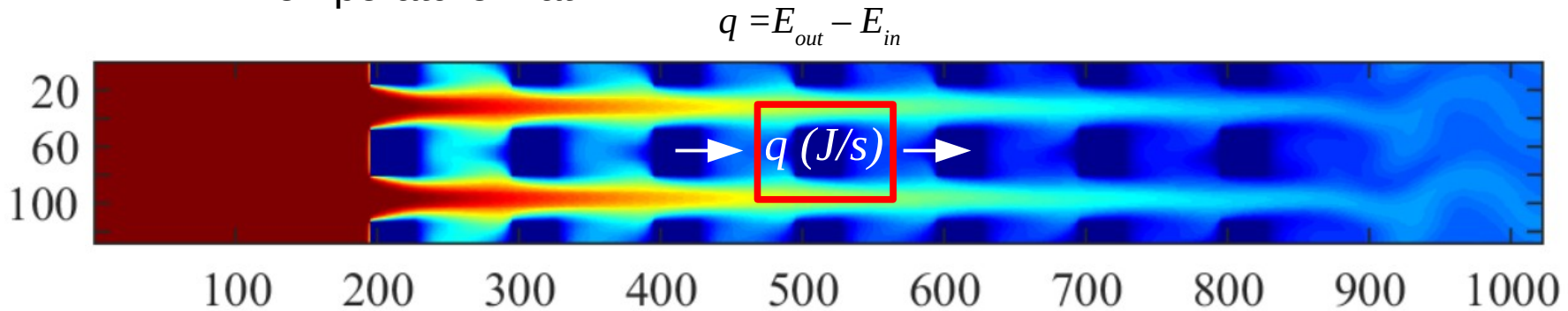


# In HW2, we study a cooling problem

Temperature in physical coordinates



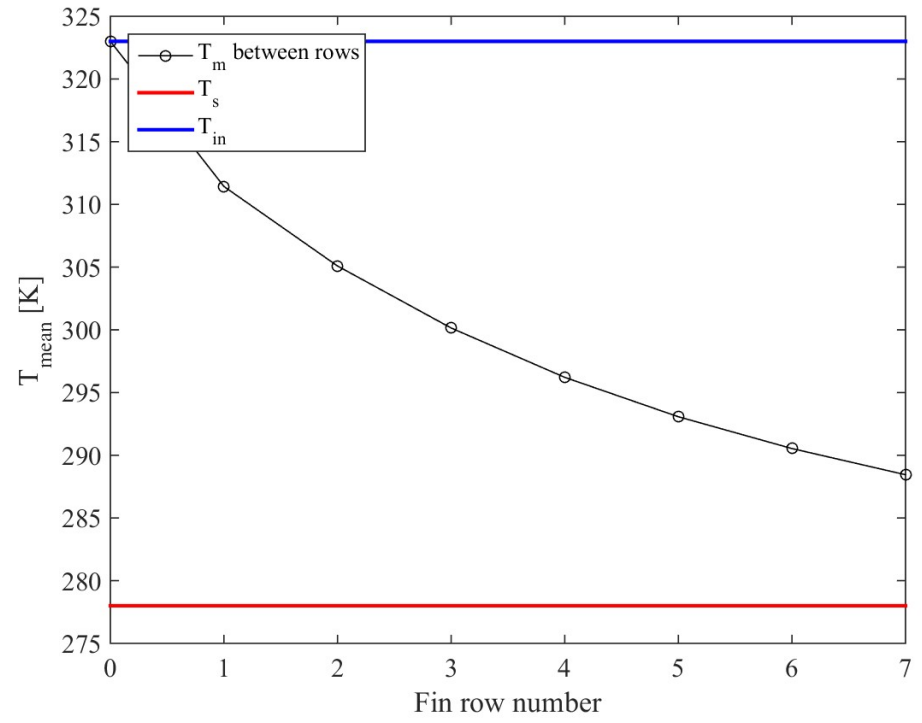
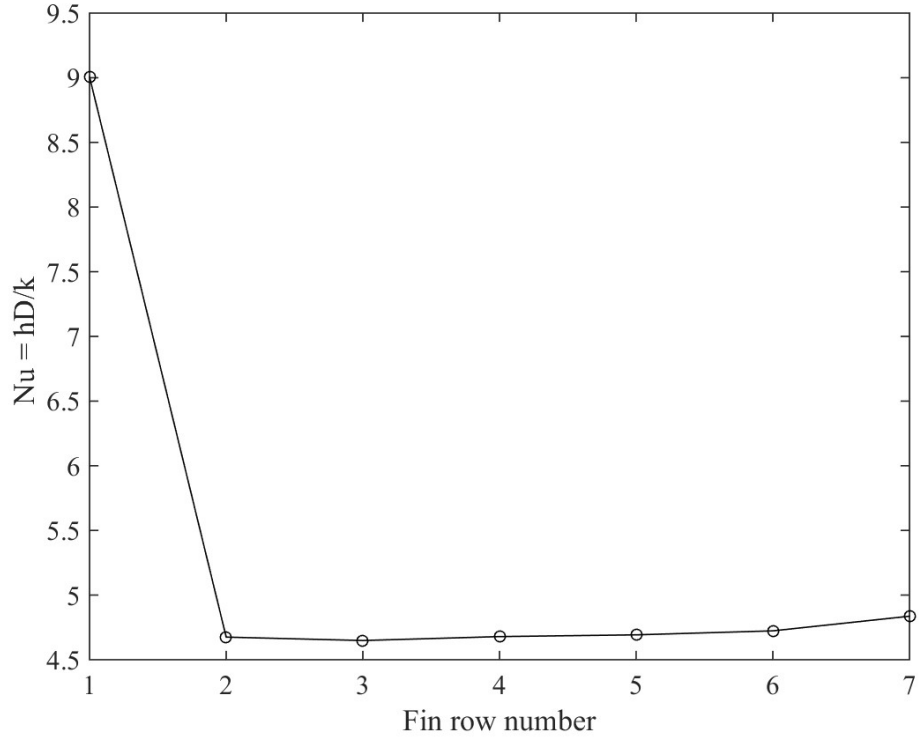
Temperature matrix



$$q = h_n A_{fin} (T_s - T_n) = c_p \rho U A_{in} (T_{n+1} - T_n)$$



# Note on pin fin row Nusselt numbers and comparison to Hilpert equation for cylindrical fins



$$Nu_{ave} = Nu = \frac{hD}{k} = C Re_D^m Pr^{1/3}$$

$$C = 0.683 \text{ and } m = 0.466$$

Cylinder correlations (not valid for squares) would indicate that:

$$Nu_{ave} = 4.65 - 7.2, \text{ depending on the reference velocity}$$

→ right order of magnitude, note the role of reference velocity in *Re* definition.



**STEP 3:** set a warm inflow temperature (e.g.  $T_{left} = 350K$ ) and, for the parameter  $T_{hot}$ , assume a rather cold temperature (e.g. 283 K).

**STEP 4:** play around with the code and try to find how cold must the fins be to reach e.g. 278K target temperature.



**STEP 5:** reverse-engineer (without CD-equation solver) how cold the fins should be using the equation below making some assumption about  $h$  (e.g. constant) and by trying different values of  $T_s$ . The task can be solved by Writing 0d code or by using log-mean temperature difference concept.

**Hint:** you can iterate equation below in a for loop (see HW1) 7 times to get the final temperature after the heat exchanger:  $T_{n+1} = T_n + \dots$

Alternatively, it is possible to solve by just pen and paper by 7 iterations.

$$q = h_n A_{fin} (T_s - T_n) = c_p \rho U A_{in} (T_{n+1} - T_n)$$

