
Letter to the Editors

I read with interest Professor H. R. Jacobs's review of my graduate textbook *Convection Heat Transfer* (Wiley, 1984), which was printed in the March 1987 issue of this journal. As I recently stressed in my keynote address^{1,2} at the 2nd ASME-JSME Joint Thermal Engineering Conference, I firmly believe that a little controversy can only benefit a mature field like ours. However, I would like to set the record straight on two points raised by Professor Jacobs.

Professor Jacobs claims that I am in error in noting a "lack of understanding of length scales in contemporary research." The controversy surrounding convection scaling has a long history in the journals. My contribution was simply to bring this discussion into the classroom. For the reader curious about the history of the natural convection problem associated with this scaling debate, I recommended a paper by Professor B. W. Martin,³ one of this journal's founders. This paper has appeared since my chapter 4 was written. In it, Professor Martin credits H. K. Kuiken with first sorting out the proper scales, and I must agree with that assessment. Unfortunately, while writing my book I was unaware of Kuiken's contribution, but let me now urge the interested reader to consult Kuiken's work⁴⁻⁶ as well as Professor Martin's excellent history. In them, the reader will find nothing to contradict my own analysis and derivation of the proper scales.

Likewise Professor Jacobs claims that I am in error in reporting the lack of a similarity solution for natural convection in thermally stratified fluids. He points out that he has just discovered and published such a solution (in 1986!) Unfortunately, his work appeared two years after the publication of my book.

In my view, neither of my claims as cited by Professor Jacobs were made in error. In addition, I feel that the appearance of

journal articles on these topics in the short time since my book's appearance is an excellent indication of how timely the book really is. In writing *Convection Heat Transfer* I endeavored to expose the reader and, in particular, the student reader to the frontier of heat transfer research. Apparently I succeeded.

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References

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