

# Effect of rotation on the stability of a doubly diffusive fluid layer in a porous medium

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**Abstract**—The convective stability of a doubly diffusive fluid saturating a rotating porous medium is considered. It is observed that (i) a rotating layer can be destabilized by a bottom-heavy arrangement; (ii) in general, rotation stabilizes the system though under certain conditions it destabilizes the system, (iii) rotation has little effect on the stability of the fluid layer under certain conditions, (iv) under some conditions three Rayleigh numbers are required to specify linear stability criteria.

## INTRODUCTION

EFFECTS of rotation on doubly diffusive fluid systems find application in various branches of modern science like biochemistry, oceanography, stellar convection, etc. Pearlstein [1] has given a brief survey of important findings of various workers in these fields. It is observed that rotation in general enhances the convective stability of a doubly diffusive fluid, but for certain Darcy–Taylor numbers, Darcy–Prandtl numbers and Darcy–Schmidt numbers it destabilizes such a fluid. Another branch of science in which rotation plays an important role is geophysics. It is known that the earth's crust consists of a mixture of different types of fluids like oil, water, gases, etc. the temperature of which increases as one goes deep inside. Also, constant angular velocity of the earth about its geographical axis gives rise to Coriolis force. Hence any attempt to study convective currents in geothermal systems will lead to the problem of finding the effect of rotation on the stability of a multicomponent fluid the components of which can diffuse relative to one another. Since diffusivity of mass is less than diffusivity of heat under certain conditions, oscillatory convective motions may set in. As the earth's crust is essentially a porous medium, its porosity may also affect the stability of the system. Stability of a non-rotating doubly diffusive fluid saturating a porous medium has been studied by Nield [2], Rudraiah *et al.* [3], Taunton *et al.* [4], Wankat and Schowalter [5], Rudraiah and Prabhmani [6], Patil and Rudraiah [7], and Patil and Vaidyanathan [8]. Pearlstein [1] has given a detailed analysis for a rotating doubly diffusive Newtonian fluid layer.

The aim of this paper is to study the effect of

rotation on the convective stability of a doubly diffusive fluid saturating a porous medium. It has been assumed that isotropy of the medium is not disrupted due to rotation.

## MATHEMATICAL FORMULATION

Consider a quiescent layer of a Boussinesq doubly diffusive fluid layer saturating a porous medium extending to infinity in the  $x'$ - and  $y'$ -directions and bounded by free horizontal boundaries  $z' = 0$  and  $L$ , which are maintained at temperatures  $T_0$  and  $T_L$ , respectively. Let the system be rotating with an angular velocity  $\Omega$  about the  $z'$ -axis. The concentration of the diffusing component is held at  $C_0$  and  $C_L$  at  $z' = 0$  and  $L$ , respectively.

The governing equations are

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{q} = 0 \quad (1)$$

$$\frac{1}{\phi} \left[ \frac{\partial \mathbf{q}}{\partial t'} + \mathbf{q}|\mathbf{q}| + 2(\Omega \times \mathbf{q}) \right] = -\nabla \bar{p} - \frac{\mu}{\bar{\rho}k} \mathbf{q} + \frac{\rho \mathbf{g}}{\bar{\rho}} \dots \quad (2)$$

$$\frac{\partial T}{\partial t'} + \mathbf{M} \mathbf{q} \cdot \nabla T = \kappa \nabla^2 T \quad (3)$$

$$\phi \frac{\partial C}{\partial t'} + \mathbf{q} \cdot \nabla C = D \nabla^2 C. \quad (4)$$

Equation (2) is the well-known Darcy–Oberbeck–Boussinesq (DOB) equation [9] modified for a rotating system. It is assumed that rotation does not disrupt the isotropy of the medium. The Darcy model is valid for  $k/L^2 < 10^{-3}$  [10]. Equation (4) is that of Poulikakos [11] and Gray [12]. The equation of state is taken in the form

$$\rho = \bar{\rho} [1 - \alpha_T (T - \bar{T}) + s \alpha_c (C - \bar{C})]$$

where  $s = 1$  (–1) if the partial molar density of the

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small perturbation

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \mathbf{q} &= \mathbf{q}', \quad \bar{p} = \bar{p}_b(z') + p', \quad T = T_b(z') + T' \\ C &= C_b(z') + C', \quad \rho = \rho_b(z') + \rho' \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (7)$$

where primed quantities denote the perturbations. Linearized dimensionless equations for the perturbations are

$$\left[ \frac{\partial}{\partial t} - \nabla^2 \right] \theta = MW \quad (8)$$

$$\left[ \frac{\partial}{\partial t} - \nabla^2 \right] S = -W \quad (9)$$

$$-\left[ \frac{\partial}{\partial t} + 1 \right] \nabla^2 W = Ta^{1/2} \frac{\partial \zeta}{\partial z} + \frac{sR_c}{\Lambda_2} \nabla^2 S - \frac{R_t}{\Lambda_1} \nabla^2 \theta \dots \quad (10)$$

$$\left[ \frac{\partial}{\partial t} + 1 \right] \zeta = Ta^{1/2} \frac{\partial W}{\partial z} \quad (11)$$

Boundary conditions imposed at perfectly conducting permeable, stress free boundaries at  $z = 0$  and  $1$  are

$$W = \frac{\partial \zeta}{\partial z} = \theta = S = 0. \quad (12)$$

Following Chandrasekhar [13] the perturbations are assumed to be

$$[W, \zeta, \theta, S] = [W_0(z), \zeta_0(z), \theta_0(z), S_0(z)] \times \exp(ia_x x + ia_y y + \sigma t). \quad (13)$$

Substituting equation (13) in equations (8)–(11) one obtains

$$\left[ \sigma - \frac{\left( \frac{d^2}{dz^2} - a^2 \right)}{\Lambda_1} \right] \theta_0 = MW_0 \quad (14)$$

$$\left[ \sigma - \frac{\left( \frac{d^2}{dz^2} - a^2 \right)}{\Lambda_2} \right] S_0 = -W_0 \quad (15)$$

$$-\left( \sigma + 1 \right) \left( \frac{d^2}{dz^2} - a^2 \right) W_0 = Ta^{1/2} \frac{d\zeta_0}{dz} - a^2 \left( \frac{sR_c}{\Lambda_2} S_0 - \frac{R_t}{\Lambda_1} \theta_0 \right) \dots \quad (16)$$

$$\left( \sigma + 1 \right) \zeta_0 = Ta^{1/2} \frac{dW_0}{dz} \quad (17)$$

The corresponding boundary conditions are

$$W_0 = \frac{d\zeta_0}{dz} = \theta_0 = S_0 = 0 \quad \text{at } z = 0, 1. \quad (18)$$

Equations (14)–(17) could be reduced to the following

equation in  $W_0$ :

$$\begin{aligned} & -(\sigma + 1)^2 \left[ \sigma - \frac{\left( \frac{d^2}{dz^2} - a^2 \right)}{\Lambda_2} \right] \left[ \sigma - \frac{\left( \frac{d^2}{dz^2} - a^2 \right)}{\Lambda_1} \right] \\ & \times \left[ \frac{d^2}{dz^2} - a^2 \right] W_0 = Ta \left[ \sigma - \frac{\left( \frac{d^2}{dz^2} - a^2 \right)}{\Lambda_2} \right] \\ & \times \left[ \sigma - \frac{\left( \frac{d^2}{dz^2} - a^2 \right)}{\Lambda_1} \right] \frac{d^2 W_0}{dz^2} + (\sigma + 1) a^2 \frac{sR_c}{\Lambda_2} \\ & \times \left[ \sigma - \frac{\left( \frac{d^2}{dz^2} - a^2 \right)}{\Lambda_1} \right] W_0 + (\sigma + 1) a^2 \frac{MR_t}{\Lambda_1} \\ & \times \left[ \sigma - \frac{\left( \frac{d^2}{dz^2} - a^2 \right)}{\Lambda_2} \right] W_0. \end{aligned} \quad (19)$$

That all even derivatives of  $W_0$  vanish at  $z = 0$  and  $1$  can be verified from equations (14) to (17) and boundary conditions (18), which are satisfied by

$$W_0(z) = W_n \sin n\pi z. \quad (20)$$

Substitution of equation (20) in equation (19) leads to

$$\begin{aligned} & [\alpha^2(\sigma + 1)^2 + n^2\pi^2 Ta][\alpha^2 + \sigma\Lambda_2][\alpha^2 + \sigma\Lambda_1] \\ & - a^2(\sigma + 1)[sR_c(\alpha^2 + \sigma\Lambda_1) + MR_t(\alpha^2 + \sigma\Lambda_2)] = 0 \dots \end{aligned} \quad (21)$$

Equation (21) is a fourth-degree equation in  $\sigma$  which can be rearranged as

$$\sigma^4 + B_1\sigma^3 + C_1\sigma^2 + D_1\sigma + E_1 = 0 \quad (22)$$

where

$$B_1 = \alpha^2 \left( \frac{1}{\Lambda_1} + \frac{1}{\Lambda_2} \right) + 2$$

$$\begin{aligned} C_1 &= \frac{\alpha^4}{\Lambda_1\Lambda_2} + 2 \left( \frac{1}{\Lambda_1} + \frac{1}{\Lambda_2} \right) \alpha^2 + 1 \\ & \quad + \frac{1}{\alpha^2} \left[ \pi^2 n^2 Ta - a^2 \left( \frac{sR_c}{\Lambda_2} + \frac{MR_t}{\Lambda_1} \right) \right] \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} D_1 &= \frac{2\alpha^4}{\Lambda_1\Lambda_2} + \alpha^2 \left( \frac{1}{\Lambda_1} + \frac{1}{\Lambda_2} \right) - \frac{a^2}{\Lambda_1\Lambda_2} (sR_c + MR_t) \\ & \quad + \pi^2 n^2 Ta \left( \frac{1}{\Lambda_1} + \frac{1}{\Lambda_2} \right) - \frac{a^2}{\alpha^2} \left( \frac{sR_c}{\Lambda_2} + \frac{MR_t}{\Lambda_1} \right) \end{aligned}$$

$$E_1 = \frac{\alpha^4}{\Lambda_1\Lambda_2} + \frac{\pi^2 n^2 Ta}{\Lambda_1\Lambda_2} \alpha^2 - \frac{(sR_c + MR_t)}{\Lambda_1\Lambda_2} a^2. \quad (23)$$

For the marginal state of instability via stationary convection (when the principle of exchange of stabilities is valid),  $\sigma = 0$  which gives, from  $E_1 = 0$ , the following condition on  $R_c$  and  $R_i$ :

$$\alpha^4 + \pi^2 n^2 Ta \alpha^2 - (sR_c + MR_i) a^2 = 0.$$

For the lowest mode  $n = 1$

$$MR_i = -sR_c + \frac{(\pi^2 + a^2)^2}{a^2} + \pi^2 Ta \frac{(\pi^2 + a^2)}{a^2}. \quad (24)$$

The critical wave number and thermal Rayleigh number are given by

$$a_c^2 = \pi^2 \sqrt{(1 + Ta)} \quad (25)$$

$$MR_{crit} = -sR_c + \pi^2 [1 + \sqrt{(1 + Ta)}]^2. \quad (26)$$

Note that  $R_{crit}$  is a linear function of  $R_c$  and is independent of  $\Lambda_1, \Lambda_2$  for a given  $Ta$ .

For a non-rotating system ( $Ta = 0$ )

$$a_c = \pi, \quad MR_{crit} = -sR_c + 4\pi^2.$$

From the theory of algebraic equations, it can be verified that for  $E_1 < 0$ , instabilities will grow in the system. The marginal state of instability via oscillatory convection (i.e. overstability) will manifest itself only if  $\sigma$  is completely imaginary, say  $\sigma = i\omega$ . This leads to

$$(\omega^4 - C_1 \omega^2 + E_1) - i\omega(B_1 \omega^2 - D_1) = 0.$$

Equating real and imaginary parts to zero, the restraint on  $R_c, R_i$  is given by

$$B_1 C_1 D_1 - B_1^2 E_1 - D_1^2 = 0.$$

Correspondingly, for  $B_1 C_1 D_1 - B_1^2 E_1 - D_1^2 < 0$  oscillatory disturbances will grow in the system. Similar observations have been made by Taunton *et al.* [4] for a non-rotating system.

For the lowest mode  $n = 1$

$$MR_i = -sR_c \frac{\alpha^2 + \sigma \Lambda_1}{\alpha^2 + \sigma \Lambda_2} + \frac{\alpha^2(\sigma + 1)(\alpha^2 + \sigma \Lambda_1)}{a^2} + \frac{\pi^2 Ta (\alpha^2 + \sigma \Lambda_1)}{a^2(\sigma + 1)}.$$

Thus  $R_i$  is a function of  $R_c, a, Ta, \Lambda_1$  and  $\Lambda_2$ . Setting  $\sigma = i\omega$  and splitting into real and imaginary parts one obtains

$$MR_i = -sR_c \left[ \frac{\alpha^4 + \omega^2 \Lambda_1 \Lambda_2}{\alpha^4 + \omega^2 \Lambda_2^2} \right] + \frac{\alpha^4 - \omega^2 \Lambda_1 \alpha^2}{a^2} + \frac{\pi^2 Ta (\alpha^2 + \omega^2 \Lambda_1)}{a^2(1 + \omega^2)} + i\omega \alpha^2 M^* \quad (27)$$

where

$$M^* = \left[ \frac{\Lambda_2 - \Lambda_1}{\alpha^4 + \omega^2 \Lambda_2^2} \right] sR_c + \frac{\alpha^2 + \Lambda_1}{a^2} + \frac{\pi^2 Ta \left( \frac{\Lambda_1}{\alpha^2} - 1 \right)}{a^2(1 + \omega^2)}.$$

Since  $R_i$  must be real, either  $\omega = 0$  which leads to steady neutral stability or  $M^* = 0$ .

**OSCILLATORY NEUTRAL STABILITY**

In this case  $\omega \neq 0$ , hence  $M^* = 0$ , i.e.  $\omega$  must satisfy

$$\delta \omega^4 + \beta \omega^2 + \gamma = 0 \quad (28)$$

where

$$\delta = \Lambda_2^2 (\alpha^2 + \Lambda_1) \quad (29)$$

$$\beta = (\alpha^2 + \Lambda_1)(\alpha^4 + \Lambda_2^2) + \Lambda_2^2 \pi^2 Ta \left( \frac{\Lambda_1}{\alpha^2} - 1 \right) - a^2 sR_c (\Lambda_1 - \Lambda_2)$$

$$\gamma = \alpha^4 (\alpha^2 + \Lambda_1) + \pi^2 Ta \alpha^4 \left( \frac{\Lambda_1}{\alpha^2} - 1 \right) - a^2 sR_c (\Lambda_1 - \Lambda_2).$$

Equation (28) is a quadratic equation in  $\omega^2$  which can have more than one positive root for fixed 'a',  $R_c, Ta, \Lambda_1$  and  $\Lambda_2$ , when multiple oscillatory neutral solutions can exist. For the non-rotating system ( $Ta = 0$ ) the frequency is given by

$$\omega^2 = \frac{a^2 sR_c (\Lambda_1 - \Lambda_2)}{(\alpha^2 + \Lambda_1) \Lambda_2^2} - \frac{\alpha^4}{\Lambda_2^2} \quad (30)$$

and for the rotating singly diffusive system ( $\Lambda_1 = \Lambda_2$ ), the frequency is given by

$$\omega^2 = \frac{\pi^2 Ta \left( 1 - \frac{\Lambda_1}{\alpha^2} \right)}{\alpha^2 + \Lambda_1} - 1. \quad (31)$$

Thus oscillatory instabilities are possible both in the non-rotating doubly diffusive system ( $Ta = 0$ ) and in the rotating singly diffusive system ( $\Lambda_1 = \Lambda_2$ ) provided  $\omega^2 > 0$  since frequency  $\omega$  must be real.

To determine the critical thermal Rayleigh number,  $R_{crit}$ , the following procedure is adopted.

(i) One first checks whether equation (28) gives positive values for  $\omega^2$ . If not, oscillatory instability is not possible and  $R_{crit}$  is given by equation (26) and  $a_c$  by equation (25).

(ii) If equation (28) gives positive values for  $\omega^2$  then the minimum over 'a' of equation (27) with  $\omega^2$  given by equation (28) is compared with  $R_{crit}$  given by equation (26) and the smaller value is  $R_{crit}$  and the corresponding critical wave number is  $a_c$ .

**NUMERICAL RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS**

Convective stability of a doubly diffusive fluid saturating a rotating porous medium has been studied using linear stability analysis. DOB equations modified for a rotating system have been used to describe the flow of fluid through a porous medium. It is assumed that the isotropy of the medium is not disrupted by rotation. Numerical computations have been carried out for different values of  $\Lambda_1, \Lambda_2, Ta$  and  $sR_c$ . Throughout the analysis  $M = 1$  is assumed. The results are given for different values of  $sR_c$  instead



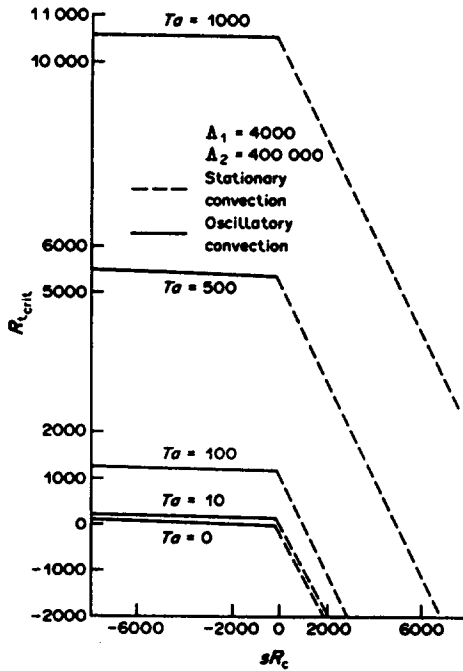


FIG. 1. Variation of  $R_{crit}$  with  $sR_c$  for several Darcy-Taylor numbers.

the system, it is observed that for certain data rotation has no significant effect. This is clear from Table 2.

The numerical computations show that for certain values of  $\Lambda_1$ ,  $\Lambda_2$ ,  $Ta$  and  $sR_c$  the critical wave number  $a_c$  undergoes a sudden jump as the convection pattern changes from the stationary to the oscillatory mode (in Table 3 (S) and (O) indicate the modes of

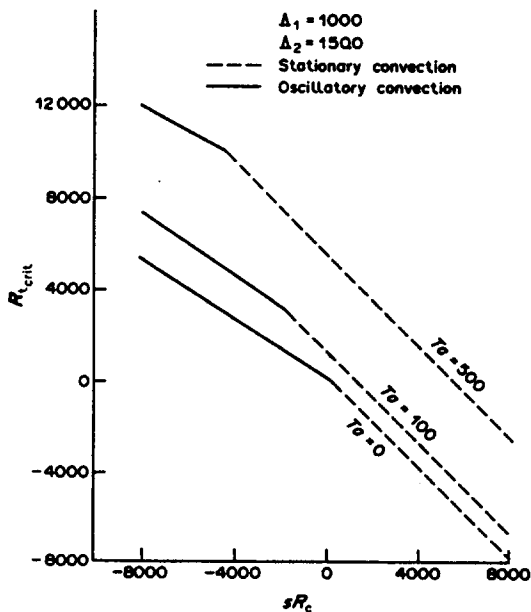


FIG. 2.  $R_{crit}$ - $sR_c$  plot for several Darcy-Taylor numbers.

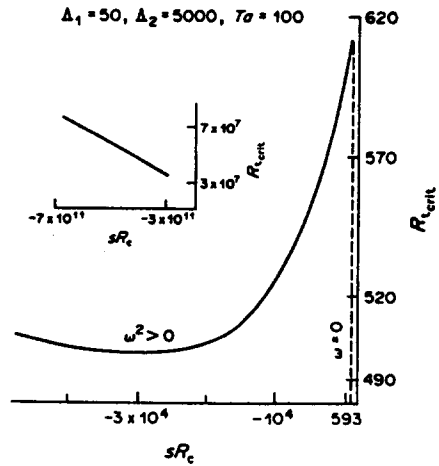


FIG. 3.  $R_{crit}$ - $sR_c$  plot having a minimum. Destabilization of a bottom heavy arrangement.

convection). Such a behaviour was observed by Chandrasekhar [13] for the convective stability of a single component rotating Newtonian fluid layer in the presence of a magnetic field.

The existence of two positive frequencies which correspond to two oscillatory neutral solutions is shown in Figs. 5(a) and (b) for  $\Lambda_1 = 50$ ,  $\Lambda_2 = 5000$ . It can be seen from these figures that the oscillatory neutral stability curves are closed, but the region is connected in the topological sense and hence only one  $R_{crit}$  is necessary to express the stability criteria. Figure 6 shows closed disconnected neutral curves when two oscillatory modes exist for  $\Lambda_1 = 5000$ ,  $\Lambda_2 = 50$ ,  $Ta = 100$ ,  $sR_c = 600$ . In this case  $\Lambda_1 > \Lambda_2$ . As can be seen from the figure, three critical thermal Rayleigh numbers are necessary to specify the regions of stability. For  $R_i < -123\,372$ , the system is stable. For  $-123\,372 < R_i < -283$ , instability sets in through

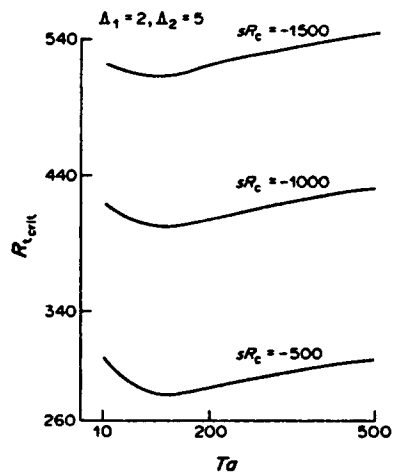


FIG. 4.  $R_{crit}$ - $Ta$  plot for the oscillatory mode having a minimum. Rotation destabilizing for certain data.

Table 2. Values of  $R_{crit}$  for various Darcy–Taylor numbers.  $R_{crit}$  is affected very little by rotation for  $\Lambda_1 = 5$ ,  $\Lambda_2 = 10$  and a solute Rayleigh number of  $-10^8$

$Ta$	$R_{crit}$
10	25 252 160.55
100	25 252 160.61
500	25 252 160.89
1000	25 252 161.23

the oscillatory mode. For  $-283 < R_t < 605$ , it is found that the system again becomes stable and for  $R_t > 605$ , instability sets in through the stationary mode. (In drawing the figure for the oscillatory mode, the values of  $R_t$  have been scaled down to accommodate the oscillatory and stationary curves in the same figure.) In conclusion, the results of the above linear analysis are:

- (1) rotation, in general, inhibits the onset of the convective motion, though under certain conditions it destabilizes the system (Fig. 4);
- (2) a rotating layer can get destabilized for a bottom heavy arrangement (Fig. 3);

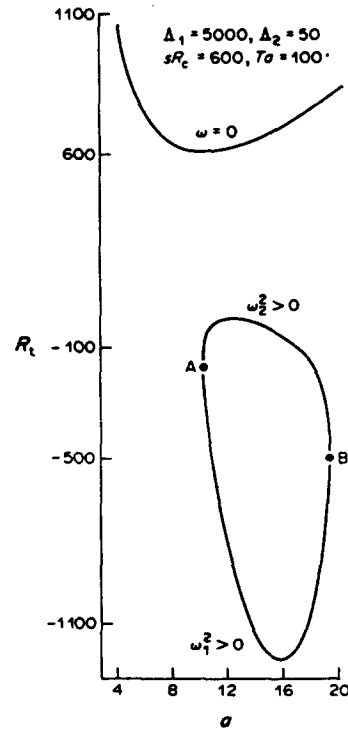
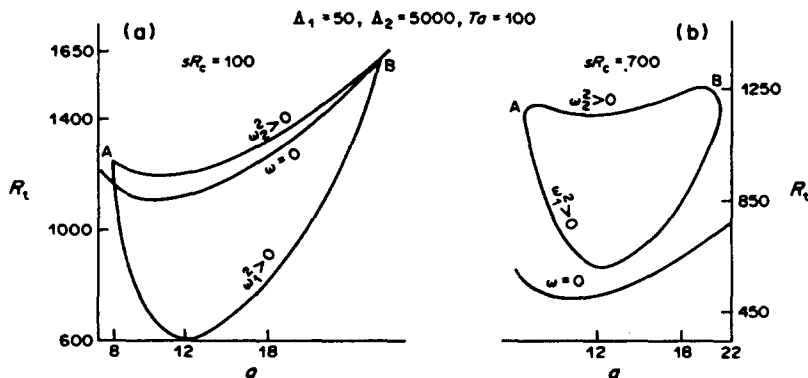


FIG. 6. Closed disconnected neutral stability curves showing the existence of three critical Rayleigh numbers. A, B are points of equal frequencies.

Table 3. Critical wave number  $a_c$  for various Darcy–Taylor numbers  $Ta$  and solute Rayleigh numbers  $R_c$

$sR_c$	$\Lambda_1 = 4000, \Lambda_2 = 400\ 000$		$\Lambda_1 = 1000, \Lambda_2 = 1500$	
	$Ta = 500$	$Ta = 1000$	$Ta = 500$	$Ta = 1000$
	$a_c$	$a_c$	$a_c$	$a_c$
5000	14.8631 (S)	17.6709 (S)	14.8631 (S)	17.6709 (S)
4000	14.8631 (S)	17.6709 (S)	14.8631 (S)	50.0102 (O)
0	14.8631 (S)	17.6709 (S)	14.8631 (S)	47.5519 (O)
-4000	14.8752 (O)	17.7362 (O)	14.8631 (S)	45.2700 (O)
-5000	14.8679 (O)	17.7268 (O)	36.8482 (O)	44.8212 (O)



FIGS. 5(a), (b). Closed neutral stability curves showing the existence of two oscillatory modes. A, B are points of equal frequencies.

(3) critical wave number is independent of salinity Rayleigh number for stationary convection and for some data the change in the value of  $a_c$  is very slight for oscillatory convection (Table 1);

(4) for certain data rotation has a very little effect on the stability of the system (Table 2);

(5) for certain data there exist two positive frequencies which correspond to two oscillatory modes (Fig. 5);

(6) the linear stability criteria have to be expressed in terms of three thermal Rayleigh numbers as opposed to a single critical value for  $\Lambda_1 > \Lambda_2$  (Fig. 6).

Most of the results observed in this analysis were also observed by Pearlstein [1] for a Newtonian fluid layer. While preparing the revised version of this paper the authors came across the article by Rudraiah *et al.* [14] which is for the Brinkman model.

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#### EFFET DE LA ROTATION SUR LA STABILITE D'UNE COUCHE FLUIDE DOUBLEMENT DIFFUSIVE DANS UN MILIEU POREUX

*Résumé*—On considère la stabilité convective d'un fluide doublement diffusif qui sature un milieu poreux tournant. On observe que (i) une couche peut être déstabilisée par un arrangement lourd en partie inférieure; (ii) en général, la rotation stabilise le système et le déstabilise sous certaines conditions; (iii) la rotation a un effet faible sur la stabilité de la couche fluide dans certaines conditions; (iv) parfois, il faut trois nombre de Rayleigh pour spécifier le critère de stabilité linéaire.

#### EINFLUSS EINER ROTATION AUF DIE STABILITÄT EINER DOPPELT DIFFUSIVEN FLUIDSCHICHT IN EINEM PORÖSEN MEDIUM

*Zusammenfassung*—Es wird die konvektive Stabilität eines doppelt diffusiven Fluids in einem rotierenden, porösen Medium betrachtet. Dabei ergibt sich: (i) eine rotierende Schicht kann dadurch destabilisiert werden, daß sie einen tiefliegenden Schwerpunkt aufweist; (ii) ganz allgemein stabilisiert eine Drehbewegung ein System, dies ist jedoch unter bestimmten Bedingungen nicht der Fall; (iii) die Drehbewegung hat unter bestimmten Bedingungen einen geringen Effekt auf die Stabilität der Fluidschicht; (iv) unter gewissen Bedingungen sind 3 Rayleigh-Zahlen als spezifische lineare Stabilitätskriterien erforderlich.

#### ВЛИЯНИЕ ВРАЩЕНИЯ НА УСТОЙЧИВОСТЬ СЛОЯ ЖИДКОСТИ С ДВОЙНОЙ ДИФфуЗИЕЙ В ПОРИСТОЙ СРЕДЕ

*Аннотация*—Исследуется конвективная устойчивость жидкости с двойной диффузией, насыщающей вращающуюся пористую среду. Найдено, что (i) устойчивость вращающегося слоя может быть нарушена в случае системы с массивным основанием; (ii) в целом вращение стабилизирует систему, хотя при определенных условиях может наблюдаться неустойчивость слоя; (iii) вращение может оказывать незначительное влияние на устойчивость жидкого слоя; (iv) при некоторых условиях для определения критериев линейной устойчивости необходимы три значения числа Рэлея.