BOUNDS FOR COMPLEX GROWTH RATE IN THERMOSOLUTAL CONVECTION IN RIVLIN-ERICKSEN VISCOELASTIC FLUID IN A POROUS MEDIUM

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Abstract

Thermosolutal convection in a layer of Rivlin-Ericksen viscoelastic fluid of Veronis (1965) type is considered in a porous medium. Following the linearized stability theory and normal mode analysis, the paper through mathematical analysis of the governing equations of Rivlin-Ericksen viscoelastic fluid convection, for any combination of free and rigid boundaries of infinite horizontal extension at the top and bottom of the fluid, established that the complex growth rate $\sigma$ of oscillatory perturbations, neutral or unstable for all wave numbers, must lie inside right half of the semi-circle

$$
\sigma_{r}^2 + \sigma_{i}^2 \left( \frac{R_s}{E P_3} - \frac{eP_3}{P_1 + eF} \right),
$$

in the $\sigma_r, \sigma_i$-plane, where $R_s$ is the thermosolutal Rayleigh number, $F$ is the viscoelasticity parameter, $P_3$ is the thermosolutal Prandtl number, $\varepsilon$ is the porosity and $P_1$ is the medium permeability. This prescribes the bounds to the complex growth rate of arbitrary oscillatory motions of growing amplitude in the Rivlin-Ericksen viscoelastic fluid in Veronis (1965) type configuration in a porous medium. A similar result is also proved for Stern (1960) type of configuration. The result is important since the result hold for all wave numbers and for any arbitrary combinations of dynamically free and rigid boundaries.

Key Words: Thermosolutal convection; Rivlin-Ericksen Fluid; PES; Rayleigh number; Thermosolutal Rayleigh number.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Right from the conceptualizations of turbulence, instability of fluid flows is being regarded at its root. The thermal instability of a fluid layer with maintained adverse temperature gradient by heating the underside plays an important role in Geophysics, interiors of the Earth, Oceanography and Atmospheric Physics, and has been investigated by several authors (e.g., Bénard (1900), Rayleigh (1916), Jeffreys (1926)) under different conditions. A detailed account of the theoretical and experimental study of the onset of Bénard Convection in Newtonian fluids, under varying assumptions of hydrodynamics and hydromagnetics, has been given by Chandrasekhar (1981) in his celebrated monograph. The use of Boussinesq approximation has been made throughout, which states that the density changes are disregarded in all other terms in the equation of motion except the external force term. The problem of thermohaline convection in a layer of fluid heated from below and subjected to a stable salinity gradient has been considered by Veronis (1965). The physics is quite similar in the stellar case, in that helium acts like in raising the density and in diffusing more slowly than heat. The condition under which convective motions are important in stellar atmospheres are usually far removed from consideration of single component fluid and rigid boundaries and therefore it is desirable to consider a fluid acted upon by a solute gradient with free or rigid boundaries. The problem is of great importance because of its applications to atmospheric
physics and astrophysics, especially in the case of the ionosphere and the outer layer of the atmosphere. The thermosolutal convection problems also arise in oceanograhy, limnology and engineering. Bhatia and Steiner (1972) have considered the effect of uniform rotation on the thermal instability of a viscoelastic (Maxwell) fluid and found that rotation has a destabilizing influence in contrast to the stabilizing effect on Newtonian fluid. Sharma (1976) has studied the thermal instability of a layer of viscoelastic (Oldroydian) fluid acted upon by a uniform rotation and found that rotation has destabilizing as well as stabilizing effects under certain conditions in contrast to that of a Maxwell fluid where it has a destabilizing effect. There are many elasto-viscous fluids that cannot be characterized by Maxwell’s constitutive relations or Oldroyd’s (1958) constitutive relations. Two such classes of fluids are Rivlin-Ericksen’s and Walter’s (model B’) fluids. Rivlin-Ericksen (1955) has proposed a theoretical model for such class of elasto-viscous fluids. Sharma and kumar (1996) have studied the effect of rotation on thermal instability in Rivlin-Ericksen elastico-viscous fluid and found that rotation has a stabilizing effect and introduces oscillatory modes in the system. Kumar et al. (2006) considered effect of rotation and magnetic field on Rivlin-Ericksen elastico-viscous fluid and found that rotation has stabilizing effect; where as magnetic field has both stabilizing and destabilizing effects. A layer of such fluid heated from below or under the action of magnetic field or rotation or both may find applications in geophysics, interior of the Earth, Oceanography, and the atmospheric physics. With the growing importance of non-Newtonian fluids in modern technology and industries, the investigations on such fluids are desirable.

In all above studies, the medium has been considered to be non-porous with free boundaries only, in general. In recent years, the investigation of flow of fluids through porous media has become an important topic due to the recovery of crude oil from the pores of reservoir rocks. When a fluid permeates a porous material, the gross effect is represented by the Darcy’s law. As a result of this macroscopic law, the usual viscous term in the equation of Rivlin-Ericksen fluid motion is replaced by the resistance term

$$\left[ -\frac{1}{k_1} \left( \mu + \mu' \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \right) \right],$$

where \( \mu \) and \( \mu' \) are the viscosity and viscoelasticity of the Rivlin-Ericksen fluid, \( k_1 \) is the medium permeability and \( q \) is the Darcian (filter) velocity of the fluid. The problem of thermosolutal convection in fluids in a porous medium is of great importance in geophysics, soil sciences, ground water hydrology and astrophysics. Generally, it is accepted that comets consist of a dusty ‘snowball’ of a mixture of frozen gases which, in the process of their journey, changes from solid to gas and vice-versa. The physical properties of the comets, meteorites and interplanetary dust strongly suggest the importance of non-Newtonian fluids in chemical technology, industry and geophysical fluid dynamics. Thermal convection in porous medium is also of interest in geophysical system, electrochemistry and metallurgy. A comprehensive review of the literature concerning thermal convection in a fluid-saturated porous medium may be found in the book by Nield and Bejan (1992).

Pellow and Southwell (1940) proved the validity of PES for the classical Rayleigh-Bénard convection problem. Banerjee et al (1981) gave a new scheme for combining the governing equations of thermohaline convection, which is shown to lead to the bounds for the complex growth rate of the arbitrary oscillatory perturbations, neutral or unstable for all combinations of dynamically rigid or free boundaries and, Banerjee and Banerjee (1984) established a criterion on characterization of non-oscillatory motions in hydrodynamics which was further extended by Gupta et al. (1986). However no such result existed for non-Newtonian fluid configurations in general and in particular, for Rivlin-Ericksen viscoelastic fluid configurations. Banyal (2012) have characterized the oscillatory motions in Rivlin-Ericksen fluid in the presence of magnetic field.

Keeping in mind the importance of non-Newtonian fluids, as stated above, the present paper is an attempt to prescribe the bounds to the complex growth rate of arbitrary oscillatory motions of growing amplitude, in a thermosolutal convection of a layer of incompressible Rivlin-Ericksen fluid configuration Veronis (1965) type in a porous medium, when the bounding surfaces are of infinite horizontal extension, at the top and bottom of the fluid and are with any arbitrary combination of dynamically free and rigid boundaries. A similar result is also proved for Stern (1960) type of configuration. The result is important since the result hold for all wave numbers and for any arbitrary combinations of dynamically free and rigid boundaries.

2. FORMULATION OF THE PROBLEM AND PERTURBATION EQUATIONS

Here we consider an infinite, horizontal, incompressible Rivlin-Ericksen viscoelastic fluid layer, of thickness \( d \), heated from below so that, the temperature, density and solute concentrations at the bottom surface \( z = 0 \) are \( T_0, \rho_0 \) and \( C_0 \), at the upper surface \( z = d \) are \( T_d, \rho_d \) and \( C_d \) respectively,
and that a uniform adverse temperature gradient 

\[ \beta = \left( \frac{dT}{dz} \right) \]

and a uniform solute gradient 

\[ \beta = \left( \frac{dC}{dz} \right) \]

is maintained. The uniform gravity field \( g(0,0,-g) \) pervade on the system. This fluid layer is assumed to be flowing through an isotropic and homogeneous porous medium of porosity \( \varepsilon \) and medium permeability \( k \).

Let \( p, \rho, T, C, \alpha, \alpha', g \) and \( q(u,v,w) \) denote respectively the fluid pressure, fluid density, temperature, solute concentration, thermal coefficient of expansion, an analogous solvent coefficient of expansion, gravitational acceleration and filter velocity of the fluid. The momentum balance, mass balance, and energy balance equation governing the flow of thermosolutal Rivlin-Ericksen fluid (Rivlin and Ericksen (1955); Chandrasekhar (1981) and Sharma et al (2001)) are given by

\[
\frac{d}{dt} \frac{\mathbf{q}}{\varepsilon} + \nabla \cdot \mathbf{q} = \left( \frac{1}{\rho_0} \right) \nabla p + \frac{1}{k_1} \left( \nabla \cdot \left( \mathbf{v} \right) \right) + \mathbf{q} \quad \text{(1)}
\]

\[ \nabla \cdot \mathbf{q} = 0 \quad \text{(2)} \]

\[
E \frac{\partial T}{\partial t} + (\mathbf{q} \cdot \nabla) T = \kappa \nabla^2 T \quad \text{(3)}
\]

And

\[
E' \frac{\partial C}{\partial t} + (\mathbf{q} \cdot \nabla) C = \kappa' \nabla^2 C \quad \text{(4)}
\]

The equation of state is

\[
p = \rho_0 \left[ 1 - \alpha (T - T_0) + \alpha' (C - C_0) \right] \quad \text{(5)}
\]

Where the suffix zero refer to the values at the reference level \( z = 0 \). In writing the equation (1), we made use of the Boussinesq approximation, which states that the density variations are ignored in all terms in the equation of motion except the external force term. The kinematic viscosity \( \nu \), kinematic viscoelasticity \( \nu' \), thermal diffusivity \( \kappa \), the solute diffusivity \( \kappa' \), and the coefficient of thermal expansion \( \alpha \) are all assumed to be constants.

The steady state solution is

\[
\mathbf{q} = (0,0,0) \quad \rho = \rho_0 (1 + \alpha \beta z - \alpha' \beta z) \quad \text{(6)}
\]

Here we use the linearized stability theory and the normal mode analysis method. Consider a small perturbations on the steady state solution, and let \( \delta \rho \), \( \delta p \), \( \theta \), \( \gamma \) and \( q(u,v,w) \) denote respectively the perturbations in density \( \rho \), pressure \( p \), temperature \( T \), solute concentration \( C \) and velocity \( q(0,0,0) \). The change in density \( \delta \rho \), caused mainly by the perturbation \( \theta \) and \( \gamma \) in temperature and concentration, is given by

\[
\delta \rho = -\rho_0 (\alpha \theta - \alpha' \gamma) \quad \text{(7)}
\]
Then the linearized perturbation equations of the Rivlin-Ericksen fluid reduces to

\[
\frac{1}{\varepsilon} \frac{\partial q}{\partial t} = -\frac{1}{\rho_0} (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{p}) - g(\alpha \theta - \alpha' \gamma) - \frac{1}{k_1} \left( \nu + \nu' \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \right) q,
\]
\[
\nabla \cdot \mathbf{q} = 0, \tag{8}
\]
\[
E \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial t} = \beta w + k \nabla^2 \theta \tag{9}
\]
\[
E \frac{\partial \gamma}{\partial t} = \beta' w + k' \nabla^2 \gamma. \tag{10}
\]

3. NORMAL MODE ANALYSIS

Analyzing the disturbances into two-dimensional waves, and considering disturbances characterized by a particular wave number, we assume that the Perturbation quantities are of the form

\[
[w, \theta, \gamma] = [W(z), \Theta(z), \Gamma(z)] \exp \left( i k_x x + i k_y y + n t \right).
\]

Where \( k_x, k_y \) are the wave numbers along the x- and y-directions, respectively, \( k = \left( k_x^2 + k_y^2 \right)^{1/2} \), is the resultant wave number, \( n \) is the growth rate which is, in general, a complex constant \( W(z), \Theta(z) \) and \( \Gamma(z) \) are the functions of \( z \) only.

Using (12), equations (8)-(11), within the framework of Boussinesq approximations, in the non-dimensional form transform to

\[
\left[ \frac{\sigma + 1}{E \left( 1 + \sigma F \right)} \right] \left( D^2 - \alpha^2 \right) W = -Ra \theta + R_s \beta \gamma \Gamma,
\]
\[
\left( D^2 - \alpha^2 - E p, \sigma \right) \Theta = -W, \tag{13}
\]
\[
\left( D^2 - \alpha^2 - E p, \sigma \right) \Gamma = -W, \tag{14}
\]

And
\[
\left( D^2 - a^2 - E p, \sigma \right) \Gamma = -W, \tag{15}
\]

Where we have introduced new coordinates \((x', y', z') = (x/d, y/d, z/d)\) in new units of length \( d \) and \( D = d / dz' \). For convenience, the dashes are dropped hereafter. Also we have substituted \( \alpha = kd, \sigma = \frac{nd^2}{V}, p_1 = \frac{V}{k} \) is the thermal Prandtl number; \( p_3 = \frac{V}{k} \) is the thermosolutal Prandtl number; \( p_i = \frac{k_i}{d^2} \) is the dimensionless medium permeability, \( F = \frac{V^2}{d^2} \) is the dimensionless viscoelasticity parameter of the Rivlin-Ericksen fluid; \( R = \frac{g \alpha \beta d^4}{\kappa V} \) is the thermal Rayleigh number and \( R_s = \frac{g \alpha \beta d^4}{\kappa V} \) is the thermosolutal Rayleigh number. Also we have Substituted \( W = W_\circ, \Theta = \frac{\beta d^2}{\kappa} \Theta_\circ, \Gamma = \frac{\beta d^2}{\kappa} \Gamma_\circ \) and \( D_\circ = dD \) and dropped \((\circ)\) for convenience.

We now consider the case where both the boundaries are rigid and perfectly conducting and are maintained at constant temperature and solute concentration, and then the perturbations in the temperature and solute concentration are zero at the boundaries. The appropriate boundary conditions with respect to which equations (13)-(15), must possess a solution are

\[
W = 0 = \Theta = \Gamma, \quad \text{on both the horizontal boundaries,}
\]
\[
DW = 0, \quad \text{on a rigid boundary,}
\]
\[
D^2 W = 0, \quad \text{on a dynamically free boundary,}
\]

Equations (13)–(15), along with boundary conditions (16), pose an eigenvalue problem for \( \sigma \) and we wish to characterize \( \sigma_i \), when \( \sigma_i \geq 0 \).
We first note that since $W$ and $\Gamma$ satisfy $W(0) = 0 = W(1)$ and $\Gamma(0) = 0 = \Gamma(1)$ in addition to satisfying the governing equations and hence we have from the Rayleigh-Ritz inequality Schultz (1973).

\[
\int_{0}^{1} |\Delta W|^2 \, dz \geq \pi^2 \int_{0}^{1} |\Gamma|^2 \, dz
\]

And,

\[
\int_{0}^{1} |\Delta \Gamma|^2 \, dz \geq \pi^2 \int_{0}^{1} |\Gamma|^2 \, dz
\]

4. MATHEMATICAL ANALYSIS

We prove the following lemma:

**Lemma 1:** For any arbitrary oscillatory perturbation, neutral or unstable

\[
\int_{0}^{1} |\Gamma|^2 \, dz \leq \frac{1}{E^2 \beta^2 \sigma^2} \int_{0}^{1} |W|^2 \, dz
\]

Proof: Multiplying equation (15) and its complex conjugate, and integrating by parts each term on right hand side of the resulting equation for an appropriate number of times and making use of boundary conditions on $\Theta$ namely $\Theta(0) = 0 = \Theta(1)$ along with (15), we get

\[
\int_{0}^{1} \left( D^2 - a^2 \right) |\Theta|^2 \, dz + 2E \beta \sigma \int_{0}^{1} |\Delta \Theta|^2 \, dz
\]

\[
+ E^2 \beta^2 |\sigma|^2 \int_{0}^{1} |\Gamma|^2 \, dz = \int_{0}^{1} |W|^2 \, dz
\]

(18)

Since $\sigma \geq 0$, therefore the equations (19) give,

\[
\int_{0}^{1} |\Theta|^2 \, dz \leq \frac{1}{E^2 \beta^2 \sigma^2} \int_{0}^{1} |W|^2 \, dz
\]

This completes the proof of lemma.

**Lemma 2:** For any arbitrary oscillatory perturbation, neutral or unstable

\[
\int_{0}^{1} |\Theta|^2 \, dz \leq \frac{1}{E^2 \beta^2 \sigma^2} \int_{0}^{1} |W|^2 \, dz
\]

Proof: Multiplying equation (14) by $W^*$ (the complex conjugate of $W$) throughout and integrating the resulting equation over the vertical range of $z$, we get

\[
\int_{0}^{1} \left( \frac{\sigma}{\epsilon} + \frac{1}{P_i} (1 + \sigma F) \right) |W|^2 (D^2 - a^2) \, dz = -Ra \int_{0}^{1} W^* \Theta \, dz
\]

\[
+ R_i a^2 \int_{0}^{1} W^* \Gamma \, dz
\]

(22)

Taking complex conjugate on both sides of equation (14), we get

\[
\left( D^2 - a^2 - E \beta \sigma \right) \Theta^* = -W^*
\]

(23)

Therefore, using (23), we get
\[ \int W^* \Theta^* dz = - \int \Theta (D^2 - a^2 - E \sigma) \Theta^* dz \quad , \quad (24) \]

Taking complex conjugate on both sides of equation (15), we get
\[ (D^2 - a^2 - E \sigma) \Gamma^* = - W^* \quad , \quad (25) \]

Therefore, using (25), we get
\[ \int W^* \Gamma dz = - \int (D^2 - a^2 - E \sigma) \Theta^* dz \quad . \quad (26) \]

Substituting (24) and (26), in the right hand side of equation (22), we get
\[
\left[ \frac{\sigma}{E} + \frac{1}{P_1} (1 + \sigma F) \right] \int W^* (D^2 - a^2) W dz \\
= R a^2 \int \Theta (D^2 - a^2 - E \sigma \Theta) dz \\
- R a^2 \int \Gamma (D^2 - a^2 - E \sigma \Gamma) dz \\
(27)
\]

Integrating the terms on both sides of equation (27) for an appropriate number of times and making use of the appropriate boundary conditions (16), we get
\[
\left[ \frac{\sigma}{E} + \frac{1}{P_1} (1 + \sigma F) \right] \int \left( |Dw|^2 + a^2 |W|^2 \right) dz \\
= Ra^2 \int \left( |\Theta|^2 + a^2 |\Theta|^2 + E \sigma |\Theta|^2 \right) dz \\
- Ra^2 \int \left( |D\Gamma|^2 + a^2 |\Gamma|^2 + E \sigma |\Gamma|^2 \right) dz \\
(28)
\]

Now equating imaginary parts on both sides of equation (28), and cancelling \( \sigma \neq 0 \) throughout, we get
\[
\left[ \frac{1}{E} + \frac{F}{P_1} \right] \int \left( |DW|^2 + a^2 |W|^2 \right) dz \\
= - Ra^2 \int \left( |\Theta|^2 + E \sigma |\Theta|^2 \right) dz \\
(29)
\]

Now \( R > 0, P_1 > 0 \) and \( E > 0 \), utilizing the inequalities (19), the equation (29) gives,
\[
a^2 \left( \frac{1}{E} + \frac{F}{P_1} \right) \int |W|^2 dz + I_1(0) \quad . \quad (30)
\]

Where
\[
I_1 = \left( \frac{1}{E} + \frac{F}{P_1} \right) \int |D\Theta|^2 + Ra^2 \int |\Theta|^2 dz \\
\]

Is positive definite, therefore, we must have
\[
\left| \sigma \right|^2 \left( \frac{R}{E} \right) \left( \frac{\sigma P_1}{P_1 + E} \right) \quad . \quad (31)
\]

Hence, if
\[
\sigma \geq 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \sigma \neq 0 \quad \text{then} \quad \left| \sigma \right|^2 \left( \frac{R}{E} \right) \left( \frac{\sigma P_1}{P_1 + E} \right) \quad . \quad (32)
\]

And this completes the proof of the theorem.

Theorem 2: If \( R > 0, R > 0, F > 0, P_1 > 0, p_2 > 0, p_2 > 0 \), \( \sigma \geq 0 \) and \( \sigma \neq 0 \) then the necessary condition for the existence of non-trivial solution of equations (13) – (15), together with boundary conditions (16) is that
\[
\left| \sigma \right|^2 \left( \frac{R}{E} \right) \left( \frac{\sigma P_1}{P_1 + E} \right) \quad . \quad (32)
\]

Proof: Replacing \( R \) and \( R_i \) by \(-|R|\) and \(-|R_i|\), respectively in equations (13) – (15) and proceeding exactly as in Theorem 1 and utilizing the inequality (21), we get the desired result.
5. CONCLUSIONS

The inequality (31) for \( \sigma_r \geq 0 \) and \( \sigma_i \neq 0 \), can be written as

\[
\sigma_r^2 + \sigma_i^2 \left( \frac{R_i}{E \rho_3} \left( \frac{\epsilon p_i}{p_i + \epsilon F} \right) \right) \leq 0
\]

The essential content of the theorem, from the point of view of linear stability theory is that for the thermosolutal Veronis (1965) type configuration of Rivlin-Ericksen viscoelastic fluid in a porous medium of infinite horizontal extension with any arbitrary combination of dynamically free and rigid boundaries in a porous medium, the complex growth rate of an arbitrary oscillatory motions of growing amplitude, lies inside a semi-circle in the right half of the \( \sigma_r, \sigma_i \) - plane whose centre is at the origin and radius is equal to

\[
\left( \frac{R_i}{E \rho_3} \left( \frac{\epsilon p_i}{p_i + \epsilon F} \right) \right)
\]

where \( R_s \) is the thermosolutal Rayleigh number, \( F \) is the viscoelasticity parameter, \( \rho_3 \) is the thermosolutal Prandtl number, \( \epsilon \) is the porosity and \( p_i \) is the medium permeability. The result is important since the exact solutions of the problem investigated in closed form, are not obtainable, for any arbitrary combinations of dynamically free and rigid boundaries. The similar conclusions are drawn for the thermosolutal configuration of Stern (1960) type of Rivlin-Ericksen viscoelastic fluid of infinite horizontal extension, for any arbitrary combination of free and rigid boundaries at the top and bottom of the fluid from Theorem 2.

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