DOUBLE DIFFUSIVE NATURAL CONVECTION IN OPEN CAVITY 
UNDER THE SORET AND DUFOUR EFFECTS

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ABSTRACT

Double diffusive natural convection in an open cavity under the Soret and Dufour effect is simulated numerically. The influences of different Rayleigh numbers (range from $10^3$ to $10^7$), Lewis numbers (range from 0.5 to 8), buoyancy ratios (range from -5 to 5) and Soret and Dufour (range from 0 to 0.5) on the flow field, temperature and concentration distributions, as well as on the variation of the average Nusselt number and the average Sherwood number are investigated. The result shows that, when buoyancy ratios is -1, the average Nusselt number and the average Sherwood number reaches the minimum, namely the heat and mass transfer in the cavity are the weakest. The increase of Lewis numbers under a fixed Rayleigh numbers would lead to decreased the average Nusselt number and gradually increased the average Sherwood number. When the value of Rayleigh numbers is small, the change of Lewis numbers has little effect on heat and mass transfer. Both the average Nusselt number and the average Sherwood number increase as Soret and Dufour increase. When Dufour and Soret simultaneously varies from 0.1 to 0.5, compared with some cases, the Soret and Dufour effects are not considered, the average Nusselt number increases by 10.4% to 58.0% and the average Sherwood number increases by 3.4% to 13.1% respectively. In addition, the Soret and Dufour effect on the heat and mass transfer in open cavity is not obvious when Lewis numbers is 1.

Keywords: open cavity, double diffusion, natural convection, Soret and Dufour effects, numerical simulation.

1. INTRODUCTION

Natural convection plays an important role in engineering systems, and the related convection problems gradually arouse many researcher’s attention. Generally, most of the fluids in natural convection systems are composed of two or more components. Prasad et al. (2018) numerically simulated the steady laminar natural convection and surface radiation in the two dimensional partially right side open square cavity filled with natural air (Pr=0.70) as the fluid medium. When the temperature and concentration gradients coexist, heat and mass transfer will occur simultaneously in the mixed fluid, and then the natural convection, that is, double diffusive natural convection occurs (Turner, 1974). At present, double diffusive convection has been widely used in industrial ventilation (Serrano-Arellano et al., 2013), crystal growth technology (Huppert and Sparks, 1984), metal mixture solidification (Ghenai et al., 2003), liquid film cooling (Zhang et al., 2006), solar energy absorber (Rahman et al., 2012).

A lot of experimental analysis and simulation studies have been carried out on the double diffusive convection problem. Most of the researchers focus on the analysis of the flow and heat transfer in a closed cavity. Bégheniet et al. (1992) numerically simulated the convection of heat and mass in a square cavity filled with air. Younis et al. (2007) studied the problem of double diffusive natural convection in closed cavity filled with liquid under different heating conditions and different fluid concentration. The result shows that the heat and mass transfer rate of the free surface is high, so the influence of the capping conditions can not be underestimated. Zhao et al. (2008) numerically simulated the double-diffusive convection flow of binary mixture in a porous enclosure. In recent decades, researchers increasingly paid more attention to the Soret and Dufour effects on double diffusive convection. The Soret effect refers to the mass transfer phenomenon caused by the non-uniform temperature field, and the Dufour effect refers to the heat transfer phenomenon caused by the non-uniform concentration field. The studies have shown that the Soret effect and the Dufour effect in double diffusive convection cannot be ignored in some cases. Chen et al. (2016) revealed the heat and mass transfer mechanism of dual diffusive natural convection in the range of nanofluids from laminar to turbulent by numerical method. Wang et al. (2016) conducted the study of double diffusive convection based on the buoyancy of hot solute and considered the Soret and Dufour effects. An unsteady numerical model based on thermosolutal buoyancies with Soret and Dufour effects for double-diffusive convection is developed. The flow field, temperature and concentration distributions for different aspect ratios, buoyancy ratios, Rayleigh numbers, Soret and Dufour coefficients are investigated systematically (Wang et al., 2014). Moorthy et al. (2012) analyzed the heat and mass transfer characteristics of natural convection embedded in vertical surface in saturated porous media under the effect of Soret and Dufour. Shi et al. (2006) numerically simulated the double diffusive convection in a cylindrical vessel, and gave a new feature of non-horizontal stratification of temperature and concentration fields under the situation of double diffusion convection. Chen et al. (2004) established a mathematical model of natural convection with double buoyancy in porous media considering coupling diffusion effect, emphatically investigating the influences of Soret effect and Dufour effect on heat and mass transfer.

In addition to double diffusive convection in closed spaces, some researchers have studied the problem of double diffusive convection in open cavity. Mohamad et al. (2010) used the Lattice Boltzmann Method to study the problem of double diffusive convection in the open cavity when the buoyancy ratio N is negative. Arbin et al. (2014) studied the effects of double diffusive natural convection in the square cavity with
top openings under local heating and solute. Kefayati (2016) studied the influences of Soret and Dufour effects on the double-diffusion natural convection problem of a power law non-Newtonian fluid in an open cavity under a horizontal magnetic field using FDLBM (Finite Difference Lattice Boltzmann Method).

However, for open systems, the double diffusive natural convection problem of normal Newtonian fluid in a free space considering the Soret effect and the Dufour effect has not been reported. Nawazd et al. (2012) pointed out that Dufour and Sorret effects are particularly obvious when the very light molecular weight gases (H₂, He) and medium molecular weight gases are mixed for heat and mass transfer. In addition, Shi et al. (2001) studied the heat and moisture transfer in textiles, finding that the influence of Soret effect and Dufour effect on the simultaneous heat and moisture transfer in wet air was much greater than that of the heat and moisture cross effect in infinitely miscible non-polar mixed gases. In that case, the effect of the cross-effect of heat and moisture can not be ignored. This paper is aimed at this deficiency. The numerical simulation of the natural convection in the open cavity under the Soret and Dufour effect when the mixture of two gases is used as the medium. The effects of different parameters on the thermosolutal diffusion in the open cavity are investigated. In the scope of this study, without comparing Soret effect and the Dufour effect, the maximum difference between Soret number and Dufour number is 58.0% and 13.1%.

2. Physical Model and Numerical Method

2.1 Physics and Mathematical Model

The domain under analysis is, as sketched in Fig. 1, a square, two-dimensional open cavity in a gravitational field. The upper and lower walls of the square cavity are adiabatic, the right side is an open interface and 13.1%.

\[ \frac{\partial V}{\partial r} + U \frac{\partial V}{\partial X} + V \frac{\partial V}{\partial Y} = \frac{\partial P}{\partial Y} + Pr \left( \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial X^2} + \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial Y^2} \right) + Ra \cdot Pr \left( \Theta + NC \right) \]  

Equations (2)-(6) are subject to the following initial conditions:

\[ \Theta > 0, \frac{\partial \Theta}{\partial Y} = 0, \frac{\partial^2 \Theta}{\partial X^2} = 0, U < 0, \frac{\partial^2 \Theta}{\partial Y^2} = 0, \Theta = C = 0 \]

The above equations were nondimensionalized by defining:

\[ X = \frac{x}{H}, Y = \frac{y}{H}, U = \frac{U}{U_r}, V = \frac{v}{V_r}, \Theta = \frac{\theta}{\theta_r}, \]  

The above problem defined in Eqs. (2)-(6) is determined by the following six dimensionless parameters:

Rayleigh number \( Ra = \frac{g \beta_r (T_h - T_i) H^2}{\nu \alpha} \), Prandtl number \( Pr = \frac{\nu}{\alpha} \),

Lewis number \( Le = \frac{\alpha}{D} \), buoyancy ratio \( N = \frac{\beta_r (c_h - c_e)}{\beta_r (T_h - T_i)} \),

coefficient \( D_f = \frac{\kappa_r (C_h - C_i)}{a (T_h - T_i)} \) for Soret and Dufour coefficients. Soret \( S_r = \frac{\kappa_r (T_h - T_i)}{D(C_h - C_i)} \).

Where \( g \) is gravitational acceleration, \( \nu \) is kinetic viscosity, \( \alpha \) is thermal diffusivity, \( D \) is solutal diffusivity, \( \kappa_r \) and \( \kappa_c \) are Soret coefficient and Soret coefficient respectively.

2.3 Initial and boundary conditions

Equations (2)-(6) are subject to the following initial conditions:

\[ \Theta = 0, U = V = 0, \Theta = 0, C = 0 \]  

The velocity, temperature, and concentration boundary conditions for the open cavity are specified as follows (Fig. 1):

At \( Y = 1, 0 \le X \le 1, U = V = 0, \frac{\partial \Theta}{\partial Y} = \frac{\partial C}{\partial Y} = 0 \)  

At \( Y = 0, 0 \le X \le 1, U = V = 0, \frac{\partial \Theta}{\partial Y} = \frac{\partial C}{\partial Y} = 0 \)  

At \( X = 0, 0 \le Y \le 1, U = V = 0, \Theta = 0, C = 1 \)
At \( X = 1, \ 0 \leq Y \leq 1 \):
\[
\begin{bmatrix}
\frac{\partial U}{\partial X} & \frac{\partial U}{\partial Y} & 0 & \frac{\partial C}{\partial X} & \frac{\partial C}{\partial Y}
\end{bmatrix}
\begin{bmatrix}
U \\
V \\
\Theta \\
C
\end{bmatrix}
= \begin{bmatrix}
0 \\
0 \\
\rho C_{p} \frac{\partial \Theta}{\partial X} + \frac{\mu}{\rho C_{p}} \left( \frac{\partial^{2} U}{\partial X^{2}} + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial U}{\partial X} \frac{\partial U}{\partial Y} \right) \\
\rho C_{p} \frac{\partial \Theta}{\partial Y} + \frac{\mu}{\rho C_{p}} \left( \frac{\partial^{2} V}{\partial Y^{2}} + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial V}{\partial Y} \frac{\partial V}{\partial X} \right) - \rho \beta \frac{\partial C}{\partial X} - \rho \beta \frac{\partial C}{\partial Y}
\end{bmatrix}
\]
\[ \text{if } U < 0 \]  \[ \text{if } U > 0 \] (14)

The local Nusselt number \( Nu \) and local Sherwood number \( Sh \) are defined as:
\[
Nu_{Y} = -\frac{\partial \Theta}{\partial X} \quad \text{at } Y = 0
\]
\[
Sh_{Y} = -\frac{\partial C}{\partial X} \quad \text{at } Y = 0
\]

The average Nusselt number \( Nu \) and average Sherwood number \( Sh \) are the average rate of dimensionless temperature change in the normal direction of the hot wall.
\[
Nu = -\int_{0}^{1} Nu_{Y} dY
\]
\[
Sh = -\int_{0}^{1} Sh_{Y} dY
\]

### 3. NUMERICAL SOLUTION AND CODE VALIDATION

The control volume method based on the original variables is used to calculate the coupling of pressure and velocity in the governing equation by SIMPLE algorithm. The QUICK scheme is adopted for discretization of the governing equations, and the boundary condition at the exit of the open cavity adopts local unidirectional processing (TONG et al., 2009).

After the grid assessment of 100×100, 125×125, 150×150, 175×175 and 200×200, the mean grid distribution of 150 (x) × 150 (y) was selected, and the deviation between the results and those of the densest grid was less than 0.30%. 0.1, 0.01 and 0.001 were selected for the dimensionless time step, and 0.001 was selected after comparison, with the relative deviation less than 0.0085%.

The problem of natural convection of Ren and Chan (2016) in a vertical square cavity was numerically calculated to validate the reliability of the algorithm in this paper, and the results were compared. As shown in table 1, the maximum deviation was 1.34%. Due to the unpredictability of the results’ time-sensitiveness, the non-steady-state algorithm is used in this paper. It turns out that the calculated results are all steady state, and the average \( \bar{Nu} \) and \( \bar{Sh} \) under the imposed conditions fluctuate no more than \( 10^{-5} \) over time.

| N     | reference results | This work | deviation |
|-------|-------------------|-----------|-----------|
| -0.001| 4.7201            | 4.7182    | 0.04%     |
| -0.1  | 4.6405            | 4.6385    | 0.04%     |
| -2    | 2.9153            | 2.9158    | 0.02%     |
| -10   | 7.0813            | 7.0884    | 0.10%     |
| -100  | 13.6000           | 13.7393   | 1.02%     |

| N     | reference results | This work | deviation |
|-------|-------------------|-----------|-----------|
| -0.001| 6.1006            | 6.0930    | 0.13%     |
| -0.1  | 5.9844            | 5.9769    | 0.12%     |
| -2    | 4.6993            | 4.6936    | 0.12%     |
| -10   | 9.9517            | 9.9664    | 0.15%     |
| -100  | 18.6850           | 18.9345   | 1.34%     |

### 4. NUMERICAL CALCULATION AND ANALYSIS

#### 4.1 Effect of buoyancy ratio N on flow and heat transfer in open cavity

In this paper, the double diffusive natural convection of the organic compound propanol and air mixture in the open square cavity is numerically simulated first, considering the Soret and Dufour effects. The relevant parameters in the numerical calculation are \( Pr=0.71, \ Le=1.641, \ Sr=Dr=0.1 \). Fig. 2 shows the average Nusselt number \( \bar{Nu} \) and the average Sherwood number \( \bar{Sh} \) vary as a function of the buoyancy ratio \( N \) under different \( Ra \). The range of buoyancy ratio \( N \) is \(-5 \leq N \leq 5 \).

It can be seen from Fig. 2 that \( \bar{Nu} \) and \( \bar{Sh} \) are axisymmetric with \( N=-1 \) as the axis of symmetry. With the change of \( N \), the thermal mass diffusion of the entire cavity is gradually enhanced and weakened. When \( N=-1 \), thermal buoyancy and solute concentration buoyancy are opposite directions. Theoretically, the two buoyancy forces are balanced with each other, and heat and mass transfer are carried out by pure diffusion. Therefore, heat and mass transfer within the cavity are the weakest of all, and both \( \bar{Nu} \) and \( \bar{Sh} \) reach their minimum. When the value of \( N \) is far from -1, the thermal buoyancy or solute buoyancy force increases, and the flow is strengthened, thereby gradually enhancing the heat transfer and mass transfer effects.

Figure 3 shows the temperature field, concentration field, and flow field distribution in the open cavity when \( Ra = 10^{5} \) and \( N = -5 \) and 4, respectively. As can be seen from Fig. 3, when \( N=-5 \) and \( N =4 \), the temperature field, concentration field and flow field in the open cavity are approximately symmetric distributed. When \( N=-5 \), the downward solute buoyancy force is greater than the upward thermal buoyancy force, the fluid flows along the wall surface in the counterclockwise direction, and there is a vortex formation in the lower left corner of the open cavity, and the fluid flows along the wall surface in the counterclockwise direction, and there is a vortex formation in the lower left corner of the open cavity, when \( N=4 \), as shown in Fig. 3, the temperature field, concentration field, and flow field are opposite to those of \( N=-5 \). Combined with the analysis results of Fig. 2 above, it is worth noting that when \( N=-1 \), the buoyancy...
of the fluids on both sides is equal and the direction is opposite. When other parameters are the same, the fluid flows from bottom to top when \( N > -1 \), and the fluid flows from top to bottom when \( N < -1 \).

\[ N = -5 \]

\[ N = 4 \]

\begin{figure}[h]
  \centering
  \includegraphics[width=\textwidth]{temperature_field}
  \caption{Distributions of temperature field, concentration field and flow field for \( N = -5 \) and \( N = 4 \) (Ra = \( 10^3 \))}
\end{figure}

4.2 **Effect of Lewis number \( Le \) on flow and heat transfer in open cavity**

In order to obtain the effect of the Lewis number \( Le \) on the flow and heat transfer in the open cavity, the following parameters are kept constant: \( Pr = 0.71, N = 2, Sr = Df = 0.1 \).

\begin{figure}[h]
  \centering
  \includegraphics[width=\textwidth]{average_nusselt_and_sherwood_number}
  \caption{Average Nusselt and Sherwood number for various Ra with different Lewis numbers \( Le \)}
\end{figure}

Figure 4 shows the effect of different \( Le \) (0.5 \( \leq \) \( Le \) \( \leq \) 8) on the average Nusselt number \( Nu \) and the average Sherwood number \( Sh \) in the open cavity when \( Ra = 10^3 \sim 10^7 \). It should be pointed out that, at this time, the values of \( Sr \) and \( Df \) are as small as 0.1, and the Soret effect and Dufour effect are small. Heat and mass transfer mainly depend on the temperature gradient and concentration gradient at the left wall surface. It can be seen from Fig. 4 that when \( Le \) is constant, the heat and mass transfer effect in the open cavity is enhanced with the increase of \( Ra \). Changing \( Le \) doesn't influence \( Nu \) and \( Sh \) very much when \( Ra \) is small. When \( Ra \) is constant, as \( Le \) increases, \( Nu \) gradually decreases and \( Sh \) gradually increases. It is known that mass transfer in the cavity is enhanced and heat transfer is weakened. The following is a combination of temperature field, concentration field and flow field distribution to analyze the heat and mass transfer in the open cavity.

Figure 5 shows the temperature field, concentration field, and flow field distribution in the open cavity when \( Ra = 10^5 \). \( Le \) approximately expresses the relative thickness ratio of thermal boundary layer and concentration boundary layer. When \( Le \) increases, the concentration boundary layer becomes thinner and the thermal boundary layer becomes thicker, which results in the enhancement of mass transfer and the decrease of heat transfer. When \( Ra \) does not change, the buoyancy caused by temperature difference does not change, and because \( N = 2 \) in these cases, the buoyancy caused by concentration difference increases when mass transfer increases, resulting in slightly enhanced advection. With the increase of \( Le \), the comprehensive effect of diffusion and advection decreases slightly in heat transfer and increases significantly in mass transfer. At the same time, the stream lines near the upper left corner and the upper wall become distorted due to the slightly enhanced fluid flow.

\begin{figure}[h]
  \centering
  \includegraphics[width=\textwidth]{temperature_field}
  \caption{Distributions of temperature field, concentration field and flow field for \( Le = 0.5, 2, 8 \) (Ra = \( 10^3, Pr = 0.71, N = 2, Sr = Df = 0.1 \))}
\end{figure}

Figure 6 shows the local Nusselt number \( Nu \) and the Sherwood number \( Sh \) distribution along the left wall at different \( Le \) under \( Ra = 10^5 \), \( Pr = 0.71, N = 2, Sr = Df = 0.1 \). It can be seen that the heat transfer and mass transfer of the wall is gradually weakened from bottom to top. \( Nu \) and \( Sh \) at the top of the hot wall were the smallest, and \( Nu \) did not change much within the range of \( Y > 0.8 \), indicating that the heat transfer and mass transfer at the top of the hot wall were relatively weak and did not change significantly with \( Le \). The maximum value of \( Nu \) and \( Sh \) appeared near the bottom of the hot wall surface, where the double diffusion heat transfer and the mass transfer effect reached the maximum in the open cavity. This is because that the temperature gradient and concentration gradient near the high temperature and high concentration wall on the left side are the largest, and the thermal boundary layer and the concentration boundary layer are the thinnest, which is consistent with the results shown in the temperature and concentration field diagram of Fig. 5. According to discussion in section 4.1, when \( N = 2 \), the fluid flows from bottom to top along the left wall, and in the clockwise direction in the cavity. On lower part of the heating wall, a direct impact of fresh air entering from the outside was received, resulting in a thin thermal boundary layer and its counterpart of concentration. Then the two boundary layers gradually get thicker as the fluid flows upward along
the left wall. Therefore, the heat and mass transfer effect near the bottom of the left wall surface is the strongest. For the region near the left wall of \( Y<0.8 \), \( \text{Nu}_Y \) and \( \text{Sh}_Y \) vary the same as \( \text{Nu} \) and \( \text{Sh} \) for the same reason when \( \text{Le} \) changes. As for the region near the left wall of \( Y>0.8 \), it can be found from Fig. 5 that the isotherms are nearly evenly distributed with different \( \text{Le} \), while isoconcentration lines are squeezed toward the left-top corner by higher \( \text{Le} \). And the thermal and concentration boundary layer are thicker than other place. It indicates that the heat transfer in this region are conduction dominated. Consequently, the \( \text{Nu} \) is not sensitive to \( \text{Le} \) while the \( \text{Sh}_Y \) get increase with higher \( \text{Le} \).

4.3 Effect of Soret and Dufour Coefficients on Flow and Heat Transfer in Open Cavity

The Soret effect (also known as the thermal additive diffusion effect) can take a positive or negative value. Positive values represent the presence of temperature gradients that produce mass transfer from high to low temperatures, and negative values represent the presence of temperature gradients that produce mass transfer from low to high temperatures. The Dufour effect (also known as diffusion plus thermal effect) is similar to the above effect. Considering the Soret and Dufour effects, the simultaneous heat and mass transfer process will have a direct interaction, resulting in a so-called cross-coupling diffusion effect. The Soret and Dufour effects are concentrated in the governing equations in the additional source term. From the governing equations (5) and (6), temperature and concentration interactions can also be seen, and heat and mass transfer interact with each other.

Figure 7 shows the temperature field, concentration field, and flow field distribution in the open cavity when \( \text{Ra}=10^5, \text{Pr}=0.71, \text{Le}=1, \text{N}=2, \text{Sr}=\text{Df}=0.1 \). It can be seen that the isothermal and concentration lines are denser on the left wall surface. And the temperature distribution is basically identical with the concentration distribution in the cavity, which is consistent with \( \text{Le}=1 \). When \( \text{Le}=1 \), thermal diffusivity and solutal diffusivity are the same. With the change of \( \text{Sr} \) and \( \text{Df} \) number, the streamline changes in the upper left corner, and there is a slight trend that the isothermal and concentration lines became denser. It lead to that when \( \text{Le}=1 \), the enhancement of Soret and Dufour effect has a little enhancement effect on heat and mass transfer in the open square cavity, but not much.

Figure 8 shows the variation of \( \text{Nu} \) and \( \text{Sh} \) in the open cavity increases \( \text{Ra} \) increases at different \( \text{Sr} \) and \( \text{Df} \) while other parameters are kept as constant as \( \text{Pr}=0.71, \text{Le}=1, \text{N}=2 \). It can be drawn from the figure that \( \text{Nu} \) and \( \text{Sh} \) are increasing as Soret and Dufour effects intensify. \( \text{Nu} \) increased by 7.0% to 58.0%, \( \text{Sh} \) increased by 2.3% to 13.1%, when \( \text{Sr} \) and \( \text{Df} \) increased from 0.1 to 0.5, compared with the case without Soret and Dufour effects (i.e. \( \text{Sr}=\text{Df}=0 \)). It implies that the influence of the Soret and Dufour effects on the double-diffusion convective heat and mass transfer in the open cavity cannot be ignored.
5 CONCLUSIONS

In this paper, the numerical simulation of the double diffusive natural convection in a square open cavity under the effect of Soret and Dufour is carried out. The influence of N, Ra, Le, Sr and Df on heat and mass transfer in the open cavity was analyzed, and the following conclusions were drawn:

(1) When N=-1, the average Nusselt number $\overline{Nu}$ and the average Sherwood number $\overline{Sh}$ reach the minimum value, and the heat transfer and mass transfer effects in the cavity are the weakest. With the larger absolute value of N, the heat transfer and mass transfer effects gradually enhanced.

(2) When Ra is small, changing Le has little effect on $\overline{Nu}$ and $\overline{Sh}$. When Le is constant, as Ra increases, $\overline{Nu}$ and $\overline{Sh}$ gradually increase. For a fixed Ra, $\overline{Nu}$ gradually decreases and $\overline{Sh}$ gradually increases with the increase of Le.

(3) When Le=1, the enhancement of the Soret and Dufour effects has no obvious effect on the heat and mass transfer in the open cavity. Within the range of parameters considered in this paper, with the increase of Soret and Dufour effects, the maximum difference of $\overline{Nu}$ and $\overline{Sh}$ is 58.0% and 13.1% respectively (Sr=Df=0.5 without being compared with Sr=Df=0). Therefore, it is meaningful to consider the Soret and Dufour effects on the double-diffusion convective heat and mass transfer in an open cavity.

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NOMENCLATURE

- $c$: concentration, kg/m$^3$
- $C$: dimensionless concentration, dimensionless
- $D$: mass diffusivity, m$^2$/s
- $g$: gravitational acceleration, m/s$^2$
- $H$: height or length of the square cavity, m
- $Le$: Lewis number, dimensionless
- $N$: buoyancy ratio, dimensionless
- $Nu$: Nussle number, dimensionless
- $p$: pressure, N/m$^2$
- $P$: dimensionless pressure, dimensionless
- $Pr$: Prandtl number, dimensionless
- $Ra$: Rayleigh number, dimensionless
- $Df$: Dufour number, dimensionless
- $Sr$: Soret number, dimensionless
- $t$: time, s
- $T$: temperature, K
- $Tr$: reference temperature, K
- $u$, $v$: velocities, m/s
- $U$, $V$: dimensionless velocities, dimensionless
- $U_t$: reference velocity, m/s
- $x$, $y$: coordinates, m
- $X$, $Y$: dimensionless coordinates, dimensionless

Greek Symbols

- $\alpha$: thermal diffusivity, m$^2$/s
- $\beta_c$: coefficient of volumetric expansion due to concentration change, m$^3$/kg
- $\beta_T$: coefficient of volumetric expansion due to temperature change, K$^{-2}$
- $\Theta$: dimensionless temperature, dimensionless
- $\rho$: density of fluid mixture, kg/m$^3$
- $\tau$: dimensionless time, dimensionless
- $\nu$: kinematic viscosity, m$^2$/s

Superscripts

- $c$: referring to mass transfer
- $h$: higher level
- $T$: referring to heat transfer
- $y$: local value
- $\infty$: referring to ambient
- $0$: reference value

Subscripts

- $n$: time step

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