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Axisymmetric plumes in viscous fluids. (English) Zbl 1415.76243
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Summary: We consider fluid in a channel of finite height. There is a circular hole in the channel bottom, through which fluid of a lower density is injected and rises to form a plume. Viscous boundary layers close to the top and bottom of the channel are assumed to be so thin that the viscous fluid effectively slips along each of these boundaries. The problem is solved using a novel spectral method, in which Hankel transforms are first used to create a steady-state axisymmetric (inviscid) background flow that exactly satisfies the boundary conditions. A viscous correction is then added, so as to satisfy the time-dependent Boussinesq Navier-Stokes equations within the fluid, leaving the boundary conditions intact. Results are presented for the “lazy” plume, in which the fluid rises due only to its own buoyancy, and we study in detail its evolution with time to form an overturning structure. Some results for momentum-driven plumes are also presented, and the effect of the upper wall of the channel on the evolution of the axisymmetric plume is discussed.

MSC:

- 76E20 Stability and instability of geophysical and astrophysical flows
- 76E17 Interfacial stability and instability in hydrodynamic stability
- 76M22 Spectral methods applied to problems in fluid mechanics

Keywords:

Boussinesq fluid; overturning plume; unsteady flow

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