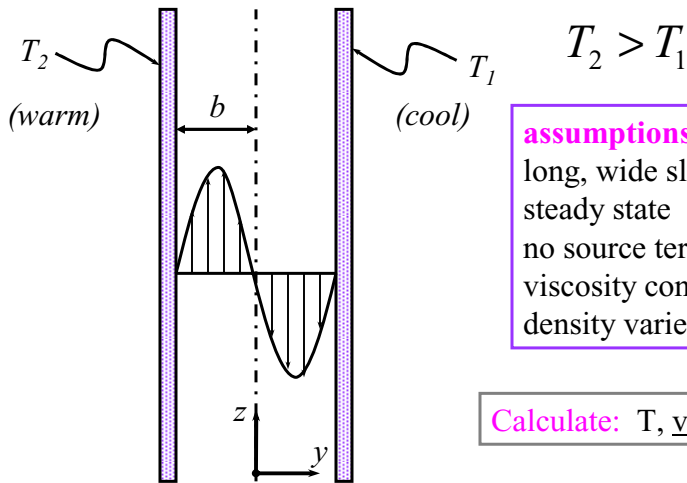


**Example:** Free convection between long parallel plates  
or heat transfer through double-pane glass windows



**assumptions:**  
 long, wide slit  
 steady state  
 no source terms  
 viscosity constant  
 density varies with T

**Calculate:** T,  $\underline{v}$  profiles

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In our analyses of momentum transport so far, we have assumed constant density

$\Rightarrow$  use Navier-Stokes equation

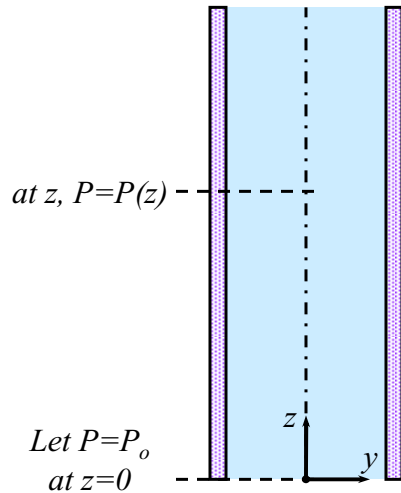
Actually, we can use the Navier-Stokes equation for any problem for which the following equation holds:

$$\frac{\partial v_x}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v_y}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial v_z}{\partial z} = 0$$

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### Is Pressure a function of z?

YES, there should be hydrostatic pressure ( $\rho gh$ )



“Pressure at the bottom of a column of fluid = pressure at top +  $\rho gh$ .”

average density

$$P_0 = P(z) + \bar{\rho}gz$$
$$\Rightarrow P(z) = P_0 - \bar{\rho}gz$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{dP}{dz} = -\bar{\rho}g$$

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To account for the temperature variation of  $\rho$ :

$$\rho = \bar{\rho} - \bar{\rho}\bar{\beta}(T - \bar{T})$$

$\bar{\rho}$  = mean density

$\bar{\beta}$  = volumetric coefficient of expansion at  $\bar{T}$

$$\bar{T} = \frac{T_1 + T_2}{2}$$

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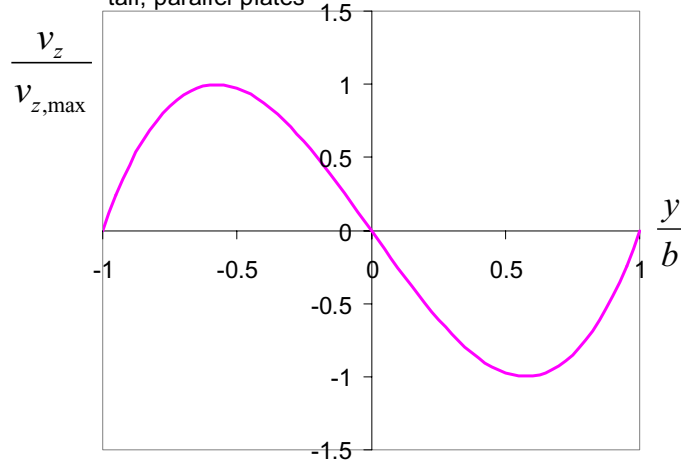
**Final Result:** (free convection between two slabs)

$$v_z(y) = \frac{\bar{\rho}\bar{\beta}g(T_2 - T_1)b^2}{12\mu} \left[ \left(\frac{y}{b}\right)^3 - \left(\frac{y}{b}\right) \right]$$

(see next slide for plot)

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Velocity profile for free convection between two wide, tall, parallel plates



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