

Casson 流体在旋转圆盘上的流动¹⁾

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摘要 本文研究 Casson 流体在旋转圆盘上的涂层流动特性,得到基本流动的速度分布,并且用 Runge-Kutta 法进行数值计算,得到薄膜厚度随时间和流态参数的变化规律,还用能量法检验了流动稳定性。

关键词 Casson 流体 旋转涂层 润滑近似 Runge-Kutta 法 能量法 稳定性

在一些生产部门中,需要在物体表面涂上一层或几层均匀的薄膜,常用的操作方法之一是旋转涂层。这种涂层方法是先将所需的液体涂料涂布在一只静止或慢速旋转的圆盘上,然后高速旋转这只圆盘,在离心力的作用下,一些涂料被甩掉,圆盘上只留下一薄层涂料,经过蒸发(含有挥发性物质的涂料)或冷却(熔体涂料),最终在圆盘上形成均匀薄膜。计算机磁盘就是采用这种方法将磁粉涂料涂布在塑料或金属圆盘上的。

在涂层中常常出现膜厚不均匀和不稳定等现象,要避免产生这种现象,需要弄清其产生的原因,同时为了保证涂层质量和提高生产效率,需要得到膜厚与诸控制参量之间的关系,因此从理论和实践两个方面去研究涂层过程的力学与物理特性是必要的,一些作者^[1-9]从不同角度研究过这类问题。本文与他们不同,选取 Casson 流体作为涂层流体,研究其在旋转圆盘上的流动特性,忽略 Coriolis 力和空气摩擦的影响。另文讨论涂层流体的表面张力和蒸发对流动特性的影响。

一、基本方程

如图 1 所示,取柱坐标系 (r, θ, z) , 原点 O 在圆盘中心, z 轴垂直于圆盘指向上方。假定速度分布为

$v(r) = u, v(\theta) = v = r\Omega, v(z) = \omega, (1)$
式中 Ω 是圆盘的旋转角速度,它不依赖于 r, θ, z , 但可以是时间 t 的函数。

为量阶估计方便起见,将各量无量纲化

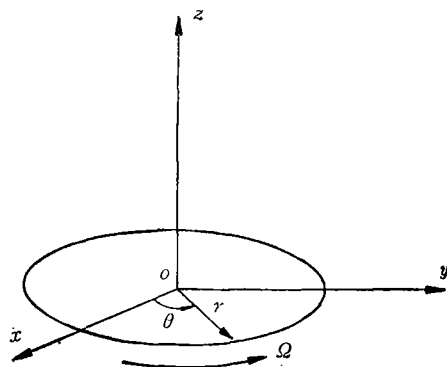


图 1

1) 本文曾在第三届全国流体力学学术会议上宣读,后作修改。于 1985 年 12 月 31 日收到。

$$\bar{r} = \frac{r}{a}, \quad \bar{z} = \frac{z}{h_0}, \quad \bar{u} = \frac{u}{h_0 \Omega_0}, \quad \bar{\omega} = \frac{a \omega}{h_0^2 \Omega_0}, \quad \bar{v} = \frac{v}{a \Omega_0} = r \bar{\Omega}, \quad (2)$$

这里引进了特征速度 Ω_0 和两个特征长度 a 和 h_0 。可取最终的旋转角速度为 Ω_0 ，并且它是很大的， a 是圆盘的半径， h_0 是薄膜的初始厚度，一般 $h_0 \ll a$ ，则 h_0/a 为小量，因而可以应用润滑近似，有 $|v| > |u| > |\omega|$ ，并且在 θ 方向是刚体旋转，从而可知流体在旋转圆盘上的流动等价于剪切流动与刚体旋转的叠加，且(2)式中所有无量纲量都同阶。

由(1)式与(2)式并考虑到流动的对称性 $\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} = 0\right)$ ，无量纲化的运动方程为

$$\begin{aligned} \rho \left[\frac{h_0^2 \Omega_0^2}{a} \left(\bar{u} \frac{\partial \bar{u}}{\partial \bar{r}} + \bar{\omega} \frac{\partial \bar{u}}{\partial \bar{z}} \right) - a \Omega_0^2 \bar{r} \bar{\Omega}^2 \right] \\ = - \frac{1}{a} \frac{\partial p}{\partial r} + \frac{1}{a} \frac{\partial T_{(rr)}}{\partial r} + \frac{1}{h_0} \frac{\partial T_{(rz)}}{\partial \bar{z}} + \frac{T_{(rr)} - T_{(\theta\theta)}}{a \bar{r}}, \end{aligned} \quad (3a)$$

$$2\rho h_0 \Omega_0^2 \bar{u}' = \frac{1}{a \bar{r}} \frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{r}} (\bar{r} T_{(r\theta)}) + \frac{1}{h_0} \frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{z}} T_{(\theta z)}, \quad (3b)$$

$$\rho \left[\frac{h_0^2 \Omega_0^2}{a^2} \left(\bar{u} \frac{\partial \bar{\omega}}{\partial \bar{r}} + \bar{\omega} \frac{\partial \bar{\omega}}{\partial \bar{z}} \right) \right] = - \frac{1}{h_0} \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial \bar{z}} + \frac{1}{a \bar{r}} \frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{r}} (\bar{r} T_{(rz)}) + \frac{1}{h_0} \frac{\partial T_{(zz)}}{\partial \bar{z}}. \quad (3c)$$

式中 ρ 是密度， p 是压力， $T_{(ij)}$ 是应力张量的物理分量，从本构方程可决定它们的量阶。

连续性方程为

$$\frac{1}{\bar{r}} \frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{r}} (\bar{r} \bar{u}) + \frac{\partial \bar{\omega}}{\partial \bar{z}} = 0. \quad (4)$$

边界条件是

(i) 在圆盘上无滑移：

$$\bar{z} = 0; \bar{u} = \bar{\omega} = 0, \quad \bar{v} = \bar{r} \bar{\Omega} \quad (5a)$$

(ii) 在自由表面上剪切应力为零：

$$\bar{z} = \bar{h} = \frac{h}{h_0}; \quad T_{(ij)} = 0, \quad (i \neq j) \quad (5b)$$

式中 h 是时刻 t 的膜厚。

选取 Casson 流体作为涂层流体的模型，其本构方程为

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \mathbf{T} &= (\eta_c + \tau_0^{1/2} / \Pi^{1/4})^2 \mathbf{A}, & \frac{1}{2} \text{tr} \mathbf{T}^2 &\geq \tau_0^2 \\ \mathbf{A} &= \mathbf{0}, & \frac{1}{2} \text{tr} \mathbf{T}^2 &< \tau_0^2 \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (6)$$

式中 $\mathbf{T}$ 是应力张量， $\mathbf{A}$ 是一阶 Rivlin-Ericksen 张量， τ_0 是屈服应力(常量)， η_c 为常量， τ_0^2 有粘度的量纲， $\Pi = \frac{1}{2} \text{tr} \mathbf{A}^2$ 是 $\mathbf{A}$ 的第二不变量。

二、基本流动

由(1)式求得

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{2h_0 Q_0}{a} \frac{\partial \bar{u}}{\partial \bar{r}} & 0 & \frac{h_0^2 Q_0}{a^2} \frac{\partial \bar{\omega}}{\partial \bar{r}} + Q_0 \frac{\partial \bar{u}}{\partial \bar{z}} \\ \cdot & \frac{2h_0 Q_0}{a} \frac{\bar{u}}{\bar{r}} & 0 \\ \cdot & \cdot & \frac{2h_0 Q_0}{a} \frac{\partial \bar{\omega}}{\partial \bar{z}} \end{bmatrix} \quad (7)$$

可见主导项是 $A_{(rz)} \approx Q_0 \frac{\partial \bar{u}}{\partial \bar{z}}$, 并记 $\tau = Q_0 \frac{\partial \bar{u}}{\partial \bar{z}}$.

因而本构方程(6)可写成下面的无量纲形式

$$\bar{\tau}^{3/2} - \bar{\tau}_0^{3/2} = \left(\frac{\partial \bar{u}}{\partial \bar{z}} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}, \quad |\bar{\tau}| > \bar{\tau}_0 \quad (8a)$$

$$\frac{\partial \bar{u}}{\partial \bar{z}} = 0, \quad |\bar{\tau}| \leq \bar{\tau}_0 \quad (8b)$$

式中 $\bar{\tau}_0 = \tau_0 / \eta_c^2 Q_0$, $\bar{\tau} = \tau / \eta_c^2 Q_0$.

运动方程简化为

$$-\text{Re} \bar{r} \bar{\omega}^2 = \frac{\partial \bar{\tau}}{\partial \bar{z}}, \quad (9)$$

式中 $\text{Re}(\text{Reynolds 数}) = \rho h_0 a Q_0 / \eta_c^2$.

在边界条件(5b)下求解方程(9), 得到

$$\bar{\tau} = \text{Re} \bar{r} \bar{\omega}^2 (\bar{h} - \bar{z}). \quad (10)$$

由方程(8)和(10)式并利用边界条件(5a), 可以得到

$$\bar{u} = \text{Re} \bar{r} \bar{\omega}^2 \bar{z} \left(\bar{h} - \frac{\bar{z}}{2} \right) + \frac{4}{3} \bar{\omega} \sqrt{\bar{\tau}_0 \bar{r} \text{Re}} [(\bar{h} - \bar{z})^{3/2} - \bar{h}^{3/2}] + \bar{\tau}_0 \bar{z}. \quad (11)$$

(11)式仅在 $|\bar{\tau}| \geq \bar{\tau}_0$ 时有效. 假定分界面方程为

$$\bar{z} = \xi(\bar{r}).$$

从(10)式可得

$$\xi = \bar{h} - \frac{\bar{\tau}_0}{\text{Re} \bar{r} \bar{\omega}^2}. \quad (12)$$

由于 ξ 不能为负值, 所以

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \xi &= 0, & 0 \leq \bar{r} \leq \bar{r}_0 \\ \xi &= \bar{h} - \bar{\tau}_0 / \text{Re} \bar{r} \bar{\omega}^2, & \bar{r} \geq \bar{r}_0 \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (13)$$

因此由(11)式给出的速度分布 $\bar{u}$ 仅在 $\xi \geq \bar{z} \geq 0$ 区域有效, 在 $\bar{h} \geq \bar{z} \geq \xi$ 区域里, $\frac{\partial \bar{u}}{\partial \bar{z}} = 0$, 故其速度分布为

$$\bar{u} = \text{Re} \bar{r} \bar{\omega}^2 \xi \left(\bar{h} - \frac{\xi}{2} \right) + \frac{4}{3} \bar{\omega} \sqrt{\bar{\tau}_0 \bar{r} \text{Re}} [(\bar{h} - \xi)^{3/2} - \bar{h}^{3/2}] + \bar{\tau}_0 \xi, \quad \bar{h} \geq \bar{z} \geq \xi \quad (14)$$

三、液层厚度 $\bar{h}$ 的确定

由上面求得的速度分布 $\bar{u}$ ((11) 式与 (14) 式), 可算出任意 $\bar{r}$ 处圆周上单位长度的径向流率

$$\begin{aligned}
 q &= \int_0^h \bar{u} d\bar{z} = \int_0^{\bar{\epsilon}} \bar{u} d\bar{z} + \int_{\bar{\epsilon}}^h \bar{u} d\bar{z} \\
 &= \frac{1}{3} \text{Re} \bar{\tau} \bar{Q}^2 \bar{h}^3 + \frac{1}{2} \bar{\tau}_0 \bar{h}^2 - \frac{1}{30} (\text{Re} \bar{\tau} \bar{Q}^2)^{-2} \bar{\tau}_0^3 - \frac{4}{5} (\text{Re} \bar{\tau} \bar{Q}^2 \bar{\tau}_0)^{1/2} \bar{h}^{5/2}
 \end{aligned} \quad (15)$$

为求得液层厚度 $\bar{h}$ 所满足的方程, 我们将连续性方程(4)改写成

$$\bar{r} \frac{\partial \bar{h}}{\partial t} = - \frac{\partial(\bar{r} q)}{\partial \bar{r}} \quad (16)$$

将(15)式代入(16)式, 得到

$$\begin{aligned}
 \bar{r} \frac{\partial \bar{h}}{\partial t} + (\text{Re} \bar{Q}^2 \bar{\tau}^3 \bar{h}^3 + \bar{\tau}_0 \bar{r} \bar{h} - 2 \bar{h}^{5/2} \sqrt{\bar{\tau}_0 \text{Re} \bar{Q}^2 \bar{\tau}^{3/2}}) \frac{\partial \bar{h}}{\partial \bar{r}} \\
 = \frac{6}{5} \bar{h}^{5/2} \sqrt{\bar{\tau}_0 \text{Re} \bar{Q}^2 \bar{\tau}^{1/2}} - \frac{1}{30} \bar{\tau}_0^3 (\text{Re} \bar{Q}^2 \bar{\tau})^{-2} - \frac{1}{2} \bar{\tau}_0 \bar{h}^2 - \frac{2}{3} \text{Re} \bar{Q}^2 \bar{h}^3 \bar{\tau}
 \end{aligned} \quad (17)$$

令 $\kappa = \text{Re} \bar{Q}^2$, 可将方程(17)写成两个等价的常微分方程组

$$\left. \begin{aligned}
 \frac{d\bar{r}}{dt} &= \kappa \bar{r} \bar{h}^3 + \bar{\tau}_0 \bar{h} - 2 \bar{h}^{5/2} (\bar{\tau}_0 \kappa \bar{r})^{1/2}, \\
 \frac{d\bar{h}}{dt} &= \frac{6}{5} \bar{h}^{5/2} \left(\frac{\bar{\tau}_0 \kappa}{\bar{r}} \right)^{1/2} - \frac{1}{30} \left(\frac{\bar{\tau}_0}{\bar{r}} \right)^3 \frac{1}{\kappa^2} - \frac{1}{2} \frac{\bar{\tau}_0 \bar{h}^2}{\bar{r}} - \frac{2}{3} \kappa \bar{h}^3
 \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (18)$$

选取不同的初始液层厚度分布和 $\kappa, \bar{\tau}_0$ 值, 用 Runge-Kutta 法求方程组(18)的数值解, 得到一系列结果。图 2、图 3 给出 $\bar{h}$ 随时间 t 和不同初始液层厚度分布变化的部分计算结果。

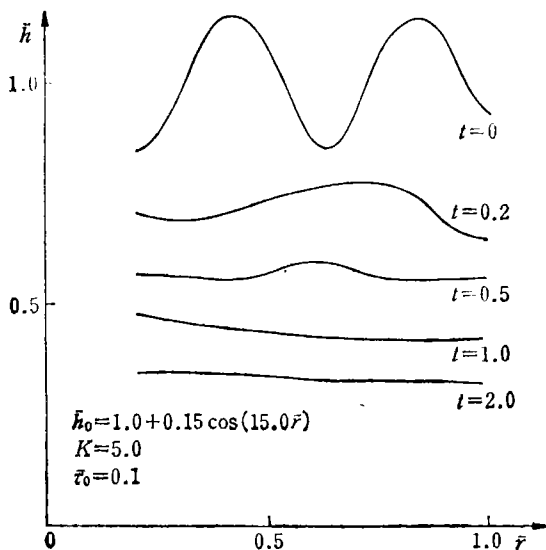


图 2

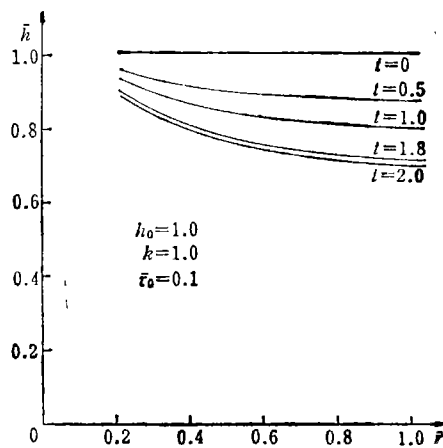


图 3

四、流动稳定性

在本文第二部分中, 我们已求得定常流动下的速度分布 $\bar{u}$, 应用方程(4)可求得 ω , 并且 $\bar{Q}$ 是常量, 我们取它们为基本流动并用 u_0 表示之。为检验流动稳定性, 在基本流动上

叠加一个小扰动流 u_1 , 它是空间位置 r, θ, z 和时间 t 的函数. 这样, 速度分布为

$$\left. \begin{aligned} v(r) = u &= h_0 Q_0 (\bar{u}_0 + u_1), \quad v(\theta) = v = a Q_0 \bar{r} \bar{Q}_0 + h_0 Q_0 v_1, \\ v(z) = w &= \frac{h_0^2}{a} Q_0 \bar{w}_0 + \frac{h_0^2}{a} Q_0 w_1. \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (19)$$

我们只考虑线性稳定性, 在下面的讨论中忽略 u_1, v_1 和 w_1 的二阶以上的项.

由(19)式可算出一阶 Rivlin-Ericksen 张量的分量为

$$\left. \begin{aligned} A_{(rr)} &= \frac{2h_0 Q_0}{a} \left(\frac{\partial \bar{u}_0}{\partial \bar{r}} + \frac{\partial u_1}{\partial \bar{r}} \right), & A_{(\theta\theta)} &= \frac{2h_0 Q_0}{a \bar{r}} \left(\frac{\partial v_1}{\partial \theta} + u_1 + \bar{u}_0 \right), \\ A_{(zz)} &= \frac{2h_0 Q_0}{a} \left(\frac{\partial \bar{w}_0}{\partial \bar{z}} + \frac{\partial w_1}{\partial \bar{z}} \right), & A_{(r\theta)} &= \frac{h_0 Q_0}{a} \left(\frac{\partial u_1}{\partial \theta} + \frac{\partial v_1}{\partial \bar{r}} - \frac{v_1}{\bar{r}} \right), \\ A_{(rz)} &= Q_0 \left(\frac{\partial \bar{u}_0}{\partial \bar{z}} + \frac{\partial u_1}{\partial \bar{z}} \right) + \frac{h_0^2}{a^2} Q_0 \left(\frac{\partial \bar{w}_0}{\partial \bar{r}} + \frac{\partial \bar{w}_1}{\partial \bar{r}} \right), \\ A_{(\theta z)} &= Q_0 \frac{\partial v_1}{\partial \bar{z}} + \frac{h_0^2}{a^2 \bar{r}} \frac{\partial w_1}{\partial \theta} \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (20)$$

和

$$\text{第二不变量} \quad \Pi \approx Q_0^2 \left[\frac{\partial \bar{u}_0^2}{\partial \bar{z}} + 2 \frac{\partial \bar{u}_0}{\partial \bar{z}} \frac{\partial u_1}{\partial \bar{z}} \right]. \quad (21)$$

由本构方程(6)及(20)式可算出应力分量为

$$\left. \begin{aligned} T_{(rr)} &= 2\eta \frac{h_0 Q_0}{a} \left(\frac{\partial \bar{u}_0}{\partial \bar{r}} + \frac{\partial u_1}{\partial \bar{r}} \right), & T_{(\theta\theta)} &= \frac{2\eta h_0 Q_0}{a \bar{r}} \left(\frac{\partial v_1}{\partial \theta} + u_1 + \bar{u}_0 \right), \\ T_{(zz)} &= 2\eta \frac{h_0 Q_0}{a} \left(\frac{\partial \bar{w}_0}{\partial \bar{z}} + \frac{\partial w_1}{\partial \bar{z}} \right), & T_{(r\theta)} &= \eta \frac{h_0 Q_0}{a} \left(\frac{\partial u_1}{\partial \theta} + \frac{\partial v_1}{\partial \bar{r}} - \frac{v_1}{\bar{r}} \right), \\ T_{(rz)} &\approx \eta Q_0 \left(\frac{\partial \bar{u}_0}{\partial \bar{z}} + \frac{\partial u_1}{\partial \bar{z}} \right), & T_{(\theta z)} &\approx \eta Q_0 \frac{\partial v_1}{\partial \bar{z}}. \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (22)$$

式中 $\eta = [\eta_c + \tau_0^{1/2} / |\Pi|^{1/4}]^2$.

将(22)式代入运动方程并保留主导项, 可以得到

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \bar{\text{Re}} \left(\frac{\partial u_1}{\partial \bar{t}} + Q_0 \frac{\partial u_1}{\partial \theta} - 2 \bar{Q}_0 v_1 \right) &= \frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{z}} \left[\eta \frac{\partial u_1}{\partial \bar{z}} - \bar{\alpha} (1 + \bar{\alpha}) \left| \frac{\partial u_1}{\partial \bar{z}} \right| \right], \\ \bar{\text{Re}} \left(\frac{\partial v_1}{\partial \bar{t}} + 2 u_1 \bar{Q}_0 + \bar{Q}_0 \frac{\partial v_1}{\partial \theta} \right) &= \frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{z}} \left(\eta \frac{\partial v_1}{\partial \bar{z}} \right). \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (23)$$

式中 $\bar{\text{Re}} = \text{Re} \frac{h_0}{a} = \rho h_0^2 Q_0 / \eta_c^2$, $\eta = \left[1 + \bar{\alpha} \left(1 - \frac{1}{2} \left| \left(\frac{\partial \bar{u}_0}{\partial \bar{z}} \right)^{-1} \frac{\partial u_1}{\partial \bar{z}} \right| \right) \right]^2$,

$$\bar{\alpha} = \frac{1}{\eta_c} \sqrt{\tau_0 / \left(\frac{\partial \bar{u}_0}{\partial \bar{z}} \right) Q_0}, \quad \bar{t} = Q_0 t.$$

在线性近似下, 仍可取(13)式为分界面方程.

将 u_1, v_1 表成

$$\left. \begin{aligned} u_1 &= \bar{u}_1(r, z) \exp(im\theta + \sigma t) \\ v_1 &= \bar{v}_1(r, z) \exp(im\theta + \sigma t) \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (24)$$

式中 m 为整数, $\sigma = \sigma_r + i\sigma_i$. 从而方程(23)化为

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \operatorname{Re}(\sigma \bar{u}_1 + im\bar{Q}_0 \bar{u}_1 - 2\bar{Q}_0 \bar{v}_1) &= \frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{z}} \left[\eta \frac{\partial \bar{u}_1}{\partial \bar{z}} - \bar{\alpha}(1 + \bar{\alpha}) \left| \frac{\partial \bar{u}_1}{\partial \bar{z}} \right| \right], \\ \operatorname{Re}(\sigma \bar{v}_1 + im\bar{Q}_0 \bar{v}_1 + 2\bar{Q}_0 \bar{u}_1) &= \frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{z}} \left(\eta \frac{\partial \bar{v}_1}{\partial \bar{z}} \right). \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (25)$$

注意式中 η 是实数, $\bar{u}_1, \bar{v}_1$ 为复数.

分别用 $\bar{u}_1, \bar{v}_1$ 的共轭复数 $\bar{u}_1^*$ 和 $\bar{v}_1^*$ 乘以(25)式的第一、二式, 并对 $\bar{z}$ 从 0 到 ξ 积分, 得到

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \operatorname{Re} \left[\sigma I_0^2 + im\bar{Q}_0 I_0^2 - 2\bar{Q}_0 \int_0^\xi \bar{u}_1^* \bar{v}_1 d\bar{z} \right] &= \int_0^\xi \left[\eta \frac{\partial \bar{u}_1}{\partial \bar{z}} - \bar{\alpha}(1 + \bar{\alpha}) \left| \frac{\partial \bar{u}_1}{\partial \bar{z}} \right| \right] \frac{\partial \bar{u}_1^*}{\partial \bar{z}} d\bar{z} \\ \operatorname{Re} \left[\sigma J_0^2 + im\bar{Q}_0 J_0^2 + 2\bar{Q}_0 \int_0^\xi \bar{u}_1 \bar{v}_1^* d\bar{z} \right] &= \int_0^\xi \eta \frac{\partial \bar{v}_1}{\partial \bar{z}} \frac{\partial \bar{v}_1^*}{\partial \bar{z}} d\bar{z} \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (26)$$

式中

$$I_0^2 = \int_0^\xi \bar{u}_1 \bar{u}_1^* d\bar{z}, \quad J_0^2 = \int_0^\xi \bar{u}_1 \bar{v}_1^* d\bar{z}$$

将(26)的第一式两边取共轭后与(26)的第二式相加, 得到

$$\begin{aligned} &\operatorname{Re}[\sigma_i(J_0^2 + I_0^2) + i(J_0^2 - I_0^2)(\sigma_i + m\bar{Q}_0)] \\ &= \int_0^\xi \left\{ \eta \left(\left| \frac{\partial \bar{v}_1}{\partial \bar{z}} \right|^2 + \left| \frac{\partial \bar{u}_1}{\partial \bar{z}} \right|^2 \right) - \bar{\alpha}(1 + \bar{\alpha}) \left| \frac{\partial \bar{u}_1}{\partial \bar{z}} \right|^2 \right\} d\bar{z} \end{aligned} \quad (27)$$

由于(27)式右边为实数, 这就意味着 $m = 0$ 及 $\sigma_i = 0$, 注意到(24)式, 可知稳态的对称扰动将引起不稳定.

五、结 论

在本文三中, 我们已经看到, 初始厚度分布的均匀性不是很重要的, 即使初始厚度很不均匀, 经过旋转之后, 其厚度将渐趋均匀. 对于 Carreau 流体, 其他作者^[9]也得到类似结果. 在本文四中, 我们发现, 稳态的对称扰动将引起不稳定.

在上面的分析中, 我们忽略了 Coriolis 力的影响, 但已经知道 Coriolis 力对这种流动有稳定的效应. 此外空气摩擦、表面张力和蒸发的影响虽然也重要, 本文尚没考虑.

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FLOW OF A CASSON FLUID ON A ROTATING DISK

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Abstract Consideration is given to the flow of a thin layer of Casson fluid on a fast rotating disk. The following assumptions are made:

- (i) the thickness of the liquid is small compared to the radius of the disk;
- (ii) radial symmetry;
- (iii) the azimuthal velocity is that of a rigid body rotation and its magnitude is greater than that of the radial velocity, which in turn is greater than that of the vertical velocity.

Under the above conditions we have:

- (a) obtained the velocity distribution;
- (b) calculated the thickness of the film at any time t for a given initial thickness distribution;
- (c) examine the stability of the flow.

It has been found that for a Newtonian fluid if initially the thickness is uniform then for all subsequent times the thickness is uniform, but for a Casson fluid the thickness at subsequent times is a slowly decreasing function of the radial distance. If initially the thickness is highly distorted then at subsequent times the thickness tends to be more uniform;

We have also found that the flow is unstable and the disturbances will set in as symmetric, time independent disturbances.

Key words: casson fluid, rotating coating, lubrication approximation, Runge-Kutta method, energy method, stability.