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Tailoring boundary geometry to optimize heat transport in turbulent convection SRIKANTH TOPPALADODDI, Yale University, University of Oxford, SAURO SUCCI, Istituto per le Applicazioni del Calcolo "Mauro Picone" (C.N.R.), JOHN WETTLAUFER, Yale University, University of Oxford, NORDITA — Turbulent Rayleigh-Bénard convection between planar horizontal boundaries is a classical example of the challenge posed by multiple interacting scales in fluid dynamics. Here, by tailoring the geometry of the upper boundary we manipulate the boundary layer – turbulent interior flow interaction, and study the turbulent transport of heat in two-dimensional Rayleigh-Bénard convection with numerical simulations using the Lattice Boltzmann method. By fixing the roughness amplitude of the upper boundary and varying the wavelength λ, we find that the exponent β in the Nusselt-Rayleigh scaling relation, $Nu - 1 \propto Ra^{\beta}$, is maximized at $\lambda \equiv \lambda_{max} \approx (2\pi)^{-1}$, but decays to the planar value in both the large ($\lambda \gg \lambda_{max}$) and small ($\lambda \ll \lambda_{max}$) wavelength limits. The changes in the exponent originate in the nature of the coupling between the boundary layer and the interior flow. We present a simple scaling argument embodying this coupling, which describes the maximal convective heat flux. Results from simulations with both top and bottom rough boundaries showing a further enhancement of heat transport will also be presented.

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