

# 4. Young's Law with Applications

**Young's Law:** what is the equilibrium contact angle  $\theta_e$  ? Horizontal force balance at contact line:

$$\gamma_{LV} \cos \theta_e = \gamma_{SV} - \gamma_{SL}$$

$$\cos \theta_e = \frac{\gamma_{SV} - \gamma_{SL}}{\gamma_{LV}} = 1 + \frac{S}{\gamma_{LV}} \quad (\text{Young 1805}) \quad (4.1)$$

Note:

1. When  $S \geq 0$ ,  $\cos \theta_e \geq 1 \Rightarrow \theta_e$  undefined and spreading results.
2. Vertical force balance not satisfied at contact line  $\Rightarrow$  dimpling of soft surfaces.  
E.g. bubbles in paint leave a circular rim.
3. The static contact angle need not take its equilibrium value  $\Rightarrow$  there is a finite range of possible static contact angles.

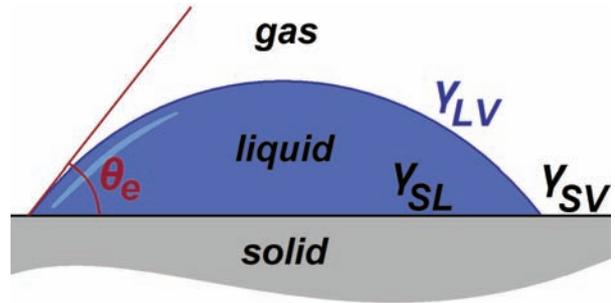


Figure 4.1: Three interfaces meet at the contact line.

Back to Puddles: Total energy:

$$E = \underbrace{(\gamma_{SL} - \gamma_{SV})A + \gamma_{LV}A}_{\text{surface energy}} + \underbrace{\frac{1}{2}\rho gh^2 A}_{\text{grav. pot. energy}} = -S\frac{V}{h} + \frac{1}{2}\rho gVh \quad (4.2)$$

Minimize energy w.r.t.  $h$ :  $\frac{dE}{dh} = SV\frac{1}{h^2} + \frac{1}{2}\rho gV = 0$  when  $-S/h^2 = \frac{1}{2}\rho g \Rightarrow$

$$h_0 = \sqrt{\frac{-2S}{\rho g}} = 2\ell_c \sin \frac{\theta_e}{2} \text{ gives puddle depth, where } \ell_c = \sqrt{\sigma/\rho g}.$$

**Capillary Adhesion:** Two wetted surfaces can stick together with great strength if  $\theta_e < \pi/2$ , e.g. Fig. 4.2.

Laplace Pressure:

$$\Delta P = \sigma \left( \frac{1}{R} - \frac{\cos \theta_e}{H/2} \right) \approx -\frac{2\sigma \cos \theta_e}{H}$$

i.e. low  $P$  inside film provided  $\theta_e < \pi/2$ .

If  $H \ll R$ ,  $F = \pi R^2 \frac{2\sigma \cos \theta_e}{H}$  is the attractive force between the plates.

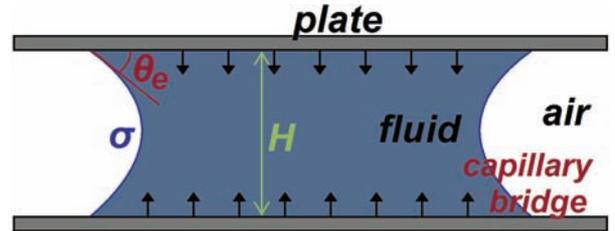


Figure 4.2: An oil drop forms a capillary bridge between two glass plates.

E.g. for  $H_2O$ , with  $R = 1 \text{ cm}$ ,  $H = 5 \mu\text{m}$  and  $\theta_e = 0$ , one finds  $\Delta P \sim 1/3 \text{ atm}$  and an adhesive force  $F \sim 10N$ , the weight of 1l of  $H_2O$ .

Note: Such capillary adhesion is used by beetles in nature.

## 4.1 Formal Development of Interfacial Flow Problems

Governing Equations: Navier-Stokes. An incompressible, homogeneous fluid of density  $\rho$  and viscosity  $\mu = \rho\nu$  ( $\mu$  is dynamic and  $\nu$  kinematic viscosity) acted upon by an external force per unit volume  $\mathbf{f}$  evolves according to

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0 \quad (\text{continuity}) \quad (4.3)$$

$$\rho \left( \frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} \right) = -\nabla p + \mathbf{f} + \mu \nabla^2 \mathbf{u} \quad (\text{Linear momentum conservation}) \quad (4.4)$$

This is a system of 4 equations in 4 unknowns  $(u_1, u_2, u_3, p)$ . These N-S equations must be solved subject to appropriate BCs.

**Fluid-Solid BCs:** “No-slip”:  $\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{U}_{solid}$ .

E.g.1 Falling sphere:  $\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{U}$  on sphere surface, where  $\mathbf{U}$  is the sphere velocity.

E.g.2 Convection in a box:  $\mathbf{u} = 0$  on the box surface.

But we are interested in flows dominated by interfacial effects. Here, in general, one must solve N-S equations in 2 domains, and match solutions together at the interface with appropriate BCs. Difficulty: These interfaces are free to move  $\Rightarrow$  Free boundary problems.

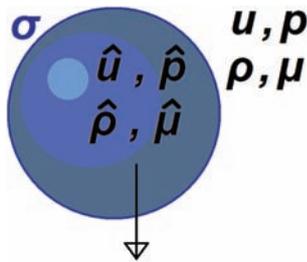


Figure 4.3: E.g.3 Drop motion within a fluid.



Figure 4.4: E.g.4 Water waves at an air-water interface.

**Continuity of Velocity** at an interface requires that  $\mathbf{u} = \hat{\mathbf{u}}$ .

And what about  $p$ ? We've seen  $\Delta p \sim \sigma/R$  for a static bubble/drop, but to answer this question in general, we must develop stress conditions at a fluid-fluid interface.

**Recall: Stress Tensor.** The state of stress within an incompressible Newtonian fluid is described by the stress tensor:  $\mathbf{T} = -p\mathbf{I} + 2\mu\mathbf{E}$  where  $\mathbf{E} = \frac{1}{2}[(\nabla\mathbf{u}) + (\nabla\mathbf{u})^T]$  is the deviatoric stress tensor. The associated hydrodynamic force per unit volume within the fluid is  $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{T}$ .

One may thus write N-S eqns in the form:  $\rho \frac{D\mathbf{u}}{Dt} = \nabla \cdot \mathbf{T} + \mathbf{f} = -\nabla p + \mu \nabla^2 \mathbf{u} + \mathbf{f}$ .

Now:  $T_{ij}$  = force / area acting in the  $\mathbf{e}_j$  direction on a surface with a normal  $\mathbf{e}_i$ .

**Note:**

1. normal stresses (diagonals)  $T_{11}, T_{22}, T_{33}$  involve both  $p$  and  $u_i$
2. tangential stresses (off-diagonals)  $T_{12}, T_{13}$ , etc., involve only velocity gradients, i.e. viscous stresses
3.  $T_{ij}$  is symmetric (Newtonian fluids)
4.  $\mathbf{t}(\mathbf{n}) = \mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{T}$  = stress vector acting on a surface with normal  $\mathbf{n}$

E.g. **Shear flow.** Stress in lower boundary is tangential. Force / area on lower boundary:

$T_{yx} = \mu \frac{\partial u_x}{\partial y} |_{y=0} = \mu k$  is the force/area that acts on  $y$ -surface in  $x$ -direction.

**Note:** the form of  $\mathbf{T}$  in arbitrary curvilinear coordinates is given in the Appendix of Batchelor.

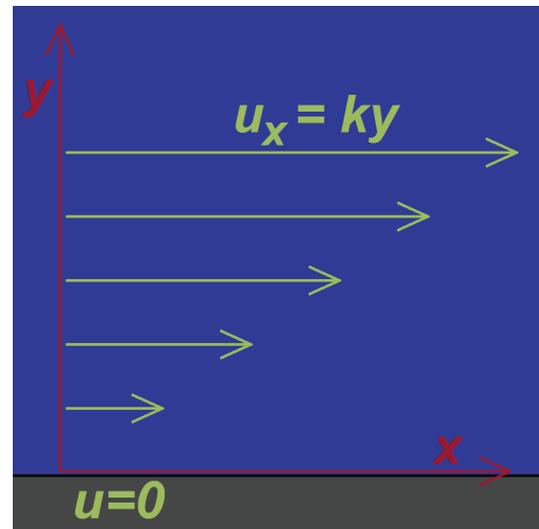


Figure 4.5: Shear flow above a rigid lower boundary.

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357 Interfacial Phenomena  
Fall 2010

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