

11 Surface Tension

- 11.1 Surface tension—its molecular origin and its characterization by means of a surface tension coefficient based on either energy (σ =energy/area) or mechanical (σ =force/length) concepts. Simple derivation of the Young-Laplace equation for the pressure jump at the surface of a spherical liquid drop, based on energy considerations as well as force considerations. Generalization to arbitrary bounding surfaces.
- 11.2 Drops and bubbles. Effect of gravity: the Bond number. Effect of flow: the Weber number (for $Re \gg 1$) and the Capillary number (for $Re < 1$).
- 11.3 The contact angle—an "equilibrium property" of a line of separation between a solid and two immiscible fluids. Wetting and non-wetting conditions. Advancing and receding contact angles; contact angle hysteresis. Young's equation for the contact angle in terms of the interfacial energies associated with the three phases (derived from either a force balance or energy minimization).
- 11.4 Equilibrium capillary rise derived from either (i) pressures distribution, (ii) control volume, or (iii) energy minimization. Examples: Wicking; sap in trees rising to leaves (where it evaporates); startup of flow through a pinhole in bottom of a bucket being filled.
- 11.5 Thickness of liquid puddles at equilibrium on a solid horizontal surface. (Solution by control volume method as well as energy method). Capillary rise/drop of liquid level adjacent to a vertical wall.
- 11.6 Adhesion or repulsion between partially wetted solid surfaces. (Why wet plates stick together, why one can pick up grains of sand with a wetted finger, etc.)
- 11.7 Attraction or repulsion of bodies touching or penetrating a liquid surface. (The pond-skater and other examples from insect life.)
- 11.8 Breakup of a small coherent jet into a droplet stream (atomization).
- 11.9 Breakup of larger drops moving through fluid. Drop impact (and breakup) on solid surfaces.
- 11.10 Effect of surface tension gradients on the interfacial boundary condition (the Marangoni effect). The dependence on surface tension on temperature and surfactant concentration. Examples: Immobilization of the surface of small air bubbles rising through a seawater. What prevents the liquid in a soap bubble from simply falling down? The calming effect of oil on wind waves on water.
- 11.11 Equilibrium and non-equilibrium conditions at lines of contact between three immiscible fluids. Spreading of oil slicks on water.
- 11.12 Capillary waves on water.

Read: Fay, pp 11-13, 53-55

General Reference: A. W. Adamson, Physical Chemistry of Surfaces, Wiley

Problems: Shapiro & Sonin, 2.2, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, 2.7