Molecular Origin of Contact Line Friction in Dynamic Wetting

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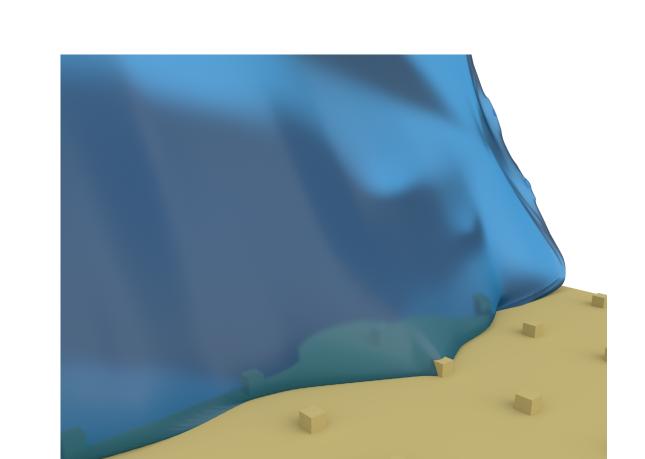


Macroscopic Wetting

Dynamics are well described by Navier-Stokes with supplied boundary conditions (eg. slip, contact line friction).

PROBLEM:

- Parameters are fitted to match dissipation rates.
- Contact line friction needed to replicate experiments.
- Unknown nature of this boundary condition.



Mesoscopic

Wetting on microstructured substrates inform how surface structure affect boundary conditions.

PROBLEM:

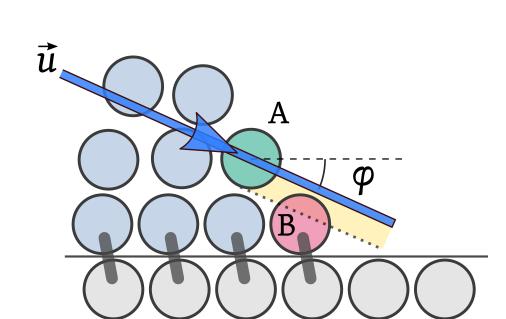
• Still does not answer origin question.

Molecular Scale Dynamics

Use molecular dynamics simulations to probe wetting dynamics in a large scale, realistic molecular system. A large system size enables longer investigation time scales. Water forms hydrogen bonds with the substrate molecules which occurs in realistic systems and results in a no-slip condition.

- Enables a detailed study of contact line friction.
- Friction is related to how molecules advance the contact line.

Molecular modes of contact line advancement

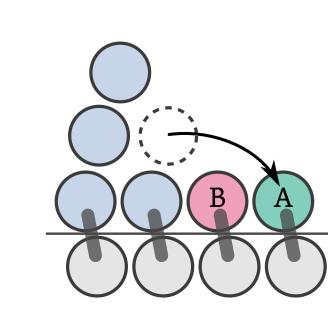


 \vec{u} is the average local flow in the contact line region and makes an angle φ to the substrate.

The bottom layer of liquid molecules is bonded to the substrate.

Bonded molecules → No-slip condition

Mode 1: Rolling



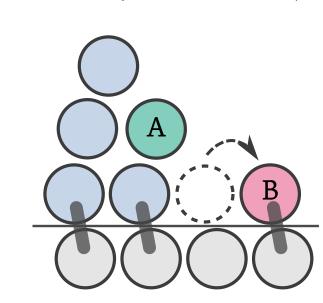
Molecule A has to cross an energy barrier ΔE through a thermal fluctuation to advance.

Molecule B acts as an *obstacle* which increases the barrier height. The obstacle "size" is related to the angle φ of approach.

After advancement, the energy is dissipated. In effect, friction.

Small $\varphi \rightarrow$ High barrier High barrier → High dissipation

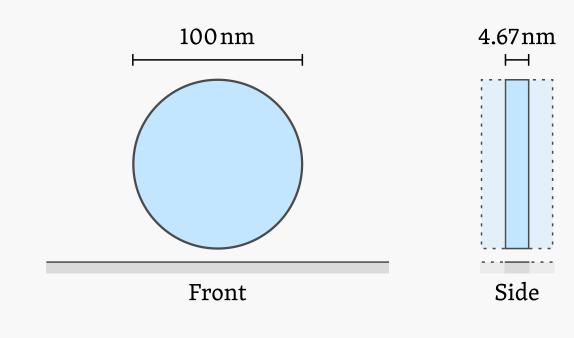
Mode 2: Jumping (MKT)



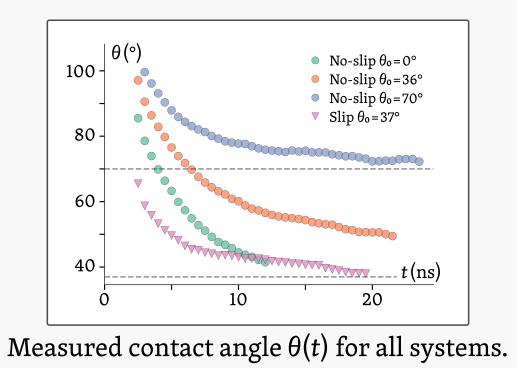
Molecule B jumps to an adjacent lattice site through a thermal fluctuation (molecular kinetic theory).

Barrier (mostly) related to energetics, not dynamics.

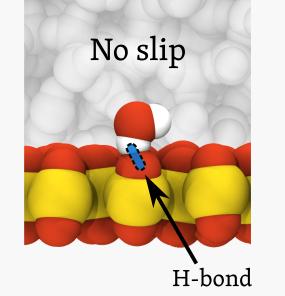
These modes contribute equally to advancement in late stage wetting

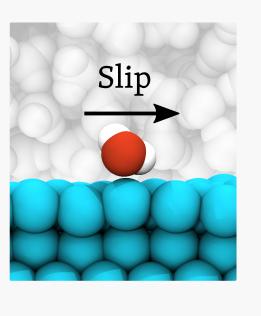


- Simulations are of droplet cylinders.
- 1.2 million water molecules.
- Periodic boundary conditions.
- Simulation times 15–25 ns.
- Varied no-slip/slip boundary conditions and static contact angles θ_0 from 0°-70°.



Dashed lines at 36° and 70°.





Left: Semi-realistic silica (SiO₂)

- Coulomb interactions → Hydrogen bonds \rightarrow No-slip substrate.
- Static contact angles θ_0 : 0°, 36° and 70°.

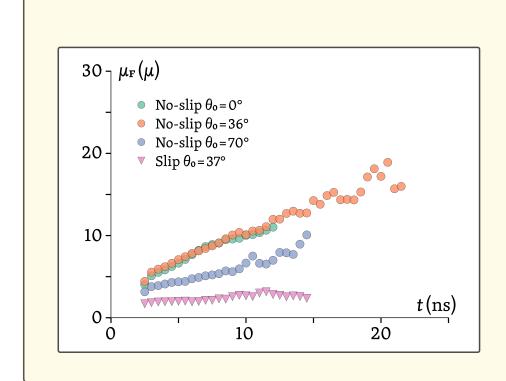
Right: Lennard-Jones substrate

- No hydrogen bonds → Slip with slip length 1.1 ± 0.1 nm.
- Static contact angle θ_0 : 37°.
- Not realistic! Contrast to system with hydrogen bonds.

Contact line friction accounts for dissipation in the contact line region.

The dissipation rate is characterized by a parameter $\mu_{\rm F}$ in units of viscosity.

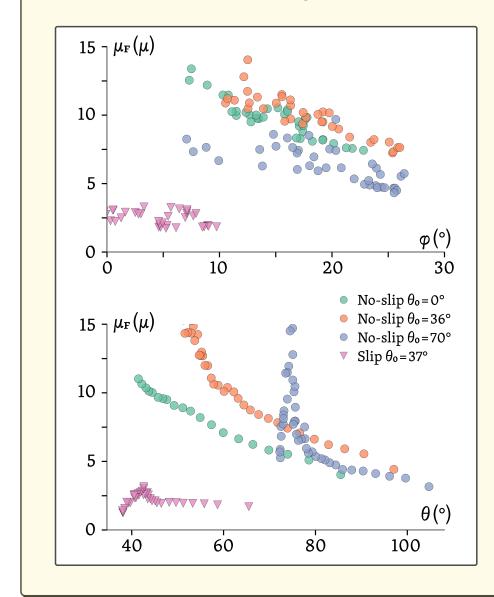
Measuring μ_F shows that it is constant when the liquid can slip but otherwise for no-slip systems.



The measured flow angle φ is a good predictor of the $\mu_{\rm F}$ change. This suggests that contact line friction is related to the difficulty in advancing through Mode 1: A purely molecular effect.

A liquid which slips opens up another mode of advancement, consistent with this data.

Other parameters cannot describe the change as well.



- \dot{E}_{μ} : Rate of contact line dissipation.
- E_{γ} : Rate of free energy gain from wetting.

Measuring the two rates and comparing them shows that contact line friction accounts for a substantial part of the total dissipation.

We thus assert that contact line friction is important to consider when modeling realistic wetting dynamics.

