

# SURFACE SCIENCE: Introductory Lecture 4

## Surface Forces, Colloid Stability & Wetting

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**Ian Wark Research Institute**  
Australian Research Council Special Research Centre  
For Particle and Material Interfaces

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# Content

Part 1:  
**Thermodynamics**

Part 2:  
**Surface Forces**

Part 3:  
**DLVO Theory**

Part 4:  
**Non-DLVO Forces**

Part 5:  
**Wettability**

# Part 1: Thermodynamics

- Fundamental Equation
- Work
- Free Energy
- Equilibrium

# Fundamental Equation

The value of the internal energy,  $U$  [J], entirely defines the state of the system.

$$\text{1st Law } \boxed{dU = dQ - dW}$$

$$\text{2nd Law } \boxed{dQ = TdS}$$

The mechanical work done by the system,  $W$  [J], is calculated as :

$$dW = f dx = \frac{f}{A} A dx = P dV$$

The fundamental equation combines the two basic principles. It is the general energy balance:

$$\text{Fundamental Equation } \boxed{dU = TdS - PdV}$$

# Work

$$dU = \underbrace{TdS}_{\text{Heat}} - \underbrace{PdV}_{\text{Bulk Work}} + \underbrace{\gamma dA}_{\text{Surface Work}} + \underbrace{\mu dN}_{\text{Chemical Work}} - \underbrace{\varphi dq}_{\text{Electrical Work}} + \dots$$

Generalized Forces (intensive parameters):

$T$  – temperature, K

$P$  – pressure, Pa

$\gamma$  – surface tension, J/m<sup>2</sup>

$\mu$  – chemical potential, J/mol

$\varphi$  – electric potential, V

Generalized Coordinates (extensive parameters):

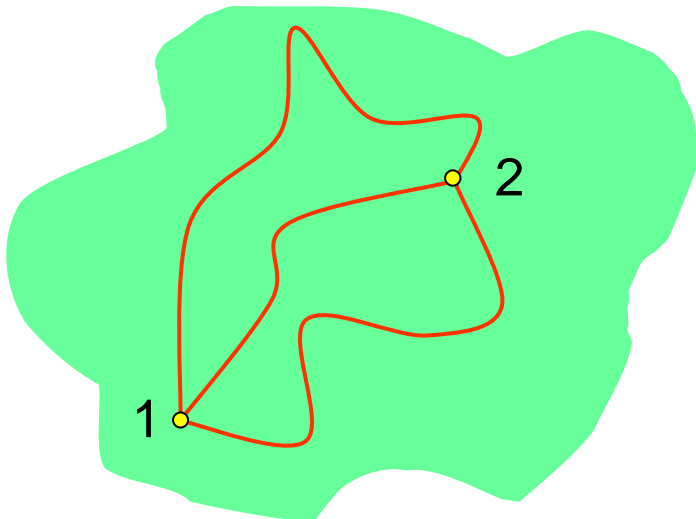
$S$  – entropy, J/K

$V$  – volume, m<sup>3</sup>

$A$  – surface area, m<sup>2</sup>

$N$  – number of moles, mol

$q$  – electric charge, C



The changes in internal energy are path-independent (not true for heat or work):

$$\oint dU = 0$$

# Free Energy

Helmholtz Free Energy,  $F$   
Gibbs Free Energy,  $G$

$$dU = TdS - PdV$$

$$F = U - TS$$
$$G = H - TS$$

$$dF = -SdT - PdV$$
$$dG = -SdT + VdP$$

The free energy change gives the maximum work obtainable from the system:

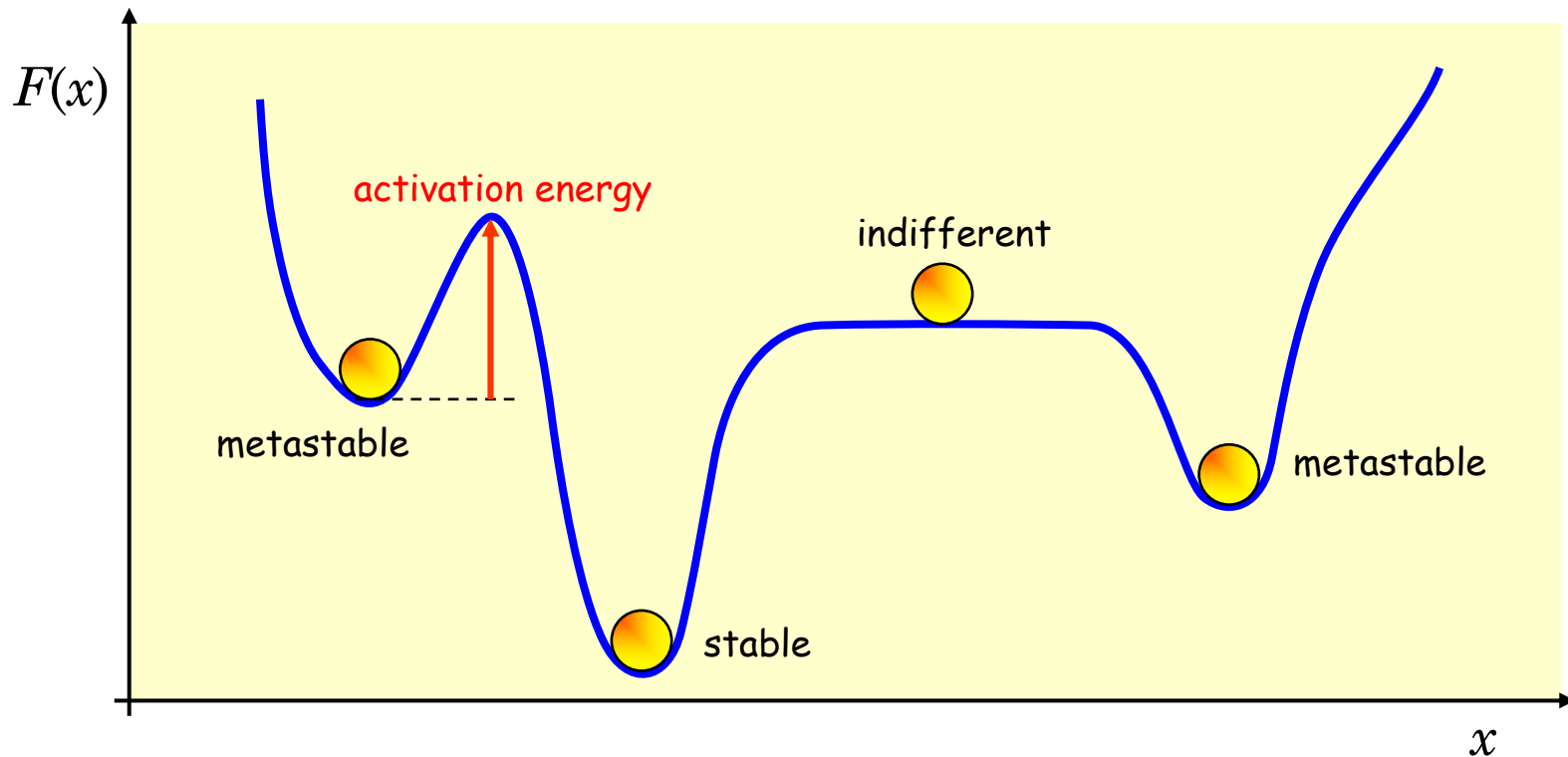
$$(dF)_T = -PdV = dW_{\max}$$
$$(dG)_T = VdP = dW_{\max}$$

Equilibrium Condition

$$(dF)_{T,V} = 0 \Leftrightarrow F \rightarrow \min$$
$$(dG)_{T,P} = 0 \Leftrightarrow G \rightarrow \min$$

At equilibrium the free energy is at minimum

# Equilibrium



Stable equilibrium – global minimum of  $F$

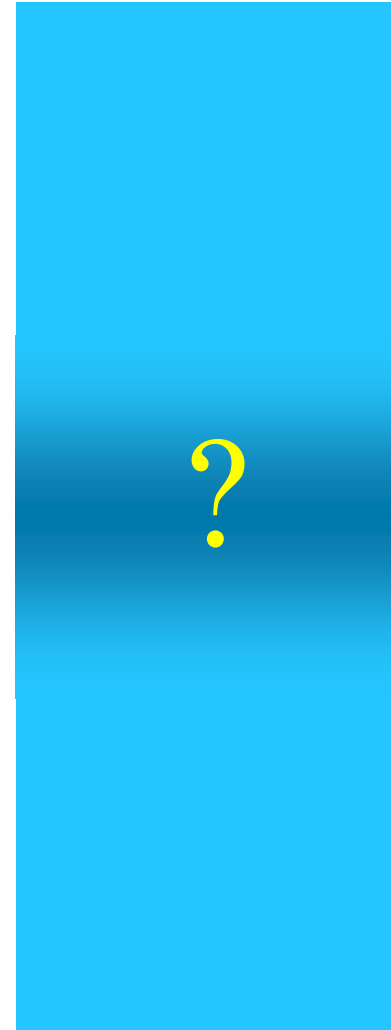
Metastable equilibrium – local minimum of  $F$

Activation energy,  $\Delta F$ , required for a transition between metastable states

# Part 2: Surface Forces

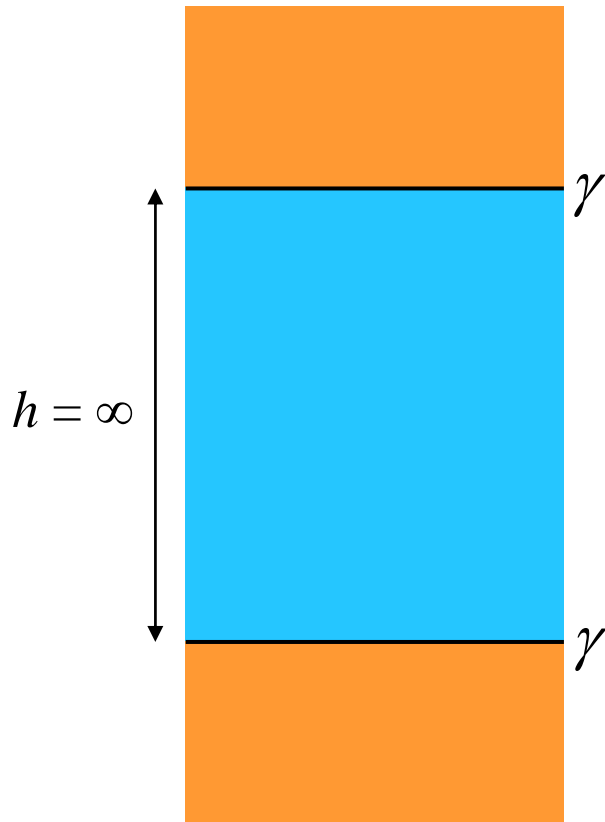
- Thin Liquid Films
- Disjoining Pressure
- Colloidal Stability
- Measurement

# Two Interfaces



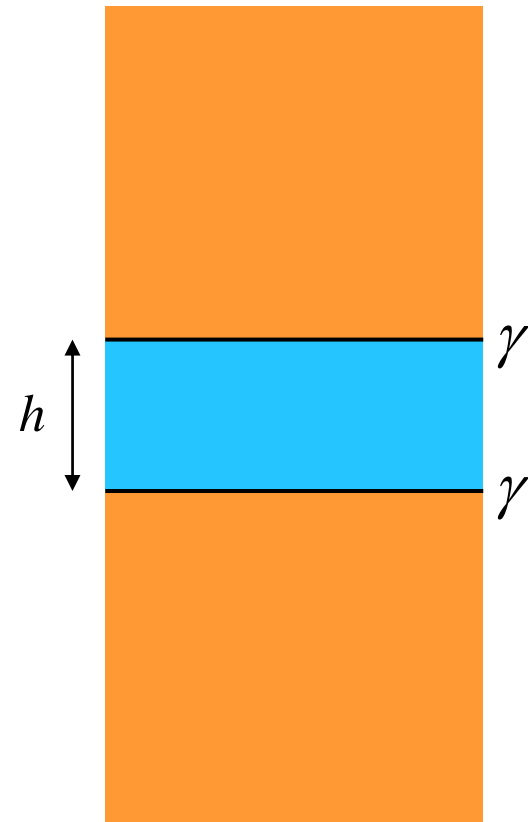
# A Liquid Film – Tick or Thin?

independent interfaces = thick film



$$f = 2\gamma$$

Interacting interfaces = thin film



$$f = 2\gamma + f_{\text{interaction}}$$

# Disjoining Pressure (Surface Force)

The interaction between the two interfaces is given by the disjoining pressure,  $\Pi$ :

$$\Pi = P(h) - P(\infty)$$

The interaction between the two interfaces can be discussed in terms of disjoining pressure (force per unit area) or, alternatively, free energy (per unit area):

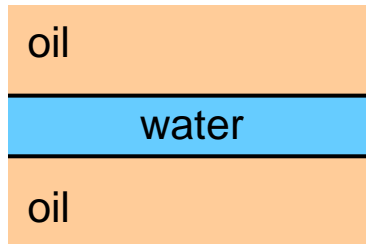
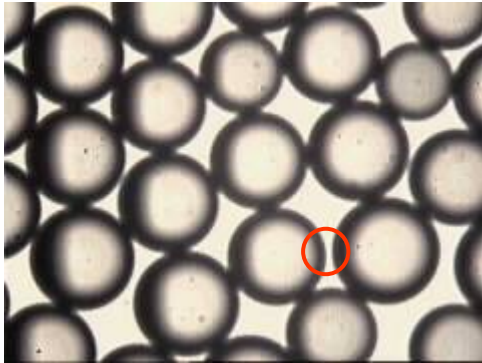
Pressure

Energy

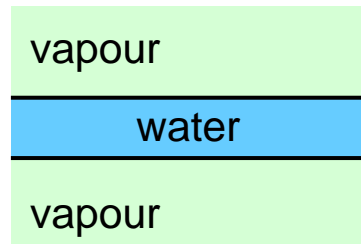
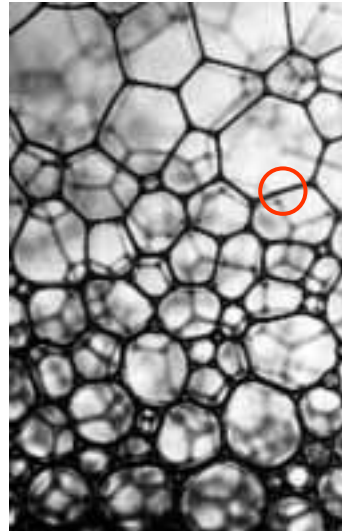
$$\Pi = - \left( \frac{\partial f}{\partial h} \right)_{T, V, \mu_i}$$
$$f = - \int_{\infty}^h \Pi dh$$

# Film Stability vs. Colloid Stability

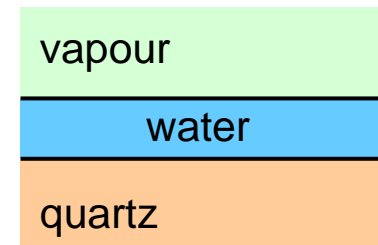
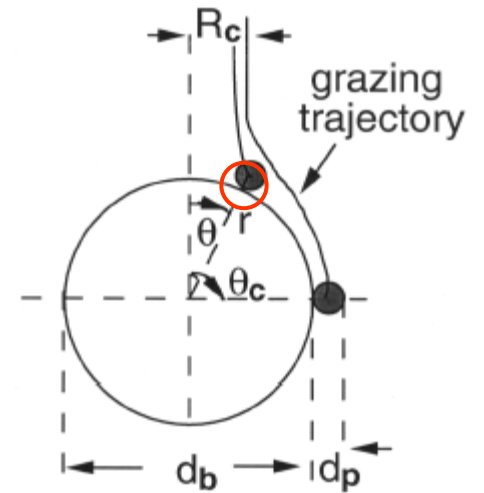
Emulsion



Foam



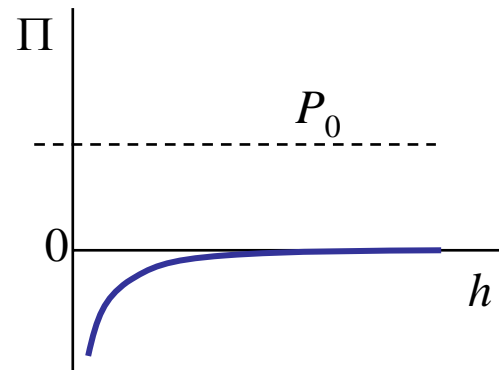
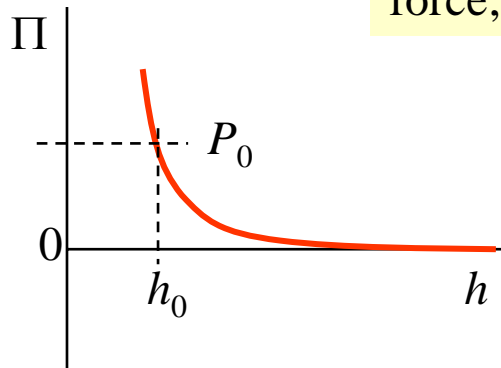
Flotation



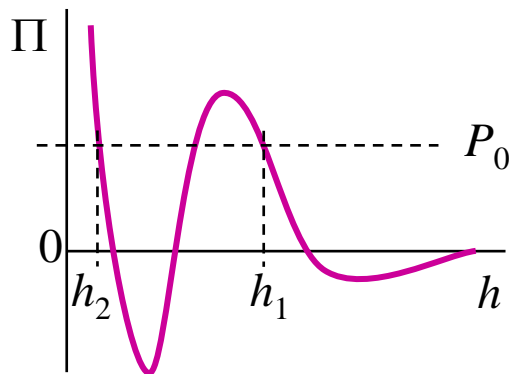
The stability of colloidal systems is intrinsically related to the stability of the films.

# Film Stability & Disjoining Pressure

As the interfaces approach each other they experience a repulsive force; the film will be stable (thickness  $h_0$  at pressure  $P_0$ ).

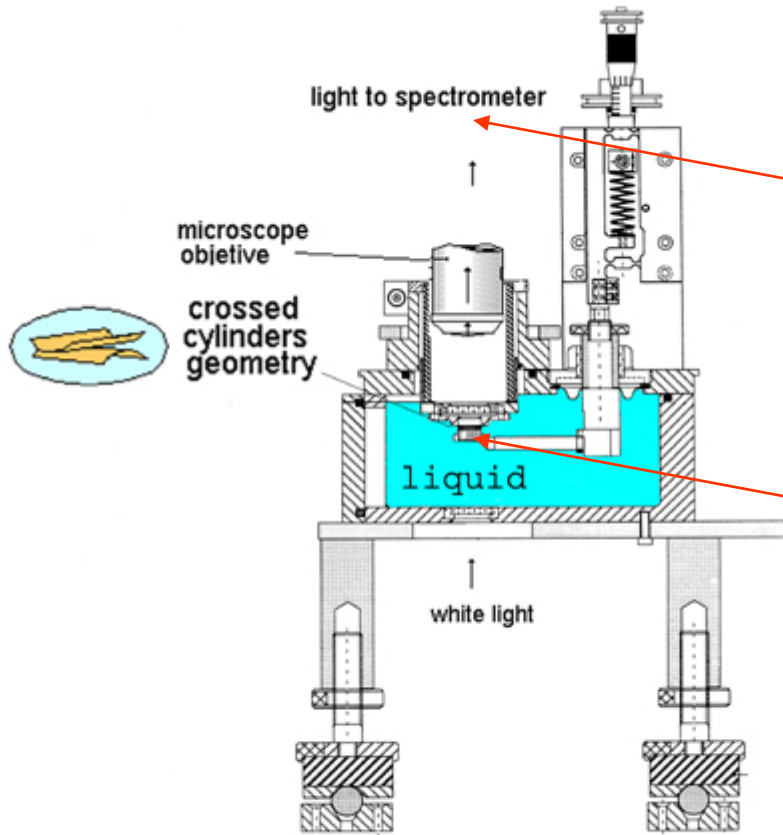


If there is attraction the film will be unstable.



Real systems are more complicated; e. g. films with thickness  $h_1$  will be metastable and in time jump to the stable thickness  $h_2$ .

# Surface Force Apparatus

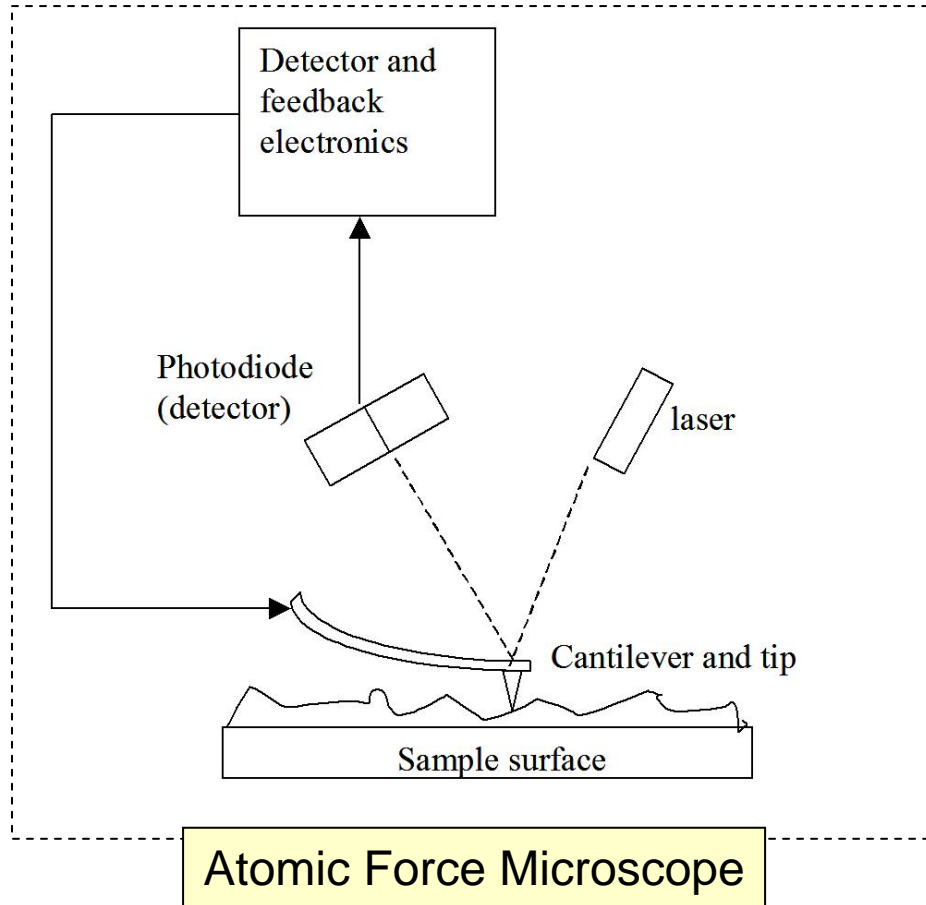


BASIC SURFACE FORCE APPARATUS MARK 4

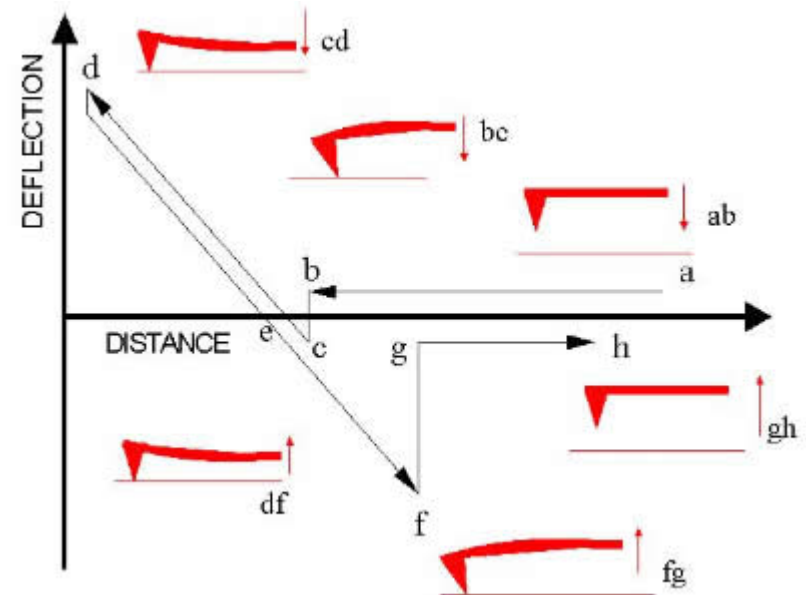
Distance (Film Thickness) is determined by interferometry; resolution is about 0.1 nm.

Force is obtained from the elastic deformation of a cantilever spring; sensitivity is about 10 nN.

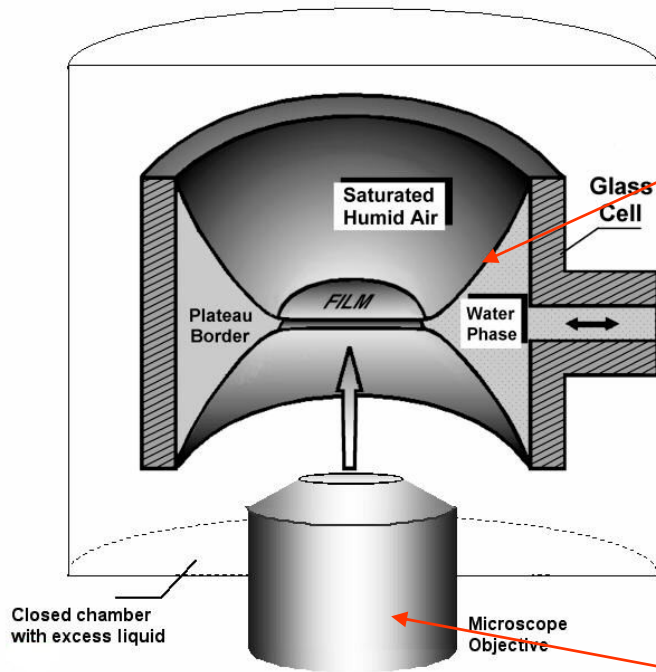
# Colloid Probe Microscopy



The force between the tip and the surface (0.01 – 100 nN) leads to a deflection of the cantilever.



# Thin Film Balance



The pressure in the film is set by the capillary pressure of the meniscus (e.g. 10-100 Pa; a version with a porous plate allows up to 100 kPa).

Film Thickness is determined by interferometry; resolution is about 0.1 nm.

# Part 3: DLVO Theory

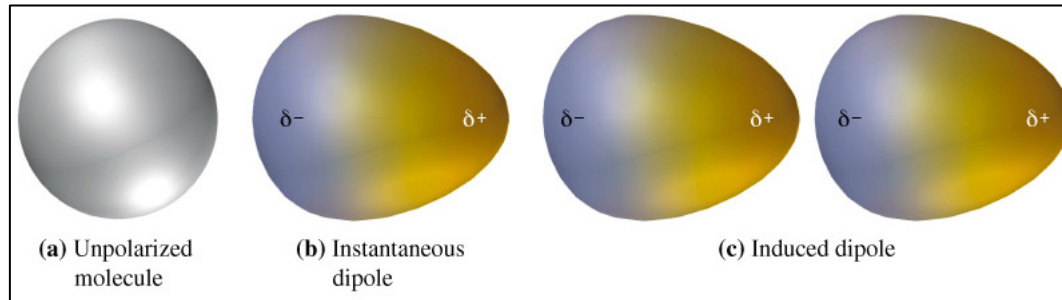
- Additivity
- van der Waals component
- electrostatic component

# Disjoining Pressure Components

The disjoining pressure can be split into two components:

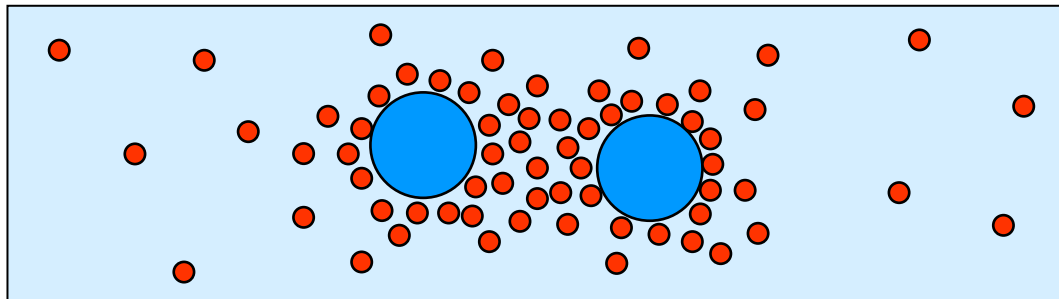
$$\Pi = \Pi_{VW} + \Pi_{EL}$$

- van der Waals component ( $\Pi_{VW}$ ): electromagnetic interactions between any two bodies

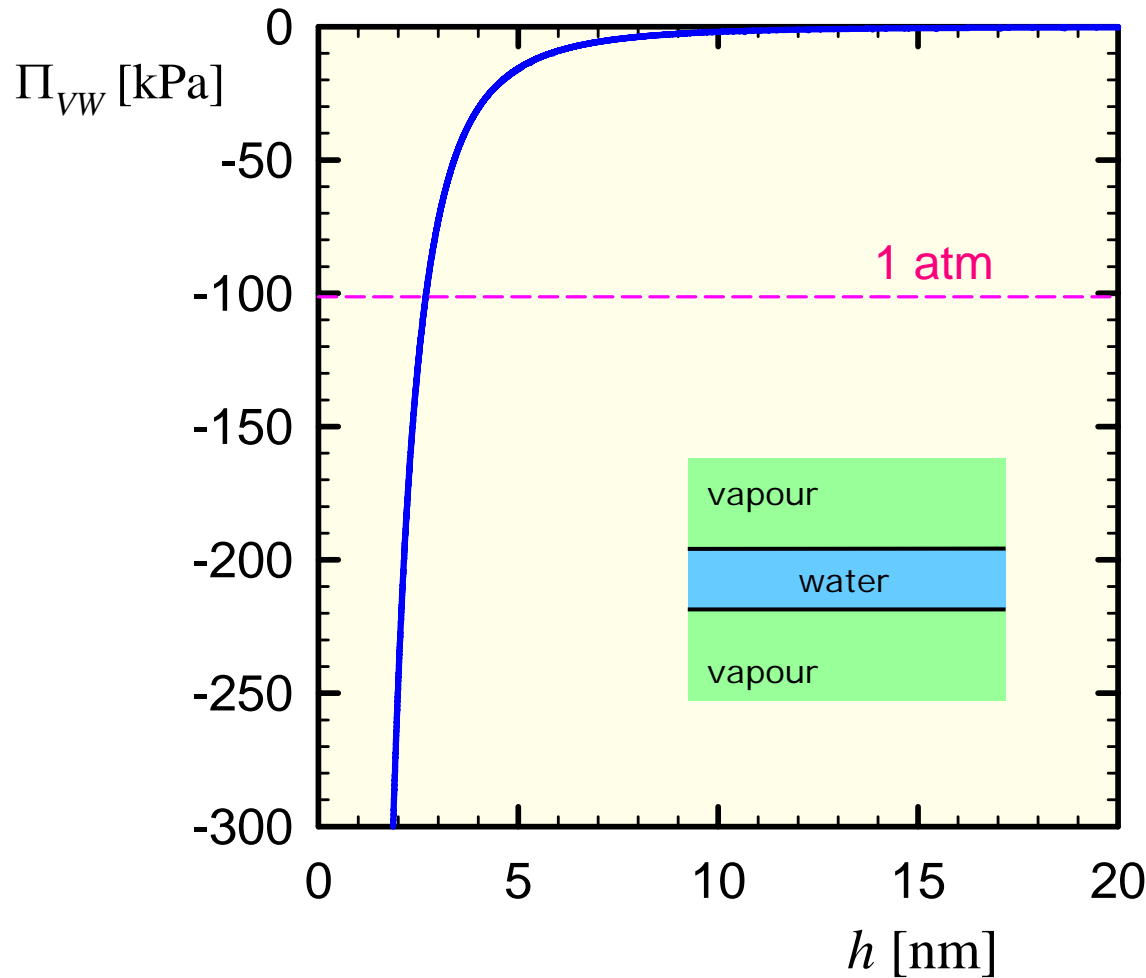


Hill & Petrucci (2002)

- Electrostatic component ( $\Pi_{EL}$ ): repulsion between the diffuse double layers



# van der Waals Attraction

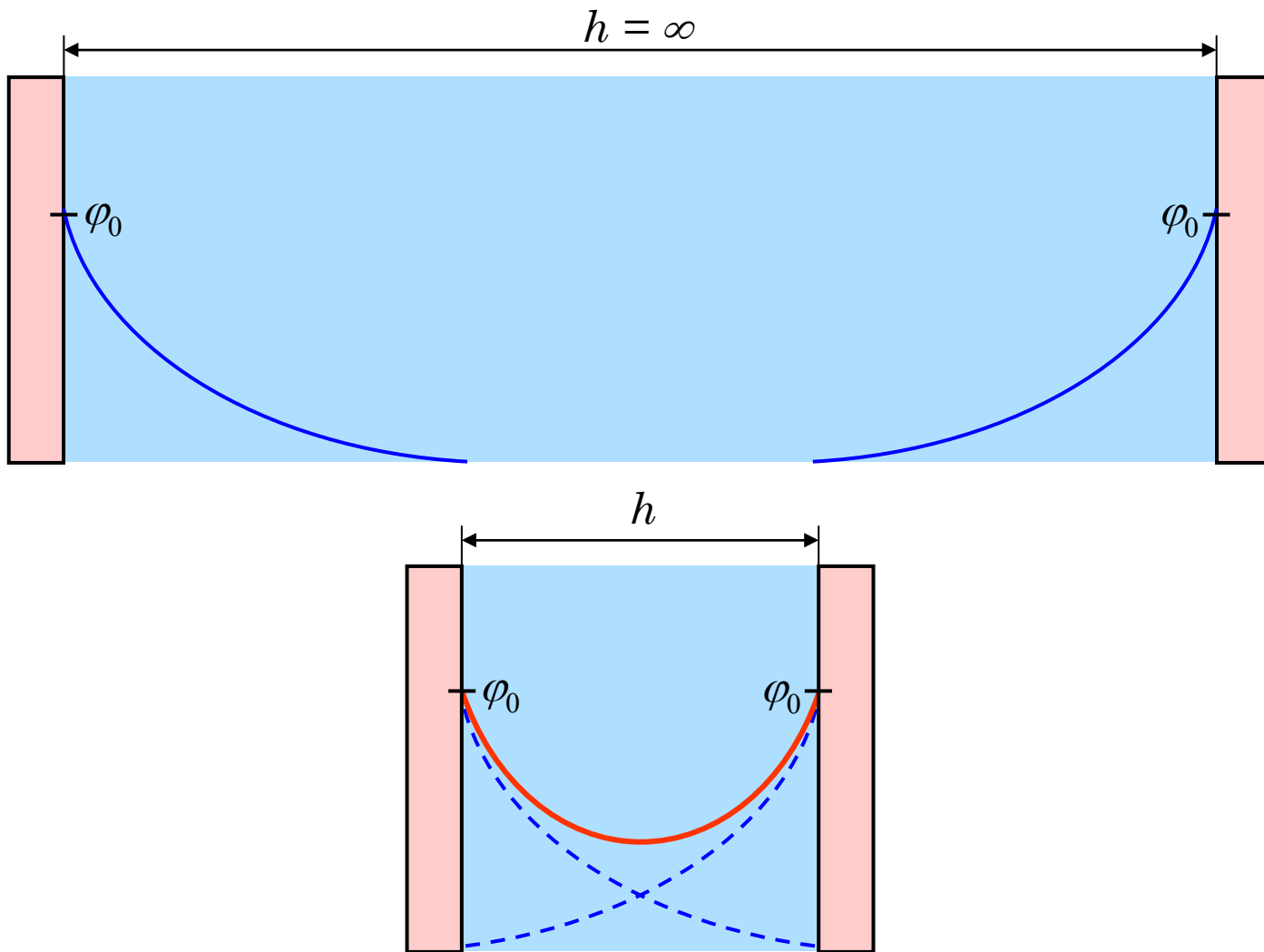


Hamaker Constant

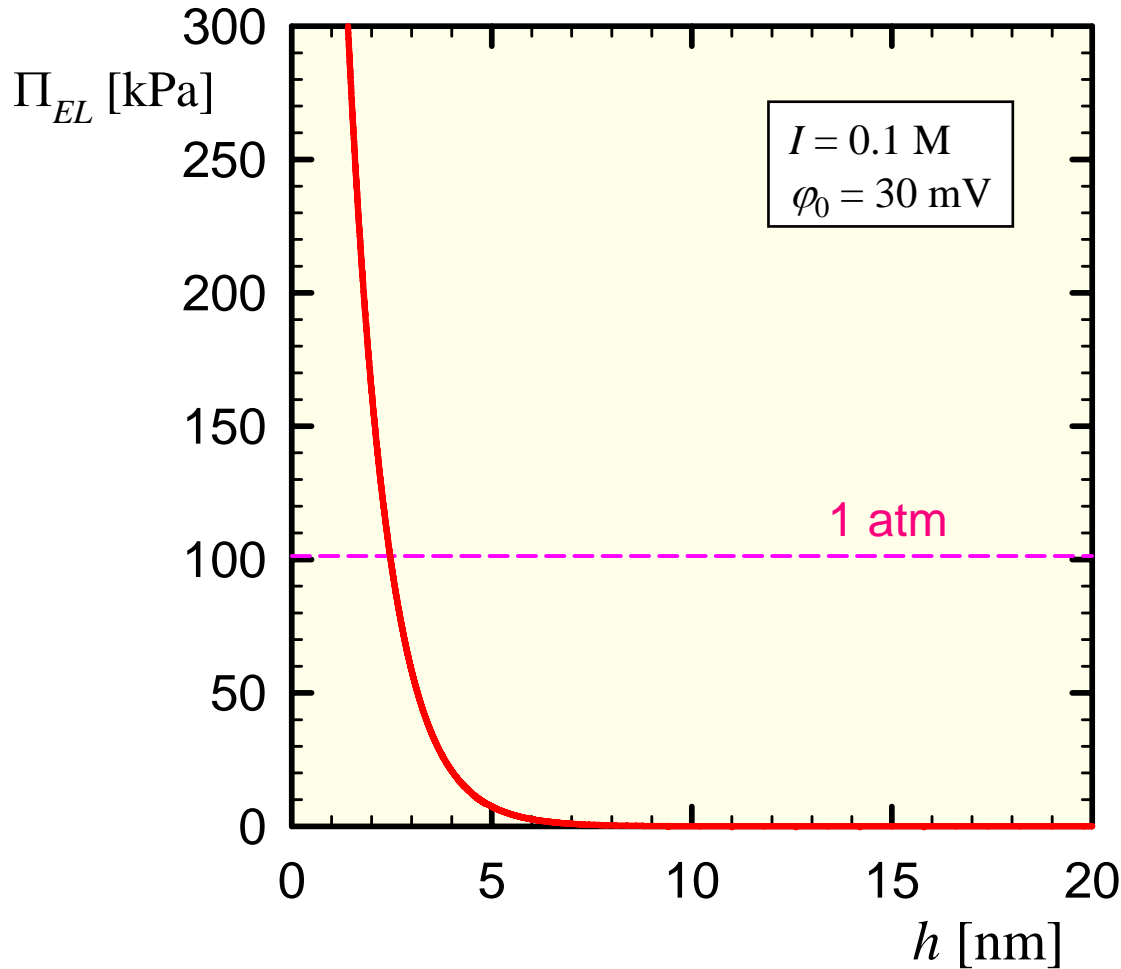
$$\Pi_{vw} = -\frac{A}{6\pi h^3}$$

$$A \sim 10^{-20} \text{ J}$$

# Overlapping Double Layers



# Electrostatic Repulsion



$$\Pi_{EL} = 64n_0k_B T y^2 e^{-\kappa h}$$

$$y = \tanh \frac{ze\varphi_0}{4k_B T}$$

$$\kappa^{-1} = \frac{1}{ze} \left( \frac{\varepsilon\varepsilon_0 k_B T}{2n_0} \right)^{1/2}$$

# The DLVO Theory

The Derjaguin-Landau-Vervey-Overbeek (DLVO) theory explains the stability of colloids by combining van der Waals & electrostatic interactions only:

$$\Pi = \Pi_{VW} + \Pi_{EL}$$

For a symmetric system the van der Waals interaction is always attraction and the electrostatic interaction is always repulsion.

$$\Pi = -\frac{A}{6\pi h^3} + 64n_0k_B T \tanh^2 \frac{ze\phi_0}{4k_B T} e^{-\kappa h}$$

$$F = -\frac{A}{12\pi h^2} + \frac{64n_0k_B T}{\kappa} \tanh^2 \frac{ze\phi_0}{4k_B T} e^{-\kappa h}$$

# Part 4: Non-DLVO Forces

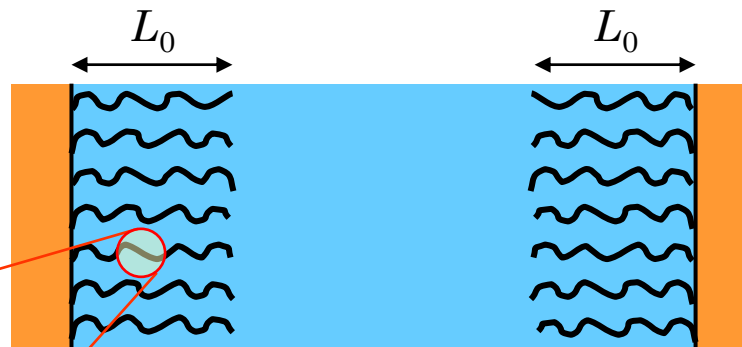
- Steric Forces
- Structural Forces
- Hydrophobic Forces

# Disjoining Pressure Components

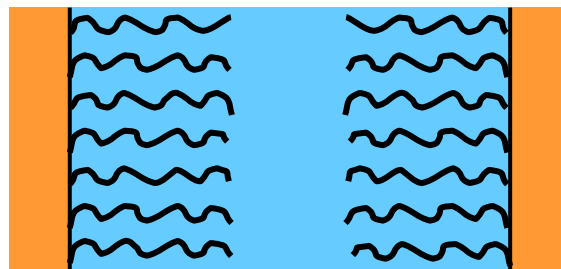
$$\Pi = \underbrace{\Pi_{VW} + \Pi_{EL}}_{\text{DLVO}} + \Pi_{ST} + \Pi_H + \dots$$

- **Steric Repulsion** ( $\Pi_{ST}$ ): excluded volume for tethered polymer chains (the grafted chains are “protecting” the surfaces from reaching each other);
- **Hydration repulsion** ( $\Pi_H$ ): repulsion between structured solvent layers near the interface (the solvent “loves” the solid surface);
- **Hydrophobic attraction** ( $\Pi_{HB}$ ): attraction between hydrophobic surfaces (the solvent “dislikes” the solid surface).

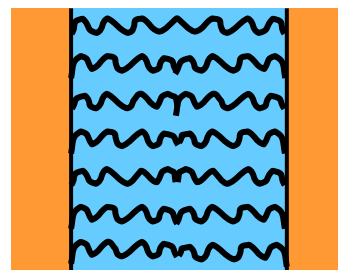
# Steric Repulsion



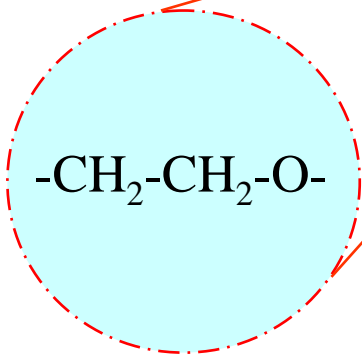
$$\Pi = 0$$



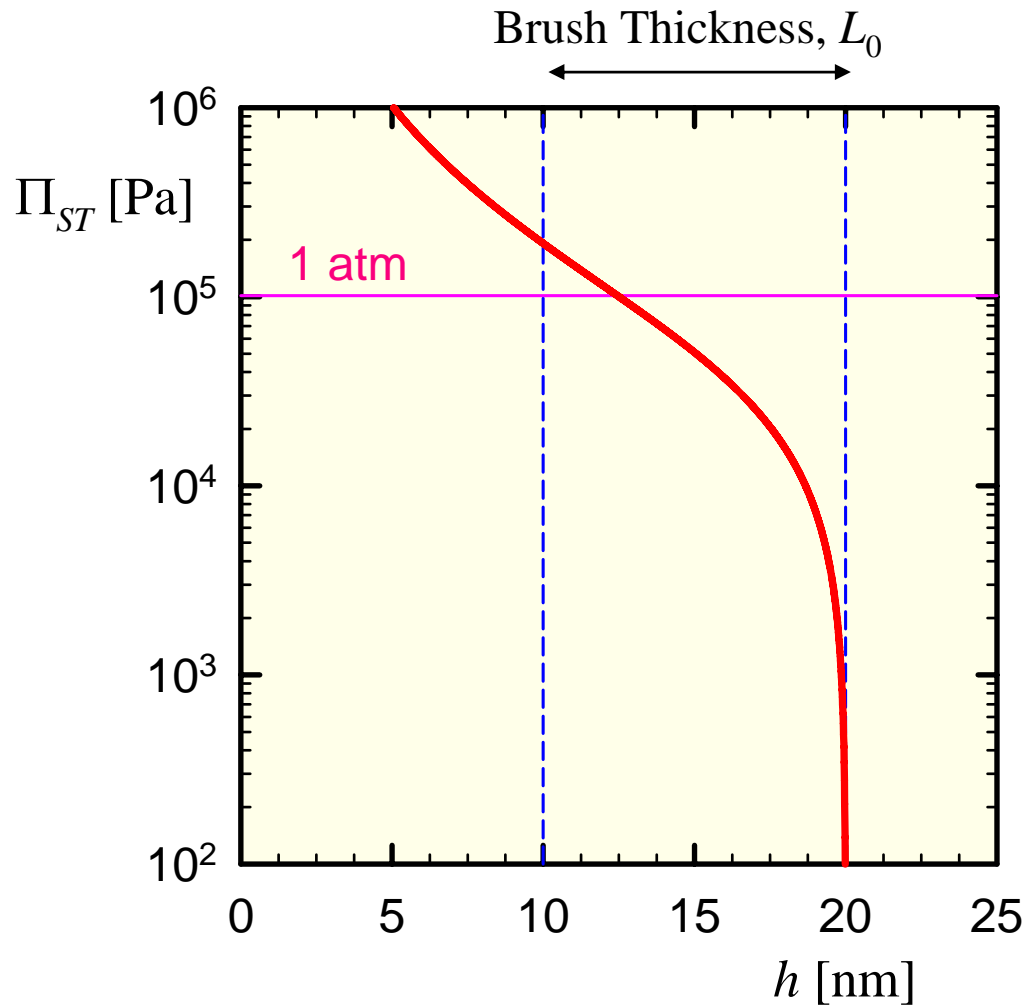
$$\Pi = 0$$



$$\Pi > 0$$



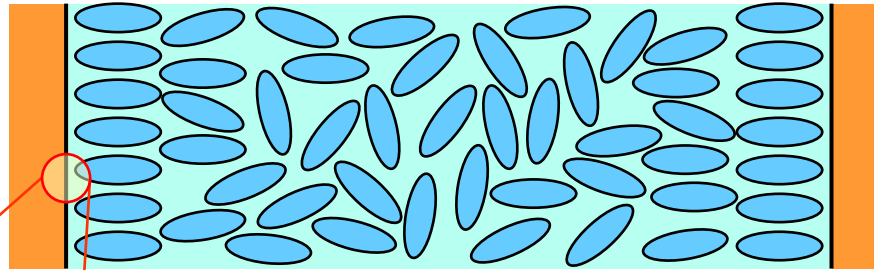
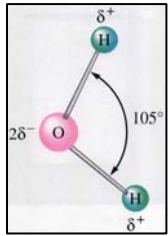
# Brush-to-Brush Repulsion



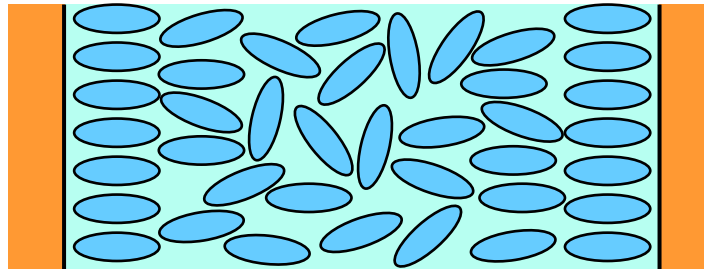
$$\Pi_{ST} = \frac{k_B T}{A^{3/2}} \left( H^{-9/4} - H^{3/4} \right)$$
$$H = \frac{h}{2L_0}$$

de Gennes (1987)

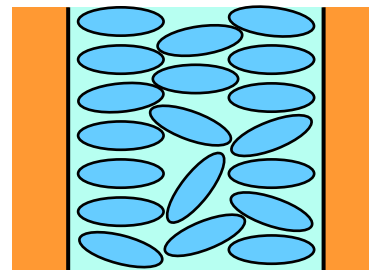
# Hydration Repulsion



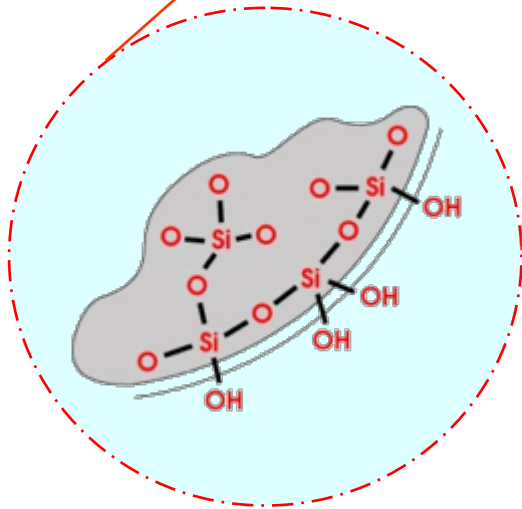
$$\Pi = 0$$



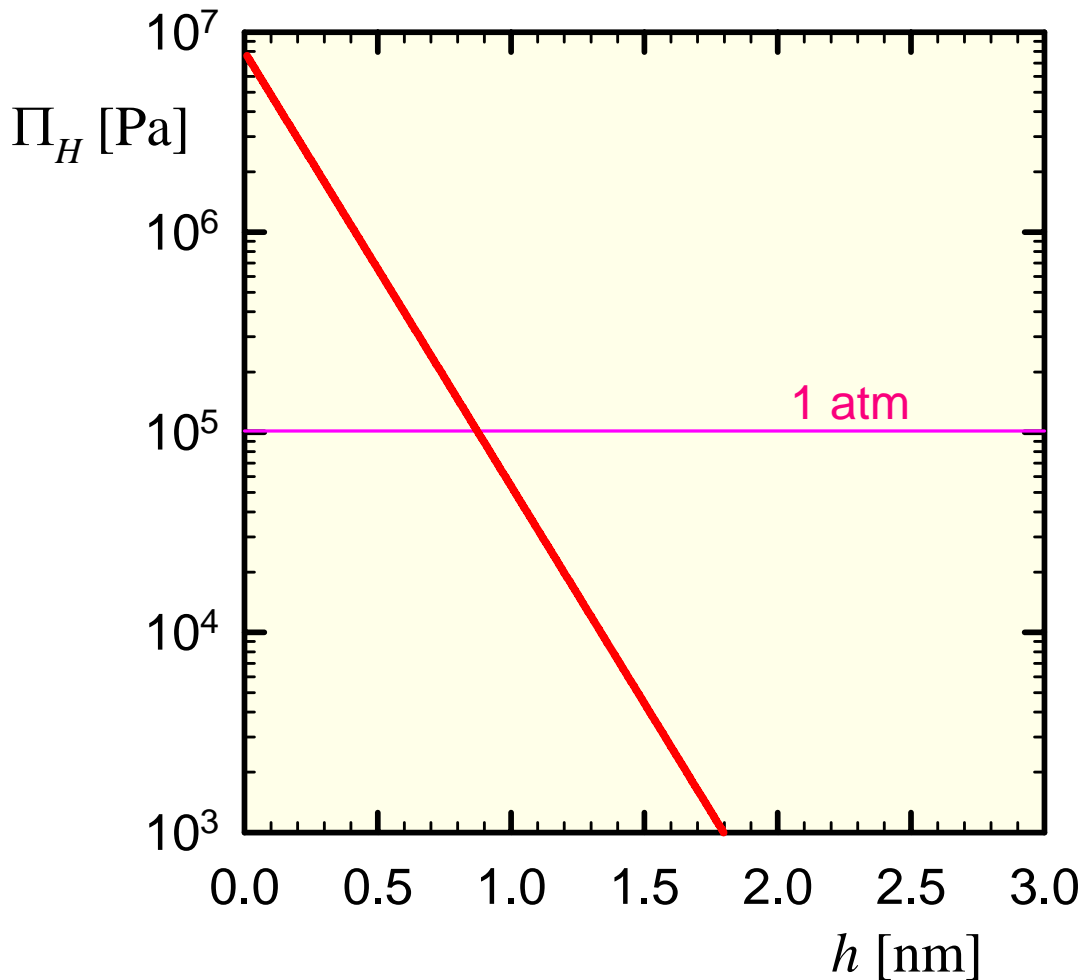
$$\Pi = 0$$



$$\Pi > 0$$



# Hydration Force

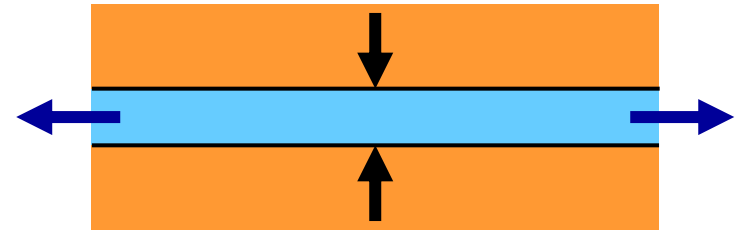
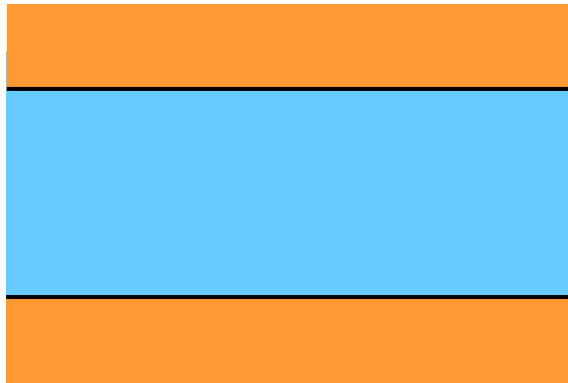
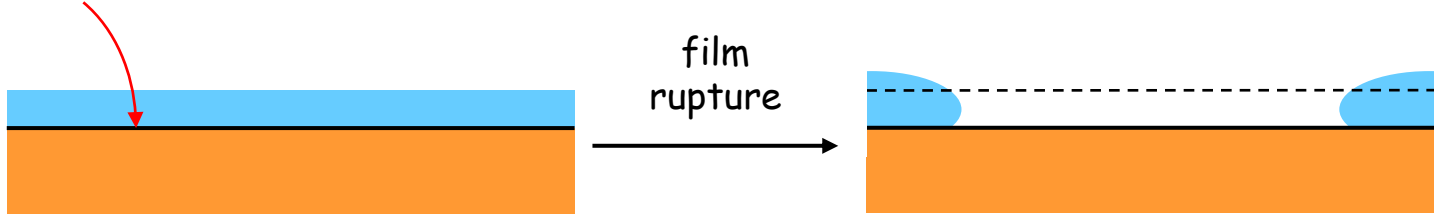


$$\Pi_H = A_H \exp\left(-\frac{h}{\lambda_H}\right)$$

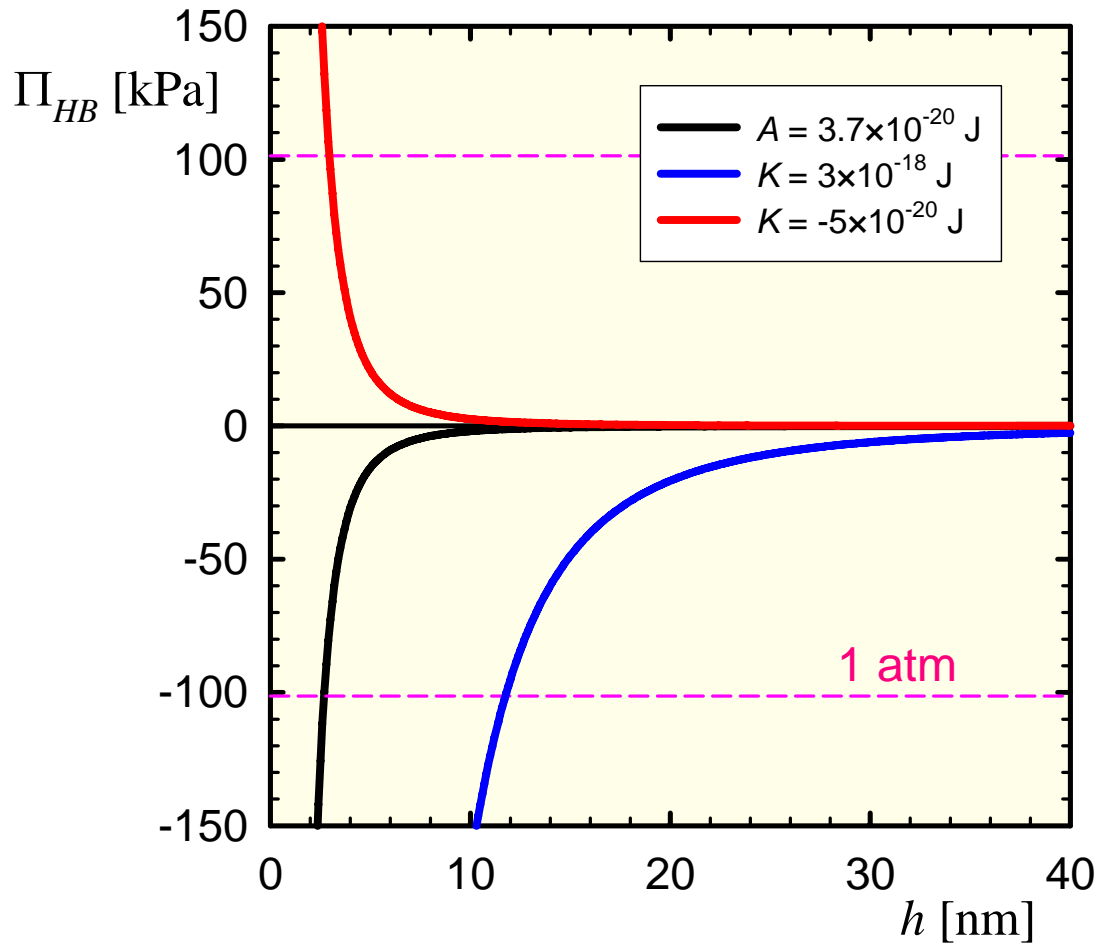
$$\lambda_H \sim 1-3 \text{ \AA}$$

# Hydrophobic Attraction

Hydrophobic surface



# Hydrophobic Force



$$\Pi_{HB} = -\frac{K}{6\pi h^3}$$

$$|K| \sim 10^{-18} \text{ J}$$

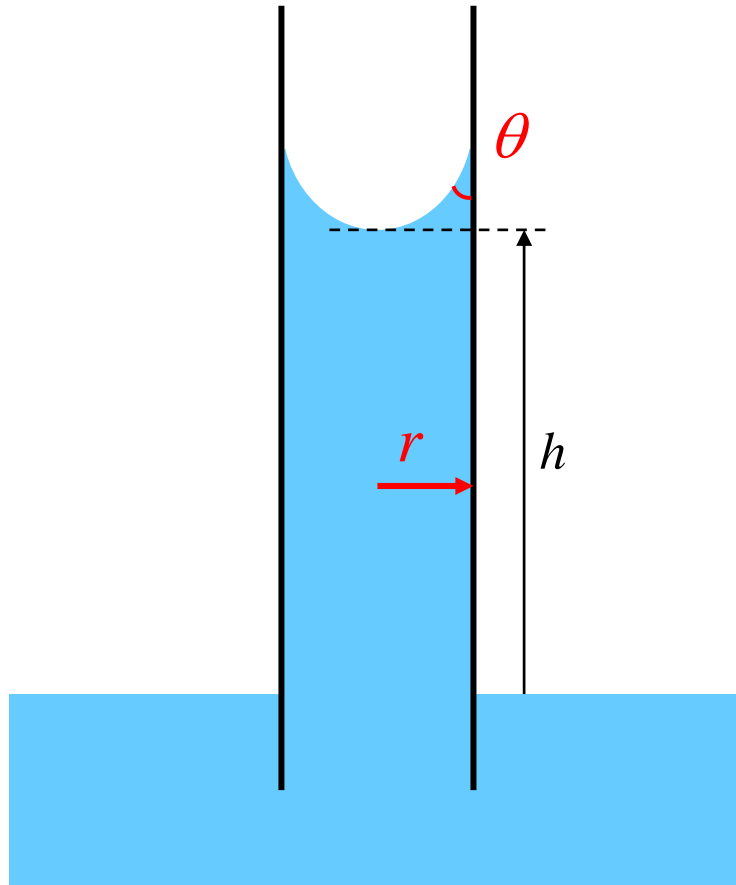
# Part 5: Wettability

- Capillarity
- Contact Angle
- Cohesion & Adhesion

# Capillary Rise

Force balance:

$$P_{\text{capillary}} = P_{\text{hydrostatic}}$$



Surface Tension

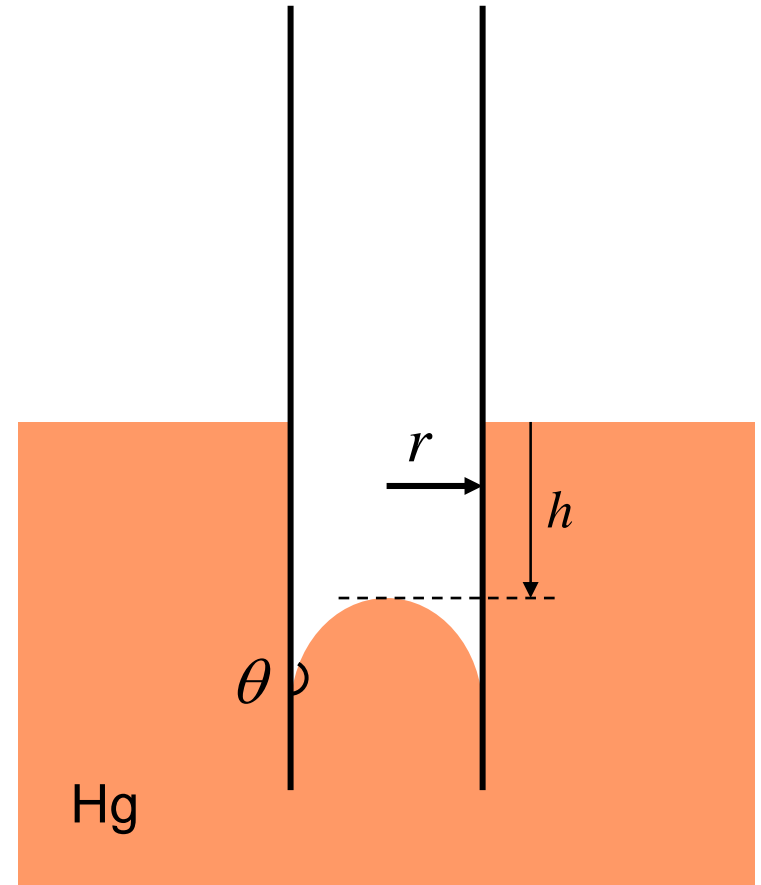
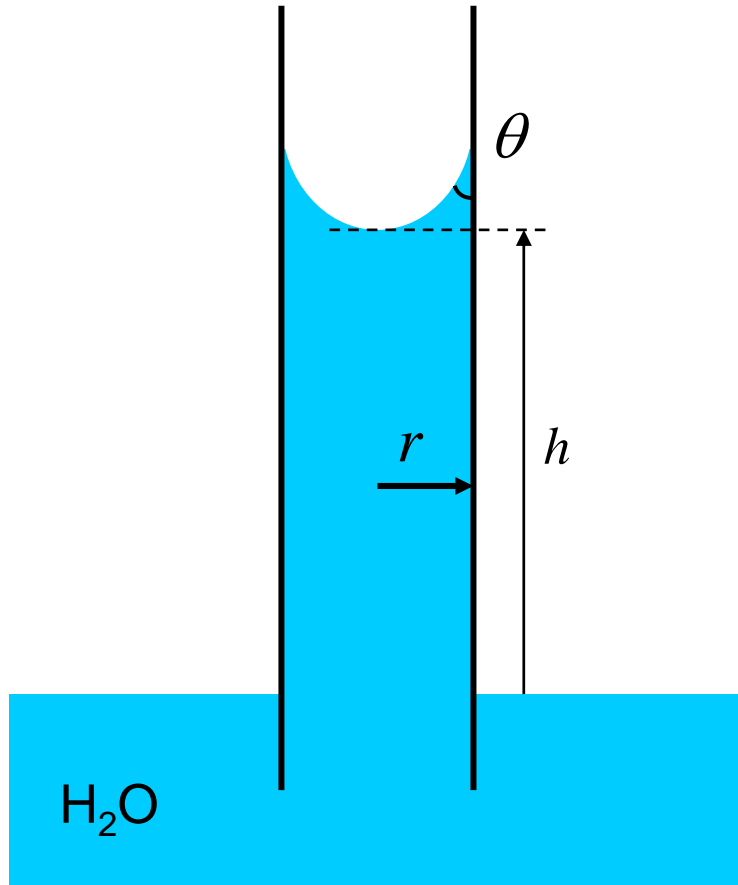
Gravity

$$\frac{2\gamma}{r} \cos \theta = \rho g h$$

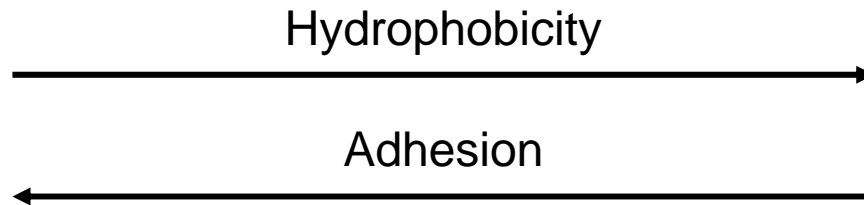
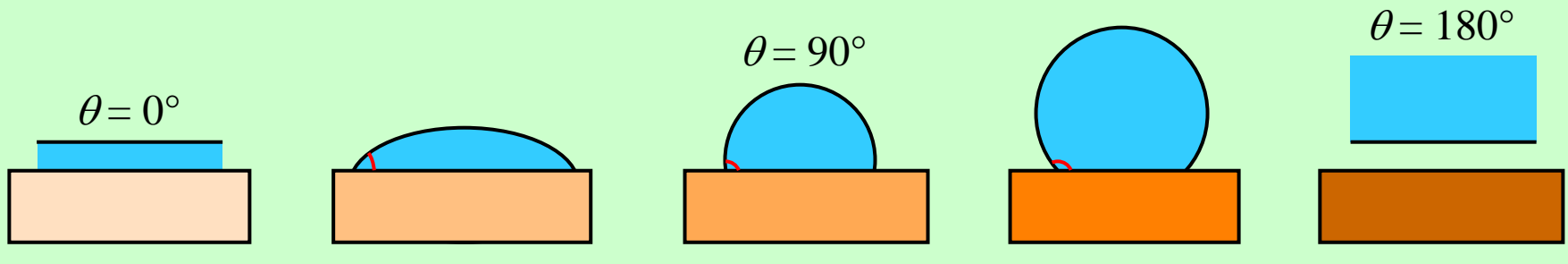
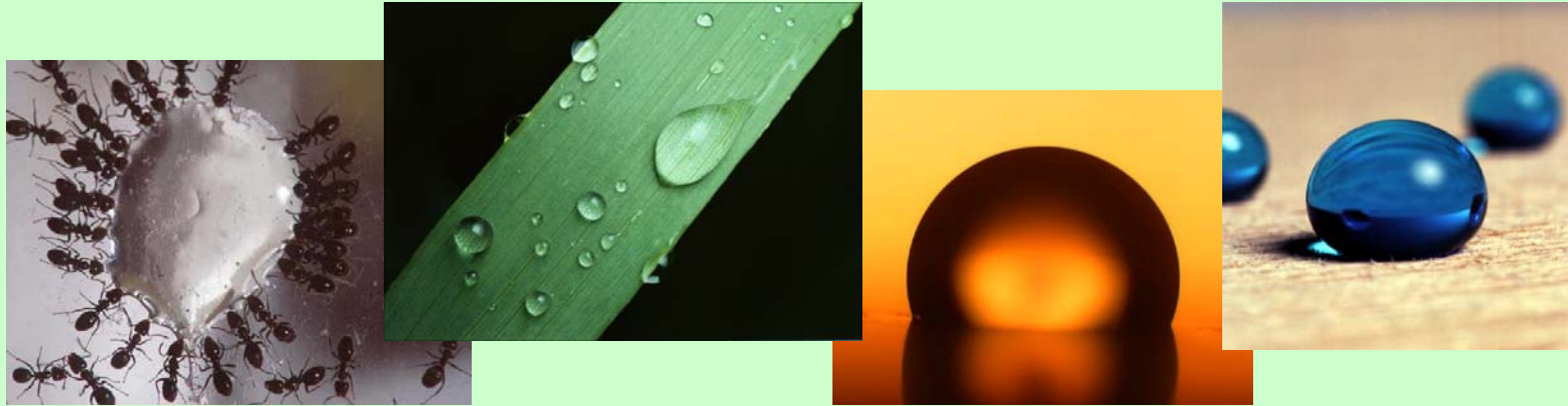
Contact Angle

Density

# Capillary Rise & Capillary Depression

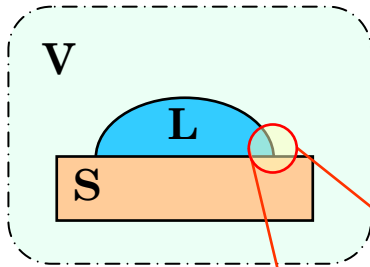


# Contact Angle – A Measure of Wettability

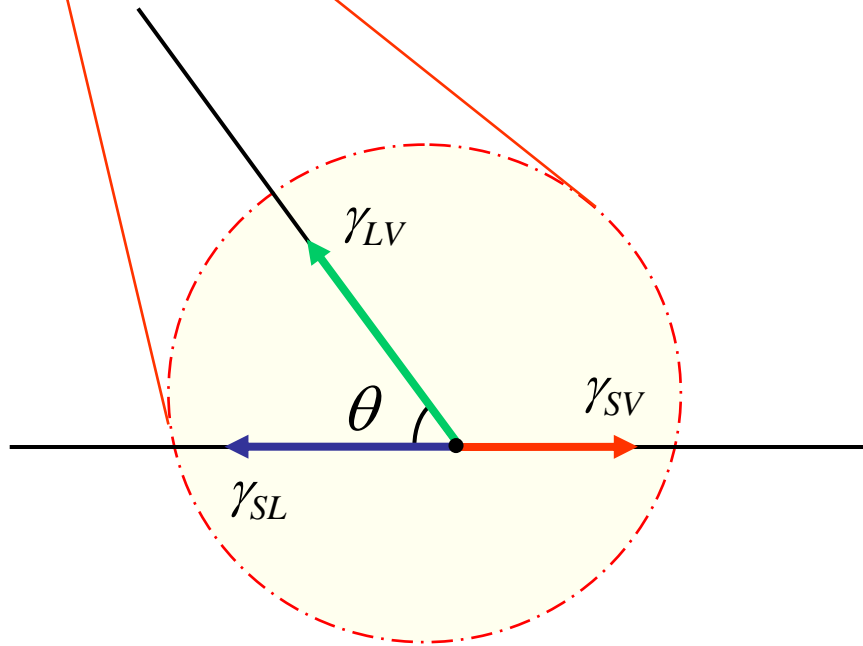


# Young Equation

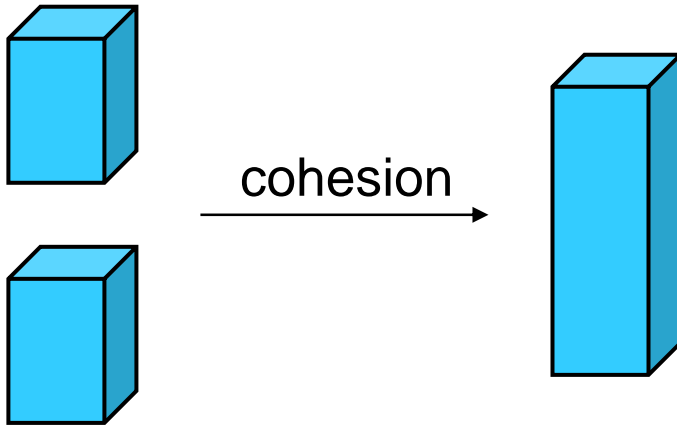
The contact angle is determined by intermolecular interactions (included in the gammas):



$$\cos \theta = \frac{\gamma_{SV} - \gamma_{SL}}{\gamma_{LV}}$$

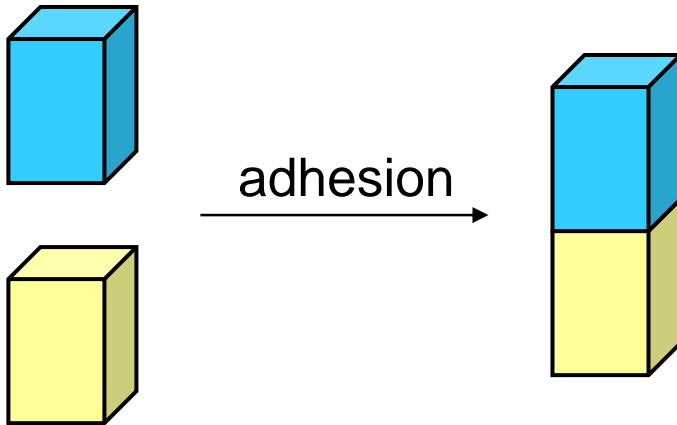


# Cohesion & Adhesion



Work of Cohesion:

$$W_C = \gamma_{LV} + \gamma_{LV} - 0 = 2\gamma_{LV}$$



Work of Adhesion:

$$W_A = \gamma_{LV} + \gamma_{SV} - \gamma_{SL}$$

# Wettability & Adhesion

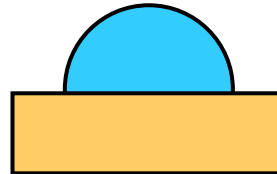
$$W_A = \gamma(1 + \cos \theta)$$

$$\theta_0 = 0 \Leftrightarrow W_A = 2\gamma$$



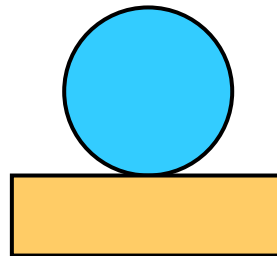
Maximum adhesion

$$\theta_0 = 90^\circ \Leftrightarrow W_A = \gamma$$



Intermediate adhesion

$$\theta_0 = 180^\circ \Leftrightarrow W_A = 0$$



Minimum adhesion

# References

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