

FLOATING WITH SURFACE TENSION

FROM ARCHIMEDES TO KELLER



Dominic Vella
Mathematical Institute, University of Oxford



JBK @ WHOI

Joe was a regular fixture of the Geophysical Fluid Dynamics programme (run at Woods Hole since 1959 – last attended in 2015)



GFD Photo – 2006

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Chats on the porch of Walsh Cottage are a unique feature of GFD

BRIEF COMMUNICATIONS

The purpose of this Brief Communications section is to present important research results of more limited scope than regular articles appearing in Physics of Fluids. Submission of material of a peripheral or cursory nature is strongly discouraged. Brief Communications cannot exceed three printed pages in length, including space allowed for title, figures, tables, references, and an abstract limited to about 100 words.

Surface tension force on a partly submerged body

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(Received 26 January 1998; accepted 29 July 1998)

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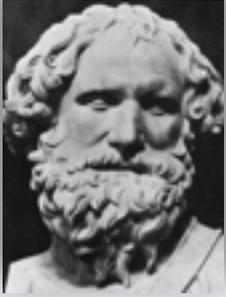
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Was this paper a result of Walsh Cottage chat?

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I thank George Veronis for asking the question that led to this work. This work supported in part by the AFOSR and NSF.

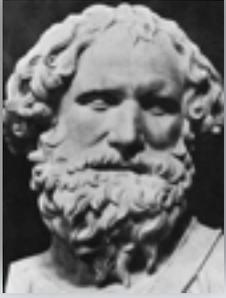
A BRIEF HISTORY OF FLOATING



“Any object, wholly or partially immersed in a fluid, is buoyed up by a force equal to the weight of the fluid displaced by the object.”

Archimedes, On Floating Bodies (c. 250 BC)

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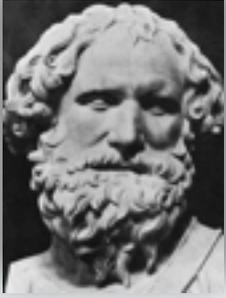
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Archimedes' principle seems to rule out dense objects (e.g. drawing pins) floating on water

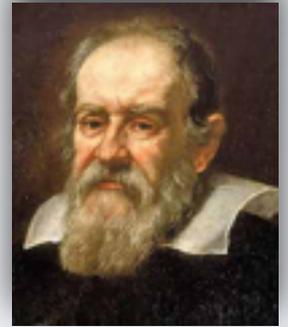


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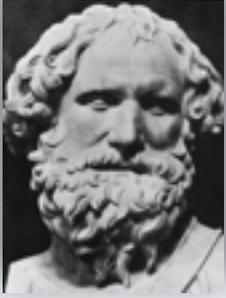


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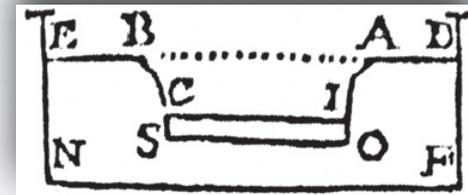
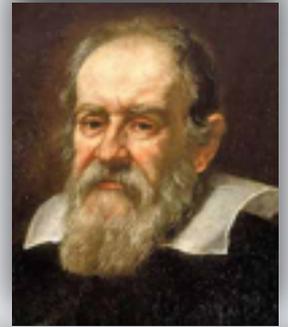


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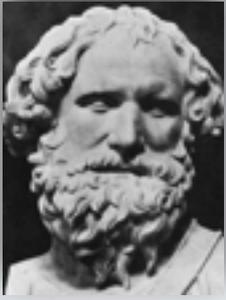


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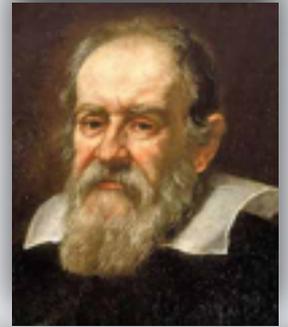
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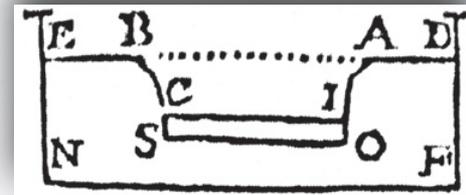
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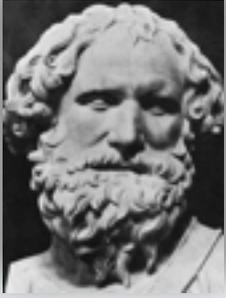
“When ever the excess of the Gravity of the Solid above the Gravity of the Water shall have the same proportion to the Gravity of the Water that the Altitude of the Rampart, hath to the thickness of the Solid, that Solid shall not sink, but being never so little thicker it shall.”



Galileo Galilei, *Discourse on Floating Bodies* (1663)



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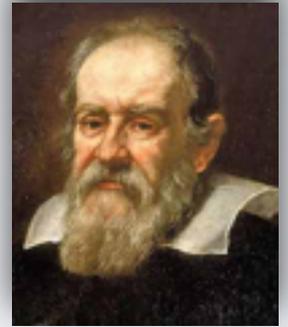


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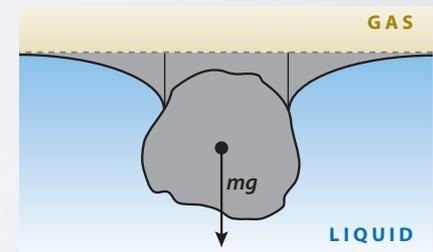
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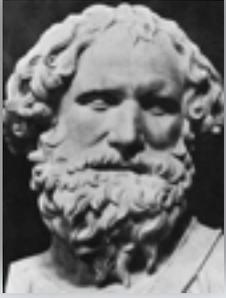


Galileo's picture

Extra force arises from weight of liquid displaced by meniscus



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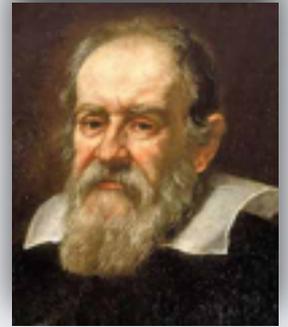


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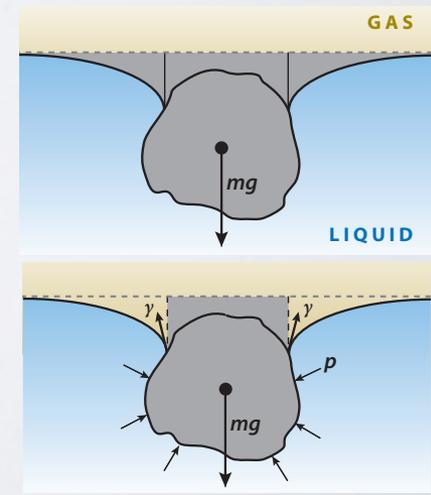
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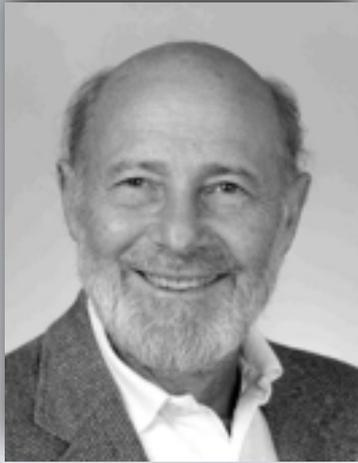
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What about the force from surface tension?



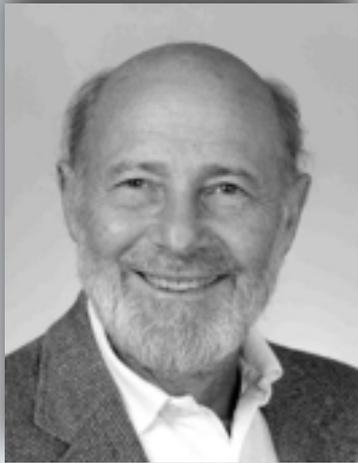
KELLER'S THEOREM



“The vertical component of the surface tension force on a body partly submerged in a liquid is shown to equal the weight of liquid displaced by the meniscus.”

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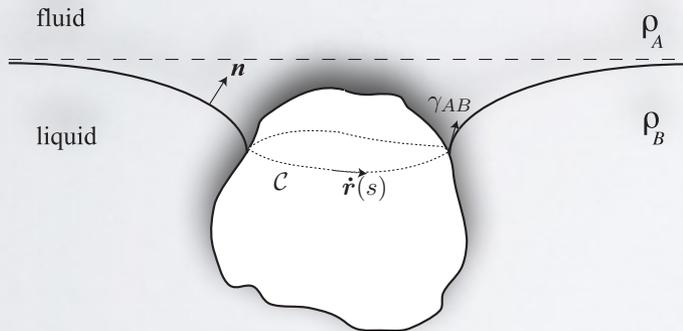


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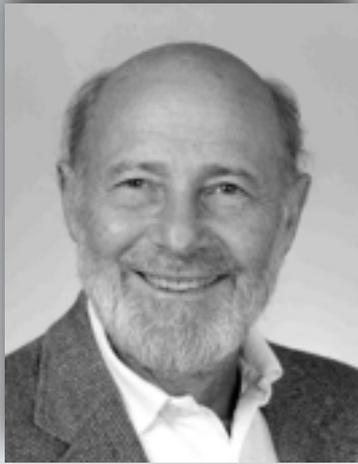
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Surface tension force:

$$\mathbf{F}_{st} = \gamma_{AB} \int_C \dot{\mathbf{r}}(s) \times \mathbf{n} \, ds$$



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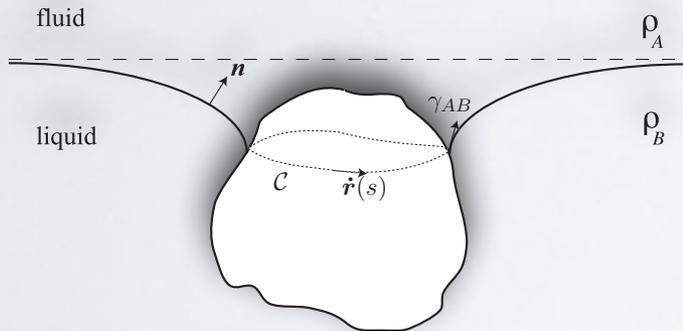
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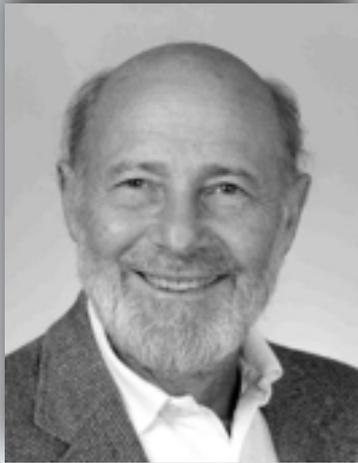
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Looking at the vertical component:

$$\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{F}_{st} = \gamma_{AB} \int_{C_\pi} \mathbf{n} \cdot \boldsymbol{\nu} \, ds' = \gamma_{AB} \int_{\mathbb{R}^2 \setminus W_\pi} \nabla \cdot \mathbf{n} \, dA$$



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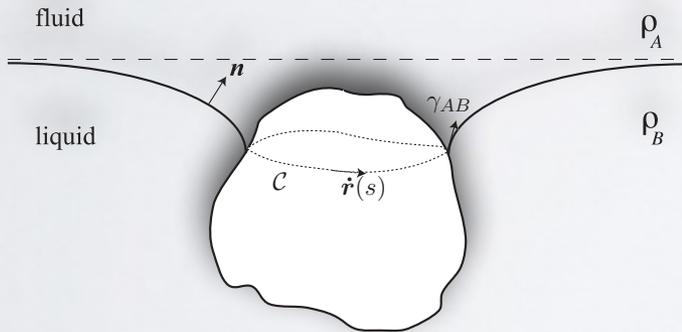
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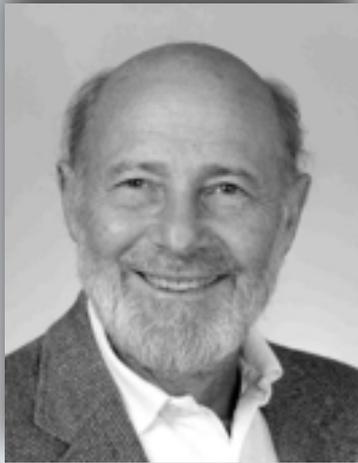
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projection of contact
line to 2-d plane



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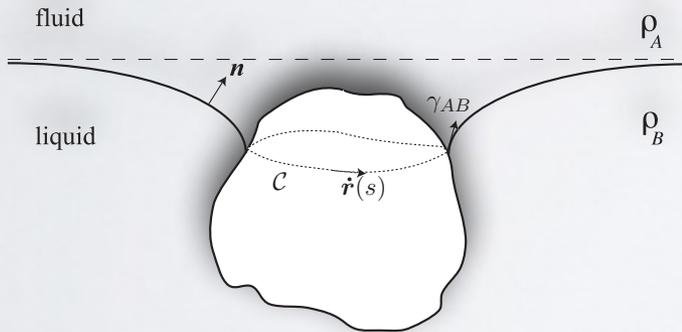
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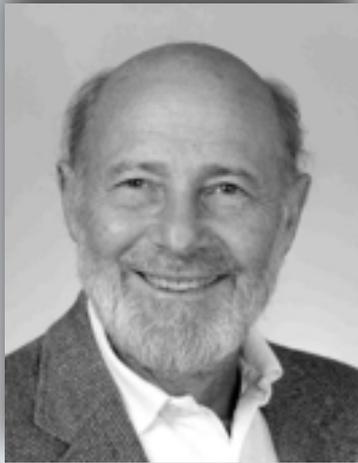
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projection of contact line to 2-d plane

normal to contact line



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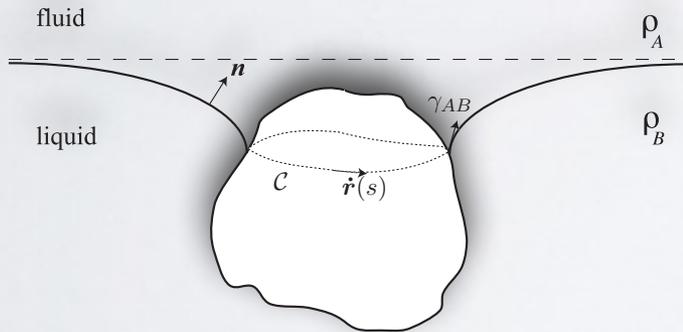
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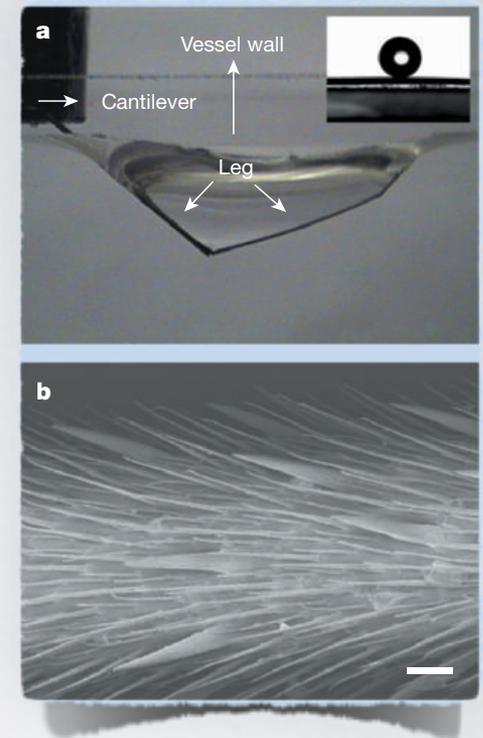
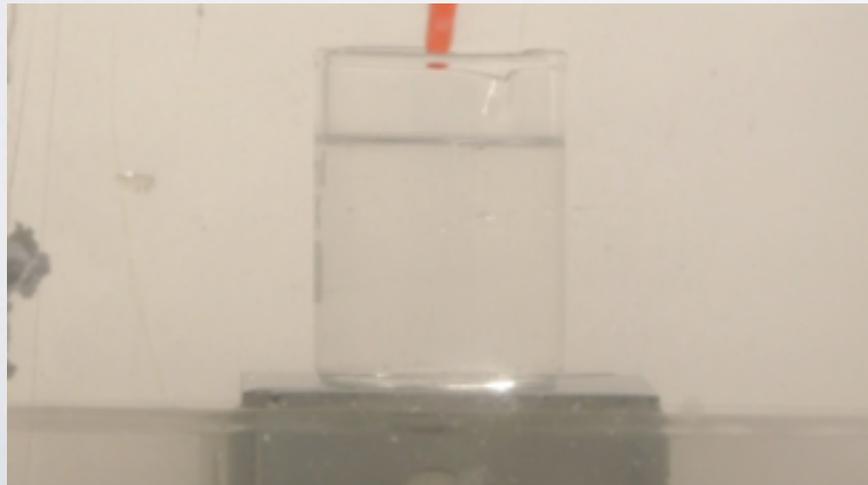
To eliminate curvature, use Laplace-Young equation: $(\rho_B - \rho_A)gh = -\gamma_{AB} \nabla \cdot \mathbf{n}$

ROUGH SURFACES

Often think of surface tension as providing a force per unit length – **does this explain why water walking insects have hairy legs?**

Keller's Theorem shows that this cannot be the case – a hairy surface does not significantly alter the volume of liquid displaced

Key point: contact line length is increased **but** presence of nearby hairs causes mini-menisci to flatten (and hence provide less force)



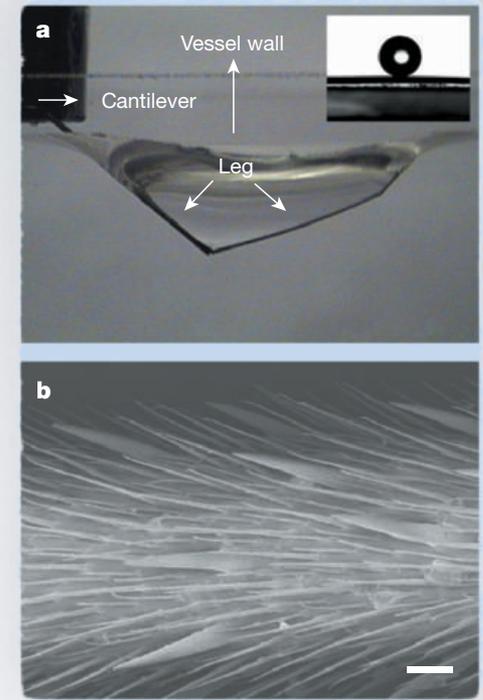
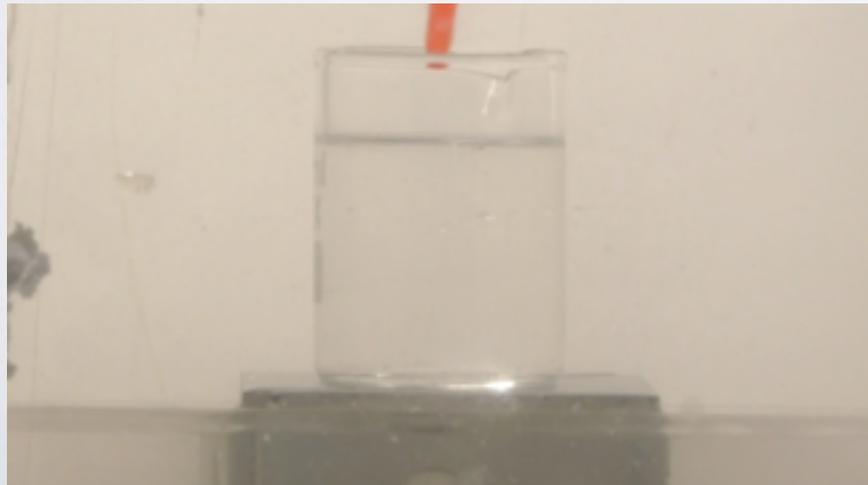
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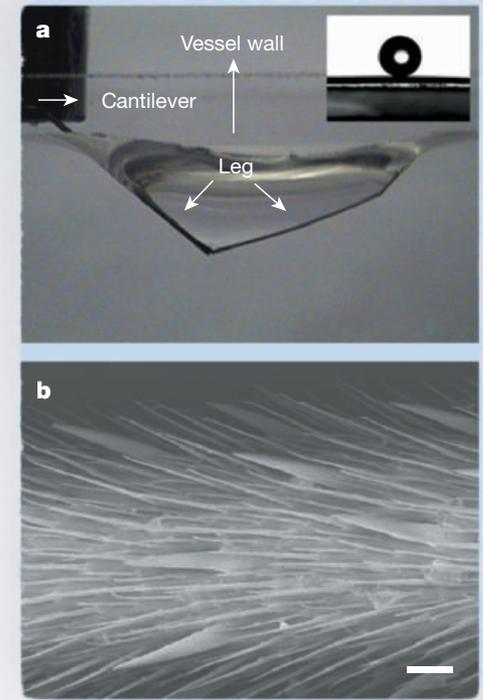
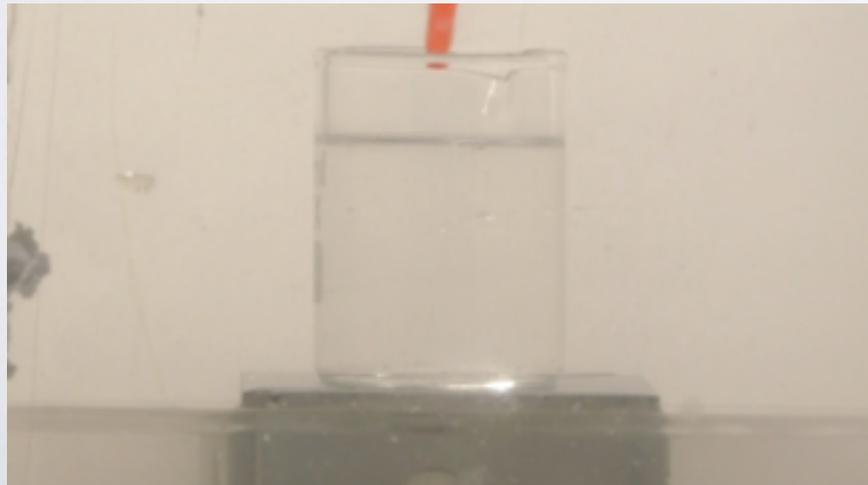
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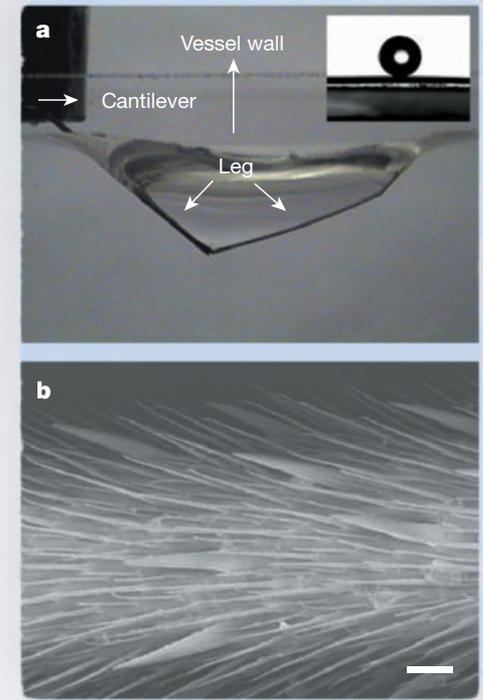
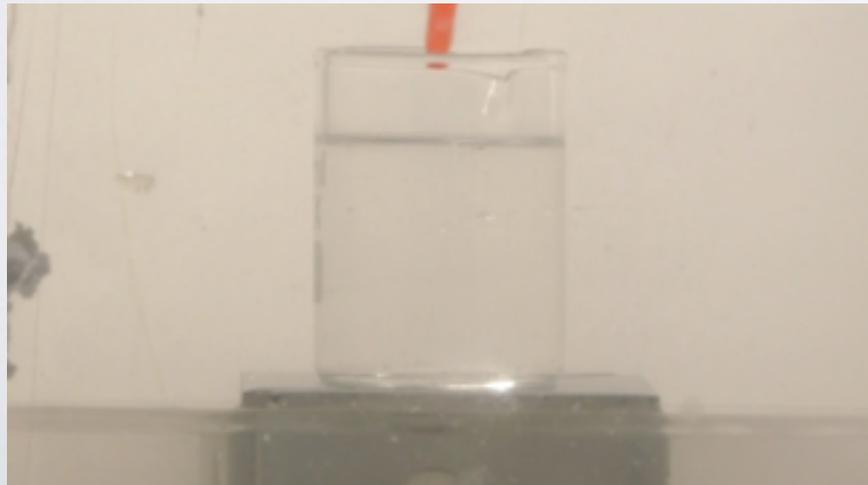
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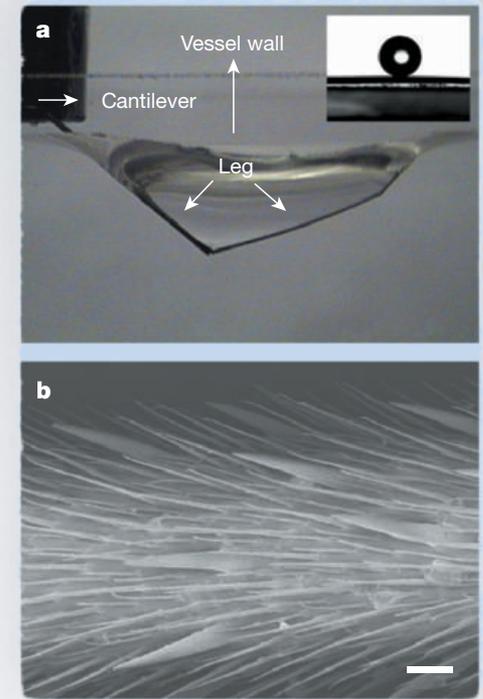
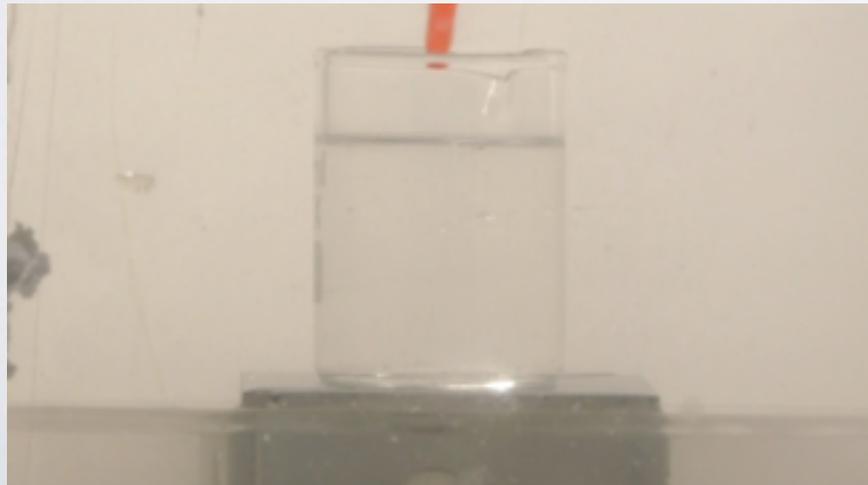
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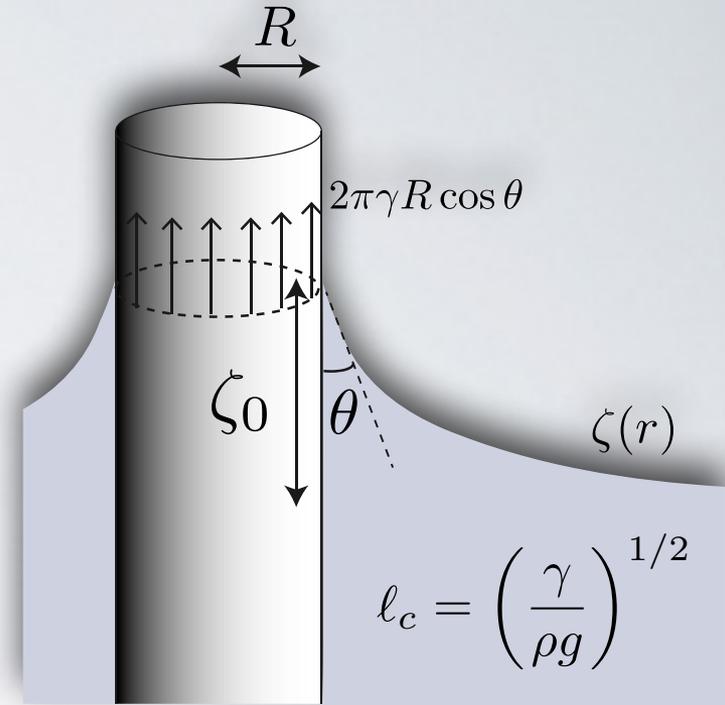
- While levitating, **drop is effectively non-wetting sphere**
- Once frozen, stops levitating and roughness causes sinking

A SIMPLE APPLICATION

The static meniscus around a small vertical cylinder can be understood using Keller's Theorem too

For small cylinders, $\epsilon = R/\ell_c \ll 1$, can perform matched asymptotic analysis of the Laplace–Young equation to find meniscus height ζ_0

(see e.g. James 1974, Lo 1983).



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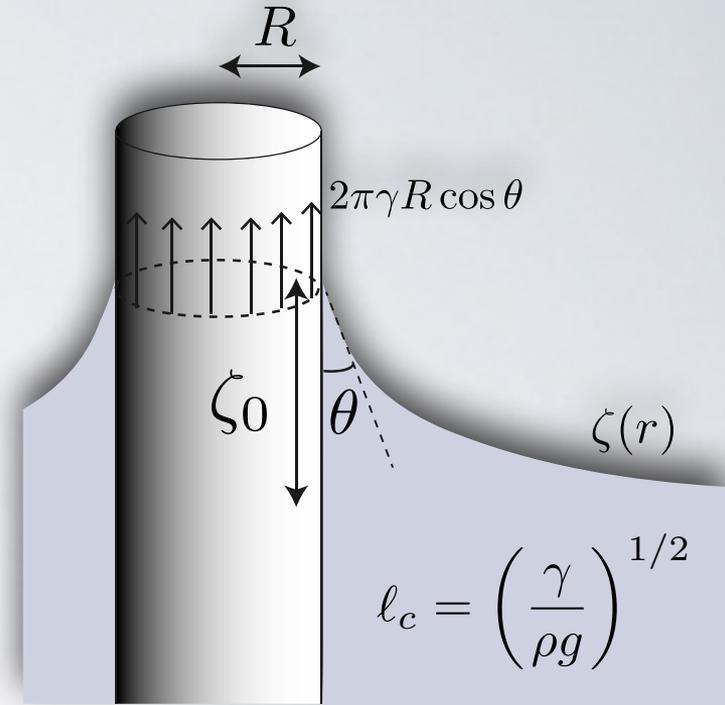
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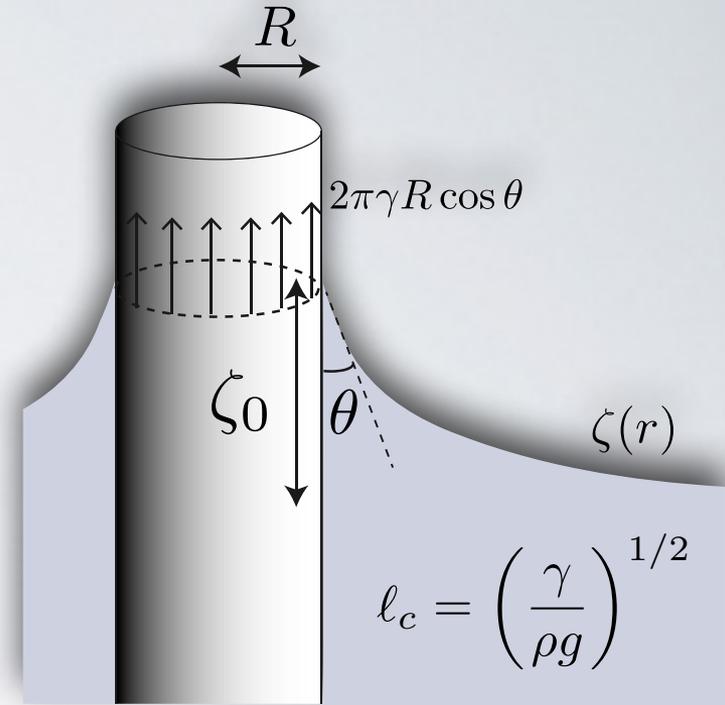
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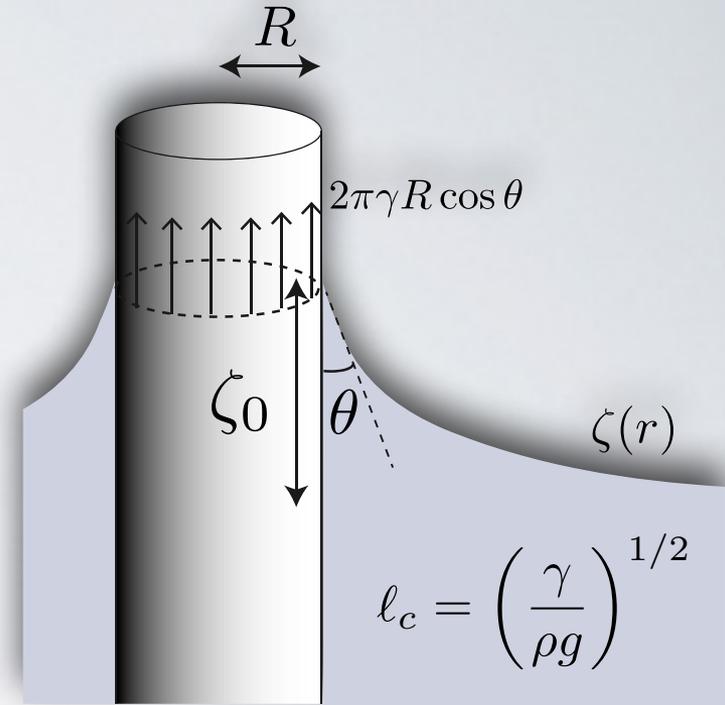
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Balancing weight of liquid displaced in outer meniscus with vertical force from surface tension find that

$$\frac{\zeta_0}{\ell_c} \sim \epsilon \log(1/\epsilon)$$



A SECOND PROBLEM

SIAM J. APPL. MATH.
Vol. 43, No. 2, April 1983

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SURFACE TENSION DRIVEN FLOWS*

JOSEPH B. KELLER[†] AND MICHAEL J. MIKSIS[‡]

Keller & Miksis (KM83) consider inviscid retraction of fluid wedge due to surface tension

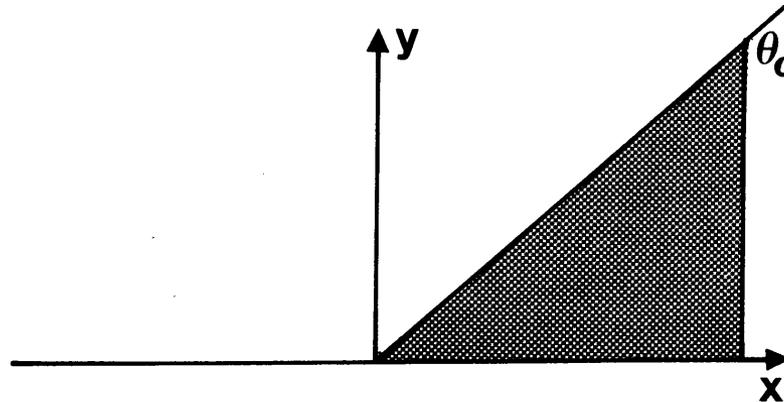


FIG. 1b. *Cross-section of a wedge-shaped layer of liquid bounded by a free surface $y = x \tan \theta_0$ and a rigid surface $y = 0$.*

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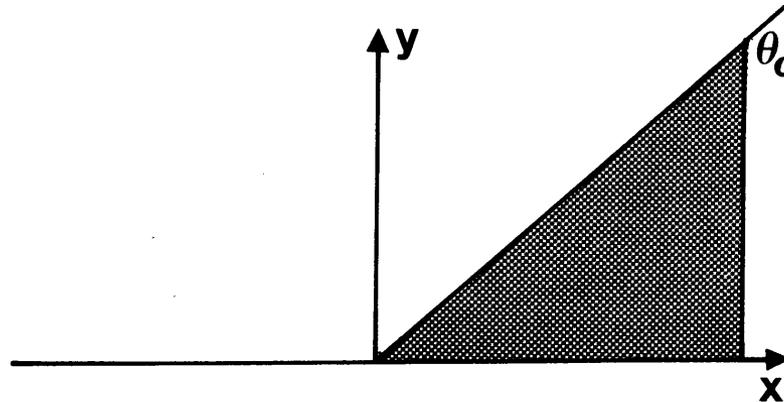


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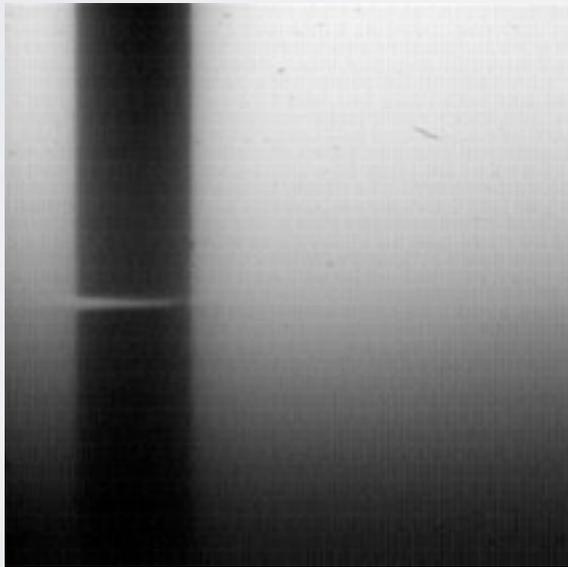
KM83 has been very influential in drop breakup (though only studied 2D)

ANOTHER RELATED PROBLEM

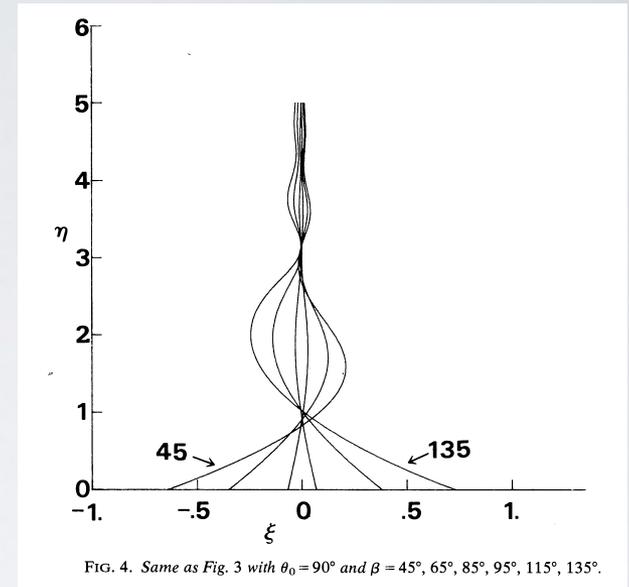
Analysis performed by KM83 also describes **the early stages of meniscus onset**

Keller & Miksis calculated similarity solutions for the interface shape with different contact angles

Christophe Clanet (Paris)



$R = 0.225$ mm
duration ≈ 1 s



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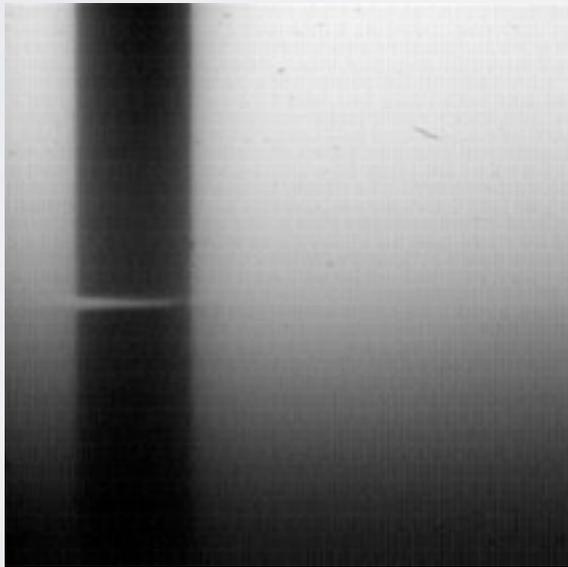
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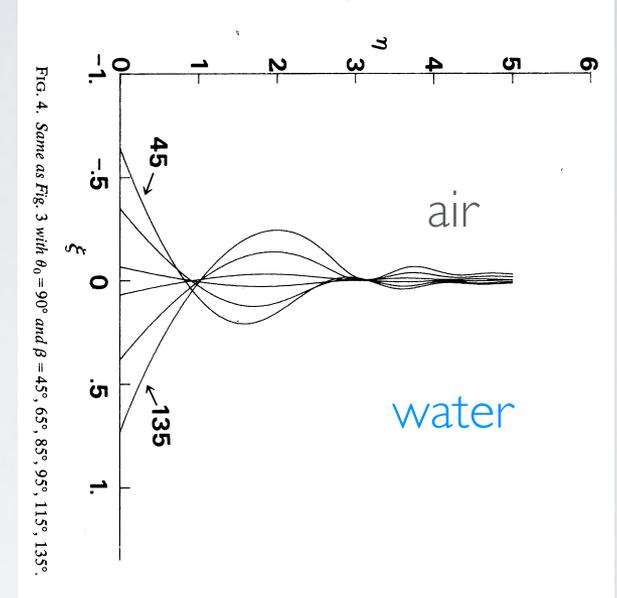
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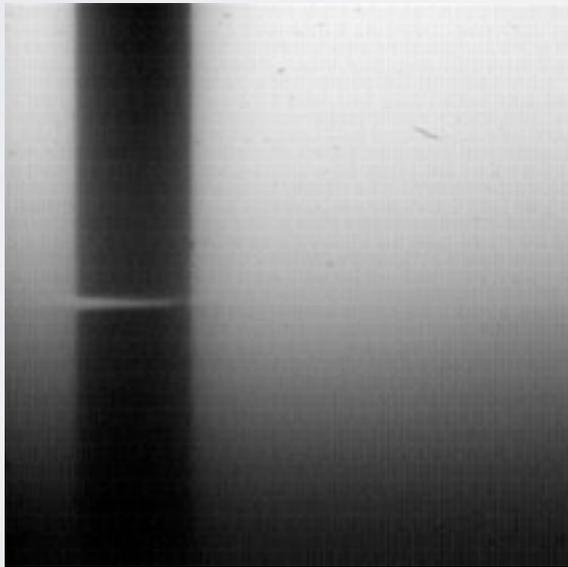
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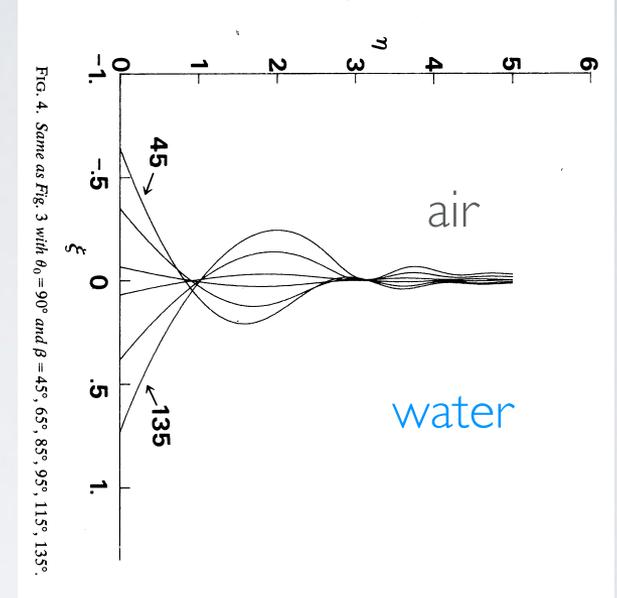
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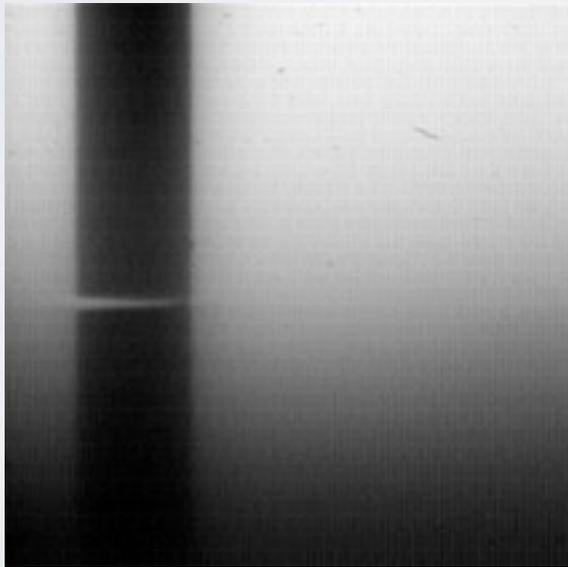
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ANOTHER RELATED PROBLEM

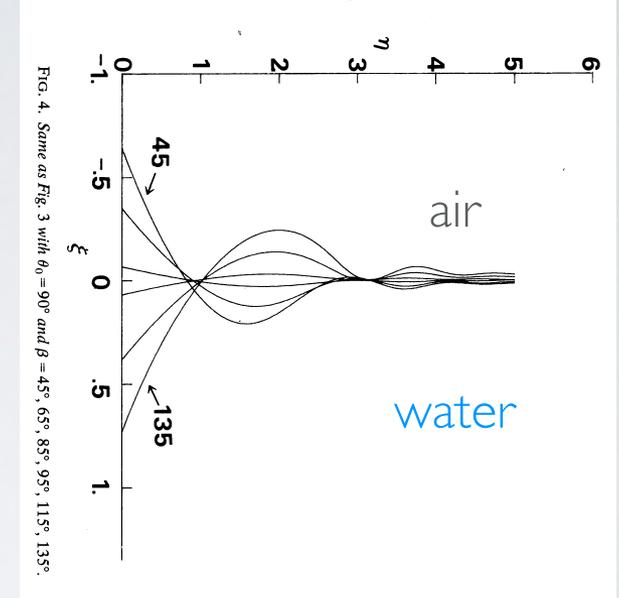
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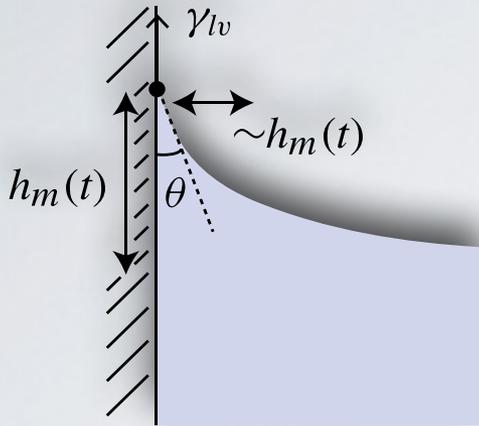
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KM83 analysis is relevant to high Reynolds (or Kapitza) number **and large cylinders**

PLANES/LARGE CYLINDERS

'Large' cylinders are effectively planar – consider how meniscus rises up a wall



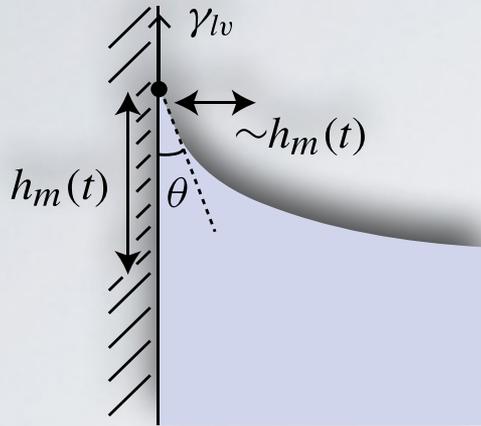
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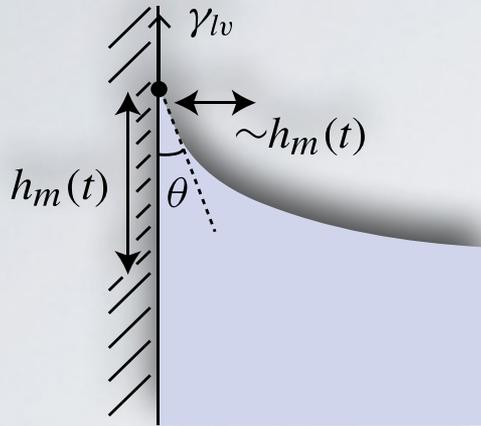
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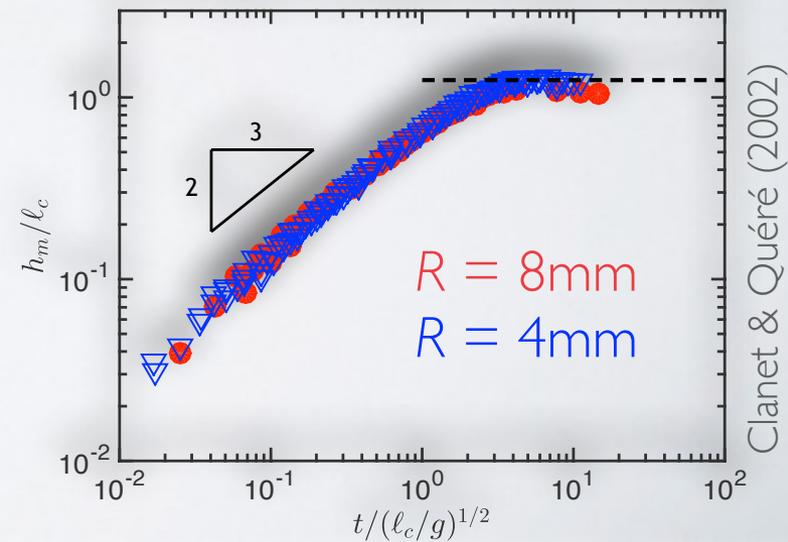
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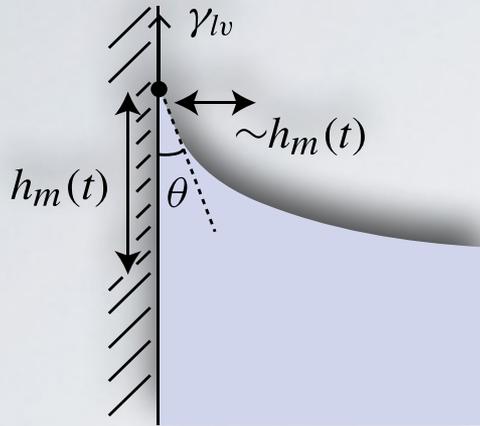
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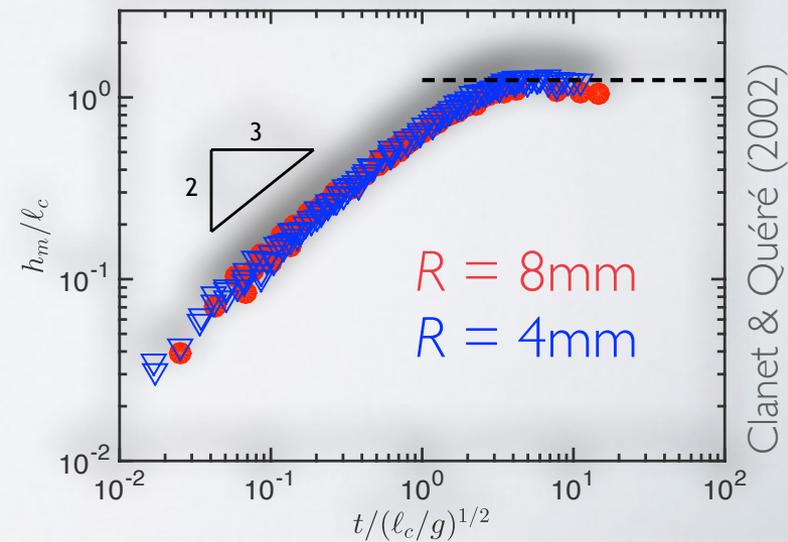
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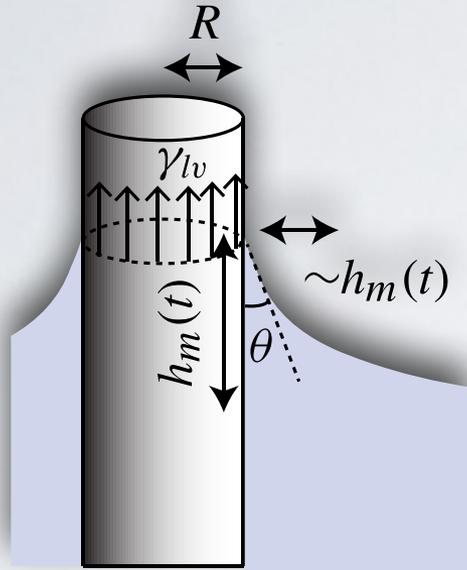
Experimentally, observe KM scaling early on (before meniscus height saturates)

No dependence on cylinder size for large enough cylinders



SMALL CYLINDERS

Clanet & Quéré repeat the same scaling argument, but with a finite radius cylinder:



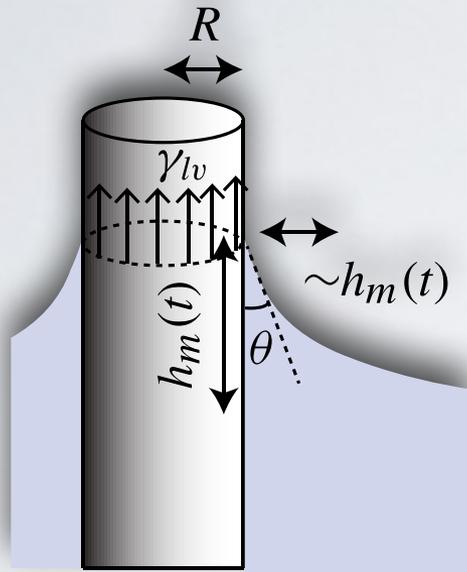
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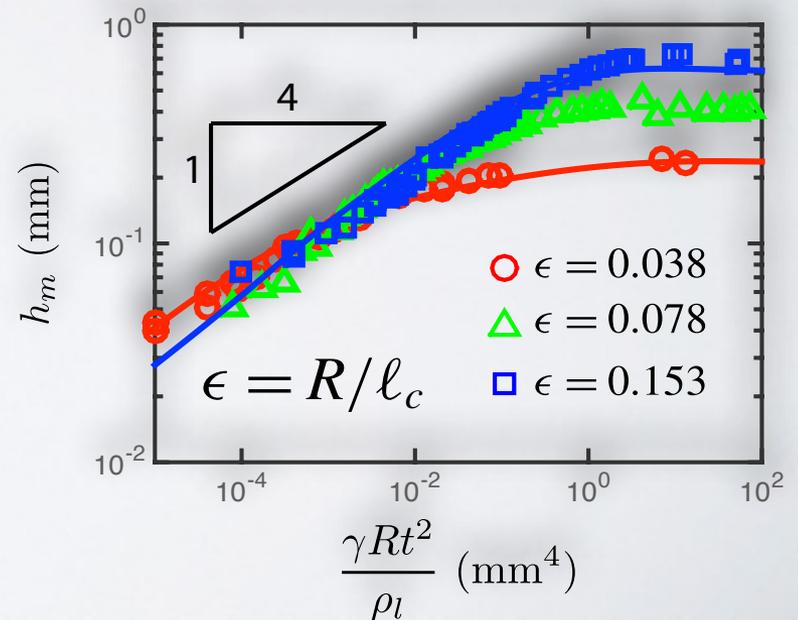


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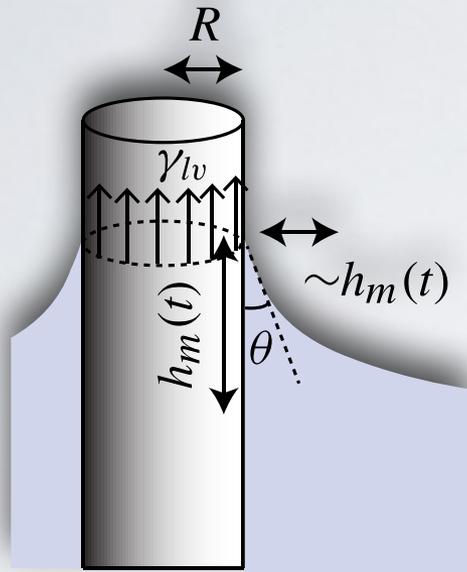
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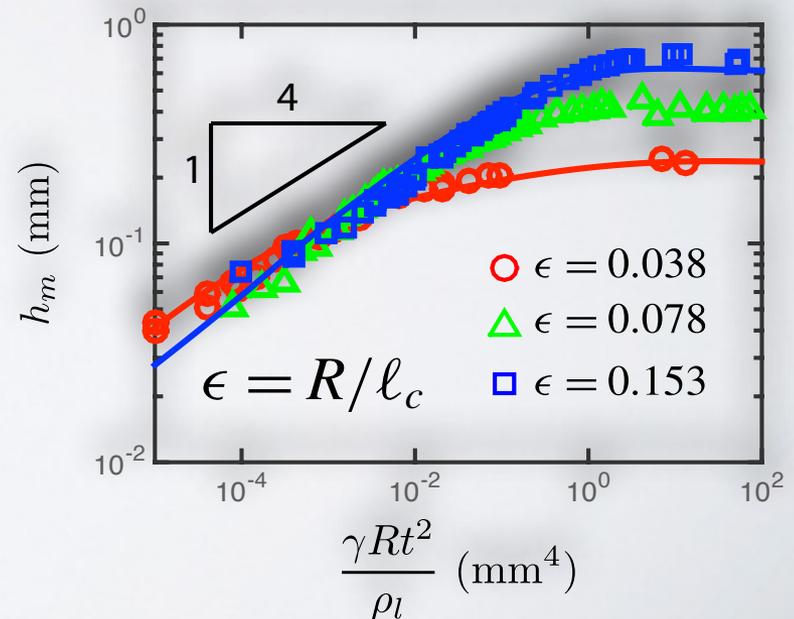


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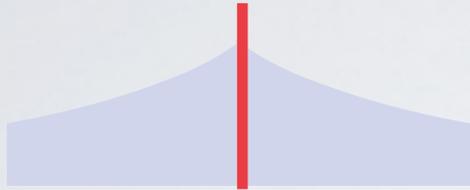


Clanet & Quéré (2002)

See diffusive growth, rather than $t^{2/3}$ of KM83

A WARNING

Estimation of mass of meniscus region implicitly assumes that $h_m \gg R$



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$$\Downarrow$$
$$h_m \sim t^{1/2}$$

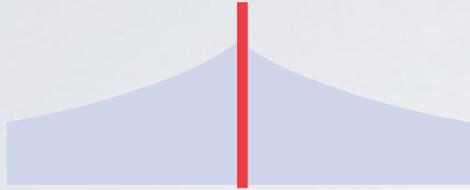


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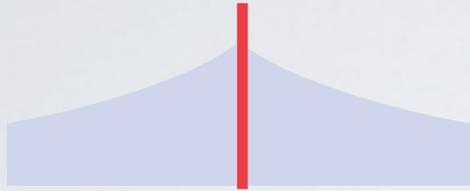
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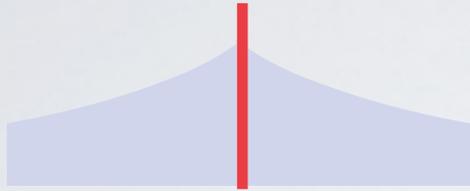
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For early times should expect KM83 scaling again

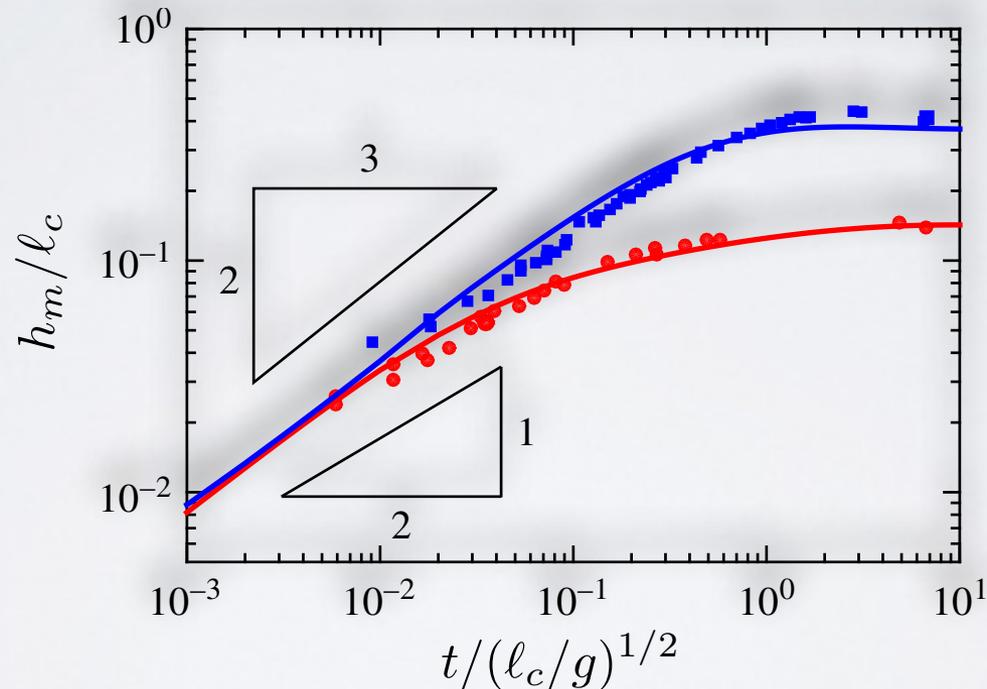
(For early enough times the cylinder appears planar to the meniscus.)

WHAT REALLY HAPPENS?

To provide more complete data (early times) use numerical simulations

Assume:

- Large Reynolds number (inertia dominated)
- Contact angle is constant and equal to measured equilibrium value

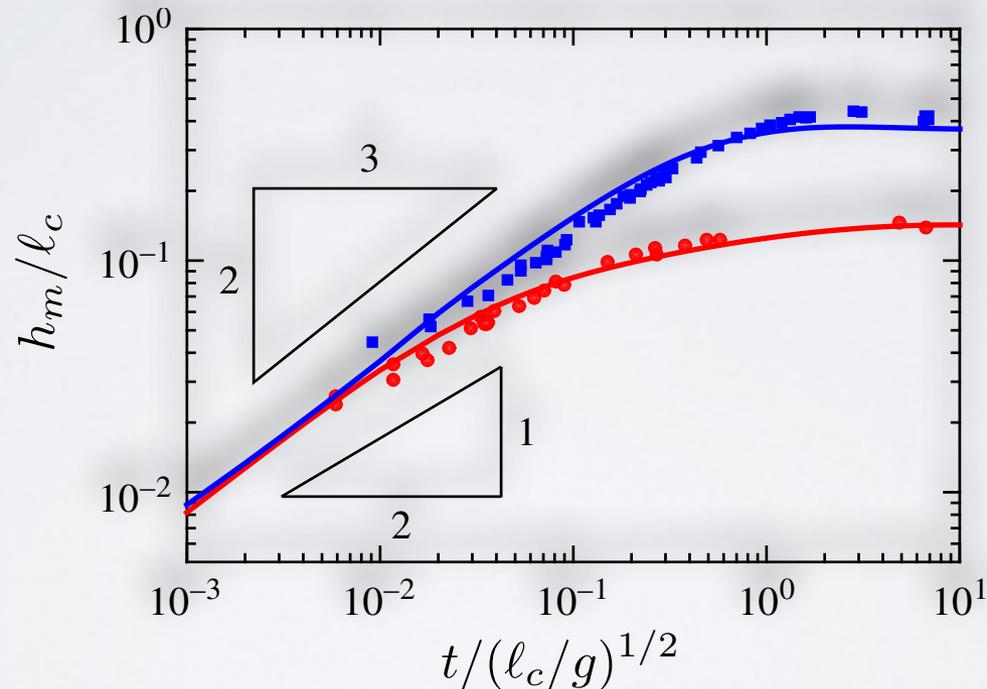


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Observe:

- (Relatively simple) model reproduces experiments quantitatively
- Apparent \sqrt{t} behaviour seems to be turn around from $t^{2/3}$ to flat

WHAT CAN WE SAY?

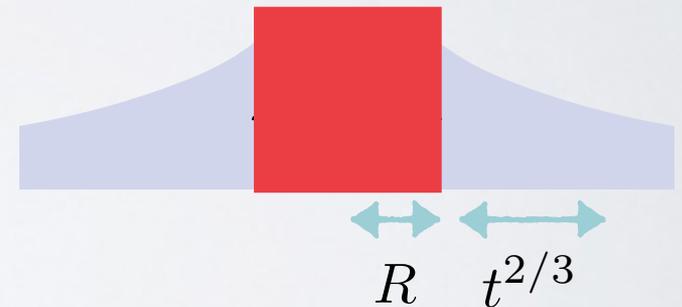
For early times, have seen that vertical scale of meniscus is

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Motion self-similar for early times and Laplace equation in fluid (inviscid)

⇒ relevant **horizontal scale is also:** $\left(\frac{\gamma t^2}{\rho_l} \right)^{1/3}$

Cylinder radius is a length scale
(breaking self-similarity of 2-D problem)



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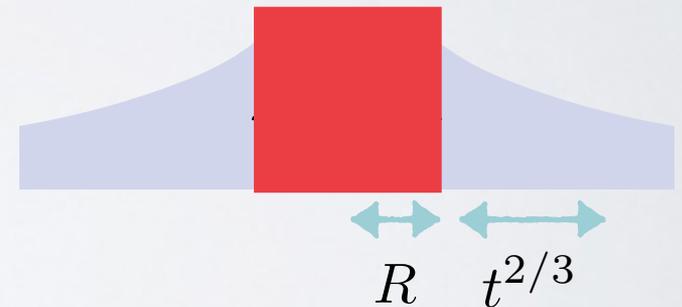
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Important parameter in the problem is then the ratio of these lengths

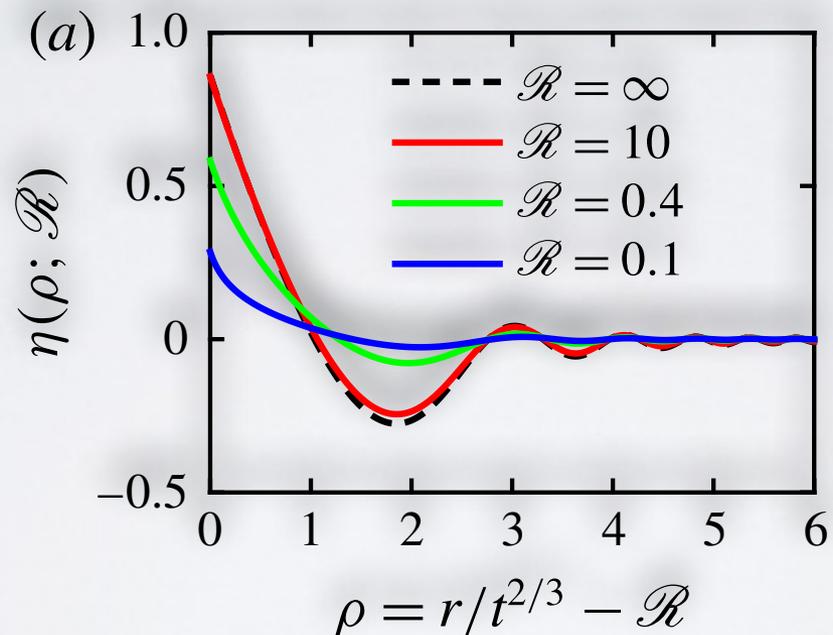
$$\mathcal{R} = \epsilon / t^{2/3}$$

UNIVERSAL BEHAVIOUR

Introduction of the parameter \mathcal{R} gives universal dynamics at early times

(Travel through a family of similarity-like solutions, parametrized by \mathcal{R})

In limit $\mathcal{R} = \infty$ recover (true) similarity solution of KM83

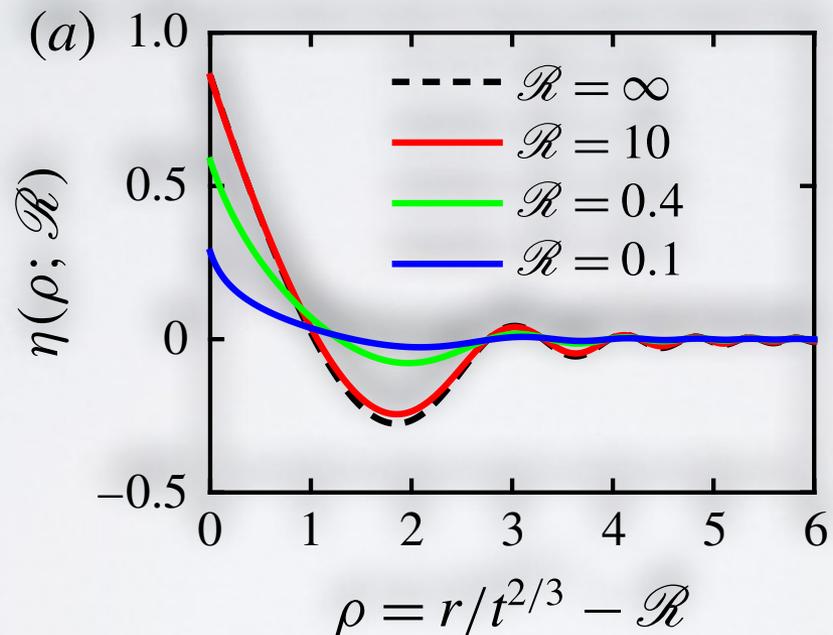


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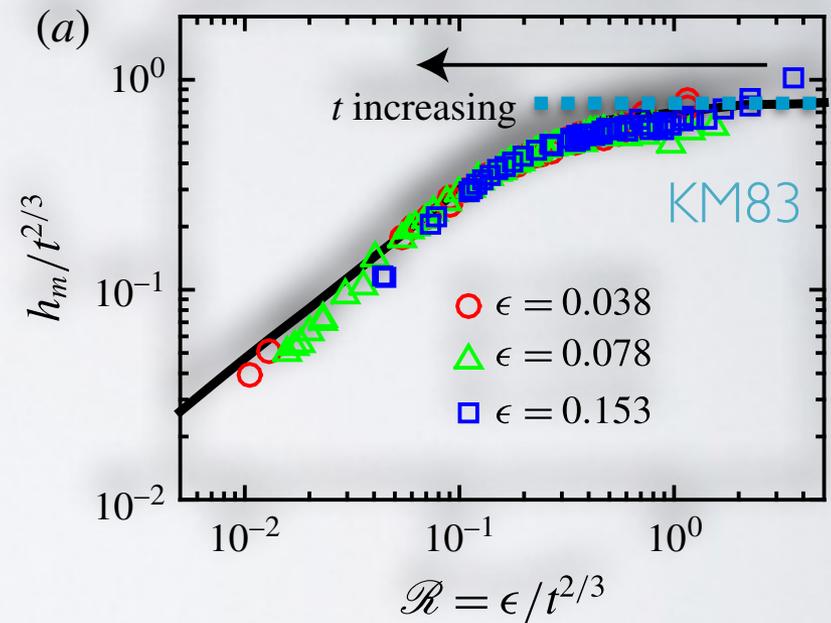
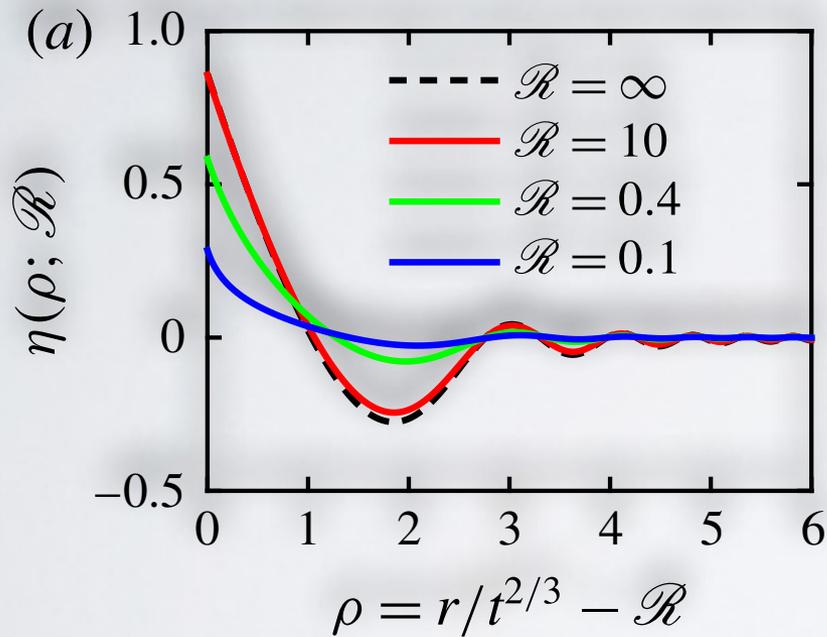
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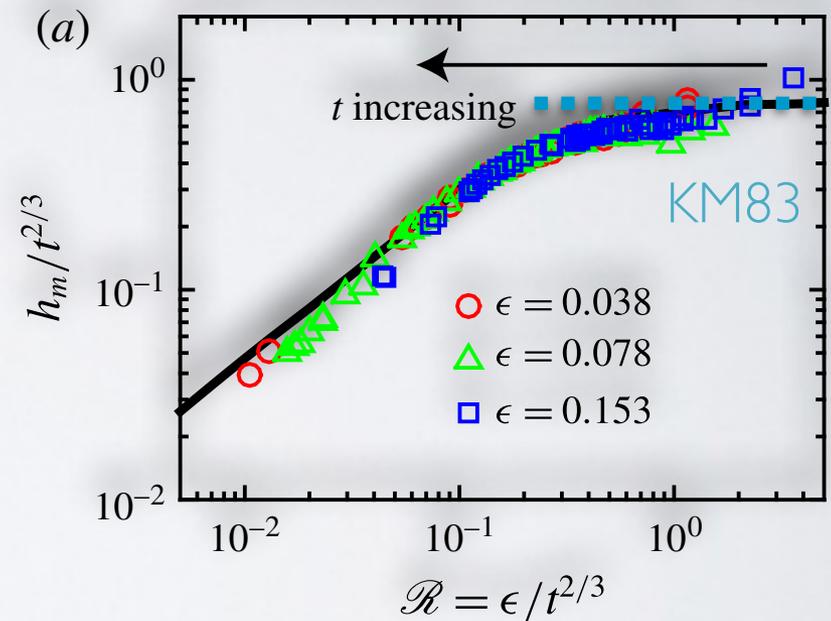
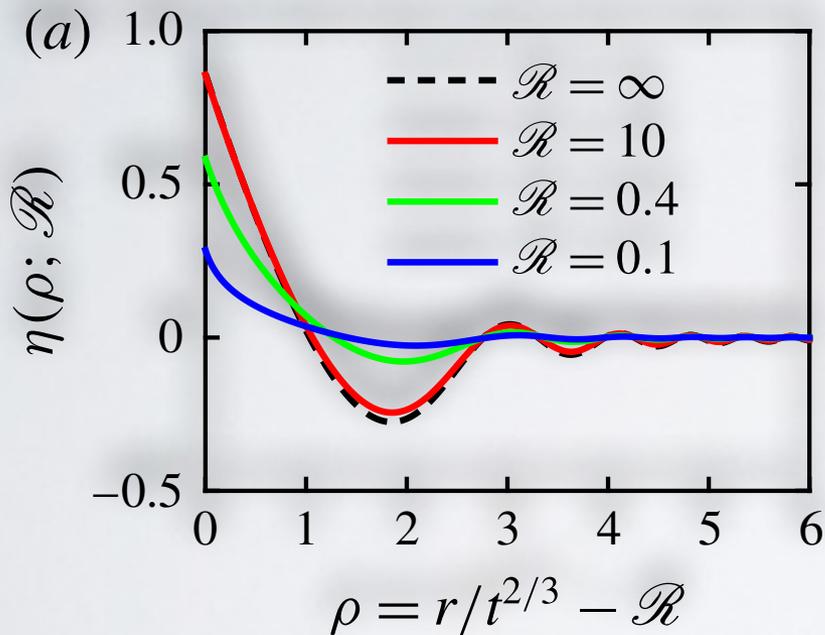
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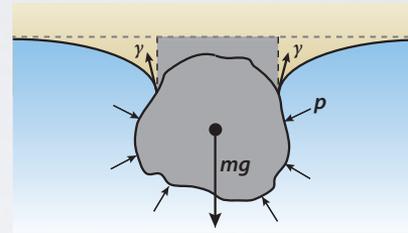
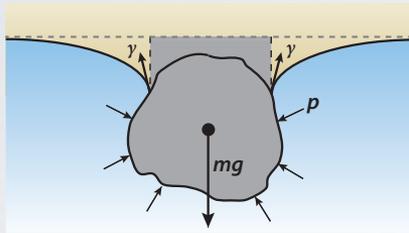


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Finally, do not see any sign of Clanet & Quéré diffusive scaling

CONCLUSIONS

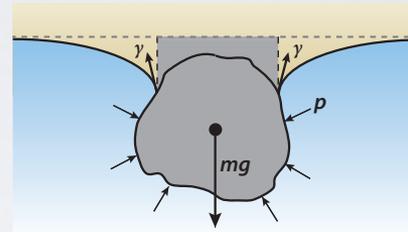
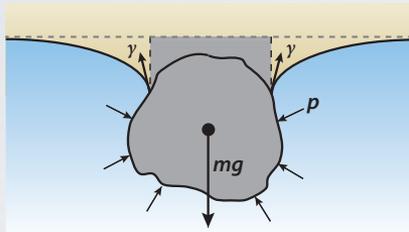
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- Can extend Keller & Miksis similarity solutions to problems with an intrinsic length scale, though **it is hard to break the $t^{2/3}$ scaling law**