

# Rippling, Structuring and Wrinkling Solid and Liquid Surfaces

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# Overview

## 1. Rippling Surfaces: Layer-Guided Acoustic Waves

- Sensing principles, modes and devices
- Love waves and acoustic plate modes
- Sensor research examples

## 2. Structuring Surfaces: Topography and Wetting

- Hydrophobicity and superhydrophobicity
- Anti-adhesive surfaces and adhesive liquids
- Superspreading and hemi-wicking

## 3. Wrinkling Surfaces: Films and Liquid-based Optics

- Liquid-based diffractive optics

# Rippling Surfaces

## *Basics of Acoustic Waves*

# QCM Sensing Principles

## Thickness Shear Mode Vibration

Quartz Crystal Microbalance - sharp resonance

Frequency given by quartz thickness,  $w$

$$v_s = f\lambda \Rightarrow f = 2v_s/w$$

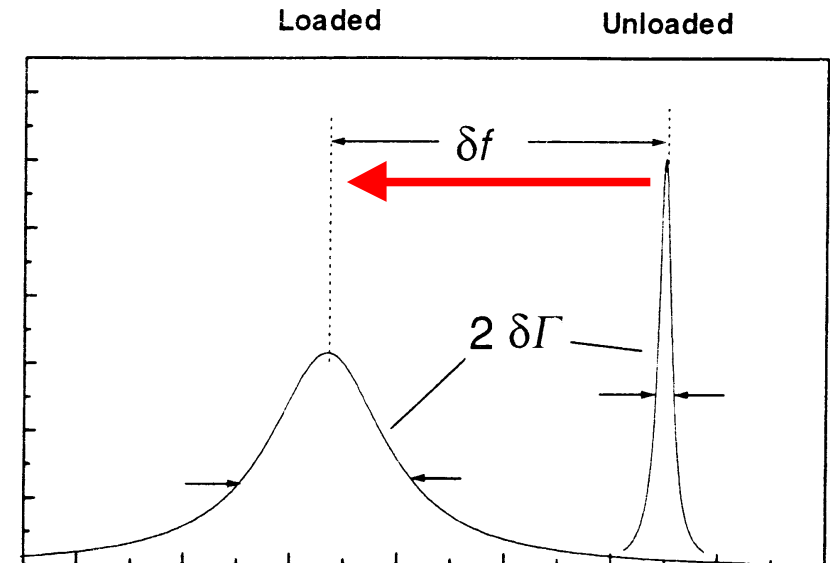
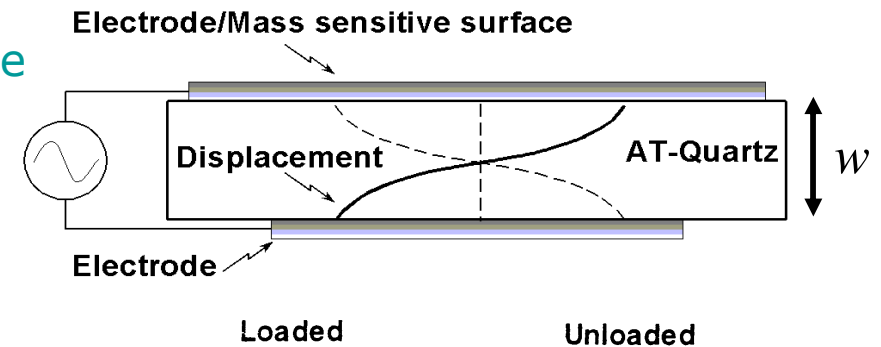
## Mass Loading or Immersion

Frequency reduces due to mass

Resonance broadens due to polymer/liquid

Sauerbrey equation  $\Rightarrow \Delta f \propto -f^2 \Delta m/A$

Kanazawa & Gordon  $\Rightarrow \Delta f \propto -\sqrt{(\eta\rho)} f^{3/2}$



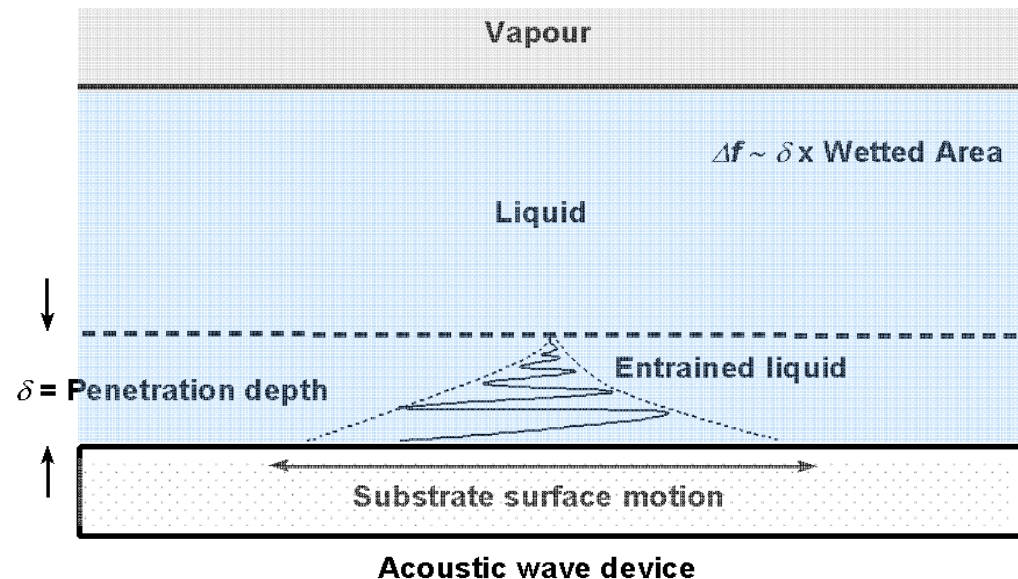
*Sensitivity to mass or viscosity-density product increases with frequency*

# Liquids and Penetration Depth

## Shear Mode Vibration

- Entrains liquid
- Liquid oscillation decays
- Penetration depth

$$\delta = (\eta / \pi f \rho)^{1/2}$$



## Liquid Sensing

Sense liquid mass (via viscosity-density product) within penetration depth

QCM

SAW

For water

5 MHz  $\delta \sim 250$  nm

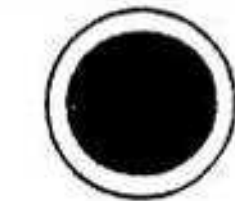
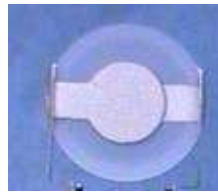
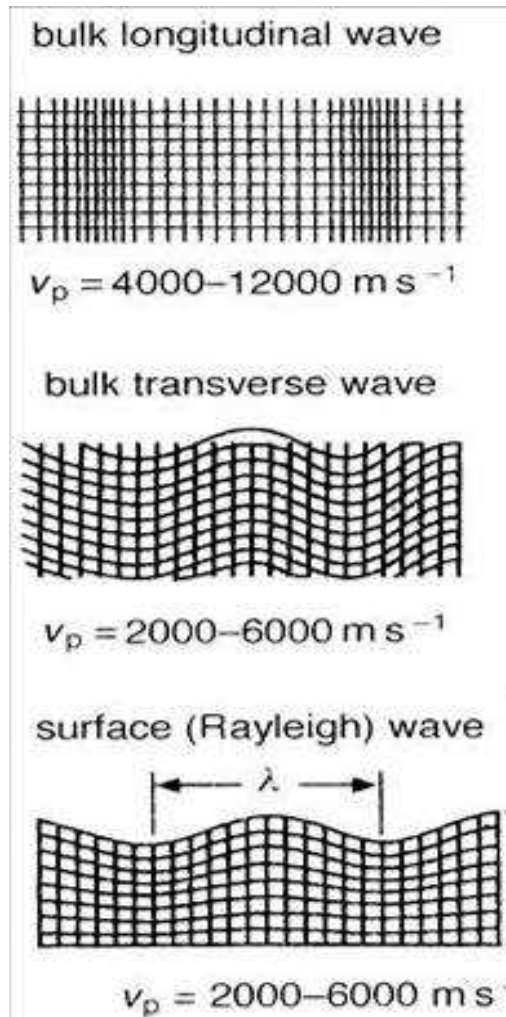
500 MHz  $\delta \sim 25$  nm

*Penetration depth/sensing zone decreases with increasing frequency*

# Surface Acoustic Waves

## Vibrations

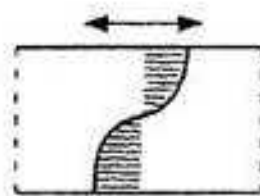
## QCM versus SAW



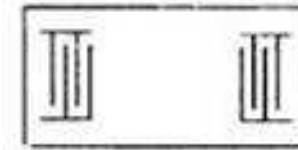
top



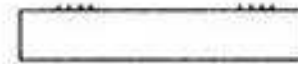
side



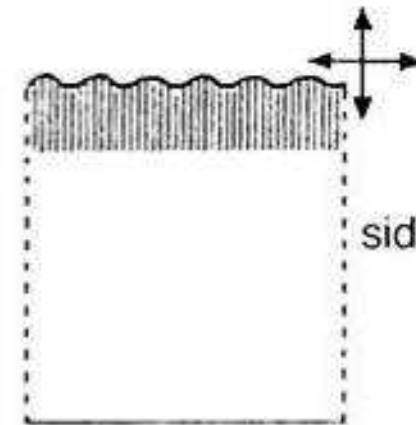
side



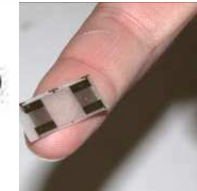
top



side



side

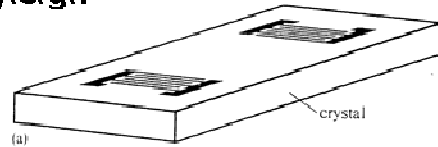


*QCM – frequency determined by crystal thickness*  
*SAW – frequency determined by finger spacing*

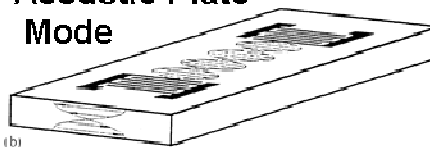
# Acoustic Wave Modes

## Delay Lines

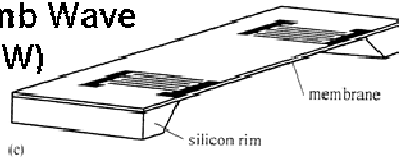
Rayleigh



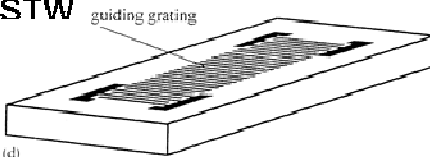
Acoustic Plate Mode



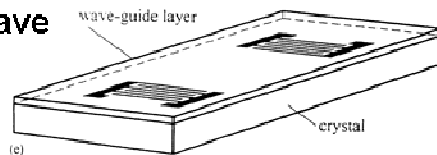
Lamb Wave (FPW)



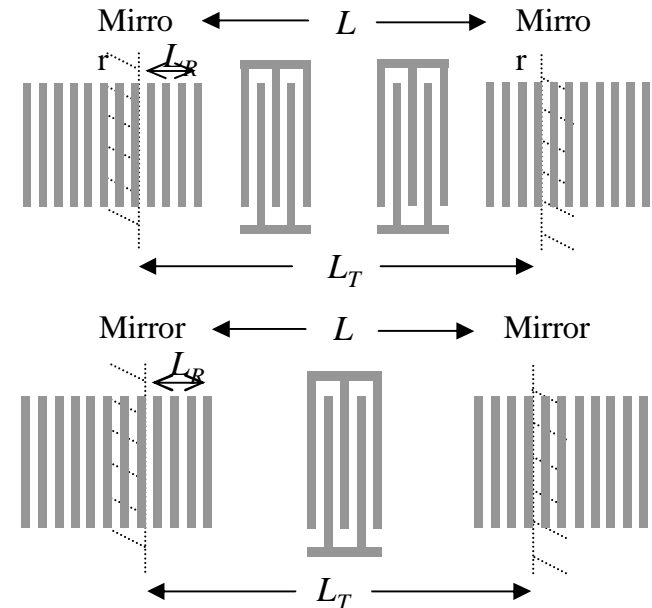
STW



Love Wave



## Resonators



## Comparisons

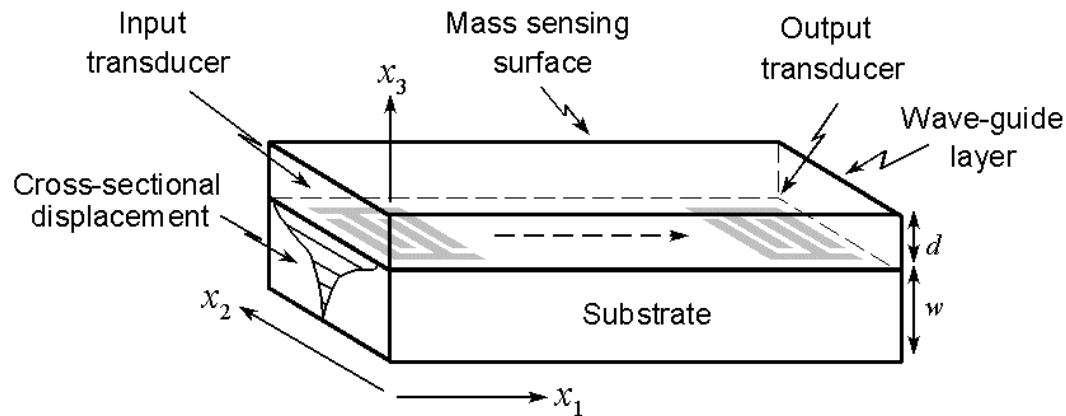
Mode	Rel. Sens.	Complexity	Robustness	Gas/Liquid
QCM	Low	Low/Xtal	Med	g+l
SAW	High	Med/metal on Xtal	High	g
Love	High	Med/film+metal+Xtal	High	g+l
STW	High	Med/metal on Xtal	High	g+l
Lamb	High	High/membrane	Low	g+l
APM	Med	Med/metal on Xtal	Med	g+l

# *Layer-guided Acoustic Waves*



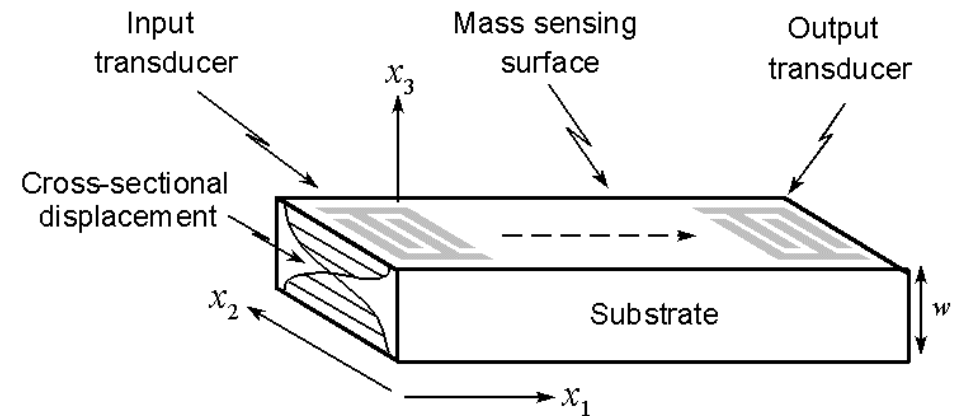
# Love Waves versus SH-Acoustic Plate Modes

## Love Wave



Layer guided SH-SAW with  $v_l < v_s$   
Surface localised wave  
Increased sensitivity

## SH-APM

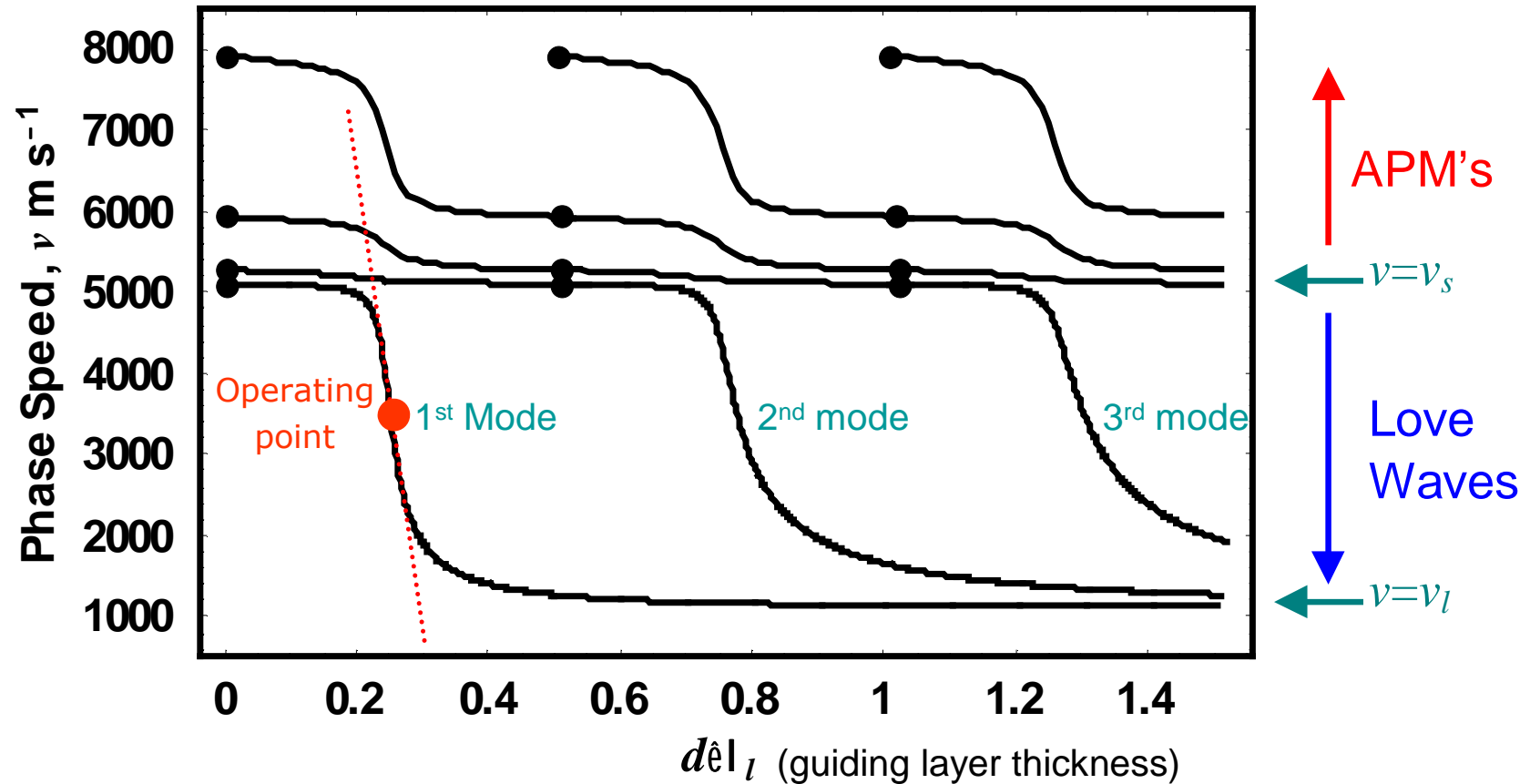


“QCM with propagation”  
Substrate resonance  
Sensing via both faces

**Increased sensitivity versus isolation between sensing and transduction faces**

*What happens when a wave-guide layer is put on a SH-APM device?*

# Generalized Love Waves – Operating Point



Love wave = Shear mode in substrate-to-shear mode in layer transition  
 Plate modes = Switch in order of resonance induced by layer

*Increased mass/liquid sensitivity related to slope of dispersion curve*

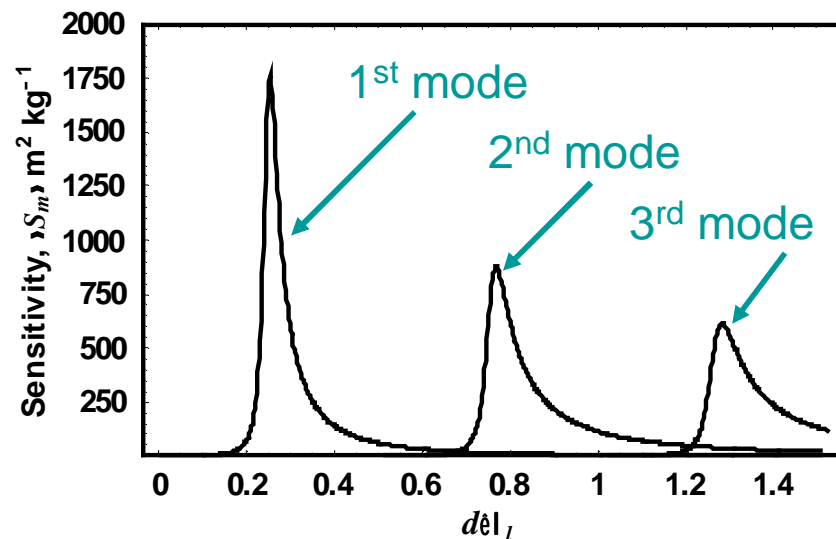
# Phase Speed Mass Sensitivity

$$S_m = \lim_{\Delta m \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{\Delta m} \left( \frac{\Delta v}{v_o} \right) \approx \frac{f_o}{\rho_l |v_l|} \left( \frac{d \log_e v}{dz} \right)_{z_0}$$

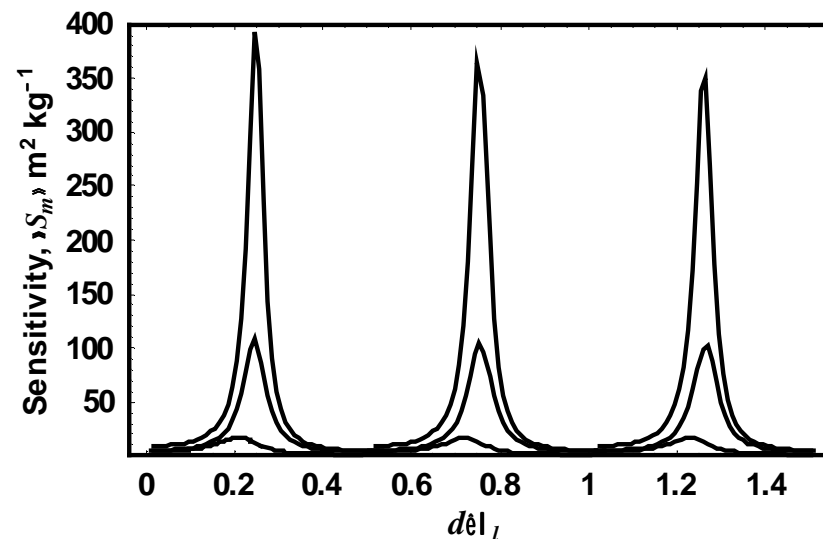
$\Delta m$  is mass per unit area being sensed,  $z = df/v_l$  is the normalized thickness

"Rigid" mass  $\Rightarrow$  Mass sensitivity is slope of dispersion curve

## Love Waves



## Layer-Guided SH-APMs



# Generalized Sauerbrey/Kanazawa & Gordon

## Polymer Waveguide on Polymer Substrate

Complex velocity shift

$$\frac{\Delta v}{v_o} \approx \left( \frac{1 - v_f^2/v_o^2}{1 - v_l^2/v_o^2} \right) \left( \frac{d \log_e v}{dz} \right)_{z=z_o} \left( \frac{\tan(T_f^o h)}{T_f^o h} \right) \frac{\omega \rho_f h}{2\pi v_l^\infty \rho_l}$$

Complex slope factor  
from polymer waveguide  $\Rightarrow$   
**Enhanced sensitivity**

$\omega \Delta m/A$

$(\rho \eta \omega)^{1/2}$

$\tan x/x$  factor gives mass/liquid loading limits

$$\left( \frac{\tan(T_f^o h)}{T_f^o h} \right) \rightarrow \begin{cases} 1 & h \rightarrow 0 \\ \frac{-\sqrt{-2j}}{2h(1 - v_f^2/v_o^2)} \sqrt{\frac{2\eta_f}{\omega \rho_f}} & h \rightarrow \infty \text{ and } \omega \tau \rightarrow 0 \end{cases}$$

Sauerbrey/  
solid limit

Kanazawa &  
Gordon/liquid limit

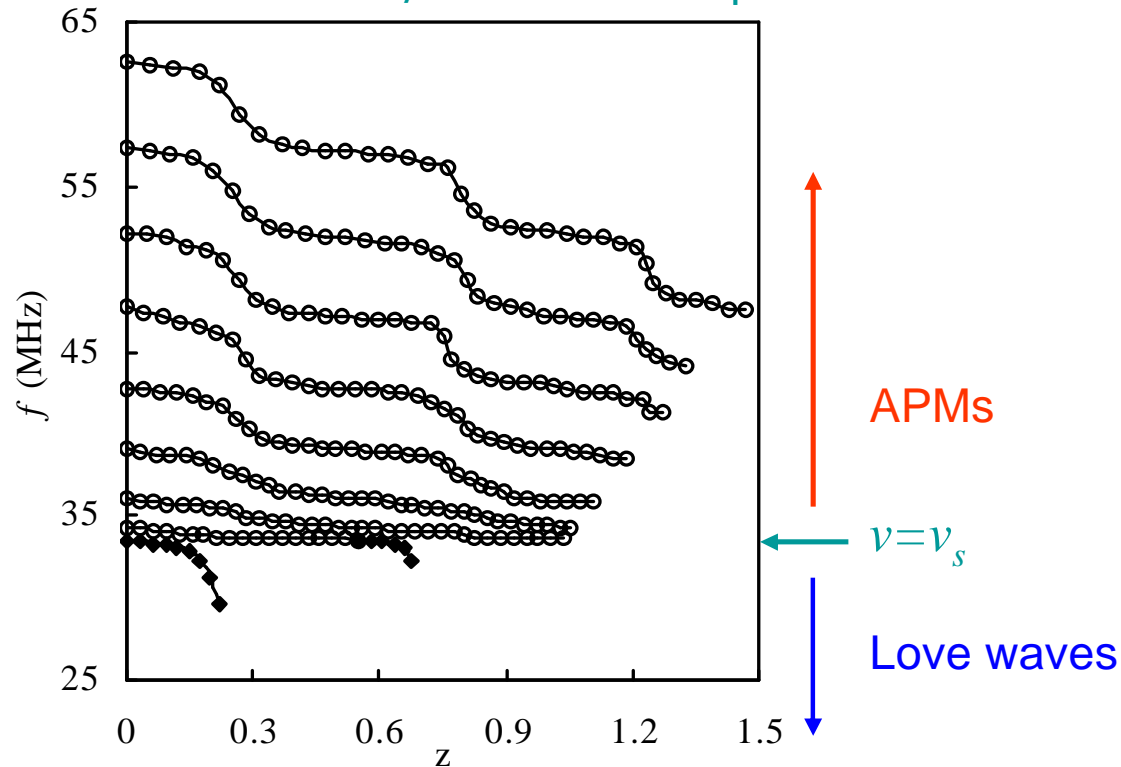
# Experimental Data for Layer-Guided SH-APMs

25 MHz surface skimming bulk wave (SSBW)

Propagation orthogonal to x-axis of thinned (200  $\mu\text{m}$ ) ST-Q substrate

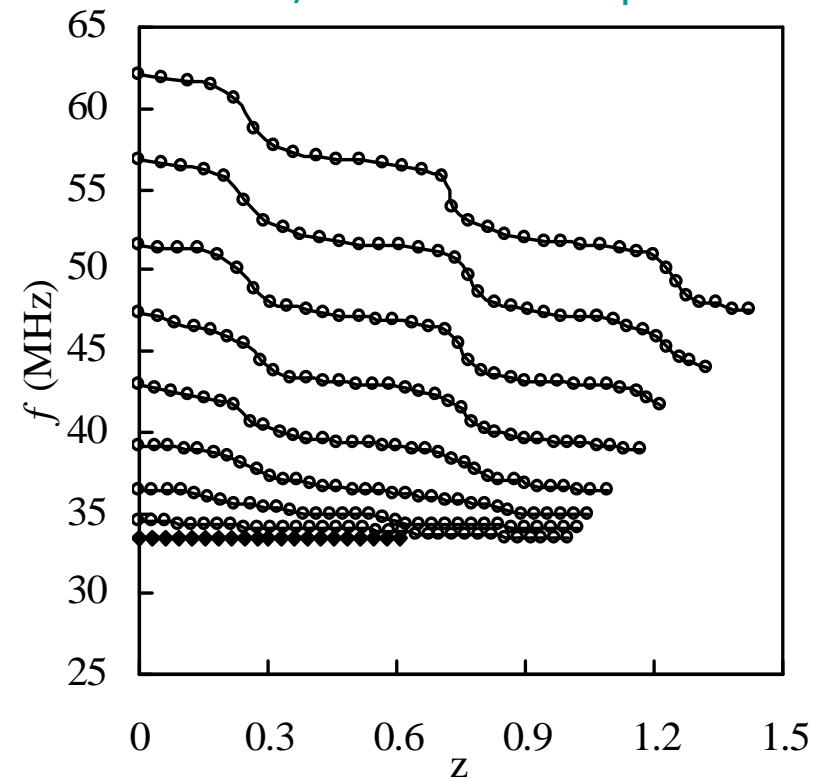
## IDT Face Coated

Love wave and SH-APM  
are both sensitive  
x-axis is  $d/\lambda$  with  $\lambda$ =IDT period



## Opposing Face to IDTs Coated

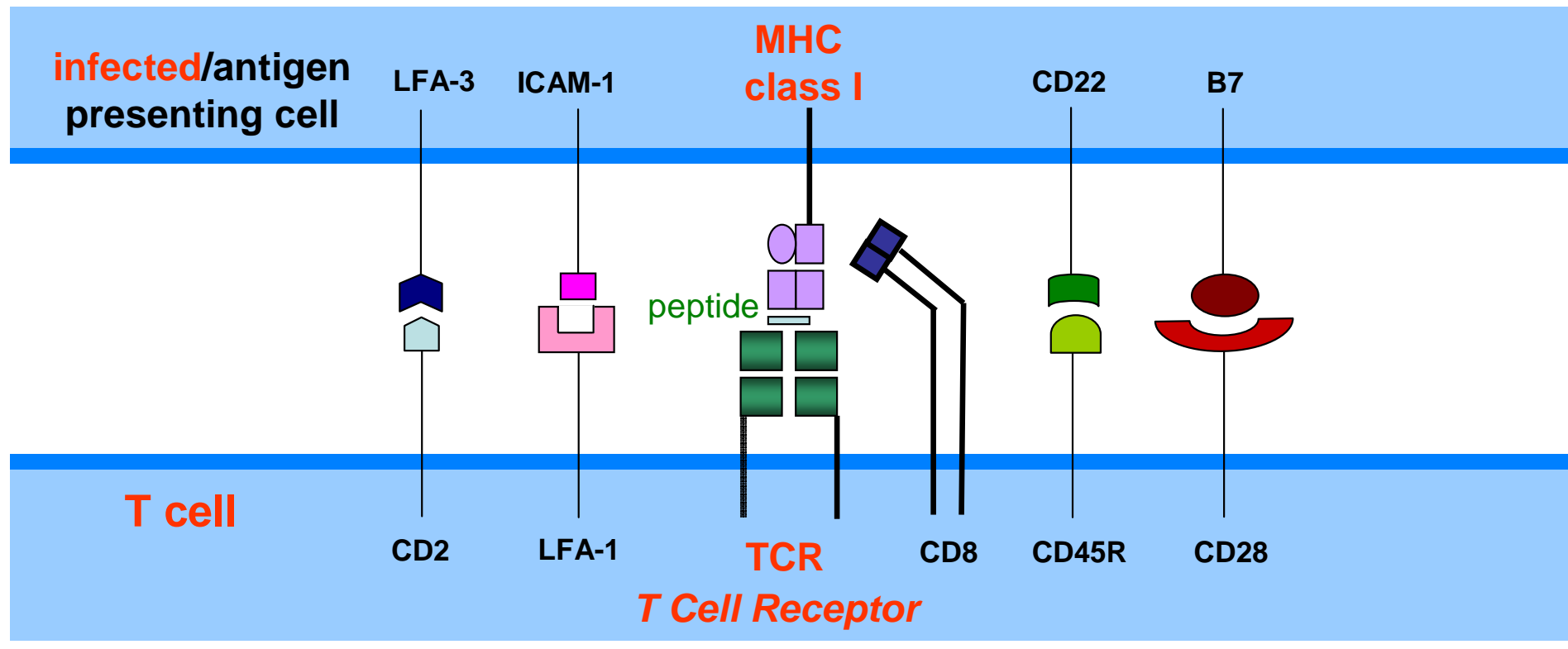
SH-APM changes  
Love wave insensitive  
x-axis is  $d/\lambda$  with  $\lambda$ =IDT period



# *Sensor Research Examples*

# Example 1: Peptides and T-Cells

1. Infection/virus broken into peptide fragments and presented on cell surface
2. Cytotoxic T-cells attach to peptides and “read” peptide sequence
3. If foreign, cell is killed by release of a cytotoxic chemical
4. Major histocompatibility complex (MHC) antigens are responsible for the expression of peptides on the infected cell
5. Vaccine introduces peptide to the T-cell – **Aim is to find suitable peptides**



# Peptides and T-Cells

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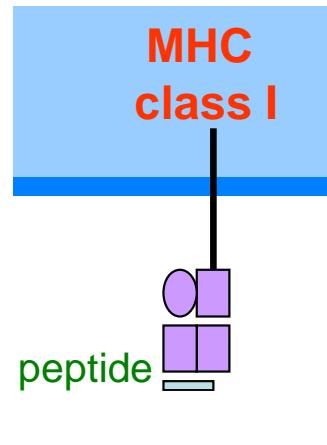
## Sensor Strategy

*Make this the acoustic wave sensor*

*Recognition layer is MHC protein*

*Detect peptide specific binding*

*Screen for suitable peptides (from the 1000's that exist) with specificity and strong affinity for the MHC*



## Current State-of-Art

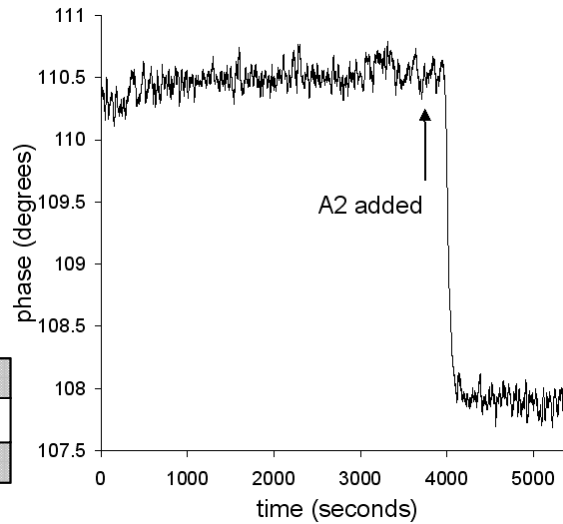
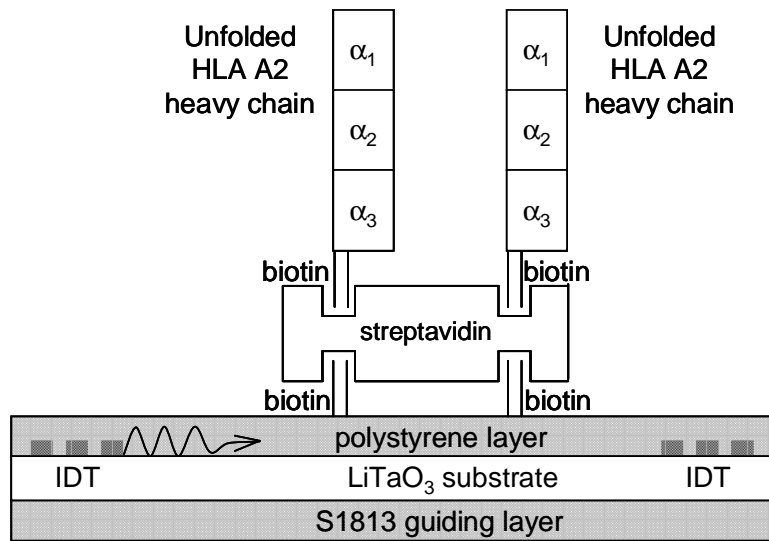
*Cellular peptide-MHC assays*

*→ yes/no and not real-time*

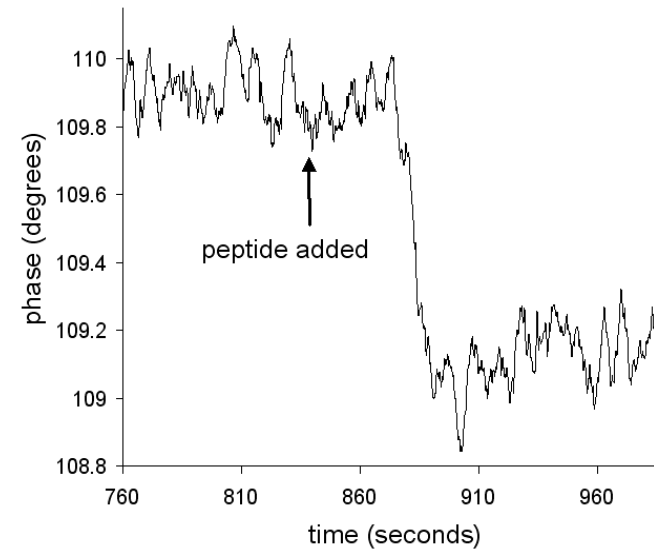
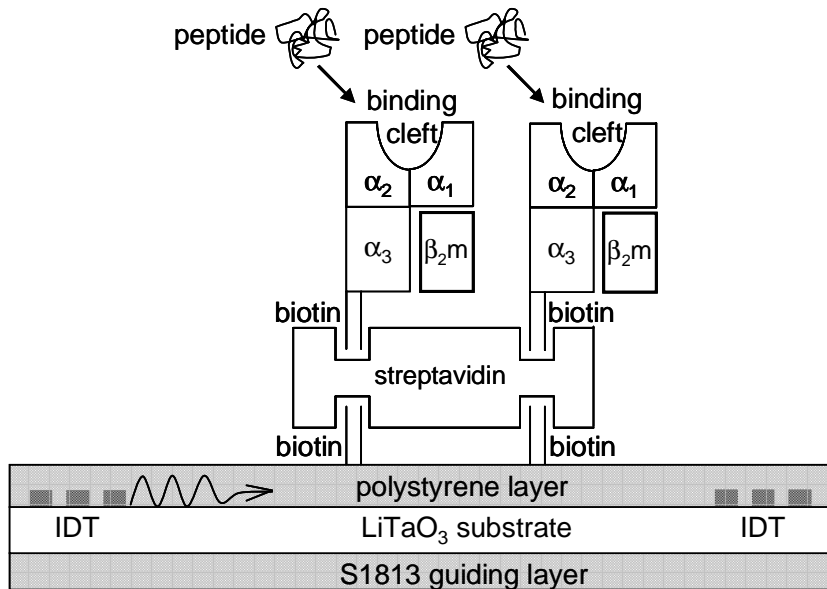
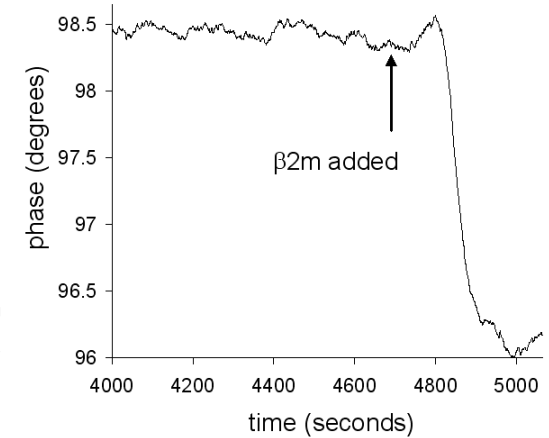
*Sensitive, real-time and non-cellular based assay would assist vaccine development*



# Flow Cell with SH-APM Screening Device



$\beta_{2m}$  protein binds to A2 and folds to create peptide specific binding cleft



# Example 2: Ionic Liquids

## Determining Physical Properties

Room temperature ionic liquids (RTIL's)  
Green solvents because non-volatile  
Millions of simple IL's, billions of binary ILs, ...  
Designer solvents  
Poorly characterised

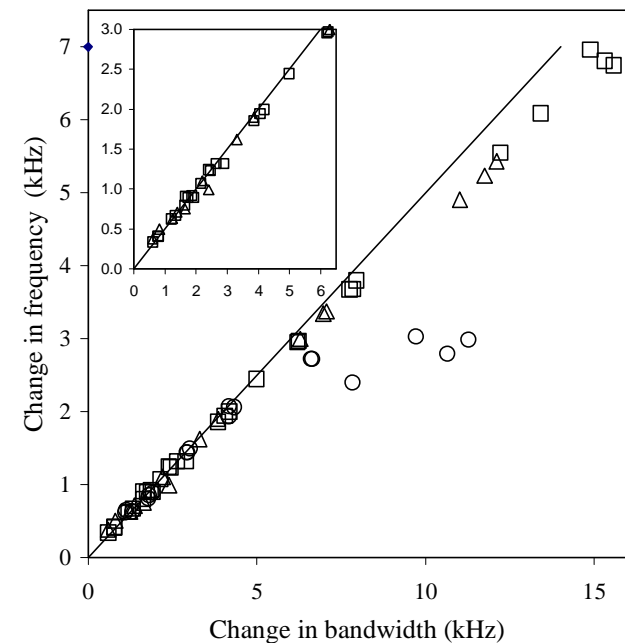
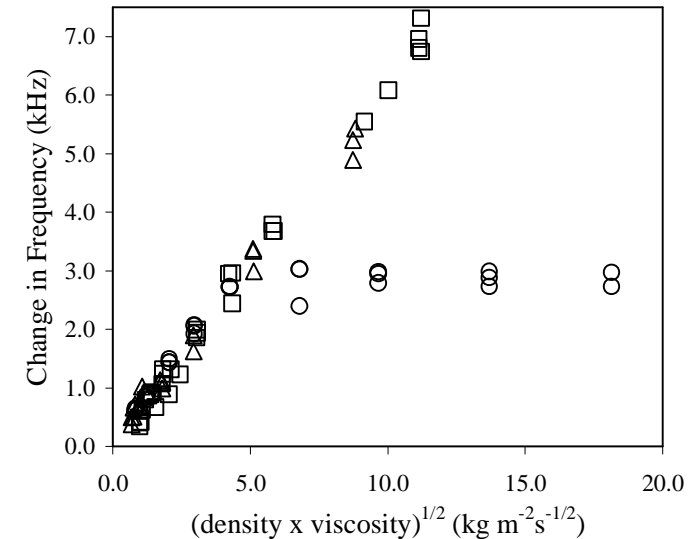
## QCM

Can measure density-viscosity product, but  
can also determine whether Newtonian via  
coupled frequency shift-bandwidth increase

$$\Delta f = -\Delta B / 2$$

## Data

Polydimethylsiloxane oil - known non-Newtonian  
at higher molecular weights (ooo)  
Two ionic liquids  $[C_4mim][OTf]$  ( $\square\square\square$ ) and  
 $[C_4mim][NTf_2]$  ( $\Delta\Delta\Delta$ )



# Overview of NTU Acoustic Wave Sensors

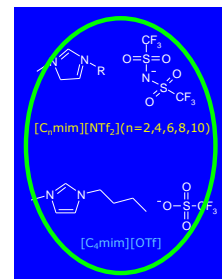
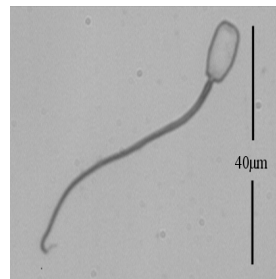
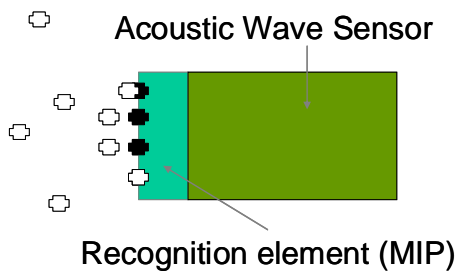
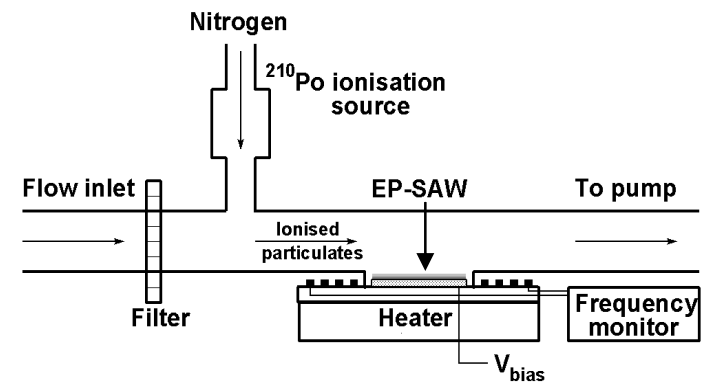
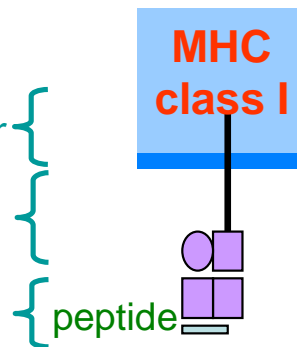
1. MHC-peptide screening
  2. Microfluidic chip for properties of ionic liquids
  3. Particulates/PAHs/Terpenes
  4. Steroid detection (nandrolone, testosterone via MIPS)
  5. Sperm quality and detection device
- Cancer Vaccines  
Green Chemistry  
Pollution Monitoring  
Drug Detection  
Vet AI

## Sensor Strategy

*Make this the acoustic wave sensor*

*Recognition layer is MHC protein*

*Detect peptide specific binding*



*Almost all involve the solid-liquid interface*

# Structuring Surfaces

## *Topography and Wetting*

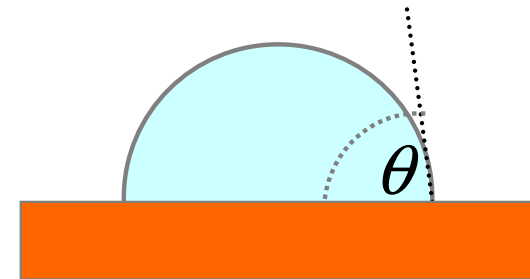
# Hydrophobicity and Superhydrophobicity

## Surface Chemistry

Terminal group determines whether surface is water hating  
Hydrophobic terminal groups are Fluorine ( $\text{CF}_x$ ) and Methyl ( $\text{CH}_3$ )

## Contact Angles on Teflon

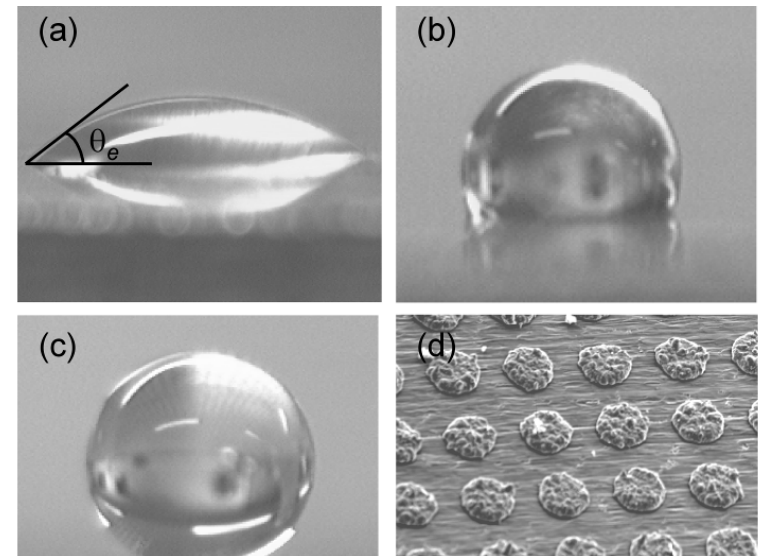
Characterize hydrophobicity  
Water-on-Teflon gives  $\sim 115^\circ$   
The best that *chemistry* can do



## Enhancement by Topography

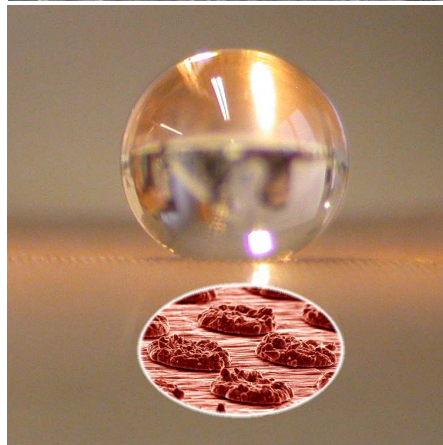
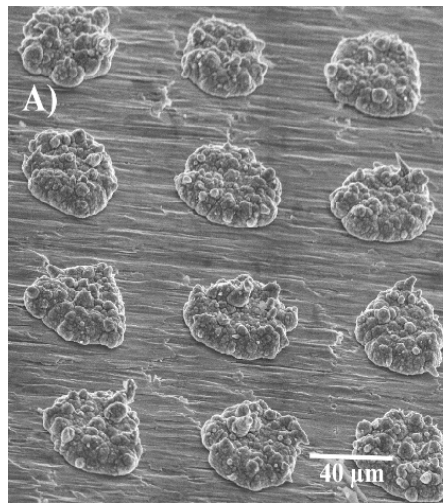
- (a) is water-on-copper
- (b) is water-on-fluorine coated copper
- (c) is a super-hydrophobic surface
- (d) "chocolate-chip-cookie" surface

*Superhydrophobicity is when  $\theta > 150^\circ$   
and a droplet easily rolls off the surface  
(low contact angle hysteresis)*



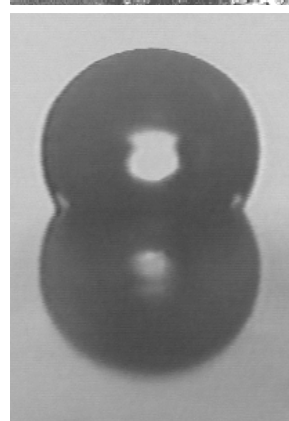
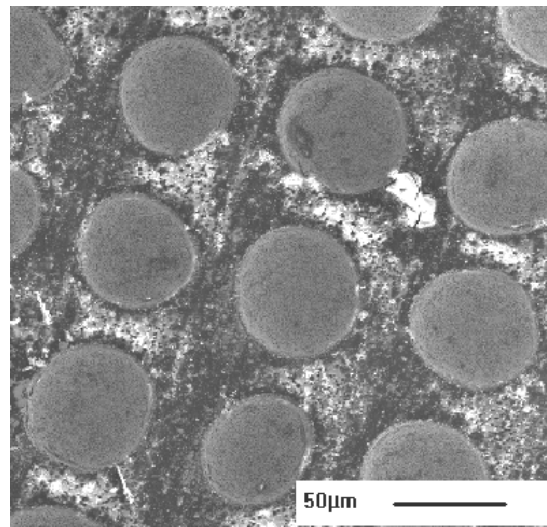
# Superhydrophobicity – NTU Examples

## Deposited Metal

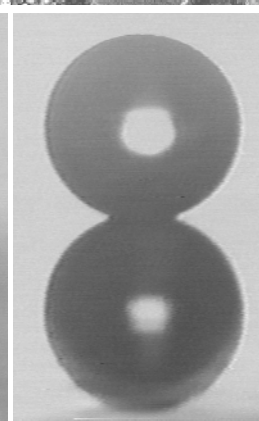


Patterned & hydrophobic

## Etched Metal

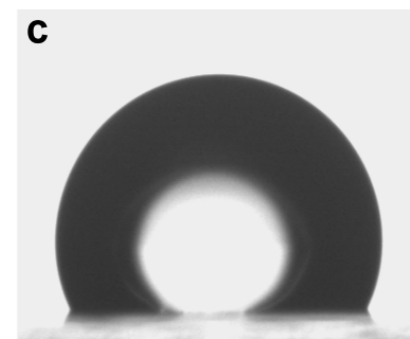
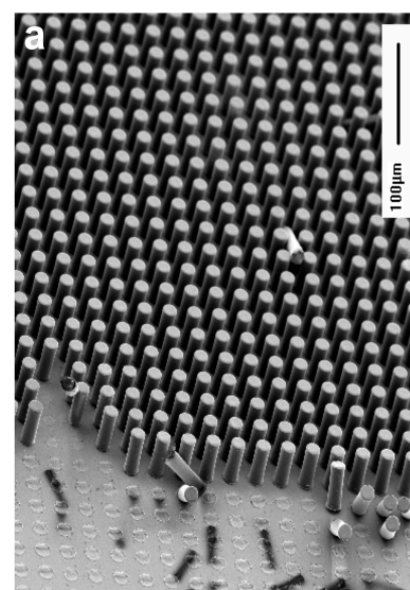


Flat & hydrophobic

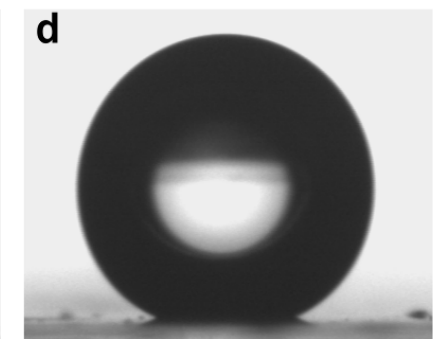
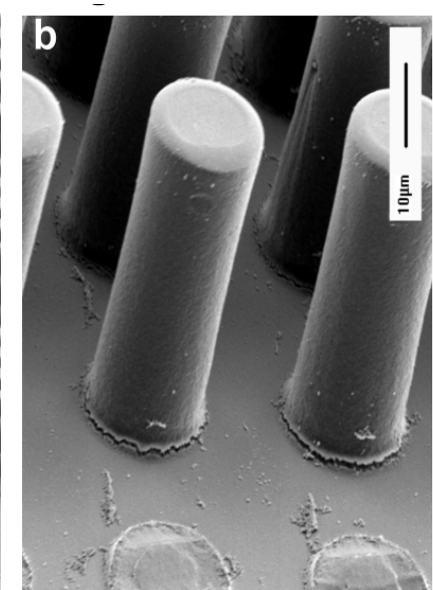


Patterned & hydrophobic

## Polymer Microposts



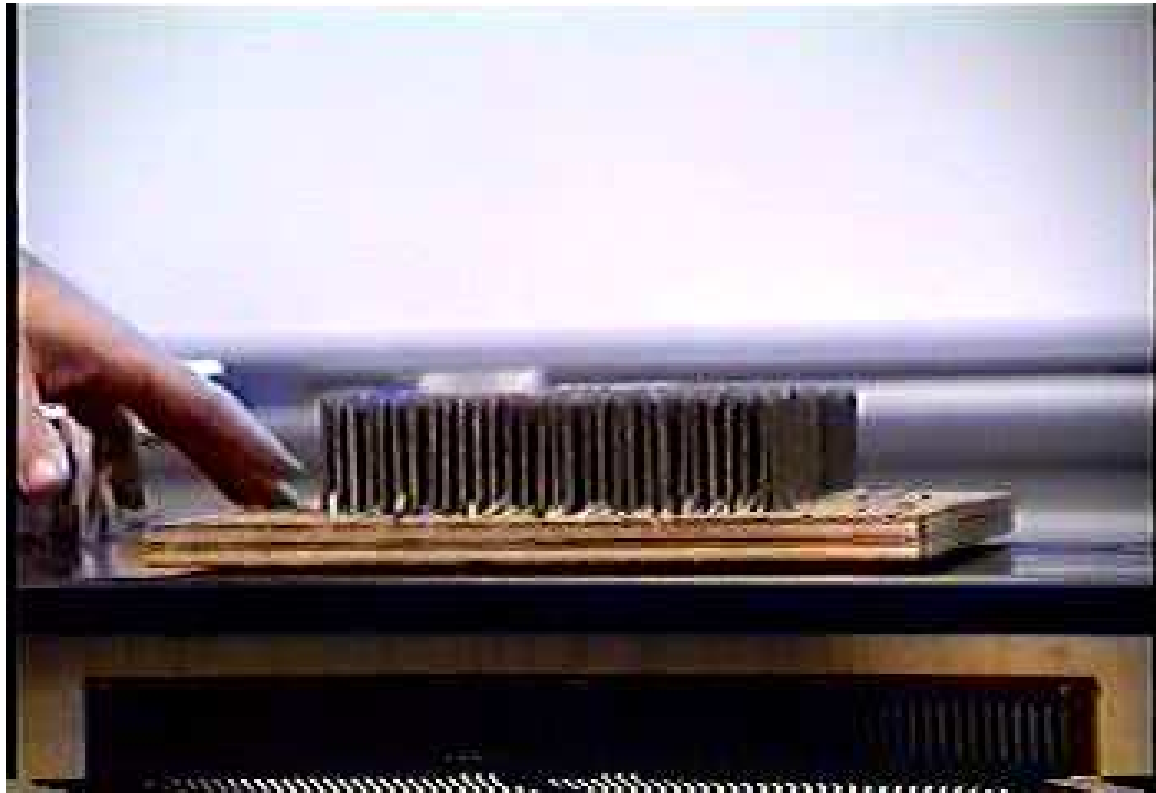
Flat & hydrophobic



Patterned & hydrophobic



# Fakir's Carpet (and Bouncing Droplets)



Acknowledgement: Wake Forest University

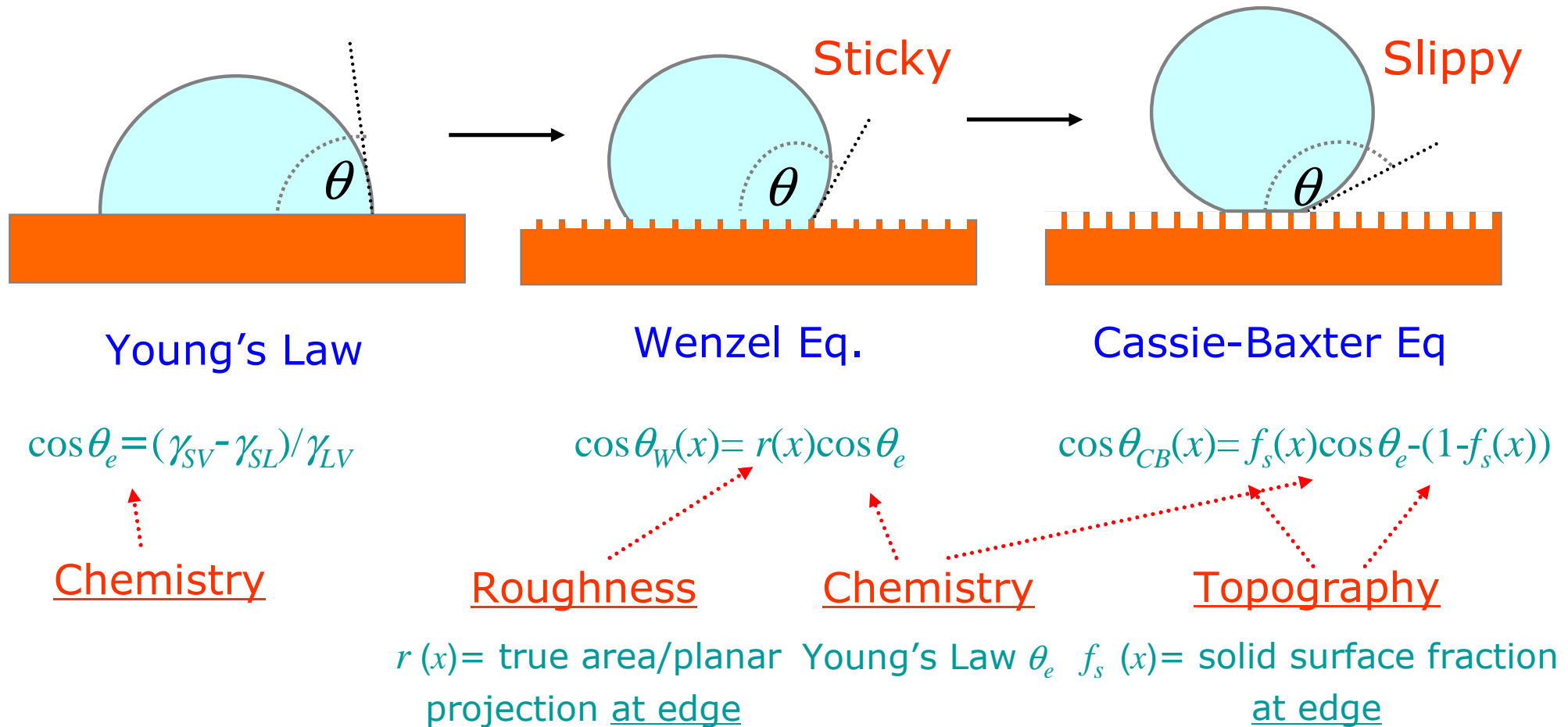
Courtesy: Prof. David Quéré, ESPCI

*But .... liquid skin interacts with solid surfaces and "nails" do not need to be equally separated. A useful analogy, but it is not an exact view.*

# Topography & Wetting

## Droplets that Impale and those that Skate

What contact angle does a droplet adopt on a "rough" surface?





# *Anti-Adhesive and Adhesive Surfaces*

# 1. Reducing Biofouling via S/H Channels

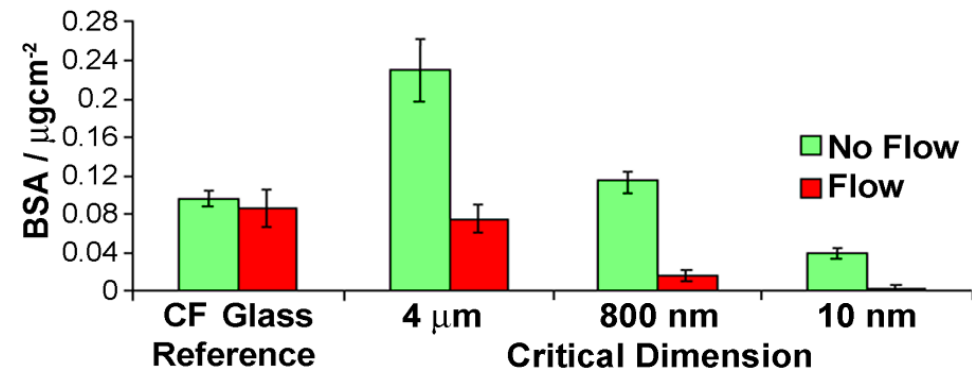
## Superhydrophobic Surfaces Used

1. Glass slides
2. Sputter coated 200 nm Cu on 5 nm Ti on slides
3. Large grained (4  $\mu\text{m}$  particles, 20  $\mu\text{m}$  pores) superhydrophobic sol-gel on slides
4. Small grained (800 nm particles, 4  $\mu\text{m}$  pores) superhydrophobic sol-gel on slides
5. CuO nanoneedles (10 nm) on Cu sheet

## Proteins on Superhydrophobic Surfaces

1. Substrates incubated in BSA protein (15 nm in size) in phosphate buffer
2. Flow cell 1500 $\mu\text{m}$  x 650 $\mu\text{m}$  x 65mm using buffer solution
3. Fluorimetric assay to quantify protein removal

*Fluorinated nanoscale superhydrophobic surfaces showed almost complete removal of protein under shear flow*

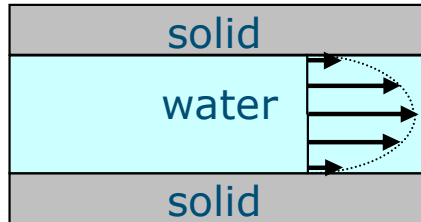


# 2. Reducing Drag in Pipes via S/H Walls

## Concept

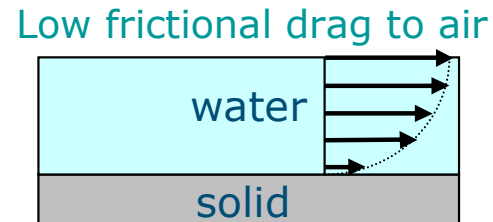


## Closed-channel



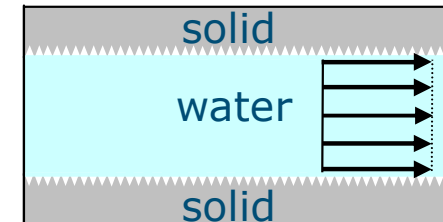
Two walls cause frictional drag

## Open-channel



High frictional drag to solid

## Super-channel



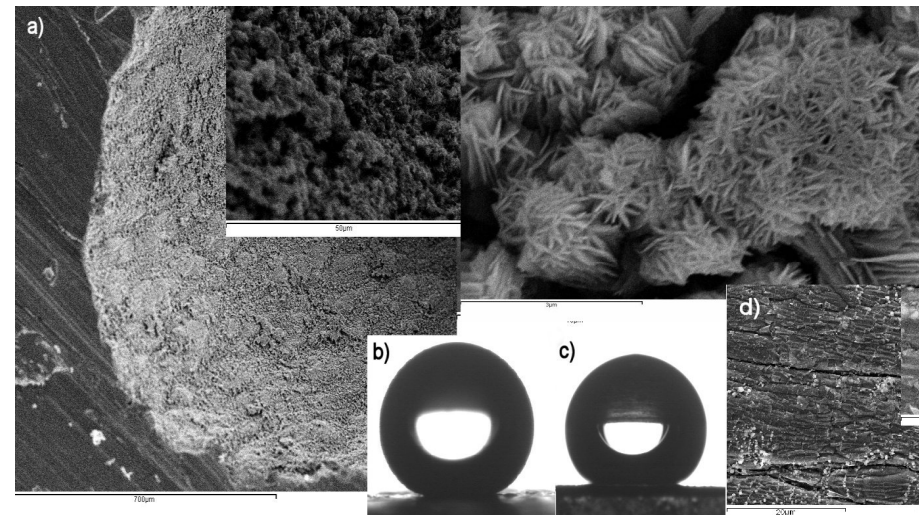
Walls appear as cushions of air

## Experiment

Forced flow through small-bore Cu tubes

Electron microscope images of hydrophobic nano-ribbon ( $1\mu\text{m} \times 100\text{nm} \times 6\text{nm}$ ) decorated internal copper surfaces of tubes ( $0.876\text{ mm}$  radii).

Side-profile optical images of droplets of b) water, and c) glycerol on surface shown in a) the original surface is shown in d)

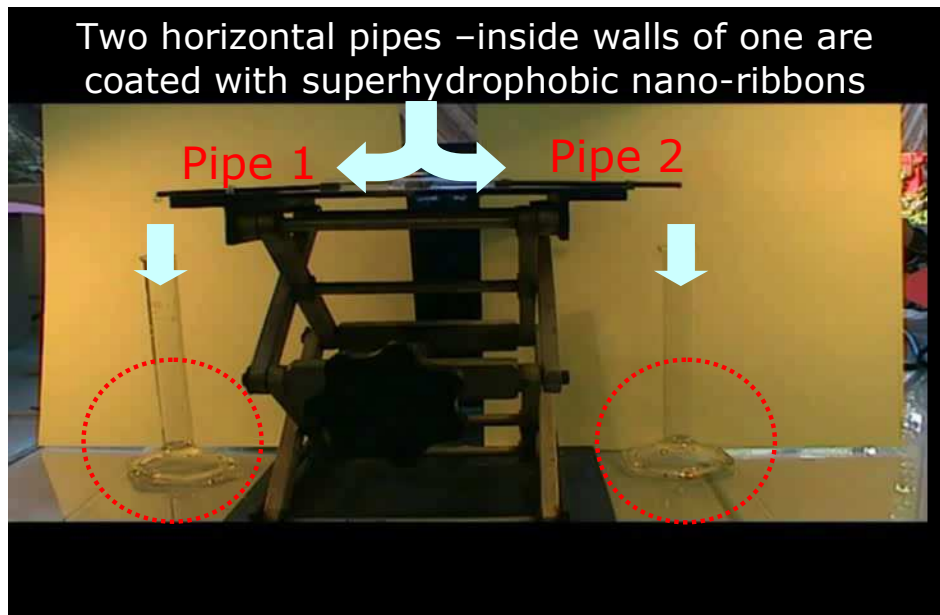


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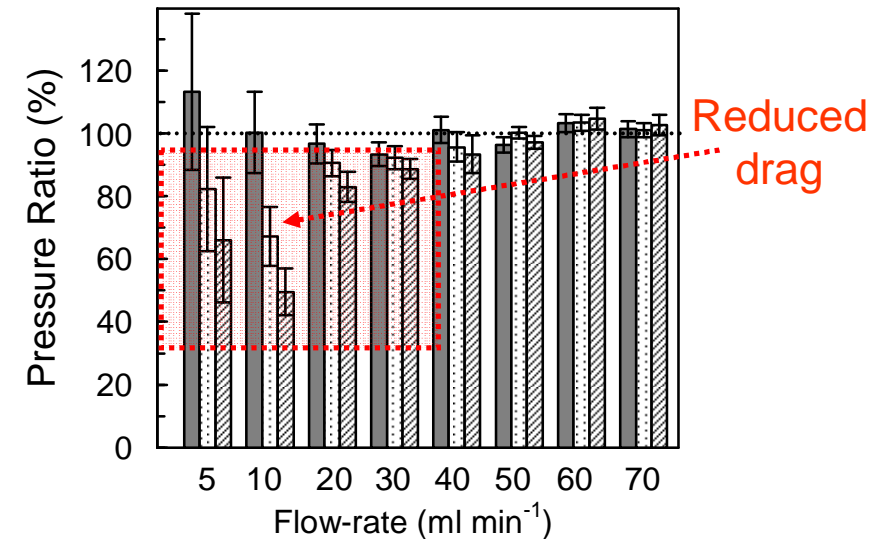
## Quantitative Experiment

1. 4 parallel tubes with 4 surface finishes
2. Cu, hydrophobic Cu, nanoribbon Cu, hydrophobic nanoribbon Cu
3. Peristaltic pump to force flow in all 4
4. Measure pressure drop across each

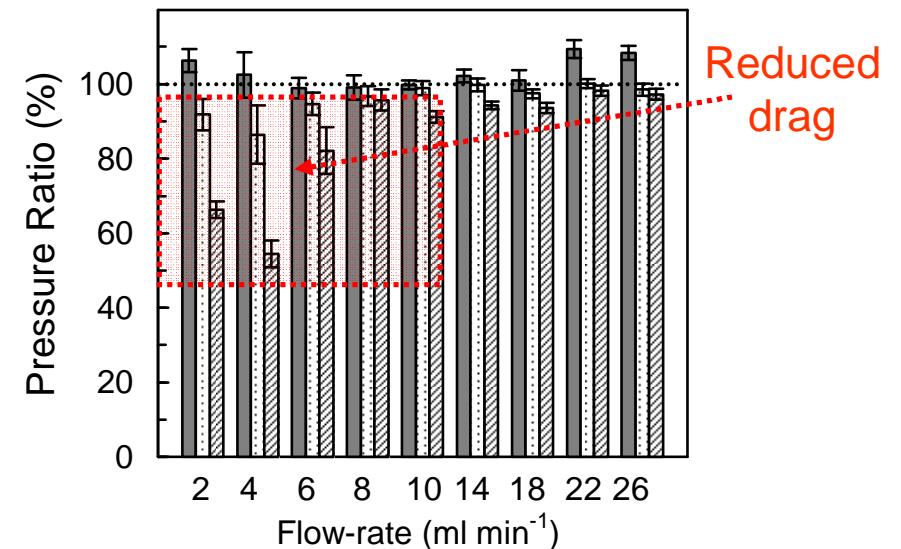
## Supporting Visualization Experiment



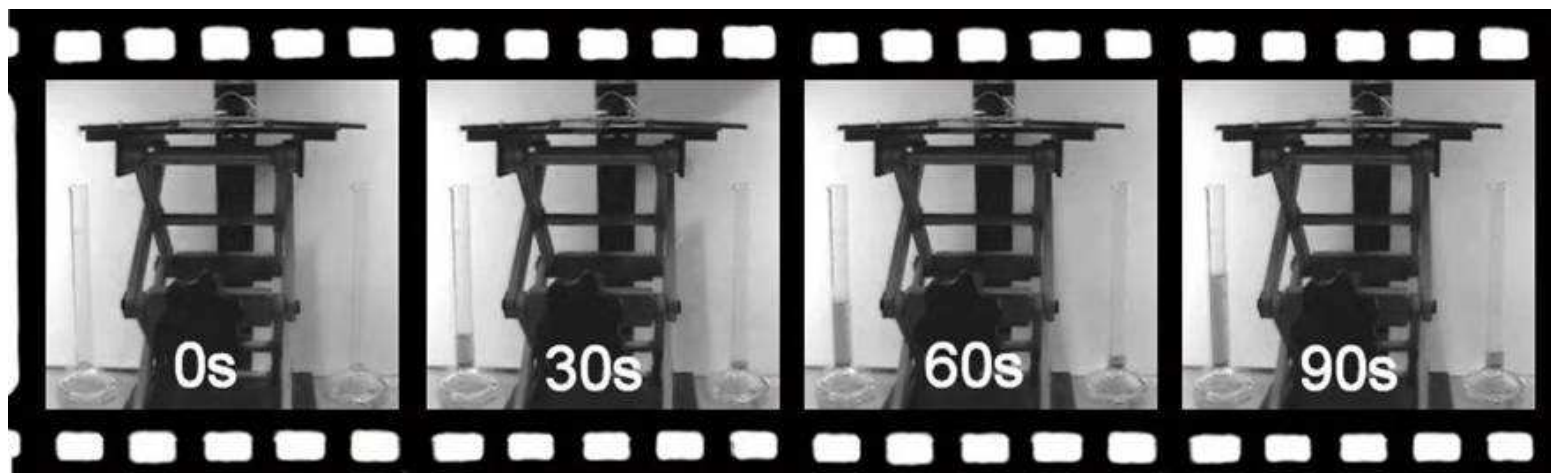
### Water



### Water-Glycerol (50%)



# Visualization Results – Extracted Frames





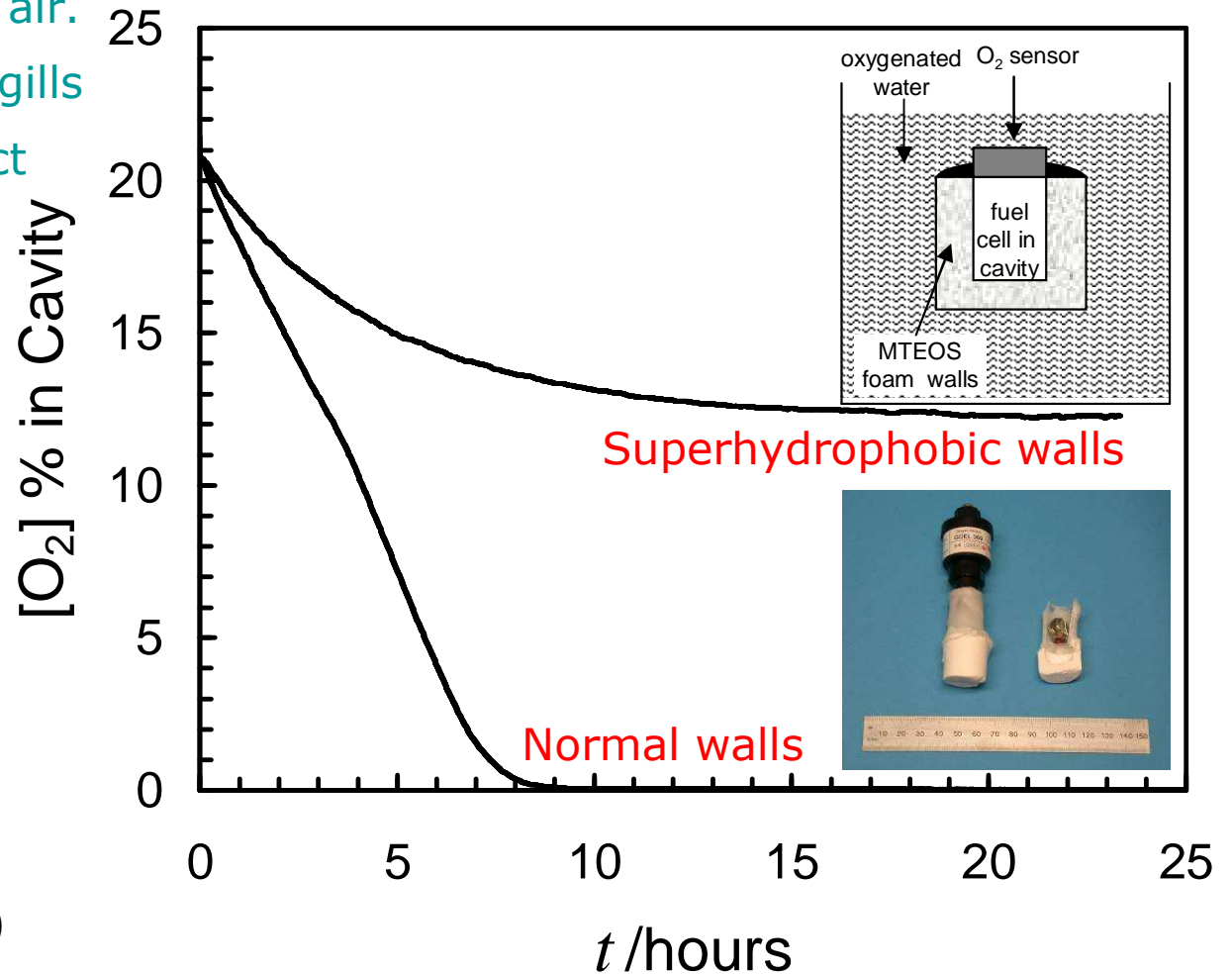
# 3. Plastrons: Lubricating the Interface

Superhydrophobic surfaces have a silvery sheen when immersed – due to surface retained layer of air. Plastrons for breathing without gills have been known about in insect physiology for since the 1940's.

*Water ("Diving Bell") Spider – but not bubble respiration*



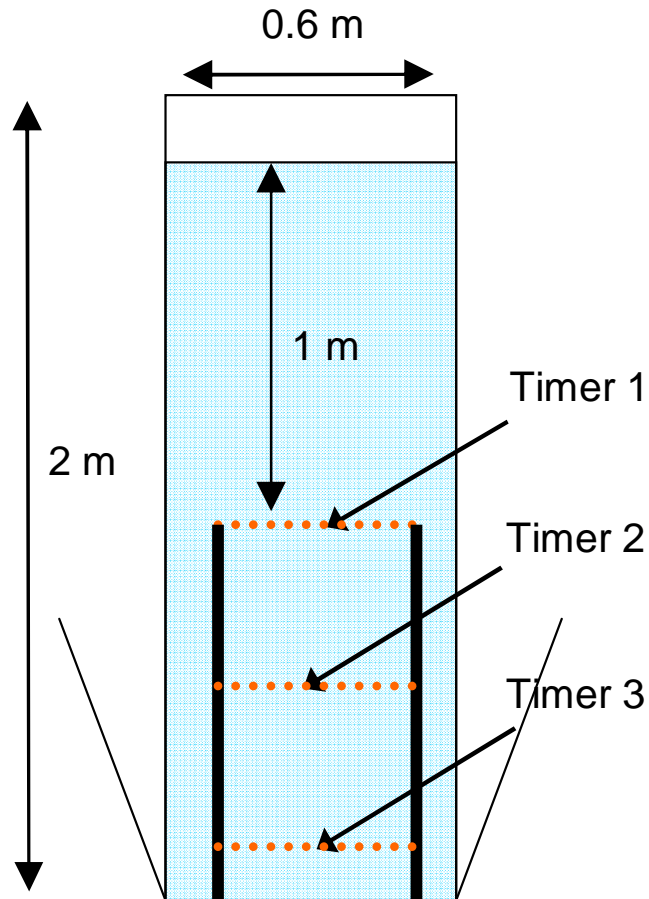
The Movie – Microcosmos  
Copyright: Allied Films Ltd (1996)



# 3. Plastrons: Terminal Velocity

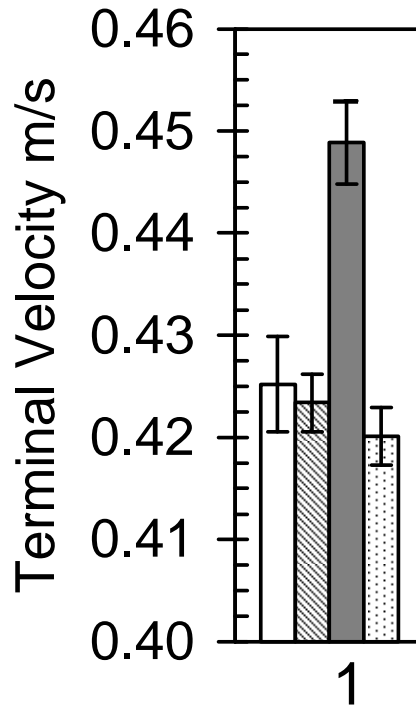
*In the presence of a fluid, a falling object eventually reaches a terminal velocity. Textbooks tell us that in water the terminal velocity does not depend on the surface chemistry .... But is that true?*

Solid sphere  
Plastron bearing sphere  
Same sphere



# 3. Plastrons: Terminal Velocity Results

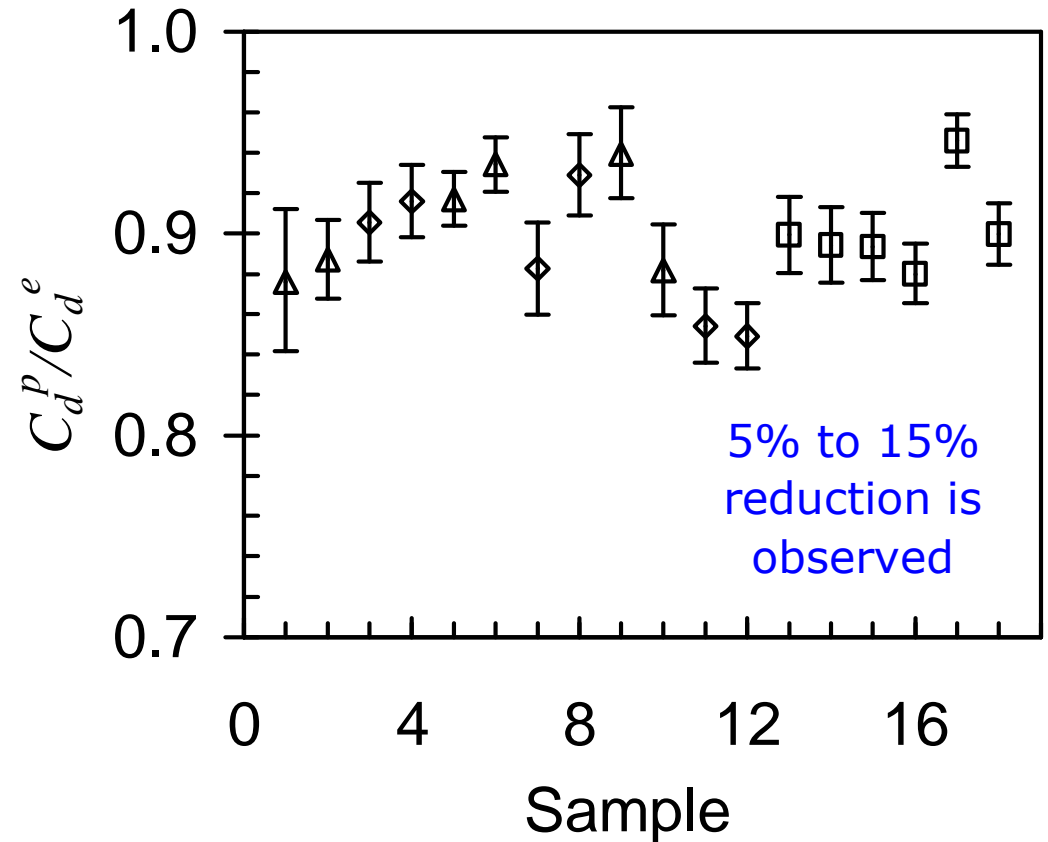
Results for 1-inch Diameter Sphere



Sequence of Four Bars

1. Blank surface
2. Sieved sand surface
3. (Super) Hydrophobic sand
4. Hydrophobic sand with ethanol pre-treatment to prevent plastron

Reduction in Drag Coefficient



*Superhydrophobicity alone is not enough. Also need a plastron to persist to achieve drag reduction*

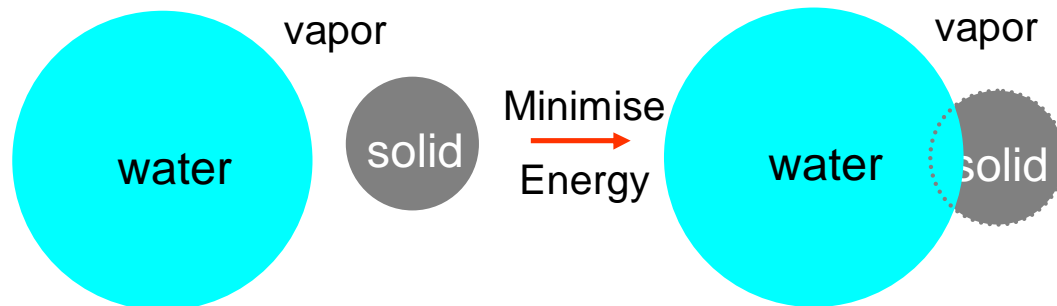


# 4. Increasing Droplet Mobility - Liquid Marbles

## Loose Surfaces

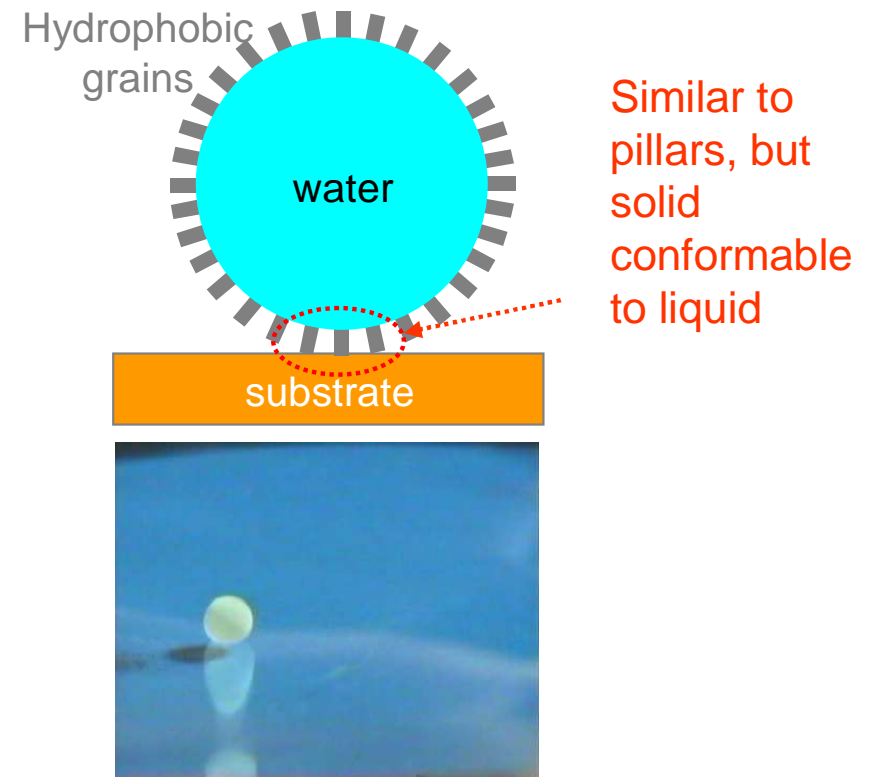
1. Grains are not fixed, but can be lifted by the liquid
2. Surface free energy favors solid grains attaching to liquid-vapor interface
3. A water droplet rolling on a hydrophobic lycopodium (or other grain/powder) becomes coated and forms a liquid marble

## Hydrophobic Grains and Water



$$\Delta F = -\pi R_g^2 \gamma_{LV} (1 + \cos \theta_e) (1 + r \cos \theta_e)$$

Energy is always reduced on grain attachment assuming grain is smooth ( $r=1$ )

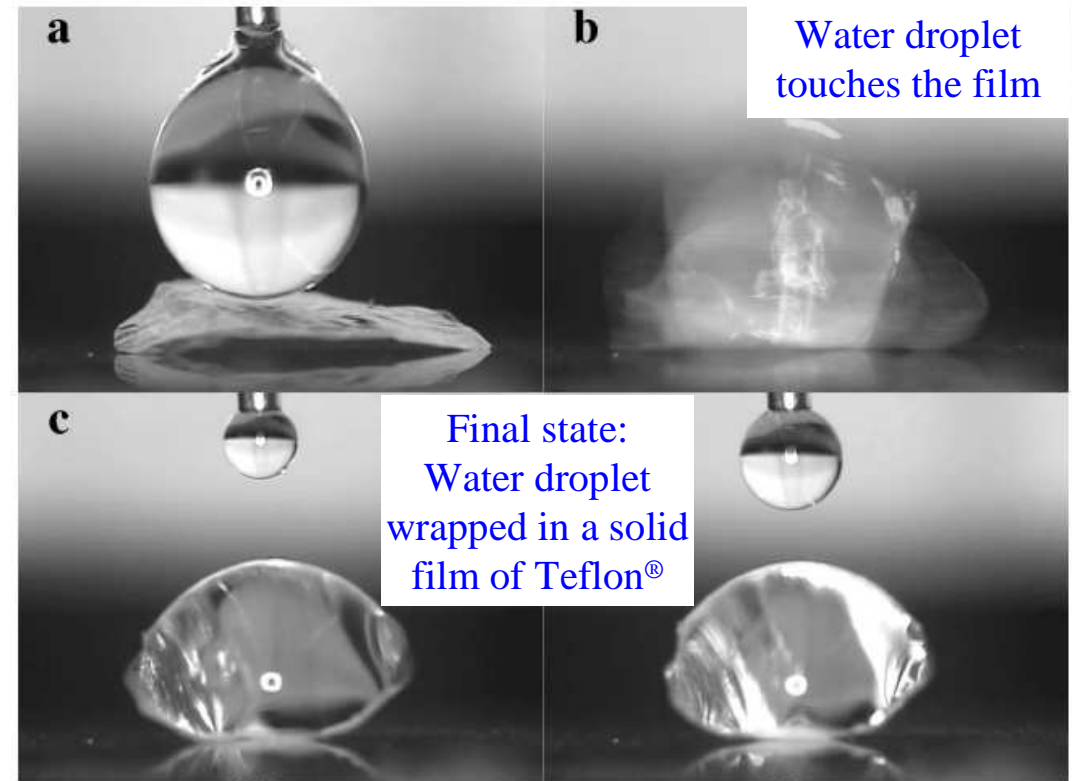


# 5. Liquid Adhesion – Teflon is Hydrophilic?

1. We all know Teflon® is a hydrophobic solid and gives a non-stick surface .....
2. Consider a thin, 3.7  $\mu\text{m}$ , film of Teflon® AF2400 contacted by a droplet of water

Droplet Wrapping Video

Stills from Video



Courtesy: Prof. Tom McCarthy (UMass, Amherst)

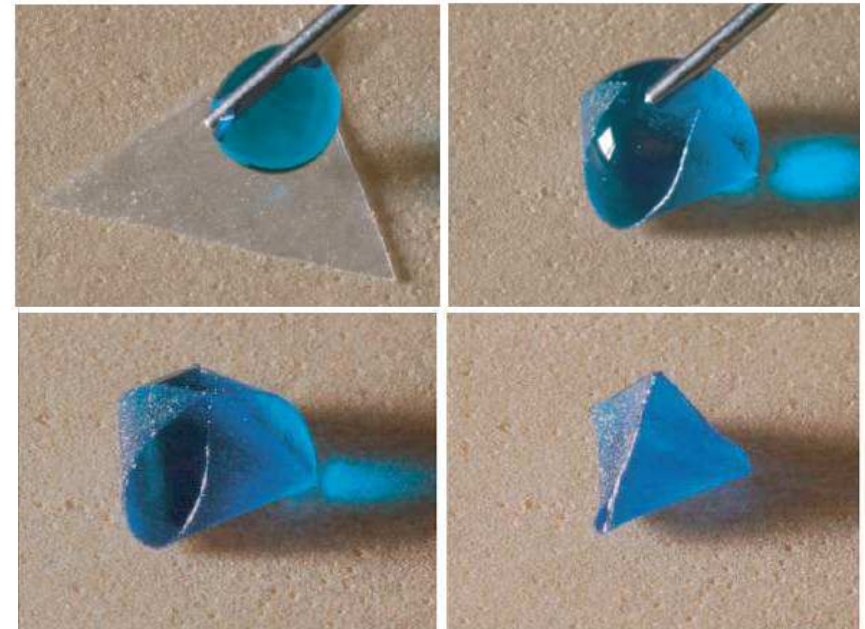
*If a droplet wraps itself up in Teflon® ... is this consistent with Teflon® being hydrophobic?*

# 5. Liquid Adhesion – Teflon is Hydrophilic?

1. We all know Teflon<sup>®</sup> is a hydrophobic solid and gives a non-stick surface .....
2. Consider a thin, 3.7  $\mu\text{m}$ , film of Teflon<sup>®</sup> AF2400 contacted by a droplet of water

[Droplet Wrapping Video](#)

[Py et al's "Capillary Origami"](#)



Droplet contacting triangular sheet of PDMS

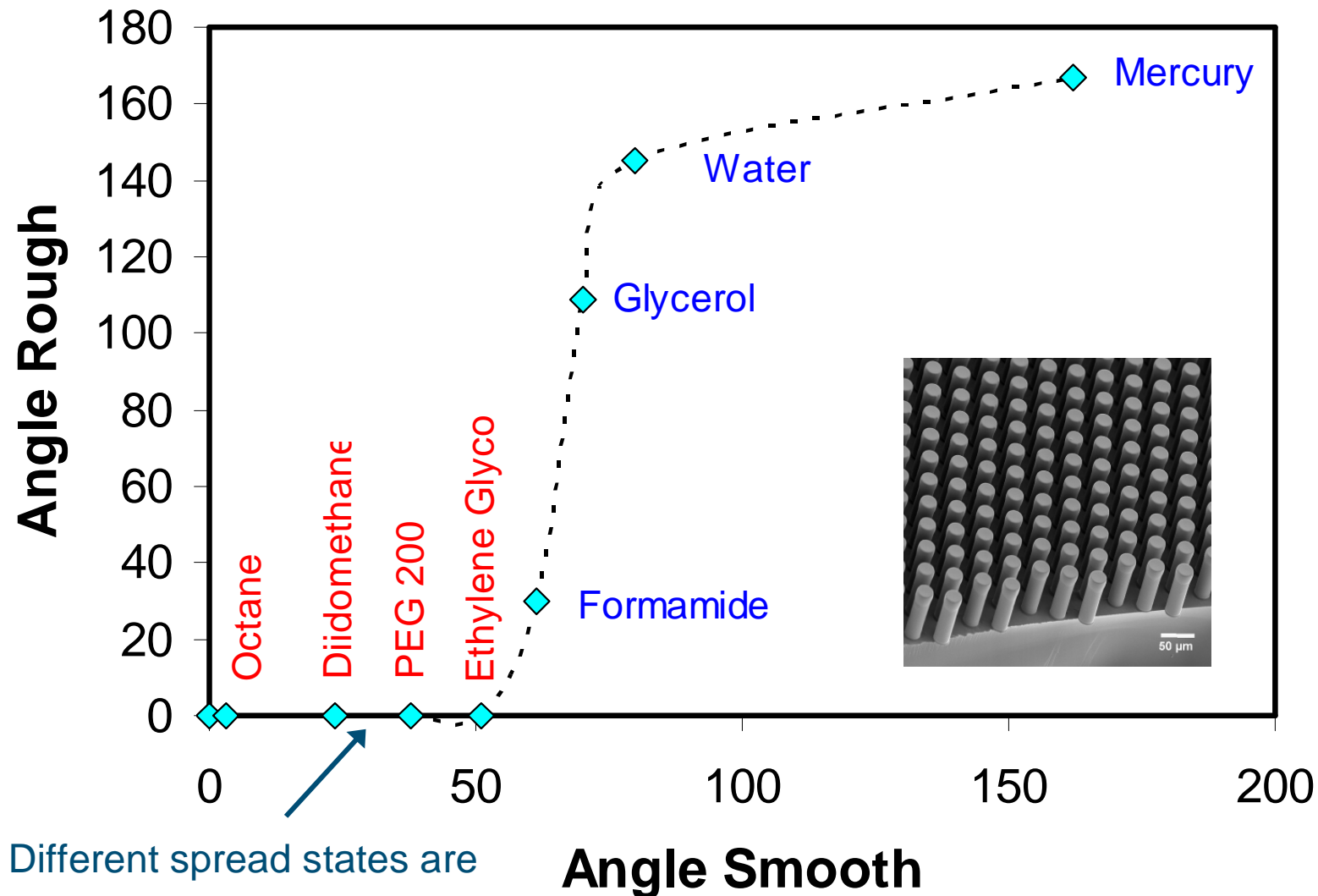
Courtesy: Prof. Tom McCarthy (UMass, Amherst)

Acknowledgement: Py et al. Eur. Phys. J.

*If a droplet wraps itself up in Teflon<sup>®</sup> ... is this consistent with Teflon<sup>®</sup> being hydrophobic?*

# *Superspreading and hemi-wicking*

# Super-spreading on Structured Surfaces



Different spread states are approached at different rates

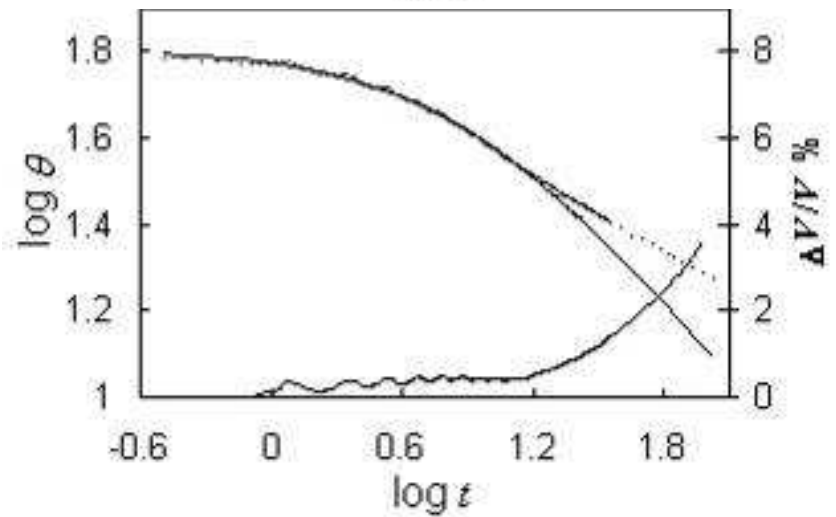
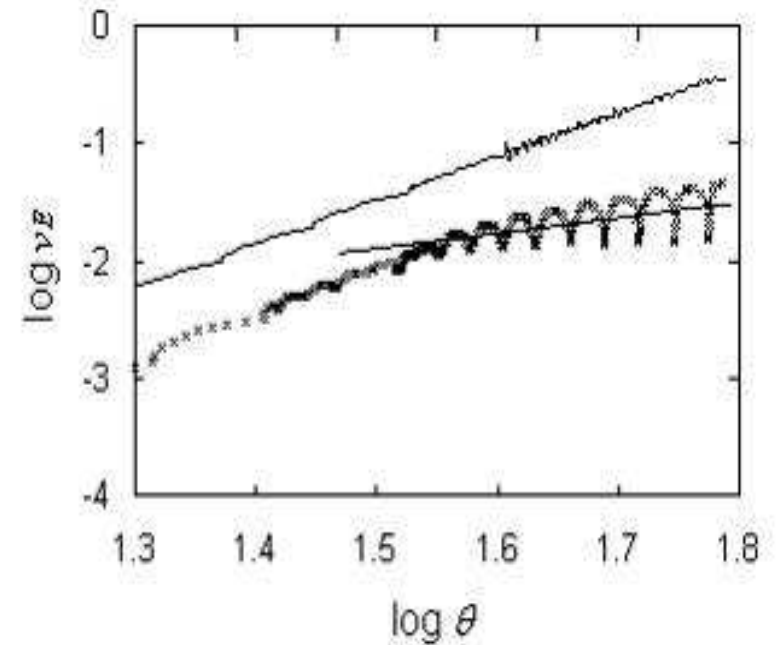
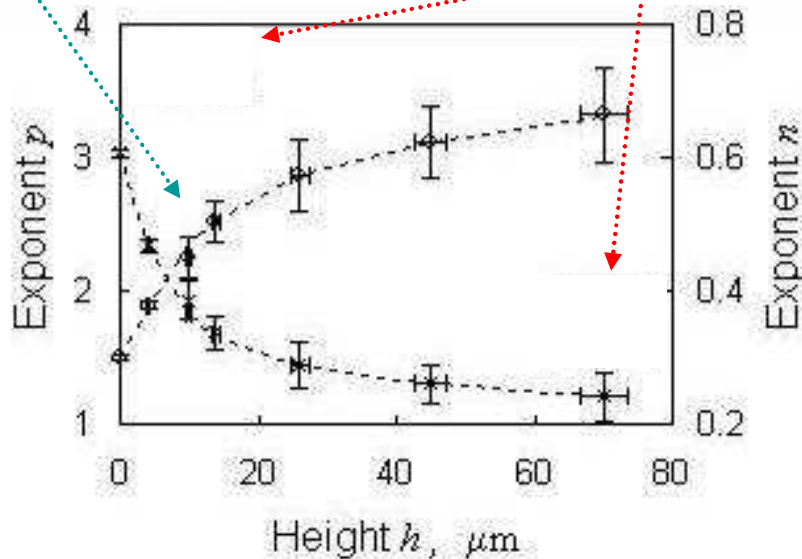
# Superspreading of PDMS on Pillars

Tanner's Law exponents  $p$  and  $n$   
 (cubic to linear transition)

$$v_E \propto v^* \theta^p \quad \theta \propto \left( \frac{V^{1/3}}{v^*} \right)^n \frac{1}{(t + t_0)^n}$$

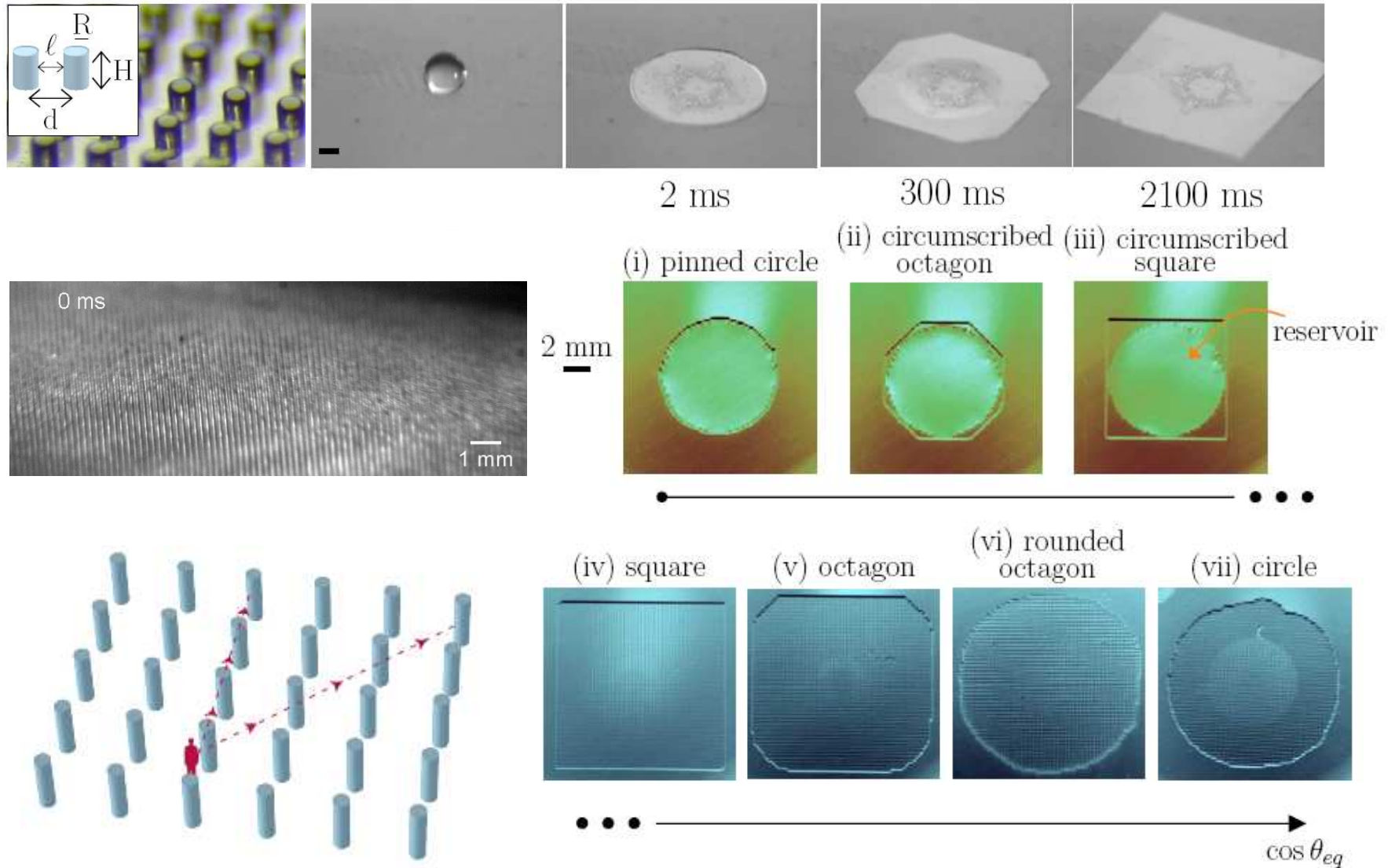
*Effect of substrate on PDMS*

*Effect of substrate on water*





# Topography Induced Wetting: Hemi-Wicking



# Wrinkling Surfaces

## *Liquid-based Optics*



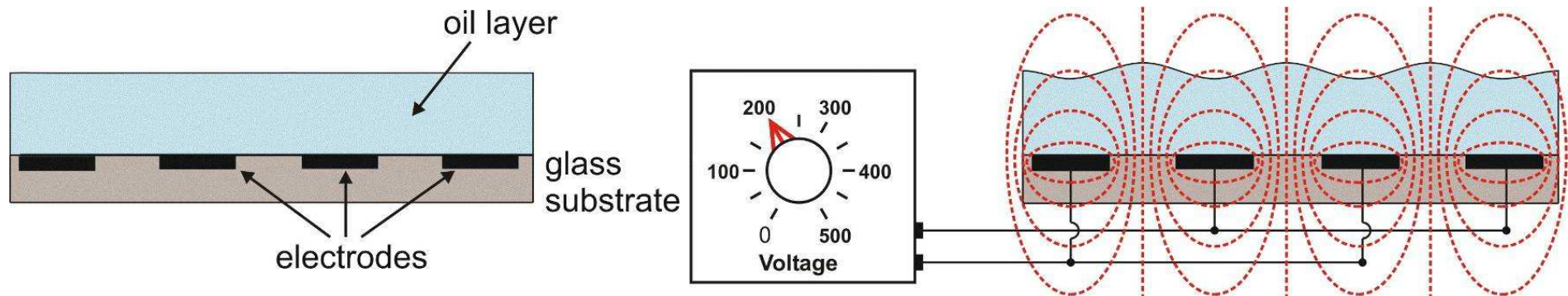
# Liquids for Diffractive Optics

1. A diffraction grating uses surface structure to split light into its constituent colours
2. Can also redirect path of ray of light of a single colour – **photonic devices**

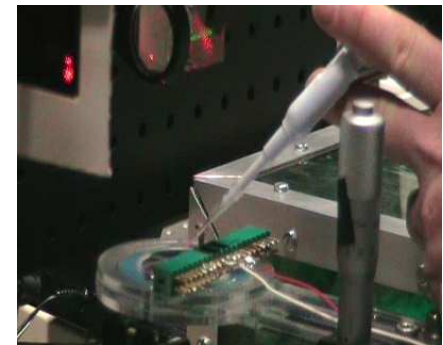
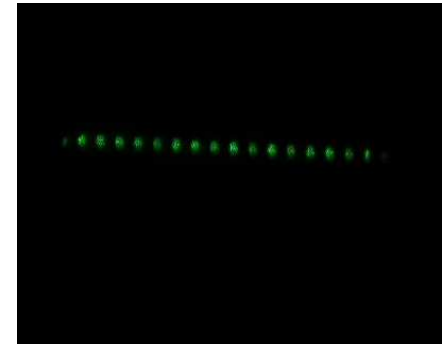
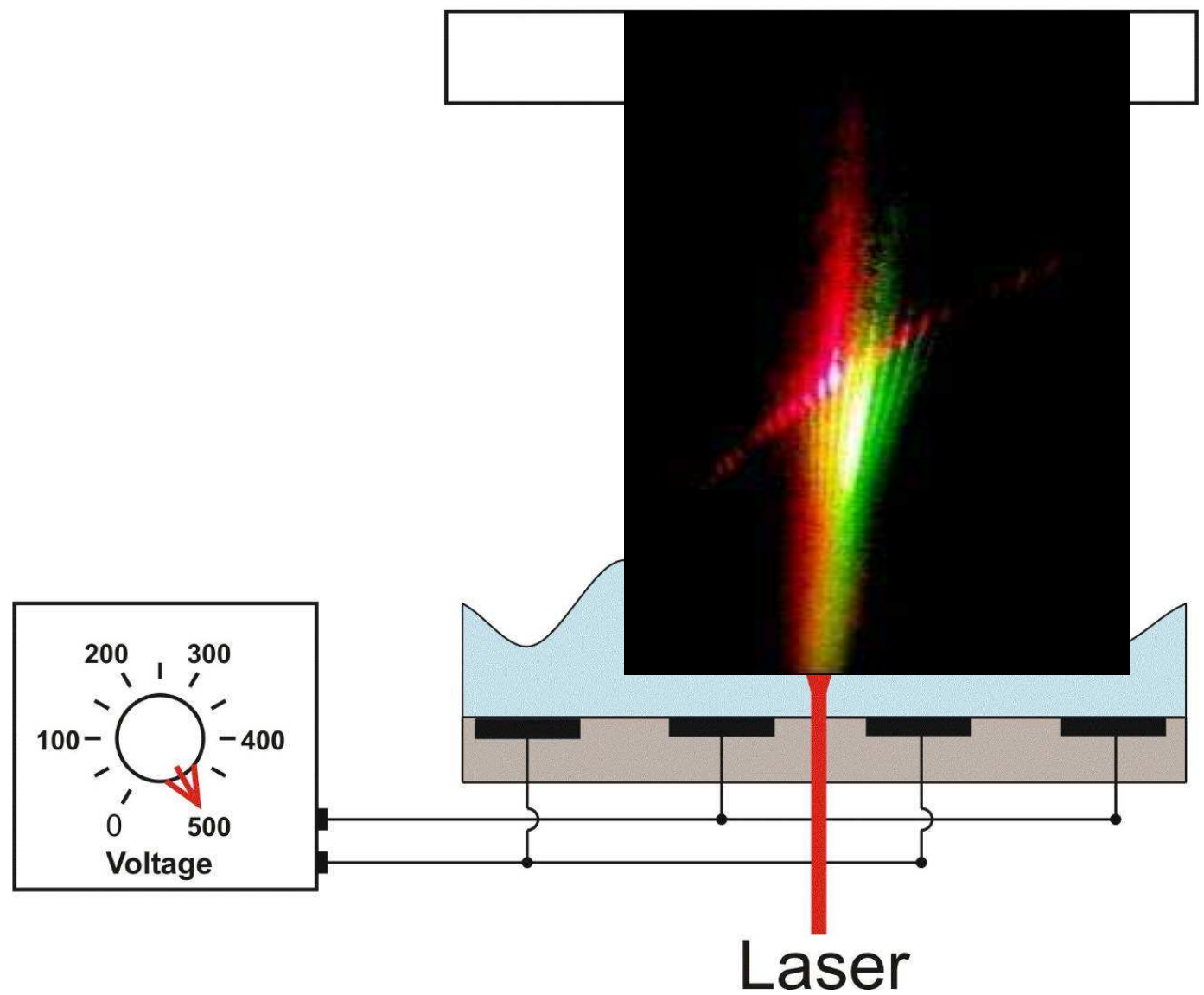


Edge of a CD under white light

## Diffraction using programmable electrical control of oil-air interface



# Beam-steering Liquid Films



# Conclusions

## 1. Rippling Solid Surfaces

- Acoustic waves sense interactions at surface and probe liquid properties
- Simple, low power, sensitive sensors are possible

## 2. Structuring Solid Surfaces

- Topography can amplify effect of surface chemistry
- Superhydrophobic surfaces repel droplets and keep surfaces clean, and can reduce bio-fouling and drag
- Liquids can be forced to spread or hemi-wick into surfaces

## 3. Wrinkling Liquid Surfaces

- Free surface of a spread film of a liquid can be used to create optical effects

**The End**

**EPSRC**

Engineering and Physical Sciences  
Research Council



**[dstl]** NOTTINGHAM  
TRENT UNIVERSITY 

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Prof. Carl Brown, Dr Gary Wells, ... Liquid-based Optics

Invitation Today

Funding of Research

For doing the Work

Biological Sciences

Atmospheric Sciences

Biotechnology/Love Waves

QCM and Slip

Ionic Liquids

Liquid-based Optics