The bending of an elastic beam by a liquid drop

A variational approach

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State of the art

Elastocapillarity in Biology



Lung's airway closure

e.g. Heil, J. Fluid Mech 380, 1999



Wet feathers

Duprat, Protière, Beebe and Stone, *Nature* (2012)









Insect adhesion Eisner et al., PNAS, 2000

Elastocapillarity in Industry



Cellular patterns

Chakrapani et al., PNAS, 2004



Teepee formation Lau et al., Nano Lett., 2003





Bio-mimetism Geim et al., Nature Mat., 2003

Elastocapillarity in Industry



surface tension forces are responsible for the collapse of microstructures during removal of sacrificial layers



rotate hinged joints for the self-assembly of 3D microstructures



spontaneous folding of 2D structures under the influence of the surface tension of liquid solder

inductor has to be away from (metallic) substrate to prevent magnetic field loss



3D electrical components (here an inductor) assembled by surface tension





folding by surface tension of Pb:Sn solder spheres

microfan with polysilicon 180 rpm micro-fluidic systems

Py et al Capillary origami Phys. Rev. Lett. 2007





Applications: non-spherical lenses, 3D electronic circuits, curved micro solar panels, wrapping of active substances for targeted drug delivery...

A tubulin rod growing inside a lipid vesicle



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Cohen & Mahadevan, PNAS (2003)



A tubulin rod growing inside a lipid vesicle



A tubulin rod growing inside a lipid vesicle





 $\frac{EI}{L^2} \sim \gamma \quad \longrightarrow \quad L_{\rm EC} = \sqrt{\frac{EI}{\gamma}}$

Mechanisms: Aggregation

Wet hairs: elastic Jurin's law and aggregation





Bico et al., Nature (2004), Kim & Mahadevan, JFM (2006), Duprat et al., JFM (2011), Cambeau et al., EPL (2011)

Mechanisms: Buckling

Capillary buckling







Vollrath & Edmonds, Nature (1989), Heil, JFM (1999), Lau et al., Nano Lett. (2003), Neukirch et al., JMPS (2007)



Mechanisms: Wrinkling







Huang et al., Science (2007), Pocivavsek et al., Science (2008), Hunt et al., Soft Matter (2012)

Mechanisms: Wrapping & Folding













Syms et al., J. of MEMS (2003), Py et al., PRL (2007), Reis et al., Soft Matter (2010)

Bending an elastic beam with surface tension



Neukirch, Bico, Roman JMPS 2007

Bending an elastic beam with surface tension



Forces on the beam :

- hydrostatic pressure
- point force at meniscus

Direction of the force at meniscus ?



Direction of the force at meniscus ?













Variational approach

- 1- write potential energy of the system
- 2- minimize the energy => stable equilibrium

Advantages on the direct (force) approach:

- elegant, self-contained, powerfull
- only deals with energies :

no need to postulate where the forces are.



energy

 $E(\beta, r, D) = \sum_{i} \gamma_i A_i \quad \text{with} \quad i = lv, sv, sl$

 $\begin{array}{ll} \min \ E(\beta,r,D) \Rightarrow & \mbox{Young-Dupr\'e relation} & \gamma_{sl} - \gamma_{sv} + \gamma_{lv} \cos \beta = 0 \\ & \mbox{Laplace pressure} & P = \frac{\gamma_{lv}}{r} \end{array}$

Variational approach

one never sees forces one only sees their effect (deformation)



Variational approach



minimization $\delta E=0$ \Rightarrow

Young-Dupré relation: $\gamma_{sl} - \gamma_{sv} + \gamma_{lv} \cos \theta = 0$

Equilibrium equations for the elastic beam with:

- Laplace pressure
- localized forces at triple points *directed along the meniscus*

thank you