



COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING  
**LAMAR UNIVERSITY**™

# Hydrogel Tribology on Silanized Silicon

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**Advisor: Dr. Rafael Tadmor**

Dan F. Smith Department of Chemical and  
Biomolecular Engineering

PhD Thesis Defense

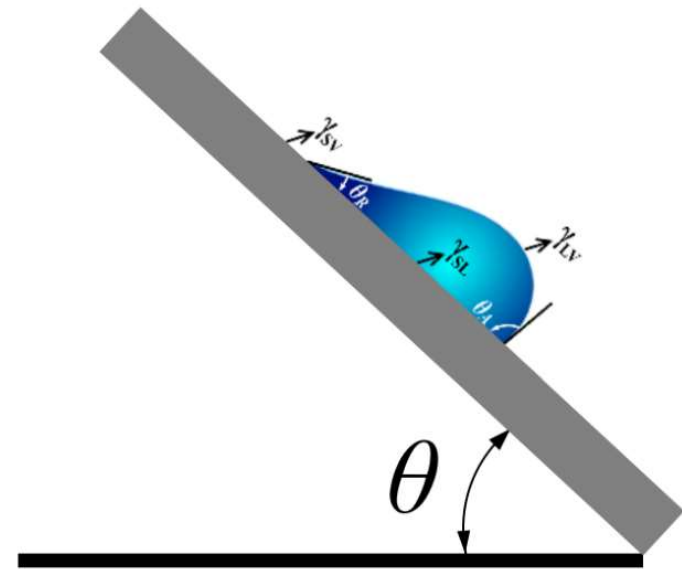
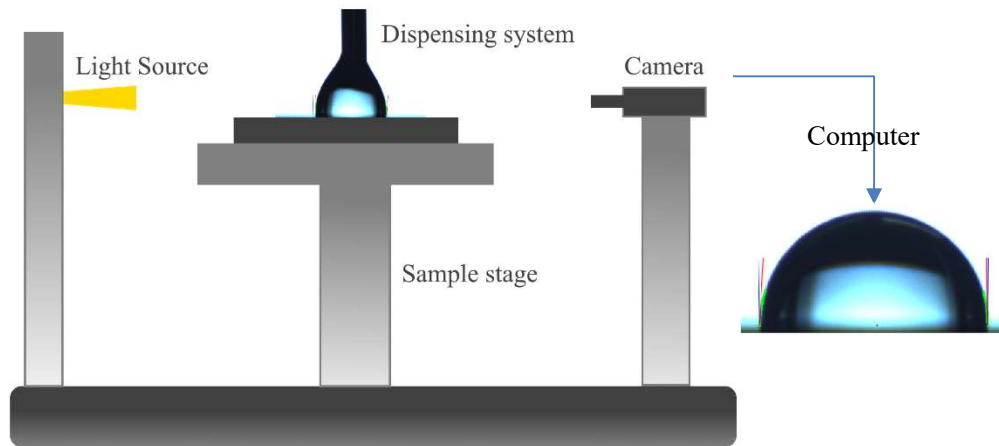
09/25/2020

# Solid-Liquid Interaction

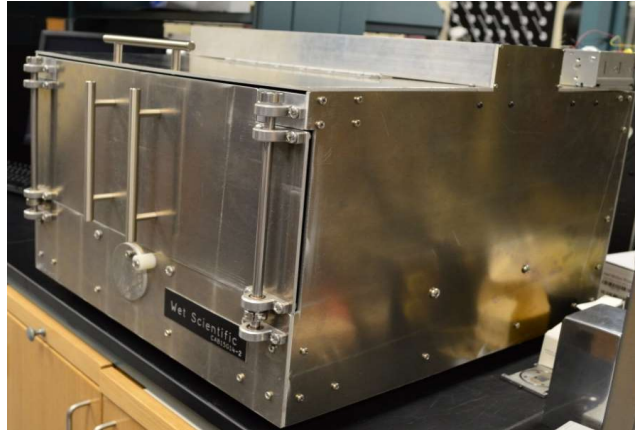
- Cleaning Industry
- Skin care Industry
- Health care
- Mining, oil and gas
- Electronics



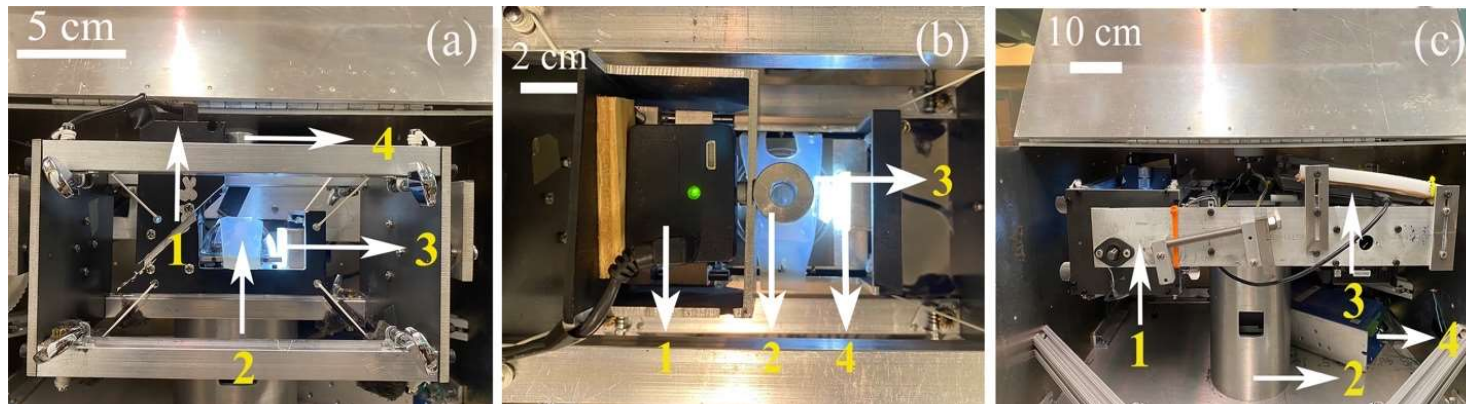
# History



# Centrifugal Adhesion Balance (CAB)



Outside image of CAB

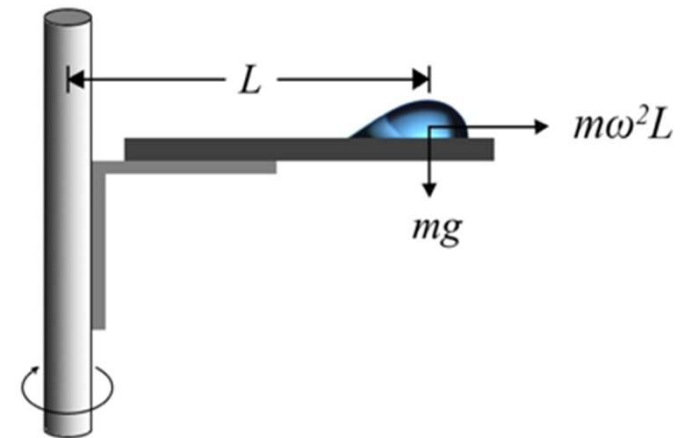
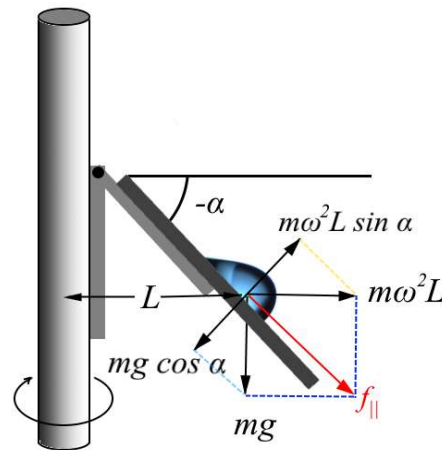
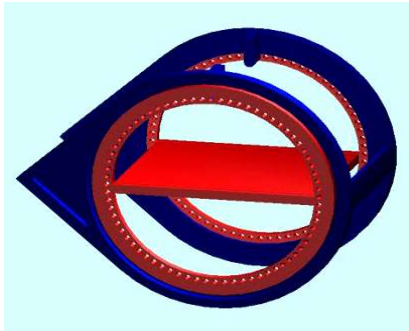


# Operation of CAB



# Lateral Force & Normal Force

Tilt Plate



$m$  : mass of the droplet  
 $L$  : distance from drop to axis of rotation  
 $\omega$  : angular velocity  
 $f_{\parallel}$  : lateral force  
 $f_{\perp}$  : normal force

$$f_{\parallel} = m(\omega^2 L \cos \alpha - g \sin \alpha) \quad (1)$$

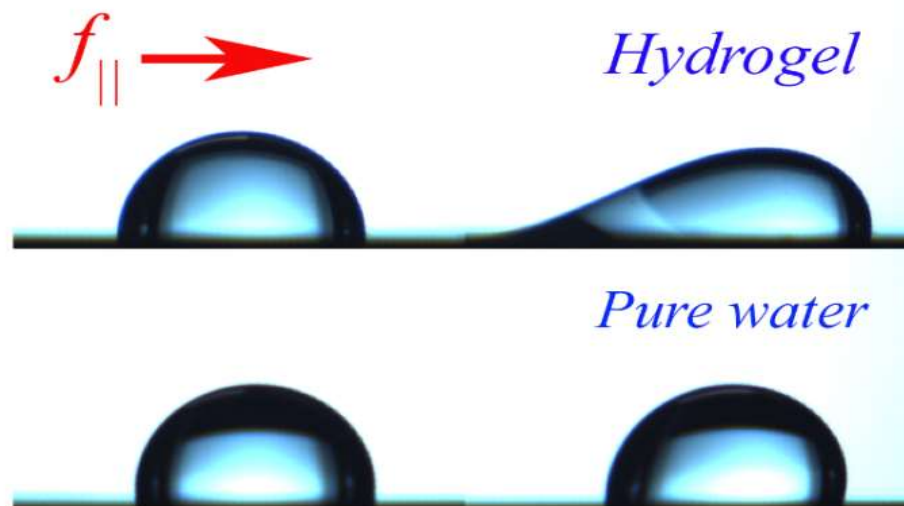
$$f_{\perp} = m(\omega^2 L \sin \alpha + g \cos \alpha) \quad (2)$$

Changing one force at a time, keeping the other force a constant

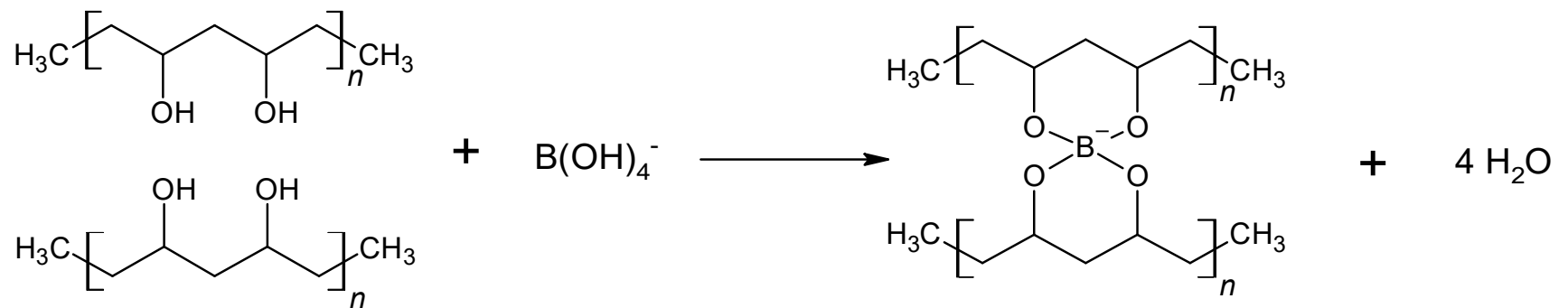
$$f_{\parallel} = m\omega^2 L \quad (3)$$

$$f_{\perp} = mg \quad (4)$$

# Tribological study of a hydrogel in comparison to that of pure water



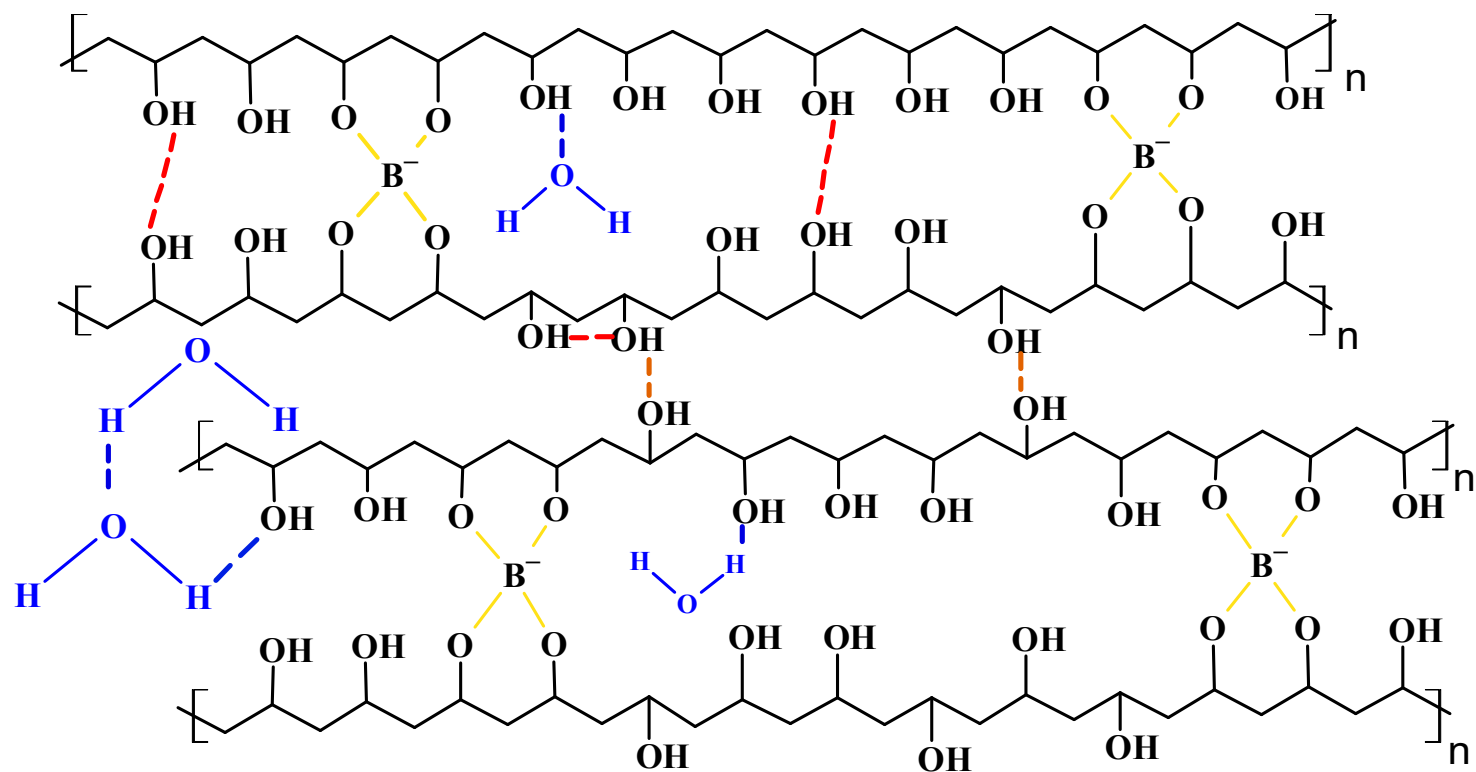
# PVA Hydrogel crosslinked using boron ions



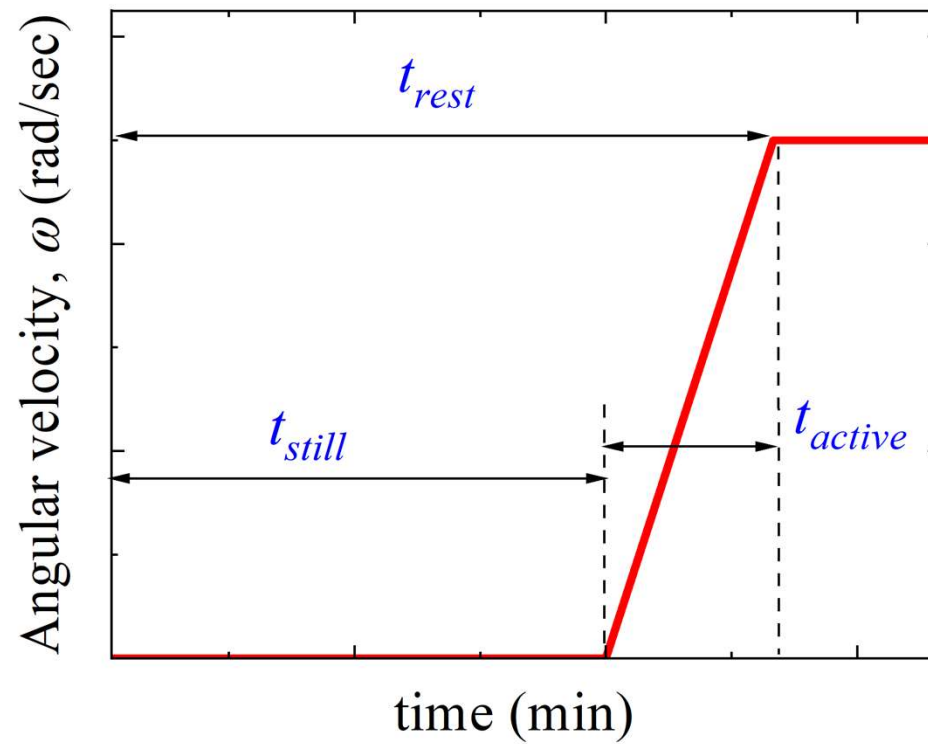
The  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  molecules of borate ion are replaced by the OH molecules of PVA resulting in cross linking



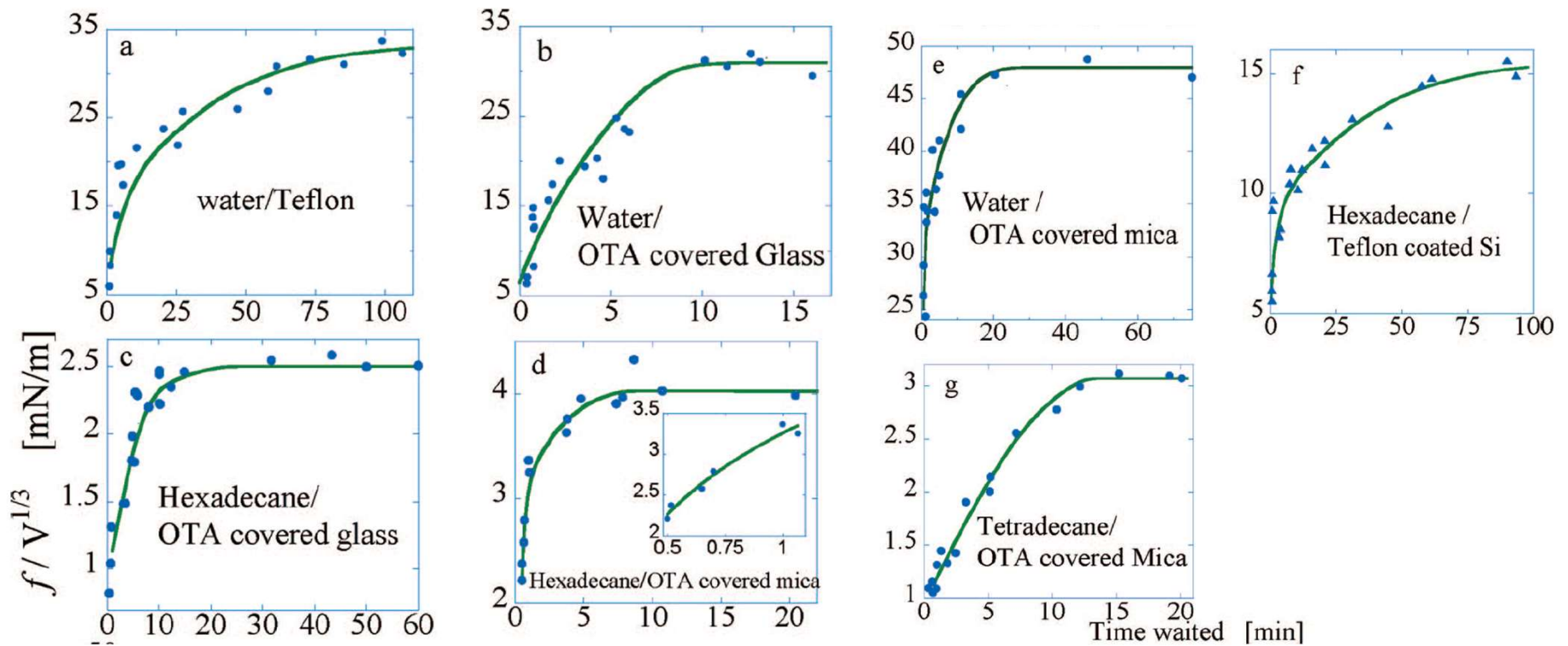
# A possible structure of the PVA hydrogel



## Prescribed Parameter, $t_{still}$

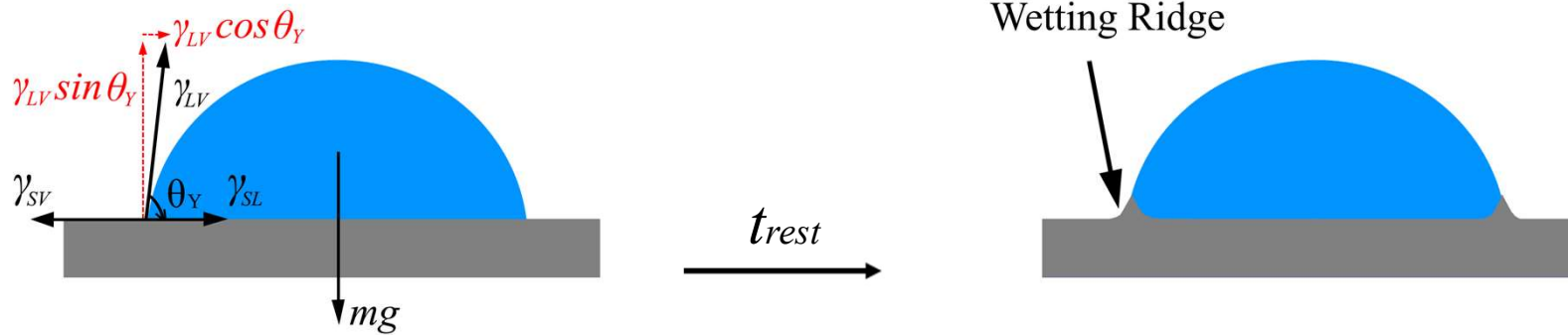


# Classic Results: Various systems



Bormashenko et al 2014  
Tadmor et al. 2008

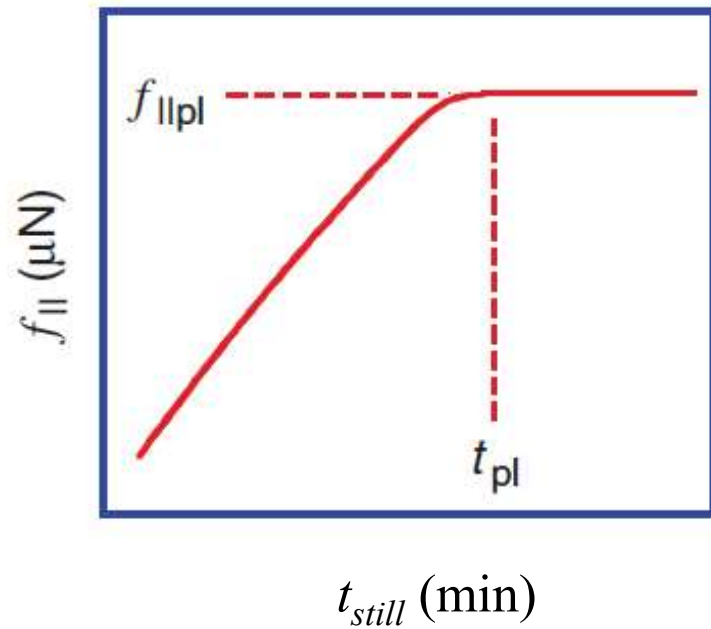
Why  $f_{||}$  increases with  $t_{rest}$  ?



$$\gamma_{SV} = \gamma_{SL} + \gamma_{LV} \cos \theta_Y$$

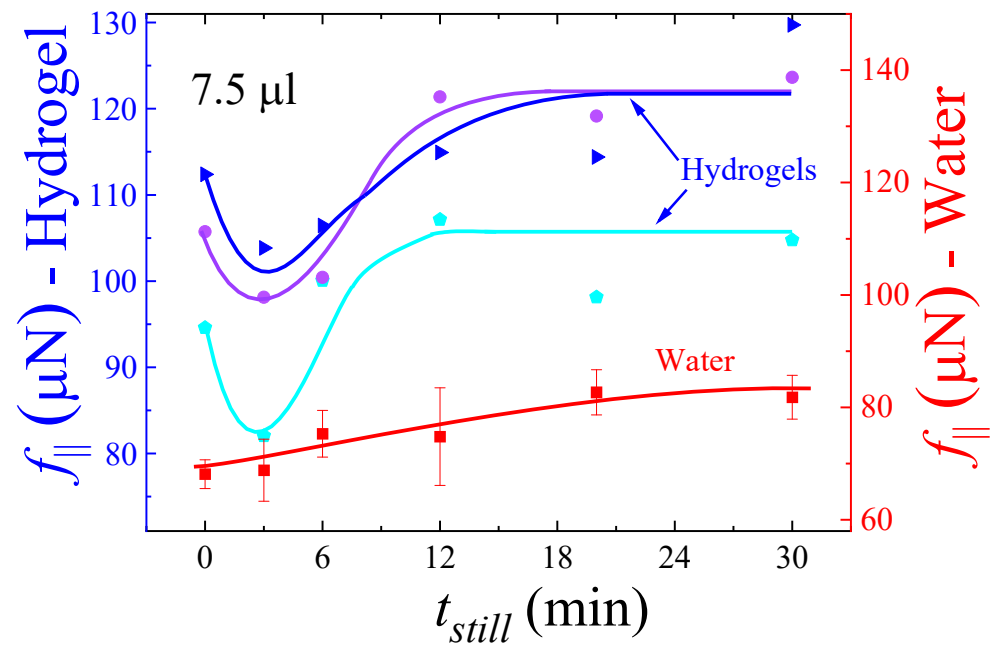
# Classic Results vs Current Result

Other systems



Tadmor et al. 2008.

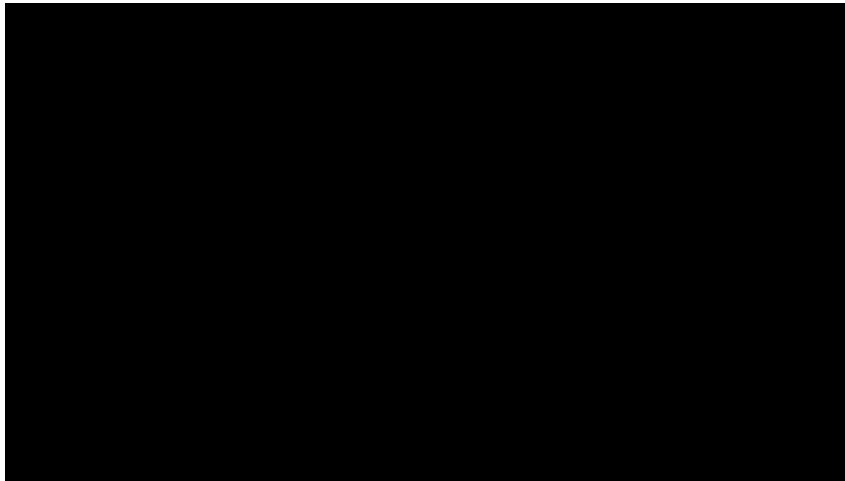
PVA Hydrogel on C18 silanized silicon



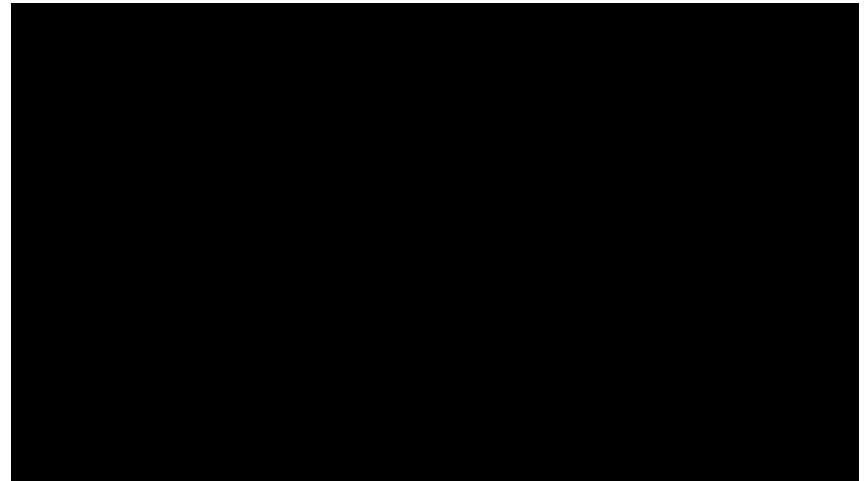
# 3.0 $\mu\text{l}$ of droplets on C18 Silanized Silicon

CAB accelerating at 3 rpm/ sec, and  $t_{\text{still}}$ : 0 minutes (ASAP)

Movie speed: Real experiment x 2 faster

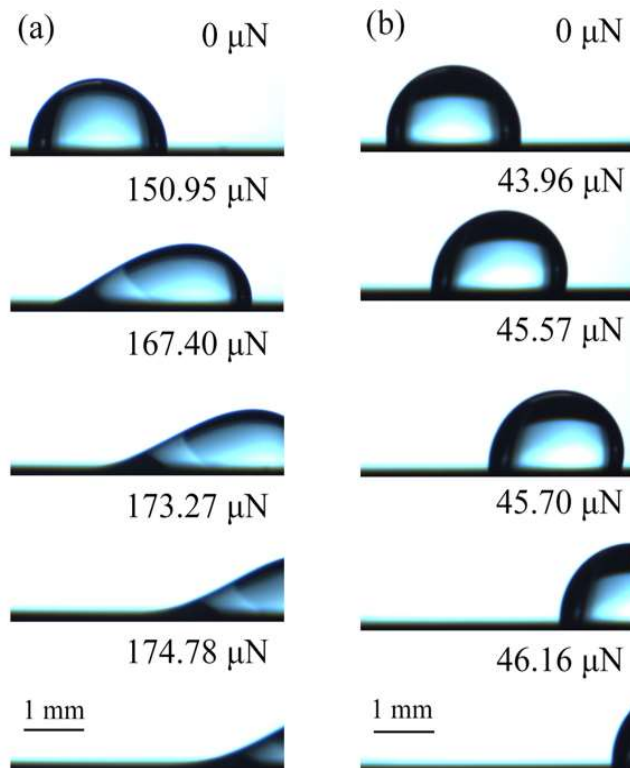


(a) PVA Hydrogel

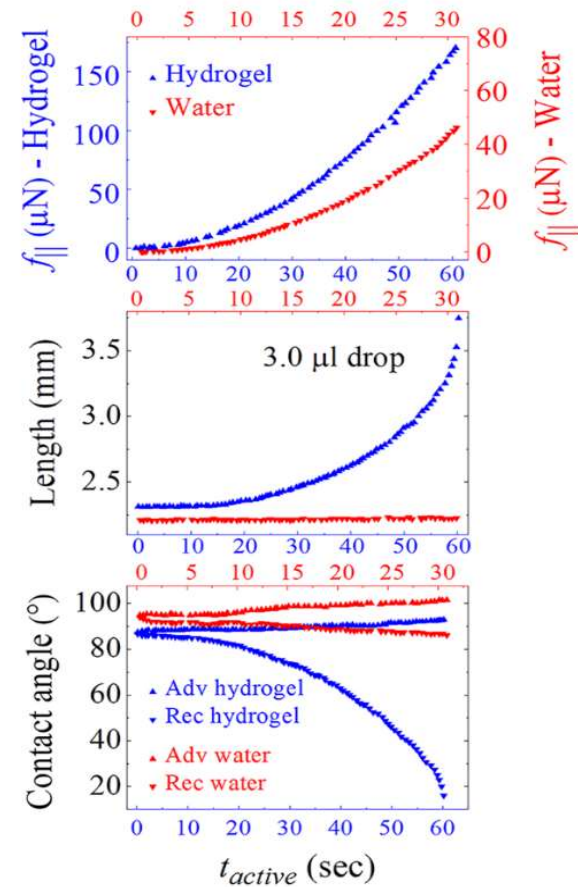
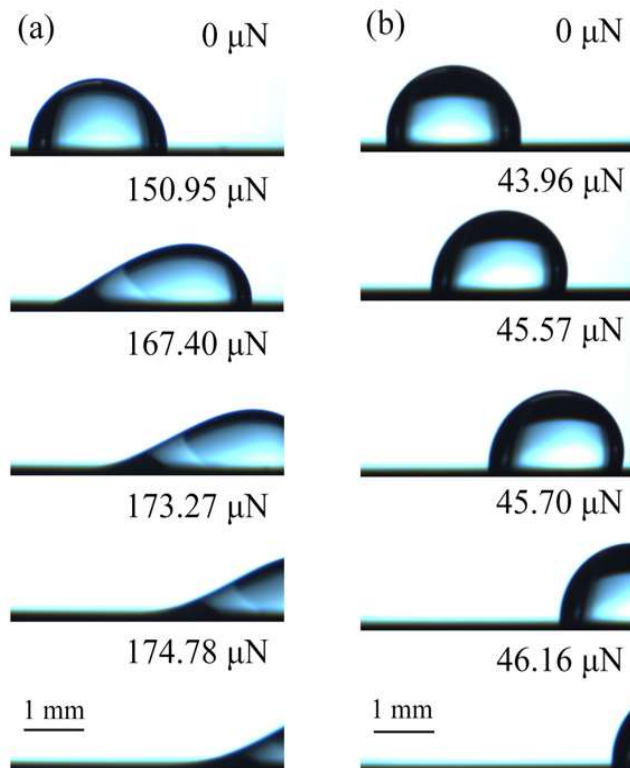


(b) Water

# Comparison of contact angles

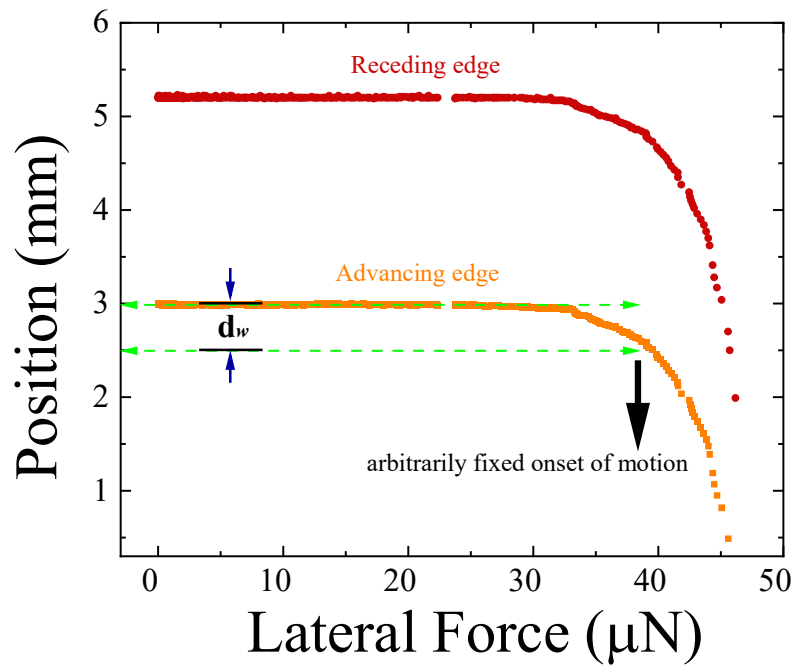


# Comparison of contact angles

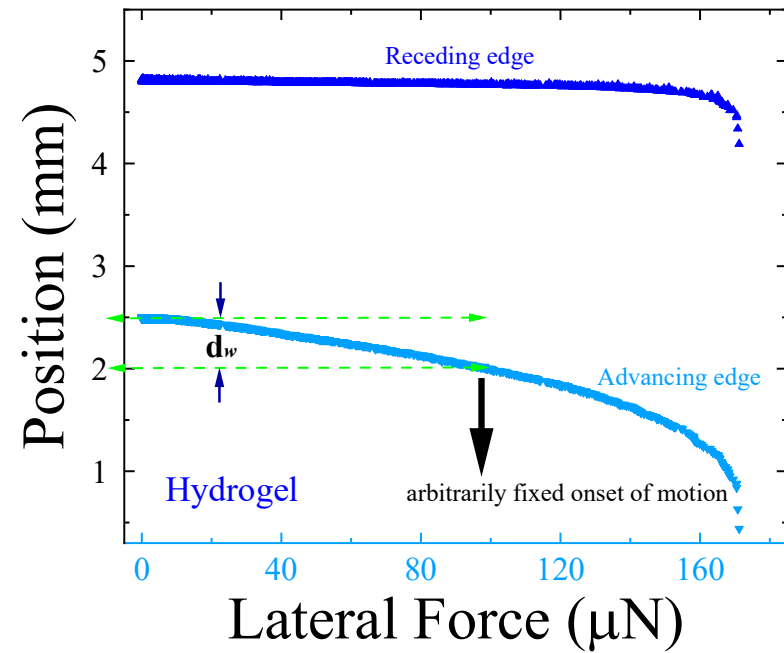
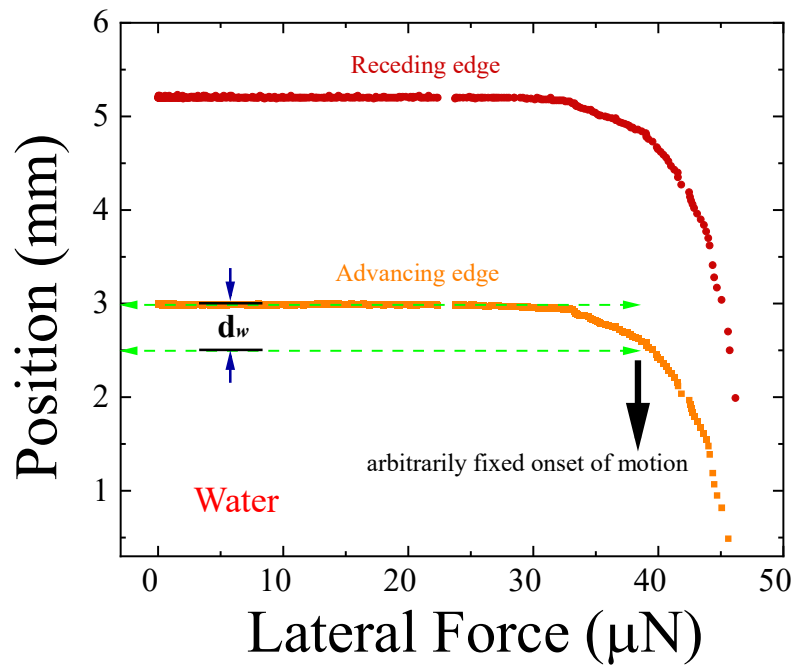




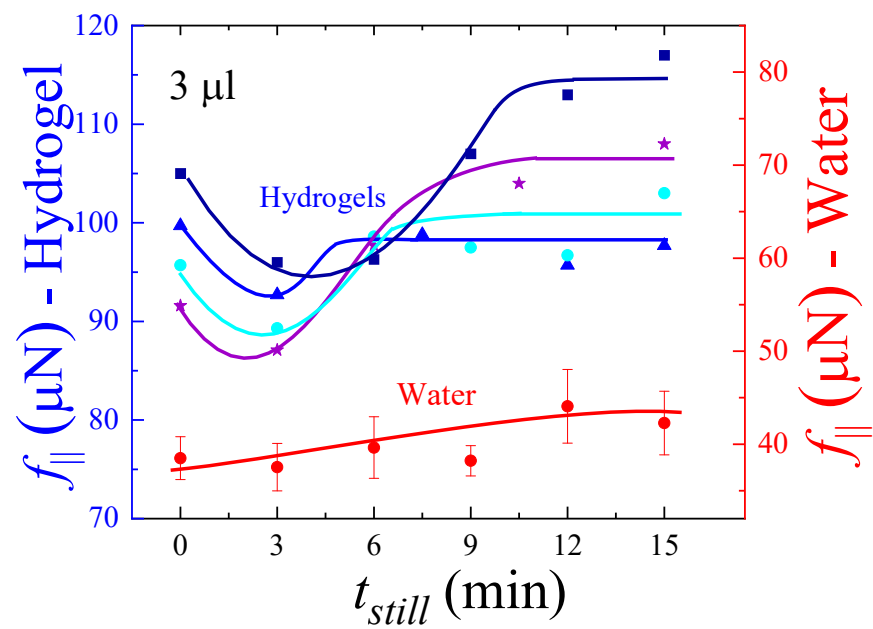
# Determination of onset of motion



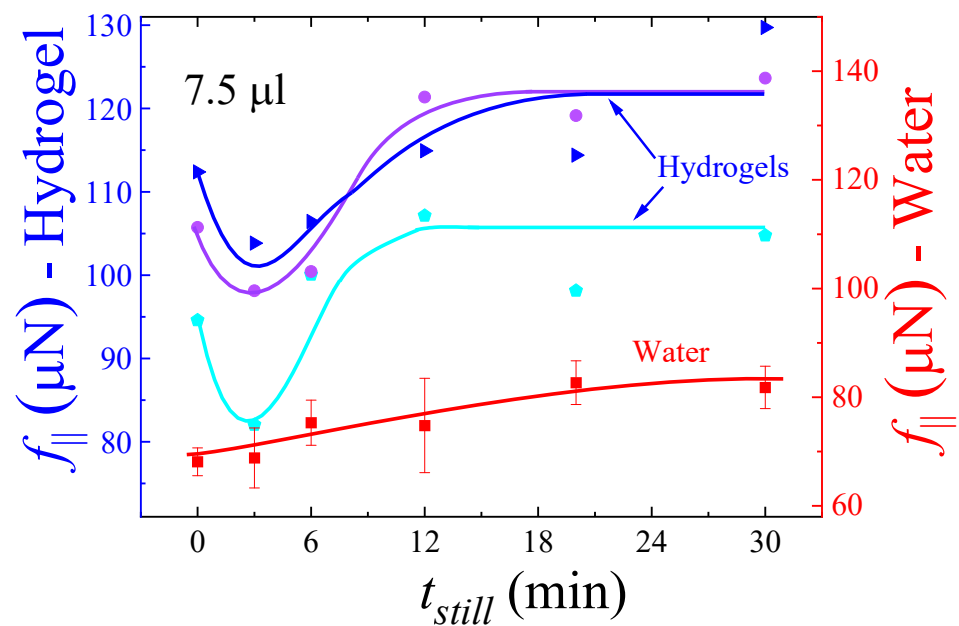
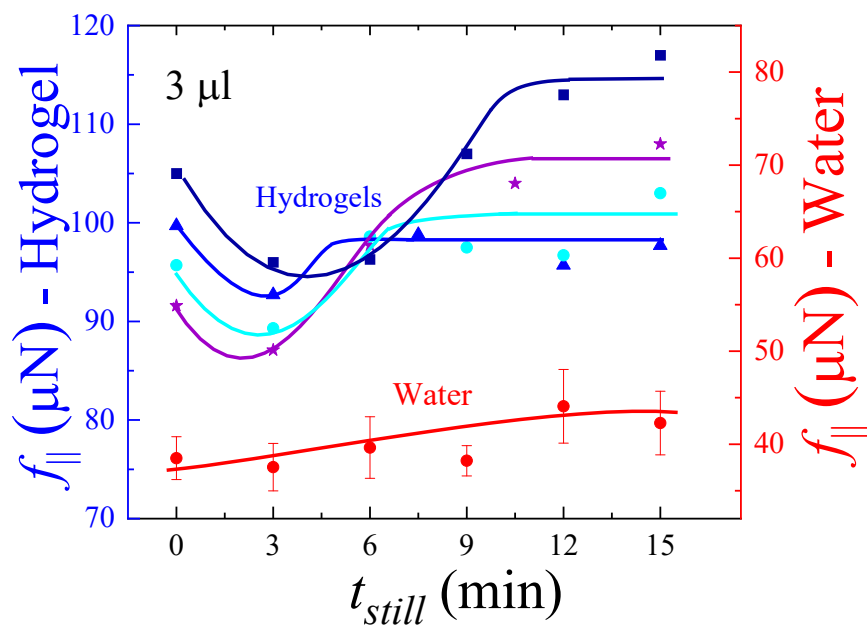
# Determination of onset of motion



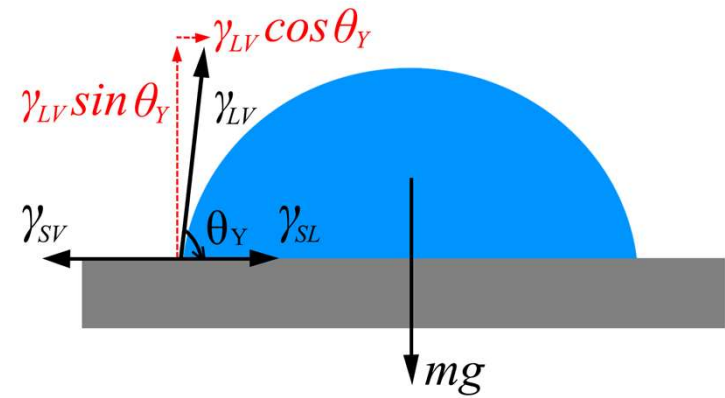
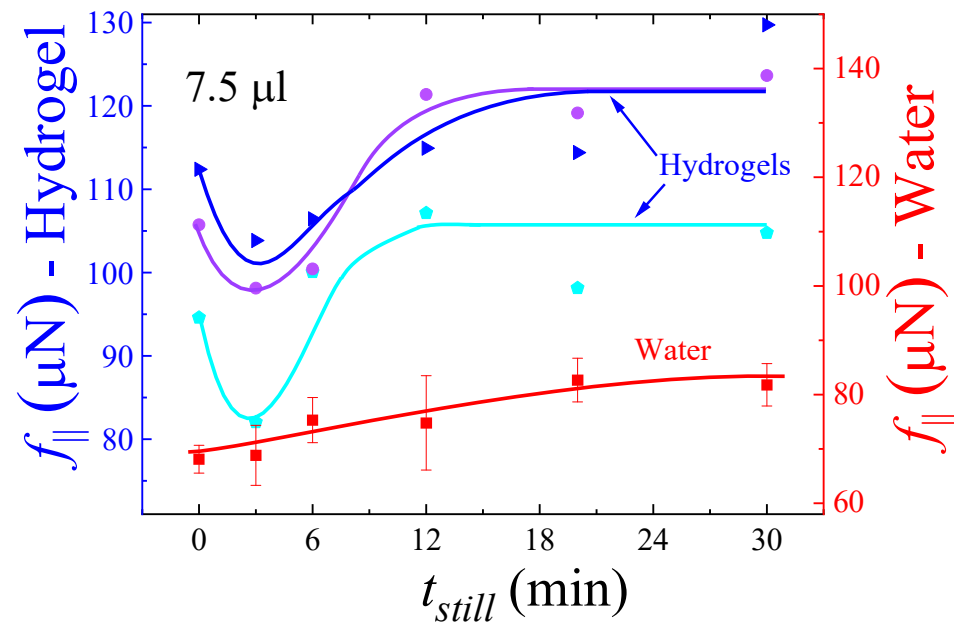
## Lateral force vs $t_{still}$



# Lateral force vs $t_{still}$



# Higher Retention Force



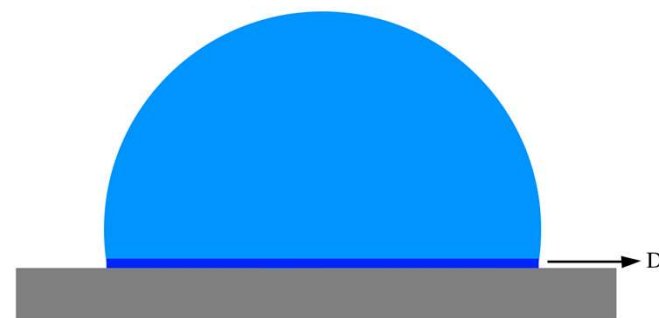
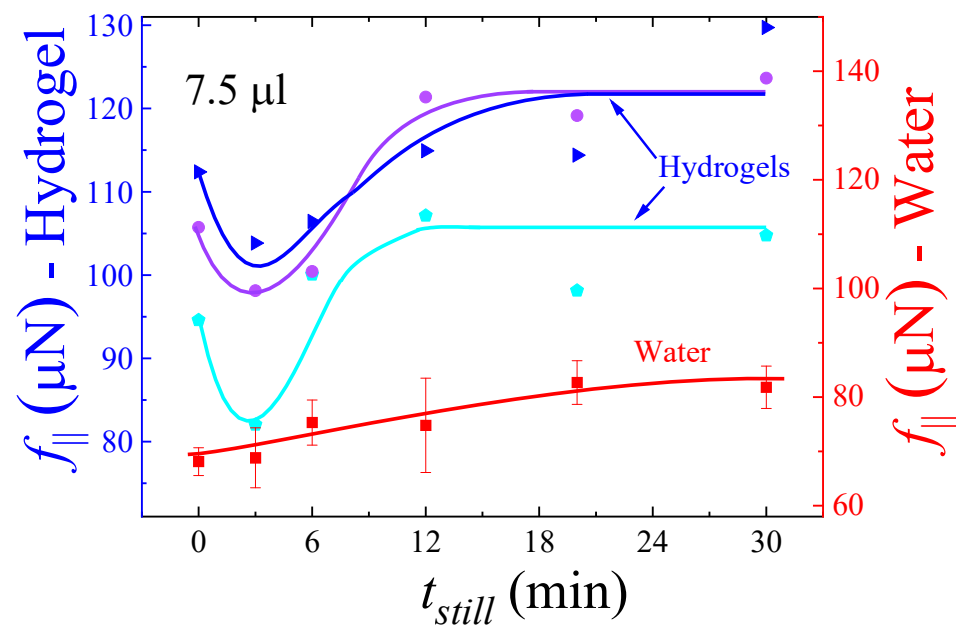
$$\gamma_{SV} = \gamma_{SL} + \gamma_{LV} \cos \theta_Y$$

Tadmor et al. Langmuir 2008

Carre et al. Nature 1996

Zhao et al. 2003

# Reduced Retention Force



1. Yasuda et al. Langmuir 1992.
2. Alexander, S. J Phys 1977.

# Reduced Retention Force

- Reorientation:  $\gamma_{SL,(t=0)} > \gamma_{SL,(t>0)}$

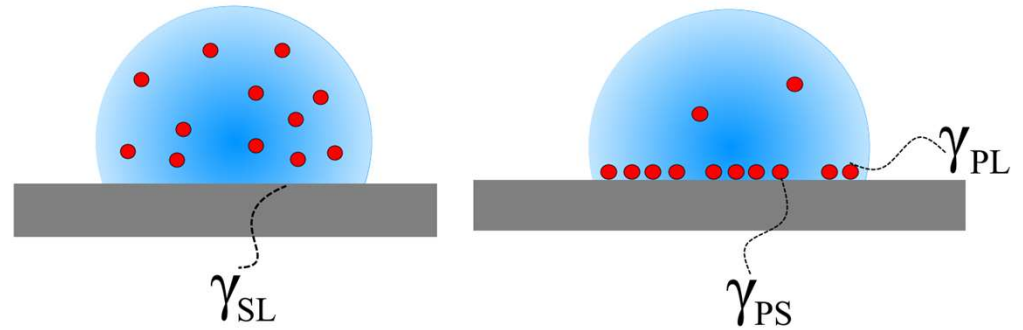
# Reduced Retention Force

- Reorientation:  $\gamma_{SL,(t=0)} > \gamma_{SL,(t>0)}$
- Our case:  $\gamma_{SL,(t=0)} < \gamma_{SL,(t>0)}$



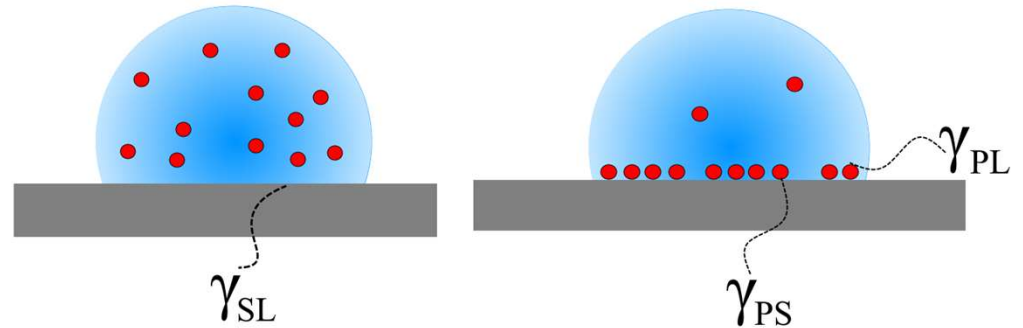
# Reduced Retention Force

- Reorientation:  $\gamma_{SL,(t=0)} > \gamma_{SL,(t>0)}$
- Our case:  $\gamma_{SL,(t=0)} < \gamma_{SL,(t>0)}$
- Adsorption:  $\gamma_{SL,(t=0)} < \gamma_{PL,(t>0)}$



# Reduced Retention Force

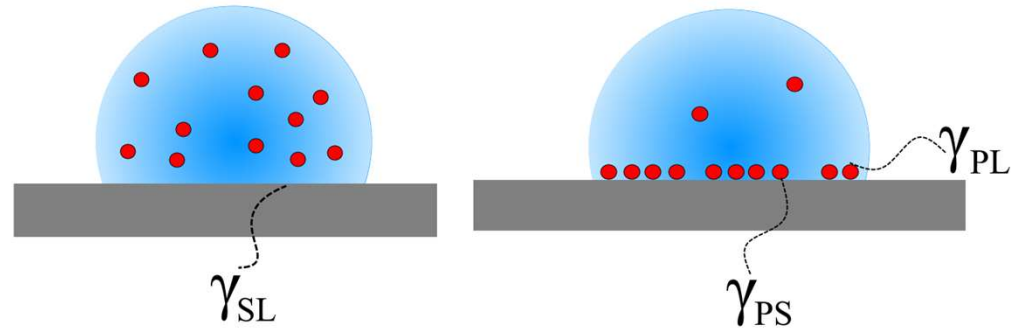
- Reorientation:  $\gamma_{SL,(t=0)} > \gamma_{SL,(t>0)}$
- Our case:  $\gamma_{SL,(t=0)} < \gamma_{SL,(t>0)}$
- Adsorption:  $\gamma_{SL,(t=0)} < \gamma_{PL,(t>0)}$



- **$G$  before adsorption:**  $\Delta G_{\text{mixing}} + \gamma_{SL(t=0)}A$

# Reduced Retention Force

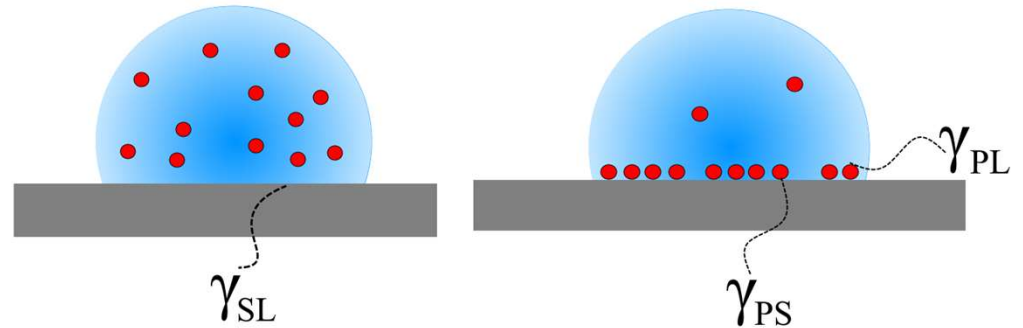
- Reorientation:  $\gamma_{SL,(t=0)} > \gamma_{SL,(t>0)}$
- Our case:  $\gamma_{SL,(t=0)} < \gamma_{SL,(t>0)}$
- Adsorption:  $\gamma_{SL,(t=0)} < \gamma_{PL,(t>0)}$



- **$G$  before adsorption:**  $\Delta G_{\text{mixing}} + \gamma_{SL,(t=0)} A$
- **$G$  after adsorption:**  $(\gamma_{PL,(t>0)} + \gamma_{PS,(t>0)}) A$

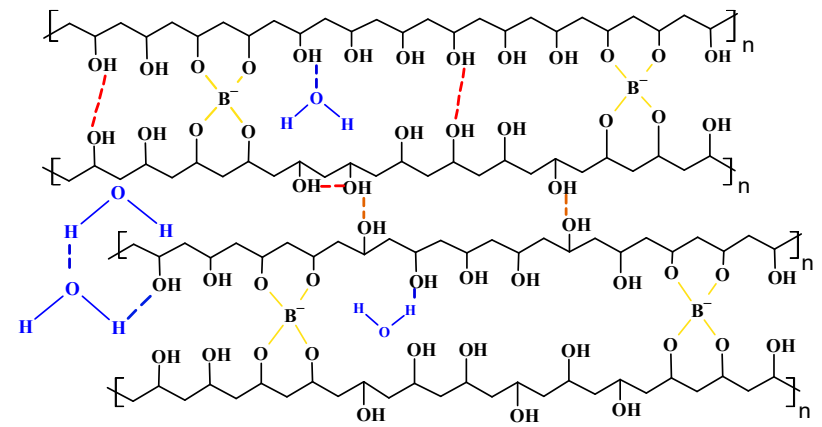
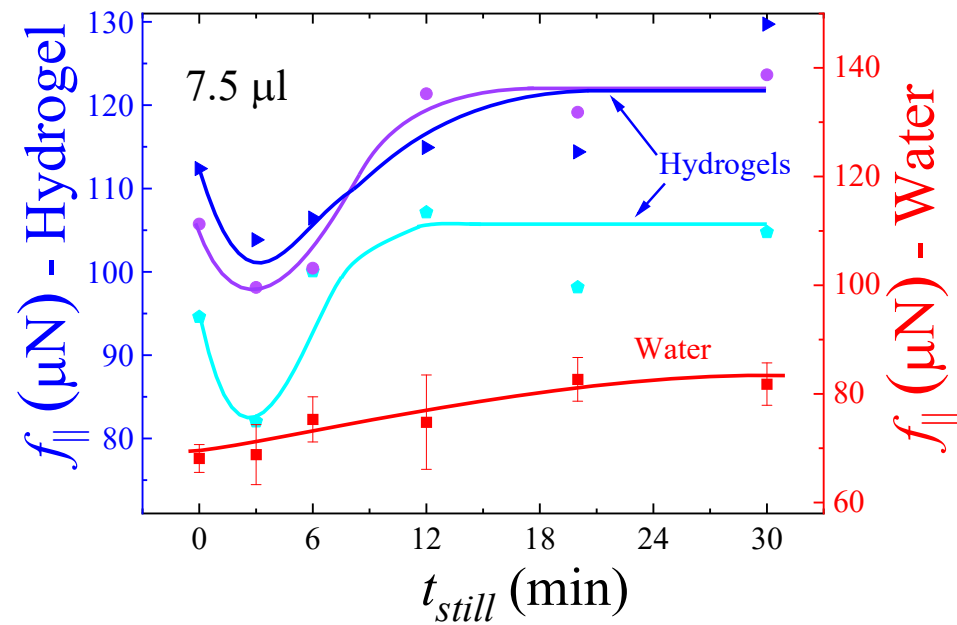
# Reduced Retention Force

- Reorientation:  $\gamma_{SL,(t=0)} > \gamma_{SL,(t>0)}$
- Our case:  $\gamma_{SL,(t=0)} < \gamma_{SL,(t>0)}$
- Adsorption:  $\gamma_{SL,(t=0)} < \gamma_{PL,(t>0)}$

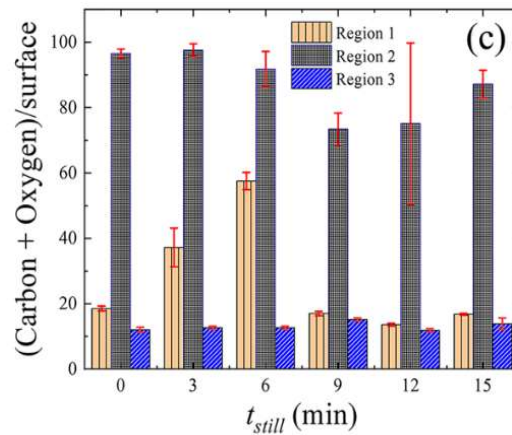
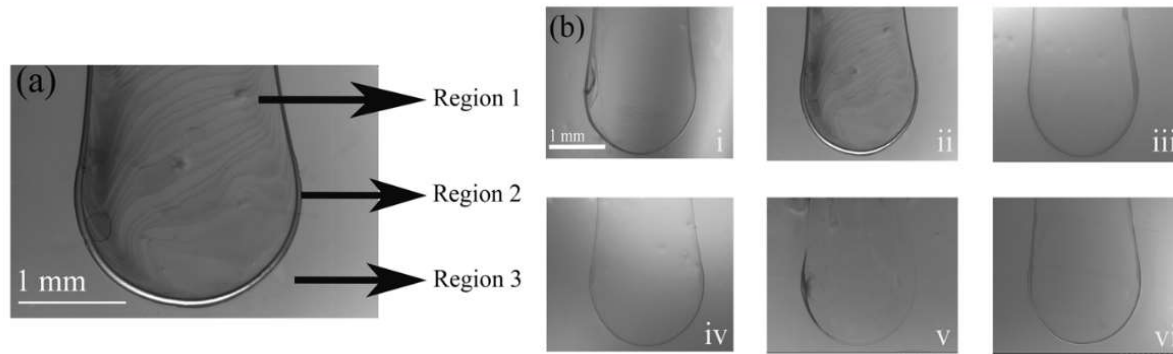


- **$G$  before adsorption:**  $\Delta G_{\text{mixing}} + \gamma_{SL,(t=0)} A$
- **$G$  after adsorption:**  $(\gamma_{PL,(t>0)} + \gamma_{PS,(t>0)}) A$
- $\Delta G_{\text{mixing}} + \gamma_{SL,(t=0)} A > (\gamma_{PL,(t>0)} + \gamma_{PS,(t>0)}) A$

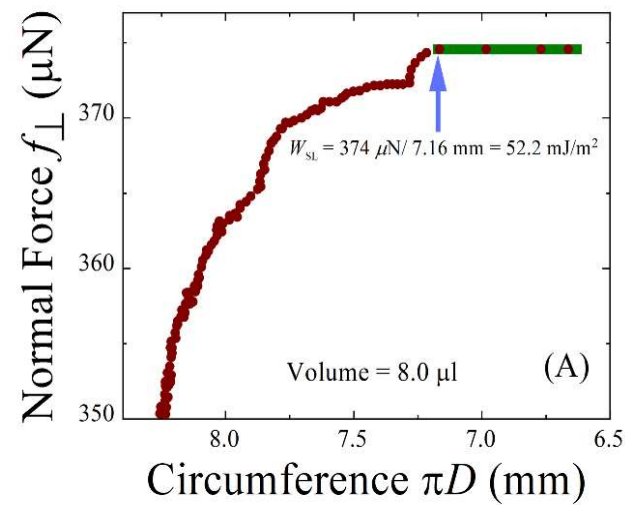
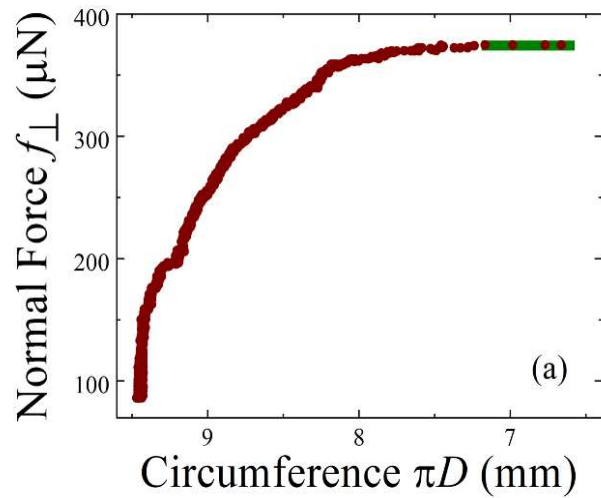
# Highest Retention Forces



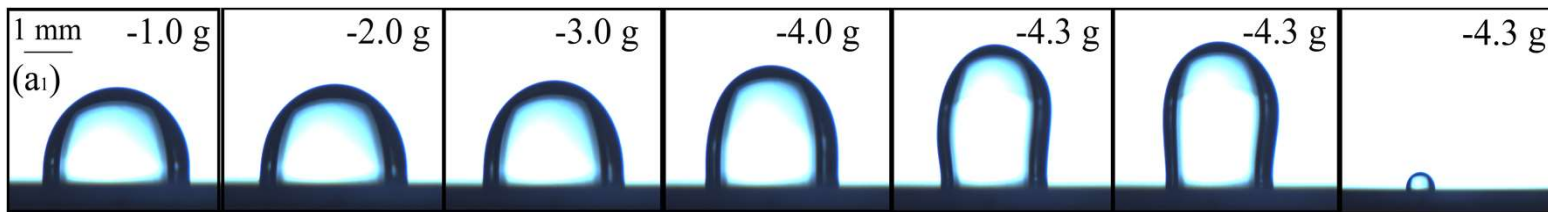
# Topographical study and Elemental analysis



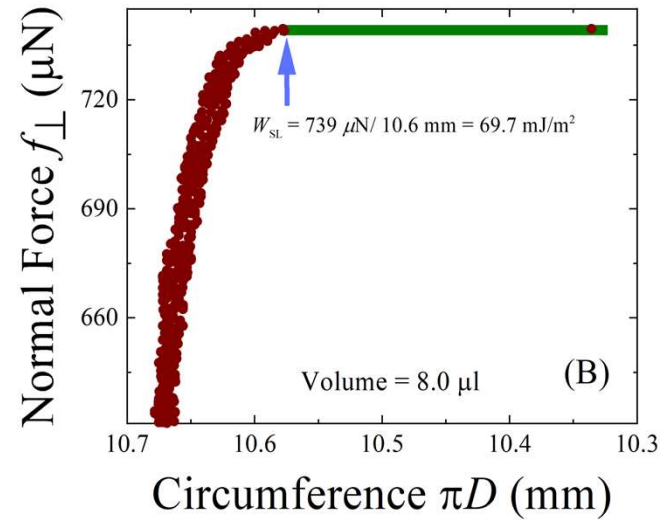
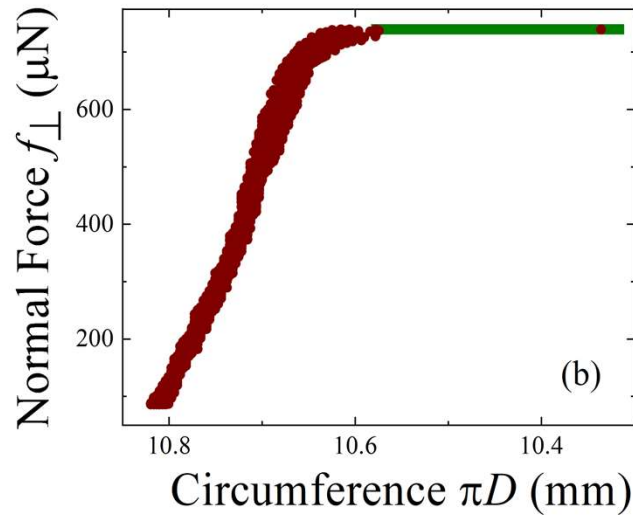
# Work of Adhesion water 0 mins $t_{still}$



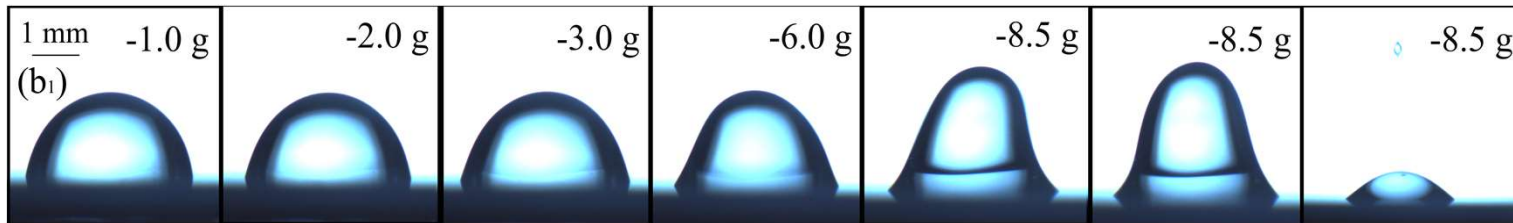
$$W_{SL} = \frac{374 \mu\text{N}}{7.16 \text{ mm}} = 52.2 \text{ mJ/m}^2$$



# Work of Adhesion Hydrogel 0 mins $t_{still}$

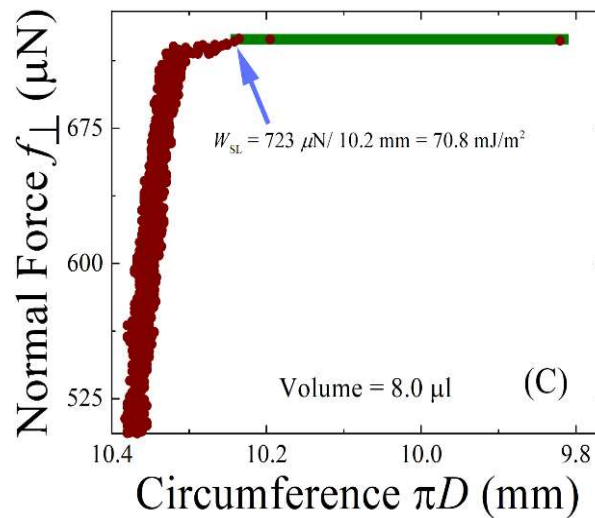
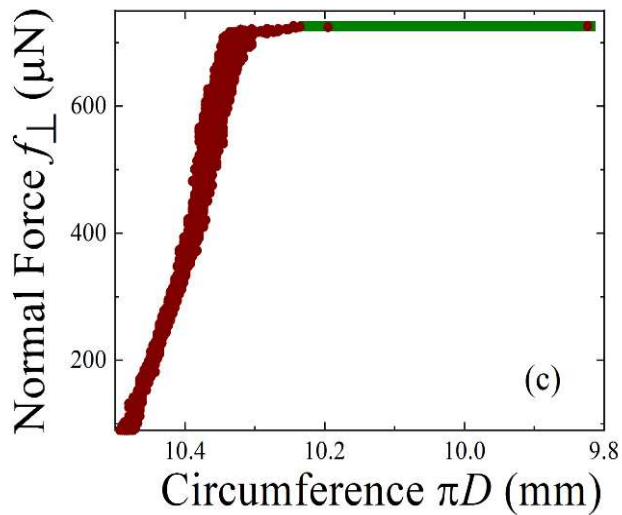


$$W_{SL} = \frac{739 \mu\text{N}}{10.6 \text{ mm}} = 69.7 \text{ mJ/m}^2$$

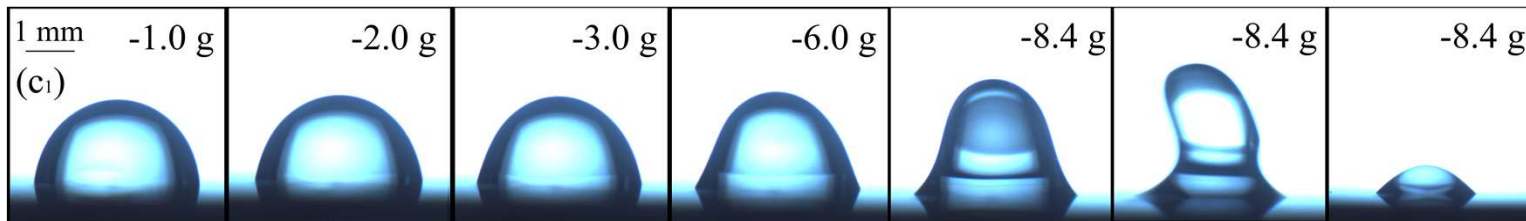




# Work of Adhesion Hydrogel 3 mins $t_{still}$



$$W_{SL} = \frac{723 \mu\text{N}}{10.2 \text{ mm}} = 70.8 \text{ mJ/m}^2$$



# Work of adhesion movie

Normal separation of 8.0  $\mu\text{l}$   
PVA hydrogel from  
C18 silanized silicon

Normal separation of 8.0  $\mu\text{l}$  of  
water from C18 silanized  
silicon

# Summary

- Water's  $f_{\parallel}$  grows with  $t_{still}$ , and plateaus.
- Gel's high  $f_{\parallel}$  at short  $t_{still}$  due to strong gel's solid surface adhesion.
- With increase  $t_{still}$ , polymer adsorbs on solid reduces the interfacial tension
- Afterwards, the entire droplet gets converted to a hydrogel

# Summary

- The already formed thin layer of polymer acts as a bridge that connects the newly formed aqueous hydrogel to the surface
- This strong intermolecular attraction of the newly formed hydrogel to the existing layer of polymer makes it difficult for the drop to slide over the surface.

# PVA Hydrogel: Mucus secreted by Gastropods

- *PVA hydrogel is reminiscent of the mucus secreted by gastropods*
  - The reduction in the lateral retention force at early waiting times facilitates locomotion of gastropods
  - Increase in the lateral force at longer waiting time can be useful for its adhesion

# Acknowledgements

- Surface Science Lab

- Yagna Bhimavarapu
- Akash K Jena
- Semih Gulec
- Ratul Das
- Hartmann N'guessan
- Sirui Tang
- Dr. Rafael Tadmor\*

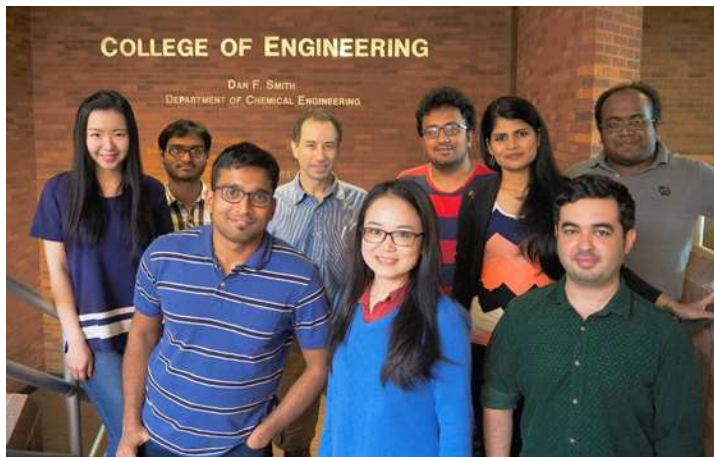
(Professor and Simmons Distinguished Faculty Fellow)

**Dr. Prabir Patra**

(Chair, Biomedical Engineering, Professor of Biomedical Engineering and Mechanical Engineering, School of Engineering)

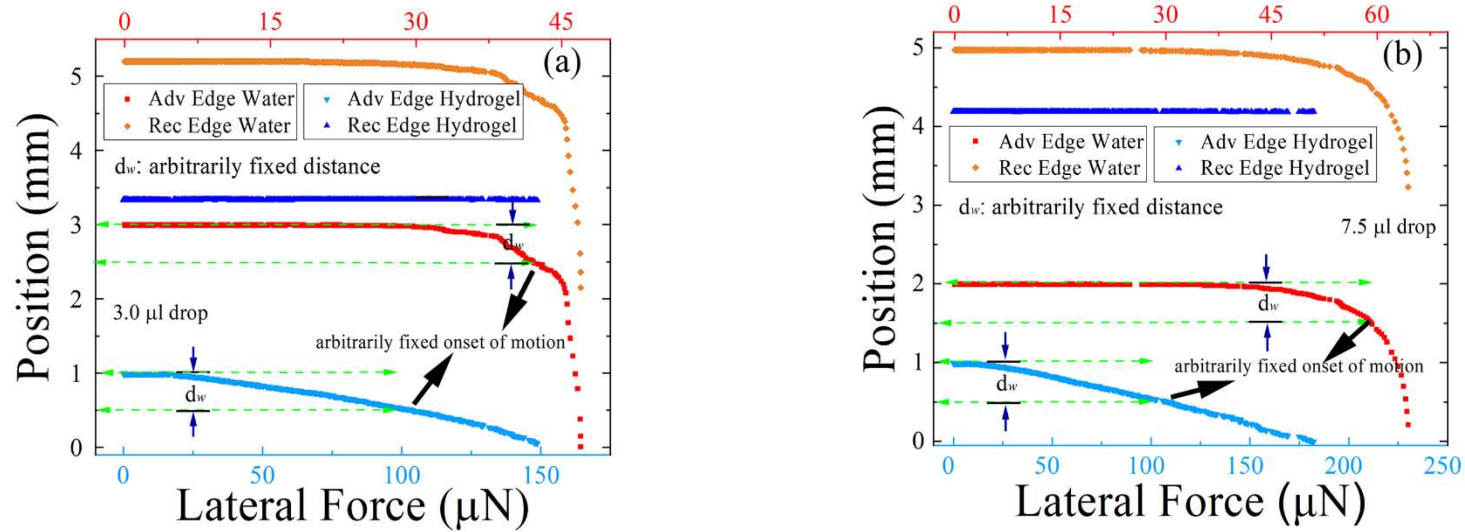
**Dr. Robert Vajtai**

(Research professor Rice University)



Thank you

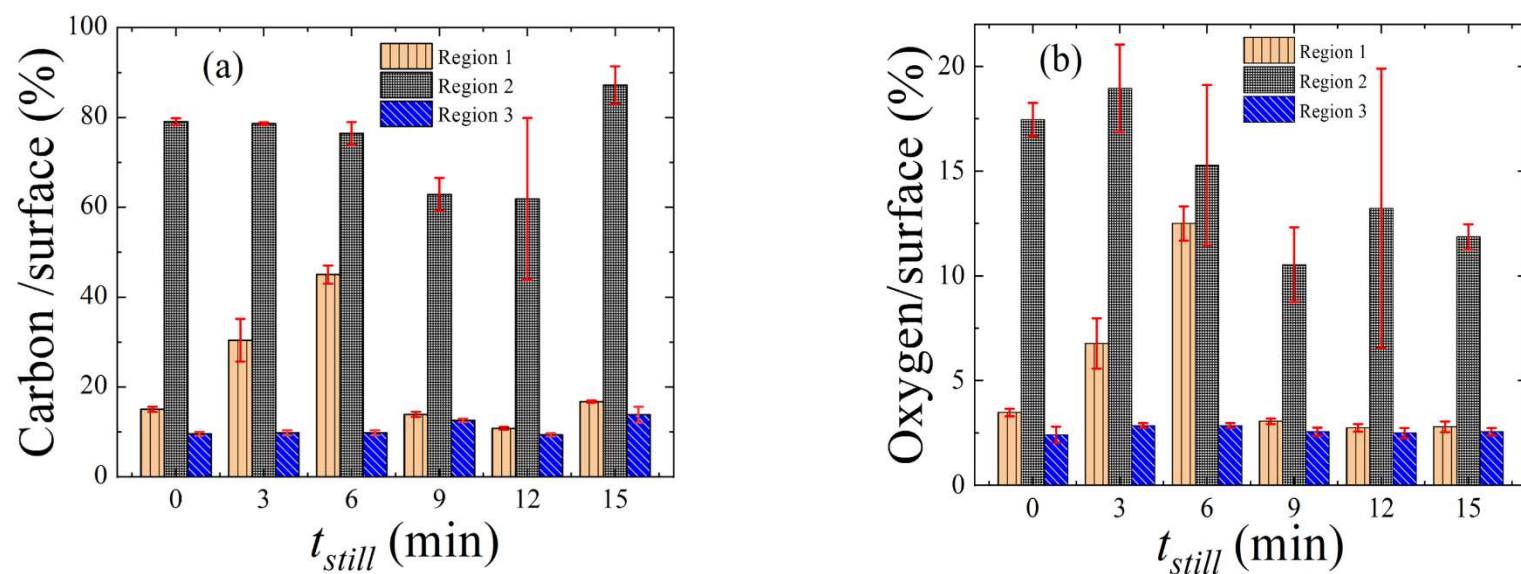
## Reason for a fixed distance



**Figure. S4.** Determination of onset of motion of drops on silanized silicon surface (a) 3.0  $\mu\text{l}$  and (b) 7.5  $\mu\text{l}$  of a different  $t_{\text{still}}$  from Figure. S3.



# SEM-EDS Analysis



**Figure. S5.** Quantification of elements at the surface from hydrogel and trimethoxy (octadecyl) silane with variation in  $t_{still}$  (a) Carbon (b) Oxygen.

- Dissociation of sodium tetraborate decahydrate
- Make sure the letters are covered properly

# Further details

- $\text{CH}_3(\text{CH}_2)_{17}\text{Si}(\text{OCH}_3)_3$
- Molecular weight 374.67
- Density 0.883 g/mL at 25 °C (lit.)
- Borax is the sodium tetraborate decahydrate ( $\text{Na}_2\text{B}_4\text{O}_7 \cdot 10\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ) that, when dissolved in water, is hydrolyzed to boric acid and  $\text{OH}^-$  anions, yielding a pH of about 9.13

## Experimental procedure for surface preparation



Fig. 2: Procedure for preparation of Silanized Silicon Surface.

Elnai, H et al. *Electrochim Acta* 2009, 54(25), 6063-6069

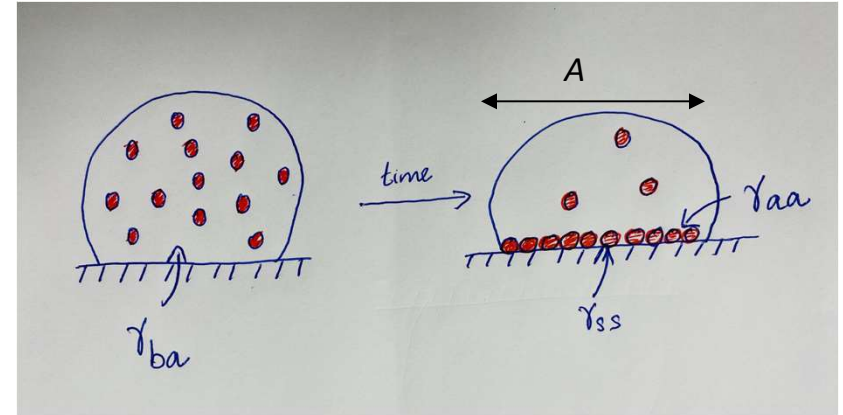


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# Reduced Retention Force

Reorientation:  $\gamma_{SL}(t = 0) > \gamma_{SL}(t > 0)$

Adsorption (our case):  $\gamma_{SL}(t = 0) < \gamma_{SL}(t > 0)$



- $E_{sol} + \gamma_{SL}(t=0)A > (\gamma_{aa} + \gamma_{ss})A$

- $E_{sol}$  = Free energy associated with the existence of the solute (polymer) in the solvent (water).
- $\gamma_{ba}$  = interfacial tension before polymer adsorption
- $\gamma_{aa}$  = interfacial tension after polymer adsorption
- $\gamma_{ss}$  = interfacial tension between the adsorbed polymer layer and the surface

- *As opposed to molecular reorientation of time effect in which the interfacial energy must go down, because the solid-liquid interaction must go up, in the case of adsorption the interfacial energy can either go up or down because of the above equation.*