4th Scientific Colloquium

Simplified model for a rivulet spreading down an inclined wetted plate



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Outline

Introduction

- Introduction
 - Why to study rivulet interface - Coordinate system
 - Basic principleAssumptions

Why to study rivulets

Introduction

Numerous applications in mass transfer and reaction engineering



[Sulzer ChemTech]

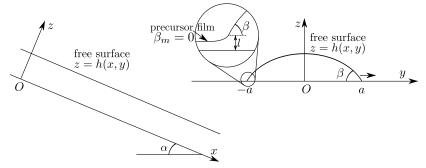
Hydrodynamics

- Fuel cells
 - water management inside PEMFC fuel cells
- Aerospace engineering
 - in flight formation of rivulets on plane wings

Gas-liquid interface

- Packed columns
 - wetting performance
 - mass transfer coefficients
- Catalytic reactors
 - wetting of the catalyst

Cartesian coordinate system and basic notations



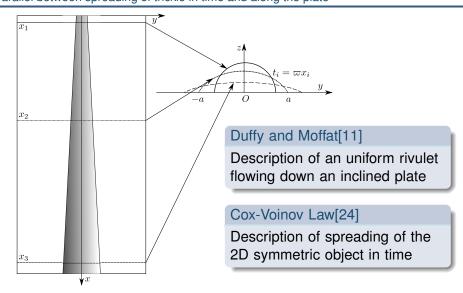
Notations

Introduction

 $a[\mathrm{m}]$ half-width of the rivulet $h[\mathrm{m}]$ height $l[\mathrm{m}]$.. intermediate region length scale

 $x,y,z[\mathrm{m}]$ coordinate system $\alpha[-]$ plate inclination angle $\beta[-]$ dynamic contact angle

Parallel between spreading of trickle in time and along the plate



Symplifying assumptions

Reduce problem to one spatial and one time coordinate

• Newtonian liquid, ρ , μ and γ are constant

- $h_t(t, x, y) = 0$, Q is constant
- $\mathbf{u} = (u, v, w), u \gg v \sim w$
- $z = h : u_x = v_y = 0$
- Gravity is the only acting body force.
- The rivulet is shallow. Its dynamic contact angles are
- There is a thin precursor film of height l on the whole

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- There is a thin precursor film of height l on the whole studied surface. Thus there is no contact angle hysteresis and $\beta_m=0$. The height of the precursor film, l, can also be taken as the intermediate region length scale well separating the inner and outer solution for the profile shape[24].

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Outline

- (2) Static rivulet
 - Gas-liquid interface Liquid flow rate

Simplified Navier-Stokes equations

Assumption of very shallow and nearly flat rivulet[11, 12]

Simplified NS

$$0 = -p_x + \rho g \sin \alpha + \mu u_{zz}$$
$$0 = -p_y$$
$$0 = -p_z - \rho g \cos \alpha$$

Used boundary conditions

$$egin{array}{lll} z=&0: &u=u(y,z)=0 \ z=&h: &p=p_A-\gamma h_{yy} & ext{and} &u_z=0 \ y=\pm a: &h=0 & ext{and} &h_y=\mp aneta \end{array}$$

Notes

$$h = h(y), \quad h_y = \frac{\mathrm{d} h}{\mathrm{d} u}, \quad p = p(y, z)$$

Legend to results of integration

In the presented case, there exist a physical solution for $\alpha \in (0,\pi)$

Notation

The problem decomposes to three cases which will be denoted:

- (i) $\iff \alpha \in (0, \pi/2)$
- $(ii) \iff \alpha = \pi/2$
- $(iii) \iff \alpha \in (\pi/2, \pi)$

Dimensionless numbers

$$B = a^2 \frac{\rho g \cos |\alpha|}{\gamma} \qquad \qquad \rho[\log m^{-3}] \ ...$$

Rectilinear rivulet gas-liquid interface shape

Gas-liquid interface shape for the three cases

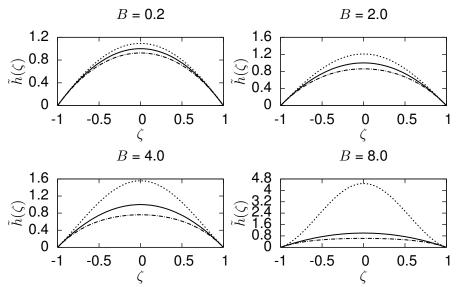
$$h(\zeta) = \begin{cases} \frac{a \tan \beta}{\sqrt{B}} \left(\frac{\cosh \sqrt{B} - \cosh \sqrt{B}\zeta}{\sinh \sqrt{B}} \right) & (i) \\ \frac{a \tan \beta}{2} (1 - \zeta^2) & (ii) \\ \frac{a \tan \beta}{\sqrt{B}} \left(\frac{\cos \sqrt{B}\zeta - \cos \sqrt{B}}{\sin \sqrt{B}} \right) & (iii) \end{cases}$$

Scaling of the GL interface height

$$\tilde{h}(\zeta) = \frac{2h(\zeta)}{a\tan\beta}$$

Effects of Bond number on GL interface shape

Dependence of GL interface shape on the ratio of surface and volumetric forces



Liquid volumetric flow rate

Integration of velocity field on a domain of one transversal cut

Velocity field integration

$$\frac{Q}{a} = \int_{-1}^{1} \int_{0}^{h(\zeta)} u(\zeta, z) dz d\zeta = \int_{-1}^{1} \int_{0}^{h(\zeta)} \frac{\rho g \sin \alpha}{2\mu} \left(2h(\zeta)z - z^2 \right) dz d\zeta$$

Dimensionless liquid flow rate

$$\frac{\mu Q}{a^4 \rho g \sin \alpha \tan^3 \beta} = F(B)$$

$$F(B) = \begin{cases} \frac{54\sqrt{B}\cosh\sqrt{B} + 6\sqrt{B}\cosh3\sqrt{B} - 27\sinh\sqrt{B} - 11\sinh3\sqrt{B}}{36B^2\sinh^3\sqrt{B}} & (i) \\ \frac{4}{105} & (ii) \\ \frac{27\sin\sqrt{B} + 11\sin3\sqrt{B} - 54\sqrt{B}\cos\sqrt{B} - 6\sqrt{B}\cos3\sqrt{B}}{36B^2\sin^3\sqrt{B}} & (iii) \end{cases}$$

Liquid flow rate scaling and properties

Maximal flow rate occurs at $\alpha = \pi/2$

Scaling

$$\tilde{Q} = \frac{105\mu}{4a^4\rho g \sin\alpha \tan^3\beta} Q = \frac{105\rho g\mu \cos^2\alpha}{4\gamma^2 \sin\alpha \tan^3\beta} \frac{Q}{B^2}$$

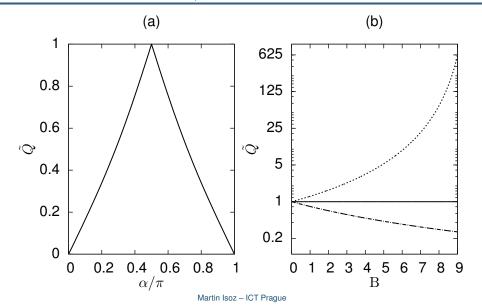
Asymptotic behavior

$$(i): \lim_{\mathbf{R} \to \mathbf{R}} \tilde{Q}(\mathbf{B}) = 0$$

$$\begin{aligned} (i): & \lim_{\mathbf{B} \to \infty} \, \tilde{Q}(\mathbf{B}) = 0 \\ (iii): & \lim_{\mathbf{B} \to \pi_{-}^{2}} \tilde{Q}(\mathbf{B}) = \infty \end{aligned}$$

Liquid flow rate scaling and properties

Maximal flow rate occurs at $\alpha = \pi/2$



Outline

- (3) Spreading rivulet
 - Problem definition
- Basics
- Gas-liquid interface

Difference from static rivulet

Changed boundary conditions

Simplified NS

$$0 = -p_x + \rho g \sin \alpha + \mu u_{zz}$$

$$0 = -p_z - \rho g \cos \alpha$$

Used boundary conditions

$$\begin{array}{lll} z = & 0: & \mathbf{u}(x,y,z) + \lambda \nabla \mathbf{u} = \mathbf{0}, & \lambda \ll 1 \\ z = & h: & p = p_A - \gamma \kappa & \text{and} & u_z = 0 \\ y = \pm a(x): & h = 0 & \text{and} & h_y = \mp \tan \beta(x) \end{array}$$

Notes

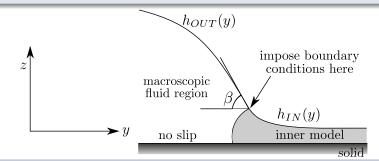
$$h = h(x, y), \quad h_y = \frac{\partial h}{\partial y}, \quad p = p(x, y, z)$$

Cox-Voinov law

Solution of thin film governing equation for spreading of symmetric object[24]

Thin film governing equation - outer and inner

$$h_t + \frac{\gamma}{3\mu} \frac{\partial}{\partial a} (h^3 h_{aaa}) = 0, \qquad h_t + \frac{1}{3\mu} \frac{\partial}{\partial a} \left[\left(h^3 + 3\lambda h^2 \right) \gamma h_{aaa} \right] = 0$$



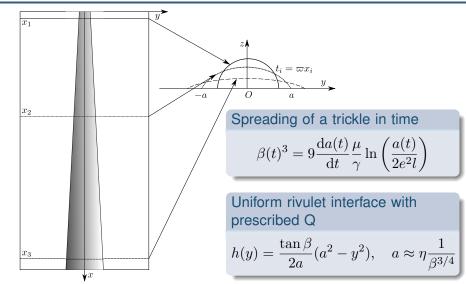
Cox-Voinov law[24]

$$\beta(t)^{3} = 9 \frac{\mathrm{d}a(t)}{\mathrm{d}t} \frac{\mu}{\gamma} \ln \left(\frac{a(t)}{2e^{2}l} \right)$$

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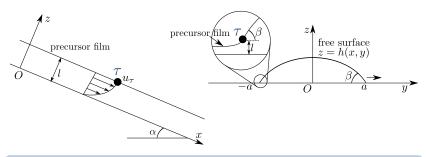
Basic principle remainder

Combination of Cox-Voinov law with unidirectional rivulet flow description



Transformation from t to x

Presence of falling thin liquid film, *l*, on all the plate



From t to x using u_{τ}

$$u_{\tau} = \frac{\rho g \sin \alpha}{2\mu} l^2 \implies t = \frac{2\mu}{\rho g l^2 \sin \alpha} x = \varpi x$$

Modeling method for the case of no gravity effects Gas-liquid interface shape defined implicitely by 1 NAE

•
$$\beta \ll 1 \implies a \doteq \eta \frac{1}{\beta^{3/4}}$$

$$\beta(t)^{3} = 9 \frac{\mathrm{d}a(t)}{\mathrm{d}t} \frac{\mu}{\gamma} \ln\left(\frac{a(t)}{2e^{2}l}\right) \rightsquigarrow \beta^{19/4} = -A \frac{\mathrm{d}\beta}{\mathrm{d}t} \ln\left(\frac{B}{\beta^{3/4}}\right)$$
$$\beta = \beta(t), \quad A = \frac{27}{4} \frac{\eta\mu}{\gamma}, \quad B = \frac{\eta}{2e^{2}l}, \quad \eta = \left(\frac{4\mu Q}{105\rho g \sin \alpha}\right)^{\frac{1}{4}}$$

$$\beta(0) = \beta_0, \quad t = \varpi x \leadsto x - \frac{\bar{A}}{\beta^{15/4}} \left[\ln \left(\frac{B}{\beta^{3/4}} \right) - \frac{1}{5} \right] + \bar{C} = 0$$
$$\bar{A} = \frac{4}{15} \frac{A}{\varpi}, \quad \bar{C} = \frac{4A}{15\varpi \beta_0^{15/4}} \left[\ln \left(\frac{B}{\beta_0^{3/4}} \right) - \frac{1}{5} \right]$$

Modeling method gravity effects

1 ODE with 1 NAE nested in each time step has to be solved numerically

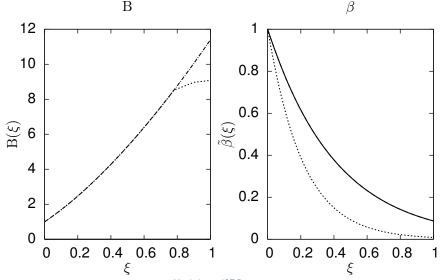
•
$$t = \varpi x$$
, $\beta(0) = \beta_0$

$$\frac{\mu Q}{a^4 \rho q \sin \alpha \tan^3 \beta} = F(B)$$

$$\beta(\varpi x)^{3} = \frac{9}{\varpi} \frac{\mathrm{d}a(\varpi x)}{\mathrm{d}x} \frac{\mu}{\gamma} \ln \left(\frac{a(\varpi x)}{2e^{2}l} \right)$$

B and β along the plate

$$\xi = x/L$$
, $\tilde{\beta} = \beta/\beta_0$, $L = 0.1$ m, $\beta_0 = 0.05$, $Q = 0.01$ ml s⁻¹, $\alpha/\pi = \{1/3, 2\pi/3\}$



Outline

- (4) Velocity field
 - In x axis direction
- In y and z directions

Velocity in *x*-axis direction

Approximated through the static rivulet description

Dimensional $u(\mathbf{x})$

$$\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}) = (u(\mathbf{x}), v(\mathbf{x}), w(\mathbf{x}))$$

$$u(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{\rho g \sin \alpha}{2\mu} \left(2h(x, y)z - z^2 \right)$$

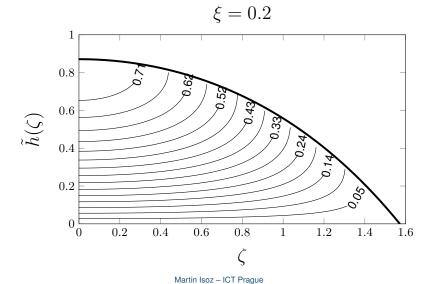
Scaling

$$\xi = \frac{x}{L}, \quad \zeta = \frac{y}{a(0)}, \quad \tilde{z} = \frac{z}{h(0,0)}$$

$$\tilde{u} = \frac{u}{u(\mathbf{0})}$$

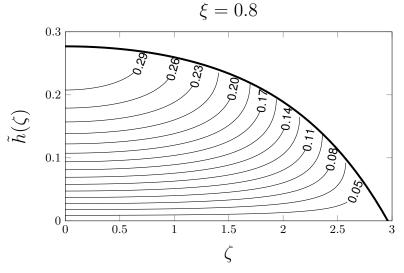
Contours plot of velocity in x-axis direction

Water, $\xi = x/L$, $\tilde{\beta} = \beta/\beta_0$, $L = 0.1 \,\mathrm{m}$, $\beta_0 = 0.05$, $Q = 0.01 \,\mathrm{ml \, s^{-1}}$, $\alpha = \pi/3$



Contours plot of velocity in *x*-axis direction

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Simulation of velocity field in transversal cut Numerical PIV based technique – connect the dots

For each subrivulet:

• Get the current width of the rivulet, ζ_i , from the Cox-Voinov law.

Velocity field

- Calculate the current maximal rivulet height, \tilde{h}_i^0 , from description of an uniform rivulet.
- Create a mesh Ω_i^h on a domain Ω_i ,

$$\Omega_i = \left\{ (\zeta, \tilde{z}) : \zeta \in \langle 0; \zeta_i \rangle \mid \tilde{z} \leq \tilde{h}_i(\zeta) \right\}$$

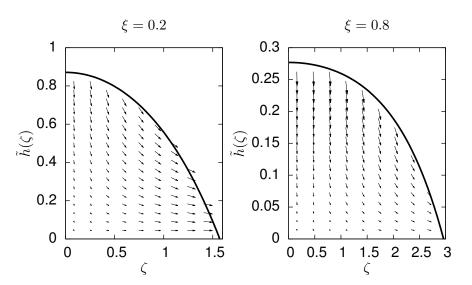
$$\Omega_i^h = \left\{ (\zeta^j, \tilde{z}^k) : \zeta^j \in \langle 0; \zeta_i \rangle \mid \tilde{z}^k \leq \tilde{h}_i(\zeta^j) \right\}_{j=1,\dots,M_1; k=1,\dots,M_2}$$

• Save the current mesh, Ω_i^h .

From the saved meshes, Ω_i^h , $i=1,\ldots,N$, evaluate the velocity field in the $\zeta-\tilde{h}$ plane (connect the dots).

Simulated velocity field v and w components

Water, $\xi = x/L$, $\tilde{\beta} = \beta/\beta_0$, $L = 0.1 \,\mathrm{m}$, $\beta_0 = 0.05$, $Q = 0.01 \,\mathrm{ml \, s^{-1}}$, $\alpha = \pi/3$



Conclusions

Simple yet accurate enough method to determine size of (g) - (l) interface of rivulet

Practical advantages of proposed algorithm

- Suitable for parallelization
- Usable for qualitative study of dependence of S_{q-1} on process parameters

Accuracy

Deviation < 5% in comparison with experimental data.

Outlook

- Study of spreading on dry plate
- Study of transition states between dry and wetted plate

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In order of appearance

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Thank you for your attention