Title: Superficial

Student A, Student B, Student C, and Professor $Brown\ University$

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INTRODUCTION

Thin floating objects mutually attract or repel through capillary interactions in a shape-dependent mechanism. Objects with corners, which we refer to as sharp objects, approach each other and rotate such that corners kiss first, after which the objects will roll or slide into more stable configurations. In Figure 1 is a top down time-series view of 1" acrylic triangles as they approach each other.

//Need Motivation//

The localized attraction to the corners is a poorly understood result of a pinned contact line onto the corners where the surface gradients diverge thus possibly having different behavior than smooth objects. For spheres and cylinders, there are analytical explanations using multipole expansions in analogy to electrostatics but we present an alternative perspective using conformal mapping to show a power-law scaling near a corner. From that scaling, we calculate the attractive forces between sharp objects with corners of various angles and compare the experimental measurements.

METHODS

//Explanation of measuring surface gradients to calculate force - explain the equation to calculate force//

We calculate the attractive force between two floating objects by measuring the surface gradients of the deformed interface ... DIC

$$F_h \approx \frac{\sigma}{2} \int_C \left[\frac{u^2}{l_c^2} - u_n^2 + u_t^2 \right] dt$$
 (1)

Figure 2 shows that calculated force between two 1/16" thick acrylic circles as a function of distance. //Show experimental set-up//

//As a check, show attractive force between spheres and compare with literature//

RESULTS

//Show derivation for conformal mapping on angles// //Show ux scaling for the inner and outer region// //Show Force plot and regions of scaling//

DISCUSSION

What does this mean?

Force concentrated at vertices is much stronger than force between smooth edges.

FIGURES

Figure 1: Analog of introduction in figures

Figure 2: Schematic for experiment and representative results

Figure 3: Power law scaling and force vs. distances.

Figure 4: On the boundary integral methods

NOTES