

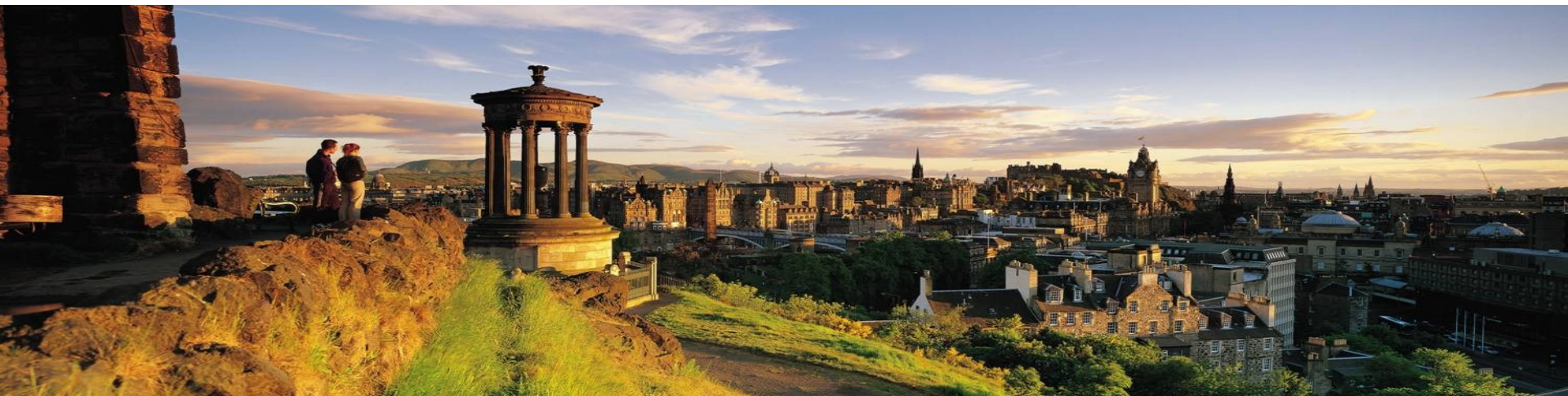
From wetting and evaporation of drops to **Leidenfrost engine**



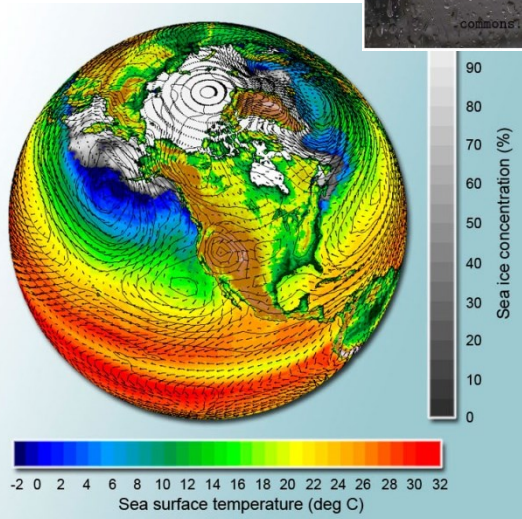
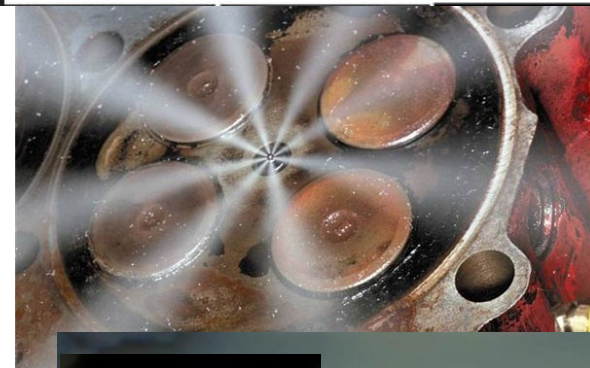
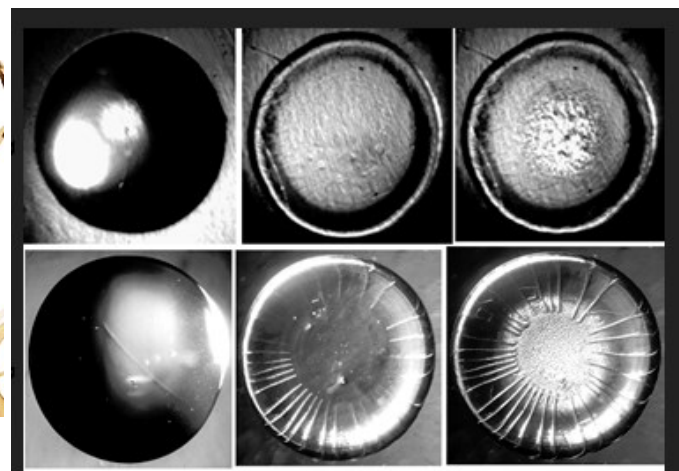
THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH



Prof. Khellil Sefiane, University of Edinburgh, UK
ksefiane@ed.ac.uk



Drops are everywhere



Contact lines and multiscales

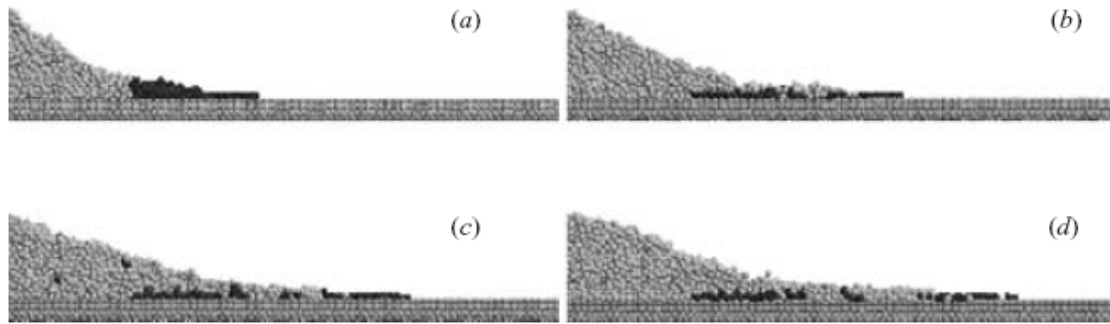
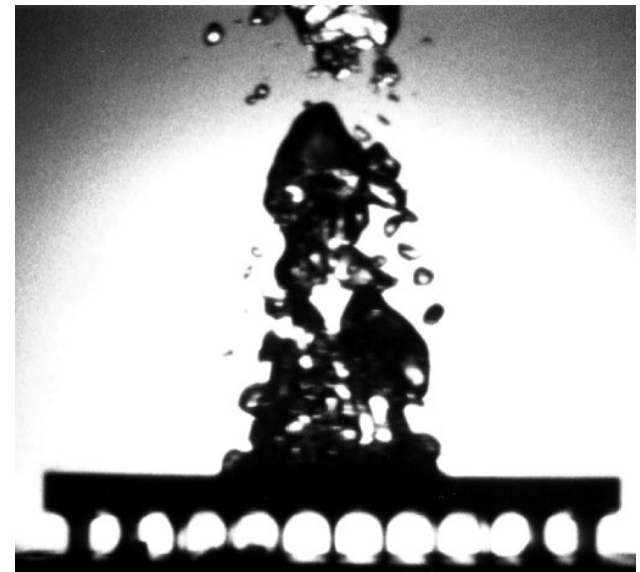
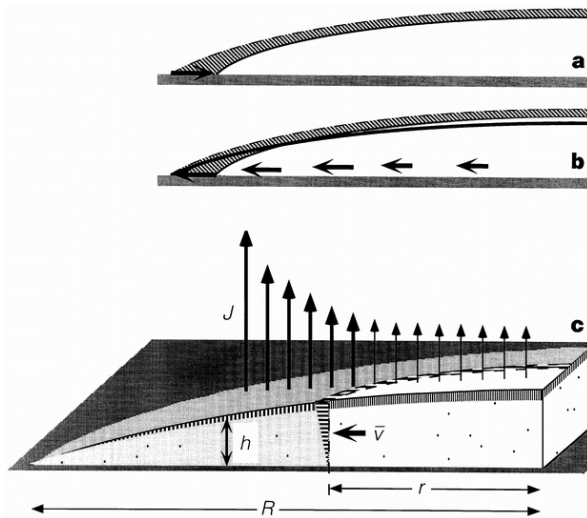


FIGURE 2. Snapshots of the droplet spreading process at (a) $t/t_{LJ} = 5000$, (b) 10 000, (c) 15 000, (d) 20 000. Particles in the precursor region in (a) are marked with a dark colour such that their subsequent motion can be tracked. The caterpillar-type motion first reported by Dussan V. & Davis is observed, as well as slipping motion close to the tip of the precursor.



James Clerk Maxwell
Scotland (1831 - 1879)

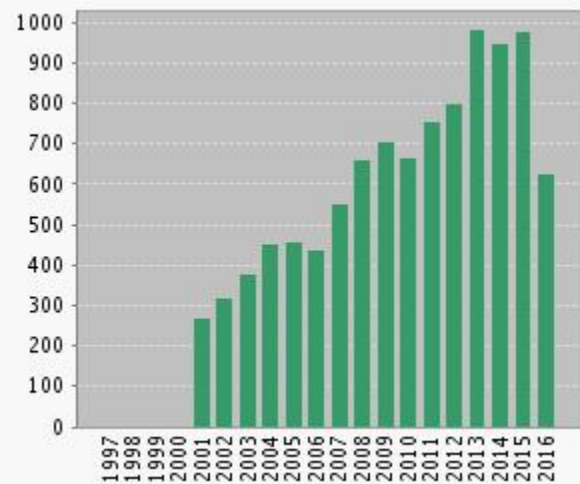


Outline of presentation

Research Areas

- PHYSICS (3,930)
- ENGINEERING (3,432)
- CHEMISTRY (2,725)
- MATERIALS SCIENCE (1,963)
- METEOROLOGY ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCES (1,609)

1. Effect of substrate thermal properties
2. Instabilities and Hydrothermal waves
3. Lifetimes of drops
4. **Leidenfrost Engine**



Drop AND Evaporation

1. Effect of Substrate Thermal Properties On Drop Evaporation

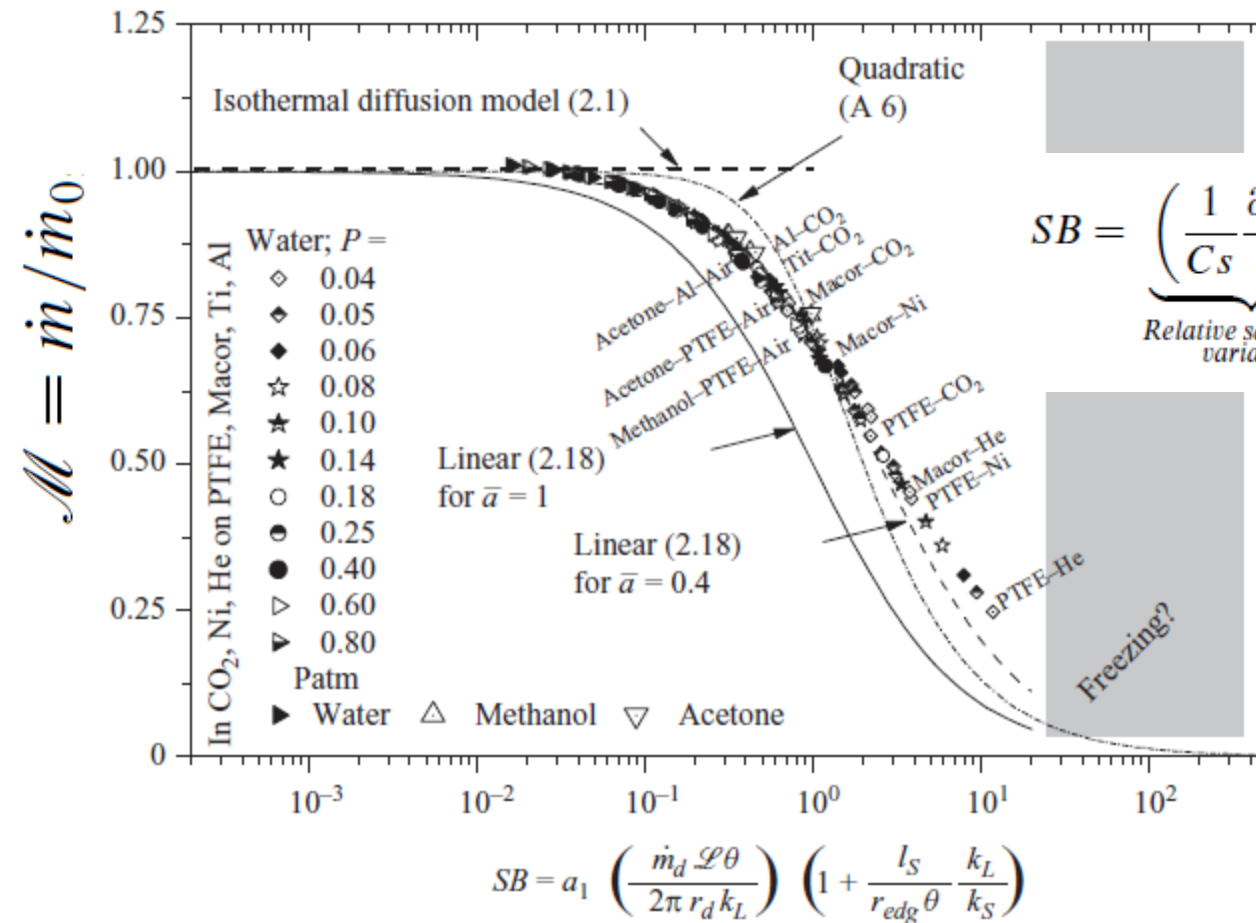
A new dimensionless number for the effect of substrate thermal properties

Journal of Fluid Mechanics.
p. 329-351, 2009.



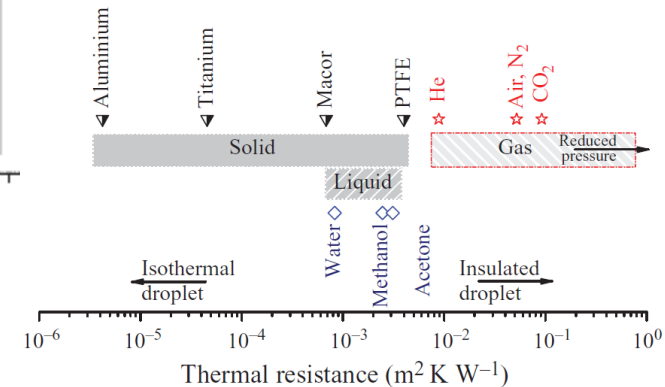
IOP Institute of Physics

*Printing and Graphics
Science Group Prize 2009*



$$SB = \underbrace{\left(\frac{1}{C_s} \frac{\partial C_s}{\partial T} \right)}_{\text{Relative saturation variation}} \underbrace{\left(\frac{\dot{m}_d \mathcal{L}}{k_L 2\pi r_d \theta} \right)}_{\text{Resulting temperature difference}} \underbrace{\left(1 + \frac{l_S k_L}{l_L k_S} \right)}_{\text{Liquid-solid relative thermal resistance}}$$

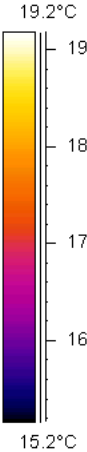
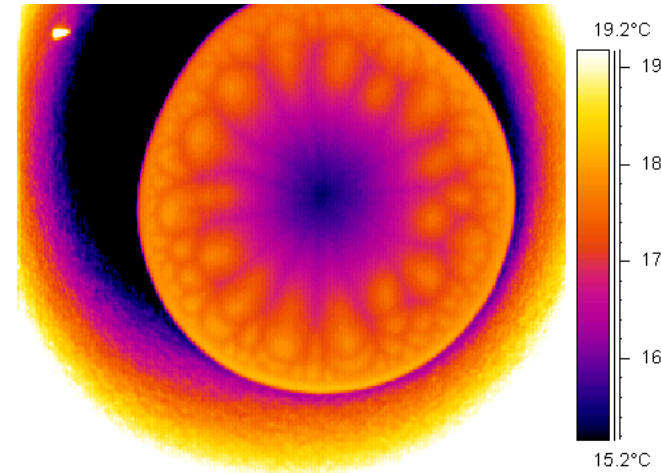
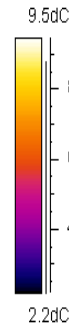
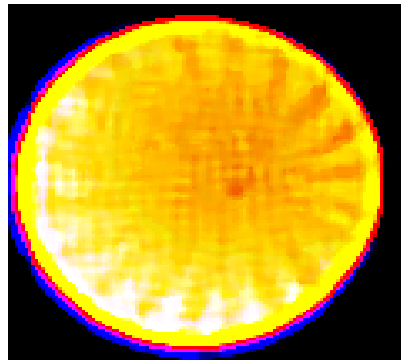
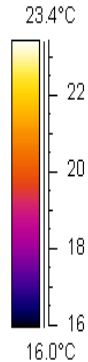
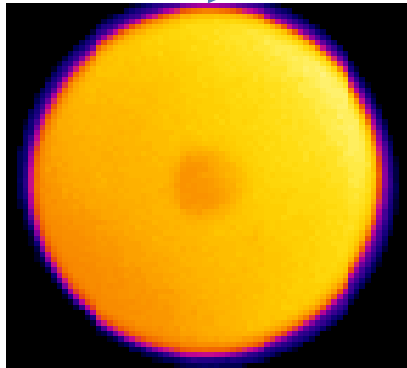
Journal of Fluid Mechanics.
p. 260-271, 2011.



2. Instabilities and Hydrothermal waves in drops

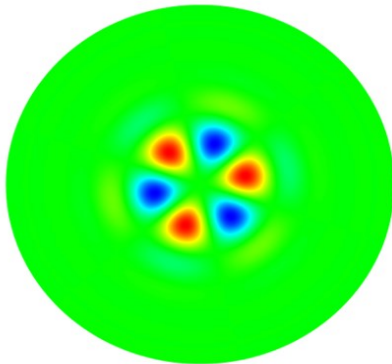
Sefiane *et al.*, *APPLIED PHYSICS LETTERS*, 2008, 93, 074103

Water (b. pt. 100°C): weak thermal activity



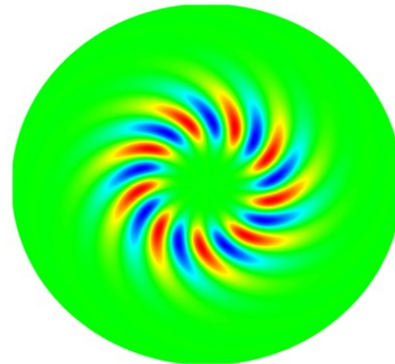
Methanol (b. pt. 64.7°C): thermal waves

$k=3, \alpha=0.022$



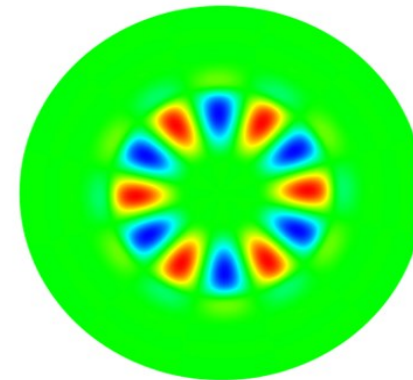
b) $Re=100, Pr=1, t=25$

$k=9, \alpha=0.064+0.088i$



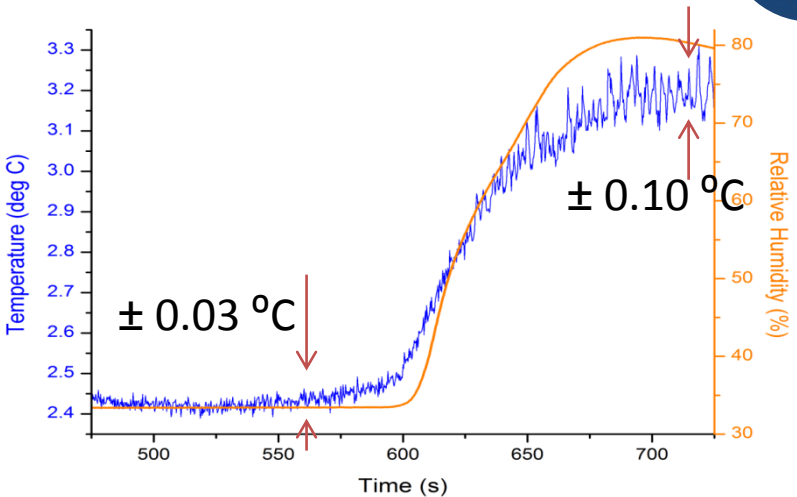
a) $Re=100, Pr=1, t=2.5$

$k=6, \alpha=0.145$



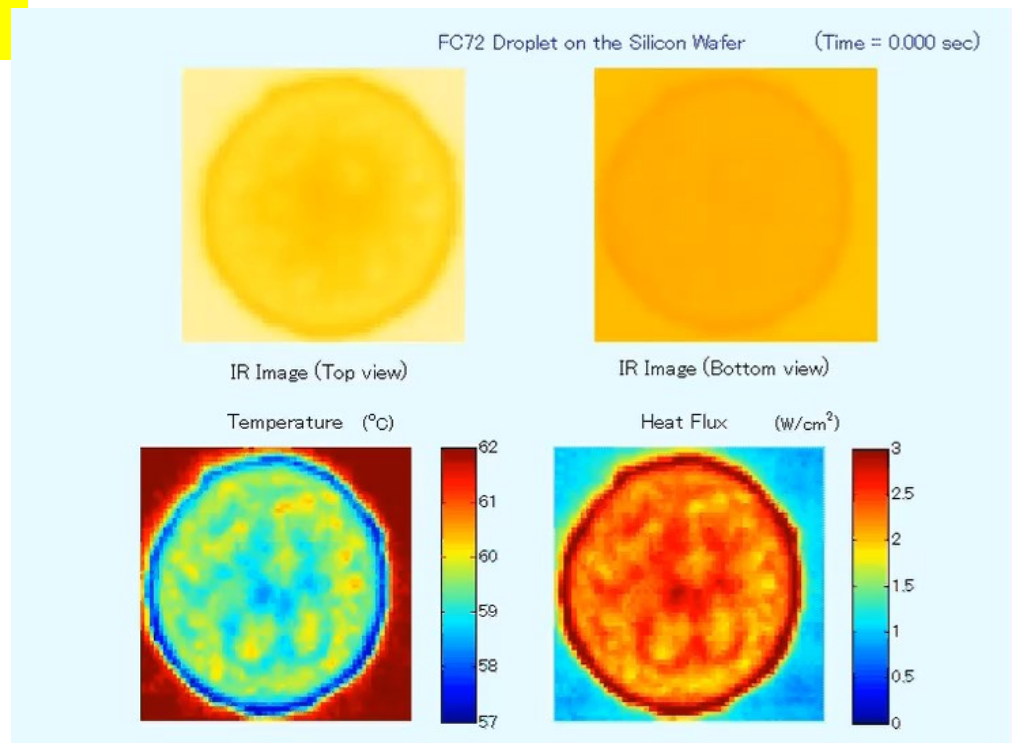
c) $Re=20, Pr=7, t=125$

Effect of humidity on HTW in sessile drop evaporation

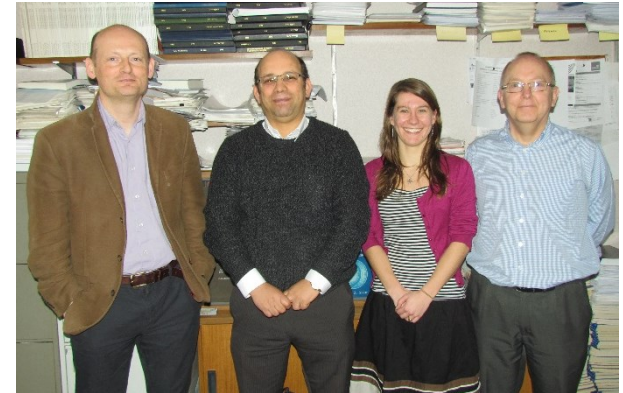


Langmuir, 2013, 29 (31), pp 9750–9760

Langmuir, 2013, 29 (43), pp 13239–13250



3. Lifetimes of drops..?



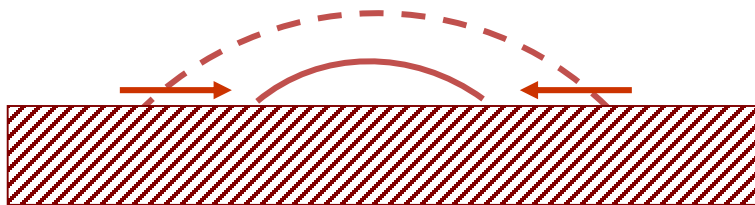
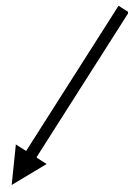
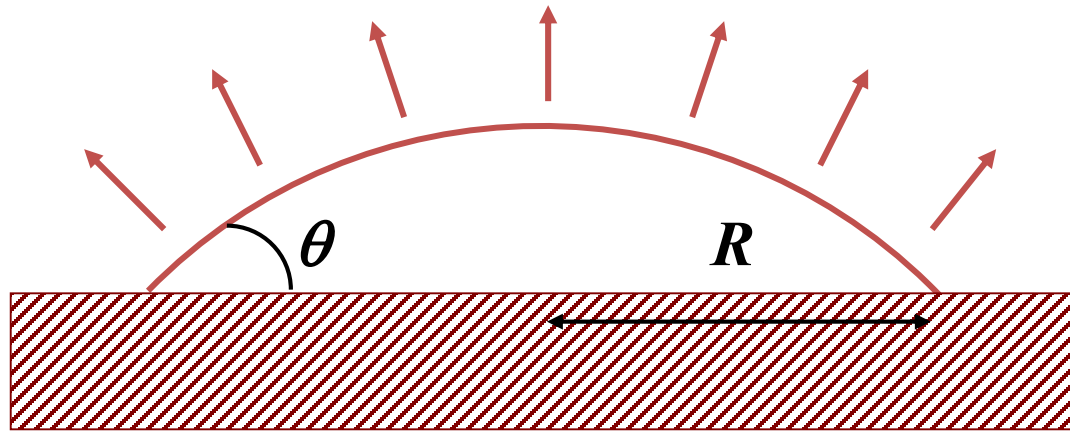
K. Sefiane²

²School of Engineering
University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK

J. Stauber¹ S. K. Wilson¹ B. R. Duffy¹

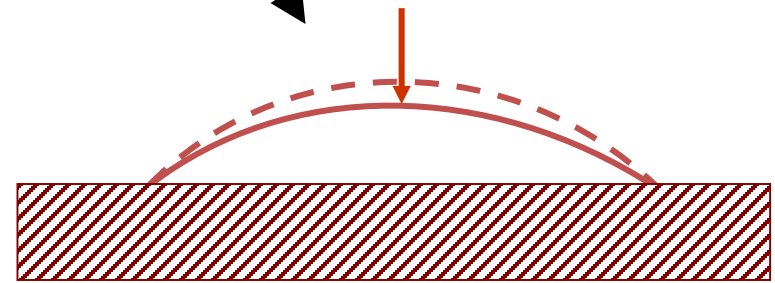
¹Department of Mathematics and Statistics
University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, UK

...with evaporation?



θ constant?

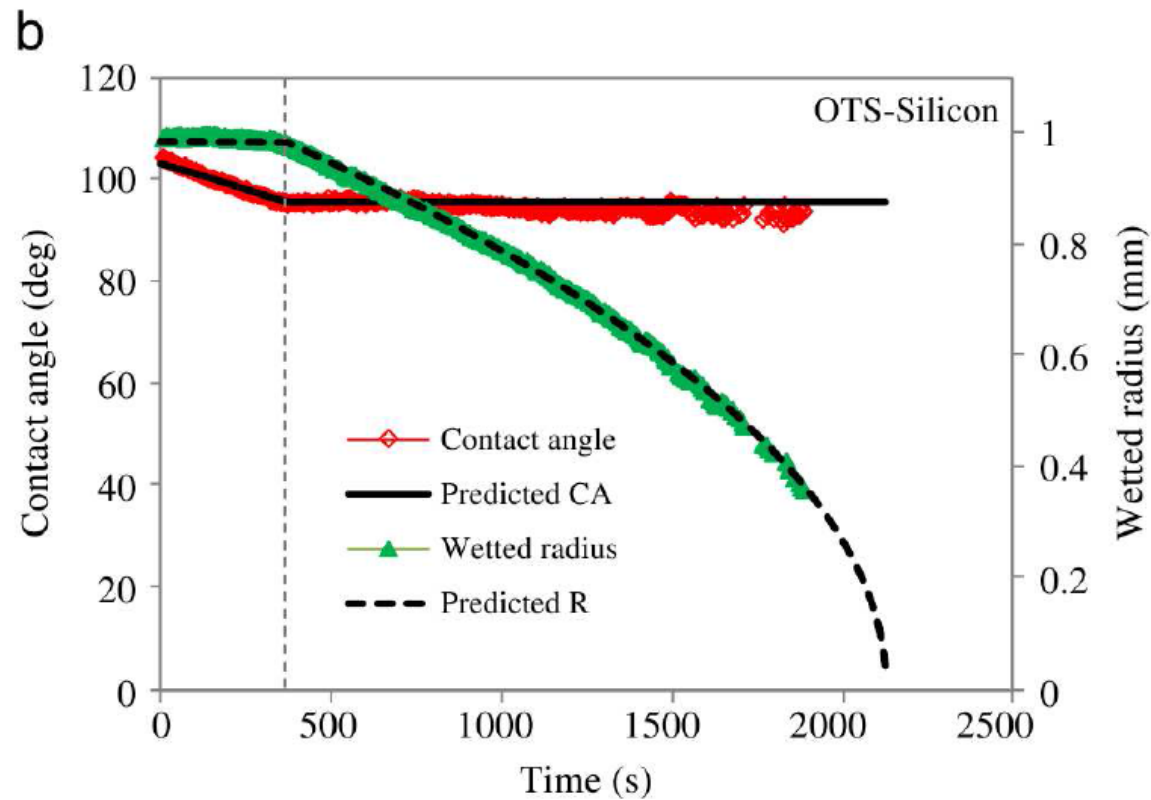
or ?



R constant?

Which mode leads to faster evaporation, i.e. shorter lifetime?

Stick-slip Mixed (M) Mode



Nguyen et al, *Chem. Eng. Sci.*, **2012**, 69, 522-529

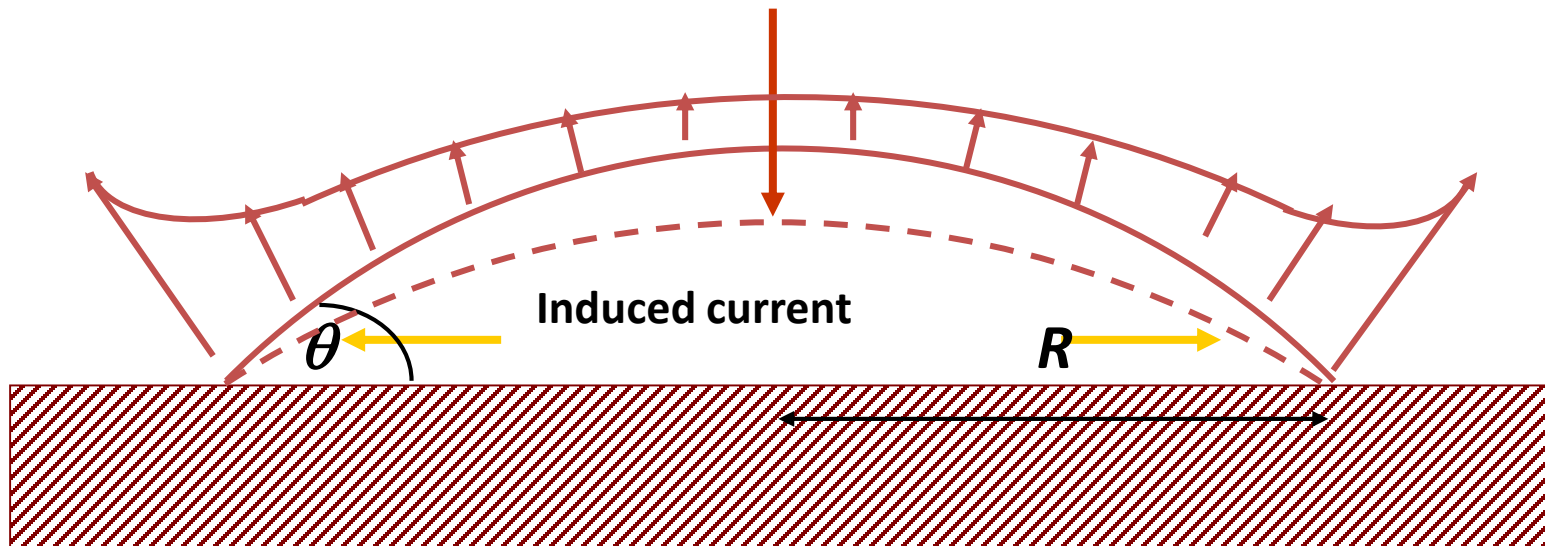
Nguyen and Nguyen (2012): Transition angle θ^* , such that

▶ For: $0 \leq \theta \leq \theta^*$: Constant Angle Mode

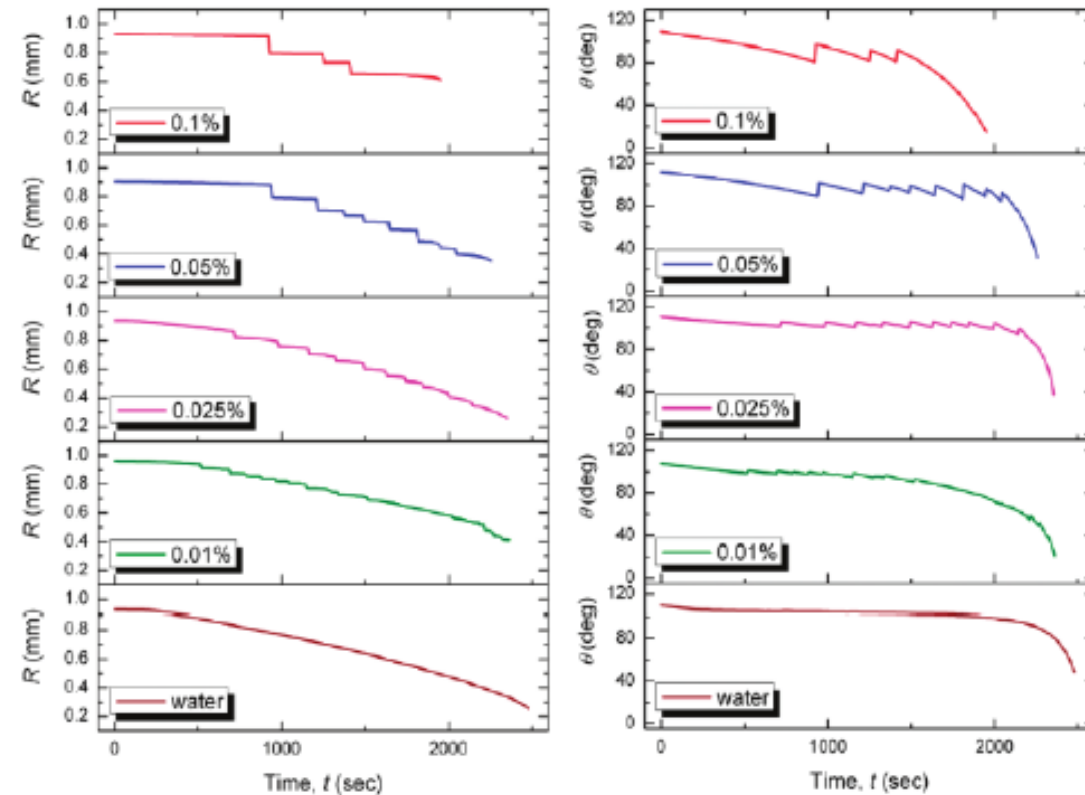
▶ For: $\theta^* \leq \theta \leq \pi$: Constant Radius Mode

Hydrodynamics

Evaporation is $f_n(\text{radial distance})$



Modelling stick-slip behaviour of evaporating sessile drop



- ▶ Stick phase: contact radius, R , is constant, contact angle, θ , decreases to θ_{min} , constant.
- ▶ Slip phase (instant): R decreases, θ increases to θ_{max} , constant.
- ▶ Drop: Spherical cap
- ▶ Diffusion-limited evaporation model with arbitrary contact angle $0 < \theta \leq \pi$

Langmuir, (2011), 27 (21), 12834–12843

Diffusion-Limited Model (e.g. Popov 2005)

- ▶ Spherical cap:

$$V = \frac{\pi R^3 \sin \theta (\cos \theta + 2)}{3 (1 + \cos \theta)^2}$$

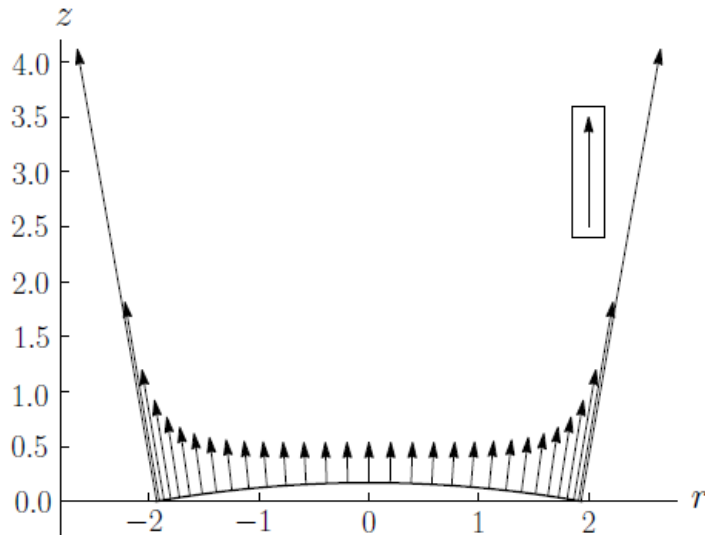
- ▶ Evaporative flux:

$$J(r) = \frac{D(c_{\text{sat}} - c_{\infty})}{R} \left[\frac{1}{2} \sin \theta + \sqrt{2} (\cosh \alpha + \cos \theta)^{3/2} \right. \\ \left. \times \int_0^{\infty} \frac{\tau \cosh \theta \tau}{\cosh \pi \tau} \tanh [\tau(\pi - \theta)] P_{-1/2+i\tau}(\cosh \alpha) d\tau \right],$$

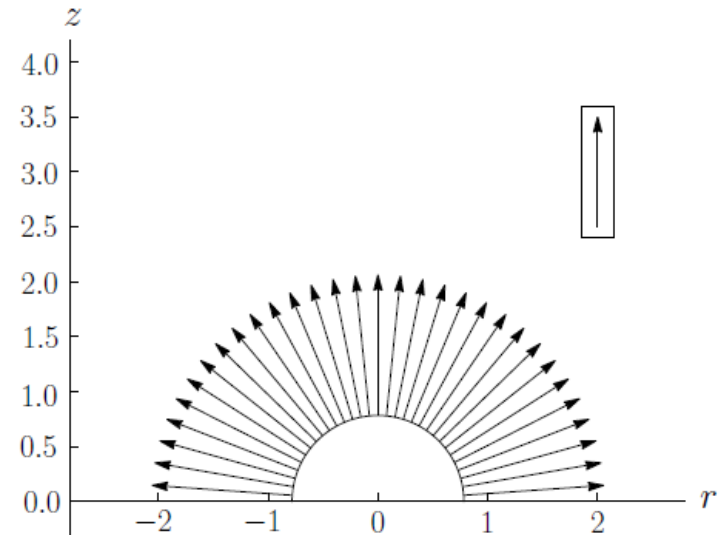
where $P_{-1/2+i\tau}(\cosh \alpha)$ is the Legendre function of the first kind of degree $(-1/2 + i\tau)$ and argument $\cosh \alpha$ and

$$r = \frac{R \sinh \alpha}{\cosh \alpha + \cos \theta}.$$

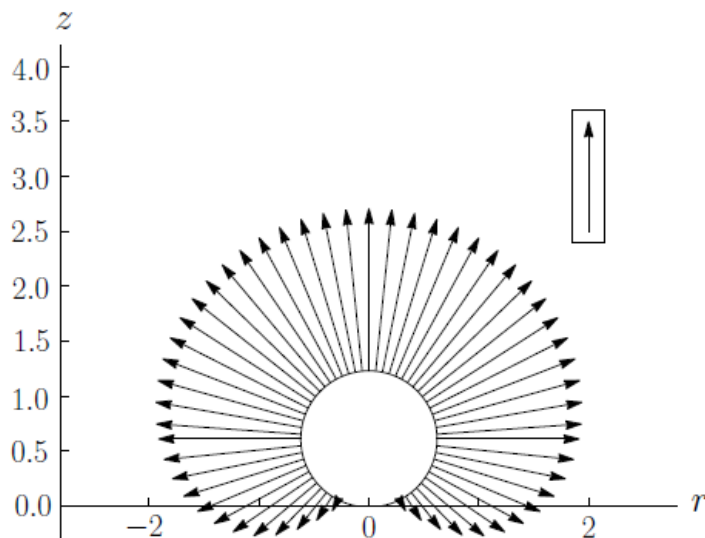
Diffusion-Limited Model: Evaporative Flux



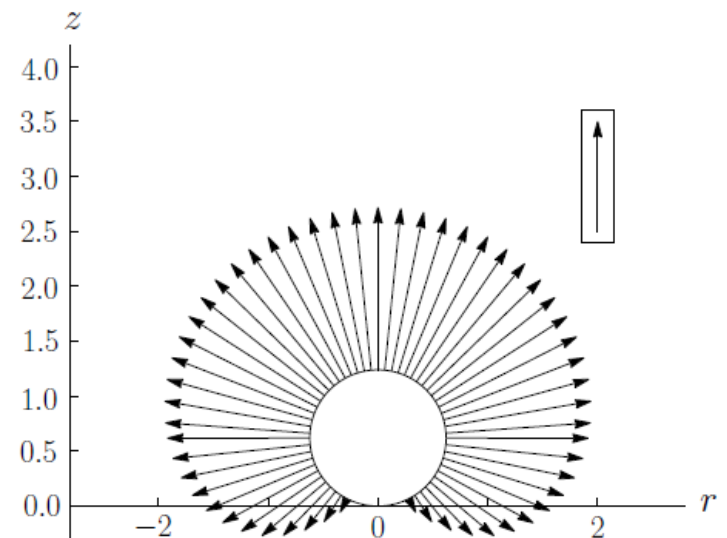
$\theta = 10^\circ$



$\theta = 90^\circ$



$\theta = 170^\circ$



$\theta = 180^\circ$

Rate of Loss of Volume

Diffusion-limited model:

$$\frac{dV}{dt} = \frac{1}{\rho} \int J dA = -\frac{\pi R D (c_{\text{sat}} - c_{\infty})}{\rho} \frac{g(\theta)}{(1 + \cos \theta)^2}$$

where

$$g(\theta) = (1 + \cos \theta)^2 \left\{ \tan \left(\frac{\theta}{2} \right) + 8 \int_0^{\infty} \frac{\cosh^2 \theta \tau}{\sinh 2\pi \tau} \tanh [\tau(\pi - \theta)] d\tau \right\}$$

A : surface of the drop

D : diffusion coefficient of vapour in the air

ρ : density of fluid

c_{sat} : (saturated) vapour concentration at the interface

c_{∞} : vapour concentration far from the interface

$$V = \frac{\pi R^3}{3} \frac{\sin \theta (\cos \theta + 2)}{(1 + \cos \theta)^2}$$

Droplet Lifetimes

- ▶ Constant Radius (CR) Mode:

$$t_{\text{CR}} = \left(\frac{2(1 + \cos \theta_0)^2}{\sin \theta_0 (\cos \theta_0 + 2)} \right)^{2/3} \int_0^{\theta_0} \frac{2 \, d\theta}{g(\theta)}$$

- ▶ Constant Angle (CA) Mode:

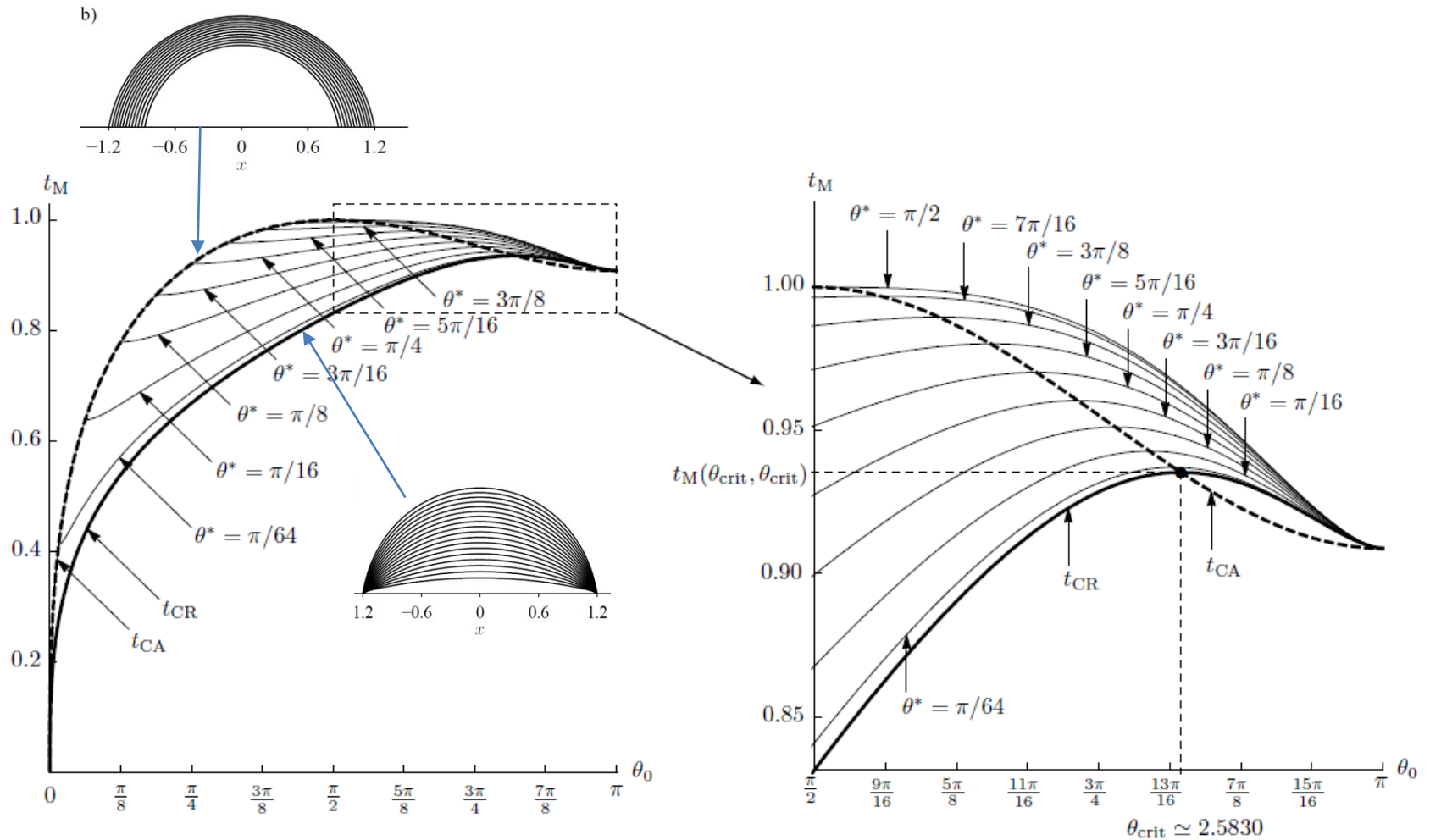
$$t_{\text{CA}} = \left(\frac{2(1 + \cos \theta_0)^2}{\sin \theta_0 (\cos \theta_0 + 2)} \right)^{2/3} \frac{\sin \theta_0 (\cos \theta_0 + 2)}{g(\theta_0)}$$

- ▶ Stick-Slide (SS) Mode ($\theta_0 > \arccos(1 - c)$):

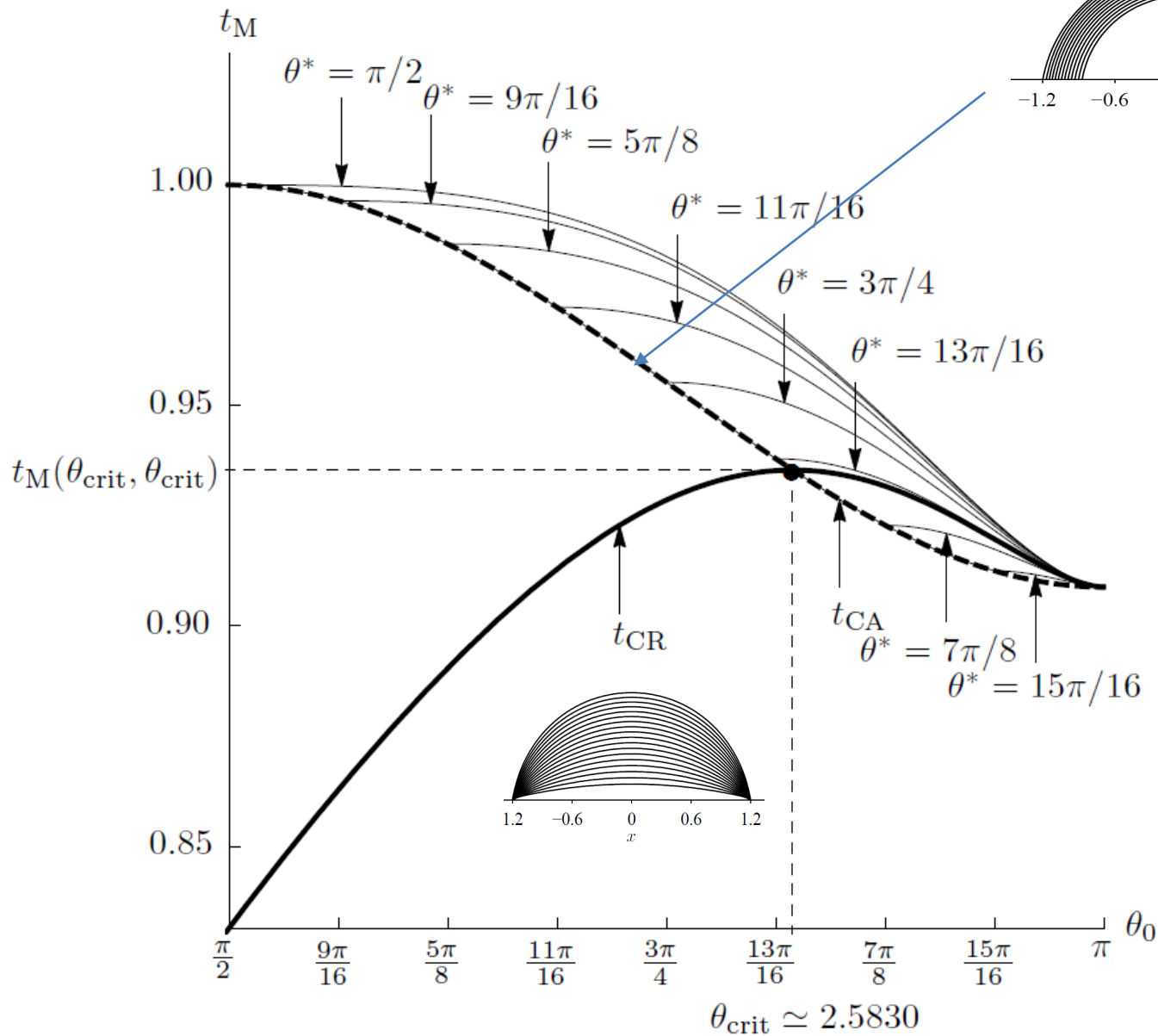
$$t_{\text{SS}} = \left(\frac{2(1 + \cos \theta_0)^2}{\sin \theta_0 (\cos \theta_0 + 2)} \right)^{2/3} \left[\int_{\theta^*}^{\theta_0} \frac{2 \, d\theta}{g(\theta)} + \frac{\sin \theta^* (2 + \cos \theta^*)}{g(\theta^*)} \right]$$

where $\theta^* = \arccos(c + \cos \theta_0)$

Droplet Lifetimes for $0 \leq \theta^* \leq \pi/2$

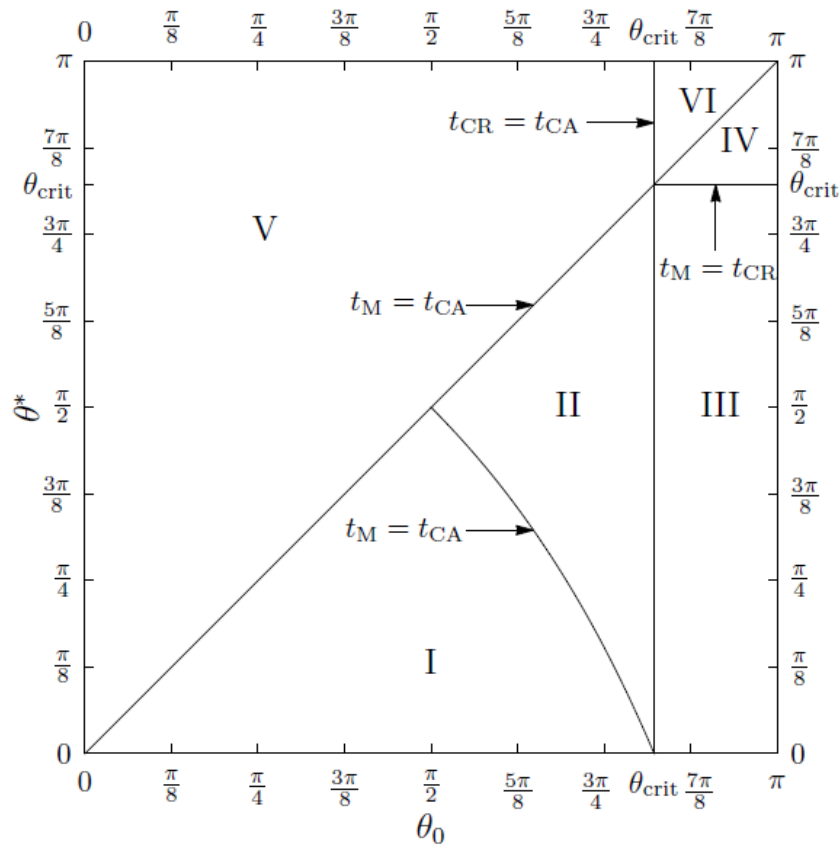


Droplet Lifetimes for $\pi/2 \leq \theta^* \leq \pi$



Comparing Lifetimes in all Three Modes of Evaporation

A Universal Map

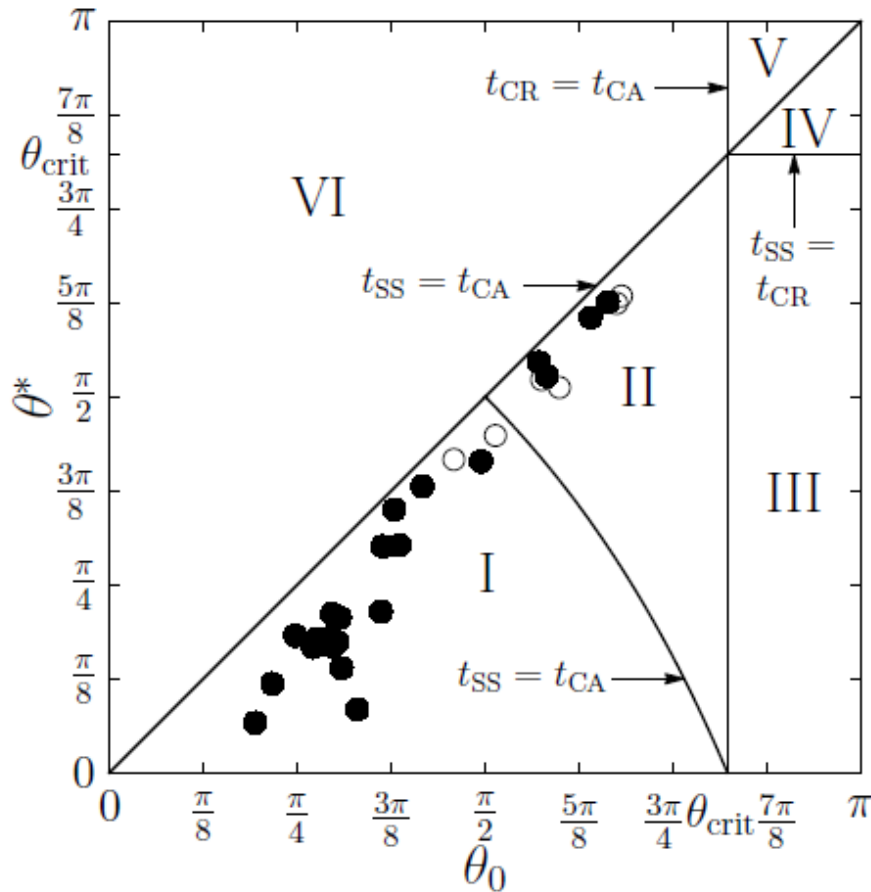


- ▶ Region I: $t_{CR} < t_M < t_{CA}$
- ▶ Region II: $t_{CR} < t_{CA} < t_M$
- ▶ Region III: $t_{CA} < t_{CR} < t_M$
- ▶ Region IV: $t_{CA} < t_M < t_{CR}$
- ▶ Region V: $t_{CR} < t_M = t_{CA}$
- ▶ Region VI: $t_M = t_{CA} < t_{CR}$

Comparing Experimental Data with Model Predictions (2)

	θ_0	θ^*	t_M expt	t_M model	Diff. (%)
B-M 1	56°	25°	0.9235	0.84513	-8.49
B-M 2	59°	15°	0.8233	0.80737	-1.93
Li 1	103°	98°	1.0278	0.99792	-2.91
Li 2	83°	75°	1.0166	0.99303	-2.32
Li 3	89°	75°	0.9895	0.99369	0.43
Li 4	75°	69°	0.9688	0.98493	1.66
Li 5	69°	54°	0.9729	0.95756	-1.58
Li 6	65°	54°	0.9547	0.95531	0.06
Li 7	53°	38°	0.8994	0.89680	-0.29
Li 8	45°	33°	0.8723	0.86515	-0.82
Li 9	35°	12°	0.6706	0.71640	6.83
Bor 1	81°	68°	1.0156	0.98550	-2.96
Bor 2	82°	60°	0.9527	0.97443	2.28
Yu	115°	109°	0.9846	0.98981	0.53

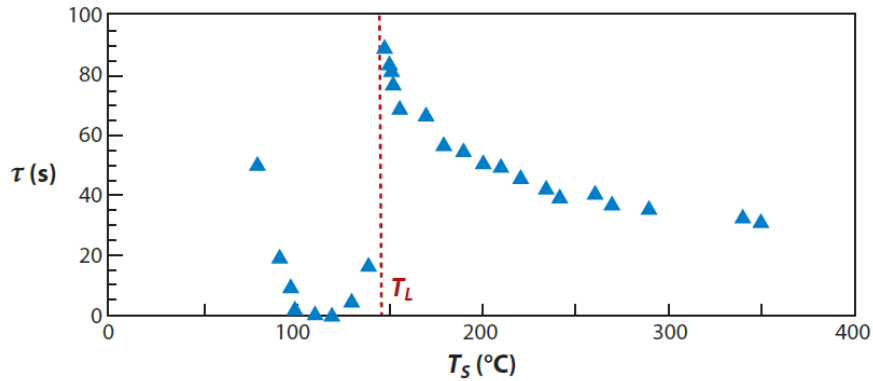
Comparing Lifetimes in all Three Modes of Evaporation



- ▶ Region I: $t_{CR} < t_{SS} < t_{CA}$
- ▶ Region II: $t_{CR} < t_{CA} < t_{SS}$
- ▶ Region III: $t_{CA} < t_{CR} < t_{SS}$
- ▶ Region IV: $t_{CA} < t_{SS} < t_{CR}$
- ▶ Region V: $t_{SS} = t_{CA} < t_{CR}$
- ▶ Region VI: $t_{CR} < t_{SS} = t_{CA}$

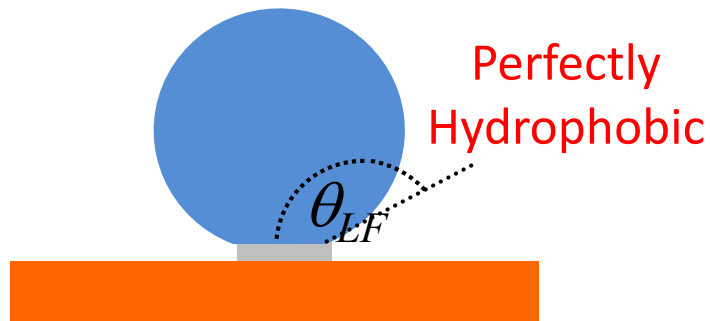
Journal of Fluid Mechanics.
Vol. 744, 2014.

Leidenfrost Effect

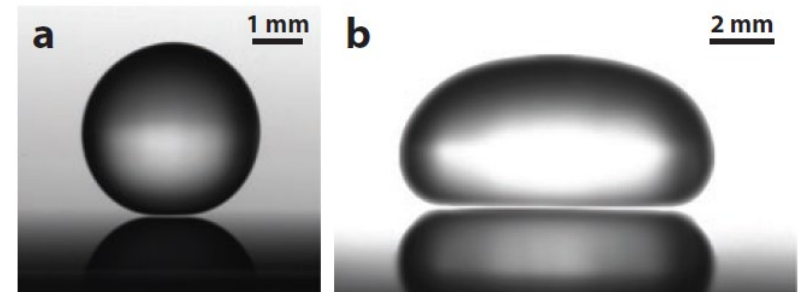
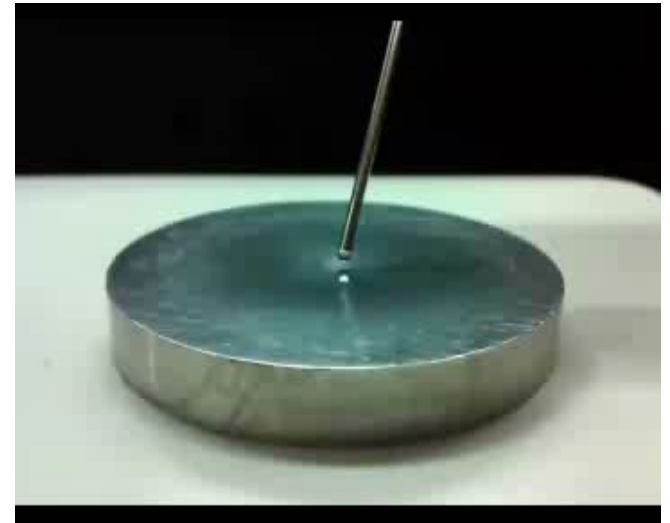


Lifetime of a droplet on a polished metal plate

Leidenfrost State



Vapour Supported and Gravity Flattened



Droplets on a hot metal plate (300 °C) (Quéré, 2013)

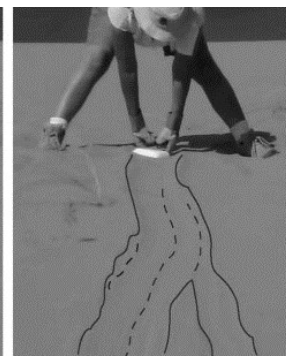
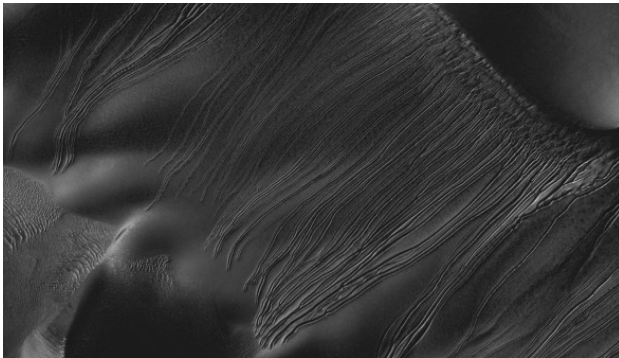
Space Exploration



Motivation

Linear Gullies on Mars

1. Hypothesis: Sliding dry ice blocks due to seasonal temperature variations
2. Tested idea on slopes of dunes in the desert
3. Sublimation Leidenfrost effect



Diniega *et al*, *Icarus* (2013) **225**, 526-537. Jet Propulsion lab video archive – “Dry Ice Moves on Mars - June 11, 2013” (Truncated version from <http://mars.nasa.gov/mro/multimedia/videoarchive/>)

Extreme Environments

1. Large temperature differences exist
2. Deep space has abundance of locally available dry ices, e.g. H₂O, CO₂, CH₄
3. Idea of sublimation for use in micro-thrusters is an established space concept
4. MEMS micro-heat engines for scavenging waste energy (e.g. Epstein *et al*, IEEE Transducers 1997, Fr chet te *et al*, PowerMEMS 2003 Conferences)

Turbine-Like Substrates

Linear Ratchets – Droplets and Solid Ices

1. Droplet: Linke et al, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* (2006) **96**, 154502
2. Dry ice: Lagubeau et al, *Nat. Phys.* (2011) **7**, 395–398
3. Substrate: Asymmetric textured
4. Vapor: Rectified vapour flow

Our Turbine-Like Substrates

1. CNC manufactured turbine-like aluminium substrates
2. Based on axial gas turbine designs
3. $R=0.75\text{-}2$ cm, $N=10, 20, 30$

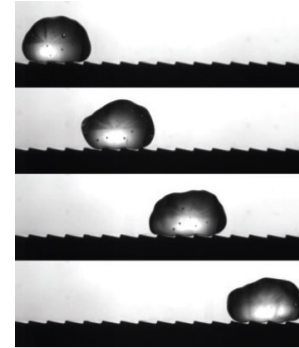


Image: Quéré (2013)

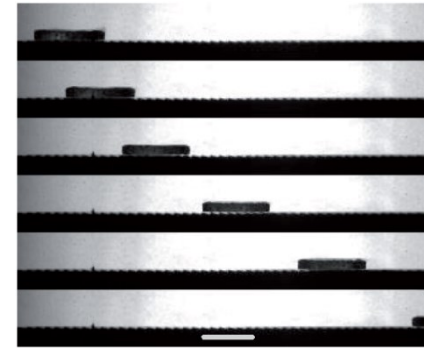
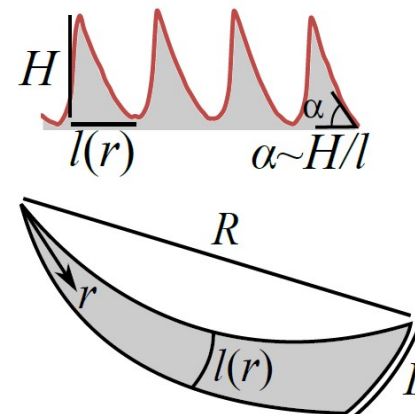
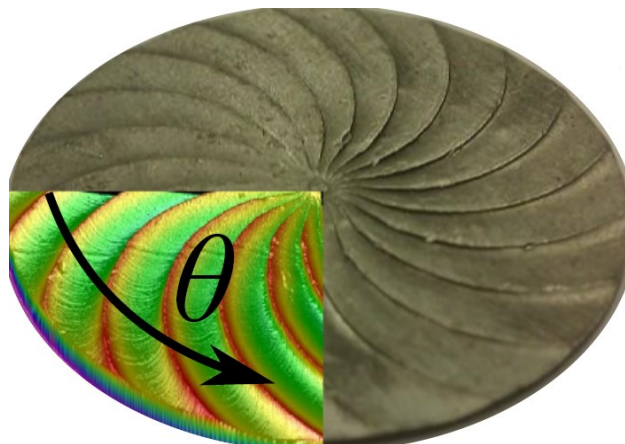


Image: Lagubeau et al (2011)



Orbiting and Spinning Droplets



Droplets on Turbine-Like Substrates

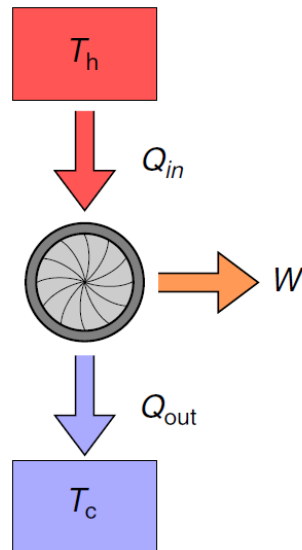
1. Rotation in an orbital fashion is possible
2. Spinning on their axis is possible
3. Difficult to stabilize

Sublimation Heat Engine Concept

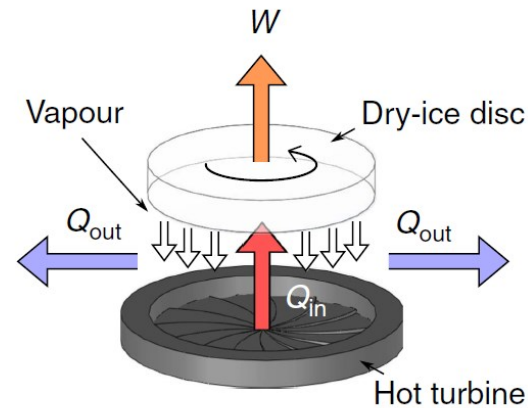
Sublimation Thermal Cycle

1. Sublimation (solid-vapor) equivalent to the Rankine cycle used in steam powered engines
2. The working substance is a solid (e.g. CO₂ but could be other ices such as H₂O or CH₄)
3. Harvest thermal energy Q_{in} via difference in temperature between reservoirs at T_h and T_c
4. Released vapor is rectified to produce mechanical work, W
5. Cooling releases Q_{out} to surroundings
6. Maximum theoretical efficiency limited by Carnot engine efficiency $\varepsilon=1-T_c/T_h \approx 1-T_c/T_{ave} \approx 0.67$

Principle

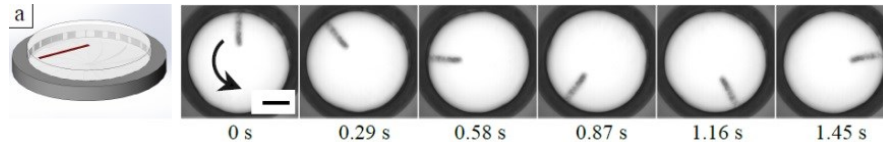


Realization



Efficiency: $\varepsilon = W/Q_{in}$

Rotational Motion via Sublimation



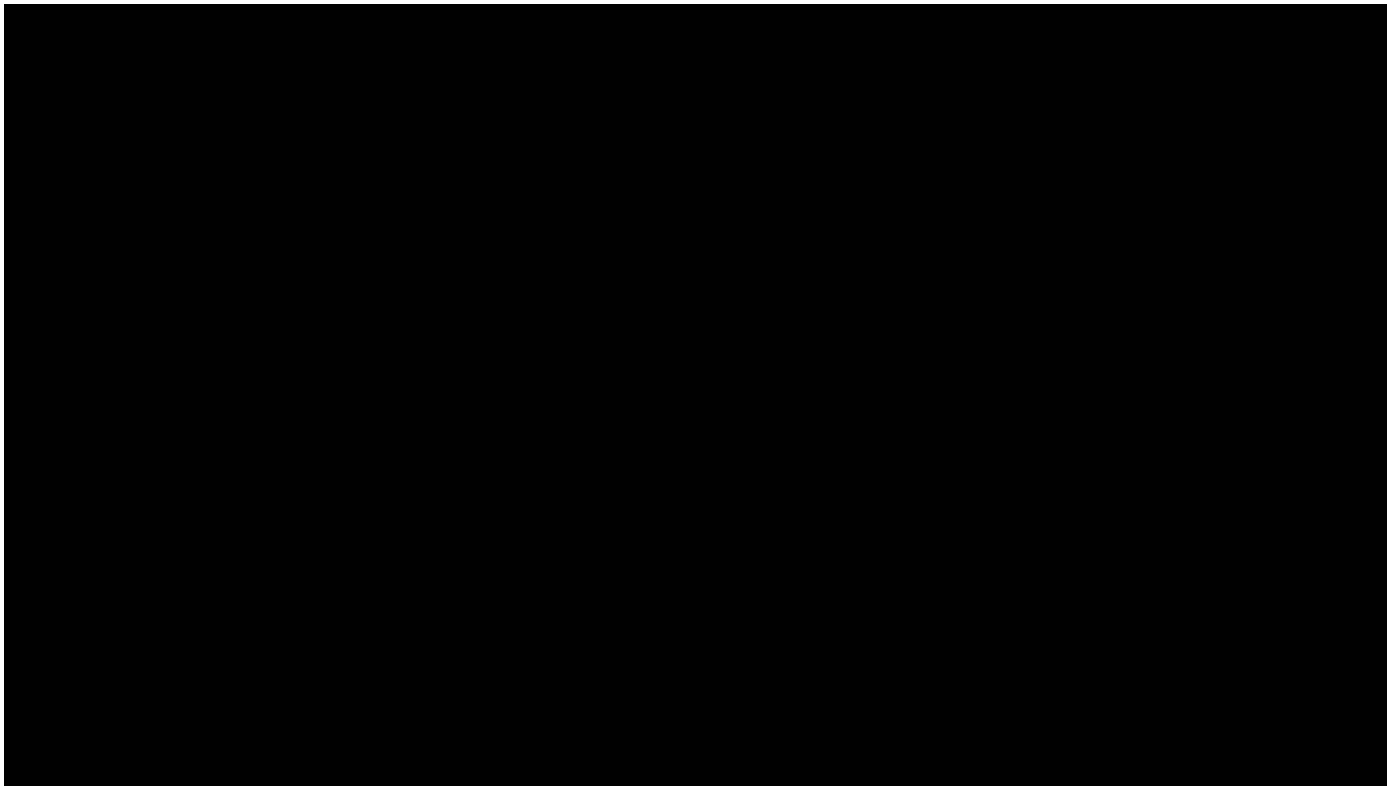
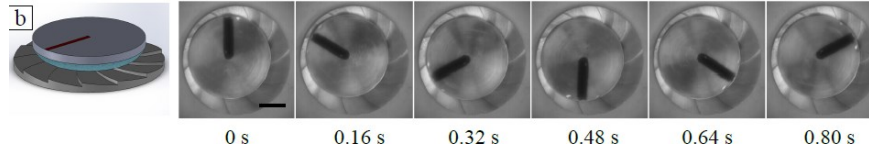
A Sublimation Engine

Supplementary Video 1

Gary Wells, Rodrigo Ledesma-Aguilar, Glen McHale and
Khellil Sefiane

Rotation of a Dry-Ice Block

Rotation via Droplet Coupled Disks

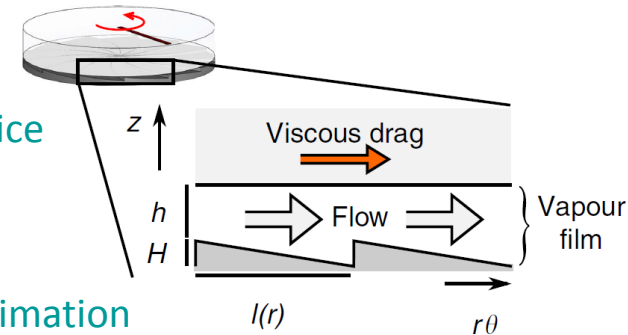


Theoretical Model

Levitation and Torque

Follow approach by Quéré and co-workers (2003-2013):

- Estimate rate of evaporation from surface of levitating dry ice
- Energy flux across vapour layer by conduction
- Rectified vapour flow induces a net viscous drag
- $Re < 1$ in radial and angular directions \Rightarrow Lubrication approximation



Key Test Equations

Surface height, $h(r, \theta)$, variation:

- Varies as $m_c \propto \rho_f l_{LF}^{-3} (R/H)^3$ and $\Gamma \propto (m/l_{LF})^{3/2} R \tan^3 \alpha / \rho_f N^4$

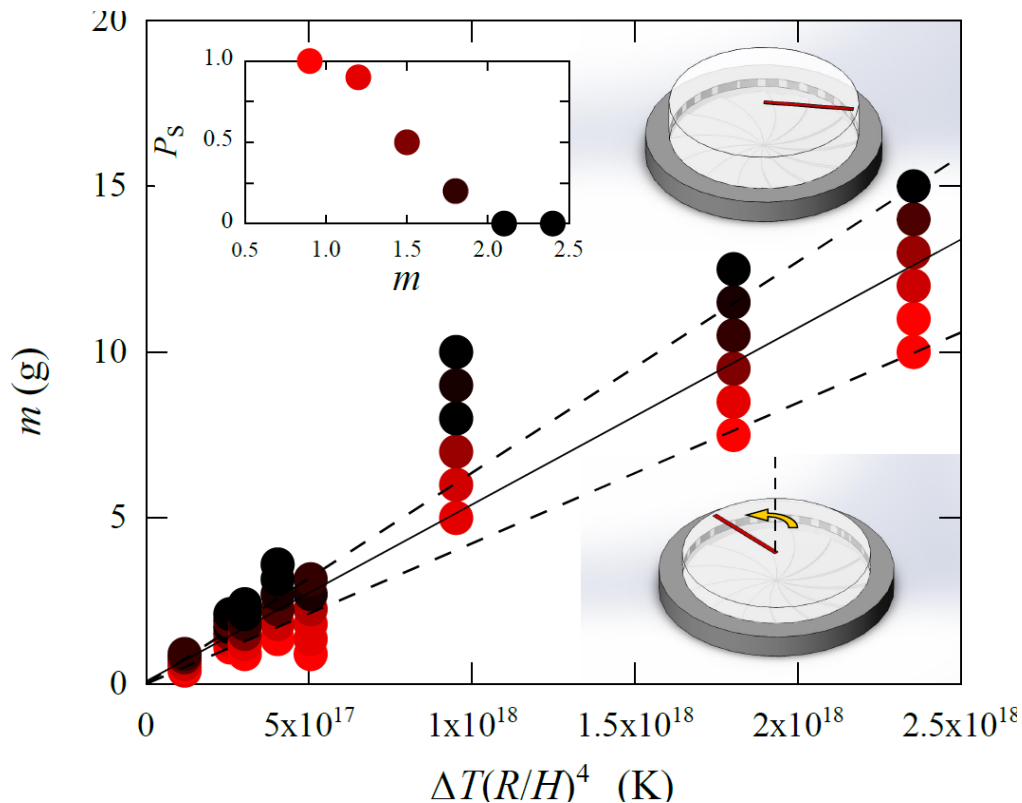
- Assume teeth height is small ($\xi = H/h_0 \ll 1$) allows a solution: $h(\theta) = h_0 (1 + \xi R \theta \tan \alpha / H)$

Physical Interpretation of Torque

- Perturbative solution in ξ for pressure gives leading order: $p_0(r) = p_{atm} + 3 \eta v_{no} (R^2 - r^2) / h_0^3$
- Torque increases with mass of dry ice (thinner vapour layer and more drag) $\propto \rho_f l_{LF}^{-3} (R/H)^3$
- Torque increases as radius increases (moment arm and surface area) $\propto R^4 \tan^3 \alpha / l_{LF}^3 N^4$
- Torque increases as inclination angle of teeth increase (more rectification of vapor flow) $\propto \tan^3 \alpha / l_{LF}^3 N^4$
- Torque decreases with number of teeth - these set periodicity of pattern $\Gamma \propto (m/l_{LF})^{3/2} R^2 \tan^3 \alpha / \rho_f N^4$

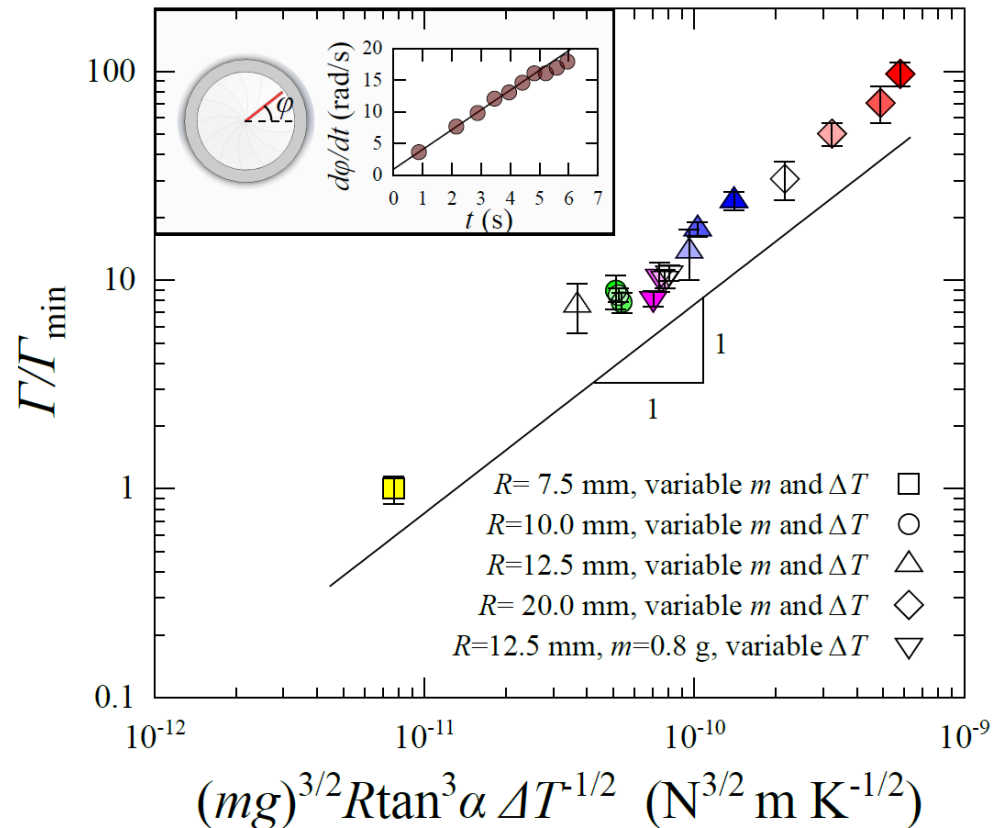
To Spin or Not to Spin?

1. Experiments with changes in $(\Delta T, R, H)$ to work out probability of dry ice disk spinning ($R=7.5-20$ mm, $T_h=300-500$ C, $H=165-229$ μm)
2. ca. 60 experiments per mass to determine probability P_S with m_c defined by $P_S=0.5$



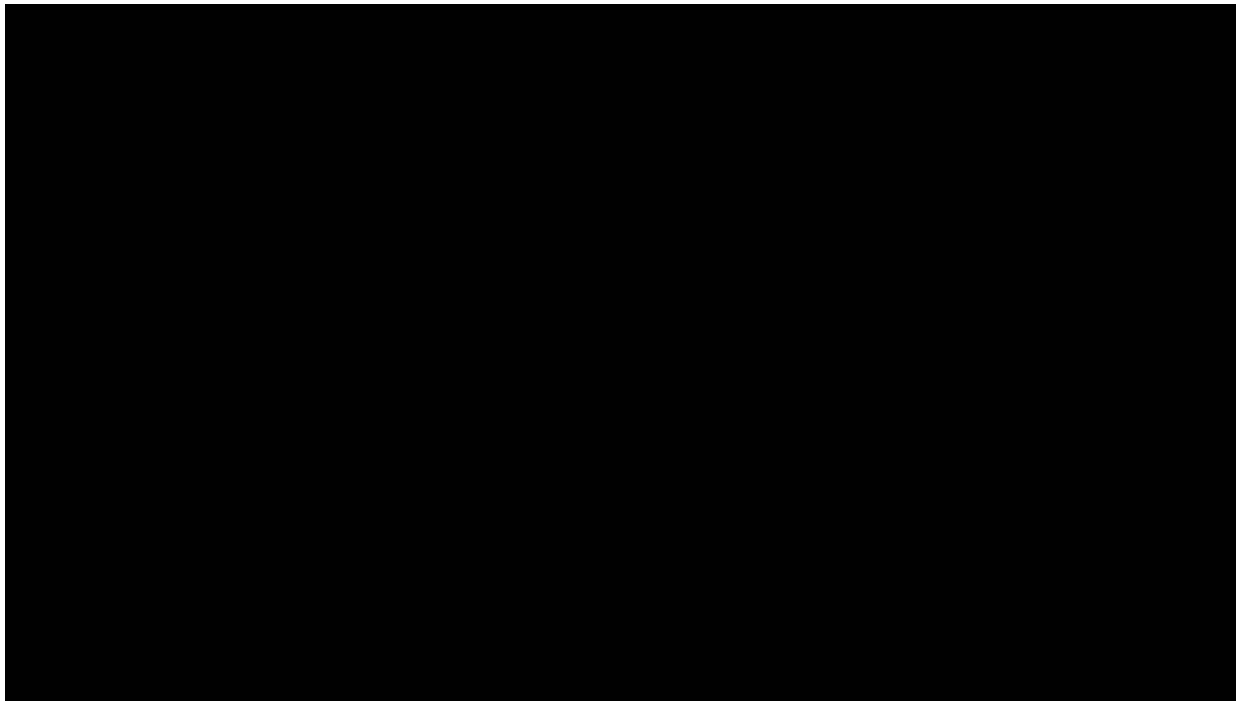
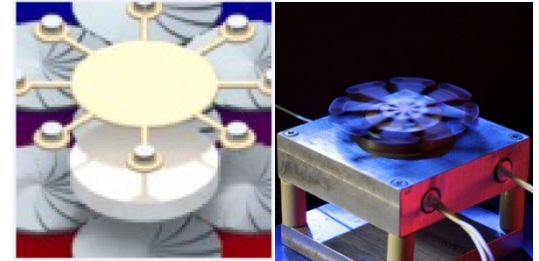
Scaling of Torque

1. Measured angular velocity of dry ice disks \Rightarrow angular acceleration and hence torque ($\Gamma=I\alpha$)
($R=0.75-2$ cm, $T_h=350-500$ C, $\alpha=2.25-4.15^\circ$, $m=0.19-5.13$ g)
2. Minimum torque $\Gamma_{\min}=0.0109 \mu\text{N m}$.



Conversion to Electrical Power

1. 8-lobed commutator with magnets attached to a dry-ice rotor
2. 8-lobe multi-segment induction coil system lowered into proximity to the rotating assembly
3. Generated voltage visualized on an oscilloscope
4. Low phase transition-to-rotational energy efficiency – most energy expended on levitation, but future designs can avoid this



The Leidenfrost Engine Concept

A droplet of water boils rapidly on a hot surface.

A Leidenfrost (Heat) Engine

Wells, Ledesma-Aguilar, McHale and Sefiane
Nature Communications (2015) 6 art. 6390



Is there life on Mars? Possibly Yes – with Edinburgh energy expert's Leidenfrost engine



EXCLUSIVE BY DARA BUTTERFIELD
Professor Kheill Sefiane of Edinburgh University has developed a project with colleagues at Northumbria University that has produced a breakthrough - sublimation engine

that could one day generate energy on Mars.

The new engine, dubbed the Leidenfrost engine, uses sublimation – the changing of a solid directly into a gas – to drive a generator. The project uses dry ice as its fuel which has created interest in using this technology to power projects on Mars where the substance is common.

Dr Rodrigo Ledesma-Aguilar, co-author on the paper, said: "Carbon dioxide plays a similar role on Mars as water does on Earth. It is a widely available resource which undergoes cyclic phase changes under the natural Martian temperature variations.

"Perhaps future power stations on Mars will exploit such a resource to harvest energy as dry-ice blocks evaporate, or to channel the chemical energy extracted from other carbon-based sources, such as methane gas.

"One thing is certain; our future on other planets depends on our ability to adapt our knowledge to the constraints imposed by strange worlds, and to devise creative ways to exploit natural resources that do not naturally occur here on Earth."

But the breakthrough doesn't just make space-travel and colonisation more sustainable, the unique low friction nature of the engine could have other applications. The concept is could be potentially relevant in challenging situations such as deep drilling, outer space exploration or micro-mechanical manipulation.

Professor Olen McHale, co-author of the paper, said: "This is the starting point of an exciting avenue of research in smart materials engineering. In the future, Leidenfrost-based devices could find applications in wide ranging fields, spanning from frictionless transport to outer space exploration."

View video of the Leidenfrost 'engine' at work



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POLICY PLATFORM

Falling oil prices should not undermine investment in green energy **13 May**

By FRANS P. de VRIES and ISAAC TARNIER When the price of crude oil dropped from \$110-barrel in mid-2014 to below \$50-barrel by January 2015, there were fears that it would destroy the 'green revolution'. But a look at what's ...

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LONDON, March 10, 2015

New energy device may power life on Mars

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A new engine for producing energy based on the Leidenfrost effect could be useful in future power stations on Mars



PHOTO: REUTERS

A new type of engine that harvests energy from carbon dioxide could power life on Mars, scientists say.

Researchers propose a new kind of engine for producing energy based on the Leidenfrost effect – a phenomenon which happens when a liquid comes into near contact with a surface much hotter than its boiling point.

This effect is commonly seen in the way water appears to skitter across the surface of a hot pan, but it also applies to solid carbon dioxide, commonly known as dry ice.

Blocks of dry ice are able to levitate above hot surfaces protected by a barrier of evaporated gas vapour.

The research pioneered at Northumbria University, Newcastle and Edinburgh University proposes using the vapour created by this effect to power an engine.

This is the first time the Leidenfrost effect has been adapted as a way of harvesting energy.

The technique has exciting implications for working in extreme and alien environments, such as outer space, where it could be used to make long-term exploration and colonisation sustainable by using naturally occurring solid carbon dioxide as a resource rather than a waste product.

Dry ice may not be abundant on Earth, but increasing evidence from NASA's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter (MRO) suggests it may be a naturally occurring resource on Mars as suggested by the seasonal appearance of gullies on the surface of the red planet.

If utilised in a Leidenfrost-based engine dry ice deposits could provide the means to create future power stations on the surface of Mars.

"Carbon dioxide plays a similar role on Mars as water does on Earth. It is a widely available resource which undergoes cyclic phase changes under the natural Martian temperature variations," said Dr Rodrigo Ledesma-Aguilar, one of the co-authors of the research.

"Perhaps future power stations on Mars will exploit such a resource to harvest energy as dry ice blocks evaporate, or to channel the chemical energy extracted from other carbon-based sources, such as methane gas.

"One thing is certain; our future on other planets depends on our ability to adapt our knowledge to the constraints imposed by strange worlds, and to devise creative ways to exploit natural resources that do not naturally occur here on Earth," Ledesma-Aguilar said.

Dr Gary Wells, co-author of the paper, explained the unique properties of an engine based on Leidenfrost effect.

"The working principle of a Leidenfrost-based engine is quite distinct from steam-based heat engines; the high pressure vapour layer creates freely rotating rotors whose energy is converted into power without the need of a bearing, thus conferring the new engine with low friction properties," Wells said. The study was published in the journal *Nature Communications*.PTI



TECHNOLOGY SCIENCE

New Energy Harvesting Method Could Use Dry Ice To Power Life On Mars

By Aditya Tejas @Artejas a.tejas@ibtimes.com on March 06 2015 6:51 AM EST

f 12 t 1 in 3 A S



Researchers say the proposed engine would be ideal for Mars missions. Reuters/AD Jankaj

Researchers at Northumbria University in England say they have invented an innovative technique to harvest energy from solid carbon dioxide. The research, which was published in the journal *Nature Communications*, makes use of a property of liquids known as the Leidenfrost effect.

The scientists have proposed a new type of engine that would exploit the Leidenfrost effect, which occurs when a liquid comes close to a surface much hotter than its boiling point. This phenomenon is commonly seen when cold water skitters across the surface of a hot pan. The Leidenfrost effect also applies to solid carbon dioxide, better known as dry ice, causing it to hover above hot surfaces due to a barrier of evaporated gas.

BREAKING NEWS SIMULTANEOUS EXPLOSIONS AT PRO-KURDISH PARTY HQ IN TURKEY

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Dry ice on Mars may help colonize red planet, research says

Published on March 06, 2015 09:28 AM EST



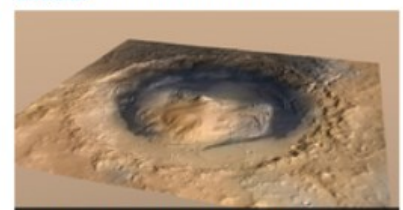
Rosetta / NASA / JPL / Handout via Reuters

A new way of generating energy could potentially power human colonies on Mars, a new study says. This is thanks to nothing more than dry ice, which is abundant on the red planet, according to recent research.

16:22 UTC Mars once had an ocean with more water than the Earth - [NASA](#)

Space man wants to start colonizing the glass within the next few decades, we need all the help we can get. This could also have profound implications on planning for how we're only undertaking one-way trips, owing to huge energy demands. This could change

The gist of the new energy theory proposed by a team of researchers from Northumbria, Edinburgh and Newcastle universities lies in carbon dioxide. Scientists say the principle is different to what happens when you observe the effect of a drop of water on a scalding-hot stove. The energy generated by that process, which agitates the drop of water, is similar to the pioneering new approach, outlined in the journal *Nature Communications*.



Gale Crater on the planet Mars / Reuters / NASA / Handout via Reuters

Scientists call the principle at the heart of this process the Leidenfrost effect. This happens when a liquid comes into near contact with a much hotter surface. And it fits perfectly with the example of carbon dioxide - or dry ice.

In the case of carbon dioxide, blobs of the material are able to levitate above a hot surface because of protection given by the layer of evaporated gas. Researchers propose harnessing the power of that gas to power engines - the first time anyone has proposed to use the Leidenfrost effect to generate energy.

"By placing water droplets and small blobs of dry ice on top of hot, turbine-like surfaces, we have used the Leidenfrost effect to create rotational motion. The turbine blades rotate the rotors, which flow in turn drive the rotating surfaces via the rotors," says Dr. Rodrigo Ledesma-Agular, co-author on the research in a [science article](#).

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Researchers propose new type of engine that harvests energy from carbon dioxide and could power life on Mars

Published on March 06, 2015 09:28 AM EST

Tags: [Energy](#), [Mars](#), [Dry Ice](#), [Colonization](#), [Life](#)



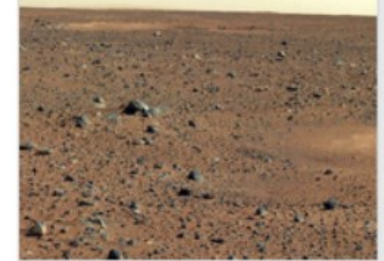
Rosetta / NASA / JPL / Handout via Reuters

According to the scientists, a new type of engine that produces energy from carbon dioxide could power life on Mars.

Researchers have proposed a new kind of engine in order to produce energy based on Leidenfrost effect. It's an effect in which a liquid comes into near contact with a surface that's much hotter than its boiling point.

The research was initiated at Northumbria University, Newcastle and Edinburgh University, that proposes the use of vapour that's created by the Leidenfrost effect in order to power an engine.

It's for the first time when this effect has been adapted to harvest energy.



View of the Martian surface from the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter

However, this effect is usually seen in the way water appears to skitter across the surface of a hot pan. The same also applies to solid carbon dioxide, commonly known as dry ice.

The blobs of dry ice are able to maintain above hot surfaces, which are protected by a barrier of evaporated gas vapour.

The technique has a feature to work in extreme alien environments like outer space. A long-term exploration and colonization sustainable could be made out by using naturally occurring solid carbon dioxide as a resource instead of waste material.

Earth may not have an abundant amount of dry ice but certain evidences from NASA's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter reveals that the naturally occurring resource on Mars.

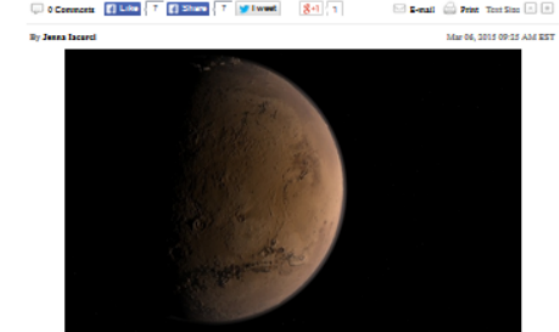
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New Scientific Evidence Causes Scientists to Speak About

New Energy Device Could Power Life on Mars

By [Jesse Lucard](#) | Mar 06, 2015 09:28 AM EST



(Photo: Pixabay)

Scientists have developed a new energy device that harnesses carbon dioxide in such a way that it could power life on Mars, according to a new study.

According to NASA, a manned mission to Mars is [necessary for human survival](#), and so finding a way for humans to survive on the Red Planet is crucial.

However, this effect is usually seen in the way water appears to skitter across the surface of a hot pan. The same also applies to solid carbon dioxide, commonly known as dry ice.

The research, published in the journal *Nature Communications*, proposes a new kind of engine for producing energy based on the Leidenfrost effect - a phenomenon that happens when a liquid comes into close contact with a surface much hotter than its boiling point. You may recognize this effect when you see water skidding on a hot pan, but it's also seen with solid carbon dioxide (CO₂), commonly known as dry ice.

In the case of dry ice, it can hover above hot surfaces due to a protective barrier of evaporated gas vapor. So researchers at Northumbria University created an engine based on this vapor, for the first time using the Leidenfrost effect as a way of harvesting energy.

Unlike steam-based heat engines, the new Leidenfrost-based engine creates very little friction. That's because the layer of high-pressure vapor creates freely rotating rotors whose energy is converted into power without the

friction that would normally be associated with rotating parts. The researchers say the engine could be used to power a range of devices, from small sensors to large power plants.

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Scientific Breakthrough: Humans CAN Colonise Mars; Trip To The Red Planet May Not Be One-Way!

March 10th, 2015 | by [Vandia](#)



Rosetta / NASA / JPL / Handout via Reuters

A new way of generating energy could potentially power human colonies on Mars, a new study says. This is thanks to nothing more than dry ice, which is abundant on the red planet, according to recent research.

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Is there life on Mars? Possibly Yes – with Edinburgh energy expert's Leidenfrost engine



EXCLUSIVE by **DARA BUTTERFIELD**

Professor **Khellil Befane** of Edinburgh University has developed a project with colleagues at Northumbria University that has produced a breakthrough sublimation engine

that could one day generate energy on Mars.

Thank you.

Any questions, welcome.

