

# Gradient dynamics formulations of thin film equations - part 1

Uwe Thiele

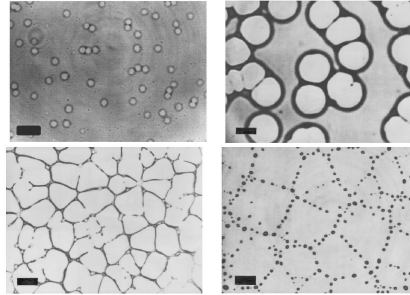
Cambridge, July 2013

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# Dewetting of simple (polymeric) liquids– Phases

G. Reiter (since 1992)<sup>1-3</sup>

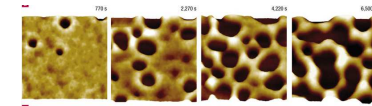


40 nm polystyrene films on silicon oxide (bar 100 micron)

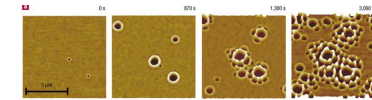
# Dewetting – Rupture mechanisms

J. Becker, G. Grün, R. Seemann, H. Mantz, K. Jacobs, K. R. Mecke, and R. Blossey (2003)<sup>4</sup>

Spinodal dewetting



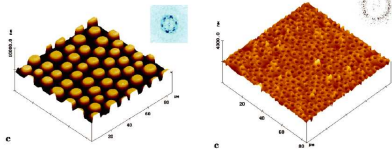
Heterogeneous nucleation



Ultrathin polystyrene films on silica (below 10 nm thickness)

# Dielectric film in capacitor

Z. Lin, T. Kerle, T. P. Russell, E. Schäfer and U. Steiner (2002)<sup>5</sup>



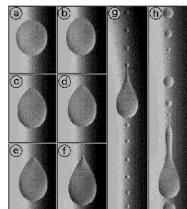
PS(550nm)/PDMS(700nm) and PS(730nm)/PMMA(290nm)

Can a simplified theory model the very slow coarsening?

# Drop morphologies and stick-slip contact line motion

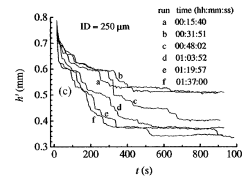
Podgorski, Flesselles and Limat (2001)<sup>6</sup>

Drop shape transformations



Schäfer and Wong (1998)<sup>7</sup>

Stick-slip motion of rising meniscus

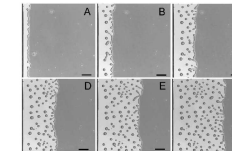


Can one predict the dynamics of the stick-slip motion for a depinning drop?

# Front instabilities

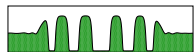
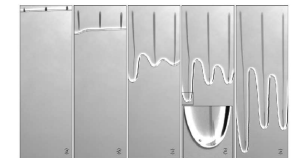
G. Reiter and A. Sharma (2001)<sup>8</sup>

Dewetting: receding front

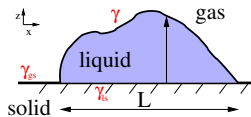


I. Veretennikov, A. Indeikina and H.-C. Chang (1998)<sup>9</sup>

Inclined plane: advancing front



# Drop on solid substrate - macroscopic equilibrium



Minimisation:  $\frac{\delta F_{macro}}{\delta h} = 0$

Euler-Lagrange equation  
Laplace pressure

$$-\gamma_{lk} = \lambda = p = p_{in} - p_{out}$$

Interface energies (2d)

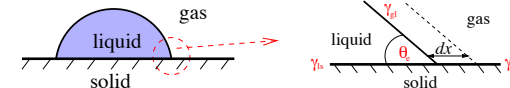
$$F_{macro} = \int_L (\gamma_{sl} + \xi \gamma) dx + \int_{D-L} \gamma_{sg} dx + \lambda \left[ \int_L h dx - V \right]$$

$$ds = \xi dx = \sqrt{1 + \frac{1}{2}(\partial_x h)^2} dx$$

Boundary conditions

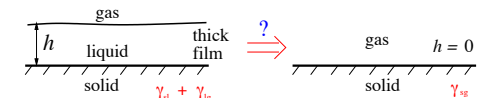
Young-Laplace equation

$$\gamma \cos \theta_e = \gamma_{sg} - \gamma_{sl}$$



# Mesoscopic equilibrium description

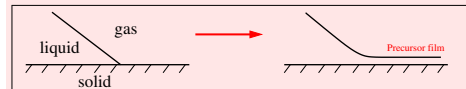
How to describe very thin films / contact regions ( $h < 100\text{nm}$ )?



Young-Laplace-Dejaguin description  $\gamma_{sl} + \gamma \rightarrow \gamma_{sl} + \gamma + f(h)$

Interface Hamiltonian

$$F_{meso} = \int_A [\gamma_{sl} + \xi \gamma + f(h)] dA + \lambda \int_A (h - \bar{h}) dA$$



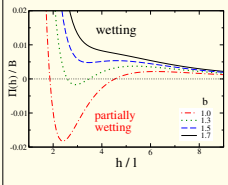
## Wetting energy / Derjaguin (disjoining) pressure

$$\Pi(h) = -\frac{df(h)}{dh}$$

Example:

$$\Pi(h) = B \left[ \frac{b}{h^3} - e^{-h/l} \right]$$

$$b = A_{Ham}/B$$



### Microscopic origin

- Long-range van der Waals interaction ( $h \lesssim 100$  nm)  
 $\Pi(h) = A_{Ham}/h^3$
- Short-range interactions (electric-double layer, entropic, hydration,  $h \lesssim 10$  nm)  
 $\Pi(h) = Be^{-h/l}$  or  $B/h^6$

## Theoretical approaches towards dynamics

### Variational approach (purely energetic)

#### Equilibrium profiles and their stability

no dynamics, no most dangerous mode etc.  
Blossey, Brinkmann, de Gennes, Dietrich, Lipowsky, Sekimoto, ...

### (Navier)-Stokes with free surface

Gives the full picture of the purely hydrodynamic part  
high computational effort, nearly no (semi)analytical results, contact line needs ad-hoc addition  
Armstrong, Brown, Krishnamoorthy, Joo, Salamon, Thess, ...

### (Navier)-Stokes plus phase-field

Avoids tracking of free surface  
still tedious, tricky details (phase change, interface thickness)  
Bestehorn, Jacqmin, Jasnow, McFadden, Pismen, Pomeau, Viñals

### Long-wave (lubrication) approximation

Wetting properties, contact line motion, small surface slopes only (but arbitrary amplitudes), no short-scale structures  
Benney, Davis, de Gennes, Reynolds, Ruckenstein, Sommerfeld, ...

## Derivation of the film thickness evolution equation

(Navier-)Stokes and continuity equations plus boundary conditions

↓  
Scaling to obtain dimensionless equations

↓  
Long-wave scaling (introducing  $\varepsilon = h/L = O(\theta_e)$ )

↓  
Series expansion of all fields

↓  
Solving order by order in  $\varepsilon$  for velocity and pressure profiles

↓  
Use of continuity to obtain film thickness evolution equation

## Evolution equation in long wave approximation (dim)

$$\partial_t h = -\nabla \cdot \{ Q(h) \nabla [\gamma \Delta h + \kappa \Pi(h, x)] + \tilde{\mu} \mathbf{e}_x \}$$

$Q(h) = h^3/3\eta$  ... mobility factor

$\Delta h$  ... curvature pressure

$\mu \mathbf{e}_x$  ... driving

$f(h, x)$  ... local free energy

Examples of additional pressures  $\Pi = -\partial_h f$

$\frac{b}{h^3} - \xi(x) e^{-h}$	antag. polar/apolar interaction
$-\frac{1}{h^3} + \frac{b}{h^6}$	long/short-range van der Waals
$b\xi(x)h - h^3$	Cahn-Hilliard equation
$\frac{3}{2} Bi Ma \xi(x) \left[ \log\left(\frac{h}{1+Bh}\right) + \frac{1}{1+Bh} \right] - h$	heated thin film
$\frac{\xi(x)}{[h + (d-h)\varepsilon]^2}$	electrostatic field

## Evolution equations - linear nonequilibrium thermodynamics

Gradient dynamics on underlying energy functional  $F[\phi]$

Single conserved order parameter field (Cahn-Hilliard-type)

$$\partial_t \phi = \nabla \cdot \left\{ Q(\phi) \nabla \frac{\delta F[\phi]}{\delta \phi} \right\}$$

Single non-conserved order parameter field (Allen-Cahn-type)

$$\partial_t \phi = -Q_{nc}(\phi) \frac{\delta F[\phi]}{\delta \phi}$$

Combinations possible

## Horizontal substrate – dewetting simple liquid

Evolution equation for conserved order parameter field:

Film thickness

$$\partial_t h = \nabla \cdot \left\{ Q(h) \nabla \frac{\delta F[h]}{\delta h} \right\}$$

with interface Hamiltonian (Lyapunov functional)

$$F[h] \approx \int_A \left[ \frac{\gamma}{2} |\nabla h|^2 + f(h) \right] dA$$

$f(h) = -\int \Pi dh$  ... wetting or adhesion energy

$Q(h) = h^3/3\eta$  ... mobility

Identical to

Long-wave hydrodynamics - film thickness evolution equation

$$\partial_t h = -\nabla \cdot \{ Q(h) \nabla [\Delta h + \Pi(h)] \}$$

## Nematic liquid crystal with strong antagonistic anchoring

Consistent film evolution equations from long-wave and variational approaches

$$\partial_t h = \nabla \cdot \left\{ Q(h) \nabla \frac{\delta F[h]}{\delta h} \right\}$$

where

$$F[h] = \int_V \left[ \frac{\gamma}{2} |\nabla h|^2 + \frac{K_{el}}{2h^2} \right] dx$$

$K_{el}$  = elastic constant of nematic liquid crystal (one constant approx)  
[cf. Cazabat et al. (2003)<sup>10</sup>]

Alternative:

Without 'elastic pressure' [S. Wilson & collab. (2007)<sup>11</sup>];  
Opposite sign of 'elastic pressure' [Ben Amar & Cummings (2001)<sup>12</sup>]

T.-S. Lin et al., PoF, at press (2013)

## Linear and nonlinear film stability - dewetting modes

### Linear stability analysis

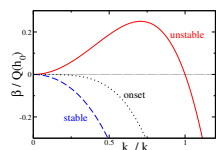
Ansatz:

$$h(x, t) = h_0 + \varepsilon \exp(\beta t + ikx)$$

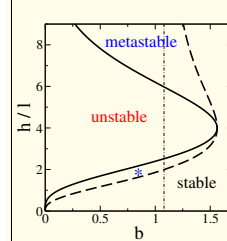
### Dispersion relation

$$\beta = -k^2 Q(h_0) (k^2 - k_c^2)$$

with  $k_c^2 = -\partial_{hh} f|_{h=h_0}$



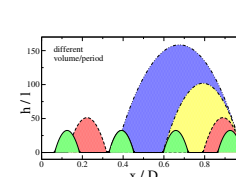
### Stability diagram



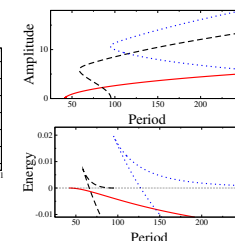
Bifurcation of steady drop states at  $L_c = 2\pi/k_c$

## Steady solutions – sitting drops and critical holes

### Profiles



### Families: Amplitude, Energy



- supercritical bifurcation from the linearly unstable flat film (spindal dewetting dominant)
- subcritical bifurcation from the linearly unstable flat film (nucleation may be dominant, secondary nucleation determines dynamics)
- flat film metastable: nucleation needed

## Linear stability of steady solutions

### Ansatz

$$h(x, y, t) = h_0(x) + \varepsilon h_1(x) \exp(iky + \beta t)$$

Gives linear eigenvalue problem for the growth rate  $\beta$  and disturbance  $h_1$

$$\beta h_1(x) = \mathbf{S}[k, h_0(x)] h_1(x) \quad \text{with} \quad \mathbf{S}h_1 = N_0 h_1 + k^2 N_2 h_1 + k^4 N_4 h_1$$

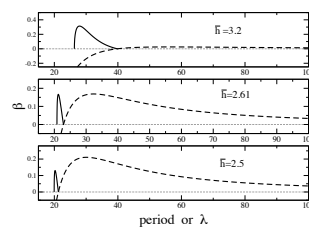
$$N_0 h_1 = -\{Q_h h_1 [(h_{0xx} - f_n)_x]\}_x - \{Q(h_{1xx} - f_{hh} h_1)_x\}_x$$

$$N_2 h_1 = \{Q h_{1x}\}_x + Q(h_{1xx} - f_{hh} h_1)$$

$$N_4 h_1 = -Q h_1$$

All derivatives of  $f$  are functions of  $h_0(x)$ .

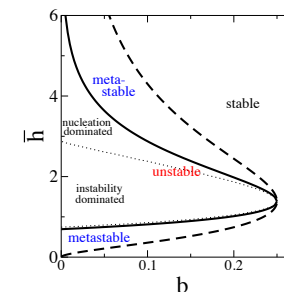
## Growth rates – critical defects vs. linear modes



Defects dominate

Surface instability dominates

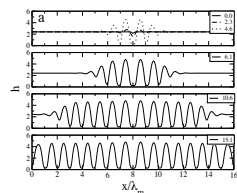
## Film stability and rupture modes



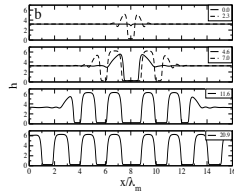
UT, M.G. Velarde and K. Neuffer, PRL 87, 016104 (2001); UT et al., PRE 64, 031602 (2001)

## Short-time evolution - Profiles

### Instability-dominated



### Nucleation-dominated



UT, M.G. Velarde and K. Neuffer, PRL 87, 016104 (2001); UT et al., ColSurfA 206, 135–155 (2002)

## Summary lecture 1

- Experiments with interface-dominated film/drop dynamics
- Modelling drops/films of simple liquids
- Long-wave expansion / gradient dynamics approach
- Analysis tools - illustrated for dewetting mechanisms

## Gradient dynamics formulations of thin film equations - part 2

Uwe Thiele

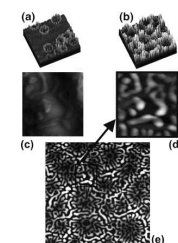
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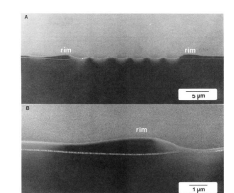
## Dewetting of two-layer films

M. Geoghegan and G. Krausch (2003)<sup>13</sup>



Dewetting PMMA (30nm) on PS (15nm)

A. Faldi, R. J. Composto, and K. I. Winey (1995)<sup>14</sup>

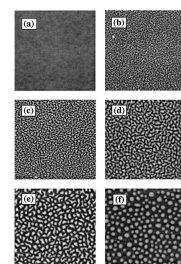


Polycarbonate on Polystyrene-co-acrylonitril

## Decomposition and dewetting

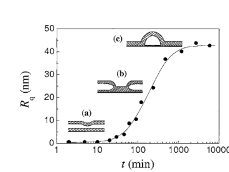
Wang & Composto (2003)<sup>15</sup>, Geoghegan & Krausch (2003)<sup>13</sup>

### Profile evolution



(a) 1 μm × 1 μm, (b-f) 10 μm × 10 μm

### Schematics

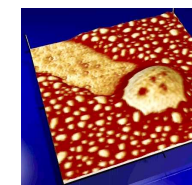
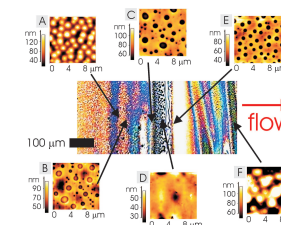


50 nm film of decomposing mixture of dPMMA and SAN

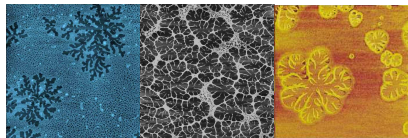
## Experiment: More involved (Co-)Polymer blends/solutions

Flow-induced decomposition Müller-Buschbaum et al. (2006)<sup>16</sup>

Chemical reaction – phase separation Magerle et al.



## Dewetting of suspensions - branched structures

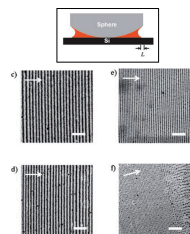


- (a) Gold nanoparticles in toluene on silicon (Pauliac et al. 2008, 20µm×20µm)<sup>17</sup>
- (b) Aqueous collagen solution on graphite (Mertig et al. 1998, 5µm×5µm)<sup>18</sup>
- (c) Aqueous PAA solution on PS (Gu et al. 2002, 2.5µm×2.5µm)<sup>19</sup>
- (d) Kinetic Monte Carlo run of lattice gas model (Vancea et al. 2008<sup>20</sup>)

## Deposition of line patterns from solutions/suspensions

### Dewetting evaporating nanoparticle suspensions

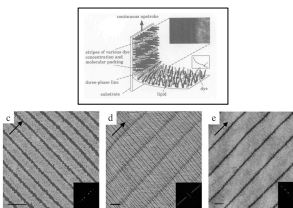
Lin et al. (2007)<sup>21</sup>



(CdSe/ZnS core/shell, 4.4nm, in toluene)  
Conc: 0.25, 0.15, 0.05, 0.05mg/ml

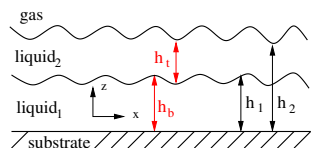
### Langmuir-Blodgett transfer of surfactants

Chi, Fuchs, Riegler et al. (1994,2004)<sup>22,23</sup>



Transfer of DPPC onto silicon oxide  
Transition with increasing lateral surface pressure  
SFM images, bar 2µm

## Two-layer film: evolution equations



$$\frac{\partial h_b}{\partial t} = \nabla \cdot \left( Q_{bt} \nabla \frac{\delta F}{\delta h_b} + Q_{bt} \nabla \frac{\delta F}{\delta h_t} \right)$$

$$\frac{\partial h_t}{\partial t} = \nabla \cdot \left( Q_{tb} \nabla \frac{\delta F}{\delta h_b} + Q_{tt} \nabla \frac{\delta F}{\delta h_t} \right)$$

A. Pototsky, M. Bestehorn, D. Merkt and UT, PRE 70, 025201(R) (2004); JCP 122, 224711 (2005)

## Two-layer film: Mobilities, Energy

Matrix of mobility functions – symmetric, positive definite:

$$Q = \frac{1}{6\mu_b} \begin{pmatrix} 2h_b^3 & 3h_b^2 h_t \\ 3h_b^2 h_t & 2\mu h_t^3 + 6h_b h_t^2 \end{pmatrix}$$

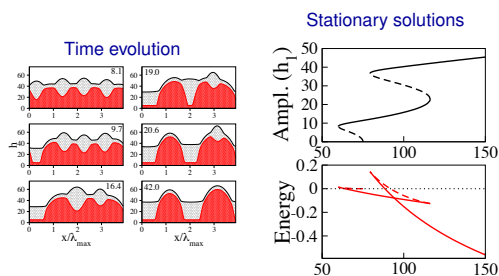
Energy functional

$$F = \int_A \left[ \frac{\gamma_1}{2} (\nabla h_b)^2 + \frac{\gamma_2}{2} (\nabla (h_b + h_t))^2 + f(h_b, h_t, h_b + h_t) \right] dA$$

Example: Local energy for van-der-Waals interactions

$$f(h_b, h_t, h_b + h_t) = -\frac{A_{gtbs}}{12\pi(h_b + h_t)^2} - \frac{A_{tbs}}{12\pi h_b^2} - \frac{A_{btg}}{12\pi h_t^2}$$

## Branch switching during coarsening



## Hydrodynamic equations in long-wave approximation I



Film thickness evolution equation

[isothermal, without solute cf. Pismen 2002<sup>24,25</sup>, Thiele 2010<sup>26</sup>)

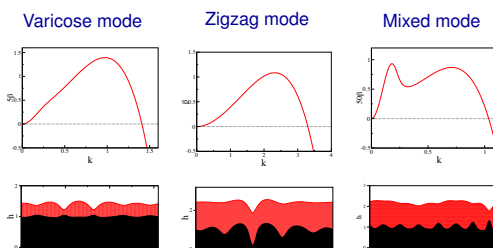
$$\partial_t h = -\nabla \cdot \mathbf{j}_{\text{conv}} - j_{\text{evap}} = \nabla \cdot [Q(h, \phi) \nabla p(h)] - \frac{\beta}{\rho} (p(h) - \mu p)$$

$$Q(h, \phi) = \frac{h^3}{3\eta(\phi)} \quad \text{mobility}$$

$$p(h) = -\gamma \Delta h - \Pi(h) \quad \text{pressure}$$

with L. Frastia, A.J. Archer, (H. Lopez)

## Dispersion relations - Nonlinear evolution - Rupture modes



Only destabilizing van der Waals → film rupture → no long time evolution



## Hydrodynamic equations in long-wave approximation II

Evolution equation for effective 'layer thickness'  $\psi = h\phi$   
[see also Warner et al. 2003<sup>27</sup>]

$$\begin{aligned}\partial_t(\phi h) &= -\nabla \cdot [\mathbf{j}_{adv} + \mathbf{j}_{diff}] = -\nabla \cdot [\phi \mathbf{j}_{conv} + \mathbf{j}_{diff}] \\ &= \nabla \cdot [\phi Q(h, \phi) \nabla p(h)] + \nabla \cdot [D(\phi) h \nabla \phi]\end{aligned}$$

Viscosity/diffusivity of dense suspension  
[Quemada (1977)<sup>28</sup>, Krieger-Doherty law, Einstein relation]

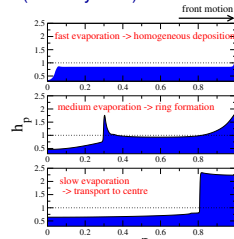
$$\eta(\phi) = \eta_0 \left(1 - \frac{\phi}{\phi_c}\right)^{-\nu} \quad D(\phi) = \frac{k_B T}{6\pi r_0 \eta(\phi)}$$

$\nu \dots$  Literature gives various exponents below  $\approx 2$

Evolution equations account for solvent capillarity, wettability, evaporation, solute diffusion, nonlinear rheology

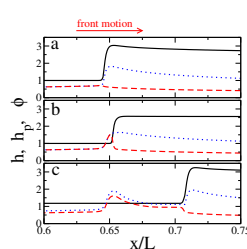
## Basic morphologies and mechanisms

Final dried-in deposit (small system)



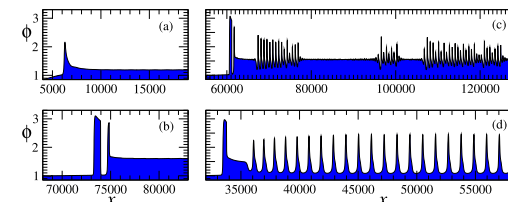
UT et al., J. Phys.-Cond. Mat. 21, 264016 (2009)

Pinning/depinning mechanism



## Pattern types – Examples

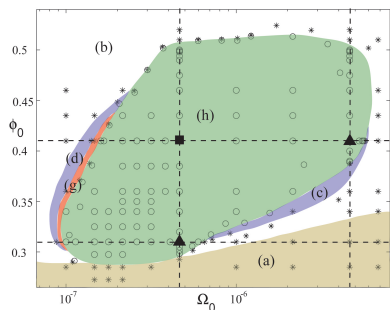
Dried-in deposition patterns close to "first ring"



L. Frastia, A.J. Archer, UT, PRL 106, 077801 (2011);  
Soft Matter 8, 11363 (2012)

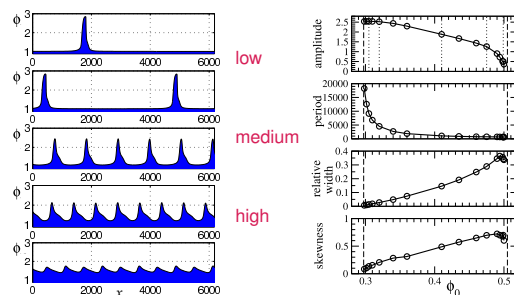
## Pattern types – morphological phase diagram

Depending on evaporation rate  $\Omega$  and initial mean concentration  $\phi_0$



## Line patterns – dependence on concentration

Deposit profiles and characteristics for  $\Omega_0 = 4.64 \times 10^{-7}$



Transition to line deposition as depinning transition in comoving frame  $\rightarrow$  depinning via Hopf and infinite period bifurcation



Reformulation and Extension

UT, EPJST 197, 213 (2011);  
UT, A. Archer, M. Plapp, PoF 24, 102107 (2012)

## Diffusion equation as gradient dynamics

Evolution equation for conserved concentration

$$\partial_t \phi = \nabla \cdot \left\{ Q(\phi) \nabla \frac{\delta F[\phi]}{\delta \phi} \right\}$$

with  $F$  only consisting of entropic contribution

$$F[h] = \int_V \left[ \frac{kT}{a^3} \phi (\log \phi - 1) \right] dV$$

$Q(\phi) = \tilde{D}\phi \dots$  mobility function ( $\tilde{D}$  molecular mobility)

$$\partial_t \phi = \nabla \cdot \left[ \tilde{D}\phi \nabla \left( \frac{kT}{a^3} \log \phi \right) \right] = \frac{\tilde{D}kT}{a^3} \Delta \phi = D \Delta \phi$$

## Thermodynamic formulation of evolution equations for suspensions and solutions I

$$\partial_t h = \nabla \cdot \left[ Q_{hh} \nabla \frac{\delta F}{\delta h} + Q_{h\psi} \nabla \frac{\delta F}{\delta \psi} \right] - Q_e \frac{\delta F}{\delta h}$$

$$\partial_t \psi = \nabla \cdot \left[ Q_{\psi h} \nabla \frac{\delta F}{\delta h} + Q_{\psi\psi} \nabla \frac{\delta F}{\delta \psi} \right]$$

where  $\psi = h\phi$  is the effective solute layer thickness

Evaporative flow – constant mobility

$$Q_e = \text{const} \geq 0$$

No contribution from  $\delta F/\delta \psi$  to evaporation as  $\psi$  is conserved

$\rightarrow$  Previous models miss osmotic pressure ( $g - \phi g'$ )

## Thermodynamic formulation of evolution equations II

Symmetric positive definite mobility matrix (cf. Onsager)

$$\mathbf{Q} = \begin{pmatrix} Q_{hh} & Q_{h\psi} \\ Q_{\psi h} & Q_{\psi\psi} \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{3\eta} \begin{pmatrix} h^3 & h^2\psi \\ h^2\psi & h\psi^2 + 3\tilde{D}\psi \end{pmatrix}$$

Free energy - extended interface Hamiltonian

$$F[h, \psi] = \int \left[ \frac{\gamma}{2} (\nabla h)^2 + f(h) + h g \left( \frac{\psi}{h} \right) \right] dA.$$

At low concentrations only entropic contributions in  $\phi$

$$g(\phi) = \frac{k_B T}{a^3} \phi [\log(\phi) - 1] = \frac{k_B T}{a^3} \frac{\psi}{h} \left[ \log \left( \frac{\psi}{h} \right) - 1 \right]$$

## Density-dependent transport coefficients

Viscosity of dense suspension (Quemada 1977, Krieger-Doherty law)

$$\eta(\phi) = \eta_0 \left(1 - \frac{\phi}{\phi_c}\right)^{-\nu}$$

$\nu \dots$  Literature gives various exponents below  $\approx 2$

Solute mobility (related to 'Diffusion constant') (Einstein relation valid for all densities)

$$\tilde{Q}_{\psi\psi} = \frac{\tilde{D}\psi}{\eta(\phi)} \quad \text{with} \quad \tilde{D} = \frac{a^2}{6\pi} \quad \text{gives} \quad D(\phi) = \frac{k_B T}{6\pi a \eta(\phi)}$$

## Extensions based on reformulation I

(i) Weakly interacting colloidal particles  
no solute-solvent decomposition

$$\text{Replace } g \sim \phi \log(\phi) \quad \text{by} \quad g \sim \phi \log(\phi) - b\phi^2$$

(ii) Strongly interactive colloidal particles  
possible solute-solvent decomposition  
Close to critical point (cf. Cahn-Hilliard double-well energy)

$$\text{Use } g \sim \kappa(\nabla\phi)^2 + (\phi^2 - 1)^2$$

Gives long-wave limit of model-H (as derived via asymptotics by Náraigh and Thiffeault (2010))

## Extensions based on reformulation

(iii) Solute-dependent wettability

$$\text{Replace } f(h) \quad \text{by} \quad f(h, \phi)$$

Convective and diffusive fluxes become:

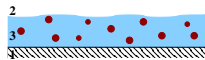
$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{J}_{\text{conv}} &= Q_{nh}[\nabla(\gamma\Delta h - \partial_h f(h, \phi)) + \frac{1}{h}(\partial_\phi f(h, \phi))\nabla\phi] \\ \mathbf{J}_{\text{diff}} &= -\tilde{D}\psi\nabla\left[\frac{1}{h}\partial_\phi f(h, \phi) + g'(\phi)\right] \end{aligned}$$

New term: 'wettability equivalent' of Marangoni/Korteweg flow

UT, EPJST 197, 213-220 (2011); D. Todorova, submitted (2013)

## Solute-dependent wettability - Hamaker constant

Film of solution

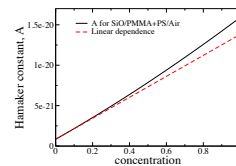


Homogenisation gives  $\epsilon_3(\phi)$

Hamaker 'constant'

$$A_{123}(\phi) = \frac{3k_B T}{8\sqrt{2}} \left( \frac{\epsilon_1 - \epsilon_3(\phi)}{\epsilon_1 + \epsilon_3(\phi)} \right) \left( \frac{\epsilon_2 - \epsilon_3(\phi)}{\epsilon_2 + \epsilon_3(\phi)} \right) + \frac{3h\nu_e}{8\sqrt{2}} \frac{(\eta_1^2 - \eta_3^2(\phi))(\eta_2^2 - \eta_3^2(\phi))}{\sqrt{(\eta_1^2 + \eta_3^2(\phi))(\eta_2^2 + \eta_3^2(\phi))}(\sqrt{\eta_1^2 + \eta_3^2(\phi)} + \sqrt{\eta_2^2 + \eta_3^2(\phi)})}$$

$\phi$  – concentration of solute;  
 $\eta_i$  – refractive indices;  
 $\epsilon_i$  – dielectric constants;  
 $k_B$  – Boltzmann's constant;  
 $T$  – temperature;  
 $h\nu_e$  – Planck's constant;  
 $\nu_e$  – main electronic absorption frequency.



## Solute-dependent wettability - Film stability

Derjaguin pressure

$$\Pi(h) = -\frac{A(\phi)}{h^3} + \frac{B}{h^6}$$

$B > 0$  and  $A_0 < 0$  (wetting)

→ pure solvent film  
absolutely stable

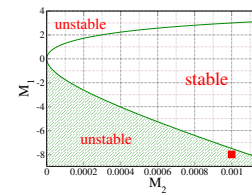
For  $M_1 < 0$

→ pure solute film  
absolutely stable

No solute-solvent attraction  
(ideal gas-like solute)

→ no bulk solute-solvent  
decomposition

Linear stability diagram



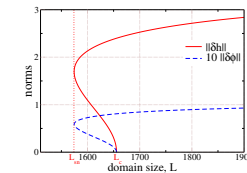
$h_0 = 15, \phi_0 = 0.2$

$$A(\phi) = |A_0|(-1 + M_1\phi)$$

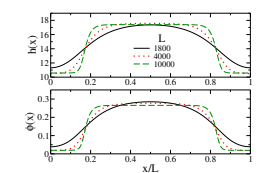
$$M_2 = \frac{k_B T}{|A_0|} \frac{\beta^3}{a^3}$$

## Solute-dependent wettability - Steady states

Solution family at  
 $M_2 = 0.001, M_1 = -8$



Drop/concentration profiles



Coupling of film height and concentration degrees of freedom allows system to minimize energy further

## Summary lecture 2

- Experiments with films/drops of mixtures/solutions/suspensions
- Gradient dynamics approach for two-layer films
- Gradient dynamics approach for mixtures (non-surface active)
- Selected results for two-layer films, line deposition and dewetting mixtures

## Depinning transitions and deposition patterns

Uwe Thiele

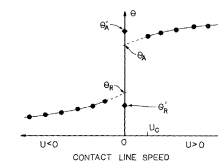
Cambridge, July 2013

ITN MULTIFLOW

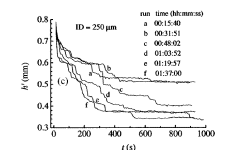


## Contact line pinning, contact angle hysteresis and stick-slip motion

Dussan (1979)<sup>29</sup>  
Contact angle hysteresis



Schäffer and Wong (1998)<sup>7</sup>  
Stick-slip motion

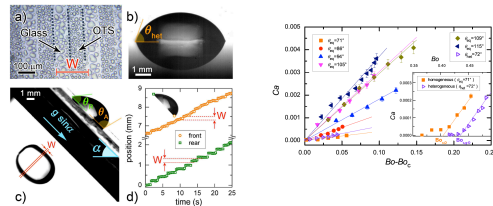


## Depinning of drop on striped substrate

Varagnolo et al., arXiv (2013)

Stick-slipping drop

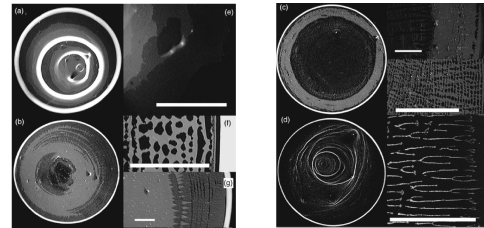
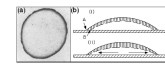
Mean drop velocity



How can the depinning transition be characterized?

## The coffee stain effect

R.D. Deegan (1997-2000)<sup>30-32</sup>  
(Polystyrene micro-spheres in water)

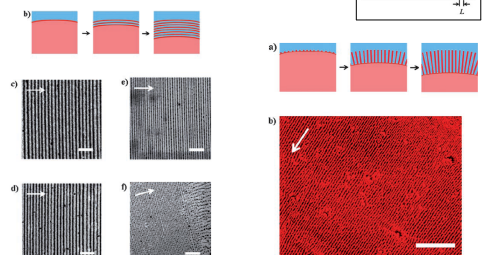
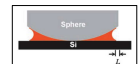


Volume fractions (a) 1%, (b) 0.25%, (c) 0.13%, and (d) 0.063%

## Dewetting evaporating suspensions – line patterns

Zhiqun Lin et al. (2006-2008)<sup>21,33-35</sup>

(CdSe/ZnS core/shell, 4.4nm (right) and 5.5nm (left) in diameter, in toluene)

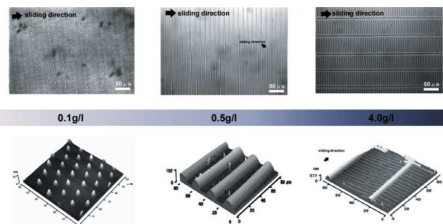
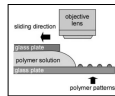


Concentrations: 0.25mg/ml, 0.15mg/ml, 0.05mg/ml, 0.05mg/ml

Concentration: 0.25mg/ml

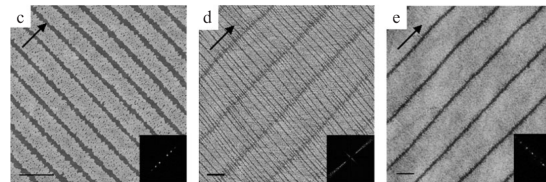
## Dewetting evaporating polymer solutions

Yabu & Shimomura (2005)<sup>36</sup>  
(Polystyrene in chloroform)



## Patterning by Langmuir-Blodgett transfer

Chi, Fuchs et al (2004) – Transfer of DPPC onto silicon oxide<sup>23</sup>



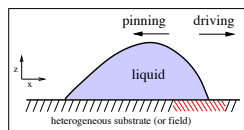
SFM images, bar 2μm

see also Riegler et al 1992/94<sup>37,38</sup>

## Driven drops/film on heterogeneous substrate

Film thickness evolution equation in long-wave approximation

$$\partial_t h = -\nabla \cdot \left\{ \frac{h^3}{3\eta} \nabla [\gamma \Delta h + \Pi(h, r)] + \mu \mathbf{e}_x \right\}$$



Non-dimensional parameters

$\bar{h}$ ... mean film thickness  
 $L_x \times L_y$ ... system size / period  
 $\mu$ ... driving force

Note: Very similar equation describes drops on a rotating cylinder → expect similar transitions

## Periodic array of local wettability defect

Wettability via Derjaguin (disjoining) pressure

$$\Pi(h, r) = \kappa \left( \frac{b}{h^3} - [1 + \epsilon \xi(x)] e^{-h} \right)$$

$$\xi(x) = 2 \{ \text{cn}[2K(k)x/L, k] \}^2 - \Delta$$

$K(k)$ ... complete elliptic integral of the first kind

$\Delta$ ... shift to have  $\int \xi(x) dx = 0$

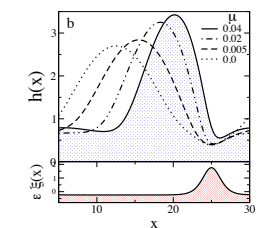
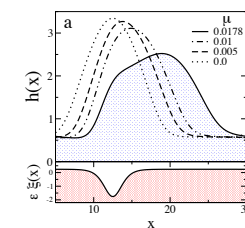
Further parameters

- $\epsilon$ ... wettability contrast
  - $\epsilon < 0$  hydrophilic defect
  - $\epsilon > 0$  hydrophobic defect
- $s \equiv -\log(1 - K)$ ... steepness of defect

## Profiles of pinned driven 2d drops (3d transversally invariant ridges)

Hydrophilic defect

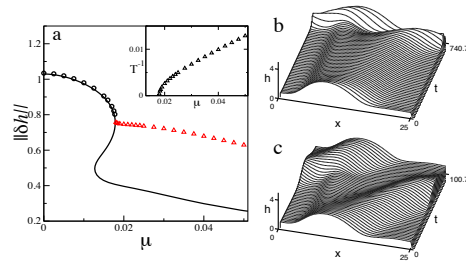
Hydrophobic defect



Focus on small amplitude drops to resolve details of bifurcational structure

## Dynamics of depinning of a 2d drop pinned by a hydrophilic defect

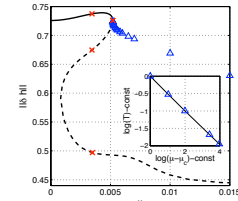
Depinning via sniper bifurcation – Stick-slip infinitely slow at transition.



UT and E. Knobloch: PRL 97, 204501 (2006); NJP 8, 313 (2006)

## Drop depinning from hydrophilic line defect via SNIPer bifurcation

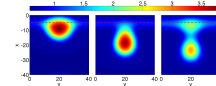
Bifurcation diagram



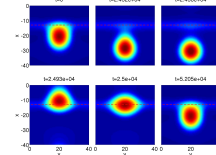
P. Beltrame, P. Hänggi, UT; EPL 86, 24006 (2009)

(cf. UT and E. Knobloch: PRL 97, 204501 (2006); NJP 8, 313 (2006))

Steady drops



Time evolution



## Stationary and dynamic states in 3d – Multistability

Complete picture has to relate

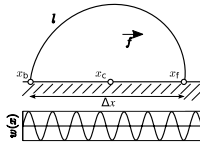
- Depinning transitions of 3d drops and transversally invariant ridges (2d drops)
- Plateau-Rayleigh instability of a ridge (zero/finite driving with/without heterogeneity)
- Rivulet solutions and their stability w.r.t. surface waves with/without heterogeneity

## Depinning of large contact angle drops

Description by Stokes equation

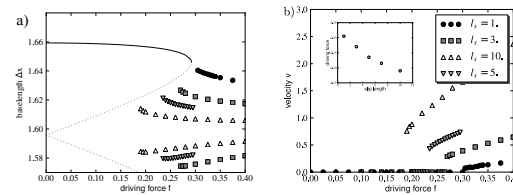
with D. Herde, M. Brinkmann and S. Herminghaus

- Space-dependent microscopic contact angle imposed
- steady drops (continuation steady Stokes equation, minimisation energy)
- slip-length controlled sliding drops
- large contact angles (45°, 90°)



## Large contact angle drops - sliding drops

Dependence of onset of sliding on slip length



With increasing slip length the (homoclinic) depinning bifurcation occurs at smaller driving

Less dissipation at same drop speed → More energy stored as interfacial energy (and then used to overcome hydrophobic patch)

D. Herde, UT, S. Herminghaus, M. Brinkmann EPL 100, 16002 (2012)



with A. Pototsky, A. J. Archer, S.E. Savel'ev, and F. Marchesoni

## DDFT evolution equation as gradient dynamics

Evolution equation for conserved density  $\rho(x, t)$

$$\partial_t \rho = \partial_x \left\{ Q(\rho) \partial_x \frac{\delta F[\rho]}{\delta \rho} \right\}$$

with free energy

$$F[\rho] = T \int_{-n/2}^{n/2} dx \rho [\ln \rho - 1] + \int_{-n/2}^{n/2} dx U_{\text{eff}}(x) \rho + F_{\text{at}}[\rho] + F_{\text{hc}}[\rho]$$

$Q(\rho) = \rho \dots$  mobility

$U_{\text{eff}}(x) \dots$  external potential (here independent of time)

$F_{\text{at}}[\rho] \dots$  attractive interaction

$F_{\text{hc}}[\rho] \dots$  hard-core repulsive interaction

## Contributions to energy

External potential (periodic part & overall tilt)

$$U_{\text{eff}}(x) = U(x) - Ax \quad U(x) = \sin(2\pi x) + 0.25 \sin(4\pi x)$$

Attractive interaction

$$F_{\text{at}}[\rho] = \int_{-n/2}^{n/2} dx \int_{-n/2}^{n/2} dx' w_{\text{at}}(|x-x'|) \frac{\rho(x)\rho(x')}{2} \quad \text{with } w_{\text{at}}(x) = -\alpha e^{-\lambda x}$$

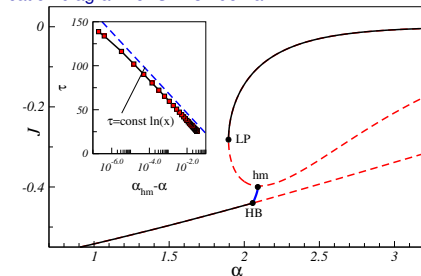
Hard-core repulsion

$$F_{\text{hc}}[\rho] = \frac{1}{2} \int_{-n/2}^{n/2} dx \phi[\rho(x)] \left\{ \rho \left( x + \frac{h}{2} \right) + \rho \left( x - \frac{h}{2} \right) \right\}$$

where  $\phi[\rho] = -T \ln[1 - \eta]$  and  $\eta(x, t) = \int_{x-h/2}^{x+h/2} dx' \rho(x', t)$

## Depinning transition for point particles ( $h = 0$ )

Bifurcation diagram for  $S = 3L$  domain



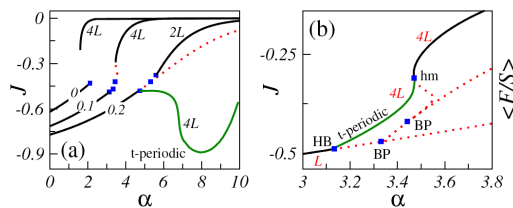
$\alpha \dots$  interaction strength ( $\sim$  increasing contact angle)  
driving:  $A = -1$ , interaction length  $\lambda = 5$

## Depinned state for 3L domain - movie

Motion via volume mode

driving:  $A = -1$ , interaction length  $\lambda = 5$  and strength  $\alpha = 2.09$

## Influence of size of rod-like particles ( $h > 0$ )

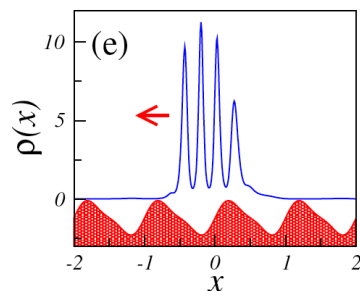


driving:  $A = -1$ , interaction length  $\lambda = 5$ , domain size  $S = 4L$   
*A. Pototsky, A. J. Archer, S.E. Savel'ev, UT and F. Marchesoni, PRE 83, 061401 (2011)*

## Depinned 'frozen' clusters - movie

Driving:  $A = -1$ , particle size  $h = 0.2$ , interaction strength

## Depinned 'frozen' clusters - snapshot



Driving:  $A = -1$ , particle size  $h = 0.2$ , interaction strength  $\alpha = 7.5$ , interaction length  $\lambda = 5$

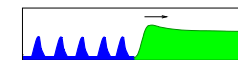
## Conclusions for depinning drops / density distributions

Depinning drops/ridges in 2d/3d

- Drops/ridges may **depin via sniper/Hopf/homoclinic bifurcation**
- **Stick-slip motion** beyond depinning (sniper/homoclinic), related to **translation mode**
- Intricate 3d behaviour (coupling to Plateau-Rayleigh instability)

DDFT for interacting particles in modulated nano-pore

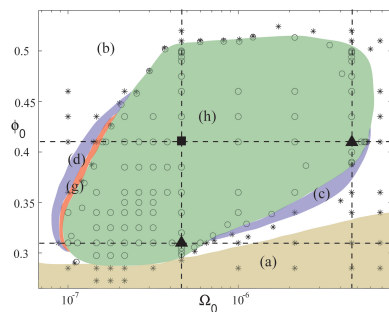
- Interplay of steady-state (pitchfork) and depinning transitions (Hopf/homoclinic) [picture not yet complete]
- **Depinning dynamics via volume transfer** or translation mode



with L. Frastia, A.J. Archer, (H. Lopez)

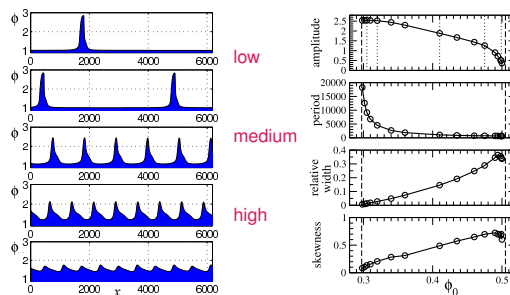
## Pattern types – morphological phase diagram

Depending on evaporation rate  $\Omega$  and initial mean concentration  $\phi_0$



## Line patterns – dependence on concentration

Deposit profiles and characteristics for  $\Omega_0 = 4.64 \times 10^{-7}$

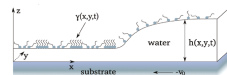


Transition to line deposition as depinning transition in comoving frame  $\rightarrow$  depinning via Hopf and infinite period bifurcation

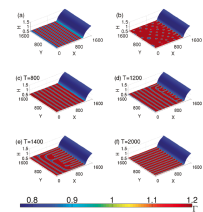
LANGMUIR-BLODGETT TRANSFER



## Geometry



## Resulting line patterns



## Evolution equations

$$\partial_t \Gamma = -\nabla \cdot \left[ \frac{\Gamma h^2}{2} \nabla \rho + \Gamma h \nabla \Sigma - V \Gamma \right]$$

$$\partial_t h = -\nabla \cdot \left[ \frac{h^3}{3} \nabla \rho + \frac{h^2}{2} \nabla \Sigma - V h \right] - \Omega \mu(h, \Gamma)$$

Special case of gradient dynamics model for insoluble surfactants  
UT, A. Archer, M. Plapp, PoF 24, 102107 (2012)

## Observations with full model

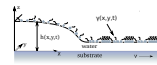
- Patterning rather insensitive to details of BC at meniscus side and details of evaporation
- Phase transition triggered by strong decrease of film height in contact region
- → One may 'fix' film profile and incorporate as heterogeneous medium into simple model for phase separation

## Cahn-Hilliard model with dragging term

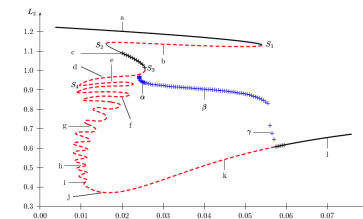
$$\partial_t c = -\Delta[\Delta c - c^3 + (1 - \mu \zeta(\mathbf{x}))c] - V \cdot \nabla c \quad \text{with} \quad \mathbf{V} = (V, 0)$$

and space dependent external field (smooth step)

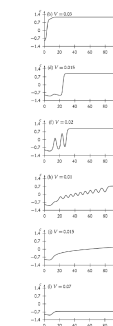
$$\zeta(\mathbf{x}) = \zeta(x) = -\frac{1}{2} \left[ 1 + \tanh \left( \frac{x - x_s}{l_s} \right) \right]$$



## Depinning bifurcation diagram



## Steady profiles



Homoclinic (low V) and Hopf (high V) bifurcation  
Heteroclinic snaking of localised (front) states

M. Köpf, S. Gurevich, R. Friedrich, UT, New J. Phys. 14, 023016 (2012)

## Summary lecture 3

- Experiments with depinning drops and line deposition
- Bifurcation study for depinning drops
- DDFt approach for nano-particles in heterogeneous pore (depinning transitions)
- Selected results for line deposition

## General outlook

## Gradient dynamics forms of evolution equations

- Understand full spectrum of two-field models better
- Use to develop new models
- Strongly/weakly anchored nematic liquid crystals
- Evaporation models (including osmotic pressure)
- Formulation for soluble surfactants
- Driven systems? Which? Potential energy!
- Further explore relation to DDFt

## Depinning transitions

- How do they emerge?
- How are the different systems related?
- Simplified models?

## References I

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