Molecular Dynamics Simulations of Sessile and Pendant Droplets Shape on Inclined and Curved Surfaces

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Abstract

In this study, shape of water droplets with different sizes on various inclined smooth surfaces is simulated numerically and advancing and receding contact angles are determined by using the molecular dynamics approach. Experimental measurements are also carried out to validate the numerical predictions of droplet shape on inclined surfaces. Based on the verified code, shape of water droplets in different sizes around smooth circular cylinders with various diameters is simulated. Furthermore, advancing and receding contact angles along with the hysteresis values of the sessile and pendant droplets with various sizes around the cylinders are evaluated. Finally, based on the numerical results, two correlations are developed to predict advancing and receding contact angles of droplets on the circular cylinders. According to the results, maximum advancing and minimum receding angles take place on both sides of the cylinder on a horizontal line passes through the cylinder center. As a result, contact angle hysteresis reaches its maximum value in these two positions. In addition, advancing and receding angles have the same values on the top and bottom of the cylinder. Moreover, droplet size and cylinder diameter have minor effect while drop position has major effect on the shape of droplets over the cylinder.

Keywords: Molecular dynamics; Contact angle; Hysteresis; Inclined plate; Curved surface; Sessile drop; Pendant drop.

1. Introduction

Heat transfer coefficient in dropwise condensation is much higher than that of filmwise condensation [1]. This overwhelming aspect of dropwise condensation has made it an outstanding candidate for the researchers to conduct widespread studies on its basic physical aspect as well as on its various applications. Numerous experimental and numerical studies have been made so far on this attractive field of engineering interest. Abu-Orabi [2] developed a model using the population balance concept to predict drop size distribution for small drops that grow by direct condensation. Wu et al. [3] carried out the random fractal model to simulate the drop size and special distribution in dropwise condensation. Vemuri and Kim [4] created hydrophobic coatings on copper alloy surfaces to enhance steam condensation through dropwise condensation. In their work, similar to

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the work of Abu-Orabi [2], a model based on the population balance concept was used to derive a theoretical formula to predict the drop size distribution of small drops that grow by condensation. Rausch et al. [5] achieved a stable dropwise condensation of saturated steam on an aluminum alloy disc by means of ion beam implementation technology. Mei et al. [6] developed a fractal model for dropwise condensation heat transfer based on the fractal characteristics of drop size distributions on condensing surfaces. Hong et al. [7] predicted static and dynamic contact angles of water droplets on a solid surface by using the molecular dynamics method. They realized that the increase of characteristic energy of the solid surface leads to decrease the static contact angle due to changing the hydrophobic surface to a hydrophilic one. Rausch et al. [8] achieved stable dropwise condensation of steam by ion beam implementation of N⁺ on titanium surfaces stabilized by a peroxidation procedure. Lara and Holtzapple [9] measured heat transfer coefficient in vertical dimpled-sheet heat exchangers, some of which were bare and the others were coated with a thin layer of passive electroless Ni-P-PTFE. Lara and Holtzapple [10] also made an experimental investigation of hydrophobic heat exchangers. Two plates were studied; one was bare while the other had a hydrophobic coating. Moreover, Mei et al. [11] simulated processes of nucleation, growth, re-nucleation and sweeping of droplets based on the intrinsic growth rate of a single droplet. Their studies were related to influences of the number of initial droplets on the average radius, surface coverage and number of droplets on substrate. Their results showed that the apparent growth rate of droplets is strongly dependent on the number of initial droplets. Guilizzoni [12] experimentally investigated the shape and contact angle of drops on curved surfaces. They used image processing, spline fitting and numerical integration to extract the drop contour in a number of cross sections. Park et al. [13] investigated numerically some wetting characteristics such as contact angle and wetting radius of water drops on solid surfaces with various roughness. Molecular dynamic simulation is implemented to analyze the wetting behavior of water droplets on the surfaces. They figured out that contact angles for a hydrophobic surface with low characteristic energy depend rarely on the roughness height. However, the contact angles for surfaces with high characteristic energy dependent on both the roughness height and droplet size. Sergi et al. [14] used the molecular dynamics approach to determine the contact angle of water droplets with an initial radius ranging from 20 to 80 Å spreading on graphite surfaces. They found out that for small droplets, surface thickness fluctuations is very effective in the deformation of their spherical shape. Bonner [15] presented two generalized correlations for dropwise condensation heat transfer coefficient, one of which was heat flux dependent and the other was non-heat flux dependent. Eral et al. [16] reviewed the studies about the contact angle hysteresis. They discussed the most important theoretical, experimental and numerical studies in their paper. Based on the numerical investigations, the continuum approach such as lubrication theory and the molecular approach such as molecular dynamics simulation are two different approaches to analyze contact angles. Santiso et al. [17] calculated the solid-fluid contact angles using the molecular dynamics simulations. Their approach was able to approve that surface roughness and energetic heterogeneities affect the contact angle. Wu et al. [18] proposed a theoretical model to estimate the contact angle of droplets on convex and concave surfaces. This model mainly depends on droplet volume, surface curvature and the contact angle of the droplet on a flat surface. Kim et al. [19] measured the dynamic advancing and receding contact angles on hydrophobic and super-hydrophobic surfaces as a function of plate velocity and capillary number. They found out that the advancing contact angle remains constant independent of capillary number, while the dynamic receding contact angle is decreased with increasing capillary number. Cheng et al. [20] proposed a mathematical model to determine the contact angle hysteresis by employing concepts of
surface-energy minimization. The model can predict contact angle hysteresis of droplets on different surface geometries and degrees of wetting. Results show that contact angle hysteresis increases with increasing the surface roughness and degree of wetting. Burt et al. [21] studied the effect of drop size and surface interaction on the contact angle of ionic-liquid droplets by molecular dynamics simulations. Their study revealed that there is no change in contact angle with drop size at low interaction potential. However, the contact angle strongly reduces when the surface interaction potential increases. Contact angle and wetting behavior of soil minerals was investigated by Zhang et al. [22]. The molecular dynamics simulation was employed and three types of the soil minerals including a-quartz, orthoclase and muscovite were considered. This study indicated that the contact angles intensively depend on the soil mineral types. Wu and Ma [23] proposed a new model based on the fractal structure of the contact line to make a connection between three different contact angles including the equilibrium, receding and advancing contact angles. This model has only one parameter and it can be easily reduced to other models proposed by prior investigators. Škvára et al. [24] proposed a new method from molecular simulations to evaluate the contact angle of droplets on a solid underlay. The accuracy of this method strongly depends on the droplet size. For very small droplets, determination of contact angle is complicated while larger droplets do not significantly affect the contact angle. Villa et al. [25] presented two theoretical models to predict the effect of surface temperature on the contact angle. They validated the new models with experimental measurements. Based on their results, the contact angle decreases with increasing surface temperatures on the hydrophilic surface. Whereas, the contact angle remains almost constant on hydrophobic surfaces for increasing wall temperatures. Feng et al. [26] studied the impact of temperature and particle size on the contact angle of Cu/Si(1 1 1) system by molecular dynamics approach. They observed that contact angle decreases with increasing temperature and decreasing particle size of the system.

Literature includes many works which have been theoretically, numerically and experimentally conducted for the simulation of dropwise condensation and just a few of such works are reviewed in the previous paragraph. However, new numerical simulations, modeling, theories, approaches and new applications of this interesting phenomenon are still under consideration for many researchers. Drops nucleation, formation, growth, coalescence, departure, sweeping, dripping and regeneration on a surface in addition to the drops shape on inclined surfaces are all chaotic phenomena taking place in various engineering system configurations. This stimulus is sufficient for the researchers to continue their theoretical and experimental studies on further understanding and developing practical approaches to enhance convection heat transfer considering dropwise condensation. For such aim, the present motivation is to apply molecular dynamics theory as a new scheme to develop the certain aspect of drop formation on the surfaces.

In this paper, an in-house computational code is developed to predict the shape of water droplets formed on inclined and curved surfaces with the implementation of the molecular dynamics method. Size of droplets are selected 5, 10 and 15 µL and inclination angles of the plate is considered 0, 45, 60 and 90° relative to the horizontal axis. Furthermore, circular cylinders with diameters of 25, 35 and 70 mm are considered as the curved surface. In order to validate the numerical approach, outputs of the simulations for the shape of droplets are compared with the experimental measurements on inclined surfaces. Finally, the verified code is employed to predict the advancing and receding contact angles of sessile and pendant water droplets on the circular cylinders. Moreover, based on the determined angles, contact angle hysteresis is calculated and two correlations for estimating advancing and receding contact angles are proposed. Details of the numerical modeling are
introduced in the following section. The experimental observations are explained in the next section and finally, the obtained results are compared and their discussions are expressed.

2. Methodology

The general aspects of the molecular dynamics approach for predicting the shape of drops formed on surfaces will be briefly introduced in this section. More details of this method are provided in the appendix.

In this approach, a water drop is assumed to be made up of a number of small spherical particles. Each particle consists of several actual molecules. The adequate number of molecules are determined based on interaction forces between a pair of particles so that they become independent of the number of particles. The particles constituting the drop can slide over each other due to various forces acting on them. In general, the forces applied to each particle may be the gravitational force of the earth as well as the cohesive forces of the other same particles in its neighborhood. Moreover, for those particles being in the vicinity of a solid surface, the adhesive force of the surface is included as well. Note that the cohesive forces are the intermolecular forces that exist between molecules of the same substance, while the adhesive forces are the attractive forces between unlike molecules. The most important methods to determine these two molecular interactions are reviewed by Rosenholm et al. [27].

However, Newton's second law of motion is applied to track each particle in the drop. Once the position of all particles is known for each time step, the shape of the drop can consequently be determined. It should be noted that the foregoing procedure should continue until the changes in the predicted shape of the drop become negligible. This means that the drop has approached its equilibrium condition on the specified surface.

The procedure begins with assuming an arbitrary initial shape for the boundary of the water drop. Then, the particles are distributed in its boundary. The number of particles is expected to be large enough so that they, as a whole, could well resemble the drop shape. Given the number of the particles, their size is also known since their volumes should essentially sum up to the volume of the drop.

Once the particles are given an initial distribution in the drop, the forces acting on each particle are to be determined. As already stated, there are various forces that act on each particle. These forces are the particle's weight, the cohesive forces due to the neighboring particles, and the adhesive force originating from the solid surface. The adhesive force of the solid surface, however, is necessary to be taken into account only for those particles in its neighborhood. In order to determine the cohesive forces acting on a specific particle, its neighbors are to be identified. Consequently, a search through all the other particles has to be made to find the neighbors of that specific particle. The searching algorithm is repeated for all particles at each time step. Therefore, this part of the program is rather time-consuming. Figure 1(a) illustrates an initial distribution provided for the particles near a horizontal solid surface. Note that the arrangement given to the particles is arbitrary. A fraction of the particles is also shown in Figure 1(b). The position of a specific particle, such as particle $i$, in the middle of its neighbors and the forces acting on it are also shown in Figure 1(b).

Every particle in this drop can move through the other particles and Newton's second law governs the motion of each particle. This equation is written for particle $i$ shown in Figure 1(b) as:

$$\vec{F}_i = m \vec{a}_i$$

(1)
In Eq. (1), \( \vec{F}_i \) is the summation of all forces acting on the particle \( i \), and \( \vec{a}_i \) is the particle acceleration vector. Subscript \( i \) is not given to \( m \), however, since mass is assumed the same for all the particles in the drop. The equation of motion should also be written for all the particles.

Writing the equation of motion for each particle returns its acceleration vector at the beginning of a time step. An integration of this equation with respect to time gives the velocity vector of the particle, and a subsequent integration determines the position vector of the particle at the end of the time step. If one chooses the Leapfrog method well described in [28] to carry out the numerical integrations of the equation of motion, velocity and position vectors will be respectively computed as follows:

\[
\begin{align*}
\vec{u}_i(t + \Delta t/2) &= \vec{u}_i(t) + (\Delta t/2) \vec{a}_i(t) \\
\vec{r}_i(t + \Delta t) &= \vec{r}_i(t) + \Delta t \vec{u}_i(t + \Delta t/2) \\
\vec{u}_i(t + \Delta t) &= \vec{u}_i(t + \Delta t/2) + (\Delta t/2) \vec{a}_i(t + \Delta t)
\end{align*}
\]

In these equations, \( \Delta t \) represents the time step. Also, Eq. (2) determines the velocity vector of the particle at the middle of the time step. Using the data obtained from this equation, the position vector of the particle at the end of the time step can subsequently be evaluated by Eq. (3). Finally, the implementation of Eq. (4) gives the velocity vector of the particle at the end of the time step.

The particles which move near the surface are assumed to undergo conservative impact with the surface while the adhesive force of the surface is applied to them. On the other hand, the particles moving at the outer boundary of the droplet are assumed to be influenced by the force resulted from the air pressure upon them. For such consideration, virtual air particles of the same size as water particles of the drop are thus considered to exist at the outer boundary of the droplet. In addition, the gravitational force of these virtual air particles is then considered as the air force acting on the water particles as illustrated in Figure 2.

Once the position vectors of the particles are known, an approximated shape can be drawn for the drop. This shape will essentially differ from the one imagined for the drop as an initial guess. It may also differ, however, from the correct shape of the drop. In order to approach the correct prediction for shape of the drop, computations should be continued for the next time step. The position and velocity vectors already computed are to be used for the calculations required at the next time step. This procedure goes on until the final shape of the drop is determined and further calculations do not significantly change the drop shape.

In this paper, the foregoing methodology is implemented for prediction of the shape of a water droplet formed on an inclined surface. The surface material is assumed smooth and its inclination angle is given variable values. Size of the droplets is also taken variable. For each case, the drop shape and its contact angles are determined. In addition, experimental measurements are conducted in parallel to the numerical calculations to visualize the real drop shape for various surface inclinations. Using the photos taken from the experiment, the real contact angles of the droplets are then measured. Furthermore, a comparison is made between the calculated and measured contact angles for the validation of numerical results. Finally, the validated numerical method is applied for prediction of the shape of sessile and pendant drops with various sizes on circular cylinders with different diameters.

3. Experimental setup
For validation of numerical computations as well as calibration of the contact angle, some experiments were conducted to measure the drop contact angles on inclined surfaces. The liquid used is water and the surfaces on which drops are placed are super-hydrophobic aluminum which is made by using etching and stearic acid monolayer assembling as recommended by Wu et al. [29]. The process of making a super-hydrophobic aluminum can be stated in following steps in brief:

1- The cleaned aluminum 7000 group alloy piece was first polished with granularity 600#, 800#, 1200# and metallographic sanding papers gradually for about 1 hour. The oxide layers of aluminum alloy surface were removed during this process.

2- After ultrasonically cleaning in ethanol and de-ionized water for about 15 minutes, the sample was dried at room temperature, followed by immersing in the acidic solution for 4 hours. The acidic solution was an aqueous solution of 1 mole/L (3.7%) hydrochloric acid. The sample after immersing in the above solution was washed with de-ion water and dried.

3- Dilute potassium permanganate (25°C, 0.1 mole/L) was employed to obtain a more stable surface, the immersing time in KMnO₄ was about 1 hour.

4- Finally, the sample was immersed into 1% stearic acid for about 30 minutes to further reduce surface energy.

In addition, the procedure of measurements was in the following steps:

1- The tilted plate is adjusted at the required angle.

2- The microscope and attached camera are placed as close to the drop, approximately 1 cm length.

3- The water drop is released with micro-injector on the prepared hydrophobic surface when it is horizontally.

4- The aluminum surface is placed on the tilted plate.

5- The camera is zoomed to see the drop shape clearly.

6- The pictures are taken within 30 seconds when the room temperature is about 25°C.

Profiles images of droplets are taken by using a Dino-Lite Premier AM4113T microscope and attached camera as shown in Figure 3. The images are recorded in a PC and used to measure contact angles by using an image processing software. At least four pictures were recorded for each angle so that average values of contact angles were obtained. The maximum deviation of the measured angles from the average angle was 1.5°.

4. Results and discussion

In this study, water droplets of 5, 10 and 15 µL are examined. The surface on which drops are formed is assumed to be smooth and hydrophobic with inclination angles of 0, 45, 60 and 90° with respect to the horizontal direction. For each case, the shape of the water drop is predicted using the presented methodology, and both its advancing and receding contact angles are calculated.

More than 10,000 particles with 0.1 mm diameter are distributed in the drop. This number of particles is adequately large for the simulation of a drop shape. Moreover, with the value given to the diameter of the
particles, their mass is thus equal to $5.236 \times 10^{-10}$ kg, which is the same for all the particles. Time step is also given the value of $10^{-5}$ s in this work, which is sufficiently small to consider minor displacements of the particles.

Evaluation of the cohesive forces acting among the particles is performed using molecular dynamics theory [28]. Description of this scheme is explained in the appendix. The present technique started with an assumed value given to the adhesive force of the surface. With this assumption, a drop forming on a horizontal surface was modeled first. Having the value of the drop contact angle known from the experimental measurements, a trial and error procedure is made on the value of the adhesive force of the surface until the drop contact angle obtained from the numerical technique becomes equal to that obtained from the experimental measurements. The resulting magnitude for the adhesive force was then used as constant during rest of the calculations for the other drop size and surface orientations. The numerical approach is repeated to model the shape of the water droplets over inclined surfaces and their advancing and receding contact angles are compared with the experimental measurements. However, as the experimental measurements are carried out for smooth hydrophobic surfaces, the present numerical calculations are valid only for surfaces with smooth and hydrophobic aluminum characteristics. Finally, the numerical technique is employed to predict the shape of the drops formed around circular cylinders with diameters 25, 35 and 70 mm to generalize the computations.

Figure 4 shows the initial shape assumed for the water drop of volume 5 µL, which is to be formed on a horizontal surface. Since the procedure continued until the final shape for the drop is reached, this shape seems convenient as an initial guess.

At the end of each time step, when the new position vectors of all particles are calculated, a curve that encloses all the particles is drawn. This curve shows the shape approximated for the drop at the end of the respective time step. The program goes on until this curve does not change considerably with time. A few of these curves for the case of horizontal surface at different times are illustrated in Figure 5. This figure also shows how the drop contact angle changes toward its final value during successive time steps.

Although Figure 5 includes some of the contours successively drawn for the drop shape, Figure 6 is also given in supplementary to make a better comparison of the initial shape with 90° contact angle and final shape of the drop with resulted contact angle. It can be seen in this figure that the volume of the drop remains constant during the evolution of its shape at the final state.

The image taken from the experimental measurements of the real shape for a 5 µL drop on a horizontal smooth hydrophobic surface is given in Figure 7(a). The measured contact angles, which are equal to 115.8° for the right and 112.7° for the left, are also given in this figure. A slight difference between the contact angles measured at the right and the left of the drop that is equal to 3°, is mainly due to the error in reading the angles as well as the variation of surface roughness. It should be noted that the mean value of these angles is used in the simulated program. Figure 7(b) illustrates the predicted shape for the 5 µL water drop on the same surface using the presented numerical technique. The predicted contact angle through the numerical simulation is 118°, which has a deviation of about 3% of the measured values.

Figure 7(c) represents the real shape of the 5 µL water drop taken from the experimental measurements for the surface inclination angle of 45° and Figure 7(d) shows the result of presented numerical calculations for the same condition. Comparing these two figures shows that the numerical calculations are in good agreement with the experimental measurements. Based on the measurements, advancing and receding contact angles of the
droplet are 130.9° and 109.8°, respectively. These two angles are 126.5° and 106.5° according to the numerical results. The error is 3.4% for the calculated advancing angle and 3% for the calculated receding angle.

The experimental and numerical results for the case of the smooth hydrophobic surface with a 60° inclination angle are respectively shown in Figure 7(e) and Figure 7(f). The advancing contact angle obtained through the tests and simulations is 131.6° and 128°, respectively. In addition, the receding contact angle is 78.3° and 83° based on the experiments and numerical calculations. Percentage error computed for the advancing and receding angles are 2.7% and 6%, respectively.

Finally, the experimental and numerical results of the shape of 5 µL water drop on a smooth hydrophobic vertical surface are respectively indicated in Figure 7(g) and Figure 7(h). The measured advancing and receding contact angles are 139.6° and 86.9°, respectively. Also, the calculated advancing and receding angles are respectively 145° and 89°. Percentage error for the advancing and the receding angles is computed as 3.9% and 2.4%, respectively. It should be noted that the percentage error is calculated by the following relation:

$$\text{Error} \% = \left( \frac{\text{measured angle} - \text{calculated angle}}{\text{measured angle}} \right) \times 100 \tag{5}$$

Presented results prove the validity of the numerical approach and computational code to predict the shape of a water droplet with any size on a smooth hydrophobic inclined surface. Therefore, the developed code was used to predict the shape and to compute the advancing and receding contact angles of water droplets around the circular cylinders with various diameters.

Figure 8(a) illustrates the shape of sessile and pendant drops of 5 µL volume around a circular cylinder of 25 mm diameter with the smooth hydrophobic surface. Figures 8(b) and 8(c) show the predicted shape of water droplets with 10 and 15 µL volume around the same circular cylinder, respectively. Figure 8(d) illustrates the numerical predictions of the shape of 5 µL water droplets around a cylinder of 35 mm diameter with the smooth hydrophobic surface. The shapes of 10 and 15 µL water droplets around the same cylinder are illustrated in Figures 8(e) and 8(f), respectively. Also, Figure 8(g) indicates the present numerical simulations of the shape of 5 µL water droplets around a cylinder of 70 mm diameter with the smooth hydrophobic surface. The shapes of 10 and 15 µL water droplets around the same cylinder are depicted in Figures 8(h) and 8(i). For each configuration in Figure 8, an enlarged shape of the five bottom droplets are also illustrated at the lower sections. For equal drop size, the number of droplets increases as the cylinder diameter is increased. Figure 8 also shows that cylinder diameter has a minor effect on the shape of droplets, while the drop position has major consideration. Changing the size of drop also presented a slight variation of contact angles but their shape remains equivalent. However, Figure 8 illustrates that the drop shape and its contact angle on a specific surface is a function of both positions as well as drop size and heat transfer will be affected by these parameters of the droplets.

In order to make a detailed analysis of the obtained results, the variation of both advancing and receding angles of the 5, 10 and 15 µL drops formed around cylinders of different diameters with respect to the drop circumferential position on the cylinders are plotted in Figure 9. In this figure, the horizontal axis includes the circumferential location of the drops around the cylinders. For example, number -90° in the left-hand side of the horizontal axis refers to the pendant drop formed at the bottom of the cylinder while +90° in the right refers to the sessile drop formed on the top. However, the values of the respective advancing and receding angles are included in the vertical axis.
According to Figure 9, the advancing and receding angle of the pendant and sessile drops (i.e. drops on the top and bottom of the cylinder) have the same values. In addition, the maximum value of advancing angle and the minimum value of receding angle is related to the drops formed on both sides of the cylinder on a horizontal line. Furthermore, the value of advancing and receding angles respectively decreases and increases when the cylinder diameter increases. Figure 9 also shows that generally for a static water drop formed on a circular cylinder with a hydrophobic surface, advancing angle ($\psi_a$) and receding angle ($\psi_r$) are the function of drop position ($\theta$) as follows:

$$\psi_a = A\theta^2 + B\theta + C$$

(6)

$$\psi_r = A'\theta^2 + B'\theta + C'$$

(7)

In these equations, $\theta$ is in degrees and shows the location of the drop on the cylinder as shown in Figure 10. Moreover, coefficients in these two relations are functions of $d/D$, the ratio of drop diameter to cylinder diameter. Based on the calculations, it is tried to fit the contact angles in Figure 9 according to the shape of drop on various cylinders and various drop sizes. Accordingly for the Eqs. (6) and (7), these coefficients are determined by the least square method and the values are provided in Eq. (8) as follows:

$$A = -0.0226(d/D) - 0.0022$$

$$B = -1.2423(d/D) + 0.0683$$

$$C = 131.9700(d/D) + 130.4300$$

$$A' = -0.0024(d/D) + 0.0033$$

$$B' = -0.9355(d/D) + 0.0519$$

$$C' = -92.3380(d/D) + 92.7880$$

(8)

Contact angle hysteresis is defined as the difference of advancing and receding angles. Figure 11 shows the variation of hysteresis values with respect to the drop circumferential position around the cylinders. For small drops, the values of hysteresis are small in comparison with those of large drops. For all drop sizes, maximum hysteresis takes place when the drop is at $\theta = 0^\circ$, the horizontal line passes through the cylinder center. However, hysteresis becomes zero when the drop is on the top or at bottom of cylinders, i.e. $\theta = \pm 90^\circ$. Hysteresis becomes more asymmetric as the drop size increased with respect to $\theta = 0^\circ$. In addition, contact angle hysteresis decreases when the cylinder diameter increases.

5. Conclusions

Numerical simulations of sessile and pendant water droplets shape with different sizes around circular cylinders with a smooth hydrophobic surface and various diameters are performed using the developed molecular dynamics algorithm. Based on the results, the following remarks can be concluded:

1- For all drop sizes and cylinder diameters, the curves of advancing and the receding angle get to each other at $\theta = \pm 90^\circ$. Note that $\theta = +90^\circ$ refers to the sessile drop formed at the top and $\theta = -90^\circ$ refers to pendant drop formed at the bottom of the cylinder.

2- For all drop sizes, maximum of advancing angle curve happens almost at $\theta = 0^\circ$ which refers to the drop formed near the horizontal line passes through the center of the cylinder. The minimum of the receding angle curve also happens about this point. Thus, the maximum hysteresis takes place for a drop formed adjacent almost to the horizontal line.
3- The maximum percentage of variations in the advancing angle for the 5 µL droplet formed around the cylinder is 36.3%, while this quantity is equal to 71.3% for the case of the 15 µL drop. The maximum percentage of variations in the receding angle, the value of 35.6% is found for the 5 µL and 50% for the 15 µL one. Hence, the advancing and receding angle of small droplets exhibit almost equal variations. For large droplets, instead, the variation of advancing angle is higher than that of receding angle.

4- Both advancing and receding angles are subject to higher variations for large droplets than small ones.

5- The contact angle for the sessile 5 µL drop formed at the top of the cylinder is slightly more than that of the pendant drop at the bottom. However, the contact angle of the sessile 10 µL drop formed on the top of the same cylinder is less than that of the pendant drop at the bottom. This difference is more evident for the 15 µL droplet. Indeed, larger droplets have a greater tendency to slip over cylinder than smaller ones.

6- The contact angles for various water drops on circular cylinders can be determined from the proposed correlations (6) and (7).

**Appendix**

The idea behind approximation of the cohesive force between two particles will be discussed here. Figure A.1 illustrates two adjacent particles, particles $i$ and $j$, in a drop. Each particle consists of a large number of molecules and every molecule in either particle exerts forces on other molecules of both particles. In water, these forces are generally of two types, namely, Lennard-Jones and Coulomb. Whatever type of force is considered, there is a finite range, out of which the effect of the force is negligible. Therefore, one can define a cutoff distance between a pair of molecules such that the interaction of them is calculated only when their distance is shorter than the cutoff distance. In conclusion, the cohesive force between two particles is due to the interaction of the molecules existing in an area near their contact point. This area is shown by a small circle in Figure A.1. Contained in this circle, are both a finite number of molecules belonging to particle $i$ and an equal number of molecules belonging to particle $j$. The cohesive force is, therefore, the result of the interactions that molecules in one half of this circle exert on the molecules in the other half.

Schematic of a water molecule is shown in Figure A.2. Location of hydrogen and oxygen atoms along with the distance between the oxygen and each hydrogen atom is shown in this figure. Several models for the molecules of water are there in the literature, and the reader may refer to [30] to get more information about these models. Figure A.2 is plotted due to the values concerning the TIP4P model well introduced in [30, 31].

In this model, the positive electrical charges are assumed to be distributed equally over the $H$ sites. The negative electrical charge, however, is considered to be located at the $M$ site instead of the $O$ site. $H$ and $M$ sites of a pair of molecules are responsible for exerting forces of Coulomb type, while Lennard-Jones interaction is considered to be originated from the $O$ sites. As a result, the interaction between every pair of water molecules can be determined using the following relations:
In these relations, subscripts $i$ and $j$ refer to particles $i$ and $j$, respectively. Parameter $b$ is a constant equal to 183.5° [31]. Moreover, $r_{OO}$, $r_{MM}$, $r_{MH}$, and $r_{HH}$ represent the distance between respective sites of both molecules. Also, $f_{OO}$, $f_{MM}$, $f_{MH}$, and $f_{HH}$ are the interactions between the respective sites of the molecules. It should be noted that the above relations are dimensionless. In order to return to the dimensional form of these relations, one should multiply the dimensionless distances by a parameter $\sigma$ and the dimensionless forces by $\varepsilon/\sigma^2$. The values of $\sigma$ and $\varepsilon$ as reported in [30, 31] are 0.3154 nm and $1.0772 \times 10^{-21}$ J, respectively. In conclusion, there are 10 interactions between these sites of every pair of molecules. The resultant of these interactions just returns the interaction between two molecules.

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**Figure A.1.** Molecules of water contained in a pair of adjacent particles

**Figure A.2.** Schematic of a water molecule in the TIP4P model

![Figure 1](image1.png)  ![Figure 1](image2.png)

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