

Contents

ABSTRACT	iii
DECLARATION	vii
CERTIFICATE	ix
ACKNOWLEDGMENT	xi
List of Figures	xvii
List of Tables	xxvii
List of abbreviations	xxviii
1 Introduction	1
1.1 Background: A brief history	1
1.2 Special wettability in plant leaves	4
1.3 A self cleaning action: slipping, rolling and bouncing	5
1.4 Biomimetics of surfaces	6
1.4.1 Soft lithography	8
1.4.2 Electrospinning	8
1.5 Electrowetting	9
1.5.1 Electrowetting on dielectric (EWOD) surfaces	9
1.6 Characterization techniques	10
1.6.1 Optical microscopy	10
1.6.2 Scanning electron microscopy (SEM) and FE-SEM	10
1.6.3 Surface profilometer	11
1.6.4 Atomic force microscopy (AFM)	11
1.6.5 Contact angle (CA) measurements	11

1.6.6	High-speed imaging of droplet impact	12
1.7	Motivation of the present work	13
1.8	Scope of this thesis	15
2	Theoretical aspects: a mathematical background	19
2.1	Introduction	19
2.2	Spreading and wettability of liquids	20
2.2.1	Liquid spreading	20
2.2.2	Contact angle (CA) and Young's equation (1805)	20
2.3	Wettability of single level surface texture	22
2.3.1	The Wenzel model (1936)	22
2.3.2	The Cassie -Baxter model (1944)	23
2.4	Wettability of dual (micro-nano) surface texture	25
2.4.1	Composite/mixed wetting states	25
2.4.2	Dynamic CA measurements and contact angle hysteresis (CAH)	26
2.5	Droplet rolling and bouncing mechanism	27
2.5.1	Sessile droplet on inclined plane	27
2.5.2	Droplet impact on solid surface	28
2.6	Electrowetting and magnetowetting	30
2.6.1	Electrowetting on dielectric (EWOD)	30
2.6.1.1	Contact angle saturation (CAS)	31
2.6.2	Magnetowetting	32
2.7	Conclusion	32
3	Isotropic wettability of natural Indian jujube (<i>Ziziphus mauritiana</i>) leaf surface and biomimicking	33
3.1	Introduction	33
3.2	Theory and model	34
3.2.1	Wettability of nonwoven fibrous matted surface texture	34
3.3	Experimental procedure	37
3.3.1	Sample collection and preparation	37
3.3.2	SEM imaging and water contact angle (WCA)	37
3.4	Morphology of <i>Ziziphus</i> leaf surface and biomimicking	38
3.4.1	Natural adaxial and abaxial <i>Ziziphus</i> leaf surface	38
3.4.2	Biomimicking of <i>Ziziphus</i> microfibrous surface texture	41
3.4.3	Worm-like chain model analogue for fibrous network	43
3.5	Contact angle characterization	45

3.5.1	Contact angle assessment and superhydrophobicity	45
3.5.2	Contact angle hysteresis, roll-off, and superadhesion aspect . .	46
3.6	Conclusion	49
4	Anisotropic superhydrophobicity and unidirectional droplet rolling	51
4.1	Introduction	51
4.2	Experimental procedure	52
4.2.1	Sample collection and preparation	52
4.2.2	Surface morphology and biomimicking through soft lithography	53
4.2.3	Anisotropic wettability measurements	54
4.3	Morphology of sword lily leaf surface and biomimicking	55
4.3.1	Natural sword-lily leaf surface	55
4.3.2	Biomimicking of sword-lily leaf surface	58
4.4	Static and dynamic WCA characterization of natural and bio-mimicked sword lily leaf surfaces	60
4.4.1	Anisotropic superhydrophobicity	60
4.4.2	Droplet roll-off and contact angle hysteresis	62
4.4.3	Theoretical analysis on wettability of underneath microtexture	63
4.5	Conclusion	68
5	Droplet bouncing from superhydrophobic leaf surfaces	69
5.1	Introduction	69
5.2	Experimental section	71
5.2.1	Sample, preparation, and techniques of characterization . . .	71
5.2.2	Droplet wettability and droplet impact experiments	72
5.3	Surface morphology of leaf specimens	73
5.4	Wettability, droplet impact, and shape analysis	75
5.4.1	Contact angle (CA), hysteresis (CAH) and roll-off	75
5.4.2	Complete and partial rebound state	76
5.4.3	Cassie to Wenzel wetting transition criterion	80
5.4.4	Effect of surface inclination	81
5.4.5	Droplet rebounding trajectory	83
5.4.6	Maximum spreading and contact time (τ_c)	84
5.5	Conclusion	86

6	An electrowetting phenomenon: the lensing effect	87
6.1	Introduction	87
6.2	Planar lens of two immiscible liquids	88
6.2.1	Material and methods	88
6.2.1.1	Dielectric film deposition	89
6.2.1.2	Electrowetting experiment	89
6.2.2	Results and discussion	89
6.2.2.1	Voltage dependent contact angle measurements . . .	89
6.2.2.2	Focal length calculation	91
6.3	Adaptive liquid lens: A numerical simulation	92
6.3.1	Model and simulation techniques	92
6.3.1.1	Geometrical configuration and materials	92
6.3.1.2	Governing equations: Navier-Stokes (N-S) theorem .	94
6.3.2	Results and discussion	94
6.3.2.1	Effect of applied voltage on lensing	94
6.3.2.2	Effect of hydrophobic layer thickness on lensing . . .	97
6.3.2.3	Effect of critical voltage and dielectric thickness . . .	98
6.4	Conclusion	99
7	Conclusion and future prospects	101
7.1	Conclusions	101
7.2	Applications	103
7.3	Limitations	104
7.4	Future prospects	106
	Appendix	109
	Appendix I	109
	Appendix II	115
	Appendix III	120
	Appendix IV	123
	List of Publications	125
	References	127