

Capillary Surfaces and a Model
of
Nanowire Growth

M. MORINI

(based on joint works with G. DE PHILIPPIS, I. FONSECA, N. FUSCO, G. LEONI)

Capillarity Phenomena

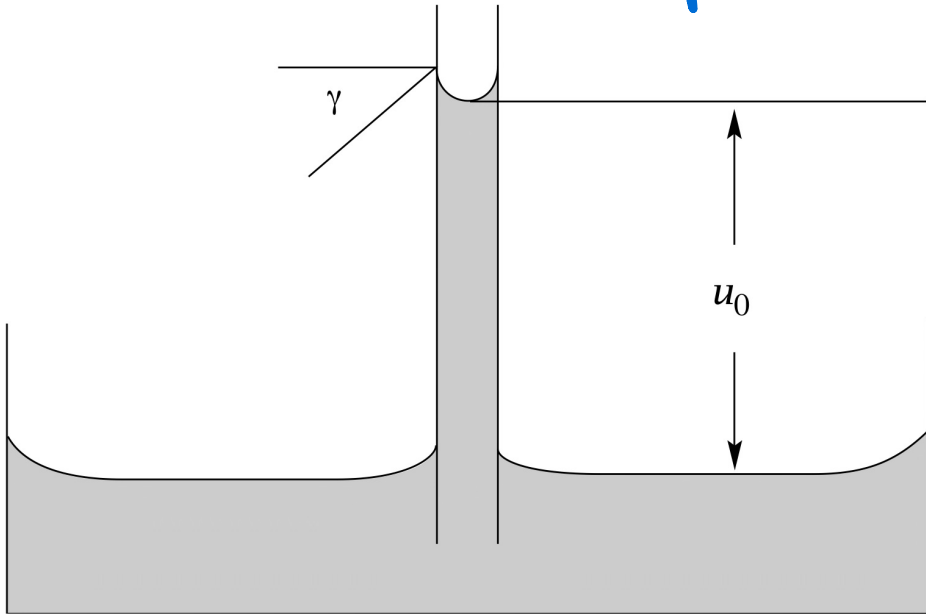


From FINN'S BOOK :

Capillarity phenomena are all about us; anyone who has seen a drop of dew on a plant leaf or the spray from a waterfall has observed them. Apart from their frequently remarked poetic qualities, phenomena of this sort are so familiar as to escape special notice. In this sense the rise of liquid in a narrow tube is a more dramatic event that demands and at first defied explanation; recorded observations of this and similar occurrences can be traced back to times of antiquity, and for lack of explanation came to be described by words deriving from the Latin word "capillus", meaning hair.

It was not until the eighteenth century that an awareness developed that these and many other phenomena are all manifestations of something that happens whenever two different materials are situated adjacent to each other and do not mix. If one (at least) of the materials is a fluid, which forms with another fluid (or gas) a free surface interface, then the interface will be referred to as a *capillary surface*.

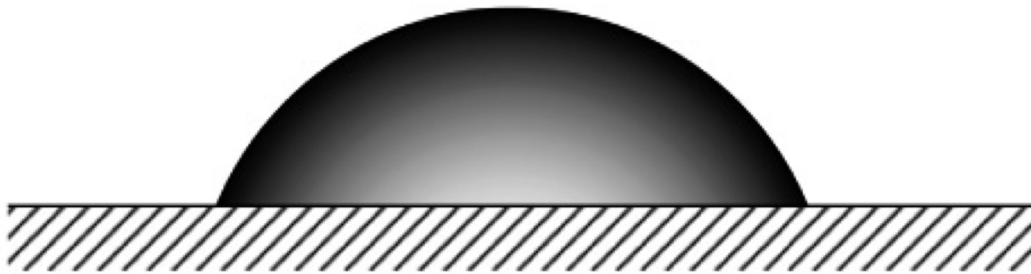
Capillarity Phenomena



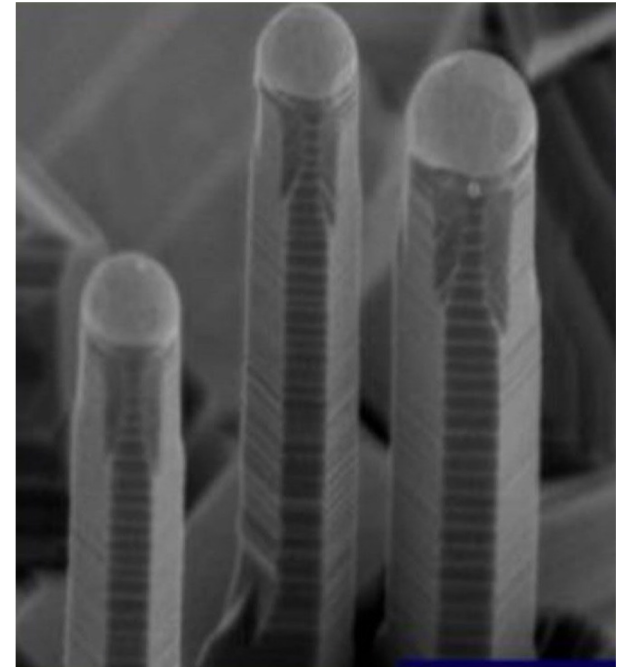
CAPILLARITY TUBE



PENDENT DROP



SESSILE DROP



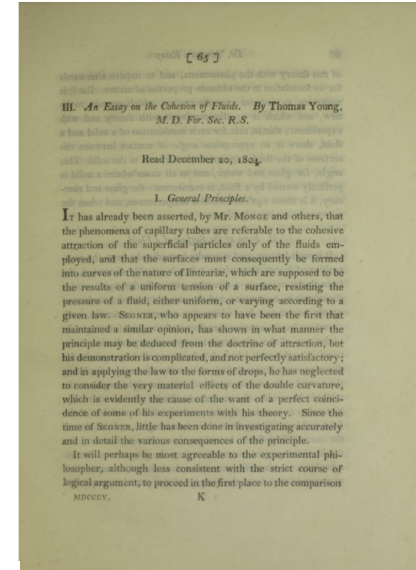
NANO TUBES

A bit of history

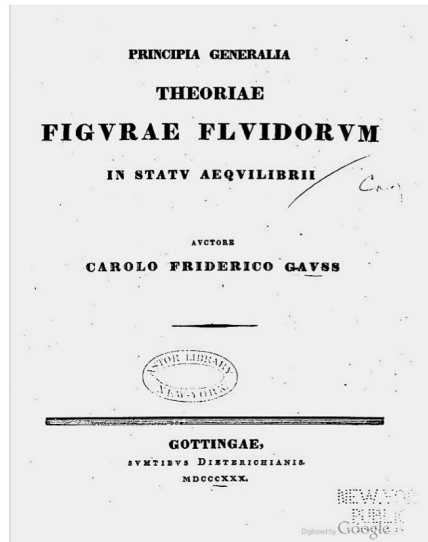
The study of CAPILLARITY PHENOMENA has a long tradition:



LEONARDO

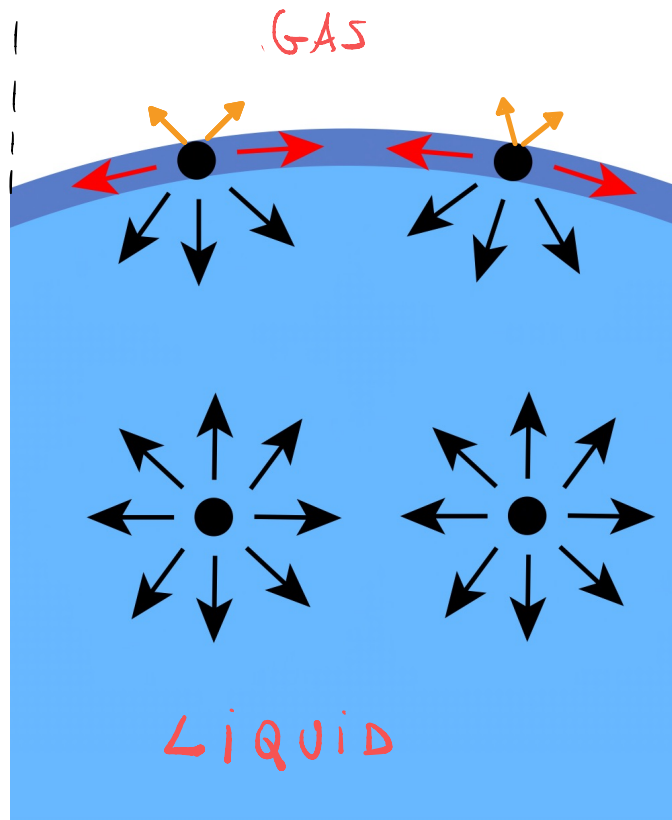


YOUNG



GAUSS

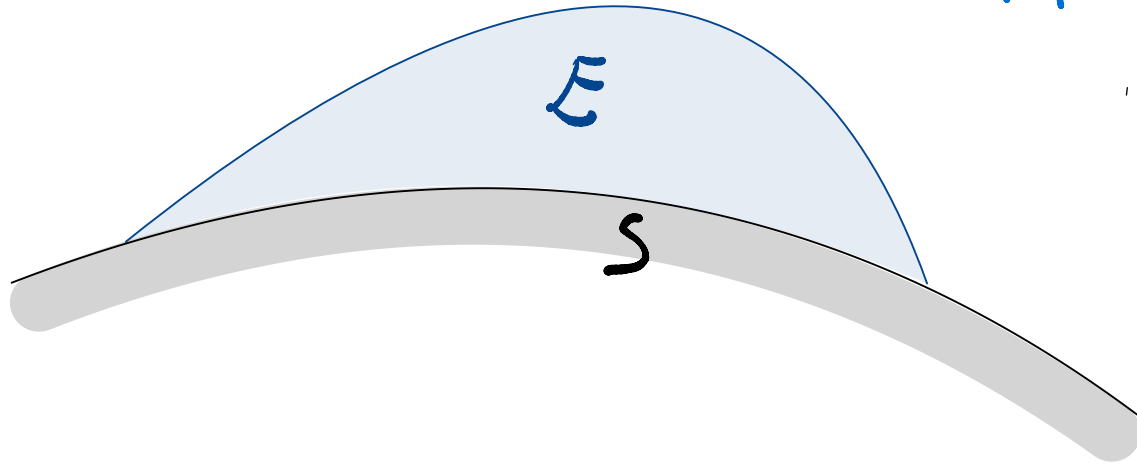
Gauss' variational approach



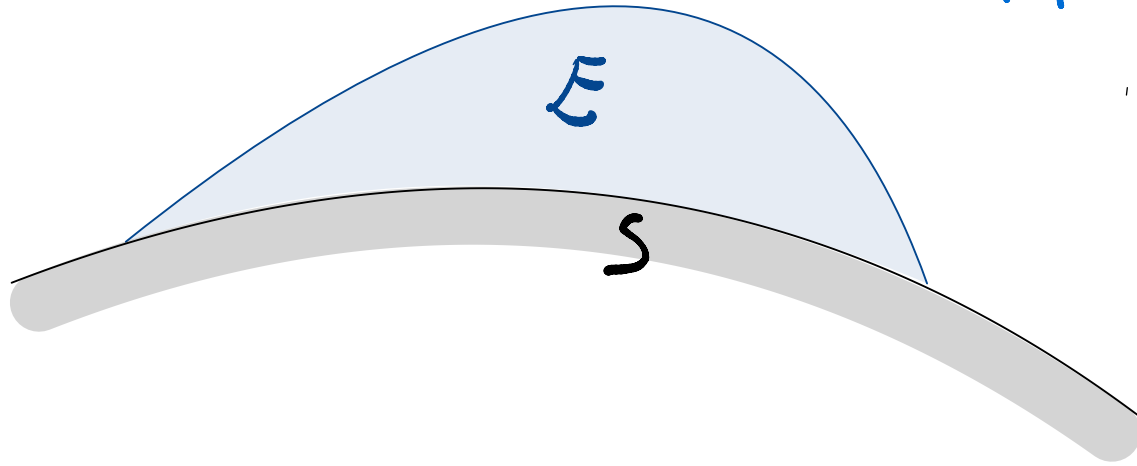
COHESIVE FORCES between LIQUID MOLECULES are stronger than between LIQUID-AIR MOLECULES \rightsquigarrow INTERNAL PRESSURE,

MINIMIZATION OF INTERFACIAL AREA

Gauss' variational approach



Gauss' variational approach

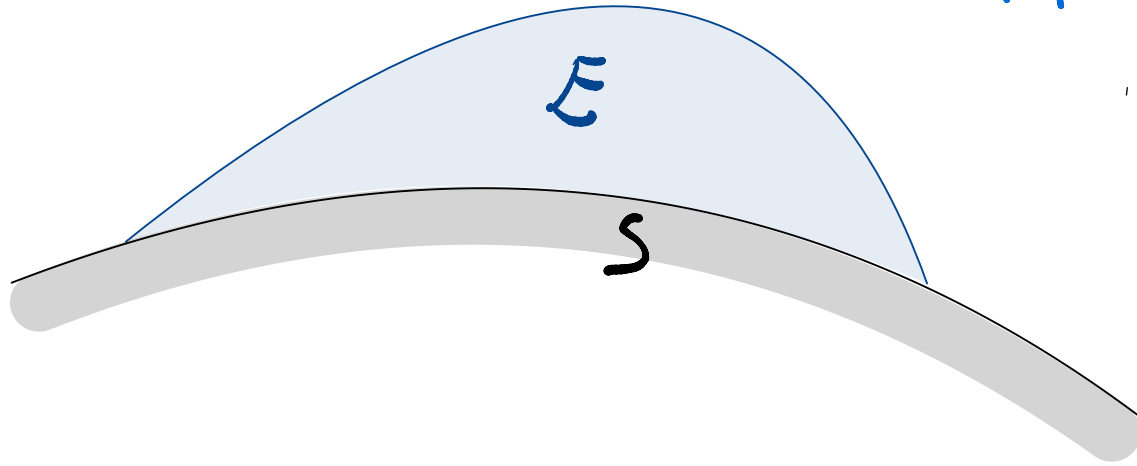


$$\mathcal{E}(E) = \gamma_{LV} \sigma(\partial E \setminus S) + \gamma_{LS} \sigma(\partial E \cap \partial S) + \gamma_{SV} \sigma(\partial S \setminus \partial E)$$

where $\sigma =$ HAUSDORFF MEASURE \mathcal{H}^2

$\gamma_{LV}, \gamma_{LS}, \gamma_{SV} =$ SURFACE TENSIONS

Gauss' variational approach

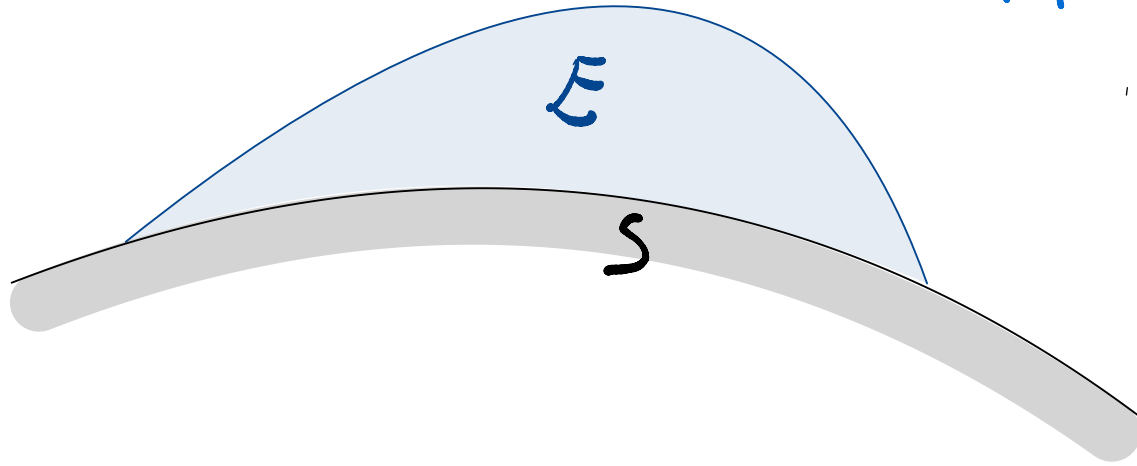


$$\mathcal{E}(E) = \gamma_{LV} \sigma(\partial E \setminus S) + (\gamma_{LS} - \gamma_{SV}) \sigma(\partial S \cap \partial E) + \gamma_{SL} \sigma(\partial S)$$

where $\sigma =$ HAUSDORFF MEASURE \mathcal{H}^2

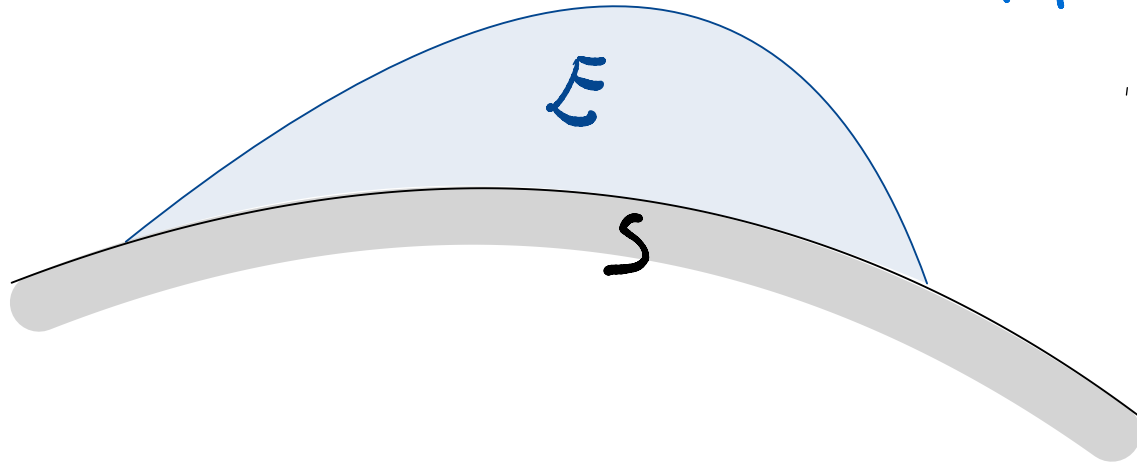
$\gamma_{LV}, \gamma_{LS}, \gamma_{SV} =$ SURFACE TENSIONS

Gauss' variational approach



$$\mathcal{E}'(E) = \sigma(\partial E \setminus S) + \frac{\gamma_{LS} - \gamma_{SV}\sigma(\partial S \cap \partial E)}{\gamma_{LV}} + \frac{\gamma_{SL}\sigma(\partial S)}{\gamma_{LV}}$$

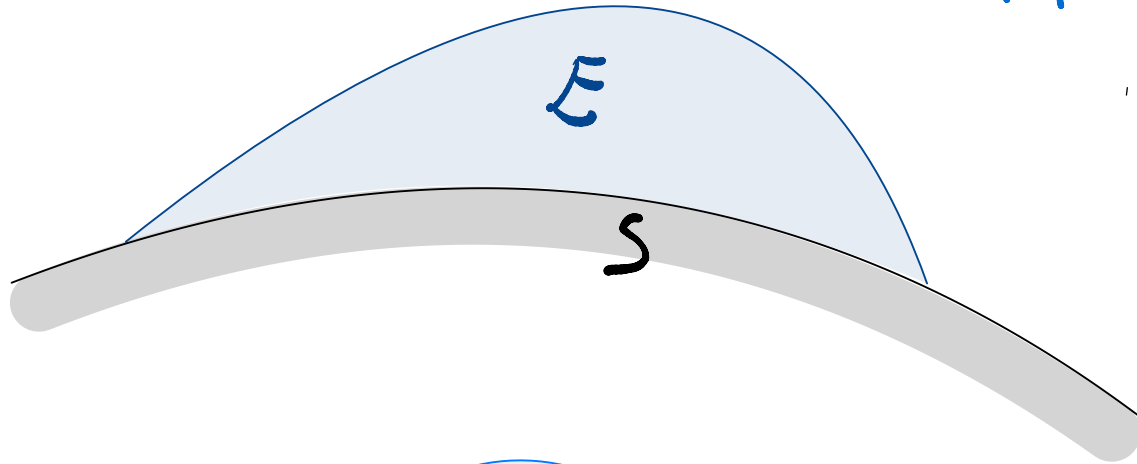
Gauss' variational approach



$$\mathcal{E}'(E) = \sigma(\partial E \setminus S) + \frac{\gamma_{LS} - \gamma_{SV} \sigma(\partial S \cap \partial E)}{\gamma_{LV}}$$

Assume the wetting [↑] condition $|\gamma_{LS} - \gamma_{SV}| < \gamma_{LV}$

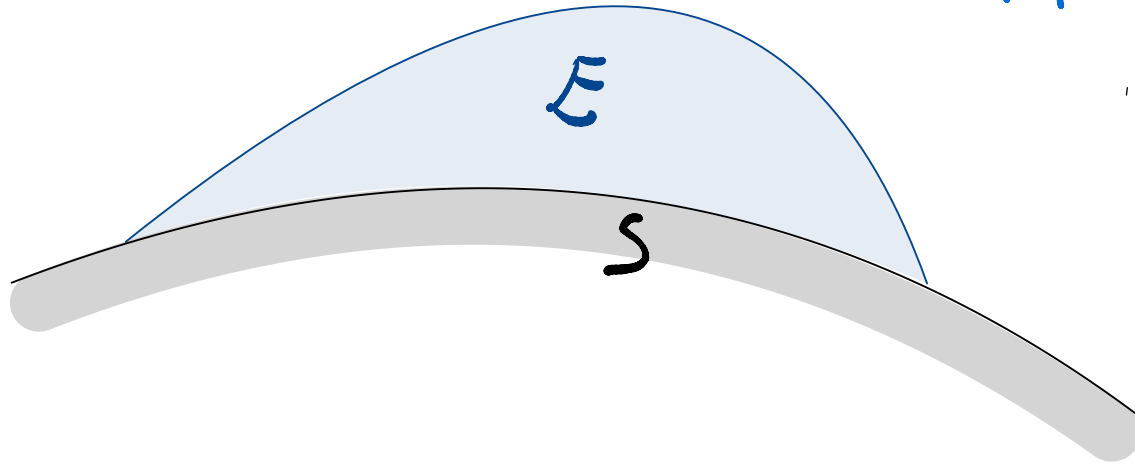
Gauss' variational approach



$$\mathcal{E}'(E) = \sigma(\partial E \setminus S) + \frac{\gamma_{LS} - \gamma_{SV} \sigma(\partial S \cap \partial E)}{\gamma_{LV}} \quad \text{=: } -\lambda$$

Assume the **wetting condition** $|\gamma_{LS} - \gamma_{SV}| < \gamma_{LV}$

Gauss' variational approach

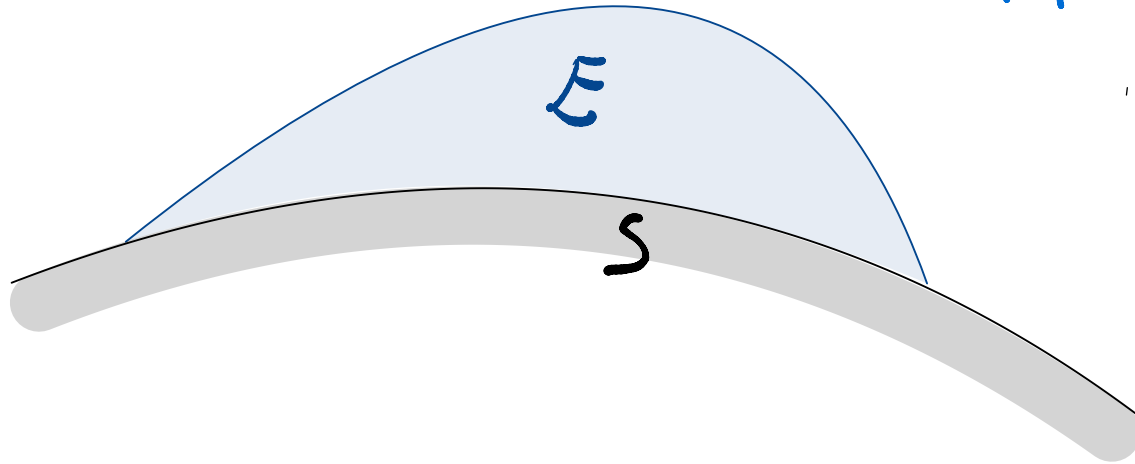


$$\mathcal{E}'(E) = \sigma(\partial E \setminus S) - \lambda \sigma(\partial S \cap \partial E)$$

$$|\lambda| < 1$$

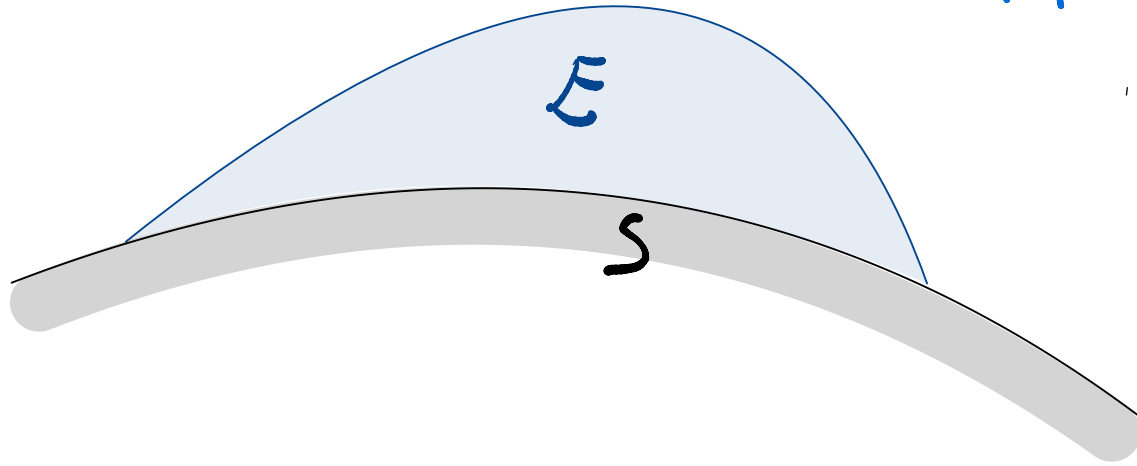
!!
WETTING ENERGY

Gauss' variational approach



$$\mathcal{E}'(\mathcal{E}) = \sigma(\partial\mathcal{E} \setminus S) - \underbrace{\lambda \sigma(\partial S \cap \partial\mathcal{E})}_{\substack{!! \\ \text{WETTING ENERGY}}} + \underbrace{\int_{\mathcal{E}} g \, dV}_{\substack{\text{potential} \\ \text{energy} \\ \text{(e.g. gravity)}}$$

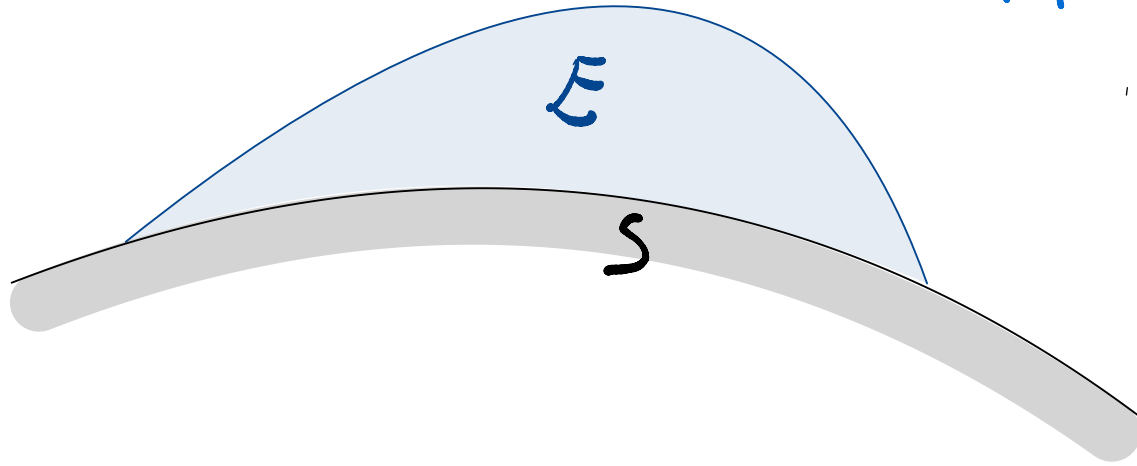
Gauss' variational approach



$$\mathcal{E}'(E) = \sigma(\partial E \setminus S) - \underbrace{\lambda \sigma(\partial S \cap \partial E)}_{\substack{!! \\ \text{WETTING ENERGY}}} + \underbrace{\int_E g \, dV}_{\substack{\text{potential} \\ \text{energy} \\ \text{(e.g. gravity)}}$$

EQUILIBRIUM CONFIGURATIONS: (local) minimizers of \mathcal{E}' under VOLUME CONSTRAINT

Gauss' variational approach



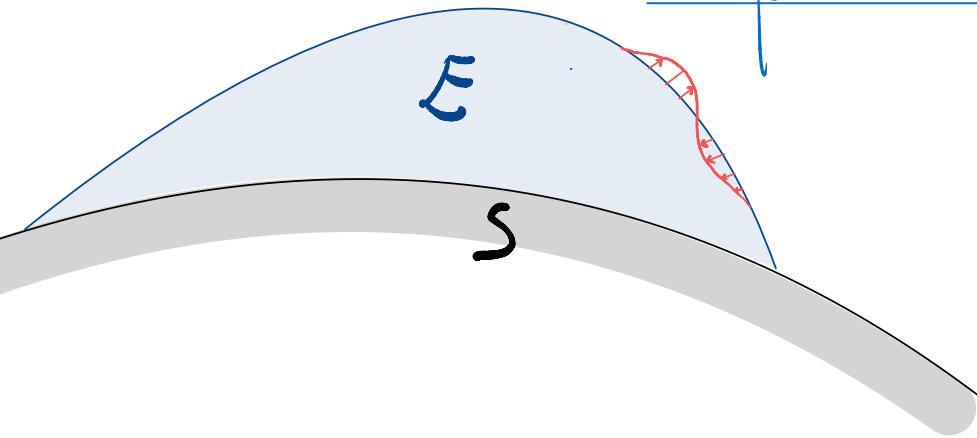
$$\mathcal{E}'(\mathcal{E}) = \sigma(\partial\mathcal{E} \setminus S) - \underbrace{\lambda \sigma(\partial S \cap \partial\mathcal{E})}_{\text{WETTING ENERGY}} + \underbrace{\int_{\mathcal{E}} (g - \lambda) dV}_{\text{potential energy + VOLUME PENALIZATION}}$$

!!
WETTING ENERGY

potential
energy + VOLUME
PENALIZATION

EQUILIBRIUM CONFIGURATIONS: (local) minimizers of \mathcal{E}' under ~~VOLUME CONSTRAINT~~

Equilibrium Conditions

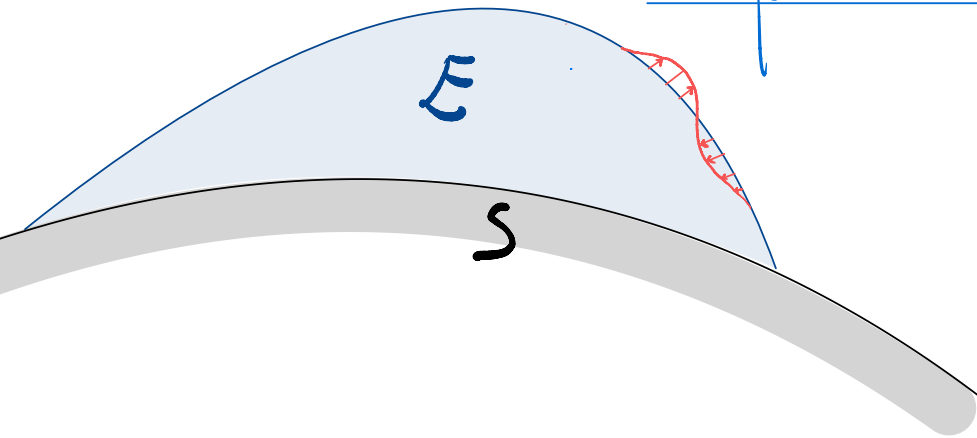


$$\partial E_\varepsilon \setminus S = \{x + \varepsilon \varphi(x) \nu_\varepsilon(x) : x \in \partial E\}$$

$$\left(+ \int_{\partial E} \varphi \, d\sigma = 0 \text{ in case of VOLUME CONSTRAINT} \right)$$

$$\frac{d}{d\varepsilon} \Sigma'(E_\varepsilon) \Big|_{\varepsilon=0} = \frac{d}{d\varepsilon} \left(\sigma(\partial E_\varepsilon \setminus S) + \int_{E_\varepsilon} \rho \, dV \right) \Big|_{\varepsilon=0} = \int_{\partial E} (H_{\partial E} + \rho) \varphi \, d\sigma = 0$$

Equilibrium Conditions



$$\partial E_\epsilon \setminus S = \{x + \epsilon \varphi(x) \nu_\epsilon(x) : x \in \partial E\}$$

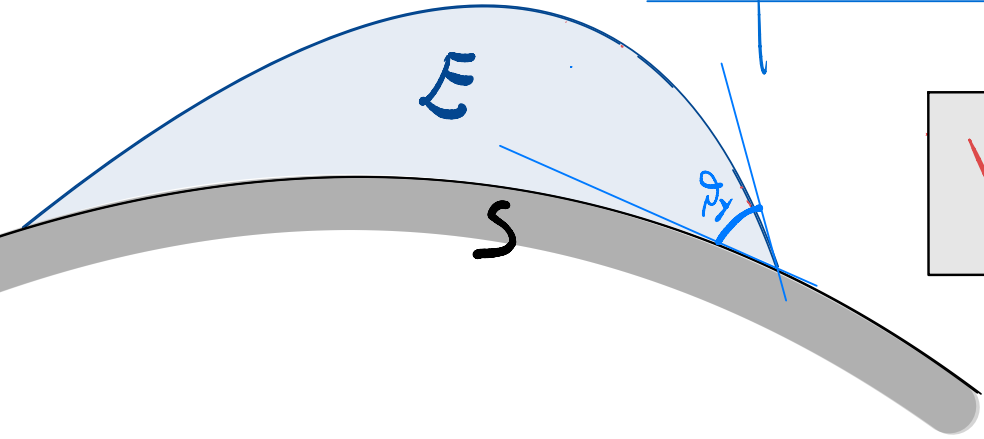
$$\left(+ \int_{\partial E} \varphi \, d\sigma = 0 \text{ in case of VOLUME CONSTRAINT} \right)$$

$$\frac{d}{d\epsilon} \Sigma'(E_\epsilon) \Big|_{\epsilon=0} = \frac{d}{d\epsilon} \left(\sigma(\partial E_\epsilon \setminus S) + \int_{E_\epsilon} \rho \, dV \right) \Big|_{\epsilon=0} = \int_{\partial E} (H_{\partial E} + \rho) \varphi \, d\sigma = 0$$

$$H_{\partial E} + \rho = \text{CONST}$$

\Rightarrow

Equilibrium Conditions

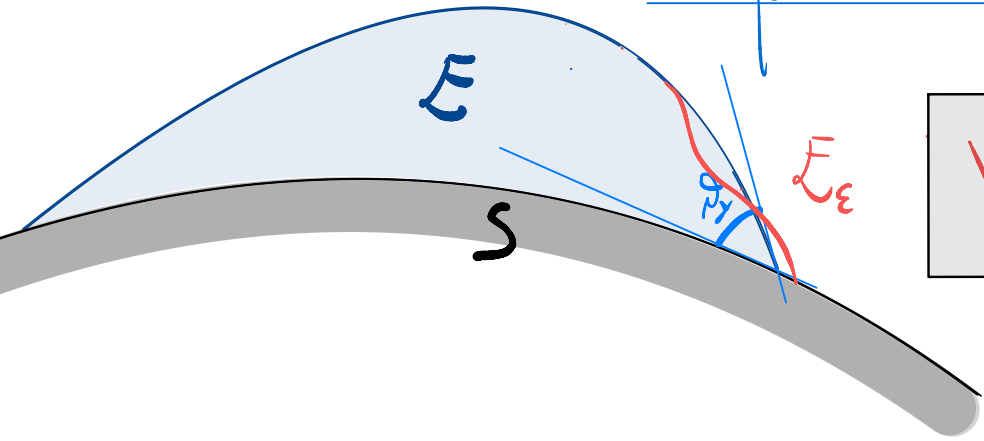


$$\text{YOUNG'S LAW: } \cos \theta_y = \lambda$$

COEFFICIENT of the
WETTING ENERGY.

$$\text{(Recall: } E'(E) = \sigma(dE/S) - \lambda \sigma(dE/S) + \int_E g dV)$$

Equilibrium Conditions



$$\text{YOUNG'S LAW: } \cos \theta_y = \lambda$$

COEFFICIENT of the
WETTING ENERGY.

$$\text{(Recall: } \mathcal{E}'(\mathcal{E}) = \sigma(\partial\mathcal{E}|S) - \lambda\sigma(\partial\mathcal{E} \cap S) + \int_{\mathcal{E}} g dV)$$

$$0 = \frac{d}{d\mathcal{E}} \mathcal{E}'(\mathcal{E}_\varepsilon) \Big|_{\varepsilon=0} = \frac{d}{d\mathcal{E}} \left(\sigma(\partial\mathcal{E}_\varepsilon|S) - \lambda\sigma(\partial\mathcal{E}_\varepsilon \cap S) + \int_{\mathcal{E}_\varepsilon} g dV \right) \Big|_{\varepsilon=0} \implies \cos \theta_y = \lambda$$

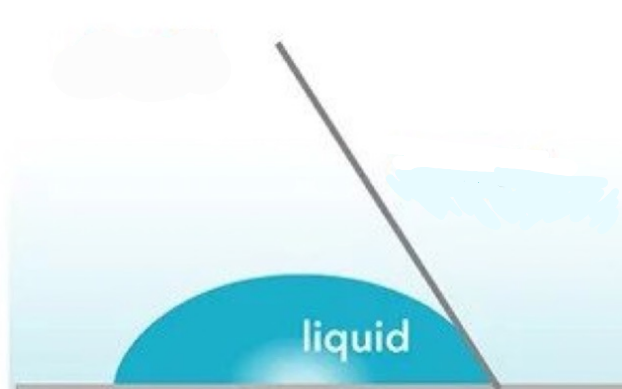
The sessile drop

Set $H := \{x_3 > 0\}$. The SHAPE of the **SESSILE DROP** (when $g=0$) is described by:

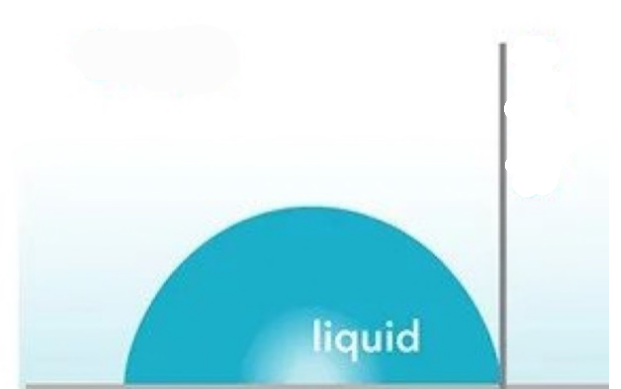
$$\min \left\{ \mathcal{E}(E) := \sigma(\partial E \cap H) - \lambda \sigma(\partial E \cap \partial H) : E \subseteq H \text{ s.t. } |E| = m \right\}$$



$$\lambda \in (-1, 0), \theta_Y > \frac{\pi}{2}$$



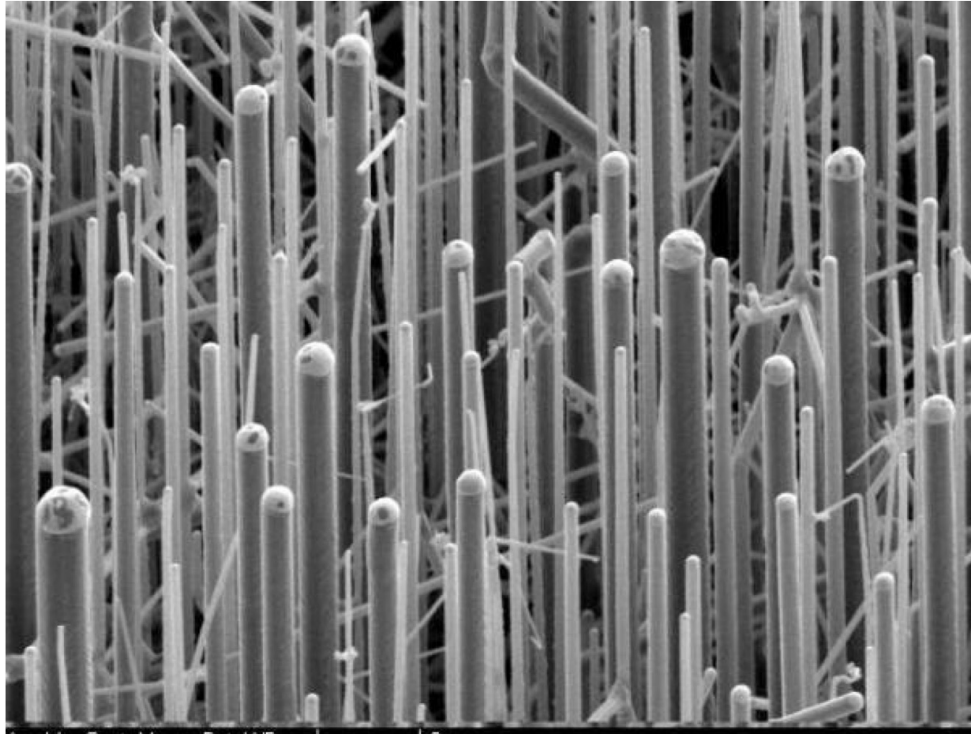
$$\lambda \in (0, 1), \theta_Y < \frac{\pi}{2}$$



$$\lambda = 0, \theta_Y = \frac{\pi}{2}$$

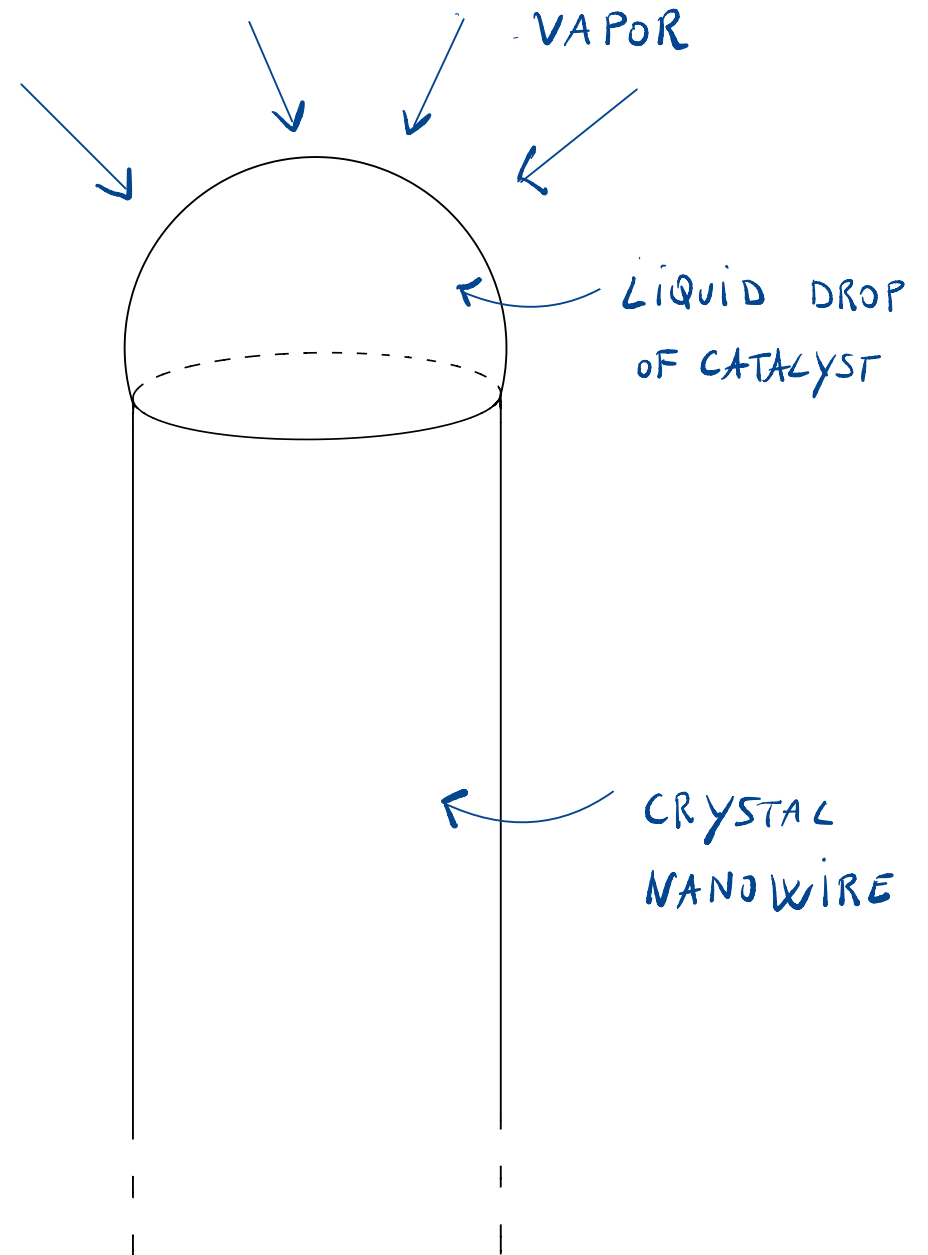
The SOLUTION is given by the **SPHERICAL CAP** S_λ touching the support ∂H with **YOUNG'S CONTACT ANGLE** $\theta_Y = \arccos \lambda$

Nanowire growth

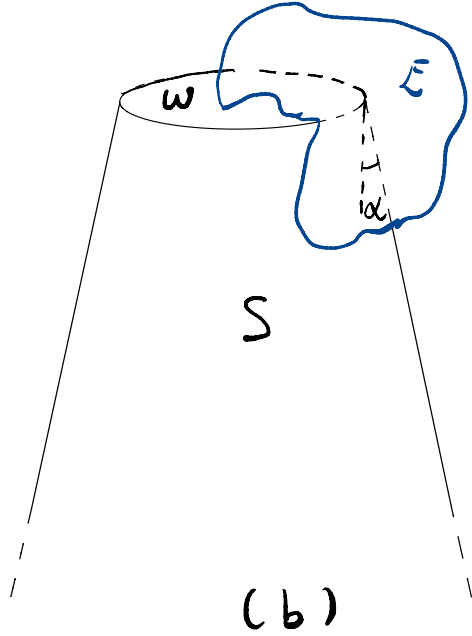
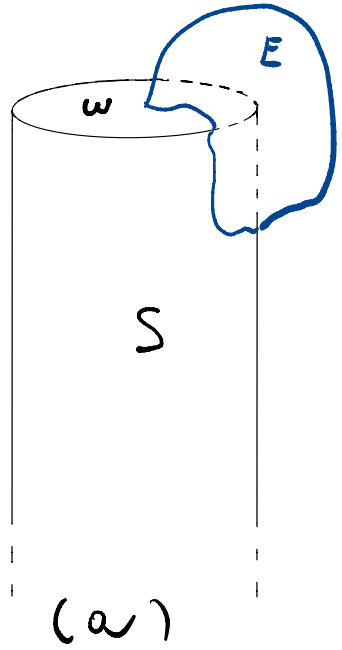


APPLICATIONS

- nanoelectronic devices
- biological applications
- battery electrodes

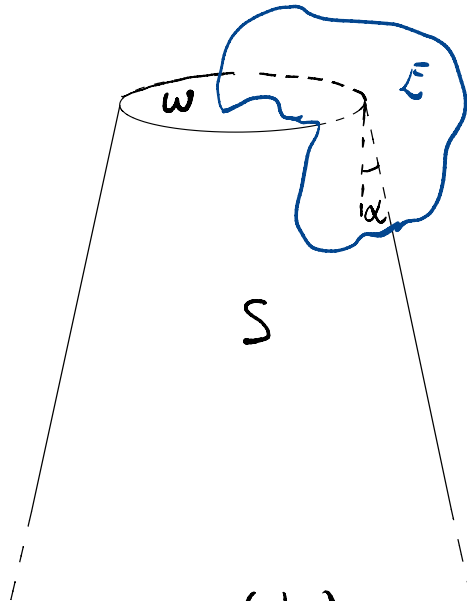
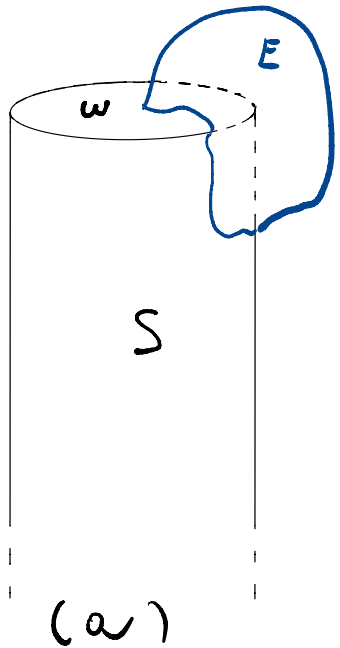


Nanowire growth - II



- GRAVITY NEGLECTED (small mass regime)

Nanowire growth - II



- GRAVITY NEGLECTED (small mass regime)

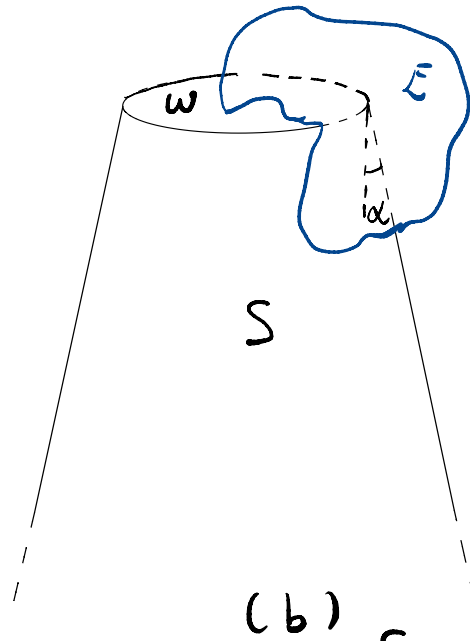
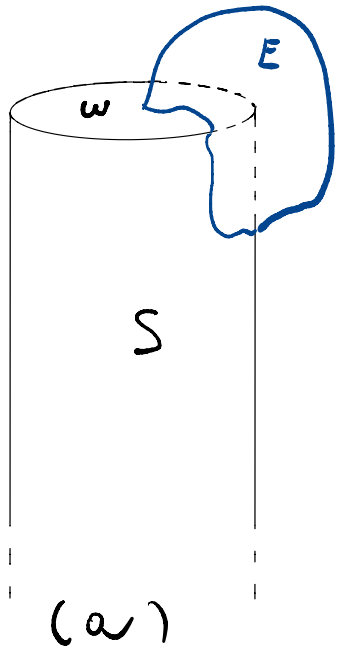
- EQUILIBRIUM CONFIGURATIONS:

(LOCAL) MINIMIZERS of

$$(P) \min \left\{ \sigma(\partial^* E \setminus S) - \lambda \sigma(\partial^* E \cap S) : |E| = m \right\}$$

$$(b) \quad S = \left\{ (x', t) \in \mathbb{R}^2 \times (-\infty, 0] : x' \in (1 - t \tan \alpha) \omega \right\}, \quad \omega \subseteq \mathbb{R}^2 \text{ CONVEX}$$

Nanowire growth - II



- GRAVITY NEGLECTED (small mass regime)

- EQUILIBRIUM CONFIGURATIONS:

(LOCAL) MINIMIZERS of

$$(P) \min \left\{ \sigma(\partial^* E \setminus S) - \lambda \sigma(\partial^* E \cap S) : |E| = m \right\}$$

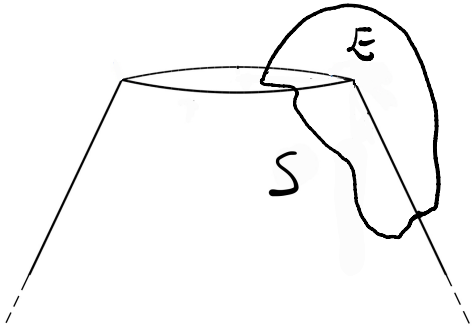
$$S = \left\{ (x', t) \in \mathbb{R}^2 \times (-\infty, 0] : x' \in (1 - t \tan \alpha) \omega \right\}, \quad \omega \subseteq \mathbb{R}^2 \text{ CONVEX}$$

THEOREM (FONSECA - FUSCO - LEONI - 11. '22)

In case (a) problem (P) admits a GLOBAL MINIMIZER $\forall \lambda \in (-1, 1)$.

If $\lambda = 0$ there is NO GLOBAL MINIMIZER in case (b) if $m > m_0$.

Non existence in case (b)



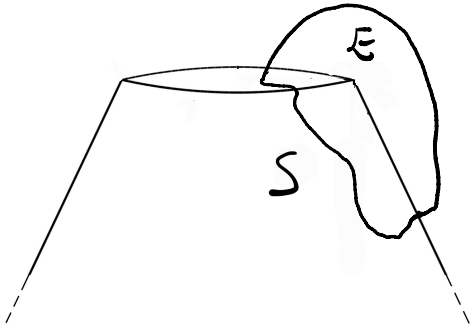
$$\min \{ \sigma(\partial^* E \setminus S) : E \subseteq \mathbb{R}^3 \setminus S, |E| = m \}$$

Theorem (CHOE-GHANI-RITORÉ '06, FUSCO-M. '21) S CLOSED CONVEX BODY. Then $\forall E \subseteq \mathbb{R}^3 \setminus S$ of FINITE PERIMETER

$$\sigma(\partial^* E \setminus S) \geq 3 \left(\frac{2}{3} \pi \right)^{\frac{1}{3}} |E|^{\frac{2}{3}},$$

with EQUALITY iff E is HALF BALL sitting on a FACET of S .

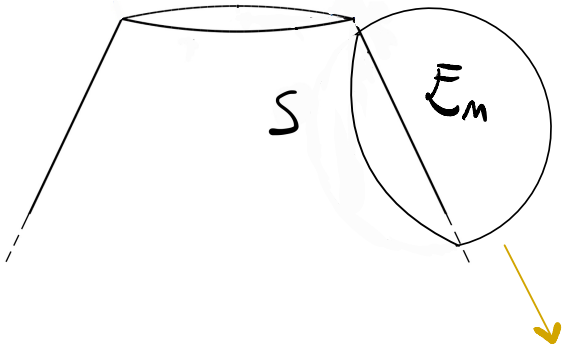
Non existence in case (b)



$$\min \{ \sigma(\partial^* E \setminus S) : E \subseteq \mathbb{R}^3 \setminus S, |E| = m \}$$

$$\sigma(\partial^* E \setminus S) > 3 \left(\frac{2}{3} \pi \right)^{\frac{1}{3}} |m|^{\frac{2}{3}} \quad \forall E \text{ admissible}$$

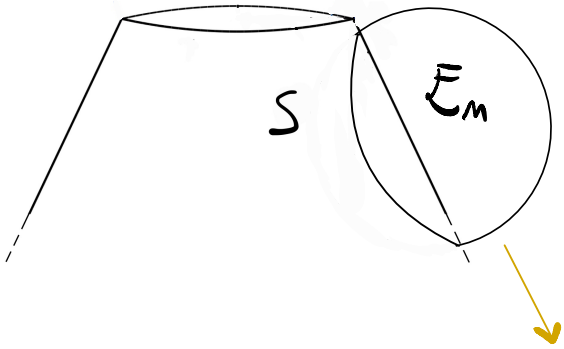
Non existence in case (b)



$$\min \{ \sigma(\partial^* E \setminus S) : E \subseteq \mathbb{R}^3 \setminus S, |E| = m \}$$

$$\sigma(\partial^* E \setminus S) > 3 \left(\frac{2}{3} \pi \right)^{\frac{1}{3}} |m|^{\frac{2}{3}} \quad \forall E \text{ admissible}$$

Non existence in case (b)

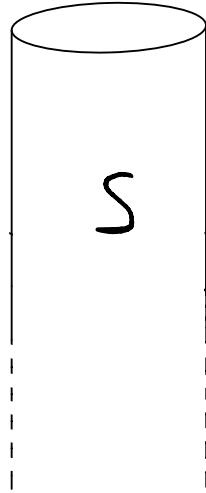


$$\min \{ \sigma(\delta^* E \setminus S) : E \subseteq \mathbb{R}^3 \setminus S, |E| = m \}$$

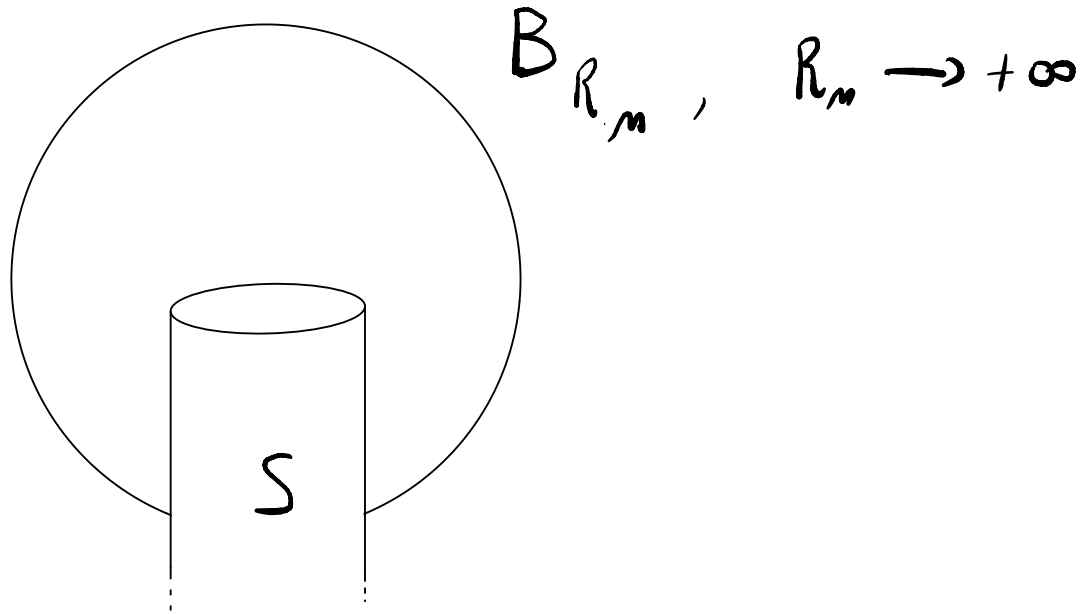
$$\sigma(\delta^* E \setminus S) > 3 \left(\frac{2}{3} \pi \right)^{\frac{1}{3}} |m|^{\frac{2}{3}} \quad \forall E \text{ admissible}$$

$$\sigma(\delta^* E_m \setminus S) \searrow 3 \left(\frac{2}{3} \pi \right)^{\frac{1}{3}} |m|^{\frac{2}{3}} \rightsquigarrow \text{No MINIMIZER}$$

Existence in case (a)

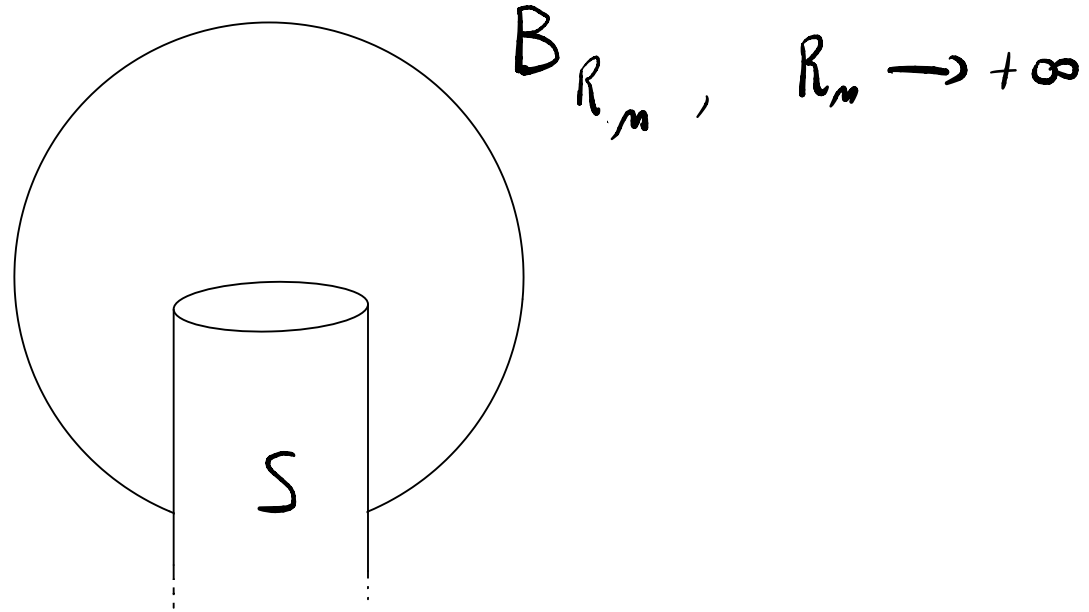


Existence in case (a)



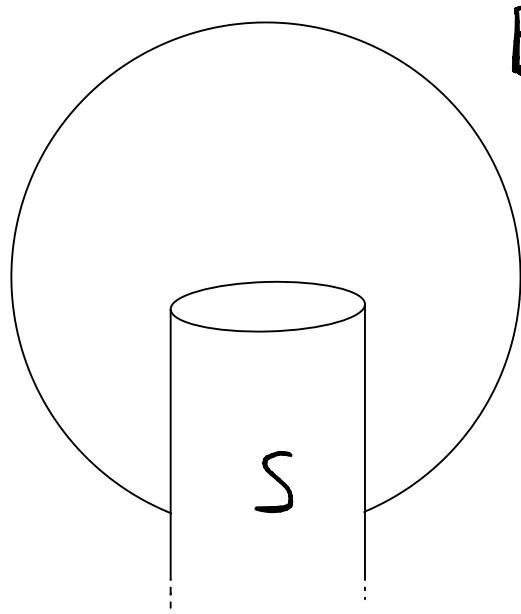
• $\hat{E}_m \in \operatorname{argmin} \{ \sigma(\delta^* \bar{E} \setminus S) - \lambda \sigma(\delta^* \bar{E} \cap S) + \Lambda |\bar{E}|^{-m} : \bar{E} \subseteq B_{R_m} \setminus S \}$

Existence in case (a)



- $\hat{E}_m \in \operatorname{argmin} \{ \sigma(\delta^* E \setminus S) - \lambda \sigma(\delta^* E \cap S) + \Lambda |E|^{-m} : E \subseteq B_{R_m} \setminus S \}$
- VOLUME DENSITY ESTIMATES \Rightarrow # CONNECTED COMPONENTS $E_{m,i}^\wedge$ of $\hat{E}_m \leq C(\Lambda)$
 $\operatorname{diam}(E_{m,i}^\wedge) \leq C(\Lambda)$

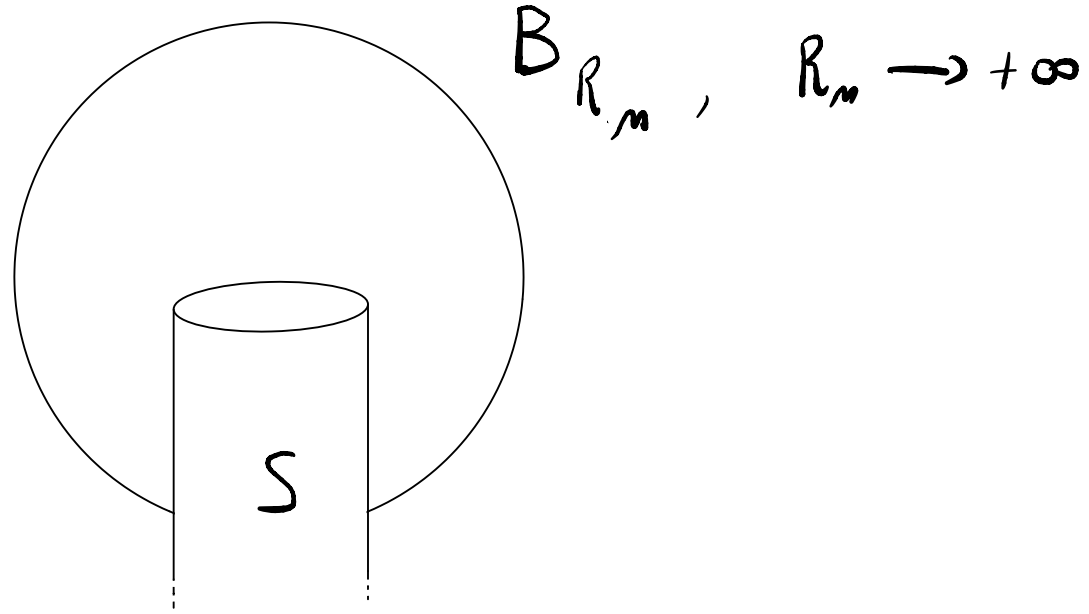
Existence in case (a)



$B_{R_m}, R_m \rightarrow +\infty$

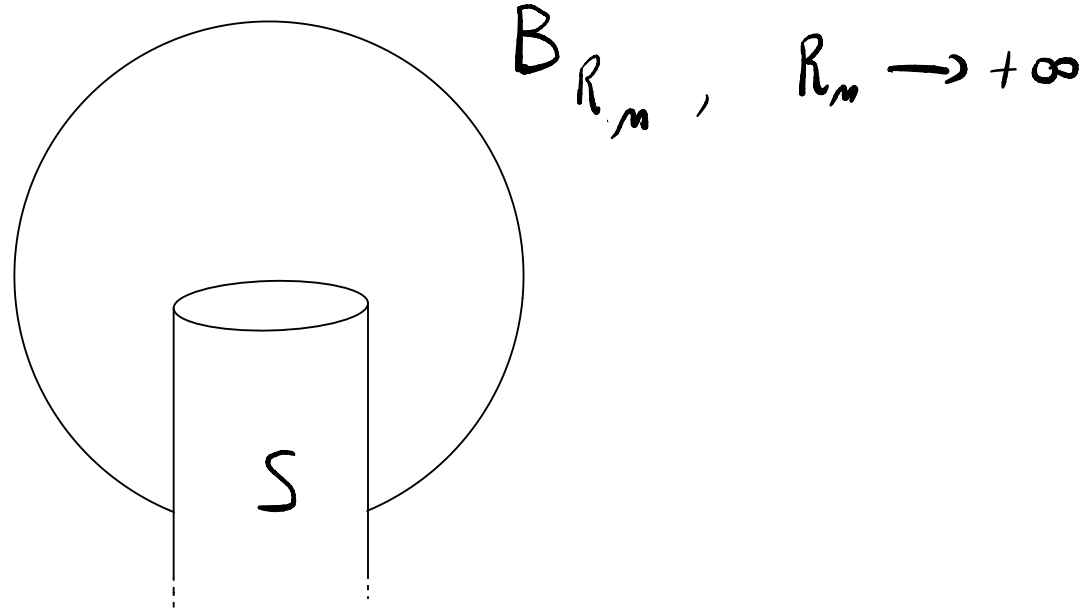
- $\hat{E}_m \in \operatorname{argmin} \{ \sigma(\delta^* E \setminus S) - \lambda \sigma(\delta^* E \cap S) + \Lambda |E|^{-m} : E \subseteq B_{R_m} \setminus S \}$
- VOLUME DENSITY ESTIMATES \Rightarrow
 - # CONNECTED COMPONENTS $E_{m,i}^\wedge$ of $\hat{E}_m \leq C(\Lambda)$
 - $\operatorname{diam}(E_{m,i}^\wedge) \leq C(\Lambda)$
- By SLIDING VERTICALLY $E_{m,i}^\wedge$ we may enforce $\{\hat{E}_m\}_m$ EQUI-BOUNDED

Existence in case (a)



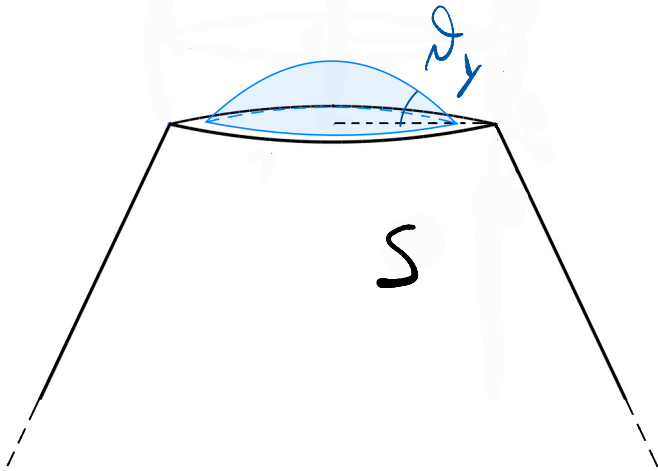
- $\hat{E}_m \in \operatorname{argmin} \{ \sigma(\delta^* \bar{E} \setminus S) - \lambda \sigma(\delta^* \bar{E} \cap S) + \Lambda |\bar{E}| - m \} : \bar{E} \subseteq B_{R_m} \setminus S \}$
- VOLUME DENSITY ESTIMATES \Rightarrow # CONNECTED COMPONENTS $E_{m,i}^\wedge$ of $\hat{E}_m^\wedge \leq C(\Lambda)$
 $\operatorname{diam}(E_{m,i}^\wedge) \leq C(\Lambda)$
- By SLIDING VERTICALLY $E_{m,i}^\wedge$ we may enforce $\{\hat{E}_m^\wedge\}_m$ EQUI-BOUNDED
 $\Rightarrow \hat{E}_m^\wedge \rightarrow \hat{E}^\wedge$, with \hat{E}^\wedge a minimizer of the PENALIZED PROBLEM

Existence in case (a)

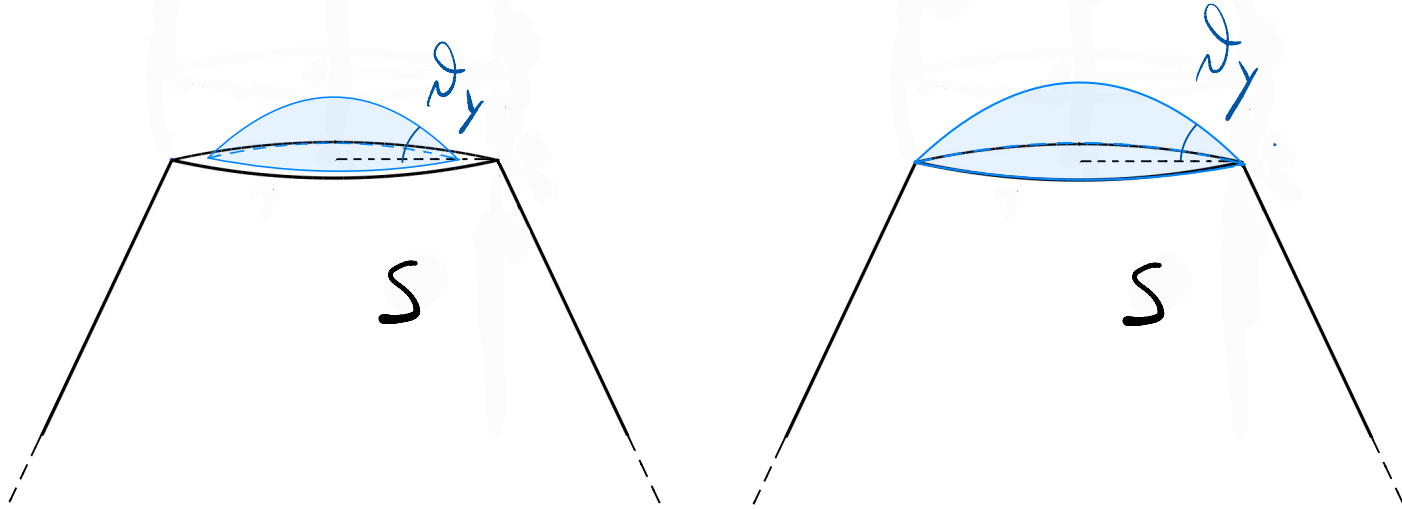


- $\hat{E}_m \in \operatorname{argmin} \{ \sigma(\delta^* E \setminus S) - \lambda \sigma(\delta^* E \cap S) + \Lambda |E| - m \} : E \subseteq B_{R_m} \setminus S \}$
- VOLUME DENSITY ESTIMATES \Rightarrow # CONNECTED COMPONENTS $E_{m,i}^\wedge$ of $\hat{E}_m^\wedge \leq C(\Lambda)$
 $\operatorname{diam}(E_{m,i}^\wedge) \leq C(\Lambda)$
- By SLIDING VERTICALLY $E_{m,i}^\wedge$ we may enforce $\{E_m^\wedge\}_m$ EQUI-BOUNDED
 $\Rightarrow E_m^\wedge \rightarrow E^\wedge$, with E^\wedge a minimizer of the PENALIZED PROBLEM
- Λ IS LARGE ENOUGH $\Rightarrow |E^\wedge| = m$, hence a MINIMIZER.

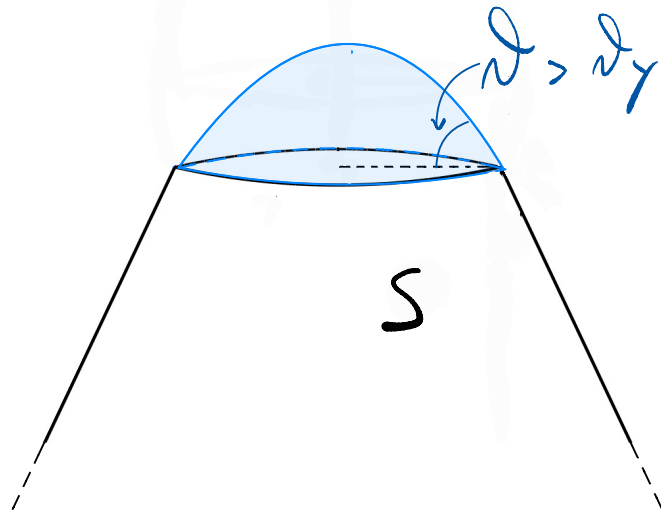
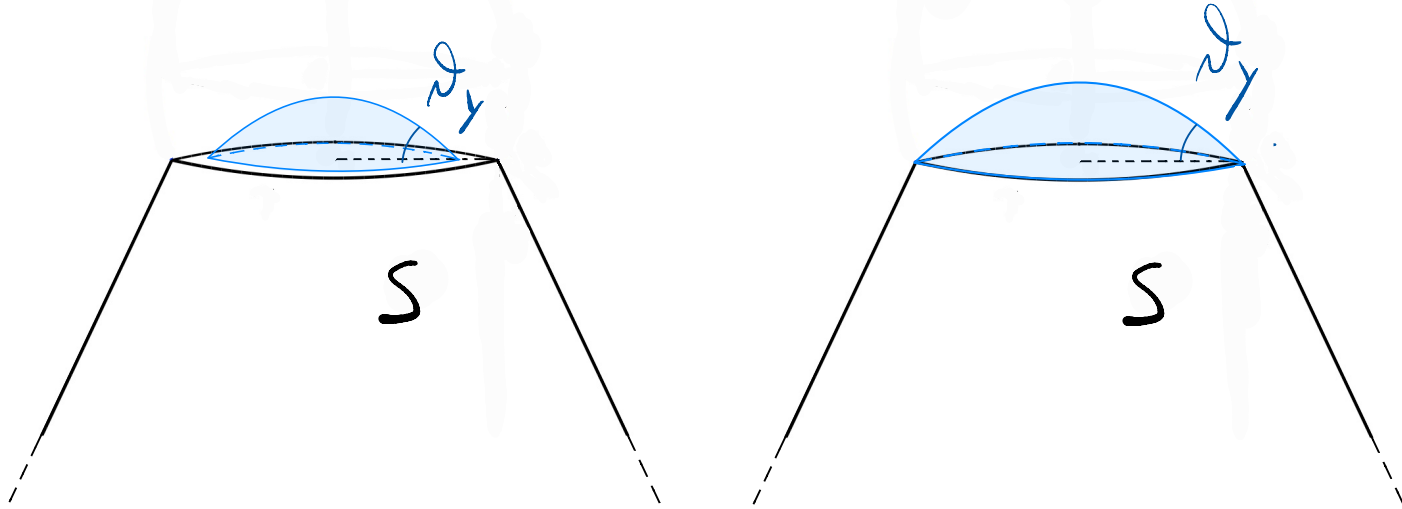
The pinning effect



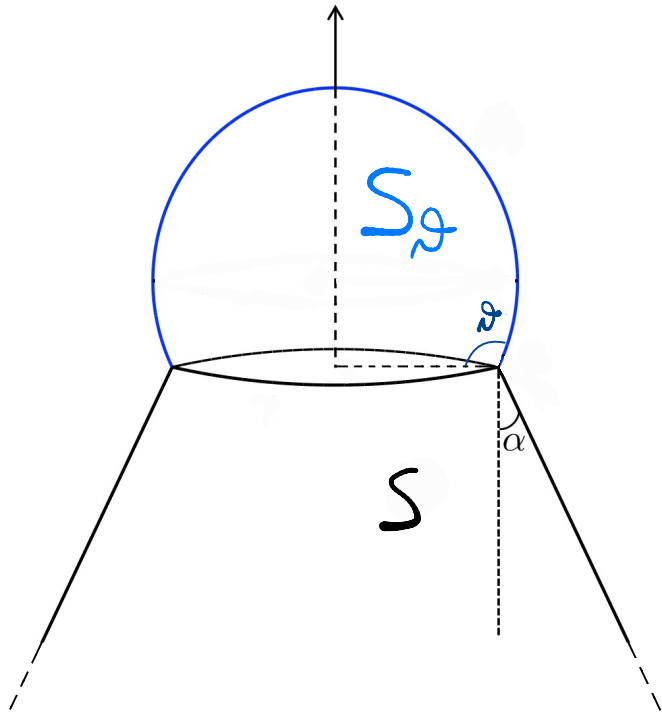
The pinning effect



The pinning effect

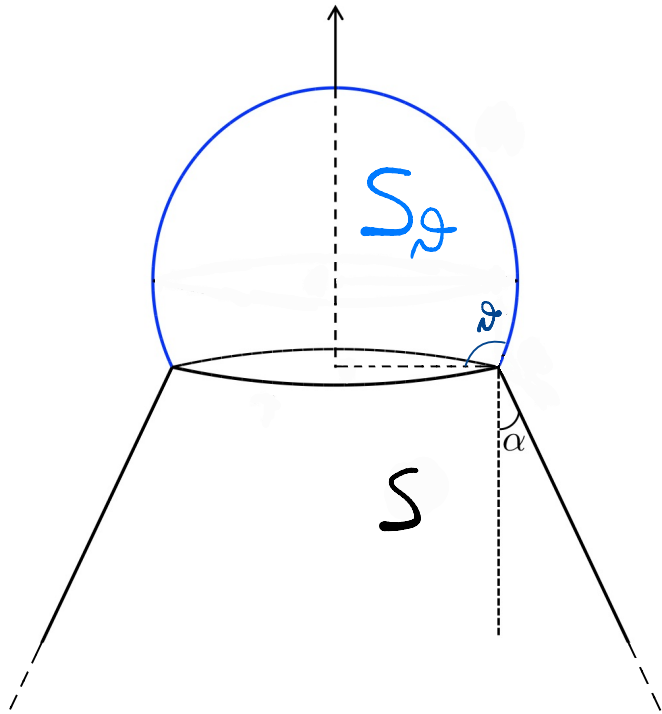


Axisymmetric Nanowires



- $\mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}_y = \arccos \lambda$, $\alpha \in [0, \frac{\pi}{2})$.

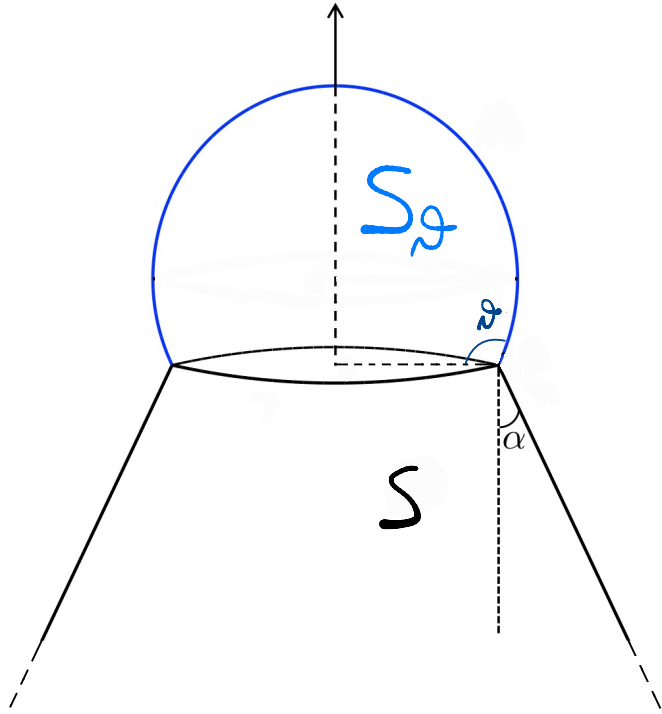
Axisymmetric Nanowires



- $\mathcal{D} \supset \mathcal{D}_\gamma = \arccos \lambda$, $\alpha \in [0, \frac{\pi}{2})$.
- Find conditions under which S_ϑ is a local minimizer of

$$(P) \min \{ \sigma(\mathcal{D}^* E \setminus S) - \lambda \sigma(\mathcal{D}^* E \cap S) : |E| = |S_\vartheta| \}$$

Axisymmetric Nanowires



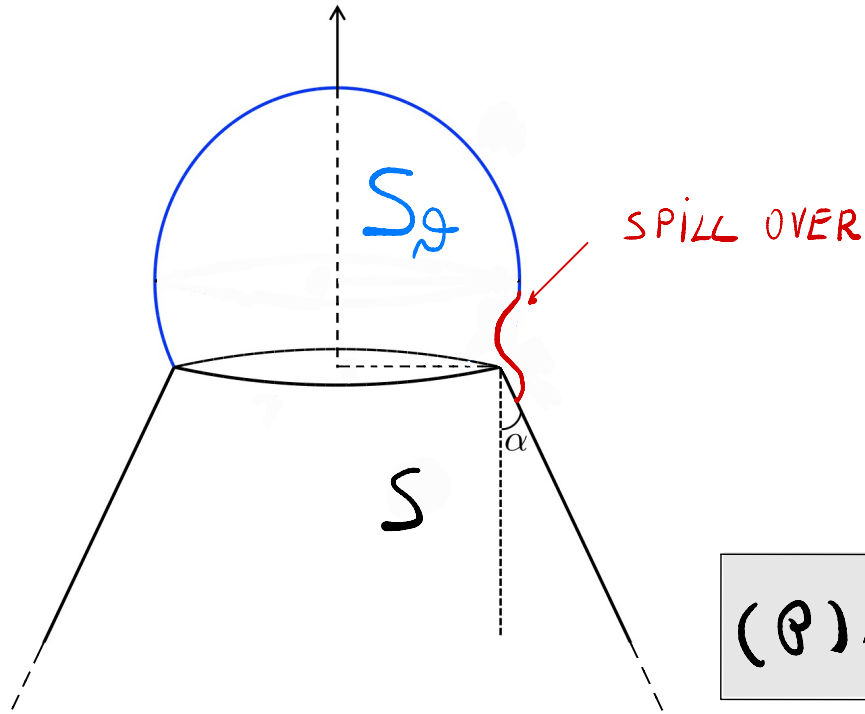
- $\mathcal{D} > \mathcal{D}_y = \arccos \lambda$, $\alpha \in [0, \frac{\pi}{2})$.
- Find conditions under which S_α is a local minimizer of

$$(P) \min \{ \sigma(\partial^* E \setminus S) - \lambda \sigma(\partial^* E \cap S) : |E| = |S_\alpha| \}$$

THEOREM (FONSEGA - FUSCO - LEONI - 11. '22)

- If $\mathcal{D}_y < \mathcal{D} \leq \frac{\pi}{2} - \alpha - \mathcal{D}_y$, then S_α is a **LOCAL MINIMIZER**
- If $\mathcal{D} > \frac{\pi}{2} - \alpha - \mathcal{D}_y$, then **SPILL OVER** occurs.

Axisymmetric Nanowires



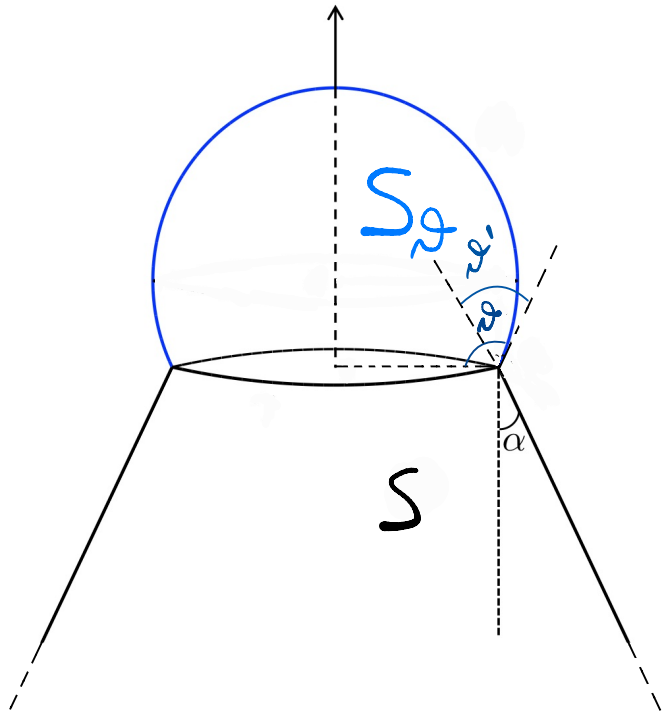
- $\mathcal{D} > \mathcal{D}_y = \arccos \lambda$, $\alpha \in [0, \frac{\pi}{2})$.
- Find conditions under which S_α is a local minimizer of

$$(P) \min \{ \sigma(\partial^* E \setminus S) - \lambda \sigma(\partial^* E \cap S) : |E| = |S_\alpha| \}$$

THEOREM (FONSEGA - FUSCO - LEONI - 11. '22)

- If $\mathcal{D}_y < \mathcal{D} \leq \frac{\pi}{2} - \alpha - \mathcal{D}_y$, then S_α is a LOCAL MINIMIZER
- If $\mathcal{D} > \frac{\pi}{2} - \alpha - \mathcal{D}_y$, then SPILL OVER occurs.

Axisymmetric Nanowires



- $\mathcal{D} > \mathcal{D}_y = \arccos \lambda$, $\alpha \in [0, \frac{\pi}{2})$.
- Find conditions under which S_θ is a local minimizer of

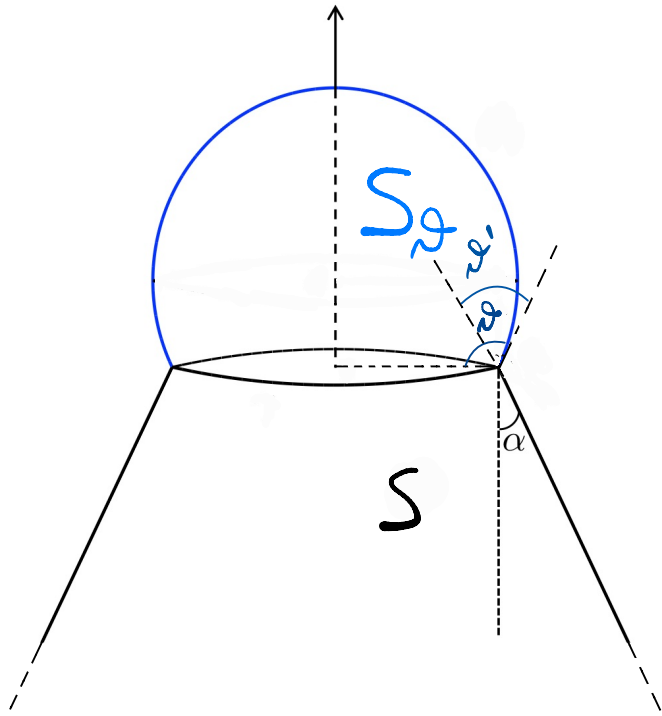
$$(P) \min \{ \sigma(\partial^* E \setminus S) - \lambda \sigma(\partial^* E \cap S) : |E| = |S_\theta| \}$$

THEOREM (FONSECA - FUSCO - LEONI - 11. '22)

- If $\mathcal{D}_y < \mathcal{D} \leq \frac{\pi}{2} - \alpha - \mathcal{D}_y$, then S_θ is a LOCAL MINIMIZER
- If $\mathcal{D} > \frac{\pi}{2} - \alpha - \mathcal{D}_y$, then SPILL OVER occurs.

Rmk: YOUNG'S LAW is violated due to SHARP EDGE

Axisymmetric Nanowires



- $\mathcal{D} > \mathcal{D}_y = \arccos \lambda$, $\alpha \in [0, \frac{\pi}{2})$.
- Find conditions under which $S_{\mathcal{D}}$ is a local minimizer of

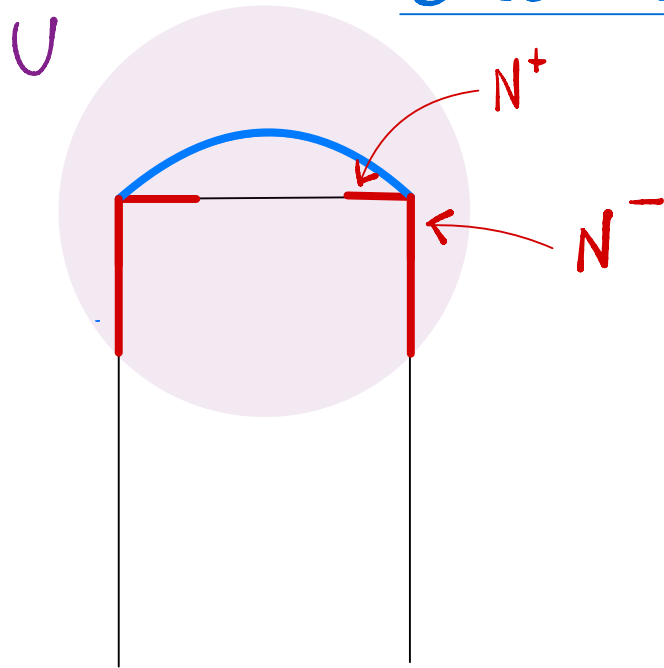
$$(P) \min \{ \sigma(\mathcal{D}^* E \setminus S) - \lambda \sigma(\mathcal{D}^* E \cap S) : |E| = |S_{\mathcal{D}}| \}$$

THEOREM (FONSECA - FUSCO - LEONI - 11. '22)

- If $\mathcal{D}_y < \mathcal{D} \leq \frac{\pi}{2} - \alpha - \mathcal{D}_y$, then $S_{\mathcal{D}}$ is a LOCAL MINIMIZER
- If $\mathcal{D} > \frac{\pi}{2} - \alpha - \mathcal{D}_y$, then SPILL OVER occurs.

→ analytical validation of OLIVER-HUGH-MASON '77

The calibration method



○ $\xi: U \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ s.t.

- $\operatorname{div} \xi = \operatorname{cost}$

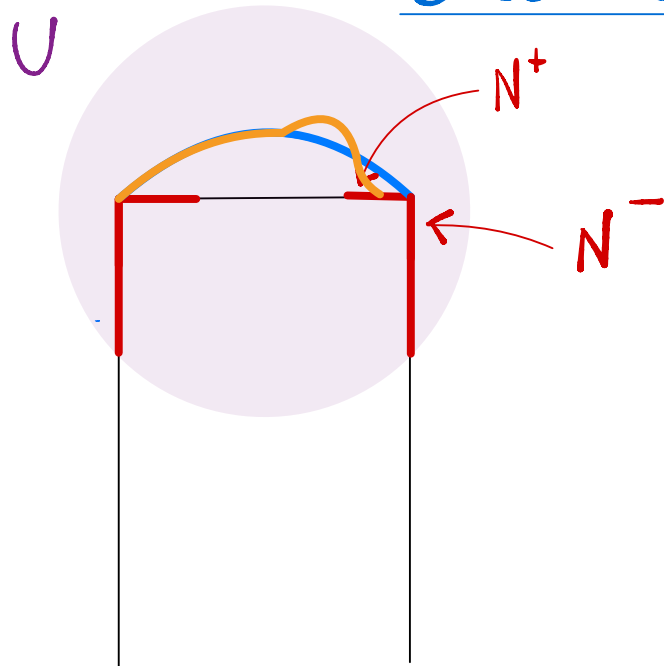
- $\xi = \nu_{S_\partial}$ on $\partial S_\partial \setminus S$

- $|\xi| \leq 1$

- $\xi \cdot \nu_S \leq \lambda$ on N^+ , $\xi \cdot \nu_S \geq \lambda$ on N^-

Then $\mathcal{E}_\lambda(\mathcal{E}) \geq \mathcal{E}_\lambda(S_\partial) \forall \mathcal{E}$ s.t. $|\mathcal{E}| = |S_\partial|$, $\mathcal{E} \Delta S_\partial \subseteq U$,
 $(\partial S_\partial \cap S) \setminus \partial \mathcal{E} \subseteq N^+$

The calibration method



○ $\xi: U \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ s.t.

- $\operatorname{div} \xi = \operatorname{cost}$

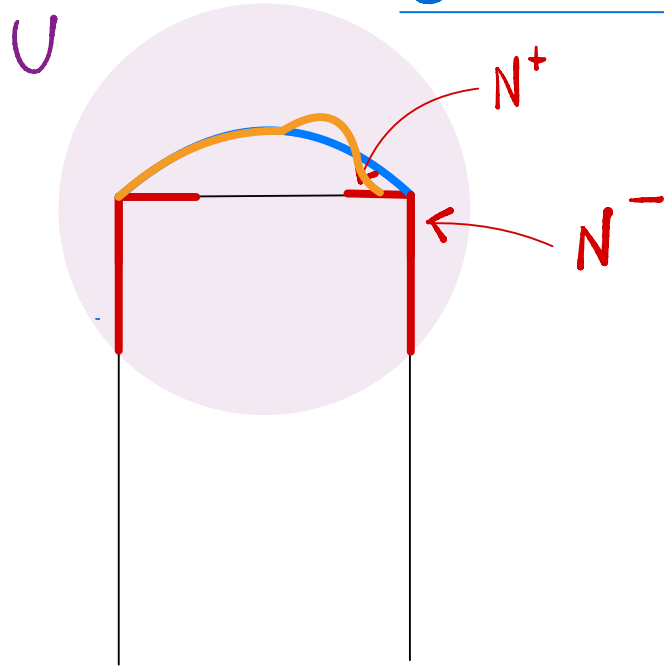
- $\xi = \nu_{S_\partial}$ on $\partial S_\partial \setminus S$

- $|\xi| \leq 1$

- $\xi \cdot \nu_S \leq \lambda$ on N^+ , $\xi \cdot \nu_S \geq \lambda$ on N^-

Then $\mathcal{E}_\lambda(\mathcal{E}) \geq \mathcal{E}_\lambda(S_\partial) \forall \mathcal{E}$ s.t. $|\mathcal{E}| = |S_\partial|$, $\mathcal{E} \Delta S_\partial \subseteq U$,
 $(\partial S_\partial \cap S) \setminus \partial \mathcal{E} \subseteq N^+$

The calibration method



○ $\xi: U \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ s.t.

- $\operatorname{div} \xi = \cos T$

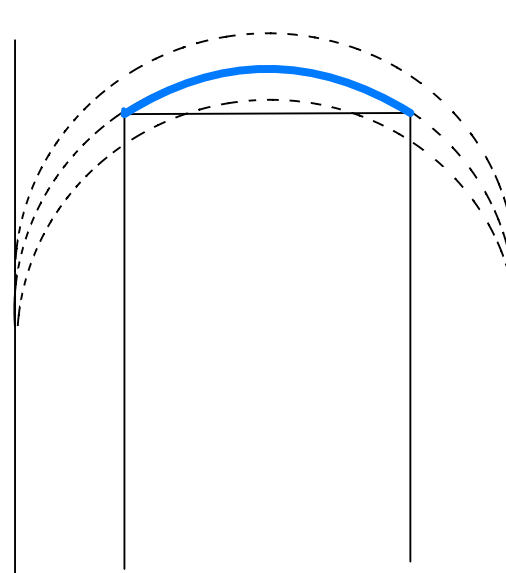
- $\xi = \nu_{S_0}$ on $\partial S_0 \setminus S$

- $|\xi| \leq 1$

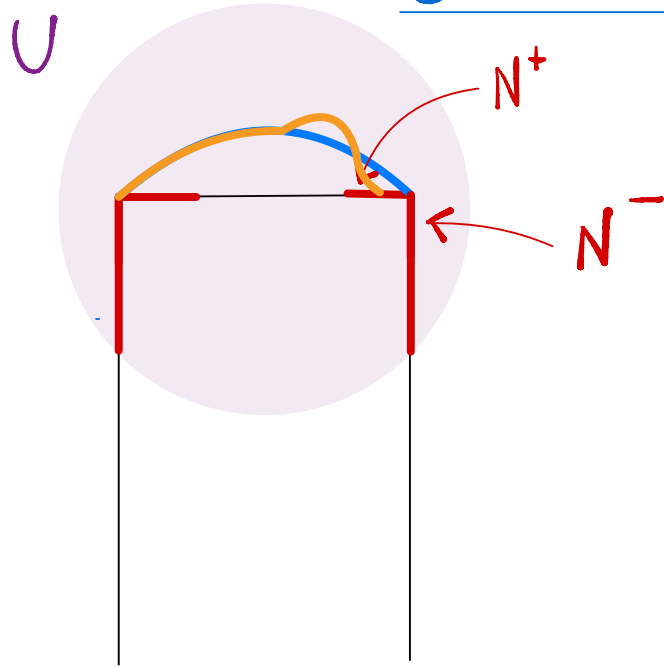
- $\xi \cdot \nu_S \leq \lambda$ on N^+ , $\xi \cdot \nu_S \geq \lambda$ on N^-

Then $\mathcal{E}_\lambda(E) \geq \mathcal{E}_\lambda(S_0) \forall E$ s.t. $|E| = |S_0|$, $E \Delta S_0 \subseteq U$,
 $(\partial S_0 \cap S) \setminus \partial E \subseteq N^+$

- CONSTRUCTION BY FOLIATION
 WITH CMC SURFACES

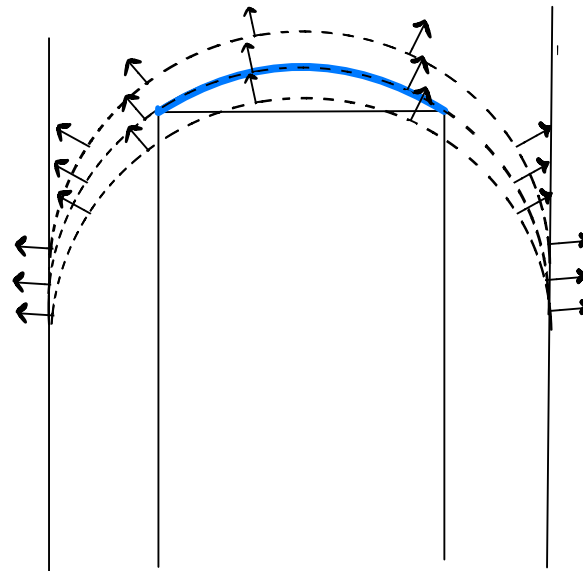


The calibration method

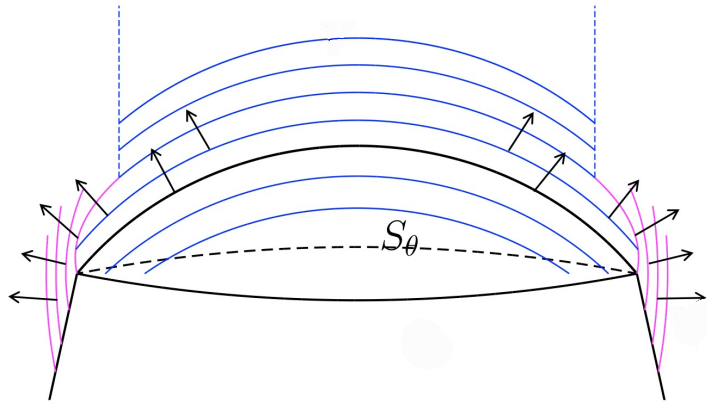


- $\xi: U \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ s.t.
 - $\operatorname{div} \xi = \cos T$
 - $\xi = \nu_{S_\partial}$ on $\partial S_\partial \setminus S$
 - $|\xi| \leq 1$
 - $\xi \cdot \nu_S \leq \lambda$ on N^+ , $\xi \cdot \nu_S \geq \lambda$ on N^-
- Then $\mathcal{E}_\lambda(\mathcal{E}) \geq \mathcal{E}_\lambda(S_\partial) \forall \mathcal{E}$ s.t. $|\mathcal{E}| = |S_\partial|$, $\mathcal{E} \Delta S_\partial \subseteq U$, $(\partial S_\partial \cap S) \setminus \partial \mathcal{E} \subseteq N^+$

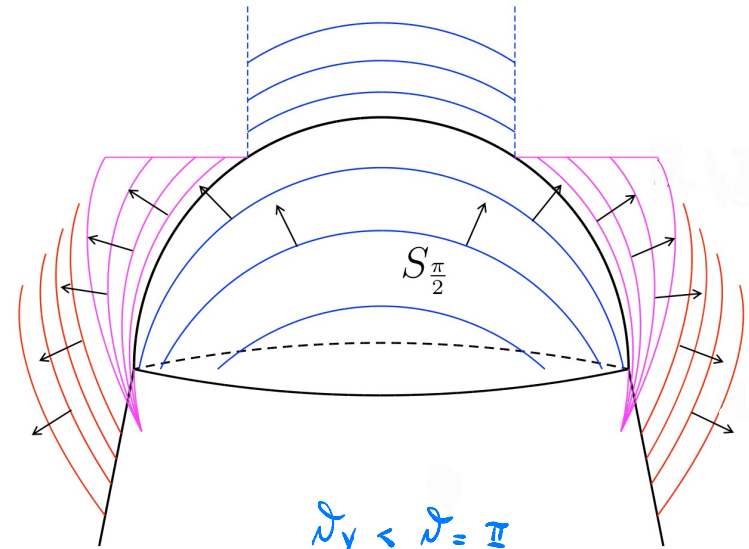
- CONSTRUCTION BY FOLIATION WITH CMC SURFACES



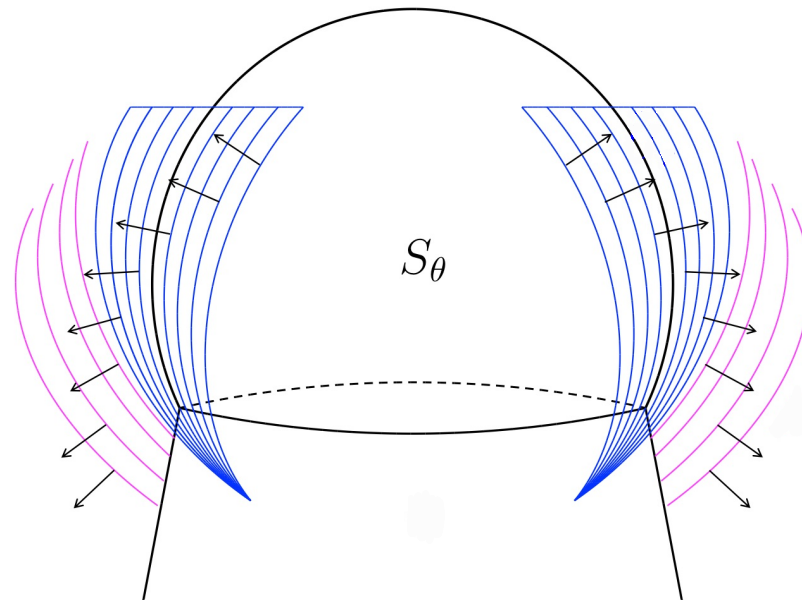
The calibration method - II



$$\delta_y < \delta < \frac{\pi}{2}$$

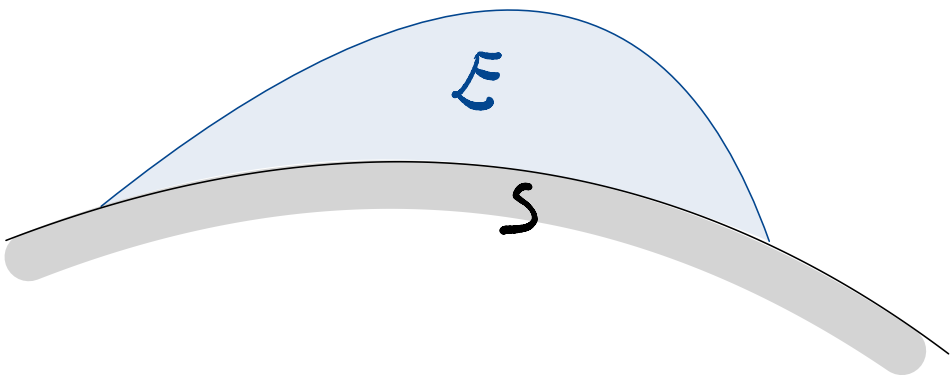


$$\delta_y < \delta = \frac{\pi}{2}$$



$$\delta > \max\{\delta_y, \frac{\pi}{2}\}$$

Regularity



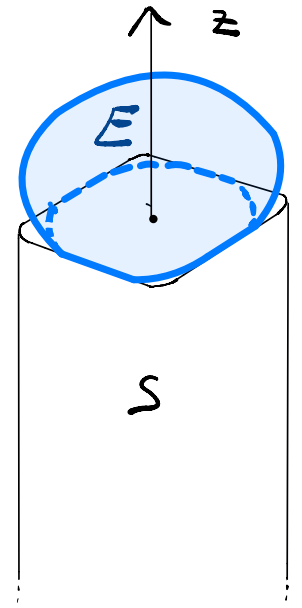
Theorem (TAYLOR 77) Let $E \subseteq \mathbb{R}^3 \setminus S$, be a (LOCAL) minimizer of

$$\min \left\{ \sigma(\partial^* E \setminus S) - \lambda \sigma(\partial^* E \cap S) + \int_E g : E \subseteq \mathbb{R}^3 \setminus S, |E| = m \right\}$$

If S is of class C^2 and g is BOUNDED, then ∂E is a SURFACE with BOUNDARY of class $C^{1, \alpha}$ for all $\alpha \in (0, 1)$

see also DE PHILIPPIS - MAGGI '15

Regularity

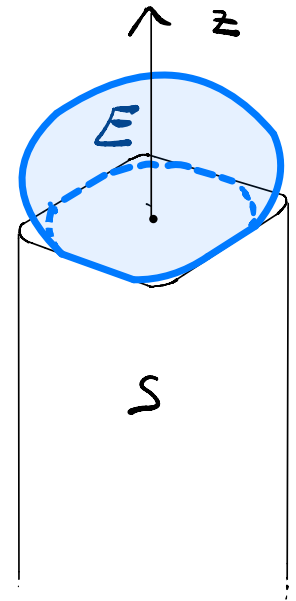


Regularity

E minimizes:

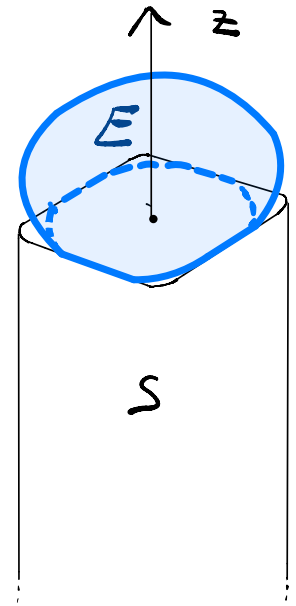
$$\min \left\{ \sigma(\delta^* F \setminus S) - \lambda \sigma(\delta^* F \cap S) : F \subseteq H, \delta^* F \cap \partial H \subseteq \omega, |F| = m \right\} \quad (\mathcal{P})$$

$$H = \{z > 0\}$$



Regularity

$$H = \{z > 0\}$$



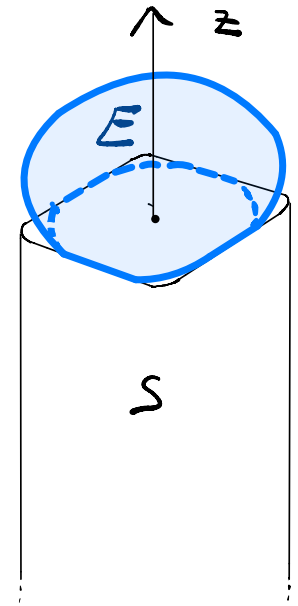
E minimizes:

$$\min \left\{ \sigma(\delta^* F \setminus S) - \lambda \sigma(\delta^* F \cap S) : F \subseteq H, \delta^* F \cap \partial H \subseteq \omega, |F| = m \right\} \quad (\mathcal{P})$$

THEOREM (DE PHILIPPIS - FUSCO - 1982) Let E be a (LOCAL) MINIMIZER of (\mathcal{P}) , and assume $\omega \subseteq \partial H \simeq \mathbb{R}^2$ of class $C^{1,1}$. Then:

Regularity

$$H = \{z > 0\}$$



E minimizes:

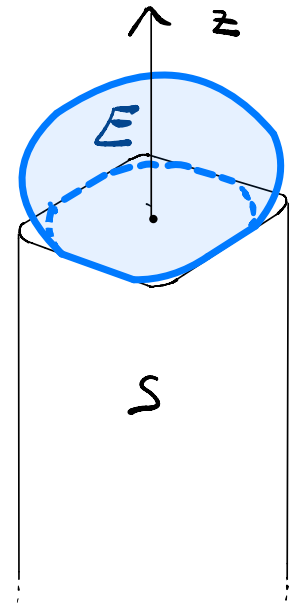
$$\min \left\{ \sigma(\delta^* F \setminus S) - \lambda \sigma(\delta^* F \cap S) : F \subseteq H, \delta^* F \cap \partial H \subseteq \omega, |F| = m \right\} \quad (\mathcal{P})$$

THEOREM (DE PHILIPPIS - FUSCO - 1982) Let E be a (LOCAL) MINIMIZER of (\mathcal{P}) , and assume $\omega \subseteq \partial H \simeq \mathbb{R}^2$ of class $C^{1,1}$. Then:

- $\overline{\delta E \cap H}$ is a SURFACE with BOUNDARY of class $C^{1,\gamma} \forall \gamma \in (0, \frac{1}{2})$;

Regularity

$$H = \{z > 0\}$$



E minimizes:

$$\min \left\{ \sigma(\delta^* F \setminus S) - \lambda \sigma(\delta^* F \cap S) : F \subseteq H, \delta^* F \cap \partial H \subseteq \omega, |F| = m \right\} \quad (\mathcal{P})$$

THEOREM (DE PHILIPPIS - FUSCO - 11, '22) Let E be a (LOCAL) MINIMIZER of (\mathcal{P}) , and assume $\omega \subseteq \partial H \simeq \mathbb{R}^2$ of class $C^{1,1}$. Then:

- $\overline{\delta E \cap H}$ is a SURFACE with BOUNDARY of class $C^{1,\delta} \forall \delta \in (0, \frac{1}{2})$;
- $\nu_E \cdot e_z = \lambda$ on $l \cap \overset{\circ}{\omega}$, $\nu_E \cdot e_z \geq \lambda$ on $l \cap \partial \omega$
↑ YOUNG'S LAW
↑ YOUNG'S INEQUALITY

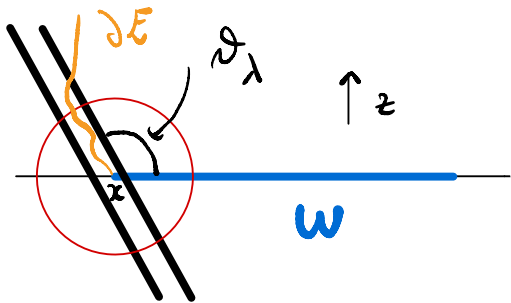
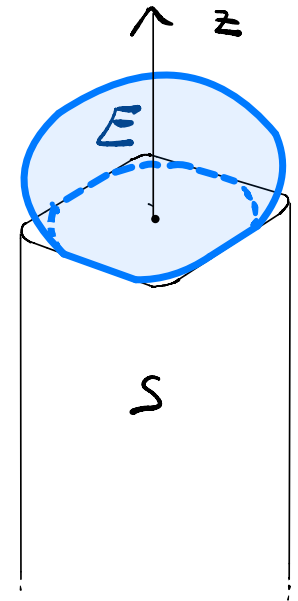
where $l := \overline{\delta E \cap H} \cap \partial H$ is the CONTACT LINE

ε -Regularity

$$H = \{z > 0\}$$

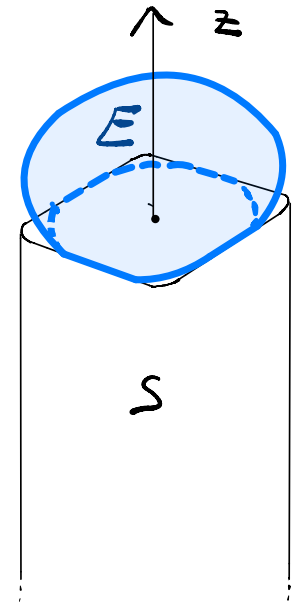
E minimizers:

$$\min \left\{ \sigma(\delta^* F \setminus S) - \lambda \sigma(\delta^* F \cap S) : F \subseteq H, \delta^* F \cap \partial H \subseteq \omega, |F| = m \right\} \quad (\mathcal{P})$$



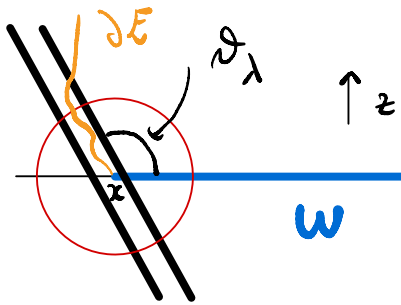
ε -Regularity

$$H = \{z > 0\}$$



E minimizers:

$$\min \left\{ \sigma(\partial^* F \setminus S) - \lambda \sigma(\partial^* F \cap S) : F \subseteq H, \partial^* F \cap \partial H \subseteq \omega, |F| = m \right\} \quad (P)$$



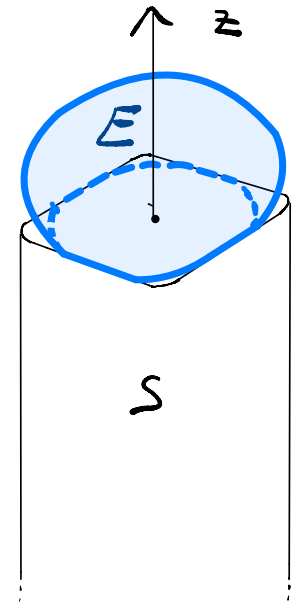
ε -REGULARITY THM (DE PHILIPPIS - FUSCO-PI) Let $E \subseteq H$ be a (LOCAL) MINIMIZER of (P). There exists $\hat{\varepsilon}, \hat{r} > 0$ s.t. if for $x \in \partial \omega \cap \partial$ and $r \leq \hat{r}$

$$\partial E \cap H \cap B_r(x) \subseteq \left\{ \frac{-\lambda z}{\sqrt{1-\lambda^2}} - \hat{\varepsilon} r < x < \frac{-\lambda z}{\sqrt{1-\lambda^2}} + \hat{\varepsilon} r \right\}$$

then $\overline{\partial E \cap H \cap B_{\frac{r}{2}}(x)}$ is a SURFACE with BDRY of class $C^{1,\delta}$.

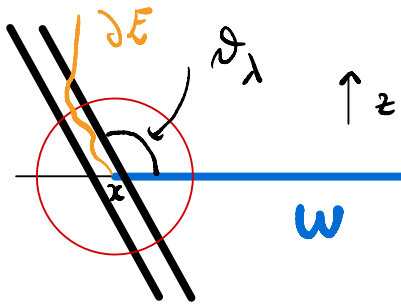
ε -Regularity

$$H = \{z > 0\}$$



E minimizers:

$$\min \left\{ \sigma(\partial^* F \setminus S) - \lambda \sigma(\partial^* F \cap S) : F \subseteq H, \partial^* F \cap \partial H \subseteq \omega, |F| = m \right\} \quad (P)$$



ε -REGULARITY THM (DE PHILIPPIS - FUSCO-PI) Let $E \subseteq H$ be a (LOCAL) MINIMIZER of (P). There exists $\hat{\varepsilon}, \hat{r} > 0$ s.t. if for $x \in \partial\omega \cap \partial H$ and $r \leq \hat{r}$

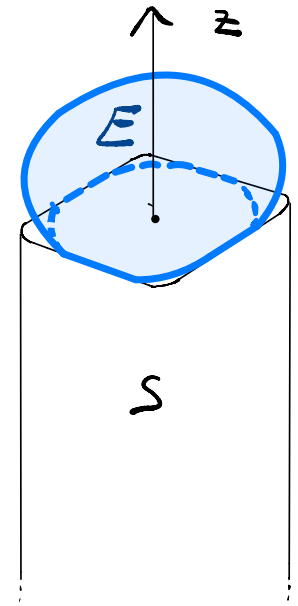
$$\partial E \cap H \cap B_r(x) \subseteq \left\{ \frac{-\lambda z}{\sqrt{1-\lambda^2}} - \hat{\varepsilon} r < x < \frac{-\lambda z}{\sqrt{1-\lambda^2}} + \hat{\varepsilon} r \right\}$$

then $\overline{\partial E \cap H \cap B_{\frac{r}{2}}(x)}$ is a SURFACE with BDRY of class $C^{1,\delta}$.

- ε -REGULARITY HOLDS in ANY DIMENSION

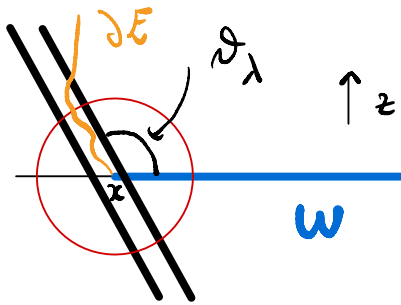
ε -Regularity

$$H = \{z > 0\}$$



E minimizes:

$$\min \left\{ \sigma(\mathcal{J}^* F \setminus S) - \lambda \sigma(\mathcal{J}^* F \cap S) : F \subseteq H, \mathcal{J}^* F \cap \partial H \subseteq \omega, |F| = m \right\} \quad (\mathcal{P})$$



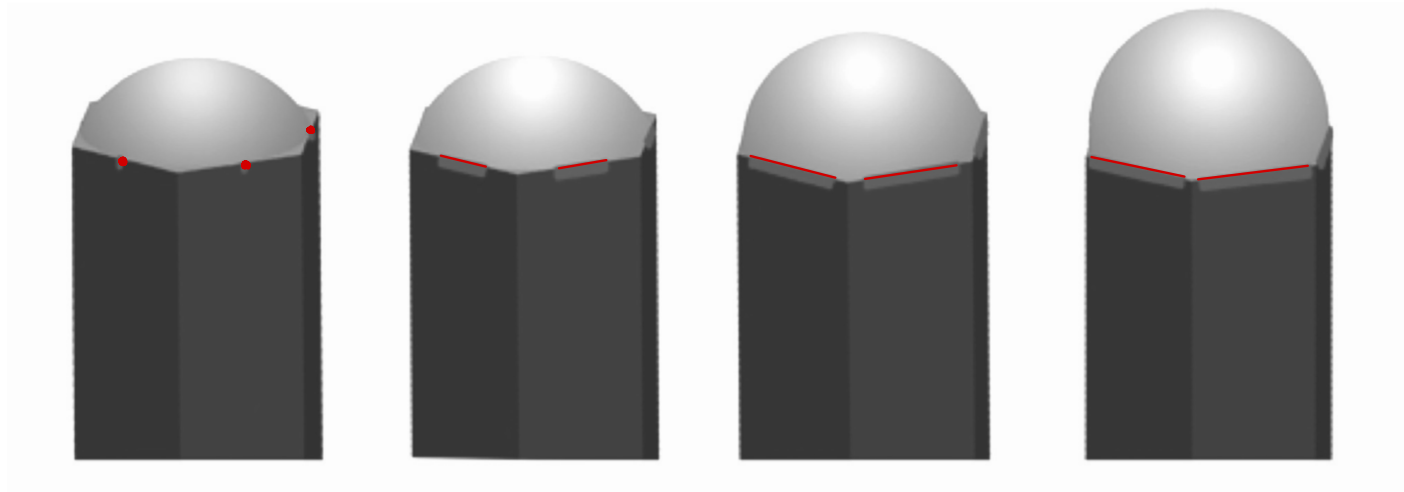
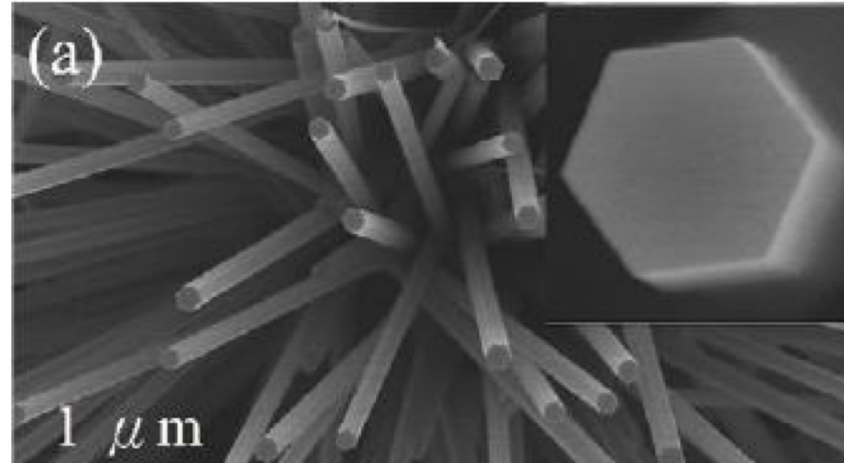
ε -REGULARITY THM (DE PHILIPPIS - FUSCO - PI.) Let $E \subseteq H$ be a (LOCAL) MINIMIZER of (\mathcal{P}) . There exists $\hat{\varepsilon}, \hat{r} > 0$ s.t. if for $x \in \partial \omega \cap \partial H$ and $r \leq \hat{r}$

$$\partial E \cap H \cap B_r(x) \subseteq \left\{ \frac{-\lambda z}{\sqrt{1-\lambda^2}} - \hat{\varepsilon} r < x < \frac{-\lambda z}{\sqrt{1-\lambda^2}} + \hat{\varepsilon} r \right\}$$

then $\overline{\partial E \cap H \cap B_{\frac{r}{2}}(x)}$ is a SURFACE with BDRY of class $C^{1,\delta}$.

- ε -REGULARITY HOLDS in ANY DIMENSION
- extension to the BDRY of SAVIN'S PARTIAL HARNACK (2007), LINEARIZATION to SIGNORINI
 \rightsquigarrow cfr FOCARDI-SPADARO for the NONPARAMETRIC CASE.

Nanowires with polygonal section



KRUGSTROP et al. PRL (2011)

Nanowires with polygonal section - II

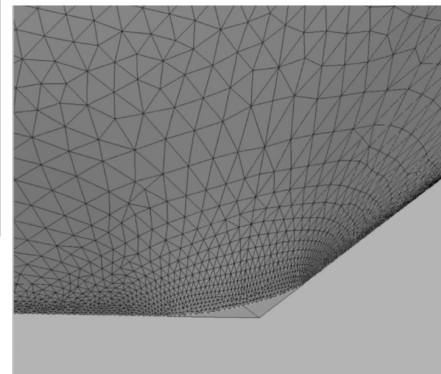
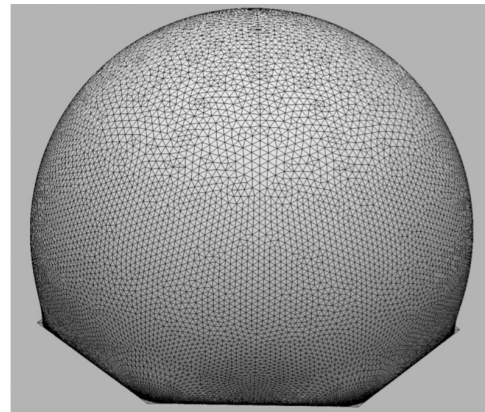
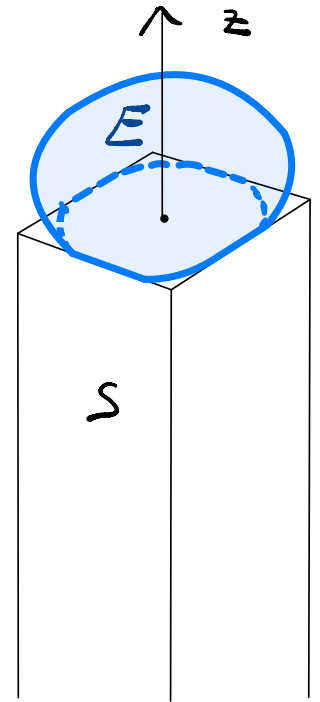
THEOREM (DE PHILIPPIS - FUSCO - M. '22)

○ S with POLYGONAL SECTION W

○ $E \subseteq \{z > 0\}$ LOCAL MINIMIZER of

$$\min \left\{ \sigma(\delta^* F \lfloor S) - \lambda \sigma(\delta^* F \wedge \partial S) : F \subseteq H, \delta^* F \wedge \partial H \subseteq W, |F| = m \right\}, \lambda \in (0, 1)$$

Then $\partial E \cap \{z > 0\}$ is a SURFACE with BOUNDARY of class $C^{1, \alpha}$. Moreover, the CONTACT LINE AVOIDS the CORNERS.



THANK you!