Tear film dynamics with evaporation and osmolarity

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- Motivation from experimental results
- Some past results
- Thoughts on Leveling (OSU, NSF/NIH)
- Surfactant dependent evaporation (PSU York, NSF)
- First thoughts for two layer film (OCCAM, OSU, NSF/NIH/KAUST)
- Summary



23 February 2012

What is Human Tear Film?

Lipid layer floating fatty/oil slick at interface with air Aqueous mostly water between lipid and ocular surface Ocular surface Mucus-rich region and microplicae at epithelium



Gipson (rabbit)



Govindarajan

Idealizing the Tear Film?

Tear film

A multilayer structure playing a vital role in health and function of the eye.

Millions affected by problems with tear film: dry eye.

Precorneal tear film breakup DEWS 07: Important for dry eye Osmolarity (salt concentration) increased from evaporative thinning

Osmosis from cornea possible



Typical thickness of each layer in microns.

- M: Mucus-rich region, glycocalix and microplicae
- A: Aqueous layer, primarily water (est. up to 98%). Salts/sugars in A important: osmolarity.
- L: Lipid layer, polar surfactants at the A/L interface.

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- Osmolarity Gaffney et al (2009); Bron et al (02,...), Zubkov et al in progress Transport after Jensen and Grotberg (93,94), e.g.
- Fluorescein for visualizing thickness e.g. OSU, IU, others.

Modeling Choices

Idealized domain



Aqueous fluid: Newtonian (water)

Mucus/cornea: wetting and osmosis BC Lipid layer: BCs (Tangentially immobile; slows evaporation)

Rate of evaporation for flat surface fit to OSU thinning rates

Characteristic length scales

For x' direction:

L' = 5mm, half width of palp.

fissure.

For y' direction:

 $d' = 5\mu$ m, thickness of film.

The ratio of length scales

 $\epsilon = d'/L' \approx 10^{-3} \Rightarrow$ lubrication.

Prior Work: Measurements

Evidence of hydraulic connectivity

- Lampblack moving between menisci after blink (Maurice 73)
- Fluorescein moves more slowly superiorly and more rapidly inferiorly (Harrison *et al* 08)
- King-Smith imaging of fluorescein (09)



Tear Film Evolution Model

The evolution of the free surface is given by

$$h_t + \nabla \cdot \left[-rac{h^3}{12} \nabla \left(p + G y
ight)
ight] = 0, \ p + S \Delta h = 0.$$

 $S = rac{\epsilon^3 \sigma}{\mu U} = 10^{-5}, \ G = rac{
ho g d^2}{\mu U} = 0.025.$

Boundary conditions

Fix TMW:

 $h|_{\partial\Omega} = h_0$, where $h_0 = 13$.

Specify flux at boundary:

$$\mathbf{n} \cdot \left[-\frac{h^3}{12} \nabla \left(p + G y \right) \right] = 0$$

or a specified function of
position only



Tear Flux: nonzero flux bc (G = 0)

Tear film thickness at 10 seconds:



Flux from upper lid splits. Some hydraulic connectivity. Maki et al JFM 647, 2010.

Tear Flux: nonzero flux bc (G = 0)

Flux vector field at 10 seconds:



Black line being pushed out of way. Some hydraulic connectivity.

Tear Flux: nonzero flux bc (G = 0)

Pressure field at 10 seconds:



х

Dramatic steepening near puncta limits calculation.

- Comparison with partial blink thickness data Heryudono et al, Math Med Biol 2007
- Comparison with thickness measurements with reflex tearing Maki et al, Math Med Biol 2008
- Thermal modeling to capture cooling of ocular surface Li and Braun (11, submitted)

Part I: Thoughts on leveling (Braun (UD), King-Smith (OSU))

• Dimensional lubrication theory: $\partial_{t'}h' + \partial_{x'}\left[\frac{(h')^3}{3}\frac{\sigma}{\mu}\partial_{x'}^3h'\right] = 0.$

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- Linearize around h' = d, perturbation satisfies

$$\tilde{h}(x,t) = A_1 \exp\left[-\frac{d^3\sigma}{3\mu} \left(\frac{2\pi}{\lambda}\right)^4 t\right] \cos\left(\frac{2\pi}{\lambda}x\right)$$

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Half life for decay is

$$t_{1/2} = \frac{3\mu}{d^3\sigma} \left(\frac{\lambda}{2\pi}\right)^4 \ln 2$$

Consequences?

Parametric dependence of decay rates in linear theory



- Note that one order of magnitude change in λ changes decay by 4 orders
- Example: 0.5mm is half of meibomium orifice spacing; 0.5cm is half of palpebral fissure
- Also proportional to d⁻³
- Evaporating film can slow down decay

Nonlinear leveling of Gaussian valley



- Solving: $\partial_t h + \partial_x \left[\frac{h^3}{3} S \partial_x^3 h \right] = 0.$
- $d = 6.6\mu$ m film after Miller et al (02); min film thickness 1.1μ m $S = 1.38 \times 10^{-5}$, 1 std dev 0.025
- I second to recover to 0.8; 500 times slower than Miller et al (02)
- What if evaporation is happening too? Better thickness value?

Still looking for *h*:

$$h_t + (\bar{u}h)_x = -EJ, \quad \bar{u} = -\frac{h^2}{3}p_x,$$
$$J = \frac{1}{\bar{K} + h} [1 + \delta p], \quad p = -Sh_{xx} - Ah^{-3}.$$

- Based on Ajaev & Homsy (01,05), Winter et al (2010)
- For $d = 3.5 \mu m$, $S \sim 3 \times 10^{-6}$ is surface tension
- $E \sim 241$, $\bar{K} \sim 1.8 \times 10^4$ spec evap rate
- $A \sim 6.1 \times 10^{-6}$ is nondim'l Hamaker constant (conjoining)
- $\delta \sim$ 38 is pressure contribution

Evaporation and tear film break up



- $d = 3\mu$ m film, std deviation 0.026 (width is one meibomium orifice)
- Deeper valley first rises, but still remains as entire film thins
- Disturbance mostly healed, but still was first place to break up
- Does this happen when we try to incorporate lipid layer, etc?

Part II: Evaporation, surfactant and osmolarity (Braun, Siddiqui (PSU York), King-Smith (OSU))

Lipid layer dynamics: low mag

Interferometry (narrow band) for lipid layer thickness



No surfactant visible, and second fluid layer, but...

- Upward motion following a blink seen as Marangoni effect Berger & Corrsin (74), Owens & Philips (01), Jones et al (06), King-Smith et al (08)
- Burst of bubble causes spreading overall outline, Williams and Jensen (93), Zubkov et al (12)
- Complex pattern at upper edge Matar and Troian (90s), Matar et al
- Repeatability of pattern: why?

On to first try for lipid layer and evaporation...

Tear film break up and lipid layer



- Left: fluorescein; right: lipid interferogram
- 9 seconds after a blink
- Note two larger dark holes just left of center in lipid image

Tear film break up and lipid layer



- Left: fluorescein; right: lipid interferogram
- 15 seconds after a blink
- Dimming in fluorescein images under dark holes in lipid image

Tear film break up and lipid layer



- Left: fluorescein; right: lipid interferogram
- 20 seconds after a blink
- Dark patches in left image are break up under dark holes in lipid image
- First attempt at lipids effect on evaporation rate follows

Lubrication theory: leading order system of equations

Variables are free surface h, osmolarity c, surfactant concentration Γ :

$$\begin{split} h_t + (\bar{u}h)_x &= -EJ + P_c(c-1), \quad \Gamma_t + (u_s\Gamma)_x = (Pe_s)^{-1}\Gamma_{xx} \\ h(c_t + \bar{u}c_x) &= \mathrm{Pe} - 1 \ (hc_x)_x + EJc - P_c(c-1)c, \\ J &= \frac{1}{\bar{K} + h} \left[1 + \delta p - \beta \Gamma \right], \quad \bar{u} = -\frac{h^2}{3} \rho_x - \frac{h}{2} M \Gamma_x, \\ u_s &= -\frac{h^2}{2} \rho_x - M \Gamma_x h, \qquad p = -Sh_{xx} - Ah^{-3}. \end{split}$$

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- $\delta \sim$ 38 is pressure contrib, β is surfactant effect
- $\bullet~Pe{\sim}~10^4$ is Péclet in film, $Pe{\sim}~10^4$ is surface Péclet
- $P_c \sim 0.02$ is the nondim'l permeability of cornea (more below)

Constitutive eqn for evaporation

Evaporation from the film surface is hypothesized to be (nondimensional):

$$ar{K} m{J} = \delta m{p} + m{T} - eta \Gamma$$
 $m{p} = - m{S} h_{xx} - m{A} h^{-3}$

- Surfactant concentration Γ lowers evaporation rate
- Linearized
- Equilibrium for flat, uniform solution, Γ a parameter,

$$\frac{h_{eq}c_{eq}}{E} = 1 \text{ for our ICs}$$
$$\frac{E}{\bar{K} + h_{eq}} \left[1 - \delta A h^{-3} - \beta \Gamma \right] = P_c \left(c_{eq} - 1 \right)$$

• If *P*_c = 0,

$$h_{eq} = \left(rac{\delta A}{1-\beta\Gamma}
ight)^{1/3}$$

• $\beta = 0$ is Ajaev and Homsy result

Results: Thickness, $P_c = 0$, $\beta = 0.1$, M = 0.01



- h(x, t), time increasing toward viewer
- IC has h(x,0)c(x,0) = 1, $h(x,0) = 1 \epsilon_1 e^{x^2/2/0.026^2}$, $\epsilon_1 = 0.25$, $\Gamma(0,0) = 1.1$
- Dent in film decays slowly, first location for breakup

Osmolarity variation



- c(x, t) for $P_c = 0$, $\beta = 0.1$, M = 0.01, time increasing away from viewer
- IC has h(x,0)c(x,0) = 1, $h(x,0) = 1 \epsilon_1 e^{x^2/2/0.026^2}$, $\epsilon_1 = 0.25$, $\Gamma(0,0) = 1.1$
- c increases due to conservation, decays slowly to constant

$\Gamma(x, t)$ for $P_c = 0, \beta = 0.1$ and M = 0.01



- IC has $\Gamma(x,0) = 1 + 0.1e^{x^2/2/0.026^2}$, $\Gamma(0,0) = 1.1$
- $\Gamma(x, t)$ has rapid decay compared to other variables
- Some perturbation when $h \rightarrow h_{eq}$ if $M \ll 1$

h and EJ for $P_c = 0$, $\beta = 0.1$, M = 0.1



- $h \rightarrow h_{eq}$ and evaporations shuts off
- Break up region spreads as in Winter et al (10)

h and c for $P_c = 0$, $\beta = 0.1$, M = 0.1



- c tending to constant but slowly due to small diffusion
- Have not confirmed by computing to very long times

h and *c* for $P_c = 0.00206$, $\beta = 0.1$, M = 0.1



- Larger final tear film thickness
- M-shape at late times in c(x, t) is lost

Max and Min of *h*, *c* for $\beta = 0.1$, M = 0.1



• If $P_c = 0$, then the *c* difference persists

• If $P_c \neq 0$, then the *h* difference persists

Min and Max of *h*, *c* for M = 0.1 and vary β



- If $\beta \leq 0.1$, then small effect
- β can't be too large or J switches sign

$h(x,0) = c(x,0) = 1, M = 0.1, \beta = 0.5, \Gamma(0,0) = 1.5$



- Uniform initial h and c develop valley, peak respectively
- Thinning freezes in valley again

3.5μ m tear film with 10μ m/min thinning rate

High rate (avg) seen in Nichols et al (05)

$$\begin{split} h_t + (\bar{u}h)_x &= -EJ + P_c(c-1), \quad \Gamma_t + (u_s\Gamma)_x = (Pe_s)^{-1}\Gamma_{xx} \\ h(c_t + \bar{u}c_x) &= \mathrm{Pe} - 1 \left(hc_x\right)_x + EJc - P_c(c-1)c, \\ J &= \frac{1}{\bar{K} + h} \left[1 + \delta p - \beta \Gamma\right], \quad \bar{u} = -\frac{h^2}{3} \rho_x - \frac{h}{2} M \Gamma_x, \\ u_s &= -\frac{h^2}{2} \rho_x - M \Gamma_x h, \qquad p = -Sh_{xx} - Ah^{-3}. \end{split}$$

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- $\delta \sim$ 38 is pressure contrib, $\beta =$ 0.1 here
- Pe $\sim 10^4$ is Péclet number in film, Pe $_s \sim 10^4$ is surface Péclet
- $P_c \sim 0.02$ is the nondim'l permeability of cornea (more below)

$h(x,0) = c(x,0) = 1, M = 0.1, \beta = 0.1, \Gamma(0,0) = 1.5$



- Uniform initial h and c develop much faster
- Thinning freezes in features quicker
- If uniform initial h and c with dip in Γ, no dip in h
- Dip in initial h and Γ, can end with dip in h there

- Simple model with evaporation plus wetting including surfactant
 - Evaporation slowed if Γ increased
 - Marangoni effect more important in this model for getting breakup at specific location for flat initial *h* and *c*
 - Dip in initial h can overcome dip in Γ
- Could use more physics and 2D computations: second layer, etc

Part III: A start at two-layer dynamics (Braun, Gewecke (UD), Breward (Oxford), King-Smith (OSU))

- King-Smith developed lipid microscope (The Ocular Surface, 2011)
- about 1µm depth of focus; thickness computed from reflectance
- Each run is 2000 images, only a few usable images from each
- almost no time sequence info available
- At low magnification, streaks, different directions, frequency, persistence
- Now looking with high mag; what is seen?
- Grayscale images collected from more than 400 subjects (with KK and JJ Nichols)

Lipid layer dynamics: low mag

Interferometry (narrow band) for lipid layer thickness



Flux vector field at 1 seconds:



Not long after blink. Small thin dark spots; lighter is thicker.

Tear Flux: nonzero flux bc ($G \neq 0$)

Flux vector field at 1 seconds:



Longer after blink. More dark spots; they join together.

Flux vector field at 1 seconds:



Longer after blink. More dark spots; they cluster here.

Flux vector field at 1 seconds:



Big bright areas: nonpolar lipid drops? Not Newtonian fluid: ignore for now

- Polar lipids nominally at aqueous-lipid later interface
- Non-polar lipids floating on top: spreading, then dewetting?
- Surface active proteins like in lungs (SP-A,B,C,D) may be important: neglected
- Salts/osmolarity: not in first attempt
- Local rate of evaporation: not in starting results, but really want
- But: what are dominant ingredients for a model?

- Start with liquid bilayer dewetting Matar et al (02), Pototsky et al (04,05), Fisher & Golovin (05), ...
- Let $h^{(1)}$ be aqueous thickness, $h^{(2)}$ be lipid thickness
- Total thickness is $h = h^{(1)} + h^{(2)}$
- Use van der Waals terms to get dewetting

$$\Pi^{(1)} = A_1 \left(h^{(1)} \right)^{-3} + A_2 h^{-3} - A_4 \left(h^{(2)} \right)^{-3}$$
$$\Pi^{(2)} = A_3 \left(h^{(1)} \right)^{-3} + A_4 \left(h^{(2)} \right)^{-3}$$

- Dewetting to small nonzero thickness separating bumps seen with only these terms.
- But, the lipid layer is much thinner than the aqueous layer... necessitating different terms

Lipid layer dynamics

- Average lipid thickness 50 to 100 times less than aqueous thickness: $h^{(2)} \rightarrow \delta \epsilon h^{(2)}, \, \delta \sim 10^{-2}$
- Viscosity of upper layer is much larger; $\eta = \eta_2/eta_1 = \tilde{\eta}\epsilon^{-2}$
- Use van der Waals terms to get dewetting (Israelachvili 11)

$$\Pi^{(1)} = A_{1} \left(h^{(1)} \right)^{-3} - \left[A_{4} \left(h^{(2)} \right)^{-3} + A_{5} \delta \left(h^{(2)} \right)^{-4} \right]$$
$$\Pi^{(2)} = \frac{1}{\tilde{\eta}} \left[A_{4} \left(h^{(2)} \right)^{-3} + A_{5} \delta \left(h^{(2)} \right)^{-4} \right]$$

- Smaller thickness means terms with h⁽²⁾ in denominator are dominant.
- Added short range terms to stabilize the lipid layer
- $A_1 \neq 0$ only if evaporation present (Ajaev & Homsy; Winter et al)
- Put together these contributions with extensional lipid layer Matar et al (02), Bruna-Estrach, Breward and Gaffney (09, 12)

Lubrication theory: leading order system of equations

Variables free surface h, osmolarity c:

$$\begin{split} h_t^{(1)} &+ \left(\bar{u}^{(1)}h^{(1)}\right)_x = 0, \quad h = h^{(1)} + \hat{\delta}h^{(2)}, \\ h_t^{(2)} &+ \left(u^{(2)}h^{(2)}\right)_x = 0, \\ \bar{u}^{(1)} &= -\left(p_x^{(1)} - \operatorname{St}\right)\frac{\left(h^{(1)}\right)^2}{12} + u^{(2)}/2, \\ p^{(1)} &= -Sh_{xx}^{(1)} - \Pi^{(1)} - \gamma Sh_{xx} + \tilde{\eta}p^{(2)} + \tilde{\eta}2u_x^{(2)}, \\ p^{(2)} &= -2u_x^{(2)} - (\gamma S/\tilde{\eta})h_{xx} - \Pi^{(2)}, \\ \hat{\delta}\tilde{\eta} \left(4u_x^{(2)}h^{(2)}\right)_x &= -\hat{\delta}\left[\tilde{\eta}\Pi_x^{(2)} + \gamma Sh_{xxx} + \rho \operatorname{St}\right]h^{(2)} + \frac{4u^{(2)} - 6\bar{u}^{(1)}}{h^{(1)}} \end{split}$$

- No evaporation, surfactant or osmolarity
- Typical $d = 3.5 \mu \text{m}$, $\bar{h}_2 = 140 \text{nm}$, $\delta = 0.04$
- $\sigma = \sigma_2 / \sigma_1 = 18/27; \, \tilde{\eta} = 0.01$
- $A_5 = -r_{eq}A_4 \sim 10^{-4}$; $A_4 = 25 \times$ Israelachvili formula (naive)
- *r_{eq}* = 1/4 or 1/5



- $h_1(x, t)$, aqueous layer, time increasing toward viewer
- Note scale; perturbation to thickness
- No breakup



- $h_2(x, t)$, lipid layer, time increasing toward viewer
- Drops to 1/5 thickness, only a few molecules thick
- Dewets after minimum thickness found

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Tear film dynamics with evaporation and osmolarity



- Red (right axis): Lipid piles up and minimum becomes constant
- Blue (left axis): mild variation

Snapshots of *h_i*



• Snapshots of thicknesses with time

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• $d = 3.5 \mu \text{m}, \ \bar{h}_2 = 140 \text{nm}, \ \delta = 0.04$

- Pushing integration to 90s; note spreading of instability
- No breakup of aqueous: just perturbation
- Note extent of instability 1/3 of domain; spacing under 1mm



- $d = 2\mu m$, $\bar{h}_2 = 140 nm$, $\delta = 0.07$
- Spreading of instability is slowed, smaller extent
- No breakup of aqueous: still perturbation
- Instability development is complicated

- Simple dewetting model with tear film parameters
 - Increased naive estimate of vdW constant gives reasonable time scale
 - Reasonable thickness for small and thick regions
 - Instability of lipid layer can spread from one defect
 - Spacing a little smaller than 1mm holes spacing on lid margins
- Could use more physics and 2D computations

Lubrication theory: with surfactant now

Variables are free surface h, osmolarity c, surfactant concentration Γ :

$$\begin{split} h_t^{(1)} &+ \left(\bar{u}^{(1)}h^{(1)}\right)_x = 0, \quad h = h^{(1)} + \hat{\delta}h^{(2)}, \\ \bar{u}^{(1)} &= -p_x^{(1)}\frac{\left(h^{(1)}\right)^2}{12} + u^{(2)}/2, \\ h_t^{(2)} &+ \left(u^{(2)}h^{(2)}\right)_x = 0, \\ p^{(1)} &= -Sh_{xx}^{(1)} - \Pi^{(1)} - \gamma Sh_{xx} + \tilde{\eta}p^{(2)} + \tilde{\eta}2u_x^{(2)}, \\ p^{(2)} &= -2u_x^{(2)} - (\gamma S/\tilde{\eta})h_{xx} - \Pi^{(2)}, \\ \hat{\delta}\tilde{\eta} \left(4u_x^{(2)}h^{(2)}\right)_x &= M\Gamma_x - \hat{\delta} \left[\tilde{\eta}\Pi_x^{(2)} + \gamma Sh_{xxx} + \rho St\right]h^{(2)} + \frac{4u^{(2)} - 6\bar{u}^{(1)}}{h^{(1)}} \\ \Gamma_t + \left(u^{(2)}\Gamma\right)_x &= (Pe_s)^{-1}\Gamma_{xx} \end{split}$$

- No evaporation or osmolarity
- For $d = 3.5 \mu \text{m}$, $S \sim 10^{-6}$ is surface tension
- $A_5 = -r_{eq}A_4 \sim 10^{-4}$ are nondim'l Hamaker constants
- $\delta = 0.05, r_{eq} = 1/5$

Snapshots of $h^{(i)}$



- $d = 3.5 \mu \text{m}, \ \bar{h}_2 = 140 \text{nm}, \ \hat{\delta} = 0.04$
- Spreading of instability on reasonable time scale
- Significant effect on underlying layer

Snapshots of $h^{(i)}$



- $d = 2\mu m, \bar{h}_2 = 100 nm, \hat{\delta} = 0.05$
- Spreading of instability slowed significantly
- Complicated effect on underlying layer

Snapshots of Γ and $u^{(2)}$



- $d = 3.5 \mu \text{m}, \ \bar{h}_2 = 140 \text{nm}, \ \hat{\delta} = 0.05$
- Gradients in Γ line up well with change in $u^{(2)}$
- Significant effect on underlying layer

- Today: no menisci
- Evaporation can freeze in features
- First break up locations?
- Surfactant models for lipid layer appear to have mixed results
- 2 layers models just started
- Future/other directions
 - More physics/chemistry in 2D on eye shape: with Li
 - Moving geometry for blinks
 - contintue two layer models
 - Wetting, osmosis, fluorescein: with Begley et al
- Recent review: Annual Review of Fluid Mechanics, 2012

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- Thank You!