

# Approximation of fracture problems via Gamma-convergence: state of art and new results

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Topics in the Calculus of Variations: Recent Advances and  
New Trends

Banff International Research Station

Thursday, May 24

- A variational model for fracture mechanics: Griffith's energy;
- Fracture problems as  $\Gamma$ -limit of damage problems;
- Hydraulic fracking and generalization;
- Some ideas for an existence result;

$$\mathcal{G}(u) := \int_{\Omega} \mathbb{C}e(u) : e(u) \, dx + \kappa \mathcal{H}^{n-1}(J_u).$$

*Braides - Dal Maso ('97) observed (for the scalar case) that such an energy cannot be  $(\Gamma)$ -approximate by functional on  $H^1$  of the form*

$$\int_{\Omega} f_{\varepsilon}(\nabla \phi) \, dx$$

so no "Modica-Mortola"-type functional for such an energy!

Let's mention that there are (non)-local approximation

*scalar case - Braides, Dal Maso ('97)*

$$\int_{\Omega} f \left( \varepsilon \int_{B_{\varepsilon}} |\nabla u(y)|^2 dy \right) dx$$

extended to Griffith's by Negri ('05)

*scalar case - De Giorgi, Gobbino, Mora ('96 - '01)*

$$\frac{1}{\varepsilon} \int_{\Omega \times \Omega} \arctan \left( \frac{(u(x + \varepsilon\xi) - u(x))^2}{\varepsilon} \right) e^{-|\xi|^2} d\xi dy$$

extended to Griffith's by Alicandro, Focardi, Gelli ('01)

For a *local* approximation

Mumford-Shah: Ambrosio - Tortorelli ('90)

$$\int_{\Omega} \left[ (|\nabla u|^2 + |\nabla v|^2)(1 - v^2)^{2h} + \frac{1}{4}(\alpha^2 h^2)v^2 \right] dx$$

Fracture mechanics: Francfort, Marigò, Bourdin, Dal Maso, Iurlano, Focardi, Chambolle, Crismale, Conti... ('93 - '18)

The idea is to replace the crack with a *damaged region*. In particular with the introduction of a damage variable  $v \in \text{Lip}(\Omega; [0, 1])$  representing the state of the material:

- the regions where  $v = 1$  are the healthy regions;
- the regions where  $v \ll 1$  are the damaged regions;

*Idea:* Introducing a damage variable  $v \in [0, 1]$ .

The energy can be thought as

$$\int_{\Omega} v \mathbb{C}e(u) : e(u) \, dx + k|\omega|$$

where  $\omega$  is the damaged region.

With the introduction of a non-increasing function  $\psi$  such that  $\psi(1) = 0$  we can force  $\omega$  to have size  $\approx \varepsilon \mathcal{H}^{n-1}(J_u)$

$$\int_{\Omega} v \mathbb{C}e(u) : e(u) \, dx + \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \int_{\Omega} \psi(v) \, dx$$

In order not to lose control on  $e(u)$  in the damage region we do not allow the material to fully damage

$$AT_\varepsilon(u, v) = \int_{\Omega} (\eta_\varepsilon + v) \mathbb{C}e(u) : e(u) \, dx + \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \int_{\Omega} \psi(v) \, dx + \int_{\Omega} \varepsilon |\nabla v|^2 \, dx$$

( $\eta_\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ ).

Or by adding a constraint of the form  $|\nabla v| \leq 1/\varepsilon$

*Variant of  $AT_\varepsilon$  has been introduced to approximate the cohesive fracture by Conti, Focardi, Iurlano ('15)*



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Case -  $\eta_\varepsilon/\varepsilon \rightarrow \alpha > 0$ :

$$AT_\varepsilon \longrightarrow_\Gamma \mathcal{G}(u) + \int_{J_u} \sqrt{\mathbb{C}([u] \odot \nu) : ([u] \odot \nu)} \, d\mathcal{H}^{n-1}$$

Focardi, Iurlano ('14)

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Chambolle, Crismale ('17)

Scalar case: both regimes analyzed by Dal Maso, Iurlano ('13)

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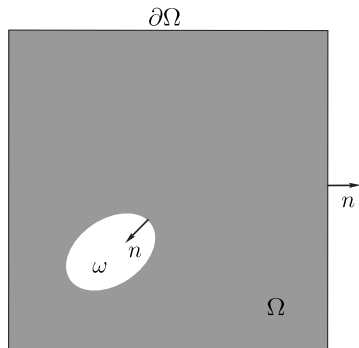
The non interpenetration condition reads as  $[u] \cdot \nu \geq 0$  on  $J_u$ .  
Namely

$$\mathcal{G}_{NI}(u) := \begin{cases} \mathcal{G}(u) & \text{if } [u] \cdot \nu \geq 0 \text{ } \mathcal{H}^{n-1}\text{-a.e. on } J_u \\ +\infty & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Phase field approximation in  $d = 2$ : Conti, Chambolle, Francfort ('18).

$$\int_{\Omega} (\eta_{\varepsilon} + v)^2 [|e_d(u)|^2 + (\operatorname{div}(u))^2] dx + \int_{\Omega} \left[ \frac{\psi(v)}{\varepsilon} + \varepsilon |\nabla v|^2 \right] dx.$$

A phase field approximation is still missing in  $d \geq 3$  (more precisely is missing the  $\Gamma$ -convergence statement of the approximant candidate!).

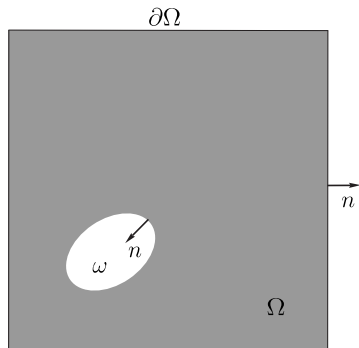


$$\mathcal{G}_\varepsilon(u, v) := \int_{\Omega} v \mathbb{C}e(u) : e(u) \, dx + \kappa |\omega| - \int_{\omega} p \operatorname{div}(u) \, dx.$$

$$\mathcal{G}_\varepsilon(u, v) := \int_{\Omega} (\eta_\varepsilon + v) \mathbb{C}e(u) : e(u) \, dx + \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \int_{\Omega} \psi(v) \, dx - \int_{\Omega} \phi(v) p(x) \operatorname{div}(u) \, dx.$$

Novotny, Van Goethem, Xavier ('17)





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In general we considered a potential  $F$  with linear growth at  $+\infty$  and we analyzed

$$\mathcal{G}_\varepsilon(u, v) := \int_{\Omega} (\eta_\varepsilon + v) \mathbb{C}e(u) : e(u) \, dx + \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \int_{\Omega} \psi(v) \, dx + \int_{\Omega} F(x, e(u), v) \, dx.$$

with

$$-\sigma_1 |M| \leq F(x, M, v) \leq \sigma_2 |M|.$$

The constant  $\sigma_1$  seems to be strongly dependent from the asymptotic behavior of  $\eta_\varepsilon/\varepsilon$ . In particular if  $\eta_\varepsilon/\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$  then (with our analysis) we are forced to consider  $\sigma_1 = 0$ .

$\eta_\varepsilon/\varepsilon \approx \alpha > 0$  plus the contribution of potential  $F$ :

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{G}_\varepsilon(u, v) &\rightarrow_\Gamma \mathcal{G}(u) + b \int_{J_u} \sqrt{\mathbb{C}([u] \odot \nu) : ([u] \odot \nu)} \, d\mathcal{H}^{n-1} \\ &\quad + c \int_{J_u} F_\infty(x, [u] \odot \nu, 0) \, d\mathcal{H}^{n-1} \\ &\quad + \int_\Omega F(x, e(u), 1) \, dx = \mathcal{G}_0(u, 1)\end{aligned}$$

C. - Van Goethem ('18)

In particular with  $F(x, M, v) = \phi(v)\text{tr}(M)p(x)$  we recover the model of hydraulic fracking.

# Existence of weak minimizers with Dirichlet boundary condition

$$\gamma_\varepsilon := \inf \left\{ \mathcal{G}_\varepsilon(u, v) \mid \begin{array}{l} u = f, v = 1 \text{ on } \partial\Omega, \\ (u, v) \in H^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^n) \times V_\varepsilon, \\ \|u\|_{L^\infty} \leq d \end{array} \right\}$$

$$\gamma_0 := \inf \{ \mathcal{G}_0(u, 1) + \mathcal{R}(u, f) \mid u \in SBD^2(\Omega), \|u\|_{L^\infty} \leq d \}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{R}(u, f) &:= \int_{\partial\Omega} F_\infty(z, [u - f] \odot \nu) \, d\mathcal{H}^{n-1}(z) \\ &\quad + b \mathcal{H}^{n-1}(\{x \in \partial\Omega \mid u(x) \neq f(x)\}) \\ &\quad + a \int_{\partial\Omega} \sqrt{\mathbb{C}[u - f] \odot \nu \cdot [u - f] \odot \nu} \, d\mathcal{H}^{n-1}(z). \end{aligned}$$

Then  $\gamma_\varepsilon \rightarrow \gamma_0$  and minimizers of  $\gamma_\varepsilon$  converges to minimizers of  $\gamma_0$  (C. Van Goethem ('18)).

Thank you!

Thank you for your attention!