

Degenerating PDE system for phase transitions and damage

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SS2 Nonlinear Evolution PDEs and Interfaces in Applied Sciences

joint work with Riccarda Rossi (University of Brescia)

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Part 1. Introduction of the problems and deduction of the PDE system via modelling

Part 2. Our most recent results:

- ▶ joint with Riccarda Rossi [[preprint arXiv:1205.3578v1 \(2012\)](#)]: weak solvability of the 3D degenerating PDE system

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$$(1 - \chi)\varepsilon(\mathbf{u})R_e\varepsilon(\mathbf{u})$$

only in the non-viscous phase, i.e. when $\chi = 0$, while it is null in the viscous one, i.e. when $\chi = 1$:

- χ is the order parameter, standing for the **local proportion of the liquid phase**
- $\chi = 0$ stands for the solid phase,
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- $0 < \chi < 1$ in the so-called *mushy regions*

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where the momentum equation contains χ -dependent elliptic operators, which may **degenerate** at the *pure phases* 0 and 1

The scope

The analysis of the initial boundary-value problem for the following PDE system:

$$c(\vartheta)\vartheta_t + \chi_t\vartheta - \rho\vartheta \operatorname{div} \mathbf{u}_t - \operatorname{div}(k(\vartheta)\nabla\vartheta) = g$$

$$\mathbf{u}_{tt} - \operatorname{div}(a(\chi)\varepsilon(\mathbf{u}_t) + b(\chi)\varepsilon(\mathbf{u}) - \rho\vartheta\mathbf{1}) = \mathbf{f}$$

$$\chi_t + \mu\partial I_{(-\infty,0]}(\chi_t) - \Delta_p\chi + W'(\chi) \ni -b'(\chi)\frac{|\varepsilon(\mathbf{u})|^2}{2} + \vartheta$$

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- ϑ is the absolute temperature of the system
- \mathbf{u} the vector of *small displacements*
- χ is the **order parameter**, standing for the local proportion of one of the two phases in *phase transitions* ($\chi = 0$: solid phase and $\chi = 1$: liquid phase, and $0 < \chi < 1$ in the so-called *mushy regions*) $\implies a(\chi) = \chi$, $b(\chi) = 1 - \chi$
- χ is the **damage parameter**, assessing the soundness of the material in *damage* (for the completely *damaged* $\chi = 0$ and the *undamaged* state $\chi = 1$, respectively, while $0 < \chi < 1$: *partial damage*) $\implies a(\chi) = b(\chi) = \chi$

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⇒ We shall approximate the system with a non-degenerating one, where we replace the momentum equation with

$$\mathbf{u}_{tt} - \operatorname{div}((a(\chi) + \delta)\varepsilon(\mathbf{u}_t) + b(\chi)\varepsilon(\mathbf{u}) - \rho\vartheta\mathbf{1}) = \mathbf{f} \quad \text{for } \delta > 0$$

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[FIRST RESULT.] **Local in time well-posedness** for a suitable formulation of the reversible problem ($\mu = 0$ and $\rho = 0$) using in

$$c(\vartheta)\vartheta_t + \chi_t\vartheta - \rho\vartheta \operatorname{div} \mathbf{u}_t - \operatorname{div}(k(\vartheta)\nabla\vartheta) = g + |\chi_t|^2 + a(\chi)|\varepsilon(\mathbf{u}_t)|^2.$$

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Note: in both these results we assumed χ_0 separated from the thresholds 0 and 1 and we prove (exploiting a sufficient coercivity condition on W at the thresholds 0 and 1) that the solution χ during the evolution continues to stay separated from 0 and 1 \implies **prevent degeneracy** (the operators are uniformly elliptic)

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The goal [E.R., R. Rossi, preprint arXiv:1205.3578v1 (2012)]: to establish a **global existence result in 3D** using a suitable notion of solution and without enforcing the separation property, i.e. **allowing for degeneracy**

The model

Free energy and Dissipation

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The free-energy \mathcal{F} :

$$\mathcal{F} = \int_{\Omega} \left(f(\vartheta) + b(\chi) \frac{|\varepsilon(\mathbf{u})|^2}{2} + \frac{1}{p} |\nabla \chi|^p + W(\chi) + \rho \vartheta \operatorname{tr}(\varepsilon(\mathbf{u})) - \vartheta \chi \right) dx$$

- f is a concave function, $\rho \in \mathbb{R}$ a thermal expansion coefficient
- $b \in C^2(\mathbb{R}; [0, +\infty))$, e.g., $b(\chi) = 1 - \chi$ in phase transitions, $b(\chi) = \chi$ in damage
- $p > d$: we need the embedding of $W^{1,p}(\Omega)$ into $C^0(\overline{\Omega})$
- $W = \widehat{\beta} + \widehat{\gamma}$, $\widehat{\gamma} \in C^2(\mathbb{R})$, $\widehat{\beta}$ proper, convex, l.s.c., $\overline{\operatorname{dom}(\widehat{\beta})} = [0, 1]$

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The pseudo-potential \mathcal{P} :

$$\mathcal{P} = \frac{k(\vartheta)}{2} |\nabla \vartheta|^2 + \frac{1}{2} |\chi_t|^2 + a(\chi) \frac{|\varepsilon(\mathbf{u}_t)|^2}{2} + \mu I_{(-\infty, 0]}(\chi_t)$$

- k the heat conductivity: coupled conditions with the specific heat $c(\vartheta) = f(\vartheta) - \vartheta f'(\vartheta)$
- $a \in C^1(\mathbb{R}; [0, +\infty))$, e.g., $a(\chi) = \chi$
- $\mu = 0$: reversible case, $\mu = 1$: irreversible case

The modelling

The momentum equation

$$\mathbf{u}_{tt} - \operatorname{div} \sigma = \mathbf{f} \quad \left(\sigma = \sigma^{nd} + \sigma^d = \frac{\partial \mathcal{F}}{\partial \varepsilon(\mathbf{u})} + \frac{\partial \mathcal{P}}{\partial \varepsilon(\mathbf{u}_t)} \right) \quad \text{becomes}$$

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The phase evolution (standard principle of virtual powers)

$$B - \operatorname{div} \mathbf{H} = 0 \quad \left(B = \frac{\partial \mathcal{F}}{\partial \chi} + \frac{\partial \mathcal{P}}{\partial \chi_t}, \mathbf{H} = \frac{\partial \mathcal{F}}{\partial \nabla \chi} \right) \quad \text{becomes}$$

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The internal energy balance

$$e_t + \operatorname{div} \mathbf{q} = g + \boldsymbol{\sigma} : \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}(\mathbf{u}_t) + B\chi_t + \mathbf{H} \cdot \nabla \chi_t \quad \left(e = \mathcal{F} - \vartheta \frac{\partial \mathcal{F}}{\partial \vartheta}, \quad \mathbf{q} = \frac{\partial \mathcal{P}}{\partial \nabla \vartheta} \right)$$

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The analysis

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- We consider a suitable weak formulation of (Phase) consisting of a **one-sided variational inequality + an energy inequality** \implies **generalized principle of virtual powers**
- In a first approach, we take the *small perturbation assumption* and deal with

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Main new results

The main ideas to handle nonlinearities and degeneracy

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1. the notion of *energetic solution* - A. Mielke and co-authors ([Bouchitté, Mielke, Roubíček, ZAMP. Angew. Math. Phys. (2009) and [Mielke, Roubíček, Zeman, Comput. Methods Appl. Mech. Engrg. (2010)]) for rate-independent processes for damaging phenomena and
2. a notion of *weak solution* introduced by [Heinemann, Kraus, WIAS preprint 1569 and WIAS preprint 1520, to appear on Adv. Math. Sci. Appl. (2010)] for non-degenerating isothermal diffuse interface models for phase separation and damage

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- We replace the momentum equation with a non-degenerating one

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- **[Thm. 2]** Existence of *weak solutions* to the non-degenerating system $\delta > 0$ in the *irreversible* case ($\mu = 1$) consisting of a *one-sided* variational inequality and of an energy inequality
- **[Thm. 3]** For the analysis of the degenerate limit $\delta \searrow 0$ we have carefully adapted techniques from [Bouchitté, Mielke, Roubíček, 2009] and [Mielke, Roubíček, Zeman, 2011] to the case of a *rate-dependent* equation for χ , also coupled with the temperature equation

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- It seems to us that *both the coefficients need to be truncated* when taking the degenerate limit in the momentum equation: the truncation in front of $\varepsilon(\mathbf{u}_t)$ allows us to deal with the *main part* of the elliptic operator, but, in order to pass to the limit in the quadratic term on the right-hand side of χ -eq., we will also need to truncate the coefficient of $\varepsilon(\mathbf{u})$

Energy vs Enthalpy

In order to deal with the low regularity of ϑ , rewrite the internal energy equation

$$c(\vartheta)\vartheta_t + \chi_t\vartheta - \rho\vartheta \operatorname{div} \mathbf{u}_t - \operatorname{div}(k(\vartheta)\nabla\vartheta) = g$$

as the **enthalpy** equation

$$w_t + \chi_t\Theta(w) - \rho\Theta(w) \operatorname{div} \mathbf{u}_t - \operatorname{div}(K(w)\nabla w) = g \quad \text{where}$$

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In order to deal with the low regularity of ϑ , rewrite the internal energy equation

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We assume that

- $c \in C^0([0, +\infty); [0, +\infty))$
- $\exists \sigma_1 \geq \sigma > \frac{2d}{d+2} : c_0(1+\vartheta)^{\sigma-1} \leq c(\vartheta) \leq c_1(1+\vartheta)^{\sigma_1-1} \implies h$ is strictly increasing

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Assume moreover

[If $\rho = 0$:] the function $k : [0, +\infty) \rightarrow [0, +\infty)$ is continuous, and

$$\exists c_2, c_3 > 0 \quad \forall \vartheta \in [0, +\infty) : c_2c(\vartheta) \leq k(\vartheta) \leq c_3(c(\vartheta) + 1)$$

[If $\rho \neq 0$:] $\exists c_\rho > 0 \exists q \geq \frac{d+2}{2d} : K(w) = c_\rho (|w|^{2q} + 1) \quad \forall w \in [0, +\infty)$

The non-degenerate case

The approximating non-degenerate Problem $[P_\delta]$

Given $\delta > 0$, $\mu \in \{0, 1\}$, find (measurable) functions

$$w \in L^r(0, T; W^{1,r}(\Omega)) \cap L^\infty(0, T; L^1(\Omega)) \cap BV([0, T]; W^{1,r'}(\Omega)^*)$$

$$\mathbf{u} \in H^1(0, T; H^2(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^d)) \cap W^{1,\infty}(0, T; H_0^1(\Omega)) \cap H^2(0, T; L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^d))$$

$$\chi \in L^\infty(0, T; W^{1,p}(\Omega)) \cap H^1(0, T; L^2(\Omega))$$

for every $1 \leq r < \frac{d+2}{d+1}$, fulfilling the initial conditions

$$\mathbf{u}(0, x) = \mathbf{u}_0(x), \quad \mathbf{u}_t(0, x) = \mathbf{v}_0(x) \quad \text{for a.e. } x \in \Omega$$

$$\chi(0, x) = \chi_0(x) \quad \text{for a.e. } x \in \Omega$$

the equations (for every $\varphi \in C^0([0, T]; W^{1,r'}(\Omega)) \cap W^{1,r'}(0, T; L^{r'}(\Omega))$ and $t \in (0, T]$)

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{\Omega} \varphi(t) w(t) dx - \int_0^t \int_{\Omega} w \varphi_t dx + \int_0^t \int_{\Omega} \chi_t \Theta(w) \varphi dx \\ & - \rho \int_0^t \int_{\Omega} \operatorname{div} \mathbf{u}_t \Theta(w) \varphi dx + \int_0^t \int_{\Omega} K(w) \nabla w \nabla \varphi dx = \int_0^t \int_{\Omega} g \varphi + \int_{\Omega} w_0 \varphi(0) dx \end{aligned}$$

$$\mathbf{u}_{tt} - \operatorname{div}((a(\chi) + \delta)\varepsilon(\mathbf{u}_t) + b(\chi)\varepsilon(\mathbf{u})) - \rho \nabla \Theta(w) = \mathbf{f} \text{ in } H^{-1}(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^d) \text{ a.e. in } (0, T)$$

and the subdifferential inclusion (in $W^{1,p}(\Omega)^*$ and a.e. in $(0, T)$)

$$\chi_t + \mu \partial I_{(-\infty, 0]}(\chi_t) - \Delta_p \chi + \beta(\chi) + \gamma(\chi) \ni -b'(\chi) \frac{|\varepsilon(\mathbf{u})|^2}{2} + \Theta(w)$$

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Let $\mu = 0$ and $\rho = 0$, assume the previous Hypotheses and the conditions:

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3. In case $\rho \neq 0$, $w_0 \in L^2(\Omega)$, and $K(w) = c_\rho (|w|^{2q} + 1)$, $q \geq (d+2)/2d$. Then, w has the further regularity

$$w \in L^2(0, T; H^1(\Omega)) \cap L^\infty(0, T; L^2(\Omega)) \cap W^{1,r(q)}((0, T); W^{2,-s(q)}(\Omega))$$

Theorem 2 [The irreversible case $\mu = 1$]

Let $\mu = 1$, $\rho = 0$, and take the previous assumptions with $\widehat{\beta} = I_{[0,+\infty)}$. Then,

[1.] Problem $[P_\delta]$ admits a *weak solution* (w, \mathbf{u}, χ) , which, beside fulfilling the enthalpy and momentum equations, satisfies $\chi_t(x, t) \leq 0$ for almost all $t \in (0, T)$, and $(\forall \varphi \in L^p(0, T; W_-^{1,p}(\Omega)) \cap L^\infty(Q))$ the *one-sided inequality*

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[3.] In case $\rho \neq 0$ an analogous statement to the reversible case holds true

Generalized principle of virtual powers vs classical phase inclusion

Generalized principle of virtual powers vs classical phase inclusion

- Any weak solution (w, \mathbf{u}, χ) fulfills the **total energy inequality** for all $t \in (0, T]$, for $s = 0$, and for almost all $0 < s \leq t$

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{\Omega} w(t)(dx) + \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega} |\mathbf{u}_t(t)|^2 dx + \int_s^t \int_{\Omega} |\chi_t|^2 dx + \int_s^t (\chi + \delta) |\varepsilon(\mathbf{u}_t)|^2 \\ & \quad + \frac{1}{2} (\chi(t) + \delta) |\varepsilon(\mathbf{u}(t))|^2 + \frac{1}{p} |\nabla \chi(t)|^p + \int_{\Omega} W(\chi(t)) dx \\ & \leq \int_{\Omega} w(s)(dx) + \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega} |\mathbf{u}_t(s)|^2 dx + \frac{1}{2} (\chi(s) + \delta) |\varepsilon(\mathbf{u}(s))|^2 + \frac{1}{p} |\nabla \chi(s)|^p \\ & \quad + \int_{\Omega} W(\chi(s)) dx + \int_s^t \int_{\Omega} \mathbf{f} \cdot \mathbf{u}_t dx + \int_s^t \int_{\Omega} \mathbf{g} dx \end{aligned}$$

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- If (w, \mathbf{u}, χ) are “**more regular**” and satisfy the notion of *weak solution*, then, differentiating the **energy inequality** and using the chain rule, we conclude that $(w, \mathbf{u}, \chi, \xi)$ comply with

$$\langle \chi_t(t) - \Delta_p \chi(t) + \xi(t) + \gamma(\chi(t)) + \frac{|\varepsilon(\mathbf{u})|^2}{2} - \Theta(w(t)), \chi_t(t) \rangle_{W^{1,p}(\Omega)} \leq 0 \text{ for a.e. } t$$

Using the **one-sided inequality** we obtain the **classical phase inclusion**:

$$\exists \zeta \in L^2(0, T; L^2(\Omega)) \text{ with } \zeta(x, t) \in \partial I_{(-\infty, 0]}(\chi_t(x, t)) \text{ a.e. s.t.}$$

$$\chi_t + \zeta - \Delta_p \chi + \xi + \gamma(\chi) = -\frac{|\varepsilon(\mathbf{u})|^2}{2} + \Theta(w) \text{ a.e.}$$

The isothermal case: uniqueness

Let $\rho \in \mathbb{R}$. In addition to the previous hypotheses, assume that

the function a is constant

Then, the isothermal reversible system admits a unique solution (\mathbf{u}, χ) which continuously depends on the data

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Uniqueness of solutions for the irreversible system, even in the isothermal case, is still an open problem. This is mainly due to the triply nonlinear character of the χ equation.

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 - ▶ the presence of the p -Laplacian with $p > d \implies$ an estimate for χ in $L^\infty(0, T; W^{1,p}(\Omega)) \implies$ a suitable regularity estimate on the displacement variable $\mathbf{u} \implies$ a global-in-time bound on the quadratic nonlinearity $|\varepsilon(\mathbf{u})|^2$ on the right-hand side of

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- ▶ the BOCCARDO-GALLOUËT-type estimates combined with the Gagliardo-Nirenberg inequality applied to the enthalpy equation in order to obtain an $L^r(0, T; W^{1,r}(\Omega))$ -estimate on the enthalpy w

The degenerating case

Hypotheses

Consider the **irreversible** case with the **s -Laplacian** (the previous results still hold true in this case), $\rho = 0$, and $a(\chi) = \chi$, $b(\chi) = \chi + \delta$:

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Hypotheses

Consider the **irreversible** case with the **s-Laplacian** (the previous results still hold true in this case), $\rho = 0$, and $a(\chi) = \chi$, $b(\chi) = \chi + \delta$:

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{\Omega} \varphi(t) w(t) (dx) - \int_0^t \int_{\Omega} w \varphi_t \, dx + \int_0^t \int_{\Omega} \chi_t \Theta(w) \varphi \, dx \\ & + \int_0^t \int_{\Omega} K(w) \nabla w \nabla \varphi \, dx = \int_0^t \int_{\Omega} g \varphi + \int_{\Omega} w_0 \varphi(0) \, dx, \\ & \mathbf{u}_{tt} - \operatorname{div}((\chi + \delta) \varepsilon(\mathbf{u}_t) + (\chi + \delta) \varepsilon(\mathbf{u})) = \mathbf{f} \text{ in } H^{-1}(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^d) \text{ a.e. in } (0, T) \end{aligned}$$

and the subdifferential inclusion (in $W^{1,p}(\Omega)^*$ and a.e. in $(0, T)$)

$$\chi_t + \partial I_{(-\infty, 0]}(\chi_t) + A_s(\chi) + \partial I_{[0, +\infty)}(\chi) + \gamma(\chi) \ni -b'(\chi) \frac{|\varepsilon(\mathbf{u})|^2}{2} + \Theta(w)$$

where

$$A_s : H^s(\Omega) \rightarrow H^s(\Omega)^* \quad \text{with } s > \frac{d}{2}, \quad \langle A_s \chi, w \rangle_{H^s(\Omega)} := a_s(\chi, w) \text{ and}$$

$$a_s(z_1, z_2) := \int_{\Omega} \int_{\Omega} \frac{(\nabla z_1(x) - \nabla z_1(y)) \cdot (\nabla z_2(x) - \nabla z_2(y))}{|x - y|^{d+2(s-1)}} \, dx \, dy$$

Note that all the previous results for the non-degenerating case hold true with A_s instead of Δ_p

The total energy inequality in the degenerating case $\delta \searrow 0$

Rewrite the momentum equation

$$\partial_t^2 \mathbf{u}_\delta - \operatorname{div}((\chi + \delta)\varepsilon(\partial_t \mathbf{u}_\delta)) - \operatorname{div}((\chi + \delta)\varepsilon(\mathbf{u}_\delta)) = \mathbf{f}$$

using the new variables (*quasi-stresses*) $\boldsymbol{\mu}_\delta := \sqrt{\chi_\delta + \delta} \varepsilon(\partial_t \mathbf{u}_\delta)$, and $\boldsymbol{\eta}_\delta := \sqrt{\chi_\delta + \delta} \varepsilon(\mathbf{u}_\delta)$:

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The **total energy inequality** for $(w_\delta, \mathbf{u}_\delta, \chi_\delta)$ is

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{\Omega} w_\delta(t) \, dx + \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega} |\partial_t \mathbf{u}_\delta(t)|^2 \, dx + \int_s^t \int_{\Omega} |\partial_t \chi_\delta|^2 \, dx + \frac{1}{2} \int_s^t |\boldsymbol{\mu}_\delta(r)|^2 \\ & \quad + \frac{|\boldsymbol{\eta}_\delta(t)|^2}{2} + \frac{1}{2} a_s(\chi_\delta(t), \chi_\delta(t)) + \int_{\Omega} W(\chi_\delta(t)) \, dx \\ & \leq \int_{\Omega} w_\delta(s) \, dx + \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega} |\partial_t \mathbf{u}_\delta(s)|^2 \, dx + \frac{|\boldsymbol{\eta}_\delta(s)|^2}{2} + \frac{1}{2} a_s(\chi_\delta(s), \chi_\delta(s)) \\ & \quad + \int_{\Omega} W(\chi_\delta(s)) \, dx + \int_s^t \int_{\Omega} \mathbf{f} \cdot \partial_t \mathbf{u}_\delta \, dx + \int_s^t \int_{\Omega} g \, dx \end{aligned}$$

The degenerate problem ($\delta = 0$): the existence theorem [E.R., R. Rossi, preprint arXiv:1205.3578v1 (2012)]

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$$\mathbf{u} \in W^{1,\infty}(0, T; L^2(\Omega)) \cap H^2(0, T; H^{-1}(\Omega)), \quad \boldsymbol{\mu} \in L^2(0, T; L^2(\Omega)), \quad \boldsymbol{\eta} \in L^\infty(0, T; L^2(\Omega)),$$

$$w \in L^r(0, T; W^{1,r}(\Omega)) \cap L^\infty(0, T; L^1(\Omega)) \cap \text{BV}([0, T]; W^{1,r'}(\Omega)^*)$$

$$\chi \in L^\infty(0, T; H^s(\Omega)) \cap H^1(0, T; L^2(\Omega)), \quad \chi(x, t) \geq 0, \quad \chi_t(x, t) \leq 0 \text{ a.e.}$$

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such that it holds true (a.e. in any open set $A \subset \Omega \times (0, T)$): $\chi > 0$ a.e. in A)

$$\boldsymbol{\mu} = \sqrt{\chi} \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}(\mathbf{u}_t), \quad \boldsymbol{\eta} = \sqrt{\chi} \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}(\mathbf{u}),$$

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the weak enthalpy equation and the weak momentum and phase relations

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$$\text{for all } \varphi \in L^2(0, T; W_+^{s,2}(\Omega)) \cap L^\infty(Q) \text{ with } \text{supp}(\varphi) \subset \{\chi > 0\},$$

together with the **total energy inequality** (for almost all $t \in (0, T]$)

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_\Omega w(t) \, dx + \int_0^t \int_\Omega |\chi_t|^2 \, dx + \frac{1}{2} \int_0^t |\boldsymbol{\mu}(r)|^2 \, dx + \int_\Omega W(\chi(t)) \, dx + \mathcal{J}(t) = \int_\Omega w_0 \, dx \\ & + \frac{1}{2} \int_\Omega |\mathbf{v}_0|^2 \, dx + \frac{1}{2} \chi_0 |\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}(\mathbf{u}_0)|^2 + \frac{1}{2} a_s(\chi_0, \chi_0) + \int_\Omega W(\chi_0) \, dx + \int_0^t \int_\Omega \mathbf{f} \cdot \mathbf{u}_t \, dx \, dr + \int_0^t \int_\Omega g \, dx \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{with } \int_0^t \mathcal{J}(r) \, dr \geq \frac{1}{2} \int_0^t \left(\int_\Omega |\mathbf{u}_t(r)|^2 \, dx + |\boldsymbol{\eta}(r)|^2 + a_s(\chi(r), \chi(r)) \right)$$

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for all $\varphi \in L^2(0, T; W_+^{s,2}(\Omega)) \cap L^\infty(Q)$ with $\text{supp}(\varphi) \subset \{\chi > 0\}$,

coincides with

$$\int_0^T \int_{\Omega} \chi_t \varphi + a_s(\chi, \varphi) + \xi \varphi + \gamma(\chi) \varphi + \frac{|\varepsilon(\mathbf{u})|^2}{2} \varphi - \Theta(w) \varphi \geq 0$$

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$\forall \varphi \in L^2(0, T; H_-^s(\Omega)) \cap L^\infty(Q)$ and with $\xi \in \partial I_{[0,+\infty)}(\chi)$. Subtracting from the **degenerate total energy inequality** the weak enthalpy equation tested by 1, we recover (a.e. in $(0, T]$) **the energy inequality**:

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_0^t \int_{\Omega} |\chi_t|^2 \, dx \, dr + \frac{1}{2} a_s(\chi(t), \chi(t)) + \int_{\Omega} W(\chi(t)) \, dx \\ & \leq \frac{1}{2} a_s(\chi_0, \chi_0) + \int_{\Omega} W(\chi_0) \, dx + \int_0^t \int_{\Omega} \chi_t \left(-\frac{|\varepsilon(\mathbf{u})|^2}{2} + \Theta(w) \right) \, dx \, dr \end{aligned}$$

Open problem: an entropic formulation for the damage phenomena

We worked here with the **small perturbation assumption**, i.e. neglecting the **quadratic** contribution on the r.h.s in the internal energy balance:

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Is should be possible to couple the weak equations for \mathbf{u} and χ with

✓ the **entropy production**

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_0^T \int_{\Omega} \left((\log \vartheta + \chi) \partial_t \varphi - \nabla \log \vartheta \cdot \nabla \varphi \right) dx dt \\ & \leq \int_0^T \int_{\Omega} \frac{1}{\vartheta} \left(-|\chi_t|^2 - \chi |\varepsilon(\mathbf{u}_t)|^2 - \nabla \log \vartheta \cdot \nabla \vartheta \right) \varphi dx dt \end{aligned}$$

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- ✓ the **energy conservation**

$$E(t) = E(0) \text{ for a.e. } t \in [0, T],$$

where

$$E \equiv \int_{\Omega} \left(\vartheta + W(\chi) + \frac{1}{2} a_s(\chi, \chi) + \frac{|\mathbf{u}_t|^2}{2} + \chi \frac{|\varepsilon(\mathbf{u})|^2}{2} \right) dx.$$

This is still an **open problem**...

Thanks for your attention!

cf. <http://www.mat.unimi.it/users/rocca/>

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These are the reasons why we have restricted the analysis of **the degenerate limit** to the **irreversible system**, with the **nonlocal s -Laplacian operator**.