

# Continuum damage models *Phase-field method* (Variational approach)

G. Anciaux

Civil Engineering, Materials Science, EPFL



## Outline

- Introduction
- Continuum approach: local versus non local continuum damage model
- Phase-field approach
- Dynamic crack branching

## Continuum damage mechanics

### Definition of a continuous damage variable

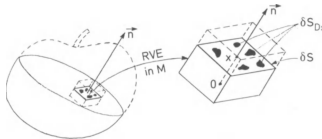
with:

- $\delta S$  RVE section area
- $\delta S_d$  area intersecting micro-cracks and/or micro-cavities
- isotropic damage

$$d = \max_{\text{RVE planes}} \frac{\delta S_d}{\delta S}$$

Then:

- $d = 0 \Rightarrow$  Undamaged RVE
- $d = 1 \Rightarrow$  Fully broken RVE in 2 parts



**L. Kachanov.** *On Time to Rupture in Creep Conditions* (in Russian). Izvestia Akademii Nauk SSSR, Otdelenie Tekhnich. 8,26-31. (1958)

**J. Lemaitre.** *A Course on Damage Mechanics*. (Springer Berlin Heidelberg, 1996).

## Continuum damage mechanics

### Helmholtz free energy

$$\psi(\epsilon, D) = \frac{1}{2\rho} [(1-D)\epsilon : C : \epsilon]$$

### Constitutive law

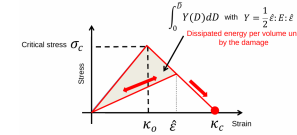
$$\sigma = \rho \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial \epsilon} = (1-D)C : \epsilon$$

### Volume energy density

$$\bar{Y} = \rho \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial D} = -\frac{1}{2} \epsilon : C : \epsilon$$

### Strain energy density release rate

$$Y(D) = -\bar{Y}(D) = \frac{1}{2} \epsilon : C : \epsilon$$



### Dissipated energy

$$E^{\text{dissipated}} = \int Y(D) dD$$

**J. Lemaitre.** *A Course on Damage Mechanics*. (Springer Berlin Heidelberg, 1996).

## Damage evolution

- A set of constraints (comparable to yielding) are necessary:

### Positive dissipation constraint

$$Y(D)\dot{D} \geq 0$$

### Increasing damage constraint

$$\dot{D} \geq 0$$

### Threshold constraint (example)

$$F(Y, d) = Y - Y_d - Sd \leq 0$$

- with  $Y_d$  and  $S$  material parameters to be fitted to obtain the right dissipation

### These constraints allow to compute the damage evolution (similar to plastic flow evolution)

Example: if the constraint is violated ( $F > 0$ ), projecting on the constraint surface leads to:

$$F(Y, d^{n+1}) = F(Y, d^n) + \frac{\partial F}{\partial d} \Delta d = 0$$

which bring the evolution of  $d$ :

$$d^{n+1} = \frac{Y - Y_d}{S}$$

For the constraint the  $d \leq 1$  we can change it to:

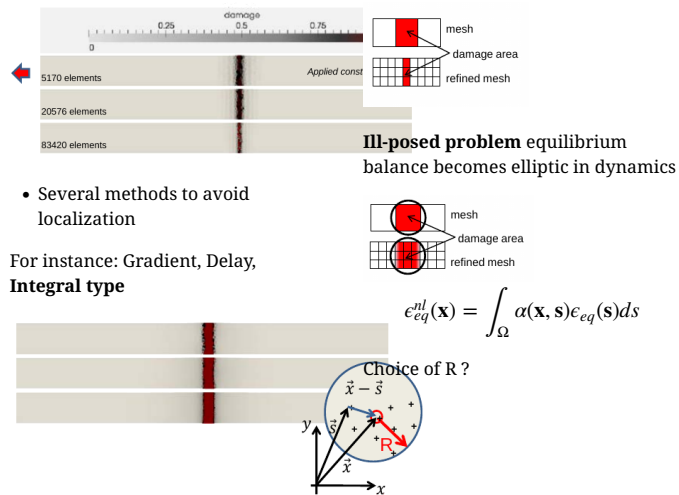
$$d^{n+1} = \min\left(\frac{-Y + Y_d}{S}, 1\right)$$

**Remark:**  $F$  can also be defined by means of an equivalent strain  $\epsilon^{eq}$  instead of  $Y$ , leading to other formulations

**J.-J. Marigo.** *Formulation d'une loi d'endommagement d'un matériau élastique..* Comptes rendus des séances de l'Académie des sciences. **2**,1309-1312. (1981)

**J. De Vree, W. Brekelmans, M. Van Gils.** *Comparison of Nonlocal Approaches in Continuum Damage Mechanics.* Computers & Structures. **55**(4),581-588. (1995)

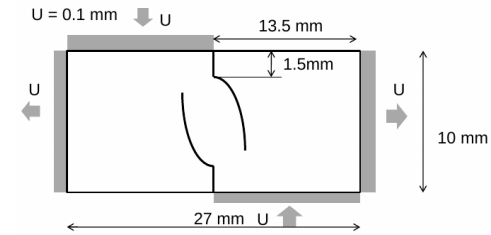
## Local/Non-Local Continuum damage mechanics



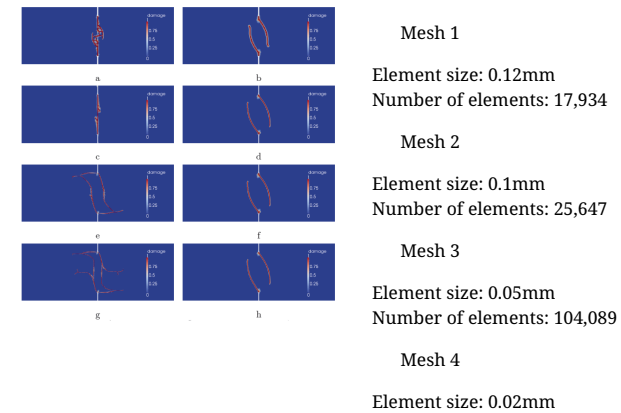
**G. Pijaudier-Cabot, Z. Bažant.** *Nonlocal Damage Theory.* Journal of Engineering Mechanics. **113**(10),1512-1533. (1987)

**C. Wolff, N. Richart, J.-F. Molinari.** *A Non-Local Continuum Damage Approach to Model Dynamic Crack Branching.* International Journal for Numerical Methods in Engineering. **101**(12),933-949. (2015)

## Mesh convergence: Nooru Mohamed test



## Mesh convergence: Nooru-Mohamed test



## Variational approach to fracture: Phase-field

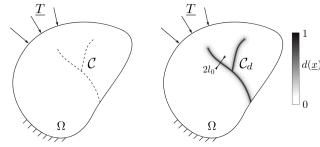
### Idea

- The crack discontinuous topology is regularized by a **continuous** phase-field function
  - This function is the damage  $d \in [0, 1]$  of the material
  - Introduction of a regularization length scale  $l_0$

## Variational approach to fracture: Phase-field

### Better suited for

- complex crack paths: dynamic crack branching, instabilities
- crack propagation in heterogeneous media
- multiphysics coupling



### With a discontinuous representation

- $\Gamma$ : the crack path
- $G_c$ : the critical energy release rate
- $\psi$ : the Helmholtz free energy
- $\Psi_0 = \rho\psi$ : the energy density

### The total energy becomes

$$E(u, \Gamma) = \underbrace{\int_{\Omega \setminus \Gamma} \Psi_0(\epsilon) d\Omega}_{\text{elastic energy}} + \underbrace{G_c \int_{\Gamma} ds}_{\text{dissipated energy}}$$

### Regularization leads to

- $d$ : damage phase field (strong link with **damage gradient models**)
- $l_0$ : characteristic regularization length
- $k$ : residual stiffness at full failure

$$E(u, d) = \int_{\Omega} [(1-d)^2 + k] \Psi_0(\epsilon) d\Omega + \frac{G_c}{2l_0} \int_{\Omega} (d^2 + l_0^2 \|\nabla d\|^2) d\Omega$$

### Remarks:

The information of the crack path is **now contained in the phase field  $d$**

Dissipated energy density  $\frac{G_c}{2l_0} (d^2 + l_0^2 \|\nabla d\|^2)$

### The problem becomes

find  $u, d$  minimizers of  $E(u, d)$  with the constraint  $\Delta d > 0$

**G. Francfort, J.-J. Marigo.** *Revisiting Brittle Fracture as an Energy Minimization Problem.* Journal of the Mechanics and Physics of Solids. **46**(8),1319-1342. (1998)

**M. Ambati, T. Gerasimov, L. De Lorenzis.** *A Review on Phase-Field Models of Brittle Fracture and a New Fast Hybrid Formulation.* Computational Mechanics. **55**(2),383-405. (2015)

### Equilibrium: Euler-Lagrange equations

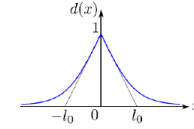
#### Constitutive law

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma &= [(1-d)^2 + k] \frac{\partial \Psi_0}{\partial \epsilon} \\ &= [(1-d)^2 + k] C : \epsilon \end{aligned}$$

### Damage equation

$$0 = 2(1-d)\Psi_0 + \frac{G_c}{l_0} (d + l_0^2 \Delta d)$$

- This equation leads to spreading of damage



### Resolution algorithm: alternate minimization

1. At fixed  $u$ , solve for  $d$  (constrained optimization for irreversibility)
2. At fixed  $d$ , solve for  $u$ : elastodynamics problem with degraded stiffness

$\Rightarrow$  regularization of the crack surface with a phase-field

### Compression/traction separation

$$E(u, d) = \int_{\Omega} \{ [(1-d)^2 + k] \Psi_0^+ + \Psi_0^- \} d\Omega + \frac{G_c}{2l_0} \int_{\Omega} (d^2 + l_0^2 \|\nabla d\|^2) d\Omega$$

with the separation of **compression/traction** strains:

$$\Psi_0^{\pm} = \frac{1}{2} \lambda \langle \text{tr}(\epsilon) \rangle_{\pm}^2 + \mu \text{tr}(\epsilon_{\pm}^2)$$

which then brings:

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma &= [(1-d)^2 + k] \frac{\partial \Psi_0^+}{\partial \epsilon} + \frac{\partial \Psi_0^-}{\partial \epsilon} \\ 0 &= 2(1-d)\Psi_0^+ + \frac{G_c}{l_0} (d + l_0^2 \Delta d) \end{aligned}$$

**H. Amor, J.-J. Marigo, C. Maurini.** *Regularized Formulation of the Variational Brittle Fracture with Unilateral Contact: Numerical Experiments.* Journal of the Mechanics and Physics of Solids. **57**(8),1209-1229. (2009)

**G. Lancioni, G. Royer-Carfagni.** *The Variational Approach to Fracture Mechanics. A~Practical Application to the French Panthéon in Paris.* Journal of Elasticity. **95**(1),1-30. (2009)

### Irreversibility of damage using history

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= 2(1-d)\mathcal{H}(x) + \frac{G_c}{l} (d + l_0^2 \Delta d) \\ \mathcal{H} &= \max_t \Psi_0^+(e, t) \end{aligned}$$

**C. Miehe, F. Welschinger, M. Hofacker.** *Thermodynamically Consistent Phase-Field Models of Fracture: Variational Principles and Multi-Field FE Implementations.* International Journal for Numerical Methods in Engineering. **83**(10),1273-1311. (2010)

# Variational approach to fracture:

## Phase-field

### Choice of dissipation function

$$\frac{G_c}{2l_0} (d^2 + l_0^2 ||\nabla d||^2)$$

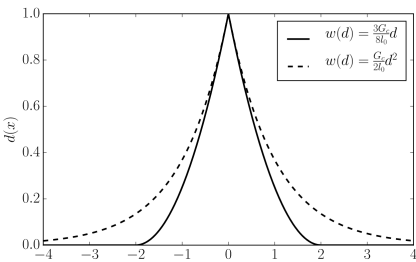
most widely used model in phase-field literature

**C. Miehe, F. Welschinger, M. Hofacker.** *Thermodynamically Consistent Phase-Field Models of Fracture: Variational Principles and Multi-Field FE Implementations.* International Journal for Numerical Methods in Engineering. **83**(10),1273-1311. (2010)

$$\frac{3G_c}{8l_0} (d + l_0^2 ||\nabla d||^2)$$

Faster decay of  $d$

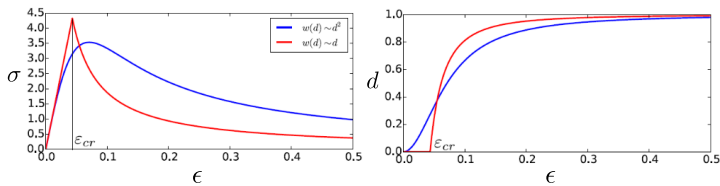
**K. Pham, H. Amor, J.-J. Marigo, C. Maurini.** *Gradient Damage Models and Their Use to Approximate Brittle Fracture.* International Journal of Damage Mechanics. **20**(4),618-652. (2011)



**J. Bleyer, C. Roux-Langlois, J.-F. Molinari.** *Dynamic Crack Propagation with a Variational Phase-Field Model: Limiting Speed, Crack Branching and Velocity-Toughening Mechanisms.* International Journal of Fracture. **204**(1),79-100. (2017)

## Comparison of dissipation models

- Un-physical spreading of the phase field

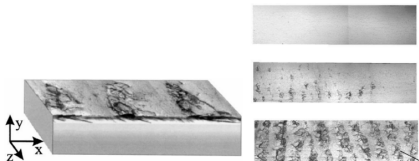


Remark: presence/absence of a purely elastic phase

## Introduction: some experimental facts on dynamic fracture

Prediction of a limit crack velocity:  $c_R$  (mode I),  $c_S$  (mode III) never attained in experiments, rarely exceed  $0.4 - 0.6c_R$  explained by **crack tip instabilities** [Fineberg et al.]:

- microbranching ( $\sim 0.4c_R$ ): small ( $1 - 100\mu m$  in PMMA) short-lived micro-cracks, highly localized in  $z$  direction:

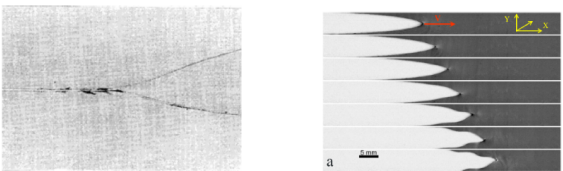


- mirror, mist, hackle patterns

## Introduction: some experimental facts on dynamic fracture

Prediction of a limit crack velocity:  $c_R$  (mode I),  $c_S$  (mode III) never attained in experiments, rarely exceed  $0.4 - 0.6c_R$  explained by **crack tip instabilities** [Fineberg et al.]:

- increase of microbranch width  $\Rightarrow$  macroscopic branching



- microbranching can be suppressed in thin samples or strongly anisotropic materials  $\Rightarrow$  oscillatory instability at  $0.9 c_R$

## Variational approach to fracture: Phase-field

elastic strain energy density:

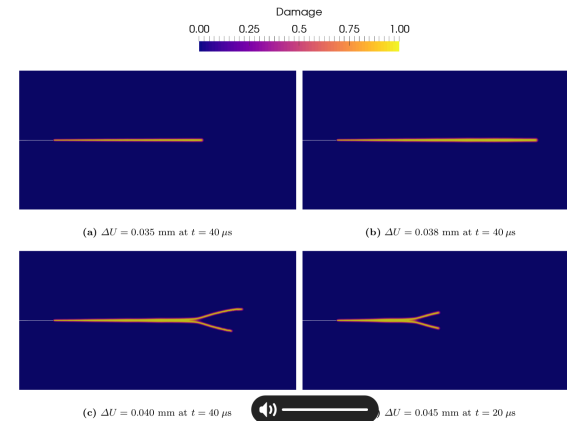
$$\Psi(\epsilon, d) = (1 - d)^2 \Psi_0^+ + \Psi_0^-$$

fracture energy density:

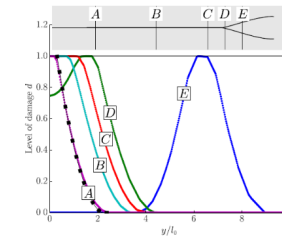
$$\frac{3G_c}{8l_0} (d + l_0^2 \|\nabla d\|^2)$$

**H. Amor, J.-J. Marigo, C. Maurini.** *Regularized Formulation of the Variational Brittle Fracture with Unilateral Contact: Numerical Experiments.* Journal of the Mechanics and Physics of Solids. **57**(8),1209-1229. (2009)

**T. Li, J.-J. Marigo, D. Guilbaud, S. Potapov.** *Gradient Damage Modeling of Brittle Fracture in an Explicit Dynamics Context.* International Journal for Numerical Methods in Engineering. **108**(11),1381-1405. (2016)



## Variational approach to fracture: Damage zone thickening

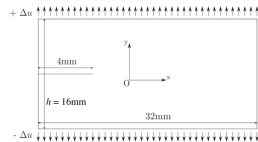


- progressive thickening of the damaged band before branching
- branching viewed as a progressive transition from a widening crack to two crack tips screening each other
- branching angle seems to depend on geometry

## Variational approach to fracture: Apparent fracture energy

Damage dissipation rate  $\Gamma = \frac{dE_{rac}}{da}$  interpreted as the apparent fracture energy

## Crack branching: Pre-strained plate



Prestrained PMMA plate, fixed boundaries [Zhou, 1996]

$$E = 3.09 GPa$$

$$\nu = 0.35$$

$$\rho = 1180 kg/m^3$$

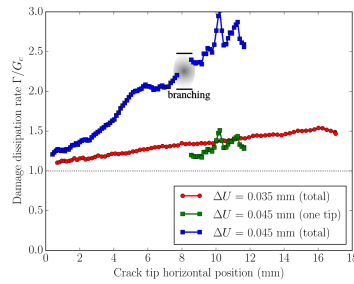
$$G_c = 300 J/m^2$$

$$c_R = 906 m/s$$

- $\Gamma = \frac{dE}{da} = 2E(\Delta U)^2/h$   
 $\Rightarrow$  crack should accelerate to  $c_R$
- transition from straight propagation to branched patterns
- apparent toughness increases with loading/crack velocity

**J. Bleyer, C. Roux-Langlois, J.-F. Molinari.** *Dynamic Crack Propagation with a Variational Phase-Field Model: Limiting Speed, Crack Branching and Velocity-Toughening Mechanisms.* International Journal of Fracture. **204**(1),79-100. (2017)

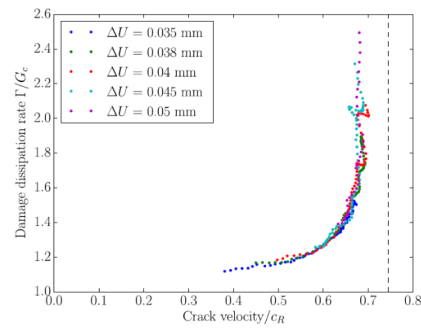
## Variational approach to fracture: Dynamic crack branching



suggests a critical value of  $\Gamma \approx 2G_c$  associated to branching

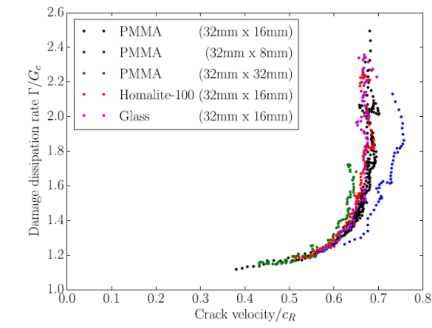
## Variational approach to fracture: Velocity toughening

during propagation and before macroscopic branching

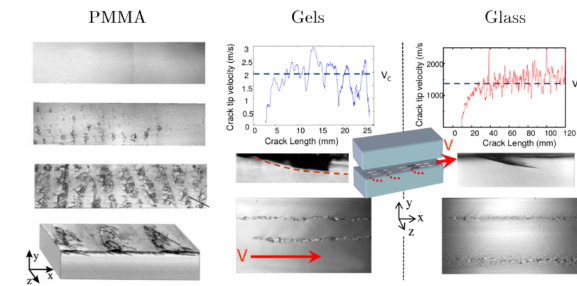


existence of a well-defined  $\Gamma(v)$  relationship associated to a velocity-toughening mechanism

## Variational approach to fracture: Velocity toughening



## But branching is a 3D instability: Fineberg et al.

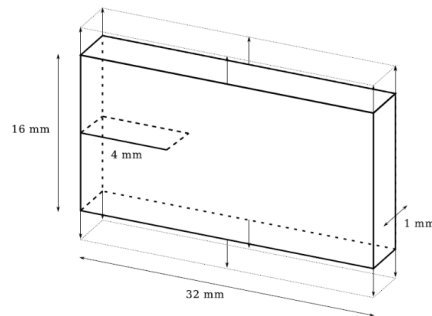


- increasing branch length with loading/velocity
- z-localization: much more localized for Gels/Glass than for PMMA
- x-periodicity: 10 – 100  $\mu\text{m}$  in PMMA, from  $\text{nm}$  to  $\text{mm}$  in glass
- microbranching **suppressed for thin samples**

## Variational approach to fracture: From 2D to 3D

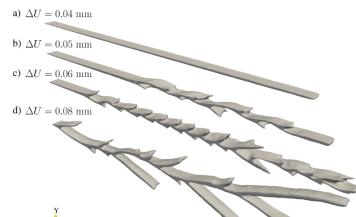
Same setup, same material parameters, now:  $L \times H \times W$  plate

starting with  $W = 1\text{mm}$ ,  $l_0 = 0.004\text{mm}$



J. Bleyer, J.-F. Molinari. *Microbranching Instability in Phase-Field Modelling of Dynamic Brittle Fracture*. Applied Physics Letters. **110**(15),151903. (2017)

## Variational approach to fracture: Effect of loading

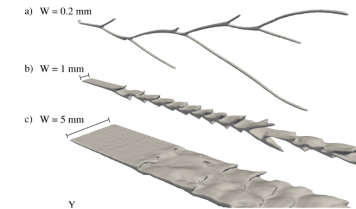


- single straight crack → microscopic branches → macroscopic branches
- nice quasi-periodic regime at intermediate loading:

- less z-invariance at smaller loading consistent with experiments

## Variational approach to fracture: Effect of thickness

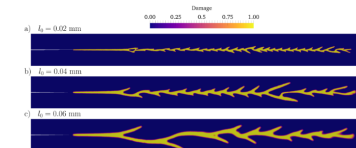
same loading  $\Delta U = 0.06\text{mm}$



- microbranching clearly suppressed for small width
- increasing localization with increasing width
- no periodicity for large width:

## Variational approach to fracture: Influence of $l_0$

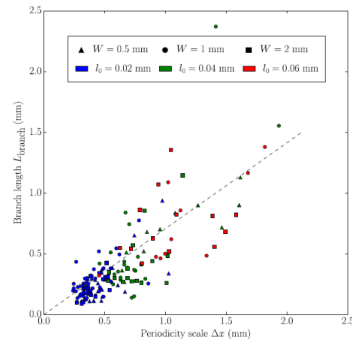
$\Delta U = 0.06\text{mm}$ ,  $W = 1\text{mm}$



- strong effect on  $\Delta x$
- initiation occurs at roughly the same time
- total dissipated energy almost identical ( $\pm 2\%$ )
- no microbranching when  $l_0 \approx 0.1\text{mm}$
- other plate width suggest  $W_{crit} \approx 10l_0$  for this loading

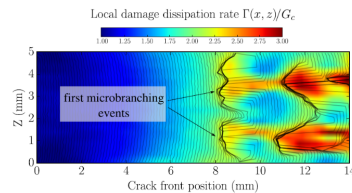
## Variational approach to fracture: Emergent geometrical features

Correlation between microbranch length  $L_{branch}$  and  $\Delta x$



## Variational approach to fracture: Transition to branching

$W = 5\text{mm}$ : localized microbranching events



- first events when  $\Gamma \geq 2G_c$  **locally**
- velocity overshoot ahead of the first event initiates the second one
- after that, complex dynamics....

## Conclusions

- Variational approach to dynamic fracture shows great prospects (comes at a cost)
- Mesh independency
- Reproduces many experimental features
- Many many open questions... (in dynamics)

## Bibliography

**L. Kachanov.** *On Time to Rupture in Creep Conditions (in Russian)*. Izvestia Akademii Nauk SSSR, Otdelenie Tekhnich. **8**,26-31. (1958)

**J.-J. Marigo.** *Formulation d'une loi d'endommagement d'un matériau élastique..* Comptes rendus des séances de l'Académie des sciences. **2**,1309-1312. (1981)

**G. Pijaudier-Cabot, Z. Bažant.** *Nonlocal Damage Theory*. Journal of Engineering Mechanics. **113**(10),1512-1533. (1987) [10.1061/\(ASCE\)0733-9399\(1987\)113:10\(1512\)](https://doi.org/10.1061/(ASCE)0733-9399(1987)113:10(1512))

**J. De Vree, W. Brekelmans, M. Van Gils.** *Comparison of Nonlocal Approaches in Continuum Damage Mechanics*. Computers & Structures. **55**(4),581-588. (1995) [10.1016/0045-7949\(94\)00501-S](https://doi.org/10.1016/0045-7949(94)00501-S)

**J. Lemaitre.** *A Course on Damage Mechanics*. (Springer Berlin Heidelberg, 1996). [10.1007/978-3-642-18255-6](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-642-18255-6)

**G. Francfort, J.-J. Marigo.** *Revisiting Brittle Fracture as an Energy Minimization Problem*. Journal of the Mechanics and Physics of Solids. **46**(8),1319-1342. (1998) [10.1016/S0022-5096\(98\)00034-9](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0022-5096(98)00034-9)

**H. Amor, J.-J. Marigo, C. Maurini.** *Regularized Formulation of the Variational Brittle Fracture with Unilateral Contact: Numerical Experiments*. Journal of the Mechanics and Physics of Solids. **57**(8),1209-1229. (2009) [10.1016/j.jmps.2009.04.011](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jmps.2009.04.011)

**G. Lancioni, G. Royer-Carfagni.** *The Variational Approach to Fracture Mechanics. A~Practical Application to the French Panthéon in Paris*. Journal of Elasticity. **95**(1),1-30. (2009) [10.1007/s10659-009-9189-1](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10659-009-9189-1)

**C. Miehe, F. Welschinger, M. Hofacker.** *Thermodynamically Consistent Phase-Field Models of Fracture: Variational Principles and Multi-Field FE Implementations*. International Journal for Numerical Methods in Engineering. **83**(10),1273-1311. (2010) [10.1002/nme.2861](https://doi.org/10.1002/nme.2861)

**K. Pham, H. Amor, J.-J. Marigo, C. Maurini.** *Gradient Damage Models and Their Use to Approximate Brittle Fracture*. International Journal of Damage Mechanics. **20**(4),618-652. (2011) [10.1177/1056789510386852](https://doi.org/10.1177/1056789510386852)

**M. Ambati, T. Gerasimov, L. De Lorenzis.** *A Review on Phase-Field Models of Brittle Fracture and a New Fast Hybrid Formulation*. Computational Mechanics. **55**(2),383-405. (2015) [10.1007/s00466-014-1109-y](https://doi.org/10.1007/s00466-014-1109-y)

**C. Wolff, N. Richart, J.-F. Molinari.** *A Non-Local Continuum Damage Approach to Model Dynamic Crack Branching*. International Journal for Numerical Methods in Engineering. **101**(12),933-949. (2015) [10.1002/nme.4837](https://doi.org/10.1002/nme.4837)

**T. Li, J.-J. Marigo, D. Guilbaud, S. Potapov.** *Gradient Damage Modeling of Brittle Fracture in an Explicit Dynamics Context*. International Journal for Numerical



Methods in Engineering. **108**(11),1381-1405. (2016) [10.1002/nme.5262](#)

**J. Bleyer, C. Roux-Langlois, J.-F. Molinari.** *Dynamic Crack Propagation with a Variational Phase-Field Model: Limiting Speed, Crack Branching and Velocity-Toughening Mechanisms.* International Journal of Fracture. **204**(1),79-100. (2017)  
[10.1007/s10704-016-0163-1](#)

**J. Bleyer, J.-F. Molinari.** *Microbranching Instability in Phase-Field Modelling of Dynamic Brittle Fracture.* Applied Physics Letters. **110**(15),151903. (2017)  
[10.1063/1.4980064](#)