

Homogenisation of variational problems: an overview

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Multi-scale variational modeling of materials

Starting point: scale-dependent mechanical system

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$$\rightsquigarrow \min\{E_\varepsilon(u) : u \in X\}$$

with

- $E_\varepsilon : X \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}}$ scale-dependent energy
- $\varepsilon > 0$ and “small” is a microscopic/mesoscopic scale (of geometrical, constitutive, or physical nature)

Idea: “Let $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ ” to replace a complex, **scale-dependent** problem

$$\min\{E_\varepsilon(u) : u \in X\}$$

with a (simpler) **scale-free** problem

$$\min\{E_0(u) : u \in X\}$$

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- If v_ε minimises E_ε , then $v_\varepsilon \rightarrow v_0$ with v_0 minimiser of E_0 ;
- $E_\varepsilon(v_\varepsilon) \rightarrow E_0(v_0)$.

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The pointwise limit of E_ε (if it exists) in general *does not* fulfil these requirements

Prototypical example: homogenisation in 1D

$$E_\varepsilon(u) = \int_0^L a\left(\frac{x}{\varepsilon}\right) (u')^2 dx - 2 \int_0^L g u dx, \quad u \in W_0^{1,2}(0, L)$$

with

- $a \in L^\infty(\mathbb{R})$, 1-periodic, $0 < \alpha \leq a(x) \leq \beta$ a.e. in \mathbb{R}
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Question:

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The **pointwise** limit of E_ε exists and is given by

$$E(u) = \langle a \rangle \int_0^L (u')^2 dx - 2 \int_0^L g u dx$$

with

$$\langle a \rangle := \int_0^1 a(t) dt$$

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v_ε minimizes E_ε in $W_0^{1,2}(0, L) \iff v_\varepsilon$ solves the Euler-Lagrange equation

$$\begin{cases} -\frac{d}{dx} \left(a\left(\frac{x}{\varepsilon}\right) v'_\varepsilon(x) \right) = g & \text{in } (0, L) \\ v_\varepsilon(0) = v_\varepsilon(L) = 0 \end{cases}$$

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$$\leadsto v_\varepsilon(x) = - \int_0^x \frac{G(t)}{a_\varepsilon(t)} dt + \left(\frac{\int_0^L \frac{G(t)}{a_\varepsilon(t)} dt}{\int_0^L \frac{1}{a_\varepsilon(t)} dt} \right) \int_0^x \frac{1}{a_\varepsilon(t)} dt \quad (G' = g)$$

where $a_\varepsilon(t) := a(t/\varepsilon)$ and

$$\frac{1}{a_\varepsilon} \rightarrow \left\langle \frac{1}{a} \right\rangle$$

Prototypical example: homogenisation in 1D

$v_\varepsilon \rightharpoonup v_0$ in $W^{1,2}(0, L)$ satisfying

$$\begin{cases} -\frac{d}{dx} \left(\left\langle \frac{1}{a} \right\rangle^{-1} v_0'(x) \right) = g & \text{in } (0, L) \\ v_0(0) = v_0(L) = 0 \end{cases}$$



v_0 minimises the functional E_0

$$E_0(u) = \left\langle \frac{1}{a} \right\rangle^{-1} \int_0^L (u')^2 dx - 2 \int_0^L g u dx$$

$$\left\langle \frac{1}{a} \right\rangle^{-1} \leq \langle a \rangle \quad \rightsquigarrow \quad \text{in general } E_0 \leq E$$

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E_0 is the limit of E_ε in a *variational* sense

(De Giorgi 1975)

$$E_\epsilon \xrightarrow{\Gamma} E_0$$

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$$E_\varepsilon \xrightarrow{\Gamma} E_0 \iff$$

- (Ansatz-free lower bound) $\forall u_\varepsilon, u \in X$ such that $u_\varepsilon \rightarrow u$ it holds

$$E_0(u) \leq E_\varepsilon(u_\varepsilon) + o(1) \quad \text{as } \varepsilon \rightarrow 0$$

- (Existence of a “recovery sequence”) $\forall u \in X \exists \bar{u}_\varepsilon \in X$ such that $\bar{u}_\varepsilon \rightarrow u$ and

$$E_\varepsilon(\bar{u}_\varepsilon) \rightarrow E_0(u) \quad \text{as } \varepsilon \rightarrow 0$$

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Fundamental property of Γ -convergence

$$E_\varepsilon \xrightarrow{\Gamma} E_0 \quad + \quad \text{“compactness”}$$

\Downarrow

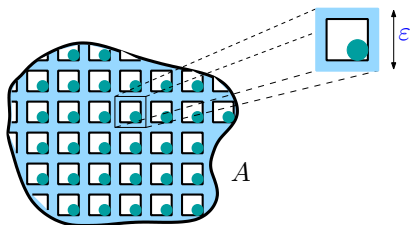
$$\inf\{E_\varepsilon(u) : u \in X\} \rightsquigarrow \min\{E_0(u) : u \in X\}$$

- the Γ -limit is always **lower semicontinuous**
- if $E_\varepsilon = E$ is the constant sequence, in general $\Gamma\text{-lim } E \neq E$
- if $E_\varepsilon \xrightarrow{\Gamma} E_0$ and G is **continuous** then

$$E_\varepsilon + G \xrightarrow{\Gamma} E_0 + G$$

- if $E_\varepsilon \xrightarrow{\Gamma} E_0$ and $E_\varepsilon \rightarrow E$ **pointwise** then $E_0 \leq E$

Nonlinear homogenisation



A = reference configuration of a multi-phase **periodic composite**

ε = period of the composite

$u: A \subset \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ **deformation**

$$F_\varepsilon(u) = \int_A f\left(\frac{x}{\varepsilon}, \nabla u\right) dx, \quad u \in W^{1,p}(A, \mathbb{R}^m) \quad \text{(elastic energy)}$$

with $f: \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^{m \times n} \rightarrow [0, +\infty)$ Borel function satisfying

- $x \rightarrow f(x, \xi)$ $(0, 1)^n$ -periodic
- $\xi \rightarrow f(x, \xi)$ continuous
- $c_1|\xi|^p \leq f(x, \xi) \leq c_2(1 + |\xi|^p) \quad p > 1$

The nonlinear homogenisation Theorem

Theorem (Braides 85, Müller 87)

The functionals

$$F_\varepsilon(u) = \int_A f\left(\frac{x}{\varepsilon}, \nabla u\right) dx, \quad u \in W^{1,p}(A, \mathbb{R}^m)$$

Γ -converge, with respect to the $L^p(A, \mathbb{R}^m)$ -convergence, to the *homogenised* functional

$$F_0(u) = \int_A f_{\text{hom}}(\nabla u) dx, \quad u \in W^{1,p}(A, \mathbb{R}^m)$$

where

$$f_{\text{hom}}(\xi) = \lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{1}{t^n} \inf \left\{ \int_{tQ} f(y, \nabla u) dy : u \in W^{1,p}(tQ, \mathbb{R}^n), u = \xi x \text{ on } \partial tQ \right\}$$

with $Q := \left(-\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}\right)^n$.

(Idea of the) Proof of the lower bound by blow-up

(Fonseca-Müller 92)

$$F_{\varepsilon_j}(u) = \int_A f\left(\frac{x}{\varepsilon_j}, \nabla u\right) dx, \quad u \in W^{1,p}(A, \mathbb{R}^m)$$

Claim: $u \in W^{1,p}(A, \mathbb{R}^m)$, $u_j \rightarrow u$ in $L^p \implies \liminf_{j \rightarrow +\infty} F_{\varepsilon_j}(u_j) \geq F_0(u)$

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Step 0: localise the functionals: For $B \in \mathcal{B}(A)$ set

$$F_{\varepsilon_j}(u, B) = \int_B f\left(\frac{x}{\varepsilon_j}, \nabla u\right) dx$$

and

$$\mu_j := f\left(\frac{x}{\varepsilon_j}, \nabla u_j\right) \mathcal{L}^n$$

so that

$$\mu_j(B) = F_{\varepsilon_j}(u_j, B)$$

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Notice that

$$\sup_j |\mu_j|(A) < +\infty$$

(Idea of the) Proof of the lower bound by blow-up

Step 1: definition of a limit measure: up to subsequences

$$\mu_j \rightharpoonup \mu$$

consider the Radon-Nikodym decomposition

$$\mu = \frac{d\mu}{dx} \mathcal{L}^n + \mu^s, \text{ with } \mu^s \perp \mathcal{L}^n$$

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Step 2: local analysis: let $x_0 \in A$ be s.t.

$$\frac{d\mu}{dx}(x_0) = \lim_{\rho \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\mu(Q_\rho(x_0))}{\mathcal{L}^n(Q_\rho(x_0))} = \lim_{\rho \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\mu(Q_\rho(x_0))}{\rho^n}$$

We also have

$$\mu(Q_\rho(x_0)) = \lim_j \mu_j(Q_\rho(x_0))$$

(for all $\rho > 0$ but a countable set)

$$\leadsto \frac{d\mu}{dx}(x_0) = \lim_j \frac{\mu_j(Q_{\rho_j}(x_0))}{\rho_j^n} = \lim_j \frac{1}{\rho_j^n} \int_{Q_{\rho_j}(x_0)} f\left(\frac{x}{\varepsilon_j}, \nabla u_j\right) dx$$

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Set

$$w_j^\rho(x) := \frac{u_j(x_0 + \rho x) - u(x_0)}{\rho} \quad (\text{blow-up sequence})$$

since $u_j \rightarrow u$ in $W^{1,p}$, choosing x_0 s.t.

$$\lim_{\rho \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{1}{\rho^n} \int_{Q_\rho(x_0)} \frac{|u(x) - u(x_0) - \nabla u(x_0)(x - x_0)|^p}{\rho^p} dx = 0$$

we find $\rho_j \rightarrow 0^+$ such that

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(Idea of the) Proof of the lower bound by blow-up

A further modification of v_j is needed to obtain a new sequence

$$\hat{v}_j = \nabla u(x_0)x \quad \text{on} \quad \partial Q_1$$

without essentially increasing the energy (via the energy bounds)

$$\frac{d\mu}{dx}(x_0) = \lim_j \int_{Q_1(0)} f\left(\frac{\rho_j x + x_0}{\varepsilon_j}, \nabla \hat{v}_j\right) dx$$

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with $t := \frac{\rho_j}{\varepsilon_j} \rightarrow +\infty$ as $j \rightarrow +\infty$

(Idea of the) Proof of the lower bound by blow-up

Step 4: local estimate: using the **periodicity** of f we get the **existence and homogeneity** of the limit

$$\lim_j \frac{\varepsilon_j^n}{\rho_j^n} \inf \left\{ \int_{Q_{\frac{\rho_j}{\varepsilon_j}}\left(\frac{x_0}{\varepsilon_j}\right)} f(y, \nabla w) dy : w = \nabla u(x_0) x \text{ on } \partial\left(Q_{\frac{\rho_j}{\varepsilon_j}}\left(\frac{x_0}{\varepsilon_j}\right)\right) \right\}$$

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Step 5: global estimate: integrating the local estimate gives

$$\begin{aligned} \liminf_j F_{\varepsilon_j}(u_j) &= \liminf_j \mu_j(A) \geq \mu(A) \\ &\geq \int_A \frac{d\mu}{dx} dx \geq \int_A f_{\text{hom}}(\nabla u) dx = F_0(u) \end{aligned}$$

More homogenisation problems: the BV -setting

Homogenisation of perimeters

$$G_\varepsilon(E) := \int_{\partial^* E \cap \Omega} g\left(\frac{x}{\varepsilon}, \nu_E\right) d\mathcal{H}^{n-1}$$

E set of **finite perimeter**, ν_E inner normal to E (defined at all points of $\partial^* E$).

More homogenisation problems: the BV -setting

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$u = \chi_E$, $u \in BV(\Omega)$, S_u discontinuity set of u .

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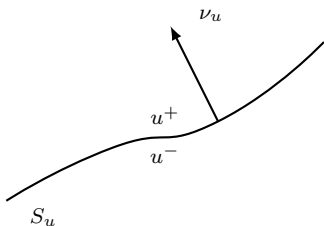
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Homogenisation of free-discontinuity problems

$$E_\varepsilon(u) := \int_{\Omega} f\left(\frac{x}{\varepsilon}, \nabla u\right) dx + \int_{S_u \cap \Omega} g\left(\frac{x}{\varepsilon}, \nu_u\right) d\mathcal{H}^{n-1}, \quad u \in SBV(\Omega, \mathbb{R}^m)$$

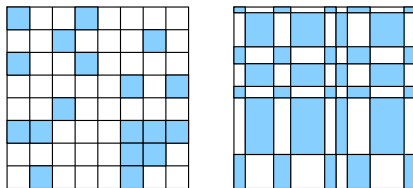


$$Du = \nabla u \mathcal{L}^n + (u^+ - u^-) \otimes \nu_u \mathcal{H}^{n-1} \llcorner S_u$$

- S_u discontinuity set of u
- $u^+ - u^-$ jump of u across S_u
- ν_u normal to S_u (pointing towards u^+)

More homogenisation problems: the random-setting

- (Ω, \mathcal{T}, P) probability space
- $\omega \in \Omega$ random parameter



Examples of random checkerboards

$$E_\varepsilon(\omega)(u) = \int_A f\left(\omega, \frac{x}{\varepsilon}, \nabla u\right) dx + \int_{A \cap S_u} g\left(\omega, \frac{x}{\varepsilon}, u^+ - u^-, \nu_u\right) d\mathcal{H}^{n-1} \quad u \in SBV(A; \mathbb{R}^m)$$

f and g are **stationary** random variables

\rightsquigarrow **periodicity in law** replaces periodicity

Assumptions on f and g (ω fixed)

$f: \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^{m \times n} \rightarrow [0, +\infty)$, $f = f(x, \xi)$ volume energy density

- f is Borel-measurable
- $c_1 |\xi|^p \leq f(x, \xi) \leq c_2 (1 + |\xi|^p)$ ($p > 1$)
- $\xi \mapsto f(x, \xi)$ is continuous for every $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$

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$g: \mathbb{R}^n \times (\mathbb{R}^m \setminus \{0\}) \times \mathbb{S}^{n-1} \rightarrow [0, +\infty)$, $g = g(x, \zeta, \nu)$ surface energy density

- g is Borel-measurable
- $c_3 (1 + |\zeta|) \leq g(x, \zeta, \nu) \leq c_4 (1 + |\zeta|)$
- $\zeta \mapsto g(x, \zeta, \nu)$ is continuous for every $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $\nu \in \mathbb{S}^{n-1}$
- $g(x, \zeta, \nu) = g(x, -\zeta, -\nu)$

\mathcal{G}

Homogenisation Theorem

Theorem (Cagnetti, Dal Maso, Scardia, Z. - *Arch. Ration. Mech. Anal.* 2019)

Let $f \in \mathcal{F}$ and $g \in \mathcal{G}$ be stationary. Then there exist $\Omega' \subset \Omega$ with $P(\Omega') = 1$ and homogeneous random integrands $f_0 \in \mathcal{F}$, $g_0 \in \mathcal{G}$ such that

$$E_\varepsilon(\omega)(u) = \int_A f\left(\omega, \frac{x}{\varepsilon}, \nabla u\right) dx + \int_{A \cap S_u} g\left(\omega, \frac{x}{\varepsilon}, u^+ - u^-, \nu_u\right) d\mathcal{H}^{n-1} \quad u \in SBV(A)$$

$\Gamma(L^1)$ -converges to

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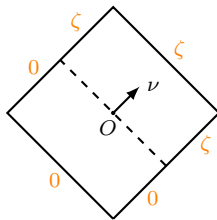
Moreover

$$f_0(\omega, \xi) := \lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{1}{t^n} \inf \left\{ \int_{tQ} f(\omega, x, \nabla u) dx : u \in W^{1,p}(tQ; \mathbb{R}^m), u = \xi x \text{ near } \partial(tQ) \right\}$$

Homogenisation Theorem (continues...)

$$g_0(\omega, \zeta, \nu) := \lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{1}{t^{n-1}} \inf \left\{ \int_{tQ^\nu \cap S_u} g(\omega, x, u^+ - u^-, \nu_u) d\mathcal{H}^{n-1} : \right. \\ \left. u \in SBV(tQ^\nu; \mathbb{R}^m), \nabla u = 0 \text{ a.e.}, u = u_{0, \zeta, \nu} \text{ near } \partial(tQ^\nu) \right\}$$

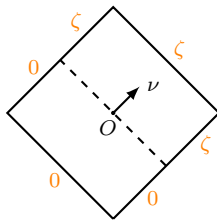
$$u_{0, \zeta, \nu}(x) := \begin{cases} \zeta & \text{if } x \cdot \nu \geq 0 \\ 0 & \text{if } x \cdot \nu < 0 \end{cases}$$



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Further, if f and g are ergodic f_0 and g_0 are deterministic

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- in the limit there is no interaction between volume and surface energy

Blow up: main difference with the $W^{1,p}$ -case

$u_j \rightarrow u$ in $L^1(A; \mathbb{R}^m)$ with $u \in SBV(A; \mathbb{R}^m)$

- $\mu_j := f\left(\frac{x}{\varepsilon_j}, \nabla u_j\right) \mathcal{L}^n + g\left(\frac{x}{\varepsilon_j}, u_j^+ - u_j^-, \nu_{u_j}\right) \mathcal{H}^{n-1} \llcorner S_{u_j}$

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- **ergodic theory** is needed to prove the existence of the homogenisation formulas