

# Formulazione duale per un modello di transizione di fase: buona positura e comportamento per tempi lunghi

E. Rocca

Università degli Studi di Milano

Colloquium Lagrangianum 2006

Scilla, 7–10 dicembre, 2006

*joint work with E. Bonetti (Pavia) and M. Frémond (Paris)*

## The model

- The equation of microscopic motion
- The internal energy balance
- Thermodynamical consistency
- The PDE system

## Our main results

- Main Hypothesis
- The case of a general  $\alpha$ : existence result
- Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's
- The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz continuous
- The case  $\alpha = \exp$

## Open problems

# Plan of the Talk

We discuss here a new approach to phase transitions with thermal memory based on a **new formulation of the internal energy balance** by means of the **entropy** leading to a nonlinear and possibly singular PDE system. We proceed as follows:

## The model

- The equation of microscopic motion
- The internal energy balance
- Thermodynamical consistency
- The PDE system

## Our main results

Main Hypothesis

The case of a general  $\alpha$ :  
existence result

Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's

The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz  
continuous

The case  $\alpha = \exp$

## Open problems

# Plan of the Talk

We discuss here a new approach to phase transitions with thermal memory based on a **new formulation of the internal energy balance** by means of the **entropy** leading to a nonlinear and possibly singular PDE system. We proceed as follows:

- ▶ we explain how this formulation turns out to be convenient in order to prove **thermodynamical consistency** of the model

## The model

The equation of microscopic motion  
The internal energy balance  
Thermodynamical consistency  
The PDE system

## Our main results

Main Hypothesis  
The case of a general  $\alpha$ : existence result  
Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's  
The case  $\alpha$ : Lipschitz continuous  
The case  $\alpha = \exp$

## Open problems

We discuss here a new approach to phase transitions with thermal memory based on a **new formulation of the internal energy balance** by means of the **entropy** leading to a nonlinear and possibly singular PDE system. We proceed as follows:

- ▶ we explain how this formulation turns out to be convenient in order to prove **thermodynamical consistency** of the model
- ▶ we point out the **existence (of solutions) result for the general PDE system**

*E. Bonetti, M. Frémond, E.R., work in progress*

## The model

The equation of microscopic motion  
The internal energy balance  
Thermodynamical consistency  
The PDE system

## Our main results

Main Hypothesis  
The case of a general  $\alpha$ :  
existence result  
Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's  
The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz  
continuous  
The case  $\alpha = \exp$

## Open problems

# Plan of the Talk

We discuss here a new approach to phase transitions with thermal memory based on a **new formulation of the internal energy balance** by means of the **entropy** leading to a nonlinear and possibly singular PDE system. We proceed as follows:

- ▶ we explain how this formulation turns out to be convenient in order to prove **thermodynamical consistency** of the model
- ▶ we point out the **existence (of solutions) result for the general PDE system**

*E. Bonetti, M. Frémond, E.R., work in progress*

- ▶ we state the **long-time behaviour results** holding true for particular choices of the nonlinearities involved

*E. Bonetti, E.R., Commun. Pure Appl. Anal., to appear*

## The model

The equation of  
microscopic motion  
The internal energy  
balance  
Thermodynamical  
consistency  
The PDE system

## Our main results

Main Hypothesis  
The case of a general  $\alpha$ :  
existence result  
Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's  
The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz  
continuous  
The case  $\alpha = \exp$

## Open problems

# The internal energy: a dual formulation

Formulazione  
duale di modelli  
di phase-field

E. Rocca

## The model

The equation of  
microscopic motion  
The internal energy  
balance  
Thermodynamical  
consistency  
The PDE system

## Our main results

Main Hypothesis  
The case of a general  $\alpha$ :  
existence result  
Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's  
The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz  
continuous  
The case  $\alpha = \exp$

## Open problems

# The internal energy: a dual formulation

The state variables:  $(\vartheta, \chi, \nabla\chi) \implies (\mathbf{s}, \chi, \nabla\chi)$

## The model

- The equation of microscopic motion
- The internal energy balance
- Thermodynamical consistency
- The PDE system

## Our main results

Main Hypothesis

The case of a general  $\alpha$ :  
existence result

Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's

The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz  
continuous

The case  $\alpha = \exp$

## Open problems

# The internal energy: a dual formulation

The state variables:  $(\vartheta, \chi, \nabla\chi) \implies (\mathbf{s}, \chi, \nabla\chi)$

The functional:  $\Psi(\vartheta, \chi, \nabla\chi) \implies E(\mathbf{s}, \chi, \nabla\chi)$

## The model

The equation of  
microscopic motion  
The internal energy  
balance  
Thermodynamical  
consistency  
The PDE system

## Our main results

Main Hypothesis

The case of a general  $\alpha$ :  
existence result

Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's

The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz  
continuous

The case  $\alpha = \exp$

## Open problems

# The internal energy: a dual formulation

The state variables:  $(\vartheta, \chi, \nabla\chi) \implies (\mathbf{s}, \chi, \nabla\chi)$

The functional:  $\Psi(\vartheta, \chi, \nabla\chi) \implies E(\mathbf{s}, \chi, \nabla\chi)$

We choose

$$E(\mathbf{s}, \chi, \nabla\chi) = \hat{\alpha}(\mathbf{s} - \lambda(\chi)) + \sigma(\chi) + \hat{\beta}(\chi) + \frac{\nu}{2} |\nabla\chi|^2$$

where

## The model

The equation of  
microscopic motion  
The internal energy  
balance  
Thermodynamical  
consistency  
The PDE system

## Our main results

Main Hypothesis

The case of a general  $\alpha$ :  
existence result

Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's

The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz  
continuous

The case  $\alpha = \exp$

## Open problems

# The internal energy: a dual formulation

The state variables:  $(\vartheta, \chi, \nabla\chi) \implies (\mathbf{s}, \chi, \nabla\chi)$

The functional:  $\Psi(\vartheta, \chi, \nabla\chi) \implies E(\mathbf{s}, \chi, \nabla\chi)$

We choose

$$E(\mathbf{s}, \chi, \nabla\chi) = \hat{\alpha}(\mathbf{s} - \lambda(\chi)) + \sigma(\chi) + \hat{\beta}(\chi) + \frac{\nu}{2} |\nabla\chi|^2$$

where

- ▶  $\sigma$  and  $\lambda$  are smooth functions accounting for the non-convex part of the internal energy and the latent heat, respectively
- ▶  $\hat{\beta} : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow [0, \infty]$  is a general proper, convex, and lower-semicontinuous function
- ▶  $\hat{\alpha} : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is a convex, increasing, l.s.c. function

## The model

The equation of microscopic motion  
 The internal energy balance  
 Thermodynamical consistency  
 The PDE system

## Our main results

Main Hypothesis  
 The case of a general  $\alpha$ : existence result  
 Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's  
 The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz continuous  
 The case  $\alpha = \exp$

## Open problems

# The internal energy: a dual formulation

The state variables:  $(\vartheta, \chi, \nabla\chi) \implies (\mathbf{s}, \chi, \nabla\chi)$

The functional:  $\Psi(\vartheta, \chi, \nabla\chi) \implies E(\mathbf{s}, \chi, \nabla\chi)$

We choose

$$E(\mathbf{s}, \chi, \nabla\chi) = \hat{\alpha}(\mathbf{s} - \lambda(\chi)) + \sigma(\chi) + \hat{\beta}(\chi) + \frac{\nu}{2} |\nabla\chi|^2$$

where

- ▶  $\sigma$  and  $\lambda$  are smooth functions accounting for the non-convex part of the internal energy and the latent heat, respectively
- ▶  $\hat{\beta} : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow [0, \infty]$  is a general proper, convex, and lower-semicontinuous function
- ▶  $\hat{\alpha} : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is a convex, increasing, l.s.c. function

It corresponds - due to the standard thermodynamic relation linking  $\Psi$  and  $E$  -

$$\Psi(\vartheta, \chi, \nabla\chi) = -(E^*(\vartheta, \chi, \nabla\chi))$$

## The model

The equation of microscopic motion  
 The internal energy balance  
 Thermodynamical consistency  
 The PDE system

## Our main results

Main Hypothesis  
 The case of a general  $\alpha$ : existence result  
 Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's  
 The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz continuous  
 The case  $\alpha = \exp$

## Open problems

# The internal energy: a dual formulation

The state variables:  $(\vartheta, \chi, \nabla\chi) \implies (\mathbf{s}, \chi, \nabla\chi)$

The functional:  $\Psi(\vartheta, \chi, \nabla\chi) \implies E(\mathbf{s}, \chi, \nabla\chi)$

We choose

$$E(\mathbf{s}, \chi, \nabla\chi) = \hat{\alpha}(\mathbf{s} - \lambda(\chi)) + \sigma(\chi) + \hat{\beta}(\chi) + \frac{\nu}{2} |\nabla\chi|^2$$

where

- ▶  $\sigma$  and  $\lambda$  are smooth functions accounting for the non-convex part of the internal energy and the latent heat, respectively
- ▶  $\hat{\beta} : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow [0, \infty]$  is a general proper, convex, and lower-semicontinuous function
- ▶  $\hat{\alpha} : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is a convex, increasing, l.s.c. function

It corresponds - due to the standard thermodynamic relation linking  $\Psi$  and  $E$  -

$$\Psi(\vartheta, \chi, \nabla\chi) = - \sup_{\mathbf{s}} \{ \langle \vartheta, \mathbf{s} \rangle - E(\mathbf{s}, \chi, \nabla\chi) \}, \quad \vartheta = \frac{\partial E}{\partial \mathbf{s}} = \hat{\alpha}'(\mathbf{s} - \lambda(\chi))$$

## The model

The equation of  
microscopic motion  
The internal energy  
balance  
Thermodynamical  
consistency  
The PDE system

## Our main results

Main Hypothesis  
The case of a general  $\alpha$ :  
existence result  
Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's  
The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz  
continuous  
The case  $\alpha = \exp$

## Open problems

# The internal energy: a dual formulation

The state variables:  $(\vartheta, \chi, \nabla\chi) \implies (\mathbf{s}, \chi, \nabla\chi)$

The functional:  $\Psi(\vartheta, \chi, \nabla\chi) \implies E(\mathbf{s}, \chi, \nabla\chi)$

We choose

$$E(\mathbf{s}, \chi, \nabla\chi) = \hat{\alpha}(\mathbf{s} - \lambda(\chi)) + \sigma(\chi) + \hat{\beta}(\chi) + \frac{\nu}{2} |\nabla\chi|^2$$

where

- ▶  $\sigma$  and  $\lambda$  are smooth functions accounting for the non-convex part of the internal energy and the latent heat, respectively
- ▶  $\hat{\beta} : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow [0, \infty]$  is a general proper, convex, and lower-semicontinuous function
- ▶  $\hat{\alpha} : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is a convex, increasing, l.s.c. function

It corresponds

to the following general free energy functional:

$$\Psi(\vartheta, \chi, \nabla\chi) = -\hat{\alpha}^*(\vartheta) - \lambda(\chi)\vartheta + \sigma(\chi) + \hat{\beta}(\chi) + \frac{\nu}{2} |\nabla\chi|^2$$

- ▶  $\hat{\alpha}^* : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is the convex conjugate of  $\hat{\alpha}$

## The model

The equation of microscopic motion  
The internal energy balance  
Thermodynamical consistency  
The PDE system

## Our main results

Main Hypothesis  
The case of a general  $\alpha$ : existence result  
Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's  
The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz continuous  
The case  $\alpha = \exp$

## Open problems

# The internal energy: a dual formulation

The state variables:  $(\vartheta, \chi, \nabla\chi) \implies (\mathbf{s}, \chi, \nabla\chi)$

The functional:  $\Psi(\vartheta, \chi, \nabla\chi) \implies E(\mathbf{s}, \chi, \nabla\chi)$

We choose

$$E(\mathbf{s}, \chi, \nabla\chi) = \hat{\alpha}(\mathbf{s} - \lambda(\chi)) + \sigma(\chi) + \hat{\beta}(\chi) + \frac{\nu}{2} |\nabla\chi|^2$$

where

- ▶  $\sigma$  and  $\lambda$  are smooth functions accounting for the non-convex part of the internal energy and the latent heat, respectively
- ▶  $\hat{\beta} : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow [0, \infty]$  is a general proper, convex, and lower-semicontinuous function
- ▶  $\hat{\alpha} : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is a convex, increasing, l.s.c. function

It corresponds

to the standard one in case  $\hat{\alpha}^*(\vartheta) = c_\nu \vartheta (\log \vartheta - 1)$ :

$$\Psi(\vartheta, \chi, \nabla\chi) = c_\nu \vartheta (1 - \log \vartheta) - \lambda(\chi) \vartheta + \sigma(\chi) + \hat{\beta}(\chi) + \frac{\nu}{2} |\nabla\chi|^2$$

## The model

The equation of microscopic motion  
The internal energy balance  
Thermodynamical consistency  
The PDE system

## Our main results

Main Hypothesis  
The case of a general  $\alpha$ : existence result  
Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's  
The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz continuous  
The case  $\alpha = \exp$

## Open problems

# Possible choices of $\hat{\alpha}$ 's

Formulazione  
duale di modelli  
di phase-field

E. Rocca

## The model

The equation of  
microscopic motion  
The internal energy  
balance  
Thermodynamical  
consistency  
The PDE system

## Our main results

Main Hypothesis  
The case of a general  $\alpha$ :  
existence result  
Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's  
The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz  
continuous  
The case  $\alpha = \exp$

## Open problems

# Possible choices of $\hat{\alpha}$ 's

Take the caloric part of the entropy  $u = s - \lambda(\chi)$ .

## The model

- The equation of microscopic motion
- The internal energy balance
- Thermodynamical consistency
- The PDE system

## Our main results

- Main Hypothesis
- The case of a general  $\alpha$ : existence result
- Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's
- The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz continuous
- The case  $\alpha = \exp$

## Open problems

# Possible choices of $\hat{\alpha}$ 's

Take the caloric part of the entropy  $u = s - \lambda(\chi)$ .

- If we consider the standard caloric part of the Free Energy

## The model

The equation of  
microscopic motion  
The internal energy  
balance  
Thermodynamical  
consistency  
The PDE system

## Our main results

Main Hypothesis  
The case of a general  $\alpha$ :  
existence result  
Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's  
The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz  
continuous  
The case  $\alpha = \exp$

## Open problems

# Possible choices of $\hat{\alpha}$ 's

Take the caloric part of the entropy  $u = s - \lambda(\chi)$ .

- If we consider the standard caloric part of the Free Energy  $\hat{\alpha}^*(\vartheta) = c_v \vartheta (\log \vartheta - 1)$  [standard Ginzburg-Landau Free energy functional]

## The model

The equation of microscopic motion  
The internal energy balance  
Thermodynamical consistency  
The PDE system

## Our main results

### Main Hypothesis

The case of a general  $\alpha$ :  
existence result

Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's

The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz  
continuous

The case  $\alpha = \exp$

## Open problems

# Possible choices of $\hat{\alpha}$ 's

Take the caloric part of the entropy  $u = s - \lambda(\chi)$ .

- If we consider the standard caloric part of the Free Energy  $\hat{\alpha}^*(\vartheta) = c_v \vartheta (\log \vartheta - 1)$  [standard Ginzburg-Landau Free energy functional]

$$\implies \hat{\alpha}(u) = c \exp(u)$$

## The model

The equation of microscopic motion  
The internal energy balance  
Thermodynamical consistency  
The PDE system

## Our main results

Main Hypothesis  
The case of a general  $\alpha$ : existence result  
Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's  
The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz continuous  
The case  $\alpha = \exp$

## Open problems

# Possible choices of $\hat{\alpha}$ 's

Take the caloric part of the entropy  $u = s - \lambda(\chi)$ .

- If we consider the standard caloric part of the Free Energy  $\hat{\alpha}^*(\vartheta) = c_V \vartheta (\log \vartheta - 1)$  [standard Ginzburg-Landau Free energy functional]

$$\implies \hat{\alpha}(u) = c \exp(u)$$

- Since,  $c_V$  in the applications may also not be constant, we can allow every form for  $c_V = c_V(\vartheta)$  such that  $\hat{\alpha}(\vartheta)$  is convex - e.g., if  $c_V(\vartheta) = \vartheta^\gamma$ , for  $\vartheta \in (0, \bar{\vartheta})$  with  $\gamma \geq 0$  - since  $c_V(\vartheta) = -\vartheta (\partial^2 \Psi / \partial \vartheta^2)$ , then we have  $\hat{\alpha}^*(\vartheta) = \vartheta^{\gamma+1} / [\gamma(\gamma + 1)]$

## The model

The equation of microscopic motion  
The internal energy balance  
Thermodynamical consistency  
The PDE system

## Our main results

Main Hypothesis  
The case of a general  $\alpha$ : existence result  
Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's  
The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz continuous  
The case  $\alpha = \exp$

## Open problems

# Possible choices of $\hat{\alpha}$ 's

Take the caloric part of the entropy  $u = s - \lambda(\chi)$ .

- If we consider the standard caloric part of the Free Energy  $\hat{\alpha}^*(\vartheta) = c_v \vartheta (\log \vartheta - 1)$  [standard Ginzburg-Landau Free energy functional]

$$\implies \hat{\alpha}(u) = c \exp(u)$$

- Since,  $c_v$  in the applications may also not be constant, we can allow every form for  $c_v = c_v(\vartheta)$  such that  $\hat{\alpha}(\vartheta)$  is convex - e.g., if  $c_v(\vartheta) = \vartheta^\gamma$ , for  $\vartheta \in (0, \bar{\vartheta})$  with  $\gamma \geq 0$  - since  $c_v(\vartheta) = -\vartheta (\partial^2 \Psi / \partial \vartheta^2)$ , then we have  $\hat{\alpha}^*(\vartheta) = \vartheta^{\gamma+1} / [\gamma(\gamma + 1)]$

$\implies$

$$\hat{\alpha}(u) = u^{\frac{\gamma+1}{\gamma}} / (\gamma + 1)$$

## The model

The equation of microscopic motion  
The internal energy balance  
Thermodynamical consistency  
The PDE system

## Our main results

Main Hypothesis  
The case of a general  $\alpha$ : existence result  
Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's  
The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz continuous  
The case  $\alpha = \exp$

## Open problems

# The pseudo-potential of dissipation

We follow the approach of [Moreau, 1971].

## The model

- The equation of microscopic motion
- The internal energy balance
- Thermodynamical consistency
- The PDE system

## Our main results

Main Hypothesis

The case of a general  $\alpha$ :  
existence result

Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's

The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz  
continuous

The case  $\alpha = \exp$

## Open problems

# The pseudo-potential of dissipation

We follow the approach of [Moreau, 1971].

The dissipative variables:  $(\nabla\vartheta, \chi_t) \implies (-\mathbf{Q}, \chi_t)$

## The model

- The equation of microscopic motion
- The internal energy balance
- Thermodynamical consistency
- The PDE system

## Our main results

Main Hypothesis

The case of a general  $\alpha$ :  
existence result

Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's

The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz  
continuous

The case  $\alpha = \exp$

## Open problems

# The pseudo-potential of dissipation

We follow the approach of [Moreau, 1971].

The dissipative variables:  $(\nabla\vartheta, \chi_t) \implies (-\mathbf{Q}, \chi_t)$

The functional:  $\Phi(\nabla\vartheta, \chi_t) \implies \rho(-\mathbf{Q}, \chi_t)$

## The model

The equation of  
microscopic motion  
The internal energy  
balance  
Thermodynamical  
consistency  
The PDE system

## Our main results

Main Hypothesis

The case of a general  $\alpha$ :  
existence result

Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's

The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz  
continuous

The case  $\alpha = \exp$

## Open problems

# The pseudo-potential of dissipation

We follow the approach of [Moreau, 1971].

The dissipative variables:  $(\nabla\vartheta, \chi_t) \implies (-\mathbf{Q}, \chi_t)$

The functional:  $\Phi(\nabla\vartheta, \chi_t) \implies p(-\mathbf{Q}, \chi_t)$

We choose

$$p(\chi_t, -\mathbf{Q}) = \frac{1}{2}|\chi_t|^2 + \frac{1}{2}\alpha'(u)|-\mathbf{Q}|^2.$$

where  $u = s - \lambda(\chi)$ ,  $\alpha = \hat{\alpha}'$ ,  $\Phi = p^*$ , and

## The model

The equation of  
microscopic motion  
The internal energy  
balance  
Thermodynamical  
consistency  
The PDE system

## Our main results

Main Hypothesis

The case of a general  $\alpha$ :  
existence result

Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's

The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz  
continuous

The case  $\alpha = \exp$

## Open problems

# The pseudo-potential of dissipation

We follow the approach of [Moreau, 1971].

The dissipative variables:  $(\nabla\vartheta, \chi_t) \implies (-\mathbf{Q}, \chi_t)$

The functional:  $\Phi(\nabla\vartheta, \chi_t) \implies p(-\mathbf{Q}, \chi_t)$

We choose

$$p(\chi_t, -\mathbf{Q}) = \frac{1}{2}|\chi_t|^2 + \frac{1}{2}\alpha'(u)|-\mathbf{Q}|^2.$$

where  $u = s - \lambda(\chi)$ ,  $\alpha = \hat{\alpha}'$ ,  $\Phi = p^*$ , and

- ▶  $-\mathbf{Q} = \frac{\partial\Phi}{\partial(\nabla\vartheta)}$  the dual conjugate variable of  $\nabla\vartheta$ ,  
i.e. the entropy flux and
- ▶ since  $\hat{\alpha}$  is convex,  $p$  is convex with respect to  $-\mathbf{Q}$ .

## The model

The equation of  
microscopic motion  
The internal energy  
balance  
Thermodynamical  
consistency  
The PDE system

## Our main results

Main Hypothesis

The case of a general  $\alpha$ :  
existence result

Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's

The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz  
continuous

The case  $\alpha = \exp$

## Open problems

# The pseudo-potential of dissipation

We follow the approach of [Moreau, 1971].

The dissipative variables:  $(\nabla\vartheta, \chi_t) \implies (-\mathbf{Q}, \chi_t)$

The functional:  $\Phi(\nabla\vartheta, \chi_t) \implies p(-\mathbf{Q}, \chi_t)$

We choose

$$p(\chi_t, -\mathbf{Q}) = \frac{1}{2}|\chi_t|^2 + \frac{1}{2}\alpha'(u)|-\mathbf{Q}|^2.$$

where  $u = s - \lambda(\chi)$ ,  $\alpha = \hat{\alpha}'$ ,  $\Phi = p^*$ , and

- ▶  $-\mathbf{Q} = \frac{\partial\Phi}{\partial(\nabla\vartheta)}$  the dual conjugate variable of  $\nabla\vartheta$ ,  
i.e. **the entropy flux** and
- ▶ since  $\hat{\alpha}$  is convex,  $p$  is convex with respect to  $-\mathbf{Q}$ .

Indeed, we can compute the conjugate function

$$p^*(\chi_t, \nabla\vartheta) = \sup_{-\mathbf{Q}} \{-\nabla\vartheta \cdot \mathbf{Q} - p(\chi_t, -\mathbf{Q})\},$$
 from which

it follows  $\nabla\vartheta = -\alpha'(u)\mathbf{Q}$  and  $-\mathbf{Q} = \nabla u$  because  
 $\vartheta = \alpha(u)$ .

## The model

The equation of  
microscopic motion  
The internal energy  
balance  
Thermodynamical  
consistency  
The PDE system

## Our main results

Main Hypothesis  
The case of a general  $\alpha$ :  
existence result  
Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's  
The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz  
continuous  
The case  $\alpha = \exp$

## Open problems

# The pseudo-potential of dissipation

We follow the approach of [Moreau, 1971].

The dissipative variables:  $(\nabla\vartheta, \chi_t) \implies (-\mathbf{Q}, \chi_t)$

The functional:  $\Phi(\nabla\vartheta, \chi_t) \implies p(-\mathbf{Q}, \chi_t)$

We choose

$$p(\chi_t, -\mathbf{Q}) = \frac{1}{2}|\chi_t|^2 + \frac{1}{2}\alpha'(u)|-\mathbf{Q}|^2.$$

where  $u = s - \lambda(\chi)$ ,  $\alpha = \hat{\alpha}'$ ,  $\Phi = p^*$ , and

- ▶  $-\mathbf{Q} = \frac{\partial\Phi}{\partial(\nabla\vartheta)}$  the dual conjugate variable of  $\nabla\vartheta$ ,  
i.e. **the entropy flux** and
- ▶ since  $\hat{\alpha}$  is convex,  $p$  is convex with respect to  $-\mathbf{Q}$ .

Hence, we recover the following form for the pseudo-potential of dissipation

$$\Phi(\chi_t, \nabla\vartheta) = p^*(\chi_t, \nabla\vartheta) = \frac{1}{2}|\chi_t|^2 + \frac{1}{2\alpha'(\alpha^{-1}(\vartheta))}|\nabla\vartheta|^2.$$

## The model

The equation of  
microscopic motion  
The internal energy  
balance  
Thermodynamical  
consistency  
The PDE system

## Our main results

Main Hypothesis  
The case of a general  $\alpha$ :  
existence result  
Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's  
The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz  
continuous  
The case  $\alpha = \exp$

## Open problems

# The pseudo-potential of dissipation

We follow the approach of [Moreau, 1971].

The dissipative variables:  $(\nabla\vartheta, \chi_t) \implies (-\mathbf{Q}, \chi_t)$

The functional:  $\Phi(\nabla\vartheta, \chi_t) \implies p(-\mathbf{Q}, \chi_t)$

We choose

$$p(\chi_t, -\mathbf{Q}) = \frac{1}{2}|\chi_t|^2 + \frac{1}{2}\alpha'(u)|-\mathbf{Q}|^2.$$

where  $u = s - \lambda(\chi)$ ,  $\alpha = \hat{\alpha}'$ ,  $\Phi = p^*$ , and

- ▶  $-\mathbf{Q} = \frac{\partial\Phi}{\partial(\nabla\vartheta)}$  the dual conjugate variable of  $\nabla\vartheta$ ,  
i.e. **the entropy flux** and
- ▶ since  $\hat{\alpha}$  is convex,  $p$  is convex with respect to  $-\mathbf{Q}$ .

From which, if  $\alpha'(\alpha^{-1}(\vartheta)) = \vartheta$ , like, e.g., in case

$\alpha(u) = \exp(u)$ , we recover the standard form of  $\Phi$ :

$$\Phi(\chi_t, \nabla\vartheta) = \frac{1}{2}|\chi_t|^2 + \frac{|\nabla\vartheta|^2}{2\vartheta}.$$

## The model

The equation of  
microscopic motion  
The internal energy  
balance  
Thermodynamical  
consistency  
The PDE system

## Our main results

Main Hypothesis  
The case of a general  $\alpha$ :  
existence result  
Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's  
The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz  
continuous  
The case  $\alpha = \exp$

## Open problems

# The equation of microscopic motions

We deduce the equation of microscopic motion for  $\chi$  from the **generalized principle of virtual power** (cf. [M. Frémond, 2002])

## The model

### The equation of microscopic motion

The internal energy  
balance

Thermodynamical  
consistency

The PDE system

## Our main results

Main Hypothesis

The case of a general  $\alpha$ :  
existence result

Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's

The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz  
continuous

The case  $\alpha = \exp$

## Open problems

# The equation of microscopic motions

We deduce the equation of microscopic motion for  $\chi$  from the **generalized principle of virtual power** (cf. [M. Frémond, 2002])

**THE PRINCIPLE OF VIRTUAL POWER for microscopic motion** - for any subdomain  $D \subset \Omega$  and any virtual microscopic velocity  $v$  - reads

$$P_{\text{int}}(D, v) + P_{\text{ext}}(D, v) = \mathbf{0},$$

where ( $B$  and  $\mathbf{H}$  are new interior forces)

## The model

### The equation of microscopic motion

The internal energy  
balance

Thermodynamical  
consistency

The PDE system

## Our main results

### Main Hypothesis

The case of a general  $\alpha$ :  
existence result

Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's

The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz  
continuous

The case  $\alpha = \exp$

## Open problems

# The equation of microscopic motions

We deduce the equation of microscopic motion for  $\chi$  from the **generalized principle of virtual power** (cf. [M. Frémond, 2002])

**THE PRINCIPLE OF VIRTUAL POWER for microscopic motion** - for any subdomain  $D \subset \Omega$  and any virtual microscopic velocity  $v$  - reads

$$P_{\text{int}}(D, v) + P_{\text{ext}}(D, v) = \mathbf{0},$$

where ( $B$  and  $\mathbf{H}$  are new interior forces)

$$P_{\text{int}}(D, v) := - \int_D (B v + \mathbf{H} \cdot \nabla v),$$

$$P_{\text{ext}}(D, v) := \int_D A v + \int_{\partial D} a v = 0.$$

## The model

### The equation of microscopic motion

The internal energy balance

Thermodynamical consistency

The PDE system

## Our main results

Main Hypothesis

The case of a general  $\alpha$ :  
existence result

Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's

The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz  
continuous

The case  $\alpha = \exp$

## Open problems

# The equation of microscopic motions

We deduce the equation of microscopic motion for  $\chi$  from the **generalized principle of virtual power** (cf. [M. Frémond, 2002])

**THE PRINCIPLE OF VIRTUAL POWER for microscopic motion** - for any subdomain  $D \subset \Omega$  and any virtual microscopic velocity  $v$  - reads

$$P_{\text{int}}(D, v) + P_{\text{ext}}(D, v) = \mathbf{0},$$

where ( $B$  and  $\mathbf{H}$  are new interior forces)

$$P_{\text{int}}(D, v) := - \int_D (B v + \mathbf{H} \cdot \nabla v),$$

$$P_{\text{ext}}(D, v) := \int_D A v + \int_{\partial D} a v = 0.$$

In absence of external actions we get

$$\boxed{B - \operatorname{div} \mathbf{H} = 0} \quad \text{in } \Omega \quad \text{with} \quad \mathbf{H} \cdot \mathbf{n} = 0 \quad \text{on } \partial\Omega.$$

## The model

### The equation of microscopic motion

The internal energy balance

Thermodynamical consistency

The PDE system

## Our main results

Main Hypothesis

The case of a general  $\alpha$ : existence result

Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's

The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz continuous

The case  $\alpha = \exp$

## Open problems

# The phase inclusion

The equilibrium equation

$$B - \operatorname{div} \mathbf{H} = 0 \text{ in } \Omega \quad + \quad \mathbf{H} \cdot \mathbf{n} = 0 \text{ on } \partial\Omega,$$

## The model

### The equation of microscopic motion

The internal energy  
balance

Thermodynamical  
consistency

The PDE system

## Our main results

Main Hypothesis

The case of a general  $\alpha$ :  
existence result

Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's

The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz  
continuous

The case  $\alpha = \exp$

## Open problems

# The phase inclusion

## The equilibrium equation

$$B - \operatorname{div} \mathbf{H} = 0 \text{ in } \Omega \quad + \quad \mathbf{H} \cdot \mathbf{n} = 0 \text{ on } \partial\Omega,$$

where

$$B = \frac{\partial E}{\partial \chi} + \frac{\partial p}{\partial \chi_t}, \quad \mathbf{H} = \frac{\partial E}{\partial (\nabla \chi)},$$

### The model

#### The equation of microscopic motion

The internal energy  
balance

Thermodynamical  
consistency

The PDE system

### Our main results

Main Hypothesis

The case of a general  $\alpha$ :  
existence result

Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's

The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz  
continuous

The case  $\alpha = \exp$

### Open problems

# The phase inclusion

The equilibrium equation

$$B - \operatorname{div} \mathbf{H} = 0 \text{ in } \Omega \quad + \quad \mathbf{H} \cdot \mathbf{n} = 0 \text{ on } \partial\Omega,$$

where

$$B = \frac{\partial E}{\partial \chi} + \frac{\partial p}{\partial \chi_t}, \quad \mathbf{H} = \frac{\partial E}{\partial (\nabla \chi)},$$

and

$$E(\mathbf{s}, \chi, \nabla \chi) = \hat{\alpha}(\mathbf{s} - \lambda(\chi)) + \sigma(\chi) + \hat{\beta}(\chi) + \frac{\nu}{2} |\nabla \chi|^2,$$

$$p = (\chi_t, -\mathbf{Q}) = \frac{1}{2} |\chi_t|^2 + \frac{1}{2} \alpha'(\mathbf{s} - \lambda(\chi)) - |\mathbf{Q}|^2$$

↓

## The model

The equation of  
microscopic motion

The internal energy  
balance

Thermodynamical  
consistency

The PDE system

## Our main results

Main Hypothesis

The case of a general  $\alpha$ :  
existence result

Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's

The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz  
continuous

The case  $\alpha = \exp$

## Open problems

# The phase inclusion

The equilibrium equation

$$B - \operatorname{div} \mathbf{H} = 0 \text{ in } \Omega \quad + \quad \mathbf{H} \cdot \mathbf{n} = 0 \text{ on } \partial\Omega,$$

where

$$B = \frac{\partial E}{\partial \chi} + \frac{\partial p}{\partial \chi_t}, \quad \mathbf{H} = \frac{\partial E}{\partial (\nabla \chi)},$$

and

$$E(\mathbf{s}, \chi, \nabla \chi) = \hat{\alpha}(\mathbf{s} - \lambda(\chi)) + \sigma(\chi) + \hat{\beta}(\chi) + \frac{\nu}{2} |\nabla \chi|^2,$$

$$p = (\chi_t, -\mathbf{Q}) = \frac{1}{2} |\chi_t|^2 + \frac{1}{2} \alpha'(\mathbf{s} - \lambda(\chi)) |-\mathbf{Q}|^2$$

↓

$$\chi_t - \nu \Delta \chi + \beta(\chi) + \sigma'(\chi) - \alpha(\mathbf{s} - \lambda(\chi)) \lambda'(\chi) \ni 0 \quad \text{in } \Omega$$

$$\text{and } \partial_{\mathbf{n}} \chi = 0 \text{ on } \partial\Omega$$

where  $\alpha = \hat{\alpha}'$  and  $\beta = \partial \hat{\beta}$ .

## The model

### The equation of microscopic motion

The internal energy  
balance

Thermodynamical  
consistency

The PDE system

## Our main results

Main Hypothesis

The case of a general  $\alpha$ :  
existence result

Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's

The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz  
continuous

The case  $\alpha = \exp$

## Open problems

# Possible choices of the potentials $\widehat{\beta}$

Formulazione  
duale di modelli  
di phase-field

E. Rocca

## The model

### The equation of microscopic motion

The internal energy  
balance

Thermodynamical  
consistency

The PDE system

## Our main results

Main Hypothesis

The case of a general  $\alpha$ :  
existence result

Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's

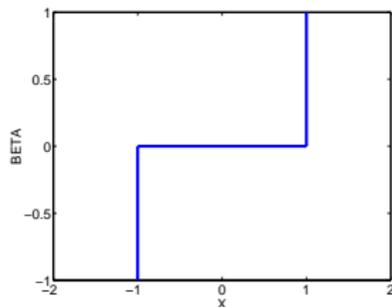
The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz  
continuous

The case  $\alpha = \exp$

## Open problems

# Possible choices of the potentials $\hat{\beta}$

Subdifferential case:  $\beta := \partial \hat{\beta} = \partial I_{[-1,1]}$ :



## The model

### The equation of microscopic motion

The internal energy  
balance

Thermodynamical  
consistency

The PDE system

## Our main results

Main Hypothesis

The case of a general  $\alpha$ :  
existence result

Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's

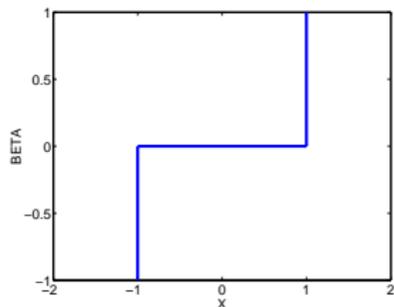
The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz  
continuous

The case  $\alpha = \exp$

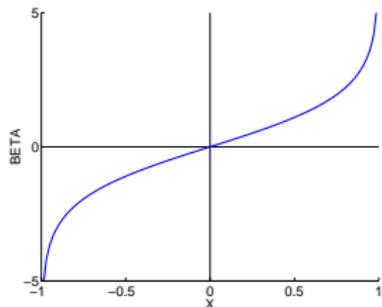
## Open problems

# Possible choices of the potentials $\widehat{\beta}$

Subdifferential case:  $\beta := \partial \widehat{\beta} = \partial I_{[-1,1]}$ :



Logarithmic case:  $\beta := \partial \widehat{\beta} = \log(1 + \chi) - \log(1 - \chi)$ :



## The model

### The equation of microscopic motion

The internal energy  
balance

Thermodynamical  
consistency

The PDE system

## Our main results

Main Hypothesis

The case of a general  $\alpha$ :  
existence result

Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's

The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz  
continuous

The case  $\alpha = \exp$

## Open problems

# The first Principle

For any subdomain  $D \subset \Omega$  and in absence of external actions, it reads

$$\frac{d}{dt} \int_D E d\Omega = -P_{\text{int}}(D, \chi_t).$$

## The model

The equation of  
microscopic motion

**The internal energy  
balance**

Thermodynamical  
consistency

The PDE system

## Our main results

Main Hypothesis

The case of a general  $\alpha$ :  
existence result

Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's

The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz  
continuous

The case  $\alpha = \exp$

## Open problems

# The first Principle

For any subdomain  $D \subset \Omega$  and in absence of external actions, it reads

$$\frac{d}{dt} \int_D E \, d\Omega = -P_{\text{int}}(D, \chi_t).$$

Then, if we take - as before - the following form for the power of internal actions:

$$P_{\text{int}}(D, \chi_t) = - \int_D (B \chi_t + \mathbf{H} \cdot \nabla \chi_t) \, d\Omega,$$

with

$$B = \frac{\partial E}{\partial \chi} + \frac{\partial p}{\partial \chi_t}, \quad \mathbf{H} = \frac{\partial E}{\partial (\nabla \chi)},$$

## The model

The equation of  
microscopic motion

**The internal energy  
balance**

Thermodynamical  
consistency

The PDE system

## Our main results

Main Hypothesis

The case of a general  $\alpha$ :  
existence result

Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's

The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz  
continuous

The case  $\alpha = \exp$

## Open problems

# The first Principle

For any subdomain  $D \subset \Omega$  and in absence of external actions, it reads

$$\frac{d}{dt} \int_D E \, d\Omega = -P_{\text{int}}(D, \chi_t).$$

Then, if we take - as before - the following form for the power of internal actions:

$$P_{\text{int}}(D, \chi_t) = - \int_D (B\chi_t + \mathbf{H} \cdot \nabla \chi_t) \, d\Omega,$$

with

$$B = \frac{\partial E}{\partial \chi} + \frac{\partial p}{\partial \chi_t}, \quad \mathbf{H} = \frac{\partial E}{\partial (\nabla \chi)},$$

we get exactly that there exists  $\mathbf{q}$  such that

$$E_t + \text{div } \mathbf{q} = \frac{\partial E}{\partial \chi} \chi_t + \frac{\partial p}{\partial \chi_t} \chi_t + \frac{\partial E}{\partial (\nabla \chi)} \nabla \chi_t \quad \text{in } \Omega.$$

## The model

The equation of  
microscopic motion

**The internal energy  
balance**

Thermodynamical  
consistency

The PDE system

## Our main results

Main Hypothesis

The case of a general  $\alpha$ :  
existence result

Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's

The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz  
continuous

The case  $\alpha = \exp$

## Open problems

# The energy balance

Hence, the first principle of thermodynamics reads

$$E_t + \operatorname{div} \mathbf{q} = \frac{\partial E}{\partial \chi} \chi_t + \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial \chi_t} \chi_t + \frac{\partial E}{\partial (\nabla \chi)} \nabla \chi_t \quad \text{in } \Omega.$$

## The model

The equation of  
microscopic motion

### The internal energy balance

Thermodynamical  
consistency

The PDE system

## Our main results

Main Hypothesis

The case of a general  $\alpha$ :  
existence result

Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's

The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz  
continuous

The case  $\alpha = \exp$

## Open problems

# The energy balance

Hence, the first principle of thermodynamics reads

$$E_t + \operatorname{div} \mathbf{q} = \frac{\partial E}{\partial \chi} \chi_t + \frac{\partial p}{\partial \chi_t} \chi_t + \frac{\partial E}{\partial (\nabla \chi)} \nabla \chi_t \quad \text{in } \Omega.$$

With

$$E(\mathbf{s}, \chi, \nabla \chi) = \hat{\alpha}(\mathbf{s} - \lambda(\chi)) + \sigma(\chi) + \hat{\beta}(\chi) + \frac{\nu}{2} |\nabla \chi|^2,$$

$$p = (\chi_t, -\mathbf{Q}) = \frac{1}{2} |\chi_t|^2 + \frac{1}{2} \alpha'(\mathbf{s} - \lambda(\chi)) - |\mathbf{Q}|^2,$$

and, denoting by  $\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{s} - \lambda(\chi)$ , it gives:

## The model

The equation of  
microscopic motion

**The internal energy  
balance**

Thermodynamical  
consistency

The PDE system

## Our main results

Main Hypothesis

The case of a general  $\alpha$ :  
existence result

Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's

The case  $\alpha$ : Lipschitz  
continuous

The case  $\alpha = \exp$

## Open problems

# The energy balance

Hence, the first principle of thermodynamics reads

$$E_t + \operatorname{div} \mathbf{q} = \frac{\partial E}{\partial \chi} \chi_t + \frac{\partial p}{\partial \chi_t} \chi_t + \frac{\partial E}{\partial (\nabla \chi)} \nabla \chi_t \quad \text{in } \Omega.$$

With

$$E(\mathbf{s}, \chi, \nabla \chi) = \hat{\alpha}(\mathbf{s} - \lambda(\chi)) + \sigma(\chi) + \hat{\beta}(\chi) + \frac{\nu}{2} |\nabla \chi|^2,$$

$$p = (\chi_t, -\mathbf{Q}) = \frac{1}{2} |\chi_t|^2 + \frac{1}{2} \alpha'(\mathbf{s} - \lambda(\chi)) - |\mathbf{Q}|^2,$$

and, denoting by  $\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{s} - \lambda(\chi)$ , it gives:

$$\alpha(\mathbf{u}) (\mathbf{s}_t + \operatorname{div} \mathbf{Q}) = \alpha'(\mathbf{u}) |\nabla \mathbf{u}|^2 + \chi_t^2 \quad \text{in } \Omega$$

where

- we recall that  $\alpha(\mathbf{s} - \lambda(\chi)) = \hat{\alpha}'(\mathbf{s} - \lambda(\chi)) = \frac{\partial E}{\partial \mathbf{s}}$ ,
- and we have chosen  $\mathbf{q}$  such that  $\mathbf{q}/\alpha(\mathbf{u}) = \mathbf{Q} = -\nabla \mathbf{u}$ .

## The model

The equation of  
microscopic motion

The internal energy  
balance

Thermodynamical  
consistency

The PDE system

## Our main results

Main Hypothesis

The case of a general  $\alpha$ :  
existence result

Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's

The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz  
continuous

The case  $\alpha = \exp$

## Open problems

# Thermodynamical consistency

Formulazione  
duale di modelli  
di phase-field

E. Rocca

## The model

The equation of  
microscopic motion

The internal energy  
balance

**Thermodynamical  
consistency**

The PDE system

## Our main results

Main Hypothesis

The case of a general  $\alpha$ :  
existence result

Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's

The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz  
continuous

The case  $\alpha = \exp$

## Open problems

# Thermodynamical consistency

Formulazione  
duale di modelli  
di phase-field

E. Rocca

Moreover, in

$$\alpha(u) (s_t + \operatorname{div} \mathbf{Q}) = \alpha'(u) |\nabla u|^2 + \chi_t^2$$

we have

## The model

The equation of  
microscopic motion

The internal energy  
balance

**Thermodynamical  
consistency**

The PDE system

## Our main results

Main Hypothesis

The case of a general  $\alpha$ :  
existence result

Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's

The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz  
continuous

The case  $\alpha = \exp$

## Open problems

# Thermodynamical consistency

Moreover, in

$$\alpha(\mathbf{u}) (\mathbf{s}_t + \operatorname{div} \mathbf{Q}) = \alpha'(\mathbf{u}) |\nabla \mathbf{u}|^2 + \chi_t^2$$

we have

- ▶  $\alpha(\mathbf{u}) = \alpha(\mathbf{s} - \lambda(\chi)) = \hat{\alpha}'(\mathbf{s} - \lambda(\chi)) = \frac{\partial E}{\partial \mathbf{s}} (= \vartheta) > 0$   
( $\vartheta$  is the absolute temperature) – because we have assumed  $\hat{\alpha}$  to be **increasing**,
- ▶  $\alpha' > 0$  – because we have assumed  $\hat{\alpha}$  to be **convex**.

## The model

The equation of  
microscopic motion

The internal energy  
balance

**Thermodynamical  
consistency**

The PDE system

## Our main results

Main Hypothesis

The case of a general  $\alpha$ :  
existence result

Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's

The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz  
continuous

The case  $\alpha = \exp$

## Open problems

# Thermodynamical consistency

Moreover, in

$$\alpha(u) (s_t + \operatorname{div} \mathbf{Q}) = \alpha'(u) |\nabla u|^2 + \chi_t^2$$

we have

- ▶  $\alpha(u) = \alpha(\mathbf{s} - \lambda(\chi)) = \hat{\alpha}'(\mathbf{s} - \lambda(\chi)) = \frac{\partial E}{\partial \mathbf{s}} (= \vartheta) > 0$   
( $\vartheta$  is the absolute temperature) – because we have assumed  $\hat{\alpha}$  to be **increasing**,
- ▶  $\alpha' > 0$  – because we have assumed  $\hat{\alpha}$  to be **convex**.

Divide by  $\alpha(u) > 0$  the internal energy balance, getting

$$s_t + \operatorname{div} \mathbf{Q} \geq 0,$$

that is just the **pointwise Clausius-Duhem inequality** .

## The model

The equation of  
microscopic motion

The internal energy  
balance

**Thermodynamical  
consistency**

The PDE system

## Our main results

Main Hypothesis

The case of a general  $\alpha$ :  
existence result

Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's

The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz  
continuous

The case  $\alpha = \exp$

## Open problems

# The PDE equation for $u$

Formulazione  
duale di modelli  
di phase-field

E. Rocca

## The model

The equation of  
microscopic motion

The internal energy  
balance

**Thermodynamical  
consistency**

The PDE system

## Our main results

Main Hypothesis

The case of a general  $\alpha$ :  
existence result

Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's

The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz  
continuous

The case  $\alpha = \exp$

## Open problems

# The PDE equation for $u$

From the following **energy conservation principle**

$$\alpha(u) (s_t + \operatorname{div} \mathbf{Q}) = \alpha'(u) |\nabla u|^2 + \chi_t^2$$

where  $u = s - \lambda(\chi)$ ,

## The model

The equation of  
microscopic motion

The internal energy  
balance

**Thermodynamical  
consistency**

The PDE system

## Our main results

Main Hypothesis

The case of a general  $\alpha$ :  
existence result

Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's

The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz  
continuous

The case  $\alpha = \exp$

## Open problems

# The PDE equation for $u$

From the following **energy conservation principle**

$$\alpha(u) (s_t + \operatorname{div} \mathbf{Q}) = \alpha'(u) |\nabla u|^2 + \chi_t^2$$

where  $u = s - \lambda(\chi)$ , dividing by  $\alpha(u)$ ,

## The model

The equation of  
microscopic motion

The internal energy  
balance

**Thermodynamical  
consistency**

The PDE system

## Our main results

Main Hypothesis

The case of a general  $\alpha$ :  
existence result

Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's

The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz  
continuous

The case  $\alpha = \exp$

## Open problems

# The PDE equation for $u$

From the following **energy conservation principle**

$$\alpha(u) (s_t + \operatorname{div} \mathbf{Q}) = \alpha'(u) |\nabla u|^2 + \chi_t^2$$

where  $u = s - \lambda(\chi)$ , dividing by  $\alpha(u)$ , and using the **small perturbations assumption** (cf. [Germain]) - which allow us to neglect the higher order dissipative contributions on the right hand side -

## The model

The equation of  
microscopic motion

The internal energy  
balance

**Thermodynamical  
consistency**

The PDE system

## Our main results

Main Hypothesis

The case of a general  $\alpha$ :  
existence result

Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's

The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz  
continuous

The case  $\alpha = \exp$

## Open problems

# The PDE equation for $u$

From the following **energy conservation principle**

$$\alpha(u) (s_t + \operatorname{div} \mathbf{Q}) = \alpha'(u) |\nabla u|^2 + \chi_t^2$$

where  $u = s - \lambda(\chi)$ , dividing by  $\alpha(u)$ , and using the **small perturbations assumption** (cf. [Germain]) - which allow us to neglect the higher order dissipative contributions on the right hand side - we obtain the following equation for  $u$

## The model

The equation of  
microscopic motion

The internal energy  
balance

**Thermodynamical  
consistency**

The PDE system

## Our main results

Main Hypothesis

The case of a general  $\alpha$ :  
existence result

Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's

The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz  
continuous

The case  $\alpha = \exp$

## Open problems

# The PDE equation for $u$

From the following **energy conservation principle**

$$\alpha(u) (s_t + \operatorname{div} \mathbf{Q}) = \alpha'(u) |\nabla u|^2 + \chi_t^2$$

where  $u = s - \lambda(\chi)$ , dividing by  $\alpha(u)$ , and using the **small perturbations assumption** (cf. [Germain]) - which allow us to neglect the higher order dissipative contributions on the right hand side - we obtain the following equation for  $u$

$$(u + \lambda(\chi))_t - \Delta u = 0, \quad (\text{EB})$$

## The model

The equation of  
microscopic motion

The internal energy  
balance

**Thermodynamical  
consistency**

The PDE system

## Our main results

Main Hypothesis

The case of a general  $\alpha$ :  
existence result

Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's

The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz  
continuous

The case  $\alpha = \exp$

## Open problems

# The PDE equation for $u$

From the following **energy conservation principle**

$$\alpha(u) (s_t + \operatorname{div} \mathbf{Q}) = \alpha'(u) |\nabla u|^2 + \chi_t^2$$

where  $u = s - \lambda(\chi)$ , dividing by  $\alpha(u)$ , and using the **small perturbations assumption** (cf. [Germain]) - which allow us to neglect the higher order dissipative contributions on the right hand side - we obtain the following equation for  $u$

$$(u + \lambda(\chi))_t - \Delta u = 0, \quad (\text{EB})$$

where we have taken - as before -  $\mathbf{Q} = -\nabla u$ .

## The model

The equation of  
microscopic motion

The internal energy  
balance

**Thermodynamical  
consistency**

The PDE system

## Our main results

Main Hypothesis

The case of a general  $\alpha$ :  
existence result

Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's

The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz  
continuous

The case  $\alpha = \exp$

## Open problems

# The PDE equation for $u$

From the following **energy conservation principle**

$$\alpha(u) (s_t + \operatorname{div} \mathbf{Q}) = \alpha'(u) |\nabla u|^2 + \chi_t^2$$

where  $u = s - \lambda(\chi)$ , dividing by  $\alpha(u)$ , and using the **small perturbations assumption** (cf. [Germain]) - which allow us to neglect the higher order dissipative contributions on the right hand side - we obtain the following equation for  $u$

$$(u + \lambda(\chi))_t - \Delta u = 0, \quad (\text{EB})$$

where we have taken - as before -  $\mathbf{Q} = -\nabla u$ . We generalize now the system in this direction:

- ▶ we let  $\alpha = \partial \hat{\alpha}$  be a **general MAXIMAL MONOTONE GRAPH** (maybe also multivalued),

## The model

The equation of microscopic motion

The internal energy balance

**Thermodynamical consistency**

The PDE system

## Our main results

Main Hypothesis

The case of a general  $\alpha$ : existence result

Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's

The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz continuous

The case  $\alpha = \exp$

## Open problems

# The PDE equation for $u$

From the following **energy conservation principle**

$$\alpha(u) (s_t + \operatorname{div} \mathbf{Q}) = \alpha'(u) |\nabla u|^2 + \chi_t^2$$

where  $u = s - \lambda(\chi)$ , dividing by  $\alpha(u)$ , and using the **small perturbations assumption** (cf. [Germain]) - which allow us to neglect the higher order dissipative contributions on the right hand side - we obtain the following equation for  $u$

$$(u + \lambda(\chi))_t - \Delta u = 0, \quad (\text{EB})$$

where we have taken - as before -  $\mathbf{Q} = -\nabla u$ . We generalize now the system in this direction:

- ▶ we let  $\alpha = \partial \hat{\alpha}$  be a **general MAXIMAL MONOTONE GRAPH** (maybe also multivalued),
- ▶ we include in the internal energy balance memory effects, i.e. the term  $-\operatorname{div} \int_{-\infty}^t k(t-\tau) \nabla \alpha(u(\tau)) d\tau$  on the left hand side of (EB).

## The model

The equation of  
microscopic motion

The internal energy  
balance

**Thermodynamical  
consistency**

The PDE system

## Our main results

Main Hypothesis

The case of a general  $\alpha$ :  
existence result

Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's

The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz  
continuous

The case  $\alpha = \exp$

## Open problems

# The PDE system

Formulazione  
duale di modelli  
di phase-field

E. Rocca

## The model

The equation of  
microscopic motion

The internal energy  
balance

Thermodynamical  
consistency

**The PDE system**

## Our main results

Main Hypothesis

The case of a general  $\alpha$ :  
existence result

Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's

The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz  
continuous

The case  $\alpha = \exp$

## Open problems

# The PDE system

Take the auxiliary variable

$$u = s - \lambda(\chi)$$

## The model

The equation of  
microscopic motion

The internal energy  
balance

Thermodynamical  
consistency

**The PDE system**

## Our main results

Main Hypothesis

The case of a general  $\alpha$ :  
existence result

Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's

The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz  
continuous

The case  $\alpha = \exp$

## Open problems

# The PDE system

Take the auxiliary variable  $u = s - \lambda(\chi)$  and suppose to know the past history of  $\alpha(u) = \vartheta$  up to time  $t = 0$ ,

## The model

The equation of  
microscopic motion

The internal energy  
balance

Thermodynamical  
consistency

**The PDE system**

## Our main results

Main Hypothesis

The case of a general  $\alpha$ :  
existence result

Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's

The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz  
continuous

The case  $\alpha = \exp$

## Open problems

# The PDE system

Take the auxiliary variable  $u = s - \lambda(\chi)$  and suppose to know the past history of  $\alpha(u) = \vartheta$  up to time  $t = 0$ , i.e. suppose the history term:

$$\operatorname{div} \int_{-\infty}^0 k(t - \tau) \nabla \alpha(u(\tau)) \, d\tau \quad \text{to be known.}$$

Put it on the right hand side.

## The model

The equation of  
microscopic motion

The internal energy  
balance

Thermodynamical  
consistency

**The PDE system**

## Our main results

Main Hypothesis

The case of a general  $\alpha$ :  
existence result

Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's

The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz  
continuous

The case  $\alpha = \exp$

## Open problems

# The PDE system

Take the auxiliary variable  $u = s - \lambda(\chi)$  and suppose to know the past history of  $\alpha(u) = \vartheta$  up to time  $t = 0$ , i.e. suppose the history term:

$$\operatorname{div} \int_{-\infty}^0 k(t - \tau) \nabla \alpha(u(\tau)) \, d\tau \quad \text{to be known.}$$

Put it on the right hand side. Then, we aim to find suitably regular  $(u, \chi)$  solving in a proper sense:

$$(u + \lambda(\chi))_t - \Delta(u + k * \alpha(u)) \ni r \quad \text{in } \Omega$$

$$\partial_{\mathbf{n}}(u + k * \alpha(u)) \ni h \quad \text{on } \partial\Omega$$

$$\chi_t - \nu \Delta \chi + \beta(\chi) + \sigma'(\chi) - \lambda'(\chi) \alpha(u) \ni 0 \quad \text{in } \Omega$$

$$\partial_{\mathbf{n}} \chi = 0 \quad \text{on } \partial\Omega$$

$$u(0) = u_0, \quad \chi(0) = \chi_0 \quad \text{in } \Omega.$$

We must suppose from now on  $\lambda'$  constant ( $= 1$  for simplicity).

## The model

The equation of  
microscopic motion

The internal energy  
balance

Thermodynamical  
consistency

**The PDE system**

## Our main results

Main Hypothesis

The case of a general  $\alpha$ :  
existence result

Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's

The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz  
continuous

The case  $\alpha = \exp$

## Open problems

## Our main results

- ▶ An **existence (of weak solutions)** result under **general** assumptions on the nonlinearity  $\alpha$  for a graph  $\beta$  with domain the whole  $\mathbb{R}$  and with at most a polynomial growth at  $\infty$

### The model

The equation of  
microscopic motion  
The internal energy  
balance  
Thermodynamical  
consistency  
The PDE system

### Our main results

Main Hypothesis  
The case of a general  $\alpha$ :  
existence result  
Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's  
The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz  
continuous  
The case  $\alpha = \exp$

### Open problems

## Our main results

- ▶ An **existence (of weak solutions)** result under **general** assumptions on the nonlinearity  $\alpha$  for a graph  $\beta$  with domain the whole  $\mathbb{R}$  and with at most a polynomial growth at  $\infty$
- ▶ An **existence-uniqueness-long-time behaviour** (of solutions) result in case  $\alpha$  is **Lipschitz-continuous** and for a **general**  $\beta$

### The model

The equation of microscopic motion  
The internal energy balance  
Thermodynamical consistency  
The PDE system

### Our main results

Main Hypothesis  
The case of a general  $\alpha$ :  
existence result  
Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's  
The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz  
continuous  
The case  $\alpha = \exp$

### Open problems

## Our main results

- ▶ An **existence (of weak solutions)** result under **general** assumptions on the nonlinearity  $\alpha$  for a graph  $\beta$  with domain the whole  $\mathbb{R}$  and with at most a polynomial growth at  $\infty$
- ▶ An **existence-uniqueness-long-time behaviour** (of solutions) result in case  $\alpha$  is **Lipschitz-continuous** and for a **general**  $\beta$
- ▶ An **existence-long-time behaviour** (of solutions) result in case  $\alpha = \exp$  and for a **general**  $\beta$

### The model

The equation of microscopic motion  
The internal energy balance  
Thermodynamical consistency  
The PDE system

### Our main results

Main Hypothesis  
The case of a general  $\alpha$ : existence result  
Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's  
The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz continuous  
The case  $\alpha = \exp$

### Open problems

# Hypotheses 1

Formulazione  
duale di modelli  
di phase-field

E. Rocca

## The model

The equation of  
microscopic motion  
The internal energy  
balance  
Thermodynamical  
consistency  
The PDE system

## Our main results

### Main Hypothesis

The case of a general  $\alpha$ :  
existence result

Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's

The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz  
continuous

The case  $\alpha = \exp$

## Open problems

# Hypotheses 1

- ▶  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^3$  bdd connected domain with sufficiently smooth boundary  $\Gamma := \partial\Omega$
- ▶  $t \in [0, \infty]$ ,  $Q_t := \Omega \times (0, t)$ ,  $\Sigma_t := \Gamma \times (0, t)$ ,
- ▶  $V := H^1(\Omega) \hookrightarrow H := L^2(\Omega) \equiv H' \hookrightarrow V'$  the Hilbert triplet.

## The model

The equation of  
microscopic motion  
The internal energy  
balance  
Thermodynamical  
consistency  
The PDE system

## Our main results

### Main Hypothesis

The case of a general  $\alpha$ :  
existence result  
Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's  
The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz  
continuous  
The case  $\alpha = \exp$

## Open problems

# Hypotheses 1

- ▶  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^3$  bdd connected domain with sufficiently smooth boundary  $\Gamma := \partial\Omega$
- ▶  $t \in [0, \infty]$ ,  $Q_t := \Omega \times (0, t)$ ,  $\Sigma_t := \Gamma \times (0, t)$ ,
- ▶  $V := H^1(\Omega) \hookrightarrow H := L^2(\Omega) \equiv H' \hookrightarrow V'$  the Hilbert triplet.

Suppose moreover that

$\beta = \partial\hat{\beta}$ ,  $\alpha = \partial\hat{\alpha}$ , with  $\hat{\beta}, \hat{\alpha} : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow (-\infty, +\infty]$  are proper, convex, and lower semicontinuous

$$\sigma \in C^2(D(\beta)), \quad \sigma'' \in L^\infty(D(\beta)), \quad \nu \geq 0$$

$$k \in W^{2,1}(0, t), \quad k(0) \geq 0, \quad k \equiv 0 \text{ if } k(0) = 0,$$

$$r \in L^2(Q_t) \cap L^1(0, T; L^\infty(\Omega)), \quad h \in L^\infty(\Sigma_t),$$

$$\langle R(t), v \rangle = \int_{\Omega} r(\cdot, t)v + \int_{\Gamma} h(\cdot, v)v|_{\Gamma} \quad \forall v \in V$$

$$u_0 \in H, \hat{\alpha}(u_0) \in L^1(\Omega), \chi_0 \in H, \nu\chi_0 \in V, \hat{\beta}(\chi_0) \in L^1(\Omega).$$

## The model

The equation of  
microscopic motion  
The internal energy  
balance  
Thermodynamical  
consistency  
The PDE system

## Our main results

### Main Hypothesis

The case of a general  $\alpha$ :  
existence result  
Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's  
The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz  
continuous  
The case  $\alpha = \exp$

## Open problems

# Existence result for a general $\alpha$

Formulazione  
duale di modelli  
di phase-field

E. Rocca

## The model

The equation of  
microscopic motion  
The internal energy  
balance  
Thermodynamical  
consistency  
The PDE system

## Our main results

Main Hypothesis

**The case of a general  $\alpha$ :  
existence result**

Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's

The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz  
continuous

The case  $\alpha = \exp$

## Open problems

Existence result for a general  $\alpha$ 

**Thm 1.** Let  $T$  be a positive final time, **HYPOTHESIS 1** be satisfied with  $t = T$ , and suppose moreover that  $\nu > 0$ ,  $k(0) > 0$ , and there exists  $\rho < 5$  such that

$$|\beta(\mathbf{s})| \leq c_\beta + c'_\beta \min\{|\mathbf{s}|^\rho, |\widehat{\beta}(\mathbf{s})|\} \quad \forall \mathbf{s} \in \mathbb{R}, \quad (\text{beta})$$

## The model

- The equation of microscopic motion
- The internal energy balance
- Thermodynamical consistency
- The PDE system

## Our main results

- Main Hypothesis

- The case of a general  $\alpha$ : existence result**

- Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's

- The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz continuous

- The case  $\alpha = \exp$

## Open problems

## The model

The equation of  
 microscopic motion  
 The internal energy  
 balance  
 Thermodynamical  
 consistency  
 The PDE system

## Our main results

Main Hypothesis  
**The case of a general  $\alpha$ :  
 existence result**  
 Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's  
 The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz  
 continuous  
 The case  $\alpha = \exp$

## Open problems

# Existence result for a general $\alpha$

**Thm 1.** Let  $T$  be a positive final time, **HYPOTHESIS 1** be satisfied with  $t = T$ , and suppose moreover that  $\nu > 0$ ,  $k(0) > 0$ , and there exists  $p < 5$  such that

$$|\beta(s)| \leq c_\beta + c'_\beta \min\{|s|^p, |\widehat{\beta}(s)|\} \quad \forall s \in \mathbb{R}, \quad (\text{beta})$$

then there exists at least a couple  $(u, \chi)$  with the regularity properties

$$u \in H^1(0, T; V') \cap L^2(0, T; V), \quad \chi \in H^1(0, T; H) \cap L^\infty(0, T; V),$$

$$\alpha_{V', V}(u) \in L^2(0, T; V'),$$

$$1 * \alpha_{V', V}(u) \in L^2(0, T; V) \cap C^0(0, T; H)$$

solving, a.e. in  $(0, T)$ , the PDE system:

$$\partial_t(u + \chi) + Au + A(k * \alpha_{V', V}(u)) \ni R, \quad \text{in } V', \quad (1)$$

$$\partial_t \chi + \nu A \chi + \beta(\chi) + \sigma'(\chi) - \alpha_{V', V}(u) \ni 0 \quad \text{in } V', \quad (2)$$

$$u(0) = u_0, \quad \chi(0) = \chi_0 \quad \text{a.e. in } \Omega.$$

# Meaningful $\alpha$ 's

Formulazione  
duale di modelli  
di phase-field

E. Rocca

## The model

The equation of  
microscopic motion  
The internal energy  
balance  
Thermodynamical  
consistency  
The PDE system

## Our main results

Main Hypothesis

The case of a general  $\alpha$ :  
existence result

**Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's**

The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz  
continuous

The case  $\alpha = \exp$

## Open problems

# Meaningful $\alpha$ 's

- $\alpha(u) = \exp(u)(= \vartheta)$ : we recover the model proposed by [Bonetti, Colli, Frémond, '03]

$$(u + \chi)_t - \Delta(u + k * \exp(u)) = r$$
$$\chi_t - \nu \Delta \chi + \beta(\chi) + \sigma'(\chi) - \exp(u) \ni 0.$$

## The model

The equation of microscopic motion  
The internal energy balance  
Thermodynamical consistency  
The PDE system

## Our main results

Main Hypothesis  
The case of a general  $\alpha$ : existence result  
**Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's**  
The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz continuous  
The case  $\alpha = \exp$

## Open problems

# Meaningful $\alpha$ 's

- $\alpha(u) = \exp(u) (= \vartheta)$ : we recover the model proposed by [Bonetti, Colli, Frémond, '03]

$$(u + \chi)_t - \Delta(u + k * \exp(u)) = r$$

$$\chi_t - \nu \Delta \chi + \beta(\chi) + \sigma'(\chi) - \exp(u) \ni 0.$$

Choosing a different heat flux law  $\mathbf{q} = -\nabla(\alpha^2(u))$  we recover the model proposed by [Bonetti, Colli, Fabrizio, Gilardi, '06]

$$(u + \chi)_t - \Delta(\exp(u) + k * \exp(u)) = r$$

$$\chi_t - \nu \Delta \chi + \beta(\chi) + \sigma'(\chi) - \exp(u) \ni 0$$

## The model

The equation of microscopic motion  
The internal energy balance  
Thermodynamical consistency  
The PDE system

## Our main results

Main Hypothesis  
The case of a general  $\alpha$ : existence result  
**Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's**  
The case  $\alpha$ : Lipschitz continuous  
The case  $\alpha = \exp$

## Open problems

# Meaningful $\alpha$ 's

- $\alpha(u) = \exp(u) (= \vartheta)$ : we recover the model proposed by [Bonetti, Colli, Frémond, '03]

$$(u + \chi)_t - \Delta(u + k * \exp(u)) = r$$

$$\chi_t - \nu \Delta \chi + \beta(\chi) + \sigma'(\chi) - \exp(u) \ni 0.$$

Choosing a different heat flux law  $\mathbf{q} = -\nabla(\alpha^2(u))$  we recover the model proposed by [Bonetti, Colli, Fabrizio, Gilardi, '06]

$$(u + \chi)_t - \Delta(\exp(u) + k * \exp(u)) = r$$

$$\chi_t - \nu \Delta \chi + \beta(\chi) + \sigma'(\chi) - \exp(u) \ni 0$$

- $\alpha(u) = -1/u$ : we recover, e.g., the Penrose-Fife system

## The model

The equation of microscopic motion  
The internal energy balance  
Thermodynamical consistency  
The PDE system

## Our main results

Main Hypothesis  
The case of a general  $\alpha$ : existence result  
**Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's**  
The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz continuous  
The case  $\alpha = \exp$

## Open problems

### The model

The equation of  
microscopic motion  
The internal energy  
balance  
Thermodynamical  
consistency  
The PDE system

## The case $\alpha$ Lipschitz continuous

### Our main results

Main Hypothesis  
The case of a general  $\alpha$ :  
existence result  
Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's  
**The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz  
continuous**  
The case  $\alpha = \exp$

### Open problems

# The existence – uniqueness result

**Thm 2.** Let  $T$  be a positive final time and **HYPOTHESIS 1**, with  $t = T$ , hold and assume that  $\alpha$  is a **Lipschitz continuous function**.

## The model

The equation of  
microscopic motion  
The internal energy  
balance  
Thermodynamical  
consistency  
The PDE system

## Our main results

Main Hypothesis

The case of a general  $\alpha$ :  
existence result

Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's

**The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz  
continuous**

The case  $\alpha = \exp$

## Open problems

# The existence – uniqueness result

**Thm 2.** Let  $T$  be a positive final time and **HYPOTHESIS 1**, with  $t = T$ , hold and assume that  $\alpha$  is a **Lipschitz continuous function**. Then, there exists  $(u, \chi, \xi)$  (with  $\xi \in \beta(\chi)$  a.e.) solving **(1-2)** (a.e. in  $Q_T$ ) + initial conditions and satisfying

$$u \in C^0([0, T]; H) \cap L^2(0, T; V), \quad \xi \in L^2(Q_T),$$

$$\chi \in H^1(0, T; H), \quad \nu\chi \in L^\infty(0, T; V) \cap L^2(0, T; H^2(\Omega)).$$

## The model

The equation of  
microscopic motion  
The internal energy  
balance  
Thermodynamical  
consistency  
The PDE system

## Our main results

Main Hypothesis  
The case of a general  $\alpha$ :  
existence result  
Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's  
**The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz  
continuous**  
The case  $\alpha = \exp$

## Open problems

# The existence – uniqueness result

**Thm 2.** Let  $T$  be a positive final time and **HYPOTHESIS 1**, with  $t = T$ , hold and assume that  $\alpha$  is a **Lipschitz continuous function**. Then, there exists  $(u, \chi, \xi)$  (with  $\xi \in \beta(\chi)$  a.e.) solving **(1-2)** (a.e. in  $Q_T$ ) + initial conditions and satisfying

$$u \in C^0([0, T]; H) \cap L^2(0, T; V), \quad \xi \in L^2(Q_T),$$

$$\chi \in H^1(0, T; H), \quad \nu\chi \in L^\infty(0, T; V) \cap L^2(0, T; H^2(\Omega)).$$

The components  $u$  and  $\chi$  of such a solution are **uniquely determined**.

## The model

- The equation of microscopic motion
- The internal energy balance
- Thermodynamical consistency
- The PDE system

## Our main results

- Main Hypothesis
- The case of a general  $\alpha$ : existence result
- Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's
- The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz continuous**
- The case  $\alpha = \exp$

## Open problems

# The existence – uniqueness result

**Thm 2.** Let  $T$  be a positive final time and **HYPOTHESIS 1**, with  $t = T$ , hold and assume that  $\alpha$  is a **Lipschitz continuous function**. Then, there exists  $(u, \chi, \xi)$  (with  $\xi \in \beta(\chi)$  a.e.) solving **(1-2)** (a.e. in  $Q_T$ ) + initial conditions and satisfying

$$u \in C^0([0, T]; H) \cap L^2(0, T; V), \quad \xi \in L^2(Q_T),$$

$$\chi \in H^1(0, T; H), \quad \nu\chi \in L^\infty(0, T; V) \cap L^2(0, T; H^2(\Omega)).$$

The components  $u$  and  $\chi$  of such a solution are **uniquely determined**.

Note that in this case  $\alpha_{V', V}$  in (2) can be identified with the standard  $\partial\hat{\alpha}$  (defined a.e. in  $Q_T$ ) in the sense of Convex Analysis.

## The model

- The equation of microscopic motion
- The internal energy balance
- Thermodynamical consistency
- The PDE system

## Our main results

- Main Hypothesis
- The case of a general  $\alpha$ : existence result
- Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's
- The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz continuous
- The case  $\alpha = \exp$

## Open problems

# The existence – uniqueness result

**Thm 2.** Let  $T$  be a positive final time and **HYPOTHESIS 1**, with  $t = T$ , hold and assume that  $\alpha$  is a **Lipschitz continuous function**. Then, there exists  $(u, \chi, \xi)$  (with  $\xi \in \beta(\chi)$  a.e.) solving **(1-2)** (a.e. in  $Q_T$ ) + initial conditions and satisfying

$$u \in C^0([0, T]; H) \cap L^2(0, T; V), \quad \xi \in L^2(Q_T),$$

$$\chi \in H^1(0, T; H), \quad \nu \chi \in L^\infty(0, T; V) \cap L^2(0, T; H^2(\Omega)).$$

The components  $u$  and  $\chi$  of such a solution are **uniquely determined**.

Note that in this case  $\alpha_{\nu', \nu}$  in (2) can be identified with the standard  $\partial \hat{\alpha}$  (defined a.e. in  $Q_T$ ) in the sense of Convex Analysis.

THE PROOF IS A SUITABLE ADAPTATION OF THE ONE OF [BONETTI, COLLI, FRÉMOND, 2003] HOLDING TRUE IN CASE  $\beta = \partial I_{[0,1]}$ ,  $\sigma' = \vartheta_c$

## The model

- The equation of microscopic motion
- The internal energy balance
- Thermodynamical consistency
- The PDE system

## Our main results

- Main Hypothesis
- The case of a general  $\alpha$ : existence result
- Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's
- The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz continuous
- The case  $\alpha = \exp$

## Open problems

# The long-time behaviour of solutions

Formulazione  
duale di modelli  
di phase-field

E. Rocca

## The model

The equation of  
microscopic motion

The internal energy  
balance

Thermodynamical  
consistency

The PDE system

## Our main results

Main Hypothesis

The case of a general  $\alpha$ :  
existence result

Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's

**The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz  
continuous**

The case  $\alpha = \exp$

## Open problems

# The long-time behaviour of solutions

**Thm 3.** Let **HYPOTHESIS 1** hold and suppose that

- (i)  $k \in W^{1,1}(0, \infty)$  is of **strongly positive type**,  
i.e.  $\exists \eta > 0$  such that

$$\tilde{k}(t) := k(t) - \eta \exp(-t) \quad \text{is of positive type;}$$

- (ii)  $r, h$  sufficiently regular.

## The model

The equation of  
microscopic motion  
The internal energy  
balance  
Thermodynamical  
consistency  
The PDE system

## Our main results

Main Hypothesis

The case of a general  $\alpha$ :  
existence result

Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's

**The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz  
continuous**

The case  $\alpha = \exp$

## Open problems

## The long-time behaviour of solutions

**Thm 3.** Let **HYPOTHESIS 1** hold and suppose that

- (i)  $k \in W^{1,1}(0, \infty)$  is of **strongly positive type**,  
i.e.  $\exists \eta > 0$  such that

$$\tilde{k}(t) := k(t) - \eta \exp(-t) \quad \text{is of positive type;}$$

- (ii)  $r, h$  sufficiently regular.

Then, the  $\omega$ -limit:

$$\omega(u_0, \chi_0, \nu) := \{(u_\infty, \chi_\infty) \in H \times H, \nu \chi_\infty \in V : \exists t_n \rightarrow +\infty, \\ (u(t_n), \chi(t_n)) \rightarrow (u_\infty, \chi_\infty) \text{ in } V' \times (V' \cap \nu H)\}$$

is a compact, connected subset ( $\neq \emptyset$ ) of  $V' \times (V' \cap \nu H)$

## The model

The equation of  
microscopic motion  
The internal energy  
balance  
Thermodynamical  
consistency  
The PDE system

## Our main results

Main Hypothesis  
The case of a general  $\alpha$ :  
existence result  
Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's  
**The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz  
continuous**  
The case  $\alpha = \exp$

## Open problems

# The long-time behaviour of solutions

**Thm 3.** Let **HYPOTHESIS 1** hold and suppose that

- (i)  $k \in W^{1,1}(0, \infty)$  is of **strongly positive type**,  
i.e.  $\exists \eta > 0$  such that

$$\tilde{k}(t) := k(t) - \eta \exp(-t) \quad \text{is of positive type;}$$

- (ii)  $r, h$  sufficiently regular.

Then, the  $\omega$ -limit:

$$\omega(u_0, \chi_0, \nu) := \{(u_\infty, \chi_\infty) \in H \times H, \nu \chi_\infty \in V : \exists t_n \rightarrow +\infty, \\ (u(t_n), \chi(t_n)) \rightarrow (u_\infty, \chi_\infty) \text{ in } V' \times (V' \cap \nu H)\}$$

is a compact, connected subset ( $\neq \emptyset$ ) of  $V' \times (V' \cap \nu H)$   
and  $\forall (u_\infty, \chi_\infty) \in \omega(u_0, \chi_0, \nu), \exists \xi_\infty \in \beta(\chi_\infty)$  such that:

$$u_\infty = \frac{1}{|\Omega|} \left( - \int_{\Omega} \chi_\infty + c_0 + m \right),$$

$$\nu A \chi_\infty + \xi_\infty + \sigma'(\chi_\infty) = \alpha \left( \frac{1}{|\Omega|} \left( - \int_{\Omega} \chi_\infty + c_0 + m \right) \right),$$

where  $c_0 = \int_{\Omega} u_0 + \int_{\Omega} \chi_0$ ,  $m = \int_0^\infty (\int_{\Omega} r(s) + \int_{\Gamma} h(s)) ds$ .

## The model

The equation of  
microscopic motion  
The internal energy  
balance  
Thermodynamical  
consistency  
The PDE system

## Our main results

Main Hypothesis  
The case of a general  $\alpha$ :  
existence result  
Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's  
The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz  
continuous  
The case  $\alpha = \exp$

## Open problems

### The model

The equation of  
microscopic motion  
The internal energy  
balance  
Thermodynamical  
consistency  
The PDE system

The case  $\alpha = \exp$

### Our main results

Main Hypothesis  
The case of a general  $\alpha$ :  
existence result  
Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's  
The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz  
continuous  
**The case  $\alpha = \exp$**

### Open problems

# The existence result

Formulazione  
duale di modelli  
di phase-field

E. Rocca

## The model

The equation of  
microscopic motion  
The internal energy  
balance  
Thermodynamical  
consistency  
The PDE system

## Our main results

Main Hypothesis

The case of a general  $\alpha$ :  
existence result

Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's

The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz  
continuous

**The case  $\alpha = \exp$**

## Open problems

# The existence result

**THM 4.** Fix  $T > 0$  and assume that **HYPOTHESIS 1** hold with  $t = T$ . Suppose moreover that

- (i)  $\nu \geq 0$  if  $D(\beta)$  is bounded and  $\nu > 0$  if  $D(\beta)$  is unbounded.

## The model

The equation of microscopic motion  
The internal energy balance  
Thermodynamical consistency  
The PDE system

## Our main results

Main Hypothesis

The case of a general  $\alpha$ :  
existence result

Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's

The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz  
continuous

**The case  $\alpha = \exp$**

## Open problems

# The existence result

**THM 4.** Fix  $T > 0$  and assume that **HYPOTHESIS 1** hold with  $t = T$ . Suppose moreover that

- (i)  $\nu \geq 0$  if  $D(\beta)$  is bounded and  $\nu > 0$  if  $D(\beta)$  is unbounded.

Then, there exists at least a quadruple  $(u, \vartheta, \chi, \xi)$  such that  $\vartheta = \alpha(u) = \exp(u)$ ,  $\xi \in \beta(\chi)$  a.e.,

$$\begin{aligned} u &\in H^1(0, T; V') \cap L^2(0, T; V), & \vartheta &\in L^{5/3}(Q_T), \\ \chi &\in H^1(0, T; H), & \nu\chi &\in L^\infty(0, T; V) \cap L^{5/3}(0, T; W^{2,5/3}(\Omega)), \\ \xi &\in L^{5/3}(Q_T), & k(0)(1 * \vartheta) &\in L^\infty(0, T; V), \end{aligned}$$

satisfying system (1–2) a.e. in  $Q_T$  and the same initial conditions as before.

## The model

The equation of microscopic motion  
The internal energy balance  
Thermodynamical consistency  
The PDE system

## Our main results

Main Hypothesis  
The case of a general  $\alpha$ : existence result  
Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's  
The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz continuous  
The case  $\alpha = \exp$

## Open problems

# Long-time behaviour of solutions

Formulazione  
duale di modelli  
di phase-field

E. Rocca

## The model

The equation of  
microscopic motion  
The internal energy  
balance  
Thermodynamical  
consistency  
The PDE system

## Our main results

Main Hypothesis  
The case of a general  $\alpha$ :  
existence result  
Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's  
The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz  
continuous  
**The case  $\alpha = \exp$**

## Open problems

# Long-time behaviour of solutions

**Thm 5.** Under the assumptions of existence and

- (i)  $k \in W^{1,1}(0, \infty)$  is of **strongly positive type**;
- (ii)  $r, h$  sufficiently regular,  $\nu > 0$ ;
- (i)  $\lim_{|r| \rightarrow +\infty} |r|^{-2} \widehat{\beta}(r) = +\infty$ .

## The model

The equation of  
microscopic motion  
The internal energy  
balance  
Thermodynamical  
consistency  
The PDE system

## Our main results

Main Hypothesis

The case of a general  $\alpha$ :  
existence result

Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's

The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz  
continuous

**The case  $\alpha = \exp$**

## Open problems

# Long-time behaviour of solutions

**Thm 5.** Under the assumptions of existence and

- (i)  $k \in W^{1,1}(0, \infty)$  is of **strongly positive type**;
- (ii)  $r, h$  sufficiently regular,  $\nu > 0$ ;
- (i)  $\lim_{|r| \rightarrow +\infty} |r|^{-2} \widehat{\beta}(r) = +\infty$ .

Let  $(u, \chi) : (0, \infty) \rightarrow H \times V$  be a solution on  $(0, +\infty)$  associated to  $(u_0, \chi_0)$ .

## The model

- The equation of microscopic motion
- The internal energy balance
- Thermodynamical consistency
- The PDE system

## Our main results

Main Hypothesis

The case of a general  $\alpha$ :  
existence result

Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's

The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz  
continuous

**The case  $\alpha = \exp$**

## Open problems

# Long-time behaviour of solutions

**Thm 5.** Under the assumptions of existence and

- (i)  $k \in W^{1,1}(0, \infty)$  is of **strongly positive type**;
- (ii)  $r, h$  sufficiently regular,  $\nu > 0$ ;
- (i)  $\lim_{|r| \rightarrow +\infty} |r|^{-2} \widehat{\beta}(r) = +\infty$ .

Let  $(u, \chi) : (0, \infty) \rightarrow H \times V$  be a solution on  $(0, +\infty)$  associated to  $(u_0, \chi_0)$ . Then, the  $\omega$ -limit set of a single trajectory  $(u, \chi)$  defined in  $(0, +\infty)$ :

$$\omega(u, \chi) := \{(u_\infty, \chi_\infty) \in H \times V : \exists t_n \rightarrow +\infty, \\ (u(t_n), \chi(t_n)) \rightarrow (u_\infty, \chi_\infty) \text{ in } V' \times H\}.$$

is a nonempty, compact, and connected subset of  $V' \times H$ .

## The model

The equation of  
microscopic motion  
The internal energy  
balance  
Thermodynamical  
consistency  
The PDE system

## Our main results

Main Hypothesis  
The case of a general  $\alpha$ :  
existence result  
Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's  
The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz  
continuous  
**The case  $\alpha = \exp$**

## Open problems

# Long-time behaviour of solutions

**Thm 5.** Under the assumptions of existence and

- (i)  $k \in W^{1,1}(0, \infty)$  is of **strongly positive type**;
- (ii)  $r, h$  sufficiently regular,  $\nu > 0$ ;
- (i)  $\lim_{|r| \rightarrow +\infty} |r|^{-2} \widehat{\beta}(r) = +\infty$ .

Let  $(u, \chi) : (0, \infty) \rightarrow H \times V$  be a solution on  $(0, +\infty)$  associated to  $(u_0, \chi_0)$ . Then, the  $\omega$ -limit set of a single trajectory  $(u, \chi)$  defined in  $(0, +\infty)$ :

$$\omega(u, \chi) := \{(u_\infty, \chi_\infty) \in H \times V : \exists t_n \rightarrow +\infty, \\ (u(t_n), \chi(t_n)) \rightarrow (u_\infty, \chi_\infty) \text{ in } V' \times H\}.$$

is a nonempty, compact, and connected subset of  $V' \times H$ . Moreover, for any  $(u_\infty, \chi_\infty) \in \omega(u, \chi)$  there exists  $\xi_\infty \in L^{5/3}(\Omega)$ ,  $\xi_\infty \in \beta(\chi_\infty)$  such that  $(u_\infty, \chi_\infty, \xi_\infty)$  **solves the corresponding stationary problem** (a.e. in  $\Omega$ ).

## The model

The equation of  
microscopic motion  
The internal energy  
balance  
Thermodynamical  
consistency  
The PDE system

## Our main results

Main Hypothesis  
The case of a general  $\alpha$ :  
existence result  
Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's  
The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz  
continuous  
The case  $\alpha = \exp$

## Open problems

# Long-time behaviour of solutions

**Thm 5.** Under the assumptions of existence and

- (i)  $k \in W^{1,1}(0, \infty)$  is of **strongly positive type**;
- (ii)  $r, h$  sufficiently regular,  $\nu > 0$ ;
- (i)  $\lim_{|r| \rightarrow +\infty} |r|^{-2} \hat{\beta}(r) = +\infty$ .

Let  $(u, \chi) : (0, \infty) \rightarrow H \times V$  be a solution on  $(0, +\infty)$  associated to  $(u_0, \chi_0)$ . Then, the  $\omega$ -limit set of a single trajectory  $(u, \chi)$  defined in  $(0, +\infty)$ :

$$\omega(u, \chi) := \{(u_\infty, \chi_\infty) \in H \times V : \exists t_n \rightarrow +\infty, \\ (u(t_n), \chi(t_n)) \rightarrow (u_\infty, \chi_\infty) \text{ in } V' \times H\}.$$

is a nonempty, compact, and connected subset of  $V' \times H$ . Moreover, for any  $(u_\infty, \chi_\infty) \in \omega(u, \chi)$  there exists  $\xi_\infty \in L^{5/3}(\Omega)$ ,  $\xi_\infty \in \beta(\chi_\infty)$  such that  $(u_\infty, \chi_\infty, \xi_\infty)$  **solves the corresponding stationary problem** (a.e. in  $\Omega$ ).

**THE CASE  $\nu, k = 0$**  has been studied in [Bonetti, in “Dissipative phase transitions” (ed. P. Colli, N. Kenmochi, J. Sprekels) (2006)]

## The model

The equation of  
microscopic motion  
The internal energy  
balance  
Thermodynamical  
consistency  
The PDE system

## Our main results

Main Hypothesis  
The case of a general  $\alpha$ :  
existence result  
Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's  
The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz  
continuous  
**The case  $\alpha = \exp$**

## Open problems

# Convergence of the whole trajectory in special cases

Formulazione  
duale di modelli  
di phase-field

E. Rocca

## The model

The equation of  
microscopic motion  
The internal energy  
balance  
Thermodynamical  
consistency  
The PDE system

## Our main results

Main Hypothesis  
The case of a general  $\alpha$ :  
existence result  
Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's  
The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz  
continuous  
**The case  $\alpha = \exp$**

## Open problems

# Convergence of the whole trajectory in special cases

In general, we cannot conclude that the whole trajectory  $\{(u(t), \chi(t)) \ t \geq 0\}$  tends to  $(u_\infty, \chi_\infty)$  weakly in  $H \times V$  and strongly in  $V' \times H$  as  $t \rightarrow +\infty$ . This is mainly due to the presence of the anti-monotone term  $\sigma'(\chi_\infty)$ .

## The model

- The equation of microscopic motion
- The internal energy balance
- Thermodynamical consistency
- The PDE system

## Our main results

- Main Hypothesis
- The case of a general  $\alpha$ : existence result
- Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's
- The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz continuous
- The case  $\alpha = \exp$**

## Open problems

# Convergence of the whole trajectory in special cases

In general, we cannot conclude that the whole trajectory  $\{(u(t), \chi(t)) \ t \geq 0\}$  tends to  $(u_\infty, \chi_\infty)$  weakly in  $H \times V$  and strongly in  $V' \times H$  as  $t \rightarrow +\infty$ . This is mainly due to the presence of the anti-monotone term  $\sigma'(\chi_\infty)$ .

Indeed if

$$\beta = \partial I_{[0,1]}, \quad \sigma'(\chi) = \theta_c,$$

then we can conclude in addition that both  $u_\infty$  and  $\chi_\infty$  are constants a.e. in  $\Omega$

## The model

The equation of  
microscopic motion  
The internal energy  
balance  
Thermodynamical  
consistency  
The PDE system

## Our main results

Main Hypothesis  
The case of a general  $\alpha$ :  
existence result  
Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's  
The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz  
continuous  
**The case  $\alpha = \exp$**

## Open problems

## Convergence of the whole trajectory in special cases

In general, we cannot conclude that the whole trajectory  $\{(u(t), \chi(t)) \mid t \geq 0\}$  tends to  $(u_\infty, \chi_\infty)$  weakly in  $H \times V$  and strongly in  $V' \times H$  as  $t \rightarrow +\infty$ . This is mainly due to the presence of the anti-monotone term  $\sigma'(\chi_\infty)$ .

Indeed if

$$\beta = \partial I_{[0,1]}, \quad \sigma'(\chi) = \theta_c,$$

then we can conclude in addition that both  $u_\infty$  and  $\chi_\infty$  are constants a.e. in  $\Omega$  and that  $(u_\infty, \chi_\infty) \in \omega(u, \chi)$  is uniquely determined by

$$u_\infty = -\chi_\infty + \frac{1}{|\Omega|}(c_0 + m),$$

$$\partial I_{[0,1]}(\chi_\infty) - \exp\left(-\chi_\infty + \frac{1}{|\Omega|}(c_0 + m)\right) \ni -\theta_c,$$

being  $c_0$  and  $m$  defined as before.

### The model

The equation of  
microscopic motion  
The internal energy  
balance  
Thermodynamical  
consistency  
The PDE system

### Our main results

Main Hypothesis  
The case of a general  $\alpha$ :  
existence result  
Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's  
The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz  
continuous  
The case  $\alpha = \exp$

### Open problems

## Convergence of the whole trajectory in special cases

In general, we cannot conclude that the whole trajectory  $\{(u(t), \chi(t)) \ t \geq 0\}$  tends to  $(u_\infty, \chi_\infty)$  weakly in  $H \times V$  and strongly in  $V' \times H$  as  $t \rightarrow +\infty$ . This is mainly due to the presence of the anti-monotone term  $\sigma'(\chi_\infty)$ .

Indeed if

$$\beta = \partial I_{[0,1]}, \quad \sigma'(\chi) = \theta_c,$$

then we can conclude in addition that both  $u_\infty$  and  $\chi_\infty$  are constants a.e. in  $\Omega$  and that  $(u_\infty, \chi_\infty) \in \omega(u, \chi)$  is uniquely determined by

$$u_\infty = -\chi_\infty + \frac{1}{|\Omega|}(c_0 + m),$$

$$\partial I_{[0,1]}(\chi_\infty) - \exp\left(-\chi_\infty + \frac{1}{|\Omega|}(c_0 + m)\right) \ni -\theta_c,$$

being  $c_0$  and  $m$  defined as before. In particular, the whole trajectory  $(u(t), \chi(t))$  tends to  $(u_\infty, \chi_\infty)$  weakly in  $H \times V$  and strongly in  $V' \times H$  as  $t \rightarrow +\infty$ .

### The model

The equation of  
microscopic motion  
The internal energy  
balance  
Thermodynamical  
consistency  
The PDE system

### Our main results

Main Hypothesis  
The case of a general  $\alpha$ :  
existence result  
Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's  
The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz  
continuous  
The case  $\alpha = \exp$

### Open problems

# Related open problems

Formulazione  
duale di modelli  
di phase-field

**E. Rocca**

## The model

The equation of  
microscopic motion

The internal energy  
balance

Thermodynamical  
consistency

The PDE system

## Our main results

Main Hypothesis

The case of a general  $\alpha$ :  
existence result

Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's

The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz  
continuous

The case  $\alpha = \exp$

## Open problems

# Related open problems

- To study the convergence of the whole trajectories in case the anti-monotone part  $\sigma'$  is present in the phase equation:

## The model

The equation of  
microscopic motion  
The internal energy  
balance  
Thermodynamical  
consistency  
The PDE system

## Our main results

Main Hypothesis  
The case of a general  $\alpha$ :  
existence result  
Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's  
The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz  
continuous  
The case  $\alpha = \exp$

## Open problems

# Related open problems

- To study the convergence of the whole trajectories in case the anti-monotone part  $\sigma'$  is present in the phase equation: no uniqueness of the stationary states is expected

$$-\nu\Delta\chi_\infty + \beta(\chi_\infty) + \sigma'(\chi_\infty) \ni \exp(u_\infty)$$

by employing the **Lojasiewicz technique** in case of **analytical potentials**  $\beta$ , cf., e.g., [Feireisl, Schimperna, to appear]  $\hookrightarrow$  Penrose-Fife systems.

## The model

The equation of  
microscopic motion  
The internal energy  
balance  
Thermodynamical  
consistency  
The PDE system

## Our main results

Main Hypothesis  
The case of a general  $\alpha$ :  
existence result  
Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's  
The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz  
continuous  
The case  $\alpha = \exp$

## Open problems

# Related open problems

- To study the convergence of the whole trajectories in case the anti-monotone part  $\sigma'$  is present in the phase equation: no uniqueness of the stationary states is expected

$$-\nu\Delta\chi_\infty + \beta(\chi_\infty) + \sigma'(\chi_\infty) \ni \exp(u_\infty)$$

by employing the **Lojasiewicz technique** in case of **analytical potentials**  $\beta$ , cf., e.g., [Feireisl, Schimperna, to appear]  $\hookrightarrow$  Penrose-Fife systems. Or use **other techniques**, cf. [Krejčí, Zheng, 2005]  $\hookrightarrow$  phase-relaxation systems with **non-smooth potentials**.

## The model

The equation of  
microscopic motion  
The internal energy  
balance  
Thermodynamical  
consistency  
The PDE system

## Our main results

Main Hypothesis  
The case of a general  $\alpha$ :  
existence result  
Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's  
The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz  
continuous  
The case  $\alpha = \exp$

## Open problems

# Related open problems

- To study the convergence of the whole trajectories in case the anti-monotone part  $\sigma'$  is present in the phase equation: no uniqueness of the stationary states is expected

$$-\nu \Delta \chi_\infty + \beta(\chi_\infty) + \sigma'(\chi_\infty) \ni \exp(u_\infty)$$

by employing the **Lojasiewicz technique** in case of **analytical potentials**  $\beta$ , cf., e.g., [Feireisl, Schimperna, to appear]  $\hookrightarrow$  Penrose-Fife systems. Or use **other techniques**, cf. [Krejčí, Zheng, 2005]  $\hookrightarrow$  phase-relaxation systems with **non-smooth potentials**.

- To get **uniqueness** in case of a **general**  $\alpha$  (not Lipschitz-continuous). Problem: the doubly-nonlinear character of the system.

## The model

The equation of microscopic motion  
The internal energy balance  
Thermodynamical consistency  
The PDE system

## Our main results

Main Hypothesis  
The case of a general  $\alpha$ : existence result  
Meaningful  $\alpha$ 's  
The case  $\alpha$  Lipschitz continuous  
The case  $\alpha = \exp$

## Open problems