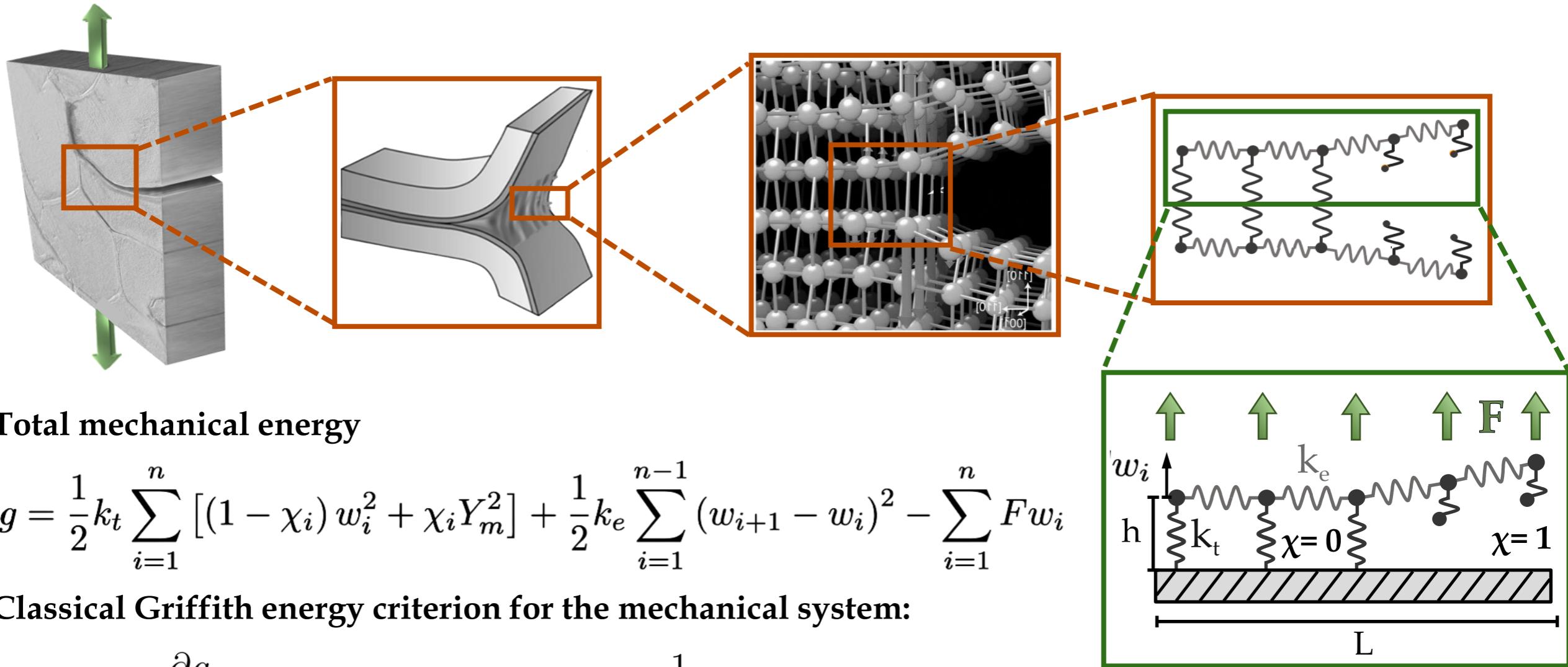


Thermo-mechanical influence on fracture propagation: integrating temperature effects through equilibrium statistical mechanics



Discrete model at the micro scale

Thermo-mechanical influence on fracture propagation: integrating temperature effects through equilibrium statistical mechanics

Temperature effects

Partition function in the Gibbs ensemble

$$\mathcal{Z}_G = \int_{\mathbf{R}^n} e^{-\frac{g}{k_B T}} dw_1 \dots dw_n$$

Gibbs free energy

$$\mathcal{G} = H - TS = -k_B T \log \mathcal{Z}_G$$

Griffith energy criterion with thermal fluctuations

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{G}}{\partial \xi} < 0 \quad \rightarrow \quad F^T > \frac{\sqrt{1 - \frac{T}{T_c}}}{1 + \frac{\xi}{\nu} \coth\left(\frac{1-\xi}{\nu}\right)}$$

Phase transition (spontaneous rupture of the system) when $T=T_c$

$$T_c = \frac{\nu E L b Y_m^2}{h k_B \coth\left(\frac{1-\xi}{\nu}\right)}$$

