

QUASISTATIC EVOLUTION IN NON-ASSOCIATIVE PLASTICITY – THE CAP MODEL

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ABSTRACT. Non-associative elasto-plasticity is the working model of plasticity for soil and rocks mechanics. Yet, it is usually viewed as non-variational. In this work, we prove *a contrario* the existence of a variational evolution for such a model under a natural capping assumption on the hydrostatic stresses and a less natural mollification of the stress admissibility constraint. The obtained elasto-plastic evolution is expressed for times that are conveniently rescaled.

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In spite of its mechanical success, small strain elasto-plasticity has been relatively seldom broached in the applied mathematics literature, at least as far as elasto-plastic evolution is concerned. The reader is referred to the work of P.-M. Suquet [30] for the first “modern” treatment of that evolution; see also the treatise [31]. After those works, small strain elasto-plastic evolution was not systematically revisited until [6] which reformulated the problem within the framework of the new variational theory of rate independent evolutions.

Traditionally small strain elasto-plasticity is formally modeled as follows for a homogeneous elasto-plastic material occupying a volume $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$, with Hooke’s law (elasticity tensor) A . Assume

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that the body is subjected to a time-dependent loading process with, say, $f(t)$ as body loads, $g(t)$ as surface loads on a part Γ_s of $\partial\Omega$, and $w(t)$ as displacement loads (hard device) on the complementary part Γ_d of $\partial\Omega$. Let $Eu(t)$ denote the infinitesimal strain at t , that is, the symmetric part of the spatial gradient of the displacement field $u(t)$ at t . Let $\sigma(t)$ be the Cauchy stress tensor at time t , and let $e(t)$ and $p(t)$ (a deviatoric symmetric matrix) be the elastic and plastic strain at t . The classical formulation of the quasistatic evolution problem in a time interval $[0, T]$ for the functions $u(t)$, $e(t)$, $p(t)$, $\sigma(t)$ reads formally as

- Kinematic compatibility: $Eu(t) = e(t) + p(t)$ in Ω and $u(t) = w(t)$ on Γ_d ;
- Equilibrium: $\operatorname{div}\sigma(t) + f(t) = 0$ in Ω and $\sigma(t)\nu = g(t)$ on Γ_s , where ν denotes the outer unit normal to $\partial\Omega$;
- Constitutive law: $\sigma(t) = Ae(t)$ in Ω ;
- Stress constraint: $\sigma_D(t) \in K$, where σ_D is the deviatoric part of the Cauchy stress σ , and K is the admissible set of stresses (a convex and compact subset of deviatoric $n \times n$ matrices);
- Flow rule: $\dot{p}(t) = 0$ if $\sigma_D(t) \in \operatorname{int} K$, while $\dot{p}(t)$ belongs to the normal cone to K at $\sigma_D(t)$ if $\sigma_D(t) \in \partial K$.

The corresponding variational evolution, as discussed in [6], formally consists in the following four-pronged formulation, for $t \in [0, T]$,

- Kinematic compatibility: $Eu(t) = e(t) + p(t)$ in Ω and $u(t) = w(t)$ on Γ_d ;
- Global stability: The triplet $(u(t), e(t), p(t))$ globally minimizes

$$\frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega} A\eta : \eta \, dx + H(q - p(t))$$

among all admissible triplets (v, η, q) , where $H(p)$ is the support function of K , *i.e.*, $H(p) := \sup\{\sigma_D : p : \sigma_D \in K\}$;

- Constitutive law: $\sigma(t) = Ae(t)$ in Ω ;
- Energy balance:

$$\frac{d\mathcal{E}}{dt}(t) = \int_{\Gamma_d} (\sigma(t)\nu) \cdot \dot{w}(t) \, d\mathcal{H}^{n-1} - \int_{\Omega} \dot{f}(t) \cdot u(t) \, dx - \int_{\Gamma_s} \dot{g}(t) \cdot u(t) \, d\mathcal{H}^{n-1},$$

where

$$\mathcal{E}(t) := \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega} Ae(t) : e(t) \, dx + \int_0^t \int_{\Omega} H(\dot{p}(s)) \, dx \, ds - \int_{\Omega} f(t) \cdot u(t) \, dx - \int_{\Gamma_s} g(t) \cdot u(t) \, d\mathcal{H}^{n-1}.$$

The existence of a variational evolution and the extent to which that evolution is “equivalent” to the original formulation is the main focus of [6]. This has been further extended to various elasto-plastic settings in subsequent works [7, 8]. The most relevant from our standpoint is the investigation of Cam-Clay elasto-plastic evolutions performed in [9] and in its sequel [10]. In those papers a model of elasto-plastic clay which exhibits hardening and/or softening is being studied. The most striking feature of that model is that it exhibits a certain degree of non-associativity, that is, that the time derivative of the pair $(p(t), \zeta(t)) - \zeta(t)$ denotes the additional internal variable that describes the hardening/softening behavior – does not follow a standard flow rule. That model is usually referred to as one with a non-associative hardening rule.

This is but a specific instance of a generic response for both soils and rocks. Indeed, although definitely exhibiting elasto-plastic behavior, those do not fall within the traditional purview of elasto-plasticity because, on the one hand, granularity or defaults drive volume changes under hydrostatic pressure (see *e.g.* [4] where a mathematical model of plastic dilatancy is discussed within the framework of associative plasticity), and, on the other hand, their dilatancy is much smaller than that predicted by an associative model (one for which the flow rule applies); see *e.g.* [21, Section 6.1]. This could be due to the impact of kinematic hardening and/or softening as in

Cam-Clay, but, more commonly especially in soils, it is a byproduct of inter-granular friction, and this without any kind of hardening/softening phenomenon.

In any case, non-associative elasto-plasticity is a widely used model in both soil and rock mechanics and it has long been thought not to be tractable from a variational standpoint (even as a static problem).

In this paper, we show that this view is “misguided” and develop a variational formulation for a rather generic model of non-associative elasto-plasticity. The starting point of our analysis is a remarkable observation by P. Laborde [18, 19] which has been – rather auspiciously in our view – completely ignored up to now. That observation is briefly described in Formulation 1.1 in the next section. It imparts a variational structure upon non-associative elasto-plasticity and serves as a foundational building block for our analysis.

In spite of Laborde’s formulation, we are still unable to proceed without two further assumptions. A first issue, which has been acknowledged in the mechanics community, is that classical rock and soil models allow for infinitely large hydrostatic compressions. This is obviously mechanically unsound, but also mathematically unsound because it gives rise to unbounded sets of admissible stresses. The remedy consists in capping the possible hydrostatic tractions and gives rise to what is referred to as a non-associative cap model (see *e.g.* [24, 25, 20, 12]). We adopt this restriction in the present work.

The second issue is of a more mathematical nature. Because Laborde’s formulation results in a set of admissible stresses that depends on the actual stress (see (1.2)), it becomes impossible to carry the mathematical analysis through without assuming a spatially continuous stress. But, at present, there are no stress regularity results that extend to the closure of the whole domain, even in the simplest case of classical elasto-plasticity. To our knowledge, the only result in that direction is [2] (revisited in [13]) where the H^1_{loc} -regularity of the stress is established. Our only way out seems to be a mollification of the dependence of the set of admissible stresses upon the actual stress. That very same issue was also a stumbling block in [9] and resulted in a similar use of a mollification of the dependence of the set of admissible stresses upon the actual variable $\zeta(t)$.

We make every effort to postpone the mollifying process as much as feasible and produce a non-associative visco-plastic evolution for the cap model which is not mollified in Section 2. But we have to surrender when letting the viscosity become vanishingly small in Section 3.

It would seem plausible to address the evolution through a time-incremental process because that method has proved successful in the handling of classical elasto-plasticity in [6], as well as in many other investigations of rate independent evolutions. Unfortunately, that approach soon grinds to a halt because a lack of Lipschitz estimate in time on the plastic strain seems to impede the proof of the lower inequality in the energy balance. The idea, borrowed from [14] (see also [22, 23]), is then to recover a Lipschitz estimate on the plastic strain through an adequate re-parameterization of time. Unfortunately, once again the analysis grinds to a halt because the re-parameterization involves both piecewise constant and piecewise affine interpolations of the incremental plastic strains. But we are unable, in passing to the limit in the time discretization, to prove that the limits of both interpolations coincide. Our only remaining avenue is then to use viscous regularization in lieu of a time-incremental process, and then to perform a time rescaling of the resulting visco-plastic evolution in the spirit of [14].

The paper is organized as follows. A first section is devoted to the formulation of the cap non-associative model in a framework that will be palatable to the subsequent analysis; as mentioned before, it makes critical use of Laborde’s formulation. The last subsection 1.4 of that section addresses the precise mathematical framework needed for the analysis, paying heed to the issues of duality that are pivotal in elasto-plasticity. Section 2 addresses the existence of a visco-plastic evolution through an incremental process. Section 3 implements the rescaling and proves the main result of the paper, namely Theorem 3.12 which states an existence theorem that sits in between

a classical formulation and a variational evolution as detailed earlier. The main technical hurdle (among many) lies in proving the differentiable character of the rescaled limit elastic strain. This is the object of Subsection 3.6, the last subsection of Section 3 and it is a direct consequence of the energy balance which is also proved in that subsection.

In all fairness, our analysis has been heavily influenced by that of the Cam-Clay model in [9, 10] and parts of this paper (especially Subsection 3.6) should not be construed as much more than an adaptation of results obtained in those references to a different context.

We also expect that one should be able to recover an evolution in real time because, in contrast with the setting of [9] (see [5, 11]), the 0-dimensional model – that is that where the fields are x -independent – has been shown in [18, Theorem 5] to be at minimum continuous in time, at least for particular classes of sets of admissible stresses.

Finally, we decided to limit the loading process to a hard device, that is to a displacement $w(t)$ acting on the entirety of the boundary $\partial\Omega$ of our domain. This is certainly a simplifying assumption because it alleviates the need for safe load conditions on the loads $f(t)$ and $g(t)$. Those can become at times a thorny issue in plasticity. We are confident that the analysis remains the same if general loads were to be incorporated into the evolution. However, the added complexity would render the paper less readable than it is now. Of course, a malicious reader might object that the paper is already barely readable as is!

1. DESCRIPTION OF THE MODEL

In this section, we provide an overview of the proposed model with minimal concern for the functional properties of the fields involved in that description.

1.1. The original model revisited. The context is that of small strains. Let $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ be a bounded open set occupied by a homogeneous elasto-plastic material. We denote by $u : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ the displacement field and by $Eu := (Du + Du^T)/2$ the strain tensor. As is usual in small deformations plasticity, the strain tensor is *additively* decomposed as

$$Eu = e + p,$$

where e and p respectively stand for the elastic and plastic strains. This is part of what will be referred to as *kinematic compatibility*. The constitutive equation which relates the (Cauchy) stress tensor σ to the elastic part e of the linearized strain is also assumed to be linear, *i.e.*,

$$\sigma = Ae$$

where A is the Hooke tensor. At equilibrium, and if no volume forces are applied to the sample, the stress satisfies

$$\operatorname{div}\sigma = 0 \quad \text{in } \Omega.$$

It is also constrained to remain in a closed convex set K of the set $\mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n}$ of $n \times n$ symmetric matrices:

$$\sigma \in K := \{\tau \in \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n} : f(\tau) \leq 0\},$$

where $f : \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is the *yield function*. We assume that f is continuous and convex, which implies that K is closed and convex, and that $f(0) < 0$, so that $0 \in \operatorname{int} K$.

The behavior of the plastic strain is governed by a non-associative flow rule. Specifically, denoting by \dot{p} the time derivative of p , $\dot{p} \in \mathcal{A}\sigma$, where according to [21],

$$\mathcal{A}\sigma := \left\{ \tau \in \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n} : \exists \lambda \geq 0 \text{ such that } \tau = \lambda \frac{\partial g}{\partial \tau}(\sigma) \text{ and } \lambda f(\sigma) = 0 \right\}.$$

In the previous expression, $g : \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is the *plastic potential*, a continuous and convex function further satisfying

$$\emptyset \neq \{\tau \in \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n} : g(\tau) = \inf g\} \subset K.$$

Finally, as announced in the introduction, the material is subject to a hard loading device; in other words, a Dirichlet boundary condition $u(x, t) = w(x, t)$ is imposed on $\partial\Omega$.

Our goal is to obtain a triplet $(u(x, t), e(x, t), p(x, t))$ such that

$$\begin{cases} Eu(x, t) = e(x, t) + p(x, t), \\ \sigma(x, t) = Ae(x, t), \\ \operatorname{div}\sigma(x, t) = 0, \\ \sigma(x, t) \in K, \\ \dot{p}(x, t) \in \mathcal{A}\sigma(x, t), \end{cases}$$

together with the Dirichlet boundary condition. Of course, we know from prior works on plasticity that we cannot expect the boundary condition to be satisfied because plastic strains may develop at the boundary, so that, as seen later, we will have to replace that condition by

$$p(x, t) = (w - u)(x, t) \odot \nu \text{ on } \partial\Omega.$$

Throughout, the symbol \odot stands for the symmetrized tensor product, while ν denotes the outer unit normal to $\partial\Omega$.

When $f = g$ the model is *associative*, and the plastic strain rate obeys the usual normality flow rule (see [21])

$$\dot{p} \in N_K(\sigma),$$

where $N_K(\sigma)$ is the normal cone to K at $\sigma \in K$. Elementary convex analysis points to the well-known formal equivalence between flow rule and the principle of maximum dissipation, namely

$$\sigma : \dot{p} = \max_{\tau \in K} \tau : \dot{p}.$$

From a thermodynamical standpoint, the associated materials are examples of standard generalized materials. The associative theory seems to be vindicated, as far as the principle of maximal dissipation is concerned, by those materials for which plasticity does not promote volumetric changes, hence whenever the yield criterion is independent of the average pressure (see [27]). This is for instance the case for ductile metals and for most alloys.

However, whenever significant volume variations accompany the plastic deformation, the principle of maximum plastic work is no longer valid and thus the associative flow should be abandoned in favor of a non-associative model with $f \neq g$.

With an eye on applications, we are specifically interested in the following type of functions f and g :

$$\begin{aligned} f(\sigma) &= \kappa(\sigma^D) + \sigma^m \sin \varphi - 2c \cos \varphi, \\ g(\sigma) &= \kappa(\sigma^D) + \sigma^m \sin \psi - 2c \cos \psi, \end{aligned}$$

where the parameters ϕ , ψ , and c satisfy $0 < \psi < \varphi < \frac{\pi}{2}$, $c > 0$, and $\kappa: \mathbb{M}_D^{n \times n} \rightarrow [0, +\infty)$ is a convex, positively 1-homogeneous function on $\mathbb{M}_D^{n \times n}$ such that $\kappa(0) = 0$.

Here, $\mathbb{M}_D^{n \times n} = \{\sigma \in \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n} : \operatorname{tr} \sigma = 0\}$, $\sigma^D = \sigma - \operatorname{tr} \sigma / n \mathcal{A} \in \mathbb{M}_D^{n \times n}$ and $\sigma^m = \operatorname{tr} \sigma \in \mathbb{R}$ are respectively the deviatoric and spherical part of σ so that $\sigma = \sigma^D + \sigma^m / n \mathcal{A}$. In particular, for $n = 3$, the Drucker-Prager model corresponds to

$$\kappa(\sigma^D) = \sqrt{\frac{1}{6} \sum_{i < j} (\sigma_i^D - \sigma_j^D)^2} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} |\sigma^D|,$$

while the Mohr-Coulomb model¹ corresponds to

$$\kappa(\sigma^D) = \max_{i,j} \{\sigma_i^D - \sigma_j^D\},$$

where σ_i^D , $i = 1, 2, 3$, are the ordered eigenvalues of σ^D . The parameters c , φ and ψ are the cohesion, the angle of internal friction, and the angle of dilatancy, respectively.

We now reformulate this problem variationally in the footsteps of Laborde [18, 19].

Formulation 1.1. (Laborde's formulation) Consider a continuous function $h : \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ (to be explicit below in (1.5)) satisfying

$$\begin{cases} h(\tau) = g(\tau) & \text{if } f(\tau) = 0, \\ h(\tau) > g(\tau) & \text{if } f(\tau) < 0, \\ h(\tau) < g(\tau) & \text{if } f(\tau) > 0. \end{cases} \quad (1.1)$$

For every $\sigma \in \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n}$, we further define the closed and convex set

$$K(\sigma) := \{\tau \in \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n} : g(\tau) \leq h(\sigma)\}.$$

From [19, Proposition 4], $\sigma \in K$ if and only if $\sigma \in K(\sigma)$, and $\dot{p} \in \mathcal{A}\sigma$ if and only if $\dot{p} : (\tau - \sigma) \leq 0$ for any $\tau \in K(\sigma)$. Since $K(\sigma)$ is a closed and convex set in $\mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n}$, that last property can be expressed as $\dot{p} \in \partial I_{K(\sigma)}(\sigma)$.

We next define the dissipation potential $H : \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n} \times \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ as the support function of $K(\sigma)$, that is,

$$H(\sigma, p) = \max_{\tau \in K(\sigma)} \tau : p,$$

and note that, for a fixed σ , it is convex, sub-additive and positively 1-homogeneous in p . By standard convex analysis, the property $\dot{p} \in \partial I_{K(\sigma)}(\sigma)$ is equivalent to $\sigma \in \partial_2 H(\sigma, \dot{p})$, where $\partial_2 H(\sigma, \dot{p})$ denotes the subdifferential of $H(\sigma, \cdot)$ at \dot{p} . Thus, an equivalent formulation of the problem is

$$\begin{cases} Eu(x, t) = e(x, t) + p(x, t), \\ p(x, t) = (w - u)(x, t) \odot \nu \text{ on } \partial\Omega, \\ \sigma(x, t) = Ae(x, t), \\ \operatorname{div} \sigma(x, t) = 0, \\ \sigma(x, t) \in K(\sigma(x, t)), \\ \sigma(x, t) \in \partial_2 H(\sigma(x, t), \dot{p}(x, t)). \end{cases} \quad (1.2)$$

It is by now fairly classical that the starting point of the variational method for studying an evolution such as (1.2) consists in discretising time and in solving, at the discrete times t_i , the following minimization problem:

Find (u_i, e_i, p_i) , with $\sigma_i := Ae_i$, that minimizes

$$\frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega} A\eta : \eta \, dx + \int_{\Omega} H(\sigma_i, q - p_{i-1}) \, dx$$

among every triplet (v, η, q) such that $Ev = \eta + q$ and $q = (w(t_i) - v) \odot \nu$ on $\partial\Omega$.

Unfortunately, when attempting to prove existence of solutions to the previous minimization problem, we are unable to ensure compactness of the minimizing sequences of plastic strains. Indeed, the set K of all admissible stresses is not bounded in the direction of hydrostatic stresses. This together with our choice of the function h imply that the set $K(\sigma)$ does not contain a uniform ball with respect to $\sigma \in \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n}$, and consequently the potential H is in general not coercive in

¹According to [21] the Mohr-Coulomb model actually corresponds to $f(\sigma) = \sigma_{max} - \sigma_{min} + (\sigma_{max} + \sigma_{min}) \sin \varphi - 2c \cos \varphi$, and similarly for g . But one can rewrite f as $f(\sigma) = \sigma_{max} - \sigma_{min} + 1/3[(\sigma_{max} - \sigma_{int}) - (\sigma_{int} - \sigma_{min})] \sin \varphi + 2/3 \sigma_{int} \sin \varphi - 2c \cos \varphi$, where σ_{int} is the intermediate eigenvalue, so that, in that case, $\kappa(\sigma^D) = 3/2\{(\sigma_3^D - \sigma_1^D) + \sin \varphi/3(\sigma_3^D - \sigma_2^D) - \sin \varphi/3(\sigma_2^D - \sigma_1^D)\}$.

its second variable. This prompts a modified version of the previous model, where the set K of admissible stresses is replaced by

$$\tilde{K} := K \cap B_R(0).$$

Here $B_R(0)$ is a ball in $\mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n}$ centered at 0 with a sufficiently large radius $R > 0$. That model is described in the next subsection.

1.2. The cap model. On the portion of the boundary of \tilde{K} which coincides with ∂K we keep the non-associative flow rule given by g , while on the remaining part of $\partial\tilde{K}$ we consider the associative flow rule. This corresponds to the so-called Drucker-Prager cap model or Mohr-Coulomb cap model (see *e.g.* [24, 25]). The main advantage of this model is that we will have an *a priori* bound on the admissible stresses, which will allow us to deduce a convenient growth condition from above on the plastic potential H .

Remark 1.2. Set

$$G := \{\sigma \in \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n} : g(\sigma) \leq 0\}, \quad \hat{g}(\sigma) := \text{dist}(\sigma, \partial G),$$

where $\text{dist}(\cdot, \partial G)$ denotes the signed distance from ∂G . Then $g = \sqrt{1 + \sin^2 \psi} \hat{g}$ on a neighborhood of K , since, in the (σ^D, σ^m) -plane, the set K is a cone with vertex $(0, 2c \cot \varphi)$ and aperture $\sin \varphi$, while the 0-level set of g is a cone with vertex $(0, 2c \cot \psi)$ and aperture $\sin \psi$, and further $2c \cot \psi > 2c \cot \varphi$ by the assumptions on φ and ψ . Then, ∇g and $\nabla \hat{g}$ have the same direction on ∂K and we can replace g by \hat{g} without changing the problem. Analogously, if we introduce

$$\hat{f}(\sigma) = \text{dist}(\sigma, \partial K),$$

clearly we have that K coincides with the set $\{\sigma \in \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n} : \hat{f}(\sigma) \leq 0\}$, so that we can replace f by \hat{f} without changing the problem. From now on we will work with \hat{f} and \hat{g} , and for simplicity will denote them f and g . \blacksquare

By virtue of Remark 1.2, the cap model can be concisely described in terms of distance functions in the following way. We introduce the sets

$$\tilde{K} := K \cap B_R(0), \quad \tilde{G} := G \cap B_R(0)$$

and the functions

$$\tilde{f} := \text{dist}(\cdot, \partial\tilde{K}), \quad \tilde{g} := \text{dist}(\cdot, \partial\tilde{G}).$$

The cap model corresponds to the plastic problem with yield surface given by \tilde{f} and flow rule described by \tilde{g} . Indeed, the set $\{\sigma \in \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n} : \tilde{f}(\sigma) \leq 0\}$ coincides with \tilde{K} ; moreover, $\nabla\tilde{g}$ is pointing in the direction of $\nabla\tilde{f}$ on $\partial\tilde{K} \cap \partial B_R(0)$, while it coincides with ∇g on $\partial\tilde{K} \cap \partial K$.

Clearly, the truncation of K and G by balls is unessential and we might as well truncate those sets by the hyperplane $\sigma_m = -R$, for R large enough at no expense of generality, which is what we will do from now onward.

The above considerations prompt us to propose an “abstract” setting for non-associative cap plasticity. This is detailed in the next subsection.

1.3. Abstract setting. We denote by K_D a compact convex subset of $\mathbb{M}_D^{n \times n}$ containing 0 as an interior point. Given $\alpha > \beta > 0$ and $\bar{\sigma}_G^m > \bar{\sigma}_K^m > 0$, we consider the subsets of $\mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n}$ given by

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{K} &= \{(\sigma^D, \sigma^m) \in \mathbb{M}_D^{n \times n} \times [-R, \bar{\sigma}_K^m] : \sigma^D \in \alpha(\bar{\sigma}_K^m - \sigma^m)K_D\}, \\ \hat{G} &= \{(\sigma^D, \sigma^m) \in \mathbb{M}_D^{n \times n} \times [-R, \bar{\sigma}_G^m] : \sigma^D \in \beta(\bar{\sigma}_G^m - \sigma^m)K_D\}. \end{aligned}$$

If we take $K_D = \{\sigma \in \mathbb{M}_D^{n \times n} : \kappa(\sigma) \leq 1\}$, $\alpha = \sin \varphi$, $\beta = \sin \psi$, $\bar{\sigma}_K^m = 2c \cot \varphi$, and $\bar{\sigma}_G^m = 2c \cot \psi$, then, for R sufficiently large,

$$\hat{K} = K \cap Q_R(0), \quad \hat{G} = G \cap Q_R(0),$$

where $Q_R(0)$ is the cube of side $2R$ centred at the origin which is precisely the cap model as detailed above. Therefore, from now on

$$f := \text{dist}(\cdot, \partial\widehat{K}), \quad g := \text{dist}(\cdot, \partial\widehat{G}). \quad (1.3)$$

We observe that for $a \in [\min g, 0]$ the sublevel set

$$G_a := \{\sigma \in \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n} : g(\sigma) \leq a\}$$

is given in the (σ^D, σ^m) -plane by a cone with vertex on the σ^m -axis and aperture β , cut by the plane $\sigma^m = -R - a$. In particular, for R sufficiently large we have that the set

$$G_{g(0)} = \{(\sigma^D, \sigma^m) \in \mathbb{M}_D^{n \times n} \times [-R - g(0), 0] : \sigma^D \in -\beta\sigma^m K_D\}$$

and is therefore contained in the interior of \widehat{K} . Hence, by continuity of g there exists $\delta > 0$ small enough so that, setting $\lambda := g(0) + 2\delta$, we have

$$G_\lambda \subset \text{int } \widehat{K}. \quad (1.4)$$

We now use Laborde's formulation and we define

$$h(\sigma) := \min \{ \max\{g(\sigma), \lambda\}, \mathcal{G} \} - \min\{f(\sigma), \delta\} \quad (1.5)$$

for

$$\mathcal{G} := \max_{\widehat{K}} g + 1. \quad (1.6)$$

Since \widehat{K} is closed and bounded, the maximum of g on \widehat{K} exists and, using (1.4), h satisfies (1.1). Set

$$K(\sigma) := \{\tau \in \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n} : g(\tau) \leq h(\sigma)\}, \quad H(\sigma, p) := \sup_{\tau \in K(\sigma)} \tau : p.$$

As already noted, the map $p \rightarrow H(\sigma, p)$ is convex, continuous, positively 1-homogeneous and sub-additive (as the support function of a closed and convex set). We now state other properties of the function H .

Lemma 1.3. *The map H is continuous over $\mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n} \times \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n}$.*

Proof. Let $(\sigma_k, p_k) \rightarrow (\sigma, p)$. We first start by proving upper semi-continuity. Since $K(\sigma_k)$ is closed and convex, for each k there exists $\tau_k \in K(\sigma_k)$ such that $H(\sigma_k, p_k) = \tau_k : p_k$. By the continuity of h , there exists a constant $M > 0$ such that $h(\sigma_k) \leq M$, $k \in \mathbb{N}$. But g is the distance to a compact set, so that, for some $r > 0$ depending only on M ,

$$K(\sigma_k) = \{\tau \in \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n} : g(\tau) \leq h(\sigma_k)\} \subset \{\tau \in \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n} : g(\tau) \leq M\} \subset B_r(0).$$

We can thus extract a subsequence – still denoted $\{\tau_k\}$ – such that $\tau_k \rightarrow \tau$ for some symmetric matrix τ . As

$$g(\tau) = \lim_{k \rightarrow +\infty} g(\tau_k) \leq \lim_{k \rightarrow +\infty} h(\sigma_k) = h(\sigma),$$

we deduce that $\tau \in K(\sigma)$, and thus

$$\limsup_{k \rightarrow +\infty} H(\sigma_k, p_k) = \limsup_{k \rightarrow +\infty} \tau_k : p_k = \tau : p \leq H(\sigma, p).$$

We now show the lower semi-continuity of H . We first observe that

$$H(\sigma, p) := \sup_{\tau \in \text{int } K(\sigma)} \tau : p,$$

where $\text{int } K(\sigma) := \{\tau \in \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n} : g(\tau) < h(\sigma)\}$ denotes the interior of $K(\sigma)$. Assume that $\tau \in \text{int } K(\sigma)$, then $g(\tau) < h(\sigma)$, and thus $g(\tau) \leq h(\sigma_k)$ for k large enough. Consequently, one has $\tau \in K(\sigma_k)$ for k large enough, hence

$$\liminf_{k \rightarrow +\infty} H(\sigma_k, p_k) \geq \liminf_{k \rightarrow +\infty} \tau : p_k = \tau : p.$$

Taking the supremum over all $\tau \in \text{int } K(\sigma)$ leads to

$$\liminf_{k \rightarrow +\infty} H(\sigma_k, p_k) \geq H(\sigma, p),$$

which completes the proof of the lemma. \square

The following property will be instrumental for the forthcoming analysis.

Lemma 1.4. *There exist $0 < \alpha_H < \beta_H < +\infty$ such that*

$$\alpha_H |p| \leq H(\sigma, p) \leq \beta_H |p| \quad (1.7)$$

for every σ and $p \in \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n}$.

Proof. Lower bound: To prove the lower bound we will show that for every $\sigma \in \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n}$ the set $K(\sigma)$ contains a ball centered at 0 with a uniform radius with respect to σ . In particular, by continuity of g it is enough to show that

$$g(0) < \inf_{\sigma \in \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n}} h(\sigma).$$

This follows immediately from the definition of h . Indeed, by (1.4) and (1.6) we have that $\mathcal{G} > \lambda$, so that

$$h(\sigma) \geq \lambda - \delta > g(0)$$

for every $\sigma \in \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n}$.

Upper bound. By construction (see (1.5)-(1.6)),

$$h(\sigma) \leq \mathcal{G} - \min f =: \mathcal{G}_0 \quad \text{for every } \sigma \in \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n}.$$

Therefore, for every $\sigma \in \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n}$ we have

$$K(\sigma) \subset \{\tau \in \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n} : g(\tau) \leq \mathcal{G}_0\}.$$

The function g being a distance function to a compact set, the set above is bounded. This implies the upper bound on H . \square

Finally we show that H is Lipschitz with respect to its first variable.

Lemma 1.5. *There exists a constant $C_H > 0$, which only depends on f and g , such that*

$$|H(\sigma_1, p) - H(\sigma_2, p)| \leq C_H |p| |\sigma_1 - \sigma_2|$$

for any σ_1, σ_2 and $p \in \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n}$.

Proof. We assume without loss of generality that $h(\sigma_2) \leq h(\sigma_1)$, so that $K(\sigma_2) \subset K(\sigma_1)$ and $H(\sigma_2, p) \leq H(\sigma_1, p)$. Since $K(\sigma_1)$ is closed and convex, there exists $\tau_1 \in K(\sigma_1)$ such that $H(\sigma_1, p) = \tau_1 : p$.

Note that, in view of the definition of g , the Hausdorff distance

$$d_H(\partial K(\sigma_1), \partial K(\sigma_2)) \leq c |h(\sigma_1) - h(\sigma_2)|,$$

for some constant $c > 1$ depending only on g .

We claim that if τ_1 is given as before, then there exists $\tau_2 \in K(\sigma_2)$ such that $|\tau_1 - \tau_2| \leq c |h(\sigma_1) - h(\sigma_2)|$. Indeed if $\tau_1 \in K(\sigma_2)$, then it suffices to take $\tau_2 = \tau_1$ and the property is trivial. On the other hand, if $\tau_1 \in K(\sigma_1) \setminus K(\sigma_2)$, then we simply take τ_2 as the minimal distance projection of τ_1 onto the convex set $K(\sigma_2)$. In this case, it follows that $|\tau_1 - \tau_2| \leq d_H(\partial K(\sigma_1), \partial K(\sigma_2)) \leq c |h(\sigma_1) - h(\sigma_2)|$, and the claim is proved.

By definition of H ,

$$H(\sigma_1, p) - H(\sigma_2, p) \leq (\tau_1 - \tau_2) : p \leq |\tau_1 - \tau_2| |p| \leq c |p| |h(\sigma_1) - h(\sigma_2)|.$$

Since f and g are both 1-Lipschitz (see their definition (1.3)), h defined in (1.5) is 2-Lipschitz as well. It follows that there exists a constant $C_H > 2$ such that

$$H(\sigma_1, p) - H(\sigma_2, p) \leq C_H |p| |\sigma_1 - \sigma_2|.$$

The other inequality is obtained by inverting the roles of σ_1 and σ_2 . \square

Remark 1.6. Since it is easily seen that, if $h(\sigma_2) \leq h(\sigma_1)$, then, for any $\tau \in \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n}$, $P_{K(\sigma_2)}(\tau) = P_{K(\sigma_2)}(P_{K(\sigma_1)}(\tau))$, we actually proved in Lemma 1.5 that if σ_1, σ_2 and $\tau \in \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n}$, then

$$|P_{K(\sigma_1)}(\tau) - P_{K(\sigma_2)}(\tau)| \leq C_H |\sigma_1 - \sigma_2|. \quad (1.8)$$

¶

We introduce the perturbed dissipation potential $H_\varepsilon : \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n} \times \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n} \rightarrow [0, +\infty)$ defined, for each $\varepsilon > 0$, as

$$H_\varepsilon(\sigma, p) := H(\sigma, p) + \frac{\varepsilon}{2} |p|^2. \quad (1.9)$$

The convex conjugate $H_\varepsilon^* : \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n} \times \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n} \rightarrow [0, +\infty)$ of H_ε with respect to the second variable is defined by

$$H_\varepsilon^*(\sigma, \tau) := \sup_{p \in \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n}} \{\tau : p - H_\varepsilon(\sigma, p)\}.$$

Using standard convex analysis, see [26, Theorem 16.4],

$$H_\varepsilon^*(\sigma, \tau) = \frac{|\tau - P_{K(\sigma)}(\tau)|^2}{2\varepsilon},$$

where $P_{K(\sigma)}$ denotes the minimal distance projection onto the convex set $K(\sigma)$. In particular H_ε^* is differentiable in the second variable, and its partial derivative is given by

$$N_\varepsilon(\sigma, \tau) = \partial_2 H_\varepsilon^*(\sigma, \tau) = \frac{\tau - P_{K(\sigma)}(\tau)}{\varepsilon}. \quad (1.10)$$

Note that since

$$|N_\varepsilon(\sigma, \tau)| \leq \frac{2}{\varepsilon} |\tau|, \quad (1.11)$$

it follows that, for any σ, τ_1 and $\tau_2 \in \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n}$,

$$|H_\varepsilon^*(\sigma, \tau_1) - H_\varepsilon^*(\sigma, \tau_2)| \leq \frac{2}{\varepsilon} (|\tau_1| + |\tau_2|) |\tau_1 - \tau_2|.$$

Actually, N_ε is Lipschitz. Indeed, we have the following result.

Lemma 1.7. *Let C_H be the constant in Lemma 1.5, then*

$$|N_\varepsilon(\sigma_1, \tau_1) - N_\varepsilon(\sigma_2, \tau_2)| \leq \frac{C_H}{\varepsilon} (|\sigma_1 - \sigma_2| + |\tau_1 - \tau_2|)$$

for any $\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \tau_1$ and $\tau_2 \in \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n}$.

Proof. By definition of N_ε and since the projection is 1-Lipschitz,

$$|N_\varepsilon(\sigma, \tau_1) - N_\varepsilon(\sigma, \tau_2)| \leq \frac{2}{\varepsilon} |\tau_1 - \tau_2|.$$

On the other hand, by Remark 1.6 we have

$$|N_\varepsilon(\sigma_1, \tau) - N_\varepsilon(\sigma_2, \tau)| \leq \frac{C_H}{\varepsilon} |\sigma_1 - \sigma_2|.$$

Observing that $C_H > 2$ by construction, we obtain the thesis. \square

As a final note, given $\sigma \in L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$, define the set

$$\mathcal{K}(\sigma) := \{\tau \in L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n}) : \tau(x) \in K(\sigma(x)) \text{ for a.e. } x \in \Omega\}.$$

Then, if $\tau \in L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$,

$$\|N_\varepsilon(\sigma, \tau)\|_2 = \frac{\text{dist}_2(\tau, \mathcal{K}(\sigma))}{\varepsilon}, \quad (1.12)$$

where, for any closed set $\mathcal{C} \subset L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$, $\text{dist}_2(\tau, \mathcal{C})$ is the L^2 -distance from τ to \mathcal{C} .

1.4. Mathematical setting. Throughout the paper, Ω is a bounded connected open set in \mathbb{R}^n with Lipschitz boundary.² The Lebesgue measure in \mathbb{R}^n and the $(n-1)$ -dimensional Hausdorff measure are respectively denoted by \mathcal{L}^n and \mathcal{H}^{n-1} .

We use standard notation for Lebesgue and Sobolev spaces. In particular, for $1 \leq p \leq \infty$, the L^p -norms of the various quantities are denoted by $\|\cdot\|_p$. The space $\mathcal{M}(\bar{\Omega}; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$ is that of all $\mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n}$ -valued bounded Radon measures on $\bar{\Omega}$, and the norm in that space is denoted by $\|\cdot\|_1$. By the Riesz representation Theorem, $\mathcal{M}(\bar{\Omega}; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$ can be identified with the dual of $\mathcal{C}(\bar{\Omega}; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$. Finally, $BD(\Omega)$ stands for the space of functions with bounded deformations on Ω , *i.e.*, $u \in BD(\Omega)$ if $u \in L^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^n)$ and $Eu \in \mathcal{M}(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$, where $Eu := (Du + Du^T)/2$ and Du is the distributional derivative of u . We refer to [31] for general properties of that space.

Let $u \in BD(\Omega)$, $w \in H^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^n)$, $e \in L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$ and $p \in \mathcal{M}(\bar{\Omega}; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$ be such that

$$\begin{aligned} Eu &= e + p \text{ in } \Omega, \\ p &= (w - u) \odot \nu \mathcal{H}^{n-1} \text{ on } \partial\Omega. \end{aligned}$$

If $\sigma \in L^\infty(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$ and $\text{div} \sigma \in L^n(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^n)$, it is possible to define the “scalar product” of σ and p as the distribution $[\sigma : p]$ on \mathbb{R}^n by setting

$$[\sigma : p](\varphi) := - \int_{\Omega} \varphi(u - w) \cdot \text{div} \sigma \, dx - \int_{\Omega} \sigma : (u - w) \odot \nabla \varphi \, dx - \int_{\Omega} \sigma : \varphi(e - Ew) \, dx,$$

for every $\varphi \in \mathcal{C}_c^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$. It turns out that $[\sigma : p]$ is independent of u , w and e , and that it defines a bounded Radon measure on $\bar{\Omega}$ whose total mass $\langle \sigma, p \rangle$ is given by $[\sigma : p](1)$, *i.e.*,

$$\langle \sigma, p \rangle = \int_{\Omega} (w - u) \cdot \text{div} \sigma \, dx - \int_{\Omega} \sigma : (e - Ew) \, dx, \quad (1.13)$$

and whose total variation is bounded by $\|\sigma\|_\infty \|p\|_1$. Moreover, if σ further belongs to $\mathcal{C}(\bar{\Omega}; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$, then

$$\langle \sigma, p \rangle = \int_{\bar{\Omega}} \sigma(x) : \frac{dp}{d|p|}(x) \, d|p|(x) \quad (1.14)$$

is the usual duality pairing between $\mathcal{C}(\bar{\Omega}; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$ and $\mathcal{M}(\bar{\Omega}; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$. In the previous formula we have denoted by $|p|$ the variation measure of p . If instead p further belongs to $L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$, then the duality pairing $\langle \sigma, p \rangle$ coincides with the L^2 product.

The space $L^1(0, T; \mathcal{C}(\bar{\Omega}; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n}))$ is the space of all strongly measurable maps $t \mapsto f(t) \in \mathcal{C}(\bar{\Omega}; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$ such that

$$\int_0^T \|f(t)\|_\infty \, dt < +\infty.$$

²This is so because we restrict our focus to the case of “Dirichlet” boundary conditions on all of $\partial\Omega$. To our knowledge, the details can only be found in [29]. If we were to treat a more general setting with both “Dirichlet” and “Neumann” boundary conditions, then an adaptation of the results in [16, Section 6] to the simpler case at hand here would permit to view the boundary as essentially Lipschitz, but with additional assumptions on the relative boundary of the “Dirichlet” part. Note that [4] also only imposes Lipschitz regularity of the boundary, but that the arguments heavily rely upon a generalization of those in [17] to a Lipschitz domain, which is not so clear to us.

From [15, Theorem 2.112], since $\mathcal{C}(\bar{\Omega}; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$ is separable, the dual of the space $L^1(0, T; \mathcal{C}(\bar{\Omega}; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n}))$ can be identified to the space $L_w^\infty(0, T; \mathcal{M}(\bar{\Omega}; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n}))$ of all weakly* measurable maps $t \mapsto \lambda(t) \in \mathcal{M}(\bar{\Omega}; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$ such that

$$\operatorname{ess\,sup}_{t \in [0, T]} \|\lambda(t)\|_1 < +\infty,$$

through the duality pairing

$$\langle \lambda, f \rangle = \int_0^T \langle \lambda(t), f(t) \rangle_{\mathcal{M}(\bar{\Omega}; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n}), \mathcal{C}(\bar{\Omega}; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})} dt.$$

Let A be a fourth order Hooke tensor satisfying the usual symmetry properties, and

$$\alpha_A |\xi|^2 \leq A\xi : \xi \leq \beta_A |\xi|^2, \quad (1.15)$$

for some $0 < \alpha_A \leq \beta_A < +\infty$ and every $\xi \in \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n}$. Then define, for any $e \in L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$, the elastic energy as

$$\mathcal{Q}(e) := \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega} Ae : e \, dx.$$

If $\sigma \in L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$ and $p \in L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$ we define the functionals

$$\mathcal{H}(\sigma, p) := \int_{\Omega} H(\sigma, p) \, dx, \quad \mathcal{H}_\varepsilon(\sigma, p) := \int_{\Omega} H_\varepsilon(\sigma, p) \, dx,$$

while, if $\sigma \in \mathcal{C}(\bar{\Omega}; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$ and $p \in \mathcal{M}(\bar{\Omega}; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$ the first functional is defined as

$$\mathcal{H}(\sigma, p) := \int_{\bar{\Omega}} H\left(\sigma, \frac{dp}{d|p|}\right) d|p|.$$

Remark 1.8. The following (lower semi-)continuity results hold:

1. If $\{\sigma_k\}, \{p_k\} \subset L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$, $\sigma_k \rightarrow \sigma$ strongly in $L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$, and $p_k \rightharpoonup p$ weakly in $L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$, then

$$\mathcal{H}(\sigma, p) \leq \liminf_{k \rightarrow +\infty} \mathcal{H}(\sigma_k, p_k).$$

Moreover if $p_k \rightarrow p$ strongly in $L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$, then

$$\mathcal{H}(\sigma, p) = \lim_{k \rightarrow +\infty} \mathcal{H}(\sigma_k, p_k).$$

2. If $\{\sigma_k\} \subset \mathcal{C}(\bar{\Omega}; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$, $\{p_k\} \subset \mathcal{M}(\bar{\Omega}; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$, $\sigma_k \rightarrow \sigma$ uniformly in $\bar{\Omega}$, and $p_k \overset{*}{\rightharpoonup} p$ weakly* in $\mathcal{M}(\bar{\Omega}; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$, then

$$\mathcal{H}(\sigma, p) \leq \liminf_{k \rightarrow +\infty} \mathcal{H}(\sigma_k, p_k).$$

Indeed, in the first case, Lemma 1.5 implies that

$$|\mathcal{H}(\sigma, p_k) - \mathcal{H}(\sigma_k, p_k)| \leq C_H \|\sigma - \sigma_k\|_2 \|p_k\|_2 \rightarrow 0,$$

since $\{p_k\}$ is bounded in $L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$. Hence

$$\liminf_{k \rightarrow +\infty} \mathcal{H}(\sigma_k, p_k) = \liminf_{k \rightarrow +\infty} \mathcal{H}(\sigma, p_k).$$

Now since H is convex in its second variable, we infer that

$$\liminf_{k \rightarrow +\infty} \mathcal{H}(\sigma, p_k) \geq \mathcal{H}(\sigma, p),$$

while an easy application of dominated convergence yields the convergence result in the case where $\{p_k\}$ strongly converges in $L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$.

In the second case, that same lemma implies that

$$|\mathcal{H}(\sigma, p_k) - \mathcal{H}(\sigma_k, p_k)| \leq C_H \|\sigma - \sigma_k\|_\infty \|p_k\|_1 \rightarrow 0,$$

since $\{p_k\}$ is bounded in $\mathcal{M}(\bar{\Omega}; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$. Hence

$$\liminf_{k \rightarrow +\infty} \mathcal{H}(\sigma_k, p_k) = \liminf_{k \rightarrow +\infty} \mathcal{H}(\sigma, p_k).$$

Since $(x, \xi) \mapsto H(\sigma(x), \xi)$ is (lower semi-)continuous, while $H(\sigma(x), \cdot)$ is convex and positively 1-homogeneous, we infer from Reshetnyak's lower semi-continuity Theorem (see [1, Theorem 2.28]) that $\liminf_k \mathcal{H}(\sigma, p_k) \geq \mathcal{H}(\sigma, p)$. \blacksquare

When dealing with the visco-plastic approximation of the elasto-plastic problem, we will obtain the first type of convergence on our approximating sequences, while, when letting the viscosity parameter tend to 0, we will only obtain weak convergence in L^2 of the approximating σ -sequence, and convergence in the space of measures of the approximating p -sequence.

Unfortunately, Reshetnyak lower semi-continuity Theorem is false when H fails to be (lower semi-)continuous, so that we are pretty much forced to restrict our analysis to continuous stresses; but continuity is not preserved under L^2 -weak convergence, which is the best we can hope for the various sequences of stresses that will enter the formulation. Consequently, the analysis will soon grind to a halt for lack of lower semi-continuity of H . This is why we will propose, in the spirit of [9], to introduce a regularization of σ in the definition of $\mathcal{K}(\sigma)$. This will be done by introducing a convolution kernel ρ and replacing $\mathcal{K}(\sigma)$ by $\mathcal{K}(\sigma * \rho)$ defined below.

We fix $\rho \in C_c^1(\mathbb{R}^n)$ and set, for $\sigma \in L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$,

$$x \in \bar{\Omega} \mapsto \sigma * \rho(x) := \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \rho(x-y) \tilde{\sigma}(y) dy,$$

where $\tilde{\sigma}$ is the zero-extension of σ outside Ω . The convolution $\sigma * \rho$ defines an element in $C^1(\bar{\Omega}; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$.

Note that, with our definition of the convolution, if $\sigma_k \rightharpoonup \sigma$ weakly in $L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$, then, in particular,

$$\sigma_k * \rho \rightarrow \sigma * \rho \text{ uniformly on } \bar{\Omega}. \quad (1.16)$$

For now, we propose, in the next section to address the visco-plastic regularization.

2. THE VISCO-PLASTIC MODEL

We propose to establish existence of the solution to the visco-plastic regularization through a time incremental process. To that effect, we first prove a few preliminary results that will help us in deriving a meaningful incremental process.

2.1. Preliminaries. Consider a boundary displacement $\hat{w} \in H^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^n)$. We set

$$A_{\text{reg}}(\hat{w}) := \left\{ (v, \eta, q) \in H^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^n) \times L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n}) \times L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n}) : \right. \\ \left. E v = \eta + q \text{ a.e. in } \Omega, v = \hat{w} \text{ } \mathcal{H}^{n-1}\text{-a.e. on } \partial\Omega \right\}. \quad (2.1)$$

Proposition 2.1. *Assume that $\frac{C_H \beta_A^2 \delta}{\alpha_A \varepsilon} < \frac{1}{3}$. If $\hat{w} \in H^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^n)$ and $\hat{p} \in L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$ then there exists a triplet $(u, e, p) \in A_{\text{reg}}(\hat{w})$, satisfying*

$$\mathcal{Q}(e) + \mathcal{H}(\sigma, p - \hat{p}) + \frac{\varepsilon}{2\delta} \|p - \hat{p}\|_2^2 \leq \mathcal{Q}(\eta) + \mathcal{H}(\sigma, q - \hat{p}) + \frac{\varepsilon}{2\delta} \|q - \hat{p}\|_2^2 \quad (2.2)$$

for any $(v, \eta, q) \in A_{\text{reg}}(\hat{w})$, with $\sigma := Ae$.

Proof. Let us define $(u_0, e_0, p_0) := (\hat{w}, E\hat{w}, 0)$, and for any $k \geq 1$, consider the minimization problem

$$\min_{(v, \eta, q) \in A_{\text{reg}}(\hat{w})} \left\{ \mathcal{Q}(\eta) + \mathcal{H}(\sigma_{k-1}, q - \hat{p}) + \frac{\varepsilon}{2\delta} \|q - \hat{p}\|_2^2 \right\}, \quad (2.3)$$

where $\sigma_{k-1} := Ae_{k-1}$. Let $(v_j, \eta_j, q_j) \in A_{\text{reg}}(\hat{w})$ be a minimizing sequence, then by (1.7), (1.15) and the Poincaré-Korn's inequality, one has

$$\sup_{j \in \mathbb{N}} \{ \|\eta_j\|_2 + \|q_j\|_2 + \|v_j\|_{H^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^n)} \} < +\infty.$$

Hence, up to a subsequence, $v_j \rightharpoonup u_k$ in $H^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^n)$, $\eta_j \rightharpoonup e_k$ in $L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{\text{sym}}^{n \times n})$, and $q_j \rightharpoonup p_k$ in $L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{\text{sym}}^{n \times n})$ as $j \rightarrow +\infty$. Since $v_j = \hat{w}$ \mathcal{H}^{n-1} -a.e. on $\partial\Omega$, $u_k = \hat{w}$ \mathcal{H}^{n-1} -a.e. on $\partial\Omega$ and thus $(u_k, e_k, p_k) \in A_{\text{reg}}(\hat{w})$. Then, by convexity of the functional, we get that

$$\mathcal{Q}(e_k) + \mathcal{H}(\sigma_{k-1}, p_k - \hat{p}) + \frac{\varepsilon}{2\delta} \|p_k - \hat{p}\|_2^2 \leq \liminf_{j \rightarrow +\infty} \left\{ \mathcal{Q}(\eta_j) + \mathcal{H}(\sigma_{k-1}, q_j - \hat{p}) + \frac{\varepsilon}{2\delta} \|q_j - \hat{p}\|_2^2 \right\},$$

from which we conclude that (u_k, e_k, p_k) is a solution of the minimization problem (2.3). By strict convexity, we infer that this solution is actually unique.

We now prove that $\{e_k\}$ is a Cauchy sequence in $L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{\text{sym}}^{n \times n})$. Indeed, writing the Euler-Lagrange equations of the minimization problem (2.3) (see *e.g.* Proposition 2.2 below), we get that

$$\text{div } \sigma_k = 0 \quad \text{a.e. in } \Omega,$$

and also, by (1.9), and the homogeneity of degree 0 of the multifunction $p \mapsto \partial_2 H(\sigma, p)$, that

$$\sigma_k \in \partial_2 H_\varepsilon \left(\sigma_{k-1}, \frac{p_k - \hat{p}}{\delta} \right) \quad \text{a.e. in } \Omega.$$

Now, convex duality and (1.10) imply that the latter is equivalent to $p_k - \hat{p} = \delta N_\varepsilon(\sigma_{k-1}, \sigma_k)$ a.e. in Ω . Since $Eu_k = e_k + p_k$,

$$e_k - e_{k-1} = Eu_k - Eu_{k-1} - \delta (N_\varepsilon(\sigma_{k-1}, \sigma_k) - N_\varepsilon(\sigma_{k-2}, \sigma_{k-1})).$$

Taking the L^2 -scalar product with $\sigma_k - \sigma_{k-1}$, using (1.15) and the fact that, by Lemma 1.7, N_ε is Lipschitz continuous (with a Lipschitz constant of order $1/\varepsilon$), we deduce that

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha_A \|e_k - e_{k-1}\|_2^2 &\leq \int_\Omega (\sigma_k - \sigma_{k-1}) : (e_k - e_{k-1}) dx \\ &\leq \int_\Omega (\sigma_k - \sigma_{k-1}) : (Eu_k - Eu_{k-1}) dx \\ &\quad + \frac{C_H \delta}{\varepsilon} \|\sigma_k - \sigma_{k-1}\|_2 (\|\sigma_k - \sigma_{k-1}\|_2 + \|\sigma_{k-1} - \sigma_{k-2}\|_2). \end{aligned}$$

But since $\text{div } \sigma_k = \text{div } \sigma_{k-1} = 0$ a.e. in Ω and $u_k - u_{k-1} \in H_0^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^n)$, we deduce that the integral in the right hand side of the previous inequality vanishes, hence

$$\|e_k - e_{k-1}\|_2 \leq \frac{C_H \beta_A^2 \delta}{\alpha_A \varepsilon} (\|e_k - e_{k-1}\|_2 + \|e_{k-1} - e_{k-2}\|_2).$$

Hence, if $\frac{C_H \beta_A^2 \delta}{\alpha_A \varepsilon} < \frac{1}{3}$, then

$$\|e_k - e_{k-1}\|_2 \leq \frac{1}{2} \|e_{k-1} - e_{k-2}\|_2 \leq \frac{1}{2^{k-1}} \|e_1 - e_0\|_2,$$

which shows that $\{e_k\}$ is a Cauchy sequence in $L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{\text{sym}}^{n \times n})$. As a consequence, there exists $e \in L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{\text{sym}}^{n \times n})$ such that $e_k \rightarrow e$ strongly in $L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{\text{sym}}^{n \times n})$, and in particular $\sigma_k \rightarrow \sigma := Ae$ strongly in $L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{\text{sym}}^{n \times n})$. Moreover, as above,

$$\sup_{k \in \mathbb{N}} \{ \|p_k\|_2 + \|u_k\|_{H^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^n)} \} < +\infty,$$

and thus, up to the possible extraction of a subsequence, $u_k \rightharpoonup u$ weakly in $H^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^n)$ and $p_k \rightharpoonup p$ weakly in $L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$, where $(u, e, p) \in A_{\text{reg}}(\hat{w})$. We next use the first item in Remark 1.8 to obtain that

$$\mathcal{Q}(e) + \mathcal{H}(\sigma, p - \hat{p}) + \frac{\varepsilon}{2\delta} \|p - \hat{p}\|_2^2 \leq \liminf_{k \rightarrow +\infty} \left\{ \mathcal{Q}(e_k) + \mathcal{H}(\sigma_{k-1}, p_k - \hat{p}) + \frac{\varepsilon}{2\delta} \|p_k - \hat{p}\|_2^2 \right\}.$$

Thanks to the dominated convergence Theorem, for any $(v, \eta, q) \in A_{\text{reg}}(\hat{w})$, we have

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow +\infty} \left\{ \mathcal{Q}(\eta) + \mathcal{H}(\sigma_{k-1}, q - \hat{p}) + \frac{\varepsilon}{2\delta} \|q - \hat{p}\|_2^2 \right\} = \mathcal{Q}(\eta) + \mathcal{H}(\sigma, q - \hat{p}) + \frac{\varepsilon}{2\delta} \|q - \hat{p}\|_2^2.$$

The proof is complete. \square

We now derive the Euler-Lagrange equation satisfied by the solution of the minimization problem (2.2).

Proposition 2.2. *Assume that $\frac{C_H \beta_A^2 \delta}{\alpha_A \varepsilon} < \frac{1}{3}$, and let $\hat{w} \in H^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^n)$ and $\hat{p} \in L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$. The following statements are equivalent:*

(f₁) $(u, e, p) \in A_{\text{reg}}(\hat{w})$ is a solution of (2.2) with $\sigma := Ae$;

(f₂) for any $(v, \eta, q) \in A_{\text{reg}}(0)$,

$$\mathcal{H}(\sigma, q + p - \hat{p}) - \mathcal{H}(\sigma, p - \hat{p}) \geq - \int_{\Omega} \sigma : \eta \, dx - \frac{\varepsilon}{\delta} \int_{\Omega} (p - \hat{p}) : q \, dx;$$

(f₃) $\text{div } \sigma = 0$ and $\sigma - \frac{\varepsilon}{\delta}(p - \hat{p}) \in \partial_2 \mathcal{H}(\sigma, p - \hat{p})$ a.e. in Ω .

Proof. We first prove that (f₁) implies (f₂). Let $(v, \eta, q) \in A_{\text{reg}}(0)$, then $(u + sv, e + s\eta, p + sq) \in A_{\text{reg}}(\hat{w})$ is an admissible triplet for (2.2) for every $0 < s < 1$. Hence

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{Q}(e) + \mathcal{H}(\sigma, p - \hat{p}) + \frac{\varepsilon}{2\delta} \|p - \hat{p}\|_2^2 &\leq \mathcal{Q}(e + s\eta) + \mathcal{H}(\sigma, p + sq - \hat{p}) + \frac{\varepsilon}{2\delta} \|p + sq - \hat{p}\|_2^2 \\ &= \mathcal{Q}(e) + s \int_{\Omega} \sigma : \eta \, dx + s^2 \mathcal{Q}(\eta) + \mathcal{H}(\sigma, p + sq - \hat{p}) \\ &\quad + \frac{\varepsilon}{2\delta} \|p - \hat{p}\|_2^2 + s \frac{\varepsilon}{\delta} \int_{\Omega} (p - \hat{p}) : q \, dx + s^2 \frac{\varepsilon}{2\delta} \|q\|_2^2. \end{aligned}$$

Using the convexity of \mathcal{H} , we deduce that $\psi(s) := \mathcal{H}(\sigma, p + sq - \hat{p})$ is convex as well, and thus $\psi(s) - \psi(0) \leq s(\psi(1) - \psi(0))$. Dividing the previous inequality by s , and letting s tend to zero implies that

$$\int_{\Omega} \sigma : \eta \, dx + \mathcal{H}(\sigma, q + p - \hat{p}) - \mathcal{H}(\sigma, p - \hat{p}) + \frac{\varepsilon}{\delta} \int_{\Omega} (p - \hat{p}) : q \, dx \geq 0,$$

which is (f₂).

We now deduce (f₃) from (f₂). Taking first $\pm(\varphi, E\varphi, 0) \in A_{\text{reg}}(0)$, for any $\varphi \in C_c^\infty(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^n)$, as test in (f₂), we get that $\int_{\Omega} \sigma : E\varphi \, dx = 0$ and thus $\text{div } \sigma = 0$ a.e. in Ω . Then choosing $(0, -q + p - \hat{p}, q - p + \hat{p}) \in A_{\text{reg}}(0)$, for any $q \in L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$, as test in (f₂), we deduce that

$$\mathcal{H}(\sigma, q) \geq \mathcal{H}(\sigma, p - \hat{p}) + \int_{\Omega} \left(\sigma - \frac{\varepsilon}{\delta}(p - \hat{p}) \right) : (q - (p - \hat{p})) \, dx,$$

which, by definition of the subdifferential, implies that $\sigma - \frac{\varepsilon}{\delta}(p - \hat{p}) \in \partial_2 \mathcal{H}(\sigma, p - \hat{p})$. By a standard result on convex integrands this is equivalent to (f₃).

Finally, we show that (f_3) implies (f_1) . Indeed, consider $(v, \eta, q) \in A_{\text{reg}}(\hat{w})$, then from the subdifferential condition in (f_3) , we get that

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{H}(\sigma, q - \hat{p}) &\geq \mathcal{H}(\sigma, p - \hat{p}) + \int_{\Omega} \left(\sigma - \frac{\varepsilon}{\delta} (p - \hat{p}) \right) : ((q - \hat{p}) - (p - \hat{p})) dx \\ &= \mathcal{H}(\sigma, p - \hat{p}) + \int_{\Omega} \sigma : (Ev - Eu) dx - \int_{\Omega} \sigma : (\eta - e) dx - \frac{\varepsilon}{\delta} \int_{\Omega} (p - \hat{p}) : ((q - \hat{p}) - (p - \hat{p})) dx. \end{aligned}$$

Since $\text{div } \sigma = 0$ a.e. in Ω and $u - v \in H_0^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^n)$,

$$\int_{\Omega} \sigma : (Ev - Eu) dx = 0.$$

On the other hand,

$$- \int_{\Omega} \sigma : (\eta - e) dx = \mathcal{Q}(e) + \mathcal{Q}(e - \eta) - \mathcal{Q}(\eta),$$

and similarly

$$- \int_{\Omega} (p - \hat{p}) : ((q - \hat{p}) - (p - \hat{p})) dx = \frac{1}{2} (\|p - \hat{p}\|_2^2 + \|p - q\|_2^2 - \|q - \hat{p}\|_2^2).$$

Gathering everything yields

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{Q}(\eta) + \mathcal{H}(\sigma, q - \hat{p}) + \frac{\varepsilon}{2\delta} \|q - \hat{p}\|_2^2 \\ \geq \mathcal{Q}(e) + \mathcal{H}(\sigma, p - \hat{p}) + \frac{\varepsilon}{2\delta} \|p - \hat{p}\|_2^2 + \mathcal{Q}(e - \eta) + \frac{\varepsilon}{2\delta} \|p - q\|_2^2 \\ \geq \mathcal{Q}(e) + \mathcal{H}(\sigma, p - \hat{p}) + \frac{\varepsilon}{2\delta} \|p - \hat{p}\|_2^2, \end{aligned}$$

hence (f_1) . \square

We now detail the incremental problem. In all that follows, the boundary datum w is the trace on $\partial\Omega$ of a function, still denoted by w , which lies in $H^1(0, T; H^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^n))$. The initial conditions on the triplet (u, e, p) are $(u_0, e_0, p_0) \in A_{\text{reg}}(w(0))$ (see (2.1)) such that $\text{div } \sigma_0 = 0$ a.e. in Ω , where $\sigma_0 := Ae_0$.

2.2. The incremental problem. Let $T > 0$, and consider a sequence of nested subdivisions $(t_k^i)_{0 \leq i \leq N(k)}$ of the time interval $[0, T]$, with the following properties:

$$0 = t_k^0 < t_k^1 < \dots < t_k^{N(k)-1} < t_k^{N(k)} = T$$

$$t_k^i - t_k^{i-1} = \delta_k \searrow 0 \text{ with } k \nearrow \infty$$

$$N(k)\delta_k = T$$

$$\{t_k^i : i = 1, \dots, N(k)\} \subset \{t_l^i : i = 1, \dots, N(l)\}, \quad k \leq l.$$

We assume that k is large enough so that

$$\frac{C_H \beta_A^2 \delta_k}{\alpha_A \varepsilon} < \frac{1}{3}. \quad (2.4)$$

For every $i \in \{1, \dots, N(k)\}$, we set $w_k^i := w(t_k^i)$, and we define (u_k^i, e_k^i, p_k^i) by induction. We first set $(u_k^0, e_k^0, p_k^0) := (u_0, e_0, p_0)$ the initial datum which belongs by assumption to $A_{\text{reg}}(w(0))$. For $i \in \{1, \dots, N(k)\}$, we define $(u_k^i, e_k^i, p_k^i) \in A_{\text{reg}}(w_k^i)$ as a solution to the minimization problem

$$\mathcal{Q}(e_k^i) + \mathcal{H}(\sigma_k^i, p_k^i - p_k^{i-1}) + \frac{\varepsilon}{2\delta_k} \|p_k^i - p_k^{i-1}\|_2^2 \leq \mathcal{Q}(\eta) + \mathcal{H}(\sigma_k^i, q - p_k^{i-1}) + \frac{\varepsilon}{2\delta_k} \|q - p_k^{i-1}\|_2^2, \quad (2.5)$$

for any $(v, \eta, q) \in A_{\text{reg}}(w_k^i)$, where $\sigma_k^i = Ae_k^i$. By (2.4) and Proposition 2.1 such a solution exists.

Also, as a consequence of Proposition 2.2,

$$\operatorname{div} \sigma_k^i = 0 \text{ a.e. in } \Omega \quad (2.6)$$

$$\sigma_k^i - \frac{\varepsilon}{\delta_k} (p_k^i - p_k^{i-1}) \in \partial_2 \mathcal{H}(\sigma_k^i, p_k^i - p_k^{i-1}). \quad (2.7)$$

Now, by (1.9) and the homogeneity of degree 0 of $\partial_2 \mathcal{H}$ in the second variable, (2.7) also reads as

$$\sigma_k^i \in \partial_2 \mathcal{H}_\varepsilon \left(\sigma_k^i, \frac{p_k^i - p_k^{i-1}}{\delta_k} \right),$$

and, by convex duality and (1.10), this is equivalent to

$$\frac{p_k^i - p_k^{i-1}}{\delta_k} = N_\varepsilon(\sigma_k^i, \sigma_k^i) \text{ a.e. in } \Omega. \quad (2.8)$$

We next define, for $t \in [t_k^i, t_k^{i+1})$, the piecewise constant interpolations

$$u_k(t) := u_k^i, \quad e_k(t) := e_k^i, \quad \sigma_k(t) := A e_k^i, \quad p_k(t) := p_k^i, \quad w_k(t) := w_k^i,$$

and the piecewise affine interpolations

$$\hat{e}_k(t) := e_k^i + \frac{t - t_k^i}{\delta_k} (e_k^{i+1} - e_k^i), \quad \hat{\sigma}_k(t) := A \hat{e}_k(t), \quad \hat{p}_k(t) := p_k^i + \frac{t - t_k^i}{\delta_k} (p_k^{i+1} - p_k^i),$$

and derive a discrete energy inequality between two arbitrary times.

Lemma 2.3. *There exists a sequence $\omega_k \rightarrow 0^+$ such that for every $k \in \mathbb{N}$ and every $0 \leq t_1 \leq t_2 \leq T$ with $t_1 \in [t_k^{j_1}, t_k^{j_1+1})$ and $t_2 \in [t_k^{j_2}, t_k^{j_2+1})$,*

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{Q}(e_k(t_2)) + \int_{t_k^{j_1}}^{t_k^{j_2}} \mathcal{H}(\sigma_k(s), \dot{p}_k(s)) ds + \frac{\varepsilon}{2} \int_{t_k^{j_1}}^{t_k^{j_2}} \|\dot{p}_k(s)\|_2^2 ds \\ \leq \mathcal{Q}(e_k(t_1)) + \int_{t_k^{j_1}}^{t_k^{j_2}} \int_{\Omega} \sigma_k(s) : E \dot{w}(s) dx ds + \omega_k. \end{aligned} \quad (2.9)$$

Proof. In (2.5), we take as competitor $(u_k^{i-1} + w_k^i - w_k^{i-1}, e_k^{i-1} + E w_k^i - E w_k^{i-1}, p_k^{i-1}) \in A_{\text{reg}}(w_k^i)$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{Q}(e_k^i) + \mathcal{H}(\sigma_k^i, p_k^i - p_k^{i-1}) + \frac{\varepsilon}{2\delta_k} \|p_k^i - p_k^{i-1}\|_2^2 &\leq \mathcal{Q}(e_k^{i-1} + E w_k^i - E w_k^{i-1}) \\ &= \mathcal{Q}(e_k^{i-1}) + \mathcal{Q}(E w_k^i - E w_k^{i-1}) + \int_{\Omega} \sigma_k^{i-1} : (E w_k^i - E w_k^{i-1}) dx. \end{aligned} \quad (2.10)$$

Since $E w$ is absolutely continuous in time with values in $L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{\text{sym}}^{n \times n})$, then

$$E w_k^i - E w_k^{i-1} = \int_{t_k^{i-1}}^{t_k^i} E \dot{w}(s) ds.$$

By (1.15),

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{Q}(E w_k^i - E w_k^{i-1}) &\leq \frac{\beta_A}{2} \left\| \int_{t_k^{i-1}}^{t_k^i} E \dot{w}(s) ds \right\|_2^2 \\ &\leq \frac{\beta_A}{2} \left(\int_{t_k^{i-1}}^{t_k^i} \|E \dot{w}(s)\|_2 ds \right)^2 \leq \frac{\beta_A}{2} \omega(\delta_k) \int_{t_k^{i-1}}^{t_k^i} \|E \dot{w}(s)\|_2 ds, \end{aligned} \quad (2.11)$$

where $\omega : [0, +\infty) \rightarrow [0, +\infty)$ is an infinitesimal function in 0. In view of (2.10) and (2.11),

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{Q}(e_k^i) + \mathcal{H}(\sigma_k^i, p_k^i - p_k^{i-1}) + \frac{\varepsilon}{2\delta_k} \|p_k^i - p_k^{i-1}\|_2^2 &\leq \mathcal{Q}(e_k^{i-1}) + \frac{\beta_A}{2} \omega(\delta_k) \int_{t_k^{i-1}}^{t_k^i} \|E\dot{w}(s)\|_2 ds \\ &\quad + \int_{t_k^{i-1}}^{t_k^i} \int_{\Omega} \sigma_k(s) : E\dot{w}(s) dx ds. \end{aligned}$$

Let $0 \leq t_1 \leq t_2 \leq T$, then there exist unique $j_1, j_2 \in \{1, \dots, N(k)\}$ such that $t_1 \in [t_k^{j_1}, t_k^{j_1+1})$ and $t_2 \in [t_k^{j_2}, t_k^{j_2+1})$. Summing up for $i = j_1 + 1$ to j_2 , and using the 1-homogeneity of \mathcal{H} in its second variable leads to

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{Q}(e_k(t_2)) + \sum_{i=j_1+1}^{j_2} \delta_k \mathcal{H}\left(\sigma_k^i, \frac{p_k^i - p_k^{i-1}}{\delta_k}\right) + \frac{\varepsilon}{2} \sum_{i=j_1+1}^{j_2} \delta_k \left\| \frac{p_k^i - p_k^{i-1}}{\delta_k} \right\|_2^2 \\ \leq \mathcal{Q}(e_k(t_1)) + \frac{\beta_A}{2} \omega(\delta_k) \int_{t_1}^{t_2} \|E\dot{w}(s)\|_2 ds + \int_{t_k^{j_1}}^{t_k^{j_2}} \int_{\Omega} \sigma_k(s) : E\dot{w}(s) dx ds, \end{aligned}$$

which implies (2.9) with $\omega_k := \frac{\beta_A}{2} \omega(\delta_k) \int_0^T \|E\dot{w}(s)\|_2 ds$. \square

With the help of the previously derived energy inequality, we deduce bounds on the triplet $(u_k(t), e_k(t), p_k(t))$ in suitable energy spaces, namely, that there exists a constant $C_T > 0$ (independent of k and ε) such that

$$\sup_{t \in [0, T]} \|e_k(t)\|_2 \leq C_T, \quad (2.12)$$

$$\int_0^T \|\dot{e}_k(s)\|_2^2 ds \leq \frac{C_T}{\varepsilon}, \quad (2.13)$$

and

$$\int_0^T \|\dot{p}_k(s)\|_2^2 ds \leq \frac{C_T}{\varepsilon}. \quad (2.14)$$

Indeed, apply Lemma 2.3 with $t_1 = 0$ and $t_2 = t$. Coercivity and boundedness of A (see (1.15)) implies

$$\alpha_A \sup_{t \in [0, T]} \|e_k(t)\|_2^2 \leq \beta_A \|e_0\|_2^2 + 2\beta_A \sup_{t \in [0, T]} \|e_k(t)\|_2 \int_0^T \|E\dot{w}(s)\|_2 ds + 2\omega_k,$$

hence that

$$\sup_{t \in [0, T]} \|e_k(t)\|_2 \leq C_T,$$

for some constant $C_T > 0$ independent of k and ε . Thanks again to Lemma 2.3 with $t_1 = 0$ and $t_2 = T$,

$$\int_0^T \|\dot{p}_k(s)\|_2^2 ds \leq \frac{C_T}{\varepsilon}.$$

By kinematic compatibility,

$$\frac{e_k^{i+1} - e_k^i}{\delta_k} = \frac{Eu_k^{i+1} - Eu_k^i}{\delta_k} - \frac{p_k^{i+1} - p_k^i}{\delta_k}.$$

Taking the L^2 -scalar product with $\sigma_k^{i+1} - \sigma_k^i$, and using the fact that $\operatorname{div} \sigma_k^{i+1} = \operatorname{div} \sigma_k^i = 0$ a.e. in Ω and $u_k^{i+1} - u_k^i = w_k^{i+1} - w_k^i$ \mathcal{H}^{n-1} -a.e. on $\partial\Omega$,

$$\int_{\Omega} \frac{e_k^{i+1} - e_k^i}{\delta_k} : (\sigma_k^{i+1} - \sigma_k^i) dx = \int_{\Omega} \left(\frac{Ew_k^{i+1} - Ew_k^i}{\delta_k} - \frac{p_k^{i+1} - p_k^i}{\delta_k} \right) : (\sigma_k^{i+1} - \sigma_k^i) dx.$$

In view of (1.15), this yields

$$\alpha_A \int_{t_k^i}^{t_k^{i+1}} \|\dot{e}_k(s)\|_2^2 ds \leq \int_{t_k^i}^{t_k^{i+1}} \int_{\Omega} (E\dot{w}(s) - \dot{p}_k(s)) : \dot{\sigma}_k(s) dx ds,$$

and thanks to the Cauchy-Schwartz and the triangle inequality, we then get, using (1.15) again,

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{t_k^i}^{t_k^{i+1}} \int_{\Omega} (E\dot{w}(s) - \dot{p}_k(s)) : \dot{\sigma}_k(s) dx ds \\ & \leq \beta_A \left(\int_{t_k^i}^{t_k^{i+1}} (\|E\dot{w}(s)\|_2 + \|\dot{p}_k(s)\|_2)^2 ds \right)^{1/2} \left(\int_{t_k^i}^{t_k^{i+1}} \|\dot{e}_k(s)\|_2^2 ds \right)^{1/2}. \end{aligned}$$

Using both previous relations, summing from $i = 0$ to $i = N(k) - 1$ and applying Cauchy-Schwartz inequality once more, we finally obtain,

$$\int_0^T \|\dot{e}_k(s)\|_2^2 ds \leq \frac{\beta_A^2}{\alpha_A^2} \int_0^T (\|E\dot{w}(s)\|_2^2 + \|\dot{p}_k(s)\|_2^2) ds.$$

The bound (2.13) is then a direct consequence of (2.14).

Remark 2.4. Note that, in lieu of the constant C_T , the bounds (2.12), (2.13) and (2.14) can be restated in terms of an expression of the form $a(\int_0^T \|E\dot{w}(s)\|_2 ds + T\omega(\delta_k))$, with $a \geq 0$ continuous and non decreasing. In particular, that will imply that the bounds in Remark 2.9 below are given in terms of a constant C_T whose dependence on T is of the form $a(\int_0^T \|E\dot{w}(s)\|_2^2 ds)$. \blacksquare

In order to pass to the limit in the discrete flow rule (2.7) we need to get strong compactness on the sequence of stresses $\{\sigma_k\}$. To that aim, we next prove that $\{e_k\}$ satisfies the Cauchy condition in $L^\infty(0, T; L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n}))$.

Lemma 2.5. *The sequences $\{e_k\}$ and $\{p_k\}$ satisfy the Cauchy condition in $L^\infty(0, T; L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n}))$, and $\{u_k\}$ is a Cauchy sequence in $L^\infty(0, T; H^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^n))$.*

Proof. From (2.8),

$$p_k^i - p_k^{i-1} = \delta_k N_\varepsilon(\sigma_k^i, \sigma_k^i),$$

and since $Eu_k^i = e_k^i + p_k^i$, and $Eu_k^{i-1} = e_k^{i-1} + p_k^{i-1}$,

$$e_k^i - e_k^{i-1} = Eu_k^i - Eu_k^{i-1} - \delta_k N_\varepsilon(\sigma_k^i, \sigma_k^i).$$

Summation for $i = 1$ to j leads to

$$e_k^j - e_0 = Eu_k^j - Eu_0 - \sum_{i=1}^j \delta_k N_\varepsilon(\sigma_k^i, \sigma_k^i).$$

Consequently, if $t \in [t_k^j, t_k^{j+1})$, then, in view of (1.11), (1.15), (2.12), and the fact that $|t - t_k^{j+1}| \leq \delta_k$ and $|t_k^1| \leq \delta_k$,

$$e_k(t) - e_0 = Eu_k(t) - Eu_0 - \int_0^t N_\varepsilon(\sigma_k(s), \sigma_k(s)) ds + R_k(t)$$

with

$$\sup_{t \in [0, T]} \|R_k(t)\|_2 \leq \frac{4}{\varepsilon} \beta_A \delta_k C_T. \quad (2.15)$$

Then, by difference,

$$e_k(t) - e_l(t) = Eu_k(t) - Eu_l(t) - \int_0^t (N_\varepsilon(\sigma_k(s), \sigma_k(s)) - N_\varepsilon(\sigma_l(s), \sigma_l(s))) ds + R_k(t) - R_l(t).$$

Taking the scalar product in L^2 with $\sigma_k(t) - \sigma_l(t)$, Cauchy-Schwartz inequality, (2.15) and Lemma 1.7, imply that

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha_A \|e_k(t) - e_l(t)\|_2^2 &\leq \int_{\Omega} (\sigma_k(t) - \sigma_l(t)) : (e_k(t) - e_l(t)) \, dx \\ &\leq \int_{\Omega} (\sigma_k(t) - \sigma_l(t)) : (Eu_k(t) - Eu_l(t)) \, dx \\ &\quad + \beta_A \|e_k(t) - e_l(t)\|_2 \left(\frac{4\beta_A C_T}{\varepsilon} (\delta_k + \delta_l) + \frac{2\beta_A C_H}{\varepsilon} \int_0^t \|e_k(s) - e_l(s)\|_2 \, ds \right). \end{aligned}$$

But, since $\operatorname{div} \sigma_k(t) = \operatorname{div} \sigma_l(t) = 0$ a.e. in Ω and $u_k(t) - u_l(t) = w_k(t) - w_l(t)$ \mathcal{H}^{n-1} -a.e. on $\partial\Omega$,

$$\int_{\Omega} (\sigma_k(t) - \sigma_l(t)) : (Eu_k(t) - Eu_l(t)) \, dx = \int_{\Omega} (\sigma_k(t) - \sigma_l(t)) : (Ew_k(t) - Ew_l(t)) \, dx,$$

so that the Cauchy-Schwartz inequality leads to

$$\|e_k(t) - e_l(t)\|_2 \leq C_{\varepsilon} \left(\delta_k + \delta_l + \|Ew_k(t) - Ew_l(t)\|_2 + \int_0^t \|e_k(s) - e_l(s)\|_2 \, ds \right),$$

for some constant C_{ε} independent of k , l and t .

Since $Ew \in H^1(0, T; L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n}))$, then it is Hölder continuous with values in $L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$. Hence $\{Ew_k\}$ is a Cauchy sequence in $L^{\infty}(0, T; L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n}))$, thus $\|Ew_k(t) - Ew_l(t)\|_2 \leq \omega(k, l) \searrow 0$ as $k, l \nearrow +\infty$. Application of Gronwall's inequality yields in turn

$$\|e_k(t) - e_l(t)\|_2 \leq C_{\varepsilon} (\delta_k + \delta_l + \omega(k, l)) e^{C_{\varepsilon} T}.$$

and this completes the proof that $\{e_k\}$, hence $\{\sigma_k\}$, are Cauchy sequences in $L^{\infty}(0, T; L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n}))$.

Now, similarly we would get

$$p_k(t) - p_l(t) = \int_0^t (N_{\varepsilon}(\sigma_k(s), \sigma_k(s)) - N_{\varepsilon}(\sigma_l(s), \sigma_l(s))) \, ds + R_k(t) - R_l(t),$$

from which we would deduce that $\{p_k\}$ is also a Cauchy sequence in $L^{\infty}(0, T; L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n}))$. From the kinematic compatibility, it follows that $\{Eu_k\}$ is Cauchy in $L^{\infty}(0, T; L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n}))$ as well. Thanks to the Poincaré-Korn's inequality we deduce that $\{u_k\}$ is a Cauchy sequence in $L^{\infty}(0, T; H^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^n))$. \square

2.3. The non-associative visco-plastic evolution. At the possible expense of extracting a subsequence, we conclude, thanks to (2.13), (2.14), Lemma 2.5 and because $u_k(0) = u_0$, $\hat{p}_k(0) = p_0$, to the existence of a quintuplet $(u_{\varepsilon}, e_{\varepsilon}, \hat{e}_{\varepsilon}, p_{\varepsilon}, \hat{p}_{\varepsilon})$ such that

$$\begin{aligned} u_k &\rightarrow u_{\varepsilon} \text{ strongly in } L^{\infty}(0, T; H^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^n)), \\ e_k &\rightarrow e_{\varepsilon} \text{ strongly in } L^{\infty}(0, T; L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})), \\ p_k &\rightarrow p_{\varepsilon} \text{ strongly in } L^{\infty}(0, T; L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})), \\ \hat{p}_k &\rightharpoonup \hat{p}_{\varepsilon} \text{ weakly in } H^1(0, T; L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})), \\ \hat{e}_k &\rightharpoonup \hat{e}_{\varepsilon} \text{ weakly in } H^1(0, T; L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})). \end{aligned} \tag{2.16}$$

We are now in a position to show the existence of a non-associative visco-plastic evolution.

Theorem 2.6. *Let $w \in H^1(0, T; H^1(\Omega, \mathbb{R}^n))$ and let $(u_0, e_0, p_0) \in A_{\operatorname{reg}}(w(0))$ be such that $\operatorname{div} \sigma_0 = 0$ a.e. in Ω , where $\sigma_0 := Ae_0$. Then, there exists a unique triplet $(u_{\varepsilon}(t), e_{\varepsilon}(t), p_{\varepsilon}(t)) \in A_{\operatorname{reg}}(w(t))$*

with

$$\begin{aligned} u_\varepsilon &\in H^1(0, T; H^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^n)) \\ e_\varepsilon &\in H^1(0, T; L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})) \\ p_\varepsilon &\in W^{1, \infty}(0, T; L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})), \end{aligned}$$

such that, setting $\sigma_\varepsilon(t) := Ae_\varepsilon(t)$, the following conditions are satisfied:

Initial condition: $(u_\varepsilon(0), e_\varepsilon(0), p_\varepsilon(0)) = (u_0, e_0, p_0)$;

Kinematic compatibility: For every $t \geq 0$,

$$\begin{aligned} Eu_\varepsilon(t) &= e_\varepsilon(t) + p_\varepsilon(t) \text{ a.e. in } \Omega, \\ u_\varepsilon(t) &= w(t) \mathcal{H}^{n-1}\text{-a.e. on } \partial\Omega; \end{aligned}$$

Equilibrium condition: For every $t \geq 0$,

$$\operatorname{div} \sigma_\varepsilon(t) = 0 \text{ a.e. in } \Omega;$$

Regularized non-associative flow rule: For a.e. $t \in [0, T]$,

$$\dot{p}_\varepsilon(t) = N_\varepsilon(\sigma_\varepsilon(t), \sigma_\varepsilon(t)) \text{ for a.e. } x \in \Omega,$$

or equivalently,

$$\sigma_\varepsilon(t) - \varepsilon \dot{p}_\varepsilon(t) \in \partial_2 H(\sigma_\varepsilon(t), \dot{p}_\varepsilon(t)) \text{ for a.e. } x \in \Omega.$$

In particular, $\varepsilon \|\dot{p}_\varepsilon(t)\|_2 = \operatorname{dist}_2(\sigma_\varepsilon(t), \mathcal{K}(\sigma_\varepsilon(t)))$.

We call such a triplet a non-associative visco-plastic solution.

Proof. Consider the quintuplet $(u_\varepsilon(t), e_\varepsilon(t), \hat{e}_\varepsilon(t), p_\varepsilon(t), \hat{p}_\varepsilon(t))$ obtained through the convergences in (2.16) and remark first that the kinematic compatibility relation passes to the limit, i.e., $Eu_\varepsilon(t) = e_\varepsilon(t) + p_\varepsilon(t)$ a.e. in Ω and $u_\varepsilon(t) = w(t) \mathcal{H}^{n-1}$ -a.e. on $\partial\Omega$. Now, since

$$\hat{e}_k(t) = e_k(t) + \int_{t_k^i}^t \dot{\hat{e}}_k(s) ds,$$

if $t \in [t_k^i, t_k^{i+1})$, then, from bound (2.13),

$$\sup_{t \in [0, T]} \|\hat{e}_k(t) - e_k(t)\|_2 \leq C_\varepsilon \sqrt{\delta_k} \rightarrow 0,$$

as $k \rightarrow +\infty$, which implies that $\hat{e}_\varepsilon(t) = e_\varepsilon(t)$. The same argument shows that $\hat{p}_\varepsilon(t) = p_\varepsilon(t)$ and thus, e_ε and $p_\varepsilon \in H^1(0, T; L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n}))$. Moreover, the Poincaré-Korn's inequality yields $u_\varepsilon \in H^1(0, T; H^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^n))$.

By (2.6), $\operatorname{div} \sigma_k(t) = 0$ a.e. in Ω , so that $\operatorname{div} \sigma_\varepsilon(t) = 0$ a.e. in Ω .

In view of (2.8), we have, for $t \in [t_k^i, t_k^{i+1})$,

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{\hat{p}}_k(t) &= N_\varepsilon(\sigma_k(t) + \sigma_k^{i+1} - \sigma_k^i, \sigma_k(t) + \sigma_k^{i+1} - \sigma_k^i) \\ &= N_\varepsilon(\sigma_k(t), \sigma_k(t)) + \tilde{R}_k(t), \end{aligned}$$

where, thanks to Lemma 1.7, (1.15) and (2.13), $\|\tilde{R}_k(t)\|_2 \leq C_\varepsilon \sqrt{\delta_k}$. As a consequence, $\tilde{R}_k \rightarrow 0$ strongly in $L^\infty(0, T; L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n}))$. On the other hand, since, by (2.16), $\sigma_k = Ae_k \rightarrow \sigma_\varepsilon := Ae_\varepsilon$ strongly in $L^\infty(0, T; L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n}))$, we conclude that $N_\varepsilon(\sigma_k, \sigma_k) \rightarrow N_\varepsilon(\sigma_\varepsilon, \sigma_\varepsilon)$ strongly in $L^\infty(0, T; L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n}))$. This implies that, in particular,

$$\dot{p}_\varepsilon(t) = N_\varepsilon(\sigma_\varepsilon(t), \sigma_\varepsilon(t))$$

for a.e. $t \in [0, T]$ and a.e. $x \in \Omega$, and that actually $p_\varepsilon \in W^{1, \infty}(0, T; L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n}))$. The remaining relations are obtained by convex duality and thanks to (1.12). The proof of the existence of the announced triplet is complete.

Now, let us prove uniqueness. Let $(u_1(t), e_1(t), p_1(t))$ and $(u_2(t), e_2(t), p_2(t))$ be two non-associative visco-plastic solutions with boundary datum w and initial condition (u_0, e_0, p_0) . For $i = 1, 2$, set $\sigma_i(t) := Ae_i(t)$. Thanks to the regularized flow rule, $\dot{p}_i(t) = N_\varepsilon(\sigma_i(t), \sigma_i(t))$ for a.e. $t \in [0, T]$ and a.e. $x \in \Omega$, and, using kinematic compatibility, we get $\dot{e}_i(t) = E\dot{u}_i(t) - N_\varepsilon(\sigma_i(t), \sigma_i(t))$. Hence

$$\dot{e}_2(t) - \dot{e}_1(t) = E\dot{u}_2(t) - E\dot{u}_1(t) - (N_\varepsilon(\sigma_2(t), \sigma_2(t)) - N_\varepsilon(\sigma_1(t), \sigma_1(t))).$$

Taking the L^2 -scalar product with $\sigma_2(t) - \sigma_1(t)$, using the fact that $\operatorname{div} \sigma_1(t) = \operatorname{div} \sigma_2(t) = 0$ a.e. in Ω and $\dot{u}_2(t) - \dot{u}_1(t) \in H_0^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^n)$, we get that

$$\frac{d}{dt} \mathcal{Q}(e_2(t) - e_1(t)) \leq C_\varepsilon \|e_2(t) - e_1(t)\|_2^2 \leq C'_\varepsilon \mathcal{Q}(e_2(t) - e_1(t)),$$

where we used the Lipschitz continuous character of N_ε (see Lemma 1.7) and (1.15). By the initial condition, we have $e_2(0) - e_1(0) = 0$, hence from Gronwall's Lemma, we deduce that $\mathcal{Q}(e_2(t) - e_1(t)) = 0$, and by (1.15) that $e_1(t) = e_2(t)$. Consequently, $\sigma_1(t) = \sigma_2(t)$ and the regularized flow rule, together with the fact that $p_1(0) = p_2(0) = p_0$, implies that $p_1(t) = p_2(t)$. Finally, from kinematic compatibility, $u_2(t) - u_1(t) \in H_0^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^n)$ and $Eu_1(t) = Eu_2(t)$, and consequently, Korn's inequality leads to $u_1(t) = u_2(t)$. \square

Remark 2.7. Note that the same theorem applies with $N_\varepsilon(\sigma_\varepsilon(t), \sigma_\varepsilon(t))$ replaced by $N_\varepsilon(\sigma_\varepsilon(t) * \rho, \sigma_\varepsilon(t))$ (and $\partial_2 H(\sigma_\varepsilon(t), \dot{p}_\varepsilon(t))$ replaced by $\partial_2 H(\sigma_\varepsilon(t) * \rho, \dot{p}_\varepsilon(t))$), where ρ is a non-negative convolution kernel. We then call a solution triplet a *non-associative ρ -visco-plastic solution*, and in that case,

$$\varepsilon \|\dot{p}_\varepsilon(t)\|_2 = \operatorname{dist}_2(\sigma_\varepsilon(t), \mathcal{K}(\sigma_\varepsilon(t) * \rho)).$$

Remark 2.8 below also applies to that case. \blacksquare

We end this subsection with a remark whose proof is very close to that of [9, Theorem 3.4]; we omit the proof here.

Remark 2.8. The regularized non-associative flow rule in Theorem 2.6 can be equivalently replaced by

1. **Modified Stress Constraint:** $\sigma_\varepsilon(t) - \varepsilon \dot{p}_\varepsilon(t) \in \mathcal{K}(\sigma_\varepsilon(t))$, for a.e. $t \in [0, T]$, or equivalently, since, as is classical in convex analysis, $K(\sigma) = \partial_2 H(\sigma, 0)$,

$$\sigma_\varepsilon(t) - \varepsilon \dot{p}_\varepsilon(t) \in \partial_2 H(\sigma_\varepsilon(t), 0) \text{ for a.e. } (x, t) \in \Omega \times [0, T];$$

2. **Energy equality:** $(u_\varepsilon(t), e_\varepsilon(t), p_\varepsilon(t))$ satisfies the following energy equality, for every $t \in [0, T]$:

$$\mathcal{Q}(e_\varepsilon(t)) + \int_0^t \mathcal{H}(\sigma_\varepsilon(s), \dot{p}_\varepsilon(s)) ds + \varepsilon \int_0^t \|\dot{p}_\varepsilon(s)\|_2^2 ds = \mathcal{Q}(e_0) + \int_0^t \int_\Omega \sigma_\varepsilon(s) : E\dot{w}(s) dx ds,$$

or still

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{Q}(e_\varepsilon(t)) + \int_0^t \mathcal{H}(\sigma_\varepsilon(s), \dot{p}_\varepsilon(s)) ds + \int_0^t \|\dot{p}_\varepsilon(s)\|_2 \operatorname{dist}_2(\sigma_\varepsilon(s), \mathcal{K}(\sigma_\varepsilon(s))) ds \\ = \mathcal{Q}(e_0) + \int_0^t \int_\Omega \sigma_\varepsilon(s) : E\dot{w}(s) dx ds. \end{aligned}$$

The same applies to the non-associative ρ -visco-plastic evolution defined in Remark 2.7 above. \blacksquare

Remark 2.9. In view of the energy equality in Remark 2.8, of (1.15), (1.7), and of bound (2.12), which is independent of ε , we have

$$\|e_\varepsilon(t)\|_2 \leq C_T, \quad \|\sigma_\varepsilon(t)\|_2 \leq C_T, \quad \int_0^T \|\dot{p}_\varepsilon(s)\|_1 ds \leq C_T,$$

where C_T is an ε -independent constant. Actually, in view of Remark 2.4, the dependence of C_T in T is of the form $a(\int_0^T \|E\dot{w}(s)\|_2^2 ds)$, with $a \geq 0$ continuous and non decreasing.

Once again, the same applies to the non-associative ρ -visco-plastic evolution defined in Remark 2.7 above. \blacksquare

3. TIME RESCALED

In this section, we propose a rescaling of time which will permit to pass to the vanishing viscosity limit in the non-associative ρ -visco-plastic evolution. Such an idea was first put forth in [14], then, in a setting which is close to the present setting, it was used in the context of Cam-Clay plasticity in [9]. *By default, each result stated in this section will be assumed to apply solely to the non-associative ρ -visco-plastic evolution, where $\rho \in \mathcal{C}_c^1(\mathbb{R}^n)$, unless otherwise stated.*

Because of the bounds established in Remark 2.9, we cannot expect to keep the L^2 -regularity of the fields Eu and p when passing to the 0-viscosity limit and we thus have to redefine $A_{\text{reg}}(\hat{w})$ from (2.1) as

$$A(\hat{w}) := \left\{ (v, \eta, q) \in BD(\Omega) \times L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n}) \times \mathcal{M}(\bar{\Omega}; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n}) : \right. \\ \left. Ev = \eta + q \text{ in } \Omega, q = (\hat{w} - v) \odot \nu \mathcal{H}^{n-1} \text{ on } \partial\Omega \right\}$$

with $\hat{w} \in H^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^n)$.

We still keep a boundary datum $w \in H^1(0, T; H^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^n))$ and consider an initial condition triplet $(u_0, e_0, p_0) \in A(w(0))$ satisfying

$$\text{div} \sigma_0 = 0 \text{ a.e. in } \Omega \text{ and } \sigma_0 \in \mathcal{K}(\sigma_0 * \rho),$$

where $\sigma_0 := Ae_0$. The following proposition states the existence of the initial data.

Proposition 3.1. *There exists a triplet $(u_0, e_0, p_0) \in A(w(0))$ such that, setting $\sigma_0 := Ae_0$, then*

$$\text{div} \sigma_0 = 0 \text{ a.e. in } \Omega \text{ and } \sigma_0 \in \mathcal{K}(\sigma_0 * \rho).$$

Proof. Define $K_0 := \bigcap_{\tau \in \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n}} K(\tau)$. We proved in Lemma 1.4 that each $K(\tau)$ contain a uniform ball with respect to τ . Consequently, K_0 is a non empty closed and convex subset of $\mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n}$. Let us denote by

$$H_0(q) := \sup_{\tau \in K_0} \tau : q, \quad q \in \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n},$$

its support function, and

$$\mathcal{H}_0(p) := \int_{\bar{\Omega}} H_0 \left(\frac{dp}{d|p|} \right) d|p|, \quad p \in \mathcal{M}(\bar{\Omega}; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n}).$$

By Lemma 1.4, H_0 satisfies the following growth and coercivity properties:

$$\alpha_H |q| \leq H_0(q) \leq \beta_H |q| \quad \text{for all } q \in \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n}. \quad (3.1)$$

Let us define $(v_0, \eta_0, q_0) := (w(0), Ew(0), 0)$, and by induction, for any $k \geq 1$, let $(v_k, \eta_k, q_k) \in A(w(0))$ be the solution of

$$\min_{(v, \eta, q) \in A(w(0))} \{ \mathcal{Q}(\eta) + \mathcal{H}_0(q - q_{k-1}) \}.$$

The direct method in the calculus of variations, the Poincaré-Korn inequality in $BD(\Omega)$ – see [31, Chapter II, Remark 2.5 (ii)]; referred to henceforth as Poincaré-Korn's inequality – and the convexity of \mathcal{Q} and \mathcal{H}_0 ensure the existence of such a solution, and by strict convexity, this solution

turns out to be unique. Taking $(v, \eta, q) = (v_{k-1}, \eta_{k-1}, q_{k-1})$ as test function in the previous minimization problem, and summing up leads to

$$\|\eta_k\|_2 + \|q_k\|_1 \leq \|\eta_k\|_2 + \sum_{l=1}^k \|q_l - q_{l-1}\|_1 \leq C,$$

for some constant $C > 0$ independent of k , where we used (1.15) and (3.1). Using again the Poincaré-Korn inequality in $BD(\Omega)$, we can assume that, up to a subsequence, $v_k \rightharpoonup u_0$ weakly* in $BD(\Omega)$, $\eta_k \rightharpoonup e_0$ weakly in $L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$, and $q_k \rightharpoonup p_0$ weakly* in $\mathcal{M}(\bar{\Omega}; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$, with $(u_0, e_0, p_0) \in A(w(0))$ (see [6, Lemma 2.1]).

Using the triangle inequality satisfied by H_0 , we deduce that

$$\mathcal{Q}(\eta_k) \leq \mathcal{Q}(\eta) + \mathcal{H}_0(q - q_k) \quad (3.2)$$

for any $(v, \eta, q) \in A(w(0))$. Taking $(v, \eta, q) := (v_k + t\varphi, \eta_k + tE\varphi, q_k)$ as test function in (3.2), where $t \in \mathbb{R}$ and $\varphi \in C_c^\infty(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$, and letting $t \rightarrow 0^\pm$ yields $\operatorname{div}(A\eta_k) = 0$ a.e. in Ω . Passing to the limit as $k \rightarrow +\infty$ in the distributional sense leads to $\operatorname{div}\sigma_0 = 0$ a.e. in Ω , where $\sigma_0 := Ae_0$.

Finally, taking $(v, \eta, q) = (v_k, \eta_k - t\eta, q_k + t\eta)$ as test function in (3.2), where $t > 0$ and $\eta \in L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$, and letting again $t \rightarrow 0^+$ leads to $A\eta_k \in \partial\mathcal{H}_0(0)$. Since $\partial\mathcal{H}_0(0)$ is a weakly closed subset of $L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$, it follows by passing to the limit as $k \rightarrow +\infty$ that $\sigma_0 = Ae_0 \in \partial\mathcal{H}_0(0)$. By a standard localization argument, we obtain that $\sigma_0(x) \in \partial H_0(0) = K_0$ for a.e. $x \in \Omega$. In particular, we get that $\sigma_0(x) \in K([\sigma_0 * \rho](x))$ which completes the proof of the proposition. \square

According to [9, Lemma 5.1], there exists a sequence $\{u_0^\varepsilon\} \subset H^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^n)$ such that $u_0^\varepsilon = w(0)$ \mathcal{H}^{n-1} -a.e. on $\partial\Omega$, $u_0^\varepsilon \rightarrow u_0$ strongly in $L^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^n)$ and $Eu_0^\varepsilon \rightharpoonup Eu_0$ weakly* in $\mathcal{M}(\bar{\Omega}; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$. Setting $p_0^\varepsilon := Eu_0^\varepsilon - e_0$, we get that $(u_0^\varepsilon, e_0, p_0^\varepsilon) \in A_{\operatorname{reg}}(w(0))$ satisfies

$$\begin{cases} u_0^\varepsilon \rightharpoonup u_0 \text{ weakly* in } BD(\Omega), \\ p_0^\varepsilon \rightharpoonup p_0 \text{ weakly* in } \mathcal{M}(\bar{\Omega}; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n}). \end{cases} \quad (3.3)$$

3.1. The rescaled non-associative visco-plastic evolution. Extend, without loss of generality w by $w(T)$ for $t \geq T$. Theorem 2.6 and Remark 2.7 then provide a unique non-associative visco-plastic or ρ -visco-plastic solution $(u_\varepsilon(t), e_\varepsilon(t), p_\varepsilon(t))$, for $0 \leq t < +\infty$, with $(u_0^\varepsilon, e_0, p_0^\varepsilon)$ as initial condition.

We propose to rescale time as follows:

$$s_\varepsilon^\circ(t) := \int_0^t (\|\dot{p}_\varepsilon(s)\|_1 + \|E\dot{w}(s)\|_2 + 1) ds,$$

so that $s \mapsto t_\varepsilon^\circ(s) := (s_\varepsilon^\circ)^{-1}(s)$ is strictly monotonically increasing and equi-Lipschitz on $[0, +\infty)$, *i.e.*,

$$|t_\varepsilon^\circ(s_1) - t_\varepsilon^\circ(s_2)| \leq |s_1 - s_2|$$

for every s_1 and $s_2 \geq 0$. Note that $t_\varepsilon^\circ(0) = 0$ and that, by virtue of Remark 2.9,

$$\bar{T} := a \left(\int_0^T \|E\dot{w}(s)\|_2^2 ds \right) + T \geq s_\varepsilon^\circ(T),$$

so that $t_\varepsilon^\circ(\bar{T}) \geq T$, for each $\varepsilon > 0$.

Define, on $[0, \bar{T}]$,

$$\begin{aligned} w_\varepsilon^\circ(s) &:= w(t_\varepsilon^\circ(s)), & u_\varepsilon^\circ(s) &:= u_\varepsilon(t_\varepsilon^\circ(s)), & e_\varepsilon^\circ(s) &:= e_\varepsilon(t_\varepsilon^\circ(s)), \\ \sigma_\varepsilon^\circ(s) &:= \sigma_\varepsilon(t_\varepsilon^\circ(s)), & p_\varepsilon^\circ(s) &:= p_\varepsilon(t_\varepsilon^\circ(s)). \end{aligned}$$

3.2. Compactness. An application of the chain rule shows that Ew_ε° and p_ε° are 1-Lipschitz in s with values in $L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$ and $\mathcal{M}(\bar{\Omega}; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$ respectively, *i.e.*, for every s_1 and $s_2 \in [0, \bar{T}]$,

$$\|Ew_\varepsilon^\circ(s_1) - Ew_\varepsilon^\circ(s_2)\|_2 + \|p_\varepsilon^\circ(s_1) - p_\varepsilon^\circ(s_2)\|_1 \leq |s_1 - s_2|,$$

and in particular, from (3.3)

$$\|p_\varepsilon^\circ(s)\|_1 \leq \|p_0^\varepsilon\|_1 + \bar{T} \leq M, \quad (3.4)$$

for every $s \in [0, \bar{T}]$ and for some constant $M > 0$ which is independent of ε and s . Hence, upon application of Ascoli's theorem (bounded sets in $\mathcal{M}(\bar{\Omega}; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$ are relatively compact and metrizable for the weak* topology), a subsequence (still indexed by ε) of p_ε° is such that

$$p_\varepsilon^\circ(s) \rightharpoonup p^\circ(s) \text{ weakly* in } \mathcal{M}(\bar{\Omega}; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n}), \quad (3.5)$$

uniformly in $[0, \bar{T}]$ with $p^\circ \in \text{Lip}([0, \bar{T}]; \mathcal{M}(\bar{\Omega}; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n}))$. In particular $p^\circ(0) = p_0$. Because of the already mentioned properties of the space $\mathcal{M}(\bar{\Omega}; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$, p° is weakly* differentiable for a.e. $s \in (0, \bar{T})$ (see *e.g.* [6, Theorem 7.1]) and

$$\|\dot{p}^\circ(s)\|_1 \leq 1 \quad \text{for a.e. } s \in (0, \bar{T}). \quad (3.6)$$

Also, since $s \mapsto \dot{p}^\circ(s)$ is weakly* measurable (with values in $\mathcal{M}(\bar{\Omega}; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$), we conclude that

$$\dot{p}^\circ \in L_w^\infty(0, \bar{T}; \mathcal{M}(\bar{\Omega}; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})). \quad (3.7)$$

Finally, in view of the last bound in Remark 2.9 together with (3.5), we easily conclude that

$$p_\varepsilon^\circ \rightharpoonup p^\circ \text{ weakly* in } \mathcal{M}([0, T] \times \bar{\Omega}) \text{ and in } L_w^\infty(0, \bar{T}; \mathcal{M}(\bar{\Omega}; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})). \quad (3.8)$$

Because of the equi-Lipschitz character of t_ε , Ascoli's theorem implies the existence of a Lipschitz and monotonically increasing function $t^\circ : [0, \bar{T}] \rightarrow [0, +\infty)$ such that (a subsequence of) t_ε° – still indexed by ε – converges uniformly to t° as $\varepsilon \searrow 0$. Hence, $w_\varepsilon^\circ(s) \rightarrow w^\circ(s) := w(t^\circ(s))$ strongly in $H^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^n)$, where $w^\circ \in H^1(0, \bar{T}; H^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^n))$.

We next derive some compactness on the sequences $\{u_\varepsilon^\circ\}$ and $\{e_\varepsilon^\circ\}$.

Lemma 3.2. *In both the non-associative ρ -visco-plastic evolution setting, and the non-associative visco-plastic evolution setting, for every $s \in [0, \bar{T}]$, there exists a triplet*

$$(u^\circ(s), e^\circ(s), p^\circ(s)) \in A(w^\circ(s))$$

such that, with $\sigma^\circ(s) := Ae^\circ(s)$, $\text{div } \sigma^\circ(s) = 0$ a.e. in Ω and, for any sequence $s_\varepsilon \rightarrow s$,

$$\begin{aligned} u_\varepsilon^\circ(s_\varepsilon) &\rightharpoonup u^\circ(s) \text{ weakly* in } BD(\Omega), \\ e_\varepsilon^\circ(s_\varepsilon) &\rightharpoonup e^\circ(s) \text{ weakly in } L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n}), \\ \sigma_\varepsilon^\circ(s_\varepsilon) &\rightharpoonup \sigma^\circ(s) \text{ weakly in } L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n}). \end{aligned} \quad (3.9)$$

Moreover, $(u^\circ(0), e^\circ(0), p^\circ(0)) = (u_0, e_0, p_0)$ and finally, $s \mapsto u^\circ(s)$ is weakly continuous in $BD(\Omega)$, and $s \mapsto e^\circ(s)$ and $s \mapsto \sigma^\circ(s)$ are weakly continuous in $L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$.*

Proof. Consider an arbitrary sequence $s_\varepsilon \rightarrow s$. From Remark 2.9, we have

$$\sup_{s \in [0, \bar{T}]} \|e_\varepsilon^\circ(s)\|_2 \leq C_{\bar{T}},$$

so that a (possibly s -dependent) subsequence $\{e_{\varepsilon_j}^\circ(s_{\varepsilon_j})\}$ of $\{e_\varepsilon^\circ(s_\varepsilon)\}$ is such that

$$e_{\varepsilon_j}^\circ(s_{\varepsilon_j}) \rightharpoonup e^\circ(s) \text{ weakly in } L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n}). \quad (3.10)$$

In view of (3.4), (3.10), and since $u_\varepsilon^\circ(s_\varepsilon) = w_\varepsilon^\circ(s_\varepsilon)$ \mathcal{H}^{n-1} -a.e. on $\partial\Omega$, the Poincaré-Korn inequality in $BD(\Omega)$ implies that $\{u_\varepsilon^\circ(s_\varepsilon)\}$ is bounded in $BD(\Omega)$, hence, a (possibly s -dependent) subsequence $\{u_{\varepsilon_j}^\circ(s_{\varepsilon_j})\}$ of $\{u_\varepsilon^\circ(s_\varepsilon)\}$ is such that

$$u_{\varepsilon_j}^\circ(s_{\varepsilon_j}) \rightharpoonup u^\circ(s) \text{ weakly* in } BD(\Omega). \quad (3.11)$$

Since p_ε° is 1-Lipschitz with values in $\mathcal{M}(\overline{\Omega}; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$, we deduce that $p_{\varepsilon_j}^\circ(s_{\varepsilon_j}) \rightharpoonup p^\circ(s)$ weakly* in $\mathcal{M}(\overline{\Omega}; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$, where p° is defined in (3.5). Further,

$$(u_{\varepsilon_j}^\circ(s_{\varepsilon_j}), e_{\varepsilon_j}^\circ(s_{\varepsilon_j}), p_{\varepsilon_j}^\circ(s_{\varepsilon_j})) \in A(w_{\varepsilon_j}^\circ(s_{\varepsilon_j}))$$

and $w_{\varepsilon_j}^\circ(s_{\varepsilon_j}) \rightarrow w^\circ(s)$ strongly in $H^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^n)$, so that, through an extension argument (see [6, Lemma 2.1]),

$$(u^\circ(s), e^\circ(s), p^\circ(s)) \in A(w^\circ(s)).$$

From (3.10)

$$\sigma_{\varepsilon_j}^\circ(s_{\varepsilon_j}) \rightharpoonup \sigma^\circ(s) := Ae^\circ(s) \text{ weakly in } L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n}) \quad (3.12)$$

with

$$\operatorname{div} \sigma^\circ(s) = 0 \text{ a.e. in } \Omega.$$

In particular, for any $\varphi \in H_0^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^n)$ we infer that

$$\mathcal{Q}(e^\circ(s)) \leq \mathcal{Q}(e^\circ(s) + E\varphi). \quad (3.13)$$

We now prove that the limits u° , e° and σ° are independent of the choice of the sequence $\{s_\varepsilon\}$. To this end, consider another sequence $s'_\varepsilon \rightarrow s$. Arguing as before, we can assume, at the expense of extracting a further subsequence still denoted $\{\varepsilon_j\}$, that $u_{\varepsilon_j}^\circ(s'_{\varepsilon_j}) \rightharpoonup \hat{u}(s)$ weakly* in $BD(\Omega)$, and $e_{\varepsilon_j}^\circ(s'_{\varepsilon_j}) \rightharpoonup \hat{e}(s)$ and $\sigma_{\varepsilon_j}^\circ(s_{\varepsilon_j}) \rightharpoonup \hat{\sigma}(s) = A\hat{e}(s)$ weakly in $L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$, with $(\hat{u}(s), \hat{e}(s), p^\circ(s)) \in A(w^\circ(s))$. Hence $E(u^\circ(s) - \hat{u}(s)) = e^\circ(s) - \hat{e}(s) \in L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$ and $-(u^\circ(s) - \hat{u}(s)) \odot \nu = p^\circ(s) - p^\circ(s) = 0$ \mathcal{H}^{n-1} -a.e. on $\partial\Omega$. Consequently, $\hat{u}(s) - u^\circ(s) \in H_0^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^n)$. Taking $\varphi = \hat{u}(s) - u^\circ(s)$ in (3.13) we deduce that

$$\mathcal{Q}(e^\circ(s)) \leq \mathcal{Q}(\hat{e}(s)),$$

and inverting the roles of $e^\circ(s)$ and $\hat{e}(s)$, we get that this inequality is actually an equality. By strict convexity of \mathcal{Q} we conclude that $\hat{e}(s) = e^\circ(s)$, and thus $\hat{\sigma}(s) = \sigma^\circ(s)$ and $\hat{u}(s) = u^\circ(s)$. Hence the limits are independent of the choice of the sequence $\{s_\varepsilon\}$, and by uniqueness, we infer that there is no need to extract a subsequence to get the convergences (3.10), (3.11) and (3.12). Moreover, thanks to (3.3), we clearly have that $(u^\circ(0), e^\circ(0), p^\circ(0)) = (u_0, e_0, p_0)$.

We now show that these maps are weakly continuous. Let $s_k \rightarrow s$, then by taking $s_\varepsilon = s_k$, we have $e_\varepsilon^\circ(s_k) \rightharpoonup e^\circ(s_k)$ weakly in $L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$ as $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$. Let

$$M := \sup_{\varepsilon > 0, k \in \mathbb{N}} \|e_\varepsilon^\circ(s_k)\|_2.$$

Since the weak topology of $L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$ is metrizable on bounded sets, we deduce that there exist a distance, denoted by d_M , in $L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$ such that the weak topology on $\{\varphi \in L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n}) : \|\varphi\|_2 \leq M\}$ is compatible with the topology induced by the distance d_M . Hence there exists $\varepsilon_k \rightarrow 0$ as $k \rightarrow +\infty$ such that $d_M(e_{\varepsilon_k}^\circ(s_k), e^\circ(s_k)) < 1/k$, and by (3.9), we also have $\lim_k d_M(e_{\varepsilon_k}^\circ(s_k), e^\circ(s)) = 0$. We conclude that $e^\circ(s_k) \rightharpoonup e^\circ(s)$ weakly in $L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$ which completes the proof of the weak continuity of e° and also of σ° . Finally $s \mapsto Eu^\circ(s)$ is weakly* continuous in $\mathcal{M}(\overline{\Omega}; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$ and by the Poincaré-Korn's inequality, we get the desired weak* continuity of $s \mapsto u^\circ(s)$ in $BD(\Omega)$. \square

3.3. Stress constraint. We next address the modified stress constraint in the first item of Remark 2.8. Passing to the 0-viscosity limit in the rescaled modified stress constraint is not convenient because the chain rule introduces a term of the form $\varepsilon \dot{p}_\varepsilon^\circ / \dot{t}_\varepsilon^\circ$ which we do not control.

Let us introduce the left-continuous (resp. right-continuous) inverse of t° defined by $s_-^\circ(t) := \sup\{s : t^\circ(s) < t\}$ (resp. $s_+^\circ(t) := \inf\{s : t^\circ(s) > t\}$) and $S^\circ := \{t \in (0, T) : s_-^\circ(t) < s_+^\circ(t)\}$. Here we use the convention $\sup \emptyset = 0$, so that $s_-^\circ(0) = 0$. Observe that $t^\circ(s_-^\circ(t)) = t^\circ(s_+^\circ(t)) = t$ and that the set S° is at most countable. By [9, Lemma 5.2], we know that for each $t \notin S^\circ$,

$s_\varepsilon^\circ(t) \rightarrow s_-^\circ(t) = s_+^\circ(t)$. Hence, thanks to convergences (3.5), (3.9) and the fact that p° is 1-Lipschitz, we have

$$\begin{cases} u_\varepsilon(t) \rightharpoonup u^\circ(s_-^\circ(t)) \text{ weakly* in } BD(\Omega), \\ e_\varepsilon(t) \rightharpoonup e^\circ(s_-^\circ(t)) \text{ weakly in } L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n}), \\ \sigma_\varepsilon(t) \rightharpoonup \sigma^\circ(s_-^\circ(t)) \text{ weakly in } L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n}), \\ p_\varepsilon(t) \rightharpoonup p^\circ(s_-^\circ(t)) \text{ weakly* in } \mathcal{M}(\overline{\Omega}; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n}), \end{cases} \quad (3.14)$$

for all $t \notin S^\circ$. Define

$$U^\circ := \{s \in (0, \overline{T}] : t^\circ \text{ is constant in a neighborhood of } s\},$$

and note that

$$U^\circ = \bigcup_{t \in S^\circ} (s_-^\circ(t), s_+^\circ(t)),$$

hence that it is open.

We next establish a partial stress constraint property which unfortunately only applies to the rescaled limit to the ρ -visco-plastic evolution.

Lemma 3.3. *For every $s \notin U^\circ$, one has*

$$\sigma^\circ(s) \in \mathcal{K}(\sigma^\circ(s) * \rho). \quad (3.15)$$

Proof. Thanks to the energy equality in the second item of Remark 2.8 and of the already established bounds on the various quantities in the right hand-side of that equality (see Remark 2.9),

$$\varepsilon \dot{p}_\varepsilon(t) \rightarrow 0 \text{ strongly in } L^2(0, T; L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})), \quad (3.16)$$

and also a.e. in $\Omega \times (0, T)$. Recall the modified stress constraint from that same remark, namely

$$\sigma_\varepsilon(t, x) - \varepsilon \dot{p}_\varepsilon(t, x) \in \partial_2 H([\sigma_\varepsilon(t) * \rho](x), 0) \text{ for a.e. } (x, t) \in \Omega \times [0, T].$$

Then, for any $q \in \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n}$,

$$H([\sigma_\varepsilon(t) * \rho](x), q) \geq (\sigma_\varepsilon(t, x) - \varepsilon \dot{p}_\varepsilon(t, x)) : q \text{ for a.e. } (x, t) \in \Omega \times [0, T].$$

Because of the third convergence in (3.14) and of Remark 2.9, $\sigma_\varepsilon(t) * \rho \rightarrow \sigma^\circ(s_-^\circ(t)) * \rho$ a.e. in Ω and in $L^p(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$, $p < \infty$. Consider a measurable subset $E \subset \Omega$. Integrating the relation above over E , recalling Lemma 1.5 and convergence (3.16), we may pass to the limit in that relation and we obtain, for a.e. $t \in [0, T]$,

$$H([\sigma^\circ(s_-^\circ(t)) * \rho](x), q) \geq \sigma^\circ(s_-^\circ(t), x) : q \text{ for a.e. } x \in \Omega,$$

or, equivalently,

$$\sigma^\circ(s_-^\circ(t)) \in \mathcal{K}(\sigma^\circ(s_-^\circ(t)) * \rho).$$

By the left continuity of s_-° and the weak continuity in $L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$ of σ° , we conclude that the previous relation actually holds for every $t \in [0, T]$. A similar argument would lead to

$$\sigma^\circ(s_+^\circ(t)) \in \mathcal{K}(\sigma^\circ(s_+^\circ(t)) * \rho).$$

Since $s_-^\circ(t) < s_+^\circ(t)$ if, and only if $t^\circ(s)$ is constant over the interval $[s_0^-(t), s_0^+(t)]$, we finally obtain (3.15). \square

3.4. Some qualitative properties at rescaled jump times. In view of Lemma 3.3, it is not clear that the stress constraint should be satisfied for all rescaled times. This suggests the introduction of the following sets:

$$A^\circ := \{s \in [0, \bar{T}] : \text{dist}_2(\sigma^\circ(s), \mathcal{K}(\sigma^\circ(s) * \rho)) > 0\}, \quad B^\circ := [0, \bar{T}] \setminus A^\circ.$$

By Lemma 3.3, the inclusion $A^\circ \subset U^\circ$ holds and $\sigma^\circ(s) \in L^\infty(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$ for all $s \in B^\circ$. However, the function $\sigma^\circ(s)$ may fail to belong to $L^\infty(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$ for $s \in A^\circ$ and it will be an obstacle to a rigorous definition of the product of the stress by the plastic strain for such times (see Subsection 1.4). In fact, this lack of regularity on the stress will be compensated by a higher regularity on the plastic strain.

Lemma 3.4. *The set A° is relatively open in $[0, \bar{T}]$, and for every $S \in [0, \bar{T}]$,*

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{A^\circ \cap [0, S]} \|\dot{p}^\circ(s)\|_2 \text{dist}_2(\sigma^\circ(s), \mathcal{K}(\sigma^\circ(s) * \rho)) ds \\ \leq \liminf_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \int_{A^\circ \cap [0, S]} \|\dot{p}_\varepsilon^\circ(s)\|_2 \text{dist}_2(\sigma_\varepsilon^\circ(s), \mathcal{K}(\sigma_\varepsilon^\circ(s) * \rho)) ds. \end{aligned} \quad (3.17)$$

Moreover, $p^\circ \in W_{loc}^{1,1}(A^\circ; L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n}))$.

Proof. We first show that A° is open. For any $\tau \in L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$, the set $\mathcal{K}(\tau)$ is convex, and then the map

$$L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n}) \ni \sigma \mapsto \text{dist}_2(\sigma, \mathcal{K}(\tau))$$

is convex as well and consequently weakly lower semicontinuous in $L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$. On the other hand, from (1.8) we have that

$$|\text{dist}_2(\sigma, \mathcal{K}(\tau_1)) - \text{dist}_2(\sigma, \mathcal{K}(\tau_2))| \leq C_H \|\tau_1 - \tau_2\|_2,$$

for every σ, τ_1 and $\tau_2 \in L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$, from which we deduce that $(\sigma, \tau) \rightarrow \text{dist}_2(\sigma, \mathcal{K}(\tau))$ is lower semicontinuous for the product of the weak $L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$ -convergence in σ with the strong $L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$ -convergence in τ . As a consequence, by the weak continuity in $L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$ of $s \mapsto \sigma^\circ(s)$ established in Lemma 3.2 which implies in particular the strong continuity of $s \mapsto \sigma^\circ(s) * \rho$ in $L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$, we deduce that $s \mapsto \text{dist}_2(\sigma^\circ(s), \mathcal{K}(\sigma^\circ(s) * \rho))$ is lower semicontinuous, and thus B° is closed.

The proof of the lower semicontinuity (3.17) is verbatim that in [9, Lemma 6.4].

By the second form of the energy equality in Remark 2.8, the first bound in Remark 2.9, the Cauchy-Schwartz inequality and (1.15), we get after performing the change of variables $s = s_\varepsilon^\circ(t)$,

$$\int_0^{\bar{T}} \|\dot{p}_\varepsilon^\circ(s)\|_2 \text{dist}_2(\sigma_\varepsilon^\circ(s), \mathcal{K}(\sigma_\varepsilon^\circ(s) * \rho)) ds \leq C, \quad (3.18)$$

for some constant $C > 0$ independent of ε . Since A° is open, let us consider a connected component (a, b) of A° . In the light of the already established lower semicontinuity of $s \mapsto \text{dist}_2(\sigma^\circ(s), \mathcal{K}(\sigma^\circ(s) * \rho))$, for any $[a', b'] \subset (a, b)$, there exists $\delta > 0$ such that

$$\text{dist}_2(\sigma^\circ(s), \mathcal{K}(\sigma^\circ(s) * \rho)) > \delta$$

for every $s \in [a', b']$. Hence from the lower semicontinuity (3.17) and the uniform bound (3.18), we get that

$$\int_{a'}^{b'} \|\dot{p}^\circ(s)\|_2 ds \leq C. \quad (3.19)$$

We know that $\dot{p}^\circ \in L_w^\infty(0, \bar{T}; \mathcal{M}(\bar{\Omega}; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n}))$, in other words, the function $s \mapsto \langle \dot{p}^\circ(s), \varphi \rangle$ is measurable for every $\varphi \in \mathcal{C}(\bar{\Omega}; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$. From (3.19), $\|\dot{p}^\circ(s)\|_2 < +\infty$ for a.e. $s \in (a, b)$. Hence by density

$s \mapsto \langle \dot{p}^\circ(s), \varphi \rangle$ is also measurable for every $\varphi \in L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$, which shows that \dot{p}° is weakly measurable in $L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$, and thus strongly measurable, thanks to Pettis Theorem. Consequently, by (3.19) we have that $\dot{p}^\circ \in L^1_{loc}(a, b; L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n}))$, and thus $p^\circ \in W^{1,1}_{loc}(a, b; L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n}))$. \square

We are now in a position to state that e° and u° are absolutely continuous in time where the stress constraint is not satisfied.

Lemma 3.5. *We have $e^\circ \in W^{1,1}_{loc}(A^\circ; L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n}))$ and $u^\circ \in W^{1,1}_{loc}(A^\circ; H^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^n))$. Moreover, if (a, b) is any connected component of A° , then $u^\circ(s_1) - u^\circ(s_2) \in H^1_0(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^n)$ for any $a < s_1 \leq s_2 < b$.*

Proof. Let (a, b) be a connected component of A° , and let $a < s_1 < s_2 < b$. Since $A^\circ \subset U^\circ$, t° is constant in (a, b) and thus,

$$w^\circ(s_1) = w^\circ(s_2). \quad (3.20)$$

By Lemma 3.4, $p^\circ(s_1) - p^\circ(s_2) \in L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$, so that it does not charge $\partial\Omega$. Thus, $Eu^\circ(s_1) - Eu^\circ(s_2) = e^\circ(s_1) - e^\circ(s_2) + p^\circ(s_1) - p^\circ(s_2) \in L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$ and $(u^\circ(s_1) - u^\circ(s_2)) \odot \nu = 0$ \mathcal{H}^{n-1} -a.e. on $\partial\Omega$. As a consequence, we get that $u^\circ(s_1) - u^\circ(s_2) \in H^1_0(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^n)$.

Since $\operatorname{div} \sigma^\circ(s_1) = \operatorname{div} \sigma^\circ(s_2) = 0$ a.e. in Ω , we get that

$$\langle \sigma^\circ(s_2) - \sigma^\circ(s_1), e^\circ(s_2) - e^\circ(s_1) \rangle = -\langle \sigma^\circ(s_2) - \sigma^\circ(s_1), p^\circ(s_2) - p^\circ(s_1) \rangle.$$

Then using (1.15), we infer that

$$\|e^\circ(s_2) - e^\circ(s_1)\|_2 \leq \frac{\beta_A}{\alpha_A} \|p^\circ(s_2) - p^\circ(s_1)\|_2, \quad (3.21)$$

hence $e^\circ \in W^{1,1}_{loc}(A^\circ; L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n}))$.

Moreover, according to the Poincaré inequality and (3.21), there exists a constant $C > 0$ (depending only on Ω , α_A and β_A) such that

$$\|u^\circ(s_2) - u^\circ(s_1)\|_{H^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^n)} \leq C \|p^\circ(s_2) - p^\circ(s_1)\|_2,$$

hence $u^\circ \in W^{1,1}_{loc}(A^\circ; H^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^n))$. \square

Remark 3.6. Since $A^\circ \ni s \mapsto (u^\circ(s), e^\circ(s), p^\circ(s))$ is absolutely continuous with values in (the reflexive space) $H^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^n) \times L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n}) \times L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$ we deduce, from [3, Appendix], that the derivative $(\dot{u}^\circ(s), \dot{e}^\circ(s), \dot{p}^\circ(s))$ exists for a.e. $s \in A^\circ$ for the strong topology of $H^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^n) \times L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n}) \times L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$. Moreover, from [6, Lemma 2.1], we get that for a.e. $s \in A^\circ$, $(\dot{u}^\circ(s), \dot{e}^\circ(s), \dot{p}^\circ(s)) \in A(0)$ since $s \mapsto w^\circ(s)$ is constant in each connected components of A° . Finally $\operatorname{div} \dot{\sigma}^\circ(s) = 0$ a.e. in Ω . \blacksquare

Let us show that the dissipated energy is lower semicontinuous.

Lemma 3.7. *For every $S \in [0, \bar{T}]$, we have*

$$\liminf_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \int_0^S \mathcal{H}(\sigma_\varepsilon^\circ(s) * \rho, \dot{p}_\varepsilon^\circ(s)) ds \geq \int_0^S \mathcal{H}(\sigma^\circ(s) * \rho, \dot{p}^\circ(s)) ds.$$

Proof. By virtue of Lemma 1.5, together with (3.6), for a.e. $s \in [0, \bar{T}]$,

$$\begin{aligned} |\mathcal{H}(\sigma_\varepsilon^\circ(s) * \rho, \dot{p}_\varepsilon^\circ(s)) - \mathcal{H}(\sigma^\circ(s) * \rho, \dot{p}^\circ(s))| &\leq C_H \|(\sigma_\varepsilon^\circ(s) - \sigma^\circ(s)) * \rho\|_\infty \|\dot{p}_\varepsilon^\circ(s)\|_1 \\ &\leq C_H \|(\sigma_\varepsilon^\circ(s) - \sigma^\circ(s)) * \rho\|_\infty, \end{aligned}$$

while, by (3.9) and (1.16), $\sigma_\varepsilon^\circ(s) * \rho \rightarrow \sigma^\circ(s) * \rho$ uniformly on $\bar{\Omega}$. Dominated convergence yields

$$\liminf_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \int_0^S \mathcal{H}(\sigma_\varepsilon^\circ(s) * \rho, \dot{p}_\varepsilon^\circ(s)) ds = \liminf_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \int_0^S \mathcal{H}(\sigma^\circ(s) * \rho, \dot{p}^\circ(s)) ds.$$

But the weak L^2 -continuity in time of $s \mapsto \sigma^\circ(s)$ established in Lemma 3.2 implies that $\sigma^\circ * \rho \in \mathcal{C}([0, \bar{T}] \times \bar{\Omega}; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$, so that $H([\sigma^\circ(s) * \rho](x), \xi)$ is continuous in (x, s, ξ) and convex, one-homogeneous in ξ . In view of (3.8), Reshetnyak's Theorem (see *e.g.* [1, Theorem 2.38]) yields

$$\liminf_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \int_0^S \mathcal{H}(\sigma^\circ(s) * \rho, \dot{p}_\varepsilon^\circ(s)) ds \geq \int_{[0, S] \times \bar{\Omega}} H \left([\sigma^\circ(s) * \rho](x), \frac{d\dot{p}^\circ}{d|\dot{p}^\circ|}(s, x) \right) d|\dot{p}^\circ|(s, x).$$

But, by virtue of (3.7), $\dot{p}^\circ = \dot{p}^\circ(s) \otimes \mathcal{L}^1$, so that, by [1, Corollary 2.29], $|\dot{p}^\circ| = |\dot{p}^\circ(s)| \otimes \mathcal{L}^1$. Then, it follows that for \mathcal{L}^1 -a.e. $s \in [0, S]$ and for $|\dot{p}^\circ(s)|$ -a.e. $x \in \bar{\Omega}$,

$$\frac{d\dot{p}^\circ}{d|\dot{p}^\circ|}(s, x) = \frac{d\dot{p}^\circ(s)}{d|\dot{p}^\circ(s)|}(x).$$

Application of [1, Theorem 2.28] finally implies that $s \mapsto \mathcal{H}(\sigma^\circ(s) * \rho, \dot{p}^\circ(s))$ is \mathcal{L}^1 -measurable and that

$$\int_{[0, S] \times \bar{\Omega}} H \left([\sigma^\circ(s) * \rho](x), \frac{d\dot{p}^\circ}{d|\dot{p}^\circ|}(s, x) \right) d|\dot{p}^\circ|(s, x) = \int_0^S \mathcal{H}(\sigma^\circ(s) * \rho, \dot{p}^\circ(s)) ds,$$

which completes the proof of the lemma. \square

3.5. Rescaled principle of maximum plastic work. It is common mechanical knowledge that, in classical elasto-plasticity, the flow rule is equivalent to what is usually referred to as Hill's principle of maximum plastic work. In our (rescaled) context, this would read as

$$\langle \tau, \dot{p}^\circ(s) \rangle \leq \langle \sigma^\circ(s), \dot{p}^\circ(s) \rangle \text{ for a.e. } s \in (0, \bar{T}), \text{ and every } \tau \in L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n}) \\ \text{with } \operatorname{div} \tau = 0 \text{ and } \tau(x) \in K([\sigma^\circ(s) * \rho](x)) \text{ for a.e. } x \in \Omega.$$

Further, since H is a support function, this is also formally equivalent to

$$\mathcal{H}(\sigma^\circ(s) * \rho, \dot{p}^\circ(s)) = \langle \sigma^\circ(s), \dot{p}^\circ(s) \rangle \text{ for a.e. } s \in (0, \bar{T}).$$

In this subsection, we propose to derive some form of the last identity for the 0-viscosity limit; that identity will have to account for the fact that we are unable to prove that the stress constraint is met at all times, but only at those that live in B^0 .

As mentioned in the introduction, the extent to which this relation will imply a more classical flow rule has been analyzed in great details in [10] in a different context. The results obtained there would apply verbatim to the situation at hand.

The proof will be based on the following derivability result, the proof of which is postponed to the next subsection.

Theorem 3.8. *The map $s \mapsto e^\circ(s)$ is differentiable for a.e. $s \in [0, \bar{T}]$ for the strong $L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$ -topology. Moreover, for every $0 \leq s_1 \leq s_2 \leq \bar{T}$,*

$$\mathcal{Q}(e^\circ(s_2)) - \mathcal{Q}(e^\circ(s_1)) = \int_{s_1}^{s_2} \int_{\Omega} \sigma^\circ(s, x) : \dot{e}^\circ(s, x) dx ds. \quad (3.22)$$

Finally, the map $s \mapsto (u^\circ(s), e^\circ(s))$ is strongly continuous in $BD(\Omega) \times L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$.

Remark 3.9. In view of the Lipschitz character of $p^\circ(s)$, of Theorem 3.8, and upon appealing to Poincaré-Korn's inequality in $BD(\Omega)$, we conclude that the map $s \mapsto u^\circ(s)$ is weakly* differentiable in $BD(\Omega)$ for a.e. $s \in (0, \bar{T})$, and that the triplet $(\dot{u}^\circ(s), \dot{e}^\circ(s), \dot{p}^\circ(s))$ belongs to $A(\dot{w}^0(s))$ for those s 's. \blacksquare

We also need the following remark.

Remark 3.10. Let $\sigma \in L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$. It can be checked that, since the function $(x, q) \mapsto H([\sigma * \rho](x), q)$ is continuous with respect to $(x, q) \in \Omega \times \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n}$ by virtue of Lemma 1.5, the multi-valued map $x \mapsto K([\sigma * \rho](x))$ is continuous on Ω in the sense that

$$\forall \varepsilon > 0, \forall x \in \Omega, \exists r_x > 0 \text{ such that } \forall y \in B(x, r_x) : \text{diam}(K([\sigma * \rho](x)) \Delta K([\sigma * \rho](y))) < \varepsilon.$$

Consider now $\tau \in L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n}) \cap \mathcal{K}(\sigma * \rho)$ with $\text{div} \tau = 0$, and let $p \in \mathcal{M}(\bar{\Omega}; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$ be such $(u, e, p) \in A(w)$ for some $(u, e, w) \in BD(\Omega) \times L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n}) \times H^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^n)$. Arguing as in [28, Lemma 3.1] (see also [29, Lemma 2.4]), it is possible to show the existence of a sequence $\{\tau_j\} \subset \mathcal{C}^\infty(\bar{\Omega}; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$ such that $\tau_j \rightarrow \tau$ strongly in $L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$, $\text{div} \tau_j = 0$, and with the property that for each $\varepsilon > 0$, there exists $j_\varepsilon \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $\text{dist}(\tau_j(x), K([\sigma * \rho](x))) < \varepsilon$ for all $x \in \bar{\Omega}$, and all $j \geq j_\varepsilon$.

Then using the definition of H , we have that

$$\varepsilon + H\left([\sigma * \rho](x), \frac{dp}{d|p|}(x)\right) \geq \tau_j(x) : \frac{dp}{d|p|}(x) \quad \text{for } |p|\text{-a.e. } x \in \bar{\Omega}.$$

Hence, integrating over $\bar{\Omega}$ with respect to $|p|$ and using (1.14), we infer that

$$\begin{aligned} \varepsilon |p|(\bar{\Omega}) + \mathcal{H}(\sigma * \rho, p) &= \varepsilon |p|(\bar{\Omega}) + \int_{\bar{\Omega}} H\left([\sigma * \rho](x), \frac{dp}{d|p|}(x)\right) d|p|(x) \\ &\geq \int_{\bar{\Omega}} \tau_j(x) : \frac{dp}{d|p|}(x) d|p|(x) = \langle \tau_j, p \rangle. \end{aligned}$$

From the integration by parts formula (1.13) together with the established convergences of the sequence $\{\tau_j\}$, we get that $\langle \tau_j, p \rangle \rightarrow \langle \tau, p \rangle$. Consequently, passing to the limit first as $j \rightarrow +\infty$ and then as $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ in the previous relation yields

$$\mathcal{H}(\sigma * \rho, p) \geq \langle \tau, p \rangle.$$

¶

We are now in a position to show the rescaled flow rule for the vanishing viscosity limit.

Theorem 3.11. *For a.e. $s \in A^\circ$, one has*

$$\int_{\Omega} (\sigma^\circ(s) - P_{\mathcal{K}(\sigma^\circ(s) * \rho)}(\sigma^\circ(s))) : \dot{p}^\circ(s) dx + \mathcal{H}(\sigma^\circ(s) * \rho, \dot{p}^\circ(s)) = \int_{\Omega} \sigma^\circ(s) : \dot{p}^\circ(s) dx, \quad (3.23)$$

and for a.e. $s \in B^\circ$,

$$\mathcal{H}(\sigma^\circ(s) * \rho, \dot{p}^\circ(s)) = \langle \sigma^\circ(s), \dot{p}^\circ(s) \rangle. \quad (3.24)$$

Proof. Recall the flow rule for the regularized non-associative visco-plastic solution in Theorem 2.6, namely, for a.e. $t \in [0, T]$,

$$\sigma_\varepsilon(t) - \varepsilon \dot{p}_\varepsilon(t) \in \partial_2 H(\sigma_\varepsilon(t) * \rho, \dot{p}_\varepsilon(t)) \text{ a.e. in } \Omega.$$

Consider a null test function, and integrate the previous relation over $\Omega \times (0, t_\varepsilon^\circ(S))$, for $S \in [0, \bar{T}]$. We get

$$\int_0^{t_\varepsilon^\circ(S)} \int_{\Omega} (\sigma_\varepsilon(s) - \varepsilon \dot{p}_\varepsilon(s)) : \dot{p}_\varepsilon(s) dx ds \geq \int_0^{t_\varepsilon^\circ(S)} \mathcal{H}(\sigma_\varepsilon(s) * \rho, \dot{p}_\varepsilon(s)) ds.$$

Rescaling time with the map t_ε° , it also reads, thanks to the chain rule, to (1.12), and to the 1-homogeneous character of $p \mapsto H(\sigma, p)$, as

$$\begin{aligned} \liminf_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \left\{ \int_0^S \mathcal{H}(\sigma_\varepsilon^\circ(s) * \rho, \dot{p}_\varepsilon^\circ(s)) ds + \int_0^S \|\dot{p}_\varepsilon^\circ(s)\|_2 \text{dist}_2(\sigma_\varepsilon^\circ(s), \mathcal{K}(\sigma_\varepsilon^\circ(s) * \rho)) ds \right\} \\ \leq \limsup_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \int_0^S \int_{\Omega} \sigma_\varepsilon^\circ(s) : \dot{p}_\varepsilon^\circ(s) dx ds. \end{aligned}$$

Then, according to Lemmas 3.4 and 3.7, we get that

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^S \mathcal{H}(\sigma^\circ(s) * \rho, \dot{p}^\circ(s)) ds + \int_0^S \|\dot{p}^\circ(s)\|_2 \text{dist}_2(\sigma^\circ(s), \mathcal{K}(\sigma^\circ(s) * \rho)) ds \\ \leq \limsup_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \int_0^S \int_\Omega \sigma_\varepsilon^\circ(s) : \dot{p}_\varepsilon^\circ(s) dx ds. \end{aligned} \quad (3.25)$$

We now investigate the limit in the right hand-side of the above inequality. First, kinematic compatibility implies that

$$\int_0^S \int_\Omega \sigma_\varepsilon^\circ(s) : \dot{p}_\varepsilon^\circ(s) dx ds = \int_0^S \int_\Omega \sigma_\varepsilon^\circ(s) : E\dot{u}_\varepsilon^\circ(s) dx ds - \int_0^S \int_\Omega Ae_\varepsilon^\circ(s) : \dot{e}_\varepsilon^\circ(s) dx ds$$

and, since $\text{div } \sigma_\varepsilon^\circ(s) = 0$ a.e. in Ω and $u_\varepsilon^\circ(s) = w_\varepsilon^\circ(s)$ \mathcal{H}^{n-1} -a.e. on $\partial\Omega$, then this yields in turn

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^S \int_\Omega \sigma_\varepsilon^\circ(s) : \dot{p}_\varepsilon^\circ(s) dx ds &= \int_0^S \int_\Omega \sigma_\varepsilon^\circ(s) : E\dot{w}_\varepsilon^\circ(s) dx ds - \int_0^S \int_\Omega Ae_\varepsilon^\circ(s) : \dot{e}_\varepsilon^\circ(s) dx ds \\ &= \int_0^S \int_\Omega \sigma_\varepsilon^\circ(s) : E\dot{w}_\varepsilon^\circ(s) dx ds - \frac{1}{2} \int_\Omega Ae_\varepsilon^\circ(S) : e_\varepsilon^\circ(S) dx + \frac{1}{2} \int_\Omega Ae_0 : e_0 dx. \end{aligned}$$

But the first integral in the last term in the string of equalities above also reads as

$$\int_0^{t_\varepsilon^\circ(S)} \int_\Omega \sigma_\varepsilon(t) : E\dot{w}(t) dx dt,$$

and, thanks to the third convergence in (3.14), to the uniform convergence of t_ε° to t° and to the dominated convergence theorem, it converges to

$$\int_0^{t^\circ(S)} \int_\Omega \sigma^\circ(s_0^-(t)) : E\dot{w}(t) dx dt = \int_0^S \int_\Omega \sigma^\circ(s_0^-(t^\circ(s))) : E\dot{w}^\circ(s) dx ds,$$

where we used the change of variable $t = t^\circ(s)$. But since $E\dot{w}^\circ(s) = 0$ for all $s \in U^\circ$ and $s_0^-(t^\circ(s)) = s$ for a.e. $s \notin U^\circ$, we get that

$$\int_0^S \int_\Omega \sigma_\varepsilon^\circ(s) : E\dot{w}_\varepsilon^\circ(s) dx ds \rightarrow \int_0^S \int_\Omega \sigma^\circ(s) : E\dot{w}^\circ(s) dx ds.$$

Further, (3.10) immediately implies, by weak lower semicontinuity that

$$\liminf_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \int_\Omega Ae_\varepsilon^\circ(S) : e_\varepsilon^\circ(S) dx \geq \int_\Omega Ae^\circ(S) : e^\circ(S) dx$$

and thus by Theorem 3.8, we deduce that

$$\begin{aligned} \limsup_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \int_0^S \int_\Omega \sigma_\varepsilon^\circ(s) : \dot{p}_\varepsilon^\circ(s) dx ds \\ \leq \frac{1}{2} \int_\Omega Ae_0 : e_0 dx - \frac{1}{2} \int_\Omega Ae^\circ(S) : e^\circ(S) dx + \int_0^S \int_\Omega \sigma^\circ(s) : E\dot{w}^\circ(s) dx ds \\ = - \int_0^S \int_\Omega \sigma^\circ(s) : \dot{e}^\circ(s) dx ds + \int_0^S \int_\Omega \sigma^\circ(s) : E\dot{w}^\circ(s) dx ds. \end{aligned}$$

In view of Remark 3.9, for a.e. $s \in [0, \bar{T}]$ the triplet $(\dot{u}^\circ(s), \dot{e}^\circ(s), \dot{p}^\circ(s))$ belongs to $A(\dot{w}^\circ(s))$ and $\text{div } \dot{\sigma}^\circ(s) = 0$ a.e. in Ω . Hence, appealing to the duality formula (1.13),

$$- \int_0^S \int_\Omega \sigma^\circ(s) : \dot{e}^\circ(s) dx ds + \int_0^S \int_\Omega \sigma^\circ(s) : E\dot{w}^\circ(s) dx ds = \int_0^S \langle \sigma^\circ(s), \dot{p}^\circ(s) \rangle ds,$$

and thus

$$\limsup_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \int_0^S \int_{\Omega} \sigma_{\varepsilon}^{\circ}(s) : \dot{p}_{\varepsilon}^{\circ}(s) \, dx \, ds \leq \int_0^S \langle \sigma^{\circ}(s), \dot{p}^{\circ}(s) \rangle \, ds. \quad (3.26)$$

We collect (3.25) and (3.26), and obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^S \mathcal{H}(\sigma^{\circ}(s) * \rho, \dot{p}^{\circ}(s)) \, ds + \int_0^S \|\dot{p}^{\circ}(s)\|_2 \operatorname{dist}_2(\sigma^{\circ}(s), \mathcal{K}(\sigma^{\circ}(s) * \rho)) \, ds \\ \leq \int_0^S \langle \sigma^{\circ}(s), \dot{p}^{\circ}(s) \rangle \, ds. \end{aligned} \quad (3.27)$$

Next, appealing to Remark 3.10, for a.e. $s \in B^{\circ}$ we have

$$\mathcal{H}(\sigma^{\circ}(s) * \rho, \dot{p}^{\circ}(s)) \geq \langle \sigma^{\circ}(s), \dot{p}^{\circ}(s) \rangle.$$

On the other hand, since $\dot{p}^{\circ}(s) \in L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$ for a.e. $s \in A^{\circ}$, the duality pairing $\langle \sigma^{\circ}(s), \dot{p}^{\circ}(s) \rangle$ coincides with the L^2 product for a.e. $s \in A^{\circ}$, so that

$$\langle \sigma^{\circ}(s) - P_{\mathcal{K}(\sigma^{\circ}(s) * \rho)}(\sigma^{\circ}(s)), \dot{p}^{\circ}(s) \rangle + \langle P_{\mathcal{K}(\sigma^{\circ}(s) * \rho)}(\sigma^{\circ}(s)), \dot{p}^{\circ}(s) \rangle = \langle \sigma^{\circ}(s), \dot{p}^{\circ}(s) \rangle$$

for a.e. $s \in A^{\circ}$. From the definition of H it immediately follows that

$$\mathcal{H}(\sigma^{\circ}(s) * \rho, \dot{p}^{\circ}(s)) \geq \langle P_{\mathcal{K}(\sigma^{\circ}(s) * \rho)}(\sigma^{\circ}(s)), \dot{p}^{\circ}(s) \rangle,$$

so that

$$\|\dot{p}^{\circ}(s)\|_2 \operatorname{dist}_2(\sigma^{\circ}(s), \mathcal{K}(\sigma^{\circ}(s) * \rho)) + \mathcal{H}(\sigma^{\circ}(s) * \rho, \dot{p}^{\circ}(s)) \geq \langle \sigma^{\circ}(s), \dot{p}^{\circ}(s) \rangle$$

for a.e. $s \in A^{\circ}$. Hence we conclude from (3.27) that for a.e. $s \in [0, \bar{T}]$,

$$\|\dot{p}^{\circ}(s)\|_2 \operatorname{dist}_2(\sigma^{\circ}(s), \mathcal{K}(\sigma^{\circ}(s) * \rho)) + \mathcal{H}(\sigma^{\circ}(s) * \rho, \dot{p}^{\circ}(s)) = \langle \sigma^{\circ}(s), \dot{p}^{\circ}(s) \rangle.$$

The proof of (3.23) and (3.24) is complete. \square

In conclusion we have proved the following existence result for a rescaled quasistatic evolution model in non-associative plasticity.

Theorem 3.12. *Let $w \in H^1(0, T; H^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^n))$ and let $(u_0, e_0, p_0) \in A(w(0))$ be such that*

$$\operatorname{div} \sigma_0 = 0 \text{ a.e. in } \Omega \text{ and } \sigma_0 \in \mathcal{K}(\sigma_0 * \rho),$$

where $\sigma_0 := Ae_0$. Then, there exists a mapping $[0, \bar{T}] \ni s \mapsto (u^{\circ}(s), e^{\circ}(s), p^{\circ}(s), t^{\circ}(s))$ such that

$$u^{\circ} : [0, \bar{T}] \rightarrow BD(\Omega) \text{ is strongly continuous and a.e. weakly* differentiable;}$$

$$e^{\circ} : [0, \bar{T}] \rightarrow L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n}) \text{ is strongly continuous and a.e. differentiable;}$$

$$p^{\circ} : [0, \bar{T}] \rightarrow \mathcal{M}(\bar{\Omega}; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n}) \text{ is 1-Lipschitz;}$$

$$t^{\circ} : [0, \bar{T}] \rightarrow [0, +\infty) \text{ is nondecreasing and 1-Lipschitz.}$$

Further, setting $\sigma^{\circ} := Ae^{\circ}$, the following properties are satisfied:

$$\text{Initial condition: } (u^{\circ}(0), e^{\circ}(0), p^{\circ}(0), t^{\circ}(0)) = (u_0, e_0, p_0, 0);$$

Kinematic compatibility: For every $s \in [0, \bar{T}]$,

$$Eu^{\circ}(s) = e^{\circ}(s) + p^{\circ}(s) \text{ in } \Omega,$$

$$p^{\circ}(s) = (w(t^{\circ}(s)) - u^{\circ}(s)) \odot \nu \mathcal{H}^{n-1} \text{ on } \partial\Omega;$$

Equilibrium condition: For every $s \in [0, \bar{T}]$,

$$\operatorname{div} \sigma^{\circ}(s) = 0 \text{ a.e. in } \Omega;$$

Partial stress constraint: For every $s \in [0, \bar{T}] \setminus U^{\circ}$,

$$\sigma^{\circ}(s) \in \mathcal{K}(\sigma^{\circ}(s) * \rho),$$

where $U^{\circ} := \{s \in (0, \bar{T}) : t^{\circ} \text{ is constant in a neighborhood of } s\}$;

Maximum plastic work: For a.e. $s \in [0, \bar{T}]$,

$$\langle \sigma^\circ(s) - P_{\mathcal{K}(\sigma^\circ(s)*\rho)}(\sigma^\circ(s)), \dot{p}^\circ(s) \rangle + \mathcal{H}(\sigma^\circ(s) * \rho, \dot{p}^\circ(s)) = \langle \sigma^\circ(s), \dot{p}^\circ(s) \rangle.$$

Remark 3.13. The extent to which one could recover a (rescaled) flow rule from Theorem 3.12 will not be detailed here. The interested reader is directed to [10, Theorems 3.8, 3.10] which would equally apply in the current framework. It would then remain to interpret the evolution in terms of the original time variable, a task which is performed in the setting of Cam-Clay plasticity in [10, Section 5], but that will not be undertaken here. \blacksquare

3.6. Energy equality. The aim of this section is to prove Theorem 3.8. Unfortunately, we were not able to bypass the energy equality in establishing that result; therefore, our proof follows closely that of a related result in [9, Sections 7, 8] and the reader familiar with that work can skip most of the following and proceed directly to the proof of Theorem 3.8 which concludes the section.

We first address the proof of the energy inequality which will be achieved through the lower semicontinuity of the different terms involved in the total energy.

Proposition 3.14. For every $S \in [0, \bar{T}]$,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{Q}(e^\circ(S)) + \int_0^S \mathcal{H}(\sigma^\circ(s) * \rho, \dot{p}^\circ(s)) ds + \int_0^S \|\dot{p}^\circ(s)\|_2 \text{dist}_2(\sigma^\circ(s), \mathcal{K}(\sigma^\circ(s) * \rho)) ds \\ \leq \mathcal{Q}(e^\circ(0)) + \int_0^S \int_\Omega \sigma^\circ(s) : E\dot{w}^\circ(s) dx ds. \end{aligned}$$

Proof. According to Remarks 2.7 and 2.8, together with a change of variable in time, we infer that

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{Q}(e_\varepsilon^\circ(S)) + \int_0^S \mathcal{H}(\sigma_\varepsilon^\circ(s) * \rho, \dot{p}_\varepsilon^\circ(s)) ds + \int_0^S \|\dot{p}_\varepsilon^\circ(s)\|_2 \text{dist}_2(\sigma_\varepsilon^\circ(s), \mathcal{K}(\sigma_\varepsilon^\circ(s) * \rho)) ds \\ = \mathcal{Q}(e_\varepsilon^\circ(0)) + \int_0^S \int_\Omega \sigma_\varepsilon^\circ(s) : E\dot{w}_\varepsilon^\circ(s) dx ds. \end{aligned}$$

By Lemma 3.2 and the convexity of \mathcal{Q} , we clearly have

$$\mathcal{Q}(e^\circ(S)) \leq \liminf_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \mathcal{Q}(e_\varepsilon^\circ(S)).$$

The conclusion then follows from the lower semicontinuity results obtained in Lemmas 3.4 and 3.7. \square

We now prove that the energy inequality is actually an equality. The idea consists in subdividing the interval $[0, \bar{T}]$ into a suitable partition, and using fine approximation results of the Bochner integral by suitable Riemann sums (see [9]). Indeed, by [9, Lemma 7.5], there exists a sequence of subdivision $\{s_k^i\}_{1 \leq i \leq i_k}$ of the interval $[0, S]$ satisfying

$$0 = s_k^0 \leq s_k^1 \leq \dots \leq s_k^{i_k} = S, \quad \eta_k := \max_{1 \leq i \leq i_k} (s_k^i - s_k^{i-1}) \rightarrow 0,$$

and

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow +\infty} \sum_{i=1}^{i_k} \int_{s_k^{i-1}}^{s_k^i} \|\sigma^\circ(s) - \sigma^\circ(s_k^{i-1})\|_2 ds = 0 = \lim_{k \rightarrow +\infty} \sum_{i=1}^{i_k} \int_{s_k^{i-1}}^{s_k^i} \|\sigma^\circ(s) - \sigma^\circ(s_k^i)\|_2 ds, \quad (3.28)$$

and

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow +\infty} \sum_{i=1}^{i_k} \int_{s_k^{i-1}}^{s_k^i} |\chi_{B^\circ}(s) - \chi_{B^\circ}(s_k^{i-1})| ds = 0 = \lim_{k \rightarrow +\infty} \sum_{i=1}^{i_k} \int_{s_k^{i-1}}^{s_k^i} |\chi_{B^\circ}(s) - \chi_{B^\circ}(s_k^i)| ds. \quad (3.29)$$

In particular, from [9, Lemma 7.3], we get that

$$\begin{aligned} & \lim_{k \rightarrow +\infty} \sum_{i=1}^{i_k} \left| \mathcal{H}(\sigma^\circ(s_k^i) * \rho, p(s_k^i) - p(s_k^{i-1})) - \int_{s_k^{i-1}}^{s_k^i} \mathcal{H}(\sigma^\circ(s) * \rho, \dot{p}^\circ(s)) ds \right| \\ & = 0 = \lim_{k \rightarrow +\infty} \sum_{i=1}^{i_k} \left| \mathcal{H}(\sigma^\circ(s_k^{i-1}) * \rho, p(s_k^i) - p(s_k^{i-1})) - \int_{s_k^{i-1}}^{s_k^i} \mathcal{H}(\sigma^\circ(s) * \rho, \dot{p}^\circ(s)) ds \right|. \end{aligned} \quad (3.30)$$

Since the regularity of the triplet $(u^\circ(s), e^\circ(s), p^\circ(s))$ depends on whether $s \in A^\circ$ or $s \in B^\circ$, it becomes necessary to distinguish between those indices i for which s_k^i belongs to B° and those for which s_k^i belongs to A° . To this effect, we define the following sets of indices:

$$\begin{aligned} I_k & := \{i \in \{1, \dots, i_k\} : s_k^{i-1} \in B^\circ \cap [0, S], \text{ and } s_k^i \in B^\circ \cap [0, S]\}, \\ J_k & := \{i \in \{1, \dots, i_k\} : s_k^{i-1} \notin B^\circ \cap [0, S], \text{ or } s_k^i \notin B^\circ \cap [0, S]\}. \end{aligned}$$

Then, in view of (3.20) and (3.28), it is nearly immediate (see [9, Lemma 8.8]) that

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{k \rightarrow +\infty} \sum_{i \in I_k} \int_{\Omega} \sigma^\circ(s_k^{i-1}) : (Ew^\circ(s_k^i) - Ew^\circ(s_k^{i-1})) dx & = \int_0^S \int_{\Omega} \sigma^\circ(s) : E\dot{w}^\circ(s) dx ds \\ & = \lim_{k \rightarrow +\infty} \sum_{i \in I_k} \int_{\Omega} \sigma^\circ(s_k^i) : (Ew^\circ(s_k^i) - Ew^\circ(s_k^{i-1})) dx. \end{aligned} \quad (3.31)$$

Let us start with the contribution of the set B° to the total energy .

Lemma 3.15. *For every $S \in [0, \bar{T}]$, we have*

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_0^S \int_{\Omega} \sigma^\circ(s) : E\dot{w}^\circ(s) dx ds \\ & \leq \liminf_{k \rightarrow +\infty} \sum_{i \in I_k} \left\{ \mathcal{Q}(e^\circ(s_k^i)) - \mathcal{Q}(e^\circ(s_k^{i-1})) + \int_{s_k^{i-1}}^{s_k^i} \mathcal{H}(\sigma^\circ(s) * \rho, \dot{p}^\circ(s)) ds \right\}. \end{aligned} \quad (3.32)$$

Proof. Let s_1 and $s_2 \in B^\circ$. Using the integration by parts formula (1.13) together with the fact that $\operatorname{div} \sigma^\circ(s_1) = \operatorname{div} \sigma^\circ(s_2) = 0$ a.e. in Ω , we deduce that

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{\Omega} (\sigma^\circ(s_1) + \sigma^\circ(s_2)) : (Ew^\circ(s_2) - Ew^\circ(s_1)) dx = \\ & \int_{\Omega} (\sigma^\circ(s_1) + \sigma^\circ(s_2)) : (e^\circ(s_2) - e^\circ(s_1)) dx + \langle \sigma^\circ(s_1) + \sigma^\circ(s_2), p^\circ(s_2) - p^\circ(s_1) \rangle. \end{aligned}$$

Then, since $\sigma^\circ(s_1) \in \mathcal{K}(\sigma^\circ(s_1) * \rho)$ and $\sigma^\circ(s_2) \in \mathcal{K}(\sigma^\circ(s_2) * \rho)$, Remark 3.10 implies that

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega} (\sigma^\circ(s_1) + \sigma^\circ(s_2)) : (Ew^\circ(s_2) - Ew^\circ(s_1)) dx \leq \mathcal{Q}(e^\circ(s_2)) - \mathcal{Q}(e^\circ(s_1)) \\ & \quad + \frac{1}{2} \mathcal{H}(\sigma^\circ(s_1) * \rho, p^\circ(s_2) - p^\circ(s_1)) + \frac{1}{2} \mathcal{H}(\sigma^\circ(s_2) * \rho, p^\circ(s_2) - p^\circ(s_1)). \end{aligned} \quad (3.33)$$

Now let $i \in I_k$ so that s_k^{i-1} and $s_k^i \in B^\circ \cap [0, S]$. Then writing the previous inequality with $s_1 = s_k^{i-1}$ and $s_2 = s_k^i$, and summing up for all $i \in I_k$ leads to

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i \in I_k} \int_{\Omega} (\sigma^\circ(s_k^{i-1}) + \sigma^\circ(s_k^i)) : (Ew^\circ(s_k^i) - Ew^\circ(s_k^{i-1})) \, dx \\ & \leq \sum_{i \in I_k} \left\{ \mathcal{Q}(e^\circ(s_k^i)) - \mathcal{Q}(e^\circ(s_k^{i-1})) \right\} + \frac{1}{2} \mathcal{H}(\sigma^\circ(s_k^{i-1}) * \rho, p^\circ(s_k^i) - p^\circ(s_k^{i-1})) \\ & \quad + \frac{1}{2} \mathcal{H}(\sigma^\circ(s_k^i) * \rho, p^\circ(s_k^i) - p^\circ(s_k^{i-1})). \end{aligned}$$

Then according to (3.30) and (3.31), we obtain the desired relation (3.32) by letting $k \rightarrow +\infty$. \square

We next examine the contribution of the energy on A° .

Lemma 3.16. *For every $S \in [0, \bar{T}]$,*

$$\begin{aligned} 0 \leq \liminf_{k \rightarrow +\infty} \sum_{i \in J_k} \left\{ \mathcal{Q}(e^\circ(s_k^i)) - \mathcal{Q}(e^\circ(s_k^{i-1})) + \int_{s_k^{i-1}}^{s_k^i} \mathcal{H}(\sigma^\circ(s) * \rho, \dot{p}^\circ(s)) \, ds \right\} \\ + \int_0^S \|\dot{p}^\circ(s)\|_2 \operatorname{dist}_2(\sigma^\circ(s), \mathcal{K}(\sigma^\circ(s) * \rho)) \, ds. \quad (3.34) \end{aligned}$$

Proof. Let s_1 and $s_2 \in (a, b)$ be such that $s_1 < s_2$, where (a, b) is a connected component of A° . Then, setting $\tau^\circ(s) := P_{\mathcal{K}(\sigma^\circ(s) * \rho)}(\sigma^\circ(s)) \in \mathcal{K}(\sigma^\circ(s) * \rho)$ for a.e. $s \in (s_1, s_2)$, we obtain

$$\mathcal{H}(\sigma^\circ(s) * \rho, \dot{p}^\circ(s)) \geq \int_{\Omega} \tau^\circ(s) : \dot{p}^\circ(s) \, dx = \int_{\Omega} \sigma^\circ(s) : \dot{p}^\circ(s) \, dx - \int_{\Omega} (\sigma^\circ(s) - \tau^\circ(s)) : \dot{p}^\circ(s) \, dx.$$

From Remark 3.6, $\dot{p}^\circ(s) = E\dot{u}^\circ(s) - \dot{e}^\circ(s)$ a.e. in Ω and for a.e. $s \in (s_1, s_2)$, while $\dot{u}^\circ(s) = 0$ \mathcal{H}^{n-1} -a.e. on $\partial\Omega$. Hence, integrating over (s_1, s_2) and using integrations by parts in space and time and the fact that $\operatorname{div}\sigma^\circ(s) = 0$, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{Q}(e^\circ(s_2)) \geq \mathcal{Q}(e^\circ(s_1)) - \int_{s_1}^{s_2} \mathcal{H}(\sigma^\circ(s) * \rho, \dot{p}^\circ(s)) \, ds \\ - \int_{s_1}^{s_2} \|\dot{p}^\circ(s)\|_2 \operatorname{dist}_2(\sigma^\circ(s), \mathcal{K}(\sigma^\circ(s) * \rho)) \, ds. \quad (3.35) \end{aligned}$$

Since the mapping $s \mapsto e^\circ(s)$ is weakly continuous in $L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$, we deduce by lower semicontinuity of the right hand-side of (3.35) with respect to s_1 , that relation (3.35) holds as well for s_1 possibly equal to a . Moreover, application of [9, Lemma 8.5] establishes the existence of a sequence $\{s_k\} \nearrow b$ such that $\lim_k \|e^\circ(s_k) - e^\circ(b)\|_2 = 0$. Consequently, (3.35) can be further extended to any $a \leq s_1 < s_2 \leq b$.

Now let $i \in J_k$. Then either $(s_k^{i-1}, s_k^i) \subset A^\circ$ or $(s_k^{i-1}, s_k^i) \cap B^\circ \neq \emptyset$ so that $J_k = \hat{J}_k \cup \check{J}_k$, where

$$\hat{J}_k := \{i \in J_k : (s_k^{i-1}, s_k^i) \subset A^\circ\}, \quad \check{J}_k := \{i \in J_k : (s_k^{i-1}, s_k^i) \cap B^\circ \neq \emptyset\}.$$

Assume first that $i \in \hat{J}_k$ so that $(s_k^{i-1}, s_k^i) \subset A^\circ$. Then applying (3.35) with $s_1 = s_k^{i-1}$ and $s_2 = s_k^i$, and summing up for all $i \in \hat{J}_k$ leads to

$$0 \leq \sum_{i \in \hat{J}_k} \left\{ \mathcal{Q}(e^\circ(s_k^i)) - \mathcal{Q}(e^\circ(s_k^{i-1})) + \int_{s_k^{i-1}}^{s_k^i} \mathcal{H}(\sigma^\circ(s) * \rho, \dot{p}^\circ(s)) ds \right. \\ \left. + \int_{s_k^{i-1}}^{s_k^i} \|\dot{p}^\circ(s)\|_2 \text{dist}_2(\sigma^\circ(s), \mathcal{K}(\sigma^\circ(s) * \rho)) ds \right\}. \quad (3.36)$$

On the other hand, if $i \in \check{J}_k$, then $(s_k^{i-1}, s_k^i) \cap B^\circ \neq \emptyset$. Let us define

$$s_k^{i-\frac{2}{3}} := \inf\{s \in B^\circ \cap (s_k^{i-1}, s_k^i)\}, \\ s_k^{i-\frac{1}{3}} := \sup\{s \in B^\circ \cap (s_k^{i-1}, s_k^i)\},$$

and observe that since B° is closed, then $s_k^{i-\frac{2}{3}}$ and $s_k^{i-\frac{1}{3}} \in B^\circ$. Then the open intervals $(s_k^{i-1}, s_k^{i-\frac{2}{3}})$ and $(s_k^{i-\frac{1}{3}}, s_k^i)$ are contained in A° , and it follows again from (3.35) that

$$\mathcal{Q}(e^\circ(s_k^{i-\frac{2}{3}})) \geq \mathcal{Q}(e^\circ(s_k^{i-1})) - \int_{s_k^{i-1}}^{s_k^{i-\frac{2}{3}}} \mathcal{H}(\sigma^\circ(s) * \rho, \dot{p}^\circ(s)) ds \\ - \int_{s_k^{i-1}}^{s_k^{i-\frac{2}{3}}} \|\dot{p}^\circ(s)\|_2 \text{dist}_2(\sigma^\circ(s), \mathcal{K}(\sigma^\circ(s) * \rho)) ds, \quad (3.37)$$

and

$$\mathcal{Q}(e^\circ(s_k^i)) \geq \mathcal{Q}(e^\circ(s_k^{i-\frac{1}{3}})) - \int_{s_k^{i-\frac{1}{3}}}^{s_k^i} \mathcal{H}(\sigma^\circ(s) * \rho, \dot{p}^\circ(s)) ds \\ - \int_{s_k^{i-\frac{1}{3}}}^{s_k^i} \|\dot{p}^\circ(s)\|_2 \text{dist}_2(\sigma^\circ(s), \mathcal{K}(\sigma^\circ(s) * \rho)) ds. \quad (3.38)$$

Hence, adding (3.37) and (3.38), and summing up for all $i \in \check{J}_k$, we deduce that

$$0 \leq \sum_{i \in \check{J}_k} \left\{ \mathcal{Q}(e^\circ(s_k^i)) - \mathcal{Q}(e^\circ(s_k^{i-1})) + \int_{s_k^{i-1}}^{s_k^i} \mathcal{H}(\sigma^\circ(s) * \rho, \dot{p}^\circ(s)) ds \right. \\ \left. + \int_{s_k^{i-1}}^{s_k^i} \|\dot{p}^\circ(s)\|_2 \text{dist}_2(\sigma^\circ(s), \mathcal{K}(\sigma^\circ(s) * \rho)) ds \right\} + \delta_k, \quad (3.39)$$

where δ_k is the intermediate term defined by

$$\delta_k := \sum_{i \in \check{J}_k} \left\{ \mathcal{Q}(e^\circ(s_k^{i-\frac{2}{3}})) - \mathcal{Q}(e^\circ(s_k^{i-\frac{1}{3}})) - \int_{s_k^{i-\frac{2}{3}}}^{s_k^{i-\frac{1}{3}}} \mathcal{H}(\sigma^\circ(s) * \rho, \dot{p}^\circ(s)) ds \right. \\ \left. - \int_{s_k^{i-\frac{2}{3}}}^{s_k^{i-\frac{1}{3}}} \|\dot{p}^\circ(s)\|_2 \text{dist}_2(\sigma^\circ(s), \mathcal{K}(\sigma^\circ(s) * \rho)) ds \right\}.$$

We claim that

$$\limsup_{k \rightarrow +\infty} \delta_k \leq 0. \quad (3.40)$$

If so, adding (3.36) and (3.39) leads to the desired inequality (3.34).

We conclude the proof of the lemma by showing that δ_k indeed satisfies (3.40). Since $s_k^{i-\frac{1}{3}}$ and $s_k^{i-\frac{2}{3}} \in B^\circ$, it follows from (3.33) that

$$\begin{aligned} \delta_k \leq \sum_{i \in \bar{J}_k} & \left\{ \frac{1}{2} \mathcal{H}(\sigma^\circ(s_k^{i-\frac{2}{3}}) * \rho, p^\circ(s_k^{i-\frac{1}{3}}) - p^\circ(s_k^{i-\frac{2}{3}})) \right. \\ & + \frac{1}{2} \mathcal{H}(\sigma^\circ(s_k^{i-\frac{1}{3}}) * \rho, p^\circ(s_k^{i-\frac{1}{3}}) - p^\circ(s_k^{i-\frac{2}{3}})) - \int_{s_k^{i-\frac{2}{3}}}^{s_k^{i-\frac{1}{3}}} \mathcal{H}(\sigma^\circ(s) * \rho, \dot{p}^\circ(s)) ds \\ & \left. - \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega} (\sigma^\circ(s_k^{i-\frac{2}{3}}) + \sigma^\circ(s_k^{i-\frac{1}{3}})) : (Ew^\circ(s_k^{i-\frac{1}{3}}) - Ew^\circ(s_k^{i-\frac{2}{3}})) dx \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

Using the fact that $\sigma^\circ \in L^\infty(\Omega \times B^\circ; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$, that $s \mapsto Ew^\circ(s)$ is constant on each connected component of A° and 1-Lipschitz (with values in $L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$) on B° , we deduce that

$$\begin{aligned} \delta_k \leq C \sum_{i \in \bar{J}_k} & \int_{s_k^{i-1}}^{s_k^i} \chi_{B^\circ}(s) ds \\ & + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i \in \bar{J}_k} \left(\mathcal{H}(\sigma^\circ(s_k^{i-\frac{2}{3}}) * \rho, p^\circ(s_k^{i-\frac{1}{3}}) - p^\circ(s_k^{i-\frac{2}{3}})) - \int_{s_k^{i-\frac{2}{3}}}^{s_k^{i-\frac{1}{3}}} \mathcal{H}(\sigma^\circ(s) * \rho, \dot{p}^\circ(s)) ds \right) \\ & + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i \in \bar{J}_k} \left(\mathcal{H}(\sigma^\circ(s_k^{i-\frac{1}{3}}) * \rho, p^\circ(s_k^{i-\frac{1}{3}}) - p^\circ(s_k^{i-\frac{2}{3}})) - \int_{s_k^{i-\frac{2}{3}}}^{s_k^{i-\frac{1}{3}}} \mathcal{H}(\sigma^\circ(s) * \rho, \dot{p}^\circ(s)) ds \right) \end{aligned}$$

for some constant $C > 0$ independent of k . Then according to (3.29) and (3.30) – note that, thanks to [9, Lemma 7.3], relation (3.30) holds for any infinitesimal subdivision – we conclude that δ_k satisfies (3.40) as claimed. \square

As a consequence of (3.32) and (3.34) we deduce the second energy inequality.

Proposition 3.17. *For every $S \in [0, \bar{T}]$,*

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{Q}(e^\circ(S)) + \int_0^S \mathcal{H}(\sigma^\circ(s) * \rho, \dot{p}^\circ(s)) ds + \int_0^S \|\dot{p}^\circ(s)\|_2 \text{dist}_2(\sigma^\circ(s), \mathcal{K}(\sigma^\circ(s) * \rho)) ds \\ \geq \mathcal{Q}(e^\circ(0)) + \int_0^S \int_{\Omega} \sigma^\circ(s) : E\dot{w}^\circ(s) dx ds. \end{aligned}$$

Propositions 3.14 and 3.17 yield in turn the following energy equality:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{Q}(e^\circ(S)) + \int_0^S \mathcal{H}(\sigma^\circ(s) * \rho, \dot{p}^\circ(s)) ds + \int_0^S \|\dot{p}^\circ(s)\|_2 \text{dist}_2(\sigma^\circ(s), \mathcal{K}(\sigma^\circ(s) * \rho)) ds \\ = \mathcal{Q}(e^\circ(0)) + \int_0^S \int_{\Omega} \sigma^\circ(s) : E\dot{w}^\circ(s) dx ds, \end{aligned}$$

and in particular, for every $0 \leq s_1 \leq s_2 \leq \bar{T}$, we get

$$\mathcal{Q}(e^\circ(s_2)) + \int_{s_1}^{s_2} \mathcal{H}(\sigma^\circ(s) * \rho, \dot{p}^\circ(s)) ds \leq \mathcal{Q}(e^\circ(s_1)) + \int_{s_1}^{s_2} \int_{\Omega} \sigma^\circ(s) : E\dot{w}^\circ(s) dx ds. \quad (3.41)$$

Thanks to this relation, we are in a position to prove the almost everywhere derivability in time of $s \mapsto e^\circ(s)$.

Proof of Theorem 3.8. According to Lemma 3.5, we already know that $s \mapsto e^\circ(s)$ is absolutely continuous in A° with values in the reflexive space $L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$. Hence from [3, Appendix], we conclude that it is derivable almost everywhere in A° for the strong $L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$ topology. It suffices to prove the almost everywhere derivability of e° in B° .

Let $0 \leq s_1 \leq s_2 \leq \bar{T}$, and assume that $s_1 \in B^\circ$. Thanks to the Lipschitz continuity of H in its first variable (see Lemma 1.5) and (3.6), for a.e. $s \in (s_1, s_2)$,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{H}(\sigma^\circ(s_1) * \rho, \dot{p}^\circ(s)) &\leq \mathcal{H}(\sigma^\circ(s) * \rho, \dot{p}^\circ(s)) + C_H \|\dot{p}^\circ(s)\|_1 \|(\sigma^\circ(s) - \sigma^\circ(s_1)) * \rho\|_\infty \\ &\leq \mathcal{H}(\sigma^\circ(s) * \rho, \dot{p}^\circ(s)) + C \|e^\circ(s) - e^\circ(s_1)\|_2, \end{aligned}$$

for some constant $C > 0$ independent of s and s_1 . Next, using (3.41) between s_1 and s_2 , we infer that

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{Q}(e^\circ(s_2)) + \int_{s_1}^{s_2} \mathcal{H}(\sigma^\circ(s_1) * \rho, \dot{p}^\circ(s)) ds \\ \leq \mathcal{Q}(e^\circ(s_1)) + \int_{s_1}^{s_2} \int_{\Omega} \sigma^\circ(s) : E \dot{w}^\circ(s) dx ds + C \int_{s_1}^{s_2} \|e^\circ(s) - e^\circ(s_1)\|_2 ds. \end{aligned} \quad (3.42)$$

Now, since $\sigma^\circ(s_1) * \rho$ is continuous, it is uniformly continuous on $\bar{\Omega}$. Thus for each $\varepsilon > 0$, there exists $\delta > 0$ such that if x and $y \in \bar{\Omega}$ are such that $|x - y| < \delta$, then $|\sigma^\circ(s_1) * \rho(x) - \sigma^\circ(s_1) * \rho(y)| < \varepsilon$. Let us split $\bar{\Omega}$ into a finite family of pairwise disjoint sets $\{Q_i\}_{1 \leq i \leq m_\varepsilon}$ such that

$$\begin{cases} \bar{\Omega} = \bigcup_{i=1}^{m_\varepsilon} \bar{Q}_i, \\ \text{diam}(Q_i) < \delta, \\ \int_{s_1}^{s_2} |\dot{p}^\circ(s)| (\Omega \cap \partial Q_i) ds = |p^\circ(s_2) - p^\circ(s_1)| (\Omega \cap \partial Q_i) = 0 \end{cases}$$

for all $i \in \{1, \dots, m_\varepsilon\}$. Fix a point $x_i \in Q_i$, then appealing to Lemma 1.5, for a.e. $s \in (s_1, s_2)$,

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{Q_i} \left| H \left([\sigma^\circ(s_1) * \rho](x), \frac{d\dot{p}^\circ(s)}{d|p^\circ(s)|}(x) \right) - H \left([\sigma^\circ(s_1) * \rho](x_i), \frac{d\dot{p}^\circ(s)}{d|p^\circ(s)|}(x) \right) \right| d|p^\circ(s)|(x) \\ \leq C_H \varepsilon |p^\circ(s)|(Q_i). \end{aligned}$$

Hence, using (3.6), we get that

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{s_1}^{s_2} \mathcal{H}(\sigma^\circ(s_1) * \rho, \dot{p}^\circ(s)) ds \\ \geq \sum_{i=1}^m \int_{s_1}^{s_2} \int_{Q_i} H \left([\sigma^\circ(s_1) * \rho](x_i), \frac{d\dot{p}^\circ(s)}{d|p^\circ(s)|}(x) \right) d|p^\circ(s)|(x) ds \\ - C_H \varepsilon (s_2 - s_1). \end{aligned} \quad (3.43)$$

By virtue of [6, Theorem 7.1] applied to $\mathcal{H}([\sigma^\circ(s_1) * \rho](x_i), \cdot)$, we get, for each $i \in \{1, \dots, m_\varepsilon\}$,

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{s_1}^{s_2} \int_{Q_i} H \left([\sigma^\circ(s_1) * \rho](x_i), \frac{d\dot{p}^\circ(s)}{d|p^\circ(s)|}(x) \right) d|p^\circ(s)|(x) ds \\ \geq \int_{Q_i} H \left([\sigma^\circ(s_1) * \rho](x_i), \frac{d[p^\circ(s_2) - p^\circ(s_1)]}{d|p^\circ(s_2) - p^\circ(s_1)|} \right) d|p^\circ(s_2) - p^\circ(s_1)|(x) \\ \geq \int_{Q_i} H \left([\sigma^\circ(s_1) * \rho](x), \frac{d[p^\circ(s_2) - p^\circ(s_1)]}{d|p^\circ(s_2) - p^\circ(s_1)|} \right) d|p^\circ(s_2) - p^\circ(s_1)|(x) \\ - C_H \varepsilon |p^\circ(s_2) - p^\circ(s_1)|(Q_i), \end{aligned}$$

where we used again Lemma 1.5. Finally, since $p^\circ \in \text{Lip}(0, \bar{T}; \mathcal{M}(\bar{\Omega}; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n}))$ with Lipschitz constant less than 1, we conclude from (3.43) that

$$\int_{s_1}^{s_2} \mathcal{H}(\sigma^\circ(s_1) * \rho, \dot{p}^\circ(s)) ds \geq \mathcal{H}(\sigma^\circ(s_1) * \rho, p^\circ(s_2) - p^\circ(s_1)) - 2C_H \varepsilon (s_2 - s_1),$$

and letting $\varepsilon \searrow 0$ that

$$\int_{s_1}^{s_2} \mathcal{H}(\sigma^\circ(s_1) * \rho, \dot{p}^\circ(s)) ds \geq \mathcal{H}(\sigma^\circ(s_1) * \rho, p^\circ(s_2) - p^\circ(s_1)).$$

Thus, (3.42) yields

$$\begin{aligned} & \mathcal{Q}(e^\circ(s_2)) + \mathcal{H}(\sigma^\circ(s_1) * \rho, p^\circ(s_2) - p^\circ(s_1)) \\ & \leq \mathcal{Q}(e^\circ(s_1)) + \int_{s_1}^{s_2} \int_{\Omega} \sigma^\circ(s) : E\dot{w}^\circ(s) dx ds + C \int_{s_1}^{s_2} \|e^\circ(s) - e^\circ(s_1)\|_2 ds. \end{aligned}$$

Since $s_1 \in B^\circ$, then $\sigma^\circ(s_1) \in \mathcal{K}(\sigma^\circ(s_1) * \rho)$ and thus, by Remark 3.10, $\langle \sigma^\circ(s_1), p^\circ(s_2) - p^\circ(s_1) \rangle \leq \mathcal{H}(\sigma^\circ(s_1) * \rho, p^\circ(s_2) - p^\circ(s_1))$. Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} & \mathcal{Q}(e^\circ(s_2)) + \langle \sigma^\circ(s_1), p^\circ(s_2) - p^\circ(s_1) \rangle \\ & \leq \mathcal{Q}(e^\circ(s_1)) + \int_{s_1}^{s_2} \int_{\Omega} \sigma^\circ(s) : E\dot{w}^\circ(s) dx ds + C \int_{s_1}^{s_2} \|e^\circ(s) - e^\circ(s_1)\|_2 ds. \end{aligned}$$

Since $\mathcal{Q}(e^\circ(s_2)) - \mathcal{Q}(e^\circ(s_1)) = \mathcal{Q}(e^\circ(s_2) - e^\circ(s_1)) + \int_{\Omega} \sigma^\circ(s_1) : (e^\circ(s_2) - e^\circ(s_1)) dx$,

$$\mathcal{Q}(e^\circ(s_2) - e^\circ(s_1)) \leq \int_{s_1}^{s_2} \int_{\Omega} (\sigma^\circ(s) - \sigma^\circ(s_1)) : E\dot{w}^\circ(s) dx ds + C \int_{s_1}^{s_2} \|e^\circ(s) - e^\circ(s_1)\|_2 ds.$$

In deriving the inequality above, we have also made use of kinematic compatibility, and of the duality (1.13), together with the fact that $\sigma^\circ(s_1)$ is divergence free.

Thanks to the coercivity (1.15) of \mathcal{Q} , the Cauchy-Schwartz inequality and the fact that $\|E\dot{w}^\circ(s)\|_2 \leq 1$ for a.e. s , we obtain that

$$\|e^\circ(s_2) - e^\circ(s_1)\|_2^2 \leq C \int_{s_1}^{s_2} \|e^\circ(s) - e^\circ(s_1)\|_2 ds,$$

for some constant $C > 0$ independent of s_1 and s_2 . Hence Gronwall's Lemma implies that

$$\|e^\circ(s_2) - e^\circ(s_1)\|_2 \leq L(s_2 - s_1), \quad (3.44)$$

for some constant $L > 0$ (independent of s_1 and s_2) for every $0 \leq s_1 \leq s_2 \leq \bar{T}$ with $s_1 \in B^\circ$. Thus, by [10, Theorem 3.1], $s \mapsto e^\circ(s)$ is differentiable almost everywhere in B° for the strong $L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$ topology.

Then, from the weak continuity of $s \mapsto e^\circ(s)$ in $L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$, we deduce that

$$\frac{d}{ds} \mathcal{Q}(e^\circ(s)) = \int_{\Omega} \sigma^\circ(s) : \dot{e}^\circ(s) dx$$

for a.e. $s \in [0, \bar{T}]$, and thus relation (3.22) follows.

Finally, by (3.21), (3.44), we conclude that $s \mapsto e^\circ(s)$ is actually strongly continuous into $L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$, and recalling that $p^\circ(s)$ is Lipschitz into $\mathcal{M}(\bar{\Omega}; \mathbb{M}_{sym}^{n \times n})$, together with Poincaré-Korn's inequality and the H^1 -regularity of w° , that $s \mapsto u^\circ(s)$ is strongly continuous into $BD(\Omega)$. \square

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