

Optimal regularity and structure  
of the free boundary  
for minimizers in cohesive zone models

Joint work with Luis Caffarelli and Alessio Figalli

Filippo Cagnetti - University of Sussex - Brighton, UK

Topics in the Calculus of Variations:  
Recent Advances and New Trends,  
Banff, 24 May 2018

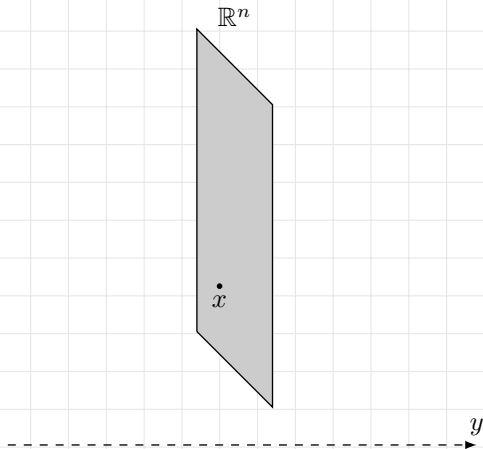
Let  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $n \geq 2$ .

Let  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $n \geq 2$ . In  $\mathbb{R}^{n+1}$  we consider

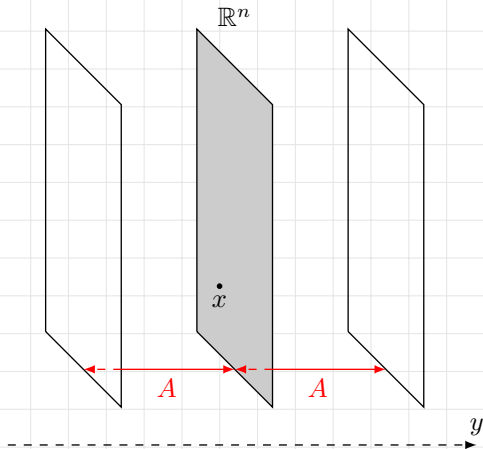
Let  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $n \geq 2$ . In  $\mathbb{R}^{n+1}$  we consider



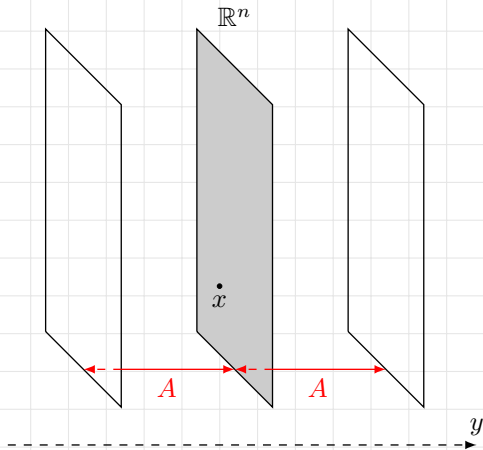
Let  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $n \geq 2$ . In  $\mathbb{R}^{n+1}$  we consider



Let  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $n \geq 2$ . In  $\mathbb{R}^{n+1}$  we consider

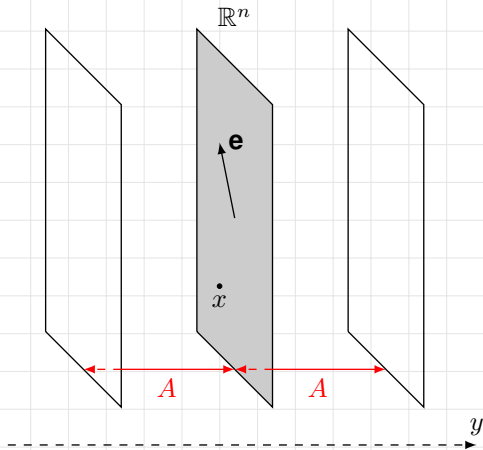


Let  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $n \geq 2$ . In  $\mathbb{R}^{n+1}$  we consider



Cracks **ONLY** in  $\mathbb{R}^n \times \{0\}$ .

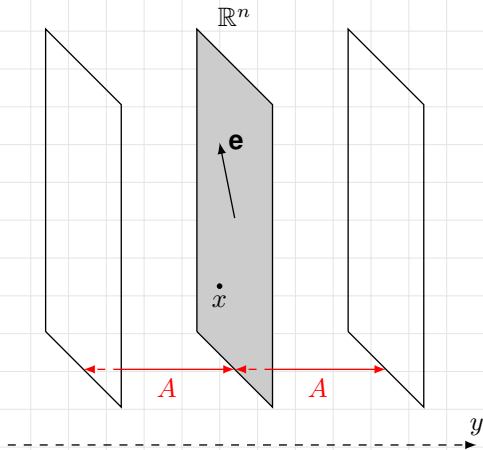
Let  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $n \geq 2$ . In  $\mathbb{R}^{n+1}$  we consider



Cracks **ONLY** in  $\mathbb{R}^n \times \{0\}$ .

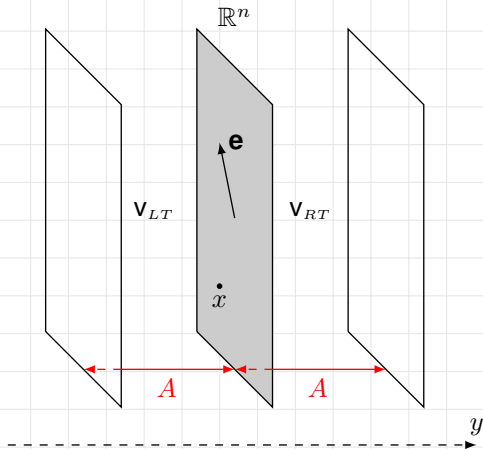


Let  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $n \geq 2$ . In  $\mathbb{R}^{n+1}$  we consider



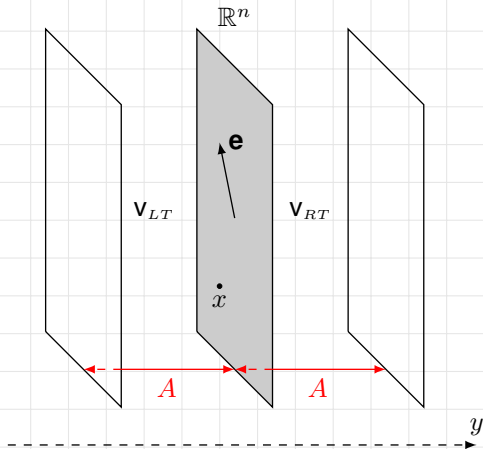
Cracks **ONLY** in  $\mathbb{R}^n \times \{0\}$ . Displacement  $v : \mathbb{R}^n \times (-A, A) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ .

Let  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $n \geq 2$ . In  $\mathbb{R}^{n+1}$  we consider



Cracks **ONLY** in  $\mathbb{R}^n \times \{0\}$ . Displacement  $v : \mathbb{R}^n \times (-A, A) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ .

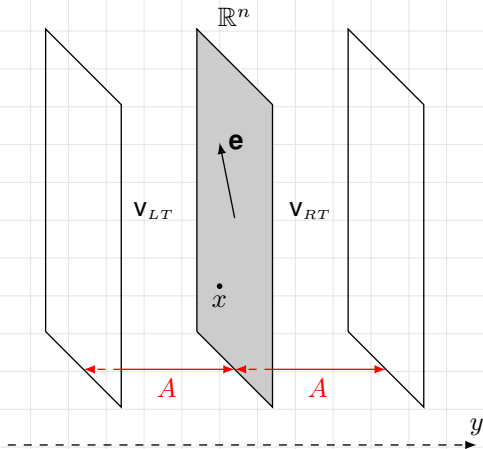
Let  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $n \geq 2$ . In  $\mathbb{R}^{n+1}$  we consider



Cracks **ONLY** in  $\mathbb{R}^n \times \{0\}$ . Displacement  $\mathbf{v} : \mathbb{R}^n \times (-A, A) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ .

$$[\mathbf{v}] := \mathbf{v}_{RT} - \mathbf{v}_{LT}$$

Let  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $n \geq 2$ . In  $\mathbb{R}^{n+1}$  we consider



Cracks **ONLY** in  $\mathbb{R}^n \times \{0\}$ . Displacement  $\mathbf{v} : \mathbb{R}^n \times (-A, A) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ .

$$[\mathbf{v}] := \mathbf{v}_{RT} - \mathbf{v}_{LT}$$

$$K_{\mathbf{v}} := \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : [\mathbf{v}](x) \neq 0\}$$

# Cohesive Zone Model

## Total Energy

For a displacement  $v \in H^1(\mathbb{R}^n \times (-A, A) \setminus \{y = 0\})$  the total energy is

# Cohesive Zone Model

## Total Energy

For a displacement  $\mathbf{v} \in H^1(\mathbb{R}^n \times (-A, A) \setminus \{y = 0\})$  the total energy is

$$E(\mathbf{v}) = \frac{1}{2} \underbrace{\int_{\mathbb{R}^n \times (-A, A) \setminus \{y=0\}} |\nabla \mathbf{v}|^2 dz}_{\text{Stored Elastic Energy}}$$

# Cohesive Zone Model

## Total Energy

For a displacement  $\mathbf{v} \in H^1(\mathbb{R}^n \times (-A, A) \setminus \{y = 0\})$  the total energy is

$$E(\mathbf{v}) = \underbrace{\frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n \times (-A, A) \setminus \{y=0\}} |\nabla \mathbf{v}|^2 dz}_{\text{Stored Elastic Energy}} + \underbrace{\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} g(|[\mathbf{v}]|) dx}_{\text{Fracture Energy}}$$

# Cohesive Zone Model

## Total Energy

For a displacement  $\mathbf{v} \in H^1(\mathbb{R}^n \times (-A, A) \setminus \{y = 0\})$  the total energy is

$$E(\mathbf{v}) = \underbrace{\frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n \times (-A, A) \setminus \{y=0\}} |\nabla \mathbf{v}|^2 dz}_{\text{Stored Elastic Energy}} + \underbrace{\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} g(|[\mathbf{v}]|) dx}_{\text{Fracture Energy}}$$

where

(g1)  $g$  concave



# Cohesive Zone Model

## Total Energy

For a displacement  $\mathbf{v} \in H^1(\mathbb{R}^n \times (-A, A) \setminus \{y = 0\})$  the total energy is

$$E(\mathbf{v}) = \underbrace{\frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n \times (-A, A) \setminus \{y=0\}} |\nabla \mathbf{v}|^2 dz}_{\text{Stored Elastic Energy}} + \underbrace{\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} g(|[\mathbf{v}]|) dx}_{\text{Fracture Energy}}$$

where

(g1)  $g$  concave

(g2)  $g$  strictly increasing and bounded

# Cohesive Zone Model

## Total Energy

For a displacement  $\mathbf{v} \in H^1(\mathbb{R}^n \times (-A, A) \setminus \{y = 0\})$  the total energy is

$$E(\mathbf{v}) = \underbrace{\frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n \times (-A, A) \setminus \{y=0\}} |\nabla \mathbf{v}|^2 dz}_{\text{Stored Elastic Energy}} + \underbrace{\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} g(|[\mathbf{v}]|) dx}_{\text{Fracture Energy}}$$

where

(g1)  $g$  concave

(g2)  $g$  strictly increasing and bounded

(g3)  $g(0) = 0$

# Cohesive Zone Model

## Total Energy

For a displacement  $\mathbf{v} \in H^1(\mathbb{R}^n \times (-A, A) \setminus \{y = 0\})$  the total energy is

$$E(\mathbf{v}) = \underbrace{\frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n \times (-A, A) \setminus \{y=0\}} |\nabla \mathbf{v}|^2 dz}_{\text{Stored Elastic Energy}} + \underbrace{\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} g(|[\mathbf{v}]|) dx}_{\text{Fracture Energy}}$$

where

(g1)  $g$  concave

(g2)  $g$  strictly increasing and bounded

(g3)  $g(0) = 0$

(g4)  $g'(0^+) \in (0, +\infty)$

# Cohesive Zone Model

## Total Energy

For a displacement  $\mathbf{v} \in H^1(\mathbb{R}^n \times (-A, A) \setminus \{y = 0\})$  the total energy is

$$E(\mathbf{v}) = \underbrace{\frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n \times (-A, A) \setminus \{y=0\}} |\nabla \mathbf{v}|^2 dz}_{\text{Stored Elastic Energy}} + \underbrace{\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} g(|[\mathbf{v}]|) dx}_{\text{Fracture Energy}}$$

where

(g1)  $g$  concave

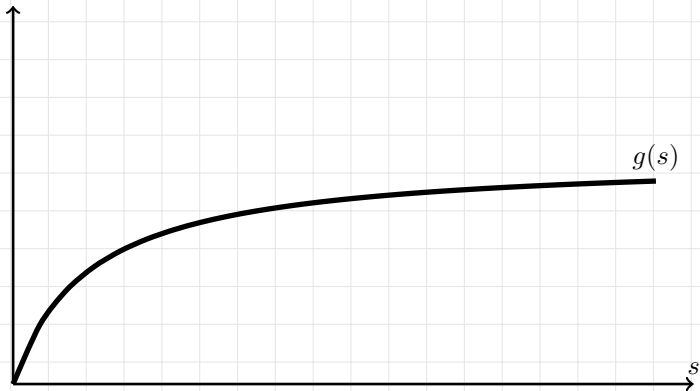
(g2)  $g$  strictly increasing and bounded

(g3)  $g(0) = 0$

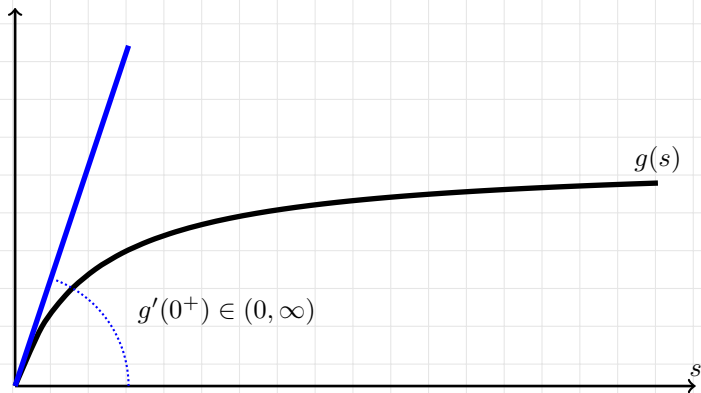
(g4)  $g'(0^+) \in (0, +\infty)$

(g5)  $g : [0, +\infty) \rightarrow [0, +\infty)$  is of class  $g \in C^2[0, \infty) \cap C^3(0, \infty)$

# Fracture Energy density



# Fracture Energy density



IMPOSE BOUNDARY CONDITIONS:

IMPOSE BOUNDARY CONDITIONS:

Let  $u_A, u_{-A} \in H^{1/2}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ .



IMPOSE BOUNDARY CONDITIONS:

Let  $u_A, u_{-A} \in H^{1/2}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ . Let  $u$  be a minimizer of

$$\min_{H^1} \{E(v) : v(x, \pm A) = u_{\pm A}\}.$$

## IMPOSE BOUNDARY CONDITIONS:

Let  $u_A, u_{-A} \in H^{1/2}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ . Let  $u$  be a minimizer of

$$\min_{H^1} \{E(v) : v(x, \pm A) = u_{\pm A}\}.$$

Then

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \Delta u = 0 \\ \end{array} \right. \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R}^n \times (-A, A) \setminus \{y = 0\},$$

## IMPOSE BOUNDARY CONDITIONS:

Let  $u_A, u_{-A} \in H^{1/2}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ . Let  $u$  be a minimizer of

$$\min_{H^1} \{E(v) : v(x, \pm A) = u_{\pm A}\}.$$

Then

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \Delta u = 0 \\ u = u_A \\ u = u_{-A} \end{array} \right. \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{in } \mathbb{R}^n \times (-A, A) \setminus \{y = 0\}, \\ \text{on } \{y = A\}, \\ \text{on } \{y = -A\}, \end{array}$$

## IMPOSE BOUNDARY CONDITIONS:

Let  $u_A, u_{-A} \in H^{1/2}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ . Let  $u$  be a minimizer of

$$\min_{H^1} \{E(v) : v(x, \pm A) = u_{\pm A}\}.$$

Then

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \Delta u = 0 & \text{in } \mathbb{R}^n \times (-A, A) \setminus \{y = 0\}, \\ u = u_A & \text{on } \{y = A\}, \\ u = u_{-A} & \text{on } \{y = -A\}, \\ \partial_y u_{RT} = \partial_y u_{LT} & \text{on } \{y = 0\}, \end{array} \right.$$

## IMPOSE BOUNDARY CONDITIONS:

Let  $u_A, u_{-A} \in H^{1/2}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ . Let  $u$  be a minimizer of

$$\min_{H^1} \{E(v) : v(x, \pm A) = u_{\pm A}\}.$$

Then

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \Delta u = 0 & \text{in } \mathbb{R}^n \times (-A, A) \setminus \{y = 0\}, \\ u = u_A & \text{on } \{y = A\}, \\ u = u_{-A} & \text{on } \{y = -A\}, \\ \partial_y u_{RT} = \partial_y u_{LT} & \text{on } \{y = 0\}, \\ |\partial_y u| \leq g'(0^+) & \text{on } \{y = 0\}, \end{array} \right.$$

## IMPOSE BOUNDARY CONDITIONS:

Let  $u_A, u_{-A} \in H^{1/2}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ . Let  $u$  be a minimizer of

$$\min_{H^1} \{E(\mathbf{v}) : \mathbf{v}(x, \pm A) = u_{\pm A}\}.$$

Then

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \Delta u = 0 & \text{in } \mathbb{R}^n \times (-A, A) \setminus \{y = 0\}, \\ u = u_A & \text{on } \{y = A\}, \\ u = u_{-A} & \text{on } \{y = -A\}, \\ \partial_y u_{RT} = \partial_y u_{LT} & \text{on } \{y = 0\}, \\ |\partial_y u| \leq g'(0^+) & \text{on } \{y = 0\}, \\ \partial_y u = g'(|[u]|) \operatorname{sgn}([u]) & \text{on } K_u, \end{array} \right.$$

Assume BC odd w.r.t.  $\{y = 0\}$

Assume BC odd w.r.t.  $\{y = 0\}$ :  $u_{-A}(x) = -u_A(x) \quad \forall x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ .



**Assume BC odd** w.r.t.  $\{y = 0\}$ :  $u_{-A}(x) = -u_A(x) \quad \forall x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ .

We focus on solutions which are odd w.r.t.  $\{y = 0\}$ :

**Assume BC odd** w.r.t.  $\{y = 0\}$ :  $u_{-A}(x) = -u_A(x) \quad \forall x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ .

We focus on solutions which are odd w.r.t.  $\{y = 0\}$ :

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \Delta u = 0 \\ \end{array} \right. \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R}^n \times (0, A),$$

**Assume BC odd** w.r.t.  $\{y = 0\}$ :  $u_{-A}(x) = -u_A(x) \quad \forall x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ .

We focus on solutions which are odd w.r.t.  $\{y = 0\}$ :

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \Delta u = 0 \\ u = u_A \end{array} \right. \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{in } \mathbb{R}^n \times (0, A), \\ \text{on } \{y = A\}, \end{array}$$

**Assume BC odd** w.r.t.  $\{y = 0\}$ :  $u_{-A}(x) = -u_A(x) \quad \forall x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ .

We focus on solutions which are odd w.r.t.  $\{y = 0\}$ :

$$\begin{cases} \Delta u = 0 & \text{in } \mathbb{R}^n \times (0, A), \\ u = u_A & \text{on } \{y = A\}, \\ |\partial_y u| \leq g'(0^+) & \text{on } \{y = 0\}, \end{cases}$$

**Assume BC odd** w.r.t.  $\{y = 0\}$ :  $u_{-A}(x) = -u_A(x) \quad \forall x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ .

We focus on solutions which are odd w.r.t.  $\{y = 0\}$ :

$$\begin{cases} \Delta u = 0 & \text{in } \mathbb{R}^n \times (0, A), \\ u = u_A & \text{on } \{y = A\}, \\ |\partial_y u| \leq g'(0^+) & \text{on } \{y = 0\}, \\ \partial_y u = g'(2|u|) \operatorname{sgn}(u) & \text{on } K_u. \end{cases}$$

Assume BC odd w.r.t.  $\{y = 0\}$ :  $u_{-A}(x) = -u_A(x) \quad \forall x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ .

We focus on solutions which are odd w.r.t.  $\{y = 0\}$ :

$$\begin{cases} \Delta u = 0 & \text{in } \mathbb{R}^n \times (0, A), \\ u = u_A & \text{on } \{y = A\}, \\ |\partial_y u| \leq g'(0^+) & \text{on } \{y = 0\}, \\ \partial_y u = g'(2|u|) \operatorname{sgn}(u) & \text{on } K_u. \end{cases}$$

QUESTIONS:

**Assume BC odd** w.r.t.  $\{y = 0\}$ :  $u_{-A}(x) = -u_A(x) \quad \forall x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ .

We focus on solutions which are odd w.r.t.  $\{y = 0\}$ :

$$\begin{cases} \Delta u = 0 & \text{in } \mathbb{R}^n \times (0, A), \\ u = u_A & \text{on } \{y = A\}, \\ |\partial_y u| \leq g'(0^+) & \text{on } \{y = 0\}, \\ \partial_y u = g'(2|u|) \operatorname{sgn}(u) & \text{on } K_u. \end{cases}$$

**QUESTIONS:**

- Regularity of  $u$ ?

**Assume BC odd** w.r.t.  $\{y = 0\}$ :  $u_{-A}(x) = -u_A(x) \quad \forall x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ .

We focus on solutions which are odd w.r.t.  $\{y = 0\}$ :

$$\begin{cases} \Delta u = 0 & \text{in } \mathbb{R}^n \times (0, A), \\ u = u_A & \text{on } \{y = A\}, \\ |\partial_y u| \leq g'(0^+) & \text{on } \{y = 0\}, \\ \partial_y u = g'(2|u|) \operatorname{sgn}(u) & \text{on } K_u. \end{cases}$$

### QUESTIONS:

- ▶ Regularity of  $u$ ?
- ▶ Is the crack set  $K_u = \{(x, 0) : x \in \mathbb{R}^n, u(x, 0) \neq 0\}$  regular?



# Regularity of $u$



# Regularity of $u$

$$\begin{cases} \Delta u = 0 & \text{in } \mathbb{R}^n \times (0, A), \\ u = u_A & \text{on } \{y = A\}, \\ |\partial_y u| \leq g'(0^+) & \text{on } \{y = 0\}, \\ \partial_y u = g'(2|u|) \operatorname{sgn}(u) & \text{on } K_u. \end{cases}$$

# Regularity of $u$

$$\begin{cases} \Delta u = 0 & \text{in } \mathbb{R}^n \times (0, A), \\ u = u_A & \text{on } \{y = A\}, \\ |\partial_y u| \leq g'(0^+) & \text{on } \{y = 0\}, \\ \partial_y u = g'(2|u|) \operatorname{sgn}(u) & \text{on } K_u. \end{cases}$$

**MAJOR PROBLEM:**

# Regularity of $u$

$$\begin{cases} \Delta u = 0 & \text{in } \mathbb{R}^n \times (0, A), \\ u = u_A & \text{on } \{y = A\}, \\ |\partial_y u| \leq g'(0^+) & \text{on } \{y = 0\}, \\ \partial_y u = g'(2|u|) \operatorname{sgn}(u) & \text{on } K_u. \end{cases}$$

**MAJOR PROBLEM:**

Suppose  $\exists (\bar{x}, 0) \in \partial K_u$  where  $u$  changes sign

# Regularity of $u$

$$\begin{cases} \Delta u = 0 & \text{in } \mathbb{R}^n \times (0, A), \\ u = u_A & \text{on } \{y = A\}, \\ |\partial_y u| \leq g'(0^+) & \text{on } \{y = 0\}, \\ \partial_y u = g'(2|u|) \operatorname{sgn}(u) & \text{on } K_u. \end{cases}$$

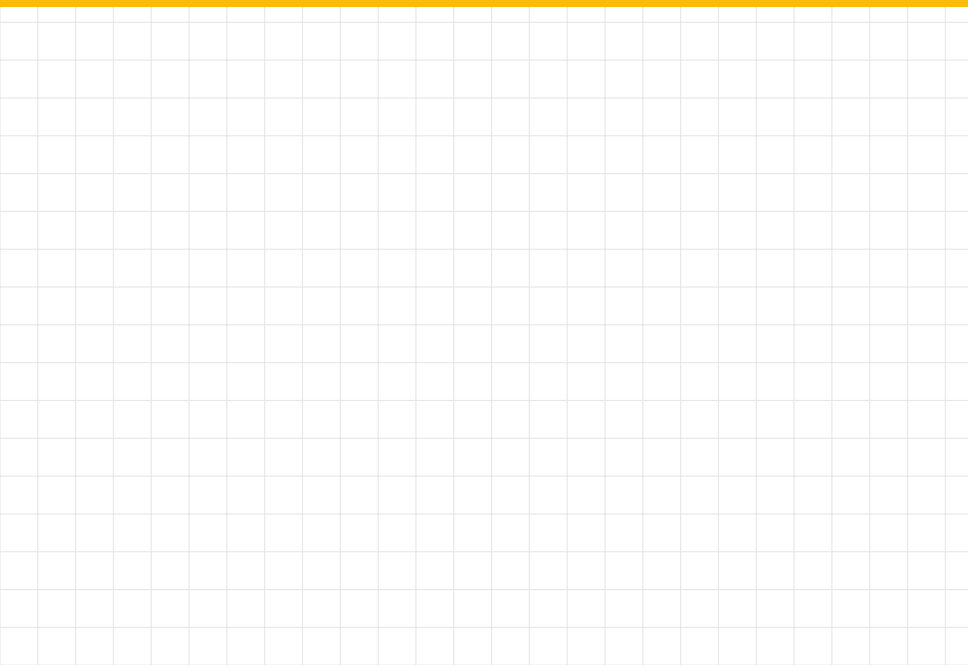
**MAJOR PROBLEM:**

Suppose  $\exists (\bar{x}, 0) \in \partial K_u$  where  $u$  changes sign

$\Downarrow$

$\partial_y u$  discontinuous at  $(\bar{x}, 0)$

## Preliminary result on the crack set $K_u$



# Preliminary result on the crack set $K_u$

Assumptions on BC

# Preliminary result on the crack set $K_u$

## Assumptions on BC

(A1)  $u_A \in C^{2,\beta}(\mathbb{R}^n)$  for some  $\beta \in (0, 1)$



# Preliminary result on the crack set $K_u$

## Assumptions on BC

(A1)  $u_A \in C^{2,\beta}(\mathbb{R}^n)$  for some  $\beta \in (0, 1)$

(A2)  $\lim_{|x| \rightarrow \infty} u_A(x) = 0$

# Preliminary result on the crack set $K_u$

## Assumptions on BC

(A1)  $u_A \in C^{2,\beta}(\mathbb{R}^n)$  for some  $\beta \in (0, 1)$

(A2)  $\lim_{|x| \rightarrow \infty} u_A(x) = 0$

Preliminary result on the crack set  $K_u$ :

## Preliminary result on the crack set $K_u$

### Assumptions on BC

(A1)  $u_A \in C^{2,\beta}(\mathbb{R}^n)$  for some  $\beta \in (0, 1)$

(A2)  $\lim_{|x| \rightarrow \infty} u_A(x) = 0$

Preliminary result on the crack set  $K_u$ :

**Lemma (Caffarelli, C., Figalli)**

*Let (g1)–(g5) and (A1)–(A2) be satisfied.*

# Preliminary result on the crack set $K_u$

## Assumptions on BC

(A1)  $u_A \in C^{2,\beta}(\mathbb{R}^n)$  for some  $\beta \in (0, 1)$

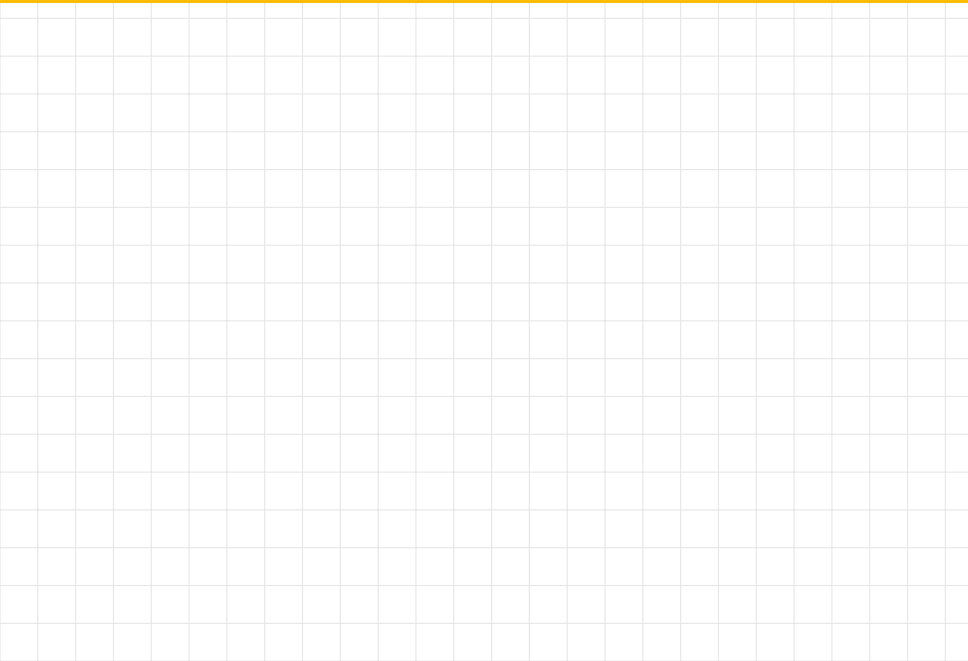
(A2)  $\lim_{|x| \rightarrow \infty} u_A(x) = 0$

Preliminary result on the crack set  $K_u$ :

**Lemma (Caffarelli, C., Figalli)**

*Let (g1)–(g5) and (A1)–(A2) be satisfied. Then,  $K_u$  is compact.*

## Preliminary results on $u$



# Preliminary results on $u$

## Remark

*From  $u_A \in C^{2,\beta}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ , we have*

# Preliminary results on $u$

## Remark

From  $u_A \in C^{2,\beta}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ , we have

- ▶  $u_A$  Lipschitz continuous (Lipschitz constant  $L_A := \|\nabla u_A\|_{L^\infty}$ )

# Preliminary results on $u$

## Remark

From  $u_A \in C^{2,\beta}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ , we have

- ▶  $u_A$  Lipschitz continuous (Lipschitz constant  $L_A := \|\nabla u_A\|_{L^\infty}$ )
- ▶  $u_A$  semiconvex (with some semiconvexity constant  $D_A > 0$ ):



## Remark

From  $u_A \in C^{2,\beta}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ , we have

- ▶  $u_A$  Lipschitz continuous (Lipschitz constant  $L_A := \|\nabla u_A\|_{L^\infty}$ )
- ▶  $u_A$  semiconvex (with some semiconvexity constant  $D_A > 0$ ):

$$u_A(x+h) + u_A(x-h) - 2u_A(x) \geq -D_A|h|^2 \quad \forall x, h \in \mathbb{R}^n$$

## Remark

From  $u_A \in C^{2,\beta}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ , we have

- ▶  $u_A$  Lipschitz continuous (Lipschitz constant  $L_A := \|\nabla u_A\|_{L^\infty}$ )
- ▶  $u_A$  semiconvex (with some semiconvexity constant  $D_A > 0$ ):

$$u_A(x+h) + u_A(x-h) - 2u_A(x) \geq -D_A|h|^2 \quad \forall x, h \in \mathbb{R}^n$$

- ▶  $u_A$  semiconcave (with some semiconcavity constant  $C_A > 0$ ):

## Remark

From  $u_A \in C^{2,\beta}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ , we have

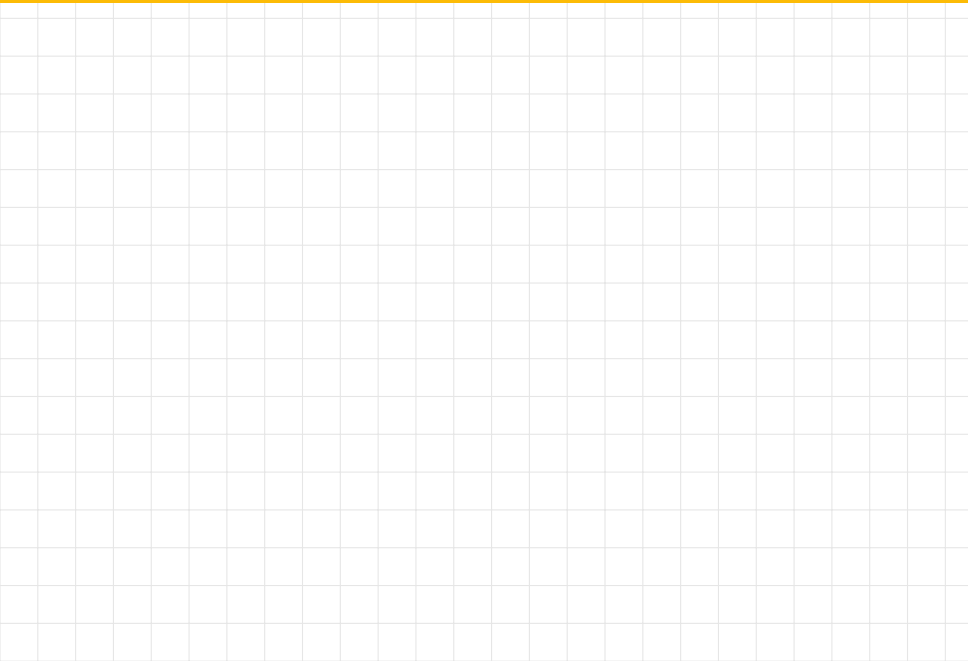
- ▶  $u_A$  Lipschitz continuous (Lipschitz constant  $L_A := \|\nabla u_A\|_{L^\infty}$ )
- ▶  $u_A$  semiconvex (with some semiconvexity constant  $D_A > 0$ ):

$$u_A(x+h) + u_A(x-h) - 2u_A(x) \geq -D_A|h|^2 \quad \forall x, h \in \mathbb{R}^n$$

- ▶  $u_A$  semiconcave (with some semiconcavity constant  $C_A > 0$ ):

$$u_A(x+h) + u_A(x-h) - 2u_A(x) \leq C_A|h|^2 \quad \forall x, h \in \mathbb{R}^n$$

## Preliminary results on $u$



## Preliminary results on $u$

Lemma (Caffarelli, C., Figalli)

*Let (g1)–(g5) and (A1)–(A2) be satisfied.*

## Preliminary results on $u$

### Lemma (Caffarelli, C., Figalli)

*Let (g1)–(g5) and (A1)–(A2) be satisfied. In addition, assume (g6).*

## Preliminary results on $u$

### Lemma (Caffarelli, C., Figalli)

*Let (g1)–(g5) and (A1)–(A2) be satisfied. In addition, assume (g6).  
Then, for every  $y \in [0, A]$ ,*

## Preliminary results on $u$

### Lemma (Caffarelli, C., Figalli)

*Let (g1)–(g5) and (A1)–(A2) be satisfied. In addition, assume (g6). Then, for every  $y \in [0, A]$ , the function  $u(\cdot, y)$  is Lipschitz continuous,*



## Lemma (Caffarelli, C., Figalli)

*Let (g1)–(g5) and (A1)–(A2) be satisfied. In addition, assume (g6). Then, for every  $y \in [0, A]$ , the function  $u(\cdot, y)$  is Lipschitz continuous, with Lipschitz constant*

$$L := \frac{L_A}{1 - 2A\|g''\|_{L^\infty}}.$$

# Preliminary results on $u$

## Lemma (Caffarelli, C., Figalli)

*Let (g1)–(g5) and (A1)–(A2) be satisfied. In addition, assume (g6). Then, for every  $y \in [0, A]$ , the function  $u(\cdot, y)$  is Lipschitz continuous, with Lipschitz constant*

$$L := \frac{L_A}{1 - 2A\|g''\|_{L^\infty}}.$$

## Remark

*We need*

# Preliminary results on $u$

## Lemma (Caffarelli, C., Figalli)

Let (g1)–(g5) and (A1)–(A2) be satisfied. In addition, assume (g6). Then, for every  $y \in [0, A]$ , the function  $u(\cdot, y)$  is Lipschitz continuous, with Lipschitz constant

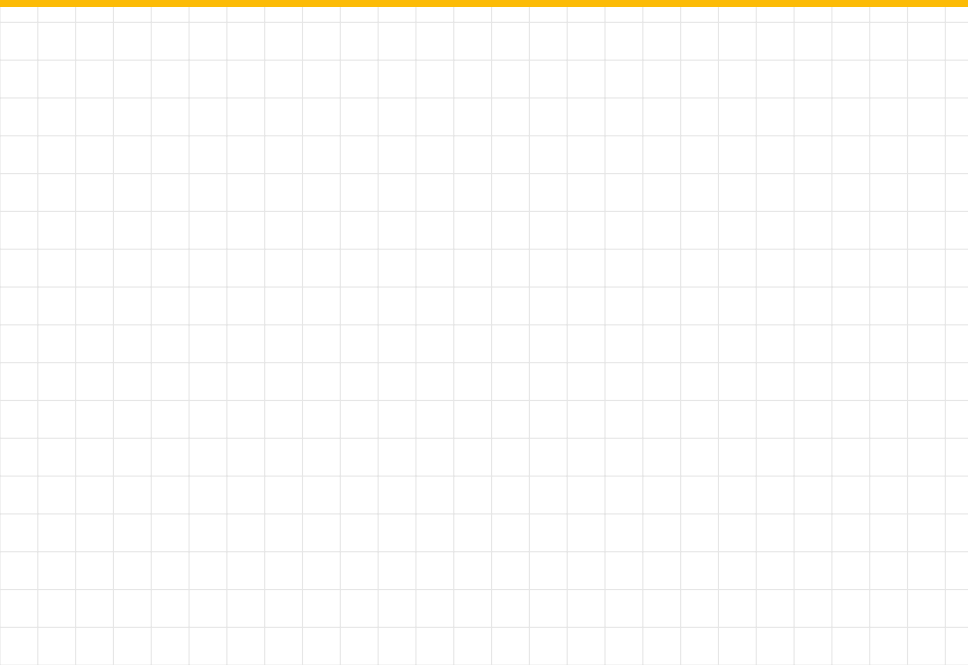
$$L := \frac{L_A}{1 - 2A\|g''\|_{L^\infty}}.$$

## Remark

We need

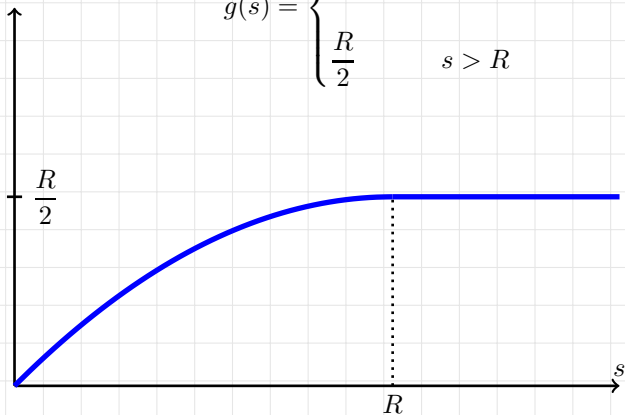
$$(g6) \quad \|g''\|_{L^\infty} < \frac{1}{2A}$$

## An example from fracture evolution



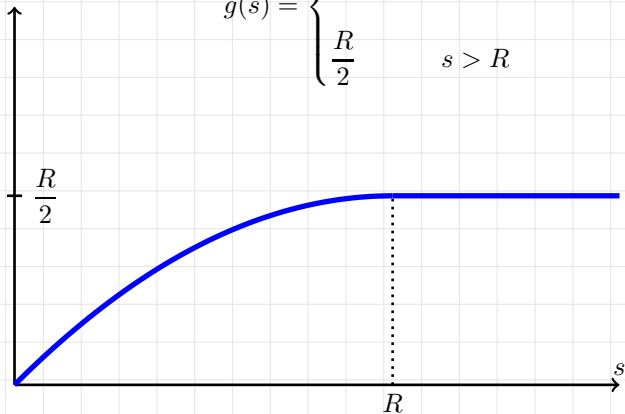
## An example from fracture evolution

$$g(s) = \begin{cases} s - \frac{s^2}{2R} & 0 \leq s \leq R \\ \frac{R}{2} & s > R \end{cases}$$



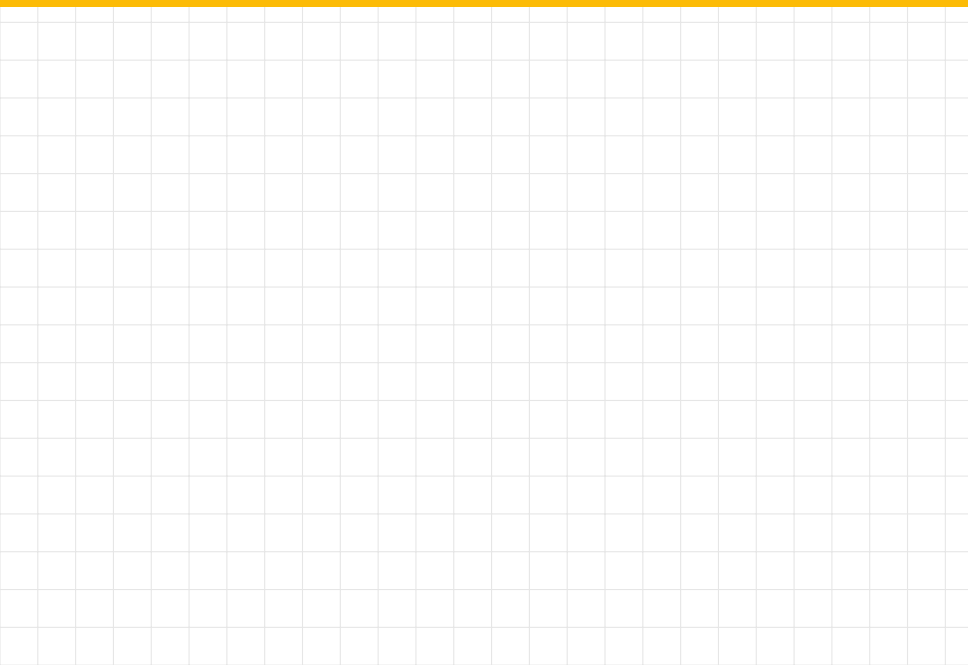
## An example from fracture evolution

$$g(s) = \begin{cases} s - \frac{s^2}{2R} & 0 \leq s \leq R \\ \frac{R}{2} & s > R \end{cases}$$

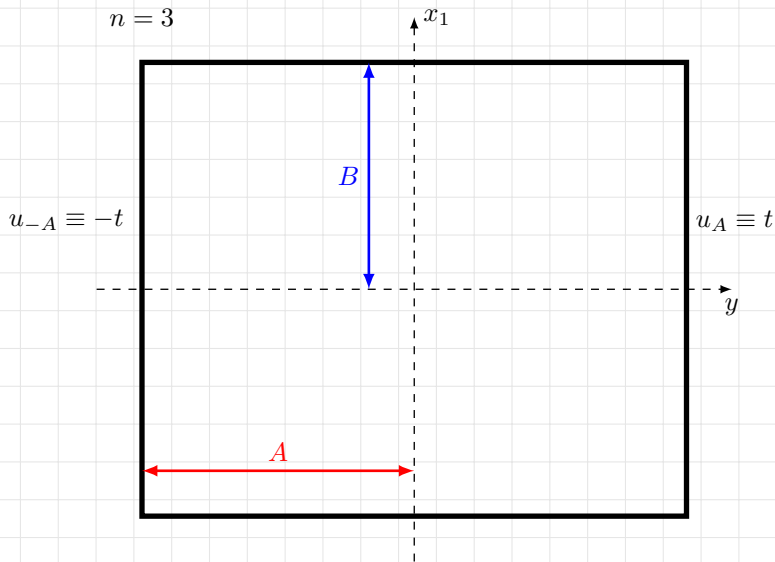


Example from **C., Math. Models Methods Appl. Sci. (2008)**

## An example from fracture evolution



# An example from fracture evolution





# An example from fracture evolution

3 Solutions of the Euler equation:

# An example from fracture evolution

3 Solutions of the Euler equation:

$$u_1(t) := \frac{t}{A}y$$

# An example from fracture evolution

3 Solutions of the Euler equation:

$$u_1(t) := \frac{t}{A}y$$

$$u_2(t) := \frac{1}{R - 2A} \begin{cases} (R - 2t)y + R(t - A) & y > 0 \\ (R - 2t)y - R(t - A) & y < 0 \end{cases}$$

# An example from fracture evolution

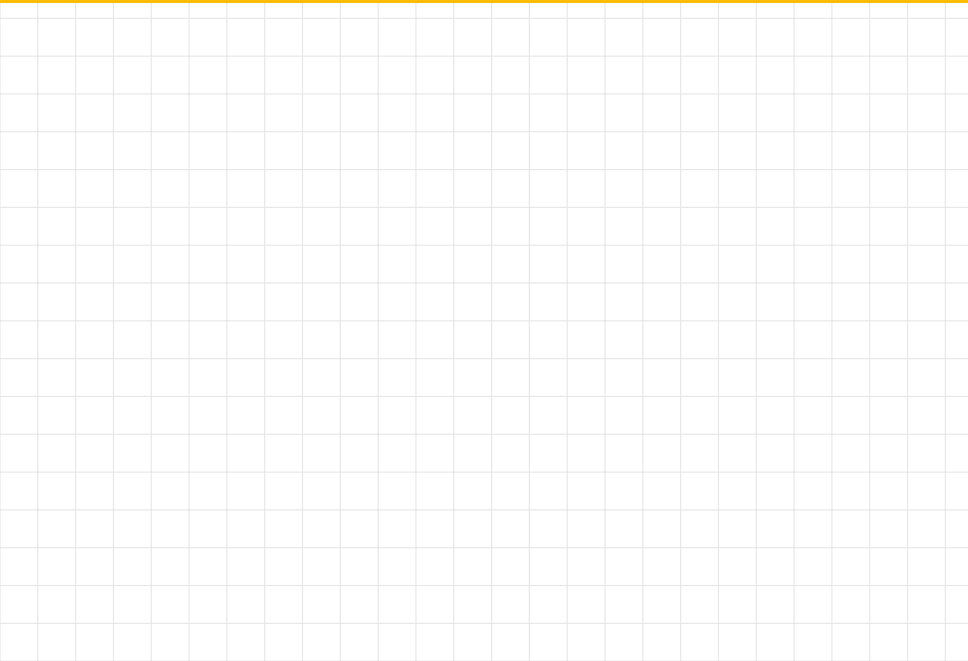
3 Solutions of the Euler equation:

$$u_1(t) := \frac{t}{A}y$$

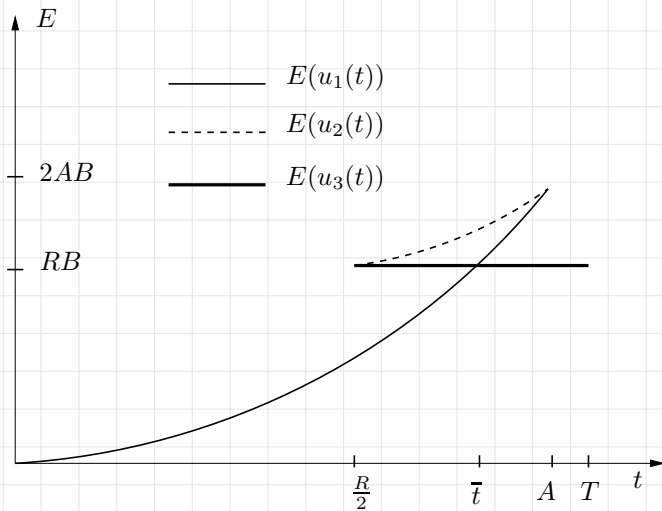
$$u_2(t) := \frac{1}{R - 2A} \begin{cases} (R - 2t)y + R(t - A) & y > 0 \\ (R - 2t)y - R(t - A) & y < 0 \end{cases}$$

$$u_3(t) := \begin{cases} t & y > 0 \\ -t & y < 0 \end{cases}$$

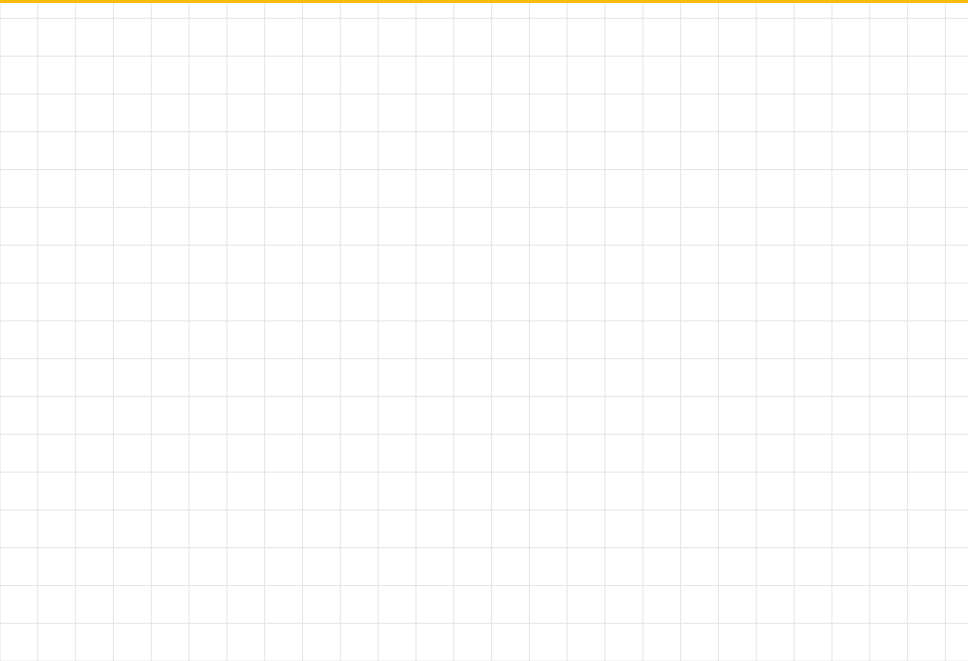
Energy graph for  $A > R/2$



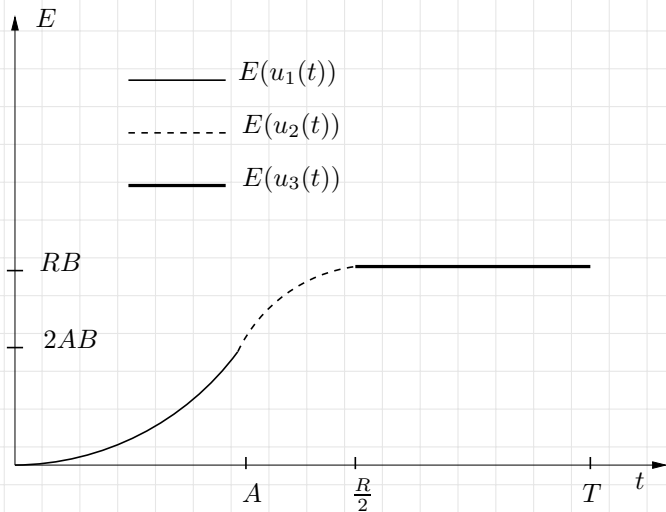
# Energy graph for $A > R/2$



Energy graph for  $A < R/2$



# Energy graph for $A < R/2$





# Uniqueness

## Lemma

*Let  $(g1)-(g5)$  and  $(A1)-(A2)$  be satisfied.*

# Uniqueness

## Lemma

*Let (g1)–(g5) and (A1)–(A2) be satisfied. Suppose, in addition, that*

$$2\|g''\|_{L^\infty} < \frac{1}{A}.$$

# Uniqueness

## Lemma

*Let (g1)–(g5) and (A1)–(A2) be satisfied. Suppose, in addition, that*

$$2\|g''\|_{L^\infty} < \frac{1}{A}.$$

*Then, there exists a unique solution  $u$ .*

# Uniqueness

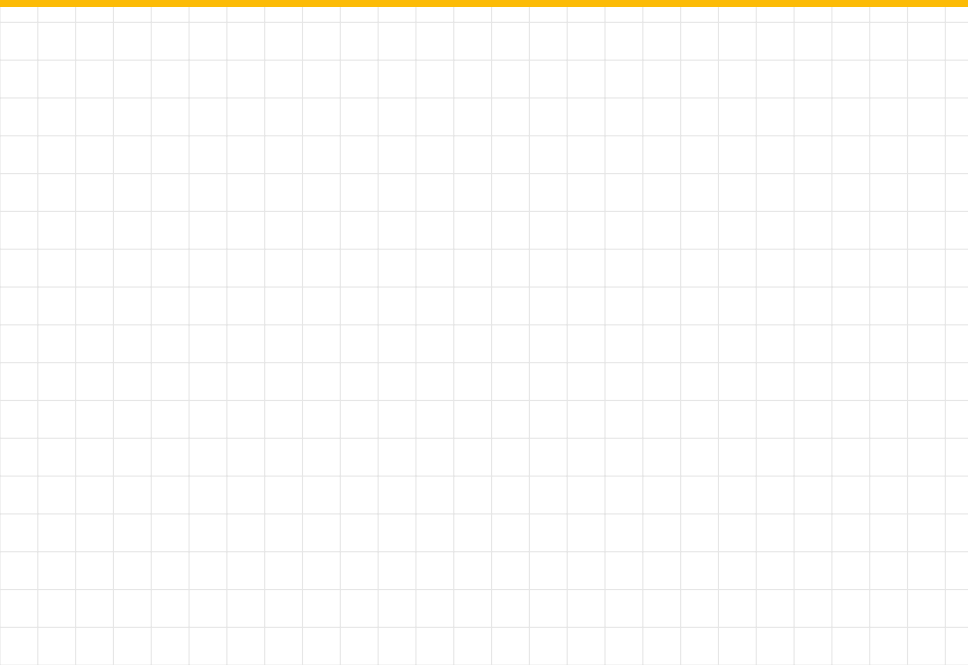
## Lemma

*Let (g1)–(g5) and (A1)–(A2) be satisfied. Suppose, in addition, that*

$$2\|g''\|_{L^\infty} < \frac{1}{A}.$$

*Then, there exists a unique solution  $u$ . In particular, there is a unique critical point of the energy, that coincides with the global minimizer.*

## Preliminary results on $u$



# Preliminary results on $u$

NOTATION:

## Preliminary results on $u$

**NOTATION:** For  $a \in \mathbb{R}$  we write  $a = a^+ + a^-$

## Preliminary results on $u$

**NOTATION:** For  $a \in \mathbb{R}$  we write  $a = a^+ + a^-$ , where

$$a^+ := \max\{a, 0\} \quad \text{and} \quad a^- := \min\{a, 0\}$$



## Preliminary results on $u$

**NOTATION:** For  $a \in \mathbb{R}$  we write  $a = a^+ + a^-$ , where

$$a^+ := \max\{a, 0\} \quad \text{and} \quad a^- := \min\{a, 0\}$$

### Lemma (Caffarelli, C., Figalli)

*Let (g1)–(g6) and (A1)–(A2) be satisfied.*

## Preliminary results on $u$

**NOTATION:** For  $a \in \mathbb{R}$  we write  $a = a^+ + a^-$ , where

$$a^+ := \max\{a, 0\} \quad \text{and} \quad a^- := \min\{a, 0\}$$

### Lemma (Caffarelli, C., Figalli)

*Let (g1)–(g6) and (A1)–(A2) be satisfied. Then,*

## Preliminary results on $u$

**NOTATION:** For  $a \in \mathbb{R}$  we write  $a = a^+ + a^-$ , where

$$a^+ := \max\{a, 0\} \quad \text{and} \quad a^- := \min\{a, 0\}$$

### Lemma (Caffarelli, C., Figalli)

*Let (g1)–(g6) and (A1)–(A2) be satisfied. Then,*

$$[u(x+h, y) + u(x-h, y) + \overline{D}|h|^2]^+ \geq 2u^+(x, y)$$

*for every  $x, h \in \mathbb{R}^n$  and  $y \in [0, A]$ ,*

# Preliminary results on $u$

**NOTATION:** For  $a \in \mathbb{R}$  we write  $a = a^+ + a^-$ , where

$$a^+ := \max\{a, 0\} \quad \text{and} \quad a^- := \min\{a, 0\}$$

## Lemma (Caffarelli, C., Figalli)

Let (g1)–(g6) and (A1)–(A2) be satisfied. Then,

$$[u(x+h, y) + u(x-h, y) + \bar{D}|h|^2]^+ \geq 2u^+(x, y)$$

for every  $x, h \in \mathbb{R}^n$  and  $y \in [0, A]$ , where

$$\bar{D} := \frac{1}{1 - 2A\|g''\|_{L^\infty}} \left[ D_A + \frac{4AL_A^2\|g'''\|_{L^\infty}}{(1 - 2A\|g''\|_{L^\infty})^2} \right].$$

## Preliminary results on $u$

**NOTATION:** For  $a \in \mathbb{R}$  we write  $a = a^+ + a^-$ , where

$$a^+ := \max\{a, 0\} \quad \text{and} \quad a^- := \min\{a, 0\}$$

### Lemma (Caffarelli, C., Figalli)

Let (g1)–(g6) and (A1)–(A2) be satisfied. Then,

$$[u(x+h, y) + u(x-h, y) + \bar{D}|h|^2]^+ \geq 2u^+(x, y)$$

for every  $x, h \in \mathbb{R}^n$  and  $y \in [0, A]$ , where

$$\bar{D} := \frac{1}{1 - 2A\|g''\|_{L^\infty}} \left[ D_A + \frac{4AL_A^2\|g'''\|_{L^\infty}}{(1 - 2A\|g''\|_{L^\infty})^2} \right].$$

In particular, for every  $y \in [0, A]$

# Preliminary results on $u$

**NOTATION:** For  $a \in \mathbb{R}$  we write  $a = a^+ + a^-$ , where

$$a^+ := \max\{a, 0\} \quad \text{and} \quad a^- := \min\{a, 0\}$$

## Lemma (Caffarelli, C., Figalli)

Let (g1)–(g6) and (A1)–(A2) be satisfied. Then,

$$[u(x+h, y) + u(x-h, y) + \bar{D}|h|^2]^+ \geq 2u^+(x, y)$$

for every  $x, h \in \mathbb{R}^n$  and  $y \in [0, A]$ , where

$$\bar{D} := \frac{1}{1 - 2A\|g''\|_{L^\infty}} \left[ D_A + \frac{4AL_A^2\|g'''\|_{L^\infty}}{(1 - 2A\|g''\|_{L^\infty})^2} \right].$$

In particular, for every  $y \in [0, A]$

$u^+(\cdot, y)$  is semiconvex.

# Preliminary results on $u$

## Lemma (Caffarelli, C., Figalli)

*Let (g1)–(g6) and (A1)–(A2) be satisfied.*

# Preliminary results on $u$

## Lemma (Caffarelli, C., Figalli)

Let (g1)–(g6) and (A1)–(A2) be satisfied. Then,

$$[u(x+h, y) + u(x-h, y) - \bar{C}|h|^2]^- \leq 2u^-(x, y)$$

for every  $x, h \in \mathbb{R}^n$  and  $y \in [0, A]$ , where

$$\bar{C} := \frac{1}{1 - 2A\|g''\|_{L^\infty}} \left[ C_A + \frac{4AL_A^2\|g'''\|_{L^\infty}}{(1 - 2A\|g''\|_{L^\infty})^2} \right].$$



# Preliminary results on $u$

## Lemma (Caffarelli, C., Figalli)

Let (g1)–(g6) and (A1)–(A2) be satisfied. Then,

$$[u(x+h, y) + u(x-h, y) - \bar{C}|h|^2]^- \leq 2u^-(x, y)$$

for every  $x, h \in \mathbb{R}^n$  and  $y \in [0, A]$ , where

$$\bar{C} := \frac{1}{1 - 2A\|g''\|_{L^\infty}} \left[ C_A + \frac{4AL_A^2\|g'''\|_{L^\infty}}{(1 - 2A\|g''\|_{L^\infty})^2} \right].$$

In particular, for every  $y \in [0, A]$

# Preliminary results on $u$

## Lemma (Caffarelli, C., Figalli)

Let (g1)–(g6) and (A1)–(A2) be satisfied. Then,

$$[u(x+h, y) + u(x-h, y) - \bar{C}|h|^2]^- \leq 2u^-(x, y)$$

for every  $x, h \in \mathbb{R}^n$  and  $y \in [0, A]$ , where

$$\bar{C} := \frac{1}{1 - 2A\|g''\|_{L^\infty}} \left[ C_A + \frac{4AL_A^2\|g'''\|_{L^\infty}}{(1 - 2A\|g''\|_{L^\infty})^2} \right].$$

In particular, for every  $y \in [0, A]$

$u^-(\cdot, y)$  is semiconcave.

## Preliminary results on $u$

Remark ( $u^+$  and  $u^-$  are “connected”)

## Preliminary results on $u$

Remark ( $u^+$  and  $u^-$  are “connected”)

*Combining the previous two results*

$$[u(x+h, y) + u(x-h, y) + \overline{D}|h|^2]^+ \geq 2u^+(x, y) \geq 2u(x, y)$$

## Preliminary results on $u$

Remark ( $u^+$  and  $u^-$  are “connected”)

*Combining the previous two results*

$$\begin{aligned} [u(x+h, y) + u(x-h, y) + \overline{D}|h|^2]^+ &\geq 2u^+(x, y) \geq 2u(x, y) \\ &\geq 2u^-(x, y) \end{aligned}$$

# Preliminary results on $u$

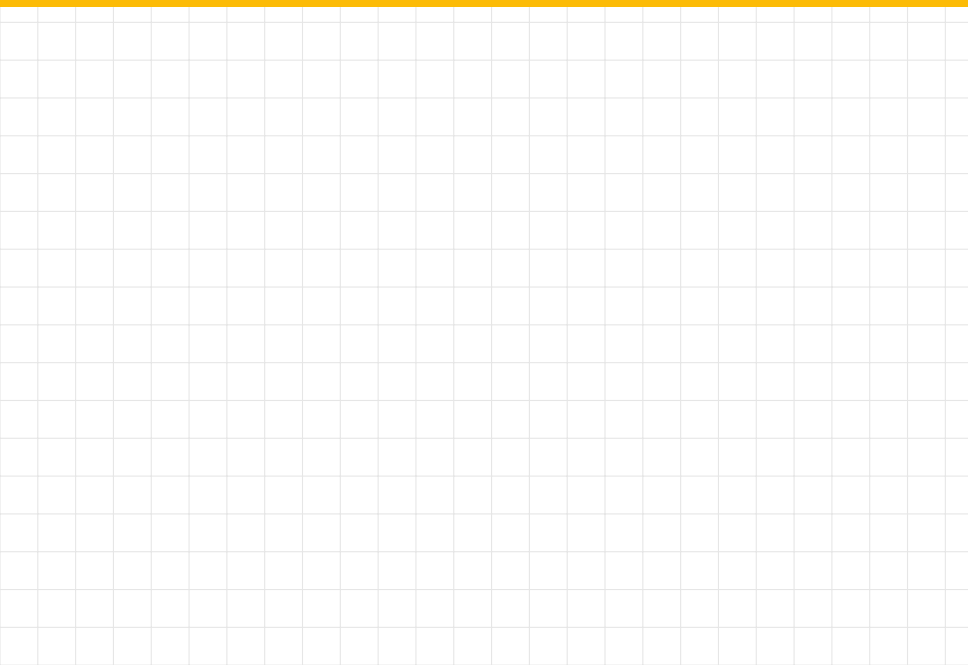
Remark ( $u^+$  and  $u^-$  are “connected”)

*Combining the previous two results*

$$\begin{aligned} [u(x+h, y) + u(x-h, y) + \overline{D}|h|^2]^+ &\geq 2u^+(x, y) \geq 2u(x, y) \\ &\geq 2u^-(x, y) \geq [u(x+h, y) + u(x-h, y) - \overline{C}|h|^2]^- \end{aligned}$$

for every  $(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^n \times [0, A]$ , and  $h \in \mathbb{R}^n$ .

# Optimal Regularity of $u$ : Phases separation



# Optimal Regularity of $u$ : Phases separation

In the following:  $(0, 0) \in \partial K_u$



# Optimal Regularity of $u$ : Phases separation

In the following:  $(0, 0) \in \partial K_u$

**NOTATION:** for  $r > 0$

$$B_r := \{z \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1} : |z| < r\}$$

# Optimal Regularity of $u$ : Phases separation

In the following:  $(0, 0) \in \partial K_u$

**NOTATION:** for  $r > 0$

$$B_r := \{z \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1} : |z| < r\} \quad \text{and} \quad B_r^n := B_r \cap \{y = 0\}$$

# Optimal Regularity of $u$ : Phases separation

In the following:  $(0, 0) \in \partial K_u$

**NOTATION:** for  $r > 0$

$$B_r := \{z \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1} : |z| < r\} \quad \text{and} \quad B_r^n := B_r \cap \{y = 0\}$$

**Proposition (Caffarelli, C., Figalli)**

*Let (g1)–(g6) and (A1)–(A2) be satisfied.*

# Optimal Regularity of $u$ : Phases separation

In the following:  $(0, 0) \in \partial K_u$

**NOTATION:** for  $r > 0$

$$B_r := \{z \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1} : |z| < r\} \quad \text{and} \quad B_r^n := B_r \cap \{y = 0\}$$

**Proposition (Caffarelli, C., Figalli)**

*Let (g1)–(g6) and (A1)–(A2) be satisfied. Then  $\exists r_0 > 0$*

# Optimal Regularity of $u$ : Phases separation

In the following:  $(0, 0) \in \partial K_u$

**NOTATION:** for  $r > 0$

$$B_r := \{z \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1} : |z| < r\} \quad \text{and} \quad B_r^n := B_r \cap \{y = 0\}$$

## Proposition (Caffarelli, C., Figalli)

*Let (g1)–(g6) and (A1)–(A2) be satisfied. Then  $\exists r_0 > 0$  such that*

$$B_{r_0}^n \cap \{x' \in \mathbb{R}^n : u(x', 0) > 0\} \cap \{x' \in \mathbb{R}^n : u(x', 0) < 0\} = \emptyset.$$

## Sketch of the proof

Suppose, by contradiction, that

$$B_r^n \cap \{u(\cdot, 0) > 0\} \cap \{u(\cdot, 0) < 0\} \neq \emptyset \quad \text{for every } r > 0.$$

# Sketch of the proof

Suppose, by contradiction, that

$$B_r^n \cap \{u(\cdot, 0) > 0\} \cap \{u(\cdot, 0) < 0\} \neq \emptyset \quad \text{for every } r > 0.$$

**Step 1:** Show that  $u(\cdot, 0)$  is differentiable at  $x = 0$  with  $\nabla_x u(0, 0) = 0$

# Sketch of the proof

Suppose, by contradiction, that

$$B_r^n \cap \{u(\cdot, 0) > 0\} \cap \{u(\cdot, 0) < 0\} \neq \emptyset \quad \text{for every } r > 0.$$

**Step 1:** Show that  $u(\cdot, 0)$  is differentiable at  $x = 0$  with  $\nabla_x u(0, 0) = 0$

- Note:  $u^+(\cdot, 0)$  semiconvex with  $0 \in \partial_x^- u^+(0, 0)$



# Sketch of the proof

Suppose, by contradiction, that

$$B_r^n \cap \{u(\cdot, 0) > 0\} \cap \{u(\cdot, 0) < 0\} \neq \emptyset \quad \text{for every } r > 0.$$

**Step 1:** Show that  $u(\cdot, 0)$  is differentiable at  $x = 0$  with  $\nabla_x u(0, 0) = 0$

- ▶ Note:  $u^+(\cdot, 0)$  semiconvex with  $0 \in \partial_x^- u^+(0, 0)$
- ▶ Note:  $u^-(\cdot, 0)$  semiconcave with  $0 \in \partial_x^+ u^-(0, 0)$

# Sketch of the proof

Suppose, by contradiction, that

$$B_r^n \cap \{u(\cdot, 0) > 0\} \cap \{u(\cdot, 0) < 0\} \neq \emptyset \quad \text{for every } r > 0.$$

**Step 1:** Show that  $u(\cdot, 0)$  is differentiable at  $x = 0$  with  $\nabla_x u(0, 0) = 0$

- ▶ Note:  $u^+(\cdot, 0)$  semiconvex with  $0 \in \partial_x^- u^+(0, 0)$
- ▶ Note:  $u^-(\cdot, 0)$  semiconcave with  $0 \in \partial_x^+ u^-(0, 0)$
- ▶ Suppose  $u(\cdot, 0)$  not differentiable at  $x = 0$ .

# Sketch of the proof

Suppose, by contradiction, that

$$B_r^n \cap \{u(\cdot, 0) > 0\} \cap \{u(\cdot, 0) < 0\} \neq \emptyset \quad \text{for every } r > 0.$$

**Step 1:** Show that  $u(\cdot, 0)$  is differentiable at  $x = 0$  with  $\nabla_x u(0, 0) = 0$

- ▶ Note:  $u^+(\cdot, 0)$  semiconvex with  $0 \in \partial_x^- u^+(0, 0)$
- ▶ Note:  $u^-(\cdot, 0)$  semiconcave with  $0 \in \partial_x^+ u^-(0, 0)$
- ▶ Suppose  $u(\cdot, 0)$  not differentiable at  $x = 0$ .
- ▶ Then, either  $\partial_x^- u^+(0, 0) \neq \{0\}$  or  $\partial_x^+ u^-(0, 0) \neq \{0\}$

# Sketch of the proof

Suppose, by contradiction, that

$$B_r^n \cap \{u(\cdot, 0) > 0\} \cap \{u(\cdot, 0) < 0\} \neq \emptyset \quad \text{for every } r > 0.$$

**Step 1:** Show that  $u(\cdot, 0)$  is differentiable at  $x = 0$  with  $\nabla_x u(0, 0) = 0$

- ▶ Note:  $u^+(\cdot, 0)$  semiconvex with  $0 \in \partial_x^- u^+(0, 0)$
- ▶ Note:  $u^-(\cdot, 0)$  semiconcave with  $0 \in \partial_x^+ u^-(0, 0)$
- ▶ Suppose  $u(\cdot, 0)$  not differentiable at  $x = 0$ .
- ▶ Then, either  $\partial_x^- u^+(0, 0) \neq \{0\}$  or  $\partial_x^+ u^-(0, 0) \neq \{0\}$
- ▶ Say  $\partial_x^- u^+(0, 0) \neq \{0\}$

# Sketch of the proof

Suppose, by contradiction, that

$$B_r^n \cap \{u(\cdot, 0) > 0\} \cap \{u(\cdot, 0) < 0\} \neq \emptyset \quad \text{for every } r > 0.$$

**Step 1:** Show that  $u(\cdot, 0)$  is differentiable at  $x = 0$  with  $\nabla_x u(0, 0) = 0$

- ▶ Note:  $u^+(\cdot, 0)$  semiconvex with  $0 \in \partial_x^- u^+(0, 0)$
- ▶ Note:  $u^-(\cdot, 0)$  semiconcave with  $0 \in \partial_x^+ u^-(0, 0)$
- ▶ Suppose  $u(\cdot, 0)$  not differentiable at  $x = 0$ .
- ▶ Then, either  $\partial_x^- u^+(0, 0) \neq \{0\}$  or  $\partial_x^+ u^-(0, 0) \neq \{0\}$
- ▶ Say  $\partial_x^- u^+(0, 0) \neq \{0\}$
- ▶  $u^+(\cdot, 0)$  and  $u^-(\cdot, 0)$  are “connected”  $\Rightarrow \partial_x^+ u^-(0, 0) \neq \{0\}$

# Sketch of the proof

Suppose, by contradiction, that

$$B_r^n \cap \{u(\cdot, 0) > 0\} \cap \{u(\cdot, 0) < 0\} \neq \emptyset \quad \text{for every } r > 0.$$

**Step 1:** Show that  $u(\cdot, 0)$  is differentiable at  $x = 0$  with  $\nabla_x u(0, 0) = 0$

- ▶ Note:  $u^+(\cdot, 0)$  semiconvex with  $0 \in \partial_x^- u^+(0, 0)$
- ▶ Note:  $u^-(\cdot, 0)$  semiconcave with  $0 \in \partial_x^+ u^-(0, 0)$
- ▶ Suppose  $u(\cdot, 0)$  not differentiable at  $x = 0$ .
- ▶ Then, either  $\partial_x^- u^+(0, 0) \neq \{0\}$  or  $\partial_x^+ u^-(0, 0) \neq \{0\}$
- ▶ Say  $\partial_x^- u^+(0, 0) \neq \{0\}$
- ▶  $u^+(\cdot, 0)$  and  $u^-(\cdot, 0)$  are “connected”  $\Rightarrow \partial_x^+ u^-(0, 0) \neq \{0\}$
- ▶ Then, if  $x \in \{u < 0\}$  and  $x \rightarrow 0$  we have  $|\nabla_x u(x, 0)| \rightarrow \infty$

# Sketch of the proof

**Step 2:**

# Sketch of the proof

**Step 2:** By Step 1,

$$|u(x, 0)| \leq \sigma(|x|)|x| \quad \text{for some modulus of continuity } \sigma$$



# Sketch of the proof

**Step 2:** By Step 1,

$$|u(x, 0)| \leq \sigma(|x|)|x| \quad \text{for some modulus of continuity } \sigma$$

- ▶ We can construct suitable barriers

# Sketch of the proof

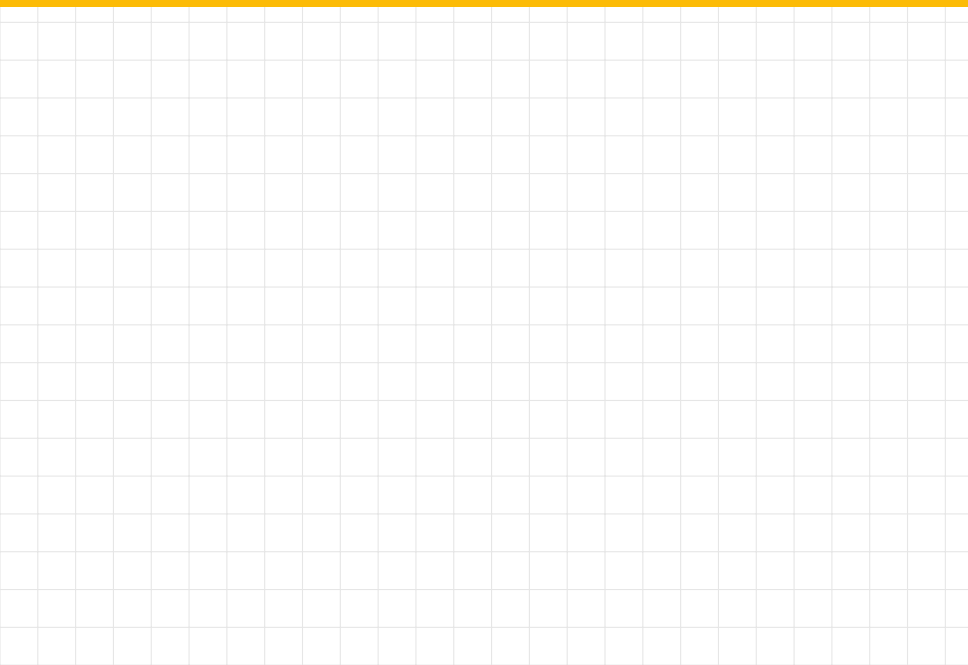
**Step 2:** By Step 1,

$$|u(x, 0)| \leq \sigma(|x|)|x| \quad \text{for some modulus of continuity } \sigma$$

- ▶ We can construct suitable barriers  $\implies$  contradiction



# Optimal Regularity of $u$



# Optimal Regularity of $u$

Regularity of  $u$  near  $\partial K_u$ ?

# Optimal Regularity of $u$

Regularity of  $u$  near  $\partial K_u$ ?

In the following:

- ▶  $(0, 0) \in \partial K_u$

# Optimal Regularity of $u$

Regularity of  $u$  near  $\partial K_u$ ?

In the following:

- ▶  $(0, 0) \in \partial K_u$
- ▶  $u(x, 0) \geq 0$  for every  $x \in B_{r_0}^n$

# Optimal Regularity of $u$

Regularity of  $u$  near  $\partial K_u$ ?

In the following:

- ▶  $(0, 0) \in \partial K_u$
- ▶  $u(x, 0) \geq 0$  for every  $x \in B_{r_0}^n$

Define  $v : \mathbb{R}^n \times [-A, A] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  as

# Optimal Regularity of $u$

Regularity of  $u$  near  $\partial K_u$ ?

In the following:

- ▶  $(0, 0) \in \partial K_u$
- ▶  $u(x, 0) \geq 0$  for every  $x \in B_{r_0}^n$

Define  $v : \mathbb{R}^n \times [-A, A] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  as

$$v(x, y) := \begin{cases} u(x, y) - g'(0^+)y & \text{for every } (x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^n \times (0, A), \end{cases}$$



# Optimal Regularity of $u$

Regularity of  $u$  near  $\partial K_u$ ?

In the following:

- ▶  $(0, 0) \in \partial K_u$
- ▶  $u(x, 0) \geq 0$  for every  $x \in B_{r_0}^n$

Define  $v : \mathbb{R}^n \times [-A, A] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  as

$$v(x, y) := \begin{cases} u(x, y) - g'(0^+)y & \text{for every } (x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^n \times (0, A), \\ v(x, -y) & \text{for every } (x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^n \times (-A, 0). \end{cases}$$

# Optimal Regularity of $u$

Then,  $v$  solves

# Optimal Regularity of $u$

Then,  $v$  solves

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \Delta v = 0 \\ \end{array} \right. \quad \text{in } B_{r_0} \setminus \{y = 0\}$$

# Optimal Regularity of $u$

Then,  $v$  solves

$$\begin{cases} \Delta v = 0 \\ v \geq 0 \\ \partial_y v \leq 0 \end{cases} \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{in } B_{r_0} \setminus \{y = 0\} \\ \text{on } B_{r_0}^n \\ \text{on } B_{r_0}^n \end{array}$$

# Optimal Regularity of $u$

Then,  $v$  solves

$$\begin{cases} \Delta v = 0 & \text{in } B_{r_0} \setminus \{y = 0\} \\ v \geq 0 & \text{on } B_{r_0}^n \\ \partial_y v \leq 0 & \text{on } B_{r_0}^n \\ v[\partial_y v + g'(0^+) - g'(2v)] = 0 & \text{on } B_{r_0}^n \end{cases}$$

# Optimal Regularity of $u$

Then,  $v$  solves

$$\begin{cases} \Delta v = 0 & \text{in } B_{r_0} \setminus \{y = 0\} \\ v \geq 0 & \text{on } B_{r_0}^n \\ \partial_y v \leq 0 & \text{on } B_{r_0}^n \\ v[\partial_y v + g'(0^+) - g'(2v)] = 0 & \text{on } B_{r_0}^n \end{cases}$$

**NOTE:**

# Optimal Regularity of $u$

Then,  $v$  solves

$$\begin{cases} \Delta v = 0 & \text{in } B_{r_0} \setminus \{y = 0\} \\ v \geq 0 & \text{on } B_{r_0}^n \\ \partial_y v \leq 0 & \text{on } B_{r_0}^n \\ v[\partial_y v + g'(0^+) - g'(2v)] = 0 & \text{on } B_{r_0}^n \end{cases}$$

**NOTE:** this is a “perturbation” of Signorini Problem:

$$\begin{cases} \Delta v = 0 & \text{in } B_{r_0} \setminus \{y = 0\} \\ v \geq 0 & \text{on } B_{r_0}^n \\ \partial_y v \leq 0 & \text{on } B_{r_0}^n \\ v \partial_y v = 0 & \text{on } B_{r_0}^n \end{cases}$$

# Optimal Regularity of $u$

We can now adapt the arguments of



# Optimal Regularity of $u$

We can now adapt the arguments of

- ▶ ***Athanasopoulos-Caffarelli (2004)*** Signorini problem
- ▶ ***Caffarelli-Figalli (2013)*** parabolic fractional obstacle problem

# Optimal Regularity of $u$

We can now adapt the arguments of

- ▶ **Athanasopoulos-Caffarelli (2004)** Signorini problem
- ▶ **Caffarelli-Figalli (2013)** parabolic fractional obstacle problem

**Theorem (Caffarelli, C., Figalli)**

*Let (g1)–(g6) and (A1)–(A2) be satisfied.*

# Optimal Regularity of $u$

We can now adapt the arguments of

- ▶ **Athanasopoulos-Caffarelli (2004)** Signorini problem
- ▶ **Caffarelli-Figalli (2013)** parabolic fractional obstacle problem

## Theorem (Caffarelli, C., Figalli)

Let (g1)–(g6) and (A1)–(A2) be satisfied. Then,

$$u \in C^{1,1/2}(\mathbb{R}^n \times [0, A])$$

# Free Boundary Regularity



# Free Boundary Regularity

Regularity properties of  $\partial K_u$ ?

# Free Boundary Regularity

Regularity properties of  $\partial K_u$ ?

Proposition (Caffarelli, C., Figalli)

*Let (g1)–(g6) and (A1)–(A2) be satisfied.*

# Free Boundary Regularity

Regularity properties of  $\partial K_u$ ?

**Proposition (Caffarelli, C., Figalli)**

*Let (g1)–(g6) and (A1)–(A2) be satisfied. Assume that*

*$(0, 0)$  belongs to the “regular part” of  $\partial K_u$ .*

# Free Boundary Regularity

Regularity properties of  $\partial K_u$ ?

## Proposition (Caffarelli, C., Figalli)

*Let (g1)–(g6) and (A1)–(A2) be satisfied. Assume that*

*$(0, 0)$  belongs to the “regular part” of  $\partial K_u$ .*

*Then the free boundary is  $C^{1,\alpha}$  near  $(0, 0)$*



# Free Boundary Regularity

Regularity properties of  $\partial K_u$ ?

## Proposition (Caffarelli, C., Figalli)

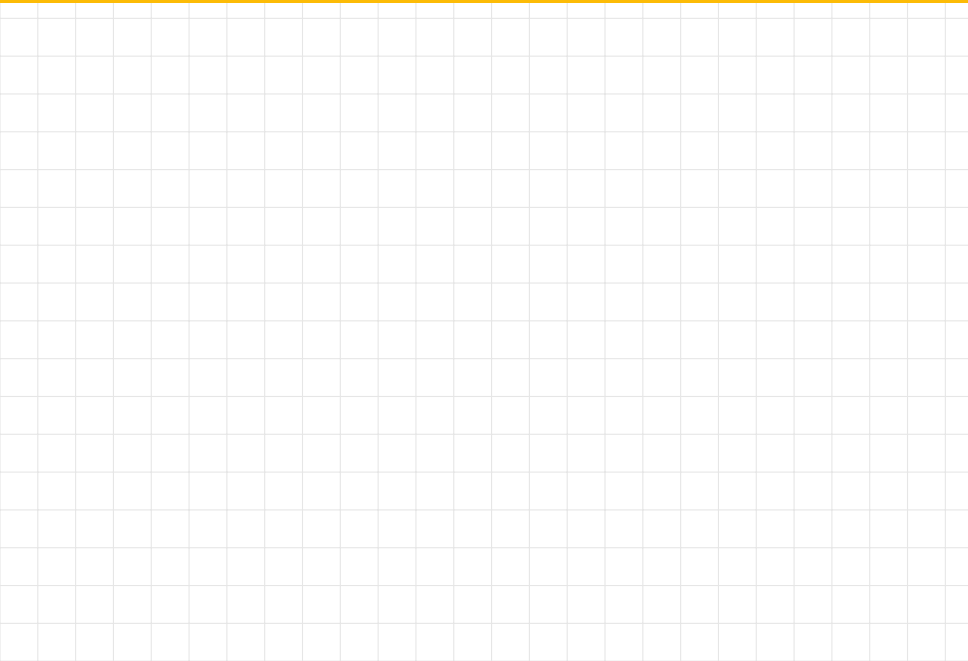
*Let (g1)–(g6) and (A1)–(A2) be satisfied. Assume that*

*$(0, 0)$  belongs to the “regular part” of  $\partial K_u$ .*

*Then the free boundary is  $C^{1,\alpha}$  near  $(0, 0)$ , for some  $\alpha \in (0, 1)$ .*

**THANK YOU!**

# Free Boundary Regularity



# Free Boundary Regularity

Regularity properties of  $\partial K_u$ ?

# Free Boundary Regularity

Regularity properties of  $\partial K_u$ ?

In the following:

# Free Boundary Regularity

Regularity properties of  $\partial K_u$ ?

In the following:

- ▶  $(0, 0) \in \partial K_u$
- ▶  $u(x, 0) \geq 0$  for every  $x \in B_{r_0}^n$

# Free Boundary Regularity

Regularity properties of  $\partial K_u$ ?

In the following:

- ▶  $(0, 0) \in \partial K_u$
- ▶  $u(x, 0) \geq 0$  for every  $x \in B_{r_0}^n$

**Recall:**  $v : \mathbb{R}^n \times [-A, A] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  defined as

# Free Boundary Regularity

Regularity properties of  $\partial K_u$ ?

In the following:

- ▶  $(0, 0) \in \partial K_u$
- ▶  $u(x, 0) \geq 0$  for every  $x \in B_{r_0}^n$

**Recall:**  $v : \mathbb{R}^n \times [-A, A] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  defined as

$$v(x, y) := \begin{cases} u(x, y) - g'(0^+)y & \text{for every } (x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^n \times (0, A), \\ v(x, -y) & \text{for every } (x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^n \times (-A, 0). \end{cases}$$



# Free Boundary Regularity

(Variant of) Almgren's Monotonicity Formula:

# Free Boundary Regularity

(Variant of) Almgren's Monotonicity Formula:

$$\Phi_v(r) := r \frac{d}{dr} \log (\max\{F_v(r), r^{n+4}\})$$

# Free Boundary Regularity

(Variant of) Almgren's Monotonicity Formula:

$$\Phi_v(r) := r \frac{d}{dr} \log (\max\{F_v(r), r^{n+4}\}) \quad \text{where} \quad F_v(r) := \int_{\partial B_r} v^2 d\mathcal{H}^n.$$

# Free Boundary Regularity

(Variant of) Almgren's Monotonicity Formula:

$$\Phi_v(r) := r \frac{d}{dr} \log (\max\{F_v(r), r^{n+4}\}) \quad \text{where} \quad F_v(r) := \int_{\partial B_r} v^2 d\mathcal{H}^n.$$

- Inspired by **Caffarelli-Salsa-Silvestre, Invent. Math. (2008)**

# Free Boundary Regularity

(Variant of) Almgren's Monotonicity Formula:

$$\Phi_v(r) := r \frac{d}{dr} \log (\max\{F_v(r), r^{n+4}\}) \quad \text{where} \quad F_v(r) := \int_{\partial B_r} v^2 d\mathcal{H}^n.$$

- Inspired by **Caffarelli-Salsa-Silvestre, *Invent. Math.* (2008)**

**Proposition (Caffarelli, C., Figalli)**

*Let (g1)–(g6) and (A1)–(A2) be satisfied.*

# Free Boundary Regularity

(Variant of) Almgren's Monotonicity Formula:

$$\Phi_v(r) := r \frac{d}{dr} \log (\max\{F_v(r), r^{n+4}\}) \quad \text{where} \quad F_v(r) := \int_{\partial B_r} v^2 d\mathcal{H}^n.$$

- Inspired by **Caffarelli-Salsa-Silvestre, Invent. Math. (2008)**

## Proposition (Caffarelli, C., Figalli)

Let (g1)–(g6) and (A1)–(A2) be satisfied. Then  $\exists \bar{r}_0, C > 0$  such that

$r \mapsto \Phi_v(r)e^{Cr}$  is monotone nondecreasing in  $(0, \bar{r}_0)$ .

# Free Boundary Regularity

(Variant of) Almgren's Monotonicity Formula:

$$\Phi_v(r) := r \frac{d}{dr} \log (\max\{F_v(r), r^{n+4}\}) \quad \text{where} \quad F_v(r) := \int_{\partial B_r} v^2 d\mathcal{H}^n.$$

- Inspired by **Caffarelli-Salsa-Silvestre, Invent. Math. (2008)**

## Proposition (Caffarelli, C., Figalli)

Let (g1)–(g6) and (A1)–(A2) be satisfied. Then  $\exists \bar{r}_0, C > 0$  such that

$$r \mapsto \Phi_v(r)e^{Cr} \quad \text{is monotone nondecreasing in } (0, \bar{r}_0).$$

In particular,

# Free Boundary Regularity

(Variant of) Almgren's Monotonicity Formula:

$$\Phi_v(r) := r \frac{d}{dr} \log (\max\{F_v(r), r^{n+4}\}) \quad \text{where} \quad F_v(r) := \int_{\partial B_r} v^2 d\mathcal{H}^n.$$

- Inspired by **Caffarelli-Salsa-Silvestre, Invent. Math. (2008)**

## Proposition (Caffarelli, C., Figalli)

Let (g1)–(g6) and (A1)–(A2) be satisfied. Then  $\exists \bar{r}_0, C > 0$  such that

$$r \mapsto \Phi_v(r)e^{Cr} \quad \text{is monotone nondecreasing in } (0, \bar{r}_0).$$

In particular, there exists

$$\Phi_v(0^+) = \lim_{r \rightarrow 0^+} \Phi_v(r).$$



# Free Boundary Regularity: Blow up



# Free Boundary Regularity: Blow up

Proposition (Caffarelli, C., Figalli)

*Let (g1)–(g6) and (A1)–(A2) be satisfied.*

# Free Boundary Regularity: Blow up

## Proposition (Caffarelli, C., Figalli)

*Let (g1)–(g6) and (A1)–(A2) be satisfied. Then*

$$\textit{either} \quad \Phi_v(0^+) = n + 3$$

# Free Boundary Regularity: Blow up

## Proposition (Caffarelli, C., Figalli)

*Let (g1)–(g6) and (A1)–(A2) be satisfied. Then*

$$\textit{either } \Phi_v(0^+) = n + 3 \quad \textit{or} \quad \Phi_v(0^+) \geq n + 4.$$

# Free Boundary Regularity: Blow up

## Proposition (Caffarelli, C., Figalli)

*Let (g1)–(g6) and (A1)–(A2) be satisfied. Then*

$$\textit{either } \Phi_v(0^+) = n + 3 \quad \textit{or} \quad \Phi_v(0^+) \geq n + 4.$$

Blow up profiles:

# Free Boundary Regularity: Blow up

## Proposition (Caffarelli, C., Figalli)

*Let (g1)–(g6) and (A1)–(A2) be satisfied. Then*

$$\textit{either } \Phi_v(0^+) = n + 3 \quad \textit{or} \quad \Phi_v(0^+) \geq n + 4.$$

**Blow up profiles:**

For  $r \in (0, \bar{r}_0)$  define  $v_r : B_1 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  as

# Free Boundary Regularity: Blow up

## Proposition (Caffarelli, C., Figalli)

Let (g1)–(g6) and (A1)–(A2) be satisfied. Then

$$\text{either } \Phi_v(0^+) = n + 3 \quad \text{or} \quad \Phi_v(0^+) \geq n + 4.$$

Blow up profiles:

For  $r \in (0, \bar{r}_0)$  define  $v_r : B_1 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  as

$$v_r(z) := \frac{v(rz)}{d_r}$$

# Free Boundary Regularity: Blow up

## Proposition (Caffarelli, C., Figalli)

Let (g1)–(g6) and (A1)–(A2) be satisfied. Then

$$\text{either } \Phi_v(0^+) = n + 3 \quad \text{or} \quad \Phi_v(0^+) \geq n + 4.$$

Blow up profiles:

For  $r \in (0, \bar{r}_0)$  define  $v_r : B_1 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  as

$$v_r(z) := \frac{v(rz)}{d_r}, \quad d_r := \left( \frac{F_v(r)}{r^n} \right)^{1/2}.$$



# Free Boundary Regularity: Blow up

## Proposition (Caffarelli, C., Figalli)

Let (g1)–(g6) and (A1)–(A2) be satisfied. Then

$$\text{either } \Phi_v(0^+) = n + 3 \quad \text{or} \quad \Phi_v(0^+) \geq n + 4.$$

Blow up profiles:

For  $r \in (0, \bar{r}_0)$  define  $v_r : B_1 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  as

$$v_r(z) := \frac{v(rz)}{d_r}, \quad d_r := \left( \frac{F_v(r)}{r^n} \right)^{1/2}.$$

Now send  $r \rightarrow 0^+$  and use

**Athanasopoulos-Caffarelli-Salsa, Amer. J. Math. (2008)**

# Free Boundary Regularity: Blow up

## Proposition (Caffarelli, C., Figalli)

*Let (g1)–(g6) and (A1)–(A2) be satisfied.*

# Free Boundary Regularity: Blow up

## Proposition (Caffarelli, C., Figalli)

*Let (g1)–(g6) and (A1)–(A2) be satisfied. Assume*

$$\Phi_v(0^+) = n + 3.$$

# Free Boundary Regularity: Blow up

## Proposition (Caffarelli, C., Figalli)

*Let (g1)–(g6) and (A1)–(A2) be satisfied. Assume*

$$\Phi_v(0^+) = n + 3.$$

*Then  $\exists r_k \rightarrow 0$  and  $v_\infty : B_1 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  homogeneous (degree  $3/2$ ) s.t.*

# Free Boundary Regularity: Blow up

## Proposition (Caffarelli, C., Figalli)

Let (g1)–(g6) and (A1)–(A2) be satisfied. Assume

$$\Phi_v(0^+) = n + 3.$$

Then  $\exists r_k \rightarrow 0$  and  $v_\infty : B_1 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  homogeneous (degree 3/2) s.t.

►  $v_{r_k} \rightharpoonup v_\infty$  weakly in  $W^{1,2}(B_1)$

# Free Boundary Regularity: Blow up

## Proposition (Caffarelli, C., Figalli)

Let (g1)–(g6) and (A1)–(A2) be satisfied. Assume

$$\Phi_v(0^+) = n + 3.$$

Then  $\exists r_k \rightarrow 0$  and  $v_\infty : B_1 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  homogeneous (degree  $3/2$ ) s.t.

- ▶  $v_{r_k} \rightharpoonup v_\infty$  weakly in  $W^{1,2}(B_1)$
- ▶  $v_{r_k} \rightarrow v_\infty$  in  $C^{1,\gamma}$  on compacts of  $B_1 \cap \{y \geq 0\}$  for  $\gamma \in (0, 1/2)$

# Free Boundary Regularity: Blow up

## Proposition (Caffarelli, C., Figalli)

Let (g1)–(g6) and (A1)–(A2) be satisfied. Assume

$$\Phi_v(0^+) = n + 3.$$

Then  $\exists r_k \rightarrow 0$  and  $v_\infty : B_1 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  homogeneous (degree 3/2) s.t.

- ▶  $v_{r_k} \rightharpoonup v_\infty$  weakly in  $W^{1,2}(B_1)$
- ▶  $v_{r_k} \rightarrow v_\infty$  in  $C^{1,\gamma}$  on compacts of  $B_1 \cap \{y \geq 0\}$  for  $\gamma \in (0, 1/2)$
- ▶  $v_\infty$  satisfies the classical Signorini problem in  $B_1$

# Free Boundary Regularity: Blow up

## Proposition (Caffarelli, C., Figalli)

Let (g1)–(g6) and (A1)–(A2) be satisfied. Assume

$$\Phi_v(0^+) = n + 3.$$

Then  $\exists r_k \rightarrow 0$  and  $v_\infty : B_1 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  homogeneous (degree 3/2) s.t.

- ▶  $v_{r_k} \rightharpoonup v_\infty$  weakly in  $W^{1,2}(B_1)$
- ▶  $v_{r_k} \rightarrow v_\infty$  in  $C^{1,\gamma}$  on compacts of  $B_1 \cap \{y \geq 0\}$  for  $\gamma \in (0, 1/2)$
- ▶  $v_\infty$  satisfies the classical Signorini problem in  $B_1$
- ▶ up to change of variables



# Free Boundary Regularity: Blow up

## Proposition (Caffarelli, C., Figalli)

Let (g1)–(g6) and (A1)–(A2) be satisfied. Assume

$$\Phi_v(0^+) = n + 3.$$

Then  $\exists r_k \rightarrow 0$  and  $v_\infty : B_1 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  homogeneous (degree  $3/2$ ) s.t.

- ▶  $v_{r_k} \rightharpoonup v_\infty$  weakly in  $W^{1,2}(B_1)$
- ▶  $v_{r_k} \rightarrow v_\infty$  in  $C^{1,\gamma}$  on compacts of  $B_1 \cap \{y \geq 0\}$  for  $\gamma \in (0, 1/2)$
- ▶  $v_\infty$  satisfies the classical Signorini problem in  $B_1$
- ▶ up to change of variables

$$v_\infty(x, y) = \rho^{3/2} \cos \frac{3}{2}\theta,$$

where  $\rho^2 = x_n^2 + y^2$  and  $\tan \theta = y/x_n$ .

# Free Boundary Regularity: Blow up

Proposition (Caffarelli, C., Figalli)

*Let (g1)–(g6) and (A1)–(A2) be satisfied.*

# Free Boundary Regularity: Blow up

## Proposition (Caffarelli, C., Figalli)

*Let (g1)–(g6) and (A1)–(A2) be satisfied. Assume*

$$\Phi_v(0^+) = n + 3.$$

# Free Boundary Regularity: Blow up

## Proposition (Caffarelli, C., Figalli)

*Let (g1)–(g6) and (A1)–(A2) be satisfied. Assume*

$$\Phi_v(0^+) = n + 3.$$

*Then the free boundary is  $C^{1,\alpha}$  near  $(0, 0)$*

# Free Boundary Regularity: Blow up

## Proposition (Caffarelli, C., Figalli)

*Let (g1)–(g6) and (A1)–(A2) be satisfied. Assume*

$$\Phi_v(0^+) = n + 3.$$

*Then the free boundary is  $C^{1,\alpha}$  near  $(0, 0)$ , for some  $\alpha \in (0, 1)$ .*

**THANK YOU!**