

# Creep dynamics via exact transition pathways in disordered media

Alejandro B. Kolton

CONICET, Centro Atomico Bariloche, Argentina

KITP – Electron Glass 2010

- **A. Rosso (LPTMS-Orsay)**
- **T. Giamarchi (Universite de Geneve)**
- **W. Krauth (ENS-Paris)**

**REFS:**

PRL 97, 057001 (2006); PRB 79, 184207 (2009).

# Outline

- Motivation
- Models & Universality
- Exact algorithm for ultra-slow creep motion
- Steady-State Geometry
- Barriers & steady-state transport
- Conclusions

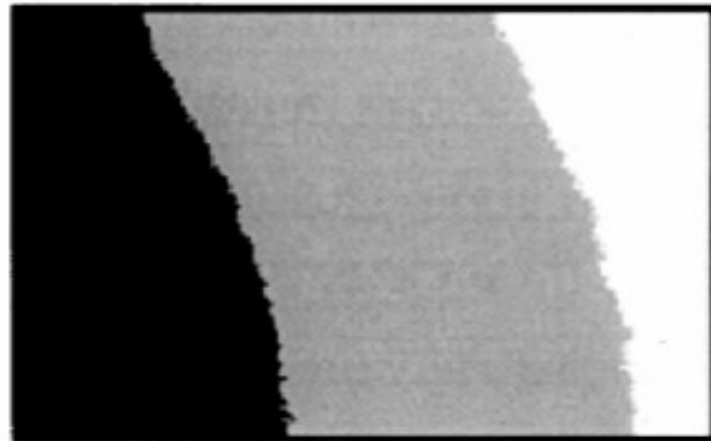
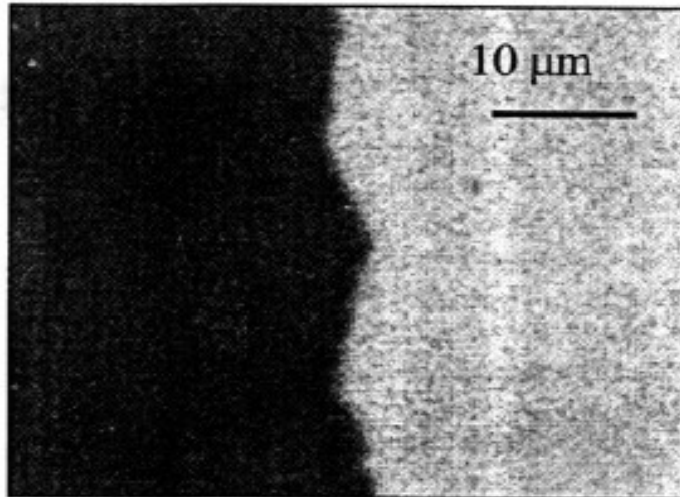
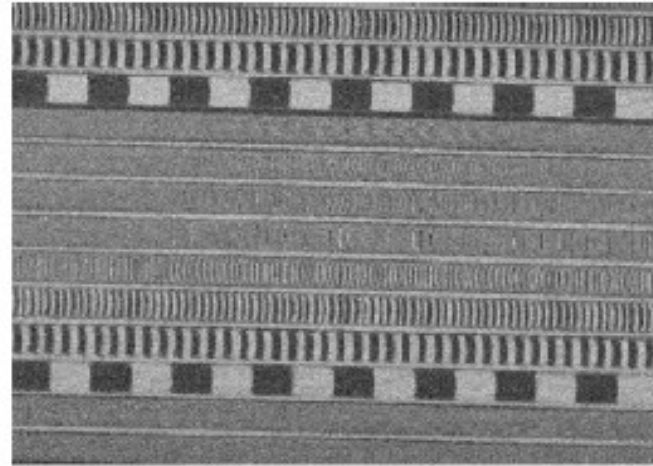
# Motivation

# Motivation



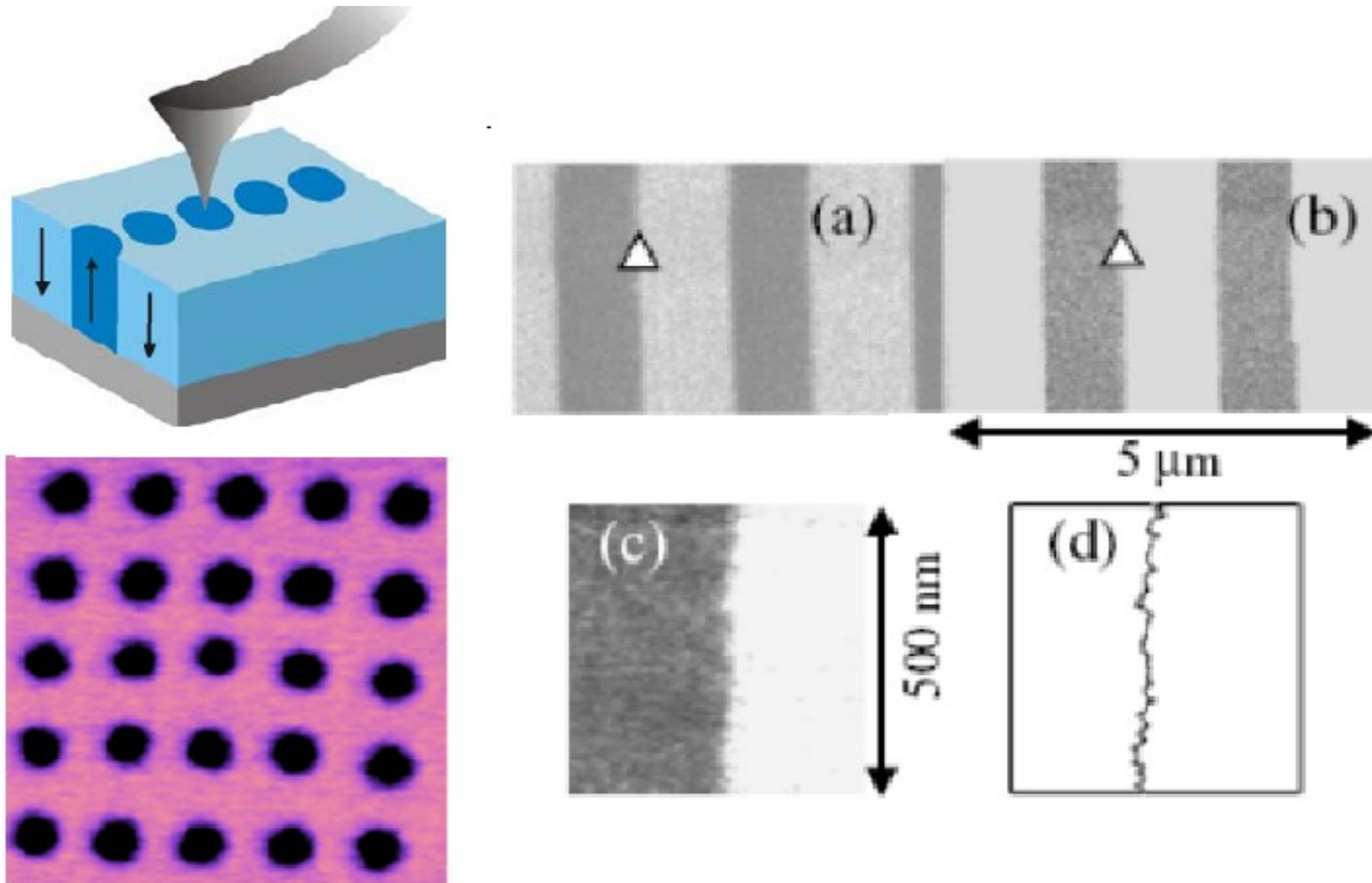
Lemerle, Jamet, Ferre, et al (LPS Orsay)

# Magnetic Domain Walls



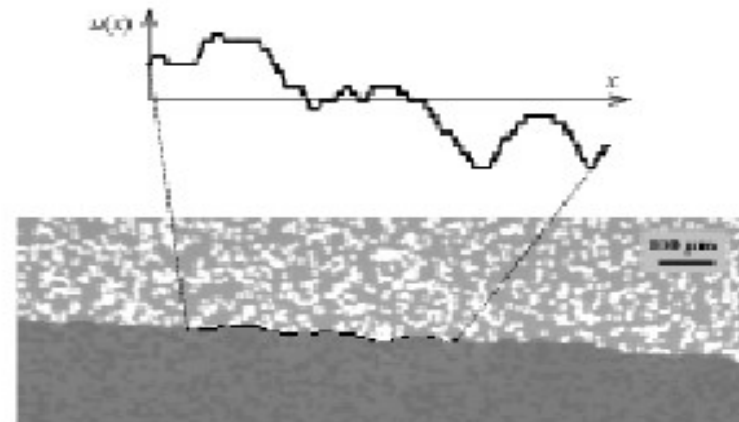
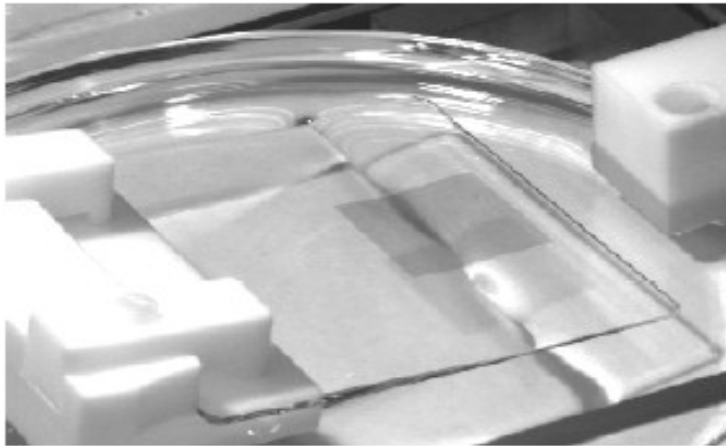
Lemerle, Jamet, Ferre, et al (LPS Orsay)

# Electric domain walls



Paruch, Tybell, Triscone, University of Geneva. (2002,2005)

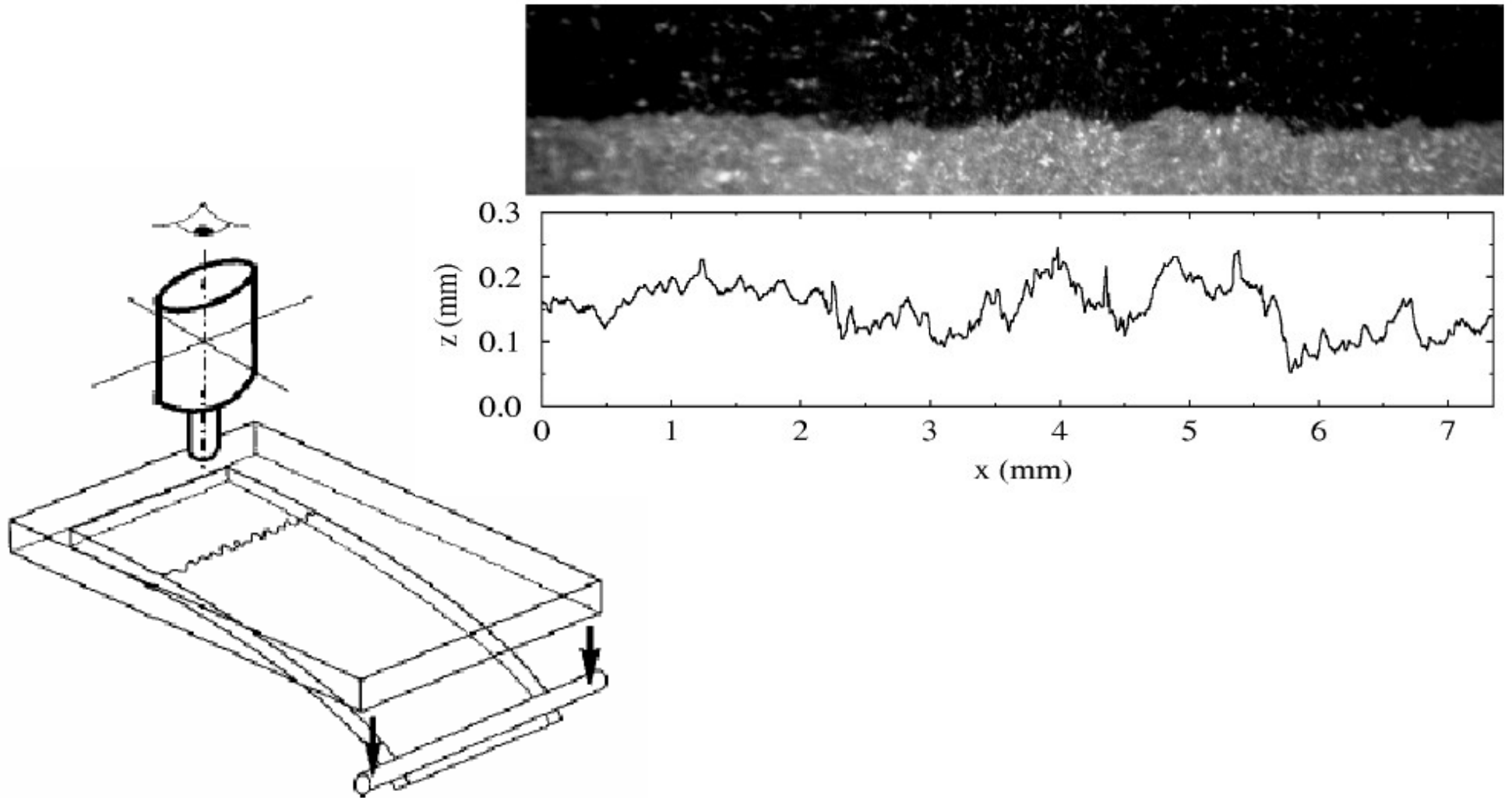
# Contact lines in partial wetting



Moulinet, Rolley *et al*, LPS-ENS Paris. (2004)



# Crack propagation



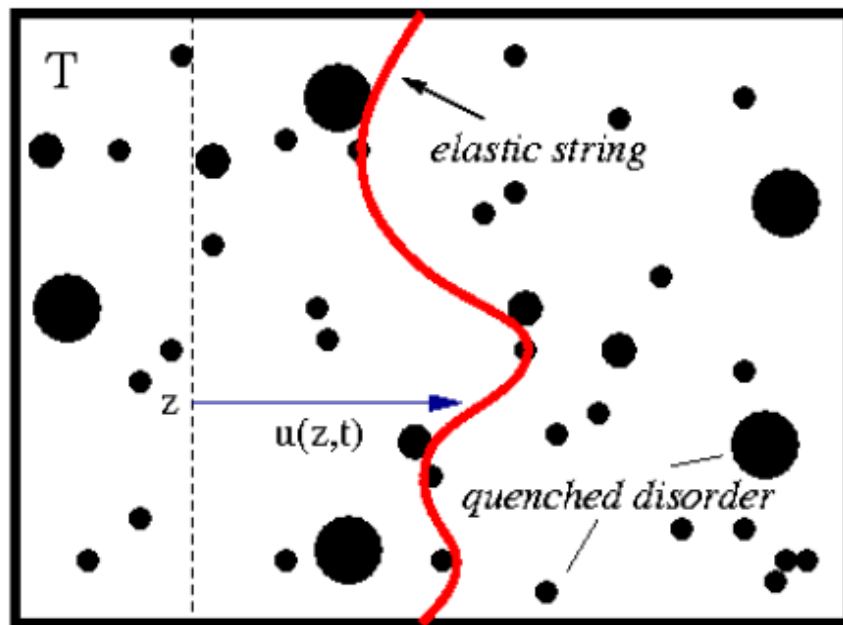
J. Schmittbuhl and K. J. Måløy (1997)

# “Universal” dynamics of disordered elastic systems

- Many experimental situations share the same effective physics ...
- The effective physics can be described by minimal models...
- Quantitative predictions can (still) be made ...

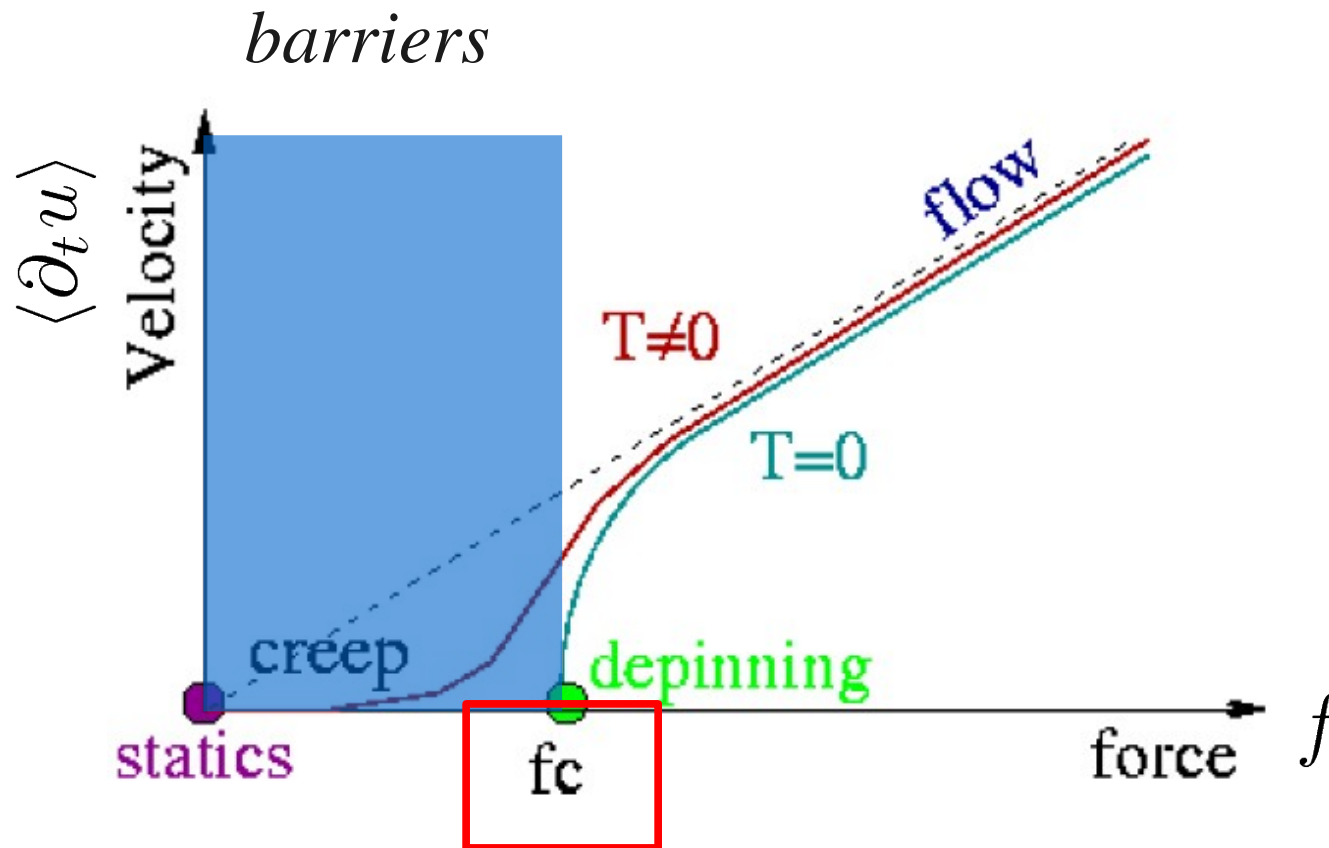
# Minimal models, Universality

$$\gamma \partial_t u(z, t) = -\frac{\delta H_{el}}{\delta u} + F_p(u, z) + f + \eta_T(z, t)$$



- Short range:  
 $H_{el} = \int dz [\partial_z u(z, t)]^2 + \dots$
- Long range:  
 $H_{el} = \int dz_1 dz_2 \frac{[u(z_1, t) - u(z_2, t)]^2}{(z_1 - z_2)^2} + \dots$
- Disorder:  
 $\overline{F_p(u, z) F_p(u', z')} = \Delta[u - u'] \delta(z - z')$

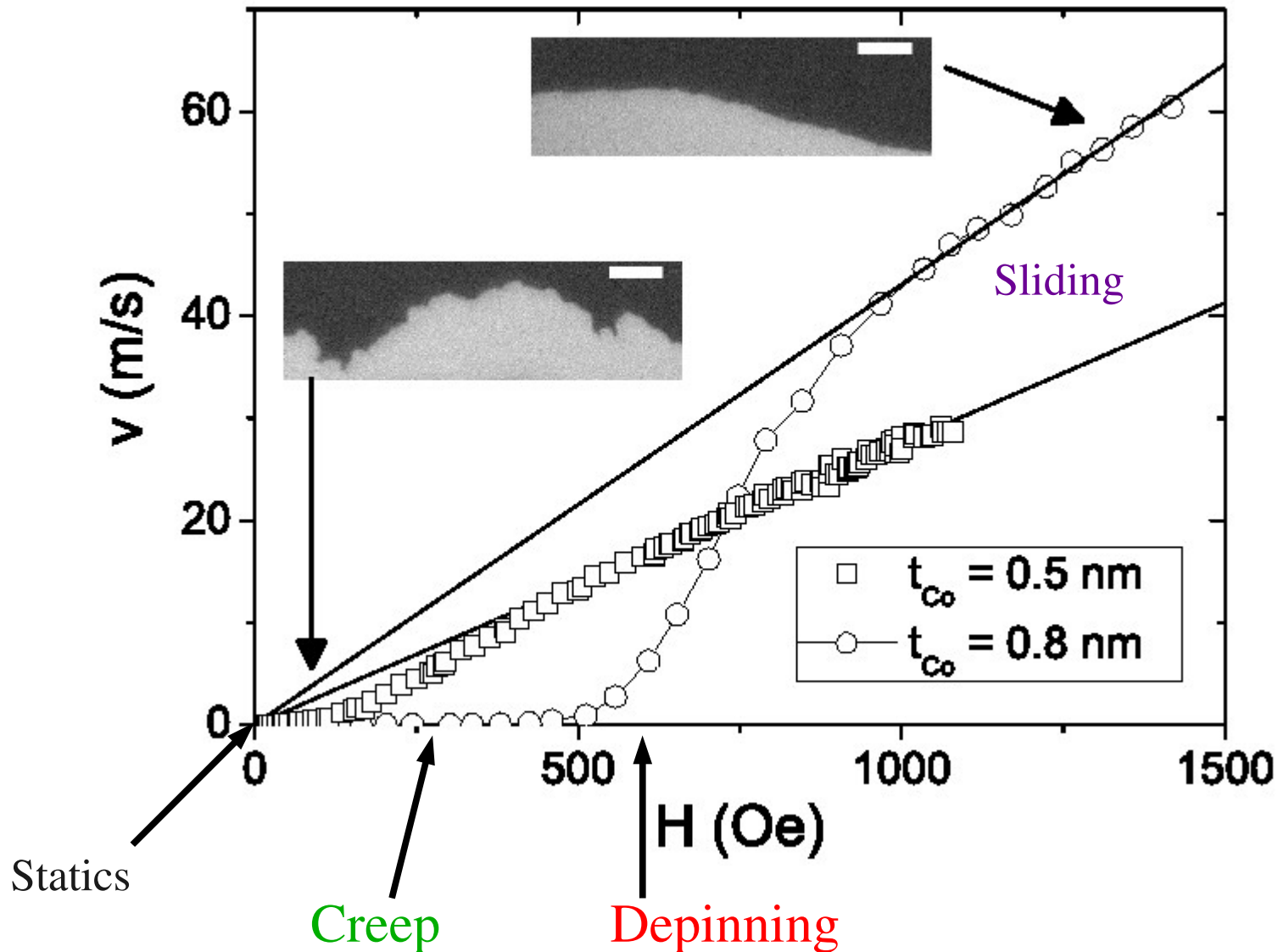
# Collective transport in a disordered medium



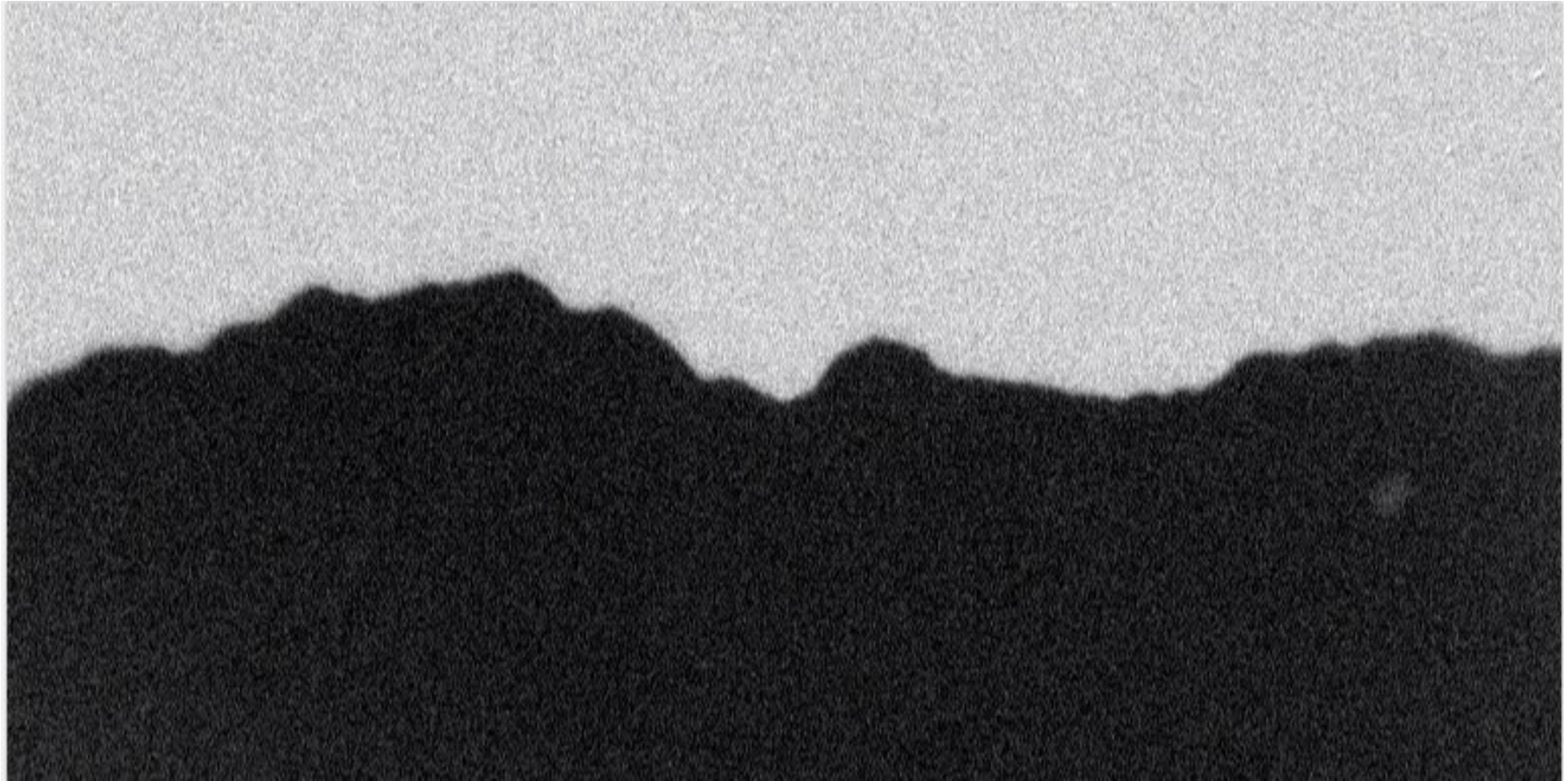
$$\gamma \partial_t u(z, t) = c \partial_z^2 u(z, t) + F_p(u, z) + f + \eta_T(z, t)$$

# Geometry and transport

P.J. Metaxas et al, LPS Orsay/CEA Grenoble (2007)

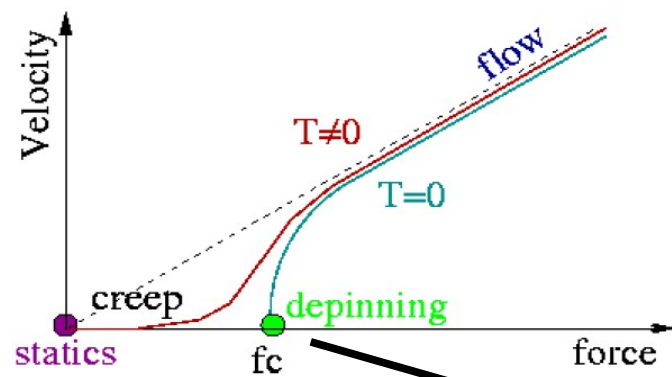


# Steady-State dynamical structure

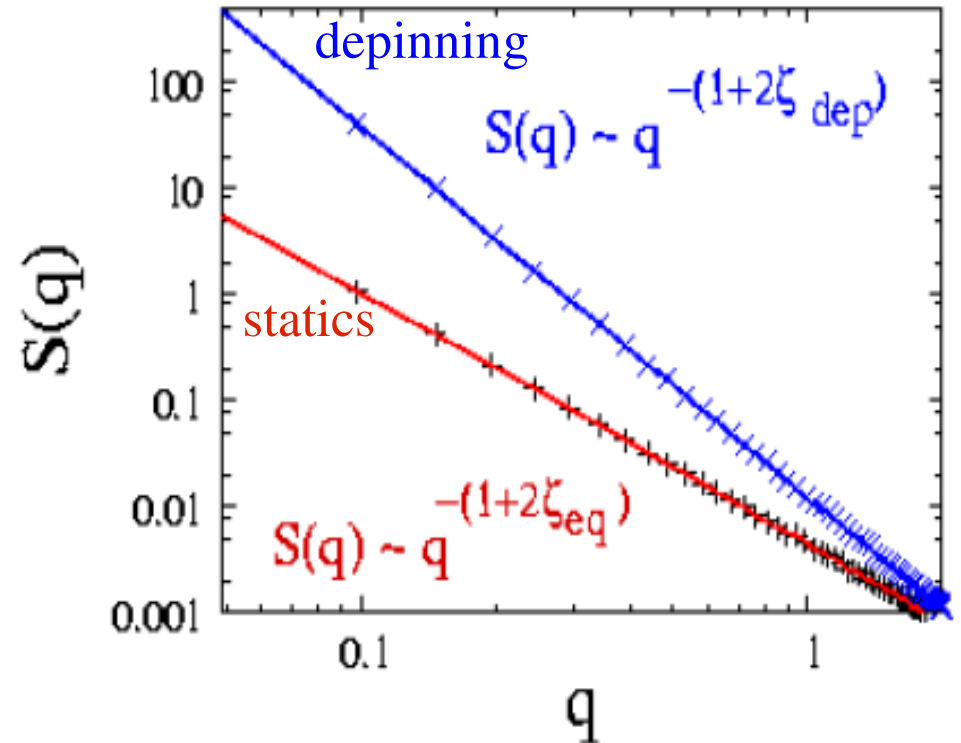
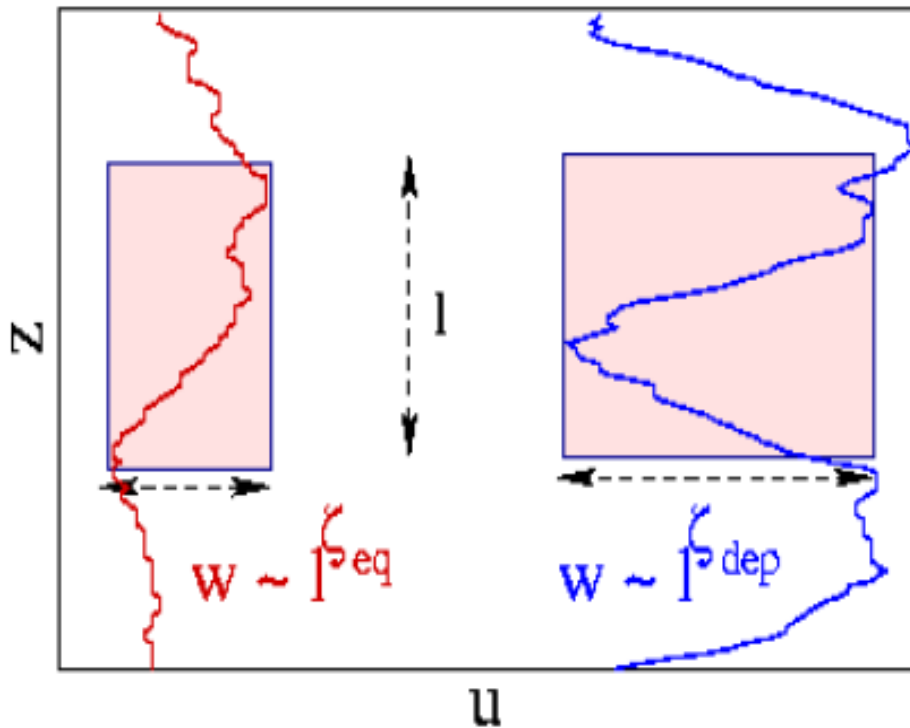


- How does the steady-state geometry depend on applied field, temperature, and disorder strength?.
- How can we describe the rough geometry quantitatively?.

# “Rough Geometry”



Equilibrium ( $f=0$ )      Depinning ( $f=f_c$ )

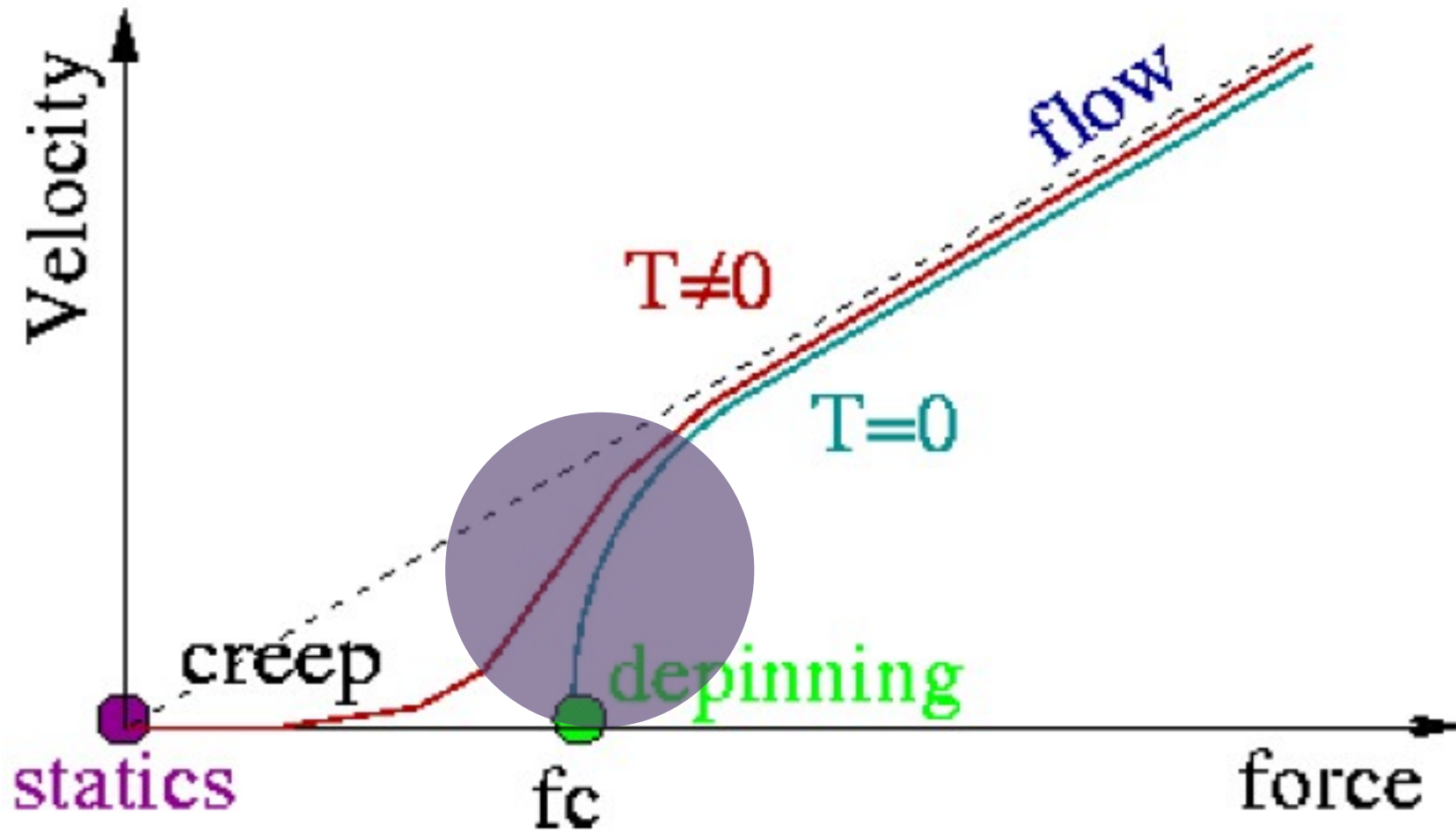


Statistical self-affinity

$$z \rightarrow bz, u \rightarrow b^\zeta u$$

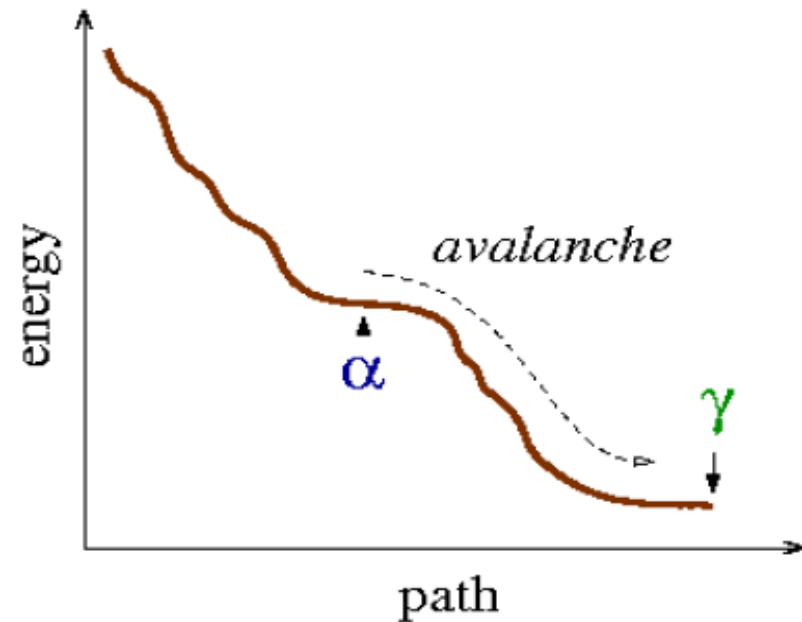
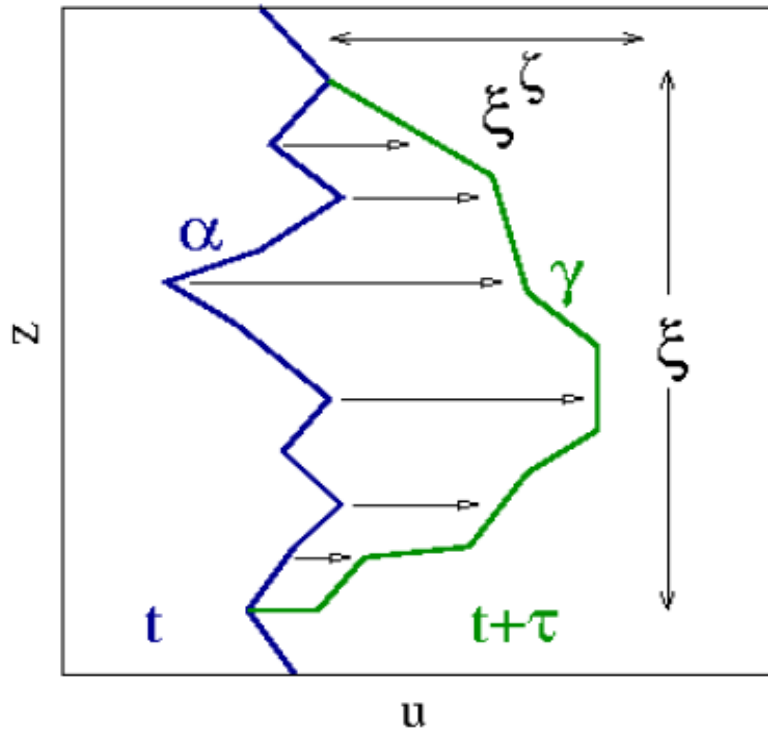


# Depinning





# Depinning



## Critical Phenomenon [D. Fisher 1985]

Order parameter

$$v \sim (f - f_c)^\beta$$

Divergent length

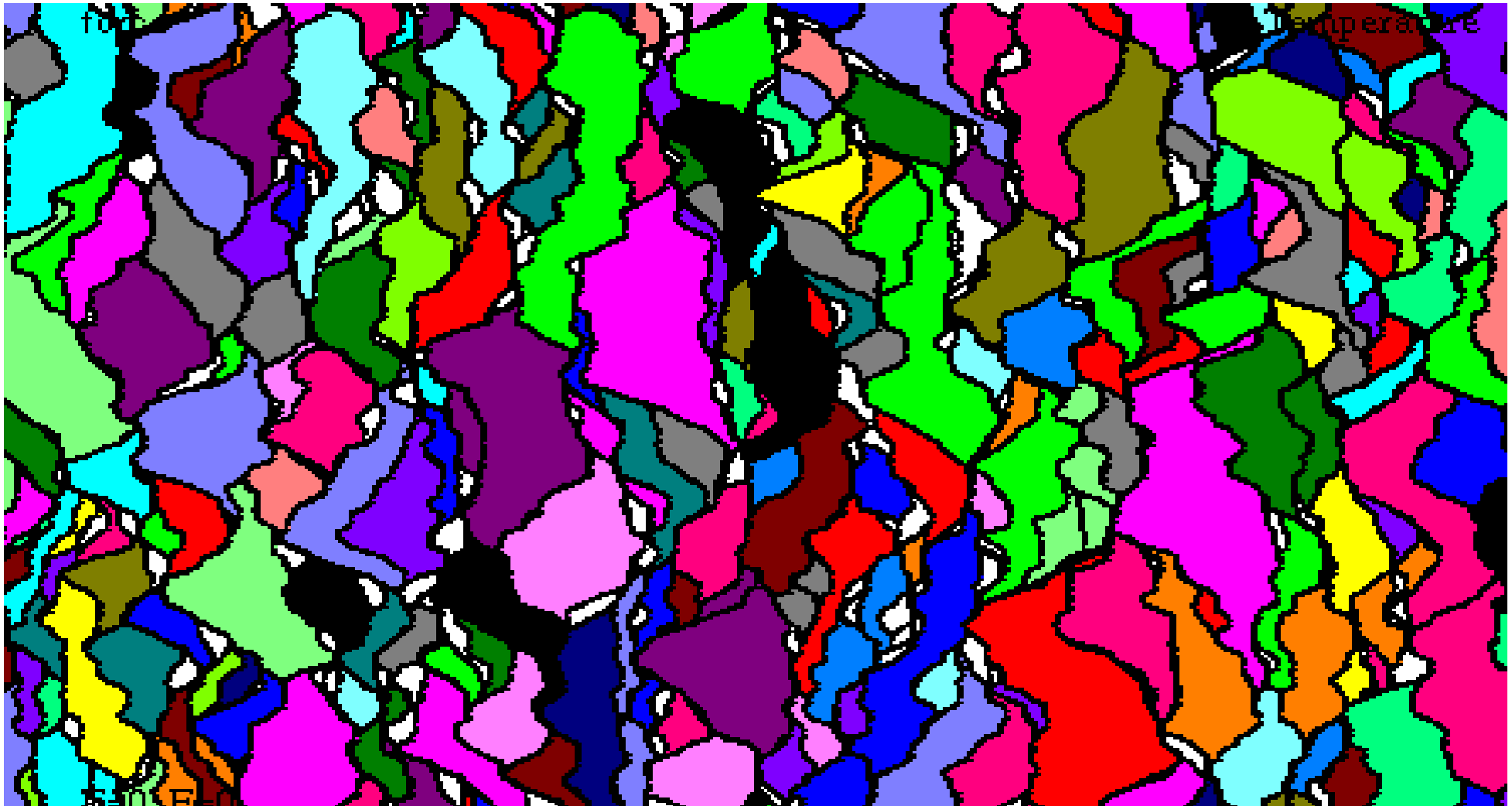
$$\xi \sim (f - f_c)^{-\nu}$$

Divergent time

$$\tau \sim \xi^z$$

# Avalanches at depinning $f=f_c$

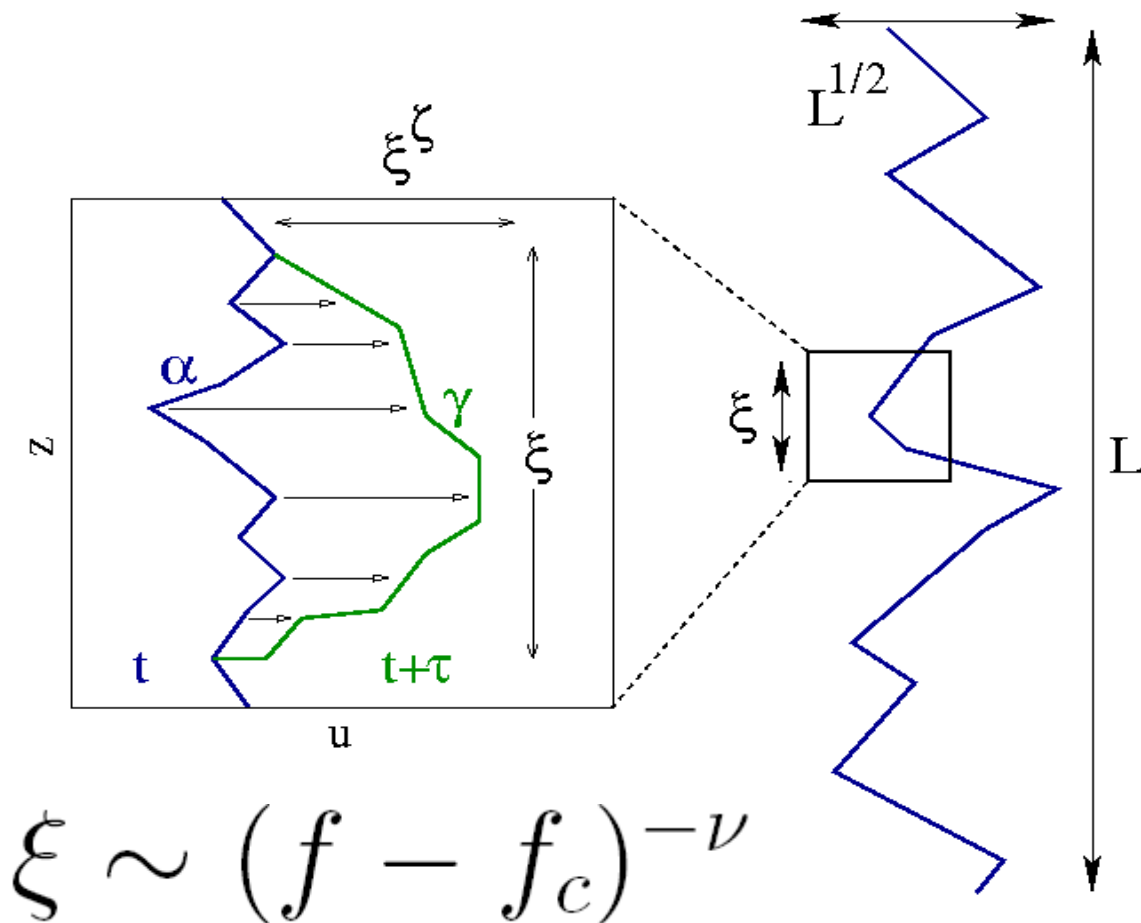
- Le Doussal, Wiese, Rosso.



# Above Depinning

Chauve, Giamarchi, Le Doussal PRB (2000)

*“typical” Avalanche size => roughness change*



**Large scale :**

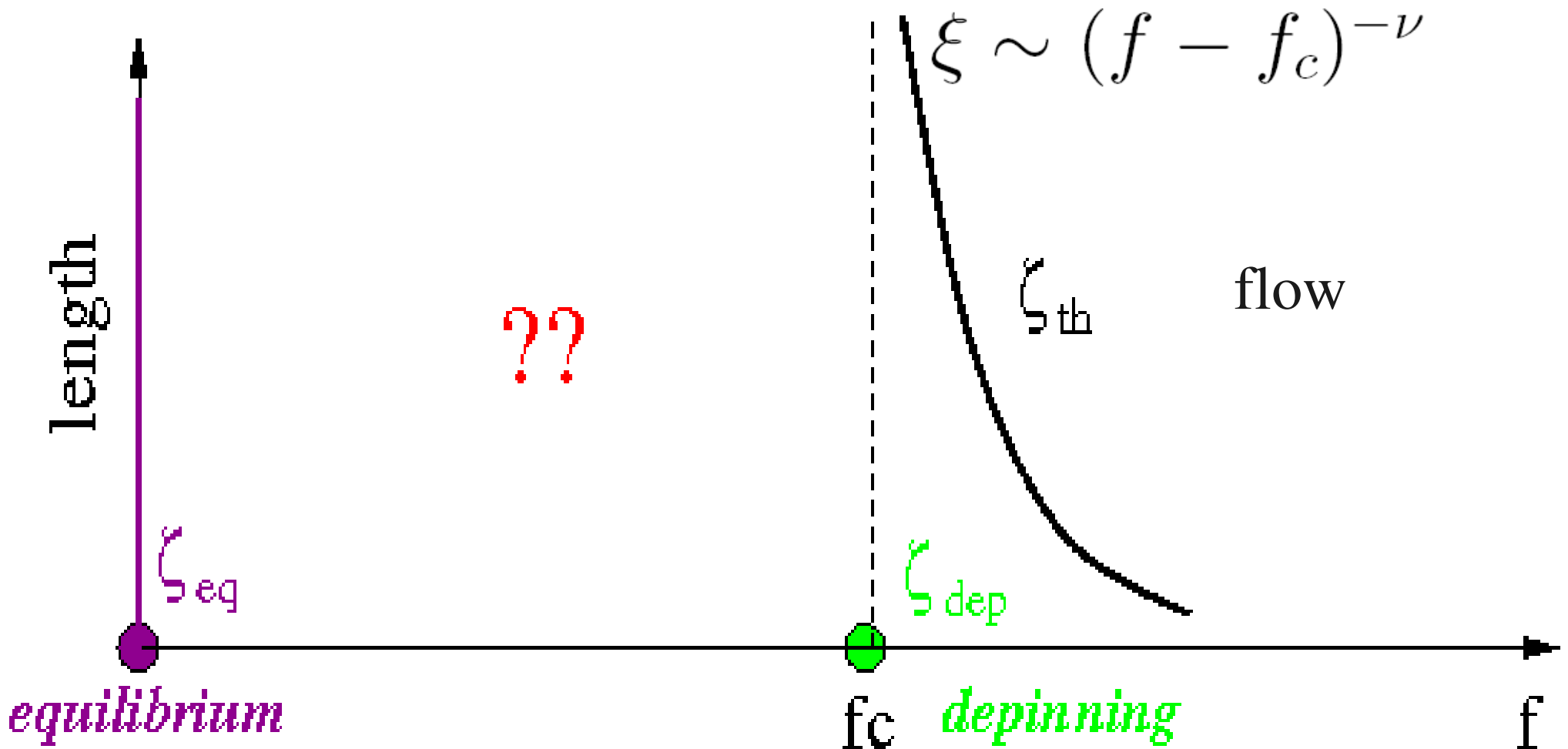
*Normal random walk =  
high speed geometry =  
“thermally” excited line*

**Short scales :**

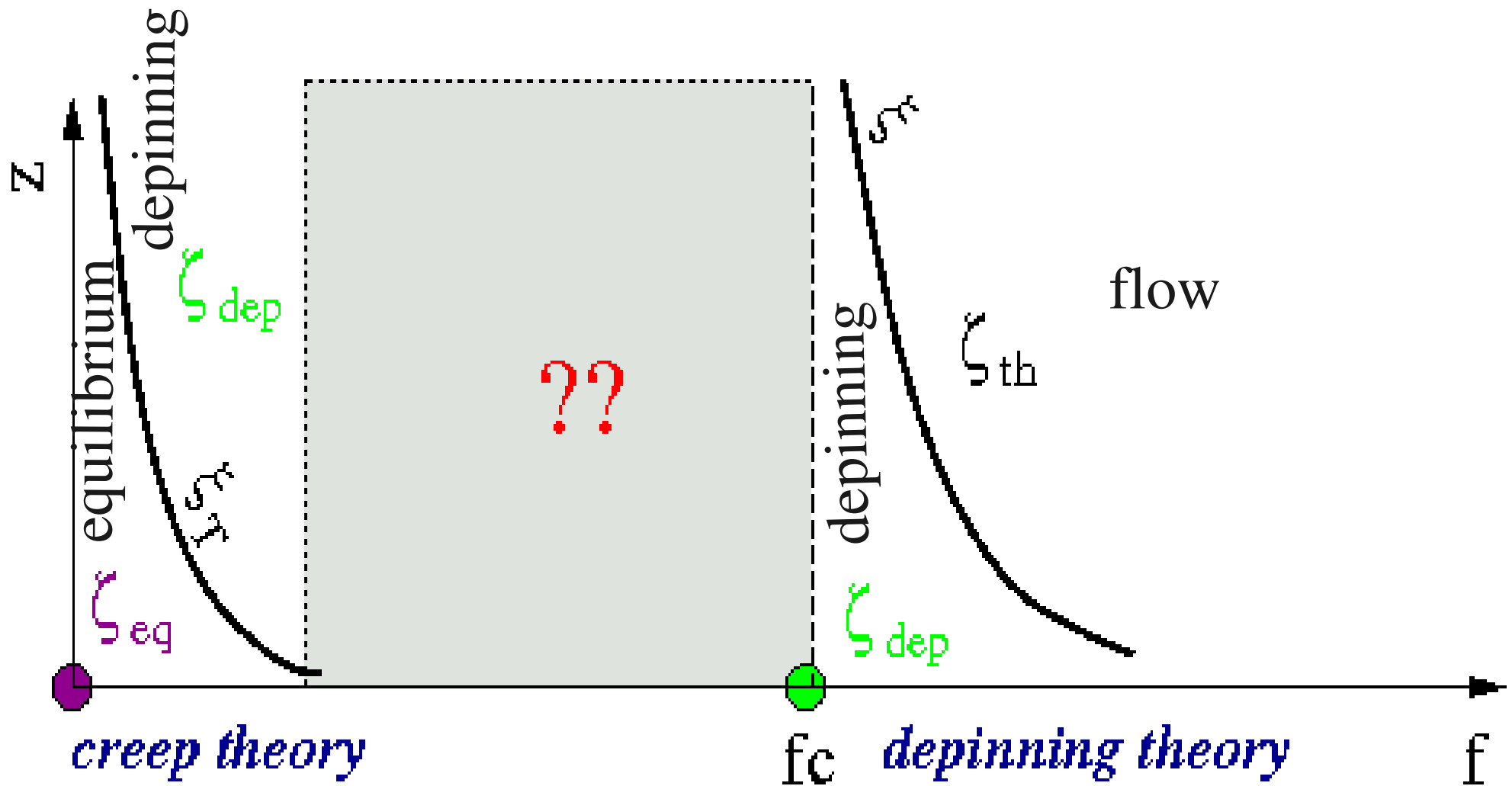
*Anomalous random  
walk = critical  
geometry ( $f=f_c$ )*

$$\xi \sim (f - f_c)^{-\nu}$$

# “Dynamical Phase diagram”

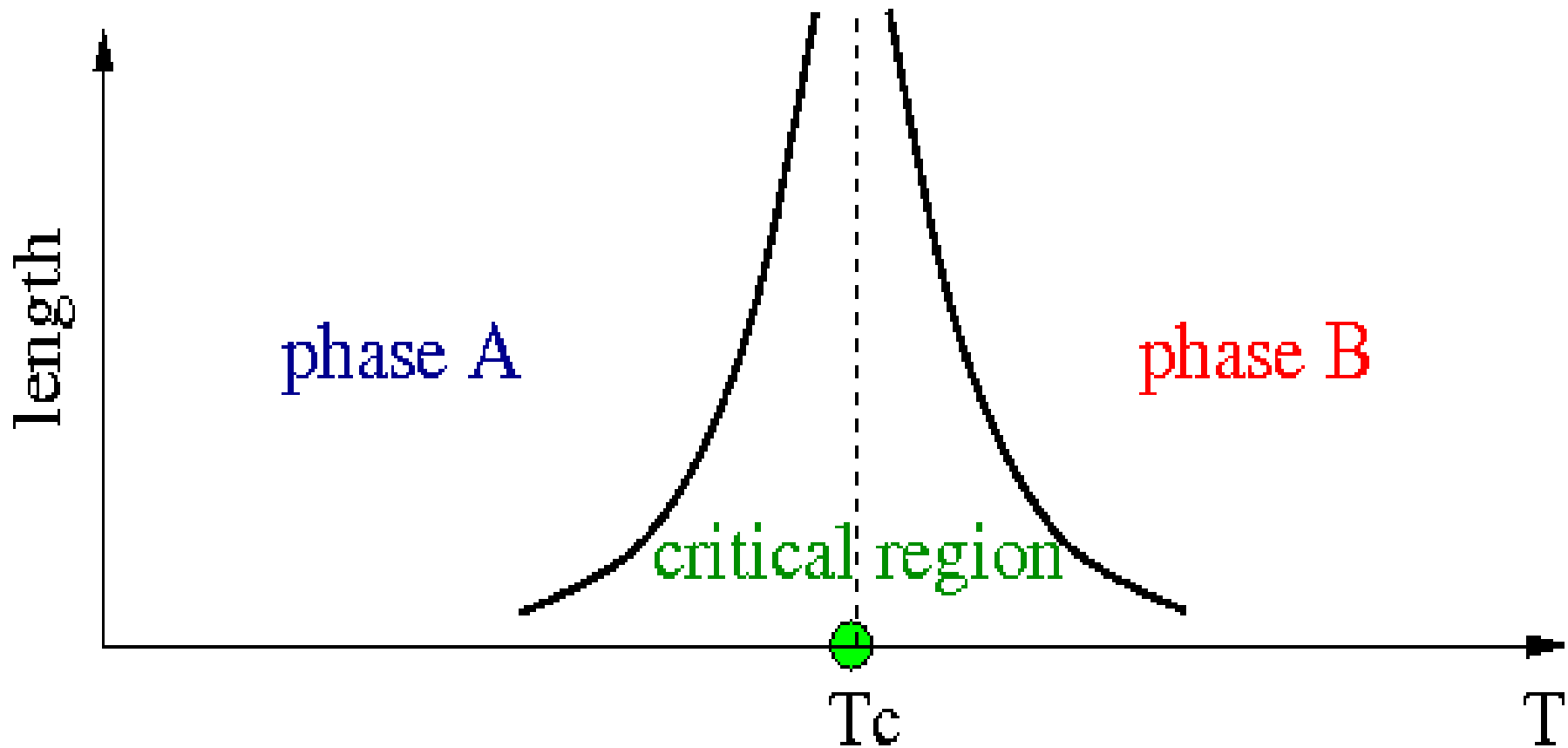


# Phase diagram?

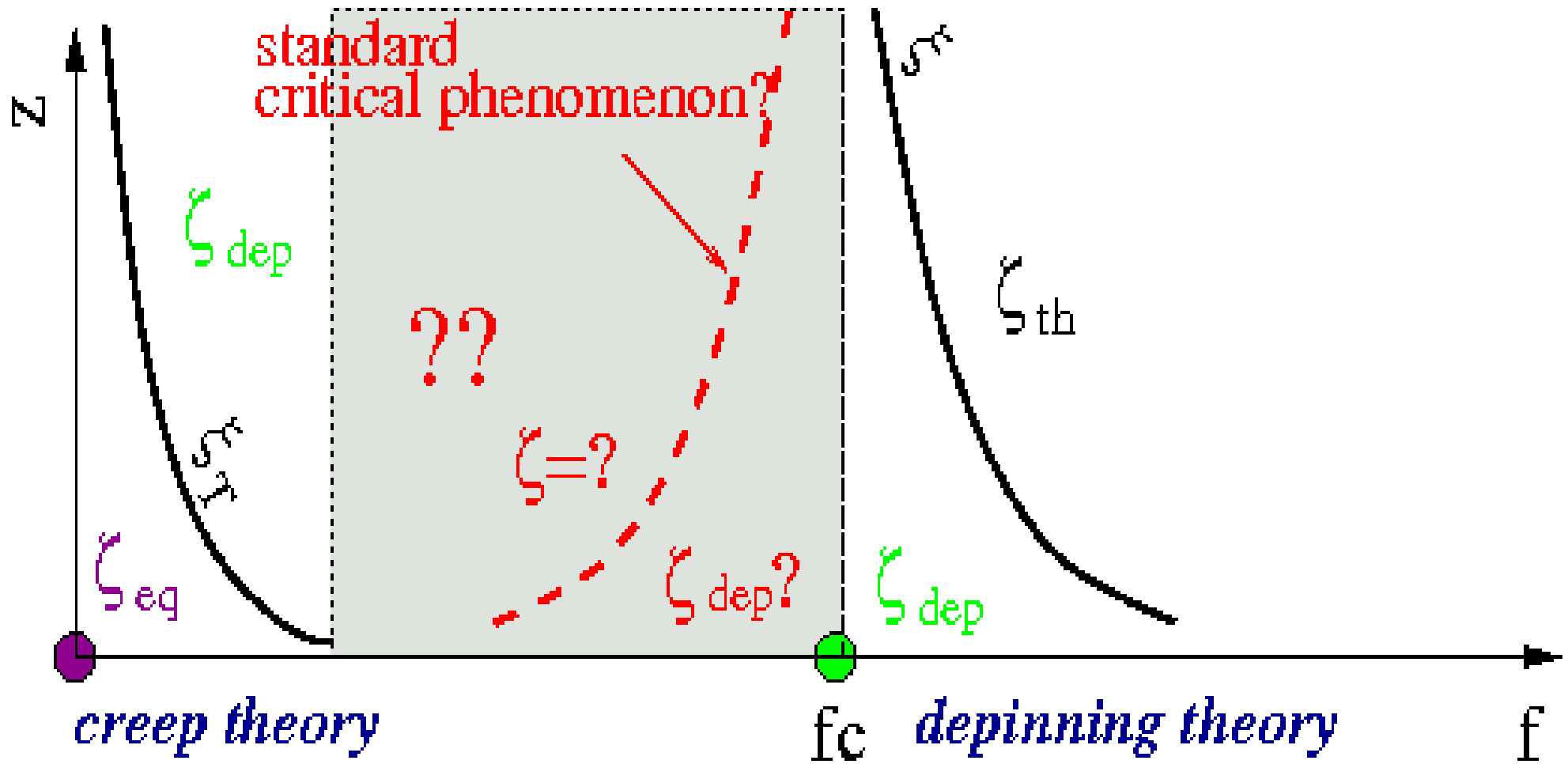


FRG predictions: P. Chauve, T. Giamarchi, P. Le-Doussal (2000)

# “standard” continuous phase transitions

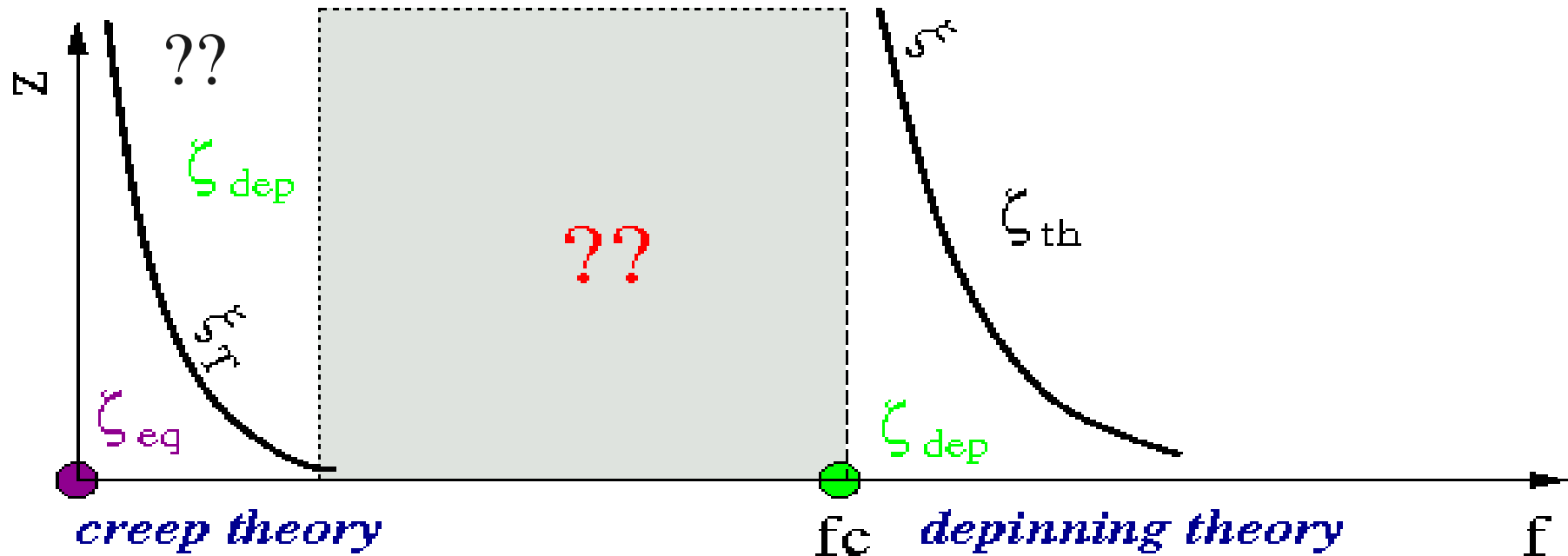


# Phase diagram?



- How to study the **steady state** at  $f < f_c$  for very low temperatures?.

# Experimentally relevant, low $T$ , $d=1$ phase diagram?

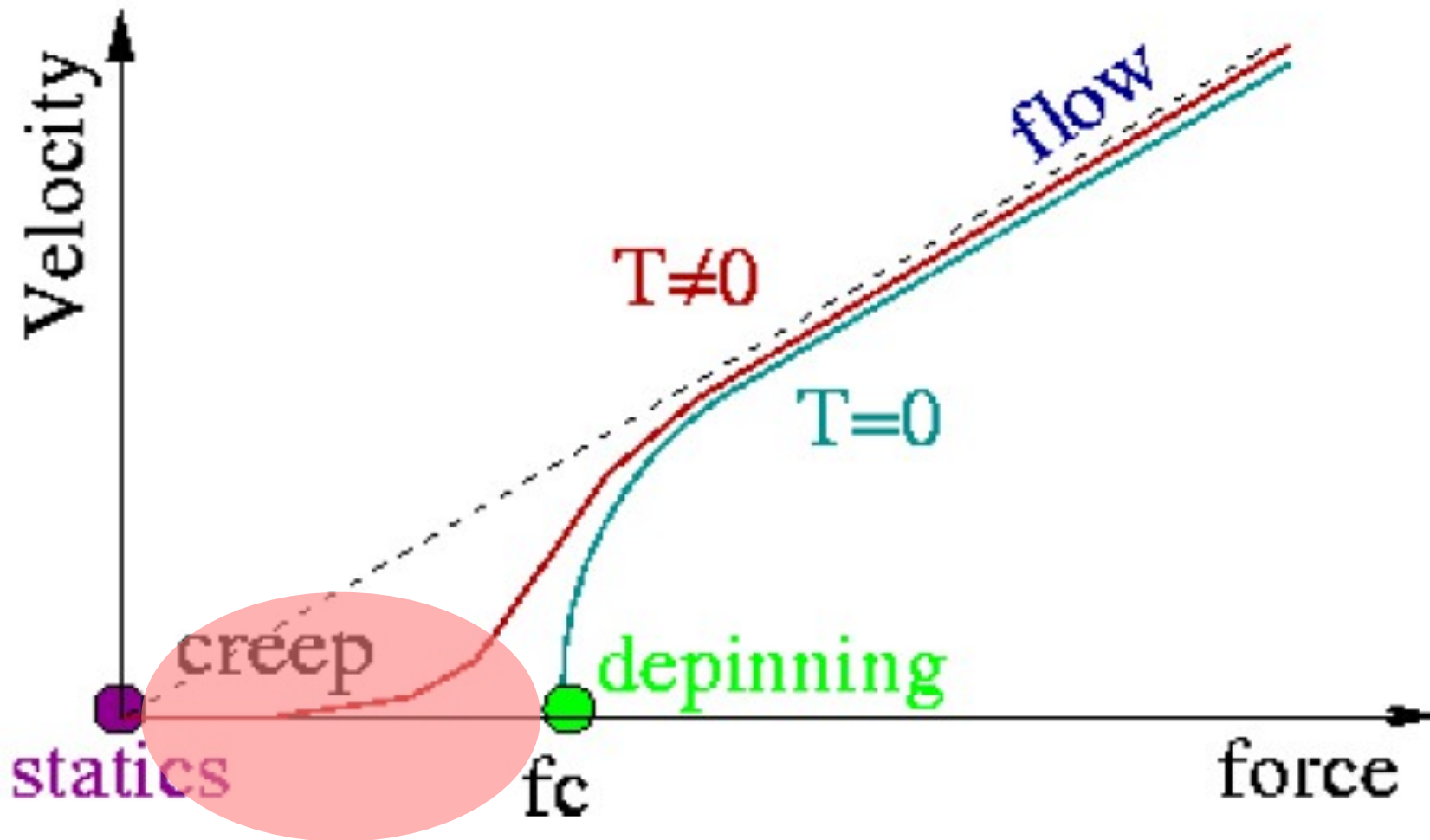


*Challenge:*

- ***Ultra slow non-equilibrium dynamics***
- ***Divergent barriers with decreasing  $f$***
- ***Traditional numerical methods fail***
- ***Analytical predictions only for:***  
 $f \ll f_c$  or  $f - f_c \ll f_c$ , around  $d=4-\epsilon$



# $T \rightarrow 0$ creep: ultra slow



How to analyze numerically the steady-state creep?

# Langevin dynamics

$$\gamma \partial_t u(z, t) = c \partial_z^2 u(z, t) + F_p(u, z) + f + \eta_T(z, t)$$

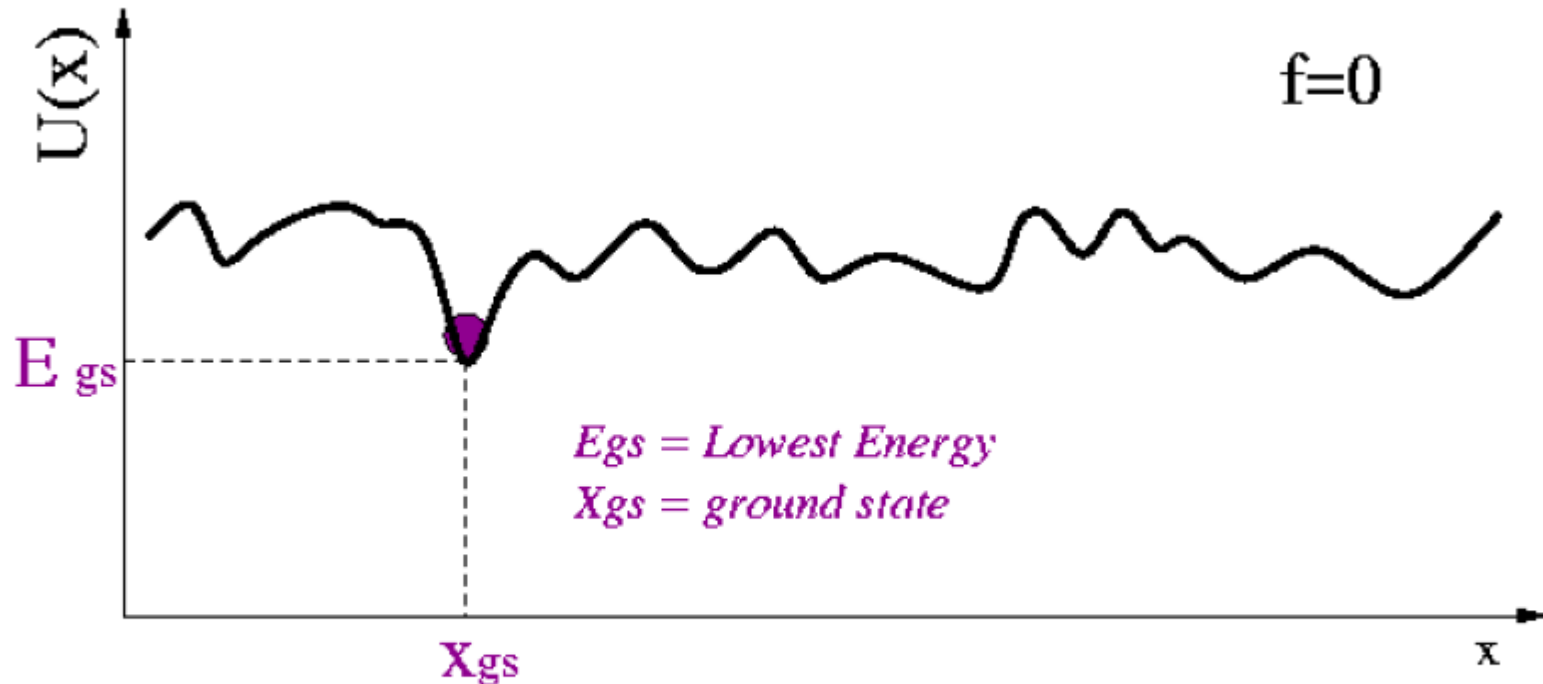


Too slow when  $T \rightarrow 0$

# New Exact Algorithm for ultra-slow motion

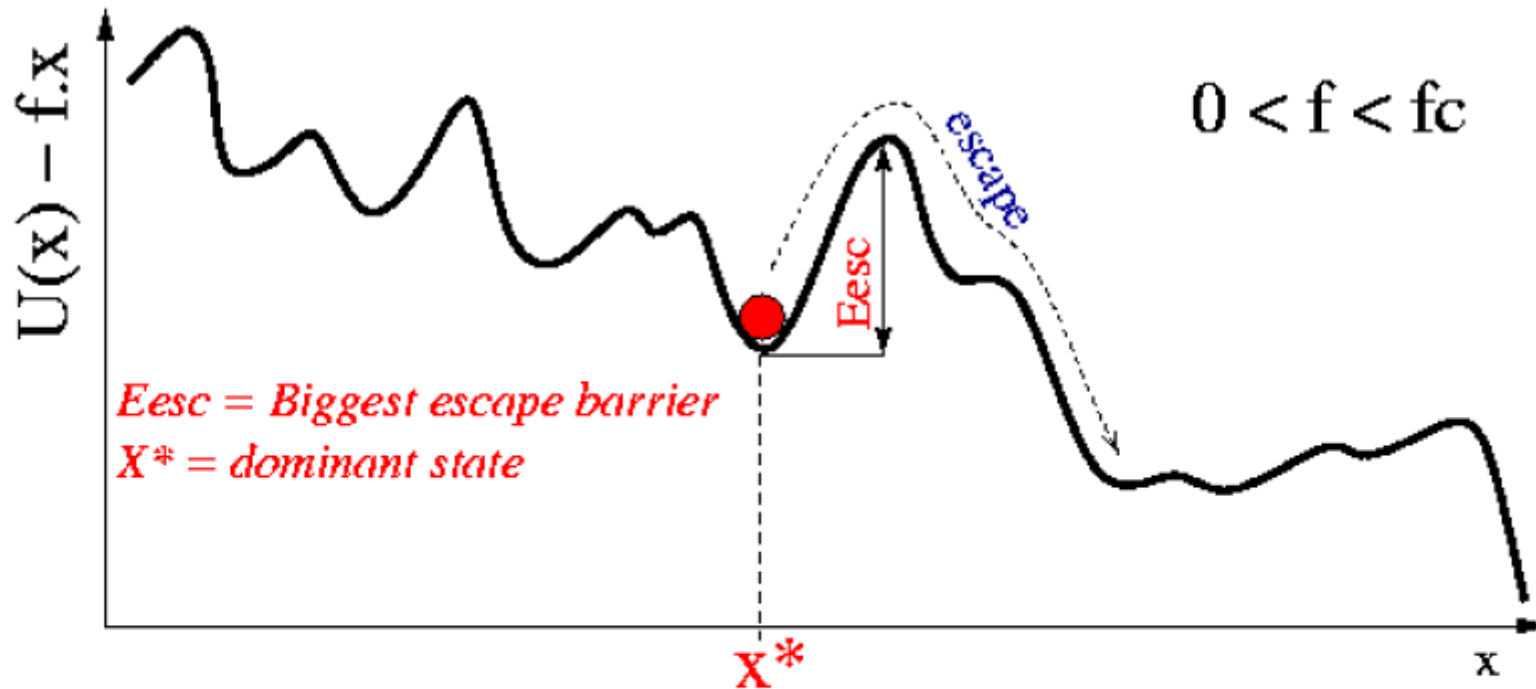
# $T \rightarrow 0$ Steady State: one particle

- At Equilibrium,  $f = 0$ , Boltzmann impose  $P(GS) \rightarrow 1$  for  $T \rightarrow 0$ :



- Occupation probabilities also exist for the  $0 < f < f_c$  steady-state dynamics in a finite system. The  $T \rightarrow 0$  limit imposes a **dominant** configuration.

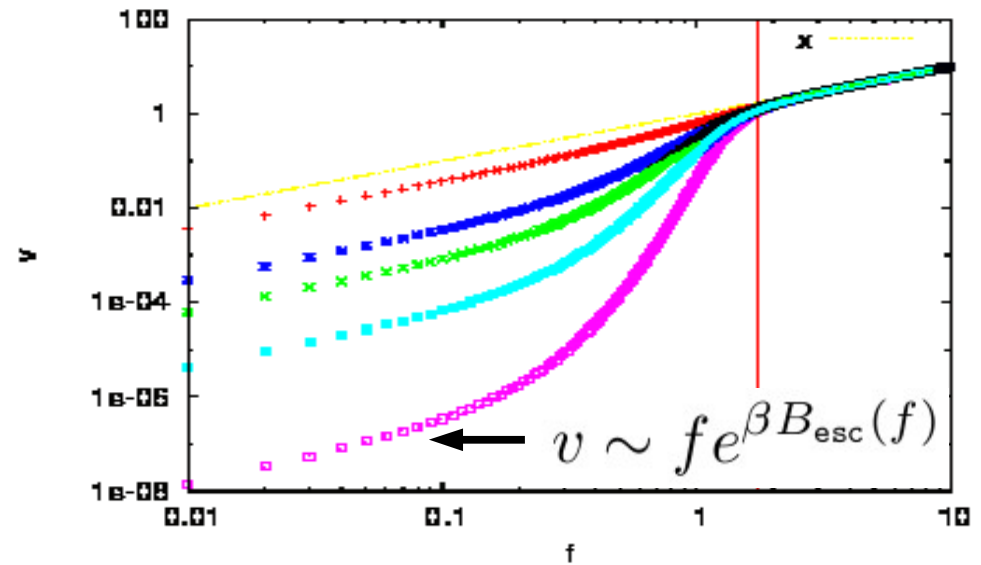
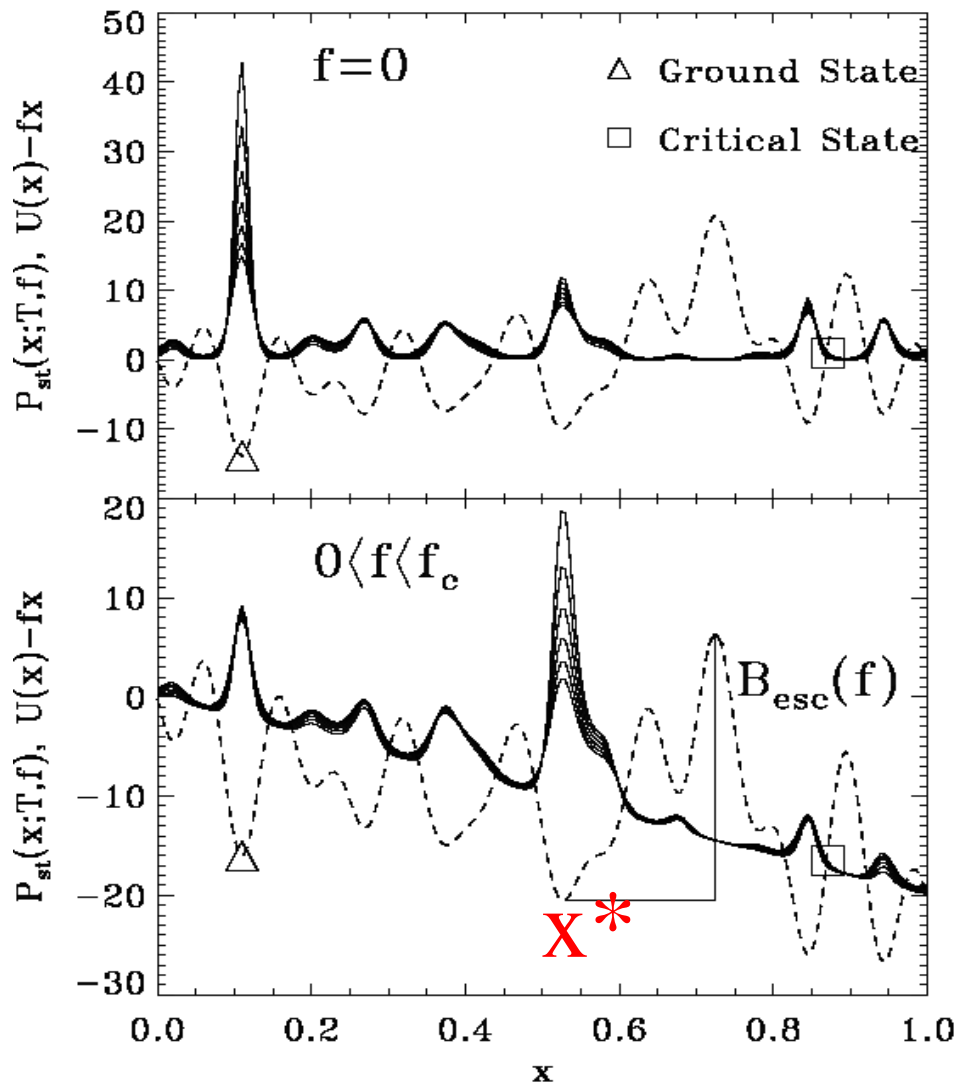
# $T \rightarrow 0$ Steady State: one particle



- $P(X^*) \rightarrow 1$ , when  $T \rightarrow 0$

transparent for a particle on a 1D ring [Derrida (83); Le Doussal, Vinokur (95)]

# Low Temperature Steady State: one particle

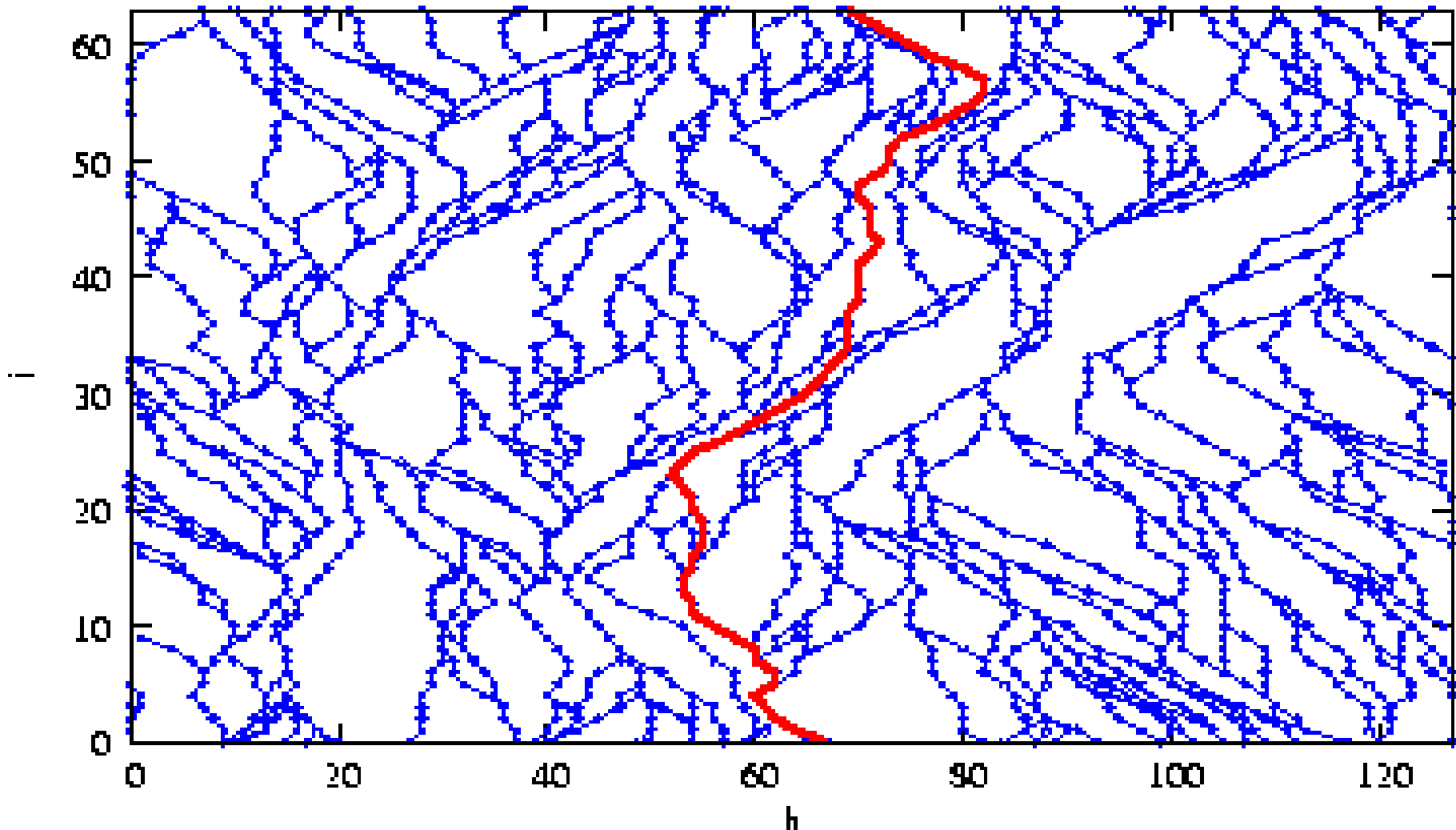


Determina todas las propiedades del estado estacionario a baja  $T$  en un sistema periódico finito

$X^*$

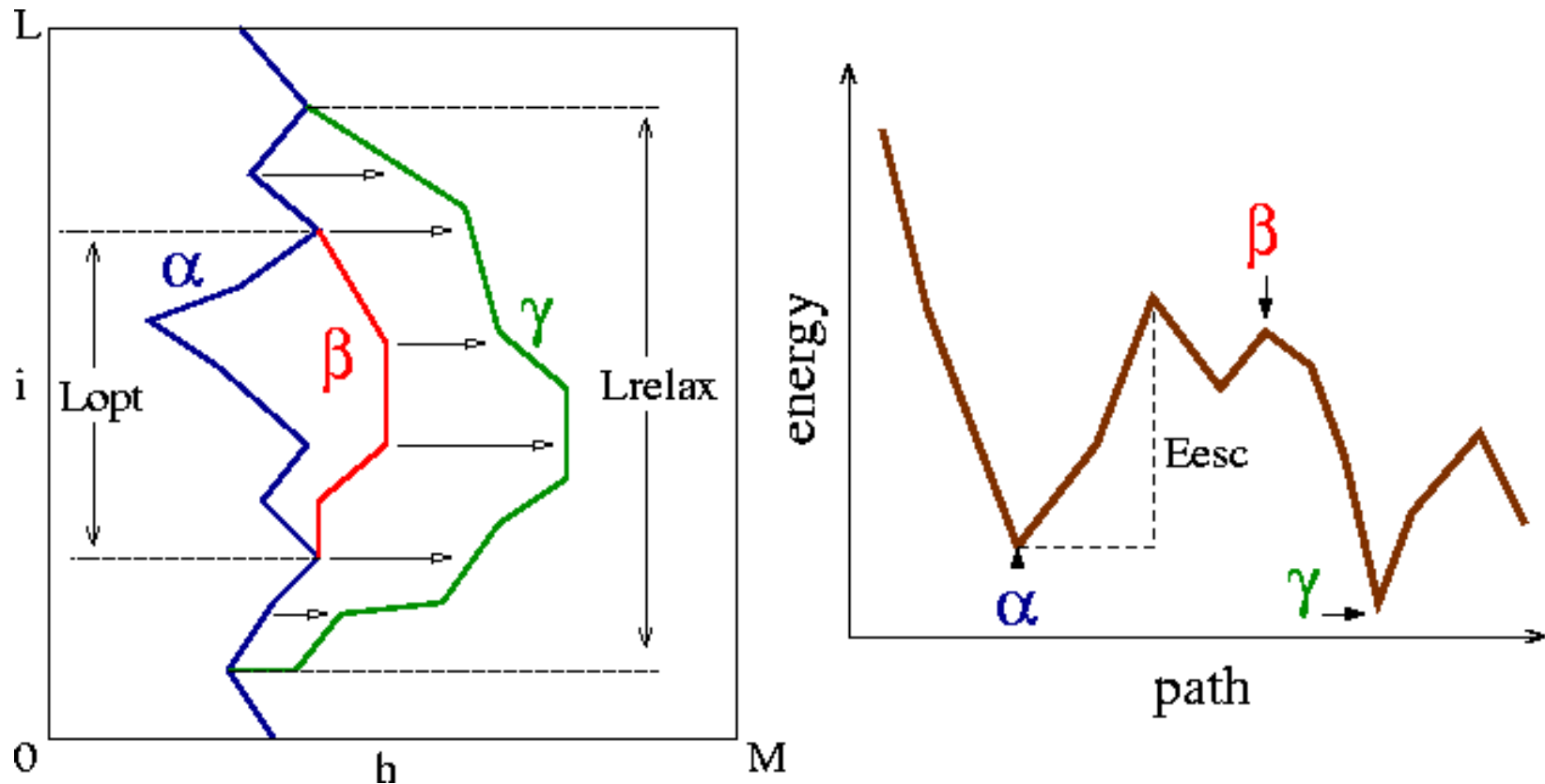
*Can we do the same for the elastic interface?*

# “Dominant Configuration” $f < f_c$



The *dominant configuration* is the only statistically relevant configuration of the  $T \rightarrow 0$  steady state dynamics: Under the conditions of Arrhenius activation the system will spend much more time on it than in any other configuration.

# “Optimal” $T \rightarrow 0$ Path



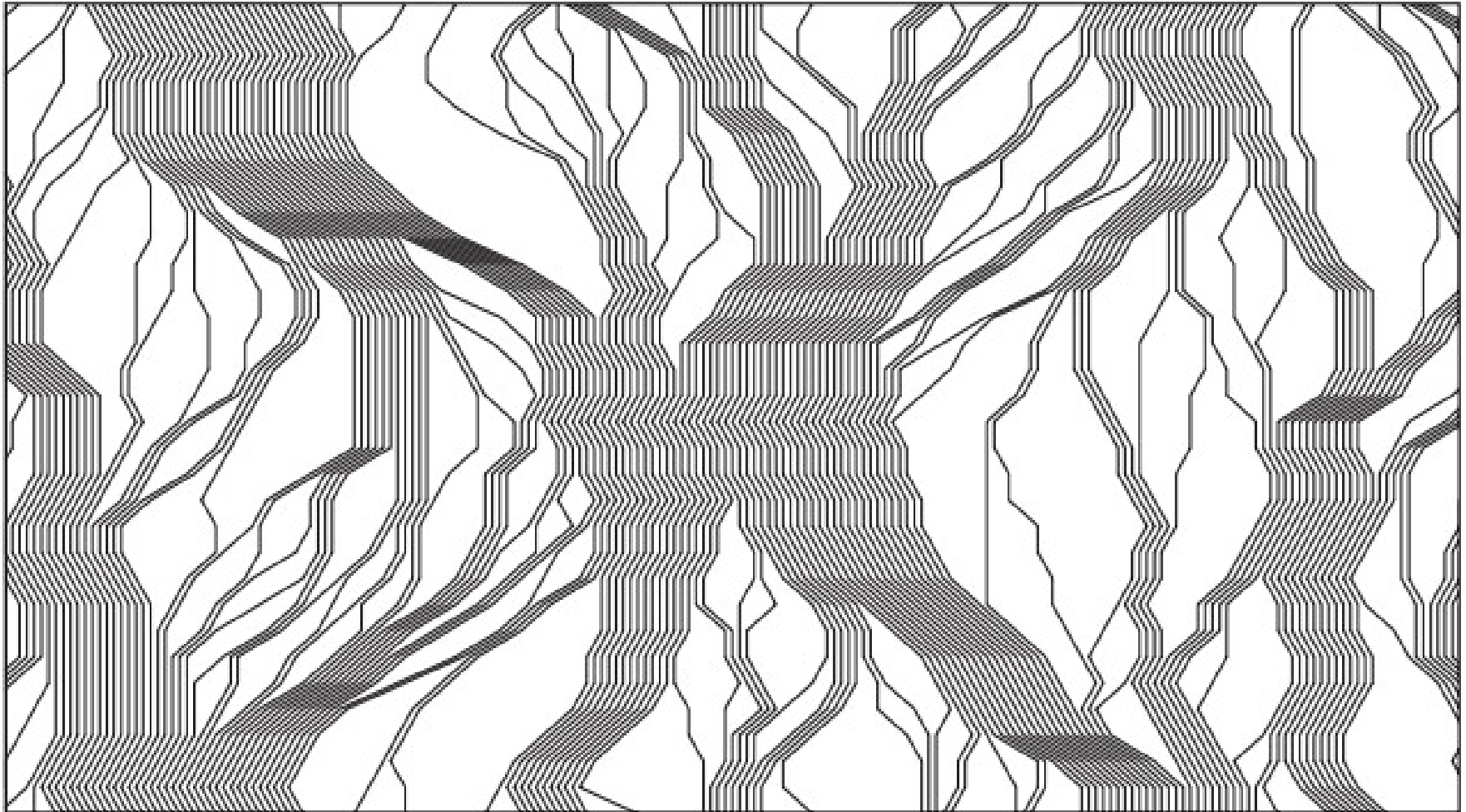
*Optimal path: minimal barriers, relaxing in valleys and connecting two metastable states  $\alpha$  and  $\gamma$ , such that  $E_\alpha > E_\gamma$ .*

*Creep as a nucleation process: Ioffe & Vinokur, Nattermann (1987)*

*Thermal nucleus triggers an avalanche: Chauve, Le Doussal, Giamarchi (2000)*



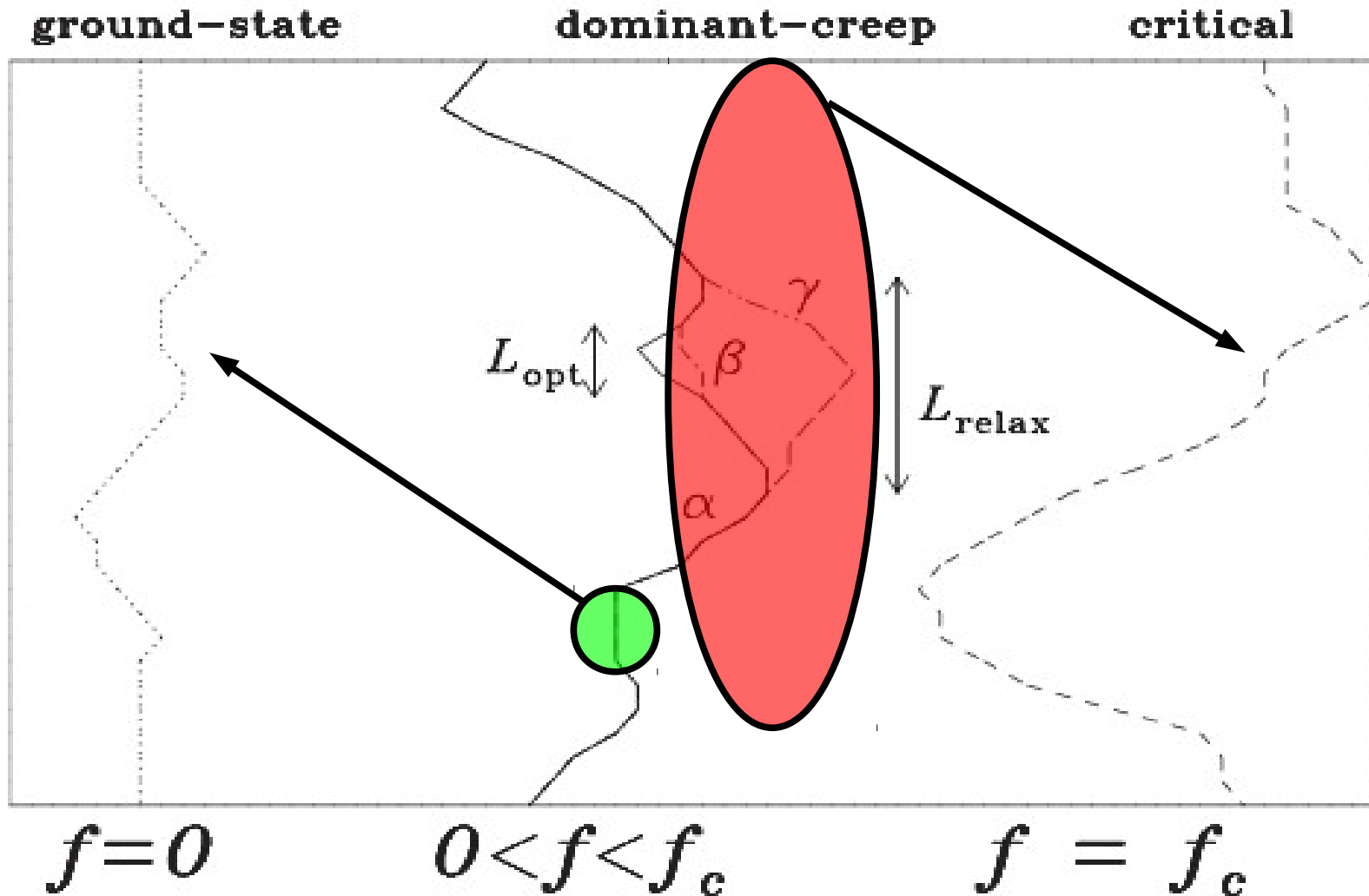
# Unique sequence of metastable states



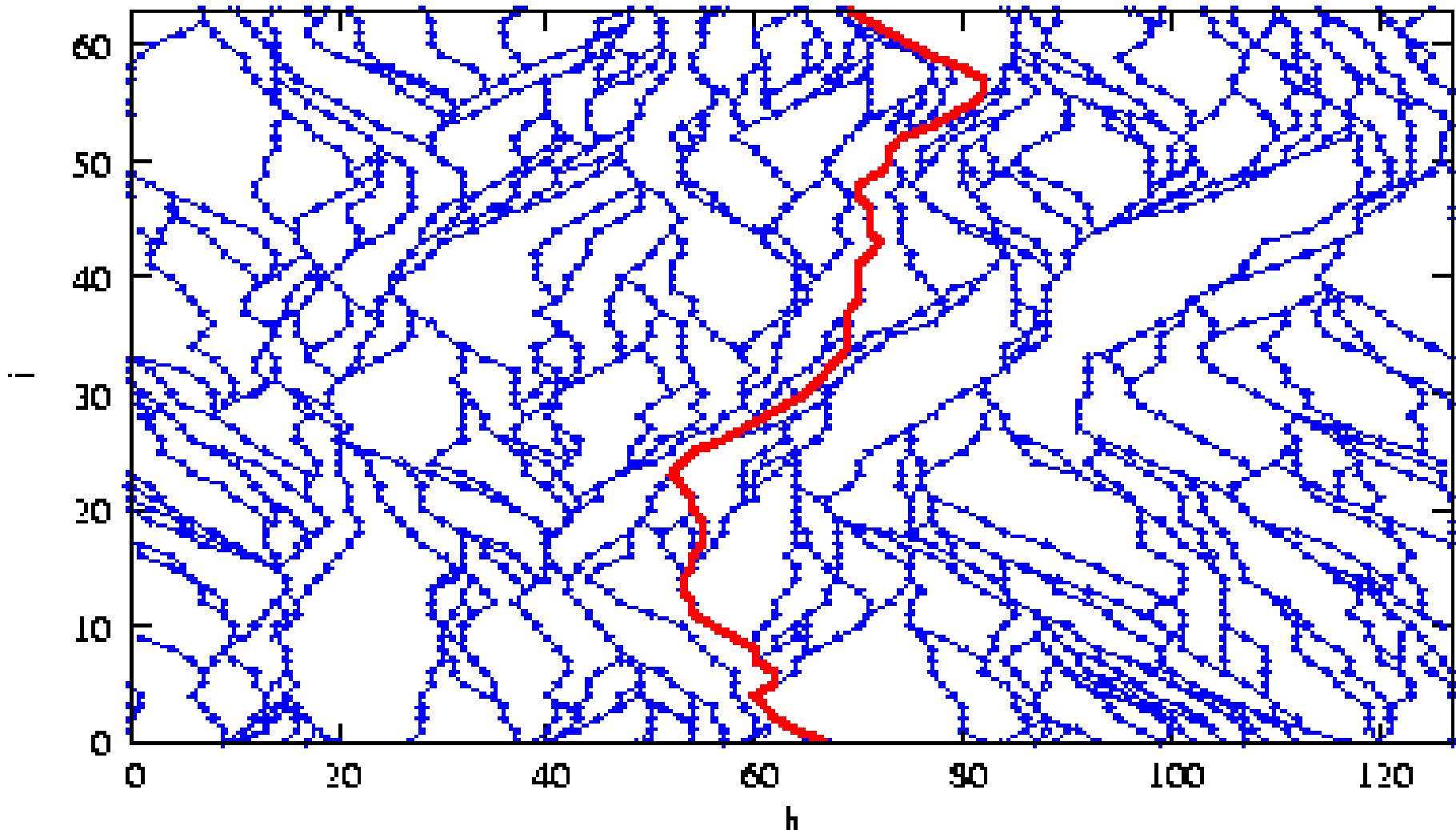
# Unique sequence of metastable states



# “Optimal” $T \rightarrow 0$ Path vs force



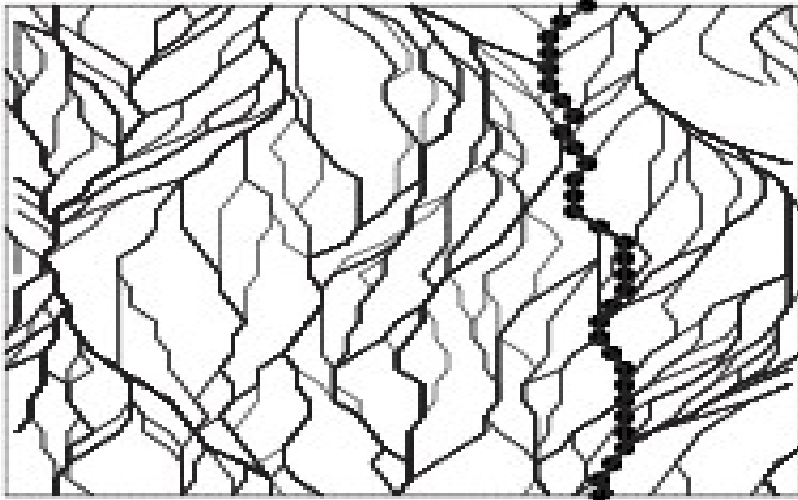
# Dominant configuration $f < f_c$



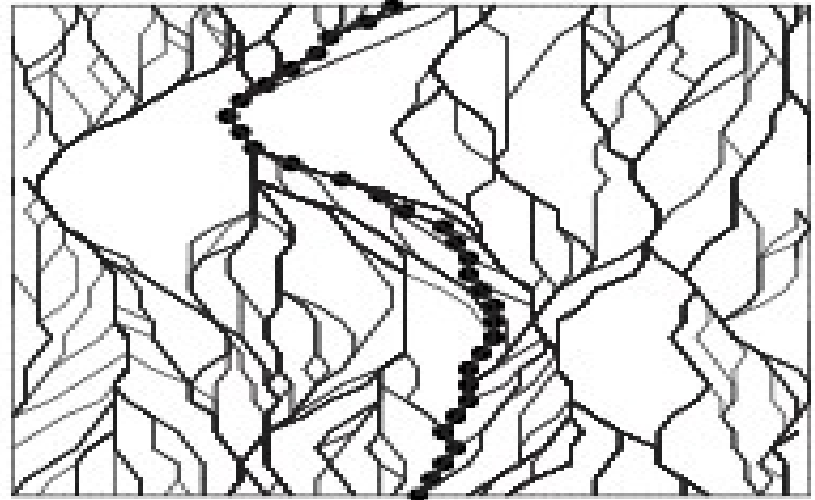
The *dominant configuration* is the only statistically relevant configuration of the  $T \rightarrow 0$  steady state dynamics: Under the conditions of Arrhenius activation the system will spend much more time on it than in any other configuration.

# Dominant configurations

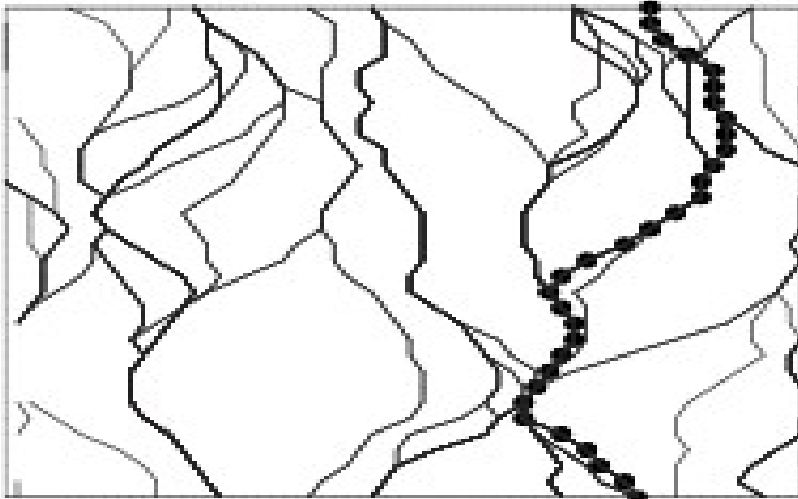
$$f/f_c = 0.5$$



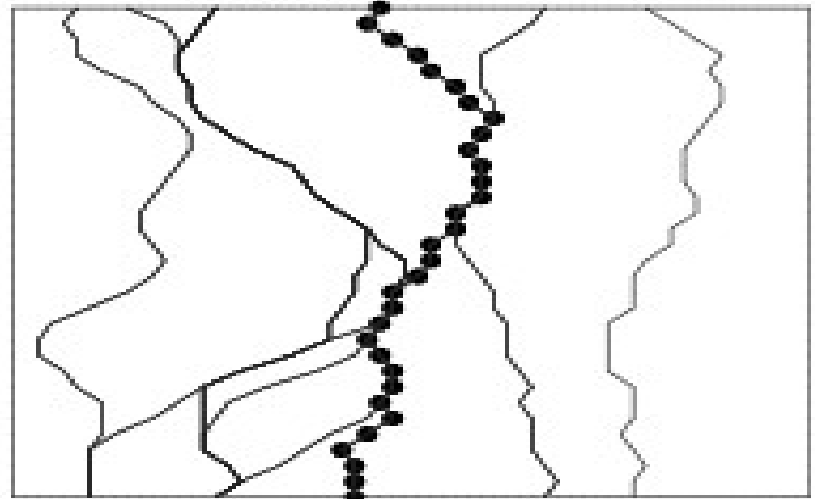
$$f/f_c = 0.6$$



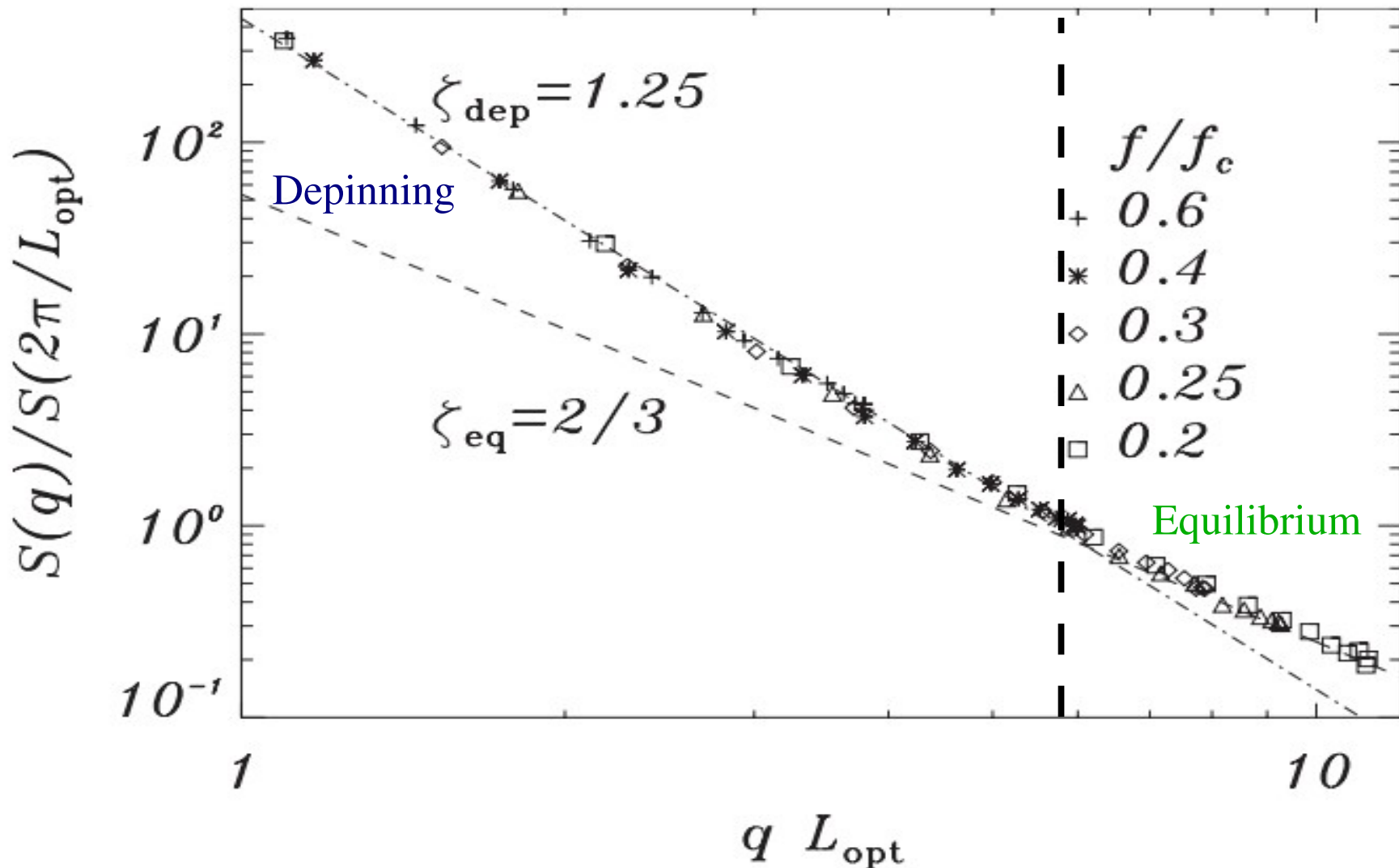
$$f/f_c = 0.8$$



$$f/f_c = 0.9$$

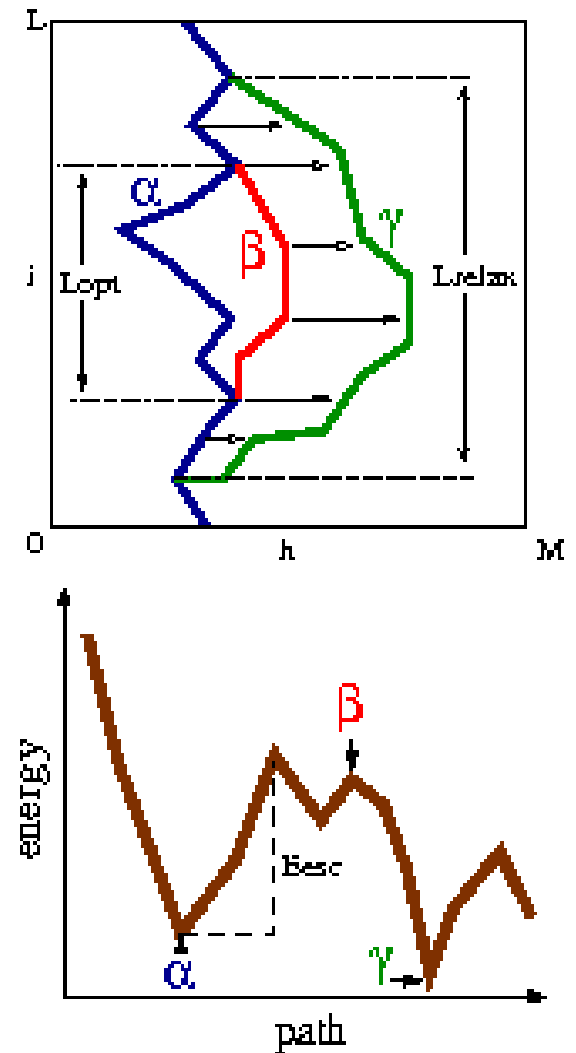
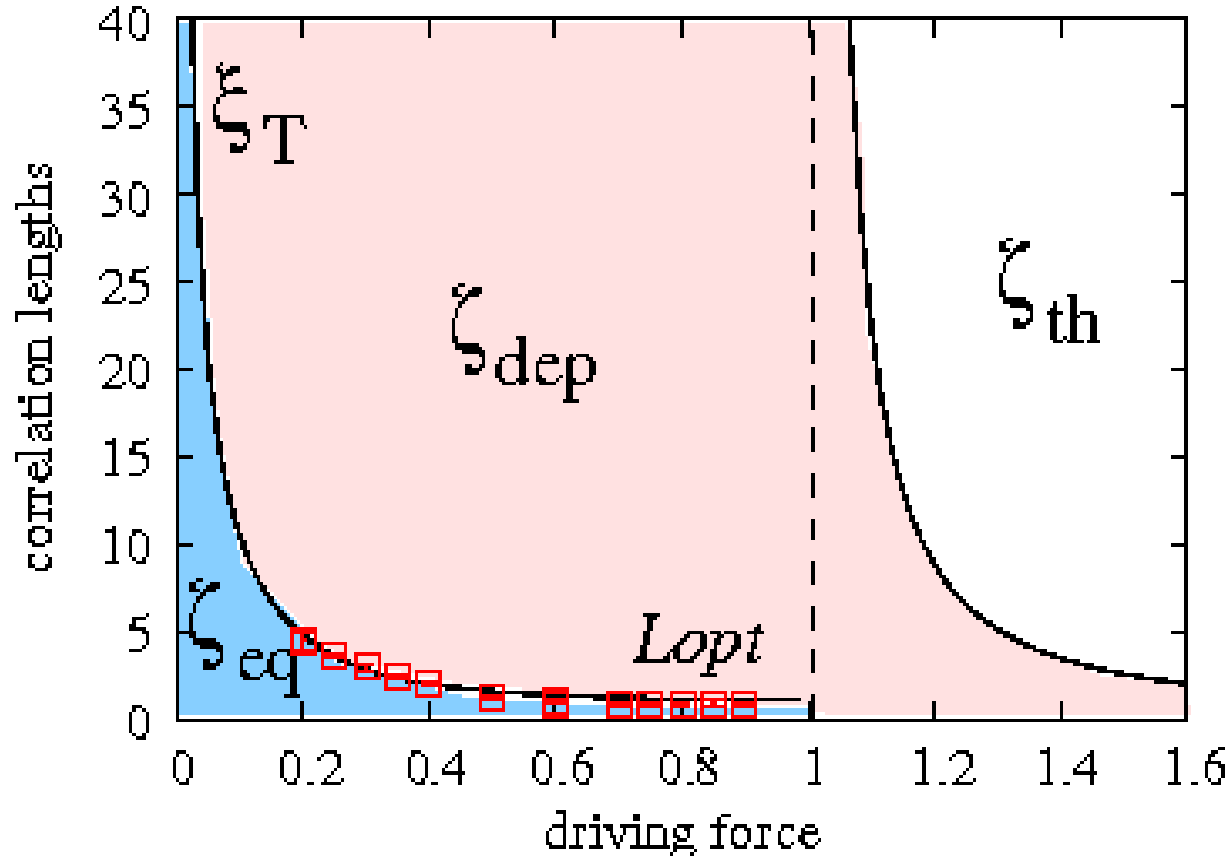


# Geometry of the dominant configuration = low temperature steady-state geometry

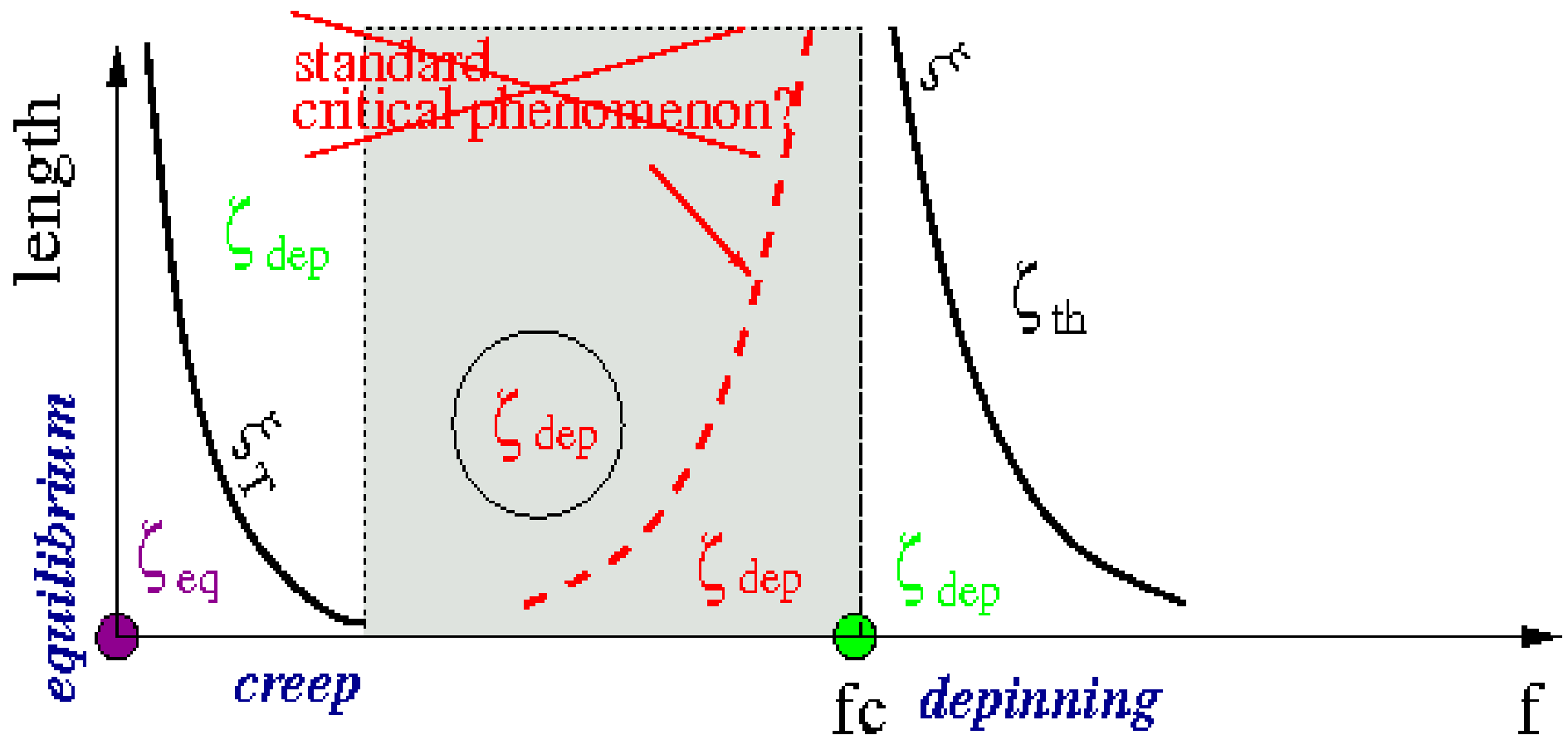


# Dynamical Phase diagram

$T \rightarrow 0$



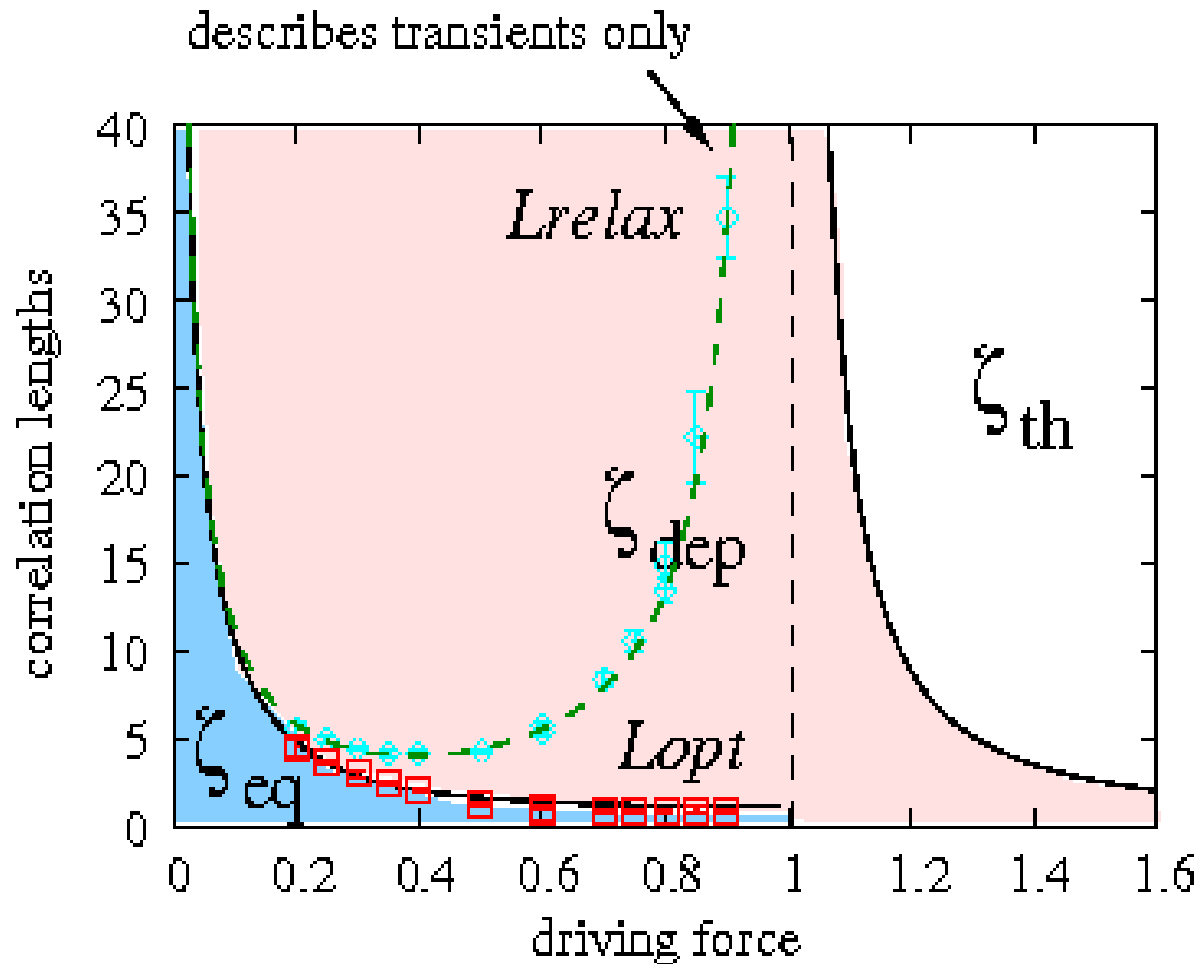
# Depinning: non-standard critical phenomenon





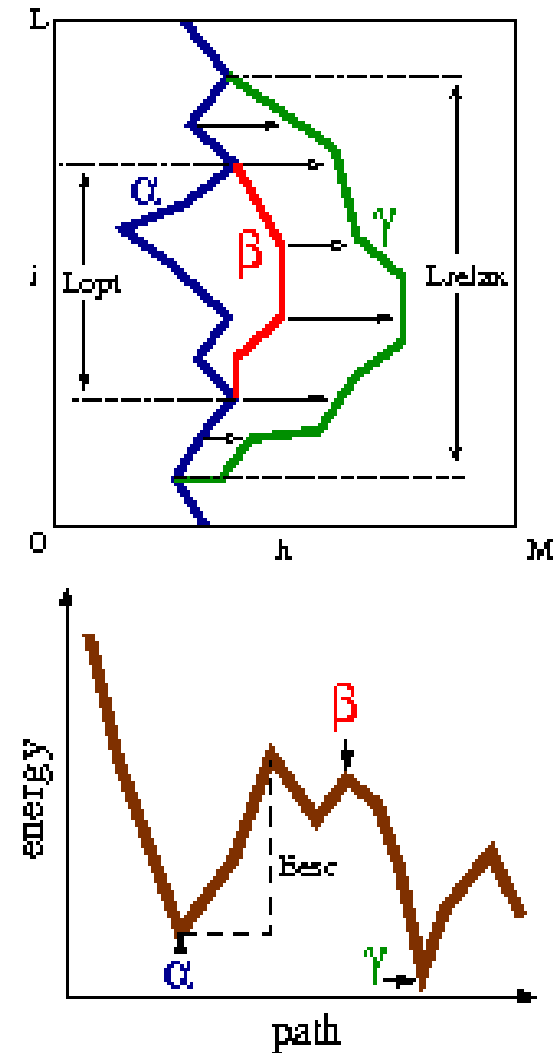
# Dynamical Phase diagram $T \rightarrow 0$

Creep  $T \rightarrow 0$

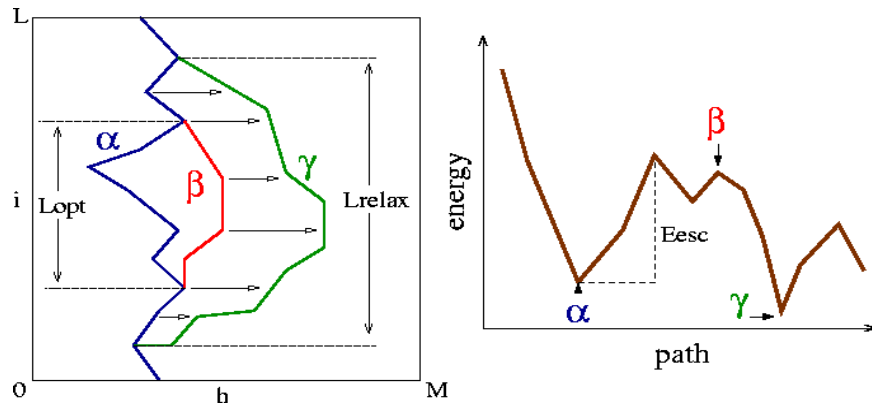


Creep

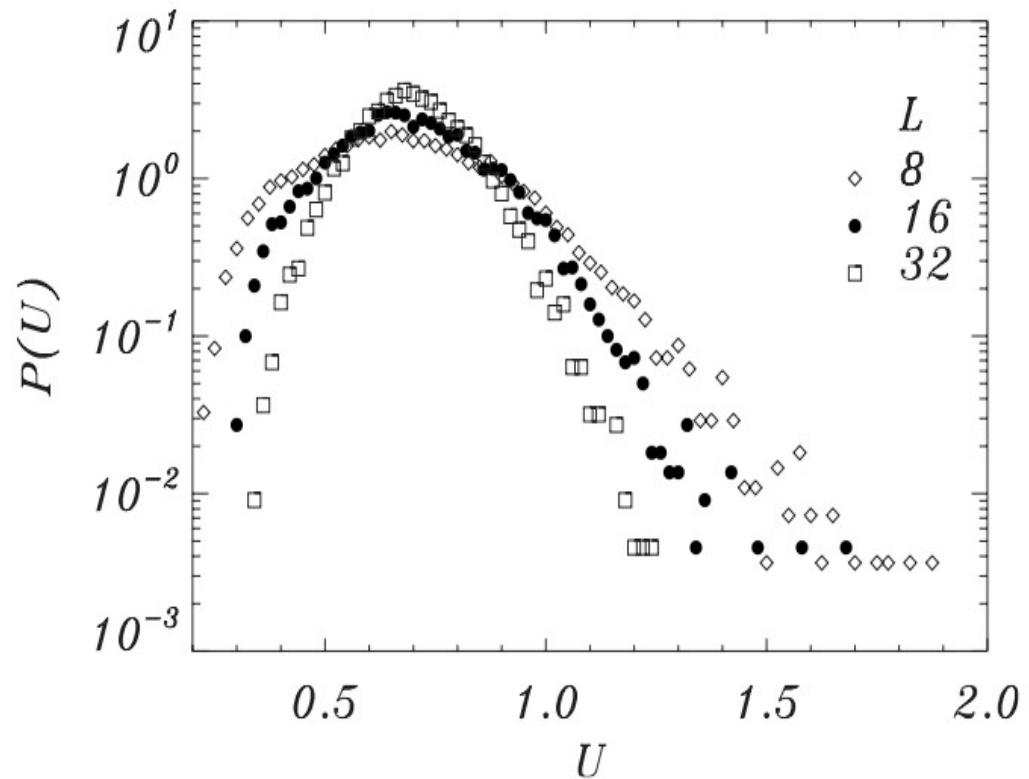
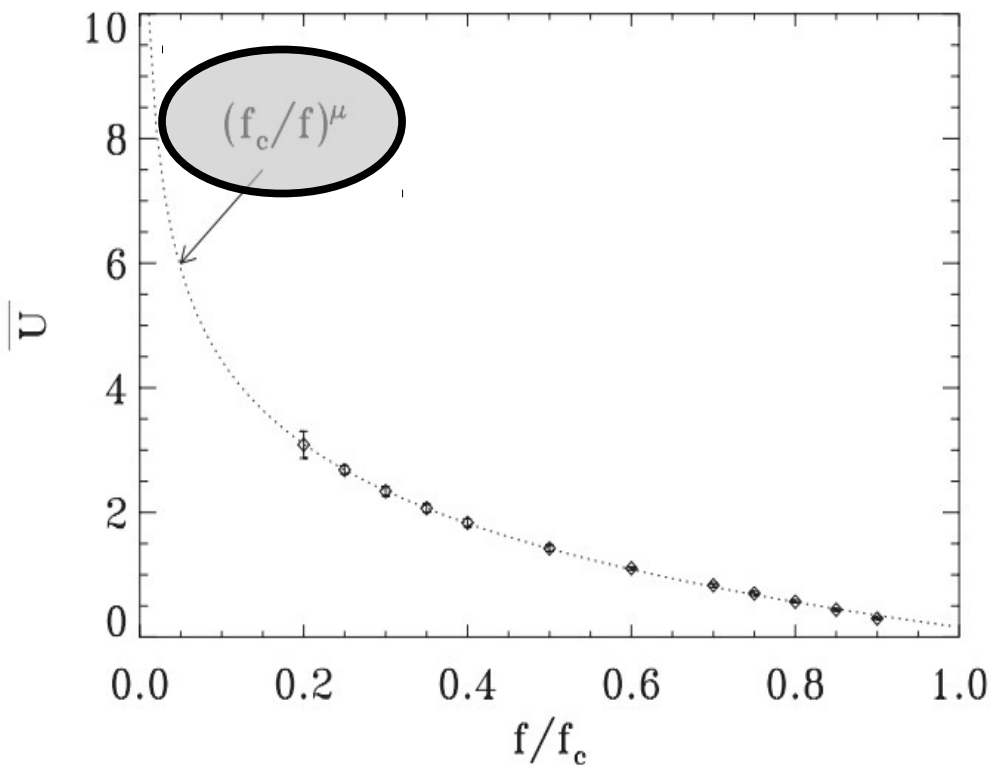
Depinning



# Barriers & transport



$$v(f) = L_{opt}^{\zeta_{eq}} \left( \frac{L_{relax}}{L_{opt}} \right)^{\zeta_{dep}} e^{-\beta U(f)}$$



# Creep law

## Domain Wall Creep in an Ising Ultrathin Magnetic Film

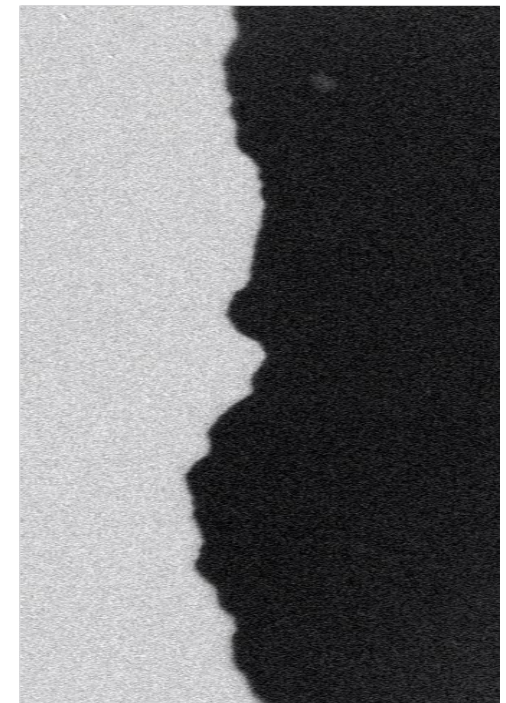
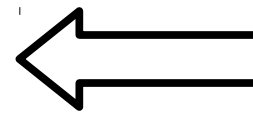
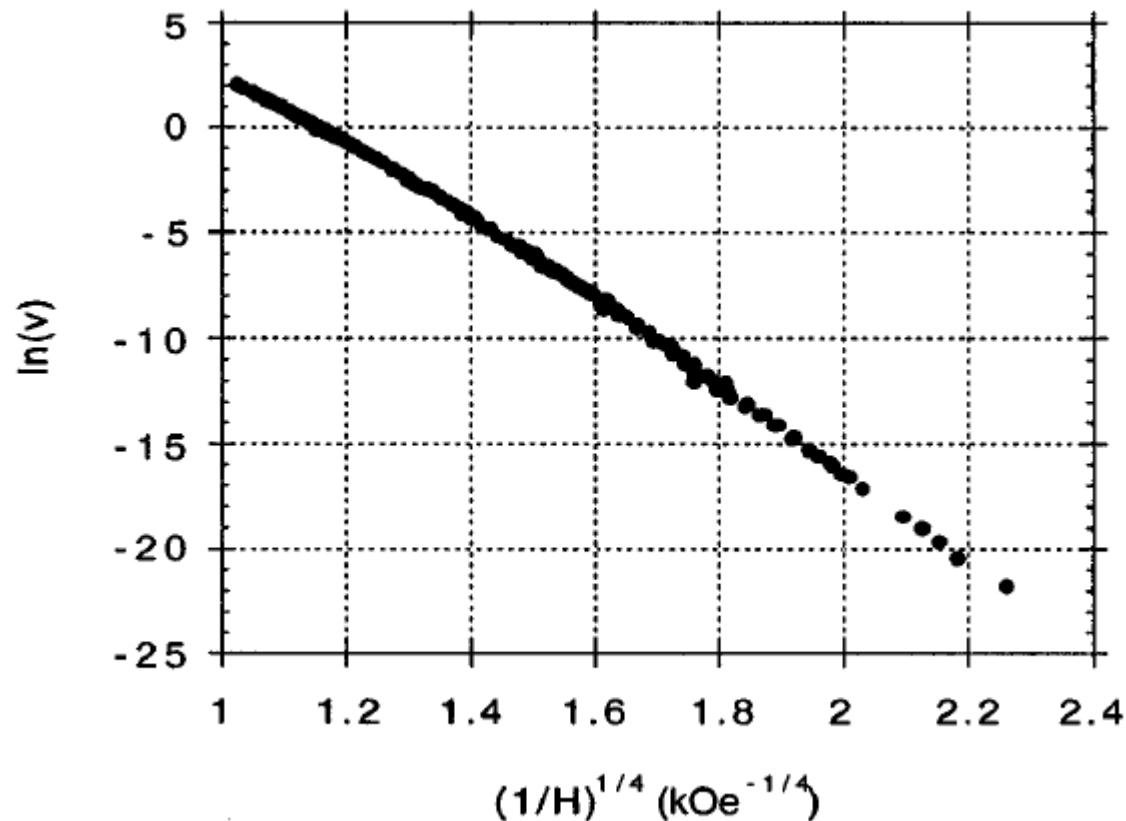
S. Lemerle,<sup>1</sup> J. Ferré,<sup>1</sup> C. Chappert,<sup>2</sup> V. Mathet,<sup>2</sup> T. Giamarchi,<sup>1</sup> and P. Le Doussal<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Laboratoire de Physique des Solides, URA CNRS 02, Bâtiment 510, Université Paris-Sud, 91405 Orsay, France

<sup>2</sup>Institut d'Electronique Fondamentale, URA CNRS 022, Bâtiment 220, Université Paris-Sud, 91405 Orsay, France

<sup>3</sup>CNRS-LPTENS, 24 Rue Lhomond, 75230 Paris Cedex 05, France

(Received 5 August 1997)

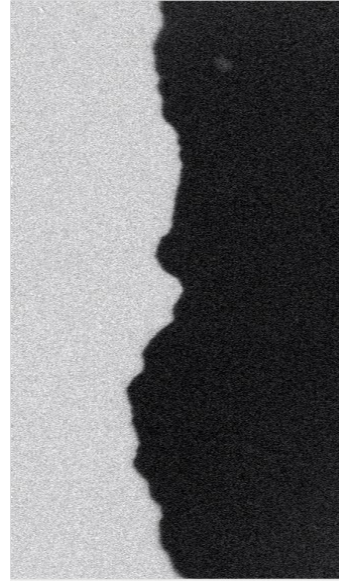
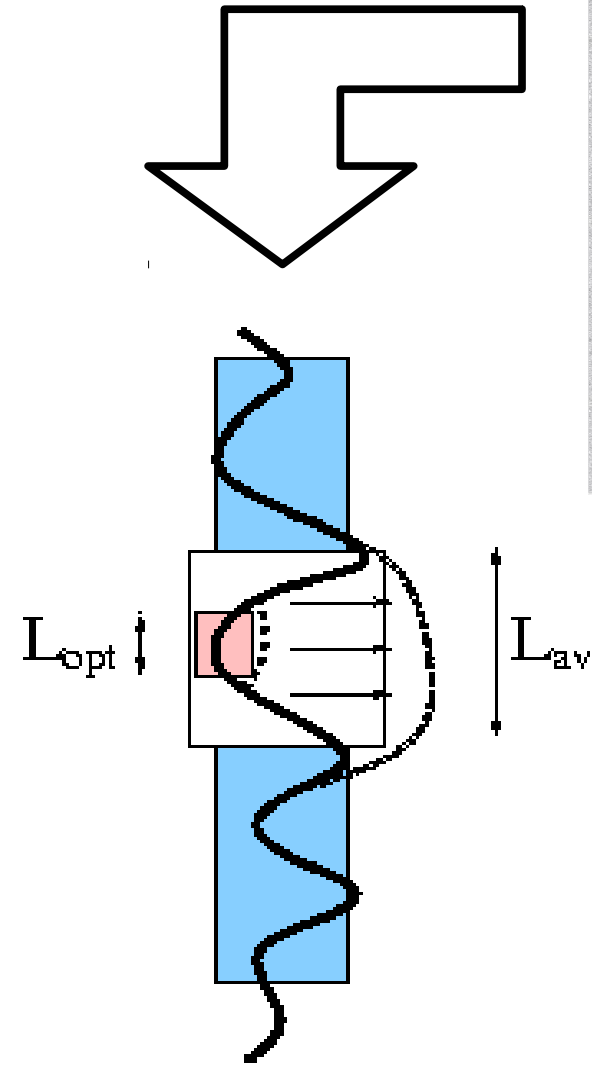
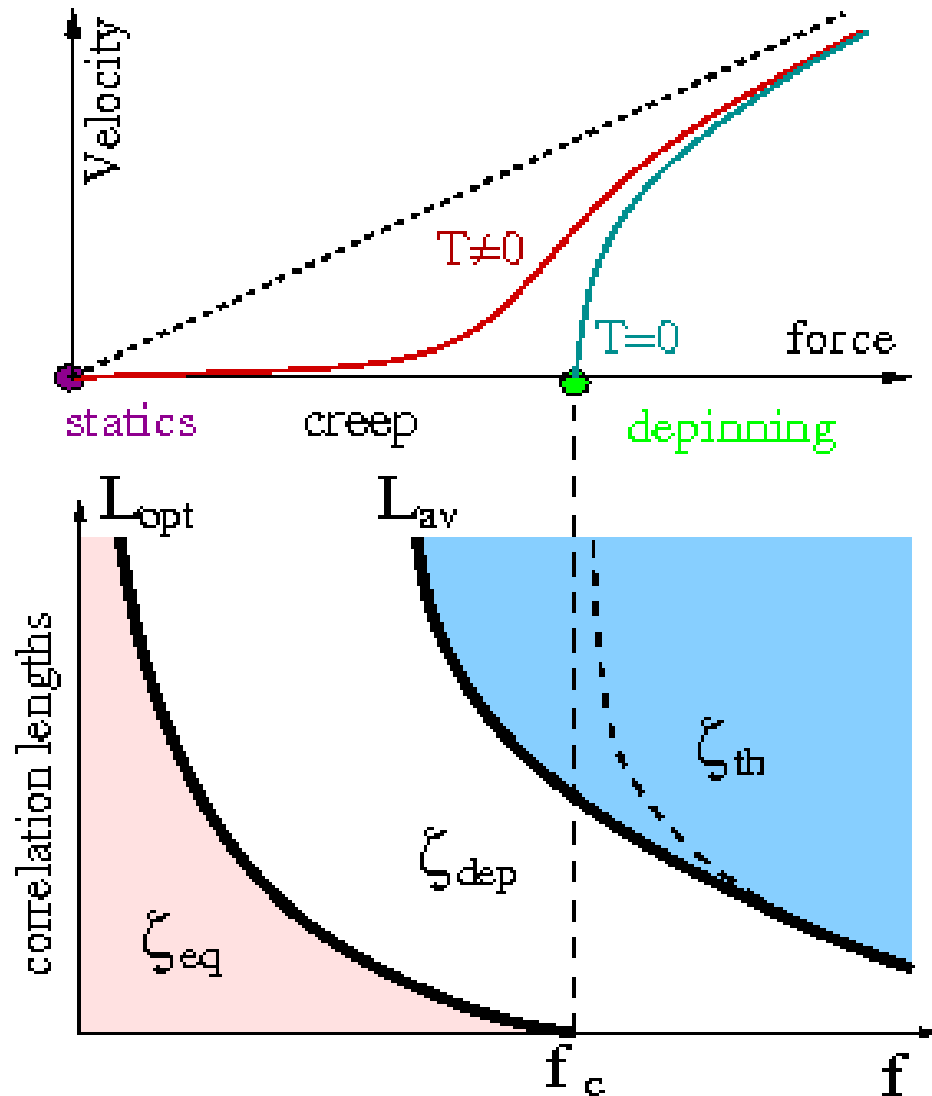


$v \sim \text{nm/s}$   
~1 h measurements

# Conclusions

- No length scale diverges in the steady state regime as the depinning threshold is approached. **The depinning transition is not a standard critical phenomenon.**
- Steady-state low-temperature dynamics of an elastic line in a disordered medium below the depinning threshold using a **novel exact algorithm.**
- Below threshold, the roughness of the line at large scales is **identical** to the one at depinning (critical).
- Divergent length scales below threshold are only associated with the **transient** deterministic relaxation dynamics between metastable states.

# Conclusions



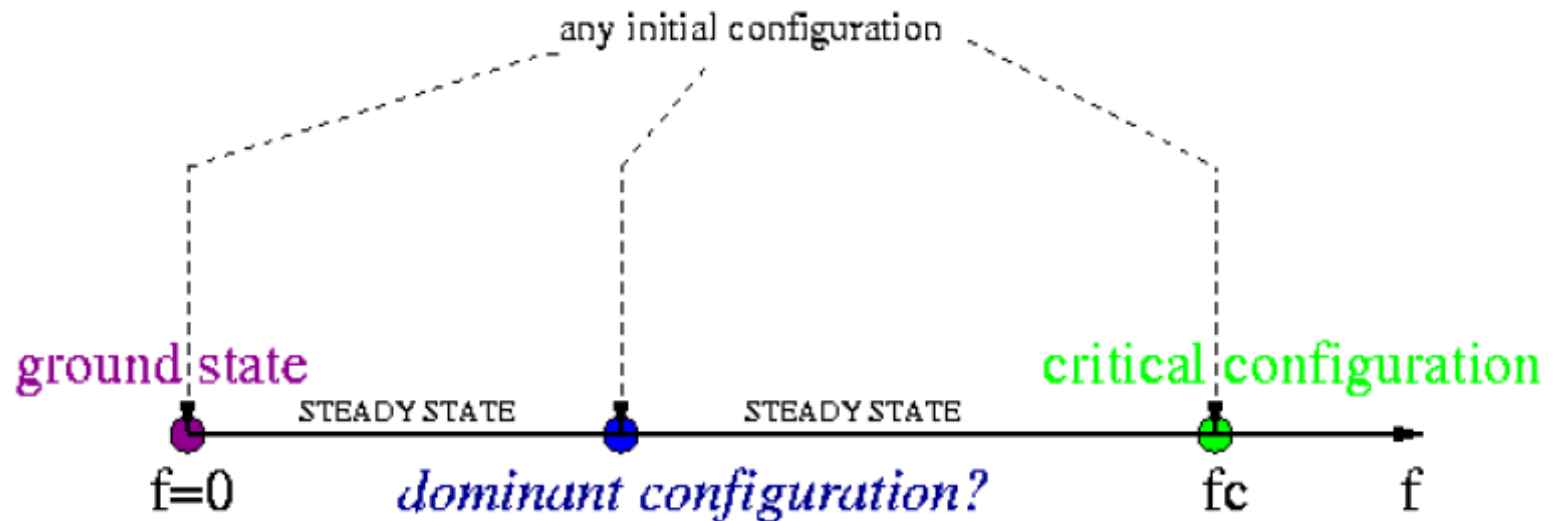
**REFS:**  
 PRL 94, 047002 (2005); PRL 95, 180604 (2005); **PRL 97, 057001 (2006)**; PRB 75, 140201R (2006);  
 Lecture Notes in Physics 688, 91 (2006); EPL 81, 26005 (2008), **PRB 79, 184207 (2009)**.

# Theorems: interfaces of dimension $d$ in $d+1$ with convex elastic energy, not necessarily harmonic nor local

- *Theorem 1:* If there is no configuration which lowers the energy of  $\alpha$  in the backward direction, the coarse-grained dynamics starting from  $\alpha$  is always forward-directed.
- *Theorem 2:* Let  $\alpha$  be any metastable configuration escaping into a configuration  $\gamma$  with  $h^\gamma \geq h^\alpha$  and  $\gamma'$  any configuration such that  $h^{\gamma'} \geq h^\alpha$  and having an energy barrier  $E_{esc}^{\gamma'} > E_{esc}^\alpha$ : all  $\gamma'$  then satisfy  $h^{\gamma'} \geq h^\gamma$ .
- **Practical Consequences:**
  - ★ The dynamics is *periodic* after a single pass of the line around the system, and we only have to consider forward motion.
  - ★ The metastable configuration with the largest barrier (dominant) is *always* encountered, independently of the initial condition.

# $T \rightarrow 0$ Steady State

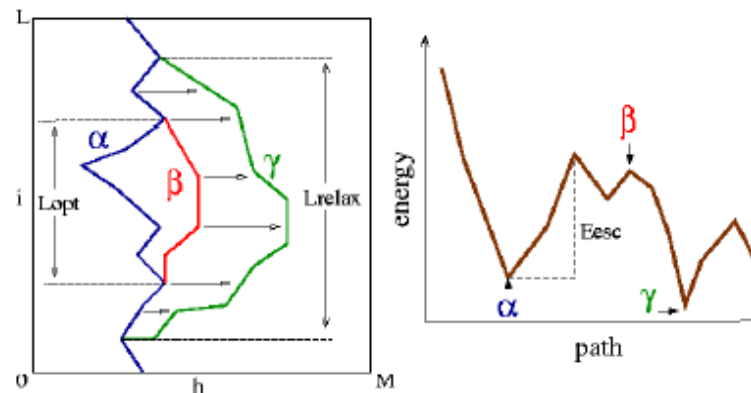
- $\lim_{T \rightarrow 0} \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty}$



- How to target efficiently these configurations?
  - ★ *Ground State*: transfer Matrix approach [Huse and Henley; Kardar (1985)]
  - ★ *Critical Configuration*: variant Monte Carlo technique [Rosso, Krauth (2001)]
  - ★ *Dominant configuration*  $0 < f < f_c$ ?

# Model

- $E = \sum_i \frac{1}{2}(h_{i+1} - h_i)^2 - fh_i + V_{disorder}(i, h_i)$
- Elementary (global) moves:  
 $h_i \rightarrow h_i + \delta_i, \delta_i = 0, \pm 1.$
- Optimal path & characteristic lengths

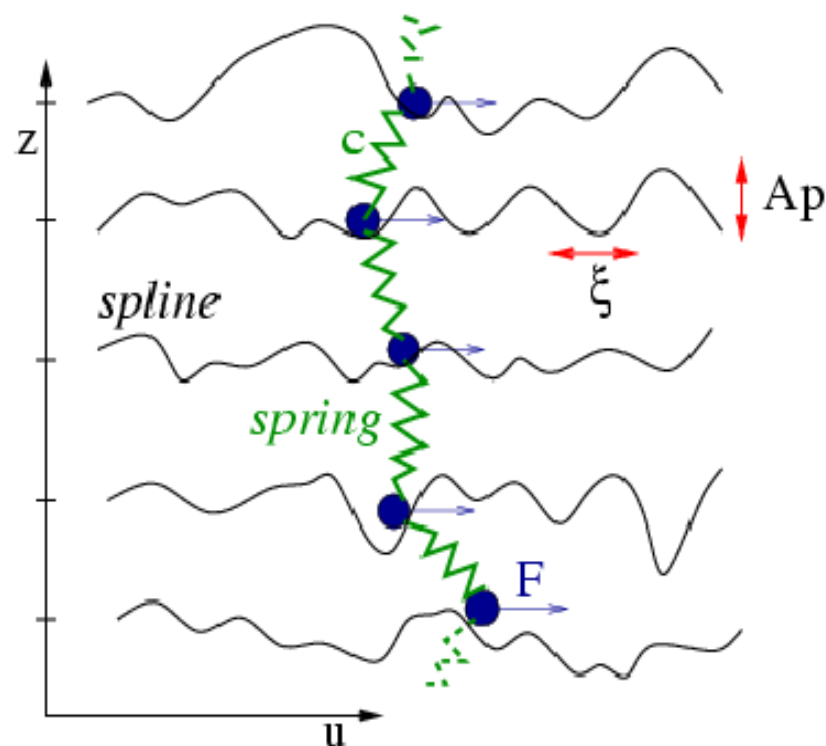


*the path with minimal barriers, without avoiding valleys, which connects two metastable states  $\alpha$  and  $\gamma$ , such that  $E_\alpha > E_\gamma$ . [ask for more details]*



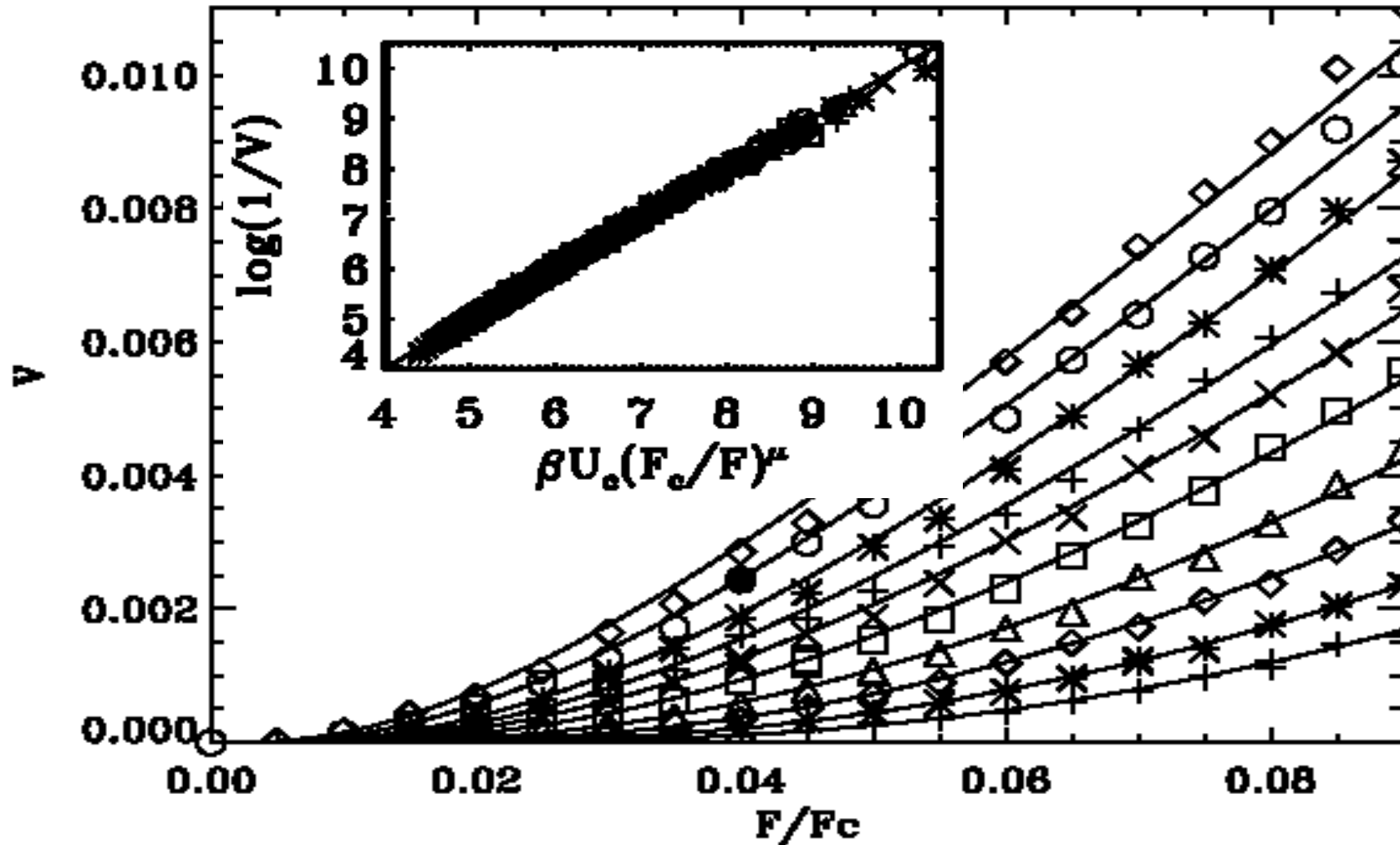
# Numerical Simulation

- Discretization in  $z$ , Disorder = *spline potential*



- *Integration*: stochastic Runge Kutta 2<sup>nd</sup> order (R-K-Helfand).
- *Exact  $F_c$*  calculated by a high precision fastly convergent algorithm.

# High temperature creep

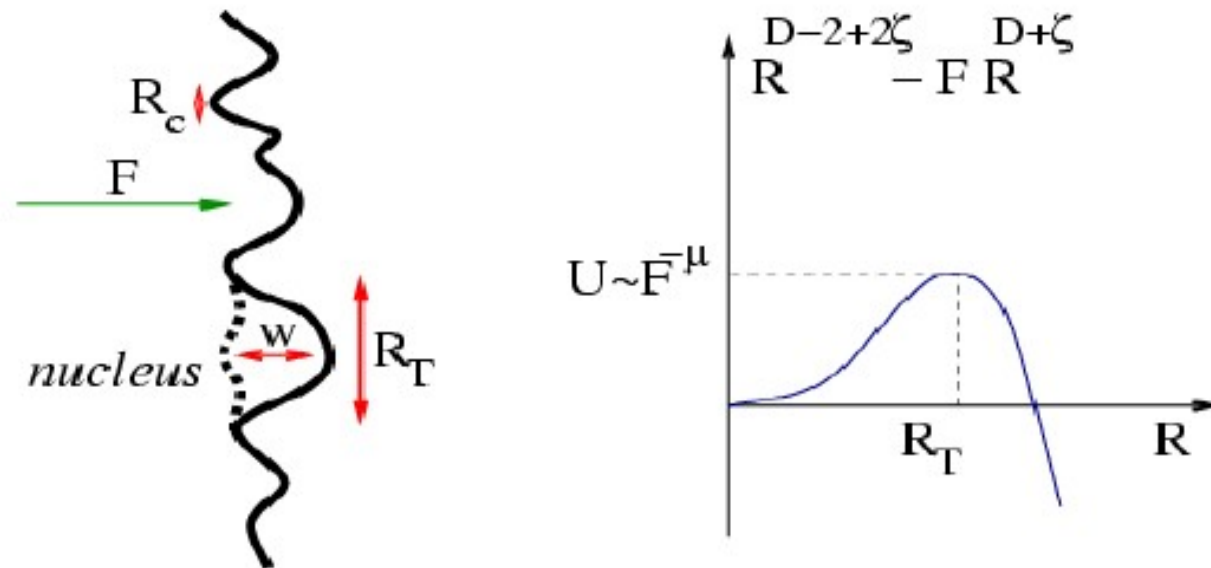


Divergent Barriers

$$V(F) \sim \exp\left[-\frac{U_c}{T} \left(\frac{F_c}{F}\right)^\mu\right],$$

# Creep motion: scaling theory

Ioffe and Vinokur, Nattermann (1987)



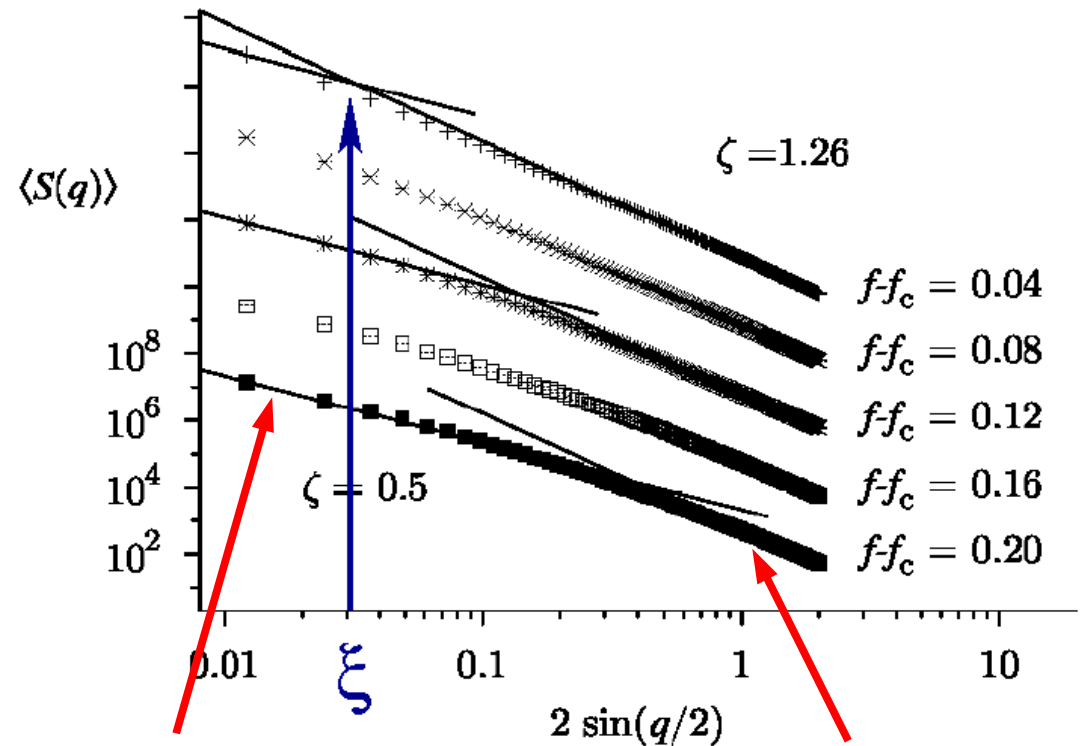
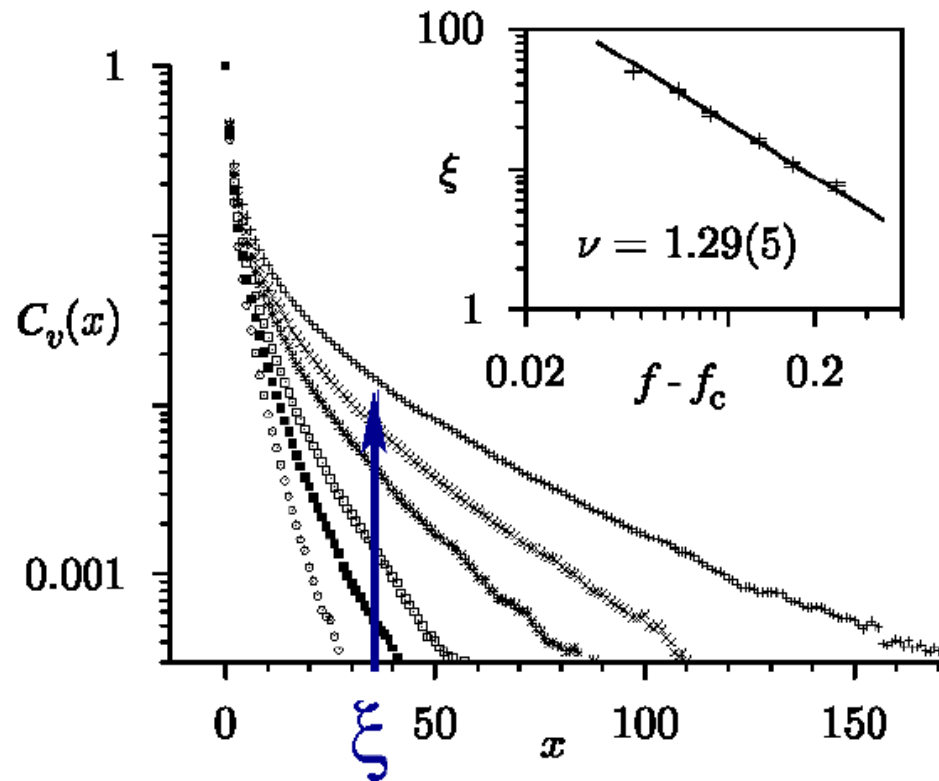
- roughness (statics):  $w(R) \sim \xi \left(\frac{R}{R_c}\right)^{\zeta_{eq}}, R > R_c$
- effective barrier:  $U_c \left(\frac{R}{R_c}\right)^{D-2+2\zeta_{eq}} - F R^D \xi \left(\frac{R}{R_c}\right)^{\zeta_{eq}}$
- optimal nucleus:  $R_T \sim R_c (F_c/F)^{1/(2-\zeta_{eq})}$
- Arrhenius:  $V \sim e^{-\beta U(R_T)} = e^{-\beta U_c \left(\frac{F_c}{F}\right)^\mu}; \mu = \frac{D-2+2\zeta_{eq}}{2-\zeta_{eq}}$

# Interfaces in disordered media



# Depinning

O. Duemmer and W. Krauth (2005)

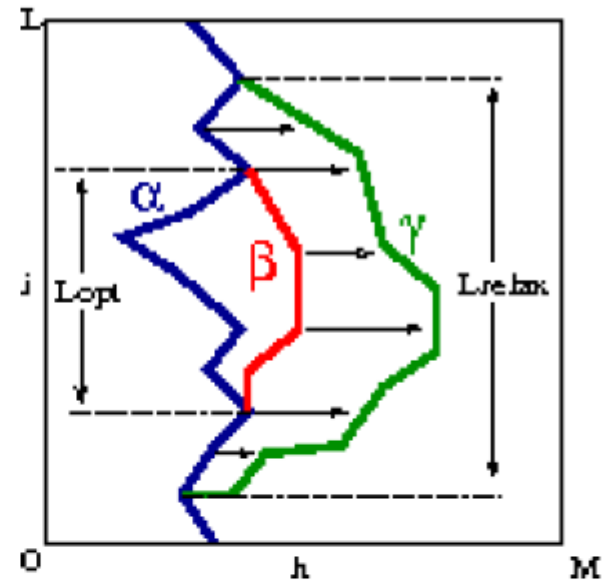
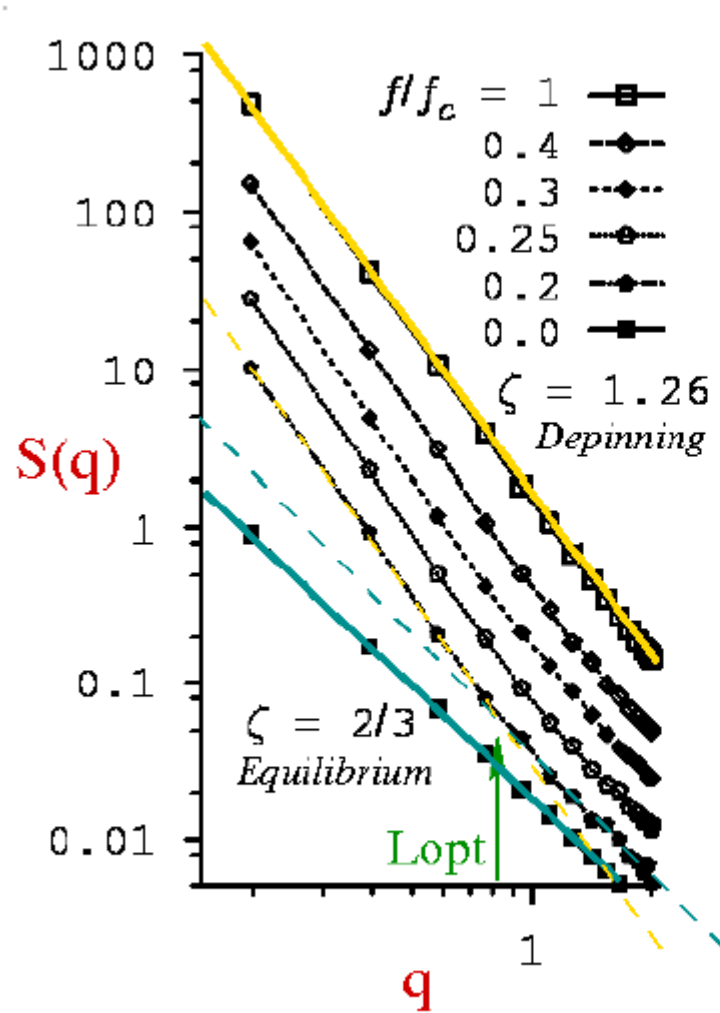


“thermal roughness”

“critical roughness”

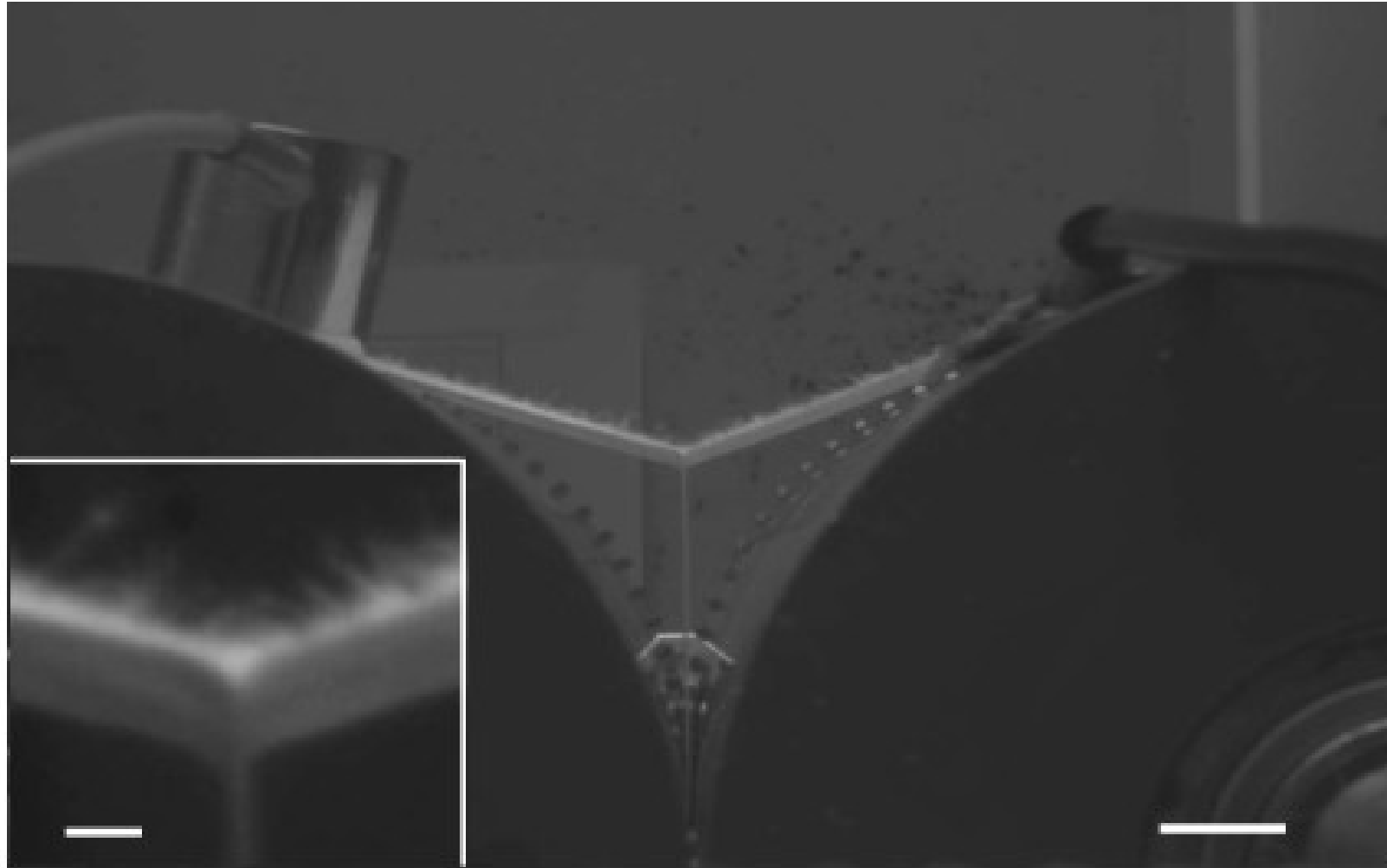
Average size of avalanches = crossover length in roughness

# Geometry



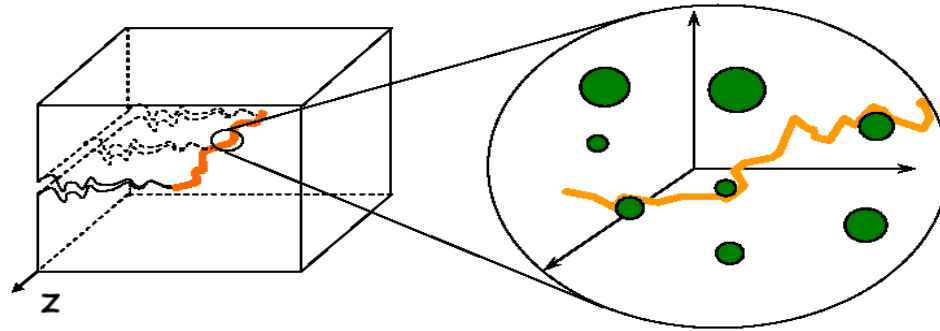
- $\zeta = \zeta_{dep} = 1.26$  at large scales
- $\zeta = \zeta_{eq} = 2/3$  at small scales
- Single crossover length *decreases* with  $f \implies L_{opt}$

# Paper peeling



J. Koivisto, J. Rosti, and M.J. Alava (2007)

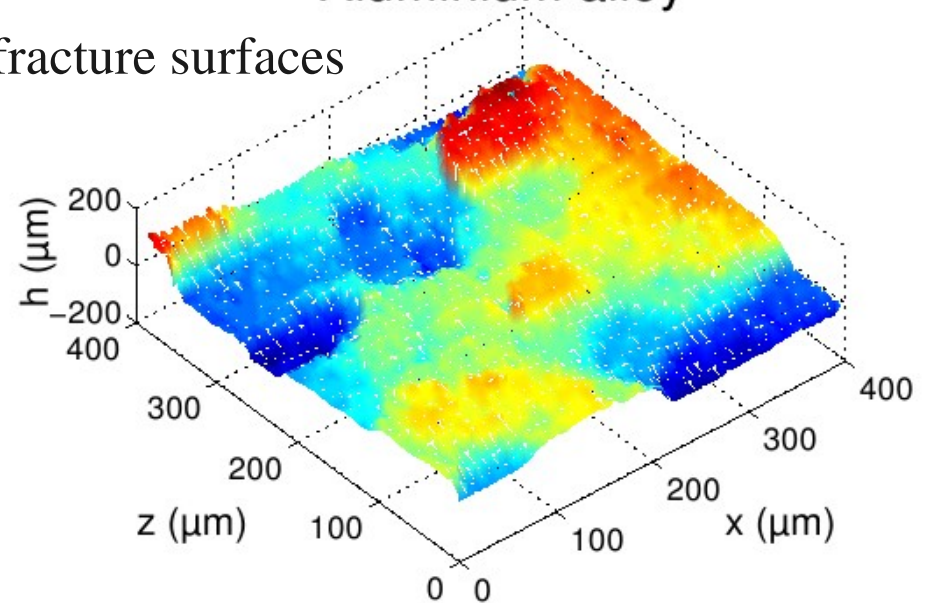
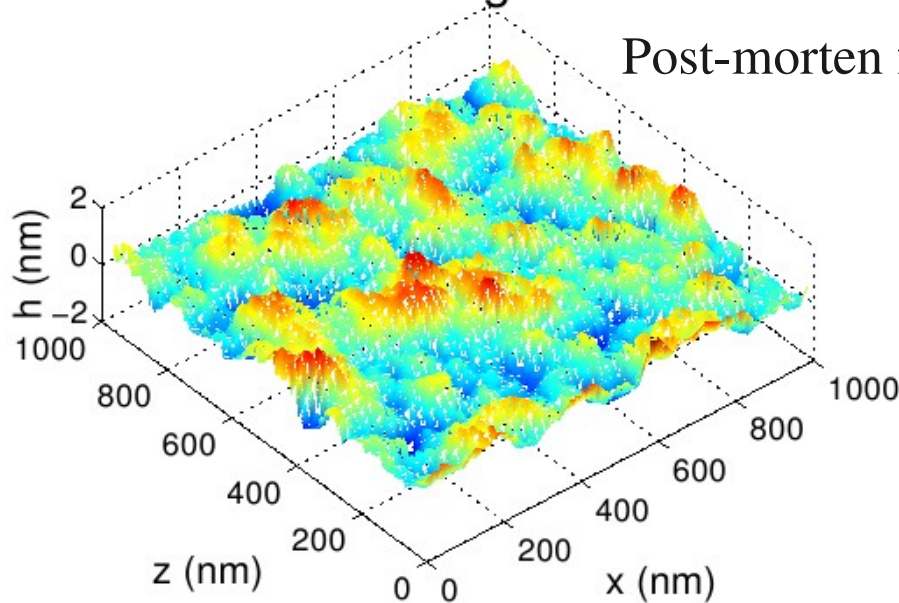
# Crack propagation



Silica glass

Aluminium alloy

Post-mortem fracture surfaces



L. Ponson, D. Bonamy, E. Bouchaud, SPCSI (2006)