

# Diffusion-induced instabilities in soft solid sheets

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*The Physics of Elastic Films: from Biological Membranes to Extreme Mechanics*

**Kavli Institute for Theoretical Physics@University of California - Santa Barbara**



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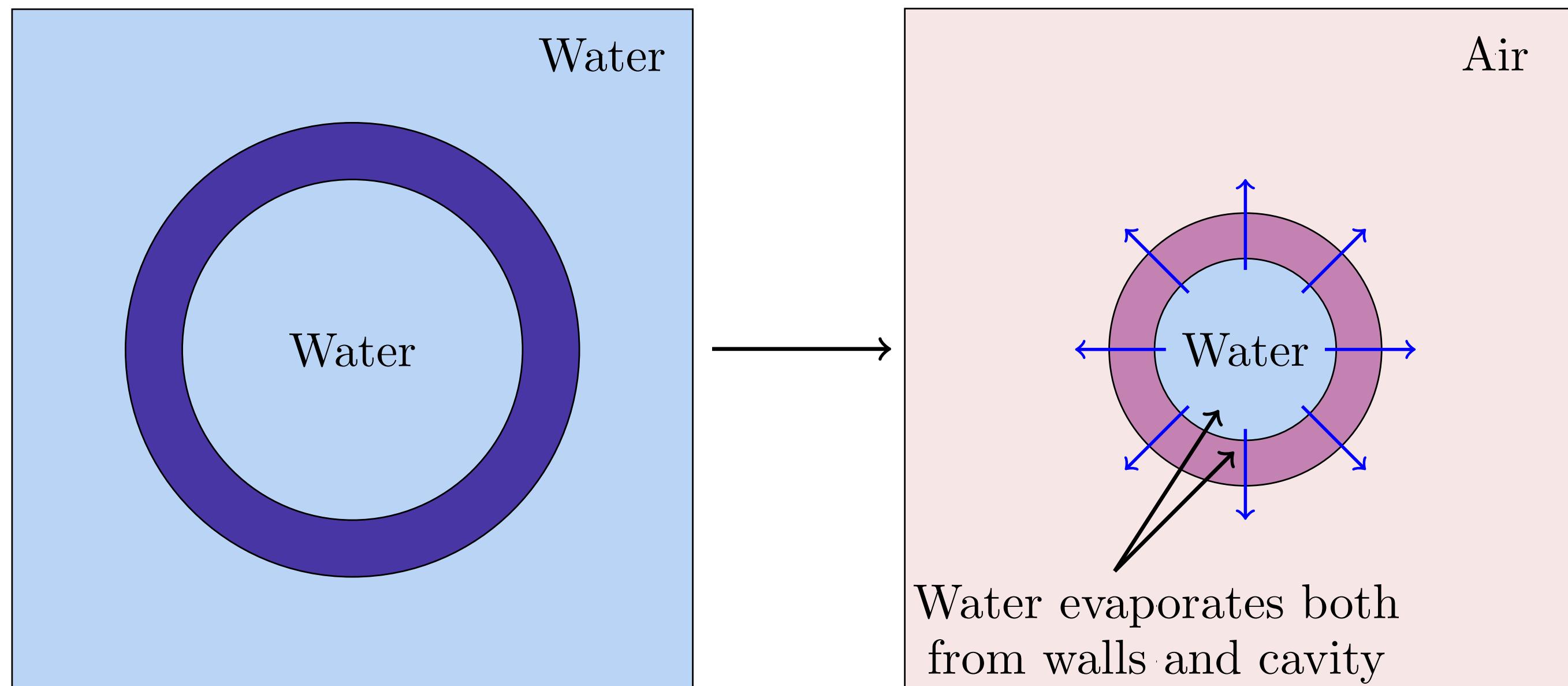
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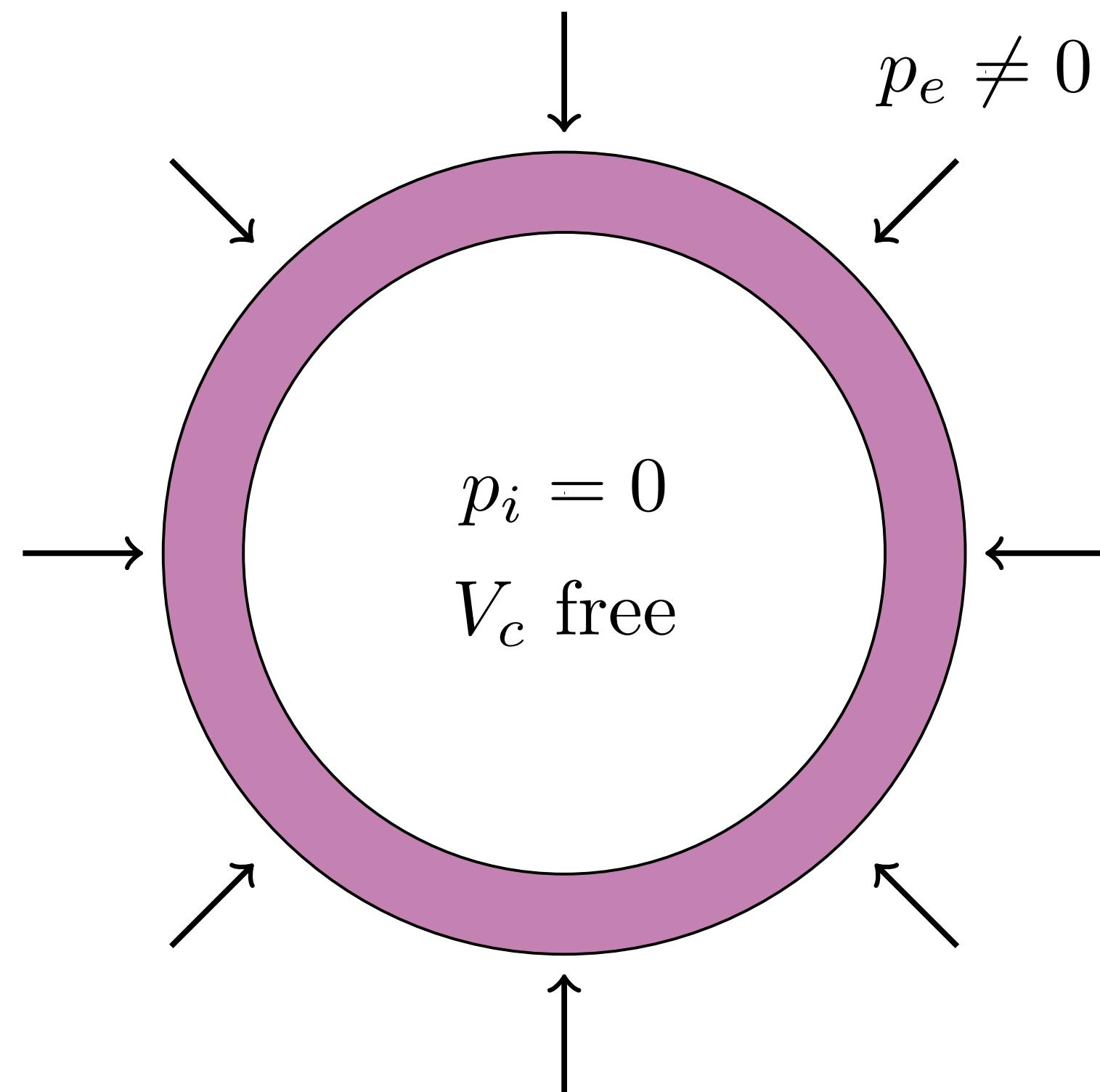
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# part I: de-hydration induced instabilities

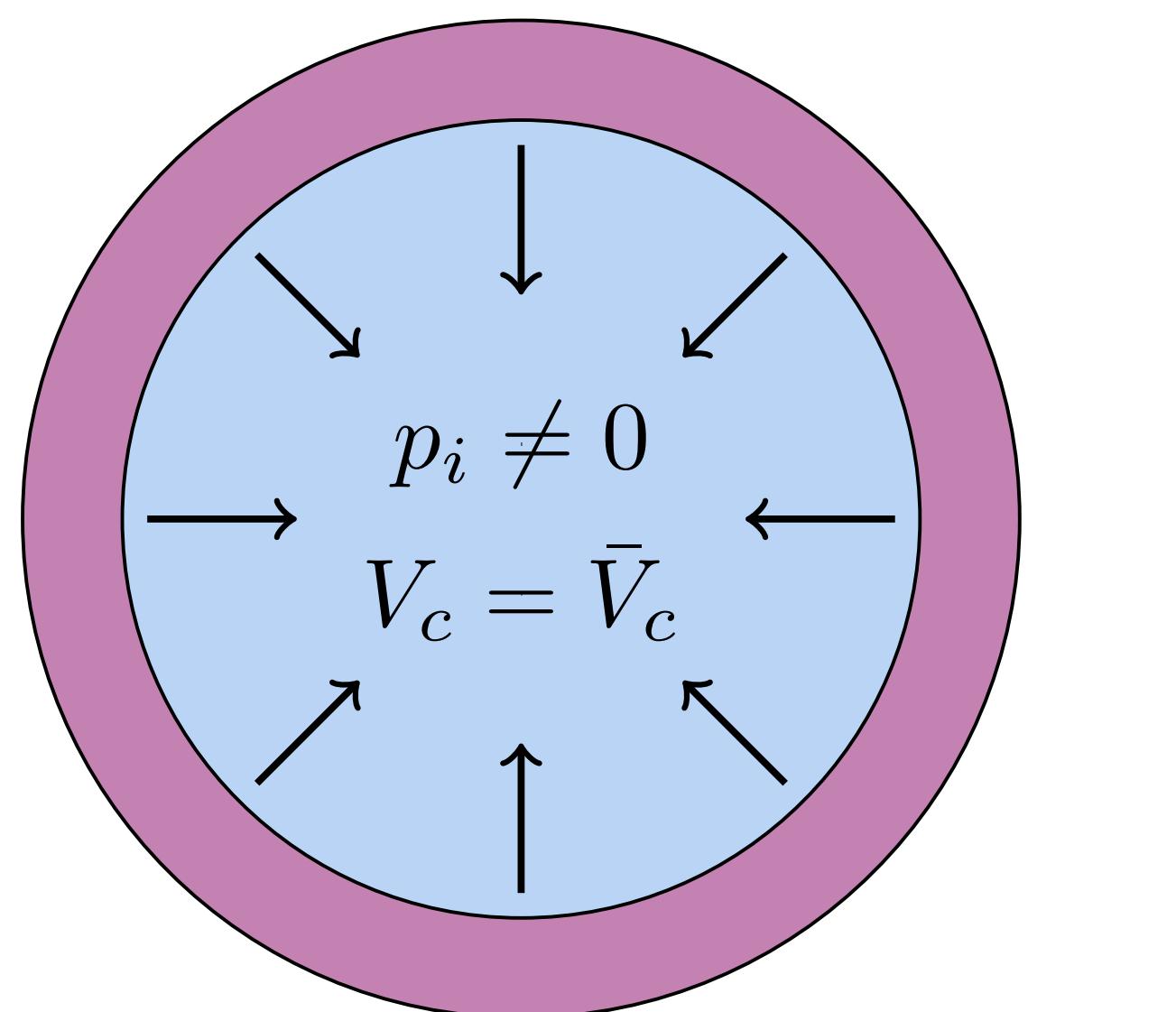


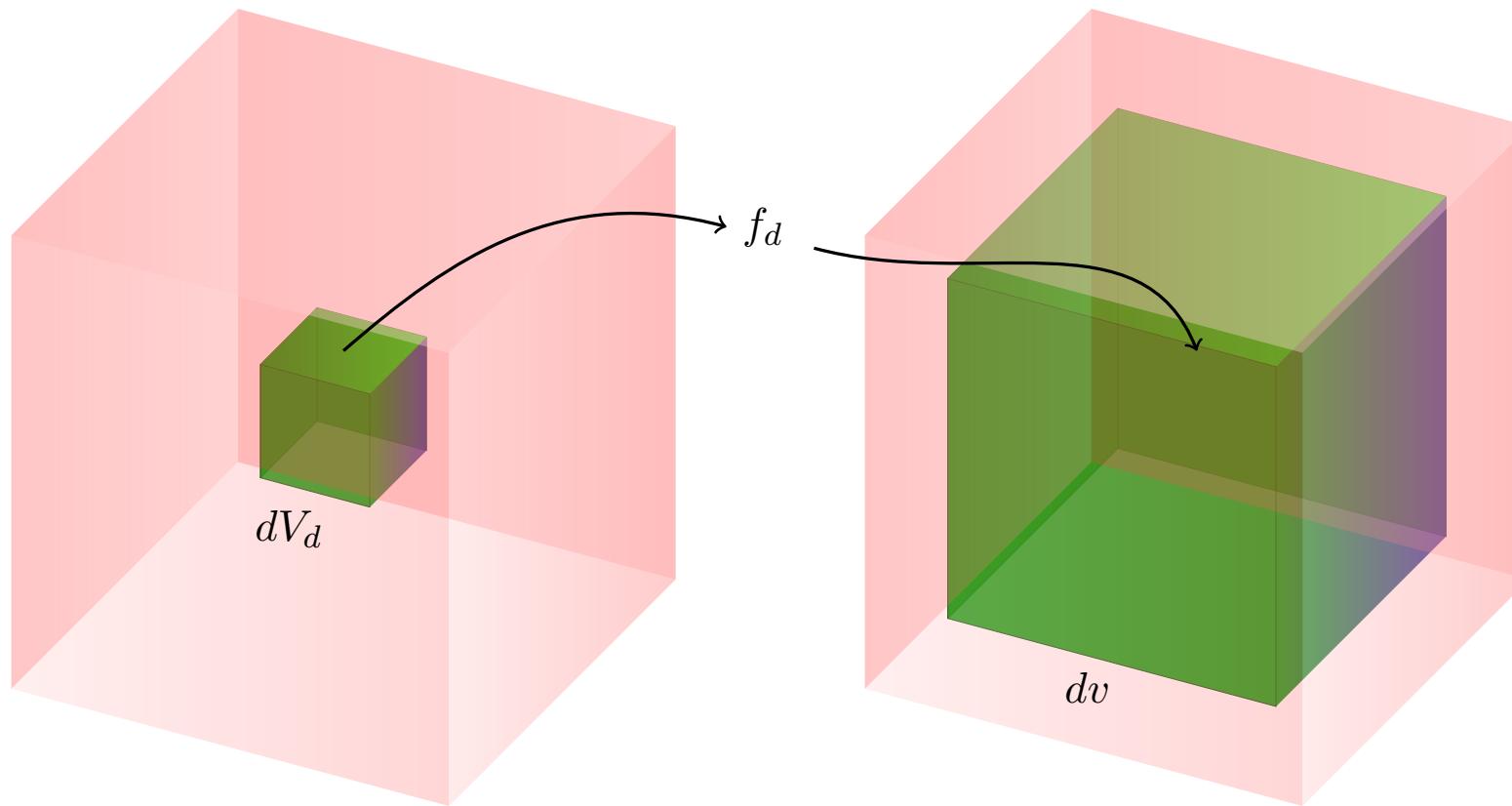
# standard vs de-hydration buckling

standard instability



de-hydration instability





## displacement field

$\text{u}_d$ :  $\mathcal{B}_d \times \mathcal{T} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}$ ,  
 $(X_d, \tau) \mapsto \mathbf{u}(X_d, \tau)$ ,  $[\mathbf{u}] = \text{m}$

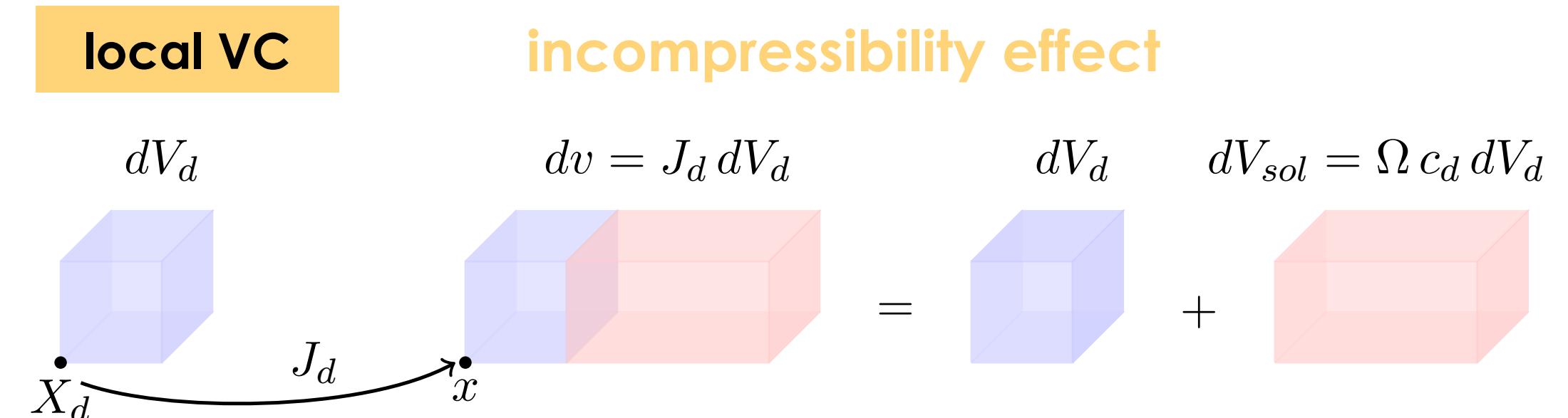
## molar liquid concentration

$c_d$ :  $\mathcal{B}_d \times \mathcal{T} \rightarrow \mathcal{R}^+$ ,  
 $(X_d, \tau) \mapsto c_d(X_d, \tau)$ ,  $[c_d] = \text{mol/m}^3$

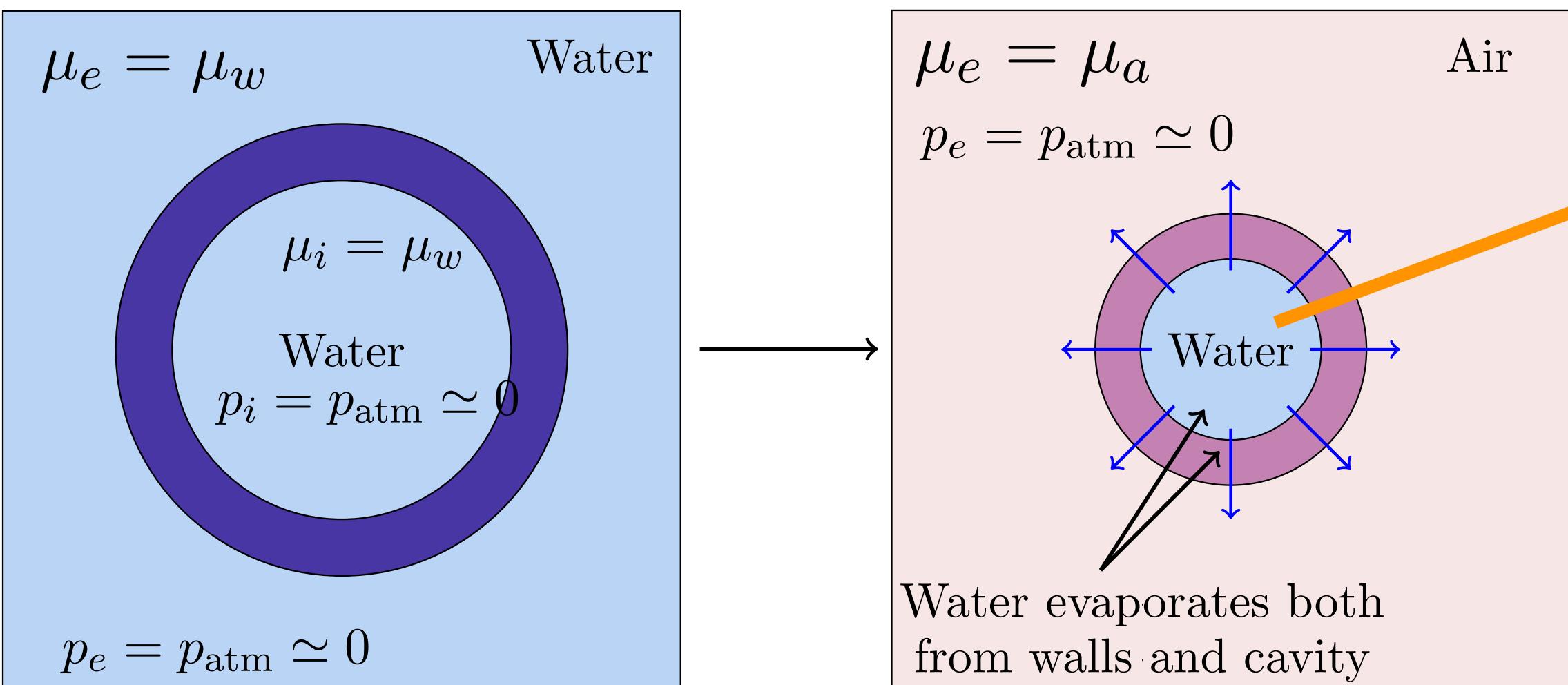
## balance equations

$$\begin{aligned} \operatorname{div} \mathbf{S}_d &= \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{S}_d &= \hat{\mathbf{S}}_d - p \mathbf{F}_d^* \\ \dot{c} &= -\operatorname{div} \mathbf{h}_d & \mathbf{h}_d &= \mathbf{M} \nabla (\hat{\mu} + \Omega p) \end{aligned} \quad \text{in } \mathcal{B}_d$$

the **constitutive eqns** for stress and chemical potential come from Flory-Rehner thermodynamics



$$J_d := \det \mathbf{F}_d = \det(\mathbf{I} + \nabla \mathbf{u}_d) = 1 + \Omega c_d =: \hat{J}_d(c_d)$$



$$\mu_i = \Omega p_i(t) \quad \text{and} \quad p_i = p_i(t)$$

suction effect

$$v_c(t) = v_w(t)$$

$$v_w(t) = v_{wo} - v_w^i(t)$$

$$v_{wo} = v_{co} = v_c(0) = \frac{1}{3} \int_{\partial C_d} (X_d + \mathbf{u}_o) \cdot \mathbf{F}_o^* \mathbf{m} dA_d$$

boundary pressure

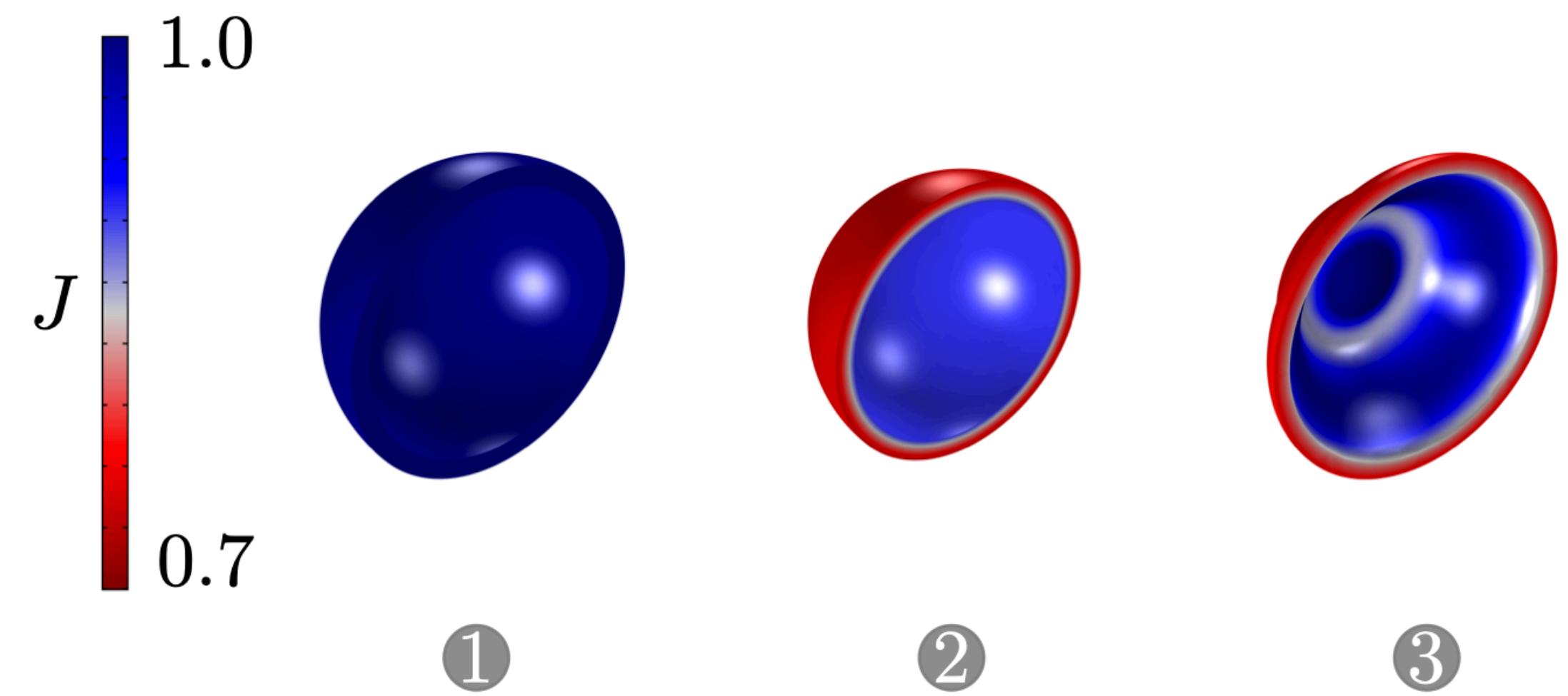
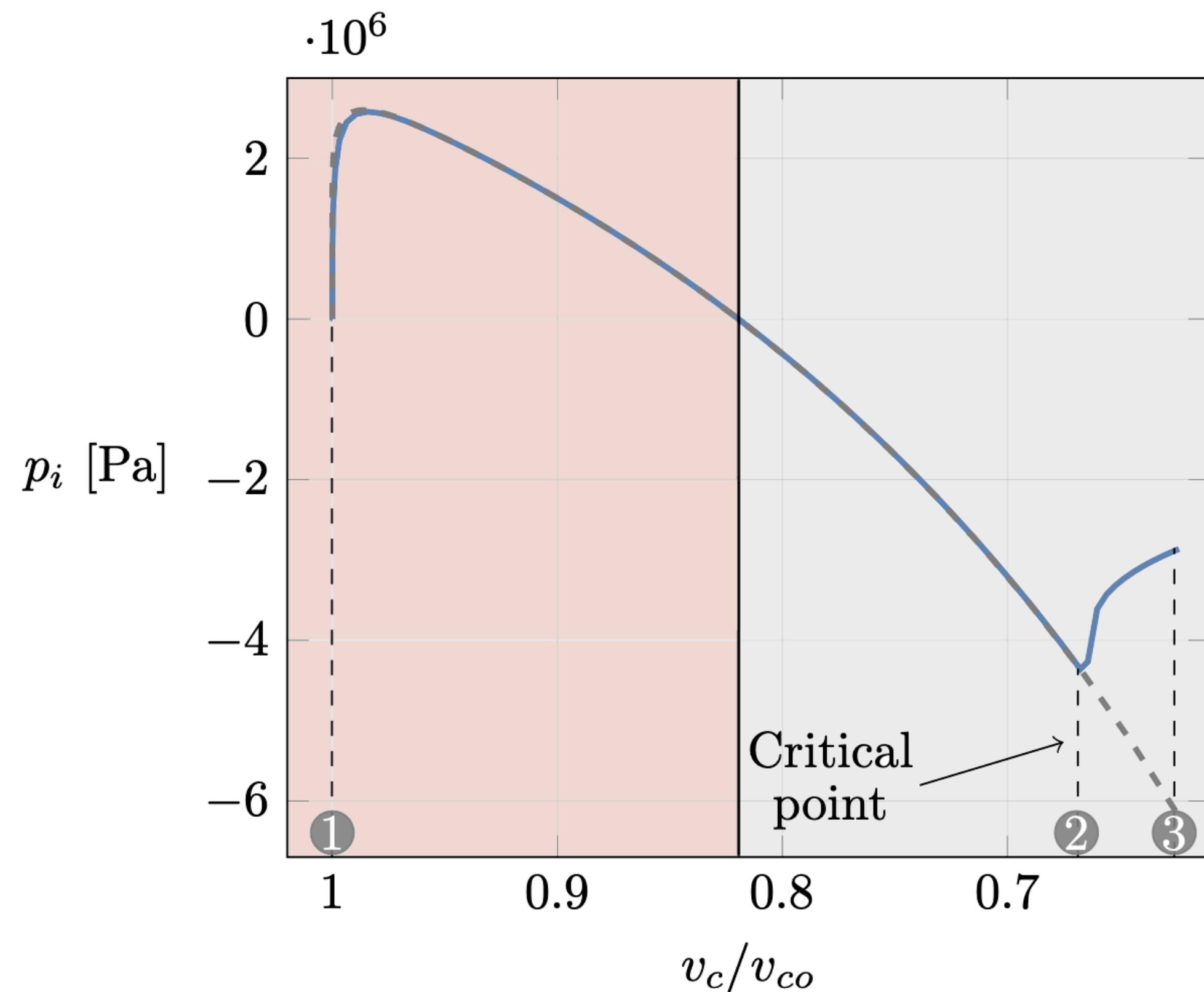
chemical potential of the environment

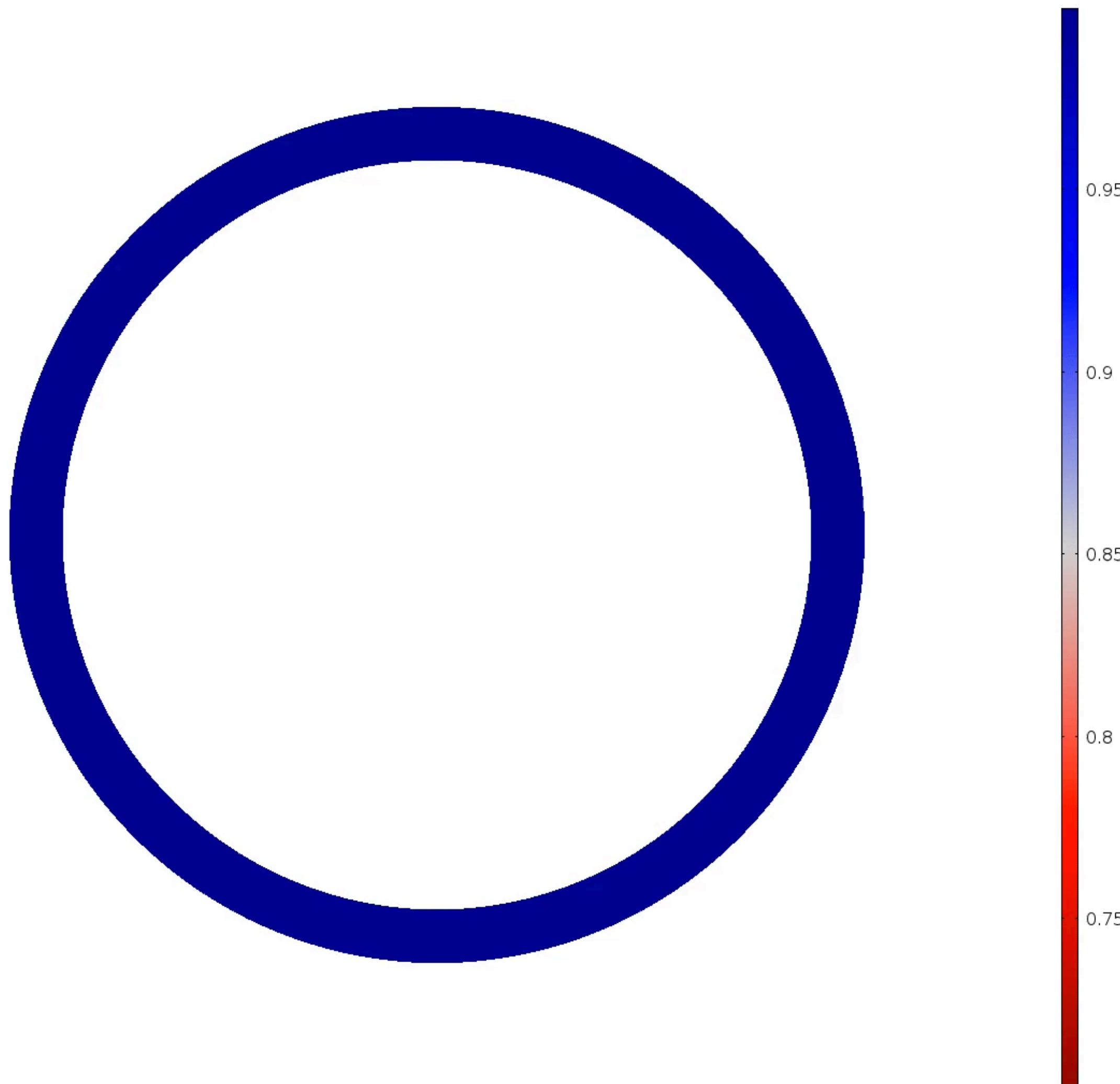
$$\dot{v}_w^i(t) = \int_{\partial C_d} q_s dA_d = - \int_{\partial C_d} \mathbf{h}_d \cdot \mathbf{m} dA_d, \quad v_w^i(0) = 0$$

**boundary conditions**

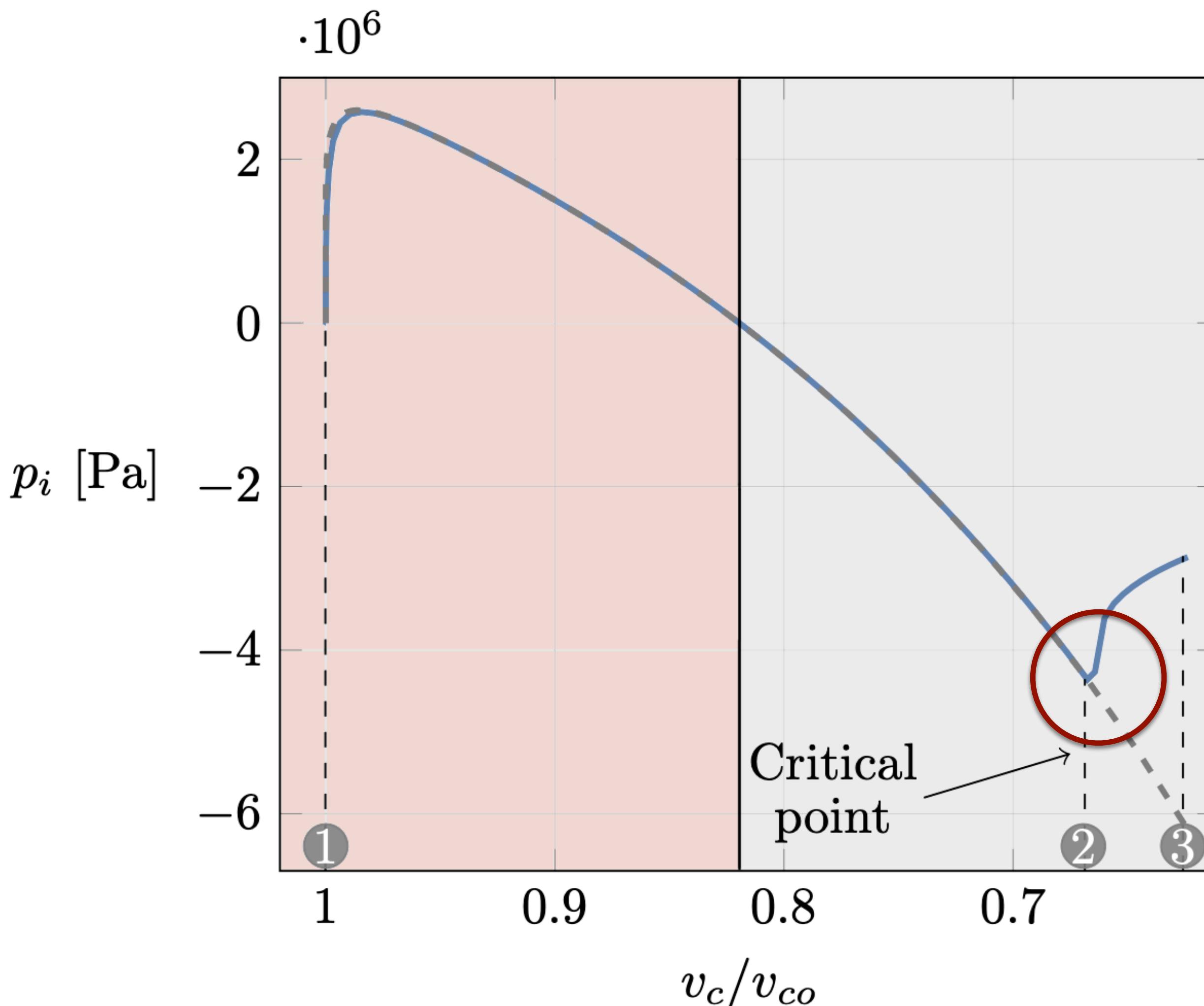
$$\mathbf{S}_d \mathbf{m} = \hat{\mathbf{t}} \quad \text{and} \quad \mu = \mu_e$$

$$v_c(t) = \int_{C_t} dv = \frac{1}{3} \int_{\partial C_t} x \cdot \mathbf{n} da = \frac{1}{3} \int_{\partial C_d} (X_d + \mathbf{u}_d) \cdot \mathbf{F}_d^* \mathbf{m} dA_d$$





# a first glance via stability analysis



- \* purely mechanical model based on 3D Wesolowski model for the spherical shell (Arch.Mech.Stosow.19(1), 1967)

- \* liquid diffusion is frozen at the onset of instability (red circle) which occurs instantaneously with respect to the diffusion time

- \* deformations are purely radial

$$r = r(R), \quad \theta = \Theta, \quad \phi = \Phi \quad \text{and} \quad r^2 r' = J_o R^2$$

- \* shell stays spherical until the onset of instability

$$r_c = \left( \frac{3v_c}{4\pi} \right)^{1/3}$$

## bulk equations

$$J_0 = 1 + \Omega c_0$$

$$r^2 r' = R^2 J_0$$

$$\operatorname{div} \mathbf{S}_0 = \mathbf{0}$$

$$p'_0 R + 2G_d Q_0 (-1 + J_0 Q_0^3)^2 - G_d Q_0^4 J'_0 R = 0$$

$$Q_0(R) = R/r(R)$$

$$\operatorname{div} \mathbf{h}_0 = \mathbf{0}$$

$$R^2 h_{0_R} = C_0,$$

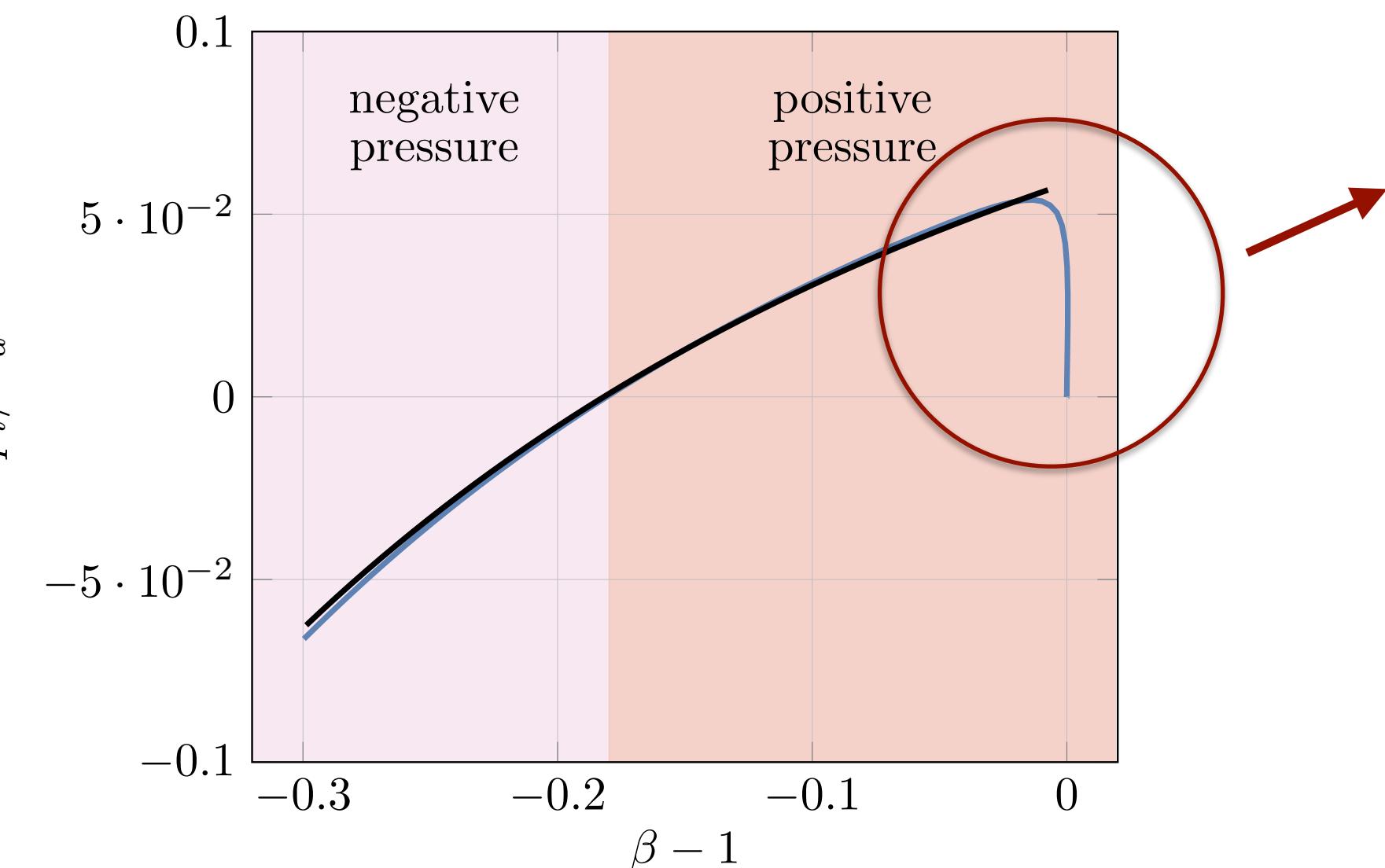
## boundary conditions

$$S_{0RR}(R_d) = 0$$

$$\mu(R_d) = \mu_e$$

$$\mu(R_c) + \Omega Q_0^2(R_c) S_{0RR}(R_c) = 0$$

$$\beta := \frac{v_c}{v_{co}}$$



Where the external chemical potential suddenly drops to its plateau value and the pressure rises at nearly constant cavity volume the static solution cannot reproduce the numerical values

# the incremental chemo-mechanical problem

**step 1**

spherical solution

incremental unknown fields

$$\mathbf{x}(R, \Theta) = r(R)\mathbf{e}_R + \epsilon(u(R, \Theta)\mathbf{e}_R + v(R, \Theta)\mathbf{e}_\Theta)$$

$$p(R, \Theta) = p_0(R) + \epsilon p_1(R, \Theta)$$

$$J_d(R, \Theta) = J_0(R) + \epsilon J_1(R, \Theta)$$

**step 2**

incremental bulk equations

$$J_1 = J_0 \text{tr}(\mathbf{F}_0^{-1}\mathbf{F} - 1)$$

$$\text{div } \mathbf{S}_1 = \mathbf{0} \quad \text{with} \quad \mathbf{S}_1 = -J_0 p_1 \mathbf{F}_0^{-T} - J_1 p_0 \mathbf{F}_0^{-T} + J_0 p_0 \mathbf{F}_0^{-T} \mathbf{F}_1^T \mathbf{F}_0^{-T} + G_d \mathbf{F}_1$$

$$\text{div } \mathbf{h}_1 = \mathbf{0} \quad \text{with} \quad \mathbf{h}_1 = -\mathbf{M}_0 \nabla \mu_1 - \mathbf{M}_1 \nabla \mu_0$$

**step 3**

incremental boundary conditions

....

**step 4**

Ansatz of the solution

$$u(R, \Theta) = \sum_{l=1}^{\infty} \mathcal{U}_l(R) P_l(\cos \Theta)$$

$$v(R, \Theta) = \sum_{l=1}^{\infty} \mathcal{V}_l(R) \partial_\Theta [P_l(\cos \Theta)]$$

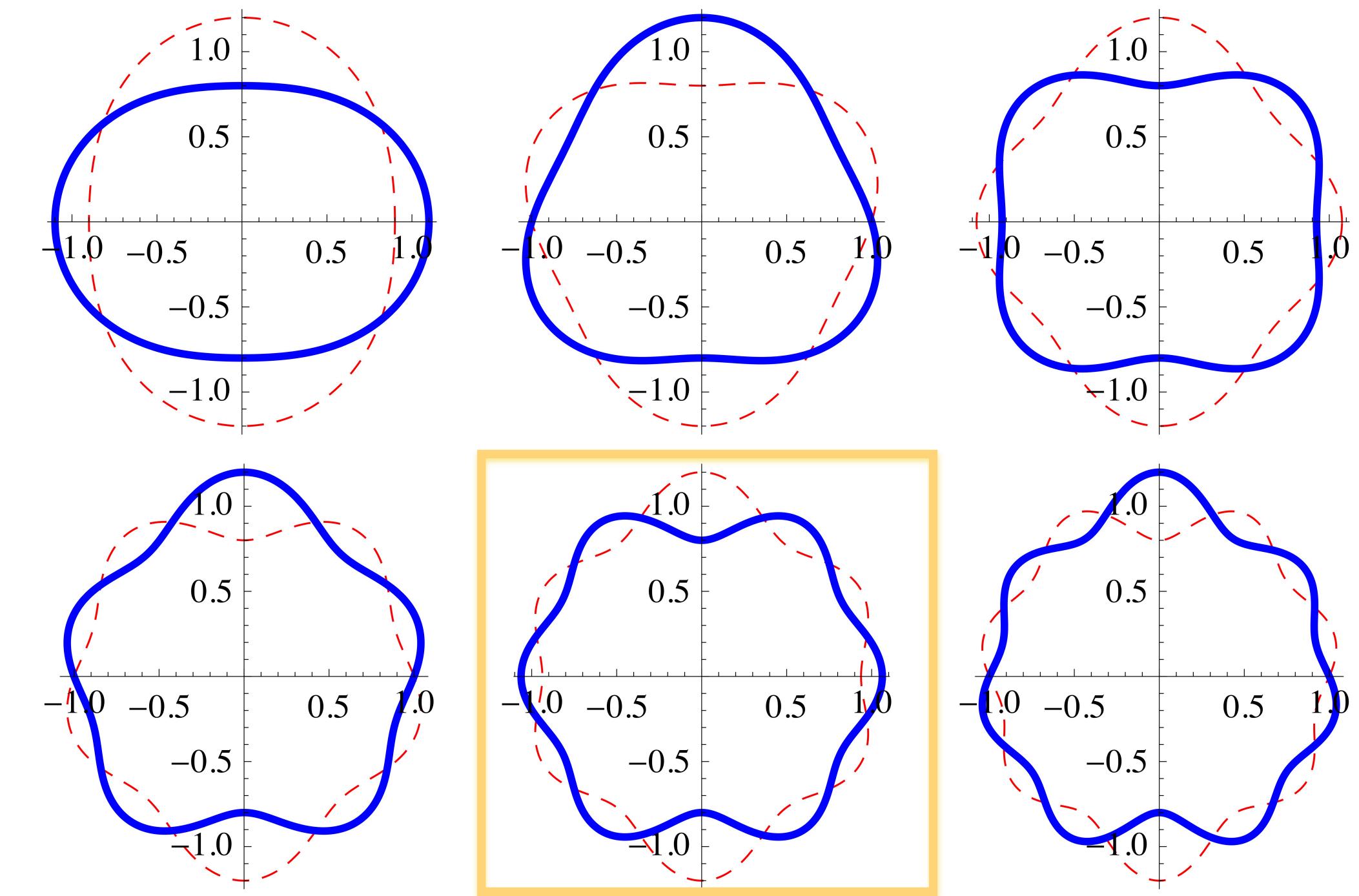
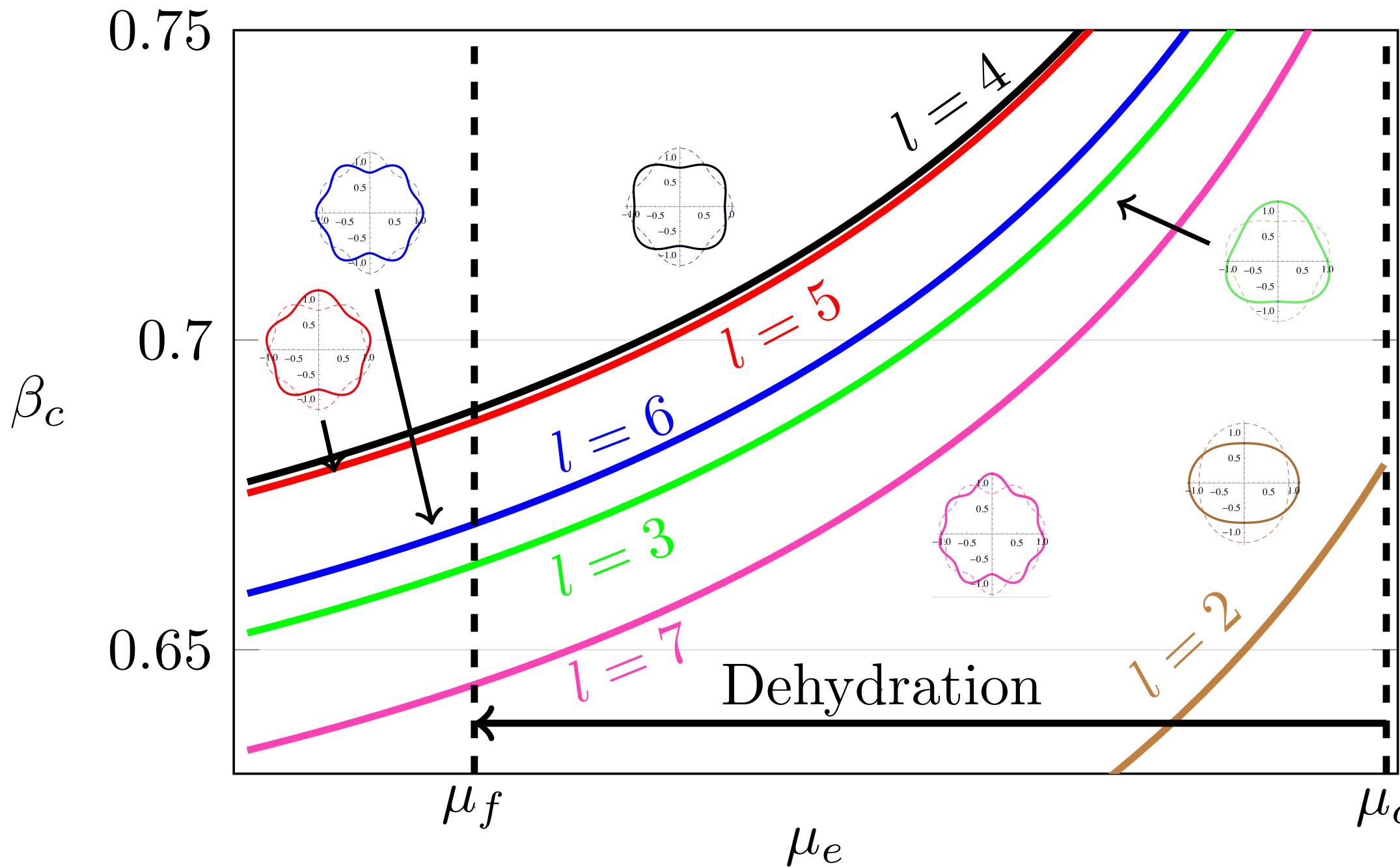
$$p_1(R, \Theta) = \sum_{l=1}^{\infty} \mathcal{P}_l(R) P_l(\cos \Theta)$$

$$J_1(R, \Theta) = \sum_{l=1}^{\infty} \mathcal{J}_l(R) P_l(\cos \Theta)$$

- \* the analysis of the global volume constraint shows that to first order the perturbation of the cavity volume vanishes for any incremental displacement field and the pressure fields of the enclosed liquid remains unchanged up to the first order



# a sketch of the solution



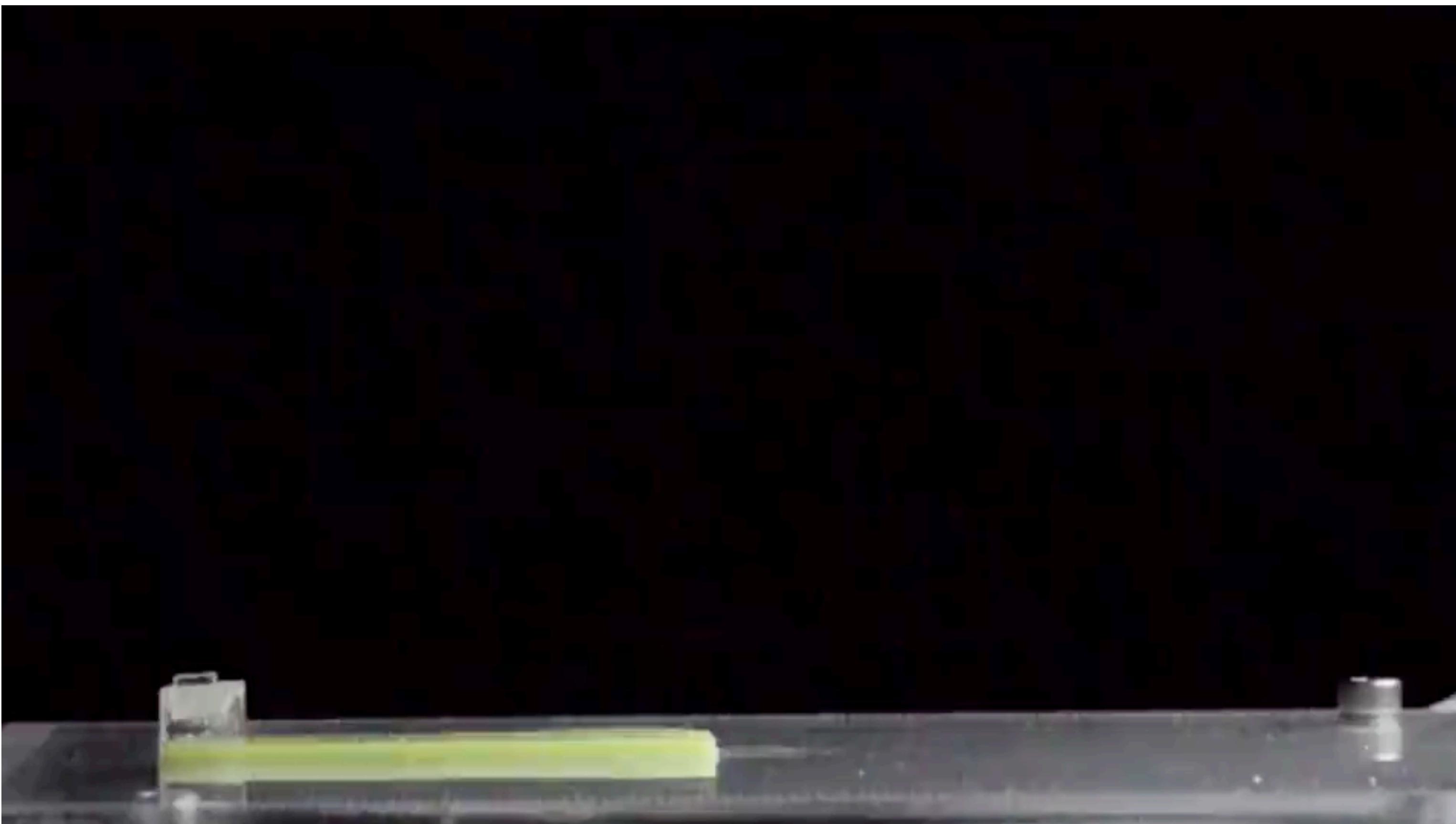
Critical modes and critical profile mode corresponding to the solution of the first order incremental problem

the change of de-hydration across the thickness of the shell delivers a spontaneous curvature and a frustration which may be caught by 2D shell models

occurrence of cavitation instability is also interesting (and here is not considered, by assuming that adhesion energy density is infinite)

D.P. Holmes, J.H. Lee, H.S. Park, M. Pezzulla, **Physical Review E** 102(2), 2020.

## part II: the bar mechanism



MoSS Lab@Boston University  
(under the supervision of D.P. Holmes)



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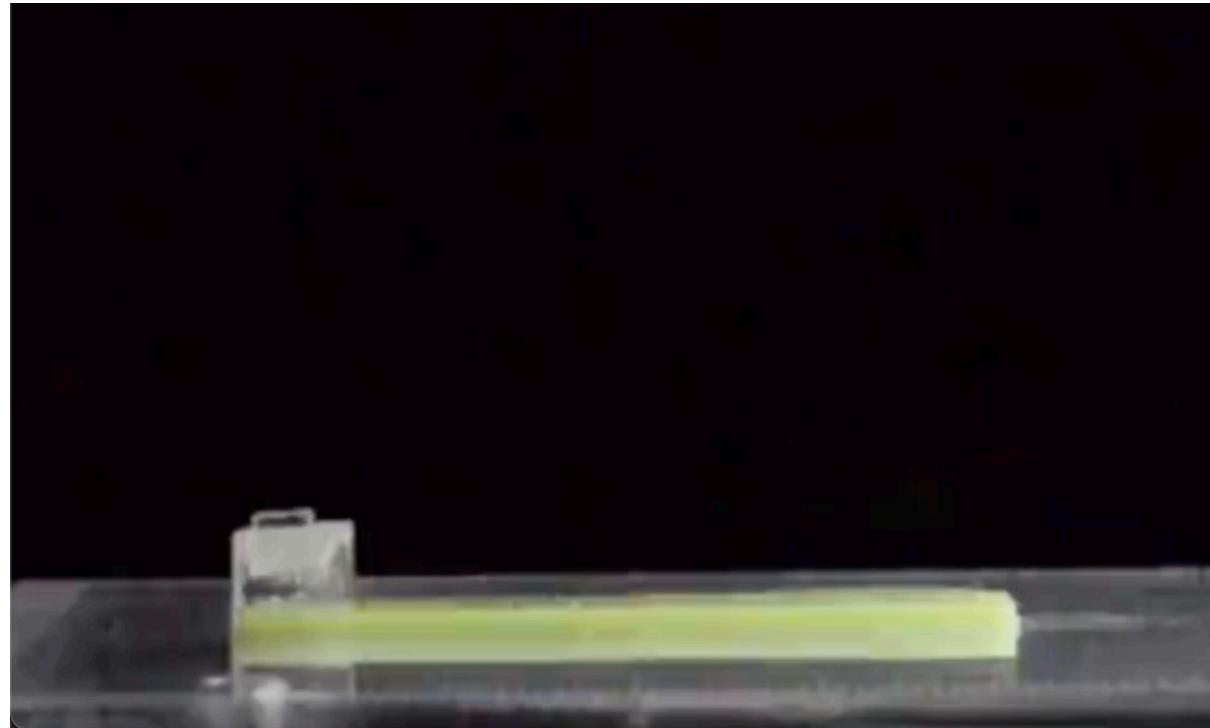
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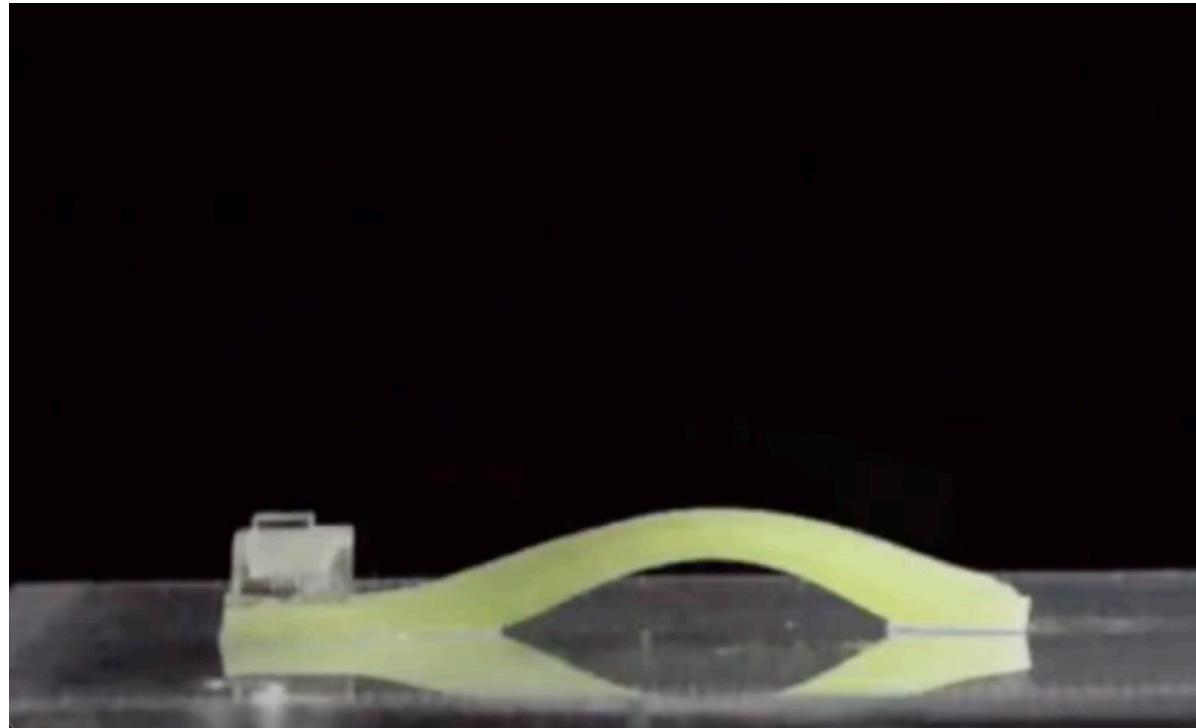
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# the 3 phases of the bar mechanism

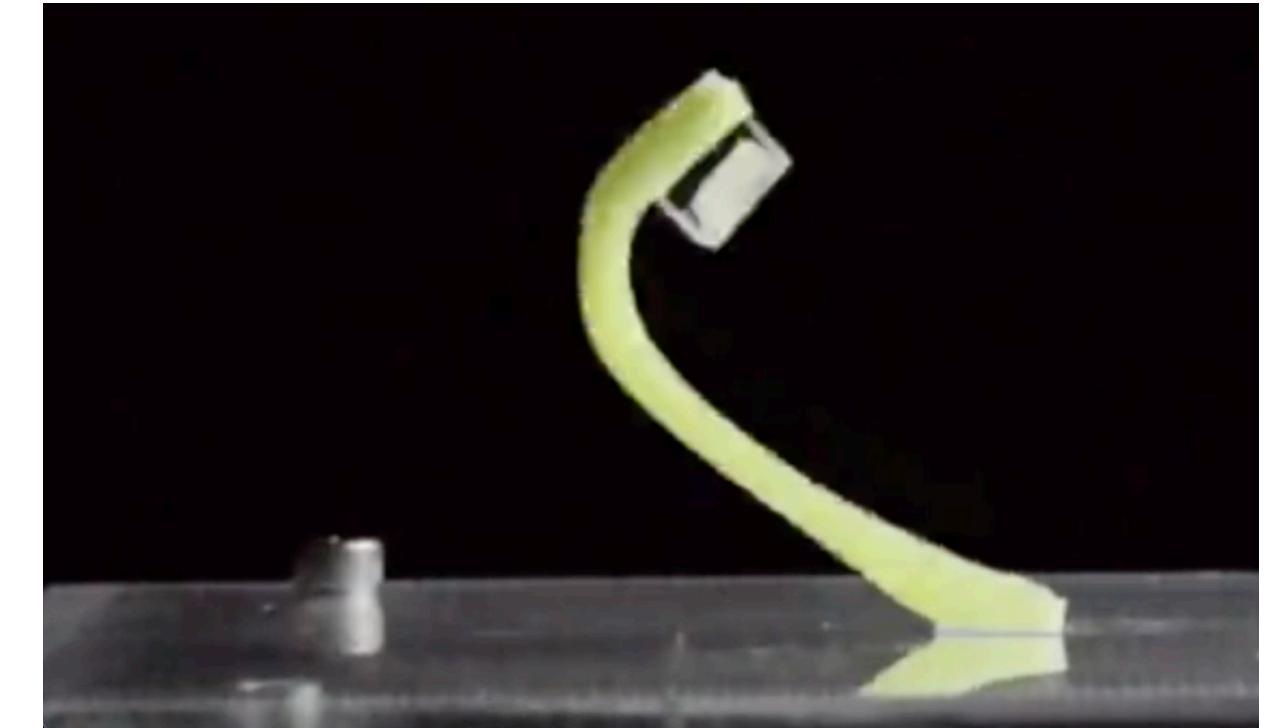
phase 1



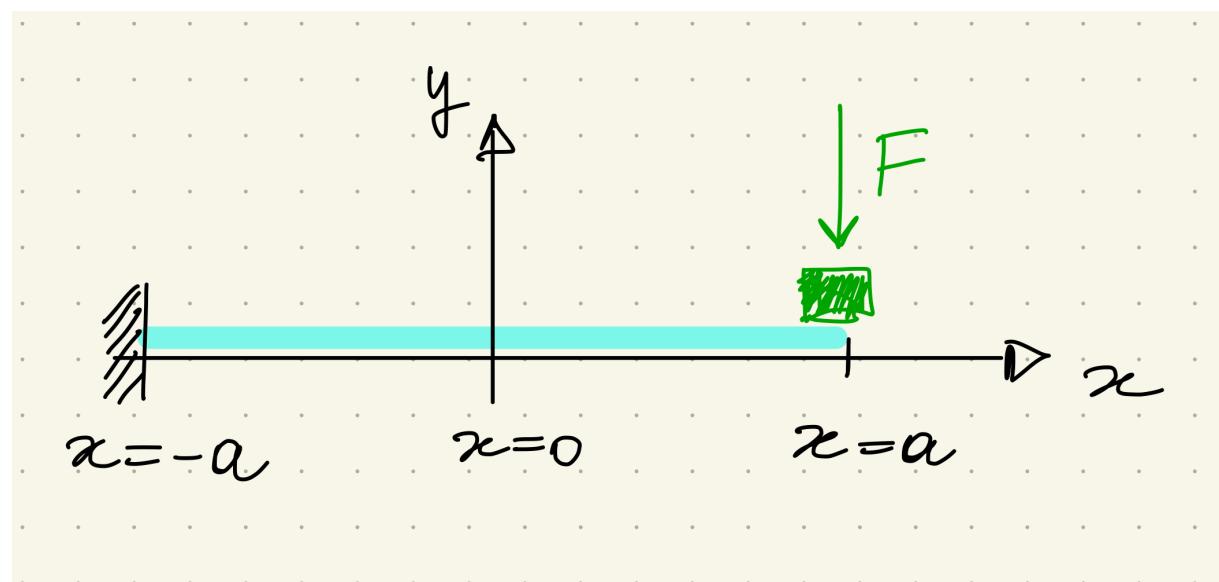
phase 2



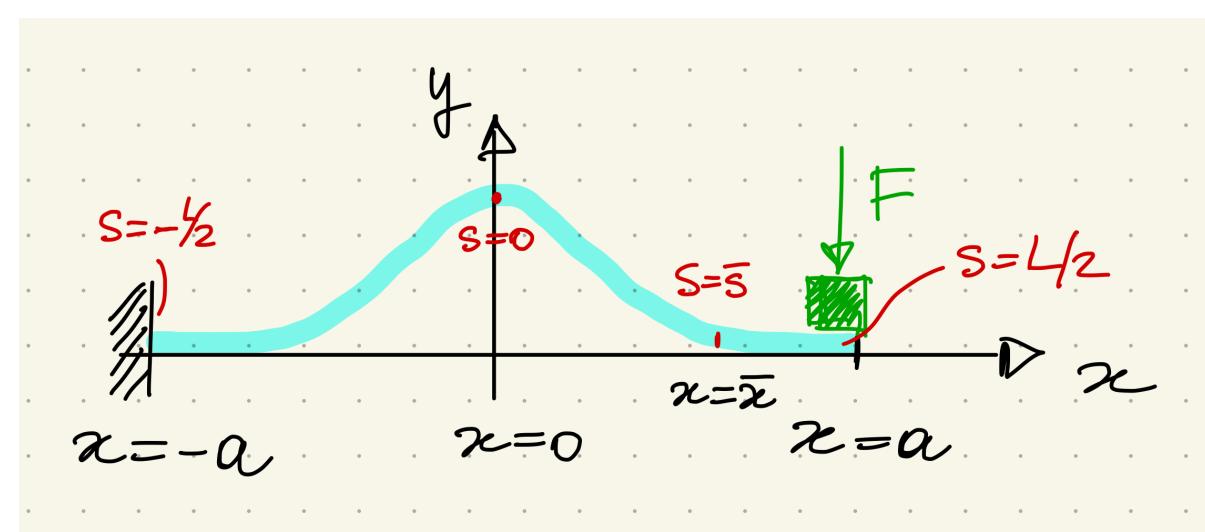
phase 3



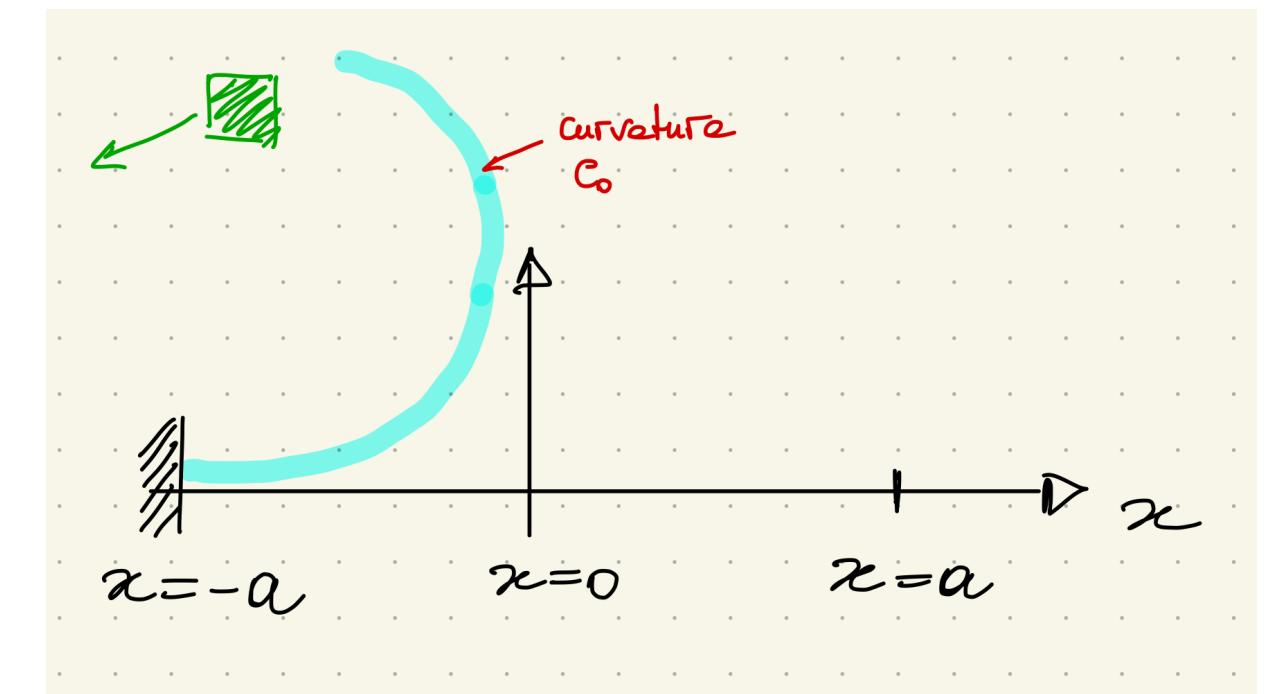
compression phase



buckling phase

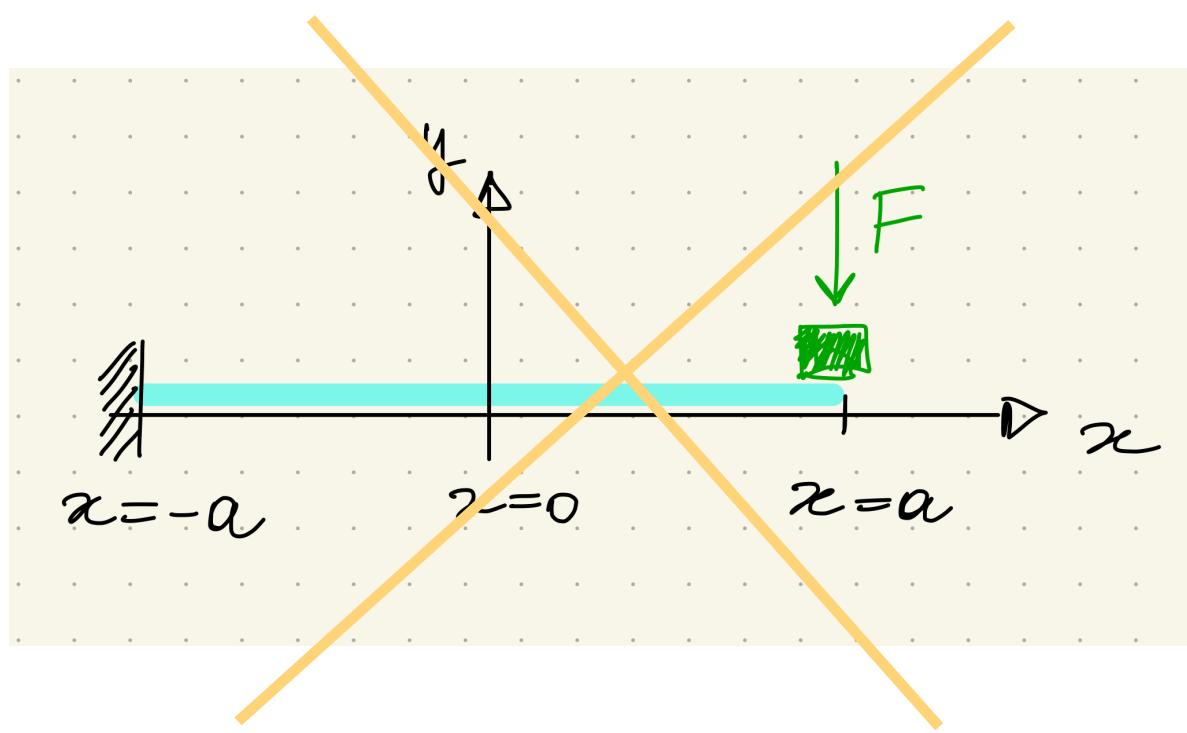


catapult phase

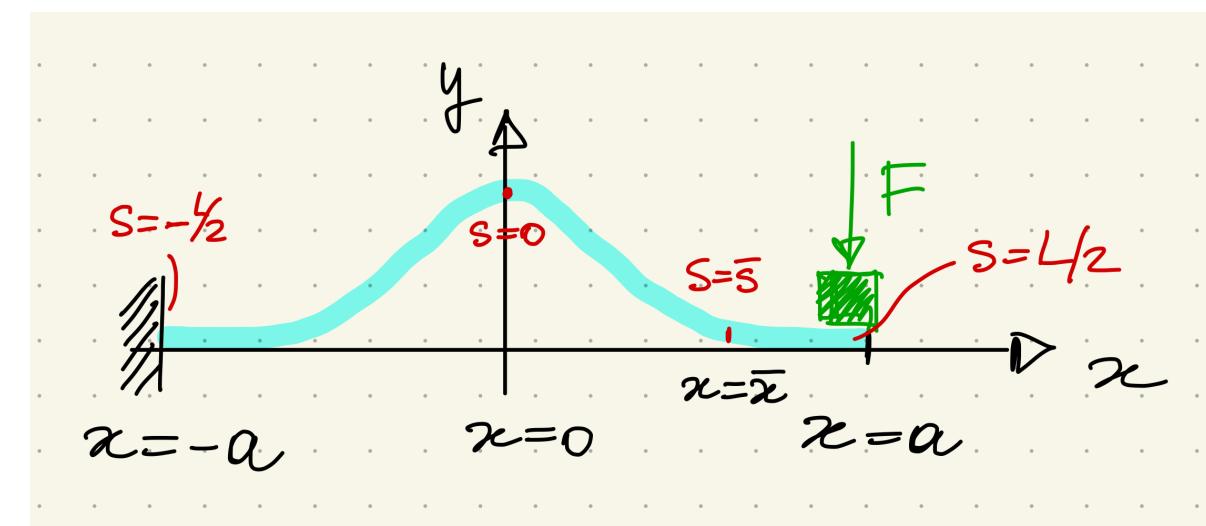


# the energy of the bar

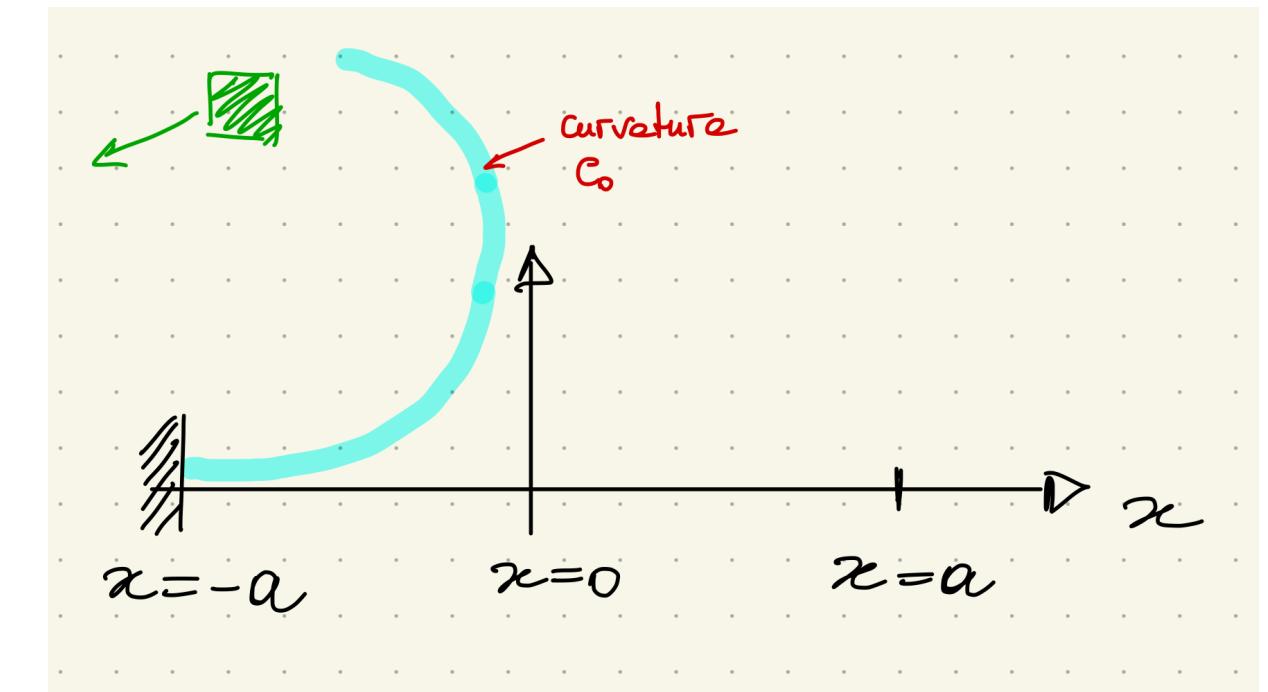
compression phase



buckling phase



catapult phase



$$\mathcal{W}_f = \int_0^{\bar{S}} \kappa(\theta' - c_o)^2 dS$$

$$\mathcal{W}_a = \int_{\bar{S}}^{L/2} (\kappa c_o^2 - 2w) dS$$

$$l_{ec} := \sqrt{\frac{\kappa}{w}}$$

elasto-capillary length

$\theta(0) = 0$  even symmetry

$\kappa[\theta'(\bar{S})]^2 = 2w$  transversality condition

$\theta(\bar{S}) = 0$  continuity

$$a = \int_0^{\bar{S}} \cos \theta dS + \frac{L}{2} - \bar{S}$$

global constraint

T.J.W Wagner, D. Vella, **Soft Matter** 9, 2013; G. Napoli, S. Turzi: **PRSA** 471(2183), 2015; G. Napoli, S. Turzi: **Meccanica** 52, 2017.



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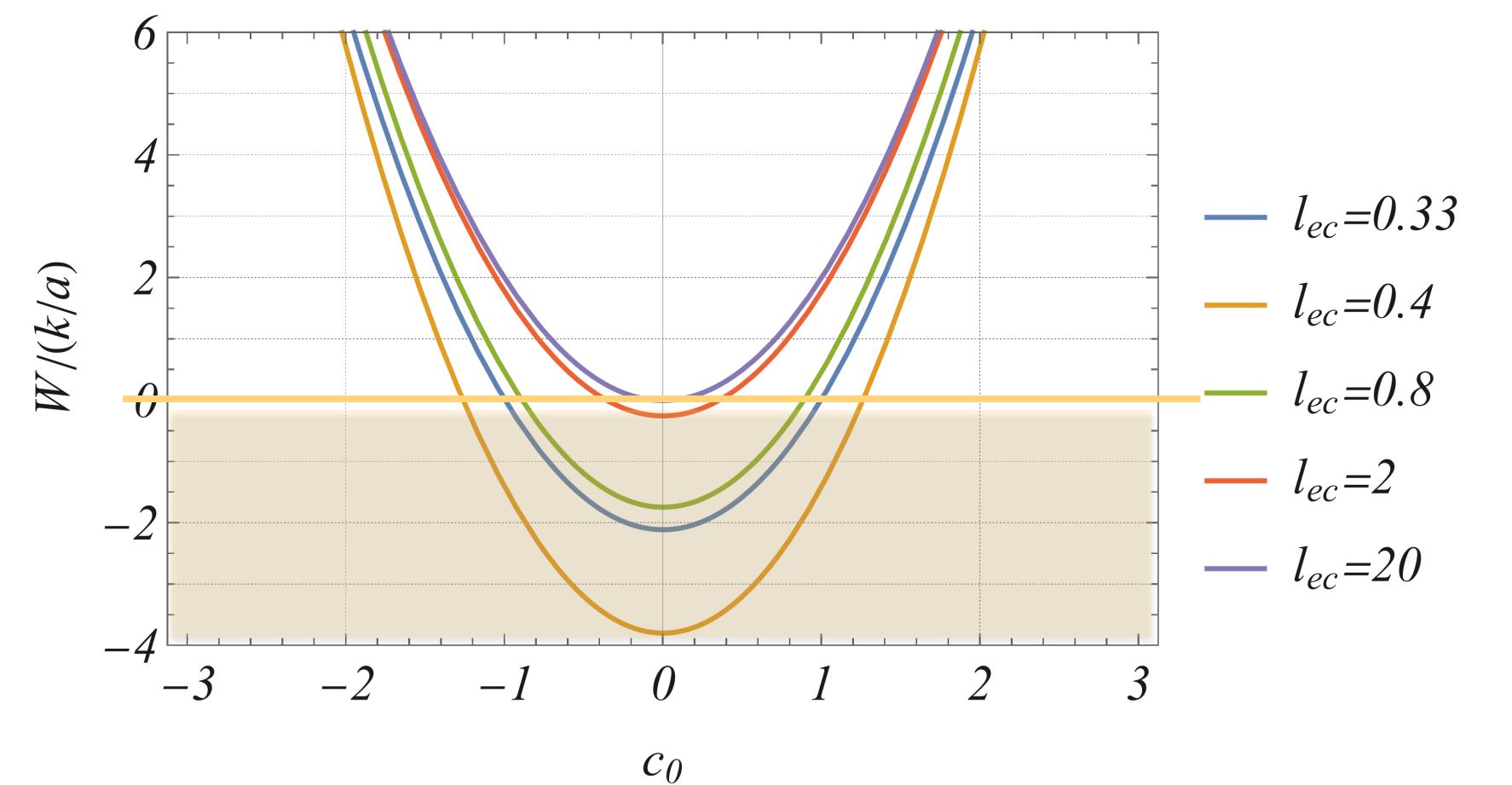
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$$W_{\text{buck}} = \frac{2\kappa}{l_{ec}^2} \left[ 2\bar{x} - a \left( 2 + \frac{\epsilon}{1 - \cos \theta_0} \right) \right] + 2ac_o^2\kappa(1 + \epsilon)$$

$$\epsilon = \frac{L - 2a}{2a}$$

$$\frac{W}{\kappa/a} = 2 \frac{2a^2}{l_{ec}^2} \left[ (l_{ec}c_o)^2(1 + \epsilon) - \frac{\epsilon}{1 - \cos \theta_0} \right] \quad \text{vs} \quad W_{co} = 0$$

- \* the pattern is not monotonic with lec;
- \* to each value of lec, it corresponds a value of co which makes the catapult realizable;
- \* for co=0, we can't have the catapult mechanism as W never goes beyond the 0 energy level



work in progress: relate the change of de-hydration across the thickness of the beam to the spontaneous curvature, analyse the buckled problem and the role of the key parameters, study possible different catapult mechanisms

# acknowledgements



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Università del Salento



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Politecnico di Milano



## Research project:

Microencapsulation based on intelligent actively-remodeling bio polymer gels for controlled drug release

a joint project with Anne Bernheim  
Ben Gurion University at the Negev  
(Israel)



## Research project:

Mathematics of active materials: from mechanobiology to smart devices