

# From atomistic to continuum theory for brittle materials: A two-dimensional model problem

Manuel Friedrich  
TopMath, TU München  
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A two-dimensional atomic mass spring system is investigated for critical fracture loads and its crack path geometry. We rigorously prove that in the discrete-to-continuum limit, the minimal energy leads to a universal cleavage law and energy minimizers are either homogeneous elastic deformations or configurations that are cracked along specific crystallographic hyperplanes.