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On a perturbation of the linearized two dimensional two-well problem

The two dimensional two-well problem arises in the study of the zero energy states of a solid-solid phase transition in materials that exhibit the so-called shape memory effect.

This problem can be formulated as follows: find $u: \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ such that

$$\nabla u \in K = \text{SO}(2)U_a \cup \text{SO}(2)U_b, \quad \text{a.e. in } \Omega, \quad (1)$$

where U_a and U_b are two traceless symmetric matrices, and $\text{SO}(2)$ represents the set of proper rotations. The most simple nontrivial solution to (1) is given by the so-called simple laminates, that is, the function u depends only on one cartesian coordinate. In fact, it was show by Dolzmann and Muller that if the perimeter of the transitions is finite, u has to be simple laminate.

For a suitable energy and in the proper regime, we show that the nonzero energy states for the linearized version of (1), are also closed to a simple laminate.