The effective energy in the Allen–Cahn model with deformation

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Abstract The sharp interface limit of a diffuse interface theory of phase transitions is considered in static situations. The diffuse interface model is of the Allen–Cahn type with deformation, with a parameter ϵ measuring the width of the interface. Equilibrium states of a given elongation and a given interface width are considered and the asymptotics for $\epsilon \to 0$ of the equilibrium energy is determined. The interface energy is defined as the excess energy over the corresponding two phase state with a sharp interface without the interface energy is equal to $\sigma\epsilon$ where the coefficient σ is given by a new formula that involves the mechanical contribution to the total energy. Also the corresponding equilibrium states are determined and shown to converge to a sharp interface state for $\epsilon \to 0$.