

1036-35-179

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In this talk, I will describe a joint work with F.H.Lin and X.B.Pan on the asymptotics of the Ginzburg-Landau energy

$$E_\epsilon(u) = \int_\Omega \frac{1}{2} |\nabla u|^2 + \frac{1}{\epsilon^2} F(u), \Omega \subset R^n,$$

where  $F(p)$  is roughly the distance function to  $N = N_1 \cup N_2$ , where  $N_1, N_2$  are two disjoint submanifolds in  $R^k$ . By suitably designing the boundary data  $g : \partial\Omega \rightarrow R^k$ , we show that

$$\min E_\epsilon(u) = \frac{c_0 A_0}{\epsilon} + o\left(\frac{1}{\epsilon}\right),$$

where  $A_0$  is the area of the interface which is a minimal hypersurface, and  $c_0$  is roughly the minimal energy of standing waves between  $N_1$  and  $N_2$ . I will also discuss the second order expansion of  $E_\epsilon$  and some results on the dynamics. (Received January 22, 2008)