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## A Note on Calculation of Asymptotic Energy for a Functional of Ginzburg-Landau Type with Externally Imposed Lower-Order Oscillatory Term in One Dimension.

ANDRIJA RAGUŽ

**Sunto.** – *In questa nota consideriamo il funzionale di Ginzburg-Landau*

$$I_a^\varepsilon(v) = \int_0^1 \left( \varepsilon^2 v'^2(s) + W(v'(s)) + a(\varepsilon^{-\beta}s)v^2(s) \right) ds$$

*ove  $\beta > 0$  e  $a$  è 1-periodica. Mostriamo come la minima energia asintotica (ridimensionata) associata a  $I_a^\varepsilon$  dipenda dal parametro  $\beta > 0$  per  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ . In particolare, la nostra analisi mostra che i minimizzatori di  $I_a^\varepsilon$  sono quasi  $\varepsilon^{1/3}$ -periodici.*

**Summary.** – *In this note we consider the Ginzburg-Landau functional*

$$I_a^\varepsilon(v) = \int_0^1 \left( \varepsilon^2 v'^2(s) + W(v'(s)) + a(\varepsilon^{-\beta}s)v^2(s) \right) ds$$

*where  $\beta > 0$  and  $a$  is 1-periodic. We determine how (rescaled) minimal asymptotic energy associated to  $I_a^\varepsilon$  depends on parameter  $\beta > 0$  as  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ . In particular, our analysis shows that minimizers of  $I_a^\varepsilon$  are nearly  $\varepsilon^{1/3}$ -periodic.*

### 1. – Introduction.

In this note we deal with the asymptotic behavior of a family of functionals of Ginzburg-Landau type in one dimension. Our consideration relies on techniques and results developed in paper [1] by G. Alberti and S. Müller. In that paper the authors introduced a concept of *Young measure on micropatterns* (or *two-scale Young measure*) to describe properties of minimizers of variational problems which lead to creation of multiple small scales depending on small parameter  $\varepsilon$ . As an example of the approach, they studied the functional  $I_{\varepsilon,a} : H_{per}^2(0, 1) \rightarrow [0, +\infty]$  defined by

$$(1) \quad I_{\varepsilon,a}(v) := \int_0^1 \left( \varepsilon^2 v'^2(s) + W(v'(s)) + a(s)v^2(s) \right) ds ,$$

where  $v \in H^2_{per}(0, 1)$ ,  $W \in C(\mathbf{R}; [0, +\infty))$ ,  $W(\rho) = 0$  if and only if  $\rho \in \{-1, 1\}$ ,  $W$  has superlinear growth in infinity and  $a \in L^1_{per}(0, 1)$  satisfies  $a(s) \geq \alpha > 0$  (a.e.  $s \in (0, 1)$ ). Functional (1) can be regarded as a simplified version of functional of Cahn-Hilliard type (cf. [8], [3]) which appears in modeling of complex physical systems like block copolymer melts. It is a well-known fact that minimizers of such functionals develop fine structure as a result of an attempt to minimize different terms. In particular, micro-phase separation occurs. Due to the competition between formation of microstructure and highest gradient regularization (cf. [1], p. 762.), minimizers of (1) exhibit oscillation on two fast scales (namely on the scale of order  $\varepsilon^{1/3}$  and on the scale of order  $\varepsilon$ ). A thorough description of such behavior, as well as calculation of associated (rescaled) asymptotic energy, is obtained in [1] in the following way: basic idea is to rewrite  $I_{\varepsilon,a}(v)$  in terms of carefully chosen rescalings  $s \mapsto R_s^\varepsilon v$ ,

$$(2) \quad R_s^\varepsilon v(\tau) := \varepsilon^{-1/3} v(\varepsilon^{1/3} \tau) , \quad \tau \in \mathbf{R} ,$$

as an integral functional in  $s$ , where for every  $s \in (0, 1)$  integrated function is a functional itself and it is evaluated in  $R_s^\varepsilon v$ . Then such a functional can be extended to the space of Young measures and we can pass to the limit as  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$  by means of the Modica-Mortola theorem (cf. [6]), which results in a non-trivial  $\Gamma$ -limit. Finally, the Young measure which minimizes the  $\Gamma$ -limit is identified.

Our goal is to apply similar reasoning to slightly general situation. More precisely, we study a variant of energy in [1], which is perturbed by the highly oscillatory term  $a(\varepsilon^{-\beta}s)$ , where  $\beta > 0$ . The original functional (1) is now replaced by

$$(3) \quad I_a^\varepsilon(v) := \int_0^1 \left( \varepsilon^2 v'^2(s) + W(v'(s)) + a(\varepsilon^{-\beta}s)v^2(s) \right) ds .$$

Since the period of map  $s \mapsto a(\varepsilon^{-\beta}s)$  vanishes as  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ , Alberti and Müller expected that an additional structure of the minimizers emerges (cf. [1], section 6). Indeed, apart from the creation of fast scale of order  $\varepsilon^{1/3}$ , minimizers of (3) now comply with the constraint coming from fast scale of order  $\varepsilon^\beta$ . To understand what exactly happens when  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$  we formulate two objectives. First, we want to determine the rescaled asymptotic energy associated to (3) as  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ . To this end, we consider the following quantities:  $\mathcal{E}_{a,per}^\varepsilon(\beta) := \min_{v \in H^2_{per}(0,1)} \varepsilon^{-2/3} I_a^\varepsilon(v)$ ,  $\mathcal{E}_a^\varepsilon(\beta) := \min_{v \in H^2(0,1)} \varepsilon^{-2/3} I_a^\varepsilon(v)$ ,  $\mathcal{E}_{a,per}(\beta) := \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \mathcal{E}_{a,per}^\varepsilon(\beta)$  and  $\mathcal{E}_a(\beta) := \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \mathcal{E}_a^\varepsilon(\beta)$ . As

now a hierarchy of small scales appears, we distinguish cases  $\beta \in (0, 1/3)$  (the subcritical case),  $\beta = 1/3$  (the critical case) and  $\beta > 1/3$  (the supercritical case). The main result of this note, obtained by a mild modification of techniques

in [1], states that there holds

$$(4) \quad \mathcal{E}_a(\beta) = \mathcal{E}_{a,per}(\beta) = E_0 \overline{a^{1/3}} \chi_{(0,1/3)}(\beta) + F_0(a) \chi_{(\beta=1/3)}(\beta) + E_0 \overline{a^{1/3}} \chi_{(1/3,+\infty)}(\beta),$$

where  $F_0(a) \approx E_0 \overline{a^{1/3}}$  when  $\xi \approx 0$ ,  $F_0(a) \approx E_0 \overline{a^{1/3}}$  when  $\frac{1}{\xi} \approx 0$ ,  $\xi := 2 \int_{-1}^1 \sqrt{W}$ ,  $C_0 := (3/4)^{2/3}$ ,  $E_0 := C_0 \xi^{2/3}$ . Formula (4) was conjectured in [1], p. 814. and it is to be understood in the following way: if  $\beta \in \langle 0, 1/3 \rangle$ , then the internally created fast scale  $\varepsilon^{1/3}$  is shorter than the externally imposed fast scale  $\varepsilon^\beta$ , so that oscillation on the scale  $\varepsilon^\beta$  is not relevant to computation of asymptotic energy. In the case  $\beta > 1/3$ , however, the scale  $\varepsilon^\beta$  is shorter, and thus oscillation in  $a(\varepsilon^{-\beta}s)$  becomes relevant. On the other hand, in the critical case  $\beta = 1/3$  “locking” of the internally created and the externally imposed scale induces an additional conflict to the minimizers, which can be best explained as an impossibility of function to be both  $\varepsilon^{1/3}$ -periodic and  $O(\varepsilon^{1/3})$ -periodic at the same time. To provide at least a partial insight into this situation, we formulate and solve asymptotic problem for  $F_0(a)$  in terms of  $W$ . In all cases, asymptotic energy is independent of boundary conditions. Second, we want to describe geometric properties of the minimizers of  $I_a^\varepsilon$  as  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ . In the case  $\beta = 0$  an interpretation of geometry of minimizers is deduced from the convergence of  $\varepsilon$ -blowups (2) of minimizers in the space of Young measures on micropatterns. By contrast, when  $\beta > 0$ , we offer a weaker result, which, in our opinion, still gives good enough information in this respect as  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ .

Other variants of the functional (1) were considered in [3] and [9] (see also references therein).

This note is organized as follows. In Section 2 we fix the notation, and we recall some well-known results which we will use. In Section 3 we derive the main results (cf. Theorem 3.2, Theorem 3.4). Finally, in Section 4 we interpret our results in terms of geometric properties of the minimizers.

## 2. – Some preliminaries

Throughout the note we work on the unit interval  $\langle 0, 1 \rangle \subseteq \mathbf{R}$ , but all the proofs can be carried out if we consider any bounded open interval  $\omega \subseteq \mathbf{R}$  endowed with Lebesgue measure (denoted by  $\lambda$ ). We consider the set  $K$  of all Borel measurable mappings  $x : \mathbf{R} \rightarrow [-\infty, +\infty]$  (modulo equivalence  $\lambda$ -almost everywhere), which can be made compact and metrizable topological space by defining a pull-back topology on  $K$  with respect to weak-star topology on  $L^\infty(\mathbf{R}; [-1, 1])$  via mapping  $x \mapsto \frac{2}{\pi} \arctan(x)$  (cf. [1], p. 778, 806 for details). By  $C(K)$  we denote the Banach space of all continuous real functions on  $K$ . A  $K$ -valued Young measure on  $\langle 0, 1 \rangle$  (or *Young measure on micropatterns*) is a map  $\nu \in L_{w*}^\infty(\langle 0, 1 \rangle; \mathcal{M}(K))$

(where by  $L_{w*}^\infty(\langle 0, 1 \rangle; \mathcal{M}(K))$  we denote the dual of  $L^1(\langle 0, 1 \rangle; \mathbf{C}(K))$ , cf. [2] for details),  $\nu : s \mapsto \nu_s$ , such that  $\nu$  is a probability measure for almost every  $\varepsilon \in \langle 0, 1 \rangle$ . The set of all  $K$ -valued Young measures is denoted by  $YM(\langle 0, 1 \rangle; K)$  and it is always endowed with the weak-star topology of  $L_{w*}^\infty(\langle 0, 1 \rangle; \mathcal{M}(K))$ .  $\mathcal{I}(K)$  denotes the class of all probability measures on  $K$  which are invariant with respect to action of the group of functional translations on  $K$  (cf. [1], p. 778, p. 795). As usual,  $H_{per}^2(\langle 0, 1 \rangle)$  denotes the set of all  $H_{loc}^2(\mathbf{R})$  functions, extended by periodicity out of  $\langle 0, 1 \rangle$ . By  $Sx$  we denote a set of all discontinuities for some  $x \in K$ , while  $|Sx|$  denotes cardinality of the set  $Sx$ . If  $a$  is periodic function,  $\bar{a}$  denotes average of  $a$  over its period. By  $\lceil \sigma \rceil$  ( $\lfloor \sigma \rfloor$ , resp.) we denote the smallest integer greater or equal to  $\sigma \in \mathbf{R}$  (the largest integer below  $\sigma \in \mathbf{R}$ , resp.). We say that  $a \in K$  is simple function if  $a(s) = \sum_{k=1}^N \alpha_k \chi_{\omega_k}(s)$ , where  $\omega_k$  are pairwise disjoint measurable sets. If  $M > 0$  and  $\varepsilon > 0$  are given, we set  $\varepsilon_{*,M} := \lceil \varepsilon^{-\beta} M^{-1} \rceil^{-1/\beta}$ ,  $\varepsilon_{**,M} := \lfloor \varepsilon^{-\beta} M^{-1} \rfloor^{-1/\beta}$ ,  $\rho_{\varepsilon,**,M} := \varepsilon_{**,M}^\beta M^{-1} \varepsilon^{-\beta}$ ,  $\rho_{\varepsilon,*,M} := \varepsilon_{*,M}^\beta M^{-1} \varepsilon^{-\beta}$ . Then  $\rho_{\varepsilon,*,M} \nearrow 1$ ,  $\rho_{\varepsilon,**,M} \searrow 1$  as  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ . If  $M = 1$ , we define  $\varepsilon_* := \varepsilon_{*,1}$ ,  $\varepsilon_{**} := \varepsilon_{**,1}$ ,  $\rho_{\varepsilon,**} := \rho_{\varepsilon,**,1}$ ,  $\rho_{\varepsilon,*} := \rho_{\varepsilon,*,1}$ . In the following we use the term “sequence” also to denote families labeled by the continuous parameter  $\varepsilon$ , which tends to 0.

**DEFINITION 2.1** [ $\Gamma$ -convergence]. – *Let  $X$  be a metric space. A sequence of functions  $F^\varepsilon : X \rightarrow [0, +\infty]$   $\Gamma$ -converges to  $F$  on  $X$ , and we write  $F^\varepsilon \xrightarrow{\Gamma} F$ , if the following is fulfilled:*

- (i) *Lower-bound inequality: for every  $x \in X$  and a sequence  $(x^\varepsilon)$  in  $X$  such that  $x^\varepsilon \rightarrow x$  it holds  $\liminf_\varepsilon F^\varepsilon(x^\varepsilon) \geq F(x)$ , and*
- (ii) *Upper-bound inequality: For any  $y$  in  $X$  there exists a sequence  $(y^\varepsilon)$  in  $X$  such that  $y^\varepsilon \rightarrow y$  and  $\limsup_\varepsilon F^\varepsilon(y^\varepsilon) \leq F(y)$ .*

The proof of the following Proposition can be found in chapters 6 and 7 in [4]:

**PROPOSITION 2.1.** – *If the points  $x^\varepsilon$  minimize  $F^\varepsilon$  for every  $\varepsilon$ , and  $F^\varepsilon \xrightarrow{\Gamma} F$  as  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ , then every cluster point  $x$  of the sequence  $(x^\varepsilon)$  minimizes  $F$ . In particular, there holds  $\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} F^\varepsilon(x^\varepsilon) = F(x)$ .*

We introduce the following classes of functions:

**DEFINITION 2.2.** – *Let  $\omega \subset \mathbf{R}$  be a fixed interval. A function  $x : \omega \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$  is said to be of the class  $\mathcal{S}(\omega)$  if  $x$  is piecewise affine continuous function on  $\omega$  such that  $x'(\tau) \in \{-1, 1\}$  for almost every  $\tau \in \omega$ . A function  $x : \mathbf{R} \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$  belongs to the class  $\mathcal{S}_{per}(\omega)$  if  $x$  can be extended from  $\omega$  to  $\mathbf{R}$  by periodicity in such a way that there holds  $x \in \mathcal{S}(J)$  for any interval  $J \subseteq \mathbf{R}$ .*

For a given bounded open interval  $\omega \subseteq \mathbf{R}$  we define  $f_a^{\varepsilon,\omega}, f_a^\omega : L^1(\omega) \rightarrow [0, +\infty]$  by

$$(5) \quad f_a^{\varepsilon,\omega}(v) := \begin{cases} \int_{\omega} \left( \varepsilon^{2/3} v'^2(\tau) + \varepsilon^{-2/3} W(v'(\tau)) + a(\tau)v^2(\tau) \right) d\tau, & \text{if } v \in H^2(\omega), \\ +\infty, & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

$$(6) \quad f_a^\omega(x) := \begin{cases} \frac{\xi}{\lambda(\omega)} |S_\omega(x')| + \int_{\omega} a(\tau)x^2(\tau)d\tau, & \text{if } x \in \mathcal{S}(\omega), \\ +\infty, & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

where, for  $\omega = \langle \gamma_1, \gamma_2 \rangle$  we define  $S_\omega(x') := Sx' \cap [\gamma_1, \gamma_2]$ . In particular, for a given  $h > 0$  we set  $f_a^{\varepsilon,h} := f_a^{\varepsilon,(0,h)}, f_a^h(x) := f_a^{(0,h)}$ . When no confusion is possible we write  $f_a^\varepsilon$  ( $f_a$ , resp.) instead of  $f_a^{\varepsilon,\omega}$  ( $f_a^\omega$ , resp.). Note that functionals  $f_a^{\varepsilon,h}$  and  $f_a^h$  also depend on  $\xi > 0$ . When such a dependance is not essential to our consideration, we avoid labeling which includes  $\xi$ . However, if  $\xi = 1$  we write  $\phi_a^h$  in stead of  $f_a^h$  (cf. Theorem 3.4). Also, in this note we frequently use a version of the Modica-Mortola theorem in one dimension (cf. [6], [1], Proposition 3.3):

PROPOSITION 2.2. — Suppose  $a \in L^1_{loc}(\mathbf{R})$ . Set  $a_s^\varepsilon(\tau) := a(s + \varepsilon^{1/3-\beta}\tau)$ ,  $\tau \in \mathbf{R}$ , where  $\beta \in \langle 0, 1/3 \rangle$ . Then for every bounded open interval  $\omega \subseteq \mathbf{R}$  there holds:

$$(7) \quad f_{a_s^\varepsilon}^{\varepsilon,\omega} \xrightarrow{\Gamma} f_{a(s)}^\omega \text{ on } L^1(\omega) \text{ (a.e. } s \in \mathbf{R}),$$

$$(8) \quad f_a^{\varepsilon,\omega} \xrightarrow{\Gamma} f_a^\omega \text{ on } L^1(\omega) \text{ as } \varepsilon \rightarrow 0.$$

If  $a_n \rightarrow a$  in  $L^1_{loc}(\mathbf{R})$  as  $n \rightarrow +\infty$ , then  $f_{a_n}^\omega \xrightarrow{\Gamma} f_a^\omega$  on  $L^1(\omega)$ .

### 3. – Main results.

In this section we lay out our main results. To begin with, we note that an attempt of rewriting (3) in terms of  $\varepsilon$ -blowups (2) eventually results in representation

$$\varepsilon^{-2/3} I_a^\varepsilon(v) = \int_0^1 f_{\tilde{a}_s^\varepsilon}^\varepsilon(R_s^\varepsilon v) ds,$$

where  $v \in H^2_{per}(\langle 0, 1 \rangle)$  and  $\tilde{a}_s^\varepsilon(\tau) := a(\varepsilon^{-\beta}s + \varepsilon^{1/3-\beta}\tau)$ ,  $s, \tau \in \mathbf{R}$ . Clearly, if  $\beta \in \langle 0, 1/3 \rangle$ , the sequence  $(\tilde{a}_s^\varepsilon)$  does not converge weakly in  $L^1_{loc}(\mathbf{R})$  as  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$  (hence the sequence  $(f_{\tilde{a}_s^\varepsilon}^\varepsilon)$  does not  $\Gamma$ -converge for a.e.  $s \in \mathbf{R}$ ). Thus  $\varepsilon$ -blowup (2) is not always suitable. Herein we propose technical improvement of calculations

from [1] in order to capture asymptotic behavior of (3). In particular, if  $\beta \in \langle 0, 1/3 \rangle$ , then a different  $\varepsilon$ -blowup is used. The case  $\beta > 1/3$  is much simpler. For  $M > 0$  and  $\varepsilon \in \langle 0, 1 \rangle$  we set

$$I_{a,M}^{\varepsilon,*}(w) := \int_0^{M\varepsilon^\beta} \left( \varepsilon^2 w'^2(s) + W(w'(s)) + a(\varepsilon^{-\beta}s)w^2(s) \right) ds, \quad w \in H^2\langle 0, M\varepsilon^\beta \rangle,$$

$$\mathcal{E}_{a,M}^{\varepsilon,*}(\beta) := \min_{w \in H^2\langle 0, M\varepsilon^\beta \rangle} \varepsilon^{-2/3} I_{a,M}^{\varepsilon,*}(w), \quad \mathcal{E}_{a,M,per}^{\varepsilon,*}(\beta) := \min_{w \in H_{per}^2\langle 0, M\varepsilon^\beta \rangle} \varepsilon^{-2/3} I_{a,M}^{\varepsilon,*}(w).$$

First we obtain the following simple estimate:

PROPOSITION 3.1. – *Let  $\beta > 0$ . Then there holds*

$$(9) \quad \liminf_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \mathcal{E}_a^\varepsilon(\beta) \geq \sup_{M > 0} \frac{M}{\lceil M \rceil} \liminf_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \mathcal{E}_{a,M}^{\varepsilon,*}(\beta).$$

PROOF. – Put  $N := \varepsilon^{-\beta}_{\varepsilon^{**}, \lceil M \rceil}$ . Consider  $v \in H^2\langle 0, 1 \rangle$ . For  $j = 1, \dots, N$  we set  $v_j(s) := v(s + (j - 1)\lceil M \rceil \varepsilon^\beta)$ ,  $s \in \langle 0, \lceil M \rceil \varepsilon^\beta \rangle$ . Since  $\lceil M \rceil \in \mathbf{N}$ , 1-periodicity of  $a$  and  $\rho_{\varepsilon^{**}, \lceil M \rceil}^{-1} \in \langle 0, 1 \rangle$  imply

$$\begin{aligned} \varepsilon^{-2/3} I_a^\varepsilon(v) &\geq \rho_{\varepsilon^{**}, \lceil M \rceil}^{-1} \sum_{j=1}^N \varepsilon_{\varepsilon^{**}, \lceil M \rceil}^\beta \varepsilon^{-2/3} I_{a, \lceil M \rceil}^{\varepsilon,*}(v_j) \\ &\geq \rho_{\varepsilon^{**}, \lceil M \rceil}^{-1} \min_{w \in H^2\langle 0, \lceil M \rceil \varepsilon^\beta \rangle} \varepsilon^{-2/3} I_{a, \lceil M \rceil}^{\varepsilon,*}(w) \\ &\geq \frac{\lfloor \varepsilon^{-\beta} \lceil M \rceil^{-1} \rfloor}{\varepsilon^{-\beta} \lceil M \rceil^{-1}} \frac{M}{\lceil M \rceil} \min_{w \in H^2\langle 0, M\varepsilon^\beta \rangle} \varepsilon^{-2/3} I_{a,M}^{\varepsilon,*}(w). \end{aligned}$$

Thus, by passing to the limit as  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ , we infer (9). □

To proceed, we sketch the proof the lower bound when  $\beta \in \langle 0, 1/3 \rangle$ .

THEOREM 3.1 [the subcritical case: the lower bound]. – *Let  $\beta \in \langle 0, 1/3 \rangle$ . Then  $\liminf_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \mathcal{E}_a^\varepsilon(\beta) \geq E_0 a^{1/3}$ .*

PROOF. – Let  $\omega \subset \subset \langle 0, 1 \rangle$  be an open interval and let  $v \in H^2\langle 0, \varepsilon^\beta \rangle$ . Consider  $v_*(s) := \varepsilon^{-\beta} v(\varepsilon^\beta s)$ ,  $s \in \langle 0, \varepsilon^\beta \rangle$ , and  $\varepsilon$ -blowup  $R_s^{\varepsilon,*} v(\tau) := \varepsilon^{-(1/3-\beta)} v(s + \varepsilon^{1/3-\beta} \tau)$ ,  $\tau \in \langle -r, r \rangle$ . For  $s \in \omega$  we set  $x_s(\tau) := R_s^{\varepsilon,*} v_*(\tau)$ ,  $\tau \in \langle -r, r \rangle$ . Then we have  $v'_*(s) = v'(\varepsilon^\beta s)$ ,  $x'_s(\tau) = v'_*(s + \varepsilon^{1/3-\beta} \tau)$ ,  $x''_s(\tau) = \varepsilon^{1/3-\beta} v''_*(s + \varepsilon^{1/3-\beta} \tau)$ ,  $v''_*(s) = \varepsilon^\beta v''(\varepsilon^\beta s)$ . Let

$$(10) \quad \mathcal{I}_\omega^\varepsilon(v) := \int_\omega \left( \varepsilon^2 v'^2(s) + W(v'(s)) + a(\varepsilon^{-\beta}s)v^2(s) \right) ds.$$



Then, similarly as in [1], p. 781, by Fubini's Theorem it follows

$$(11) \quad \varepsilon^{-2/3} \int_{-r}^r \mathcal{I}_{\varepsilon^\beta \omega + \varepsilon^{1/3} \tau}^\varepsilon(v) d\tau = \int_{\omega}^{f_{a_s^\varepsilon}^\varepsilon(R_s^{\varepsilon,*} v_*)} ds ,$$

where  $f_{a_s^\varepsilon}^\varepsilon : H^2 \langle -r, r \rangle \rightarrow [0, +\infty)$  is defined as in section 2. In particular, for every  $v \in H_{per}^2 \langle 0, \varepsilon^\beta \rangle$  there holds

$$(12) \quad \varepsilon^{-2/3} I_{a,1}^{\varepsilon,*}(v) = \int_0^1 f_{a_s^\varepsilon}^\varepsilon(R_s^{\varepsilon,*} v_*) ds .$$

Let

$$(13) \quad I_a^{\varepsilon,r,*}(v) := \int_{-r}^r \mathcal{I}_{\varepsilon^\beta \langle 0,1 \rangle + \varepsilon^{1/3} \tau}^\varepsilon(v) d\tau .$$

Suppose  $F_a^\varepsilon, F_a : YM(\langle 0, 1 \rangle; K) \rightarrow [0, +\infty]$  are defined as follows:

$$(14) \quad F_a^\varepsilon(v) := \begin{cases} \int_0^1 \langle v_s, f_{a_s^\varepsilon}^\varepsilon \rangle ds, & \text{if } v_s = \delta_{R_s^{\varepsilon,*} v_*} \text{ for some } v_* \in H_{per}^2 \langle 0, 1 \rangle \\ +\infty, & \text{otherwise ,} \end{cases}$$

$$F_a(v) := \begin{cases} \int_0^1 \langle v_s, f_{a(s)} \rangle ds, & \text{if } v_s \in \mathcal{I}(K) \text{ for a.e. } s \in \langle 0, 1 \rangle \\ +\infty, & \text{otherwise .} \end{cases}$$

Then (7) and Theorem 3.4 in [1] give  $F_a^\varepsilon \xrightarrow{I} F_a$ . It can be verified (see comments in [1], section 6.1, p. 813) that the convergence is preserved if  $v_*$  in (14) satisfies  $v_* \in H^2(\Omega)$  for some open interval  $\Omega$  such that  $\langle 0, 1 \rangle \subset\subset \Omega$ . In particular, by Proposition 2.1, (11), (12), (13) and by Theorem 3.12 in [1], there holds  $\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \mathcal{E}_{a,1}^{\varepsilon,*}(\beta) = \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \mathcal{E}_{a,1,per}^{\varepsilon,*}(\beta) = E_0 \overline{a^{1/3}}$ . To sum up, we note that for  $r > 0$  there holds  $\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \min_{v \in H^2 \langle 0, \varepsilon^\beta \rangle} \varepsilon^{-2/3} I_a^{\varepsilon,r,*}(v) = \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \mathcal{E}_{a,1}^{\varepsilon,*}(\beta)$ , and we apply Proposition 3.1.  $\square$

Next, we establish the upper bound in the case  $\beta \in \langle 0, 1/3 \rangle$ .

**THEOREM 3.2** [the subcritical case: the upper bound]. – *Let  $\beta \in \langle 0, 1/3 \rangle$ . Then  $\limsup_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \mathcal{E}_{a,per}^\varepsilon(\beta) \leq E_0 a^{1/3}$ .*

**PROOF.** – Consider arbitrary  $\Delta \in \langle 0, 1 \rangle$ ,  $\delta \in \langle 0, \Delta \rangle$ ,  $M > 0$ ,  $F^M := \{ \sigma \in \langle 0, 1 \rangle : a(\sigma) > M \}$  and open intervals  $J^\delta := \langle \delta, 1 - \delta \rangle$ ,  $J_{j-1} := \langle j - 1, j \rangle$ ,  $J_{j-1}^\delta := J^\delta + j - 1$ ,  $E_j^\delta := J_{j-1} \setminus J_{j-1}^\delta, j \in N$ ,  $E^\delta := \bigcup_{j=1}^{\varepsilon^{-\beta}} E_j^\delta$ . By Theorem 3.4 in [1] for

every  $\eta > 0$  there exists  $\overline{M}_\eta > 0$  and a sequence of functions  $(\overline{v}_*^\varepsilon)$  (which depends on  $\eta$  and  $M$ ) such that  $\overline{v}_*^\varepsilon \in H_{per}^2(0, 1)$  and with properties  $\|\overline{v}_*^\varepsilon\|_{L^\infty(\mathbf{R})} \leq \overline{M}_\eta \varepsilon^{1/3-\beta}$ ,

$$(15) \quad \limsup_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \int_0^1 f_{a_s^\varepsilon}^\varepsilon(R_s^{\varepsilon,*} \overline{v}_*^\varepsilon) ds \leq E_0 \overline{a}^{1/3} + \eta + O(\overline{M}_\eta^2) \int_{F^M} a(s) ds .$$

Set  $v_*^\varepsilon(s) := \rho_{\varepsilon,*}^{-1} \overline{v}_*^\varepsilon(\rho_{\varepsilon,*} s)$ ,  $s \in \mathbf{R}$ . We consider the sequence  $w^\varepsilon : (0, 1) \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$  defined by  $w_*^\varepsilon(s) := v_*^\varepsilon(s)$ , if  $s \in J^\delta$  ( $w_*^\varepsilon(s) := \tilde{v}_*^\varepsilon(s)$ , if  $s \in \langle 0, 1 \rangle \setminus J^\delta$ , resp.), where  $\tilde{v}_*^\varepsilon : \langle 0, 1 \rangle \setminus J^\delta \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$  is chosen in such a way that  $w_*^\varepsilon \in H_{per}^2(0, 1)$  and on each of the connected components in the domain  $\tilde{v}_*^\varepsilon$  has the following properties: derivative of  $\tilde{v}_*^\varepsilon$  takes alternately the values 1 and  $-1$  on consecutive intervals of order  $\varepsilon^{1/3-\beta}$  (except the first and the last one, which have length of order  $\overline{M}_\eta \varepsilon^{1/3-\beta}$ ), apart from transition layers of order  $\varepsilon^{1-\beta}$  at the end of each such interval, where the second derivative is of order  $\varepsilon^{-(1-\beta)}$ . The value of  $\tilde{v}_*^\varepsilon$  is of order  $\varepsilon^{1/3-\beta}$  (except in the first and the last interval, where it is of order  $\overline{M}_\eta \varepsilon^{1/3-\beta}$  (cf. Figure 1). In particular, there holds  $\|w_*^\varepsilon\|_{L^\infty(\mathbf{R})} \leq \overline{M}_\eta \varepsilon^{1/3-\beta}$ . Let  $X_\varepsilon$  ( $Y_\varepsilon$ , resp.) denotes the set of all points in  $(0, 1)$  with property that  $w_*^\varepsilon$  is of order  $\overline{M}_\eta \varepsilon^{1/3-\beta}$  ( $\varepsilon^{1/3-\beta}$ , resp.). By construction there holds  $\lambda(X_\varepsilon) = O(\overline{M}_\eta) \varepsilon^{1/3-\beta}$ ,  $\lambda(Y_\varepsilon) \leq O(1)\delta$ . Set  $w^\varepsilon(s) := \varepsilon_*^\beta w_*^\varepsilon(\varepsilon_*^{-\beta} s)$ ,  $a_\varepsilon(s) := a(\rho_{\varepsilon,*} s)$ ,  $s \in \mathbf{R}$ . Then  $w^\varepsilon \in H_{per}^2(0, \varepsilon_*)$  and therefore  $w^\varepsilon \in H_{per}^2(0, 1)$ . Note that there exists  $\varepsilon_0(\delta) > 0$  such that for every  $\varepsilon \in (0, \varepsilon_0(\delta)]$  there holds  $\langle 0, 1 \rangle = \bigcup_{j=1}^{\varepsilon_*^{-\beta}} \varepsilon_*^\beta J_{j-1}$ ,  $J_{j-1}^\delta \subset \rho_{\varepsilon,*}^{-1} J_{j-1}$ . Since  $\overline{v}_*^\varepsilon$  and  $a$  are

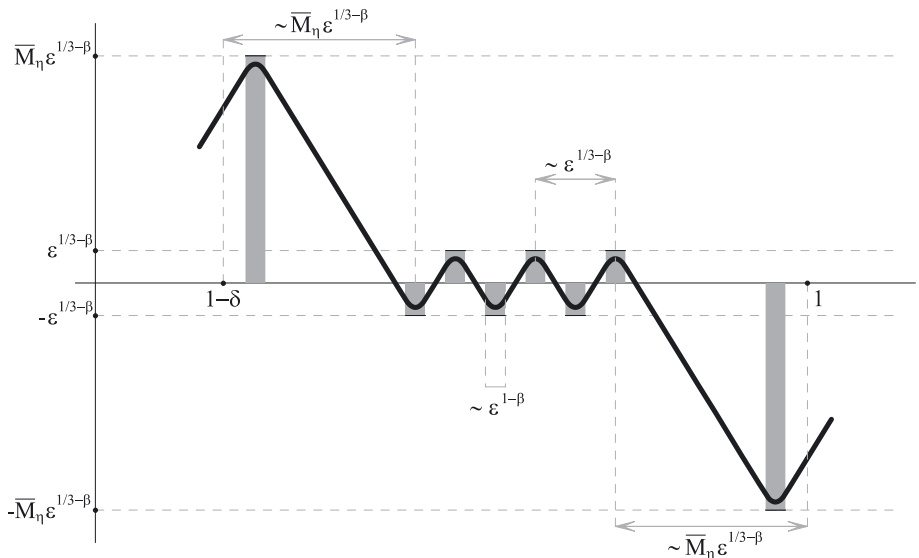


Fig. 1. – Extension of  $v_*^\varepsilon$  to  $(1 - \delta, 1)$ .

1-periodic, it results

$$I_a^\varepsilon(w^\varepsilon) \leq \rho_{\varepsilon, \star}^{-1} \int_0^1 \int_{a_s^\varepsilon} (R_{s^\varepsilon}^{\varepsilon, \star} \overline{v}_\star^\varepsilon) ds + \varepsilon_\star^\beta \varepsilon^{-2/3} \int_{E^\delta} \left( \varepsilon^2 \varepsilon_\star^{-2\beta} w_\star^{\varepsilon''2} + W(w_\star^{\varepsilon'}) + a_\varepsilon \varepsilon_\star^{2\beta} w_\star^{\varepsilon2} \right).$$

Let  $Q^\varepsilon$  ( $L^\varepsilon$ , resp.) denotes the set of all points in the domain where  $w_\star^\varepsilon$  is quadratic (linear, resp.). For every  $j = 1, \dots, \varepsilon_\star^{-\beta}$  there holds

$$\begin{aligned} & \varepsilon^{-2/3} \int_{E_j^\delta \cap Q^\varepsilon} \left( \varepsilon^2 \varepsilon_\star^{-2\beta} w_\star^{\varepsilon''2} + W(w_\star^{\varepsilon'}) + a_\varepsilon \varepsilon_\star^{2\beta} w_\star^{\varepsilon2} \right) \\ & \leq O(1) \varepsilon^{1/3-\beta} + 2 \|a_\varepsilon\|_{L^1(E_j^\delta \cap Q^\varepsilon \cap X^\varepsilon)} \overline{M}_\eta^2 + O(1) \|a_\varepsilon\|_{L^1(E_j^\delta \cap Q^\varepsilon \cap Y^\varepsilon)}. \end{aligned}$$

On the other hand, estimate on the set  $L^\varepsilon$  reads

$$\begin{aligned} & \varepsilon^{-2/3} \int_{E_j^\delta \cap L^\varepsilon} \left( \varepsilon^2 \varepsilon_\star^{-2\beta} w_\star^{\varepsilon''2} + W(w_\star^{\varepsilon'}) + a_\varepsilon \varepsilon_\star^{2\beta} w_\star^{\varepsilon2} \right) \\ & \leq 2 \|a_\varepsilon\|_{L^1(E_j^\delta \cap L^\varepsilon \cap X^\varepsilon)} \overline{M}_\eta^2 + O(1) \|a_\varepsilon\|_{L^1(E_j^\delta \cap L^\varepsilon \cap Y^\varepsilon)}. \end{aligned}$$

Since  $a$  is 1-periodic, there exists  $\varepsilon_1(\delta) > 0$ ,  $\varepsilon_0(\delta) \geq \varepsilon_1(\delta)$ , such that for every  $\varepsilon \in \langle 0, \varepsilon_1(\delta) \rangle$  and every  $j \in \mathbb{N}$  there holds  $\int_{\rho_{\varepsilon, \star} E_j^\delta} a \leq 2M\Delta + 2 \int_{F^M} a$ . Hence, for arbitrary  $M > 0$  and  $\delta \in \langle 0, \Delta \rangle$  we recover

$$\limsup_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \varepsilon_\star^\beta \varepsilon^{-2/3} \int_{E^\delta} \left( \varepsilon^2 \varepsilon_\star^{-2\beta} w_\star^{\varepsilon''2} + W(w_\star^{\varepsilon'}) + a_\varepsilon \varepsilon_\star^{2\beta} w_\star^{\varepsilon2} \right) \leq O(\overline{M}_\eta^2) \left( M\Delta + \int_{F^M} a \right).$$

In effect, we get

$$(16) \quad \limsup_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \varepsilon^{-2/3} I_a^\varepsilon(w^\varepsilon) \leq E_0 \overline{a}^{1/3} + \eta + O(\overline{M}_\eta^2) \left( M\Delta + \int_{F^M} a \right).$$

At last, we pass to the limit in (16) (first as  $\delta \rightarrow 0$  and  $\Delta \rightarrow 0$ , then as  $M \rightarrow +\infty$  and finally as  $\eta \rightarrow 0$ ), getting the upper bound.  $\square$

Now we consider the case  $\beta = 1/3$ . As a preparation, we minimize  $f_\alpha^M$  for arbitrary  $\alpha > 0$  in the case when  $M > 0$  is large enough.

**PROPOSITION 3.2.** – *For every  $\alpha > 0$  there exists  $M_0(\alpha) > 0$  such that for every  $M \geq M_0(\alpha)$  there exists (unique up to a translation)  $M$ -periodic sawtooth function  $\overline{x}_{M, \alpha} \in \mathcal{S}_{per}\langle 0, M \rangle$  which minimizes  $f_\alpha^M$  on  $\mathcal{S}_{per}\langle 0, M \rangle$ . Furthermore, there holds*

$$(17) \quad \lim_{M \rightarrow +\infty} \min_{x \in \mathcal{S}_{per}\langle 0, M \rangle} f_\alpha^M(x) = \lim_{M \rightarrow +\infty} \min_{x \in \mathcal{S}\langle 0, M \rangle} f_\alpha^M(x) = E_0 \alpha^{1/3}.$$

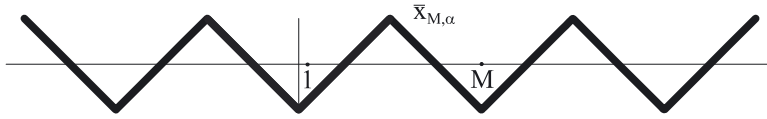


Fig. 2. – The symmetric sawtooth function  $\bar{x}_{M,\alpha} \in \mathcal{S}_{per}\langle 0, M \rangle$ .

PROOF. – Consider  $n \in \mathbf{N}$  and  $x \in \mathcal{S}_{per}\langle 0, M \rangle$  such that  $|Sx' \cap [0, M]| = 2n$ , where  $Sx' = \{t_0, t_1, \dots, t_{2n-1}, t_{2n}\}$  and  $0 \leq t_0 < t_1 < \dots < t_{2n-1} < t_{2n} = M$ . Set  $h_k := t_k - t_{k-1}$ ,  $p_k := \int_{t_{k-1}}^{t_k} x(\tau) d\tau$ ,  $k = 1, \dots, 2n$ . We introduce a function  $g_x : \langle 0, +\infty \rangle \times \mathbf{R} \rightarrow \langle 0, +\infty \rangle$  defined by  $g_x(h, p) := \frac{\xi}{h} + \frac{\alpha}{12} h^2 + \alpha p^2$ . Then there holds  $f_x^M(x) = \sum_{k=1}^{2n} \frac{h_k}{M} g_x(h_k, p_k)$ , where  $\sum_{k=1}^{2n} h_k = M$ . Moreover, we obtain

$$f_x^M(x) \geq \sum_{k=1}^{2n} \frac{h_k}{M} g_x(h_k, 0) = 2n \frac{\xi}{M} + \frac{\alpha}{12M} \sum_{k=1}^{2n} h_k^3,$$

where equality is achieved by  $M$ -periodic sawtooth function shown in Figure 2. It is easy to see that the solution of the minimization problem for the function  $(h_1, \dots, h_{2n}) \mapsto \sum_{k=1}^{2n} h_k^3$  with the constraint  $\sum_{k=1}^{2n} h_k = M$  is given by  $h_j = \frac{M}{2n}$ ,  $j = 1, \dots, 2n$ . Thus, the minimum of  $f_x^M$  is achieved by (unique up to a translation) sawtooth function  $\bar{x}_{M,\alpha} \in \mathcal{S}_{per}\langle 0, M \rangle$  such that  $t_k = k \frac{M}{2n}$ ,  $p_k = 0$ ,  $k = 1, \dots, 2n$ . In particular, there holds  $f_x^M(\bar{x}_{M,\alpha}) = 2\xi \frac{n}{M} + \frac{\alpha}{48} \left(\frac{M}{n}\right)^2$ . Note that we can set  $\lambda := \frac{n}{M}$  and minimize  $\lambda \mapsto 2\xi\lambda + \frac{\alpha}{48} \lambda^{-2}$  over all  $\lambda > 0$  to conclude that the optimal  $\lambda$  is  $\lambda_0 := \left(\frac{\alpha}{48\xi}\right)^{1/3}$ . If  $M > 0$  is fixed, then it can easily be checked that the optimal  $n_\star \in \mathbf{N}$  is  $n_\star := \lceil \lambda_0 M \rceil$  (or  $n_\star := \lfloor \lambda_0 M \rfloor$ ). By  $M_0(\alpha)$  we denote the smallest  $M > 0$  such that  $\lfloor \lambda_0 M \rfloor \geq 1$ . Then for every  $M \geq M_0(\alpha)$  there exists  $\bar{x}_{M,\alpha} \in \mathcal{S}_{per}\langle 0, M \rangle$  which minimizes  $f_a^M$  on  $\mathcal{S}_{per}\langle 0, M \rangle$ . A short computation gives

$$\lim_{M \rightarrow +\infty} f_x^M(\bar{x}_{M,\alpha}) = \lim_{M \rightarrow +\infty} \left( 2\xi \frac{n_\star}{M} + \frac{\alpha}{48} \frac{M^2}{n_\star^2} \right) = 2\xi \lambda_0 + \frac{\alpha}{48} \lambda_0^{-2} = E_0 \alpha^{1/3}.$$

Consider now  $u_M \in \mathcal{S}\langle 0, M \rangle$  such that there holds  $\min_{x \in \mathcal{S}\langle 0, M \rangle} f_x^M(x) = f_x^M(u_M)$  and  $v_M \in \mathcal{S}_{per}\langle 0, M \rangle$  shown in Figure 3. Then  $|Sv'_M \cap [0, M]| \leq |Su'_M \cap [0, M]| + 3$ ,  $|v_M(\tau)| \leq |u_M(\tau)|$ ,  $\tau \in \langle 0, M \rangle$ , so that

$$(18) \quad \min_{x \in \mathcal{S}_{per}\langle 0, M \rangle} f_x^M(x) \leq f_x^M(v_M) \leq f_x^M(u_M) + \frac{3\xi}{M}, \quad f_x^M(u_M) \leq \min_{x \in \mathcal{S}_{per}\langle 0, M \rangle} f_x^M(x).$$

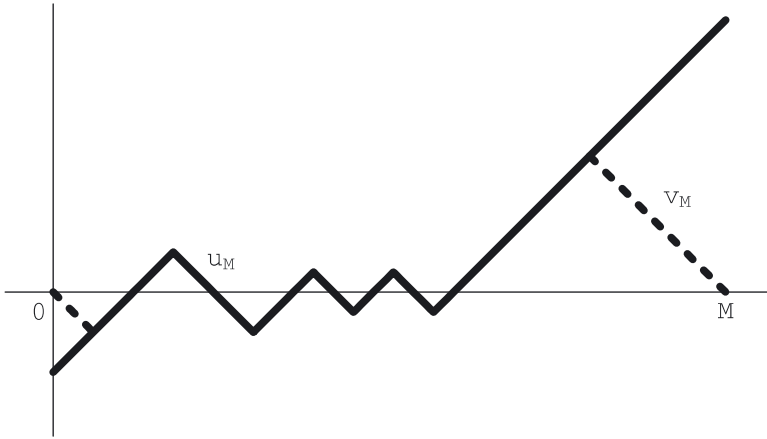


Fig. 3. – Construction of  $v_M \in \mathcal{S}_{per}\langle 0, M \rangle$ .

To furnish the proof, we pass to the limit as  $M \rightarrow +\infty$  in (18). □

At this point we turn our attention to recovering the lower and the upper bound in the critical case  $\beta = 1/3$ .

**THEOREM 3.3** [the critical case]. – *There holds*

$$(19) \quad \liminf_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \mathcal{E}_a^c(1/3) \geq \sup_{M > 0} \frac{M}{|M|} \min_{x \in \mathcal{S}\langle 0, M \rangle} f_a^M(x).$$

$$(20) \quad \limsup_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \mathcal{E}_{a,per}^c(1/3) \leq \inf_{M > 0} \min_{x \in \mathcal{S}_{per}\langle 0, M \rangle} f_a^M(x).$$

**PROOF.** – First, we obtain the lower bound (19). Let  $M > 0$ . Since for  $v \in H^2\langle 0, M\varepsilon^{1/3} \rangle$  there holds  $\varepsilon^{-2/3} I_{a,M}^{\varepsilon,*}(v) = f_a^{\varepsilon,M}(v_*)$ , where  $v_*(s) := \varepsilon^{-1/3} v(\varepsilon^{1/3}s)$ , by Proposition 2.1 and (8) there exists a sequence  $(u_{\varepsilon,*})$  which satisfy  $u_{\varepsilon,*} \in H^2\langle 0, M \rangle$ ,

$$(21) \quad \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \mathcal{E}_{a,M}^{\varepsilon,*}(1/3) = \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} f_a^{\varepsilon,M}(u_{\varepsilon,*}) = \min_{x \in \mathcal{S}\langle 0, M \rangle} f_a^M(x).$$

Then we infer (19) by an application of Proposition 3.1.

We prove the upper bound (20) in two steps.

Step 1. By Proposition 3.6 in [1] there exists a sequence of 1-Lipschitz functions  $(w_{\varepsilon,*})$  such that  $w_{\varepsilon,*} \in H_{per}^2\langle 0, M \rangle$ ,  $\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \mathcal{E}_{a,M,per}^{\varepsilon,*}(1/3) = \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} f_a^{\varepsilon,M}(w_{\varepsilon,*}) = \min_{x \in \mathcal{S}_{per}\langle 0, M \rangle} f_a^M(x)$ . Consider  $w_\varepsilon(s) := \varepsilon^{1/3} w_{\varepsilon,*}(\varepsilon^{-1/3}s)$ ,  $s \in \langle 0, M\varepsilon^{1/3} \rangle$ . Then there

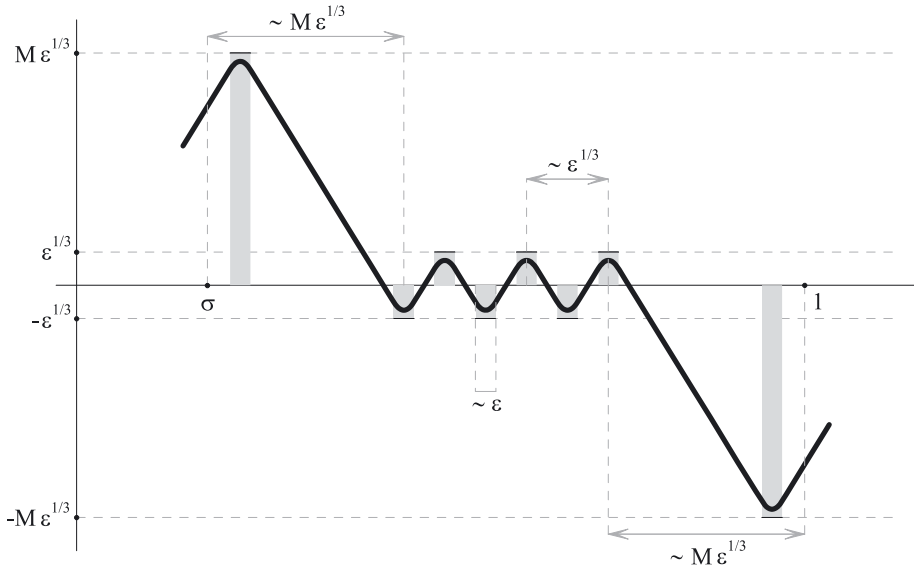


Fig. 4. – Construction of  $v_\varepsilon$  on  $\langle \sigma, 1 \rangle$ ,  $\sigma \in \langle 1 - 2M\varepsilon^{1/3}, 1 \rangle$ .

holds  $w_\varepsilon \in H_{per}^2\langle 0, M\varepsilon^{1/3} \rangle$  and

$$(22) \quad \varepsilon^{-2/3} I_a^\varepsilon(w_\varepsilon) \leq \rho_{\varepsilon, \star, M}^{-1} \varepsilon^{-2/3} I_{a, M}^{\varepsilon, \star}(w_\varepsilon) = \rho_{\varepsilon, \star, M}^{-1} f_a^{\varepsilon, M}(w_{\varepsilon, \star}) .$$

Step 2. Since  $\|w_{\varepsilon, \star}\|_{L^\infty(\mathbf{R})} \leq M$ , we get  $\|w_\varepsilon\|_{L^\infty(\mathbf{R})} \leq M\varepsilon^{1/3}$ . To achieve 1-periodicity of the minimizer we adjust behavior of  $w_\varepsilon$  near the right edge of the interval  $\langle 0, 1 \rangle$ , so as to get  $v_\varepsilon \in H_{per}^2\langle 0, 1 \rangle$  (cf. Figure 4). Then there holds  $\|v_\varepsilon\|_{L^\infty(\mathbf{R})} \leq M\varepsilon^{1/3}$ ,  $\|v_\varepsilon'\|_{L^\infty(\mathbf{R})} \leq O(1)$ . Let  $Q^\varepsilon(L^\varepsilon, \text{ resp.})$  denotes the set of all points in  $[\sigma, 1]$  where  $v_\varepsilon$  is quadratic (linear, resp.). Then  $\lambda(Q^\varepsilon) \leq O(1)\varepsilon$ ,  $\lambda(L^\varepsilon) \leq 2M\varepsilon^{1/3}$ . Similarly as in the proof of Theorem 3.2 for sufficiently large ball  $B \subset \mathbf{R}$  there holds

$$\begin{aligned} & \varepsilon^{-2/3} \int_{Q^\varepsilon} \left( \varepsilon^2 v_\varepsilon'^2(s) + W(v_\varepsilon'(s)) + a(\varepsilon^{-1/3}s)v_\varepsilon^2(s) \right) ds \\ & \leq O(1)\varepsilon^{1/3} + \|W\|_{L^\infty(B)} O(1)\varepsilon^{1/3} + M^2\varepsilon^{1/3} \int_{\varepsilon^{-1/3}Q^\varepsilon} a(s) ds , \\ & \varepsilon^{-2/3} \int_{L^\varepsilon} \left( \varepsilon^2 v_\varepsilon'^2(s) + W(v_\varepsilon'(s)) + a(\varepsilon^{-1/3}s)v_\varepsilon^2(s) \right) ds \\ & \leq M^2\varepsilon^{1/3} \int_{\varepsilon^{-1/3}L^\varepsilon} a(s) ds . \end{aligned}$$

Consequently, we estimate

$$(23) \quad \varepsilon^{-2/3} I_a^\varepsilon(v_\varepsilon) \leq \varepsilon^{-2/3} I_a^\varepsilon(w_\varepsilon) + O(1)\varepsilon^{1/3} + O(M^3)\varepsilon^{1/3} \|a\|_{L^1(0,1)} .$$

By passing to the limit as  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$  in (23) and (22) we get (20). □

We can now derive the formula for asymptotic energy in the critical case  $\beta = 1/3$  in terms of asymptotic behavior when  $\zeta \rightarrow 0$  and  $\zeta \rightarrow +\infty$ .

**THEOREM 3.4.** – *There holds*

$$(24) \quad \lim_{\zeta \rightarrow 0} \zeta^{-2/3} \mathcal{E}_a(1/3) = \lim_{\zeta \rightarrow 0} \zeta^{-2/3} \mathcal{E}_{a,per}(1/3) = C_0 \overline{a^{1/3}} ,$$

$$(25) \quad \lim_{\zeta \rightarrow +\infty} \zeta^{-2/3} \mathcal{E}_a(1/3) = \lim_{\zeta \rightarrow +\infty} \zeta^{-2/3} \mathcal{E}_{a,per}(1/3) = C_0 \overline{a^{1/3}} .$$

**PROOF.** – First, we consider the proof of (24). Let  $u \in \mathcal{S}\langle 0, M \rangle$  ( $z \in \mathcal{S}_{per}\langle 0, M \rangle$ , resp.) minimizes  $f_a^M$  on  $\mathcal{S}\langle 0, M \rangle$  ( $\mathcal{S}_{per}\langle 0, M \rangle$ , resp.). Thus (19) for  $M \in \mathbf{N}$  gives  $\mathcal{E}_a(1/3) \geq f_a^M(u)$ . Set  $\zeta_* := \lceil \zeta^{-1/3} \rceil^{-3}$ ,  $y_s(\tau) := \zeta_*^{-1/3} z(s + \zeta_*^{1/3} \tau)$ ,  $b_s^\zeta(\tau) := a(s + \zeta_*^{1/3} \tau)$ ,  $\tau \in \mathbf{R}$ ,  $s \in \mathbf{R}$ . Then there holds  $\zeta_*^{-1/3} \in \mathbf{N}$ ,  $\zeta^{1/3} \geq \zeta_*^{1/3}$ ,  $y_s \in \mathcal{S}_{per}\langle 0, M \zeta_*^{-1/3} \rangle$ ,  $b_s^\zeta \rightarrow a(s)$  in  $L^1_{loc}(\mathbf{R})$  as  $\zeta \rightarrow 0$  (a.e.  $s \in \mathbf{R}$ ). By construction in Figure 3 we estimate

$$\begin{aligned} \zeta^{-2/3} f_a^M(u) &\geq \zeta^{1/3} \frac{|S z' \cap [0, M]|}{M} + \zeta^{-2/3} \int_0^M a(s) z^2(s) ds - \frac{3\zeta^{1/3}}{M} \\ &\geq \sum_{j=1}^{\zeta_*^{-1/3}} \zeta_*^{1/3} \int_0^M \left( \frac{|S y'_s \cap [(j-1)M, jM]|}{M} + \int_0^M b_s^\zeta y_s^2 \right) ds - \frac{3\zeta^{1/3}}{M} \\ &\geq \int_0^M \min_{y \in \mathcal{S}\langle 0, M \rangle} \varphi_{b_s^\zeta}^M(y) ds - \frac{3\zeta^{1/3}}{M} . \end{aligned}$$

In the limit as  $\zeta \rightarrow 0$  and as  $M \rightarrow +\infty$ , we have

$$\liminf_{M \rightarrow +\infty} \liminf_{\zeta \rightarrow 0} \zeta^{-2/3} \min_{x \in \mathcal{S}\langle 0, M \rangle} f_a^M(x) \geq \liminf_{M \rightarrow +\infty} \int_0^1 \min_{y \in \mathcal{S}\langle 0, M \rangle} \varphi_{a(s)}^M ds ,$$

and Fatou’s Lemma (combined with Proposition 3.2) yields the lower bound associated to (24). On the other hand, for a given  $M \in \mathbf{N}$  we consider functionals

$\Phi_a^{\xi, M}, \Phi_a^M : YM(\langle 0, M \rangle; K) \rightarrow [0, +\infty]$  defined by

$$\Phi_a^{\xi, M}(v) := \begin{cases} \int_0^M \langle v_s, \varphi_{b_s^{\xi}}^M \rangle ds, & \text{if } v_s = \delta_{R_s^{\xi} x} \text{ for some } x \in \mathcal{S}_{\text{per}} \langle 0, M \xi^{1/3} \rangle \\ +\infty, & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

$$\Phi_a^M(v) := \begin{cases} \int_0^M \langle v_s, \varphi_{a(s)}^M \rangle ds, & \text{if } v_s \in \mathcal{I}(K) \text{ for a.e. } s \in \langle 0, M \rangle \\ +\infty, & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

where  $R_s^{\xi}x$  is  $\xi$ -blowup of  $x$  at point  $s$  defined by (2). Similarly as in Theorem 3.1, we can write  $\xi^{-2/3} f_a^{M \xi^{1/3}}(x) = \Phi_a^{\xi, M}(\delta_{R_s^{\xi} x})$ , where  $x \in \mathcal{S}_{\text{per}} \langle 0, M \xi^{1/3} \rangle$ . Then there holds  $\Phi_a^{\xi, M} \xrightarrow{\Gamma} \Phi_a^M$  on  $YM(\langle 0, M \rangle; K)$  as  $\xi \rightarrow 0$ . Therefore by (20) and Theorem 3.4 in [1] it results  $\limsup_{\xi \rightarrow 0} \xi^{-2/3} \mathcal{E}_{a, \text{per}}(1/3) \leq \min_v \Phi_a^M(v) = C_0 \overline{a^{1/3}}$ .

To prove the lower bound in (25) (the upper bound in (25), resp.), we note that by (19) ((20), resp.) there holds

$$\xi^{-2/3} \mathcal{E}_a(1/3) \geq \frac{M \xi^{1/3}}{[M \xi^{1/3}]} \min_{z \in \mathcal{S} \langle 0, M \xi^{1/3} \rangle} \xi^{-2/3} f_a^{M \xi^{1/3}}(z)$$

$$\left( \xi^{-2/3} \mathcal{E}_{a, \text{per}}(1/3) \leq \min_{z \in \mathcal{S}_{\text{per}} \langle 0, M \xi^{1/3} \rangle} \xi^{-2/3} f_a^{M \xi^{1/3}}(z), \text{ resp.} \right).$$

For a given  $z \in \mathcal{S} \langle 0, M \xi^{1/3} \rangle$  we define  $\tilde{z} \in \mathcal{S}_{\text{per}} \langle 0, M \xi^{1/3} \rangle$  according to Figure 3, and we set  $\tilde{y}_s(\tau) = \xi^{-1/3} \tilde{z}(s + \xi^{1/3} \tau)$ ,  $s, \tau \in \mathbf{R}$  (For  $\bar{x} \in \mathcal{S}_{\text{per}} \langle 0, M \rangle$  which minimizes  $f_{\bar{a}}^M$  we define  $\bar{z} \in \mathcal{S}_{\text{per}} \langle 0, M \xi^{1/3} \rangle$  by  $\bar{z}(s) := \xi^{1/3} \bar{x}(\xi^{-1/3} s)$ , and we set  $\bar{y}_{\xi, s}(\tau) := \xi^{-1/3} \bar{z}(s + \xi^{1/3} \tau)$ ,  $s, \tau \in \mathbf{R}$ , resp.). Set  $c_s^{\xi}(\tau) := c(s + \xi^{1/3} \tau)$ . Then  $c_s^{\xi} \rightarrow \bar{a}$  in  $L^1_{\text{loc}}(\mathbf{R})$  as  $\xi \rightarrow +\infty$  (a.e.  $s \in \mathbf{R}$ ),  $y_s \in \mathcal{S} \langle 0, M \rangle$  ( $\bar{y}_{\xi, s} \in \mathcal{S}_{\text{per}} \langle 0, M \rangle$ ),  $\bar{y}_{\xi, s} \rightarrow \bar{x}$  uniformly in  $s \in \langle 0, M \rangle$  and  $\tau \in \langle 0, M \rangle$  as  $\xi \rightarrow +\infty$ , resp.), and there holds

$$\xi^{1/3} \frac{|\mathcal{S} \tilde{z}' \cap [0, M \xi^{1/3}]|}{M \xi^{1/3}} + \xi^{-2/3} \int_0^{M \xi^{1/3}} a(s) \tilde{z}^2(s) ds = \int_0^M \varphi_{c_s^{\xi}}^M(\tilde{y}_s) ds,$$

$$\min_{z \in \mathcal{S} \langle 0, M \xi^{1/3} \rangle} \xi^{-2/3} f_a^{M \xi^{1/3}}(z) \geq \int_0^M \min_{y \in \mathcal{S} \langle 0, M \rangle} \varphi_{c_s^{\xi}}^M(y) ds - \frac{3}{M}$$

$$\left( \xi^{-2/3} f_a^{M \xi^{1/3}}(\bar{z}) = \int_0^M \varphi_{c_s^{\xi}}^M(\bar{y}_{\xi, s}) ds, \text{ resp.} \right).$$

In the limit as  $\xi \rightarrow +\infty$ , we get  $\liminf_{\xi \rightarrow +\infty} \xi^{-2/3} \mathcal{E}_a(1/3) \geq \min_{y \in \mathcal{S} \langle 0, M \rangle} \varphi_{\bar{a}}^M(y) - \frac{3}{M}$



( $\limsup_{\xi \rightarrow +\infty} \xi^{-2/3} \mathcal{E}_{a,per}(1/3) \leq \varphi_a^M(\bar{x})$ , resp.), which, as we consider the limit as  $M \rightarrow +\infty$ , gives the lower bound in (25) (the upper bound in (25), resp.).  $\square$

In the next corollary we present some further properties of the rescaled asymptotic energy in the critical case.

**COROLLARY 3.1.** – Set  $\mathcal{F}(a, \xi) := \xi^{-2/3} \lim_{M \rightarrow +\infty} \min_{x \in \mathcal{S}_{per}(0, M)} f_a^M(x)$ ,  $a_i(s) := a(\lambda s)$ ,  $s \in \mathbf{R}$ ,  $\lambda > 0$ . Then there holds  $\mathcal{F}(a, \xi) = \xi^{-2/3} \mathcal{E}_a(1/3) = \xi^{-2/3} \mathcal{E}_{a,per}(1/3)$ ,

- (i)  $\lim_{\xi \rightarrow 0} \mathcal{F}(a, \xi) = C_0 \bar{a}^{1/3}$ ,  $\lim_{\xi \rightarrow +\infty} \mathcal{F}(a, \xi) = C_0 \bar{a}^{1/3}$ .
- (ii) if  $\xi_n, \xi_\infty > 0$ ,  $\xi_n \rightarrow \xi_\infty$ , and  $a_n \rightarrow a$  in  $L^1_{loc}(\mathbf{R})$  as  $n \rightarrow +\infty$ , then  $\lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} \mathcal{F}(a_n, \xi_n) = \mathcal{F}(a, \xi_\infty)$ .

Furthermore, if  $\xi = \xi(\lambda)$ , then there holds:

- (iii)  $\lim_{\lambda \rightarrow +\infty} \lambda \xi^{1/3}(\lambda) = 0$  ( $\lim_{\lambda \rightarrow +\infty} \lambda \xi^{1/3}(\lambda) = +\infty$ , resp.) implies  $\lim_{\lambda \rightarrow +\infty} \mathcal{F}(a_\lambda, \xi(\lambda)) = C_0 \bar{a}^{1/3}$ , ( $\lim_{\lambda \rightarrow +\infty} \mathcal{F}(a_\lambda, \xi(\lambda)) = C_0 \bar{a}^{1/3}$ , resp.).
- (iv)  $\lim_{\lambda \rightarrow 0} \lambda \xi^{1/3}(\lambda) = 0$  ( $\lim_{\lambda \rightarrow 0} \lambda \xi^{1/3}(\lambda) = +\infty$ , resp.) implies  $\lim_{\lambda \rightarrow 0} \mathcal{F}(a_\lambda, \xi(\lambda)) = C_0 \bar{a}^{1/3}$ , ( $\lim_{\lambda \rightarrow 0} \mathcal{F}(a_\lambda, \xi(\lambda)) = C_0 \bar{a}^{1/3}$ , resp.).

**PROOF.** – Consider  $M \in \mathbf{N}$ . By construction described in Figure 3, we have

$$(26) \quad \min_{x \in \mathcal{S}_{per}(0, M)} f_a^M(x) - \frac{3\xi}{M} \leq \mathcal{E}_a(1/3) = \mathcal{E}_{a,per}(1/3) \leq \min_{x \in \mathcal{S}_{per}(0, M)} f_a^M(x).$$

As we pass to the limit in (26) as  $M \rightarrow +\infty$ , it results  $\mathcal{F}(a, \xi) = \xi^{-2/3} \mathcal{E}_a(1/3) = \xi^{-2/3} \mathcal{E}_{a,per}(1/3)$ . Thus (i) holds. Next, we note that there holds: if  $\xi_n \rightarrow \xi_\infty$  and  $a_n \rightarrow a$  in  $L^1_{loc}(\mathbf{R})$  as  $n \rightarrow +\infty$ , then  $f_{a_n}^{M, \xi_n} \xrightarrow{\Gamma} f_a^{M, \xi_\infty}$  as  $n \rightarrow +\infty$  on  $L^1(0, M)$  for every  $M \in \mathbf{N}$ . Suppose that  $\bar{x}_n$  ( $\bar{y}_n$ , resp.) minimizes  $f_{a_n}^{M, \xi_n}$  on  $\mathcal{S}_{per}(0, M)$  ( $\mathcal{S}(0, M)$ , resp.), while  $\bar{x}_\infty$  ( $\bar{y}_\infty$ , resp.) minimizes  $f_a^{M, \xi_\infty}$  on  $\mathcal{S}_{per}(0, M)$  ( $\mathcal{S}(0, M)$ , resp.). Set  $M_k := 2^k$ ,  $k \in \mathbf{N}$ . Then for every  $k \in \mathbf{N}$  ( $M \in \mathbf{N}$ , resp.) there holds

$$\mathcal{F}(a_n, \xi_n) = \inf_{k \in \mathbf{N}} \xi_n^{-2/3} f_{a_n}^{M_k, \xi_n}(\bar{x}_n) \leq \xi^{-2/3} f_a^{M_k, \xi_n}(\bar{x}_n)$$

$$\left( \mathcal{F}(a_n, \xi_n) \geq \sup_{M \in \mathbf{N}} \xi_n^{-2/3} f_{a_n}^{M, \xi_n}(\bar{y}_n) \geq \xi_n^{-2/3} f_a^{M, \xi_n}(\bar{y}_n), \text{ resp.} \right).$$

We pass to the limit as  $n \rightarrow +\infty$ , and then as  $k \rightarrow +\infty$  ( $M \rightarrow +\infty$ , resp.), getting (ii). Verification of (iii) and (iv) is similar to the proof of Theorem 3.4 and it is left to the interested reader.  $\square$

In the end, we briefly explain how to approach the case  $\beta > 1/3$ .

**THEOREM 3.5** [the supercritical case]. – *Let  $\beta > 1/3$ . Then  $\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \mathcal{E}_a^\varepsilon(\beta) = \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \mathcal{E}_{a,per}^\varepsilon(\beta) = E_0 \bar{a}^{1/3}$ .*

**PROOF.** – As pointed out in [1], p. 814, the claim easily follows by direct application of results in [1], where the case  $\beta = 0$  was studied. We consider  $\varepsilon$ -blowup (2). Then we can write  $\varepsilon^{-2/3} I_a^\varepsilon(v) = \int_0^1 f_{\tilde{a}_s^\varepsilon}^\varepsilon(R_s^\varepsilon v) ds, v \in H_{per}^2\langle 0, 1 \rangle$ , where the only distinction in comparison to the case  $\beta = 0$  is that  $\tilde{a}_s^\varepsilon : \mathbf{R} \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$  is now defined by  $\tilde{a}_s^\varepsilon(\tau) := a(\varepsilon^{-\beta} s + \varepsilon^{1/3-\beta} \tau)$ . By a version of the McShane lemma there holds  $\tilde{a}_s^\varepsilon \rightarrow \bar{a}$  in  $L_{loc}^1(\mathbf{R})$  (a.e.  $s \in \langle 0, 1 \rangle$ ) as  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ . Thus we arrive at the conclusion that there holds  $f_{\tilde{a}_s^\varepsilon}^\varepsilon \xrightarrow{\Gamma} f_{\bar{a}}$  (a.e.  $s \in \langle 0, 1 \rangle$ ) as  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ , which, as shown in [1], Theorem 3.4, is sufficient to deduce the claim of the theorem.  $\square$

**4. – Ending Remarks**

**REMARK 4.1.** – The present analysis, in our view, shows that minimizers  $v^\varepsilon \in H_{per}^2\langle 0, 1 \rangle$  of  $I_a^\varepsilon$  develop a sawtooth-like behavior. Consider a subsequence  $\varepsilon_k := \left(\frac{1}{k}\right)^{1/\beta}$  and  $a \in L_{per}^\infty\langle 0, 1 \rangle$  ( $a \neq \text{const.}$ ). Set  $L_0 := (48\zeta)^{1/3}$ . Let  $\beta \in \langle 0, 1/3 \rangle$ . By Theorem 1.1 in [7] and an approximation of  $a$  by simple functions we can establish the error estimate  $\mathcal{E}_{a,per}^{\varepsilon_k}(\beta) = E_0 \bar{a}^{1/3} + O(\varepsilon_k^{2/3-\beta})$ . We define  $v^{\varepsilon_k, j}(s) := v^{\varepsilon_k}(s + (j-1)\varepsilon_k^\beta), s \in \langle 0, \varepsilon_k^\beta \rangle, j \in \mathbf{Z}$ . Since we can write  $\varepsilon_k^{-2/3} I_a^{\varepsilon_k}(v^{\varepsilon_k}) = \sum_{j=1}^{\varepsilon_k^{-\beta}} \varepsilon_k^\beta \varepsilon_k^{-2/3} I_a^{\varepsilon_k, *}(v^{\varepsilon_k, j})$ , for every  $j = 1, \dots, \varepsilon_k^{-\beta}$  we get  $\varepsilon_k^{-2/3} I_a^{\varepsilon_k, *}(v^{\varepsilon_k, j}) = E_0 \bar{a}^{1/3} + O(\varepsilon_k^{2/3-2\beta})$ , so that for every  $j \in \mathbf{Z}$  (by periodicity of  $v^{\varepsilon_k}$ ) there holds  $\lim_{k \rightarrow +\infty} \mathcal{E}_a^{\varepsilon_k, *}(\beta) = \lim_{k \rightarrow +\infty} \varepsilon_k^{-2/3} I_a^{\varepsilon_k, *}(v^{\varepsilon_k, j}) = E_0 \bar{a}^{1/3}$ . In particular, by (12) and Corollary 3.13 in [1] for every  $j \in \mathbf{Z}$  there holds  $\delta_{R_s^{\varepsilon_k, *} v^{\varepsilon_k, j}} \xrightarrow{*} \varepsilon_{\bar{x}^s}$  (a.e.  $s \in \langle 0, 1 \rangle$ ) as  $k \rightarrow +\infty$ , where  $\varepsilon_{\bar{x}^s}$  is the unique probability measure, invariant with respect to translations, supported on the orbit of  $L_0(a(s))^{-1/3}$ -periodic sawtooth function  $\bar{x}^s$  with zero average and two corners per period (see [1], p. 778, p. 790). We believe that the later convergence provides a fairly good interpretation of geometric properties of the minimizing sequence  $(v^{\varepsilon_k})$ . In the language adopted from [1], p. 763, we conclude that every minimizer  $v^{\varepsilon_k}$  for  $\varepsilon_k \approx 0$  in the neighborhood of

almost every point  $s \in \langle 0, 1 \rangle$  resembles a periodic sawtooth function with minimal period  $L_0(a(\varepsilon_k^{-\beta}s))^{-1/3}\varepsilon_k^{1/3}$ . If  $\beta = 1/3$ , similar, but more careful, analysis reveals that minimizers  $v^{\varepsilon_k}$  satisfy  $v_*^{\varepsilon_k, j} \rightarrow \bar{x}_a$  in  $L^1\langle 0, 1 \rangle$ , where  $j \in \mathbf{Z}$  and  $\bar{x}_a \in \mathcal{S}\langle 0, 1 \rangle$  minimizes  $f_a^1$  (note that minimizers of  $f_a^1$  by no means necessarily belong to the class  $\mathcal{S}_{per}\langle 0, 1 \rangle$ ). In the case  $\beta > 1/3$  the interpretation can be directly deduced from the convergence  $\delta_{R_s^{\varepsilon}} \xrightarrow{*} \varepsilon \bar{y}$ , (a.e.  $s \in \langle 0, 1 \rangle$ ) as  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ , where  $\bar{y}$  is  $L_0(\bar{a})^{-1/3}$ -periodic sawtooth function with zero average and two corners per period.

REMARK 4.2. – As a further example of variational problem which involves multiple small scales, we can consider the functional defined by

$$(27) \quad \mathcal{J}_{a,\beta,\gamma}^\varepsilon(v) := \int_0^1 \left( \varepsilon^2 v''^2(s) + W(v'(s)) + a(\varepsilon^{-\beta}s, \varepsilon^{-\gamma}s)v^2(s) \right) ds,$$

where  $v \in H_{per}^2\langle 0, 1 \rangle$ ,  $a \in L_{per}^1(\langle 0, 1 \rangle \times \langle 0, 1 \rangle)$  is Carathéodory function, and  $\beta, \gamma > 0$ . Then we can adapt calculations in Section 3 so as to compute rescaled asymptotic energy  $\mathcal{E}_a(\beta, \gamma)$  associated to (27) as  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ . It can be shown that  $\mathcal{E}_a(\beta, \gamma)$  is equal to  $E_0 \int_0^1 \int_0^1 a^{1/3}(\tau_1, \tau_2) d\tau_1 d\tau_2$ , when  $\beta, \gamma \in \langle 0, 1/3 \rangle$ , while it is equal to  $E_0 \bar{a}^{1/3}$ , when  $\beta, \gamma > 1/3$ . On the other hand, if  $\beta \in \langle 0, 1/3 \rangle$  and  $\gamma > 1/3$ ,  $\mathcal{E}_a(\beta, \gamma)$  takes value  $E_0 \int_0^1 \left[ \int_0^1 a(\tau_1, \tau_2) d\tau_2 \right]^{1/3} d\tau_1$ .

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