

# **Influence of kinks on the interaction energy between ferroelastic domain walls in membranes and thin films**

**Guangming Lu<sup>1</sup>, Kimura Hideo<sup>1</sup>, Xiangdong Ding<sup>2</sup>, Zhijun Xu<sup>1</sup>, Ruiqing Chu<sup>1</sup>,  
Guillaume F. Nataf<sup>3</sup>, Ekhard K. H. Salje<sup>4</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>School of Environmental and Materials Engineering, Yantai University, Yantai 264005, Shandong, China.

<sup>2</sup>State Key Laboratory for Mechanical Behavior of Materials, Xi'an Jiaotong University, Xi'an 710049, Shaanxi, China.

<sup>3</sup>GREMAN UMR7347, CNRS, University of Tours, INSA Centre Val de Loire, Tours 37000, France.

<sup>4</sup>Department of Earth Sciences, University of Cambridge, Cambridge CB2 3EQ, UK.

**Correspondence to:** Dr. Guangming Lu, School of Environmental and Materials Engineering, Yantai University, Yantai 264005, Shandong, China. E-mail: [luguangming1990@ytu.edu.cn](mailto:luguangming1990@ytu.edu.cn); Prof. Ekhard K. H. Salje, Department of Earth Sciences, University of Cambridge, Cambridge CB2 3EQ, UK. Email: [ekhard@esc.cam.ac.uk](mailto:ekhard@esc.cam.ac.uk)

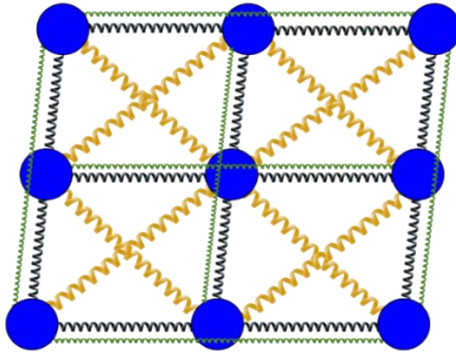


Fig. S1 Interatomic potential for a generic ferroelastic model. The harmonic nearest-neighbor (black springs), anharmonic next-nearest-neighbor (yellow springs) and third-nearest-neighbor (green springs) interactions in (a) has an energy minimum when the lattice is sheared with respect to the cubic unit cell.

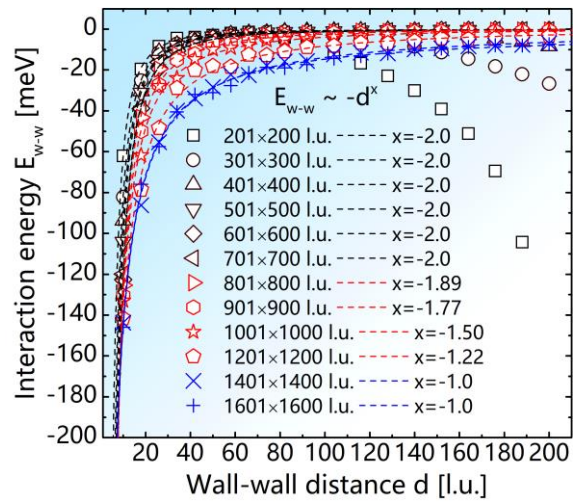


Fig. S2 Interaction energies of kink-kink configurations as function of wall-wall distances with different sample sizes.

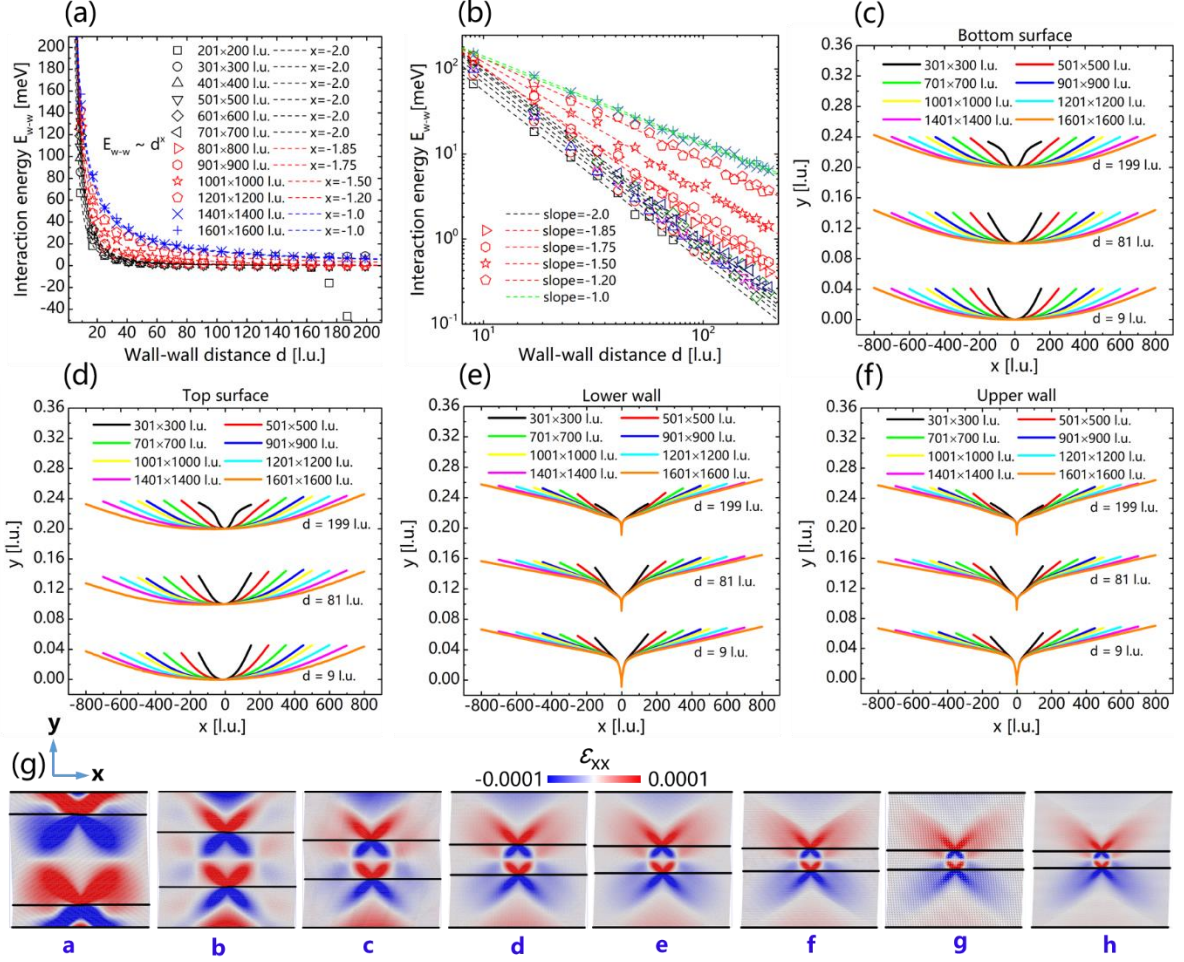


Fig. S3 Interaction energies of kink-anti-kink inside two parallel walls. (a) shows the interaction energy of sample with different sizes. (b) shows the fitted scaling exponents of samples with different sizes. (c)-(f) show the lattice bendings for bottom surfaces, top surfaces, lower walls and upper walls of samples with wall-wall distances of  $d = 9$  l.u.,  $81$  l.u. and  $199$  l.u. (g) are strains maps coded by atomic-level normal strain  $\epsilon_{xx}$  with a wall-wall distance of  $d = 199$  l.u. The sample sizes for a-h are  $301$  l.u. $\times$  $300$  l.u.,  $501$  l.u. $\times$  $500$  l.u.,  $701$  l.u. $\times$  $700$  l.u.,  $901$  l.u. $\times$  $900$  l.u.,  $1001$  l.u. $\times$  $1000$  l.u.,  $1201$  l.u. $\times$  $1200$  l.u.,  $1401$  l.u. $\times$  $1400$  l.u. and  $1601$  l.u. $\times$  $1600$  l.u.. The colored lines in a-h indicated the bottom surface, lower wall, upper wall and top surface. The dependences of the kink-anti-kink interactions on the sample sizes are similar to the kink-kink interactions, showing ‘dipolar’ interactions with scaling exponents of  $-2$  for small samples and ‘monopolar’ interactions with scaling exponents of  $-1$  for large samples.

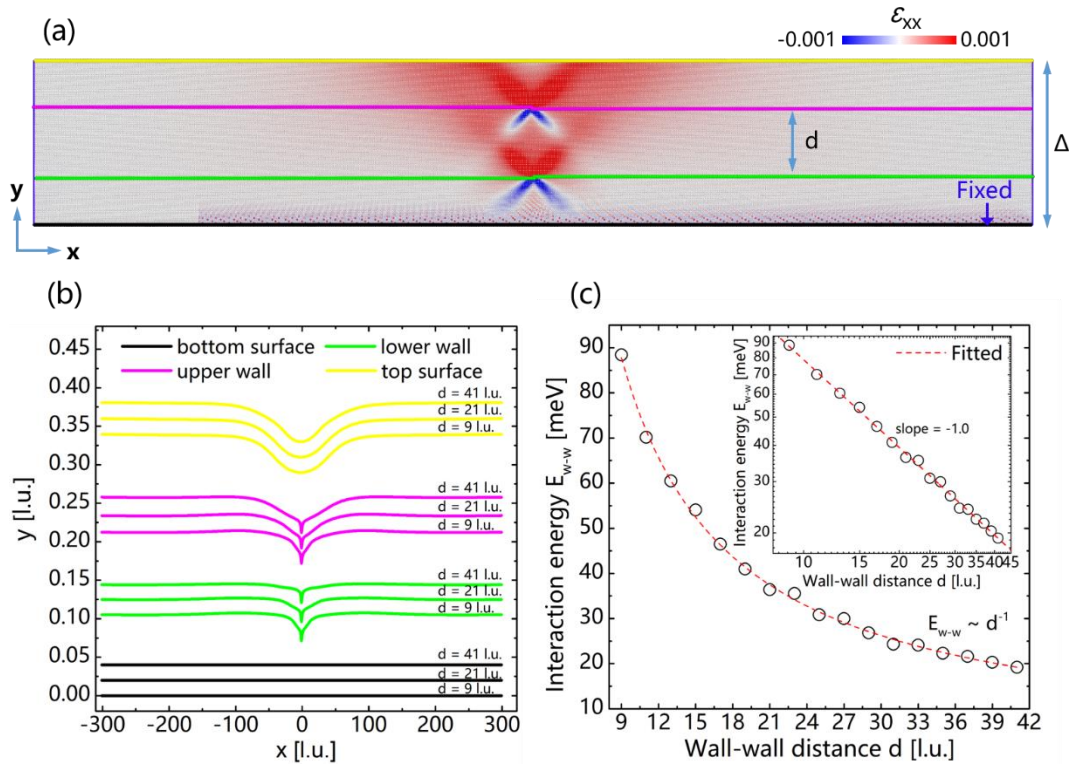


Fig. S4 Interaction energies of kink-anti-kink with a clamped bottom surface. (a) shows the strain fields of the thin film with thickness of  $\Delta = 100$  l.u. and wall-wall distance of  $d = 41$  l.u. Strain map (a) was coded by atomic-level normal strain  $\epsilon_{xx}$ . (b) shows the bending of fixed bottom surface, lower wall, upper wall and top surface due to the kink-anti-kink interactions. (c) shows the interaction energy as function of wall-wall distance. The fitted exponent of -1 indicated by the inset in (c) is the same as the kink-kink interactions.