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# Variational stabilization of degenerate $p$ -elasticae

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In this talk we discuss a new stabilization phenomenon induced by degenerate diffusion in the context of pinned planar  $p$ -elasticae. More precisely, in the non-degenerate regime (including the classical case of Euler's elastica) there are no local minimizers other than unique global minimizers, but in the degenerate regime there emerges an uncountable family of local minimizers with unbounded energy.