Preface

The mathematical modeling of microstructures in solids is a fascinating topic that combines ideas from different fields such as analysis, numerical simulation, and materials science. Beginning in the 80s, variational methods have been playing a prominent rôle in modern theories for microstructures, and surprising developments in the calculus of variations were stimulated by questions arising in this context.

This text grew out of my *Habilitationsschrift* at the University of Leizpig, and would not have been possible without the constant support and encouragement of all my friends during the past years. In particular I would like to thank S. Müller for having given me the privilege of being a member of his group during my years in Leipzig in which the bulk of the work was completed.

College Park, August 2002   *Georg Dolzmann*