1023-49-1631 **Andrea Braides** and **Chris Larsen*** (cjlarsen@wpi.edu). *ε-stable Γ-convergence.* Preliminary report.

It is well known that if a sequence E_n of energies Γ-converges to an energy E, the limits of (strict) local minimizers of the energies E_n are not necessarily local minimizers of E. However, there is a kind of stability that is close to strict local minimality, called ε-stability, that is apparently more suited for Γ-convergence. We will give a definition of a type of Γ-convergence based on this stability ($E_n \overset{s-\Gamma}{\rightharpoonup} E$) along with some examples, as well as a theorem on when continuous perturbations also converge ($E_n + F \overset{s-\Gamma}{\rightharpoonup} E + F$). (Received September 26, 2006)