

UNIFORM CUSP PROPERTY, BOUNDARY INTEGRAL, AND COMPACTNESS FOR SHAPE OPTIMIZATION

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Abstract In this paper we consider the family of sets verifying the uniform cusp property introduced in [2] and extended in [4] to cusp functions only continuous at the origin. In the latter case we show that to any extended cusp function, we can associate a continuous, non-negative, and monotone strictly increasing cusp function of the type introduced in [2]. We construct an example of a bounded set in \mathbf{R}^N with a cusp function of the form $c|\theta|^\alpha$, $0 < \alpha < 1$, for which its boundary integral is infinite and the Hausdorff dimension of its boundary is exactly $N - \alpha$. We then give compactness theorems for the family of subsets of a bounded open holdall verifying a uniform cusp property with a uniform bound on either the De Giorgi [6] or the γ -density perimeter of Bucur and Zolésio [1]. We also give their *uniform local C^0 -graph* versions following [4].

*This research has been supported by National Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada discovery grant A-8730 and by a FQRNT grant from the Ministère de l'Éducation du Québec.

This class forms a much larger family than the one of subsets verifying a uniform cone property.

Keywords: Oriented distance function, signed distance function, compactness, cusp property, boundary integral, density perimeter, Hausdorff dimension

Introduction

In this paper we consider the family of sets verifying the uniform cusp property introduced in [2] and extended in [4] to cusp functions only continuous at the origin. In the latter case we show that to any extended cusp function, we can associate a continuous, non-negative, and monotone strictly increasing cusp function of the type originally introduced in [2]. Unlike sets verifying a uniform cone property, such sets do not necessarily have a locally finite boundary integral. This fact is illustrated by constructing an example of a bounded subset of \mathbf{R}^N with cusp function $c|\theta|^\alpha$, $0 < \alpha < 1$, for which the boundary integral is infinite and the Hausdorff dimension of its boundary is exactly $N - \alpha$.

Even without a uniform bound on the perimeter a general compactness theorem was given in [4] for a family of subsets of a bounded hold-all verifying a uniform cusp property with a cusp function only continuous at the origin. In this paper we give compactness theorems for the family of subsets of a bounded open holdall verifying a uniform cusp property with a uniform bound on either the De Georgi [6] or the γ -density perimeter of Bucur and Zolésio [1]. We also give in § 4.3 their *uniform local C^0 -graph* versions following [4]. This class of subsets forms a much larger family than the one of subsets verifying a uniform cone property.

1. Preliminaries: Topologies on Families of Sets

We first introduce some notation. Given an integer $N \geq 1$, m_N and H_{N-1} will denote the N -dimensional Lebesgue and $(N - 1)$ -dimensional Hausdorff measures. The inner product and the norm in \mathbf{R}^N will be written $x \cdot y$ and $|x|$. The *complement* $\{x \in \mathbf{R}^N : x \notin \Omega\}$ and the boundary $\overline{\Omega} \cap \overline{\mathbb{C}\Omega}$ of a subset Ω of \mathbf{R}^N will be respectively denoted by $\mathbb{C}\Omega$ or $\mathbf{R}^N \setminus \Omega$ and by $\partial\Omega$ or Γ . The *distance function* $d_A(x)$ from a point x to a subset $A \neq \emptyset$ of \mathbf{R}^N is defined as $\inf\{|y - x| : y \in A\}$.

Recall a few results on metric topologies defined on spaces of equivalence classes of sets constructed from the characteristic function, the distance or the oriented distance functions to a set. Given $\Omega \subset \mathbf{R}^N$, $\Gamma \neq \emptyset$, the *oriented distance function* is defined as

$$b_\Omega(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} d_\Omega(x) - d_{\mathbb{C}\Omega}(x). \quad (1)$$

It is Lipschitz continuous of constant 1, and ∇b_Ω exists and $|\nabla b_\Omega| \leq 1$ almost everywhere in \mathbf{R}^N . Thus $b_\Omega \in W_{\text{loc}}^{1,p}(\mathbf{R}^N)$ for all p , $1 \leq p \leq \infty$. Recall that $b_\Omega^+ = d_\Omega$, $b_\Omega^- = d_{\mathcal{C}\Omega}$, and $|b_\Omega| = d_\Gamma$, and that $\chi_{\text{int}\Omega} = |\nabla d_{\mathcal{C}\Omega}|$, $\chi_{\text{int}\mathcal{C}\Omega} = |\nabla d_\Omega|$, and $\chi_\Gamma = 1 - |\nabla d_\Gamma|$ a.e. in \mathbf{R}^N , where χ_A denotes the characteristic function of a subset A of \mathbf{R}^N . Given a nonempty subset D of \mathbf{R}^N , the family $C_b(D) = \{b_\Omega : \Omega \subset \overline{D} \text{ and } \Gamma \neq \emptyset\}$ is closed in $W^{1,p}(D)$. The following theorem is central. It shows that convergence and compactness in the metric on $C_b(D)$ associated with $W^{1,p}(D)$ will imply the same properties in the other topologies introduced in [2].

THEOREM 1 *Let $D \subset \mathbf{R}^N$ be bounded open and $1 \leq p < \infty$. The maps*

$$b_\Omega \mapsto (b_\Omega^+, b_\Omega^-, |b_\Omega|) = (d_\Omega, d_{\mathcal{C}\Omega}, d_{\partial\Omega}) : C_b(D) \subset W^{1,p}(D) \rightarrow W^{1,p}(D)^3 \quad (2)$$

$$b_\Omega \mapsto (\chi_{\partial\Omega}, \chi_{\text{int}\Omega}, \chi_{\text{int}\mathcal{C}\Omega}) : W^{1,p}(D) \rightarrow L^p(D)^3 \quad (3)$$

are continuous.

Proof. – They are well-defined from [2] (Chapter 5, Theorem 2.1 (iii), p. 207) for the map (2) and [2] (Chapter 5, Thm 2.2 (iv)-(v), p. 210) for the map (3). They are continuous from [2] (Chapter 5, Thm 5.1). \square

2. Extension of the Uniform Cusp Property

The *uniform cusp property* introduced in [2] (Chapter 5, § 11) was specified by a continuous function $h : [0, \rho[\rightarrow \mathbf{R}$ such that

$$h(0) = 0, \quad h(\rho) = \lambda, \quad \forall \theta, 0 < \theta < \rho, \quad 0 < h(\theta) < \lambda. \quad (4)$$

Recall that with h of the form $h(\theta) = \lambda(\theta/\rho)^\alpha$, $0 < \alpha \leq 1$, we recover the *uniform cusp property* for $0 < \alpha < 1$ and the *uniform cone property* for $\alpha = 1$, $\rho = \lambda \tan \omega$ and $h(\theta) = \theta/\tan \omega$ which corresponds to an open cone in 0 of aperture ω , height λ , and axis e_N .

The uniform cusp property was extended in [4] to the family of cusp functions h in the larger space

$$\mathcal{H} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{h : [0, \infty[\rightarrow \mathbf{R} : h(0) = 0 \text{ and } h \text{ is continuous in } 0\} \quad (5)$$

by associating with $h \in \mathcal{H}$, $\rho > 0$, and λ the axi-symmetrical region

$$C(\lambda, h, \rho) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \left\{ (\zeta', \zeta_N) \in \mathbf{R}^N : |\zeta'| < \rho \text{ and } \limsup_{\xi' \rightarrow \zeta'} h(|\xi'|) < \zeta_N < \lambda \right\} \quad (6)$$

around the axis $e_N = (0, \dots, 0, 1)$ in \mathbf{R}^N . Given $\lambda > 0$, $\rho > 0$, $h \in \mathcal{H}$, and a direction $d \in \mathbf{R}^N$, $|d| = 1$, the rotated region from direction e_N to

d is defined as

$$C(\lambda, h, \rho, d) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \left\{ y \in \mathbf{R}^N : \begin{array}{l} |P_{H_d}(y)| < \rho \text{ and} \\ \limsup_{z \rightarrow y} h(|P_{H_d}(z)|) < y \cdot d < \lambda \end{array} \right\}, \quad (7)$$

where $H_d = \{d\}^\perp$ is the hyperplane through 0 orthogonal to the direction d . Finally, the translation of $C(\lambda, h, \rho, d)$ to the point x will be denoted

$$C_x(\lambda, h, \rho, d) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} x + C(\lambda, h, \rho, d).$$

LEMMA 2 ([4],[5]) *For all $\lambda > 0$, $\rho > 0$, $h \in \mathcal{H}$, and $x \in \mathbf{R}^N$, the regions $C(\lambda, h, \rho)$ and $C_x(\lambda, h, \rho, d)$ are nonempty and open. Moreover the segment $(x, x + \lambda d)$ is contained in $C_x(\lambda, h, \rho, d)$.*

The function h is referred to as a *cusplike function* and the space \mathcal{H} as the *space of cusplike functions*. The definition of the uniform cusplike property in [2] (Chapter 5, § 11) can now be extended to the larger class \mathcal{H} .

DEFINITION 3 *Let Ω be a subset of \mathbf{R}^N such that $\partial\Omega \neq \emptyset$.*

(i) *Ω satisfies the local uniform cusplike property if*

$$\forall x \in \partial\Omega, \quad \exists h \in \mathcal{H}, \exists \lambda > 0, \exists \rho > 0, \exists r > 0, \exists d \in \mathbf{R}^N, |d| = 1, \\ \text{such that } \forall y \in B(x, r) \cap \overline{\Omega}, \quad C_y(\lambda, h, \rho, d) \subset \text{int } \Omega.$$

(ii) *Given $h \in \mathcal{H}$, Ω satisfies the h -local uniform cusplike property if*

$$\forall x \in \partial\Omega, \quad \exists \lambda > 0, \exists \rho > 0, \exists r > 0, \exists d \in \mathbf{R}^N, |d| = 1, \\ \text{such that } \forall y \in B(x, r) \cap \overline{\Omega}, \quad C_y(\lambda, h, \rho, d) \subset \text{int } \Omega.$$

(iii) *Ω satisfies the uniform cusplike property for (r, λ, h, ρ) if*

$$\exists h \in \mathcal{H}, \exists \lambda > 0, \exists \rho > 0, \exists r > 0, \quad \forall x \in \partial\Omega, \exists d \in \mathbf{R}^N, |d| = 1, \\ \text{such that } \forall y \in B(x, r) \cap \overline{\Omega}, \quad C_y(\lambda, h, \rho, d) \subset \text{int } \Omega.$$

The three cases of Definition 3 only differ when $\partial\Omega$ is not compact.

THEOREM 4 ([4]) *If $\partial\Omega$ is compact, then the three uniform cusplike properties of Definition 3 coincide.*

In fact, when a local uniform cusplike property is verified for some cusplike function $h \in \mathcal{H}$, it is verified for another cusplike function which is continuous, non-negative, and monotone strictly increasing as in (4).

THEOREM 5 *Assume that Ω satisfies the local uniform cusplike property in $x \in \partial\Omega$ for some (r, λ, h, ρ) , $h \in \mathcal{H}$. Then there exist $(r', \lambda', h', \rho')$,*

with $h' \in \mathcal{H}$ continuous, non-negative, monotone strictly increasing, and $\lambda' = h'(\rho')$, such that Ω satisfies the local uniform cusp property in $x \in \partial\Omega$ for (r, λ', h', ρ') .

Proof. – By continuity of $h \in \mathcal{H}$ in 0,

$$\begin{aligned} \exists 0 < \theta_0 \leq \rho, \quad \forall 0 \leq \theta \leq \theta_0, \quad |h(\theta)| \leq \lambda/2, \\ \forall n \geq 1, \quad \exists 0 < \theta_n < \theta_{n-1}/2, \quad \forall 0 \leq \theta \leq \theta_n, \quad |h(\theta)| \leq \lambda/2^{n+1}. \end{aligned}$$

At each step $n \geq 0$ construct the continuous monotone strictly increasing and non-negative function $k_n : [0, \theta_0] \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$ defined as follows

$$k_n(\theta) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \begin{cases} \frac{\lambda}{2^{j+1}} \frac{\theta_j - \theta}{\theta_j - \theta_{j+1}} + \frac{\lambda}{2^j} \frac{\theta - \theta_{j+1}}{\theta_j - \theta_{j+1}}, & \text{if } \theta_{j+1} < \theta \leq \theta_j, \quad 0 \leq j \leq n-1 \\ \frac{\lambda}{2^{n+1}} \frac{\theta_n - \theta}{\theta_n} + \frac{\lambda}{2^n} \frac{\theta}{\theta_n}, & \text{if } 0 \leq \theta \leq \theta_n. \end{cases}$$

By continuity of h at the origin and the fact that $h(0) = 0$, $\theta_n \rightarrow 0$ and $k_n(0) \rightarrow 0$. By construction, $0 \leq |h(\theta)| \leq k_{n+1}(\theta) \leq k_n(\theta)$ in $[0, \theta_0]$, $k_{n+1}(\theta) = k_n(\theta)$ in $[\theta_{n+1}, \theta_0]$, and $\|k_{n+1} - k_n\|_{C[0, \theta_{n+1}]} \leq \lambda/2^{n+1}$. Therefore there exists a continuous non-negative and monotone strictly increasing function $k \in C[0, \theta_0]$ such that $k_n \rightarrow k$ in $C[0, \theta_0]$, $k(0) = 0$, and $|h(\theta)| \leq k(\theta) \leq \lambda$ in $[0, \theta_0]$. Finally, if $k(\theta_0) = \lambda$, choose ρ' such that $k(\rho') = \lambda$, $\lambda' = \lambda$, and $h' = k$. If $k(\theta_0) < \lambda$, choose $\rho' = \theta_0$, $\lambda' = k(\theta_0)$, and $h' = k$. From the construction, $\rho' \leq \rho$, $\lambda' \leq \lambda$, $h' \geq h$, and hence $C(\lambda', h', \rho') \subset C(\lambda, h, \rho)$. Therefore the local uniform cusp property of Definition 3 is verified with a non-negative, continuous, and monotone strictly increasing cusp function of the form (4). \square

We now turn to the compactness theorem. Given a bounded open subset D of \mathbf{R}^N , $\rho > 0$, $\lambda > 0$, $r > 0$, and $h \in \mathcal{H}$, consider the family

$$L(D, \lambda, h, \rho, r) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \left\{ \Omega \subset \bar{D} : \begin{array}{l} \Omega \text{ satisfies the uniform cusp} \\ \text{property for } (\lambda, h, \rho, r) \end{array} \right\}. \quad (8)$$

The compactness Theorem 11.1 ([2], Chapter 5) readily extends to \mathcal{H} .

THEOREM 6 ([4]) *Let D be a nonempty bounded open subset of \mathbf{R}^N and $1 \leq p < \infty$. For $\rho > 0$, $\lambda > 0$, and $h \in \mathcal{H}$ the family*

$$B(D, \lambda, h, \rho, r) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{b_\Omega : \forall \Omega \in L(D, \lambda, h, \rho, r)\}$$

is compact in $C(\bar{D})$ and $W^{1,p}(D)$. As a consequence the families

$$\begin{aligned} B_d(D, \lambda, h, \rho, r) &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{d_\Omega : \forall \Omega \in L(D, \lambda, h, \rho, r)\}, \\ B_d^c(D, \lambda, h, \rho, r) &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{d_{\Omega^c} : \forall \Omega \in L(D, \lambda, h, \rho, r)\}, \\ B_d^\partial(D, \lambda, h, \rho, r) &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{d_{\partial\Omega} : \forall \Omega \in L(D, \lambda, h, \rho, r)\} \end{aligned}$$

are compact in $C(\bar{D})$ and $W^{1,p}(D)$, and the following families are compact in $L^p(D)$

$$\begin{aligned} X(D, \lambda, h, \rho, r) &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{\chi_\Omega : \forall \Omega \in L(D, \lambda, h, \rho, r)\}, \\ X^c(D, \lambda, h, \rho, r) &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{\chi_{\complement\Omega} : \forall \Omega \in L(D, \lambda, h, \rho, r)\}. \end{aligned}$$

3. Extended Uniform Cusp Property and Boundary Integral (Perimeter)

Domains Ω which are locally Lipschitzian epigraphs or, equivalently, satisfy the local uniform cone property enjoy the additional property that the $(N - 1)$ -Hausdorff measure of their boundary $\partial\Omega$ is locally finite. In general, this is no longer true for domains which are locally Hölderian epigraphs of exponent α , $0 < \alpha < 1$, but we have an upper bound on the Hausdorff dimension of $\partial\Omega$. We first recall a definition.

DEFINITION 7 *Let $\Omega \subset \mathbf{R}^N$ be such that $\partial\Omega \neq \emptyset$. The set Ω is said to be locally a $C^{0,\ell}$ -epigraph, $0 \leq \ell \leq 1$, if for each $x \in \partial\Omega$ there exist*

- (a) an open neighborhood $\mathcal{U}(x)$ of x ;
- (b) a direction $e_N(x) \in \mathbf{R}^N$, $|e_N(x)| = 1$;
- (c) a bounded open neighborhood $V_{H(x)}$ of 0 in the hyperplane $H(x) = \{e_N(x)\}^\perp$ through 0 such that

$$\mathcal{U}(x) \subset \{y \in \mathbf{R}^N : P_{H(x)}(y - x) \in V_{H(x)}\}, \quad (9)$$

where $P_{H(x)}$ is the orthogonal projection onto $H(x)$; and

- (d) a $C^{0,\ell}$ -mapping $a_x: V_{H(x)} \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$ such that

$$\mathcal{U}(x) \cap \partial\Omega = \left\{ x + \zeta' + \zeta_N e_N(x) : \begin{array}{l} \zeta' \in V_{H(x)} \\ \zeta_N = a_x(\zeta') \end{array} \right\} \quad (10)$$

$$\mathcal{U}(x) \cap \text{int}\Omega = \mathcal{U}(x) \cap \left\{ x + \zeta' + \zeta_N e_N(x) : \begin{array}{l} \zeta' \in V_{H(x)} \\ \zeta_N > a_x(\zeta') \end{array} \right\}. \quad (11)$$

THEOREM 8 *If Ω in \mathbf{R}^N satisfies the uniform cusp property associated with the function $h(\theta) = \theta^\alpha$, $0 < \alpha < 1$, then the Hausdorff dimension of $\partial\Omega$ is less or equal to $N - \alpha$.*

Proof. - From Theorem 3.3 (i) in [4], Ω is locally a $C^{0,\alpha}$ -epigraph and, a fortiori, a C^0 -epigraph. Let $r > 0$, $\rho > 0$, and $\lambda > 0$ be the parameters,

$e_N(x) = d_x$ the direction and $H(x)$ the hyperplane through 0 orthogonal to d_x associated with the point $x \in \partial\Omega$. Then there exists $\bar{\rho}$,

$$0 < \bar{\rho} \leq r_\lambda \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \min\{r, \lambda/2\} \quad (12)$$

which is the largest radius such that

$$B_{H(x)}(0, \bar{\rho}) \subset \{P_{H(x)}(y - x) : \forall y \in B(x, r_\lambda) \cap \partial\Omega\}.$$

The neighborhoods of Definition 3.2 in [4] or Definition 5.2 in Chapter 2 of [2] that specify the local graph $a_x : V_{H(x)} \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$ can be chosen as

$$\begin{aligned} V_{H(x)} &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} B_{H(x)}(0, \bar{\rho}) \text{ and} \\ \mathcal{U}(x) &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} B(x, r_\lambda) \cap \{y : P_{H(x)}(y - x) \in V_{H(x)}\}, \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

where $B_{H(x)}(0, \bar{\rho})$ is the open ball of radius $\bar{\rho}$ in the hyperplane $H(x)$. For each $\zeta' \in V_{H(x)}$, there exists a unique $y_{\zeta'} \in \partial\Omega \cap \mathcal{U}(x)$ such that $P_{H(x)}(y_{\zeta'} - x) = \zeta'$ and the function

$$\zeta' \mapsto a_x(\zeta') \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (y_{\zeta'} - x) \cdot d_x : V_{H(x)} \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$$

is well-defined, bounded,

$$\forall \zeta' \in V_{H(x)}, \quad |a_x(\zeta')| < r_\lambda, \quad (14)$$

uniformly continuous in $V_{H(x)}$, and

$$\forall \zeta'_1, \zeta'_2 \in V_{H(x)}, \quad |a_x(\zeta'_2) - a_x(\zeta'_1)| \leq c |\zeta'_2 - \zeta'_1|^\alpha. \quad (15)$$

Since $\partial\Omega$ is compact there exists a finite number of points $\{x_i \in \partial\Omega : 1 \leq i \leq m\}$ such that $\partial\Omega \subset \cup_{i=1}^m \mathcal{U}(x_i)$. Given $\varepsilon < \bar{\rho}$, $\bar{\rho}$ as chosen in (12), let $N_\Omega(\varepsilon)$ be the number of hypercubes of dimension N and side ε required to cover $\partial\Omega$ and let $N_{\Omega,i}(\varepsilon)$ be the number of hypercubes of dimension N and side ε required to cover $\partial\Omega \cap \mathcal{U}(x_i)$.

We have the following estimate

$$N_{\Omega,i}(\varepsilon) \leq \left(\frac{r_\lambda}{\varepsilon}\right)^{N-1} \frac{c(\sqrt{N-1}\varepsilon)^\alpha}{\varepsilon}.$$

Indeed the neighborhood

$$V_{H(x)} = B_{H(x)}(0, \bar{\rho}) \subset B_{H(x)}(0, r_\lambda)$$

can be covered by $[r_\lambda/\varepsilon]^{N-1}$ $(N-1)$ -dimensional hypercubes of side ε . On each $(N-1)$ -dimensional hypercube of side ε the variation between the minimum and the maximum of the function a_x is bounded by

$$c \left(\sqrt{(N-1)\varepsilon^2} \right)^\alpha = c \left(\sqrt{N-1}\varepsilon \right)^\alpha.$$

So the number of N -dimensional hypercubes of side ε necessary to cover the hypersurface above each $(N - 1)$ -dimensional hypercube of side ε is

$$\left\lceil \frac{c}{\varepsilon} \left(\sqrt{N-1} \varepsilon \right)^\alpha \right\rceil.$$

Finally

$$\begin{aligned} N_{\Omega,i}(\varepsilon) &\leq \left(\frac{r_\lambda}{\varepsilon} + 1 \right)^{N-1} \left(\frac{c}{\varepsilon} \left(\sqrt{N-1} \varepsilon \right)^\alpha + 1 \right) \\ &\leq \frac{1}{\varepsilon^{N-1}} \frac{1}{\varepsilon^{1-\alpha}} (r_\lambda + \varepsilon)^{N-1} \left(c \left(\sqrt{N-1} \right)^\alpha + \varepsilon^{1-\alpha} \right) \\ &\leq \frac{1}{\varepsilon^{N-\alpha}} (r_\lambda + \varepsilon)^{N-1} \left(c \left(\sqrt{N-1} \right)^\alpha + \varepsilon^{1-\alpha} \right). \end{aligned}$$

As a result for all $\beta > N - \alpha$

$$\begin{aligned} N_{\Omega,i}(\varepsilon) &\leq \sum_{i=1}^m N_{\Omega,i}(\varepsilon) \\ &\leq m \frac{1}{\varepsilon^{N-\alpha}} (r_\lambda + \varepsilon)^{N-1} \left(c \left(\sqrt{N-1} \right)^\alpha + \varepsilon^{1-\alpha} \right) \\ \Rightarrow N_{\Omega}(\varepsilon) \varepsilon^\beta &\leq \varepsilon^{\beta-N+\alpha} m (r_\lambda + \varepsilon)^{N-1} \left(c \left(\sqrt{N-1} \right)^\alpha + \varepsilon^{1-\alpha} \right) \\ &\Rightarrow \forall \beta > N - \alpha, \quad H_\beta(\partial\Omega) = 0. \end{aligned}$$

This means that, by definition, the Hausdorff dimension of $\partial\Omega$ is less or equal to $N - \alpha$. \square

It is possible to construct examples of sets verifying the uniform cusp property for which the Hausdorff dimension of the boundary is strictly greater than $N - 1$ and hence $H_{N-1}(\partial\Omega) = +\infty$.

EXAMPLE 9 *This following two-dimensional example of an open domain satisfying the uniform cusp condition for the function $h(\theta) = \theta^\alpha$, $0 < \alpha < 1$, can easily be generalized to an N -dimensional example. Consider the open domain Ω in \mathbf{R}^2*

$$\begin{aligned} \Omega &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{(x, y) : -1 < x \leq 0 \text{ and } 0 < y < 2\} \\ &\quad \cap \{(x, y) : 0 < x < 1 \text{ and } f(x) < y < 2\} \\ &\quad \cap \{(x, y) : 1 \leq x < 2 \text{ and } 0 < y < 2\} \end{aligned}$$

where $f : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$ is defined as follows

$$f(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} d_C(x)^\alpha, \quad 0 \leq x \leq 1,$$

and C is the Cantor set on the interval $[0, 1]$. This function is equal to 0

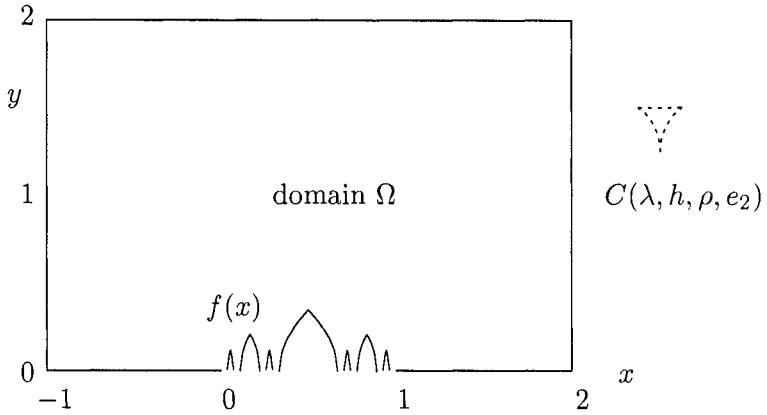


Figure 1. Domain Ω for $N = 2$, $0 < \alpha < 1$, $e_2 = (0, 1)$, $\rho = 1/6$, $\lambda = (1/6)^\alpha$, $h(\theta) = \theta^\alpha$.

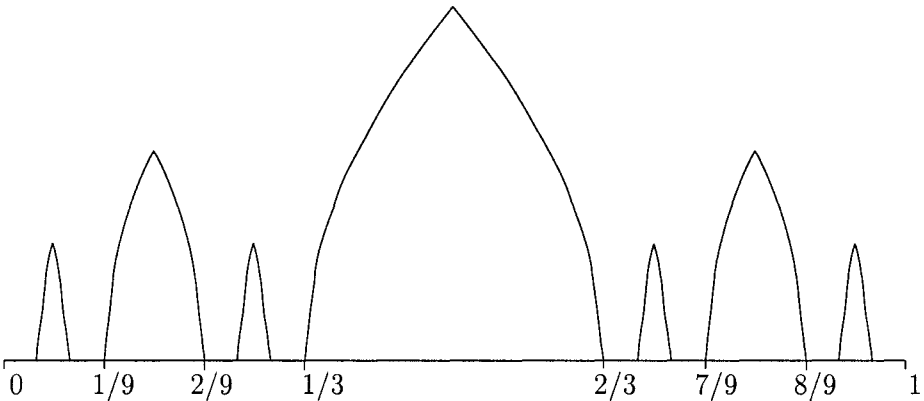


Figure 2. $f(x) = d_C(x)^{1/2}$ constructed on the Cantor set C for $2k + 1 = 3$.

on C . Any point in $[0, 1] \setminus C$ belongs to one of the intervals of length 3^{-k} , $k \geq 1$, which has been deleted from $[0, 1]$ in the sequential construction of the Cantor set. Therefore the distance function $d_C(x)$ is equal to the distance function to the two end points of that interval. In view of this special structure it can be shown that

$$\forall x, y \in [0, 1], \quad |d_C(y)^\alpha - d_C(x)^\alpha| \leq |y - x|^\alpha$$

Denote by Γ the piece of the boundary $\partial\Omega$ specified by the function $f = d_C$. On Γ the uniform cusp condition is verified with $\rho = 1/6$, $\lambda = (1/6)^\alpha$, and $h(\theta) = \theta^\alpha$. Clearly the number $N_\Omega(\varepsilon)$ of hypercubes of

dimension N and side ε required to cover $\partial\Omega$ is greater than the number $N_\Gamma(\varepsilon)$ of hypercubes of dimension N and side ε required to cover Γ . The construction of the Cantor set is done by sequentially deleting intervals. At step $k = 0$ the interval $(1/3, 2/3)$ of width 3^{-1} is removed. At step k a total of 2^k intervals of width $3^{-(k+1)}$ are removed. Thus if we pick $\varepsilon = 3^{-(k+1)}$ the interval $[0, 1]$ can be covered with exactly $3^{(k+1)}$ intervals. Here we are interested in finding a lower bound to the total number of squares of side ε necessary to cover Γ . For this purpose we only keep the 2^k intervals removed at step k . Vertically it takes

$$\left[\frac{(2^{-1}3^{-(k+1)})^\alpha}{3^{-(k+1)}} \right] \geq \frac{(2^{-1}3^{-(k+1)})^\alpha}{3^{-(k+1)}} - 1$$

Then we have for $\beta \geq 0$

$$\begin{aligned} N_\Omega(\varepsilon) &\geq N_\Gamma(\varepsilon) \geq 2^k \left(\frac{(2^{-1}3^{-(k+1)})^\alpha}{3^{-(k+1)}} - 1 \right) \\ &\geq 2^{k-\alpha} 3^{(k+1)(1-\alpha)} - 2^k = \left(3^{(1-\alpha)} 2 \right)^k 2^{-\alpha} 3^{(1-\alpha)} - 2^k \\ \Rightarrow N_\Omega(\varepsilon) (3^{-k})^{1+\beta} &\geq 3^{-k(1+\beta)} \left(\left(3^{(1-\alpha)} 2 \right)^k 2^{-\alpha} 3^{(1-\alpha)} - 2^k \right) \\ &\geq \left(3^{-(\alpha+\beta)} 2 \right)^k 2^{-\alpha} 3^{(1-\alpha)} - \left(\frac{2}{3^{(1+\beta)}} \right)^k \end{aligned}$$

The second term goes to zero as k goes to infinity. The first term goes to infinity as k goes to infinity if $3^{-(\alpha+\beta)} 2 > 1$, that is, $0 < \alpha + \beta < \ln 2 / \ln 3$. Under this condition, $H_{1+\beta}(\partial\Omega) = H_{1+\beta}(\Gamma) = +\infty$ for all $0 < \alpha < \ln 2 / \ln 3$ and all $0 \leq \beta < \ln 2 / \ln 3 - \alpha$. Therefore given $0 < \alpha < \ln 2 / \ln 3$

$$\forall \beta, 0 \leq \beta + \alpha < \ln 2 / \ln 3, \quad H_{1+\beta}(\partial\Omega) = +\infty$$

and the Hausdorff dimension of $\partial\Omega$ is strictly greater than 1.

Given $0 < \alpha < 1$, it is possible to construct an *optimal example* of a set verifying the uniform cusp property for which the Hausdorff dimension of the boundary is exactly $N - \alpha$ and hence $H_{N-1}(\partial\Omega) = +\infty$.

EXAMPLE 10 Optimal example of a set that verifies the uniform cusp property with $h(\theta) = |\theta|^\alpha$, $0 < \alpha < 1$, and whose boundary has Hausdorff dimension exactly equal to $N - \alpha$.

For that purpose, we need a generalization of the Cantor set. Denote by C_1 the Cantor set. Recall that each x , $0 \leq x \leq 1$, can be written

uniquely (if we make a certain convention) as

$$x = \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \frac{a_j(3, x)}{3^j}$$

where $a_j(3, x)$ can be regarded as the j th digit of x written in basis 3. From this define the Cantor set is characterized as follows

$$x \in C_1 \iff \forall j, a_j(3, x) \neq 1.$$

Similarly for an arbitrary integer $k \geq 1$, each $x \in [0, 1]$ can be uniquely written in the form

$$x = \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \frac{a_j(2k+1, x)}{(2k+1)^j}$$

and we can define the set C_k as

$$x \in C_k \iff \forall j, a_j(2k+1, x) \neq k.$$

In a certain sense, if $k_1 > k_2$, C_{k_1} contains more points than C_{k_2} . We now use these sets to construct the family of set D_k as follows

$$x \in D_1 \iff 2x \in C_1$$

and for $k > 1$

$$x \in D_k \iff 2^{k+1}(x - 2^k) \in C_k.$$

Note that, if $k_1 \neq k_2$, $D_{k_1} \cap D_{k_2} = \emptyset$ since the D_k 's only contain points from the interval $[1 - 2^{k-1}, 1 - 2^k]$. Consider now the following set

$$D \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \bigcup_{k=1}^{\infty} D_k$$

and go back to Example 9 with the function f is replaced by the function

$$f(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} d_D(x)^\alpha.$$

Again it can be shown that

$$\forall x, y \in [0, 1], \quad |d_D(y)^\alpha - d_D(x)^\alpha| \leq |y - x|^\alpha.$$

Note that on the interval $[1 - 2^{k-1}, 1 - 2^k]$ we have $d_D(x)^\alpha = d_{D_k}(x)^\alpha$.

Denote by Γ the piece of boundary $\partial\Omega$ specified by the function $f = d_D$ and Γ_k the part of boundary $\partial\Omega$ specified by the function $f = d_D = d_{D_k}$ on the interval $[1 - 2^{k-1}, 1 - 2^k]$. Once again on Γ the uniform cusp property is verified with $\rho = 1/6$, $\lambda = (1/6)^\alpha$, and $h(\theta) = \theta^\alpha$.

Clearly the number $N_\Omega(\varepsilon)$ of hypercubes of dimension N and side ε required to cover $\partial\Omega$ is greater than the number $N_{\Gamma_k}(\varepsilon)$ of hypercubes of dimension N and side ε required to cover Γ_k . The construction of the set C_k is also done sequentially by deleting intervals. At step $j = 0$ the interval $]k/(2k+1), (k+1)/(2k+1)[$ of width $(2k+1)^{-1}$ is removed. At step j a total of 2^j intervals of width $(2j+1)^{-(j+1)}$ are removed. If we consider the intervals that remain at step j , a total of 2^{j+1} nonempty disjoint intervals of width $(\frac{k}{2k+1})^{j+1}$ remain in the set C_k . Each of these intervals contains a gap of length $(\frac{k}{2k+1})^{j+1} \frac{1}{2k+1}$ created at step $j+1$.

If we construct the set D_k in the same way, at step j a total of 2^j nonempty disjoint intervals of width $(\frac{k}{2k+1})^{j+1} \frac{1}{2^k}$ remain in the set D_k . Each of these intervals contains a gap of length $(\frac{k}{2k+1})^{j+1} \frac{1}{2^k(2k+1)}$. Pick

$$\varepsilon = \frac{1}{2^k} \left(\frac{k}{2k+1} \right)^{j+1}$$

and look for a lower bound on the number of squares of side ε necessary to cover Γ_k . For this purpose, only consider the 2^{j+1} nonempty disjoint intervals remaining at step j . As they each contain a gap of length

$$\left(\frac{k}{2k+1} \right)^{j+1} \frac{1}{2^k(2k+1)}$$

vertically it takes

$$\begin{aligned} & \left[\left(\left(\frac{k}{2k+1} \right)^{j+1} \frac{1}{2^{k+1}(2k+1)} \right)^\alpha 2^k \left(\frac{2k+1}{k} \right)^{j+1} \right] \\ & \geq \left(\left(\frac{k}{2k+1} \right)^{j+1} \frac{1}{2^{k+1}(2k+1)} \right)^\alpha 2^k \left(\frac{2k+1}{k} \right)^{j+1} - 1 \end{aligned}$$

ε -cubes. Then we have for $\beta \geq 0$

$$\begin{aligned} N_\Omega(\varepsilon) & \geq N_\Gamma(\varepsilon) \\ & \geq 2^{j+1} \left(\left(\left(\frac{k}{2k+1} \right)^{j+1} \frac{1}{2^{k+1}(2k+1)} \right)^\alpha 2^k \left(\frac{2k+1}{k} \right)^{j+1} - 1 \right) \\ & \geq \left(\frac{2(2k+1)k^\alpha}{k(2k+1)^\alpha} \right)^{j+1} \left(\frac{2^k}{2^{\alpha(k+1)}(2k+1)^\alpha} \right) - 2^{j+1} \\ & = (2(2k+1)^{1-\alpha} k^{\alpha-1})^{j+1} \left(\frac{2^{k(1-\alpha)-\alpha}}{(2k+1)^\alpha} \right) - 2^{j+1} \end{aligned}$$

and hence

$$\begin{aligned} & \varepsilon^{1+\beta} N_{\Omega}(\varepsilon) \\ & \geq \left(\frac{1}{2^k} \left(\frac{k}{2k+1} \right)^{j+1} \right)^{1+\beta} \left((2(2k+1)^{1-\alpha} k^{\alpha-1})^{j+1} \left(\frac{2^{k(1-\alpha)-\alpha}}{(2k+1)^{\alpha}} \right) - 2^{j+1} \right) \\ & \geq \left(\left(\frac{k}{2k+1} \right)^{\alpha+\beta} 2 \right)^{j+1} \frac{2^{k(1-\alpha)-\alpha}}{2^{k(1+\beta)} (2k+1)^{\alpha}} - 2^{j+1} \left(\frac{1}{2^k} \left(\frac{k}{2k+1} \right)^{j+1} \right)^{1+\beta} \end{aligned}$$

The second term goes to zero as j goes to infinity. The first term goes to infinity as j goes to infinity if $\left(\frac{k}{2k+1}\right)^{\alpha+\beta} 2 > 1$ for any integer k , that is, if

$$0 < \alpha + \beta < \frac{\log 2}{\log((2k+1)/k)}.$$

As k can be chosen arbitrarily large, the former inequality reduces to $0 < \alpha + \beta < 1$. Under this condition there exists an integer k for which $H_{1+\beta}(\partial\Omega) = H_{1+\beta}(\Gamma_k) = +\infty$ for all $0 < \alpha < 1$ and all $0 \leq \beta < 1 - \alpha$. Therefore, given $0 < \alpha < 1 \forall \beta, 0 \leq \beta < 1 - \alpha$, $H_{1+\beta}(\partial\Omega) = +\infty$. This implies that the Hausdorff dimension of $\partial\Omega$ is greater than or equal to $2 - \alpha$ which is the upper bound we obtained in Theorem 8.

4. Compactness under the Uniform Cusp Property and a Bound on the Perimeter

4.1 De Giorgi Perimeter of Caccioppoli Sets

One of the classical notions of perimeter is the one introduced in the context of the problem of minimal surfaces for Caccioppoli sets.

DEFINITION 11 Let Ω be a measurable subset of \mathbf{R}^N . Given an open set D in \mathbf{R}^N , Ω is said to have finite perimeter with respect to D if $\chi_{\Omega} \in BV(D)$. This perimeter denoted by $P_D(\Omega)$ is given by the expression

$$P_D(\Omega) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \|\nabla \chi_{\Omega}\|_{M^1(D)^N}, \quad (16)$$

where $BV(D)$ is the space of functions of total bounded variation and $M^1(D)$ is the space of bounded measures on D .

Given a bounded open subset D of \mathbf{R}^N , $\rho > 0$, $\lambda > 0$, $r > 0$, $c > 0$, and $h \in \mathcal{H}$, consider the family

$$L(D, \lambda, h, \rho, r, c) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \left\{ \Omega \subset \bar{D} : \begin{array}{l} \Omega \text{ satisfies the uniform cusp} \\ \text{property for } (\lambda, h, \rho, r, c) \\ \text{and } P_D(\Omega) \leq c \end{array} \right\}. \quad (17)$$

The compactness Theorem 6 readily extends to this new family.

THEOREM 12 *Let D be a nonempty bounded open subset of \mathbf{R}^N and $1 \leq p < \infty$. For $\rho > 0$, $\lambda > 0$, $c > 0$, and $h \in \mathcal{H}$ and assume that $L(D, \lambda, h, \rho, r, c)$ is not empty. Then the family*

$$B(D, \lambda, h, \rho, r, c) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{b_\Omega : \forall \Omega \in L(D, \lambda, h, \rho, r, c)\}$$

is compact in $C(\bar{D})$ and $W^{1,p}(D)$. As a consequence the families

$$\begin{aligned} B_d(D, \lambda, h, \rho, r, c) &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{d_\Omega : \forall \Omega \in L(D, \lambda, h, \rho, r, c)\}, \\ B_d^c(D, \lambda, h, \rho, r, c) &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{d_{\mathcal{C}\Omega} : \forall \Omega \in L(D, \lambda, h, \rho, r, c)\}, \\ B_d^\partial(D, \lambda, h, \rho, r, c) &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{d_{\partial\Omega} : \forall \Omega \in L(D, \lambda, h, \rho, r, c)\} \end{aligned}$$

are compact in $C(\bar{D})$ and $W^{1,p}(D)$, and the following families are compact in $L^p(D)$

$$\begin{aligned} X(D, \lambda, h, \rho, r, c) &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{\chi_\Omega : \forall \Omega \in L(D, \lambda, h, \rho, r, c)\}, \\ X^c(D, \lambda, h, \rho, r, c) &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{\chi_{\mathcal{C}\Omega} : \forall \Omega \in L(D, \lambda, h, \rho, r, c)\}. \end{aligned}$$

Proof. – From Theorem 6 there exist Ω in $L(D, \lambda, h, \rho, r)$ and a sequence $\{\Omega_n\}$ in $L(D, \lambda, h, \rho, r, c)$ such that $b_{\Omega_n} \rightarrow b_\Omega$ in $W^{1,p}(D)$ and $P_D(\Omega_n) \leq c$. In particular, from Theorem 1, $\chi_{\Omega_n} \rightarrow \chi_\Omega$ in $L^1(D)$. But, in view of the uniform bound $P_D(\Omega_n) \leq c$ on the Ω_n 's (cf. [6]), there exist a subsequence $\{\chi_{\Omega_{n_k}}\}$ such that $\chi_{\Omega_{n_k}} \rightarrow \chi_{\Omega'}$ in $L^1(D)$ for some Ω' for which $P_D(\Omega') \leq c$. But, as a subsequence of $\{\Omega_n\}$,

$$b_{\Omega_{n_k}} \rightarrow b_\Omega \text{ in } W^{1,p}(D) \text{ and } \chi_{\Omega_{n_k}} \rightarrow \chi_\Omega \text{ in } L^1(D).$$

Hence $\chi_{\Omega'} = \chi_\Omega$, $P_D(\Omega) = P_D(\Omega') \leq c$, and $\Omega \in L(D, \lambda, h, \rho, r, c)$. This concludes the proof. \square

4.2 Finite γ -density Perimeter

The γ -density perimeter introduced by Bucur and Zolésio [1] is a relaxation of the $(N - 1)$ -dimensional *upper Minkowski content* which leads to the compactness Theorem 14. We recall the definition and quote the compactness for the $W^{1,p}$ -topology under a uniform bound on the γ -density perimeter as revisited in [3].

DEFINITION 13 *Let $\gamma > 0$ be a fixed real and Ω a subset of \mathbf{R}^N with nonempty boundary Γ . Consider the quotient*

$$P_\gamma(\Gamma) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sup_{0 < k < \gamma} \frac{m_N(U_k(\Gamma))}{2k}. \quad (18)$$

Whenever $P_\gamma(\Gamma)$ is finite, we say that Ω has a finite γ -density perimeter.

It was shown in [1] that, when $P_\gamma(\Gamma)$ is finite, $m_N(\Gamma) = 0$. The compactness result of [1] can be revisited and established in the $W^{1,p}$ -topology from which convergence in all other topologies of Theorem 1 follows.

THEOREM 14 ([3]) *Let $D \neq \emptyset$ be a bounded open subset of \mathbf{R}^N and $\{\Omega_n\}$, $\Gamma_n \neq \emptyset$, be a sequence of subsets of \bar{D} . Assume that*

$$\exists \gamma > 0 \text{ and } c > 0 \text{ such that } \forall n, \quad P_\gamma(\Gamma_n) \leq c. \quad (19)$$

Then there exist a subsequence $\{\Omega_{n_k}\}$ and $\Omega, \Gamma \neq \emptyset$, of \bar{D} such that

$$P_\gamma(\Gamma) \leq \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} P_\gamma(\Gamma_n) \leq c \quad (20)$$

$$\forall p, 1 \leq p < \infty, \quad b_{\Omega_{n_k}} \rightarrow b_\Omega \text{ in } W^{1,p}(U_\gamma(D)) \text{ -strong.} \quad (21)$$

The proof of the next result combines Theorem 6 which says that the family $L(D, \lambda, h, \rho, r)$ is compact with Theorem 14 which says that the family of sets verifying (19) is compact in $W^{1,p}(D)$. The intersection of the two families of oriented distance functions is compact in $W^{1,p}(D)$.

THEOREM 15 *For fixed $\gamma > 0$, Theorem 12 remains true when $P_D(\Omega)$ is replaced by the γ -density perimeter $P_\gamma(\Gamma)$.*

4.3 Compactness via Local C^0 -graphs

It was shown in [4] (Thm 3.3 and 3.4) that the uniform cusp property is equivalent to conditions on the local C^0 -graphs. Thus by adding a condition either on the De Giorgi or the perimeter γ -density perimeter in Theorem 4.1 of [4] we get the analogues of the above Theorems 12 and 15. Recall the definition of the *orthogonal subgroup* of $N \times N$ matrices

$$O(N) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{A : {}^*A A = A {}^*A = I\}, \quad (22)$$

where *A is the transposed matrix of A . A direction can be specified either by a matrix (of rotation) $A \in O(N)$ or the corresponding unit vector $d = Ae_N \in \mathbf{R}^N$.

THEOREM 16 *Let $\rho > 0$ be given and assume that U is a bounded neighborhood of 0 such that*

$$U \subset \{y \in \mathbf{R}^N : P_H(y) \in B_H(0, \rho)\}, \quad V \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} B_H(0, \rho). \quad (23)$$

Let $R > 0$ be such that $B(0, 2R) \subset U$. Given a bounded nonempty subset D of \mathbf{R}^N , consider a family $L(D, \rho, U)$ of subsets Ω of \bar{D} with

the following properties: for each $\Omega \in L(D, \rho, U)$ and each $x \in \partial\Omega$, there exist $A^\Omega(x) \in O(N)$ and a C^0 -mapping $a_x^\Omega : V^\Omega(x) \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$, where $V^\Omega(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} A^\Omega(x)V$ and $\mathcal{U}^\Omega(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} x + A^\Omega(x)U$, such that

$$\mathcal{U}^\Omega(x) \cap \partial\Omega = \left\{ x + \zeta' + \zeta_N e_N^\Omega(x) : \begin{array}{l} \zeta' \in V^\Omega(x) \\ \zeta_N = a_x^\Omega(\zeta') \end{array} \right\} \quad (24)$$

$$\mathcal{U}^\Omega(x) \cap \text{int}\Omega = \mathcal{U}^\Omega(x) \cap \left\{ x + \zeta' + \zeta_N e_N^\Omega(x) : \begin{array}{l} \zeta' \in V^\Omega(x) \\ \zeta_N > a_x^\Omega(\zeta') \end{array} \right\} \quad (25)$$

where $e_N^\Omega(x) = A^\Omega(x)e_N$.

(i) Assume that there exists $h \in \mathcal{H}$ and $c > 0$ such that

$$\forall \Omega \in L(D, \rho, U), \forall y \in V, \bar{a}_x^\Omega(y) \leq h(|y|), \quad P_D(\Omega) \leq c \quad (26)$$

where $\bar{a}_x^\Omega = a_x^\Omega \circ A^\Omega(x) : V \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$. Each Ω of $L(D, \rho, U)$ satisfies the uniform cusp property for the parameters $(r^\Omega, \lambda^\Omega, \rho^\Omega, h^\Omega) = (R, R, \rho, h)$. Hence (from Theorem 12) the family

$$B(D, \rho, U, c) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{b_\Omega : \forall \Omega \in L(D, \rho, U) \text{ and } P_D(\Omega) \leq c\}$$

is compact in $C(\bar{D})$ and $W^{1,p}(D)$, $1 \leq p < \infty$.

(ii) Given $\gamma > 0$, the results of part (i) remain true with $P_D(\Omega) \leq c$ in place of $P_\gamma(\Gamma) \leq c$.

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