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On a homogenization technique for singular integrals

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ON A HOMOGENIZATION TECHNIQUE FOR SINGULAR INTEGRALS

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ABSTRACT. We study homogenization by Γ -convergence of functionals of type

$$\int_{\Omega} W\left(\frac{x}{\varepsilon}, \nabla\phi(x)\right) dx,$$

where $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^N$ is a bounded open set, $\phi \in W^{1,p}(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m)$ and $p > 1$, when the 1-periodic integrand $W : \mathbb{R}^N \times \mathbb{M}^{m \times N} \rightarrow [0, +\infty]$ is not of p -polynomial growth. Our homogenization technique can be applied when $m = N$ and W has a singular behavior of type $W(x, \xi) \rightarrow +\infty$ as $\det\xi \rightarrow 0$. However, our technique is not consistent with the constraint $W(x, \xi) = +\infty$ if and only if $\det\xi \leq 0$.

1. INTRODUCTION

Consider the family of integral functionals $\{I_\varepsilon\}_{\varepsilon>0}$ given by

$$(1.1) \quad I_\varepsilon(\phi) := \int_{\Omega} W\left(\frac{x}{\varepsilon}, \nabla\phi(x)\right) dx,$$

where $\varepsilon > 0$ is a (small) parameter, $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^N$ a bounded open set with $|\partial\Omega| = 0$ (where $|\cdot|$ denotes the Lebesgue measure in \mathbb{R}^N), $\phi \in W^{1,p}(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m)$ with $p > 1$ and $W : \mathbb{R}^N \times \mathbb{M}^{m \times N} \rightarrow [0, +\infty]$ assumed to be Borel measurable, where $\mathbb{M}^{m \times N}$ denotes the space of real $m \times N$ matrices, is p -coercive, i.e.,

$$(1.2) \quad W(x, \xi) \geq C|\xi|^p \text{ for all } (x, \xi) \in \mathbb{R}^N \times \mathbb{M}^{m \times N} \text{ and some } C > 0,$$

1-periodic, i.e.,

$$(1.3) \quad W(x + e_i, \xi) = W(x, \xi) \text{ for all } (x, \xi) \in \mathbb{R}^N \times \mathbb{M}^{m \times N} \text{ and } i = 1, \dots, N,$$

where (e_1, \dots, e_N) is the standard basis of \mathbb{R}^N , and of p -polynomial growth, i.e.,

$$(1.4) \quad W(x, \xi) \leq c(1 + |\xi|^p) \text{ for all } (x, \xi) \in \mathbb{R}^N \times \mathbb{M}^{m \times N} \text{ and some } c > 0.$$

In [Bra85] (see also [BD98, Theorem 14.5 p. 111]) Braides proved that I_ε Γ -converge with respect to the $L^p(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m)$ -convergence as $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ (see Definition 3.1) to the functional I_{hom} defined on $W^{1,p}(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m)$ by

$$(1.5) \quad I_{\text{hom}}(\phi) := \int_{\Omega} W_{\text{hom}}(\nabla\phi(x)) dx$$

with $W_{\text{hom}} : \mathbb{M}^{m \times N} \rightarrow [0, +\infty]$ given by

$$(1.6) \quad W_{\text{hom}}(\xi) := \inf_{k \geq 1} \frac{1}{k^N} \inf \left\{ \int_{kY} W(x, \xi + \nabla\varphi(x)) dx : \varphi \in W_0^{1,p}(kY; \mathbb{R}^m) \right\}$$

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with $Y :=]0, 1[^N$ and $W_0^{1,p}(kY; \mathbb{R}^m) := \{\varphi \in W^{1,p}(kY; \mathbb{R}^m) : \varphi = 0 \text{ on } \partial(kY)\}$. This result established a suitable variational framework to deal with homogenization problems in the vectorial case: it is the point of departure of many works on the subject related to hyperelasticity (in the scalar case and for some problems related to hyperelasticity, see [CCDAG02, CCDAG04]). However, because of the p -polynomial growth assumption (1.4), Braides's homogenization theorem is not compatible with the following two important physical properties: the noninterpenetration of the matter, i.e., $W(x, \xi) = +\infty$ if and only if $\det \xi \leq 0$, and the necessity of an infinite amount of energy to compress a finite volume into zero volume, i.e., $W(x, \xi) \rightarrow +\infty$ as $\det \xi \rightarrow 0$, where $\det \xi$ denotes the determinant of the $N \times N$ matrix ξ .

In this paper we show that by using Braides's homogenization theorem (see Theorem 3.2) and a slight generalization of a relaxation theorem (see Theorem 2.7), that we obtained in [AHM07, AHM08], it is possible to establish a homogenization theorem (see Theorem 3.4) which applies to functionals of type (1.1) when the integrand is singular (see Corollary 4.2). A typical example of a such singular integrand is given by $W : \mathbb{R}^N \times \mathbb{M}^{N \times N} \rightarrow [0, +\infty]$ of the form

$$(1.7) \quad W(x, \xi) = |\xi|^p + a(x)h(\det \xi)$$

where $0 < \eta \leq a \in L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^N) \cap C(\mathbb{R}^N)$ is a 1-periodic function and $h : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow [0, +\infty]$ is a Borel measurable function for which there exist $\gamma, \delta > 0$ such that $h(t) \leq \delta$ for all $|t| \geq \gamma$. For example, given $s > 0$ and $T \geq 0$ (possibly very large), this latter condition is satisfied with $\gamma = 2T$ and $\delta = \max\{\frac{1}{(2T)^s}, T\}$ when h is of type

$$(1.8) \quad h(t) = \begin{cases} T & \text{if } t < -T \\ +\infty & \text{if } t \in [-T, 0] \\ \frac{1}{t^s} & \text{if } t > 0. \end{cases}$$

Note that W as in (1.7) with h given by (1.8) is compatible with the singular behavior $W(x, \xi) \rightarrow +\infty$ as $\det \xi \rightarrow 0$ (however, such a W is not consistent with the noninterpenetration of the matter).

An outline of the paper is as follows. Our homogenization theorem (see Theorem 3.4) is stated and proved in §3. Its proof uses a relaxation theorem (see Theorem 2.7), whose statement and proof are given in §2, and Braides's homogenization theorem (see Theorem 3.2). Homogenization of functionals of type (1.1) when W is of the form (1.7)-(1.8) is treated in §4 as an application of Theorem 3.4 (see Corollary 4.2).

2. RELAXATION THEOREM

Let $m, N \geq 1$ be two integers. Given any bounded open set $D \subset \mathbb{R}^N$ with $|\partial D| = 0$, we denote the space of continuous piecewise affine functions from D to \mathbb{R}^m by $\text{Aff}(D; \mathbb{R}^m)$, i.e., $\varphi \in \text{Aff}(D; \mathbb{R}^m)$ if and only if φ is continuous and there exists a finite family $\{D_i\}_{i \in I}$ of open disjoint subsets of D such that $|\partial D_i| = 0$ for all $i \in I$, $|D \setminus \cup_{i \in I} D_i| = 0$ and for every $i \in I$, $\nabla \varphi \equiv \xi_i$ in D_i with $\xi_i \in \mathbb{M}^{m \times N}$, and we set $\text{Aff}_0(D; \mathbb{R}^m) := \{\varphi \in \text{Aff}(D; \mathbb{R}^m) : \varphi = 0 \text{ on } \partial D\}$ and $W_0^{1,\infty}(D; \mathbb{R}^m) := \{\varphi \in W^{1,\infty}(D; \mathbb{R}^m) : \varphi = 0 \text{ on } \partial D\}$. Given a Borel measurable function $f : \mathbb{R}^N \times \mathbb{M}^{m \times N} \rightarrow [0, +\infty]$, where $\mathbb{M}^{m \times N}$ denotes the space of real $m \times N$ matrices,

we consider $\mathcal{Z}f : \mathbb{R}^N \times \mathbb{M}^{m \times N} \rightarrow [0, +\infty]$ defined by

$$\mathcal{Z}f(x, \xi) := \inf \left\{ \int_Y f(x, \xi + \nabla\varphi(y)) dy : \varphi \in W_0^{1,\infty}(Y; \mathbb{R}^m) \right\}$$

with $Y :=]0, 1[^N$. The following result is due to Fonseca (see [Fon88, lemma 2.16, Theorem 2.17 and Proposition 2.3]).

Proposition 2.1. *The function $\mathcal{Z}f$ satisfies the following properties.*

- (a) *For every bounded open set $D \subset \mathbb{R}^N$ with $|\partial D| = 0$ and every $(x, \xi) \in \mathbb{R}^N \times \mathbb{M}^{m \times N}$,*

$$\mathcal{Z}f(x, \xi) = \inf \left\{ \frac{1}{|D|} \int_D f(x, \xi + \nabla\varphi(y)) dy : \varphi \in W_0^{1,\infty}(D; \mathbb{R}^m) \right\}.$$

- (b) *For every $x \in \mathbb{R}^N$, if $\mathcal{Z}f(x, \cdot)$ is finite then $\mathcal{Z}f(x, \cdot)$ is rank-one convex, i.e., for every $\xi, \xi' \in \mathbb{M}^{m \times N}$ with $\text{rank}(\xi - \xi') \leq 1$,*

$$\mathcal{Z}f(x, \lambda\xi + (1 - \lambda)\xi') \leq \lambda\mathcal{Z}f(x, \xi) + (1 - \lambda)\mathcal{Z}f(x, \xi').$$

- (c) *For every $x \in \mathbb{R}^N$, if $\mathcal{Z}f(x, \cdot)$ is finite then $\mathcal{Z}f(x, \cdot)$ is continuous, i.e., $\mathcal{Z}f$ is a Carathéodory integrand¹ whenever $\mathcal{Z}f$ is finite.*

- (d) *For every bounded open set $D \subset \mathbb{R}^N$ with $|\partial D| = 0$, every $(x, \xi) \in \mathbb{R}^N \times \mathbb{M}^{m \times N}$ and every $\varphi \in \text{Aff}_0(D; \mathbb{R}^m)$,*

$$\mathcal{Z}f(x, \xi) \leq \frac{1}{|D|} \int_D \mathcal{Z}f(x, \xi + \nabla\varphi(y)) dy.$$

Remark 2.2. Proposition 2.1 is also valid with “ $\hat{\mathcal{Z}}f$ ” instead of “ $\mathcal{Z}f$ ” (see [AHM09, Proposition 2.3]) where $\hat{\mathcal{Z}}f : \mathbb{R}^N \times \mathbb{M}^{m \times N} \rightarrow [0, +\infty]$ is given by

$$\hat{\mathcal{Z}}f(x, \xi) := \inf \left\{ \int_Y f(x, \xi + \nabla\varphi(y)) dy : \varphi \in \text{Aff}_0(Y; \mathbb{R}^m) \right\}.$$

In particular, Proposition 2.1(d) can be rewritten as $\hat{\mathcal{Z}}[\mathcal{Z}f] = \mathcal{Z}f$.

Given $x \in \mathbb{R}^N$ we say that $f(x, \cdot)$ is quasiconvex (in the sense of Morrey [Mor52]) if for every $\xi \in \mathbb{M}^{m \times N}$, every bounded open set $D \subset \mathbb{R}^N$ with $|\partial D| = 0$ and every $\varphi \in W_0^{1,\infty}(D; \mathbb{R}^m)$,

$$f(x, \xi) \leq \frac{1}{|D|} \int_D f(x, \xi + \nabla\varphi(y)) dy.$$

By the quasiconvex envelope of $f(x, \cdot)$, that we denote by $\mathcal{Q}f(x, \cdot)$, we mean the greatest quasiconvex function which less than or equal to $f(x, \cdot)$. (clearly, $f(x, \cdot)$ is quasiconvex if and only if $\mathcal{Q}f(x, \cdot) = f(x, \cdot)$.) The concept of quasiconvex envelope was introduced by Dacorogna (see [Dac82]) who proved the following theorem (see [Dac08, Theorem 6.9 p. 271]).

Theorem 2.3. *If f is finite then $\mathcal{Q}f = \hat{\mathcal{Z}}f = \mathcal{Z}f$.*

The following result is a slight generalization of Theorem 2.3.

Theorem 2.3-bis. *If $\mathcal{Z}f$ is finite then $\mathcal{Q}f = \mathcal{Z}f$. In particular, $\mathcal{Z}f(x, \cdot)$ is quasiconvex for all $x \in \mathbb{R}^N$.*

¹A function $f : \mathbb{R}^N \times \mathbb{M}^{m \times N} \rightarrow [0, +\infty]$ is called a Carathéodory integrand if $f(x, \xi)$ is measurable in x and continuous in ξ .

Proof. As $\mathcal{Z}f$ is finite we have $\mathcal{Q}[\mathcal{Z}f] = \hat{\mathcal{Z}}[\mathcal{Z}f]$ by Theorem 2.3. But $\hat{\mathcal{Z}}[\mathcal{Z}f] = \mathcal{Z}f$ from Remark 2.2 and so $\mathcal{Q}[\mathcal{Z}f] = \mathcal{Z}f$, i.e., $\mathcal{Z}f(x, \cdot)$ is quasiconvex for all $x \in \mathbb{R}^N$. As $\mathcal{Z}f \geq \mathcal{Q}f$ it follows that $\mathcal{Q}f = \mathcal{Z}f$. \square

Remark 2.4. Theorem 2.3 can be also generalized as follows: if $\hat{\mathcal{Z}}f$ is finite then $\mathcal{Q}f = \hat{\mathcal{Z}}f = \mathcal{Z}f$ (see [AHM09, Corollaire 2.17]).

From now on we fix $p > 1$. Given $U \subset \mathbb{R}^N$ be a bounded open set with $|\partial U| = 0$ we define $F : W^{1,p}(U; \mathbb{R}^m) \rightarrow [0, +\infty]$ by

$$F(\phi) := \int_U f(x, \nabla \phi(x)) dx$$

and we consider the relaxed functionals $\bar{F}, \bar{F}_0 : W^{1,p}(U; \mathbb{R}^m) \rightarrow [0, +\infty]$ given by:

$$\begin{aligned} \diamond \bar{F}(\phi) &:= \inf \left\{ \liminf_{n \rightarrow +\infty} F(\phi_n) : \phi_n \rightarrow \phi \text{ in } L^p(U; \mathbb{R}^m) \right\}; \\ \diamond \bar{F}_0(\phi) &:= \inf \left\{ \liminf_{n \rightarrow +\infty} F(\phi_n) : W_0^{1,p}(U; \mathbb{R}^m) \ni \phi_n \rightarrow \phi \text{ in } L^p(U; \mathbb{R}^m) \right\} \end{aligned}$$

with $W_0^{1,p}(U; \mathbb{R}^m) := \{\phi \in W^{1,p}(U; \mathbb{R}^m) : \phi = 0 \text{ on } \partial U\}$. As \bar{F} and \bar{F}_0 are not given by explicit formulas, it is of interest to know under which conditions on f we have:

$$(2.1) \quad \bar{F}(\phi) = \int_U \bar{f}(x, \nabla \phi(x)) dx \text{ for all } \phi \in W^{1,p}(U; \mathbb{R}^m);$$

$$(2.2) \quad \bar{F}_0(\phi) = \begin{cases} \bar{F}(\phi) & \text{if } \phi \in W_0^{1,p}(U; \mathbb{R}^m) \\ +\infty & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

with $\bar{f} : \mathbb{R}^N \times \mathbb{M}^{m \times N} \rightarrow [0, +\infty]$ (whose we wish to give a representation formula). In the p -polynomial growth case, such integral representation problems was studied by Dacorogna (see [Dac82, Theorem 5], see also [Dac08, Theorem 9.1 p. 416]) and Acerbi and Fusco (see [AF84, Statement III.7]) who proved the following theorem.

Theorem 2.5. *Let $f : \mathbb{R}^N \times \mathbb{M}^{m \times N} \rightarrow [0, +\infty]$ be a p -coercive Carathéodory integrand. If f is of p -polynomial growth, i.e.,*

$$(2.3) \quad f(x, \xi) \leq c(1 + |\xi|^p) \text{ for all } (x, \xi) \in \mathbb{R}^N \times \mathbb{M}^{m \times N} \text{ and some } c > 0,$$

then (2.1) and (2.2) hold with $\bar{f} = \mathcal{Z}f = \mathcal{Q}f$. If moreover $f(x, \cdot)$ is quasiconvex for all $x \in \mathbb{R}^N$ then $\bar{f} = f$.

Because of the assumption (2.3) Acerbi-Dacorogna-Fusco's relaxation theorem cannot handle integrands having a singular behavior of type $f(x, \xi) \rightarrow +\infty$ as $\det \xi \rightarrow 0$ (when $m = N$). However, by using Theorem 2.5 and a key lemma (see Lemma 2.8) we can go beyond the p -polynomial growth case (see Theorem 2.7 and Corollary 4.4).

Let \mathcal{A}^p be the class of p -coercive Borel measurable functions $f : \mathbb{R}^N \times \mathbb{M}^{m \times N} \rightarrow [0, +\infty]$ satisfying the following two conditions:

(C₁) there exists a function $\omega : [0, +\infty[\rightarrow [0, +\infty[$ continuous at the origin with $\omega(0) = 0$ such that for every $x_1, x_2 \in \mathbb{R}^N$ and every $\xi \in \mathbb{M}^{m \times N}$,

$$f(x_1, \xi) \leq \omega(|x_1 - x_2|)(1 + f(x_2, \xi)) + f(x_2, \xi);$$

(C₂) the function $\mathcal{Z}f$ is of p -polynomial growth, i.e., $\mathcal{Z}f(x, \xi) \leq c(1 + |\xi|^p)$ for all $(x, \xi) \in \mathbb{R}^N \times \mathbb{M}^{m \times N}$ and some $c > 0$.

Remark 2.6. (i) Condition (C_1) is a condition of Serrin type (see [Ser61] or [Mor66, p. 96-97], see also [Mar86]).

- (ii) If f satisfies (C_1) then $\text{dom}f(x_1, \cdot) = \text{dom}f(x_2, \cdot)$ for all $x_1, x_2 \in \mathbb{R}^N$, where, for $x \in \mathbb{R}^N$, $\text{dom}f(x, \cdot) := \{\xi \in \mathbb{M}^{m \times N} : f(x, \xi) < +\infty\}$.
- (iii) If f satisfies (C_1) then $f(\cdot, \xi)$ is continuous for all $\xi \in \mathbb{M}^{m \times N}$.
- (iv) If f satisfies (C_1) then for every $x_1, x_2 \in \mathbb{R}^N$ and every $\xi \in \mathbb{M}^{m \times N}$,

$$\mathcal{Z}f(x_1, \xi) \leq \omega(|x_1 - x_2|)(1 + \mathcal{Z}f(x_2, \xi)) + \mathcal{Z}f(x_2, \xi).$$

In particular, we have $\mathcal{Z}f(\cdot, \xi) \in C(\bar{V})$ for all $\xi \in \mathbb{M}^{m \times N}$ whenever f satisfies (C_1) , $\mathcal{Z}f$ is finite (for example when (C_2) holds) and $V \subset \mathbb{R}^N$ is a bounded open set. (This fact will be used in the proof of Lemma 2.8.)

The following theorem is a slight generalization of [AHM07, Theorem 2] (see also [AHM08, Theorem 1.4] and [AHM09, Théorème 2.1]).

Theorem 2.7. *If $f \in \mathcal{A}^p$ then (2.1) and (2.2) hold with $\bar{f} = \mathcal{Z}f = \mathcal{Q}f$. As a consequence, we have*

$$\inf_{\phi \in W_0^{1,p}(U; \mathbb{R}^m)} \int_U f(x, \nabla \phi(x)) dx = \inf_{\phi \in W_0^{1,p}(U; \mathbb{R}^m)} \int_U \mathcal{Z}f(x, \nabla \phi(x)) dx.$$

Proof. Let $\mathcal{Z}F : W^{1,p}(U; \mathbb{R}^m) \rightarrow [0, +\infty]$ be defined by

$$\mathcal{Z}F(\phi) := \int_U \mathcal{Z}f(x, \nabla \phi(x)) dx$$

and let $\overline{\mathcal{Z}F}, \overline{\mathcal{Z}F}_0 : W^{1,p}(U; \mathbb{R}^m) \rightarrow [0, +\infty]$ be given by:

$$\begin{aligned} \diamond \overline{\mathcal{Z}F}(\phi) &:= \inf \left\{ \liminf_{n \rightarrow +\infty} \mathcal{Z}F(\phi_n) : \phi_n \rightarrow \phi \text{ in } L^p(U; \mathbb{R}^m) \right\}; \\ \diamond \overline{\mathcal{Z}F}_0(\phi) &:= \inf \left\{ \liminf_{n \rightarrow +\infty} \mathcal{Z}F(\phi_n) : W_0^{1,p}(U; \mathbb{R}^m) \ni \phi_n \rightarrow \phi \text{ in } L^p(U; \mathbb{R}^m) \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

We need the following lemma whose proof is given below.

Lemma 2.8. *Under (C_1) and (C_2) if $\phi \in \text{Aff}(U; \mathbb{R}^m)$ (resp. $\phi \in \text{Aff}_0(U; \mathbb{R}^m)$) then*

$$(2.4) \quad \bar{F}(\phi) \leq \int_U \mathcal{Z}f(x, \nabla \phi(x)) dx \text{ (resp. } \bar{F}_0(\phi) \leq \int_U \mathcal{Z}f(x, \nabla \phi(x)) dx).$$

As $\mathcal{Z}f$ is of p -polynomial growth and $\text{Aff}(U; \mathbb{R}^m)$ (resp. $\text{Aff}_0(U; \mathbb{R}^m)$) is strongly dense in $W^{1,p}(U; \mathbb{R}^m)$ (resp. $W_0^{1,p}(U; \mathbb{R}^m)$), from Lemma 2.8 we deduce that (2.4) holds for all $\phi \in W^{1,p}(U; \mathbb{R}^m)$ (resp. $\phi \in W_0^{1,p}(U; \mathbb{R}^m)$). Thus $\bar{F} \leq \overline{\mathcal{Z}F}$ (resp. $\bar{F}_0 \leq \overline{\mathcal{Z}F}_0$). Moreover, $\overline{\mathcal{Z}F} \leq \bar{F}$ (resp. $\overline{\mathcal{Z}F}_0 \leq \bar{F}_0$), hence

$$(2.5) \quad \bar{F} = \overline{\mathcal{Z}F} \text{ (resp. } \bar{F}_0 = \overline{\mathcal{Z}F}_0).$$

As f is p -coercive, also is $\mathcal{Z}f$. Moreover, since $\mathcal{Z}f$ is finite (because (C_2) holds), on the one hand, $\mathcal{Z}f$ is a Carathéodory integrand by Proposition 2.1(c) and, on the other hand, $\mathcal{Z}f(x, \cdot)$ is quasiconvex for all $x \in \mathbb{R}^N$ by Theorem 2.3-bis. From Acerbi-Dacorogna-Fusco's relaxation theorem (see Theorem 2.5) it follows that

$$\overline{\mathcal{Z}F} = \mathcal{Z}F \text{ (resp. } \overline{\mathcal{Z}F}_0 = \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \mathcal{Z}F & \text{on } W_0^{1,p}(U; \mathbb{R}^m) \\ +\infty & \text{elsewhere} \end{array} \right\})$$

which gives the theorem when combined with (2.5). \square

Proof of Lemma 2.8. By definition, there exists a finite family $\{U_i\}_{i \in I}$ of open disjoint subsets of U such that $|\partial U_i| = 0$ for all $i \in I$, $|U \setminus \cup_{i \in I} U_i| = 0$ and, for every $i \in I$, $\nabla \phi \equiv \xi_i$ in U_i with $\xi_i \in \mathbb{M}^{m \times N}$. Thus

$$\int_U \mathcal{Z}f(x, \nabla \phi(x)) dx = \sum_{i \in I} \int_{U_i} \mathcal{Z}f(x, \xi_i) dx.$$

From Remark 2.6(iv) we see that $\mathcal{Z}f(\cdot, \xi_i) \in C(\overline{U}_i)$ for all $i \in I$. Hence, for each $i \in I$, there exists a finite family $\{U_{i,j}^k\}_{j \in J_i^k}$ of disjoint subsets of U_i with $|\partial U_{i,j}^k| = 0$ for all $j \in J_i^k$ and $|U_i \setminus \cup_{j \in J_i^k} U_{i,j}^k| = 0$ such that:

$$(2.6) \quad \text{diam}(U_{i,j}^k) < \frac{1}{k} \text{ for all } j \in J_i^k;$$

$$(2.7) \quad \lim_{k \rightarrow +\infty} \sum_{j \in J_i^k} |U_{i,j}^k| \mathcal{Z}f(x_{i,j}^k, \xi_i) = \int_{U_i} \mathcal{Z}f(x, \xi_i) dx,$$

where, for $X \subset \mathbb{R}^N$, $\text{diam}(X) := \sup\{|x_1 - x_2| : x_1, x_2 \in X\}$. Fix any $\delta > 0$. Then, there exists $\eta > 0$ such that

$$(2.8) \quad \omega(t) < \delta \text{ for all } |t| < \eta,$$

where the function $\omega : [0, +\infty[\rightarrow [0, +\infty[$ (continuous at the origin with $\omega(0) = 0$) are given by (C₁). Fix any $k \geq 1$ such that $\frac{1}{k} < \eta$. Given any $i \in I$ and any $j \in J_i^k$ we consider $\varphi_{i,j} \in W_0^{1,\infty}(Y; \mathbb{R}^m)$ such that

$$(2.9) \quad \int_Y f(x_{i,j}^k, \xi_i + \nabla \varphi_{i,j}(y)) dy \leq \mathcal{Z}f(x_{i,j}^k, \xi_i) + \frac{\delta}{|U|}.$$

Given any $n \geq 1$, by Vitali's covering theorem, there exists a finite or countable family $\{a_{i,j,\ell} + \alpha_{i,j,\ell} Y\}_{\ell \in L_{i,j}}$ of disjoint subsets of $U_{i,j}^k$, where $a_{i,j,\ell} \in \mathbb{R}^N$ and $0 < \alpha_{i,j,\ell} < \frac{1}{n}$, such that $|U_{i,j}^k \setminus \cup_{\ell \in L_{i,j}} (a_{i,j,\ell} + \alpha_{i,j,\ell} Y)| = 0$ (and so $\sum_{\ell \in L_{i,j}} \alpha_{i,j,\ell}^N = |U_{i,j}^k|$). Define $\phi_n \in W_0^{1,p}(U; \mathbb{R}^m)$ by

$$\phi_n(x) := \alpha_{i,j,\ell} \varphi_{i,j} \left(\frac{x - a_{i,j,\ell}}{\alpha_{i,j,\ell}} \right) \text{ if } x \in a_{i,j,\ell} + \alpha_{i,j,\ell} Y.$$

Then:

- ◇ $\|\phi_n\|_{L^\infty(U; \mathbb{R}^m)} \leq \frac{1}{n} \max_{i \in I, j \in J_i^k} \|\varphi_{i,j}\|_{L^\infty(Y; \mathbb{R}^m)}$ for all $n \geq 1$;
- ◇ $\|\nabla \phi_n\|_{L^\infty(U; \mathbb{R}^m)} \leq \max_{i \in I, j \in J_i^k} \|\nabla \varphi_{i,j}\|_{L^\infty(Y; \mathbb{R}^m)}$ for all $n \geq 1$,

hence (up to a subsequence) $\phi_n \xrightarrow{*} 0$ in $W^{1,\infty}(U; \mathbb{R}^m)$, where “ $\xrightarrow{*}$ ” denotes the weak* convergence in $W^{1,\infty}(U; \mathbb{R}^m)$. Consequently $\phi_n \rightarrow 0$ in $W^{1,p}(U; \mathbb{R}^m)$ and so (up to a subsequence) $\phi_n \rightarrow 0$ in $L^p(U; \mathbb{R}^m)$. Using (2.9) and (C₂) we see that

$$\sum_{i \in I} \sum_{j \in J_i^k} \int_{U_{i,j}^k} f(x_{i,j}^k, \xi_i + \nabla \phi_n(x)) dx \leq \frac{c}{C} (|U| + \|\nabla \phi\|_{L^p(U; \mathbb{R}^m)}^p) + \frac{\delta}{C} \text{ for all } n \geq 1$$

with $c, C > 0$. Taking (C₁), (2.6) and (2.8) into account it follows that for every $n \geq 1$,

$$\int_U f(x, \nabla \phi(x) + \nabla \phi_n(x)) dx \leq K(\delta) + \sum_{i \in I} \sum_{j \in J_i^k} \int_{U_{i,j}^k} f(x_{i,j}^k, \xi_i + \nabla \phi_n(x)) dx$$

with $\delta(|U| + \frac{c}{C}(|U| + \|\nabla\phi\|_{L^p(U;\mathbb{R}^m)}^p) + \frac{\delta}{C}) =: K(\delta) \rightarrow 0$ as $\delta \rightarrow 0$. Moreover, from (2.9) we have

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i \in I} \sum_{j \in J_i^k} \int_{U_{i,j}^k} f(x_{i,j}^k, \xi_i + \nabla\phi_n(x)) dx &= \sum_{i \in I} \sum_{j \in J_i^k} |U_{i,j}^k| \int_Y f(x_{i,j}^k, \xi_i + \nabla\varphi_{i,j}(x)) dx \\ &\leq \sum_{i \in I} \sum_{j \in J_i^k} |U_{i,j}^k| \mathcal{Z}f(x_{i,j}^k, \xi_i) + \delta, \end{aligned}$$

hence, for every $n \geq 1$,

$$\int_U f(x, \nabla\phi(x) + \nabla\phi_n(x)) dx \leq \sum_{i \in I} \sum_{j \in J_i^k} |U_{i,j}^k| \mathcal{Z}f(x_{i,j}^k, \xi_i) + K(\delta) + \delta.$$

As $\phi + \phi_n \in W^{1,p}(U; \mathbb{R}^m)$ (resp. $\phi + \phi_n \in W_0^{1,p}(U; \mathbb{R}^m)$) for all $n \geq 1$ and $\phi + \phi_n \rightarrow \phi$ in $L^p(U; \mathbb{R}^m)$ it follows that

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{F}(\phi) &\leq \sum_{i \in I} \sum_{j \in J_i^k} |U_{i,j}^k| \mathcal{Z}f(x_{i,j}^k, \xi_i) + K(\delta) + \delta \\ (\text{resp. } \bar{F}_0(\phi)) &\leq \sum_{i \in I} \sum_{j \in J_i^k} |U_{i,j}^k| \mathcal{Z}f(x_{i,j}^k, \xi_i) + K(\delta) + \delta. \end{aligned}$$

Letting $k \rightarrow +\infty$ and using (2.7) we deduce that

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{F}(\phi) &\leq \int_U \mathcal{Z}f(x, \nabla\phi(x)) dx + K(\delta) + \delta \\ (\text{resp. } \bar{F}_0(\phi)) &\leq \int_U \mathcal{Z}f(x, \nabla\phi(x)) dx + K(\delta) + \delta \end{aligned}$$

and (2.4) follows by letting $\delta \rightarrow 0$. \square

3. HOMOGENIZATION THEOREM

Let $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^N$ be a bounded open set with $|\partial\Omega| = 0$, let $W : \mathbb{R}^N \times \mathbb{M}^{m \times N} \rightarrow [0, +\infty]$ be a Borel measurable function and, for each $\varepsilon > 0$, let $I_\varepsilon : W^{1,p}(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m) \rightarrow [0, +\infty]$ (with $p > 1$) be defined by (1.1). To accomplish our asymptotic analysis as $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$, we will use De Giorgi's Γ -convergence which can be defined as follows (for more details see [DM93, BD98, Bra06]).

Definition 3.1. We say that I_ε Γ -converges to $I_{\text{hom}} : W^{1,p}(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m) \rightarrow [0, +\infty]$ with respect to the $L^p(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m)$ -convergence as $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$, and we write $I_{\text{hom}} = \Gamma\text{-}\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} I_\varepsilon$, if

$$\left(\Gamma\text{-}\liminf_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} I_\varepsilon \right) (\phi) = \left(\Gamma\text{-}\limsup_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} I_\varepsilon \right) (\phi) = I_{\text{hom}}(\phi)$$

for all $\phi \in W^{1,p}(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m)$ with:

$$\begin{aligned} \left(\Gamma\text{-}\liminf_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} I_\varepsilon \right) (\phi) &:= \inf \left\{ \liminf_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} I_\varepsilon(\phi_\varepsilon) : \phi_\varepsilon \rightarrow \phi \text{ in } L^p(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m) \right\}; \\ \left(\Gamma\text{-}\limsup_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} I_\varepsilon \right) (\phi) &:= \inf \left\{ \limsup_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} I_\varepsilon(\phi_\varepsilon) : \phi_\varepsilon \rightarrow \phi \text{ in } L^p(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m) \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

Braides proved, in the p -polynomial growth case, the following theorem (see [Bra85, BD98], see also [Mül87]).

Theorem 3.2. *If W satisfies (1.2), (1.3) and (1.4) then $I_{\text{hom}} = \Gamma\text{-lim}_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} I_\varepsilon$ with I_{hom} defined by (1.5) and $W_{\text{hom}} : \mathbb{M}^{m \times N} \rightarrow [0, +\infty]$ given by (1.6).*

To prove our homogenization theorem (see Theorem 3.4) we will need Theorems 2.7 and 3.2 and the following classical property of the Γ -convergence (see [Bra06, Proposition 2.5]).

Proposition 3.3. *The Γ -limit is stable by substituting I_ε by its relaxed functional \bar{I}_ε , i.e.,*

$$\Gamma\text{-lim inf}_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} I_\varepsilon = \Gamma\text{-lim inf}_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \bar{I}_\varepsilon \text{ and } \Gamma\text{-lim sup}_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} I_\varepsilon = \Gamma\text{-lim sup}_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \bar{I}_\varepsilon,$$

where, for each $\varepsilon > 0$, $\bar{I}_\varepsilon : W^{1,p}(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m) \rightarrow [0, +\infty]$ is given by

$$\bar{I}_\varepsilon(\phi) := \inf \left\{ \liminf_{n \rightarrow +\infty} I_\varepsilon(\phi_n) : \phi_n \rightarrow \phi \text{ in } L^p(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m) \right\}.$$

Set $\mathcal{A}_{\text{per}}^p := \{f \in \mathcal{A}^p : f \text{ is 1-periodic}\}$. The main result of the paper is the following. (When $m = N$, it can handle integrands having a singular behavior of type $W(x, \xi) \rightarrow +\infty$ as $\det \xi \rightarrow 0$, see Corollary 4.2).

Theorem 3.4. *If $W \in \mathcal{A}_{\text{per}}^p$ then $I_{\text{hom}} = \Gamma\text{-lim}_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} I_\varepsilon$ with I_{hom} defined by (1.5) and $W_{\text{hom}} : \mathbb{M}^{m \times N} \rightarrow [0, +\infty]$ given by (1.6).*

Proof. By Proposition 3.3 it suffices to prove Theorem 3.4 with “ \bar{I}_ε ” instead of “ I_ε ”. Fix any $\varepsilon > 0$ and consider $f_\varepsilon : \mathbb{R}^N \times \mathbb{M}^{m \times N} \rightarrow [0, +\infty]$ given by $f_\varepsilon(x, \xi) := W(\frac{x}{\varepsilon}, \xi)$. As $W \in \mathcal{A}_{\text{per}}^p$ and $\mathcal{Z}f_\varepsilon(x, \xi) = \mathcal{Z}W(\frac{x}{\varepsilon}, \xi)$ for all $(x, \xi) \in \mathbb{R}^N \times \mathbb{M}^{m \times N}$ it is easy to see that $f_\varepsilon \in \mathcal{A}^p$. Applying Theorem 2.7 (with $f = f_\varepsilon$) we deduce that for every $\varepsilon > 0$,

$$\bar{I}_\varepsilon(\phi) = \int_{\Omega} \mathcal{Z}W\left(\frac{x}{\varepsilon}, \nabla \phi(x)\right) dx,$$

where $\mathcal{Z}W$ is clearly p -coercive, 1-periodic and of p -polynomial growth. From Braides’s homogenization theorem (see Theorem 3.2) it follows that $I_{\text{hom}} = \Gamma\text{-lim}_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \bar{I}_\varepsilon$ with I_{hom} defined by (1.5) and $W_{\text{hom}} : \mathbb{M}^{m \times N} \rightarrow [0, +\infty]$ given by

$$W_{\text{hom}}(\xi) = \inf_{k \geq 1} \frac{1}{k^N} \inf \left\{ \int_{kY} \mathcal{Z}W(x, \xi + \nabla \varphi(x)) dx : \varphi \in W_0^{1,p}(kY; \mathbb{R}^m) \right\}.$$

Fix any $k \geq 1$, any $\xi \in \mathbb{M}^{m \times N}$ and consider $f_\xi : \mathbb{R}^N \times \mathbb{M}^{m \times N} \rightarrow [0, +\infty]$ given by $f_\xi(x, \zeta) := W(x, \xi + \zeta)$. As $W \in \mathcal{A}_{\text{per}}^p$ and $\mathcal{Z}f_\xi(x, \zeta) = \mathcal{Z}W(x, \xi + \zeta)$ for all $(x, \zeta) \in \mathbb{R}^N \times \mathbb{M}^{m \times N}$ it is easy to see that $f_\xi \in \mathcal{A}^p$. Applying Theorem 2.7 (with $U = kY$ and $f = f_\xi$) we deduce that for every $k \geq 1$ and every $\xi \in \mathbb{M}^{m \times N}$,

$$\inf_{\varphi \in W_0^{1,p}(kY; \mathbb{R}^m)} \int_{kY} W(x, \xi + \nabla \varphi(x)) dx = \inf_{\varphi \in W_0^{1,p}(kY; \mathbb{R}^m)} \int_{kY} \mathcal{Z}W(x, \xi + \nabla \varphi(x)) dx$$

and the theorem follows. \square

4. APPLICATION

The following condition on the Borel measurable function $f : \mathbb{R}^N \times \mathbb{M}^{N \times N} \rightarrow [0, +\infty]$ is compatible with a singular behavior of type $f(x, \xi) \rightarrow +\infty$ as $\det \xi \rightarrow 0$.

(\hat{C}_2) There exist $\alpha, \beta > 0$ such that for every $(x, \xi) \in \mathbb{R}^N \times \mathbb{M}^{N \times N}$,

$$\text{if } |\det \xi| \geq \alpha \text{ then } f(x, \xi) \leq \beta(1 + |\xi|^p).$$

Typically, the function $H : \mathbb{R}^N \times \mathbb{M}^{N \times N} \rightarrow [0, +\infty]$ defined by

$$H(x, \xi) := |\xi|^p + a(x)h(\det \xi),$$

where $0 \leq a \in L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^N)$ and $h : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow [0, +\infty[$ is a Borel measurable function for which there exist $\gamma, \delta > 0$ such that $h(t) \leq \delta$ for all $|t| \geq \gamma$, satisfies (\hat{C}_2) with $\alpha = \gamma$ and $\beta = \max\{1, \delta \|a\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^N)}\}$. The singular behavior $H(x, \xi) \rightarrow +\infty$ as $\det \xi \rightarrow 0$ is possible (for example when h is given by (1.8)).

Denote the class of p -coercive Borel measurable functions $f : \mathbb{R}^N \times \mathbb{M}^{N \times N} \rightarrow [0, +\infty]$ satisfying (C_1) and (\hat{C}_2) by \mathcal{S}^p and set $\mathcal{S}_{\text{per}}^p := \{f \in \mathcal{S}^p : f \text{ is 1-periodic}\}$. When $0 < \eta \leq a \in L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^N) \cap C(\mathbb{R}^N)$ we have $H \in \mathcal{S}^p$ since H satisfies (C_1) with $\omega(t) := \frac{1}{\eta} \sup\{|a(x_1) - a(x_2)| : |x_1 - x_2| \leq t\}$. If moreover a is 1-periodic then $H \in \mathcal{S}_{\text{per}}^p$.

The following theorem, whose proof is given below, is a slight improvement of [AHM08, Proposition 1.8] (see also [AHM09, théorème 2.20]).

Theorem 4.1. *Let $f : \mathbb{R}^N \times \mathbb{M}^{N \times N} \rightarrow [0, +\infty]$ be a Borel measurable function. If f satisfies (\hat{C}_2) then $\mathcal{Z}f$ is of p -polynomial growth, i.e.,*

$$\mathcal{Z}f(x, \xi) \leq c(1 + |\xi|^p) \text{ for all } (x, \xi) \in \mathbb{R}^N \times \mathbb{M}^{N \times N} \text{ and some } c > 0.$$

By Theorem 4.1 we have $\mathcal{S}^p \subset \mathcal{A}^p$ and so $\mathcal{S}_{\text{per}}^p \subset \mathcal{A}_{\text{per}}^p$. Hence, as a direct consequence of Theorems 4.1 and 3.4 we have

Corollary 4.2. *If $W \in \mathcal{S}_{\text{per}}^p$ then $I_{\text{hom}} = \Gamma\text{-}\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} I_\varepsilon$ with I_{hom} defined by (1.5) and $W_{\text{hom}} : \mathbb{M}^{N \times N} \rightarrow [0, +\infty]$ given by (1.6).*

Remark 4.3. From Theorems 4.1 and 2.7 we obtain

Corollary 4.4. *If $f \in \mathcal{S}^p$ then (2.1) and (2.2) hold with $\bar{f} = \mathcal{Z}f = \mathcal{Q}f$.*

Corollary 4.4 slightly improves [AHM09, Corollaire 2.22] (see also [AHM08, Theorem 1.3]).

To prove Theorem 4.1 we need the following two lemmas. The first is a special case of a theorem due to Dacorogna and Ribeiro (see [DR04, Theorem 1.3], see also [Dac08, Theorem 10.29 p. 462]) and the second is a special case of a theorem due to Ben Belgacem (see [BB96], see also [AHM09, Théorème 3.25] for a proof).

Lemma 4.5. *Given $t_1 < t_2$ and $\xi \in \mathbb{M}^{N \times N}$ with $t_1 < \det \xi < t_2$ there exists $\varphi \in W_0^{1,\infty}(Y; \mathbb{R}^N)$ such that $\det(\xi + \nabla \varphi(y)) \in \{t_1, t_2\}$ for a.e. $y \in Y$.*

Lemma 4.6. *Let $f : \mathbb{R}^N \times \mathbb{M}^{N \times N} \rightarrow [0, +\infty]$ be a Borel measurable function. If f satisfies (\hat{C}_2) then $\mathcal{R}f$ is of p -polynomial growth, where for every $x \in \mathbb{R}^N$, $\mathcal{R}f(x, \cdot)$ denotes the rank-one convex envelope of $f(x, \cdot)$, i.e., the greatest rank-one convex function which less than or equal to $f(x, \cdot)$.*

Proof of Theorem 4.1. Fix any $x \in \mathbb{R}^N$ and any $\xi \in \mathbb{M}^{N \times N}$. Clearly, if $|\det \xi| \geq \alpha$ then $\mathcal{Z}f(x, \xi) < +\infty$. On the other hand, if $|\det \xi| < \alpha$ then, by Lemma 4.5, there exists $\varphi \in W_0^{1,\infty}(Y; \mathbb{R}^N)$ such that $|\det(\xi + \nabla \varphi(y))| = \alpha$ for a.e. $y \in Y$, and using (\hat{C}_2) we see that

$$\mathcal{Z}f(x, \xi) \leq \int_Y f(x, \xi + \nabla \varphi(y)) dy \leq 2^p \beta \left(1 + |\xi|^p + \|\nabla \varphi\|_{L^p(Y; \mathbb{R}^N)}^p\right) < +\infty.$$

Thus $\mathcal{Z}f(x, \xi) < +\infty$ for all $\xi \in \mathbb{M}^{N \times N}$, i.e., $\mathcal{Z}f(x, \cdot)$ is finite. From Proposition 2.1(b) we deduce that $\mathcal{Z}f(x, \cdot)$ is rank-one convex. Hence $\mathcal{Z}f(x, \cdot) \leq \mathcal{R}f(x, \cdot)$ for all $x \in \mathbb{R}^N$, i.e., $\mathcal{Z}f \leq \mathcal{R}f$, and the theorem follows from Lemma 4.6. \square

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