

## Research Article

# Removable Singularities of $\mathcal{WT}$ -Differential Forms and Quasiregular Mappings

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A theorem on removable singularities of  $\mathcal{WT}$ -differential forms is proved and applied to quasiregular mappings.

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## 1. Main theorem

We recall some facts on differential forms and quasiregular mappings. Our notation is as in [1]. Let  $\mathcal{M}$  be a Riemannian manifold of the class  $C^3$ ,  $\dim \mathcal{M} = n$ , without boundary. Each differential form  $\alpha$  can be written in terms of the local coordinates  $x_1, \dots, x_n$  as the linear combination

$$\alpha = \sum_{1 \leq i_1 < \dots < i_k \leq n} \alpha_{i_1 \dots i_k} dx_{i_1} \wedge \dots \wedge dx_{i_k}. \quad (1.1)$$

Let  $\alpha$  be a differential form defined on an open set  $D \subset \mathcal{M}$ . If  $\mathcal{F}(D)$  is a class of functions defined on  $D$ , then we say that the differential form  $\alpha$  is in this class provided that  $\alpha_{i_1 \dots i_k} \in \mathcal{F}(D)$ . For instance, the differential form  $\alpha$  is in the class  $L^p(D)$  if all its coefficients are in this class.

A differential form  $\alpha$  of degree  $k$  on the manifold  $\mathcal{M}$  with coefficients  $\alpha_{i_1 \dots i_k} \in L^p_{\text{loc}}(\mathcal{M})$  is called *weakly closed* if for each differential form  $\beta$ ,  $\deg \beta = k + 1$ , with compact support  $\text{supp } \beta = \overline{\{m \in \mathcal{M} : \beta \neq 0\}}$  in  $\mathcal{M}$  and with coefficients in the class  $W^1_{q, \text{loc}}(\mathcal{M})$ ,  $1/p + 1/q = 1$ ,  $1 \leq p, q \leq \infty$ , we have

$$\int_{\mathcal{M}} \langle \alpha, \delta \beta \rangle * \mathcal{M} = 0. \quad (1.2)$$

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Here the operator  $*$  and the exterior differentiation  $d$  define the codifferential operator  $\delta$  by the formula

$$\delta\alpha = (-1)^k *^{-1} d * \alpha \quad (1.3)$$

for a differential form  $\alpha$  of degree  $k$ .

Clearly,  $\delta\alpha$  is a differential form of degree  $k - 1$ . For smooth differential forms  $\alpha$  condition (1.2) agrees with the traditional condition of closedness  $d\alpha = 0$ .

For an arbitrary simple form of degree  $k$ ,

$$w = w_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge w_k, \quad (1.4)$$

we set

$$\|w\| = \left( \sum_{i=1}^k |w_i|^2 \right)^{1/2}. \quad (1.5)$$

For a simple form  $w$  we have Hadamard's inequality

$$|w| \leq \prod_{i=1}^k |w_i|. \quad (1.6)$$

Taking these into account and using the inequality between geometric and arithmetic means

$$\left( \prod_{i=1}^k |w_i| \right)^{1/k} \leq \frac{1}{k} \sum_{i=1}^k |w_i| \leq \left( \frac{1}{k} \sum_{i=1}^k |w_i|^2 \right)^{1/2} \quad (1.7)$$

we obtain

$$|w| \leq k^{-k/2} \|w\|^k. \quad (1.8)$$

Let

$$w = w_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge w_k, \quad \theta = \theta_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge \theta_{n-k} \quad (1.9)$$

be simple weakly closed differential forms on  $\mathcal{M}$ .

We say that the pair of forms (1.9) satisfies a  $\mathcal{WT}$ -condition on  $\mathcal{M}$  if there exist constants  $\nu_1, \nu_2 > 0$  such that almost everywhere on  $\mathcal{M}$

$$\nu_1 \|w\|^{kp} \leq \langle w, * \theta \rangle, \quad \|\theta\| \leq \nu_2 \|w\|. \quad (1.10)$$

Our main removability result for differential forms is the following.

**THEOREM 1.1.** *Let  $\mathcal{M}$  be a Riemannian  $C^3$ -manifold,  $\dim \mathcal{M} = n \geq 2$ , and let  $E \subset \mathcal{M}$  be a compact set of  $p$ -capacity zero,  $1 \leq p \leq n$ . Let  $Z$  and  $\theta$  be simple forms on  $\mathcal{M} \setminus E$  of degrees  $k - 1, n - k$ , respectively,  $\|dZ\| \in L_{\text{loc}}^{kp}$ . Suppose that the pair  $dZ$  and  $\theta$  satisfies a  $\mathcal{WT}$ -condition on  $\mathcal{M} \setminus E$ .*

If

$$\operatorname{ess\,sup}_{m \in \mathcal{M} \setminus E} |Z(m)| < \infty, \quad (1.11)$$

then there exist forms  $\tilde{Z}, \tilde{\theta}$  such that  $\|d\tilde{Z}\|, \|\tilde{\theta}\| \in L^{kp}$  on  $\mathcal{M}$ , the pair  $d\tilde{Z}, \tilde{\theta}$  satisfies the  $\mathcal{WT}$ -condition on  $\mathcal{M}$  and their restrictions to  $\mathcal{M} \setminus E$  coincide with  $Z, \theta$ , respectively.

## 2. $p$ -capacity

First we recall some basic facts about condensers. Let  $D$  be an open set on  $\mathcal{M}$  and let  $A, B \subset D$  be such that  $\bar{A}$  and  $\bar{B}$  are compact in  $D$  and  $\bar{A} \cap \bar{B} = \emptyset$ . Each triple  $(A, B; D)$  is called a *condenser* on  $\mathcal{M}$ .

We fix  $p \geq 1$ . The  $p$ -capacity of the condenser  $(A, B; D)$  is defined by

$$\operatorname{cap}_p(A, B; D) = \inf \int_D |\nabla \varphi|^p * \mathcal{M}, \quad (2.1)$$

where the infimum is taken over the set of all continuous functions  $\varphi$  of class  $W_{p,\text{loc}}^1(D)$  such that  $\varphi|_A = 0, \varphi|_B = 1$ . It is easy to see that for a pair  $(A, B; D)$  and  $(A_1, B_1; D)$  with  $A_1 \subset A, B_1 \subset B$  we have

$$\operatorname{cap}_p(A_1, B_1; D) \leq \operatorname{cap}_p(A, B; D). \quad (2.2)$$

A standard approximation argument shows that the quantity  $\operatorname{cap}_p(A, B; D)$  does not change if one restricts the class of functions in the variational problem (2.1) to smooth functions  $\varphi$  equal to 0 and 1 in the sets  $A$  and  $B$ , respectively, and  $\nabla \varphi \neq 0$  a.e. on  $\mathcal{M} \setminus (A \cup B)$ .

We say that a compact set  $E \subset \mathcal{M}$  is of  $p$ -capacity zero, if  $\operatorname{cap}_p(E, U; \mathcal{M}) = 0$  for all open sets  $U \subset \mathcal{M}$  such that  $E \cap \bar{U} = \emptyset$ .

We will need the following lemma.

LEMMA 2.1. *A set  $E \subset \mathcal{M}$  is of 1-capacity zero if and only if*

$$\mathcal{H}^{n-1}(E) = 0. \quad (2.3)$$

*Proof.* Fix  $\varepsilon > 0$  and an open set  $U \subset \mathcal{M}$  such that  $\operatorname{cap}_1(E, U; \mathcal{M}) = 0$ . Choose a smooth function  $\varphi: \mathcal{M} \rightarrow [0, 1]$  such that  $\varphi|_E = 0, \varphi|_U = 1, \nabla \varphi \neq 0$  a.e. on  $\mathcal{M} \setminus (E \cup U)$  and

$$\int_{\mathcal{M}} |\nabla \varphi| * \mathcal{M} \leq \varepsilon. \quad (2.4)$$

By the coarea formula we have

$$\int_{\mathcal{M}} |\nabla \varphi| * \mathcal{M} = \int_0^1 dt \int_{G_t} d\mathcal{H}^{n-1} = \int_0^1 \mathcal{H}^{n-1}(G_t), \quad (2.5)$$

where  $G_t = \{m \in \mathcal{M} : \varphi(m) = t\}$  is a level set of  $\varphi$  [2, Section 3.2].

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Thus we obtain

$$\inf_t \mathcal{H}^{n-1}(G_t) \leq \varepsilon \quad (2.6)$$

and there exist sets  $G_t$  of arbitrarily small  $(n-1)$ -measure.

Since  $U$  is open it is possible only for the set  $E$  of  $(n-1)$ -measure zero.  $\square$

If a compact set  $E \subset \mathcal{M}$  is of  $p$ -capacity zero, then  $E$  is of  $q$ -capacity zero for all  $q \in [1, p]$ . By Lemma 2.1 we conclude that a set  $E$  of  $p$ -capacity zero,  $p \geq 1$ , satisfies  $\mathcal{H}^{n-1}(E) = 0$ . In particular, such a set has  $n$ -measure zero.

### 3. Applications to quasiregular mappings

Let  $\mathcal{M}$  and  $\mathcal{N}$  be Riemannian manifolds of dimension  $n$ . It is convenient to use the following definition [3, Section 14]. A continuous mapping  $F : \mathcal{M} \rightarrow \mathcal{N}$  of the class  $W^1_{n,\text{loc}}(\mathcal{M})$  is called a *quasiregular mapping* if  $F$  satisfies

$$|F'(m)|^n \leq K J_F(m) \quad (3.1)$$

almost everywhere on  $\mathcal{M}$ . Here  $F'(m) : T_m(\mathcal{M}) \rightarrow T_{F(m)}(\mathcal{N})$  is the formal derivative of  $F(m)$ , further,  $|F'(m)| = \max_{|h|=1} |F'(m)h|$ . We denote by  $J_F(m)$  the Jacobian of  $F$  at the point  $m \in \mathcal{M}$ , that is, the determinant of  $F'(m)$ .

For the following statement, see [1, Theorem 6.15, page 90].

**LEMMA 3.1.** *If  $F = (F_1, \dots, F_n) : \mathcal{M} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  is a quasiregular mapping and  $1 \leq k < n$ , then the pair of forms*

$$w = dF_1 \wedge \dots \wedge dF_k, \quad \theta = dF_{k+1} \wedge \dots \wedge dF_n \quad (3.2)$$

*satisfies a  $\mathcal{WT}$ -condition on  $\mathcal{M}$  with the structure constants  $v_1 = v_1(n, k, K)$ ,  $v_2 = v_2(n, k, K)$ , and  $p = n/k$ .*

We point out some special cases of Theorem 1.1.

**THEOREM 3.2.** *Let  $D \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  be a domain,  $1 \leq k \leq n$ , and let  $E \subset D$  be a compact set of the  $n/k$ -capacity zero. Suppose that a quasiregular mapping*

$$F = (F_1, \dots, F_k, F_{k+1}, \dots, F_n) : D \setminus E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n \quad (3.3)$$

*satisfies (1.11) with*

$$Z(x) = \sum_{i=1}^k (-1)^{i-1} c_i F_i dF_1 \wedge dF_2 \wedge \dots \wedge \widetilde{dF_i} \wedge \dots \wedge dF_k, \quad (3.4)$$

*where the symbol  $\widetilde{dF_i}$  means that this factor is omitted and  $c_i = \text{const}$ ,  $\sum_{i=1}^k c_i = 1$ .*

*Then there exists a quasiregular mapping  $\tilde{F} : D \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  for which  $\tilde{F}|_{D \setminus E} = F$ .*

*Proof.* Since the statement is a special case of Theorem 1.1, it suffices to show that  $Z$  and  $\theta$  satisfy the assumptions of the theorem. We have

$$dZ = \sum_{i=1}^k (-1)^{i-1} c_i dF_i \wedge dF_1 \wedge dF_2 \wedge \cdots \wedge \widetilde{dF_i} \wedge \cdots \wedge dF_k = dF_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge dF_k. \quad (3.5)$$

If we put

$$\theta = dF_{k+1} \wedge \cdots \wedge dF_n, \quad (3.6)$$

then by Lemma 3.1 the pair of forms  $w = dZ$  and  $\theta$  satisfies (1.10) on  $D \setminus E$ . Using Theorem 1.1 we can conclude that forms  $Z$  and  $\theta$  have extensions to  $D$ . Moreover for an arbitrary subdomain  $D', E \subset D' \subset\subset D$ , it follows

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{D' \setminus E} J_F(x) dx_1 \cdots dx_n &= \int_{D' \setminus E} dF_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge dF_n = \int_{D' \setminus E} dZ \wedge \theta \\ &\leq C \int_{D' \setminus E} |dZ| |\theta| dx_1 \cdots dx_n \leq C \|dZ\|_{L^p(D' \setminus E)} \|\theta\|_{L^q(D' \setminus E)}, \end{aligned} \quad (3.7)$$

where  $C = \text{const} < \infty$  [2, Section 1.7] and  $p = n/k$ ,  $q = n/(n-k)$ .

From this it is easy to see that the vector function  $F$  belongs to  $W_{n,\text{loc}}^1$  in  $D$  and  $E$  is removable for the quasiregular mapping  $F$ . Note that in the definition of a quasiregular mapping continuity is not needed, see [4, Section 3, Chapter II]. This property has a local character and its proof for subdomains of  $\mathbb{R}^n$  implies its correctness for manifolds.  $\square$

The case  $k = 1$  reduces to the well-known case, see Miklyukov [5].

**COROLLARY 3.3.** *Let  $D \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  be a domain, and let  $E \subset D$  be a compact set of  $n$ -capacity zero. Suppose that*

$$F = (F_1, F_2, \dots, F_n) : D \setminus E \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^n \quad (3.8)$$

*is a quasiregular mapping such that*

$$\sup_{x \in D \setminus E} |F_1(x)| < \infty. \quad (3.9)$$

*Then there exists a quasiregular mapping  $\tilde{F} : D \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  for which  $\tilde{F}|_{D \setminus E} = F$ .*

For  $k = n$  we have the following result.

**COROLLARY 3.4.** *Let  $D \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  be a domain, and let  $E \subset D$  be a compact set of Hausdorff  $(n-1)$ -measure zero. Suppose that*

$$F = (F_1, F_2, \dots, F_n) : D \setminus E \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^n \quad (3.10)$$

*is a quasiregular mapping such that*

$$\text{ess sup}_{x \in D \setminus E} J_F(x) < \infty. \quad (3.11)$$

*Then there exists a quasiregular mapping  $f^* : D \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  for which  $f^*|_{D \setminus E} = f$ .*

*Proof.* Since the Jacobian determinant of  $F$  is bounded and  $E$  is of  $(n-1)$ -measure zero, the quasiregularity of  $F$  implies that  $F$  and the form

$$\sum_{i=1}^n (-1)^i F_i dF_1 dF_2 \wedge \cdots \widetilde{dF_i} \cdots \wedge dF_n \quad (3.12)$$

belong to  $L_{\text{loc}}^\infty(D)$ . Hence the corollary follows from Theorem 3.2.  $\square$

*Remark 3.5.* Observe that Corollary 3.4 has an easy alternative proof. Since  $J_F(x)$  is bounded and  $E$  is of  $(n-1)$ -measure zero, the quasiregularity of  $F$  implies that the derivative of  $F$  belongs to  $L_{\text{loc}}^\infty(D)$  and  $F$  is a Lipschitz mapping in  $D \setminus E$ . This shows that  $F$  can be extended to a Lipschitz mapping on  $D$ . It is clear that the extended mapping is quasiregular in  $D$ .

Corollary 3.4 gives the following version of the well-known Painlevé theorem.

**COROLLARY 3.6.** *Let  $E \subset D \subset \mathbb{C}$  be a compact set of linear measure zero. Let  $F : D \setminus E \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  be a holomorphic function. The set  $E$  is removable for  $F$  if and only if*

$$\sup_{z \in K \setminus E} |F'(z)| < \infty, \quad (3.13)$$

for each compact set  $K \subset D$ .

#### 4. Proof of Theorem 1.1

We will need the following integration by parts formula for differential forms [1].

**LEMMA 4.1.** *Let  $\alpha \in W_{p,\text{loc}}^1(\mathcal{M})$  and  $\beta \in W_q^1(\mathcal{M})$  be differential forms,  $\deg \alpha + \deg \beta = n-1$ ,  $1/p + 1/q = 1$ ,  $1 \leq p$ ,  $q \leq \infty$ , and let  $\beta$  have a compact support. Then*

$$\int_{\mathcal{M}} d\alpha \wedge \beta = (-1)^{\deg \alpha + 1} \int_{\mathcal{M}} \alpha \wedge d\beta. \quad (4.1)$$

*In particular, the form  $\alpha$  is weakly closed if and only if  $d\alpha = 0$  a.e. on  $\mathcal{M}$ .*

Let  $D \subset \mathcal{M}$  be a domain containing  $E$  and with a compact closure in  $\mathcal{M}$ . Let  $\{U_k\}_{k=1}^\infty$  be a sequence of open sets  $U_k \subset \mathcal{M}$  such that

$$E \subset U_k, \quad \overline{U_k} \subset D, \quad \bigcap_{k=1}^\infty U_k = E. \quad (4.2)$$

Fix a nonnegative smooth function  $\psi : \mathcal{M} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ,  $0 \leq \psi \leq 1$ , with a compact support and  $\psi \equiv 1$  on  $D$ . Fix a  $k = 1, 2, \dots$  and a smooth function  $\varphi : \mathcal{M} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ,  $0 \leq \varphi \leq 1$ , with the properties

$$\varphi|_E = 0, \quad \text{supp } \varphi \subset U_k, \quad \varphi = 1 \quad \forall m \in \mathcal{M} \setminus U_k. \quad (4.3)$$

The form  $\psi^p \varphi^p Z \wedge \theta$  has a compact support in  $\mathcal{M} \setminus E$ . This yields

$$\int_{\mathcal{M} \setminus E} d(\psi^p \varphi^p Z \wedge \theta) = 0. \quad (4.4)$$

Using (4.1) we have

$$\int_{\mathcal{M} \setminus E} \psi^p \varphi^p dZ \wedge \theta + (-1)^{\deg Z} \int_{\mathcal{M} \setminus E} \psi^p \varphi^p Z \wedge d\theta = - \int_{\mathcal{M} \setminus E} d(\psi^p \varphi^p) \wedge Z \wedge \theta. \quad (4.5)$$

Observe that

$$dZ \wedge \theta = \langle dZ, * \theta \rangle *_{\mathcal{M}}. \quad (4.6)$$

The form  $\theta$  is closed and, consequently, from (1.10) we get

$$\begin{aligned} \nu_1 \int_{\mathcal{M} \setminus E} \psi^p \varphi^p \|dZ\|^{kp} * &\leq \int_{\mathcal{M} \setminus E} \psi^p \varphi^p \langle dZ, * \theta \rangle * = - \int_{\mathcal{M} \setminus E} d(\psi^p \varphi^p) \wedge Z \wedge \theta \\ &= - \int_{\mathcal{M} \setminus E} \langle d(\psi^p \varphi^p) \wedge Z, * \theta \rangle * \\ &\leq \int_{\mathcal{M} \setminus E} |d(\psi^p \varphi^p) \wedge Z| |* \theta| *. \end{aligned} \quad (4.7)$$

But  $\deg \theta = n - k$  and by (1.8) we have

$$|* \theta| = |\theta| \leq (n - k)^{(n-k)/2} \|\theta\|^{n-k}. \quad (4.8)$$

Thus from the second condition of (1.10), it follows that

$$\nu_1 \int_{\mathcal{M} \setminus E} \psi^p \varphi^p \|dZ\|^{kp} * \leq \nu_3 \int_{\mathcal{M} \setminus E} |d(\psi^p \varphi^p) \wedge Z| \|dZ\|^{p-1} *, \quad (4.9)$$

where  $\nu_3 = (n - k)^{(n-k)/2} \nu_2$ .

By (1.11) there exists a constant  $0 < M < \infty$  such that

$$|Z(m)| < M \quad \text{for a.e. in } \mathcal{M} \setminus E. \quad (4.10)$$

Thus, we obtain

$$\nu_1 \int_{\mathcal{M} \setminus E} \psi^p \varphi^p \|dZ\|^{kp} * \leq \nu_3 M \int_{\mathcal{M} \setminus E} |d(\psi^p \varphi^p)| \|dZ\|^{p-1} *. \quad (4.11)$$

However,

$$|d(\psi^p \varphi^p)| \leq p \varphi^p \psi^{p-1} |\nabla \psi| + p \varphi^{p-1} \psi^p |\nabla \varphi|, \quad (4.12)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \nu_1 \int_{\mathcal{M} \setminus E} \psi^p \varphi^p \|dZ\|^{kp} * &\leq p \nu_3 M \int_{\mathcal{M} \setminus E} \varphi^p \psi^{p-1} |\nabla \psi| \|dZ\|^{p-1} * + p \nu_3 M \int_{\mathcal{M} \setminus E} \psi^p \varphi^{p-1} |\nabla \varphi| \|dZ\|^{p-1} *. \end{aligned} \quad (4.13)$$

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Next we use the Cauchy inequality

$$ab^{p-1} \leq \frac{\varepsilon^{kp}}{kp} a^p + \frac{p-1}{kp} \varepsilon^{kp/(1-p)} b^{kp} \quad (4.14)$$

for  $a, b, \varepsilon > 0$ ,  $p \geq 1$ .

For  $\varepsilon > 0$  this implies two estimates

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{\mathcal{M} \setminus E} \varphi^p \psi^{p-1} |\nabla \psi| \|dZ\|^{n-k} * \\ & \leq \frac{n-k}{kp} \varepsilon^{kp/(k-n)} \int_{\mathcal{M} \setminus E} \varphi^p \psi^p \|dZ\|^{kp} * + \frac{\varepsilon^{kp}}{kp} \int_{\mathcal{M} \setminus E} \varphi^p |\nabla \psi|^p * , \\ & \int_{\mathcal{M} \setminus E} \varphi^{p-1} \psi^p |\nabla \varphi| \|dZ\|^{n-k} * \\ & \leq \frac{n-k}{kp} \varepsilon^{kp/(k-n)} \int_{\mathcal{M} \setminus E} \varphi^p \psi^p \|dZ\|^{kp} * + \frac{\varepsilon^{kp}}{kp} \int_{\mathcal{M} \setminus E} \psi^p |\nabla \varphi|^p * . \end{aligned} \quad (4.15)$$

Now from (4.13) it follows

$$\begin{aligned} & \nu_1 \int_{\mathcal{M} \setminus E} \psi^p \varphi^p \|dZ\|^{kp} * \\ & \leq C_1 \int_{\mathcal{M} \setminus E} \psi^p \varphi^p \|dZ\|^{kp} * + C_2 \int_{\mathcal{M} \setminus E} \varphi^p |\nabla \psi|^p * + C_2 \int_{\mathcal{M} \setminus E} \psi^p |\nabla \varphi|^p * , \end{aligned} \quad (4.16)$$

where

$$C_1 = \frac{n-k}{k} \nu_3 M \varepsilon^{kp/(k-n)}, \quad C_2 = \nu_3 M \frac{\varepsilon^{kp}}{k}. \quad (4.17)$$

Choose  $\varepsilon = \varepsilon_0 > 0$  such that  $C_1 = \nu_1/2$ . Then we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{2} \nu_1 \int_{\mathcal{M} \setminus E} \psi^p \varphi^p \|dZ\|^{kp} * \\ & \leq \nu_3 M \frac{\varepsilon_0^{kp}}{k} \int_{\mathcal{M} \setminus E} \varphi^p |\nabla \psi|^p * + \nu_3 M \frac{\varepsilon_0^{kp}}{k} \int_{\mathcal{M} \setminus E} \psi^p |\nabla \varphi|^p * \\ & = \nu_3 M \frac{\varepsilon_0^{kp}}{k} \int_{U_k \setminus E} |\nabla \varphi|^p * + \nu_3 M \frac{\varepsilon_0^{kp}}{k} \int_{\mathcal{M} \setminus D} |\nabla \psi|^p * \end{aligned} \quad (4.18)$$

and since  $0 \leq \psi, \varphi \leq 1$ ,

$$\frac{1}{2} \nu_1 \int_{D \setminus U_k} \|dZ\|^{kp} * \leq \nu_3 M \frac{\varepsilon_0^{kp}}{k} \left( \int_{U_k \setminus E} |\nabla \varphi|^p * + \int_{\mathcal{M} \setminus D} |\nabla \psi|^p * \right). \quad (4.19)$$

The special choice of  $\varphi$  and  $\psi$  permits to take the infimum over  $\varphi$  and  $\psi$  such that

$$\frac{1}{2} \nu_1 \int_{D \setminus U_k} \|dZ\|^{kp} * \leq \nu_3 M \frac{\varepsilon_0^{kp}}{k} \text{cap}_p(E, U_k; \mathcal{M}) + \nu_3 M \frac{\varepsilon_0^{kp}}{k} \text{cap}_p(D, \mathcal{M}; \mathcal{M}). \quad (4.20)$$



However,  $\text{cap}_p(E, \mathcal{M} \setminus U_k; \mathcal{M}) = 0$  and thus we arrive at the estimates

$$\frac{1}{2} \nu_1 \int_{D \setminus U_k} \|dZ\|^{kp} * \leq \nu_3 M \frac{\varepsilon_0^{kp}}{k} \text{cap}_p(D, \mathcal{M}; \mathcal{M}), \quad (4.21)$$

$$\frac{1}{2} \nu_1 \int_D \|dZ\|^{kp} * \leq \nu_3 M \frac{\varepsilon_0^{kp}}{k} \text{cap}_p(D, \mathcal{M}; \mathcal{M}) \quad (4.22)$$

because by Lemma 2.1 the set  $E$  is of  $(n-1)$ -measure zero.

Next by Lemma 2.1, the coefficients of  $Z$  can be extended to  $W_{p,\text{loc}}^1$ -functions in  $\mathcal{M}$ . This is due to the estimate (4.22) and to the ACL-property of  $W_p^1$ -functions; note that the ACL-property can be easily transformed to the manifold  $\mathcal{M}$  since  $\mathcal{M}$  is in the class  $C^3$ .

Thus,  $Z$  can be extended up to some form  $\tilde{Z}$ . Moreover clearly,  $\|d\tilde{Z}\| \in L_{\text{loc}}^{kp}(\mathcal{M})$ . The extension of  $\theta$  is analogous. Theorem 1.1 is completely proved.

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## Special Issue on Boundary Value Problems on Time Scales

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