

## Boundary limits of locally $n$ -precise functions

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### 1. Introduction

In this note we investigate the existence of boundary limits of locally  $n$ -precise functions  $u$  on a domain  $G$  in  $R^n$  which satisfy a condition of the form:

$$(1) \quad \int_G \Psi(|\text{grad } u(x)|)\omega(x)dx < \infty$$

with a nonnegative measurable function  $\omega$  on  $G$  and a positive nondecreasing function  $\Psi$  on the interval  $(0, \infty)$ ; for the definition and basic properties of locally  $p$ -precise functions, see Ohtsuka [4] and Ziemer [5]. The function  $\Psi(r)$  is assumed to be of the form  $r^n\psi(r)$ , where  $\psi(r)$  is a positive nondecreasing function on the interval  $(0, \infty)$  satisfying the following conditions:

( $\psi_1$ ) There exists  $A > 0$  such that

$$A^{-1}\psi(r) \leq \psi(r^2) \leq A\psi(r) \quad \text{for any } r > 0.$$

( $\psi_2$ )  $\int_0^1 \psi(r^{-1})^{-1/(n-1)}r^{-1}dr < \infty$ .

For example,

$$\psi(r) = [\log(2+r)]^\alpha, [\log(2+r)]^{n-1}[\log(2+(\log(2+r)))]^\alpha, \dots,$$

satisfy the above conditions, as long as  $\alpha > n - 1$ .

We shall first show that if  $\int_G \Psi(|\text{grad } u(x)|)dx < \infty$ , then there exists a continuous function  $u^*$  on  $G$  such that  $u^* = u$  a.e. on  $G$ , and furthermore, in case  $G$  is a Lipschitz domain,  $u^*$  can be extended to a continuous function on  $G \cup \partial G$ .

Next, in section 3, we are concerned with the existence of limits at a given boundary point  $\xi$ , in the case where  $u$  satisfies (1) with  $\omega(x) = \lambda(|x - \xi|)$  for a positive nondecreasing function  $\lambda$  on the interval  $(0, \infty)$ . Then, in the next section, we study the existence of boundary limits along certain subsets of  $G$  for a function  $u$  satisfying (1) with  $\omega(x) = \lambda(\rho(x))$ , where  $\lambda$  is as above and  $\rho(x)$  denotes the distance of  $x$  from the boundary  $\partial G$ .

In the last section, we discuss the existence of limits at infinity, in case  $G$  is unbounded and  $\omega \equiv 1$ .

## 2. Continuity of locally $n$ -precise functions

First we give several properties on  $\psi$ , which follow from condition  $(\psi_1)$ .

$(\psi_1)'$  There exists  $A' > 0$  such that  $\psi(2r) \leq A'\psi(r)$  on  $(0, \infty)$ .

$(\psi_1)''$  For each  $\gamma > 0$ , there exists  $A_\gamma > 0$  such that

$$A_\gamma^{-1}\psi(r) \leq \psi(r^\gamma) \leq A_\gamma\psi(r) \quad \text{on } (0, \infty).$$

$(\psi_1)'''$  If  $\varepsilon > 0$ , then  $s^\varepsilon\psi(s^{-1}) \leq At^\varepsilon\psi(t^{-1})$  whenever  $0 < s < t < A^{-1/\varepsilon}$ .

For the sake of convenience, we introduce the function

$$\tilde{\psi}(r) = \left( \int_0^r \psi(t^{-1})^{-1/(n-1)} t^{-1} dt \right)^{1-1/n}.$$

Then  $\tilde{\psi}$  satisfies condition  $(\psi_1)$ , too, and

$(\psi_3)$   $\tilde{\psi}(r) \geq M\psi(r^{-1})^{-1/n}$  for any  $r > 0$

with a positive constant  $M$ .

Our first aim is to establish the following result.

**THEOREM 1.** *If  $u$  is a locally  $n$ -precise function on  $G$  satisfying*

$$(2) \quad \int_G \Psi(|\text{grad } u(x)|) dx < \infty,$$

*then there exists a continuous function on  $G$  which equals  $u$  a.e. on  $G$ .*

For a proof of Theorem 1, we use the following results.

**LEMMA 1** (cf. [3; Theorem 1], [4; Theorem 9.11]). *Let  $1 < p < \infty$ . If  $u$  is a  $p$ -precise function on  $\mathbb{R}^n$  with compact support, then*

$$u(x) = c \sum_{i=1}^n \int (x_i - y_i) |x - y|^{-n} (\partial/\partial y_i) u(y) dy \quad \text{a.e. on } \mathbb{R}^n,$$

where  $c$  is a constant independent of  $u$ .

**LEMMA 2.** *Let  $E$  be a measurable set in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , and let  $g, \omega$  be nonnegative measurable functions on  $E$ . Then, for any  $\delta$  with  $0 < \delta < 1$  and  $\alpha > 0$ ,*

$$\begin{aligned} \int_E |x - y|^{1-n} g(y) dy &\leq A_\delta^{1/n} \left( \int_E \Psi(g(y)) \omega(y) dy \right)^{1/n} \\ &\times \left( \int_E |x - y|^{-n} [\psi(\alpha^{-1}|x - y|^{-1}) \omega(y)]^{-1/(n-1)} dy \right)^{1-1/n} + \alpha^{-\delta} \int_E |x - y|^{1-n-\delta} dy. \end{aligned}$$

PROOF. Let  $E_1 = \{y \in E; g(y) \geq (\alpha|x-y|)^{-\delta}\}$  and  $E_2 = E - E_1$ . Then,  $\psi(g(y)) \geq \psi((\alpha|x-y|)^{-\delta}) \geq A_\delta^{-1}\psi((\alpha|x-y|)^{-1})$  on  $E_1$  and  $g(y) \leq \alpha^{-\delta}|x-y|^{-\delta}$  on  $E_2$ . Hence, Hölder's inequality implies the required inequality.

COROLLARY. If  $E, g, \delta$  and  $\alpha$  are as in Lemma 2, then

$$\int_E |x-y|^{1-n} g(y) dy \leq M \left( \int_E \Psi(g(y)) dy \right)^{1/n} \tilde{\psi}(\alpha R) + M \alpha^{-\delta} |E|^{(1-\delta)/n},$$

where  $|E|$  denotes the measure of  $E$ ,  $R = \sup\{|x-y|; y \in E\}$  and  $M$  is a positive constant independent of  $\alpha, x, g, E$ .

PROOF. Taking  $\omega \equiv 1$  in Lemma 2 and remarking that

$$\int_E |x-y|^{1-n-\delta} dy \leq M r^{1-\delta}$$

for  $r \geq 0$  such that  $|E| = |B(x, r)|$ ,  $B(x, r)$  denoting the open ball with center  $x$  and radius  $r$ , we obtain the Corollary.

PROOF OF THEOREM 1. Let  $B(x_0, 2r_0) \subset G$ , and take  $\varphi \in C_0^\infty(G)$  such that  $\varphi = 1$  on  $B(x_0, r_0)$ . Then, by Lemma 1,  $\varphi u$  is equal a.e. to

$$v(x) = c \sum_{i=1}^n \int (x_i - y_i) |x-y|^{-n} (\partial/\partial y_i)(\varphi u)(y) dy.$$

Thus it suffices to show that  $v$  is continuous on  $B(x_0, r_0)$ . We write

$$\begin{aligned} v(x) &= c \sum_{i=1}^n \int (x_i - y_i) |x-y|^{-n} [(\partial/\partial y_i)\varphi(y)] u(y) dy \\ &\quad + c \sum_{i=1}^n \int (x_i - y_i) |x-y|^{-n} \varphi(y) [(\partial/\partial y_i)u(y)] dy = u_1(x) + u_2(x). \end{aligned}$$

We first note that  $u_1$  is continuous on  $B(x_0, r_0)$ . Let  $x_1$  be any point of  $B(x_0, r_0)$ . For  $r > 0$ , we set

$$u_{2,r}(x) = c \sum_{i=1}^n \int_{B(x_1, r)} (x_i - y_i) |x-y|^{-n} \varphi(y) [(\partial/\partial y_i)u(y)] dy.$$

For simplicity, put

$$f(y) = \sum_{i=1}^n |\varphi(y) [(\partial/\partial y_i)u(y)]|.$$

We note that  $\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \Psi(f(y)) dy < \infty$ , by condition (2). For  $x \in B(x_1, r)$ , we derive from the Corollary to Lemma 2

$$\begin{aligned} |u_{2,r}(x)| &\leq M_1 \int_{B(x_1,r)} |x-y|^{1-n} f(y) dy \\ &\leq M_2 \left( \int_{B(x_1,r)} \Psi(f(y)) dy \right)^{1/n} \tilde{\psi}(r) + M_2 r^{1-\delta}, \end{aligned}$$

where  $0 < \delta < 1$  and  $M_1, M_2$  are positive constants independent of  $x$  and  $r$ . Consequently,  $\lim_{r \rightarrow 0} \sup_{x \in B(x_1,r)} u_{2,r}(x) = 0$ . Since  $u_2 - u_{2,r}$  is continuous at  $x_1$ , it follows that  $u_2$  is continuous at  $x_1$ . Therefore,  $v$  is continuous on  $B(x_0, r_0)$ , and hence Theorem 1 is established.

REMARK. If  $\Psi(r) = r^p$  and  $p > n$ , then the same conclusion as in Theorem 1 is true.

Let  $\lambda$  be a positive nondecreasing function on  $(0, \infty)$  such that  $\lambda(2r) \leq B\lambda(r)$  on  $(0, \infty)$  with a positive constant  $B$ , and consider

$$\kappa'_\lambda(r) = \left( \int_r^1 [\psi(s^{-1})\lambda(s)]^{-1/(n-1)} s^{-1} ds \right)^{1-1/n}.$$

THEOREM 2. Let  $G$  be a Lipschitz domain in  $R^n$ , and  $u$  be a locally  $n$ -precise function on  $G$  satisfying

$$(3) \quad \int_G \Psi(|\text{grad } u(x)|) \lambda(\rho(x)) dx < \infty,$$

where  $\rho(x)$  denotes the distance of  $x$  from the boundary  $\partial G$ . If  $\kappa'_\lambda(0) < \infty$ , then there exists a continuous function on  $G \cup \partial G$  which equals  $u$  a.e. on  $G$ .

REMARK. If  $\lim_{r \downarrow 0} \lambda(r) > 0$  (in particular, if  $\lambda \equiv 1$ ), then  $\kappa'_\lambda(0) < \infty$  by assumption  $(\psi_2)$ .

For a proof of Theorem 2, we need the following result, which is a key lemma in the discussions throughout this paper.

LEMMA 3. If  $u$  is a locally  $n$ -precise continuous function on  $G$ , then for any  $x, x_0 \in G$  and  $r_0 > 0$  such that  $E(x, x_0, r_0) = \{tx + (1-t)y; 0 < t < 1, y \in B(x_0, r_0)\} \subset G$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} &\left| u(x) - |B(x_0, r_0)|^{-1} \int_{B(x_0, r_0)} u(y) dy \right| \\ &\leq M r_0^{-n} (|x - x_0| + r_0)^n \int_{E(x, x_0, r_0)} |x - z|^{1-n} |\text{grad } u(z)| dz, \end{aligned}$$

where  $M$  is a positive constant depending only on the dimension  $n$ .

REMARK. If  $x \in B(x_0, r_0)$ , then

$$\left| u(x) - |B(x_0, r_0)|^{-1} \int_{B(x_0, r_0)} u(y) dy \right| \leq 2^n M \int_{B(x_0, r_0)} |x - z|^{1-n} |\text{grad } u(z)| dz.$$

PROOF OF LEMMA 3. If  $0 < \varepsilon < 1$ , then, in view of Example 1 given after Theorem 3.21 in [4], we have

$$|u(x + \varepsilon(y - x)) - u(y)| \leq \int_{\varepsilon}^1 |x - y| |\text{grad } u(tx + (1 - t)y)| dt$$

for almost every  $y \in B(x_0, r_0)$ . Letting  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ , we obtain

$$|u(x) - u(y)| \leq |x - y| \int_0^1 |\text{grad } u(tx + (1 - t)y)| dt$$

for almost every  $y \in B(x_0, r_0)$ . Hence

$$\begin{aligned} & \left| u(x) - |B(x_0, r_0)|^{-1} \int_{B(x_0, r_0)} u(y) dy \right| \\ & \leq |B(x_0, r_0)|^{-1} \int_{B(x_0, r_0)} |x - y| \left( \int_0^1 |\text{grad } u(tx + (1 - t)y)| dt \right) dy \\ & \leq |B(x_0, r_0)|^{-1} \int_{E(x, x_0, r_0)} |x - z| |\text{grad } u(z)| \\ & \quad \times \left( \int_{\{1-t \geq |x-z|(|x-x_0|+r_0)^{-1}\}} (1-t)^{-1-n} dt \right) dz \\ & \leq M r_0^{-n} (|x - x_0| + r_0)^n \int_{E(x, x_0, r_0)} |x - z|^{1-n} |\text{grad } u(z)| dz, \end{aligned}$$

since for  $z = tx + (1 - t)y$ ,  $|x - z| = (1 - t)|x - y| \leq (1 - t)(|x - x_0| + r_0)$ , where  $M$  is a positive constant independent of  $x$ ,  $x_0$ ,  $r_0$  and  $u$ .

PROOF OF THEOREM 2. By Theorem 1 we may assume that  $u$  is continuous on  $G$ . We shall prove that  $u$  has a finite limit at any  $\xi \in \partial G$ . Since  $G$  is a Lipschitz domain, there is a cylindrical neighborhood  $U$  of  $\xi$  such that, by a suitable orthogonal coordinate system, we can write

$$\xi = 0, \quad U \cap G = \{x = (x_1, x'); \varphi(x') < x_1 < h, |x'| < \rho\},$$

where  $h > 0$ ,  $\rho > 0$  and  $\varphi$  is a Lipschitz function on  $\{x' \in R^{n-1}; |x'| < \rho\}$  such that  $\varphi(0) = 0$ . Let  $K$  be the Lipschitz constant of  $\varphi$ . For any  $r > 0$  with  $r < \min\{h/2, 2(K + 1)\rho\}$ , let  $e_r = (0, r)$  and  $\sigma_r = r/3(K + 1)$ . Then, for any

$x \in B(0, \sigma_r) \cap G$ ,  $E(x, e_r, \sigma_r) \subset U \cap G$ . Hence, by Lemmas 3 and 2, we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \left| u(x) - |B(e_r, \sigma_r)|^{-1} \int_{B(e_r, \sigma_r)} u(y) dy \right| \\ & \leq M \sigma_r^{-n} (|x - e_r| + \sigma_r)^n \int_{E(x, e_r, \sigma_r)} |x - z|^{1-n} |\text{grad } u(z)| dz \\ & \leq M_1 r^{1-\delta} + M_1 \left( \int_{E(x, e_r, \sigma_r)} \Psi(|\text{grad } u(z)|) \lambda(\rho(z)) dz \right)^{1/n} \\ & \quad \times \left( \int_{E(x, e_r, \sigma_r)} |x - z|^{-n} [\psi(|x - z|^{-1}) \lambda(\rho(z))]^{-1/(n-1)} dz \right)^{1-1/n} \end{aligned}$$

for any  $x \in B(0, \sigma_r) \cap G$ , where  $0 < \delta < 1$  and  $M_1$  is a positive constant independent of  $r$ . If  $x \in B(0, \sigma_r) \cap G$  and  $z \in E(x, e_r, \sigma_r)$ , then  $|x - z| \leq M_2 \rho(z)$  with a positive constant  $M_2$ , so that

$$\begin{aligned} & \left( \int_{E(x, e_r, \sigma_r)} |x - z|^{-n} [\psi(|x - z|^{-1}) \lambda(\rho(z))]^{-1/(n-1)} dz \right)^{1-1/n} \\ & \leq M_3 \left( \int_0^{2r} [\psi(t^{-1}) \lambda(t)]^{-1/(n-1)} t^{-1} dt \right)^{1-1/n} \leq M_4 \kappa'_\lambda(0) \end{aligned}$$

with positive constants  $M_3$  and  $M_4$ . Therefore,

$$|u(x) - u(y)| \leq 2M_1 M_4 \kappa'_\lambda(0) \left( \int_{G \cap B(0, 2r)} \Psi(|\text{grad } u(z)|) \lambda(\rho(z)) dz \right)^{1/n} + 2M_1 r^{1-\delta}$$

whenever  $x, y \in G \cap B(0, \sigma_r)$ . This implies that  $u$  has a finite limit at  $\xi = 0$ .

**REMARK.** Theorem 2 fails to hold if  $G$  is not a Lipschitz domain. For example, consider the set  $G_a = \{(x, y); 0 < x < 1, -x^a < y < x^a\}$ , where  $a > 1$ . If  $u(x, y) = x^{-\beta}$  and  $-\beta + (a-1)/2 > 0$ , then  $u$  satisfies condition (3) with  $G = G_a$  and  $\lambda \equiv 1$ .

### 3. Boundary limits, I

Let  $\lambda$  be a positive nondecreasing function on  $(0, \infty)$  such that  $\lambda(2r) \leq B\lambda(r)$  on  $(0, \infty)$  with a positive constant  $B$ , and let

$$\kappa_\lambda(r) = \kappa'_\lambda(r) + \lambda(r)^{-1/n} \tilde{\psi}(r).$$

Recall that

$$\kappa'_\lambda(r) = \left( \int_r^1 [\psi(t^{-1}) \lambda(t)]^{-1/(n-1)} t^{-1} dt \right)^{1-1/n}$$

and

$$\tilde{\psi}(r) = \left( \int_0^r \psi(t^{-1})^{-1/(n-1)} t^{-1} dt \right)^{1-1/n}.$$

REMARK. (i) It is easy to see that  $\kappa'_\lambda(0) < \infty$  if and only if  $\kappa_\lambda$  is bounded on  $(0, 1)$ . In fact, if  $\kappa'_\lambda(0) < \infty$ , then  $\lim_{r \downarrow 0} \lambda(r)^{-1/n} \tilde{\psi}(r) = 0$ .

(ii) If  $\lambda(r) = r^\beta$  ( $\beta > 0$ ), then  $\kappa_\lambda(r) \sim r^{-\beta/n} \tilde{\psi}(r)$  (cf. the Appendix) and  $\kappa'_\lambda(0) = \infty$ .

In this section, we are concerned with the existence of limits at a given boundary point  $\xi$ , for functions  $u$  satisfying

$$(4) \quad \int_G \Psi(|\text{grad } u(x)|) \lambda(|\xi - x|) dx < \infty.$$

THEOREM 3. Let  $\xi \in \partial G$ , and suppose there exist  $x_0 \in G$ ,  $r_0 > 0$  and  $\varepsilon_0 > 0$  such that  $E(x, x_0, r_0) \subset G$  for all  $x \in G \cap B(\xi, \varepsilon_0)$ . If  $u$  is a locally  $n$ -precise continuous function on  $G$  satisfying (4) and if  $\kappa'_\lambda(0) = \infty$ , then

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \xi, x \in G} [\kappa_\lambda(|x - \xi|)]^{-1} u(x) = 0.$$

PROOF. We may assume that  $\xi = 0$  and  $\varepsilon_0 < |x_0| - r_0$ . First, we note that there is  $a > 0$  (depending only on  $x_0, r_0$  and  $\varepsilon_0$ ) such that

$$|z| > a|x| \quad \text{and} \quad |z| > a|x - z|$$

whenever  $x \in G \cap B(0, \varepsilon_0)$  and  $z \in E(x, x_0, r_0/2)$ .

For  $x \in G \cap B(0, \varepsilon_0)$ , by Lemma 3, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \left| u(x) - |B(x_0, r_0/2)|^{-1} \int_{B(x_0, r_0/2)} u(y) dy \right| &\leq M_1 \int_{E(x, x_0, r_0/2)} |x - z|^{1-n} f(z) dz \\ &= M_1(I_1 + I_2), \end{aligned}$$

where  $f(z) = |\text{grad } u(z)|$ ,  $M_1$  is a positive constant independent of  $x$ ,

$$I_1 = \int_{E(x, x_0, r_0/2) \cap B(x, r)} |x - z|^{1-n} f(z) dz$$

and

$$I_2 = \int_{E(x, x_0, r_0/2) - B(x, r)} |x - z|^{1-n} f(z) dz$$

for  $r$  with  $|x| < r < \varepsilon_0$ . In view of Lemma 2, we obtain

$$I_1 \leq M_2 \left( \int_{E(x, x_0, r_0/2) \cap B(x, r)} \Psi(f(z)) \lambda(|z|) dz \right)^{1/n} \\ \times \left( \int_{E(x, x_0, r_0/2)} |x-z|^{-n} [\psi(|x-z|^{-1}) \lambda(|z|)]^{-1/(n-1)} dz \right)^{1-1/n} + M_2$$

for a positive constant  $M_2$  independent of  $x$  and  $r$ . Now, let

$$E_1 = E(x, x_0, r_0/2) - B(x, |x|)$$

and

$$E_2 = E(x, x_0, r_0/2) \cap B(x, |x|).$$

For  $z \in E_1$ , we use the inequality  $|z| > a|x-z|$  and obtain

$$\left( \int_{E_1} |x-z|^{-n} [\psi(|x-z|^{-1}) \lambda(|z|)]^{-1/(n-1)} dz \right)^{1-1/n} \\ \leq M_3 \left( \int_{|x|}^{r_1} [\psi(t^{-1}) \lambda(at)]^{-1/(n-1)} t^{-1} dt \right)^{1-1/n} \leq M_4 \kappa'_\lambda(|x|),$$

where  $r_1 = |x_0| + r_0/2 + \varepsilon_0$  and  $M_3, M_4$  are positive constants independent of  $x$ . For  $z \in E_2$ , we use the inequality  $|z| > a|x|$  and obtain

$$\left( \int_{E_2} |x-z|^{-n} [\psi(|x-z|^{-1}) \lambda(|z|)]^{-1/(n-1)} dz \right)^{1-1/n} \\ \leq M_5 [\lambda(a|x|)]^{-1/n} \left( \int_0^{a|x|} [\psi(t^{-1})]^{-1/(n-1)} t^{-1} dt \right)^{1-1/n} \\ \leq M_6 [\lambda(|x|)]^{-1/n} \tilde{\psi}(|x|)$$

with positive constants  $M_5$  and  $M_6$ . Hence

$$I_1 \leq M_7 \kappa_\lambda(|x|) \left( \int_{E(x, x_0, r_0/2) \cap B(x, r)} \Psi(f(z)) \lambda(|z|) dz \right)^{1/n} + M_2$$

with a positive constant  $M_7$  independent of  $x$  and  $r$ . Similarly, by using the inequality  $|z| > a|x-z|$ , we obtain

$$I_2 \leq M_8 \kappa_\lambda(r) \left( \int_{E(x, x_0, r_0/2) - B(x, r)} \Psi(f(z)) \lambda(|z|) dz \right)^{1/n} + M_8$$

with a positive constant  $M_8$ . Thus we establish

$$\begin{aligned} & \left| u(x) - |B(x_0, r_0/2)|^{-1} \int_{B(x_0, r_0/2)} u(y) dy \right| \\ & \leq M_9 \kappa_\lambda(|x|) \left( \int_{G \cap B(x, r)} \Psi(f(z)) \lambda(|z|) dz \right)^{1/n} \\ & \quad + M_9 \kappa_\lambda(r) \left( \int_G \Psi(f(z)) \lambda(|z|) dz \right)^{1/n} + M_9 \end{aligned}$$

with a positive constant  $M_9$ . Since  $\kappa_\lambda(|x|) \rightarrow \infty$  as  $x \rightarrow 0$ , it follows that

$$\limsup_{x \rightarrow 0, x \in G} [\kappa_\lambda(|x|)]^{-1} |u(x)| \leq M_9 \left( \int_{G \cap B(0, r)} \Psi(f(z)) \lambda(|z|) dz \right)^{1/n}$$

for any  $r$  with  $0 < r < \varepsilon_0$ , which implies the required result.

Now we consider a special domain

$$G_a = \{x = (x_1, x') \in R^1 \times R^{n-1}; 0 < x_1 < 1, |x'| < x_1^a\}.$$

If  $a > 1$ , then  $G_a$  is not a Lipschitz domain, and it does not satisfy the condition in Theorem 3 at  $\xi = 0$ . However, we have the following result for this domain.

**PROPOSITION 1.** *Let  $\lambda$  be a positive monotone function on the interval  $(0, \infty)$  such that  $B^{-1}\lambda(r) \leq \lambda(2r) \leq B\lambda(r)$  for any  $r > 0$  with a positive constant  $B$ . For  $a > 1$ , let*

$$\lambda_a(r) = \left( \int_r^1 \lambda(s)^{-1/(n-1)} s^{-a} ds \right)^{-n+1}.$$

If  $u$  is a locally  $n$ -precise continuous function on  $G_a$  satisfying condition (4), then

- (i)  $u(x)$  has a finite limit as  $x_1 \rightarrow 0$ ,  $x \in G_a$ , in case  $\kappa'_{\lambda_a}(0) < \infty$ ;
- (ii)  $\lim_{x_1 \rightarrow 0, x \in G_a} [\kappa_{\lambda_a}(x_1)]^{-1} u(x) = 0$  in case  $\kappa'_{\lambda_a}(0) = \infty$ .

**PROOF.** For each positive integer  $j \geq j_0$ , let  $r_j = Mj^{1/(1-a)}$ . Here  $j_0$  and  $M$  are taken so large that  $0 < r_j < 1/2$  and  $r_j - r_{j+1} < \rho(e(j))$  for  $j \geq j_0$ , where  $e(j) = (r_j, 0)$ . For simplicity, set  $\Delta(j) = B(e(j), \rho(e(j)))$ ,  $j \geq j_0$ . We shall show the existence of  $N > 0$  such that the number of  $\Delta(m)$  with  $\Delta(m) \cap \Delta(j) \neq \emptyset$  is at most  $N$  for any  $j$ . Letting  $\beta$  and  $\gamma$  be positive numbers, we assume that  $r_j - \beta r_j^a \leq r_{j+k} + \gamma r_{j+k}^a$ . Then

$$j[1 - (j/(j+k))^{1/(a-1)}] \leq M^{a-1}[\beta + \gamma(j/(j+k))^{a/(a-1)}].$$

Since  $K = \inf_{0 < x < 1} (1 - x^{1/(a-1)})/(1 - x) > 0$ , we derive

$$jk/(j+k) \leq K^* \quad \text{with} \quad K^* = [M^{a-1}(\beta + \gamma)]/K,$$

so that

$$k \leq K^*j/(j - K^*) \quad \text{when } j > K^*.$$

From this fact we can readily find  $N > 0$  with the required property.

For  $0 < r < 1/2$ , let  $X(r) = (r, 0) \in G_a$  and  $B_r = B(X(r), \rho(X(r)))$ . If  $x \in B_r$ , then Lemmas 2 and 3 imply

$$\begin{aligned} \left| u(x) - |B_r|^{-1} \int_{B_r} u(z) dz \right| &\leq M_1 \int_{B_r} |x - z|^{1-n} |\text{grad } u(z)| dz \\ &\leq M_2 \left( \int_{B_r} \Psi(|\text{grad } u(z)|) \lambda(|z|) dz \right)^{1/n} \lambda(r)^{-1/n} \tilde{\psi}(r^a) \\ &\quad + M_2 r^{a(1-\delta)}, \end{aligned}$$

so that

$$(5) \quad |u(x) - u(X(r))| \leq 2M_2 \left( \int_{B_r} \Psi(|\text{grad } u(z)|) \lambda(|z|) dz \right)^{1/n} \times \lambda(r)^{-1/n} \tilde{\psi}(r^a) + 2M_2 r^{a(1-\delta)}$$

with positive constants  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  independent of  $x$ ,  $y$  and  $r$ , where  $\delta$  is a positive number so chosen that  $a\delta < 1$ . Since  $\tilde{\psi}(r^a) \leq M(a)\tilde{\psi}(r)$  for  $r > 0$  with a positive constant  $M(a)$ , we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} |u(e(j)) - u(e(j+k))| &\leq |u(e(j)) - u(e(j+1))| + |u(e(j+1)) - u(e(j+2))| + \cdots \\ &\quad + |u(e(j+k-1)) - u(e(j+k))| \\ &\leq M_3 \left( \int_{\Delta(j, j+k)} \Psi(|\text{grad } u(z)|) \lambda(|z|) dz \right)^{1/n} \\ &\quad \times \left( \sum_{m=j}^{j+k-1} \tilde{\psi}(m^{-1})^{n'} [\lambda(m^{1/(1-a)})]^{-n'/n} \right)^{1/n'} \\ &\quad + M_3 \sum_{m=j}^{\infty} m^{-a(1-\delta)/(a-1)}, \end{aligned}$$

where  $1/n + 1/n' = 1$ ,  $\Delta(j, j+k) = \bigcup_{j \leq m \leq j+k} \Delta(m)$  and  $M_3$  is a positive constant independent of  $j$  and  $k$ . Here note that

$$\begin{aligned} &\sum_{m=j}^{j+k-1} \tilde{\psi}(m^{-1})^{n'} \lambda(m^{1/(1-a)})^{-n'/n} \\ &\leq M_4 \int_j^{j+k} \tilde{\psi}(t^{-1})^{n'} \lambda(t^{1/(1-a)})^{-n'/n} dt \\ &\leq M_5 \int_{(j+k)^{-1}}^{j^{-1}} \psi(s^{-1})^{-1/(n-1)} s^{-1} \left( \int_j^{s^{-1}} \lambda(t^{1/(1-a)})^{-1/(n-1)} dt \right) ds \\ &\quad + M_5 \left( \int_0^{(j+k)^{-1}} \psi(s^{-1})^{-1/(n-1)} s^{-1} ds \right) \left( \int_j^{j+k} \lambda(t^{1/(1-a)})^{-1/(n-1)} dt \right) \end{aligned}$$

for sufficiently large  $j$ , where  $M_4$  and  $M_5$  are positive constants independent of  $j$  and  $k$ . Since  $\int_j^{j+k} \lambda(t^{1/(1-a)})^{-1/(n-1)} dt \leq [(a-1)\lambda_a(s^{1/(a-1)})]^{-1/(n-1)}$ , we find, by  $(\psi_1)''$  and change of variables, that

$$\left(\sum_{m=j}^{j+k-1} \tilde{\psi}(m^{-1})^{n'} \lambda(m^{1/(1-a)})^{-n'/n}\right)^{1/n'} \leq M_6 \kappa_{\lambda_a}((j+k)^{1/(1-a)}) \leq M_7 \kappa_{\lambda_a}(r_{j+k})$$

with positive constants  $M_6$  and  $M_7$  independent of  $j$  and  $k$ .

First suppose  $\kappa'_{\lambda_a}(0) = \infty$ . Then

$$\limsup_{k \rightarrow \infty} [\kappa_{\lambda_a}(r_{j+k})]^{-1} |u(e(j+k))| \leq M_3 M_7 \left( \int_{\Delta(j, \infty)} \Psi(|\text{grad } u(z)|) \lambda(|z|) dz \right)^{1/n},$$

which implies

$$\lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} [\kappa_{\lambda_a}(r_j)]^{-1} u(e(j)) = 0.$$

If  $x \in B_r$  and  $r_{j+1} < r \leq r_j$ , then  $e(j) \in B_r$  and  $x_1 < r \leq r_j$ . Hence, by (5),

$$\begin{aligned} [\kappa_{\lambda_a}(x_1)]^{-1} |u(x)| &\leq M_8 [\kappa_{\lambda_a}(r_j)]^{-1} (|u(e(j))| + r_j^{a(1-\delta)}) \\ &\quad + M_8 [\lambda_a(r_j)]^{1/n} \lambda(r_j)^{-1/n} \left( \int_{G_a} \Psi(|\text{grad } u(z)|) \lambda(|z|) dz \right)^{1/n} \end{aligned}$$

with a positive constant  $M_8$ . Since

$$\lambda_a(r)^{1/n} \lambda(r)^{-1/n} \leq \left( [B^{-1} \lambda(r)]^{-1/(n-1)} \int_r^{2r} s^{-a} ds \right)^{-1/n'} \lambda(r)^{-1/n} \leq M_9 r^{(a-1)/n'}$$

with a positive constant  $M_9$  independent of  $r$ , we see that  $[\kappa_{\lambda_a}(x_1)]^{-1} |u(x)|$  tends to zero as  $x \rightarrow 0$ ,  $x \in G_a$ .

If  $\kappa'_{\lambda_a}(0) < \infty$ , then  $\kappa_{\lambda_a}$  is bounded and the above arguments imply that  $\{u(e(j))\}$  is a Cauchy sequence and

$$\lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} (\sup \{|u(x) - u(e(j))|; x \in \bigcup_{r_{j+1} < r \leq r_j} B_r\}) = 0.$$

From these facts it follows readily that  $u(x)$  has a finite limit as  $x \rightarrow 0$ ,  $x \in G_a$ .

**REMARK 1.** Let  $\lambda(r) = r^\gamma$  for a number  $\gamma$ . If  $\gamma < -(n-1)(a-1)$ , then  $\kappa'_{\lambda_a}(0) < \infty$ . If  $\gamma > -(n-1)(a-1)$ , then  $\kappa'_{\lambda_a}(0) = \infty$  and  $\kappa_{\lambda_a}(r) \sim r^{-[\gamma+(n-1)(a-1)]/n}$ .

**REMARK 2.** Proposition 1 is best possible as to the order of infinity in the following sense: if  $\varepsilon > 0$ , then we can find a locally  $n$ -precise continuous function  $u$  on  $G_a$  satisfying condition (4) such that

$$(6) \quad \lim_{x_1 \rightarrow 0, x \in G_a} x_1^{-\varepsilon} [\kappa_{\lambda_a}(x_1)]^{-1} u(x_1, x') = \infty.$$

In fact, let  $\psi(r) = [\log(2+r)]^\beta$  and  $\lambda(r) = r^\gamma$ , where  $\beta > n-1$  and  $\gamma + (n-1)(a-1) > 0$ . Then  $\tilde{\psi}(r) \sim [\log(2+r^{-1})]^{(n-1-\beta)/n}$  and  $\lambda_a(r) \sim r^{\gamma+(n-1)(a-1)}$  for  $r \in (0, 1)$ . Consider the function

$$u(x_1, x') = x_1^{-[\gamma+(n-1)(a-1)]/n} [\log(2+x_1^{-1})]^{(n-1-\beta)/n-\delta}$$

for  $\delta > 1$ . Since  $\kappa_{\lambda_a}(r) \leq M_1 \tilde{\psi}(r) \lambda_a(r)^{-1/n}$  with a positive constant  $M_1$ , (6) is satisfied. On the other hand, we have

$$|(\partial/\partial x_1)u| \leq M_1 x_1^{-1-[\gamma+(n-1)(a-1)]/n} [\log(2+x_1^{-1})]^{(n-1-\beta)/n-\delta},$$

so that

$$\Psi(|\text{grad } u(x_1, x')|) \leq M_2 x_1^{-[1+\gamma+(n-1)a]} [\log(2+x_1^{-1})]^{n-1-n\delta}.$$

Hence we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{G_a} \Psi(|\text{grad } u(x)|) |x|^\gamma dx &\leq M_3 \int_0^1 x_1^{-[1+\gamma+(n-1)a]} [\log(2+x_1^{-1})]^{n-1-n\delta} x_1^{\gamma+(n-1)a} dx_1 \\ &< \infty. \end{aligned}$$

Thus  $u$  satisfies (4), and it is the required function.

#### 4. Boundary limits, II

In this section we discuss the existence of boundary limits along a set in  $G$ , for locally  $n$ -precise continuous functions  $u$  on  $G$  satisfying (3). Here  $\lambda$  is a positive nondecreasing function on  $(0, \infty)$  such that  $\lim_{r \downarrow 0} \lambda(r) = 0$  and  $\lambda(2r) \leq B\lambda(r)$  for  $r > 0$  with a positive constant  $B$ .

Let  $h$  be a nonnegative nondecreasing function on  $(0, \infty)$  such that  $h(2r) \leq Mh(r)$  for any  $r > 0$  with a positive constant  $M$ , and denote by  $H_h$  the Hausdorff measure with the measure function  $h$ .

For  $\xi \in \partial G$  and a set  $T$ , suppose there exist positive numbers  $c$  and  $C$  satisfying the following conditions:

- (T<sub>1</sub>)  $\xi \in \partial T$ ;
- (T<sub>2</sub>) for sufficiently small  $r > 0$ , there exist  $x_r \in G$  and  $d_r > 0$  such that  $x_r \in B(\xi, r)$ ,  $cr < d_r < r$  and  $E(x, x_r, d_r) \subset T$  whenever  $x \in T \cap B(\xi, r)$ ;
- (T<sub>3</sub>)  $\kappa_{\xi, \lambda}(x) \leq Ch(|x - \xi|)^{-1/n}$  if  $x \in T$ , where

$$\kappa_{\xi, \lambda}(x) = \left( \int_{G \cap B(\xi, 2|\xi-x|)} |x-y|^{-n} [\psi(|x-y|^{-1}) \lambda(\rho(y))]^{-1/(n-1)} dy \right)^{1-1/n}$$

A typical example of  $T$  is a set of the form

$$\{x = (x_1, x') \in R^1 \times R^{n-1}; \varphi(|x'|) < ax_1\}$$

or a set similar to this set, where  $a > 0$  and  $\varphi$  is a positive nondecreasing function on the interval  $(0, \infty)$  such that  $\limsup_{t \rightarrow 0} \varphi(t)/t < \infty$ .

REMARK. If  $G$  is a Lipschitz domain and  $\lambda(r) = r^\beta$  with  $0 < \beta < n - 1$ , then we can prove that  $\kappa_{\xi, \lambda}(x) \sim \kappa_\lambda(\rho(x))$  (see the Appendix).

THEOREM 4. Let  $u$  be a locally  $n$ -precise continuous function on  $G$ , and suppose

$$(7) \quad \int_{G \cap B(\xi, r)} |\xi - y|^{1-n} |\text{grad } u(y)| dy < \infty \quad \text{for some } r > 0,$$

$$(8) \quad \limsup_{r \downarrow 0} h(r)^{-1} \int_{G \cap B(\xi, r)} \Psi(|\text{grad } u(y)|) \lambda(\rho(y)) dy = 0.$$

Then, for a set  $T \subset G$  satisfying the above conditions  $(T_1)$ ,  $(T_2)$  and  $(T_3)$ ,  $u(x)$  has a finite limit as  $x \in G$  tends to  $\xi$  along  $T$ .

REMARK. Let  $E_0$  (resp.  $E_h$ ) be the set of  $\xi \in \partial G$  for which (7) (resp. (8)) does not hold. If  $u$  satisfies condition (3), then we can show that  $H_h(E_h) = 0$ ; moreover, in case  $\lambda(r) = r^\beta$  and  $G$  is a Lipschitz domain, then, in view of [2; Section 5], we see that  $B_{1-\beta/n, n}(E_0) = 0$ , where  $B_{\gamma, p}$  denotes the Bessel capacity of index  $(\gamma, p)$  (see [1] for the definition of Bessel capacities).

PROOF OF THEOREM 4. Let  $r_0 > 0$  be sufficiently small, and take  $x_0 = x_{r_0}$  and  $d_0 = d_{r_0}$  having the properties in condition  $(T_2)$ . By Lemma 3, we have

$$\left| u(x) - |B(x_0, d_0)|^{-1} \int_{B(x_0, d_0)} u(y) dy \right| \leq M_1 \int_{E(x, x_0, d_0)} |x - z|^{1-n} f(z) dz$$

for  $x \in T \cap B(\xi, r_0)$ , where  $f(z) = |\text{grad } u(z)|$  and  $M_1$  is a positive constant independent of  $x$ . Thus it follows that

$$\sup_{x \in T \cap B(\xi, r_0)} |u(x) - u(x_0)| \leq 2M_1 \sup_{x \in T \cap B(\xi, r_0)} \int_{E(x, x_0, d_0)} |x - z|^{1-n} f(z) dz.$$

If  $z \in T(\xi, a) - B(\xi, 2|\xi - x|)$ , then  $|x - z| \geq |\xi - z| - |x - \xi| \geq |\xi - z|/2$ , so that

$$\int_{E(x, x_0, d_0) - B(\xi, 2|\xi - x|)} |x - z|^{1-n} f(z) dz \leq 2^{n-1} \int_{G \cap B(\xi, 2r_0)} |\xi - z|^{1-n} f(z) dz.$$

On the other hand, by Lemma 2 and condition  $(T_3)$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{E(x, x_0, r_0) \cap B(\xi, 2|\xi-x|)} |x-z|^{1-n} f(z) dz \\ & \leq M_2 h(|\xi-x|)^{-1/n} \left( \int_{G \cap B(\xi, 2|\xi-x|)} \Psi(f(y)) \lambda(\rho(y)) dy \right)^{1/n} + M_2 |\xi-x|^{1-\delta} \end{aligned}$$

with a positive constant  $M_2$ , where  $0 < \delta < 1$ . Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} \sup_{x \in T \cap B(\xi, r_0)} |u(x) - u(x_0)| & \leq M_3 r_0^{1-\delta} + M_3 \int_{G \cap B(\xi, 2r_0)} |\xi-z|^{1-n} f(z) dz \\ & \quad + M_3 \sup_{0 < r < 2r_0} \left( h(r)^{-1} \int_{G \cap B(\xi, r)} \Psi(f(y)) \lambda(\rho(y)) dy \right)^{1/n} \end{aligned}$$

with a positive constant  $M_3$  independent of  $r_0$ . In view of conditions (7) and (8), it follows that  $u(x)$  has a finite limit as  $x \in G$  tends to  $\xi$  along  $T$ .

For  $\alpha > 1$ ,  $a \in R^1$  and  $b \geq 0$ , set

$$S_\alpha(a, b) = \{x = (x_1, x') \in R^1 \times R^{n-1}; x_1 > a|x'| + b|x'|^\alpha\}.$$

If  $G$  is a bounded Lipschitz domain and  $\alpha > 0$  is given, then, for each  $\xi \in \partial G$  we can find  $a_\xi \in R^1$ ,  $b_\xi \geq 0$ ,  $r_\xi > 0$  and an orthogonal transformation  $\Xi_\xi$  such that

$$\{\xi + \Xi_\xi x; x \in S_\alpha(a_\xi, b_\xi)\} \cap B(\xi, r_\xi) \subset G.$$

For  $b > b_\xi$ , put

$$T_\alpha(\xi, b) = \{\xi + \Xi_\xi x; x \in S_\alpha(a_\xi, b)\} \cap B(\xi, r_\xi).$$

**COROLLARY.** *Let  $G$  be a bounded Lipschitz domain and let  $\alpha > 1$ . Let  $\{T_\alpha(\xi, b); \xi \in \partial G, b > b_\xi\}$  be given as above. If  $u$  is a locally  $n$ -precise continuous function on  $G$  satisfying*

$$\int_G \Psi(|\text{grad } u(x)|) \rho(x)^\beta dx < \infty$$

with  $0 < \beta < n-1$ , then there exists a set  $E \subset \partial G$  such that

- (i)  $H_n(E) = 0$  for  $h(r) = \sup_{0 < t < r} t^{a\beta} [\tilde{\psi}(t)]^{-n}$ ;
- (ii) if  $\xi \in \partial G - E$ , then  $u(x)$  has a finite limit as  $x \rightarrow \xi$  along  $T_\alpha(\xi, b)$  for any  $b > b_\xi$ .

**PROOF.** It is easy to see that, for fixed  $\xi \in \partial G$ ,  $T = T_\alpha(\xi, b)$  satisfies conditions  $(T_1)$  and  $(T_2)$ . By Remark (ii) before Theorem 3 and the Remark

before Theorem 4, we see that  $\kappa_{\xi, \lambda}(x) \sim \rho(x)^{-\beta/n} \tilde{\psi}(\rho(x))$  if  $\lambda(r) = r^\beta$ . Since  $\rho(x) \geq c|x - \xi|^\alpha$  for  $x \in T_\alpha(\xi, b)$  with some  $c > 0$  (depending on  $\xi, \alpha, b$ ; but not on  $x$ ), condition  $(T_3)$  is satisfied with  $T = T_\alpha(\xi, b)$  and the function  $h$  given in (i).

Let  $E = E_0 \cup E_h$  in the notation given in the Remark after Theorem 4. Since  $B_{1-\beta/n, n}(E_0) = 0$  implies that  $E_0$  has Hausdorff dimension at most  $\beta$  (cf. [1; Theorem 22]) and since  $\lim_{r \downarrow 0} h(r)/r^\beta = 0$ , we see that  $H_h(E_0) = 0$ . Hence  $H_h(E) = 0$ , and the Corollary follows from Theorem 4.

REMARK. If  $\beta = 0$  in the Corollary, then  $u$  can be extended to a continuous function on  $G \cup \partial G$ , on account of Theorem 2.

### 5. Limits at infinity

In this section, we discuss the existence of limits at infinity of  $n$ -precise functions on unbounded domains  $R^n$  and  $G = \{x = (x_1, x') \in R^1 \times R^{n-1}; |x'| < 1\}$ .

THEOREM 5. *If  $u$  is a locally  $n$ -precise continuous function on  $R^n$  satisfying condition (2) with  $G = R^n$ , then  $[\tilde{\psi}(|x|)]^{-1}u(x) \rightarrow 0$  as  $|x| \rightarrow \infty$ .*

PROOF. By Lemma 3 we have

$$\left| u(x) - |B(0, r)|^{-1} \int_{B(0, r)} u(y) dy \right| \leq M_1 \int_{B(0, r)} |x - z|^{1-n} f(z) dz$$

with a positive constant  $M_1$  independent of  $x$ , where  $r = |x|$  and  $f(z) = |\text{grad } u(z)|$ . For fixed  $r_0 > 0$ , taking  $\alpha = r^\gamma$  with  $\delta(\gamma + 1) > 1$  in the Corollary to Lemma 2, we have

$$\int_{B(0, r) - B(0, r_0)} |x - z|^{1-n} f(z) dz \leq M_2 \left( \int_{R^n - B(0, r_0)} \Psi(f(z)) dz \right)^{1/n} \tilde{\psi}(r) + M_2 r^{1-\delta-\delta\gamma}$$

with a positive constant  $M_2$  independent of  $r$ . Here, note that  $\tilde{\psi}(r) \geq \psi(1)^{-1/n} (\log r)^{1-1/n}$  for  $r > 1$ , so that  $\lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} \tilde{\psi}(r) = \infty$ . Hence

$$\limsup_{|x| \rightarrow \infty} \tilde{\psi}(|x|)^{-1} \int_{B(0, |x|)} |x - z|^{1-n} f(z) dz \leq M_2 \left( \int_{R^n - B(0, r_0)} \Psi(f(z)) dz \right)^{1/n},$$

which implies that the left hand side is equal to zero. Similarly,

$$\begin{aligned} \left| u(0) - |B(0, r)|^{-1} \int_{B(0, r)} u(y) dy \right| &\leq M_1 \int_{B(0, r)} |z|^{1-n} f(z) dz \\ &\leq M_1 \int_{B(0, r_0)} |z|^{1-n} f(z) dz + M_3 \left( \int_{R^n - B(0, r_0)} \Psi(f(z)) dz \right)^{1/n} \tilde{\psi}(r) + M_3, \end{aligned}$$

where  $M_3$  is a positive constant independent of  $r$  and  $r_0$ , so that

$$\lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} \tilde{\psi}(r)^{-1} \left( |B(0, r)|^{-1} \int_{B(0, r)} u(y) dy \right) = 0.$$

Consequently,  $\lim_{|x| \rightarrow \infty} [\tilde{\psi}(|x|)]^{-1} u(x) = 0$ .

**PROPOSITION 2.** *Let  $G = \{(x_1, x'); |x'| < 1\}$ , and let  $u$  be a locally  $n$ -precise continuous function on  $G$  satisfying condition (2). Then*

$$\lim_{x_1 \rightarrow \infty, (x_1, x') \in G} [\tilde{\psi}(x_1)]^{-1} x_1^{1/n-1} u(x_1, x') = 0.$$

**REMARK.** Proposition 2 is best possible as to the order of infinity, in the same sense as in Remark 2 given after Proposition 1.

**PROOF OF PROPOSITION 2.** Let  $X(r) = (r, 0)$ ,  $r \in R^1$ . If  $x$  and  $y$  belong to  $\Delta(r) = B(X(r), 1)$ , then, as in the proof of Theorem 5, we have

$$\begin{aligned} |u(x) - u(y)| &\leq M_1 \sup_{z \in \Delta(r)} \int_{\Delta(r)} |z - w|^{1-n} |\text{grad } u(w)| dw \\ &\leq M_2 \left( \int_{\Delta(r)} \Psi(|\text{grad } u(w)|) dw \right)^{1/n} \tilde{\psi}(r) + M_2 r^{-2} \end{aligned}$$

with positive constants  $M_1, M_2$  independent of  $x, y$  and  $r$ , where we used the Corollary to Lemma 2 with  $\alpha = r^{2/\delta}$  in the second inequality. For any fixed  $r_0$ , let  $r_j = r_0 + j/2$ . If  $r_k \leq x_1 < r_k + 2^{-1}$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} |u(x) - u(X(r_0))| &\leq |u(x) - u(X(x_1))| + |u(X(x_1)) - u(X(r_k))| + \cdots \\ &\quad + |u(X(r_1)) - u(X(r_0))| \\ &\leq M_3 \left( \int_{E(r_0, x_1)} \Psi(|\text{grad } u(w)|) dw \right)^{1/n} (\tilde{\psi}(x_1)^{n'} + \sum_{j=0}^k \tilde{\psi}(r_j)^{n'})^{1/n'} \\ &\quad + M_2 (x_1^{-2} + \sum_{j=0}^k r_j^{-2}) \\ &\leq M_4 \left( \int_{E(r_0, x_1)} \Psi(|\text{grad } u(w)|) dw \right)^{1/n} \tilde{\psi}(x_1) x_1^{1/n'} + M_5 r_0^{-1}, \end{aligned}$$

where  $1/n + 1/n' = 1$ ,  $E(s, t) = \bigcup_{s < r < t} \Delta(r)$  and  $M_3, M_4$  are positive constants independent of  $x$  and  $r_0$ . It follows that

$$\limsup_{x_1 \rightarrow \infty, x \in G} [\tilde{\psi}(x_1)]^{-1} x_1^{-1/n'} |u(x)| \leq M_4 \left( \int_{E(r_0, \infty)} \Psi(|\text{grad } u(w)|) dw \right)^{1/n}$$

for any  $r_0$ , which implies that the left hand side equals zero.

### Appendix

We now give a proof of  $\kappa_{\xi, \lambda}(x) \sim \kappa_{\lambda}(\rho(x))$  given in the Remark before Theorem 4. By a change of coordinate system by a Lipschitz transformation, we may assume that  $G$  is the half space  $\{x = (x_1, x'); x_1 > 0\}$  and  $\xi$  is the origin. For  $x = (x_1, x') \in G \cap B(0, 1)$ , let

$$E_1 = \{y = (y_1, y'); y_1 > x_1/2\} \cap B(0, 2|x|) - B(x, x_1/2),$$

$$E_2 = B(x, x_1/2),$$

$$E_3 = \{y = (y_1, y'); 0 < y_1 \leq x_1/2\} \cap B(0, 2|x|)$$

and write

$$I_j(x) = \int_{E_j} |x - y|^{-n} [\psi(|x - y|^{-1}) \lambda(y_1)]^{-1/(n-1)} dy$$

for  $j = 1, 2, 3$ . Since  $y_1 \geq |y_1 - x_1|$  on  $E_1$  and  $\lambda(r) = r^\beta$  with  $0 < \beta < n - 1$ , we have by properties  $(\psi_1)'''$  and  $(\psi_3)$

$$\begin{aligned} I_1(x) &\leq M_1 \int_{x_1/2}^{3|x|} [\psi(r^{-1}) \lambda(r)]^{-1/(n-1)} r^{-1} dr \\ &\leq M_2 [x_1^\varepsilon \psi(x_1^{-1})]^{-1/(n-1)} \int_{x_1/2}^{3|x|} [r^{-\varepsilon} \lambda(r)]^{-1/(n-1)} r^{-1} dr \\ &\leq M_3 [\psi(x_1^{-1}) \lambda(x_1)]^{-1/(n-1)} \leq M_4 [\tilde{\psi}(x_1) \lambda(x_1)^{-1/n}]^{n'}, \end{aligned}$$

where  $0 < \varepsilon < \beta$ . If  $y \in E_2$ , then  $y_1 > x_1/2$ , so that

$$I_2(x) \leq M_5 \lambda(x_1)^{-1/(n-1)} \int_0^{x_1/2} [\psi(r^{-1})]^{-1/(n-1)} r^{-1} dr \leq M_6 [\tilde{\psi}(x_1) \lambda(x_1)^{-1/n}]^{n'}.$$

If  $y \in E_3$ , then  $|(0, x') - y|^2 + (x_1/2)^2 \leq 2|x - y|^2 \leq 2[|(0, x') - y|^2 + x_1^2]$ . Hence, letting  $r = |(0, x') - y|$ , by a computation similar to the above, we have

$$\begin{aligned} I_3(x) &\leq M_7 \int_0^{3|x|} (r + x_1)^{-n} [\psi((r + x_1)^{-1}) \lambda(r)]^{-1/(n-1)} r^{n-1} dr \\ &\leq M_8 \int_{x_1}^{3|x|} [\psi(r^{-1}) \lambda(r)]^{-1/(n-1)} r^{-1} dr \\ &\quad + M_8 x_1^{-n} [\psi(x_1^{-1})]^{-1/(n-1)} \int_0^{x_1} [\lambda(r)]^{-1/(n-1)} r^{n-1} dr \\ &\leq M_9 [\tilde{\psi}(x_1) \lambda(x_1)^{-1/n}]^{n'}. \end{aligned}$$

Consequently, we establish

$$\kappa_{\xi, \lambda}(x) \leq M_{10} \tilde{\psi}(x_1) \lambda(x_1)^{-1/n}.$$

Conversely, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} I_2(x) &\geq M_{11} \lambda(x_1)^{-1/(n-1)} \int_0^{x_1/2} [\psi(r^{-1})]^{-1/(n-1)} r^{-1} dr \\ &\geq M_{12} [\tilde{\psi}(x_1) \lambda(x_1)^{-1/n}]^{n'}, \end{aligned}$$

and hence

$$\kappa_{\xi, \lambda}(x) \geq M_{13} \tilde{\psi}(x_1) \lambda(x_1)^{-1/n}.$$

On the other hand, we find, in view of  $(\psi_1)'''$ , that

$$\begin{aligned} [\kappa'_\lambda(r)]^{n'} &\leq M_{14} [r^\varepsilon \psi(r^{-1})]^{-1/(n-1)} \int_r^1 [r^{-\varepsilon} \lambda(r)]^{-1/(n-1)} r^{-1} dr \\ &\leq M_{15} [\tilde{\psi}(r) \lambda(r)^{-1/n}]^{n'}, \end{aligned}$$

so that

$$\kappa_\lambda(x_1) \leq M_{16} \tilde{\psi}(x_1) \lambda(x_1)^{-1/n} \leq M_{16} \kappa_\lambda(x_1).$$

Since the constants  $M_1 \sim M_{16}$  do not depend on  $x \in G \cap B(0, 1)$ , the required result has been derived.

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