

# Stationary Solutions of the Bogoliubov Hierarchy Equations in Classical Statistical Mechanics. 3

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**Abstract.** We continue the analysis of the “conjugate” equation for the generating function of a Gibbs random point field corresponding to a stationary solution of the classical BBGKY hierarchy. This equation was established and partially investigated in the preceding papers under the same title. In the present paper we reduce a general theorem about the form of solutions of the “conjugate” equation to a statement which relates to a special case where the interacting particles constitute a “quasi”—one dimensional configuration.

## 0. Introduction

This paper continues the preceding papers of the authors [1, 2]. We continue here the proof of Main Theorem, more precisely, of its part which was formulated as Theorem 2, 1<sup>1</sup>. Theorem 2' proved in [2] contains the assertion of Theorem 2, 1 for the case  $n_0 = 2$  and is the initial step of the inductive proof for arbitrary  $n_0 \geq 2$  (for the notations used without definitions, see [1, 2]). The purpose of this part of the work is to reduce Theorem 2, 1 to a special case where the configuration of interacting particles is represented by a one-dimensional graph (“chain”). The corresponding assertion (Basic Lemma) is formulated in Section 2 and will be proved in a separate paper.

In this Section we follow the assumptions of [1]. On account of Theorem 2', 2 as the initial inductive step w.r.t.  $n_0$ , it is not hard to see that Theorem 2, 1 follow from:

**Theorem 0.1.** Let  $U(r)$  obey  $(I_1, \mathbf{1} - I_4, \mathbf{1})$  and  $f(\bar{x})$  obey  $(G_1, \mathbf{1} - G_6, \mathbf{1})$  with  $n_0 \geq 3$ . Suppose  $U$  and  $f$  satisfy Equation (2.8, 1):

$$\{f(\bar{x}), H(\bar{x})\} + \sum_{y \in \bar{x}} \{f(\bar{x} \setminus y), U(\bar{x} \setminus y | y)\} = 0, \quad \bar{x} \in D^0. \quad (0.1)$$

Then  $f(\bar{x}) = 0$  for any  $\bar{x} \in M_{n_0} \cap D^0$ .

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<sup>1</sup> As in [2], we mark the references to [1] by the index 1. The references to [2] are marked by the index 2

**1. Particle Configurations and Their Types**

*Definition.* We say that  $x=(q, v) \in \bar{x}$  is an *external point* in  $\bar{x}, \bar{x} \in D^0$ , if  $q$  is an extremal point of the convex hull spanned by  $\{\tilde{q} \in R^v : \tilde{q} \in \bar{x}\}$ <sup>2</sup>.

For the sake of brevity we say sometimes “ $q \in \bar{x}$  is an external point” instead of “ $x=(q, v) \in \bar{x}$  is an external point”. The same is related to the definitions which follow.

For every external point  $q \in \bar{x}$  there exists an open cone  $B_q^e \subset R^v$  with the vertex  $q$  such that

- 1) for all  $q' \in B_q^e$  and any  $\tilde{q} \in \bar{x}, \tilde{q} \neq q$ , the inequality  $|q' - \tilde{q}| > |q - \tilde{q}|$  holds, and
- 2) every  $q' \in B_q^e$  such that  $|q' - q| > d_0$  is an external point in  $\bar{x} \cup x'$  where  $x' = (q', v'), v' \in R^v$ .

*Definition.* We say that  $x=(q, v) \in \bar{x}$  is an *accessible point* in  $\bar{x}, \bar{x} \in D^0$ , if there exists a non-empty open set  $B_q^a \subset R^v$  such that  $|q' - q| > d_0, U'(|q' - q|) \neq 0$  and  $\min_{\tilde{q} \in \bar{x}: \tilde{q} \neq q} |q' - \tilde{q}| > d_1$ , whenever  $q' \in B_q^a$ <sup>3</sup>.

It is clear that every external  $q \in \bar{x}$  is accessible, and the corresponding  $B_q^a$  may be chosen as a subset of  $B_q^e$ . We suppose below that for external  $q \in \bar{x}, B_q^a$  is always chosen belonging to  $B_q^e$ .

*Definition.* We say that  $x=(q, v) \in \bar{x}$  is an *isolated point* in  $\bar{x}, \bar{x} \in D^0$ , if  $|q - \tilde{q}| > d_1$  for any  $\tilde{q} \in \bar{x}, \tilde{q} \neq q$ . We say that  $x=(q, v) \in \bar{x}$  is an *end point* in  $\bar{x}$  if there exists a unique  $\tilde{q} \in \bar{x}, \tilde{q} \neq q$ , such that  $|q - \tilde{q}| \leq d_1$ .

Clearly, for any isolated  $q \in \bar{x}$ , the mutual energy  $U(\bar{x} \setminus x|x)$  and its gradient  $\partial_q U(\bar{x} \setminus x|x)$  vanish.

*Definition.* Let  $\bar{x} \in D^0, \bar{y} \subseteq \bar{x}, n(\bar{y}) = s \geq 2$ . We say that  $\bar{y}$  is a *chain* in  $\bar{x}$  if:

- (i) the points  $q \in \bar{y}$  can be labelled by  $i = 1, \dots, s$  so that  $|q_i - q_j| \leq d_1$  iff  $|i - j| \leq 1, 1 \leq i, j \leq s$ ;
- (ii) for any  $\tilde{q} \in \bar{x} \setminus \bar{y}, q \in \bar{y}, \min |q - \tilde{q}| > d_1$ . In that case we write  $\bar{y} = [q_1, \dots, q_s]$ . The points  $q_1$  and  $q_s$  are called the ends of the chain  $\bar{y}$ .

*Definition.* Let  $x=(q, v) \in \bar{x}, \bar{x} \in D^0$ . We say that  $x$  is a *c-point* in  $\bar{x}$ , if there exists a chain  $[q_1, \dots, q_s]$  in  $\bar{x}$  with  $q_1 = q$ . We say that  $x'=(q', v') \in \bar{x} \setminus x$  is a *c(q)-point* in  $\bar{x}$  if there exists a chain  $[q_1, \dots, q_s]$  in  $\bar{x}$  with  $q_1 = q, q_s = q'$ .

*Definition.* We say that the *order of  $\bar{x} \in D^0$  w.r.t.  $q \in \bar{x}$*  is zero in the following three cases:

- 1<sup>0</sup> there is no end point in  $\bar{x}$ ,
- 2<sup>0</sup>  $q$  is the unique end point in  $\bar{x}$ ,
- 3<sup>0</sup>  $q$  is a *c-point* in  $\bar{x}$ , and the set of the end points in  $\bar{x}$  is exhausted by  $q$  and the *c(q)-point*  $q' \in \bar{x}$ .

We say that the *order of  $\bar{x}$  w.r.t.  $q \in \bar{x}$*  equals  $k, k = 1, 2, \dots$ , if for every end non-*c(q)-point*  $x'=(q', v') \in \bar{x}, q' \neq q$ , the order of  $\bar{x} \setminus x'$  w.r.t.  $q$  is  $\leq k - 1$  and for some such a point  $x'$  the equality holds.

<sup>2</sup> As in [1, 2],  $q \in \bar{x}$  (resp.,  $v \in \bar{x}$ ) means that  $(q, v) \in \bar{x}$  for some  $v \in R^v$  (resp.,  $q \in R^v$ )

<sup>3</sup> We suppose below that  $d_1$  is chosen so that  $d_1 = \min [d: U(r) \equiv 0 \text{ for } r \geq d]$ .

It is not hard to check that for every  $\varepsilon > 0$  there exists  $r \in (d_1 - \varepsilon, d_1)$  such that  $U'(r) \neq 0$

**Proposition 1.1.** *There exists a unique non-negative integer-valued function  $k(\bar{x}, q)$ ,  $\bar{x} \in D^0$ ,  $q \in \bar{x}$ , with the properties indicated in the definition of the order of  $\bar{x}$  w.r.t.  $q$ .*

*Proof.* We use the induction w.r.t.  $n(\bar{x})$ , the number of points  $q \in \bar{x}$ . Clearly,  $k(\bar{x}, q) = 0$  for  $n(\bar{x}) = 1$ . Assume  $k(\bar{x}', q')$  is defined for all  $\bar{x}' \in D^0$  and  $q' \in \bar{x}'$  with  $n(\bar{x}') < n$ , and consider  $\bar{x} \in D^0 \cap M_n$  and  $q \in \bar{x}$ . If neither of conditions  $1^0 - 3^0$  holds then one can find an end non- $c(q)$ -point  $q' \in \bar{x}$ . Let  $E_q(\bar{x})$  denote the set of all such points  $q'$ , and

$$k(\bar{x}, q) = \max_{q' \in E_q(\bar{x})} k(\bar{x} \setminus q', q) + 1.$$

It is easy to check that the function  $k(\bar{x}, q)$  defined by this relation has the properties claimed in the definition of the order. The uniqueness is evident.

*Definition.* The minimum of  $k(\bar{x}, q)$ ,  $\bar{x} \in D^0$ , over the set of external points  $q \in \bar{x}$  is called the *order* of  $\bar{x}$  and denoted by  $k(\bar{x})$ . The *type* of  $\bar{x} \in D^0$  is the triple  $(n(\bar{x}), m(\bar{x}), k(\bar{x}))$  where  $m(\bar{x})$  is the number of (unordered) pairs  $q, q' \in \bar{x}$  such that  $|q - q'| \leq d_1$ . We say that a triple of non-negative integers  $(n, m, k)$  is *admissible* if there exists  $\bar{x} \in D^0$  such that  $n(\bar{x}) = n$ ,  $m(\bar{x}) = m$ ,  $k(\bar{x}) = k$ .

Clearly, the type of  $\bar{x}$  does not depend on  $v$ ,  $v \in \bar{x}$ , and, in the case where  $|q - q'| \neq d_1$  for any pair  $q, q' \in \bar{x}$ , it does not change for small shifts of  $q \in \bar{x}$ . Our inductive assertion giving the passage from  $n_0 = n - 1$  to  $n_0 = n$  may be reformulated as follows.

**Theorem 1.2.** *Let the conditions of Theorem 0.1 hold and  $(n, m, k)$  be an admissible triple with  $n = n_0$ . Then*

$$f(\bar{x}) = 0 \quad \text{if} \quad \bar{x} \in D^0 \quad \text{and the type of} \quad \bar{x} \quad \text{is} \quad (n, m, k). \tag{0.2}$$

In this paper we prove Theorem 1.2 assuming that some auxiliary statement (Basic Lemma) is true (see the next section). This statement will be proved in a separate paper. Henceforth it is convenient to suppose that the interaction potential  $U(r)$  and the generating function  $f(\bar{x})$ ,  $\bar{x} \in D^0$ , satisfy conditions  $(I'_1, \mathbf{2} - I'_3, \mathbf{2})$  and  $(G'_1, \mathbf{2} - G'_4, \mathbf{2})$  respectively except that  $C^2$  in  $(I'_1, \mathbf{2})$  is replaced by  $C^3$ . In what follows we suppose these conditions to be valid as well as Equation (0.1) and do not specify this in the assertions formulated below.

## 2. Basic Lemma

We start with formulating the auxiliary statement from which Theorem 1.2 will be deduced below.

**Basic Lemma.** *Let  $\bar{x} \in D^0$  and  $n(\bar{x}) \geq 3$ . Suppose one can choose in  $\bar{x}$  a chain  $[q_1, \dots, q_s]$ ,  $s \geq 2$ , where  $q_1$  is an external and  $q_s$  an accessible point, and the following holds. For any  $\bar{x}' = (\bar{x} \setminus x_1) \cup x'_1$  with  $x'_1 = (q'_1, v'_1) \in B_q^c \times R^v$  there are a non-empty open  $B_{q'_1}^c \subset B_{q_1}^a$  and a non-empty open set  $B_{q_s}^c \subset B_{q_s}^a$  such that for all  $x_0 = (q_0, v_0) \in B_{q_1}^c \times R^v$  and*

$x_{s+1} = (q_{s+1}, v_{s+1}) \in B_{q_s}^c \times R^v$ , Equations (2.1a–e) below are valid

$$\begin{aligned} & \{f(\bar{x}'), U(|q_0 - q_1|)\} \\ & + \{f((\bar{x}' \cup x_0) \setminus x_s), U(|q_{s-1} - q_s|)\} = 0, \end{aligned} \quad (2.1a)$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \{f(\bar{x}'), U(|q_s - q_{s+1}|)\} \\ & + \{f((\bar{x} \cup x_{s+1}) \setminus x_1), U(|q'_1 - q_2|)\} = 0, \end{aligned} \quad (2.1b)$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \{f(\bar{x}'), H(\bar{x}')\} + \{f(\bar{x} \setminus x_1), U(|q'_1 - q_2|)\} \\ & + \{f(\bar{x}' \setminus x_s), U(|q_{s-1} - q_s|)\} = 0, \end{aligned} \quad (2.1c)$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \{f(\bar{x} \setminus x_1), H(\bar{x} \setminus x_1)\} \\ & + \{f(\bar{x} \setminus (x_1 \cup x_2)), U(|q_2 - q_3|)\} \\ & + \{f(\bar{x} \setminus (x_1 \cup x_s)), U(|q_{s-1} - q_s|)\} = 0, \end{aligned} \quad (2.1d)$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \{f(\bar{x}' \setminus x_s), H(\bar{x}' \setminus x_s)\} \\ & + \{f(\bar{x}' \setminus (x_{s-1} \cup x_s)), U(|q_{s-2} - q_{s-1}|)\} \\ & + \{f(\bar{x} \setminus (x_1 \cup x_s)), U(|q'_1 - q_2|)\} = 0 \end{aligned} \quad (2.1e)$$

[for  $s=2$ , Equations (2.1d, e) have the form  $\{f(\bar{x} \setminus x_1), H(\bar{x} \setminus x_1)\} = 0$  and  $\{f(\bar{x}' \setminus x_s), H(\bar{x}' \setminus x_s)\} = 0$  respectively]. Moreover, suppose Equations (2.1a–e) remain valid if  $x_i$ ,  $i=1, \dots, s$ , are slightly changed. Then  $f(\bar{x}') = 0$ ,  $x'_1 \in B_{q_1}^e \times R^v$ .

By induction it easily follows from Basic Lemma that if  $\bar{x}$  contains a chain  $\bar{y} = [q_1, \dots, q_s]$  where  $q_1$  is an external and  $q_s$  an accessible point, and  $|q - \tilde{q}| > d_1$  for any pair  $q, \tilde{q} \in \bar{x} \setminus \bar{y}$ , then  $f(\bar{x}) = 0$ .

**Proposition 2.1.** Let  $\bar{x} \in D^0$  and  $n(\bar{x}) \geq 3$ . Suppose one can choose  $x_i = (q_i, v_i) \in \bar{x}$ ,  $i=1, 2$ , where  $q_1$  is an external point such that the following holds. For any  $x'_1 = (q'_1, v'_1) \in B_{q_1}^e \times R^v$  one can find a non-empty open set  $B_{q_1}^c \subset B_{q_1}^a$  such that for all  $x_0 = (q_0, v_0) \in B_{q_1}^c \times R^v$  Equations (2.2a, b) below are valid:

$$\{f(\bar{x}'), U(|q_0 - q'_1|)\} = 0, \quad (2.2a)$$

$$\{f(\bar{x}'), H(\bar{x}')\} + \{f(\bar{x} \setminus x_1), U(|q'_1 - q_2|)\} = 0, \quad (2.2b)$$

where, as above,  $\bar{x}' = (\bar{x} \setminus x_1) \cup x'_1$ . Then  $f(\bar{x}') = 0$ ,  $x'_1 \in B_{q_1}^e \times R^v$ .

Notice that Proposition 2.1 yields the assertion of Basic Lemma under the additional assumption  $U'(|q_{s-1} - q_s|) = 0$ .

*Proof of Proposition 2.1.* We use the elementary identity  $\partial_q U(|q|) = U'(|q|)q/|q|$  and the properties of the potential  $U(r)$ . It follows from (2.2a) that for any  $x'_1 \in B_{q_1}^e \times R^v$ ,

$$\langle \partial_{v'_1} f(\bar{x}'), q'_1 - q_0 \rangle = 0, \quad q_0 \in B_{q_1}^c.$$

Since  $B_{q_1}^c$  is open, this implies that  $\partial_{v_1'} f(\bar{x}') = 0$ . Then Equation (2.2b) takes the form

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \partial_{q_1} f(\bar{x}'), v_1' \rangle + \sum_{\substack{x=(q,v) \in \bar{x}' \\ q \neq q_1}} (\langle \partial_q f(\bar{x}'), v \rangle \\ - \langle \partial_v f(\bar{x}'), \partial_q U(\bar{x}' \setminus x|q) \rangle) \\ - \langle \partial_{v_2} f(\bar{x}' \setminus x_1), \partial_{q_2} U(|q_1' - q_2|) \rangle = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Apply to this equation the operator  $\partial_{v_1'}$ . We get

$$\partial_{q_1} f(\bar{x}') = 0, \quad q_1' \in B_{q_1}^e. \quad (2.3)$$

Hence  $f(\bar{x}')$  does not depend on  $x_1' \in B_{q_1}^e \times R^v$ . The set  $B_{q_1}^e$  is unbounded, and thus condition  $(G_4', 2)$  implies that  $f(\bar{x}') = 0$  on  $B_{q_1}^e \times R^v$ .

We prove here two more auxiliary statements used below.

**Proposition 2.2.** *Let the conditions of Basic Lemma hold. Then*

$$\partial_{v_2, v_s}^2 f(\bar{x}' \setminus x_1) = 0. \quad (2.4)$$

*Proof.* According to Basic Lemma,  $f(\bar{x}') = 0$ ,  $\bar{x}' = (\bar{x}' \setminus x_1) \cup x_1'$ ,  $x_1' \in B_{q_1}^e \times R^v$ . Applying to (2.1c) the operator  $\partial_{v_s}$  we have the equation

$$\partial_{v_2, v_s}^2 f(\bar{x}' \setminus x_1) \partial_{q_2} U(|q_1' - q_2|) = 0, \quad q_1' \in B_{q_1}^e.$$

According to the definition of  $B_{q_1}^e$  and the fact that  $|q_1 - q_2| \leq d_1([q_1, \dots, q_s])$  is a chain) we can choose a nonempty open  $\tilde{B} \subset B_q^e$  such that  $U'(|q' - q_2|) \neq 0$  for all  $q' \in \tilde{B}$  (see footnote 3, p. 226). Hence  $\partial_{v_2, v_s}^2 f(\bar{x}' \setminus x_1) (q_2 - q_1') = 0$ ,  $q_1' \in \tilde{B}$ , and the matrix  $\partial_{v_2, v_s}^2 f(\bar{x}' \setminus x_1)$  is zero.

**Proposition 2.3.** *Let  $\bar{x} \in D^0$  and  $n(\bar{x}) \geq 3$ . Suppose one can choose in  $\bar{x}$  a chain  $[q_1, \dots, q_s]$ ,  $s \geq 2$ , where  $q$  is an external point and the following holds. For any  $x_1' = (q_1', v_1') \in B_{q_1}^e \times R^v$  one can find a non-empty open set  $B_{q_1}^c \subset B_{q_1}^a$  such that for all  $x_0 = (q_0, v_0) \in B_{q_1}^c \times R^v$  Equations (2.1c), (2.2a), and (2.5) below are valid:*

$$\partial_{v_1, v_{s-1}}^2 f(\bar{x}' \setminus x_s) = 0. \quad (2.5)$$

Then  $f(\bar{x}') = 0$ ,  $\bar{x}' = (\bar{x}' \setminus x_1) \cup x_1'$ ,  $x_1' \in B_{q_1}^e \times R^v$ .

*Proof of Proposition 2.3.* As above, Equation (2.2a) implies that  $\partial_{v_1'} f(\bar{x}') = 0$ . On account of this and of (2.5) we apply to (2.1c) the operator  $\partial_{v_1'}$ . Then we get (2.3) whence it follows that  $f(\bar{x}') = 0$ .

### 3. The Case $k=0$

Assuming Basic Lemma to be proved we establish some technical results which, together with Lemma 3.1, enable us to prove Theorem 1.2. We start with the case  $k=0$ .

**Lemma 3.1.** *Let  $(n, m, 0)$ ,  $n \geq 3$ , be an admissible triple. Suppose (0.2) holds for the following triples (if they are admissible):  $(n+1, m+1, 0)$ ,  $(n, m_1, k_1)$ ,  $(n-1, m_2, k_2)$ ,  $(n-2, m_3, k_3)$ , where  $0 \leq m_i \leq m-i$ ,  $k_i \geq 0$ ,  $i=1, 2, 3$ . Then (0.2) holds for the triple  $(n, m, 0)$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $\bar{x} \in D^0$ ,  $n(\bar{x}) = n$ ,  $m(\bar{x}) = m$ ,  $k(\bar{x}) = 0$ , and  $x = (q, v) \in \bar{x}$  be an external point with  $k(\bar{x}, q) = 0$ . Then, according to the definition of the order,  $q$  may be of one of the following four kinds:

- a<sub>0</sub>)  $q$  is isolated in  $\bar{x}$ ,
- b<sub>0</sub>)  $q$  is a non-isolated and non end point in  $\bar{x}$ , i.e., there are  $q', q'' \in \bar{x} \setminus x$ ,  $q' \neq q''$ , such that  $|q - q'| \leq d_1$ ,  $|q - q''| \leq d_1$ ,
- c<sub>0</sub>)  $q$  is an end non- $c$ -point in  $\bar{x}$ ,
- d<sub>0</sub>)  $q$  is a  $c$ -point in  $\bar{x}$ .

We shall consider successively all these cases. Due to condition  $(G'_1, 2)$ , we may assume that  $|q' - q''| \neq d_1$  for any pair  $q', q'' \in \bar{x}$ , and so, we can slightly change each  $(q, v) \in \bar{x}$  conserving the type of  $\bar{x}$  and the kind of  $q$ .

a<sub>0</sub>) In that case  $\bar{x}$  has no end points. Let  $\bar{x}' = (q', v') \in B_q^e \times R^v$ ,  $\bar{x}' = (\bar{x} \setminus x) \cup x'$ ; clearly,  $k(\bar{x}', q') = 0$ , i.e., the type of  $\bar{x}'$  is  $(n, m, 0)$ .

If  $q_0 \in B_q^e \subset B_{q'}^e$ , then  $q_0$  is an external point in  $\bar{x}' \cup x_0$ ,  $x_0 = (q_0, v_0)$ . The type of  $\bar{x}' \cup x_0$  is  $(n + 1, m + 1, 0)$ , and hence,  $f(\bar{x}' \cup x_0) = 0$ . Due to the above assumption, the gradients  $\partial f(\bar{x}' \cup x_0)$  also vanish.

Furthermore, for every  $\tilde{x} = (\tilde{q}, \tilde{v}) \in \bar{x} \setminus x$  one has two possibilities: either  $\tilde{q}$  is isolated in  $\bar{x}' \cup x_0$  or there exist  $q'', q''' \in \bar{x} \setminus (x \cup \tilde{x})$ ,  $q'' \neq q'''$ , such that  $|q'' - \tilde{q}| < d_1$ ,  $|q''' - \tilde{q}| < d_1$ . In the first case  $\partial_{\tilde{q}} U((\bar{x}' \cup x_0) \setminus \tilde{x} | \tilde{q}) = 0$ , and in the second one the type of  $(\bar{x}' \cup x_0) \setminus \tilde{x}$  is  $(n, m_1, k_1)$  with  $m_1 \leq m - 1$ . Hence, in the second case  $f((\bar{x}' \cup x_0) \setminus \tilde{x})$  and the gradients  $\partial f((\bar{x}' \cup x_0) \setminus \tilde{x})$  vanish.

These arguments show that Equation (0.1) for  $\bar{x}' \cup x_0$  takes the form

$$\begin{aligned} &\langle \partial_{v'} f(\bar{x}'), \partial_{q'} U(|q_0 - q'|) \rangle \\ &+ \langle \partial_{v_0} f((\bar{x}' \setminus x) \cup x_0), \partial_{q_0} U(|q_0 - q'|) \rangle = 0. \end{aligned} \tag{3.1}$$

Equation (3.1) coincides with (3.8b, 2). By repeating arguments used in the proof of Lemma 3.1, 2 we obtain from (3.1) the following representation:

$$\begin{aligned} f(\bar{x}') &= a_1(\bar{x}' \setminus x, q') \\ &+ \langle a_1(\bar{x}' \setminus x, q'), v' \rangle, \quad (q', v') \in B_q^e. \end{aligned} \tag{3.2}$$

Notice that for  $q_0 \in (\bar{x}' \setminus x) \cup x_0$  all the conditions indicating the Case a<sub>0</sub>) hold. Hence the same arguments give

$$f((\bar{x}' \setminus x) \cup x_0) = a_1(\bar{x}' \setminus x, q_0) + \langle a_1(\bar{x}' \setminus x, q_0), v_0 \rangle.$$

Now Equation (3.1) takes the form

$$\begin{aligned} &\langle a_1(\bar{x}' \setminus x, q'), \partial_{q'} U(|q_0 - q'|) \rangle \\ &+ \langle a_1(\bar{x}' \setminus x, q_0), \partial_{q_0} U(|q_0 - q'|) \rangle = 0, \end{aligned}$$

or, on account of Proposition 2.1(i), 2 and our choice of  $q_0$ ,

$$\langle a_1(\bar{x}' \setminus x, q'), q' - q_0 \rangle + \langle a_1(\bar{x}' \setminus x, q_0), q_0 - q' \rangle = 0. \tag{3.3}$$

Applying to (3.3) successively the operators  $\partial_{q_0}$  and  $\partial_{q'}$  we obtain

$$\partial_q a_1(\bar{x}' \setminus x, q') + \partial_{q_0} a_1(\bar{x}' \setminus x, q_0)^* = 0.$$

This means that, for fixed  $\bar{x}\backslash x$ , the matrix  $\partial_q a_1(\bar{x}\backslash x, q')$  is locally constant w.r.t.  $q' \in B_q^e$ . The set  $B_q^e$  is linearly connected; hence,  $\partial_q a_1(\bar{x}\backslash x, q')$  does not depend on  $q'$ . Therefore,

$$a_1(\bar{x}\backslash x, q') = A_1(\bar{x}\backslash x)q' + a_2(\bar{x}\backslash x), \quad q' \in B_q^e.$$

Using condition  $(G_4, \mathbf{2})$  and the fact that  $B_q^e$  is unbounded, it is not hard to show that both  $A_1(\bar{x}\backslash x)$  and  $a_2(\bar{x}\backslash x)$  vanish. Thus the analysis of Equation (3.1) gives that  $f(\bar{x}')$  does not depend on  $v'$ .

Now consider Equation (0.1) for  $\bar{x}'$ . As above, for every  $\tilde{x} = (\tilde{q}, \tilde{v}) \in \bar{x}'$  either  $\tilde{q}$  is isolated in  $\bar{x}'$  or there exist  $q'', q''' \in \bar{x}'\backslash \tilde{x}, q'' \neq q'''$ , such that  $|q'' - \tilde{q}| < d_1, |q''' - \tilde{q}| < d_1$ . In the first case  $\partial_{\tilde{q}} U(\bar{x}'\backslash \tilde{x}|\tilde{q}) = 0$ , and in the second one the type of  $\bar{x}'\backslash \tilde{x}$  is  $(n-1, m_2, k_2)$  with  $m_2 \leq m-2$ . Hence in the second case  $f(\bar{x}'\backslash \tilde{x})$  and the gradients  $\partial f(\bar{x}'\backslash \tilde{x})$  vanish. Equation (0.1) for  $\bar{x}'$  takes the form

$$\{f(\bar{x}'), H(\bar{x}')\} = 0, \tag{3.4}$$

or, due to the fact that  $f(\bar{x}')$  does not depend on  $v'$ ,

$$\langle \partial_{q'} f(\bar{x}'), v' \rangle + \sum_{\tilde{x} = (\tilde{q}, \tilde{v}) \in \bar{x}'\backslash x} (\langle \partial_{\tilde{q}} f(\bar{x}'), \tilde{v} \rangle - \langle \partial_{\tilde{q}} f(\bar{x}'), \partial_{\tilde{q}} U(\bar{x}'\backslash \tilde{x}|\tilde{q}) \rangle) = 0. \tag{3.5}$$

Apply to (3.5) the operator  $\partial_{v'}$ . We get

$$\partial_{q'} f(\bar{x}') = 0, \quad q' \in B_q^e.$$

Hence  $f(\bar{x}')$  is locally constant w.r.t.  $q' \in B_q^e$ . From this and the fact that  $B_q^e$  is connected, it follows that  $f(\bar{x}')$  does not depend on  $q'$ . Now condition  $(G_4, \mathbf{2})$  and the fact that  $B_q^e$  is unbounded imply that  $f(\bar{x}') = 0$ .

b<sub>0</sub>) As in the Case a<sub>0</sub>),  $\bar{x}$  has no end points. Let  $B_q$  denote the subset of  $B_q^e$  consisting of the points  $\hat{q}$  such that for any  $\tilde{q} \in \bar{x}\backslash x, |\hat{q} - \tilde{q}| < d_1$  iff  $|q - \tilde{q}| < d_1$ . It is clear that  $B_q$  is a bounded open set, and  $q$  is a limit point for  $B_q$ . We denote the closure of  $B_q$  in  $B_q^e$  by  $\bar{B}_q$ . Let  $x' = (q', v') \in R^v \times R^v$ , and  $\bar{x}' = (\bar{x}\backslash x) \cup x'$ . If  $q' \in B_q$ , then, clearly,  $\bar{x}'$  is of the type  $(n, m, 0)$ . At the same time the complement  $B_q^e \setminus \bar{B}_q$  consists of the points  $q'$  for which the type of  $\bar{x}'$  is  $(n, m_1, k)$  with  $0 \leq m_1 \leq m-1$ . Hence  $f(\bar{x}') = 0$  for  $q' \in B_q^e \setminus \bar{B}_q$ . To prove this equality for  $q' \in B_q$ , we have to check that  $f(\bar{x}')$  is locally constant w.r.t.  $q' \in B_q$ .

Let  $x' = (q', v') \in B_q \times R^v, x_0 = (q_0, v_0) \in B_q^e \times R^v$ . Then  $k(\bar{x}' \cup x_0, q_0) = 0$ , and hence, the type of  $\bar{x}' \cup x_0$  is  $(n+1, m+1, 0)$ . Thus  $f(\bar{x}' \cup x_0)$  and the gradients  $\partial f(\bar{x}' \cup x_0)$  vanish.

Furthermore, for any  $\tilde{x} = (\tilde{q}, \tilde{v}) \in \bar{x}'$  one has two above mentioned possibilities: either  $\tilde{q}$  is isolated in  $\bar{x}' \cup x_0$  or there exist  $q'', q''' \in \bar{x}'\backslash \tilde{x}, q'' \neq q'''$ , such that  $|q'' - \tilde{q}| < d_1, |q''' - \tilde{q}| < d_1$ . The analysis of the both possibilities is similar to that in the Case a<sub>0</sub>). Finally, Equation (0.1) for  $\bar{x}' \cup x_0$  takes the form

$$\langle \partial_{v'} f(\bar{x}'), \partial_{q'} U(|q' - q_0|) \rangle = 0, \tag{3.6}$$

i.e., coincides with (2.2a). From Equation (3.6) it follows that  $\partial_{v'} f(\bar{x}') = 0, x' = (q', v') \in B_q \times R^v$  (see the proof of Proposition 2.1).

As above, a simple analysis shows that Equation (0.1) for  $\bar{x}'$  takes the form (3.5), whence we get

$$\partial_{q'} f(\bar{x}') = 0, \quad q' \in B_q. \tag{3.7}$$

This completes the proof for the Case  $b_0$ ).

$c_0$ ) In that case  $q_0$  is the unique end point in  $\bar{x}$ . We define the set  $B_q \subset B_q^e$  in the same way as in  $b_0$ ). Consider Equation (0.1) for  $\bar{x}' \cup x_0$ ,  $x_0 = (q_0, v_0) \in B_{q'}^a \times R^v$ ,  $x' = (q', v') \in B_q \times R^v$ . Repeating the above arguments one can show that Equation (0.1) for  $\bar{x}' \cup x_0$  is of the form (3.6). Next we establish that Equation (0.1) for  $\bar{x}'$  takes the form (3.4). But we have seen above that (3.4) and (3.6) imply (3.7), and it follows from (3.7) that  $f(\bar{x}') = 0$ .

$d_0$ ) Let  $\bar{y} = [q_1, \dots, q_s]$ ,  $s \geq 2$ , be a chain in  $\bar{x}$  with  $q_1 = q$ .

In the Case  $d_0$ )  $\bar{x}$  has just two end points:  $q_1$  and  $q_s$ . As in the Cases  $b_0$ ) and  $c_0$ ), consider the set  $B_q \subset B_q^e$  which is defined by the same conditions. It is enough to prove that  $f(\bar{x}') = 0$  for  $\bar{x}' = (\bar{x} \setminus x) \cup x'_1$ ,  $x'_1 = (q'_1, v'_1) \in B_{q_1} \times R^v$ .

Let  $x'_1 = (q'_1, v'_1) \in B_{q_1} \times R^v$ , and  $x_0 = (q_0, v_0) \in B_{q_1}^a \times R^v$ . The type of  $\bar{x}' \cup x_0$  is  $(n+1, m+1, 0)$ , and hence all gradients  $\partial f(\bar{x}' \cup x_0)$  vanish. For any  $\tilde{x} = (\tilde{q}, \tilde{v}) \in \bar{x}'$ ,  $\tilde{q} \neq q_s$ , there are two possibilities which we have discussed before, and so, Equation (0.1) for  $\bar{x}' \cup x_0$  takes the form

$$\{f(\bar{x}'), U(|q_0 - q'_1|)\} + \{f((\bar{x}' \cup x_0) \setminus x_s), U(|q_s - q_{s-1}|)\} = 0. \tag{3.8}$$

Equation (3.8) coincides with (2.1a).

A similar analysis shows that Equation (0.1) for  $\bar{x}'$ ,  $\bar{x} \setminus x_1$  and  $\bar{x}' \setminus x_s$  takes the form (2.1c), (2.1d), and (2.1e) respectively.

The remaining part of the proof for the Case  $d_0$ ) proceeds in two stages. First, consider the particular case where  $q_s$  is an accessible point in  $\bar{x}'$ . This assumption allows us to consider  $\bar{x}' \cup x_{s+1}$ , where  $x_{s+1} = (q_{s+1}, v_{s+1}) \in B_{q_s}^a \times R^v$ . As above, we conclude that Equation (0.1) for  $\bar{x}' \cup x_{s+1}$  takes the form (2.1b). Thus, all the assumptions of Basic Lemma are valid. Using Basic Lemma, we obtain that  $f(\bar{x}')$ , and hence the gradients  $\partial f(\bar{x}')$  vanish. Moreover, due to Proposition 2.2, Equation (2.4) holds.

Now consider the general Case  $d_0$ ). If  $U(|q_{s-1} - q_s|) = 0$ , Equation (3.8) [i.e., (2.1a)] coincides with (2.2a), and Equation (0.1) for  $\bar{x}'$  [i.e., (2.1c)] takes the form (2.2b). Due to Proposition 2.1 we get  $f(\bar{x}') = 0$ . Thus we may assume that  $U(|q_{s-1} - q_s|) \neq 0$ . This means that  $q_{s-1}$  is an accessible point in  $(\bar{x}' \cup x_0) \setminus x_s$ . Since  $q_0$  is an external point in  $(\bar{x}' \cup x_0)$ , we obtain that  $(\bar{x}' \cup x_0) \setminus x_s$  with the chain  $[q_0, \dots, q_{s-1}]$  satisfies the conditions of the particular case just considered. Hence the gradients  $\partial f((\bar{x}' \cup x_0) \setminus x_s)$  vanish, and Equation (3.8) takes the form (2.2a). Furthermore, due to Proposition 2.2, Equation (2.5) holds. Since it was established above that Equation (0.1) for  $\bar{x}'$  is of the form (2.1c), the assumptions of Proposition 2.3 are valid. Hence  $f(\bar{x}') = 0$ . This completes the proof for the Case  $d_0$ ) and the proof of Lemma 3.1 in the whole.

*Remarks.* a) The  $C^3$ -property of  $U$  is used only in the Case  $d_0$ ) (via Basic Lemma), otherwise it is enough to have the  $C^1$ -property.

b) Relation (0.2) for  $(n-2, m_3, k_3)$  with  $0 \leq m_3 \leq m-3$  is used only in the Case  $d_0$ ).

c) There are two triples, namely  $(2, 1, 0)$  and  $(1, 0, 0)$ , for which (0.2) is known to be false. We shall refer to them as exceptional. For  $n=3, 4$  there are exceptional triples among those listed in the conditions of Lemma 3.1. However using the previous remark one can easily check that for any  $(n, m, 0)$  except  $(3, 3, 0)$  these exceptional triples may be omitted from the conditions of Lemma 3.1 without detriment for the proof.

The case  $(3, 3, 0)$  requires a special analysis.

**Lemma 3.2.** *Suppose (0.2) holds for the triples  $(4, 4, 0)$ ,  $(3, 2, 0)$ ,  $(3, 1, 0)$ , and  $(2, 0, 0)$ . Then (0.2) holds for the triple  $(3, 3, 0)$ .*

*Proof.* First we show that the assumptions of Lemma 3.2 imply that the function  $f(\bar{x})$  for  $n(\bar{x})=2$  does not depend on  $v, v \in \bar{x}$ . We may suppose that  $\bar{x}=(x_1, x_2)$ ,  $x_i=(q_i, v_i), i=1, 2$ , where  $|q_1 - q_2| < d_1$ . Clearly, both  $q_1$  and  $q_2$  are external points in  $\bar{x}$ . Taking  $x_0=(q_0, v_0) \in B_{q_1}^a \times R^v$  we may write Equation (0.1) for  $\bar{x} \cup x_0$  in the form

$$\langle \partial_{v_1} f(\bar{x}), \partial_{q_1} U(|q_0 - q_1|) \rangle + \partial_{v_1} f(x_1 \cup x_0), \partial_{q_1} U(|q_1 - q_2|) \rangle = 0. \tag{3.9}$$

This follows from the fact that  $\bar{x} \cup x_0$  is of the type  $(3, 2, 0)$ . Equation (3.9) coincides with (3.12, 2). Further, Equation (0.1) for  $\bar{x}$  is of the form (3, 2b, 2). The analysis of this pair of equations does not differ from that in the proof of Lemma 3.2(i), 2. As a result we get the assertion claimed.

Now let  $\bar{x} \in D^0$  is of the type  $(3, 3, 0)$ , and  $|q' - q''| \neq d_1$  for any pair  $q', q'' \in \bar{x}$ . Clearly, any  $x=(q, v) \in \bar{x}$  is external in  $\bar{x}$ . Consider the set  $B_q \subset B_q^e, q \in \bar{x}$ , defined as above. Let  $q' \in B_q, x'=(q', v')$  and  $\bar{x}'=(\bar{x} \setminus x) \cup x'$ . Then the type of  $\bar{x}'$  is  $(3, 3, 0)$ . Again we have to prove that  $f(\bar{x}')$  is locally constant w.r.t.  $q' \in B_q$ .

Let  $x' \in B_q \times R^v, x_0=(q_0, v_0) \in B_q^a \times R^v$ . Due to the conditions of Lemma 3.2, Equation (0.1) for  $\bar{x}' \cup x_0$  takes the form (3.6), whence we obtain that  $\partial_{v'} f(\bar{x}')=0$ . Due to the assertion above, Equation (0.1) for  $\bar{x}'$  takes the form (3.4) which gives (3.7).

#### 4. The Case $k > 0$

In this section we consider the case  $k > 0$ . Assuming Basic Lemma to be proved we establish here the following

**Lemma 4.1.** *Let  $(n, m, k), n \geq 3, k \geq 0$ , be an admissible triple. Suppose (0.2) holds for the following triples (whenever they are admissible):  $(n+1, m+1, k), (n, m, k_1), (n, m_1, k'_1), (n-1, m-1, k_2), (n-1, m_2, k'_2), (n-2, m-2, k_3), (n-2, m_3, k'_3)$ , where  $0 \leq m_i \leq m-i, 0 \leq k_i < k, k'_i \geq 0$ . Then (0.2) holds for the triple  $(n, m, k)$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $\bar{x} \in D^0, n(\bar{x})=n, m(\bar{x})=m, k(\bar{x})=k$ , and  $x=(q, v) \in \bar{x}$  be an external point with  $k(\bar{x}, q)=k$ . As for  $k=0$ , the four cases are possible:

- a<sub>k</sub>)  $q$  is isolated in  $\bar{x}$ ,
- b<sub>k</sub>)  $q$  is a non-isolated and non-end point in  $\bar{x}$ : there are  $q', q'' \in \bar{x} \setminus x, q' \neq q''$ , such that  $|q - q'| < d_1, |q - q''| < d_1$ ,
- c<sub>k</sub>)  $q$  is an end non-c-point in  $\bar{x}$ ,
- d<sub>k</sub>)  $q$  is a c-point in  $\bar{x}$ .

As above, we consider these cases successively assuming that  $|q' - q''| \neq d_1$  for any pair  $q', q'' \in \bar{x}$ .

a<sub>k</sub>) Let  $x' = (q', v') \in B_q^e \times R^v$ ,  $\bar{x}' = (\bar{x} \setminus x) \cup x'$ ; clearly,  $k(\bar{x}', q') = k$  i.e., the type of  $\bar{x}'$  is  $(n, m, k)$ . If  $q_0 \in B_q^a \subset B_q^e$ , then  $q_0$  is an external point in  $\bar{x}' \cup x_0$ ,  $x_0 = (q_0, v_0)$ . We use the following

**Proposition 4.2.** *Let  $\bar{x} \in D^0$ ,  $x = (q, v) \in \bar{x}$  be an external point, and  $k(\bar{x}) = k(\bar{x}, q)$ . Then for all  $x_0 = (q_0, v_0) \in B_q^a \times R^v$ ,  $k(\bar{x} \cup x_0) = k(\bar{x} \cup x_0, q_0) = k(\bar{x})$ .*

*Proof of Proposition 4.2.* We first show by induction w.r.t.  $k(\bar{x}, q)$  that  $k(\bar{x} \cup x_0, q_0) = k(\bar{x}, q)$ . For  $k(\bar{x}, q) = 0$ , this follows immediately from the definition of the order and the condition  $q_0 \in B_q^a$ .

Assume the equality  $k(\bar{x} \cup x_0, q_0) = k(\bar{x}, q)$  is proved for all cases, where  $k(\bar{x}, q) \leq \bar{k} - 1$  and consider the case  $k(\bar{x}, q) = \bar{k}$ . By definition, for any end non- $c(q)$ -point  $x' \in \bar{x}$ ,  $x' \neq x$  the order  $k(\bar{x} \setminus x', q)$  is no more than  $\bar{k} - 1$ , and for some such  $x'$  (we denote it by  $x'_0$ ) the equality holds. The inductive assumption gives that  $k((\bar{x} \cup x_0) \setminus x', q_0) = k(\bar{x} \setminus x', q) \leq \bar{k} - 1$  for any end non- $c(q)$ -point  $x' \in \bar{x}$ ,  $x' \neq x$ , and for  $x' = x'_0$  the equality holds.

It is obvious that every end non- $c(q_0)$ -point  $x' \in \bar{x} \cup x_0$  is non- $c(q)$ -point. Thus from the definition of the order we get that  $k((\bar{x} \cup x_0), q_0) = \bar{k}$ .

The final remark is that  $k(\bar{x} \cup x_0, q') \geq k(\bar{x} \cup x_0, q_0)$  for any external  $q' \in \bar{x} \cup x_0$ . Indeed, the inequality  $k(\bar{x} \cup x_0, q') \geq k(\bar{x}, q') + 1$  holds for any  $q'$  such that  $x_0$  is a non- $c(q')$ -point. Hence for such  $q'$   $k(\bar{x} \cup x_0, q') \geq k(\bar{x}) + 1 = k(\bar{x}, q) + 1 = k(\bar{x} \cup x_0, q_0) + 1$ . If, on the contrary,  $q'$  is  $c(q_0)$ -point then  $k(\bar{x} \cup x_0, q') = k(\bar{x} \cup x_0, q_0)$  as a simple argument shows. This completes the proof of Proposition 4.2.

Using Proposition 4.2, we conclude that  $k(\bar{x}' \cup x_0) = k$ . Now the type of  $\bar{x}' \cup x_0$  is  $(n + 1, m + 1, k)$ , and hence  $f(\bar{x}' \cup x_0)$  and the gradients  $\partial f(\bar{x}' \cup x_0)$  vanish.

For every  $\tilde{x} = (\tilde{q}, \tilde{v}) \in \bar{x} \setminus x$  we have three possibilities: either  $\tilde{q}$  is isolated in  $\bar{x}' \cup x_0$ , or there exist  $q'', q''' \in \bar{x} \setminus (x \cup \tilde{x})$ ,  $q'' \neq q'''$ , such that  $|q'' - \tilde{q}| < d_1$ ,  $|q''' - \tilde{q}| < d_1$ , or, finally,  $\tilde{q}$  is an end point. The analysis of the two first cases is the same as that for  $k = 0$ . In the third case we have

$$k((\bar{x}' \cup x_0) \setminus \tilde{x}) \leq k((\bar{x}' \cup x_0) \setminus \tilde{x}, q_0) \leq k(\bar{x}' \cup x_0, q_0) - 1. \tag{4.1}$$

This follows from the definition of the order and the fact that  $\tilde{x} \in \bar{x} \setminus x$  is a non- $c(q_0)$ -point in  $\bar{x}' \cup x_0$ . Due to Proposition 4.2, the RHS of (4.1) is  $(k - 1)$ . Hence, in the third case  $f((\bar{x}' \cup x_0) \setminus \tilde{x})$  and the gradients  $\partial f((\bar{x}' \cup x_0) \setminus \tilde{x})$  vanish. This means that Equation (0.1) for  $\bar{x}' \cup x_0$  takes the form (3.1). The same arguments as for  $k = 0$ , give that  $f(\bar{x}')$  does not depend on  $v'$ .

Further, repeating the analysis of Equation (0.1) for  $\bar{x}'$  given in the Case a<sub>0</sub>) we arrive at Equation (3.4) and then (3.5). The final arguments do not differ from that in the Case a<sub>0</sub>).

b<sub>k</sub>) The arguments used in that case are essentially the same as in the Case b<sub>0</sub>). First, the problem is reduced to checking that  $f(\bar{x}')$  is locally constant w.r.t.  $q' \in B_q$ , where  $\bar{x}' = (\bar{x} \setminus x) \cup x'$ ,  $x' = (q', v')$ , and  $B_q \subset B_q^e$  is defined in the same way as in Section 3.

For  $x' = (q', v') \in B_q \times R^v$  and  $x_0 = (q_0, v_0) \in B_q^a \times R^v$  we obtain in view of Proposition 4.2 that  $k(\bar{x}' \cup x_0) = k$ . Hence the type of  $\bar{x}' \cup x_0$  is  $(n + 1, m + 1, k)$ , and  $f(\bar{x}' \cup x_0)$  and the gradients  $\partial f(\bar{x}' \cup x_0)$  vanish.

Now for every  $\tilde{x}=(\tilde{q}, \tilde{v})\in\bar{x}'$  there are three possibilities listed above, and the same analysis as above shows that Equation (0.1) for  $\bar{x}'\cup x_0$  takes the form (3.6), Equation (0.1) for  $\bar{x}'$  takes the form (3.5). This leads to (3.7). The proof for the Case  $b_0$ ) is completed.

$c_k$ ) The proof for this case repeats the arguments we already used. So we omit it from the paper.

$d_k$ ) Let  $\bar{y}=[q_1, \dots, q_s]$ ,  $s\geq 2$ , be a chain in  $\bar{x}$  with  $q_1=q$ . As in Case  $d_0$ ), the problem is reduced to checking that  $f(\bar{x}')=0$  for  $\bar{x}'=(\bar{x}\setminus x_1)\cup x'_1$ ,  $x'_1=(q'_1, v'_1)\in B_{q_1}\times R^v$ .

Let  $x'_1=(q'_1, v'_1)\in B_{q_1}\times R^v$ ,  $x_0=(q_0, v_0)\in B_{q_1}^a\times R^v$ . According to Proposition 4.2, the type of  $\bar{x}'\cup x_0$  is  $(n+1, m+1, k)$ , and hence  $f(\bar{x}'\cup x_0)$  and the gradients  $\partial f(\bar{x}'\cup x_0)$  vanish. For every  $\tilde{x}=(\tilde{q}, \tilde{v})\in\bar{x}'$ ,  $\tilde{q}\neq q_s$ , we have three possibilities listed in the Case  $a_k$ ). The same analysis as above shows that Equation (0.1) for  $\bar{x}'\cup x_0$  takes the form (3.8) (with  $q'$  replaced by  $q'_1$ ), while Equation (0.1) for  $\bar{x}'$ , and  $\bar{x}'\setminus x_s$ ,  $x_s=(q_s, v_s)\in\bar{x}$ , takes the form (2.1c), and (2.1e), respectively.

Consider a particular case, where  $q_s$  is an accessible point in  $\bar{x}'$ , and  $q_2$  is an external point in  $\bar{x}\setminus x_1$ . If  $x_{s+1}=(q_{s+1}, v_{s+1})\in B_{q_s}^a\times R^v$ , then Equation (0.1) for  $\bar{x}'\cup x_{s+1}$  takes the form (2.1b).

Now write down Equation (0.1) for  $\bar{x}\setminus x_1$ . Our assumption on  $q_2$  and Proposition 4.2 together give

$$k(\bar{x}\setminus x_1)\leq k(\bar{x}\setminus x_1, q_2)=k(\bar{x}, q_1)=k.$$

Further arguments are the same as those for  $\bar{x}'\setminus x_s$ . As a result we get Equation (0.1) for  $\bar{x}\setminus x_1$  in the form (2.1d). Thus for our particular case all conditions of Basic Lemma are fulfilled. Due to Basic Lemma and Proposition 2.2,  $f(\bar{x}')$  and the gradients  $\partial f(\bar{x}')$  vanish, and Equation (2.4) holds.

In general case we apply the assertion stated just now to  $(\bar{x}\cup x_0)\setminus x_s$  and then finish the proof as in Section 3,  $d_0$ ).

*Remarks.* a) As for the case  $k=0$ , the  $C^3$ -property of  $U$  is used only in  $d_k$ ).

b) Relation (0.2) for  $(n-2, m-2, k_3)$  and  $(n-2, m_3, k'_3)$  with  $0\leq m_3\leq m-3$ ,  $0\leq k_3<k$ , and  $k'_3\geq 0$  is also used only in  $d_k$ ).

c) As for the case  $k=0$ , the exceptional triples occur in conditions of Lemma 4.1 for  $n=3$  and 4. The unique admissible triples  $(n, m, k)$  with  $n=3, 4$  and  $k>0$  are  $(4, 3, 1)$  and  $(4, 2, 1)$ . The previous remark shows that both of them can be treated without making use exceptional triples.

Summarizing all what we have said in Sections 3 and 4 we obtain

**Lemma 4.3.** *Let  $(n, m, k)$ ,  $n\geq 3$ ,  $k\geq 0$ , be an admissible triple. Suppose (0.2) holds for all admissible non-exceptional triples indicated in Lemma 3.1 for  $k=0$  and in Lemma 4.1 for  $k>0$ . Then (0.2) holds for the triple  $(n, m, k)$ .*

### 5. Theorem 1.2 Follows from Basic Lemma

Assuming Basic Lemma to be proved we establish in this section Theorem 1.2. First suppose  $\bar{x}\in D^0\cap M_n$  and  $m(\bar{x})=0$  [and, consequently,  $k(\bar{x})=0$ ]. Lemma 3.1', 2 says that in that case  $f(\bar{x})=0$ ; this is the first induction step.

Now we state an assertion which immediately follows from Lemma 4.3 and leads us to Theorem 1.2.

**Proposition 5.1.** *Fix  $n' \geq 2$ ,  $m' \geq 0$ , and  $k' \geq 0$ . Suppose (0.2) to be true for any admissible non-exceptional triple  $(n, m, k)$  with  $0 \leq n \leq n_0$ ,  $m \geq 0$ ,  $k \geq 0$ ,  $n - m \geq n_0 - m' + 1$  and with  $n > n'$ ,  $n - m = n_0 - m'$ ,  $k = k'$ . Then (0.2) is true for the triple  $(n', n' - n_0 + m', k')$ .*

Having (0.2) established for all admissible triples  $(n, m, k)$  with  $n - m \geq c$ , one uses Proposition 5.1 to prove (0.2) successively for  $n - m \geq c + 1$ ,  $k = 0$ , then for  $n - m \geq c + 1$ ,  $k = 1$ , and so on. Thus we establish (0.2) for admissible triples in the following order (we suppose that  $n_0 > 4$ ):

$(n_0, 0, 0)$ ,  
 $(n_0, 1, 0)$ ,  $(n_0 - 1, 0, 0)$ ,  $(n_0, 1, 1)$ ,  
 $(n_0, 2, 0)$ ,  $(n_0 - 1, 1, 0)$ ,  $(n_0 - 2, 0, 0)$ ,  $(n_0, 2, 1)$ ,  $(n_0 - 1, 1, 1)$ ,  
 $(n_0, 3, 0)$ , etc. ...,  $(n_0, m_0, k_0)$ .

Here  $m_0, k_0$  are maximal  $m$  and  $k$  for which  $(n_0, m, k)$  is admissible.

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