

# EXTREMAL LENGTH AND $p$ -CAPACITY

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

In Euclidean  $n$ -space  $E_n$ , consider two disjoint closed sets  $C_0$  and  $C_1$ , where  $C_0$  is assumed to contain the closure of the complement of some closed  $n$ -ball  $B$ . We follow [12] in defining the  $p$ -capacity ( $1 \leq p < \infty$ ) of the pair  $(C_0, C_1)$  as

$$(1) \quad \Gamma_p(C_0, C_1) = \inf \left\{ \int_{E_n} |\text{grad } u|^p dL_n \right\},$$

where the infimum is taken over all continuous functions  $u$  on  $E_n$  that are infinitely differentiable on  $E_n - (C_0 \cup C_1)$  and assume boundary values 0 on  $C_0$  and 1 on  $C_1$ . Serrin found this notion useful in connection with the question of removable singularities of solutions to certain partial differential equations. The case of conformal capacity is represented when  $p = n$ , and it has been fundamental in the development of a theory of quasiconformal mappings in  $E_n$  (see [7]). The importance of conformal capacity in the theory of quasiconformal mappings is partly due to an equality of Gehring [6] that relates conformal capacity to the reciprocal of the  $n$ -dimensional extremal length of all continua in  $E_n$  that intersect both  $C_0$  and  $C_1$ . Gehring's proof is valid for a similar equality that involves  $p$ -capacity and  $p$ -dimensional extremal length, provided  $p > n - 1$ . It is the purpose of this paper to provide a proof for  $p \geq 1$ , thus answering in the affirmative question 16 of [13]. We note that the proof is elementary in the sense that it demands only a few basic facts of real function theory. Together with [4, Theorem 7], the result yields a new proof of a theorem of Wallin [14], which relates  $p$ -capacity to potential-theoretic capacity. On the other hand, our result, along with that of Wallin, establishes Fuglede's theorem for compact sets, in case  $k = 1$ .

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## 2. NOTATION AND PRELIMINARIES

$L_n$  and  $H^k$  will denote  $n$ -dimensional Lebesgue measure and  $k$ -dimensional Hausdorff measure in  $E_n$  (for properties of the latter, see [2]). If  $A$  is an  $L_n$ -measurable subset of  $E_n$ , let  $\mathcal{L}^p(A)$  be the class of functions  $f$  for which  $|f|^p$  is integrable, and let  $\|f\|_p$  be the  $\mathcal{L}^p$ -norm.

2.1. A real-valued function  $u$  defined on an open subset  $G$  of  $E_n$  is called *absolutely continuous in the sense of Tonelli on  $G$*  (ACT) if it is ACT on every interval  $I \subset G$  [11, p. 169]. The gradient of  $u$  (which will now be denoted by  $\nabla u$ ) exists  $L_n$ -almost everywhere on  $G$ ; moreover, it can easily be shown that the infimum appearing in the definition (1) of  $p$ -capacity is not diminished if we extend it to the class of ACT functions that assume the specified boundary values (see [5]).

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2.2. Let  $\chi$  be a set of continua in  $E_n$ . The  $p$ -dimensional module of  $\chi$  is defined as

$$M_p(\chi) = \inf \left\{ \int_{E_n} f^p dL_n : f \wedge \chi \right\},$$

where  $f \wedge \chi$  means that  $f$  is a nonnegative  $L_n$ -measurable function satisfying the condition

$$\int_{\beta} f dH^1 \geq 1$$

for every  $\beta \in \chi$ . The module of  $\chi$  is the reciprocal of its extremal length. Observe that in this definition,  $f$  may be assumed to be lower-semicontinuous, since for every  $L_n$ -measurable function  $f \in \mathcal{L}^p$  and each  $\varepsilon > 0$ , there is a lower-semicontinuous function  $g \geq f$  such that

$$\int g^p dL_n < \int f^p dL_n + \varepsilon.$$

We shall not need the following result in its full strength, but we enter it here for the sake of completeness. For  $p \geq 2$ , the proof was given in [15], and in a private communication to the author, M. Ohtsuka presented a proof for  $1 < p < 2$ . The proof below represents a consolidation of ideas.

2.3. LEMMA. Let  $\chi = \bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} \chi_i$ , where  $\chi_1 \subset \chi_2 \subset \dots$  are sets of continua in  $E_n$ . If  $1 < p < \infty$ , then

$$M_p(\chi) = \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} M_p(\chi_i).$$

*Proof.* For each  $i$ , there is a measurable function  $f_i$  such that

$$f_i \wedge \chi_i', \quad \chi_i' \subset \chi_i, \quad M_p(\chi_i') = M_p(\chi_i), \quad \|f_i\|_p^p = M_p(\chi_i)$$

(see [4, Section 2]). If  $i < j$ , then it can be arranged so that  $\chi_i' \subset \chi_j'$  and consequently  $2^{-1} \cdot (f_i + f_j) \wedge \chi_i'$ . Hence,  $M_p(\chi_i) \leq 2^{-p} \|f_i + f_j\|_p^p$ ; in other words,

$$(2) \quad 2^{p'} [M_p(\chi_i)]^{1/(p-1)} \leq \|f_i + f_j\|_p^{p'},$$

where  $p' = p/(p-1)$ . Let  $M_p^* = \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} M_p(\chi_i)$ , and assume, without loss of generality, that  $M_p^* < \infty$ . Then, if  $p \geq 2$ , it follows from (2) and Clarkson's inequality [1] that

$$2^p M_p(\chi_i) + \|f_i - f_j\|_p^p \leq \|f_i + f_j\|_p^p + \|f_i - f_j\|_p^p \leq 2^{p-1} [\|f_i\|_p^p + \|f_j\|_p^p] \leq 2^p M_p^*,$$

Similarly, for  $1 < p < 2$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} 2^{p'} [M_p(\chi_i)]^{1/(p-1)} + \|f_i - f_j\|_p^{p'} &\leq \|f_i + f_j\|_p^{p'} + \|f_i - f_j\|_p^{p'} \\ &\leq 2^{p'} [2^{-1} \|f_i\|_p^p + 2^{-1} \|f_j\|_p^p]^{1/(p-1)} \\ &\leq [2^p M_p^*]^{1/(p-1)} \leq 2^{p'} M_p^{*1/(p-1)}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus, for  $1 < p < \infty$ ,  $\{f_i\}$  is a fundamental sequence in  $\mathcal{L}^p$ ; therefore, there exists an  $f$  such that  $\|f_i - f\|_p \rightarrow 0$ . By appealing to [4, Theorem 3], we conclude that for an appropriate subsequence there exists a subset  $\chi^* \subset \chi' = \bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} \chi'_i$  such that

$$M_p(\chi^*) = M_p(\chi') = M_p(\chi) \quad \text{and} \quad \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\beta} |f_i - f| dH^1 = 0 \quad \text{for each } \beta \in \chi^*.$$

But every  $\beta$  in  $\chi^*$  is in some  $\chi'_j$ , and since  $f_i \wedge \chi'_j$  for  $i \geq j$ , it follows that  $f \wedge \chi^*$ . Hence,

$$M_p(\chi) = M_p(\chi^*) \leq \|f\|_p^p = \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \|f_i\|_p^p = \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} M_p(\chi_i);$$

this concludes the proof.

2.4. COROLLARY. *If  $1 \leq p < \infty$  and  $M_p(\chi_i) = 0$  for  $i = 1, 2, \dots$ , then  $M_p(\chi) = 0$ .*

*Proof.* For each  $i$ , there exists a measurable function  $f_i$  such that  $f_i \wedge \chi_i$  and  $\|f_i\| < i^{-1}$ . Again by [4, Theorem 3], there exists a subset  $\chi^* \subset \chi$  such that

$$M_1(\chi^*) = M_1(\chi) \quad \text{and} \quad \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\beta} f_i dH^1 = 0 \quad \text{for each } \beta \in \chi^*.$$

But each  $\beta$  in  $\chi^*$  is in some  $\chi_j$ , and since  $f_i \wedge \chi_j$  for  $i \geq j$ , it is clear that  $\chi^*$  must be empty, and therefore that  $M_1(\chi) = 0$ .

### 3. EQUIVALENCE OF p-CAPACITY AND p-MODULUS

We recall that if  $H^1(\beta) < \infty$  for some continuum  $\beta$  in  $E_n$ , then  $\beta$  is locally connected and therefore arcwise connected (if  $\beta$  were not locally connected, there would be a point  $x \in \beta$  with the property that for all sufficiently small balls  $B$  centered at  $x$ ,  $(\partial B) \cap \beta$  would contain infinitely many points, and thus, by a general inequality concerning Hausdorff measures [3, Theorem 3.2], it would follow that  $H^1(\beta) = \infty$ ).

3.1. LEMMA. *If  $\chi$  is the set of all continua in  $E_n$  that intersect both  $C_0$  and  $C_1$ , then  $\Gamma_p(C_0, C_1) \geq M_p(\chi)$  ( $p \geq 1$ ).*

*Proof.* It suffices to prove, for each infinitely differentiable function  $u$  on  $E_n - (C_0 \cup C_1)$  that is admitted into the class of functions over which the infimum is taken in (1), that

$$\int_{\beta} |\nabla u| dH^1 \geq 1,$$

where  $\beta$  belongs to  $\chi$  and is contained in  $B$ . We may assume that  $H^1(\beta) < \infty$ , since the set of  $\beta \in \chi$  for which  $H^1(\beta) = \infty$  has  $p$ -dimensional module 0. Thus,  $\beta$  can be taken to be arcwise connected, and consequently there is an arc

$$\beta^* \subset \beta \cap [E_n - (C_0 \cup C_1)]$$

joining two points  $x_0$  and  $x_1$  ( $x_i \in C_i$ ). Since  $H^1(\beta^*) < \infty$ , there exists an arc-length parametrization of  $\beta^*$ , say  $\gamma: [0, a] \rightarrow \beta^*$ , such that  $\gamma(0) = x_0$ ,  $\gamma(a) = x_1$ , and

$a = H^1(\beta^*)$  [9, p. 259]. Now  $\gamma$  has Lipschitz constant 1, and  $|\gamma'| = 1$  a. e. on  $[0, a]$ . This implies that  $u \circ \gamma$  is a Lipschitz function, and therefore

$$1 \leq \int_0^a |(u \circ \gamma)'| dL_1 \leq \int_0^a |\nabla u \circ \gamma| \cdot |\gamma'| dL_1 = \int_{\beta^*} |\nabla u| dH^1 = \int_{\beta} |\nabla u| dH^1.$$

3.2. The remainder of this section will be devoted to the proof of the inequality opposite to that in Lemma 3.1. To establish this inequality, it is sufficient to show that

$$\Gamma_p(C_0, C_1) \leq \int_{E_n} f^p dL_n,$$

where  $f$  is a function such that  $f \wedge \chi$ . Observe that the family  $\chi$  can be assumed to be contained in the closed ball  $B$ , the closure of whose complement is contained in  $C_0$ . Referring to Section 2.2, we see that we can assume  $f$  to be lower-semicontinuous. Moreover,  $f$  can also be assumed to be bounded away from zero on  $\text{int } B$ . To see this, let

$$f_i(x) = \begin{cases} f(x) & \text{if } f(x) > i^{-1} \text{ and } x \in \text{int } B, \\ i^{-1} & \text{if } f(x) \leq i^{-1} \text{ and } x \in \text{int } B, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

for each positive integer  $i$ . Then  $f_i$  is lower-semicontinuous,  $\int_{\beta} f_i dH^1 \geq 1$  for every  $\beta \in \chi$ , and  $\|f_i - f\|_p \rightarrow 0$  over  $B$ , since  $B$  is bounded.

3.3. LEMMA. Suppose  $\{\beta_i\}$  is a sequence of continua in  $B$  such that for some  $M > 0$ ,  $H^1(\beta_i) < M$  for all  $i$ . Further, suppose that there are points  $x_i, y_i \in \beta_i$  such that  $x_i \rightarrow x$ ,  $y_i \rightarrow y$ . Then, there is a continuum  $\beta$  in  $B$  containing  $x$  and  $y$  such that

$$\liminf_{i \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\beta_i} f dH^1 \geq \int_{\beta} f dH^1$$

for every lower-semicontinuous function  $f: B \rightarrow E_1$ .

*Proof.* Using again the fact that a continuum of finite one-dimensional Hausdorff measure is arcwise connected, we see that there is an arc  $\beta_i^* \subset \beta_i$  whose end points are  $x_i$  and  $y_i$ , since  $H^1(\beta_i) < M < \infty$ . Thus, there is an arc-length parametrization of  $\beta_i^*$ , say  $\gamma_i: [0, a_i] \rightarrow \beta_i^*$ , where  $\gamma_i(0) = x_i$ ,  $\gamma_i(a_i) = y_i$ , and  $a_i = H^1(\beta_i^*)$ . The function  $\gamma_i$  is Lipschitzian with Lipschitz constant 1, and  $|\gamma_i'| = 1$  a. e. on  $[0, a_i]$ . Since  $\gamma_i$  is Lipschitzian, it can be extended to  $[0, M]$  with the same Lipschitz constant [10, p. 341]. Hence, the sequence  $\{\gamma_i\}$  is equicontinuous on  $[0, M]$  and uniformly bounded, since the ranges of all  $\gamma_i$  touch a fixed compact set. By Ascoli's theorem, there exist a subsequence (which will still be denoted by  $\{\gamma_i\}$ ) and a map  $\gamma: [0, M] \rightarrow E_n$  such that  $\{\gamma_i\}$  converges to  $\gamma$  uniformly on  $[0, M]$ . Note that  $\gamma$  has Lipschitz constant 1. By passing to another subsequence, we may assume that  $a_i \rightarrow a \in [0, M]$ . In view of the fact that  $|\gamma_i(a_i) - \gamma_i(a)| \leq |a_i - a| \rightarrow 0$ , it is clear that  $\gamma_i(a) \rightarrow \gamma(a) = y$ . Let  $\beta = \gamma([0, a])$ , and observe that  $\beta$  contains  $x$  and  $y$ . For every  $\varepsilon > 0$ ,  $a_i > a - \varepsilon$  for large  $i$ . Therefore, Fatou's lemma, the

lower-semicontinuity of  $f$ , and the facts that  $|\gamma'_i| = 1$  a. e. and  $|\gamma'| \leq 1$  a. e. yield the relations

$$\begin{aligned} \liminf_{i \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\beta_i} f \, dH^1 &\geq \liminf_{i \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\beta_i^*} f \, dH^1 = \liminf_{i \rightarrow \infty} \int_0^{a_i} f \circ \gamma_i |\gamma'_i| \, dL_1 \\ &\geq \liminf_{i \rightarrow \infty} \int_0^{a-\varepsilon} f \circ \gamma_i \, dL_1 \geq \int_0^{a-\varepsilon} f \circ \gamma \, dL_1 \geq \int_0^{a-\varepsilon} f \circ \gamma |\gamma'| \, dL_1. \end{aligned}$$

Since  $\varepsilon$  is arbitrary, we conclude that

$$\liminf_{i \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\beta_i} f \, dH^1 \geq \int_0^a f \circ \gamma |\gamma'| \, dL_1 = \int_{\beta} f \, dH^1.$$

3.4. The function  $f$  introduced in Section 3.2 will be modified once again. Assuming that  $f$  is bounded away from zero on  $B$ , that  $f$  is lower-semicontinuous, and that  $f \wedge \chi$ , we define for every positive integer  $k$  the function

$$f_k(x) = \begin{cases} f(x) & \text{if } f(x) \leq k, \\ k & \text{if } f(x) > k, \end{cases}$$

which is still lower-semicontinuous. For every  $x \in B$ , define

$$u_k(x) = \inf \left\{ \int_{\beta} f_k \, dH^1 \right\},$$

where the infimum is taken over all continua  $\beta$  in  $B$  that intersect both  $\{x\}$  and  $C_0$ . We shall now show that the infimum is actually attained.

Suppose  $\{\beta_i\}$  is a minimizing sequence in the definition of  $u_k(x)$ . Then  $\{\beta_i\}$  contains  $x$  and a point  $y_i \in C_0 \cap B$ . Since  $C_0 \cap B$  is compact, we may assume that  $y_i \rightarrow y \in C_0 \cap B$ . By appealing to Lemma 3.3, we find that there exists a continuum  $\beta$  containing  $x$  and  $y$  such that

$$u_k(x) = \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\beta_i} f_k \, dH^1 \geq \int_{\beta} f_k \, dH^1 \geq u_k(x).$$

3.5. We recall the notion of approximate continuity and the fact that an  $L_n$ -measurable function  $f: E_n \rightarrow E_1$  is approximately continuous in each variable at  $L_n$ -almost every point in  $E_n$  [11, pp. 132, 298]. Moreover, the derivative of the indefinite integral of a bounded, measurable function  $g$  of a real variable exists and is equal to  $g$  at points where  $g$  is approximately continuous.

Applying these remarks to the function  $f_k$ , we conclude that at  $L_n$ -almost every point  $x \in E_n$ , there is a countable, dense set  $\Lambda_k(x)$  of vectors, each issuing from  $x$  and having unit length, such that

$$(3) \quad \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} t^{-1} \int_{t\lambda} f_k(y) \, dH^1(y) = f_k(x)$$

for every  $\lambda \in \Lambda_k(x)$ .

**3.6. LEMMA.** *The function  $u_k$  has Lipschitz constant  $k$  and satisfies the inequality  $|\nabla u_k(x)| \leq f_k(x)$  for almost every  $x \in B$  in the sense of  $L_n$ .*

*Proof.* Choose  $x_1$  and  $x_2$  in  $B$ , and let  $\beta_1$  be a continuum that minimizes the infimum in the definition of  $u_k(x_1)$  (see Section 3.4). The line segment  $\lambda$  that joins  $x_1$  to  $x_2$  is in  $B$ . Hence,

$$u_k(x_2) \leq \int_{\beta_1} f_k dH^1 + \int_{\lambda} f_k dH^1 \leq u_k(x_1) + kH^1(\lambda).$$

To establish the second part of the lemma, consider a point  $x \in B$  at which  $\Lambda_k(x)$  is defined (see Section 3.5) and at which  $u_k$  is differentiable [10, p. 336]. It will be sufficient to show that

$$(4) \quad Du_k(x, v) \leq f_k(x),$$

where  $Du_k(x, v)$  denotes the directional derivative of  $u_k$  at  $x$  in the direction of the unit vector  $v$ .

Choose  $\varepsilon > 0$ , and select  $\lambda \in \Lambda_k(x)$  with the property that if  $\alpha_t$  denotes the line segment joining the end points of  $t\nu$  and  $t\lambda$ , then  $H^1(\alpha_t) < \varepsilon t$ , for  $t > 0$ . Then

$$u_k(x + t\nu) \leq u_k(x) + \int_{t\lambda} f_k dH^1 + \int_{\alpha_t} f_k dH^1 < u_k(x) + \int_{t\lambda} f_k dH^1 + k\varepsilon t.$$

In view of (3), the above inequalities imply (4), since  $\varepsilon$  is arbitrary; the proof of the lemma is thus concluded.

Obviously, the function  $u_k$  vanishes on  $C_0$ . Since  $u_k$  is continuous on  $E_n$ , the number

$$m_k = \min \{u_k(x) : x \in C_1\}$$

is well-defined.

$$3.7. \text{ LEMMA. } \liminf_{k \rightarrow \infty} m_k \geq 1.$$

*Proof.* Let  $x_k \in C_1$  be such that  $u_k(x_k) = m_k$ . Recall from Section 3.4 that there is a continuum  $\beta_k \subset B$  that intersects both  $\{x_k\}$  and  $C_0$  such that

$$u_k(x_k) = \int_{\beta_k} f_k dH^1.$$

If we assume that  $\liminf_{k \rightarrow \infty} m_k < 1$ , then some subsequence would satisfy the inequality

$$\int_{\beta_k} f_k dH^1 < 1.$$

Since  $f_k$  is assumed to be bounded away from zero by a number  $c > 0$ , the last inequality implies that  $H^1(\beta_k) < c^{-1}$  for infinitely many  $k$ . Now, an application of Lemma 3.3 produces a continuum  $\beta \subset B$  that intersects both  $C_0$  and  $C_1$ . Hence,

$\int_{\beta} f dH^1 \geq 1$ , where  $f$  is as in Section 3.2. For  $\varepsilon > 0$ , choose  $m$  so that

$$\int_{\beta} f_m dH^1 > \int_{\beta} f dH^1 - \varepsilon > 1 - \varepsilon.$$

For  $k \geq m$ , we obtain the relation

$$m_k = \int_{\beta_k} f_k dH^1 \geq \int_{\beta_k} f_m dH^1,$$

and Lemma 3.3 now implies that

$$(5) \liminf_{k \rightarrow \infty} m_k = \liminf_{k \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\beta_k} f_k dH^1 \geq \liminf_{k \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\beta_k} f_m dH^1 \geq \int_{\beta} f_m dH^1 > 1 - \varepsilon.$$

Since  $\varepsilon > 0$  is arbitrary, (5) contradicts the assumption  $\liminf_{k \rightarrow \infty} m_k < 1$ .

**3.8. THEOREM.** *If  $p \geq 1$ , then  $\Gamma_p(C_0, C_1) = M_p(\chi)$ .*

*Proof.* By Section 3.2 it suffices to show that

$$\Gamma_p(C_0, C_1) \leq \int_{E_n} f^p dL_n.$$

To this end, let  $u_k^*$  be the truncation of  $u_k$  at level  $m_k$ , and observe that  $m_k^{-1} \cdot u_k^*$  (as discussed in Section 2.1) is an admissible function for  $\Gamma_p(C_0, C_1)$ . From Lemma 3.6 we see easily that  $|\nabla u_k^*| \leq f_k$  a. e. in  $E_n$ . Finally, Lemma 3.7 leads to the inequalities

$$\Gamma_p(C_0, C_1) \leq \liminf_{k \rightarrow \infty} m_k^{-p} \int_{E_n} |\nabla u_k^*|^p dL_n \leq \liminf_{k \rightarrow \infty} m_k^{-p} \int_{E_n} f_k^p dL_n \leq \int_{E_n} f^p dL_n.$$

#### 4. POTENTIAL-THEORETIC CAPACITY AND p-CAPACITY

In this section we show that the results of Wallin [14] and Fuglede [4, Theorem 7] are equivalent, for compact sets and  $k = 1$ .

**4.1. Definition.** The *p-capacity* of a compact set  $A \subset E_n$  is defined to be

$$\Gamma_p(A) = \inf \left\{ \int_{E_n} |\nabla u|^p dL_n \right\},$$

where the infimum is taken over all functions  $u \in C^\infty$  that have compact support and are identically equal to 1 on  $A$ . If  $p \geq n$ , then the support of each function  $u$  is required to lie in some fixed sphere.

For every  $r > 0$ , let  $\Gamma_p^r(A)$  be as in Definition 4.1, except that we require the supports of the functions  $u$  to be contained in an  $r$ -neighborhood of  $A$ .

**4.2. LEMMA.** *If  $1 \leq p < n$  and  $r > 0$ , then  $\Gamma_p^r(A) = 0$  if and only if  $\Gamma_p(A) = 0$ .*

*Proof.* Only the "if" direction requires proof, and we may assume that  $1 \leq p < n$  (otherwise, there would be little to verify).

Let  $\{u_i\}$  be a sequence of  $C^\infty$ -functions with compact supports, identically 1 on  $A$ , and suppose that  $\|\nabla u_i\|_p \rightarrow 0$  as  $i \rightarrow \infty$ . Let  $\phi$  be a  $C^\infty$ -function that equals 1 on  $A$  and whose support is contained in an  $r$ -neighborhood of  $A$ . Then  $\phi \cdot u_i$  is admissible in the definition of  $\Gamma_p^r(A)$ , and

$$\|\nabla(\phi u_i)\|_p \leq \|\nabla \phi \cdot u_i\|_p + \|\phi \cdot \nabla u_i\|_p.$$

Consider the Sobolev inequality

$$\|u\|_r \leq \text{const.} \|\nabla u\|_p \quad (r = np/(n - p)).$$

Applying this inequality to the functions  $u_i$ , we deduce for a subsequence of the  $u_i$  that  $u_i \rightarrow 0$  a. e. Since the  $u_i$  can be assumed to be bounded above by 1, we conclude that  $\|\nabla \phi \cdot u_i\|_p \rightarrow 0$  as  $i \rightarrow \infty$ . Obviously,  $\|\phi \cdot \nabla u_i\|_p \rightarrow 0$ , and therefore  $\|\nabla(\phi u_i)\|_p \rightarrow 0$ .

Let  $\chi(A)$  denote the set of all continua that intersect  $A$ .

**4.3. THEOREM.** *If  $1 \leq p < n$ , then  $M_p[\chi(A)] = 0$  if and only if  $\Gamma_p(A) = 0$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $[A]_r$  denote the  $r$ -neighborhood of  $A$ , and let  $\chi_r(A)$  be the set of all continua that join  $A$  to  $E_n - [A]_r$ .

If  $M_p[\chi(A)] = 0$ , then clearly  $M_p[\chi_r(A)] = 0$  for all  $r > 0$ . But Theorem 3.8 implies that  $\Gamma_p^r(A) = 0$ , which in view of Lemma 4.2 implies that  $\Gamma_p(A) = 0$ .

Conversely, if  $\Gamma_p(A) = 0$ , then (by Lemma 4.2)  $\Gamma_p^r(A) = 0$  for every  $r > 0$ . Now Theorem 3.8 implies that  $M_p[\chi_r(A)] = 0$ , and we conclude that

$$\chi(A) = \bigcup_{r > 0} \chi_r(A).$$

Consequently, Corollary 2.4 shows that  $M_p[\chi(A)] = 0$ .

The equivalence of the results of Wallin [14] and Fuglede [4, Theorem 7] for compact sets and  $k = 1$  follows immediately from Theorem 4.3; for Wallin relates potential-theoretic capacity to  $\Gamma_p$ , whereas Fuglede relates it to  $M_p[\chi(A)]$ .

We conclude by stating that if  $\Sigma$  denotes the class of closed sets separating  $C_0$  from  $C_1$  in  $B$  and if  $1 < p < \infty$ , then

$$(6) \quad (\Gamma_p)^{1/(p-1)} = M_{p'}(\Sigma) \quad (p' = p/(p - 1)).$$

Relation (6) extends the results in [15]. Its proof proceeds along the same lines as the proof in [15], once an extremal for  $\Gamma_p$  has been obtained. The methods of [7] provide an extremal in case  $p > n - 1$ . However, by using the methods of [8, Chapter 3], we can show that the value of  $\Gamma_p$  does not change if we enlarge the class of competing functions in the definition of  $\Gamma_p$  ( $p \geq 1$ ). An extremal exists in this larger class, and this along with the proof in [15] establishes relation (6).

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