

**FINITE-ENERGY SOLUTIONS, QUANTIZATION EFFECTS  
AND LIOUVILLE-TYPE RESULTS FOR A VARIANT  
OF THE GINZBURG-LANDAU SYSTEMS IN  $\mathbb{R}^K$**

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**Abstract.** We study the finite-energy solutions of a generalization of the classical Ginzburg-Landau system (problem (0.1)). In the first part of this paper we consider the solutions of (0.1) satisfying  $K = M = 2$  and  $\int_{\mathbb{R}^2} P_n(|u|^2) < \infty$ . We establish a phenomenon of quantization for the “mass”  $\int_{\mathbb{R}^2} P_n(|u|^2)$  that generalizes a well-known result of Brezis, Merle and Rivière for the classic Ginzburg-Landau system of equations in  $\mathbb{R}^2$ . The second part is devoted to solutions of (0.1) satisfying  $\int_{\mathbb{R}^K} |\nabla u|^2 < \infty$ . We establish some Liouville-type results and in particular we prove that any locally  $L^3$  solution of the Ginzburg-Landau system  $-\Delta u = u(1 - |u|^2)$  in  $\mathbb{R}^K$  ( $K > 1$ ) satisfying  $\int_{\mathbb{R}^K} |\nabla u|^2 < \infty$ , is a constant function. We also obtain that any solution of (0.1) with finite energy (0.4) is a constant. In the last section we prove that any solution  $u$  of (0.1) is smooth and satisfies  $|u|^2 \leq k_n$  on  $\mathbb{R}^K$ .

**0. Introduction.** Let  $P_n$  be a polynomial of the form

$$P_n(t) = \frac{1}{2} \prod_{j=1}^n (t - k_j)^2,$$

where  $n \in \mathbf{N}^+$  and  $0 < k_1 < \dots < k_n < \infty$ . In this paper we study the finite-energy solutions of the problem

$$\begin{cases} u \in L_{loc}^{4n-1}(\mathbb{R}^K, \mathbb{R}^M) & (K, M) \in \mathbf{N}^+ \times \mathbf{N}^+ \\ \Delta u = uP_n'(|u|^2) & \text{in } \mathcal{D}'(\mathbb{R}^K, \mathbb{R}^M), \end{cases} \quad (0.1)$$

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that is, the solutions  $u$  of (0.1) satisfying

$$E_2(u) := \int_{\mathbb{R}^K} P_n(|u|^2) < \infty \quad (0.2)$$

or satisfying

$$E_3(u) := \int_{\mathbb{R}^K} |\nabla u|^2 < \infty \quad (0.3)$$

or

$$E_4(u) := E_2(u) + E_3(u) < \infty. \quad (0.4)$$

The diagonal system (0.1) is related to models introduced in classical field theory [6]; e.g. when  $n = 1$  we get the well-known Ginzburg-Landau system used in the study of phase transition problems occurring in superfluidity, superconductivity and  $XY$ -magnetism [8, 9]. Our first result is a phenomenon of quantization for the “mass”  $\int_{\mathbb{R}^2} P_n(|u|^2)$  when  $M = 2$ , namely,

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^2} P_n(|u|^2) = \pi k_j d^2$$

for some integer  $d \in \mathbf{Z}$  and  $j \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ . This result generalizes that of Brezis, Merle and Rivière for the classic Ginzburg-Landau system of equations in  $\mathbb{R}^2$  (see [2], [5]). In the second part of this paper some Liouville-type results and Pohozaev-type identities are proven for solutions of (0.1) satisfying  $(K, M) \in \mathbf{N}^+ \times \mathbf{N}^+$  and

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^K} |\nabla u|^2 < \infty.$$

In particular we prove that any locally  $L^3$  solution of the Ginzburg-Landau system

$$-\Delta u = u(1 - |u|^2) \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R}^K \quad (K > 1)$$

satisfying (0.3) is a constant function. We also obtain that any solution of (0.1) with finite energy (0.4) and  $K > 1$  is a constant. In the third part we study the finite-energy solutions of (0.1) in the one-dimensional case. This is a special case since we always have non-constant finite-energy solutions. To conclude we prove that any solution of (0.1) is smooth and satisfies  $|u|^2 \leq k_n$  on  $\mathbb{R}^K$ .

**Remark 0.1.** In the sequel we shall use the following properties of polynomials  $P_n$ .

$$P'_n(t) = \prod_{j=1}^n (t - k_j) Q_n(t),$$

where

$$Q_n(t) = n \prod_{l=1}^{n-1} (t - r_l)$$

and  $r_l \in (k_l, k_{l+1})$ , for any  $l = 1, \dots, n - 1$ ;

$$Q'_n(t) = \sum_{\substack{i,j=1 \\ i \neq j}}^n \left( \prod_{\substack{s=1 \\ s \neq i,j}}^n (t - k_s) \right) = n \sum_{s=1}^{n-1} \left( \prod_{\substack{l=1 \\ l \neq s}}^{n-1} (t - r_l) \right),$$

with the standard convention

$$\sum_{\alpha \in \emptyset} = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \prod_{\alpha \in \emptyset} = 1.$$

**1. Statement of results.** Our first result is

**Theorem 1.1.** *Let  $u$  be a solution of the problem (0.1)–(0.2) with  $K = M = 2$ , then*

- (i)  *$u$  is smooth and  $|u|^2 \leq k_n$*
- (ii) *there is  $j \in \{1, \dots, n\}$  such that*

$$\lim_{|x| \rightarrow \infty} |u(x)|^2 = k_j \quad \text{and} \quad \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} (|u|^2 - k_j)^2 < \infty$$

- (iii) *there is  $d \in Z$  such that*

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^2} P_n(|u|^2) = \pi k_j d^2.$$

The second result of this paper is stated as follows.

**Theorem 1.2.** For  $K > 1$ , let  $u$  be any solution of (0.1) and (0.3). Then one and only one of the following holds (where  $P_{n,\alpha} := P_n - P_n(\alpha)$ ):

- (i)  $u$  is a constant function and there is an integer  $j \in \{1, \dots, n\}$  such that  $|u|^2 = k_j$
- (ii)  $u \in C^\infty \cap W^{1,\infty} \cap H^1$ ,  $|u|^2 \leq k_n$  and  $u$  satisfies:

$$\left(\frac{K}{2} - 1\right) \int_{\mathbb{R}^K} |\nabla u|^2 = -\frac{K}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^K} P_{n,0}(|u|^2) \quad (1.1)$$

- (iii)  $u \in C^\infty \cap W^{1,\infty}$ ,  $|u|^2 \leq k_n$  and there exists an integer  $s \in \{1, \dots, n-1\}$  such that  $(|u|^2 - r_s) \in H^1 \cap W^{1,\infty}$ ; in addition  $u$  satisfies:

$$\left(\frac{K}{2} - 1\right) \int_{\mathbb{R}^K} |\nabla u|^2 = -\frac{K}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^K} P_{n,r_s}(|u|^2). \quad (1.2)$$

A direct consequence of the previous Theorem is:

**Corollary 1.3.** (i) Every  $u \in L^3_{loc}(\mathbb{R}^K, \mathbb{R}^M)$ , solution of the Ginzburg-Landau system of equations  $-\Delta u = u(1 - |u|^2)$  in  $\mathbb{R}^K$  satisfying (0.3) with  $K > 1$ , is a constant function (either  $u \equiv 0$  or  $u \equiv c$ , where  $|c| = 1$ ).

(ii) Every solution  $u$  of (0.1) and (0.4) with  $K > 1$  is a constant function (and there exists  $\gamma \in \{k_1, \dots, k_n\}$  such that  $|u|^2 = \gamma$ ).

Theorem 1.2 and Corollary 1.3 do not hold for  $K = 1$ . Note that

$$u_{k_1} = \sqrt{k_1} \tanh\left(\sqrt{\frac{k_1}{2}}x\right),$$

$x \in \mathbb{R}$  is a finite-energy solution of (0.1) with  $n = K = M = 1$ . The one-dimensional counterpart of Theorem 1.2 is:

**Theorem 1.4.** For every solution  $u$  of (0.1) and (0.3) with  $K = 1$ , one and only one of the following holds:

- (i)  $u$  is a constant function and there exists  $\gamma \in \{0, k_1, \dots, k_n, r_1, \dots, r_{n-1}\}$  such that  $|u|^2 = \gamma$ .
- (ii)  $u \in C^\infty$ ,  $|u'|^2 = P_n(|u|^2) > 0$  and there exists  $j \in \{1, \dots, n\}$  such that:
  - (if  $j = 1$ )  $|u|^2 < k_1$  and  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \pm\infty} |u(x)|^2 = k_1$ ,
  - (if  $j > 1$ )  $k_{j-1} < |u|^2 < k_j$  and  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \pm\infty} |u(x)|^2 = l^\pm \in \{k_{j-1}, k_j\}$ .

**Remark 1.5.** Given  $n \geq 1$  and  $M > 1$  there exists a solution  $u$  satisfying (ii) of Theorem 1.4. For example the function  $\alpha v$  where  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}^M$ ,  $|\alpha| = 1$  and  $v$  is a solution of (0.1) and (0.3) with  $K = M = 1$ . The following result proves the existence of such a function  $v$ .

**Theorem 1.6.** *For every solution  $u$  of (0.1) and (0.3) with  $K = M = 1$ , one and only one of the following holds.*

- (i)  *$u$  is a constant function and there exists  $\gamma \in \{0, k_1, \dots, k_n, r_1, \dots, r_{n-1}\}$  such that  $|u|^2 = \gamma$ .*
- (ii) *There exist  $j \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ ,  $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $(\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2) \in \{-1, 1\} \times \{-1, 1\}$  such that  $u(x) = \varepsilon_1 v_j(\varepsilon_2(x - x_0))$ , where  $v_j$  is the unique solution of*

$$\begin{cases} v'_j = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \prod_{i=1}^{j-1} (v_j^2 - k_i) \prod_{s=j}^n (k_s - v_j^2) > 0 \\ v_j(0) = \sqrt{r_{j-1}} \quad \text{if } j > 1, \quad v_1(0) = 0 \quad \text{if } j = 1. \end{cases} \tag{1.3}$$

The next Proposition gives some properties of the  $v_j$ 's, solutions of (1.3).

**Proposition 1.7.** *The solution  $v_j$  satisfies  $k_{j-1} < v_j^2 < k_j$  if  $j > 1$  and  $v_1^2 < k_1$ , moreover, there exist positive constants  $\alpha_j^+, \alpha_j^-, C_j^+, C_j^-$  such that:*

$$\begin{aligned} v_j(x) &= \sqrt{k_j} - C_j^+ e^{-\alpha_j^+ x} + o(e^{-\alpha_j^+ x}) & \text{as } x \rightarrow +\infty \\ v_j(x) &= L(j) + C_j^- e^{\alpha_j^- x} + o(e^{\alpha_j^- x}) & \text{as } x \rightarrow -\infty, \end{aligned}$$

where

$$L(j) := \begin{cases} \sqrt{k_{j-1}} & \text{if } j > 1 \\ -\sqrt{k_1} & \text{if } j = 1. \end{cases}$$

Finally  $v_1$  is an odd function while no symmetry property holds for  $j > 1$  since, in general,  $\alpha_j^+ \neq \alpha_j^-$ .

**Remark 1.8.** The constants  $\alpha_j^+, \alpha_j^-, C_j^+, C_j^-$  depend only on  $k_1, \dots, k_n$  and can be explicitly calculated (see the proof of Proposition 1.7).

Theorems 1.1 and 1.2 state that any finite-energy solution  $u$  of (0.1) satisfies  $|u|^2 \leq k_n$  on  $\mathbb{R}^K$ ; the following question arises in a natural way “does any solution of (0.1) satisfy the bound  $|u|^2 \leq k_n$  on  $\mathbb{R}^K$  ? ” The next Proposition answers this question.

**Proposition 1.9.** *Any solution  $u$  of (0.1) is smooth and satisfies  $|u|^2 \leq k_n$  on  $\mathbb{R}^K$ .*

The proofs are given in Sections 3, 4, 5 and 6.

**2. Preliminary results.** In this section we introduce some auxiliary result which will be used in the sequel.

**Lemma 2.1.** *For any solution  $u = (u_1, \dots, u_M)$  of (0.1) there exists  $\delta > 0$  such that  $\forall i = 1, \dots, M$ :*

$$\Delta(|u_i| - \sqrt{k_n})^+ \geq \delta(|u_i| - \sqrt{k_n})^+ \quad \text{in } \mathcal{D}'(\mathbb{R}^K). \tag{2.1}$$

**Proof.** The proof is in two steps.

**Step 1.** For any  $i \in \{1, \dots, M\}$  we set  $\psi_i := u_i - \sqrt{k_n}$  so that  $\psi_i \in L^1_{loc}$  and  $\Delta\psi_i \in L^1_{loc}$ . By Kato's inequality (see [10]) we have:

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta\psi_i^+ &\geq \text{sign}^+(\psi_i)\Delta\psi_i = \text{sign}^+(u_i - \sqrt{k_n})u_i P'_n(|u|^2) \\ &= \text{sign}^+(u_i - \sqrt{k_n})u_i \prod_{j=1}^n (|u|^2 - k_j) Q_n(|u|^2) \\ &\geq \text{sign}^+(u_i - \sqrt{k_n})u_i \prod_{j=1}^n (|u_i|^2 - k_j) Q_n(|u_i|^2) \end{aligned}$$

the latter follows from the obvious fact that  $Q_n(t)$  as well as  $\prod_{j=1}^n (t - k_j)$  are increasing for  $t \geq k_n$ . Hence

$$\Delta\psi_i^+ \geq \psi_i^+ u_i (|u_i| + \sqrt{k_n}) \prod_{j=1}^{n-1} (|u_i|^2 - k_j) Q_n(|u_i|^2) = S(|u_i|)\psi_i^+, \tag{2.2}$$

where

$$S(t) := \begin{cases} t(t + \sqrt{k_n}) \prod_{j=1}^{n-1} (t^2 - k_j) Q_n(t^2) & \text{if } t > \sqrt{k_n} \\ 2k_n \prod_{j=1}^{n-1} (k_n - k_j) Q_n(k_n) & \text{if } t \leq \sqrt{k_n}. \end{cases}$$

Taking  $0 < \delta \leq S(\sqrt{k_n})$  we have  $\Delta\psi_i^+ \geq \delta\psi_i^+$  in  $\mathcal{D}'(\mathbb{R}^K)$ .

**Step 2.** Note also that the function  $-u$  is a solution of (0.1), then Step 1 applied to  $-u$  yields  $\Delta(-u_i - \sqrt{k_n})^+ \geq \delta(-u_i - \sqrt{k_n})^+$  in  $\mathcal{D}'(\mathbb{R}^K)$ . To prove (2.1) we remark that  $(|u_i| - \sqrt{k_n})^+ = (u_i - \sqrt{k_n})^+ + (-u_i - \sqrt{k_n})^+$ .  $\square$

Now we prove a maximum principle-type result for system (0.1) which is fundamental in the proof of our main results.

**Proposition 2.2.** (i) *Suppose  $u$  satisfies (0.1) and there are  $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^K$ ,  $R_0 > 0$ ,  $C > 0$  and  $h \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $\forall R > R_0$ :*

$$\int_{B_R(x_0)} \left( \prod_{j=1}^n (|u|^2 - k_j)^+ \right)^2 \leq CR^h \tag{2.3}$$

then  $|u|^2 \leq k_n$ . In particular  $u$  is smooth.

(ii) Suppose  $u$  satisfies (0.1) and there are  $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^K$ ,  $R_0 > 0, C > 0, p \in [1, +\infty]$  and  $h \in \mathbf{N}$  such that  $\forall R > R_0$ :

$$\int_{B_R(x_0)} |\nabla u|^p \leq CR^h \text{ if } p < +\infty, \|\nabla u\|_{L^\infty_{B_R(x_0)}} \leq CR^h \text{ if } p = \infty \quad (2.4)$$

then  $|u|^2 \leq k_n$ . In particular  $u$  is smooth.

**Proof.** (i) The proof is in two steps.

**Step 1.** For any  $i \in \{1, \dots, M\}$  we set  $\phi_{i,n} := (|u_i| - \sqrt{k_n})^+$ , then there is a positive constant  $\tilde{C} = \tilde{C}(k_1, \dots, k_n)$  such that  $\phi_{i,n} \leq \tilde{C} \prod_{j=1}^n (|u|^2 - k_j)^+$  in  $\mathbb{R}^K$ . From (2.3) and Cauchy-Schwartz inequality we have:

$$\forall R > R_0, \int_{B_R(x_0)} \phi_{i,n} \leq C_0 R^{\frac{h+K}{2}}, \quad (2.5)$$

where  $C_0$  is a positive constant which depends only  $k_1, \dots, k_n, K$  and  $C$ .

Now by mathematical induction we can prove that  $\forall m \in \mathbf{N}$  there exists  $C_m > 0$ :

$$\forall R > R_0, \int_{B_R(x_0)} \phi_{i,n} \leq C_m R^{\frac{h+K}{2} - 2m}. \quad (2.6)$$

To prove (2.6) we use (2.1) and the test functions  $\xi_R(x) := \xi_0(\frac{x-x_0}{R})$  where  $\xi_0$  is a smooth fixed function satisfying  $0 \leq \xi \leq 1$ ,  $\xi(x) = 1$  for  $|x| \leq 1$  and  $\xi(x) = 0$  for  $|x| \geq 2$ . More precisely we have,  $\forall R > R_0$ ,

$$\int_{B_R(x_0)} \phi_{i,n} \leq \int_{\mathbb{R}^K} \phi_{i,n} \xi_R \leq \delta \int_{\mathbb{R}^K} \phi_{i,n} \Delta \xi_R \leq \frac{C}{R^2} \int_{B_{2R}(x_0)} \phi_{i,n},$$

where  $C$  is a constant depending only on  $k_1, \dots, k_n$  and  $\|\Delta \xi_0\|_{L^\infty}$  but not on  $R$ . The induction hypothesis applied to the latter inequality leads immediately to (2.6).

Now fixing  $m > \frac{h+K}{4}$  and letting  $R \rightarrow +\infty$  in (2.6) we obtain:

$$\phi_{i,n} \equiv 0, \quad \forall i = 1, \dots, M \quad \text{that is} \quad |u_i| \leq \sqrt{k_n}, \quad \forall i = 1, \dots, M. \quad (2.7)$$

**Step 2.** From (2.7), making use of the Gagliardo-Nirenberg inequality and regularity results for weak and “very-weak ” solutions of elliptic problems (see [1], [3], [7]), we deduce the smoothness of  $u$  and then we can apply

Kato’s inequality to the function  $\psi := |u|^2 - k_n$ . By the same method used in Lemma 2.1 we obtain

$$\Delta(|u|^2 - k_n)^+ \geq \sigma(|u|^2 - k_n)^+ \quad \text{in } \mathcal{D}'(\mathbb{R}^K), \tag{2.8}$$

where  $\sigma > 0$ . Now, as already done in Step 1, we prove the validity of (2.6) for the function  $\psi^+$  and we conclude that  $\psi^+ \equiv 0$ , that is  $|u|^2 \leq k_n$ .

(ii) From (2.4), making use of distributional inequality (2.1) and test functions  $\xi_R$ , already used in the first part of this proof, we have:

$$\forall R > R_0 > 1, \quad \int_{B_R(x_0)} \phi_{i,n} \leq C_0 R^{h+K-1}, \tag{2.9}$$

where  $C_0$  is a positive constant which depends only on  $k_1, \dots, k_n, N, p$  and  $C$ . Note that (2.9) is (2.5) (where  $\frac{h+K}{2}$  is replaced by  $h + K - 1$ ). Using the same inductive method as in Step 1 we can conclude that  $|u|^2 \leq k_n$ .

**Lemma 2.3.** *Let  $u$  be a smooth solution of (0.1) and (0.3). Given  $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^K$ ,  $R_0 > 0$  and  $m \in \mathbf{N}^+$  there are  $C_1 > 0, C_2 > 0$  such that:*

$$\forall R > R_0, \quad \int_{B_R(x_0)} |u|^2 (P'_n(|u|^2))^{2m} \leq C_1 + C_2 R^{\alpha_m}, \tag{2.10}$$

where  $\alpha_m := 2^{-m}(K - 2^{m+1} + 2)$  and  $C_1, C_2$  do not depend on  $R$ .

**Proof.** Since  $u$  is smooth we have:

$$\frac{1}{2} \Delta |u|^2 = |u|^2 P'_n(|u|^2) + |\nabla u|^2. \tag{2.11}$$

Multiplying (2.11) by  $P'_n(|u|^2)\xi_R$ , where  $\xi_R$  is the test function used in the proof of Proposition 2.2, and integrating by parts over  $\mathbb{R}^K$  yields,  $\forall R > R_0$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{B_R(x_0)} |u|^2 (P'_n(|u|^2))^2 \leq \int_{\mathbb{R}^K} |u|^2 (P'_n(|u|^2))^2 \xi_R \\ &= -\frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^K} (\nabla |u|^2 \cdot \nabla P'_n(|u|^2)) \xi_R - \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^K} (\nabla |u|^2 \cdot \nabla \xi_R) P'_n(|u|^2) \\ & \quad - \int_{\mathbb{R}^K} |\nabla u|^2 P'_n(|u|^2) \xi_R \\ & \leq \frac{1}{2} \int_{B_{2R}(x_0)} |\nabla |u|^2|^2 P''_n(|u|^2) \xi_R + A \left( \int_{B_{2R}(x_0)} |\nabla |u|^2|^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} R^{\frac{K}{2}-1} + B, \end{aligned}$$

where  $A, B$  are constants independent of  $R$ . This proves (2.10) for  $m = 1$ . To prove (2.10) for  $m > 1$  we use induction. It is enough to multiply the identity (2.11) by  $(P'_n(|u|^2))^{2m+1}\xi_R$ , integrate by parts and use the induction hypothesis with together (0.3).



**3. Quantization effects.**

**Proof of Theorem 1.1.** Assertion (i) follows immediately from (0.2) and Proposition 2.2, in particular  $u$  is smooth. Going back to (0.1) and using the fact that  $u$  is smooth and bounded together with standard elliptic estimates (see [7]) we obtain  $\nabla u \in L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^2)$ . To prove (ii) we claim that for  $\epsilon > 0$  small enough and all  $i = 1, \dots, n - 1$ , the sets

$$B^{0,\epsilon} := \{x \in \mathbb{R}^2 : |u(x)|^2 \leq k_1 - \epsilon\},$$

$$B^{i,\epsilon} := \{x \in \mathbb{R}^2 : k_i + \epsilon \leq |u(x)|^2 \leq k_{i+1} - \epsilon\}$$

are bounded. Suppose not, then there exist  $l \in \{0, \dots, n - 1\}$  and a sequence  $\{x_n\} \in B^{l,\epsilon}$  such that  $|x_n| \rightarrow \infty$ . Let  $M := \|\nabla|u|^2\|_{L^\infty}$ , then:

$$|u(y)|^2 - M|y - x| \leq |u(x)|^2 \leq |u(y)|^2 + M|y - x| \quad \forall (x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^K \times \mathbb{R}^K$$

thus, we have for  $x$  in  $B_{\frac{\epsilon}{2M}}(x_n)$ ,

$$|u(x)|^2 \leq k_1 - \frac{\epsilon}{2} \quad \text{if } l = 0, \quad k_l + \frac{\epsilon}{2} \leq |u(x)|^2 \leq k_{l+1} - \frac{\epsilon}{2} \quad \text{if } l > 1.$$

Hence,

$$\int_{B_{\frac{\epsilon}{2M}}(x_n)} P_n(|u|^2) \geq \left(\frac{\epsilon}{2}\right)^{2n+2} \frac{\pi}{M^2}$$

which contradicts (0.2) since  $|x_n| \rightarrow \infty$ .

Suppose  $\bigcup_{l=0}^{n-1} B^{l,\epsilon} \subset B_{\lambda_\epsilon}(0)$ . Since  $\mathbb{R}^2 \setminus B_{\lambda_\epsilon}(0)$  is a connected set we deduce that there is an integer  $j \in \{1, \dots, n\}$  and  $\bar{\epsilon} > 0$  such that

$$\forall 0 < \epsilon < \bar{\epsilon}, \quad \exists R_\epsilon > 0 : k_j - \epsilon \leq |u(x)|^2 \leq k_j + \epsilon \quad \forall x \in \mathbb{R}^2 : |x| > R_\epsilon \quad (3.1)$$

then the desired conclusion follows.

To prove (iii) we follow [5]. From (ii) we deduce that there exists  $R_0 > 0$  such that  $\frac{4}{5}k_j \leq |u(x)|^2 \leq \frac{3}{2}k_j$  when  $|x| > R_0$ ; then the topological degree of  $u$ ,  $d := \text{deg}(u, S_R)$  is well-defined and independent of  $R$  for  $R \geq R_0$ . Without loss of generality we may assume that  $d \geq 0$  (the general case follows by complex conjugation). Hence we may write  $u(x) = |u(x)|e^{i(\theta d + \psi(x))} = \rho(x)e^{i\varphi(x)}$  where  $\rho(x) = |u(x)|$  and  $\varphi(x) = \theta d + \psi(x)$ . Note that  $\varphi$  is well-defined as a single-valued function only locally on  $\{|x| \geq R_0\}$  while  $\psi$  and  $\nabla\varphi$  are smooth and well-defined globally on  $\{|x| \geq R_0\}$ . A basic estimate is the following:

**Proposition 3.1.** *We have*

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^2 \setminus B_{R_0}} |\nabla \rho|^2 + |\nabla \psi|^2 < \infty. \quad (3.2)$$

**Proof.** Writing (0.1) in terms of  $\rho$  and  $\varphi$  and then separating the real and imaginary parts we get:

$$\begin{cases} \rho \Delta \varphi + 2 \nabla \rho \cdot \nabla \varphi = \operatorname{div}(\rho^2 \nabla \varphi) = 0 & \text{for } |x| > R_0 \\ \Delta \rho - \rho |\nabla \varphi|^2 = \rho P'_n(\rho^2) & \text{for } |x| > R_0. \end{cases} \quad (3.3)$$

$$(3.4)$$

Now following [5] (see Prop. 1 therein) we get, for every  $R > R_0$ ,

$$\int_{S_R} \rho^2 \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial \nu} = 0, \quad (3.5)$$

where  $S_R := \{x \in \mathbb{R}^2 : |x| = R\}$ . Set  $A_R := B_R \setminus B_{R_0}$ , then from (3.3) and (3.5) we get

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{4}{5} k_j \int_{A_R} |\nabla \psi|^2 &\leq \int_{A_R} \rho^2 |\nabla \psi|^2 \\ &\leq \frac{3}{2} k_j \int_{S_R} \left| \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial \nu} \right| |\psi - \psi_R| + \int_{A_R} |k_j - \rho^2| \frac{d}{r} |\nabla \psi| + C \end{aligned} \quad (3.6)$$

and then (see [5])

$$\int_{A_R} |\nabla \psi|^2 \leq \frac{R}{\beta} \int_{S_R} |\nabla \psi|^2 + C_1 \left( \int_{A_R} |\nabla \psi|^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} + C_2 \text{ with } \beta = \frac{16}{15} > 1. \quad (3.7)$$

Moreover,  $\forall R > R_0$ , we have:

$$\int_{A_R} |\nabla \psi|^2 \leq \frac{2}{k_1} \int_{B_R} |\nabla u|^2 \leq CR \text{ with } C \text{ independent of } R. \quad (3.8)$$

From (3.7), (3.8) and Lemma 1 in [5] we get

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^2 \setminus B_{R_0}} |\nabla \psi|^2 < \infty. \quad (3.9)$$

It is immediate to prove that

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^2 \setminus B_{R_0}} |\sqrt{k_j} - \rho| |\nabla \varphi|^2 < \infty$$

then the method used in [5] yields:

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^2 \setminus B_{R_0}} |\nabla \rho|^2 < \infty. \tag{3.10}$$

With (3.9) and (3.10) we conclude the proof of Proposition 3.1.

Now we are in position to prove assertion (iii). The Pohozaev method applied to (0.1) asserts that, for every  $r > 0$ ,

$$\frac{1}{2} \int_{S_r} \left| \frac{\partial u}{\partial \nu} \right|^2 + \frac{1}{r} \int_{B_r} P_n(|u|^2) = \frac{1}{2} \int_{S_r} \left| \frac{\partial u}{\partial \tau} \right|^2 + \frac{1}{2} \int_{S_r} P_n(|u|^2). \tag{3.11}$$

Set

$$E = \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} P_n(|u|^2) \quad \text{and} \quad E(r) = \int_{B_r} P_n(|u|^2)$$

then

$$E(R) \rightarrow E \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{1}{\log R} \int_0^R \frac{E(r)}{r} dr \rightarrow E \quad \text{as } R \rightarrow \infty. \tag{3.12}$$

Integrating (3.11) for  $r \in (0, R)$  and dividing by  $\log R$  we have

$$\frac{1}{2 \log R} \int_{B_R} \left| \frac{\partial u}{\partial \nu} \right|^2 + \frac{1}{\log R} \int_0^R \frac{E(r)}{r} dr = \frac{1}{2 \log R} \int_{B_R} \left| \frac{\partial u}{\partial \tau} \right|^2 + \frac{E(R)}{2 \log R}. \tag{3.13}$$

Note that, for  $r > R_0$ , (as in [5]):

$$\left| \frac{\partial u}{\partial \nu} \right|^2 \leq |\nabla \rho|^2 + k_n |\nabla \psi|^2 \tag{3.14}$$

$$\left| \frac{\partial u}{\partial \tau} \right|^2 = \left| \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial \tau} \right|^2 + \rho^2 \left| \frac{\partial \varphi}{\partial \tau} \right|^2 = \left| \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial \tau} \right|^2 + \rho^2 \left( \frac{d}{r} + \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial \tau} \right)^2 \tag{3.15}$$

hence

$$\left| \left| \frac{\partial u}{\partial \tau} \right|^2 - \frac{k_j d^2}{r^2} \right| \leq |\nabla \rho|^2 + \frac{|k_j - \rho^2| d^2}{r^2} + \frac{2k_n d}{r} |\nabla \psi| + k_n |\nabla \psi|^2. \tag{3.16}$$

From (3.14) and Proposition 3.1 we deduce that

$$\int_{B_R} \left| \frac{\partial u}{\partial \nu} \right|^2 \leq C \quad \text{as } R \rightarrow \infty, \quad (3.17)$$

and similarly

$$\int_{B_R \setminus B_{R_0}} \left| \left| \frac{\partial u}{\partial \tau} \right|^2 - \frac{k_j d^2}{r^2} \right| \leq C(\log R)^{\frac{1}{2}} \quad \text{as } R \rightarrow \infty. \quad (3.18)$$

Hence

$$\frac{1}{2 \log R} \int_{B_R} \left| \frac{\partial u}{\partial \tau} \right|^2 \rightarrow \pi k_j d^2 \quad \text{as } R \rightarrow \infty. \quad (3.19)$$

Combining (3.12), (3.13) and (3.17), (3.19) we obtain  $E = \pi k_j d^2$ .

This completes the proof of (iii).

#### 4. Liouville-type results and Pohozaev-type identities.

**Proof of Theorem 1.2.** The proof is in three steps.

##### Step 1.

**Lemma 4.1.** *For every solution  $u$  of (0.1) and (0.3) with  $K > 1$  one and only one of the following holds:*

- (i)  $u \in L^2(\mathbb{R}^K, \mathbb{R}^M)$  and  $|u| \rightarrow 0$  as  $|x| \rightarrow \infty$ .
- (ii) There exists  $\gamma \in \{k_1, \dots, k_n, r_1, \dots, r_{n-1}\}$  such that

$$(|u|^2 - \gamma) \in L^2(\mathbb{R}^K) \quad \text{and} \quad |u|^2 \rightarrow \gamma \quad \text{as } |x| \rightarrow \infty.$$

**Proof.** The proof is in two steps.

**Step 1.** From Proposition 2.2 we know that  $u$  is smooth and bounded, then  $\nabla u \in L^\infty$ .

Consider inequality (2.10) and fix  $m \in \mathbf{N}$  such that  $\alpha_m \leq 0$  (for example  $m \geq \log_2(K + 2) - 1$ ). Then

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^K} |u|^2 \prod_{j=1}^n (|u|^2 - k_n)^{2m} \prod_{s=1}^{n-1} (|u|^2 - r_s)^{2m} < \infty. \quad (4.1)$$

Note that,  $\forall \epsilon > 0$  small enough and  $\forall i = 1, \dots, n, \forall j = 1, \dots, n - 1$ , the sets

$$\begin{aligned} B^{i,\epsilon} &:= \{x \in \mathbb{R}^K : r_{i-1} + \epsilon < |u|^2 < k_i - \epsilon\}, \\ X^{j,\epsilon} &:= \{x \in \mathbb{R}^K : k_j + \epsilon < |u|^2 < r_j - \epsilon\} \end{aligned}$$

are bounded (here  $r_0 = 0$ ). This follows easily from (4.1) and the fact that  $\nabla u \in L^\infty$ .

Suppose  $(\cup_{i=1}^n B^{i,\epsilon}) \cup (\cup_{j=1}^{n-1} X^{j,\epsilon}) \subset B_{\lambda_\epsilon}(0)$ . Since  $\mathbb{R}^K \setminus B_{\lambda_\epsilon}(0)$  is connected we deduce that there are  $\gamma \in \{0, k_1, \dots, k_n, r_1, \dots, r_{n-1}\}$  and  $\bar{\epsilon} > 0$  such that

$$\forall 0 < \epsilon < \bar{\epsilon}, \exists R_\epsilon > 0 : \gamma - \epsilon \leq |u(x)|^2 \leq \gamma + \epsilon, \forall x \in \mathbb{R}^K : |x| > R_\epsilon. \quad (4.2)$$

If  $\gamma = 0$  this proves (i) while when  $\gamma \neq 0$  we have

$$(|u|^2 - \gamma) \in L^{2m}(\mathbb{R}^K) \quad \text{and} \quad |u|^2 \rightarrow \gamma \quad \text{as} \quad |x| \rightarrow \infty. \quad (4.3)$$

**Step 2.** Here we prove (ii). By (4.3) and induction we prove that  $\forall m \in \mathbb{N}^+$  there are  $R_0 > 0, C_1 > 0, C_2 > 0$  such that  $\forall R > R_0$  :

$$\int_{B_R(0)} (|u|^2 - \gamma)^2 \leq C_1 + C_2 R^{\alpha_m}, \quad (4.4)$$

where  $\alpha_m$  was defined in Lemma 2.3. From Step 1, there are  $R_0 > 0, \beta > 0$  such that  $(|u|^2 - \gamma)^2 \leq \beta |u|^2 (P'_n(|u|^2))^2$  when  $|x| > R_0$ . Hence,  $\forall R > R_0$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{B_R(0)} (|u|^2 - \gamma)^2 &= \int_{B_{R_0}(0)} (|u|^2 - \gamma)^2 + \int_{B_R(0) \setminus B_{R_0}(0)} (|u|^2 - \gamma)^2 \\ &\leq A + \beta \int_{B_R(0) \setminus B_{R_0}(0)} |u|^2 (P'_n(|u|^2))^2 \\ &\leq A + \beta \int_{\mathbb{R}^K} |u|^2 (P'_n(|u|^2))^2 \xi_R, \end{aligned} \quad (4.5)$$

where  $\xi_R$  is the cut-off function defined in the proof of Prop. 2.2 (with  $x_0 = 0$ ) and  $A$  is a constant independent of  $R$ . Now, from (2.11), we get

$$|u|^2 (P'_n(|u|^2))^2 \xi_R = \frac{1}{2} (\Delta |u|^2) P'_n(|u|^2) \xi_R - |\nabla u|^2 P'_n(|u|^2) \xi_R. \quad (4.6)$$

Combining (4.5) and (4.6) we obtain:

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{B_R(0)} (|u|^2 - \gamma)^2 &\leq A + \frac{\beta}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^K} (\Delta|u|^2)P'_n(|u|^2)\xi_R - \beta \int_{\mathbb{R}^K} |\nabla u|^2 P'_n(|u|^2)\xi_R \\ &\leq A - \frac{\beta}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^K} (\nabla|u|^2 \cdot \nabla P'_n(|u|^2))\xi_R \\ &\quad - \frac{\beta}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^K} (\nabla|u|^2 \cdot \nabla \xi_R)P'_n(|u|^2) - \beta \int_{\mathbb{R}^K} |\nabla u|^2 P'_n(|u|^2)\xi_R \\ &\leq A + B \int_{B_{2R}(0)} |\nabla|u|^2|^2 + C \int_{B_{2R}(0)} |\nabla|u|^2|^2)^{\frac{1}{2}} R^{\frac{K}{2}-1}, \end{aligned}$$

where  $A, B, C$  are constants independent of  $R$ . This proves (4.4) for  $m = 1$ . Inequality (4.4) for  $m > 1$  is now proved by induction, making use of (4.5) and (4.6).

**Step 2.** From Lemma 4.1, we deduce that there exists  $\gamma \in \{0, k_1, \dots, k_n, r_1, \dots, r_{n-1}\}$  such that  $P_{n,\gamma}(|u|^2) \in L^1(\mathbb{R}^K)$ . Hence, we can prove a Pohozaev type identity for the system (0.1). Taking the inner product in  $\mathbb{R}^K$ , of both sides of (0.1) with  $(x \cdot \nabla u)\xi_R$ , where  $\xi_R$  is the cut-off function defined in the proof of Prop. 2.2, integrating by parts over  $\mathbb{R}^K$  we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\mathbb{R}^K} \Delta u \cdot (x \cdot \nabla u)\xi_R &= \left(\frac{k}{2} - 1\right) \int_{\mathbb{R}^K} |\nabla u|^2 \xi_R \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^K} (x \cdot \nabla \xi_R)|\nabla u|^2 - \int_{\mathbb{R}^K} (\nabla u \cdot x) \cdot (\nabla u \cdot \nabla \xi_R) \end{aligned} \tag{4.7}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\mathbb{R}^K} u P'_n(|u|^2)(x \cdot \nabla u)\xi_R &= \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^K} (x \cdot \nabla P_{n,\gamma}(|u|^2))\xi_R \\ &= -\frac{K}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^K} P_{n,\gamma}(|u|^2)\xi_R - \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^K} P_{n,\gamma}(|u|^2)(x \cdot \nabla \xi_R). \end{aligned} \tag{4.8}$$

Note that

$$\begin{aligned} &\left| \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^K} (x \cdot \nabla \xi_R)|\nabla u|^2 - \int_{\mathbb{R}^K} (\nabla u \cdot x) \cdot (\nabla u \cdot \nabla \xi_R) \right| \\ &\leq C \int_{\mathbb{R}^K} |x||\nabla u|^2|\nabla \xi_R| \leq C \int_{B_{2R} \setminus B_R} |\nabla u|^2 \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } R \rightarrow \infty \end{aligned} \tag{4.9}$$

since  $\nabla u \in L^2(\mathbb{R}^K)$ . Moreover,

$$\left| \int_{\mathbb{R}^K} P_{n,\gamma}(|u|^2)(x \cdot \nabla \xi_R) \right| \leq C \int_{B_{2R} \setminus B_R} |P_{n,\gamma}(|u|^2)| \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } R \rightarrow \infty \tag{4.10}$$

since  $P_{n,\gamma}(|u|^2) \in L^1(\mathbb{R}^K)$ . Combining (0.1), (4.7), (4.8), (4.9) and (4.10) we deduce the following Pohozaev identity

$$\left(\frac{K}{2} - 1\right) \int_{\mathbb{R}^K} |\nabla u|^2 = -\frac{K}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^K} P_{n,\gamma}(|u|^2). \tag{4.11}$$

**Step 3.** Suppose that  $\gamma \in \{k_1, \dots, k_n\}$ , then  $P_{n,\gamma} = P_n \geq 0$ . Hence  $|u|^2 = \gamma$  and  $\nabla u = 0$  follow immediately from (4.11) when  $K > 2$  (the left-hand side is non-negative while the right-hand side is non-positive). For  $K = 2$ ,  $|u|^2 = \gamma$  still holds and we conclude applying Liouville's Theorem to equation (0.1). Suppose  $\gamma \in \{0, r_1, \dots, r_{n-1}\}$  then assertions (ii) and (iii) follows from (0.3), Prop.2.2, Lemma 4.1 and (4.11). This completes the proof of Theorem 1.2.

**Proof of Corollary 1.3.** (i) Let  $u$  be a solution of the Ginzburg-Landau system  $-\Delta u = u(1 - |u|^2)$  in  $\mathbb{R}^K$  satisfying (0.3) with  $K > 1$ . Taking the inner product of  $-\Delta u = u(1 - |u|^2)$  and  $u\xi_R$ , integrating by parts over  $\mathbb{R}^K$  we get:

$$-\int_{\mathbb{R}^K} |\nabla u|^2 = \int_{\mathbb{R}^K} |u|^2(|u|^2 - 1). \tag{4.12}$$

Combining (4.12) and Pohozaev identity (4.11) we get  $|u| = 0$ .

(ii) From (0.4) we deduce that there exists  $j \in \{1, \dots, n\}$  such that  $|u|^2 \rightarrow k_j$  as  $|x| \rightarrow \infty$ , then the conclusion follows invoking Theorem 1.2.

**5. The one-dimensional case.**

**Proof of Theorem 1.4.** From (2.10) with  $m = 1$  we have

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}} |u|^2 \prod_{j=1}^n (|u|^2 - k_n)^2 \prod_{s=1}^{n-1} (|u|^2 - r_s)^2 < \infty, \tag{5.1}$$

then there are  $\gamma^\pm \in \{0, k_1, \dots, k_n, r_1, \dots, r_{n-1}\}$  such that  $|u|^2 \rightarrow \gamma^\pm$  as  $x \rightarrow \pm\infty$ . Integrating (0.1) we obtain

$$|u'|^2 = P_{n,\gamma^\pm}(|u|^2) + c^\pm,$$

where  $c^\pm$  are constants. Since  $|u'|^2 \in L^1(\mathbb{R})$ , we have

$$|u'|^2 = P_{n,\gamma^\pm}(|u|^2). \tag{5.2}$$

Moreover, we remark that

$$P_{n,0}(t) \leq 0 \quad \forall t \in [0, k_n], \tag{5.3}$$

$$P_{n,r_s}(t) < 0 \quad \forall t \in (k_s, k_{s+1}) \setminus \{r_s\}, \quad \forall s = 1, \dots, n-1. \tag{5.4}$$

If  $\gamma^+$  or  $\gamma^- \in \{0, r_1, \dots, r_{n-1}\}$ , from (5.3), (5.4), we obtain that  $u$  is a constant function and  $|u|^2 = \gamma^+ = \gamma^-$  (i.e.  $u$  satisfies (i) of Theorem 1.4). Now, suppose  $\gamma^\pm \in \{k_1, \dots, k_n\}$ . If  $u$  is not a constant function it is immediate to check that  $u$  satisfies assertion (ii).

**Proof of Theorem 1.6.** In view of Theorem 1.4 it is enough to prove the existence of functions  $v_j$  satisfying the Cauchy problem (1.3) and check that any non-constant solution  $u$  of (0.1) and (0.3) is of the form  $u(x) = \varepsilon_1 v_j(\varepsilon_2(x - x_0))$  where  $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $(\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2) \in \{-1, 1\} \times \{-1, 1\}$ . For any  $j \in \{1, \dots, n\}$  existence and uniqueness of  $v_j$  is an immediate consequence of ordinary differential equations theory. We remark that equation (0.1) is invariant with respect x-axis and y-axis reflections, then we may assume  $u' > 0$  and  $\lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} u(x) \in \{\sqrt{k_1}, \dots, \sqrt{k_n}\}$ . It follows that  $\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} u(x) = -\sqrt{k_1}$ , if  $j=1$  and  $\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} u(x) = \sqrt{k_{j-1}}$ , if  $j > 1$ . Hence, there is  $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}$  such that  $u(x_0) = 0$ , if  $j=1$  and  $u(x_0) = \sqrt{r_{j-1}}$ , if  $j > 1$ . Now we use the translation invariance of (0.1) and the uniqueness of the solution in a Cauchy problem to conclude that  $u(x) = v_j(x - x_0)$ .

**Proof of Proposition 1.7.** Existence and uniqueness for the Cauchy problem (1.3) follow from ordinary differential equations theory, moreover solution  $v_j$  is defined over all  $\mathbb{R}$ . It is immediate to check that:  $v_j'(x) > 0, \forall j = 1, \dots, n; k_{j-1} < v_j^2 < k_j$  if  $j > 1$  and  $v_1^2 < k_1, \forall x \in \mathbb{R}$ . Hence

$$x(v_j) = \int_{\sqrt{r_{j-1}}}^{v_j} \frac{\sqrt{2}}{\prod_{i=1}^{j-1}(t^2 - k_i) \prod_{s=j}^n (k_s - t^2)} dt, \tag{5.5}$$

where  $r_0 = 0$ . From (5.5) it follows that  $x \rightarrow +\infty$  iff  $v_j \rightarrow \sqrt{k_j}$  and  $x \rightarrow -\infty$  iff  $v_j \rightarrow L(j)$ . It remains to prove the rate of convergence of  $v_j$  to  $\infty$ . To do so we write the function  $\frac{\sqrt{2}}{\prod_{i=1}^{j-1}(t^2 - k_i) \prod_{s=j}^n (k_s - t^2)}$  in a different way. It is easy to prove that there are real constants  $B_i$  and  $C_s$ , depending only on  $k_1, \dots, k_n$ , such that:

$$\frac{\sqrt{2}}{\prod_{i=1}^{j-1}(t^2 - k_i) \prod_{s=j}^n (k_s - t^2)} = \sum_{i=1}^{j-1} \frac{B_i}{(t^2 - k_i)} + \sum_{s=j}^n \frac{C_s}{(k_s - t^2)} \tag{5.6}$$



then a direct integration yields

$$\begin{aligned} x(v_j) &= \sum_{i=1}^{j-1} \frac{B_i}{2\sqrt{k_i}} \left[ \log \left( \frac{v_j - \sqrt{k_i}}{v_j + \sqrt{k_i}} \right) - \log \delta_i \right] \\ &\quad + \sum_{s=j}^n \frac{C_s}{2\sqrt{k_s}} \left[ \log \left( \frac{\sqrt{k_s} + v_j}{\sqrt{k_s} - v_j} \right) - \log \sigma_s \right] \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^{j-1} \log \left[ \left( \frac{1}{\delta_i} \frac{v_j - \sqrt{k_i}}{v_j + \sqrt{k_i}} \right)^{\beta_i} \right] + \sum_{s=j}^n \log \left[ \left( \frac{1}{\sigma_s} \frac{\sqrt{k_s} + v_j}{\sqrt{k_s} - v_j} \right)^{\gamma_s} \right], \end{aligned} \tag{5.7}$$

where  $\beta_i := \frac{A_i}{2\sqrt{k_i}}$ ,  $\delta_i := \frac{\sqrt{r_{j-1}} - \sqrt{k_i}}{\sqrt{r_{j-1}} + \sqrt{k_i}} > 0$ ,  $\gamma_s := \frac{B_s}{2\sqrt{k_s}}$ ,  $\sigma_s := \frac{\sqrt{k_s} + \sqrt{r_{j-1}}}{\sqrt{k_s} - \sqrt{r_{j-1}}} > 0$ . Hence,

$$x(v_j) = \log \left[ \theta \prod_{i=1}^{j-1} \left( \frac{v_j - \sqrt{k_i}}{v_j + \sqrt{k_i}} \right)^{\beta_i} \prod_{s=j}^n \left( \frac{\sqrt{k_s} + v_j}{\sqrt{k_s} - v_j} \right)^{\gamma_s} \right], \tag{5.8}$$

where  $\theta := \prod_{i=1}^{j-1} \delta_i^{-\beta_i} \prod_{s=j}^n \sigma_s^{-\gamma_s} > 0$ .

Let us consider the case when  $x$  goes to  $+\infty$  (the case when  $x$  goes to  $-\infty$  is treated in the same way). From (5.8) we have

$$e^{-x} \theta \prod_{i=1}^{j-1} \left( \frac{v_j(x) - \sqrt{k_i}}{v_j(x) + \sqrt{k_i}} \right)^{\beta_i} \prod_{s=j+1}^n \left( \frac{\sqrt{k_s} + v_j(x)}{\sqrt{k_s} - v_j(x)} \right)^{\gamma_s} = \left( \frac{\sqrt{k_j} - v_j(x)}{\sqrt{k_j} + v_j(x)} \right)^{\gamma_j} \tag{5.9}$$

since  $v_j \rightarrow \sqrt{k_j}$  as  $x \rightarrow +\infty$  we have that  $\gamma_j > 0$  and

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &\leq \sqrt{k_j} - v_j(x) \\ &= \theta^{\frac{1}{\gamma_j}} e^{-\frac{x}{\gamma_j}} \prod_{i=1}^{j-1} \left( \frac{v_j(x) - \sqrt{k_i}}{v_j(x) + \sqrt{k_i}} \right)^{\frac{\beta_i}{\gamma_j}} \prod_{s=j+1}^n \left( \frac{\sqrt{k_s} + v_j(x)}{\sqrt{k_s} - v_j(x)} \right)^{\frac{\gamma_s}{\gamma_j}} (\sqrt{k_j} + v_j), \end{aligned} \tag{5.10}$$

hence, the desired conclusion follows taking  $\alpha_j^+ = \frac{1}{\gamma_j}$  and

$$\begin{aligned} C_j^+ &= 2\sqrt{k_j} \prod_{i=1}^{j-1} \left[ \frac{(\sqrt{r_{j-1}} + \sqrt{k_i})(\sqrt{k_j} - \sqrt{k_i})}{(\sqrt{r_{j-1}} - \sqrt{k_i})(\sqrt{k_j} + \sqrt{k_i})} \right]^{\frac{\beta_i}{\gamma_j}} \\ &\quad \times \prod_{s=j+1}^n \left[ \frac{(\sqrt{k_s} - \sqrt{r_{j-1}})(\sqrt{k_s} + \sqrt{k_j})}{(\sqrt{k_s} + \sqrt{r_{j-1}})(\sqrt{k_s} - \sqrt{k_j})} \right]^{\frac{\gamma_s}{\gamma_j}}. \end{aligned}$$

To conclude we note that  $v_1$  is an odd function, since both  $v_1$  and  $w = -v_1(-x)$  are solutions of the Cauchy problem (1.3) with  $j = 1$ , while no symmetry property holds for  $j > 1$  since, in general,  $\alpha_j^+ \neq \alpha_j^-$  as it can be easily seen from our proof (or by a direct calculation).

**6. Boundedness of solutions.** The proof of the Proposition 1.9 is based on the following result proved by H. Brezis in [4].

**Lemma 6.1.** *Let  $p > 1$  and assume  $v \in L_{loc}^p(\mathbb{R}^K)$  satisfies*

$$-\Delta v + |v|^{p-1}v \leq 0 \quad \text{in } \mathcal{D}'(\mathbb{R}^K). \quad (6.1)$$

Then  $v \leq 0$  a.e. on  $\mathbb{R}^K$ .

**Proof of Proposition 1.9.** The proof is in two steps.

**Step 1.** We claim that there exists  $\delta > 0$  such that  $\forall i = 1, \dots, M$

$$-\Delta(|u_i| - \sqrt{k_n})^+ + \delta[(|u_i| - \sqrt{k_n})^+]^2 \leq 0 \quad \text{in } \mathcal{D}'(\mathbb{R}^K). \quad (6.2)$$

For any  $i \in \{1, \dots, M\}$  we set  $\psi_i := u_i - \sqrt{k_n}$  so that (2.2) holds true. Then we have

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta \psi_i^+ &\geq \psi_i^+ u_i (|u_i| + \sqrt{k_n}) \prod_{j=1}^{n-1} (|u_i|^2 - k_j) Q_n(|u_i|^2) \\ &= \psi_i^+ (u_i - \sqrt{k_n}) (|u_i| + \sqrt{k_n}) \prod_{j=1}^{n-1} (|u_i|^2 - k_j) Q_n(|u_i|^2) \\ &\quad + \sqrt{k_n} \psi_i^+ (|u_i| + \sqrt{k_n}) \prod_{j=1}^{n-1} (|u_i|^2 - k_j) Q_n(|u_i|^2) \geq \tilde{S}(|u_i|) (\psi_i^+)^2, \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\tilde{S}(t) := \begin{cases} (t + \sqrt{k_n}) \prod_{j=1}^{n-1} (t^2 - k_j) Q_n(t^2) & \text{if } t > \sqrt{k_n} \\ 2\sqrt{k_n} \prod_{j=1}^{n-1} (k_n - k_j) Q_n(k_n) & \text{if } t \leq \sqrt{k_n}. \end{cases}$$

Taking  $0 < \delta \leq \tilde{S}(\sqrt{k_n})$  we have  $-\Delta \psi_i^+ + \delta (\psi_i^+)^2 \leq 0$  in  $\mathcal{D}'(\mathbb{R}^K)$ .

Now, with the same method used in the proof of Lemma 2.1 (Step 2), we obtain (6.2).

Applying Lemma 6.1 to  $v = \delta(|u_i| - \sqrt{k_n})^+$ , with  $p = 2$ , we get:

$$|u_i| \leq \sqrt{k_n} \quad \forall i = 1, \dots, M. \quad (6.3)$$

**Step 2.** From (6.3), as already done in the proof of Prop. 2.2 (part (i), Step 2), we deduce the smoothness of  $u$  and then we can apply Kato's inequality to the function  $\psi := |u|^2 - k_n$ . By the same method used in Step 1 we obtain

$$-\Delta\psi^+ + \sigma(\psi^+)^2 \leq 0 \quad \text{in } \mathcal{D}'(\mathbb{R}^K),$$

where  $\sigma > 0$ . The desired conclusion follows applying Lemma 6.1 to  $\sigma\psi^+$  with  $p = 2$ .

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