

# Relaxation for an optimal design problem with linear growth and perimeter penalization

GRAÇA CARITA\*, ELVIRA ZAPPALE†

April 7, 2014

## Abstract

The paper is devoted to the relaxation and integral representation in the space of functions of bounded variation for an integral energy arising from optimal design problems. The presence of a perimeter penalization is also considered in order to avoid non existence of admissible solutions, besides this leads to an interaction in the limit energy. Also more general models have been taken into account.

**Keywords:** Relaxation, functions of bounded variation, perimeter penalization.  
**MSC2010 classification:** 49J45, 26B30.

## 1 Introduction

The optimal design problem, devoted to find the minimal energy configurations of a mixture of two conductive materials, has been widely studied since the pioneering papers [28, 29, 30]. It is well known that, given a container  $\Omega$  and prescribing only the volume fraction of the material where it is expected to have a certain conductivity, an optimal configuration might not exist. To overcome this difficulty, Ambrosio and Buttazzo in [6] imposed a perimeter penalization and studied the following minimization problem

$$\min \left\{ \int_E (\alpha |Du|^2 + g_1(x, u)) dx + \int_{\Omega \setminus E} (\beta |Du|^2 + g_2(x, u)) dx + \sigma P(E, \Omega) : E \subset \Omega, u \in H_0^1(\Omega) \right\},$$

finding the solution  $(u, E)$  and describing the regularity properties of the optimal set  $E$ .

In this paper we are considering the minimization of a similar functional, where the energy density  $|\cdot|^2$  has been replaced by more general  $W_i$ ,  $i = 1, 2$  without any convexity assumptions and with linear growth, and since the lower order terms  $g_1(x, u)$  and  $g_2(x, u)$  do not play any role in the asymptotics, we omit them in our subsequent analysis. The case of  $W_i$ ,  $i = 1, 2$ , not convex with superlinear growth has been studied in the context of thin films in [16].

Thus, given  $\Omega$  a bounded open subset of  $\mathbb{R}^N$ , we assume that  $W_i : \mathbb{R}^{d \times N} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  are continuous functions such that there exist positive constants  $\alpha, \beta$  for which

$$\alpha |\xi| \leq W_i(\xi) \leq \beta(1 + |\xi|) \text{ for every } \xi \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times N}, \quad i = 1, 2. \quad (1.1)$$

We consider the following optimal design problem

$$\inf_{\substack{u \in W^{1,1}(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^d) \\ \chi_E \in BV(\Omega; \{0, 1\})}} \left\{ \int_{\Omega} (\chi_E W_1(\nabla u) + (1 - \chi_E) W_2(\nabla u)) dx + P(E; \Omega) : u = u_0 \text{ on } \partial\Omega \right\} \quad (1.2)$$

---

\*CIMA-UE, Departamento de Matemática, Universidade de Évora, Rua Romão Ramalho, 59 7000-671 Évora, Portugal. E-mail: gcarita@uevora.pt

†D.I.In., Università degli Studi di Salerno, Via Giovanni Paolo II, 132, 84084 Fisciano (SA) Italy. E-mail: ezappale@unisa.it

where  $\chi_E$  is the characteristic function of  $E \subset \Omega$  which has finite perimeter, see (2.2) below.

Note that by (2.2) and the definition of total variation,  $P(E; \Omega) = |D\chi_E|(\Omega)$  and we are lead to the subsequent minimum problem

$$\inf_{\substack{u \in W^{1,1}(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^d) \\ \chi_E \in BV(\Omega; \{0, 1\})}} \left\{ \int_{\Omega} (\chi_E W_1 + (1 - \chi_E) W_2) (\nabla u) dx + |D\chi_E|(\Omega) : u = u_0 \text{ on } \partial\Omega \right\}.$$

The lack of convexity of the energy requires a relaxation procedure. To this end we start by localizing our energy, first we introduce the functional  $F_{\mathcal{OD}} : L^1(\Omega; \{0, 1\}) \times L^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^d) \times \mathcal{A}(\Omega) \rightarrow [0, +\infty]$  defined by

$$F_{\mathcal{OD}}(\chi, u; A) := \begin{cases} \int_A (\chi_E W_1 (\nabla u) + (1 - \chi_E) W_2 (\nabla u)) dx + |D\chi_E|(A) & \text{in } BV(A; \{0, 1\}) \times W^{1,1}(A; \mathbb{R}^d), \\ +\infty & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \quad (1.3)$$

Then we consider the relaxed localized energy of (1.3) given by

$$\mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{OD}}(\chi, u; A) := \inf \left\{ \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_A (\chi_n W_1 (\nabla u_n) + (1 - \chi_n) W_2 (\nabla u_n)) dx + |D\chi_n|(A) : \{u_n\} \subset W^{1,1}(A; \mathbb{R}^d), \right. \\ \left. \{\chi_n\} \subset BV(A; \{0, 1\}), u_n \rightarrow u \text{ in } L^1(A; \mathbb{R}^d) \text{ and } \chi_n \xrightarrow{*} \chi \text{ in } BV(A; \{0, 1\}) \right\}.$$

Let  $V : \{0, 1\} \times \mathbb{R}^{d \times N} \rightarrow (0, +\infty)$  be given by

$$V(q, z) := qW_1(z) + (1 - q)W_2(z) \quad (1.4)$$

and  $\overline{F_{\mathcal{OD}}} : BV(\Omega; \{0, 1\}) \times BV(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^d) \times \mathcal{A}(\Omega) \rightarrow [0, +\infty]$  be defined as

$$\overline{F_{\mathcal{OD}}}(\chi, u; A) := \int_A QV(\chi, \nabla u) dx + \int_A QV^\infty \left( \chi, \frac{dD^c u}{|D^c u|} \right) d|D^c u| + \int_{J_{(\chi, u)} \cap A} K_2(\chi^+, \chi^-, u^+, u^-, \nu) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1} \quad (1.5)$$

where  $QV$  is the quasiconvex envelope of  $V$  given in (3.2),  $QV^\infty$  is the recession function of  $QV$ , namely,

$$QV^\infty(q, z) := \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{QV(q, tz)}{t}, \quad (1.6)$$

and

$$K_2(a, b, c, d, \nu) := \inf \left\{ \int_{Q_\nu} QV^\infty(\chi(x), \nabla u(x)) dx + |D\chi|(Q_\nu) : (\chi, u) \in \mathcal{A}_2(a, b, c, d, \nu) \right\}, \quad (1.7)$$

where

$$\mathcal{A}_2(a, b, c, d, \nu) := \{(\chi, u) \in BV(Q_\nu; \{0, 1\}) \times W^{1,1}(Q_\nu; \mathbb{R}^d) : \\ (\chi(y), u(y)) = (a, c) \text{ if } y \cdot \nu = \frac{1}{2}, (\chi(y), u(y)) = (b, d) \text{ if } y \cdot \nu = -\frac{1}{2}, \\ (\chi, u) \text{ are } 1\text{-periodic in } \nu_1, \dots, \nu_{N-1} \text{ directions}\}, \quad (1.8)$$

for  $(a, b, c, d, \nu) \in \{0, 1\} \times \{0, 1\} \times \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d \times S^{N-1}$ , with  $\{\nu_1, \nu_2, \dots, \nu_{N-1}, \nu\}$  an orthonormal basis of  $\mathbb{R}^N$  and  $Q_\nu$  the unit cube, centered at the origin, with one direction parallel to  $\nu$ .

In Section 6 we obtain the following integral representation.

**Theorem 1.1** *Let  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^N$  be a bounded open set and let  $W_i : \mathbb{R}^{d \times N} \rightarrow [0, +\infty)$ ,  $i = 1, 2$ , be continuous functions satisfying (1.1). Let  $\overline{F_{\mathcal{OD}}}$  be the functional defined in (1.5). Then for every  $(\chi, u) \in L^1(\Omega; \{0, 1\}) \times L^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^d)$*

$$\mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{OD}}(\chi, u; A) = \begin{cases} \overline{F_{\mathcal{OD}}}(\chi, u; A) & \text{if } (\chi, u) \in BV(\Omega; \{0, 1\}) \times BV(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^d), \\ +\infty & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

This result will be achieved as a particular case of a more general theorem dealing with special functions of bounded variation which are piecewise constants.

In fact we provide an integral representation for the relaxation of the functional  $F : L^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m) \times L^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^d) \times \mathcal{A}(\Omega) \rightarrow [0, +\infty]$  defined by

$$F(v, u; A) := \begin{cases} \int_A f(v, \nabla u) dx + \int_{A \cap J_v} g(v^+, v^-, \nu_v) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1} & \text{in } SBV_0(A; \mathbb{R}^m) \times W^{1,1}(A; \mathbb{R}^d), \\ +\infty & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases} \quad (1.9)$$

where  $SBV_0(A; \mathbb{R}^m)$  is defined in (2.4) (see Section 2) and  $f : \mathbb{R}^m \times \mathbb{R}^{d \times N} \rightarrow [0, +\infty[$ ,  $g : \mathbb{R}^m \times \mathbb{R}^m \times S^{N-1} \rightarrow [0, +\infty[$  satisfy the following hypotheses:

(F<sub>1</sub>)  $f$  is continuous;

(F<sub>2</sub>) there exist  $0 < \beta' \leq \beta$  such that

$$\beta'|z| \leq f(q, z) \leq \beta(1 + |z|),$$

for every  $(q, z) \in \mathbb{R}^m \times \mathbb{R}^{d \times N}$ ;

(F<sub>3</sub>) there exists  $L > 0$  such that

$$|f(q_1, z) - f(q_2, z)| \leq L|q_1 - q_2|(1 + |z|)$$

for every  $q_1, q_2 \in \mathbb{R}^m$  and  $z \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times N}$ ;

(F<sub>4</sub>) there exist  $\alpha \in (0, 1)$ , and  $C, L > 0$  such that

$$t|z| > L \Rightarrow \left| f^\infty(q, z) - \frac{f(q, tz)}{t} \right| \leq C \frac{|z|^{1-\alpha}}{t^\alpha}, \quad \text{for every } (q, z) \in \mathbb{R}^m \times \mathbb{R}^{d \times N}, t \in \mathbb{R},$$

with  $f^\infty$  the recession function of  $f$  with respect to the last variable, defined as

$$f^\infty(q, z) := \limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{f(q, tz)}{t}, \quad (1.10)$$

for every  $(q, z) \in \mathbb{R}^m \times \mathbb{R}^{d \times N}$ ;

(G<sub>1</sub>)  $g$  is continuous;

(G<sub>2</sub>) there exists a constant  $C > 0$  such that

$$\frac{1}{C}(1 + |\lambda - \theta|) \leq g(\lambda, \theta, \nu) \leq C(1 + |\lambda - \theta|),$$

for every  $(\lambda, \theta, \nu) \in \mathbb{R}^m \times \mathbb{R}^m \times S^{N-1}$ ,

(G<sub>3</sub>)  $g(\lambda, \theta, \nu) = g(\theta, \lambda, -\nu)$ , for every  $(\lambda, \theta, \nu) \in \mathbb{R}^m \times \mathbb{R}^m \times S^{N-1}$ .

The relaxed localized energy of (1.9) is given by

$$\mathcal{F}(v, u; A) := \inf \left\{ \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( \int_A f(v_n, \nabla u_n) dx + \int_{J_{v_n} \cap A} g(v_n^+, v_n^-, \nu_{v_n}) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1} \right) : \{u_n\} \subset W^{1,1}(A; \mathbb{R}^d), \right. \\ \left. \{v_n\} \subset SBV_0(A; \mathbb{R}^m), u_n \rightarrow u \text{ in } L^1(A; \mathbb{R}^d) \text{ and } v_n \rightarrow v \text{ in } L^1(A; \mathbb{R}^m) \right\}. \quad (1.11)$$

Let  $\overline{F}_0 : SBV_0(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m) \times BV(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^d) \times \mathcal{A}(\Omega) \rightarrow [0, +\infty]$  be given by

$$\overline{F}_0(v, u; A) := \int_A Qf(v, \nabla u) dx + \int_A Qf^\infty \left( v, \frac{dD^c u}{d|D^c u|} \right) d|D^c u| + \int_{J_{(v,u)} \cap A} K_3(v^+, v^-, u^+, u^-, \nu) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1}, \quad (1.12)$$

where  $Qf$  is the quasiconvex envelope of  $f$  given in (3.2),  $Qf^\infty$  is the recession function of  $Qf$ , and  $K_3 : \mathbb{R}^m \times \mathbb{R}^m \times \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d \times S^{N-1} \rightarrow [0, +\infty[$  is defined as

$$K_3(a, b, c, d, \nu) := \inf \left\{ \int_{Q_\nu} Qf^\infty(v(x), \nabla u(x)) dx + \int_{J_v \cap Q_\nu} g(v^+(x), v^-(x), \nu(x)) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1} : (v, u) \in \mathcal{A}_3(a, b, c, d, \nu) \right\} \quad (1.13)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{A}_3(a, b, c, d, \nu) &:= \{(v, u) \in (SBV_0(Q_\nu; \mathbb{R}^m) \cap L^\infty(Q_\nu; \mathbb{R}^m)) \times W^{1,1}(Q_\nu; \mathbb{R}^d) : \\ &(v(y), u(y)) = (a, c) \text{ if } y \cdot \nu = \frac{1}{2}, (v(y), u(y)) = (b, d) \text{ if } y \cdot \nu = -\frac{1}{2}, \\ &(v, u) \text{ are } 1\text{-periodic in } \nu_1, \dots, \nu_{N-1} \text{ directions}\}, \end{aligned} \quad (1.14)$$

with  $\{\nu_1, \nu_2, \dots, \nu_{N-1}, \nu\}$  an orthonormal basis of  $\mathbb{R}^N$ .

In the following we present the main result.

**Theorem 1.2** *Let  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^N$  be a bounded open set and let  $f : \mathbb{R}^m \times \mathbb{R}^{d \times N} \rightarrow [0, +\infty[$  be a function satisfying  $(F_1) - (F_4)$  and  $g : \mathbb{R}^m \times \mathbb{R}^m \times S^{N-1} \rightarrow [0, +\infty[$  satisfying  $(G_1) - (G_3)$ . Let  $F$  be the functional defined in (1.9). Then for every  $(v, u) \in L^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m) \times L^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^d)$*

$$\mathcal{F}(v, u; \Omega) = \begin{cases} \overline{F}_0(v, u; \Omega) & \text{if } (v, u) \in SBV_0(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m) \times BV(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^d), \\ +\infty & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

The paper is organized as follows. Section 2 is devoted to preliminary results dealing with functions of bounded variation, perimeters and special functions of bounded variation which are piecewise constant. The properties of the energy densities and several auxiliary results involved in the proofs of representation Theorems 1.1 and 1.2 are discussed in Section 3. The proof of the lower bound for  $\mathcal{F}$  in (1.11) is presented in Sections 4, while Section 5 contains the upper bound and the proof of Theorem 1.2. The applications to optimal design problems as in [6] and the comparison with previous related relaxation results as in [25], such as Theorem 1.1, are discussed in Section 6.

## 2 Preliminaries

We give a brief survey of functions of bounded variation and sets of finite perimeter.

In the following  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^N$  is an open bounded set and we denote by  $\mathcal{A}(\Omega)$  the family of all open subsets of  $\Omega$ . The  $N$ -dimensional Lebesgue measure is designated as  $\mathcal{L}^N$ , while  $\mathcal{H}^{N-1}$  denotes the  $(N-1)$ -dimensional Hausdorff measure. The unit cube in  $\mathbb{R}^N$ ,  $(-\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2})^N$ , is denoted by  $Q$  and we set  $Q(x_0, \varepsilon) := x_0 + \varepsilon Q$  for  $\varepsilon > 0$ . For every  $\nu \in S^{N-1}$  we define  $Q_\nu := R_\nu(Q)$ , where  $R_\nu$  is a rotation such that  $R_\nu(e_N) = \nu$ . The constant  $C$  may vary from line to line.

We denote by  $\mathcal{M}(\Omega)$  the space of all signed Radon measures in  $\Omega$  with bounded total variation. By the Riesz Representation Theorem,  $\mathcal{M}(\Omega)$  can be identified to the dual of the separable space  $\mathcal{C}_0(\Omega)$  of continuous functions on  $\Omega$  vanishing on the boundary  $\partial\Omega$ . If  $\lambda \in \mathcal{M}(\Omega)$  and  $\mu \in \mathcal{M}(\Omega)$  is a nonnegative Radon measure, we denote by  $\frac{d\lambda}{d\mu}$  the Radon-Nikodým derivative of  $\lambda$  with respect to  $\mu$ .

The following version of Besicovitch Differentiation Theorem was proven by Ambrosio and Dal Maso [7, Proposition 2.2].

**Theorem 2.1** *If  $\lambda$  and  $\mu$  are Radon measures in  $\Omega$ ,  $\mu \geq 0$ , then there exists a Borel measure set  $E \subset \Omega$  such that  $\mu(E) = 0$ , and for every  $x \in \text{supp} \mu - E$*

$$\frac{d\lambda}{d\mu}(x) := \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\lambda(x + \varepsilon C)}{\mu(x + \varepsilon C)}$$

*exists and is finite whenever  $C$  is a bounded, convex, open set containing the origin.*

We recall that the exceptional set  $E$  above does not depend on  $C$ . An immediate corollary is the generalization of Lebesgue-Besicovitch Differentiation Theorem given below.

**Theorem 2.2** *If  $\mu$  is a nonnegative Radon measure and if  $f \in L^1_{\text{loc}}(\mathbb{R}^N, \mu)$  then*

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{1}{\mu(x + \varepsilon C)} \int_{x + \varepsilon C} |f(y) - f(x)| d\mu(y) = 0$$

for  $\mu$ -a.e.  $x \in \mathbb{R}^N$  and for every, bounded, convex, open set  $C$  containing the origin.

**Definition 2.3** *A function  $w \in L^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^d)$  is said to be of bounded variation, and we write  $w \in BV(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^d)$ , if all its first distributional derivatives  $D_j w_i$  belong to  $\mathcal{M}(\Omega)$  for  $1 \leq i \leq d$  and  $1 \leq j \leq N$ .*

The matrix-valued measure whose entries are  $D_j w_i$  is denoted by  $Dw$  and  $|Dw|$  stands for its total variation. We observe that if  $w \in BV(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^d)$  then  $w \mapsto |Dw|(\Omega)$  is lower semicontinuous in  $BV(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^d)$  with respect to the  $L^1_{\text{loc}}(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^d)$  topology.

We briefly recall some facts about functions of bounded variation. For more details we refer the reader to [8], [21], [27] and [32].

**Definition 2.4** *Let  $w, w_n \in BV(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^d)$ . The sequence  $\{w_n\}$  strictly converges in  $BV(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^d)$  to  $w$  if  $\{w_n\}$  converges to  $w$  in  $L^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^d)$  and  $\{|Dw_n|(\Omega)\}$  converges to  $|Dw|(\Omega)$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ .*

**Definition 2.5** *Given  $w \in BV(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^d)$  the approximate upper limit and the approximate lower limit of each component  $w^i$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, d$ , are defined by*

$$(w^i)^+(x) := \inf \left\{ t \in \mathbb{R} : \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\mathcal{L}^N(\{y \in \Omega \cap Q(x, \varepsilon) : w^i(y) > t\})}{\varepsilon^N} = 0 \right\}$$

and

$$(w^i)^-(x) := \sup \left\{ t \in \mathbb{R} : \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\mathcal{L}^N(\{y \in \Omega \cap Q(x, \varepsilon) : w^i(y) < t\})}{\varepsilon^N} = 0 \right\},$$

respectively. The jump set of  $w$  is given by

$$J_w := \bigcup_{i=1}^d \left\{ x \in \Omega : (w^i)^-(x) < (w^i)^+(x) \right\}.$$

It can be shown that  $J_w$  and the complement of the set of Lebesgue points of  $w$  differ, at most, by a set of  $\mathcal{H}^{N-1}$  measure zero. Moreover,  $J_w$  is  $(N-1)$ -rectifiable, i.e., there are  $C^1$  hypersurfaces  $\Gamma_i$  such that  $\mathcal{H}^{N-1}(J_w \setminus \cup_{i=1}^{\infty} \Gamma_i) = 0$ .

**Proposition 2.6** *If  $w \in BV(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^d)$  then*

i) for  $\mathcal{L}^N$ -a.e.  $x \in \Omega$

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \left\{ \frac{1}{\varepsilon^N} \int_{Q(x, \varepsilon)} |w(y) - w(x) - \nabla w(x) \cdot (y - x)|^{\frac{N-1}{N}} dy \right\} = 0; \quad (2.1)$$

ii) for  $\mathcal{H}^{N-1}$ -a.e.  $x \in J_w$  there exist  $w^+(x), w^-(x) \in \mathbb{R}^d$  and  $\nu(x) \in S^{N-1}$  normal to  $J_w$  at  $x$ , such that

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{1}{\varepsilon^N} \int_{Q^+(x, \varepsilon)} |w(y) - w^+(x)| dy = 0, \quad \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{1}{\varepsilon^N} \int_{Q^-(x, \varepsilon)} |w(y) - w^-(x)| dy = 0,$$

where  $Q^+(x, \varepsilon) := \{y \in Q_\nu(x, \varepsilon) : \langle y - x, \nu \rangle > 0\}$  and  $Q^-(x, \varepsilon) := \{y \in Q_\nu(x, \varepsilon) : \langle y - x, \nu \rangle < 0\}$ ;

iii) for  $\mathcal{H}^{N-1}$ -a.e.  $x \in \Omega \setminus J_w$

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{1}{\varepsilon^N} \int_{Q(x, \varepsilon)} |w(y) - w(x)| dy = 0.$$

We observe that in the vector-valued case in general  $(w^i)^\pm \neq (w^\pm)^i$ . In the sequel  $w^+$  and  $w^-$  denote the vectors introduced in ii) above.

Choosing a normal  $\nu_w(x)$  to  $J_w$  at  $x$ , we denote the *jump* of  $w$  across  $J_w$  by  $[w] := w^+ - w^-$ . The distributional derivative of  $w \in BV(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^d)$  admits the decomposition

$$Dw = \nabla w \mathcal{L}^N \llbracket \Omega + ([w] \otimes \nu_w) \mathcal{H}^{N-1} \llbracket J_w + D^c w,$$

where  $\nabla w$  represents the density of the absolutely continuous part of the Radon measure  $Dw$  with respect to the Lebesgue measure. The *Hausdorff*, or *jump*, *part* of  $Dw$  is represented by  $([w] \otimes \nu_w) \mathcal{H}^{N-1} \llbracket J_w$  and  $D^c w$  is the *Cantor part* of  $Dw$ . The measure  $D^c w$  is singular with respect to the Lebesgue measure and it is diffuse, i.e., every Borel set  $B \subset \Omega$  with  $\mathcal{H}^{N-1}(B) < \infty$  has Cantor measure zero.

The following result, that will be exploited in the sequel, can be found in [25, Lemma 2.6].

**Lemma 2.7** *Let  $w \in BV(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^d)$ , for  $\mathcal{H}^{N-1}$  a.e.  $x$  in  $J_w$ ,*

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{1}{\varepsilon^{N-1}} \int_{J_w \cap Q_{\nu(x)}(x, \varepsilon)} |w^+(y) - w^-(y)| d\mathcal{H}^{N-1} = |w^+(x) - w^-(x)|.$$

In the following we give some preliminary notions related with sets of finite perimeter. For a detailed treatment we refer to [8].

**Definition 2.8** *Let  $E$  be an  $\mathcal{L}^N$ -measurable subset of  $\mathbb{R}^N$ . For any open set  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^N$  the perimeter of  $E$  in  $\Omega$ , denoted by  $P(E; \Omega)$ , is the variation of  $\chi_E$  in  $\Omega$ , i.e.*

$$P(E; \Omega) := \sup \left\{ \int_E \operatorname{div} \varphi dx : \varphi \in C_c^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^d), \|\varphi\|_{L^\infty} \leq 1 \right\}. \quad (2.2)$$

We say that  $E$  is a set of finite perimeter in  $\Omega$  if  $P(E; \Omega) < +\infty$ .

Recalling that if  $\mathcal{L}^N(E \cap \Omega)$  is finite, then  $\chi_E \in L^1(\Omega)$ , by [8, Proposition 3.6], it results that  $E$  has finite perimeter in  $\Omega$  if and only if  $\chi_E \in BV(\Omega)$  and  $P(E; \Omega)$  coincides with  $|D\chi_E|(\Omega)$ , the total variation in  $\Omega$  of the distributional derivative of  $\chi_E$ . Moreover, a generalized Gauss-Green formula holds:

$$\int_E \operatorname{div} \varphi dx = \int_\Omega \langle \nu_E, \varphi \rangle d|D\chi_E| \quad \forall \varphi \in C_c^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^d),$$

where  $D\chi_E = \nu_E |D\chi_E|$  is the polar decomposition of  $D\chi_E$ .

We also recall that, when dealing with sets of finite measure, a sequence of sets  $\{E_n\}$  converges to  $E$  in measure in  $\Omega$  if  $\mathcal{L}^N(\Omega \cap (E_n \Delta E))$  converges to 0 as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ , where  $\Delta$  stands for the symmetric difference. Analogously, the local convergence in measure corresponds to the above convergence in measure for any open set  $A \subset \subset \Omega$ . These convergences are equivalent to  $L^1(\Omega)$  and  $L^1_{\text{loc}}(\Omega)$  convergences of the characteristic functions. We also remind that the local convergence in measure in  $\Omega$  is equivalent to convergence in measure in domains  $\Omega$  with finite measure.

Denoting by  $\mathcal{P}(\Omega)$  the family of all sets with finite perimeters in  $\Omega$  we recall the Fleming-Rishel formula (see [22, formula 4.59]): for every  $\Phi \in W^{1,1}(\Omega)$  the set  $\{t \in \mathbb{R} : \{\Phi > t\} \notin \mathcal{P}(\Omega)\}$  is negligible in  $\mathbb{R}$  and

$$\int_\Omega h |\nabla \Phi| dx = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \int_{\partial^* \{\Phi > t\}} h d\mathcal{H}^{N-1} dt \quad (2.3)$$

for every bounded Borel function  $h : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , where  $\partial^* \{\Phi > t\}$  denotes the essential boundary of  $\{\Phi > t\}$  (cf. [8, Definition 3.60]).

At this point we deal with functions of bounded variation whose Cantor part is null.

**Definition 2.9** A function  $v \in BV(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m)$  is said to be a special function of bounded variation, and we write  $v \in SBV(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m)$ , if  $D^c v = \underline{0}$ , i.e.

$$Dv = \nabla v \mathcal{L}^N \llcorner \Omega + ([v] \otimes \nu_v) \mathcal{H}^{N-1} \llcorner J_v.$$

The space  $SBV_0(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m)$  is defined by

$$SBV_0(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m) := \{v \in SBV(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m) : \nabla v = 0, \text{ and } \mathcal{H}^{N-1}(J_v) < +\infty\}. \quad (2.4)$$

Clearly, any characteristic function of a set of finite perimeter is in  $SBV_0(\Omega)$ .

We recall that a sequence of sets  $\{E_i\}$  is a Borel partition of a Borel set  $B \in \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R}^N)$  if and only if

$$E_i \in \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R}^N) \text{ for every } i, E_i \cap E_j = \emptyset \text{ for every } i \neq j \text{ and } \cup_{i=1}^{\infty} E_i = B.$$

The above requirements could be weakened requiring that  $|E_i \cap E_j| = 0$ , for  $i \neq j$  and  $|B \Delta \cup_{i=1}^{\infty} E_i| = 0$ . Such a sequence  $\{E_i\}$  is said to be a Caccioppoli partition if and only if each  $E_i$  is a set of finite perimeter.

The following result, whose proof can be found in [18], expresses the relations between Caccioppoli partitions and  $SBV_0$  functions.

**Lemma 2.10** If  $v \in SBV_0(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m)$  then there exist a Borel partition  $\{E_i\}$  of  $\Omega$  and a sequence  $\{v_i\} \subset \mathbb{R}^m$  such that

$$v = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} v_i \chi_{E_i} \text{ a.e. } x \in \Omega,$$

$$\mathcal{H}^{N-1}(J_v \cap \Omega) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \mathcal{H}^{N-1}(\partial^* E_i \cap \Omega) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i \neq j=1}^{\infty} \mathcal{H}^{N-1}(\partial^* E_i \cap \partial^* E_j \cap \Omega),$$

$$(v^+, v^-, \nu_v) \equiv (v^i, v^j, \nu_i) \text{ a.e. } x \in \partial^* E_i \cap \partial^* E_j \cap \Omega,$$

$\nu_i$  being the unit normal to  $\partial^* E_i \cap \partial^* E_j^*$ ,

In the sequel we identify  $(v, u) \in SBV_0(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m) \times BV(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^d)$  with their precise representatives  $(\tilde{v}, \tilde{u})$ . See [8, Definition 3.63 and Corollary 3.80] for the definition.

**Remark 2.11** Since  $SBV_0(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m) \subset BV(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m)$ , then  $(v, u) \in BV(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^{m+d})$  for every  $(v, u) \in SBV_0(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m) \times BV(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^d)$ . Thus  $(v, u)$  is  $|D^c(v, u)|$ -measurable, and since  $D^c(v, u) = (\underline{0}, D^c u)$ , we may say that  $v$  is  $|D^c u|$ -measurable.

The following compactness result for bounded sequences in  $SBV(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m)$  is due to Ambrosio (see [2], [4]).

**Theorem 2.12** Let  $\Phi : [0, +\infty) \rightarrow [0, +\infty)$ ,  $\Theta : (0, +\infty] \rightarrow (0, +\infty]$  be two functions, respectively convex and concave, and such that

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\Phi(t)}{t} = +\infty, \quad \Phi \text{ is nondecreasing,}$$

$$\Theta(+\infty) = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \Theta(t), \quad \lim_{t \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\Theta(t)}{t} = +\infty, \quad \Theta \text{ is non decreasing.}$$

Let  $\{v_n\}$  be a sequence of functions in  $SBV(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m)$  such that

$$\sup_n \left\{ \int_{\Omega} \Phi(|\nabla v_n|) dx + \int_{J_{v_n}} \Theta(|[v_n]|) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1} + \int_{\Omega} |v_n| dx \right\} < +\infty.$$

Then there exists a subsequence  $\{v_{n_k}\}$  converging in  $L^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m)$  to a function  $v \in SBV(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m)$ , and

$$\nabla v_{n_k} \rightharpoonup \nabla v \text{ in } L^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^{N \times m}), \quad [v_{n_k}] \otimes \nu_{v_{n_k}} \mathcal{H}^{N-1} \llcorner J_{v_{n_k}} \xrightarrow{*} [v] \otimes \nu_v \mathcal{H}^{N-1} \llcorner J_v,$$

$$\int_{J_v \cap \Omega} \Theta(|[v]|) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1} \leq \liminf_{n \rightarrow +\infty} \int_{J_{v_n} \cap \Omega} \Theta(|[v_n]|) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1}.$$

### 3 Auxiliary results

This section is mainly devoted to describe the properties of the energy densities involved in the integral representation of relaxed functionals (1.5) and (1.12).

Recall that a Borel function  $f : \mathbb{R}^m \times \mathbb{R}^{d \times N} \rightarrow [-\infty, +\infty]$  is said to be quasiconvex if

$$f(q, z) \leq \frac{1}{\mathcal{L}^N(\Omega)} \int_{\Omega} f(q, z + \nabla \varphi(y)) dy \quad (3.1)$$

for every open bounded set  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^N$  with  $\mathcal{L}^N(\partial\Omega) = 0$ , for every  $(q, z) \in \mathbb{R}^m \times \mathbb{R}^{d \times N}$  and every  $\varphi \in W_0^{1,\infty}(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^d)$  whenever the right hand side of (3.1) exists as a Lebesgue integral.

The quasiconvex envelope of  $f : \mathbb{R}^m \times \mathbb{R}^{d \times N} \rightarrow [0, +\infty]$  is the largest quasiconvex function below  $f$  and it is denoted by  $Qf$ . If  $f$  is Borel and locally bounded from below then it can be shown that

$$Qf(q, z) = \inf \left\{ \int_Q f(q, z + \nabla \varphi) dx : \varphi \in W_0^{1,\infty}(Q; \mathbb{R}^d) \right\}, \quad (3.2)$$

for every  $(q, z) \in \mathbb{R}^m \times \mathbb{R}^{d \times N}$ .

The following result guarantees that the properties of  $f$  are inherited by  $Qf$ . Since the proof develops along the lines as in [31, Proposition 2.2], in turn inspired by [19], we omit it.

**Proposition 3.1** *Let  $f : \mathbb{R}^m \times \mathbb{R}^{d \times N} \rightarrow [0, +\infty)$  be a function satisfying  $(F_1) - (F_3)$ , and let  $Qf : \mathbb{R}^m \times \mathbb{R}^{d \times N} \rightarrow [0, +\infty)$  be its quasiconvexification, as in (3.2). Then  $Qf$  satisfies  $(F_1) - (F_3)$ .*

**Remark 3.2** *Let  $f : \mathbb{R}^m \times \mathbb{R}^{d \times N} \rightarrow [0, +\infty)$  be a function satisfying  $(F_1) - (F_4)$ , with  $f^\infty$  as in (1.10).*

(i) *Recall that the recession function  $f^\infty(q, \cdot)$  is positively one homogeneous for every  $q \in \mathbb{R}^m$ .*

(ii) *We observe that, if  $f$  satisfies the growth condition  $(F_2)$ , then  $\beta'|z| \leq f^\infty(q, z) \leq \beta|z|$  holds. Moreover, if  $f$  satisfies  $(F_3)$ , then  $f^\infty$  satisfies  $|f^\infty(q, z) - f^\infty(q', z)| \leq L|q - q'| |z|$ , where  $L$  is the constant appearing in  $(F_3)$ .*

(iii) *As showed in [25, Remark 2.2 (ii)], if a function  $f : \mathbb{R}^m \times \mathbb{R}^{d \times N} \rightarrow [0, +\infty)$  is quasiconvex in the last variable and such that  $f(q, z) \leq c(1 + |z|)$ , for some  $c > 0$ , then, its recession function  $f^\infty(q, \cdot)$  is also quasiconvex.*

(iv) *A proof entirely similar to [10, Proposition 3.4] (see also [31, Proposition 2.6]) ensures that for every  $(q, z) \in \mathbb{R}^m \times \mathbb{R}^{d \times N}$ ,  $Q(f^\infty)(q, z) = (Qf)^\infty(q, z)$ , hence we will adopt the notation  $Qf^\infty$ . In particular if  $f$  satisfies  $(F_1) - (F_3)$ , Proposition 3.1 guarantees that  $Qf^\infty$  is continuous in both variables. Furthermore, for every  $q \in \mathbb{R}^m$ ,  $Qf^\infty(q, \cdot)$  is Lipschitz continuous in the last variable.*

(v)  *$(Qf)^\infty$  satisfies the analogous condition to  $(F_4)$ . We also observe, as emphasized in [25], that  $(F_4)$  is equivalent to say that there exist  $C > 0$  and  $\alpha \in (0, 1)$  such that*

$$|f^\infty(q, z) - f(q, z)| \leq C(1 + |z|^{1-\alpha})$$

for every  $(q, z) \in \mathbb{R}^m \times \mathbb{R}^{d \times N}$ .

An argument entirely similar to [31, Proposition 2.7] ensures that there exist  $\alpha \in (0, 1)$ , and  $C' > 0$  such that

$$|(Qf)^\infty(q, z) - Qf(q, z)| \leq C'(1 + |z|^{1-\alpha})$$

for every  $(q, z) \in \mathbb{R}^m \times \mathbb{R}^{d \times N}$ .

The following proposition, whose proof can be obtained arguing exactly as in [12, page 132], establishes the properties of the density  $K_3$ .

**Proposition 3.3** *Let  $f : \mathbb{R}^m \times \mathbb{R}^{d \times N} \rightarrow [0, +\infty)$  and  $g : \mathbb{R}^m \times \mathbb{R}^m \times S^{N-1} \rightarrow (0, +\infty)$ . Let  $K_3$  be the function defined in (1.13). If  $(F_1) - (F_4)$  and  $(G_1) - (G_3)$  hold then*

- a)  $|K_3(a, b, c, d, \nu) - K_3(a', b', c', d', \nu)| \leq C(|a - a'| + |b - b'| + |c - c'| + |d - d'|)$  for every  $(a, b, c, d, \nu), (a', b', c', d', \nu) \in \mathbb{R}^m \times \mathbb{R}^m \times \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d \times S^{N-1}$ ;

- b)  $\nu \mapsto K_3(a, b, c, d, \nu)$  is upper semicontinuous for every  $(a, b, c, d) \in \mathbb{R}^m \times \mathbb{R}^m \times \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d$ ;
- c)  $K_3$  is upper semicontinuous in  $\mathbb{R}^m \times \mathbb{R}^m \times \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d \times S^{N-1}$ ;
- d)  $K_3(a, b, c, d, \nu) \leq C(|a - b| + |c - d| + 1)$  for every  $\nu \in S^{N-1}$ . More precisely, from the growth conditions  $(F_2)$ ,  $(G_2)$  and the definition of  $K_3$  we have  $K_3(a, a, c, d, \nu) \leq C(|c - d|)$ ,  $K_3(a, b, c, c, \nu) \leq C(1 + |a - b|)$ .

A Borel measurable function  $g : \mathbb{R}^m \times \mathbb{R}^m \times S^{N-1} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is BV-elliptic (cf. [3], [8] and [13]) if for all  $(a, b, \nu) \in \mathbb{R}^m \times \mathbb{R}^m \times S^{N-1}$ , and for any finite subset  $T$  of  $\mathbb{R}^m$

$$\int_{J_w \cap Q_\nu} g(w^+, w^-, \nu_w) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1} \geq g(a, b, \nu) \quad (3.3)$$

for all  $w \in BV(Q_\nu; T)$  such that  $w = v_0$  on  $\partial Q_\nu$ , where

$$v_0 := \begin{cases} a & \text{if } x \cdot \nu > 0, \\ b & \text{if } x \cdot \nu \leq 0. \end{cases} \quad (3.4)$$

We are in position to provide some approximation results which allow us to reobtain the relaxed functionals and the related energy densities in terms of suitable relaxation procedures. To this end we start by stating a result very similar to [12, Proposition 3.5] which allows to achieve  $K_3$ .

**Proposition 3.4** *Let  $f : \mathbb{R}^m \times \mathbb{R}^{d \times N} \rightarrow [0, +\infty)$  and  $g : \mathbb{R}^m \times \mathbb{R}^m \times S^{N-1} \rightarrow (0, +\infty)$  be functions such that  $(F_1) - (F_4)$  and  $(G_1) - (G_3)$  hold, respectively. Let  $K_3$  be the function defined in (1.13) and  $(v_0, u_0)$  be given by*

$$v_0(x) := \begin{cases} a & \text{if } x \cdot \nu > 0, \\ b & \text{if } x \cdot \nu < 0 \end{cases}, \quad u_0(x) := \begin{cases} c & \text{if } x \cdot \nu > 0, \\ d & \text{if } x \cdot \nu < 0. \end{cases} \quad (3.5)$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} K_3(a, b, c, d, \nu) &= \inf_{(v_n, u_n)} \left\{ \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( \int_{Q_\nu} Qf^\infty(v_n(x), \nabla u_n(x)) dx + \int_{Q_\nu \cap J_{v_n}} g(v_n^+(x), v_n^-(x), \nu_n(x)) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1} \right) : \right. \\ &\quad \left. (v_n, u_n) \in SBV_0(Q_\nu; \mathbb{R}^m) \times W^{1,1}(Q_\nu; \mathbb{R}^d), (v_n, u_n) \rightarrow (v_0, u_0) \text{ in } L^1(Q_\nu; \mathbb{R}^{m+d}) \right\} \\ &=: K_3^*(a, b, c, d, \nu). \end{aligned}$$

**Remark 3.5** *i) It is worthwhile to observe that the above result ensures a sharper result than the one which is stated, namely the same type of arguments in [12, Proposition 3.5] allow us to obtain  $K_3(a, b, c, d, \nu)$  as a relaxation procedure but with test sequences in  $\mathcal{A}_3(a, b, c, d, \nu)$ , converging to  $(v_0, u_0)$  in (3.5).*

*ii) Notice that by virtue of the growth conditions on  $Qf^\infty$  (cf. Remark 3.2) we can replace in (1.14) the space  $W^{1,1}(Q_\nu; \mathbb{R}^d)$  by  $W^{1,\infty}(Q_\nu; \mathbb{R}^d)$ .*

*iii) Under assumptions  $(G_1) - (G_3)$ , the function  $K_3$  in (1.13) can be obtained, either taking test functions  $v$  in  $BV(\Omega; T)$  for every  $T \subset \mathbb{R}^m$ , with  $\text{card}(T)$  finite, or in  $SBV_0(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m) \cap L^\infty(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m)$ . This is easy to verify by virtue of Lemma 2.10. Namely, one can approximate functions  $v$  in  $SBV_0(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m) \cap L^\infty(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m)$  by sequences  $\{v_n\}$  in  $BV(\Omega; T_n)$  with  $T_n \subset \mathbb{R}^m$  and  $\text{card}(T_n)$  finite. Moreover  $(v_n^+, v_n^-, \nu_{v_n}) \rightarrow (v^+, v^-, \nu_v)$  pointwise and we can apply reverse Fatou's lemma to obtain the equivalence between the two possible definitions of  $K_3$ .*

*iv) Observe that the properties of  $K_3$  and the assumptions on  $f$  and  $g$  allow us to replace in the definition of  $\mathcal{A}_3$  (see formula (1.14)) the set  $SBV_0(Q; \mathbb{R}^m) \cap L^\infty(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m)$  by  $SBV_0(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m)$ .*

By the proposition below one can replace in (1.11),  $f$  by its quasiconvexification  $Qf$ . We will omit the proof, which is quite standard, exploiting the relaxation results in the Sobolev spaces, cf. [19, Theorem 9.8].

**Proposition 3.6** *Let  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^N$  be a bounded open set,  $f$  and  $g$  be as in Theorem 4.1,  $Qf$  as in (3.2) and let  $\mathcal{F}$  be given by (1.11). Then for every  $A \in \mathcal{A}(\Omega)$  and for every  $(v, u) \in SBV_0(A; \mathbb{R}^m) \times BV(A; \mathbb{R}^d)$ ,*

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{F}(v, u; A) &= \inf \left\{ \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_A Qf(v_n, \nabla u_n) dx + \int_{A \cap J_{v_n}} g(v_n^+, v_n^-, \nu_n) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1} : \right. \\ &\quad \left. \{(v_n, u_n)\} \subset SBV_0(A; \mathbb{R}^m) \times W^{1,1}(A; \mathbb{R}^d), (v_n, u_n) \rightarrow (v, u) \text{ in } L^1(A; \mathbb{R}^m) \times L^1(A; \mathbb{R}^d) \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

The following result is analogous to [24, Proposition 2.4] and it is devoted to replace the test functions in (1.11) by smooth ones. We will omit the proof, and just observe that i) follows the arguments in [1] with the application of Morse's measure covering theorem (c.f. [23, Theorem 1.147]).

**Proposition 3.7** *Let  $f : \mathbb{R}^m \times \mathbb{R}^{d \times N} \rightarrow [0, +\infty]$  be a function satisfying  $(F_1) - (F_3)$  and let  $Qf$  be given by (3.2).*

i) *Let  $B$  be a ball in  $\mathbb{R}^N$ . If*

$$\bar{F}_0(v, u; B) \leq \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( \int_B Qf(v_n, \nabla u_n) dx + \int_{J_{v_n} \cap B} g(v_n^+, v_n^-, \nu_{v_n}) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1} \right) \quad (3.6)$$

*holds for every  $(v_n, u_n), (v, u) \in SBV_0(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m) \times W^{1,1}(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^d)$  such that  $(v_n, u_n) \rightarrow (v, u)$  in  $L^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m) \times L^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^d)$  then it holds for all open bounded sets  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^N$ .*

ii) *For every  $(v, u) \in L^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m) \times L^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^d)$ ,  $\{(v_n, u_n)\} \subset SBV_0(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m) \times W^{1,1}(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^d)$  such that  $(v_n, u_n) \rightarrow (v, u)$  in  $L^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m) \times L^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^d)$  there exists  $\{(\tilde{v}_n, \tilde{u}_n)\} \subset C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}^N; \mathbb{R}^m) \times C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}^N; \mathbb{R}^d)$  such that  $(\tilde{v}_n, \tilde{u}_n) \rightarrow (v, u)$  strictly in  $BV(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m) \times BV(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^d)$  and*

$$\liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_\Omega Qf(\tilde{v}_n, \nabla \tilde{u}_n) dx = \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_\Omega Qf(v_n, \nabla u_n) dx.$$

In order to achieve the integral representation in (1.2) for the jump part, we need to modify  $\{(v_n, u_n)\}$  to match the boundary in such a way the new sequences will be in  $\mathcal{A}_3(v^+(x), v^-(x), u^+(x_0), u^-(x_0), \nu(x_0))$  given in (1.14), and the energy doesn't increase. This is achieved in the next Lemma that for sake of simplicity is stated in the unit cube  $Q \subset \mathbb{R}^N$ , and with the normal to the jump set  $\nu = e_N$ . The proof relies on the techniques of [15, Lemma 3.5], [25, Lemma 3.1] and [5, Lemma 4.4].

**Lemma 3.8** *Let  $Q := [0, 1]^N$  and*

$$v_0(y) := \begin{cases} a & \text{if } x_N > 0, \\ b & \text{if } x_N < 0, \end{cases} \quad u_0(y) := \begin{cases} c & \text{if } x_N > 0, \\ d & \text{if } x_N < 0. \end{cases}$$

*Let  $\{v_n\} \subset SBV_0(Q; \mathbb{R}^m)$  and  $\{u_n\} \subset W^{1,1}(Q; \mathbb{R}^d)$ , such that  $v_n \rightarrow v_0$  in  $L^1(Q; \mathbb{R}^m)$  and  $u_n \rightarrow u_0$  in  $L^1(Q; \mathbb{R}^d)$ .*

*If  $\rho$  is a mollifier,  $\rho_n := n^N \rho(nx)$ , then there exists  $\{(\zeta_n, \xi_n)\} \in \mathcal{A}_3(a, b, c, d, e_N)$  such that*

$$\begin{aligned} \zeta_n &= v_0 \text{ on } \partial Q, \quad \zeta_n \rightarrow v_0 \text{ in } L^1(Q; \mathbb{R}^m), \\ \xi_n &= \rho_{i(n)} * u_0 \text{ on } \partial Q, \quad \xi_n \rightarrow u_0 \text{ in } L^1(Q; \mathbb{R}^d) \end{aligned}$$

*and*

$$\begin{aligned} & \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( \int_Q Qf(\zeta_n, \nabla \xi_n) dx + \int_{J_{\zeta_n} \cap Q} g(\zeta_n^+, \zeta_n^-, \nu_{\zeta_n}) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1} \right) \\ & \leq \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( \int_Q Qf(v_n, \nabla u_n) dx + \int_{J_{v_n} \cap Q} g(v_n^+, v_n^-, \nu_{v_n}) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1} \right). \end{aligned}$$

**Proof.** Without loss of generality, we may assume that

$$\begin{aligned} & \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( \int_Q Qf(v_n, \nabla u_n) dx + \int_{J_{v_n} \cap Q} g(v_n^+, v_n^-, \nu_{v_n}) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1} \right) \\ & = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( \int_Q Qf(v_n, \nabla u_n) dx + \int_{J_{v_n} \cap Q} g(v_n^+, v_n^-, \nu_{v_n}) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1} \right) < +\infty. \end{aligned}$$

The proof is divided in two steps.

**Step 1.** First we claim that for every  $\varepsilon > 0$ , denoted  $\|(v_0, u_0)\|_\infty$  by  $M_0$ , there exist a sequence  $\{\bar{u}_n\} \subset W^{1,1}(Q; \mathbb{R}^d) \cap L^\infty(Q; \mathbb{R}^d)$  and a sequence  $\{\bar{v}_n\} \subset SBV_0(Q; \mathbb{R}^m) \cap L^\infty(Q; \mathbb{R}^m)$ , and a constant  $C > 0$  such that  $\|\bar{u}_n\|_\infty, \|\bar{v}_n\|_\infty \leq C$  for every  $n$  and

$$\begin{aligned} & \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( \int_Q Qf(\bar{v}_n, \nabla \bar{u}_n) dx + \int_{J_{\bar{v}_n} \cap Q} g(\bar{v}_n^+, \bar{v}_n^-, \nu_{\bar{v}_n}) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1} \right) \\ & \leq \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( \int_Q Qf(v_n, \nabla u_n) dx + \int_{J_{v_n} \cap Q} g(v_n^+, v_n^-, \nu_{v_n}) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1} \right) + \varepsilon. \end{aligned} \quad (3.7)$$

To achieve the claim we can apply a truncation argument as in [15, Lemma 3.5], (c.f. also [12, Lemma 3.7]). For  $a_i \in \mathbb{R}$  to be determined later depending on  $\varepsilon$  and  $M_0$ , we define  $\phi_i \in W_0^{1,\infty}(\mathbb{R}^{m+d}, \mathbb{R}^{m+d})$  such that

$$\phi_i(x) = \begin{cases} x, & |x| < a_i, \\ 0, & |x| \geq a_{i+1}, \end{cases} \quad (3.8)$$

$\|\nabla \phi_i\|_\infty \leq 1$ , with  $x \in \mathbb{R}^{m+d}$ , and  $x \equiv (x_1, x_2), x_1 \in \mathbb{R}^m, x_2 \in \mathbb{R}^d$ .

For any  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and for any  $i$  as above, let  $(v_n^i, u_n^i) \in SBV_0(Q; \mathbb{R}^m) \times W^{1,1}(Q; \mathbb{R}^d) \cap L^\infty(Q; \mathbb{R}^{m+d})$  be given by

$$(v_n^i, u_n^i) := \phi_i(v_n, u_n).$$

Considering the bulk part of the energy  $F$  in (1.9), and exploiting Proposition 3.6 and the growth conditions on  $f$  and  $Qf$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_Q Qf(v_n^i, \nabla u_n^i) dx = \int_{Q \cap \{|(v_n, u_n)| \leq a_i\}} Qf(v_n, \nabla u_n) dx + \int_{Q \cap \{|(v_n, u_n)| > a_{i+1}\}} Qf(0, 0) dx \\ & + \int_{Q \cap \{a_i < |(v_n, u_n)| \leq a_{i+1}\}} Qf(v_n^i, \nabla u_n^i) dx \\ & \leq \int_Q Qf(v_n, \nabla u_n) dx + C|Q \cap \{|(v_n, u_n)| > a_{i+1}\}| + C_1 \int_{A \cap \{a_i < |(v_n, u_n)| \leq a_{i+1}\}} (1 + |\nabla u_n|) dx. \end{aligned}$$

Concerning the surface term of the energy in (1.9), since  $((v_n^i)^\pm, (u_n^i)^\pm) = \phi_i(v_n^\pm, u_n^\pm)$ , and without loss of generality one can assume that  $|(v_n^-, u_n^-)| \leq |(v_n^+, u_n^+)|$   $\mathcal{H}^{N-1}$ - a.e. on  $J_{(v_n, u_n)}$ , we have that

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{Q \cap J_{v_n^i}} g((v_n^i)^+, (v_n^i)^-, \nu_{v_n^i}) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1} \\ & \leq \int_{J_{v_n} \setminus \{a_{i+1} \leq |(v_n^-, u_n^-)|\} \cap Q} g(\phi_i((v_n^i)^+, (u_n^i)^+), \phi_i((v_n^i)^-, (u_n^i)^-), \nu_{(v_n^i, u_n^i)}) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1}. \end{aligned}$$

Arguing as in [15, Lemma 3.5] (cf. also [15, Remark 3.6]), and exploiting the growth conditions on  $g$  we can

estimate  $\frac{1}{k} \sum_{i=1}^k F(v_n^i, u_n^i; Q)$  for any fixed  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ , and for every  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , with  $k$  independent on  $n$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{k} \sum_{i=1}^k F(v_n^i, u_n^i; Q) \leq F(v_n, u_n; Q) + \frac{1}{k} \sum_{i=2}^k \left( C|Q \cap \{|(v_n, u_n)| > a_{i+1}\}| + C_4 \int_{J_2^i \cap Q} (1 + |v_n^-|) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1} \right) \\ & + \frac{1}{k} \left( c_2 \int_Q (1 + |\nabla u_n|) dx + 3C_4 \int_{J_{v_n} \cap Q} (1 + |v_n^+ - v_n^-|) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1} \right), \end{aligned}$$

where  $J_2^i := \{|v_n^-| \leq a_i, |v_n^+| \geq a_{i+1}\}$ . By the growth conditions there exists a constant  $C$  such that

$$\left( c_2 \int_Q (1 + |\nabla u_n|) dx + 3c_4 \int_{J_{v_n} \cap Q} (1 + |v_n^+ - v_n^-|) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1} \right) \leq C,$$

for every  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Choose  $k \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $\frac{c}{k} \leq \frac{\varepsilon}{3}$ . Moreover

$$C \geq \int_{J_2^i \cap Q} |v_n^+ - v_n^-| d\mathcal{H}^{N-1} \geq \int_{J_2^i \cap Q} (|v_n^+| - |v_n^-|) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1} \geq (a_{i+1} - a_i) \mathcal{H}^{N-1}(J_2^i \cap Q),$$

whence

$$\int_{J_2^i \cap Q} (1 + |v_n^-|) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1} \leq C \frac{1 + a_i}{a_{i+1} - a_i}.$$

The sequence  $\{a_i\}$  can be chosen recursively as follows

$$C_2 |Q \cap \{|(v_n, u_n)| > a_i\}| \leq \frac{\varepsilon}{3}, \text{ for every } n \in \mathbb{N}, a_{i+1} \geq M_0,$$

$$c_4 C \frac{1 + a_i}{a_{i+1} - a_i} \leq \frac{\varepsilon}{3} \text{ for every } i \in \mathbb{N},$$

which is possible since  $\{(v_n, u_n)\}$  is bounded in  $L^1$ . Thus we obtain

$$\frac{1}{k} \sum_{j=1}^k F(v_n^{i_j}, u_n^{i_j}; Q) \leq F(v_n, u_n; Q) + \varepsilon.$$

Therefore for every  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  there exists  $i(n) \in \{1, \dots, k\}$  such that

$$F(v_n^{i(n)}, u_n^{i(n)}; Q) \leq F(v_n, u_n; Q) + \varepsilon.$$

It suffices to define  $\bar{v}_n := v_n^{i(n)}$  and  $\bar{u}_n := u_n^{i(n)}$  to achieve (3.7) and observe that  $\{\bar{u}_n\}$  and  $\{\bar{v}_n\}$  are bounded in  $L^\infty$ , by construction.

**Step 2.** This step is devoted to the construction of sequences  $\{\xi_n\}$  and  $\{\zeta_n\}$  as in the statement. Let  $\bar{v}_n$  and  $\bar{u}_n$  be as in  $i$ ). Define

$$w_n(x) := (\rho_n * u_0)(x) = \int_{B(x, \frac{1}{n})} \rho_n(x-y) u_0(y) dy.$$

As  $\rho$  is a mollifier, we have for each tangential direction  $i = 1, \dots, N-1$ ,  $w_n(x + e_i) = w_n(x)$  and so

$$w_n(y) = \begin{cases} c & \text{if } x_N > \frac{1}{n}, \\ d & \text{if } x_N < -\frac{1}{n}, \end{cases} \quad \|\nabla w_n\|_\infty = O(n), \quad w_n \in \mathcal{A}_1(c, d, e_N),$$

where

$$\mathcal{A}_1(c, d, e_N) := \left\{ u \in W^{1,1}(Q_\nu; \mathbb{R}^d) : u(y) = c \text{ if } y \cdot \nu = \frac{1}{2}, u(y) = d \text{ if } y \cdot \nu = -\frac{1}{2}, \right.$$

with  $u$  1-periodic in  $\nu_1, \dots, \nu_{N-1}$  directions  $\left. \right\}$ .

$$\text{Let } \alpha_n := \sqrt{\|\bar{u}_n - w_n\|_{L^1(Q; \mathbb{R}^d)} + \|\bar{v}_n - v_0\|_{L^1(Q)}},$$

$k_n := n \left[ 1 + \|\bar{u}_n\|_{W^{1,1}(Q; \mathbb{R}^d)} + \|w_n\|_{W^{1,1}(Q; \mathbb{R}^d)} + \|\bar{v}_n\|_{BV(Q)} + \|v_0\|_{BV(Q)} + \mathcal{H}^{N-1}(J_{\bar{v}_n}) \right]$ ,  $s_n := \frac{\alpha_n}{k_n}$  where  $[k]$  denotes the largest integer less than or equal to  $k$ . Since  $\alpha_n \rightarrow 0^+$ , we may assume that  $0 \leq \alpha_n < 1$ , and set  $Q_0 := (1 - \alpha_n)Q$ ,  $Q_i := (1 - \alpha_n + i s_n)Q$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, k_n$ .

Consider a family of cut-off functions  $\varphi_i \in C_0^\infty(Q_i)$ ,  $0 \leq \varphi_i \leq 1$ ,  $\varphi_i = 1$  in  $Q_{i-1}$ ,  $\|\nabla \varphi_i\|_\infty = O\left(\frac{1}{s_n}\right)$  for  $i = 1, \dots, k_n$ , and define

$$u_n^{(i)}(x) := (1 - \varphi_i(x)) w_n(x) + \varphi_i(x) \bar{u}_n(x).$$

Since  $u_n^{(i)} = w_n$  on  $\partial Q$  we have that  $u_n^{(i)} \in \mathcal{A}_1(c, d, e_N)$ . Clearly,

$$\nabla u_n^{(i)} = \nabla \bar{u}_n \text{ in } Q_{i-1}, \quad \nabla u_n^{(i)} = \nabla w_n \text{ in } Q \setminus Q_i,$$

and in  $Q_i \setminus Q_{i-1}$

$$\nabla u_n^{(i)} = \nabla w_n + \varphi_i (\nabla \bar{u}_n - \nabla w_n) + (\bar{u}_n - w_n) \otimes \nabla \varphi_i.$$

For  $0 < t < 1$  define

$$v_{n,i}^t(x) := \begin{cases} v_0(x) & \text{if } \varphi_i(x) < t, \\ \bar{v}_n(x) & \text{if } \varphi_i(x) \geq t. \end{cases}$$

Clearly,  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|v_{n,i}^t - v_0\|_{L^1(Q)} = 0$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ , independently on  $i$  and  $t$ . For every  $n$  and  $i$ , by Fleming-Rishel formula (2.3) it is possible to find  $t_{n,i} \in ]0, 1[$  such that

$$\begin{aligned} \{x \in Q : \varphi_i(x) < t_{n,i}\} &\in \mathcal{P}(Q), \\ \mathcal{H}^{N-1}(J_{v_0} \cap \{x \in Q : \varphi_i(x) = t_{n,i}\}) &= \mathcal{H}^{N-1}(J_{\bar{v}_n} \cap \{x \in Q : \varphi_i(x) = t_{n,i}\}) = 0, \end{aligned}$$

where  $\mathcal{P}(Q)$  denotes the family of sets with finite perimeter in  $Q$ . Let

$$v_{n,i}^{t_{n,i}} := \begin{cases} v_0(x) & \text{in } Q \cap \{x \in Q : \varphi_i(x) < t_{n,i}\}, \\ \bar{v}_n(x) & \text{in } Q \cap \{x \in Q : \varphi_i(x) \geq t_{n,i}\}. \end{cases}$$

Clearly,  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|v_{n,i}^{t_{n,i}} - v_0\|_{L^1(Q)} = 0$ ,  $\{v_{n,i}^{t_{n,i}}\} \subset SBV_0(Q; \mathbb{R}^m) \cap L^\infty(Q; \mathbb{R}^m)$  and, from Step 1, it is uniformly bounded on  $n, i$  and  $t$ .

We have

$$\begin{aligned} &\int_Q Qf(v_{n,i}^{t_{n,i}}, \nabla u_n^{(i)}) dx + \int_{J_{v_{n,i}^{t_{n,i}}} \cap Q} g((v_{n,i}^{t_{n,i}})^+, (v_{n,i}^{t_{n,i}})^-, \nu_{v_{n,i}^{t_{n,i}}}) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1} \\ &\leq \int_Q Qf(\bar{v}_n, \nabla \bar{u}_n) dx + C \int_{Q_i \setminus Q_{i-1}} \left(1 + |\bar{u}_n(x) - w_n(x)| \frac{1}{s_n} + |\nabla \bar{u}_n(x)| + |\nabla w_n(x)|\right) dx \\ &+ C \int_{Q \setminus Q_i} (1 + |\nabla w_n(x)|) dx + \int_{Q \cap \{\varphi_i > t_{n,i}\}_1} g(\bar{v}_n^+, \bar{v}_n^-, \nu_{\bar{v}_n}) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1} \\ &+ |Dv_{n,i}^{t_{n,i}}|((Q \cap \{\varphi_i > t_{n,i}\}_0)) + \mathcal{H}^{N-1}((Q \cap \{\varphi_i > t_{n,i}\}_0)) + |Dv_{n,i}^{t_{n,i}}|(\partial^* \{\varphi_i < t_{n,i}\}) \\ &+ \mathcal{H}^{N-1}(\partial^* \{\varphi_i < t_{n,i}\}) \\ &\leq \int_Q Qf(\bar{v}_n, \nabla \bar{u}_n) dx + I_1 + \int_{Q \cap J_{\bar{v}_n}} g(\bar{v}_n^+, \bar{v}_n^-, \nu_{\bar{v}_n}) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1} + C |Dv_0|(Q \setminus Q_i : \{\varphi_i > t_{n,i}\}_0) \\ &+ \frac{C}{s_n} \int_{Q_i \setminus Q_{i-1}} |\bar{v}_n - v_0| dx + \frac{1}{s_n} O(s_n), \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \{\varphi_i > t_{n,i}\}_1 &:= \left\{x \in Q : \frac{|\{x \in Q : \varphi_i > t_{n,i}\} \cap B_\rho(x)|}{|B_\rho(x)|} = 1\right\}, \\ \{\varphi_i > t_{n,i}\}_0 &:= \left\{x \in Q : \frac{|\{x \in Q : \varphi_i > t_{n,i}\} \cap B_\rho(x)|}{|B_\rho(x)|} = 0\right\}, \end{aligned}$$

$I_1 := C \int_{Q_i \setminus Q_{i-1}} \left(1 + |\bar{u}_n(x) - w_n(x)| \frac{1}{s_n} + |\nabla \bar{u}_n(x)| + |\nabla w_n(x)|\right) dx + C \int_{Q \setminus Q_i} (1 + |\nabla w_n(x)|) dx$ , and we have used (2.3) in the last two terms of the above estimate.

Averaging over all layers  $Q_i \setminus Q_{i-1}$  one obtains

$$\begin{aligned}
& \frac{1}{k_n} \sum_{i=1}^{k_n} \left( \int_Q Qf(v_{n,i}^{t_{n,i}}, \nabla u_n^{(i)}) dx + \int_{Q \cap J_{v_{n,i}^{t_{n,i}}}} g((v_{n,i}^{t_{n,i}})^+, (v_{n,i}^{t_{n,i}})^-, \nu_{v_{n,i}^{t_{n,i}}}) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1} \right) \\
& \leq \int_Q Qf(\bar{v}_n, \bar{u}_n) dx + \int_{Q \cap J_{\bar{v}_n}} g(\bar{v}_n^+, \bar{v}_n^-, \nu_{\bar{v}_n}) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1} + \frac{C}{k_n} \int_Q (1 + |\nabla \bar{u}_n| + |\nabla \bar{v}_n|) dx \\
& + \frac{C}{k_n} \int_Q |\bar{u}_n - w_n| \frac{1}{s_n} dx + C \int_{Q \setminus Q_0} (1 + |\nabla w_n|) dx + C |Dv_0|(Q \setminus Q_0) + \frac{C}{s_n k_n} \int_{Q \setminus Q_0} |\bar{v}_n - v_0| dx + \frac{C}{k_n} \\
& \leq \int_Q Qf(\bar{v}_n, \nabla \bar{u}_n) dx + \int_{Q \cap J_{\bar{v}_n}} g(\bar{v}_n^+, \bar{v}_n^-, \nu_{\bar{v}_n}) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1} + \frac{C}{k_n} \int_Q (1 + |\nabla \bar{u}_n| + |\nabla \bar{v}_n|) dx \\
& + \frac{C}{\alpha_n} \|\bar{u}_n - w_n\|_{L^1} + C \int_{Q \setminus Q_0} (1 + |\nabla w_n|) dx + C |Dv_0|(Q \setminus Q_0) + \frac{C}{\alpha_n} \|\bar{v}_n - v_0\|_{L^1(Q)} + \frac{C}{k_n}.
\end{aligned}$$

Since  $|Q \setminus Q_0| = O(\alpha_n)$  and  $\nabla w_n(x) = 0$  if  $|x_N| > \frac{1}{N}$  we estimate

$$\int_{Q \setminus Q_0} (1 + |\nabla w_n|) dx \leq O(\alpha_n) + \mathcal{H}^{N-1}(Q \setminus Q_0 \cap \{x_N = 0\}) \int_{-\frac{1}{N}}^{\frac{1}{N}} O(n) dx_N = O(\alpha_n).$$

The same argument exploited above in order to estimate  $\int_{Q \setminus Q_0} dx$  applies to estimate  $|Dv_0|(Q \setminus Q_0)$  since  $v_0$  is a jump function across  $x_N = 0$ , namely  $|Dv_0|(Q \setminus Q_0) = C\mathcal{H}^{N-1}(Q \setminus Q_0 \cap \{x_N = 0\})$ , recalling also that  $Q_0 = \alpha_n Q$ .

Setting  $\varepsilon_n := O(\frac{1}{n}) + C\sqrt{\|\bar{u}_n - w_n\|_{L^1(Q; \mathbb{R}^d)} + \|\bar{v}_n - v_0\|_{L^1(Q)}} + O(\alpha_n)$  we have that  $\varepsilon_n \rightarrow 0^+$  and

$$\begin{aligned}
& \frac{1}{k_n} \sum_{i=1}^{k_n} \left( \int_Q Qf(v_{n,i}^{t_{n,i}}, \nabla u_n^{(i)}) dx + \int_{Q \cap J_{v_{n,i}^{t_{n,i}}}} g((v_{n,i}^{t_{n,i}})^+, (v_{n,i}^{t_{n,i}})^-, \nu_{v_{n,i}^{t_{n,i}}}) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1} \right) \\
& \leq \int_Q Qf(\bar{v}_n, \nabla \bar{u}_n) dx + \int_{Q \cap J_{\bar{v}_n}} g(\bar{v}_n^+, \bar{v}_n^-, \nu_{\bar{v}_n}) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1} + \varepsilon_n
\end{aligned}$$

and so there exists an index  $i(n) \in \{1, \dots, k_n\}$  for which

$$\begin{aligned}
& \int_Q Qf(v_{n,i(n)}^{t_{n,i(n)}}, \nabla u_n^{i(n)}) dx + \int_{Q \cap J_{v_{n,i(n)}^{t_{n,i(n)}}}} g((v_{n,i(n)}^{t_{n,i(n)}})^+, (v_{n,i(n)}^{t_{n,i(n)}})^-, \nu_{v_{n,i(n)}^{t_{n,i(n)}}}) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1} \\
& \leq \int_Q Qf(\bar{v}_n, \nabla \bar{u}_n) dx + \int_{Q \cap J_{\bar{v}_n}} g(\bar{v}_n^+, \bar{v}_n^-, \nu_{\bar{v}_n}) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1} + \varepsilon_n.
\end{aligned}$$

It suffices to define  $\xi_n := u_n^{i(n)}$ ,  $\zeta_n := v_{n,i(n)}^{t_{n,i(n)}}$  to get

$$\begin{aligned}
& \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( \int_Q Qf(\zeta_n, \nabla \xi_n) dx + \int_{J_{\zeta_n} \cap Q} g(\zeta_n^+, \zeta_n^-, \nu_{\zeta_n}) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1} \right) \\
& \leq \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( \int_Q Qf(\bar{v}_n, \nabla \bar{u}_n) dx + \int_{J_{\bar{v}_n} \cap Q} g(\bar{v}_n^+, \bar{v}_n^-, \nu_{\bar{v}_n}) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1} \right),
\end{aligned}$$

which concludes the proof.  $\blacksquare$

**Remark 3.9** *i) Observe that arguing as in the first step of Lemma 3.8, it results that for every  $u \in BV(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^d)$  and  $v \in SBV_0(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m) \cap L^\infty(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m)$*

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{F}(v, u; A) = & \inf \left\{ \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( \int_A f(v_n, \nabla u_n) dx + \int_{J_{v_n} \cap A} g(v_n^+, v_n^-, \nu_{v_n}) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1} \right) : \right. \\ & \{v_n\} \subset SBV_0(A; \mathbb{R}^m) \cap L^\infty(A; \mathbb{R}^m), \{u_n\} \subset W^{1,1}(A; \mathbb{R}^d), \\ & \left. (v_n, u_n) \rightarrow (v, u) \text{ in } L^1(A; \mathbb{R}^{m+d}), \sup_n \|v_n\|_\infty < +\infty \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

*ii) Similarly, if also  $u \in BV(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^d) \cap L^\infty(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^d)$ , then*

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{F}(v, u; A) = & \inf \left\{ \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( \int_A f(v_n, \nabla u_n) dx + \int_{J_{v_n} \cap A} g(v_n^+, v_n^-, \nu_{v_n}) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1} \right) : \right. \\ & \{v_n\} \subset SBV_0(A; \mathbb{R}^m) \cap L^\infty(A; \mathbb{R}^m), \{u_n\} \subset W^{1,1}(A; \mathbb{R}^d) \cap L^\infty(A; \mathbb{R}^d), \\ & \left. (v_n, u_n) \rightarrow (v, u) \text{ in } L^1(A; \mathbb{R}^{m+d}), \sup_n \|(v_n, u_n)\|_\infty < +\infty \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

*iii) Notice that an argument entirely similar to [13, Lemmas 13 and 14] allows us to say that for every  $(v, u) \in SBV_0(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m) \times BV(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^d)$ , it results*

$$\mathcal{F}(v, u; A) = \lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} \mathcal{F}(\phi_j(v, u); A),$$

where  $\phi_j$  are the functions defined in (3.8).

We conclude this section with a result that will be exploited in the sequel.

**Lemma 3.10** *Let  $X$  be a function space, for any  $F : \mathbb{R} \times X \rightarrow [0, \infty]$*

$$\limsup_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \inf_{u \in X} F(\varepsilon, u) \leq \inf_{u \in X} \limsup_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} F(\varepsilon, u).$$

**Proof.** For any  $\tilde{u} \in X$

$$\inf_{u \in X} F(\varepsilon, u) \leq F(\varepsilon, \tilde{u}).$$

Thus

$$\limsup_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \inf_{u \in X} F(\varepsilon, u) \leq \limsup_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} F(\varepsilon, \tilde{u})$$

for every  $\tilde{u} \in X$ . Applying the infimum in the previous inequality one obtains

$$\inf_{\tilde{u} \in X} \limsup_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \inf_{u \in X} F(\varepsilon, u) \leq \inf_{\tilde{u} \in X} \limsup_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} F(\varepsilon, \tilde{u}).$$

Hence

$$\limsup_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \inf_{u \in X} F(\varepsilon, u) \leq \inf_{u \in X} \limsup_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} F(\varepsilon, u).$$

■

## 4 Lower bound

This section is devoted to the proof of the lower bound inequality for Theorem 1.2. Recall that  $\mathcal{F}$  and  $\overline{F}_0$  are the functionals introduced in (1.11) and (1.12).

**Theorem 4.1** *Let  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^N$  be a bounded open set, let  $f : \mathbb{R}^m \times \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow [0, +\infty)$  satisfy  $(F_1) - (F_4)$  and let  $g : \mathbb{R}^m \times \mathbb{R}^m \times S^{N-1} \rightarrow [0, +\infty)$  satisfy  $(G_1) - (G_3)$ . Then for every  $(v, u) \in SBV_0(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m) \times BV(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^d)$ , and for every sequence  $\{(v_n, u_n)\} \subset SBV_0(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m) \times W^{1,1}(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^d)$  such that  $(v_n, u_n) \rightarrow (v, u)$  in  $L^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m) \times L^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^d)$ ,*

$$\overline{F}_0(v, u; \Omega) \leq \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} F(v_n, u_n; \Omega), \quad (4.1)$$

where  $\overline{F}_0$  is given by (1.12).

**Proof.** Let  $(v, u) \in SBV_0(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m) \times BV(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^d)$ . Without loss of generality, we may assume that for every  $\{(v_n, u_n)\} \subset SBV_0(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m) \times BV(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^d)$  converging to  $(v, u)$  in  $L^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m) \times L^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^d)$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} & \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( \int_{\Omega} f(v_n, \nabla u_n) dx + \int_{J_{v_n} \cap \Omega} g(v_n^+, v_n^-, \nu_{v_n}) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1} \right) \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( \int_{\Omega} f(v_n, \nabla u_n) dx + \int_{J_{v_n} \cap \Omega} g(v_n^+, v_n^-, \nu_{v_n}) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1} \right) < +\infty. \end{aligned}$$

For every Borel set  $B \subset \Omega$  define

$$\mu_n(B) := \int_B f(v_n, \nabla u_n) dx + \int_{J_{v_n} \cap B} g(v_n^+, v_n^-, \nu_{v_n}) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1}.$$

Since  $\{\mu_n\}$  is a sequence of nonnegative Radon measures, uniformly bounded in the space of measures, we can extract a subsequence, still denoted by  $\{\mu_n\}$ , weakly  $*$  converging in the sense of measures to some Radon measure  $\mu$ . Using Radon-Nikodým theorem we can decompose  $\mu$  as a sum of four mutually singular nonnegative measures, namely

$$\mu = \mu_a \mathcal{L}^N + \mu_c |D^c u| + \mu_j \mathcal{H}^{N-1} \llcorner J_{(v,u)} + \mu_s, \quad (4.2)$$

where we have been considering  $(v, u)$  as a unique field in  $BV(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^{m+d})$  and we have been exploiting the fact that  $D^c(v, u) = (0, D^c u)$  (cf. Remark 2.11). By Besicovitch derivation theorem

$$\begin{aligned} \mu_a(x_0) &= \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\mu(B(x_0, \varepsilon))}{\mathcal{L}^N(B(x_0, \varepsilon))} < +\infty, \text{ for } \mathcal{L}^N - \text{a.e. } x_0 \in \Omega, \\ \mu_j(x_0) &= \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\mu(Q_\nu(x_0, \varepsilon))}{\mathcal{H}^{N-1}(Q_\nu(x_0, \varepsilon) \cap J_{(v,u)})} < +\infty, \text{ for } \mathcal{H}^{N-1} - \text{a.e. } x_0 \in J_{(v,u)} \cap \Omega, \\ \mu_c(x_0) &= \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\mu(Q(x_0, \varepsilon))}{|Du|(Q(x_0, \varepsilon))} < +\infty, \text{ for } |D^c u| - \text{a.e. } x_0 \in \Omega. \end{aligned} \quad (4.3)$$

We claim that

$$\mu_a(x_0) \geq Qf(v(x_0), \nabla u(x_0)), \text{ for } \mathcal{L}^N - \text{a.e. } x_0 \in \Omega, \quad (4.4)$$

$$\mu_j(x_0) \geq K_3(v^+(x_0), v^-(x_0), u^+(x_0), u^-(x_0), \nu_{(v,u)}), \text{ for } \mathcal{H}^{N-1} - \text{a.e. } x_0 \in J_{(v,u)} \cap \Omega, \quad (4.5)$$

$$\mu_c(x_0) \geq (Qf)^\infty\left(v(x_0), \frac{dD^c u}{d|D^c u|}(x_0)\right) \text{ for } |D^c u| - \text{a.e. } x_0 \in \Omega, \quad (4.6)$$

where  $Qf$  is the density introduced in (3.2),  $Qf^\infty$  is its recession function as in (1.10) and  $K_3$  is given by (1.13). If (4.4) – (4.6) hold then (4.1) follows immediately. Indeed, since  $\mu_n \xrightarrow{*} \mu$  in the sense of measures

$$\begin{aligned} & \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( \int_{\Omega} f(v_n, \nabla u_n) dx + \int_{J_{v_n} \cap \Omega} g(v_n^+, v_n^-, \nu_{v_n}) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1} \right) \\ & \geq \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mu_n(\Omega) \geq \mu(\Omega) \geq \int_{\Omega} \mu_a dx + \int_{J_{(v,u)}} \mu_j d\mathcal{H}^{N-1} + \int_{\Omega} \mu_c d|D^c u| \\ & \geq \int_{\Omega} Qf(v(x), \nabla u(x)) dx + \int_{J_{(v,u)}} K_3(v^+(x), v^-(x), u^+(x), u^-(x), \nu_{(v,u)}) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1} \\ & + \int_{\Omega} (Qf)^\infty\left(v(x), \frac{dD^c u}{d|D^c u|}(x)\right) d|D^c u| \end{aligned}$$

where we have used the fact that  $\mu_s$  is nonnegative.

We prove (4.4)–(4.6) using the blow-up method introduced in [24].

**Step 1.** Let  $x_0 \in \Omega$  be a Lebesgue point for  $\nabla u$  and  $v$ , such that  $x_0 \notin J_{(v,u)}$ , (2.1) applied to  $u$ , and (4.3)<sub>1</sub> hold.

We observe that

$$\begin{aligned} & \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( \int_{\Omega} f(v_n, \nabla u_n) dx + \int_{J_{v_n} \cap \Omega} g(v_n^+, v_n^-, \nu_{v_n}) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1} \right) \\ & \geq \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\Omega} f(v_n, \nabla u_n) dx \geq \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\Omega} Qf(v_n, \nabla u_n) dx. \end{aligned}$$

Note that by Proposition 3.1  $Qf$  satisfies  $(F_1)$ – $(F_3)$ . By Proposition 3.7 we may assume that  $\{(v_n, u_n)\} \subset C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}^N; \mathbb{R}^m) \times C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}^N; \mathbb{R}^d)$  and applying [25, formula (2.10) in Theorem 2.19], to the functional  $G : (v, u) \in W^{1,1}(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^{m+d}) \rightarrow \int_{\Omega} Qf(v, \nabla u) dx$  we obtain (4.4).

**Step 2.** Now we prove (4.5).

Remind that  $J_{(v,u)} = J_v \cup J_u$  and  $\nu_{(v,u)} = \nu_v$  for every  $(v, u) \in SBV_0(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m) \times W^{1,1}(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^d)$ . By Lemma 2.7, Proposition 2.6 ii) and Theorem 2.1 we may fix  $x_0 \in J_{(v,u)} \cap \Omega$  such that

$$\begin{aligned} & \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{1}{\varepsilon^{N-1}} \int_{J_{(v,u)} \cap Q_{\nu}(x_0, \varepsilon)} (|v^+(x) - v^-(x_0)| + |u^+(x) - u^-(x_0)|) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1} \\ & = |v^+(x_0) - v^-(x_0)| + |u^+(x_0) - u^-(x_0)|, \end{aligned} \quad (4.7)$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{1}{\varepsilon^N} \int_{\{x \in Q_{\nu}(x_0, \varepsilon) : (x-x_0) \cdot \nu(x) > 0\}} |v(x) - v^+(x_0)|^{\frac{N}{N-1}} dx \\ & + \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{1}{\varepsilon^N} \int_{\{x \in Q_{\nu}(x_0, \varepsilon) : (x-x_0) \cdot \nu(x) < 0\}} |u(x) - u^+(x_0)|^{\frac{N}{N-1}} dx = 0, \end{aligned} \quad (4.8)$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{1}{\varepsilon^N} \int_{\{x \in Q_{\nu}(x_0, \varepsilon) : (x-x_0) \cdot \nu(x) < 0\}} |v(x) - v^-(x_0)|^{\frac{N}{N-1}} dx \\ & + \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{1}{\varepsilon^N} \int_{\{x \in Q_{\nu}(x_0, \varepsilon) : (x-x_0) \cdot \nu(x) > 0\}} |u(x) - u^-(x_0)|^{\frac{N}{N-1}} dx = 0, \end{aligned} \quad (4.9)$$

$$\mu_j(x_0) = \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\mu(x_0 + \varepsilon Q_{\nu}(x_0))}{\mathcal{H}^{N-1} \lfloor J_{(v,u)}(x_0 + \varepsilon Q_{\nu}(x_0))} \text{ exists and it is finite.} \quad (4.10)$$

For simplicity of notation we write  $Q := Q_{\nu}(x_0)$ . Then by (4.10),

$$\mu_j(x_0) = \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{1}{\varepsilon^{N-1}} \int_{x_0 + \varepsilon Q} d\mu(x). \quad (4.11)$$

Without loss of generality, we may choose  $\varepsilon > 0$  such that  $\mu(\partial(x_0 + \varepsilon Q)) = 0$ . Since  $Qf \leq f$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mu_j(x_0) & \geq \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\varepsilon^{N-1}} \left( \int_{x_0 + \varepsilon Q} Qf(v_n(x), \nabla u_n(x)) dx + \int_{J_{v_n}} g(v_n^+, v_n^-, \nu_{v_n}) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1} \right) \\ & = \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \varepsilon \int_Q Qf(v_n(x_0 + \varepsilon y), \nabla u_n(x_0 + \varepsilon y)) dy \\ & + \int_{Q \cap J_{(v_n, u_n)} - \frac{x_0}{\varepsilon}} g(v_n^+(x_0 + \varepsilon y), v_n^-(x_0 + \varepsilon y), \nu_{(v_n, u_n)}(x_0 + \varepsilon y)) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1}(y). \end{aligned}$$

Define

$$v_{n,\varepsilon}(y) := v_n(x_0 + \varepsilon y), \quad u_{n,\varepsilon}(y) := u_n(x_0 + \varepsilon y), \quad \nu_{n,\varepsilon}(y) := \nu_{(v_n, u_n)}(x_0 + \varepsilon y), \quad (4.12)$$

and

$$v_0(y) := \begin{cases} v^+(x_0) & \text{if } y \cdot \nu(x_0) > 0, \\ v^-(x_0) & \text{if } y \cdot \nu(x_0) < 0, \end{cases} \quad u_0(y) := \begin{cases} u^+(x_0) & \text{if } y \cdot \nu(x_0) > 0, \\ u^-(x_0) & \text{if } y \cdot \nu(x_0) < 0. \end{cases} \quad (4.13)$$

Since  $(v_n, u_n) \rightarrow (v, u)$  in  $L^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^{m+d})$ , by (4.8) and (4.9) one obtains

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_Q |v_{n,\varepsilon}(y) - v_0(y)| dy &= \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{1}{\varepsilon^N} \left( \int_{\{x \in x_0 + \varepsilon \partial Q : (x-x_0) \cdot \nu(x_0) > 0\}} |v(x) - v^+(x_0)| dx \right. \\ &\left. + \int_{\{x \in x_0 + \varepsilon \partial Q : (x-x_0) \cdot \nu(x_0) < 0\}} |v(x) - v^-(x_0)| dx \right) = 0 \end{aligned} \quad (4.14)$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_Q |u_{n,\varepsilon}(y) - u_0(y)| dy &= \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{1}{\varepsilon^N} \left( \int_{\{x \in x_0 + \varepsilon \partial Q : (x-x_0) \cdot \nu(x_0) > 0\}} |u(x) - u^+(x_0)| dx \right. \\ &\left. + \int_{\{x \in x_0 + \varepsilon \partial Q : (x-x_0) \cdot \nu(x_0) < 0\}} |u(x) - u^-(x_0)| dx \right) = 0. \end{aligned} \quad (4.15)$$

Thus

$$\begin{aligned} \mu_j(x_0) &\geq \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( \int_Q Qf^\infty(v_{n,\varepsilon}(y), \nabla u_{n,\varepsilon}(y)) dy + \int_{Q \cap J(v_{n,\varepsilon}, u_{n,\varepsilon})} g(v_{n,\varepsilon}^+, v_{n,\varepsilon}^-, \nu_{v_{n,\varepsilon}}) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1}(y) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \int_Q \left( \varepsilon Qf \left( v_{n,\varepsilon}(y), \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \nabla u_{n,\varepsilon}(y) \right) - Qf^\infty(v_{n,\varepsilon}, \nabla u_{n,\varepsilon}) \right) dy \right). \end{aligned}$$

Exploiting (v) in Remark 3.2 we can argue as in the estimates [25, (3.3)-(3.5)], thus obtaining

$$\mu_j(x_0) \geq \liminf_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( \int_Q Qf^\infty(v_{n,\varepsilon}(y), \nabla u_{n,\varepsilon}(y)) dy + \int_{Q \cap J(v_{n,\varepsilon}, u_{n,\varepsilon})} g(v_{n,\varepsilon}^+, v_{n,\varepsilon}^-, \nu_{v_{n,\varepsilon}}) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1}(y) \right).$$

Since  $(v_{n,\varepsilon}, u_{n,\varepsilon}) \rightarrow (v_0, u_0)$  in  $L^1(Q; \mathbb{R}^{m+d})$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$  and  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+$ , by a standard diagonalization argument, as in [12, Theorem 4.1 Steps 2 and 3], we obtain a sequence  $(\bar{v}_k, \bar{u}_k)$  converging to  $(v_0, u_0)$  in  $L^1(Q; \mathbb{R}^{m+d})$  as  $k \rightarrow \infty$  such that

$$\mu_j(x_0) \geq \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \left( \int_Q Qf^\infty(\bar{v}_k(y), \nabla \bar{u}_k(y)) dy + \int_{Q \cap J(\bar{v}_k, \bar{u}_k)} g(\bar{v}_k^+, \bar{v}_k^-, \nu_{\bar{v}_k}) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1}(y) \right).$$

Applying Lemma 3.8 with  $Qf$  replaced by  $Qf^\infty$  and using (v) in Remark 3.2 we may find  $\{(\zeta_k, \xi_k)\} \in \mathcal{A}_3(v^+(x_0), v^-(x_0), u^+(x_0), u^-(x_0), \nu(x_0))$  such that

$$\begin{aligned} \mu_j(x_0) &\geq \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \left( \int_Q Qf^\infty(\zeta_k, \nabla \xi_k) dx + \int_{Q \cap J(\zeta_k, \xi_k)} g(\zeta_k^+, \zeta_k^-, \nu_{\zeta_k}) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1} \right) \\ &\geq K_3(v^+(x_0), v^-(x_0), u^+(x_0), u^-(x_0), \nu(x_0)). \end{aligned}$$

**Step 3.** Here we show (4.6).

Let  $(v, u) \in SBV_0(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m) \times BV(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^d)$ , note, as already emphasized in Remark 2.11, that  $|D^c(v, u)| = |D^c u|$ . For  $|D^c u|$ -a.e.  $x_0 \in \Omega$  we have

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{|D(v, u)|(Q(x_0, \varepsilon))}{|D^c(v, u)|(Q(x_0, \varepsilon))} = \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{|D(v, u)|(Q(x_0, \varepsilon))}{|D^c u|(Q(x_0, \varepsilon))} = 1.$$

And so by Theorems 2.4. *iii*) and 2.11 in [25], and by Theorem 2.1 for  $|D^c u|$ -a.e.  $x_0 \in \Omega$  the following hold

$$\mu_c(x_0) = \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\mu(Q(x_0, \varepsilon))}{|Du|(Q(x_0, \varepsilon))},$$

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{1}{\varepsilon^N} \int_{Q(x_0, \varepsilon)} (|u(x) - u(x_0)| + |v(x) - v(x_0)|) dx = 0,$$

for  $\mathcal{H}^{N-1} - x_0 \in \Omega \setminus J_{(v,u)}$ ,

$$A(x_0) = \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{(D(v,u))(Q(x_0, \varepsilon))}{|D(v,u)|(Q(x_0, \varepsilon))}, \quad \|A(x_0)\| = 1, \quad A(x_0) = a \otimes \nu,$$

with  $a \in \mathbb{R}^d$  and  $\nu \in S^{N-1}$ ,

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{|D(v,u)|(Q(x_0, \varepsilon))}{\varepsilon^{N-1}} = \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{|Du|(Q(x_0, \varepsilon))}{\varepsilon^{N-1}} = 0,$$

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{|D(v,u)|(Q(x_0, \varepsilon))}{\varepsilon^N} = \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{|Du|(Q(x_0, \varepsilon))}{\varepsilon^N} = \infty.$$

Arguing as in the end of Step 1, by Proposition 3.7 (ii), we may assume that  $\{(\tilde{v}_n, \tilde{u}_n)\} \subset C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}^N; \mathbb{R}^{m+d})$ . Applying [25, formula (2.12) in Theorem 2.19], to the functional  $G : (v, u) \in W^{1,1}(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^{m+d}) \rightarrow \int_\Omega Qf(v, \nabla u) dx$  we obtain for  $|D^c(v, u)|$ -a.e.  $x_0 \in \Omega$

$$\mu_c(x_0) \geq (Qf)^\infty \left( v(x_0), \frac{dD^c u}{d|D^c u|}(x_0) \right)$$

and that concludes the proof. ■

## 5 Upper bound

This section is devoted to prove that  $\mathcal{F} \leq \overline{F}_0$ .

**Theorem 5.1** *Let  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^N$  be a bounded open set, let  $f : \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow [0, +\infty)$ , be a function satisfying  $(F_1)$  -  $(F_4)$ , and let  $g : \mathbb{R}^m \times \mathbb{R}^m \times S^{N-1} \rightarrow [0, +\infty[$  be a function satisfying  $(G_1)$  -  $(G_3)$ .*

*Then for every  $(v, u) \in SBV_0(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m) \times BV(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^d)$ , for every  $A \in \mathcal{A}(\Omega)$ , there exist sequences  $\{v_n\} \subset SBV_0(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m)$ ,  $\{u_n\} \subset W^{1,1}(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^d)$  such that  $v_n \rightarrow v$  in  $L^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m)$ ,  $u_n \rightarrow u$  in  $L^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^d)$ , and*

$$\liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} F(v_n, u_n; A) \leq \overline{F}_0(v, u; A).$$

Before proving the upper bound we recall our strategy, which was first proposed in [9] and further developed in [25]. Namely, first we will show that  $\mathcal{F}(v, u; \cdot)$  is a variational functional with respect to the  $L^1$  topology and

$$\mathcal{F}(v, u; \cdot) \leq \mathcal{L}^N + |Dv| + |Du| + \mathcal{H}^{N-1} \llcorner J_v.$$

Next by Besicovitch differentiation Theorem, a blow-up argument will provide an upper bound estimate in terms of  $\overline{F}_0$ , first for bulk and Cantor parts, then also for the jump part, when the target functions  $(v, u)$  are bounded. Finally the same approximation as in [9, Theorem 4.9], will give the estimate for every  $(v, u) \in SBV_0(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m) \times BV(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^d)$ .

We recall that  $\mathcal{F}(v, u; \cdot)$  is said to be a variational functional with respect to the  $L^1$  topology if

- (i)  $\mathcal{F}(\cdot, \cdot; A)$  is local, i.e.,  $\mathcal{F}(v, u; A) = \mathcal{F}(v', u'; A)$  for every  $v, v' \in SBV_0(A; \mathbb{R}^m)$ ,  $u, u' \in BV(A; \mathbb{R}^d)$  satisfying  $u = u'$ ,  $v = v'$  a.e. in  $A$ .
- (ii)  $\mathcal{F}(\cdot, \cdot; A)$  is sequentially lower semicontinuous, i.e., if  $v_n, v \in BV(A; \mathbb{R}^m)$ ,  $u_n, u \in BV(A; \mathbb{R}^d)$  and  $v_n \rightarrow v$  in  $L^1(A; \mathbb{R}^m)$ ,  $u_n \rightarrow u$  in  $L^1(A; \mathbb{R}^d)$  then  $\mathcal{F}(v, u; A) \leq \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mathcal{F}(v_n, u_n; A)$ .
- (iii)  $\mathcal{F}(\cdot, \cdot; A)$  is the trace on  $\{A \subset \Omega : A \text{ is open}\}$  of a Borel measure on  $\mathcal{B}(\Omega)$  the family of all Borel subsets of  $\Omega$ .

Since the lower semicontinuity and the locality of  $\mathcal{F}(\cdot, \cdot; A)$  follow by its definition, it remains to prove (iii). This is the target of the following lemma, where (iii) will be obtained via a refinement of De Giorgi-Letta criterion, cf. [20, Corollary 5.2].

**Lemma 5.2** *Let  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^N$  be an open bounded set with Lipschitz boundary and let  $f$  and  $g$  be as in Theorem 5.1. For every  $(v, u) \in SBV_0(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m) \times BV(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^d)$ , the set function  $\mathcal{F}(v, u; \cdot)$  in (1.11) is the trace of a Radon measure absolutely continuous with respect to  $\mathcal{L}^N + |Dv| + |Du| + \mathcal{H}^{N-1} \llcorner J_v$ .*

**Proof.** An argument very similar to [14, Lemma 2.6 and Remark 2.7] and [10, Lemma 4.7] entails

$$\mathcal{F}(v, u; A) \leq C (\mathcal{L}^N(A) + |Dv|(A) + |Du|(A) + \mathcal{H}^{N-1} \llcorner J_v(A)).$$

By [20, Corollary 5.2] to obtain (iii) it suffices to prove that

$$\mathcal{F}(v, u; A) \leq \mathcal{F}(v, u; B) + \mathcal{F}(v, u; A \setminus \bar{U})$$

for all  $A, U, B \in \mathcal{A}(\Omega)$  with  $U \subset\subset B \subset\subset A$ ,  $u \in BV(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^d)$  and  $v \in SBV_0(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m)$ .

We start by assuming that  $v \in SBV_0(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m) \cap L^\infty(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m)$ .

Fix  $\eta > 0$  and find  $\{w_n\} \subset W^{1,1}((A \setminus \bar{U}); \mathbb{R}^d)$ ,  $\{v_n\} \subset SBV_0(A \setminus \bar{U}; \mathbb{R}^m) \cap L^\infty(A \setminus \bar{U}; \mathbb{R}^m)$  (cf. Remark 3.9) such that  $w_n \rightarrow u$  in  $L^1((A \setminus \bar{U}); \mathbb{R}^d)$  and  $v_n \rightarrow v$  in  $L^1((A \setminus \bar{U}); \mathbb{R}^m)$  and

$$\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_{A \setminus \bar{U}} f(v_n, \nabla w_n) dx + \int_{A \setminus \bar{U} \cap J_{v_n}} g(v_n^+, v_n^-, \nu_{v_n}) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1} \leq \mathcal{F}(v, u; A \setminus \bar{U}) + \eta. \quad (5.1)$$

Extract a subsequence still denoted by  $n$  such that the above upper limit is a limit.

Let  $B_0$  be an open subset of  $\Omega$  with Lipschitz boundary such that  $U \subset\subset B_0 \subset\subset B$ . Then there exist  $\{u_n\} \subset W^{1,1}(B_0; \mathbb{R}^d)$  and  $\{\bar{v}_n\} \subset SBV_0(B_0; \mathbb{R}^m) \cap L^\infty(B_0; \mathbb{R}^m)$  (cf. (i) in Remark 3.9) such that  $u_n \rightarrow u$  in  $L^1(B_0; \mathbb{R}^d)$  and  $\bar{v}_n \rightarrow v$  in  $L^1(B_0; \mathbb{R}^m)$  and

$$\mathcal{F}(v, u; B_0) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( \int_{B_0} f(\bar{v}_n, \nabla u_n) dx + \int_{J_{\bar{v}_n} \cap B_0} g(\bar{v}_n^+, \bar{v}_n^-, \nu_{\bar{v}_n}) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1} \right). \quad (5.2)$$

For every  $(\bar{v}, w) \in SBV_0(A; \mathbb{R}^m) \cap L^\infty(A; \mathbb{R}^m) \times W^{1,1}(A; \mathbb{R}^d)$ , consider  $\mathcal{G}_n(\bar{v}, w; A) := \int_A (1 + |\nabla w|) dx + (1 + [\bar{v}]) \mathcal{H}^{N-1} \llcorner (J_{\bar{v}} \cap A)$ .

Due to the coercivity (1.1), we may extract a bounded subsequence not relabelled, from the sequence of measures  $\nu_n := \mathcal{G}_n(v_n, w_n; \cdot) + \mathcal{G}_n(\bar{v}_n, u_n; \cdot)$  restricted to  $B_0 \setminus \bar{U}$ , converging in the sense of distributions to some Radon measure  $\nu$ , defined on  $B_0 \setminus \bar{U}$ . Analogously, for every  $w \in SBV_0(A; \mathbb{R}^m) \cap L^\infty(A; \mathbb{R}^m)$  we could define a sequence of measures  $\mathcal{H}_n(w; E) := \int_{J_w \cap E} d\mathcal{H}^{N-1}$ .

For every  $t > 0$ , let  $B_t := \{x \in B_0 \mid \text{dist}(x, \partial B_0) > t\}$ . Define, for  $0 < \delta < \eta$ , the subsets  $L_\delta := B_{\eta-2\delta} \setminus \overline{B_{\eta+\delta}}$ . Consider a smooth cut-off function  $\varphi_\delta \in C_0^\infty(B_{\eta-\delta}; [0, 1])$  such that  $\varphi_\delta(x) = 1$  on  $B_\eta$ . As the thickness of the strip is of order  $\delta$ , we have an upper bound of the form  $\|\nabla \varphi_\delta\|_{L^\infty(B_{\eta-\delta})} \leq \frac{C}{\delta}$ .

Define  $\bar{w}_n(x) := \varphi_\delta(x) u_n(x) + (1 - \varphi_\delta(x)) w_n(x)$ . Clearly,  $\{\bar{w}_n\}$  converges to  $u$  in  $L^1(A)$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ , and

$$\nabla \bar{w}_n = \varphi_\delta \nabla u_n + (1 - \varphi_\delta) \nabla w_n + \nabla \varphi_\delta \otimes (u_n - w_n).$$

Arguing as in [5, Lemma 4.4], we may consider a sharp transition for the  $SBV_0$  functions, namely let  $\{v_n\}$  and  $\{\bar{v}_n\}$  be as above, then for every  $0 < t < 1$  we may define  $\tilde{v}_n^t$  such that  $\tilde{v}_n^t \rightarrow v$  in  $L^1(A)$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ , and

$$\tilde{v}_n^t(x) := \begin{cases} v_n(x) & \text{in } \{x : \varphi_\delta(x) < t\}, \\ \bar{v}_n(x) & \text{in } \{x : \varphi_\delta(x) \geq t\}. \end{cases}$$

Clearly  $\tilde{v}_n^t(x) \in \{v_n(x), \bar{v}_n(x)\}$  almost everywhere in  $A$ , and since  $\mathcal{H}^{N-1}(J_{v_n}), \mathcal{H}^{N-1}(J_{\bar{v}_n}) < +\infty$  for all but at most countable  $t \in ]0, 1[$  it results that

$$\mathcal{H}^{N-1}(J_{v_n} \cap \{x \in A : \varphi_\delta(x) = t\}) = \mathcal{H}^{N-1}(J_{\bar{v}_n} \cap \{x \in A : \varphi_\delta(x) = t\}) = 0.$$

Moreover, using coarea formula (2.3) and the mean value theorem it is possible to find a  $t$  for which the integral over the level set is comparable with the double integral with  $t$  varying between 0 and 1. Thus we have

$$\int_{\partial^* \{\varphi_\delta < t\}} d\mathcal{H}^{N-1} \leq \frac{C}{\delta} \mathcal{L}^N(B_{\eta-\delta} \setminus B_\eta) \leq C.$$

An analogous reasoning provides for the same  $t$  that

$$\int_{\partial^* \{\varphi_\delta < t\}} |[\tilde{v}_n^t]| d\mathcal{H}^{N-1} \leq \frac{C}{\delta} \int_{B_{\eta-\delta} \setminus B_\eta} |v_n(x) - \bar{v}_n(x)| dx. \quad (5.3)$$

Thus, as for the  $\{\mathcal{G}_n\}$  above, we may extract a bounded subsequence not relabelled, from the sequence of measures  $\mathcal{H}_n(\tilde{v}_n^t, \cdot)$ , restricted to  $B_0 \setminus \bar{U} \cap \partial^* \{\varphi_\delta < t\}$ , converging in the sense of distributions to some Radon measure  $\nu_1$ , defined on  $B_0 \setminus \bar{U}$ .

By (1.1) we have the estimate

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_A f(\tilde{v}_n^t, \nabla \bar{w}_n) dx + \int_{A \cap J_{\tilde{v}_n^t}} g((\tilde{v}_n^t)^+, (\tilde{v}_n^t)^-, \nu_{\tilde{v}_n^t}) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1} \\ & \leq \int_{B_\eta} f(\bar{v}_n, \nabla u_n) dx + \int_{J_{\bar{v}_n} \cap B_\eta} g(\bar{v}_n^+, \bar{v}_n^-, \nu_{\bar{v}_n}) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1} \\ & + \int_{(A \setminus \overline{B_{\eta-\delta}})} f(v_n, \nabla w_n) dx + \int_{J_{v_n} \cap (A \setminus \overline{B_{\eta-\delta}})} g(v_n^+, v_n^-, \nu_{v_n}) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1} \\ & + C(\mathcal{G}_n(v_n, w_n; L_\delta) + \mathcal{G}_n(\bar{v}_n, u_n; L_\delta)) + \frac{1}{\delta} \int_{L_\delta} |w_n - u_n| dx + \int_{\partial^* \{\varphi_\delta < t\}} |[\tilde{v}_n^t]| d\mathcal{H}^{N-1} + \mathcal{H}_n(\tilde{v}_n^t; L_\delta \cap \partial^* \{\varphi_\delta < t\}) \\ & \leq \int_{B_0} f(\bar{v}_n, \nabla u_n) dx + \int_{J_{\bar{v}_n} \cap B_0} g(\bar{v}_n^+, \bar{v}_n^-, \nu_{\bar{v}_n}) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1} \\ & + \int_{(A \setminus \bar{U})} f(v_n, \nabla w_n) dx + \int_{J_{v_n} \cap (A \setminus \bar{U})} g(v_n^+, v_n^-, \nu_{v_n}) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1} \\ & + C(\mathcal{G}_n(v_n, w_n; L_\delta) + \mathcal{G}_n(\bar{v}_n, u_n; L_\delta)) + \frac{1}{\delta} \int_{L_\delta} |w_n - u_n| dx + \int_{\partial^* \{\varphi_\delta < t\}} |[\tilde{v}_n^t]| d\mathcal{H}^{N-1} + \mathcal{H}_n(\tilde{v}_n^t; L_\delta \cap \partial^* \{\varphi_\delta < t\}) \end{aligned}$$

Passing to the limit as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ , and applying (5.1), (5.2), (5.3) and the  $L^1$  convergence of  $\{v_n\}$  and  $\{\bar{v}_n\}$  to  $v$ , it results that

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{F}(v, u; A) & \leq \mathcal{F}(v, u; B_0) + \mathcal{F}(v, u; A \setminus \bar{U}) + \eta + C\nu(\bar{L}_\delta) + C\nu_1(\bar{L}_\delta) + \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\partial^* \{\varphi_\delta < t\}} |[\tilde{v}_n^t]| d\mathcal{H}^{N-1} \\ & \leq \mathcal{F}(v, u; B) + \mathcal{F}(v, u; A \setminus \bar{U}) + \eta + C\nu(\bar{L}_\delta) + C\nu_1(\bar{L}_\delta). \end{aligned}$$

Letting  $\delta$  go to 0 we obtain

$$\mathcal{F}(v, u; A) \leq \mathcal{F}(v, u; B) + \mathcal{F}(v, u; (A \setminus \bar{U})) + \eta + C\nu(\partial B_\eta) + C\nu_1(\partial B_\eta).$$

It suffices to choose a subsequence  $\{\eta_i\}$  such that  $\eta_i \rightarrow 0^+$  and  $\nu(\partial B_{\eta_i}) = \nu_1(\partial B_{\eta_i}) = 0$ , to conclude the proof of subadditivity in the case  $v \in SBV_0 \cap L^\infty$ .

In the general case, by virtue of Remark 3.9, we can argue as in the last part of Theorem 10 in [13]. ■

**Proof of Theorem 5.1.** We assume first that  $(v, u) \in (SBV_0(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m) \times BV(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^d)) \cap L^\infty(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^{m+d})$ .

**Step 1.** In order to prove the upper bound, we start by recalling that by Proposition 3.6 we can replace  $Qf$  by  $f$  in (1.11). First we deal with the bulk part.

Since the  $\mathcal{F}(v, u; \cdot)$  is a measure absolutely continuous with respect to  $\mathcal{L}^N + |Du| + (1 + [v])\mathcal{H}^{N-1} \llcorner J_v$  we claim that

$$\frac{d\mathcal{F}(v, u; \cdot)}{d\mathcal{L}^N}(x_0) \leq Qf(v(x_0), \nabla u(x_0))$$

for  $\mathcal{L}^N$ -a.e.  $x_0 \in \Omega$  where  $x_0$  is a Lebesgue point of  $v$  and  $u$  such that

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \left\{ \frac{1}{\varepsilon^N} \int_{B(x_0, \varepsilon)} |u(x) - u(x_0) - \nabla u(x_0)(x - x_0)|^{\frac{N}{N-1}} dx \right\}^{\frac{N-1}{N}} &= 0, \\ \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \left\{ \frac{1}{\varepsilon^N} \int_{B(x_0, \varepsilon)} |v(x) - v(x_0)|^{\frac{N}{N-1}} dx \right\}^{\frac{N-1}{N}} &= 0, \\ \mu_a(x_0) &= \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\mu(B(x_0, \varepsilon))}{\mathcal{L}^N(B(x_0, \varepsilon))} < \infty. \end{aligned} \quad (5.4)$$

Let  $U := (v, u)$ . By (5.4) and Theorems 2.1 and 2.2 for  $\mathcal{L}^N$ -a.e.  $x_0 \in \Omega$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{1}{\mathcal{L}^N(B(x_0, \varepsilon))} \int_{B(x_0, \varepsilon)} |U(x) - U(x_0)| (1 + |\nabla U(x)|) dx &= 0, \\ \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{|D_s U|(B(x_0, \varepsilon))}{\mathcal{L}^N(B(x_0, \varepsilon))} &= 0, \\ \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{|DU|(B(x_0, \varepsilon))}{\mathcal{L}^N(B(x_0, \varepsilon))} &\text{exists and it is finite,} \\ \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{1}{\mathcal{L}^N(B(x_0, \varepsilon))} \int_{B(x_0, \varepsilon)} Qf(v(x_0), \nabla u(x)) dx &= Qf(v(x_0), \nabla u(x_0)), \\ \frac{d\mathcal{F}(v, u; \cdot)}{d\mathcal{L}^N}(x_0) &\text{exists and it is finite.} \end{aligned} \quad (5.5)$$

We observe that the assumptions imposed on  $f$  and Proposition 3.1 allow us to apply for every  $v \in SBV_0(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m)$  the Global Method (cf. [14, Theorem 4.1.4]) to the functional  $u \in W^{1,1}(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^d) \times \mathcal{A}(\Omega) \rightarrow G(u; A) := \int_A Qf(v(x), \nabla u(x)) dx$ , thus obtaining an integral representation for the relaxed functional

$$\mathcal{G}(u; A) = \inf \left\{ \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} G(u_n; A) : u_n \rightarrow u \text{ in } L^1(A; \mathbb{R}^d) \right\} \quad (5.6)$$

for every  $(u, A) \in BV(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^d) \times \mathcal{A}(\Omega)$ .

Recall that the growth condition  $(G_2)$ , the lower semicontinuity with respect to the  $L^1$ -topology of the functional  $v \in SBV_0(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m) \mapsto ((1 + [v])\mathcal{H}^{N-1} \llcorner (J_v \cap A))$  entails

$$\mathcal{F}(v, u; A) \leq \mathcal{G}(u; A) + (1 + [v])\mathcal{H}^{N-1} \llcorner (J_v \cap A), \quad (5.7)$$

Differentiating with respect to  $\mathcal{L}^N$  at  $x_0$  and exploiting (5.4) and (5.5) we obtain that

$$\frac{d\mathcal{F}((v, u); \cdot)}{d\mathcal{L}^N}(x_0) \leq f_0(x_0, \nabla u(x_0)),$$

where for every  $x_0 \in \Omega$  and  $\xi \in \mathbb{R}^d$ ,  $f_0(x_0, \xi)$  is given as in [14, formula (4.1.5)], namely

$$f_0(x_0, \xi) := \limsup_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \inf_{\substack{z \in W^{1,1}(Q; \mathbb{R}^d) \\ z(y) = \xi y \text{ on } \partial Q}} \left\{ \int_Q Qf(v(x_0 + \varepsilon y), \nabla z(y)) dy \right\}. \quad (5.8)$$

To conclude the proof we claim that  $f_0(x_0, \xi) \leq Qf(v(x_0), \xi)$  for every  $x_0 \in \Omega$  satisfying (5.4) and (5.5) and  $\xi \in \mathbb{R}^d$ .

By virtue of Lemma 3.10 we have that

$$\begin{aligned} &\limsup_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \inf_{\substack{z \in W^{1,1}(Q; \mathbb{R}^d) \\ z(y) = \xi y \text{ on } \partial Q}} \left\{ \int_Q Qf(v(x_0 + \varepsilon y), \nabla z(y)) dy \right\} \\ &\leq \inf_{\substack{z \in W^{1,1}(Q; \mathbb{R}^d) \\ z(y) = \xi y \text{ on } \partial Q}} \left\{ \limsup_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \int_Q Qf(v(x_0 + \varepsilon y), \nabla z(y)) dy \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

Computing the lim sup on the right hand side, we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \limsup_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \int_Q Qf(v(x_0 + \varepsilon y), \nabla z(y)) dy \\ &= \limsup_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \left( \int_Q Qf(v(x_0 + \varepsilon y), \nabla z(y)) dy - \int_Q Qf(v(x_0), \nabla z(y)) dy \right) + \int_Q Qf(v(x_0), \nabla z(y)) dy. \end{aligned}$$

Since  $x_0$  is a Lebesgue point for  $v$ , and recalling that  $v \in SBV_0(Q; \mathbb{R}^m) \cap L^\infty(Q; \mathbb{R}^m)$ , by Lebesgue dominated convergence theorem and  $(F_3)$  applied to  $Qf$  (see Proposition 3.1), we have that

$$\begin{aligned} & \limsup_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \left( \int_Q Qf(v(x_0 + \varepsilon y), \nabla z(y)) dy - \int_Q Qf(v(x_0), \nabla z(y)) dy \right) \\ & \leq \limsup_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \int_Q L|v(x_0 + \varepsilon y) - v(x_0)|(1 + |\nabla z(y)|) dy = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Hence

$$\limsup_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \int_Q Qf(v(x_0 + \varepsilon y), \nabla z(y)) dy = \int_Q Qf(v(x_0), \nabla z(y)) dy.$$

By the quasiconvexity of  $Qf(v(x_0), \cdot)$ , and (5.8) one obtains

$$f_0(x_0, \xi) \leq Qf(v(x_0), \xi),$$

which concludes the proof, when replacing  $\xi$  by  $\nabla u(x_0)$ .

**Step 2.** We prove the upper bound for the Cantor part.

By Radon-Nikodým theorem we can write

$$|DU| = |D^c u| + \sigma \tag{5.9}$$

where  $U := (v, u) \in (SBV_0(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m) \times BV(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^d)) \cap L^\infty(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^{m+d})$ ,  $\sigma$  and  $|D^c u|$  are mutually singular Radon measures.

Observe that  $U \equiv (v, u)$  is  $|D^c u|$ -measurable,  $Dv$  is singular with respect to  $|D^c u|$  and by Theorems 2.1, 2.2, and [25, Theorem 2.11] for  $|D^c u|$ -a.e.  $x \in B(x_0, \varepsilon)$

$$\begin{aligned} & \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\mu(B(x_0, \varepsilon))}{|D^c u|(B(x_0, \varepsilon))} = 0, \\ & \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{|Du|(B(x_0, \varepsilon))}{|D^c u|(B(x_0, \varepsilon))} \text{ exists and is finite} \end{aligned} \tag{5.10}$$

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\varepsilon^N}{|D^c u|(B(x_0, \varepsilon))} = 0,$$

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{1}{\mathcal{L}^N(B(x_0, \varepsilon))} \int_{B(x_0, \varepsilon)} (|u(x) - u(x_0)| + |v(x) - v(x_0)|) dx = 0.$$

Moreover,

$$A(x) := \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{D^c u(B(x, \varepsilon))}{|D^c u|(B(x, \varepsilon))}, \quad \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{D^c U(B(x, \varepsilon))}{|D^c U|(B(x, \varepsilon))} =: D(x) \tag{5.11}$$

exist and they are rank-one matrices of norm 1, in particular

$$A(x) = a_u(x) \otimes \nu_u(x), \tag{5.12}$$

where  $(a_u(x), \nu_u(x)) \in \mathbb{R}^d \times S^{N-1}$ . By Theorem 2.2 we have

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{1}{|D^c u|(B(x_0, \varepsilon))} \int_{B(x_0, \varepsilon)} f^\infty(v(x_0), A(x)) d|D^c u| = f^\infty(v(x_0), A(x_0)).$$

We recall as in Step 1, that via the Global Method (cf. [14, Theorem 4.1.4]) we can obtain an integral representation for the functional  $\mathcal{G}(u; A)$  in (5.6) for every  $(v, u) \in BV(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^{m+d})$ . Moreover by Proposition 3.6, we can replace  $f$  by  $Qf$  in (1.11) and (5.7) holds.

Differentiating with respect to  $|D^c u|$  at  $x_0$  and exploiting (5.9) and (5.10) we deduce

$$\frac{d\mathcal{F}((v, u); \cdot)}{d|D^c u|}(x_0) \leq h(x_0, a_u, \nu_u),$$

where  $\nu_u(x)$  agrees with the unit vector that, together with  $a_u$ , satisfies (5.12) for  $|D^c u|$ -a.e.  $x \in \Omega \setminus J_u$ , and where  $h(x_0, a, \nu)$  is given as in [14, formula (4.1.7)], namely

$$h(x_0, a, \nu) := \limsup_{k \rightarrow \infty} \limsup_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \inf_{\substack{z \in W^{1,1}(Q_\nu^{(k)}; \mathbb{R}^d) \\ z(y) = a(\nu \cdot y) \text{ on } \partial Q_\nu^{(k)}}} \left\{ \frac{1}{k^{N-1}} \int_{Q_\nu^{(k)}} Qf^\infty(v(x_0 + \varepsilon y), \nabla z(y)) dy \right\}, \quad (5.13)$$

where  $a \in \mathbb{R}^d$ ,  $\nu \in S^{N-1}$ ,  $Q_\nu^{(k)} := R_\nu \left( \left(-\frac{k}{2}, \frac{k}{2}\right)^{N-1} \times \left(-\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}\right) \right)$ , and  $R_\nu$  is a rotation such that  $R_\nu(e_N) = \nu$ .

We also recall that by (iv) in Remark 3.2,  $Q(f^\infty) = (Qf)^\infty = Qf^\infty$ .

To conclude the proof it is enough to show that

$$h(x_0, a, \nu) \leq Qf^\infty(v(x_0), a \otimes \nu).$$

By Lemma 3.10

$$h(x_0, a, \nu) \leq \limsup_{k \rightarrow \infty} \inf_{\substack{z \in W^{1,1}(Q_\nu^{(k)}; \mathbb{R}^d) \\ z(y) = a(\nu \cdot y) \text{ on } \partial Q_\nu^{(k)}}} \left\{ \limsup_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{1}{k^{N-1}} \int_{Q_\nu^{(k)}} Qf^\infty(v(x_0 + \varepsilon y), \nabla z(y)) dy \right\}. \quad (5.14)$$

In order to compute  $\limsup_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{1}{k^{N-1}} \int_{Q_\nu^{(k)}} Qf^\infty(v(x_0 + \varepsilon y), \nabla z(y)) dy$ , we add and subtract inside the integral  $Qf^\infty(v(x_0), \nabla z(y))$ . Then, as in Step 1, exploiting the fact that  $x_0$  is a Lebesgue point for  $v \in SBV_0(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m) \cap L^\infty(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m)$ , and that  $Qf^\infty$  satisfies  $(F_3)$  (see Remark 3.2 where  $(F_3)$  has been deduced for  $f^\infty$  and Proposition 3.1), via Lebesgue dominated convergence theorem, we can conclude that

$$\limsup_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{1}{k^{N-1}} \int_{Q_\nu^{(k)}} Qf^\infty(v(x_0 + \varepsilon y), \nabla z(y)) dy = \frac{1}{k^{N-1}} \int_{Q_\nu^{(k)}} Qf^\infty(v(x_0), \nabla z(y)) dy.$$

Finally the quasiconvexity of  $Qf^\infty$  (deduced via Remark 3.2 and Proposition 3.1) provides

$$Qf^\infty(v(x_0), a \otimes \nu) = \inf_{\substack{z \in W^{1,1}(Q_\nu^{(k)}; \mathbb{R}^d) \\ z(y) = a(\nu \cdot y) \text{ on } \partial Q_\nu^{(k)}}} \left\{ \frac{1}{k^{N-1}} \int_{Q_\nu^{(k)}} Qf^\infty(v(x_0), \nabla z(y)) dy \right\},$$

which, together with (5.14) concludes the proof of the upper bound for the Cantor part when  $(v, u) \in (SBV_0(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m) \times BV(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^d)) \cap L^\infty(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^{m+d})$ .

**Step 3.** We prove the upper bound for the jump. Namely, we claim that

$$\mathcal{F}(U; J_U) \equiv \mathcal{F}(v, u, J_{(v,u)}) \leq \int_{J_U} K_3(v^+, v^-, u^+, u^-, \nu) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1} \quad (5.15)$$

for every  $U \equiv (v, u) \in (SBV_0(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m) \times BV(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^d)) \cap L^\infty(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^{m+d})$ .

The proof is divided into three parts according to the assumptions on the limit function  $U$ .

*Case 1-*  $U(x) := (a, c)\chi_E(x) + (b, d)(1 - \chi_E(x))$  with  $P(E, \Omega) < \infty$ .

*Case 2-*  $U(x) := \sum_{i=1}^\infty (a_i, c_i)\chi_{E_i}(x)$  where  $\{E_i\}_{i=1}^\infty$  forms a partition of  $\Omega$  into sets of finite perimeter and  $(a_i, c_i) \in \mathbb{R}^m \times \mathbb{R}^d$ .

Case 3-  $U \in (SBV_0(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m) \times BV(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^d)) \cap L^\infty(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^{m+d})$ .

Case 1- We start by proving that for every open set  $A \subset \Omega$

$$\mathcal{F}(U; A) \equiv \mathcal{F}(v, u; A) \leq \int_A Qf(v(x), 0) dx + \int_{J_U \cap A} K_3(a, b, c, d, \nu) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1}.$$

a) Assume first that

$$v(x) := \begin{cases} a & \text{if } x \cdot \nu > 0, \\ b & \text{if } x \cdot \nu < 0, \end{cases} \quad \text{and } u(x) := \begin{cases} c & \text{if } x \cdot \nu > 0, \\ d & \text{if } x \cdot \nu < 0. \end{cases}$$

We start with the case when  $A = a + \lambda Q$  is an open cube with two faces orthogonal to  $\nu$ , for simplicity we also assume that  $\nu = e_N$  and  $Q_\nu$  will be denoted simply by  $Q$ . Our proof develops as in [26, Proposition 4.1 and Lemma 4.2], cf. also [12, Proposition 5.1], thus we will present just the main steps.

Suppose first that  $a = 0$  and  $\lambda = 1$ . By Proposition 3.4 (cf. also Remark 3.5), there exists  $(v_n, u_n) \in \mathcal{A}_3(a, b, c, d, \nu)$  such that  $(v_n, u_n) \rightarrow (v, u)$  in  $L^1(Q; \mathbb{R}^{m+d})$  and

$$K_3(a, b, c, d, \nu) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( \int_Q Qf^\infty(v_n(x), \nabla u_n(x)) dx + \int_{J_{v_n} \cap Q} g(v_n^+(x), v_n^-(x), \nu_n(x)) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1} \right). \quad (5.16)$$

We denote by  $Q'$  the set  $\{x \in Q : x_N = 0\}$ . For  $k \in \mathbb{N}$  we label the elements of  $(\mathbb{Z} \cap [-k, k])^{N-1} \times \{0\}$  by  $\{a_i\}_{i=1}^{(2k+1)^{N-1}}$  and we observe that

$$(2k+1)\overline{Q'} = \bigcup_{i=1}^{(2k+1)^{N-1}} (a_i + \overline{Q'})$$

with

$$(a_i + Q') \cap (a_j + Q') = \emptyset \text{ for } i \neq j.$$

We define

$$z_{n,k}(x) := \begin{cases} a & \text{if } x_N > \frac{1}{2(2k+1)}, \\ v_n((2k+1)x) & \text{if } |x_N| < \frac{1}{2(2k+1)}, \\ b & \text{if } x_N < -\frac{1}{2(2k+1)}. \end{cases}$$

and

$$w_{n,k}(x) := \begin{cases} c & \text{if } x_N > \frac{1}{2(2k+1)}, \\ u_n((2k+1)x) & \text{if } |x_N| < \frac{1}{2(2k+1)}, \\ d & \text{if } x_N < -\frac{1}{2(2k+1)}. \end{cases}$$

By the periodicity of the functions  $v_n$  and  $u_n$ , it is easily seen that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \|z_{n,k} - v\|_{L^1(Q; \mathbb{R}^m)} = 0, \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \|w_{n,k} - u\|_{L^1(Q; \mathbb{R}^d)} = 0.$$

Thus, by a standard diagonalization argument, we have

$$\mathcal{F}(v, u; Q) \leq \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \limsup_{k \rightarrow \infty} \left( \int_Q Qf(z_{n,k}(x), \nabla w_{n,k}(x)) dx + \int_{Q \cap J_{z_{n,k}}} g(z_{n,k}^+(x), z_{n,k}^-(x), \nu_{n,k}(x)) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1} \right).$$

Arguing as in [12, Proposition 5.1] for the bulk part we have

$$\limsup_{k \rightarrow \infty} \int_Q Qf(z_{n,k}(x), \nabla w_{n,k}(x)) dx = \int_Q Qf(v(y), 0) dy + \int_Q Qf^\infty(v_n(y), \nabla u_n(y)) dy,$$

and for the surface term

$$\int_{Q \cap J_{z_{n,k}}} g(z_{n,k}^+(x), z_{n,k}^-(x), \nu_{n,k}(x)) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1} \leq \int_{Q \cap J_{v_n}} g(v_n^+(y), v_n^-(y), \nu_n(y)) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1}(y).$$

Putting together the estimates for bulk and surface terms and exploiting (5.16) we obtain that

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{F}(v, u; Q) &\leq \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( \int_Q Qf(v, 0) dx + \int_Q Qf^\infty(v_n(y), \nabla u_n(y)) dy \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \int_{Q \cap J_{v_n}} g(v_n^+(y), v_n^-(y), \nu_n(y)) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1} \right) = \int_Q Qf(v(x), 0) dx + K_3(a, b, c, d, e_N) \\ &= \frac{Qf(a, 0) + Qf(b, 0)}{2} + K_3(a, b, c, d, e_N). \end{aligned}$$

In order to consider sets  $A = a + \lambda Q$  with  $a \in \mathbb{R}^N$  and  $\lambda > 0$  we define

$$(Qf)_\lambda(b, B) := Qf\left(b, \frac{B}{\lambda}\right), \quad g_\lambda(\xi, \zeta, \nu) := \frac{1}{\lambda} g(\xi, \zeta, \nu)$$

and for every  $E \subset \Omega$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{F}_\lambda(v, u; E) &:= \inf_{\{(v_n, u_n)\}} \left\{ \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( \int_E (Qf)_\lambda(v_n(x), \nabla u_n(x)) dx + \int_{E \cap J_{v_n}} g_\lambda(v_n^+(x), v_n^-(x), \nu_n(x)) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1} \right) \right. \\ &\quad \left. (v_n, u_n) \in SBV_0(E; \mathbb{R}^m) \times W^{1,1}(E; \mathbb{R}^d), (v_n, u_n) \rightarrow (v, u) \text{ in } L^1(E; \mathbb{R}^{m+d}) \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

It is easily seen that for every  $(v, u) \in L^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^{m+d})$ , we have

$$\mathcal{F}(v, u; A) = \lambda^N \mathcal{F}_\lambda(v_\lambda, u_\lambda; Q),$$

where

$$v_\lambda(x) := v\left(\frac{x-a}{\lambda}\right), \quad u_\lambda(x) := u\left(\frac{x-a}{\lambda}\right).$$

Since  $Qf_\lambda^\infty = \frac{1}{\lambda} Qf^\infty$ , by the definition of  $K_3$  for  $f_\lambda$  and  $g_\lambda$  we have that  $(K_3)_\lambda(a, b, c, d, \nu) = \frac{1}{\lambda} K_3(a, b, c, d, \nu)$ .

By the definition of  $u_\lambda$  and  $v_\lambda$  we have that

$$v_\lambda = \begin{cases} a & \text{if } x_N > 0, \\ b & \text{if } x_N < 0, \end{cases} \quad u_\lambda = \begin{cases} c & \text{if } x_N > 0, \\ d & \text{if } x_N < 0. \end{cases}$$

So by the previous case it results that

$$\mathcal{F}(v, u; A) \lambda^N = \mathcal{F}_\lambda(v_\lambda, u_\lambda; Q) \leq \lambda^N \left( \frac{Qf_\lambda(a, 0) + Qf_\lambda(b, 0)}{2} + (K_3)_\lambda(a, b, c, d, e_N) \right).$$

- b) Now let  $U := (v, u)$  as in a) and let  $A$  be any open set. The proof of this step is identical to [25, Section 5. Step 3, case 1., b)]. Indeed it is enough to apply the same strategy replacing  $u$  and  $K$  in [25] by  $U$  and  $K_3$  respectively herein, obtaining

$$\mathcal{F}(v, u; A) \leq \int_A Qf(v(x), 0) dx + \int_{J_U \cap A} K_3(a, b, c, d, \nu) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1}. \quad (5.17)$$

- c) Now suppose that  $U$  has a polygonal interface, i.e.  $U = (a, c)\chi_E + (b, d)(1 - \chi_E)$ ,  $E$  is a polyhedral set, i.e.,  $E$  is a bounded strongly Lipschitz domain and  $\partial E = H_1 \cup H_2 \cup \dots \cup H_M$  are closed subsets of hyperplanes of type  $\{x \in \mathbb{R}^N : x \cdot \nu_i = \alpha_i\}$ .

The details of the proof are omitted since they are very similar to [25, Section 5, Step 3, case 1, c)]. We just observe that, given an open set  $A$  contained in  $\Omega$ , the argument relies on an inductive procedure on  $I := \{i \in \{1, \dots, M\} : \mathcal{H}^{N-1}(H_i \cap A) > 0\}$ , starting from the case  $I = \emptyset$ , when  $u \in W^{1,1}(A; \mathbb{R}^d)$  and  $v \in SBV_0(A; \mathbb{R}^m) \cap L^\infty(A; \mathbb{R}^m)$ , for which it suffices to consider  $u_n = u$  and  $v_n = v$  with (5.17) reducing to

$$\mathcal{F}(v, u; A) \leq \int_A Qf(v(x), 0) dx.$$

The case  $\text{card } I = 1$  was studied in part b) where  $E$  is a large cube so that  $J_U \cap \Omega$  reduces to the flat interface  $\{x \in \Omega : x \cdot \nu = 0\}$ .

Then the induction step, which first assumes that (5.17) is true if  $\text{card } I = k$ ,  $k \leq M - 1$  and then proves that it is still true if  $\text{card } I = k + 1$ , develops exactly as in [12, Proposition 5.1, Step 2, c)], the only difference being that the slicing method used to connect the sequence across the interfaces relies on the same techniques as Lemma 3.8, referred to more general open sets than cubes (cf. also [25, Section 5, Step 3, case 1, c)]. Thus one can conclude that

$$\mathcal{F}(v, u; A) \leq \int_A Qf(v(x), 0) dx + \int_{J_U \cap A} K_3(a, b, c, d, \nu) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1}.$$

- d) If  $E$  is an arbitrary set of finite perimeter, the step develops in strong analogy with [25, Section 5, Step 3, case 1, f)]. Essentially, exploiting Proposition 3.3 (b) and the approximation via polyhedral sets with finite perimeter as in [11, Lemma 3.1], and application of Lebesgue's monotone convergence theorem gives

$$\mathcal{F}(v, u; A) \leq \int_A Qf(v(x), 0) dx + \int_{A \cap J_U} K_3(a, b, c, d, \nu) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1},$$

This last inequality, together with Lemma 5.2, yields

$$\mathcal{F}(v, u; J_{(v,u)}) \leq \int_{J_{(v,u)}} K_3(a, b, c, d, \nu) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1}$$

which gives (5.15) when  $U \equiv (v, u) = (a, c)\chi_E + (b, d)(1 - \chi_E)$  is the characteristic function of a set of finite perimeter.

*Case 2-* Arguing as in [25, Section 5, Step 3, case 2], we refer to [9, Proposition 4.8, Step 1], and clearly we obtain for every  $(v, u) \in BV(\Omega; T) \times BV(\Omega; T)$ , with  $T$  a finite subset of  $\mathbb{R}^d$

$$\mathcal{F}(v, u; A) = \mathcal{F}(v, u; A \cap J_{(v,u)}) \leq \int_{J_{(v,u)}} K_3(v^+, v^-, u^+, u^-, \nu_{v,u}(x)) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1}(x).$$

*Case 3-* For  $U \equiv (v, u) \in (SBV_0(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m) \times BV(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^d)) \cap L^\infty(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^{m+d})$ , the proof develops analogously to [9, Proposition 4.8, Step 2] and we add some details for the reader's convenience.

First we observe that the jump set  $J_U \equiv J_{(v,u)}$  can be decomposed as  $(J_u \setminus J_v) \cup (J_v \setminus J_u) \cup (J_u \cap J_v)$ , recalling that these sets are mutually disjoint and the tangent hyperplanes to  $J_u$  and  $J_v$  coincide up to a set of  $\mathcal{H}^{N-1}$ -measure 0.

Let  $A \in \mathcal{A}(\Omega)$ , such that  $A \supset J_U$ , we assume  $U(x) \in [0, 1]^{m+d}$  for a.e.  $x \in A$ . For every  $h \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $h \geq 2$ , it is possible to define a set  $B_h := A \setminus J_U \cup \{x \in J_U : |U^+(x) - U^-(x)| \leq \frac{1}{4(m+d)h}\}$ , and define the sequence  $\{U_h\} \equiv \{(v_h, u_h)\}$  according to [9, Proposition 4.8, Step 2]. Observe that  $J_{v_h} \subset J_v$ . Then, by Step 2, we have that

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{F}(v, u; A) &\leq \liminf_{h \rightarrow \infty} \mathcal{F}(v_h, u_h; A) = \liminf_{h \rightarrow \infty} \left( \int_A Qf(v_h, 0) dx + \int_A Qf^\infty \left( v_h, \frac{dD^c u_h}{d|D^c u_h|} \right) d|D^c u_h| \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \int_{A \cap (J_{u_h} \cup J_{v_h})} K_3(v_h^+, v_h^-, u_h^+, u_h^-, \nu_{v_h, u_h}) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1} \right). \end{aligned} \tag{5.18}$$

We restrict our attention to the surface integral. Clearly,

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{A \cap (J_{u_h} \cup J_{v_h})} K_3(v_h^+, v_h^-, u_h^+, u_h^-, \nu_{v_h, u_h}) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1} = \int_{A \cap (J_{u_h} \cup J_{v_h}) \cap B_h} K_3(v_h^+, v_h^-, u_h^+, u_h^-, \nu_{v_h, u_h}) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1} \\ & + \int_{A \cap (J_{u_h} \cup J_{v_h}) \cap (A \setminus B_h)} K_3(v_h^+, v_h^-, u_h^+, u_h^-, \nu_{v_h, u_h}) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1}. \end{aligned}$$

By the decomposition of the jump set  $J_{(v_h, u_h)}$ , Proposition 3.3 d), the fact that  $J_{v_h} \subset J_v$ , the same type of estimates as in [9, page 300], entail (with the constant  $C$  varying from place to place)

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{A \cap (J_{u_h} \cup J_{v_h}) \cap B_h} K_3(v_h^+, v_h^-, u_h^+, u_h^-, \nu_{v_h, u_h}) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1} = \int_{A \cap (J_{u_h} \setminus J_{v_h}) \cap B_h} K_3(v_h^+, v_h^-, u_h^+, u_h^-, \nu_{v_h, u_h}) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1} \\ & + \int_{A \cap (J_{v_h} \setminus J_{u_h}) \cap B_h} K_3(v_h^+, v_h^-, u_h^+, u_h^-, \nu_{v_h, u_h}) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1} + \int_{A \cap J_{u_h} \cap J_{v_h} \cap B_h} K_3(v_h^+, v_h^-, u_h^+, u_h^-, \nu_{v_h, u_h}) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1} \\ & \leq C \int_{A \cap (J_{u_h} \setminus J_{v_h}) \cap B_h} |u_h^+ - u_h^-| d\mathcal{H}^{N-1} + C \int_{A \cap (J_{v_h} \setminus J_{u_h}) \cap B_h} (|v_h^+ - v_h^-| + 1) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1} \\ & + C \int_{A \cap J_{u_h} \cap J_{v_h} \cap B_h} (|v_h^+ - v_h^-| + |u_h^+ - u_h^-| + 1) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1} \\ & \leq 2C(m+d)|Du|(A \cap B_h) + C(m+d)|Dv|(A \cap B_h) + C\mathcal{H}^{N-1}(J_v \cap B_h \cap A), \end{aligned} \tag{5.19}$$

Moreover, by Proposition 3.3 c), d) and reverse Fatou's lemma we have

$$\int_{(J_{v_h} \cup J_{u_h}) \cap (A \setminus B_h)} K_3(v_h^+, v_h^-, u_h^+, u_h^-, \nu_{(v_h, u_h)}) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1} \leq \int_{A \cap (J_v \cup J_u)} K_3(v^+, v^-, u^+, u^-, \nu_{(v, u)}) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1}.$$

Clearly, taking the limit as  $h \rightarrow \infty$ , from the above inequality and (5.19) we may conclude that,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{F}(v, u; A) & \leq \int_{A \cap (J_v \cup J_u)} K_3(v^+, v^-, u^+, u^-, \nu_{(v, u)}) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1} \\ & + C(|Du|(A \setminus (J_v \cup J_u)) + |Dv|(A \setminus (J_u \cup J_v)) + \int_A Qf(v, 0) dx), \end{aligned}$$

where we have exploited the fact that the Cantor term in (5.18) is 0, from the construction of the  $u_h$ , and  $\liminf_{h \rightarrow \infty} \mathcal{H}^{N-1}(J_v \cap B_h \cap A) = \mathcal{H}^{N-1}(J_v \cap (A \setminus (J_u \cup J_v))) = 0$ . Now, since  $\mathcal{F}(v, u; \cdot)$  is a Radon measure, the above inequality holds for every Borel set  $B$ , in particular for the set  $B = A \cap (J_v \cup J_u)$  and this gives

$$\mathcal{F}(v, u; J_v \cap J_u) \leq \int_{J_v \cap J_u} K_3(v^+, v^-, u^+, u^-, \nu_{(v, u)}) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1}.$$

This concludes the proof of Step 2 when  $(v, u) \in SBV_0(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m) \times BV(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^d) \cap L^\infty(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^{m+d})$ .

The general case  $(v, u) \in SBV_0(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m) \times BV(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^d)$  follows from (iii) in Remark 3.9, (cf. [25, Section 5, Step 4.] and [9, Theorem 4.9]).

■ **Proof of Theorem 1.2.** It follows from Theorems 4.1 and 5.1 ■

**Remark 5.3** We observe that, as it can be easily conjectured from the proof of Theorems 4.1, Step 2, and 5.1, Step 3, Case 3. i) and ii),  $K_3$  admits the following equivalent representation:

on  $J_u \setminus J_v$   $K_3(a, a, c, d, \nu) = Qf^\infty(a, (c-d) \otimes \nu)$ , where  $Qf^\infty$  represents the recession function of the quasiconvexification of  $f$  as in Remark 3.2. In fact one inequality is trivial by Definition 1.13, while the other can be obtained through Proposition 3.4, invoking the quasiconvexity and the growth properties of  $Qf^\infty(a, \cdot)$  (cf. Remark 3.2) and analogous arguments to the ones leading to [8, formula (5.84)].

on  $J_v \setminus J_u$   $K_3(a, b, c, c, \nu) = \mathcal{R}g(a, b, \nu)$  where  $\mathcal{R}g$  represents the BV-elliptic envelope of  $g$ , namely the greatest BV-elliptic function less than or equal to  $g$ , which under the assumptions  $(G_1) - (G_3)$  admits the representation

$$\mathcal{R}g(a, b, \nu) = \inf \left\{ \int_{J_w \cap Q_\nu} g(w^+, w^-, \nu) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1} : w \in SBV_0(Q_\nu; \mathbb{R}^m) \cap L^\infty(Q_\nu; \mathbb{R}^m), w = v_0 \text{ on } \partial Q_\nu \right\}, \quad (5.20)$$

as in [15], [17], [13], where  $v_0$  is defined as in (3.4). This is a consequence of (1.13) and (5.20).

We observe that the above characterizations of  $K_3$  could be deduced directly reproducing the proof of lower bound and upper bound for Theorem 1.2, for the jump part on the sets  $J_u \setminus J_v$  and  $J_v \setminus J_u$ , respectively.

## 6 Applications

This section is devoted to the proof of Theorem 1.1 which is very similar to that of Theorem 1.2. In particular we replace Lemma 3.8 and Proposition 3.3 by Lemma 6.1 and Proposition 6.2, respectively. Having in mind the application that we will describe in more details in Remark 6.4 we state it with more generality, but in order to prove Theorem 1.1 we will consider  $m = 1$  and  $T = \{0, 1\}$ .

Let  $T \subset \mathbb{R}^m$  be a finite set and let

$$V : T \times \mathbb{R}^{d \times N} \rightarrow (0, +\infty) \text{ and } g : T \times T \times S^{N-1} \rightarrow [0, +\infty[ \quad (6.1)$$

satisfying  $(F_1) - (F_4)$  and  $(G_1) - (G_3)$ , respectively, and denote by  $\mathcal{A}_{fr}$  the set defined in (1.8), where the range  $\{0, 1\}$  is replaced by  $T$ .

For simplicity we will consider  $\nu = e_N$  and consequently  $Q_\nu = Q = [0, 1]^N$ .

**Lemma 6.1** *Let  $T \subset \mathbb{R}^m$  a finite set, and*

$$v_0(y) := \begin{cases} a & \text{if } x_N > 0, \\ b & \text{if } x_N < 0, \end{cases} \quad u_0(y) := \begin{cases} c & \text{if } x_N > 0, \\ d & \text{if } x_N < 0. \end{cases}$$

Let  $\{v_n\} \subset BV(\Omega; T)$  and  $\{u_n\} \subset W^{1,1}(Q; \mathbb{R}^d)$ , such that  $v_n \rightarrow v_0$  in  $L^1(Q; \mathbb{R}^m)$  and  $u_n \rightarrow u_0$  in  $L^1(Q; \mathbb{R}^d)$ .

If  $\rho$  is a mollifier,  $\rho_n := n^N \rho(nx)$ , then there exists a sequence of functions  $\{(\zeta_n, \xi_n)\} \in \mathcal{A}_{fr}(a, b, c, d, e_N)$ , such that

$$\begin{aligned} \zeta_n &= v_0 \text{ on } \partial Q, \quad \zeta_n \rightarrow v_0 \text{ in } L^1(Q; \mathbb{R}^m), \\ \xi_n &= \rho_{i(n)} * u_0 \text{ on } \partial Q, \quad \xi_n \rightarrow u_0 \text{ in } L^1(Q; \mathbb{R}^d) \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} & \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( \int_Q QV(\zeta_n, \nabla \xi_n) dx + \int_{J_{\zeta_n} \cap Q} g(\zeta_n^+, \zeta_n^-, \nu_{\zeta_n}) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1} \right) \\ & \leq \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( \int_Q QV(v_n, \nabla u_n) dx + \int_{J_{v_n} \cap Q} g(v_n^+, v_n^-, \nu_{v_n}) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1} \right), \end{aligned} \quad (6.2)$$

where  $QV$  represents the quasiconvex envelope of  $V$  as in (3.2).

We omit the proof since it is entirely similar to the one of Lemma 3.8. We just observe that there is no need of the first step where a truncation argument for  $v$  was built, since in the present context we deal with functions with finite range.

The following result, which contains the properties satisfied by  $K_2$  in (1.7), is analogous to Proposition 3.3 and it is stated for the reader's convenience.

**Proposition 6.2** *Let  $V$  be as in (1.4). Let  $K_2$  be the function introduced in (1.7). The following properties hold.*

- a)  $|K_2(a, b, c, d, \nu) - K_2(a', b', c', d', \nu)| \leq C(|a - a'| + |b - b'| + |c - c'| + |d - d'|)$  for every  $(a, b, c, d, \nu), (a', b', c', d', \nu) \in \{0, 1\} \times \{0, 1\} \times \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d \times S^{N-1}$ ;
- b)  $\nu \mapsto K_2(a, b, c, d, \nu)$  is upper semicontinuous for every  $(a, b, c, d) \in \{0, 1\} \times \{0, 1\} \times \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d$ ;
- c)  $K_2$  is upper semicontinuous in  $\{0, 1\} \times \{0, 1\} \times \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d \times S^{N-1}$ ;
- d)  $K_2(a, b, c, d, \nu) \leq C(|a - b| + |c - d|)$  for every  $\nu \in S^{N-1}$ .

**Proof of Theorem 1.1.** The arguments develop as in Theorem 1.2, essentially replacing  $f$  by  $V$  in (1.4),  $v$  by  $\chi$ , the surface integral by  $|D\chi|$ , and using the blow-up argument introduced in [24], thus we will present just the main differences.

**Lower bound.** Let  $(\chi, u) \in BV(\Omega; \{0, 1\}) \times BV(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^d)$ . Without loss of generality we may assume that for every  $\{(\chi_n, u_n)\} \subset BV(\Omega; \{0, 1\}) \times BV(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^d)$  converging to  $(\chi, u)$  in  $L^1(\Omega; \{0, 1\}) \times L^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^d)$ ,  $\liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( \int_{\Omega} V(\chi_n, \nabla u_n) dx + |D\chi_n|(\Omega) \right)$  is indeed a limit. For every Borel set  $B \subset \Omega$  define

$$\mu_n(B) := \int_B V(\chi_n, \nabla u_n) dx + |D\chi_n|(B).$$

The sequence  $\{\mu_n\}$  behaves as in Theorem 1.2, and its weak  $*$  limit (up to a not relabelled subsequence)  $\mu$  can be decomposed as in (4.2) where, as in the remainder of the proof,  $J_{(v,u)}$  has been replaced by  $J_{(\chi,u)}$ . Moreover we emphasize that we have been considering  $(\chi, u)$  as a unique field in  $BV(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^{1+d})$  and we have been exploiting the fact that  $D^c(\chi, u) = (0, D^c u)$  (cf. Remark 2.11). By Besicovitch derivation theorem we deduce (4.3).

We claim that

$$\mu_a(x_0) \geq QV(\chi(x_0), \nabla u(x_0)), \text{ for } \mathcal{L}^N - \text{a.e. } x_0 \in \Omega, \quad (6.3)$$

$$\mu_j(x_0) \geq K_2(\chi^+(x_0), \chi^-(x_0), u^+(x_0), u^-(x_0), \nu_{(\chi,u)}), \text{ for } \mathcal{H}^{N-1} - \text{a.e. } x_0 \in J_{(\chi,u)} \cap \Omega, \quad (6.4)$$

$$\mu_c(x_0) \geq (QV)^\infty \left( \chi(x_0), \frac{dD^c u}{d|D^c u|}(x_0) \right) \text{ for } |D^c u| - \text{a.e. } x_0 \in \Omega. \quad (6.5)$$

If (6.3) – (6.5) hold then the lower bound inequality for Theorem 1.1 follows.

**Step 1.** Observing that by Proposition 3.1  $QV$  satisfies  $(F_1) - (F_3)$ , the proof of (6.3) develops as in Step 1 of Theorem 1.2, just applying [25, formula (2.10) in Theorem 2.19], to the functional  $G : (\chi, u) \in W^{1,1}(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^{1+d}) \rightarrow \int_{\Omega} QV(\chi, \nabla u) dx$ .

**Step 2.** The proof of (6.4) is very similar to the one of (4.5). Remind that  $J_{(\chi,u)} = J_\chi \cup J_u$  and  $\nu_{(\chi,u)} = \nu_\chi$  for every  $(\chi, u) \in BV(\Omega; \{0, 1\}) \times W^{1,1}(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^d)$ . The same arguments of Step 2. in Theorem 1.2 allow us to fix  $x_0 \in J_{(\chi,u)} \cap \Omega$  such that (4.7), (4.8), (4.9) (4.10) and (4.11) hold.

Recall that we denote  $Q_{\nu(x_0)}$  by  $Q$  and we may choose  $\varepsilon > 0$  such that  $\mu(\partial(x_0 + \varepsilon Q)) = 0$ . It results

$$\begin{aligned} \mu_j(x_0) &\geq \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\varepsilon^{N-1}} \left( \int_{x_0 + \varepsilon Q} QV(\chi_n(x), \nabla u_n(x)) dx + |D\chi_n|(x_0 + \varepsilon Q) \right) \\ &= \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( \varepsilon \int_Q QV(\chi_n(x_0 + \varepsilon y), \nabla u_n(x_0 + \varepsilon y)) dy + |D\chi_n|(x_0 + \varepsilon y) \left( Q \cap J(\chi_n, u_n) - \frac{x_0}{\varepsilon} \right) \right). \end{aligned}$$

Define  $\chi_{n,\varepsilon}, u_{n,\varepsilon}, \nu_{n,\varepsilon}$  and  $\chi_0, u_0$  according to (4.12) and (4.13). Since  $(\chi_n, u_n) \rightarrow (\chi, u)$  in  $L^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^{1+d})$  we obtain (4.14) and (4.15), with  $v_{n,\varepsilon}$  and  $v_0$  replaced by  $\chi_{n,\varepsilon}$  and  $\chi_0$ , respectively.

Thus

$$\begin{aligned} \mu_j(x_0) &\geq \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( \int_Q QV^\infty(\chi_{n,\varepsilon}(y), \nabla u_{n,\varepsilon}(y)) dy + |D\chi_{n,\varepsilon}|(Q) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \int_Q \varepsilon QV \left( \chi_{n,\varepsilon}(y), \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \nabla u_{n,\varepsilon}(y) \right) - QV^\infty(\chi_{n,\varepsilon}, \nabla u_{n,\varepsilon}) dy \right). \end{aligned}$$

By Remark 3.2 (v) we can argue as in the estimates [25, (3.3)-(3.5)], obtaining

$$\mu_j(x_0) \geq \liminf_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( \int_Q QV^\infty(\chi_{n,\varepsilon}(y), \nabla u_{n,\varepsilon}(y)) dy + |D\chi_{n,\varepsilon}|(Q) \right).$$

Applying Lemma 6.1 with  $QV$  replaced by  $QV^\infty$ ,  $T \subset \mathbb{R}^m$  replaced by  $\{0, 1\}$ , the surface integral replaced by the total variation,  $K_{f_r}$  and  $\mathcal{A}_{f_r}$  replaced by  $K_2$  and  $\mathcal{A}_2$  respectively, and using Remark 3.2, we may find  $\{(\zeta_k, \xi_k)\} \in \mathcal{A}_2(\chi^+(x_0), \chi^-(x_0), u^+(x_0), u^-(x_0), \nu(x_0))$  such that

$$\mu_j(x_0) \geq \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \left( \int_Q QV^\infty(\zeta_k, \nabla \xi_k) dx + |D\zeta_k|(Q) \right) \geq K_2(\chi^+(x_0), \chi^-(x_0), u^+(x_0), u^-(x_0), \nu(x_0)).$$

**Step 3.** The proof of (6.5) follows identically as in Step 3, Theorem 4.1, namely applying [25, formula (2.12) in Theorem 2.19] to the functional  $G$  introduced in Step 1 herein and this concludes the proof.

**Upper Bound.** The proof of the upper bound develops in three steps as the one of Theorem 5.1. Furthermore Propositions 3.6 can be readapted replacing  $Qf$  by  $QV$  and the surface integral by  $|D\chi|$ .

**Step 1.** For  $\mathcal{L}^N$ - a.e.  $x_0 \in \Omega$ ,  $x_0$  is a Lebesgue point for  $U \equiv (\chi, u)$  such that also (5.4) and (5.5) hold for  $QV$ . In analogy with Theorem 5.1 Step 1- we apply for every  $\chi \in BV(\Omega; \{0, 1\})$ , the Global Method [14, Theorem 4.1.4] to the functional  $G : (u, A) \in W^{1,1}(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m) \times \mathcal{A}(\Omega) \rightarrow \int_\Omega QV(\chi, \nabla u) dx$ , to obtain an integral representation for the functional (5.6) for every  $(u, A) \in BV(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m) \times \mathcal{A}(\Omega)$ . Moreover we can write

$$\mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{OD}}(\chi, u; A) \leq \mathcal{G}(u; A) + |D\chi|(A).$$

Differentiating with respect to  $\mathcal{L}^N$  we obtain  $\frac{d\mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{OD}}(\chi, u; \cdot)}{d\mathcal{L}^N} \leq V_0(x_0, \nabla u(x_0))$ , where  $V_0$  is the correspondent of  $f_0$  in (5.8) where  $Qf$  has been replaced by  $QV$ . Arguing as in the last part of Theorem 5.1 Step 1, applying Lemma 3.10, we deduce that  $V_0(x_0, \xi_0) \leq QV(\chi(x_0), \xi_0)$  and this leads to the conclusion when  $u \in BV(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^d) \cap L^\infty(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^d)$ .

**Step 2.** The same type of arguments as in Step 1, applies to the proof of the upper bound for the Cantor part. Radon-Nikodým theorem implies (5.9) for every  $U \equiv (\chi, u) \in BV(\Omega; \{0, 1\}) \times (BV(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^d) \cap L^\infty(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^d))$ , with  $|D^c u|$  and  $\sigma$  mutually singular. Moreover (5.10), (5.11), (5.12) hold, the Global Method [14, Theorem 4.1.4] applies to (5.6) and a differentiation with respect to  $|D^c u|$  at  $x_0$  provides  $\frac{d\mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{OD}}(\chi, u; \cdot)}{d|D^c u|}(x_0) \leq h(x_0, a_u, \nu_u)$ , where  $h(x, a, \nu)$  is given by (5.13). Remark 3.2 applied to  $QV^\infty$ , Lemma 3.10 and the same techniques employed in the last part of Theorem 5.1 Step 2, entail

$$h(x_0, a, \nu) \leq QV^\infty(\chi(x_0), a \otimes \nu),$$

and that concludes the proof of the Cantor part for  $(\chi, u) \in BV(\Omega; \{0, 1\}) \times (BV(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^d) \cap L^\infty(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^d))$ .

**Step 3.** We claim that

$$\mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{OD}}(U; J_U) \leq \int_{J_U} K_2(\chi^+, \chi^-, u^+, u^-, \nu_{\chi, u}) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1}, \quad (6.6)$$

for every  $(\chi, u) \in BV(\Omega; \{0, 1\}) \times (BV(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^d) \cap L^\infty(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^d))$ . The proof of (6.6) is divided in three parts, according to the assumptions on the limit functions  $u$ . Namely,

*Case 1.*  $u(x) := (1, c)\chi_E(x) + (0, d)(1 - \chi_E(x))$ , with  $P(E, \Omega) < +\infty$ ,

*Case 2.*  $u(x) = \sum_{i=1}^\infty c_i \chi_{E_i}(x)$ , where  $\{E_i\}_{i=1}^\infty$  forms a partition of  $\Omega$  into sets of finite perimeter and  $c_i \in \mathbb{R}^d$ ,

*Case 3.*  $u(x) \in BV(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^d) \cap L^\infty(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^d)$ .

For what concerns Case 1, we consider first the unit open cube  $Q \subset \mathbb{R}^N$ , and make the same assumptions on the target function  $U$  as in Theorem 5.1 Step 3, Case 1. Then we can invoke an argument analogous to Proposition 3.4, without invoking any truncation arguments as those in Remark 3.5. This guarantees that there exists  $(\chi_n, u_n) \in \mathcal{A}_2(1, 0, c, d, e_N)$  such that  $(\chi_n, u_n) \rightarrow (\chi, u)$  in  $L^1(Q; \mathbb{R}^{1+d})$  and

$$K_2(1, 0, c, d, e_N) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( \int_Q QV^\infty(\chi_n(x), \nabla u_n(x)) dx + |D\chi_n|(Q) \right).$$

Then the proof develops exactly as Theorem 5.1, just taking into account that the sequence  $z_{n,k}$  therein is built replacing  $a, b$  and  $v_n$  by  $1, 0$  and  $\chi_n$  respectively, thus leading to

$$\mathcal{F}_{OD}(\chi, u; Q) \leq \frac{QV(1, 0) + QV(0, 0)}{2} + K_2(1, 0, c, d, e_N).$$

For what concerns a more general set  $A$  than  $Q$ , like in Theorem 5.1 Step 3, Case 1, we achieve the following representation

$$\mathcal{F}_{OD}(\chi, u; A) \leq \int_A QV(\chi(x), 0)dx + \int_{J_U} K_2(1, 0, c, d, \nu)d\mathcal{H}^{N-1}.$$

Then the strategy follows b), c), d) in Theorem 5.1 Step 3, Case 1, hence we obtain

$$\mathcal{F}_{OD}(\chi, u; J_{\chi, u}) \leq \int_{J_{\chi, u}} K_2(1, 0, c, d, \nu)d\mathcal{H}^{N-1}.$$

*Case 2. and Case 3.* By the properties of  $K_2$  in Proposition 6.2, the proof develops as in [9, Proposition 4.8, Case 2 and Case 3]. This concludes the proof of the upper bound when  $(\chi, u) \in BV(\Omega; \{0, 1\}) \times (BV(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^d) \cap L^\infty(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^d))$ .

The general case, since  $\chi \in BV(\Omega; \{0, 1\})$  and can be fixed, is identical to [25, Section 5, Step 4.], where the truncation procedures involves just  $u$ .

Putting together **Lower bound** and **Upper bound** we achieve the desired result. ■

**Remark 6.3** We observe that, as in Remark 5.3,  $K_2$  admits the following equivalent representation:

- i) on  $J_u \setminus J_\chi$ ,  $K_2(a, a, c, d, \nu) = QV^\infty(a, (c-d) \otimes \nu)$ , with  $QV^\infty$  as in (1.6).
- ii) on  $J_\chi \setminus J_u$ ,  $K_2(a, b, c, c, \nu) = |(a-b) \otimes \nu|$ , i.e.  $\int_{J_\chi} K_2(\chi^+, \chi^-, u^+, u^+, \nu)d\mathcal{H}^{N-1} = |D\chi|(\Omega)$ .
- iii) Note that  $K_2(a, b, c, d, \nu) \geq \inf \left\{ \int_{Q_\nu} (QV^\infty(w(x), \nabla u(x)) + |\nabla w(x)|) dx : (w, u) \in \mathcal{A}(a, b, c, d, \nu) \right\}$ , where this latter density is the density  $K(a, b, c, d, \nu)$  first introduced in [25] (cf. also [8, formula (5.83)]) and
 
$$\mathcal{A}(a, b, c, d, \nu) := \{(w, u) \in W^{1,1}(Q_\nu; \mathbb{R}^{1+d}) : (w(y), u(y)) = (a, c) \text{ if } y \cdot \nu = \frac{1}{2},$$

$$(w(y), u(y)) = (b, d) \text{ if } y \cdot \nu = -\frac{1}{2}, (w, u) \text{ are } 1 - \text{periodic in } \nu_1, \dots, \nu_{N-1} \text{ directions}\}.$$

On the other hand, if  $W_i$ ,  $i = 1, 2$  in (1.1) are proportional (as in the model presented in [6]), i.e.  $W_2 = \alpha W_1$ ,  $\alpha > 1$ , taking  $V$  as in (1.4), since for every  $q \in [0, 1]$   $QV^\infty(q, z) = qQW_1^\infty(z) + \alpha(1-q)QW_1^\infty(z)$ , then we claim that  $K_2$  is equal to  $K$  of [25]. Indeed, without loss of generality, assuming  $W_1$ , quasi-convex and positively 1-homogeneous, it is enough to observe that for every  $(w, u) \in \mathcal{A}(a, b, c, d, \nu)$ ,

$$K(1, 0, c, d, \nu) \geq \int_{Q_\nu} (w(x)W_1(\nabla u(x)) + \alpha(1-w(x))W_1(\nabla u(x)) + |\nabla w(x)|) dx \geq \int_{Q_\nu} (W_1(\nabla u(x)) + 1)dx,$$

where it has been used the fact that  $\alpha + (1-\alpha)w \geq 1$  and

$$\int_{Q_\nu} |\nabla w| dx \geq \left| \int_{Q_\nu} \nabla w \right| dx = \left| \int_{\partial Q_\nu} w \otimes \nu(x) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1} \right| = 1.$$

Taking a sequence of characteristic functions  $\{\chi_\varepsilon\}$ , admissible for  $\mathcal{A}_2(1, 0, c, d, \nu)$  in (1.8), such that their value is 1 in a strip of the cube orthogonal to  $\nu$  and of thickness  $1 - \varepsilon$ , then, it results

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{Q_\nu} W_1(\nabla u(x))dx + 1 &= \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \int_{Q_\nu} (\chi_\varepsilon W_1(\nabla u(x)) + \alpha(1-\chi_\varepsilon)W_1(\nabla u(x))dx + |D\chi_\varepsilon|(Q_\nu) \\ &\geq K_2(1, 0, c, d, \nu), \end{aligned}$$

and this proves our claim. Observe also that if  $\alpha \in (0, 1)$ , then the result remains true, it is enough to express  $W_1$  in terms of  $W_2$ .

As emphasized in [6, Remark 2.4] one can consider mixtures of more than two conductive materials, hence we observe that Theorem 1.1 can be extended with minor changes to these models leading to formula (6.9) in the remark below.

**Remark 6.4** *Let  $T$  be a finite subset of  $\mathbb{R}^m$ , Theorem 1.1 applies also to energies of the type  $F_{fr} : L^1(\Omega; T) \times L^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^d) \times \mathcal{A}(\Omega) \rightarrow [0, +\infty]$  defined by*

$$F_{fr}(v, u; A) := \begin{cases} \int_A V(v, \nabla u) dx + \int_{J_v \cap A} g(v^+, v^-, \nu_v) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1} & \text{in } BV(A; T) \times W^{1,1}(A; \mathbb{R}^d), \\ +\infty & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \quad (6.7)$$

Indeed, consider the relaxed localized energy of (6.7) given by

$$\mathcal{F}_{fr}(v, u; A) := \inf \left\{ \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_A V(v_n, \nabla u_n) dx + \int_{J_{v_n} \cap A} g(v_n^+, v_n^-, \nu_{v_n}) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1} : \{(v_n, u_n)\} \subset BV(A; T) \times W^{1,1}(A; \mathbb{R}^d), (v_n, u_n) \rightarrow (v, u) \text{ in } L^1(A; T) \times L^1(A; \mathbb{R}^d) \right\},$$

with  $V$  and  $g$  as in (6.1) satisfying  $(F_1) - (F_4)$  and  $(G_1) - (G_3)$ , respectively.

Moreover define  $\overline{F}_{fr} : BV(A; T) \times BV(A; \mathbb{R}^d) \times \mathcal{A}(\Omega) \rightarrow [0, +\infty]$  as

$$\overline{F}_{fr}(v, u; A) := \int_A QV(v, \nabla u) dx + \int_A QV^\infty \left( v, \frac{dD^c u}{d|D^c u|} \right) d|D^c u| + \int_{J_{(v,u)} \cap A} K_{fr}(v^+, v^-, u^+, u^-, \nu) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1}$$

where  $QV$  is the quasiconvex envelope of  $V$  given in (3.2),  $QV^\infty$  is the recession function of  $QV$ , introduced in (1.6), and

$$K_{fr}(a, b, c, d, \nu) := \inf \left\{ \int_{Q_\nu} QV^\infty(v, \nabla u(x)) dx + \int_{Q_\nu} g(v^+, v^-, \nu_v) d\mathcal{H}^{N-1} : (v, u) \in \mathcal{A}_{fr}(a, b, c, d, \nu) \right\}, \quad (6.8)$$

where  $\mathcal{A}_{fr}$  is the set defined in (1.8), with  $\{0, 1\}$  replaced by the finite set  $T \subset \mathbb{R}^m$ . Thus, we are lead to the following representation: for every  $(v, u) \in L^1(\Omega; T) \times L^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^d)$

$$\mathcal{F}_{fr}(v, u; A) = \begin{cases} \overline{F}_{fr}(v, u; A) & \text{if } (v, u) \in BV(A; T) \times BV(A; \mathbb{R}^d) \\ +\infty & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \quad (6.9)$$

**Remark 6.5** *In general we cannot expect  $K_3 = K_{fr}$  since in (6.8), the function  $g$  is defined in  $T \times T \times S^{N-1}$ , with  $T \subset \mathbb{R}^d$  and  $\text{card}(T)$  finite, while in (1.13),  $g$  is defined in  $\mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d \times S^{N-1}$ . In particular we recall that in  $J_v \setminus J_u$ ,  $K_3$  coincides with  $\mathcal{R}g$ , the SBV-elliptic envelope of  $g$  as in [13], while  $K_{fr}$  in (6.8) is given by the BV-elliptic envelope introduced by Ambrosio and Braides, cf. [8, Definition 5.13]. Analogously, it is easily seen that  $K_2$  coincides with  $|D\chi|$  in  $J_\chi \setminus J_u$ .*

## Acknowledgements

This paper has been written during various visits of the authors at Departamento de Matemática da Universidade de Évora and at Dipartimento di Ingegneria Industriale dell' Università di Salerno, whose kind hospitality and support have been gratefully acknowledged.

The authors are indebted to Irene Fonseca for having suggested this problem and for the many discussions on the subject.

The work of both authors was partially supported by Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia (Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology) through CIMA-UE, UTA-CMU/MAT/0005/2009 and through GNAMPA project 2013 'Funzionali supremali: esistenza di minimi e condizioni di semicontinuitá nel caso vettoriale'.

## References

- [1] ACERBI E. & FUSCO N. *Semicontinuity problems in the calculus of variations*, Arch. Rational Mech. Anal., **86** (1984), 125–145.
- [2] AMBROSIO L. *A compactness theorem for a special class of functions of bounded variation*, Boll. Un. Mat. Ital. B, (7), **3**, (1989), 857–881.
- [3] AMBROSIO L. *Existence theory for a new class of variational problems*, Arch. Ration. Mech. Anal. **111**, (1990), 291–322.
- [4] AMBROSIO L. *A new proof of the SBV compactness theorem*, Calc. Var., **3**, (1995), 127–137.
- [5] AMBROSIO L. & BRAIDES A. *Functionals defined on partitions in sets of finite perimeter. I: Integral representation and Gamma-convergence*, J. Math. Pures Appl., IX. **69**, No.3, (1990), 285–306.
- [6] AMBROSIO L. & BUTTAZZO G. *An optimal design problem with perimeter penalization*, Calc. Var. Partial Differ. Equ., **1**, No.1, (1993), 55–69.
- [7] AMBROSIO L. & DAL MASO G. *On the relaxation in  $BV(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m)$  of quasi-convex integrals*, Journal of Functional Analysis, **109**, (1992), 76–97.
- [8] AMBROSIO L., FUSCO N. & PALLARA D. *Functions of bounded variation and free discontinuity problems* Oxford Mathematical Monographs. Oxford: Clarendon Press. xviii, 434 p., (2000).
- [9] AMBROSIO L., MORTOLA S. & TORTORELLI V. M. *Functionals with linear growth defined on vector valued BV functions*, J. Math. Pures et Appl. **70** (1991), 269– 323.
- [10] BABADJIAN J.-F., ZAPPALE E. & ZORGATI H. *Dimensional reduction for energies with linear growth involving the bending moment*, J. Math. Pures Appl. **90**, (2008), 530–549.
- [11] BALDO S. *Minimal interface criterion for phase transitions in mixtures of Cahn-Hilliard fluids*, Annal. I. H. P., **7**, (1990), 67–90.
- [12] BARROSO A. C., BOUCHITTÉ G., BUTTAZZO G. & FONSECA I. *Relaxation of bulk and interfacial energies*. Arch. Ration. Mech. Anal. **135**, No. 2, (1996), 107–173.
- [13] BOUCHITTÉ G., FONSECA I., LEONI G. & MASCARENHAS L. *A Global Method for Relaxation in  $W^{1,p}$  and  $SBV_p$* , Arch. Ration. Mech. Anal, **165**, (2002), 187–242.
- [14] BOUCHITTÉ G., FONSECA I. & MASCARENHAS L., *A Global Method for Relaxation*, Arch. Ration. Mech. Anal, **144**, (1998), 51–98.
- [15] BRAIDES A., DEFRANCESCHI A. & VITALI E. *Homogenization of Free Discontinuity Problems*, Arch. Rational Mech. Anal. **135**, (1996), 297–356.
- [16] CARITA G. & ZAPPALE E. *3D-2D dimensional reduction for a nonlinear optimal design problem with perimeter penalization*, Comptes Rendus Mathematique, **350**, issues 23-24, (2012), 1011–1016.
- [17] CHOKSI R., & FONSECA I. *Bulk and interfacial energy densities for structured deformations of continua*, Arch. Ration. Mech. Anal., **138** (1997) 37–103.
- [18] CONGEDO G. & TAMANINI I. *On the existence of solutions to a problem in multidimensional segmentation*, Annales de l’ Institut Henri Poincaré. Analyse nonlinéaire, **8**, n. 21, (1991), 175–195.
- [19] DACOROGNA B. *Direct Methods in the Calculus of Variations*, 2nd ed., Applied Mathematical Sciences **78**, Springer Verlag, Berlin, 2008.
- [20] DAL MASO G., FONSECA I., & LEONI G. *Nonlocal character of the reduced theory of thin films with higher order perturbations*, Adv. Calc. Var., **3** n. 3, (2010), 287–319.

- [21] EVANS L. C. & GARIEPY R. F. *Measure Theory and fine properties of functions*, CRC Press, 1992.
- [22] FEDERER H. *Geometric Measure Theory*, Springer Verlag, Berlin, (1969).
- [23] FONSECA I. & LEONI G. *Modern Methods in the Calculus of Variations:  $L^p$  Spaces*, Springer Verlag, 2007.
- [24] FONSECA I. & MÜLLER S. *Quasi-convex integrands and lower semicontinuity in  $L^1$* , SIAM J. Math. Anal., **23** (1992) 1081-1098.
- [25] FONSECA I. & MÜLLER S. *Relaxation of quasiconvex functionals in  $BV(\Omega, \mathbb{R}^d)$  for integrands  $f(x, u, \nabla u)$* , Arch. Rat. Mech. Anal., **123** (1993) 1-49.
- [26] FONSECA I. & RIBKA P. *Relaxation of multiple integrals in the space  $BV(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^d)$* , Proc. Roy. Soc. Edinburgh Sect. A, **121**, (1992), 321–348.
- [27] GIUSTI E. *Minimal surfaces and functions of bounded variation*. Monographs in Mathematics, 80. Birkhäuser Verlag, Basel, 1984.
- [28] KOHN R. V. & STRANG G. *Optimal design and relaxation of variational problems, I*. Comm. Pure and Appl. Math. **39**, 1, (1986), 113-137.
- [29] KOHN R. V. & STRANG G. *Optimal design and relaxation of variational problems, II*. Comm. Pure and Appl. Math. **39**, 2, (1986), 139-182.
- [30] KOHN R. V. & STRANG G. *Optimal design and relaxation of variational problems, III*. Comm. Pure and Appl. Math. **39**, 3, (1986), 353-377.
- [31] RIBEIRO A. M. & ZAPPALE E. *Relaxation of Certain Integral Functionals Depending on Strain and Chemical composition*, Chin. Ann. of Math., Ser. B, **34(B)**, (4), (2013), 491-514.
- [32] ZIEMER W. P. *Weakly differentiable functions. Sobolev Spaces and Functions of Bounded Variation*, Graduate Texts in Mathematics, **120**, Berlin etc.: Springer-Verlag. xvi, 308 p.