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# A note about relaxation of vectorial variational problems

## 1. Introduction; the original variational problem and its relaxation.

The contribution deals with a vectorial variational problem

$$(VP) \quad \int_{\Omega} \varphi(x, y(x), \nabla y(x)) dx \rightarrow \inf, \quad y \in W^{1,p}(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m),$$

where  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  is a Lipschitz bounded domain and  $\varphi : \Omega \times \mathbb{R}^m \times \mathbb{R}^{n \times m} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is a potential density, supposed to be coercive Carathéodory function with a  $p$ -growth,  $1 < p < +\infty$ . The peculiarity of the problem is that  $\varphi(x, r, \cdot) : \mathbb{R}^{n \times m} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is not supposed to be quasiconvex so that (VP) need not possess any solution and its extension (=relaxation) must be done.

We will basically use a continuous extension like the Young-measure setting, cf. [2, 3, 4]. We employ a suitable convex locally compact hull of  $L^p(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^{n \times m})$ , constructed as follows: Let us define the linear space of integrands  $\text{Car}^p(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^{n \times m}) = \{h : \Omega \times \mathbb{R}^{n \times m} \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \text{ Carathéodory; } |h(x, A)| \leq a(x) + b|A|^p, a \in L^1(\Omega), b \in \mathbb{R}\}$ , equipped with the natural norm  $\|h\| = \inf\{\|a\|_{L^1(\Omega)} + b; |h(x, A)| \leq a(x) + b|A|^p\}$ . Furthermore, let us take a suitable (typically separable) subspace  $H$  of  $\text{Car}^p(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^{n \times m})$ , and define the (norm, weak\*)-continuous imbedding  $i_H : L^p(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^{n \times m}) \rightarrow H^* : u \mapsto (h \mapsto \int_{\Omega} h(x, u(x)) dx)$ . Supposing, as we may, that  $H$  contains a coercive integrand (i.e.  $h = |A|^p \in H$ ), we may define

$$Y_H^p(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^{n \times m}) = \text{w}^*\text{-cl } i_H(L^p(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^{n \times m})),$$

which is a convex, closed, locally compact,  $\sigma$ -compact hull of  $L^p(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^{n \times m})$  if  $H^*$  is considered in its weak\* topology. It is natural to address the elements of  $Y_H^p(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^{n \times m})$  as “generalized Young functionals” because, for  $H = L^1(\Omega; C_0(\mathbb{R}^{n \times m}))$  with  $C_0$  denoting continuous functions vanishing at infinity, this set contains basically the functionals introduced by L.C.Young in [20], which can be in this case identified with special elements of  $L_w^\infty(\Omega; M(\mathbb{R}^{n \times m})) \cong L^1(\Omega; C_0(\mathbb{R}^{n \times m}))^*$ , called the Young measures; cf. [19] or also [1, 7, 17]. Nevertheless, the choice  $H = L^1(\Omega; C_0(\mathbb{R}^{n \times m}))$  is not much suitable because such  $H$  cannot not contain coercive integrands. A more suitable example is rather the measures developed by DiPerna and Majda [8].

Now we can made readily a continuous extension of (VP). For  $\eta \in H^*$  and  $h \in H$  let us define  $h \bullet \eta \in M(\bar{\Omega}) \cong C(\bar{\Omega})^*$  by  $\langle h \bullet \eta, g \rangle = \langle \eta, g \cdot h \rangle$  to be valid for all  $g \in C(\bar{\Omega})$ . Furthermore, let us define the set of “gradient generalized Young functionals” by

$$G_H^p(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^{n \times m}) = \{ \eta \in Y_H^p(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^{n \times m}); \exists y_\xi \in W^{1,p}(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m) : i_H(\nabla y_\xi) \rightarrow \eta \text{ weakly}^* \} .$$

We will suppose that  $\varphi$  is coercive in the sense

$$\varphi(x, r, s) \geq a(x) + b|s|^p \quad (1)$$

with some  $a \in L^1(\Omega)$  and  $b$  positive, and that  $\varphi$  satisfies

$$\forall y \in L^q(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m) : \quad \varphi \circ y \in H , \quad (2)$$

$$\exists a_1 \in L^1(\Omega) \exists b_1, c_1 \in \mathbb{R}^+ : \quad |\varphi(x, r, s)| \leq a_1(x) + b_1|r|^q + c_1|s|^p , \quad (3)$$

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \exists a_2 \in L^{q/(q-1)}(\Omega) \exists b_2, c_2 \in \mathbb{R}^+ : \\ |\varphi(x, r_1, s) - \varphi(x, r_2, s)| \leq (a_2(x) + b_2|r_1|^{q-1} + b_2|r_2|^{q-1} + c_2|s|^{p(q-1)/q})|r_1 - r_2| \end{array} \right\} \quad (4)$$

with some  $1 \leq q < np/(n-p)$  or  $1 \leq q$  arbitrary provided  $p \geq n$  (so that  $W^{1,p}(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m)$  is compactly imbedded into  $L^q(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m)$ ). Note that the assumptions (2)–(4) quarantees that the mapping  $(y, \eta) \mapsto \langle \eta, \varphi \circ y \rangle$  is (weak $\times$ weak $^*$ )-continuous. The relaxed problem will look like:

$$(RP) \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{minimize} \quad \langle \eta, \varphi \circ y \rangle \\ \text{subject to} \quad (1 \otimes \text{id}) \bullet \eta = \nabla y , \\ \quad \quad \quad y \in W^{1,p}(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m) , \quad \eta \in G_H^p(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^{n \times m}), \end{array} \right.$$

where we suppose  $\varphi \circ y \in H$ , with  $[\varphi \circ y](x, A) = \varphi(x, y(x), A)$ , and  $\text{id}: \mathbb{R}^{n \times m} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{n \times m}$  being the identity. It can be shown (see [14]) that (RP) is actually a proper relaxation of (VP) in the sense that it has always a solution,  $\inf(\text{VP}) = \min(\text{RP})$ , every solution to (RP) is attainable by a minimizing net for (VP) and, conversely, every minimizing net (esp. sequence) for (VP) has a cluster point and each such a cluster point solves (RP).

The aim of this short note is to discuss various possibilities of a numerical approximation of the relaxed problem (RP) which has been also tested by computer experiments, though the results will not be presented here.

## 2. A finite-element approximation.

A first step in a numerical approximation of (RP) which we can certainly do quite easily consists in a finite-element approximation of (RP). Let us take a triangulation  $\mathcal{T}_d$  of  $\Omega$ ,  $d > 0$  being a mesh size, and put  $V_d = \{y \in W^{1,p}(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m); y \text{ piecewise affine on } \mathcal{T}_d\}$  and  $Y_d \subset Y_H^p(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^{n \times m})$  defined by  $Y_d = A_d^*(Y_H^p(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^{n \times m}))$  where  $P_d : \text{Car}^p(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^{n \times m}) \rightarrow \text{Car}^p(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^{n \times m}) : h \mapsto h_d$  with

$h_d(x, A) = \int_{\Delta} h(\tilde{x}, A) d\tilde{x} / \text{meas}(\Delta)$  for  $x \in \Delta \in \mathcal{T}_d$ ; cf. also [13] for details. It allows us to define the approximate relaxed problem:

$$(RP_d) \quad \begin{cases} \text{minimize} & \langle \eta, \varphi \circ y \rangle \\ \text{subject to} & (1 \otimes \text{id}) \bullet \eta = \nabla y , \\ & y \in V_d , \quad \eta \in G_H^p(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^{n \times m}) \cap Y_d , \end{cases}$$

**Proposition 1.** *Let  $\varphi$  satisfy (1)–(4). Then  $(RP_d)$  converges to  $(RP)$  in the sense:*

$$\lim_{d \rightarrow 0} \min(RP_d) = \min(RP) , \quad \text{Limsup}_{d \rightarrow 0} \text{Argmin}(RP_d) \subset \text{Argmin}(RP) ,$$

where “Limsup” (i.e. the upper Kuratowski limit) denotes the set of all cluster points of selected nets, and “Argmin” stands for the set of solutions to the problem indicated.

*Sketch of the proof.* Since apparently the set of admissible pairs for  $(RP_d)$  is smaller than for  $(RP)$ , we have  $\min(RP_d) \geq \min(RP)$ .

Now we want to prove that every  $(y, \eta)$  admissible for  $(RP)$  can be approximated by suitable admissible pairs for  $(RP_d)$  when  $d \rightarrow 0$ . We can easily see that there is a net  $\{y_\iota\}_{\iota \in I} \in W^{1,p}(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m)$  such that  $y_\iota \rightarrow y$  weakly in  $W^{1,p}(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m)$  and  $i_H(\nabla y_\iota) \rightarrow \eta$  weakly\* in  $H^*$ . Moreover, mollifying (if necessary) suitably this net, we can even suppose that  $y_\iota \in C^\infty(\bar{\Omega})$ . Let  $\Pi_d y_\iota \in V_d$  be the linear interpolant of  $y_\iota$  on the triangulation  $\mathcal{T}_d$ . For  $\iota$  fixed and  $d \rightarrow 0$ , we have  $\Pi_d y_\iota \rightarrow y_\iota$  strongly in  $W^{1,p}(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m)$  because of the regularity of  $y_\iota$ . Therefore  $i_H(\nabla \Pi_d y_\iota) \rightarrow i_H(\nabla y_\iota)$  weakly\* in  $H^*$ . At the same time, the pair  $(\Pi_d y_\iota, i_H(\nabla \Pi_d y_\iota))$  is admissible for  $(RP_d)$ , and therefore

$$\langle i_H(\nabla \Pi_d y_\iota), \varphi \circ \Pi_d y_\iota \rangle \geq \min(RP_d) \geq \min(RP) .$$

Supposing that  $(y, \eta)$  is a solution of  $(RP)$ , we get by the continuity argument (because (2)–(4) makes the mapping  $(y, \eta) \mapsto \langle \eta, \varphi \circ y \rangle$  weakly  $\times$  weakly\* continuous; cf. [17, Lemma 4.3.6]) that

$$\lim_{\iota \in I} \lim_{d \rightarrow 0} \langle i_H(\nabla \Pi_d y_\iota), \varphi \circ \Pi_d y_\iota \rangle = \langle y, \eta \circ y \rangle = \min(RP) ,$$

so that  $\min(RP_d) \rightarrow \min(RP)$  for  $d \rightarrow 0$ .

The rest of the assertion follows immediately by the standard compactness arguments, taking into account the coercivity of the problem.  $\square$

### 3. A further approximation of $(RP_d)$ .

The essential problem is that an explicit description of  $G_H^p(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^{n \times m})$  is generally not known, which implies that the admissible domain of  $(RP_d)$ , i.e.

$$\mathcal{D}(RP_d) = \{(y, \eta) \in V_d \times (G_H^p(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^{n \times m}) \cap Y_d); (1 \otimes \text{id}) \bullet \eta = \nabla y\} ,$$

is not effectively defined. A certain way to handle this problem is to confine ourselves to approximations of  $\mathcal{D}(\mathbb{R}P_d)$ . In principle, one can think either of an inner or of an outer approximation of it.

An inner approximations of  $\mathcal{D}(\mathbb{R}P_d)$  has been recently proposed by Nicolaidis and Walkington [11]. Namely, for  $k \in \mathbb{N}$  they defined

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{D}_k(\mathbb{R}P_d) &= \{(y, \eta) \in V_d \times Y_d; (1 \otimes \text{id}) \bullet \eta = \nabla y, \\ &\langle \eta, h \rangle = \sum_{i=1}^{2^k} \int_{\Omega} \lambda_i(x) h(x, u_i(x)) dx, \quad \lambda_i, u_i \text{ elementwise constant,} \\ &\lambda_i = \prod_{j=1}^k \lambda_{[i/j]+1, j}, \quad u_i = A_{ik}, \quad \lambda_{2i, j} A_{2i, j} + \lambda_{2i-1, j} A_{2i-1, j} = A_{i, j-1}, \\ &\lambda_{2i, j} + \lambda_{2i-1, j} = 1, \quad \lambda_{2i, j}, \lambda_{2i-1, j} \geq 0, \quad \text{Rank}(A_{2i, j} - A_{2i-1, j}) \leq 1, \\ &i = 1, \dots, 2^{j-1}, \quad j = 1, \dots, k, \quad A_{i, 1} = \nabla y \} . \end{aligned}$$

In other words, the approximation  $\mathcal{D}_k(\mathbb{R}P_d) \subset \mathcal{D}(\mathbb{R}P_d)$  consists of “element-wise constant” generalized Young functionals composed, on each element, from  $2^k$  pairwise rank-1 connected matrices, which can be certainly reached by gradients. The essential theoretical disadvantage of this approximation is that, in general,  $\overline{\bigcup_{k \in \mathbb{N}} \mathcal{D}_k(\mathbb{R}P_d)} \neq \mathcal{D}(\mathbb{R}P_d)$  because otherwise the minimum of the functional  $(y, \eta) \mapsto \langle \eta, \varphi \circ y \rangle$  over  $\mathcal{D}_k(\mathbb{R}P_d)$  would have to approach  $\min(\mathbb{R}P)$  for  $k \rightarrow \infty$  but, as shown by Dacorogna [7, Sect.5.1.1.2], it converges from above only to Rank-1 envelope of (VP). Therefore, if  $\varphi(x, r, \cdot)$  has a quasiconvex envelope which is not rank-1 convex, then the approximation proposed by Nicolaidis and Walkington cannot converge.

Nevertheless, we can also use an outer approximation of  $\mathcal{D}(\mathbb{R}P_d)$ . Let us put  $\Xi = \{\xi = (v_1, \dots, v_k); k \in \mathbb{N}, v_j : \mathbb{R}^{n \times m} \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \text{ quasiconvex, } |v_j(s)| \leq o(|s|^p)\}$ , ordered by the inclusion. This makes  $\Xi$  a directed set so that we can use it to index generalized sequences (=nets). For any  $\xi \in \Xi$  we put

$$\mathcal{D}^\xi(\mathbb{R}P_d) = \{(y, \eta) \in V_d \times Y_d; \forall v \in \xi : (1 \otimes v) \bullet \eta \geq v(\nabla y)\} .$$

Always,  $\mathcal{D}^\xi(\mathbb{R}P_d) \supset \mathcal{D}(\mathbb{R}P_d)$  and, as a consequence of recent results by Kinderlehrer and Pedregal [10], also  $\mathcal{D}(\mathbb{R}P_d) \supset \bigcap_{\xi \in \Xi} \mathcal{D}^\xi(\mathbb{R}P_d) \cap \{\eta \in Y_H^p(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^{n \times m}) \text{ is } p\text{-nonconcentrating}\}$ , where “ $p$ -nonconcentrating” means that  $\eta \in Y_H^p(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^{n \times m})$  is attainable by a sequence  $\{i_H(u_k)\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$  such that the set  $\{|u_k|\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$  is relatively weakly compact in  $L^1(\Omega)$ . This result suggests the following approximate problem:

$$(\mathbb{R}P_d^\xi) \quad \text{Minimize } \langle \eta, \varphi \circ y \rangle \text{ s.t. } (y, \eta) \in \mathcal{D}^\xi(\mathbb{R}P_d) .$$

**Proposition 2.** *Let  $\varphi$  satisfy (1)–(4),  $H$  be separable and there is  $G \otimes V$  dense in  $H$  with  $G \subset L^\infty(\Omega)$  and  $V \subset C(\mathbb{R}^{n \times m})$ , and  $\forall v \in V \exists v_l \in V$  with a growth strictly less than  $p$  such that*

$v_l \rightarrow v$  uniformly on bounded subsets of  $\mathbb{R}^{n \times m}$ . Then

$$\lim_{\xi \in \Xi} \min(\mathbf{RP}_d^\xi) = \min(\mathbf{RP}_d), \quad \text{Limsup}_{\xi \in \Xi} \text{Argmin}(\mathbf{RP}_d^\xi) \subset \text{Argmin}(\mathbf{RP}_d).$$

In other words, if  $(y_\xi, \eta_\xi)$  solves  $(\mathbf{RP}_d^\xi)$ , then the net  $\{(y_\xi, \eta_\xi)\}_{\xi \in \Xi}$  has a (weak  $\times$  weak $^*$ )-cluster point  $(y, \eta)$  in  $W^{1,p}(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m) \times H^*$  and each such a cluster point solves  $(\mathbf{RP}_d)$ .

*Sketch of the proof.* As  $\min(\mathbf{RP}_d^\xi)$  is certainly bounded from above (e.g. by  $\langle i_H(0), \varphi \circ 0 \rangle < +\infty$ ) and the coercivity (1) is assumed, the net in question is bounded and therefore it has a (weak  $\times$  weak $^*$ )-cluster point  $(y, \eta)$ . We want to show that  $(y, \eta)$  must solve the auxiliary problem

$$(\mathbf{AP}_d) \quad \begin{cases} \text{minimize} & \langle \eta, \varphi \circ y \rangle \\ \text{subject to} & (1 \otimes v) \bullet \eta \geq v(\nabla y) \quad \forall v \text{ quasiconvex with a growth } < p, \\ & y \in V_d, \quad \eta \in Y_d. \end{cases}$$

As certainly  $\min(\mathbf{RP}_d^\xi) \leq \min(\mathbf{AP}_d)$  and the mapping  $\xi \mapsto \min(\mathbf{RP}_d^\xi)$  is nondecreasing, we have guaranteed  $\lim_{\xi \in \Xi} \min(\mathbf{RP}_d^\xi) \leq \min(\mathbf{AP}_d)$ . Supposing  $\lim_{\xi \in \Xi} \min(\mathbf{RP}_d^\xi) < \min(\mathbf{AP}_d)$ , by the coercivity of the problem we could choose a finer net than  $\{(y_\xi, \eta_\xi)\}_{\xi \in \Xi}$  converging to some  $(y_0, \eta_0)$  satisfying all the constraints involved in  $(\mathbf{AP})$  but such that  $\langle \eta_0, \varphi \circ y_0 \rangle < \min(\mathbf{AP}_d)$ , which is a contradiction. Therefore,  $\lim_{\xi \in \Xi} \min(\mathbf{RP}_d^\xi) = \min(\mathbf{AP}_d)$  and then also  $(y, \eta)$  must solve  $(\mathbf{AP}_d)$ .

Then  $\eta$  must be  $p$ -nonconcentrating in the sense that there is a net  $\{u_\alpha\}$  bounded in  $L^p(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^{n \times m})$  such that  $i_H(u_\alpha) \rightarrow \eta$  and the set  $\{|u_\alpha|^p\}$  is relatively weakly compact in  $L^1(\Omega)$ . Indeed, if it would not be the case, the  $p$ -nonconcentrating modification of  $\eta$  would reach a strictly lower cost than  $\eta$  and all the constraints of  $(\mathbf{AP}_d)$  would be satisfied as well, which is a contradiction; we refer to [16] for details.

As  $p > 1$  is supposed, the inequality constraints of  $(\mathbf{AP}_d)$  include, in particular, also the constraint  $(1 \otimes \text{id}) \bullet \eta = \nabla y$  involved in  $(\mathbf{RP}_d)$ . Therefore, to prove that  $(y, \eta)$  solves also  $(\mathbf{RP}_d)$ , it suffices to show that  $\min(\mathbf{AP}_d) \leq \min(\mathbf{RP}_d)$  (which, however, follows immediately from  $\mathcal{D}(\mathbf{AP}_d) \supset \mathcal{D}(\mathbf{RP}_d)$ ) and that  $\eta \in G_H^p(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^{n \times m})$ .

First, we can localize our considerations on a current element so that it suffices to investigate only homogeneous Young functionals. As in [13], one can show that  $\eta$  cannot be separated from the set  $M_y = \{\eta \in G_H^p(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^{n \times m}); (1 \otimes \text{id}) \bullet \eta = \nabla y\}$  by any test function with the growth strictly less than  $p$ . However, taking a general  $1 \otimes v$  and  $v^l$  with growth strictly less than  $p$  and such that  $v^l \rightarrow v$  uniformly on bounded sets in  $\mathbb{R}^{n \times m}$ , then one can show that  $\langle \eta, 1 \otimes v^l \rangle \rightarrow \langle \eta, 1 \otimes v \rangle$  for any  $\eta \in Y_H^p(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^{n \times m})$   $p$ -nonconcentrating; cf. [13, Example 3.1]. This shows that  $\eta$  in question cannot be separated from the closed convex set  $M_y$  by any test function of the form  $1 \otimes v$ , and therefore also by any  $\sum_{\text{finite}} g_i \otimes v_i$ , so that it must belong to  $G_H^p(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^{n \times m})$  which is closed.  $\square$

Though having a convergence guaranteed, the fatal disadvantage of the previous method is that the index set  $\Xi$  is very large and not effectively defined, so that it has a theoretical significance only.

Anyhow, both approximate methods mentioned above certainly give a general two-side estimate:

$$\min_{(y,\eta) \in \mathcal{D}^\xi(\mathbf{RP}_d)} \langle \eta, \varphi \circ y \rangle \leq \min(\mathbf{RP}_d) \leq \min_{(y,\eta) \in \mathcal{D}_k(\mathbf{RP}_d)} \langle \eta, \varphi \circ y \rangle. \quad (5)$$

Nevertheless, for practically reasonable indices  $\xi \in \Xi$  and  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ , this estimate might be still very rough. Therefore, it is reasonable to inquire special situations where possibly the equalities for  $\xi$  or  $k$  large enough can appear.

As an example let us mention the case  $\xi = \{\pm \text{adj}_l; l = 1, \dots, \min(n, m)\}$ . Then the first equality in (5) takes place provided  $\varphi(x, r, \cdot) : \mathbb{R}^{n \times m} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  has a polyconvex quasiconvexification. In this case, one can even derive (cf. [15]) optimality conditions for  $(\mathbf{RP}_d^\xi)$ , which takes the form

$$\mathcal{H}_{y,\lambda} \bullet \eta = \max_{A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times m}} \mathcal{H}_{y,\lambda}(x, A)$$

with the “discrete Hamiltonian”  $\mathcal{H}_{y,\lambda}(x, A) = -P_d \varphi(x, y(x), A) + \sum_{l=1}^{\min(n,m)} \lambda_l(x) \cdot \text{adj}_l A$  and with  $\lambda_l \in L^{p/l}(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^{\sigma(l)})$ ,  $\sigma(l) = \binom{m}{l} \binom{n}{l}$ , satisfying

$$\text{div} \left( \sum_{l=1}^{\min(n,m)} \lambda_l \cdot \frac{\partial \text{adj}_l}{\partial A}(\nabla y) \right) = \left( \frac{\partial \varphi}{\partial y} \circ y \right) \bullet \eta.$$

From these conditions we can deduce that there always exists a minimizer in the form of a convex combinations of at most  $\prod_{l=1}^{\min(n,m)} \sigma(l) + 2$  atoms on each element, which eventually allows an effective computer implementation of  $(\mathbf{RP}_d^\xi)$ .

*Remark 1.* The requirement on  $\varphi(x, r, \cdot)$  to have a polyconvex quasiconvexification is certainly not realistic in a general case so that one is forced to try to take larger indices  $\xi$ . Each such a choice gives some problem whose minimum is in between the polyconvexified problem and  $\inf(\mathbf{VP})$ . This is philosophically similar to the approach by Firoozye [9] who also proposed some envelope with such property.

*Remark 2.* A general feature of the resulted approximate problems is that they admit a partial decomposition, having always the form of a co-operative Stackelberg game. Namely, the leader controls the displacement  $y$ , seeking the minimum of the total energy, while the followers (one on each element) seek the minimum of the deformation energy on a current element for  $\nabla y$  set up by the leader. Thus each follower is to solve repeatedly convex problems parametrized by  $\nabla y$ .

*Remark 3.* If  $H$  is small enough it may happen that, for every solution  $(y, \eta)$  to  $(\mathbf{RP}_d^\xi)$ ,  $\eta$  belongs to  $G_H^p(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^{n \times m})$ . It immediately implies that  $(y, \eta)$  solves also  $(\mathbf{RP}_d)$  provided  $\xi$  contains at least linear functions  $\text{adj}_1$ . For example, if  $\varphi(x, r, s) = v_0(s)$  with  $v_0$  having a polyconvex quasiconvexification, then this feature takes place if  $H = G \otimes V$  with  $V$  being contained in the linear hull of all minors and  $v_0$ ; cf. [13].

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