Pacific Journal of Mathematics

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Volume 260 No. 1 November 2012

PACIFIC JOURNAL OF MATHEMATICS
Vol. 260, No. 1, 2012
dx.doi.org/10.2140/pjm.2012.260.181

ENERGY IDENTITY FOR THE MAPS FROM A SURFACE WITH TENSION FIELD BOUNDED IN L^p

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Let M be a closed Riemannian surface and u_n a sequence of maps from M to Riemannian manifold N satisfying

$$\sup_n \left(\|\nabla u_n\|_{L^2(M)} + \|\tau(u_n)\|_{L^p(M)} \right) \le \Lambda$$

for some $p > 1$, where $\tau(u_n)$ is the tension field of the mapping u_n.

For a general target manifold N, if $p \ge \frac{6}{5}$, we prove the energy identity and the neckless property during blowing up.

1. Introduction

Let (M, g) be a closed Riemannian manifold and (N, h) be a Riemannian manifold without boundary. For a mapping u from M to N in $W^{1,2}(M, N)$, the energy density of u is defined by

$$e(u) = \tfrac{1}{2}|du|^2 = \mathrm{Trace}_g u^*h,$$

where u^*h is the pull-back of the metric tensor h.

The energy of the mapping u is defined as

$$E(u) = \int_M e(u)\, dV,$$

where dV is the volume element of (M, g).

A map $u \in C^1(M, N)$ is called harmonic if it is a critical point of the energy E.

By the Nash embedding theorem we know that (N, h) can be isometrically into a Euclidean space $\mathbb{R}^K$ with some positive integer K. Then (N, h) may be considered as a submanifold of $\mathbb{R}^K$ with the metric induced from the Euclidean metric. Thus a map $u \in C^1(M, N)$ can be considered as a map of $C^1(M, \mathbb{R}^K)$ whose image lies in N. In this sense we can get the Euler–Lagrange equation

$$\triangle u = A(u)(du, du).$$

The research was supported by NSFC grants number 11071236, 11131007 and 11101372 and by PCSIRT.

MSC2010: 58E20.

Keywords: energy identity, tension field, neckless.

The tension field $\tau(u)$ is defined by

$$\tau(u) = \triangle_M u - A(u)(du, du),$$

where $A(u)(du, du)$ is the second fundamental form of N in $\mathbb{R}^K$. So u being harmonic means that $\tau(u) = 0$.

The harmonic mappings are of special interest when M is a Riemann surface. Consider a sequence of mappings u_n from Riemann surface M to N with bounded energies. It is clear that u_n converges weakly to u in $W^{1,2}(M, N)$ for some u in $W^{1,2}(M, N)$. But in general, it may not converge strongly in $W^{1,2}(M, N)$. When $\tau(u_n) = 0$, that is, when u_n are all harmonic, Parker [1996] proved that the lost energy is exactly the sum of some harmonic spheres, which are defined as harmonic mappings from S^2 to N. This result is called the energy identity. Also he proved that the images of these harmonic spheres and $u(M)$ are connected, that is, there is no neck during blowing up.

When $\tau(u_n)$ is bounded in L^2, the energy identity was proved in [Qing 1995] for the sphere, and in [Ding and Tian 1995] and [Wang 1996] for a general target manifold. Qing and Tian [1997] proved there is no neck during blowing up. For the heat flow of harmonic mappings, the results can also be found in [Topping 2004a; 2004b]. When the target manifold is a sphere, we proved the energy identity in [Li and Zhu 2011] for a sequence of mappings with tension fields bounded in $L \ln^+ L$, using good observations from [Lin and Wang 2002]. On the other hand, in the same paper we constructed a sequence of mappings with tension fields bounded in $L \ln^+ L$ such that there is a positive neck during blowing up. In [Zhu 2012] the neckless property during blowing up was proved for a sequence of maps u_n with

$$\lim_{\delta\to 0} \sup_n \sup_{B(x,\delta)\subset D_1} \|\tau(u_n)\|_{L \ln^+ L(B(x,\delta))} = 0.$$

In this paper we prove the energy identity and neckless property during blowing up of a sequence of maps u_n with $\tau(u_n)$ bounded in L^p for some $p \geq \frac{6}{5}$, for a general target manifold.

When $\tau(u_n)$ is bounded in L^p for some $p > 1$, the small energy regularity proved in [Ding and Tian 1995] implies that u_n converges strongly in $W^{1,2}(M, N)$ outside a finite set of points. For simplicity of exposition, it is no matter to assume that M is the unit disk $D_1 = D(0, 1)$ and there is only one singular point at 0.

In this paper we prove the following theorem.

Theorem 1. *Let $\{u_n\}$ be a sequence of mappings from D_1 to N in $W^{1,2}(D_1, N)$ with tension field $\tau(u_n)$. If*

(a) $\|u_n\|_{W^{1,2}(D_1)} + \|\tau(u_n)\|_{L^p(D_1)} \leq \Lambda$ *for some* $p \geq \frac{6}{5}$,

(b) $u_n \to u$ *strongly in* $W^{1,2}(D_1 \setminus \{0\}, \mathbb{R}^K)$ *as* $n \to \infty$, *then there exists a subsequence of* $\{u_n\}$ *(we still denote it by* $\{u_n\}$*) and some nonnegative integer* k *so that for any* $i = 1, \ldots, k$*, there exist points* x_n^i*, positive numbers* r_n^i *and a nonconstant harmonic sphere* w^i *(which we view as a map from* $\mathbb{R}^2 \cup \{\infty\} \to N$*) such that:*

(1) $x_n^i \to 0, r_n^i \to 0$ *as* $n \to \infty$.

(2) $\lim_{n\to\infty}\left(\frac{r_n^i}{r_n^j} + \frac{r_n^j}{r_n^i} + \frac{|x_n^i - x_n^j|}{r_n^i + r_n^j}\right) = \infty$ *for any* $i \neq j$.

(3) w^i *is the weak limit or strong limit of* $u_n(x_n^i + r_n^i x)$ *in* $W^{1,2}_{Loc}(\mathbb{R}^2, N)$.

(4) ***Energy identity***: *We have*

$$\lim_{n\to\infty} E(u_n, D_1) = E(u, D_1) + \sum_{i=1}^{k} E(w^i). \tag{1-1}$$

(5) ***Neckless property***: *The image* $u(D_1) \cup \bigcup_{i=1}^k w^i(\mathbb{R}^2)$ *is a connected set.*

This paper is organized as follows. In Section 2 we state some basic lemmas and some standard arguments in the blow-up analysis.

In Section 3 and Section 4 we prove Theorem 1. In the proof, we use delicate analysis on the difference between normal energy and tangential energy. The energy identity is proved in Section 3 and the neckless property is proved in Section 4.

Throughout this paper, the letter C denotes a positive constant that depends only on p, Λ and the target manifold N and may vary in different places. We also don't distinguish between a sequence and one of its subsequences.

2. Some basic lemmas and standard arguments

We recall the regular theory for a mapping with small energy on the unit disk and tension field in L^p $(p > 1)$.

Lemma 2. *Let* $\bar{u}$ *be the mean value of* u *on the disk* $D_{1/2}$*. There exists a positive constant* ϵ_N *that depends only on the target manifold such that if* $E(u, D_1) \le \epsilon_N^2$ *then*

$$\|u - \bar{u}\|_{W^{2,p}(D_{1/2})} \le C\big(\|\nabla u\|_{L^2(D_1)} + \|\tau(u)\|_p\big), \tag{2-1}$$

where $p > 1$.

As a consequence of (2-1) and the Sobolev embedding $W^{2,p}(\mathbb{R}^2) \subset C^0(\mathbb{R}^2)$*, we have*

$$\|u\|_{Osc(D_{1/2})} = \sup_{x,y\in D_{1/2}} |u(x) - u(y)| \le C\big(\|\nabla u\|_{L^2(D_1)} + \|\tau(u)\|_p\big). \tag{2-2}$$

Remarks.

- In [Ding and Tian 1995] this lemma is proved for the mean value of u on the unit disk. Note that
$$\left|\frac{\int_{D_1} u(x)\,dx}{|D_1|}-\frac{\int_{D_{1/2}} u(x)\,dx}{|D_{1/2}|}\right|\le C\|\nabla u\|_{L^2(D_1)}.$$
So we can use the mean value of u on $D_{1/2}$ in this lemma.

- Suppose we have a sequence of mappings u_n from the unit disk D_1 to N with $\|u_n\|_{W^{1,2}(D_1)}+\|\tau(u_n)\|_{L^p(D_1)}\le\Lambda$ for some $p>1$.

  A point $x\in D_1$ is called an energy concentration point (blow-up point) if for any r such that $D(x,r)\subset D_1$, we have
$$\sup_n E(u_n,D(x,r))>\epsilon_N^2,$$
where ϵ_N is given in this lemma. If $x\in D_1$ isn't an energy concentration point, we can find a positive number δ such that
$$E(u_n,D(x,\delta))\le\epsilon_N^2\quad\text{for all } n.$$
Then it follows from Lemma 2 that we have a uniformly $W^{2,p}(D(x,\delta/2))$-bound for u_n. Because $W^{2,p}$ is compactly embedded in $W^{1,2}$, there is a subsequence of u_n (still denoted by u_n) and $u\in W^{2,p}(D(x,\delta/2))$ such that
$$\lim_{n\to\infty}u_n=u\quad\text{in } W^{1,2}(D(x,\delta/2)).$$
So u_n converges to u strongly in $W^{1,2}(D_1)$ outside a finite set of points.

Under the assumptions of our theorem, by the standard blow-up argument, that is by repeatedly rescaling u_n in a suitable way, we can obtain some nonnegative integer k so that for any $i=1,\dots,k$, there exist a point x_n^i, a positive number r_n^i and a nonconstant harmonic sphere w^i satisfying (1), (2) and (3) of Theorem 1. By the standard induction argument in [Ding and Tian 1995] we only need to prove the theorem in the case where there is only one bubble.

In that case we can assume that w is the strong limit of the sequence $u_n(x_n+r_nx)$ in $W^{1,2}_{Loc}(\mathbb{R}^2)$. We may assume that $x_n=0$. Set $w_n(x)=u_n(r_nx)$.

As
$$\lim_{\delta\to0}\lim_{n\to\infty}E(u_n,D_1\setminus D_\delta)=E(u,D_1),$$
the energy identity is equivalent to

$$\lim_{\delta\to0}\lim_{n\to\infty}\lim_{R\to\infty}E(u_n,D_\delta\setminus D_{r_nR})=0. \tag{2-3}$$

To prove the sets $u(D_1)$ and $w(\mathbb{R}^2\cup\infty)$ are connected, it is enough to show that

$$\lim_{\delta\to0}\lim_{n\to\infty}\lim_{R\to\infty}\sup_{x,y\in D_\delta\setminus D_{r_nR}}|u_n(x)-u_n(y)|=0. \tag{2-4}$$

3. Energy identity

In this section, we prove the energy identity for a general target manifold when $p \geq \frac{6}{5}$.

Assume that there is only one bubble w which is the strong limit of $u_n(r_n \cdot)$ in $W^{1,2}_{Loc}(\mathbb{R}^2)$. Let ϵ_N be the constant in Lemma 2. By the standard argument of blow-up analysis we can assume that, for any n,

$$E(u_n, D_{r_n}) = \sup_{\substack{r \leq r_n \\ D(x,r) \subseteq D_1}} E(u_n, D(x,r)) = \tfrac{1}{4}\epsilon_N^2. \tag{3-1}$$

Lemma 3 [Ding and Tian 1995]. *If $\tau(u_n)$ is bounded in L^p for some $p > 1$, then the tangential energy on the neck domain is zero, that is,*

$$\lim_{\delta \to 0} \lim_{R \to \infty} \lim_{n \to \infty} \int_{D_\delta \setminus D_{r_n R}} |x|^{-2} |\partial_\theta u|^2 \, dx = 0. \tag{3-2}$$

Proof. The proof is the same as in [Ding and Tian 1995], so we only sketch it.

For any $\epsilon > 0$, take δ, R such that, for any n,

$$E(u, D_{4\delta}) + E(w, \mathbb{R}^2 \setminus D_R) + \delta^{4(p-1)/p} < \epsilon^2.$$

We may suppose that $r_n R = 2^{-j_n}, \delta = 2^{-j_0}$. When n is big enough we have, for any $j_0 \leq j \leq j_n$,

$$E(u_n, D_{2^{1-j}} \setminus D_{2^{-j}}) < \epsilon^2.$$

For any j, set

$$h_n(2^{-j}) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{S^1} u_n(2^{-j}, \theta) \, d\theta$$

and

$$h_n(t) = h_n(2^{-j}) + \big(h_n(2^{1-j}) - h_n(2^{-j})\big) \frac{\ln(2^j t)}{\ln 2}, \quad t \in [2^{-j}, 2^{1-j}].$$

It is easy to check that

$$\frac{d^2 h_n(t)}{dt^2} + \frac{1}{t}\frac{dh_n(t)}{dt} = 0, \quad t \in [2^{-j}, 2^{1-j}].$$

Consider $h_n(x) = h_n(|x|)$ as a map from $\mathbb{R}^2$ to $\mathbb{R}^K$, then $\triangle h_n = 0$ in $\mathbb{R}^2$. Setting $P_j = D_{2^{1-j}} \setminus D_{2^{-j}}$ we have

$$\triangle(u_n - h_n) = \triangle u_n - \triangle h_n = \triangle u_n = A(u_n) + \tau(u_n), \quad x \in P_j. \tag{3-3}$$

Taking the inner product of this equation with $u_n - h_n$ and integrating over P_j, we get that

$$\int_{P_j} |\nabla(u_n - h_n)|^2 dx = -\int_{P_j} (u_n - h_n)(A(u_n) + \tau(u_n)) \, dx + \int_{\partial P_j} (u_n - h_n)(u_n - h_n)_r \, ds.$$

Note that by definition, $h_n(2^{-j})$ is the mean value of $\{2^{-j}\} \times S^1$ and $(h_n)_r$ is independent of θ. So the integral of $(u_n - h_n)(h_n)_r$ on ∂P_j vanishes.

When $j_0 < j < j_n$, by Lemma 2 we have

$$\begin{aligned}\|u_n - h_n\|_{C^0(P_j)} &\le \|u_n - h_n(2^{-j})\|_{C^0(P_j)} + \|u_n - h_n(2^{1-j})\|_{C^0(P_j)} \\ &\le 2\|u_n\|_{Osc(P_j)} \\ &\le C\big(\|\nabla u_n\|_{L^2(P_{j-1}\cup P_j \cup P_{j+1})} + 2^{2(1-p)j/p}\|\tau(u_n)\|_p\big) \\ &\le C\big(\epsilon + 2^{-2(p-1)j/p}\big) \\ &\le C\big(\epsilon + \delta^{2(p-1)/p}\big) \le C\epsilon.\end{aligned}$$

Summing over j for $j_0 < j < j_n$ gives

$$\begin{aligned}\int_{D_\delta \setminus D_{2r_n R}} &|\nabla(u_n - h_n)|^2 dx \\ &= \sum_{j_0<j<j_n} \int_{P_j} |\nabla(u_n - h_n)|^2\, dx \\ &\le \sum_{j_0<j<j_n} \int_{P_j} |u_n - h_n|\big(|A(u_n)| + |\tau(u_n)|\big)\, dx \\ &\qquad\qquad + \sum_{j_0<j<j_n} \int_{\partial P_j} (u_n - h_n)(u_n - h_n)_r\, ds \\ &\le C\epsilon\bigg(\int_{D_{2\delta}\setminus D_{2r_n R}} \big(|\nabla u_n|^2 + |\tau(u_n)|\big)\, dx + \int_{\partial D_{2\delta}\cup \partial D_{2r_n R}} |\nabla u_n|\, ds\bigg) \\ &\le C\epsilon\bigg(\int_{D_{2\delta}\setminus D_{2r_n R}} |\nabla u_n|^2\, dx + \delta^{2(p-1)/p} + \epsilon\bigg) \le C\epsilon.\end{aligned} \tag{3-4}$$

Here we use the inequality

$$\int_{\partial D_{2\delta}\cup \partial D_{2r_n R}} |\nabla u_n|\, ds \le C\epsilon,$$

which can be derived from the Sobolev trace embedding theorem.

As $h_n(x)$ is independent of θ, it can be shown that

$$\int_{D_{2\delta}\setminus D_{2r_n R}} |x|^{-2}|\partial_\theta u_n|^2\, dx \le \int_{D_{2\delta}\setminus D_{2r_n R}} |\nabla(u_n - h_n)|^2\, dx \le C\epsilon,$$

so this lemma is proved. □

It is left to show that the normal energy on the neck domain also equals to zero. We need the following equality.

Lemma 4 (Pohozaev equality [Lin and Wang 1998, Lemma 2.4, page 374]). *Let u be a solution to*

$$\triangle u + A(u)(du, du) = \tau(u).$$

Then

$$\int_{\partial D_t}\big(|\partial_r u|^2 - r^{-2}|\partial_\theta u|^2\big)\,ds = \frac{2}{t}\int_{D_t}\tau\cdot(x\nabla u)\,dx. \tag{3-5}$$

As a direct corollary, by integrating over $[0,\delta]$, *we have*

$$\int_{D_\delta}\big(|\partial_r u|^2 - r^{-2}|\partial_\theta u|^2\big)\,dx = \int_0^\delta \frac{2}{t}\int_{D_t}\tau\cdot(x\nabla u)\,dx\,dt. \tag{3-6}$$

Proof. Multiplying both sides of the equation by $x\nabla u$ and integrating over D_t, we get

$$\int_{D_t}|\nabla u|^2\,dx - t\int_{\partial D_t}|\partial_r u|^2\,ds + \frac{1}{2}\int_{D_t}x\nabla|\nabla u|^2\,dx = -\int_{D_t}\tau\cdot(x\nabla u)\,dx.$$

Note that

$$\frac{1}{2}\int_{D_t}x\nabla|\nabla u|^2\,dx = -\int_{D_t}|\nabla u|^2\,dx + \frac{t}{2}\int_{\partial D_t}|\nabla u|^2\,ds.$$

Hence,

$$\int_{\partial D_t}\big(|\partial_r u|^2 - \tfrac{1}{2}|\nabla u|^2\big)\,ds = \frac{1}{t}\int_{D_t}\tau\cdot(x\nabla u)\,dx.$$

As $|\nabla u|^2 = |\partial_r u|^2 + r^{-2}|\partial_\theta u|^2$, we have proved this lemma. □

Now we use this equality to estimate the normal energy on the neck domain. We prove the following lemma.

Lemma 5. *If* $\tau(u_n)$ *is bounded in* L^p *for some* $p \ge \frac{6}{5}$, *then for* δ *small enough we have*

$$\left|\int_{D_\delta}\big(|\partial_r u_n|^2 - |x|^{-2}|\partial_\theta u|^2\big)\,dx\right| \le C\delta^{(p-1)/p},$$

where C *depends on* p, Λ, *the target manifold* N *and the bubble* w.

Proof. Take $\psi \in C_0^\infty(D_2)$ satisfying $\psi = 1$ in D_1, then

$$\triangle(\psi u_n) = \psi A(u_n)(du_n, du_n) + \psi\tau_n + 2\nabla\psi\nabla u_n + u_n\triangle\psi.$$

Set $g_n = \psi A(u_n)(du_n, du_n) + \psi\tau_n + 2\nabla\psi\nabla u_n + u_n\triangle\psi$. When $|x| < 1$,

$$\partial_i u_n(x) = R_i * g_n(x) = \int\frac{x_i - y_i}{|x-y|^2}g_n(y)\,dy.$$

Let Φ_n be the Newtonian potential of $\psi\tau_n$, then $\triangle\Phi_n = \psi\tau_n$. The corresponding Pohozaev equality is

$$\int_{D_\delta}\big(|\partial_r\Phi_n|^2 - r^{-2}|\partial_\theta\Phi_n|^2\big)\,dx = \int_0^\delta\frac{2}{t}\int_{D_t}\psi\tau_n\cdot(x\nabla\Phi_n)\,dx\,dt. \tag{3-7}$$

Here

$$\partial_i \Phi_n(x) = R_i * (\psi\tau_n)(x) = \int \frac{x_i - y_i}{|x-y|^2} (\psi\tau_n)(y)\, dy.$$

As τ_n is bounded in L^p $(p > 1)$, we have

$$\int_{D_\delta} |\nabla\Phi_n|^2\, dx \le C\delta^{4(p-1)/p} \|\nabla\Phi_n\|^2_{2p/(2-p)} \le C\delta^{4(p-1)/p} \|\tau_n\|_p^2 \le C\delta^{4(p-1)/p}.$$

By (3-7), it can be shown that for any $\delta > 0$,

$$\left| \int_0^\delta \frac{1}{t} \int_{D_t} \psi\tau_n \cdot (x\nabla\Phi_n)\, dx dt \right| \le \int_{D_\delta} |\nabla\Phi_n|^2\, dx \le C\delta^{4(p-1)/p}. \tag{3-8}$$

For δ small enough, we have

$$\begin{aligned} &\left| \int_{D_\delta} \big(|\partial_r u_n|^2 - r^{-2} |\partial_\theta u_n|^2 \big)\, dx \right| \\ &= \left| \int_0^\delta \frac{2}{t} \int_{D_t} \tau_n \cdot (x\nabla u_n)\, dx dt \right| \\ &\le 2 \left| \int_0^\delta \frac{1}{t} \int_{D_t} \tau_n \cdot (x\nabla\Phi_n)\, dx dt \right| + 2 \int_0^\delta \frac{1}{t} \int_{D_t} |x\tau_n|\, |\nabla(u_n - \Phi_n)(x)|\, dx dt \\ &\le C\delta^{4(p-1)/p} + 2\int_{D_\delta} |x\tau_n| \big|\nabla(u_n - \Phi_n)(x)\big| \left(\int_{|x|}^\delta \frac{1}{t} dt \right) dx \\ &\le C\delta^{4(p-1)/p} + 2\int_{D_\delta} |\tau_n|\, |\nabla(u_n - \Phi_n)(x)|\, |x| \ln \frac{1}{|x|}\, dx. \end{aligned} \tag{3-9}$$

For any $j > 0$, set $\varphi_j(x) = \psi\big(\frac{x}{2^{2-j}\delta}\big) - \psi\big(\frac{x}{2^{-2-j}\delta}\big)$. When $2^{-j}\delta \le |x| < 2^{1-j}\delta$, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} |\partial_i(u_n - \Phi_n)(x)| &= \left| \int \frac{x_i - y_i}{|x-y|^2} (g_n(y) - \psi\tau_n(y))\, dy \right| \\ &\le \int \frac{|\psi A(u_n)(du_n, du_n) + 2\nabla\psi\nabla u_n + u_n \triangle\psi|(y)}{|x-y|} dy \\ &\le \int \frac{|\psi A(u_n)(y)|}{|x-y|} dy + C\int_{1<|y|<2} (|\nabla u_n| + |u_n|)(y)\, dy \\ &\le \int \frac{|\varphi_j A(u_n)(y)|}{|x-y|} dy + \int \frac{|(\psi - \varphi_j) A(u_n)(y)|}{|x-y|} dy + C \\ &\le \int \frac{|\varphi_j A(u_n)(y)|}{|x-y|} dy + \frac{\int |A(u_n)(y)|\, dy}{|x|} + C \\ &\le \int \frac{|\varphi_j A(u_n)(y)|}{|x-y|} dy + \frac{C}{|x|}. \end{aligned} \tag{3-10}$$

When $\delta > 0$ is small enough and n is big enough, for any $j > 0$, we claim that

$$\|\varphi_j A(u_n)\|_{p/(2-p)} \le C(2^{-j}\delta)^{-4(p-1)/p}, \tag{3-11}$$

where the constant C depends only on p, Λ, the bubble w and the target manifold N.

Take $\delta > 0$ and $R(w)$ that depends on w such that

$$E(u, D_{8\delta}) \le \tfrac{1}{8}\epsilon_N^2 \quad \text{and} \quad E(w, \mathbb{R}^2 \setminus D_{R(w)}) \le \tfrac{1}{8}\epsilon_N^2.$$

The standard blow-up analysis (see [Ding and Tian 1995]) shows that for any j with $8r_n R(w) \le 2^{-j}\delta$ and n big enough, we have

$$E(u_n, D_{2^{4-j}\delta} \setminus D_{2^{-3-j}\delta}) \le \tfrac{1}{3}\epsilon_N^2.$$

By (3-1), when $2^{-j}\delta < r_n/16$, we get

$$E(u_n, D_{2^{4-j}\delta} \setminus D_{2^{-3-j}\delta}) \le \tfrac{1}{4}\epsilon_N^2.$$

So when $2^{-j}\delta < r_n/16$ or $2^{-j}\delta \ge 8r_n R(w)$, by Lemma 2, we see that

$$\begin{aligned}\|\varphi_j A(u_n)\|_{p/(2-p)} &\le C\|\nabla u_n\|^2_{L^{2p/(2-p)}(D_{2^{3-j}\delta}\setminus D_{2^{-2-j}\delta})}\\ &\le C\|u_n - \bar{u}_{n,j}\|^2_{W^{2,p}(D_{2^{3-j}\delta}\setminus D_{2^{-2-j}\delta})}\\ &\le C\big[(2^{-j}\delta)^{-4\frac{p-1}{p}}\|\nabla u_n\|^2_{L^2(D_{2^{4-j}\delta}\setminus D_{2^{-4-j}\delta})} + \|\tau(u_n)\|_p^2\big]\\ &\le C(2^{-j}\delta)^{-4\frac{p-1}{p}},\end{aligned}$$

where $\bar{u}_{n,j}$ is the mean of u_n on $D_{2^{3-j}\delta} \setminus D_{2^{-2-j}\delta}$.

On the other hand, when $r_n/16 \le 2^{-j}\delta \le 8r_n R(w)$, we can find no more than $CR(w)^2$ balls with radius $r_n/2$ to cover $D_{2^{3-j}\delta} \setminus D_{2^{-2-j}\delta}$, that is,

$$D_{2^{3-j}\delta} \setminus D_{2^{-2-j}\delta} \subset \bigcup_{i=1}^{m} D(y_i, \tfrac{1}{2}r_n).$$

Set $B_i = D(y_i, \frac{1}{2}r_n)$ and $2B_i = D(y_i, r_n)$. By (3-1), for any i with $i \le m$ we have

$$E(u_n, 2B_i) \le \tfrac{1}{4}\epsilon_N^2.$$

Using Lemma 2 we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}\|\varphi_j A(u_n)\|_{p/(2-p)} &\le C\|\nabla u_n\|^2_{L^{2p/(2-p)}(D_{2^{3-j}\delta}\setminus D_{2^{-2-j}\delta})}\\ &\le C\Big(\sum_{i=1}^{m}\|\nabla u_n\|^{2p/(2-p)}_{L^{2p/(2-p)}(B_i)}\Big)^{(2-p)/p}\\ &\le C\sum_{i=1}^{m}\|\nabla u_n\|^2_{L^{2p/(2-p)}(B_i)}\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&\le C\sum_{i=1}^{m}\|u_n-\bar u_{n,i}\|^2_{W^{2,p}(B_i)}\\
&\le C\sum_{i=1}^{m}\big((r_n)^{-4(p-1)/p}\|\nabla u_n\|^2_{L^2(2B_i)}+\|\tau(u_n)\|_p^2\big)\\
&\le Cm\big((2^{-j}\delta)^{-4(p-1)/p}+1\big)\\
&\le C(2^{-j}\delta)^{-4(p-1)/p},
\end{aligned}$$

where $\bar u_{n,i}$ is the mean of u_n over B_i and the constant C depends only on p, Λ, the bubble w and the target manifold N. So we have proved (3-11).

By (3-10) and (3-11), when $p>1$ we get

$$\begin{aligned}
(3\text{-}12)\quad &\int_{D_\delta}|\tau_n|\,|\nabla(u_n-\Phi_n)(x)|\,|x|\ln\frac{1}{|x|}\,dx\\
&\le\sum_{j=1}^{\infty}\int_{2^{-j}\delta<|x|<2^{1-j}\delta}|\tau_n|\,|\nabla(u_n-\Phi_n)(x)|\,|x|\ln\frac{1}{|x|}\,dx\\
&\le C\sum_{j=1}^{\infty}\int_{2^{-j}\delta<|x|<2^{1-j}\delta}|\tau_n|\bigg(\frac{1}{|x|}+\int\frac{|\varphi_jA(u_n)(y)|}{|x-y|}dy\bigg)|x|\ln\frac{1}{|x|}\,dx\\
&\le C\bigg(\int_{D_\delta}|\tau_n|\ln\frac{1}{|x|}\,dx\\
&\qquad\qquad+\sum_{j=1}^{\infty}\int_{2^{-j}\delta<|x|<2^{1-j}\delta}|\tau_n|\bigg(\int\frac{|\varphi_jA(u_n)(y)|}{|x-y|}dy\bigg)|x|\ln\frac{1}{|x|}\,dx\bigg)\\
&\le C\bigg(\Big\|\ln\frac{1}{|\cdot|}\Big\|_{L^{p/(p-1)}(D_\delta)}+\sum_{j=1}^{\infty}2^{-j}\delta\ln\frac{2^j}{\delta}\Big\|\int\frac{|\varphi_jA(u_n)(y)|}{|\cdot-y|}dy\Big\|_{\frac{p}{p-1}}\bigg)\\
&\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\times\|\tau_n\|_p\\
&\le C\bigg(\delta^2\Big(\ln\frac{1}{\delta}\Big)^{1/(p-1)}+\sum_{j=1}^{\infty}2^{-j}\delta\ln\frac{2^j}{\delta}\|\varphi_jA(u_n)\|_{2p/(3p-2)}\bigg).
\end{aligned}$$

Here we use the fact that the fraction integral operator $I(f)=\frac{1}{|\cdot|}*f$ is bounded from $L^q(\mathbb{R}^2)$ to $L^{2q/(2-q)}(\mathbb{R}^2)$ for $1<q<2$.

When $p\ge\frac{6}{5}$, that is, when $2p/(3p-2)\le p/(2-p)$, by (3-11) we have

$$\begin{aligned}
(3\text{-}13)\qquad \|\varphi_jA(u_n)\|_{\frac{2p}{3p-2}}&\le C(2^{-j}\delta)^{\frac{5p-6}{p}}\|\varphi_jA(u_n)\|_{\frac{p}{2-p}}\\
&\le C(2^{-j}\delta)^{\frac{5p-6}{p}-\frac{4(p-1)}{p}}\le C(2^{-j}\delta)^{-\frac{2-p}{p}}.
\end{aligned}$$

From (3-12) and (3-13) we get

$$
\begin{aligned}
(3\text{-}14)\quad & \int_{D_\delta} |\tau_n|\,|\nabla(u_n-\Phi_n)(x)|\,|x|\ln\frac{1}{|x|}\,dx \\
&\le C\Big(\delta^2\Big(\ln\frac{1}{\delta}\Big)^{\frac{1}{p-1}} + \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} 2^{-j}\delta\ln\frac{2^j}{\delta}\|\varphi_j A(u_n)\|_{\frac{2p}{3p-2}}\Big) \\
&\le C\Big(\delta + \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} 2^{-j}\delta\ln\frac{2^j}{\delta}(2^{-j}\delta)^{-\frac{2-p}{p}}\Big) \\
&\le C\Big(\delta + \delta^{\frac{2(p-1)}{p}}\ln\frac{1}{\delta}\Big) \le C\delta^{\frac{p-1}{p}}.
\end{aligned}
$$

It is clear that (3-9) and (3-14) imply that

$$
(3\text{-}15)\qquad \left|\int_{D_\delta} \big(|\partial_r u_n|^2 - r^{-2}|\partial_\theta u_n|^2\big)\,dx\right| \le C\delta^{(p-1)/p}.
$$

This concludes the proof. □

Now we use these lemmas to prove the energy identity. Note that w is harmonic. From Lemma 4 we see that $\int_{D_R}(|\partial_r w|^2 - r^{-2}|\partial_\theta w|^2)dx = 0$ for any $R > 0$. It is easy to see that

$$
\lim_{R\to\infty}\lim_{n\to\infty}\left|\int_{D_{r_n R}}(|\partial_r u_n|^2 - r^{-2}|\partial_\theta u_n|^2)dx\right| = \lim_{R\to\infty}\left|\int_{D_R}(|\partial_r w|^2 - r^{-2}|\partial_\theta w|^2)dx\right| = 0.
$$

Letting $\delta \to 0$ in (3-15), we obtain

$$
\begin{aligned}
(3\text{-}16)\quad & \lim_{\delta\to 0}\lim_{R\to\infty}\lim_{n\to\infty}\left|\int_{D_\delta\setminus D_{r_n R}} \big(|\partial_r u_n|^2 - r^{-2}|\partial_\theta u_n|^2\big)\,dx\right| \\
&\le \lim_{\delta\to 0}\lim_{n\to\infty}\left|\int_{D_\delta} \big(|\partial_r u_n|^2 - r^{-2}|\partial_\theta u_n|^2\big)\,dx\right| \\
&\quad + \lim_{R\to\infty}\lim_{n\to\infty}\left|\int_{D_{r_n R}} \big(|\partial_r u_n|^2 - r^{-2}|\partial_\theta u_n|^2\big)\,dx\right| \\
&= 0.
\end{aligned}
$$

Using Lemma 3 we obtain that the normal energy also vanishes on the neck domain, so the energy identity is proved.

4. Neckless property

In this section we use the method in [Qing and Tian 1997] to prove the neckless property during blowing up.

For any $\epsilon > 0$, take δ, R such that

$$E(u, D_{4\delta}) + E(w, \mathbb{R}^2 \setminus D_R) + \delta^{4(p-1)/p} < \epsilon^2.$$

Suppose $r_n R = 2^{-j_n}, \delta = 2^{-j_0}$. When n is big enough, the standard blow-up analysis shows that for any $j_0 \le j \le j_n$,

$$E(u_n, D_{2^{1-j}} \setminus D_{2^{-j}}) < \epsilon^2.$$

For any $j_0 < j < j_n$, set $L_j = \min\{j - j_0, j_n - j\}$. Now we estimate the norm $\|\nabla u_n\|_{L^2(P_j)}$. Set $P_{j,t} = D_{2^{t-j}} \setminus D_{2^{-t-j}}$ and take $h_{n,j,t}$ similar to h_n in the last section, but

$$h_{n,j,t}(2^{\pm t-j}) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{S^1} u_n(2^{\pm t-j}, \theta)\, d\theta.$$

By an argument similar to the one used in deriving (3-4), we have, for $0 < t \le L_j$,

$$\int_{P_{j,t}} r^{-2} |\partial_\theta u_n|^2\, dx \le C\epsilon \left(\int_{P_{j,t}} |\nabla u_n|^2\, dx + (2^{t-j})^{\frac{2(p-1)}{p}} \right) + \int_{\partial P_{j,t}} |u_n - h_{n,j,t}|\, |\nabla u_n|\, ds. \tag{4-1}$$

Set $f_j(t) = \int_{P_{j,t}} |\nabla u_n|^2 dx$, a simple computation shows that

$$f_j'(t) = \ln 2 \left(2^{t-j} \int_{\{2^{t-j}\}\times S^1} |\nabla u_n|^2\, ds + 2^{-t-j} \int_{\{2^{-t-j}\}\times S^1} |\nabla u_n|^2\, ds \right).$$

Combining that $h_{n,j,t}$ is independent of θ and $h_{n,j,t}$ is the mean value of u_n at the two components of $\partial P_{j,t}$ with the Poincaré inequality yields that

$$\begin{aligned}
\int_{\partial P_{j,t}} &|u_n - h_{n,j,t}|\, |\nabla u_n|\, ds \\
&= \int_{\{2^{t-j}\}\times S^1} |u_n - h_{n,j,t}|\, |\nabla u_n|\, ds + \int_{\{2^{-t-j}\}\times S^1} |u_n - h_{n,j,t}|\, |\nabla u_n|\, ds \\
&\le \left(\int_{\{2^{t-j}\}\times S^1} |u_n - h_{n,j,t}|^2\, ds \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \left(\int_{\{2^{t-j}\}\times S^1} |\nabla u_n|^2\, ds \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \\
&\qquad + \left(\int_{\{2^{-t-j}\}\times S^1} |u_n - h_{n,j,t}|^2\, ds \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \left(\int_{\{2^{-t-j}\}\times S^1} |\nabla u_n|^2\, ds \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \\
&\le C \left(2^{t-j} \int_{\{2^{t-j}\}\times S^1} |\nabla u_n|^2\, ds + 2^{-t-j} \int_{\{2^{-t-j}\}\times S^1} |\nabla u_n|^2\, ds \right) \\
&\le C f_j'(t).
\end{aligned}$$

On the other hand, by a similar argument as we made to obtain (3-15), we get

$$\left|\int_{P_{j,t}} \big(|\partial_r u_n|^2 - r^{-2}|\partial_\theta u_n|^2\big)\,dx\right| \le C\Big((2^{t-j})^{\frac{p-1}{p}} + (2^{-t-j})^{\frac{p-1}{p}}\Big) \le C(2^{t-j})^{\frac{p-1}{p}}. \tag{4-2}$$

Since $|\nabla u|^2 = |\partial_r u|^2 + r^{-2}|\partial_\theta u|^2 = 2r^{-2}|\partial_\theta u|^2 + (|\partial_r u|^2 - r^{-2}|\partial_\theta u|^2)$, by (4-1) and (4-2) we have

$$\begin{aligned} f_j(t) &\le 2\int_{P_{j,t}} r^{-2}|\partial_\theta u_n|\,dx + \left|\int_{P_{j,t}} \big(|\partial_r u_n|^2 - r^{-2}|\partial_\theta u_n|^2\big)\,dx\right| \\ &\le C\epsilon\Big(f_j(t) + (2^{t-j})^{\frac{2(p-1)}{p}}\Big) + Cf_j'(t) + C(2^{t-j})^{\frac{p-1}{p}} \\ &\le C\Big(\epsilon f_j(t) + 2^{-\frac{(p-1)j}{p}}2^{\frac{(p-1)t}{p}} + f_j'(t)\Big). \end{aligned}$$

Take ϵ small enough and set $\epsilon_p = \frac{p-1}{p}\ln 2$, then for some positive constant C big enough we get

$$f_j'(t) - \frac{1}{C}f_j(t) + Ce^{-\epsilon_p j}e^{\epsilon_p t} \ge 0.$$

We may assume that $\epsilon_p > 1/C$, then we have

$$(e^{-t/C}f_j(t))' + Ce^{-\epsilon_p j}e^{(\epsilon_p - 1/C)t} \ge 0.$$

Integrating this inequality over $[2, L_j]$ gives

$$\begin{aligned} f_j(2) &\le C\left(e^{-L_j/C}f_j(L_j) + e^{-\epsilon_p j}\int_1^{L_j} e^{(\epsilon_p - 1/C)t}\,dt\right) \\ &\le C\big(e^{-L_j/C}f_j(L_j) + e^{-\epsilon_p j}e^{(\epsilon_p - 1/C)L_j}\big). \end{aligned}$$

Note that $j \ge L_j$, so

$$f_j(2) \le C(e^{-L_j/C}f_j(L_j) + e^{-j/C}).$$

Since the energy identity was proved in the last section, we can take δ small such that the energy on the neck domain is less than ϵ^2, which implies that $f_j(L_j) < \epsilon^2$. So we get

$$f_j(2) \le C\big(e^{-L_j/C}\epsilon^2 + e^{-j/C}\big).$$

Using Lemma 2 on the domain $P_j = D_{2^{1-j}} \setminus D_{2^{-j}}$ when $j < j_n$, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \|u_n\|_{Osc(P_j)} &\le C\big(\|\nabla u_n\|_{L^2(P_{j-1}\cup P_j \cup P_{j+1})} + 2^{\frac{2(1-p)j}{p}}\|\tau(u_n)\|_p\big) \\ &\le C\big(f_j(2) + e^{-2\epsilon_p j}\big). \end{aligned}$$

Summing over j from j_0 to j_n yields

$$\begin{aligned}\|u_n\|_{Osc(D_\delta \setminus D_{2r_n R})} &\le \sum_{j=j_0}^{j_n} \|u_n\|_{Osc(P_j)} \\ &\le C \sum_{j=j_0}^{j_n} \left(f_j(2) + e^{-2\epsilon_p j}\right) \\ &\le C \sum_{j=j_0}^{j_n} \left(e^{-L_j/C}\epsilon^2 + e^{-j/C} + e^{-2\epsilon_p j}\right) \\ &\le C\left(\sum_{i=0}^{\infty} e^{-i/C}\epsilon^2 + \sum_{j=j_0}^{\infty} e^{-j/C}\right) \\ &\le C\left(\epsilon^2 + e^{-j_0/C}\right) \le C\left(\epsilon^2 + \delta^{1/C}\right).\end{aligned}$$

Here we used the assumption that $\epsilon_p > 1/C$. So we have proved that there is no neck during the blowing up.

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Received October 1, 2011. Revised May 3, 2012.

LI JIAYU
WU WENJUN KEY LABORATORY
SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES
UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF CHINA
96 JINZHAI ROAD
HEFEI, 230026
CHINA

and

AMSS, CHINESE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
BEIJING, 100190
CHINA

jiayuli@ustc.edu.cn

ZHU XIANGRONG
DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS
ZHEJIANG NORMAL UNIVERSITY
688 YINGBIN ROAD
JINHUA, 321004
CHINA

zxr@zjnu.cn

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The Pacific Journal of Mathematics (ISSN 0030-8730) at the University of California, c/o Department of Mathematics, 969 Evans Hall, Berkeley, CA 94720-3840, is published monthly except July and August. Periodical rate postage paid at Berkeley, CA 94704, and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: send address changes to Pacific Journal of Mathematics, P.O. Box 4163, Berkeley, CA 94704-0163.

PJM peer review and production are managed by EditFLOW™ from Mathematical Sciences Publishers.

PUBLISHED BY PACIFIC JOURNAL OF MATHEMATICS
at the University of California, Berkeley 94720-3840
A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION
Typeset in LaTeX

PACIFIC JOURNAL OF MATHEMATICS

Volume 260 No. 1 November 2012
