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# Introduction to potential theory in the class of *m*-convex functions

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**Abstract.** In this work we will give the very initial concepts of potential theory (m - cv) polar sets, m - cv measures and their properties) in the class of *m*-convex (m - cv) functions in the domain  $D \subset \mathbb{R}_x^n$ . In particular, we will prove that for a m - cv measure  $\omega^*(x, E, D)$  its Hessian  $H_{\omega^*}^{n-m+1} = 0$  in the domain  $D \setminus E$ .

#### 1. Introduction

In this work we will give the very initial concepts of potential theory (m - cv polar sets, m - cv measures)and their properties) in the class of *m*-convex (m - cv) functions in the domain  $D \subset \mathbb{R}^n_x$ . In particular, we will prove that for a m - cv measure  $\omega^*(x, E, D)$  its Hessian  $H^{n-m+1}_{\omega^*} = 0$  in the domain  $D \setminus E$ .

If the potential theory in the class of strongly *m*-subharmonic functions is based on differential forms and currents  $(dd^c u)^k \wedge \beta^{n-k} \ge 0$ , k = 1, 2, ..., n - m + 1, where  $\beta = dd^c ||z||^2$  the standard volume form in  $\mathbb{C}^n$ , then the potential theory in the class of m - cv functions is based on Borel measures of a completely different nature, namely, on Hessians  $H^k(u) \ge 0$ , k = 1, 2, ..., n - m + 1. In the work of A. Sadullaev [9] (see also the work of R. Sharipov and M. Ismoilov [8]) it was proved that in the class of bounded *m*-convex functions the Hessians  $H^k(u) \ge 0$ , k = 1, 2, ..., n - m + 1, are defined and are positive Borel measures. Note that when m = n the class m - cv coincides with the class of subharmonic functions, and when m = 1 it coincides with the class of subharmonic and convex functions are well studied (see [6], [10], [1]-[2], [3], [4]-[5]).

#### 2. m - cv polar sets.

**Definition 2.1.** By analogy with polar sets in classical potential theory, a set  $E \subset D \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  is called m - cv polar in D, if there exists a function  $u(x) \in m - cv(D)$ ,  $u(x) \not\equiv -\infty$ , such that  $u|_E = -\infty$ .

From the embedding  $m - cv(D) \subset sh(D)$  it follows that every m - cv polar set is polar in the sense of classical potential theory. In particular, for a m - cv polar set *E* it is true  $H_{2n-2+\varepsilon}(E) = 0$ ,  $\forall \varepsilon > 0$  and, therefore, the Lebesgue measure of a m - cv polar set *E* is equal to zero.

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m - cv polar sets have another unexpected phenomenon, that when  $m < \frac{n}{2} + 1$  they are empty, i.e. if the set  $E \subset D$  is m - cv polar,  $m < \frac{n}{2} + 1$ , then  $E = \emptyset$ . This follows from the fact that for  $m < \frac{n}{2} + 1$  any m - cv function is continuous. (see [11]-[13], [14], [8]). However, for  $m \ge \frac{n}{2} + 1$  there are non-empty m - cv polar sets. Therefore, the properties of m - cv polar sets proved below are meaningful only for the cases  $m \ge \frac{n}{2} + 1$ .

**Example 2.2.** (fundamental m - cv function).

$$\chi_m(x,0) = \begin{cases} |x|^{2-\frac{n}{n-m+1}} & at \ m < \frac{n}{2} + 1\\ \ln|x| & at \ m = \frac{n}{2} + 1\\ -|x|^{2-\frac{n}{n-m+1}} & at \ m > \frac{n}{2} + 1 \end{cases}$$
(1)

Thus, at the  $m < \frac{n}{2} + 1$  fundamental function is bounded and Lipschitz, and at  $m \ge \frac{n}{2} + 1$  it is equal  $-\infty$  at the point x = 0 Note that at m = n, i.e. for the subharmonic case it coincides with the fundamental solution  $-\frac{1}{|x|^{n-2}}$  of the Laplace operator  $\Delta$ .

**Theorem 2.3.** The countable union of m - cv polar sets is m - cv polar, i.e. if  $E_j \subset D$  is m - cv polar, then  $E = \bigcup_{j=1}^{\infty} E_j$ 

is also m – cv polar.

The proof is identical to a similar proof for a polar sets and we omit it.

Potential theory is usually constructed in regular domains with respect to one or another class of functions.

**Definition 2.4.** A domain  $D \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  is called m - cv regular if there exists  $\rho(x) \in m - cv(D)$  such that  $\rho(x) < 0$ ,  $\lim_{x \to \partial D} \rho(x) = 0$ . It is called m - cv strictly regular if there is a twice smooth strictly m - cv function in some

neighborhood  $D^+ \supset \overline{D}$  of the closure  $\overline{D}$  such that  $D = \{\rho(x) < 0\}$ . Strictly m - cv of a function  $\rho(x)$  in  $D^+$  means that for some  $\delta > 0$  the difference  $\rho(x) - \delta ||x||^2$  is a m - cv function in  $D^+$ .

**Theorem 2.5.** Let a domain  $D \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  be m - cv regular and the subset  $E \subset D$  such that the intersection  $E \cap G$  is m - cv polar in G for an arbitrary compact subdomain  $G \subset D$ . Then E is m - cv polar in D. Moreover, there is a function  $u(x) \in m - cv(D)$ ,  $u|_D < 0$ :  $u(x) \not\equiv -\infty$ ,  $u(x) = -\infty \quad \forall x \in E$ .

P r o o f. The theorem is very useful in proving the more general result that a locally m - cv polar set is a globally (overall  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ) m - cv polar set. Since  $D \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  is m - cv regular, then there exists  $\rho(x) \in m - cv(D)$ such that  $\rho(x) < 0$ ,  $\lim_{x \to \partial D} \rho(x) = 0$ . We put  $D_{\delta} = \{x \in \partial D : \rho(x) < -\delta\} \subset C$ ,  $\delta > 0$ . Using the connected

components of the open sets  $D_{\delta}$ , we construct the exhaustion  $G_j \subset G_{j+1}$ ,  $\bigcup_{j=1}^{\infty} G_j = D$ ,  $G_1 \neq \emptyset$ , where  $G_j$  is

suitable connected component of the open set  $D_{\delta_j} = \{x \in \partial D : \rho(x) < -\delta_j\} \subset D, \ \delta_j > 0, \ \delta_j \downarrow 0.$ 

According to the conditions of the theorem, there is a function  $v_j(x) \in m - cv(G_{j+2})$  such that  $v_j \not\equiv -\infty$ , but  $v_j \mid_{E \cap G_{j+2}} \equiv -\infty$ . Since the set  $\{v_j = -\infty\}$  has Lebesgue measure zero, there is a point  $a \in G_1$  such that  $v_j(a) \neq -\infty$  for all  $j \in N$ .

Let's put  $M_j = \max_{x \in \bar{G}_{j+1}} v_j(x), V_j(x) = \frac{1}{2^j} \cdot \frac{v_j(x) - M_j}{M_j - v_j(a)}$  and  $u_j(x) = A_j(\rho(x) + \delta_{j+1})$ , where  $A_j > 0$  is that  $u_j |_{G_j} \le -1$ .

Then  $V_j(x)|_{G_{j+1}} < 0$ ,  $u_j|_{\partial G_{j+1}} \equiv 0$  and, therefore, the function

$$w_{j}(x) = \begin{cases} \max\{V_{j}(x), u_{j}(x)\}, & at \ x \in G_{j+1} \\ u_{j}(x), & at \ x \notin G_{j+1} \end{cases}$$

is m - cv in D  $(j = 1, 2, ...), w_j(x) < 0$  in  $G_{j+1}$ .

The sum  $w(x) = \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} w_j(x) \in m - cv(D)$ , w(a) = -1,  $w|_E \equiv -\infty$ . It follows that *E* is m - cv polar in *D*. Note

that if we select in advance a sequence  $\delta_j$  converging to zero quickly, for example as  $\delta_j = \frac{1}{(j!)^2}$ , then we will get w(x) bounded in D,  $w(x) \leq C$ . The theorem is proven.

#### 3. m - cv measure

In the theory of *m*-convex functions, the m - cv measure plays the same role as the harmonic measure in the classical potential theory. To exclude trivial cases, regular or even strictly m - cv regular domains  $D \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  are usually considered as a fixed domain.

Let  $E \subset D$  be some subset of a strictly m - cv regular domain  $D \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ .

**Definition 3.1.** Consider the class of functions

$$\mathcal{U}(E,D) = \{u(x) \in m - cv(D): \ u|_D \le 0, \ u|_E \le -1\}$$
(2)

and put  $\omega(x, E, D) = \sup \{u(x) : u \in \mathcal{U}(E, D)\}$ . Then the regularization  $\omega^*(x, E, D)$  is called the m - cv measure of the set E with respect to the domain D.

From the property of the upper envelope of m - cv functions (see [7]) it follows that  $\omega^*(x, E, D) \in m - cv(D)$ . By Choquet's lemma (see [6], [10]) there exists a countable subfamily  $\mathcal{U}' \subset \mathcal{U}(E, D)$  such that  $\{\sup \{u(x)\}: u \in \mathcal{U}'(E, D)\}^* \equiv \omega^*(x, E, D)$ . It follows that the m - cv measure  $\omega^*(x, E, D)$  can be represented

as the limit of a monotonically increasing sequence  $\{u_j(x)\} \subset \mathcal{U}(E, D)$ :  $\left|\lim_{j \to \infty} u_j(x)\right| \equiv \omega^*(x, E, D)$ .

In the special case, when  $E \subset D$  is compact, the functions  $u_j(x) \subset \mathcal{U}(E, D)$  can be selected to be continuous in D, which can be easily verified by convexly continuing  $u_j(x) \subset \mathcal{U}(E, D)$  into a certain fixed neighborhood  $D^+ \supset \overline{D}$  and approximating  $u_j$  with smooth functions  $u_k = u \circ K_k(x - y)$ .

Properties of the m - cv measure:

1) (monotonicity) if  $E_1 \subset E_2$ , then  $\omega^*(x, E_1, D) \ge \omega^*(x, E_2, D)$ ; if  $E \subset D_1 \subset D_2$ , then  $\omega^*(x, E, D_1) \ge \omega^*(x, E, D_2)$ ;

2)  $\omega^*(x, U, D) \in \mathcal{U}(U, D)$  for open set  $U \subset D$  and, therefore  $\omega^*(x, U, D) \equiv \omega(x, U, D)$ ;

It follows from the fact that for concentric balls  $B(x^0, r) \subset B(x^0, R) \subset U$ , 0 < r < R, the m - cv measure

$$\omega^*(x,\bar{B}(x^0,r),B(x^0,R)) = \max\left\{-1, \frac{\chi_m(x,x^0) - \chi_m(R,0)}{\chi_m(R,0) - \chi_m(r,0)}\right\}$$

and therefore in both cases  $m < \frac{n}{2} + 1$  or  $m \ge \frac{n}{2} + 1$  we have  $\omega^*(x^0, U, D) = -1$ . Here  $\chi_m(x, x^0)$  is a fundamental m - cv function (see (1)).

3) if  $U \subset D$  is an open set,  $U = \bigcup_{j=1}^{\infty} K_j$ , where  $K_j \subset \overset{\circ}{K}_{j+1}$ , then  $\omega^*(x, K_j, D) \downarrow \omega(x, U, D)$  (easily follows from property 2).

4) if  $E \subset D$  an arbitrary set, then there is a decreasing sequence of open sets  $U_j \supset E$ ,  $U_j \supset U_{j+1}$  (j = 1, 2, ...), such that  $\omega^*(x, E, D) = \left[\lim_{j \to \infty} \omega(x, U_j, D)\right]^*$ .

In f a c t, if the sequence  $\{u_j(x)\} \subset \mathcal{U}(E, D)$  is monotonically increasing:  $\left[\lim_{j \to \infty} u_j(x)\right]^* \equiv \omega^*(x, E, D)$ , then the open set  $U_j = \{u_j < -1 + \frac{1}{j}\}$  has the property, that  $U_j \supset E$ ,  $U_j \supset U_{j+1}$  (j = 1, 2, ...). Hence,  $u_j(x) - \frac{1}{j} < -1 \quad \forall x \in U_j \text{ and } u_j(x) - \frac{1}{j} \le \omega^*(x, U_j, D) \le \omega^*(x, E, D) \quad \forall x \in D$ . Therefore, from  $\left[\lim_{j \to \infty} u_j(x)\right]^* \equiv \omega^*(x, E, D)$  we get  $\omega^*(x, E, D) = \left[\lim_{j \to \infty} \omega(x, U_j, D)\right]^*$ 

5) the m-cv measure  $\omega^*(x, E, D)$  is either nowhere equal to zero or identically equal to zero.  $\omega^*(x, E, D) \equiv 0$  if and only if E is m - cv polar in D.

**Remark 3.2.** Property 5 is meaningful only for  $m \ge \frac{n}{2} + 1$  when  $m < \frac{n}{2} + 1$  a non-empty m - cv polar set does not exist, so the trivial m - cv measure does not exist either.

**Example 3.3.** Consider m = 1, take a ball B = B(0, 1) and a set  $E = \{0\}$  in it, consisting only one point. Consider the 1 - cv measure  $v = \omega^*(x, E, D)$ ,  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $v \in \mathbb{R}$ , as a function in  $\mathbb{R}^{n+1}_{(x,v)}$ . Then it is easy to see that the convex function  $v = \omega^*(x, E, D)$ ,  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $v \in \mathbb{R}$ , will be a cone, with a vertex at a point (0, -1) and with the base  $\{x \in \partial B, v = 0\}$ . Thus, the 1 - cv measure  $\omega^*(x, E, D) \neq 0$ .

Proof of Property 5. The first part of the property follows from the maximum principle for m - cv functions: if  $\omega^*(x^0, E, D) = 0$  at some point  $x^0 \in D$ , then  $\omega^*(x, E, D) \equiv 0$  in D.

Let  $\omega^*(x, E, D) \equiv 0$  be now. Then there exists a point  $x^0 \in D$  such that  $\omega^*(x^0, E, D) = 0$ . By definition  $\omega$ , for each  $j \in N$  there is a function  $u_j(x) \subset \mathcal{U}(E, D)$  such that  $u_j(x^0) \ge -\frac{1}{2^j}$ . Let's consider the sum  $u(x) = \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} u_j(x)$ .

It is *m*-convex because  $u_j < 0$  in  $D_j$ ;  $u(x) \neq -\infty$ , because  $u(x^0) \ge -1$ ,  $u|_E \equiv -\infty$  because  $u_j|_E \le -1$ . This shows that *E* is a *m* - *cv* polar set in *D*.

And vice versa, for a m - cv polar set  $E \subset D$ , according to Theorem 2.3, there is a function  $v(x) \in m - cv(D)$ :  $v|_D < 0$ ,  $v(x)/\equiv -\infty$  but  $v|_E \equiv -\infty$ . Then the function  $\frac{v(x)}{j} \in \mathcal{U}(E, D)$  for any  $j \in N$ . Consequently  $\omega(x, E, D) \ge \frac{v(x)}{j}$ , we also get from here that:  $\omega(x, E, D) = 0 \quad \forall x \in D : v(x) \neq -\infty$ . Since the Lebesgue measure of the set  $\{v = -\infty\}$  is equal to zero, then  $\omega^*(x, E, D) \equiv 0$  in D.

6) (*theorem on two constants*). If the function u(x) is *m*-convex in  $D \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  and  $u|_D \leq M$ ,  $u|_E \leq m$ ,  $(E \subset D)$ , then for all  $x \in D$  the following inequality holds

$$u(x) \le M(1 + \omega^*(x, E, D)) - m\omega^*(x, E, D).$$
(3)

Following out of  $\frac{u(x)-M}{M-m} \in \mathcal{U}(E,D)$ .

**Definition 3.4.** A point  $x^0 \in K$  is called a m-cv regular point of a compact K (with respect to D) if  $\omega^*(x^0, K, D) = -1$ . A compact  $K \subset D$  is called a m-cv regular compact if each of its point  $x^0 \in K$  is m-cv regular.

Since  $m - cv(D) \subset sh(D)$ , then the m - cv measure of a pair (K, D) is always no greater than the harmonic measure of this pair. Consequently, regular compacta in the sense of classical potential theory are always m - cv regular. Therefore, the closure of a domain  $G \subset D$  with a doubly smooth boundary  $\partial G$  is a m - cvregular compact. It follows that for any compact set  $K \subset U \subset D$ , where U is an open set, there is always a pluriregular compact set  $F : K \subset F \subset C \cup C D$ . This follows from the fact that for  $K \subset U$  it is easy to construct an open set  $G \subset U$ ,  $G \supset K$ , with a twice piecewise smooth boundary  $\partial G$ . Therefore, the compact  $F = \overline{G}$  is the desired m - cv regular compact. All this shows that the family of m - cv regular compacta is quite rich.

7) if the set *E* lies compactly in a strictly m - cv regular domain,  $D = \{\rho(x) < 0\}$ ,  $E \subset D$  then the measure m - cv extends to a neighborhood  $\rho(x) < \delta$ ,  $\delta > 0$ , of the closure  $\overline{D}$ .

In f a c t, since *E* is a compact set, then there is a constant C > 0 such that  $C\rho(x) < -1 \quad \forall x \in E$ . It follows that  $C\rho(x) \in \mathcal{U}(E, D)$  and  $C\rho(x) \leq \omega^*(x, E, D)$ . Therefore, the function

$$w(x) = \begin{cases} \max \{C\rho(x), \omega^*(x, E, D)\} & at \ x \in D\\ C\rho(x) & at \ x \notin D \end{cases}$$

is m - cv in some neighborhood  $D^+ \supset \overline{D}$ ,  $w(x) = \omega^*(x, E, D) \quad \forall x \in D$ .

The following theorem plays an important role in introducing the condenser capacity and in further studying the potential properties of m - cv convex functions.

**Theorem 3.5.** If a compact set  $E \subset D$  is m - cv regular, then the m - cv measure  $\omega^*(x, E, D) \equiv \omega(x, E, D)$  and is a continuous function in  $D, \omega^*(x, E, D) \in C(D)$ .

P r o o f. According to property 7), we extend the m - cv measure  $\omega^*(x, E, D)$  into a neighborhood  $\rho(x) < \delta$ ,  $\delta > 0$ , of the closure  $\overline{D}$  and approximate it in a certain neighborhood

$$D^+ \supset \overline{D}: u_j(x) \downarrow \omega^*(x, E, D), x \in D^+, u_j(x) \in C^{\infty}(D^+) \cap m - cv(D^+).$$

We fix a number  $\varepsilon > 0$ . Applying Hartogs' Lemma twice to the sequence  $u_j(x) \downarrow \omega^*(x, E, D)$  and to neighborhoods  $U = \{\omega^*(x, E, D) < -1 + \varepsilon\} \supset E$ ,  $\check{D} = \{\omega^*(x, E, D) < \varepsilon\} \supset \bar{D}$ , we find a number  $j_0 \in \mathbb{N} : u_j(x) < -1 + 2\varepsilon$ ,  $\forall x \in E$ ,  $u_j(x) < 2\varepsilon$ ,  $\forall x \in \bar{D}$ ,  $j \ge j_0$ . Then  $u_j(x) - 2\varepsilon < -1$ ,  $\forall x \in E$ ,  $u_j(x) - 2\varepsilon < 0$ ,  $\forall x \in D$ ,  $j \ge j_0$ , i.e.  $u_j(x) - 2\varepsilon < -1$ ,  $\forall x \in E$ ,  $u_j(x) - 2\varepsilon < 0$ ,  $\forall x \in D$ ,  $j \ge j_0$ , i.e.  $u_j(x) - 2\varepsilon < -1$ ,  $\forall x \in E$ ,  $u_j(x) - 2\varepsilon < 0$ ,  $\forall x \in D$ ,  $j \ge j_0$ , i.e.  $u_j(x) - 2\varepsilon < -1$ ,  $\forall x \in E$ ,  $u_j(x) - 2\varepsilon < 0$ ,  $\forall x \in D$ ,  $j \ge j_0$ , i.e.  $u_j(x) - 2\varepsilon < -1$ ,  $\forall x \in E$ ,  $u_j(x) - 2\varepsilon < 0$ ,  $\forall x \in D$ ,  $j \ge j_0$ , i.e.  $\omega^*(x, E, D)$ . This means that the sequence of smooth functions  $u_j(x) \downarrow \omega^*(x, E, D)$  converges uniformly and  $\omega^*(x, E, D) \in C(D)$ . The theorem is proven.

#### 4. Properties of Hessians of measures

m - cv measure  $\omega^*(x, E, D)$  has the maximality property outside a compact set E (in the domain  $D \setminus E$ ). This means that for any domain  $G \subset \subset D \setminus E$  the inequality  $\omega^*(x, E, D) \ge v(x) \quad \forall x \in G$  holds for all functions  $v \in m - cv(D)$ :  $\omega^*(x, E, D)|_{\partial G} \ge v(x)|_{\partial G}$ . To prove the maximality property, we first recall the definition of Hessians  $H^k$ , k = 1, 2, ..., n - m + 1, for a bounded semi-continuous function  $u(x) \in m - cv(D) \cap L^{\infty}(D)$ . They are positive Borel measures (see [9]). Let us embed  $\mathbb{R}^n_x$  in  $\mathbb{C}^n_z$ ,  $\mathbb{R}^n_x \subset \mathbb{C}^n_z = \mathbb{R}^n_x + i\mathbb{R}^n_y$  (z = x + iy), as a real n-dimensional subspace of the complex space  $\mathbb{C}^n_z$ . Then an upper semi-continuous function u(x) in a domain  $D \subset \mathbb{R}^n_x$  will be m-convex if and only if the function  $u^c(z) = u^c(x + iy) = u(x)$  that does not depend on variables  $y \in \mathbb{R}^n_y$ , is strongly m-subharmonic ( $u^c \in sh_m$ ) in the domain  $D \times \mathbb{R}^n_y$  (see [7], [9]).

If *m*-convex in a domain  $D \subset \mathbb{R}^n_x$  function  $u(x) \in m - cv(D)$  is bounded, then  $u^c(z)$  will also be a bounded, strongly *m*-subharmonic function in the domain  $D \times \mathbb{R}^n_y \subset \mathbb{C}^n_z$ . As it is well known, the operators  $(dd^c u^c)^k \wedge \beta^{n-k}$ , k = 1, 2, ..., n - m + 1 are defined for a bounded  $sh_m$  functions as Borel measures in the domain  $D \times \mathbb{R}^n_y \subset \mathbb{C}^n_z$ ,  $\mu_k = (dd^c u^c)^k \wedge \beta^{n-k}$ .

Since for a doubly smooth function,

$$(dd^{c}u^{c})^{k} \wedge \beta^{n-k} = k!(n-k)!H^{k}(u^{c})\beta^{n},$$

then for a bounded, strongly subharmonic function in the domain  $D \times \mathbb{R}_y^n \subset \mathbb{C}_z^n$ , it is natural to determine its Hessians, equating them to the measure

$$H^{k}(u^{c}) = \frac{\mu_{k}}{k!(n-k)!} = \frac{1}{k!(n-k)!} (dd^{c}u^{c})^{k} \wedge \beta^{n-k},$$

$$\mu_{k} = (dd^{c}u^{c})^{k} \wedge \beta^{n-k}, \quad k = 1, 2, ..., n - m + 1.$$
(4)

Since  $u^c \in sh_m(D \times \mathbb{R}^n_y)$  does not depend on  $y \in \mathbb{R}^n_y$ , then for any Borel sets  $E_x \subset D$ ,  $E_y \subset \mathbb{R}^n_y$  the measures  $\frac{1}{mesE_y}\mu_k(E_x \times E_y) = v_k(E_x)$  do not depend on the set  $E_y \subset \mathbb{R}^n_y$ , i.e.  $\frac{1}{mesE_y}\mu_k(E_x \times E_y) = v_k(E_x)$ . We will call Borel measures  $v_k : v_k(E_x) = \frac{1}{mesE_y}\mu_k(E_x \times E_y)$ , k = 1, 2, ..., n - m + 1, as Hessians  $H^k$ , k = 1, 2, ..., n - m + 1 for a bounded, *m*-convex function  $u(x) \in m - cv(D)$  in the domain  $D \times \mathbb{R}^n_x$ . For a doubly smooth function  $u(x) \in m - cv(D) \cap C^2(D)$ , the Hessians are ordinary functions; however, for a non-doubly smooth, but bounded semicontinuous function  $u(x) \in m - cv(D) \cap L^{\infty}(D)$ , the Hessians  $H^k$ , k = 1, 2, ..., n - m + 1, are positive Borel measures.

**Theorem 4.1.** For any m - cv regular compact set  $E \subset D$ , the m - cv measure  $\omega^*(x, E, D)$  is a maximal function in  $D \setminus E$ . Moreover,  $H^{n-m+1}_{\omega^*} = 0$  in the domain  $D \setminus E$ .

P r o o f. a) The *m* − *cv* measure  $\omega^*(x, E, D) \equiv \omega(x, E, D)$  is maximal in *D*\*E*. In fact, if  $\omega(x, E, D)$  is not maximal function in *D*\*E*, then there is a domain *G* ⊂⊂ *D* and a function  $\phi(x) \in m - cv(D)$ :  $\phi|_{\partial G} \leq \omega|_{\partial G}$ , but  $\phi(x^0) > \omega(x^0)$  at some point  $x^0 \in G$ . Then the function

$$w(x) = \begin{cases} \max \{ \omega(x), \phi(x) \} & at \ x \in \bar{G} \\ \omega(x) & at \ x \in D \setminus G \end{cases}$$

is *m*-convex,  $w(x) \in m - cv(D)$ ,  $w(x)|_D < 0$ ,  $w(x)|_E \le -1$  because  $w(x) = \omega(x) \quad \forall x \in D \setminus E$ . Hence,  $w(x) \le \omega(x)$  and  $\phi(x^0) \le \omega(x^0)$ . Contradiction.

b)  $H_{\omega^*}^{n-m+1} = 0$  in the  $D \setminus E$ . R e all y, it is not difficult to see that the function  $u(x) \in m - cv(G) \cap C(D)$  is maximal if and only if the function  $u^{c}(z) \in sh_{m}(G \times \mathbb{R}^{n}_{y}) \cap C(G \times \mathbb{R}^{n}_{y})$  is maximal  $sh_{m}$  function. This implies  $(dd^{c}u^{c})^{n-m+1} \wedge \beta^{m-1}$ , which is the same  $H^{n-m+1}(u^{c}) = 0$ . This is equivalent to the fact that  $H^{n-m+1}(u(x)) = 0$ . The theorem is proven.

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