

## Mathematical analysis of a reaction-diffusion system modeling the phenomena of crevice corrosion in one dimension space with measure initial data

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**ABSTRACT.** The aim of this paper is to provide a mathematical study of nonlinear partial differential equations modeling the corrosion phenomena. We present the modelisation of our problem and the mathematical analysis of the obtained system. The originality of this work can be seen in the measure initial data and the techniques developed here to complete the mathematical study.

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### 1. Introduction

Crevice corrosion is a localized form of the corrosion, this attack is generally associated to the presence of small volumes of stagnant solution in occluded interstices, beneath deposits and seals, or in crevices.

Crevice corrosion is encountered particularly in metals that their structure is resistance to the stability of a passive film, since these films are unstable in the presence of high concentrations of  $Cl^-$  and  $H^+$  ions.

The basic mechanism of crevice corrosion in passivable alloys exposed to aerated chloride-rich media is gradual acidification of the solution inside the crevice, leading to the appearance of highly aggressive local conditions that destroy the passivity.

As dissolution of the metal  $M$  continues, an excess of  $M^{n+}$  ions is created in the crevice, which can only be compensated by electromigration of the  $Cl^-$  ions [6]. Most metallic chlorides hydrolyse, and this is particularly true for the elements in stainless steels and aluminium alloys. The acidity in the crevice increases (pH 1-3) as well as the  $Cl^-$  ion concentration (up to several times the mean value in the solution). The dissolution reaction in the crevice is then promoted and the oxygen reduction reaction becomes localized on the external surfaces close to the crevice. This "autocatalytic" process accelerates rapidly, even if several days or weeks were necessary to get it under way.

This models for crevice corrosion have been studied in electrochemical and physical literature (see G.R. Engelhard [6], S.M. Sharland [9]), and the mathematical solution was given by S.M. Sharland [10] in the steady state case.

This paper is organized as follows, we start by giving the mathematical model of the studied phenomena, we pursue it by the main result which is the existence for any measure data then we give the proof of the main result.

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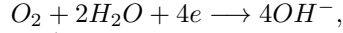
## 2. Modeling

In the mathematical simulation of the corrosion of steels in neutral solutions, at least six species in the solution must be taken into account [10]. These species are metal ions  $Fe^{2+}$  from the dissolution process, sodium ( $Na^+$ ) and chloride ( $Cl^-$ ) ions to facilitate current flow within the crevice, hydrogen ( $H^+$ ) and hydroxyde ( $OH^-$ ) ions from the dissociation of water, and a metal hydrolysis product ( $Fe(OH)^+$ ). The term  $H_2O$  have no kinetic effect in the solution, since its concentration remains very close to the concentration of pure water.

The concentrations of the species are denoted as follows:

$$c_1 = [Fe^{2+}], \quad c_2 = [Fe(OH)^+], \quad c_3 = [Na^+], \quad c_4 = [Cl^-], \quad c_5 = [H^+], \quad c_6 = [OH^-].$$

The cathodic reduction of oxygen, hydrogen ion, and water,



and,  $2H_2O + 2e \longrightarrow 2OH^- + H_2$ .

Additionally, the two homogeneous reactions that are considered

- $Fe^{2+} + H_2O \rightleftharpoons Fe(OH)^+ + H^+$ ,
- $H_2O \rightleftharpoons H^+ + OH^-$ .

With equilibrium constants  $K_1$  and  $K_2$  respectively. The forward and backward reaction rates for each reaction are denoted  $k_1, k_{-1}$  and  $k_2, k_{-2}$ , where

$$K_1 = \frac{k_1}{k_{-1}}, \quad K_2 = \frac{k_2}{k_{-2}}.$$

The evolution of the concentrations of the ions are given by the Nernst-Planck equation.

For  $i = 1, \dots, 6$

$$\frac{\partial c_i}{\partial t} = -\text{div}.(N_i) + f_i.$$

We denote by  $c_i$  the concentrations of the species,  $f_i$  the rate of creation of ionic species  $i$  given as follows,

$$f_1(c) = -k_1 c_1 + k_{-1} c_2 c_5,$$

$$f_2(c) = k_1 c_1 - k_{-1} c_2 c_5,$$

$$f_3(c) = 0,$$

$$f_4(c) = 0,$$

$$f_5(c) = k_1 c_1 - k_{-1} c_2 c_5 + k_2 - k_{-2} c_5 c_6,$$

$$f_6(c) = k_2 - k_{-2} c_5 c_6.$$

and  $N_i$  the density of ion flux given by:

$$N_i = -d_i(\nabla c_i + \frac{z_i F}{RT} c_i \nabla \phi), \quad i = 1, \dots, 6,$$

where,  $d_i$  is the diffusion coefficient,  $z_i$  is the charge,  $T$  the temperature,  $R$  is the gas constant,  $F$  is the Faraday constant, and  $\phi$  is the electric potential in the solution.

We consider that the species satisfy the electro-neutrality condition,

$$-\varepsilon \Delta \phi = \sum_{k=1}^6 z_k c_k.$$

We consider the one dimension space case of the problem, and we study the problem in more general case, where the diffusion coefficients depend on time and space  $d_i = d_i(t, x)$ .

The electric potential satisfies the system:

For  $t \in [0, T]$

$$\begin{cases} -\varepsilon \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial x^2} = \sum_{k=1}^6 z_k c_k & \text{in } \Omega \\ \phi(t, s) = 0 & \text{for } s = 0, L. \end{cases}$$

Then the concentrations satisfy the system:

For  $i = 1, \dots, 6$

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t c_i - \partial_x(d_i(t, x)\partial_x c_i + m_i(t, x)c_i\partial_x \phi) = f_i \\ -\varepsilon \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial x^2} = \sum_{k=1}^6 z_k c_k \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

where  $m_i(t, x) = d_i(t, x) \frac{z_i F}{RT}$  is the mobility.

At the boundary we suppose that,

$$d_i(t, s)\partial_x c_i(t, s) + m_i(t, s)c_i(t, s)\partial_x \phi(t, s) = \eta_i(t, s, c, \phi), \quad \text{for } s = 0, L, \quad t \in [0, T].$$

Where,

$$\eta_1 = \frac{i_p}{2F}, \quad \eta_2 = \eta_3 = \eta_4 = 0, \quad \eta_5 = \frac{i_{H^+}}{F}, \quad \eta_6 = \frac{i_{OH^-}}{F},$$

$i_p$ : the passive corrosion current density (independent of the potential),

$$i_{H^+} = A_1 c_5 \exp\left[-\frac{\alpha_1 F E}{RT}\right],$$

$$i_{OH^-} = -A_2 \exp\left[-\frac{\alpha_2 F E}{RT}\right],$$

$\alpha_1, \alpha_2$  are transfer coefficients,  $E = E_{corr} - \phi$  is the local electrode potential,  $A_1, A_2$  are constants that do not depend on potential.

Then the concentrations satisfy the system:

For  $i = 1, \dots, 6$

$$\begin{cases} \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \frac{\partial c_i}{\partial t}(t, x) - \frac{\partial}{\partial x}(d_i(t, x)\frac{\partial c_i}{\partial x}(t, x) + \\ \quad + m_i(t, x)c_i(t, x)\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x}(t, x)) = f_i(t, x, c) \quad \text{in } Q_T \\ -\varepsilon \partial_{xx} \phi = \sum_{k=1}^6 z_k c_k(t, x) \quad \text{in } \Omega \\ c_i(0, x) = \mu_i \quad \text{in } \mathcal{M}_b(\Omega) \\ d_i(t, s)\partial_x c_i(t, s) + m_i(t, s)c_i(t, s)\partial_x \phi(t, s) = \\ \quad = \eta_i(t, s, c, \phi) \quad \text{for } s = 0, L \text{ and } t \in ]0, T[ \\ \phi(t, s) = 0 \quad \text{for } s = 0, L \text{ and } t \in ]0, T[ \end{array} \right. \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

where,

$$\mathcal{M}_b(\Omega) = \{\mu \text{ bounded Radon measure in } \Omega\}.$$

**Definition 2.1.** Let  $c_i \in \mathcal{C}([0, T]; L^1(\Omega))$  and  $\mu_i \in \mathcal{M}_b(\Omega)$ . We say that  $c_i(0, x) = \mu_i$  in  $\mathcal{M}_b(\Omega)$  if for every  $\varphi \in \mathcal{C}_b(\Omega)$

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \int_{\Omega} c_i(t, x) \varphi dx = \langle \mu_i, \varphi \rangle,$$

where,  $\mathcal{C}_b = \{\varphi : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \text{ continuous and bounded in } \Omega\}$ .

Let  $\Omega$  be the open set  $]0, L[$ , for  $T > 0$  we denote by  $Q_T = ]0, T[ \times \Omega$ .

Throughout this paper we consider a general Reaction-diffusion system which involves  $NS$  species, and we assume for  $i = 1, \dots, NS$

i)  $d_i \in \mathcal{C}^2(Q_T)$ , for any  $T > 0$ ,  $x \in \Omega$  there exist  $\underline{d}, \bar{d} > 0$  such that

$$0 < \underline{d} \leq d_i \leq \bar{d} < +\infty \quad \text{on } Q_T.$$

ii)  $\mu_i \in \mathcal{M}_b(\Omega)$ .

iii)  $\eta_i(\cdot, s, \cdot, \cdot) \in L^\infty(0, T)$  for  $s = 0, L$ .

iv)  $f_i : Q_T \times \mathbb{R}^{NS} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  measurable.

v)  $f = (f_1, \dots, f_{NS}) \in \mathcal{C}^1([0, +\infty) \times \Omega \times \mathbb{R}^{NS}; \mathbb{R}^{NS})$ ; is quasi-positive, i.e

$$f_i(t, x, \gamma) \geq 0 \text{ for any } (t, x, \gamma) \in (0, +\infty) \times \Omega \times [0, +\infty)^{NS}$$

such that  $\gamma_i = 0$ .

vi) There exist an upper triangular invertible matrix  $Q \in \mathbb{R}^{NS \times NS}$  with nonnegative diagonal entries and  $b \in \mathbb{R}_+^{NS}$  a given vector such that

$$\begin{cases} QF(t, x, u) \leq (1 + \sum_{1 \leq j \leq NS} u_j)b \\ \text{for all } u \in (\mathbb{R}^+)^{NS} \text{ and a.e } (t, x) \in Q_T \end{cases} \quad (3)$$

where,  $Q$  is the matrix

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

### 3. Existence for any measure data

**Theorem 3.1.** *Assume that the assumptions (i)-(v) hold, and assume also that  $\forall i = 1, \dots, NS$ ,  $\mu_i \in \mathcal{M}_b^+(\Omega)$ .*

*Then, there exist  $c_i \in L^1(0, T; W^{1,1}(\Omega)) \cap \mathcal{C}([0, T[; \mathcal{M}_b(\Omega))$  and  $\phi \in L^\infty(0, T; W_0^{1,\infty}(\Omega))$  satisfied in the following sense :*

$$\begin{cases} \text{For all } T > 0, \text{ and for all } \psi \in \mathcal{C}^\infty(Q_T) \text{ such that } \psi(T, \cdot) = 0 \\ \int_{Q_T} (-c_i \partial_t \psi + (d_i(t, x) \partial_x c_i + m_i(t, x) c_i \partial_x \phi) \partial_x \psi) = \int_{Q_T} f_i(c) \psi + \langle \mu_i, \psi(0) \rangle \\ \quad - \int_0^T \eta_i(t, 0, c, \phi) \psi(\cdot, 0) + \int_0^T \eta_i(t, L, c, \phi) \psi(\cdot, L) \\ \varepsilon \int_\Omega \partial_x \phi \partial_x \xi = \int_\Omega \sum_{j=1}^{NS} z_j c_{j,n} \xi \end{cases} \quad \text{for all } \xi \in \mathcal{C}_0^\infty(\Omega)$$

where,  $c = (c_1, \dots, c_{NS})$ .

**Proof of the Theorem 3.1.**

**3.1. Approximate scheme.** We consider the function of truncation  $\delta_n \in \mathcal{C}_0^\infty$  that satisfies,

$$\begin{cases} 0 \leq \delta_n \leq 1 \\ \delta_n(r) = 1 \text{ if } |r| \leq n \\ \delta_n(r) = 0 \text{ if } |r| \geq n + 1 \end{cases}$$

We define for every  $c \in \mathbb{R}^{NS}$

$$f_i^n(c) = \delta_n(|c|)\tilde{f}_i(c),$$

where,  $\tilde{f}_i = f_i(c^+)$ .

Let's now truncate the initial data  $(\mu_i)_{1 \leq i \leq NS}$  as follows,

$$\begin{cases} c_{i,n}^0 \in \mathcal{C}_0^\infty(\Omega) \text{ such that } c_{i,n}^0 \geq 0, \|c_{i,n}^0\|_{L^1(\Omega)} \leq \|\mu_i\|_{\mathcal{M}_b(\Omega)} \\ \text{and } c_{i,n}^0 \longrightarrow \mu_i \text{ in } \mathcal{M}_b(\Omega). \end{cases}$$

We denote by  $\eta_i^n(t, x) = \eta_i(t, x, c_n, \phi_n)$ .

Now, let's consider the truncated system

$$\begin{cases} \text{For all } 0 < t < T, c_{i,n} \in \mathcal{C}(0, T; L^1(\Omega)) \cap L^1(0, T; W^{1,1}(\Omega)), \\ \phi_n \in L^\infty(0, T; W_0^{1,\infty}(\Omega)) \\ \text{Let } v \in \mathcal{C}^\infty(Q_T) \text{ such that } v(T, \cdot) = 0, \\ -\int_{Q_T} c_{i,n} \partial_t v + \int_{Q_T} d_i(t, x) \partial_x c_{i,n} \partial_x v + \int_{Q_T} m_i(t, x) c_{i,n} \partial_x \phi_n \partial_x v = \\ \int_{Q_T} f_i^n(c_{i,n}) v + \int_\Omega c_{i,n}^0 v(0, \cdot) - \int_0^T \eta_i^n(t, 0) v(\cdot, 0) + \int_0^T \eta_i^n(t, L) v(\cdot, L) \\ \text{Let } \psi \in \mathcal{C}_0^\infty(\Omega) \\ \varepsilon \int_\Omega \partial_x \phi_n \partial_x \psi = \int_\Omega \sum_{i=1}^{NS} z_i c_{i,n} \psi \end{cases} \quad (4)$$

**Lemma 3.2.** *The problem (4) has a solution in  $\mathcal{C}([0, T[; L^1(\Omega)) \cap L^1(Q_T)$*

*Proof.* Let  $c_n = (c_{1,n}, \dots, c_{NS,n})$  satisfy the problem

$$\begin{cases} \int_{Q_T} \partial_t c_{i,n} \psi + \int_{Q_T} (d_i(t, x) \partial_x c_{i,n} + m_i(t, x) c_{i,n} \partial_x \phi_n) \partial_x \psi = \\ = \int_{Q_T} f_i^n \psi - \int_0^T \eta_i^n(t, 0) \psi(\cdot, 0) + \int_0^T \eta_i^n(t, L) \psi(\cdot, L) \\ \forall \psi \in \mathcal{C}^\infty(Q_T), \\ \varepsilon \int_\Omega \partial_x \phi_n \partial_x \xi = \int_\Omega \sum_{j=1}^{NS} z_j c_{j,n} \xi \quad \text{a.e } t > 0, \forall \xi \in \mathcal{C}_0^\infty(\bar{\Omega}) \\ c_{i,n}(0, x) = c_{i,n}^0 \end{cases} \quad (5)$$

Let us introduce the following application:

$$\begin{aligned} H_{\phi_n} : L^1(Q_T) &\longrightarrow L^1(Q_T) \\ v_i &\longrightarrow c_{i,n} \end{aligned}$$

where  $\forall t \in ]0, T[, \phi_n$  is the unique solution of the elliptic problem

$$\begin{cases} -\varepsilon \partial_{xx} \phi_n = \sum_{i=1}^{NS} z_i c_{i,n} & \text{in } \Omega \\ \phi_n(s) = 0 & \text{for } s = 0, L \end{cases} \quad (6)$$

and  $H_{\phi_n}(v) = c_{i,n}$  satisfies the following system :

$$\begin{cases} \int_{Q_T} \partial_t c_{i,n} \psi + \int_{Q_T} d_i(t, x) \partial_x c_{i,n} \partial_x \psi + \int_{Q_T} m_i(t, x) c_{i,n} \partial_x \phi_n \partial_x \psi = \\ \int_{Q_T} f_i^n \psi + \int_0^T \eta_i^n(t, L) \psi(\cdot, L) - \int_0^T \eta_i^n(t, 0) \psi(\cdot, 0) \quad \forall \psi \in \mathcal{C}^\infty(Q_T), \\ c_{i,n}(0, x) = c_{i,n}^0. \end{cases} \quad (7)$$

According to Baras-Pierre [8] the problem (7) have a solution in  $L^1(Q_T)$ . Then  $H_{\phi_n}$  is well defined.

Using the Schauder's fixed point theorem we prove that  $H_{\phi_n}$  admits a fixed point:

- Let's prove that  $\forall A$  bounded subset of  $L^1(Q_T)$  its image by  $H_{\phi_n}$  is relatively compact in  $L^1(Q_T)$ .  
Let  $(v_i^n) \in L^1(Q_T)$  bounded sequence, then  
 $f_i^n = f_i^n(t, x, v_1^n, \dots, v_{NS}^n)$  is uniformly bounded in  $L^1(Q_T)$ .  
Let  $c_i^n = H_{\phi_n}(v_i^n)$ , the application  $(c_{i,n}^0, f_i^n) \rightarrow (c_{i,n})$  is compact from  $L^1(\Omega) \times L^1(Q_T)$  to  $L^1(Q_T)$ . Then,  $(c_{i,n})$  is relatively compact in  $L^1(Q_T)$ .
- Let us prove that  $H_{\phi_n}$  is continuous.  
Let  $(v_i^n)$  a sequence that converges to  $(v_i)$  in  $L^1(Q_T)$ , we extract a subsequence denoted also  $(v_i^n)$  that converges almost every where in  $Q_T$ , and  $\partial_x v_i^n \rightarrow \partial_x v_i$  almost everywhere.  
Since  $f_i^n$  is continuous then  $f_i^n \rightarrow f_i$  almost everywhere in  $Q_T$ , and  $f_i^n$  is bounded, then via the Lebesgue dominated convergence theorem we deduce

$$f_i^n \rightarrow f_i \in L^1(Q_T).$$

Then  $c_{i,n}$  converges to  $c_i$  solution of (7) in  $L^1(Q_T)$ .  
Since  $(v_i^n)$  is bounded in  $L^1(Q_T)$  then  $(c_{i,n})$  is relatively compact in  $L^1(Q_T)$ , then by the uniqueness of the limit we conclude that

$$H_{\phi_n}(v_i^n) \rightarrow c_i = H_{\phi_n}(v_i).$$

- Let us prove  $H_{\phi_n}(L^1(Q_T)) \subset B(0, R)$ .  
Let  $v_i^n \in L^1(Q_T)$  and  $c_{i,n} = H_{\phi_n}(v_i)$  solution of (7). Let  $t \in ]0, T[$ , and we take 1 as a test function we get,

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{Q_t} \partial_t c_{i,n} &= \int_0^t \eta_i^n(\cdot, L) - \int_0^t \eta_i^n(\cdot, 0) + \int_{Q_t} f_i^n, \\ \int_{\Omega} c_{i,n}(t) &= \int_0^t \eta_i^n(\cdot, L) - \int_0^t \eta_i^n(\cdot, 0) + \int_{Q_t} f_i^n + \int_{\Omega} c_{i,n}(0). \end{aligned}$$

We integrate over  $[0, T]$  we obtain,

$$\begin{aligned} \|c_{i,n}\|_{L^1(Q_T)} &\leq C_{n,T} + T(\|\mu_i\|_{\mathcal{M}_b(\Omega)} + T \sum_{s=0,L} \|\eta_i^n(\cdot, s)\|_{L^\infty(]0,T])}), \\ &= R. \end{aligned}$$

Finally,  $H_{\phi_n}$  has a fixed point  $c_{i,n}$  solution of (4) □

### 3.2. A priori estimates.

**Lemma 3.3.** *There exists a constant  $M$  depending on  $\sum_{1 \leq j \leq NS} \|\mu_i\|_{\mathcal{M}_b(\Omega)}$  such that*

- $\int_{\Omega} \sum_{1 \leq j \leq NS} c_{j,n} \leq M.$
- $\|\phi_n\|_{L^\infty(0,T;W_0^{1,\infty}(\Omega))} \leq M.$

*Proof.* i) We have

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_t \int_{\Omega} \sum_{i=1}^{NS} q_{1,i} c_{i,n}(t) &- \int_{\Omega} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( \sum_{i=1}^{NS} q_{1,i} d_i(t, x) \frac{\partial c_{i,n}}{\partial x} + \sum_{i=1}^{NS} q_{1,i} m_i(t, x) c_{i,n} \frac{\partial \phi_n}{\partial x} \right) \\ &= \int_{\Omega} \sum_{i=1}^{NS} q_{1,i} f_{i,n}. \end{aligned} \tag{8}$$

Since  $\sum_{i=1}^{NS} q_{1,i} f_{i,n} \leq b_1(1 + \sum_{i=1}^{NS} c_{i,n})$  we get

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_t \int_{\Omega} \left( \sum_{i=1}^{NS} q_{1,i} c_{i,n} \right) (t) - \int_{\Omega} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( \sum_{i=1}^{NS} q_{1,i} d_i(t, x) \frac{\partial c_{i,n}}{\partial x} + \sum_{i=1}^{NS} q_{1,i} m_i(t, x) c_{i,n} \frac{\partial \phi_n}{\partial x} \right) \\ \leq \int_{\Omega} b_1 \left( 1 + \sum_{i=1}^{NS} c_{i,n} \right), \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

thus

$$\partial_t \int_{\Omega} \left( \sum_{i=1}^{NS} q_{1,i} c_{i,n} \right) (t) \leq \sum_{i=1}^{NS} q_{1,i} \eta_i^n(t, L) - \sum_{i=1}^{NS} q_{1,i} \eta_i^n(t, 0) + \int_{\Omega} b_1 \left( 1 + \sum_{i=1}^{NS} c_{i,n} \right). \quad (10)$$

Thanks to the nonnegativity of  $(q_{1,i})_{1 \leq i \leq NS}$  and the boundedness of  $\eta_i^n$  and by using boundary conditions on  $\phi_n$  we have the following Gronwall's inequality

$$\partial_t \int_{\Omega} \left( \sum_{i=1}^{NS} c_{i,n} \right) (t) \leq C + \int_{\Omega} \frac{b_1}{q_0} \left( 1 + \sum_{i=1}^{NS} c_{i,n} \right), \quad (11)$$

where  $q_0 = \min_{1 \leq i \leq NS} q_{1,i}$ . let us set  $W_n(t) = \sum_{i=1}^{NS} c_{i,n}(t)$ . By integrating on  $(0, T)$ , we obtain

$$\int_{\Omega} W_n(t) \leq e^{\frac{b_1}{q_0} t} \int_{\Omega} W_n(0) + k(e^{\frac{b_1}{q_0} t} - 1), \quad (12)$$

where,  $k = q_0(C + \int_{\Omega} \frac{b_1}{q_0})/b_1$ , which implies that, for each  $t$  in the interval of existence

$$\int_{\Omega} W_n(t) \leq e^{\frac{b_1}{q_0} t} \sum_{i=1}^{NS} \|\mu_i\|_{\mathcal{M}_b(\Omega)} + k(e^{\frac{b_1}{q_0} t} - 1). \quad (13)$$

ii) We have the system satisfied by  $\phi_n$

$$\begin{cases} -\varepsilon \partial_{xx} \phi_n = \sum_{i=1}^{NS} z_i c_{i,n} & \text{in } \Omega, \\ \phi_n(t, s) = 0 & \text{for } s = 0, L, \forall 0 < t < T. \end{cases}$$

Then,

$$\phi_n(t, s) = \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \int_{\Omega} G(x, s) \left( \sum_{i=1}^{NS} z_i c_{i,n} \right) ds,$$

where,  $G$  is green function, given by

$$G(x, s) = \begin{cases} x(L-s) & \text{if } x \leq s \\ s(L-x) & \text{if } s \leq x \end{cases}$$

Since,

$$\left\| \sum_{i=1}^{NS} z_i c_{i,n} \right\|_{L^\infty(0, T; L^1(\Omega))} \leq C.$$

Thus, we can see that

$$\|\phi_n\|_{L^\infty(0, T; W_0^{1, \infty}(\Omega))} \leq C.$$

□

**Lemma 3.4.** *There exist constants  $R_1, R_2$  depending on  $\sum_{1 \leq j \leq NS} \|\mu_j\|_{\mathcal{M}_b(\Omega)}$  such that*

- 1)  $\sum_{1 \leq i \leq NS} \int_{Q_T} |f_i^n(t, x, c_n)| \leq R_1.$
- 2)  $\sum_{1 \leq i \leq NS} \int_0^T |\eta_i^n(t, s)| \leq R_2 \quad \text{for } s = 0, L.$

*Proof.* 1) Considering the hypothesis (v)

$$\sum_{i \leq j \leq NS} q_{ji} f_j^n \leq b_i (1 + \sum_{1 \leq k \leq NS} c_{k,n}).$$

For  $i = NS$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} q_{NS,NS} f_{NS}^n &\leq b_{NS} (1 + \sum_{1 \leq k \leq NS} c_{k,n}), \\ \int_{Q_T} |f_{NS}^n| &\leq \int_{Q_T} \frac{b_{NS}}{q_{NS,NS}} (1 + \sum_{1 \leq j \leq NS} |c_{j,n}|), \\ \int_{Q_T} |f_{NS}^n| &\leq K (\sum_{1 \leq i \leq NS} \|\mu_j\|_{\mathcal{M}_b(\Omega)} + \text{mes}(Q_T)) \leq M_{NS}. \end{aligned}$$

For  $i = NS - 1$ ,

$$q_{NS-1,NS-1} f_{NS-1}^n + q_{NS-1,NS} f_{NS}^n \leq b_{NS-1} (1 + \sum_{1 \leq k \leq NS} c_{k,n}),$$

and,

$$\begin{aligned} f_{NS-1}^n &= (f_{NS-1}^n + \frac{q_{NS-1,NS}}{q_{NS-1,NS-1}} f_{NS}^n) - \frac{q_{NS-1,NS}}{q_{NS-1,NS-1}} f_{NS}^n, \\ |f_{NS-1}^n| &\leq |f_{NS-1}^n + \frac{q_{NS-1,NS}}{q_{NS-1,NS-1}} f_{NS}^n| + |\frac{q_{NS-1,NS}}{q_{NS-1,NS-1}} f_{NS}^n|, \\ \int_{Q_T} |f_{NS-1}^n| &\leq \int_{Q_T} \frac{b_{NS-1}}{q_{NS-1,NS-1}} (1 + \sum_{1 \leq j \leq NS} |c_{j,n}|) + \frac{q_{NS-1,NS}}{q_{NS-1,NS-1}} M_{NS}, \\ &\leq K_1 (\text{mes}(Q_T) + \sum_{1 \leq i \leq NS} \|\mu_j\|_{\mathcal{M}_b(\Omega)}) + K_2 \leq M_{NS-1}. \end{aligned}$$

Doing the same as above for every  $1 \leq i \leq NS$  we get,

$$\int_{Q_T} |f_i^n| \leq M_i (\|\mu_j\|_{\mathcal{M}_b}, (q_{i,j})_{j=i,\dots,NS}).$$

Thus we obtain the desired result which is,

$$\sum_{1 \leq i \leq NS} \int_{Q_T} |f_i(t, x, c_n)| \leq \sum_{1 \leq i \leq NS} M_i = R_1.$$

2) Set

$$\begin{cases} \eta_i^n = 0 & \text{for } i \in U_0 \\ \eta_i^n = -A_i \exp(-\frac{\alpha_i F \cdot E^n}{RT}) & \text{for } i \in U_1 \\ \eta_i^n = A_i c_i^n \exp(-\frac{\alpha_i F \cdot E^n}{RT}) & \text{for } i \in U_2 \end{cases}$$

Where,  $E^n = E_{corr} - \phi_n$ ,  $U_0 \cup U_1 \cup U_2 = [1, \dots, NS]$ .

Then we have,

$$\sum_{1 \leq i \leq NS} \int_0^T |\eta_i^n(t, s)| = \sum_{i \in U_1} \int_0^T |\eta_i^n(t, s)| + \sum_{i \in U_2} \int_0^T |\eta_i^n(t, s)|.$$



If  $i \in U_1$

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^T |\eta_i^n(t, s)| &= \int_0^T |A_i \exp(-\frac{\alpha_i F \cdot E^n(s)}{RT})| \leq \|A_i \exp(-\frac{\alpha_i F \cdot E^n(s)}{RT})\|_{L^\infty(0, T) \cdot T}, \\ &= M_1(A_i, \alpha_i, \|\phi_n\|_{L^\infty(0, T, W^{1, \infty}(\Omega))}). \end{aligned}$$

And if  $i \in U_2$

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^T |\eta_i^n(t, s)| &= \int_0^T |A_i c_i^n(s) \exp(-\frac{\alpha_i F \cdot E(s)}{RT})|, \\ &\leq \|A_i \exp(-\frac{\alpha_i F \cdot E}{RT})\|_{L^\infty(0, T)} \|c_i^n(s)\|_{L^\infty(0, T)}, \\ &\leq M(A_i, \alpha_i, \|\phi_n\|_{L^\infty(0, T, W^{1, \infty}(\Omega))}) \cdot \|c_i^n(s)\|_{L^\infty(0, T)} = M_2. \end{aligned}$$

Thus,

$$\sum_{1 \leq i \leq NS} \int_0^T |\eta_i^n(t, s)| \leq M_1 + M_2 = R_2.$$

□

**3.3. Convergence.** Our purpose is to prove that  $(c_n, \phi_n)$  solution of the approximated problem (4) converge to  $(c, \phi)$  solution of (2). From the work of Baras, Hassan and Veron [3] we have, the application  $(c_{i,n}^0, f_i^n) \rightarrow c_{i,n}$  is compact from  $L^1(\Omega) \times L^1(Q_T)$  into  $L^1(Q_T)$ . Then, we deduce the existence of a subsequence also denoted  $(c_n, \phi_n)$ , such that

For  $i = 1, \dots, NS$

$$\begin{cases} c_{i,n} \rightarrow c_i & \text{strongly in } L^1(Q_T), \\ c_{i,n} \rightarrow c_i & \text{almost every where in } Q_T, \end{cases}$$

and,

$$c_{i,n}^0 \rightarrow \mu_i \text{ in } \mathcal{M}_b(\Omega).$$

Since  $\phi_n$  is uniformly bounded in  $L^\infty(0, T; W_0^{1, \infty}(\Omega))$ , we conclude the existence of  $\phi \in L^\infty(0, T; W_0^{1, \infty}(\Omega))$  such that

$$\partial_x \phi_n \rightarrow \partial_x \phi \quad \text{for the topology } \sigma(L^\infty(Q_T), L^1(Q_T)).$$

Then, let's prove that

$$c_{i,n} \partial_x \phi_n \rightarrow c_i \partial_x \phi \quad \text{in } \mathcal{D}'(Q_T).$$

But first we need to prove that

$$c_{i,n} \partial_x \phi_n \rightarrow c_i \partial_x \phi \quad \text{for the topology } \sigma(L^1(Q_T), L^\infty(Q_T)).$$

Let  $\psi \in L^\infty(Q_T)$  we have

$$\int_{Q_T} \psi (c_{i,n} \partial_x \phi_n - c_i \partial_x \phi) = \int_{Q_T} \psi \partial_x \phi_n (c_{i,n} - c_i) + \int_{Q_T} \psi c_i (\partial_x \phi_n - \partial_x \phi).$$

For the first term we have

$$\int_{Q_T} \psi \partial_x \phi_n (c_{i,n} - c_i) \leq \|\psi\|_{L^\infty(Q_T)} \|\partial_x \phi_n\|_{L^\infty(Q_T)} \|c_{i,n} - c_i\|_{L^1(Q_T)},$$

as,

$$\|c_{i,n} - c_i\|_{L^1(Q_T)} \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} 0,$$

we deduce,

$$\int_{Q_T} \psi \partial_x \phi_n (c_{i,n} - c_i) \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} 0.$$

For the second term

$$\left| \int_{Q_T} \psi c_i (\partial_x \phi_n - \partial_x \phi) \right| \leq \|\psi\|_{L^\infty(Q_T)} \|c_i\|_{L^1(Q_T)} \|\partial_x \phi_n - \partial_x \phi\|_{L^\infty(Q_T)},$$

since  $\|\partial_x \phi_n - \partial_x \phi\| \rightarrow 0$  for  $\sigma(L^\infty(Q_T), L^1(Q_T))$ , then

$$\int_{Q_T} \psi c_i (\partial_x \phi_n - \partial_x \phi) \rightarrow 0.$$

Consequently,

$$\partial_t c_{i,n} - \partial_x (d_i \partial_x c_{i,n} + m_i c_{i,n} \partial_x \phi_n) \rightarrow \partial_t c_i - \partial_x (d_i \partial_x c_i + m_i c_i \partial_x \phi) \quad \text{in } \mathcal{D}'(Q_T).$$

Otherwise, since  $c_{i,n} \rightarrow c_i$  strongly in  $L^1(Q_T)$  then,

$$\sum_{i=1}^{NS} z_i c_{i,n} \rightarrow \sum_{i=1}^{NS} z_i c_i \quad \text{strongly in } L^1(Q_T).$$

Since  $f_1^n, \dots, f_{NS}^n$  are continuous we have, for  $i = 1, \dots, NS$

$$f_i^n(t, x, c_n) \rightarrow f_i(t, x, c) \quad \text{almost everywhere in } Q_T.$$

To conclude we need to prove that  $f_i^n \rightarrow f_i$  in  $L^1(Q_T)$  thanks to Vitalli's theorem all we have to prove is that  $f_i^n$  are equi-integrable in  $L^1(Q_T)$

**Lemma 3.5.** *For every  $i = 1, \dots, NS$   $f_i^n$ , is equi-integrable in  $L^1(Q_T)$*

*Proof.* Let  $E$  be a measurable set of  $Q_T$  and  $\varepsilon > 0$  then,

$$\begin{aligned} \int_E |f_i^n| &\leq \int_{E \cap \left\{ \sum_{j=1}^{NS} \sum_{i=1}^i q_{ji} c_{i,n} \leq \alpha \right\}} \sup_{0 \leq c_{j,n} \leq \alpha} |f_i^n(t, x, c_{1,n}, \dots, c_{NS,n})| dx dt + \\ &\quad + \int_{E \cap \left\{ \sum_{j=1}^{NS} \sum_{i=1}^i q_{ji} c_{i,n} \geq \alpha \right\}} |f_i^n|, \\ &\leq I_1 + I_2. \end{aligned}$$

To investigate the terms  $I_1$  and  $I_2$  we are going to need the following result.

**Lemma 3.6.** *Let  $\sigma_n$  be a sequence in  $L^1(Q_T)$ . Then the following statements are equivalent:*

- 1)  $\sigma_n$  is uniformly integrable in  $L^1(Q_T)$
- 2)  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{There exists } J : (0, \infty) \rightarrow (0, \infty) \text{ with } J(0^+) = 0 \text{ and} \\ \text{(a) } J \text{ is convex, } J' \text{ is concave, } J' \geq 0 \\ \text{(b) } \lim_{r \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{J(r)}{r} = +\infty \\ \text{(c) } \sup_n \int_{Q_T} J(|\sigma_n|) \leq \infty \end{array} \right.$

Now, we choose  $J$  as given in 2) with (2-c) is replaced by

$$\sup_n \int_{Q_T} J\left(\sum_{1 \leq i \leq NS} b_i \left(1 + \sum_{1 \leq k \leq NS} c_{k,n}\right)\right) < \infty, \quad \sup_n \int_{\Omega} J\left(\sum_{i=1}^{NS} \sum_{j=1}^i q_{ji} c_{i,n}^0\right) < \infty, \quad (14)$$

$$\sup_n \int_{Q_T} J\left(\left|\sum_{i=1}^{NS} \sum_{j=1}^i q_{ji} \eta_i^n\right|\right) < \infty. \quad (15)$$

This is possible by Lemma 3.6, since  $\sum_{1 \leq i \leq NS} c_{i,n}$  converges in  $L^1(Q_T)$  and

$\sum_{1 \leq i \leq NS} c_{i,n}^0$  converges in  $L^1(\Omega)$ .

Now we set,

$$j(r) = \int_0^r \min(J'(s), (J^*)^{-1}(s)) ds,$$

where  $J^*$  is the conjugate function of  $J$  that satisfies (2-a) and (2-b) and

$$\forall r \geq 0, j(r) \leq J(r), \quad J^*(j'(r)) \leq r. \quad (16)$$

For  $I_1$ , we notice that by the assumptions on  $f_i$  and the choice of  $f_i^n$ ,

$$\sup_{0 \leq c_{1,n}, \dots, c_{NS,n} \leq \alpha} |f_i^n| \leq \beta_i(1 + NS\alpha) \quad \text{where } \beta_i = \beta_i(b_{NS}, \dots, b_i, q_{NS,NS}, \dots, q_i).$$

As a consequence,

$$I_1 \leq \beta_i \cdot \text{meas}(E)(1 + NS\alpha) < \frac{\varepsilon}{2}.$$

For  $I_2$

$$I_2 = \int_{E \cap \left[\sum_{i=1}^{NS} \sum_{j=1}^i q_{ji} c_{i,n} \geq \alpha\right]} |f_i^n| \leq \frac{1}{j'(\alpha)} \int_{Q_T} j'\left(\sum_{i=1}^{NS} \sum_{j=1}^i q_{ji} c_{i,n}\right) |f_i^n|.$$

Let us prove that the term  $\frac{1}{j'(\alpha)} \int_{Q_T} j'\left(\sum_{i=1}^{NS} \sum_{j=1}^i q_{ji} c_{i,n}\right) |f_i^n|$  is uniformly bounded in  $L^1(Q_T)$ .

We set

$$R_i^n = - \sum_{j=i}^{NS} q_{i,j} f_j^n + b_i \left(1 + \sum_{k=1}^{NS} c_{k,n}\right) \quad \text{for } i = 1, \dots, NS.$$

we have,

$$\partial_t c_{i,n} - \partial_x (d_i(t, x) \partial_x c_{i,n} + m_i(t, x) c_{i,n} \partial_x \phi_n) = f_i^n.$$

For every  $i$  we multiply the equation by  $\sum_{j=1}^i q_{j,i}$  and we summate over  $i$  we obtain,

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_t \left(\sum_{i=1}^{NS} \sum_{j=1}^i q_{ji} c_{i,n}\right) - \partial_x \left[\sum_{i=1}^{NS} \sum_{j=1}^i q_{ji} d_i(t, x) \partial_x c_{i,n}\right. \\ \left. + \left(\sum_{i=1}^{NS} \sum_{j=1}^i m_i(t, x) q_{ji} c_{i,n}\right) \partial_x \phi_n\right] + \sum_{1 \leq i \leq NS} R_i^n \\ = \sum_{i=1}^{NS} b_i \left(1 + \sum_{k=1}^{NS} c_{k,n}\right). \end{aligned}$$

We multiply it by  $j'(\sum_{i=1}^{NS} \sum_{j=1}^i q_{ji} c_{i,n})$  and integrate over  $Q_T$  and by putting

$\sum_{i=1}^{NS} \sum_{j=1}^i q_{ji} c_{i,n} = O_n$ , we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{\Omega} j(O_n)(T) - \int_{Q_T} j'(O_n) \partial_x \left[ \sum_{i=1}^{NS} \sum_{j=1}^i q_{ji} d_i(t, x) \partial_x c_{i,n} + \right. \\ & \quad \left. + \left( \sum_{i=1}^{NS} \sum_{j=1}^i q_{ji} m_i(t, x) c_{i,n} \right) \partial_x \phi_n \right] + \int_{Q_T} j'(O_n) \sum_{1 \leq i \leq NS} R_i^n \\ & = \int_{Q_T} j'(O_n) \sum_{1 \leq i \leq NS} b_i \left( 1 + \sum_{1 \leq k \leq NS} c_{k,n} \right) + \int_{\Omega} j \left( \sum_{i=1}^{NS} \sum_{j=1}^i q_{ji} c_{i,n}^0 \right). \end{aligned}$$

We put,

$$\begin{aligned} J_1 &= \int_{Q_T} j'(O_n) \partial_x \left[ \sum_{i=1}^{NS} \sum_{j=1}^i q_{ji} d_i(t, x) \partial_x c_{i,n} + \left( \sum_{i=1}^{NS} \sum_{j=1}^i q_{ji} m_i(t, x) c_{i,n} \right) \partial_x \phi_n \right], \\ J_2 &= \int_{Q_T} j'(O_n) \sum_{1 \leq i \leq NS} b_i \left( 1 + \sum_{1 \leq k \leq NS} c_{k,n} \right). \end{aligned}$$

We start by investigating  $J_2$ , we have

$$j'(r) \cdot s \leq J(s) + J^*(j'(r)) \leq J(s) + r.$$

Then,

$$J_2 \leq \int_{Q_T} J \left( \sum_{1 \leq i \leq NS} b_i \left( 1 + \sum_{1 \leq k \leq NS} c_{k,n} \right) \right) + \sum_{i=1}^{NS} \sum_{j=1}^i q_{ji} c_{i,n},$$

which is bounded independently of  $n$  by Lemma 3.6.

Let us investigate  $J_1$ , after integration by parts, we put  $\theta^n = \sum_{i=1}^{NS} \sum_{j=1}^i q_{ji} \eta_i^n$ , then we get

$$\begin{aligned} J_1 &= - \int_{Q_T} j''(O_n) \partial_x(O_n) \left[ \sum_{i=1}^{NS} \sum_{j=1}^i q_{ji} d_i(t, x) \partial_x c_{i,n} + \left( \sum_{i=1}^{NS} \sum_{j=1}^i q_{ji} m_i(t, x) c_{i,n} \right) \partial_x \phi_n \right] \\ & \quad - \int_0^T j'(O_n) \theta^n(t, 0) + \int_0^T j'(O_n) \theta^n(t, L) \\ & \leq \int_0^T j'(O_n) |\theta^n(t, L)| + \int_0^T j'(O_n) |\theta^n(t, 0)| - \underline{d} \int_{Q_T} j''(O_n) |\partial_x O_n|^2 - \\ & \quad - m_{NS} \int_{Q_T} j''(O_n) \partial_x O_n \cdot O_n \cdot \partial_x \phi_n - \\ & \quad - \int_{Q_T} j''(O_n) \partial_x(O_n) \left( \sum_{i=2}^{NS} \sum_{j=1}^i q_{ji} (m_i - m_{NS})(t, x) c_{i,n} \right) \partial_x \phi_n \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\leq \sum_{s=0,L} \int_0^T J(|\theta^n|)(t, s) + O_n(t, s) - \underline{d} \int_{Q_T} j''(O_n) |\partial_x O_n|^2 - \\
 &\quad - m_{NS} \int_{Q_T} j''(O_n) \partial_x O_n \cdot O_n \cdot \partial_x \phi_n \\
 &\quad - \int_{Q_T} j''(O_n) \partial_x(O_n) \left( \sum_{i=2}^{NS} \sum_{j=1}^i q_{ji} (m_i - m_{NS})(t, x) c_{i,n} \right) \partial_x \phi_n.
 \end{aligned}$$

Using Young and Holder's inequalities we obtain,

$$J_1 \leq \sum_{s=0,L} \int_0^T J(|\theta^n|)(t, s) + O_n(t, s) + M \int_{Q_T} j''(O_n) \left[ \sum_{1 \leq i \leq NS} |\partial_x c_{i,n}|^2 + \sum_{1 \leq i \leq NS} |c_{i,n}|^2 \right],$$

where  $M$  depends on  $(\underline{d}, (m_i)_{i=1,\dots,NS}, (q)_{i,j}, \|\phi_n\|_{L^\infty(0,T;W_0^{1,\infty}(\Omega))})$ .

Since  $j'$  is concave,  $j''(r) \leq \frac{j'(r)}{r}$  we have,

$$\begin{aligned}
 \int_{Q_T} j'' \left( \sum_{i=1}^{NS} \sum_{j=1}^i q_{ji} c_{i,n} \right) \sum_{1 \leq i \leq NS} |c_{i,n}|^2 &\leq \int_{Q_T} j' \left( \sum_{i=1}^{NS} \sum_{j=1}^i q_{ji} c_{i,n} \right) \sum_{1 \leq i \leq NS} c_{i,n}, \\
 &\leq \int_{Q_T} J \left( \sum_{1 \leq i \leq NS} c_{i,n} \right) + \sum_{i=1}^{NS} \sum_{j=1}^i q_{ji} c_{i,n}.
 \end{aligned}$$

Which is uniformly bounded in  $L^1(Q_T)$ , for the second term we are going to use the equation satisfied by  $c_{NS,n}$ , we put  $\gamma = \frac{b_{NS}}{q_{NS,NS}}$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\int_{\Omega} j(c_{NS,n})(T) + \underline{d} \int_{Q_T} j''(c_{NS,n}) |\partial_x c_{NS,n}|^2 \\
 &\leq \bar{m} \int_{Q_T} j''(c_{NS,n}) |c_{NS,n} \partial_x c_{NS,n}| |\partial_x \phi_n| + \gamma \int_{Q_T} j'(c_{NS,n}) \left( 1 + \sum_{k=1}^{NS} c_{k,n} \right) \\
 &\quad + \int_0^T j'(c_{NS,n}) \eta_{NS}^n(t, 0) - \int_0^T j'(c_{NS,n}) \eta_{NS}^n(t, L) + \int_{\Omega} j(c_{NS,n})(0), \\
 &\leq M_\varepsilon \int_{Q_T} j''(c_{NS,n}) |c_{NS,n}|^2 + \varepsilon \int_{Q_T} j''(c_{NS,n}) |\partial_x c_{NS,n}|^2 + \gamma \int_{Q_T} j'(c_{2,n}) \left( 1 + \sum_{k=1}^{NS} c_{k,n} \right) \\
 &\quad + \sum_{s=0,L} \int_0^T j'(c_{NS,n}) |\eta_{NS}^n|(t, s) + \int_{\Omega} j(c_{NS,n})(0),
 \end{aligned}$$

where,  $M_\varepsilon$  depends on  $\bar{m}, \|\phi_n\|_{L^\infty(0,T;W_0^{1,\infty}(\Omega))}$ , then,

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\int_{\Omega} j(c_{NS,n})(T) + (\underline{d} - \varepsilon) \int_{Q_T} j''(c_{NS,n}) |\partial_x c_{NS,n}|^2 \\
 &\leq M_\varepsilon \int_{Q_T} j'(c_{NS,n}) |c_{NS,n}| + \gamma \int_{Q_T} j'(c_{NS,n}) \left( 1 + \sum_{1 \leq k \leq NS} c_{k,n} \right) \\
 &\quad + \sum_{s=0,L} \int_0^T j'(c_{NS,n}) |\eta_{NS}^n|(t, s) + \int_{\Omega} j(c_{NS,n})(0).
 \end{aligned}$$

To conclude we choose  $\varepsilon$  small enough then we can see that  $\int_{Q_T} j''(c_{NS,n}) |\partial_x c_{NS,n}|^2$  is uniformly bounded.

Adding the information  $j''(O_n) \leq j''(c_{NS,n})$ , now we can conclude that the term  $\int_{Q_T} j''(O_n) |\partial_x c_{NS,n}|^2$  is uniformly bounded, doing the same as above we see that

$$\int_{Q_T} j''(O_n) |\partial_x c_{i,n}|^2 \text{ for } i = 1, \dots, NS \text{ is uniformly bounded so is } J_1.$$

Thus,  $\int_{Q_T} j'(\sum_{i=1}^{NS} \sum_{j=1}^i q_{ji} c_{i,n}) \sum_{1 \leq i \leq NS} R_i^n$  is uniformly bounded.

By the definition of  $R_i^n$  we have

$$\sum_{i=1}^{NS} R_i^n = -(q_{1,1} f_1^n + (q_{12} + q_{22}) f_2^n + \dots + \sum_{j=1}^{NS} q_{j,NS} f_{NS}^n) + b_i (1 + \sum_{k=1}^{NS} c_{k,n}),$$

$$q_{1,1} f_1^n + (q_{12} + q_{22}) f_2^n + \dots + \sum_{j=1}^{NS} q_{j,NS} f_{NS}^n = - \sum_{i=1}^{NS} R_i^n + b_i (1 + \sum_{k=1}^{NS} c_{k,n}),$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^{NS} \alpha f_i^n \leq \sum_{i=1}^{NS} R_i^n + b_i (1 + \sum_{k=1}^{NS} c_{k,n}),$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^{NS} f_i^n \leq \frac{1}{\alpha} \sum_{i=1}^{NS} R_i^n + b_i (1 + \sum_{k=1}^{NS} c_{k,n}),$$

where  $\alpha = \min(q_{1,1}, q_{12} + q_{22}, \dots, \sum_{j=1}^{NS} q_{j,NS})$ .

Finally we obtain,

$$\int_{Q_T} j'(\sum_{i=1}^{NS} \sum_{j=1}^i q_{ji} c_{i,n}) \sum_{1 \leq i \leq NS} |f_i^n| < \infty.$$

Going back to the term  $I_2$

$$I_2 \leq \frac{1}{j'(\alpha)} \int_{Q_T} j'(\sum_{i=1}^{NS} \sum_{j=1}^i q_{ji} c_{i,n}) |f_i^n|.$$

By choosing  $\alpha = \alpha(\varepsilon)$  large enough depending only on  $\varepsilon$ ,  $I_2$  can be made less than  $\frac{\varepsilon}{2}$ .

Thus,

$$\int_E |f_i| < \varepsilon.$$

Finally, this proves the equi-integrability of  $f_i^n$  for  $i = 1, \dots, NS$  in  $L^1(Q_T)$ .  $\square$

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