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A UNIQUENESS RESULT FOR THE TWO-VORTEX TRAVELING WAVE IN THE NONLINEAR SCHRÖDINGER EQUATION

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For the nonlinear Schrödinger equation in dimension 2, the existence of a global minimizer of the energy at fixed momentum has been established by Bethuel, Gravejat and Saut (2009) (see also work of Chiron and Mariş (2017)). This minimizer is a traveling wave for the nonlinear Schrödinger equation. For large momenta, the propagation speed is small and the minimizer behaves like two well-separated vortices. In that limit, we show the uniqueness of this minimizer, up to the invariances of the problem, hence proving the orbital stability of this traveling wave. This work is a follow up to two previous papers, where we constructed and studied a particular traveling wave of the equation. We show a uniqueness result on this traveling wave in a class of functions that contains in particular all possible minimizers of the energy.

1. Introduction and statement of the results

We consider the nonlinear Schrödinger equation

$$i\partial_t\Psi + \Delta\Psi - (|\Psi|^2 - 1)\Psi = 0 \tag{NLS}$$

in dimension 2 for $\Psi : \mathbb{R}_t \times \mathbb{R}_x^2 \to \mathbb{C}$, also called the Gross–Pitaevskii equation without potential. The nonlinear Schrödinger equation is a physical model for Bose–Einstein condensation [1; 23; 37; 42], superfluidity [40] and nonlinear optics [30]. The condition at infinity for (NLS) will be

$$|\Psi| \to 1 \quad \text{as } |x| \to +\infty.$$

The (NLS) equation is associated with the Ginzburg–Landau energy

$$E(v) := \frac{1}{2}\int_{\mathbb{R}^2} |\nabla v|^2 + \frac{1}{4}\int_{\mathbb{R}^2} (1 - |v|^2)^2,$$

which is formally conserved by the (NLS) flow. We denote by $\mathcal{E}$ the set of functions with finite energy, that is,

$$\mathcal{E} := \{u \in H^1_{\mathrm{loc}}(\mathbb{R}^2, \mathbb{C}) : E(u) < +\infty\}.$$

Remark 1.1. The Cauchy problem for (NLS) is globally well-posed in the energy space; see [20; 21; 22].

Besides the energy, the momentum is another quantity formally conserved by the (NLS) flow and is associated with the invariance by translation of (NLS). Formally, the momentum of u is $\frac{1}{2}\int_{\mathbb{R}^2} \mathfrak{Re}(i\nabla u\bar{u}) \in \mathbb{R}^2$, but its precise definition requires some care in the energy space due to the condition at infinity (see [34]

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in dimension larger than 2 and [13] in dimension 2). If $u \in 1 + \mathcal{C}_c^\infty(\mathbb{R}^2)$ for instance, or if u is a traveling wave tending to 1 at infinity, then the expression of the momentum reduces to

$$\vec{P}(u) = (P_1(u), P_2(u)) = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} \mathfrak{Re}(i\nabla u(\bar{u} - 1)).$$

In addition to the translation invariance, the (NLS) equation is also phase-shift-invariant, that is, invariant by multiplication by a complex of modulus 1, and rotation-invariant.

1A. ***Traveling waves for* (NLS).** Following the works in the physical literature of Jones and Roberts [28; 29], there has been a large number of mathematical works on the question of existence and properties of traveling wave solutions in the (NLS) equation, which are solutions of

$$0 = (\mathrm{TW}_c)(u) := -ic\,\partial_{x_2} u - \Delta u - (1 - |u|^2)u$$

for some $c > 0$, corresponding to particular solutions of (NLS) of the form $\Psi(t, x) = u(x_1, x_2 + ct)$ (due to the rotational invariance, we may always assume that the traveling wave moves along the direction $-\vec{e}_2$). We refer to [9] for an overview on these problems in several dimensions. A natural approach is to look at the minimizing problem for $\mathfrak{p} > 0$

$$E_{\min}(\mathfrak{p}) := \inf_{u \in \mathcal{E}} \{E(u) : P_2(u) = \mathfrak{p}\}.$$

It was shown by Bethuel, Gravejat and Saut that there exists a minimizer to this problem.

Theorem 1.2 [10]. *For any $\mathfrak{p} > 0$, there exists a nonconstant function $u_{\mathfrak{p}} \in \mathcal{E}$ and $c(u_{\mathfrak{p}}) > 0$ such that $P_2(u_{\mathfrak{p}}) = \mathfrak{p}$, $u_{\mathfrak{p}}$ is a solution to $(\mathrm{TW}_{c(u_{\mathfrak{p}})})(u_{\mathfrak{p}}) = 0$ and*

$$E(u_{\mathfrak{p}}) = E_{\min}(\mathfrak{p}).$$

Furthermore, any minimizer for $E_{\min}(\mathfrak{p})$ is, up to a translation in x_1, even in x_1.

The strategy is to look at the corresponding minimization problem on larger and larger tori (this avoids the problems with the definition of the momentum), and then pass to the limit. For the minimizing problem $E_{\min}(\mathfrak{p})$, the compactness of minimizing sequences has been shown later on in [13] for the natural semidistance on $\mathcal{E}$

$$D_0(u, v) := \|\nabla u - \nabla v\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^2)} + \||u| - |v|\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^2)}.$$

Theorem 1.3 [13]. *For any $\mathfrak{p} > 0$ and any minimizing sequence $(u_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ for $E_{\min}(\mathfrak{p})$, there exists a subsequence $(u_{n_j})_{j \in \mathbb{N}}$, a sequence of translations $(y_j)_{j \in \mathbb{N}}$ and a nonconstant function $u_{\mathfrak{p}} \in \mathcal{E}$ such that $D_0(u_{n_j}, u_{\mathfrak{p}}) \to 0$, $P_2(u_{n_j}) \to P_2(u_{\mathfrak{p}}) = \mathfrak{p}$ and $E(u_{n_j}) \to E(u_{\mathfrak{p}}) = E_{\min}(\mathfrak{p})$ as $j \to +\infty$. In particular, there exists $c(u_{\mathfrak{p}}) > 0$ such that $P_2(u_{\mathfrak{p}}) = \mathfrak{p}$, $u_{\mathfrak{p}}$ is a solution to $(\mathrm{TW}_{c(u_{\mathfrak{p}})})(u_{\mathfrak{p}}) = 0$ and*

$$E(u_{\mathfrak{p}}) = E_{\min}(\mathfrak{p}).$$

Furthermore, the set $\mathcal{S}_{\mathfrak{p}} := \{v \in \mathcal{E} : P_2(v) = \mathfrak{p}$ and $E(v) = E_{\min}(\mathfrak{p})\}$ of minimizers for $E_{\min}(\mathfrak{p})$ is orbitally stable for the semidistance D_0.

An open and difficult question is to show, up to the invariances of the problem, the uniqueness of the energy minimizer at fixed momentum. In other words, the problem is to determine if $\mathcal{S}_{\mathfrak{p}}$ consists of a single orbit under phase shift and space translation; that is, do we have, for some minimizer $U_{\mathfrak{p}}$,

$$\mathcal{S}_{\mathfrak{p}} = \{U_{\mathfrak{p}}(\cdot - X)\mathrm{e}^{i\gamma} : \gamma \in \mathbb{R},\ X \in \mathbb{R}^2\}?$$

The main consequence of our work is to solve this open problem of uniqueness for large momentum.

Theorem 1.4. *There exists $\mathfrak{p}_0 > 0$ such that, for any $\mathfrak{p} > \mathfrak{p}_0$, if $u, v \in \mathcal{E}$ with $P_2(u) = P_2(v) = \mathfrak{p}$ satisfy*

$$E(u) = E(v) = E_{\min}(\mathfrak{p}),$$

then, there exist $X \in \mathbb{R}^2$ and $\gamma \in \mathbb{R}$ such that

$$u = v(\cdot - X)\mathrm{e}^{i\gamma}.$$

In fact, we will be able to show slightly stronger results than Theorem 1.4; see Theorem 1.11 below.

Even though we focus on the Ginzburg–Landau nonlinearity, it is plausible that our results hold true (still for large momentum) for more general nonlinearities, provided vortices exist. For the Ginzburg–Landau (cubic) nonlinearity, it is also possible that uniqueness of minimizers holds true for $E_{\min}(\mathfrak{p})$ for any $\mathfrak{p} > 0$. However, the numerical results given in [16] suggest that this may no longer be the case for more general nonlinearities.

In the analysis of the minimization problem in [10] (and also [13]), the following properties of $E_{\min}$ play a key role.

Proposition 1.5 [10]. *The function $E_{\min} : \mathbb{R}_+ \to \mathbb{R}$ is concave, nondecreasing and $\sqrt{2}$-Lipschitz continuous. In addition, there exists $K \geqslant 0$ such that, for any $\mathfrak{p} \geqslant 1$, we have*

$$E_{\min}(\mathfrak{p}) \leqslant 2\pi \ln \mathfrak{p} + K. \tag{1-1}$$

1B. ***A smooth branch of traveling waves for large momentum.*** There have been several ways of constructing traveling waves of the (NLS) equation, with different approaches. For instance, we may use variational methods, such as a mountain-pass argument in [3; 5], or by minimizing the energy at fixed kinetic energy [10; 13]. Also, we have constructed in [14] a traveling wave by perturbative methods, taking for ansatz a pair of vortices, by following the Lyapunov–Schmidt reduction method as initiated in [39]. Vortices are stationary solutions of (NLS) of degrees $n \in \mathbb{Z}^*$ (see [12; 23; 26; 37; 45]):

$$V_n(x) = \rho_n(r)\mathrm{e}^{in\theta},$$

where $x = r\mathrm{e}^{i\theta}$, solving

$$\begin{cases} \Delta V_n - (|V_n|^2 - 1)V_n = 0, \\ |V_n| \to 1 \quad \text{as } |x| \to \infty. \end{cases}$$

In the previous paper [14], we constructed solutions of (TW_c) for small values of $c > 0$ as a perturbation of two well-separated vortices (the distance between their centers is large when c is small). We have shown the following result.

Theorem 1.6 [14, Theorem 1.1; 15, Proposition 1.2]. *There exists $c_0 > 0$ a small constant such that, for any $0 < c \leqslant c_0$, there exists a solution of* (TW$_c$) *of the form*

$$Q_c = V_1(\cdot - d_c\vec{e}_1)V_{-1}(\cdot + d_c\vec{e}_1) + \Gamma_c,$$

where $d_c = (1 + o_{c\to 0}(1))/c$ is a C^1 function of c. This solution has finite energy; that is, $Q_c \in \mathcal{E}$, and $Q_c \to 1$ at infinity.

Furthermore, for all $2 < p \leqslant +\infty$, there exists $c_0(p) > 0$ such that, if $0 < c \leqslant c_0(p)$, for the norm

$$\|h\|_p := \|h\|_{L^p(\mathbb{R}^2)} + \|\nabla h\|_{L^{p-1}(\mathbb{R}^2)}$$

and the space $X_p := \{f \in L^p(\mathbb{R}^2) : \nabla f \in L^{p-1}(\mathbb{R}^2)\}$, one has

$$\|\Gamma_c\|_p = o_{c\to 0}(1).$$

In addition,

$$c \mapsto Q_c - 1 \in C^1(]0, c_0(p)[, X_p),$$

with the estimate

$$\left\| \partial_c Q_c + \left(\frac{1 + o_{c\to 0}(1)}{c^2}\right) \partial_d (V_1(\cdot - d\vec{e}_1)V_{-1}(\cdot + d\vec{e}_1))_{|d=d_c} \right\|_p = o_{c\to 0}\left(\frac{1}{c^2}\right).$$

Finally, we have

$$\frac{d}{dc}(P_2(Q_c)) = \frac{-2\pi + o_{c\to 0}(1)}{c^2} < 0;$$

hence the C^1 mapping

$$\mathcal{P} :]0, c_0] \to \mathbb{R}, \quad c \mapsto P_2(Q_c),$$

is a strictly decreasing diffeomorphism from $]0, c_0]$ onto $[P_2(Q_{c_0}), +\infty[$.

Remark 1.7. With the same kind of approach, [33] also provides an existence result of traveling waves for (NLS), including some cases with more than two vortices. Our result has the advantage of showing the smoothness of the branch with respect to the speed. In particular, with the last part of Theorem 1.6, we see that we may also parametrize the branch $c \mapsto Q_c$ by its momentum $\mathcal{P}$.

It is conjectured that all these constructions yield the same branch of traveling waves (for large momentum) when they are all defined, and that they are the solutions numerically observed in [16; 28] for more general nonlinearities (see also [17]). We will show here that the construction of Theorem 1.6 yields the unique, up to the natural translation and phase invariances, constrained energy minimizers.

1C. ***A uniqueness result for symmetric functions.*** We have shown in [15] several coercivity results for the traveling waves constructed in Theorem 1.6. This will allow us to show the following uniqueness result for symmetric functions close to the branch constructed in Theorem 1.6. There, for $d \in \mathbb{R}$, we use the notation $\tilde{r}_d = \min(|\cdot - d\vec{e}_1|, |\cdot + d\vec{e}_1|)$.

Proposition 1.8. *There exists $\lambda_* > 1$ such that, for any $\lambda \geqslant \lambda_*$, there exists $\varepsilon(\lambda) > 0$ such that if a function $u \in \mathcal{E}$ satisfies*

(1) *for all $(x_1, x_2) \in \mathbb{R}^2$, $u(x_1, x_2) = u(-x_1, x_2)$,*

(2) *$u = V_1(x - d\vec{e}_1)V_{-1}(x + d\vec{e}_1) + \Gamma$, with $d > 1/\varepsilon(\lambda)$, $\|\Gamma\|_{L^\infty(\{\tilde{r}_d \leqslant 2\lambda\})} \leqslant \varepsilon(\lambda)$,*

(3) $\| |u| - 1 \|_{L^\infty(\{\tilde{r}_d \geqslant \lambda\})} \leqslant 1/\lambda_*$,

(4) $(\mathrm{TW}_c)(u) = 0$ *for some* $c > 0$ *such that* $|dc - 1| \leqslant \varepsilon(\lambda)$,

then, there exist $X \in \mathbb{R}$ *and* $\gamma \in \mathbb{R}$ *such that* $u = Q_c(\cdot - X\vec{e}_2)\mathrm{e}^{i\gamma}$, *where* Q_c *is defined in Theorem 1.6.*

Remark 1.9. In view of the symmetry assumption, we may replace the second hypothesis by

$$\|u - V_1(\cdot - d\vec{e}_1)\|_{L^\infty(B(d\vec{e}_1, 2\lambda))} \leqslant \varepsilon(\lambda).$$

We will discuss the main arguments of the proof of Proposition 1.8 in the next section. This result can be seen as a local uniqueness result, but the uniqueness turns out to be in a rather large class of functions. Indeed, two functions that satisfy the hypotheses of Proposition 1.8 can be very far from each other, for two main reasons. First, in condition (2), the vortices that compose one of them have no reason to be close to the ones composing the other function since d depends on u: their centers $\pm d\vec{e}_1$ only need to satisfy $|dc - 1| \leqslant \varepsilon(\lambda)$, but for instance both $d = 1/c$ and $d = 1/c + 1/\sqrt{c}$ satisfy these conditions for $c > 0$ small enough at fixed λ. Secondly, we only have that far from the vortices, the modulus is close to 1 from condition (3), but we have no information on the phase. The proof of Proposition 1.8 will rely on methods used in [15] in order to prove some coercivity, and we shall need to be very precise to take into account all these cases.

A way to see that Proposition 1.8 is a strong unicity result is that it implies the following local uniqueness result in L^∞ for even functions in x_1.

Corollary 1.10. *There exist* $c_0, \varepsilon > 0$ *such that, for* $0 < c < c_0$, *if a function* $u \in \mathcal{E}$ *satisfies*

(1) *for all* $(x_1, x_2) \in \mathbb{R}^2$, $u(x_1, x_2) = u(-x_1, x_2)$,

(2) $(\mathrm{TW}_c)(u) = 0$ *in the distributional sense*,

(3) $\|u - Q_c\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^2)} \leqslant \varepsilon$,

then, there exist $X \in \mathbb{R}$ *and* $\gamma \in \mathbb{R}$ *such that* $u = Q_c(\cdot - X\vec{e}_2)\mathrm{e}^{i\gamma}$.

We may now state our main result. It establishes that any traveling wave solution which is even in x_1 and within $\mathcal{O}(1)$ of the minimizing energy must be, for large momentum, the Q_c traveling wave constructed in Theorem 1.6, up to the natural translation and phase invariances.

Theorem 1.11. *For any* $\Lambda_0 > 0$ *there exists* $\mathfrak{p}_0(\Lambda_0) > 0$ *such that, if* $u \in \mathcal{E}$ *satisfies*

(1) *for all* $(x_1, x_2) \in \mathbb{R}^2$, $u(x_1, x_2) = u(-x_1, x_2)$,

(2) $(\mathrm{TW}_c)(u) = 0$ *for some* $c > 0$,

(3) $P_2(u) \geqslant \mathfrak{p}_0(\Lambda_0)$,

(4) $E(u) \leqslant 2\pi \ln P_2(u) + \Lambda_0$,

then, there exist $X \in \mathbb{R}$ *and* $\gamma \in \mathbb{R}$ *such that*

$$u = Q_c(\cdot - X\vec{e}_2)\mathrm{e}^{i\gamma},$$

where Q_c *is defined in Theorem 1.6. In particular,* $P_2(u) = \mathcal{P}(c)$ *(where* $\mathcal{P}$ *is defined in Theorem 1.6).*

Section 3 is devoted to the proof of this result. We show there that a function satisfying the hypotheses of Theorem 1.11 also satisfies the hypotheses of Proposition 1.8. Our result applies in particular to the constraint minimizers for the problem $E_{\min}(\mathfrak{p})$ for large $\mathfrak{p}$.

Corollary 1.12. *There exist $\mathfrak{p}_0 > 0$ such that, for any $\mathfrak{p} \geqslant \mathfrak{p}_0$ and any minimizer U for $E_{\min}(\mathfrak{p})$, there exist $\gamma \in \mathbb{R}$ and $X \in \mathbb{R}^2$ such that, with $c = \mathcal{P}^{-1}(\mathfrak{p})$,*

$$U = Q_c(\cdot - X)\mathrm{e}^{i\gamma}.$$

Moreover, $(\mathrm{TW}_c)(U) = 0$.

Proof. By a first translation in x_1, we may assume, by Theorem 1.2, that this minimizer U is even in x_1. By Proposition 1.5, the last hypothesis (4) of Theorem 1.11 is satisfied; hence we may translate in x_2 and use phase shift and get that this minimizer U is Q_c. Necessarily, $P_2(U) = \mathfrak{p} = P_2(Q_c)$; thus $c = \mathcal{P}^{-1}(\mathfrak{p})$. ☐

Theorem 1.4 is a direct consequence of this corollary. This allows us to derive several interesting consequences on the function $E_{\min}$. This also shows that the branch of Theorem 1.6 coincides with the global energy minimizer at fixed momentum (up to translation and phase shift).

Theorem 1.13. *There exists $c_* > 0$ such that, for $0 < c \leqslant c_*$, Q_c is a minimizer for $E_{\min}(P_2(Q_c))$. Moreover, there exists $\mathfrak{p}_0 > 0$ such that the following statements hold*:

(1) *The function $E_{\min}$ is of class C^2 in $[\mathfrak{p}_0, +\infty[$ and*

$$0 > E''_{\min}(\mathfrak{p}) \sim -\frac{2\pi}{\mathfrak{p}^2}, \quad 0 < E'_{\min}(\mathfrak{p}) \sim \frac{2\pi}{\mathfrak{p}}, \quad E_{\min}(\mathfrak{p}) = 2\pi \ln \mathfrak{p} + \mathcal{O}(1).$$

(2) *For $\mathfrak{p} \geqslant \mathfrak{p}_0$, $\mathcal{S}_\mathfrak{p} = \{Q_{\mathcal{P}^{-1}(\mathfrak{p})}(\cdot - X)\mathrm{e}^{i\gamma} : \gamma \in \mathbb{R},\ X \in \mathbb{R}^2\}$; hence, for any $\mathfrak{p} \geqslant \mathfrak{p}_0$, $E'_{\min}(\mathfrak{p})$ is the speed of any minimizer for $E_{\min}(\mathfrak{p})$.*

(3) *For any $\mathfrak{p} \geqslant \mathfrak{p}_0$, $Q_{\mathcal{P}^{-1}(\mathfrak{p})}$ is orbitally stable for the semidistance D_0 (or, equivalently, for $0 < c \leqslant c_*$, Q_c is orbitally stable for the semidistance D_0).*

(4) *For $\mathfrak{p} \geqslant \mathfrak{p}_0$ and any minimizer u for $E_{\min}(\mathfrak{p})$, up to a space translation and a phase shift, u enjoys the symmetry,*

$$\text{for all } (x_1, x_2) \in \mathbb{R}^2, \quad u(x_1, -x_2) = \bar{u}(x_1, x_2),$$

in addition to the symmetry in x_1.

(5) *For any $\Lambda > 0$, there exists $\mathfrak{p}_0(\Lambda) > 0$ such that, if $u \in \mathcal{E}$ satisfies $(\mathrm{TW}_c)(u) = 0$ for some $c > 0$, $P_2(u) \geqslant \mathfrak{p}_0(\Lambda)$ and u is even in x_1, then either $E(u) = E_{\min}(P_2(u))$ or $E(u) \geqslant E_{\min}(P_2(u)) + \Lambda$.*

Proof. By Theorems 1.2 and 1.3, we have the existence of at least one minimizer $U_\mathfrak{p}$ for $E_{\min}(\mathfrak{p})$, where $\mathfrak{p} > 0$. For large $\mathfrak{p}$, by applying Corollary 1.12, we have $U_\mathfrak{p} = Q_c(\cdot - X)\mathrm{e}^{i\gamma}$ for some $X \in \mathbb{R}^2$ and $\gamma \in \mathbb{R}$, thus proving that Q_c is a minimizer for $E_{\min}(\mathfrak{p})$ and that $P_2(Q_c) = \mathcal{P}(c) = \mathfrak{p}$.

For (1), it suffices to notice that, in view of Corollary 1.12 applied to any minimizer (we have existence by Theorems 1.2 and 1.3) $E_{\min}(\mathfrak{p}) = E(Q_{\mathcal{P}^{-1}(\mathfrak{p})})$. We then conclude by using that $\mathcal{P}$ is a

C^1 diffeomorphism and that $c \mapsto E(Q_c)$ is also of class C^1 (see [15, Proposition 1.2]), that $E_{\min}$ is of class C^1 in $[\mathfrak{p}_0, +\infty[$ and that

$$E'_{\min}(\mathfrak{p}) = \frac{d}{dc} E(Q_c)_{|c=\mathcal{P}^{-1}(\mathfrak{p})} \times \frac{1}{\mathcal{P}'(\mathcal{P}^{-1}(\mathfrak{p}))} = \mathcal{P}^{-1}(\mathfrak{p}),$$

in view of the Hamilton-like relation (formally shown in [28] and rigorously proved for the branch constructed in Theorem 1.6 in [15])

$$\frac{d}{dc} E(Q_c) = c \frac{d}{dc} P_2(Q_c).$$

Since $\mathcal{P}$ is a C^1 diffeomorphism, we deduce that $E'_{\min}$ is of class C^1. The asymptotics for $E'_{\min}$ and $E''_{\min}$ then follow from Proposition 1.2 in [15]. Integration would yield $E_{\min}(\mathfrak{p}) \sim 2\pi \ln \mathfrak{p}$, but we may slightly improve this estimate. Indeed, Proposition 1.5 gives $E_{\min}(\mathfrak{p}) \leqslant 2\pi \ln \mathfrak{p} + \mathcal{O}(1)$, and the lower bound is a straightforward consequence of Theorem 3.4(i) and the study in Section 3B3.

Statement (2) is a rephrasing of Corollary 1.12, combined with the existence of at least one constrained minimizer. Statement (3) is then a direct consequence of Theorem 1.3. Statement (4) simply follows from the fact that Q_c enjoys by construction this symmetry (see [14]). Finally, statement (5) is also a rephrasing of Theorem 1.11. □

Remark 1.14. Concerning the stability given in statement (3) in the above theorem, we quote [32], where a linear "spectral" stability result is proved (through ad hoc hypotheses that were checked in [15]), namely that the linearized equation $i\partial_t v = L_{Q_c}(v)$ does not have exponentially growing solutions (in $\dot{H}_1(\mathbb{R}^2; \mathbb{C})$, say). Statement (3) in the above theorem does not rely on the result in [32], and is needed for the nonlinear (orbital) stability (following the Cazenave–Lions approach).

Let us conclude this section with several comments on our result. First, let us explain the relevance of the symmetry hypothesis, namely that we restrict to mappings that are even in x_1. This symmetry is used in the coercivity of the branch of Theorem 1.6, through the following arguments. The quadratic form around the traveling wave Q_c is decomposed in three areas, close to the two vortices, and far from them. In the latter region, the coercivity can be shown without any orthogonality condition. Close to the vortices, the quadratic form is close to the one of a single vortex, which was studied in [38]. Its coercivity requires three orthogonality conditions, two for the translation, and one for the phase. Therefore, we can show the coercivity of the full quadratic form with six orthogonality conditions, three for each vortex. However, the family of traveling waves of Theorem 1.6 has only five parameters (two for the speed, two for the translation, and one for the phase). The symmetry is then used to reduce the problem to three orthogonality conditions into a family with three parameters. With this symmetry, both orthogonality conditions on the phase for the two vortices become the same condition. It is possible to prove a coercivity result with only five orthogonality conditions without symmetry (see [15]), but then the coercivity constant goes to 0 when $c \to 0$. This would pose a problem for the uniqueness result. The last statement in Theorem 1.13 shows that, when restricting ourselves to symmetric traveling waves, there is an energy threshold under which there is no traveling wave except the Q_c branch.

Secondly, the proof of the fact that Q_c is a minimizer of the energy for fixed momentum relies on the existence of such minimizers. In particular, we have not been able to use our coercivity results in [15] in order to prove directly that Q_c is orbitally stable (for small c).

Thirdly, the symmetry in x_2 for the minimizers (statement (4)) is established as a consequence of the uniqueness result and not in itself. Notice that the numerical studies in [16; 17; 28] assume the two symmetries.

1D. ***The traveling wave Q_c and two other variational characterizations.*** Before providing other variational characterizations of Q_c, we have to define a distance on the energy space $\mathcal{E}$. One can use (see [22])

$$D_{\mathcal{E}}(\psi_1,\psi_2) := \|\psi_1-\psi_2\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^2)+L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^2)} + \|\nabla\psi_1-\nabla\psi_2\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^2)} + \||\psi_1|-|\psi_2|\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^2)},$$

which is adapted to the Cauchy problem. Actually, we may also use the pseudodistance[1]

$$D_0(\psi_1,\psi_2) := \|\nabla\psi_1-\nabla\psi_2\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^2)} + \||\psi_1|-|\psi_2|\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^2)}.$$

Is it shown in [13, Corollary 4.13] that both the energy E and the momentum P_2 are continuous for the distance $D_{\mathcal{E}}$, and actually even for the pseudodistance D_0.

The traveling wave Q_c as a mountain-pass solution. Thanks to the results in Theorem 1.13, it is easy to show that we have locally, near Q_c, a mountain-pass geometry. Indeed, let $c_* > 0$ be small, and define

$$\Upsilon_{c_*} := \{\upsilon : [-1,+1] \to \mathcal{E} \text{ continuous} : \upsilon(-1) = Q_{3c_*/2},\ \upsilon(+1) = Q_{c_*/2}\},$$

the set of continuous paths from $Q_{3c_*/2}$ to $Q_{c_*/2}$ in $\mathcal{E}$. Then, we claim that

$$\inf_{\upsilon\in\Upsilon_{c_*}} \max_{t\in[-1,+1]} (E-c_*P_2)(\upsilon(t)) = (E-c_*P_2)(Q_{c_*}). \tag{1-2}$$

Indeed, let $\upsilon \in \Upsilon_{c_*}$. By the intermediate value theorem, there exists $t_* \in [-1,+1]$ such that $P_2(\upsilon(t)) = P_2(Q_{c_*})$ ($c \mapsto P_2(Q_c)$ is a C^1 function (see [15, Proposition 1.2]). Since Q_{c_*} is a minimizer for $E_{\min}(Q_{c_*})$, we infer

$$\max_{t\in[-1,+1]} (E-c_*P_2)(\upsilon(t)) \geqslant E(\upsilon(t_*)) - c_*P_2(Q_{c_*}) \geqslant E(Q_{c_*}) - c_*P_2(Q_{c_*}).$$

Moreover, considering the particular C^1 path $\upsilon_* : [-1,+1] \to \mathcal{E}$ defined by $\upsilon(t) := Q_{c_*-tc_*/2}$, we see that

$$\frac{d}{dt}(E-c_*P_2)(\upsilon_*(t)) = -\frac{c_*}{2}\Big(\frac{d}{dc}E(Q_c) - c_*\frac{d}{dc}P_2(Q_c)\Big)_{|c=c_*-tc_*/2} = \frac{c_*^2 t}{4}\Big(\frac{d}{dc}P_2(Q_c)\Big)_{|c=c_*-tc_*/2}$$

in view of the Hamilton group relation $\frac{d}{dc}E(Q_c) = c\frac{d}{dc}P_2(Q_c)$ (see [15, Proposition 1.2]). Since $\frac{d}{dc}P_2(Q_c) < 0$, we deduce that $(E-c_*P_2)(\upsilon_*(t))$ increases in $[-1,0]$ and decreases in $[0,+1]$, and hence has maximal value $E(Q_{c_*}) - c_*P_2(Q_{c_*})$, as wished.

[1] $D_0(\psi_1,\psi_2)$ is zero if and only if $\psi_2-\psi_1$ is constant with $|\psi_1|-1 = |\psi_2|-1 \in L^2(\mathbb{R}^2)$.

Furthermore, by the asymptotics given in [15] and the above-mentioned Hamilton group relation $\frac{d}{dc}E(Q_c) = c\frac{d}{dc}P_2(Q_c)$, we have

$$(E - c_* P_2)(Q_{c_*}) - (E - c_* P_2)(Q_{c_*/2}) = \int_{c_*/2}^{c_*} (c - c_*) \frac{d}{dc} P_2(Q_c)\, dc > 0$$

since $c - c_* < 0$ and $\frac{d}{dc}P_2(Q_c) < 0$. Similarly, we prove that $(E - c_* P_2)(Q_{c_*}) - (E - c_* P_2)(Q_{3c_*/2}) < 0$.

We now claim that if $u \in \mathcal{E}$ is such that $(\mathrm{TW}_{c_*})(u) = 0$ and

$$(E - c_* P_2)(u) = \inf_{\upsilon \in \Upsilon_{c_*}} \max_{t \in [-1,+1]} (E - c_* P_2)(\upsilon(t)) = (E - c_* P_2)(Q_{c_*}), \tag{1-3}$$

by (1-2), that is, if u is a critical point of $E - c_* P_2$ at the good critical value, then we must have $P_2(u) = P_2(Q_{c_*})$. Indeed, by the Pohozaev identity (2-2), we have

$$c_* P_2(u) = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} (1 - |u|^2)^2\, dx \geqslant 0,$$

and hence $P_2(u) \geqslant 0$. Furthermore, we know that $E_{\min}$ is concave in $\mathbb{R}_+$ (Proposition 1.5), and that $E_{\min}$ is of class C^1 and strictly concave on $[\mathfrak{p}_0, +\infty[$ (by statement (1) of Theorem 1.13). Therefore, if $P_2(u) \neq P_2(Q_{c_*})$, then

$$\begin{aligned} E(u) \geqslant E_{\min}(P_2(u)) &> E_{\min}(P_2(Q_{c_*})) + E'_{\min}(P_2(Q_{c_*}))(P_2(u) - P_2(Q_{c_*})) \\ &= E(Q_{c_*}) + c_*(P_2(u) - P_2(Q_{c_*})), \end{aligned}$$

in contradiction with (1-3).

As a consequence, we have

$$E(u) = E(Q_{c_*}) = E_{\min}(P_2(u)) = E_{\min}(P_2(Q_{c_*})),$$

implying that u is a minimizer for $E_{\min}(P_2(Q_{c_*}))$; hence there exist $\gamma \in \mathbb{R}$ and $X \in \mathbb{R}^2$ such that $u = Q_{c_*}(\cdot - X)e^{i\gamma}$, proving a uniqueness result for mountain-pass-type traveling wave solutions. However, stating rigorously a useful uniqueness result for this kind of variational solution is not so easy: In [5], the mountain pass is implemented in the space $1 + H^1(\mathbb{R}^2)$, whereas we know (by the result in [25]) that the nontrivial traveling wave does not belong to this affine space; in [3], the solution is constructed by working first on $[-N, +N] \times \mathbb{R}$ and then passing to the limit, and it is then not immediate to compute the functional $E - cP$ on the solution; in addition, the method does not provide easily some explicit bounds on the energy or the momentum. We shall then not go further in this discussion even though the previous arguments indicate that mountain-pass solutions are (at least for small c) only the orbit of Q_c.

The traveling wave Q_c as a minimizer of $E - cP_2$ for fixed kinetic energy. In [13], for $\kappa \geqslant 0$, the following variational problem is investigated:

$$I_{\min}(\kappa) = \inf\left\{ \frac{1}{4} \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} (1 - |v|^2)^2\, dx - P_2(v),\ v \in \mathcal{E} : \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} |\nabla v|^2\, dx = \kappa \right\}.$$

Any minimizer v for $I_{\min}(\kappa)$ is such that there exists $c > 0$ satisfying $(\mathrm{TW}_c)(v(\cdot/c)) = 0$. In two dimensions and for the Ginzburg–Landau nonlinearity, existence of minimizers for $\kappa > 0$ is established in

Theorem 1.2 there. Furthermore, it is shown in [13] (see Proposition 8.4 there) that if $\mathfrak{p} > 0$ and if U is a minimizer for $E_{\min}(\mathfrak{p})$ with speed c, then $U(c\,\cdot)$ is a minimizer for $I_{\min}(\kappa)$ with $\kappa = \frac{1}{2}\int_{\mathbb{R}^2} |\nabla U|^2\,dx$ (this last quantity is scale-invariant in two dimensions) and $I_{\min}$ is differentiable at this κ, with $I'_{\min}(\kappa) = -1/c^2$. Since Q_c is a minimizer for $E_{\min}(P_2(Q_c))$, if we prove that $c \mapsto \frac{1}{2}\int_{\mathbb{R}^2} |\nabla Q_c|^2\,dx$ is a decreasing C^1-diffeomorphism from $]0, c_0]$, for some small c_0, onto $[\kappa_0, +\infty[$, with $\kappa_0 := \frac{1}{2}\int_{\mathbb{R}^2} |\nabla Q_{c_0}|^2\,dx$, then we shall conclude that $I_{\min}$ is of class C^1 on $[\kappa_0, +\infty[$, and that (by the arguments in [13]) the only minimizer for $\kappa = \frac{1}{2}\int_{\mathbb{R}^2} |\nabla Q_c|^2\,dx$ (for some suitable $c \in\,]0, c_0]$) is $Q_c(c\,\cdot)$ up to the natural translation and phase invariances and, in addition, $I'_{\min}(\kappa) = -1/c^2$. In order to prove that statement, it suffices to use the Pohozaev identity (2-2) and deduce

$$\frac{1}{2}\int_{\mathbb{R}^2} |\nabla Q_c|^2\,dx = E(Q_c) - \frac{1}{4}\int_{\mathbb{R}^2} (1 - |Q_c|^2)^2\,dx = E(Q_c) - \frac{cP_2(Q_c)}{2}.$$

Therefore, by using the Hamilton-like relation $\frac{d}{dc}E(Q_c) = c\frac{d}{dc}P_2(Q_c)$ and then the asymptotics of $c \mapsto P_2(Q_c)$ obtained in [15], we arrive at

$$\frac{d}{2dc}\int_{\mathbb{R}^2} |\nabla Q_c|^2\,dx = \frac{d}{dc}(E(Q_c)) - \frac{c}{2}\frac{d}{dc}P_2(Q_c) - \frac{1}{2}P_2(Q_c) = \frac{c}{2}\frac{d}{dc}P_2(Q_c) - \frac{1}{2}P_2(Q_c) \sim -\frac{2\pi}{c} < 0.$$

The paper is organized as follows. In Section 2, we give the proof of the uniqueness result given in Proposition 1.8. Section 3 is devoted to the vortex analysis of traveling waves with energy $E_{\min}(\mathfrak{p}) + \mathcal{O}(1)$, that are even in x_2, in order to show that they satisfy the hypotheses of Proposition 1.8. Section 3D contains a few remarks on the nonsymmetrical case. Finally, in Section 3C, we provide some decay estimates slightly away from the vortices. For the Ginzburg–Landau (stationary) model, such estimates were first given in [35] for minimizing solutions and later generalized in [18] to nonminimizing solutions. They improve some estimates in [14] and are not specific to the way we construct the solutions.

2. Proof of the local uniqueness result (Proposition 1.8)

This section is devoted to the proofs of Proposition 1.8 and Corollary 1.10. The proof of Proposition 1.8 uses arguments from the proof of [15, Theorem 1.14], another local uniqueness result for this problem, but in different spaces. We explain here the core ideas of the proof.

Let us explain schematically the proof of Proposition 1.8. We first pick c', X, γ' in such a way that $Q = Q'_c(\cdot - X)e^{i\gamma}$ has the same vortices as u. This is possible because $c \to d_c$, the position of the vortices, is smooth. We then use the decomposition $u = Qe^{\psi}$, where ψ is the error term. This cannot be done near the zeros of Q, but we focus here on the domain far from the vortices.

The equation satisfied by ψ is then $(\mathrm{TW}_c)(u) = 0 = (\mathrm{TW}_c)(Q) + \mathrm{L}(\psi) + \mathrm{NL}(\psi)$, where we regroup the linear terms in L and the nonlinear terms in NL, and $(\mathrm{TW}_c)(Q) \neq 0$ because $c \neq c'$. We then take the scalar product of this equation with ψ, and we get $0 = \langle (\mathrm{TW}_c)(Q), \psi\rangle + B_Q(\psi) + \langle \mathrm{NL}(\psi), \psi\rangle$. Now, the coercivity of B_Q has been studied in [15]. It holds (for even functions in x_1) up to three orthogonality conditions, which can be satisfied by changing slightly the modulation parameters c', X, γ. We deduce that $B_Q(\psi) \geqslant K\|\psi\|_1^2$ for some norm $\|\cdot\|_1$.

There are two main difficulties at this point. First, since the hypotheses on u in Proposition 1.8 are weak, we simply have $\|\psi\|_1 < +\infty$, but not the fact that it is small. Therefore, an estimate of the form $|\langle \mathrm{NL}(\psi), \psi\rangle| \leqslant K\|\psi\|_1^3$ would not be enough to conclude. Secondly, the norm $\|\cdot\|_1$ is rather weak, and in fact $\langle \mathrm{NL}(\psi), \psi\rangle$ cannot be controlled by powers of $\|\psi\|_1$.

Concerning the term $\langle (TW_c)(Q), \psi\rangle$, we may show that we always have $|c-c'| \leqslant o(1)\|\psi\|_1$, and thus $|\langle (TW_c)(Q), \psi\rangle| \leqslant o(1)\|\psi\|_1^2$. Therefore, we are led to

$$\frac{K}{2}\|\psi\|_1^2 \leqslant \langle (\mathrm{TW}_c)(Q), \psi\rangle + B_Q(\psi) = -\langle \mathrm{NL}(\psi), \psi\rangle.$$

Then, even if $\|\psi\|_1$ is not small, by the hypotheses of Proposition 1.8, ψ will be small in other (nonequivalent) norms. Let us write one of them $\|\cdot\|_2$. Our goal is then to show an estimate of the form $|\langle \mathrm{NL}(\psi), \psi\rangle| \leqslant K\|\psi\|_2\,\|\psi\|_1^2$, which would conclude the proof. This is possible, except for one nonlinear term, which contains two derivatives. We then perform some integrations by parts on it. When both derivatives fall on the same term, we get a term containing $\Delta\psi$, which also appears in the equation $0 = (\mathrm{TW}_c)(Q) + \mathrm{L}(\psi) + \mathrm{NL}(\psi)$ (in $\mathrm{L}(\psi)$). We thus replace it using this equation, which leads to another term containing two derivatives (from $\mathrm{NL}(\psi)$), and other terms that can be successfully estimated. After n such integrations by parts, we have an estimate of the form

$$|\langle \mathrm{NL}(\psi), \psi\rangle| \leqslant K\|\psi\|_2\|\psi\|_1^2 + \|\psi\|_3\|\psi\|_2^n\|\psi\|_1^2,$$

where $\|\cdot\|_3$ is another (semi-)norm in which ψ is not necessarily small. Now, taking n large enough (depending on ψ), since $\|\psi\|_2 \ll 1$, we get $|\langle \mathrm{NL}(\psi), \psi\rangle| \leqslant o(1)\|\psi\|_1^2$, concluding the proof.

The problem is a lot simpler near the vortices. There, we write $u = Q + \phi$ and the coercivity norm is equivalent to the H^1 norm, and the hypotheses of Proposition 1.8 give us $\|\phi\|_{L^\infty} = o(1)$. The estimate of the nonlinear terms then becomes trivial.

As stated in the Introduction, the symmetry condition is necessary to have a coercivity result where the coercivity constant is uniform; see Corollary 2.6 below. This is the only place where the symmetry is used in a crucial way.

2A. ***Some properties of the branch of traveling waves from Theorem 1.6.*** We recall here properties on the branch $c \mapsto Q_c$ from Theorem 1.6, coming mainly from [14; 15]. In this section, we will use the notation

$$\langle f, g\rangle := \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} \mathfrak{Re}(f\bar{g}).$$

2A1. *Properties of vortices.* We start with some estimates on vortices, which compose the traveling wave (see Theorem 1.6).

Lemma 2.1 [12; 26]. *A vortex centered around* 0, $V_1(x) = \rho_1(r)e^{i\theta}$, *satisfies* $V_1(0) = 0$, $E(V_1) = +\infty$ *and there exist constants* $K, \kappa > 0$ *such that,*

$$\text{for all } r > 0,\ 0 < \rho_1(r) < 1, \quad \rho_1(r) \sim_{r\to 0} \kappa r, \quad \rho_1'(r) \sim_{r\to 0} \kappa,$$

$$\text{for all } r > 0,\ \rho_1'(r) > 0, \quad \rho_1'(r) = O_{r\to\infty}\left(\frac{1}{r^3}\right), \quad |\rho_1''(r)| + |\rho_1'''(r)| \leqslant K,$$

$$1-|V_1(x)| = \frac{1}{2r^2} + O_{r\to\infty}\left(\frac{1}{r^3}\right),$$
$$|\nabla V_1| \leqslant \frac{K}{1+r}, \quad |\nabla^2 V_1| \leqslant \frac{K}{(1+r)^2},$$
$$\nabla V_1(x) = iV_1(x)\frac{x^\perp}{r^2} + O_{r\to\infty}\left(\frac{1}{r^3}\right),$$

where $x^\perp := (-x_2, x_1)$, $x = re^{i\theta} \in \mathbb{R}^2$. *Furthermore, similar properties hold for* V_{-1}, *since*

$$V_{-1}(x) = \overline{V_1(x)}.$$

2A2. *Toolbox.* We list in this section some results useful for the analysis of traveling waves for not necessarily small speeds.

Theorem 2.2 (uniform L^∞ bound [19]). *Assume that* $U \in L^3_{\mathrm{loc}}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ *solves*

$$\Delta U + ic\partial_2 U + U(1-|U|^2) = 0.$$

Then,

$$\|U\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^d)} \leqslant 1 + \frac{c^2}{4}.$$

Corollary 2.3. *There exists* $K > 0$ *such that, for any* $c \in [-\sqrt{2}, +\sqrt{2}]$ *and any* $U \in L^3_{\mathrm{loc}}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ *satisfying* $(\mathrm{TW}_c)(U) = 0$, *we have*

$$\|\nabla U\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^d)} + \|\nabla^2 U\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^d)} \leqslant K. \tag{2-1}$$

The following Pohozaev identity (see [10] for instance) will be useful in our analysis. If $c \in \mathbb{R}$ and $U \in \mathcal{E}$ satisfies (TW_c), then

$$\frac{1}{2}\int_{\mathbb{R}^2} (1-|U|^2)^2\,dx = cP_2(U). \tag{2-2}$$

We shall also make use of the algebraic decay of the traveling waves conjectured in [28] and shown in [24].

Theorem 2.4 (algebraic decay of the traveling waves [24]). *Let* $c \in [0, \sqrt{2}[$. *Assume that* $U \in \mathcal{E}$ *is a solution of* $(\mathrm{TW}_c)(U) = 0$. *Up to a phase shift, we may assume* $U(x) \to 1$ *for* $|x| \to +\infty$. *Then, there exists* M, *depending on* U *and* c *such that, for* $x \in \mathbb{R}^2$,

$$|U(x)-1| \leqslant \frac{M}{1+|x|}, \quad |\nabla U(x)| \leqslant \frac{M}{(1+|x|)^2}, \quad ||U(x)|-1| \leqslant \frac{M}{(1+|x|)^2}.$$

2A3. *Symmetries of the traveling waves from Theorem 1.6.* We recall from [14] that the traveling wave Q_c constructed in Theorem 1.6 satisfies, for all $x = (x_1, x_2) \in \mathbb{R}^2$,

$$Q_c(x_1, x_2) = Q_c(-x_1, x_2) = \overline{Q_c(x_1, -x_2)}.$$

This implies that, for all $x = (x_1, x_2) \in \mathbb{R}^2$,

$$\partial_c Q_c(x_1, x_2) = \partial_c Q_c(-x_1, x_2) = \overline{\partial_c Q_c(x_1, -x_2)},$$

$$\partial_{x_1} Q_c(x_1,x_2) = -\partial_{x_1} Q_c(-x_1,x_2) = \overline{\partial_{x_1} Q_c(x_1,-x_2)},$$
$$\partial_{x_2} Q_c(x_1,x_2) = \partial_{x_2} Q_c(-x_1,x_2) = -\overline{\partial_{x_2} Q_c(x_1,-x_2)},$$
$$\partial_{c^\perp} Q_c(x_1,x_2) = -\partial_{c^\perp} Q_c(-x_1,x_2) = -\overline{\partial_{c^\perp} Q_c(x_1,-x_2)},$$

where $\partial_{c^\perp} Q_c := x^\perp.\nabla Q_c$; see Section 2.2 of [15]. Note that these quantities all have different symmetries.

2A4. *A coercivity result.* From Proposition 1.2 of [15], we recall that Q_c defined in Theorem 1.6 has two zeros, at $\pm\tilde d_c \vec e_1$, with

$$d_c - \tilde d_c = o_{c\to 0}(1). \tag{2-3}$$

We define (as in [15]) the symmetric expended energy space by

$$H^{\exp,s}_{Q_c} := \{\varphi \in H^1_{\mathrm{loc}}(\mathbb{R}^2,\mathbb{C}) : \|\varphi\|_{H^{\exp}_{Q_c}} < +\infty \text{ for all } (x_1,x_2)\in\mathbb{R}^2,\ \varphi(-x_1,x_2) = \varphi(x_1,x_2)\},$$

where, with $\varphi = Q_c\psi$, $\tilde r = \tilde r_{\tilde d_c} = \min(\tilde r_1, \tilde r_{-1})$, $\tilde r_{\pm 1}$ being the distances to the zeros of Q_c (we use $\tilde r$ instead of $\tilde r_{\tilde d_c}$ to simplify the notation here), we define

$$\|\varphi\|^2_{H^{\exp}_{Q_c}} := \|\varphi\|^2_{H^1(\{\tilde r\leqslant 10\})} + \int_{\{\tilde r \geqslant 5\}} |\nabla\psi|^2 + \mathfrak{Re}^2(\psi) + \frac{|\psi|^2}{\tilde r^2 \ln^2 \tilde r}.$$

By using (2-1), we deduce, for any $R>0$, $\|\varphi\|_{H^1(\{\tilde r\leqslant R\})} \leqslant K(R)\|\varphi\|_{H^{\exp}_{Q_c}}$. The linearized operator around Q_c is

$$L_{Q_c}(\varphi) := -\Delta\varphi - ic\,\partial_{x_2}\varphi - (1-|Q_c|^2)\varphi + 2\,\mathfrak{Re}(\bar Q_c \varphi) Q_c.$$

We take a smooth cutoff function $\tilde\eta$ such that

$$\tilde\eta(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{on } B(\pm\tilde d_c \vec e_1, 2R), \\ 1 & \text{on } \mathbb{R}^2 \backslash B(\pm\tilde d_c\vec e_1, 2R+1), \end{cases}$$

where $\pm\tilde d_c\vec e_1$ are the zeros of Q_c and $R>0$ will be defined later on (it will be a universal constant, independent of any parameters of the problem). We define the quadratic form (as in [15])

$$\begin{aligned} B^{\exp}_{Q_c}(\varphi) := &\int_{\mathbb{R}^2} (1-\tilde\eta)\big(|\nabla\varphi|^2 - \mathfrak{Re}(ic\,\partial_{x_2}\varphi\bar\varphi) - (1-|Q_c|^2)|\varphi|^2 + 2\,\mathfrak{Re}^2(\bar Q_c\varphi)\big) \\ &- \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} \nabla\tilde\eta.\big(\mathfrak{Re}(\nabla Q_c \bar Q_c)|\psi|^2 - 2\,\mathfrak{Im}(\nabla Q_c\bar Q_c)\,\mathfrak{Re}(\psi)\,\mathfrak{Im}(\psi)\big) \\ &+ \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} c\,\partial_{x_2}\tilde\eta\,\mathfrak{Re}(\psi)\,\mathfrak{Im}(\psi)|Q_c|^2 \\ &+ \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} \tilde\eta(|\nabla\psi|^2|Q_c|^2 + 2\,\mathfrak{Re}^2(\psi)|Q_c|^4) \\ &+ \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} \tilde\eta\big(4\,\mathfrak{Im}(\nabla Q_c\bar Q_c)\,\mathfrak{Im}(\nabla\psi)\,\mathfrak{Re}(\psi) + 2c|Q_c|^2\,\mathfrak{Im}(\partial_{x_2}\psi)\,\mathfrak{Re}(\psi)\big). \end{aligned} \tag{2-4}$$

We recall from [15] (or by integration by parts) that, for $\varphi \in C^\infty_c(\mathbb{R}^2,\mathbb{C})$, we have $B^{\exp}_{Q_c}(\varphi) = \langle L_{Q_c}(\varphi),\varphi\rangle$ and that $B^{\exp}_{Q_c}(\varphi)$ is well-defined for $\varphi\in H^{\exp,s}_{Q_c}$. This last point is the reason why we write the quadratic form as (2-4), which is equal, up to some integration by parts, to the more natural definition

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^2} |\nabla\varphi|^2 - (1-|Q_c|^2)|\varphi|^2 + 2\,\mathfrak{Re}^2(\overline{Q}_c\varphi) - \mathfrak{Re}(ic\,\partial_{x_2}\varphi\bar{\varphi}),$$

but this integral is not well-defined for $\varphi \in H^{\exp,s}_{Q_c}$. See [15] for more details on this point. We now quote the following coercivity result:

Theorem 2.5 [15, Theorem 1.13]. *There exist $R, K, c_0 > 0$ such that, for $0 < c \leqslant c_0$, Q_c defined in Theorem 1.6, if a function $\varphi \in H^{\exp,s}_{Q_c}$ satisfies the three orthogonality conditions*

$$\mathfrak{Re}\int_{B(\tilde{d}_c\vec{e}_1,R)\cup B(-\tilde{d}_c\vec{e}_1,R)} \partial_c Q_c\,\bar{\varphi} = \mathfrak{Re}\int_{B(\tilde{d}_c\vec{e}_1,R)\cup B(-\tilde{d}_c\vec{e}_1,R)} \partial_{x_2} Q_c\,\bar{\varphi} = 0,$$
$$\mathfrak{Re}\int_{B(\tilde{d}_c\vec{e}_1,R)\cup B(-\tilde{d}_c\vec{e}_1,R)} i\,Q_c\,\bar{\varphi} = 0,$$

then

$$\frac{1}{K}\|\varphi\|^2_{H^{\exp}_{Q_c}} \geqslant B^{\exp}_{Q_c}(\varphi) \geqslant K\|\varphi\|^2_{H^{\exp}_{Q_c}}.$$

We will use a slight variation of this result, given in the next corollary.

Corollary 2.6. *There exist $R, K, c_0 > 0$ such that, for $0 < c \leqslant c_0$, Q_c defined in Theorem 1.6, if a function $\varphi \in H^{\exp,s}_{Q_c}$ satisfies the three orthogonality conditions*

$$\mathfrak{Re}\int_{B(d_c\vec{e}_1,R)\cup B(-d_c\vec{e}_1,R)} \partial_d(V_1(\cdot - d\vec{e}_1)V_{-1}(\cdot + d\vec{e}_1))_{|d=d_c}\bar{\varphi} = \mathfrak{Re}\int_{B(d_c\vec{e}_1,R)\cup B(-d_c\vec{e}_1,R)} \partial_{x_2} Q_c\,\bar{\varphi} = 0,$$
$$\mathfrak{Re}\int_{B(d_c\vec{e}_1,R)\cup B(-d_c\vec{e}_1,R)} i\,Q_c\,\bar{\varphi} = 0,$$

then

$$\frac{1}{K}\|\varphi\|^2_{H^{\exp}_{Q_c}} \geqslant B^{\exp}_{Q_c}(\varphi) \geqslant K\|\varphi\|^2_{H^{\exp}_{Q_c}}.$$

Note, with Theorem 1.6 (for $p = +\infty$), that $-(1/c^2)\partial_d(V_1(\cdot - d\vec{e}_1)V_{-1}(\cdot + d\vec{e}_1))_{|d=d_c}$ is the first order of $\partial_c Q_c$ when $c \to 0$ in $L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^2, \mathbb{C})$, and that (with Lemma 2.1) they both have the same symmetries. We need to change the quantity $\mathfrak{Re}\int_{B(\tilde{d}_c\vec{e}_1,R)\cup B(-\tilde{d}_c\vec{e}_1,R)} \partial_c Q_c\,\bar{\varphi}$ in the orthogonality conditions because we will differentiate it with respect to c, and

$$c \mapsto \partial_d\big(V_1(\cdot - d\vec{e}_1)V_{-1}(\cdot + d\vec{e}_1)\big)_{|d=d_c} = -\partial_{x_1}V_1(\cdot - d_c\vec{e}_1)V_{-1}(\cdot + d_c\vec{e}_1) + \partial_{x_1}V_{-1}(\cdot + d_c\vec{e}_1)V_1(\cdot - d_c\vec{e}_1)$$

is a C^1 function ($c \mapsto d_c \in C^1(]0, c_0[, \mathbb{R})$ for $c_0 > 0$ a small constant (see Section 4.6 of [14]), but it is not clear that $c \mapsto \partial_c Q_c$ can be differentiated with respect to c. Precise estimates on

$$\partial_d(V_1(\cdot - d\vec{e}_1)V_{-1}(\cdot + d\vec{e}_1))_{|d=d_c}$$

can be found in Lemma 2.6 of [14]. Furthermore, we changed, in the area of the integrals, $\tilde{d}_c$ to d_c (they are close when $c \to 0$, see (2-3)).

Proof. Step 1: changing the integrand but not the integration domain. Take a function $\varphi \in H^{\exp,s}_{Q_c}$ satisfying

$$\mathfrak{Re}\int_{B(\tilde{d}_c\vec{e}_1,R)\cup B(-\tilde{d}_c\vec{e}_1,R)} \partial_d(V_1(\cdot - d\vec{e}_1)V_{-1}(\cdot + d\vec{e}_1))_{|d=d_c}\bar{\varphi} = \mathfrak{Re}\int_{B(\tilde{d}_c\vec{e}_1,R)\cup B(-\tilde{d}_c\vec{e}_1,R)} \partial_{x_2}Q_c\,\bar{\varphi} = 0,$$

$$\mathfrak{Re}\int_{B(\tilde{d}_c\vec{e}_1,R)\cup B(-\tilde{d}_c\vec{e}_1,R)} iQ_c\,\bar{\varphi} = 0.$$

Let us show that it satisfies $(1/K)\|\varphi\|^2_{H^{\exp}_{Q_c}} \geqslant B^{\exp}_{Q_c}(\varphi) \geqslant K\|\varphi\|_{H^{\exp}_{Q_c}}$. For $\mu \in \mathbb{R}$, we define

$$\varphi^* = \varphi + c^2\mu\partial_c Q_c.$$

We have that $\partial_c Q_c \in H^{\exp,s}_{Q_c}$. We want to choose $\mu \in \mathbb{R}$ such that φ^* satisfies the hypothesis of Theorem 2.5. By the symmetries of Section 2A3 and the hypotheses on φ, we have that

$$\mathfrak{Re}\int_{B(\tilde{d}_c\vec{e}_1,R)\cup B(-\tilde{d}_c\vec{e}_1,R)} iQ_c\,\overline{\varphi^*} = \mathfrak{Re}\int_{B(\tilde{d}_c\vec{e}_1,R)\cup B(-\tilde{d}_c\vec{e}_1,R)} \partial_{x_2}Q_c\,\overline{\varphi^*} = 0,$$

and we compute, using

$$\mathfrak{Re}\int_{B(\tilde{d}_c\vec{e}_1,R)\cup B(-\tilde{d}_c\vec{e}_1,R)} \partial_d\big(V_1(\cdot - d\vec{e}_1)V_{-1}(\cdot + d\vec{e}_1)\big)_{|d=d_c}\bar{\varphi} = 0,$$

that

$$\begin{aligned}
&\mathfrak{Re}\int_{B(\tilde{d}_c\vec{e}_1,R)\cup B(-\tilde{d}_c\vec{e}_1,R)} c^2\partial_c Q_c\,\overline{\varphi^*}\\
&\quad= \mathfrak{Re}\int_{B(\tilde{d}_c\vec{e}_1,R)\cup B(-\tilde{d}_c\vec{e}_1,R)} c^2\partial_c Q_c\,\bar{\varphi} + \mu\,\mathfrak{Re}\int_{B(\tilde{d}_c\vec{e}_1,R)\cup B(-\tilde{d}_c\vec{e}_1,R)} c^4|\partial_c Q_c|^2\\
&\quad= \mathfrak{Re}\int_{B(\tilde{d}_c\vec{e}_1,R)\cup B(-\tilde{d}_c\vec{e}_1,R)} \big(c^2\partial_c Q_c - \partial_d(V_1(\cdot - d\vec{e}_1)V_{-1}(\cdot + d\vec{e}_1))_{|d=d_c}\big)\bar{\varphi}\\
&\qquad\qquad + \mu\,\mathfrak{Re}\int_{B(\tilde{d}_c\vec{e}_1,R)\cup B(-\tilde{d}_c\vec{e}_1,R)} c^4|\partial_c Q_c|^2.
\end{aligned}$$

By Theorem 1.6 (for $p = +\infty$) and Lemma 2.6 of [14], we have

$$\big\|c^2\partial_c Q_c - \partial_d\big(V_1(\cdot - d\vec{e}_1)V_{-1}(\cdot + d\vec{e}_1)\big)_{|d=d_c}\big\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^2)} = o_{c\to 0}(1),$$

and also that there exists a universal constant $K > 0$ (we recall that $R > 0$ is a universal constant) such that

$$\frac{1}{K} \leqslant \mathfrak{Re}\int_{B(\tilde{d}_c\vec{e}_1,R)\cup B(-\tilde{d}_c\vec{e}_1,R)} c^4|\partial_c Q_c|^2 \leqslant K.$$

Now, taking

$$\mu = \frac{-\mathfrak{Re}\int_{B(\tilde{d}_c\vec{e}_1,R)\cup B(-\tilde{d}_c\vec{e}_1,R)}\big(c^2\partial_c Q_c - \partial_d(V_1(\cdot - d\vec{e}_1)V_{-1}(\cdot + d\vec{e}_1))_{|d=d_c}\big)\bar{\varphi}}{\mathfrak{Re}\int_{B(\tilde{d}_c\vec{e}_1,R)\cup B(-\tilde{d}_c\vec{e}_1,R)} c^4|\partial_c Q_c|^2},$$

we have

$$\mathfrak{Re}\int_{B(\tilde{d}_c\vec{e}_1,R)\cup B(-\tilde{d}_c\vec{e}_1,R)} c^2\partial_c Q_c\,\overline{\varphi^*} = 0,$$

with

$$|\mu| \leqslant o_{c\to 0}(1)\|\varphi\|_{L^2(B(\tilde{d}_c\vec{e}_1,R)\cup B(-\tilde{d}_c\vec{e}_1,R))} \leqslant o_{c\to 0}(1)\|\varphi\|_{H^{\exp}_{Q_c}}.$$

Since $\partial_c Q_c \in H^{\exp,s}_{Q_c}$ by Lemma 2.8 of [15], we deduce that φ^* satisfies all the hypotheses of Theorem 2.5; therefore

$$\frac{1}{K}\|\varphi^*\|^2_{H^{\exp}_{Q_c}} \geqslant B^{\exp}_{Q_c}(\varphi^*) \geqslant K\|\varphi^*\|^2_{H^{\exp}_{Q_c}}.$$

Now, from Lemma 6.3 of [15], we have $1/K \leqslant \|c^2\partial_c Q_c\|_{H^{\exp}_{Q_c}} \leqslant K$ for a universal constant $K > 0$. With $|\mu| \leqslant o_{c\to 0}(1)\|\varphi\|_{H^{\exp}_{Q_c}}$, we deduce that, taking $c > 0$ small enough,

$$\frac{1}{K}\|\varphi\|^2_{H^{\exp}_{Q_c}} \geqslant B^{\exp}_{Q_c}(\varphi^*) \geqslant K\|\varphi\|^2_{H^{\exp}_{Q_c}}$$

for some universal constant $K > 0$. Now, we have the decomposition (using Lemmas 6.2 and 6.3 of [15])

$$\begin{aligned} B^{\exp}_{Q_c}(\varphi^*) &= B^{\exp}_{Q_c}(\varphi + c^2\mu\partial_c Q_c) \\ &= B^{\exp}_{Q_c}(\varphi) + 2c^2\mu\langle L_{Q_c}(\partial_c Q_c), \varphi\rangle + c^4\mu^2 B^{\exp}_{Q_c}(\partial_c Q_c), \end{aligned}$$

and by Lemmas 2.8, 5.4 and 6.1 of [15],

$$|\langle L_{Q_c}(\partial_c Q_c), \varphi\rangle| = |\langle i\partial_{x_2} Q_c, \varphi\rangle| \leqslant K\ln\Big(\frac{1}{c}\Big)\|\varphi\|_{H^{\exp}_{Q_c}};$$

hence

$$|2c^2\mu\langle L_{Q_c}(\partial_c Q_c), \varphi\rangle| \leqslant Kc^2\ln\Big(\frac{1}{c}\Big)|\mu|\|\varphi\|_{H^{\exp}_{Q_c}} \leqslant o_{c\to 0}(1)\|\varphi\|^2_{H^{\exp}_{Q_c}}.$$

By Proposition 1.2 of [15], $B^{\exp}_{Q_c}(\partial_c Q_c) = (2\pi + o_{c\to 0}(1))/c^2$; thus

$$|c^4\mu^2 B^{\exp}_{Q_c}(\partial_c Q_c)| \leqslant o_{c\to 0}(1)\|\varphi\|^2_{H^{\exp}_{Q_c}},$$

which concludes the proof of $(1/K)\|\varphi\|^2_{H^{\exp}_{Q_c}} \geqslant B^{\exp}_{Q_c}(\varphi) \geqslant K\|\varphi\|^2_{H^{\exp}_{Q_c}}$ by taking $c > 0$ small enough.

Step 2: Changing the integration domain. To change the conditions

$$\mathfrak{Re}\int_{B(\tilde{d}_c\vec{e}_1,R)\cup B(-\tilde{d}_c\vec{e}_1,R)} \partial_d(V_1(\cdot - d\vec{e}_1)V_{-1}(\cdot + d\vec{e}_1))_{|d=d_c}\bar{\varphi} = \mathfrak{Re}\int_{B(\tilde{d}_c\vec{e}_1,R)\cup B(-\tilde{d}_c\vec{e}_1,R)} \partial_{x_2} Q_c\,\bar{\varphi} = 0,$$

$$\mathfrak{Re}\int_{B(\tilde{d}_c\vec{e}_1,R)\cup B(-\tilde{d}_c\vec{e}_1,R)} iQ_c\,\bar{\varphi} = 0$$

to

$$\mathfrak{Re}\int_{B(d_c\vec{e}_1,R)\cup B(-d_c\vec{e}_1,R)} \partial_d(V_1(\cdot - d\vec{e}_1)V_{-1}(\cdot + d\vec{e}_1))_{|d=d_c}\bar{\varphi} = \mathfrak{Re}\int_{B(d_c\vec{e}_1,R)\cup B(-d_c\vec{e}_1,R)} \partial_{x_2} Q_c\,\bar{\varphi} = 0,$$

$$\mathfrak{Re}\int_{B(d_c\vec{e}_1,R)\cup B(-d_c\vec{e}_1,R)} iQ_c\,\bar{\varphi} = 0,$$

we use similar arguments, using $|d_c - \tilde{d}_c| = o_{c\to 0}(1)$ by (2-3). We check for instance that

$$\left|\mathfrak{Re}\int_{B(\tilde{d}_c\vec{e}_1,R)\cup B(-\tilde{d}_c\vec{e}_1,R)} \partial_{x_2} Q_c\,\bar{\varphi} - \mathfrak{Re}\int_{B(d_c\vec{e}_1,R)\cup B(-d_c\vec{e}_1,R)} \partial_{x_2} Q_c\,\bar{\varphi}\right| \leqslant K(R)|d_c - \tilde{d}_c|\,\|\varphi\|_{H^{\exp}_{Q_c}}$$

and $|d_c - \tilde{d}_c| = o_{c\to 0}(1)$.

Notice that the integration domain remains symmetric with respect to the x_2-axis. □

2B. ***Proof of Proposition 1.8.*** In this subsection, we take $\nu \in]0, 1[$ to be a small but universal constant, which will be fixed at the end of the proof. We take

$$\lambda_* = \max\left(3R+1, \frac{1}{\nu^2}\right)$$

in the statement of Proposition 1.8 (where $R > 0$ is defined in Corollary 2.6). Then, for any $\lambda \geqslant \lambda_*$, we take

$$\varepsilon(\lambda) = \min\left(\nu, \frac{1}{10\lambda^2+100}\right)$$

in the statement of Proposition 1.8. The condition $\varepsilon(\lambda) \leqslant 1/(10\lambda^2+100)$ is required only to make sure that the two balls $B(d\vec{e}_1, 2\lambda)$ and $B(-d\vec{e}_1, 2\lambda)$ are disjoint and at a distance at least 1 from one another. This will be used only in the proof of Lemma 2.8.

We take u a function satisfying the hypotheses of Proposition 1.8 for these values of λ_*, λ and $\varepsilon(\lambda)$. In the rest of the subsection, $K, K' > 0$ denote universal constants, independent of any parameters of the problem (in particular, λ, λ_*, $\varepsilon(\lambda)$ and ν).

2B1. *Modulation on the parameters of the branch.* From Theorem 1.1 and the end of Section 4.6 of [14], we have that $Q_c = V_1(\cdot - d_c\vec{e}_1)V_{-1}(\cdot + d_c\vec{e}_1) + \Gamma_c$, with $d_c = (1+o_{c\to 0}(1))/c$, $\|\Gamma_c\|_{L^\infty} \to 0$, and

$$c \mapsto d_c \in C^1(]0, c_0[, \mathbb{R}),$$

with $\partial_c d_c \sim -1/c^2$ for $c \to 0$ (see Section 4.6 of [14]). In particular, $c \mapsto d_c$ is a smooth decreasing diffeomorphism from $]0, c_0]$ onto $[d_0, +\infty[$, and thus, given $d > 1/\nu > d_0$ (for ν small enough), there exists a unique $c' > 0$ such that $d_{c'} = d$. In addition, $c' \sim_{d\to\infty} 1/d \leqslant K\nu$. Furthermore,

$$\begin{aligned} u(x) - Q_{c'}(x) &= V_1(x-d\vec{e}_1)V_{-1}(x+d\vec{e}_1) + \Gamma(x) - V_1(x-d_{c'}\vec{e}_1)V_{-1}(x+d_{c'}\vec{e}_1) - \Gamma_{c'}(x) \\ &= \Gamma(x) - \Gamma_{c'}(x). \end{aligned}$$

From the hypotheses on Γ, and the fact that $\|\Gamma_{c'}\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^2)} \leqslant 2\nu$ (since $c' \leqslant 2/d \leqslant 2\nu$), we deduce that (we write $\tilde{r} = \tilde{r}_d = \tilde{r}_{d_{c'}}$ to simplify the notation)

$$\|u - Q_{c'}\|_{L^\infty(\{\tilde{r}\leqslant 2\lambda\})} \leqslant K\nu.$$

Since $(1+o_{c'\to 0}(1))/c' = d_{c'} = d$ by Theorem 1.6, and $|dc-1| \leqslant \nu$, we have

$$d|c-c'| \leqslant K\nu. \tag{2-5}$$

We now claim that, for a universal constant $K > 0$,

$$\|u - Q_{c'}\|_{C^1(\{\tilde{r}\leqslant\lambda\})} \leqslant K\nu. \tag{2-6}$$

That is, u is close to $Q_{c'}$ near the vortices (in the region $\{\tilde{r} \leqslant \lambda\}$) in the C^1 norm and not only in L^∞. In order to show this, we use the elliptic equation satisfied by $u - Q_{c'}$, that is,

$$\Delta(u-Q_{c'}) = -ic\partial_{x_2}(u-Q_{c'}) - (u-Q_{c'})(1-|u|^2) + (|u|^2 - |Q_{c'}|^2)Q_{c'}.$$

Let us fix $x \in \{\tilde{r} \leqslant \lambda\}$. We have $\|u - Q_{c'}\|_{L^\infty(\{\tilde{r} \leqslant 2\lambda\})} \leqslant K'\nu$ by hypothesis; thus the right-hand side of the equation is small in $H^{-1}(B(x,4))$. By a standard $H^1 - H^{-1}$ estimate, we deduce

$$\|u - Q_{c'}\|_{H^1(B(x,3))} \leqslant K'\nu.$$

Then, the right-hand side is small in L^2, and standard L^2 elliptic regularity yields first

$$\|u - Q_{c'}\|_{H^2(B(x,2))} \leqslant K'\nu$$

and then

$$\|u - Q_{c'}\|_{H^3(B(x,1))} \leqslant K'\nu,$$

and we conclude by Sobolev imbedding.

Outside of this domain, u and $Q_{c'}$ are close only in modulus. Indeed, by equation (2.6) of [15] $\big($for $\sigma = \frac{1}{2}\big)$ and the hypotheses on u, we have for a universal constant $K > 0$ that on $\{\tilde{r} \geqslant \lambda\}$,

$$\big||u| - |Q_{c'}|\big| \leqslant \big||u| - 1\big| + \big||Q_{c'}| - 1\big| \leqslant \nu + \frac{K}{\lambda^{3/2}} \leqslant K'\nu.$$

Now, we modulate on the parameters of the family of traveling waves to get the orthogonality conditions of Corollary 2.6. For $c'' > 0$ close enough to c' and $X, \gamma \in \mathbb{R}$, we define

$$Q := Q_{c''}(\cdot - X\vec{e}_2)\mathrm{e}^{i\gamma}. \tag{2-7}$$

Lemma 2.7. *There exist $K > 0$, $\nu_0 > 0$ universal constants such that, for u satisfying the hypotheses of Proposition 1.8 for values of λ_*, λ, $\varepsilon(\lambda)$, ν described above, if $\nu \leqslant \nu_0$, then there exists $c'' > 0$, $X, \gamma \in \mathbb{R}$ such that, for $R > 0$ defined in Corollary 2.6, and $\vec{d}_\pm := \pm d_{c''}\vec{e}_1 + X\vec{e}_2$,*

$$\begin{aligned}\mathfrak{Re}\int_{B(\vec{d}_+,R)\cup B(\vec{d}_-,R)} \partial_d\big(V_1(\cdot - d\vec{e}_1 - X\vec{e}_2)V_{-1}(\cdot + d\vec{e}_1 - X\vec{e}_2)\mathrm{e}^{i\gamma}\big)_{|d=d_{c''}}\overline{(u-Q)}\\ = \mathfrak{Re}\int_{B(\vec{d}_+,R)\cup B(\vec{d}_-,R)} \partial_{x_2}Q\overline{(u-Q)} = \mathfrak{Re}\int_{B(\vec{d}_+,R)\cup B(\vec{d}_-,R)} iQ\overline{(u-Q)} = 0.\end{aligned}$$

Furthermore,

$$\frac{|c'' - c'|}{c'^2} + |X| + |\gamma| \leqslant K\nu.$$

Proof. To simplify the notation, in this proof, we define

$$\partial_d V := \partial_d\big(V_1(\cdot - d\vec{e}_1 - X\vec{e}_2)V_{-1}(\cdot + d\vec{e}_1 + X\vec{e}_2)\mathrm{e}^{i\gamma}\big)_{|d=d_{c''}}.$$

We will keep the notation $\tilde{r}$ for the minimum of the distance to the zeros of Q.

First, from equation (7.5) of [15], there exists a universal constant $K > 0$ such that, for $c'' < c_0$, $c'/2 \leqslant c'' \leqslant 2c'$,

$$\|Q - Q_{c'}\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^2)} \leqslant K\bigg(|X| + \frac{|c'' - c'|}{c'^2} + |\gamma|\bigg). \tag{2-8}$$

Now, we follow closely the proof of Lemma 7.6 of [15], which is done in Appendix C.3 there. We define

$$G\begin{pmatrix} X \\ c'' \\ \gamma \end{pmatrix} := \begin{pmatrix} \mathfrak{Re}\int_{B(\vec{d}_+,R)\cup B(\vec{d}_-,R)} \partial_{x_2} Q\overline{(u-Q)} \\ \mathfrak{Re}\int_{B(\vec{d}_+,R)\cup B(\vec{d}_-,R)} \partial_d V\overline{(u-Q)} \\ \mathfrak{Re}\int_{B(\vec{d}_+,R)\cup B(\vec{d}_-,R)} iQ\overline{(u-Q)} \end{pmatrix}.$$

Note that Q, $\partial_d V$ and $\vec{d}_\pm$ all depend on X and c'', and Q depends also on γ. From (2-6) and the fact that $\lambda \geqslant \lambda_* > 2R$, we have $\|u - Q_{c'}\|_{L^\infty(\{\tilde{r}\leqslant R\})} \leqslant K\nu$, and from Theorem 1.6 with $p = +\infty$, as well as Lemma 2.6 of [14],

$$\|\partial_{x_2} Q_{c'}\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^2)} + \|\partial_d V\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^2)} + \|iQ_{c'}\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^2)} \leqslant K \tag{2-9}$$

for some universal constant $K > 0$. Therefore, since $Q = Q_{c'}$ for $X = \gamma = 0$, $c'' = c'$, we obtain

$$\left| G\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ c' \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \right| \leqslant K\|u - Q_{c'}\|_{L^\infty(\{\tilde{r}\leqslant\lambda\})} \leqslant K\nu.$$

We want to show that G is invertible in a vicinity of $(0\ c'\ 0)^\top$. With (2-6) and (2-8), we check that (we recall that $\tilde{r} = \min(|x - \vec{d}_+|, |x - \vec{d}_-|)$)

$$\begin{aligned} \|u - Q\|_{L^\infty(\{\tilde{r}\leqslant 2R\})} &\leqslant \|u - Q_{c'}\|_{L^\infty(\{\tilde{r}\leqslant 2R\})} + \|Q - Q_{c'}\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^2)} \\ &\leqslant K\nu + K\left(|X| + \frac{|c'' - c'|}{c'^2} + |\gamma|\right), \end{aligned}$$

and as in Lemma 7.1 of [15], this implies

$$\|u - Q\|_{C^1(\{\tilde{r}\leqslant R\})} \leqslant K\nu + K\left(|X| + \frac{|c'' - c'|}{c'^2} + |\gamma|\right). \tag{2-10}$$

Now, we compute

$$\begin{aligned} &\left|\partial_X\left(\mathfrak{Re}\int_{B(\vec{d}_+,R)\cup B(\vec{d}_-,R)} \partial_{x_2} Q\overline{(u-Q)}\right) - \int_{B(\vec{d}_+,R)\cup B(\vec{d}_-,R)} |\partial_{x_2} Q|^2\right| \\ &\qquad\qquad \leqslant \int_{\partial B(\vec{d}_+,R)\cup \partial B(\vec{d}_-,R)} |\partial_{x_2} Q\overline{(u-Q)}| + \int_{B(\vec{d}_+,R)\cup B(\vec{d}_-,R)} |\partial_{x_2}^2 Q\overline{(u-Q)}|. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, with (2-1) and (2-10), we check that

$$\int_{\partial B(\vec{d}_+,R)\cup \partial B(\vec{d}_-,R)} |\partial_{x_2} Q\overline{(u-Q)}| + \int_{B(\vec{d}_+,R)\cup B(\vec{d}_-,R)} |\partial_{x_2}^2 Q\overline{(u-Q)}| \leqslant K\nu + K\left(|X| + \frac{|c'' - c'|}{c'^2} + |\gamma|\right);$$

hence

$$\left|\partial_X\left(\mathfrak{Re}\int_{B(\vec{d}_+,R)\cup B(\vec{d}_-,R)} \partial_{x_2} Q\overline{(u-Q)}\right) - \int_{B(\vec{d}_+,R)\cup B(\vec{d}_-,R)} |\partial_{x_2} Q|^2\right| \leqslant K\nu + K\left(|X| + \frac{|c'' - c'|}{c'^2} + |\gamma|\right).$$

With similar computations, using Lemma 2.6 of [14], (2-1) and (2-10), we infer that

$$\left|\partial_X G-\begin{pmatrix}\int_{B(\vec{d}_+,R)\cup B(\vec{d}_-,R)}|\partial_{x_2}Q|^2\\ \mathfrak{Re}\int_{B(\vec{d}_+,R)\cup B(\vec{d}_-,R)}\partial_d V\overline{\partial_{x_2}Q}\\ \mathfrak{Re}\int_{B(\vec{d}_+,R)\cup B(\vec{d}_-,R)}iQ\overline{\partial_{x_2}Q}\end{pmatrix}\right|\leqslant K\nu+K\Big(|X|+\frac{|c''-c'|}{c'^2}+|\gamma|\Big).$$

By the symmetries of $Q(\cdot+X\vec{e}_2)\mathrm{e}^{-i\gamma}$ and $\partial_d V(\cdot+X\vec{e}_2)\mathrm{e}^{-i\gamma}$, we have that

$$\mathfrak{Re}\int_{B(\vec{d}_+,R)\cup B(\vec{d}_-,R)}\partial_d V\overline{\partial_{x_2}Q}=0,$$

and from Theorem 1.6 (with $p=+\infty$), with the symmetries of Q_c and V_1 (see Sections 2A1 and 2A3), we have

$$\left|\mathfrak{Re}\int_{B(\vec{d}_+,R)\cup B(\vec{d}_-,R)}iQ\overline{\partial_{x_2}Q}-2\,\mathfrak{Re}\int_{B(0,R)}iV_1\overline{\partial_{x_2}V_1}\right|\leqslant K\Big(|X|+\frac{|c''-c'|}{c'^2}\Big).$$

By decomposition in harmonics and Lemma 2.1, we check easily that $\mathfrak{Re}\int_{B(0,R)}iV_1\overline{\partial_{x_2}V_1}=0$; thus

$$\left|\partial_X G-\begin{pmatrix}\int_{B(\vec{d}_+,R)\cup B(\vec{d}_-,R)}|\partial_{x_2}Q|^2\\ 0\\ 0\end{pmatrix}\right|\leqslant K\nu+K\Big(|X|+\frac{|c''-c'|}{c'^2}+|\gamma|\Big).$$

Similarly, we check that (using $\partial_c(d_c)=(-1+o_{c\to 0}(1))/c^2$ from Section 4.6 and Lemma 2.6 of [14])

$$\left|c'^2\partial_{c''}G-\begin{pmatrix}0\\ \int_{B(\vec{d}_+,R)\cup B(\vec{d}_-,R)}|\partial_d V|^2\\ 0\end{pmatrix}\right|\leqslant K\nu+K\Big(|X|+\frac{|c''-c'|}{c'^2}+|\gamma|\Big)$$

(we use here the fact that $c\mapsto\partial_d V$ and $c\mapsto\vec{d}_\pm$ are differentiable) and

$$\left|\partial_\gamma G-\begin{pmatrix}0\\ 0\\ -\int_{B(\vec{d}_+,R)\cup B(\vec{d}_-,R)}|Q|^2\end{pmatrix}\right|\leqslant K\nu+K\Big(|X|+\frac{|c''-c'|}{c'^2}+|\gamma|\Big).$$

From (2-1) and Theorem 1.6 (for $p=+\infty$) as well as Lemma 2.6 of [14], there exists a universal constant $K>0$ such that

$$\frac{1}{K}\leqslant\int_{B(\vec{d}_+,R)\cup B(\vec{d}_-,R)}|\partial_{x_2}Q|^2\leqslant K,$$
$$\frac{1}{K}\leqslant\int_{B(\vec{d}_+,R)\cup B(\vec{d}_-,R)}|\partial_d V|^2\leqslant K,$$
$$\frac{1}{K}\leqslant\int_{B(\vec{d}_+,R)\cup B(\vec{d}_-,R)}|Q|^2\leqslant K,$$

provided $|X|+c''$ is small enough. We deduce that there exists K_1, K_2, $\nu_0>0$ such that, for $0<\nu\leqslant\nu_0$ and u satisfying the hypotheses of Proposition 1.8 with the parameters λ, ν, dG is invertible in the ball

$$\Big\{(X,c'',\gamma)\in\mathbb{R}^3:|X|+\frac{|c''-c'|}{c'^2}+|\gamma|\leqslant K_1\nu\Big\},$$

and there exists $X, c'', \gamma \in \mathbb{R}$ such that

$$G\begin{pmatrix} X \\ c'' \\ \gamma \end{pmatrix} = 0,$$

with

$$\frac{|c''-c'|}{c'^2} + |X| + |\gamma| \leqslant K_2 \nu. \qquad \square$$

2B2. *Construction and properties of the perturbation term.* We define η a smooth cutoff function with

$$\eta(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{for } x \in B(\vec{d}_\pm, 2R), \\ 1 & \text{for } x \in \mathbb{R}^2 \backslash B(\pm\vec{d}_\pm, 2R+1), \end{cases}$$

which is even in x_1. We infer the following result, where the space $H_Q^{\exp,s}$ is simply defined by

$$H_Q^{\exp,s} := \{\varphi \in H^1_{\mathrm{loc}}(\mathbb{R}^2, \mathbb{C}) : \|\varphi\|_{H_Q^{\exp}} < +\infty \text{ for all } (x_1, x_2) \in \mathbb{R}^2,\ \varphi(-x_1, x_2) = \varphi(x_1, x_2)\},$$

with, for $\tilde{r}$ the minimum of the distances to the zeros of Q, $\varphi = Q\psi$,

$$\|\varphi\|^2_{H_Q^{\exp}} := \|\varphi\|^2_{H^1(\{\tilde{r}\leqslant 10\})} + \int_{\{\tilde{r}\geqslant 5\}} |\nabla\psi|^2 + \mathfrak{Re}^2(\psi) + \frac{|\psi|^2}{\tilde{r}^2 \ln^2 \tilde{r}},$$

and $B_Q^{\exp}$ has the same definition as $B_{Q_c}^{\exp}$, replacing $\tilde{\eta}$ by η and Q_c by Q.

Lemma 2.8. *There exist $K_1, K_2 > 0$, $\nu_0 > \nu_1 > 0$ universal constants such that, for u satisfying the hypotheses of Proposition 1.8 for values of $\lambda_*, \lambda, \varepsilon(\lambda), \nu$ described above, if $\nu \leqslant \nu_1$, then there exists a function $\varphi = Q\psi \in H_Q^{\exp,s} \cap C^1(\mathbb{R}^2, \mathbb{C})$ such that, for Q defined in (2-7) with the values of $c'', X, \gamma \in \mathbb{R}$ from Lemma 2.7,*

$$u - Q = (1-\eta)\varphi + \eta Q(\mathrm{e}^{\psi} - 1).$$

Furthermore,

$$B_Q^{\exp}(\varphi) \geqslant K_1 \|\varphi\|^2_{H_Q^{\exp}}$$

and

$$\|\varphi\|_{C^1(\{\tilde{r}\leqslant\lambda\})} + \|\mathfrak{Re}(\psi)\|_{L^\infty(\{\tilde{r}\geqslant\lambda\})} \leqslant K_2\nu.$$

The goal of this lemma is to decompose the error $u - Q$ into a particular form. In the area $\{\eta = 1\}$, that is, far from the zeros of Q, the error is written in an exponential form: $u = Q\mathrm{e}^{\psi}$. This form was already used in [14; 15], and it is useful to have a particular form on the cubic error terms. Furthermore, we fix the parameters of Q such that φ satisfies the orthogonality conditions of Corollary 2.6, yielding the coercivity.

Note that we have no smallness on $\mathfrak{Im}(\psi)$ in $\{\tilde{r} \geqslant \lambda\}$, where $\varphi = Q\psi$. We will simply be able to show that it is bounded (see (2-11) below), with no a priori bound on it. This lack of smallness is one of the main difficulties in the proof of Proposition 1.8. Analogously, we show that $\varphi \in H_Q^{\exp,s}$, but we have no good control on $\|\varphi\|_{H_Q^{\exp}}$: this quantity might be a priori very large at this point.

Proof. This proof follows some ideas of the proofs of Lemmas 7.2 and 7.3 of [15]. First, in the area $\{\tilde{r} \leqslant \lambda\}$, the proof is identical to that of Lemma 7.2 of [15] for the existence of $\varphi = Q\psi \in C^1(\{\tilde{r} \leqslant \lambda\}, \mathbb{C})$ such that $u - Q = (1-\eta)\varphi + \eta Q(\mathrm{e}^{\psi} - 1)$ in $\{\tilde{r} \leqslant \lambda\}$, with $\|\varphi\|_{C^1(\{\tilde{r}\leqslant\lambda\})} \leqslant K\nu$ (this is a consequence of the estimate $\|u-Q\|_{C^1(\{\tilde{r}\leqslant\lambda\})}\leqslant K\nu$, obtained using Lemma 2.7). The main idea is that $u-Q$ is small there (in $C^1(\{\tilde{r}\leqslant\lambda\},\mathbb{C})$), and the equation on φ is a perturbation of the identity for functions φ that are small in $C^1(\{\tilde{r}\leqslant\lambda\},\mathbb{C})$. In particular, since u and Q are symmetric with respect to the x_2-axis, φ and ψ are also symmetric with respect to the x_2-axis.

We then focus our attention in the area $\{\tilde{r}\geqslant\lambda\}$, where $\eta\equiv 1$, so that the problem reduces to the equation

$$u=Q\mathrm{e}^{\psi}.$$

By Theorem 1.6 and the hypotheses of Proposition 1.8, there exists $\nu_1>0$ such that, if $\nu\leqslant\nu_1$, then, as a consequence of

$$\varepsilon(\lambda)\leqslant\min\left(\nu_1,\frac{1}{10\lambda^2+100}\right),$$

the domain $\{\tilde{r}\geqslant\lambda\}$ consists of the complement of the two disjointed disks $B(\vec{d}_\pm,\lambda)$, with

$$|Q|\geqslant\tfrac{1}{2},\qquad |u|\geqslant\tfrac{1}{2}\quad\text{in }\{\tilde{r}\geqslant\lambda\}$$

and

$$\deg(Q,\partial B(\vec{d}_\pm,\lambda))=\deg(u,\partial B(\vec{d}_\pm,\lambda))=\pm1,$$

so that u/Q is smooth in $\{\tilde{r}\geqslant\lambda\}=\mathbb{R}^2\setminus(B(\vec{d}_+,\lambda)\cup B(\vec{d}_-,\lambda))$, does not vanish and has degree zero on the two circles $\partial B(\vec{d}_\pm,\lambda)$. It then follows from standard lifting theorems (even though $\{\tilde{r}\geqslant\lambda\}$ is not simply connected) that there exists $\psi^\dagger\in C^1(\{\tilde{r}\geqslant\lambda\})$ such that $\mathrm{e}^{\psi^\dagger}=u/Q$, as wished. We then notice that u and Q are symmetric with respect to the x_2-axis; thus $x\mapsto\psi^\dagger(-x_1,x_2)$ is also a lifting of u/Q in the connected set $\{\tilde{r}\geqslant\lambda\}$, which implies that there exists $q\in\mathbb{Z}$ such that $\psi^\dagger(-x_1,x_2)=\psi^\dagger(x_1,x_2)+2iq\pi$ in $\{\tilde{r}\geqslant\lambda\}$. Letting $x_1=0$, we obtain $q=0$; $\psi^\dagger$ is also symmetric with respect to the x_2-axis.

Recalling that $\psi:=\varphi/Q$ in the set $\{\lambda\leqslant\tilde{r}\leqslant 2\lambda\}$ (where Q does not vanish), we see that, since $\eta\equiv1$ there, the equation $u-Q=(1-\eta)\varphi+\eta Q(\mathrm{e}^{\psi}-1)$ becomes $u=Q\mathrm{e}^{\psi}$. We then infer that there exists $m\in\mathbb{Z}$ such that $\psi=\psi^\dagger+2im\pi$ in the connected annulus $B(\vec{d}_+,2\lambda)\setminus B(\vec{d}_+,\lambda)$. By symmetry in x_1, this is also true in the annulus $B(\vec{d}_-,2\lambda)\setminus B(\vec{d}_-,\lambda)$. It then suffices to extend ψ by the formula $\psi=\psi^\dagger+2im\pi$ in $\{\tilde{r}\geqslant\lambda\}$ to obtain the formula $u-Q=(1-\eta)\varphi+\eta Q(\mathrm{e}^{\psi}-1)$. In the region $\{\tilde{r}\geqslant\lambda\}$, the relation $u=Q\mathrm{e}^{\psi}$ yields

$$\mathrm{e}^{\mathfrak{Re}(\psi)}=\left|\frac{u}{Q}\right|;$$

thus, taking the decomposition

$$\left|\frac{u}{Q}\right|=1+|u|-1+\frac{(|u|-1)-(|Q|-1)}{|Q|},$$

since there exists a universal constant $K'>0$ such that in this region

$$\left||u|-1+\frac{(|u|-1)-(|Q|-1)}{|Q|}\right|\leqslant K'\nu,$$

we deduce that, for $\nu\leqslant\nu_1$with ν_1 small enough,

$$\|\mathfrak{Re}(\psi)\|_{L^\infty(\{\tilde{r}\geqslant\lambda\})}\leqslant K\nu.$$

Since u is a traveling wave and $E(u) < +\infty$, u converges to a constant at infinity (uniformly in all directions) by [24]. Therefore, u/Q converges to a constant at infinity, and the function ψ converges to a constant, and thus it is bounded near infinity, that is,

$$\|\psi\|_{L^\infty(\{\tilde{r}\geqslant\lambda\})} < +\infty. \tag{2-11}$$

Now, we want to show that $\varphi \in H_Q^{\exp,s}$. We already know that φ satisfies the symmetry,

$$\text{for all } (x_1, x_2) \in \mathbb{R}^2, \quad \varphi(-x_1, x_2) = \varphi(x_1, x_2).$$

Furthermore, to check that $\|\varphi\|_{H_Q^{\exp}} < +\infty$, since $\varphi \in C^1(\mathbb{R}^2, \mathbb{C})$, we only have to check the integrability in $\{\tilde{r} \geqslant \lambda\}$, where $\mathrm{e}^\psi = u/Q$. We check that there, with (2-11),

$$\int_{\{\tilde{r}\geqslant\lambda\}} \frac{|\psi|^2}{\tilde{r}^2 \ln^2(\tilde{r})} < +\infty.$$

Now, using Theorem 11 of [24] (we recall that $E(u) < +\infty,\ E(Q) < +\infty$),

$$|\mathrm{e}^{\mathfrak{Re}(\psi)} - 1| = \frac{\big||u| - |Q|\big|}{|Q|} \leqslant 2\big(\big||u|-1\big| + \big||Q|-1\big|\big) \leqslant \frac{K(u,c,Q,c'')}{(1+r)^2},$$

where $K(u, c, Q, c'') > 0$ is a constant depending on u, c, c'' and Q; hence

$$|\mathfrak{Re}(\psi)| \leqslant \frac{K(u,c,Q,c'')}{(1+r)^2}$$

and

$$\int_{\{\tilde{r}\geqslant\lambda\}} \mathfrak{Re}^2(\psi) \leqslant \int_{\{\tilde{r}\geqslant\lambda\}} \frac{K(u,c,Q,c'')}{(1+r)^4} < +\infty.$$

We finally compute

$$\nabla\psi = \frac{\nabla u}{u} - \frac{\nabla Q}{Q},$$

and with Theorem 11 of [24], in $\{\tilde{r} \geqslant \lambda\}$, we deduce that

$$(1+r)^2|\nabla\psi| \leqslant (1+r)^2\left|\frac{\nabla u}{u}\right| + (1+r)^2\left|\frac{\nabla Q}{Q}\right| \leqslant K(u,c,Q,c'');$$

therefore

$$\int_{\{\tilde{r}\geqslant\lambda\}} |\nabla\psi|^2 < +\infty.$$

This concludes the proof that $\varphi = Q\psi \in H_Q^{\exp,s}$. The fact that $B_Q^{\exp}(\varphi) \geqslant K\|\varphi\|^2_{H_Q^{\exp}}$ is a consequence of Corollary 2.6 and Lemma 2.7, using in particular that

$$B_Q^{\exp}(\varphi) = B_{Q_{c''}}^{\exp}(\varphi(\cdot + X\vec{e}_2)\mathrm{e}^{-i\gamma}) \quad \text{and} \quad \|\varphi\|_{H_Q^{\exp}} = \|\varphi(\cdot + X\vec{e}_2)\mathrm{e}^{-i\gamma}\|_{H_{Q_{c''}}^{\exp}}. \qquad \square$$

We now compute the equation satisfied by φ. By Lemma 2.8, in $\{0 < \eta < 1\} = \{2R < \tilde{r} < 2R+1\}$, we have $|\mathfrak{Re}(\psi)| = |\mathfrak{Re}(\varphi/Q)| \leqslant K\nu$ uniformly; thus $|\mathrm{e}^{\mathfrak{Re}(\psi)} - 1| \leqslant K\nu$ uniformly in this region and then $|(1-\eta) + \eta\mathrm{e}^\psi| \geqslant \frac{1}{2}$ for $\nu \leqslant \nu_1$, possibly diminishing ν_1 of Lemma 2.8.

Lemma 2.9. *For u satisfying the hypotheses of Proposition 1.8 for values of λ_*, λ, $\varepsilon(\lambda)$, ν described above, if $\nu \leqslant \nu_1$ (where ν_1 is defined in Lemma 2.8), then the function $\varphi = Q\psi$ defined in Lemma 2.8 satisfies the equation*

$$L_Q(\varphi) - i(c - c'')\vec{e}_2.H(\psi) + \mathrm{NL}_{\mathrm{loc}}(\psi) + F(\psi) = 0,$$

with L_Q the linearized operator around Q: $L_Q(\varphi) = -\Delta\varphi - ic''\partial_{x_2}\varphi - (1 - |Q|^2)\varphi + 2\,\mathfrak{Re}(\bar{Q}\varphi)Q$,

$$S(\psi) := \mathrm{e}^{2\,\mathfrak{Re}(\psi)} - 1 - 2\,\mathfrak{Re}(\psi),$$
$$F(\psi) := Q\eta(-\nabla\psi.\nabla\psi + |Q|^2 S(\psi)),$$
$$H(\psi) := \nabla Q + \frac{\nabla(Q\psi)(1-\eta) + Q\nabla\psi\eta\mathrm{e}^{\psi}}{(1-\eta) + \eta\mathrm{e}^{\psi}}$$

and $\mathrm{NL}_{\mathrm{loc}}(\psi)$ is a sum of terms at least quadratic in ψ, localized in the area where $\eta \neq 1$. Furthermore,

$$|\langle \mathrm{NL}_{\mathrm{loc}}(\psi), Q\psi\rangle| \leqslant K\|\mathrm{NL}_{\mathrm{loc}}(\psi)\|_{L^2(\{\eta<1\})}\|\varphi\|_{L^\infty(\{\eta<1\})} \leqslant K\nu\|\varphi\|^2_{H^1(\{\eta\neq 1\})}.$$

Notice that $F(\psi)$ (the notation $X.Y$ for complex vector fields stands for $X_1Y_1 + X_2Y_2$) contains all the nonlinear terms far from the zeros of Q, and its structure relies on the fact that the error is written in an exponential form far from the vortices. Close to the zeros of Q, this particular form does not hold, but it will not be necessary, since there the error φ is small in the C^1 norm, whereas, at infinity, it is small only in a weaker norm.

Proof. The proof is identical to the proof of Lemma 7.5 of [15], and it is in the particular case where all the speeds are along $\vec{e}_2$. The proof consists simply of decomposing the equation

$$0 = (\mathrm{TW}_c)(u) = \mathrm{TW}_c(Q + (1-\eta)\varphi + \eta Q(\mathrm{e}^{\psi} - 1))$$

into the different terms.

The last estimate uses Lemmas 2.8 and 2.7. □

This result shows in particular that $\psi \in C^2(\{\eta \neq 0\}, \mathbb{C})$, and we can check with it, as in Lemma 7.3 of [15], that $\|\Delta\psi(1+r)^2\|_{L^\infty(\{\tilde{r}\geqslant\lambda\})} \leqslant K(u, Q, c, c'')$.

We now infer a critical estimate on the differences of the speeds of the problem, namely c (the speed of u) and c'' (the speed of Q). The method for the estimate has been used in [15] (we take the scalar product of the equation of Lemma 2.9 with $\partial_c Q$), but since we have worse estimates on the error term, we need to be more careful ($\|\varphi\|_{H_Q^{\exp}}$ is not a priori small at this point).

Lemma 2.10. *There exist universal constants $K > 0$, $\nu_1 \geqslant \nu_2 > 0$ (where ν_1 is defined in Lemma 2.8), such that, for u satisfying the hypotheses of Proposition 1.8 for values of λ_*, λ, $\varepsilon(\lambda)$, ν described above, if $\nu \leqslant \nu_2$, then, with $\varphi = Q\psi$ defined in Lemma 2.8, we have*

$$|c'' - c| \leqslant K\sqrt{c''}\|\varphi\|_{H_Q^{\exp}}.$$

Proof. First, from (2-5) and Lemma 2.7, taking $\nu > 0$ small enough, we have

$$|c'' - c| \leqslant |c'' - c'| + |c' - c| \leqslant Kc''. \tag{2-12}$$

We will show the estimate

$$|c'' - c| \leqslant K\Big(c''^2 \ln\Big(\frac{1}{c''}\Big)\|\varphi\|_{H_Q^{\exp}} + \|\varphi\|^2_{H_Q^{\exp}}\Big) + K|c'' - c|\|\varphi\|_{H_Q^{\exp}}. \tag{2-13}$$

This is related to equation (7.13) of [15] (its proof is in Step 1 in Section 7.3.1 of [15]). With both estimates, we can conclude the proof of this lemma. Indeed, either $\|\varphi\|_{H_Q^{\exp}} \geqslant \sqrt{c''}$, and in that case

$$|c'' - c| \leqslant Kc'' \leqslant K\sqrt{c''}\|\varphi\|_{H_Q^{\exp}},$$

or $\|\varphi\|_{H_Q^{\exp}} \leqslant \sqrt{c''}$, and then with (2-13),

$$\begin{aligned}|c'' - c| &\leqslant K\Big(c''^2 \ln\Big(\frac{1}{c''}\Big)\|\varphi\|_{H_Q^{\exp}} + \|\varphi\|^2_{H_Q^{\exp}}\Big) + K|c'' - c|\|\varphi\|_{H_Q^{\exp}} \\ &\leqslant K\sqrt{c''}\|\varphi\|_{H_Q^{\exp}} + C_2\sqrt{c''}|c'' - c|.\end{aligned}$$

Therefore, for $c'' > 0$ small enough such that $C_2\sqrt{c''} < \frac{1}{2}$ (which is implied by taking $\nu > 0$ small enough, independently of λ), we have $|c'' - c| \leqslant K\sqrt{c''}\|\varphi\|_{H_Q^{\exp}}$.

We now focus on the proof of (2-13). We take the scalar product of the equation

$$L_Q(\varphi) - i(c - c'')\vec{e}_2.H(\psi) + \mathrm{NL}_{\mathrm{loc}}(\psi) + F(\psi) = 0,$$

with $c''^2\partial_{c''}Q$. We estimate, as in Section 7.3.1 of [15], that

$$|\langle L_Q(\varphi), c''^2\partial_{c''}Q\rangle| = c''^2|\langle\varphi, L_Q(\partial_{c''}Q)\rangle| = c''^2|\langle\varphi, i\partial_{x_2}Q\rangle| \leqslant Kc''^2 \ln\Big(\frac{1}{c''}\Big)\|\varphi\|_{H_Q^{\exp}}.$$

We recall that

$$i\vec{e}_2.H(\psi) = i\partial_{x_2}Q + i\,\frac{\partial_{x_2}(Q\psi)(1-\eta) + Q\partial_{x_2}\psi\eta e^{\psi}}{(1-\eta) + \eta e^{\psi}},$$

and we check that (estimating the local terms in the area where $\eta \neq 1$ by Cauchy–Schwarz and $\|c''^2\partial_{c''}Q\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^2)} \leqslant K$ from Theorem 1.6 for $p = +\infty$ and Lemma 2.6 of [14])

$$\begin{aligned}&|(c - c'')\langle i\vec{e}_2.H(\psi), c''^2\partial_{c''}Q\rangle - (c - c'')\langle i\partial_{x_2}Q, c''^2\partial_{c''}Q\rangle| \\ &\qquad\leqslant K(|c - c''|\|\varphi\|_{H^1(\{\eta\neq 1\})} + |(c - c'')\langle\eta Qi\partial_{x_2}\psi, c''^2\partial_{c''}Q\rangle|) \\ &\qquad\leqslant K(|c - c''|\|\varphi\|_{H_Q^{\exp}} + |(c - c'')\langle\eta Qi\partial_{x_2}\psi, c''^2\partial_{c''}Q\rangle|).\end{aligned}$$

We recall from Section 7.3.1 of [15] (using decay estimates on $c''^2\partial_{c''}Q\bar{Q}$ and integrations by parts), that

$$|(c - c'')\langle\eta Qi\partial_{x_2}\psi, c''^2\partial_{c''}Q\rangle| \leqslant K|c - c''|\|\varphi\|_{H_Q^{\exp}}$$

and, from Proposition 1.2 of [15] (we check easily that the translation and phase on Q instead of $Q_{c''}$ do not change the computation),

$$(c - c'')\langle i\partial_{x_2}Q, c''^2\partial_{c''}Q\rangle = (2\pi + o_{c''\to 0}(1))(c - c'') = (2\pi + o_{\nu\to 0}(1))(c - c'').$$

We deduce that, taking $\nu > 0$ small enough (independently of λ), that

$$|c - c''| \leqslant Kc''^2 \ln\Big(\frac{1}{c''}\Big)\|\varphi\|_{H_Q^{\exp}} + K|c - c''|\|\varphi\|_{H_Q^{\exp}} + K|\langle\mathrm{NL}_{\mathrm{loc}}(\psi) + F(\psi), c''^2\partial_{c''}Q\rangle|.$$

We take $\nu_2 > 0$ with $\nu_2 \leqslant \nu_1$ such that all the above conditions on the smallness of ν are satisfied if $\nu \leqslant \nu_2$. Since $\mathrm{NL}_{\mathrm{loc}}(\psi)$ contains terms at least quadratic in φ, $\|\varphi\|_{C^1(\{\eta\neq 1\})} \leqslant C_3\nu$ from Lemma 2.8 and $\|c''^2\partial_{c''}Q\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^2)} \leqslant K$, we obtain that for $\nu \leqslant \nu_2$, diminishing ν_2 if necessary so that $\|\varphi\|_{C^1(\{\eta\neq 1\})} \leqslant K\nu \leqslant 1$,

$$|\langle \mathrm{NL}_{\mathrm{loc}}(\psi), c''^2\partial_{c''}Q\rangle| \leqslant K\|\varphi\|^2_{H^1(\{\eta\neq 1\})} \leqslant K\|\varphi\|^2_{H_Q^{\exp}}.$$

Finally, we estimate, using $\|c''^2\partial_{c''}Q\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^2)} \leqslant K$,

$$|\langle Q\eta\nabla\psi.\nabla\psi, c''^2\partial_{c''}Q\rangle| \leqslant K\int_{\mathbb{R}^2}\eta|\nabla\psi|^2\|c''^2\partial_{c''}Q\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^2)} \leqslant K\|\varphi\|^2_{H_Q^{\exp}}.$$

Similarly, since $\|\eta\,\mathfrak{Re}(\psi)\|_{L^\infty(\{\tilde r\geqslant\lambda\})} \leqslant K\nu$ by Lemma 2.8, diminishing ν_2 if necessary, for $\nu \leqslant \nu_2$, we have $\|\eta\,\mathfrak{Re}(\psi)\|_{L^\infty(\{\tilde r\geqslant\lambda\})} \leqslant 1$, and hence

$$|Q\eta|Q|^2S(\psi)| = |Q\eta|Q|^2(\mathrm{e}^{2\,\mathfrak{Re}(\psi)} - 1 - 2\,\mathfrak{Re}(\psi))| \leqslant K\eta\,\mathfrak{Re}^2(\psi).$$

Therefore

$$|\langle Q\eta|Q|^2S(\psi), c''^2\partial_{c''}Q\rangle| \leqslant K\int_{\mathbb{R}^2}\eta\,\mathfrak{Re}^2(\psi)\|c''^2\partial_{c''}Q\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^2)} \leqslant K\|\varphi\|^2_{H_Q^{\exp}}.$$

This concludes the proof of (2-13), and therefore of the lemma. □

2B3. *Proof of Proposition 1.8 completed.* We take u satisfying the hypotheses of Proposition 1.8 for values of $\lambda_*, \lambda, \varepsilon(\lambda), \nu$ described above, with $\nu \leqslant \nu_2$, where ν_2 is defined in Lemma 2.10. We want to take the scalar product of the equation of Lemma 2.9 with φ. It is however not clear at this point that every term is integrable. In Section 7.3 of [15], we took the scalar product of the equation with $\varphi + i\gamma Q$ for some $\gamma\in\mathbb{R}$, using a decay estimate $\|\,\mathfrak{Im}(\psi+i\gamma)(1+r)\|_{L^\infty(\{\tilde r\leqslant\lambda\})} \leqslant K(u, Q, c, c'')$ to justify that some terms are well-defined, and to do some integration by parts. Here, we need to change our approach a little. We first require better decay estimates on ψ. At this stage, we know (see Theorem 11 of [24] and the proof of Lemma 2.8) that

$$\begin{aligned}\|\Delta\psi(1+r)^2\|_{L^\infty(\{\tilde r\geqslant\lambda\})} + \|(1+r)^2\nabla\psi\|_{L^\infty(\{\tilde r\geqslant\lambda\})}&\\ + \|\psi\|_{L^\infty(\{\tilde r\geqslant\lambda\})} + \|(1+r)^2\,\mathfrak{Re}(\psi)\|_{L^\infty(\{\tilde r\geqslant\lambda\})} &\leqslant K(u, Q, c, c'').\end{aligned}$$

Now, let us show the following improvements:

$$\|\,\mathfrak{Im}(\Delta\psi)(1+r)^3\|_{L^\infty(\{\tilde r\geqslant\lambda\})} + \|(1+r)^3\,\mathfrak{Re}(\nabla\psi)\|_{L^\infty(\{\tilde r\geqslant\lambda\})} \leqslant K(u, Q, c, c''). \tag{2-14}$$

The proof of $\|(1+r)^3|\,\mathfrak{Re}(\nabla\psi)|\|_{L^\infty(\{\tilde r\geqslant\lambda\})} \leqslant K(u, Q, c, c'')$ is identical to the one for the same result in Lemma 7.3 of [15] (see the penultimate estimate of its proof). We focus on the estimate on $\mathfrak{Im}(\Delta\psi)$. In $\{\tilde r\geqslant\lambda\}$, we have $u = Q\mathrm{e}^{\psi}$; therefore,

$$\Delta\psi = -\frac{\Delta Q}{Q} + \frac{\Delta u}{u} - 2\frac{\nabla Q}{Q}.\nabla\psi - \nabla\psi.\nabla\psi.$$

With the previous estimates and Theorem 11 of [24], we have

$$\left\|\left(-2\frac{\nabla Q}{Q}.\nabla\psi - \nabla\psi.\nabla\psi\right)(1+r)^4\right\|_{L^\infty(\{\tilde r\geqslant\lambda\})} \leqslant K(u, Q, c, c''),$$

and since $(\mathrm{TW}_{c''})(Q)=0$,

$$\frac{\Delta Q}{Q}=ic''\frac{\partial_{x_2}Q}{Q}-(1-|Q|^2);$$

therefore, with [24] $(E(Q)<+\infty)$,

$$\left|\mathfrak{Im}\left(\frac{\Delta Q}{Q}\right)\right|\leqslant c''\left|\mathfrak{Re}\left(\frac{\partial_{x_2}Q}{Q}\right)\right|\leqslant\frac{K(Q,c'')}{(1+r)^3}.$$

Similarly, since $(\mathrm{TW}_c)(u)=0$ and $E(u)<+\infty$,

$$\left|\mathfrak{Im}\left(\frac{\Delta u}{u}\right)\right|\leqslant c\left|\mathfrak{Re}\left(\frac{\partial_{x_2}u}{u}\right)\right|\leqslant\frac{K(u,c)}{(1+r)^3};$$

thus

$$\|\,\mathfrak{Im}(\Delta\psi)(1+r)^3\|_{L^\infty(\{\tilde r\geqslant\lambda\})}\leqslant K(u,Q,c,c'').$$

We infer, with these two additional estimates on ψ, that we can do the same computations as in the proof of [15, Lemma 7.4], with $\gamma=0$. The only difference is that where we used $\|\,\mathfrak{Im}(\psi+i\gamma)(1+r)\|_{L^\infty(\{\tilde r\geqslant\lambda\})}\leqslant K(u,Q)$ we can use (2-14) instead to get the same decay for these terms, with $\|\,\mathfrak{Im}(\psi)\|_{L^\infty(\{\tilde r\leqslant\lambda\})}\leqslant K(u,Q)$. The only two terms where this change is needed are

$$\begin{aligned}\left|\int_{\mathbb{R}}\eta|Q|^2\,\mathfrak{Re}(\Delta\psi\bar\psi)\right|&\leqslant\left|\int_{\mathbb{R}}\eta|Q|^2\,\mathfrak{Re}(\Delta\psi)\,\mathfrak{Re}(\psi)\right|+\left|\int_{\mathbb{R}}\eta|Q|^2\,\mathfrak{Im}(\Delta\psi)\,\mathfrak{Im}(\psi)\right|\\&\leqslant K(\|\,\mathfrak{Re}(\Delta\psi)(1+r)^2\|_{L^\infty(\{\tilde r\geqslant\lambda\})}\|\,\mathfrak{Re}(\psi)(1+r)^2\|_{L^\infty(\{\tilde r\geqslant\lambda\})})\\&\qquad+K(\|\,\mathfrak{Im}(\Delta\psi)(1+r)^3\|_{L^\infty(\{\tilde r\geqslant\lambda\})}\|\,\mathfrak{Im}(\psi)\|_{L^\infty(\{\tilde r\geqslant\lambda\})})\end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}\left|\int_{\mathbb{R}}\eta|Q|^2\,\mathfrak{Re}(i\partial_{x_2}\psi\bar\psi)\right|&\leqslant\left|\int_{\mathbb{R}}\eta|Q|^2\,\mathfrak{Re}(\partial_{x_2}\psi)\,\mathfrak{Im}(\psi)\right|+\left|\int_{\mathbb{R}}\eta|Q|^2\,\mathfrak{Im}(\partial_{x_2}\psi)\,\mathfrak{Re}(\psi)\right|\\&\leqslant K(\|\,\mathfrak{Re}(\partial_{x_2}\psi)(1+r)^3\|_{L^\infty(\{\tilde r\geqslant\lambda\})}\|\,\mathfrak{Im}(\psi)\|_{L^\infty(\{\tilde r\geqslant\lambda\})})\\&\qquad+K(\|\,\mathfrak{Im}(\partial_{x_2}\psi)(1+r)^2\|_{L^\infty(\{\tilde r\geqslant\lambda\})}\|\,\mathfrak{Re}(\psi)(1+r)^2\|_{L^\infty(\{\tilde r\geqslant\lambda\})}).\end{aligned}$$

We deduce, taking the scalar product of the equation of Lemma 2.9 with φ, that

$$B_Q^{\exp}(\varphi)-\langle i(c-c'')\vec e_2.H(\psi),\varphi\rangle+\langle\mathrm{NL}_{\mathrm{loc}}(\psi),\varphi\rangle+\langle F(\psi),\varphi\rangle=0.\tag{2-15}$$

From Lemma 2.8,

$$B_Q^{\exp}(\varphi)\geqslant K\|\varphi\|^2_{H^{\exp}_{Q_c}},\tag{2-16}$$

and from Lemma 2.9,

$$|\langle\mathrm{NL}_{\mathrm{loc}}(\psi),\varphi\rangle|\leqslant K\nu\|\varphi\|^2_{H^1(\{\eta\neq1\})}\leqslant K\nu\|\varphi\|^2_{H^{\exp}_{Q_c}}.\tag{2-17}$$

Let us now show that

$$|\langle i(c-c'')\vec e_2.H(\psi),\varphi\rangle|\leqslant K\nu\|\varphi\|^2_{H^{\exp}_{Q_c}}.\tag{2-18}$$

We recall that

$$i\vec e_2.H(\psi)=i\partial_{x_2}Q+i\frac{\partial_{x_2}(Q\psi)(1-\eta)+Q\partial_{x_2}\psi\eta e^{\psi}}{(1-\eta)+\eta e^{\psi}}.$$

We compute, with Lemma 2.10 and Lemma 5.4 of [15],

$$|(c-c'')\langle i\partial_{x_2}Q,\varphi\rangle| \leqslant K\sqrt{c''}\|\varphi\|_{H_Q^{\exp}}|\langle i\partial_{x_2}Q,\varphi\rangle| \leqslant K\sqrt{c''}\ln\Big(\frac{1}{c''}\Big)\|\varphi\|^2_{H_Q^{\exp}} \leqslant K\nu\|\varphi\|^2_{H_Q^{\exp}}.$$

Indeed, although $Q = Q_{c''}(\cdot - X\vec{e}_2)e^{i\gamma}$ has a phase that is not present in Lemma 5.4 of [15], since $\varphi = Q\psi$, we have $\partial_{x_2}Q\bar{\varphi} = \partial_{x_2}Q\bar{Q}\bar{\psi}$, which no longer depends on γ.

Now, with $\|\varphi\|_{H^1(\{\eta\neq 1\})} \leqslant K\nu$ from Lemmas 2.7 and 2.8, we compute easily that

$$\left|\left\langle i\frac{\partial_{x_2}(Q\psi)(1-\eta)+Q\partial_{x_2}\psi\eta e^{\psi}}{(1-\eta)+\eta e^{\psi}},\varphi\right\rangle - \langle iQ\partial_{x_2}\psi\eta,\varphi\rangle\right| \leqslant K\nu\|\varphi\|_{H_Q^{\exp}}$$

since the left-hand side is supported in $\{\eta\neq 1\}$; therefore

$$|\langle i(c-c'')\vec{e}_2.H(\psi),\varphi\rangle| \leqslant K\nu\|\varphi\|^2_{H_{Q_c}^{\exp}} + |(c-c'')\langle iQ\partial_{x_2}\psi\eta,\varphi\rangle|.$$

With the same computations as in Section 7.3.2 of [15] (taking $\gamma'=0$), we check that

$$|\langle iQ\partial_{x_2}\psi\eta,\varphi\rangle| \leqslant K\|\varphi\|^2_{H_Q^{\exp}};$$

therefore, using Lemma 2.7 and (2-12), for $\nu>0$ small enough,

$$|(c-c'')\langle iQ\partial_{x_2}\psi\eta,\varphi\rangle| \leqslant K|c-c''|\|\varphi\|^2_{H_Q^{\exp}} \leqslant K\nu\|\varphi\|^2_{H_Q^{\exp}}.$$

This completes the proof of (2-18). We focus now on the proof of

$$|\langle F(\psi),\varphi\rangle| \leqslant K\nu\|\varphi\|^2_{H_Q^{\exp}}. \tag{2-19}$$

We compute

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^2}\mathfrak{Re}(Q\eta(|Q|^2S(\psi))\bar{\varphi}) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^2}|Q|^4\eta(e^{2\mathfrak{Re}(\psi)}-1-2\mathfrak{Re}(\psi))\mathfrak{Re}(\psi),$$

and since, as already seen at the end of the proof of Lemma 2.10, we have $\|\mathfrak{Re}(\psi)\|_{L^\infty(\{\tilde{r}\geqslant\lambda\})} \leqslant 1$ if $\nu\leqslant\nu_2$, we deduce

$$|e^{2\mathfrak{Re}(\psi)}-1-2\mathfrak{Re}(\psi)| \leqslant K\,\mathfrak{Re}^2(\psi)$$

and

$$\left|\int_{\mathbb{R}^2}\mathfrak{Re}\big(Q\eta(|Q|^2S(\psi))\bar{\varphi}\big)\right| \leqslant K\int_{\mathbb{R}^2}\eta\,\mathfrak{Re}^3(\psi) \leqslant K\nu\int_{\mathbb{R}^2}\eta\,\mathfrak{Re}^2(\psi) \leqslant K\nu\|\varphi\|^2_{H_Q^{\exp}}.$$

We are left with the estimation of $\int_{\mathbb{R}^2}\mathfrak{Re}(Q\eta(-\nabla\psi.\nabla\psi)\bar{\varphi})$, which will be slightly more delicate. First, we compute, using $\varphi = Q\psi$

$$\begin{aligned}\int_{\mathbb{R}^2}\mathfrak{Re}\big(Q\eta(-\nabla\psi.\nabla\psi)\bar{\varphi}\big) &= -\int_{\mathbb{R}^2}|Q|^2\eta\,\mathfrak{Re}(\nabla\psi.\nabla\psi\bar{\psi})\\ &= -\int_{\mathbb{R}^2}|Q|^2\eta\,\mathfrak{Re}(\nabla\psi.\nabla\psi)\,\mathfrak{Re}(\psi) - \int_{\mathbb{R}^2}|Q|^2\eta\,\mathfrak{Im}(\nabla\psi.\nabla\psi)\,\mathfrak{Im}(\psi)\\ &= -\int_{\mathbb{R}^2}|Q|^2\eta\,\mathfrak{Re}(\nabla\psi.\nabla\psi)\,\mathfrak{Re}(\psi) - 2\int_{\mathbb{R}^2}|Q|^2\eta\,\mathfrak{Re}(\nabla\psi).\,\mathfrak{Im}(\nabla\psi)\,\mathfrak{Im}(\psi).\end{aligned}$$

Note that there exists a universal constant $K > 0$ such that $\| \mathfrak{Re}(\psi)\|_{L^\infty(\{\tilde{r} \geqslant R\})} \leqslant K\nu$ by Lemma 2.8 (considering the regions $\{\tilde{r} \geqslant \lambda\}$ with ψ and $\{\tilde{r} \leqslant \lambda\}$ with φ). Then, we estimate

$$\left| -\int_{\mathbb{R}^2} |Q|^2 \eta\, \mathfrak{Re}(\nabla\psi.\nabla\psi)\, \mathfrak{Re}(\psi)\right| \leqslant K\nu \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} \eta |\nabla\psi|^2 \leqslant K\nu \|\varphi\|^2_{H_Q^{\exp}}.$$

Now, by integration by parts (that can be justified as in [15]), we have

$$\begin{aligned}
&\int_{\mathbb{R}^2} |Q|^2 \eta\, \mathfrak{Re}(\nabla\psi).\, \mathfrak{Im}(\nabla\psi)\, \mathfrak{Im}(\psi) \\
&\quad = -\int_{\mathbb{R}^2} \nabla(|Q|^2)\eta\, \mathfrak{Re}(\psi).\, \mathfrak{Im}(\nabla\psi)\, \mathfrak{Im}(\psi) - \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} |Q|^2 \nabla\eta\, \mathfrak{Re}(\psi).\, \mathfrak{Im}(\nabla\psi)\, \mathfrak{Im}(\psi) \\
&\qquad\qquad - \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} |Q|^2 \eta\, \mathfrak{Re}(\psi)\, \mathfrak{Im}(\Delta\psi)\, \mathfrak{Im}(\psi) - \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} |Q|^2 \eta\, \mathfrak{Re}(\psi)\, \mathfrak{Im}(\nabla\psi).\, \mathfrak{Im}(\nabla\psi),
\end{aligned}$$

and with $|\nabla(|Q|^2)| \leqslant K/(1+\tilde{r})^{5/2}$ from equation (2.9) of [15] $\left(\text{for } \sigma = \frac{1}{2}\right)$ with $K > 0$ a universal constant, we have by Cauchy–Schwarz

$$\begin{aligned}
\left|\int_{\mathbb{R}^2} \nabla(|Q|^2)\eta\, \mathfrak{Re}(\psi).\, \mathfrak{Im}(\nabla\psi)\, \mathfrak{Im}(\psi)\right| &\leqslant K\nu \sqrt{\int_{\mathbb{R}^2} \eta|\nabla\psi|^2 \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} \eta \frac{|\psi|^2}{(1+\tilde{r})^5}} \leqslant K\nu\|\varphi\|^2_{H_Q^{\exp}}, \\
\left|\int_{\mathbb{R}^2} |Q|^2 \eta\, \mathfrak{Re}(\psi)\, \mathfrak{Im}(\nabla\psi).\, \mathfrak{Im}(\nabla\psi)\right| &\leqslant K\nu \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} \eta|\nabla\psi|^2 \leqslant K\nu\|\varphi\|^2_{H_{Qc}^{\exp}}.
\end{aligned}$$

Since $\nabla\eta$ is supported in $\{0 < \eta < 1\}$, we check easily that

$$\left|\int_{\mathbb{R}^2} |Q|^2 \nabla\eta\, \mathfrak{Re}(\psi).\, \mathfrak{Im}(\nabla\psi)\, \mathfrak{Im}(\psi)\right| \leqslant K\nu\|\varphi\|^2_{H_Q^{\exp}}.$$

We focus now on the estimation of the last remaining term, $\int_{\mathbb{R}^2} |Q|^2\eta\, \mathfrak{Re}(\psi)\, \mathfrak{Im}(\Delta\psi)\, \mathfrak{Im}(\psi)$. For that purpose, we define more generally for $n \geqslant 1$

$$A_n := \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} |Q|^2 \eta^n\, \mathfrak{Re}^n(\psi)\, \mathfrak{Im}(\Delta\psi)\, \mathfrak{Im}(\psi).$$

Note that we want to estimate A_1.

We compute, using $(\mathrm{TW}_{c''})(Q) = 0$, that

$$L_Q(\varphi) = Q\left(-\Delta\psi - ic''\partial_{x_2}\psi - 2\frac{\nabla Q}{Q}.\nabla\psi + 2\,\mathfrak{Re}(\psi)|Q|^2\right);$$

therefore, by Lemma 2.9, in $\{\eta \neq 0\}$,

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathfrak{Im}(\Delta\psi) &= \mathfrak{Im}\left(-ic''\partial_{x_2}\psi - 2\frac{\nabla Q}{Q}.\nabla\psi + 2\,\mathfrak{Re}(\psi)|Q|^2 + \frac{-i(c-c'')\vec{e}_2.H(\psi) + \mathrm{NL}_{\mathrm{loc}}(\psi) + F(\psi)}{Q}\right) \\
&= -c''\,\mathfrak{Re}(\partial_{x_2}\psi) - 2\,\mathfrak{Im}\left(\frac{\nabla Q}{Q}.\nabla\psi\right) + \mathfrak{Im}\left(\frac{-i(c-c'')\vec{e}_2.H(\psi) + \mathrm{NL}_{\mathrm{loc}}(\psi) + F(\psi)}{Q}\right).
\end{aligned}$$

We compute, by integration by parts, with $\mathfrak{Re}^n(\psi)\,\mathfrak{Re}(\partial_{x_2}\psi) = (1/(n+1))\partial_{x_2}(\mathfrak{Re}^{n+1}(\psi))$, that

$$\begin{aligned}\int_{\mathbb{R}^2} |Q|^2\eta^n\,\mathfrak{Re}^n(\psi)c''\,\mathfrak{Re}(\partial_{x_2}\psi)\,\mathfrak{Im}(\psi) \\ = -\frac{1}{n+1}\int_{\mathbb{R}^2}(\partial_{x_2}|Q|^2)\eta^n\,\mathfrak{Re}^{n+1}(\psi)c''\,\mathfrak{Im}(\psi) \\ -\frac{n}{n+1}\int_{\mathbb{R}^2}|Q|^2\partial_{x_2}\eta\eta^{n-1}\,\mathfrak{Re}^{n+1}(\psi)c''\,\mathfrak{Im}(\psi) - \frac{1}{n+1}\int_{\mathbb{R}^2}|Q|^2\eta^n\,\mathfrak{Re}^{n+1}(\psi)c''\,\mathfrak{Im}(\partial_{x_2}\psi).\end{aligned}$$

Since $|c''| \leqslant \nu$ by (2-5) (diminishing ν_2 if necessary), Lemma 2.7 and the hypotheses of Proposition 1.8, $\|\varphi\|_{C^1(\{\tilde{r}\leqslant\lambda\})} + \|\,\mathfrak{Re}(\psi)\|_{L^\infty(\{\tilde{r}\geqslant\lambda\})} \leqslant K\nu$ by Lemma 2.8 and $|\nabla(|Q|^2)| \leqslant K/(1+\tilde{r})^{5/2}$ from equation (2.9) of [15], we infer by Cauchy–Schwarz that

$$\begin{aligned}\left|\int_{\mathbb{R}^2}(\partial_{x_2}|Q|^2)\eta^n\,\mathfrak{Re}^{n+1}(\psi)c''\,\mathfrak{Im}(\psi)\right| &\leqslant Kc''\nu^n\sqrt{\int_{\mathbb{R}^2}\eta\,\mathfrak{Im}^2(\psi)(\partial_{x_2}|Q|^2)^2\int_{\mathbb{R}^2}\eta\,\mathfrak{Re}^2(\psi)} \\ &\leqslant K\nu^n\|\varphi\|^2_{H_Q^{\exp}},\end{aligned}\tag{2-20}$$

$$\left|\int_{\mathbb{R}^2}|Q|^2\partial_{x_2}\eta\eta^{n-1}\,\mathfrak{Re}^{n+1}(\psi)c''\,\mathfrak{Im}(\psi)\right| \leqslant K\nu^n\|\varphi\|^2_{H_Q^{\exp}},\tag{2-21}$$

$$\left|\int_{\mathbb{R}^2}|Q|^2\eta^n\,\mathfrak{Re}^{n+1}(\psi)c''\,\mathfrak{Im}(\partial_{x_2}\psi)\right| \leqslant K\nu^n\sqrt{\int_{\mathbb{R}^2}\eta|\nabla\psi|^2\int_{\mathbb{R}^2}\eta\,\mathfrak{Re}^2(\psi)} \leqslant K\nu^n\|\varphi\|^2_{H_Q^{\exp}}.\tag{2-22}$$

We deduce that

$$\left|\int_{\mathbb{R}^2}|Q|^2\eta^n\,\mathfrak{Re}^n(\psi)c''\,\mathfrak{Re}(\partial_{x_2}\psi)\,\mathfrak{Im}(\psi)\right| \leqslant (K\nu)^n\|\varphi\|^2_{H_Q^{\exp}}.\tag{2-23}$$

For

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^2}|Q|^2\eta^n\,\mathfrak{Re}^n(\psi)\,\mathfrak{Im}\left(\frac{\nabla Q}{Q}.\nabla\psi\right)\mathfrak{Im}(\psi),$$

we compute

$$\mathfrak{Im}\left(\frac{\nabla Q}{Q}.\nabla\psi\right) = \mathfrak{Re}\left(\frac{\nabla Q}{Q}\right).\,\mathfrak{Im}(\nabla\psi) + \mathfrak{Re}(\nabla\psi).\,\mathfrak{Im}\left(\frac{\nabla Q}{Q}\right),$$

and with previous estimates, we check easily that

$$\begin{aligned}\left|\int_{\mathbb{R}^2}|Q|^2\eta^n\,\mathfrak{Re}^n(\psi)\,\mathfrak{Re}\left(\frac{\nabla Q}{Q}\right).\,\mathfrak{Im}(\nabla\psi)\,\mathfrak{Im}(\psi)\right| \\ \leqslant (K\nu)^n\sqrt{\int_{\mathbb{R}^2}\eta|\nabla\psi|^2\int_{\mathbb{R}^2}\eta\,\mathfrak{Im}^2(\psi)\,\mathfrak{Re}^2\left(\frac{\nabla Q}{Q}\right)} \leqslant (K\nu)^n\|\varphi\|^2_{H_Q^{\exp}},\end{aligned}\tag{2-24}$$

and by integration by parts, with computations similar to those for the proof of (2-23), using

$$\left|\nabla.\,\mathfrak{Im}\left(\frac{\nabla Q}{Q}\right)\right| \leqslant \frac{K}{(1+\tilde{r})^{3/2}}$$

from (2.9) to (2.11) of [15] $\left(\text{for } \sigma = \frac{1}{2}\right)$ for a universal constant $K > 0$ and Lemma 2.1, we infer that

$$\left|\int_{\mathbb{R}^2}|Q|^2\eta^n\,\mathfrak{Re}^n(\psi)\,\mathfrak{Re}(\nabla\psi).\,\mathfrak{Im}\left(\frac{\nabla Q}{Q}\right)\mathfrak{Im}(\psi)\right| \leqslant (K\nu)^n\|\varphi\|^2_{H_Q^{\exp}},\tag{2-25}$$

and we check easily that

$$\left|\int_{\mathbb{R}^2} |Q|^2 \eta^n \,\mathfrak{Re}^n(\psi)\,\mathfrak{Im}\left(\frac{\mathrm{NL}_{\mathrm{loc}}(\psi)}{Q}\right)\mathfrak{Im}(\psi)\right| \leqslant (K\nu)^n \|\varphi\|^2_{H_Q^{\exp}}. \tag{2-26}$$

Now, we look at

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^2} |Q|^2 \eta^n \,\mathfrak{Re}^n(\psi)\,\mathfrak{Im}\left(\frac{-i(c-c'')\vec{e}_2.H(\psi)}{Q}\right)\mathfrak{Im}(\psi)$$

for the part of $\vec{e}_2.H(\psi)$ related to the cutoff, the estimation can be done as previously, and we are left with the estimation of

$$(c-c'')\int_{\mathbb{R}^2} |Q|^2 \eta^n \,\mathfrak{Re}^n(\psi)\,\mathfrak{Im}\left(-i\frac{\partial_{x_2}Q}{Q} - i\partial_{x_2}\psi\right)\mathfrak{Im}(\psi)$$
$$= (c-c'')\int_{\mathbb{R}^2} |Q|^2 \eta^n \,\mathfrak{Re}^n(\psi)\,\mathfrak{Re}\left(\frac{\partial_{x_2}Q}{Q} + \partial_{x_2}\psi\right)\mathfrak{Im}(\psi).$$

From (2-5) and Lemma 2.7, we have $|c-c''| \leqslant \nu$ (diminishing ν_2 if necessary), and from equation (2.9) of [15],

$$\left|\mathfrak{Re}\left(\frac{\partial_{x_2}Q}{Q}\right)\right| \leqslant \frac{K}{(1+\tilde{r})^{5/2}}.$$

Therefore

$$\left|(c-c'')\int_{\mathbb{R}^2} |Q|^2 \eta^n \,\mathfrak{Re}^n(\psi)\,\mathfrak{Re}\left(\frac{\partial_{x_2}Q}{Q}\right)\mathfrak{Im}(\psi)\right|$$
$$\leqslant (K\nu)^n \sqrt{\int_{\mathbb{R}^2} \eta\,\mathfrak{Re}^2(\psi)\int_{\mathbb{R}^2} \eta\,\mathfrak{Re}^2\left(\frac{\partial_{x_2}Q}{Q}\right)\mathfrak{Im}^2(\psi)} \leqslant (K\nu)^n \|\varphi\|^2_{H_Q^{\exp}}, \tag{2-27}$$

and we estimate

$$\left|(c-c'')\int_{\mathbb{R}^2} |Q|^2 \eta^n \,\mathfrak{Re}^n(\psi)\,\mathfrak{Re}(\partial_{x_2}\psi)\,\mathfrak{Im}(\psi)\right| \leqslant (K\nu)^n \|\varphi\|^2_{H_Q^{\exp}} \tag{2-28}$$

by (2-23). For the last remaining term, since

$$\mathfrak{Im}\left(\frac{F(\psi)}{Q}\right) = \mathfrak{Im}(-\eta\nabla\psi.\nabla\psi),$$

we have

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^2} |Q|^2 \eta^n \,\mathfrak{Re}^n(\psi)\,\mathfrak{Im}\left(\frac{F(\psi)}{Q}\right)\mathfrak{Im}(\psi) = -2\int_{\mathbb{R}^2} |Q|^2 \eta^{n+1} \,\mathfrak{Re}^n(\psi)\,\mathfrak{Im}(\nabla\psi).\,\mathfrak{Re}(\nabla\psi)\,\mathfrak{Im}(\psi).$$

In particular,

$$\left|\int_{\mathbb{R}^2} |Q|^2 \eta^n \,\mathfrak{Re}^n(\psi)\,\mathfrak{Im}\left(\frac{F(\psi)}{Q}\right)\mathfrak{Im}(\psi)\right| \leqslant (K\nu)^n \|\eta\,\mathfrak{Im}(\psi)\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^2)} \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} \eta|\nabla\psi|^2$$
$$\leqslant (K\nu)^n \|\eta\,\mathfrak{Im}(\psi)\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^2)} \|\varphi\|^2_{H_Q^{\exp}}. \tag{2-29}$$

Combining this result with the previous estimates, this implies that

$$|A_n| \leqslant (C_6\nu)^n (1 + \|\eta\,\mathfrak{Im}(\psi)\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^2)}) \|\varphi\|^2_{H_Q^{\exp}} \tag{2-30}$$

for some universal constant $C_6 > 0$, but that is not enough to show that we have

$$\left| \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} |Q|^2 \eta^n \,\mathfrak{Re}^n(\psi)\,\mathfrak{Im}\left(\frac{F(\psi)}{Q}\right)\mathfrak{Im}(\psi) \right| \leqslant (K\nu)^n \|\varphi\|^2_{H^{\exp}_Q},$$

since we have no control on $\|\eta\,\mathfrak{Im}(\psi)\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^2)}$ other than the fact that it is a finite quantity. By integration by parts (integrating $\mathfrak{Re}(\nabla\psi)$), with computations similar to those for the proof of (2-23), we infer that

$$\begin{aligned}\left| 2 \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} |Q|^2 \eta^{n+1} \,\mathfrak{Re}^n(\psi)\,\mathfrak{Im}(\nabla\psi).\,\mathfrak{Re}(\nabla\psi)\,\mathfrak{Im}(\psi) \right| \qquad&\\ \leqslant \left| 2 \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} |Q|^2 \eta^{n+1} \,\mathfrak{Re}^n(\psi)\,\mathfrak{Im}(\Delta\psi)\,\mathfrak{Re}(\psi)\,\mathfrak{Im}(\psi) \right| &+ (K\nu)^n \|\varphi\|^2_{H^{\exp}_Q}\\ \leqslant 2|A_{n+1}| + (K\nu)^n \|\varphi\|^2_{H^{\exp}_Q}.&\end{aligned}$$

Combining this result with estimates (2-20) to (2-29), we deduce that, for some universal constant $C_7 > 0$,

$$|A_n| \leqslant 2|A_{n+1}| + (C_7\nu)^n \|\varphi\|^2_{H^{\exp}_Q}.$$

Therefore, by induction,

$$|A_1| \leqslant 2^n |A_n| + \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} (2C_7\nu)^k \|\varphi\|^2_{H^{\exp}_Q}.$$

Hence, with (2-30),

$$|A_1| \leqslant \left((2C_6\nu)^n (1 + \|\eta\,\mathfrak{Im}(\psi)\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^2)}) + \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} (2C_7\nu)^k \right) \|\varphi\|^2_{H^{\exp}_Q}.$$

Taking $\nu > 0$ such that $\nu \leqslant \nu_2$ and $2C_6\nu < \frac{1}{2}$ and $2C_7\nu < \frac{1}{2}$, then $n \geqslant 1$ large enough (depending on $\|\eta\,\mathfrak{Im}(\psi)\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^2)}$) such that

$$\frac{1}{2^{n-1}} (1 + \|\eta\,\mathfrak{Im}(\psi)\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^2)}) \leqslant 1,$$

we conclude that

$$|A_1| \leqslant \left(2C_6 + 2C_7 \sum_{k=0}^{n-2} \frac{1}{2^k} \right) \nu \|\varphi\|^2_{H^{\exp}_Q} \leqslant 2(C_6 + 2C_7)\nu \|\varphi\|^2_{H^{\exp}_Q}.$$

This concludes the proof of (2-19).

Combining estimates (2-16) to (2-19) in (2-15), we deduce that

$$(1 - C_8\nu)\|\varphi\|^2_{H^{\exp}_Q} \leqslant 0$$

for some universal constant $C_8 > 0$; therefore, taking $\nu > 0$ small enough such that the previous constraints are satisfied and $C_8\nu < \frac{1}{2}$, we have $\|\varphi\|_{H^{\exp}_Q} = 0$. From Lemma 2.10, we deduce $c'' = c$. The proof is complete.

2C. ***Proof of Corollary 1.10.*** Take a function u satisfying the hypotheses of Corollary 1.10. Then, u is even in x_1 and it has finite energy. Furthermore, by Theorem 1.6 (for $p = +\infty$),

$$\begin{aligned}\|u - V_1(\cdot - d_c\vec{e}_1)V_{-1}(\cdot + d_c\vec{e}_1)\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^2)} &\leqslant \|u - Q_c\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^2)} + \|Q_c - V_1(\cdot - d_c\vec{e}_1)V_{-1}(\cdot + d_c\vec{e}_1)\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^2)}\\ &\leqslant \varepsilon + o_{c\to 0}(1).\end{aligned}$$

Next,

$$\||u|-1\|_{L^\infty(\{\tilde{r}_d\geqslant\lambda\})}\leqslant\|u-Q_c\|_{L^\infty(\{\tilde{r}_d\geqslant\lambda\})}+\||Q_c|-1\|_{L^\infty(\{\tilde{r}_d\geqslant\lambda\})}\leqslant\varepsilon+\frac{K}{\lambda}$$

by equation (2.6) of [15]. We now fix the parameters. We first choose $\lambda\geqslant\lambda_*$ large enough so that $K/\lambda\leqslant 1/(2\lambda_*)$. Then, we fix $c_0>0$ and $\varepsilon>0$ so small that $\varepsilon\leqslant 1/(2\lambda_*)$, $|cd_c-1|\leqslant\varepsilon(\lambda)$, $d_c\geqslant 1/\varepsilon(\lambda)$ and $\varepsilon+o_{c\to 0}(1)\leqslant\varepsilon(\lambda)$ for $c<c_0$. Therefore, u satisfies the hypotheses of Proposition 1.8 with $d=d_c$, and this concludes the proof.

3. Properties of quasiminimizers of the energy and proof of Theorem 1.11

3A. ***Tools for the vortex analysis.*** We list in this section some results useful for the analysis of traveling waves for small speeds or, equivalently, large momentum, with vorticity. We shall denote by $\langle u\mid v\rangle=\mathrm{Re}(u\bar{v})$ the real scalar product of the complex numbers u, v. The Jacobian (or vorticity)

$$Jv:=\langle i\partial_1 v\mid\partial_2 v\rangle=\tfrac{1}{2}\partial_1\langle iv\mid\partial_2 v\rangle-\tfrac{1}{2}\partial_2\langle iv\mid\partial_1 v\rangle$$

is then relevant, and we shall use the following concentration property of the Jacobian. We define

$$E_\varepsilon(u,\Omega):=\frac{1}{2}\int_\Omega|\nabla u|^2+\frac{1}{2\varepsilon^2}(1-|u|^2)^2\,dx.$$

Theorem 3.1 (concentration of the Jacobian [2; 27]). *Let $M_0>0$, $R>0$ and $\beta\in\,]0,1]$. Then, for every $\delta>0$, there exists $\varepsilon_0>0$ (depending only on β, δ, R and M_0) such that, for any $0<\varepsilon<\varepsilon_0$, and for any $u\in H^1(B(0,4R))$ such that $E_\varepsilon(u,B(0,4R))\leqslant M_0|\ln\varepsilon|$ and $|u|\geqslant\frac{1}{2}$ in $B(0,4R)\setminus B(0,R)$, there exist $N\in\mathbb{N}$, $y_1,\dots,y_N\in\bar{B}(0,R)$, $d_1,\dots,d_N\in\mathbb{Z}$ such that*

$$\Big\|Ju-\pi\sum_{k=1}^N d_k\delta_{y_k}\Big\|_{[\mathcal{C}_c^{0,\beta}(B(0,4R))]^*}\leqslant\delta$$

and

$$\pi\sum_{k=1}^N|d_k|\leqslant\frac{E_\varepsilon(u,B(0,4R))}{|\ln\varepsilon|}+\delta.$$

Finally, we may choose the points y_k, $1\leqslant k\leqslant N$, in $\big\{|u|\leqslant\frac{1}{2}\big\}$.

Here, we recall that the space $[\mathcal{C}_c^{0,\beta}(B(0,R))]^*$ is endowed with the dual norm associated with

$$\|\zeta\|_{\mathcal{C}_c^{0,\beta}(B(0,R))}=\sup_{x\neq y\in B(0,R)}\frac{|\zeta(x)-\zeta(y)|}{|x-y|^\beta}$$

for $\zeta\in\mathcal{C}^{0,\beta}(B(0,R))$ compactly supported.

Remark 3.2. The above-mentioned theorem is actually Lemma 3.3 in [8]. It is related to the works [2; 27], which both correspond to the limit $\varepsilon\to 0$, whereas we have here a statement (obtained by compactness) at fixed ε. The hypothesis "$|u|\geqslant\frac{1}{2}$ in $B(0,4R)\setminus B(0,R)$" ensures that the vortices do not approach the boundary $\partial B(0,4R)$.

Theorem 3.3 (clearing-out theorem [8]). *Let $M_0 > 0$ and $\sigma > 0$ be given. Then there exist $\epsilon_0 > 0$ and $\eta > 0$, depending only on M_0 and σ, such that, if $R_0 = 1/(1+M_0)$, if $U : B(0, R_0) \to \mathbb{C}$ solves*

$$\Delta U + i\mathfrak{c}\partial_2 U + \frac{1}{\epsilon^2} U(1-|U|^2) = 0 \tag{3-1}$$

in $B(0, R_0) \subset \mathbb{R}^2$, with $\epsilon < \epsilon_0$, $|\mathfrak{c}| \leqslant M_0|\ln\epsilon|$, and

$$E_\epsilon(U, B(0, R_0)) \leqslant \eta|\ln\epsilon|,$$

then

$$|U(0)| \geqslant 1-\sigma.$$

For the elliptic PDE

$$\Delta\mathcal{U} + \frac{1}{\varepsilon^2}\mathcal{U}(1-|\mathcal{U}|^2) = 0, \tag{3-2}$$

that is, without the transport term $i\partial_2 U$, this result has been shown in two dimensions in [6] for minimizing maps, and in [4] for the Ginzburg–Landau equation with magnetic field. In higher dimensions, see [7; 31] for (3-2) and [8] for an equation including the Ginzburg–Landau equation with magnetic field and (3-1). One may use the change of unknown

$$\mathcal{U}(x) := (1+\mathfrak{c}^2\epsilon^2/4)^{-1/2} e^{i\mathfrak{c}x_2/2} U(x), \quad \varepsilon = \epsilon(1+\mathfrak{c}^2\epsilon^2/4)^{-1/2},$$

to transform (3-2) without the transport term into (3-1) with the transport term. However, the assumptions $E_\epsilon(U, B(0, R_0)) \leqslant \eta|\ln\epsilon|$ and $E_\varepsilon(\mathcal{U}, B(0, R_0)) \leqslant \eta|\ln\varepsilon|$ are not equivalent (due to the extra phase term).

3B. ***Vortex structure for quasiminimizers of E at fixed P.*** In this section, some $\Lambda_0 > 0$ is fixed and we consider a large momentum $\mathfrak{p}$ and $u_\mathfrak{p}$ such that

$$E(u_\mathfrak{p}) \leqslant 2\pi\ln\mathfrak{p} + \Lambda_0 \tag{3-3}$$

and such that there exists $c_\mathfrak{p} > 0$ (depending on $u_\mathfrak{p}$) such that

$$0 = (\mathrm{TW}_{c_\mathfrak{p}})(u_\mathfrak{p}) = -ic_\mathfrak{p}\partial_{x_2}u_\mathfrak{p} - \Delta u_\mathfrak{p} - (1-|u_\mathfrak{p}|^2)u_\mathfrak{p}.$$

It then follows from [24] (see Theorem 2.4) that we may assume, using the phase-shift invariance, that $u_\mathfrak{p} \to 1$ at spatial infinity. In particular, we have

$$\mathfrak{p} = P_2(u_\mathfrak{p}) = \frac{1}{2}\int_{\mathbb{R}^2} \langle i\partial_2 u_\mathfrak{p} | u_\mathfrak{p} - 1\rangle\, dx.$$

Our goal is to show that $u_\mathfrak{p}$ satisfies the hypotheses of Proposition 1.8. We shall follow [5; 8] in order to analyze the vortex structure of $u_\mathfrak{p}$.

3B1. *Localizing the vorticity set at scale $x/\mathfrak{p}$.* We define the following rescaling $\hat{u}_\mathfrak{p}$ of $u_\mathfrak{p}$:

$$\hat{u}_\mathfrak{p}(\hat{x}) = u_\mathfrak{p}(\mathfrak{p}\hat{x}). \tag{3-4}$$

Therefore, $\hat{u}_\mathfrak{p}$ solves

$$\Delta\hat{u}_\mathfrak{p} + ic_\mathfrak{p}\mathfrak{p}\partial_2\hat{u}_\mathfrak{p} + \mathfrak{p}^2\hat{u}_\mathfrak{p}(1-|\hat{u}_\mathfrak{p}|^2) = 0, \tag{3-5}$$

which is a particular case of (3-1) with

$$\epsilon = 1/\mathfrak{p}, \quad \mathfrak{c} = c_\mathfrak{p}\mathfrak{p}.$$

The universal L^∞ bound on the gradient of Corollary 2.3 reads now

$$\|\nabla \hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^2)} \leqslant K\mathfrak{p}. \tag{3-6}$$

We shall have, in the end, $c_{\mathfrak{p}} \sim 1/\mathfrak{p}$. The first step provides a rough upper bound for the speed $c_{\mathfrak{p}}$ (the Lagrange multiplier for the minimization problem $E_{\min}(\mathfrak{p})$).

<u>Step 1</u>: There exists $\mathfrak{p}_1 = \mathfrak{p}_1(\Lambda_0)$ such that, for $\mathfrak{p} \geqslant \mathfrak{p}_1$, we have

$$0 < c_{\mathfrak{p}} \leqslant \frac{2E(u_{\mathfrak{p}})}{\mathfrak{p}} \leqslant 13\frac{\ln \mathfrak{p}}{\mathfrak{p}}.$$

In particular, $c_{\mathfrak{p}} \leqslant \frac{1}{2}$ and $\ln \mathfrak{p} \leqslant 2|\ln c_{\mathfrak{p}}|$.

We shall use the Pohozaev identity (2-2), that is,

$$\frac{1}{2}\int_{\mathbb{R}^2} (1-|u_{\mathfrak{p}}|^2)^2\,dx = c_{\mathfrak{p}}\mathfrak{p}.$$

At this stage, we only have the rough upper bound $0 \leqslant \frac{1}{4}\int_{\mathbb{R}^2}(1-|u_{\mathfrak{p}}|^2)^2\,dx \leqslant E(u_{\mathfrak{p}}) \leqslant 2\pi\ln\mathfrak{p} + \Lambda_0$, which concludes this step.

Another argument we could use for minimizers is that we know from [10] (see also [13]) that $0 \leqslant c_{\mathfrak{p}} \leqslant d^+E_{\min}(\mathfrak{p}) \leqslant E_{\min}(\mathfrak{p})/\mathfrak{p}$.

<u>Step 2</u>: There exists $\mathfrak{p}_2 > \mathfrak{p}_1$, $R_* \geqslant \frac{1}{8}$ and $n_* \in \mathbb{N}$, depending only on Λ_0, such that, if $\mathfrak{p} > \mathfrak{p}_2$, there exist $n_{\mathfrak{p}}$ points $\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},j}$, $1 \leqslant j \leqslant n_{\mathfrak{p}}$, with $n_{\mathfrak{p}} \leqslant n_*$ such that $\left\{|\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}(\hat{x})| \leqslant \frac{1}{2}\right\} \subset \bigcup_{j=1}^{n_{\mathfrak{p}}} B(\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},j}, R_*)$ and the disks $\bar{B}(\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},j}, 4R_*)$, $1 \leqslant j \leqslant n_{\mathfrak{p}}$, are mutually disjoint.

We apply Theorem 3.3 with $\epsilon = 1/\mathfrak{p}$, $\mathfrak{c} = c_{\mathfrak{p}}\mathfrak{p}$ and $\sigma = \frac{1}{2}$ to $\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}$. This is possible in view of the upper bound on $0 \leqslant c_{\mathfrak{p}}\mathfrak{p} \leqslant 13\ln\mathfrak{p}$ of Step 1 (that is, $M_0 = 13$). We then let $R_0 := 1/(1+13) = \frac{1}{14}$ for $\mathfrak{p} \geqslant \mathfrak{p}_1$ and denote by $\eta_{1/2}$ the positive constant η given by Theorem 3.3.

We now proceed in this way: we choose (if it exists) some $\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},1} \in \mathbb{R}^2$ such that $|\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}(\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},1})| < \frac{1}{2}$. If $\left\{|\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}| \leqslant \frac{1}{2}\right\} \subset \bar{B}(\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},1}, 2R_0)$, then we stop. If not, we choose $\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},2} \in \mathbb{R}^2 \setminus \bar{B}(\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},1}, 2R_0)$ such that $|\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}(\hat{z}^{\mathfrak{p},2})| < \frac{1}{2}$. If $\left\{|\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}| \leqslant \frac{1}{2}\right\} \subset \bigcup_{j=1}^{2} \bar{B}(\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},j}, 2R_0)$, then we stop, if not, we continue. This process ends in a finite number of steps (depending only on K_0) since, by construction, the disks $\bar{B}(\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},j}, R_0)$, $1 \leqslant j \leqslant n$, are pairwise disjoint. Hence, by Theorem 3.3, we have

$$2\pi\ln\mathfrak{p} + K_0 \geqslant E(u_{\mathfrak{p}}) = E_{1/\mathfrak{p}}(\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}) \geqslant \sum_{j=1}^{n} E_{1/\mathfrak{p}}(\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}, B(\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},j}, R_0)) \geqslant n \times \eta_{1/2}\ln\mathfrak{p},$$

which implies

$$n \leqslant \frac{2\pi\ln\mathfrak{p} + K_0}{\eta_{1/2}\ln\mathfrak{p}} \leqslant \frac{7}{\eta_{1/2}}$$

for $\mathfrak{p}$ large enough, say $\mathfrak{p} \geqslant \mathfrak{p}_2$.

At this stage, the disks $B(\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},j}, 2R_0)$, $1 \leqslant j \leqslant n_{\mathfrak{p}}$, cover the vorticity set $\left\{|\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}| \leqslant \frac{1}{2}\right\}$, but the disks $\bar{B}(\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},j}, 8R_0)$ may not be pairwise disjoint. To get this property, we argue as in [6, Theorem IV.1]. Let us recall the idea: if the disks $\bar{B}(\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},j}, 8R_0)$, $1 \leqslant j \leqslant n_{\mathfrak{p}}$, are pairwise disjoint, then we are done with $R_* = 2R_0$. If not, then we have, for instance, $|\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},1} - \hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},2}| \leqslant 16R_0$. We then remove the disk $B(\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},1}, 8R_0)$

from the list and set $R_1 := 17R_0$. The disks $B(\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},j}, R_1)$, $2 \leqslant j \leqslant n_{\mathfrak{p}}$, cover $\bigcup_{1\leqslant j\leqslant n_{\mathfrak{p}}} B(\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},j}, 2R_0)$, and hence the vorticity set $\{|\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}| \leqslant \frac{1}{2}\}$, and their number has decreased. In a finite number of steps (depending only on K_0), we obtain the conclusion. The radius R_* is necessarily $\leqslant R_0 \times 17^{n_{\mathfrak{p}}} \leqslant R_0 \times 17^{n_*}$.

Similar arguments are given in [8], whereas in [5] the vorticity set is included in some disks of radii of order $c_{\mathfrak{p}}^{\gamma}$, which requires some extra work.

Step 3: We have

$$\mathfrak{p}^2 \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} (1-|\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}|^2)^2 \, d\hat{x} = o_{\mathfrak{p}\to+\infty}(\ln \mathfrak{p}).$$

This follows exactly as in [8] (see Proposition A.1 in the Appendix there). Notice that the result in [8] is stated for the potential on a compact set in a domain Ω, but it holds as well in the entire plane.

We then define, as in [8], the function $\hat{u}'_{\mathfrak{p}} : \mathbb{R}^2 \to \mathbb{C}$ by

$$\hat{u}'_{\mathfrak{p}}(\hat{x}) := \begin{cases} \hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}(\hat{x}) & \text{if } \hat{x} \in \bigcup_{j=1}^{n_{\mathfrak{p}}} \bar{B}(\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},j}, 2R_*), \\ \dfrac{\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}(\hat{x})}{|\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}(\hat{x})|} & \text{if } \hat{x} \notin \bigcup_{j=1}^{n_{\mathfrak{p}}} \bar{B}(\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},j}, 3R_*), \\ \Big(3 - \dfrac{|\hat{x}-\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},j}|}{R_*}\Big)\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}(\hat{x}) + \Big(-2 + \dfrac{|\hat{x}-\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},j}|}{R_*}\Big)\dfrac{\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}(\hat{x})}{|\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}(\hat{x})|} & \text{if } \hat{x} \in \bar{B}(\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},j}, 3R_*) \setminus \bar{B}(\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},j}, 2R_*) \end{cases}$$

for some $1 \leqslant j \leqslant n_{\mathfrak{p}}$ (this last formula is valid since the disks $\bar{B}(\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},j}, 4R_*)$, $1 \leqslant j \leqslant n_{\mathfrak{p}}$, are mutually disjoint).

Step 4: We have, as $\mathfrak{p} \to +\infty$,

$$E_{1/\mathfrak{p}}(\hat{u}'_{\mathfrak{p}}) \leqslant 2\pi \ln \mathfrak{p} + o(\ln \mathfrak{p}).$$

Letting $\Omega_R := \bigcup_{j=1}^{n_{\mathfrak{p}}} \bar{B}(\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},j}, R)$, we have

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^2} (1-|\hat{u}'_{\mathfrak{p}}|^2)^2 \, d\hat{x} = \int_{\Omega_{2R_*}} (1-|\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}|^2)^2 \, d\hat{x} + \int_{\Omega_{3R_*}\setminus\Omega_{2R_*}} (1-|\hat{u}'_{\mathfrak{p}}|^2)^2 \, d\hat{x}.$$

We notice that in $\Omega_{3R_*} \setminus \Omega_{2R_*}$, say for $\hat{x} \in \bar{B}(\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},j}, 3R_*) \setminus \bar{B}(\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},j}, 2R_*)$, we have

$$|\hat{u}'_{\mathfrak{p}}(\hat{x})| = \left(3 - \frac{|\hat{x}-\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},j}|}{R_*}\right)|\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}(\hat{x})| + \left(-2 + \frac{|\hat{x}-\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},j}|}{R_*}\right) \in [|\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}(\hat{x})|, 1];$$

hence $|1-|\hat{u}'_{\mathfrak{p}}(\hat{x})|^2| \leqslant |1-|\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}(\hat{x})|^2|$ and thus

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} (1-|\hat{u}'_{\mathfrak{p}}|^2)^2 \, d\hat{x} &\leqslant \int_{\Omega_{2R_*}} (1-|\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}|^2)^2 \, d\hat{x} + \int_{\Omega_{3R_*}\setminus\Omega_{2R_*}} (1-|\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}|^2)^2 \, d\hat{x} \\ &= \int_{\Omega_{3R_*}} (1-|\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}|^2)^2 \, d\hat{x}. \end{aligned} \tag{3-7}$$

For the kinetic term, we have

$$|\nabla \hat{u}'_{\mathfrak{p}}(\hat{x})|^2 = |\nabla \hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}(\hat{x})|^2$$

if $\hat{x} \in \Omega_{2R_*}$. Outside $\bigcup_{j=1}^{n_\mathfrak{p}} \overline{B}(\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},j}, R_*)$ we have $|\hat{u}_\mathfrak{p}| \geqslant \frac{1}{2}$ and we may then lift, at least locally, $\hat{u}_\mathfrak{p} = A e^{i\phi}$ and get

$$|\nabla \hat{u}_\mathfrak{p}|^2 = A^2 |\nabla \phi|^2 + |\nabla A|^2.$$

If $\hat{x} \notin \Omega_{3R_*}$, then, by (3-6),

$$|\nabla \hat{u}'_\mathfrak{p}|^2 = |\nabla \phi|^2 = A^2 |\nabla \phi|^2 + \frac{1-A^2}{A^2} \times A^2 |\nabla \phi|^2 \leqslant |\nabla \hat{u}_\mathfrak{p}|^2 + 4K\mathfrak{p}|1-A^2| \times |\nabla \hat{u}_\mathfrak{p}|$$

since $A = |\hat{u}_\mathfrak{p}| \geqslant \frac{1}{2}$ outside Ω_{R_*}. Finally, in $\overline{B}(\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},j}, 3R_*) \setminus \overline{B}(\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},j}, 2R_*)$ (for some unique $1 \leqslant j \leqslant n_\mathfrak{p}$), we have

$$|\nabla \hat{u}'_\mathfrak{p}|^2 = |\nabla \phi|^2 \left(\left(3 - \frac{|\hat{x}-\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},j}|}{R_*}\right) A + \left(-2 + \frac{|\hat{x}-\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},j}|}{R_*}\right) \right)^2 + \left| \nabla \left[\left(3 - \frac{|\hat{x}-\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},j}|}{R_*}\right) A + \left(-2 + \frac{|\hat{x}-\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},j}|}{R_*}\right) \right] \right|^2.$$

We then use that, since $|\hat{u}_\mathfrak{p}(\hat{x})| \geqslant \frac{1}{2}$ and letting $\theta = 3 - |\hat{x} - \hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},j}|/R_* \in [0, 1]$,

$$\begin{aligned} |\nabla \phi|^2 \left[\left(3 - \frac{|\hat{x}-\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},j}|}{R_*}\right) A + \left(-2 + \frac{|\hat{x}-\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},j}|}{R_*}\right) \right]^2 & \\ &= A^2 |\nabla \phi|^2 \times \frac{1}{A^2} [1 + \theta(A-1)]^2 \leqslant A^2 |\nabla \phi|^2 \times (1 + K|A^2 - 1|) \\ &\leqslant A^2 |\nabla \phi|^2 + K\mathfrak{p} |\nabla \hat{u}_\mathfrak{p}| \times |A^2 - 1|, \end{aligned}$$

by Corollary 2.3. On the other hand, since $|\cdot|$ is 1-Lipschitz continuous,

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \nabla \left[\left(3 - \frac{|\hat{x}-\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},j}|}{R_*}\right) A + \left(-2 + \frac{|\hat{x}-\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},j}|}{R_*}\right) \right] \right|^2 &\leqslant \frac{1}{R_*^2} |1-A|^2 + |\nabla A|^2 + \frac{2}{R_*} |1-A| \times |\nabla A| \\ &\leqslant |\nabla A|^2 + K(A^2-1)^2 + K|\nabla A| \times |A^2 - 1|. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, by the Cauchy–Schwarz inequality, for some absolute constant $K > 0$,

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^2} |\nabla \hat{u}'_\mathfrak{p}|^2 \, d\hat{x} \leqslant \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} |\nabla \hat{u}_\mathfrak{p}|^2 \, d\hat{x} + K \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^2} \mathfrak{p}^2 (1 - |\hat{u}_\mathfrak{p}|^2)^2 \, d\hat{x} \right)^{1/2} \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^2} |\nabla \hat{u}_\mathfrak{p}|^2 \, d\hat{x} \right)^{1/2} + K \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} (1 - |\hat{u}_\mathfrak{p}|^2)^2 \, d\hat{x}.$$

Combining this with (3-7) yields

$$E_{1/\mathfrak{p}}(\hat{u}'_\mathfrak{p}) \leqslant E_\mathfrak{p}(\hat{u}_\mathfrak{p}) + K \sqrt{E_\mathfrak{p}(\hat{u}_\mathfrak{p})} \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^2} \mathfrak{p}^2 (1 - |\hat{u}_\mathfrak{p}|^2)^2 \, d\hat{x} \right)^{1/2} + K \frac{E_\mathfrak{p}(\hat{u}_\mathfrak{p})}{\mathfrak{p}^2} \leqslant 2\pi \ln \mathfrak{p} + o(\ln \mathfrak{p}),$$

by the upper bound (3-3) and the estimate for the potential term of Step 3.

<u>Step 5</u>: We claim that for any $\delta \in \left]0, \frac{\pi}{2}\right[$, there exist $\mathfrak{p}_\delta^\dagger > \mathfrak{p}_2$ such that, for all $\mathfrak{p} \geqslant \mathfrak{p}_\delta^\dagger$, we are in one of the following cases:

(I) For any $1 \leqslant j \leqslant n_\mathfrak{p}$,

$$\|J\hat{u}'_\mathfrak{p}\|_{[\mathcal{C}_c^{0,1}(B(\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},j}, 4R_*))]^*} \leqslant \delta.$$

(II) There exist (up to a relabeling) two points $\hat{y}_{\mathfrak{p},\pm} \in \mathbb{R}^2$, depending on $\hat{u}_\mathfrak{p}$, such that

$$\max_{1 \leqslant j \leqslant n_\mathfrak{p}} \|J\hat{u}'_\mathfrak{p} - \pi(\delta_{\hat{y}_{\mathfrak{p},+}} - \delta_{\hat{y}_{\mathfrak{p},-}})\|_{[\mathcal{C}_c^{0,1}(B(\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},j}, 4R_*))]^*} \leqslant \delta.$$

We apply Theorem 3.1 to $\hat{u}'_{\mathfrak{p}}$ on each disk $B(\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},j}, 4R_*)$, $1 \leqslant j \leqslant n_{\mathfrak{p}}$. This yields points $\hat{y}_{\mathfrak{p},j,k} \in \{|\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}| \leqslant \frac{1}{2}\} \subset B(\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},j}, R_*) \subset B(\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},j}, 4R_*)$ and integers $d_{\mathfrak{p},j,k} \in \mathbb{Z}$, $1 \leqslant k \leqslant N_{\mathfrak{p},j}$, such that

$$\Big\| J\hat{u}'_{\mathfrak{p}} - \pi \sum_{k=1}^{N_{\mathfrak{p},j}} d_{\mathfrak{p},j,k} \delta_{\hat{y}_{\mathfrak{p},j,k}} \Big\|_{[\mathcal{C}_c^{0,1}(B(\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},j},4R_*))]^*} \leqslant \delta \tag{3-8}$$

and

$$\pi \sum_{k=1}^{N_{\mathfrak{p},j}} |d_{\mathfrak{p},j,k}| \leqslant \frac{E_{1/\mathfrak{p}}(\hat{u}'_{\mathfrak{p}}, B(\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},j}, 4R_*))}{\ln \mathfrak{p}} + \delta. \tag{3-9}$$

By summing the inequalities (3-9) over $1 \leqslant j \leqslant n_{\mathfrak{p}}$, we infer

$$\pi \sum_{j=1}^{n_{\mathfrak{p}}} \sum_{k=1}^{N_{\mathfrak{p},j}} |d_{\mathfrak{p},j,k}| \leqslant \frac{E_{1/\mathfrak{p}}(\hat{u}'_{\mathfrak{p}}, \Omega_{4R_*})}{\ln \mathfrak{p}} + \delta \leqslant 2.5\pi$$

by using $\delta < \frac{\pi}{2}$ and Step 3, and for $\mathfrak{p}$ large enough. Therefore,

$$\sum_{j=1}^{n_{\mathfrak{p}}} \sum_{k=1}^{N_{\mathfrak{p},j}} |d_{\mathfrak{p},j,k}| \leqslant 2 \tag{3-10}$$

and two cases may occur: all the integers $d_{\mathfrak{p},j,k}$ are zero (this is case (I)) or at least one of the integers $d_{\mathfrak{p},j,k}$ is not zero.

In addition, we have, for $1 \leqslant j \leqslant n_{\mathfrak{p}}$,

$$\sum_{k=1}^{N_{\mathfrak{p},j}} d_{\mathfrak{p},j,k} = \deg(\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}, \partial B(\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},j}, 3R_*)). \tag{3-11}$$

Indeed, since $|\hat{u}'_{\mathfrak{p}}| = 1$ on $B(\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},j}, 4R_*) \setminus B(\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},j}, 3R_*)$, we have $J\hat{u}'_{\mathfrak{p}} = 0$ there. Therefore, by fixing $\chi \in \mathcal{C}_c^\infty(B(0, 4R_*))$ such that $\chi \equiv 1$ on $\bar{B}(0, 3R_*)$, we deduce

$$\begin{aligned}
\Big|\sum_{k=1}^{N_{\mathfrak{p},j}} d_{\mathfrak{p},j,k} - \deg(\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}, \partial B(\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},j}, 3R_*))\Big| &= \Big| \int_{B(\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},j},3R_*)} \sum_{k=1}^{N_{\mathfrak{p},j}} d_{\mathfrak{p},j,k} \delta_{\hat{y}_{\mathfrak{p},j,k}} \, d\hat{x} - \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{B(\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},j},4R_*)} J\hat{u}'_{\mathfrak{p}} \, d\hat{x} \Big| \\
&= \frac{1}{\pi} \Big| \int_{B(\hat{z}^j_{\mathfrak{p}},4R_*)} \chi(\hat{x} - \hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},j}) \Big(\sum_{k=1}^{N_{\mathfrak{p},j}} d_{\mathfrak{p},j,k} \delta_{\hat{y}_{\mathfrak{p},j,k}} - J\hat{u}'_{\mathfrak{p}} \Big) \, d\hat{x} \Big| \\
&\leqslant \frac{1}{\pi} \|\chi\| \times \Big\| J\hat{u}'_{\mathfrak{p}} - \pi \sum_{k=1}^{N_{\mathfrak{p},j}} d_{\mathfrak{p},j,k} \delta_{\hat{y}_{\mathfrak{p},j,k}} \Big\|_{[\mathcal{C}_c^{0,1}(\bar{D}(\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},j},4R_*))]^*}
\end{aligned}$$

by (3-8). Since the left-hand side is an integer and the right-hand side is $\leqslant \frac{1}{2}$ provided $\mathfrak{p} \geqslant \mathfrak{p}_{2,1}(\delta, \Lambda_0)$, (3-11) follows.

We finally notice that the degree of $\hat{u}'_{\mathfrak{p}}$ on some large circle $\partial B(0, R)$ (with $R \gg \max_{1 \leqslant j \leqslant n_{\mathfrak{p}}} |\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},j}|$) is zero, for otherwise $\hat{u}'_{\mathfrak{p}}$ (and $\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}$) would have infinite kinetic energy. Therefore,

$$0 = \sum_{j=1}^{n_{\mathfrak{p}}} \deg(\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}, \partial B(\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},j}, 3R_*)) = \sum_{j=1}^{n_{\mathfrak{p}}} \sum_{k=1}^{N_{\mathfrak{p},j}} d_{\mathfrak{p},j,k}.$$

Combining this with (3-10), we deduce that if we are not in case (I), then one of the $d_{\mathfrak{p},j,k}$ must be equal to $+1$ and another one must be equal to -1, which is case (II).

Notice that for case (II), if $B(\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},j}, 4R_*)$ contains neither $y_{\mathfrak{p},+}$ nor $y_{\mathfrak{p},-}$, then $\|J\hat{u}'_{\mathfrak{p}}\|_{[C_c^{0,1}(B(\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},j},4R_*))]^*} \leqslant \delta$.

As in [5], we now relate the location of the points $\hat{y}_{\mathfrak{p},\pm}$ to the momentum $P(\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}})$.

<u>Step 6</u>: Case (I) does not occur for $\mathfrak{p}$ sufficiently large, say $\mathfrak{p} \geqslant \mathfrak{p}_3$. In addition, we have

$$1 = P(\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}) = \pi((\hat{y}_{\mathfrak{p},+})_1 - (\hat{y}_{\mathfrak{p},-})_1) + o(1).$$

First, we have, by computations similar to those of Step 3, $\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}} = Ae^{i\varphi}$ locally outside Ω_{R_*}; hence $\langle i\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}} \mid \nabla\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}\rangle = A^2\nabla\varphi$ and then, outside Ω_{3R_*},

$$\langle i\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}} \mid \nabla\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}\rangle - \langle i\hat{u}'_{\mathfrak{p}} \mid \nabla\hat{u}'_{\mathfrak{p}}\rangle = A^2\nabla\varphi - \nabla\varphi = \frac{A^2-1}{A} \times A\nabla\varphi.$$

In $B(\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},j}, 3R_*) \setminus B(\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},j}, 2R_*)$, we obtain

$$|\langle i\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}} \mid \nabla\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}\rangle - \langle i\hat{u}'_{\mathfrak{p}} \mid \nabla\hat{u}'_{\mathfrak{p}}\rangle| = |A^2\nabla\varphi - |\hat{u}'_{\mathfrak{p}}|^2\nabla\varphi| \leqslant \frac{|A^2-1|}{A} \times |A\nabla\varphi|,$$

since $|\hat{u}'_{\mathfrak{p}}| \in [|\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}|, 1]$. Therefore,

$$\|\langle i\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}} \mid \nabla\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}\rangle - \langle i\hat{u}'_{\mathfrak{p}} \mid \nabla\hat{u}'_{\mathfrak{p}}\rangle\|_{L^1(\mathbb{R}^2)} \leqslant K\int_{\mathbb{R}^2\setminus\Omega_{2R_*}} |1-|\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}|^2| \times |\nabla\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}|\,d\hat{x} \leqslant \frac{K}{\mathfrak{p}}E_{1/\mathfrak{p}}(\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}) \leqslant K\frac{\ln\mathfrak{p}}{\mathfrak{p}}. \tag{3-12}$$

Following [5; 8], we write

$$\begin{aligned} 1 = \frac{P(u_{\mathfrak{p}})}{\mathfrak{p}} = P(\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}) &= \frac{1}{2}\int_{\mathbb{R}^2} \langle i\partial_2\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}} \mid \hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}} - 1\rangle\,d\hat{x} \\ &= \frac{1}{2}\int_{\mathbb{R}^2}\langle i\partial_2\hat{u}'_{\mathfrak{p}} \mid \hat{u}'_{\mathfrak{p}} - 1\rangle\,d\hat{x} + \frac{1}{2}\int_{\mathbb{R}^2}(\langle i\partial_2\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}} \mid \hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}-1\rangle - \langle i\partial_2\hat{u}'_{\mathfrak{p}} \mid \hat{u}'_{\mathfrak{p}}-1\rangle)\,d\hat{x}. \end{aligned}$$

For the second integral, we write that, on the one hand,

$$\left|\int_{\mathbb{R}^2}(\langle i\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}} \mid \partial_2\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}\rangle - \langle i\hat{u}'_{\mathfrak{p}} \mid \partial_2\hat{u}'_{\mathfrak{p}}\rangle)\,d\hat{x}\right| \leqslant \|\langle i\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}} \mid \nabla\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}\rangle - \langle i\hat{u}'_{\mathfrak{p}} \mid \nabla\hat{u}'_{\mathfrak{p}}\rangle\|_{L^1(\mathbb{R}^2)} \leqslant K\frac{\ln\mathfrak{p}}{\mathfrak{p}} \to 0$$

when $\mathfrak{p} \to +\infty$; on the other hand, by the decays given in Theorem 2.4,

$$\begin{aligned} \left|\int_{\mathbb{R}^2}(\langle i\partial_2\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}} \mid 1\rangle - \langle i\partial_2\hat{u}'_{\mathfrak{p}} \mid 1\rangle)\,d\hat{x}\right| &= \lim_{r\to+\infty}\left|\int_{\partial B(0,r)} \nu_2\,\mathfrak{Im}(\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}} - \hat{u}'_{\mathfrak{p}})\,d\ell\right| \\ &\leqslant \lim_{r\to+\infty}\int_{\partial B(0,r)}|A-1|\,d\ell = \lim_{r\to+\infty}\mathcal{O}(1/r) = 0. \end{aligned}$$

We then integrate by parts to get

$$\frac{1}{2}\int_{\mathbb{R}^2}\langle i\partial_2\hat{u}'_{\mathfrak{p}} \mid \hat{u}'_{\mathfrak{p}}-1\rangle\,d\hat{x} = \frac{1}{2}\int_{\mathbb{R}^2}\partial_1\hat{x}_1\langle i\partial_2\hat{u}'_{\mathfrak{p}} \mid \hat{u}'_{\mathfrak{p}}-1\rangle - \partial_2\hat{x}_1\langle i\partial_1\hat{u}'_{\mathfrak{p}} \mid \hat{u}'_{\mathfrak{p}}-1\rangle\,d\hat{x} = \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} J\hat{u}'_{\mathfrak{p}}\hat{x}_1\,d\hat{x}.$$

The integration by parts is justified by the algebraic decay at infinity given in Theorem 2.4:

$$\hat{x}_1 \langle i\partial_2 \hat{u}'_{\mathfrak{p}} \mid \hat{u}'_{\mathfrak{p}} - 1\rangle = \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{1}{|x|^2}\right).$$

Then, since $J\hat{u}'_{\mathfrak{p}}$ is supported in Ω_{R_*}, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}\int_{\mathbb{R}^2} \hat{x}_1 J\hat{u}'_{\mathfrak{p}}\, d\hat{x} &= \sum_{j=1}^{n_{\mathfrak{p}}} \int_{B(\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},j},3R_*)} \hat{x}_1 J\hat{u}'_{\mathfrak{p}}\, d\hat{x} \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^{n_{\mathfrak{p}}} \int_{B(\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},j},3R_*)} (\hat{x}_1 - (\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},j})_1) J\hat{u}'_{\mathfrak{p}}\, d\hat{x} + \sum_{j=1}^{n_{\mathfrak{p}}} \hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},j,1} \int_{B(\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},j},3R_*)} J\hat{u}'_{\mathfrak{p}}\, d\hat{x}.\end{aligned}$$

We then fix $\chi \in \mathcal{C}_c^\infty(B(0,4R_*))$ such that $\chi \equiv 1$ on $\bar{B}(0,3R_*)$. Next, for any $1 \leqslant j \leqslant n_{\mathfrak{p}}$, we write

$$\begin{aligned}&\int_{B(\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},j},3R_*)} (\hat{x}_1 - (\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},j})_1) J\hat{u}'_{\mathfrak{p}}\, d\hat{x} \\ &= \int_{B(\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},j},4R_*)} (\hat{x}_1 - (\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},j})_1)\chi(\hat{x} - \hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},j}) J\hat{u}'_{\mathfrak{p}}\, d\hat{x} \\ &= \int_{B(\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},j},4R_*)} (\hat{x}_1 - (\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},j})_1)\chi(\hat{x} - \hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},j}) \left(J\hat{u}'_{\mathfrak{p}} - \pi \sum_{k=1}^{N_{\mathfrak{p},j}} d_{\mathfrak{p},j,k}\delta_{y_{\mathfrak{p},j,k}}\right) d\hat{x} + \pi \sum_{k=1}^{N_{\mathfrak{p},j}} d_{\mathfrak{p},j,k}((y_{\mathfrak{p},j,k})_1 - (\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},j})_1).\end{aligned}$$

We now estimate the first integral (actually, a duality bracket) by using Step 5:

$$\begin{aligned}&\left|\int_{B(\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},j},2R_*)} (\hat{x}_1 - (\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},j})_1)\chi(\cdot - \hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},j}) \left(J\hat{u}'_{\mathfrak{p}} - \pi \sum_{k=1}^{N_{\mathfrak{p},j}} d_{\mathfrak{p},j,k}\delta_{y_{\mathfrak{p},j,k}}\right) d\hat{x}\right| \\ &\qquad\qquad \leqslant \|(\hat{x}_1 - (\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},j})_1)\chi(\cdot - \hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},j})\|_{\mathcal{C}_c^{0,1}(B(\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},j},2R_*))} \left\| J\hat{u}'_{\mathfrak{p}} - \pi \sum_{k=1}^{N_{\mathfrak{p},j}} d_{\mathfrak{p},j,k}\delta_{y_{\mathfrak{p},j,k}}\right\|_{[\mathcal{C}_c^{0,1}(B(\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},j},2R_*))]^*} \\ &\qquad\qquad \leqslant K o(1).\end{aligned}$$

As a consequence of (3-11), which implies, for each $1 \leqslant j \leqslant n_{\mathfrak{p}}$,

$$\sum_{k=1}^{N_{\mathfrak{p},j}} d_{\mathfrak{p},j,k} = \deg(\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}, \partial B(\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},j}, 3R_*)) = \deg(\hat{u}'_{\mathfrak{p}}, \partial B(\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},j}, 3R_*)) = \int_{B(\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},j},3R_*)} J\hat{u}'_{\mathfrak{p}}\, d\hat{x},$$

we infer, after some cancellation,

$$\left| P(\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}) - \pi \sum_{j=1}^{n_{\mathfrak{p}}} \sum_{k=1}^{N_{\mathfrak{p},j}} d_{\mathfrak{p},j,k}(y_{\mathfrak{p},j,k})_1 \right| \leqslant K\frac{\ln \mathfrak{p}}{\mathfrak{p}} + n_* K o(1). \tag{3-13}$$

Since $P(\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}) = 1$, it follows that for $\mathfrak{p}$ large enough, we cannot be in Case (I), and the conclusion is a recasting of (3-13).

Step 7: There exists $\mathfrak{p}_4$ large such that, for $\mathfrak{p} \geqslant \mathfrak{p}_4$, we have $\{|\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}| \leqslant \frac{1}{2}\} \subset B\big(\hat{y}_{\mathfrak{p},+}, \frac{3}{20}\big) \cup B\big(\hat{y}_{\mathfrak{p},-}, \frac{3}{20}\big)$ and $\deg\big(u, \partial B\big(\hat{y}_{\mathfrak{p},\pm}, \frac{3}{20}\big)\big) = \pm 1$.

From Step 6, we know that $1 = P(\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}) = \pi((\hat{y}_{\mathfrak{p},+})_1 - (\hat{y}_{\mathfrak{p},-})_1) + o(1)$; hence the two points $\hat{y}_{\mathfrak{p},\pm}$ are far away from each other:

$$|\hat{y}_{\mathfrak{p},+} - \hat{y}_{\mathfrak{p},-}| \geqslant \tfrac{4}{10}$$

$\big(\text{since } \frac{1}{\pi} \approx 0.318 < \frac{4}{10}\big)$ for $\mathfrak{p}$ large enough (but they may be, at this stage, very far away from each other). By applying Theorem 1.1(i) of [2] or Theorem 3.1 of [27] (this is not very far from Theorem 3.1), since $J\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}(\hat{y}_{\mathfrak{p},\pm} + \cdot) \to \pm\pi\delta_0$ weakly, we deduce

$$E_{1/\mathfrak{p}}\big(\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}, B\big(\hat{y}_{\mathfrak{p},\pm}, \tfrac{1}{10}\big)\big) \geqslant (\pi + o(1)) \ln \mathfrak{p};$$

hence, by the upper bound (3-3),

$$E_{1/\mathfrak{p}}\big(\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}, \mathbb{R}^2 \setminus \big(B\big(\hat{y}_{\mathfrak{p},+}, \tfrac{1}{10}\big) \cup B\big(\hat{y}_{\mathfrak{p},-}, \tfrac{1}{10}\big)\big)\big) \leqslant o(\ln \mathfrak{p}),$$

and this in turn implies, by the clearing-out theorem (Theorem 3.3), that if $\mathfrak{p}$ is large enough, say $\mathfrak{p} \geqslant \mathfrak{p}_4$, then,

$$\text{for all } \hat{x} \in \mathbb{R}^2 \setminus \big(B\big(\hat{y}_{\mathfrak{p},+}, \tfrac{3}{20}\big) \cup B\big(\hat{y}_{\mathfrak{p},-}, \tfrac{3}{20}\big)\big), \quad |\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}(\hat{x})| \geqslant \tfrac{3}{4},$$

as wished. In particular, $\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},\pm} \in B\big(\hat{y}_{\mathfrak{p},+}, \frac{3}{20}\big) \cup B\big(\hat{y}_{\mathfrak{p},-}, \frac{3}{20}\big)$.

We emphasize that at this stage, we have $|\hat{y}_{\mathfrak{p},+} - \hat{y}_{\mathfrak{p},-}| \gtrsim 1$, but we do not know whether $|\hat{y}_{\mathfrak{p},+} - \hat{y}_{\mathfrak{p},-}| \lesssim 1$ or $|\hat{y}_{\mathfrak{p},+} - \hat{y}_{\mathfrak{p},-}| \gg 1$. We may now take advantage of the fact that $\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}$ is by hypothesis symmetric with respect to the x_2-axis (i.e., $\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}(-\hat{x}_1, \hat{x}_2) = \hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}(\hat{x}_1, \hat{x}_2)$), so that, possibly translating along the x_2-axis, we may assume

$$(\hat{y}_{\mathfrak{p},-})_2 = (\hat{y}_{\mathfrak{p},+})_2 = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad -(\hat{y}_{\mathfrak{p},-})_1 = (\hat{y}_{\mathfrak{p},+})_1 \to \tfrac{1}{2\pi}. \tag{3-14}$$

If we do not assume a priori the symmetry in x_1, then we may remove the translation invariance by imposing $\hat{y}_{\mathfrak{p},+} + \hat{y}_{\mathfrak{p},-} = 0$, and then we may still show that $\hat{y}_{\mathfrak{p},+} = -\hat{y}_{\mathfrak{p},-} \to \big(\frac{1}{2\pi}, 0\big)$ by using the Hopf differential as in [6, Chapter VII].

3B2. *Strong convergence outside the vorticity set at scale $x/\mathfrak{p}$.* We start with a $W^{1,p}_{\text{loc}}$ bound at scale $\hat{x}$ for $1 \leqslant p < 2$.

Step 1: For any $1 \leqslant p < 2$, there exists C_p such that, for any $\widehat{X} \in \mathbb{R}^2$, we have

$$\int_{B(\widehat{X},1)} |\nabla \hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}|^p \, d\hat{x} \leqslant C_p.$$

We shall adapt the proof of [8] (see the proof of Theorem 4, Step 3, p. 83) to the two-dimensional case. Actually, the only modification to make in the estimate is to replace (C.26) there by the standard convolution

$$\psi_{0,i}(\hat{x}) = -\frac{\ln r}{2\pi} \star \omega_{0,i}(\hat{x}) = -\frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{\text{Supp}(\omega_{0,i})} \omega_{0,i}(\hat{y}) \ln |\hat{x} - \hat{y}| \, d\hat{y},$$

and then use, for $|\hat{x} - \hat{y}_{\mathfrak{p},\pm}| \geqslant 3R_*$, that

$$\begin{aligned} |\nabla \psi_{0,\pm}(\hat{x})| &= \left| \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{\text{Supp}(\omega_{0,\pm})} \omega_{0,i}(\hat{y}) \nabla_{\hat{x}} \ln |\hat{x} - \hat{y}| \, d\hat{y} \right| \\ &\leqslant \frac{1}{2\pi} \|\omega_{0,\pm}\|_{[C_c^{0,1}(B(\hat{y}_{\mathfrak{p},\pm}, 2R_*))]^*} \|(\hat{x} - \hat{y})/|\hat{x} - \hat{y}|^2\|_{C^{0,1}(B(\hat{y}_{\mathfrak{p},\pm}, 3R_*))} \leqslant K \end{aligned}$$

(the estimate $\|\psi_{0,\pm}\|_{\mathcal{C}^k(\mathbb{R}^2\setminus B(\hat{y}_{\mathfrak{p},\pm},3R_*))} \leqslant C_k$ does not hold since the two-dimensional fundamental solution $(\ln r)/(2\pi)$ goes to $+\infty$ at spatial infinity, but $\|\nabla\psi_{0,\pm}\|_{\mathcal{C}^k(\mathbb{R}^2\setminus B(\hat{y}_{\mathfrak{p},\pm},3R_*))} \leqslant C_k$ is true). The rest of the proof remains unchanged.

Step 2: For any $\widehat{X} \in \mathbb{R}^2 \setminus \big(B\big(\hat{y}_{\mathfrak{p},+}, \tfrac{2}{10}\big) \cup B\big(\hat{y}_{\mathfrak{p},-}, \tfrac{2}{10}\big)\big)$, we may write $\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}} = A e^{i\phi}$ in $B\big(\widehat{X}, \tfrac{1}{20}\big)$, with, for any $k \in \mathbb{N}$,

$$\left\| 2(1-A) - \frac{c_{\mathfrak{p}}}{\mathfrak{p}} \partial_2 \phi \right\|_{\mathcal{C}^k(B(\widehat{X},1/20))} \leqslant \frac{C_k}{\mathfrak{p}^2}, \quad \|\nabla\phi\|_{\mathcal{C}^k(B(\widehat{X},1/20))} \leqslant C_k, \tag{3-15}$$

for some constant C_k independent of $\widehat{X}$.

The proof (relying on Step 1) follows the lines of the proof of Step 7 (p. 48) of Theorem 1 in [8] and is omitted.

In view of the upper bound of Step 1 of Section 3B1, we infer the uniform estimate

$$\|1 - |\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}|\|_{\mathcal{C}^k(B(\widehat{X},1/20))} \leqslant C_k \frac{\ln \mathfrak{p}}{\mathfrak{p}^2} \tag{3-16}$$

for $\widehat{X} \in \mathbb{R}^2 \setminus \big(B\big(\hat{y}_{\mathfrak{p},+}, \tfrac{2}{10}\big) \cup B\big(\hat{y}_{\mathfrak{p},-}, \tfrac{2}{10}\big)\big)$.

3B3. *Lower bound for the energy and upper bound for the potential energy.*

Step 1: Upper bound for the potential. We claim that

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^2} |\nabla|\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}||^2 + \frac{\mathfrak{p}^2}{2}(1-|\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}|^2)^2 \, d\hat{x} \leqslant C(\Lambda_0),$$

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^2\setminus(B(\hat{y}_{\mathfrak{p},+},2/10)\cup B(\hat{y}_{\mathfrak{p},-},2/10))} |\nabla\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}|^2 + \frac{\mathfrak{p}^2}{2}(1-|\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}|^2)^2 \, d\hat{x} \leqslant C(\Lambda_0).$$

The proof of this upper bound will be a direct consequence of the lower bounds established in [43] (see Theorems 2 and 3 there).

Theorem 3.4 [43]. *Let $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^2$ be a bounded smooth domain. Assume that $u \in H^1(\Omega, \mathbb{C})$ and that $u_{|\partial\Omega} \in \mathcal{C}^1(\partial\Omega, \mathcal{S}^1)$. Let $\delta \in \,]0, 1[$.*

(i) *There exists a constant Λ_1, depending on Ω and $\|u_{|\partial\Omega}\|_{\mathcal{C}^1}$, such that*

$$\frac{1}{2}\int_\Omega |\nabla u|^2 + \frac{1}{2\delta^2}(1-|u|^2)^2 \geqslant \pi|\deg(u_{|\partial\Omega}, \partial\Omega)| \ln(1/\delta) - \Lambda_1.$$

(ii) *If, moreover, for some constant Λ_2, we have*

$$\frac{1}{2}\int_\Omega |\nabla u|^2 + \frac{1}{2\delta^2}(1-|u|^2)^2 \leqslant \pi|\deg(u_{|\partial\Omega}, \partial\Omega)| \ln(1/\delta) + \Lambda_2,$$

then

$$\frac{1}{2}\int_\Omega |\nabla|u||^2 + \frac{1}{2\delta^2}(1-|u|^2)^2 \leqslant C(\Omega, \Lambda_2, \|u_{|\partial\Omega}\|_{\mathcal{C}^1}).$$

We shall apply this result with $\delta = 1/\mathfrak{p} \ll 1$, $\Omega = B\big(\hat{y}_{\mathfrak{p},\pm}, \tfrac{2}{10}\big)$ and $u = \hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}$. In view of the upper bound (3-3) on the energy of $\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}$ and since $\deg\big(\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}, \partial B\big(\hat{y}_{\mathfrak{p},\pm}, \tfrac{2}{10}\big)\big) = \pm 1$, this yields

$$\int_{B(\hat{y}_{\mathfrak{p},\pm},2/10)} |\nabla\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}|^2 + \frac{\mathfrak{p}^2}{2}(1-|\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}|^2)^2 \, d\hat{x} \geqslant \pi \ln \mathfrak{p} - \Lambda_1,$$

$$\int_{B(\hat{y}_{\mathfrak{p},\pm},2/10)} |\nabla|\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}||^2 + \frac{\mathfrak{p}^2}{2}(1-|\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}|^2)^2\,d\hat{x} \leqslant C(\Lambda_0).$$

We conclude by using once again the upper bound (3-3). Actually, $\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}$ does not belong to $\mathcal{C}^1\big(\partial B\big(\hat{y}_{\mathfrak{p},\pm}, \tfrac{2}{10}\big)\big)$, but it is easy, using (3-15), to construct an extension of $\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}$ on $B\big(\hat{y}_{\mathfrak{p},\pm}, \tfrac{3}{10}\big)$ with the required properties by linear interpolation (see, for instance the lemma on p. 395-396 in [43]).

Step 2: There exists $\sigma_0 > 0$ such that we have, for $R \geqslant 1$,

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^2\setminus B(0,R)} |\nabla\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}|^2 + \frac{\mathfrak{p}^2}{2}(1-|\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}|^2)^2\,d\hat{x} \leqslant \frac{C(\Lambda_0)}{R^{\sigma_0}}.$$

The proof is similar to that of Lemma 5.1 (p. 50) in [8], and relies on the fact that $|\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}| \geqslant \frac{1}{2}$ in $\mathbb{R}^2 \setminus B(0,1)$ (hence we may write the PDE in terms of modulus and phase), and the upper bound in $\mathbb{R}^2 \setminus \big(B\big(\hat{y}_{\mathfrak{p},+}, \tfrac{2}{10}\big) \cup B\big(\hat{y}_{\mathfrak{p},-}, \tfrac{2}{10}\big)\big) \supset \mathbb{R}^2 \setminus B(0,1)$ of the energy of $\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}$ (in [8], this last upper bound was derived differently).

3B4. *Convergence on the scale $x/\mathfrak{p}$.* By Step 1 of Section 3B3 and (3-14), we have, as $\mathfrak{p} \to +\infty$,

$$\hat{y}_{\mathfrak{p},\pm} \to \hat{y}_{\infty,\pm} := \pm(1/(2\pi), 0) \in \mathbb{R}^2. \tag{3-17}$$

We then define (identifying $\mathbb{R}^2$ and $\mathbb{C}$)

$$\hat{u}_\infty(\hat{x}) := \frac{\hat{x}-\hat{y}_{\infty,+}}{|\hat{x}-\hat{y}_{\infty,+}|} \times \overline{\frac{\hat{x}+\hat{y}_{\infty,-}}{|\hat{x}+\hat{y}_{\infty,-}|}}.$$

Step 1: For any $p \in [1,2[$, there holds, in $W^{1,p}_{\mathrm{loc}}(\mathbb{R}^2)$,

$$\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}} \rightharpoonup \hat{u}_\infty.$$

From the $W^{1,p}_{\mathrm{loc}}$ upper bound of Step 1 in Section 3B2 and by weak compactness, there exists $\widehat{U} \in W^{1,p}_{\mathrm{loc}}(\mathbb{R}^2)$ such that $\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}} \rightharpoonup \widehat{U}$ in $W^{1,p}_{\mathrm{loc}}(\mathbb{R}^2)$. Moreover, $\widehat{U} \in \mathcal{C}^\infty_{\mathrm{loc}}(\mathbb{R}^2 \setminus \{\hat{y}_{\infty,+}, \hat{y}_{\infty,-}\})$ and the convergence holds in $\mathcal{C}^k_{\mathrm{loc}}(\mathbb{R}^2 \setminus \{\hat{y}_{\infty,+}, \hat{y}_{\infty,-}\})$ by Step 2 of Section 3B2 (for any $k \in \mathbb{N}$). In order to determine $\widehat{U}$, we shall pass to the limit in the system

$$\begin{cases} \nabla\cdot(\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}} \wedge \nabla\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}) = -\frac{1}{2}c_{\mathfrak{p}}\mathfrak{p}\partial_2(|\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}|^2-1), \\ \nabla^\perp\cdot(\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}} \wedge \nabla\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}) = 2J\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}} \end{cases}$$

obtained from (3-5) and the definition of the Jacobian. From (3-3) (implying $c_{\mathfrak{p}}\mathfrak{p}\partial_2(|\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}|^2-1) \to 0$ in the distributional or the H^{-1} sense) and Step 5 of Section 3B1, we then infer

$$\begin{cases} \nabla\cdot(\widehat{U} \wedge \nabla\widehat{U}) = 0, \\ \nabla^\perp\cdot(\widehat{U} \wedge \nabla\widehat{U}) = 2\pi(\delta_{\hat{y}_{\infty,+}} - \delta_{\hat{y}_{\infty,-}}). \end{cases}$$

It then follows that $\widehat{U} \wedge \nabla\widehat{U} = \hat{u}_\infty \wedge \nabla\hat{u}_\infty$; hence we have the existence of $\Theta \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $\widehat{U} = e^{i\Theta}\hat{u}_\infty$. We finally use the x_1-symmetry to infer $\Theta = 0$.

Step 2: As $\mathfrak{p} \to +\infty$, we have

$$\mathfrak{p} c_{\mathfrak{p}} = \frac{\mathfrak{p}^2}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} (1 - |\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}|^2)^2 \, d\hat{x} \to 2\pi.$$

This is claimed in [5, Proposition VI.7], but the proof is not clearly given.

One way to prove this point is to use the Hopf differential as in [6, Chapter VII]. We shall follow the alternative proof of Theorem VII.2 given in Section VII.1 there. The first equality is the Pohozaev identity (2-2).

First, notice that

$$W_{\mathfrak{p}} := \frac{\mathfrak{p}^2}{2} (1 - |\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}|^2)^2$$

is a nonnegative function which is bounded in $L^1(\mathbb{R}^2)$ by Step 1 of Section 3B3 and enjoys the decay estimate of Step 2 of Section 3B3. In addition, by (3-16) (see Step 2 of Section 3B2), we have $W_{\mathfrak{p}} \to 0$ locally uniformly in $\mathbb{R}^2 \setminus \{\pm(1/(2\pi), 0)\}$. Up to a subsequence, we may then assume that

$$W_{\mathfrak{p}} \rightharpoonup \mu_+ \delta_{\hat{y}_{\infty,+}} + \mu_- \delta_{\hat{y}_{\infty,-}}$$

in the weak $*$ topology of $\mathcal{C}_b(\mathbb{R}^2)$ for some reals $\mu_\pm \geqslant 0$, with $\mu_+ + \mu_- = \lim_{\mathfrak{p} \to +\infty} \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} W_{\mathfrak{p}}$.

We shall now compute μ_+ (the case of μ_- is similar). First, we write, for some $R_5 \leqslant \frac{2}{10}$, the Pohozaev identity for $\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}$ on $B(\hat{y}_{\infty,+}, R_5)$ (obtained by multiplying the equation by the conjugate of $(\hat{x} - \hat{y}_{\infty,+}) \cdot \nabla \hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}$ and integrating the real part over $B(\hat{y}_{\infty,+}, R_5)$), which yields

$$\int_{B(\hat{y}_{\infty,+}, R_5)} \frac{\mathfrak{p}^2}{2} (1 - |\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}|^2)^2 + c_{\mathfrak{p}} \mathfrak{p} \int_{B(\hat{y}_{\infty,+}, R_5)} (\hat{x}_1 - \hat{y}_{\infty,+,1}) \langle i \partial_2 \hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}} \mid \partial_1 \hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}} \rangle \\ = \frac{R_5}{2} \int_{\partial B(\hat{y}_{\infty,+}, R_5)} |\partial_\tau \hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}|^2 - |\partial_\nu \hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}|^2 + \frac{\mathfrak{p}^2}{4} (1 - |\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}|^2)^2.$$

We then pass to the limit $\mathfrak{p} \to +\infty$. For the boundary term, we use the strong convergences outside the vorticity set; for the second term of the first line, we prove that it tends to zero by following the arguments given for Step 6 in Section 3B1. We then get

$$\mu_+ = \frac{R_5}{2} \int_{\partial B(\hat{y}_{\infty,+}, R_5)} |\partial_\tau \hat{u}_\infty|^2 - |\partial_\nu \hat{u}_\infty|^2.$$

By Step 1, we know that $\hat{u}_\infty = \exp(i \operatorname{Arg}(\hat{x} - \hat{y}_{\infty,+}) - i \operatorname{Arg}(\hat{x} - \hat{y}_{\infty,-}))$ on $\partial B(\hat{y}_{\infty,+}, R_5)$, and the second term $\operatorname{Arg}(\hat{x} - \hat{y}_{\infty,-})$ is smooth and harmonic in $\overline{D}(\hat{y}_{\infty,+}, R_5)$. As a consequence, we have the Pohozaev identity for $\operatorname{Arg}(\cdot - \hat{y}_{\infty,-})$

$$0 = \frac{R_5}{2} \int_{\partial B(\hat{y}_{\infty,+}, R_5)} |\partial_\tau \operatorname{Arg}(\hat{x} - \hat{y}_{\infty,-})|^2 - |\partial_\nu \operatorname{Arg}(\hat{x} - \hat{y}_{\infty,-})|^2,$$

$\partial_\tau \operatorname{Arg}(\hat{x} - \hat{y}_{\infty,+}) = 1/R_5$, $\partial_\nu \operatorname{Arg}(\hat{x} - \hat{y}_{\infty,+}) = 0$, and thus by expansion

$$\mu_+ = \frac{R_5}{2} \int_{\partial B(\hat{y}_{\infty,+}, R_5)} |\partial_\tau \hat{u}_\infty|^2 - |\partial_\nu \hat{u}_\infty|^2 = \frac{R_5}{2} \int_{\partial B(\hat{y}_{\infty,+}, R_5)} \frac{1}{R_5^2} + \frac{2 \partial_\tau \operatorname{Arg}(\hat{x} - \hat{y}_{\infty,-})}{R_5} = \pi.$$

This concludes the proof.

3B5. *Convergence on the scale x.* We shall now focus on verifying hypothesis (2) of Proposition 1.8. The main tool is the following result. We now work on the scale x.

Proposition 3.5. *Assume that $\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p}} \in \mathbb{R}^2$ is such that*

$$\limsup_{\mathfrak{p}\to+\infty} |\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}(\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p}})| < 1$$

and consider the rescaled mapping

$$U_{\mathfrak{p}}(y) := \hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}(\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p}} + y/\mathfrak{p}).$$

Then, there exists a sign $\pm$ and $\beta \in \mathbb{R}$ (depending on the choice of the family $(\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p}})$) such that, up to a subsequence, we have, in $C^k_{\mathrm{loc}}(\mathbb{R}^2)$ for any $k \in \mathbb{N}$,

$$U_{\mathfrak{p}} \to e^{i\beta} V_{\pm}.$$

Proof. The rescaling $U_{\mathfrak{p}}$ solves

$$\Delta U_{\mathfrak{p}} + i c_{\mathfrak{p}} \partial_2 U_{\mathfrak{p}} + U_{\mathfrak{p}}(1 - |U_{\mathfrak{p}}|^2) = 0$$

and satisfies $\limsup_{\mathfrak{p}\to+\infty} |U_{\mathfrak{p}}(0)| < 1$ and, by Step 2 of Section 3B4,

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^2} (1 - |U_{\mathfrak{p}}|^2)^2 \, dy = 4\pi + o_{\mathfrak{p}\to+\infty}(1).$$

Then, from the uniform bounds of Theorem 2.2 and Corollary 2.3, we may assume, up to a subsequence,

$$U_{\mathfrak{p}} \to U_\infty \tag{3-18}$$

in $C^k_{\mathrm{loc}}(\mathbb{R}^2)$ with $|U_\infty(0)| < 1$,

$$\Delta U_\infty + U_\infty(1 - |U_\infty|^2) = 0$$

and, by Fatou's lemma,

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^2} (1 - |U_\infty|^2)^2 \, dy \leqslant 4\pi.$$

By [11], we know that $\int_{\mathbb{R}^2} (1 - |U_\infty|^2)^2 \, dy = 2\pi d^2$, where $d \in \mathbb{Z}$ is the degree of U_∞ at infinity. It follows that $|d| \leqslant 1$, and that the case $d = 0$ is excluded since $|U_\infty(0)| < 1$; hence $|U_\infty| \not\equiv 1$. Therefore $d = \pm 1$. It then follows from [36] that $U_\infty = e^{i\beta} V_d$ for some $\beta \in \mathbb{R}$. □

We may now localize the set $\{|\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}| \leqslant 1 - 1/\lambda_*\}$, where λ_* is as in Proposition 1.8, rather precisely.

Step 1: There exists $\mathfrak{p}_6$ large such that, for $\mathfrak{p} \geqslant \mathfrak{p}_6$, $\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}$ has exactly two zeros $\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},\pm}$. Up to a translation in the x_2-direction, we may assume

$$\mathbb{R} \times \{0\} \ni \hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},\pm} \to \left(\pm\tfrac{1}{2\pi}, 0\right) \in \mathbb{R}^2.$$

Moreover, there exists $R_0 > 0$ such that $\{|\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}| \leqslant 1 - 1/\lambda_*\} \subset B(\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},+}, R_0/\mathfrak{p}) \cup B(\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},-}, R_0/\mathfrak{p})$. Here, $\lambda_* > 0$ is the large universal constant appearing in Proposition 1.8.

By Step 8 of Section 3B1, we know (due to the nonzero degree) that $\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}$ has at least two zeros, one in each disk $B\left(\hat{y}_{\mathfrak{p},\pm}, \tfrac{3}{20}\right)$.

Now, if $\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p}}$ is a zero of $\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}$, we know by Proposition 3.5 that, for some $\beta \in \mathbb{R}$ (depending on the sequence $(\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p}})_{\mathfrak{p}}$) and $d_0 = \pm 1$, we have

$$\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}(\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p}} + \mathfrak{p}y) \to \mathrm{e}^{i\beta} V_{d_0}(y) \tag{3-19}$$

in $\mathcal{C}^k_{\mathrm{loc}}(\mathbb{R}^2)$. As noticed in [41], since $V_{\pm} : \mathbb{R}^2 \to \mathbb{C} \approx \mathbb{R}^2$ has nonzero Jacobian at the origin, we deduce that for any $R > 0$, and for $\mathfrak{p} \geqslant \mathfrak{p}_R$ large enough, 0 is the only zero of $U_{\mathfrak{p}}$ in $B(0, R)$. Roughly speaking, there do not exist zeros $\hat{z}$, $\hat{z}'$ of $\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}$ such that $0 < |\hat{z} - \hat{z}'| = \mathcal{O}(1/\mathfrak{p})$.

We now fix $R_0 > 0$ sufficiently large so that

$$\int_{\{|y| \leqslant R_0/2\}} (1 - |V_1(y)|^2)^2 \, dy \geqslant \tfrac{3\pi}{2}.$$

and we assume that (for any large $\mathfrak{p}$) $\{|\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}| \leqslant 1 - 1/\lambda_*\}$ (where $\lambda_* > 0$ is the one appearing in Proposition 1.8) is not included in $B(\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},+}, R_0/\mathfrak{p}) \cup B(\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},-}, R_0/\mathfrak{p})$. This means that there exists $\widehat{Z}_{\mathfrak{p}} \in B\big(\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},+}, \tfrac{3}{20}\big) \setminus B(\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},+}, R_0/\mathfrak{p})$ (say) with $|\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}(\widehat{Z}_{\mathfrak{p}})| \leqslant 1 - 1/\lambda_*$. By Proposition 3.5, the rescaled mapping $U_{\mathfrak{p}}(y) := \hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}(\widehat{Z}_{\mathfrak{p}} + \mathfrak{p}y)$ converges (up to a subsequence) in $\mathcal{C}^k_{\mathrm{loc}}(\mathbb{R}^2)$ to $U_\infty \in \mathbb{S}^1 V_{\pm}$ and we know (from [11]) that $\int_{\mathbb{R}^2} (1 - |U_\infty|^2)^2 \, dy = 2\pi$. As a consequence, since $|\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},+} - \widehat{Z}_{\mathfrak{p}}| \geqslant R_0/\mathfrak{p}$,

$$\begin{aligned}
2\pi + o(1) &= \mathfrak{p}^2 \int_{B(\hat{y}_{\mathfrak{p},+}, 3/20)} (1 - |\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}|^2)^2 \, d\hat{x} \\
&\geqslant \mathfrak{p}^2 \int_{B(\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},+}, R_0/(2\mathfrak{p}))} (1 - |\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}|^2)^2 \, d\hat{x} + \mathfrak{p}^2 \int_{B(\widehat{Z}_{\mathfrak{p}}, R_0/(2\mathfrak{p}))} (1 - |\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}|^2)^2 \, d\hat{x} \\
&\geqslant \int_{\{|y| \leqslant R_0/2\}} (1 - |V_1|^2)^2 \, dy + \int_{\{|y| \leqslant R_0/2\}} (1 - |U_\infty|^2)^2 \, dy + o(1) \\
&\geqslant \tfrac{3\pi}{2} + \tfrac{3\pi}{2} + o(1),
\end{aligned}$$

which is absurd. We then conclude $\| |u_{\mathfrak{p}}| - 1 \|_{L^\infty(\{\tilde{r}_d \geqslant R_0\})} \leqslant 1/\lambda_*$ for $\mathfrak{p}$ sufficiently large, then proving hypothesis (3) of Proposition 1.8 with $\lambda = \max(R_0, \lambda_*)$. Another consequence of this fact is that $\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}$ possesses at most two (simple) zeros $\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},\pm}$.

We then define $d = d_{\mathfrak{p}}$ such that the unique zero $\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},+}$ of $\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}$ in the right half-plane is

$$\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},+} = \frac{d_{\mathfrak{p}}}{\mathfrak{p}} \vec{e}_1 \to \big(\tfrac{1}{2\pi}, 0\big) \in \mathbb{R}^2.$$

We deduce from Step 2 of Section 3B4 that

$$d_{\mathfrak{p}} \sim \frac{\mathfrak{p}}{2\pi} \sim \frac{1}{c_{\mathfrak{p}}},$$

so that hypothesis (4) of Proposition 1.8 is satisfied for $\mathfrak{p}$ large enough (still for $\lambda = \max(R_0, \lambda_*)$). Furthermore, hypothesis (2) of Proposition 1.8 is satisfied by taking $\mathfrak{p}$ large enough, associated with the choice $\lambda = \max(R_0, \lambda_*)$.

Step 2: Conclusion. Applying Proposition 1.8 to $\mathrm{e}^{-i\beta} u_{\mathfrak{p}}$, we infer that there exists $\gamma_{\mathfrak{p}} \in \mathbb{R}$ such that (for large $\mathfrak{p}$)

$$u_{\mathfrak{p}} = \mathrm{e}^{i\gamma_{\mathfrak{p}}} Q_{c_{\mathfrak{p}}}$$

(no translation is needed in the x_2-direction at this stage since the zeros of $\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}$ are on the x_1-axis).

3C. ***Decay slightly away from the vortices.*** In this section, we provide some estimates for $\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}$ in the region $B(\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},+}, 2R_0) \cup B(\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},-}, 2R_0)$. For the Ginzburg–Landau (stationary) model, such estimates were first given in [35] for minimizing solutions and later generalized in [18] to nonminimizing solutions. However, since the paper [35] is difficult to find, we give here a proof of these estimates that includes the transport term. They improve some estimates in [14] and are not specific to the way we construct the solutions.

Proposition 3.6. *We have, for* $|\hat{y}| \leqslant \frac{3}{20}$,

$$\big||\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}(\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},\pm}+\hat{y})|-1\big| \leqslant \frac{C}{\mathfrak{p}^2|\hat{y}|^2}, \quad |\nabla|\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}|(\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},\pm}+\hat{y})| \leqslant \frac{C}{\mathfrak{p}^2|\hat{y}|^3}, \quad |\nabla\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}(\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},\pm}+\hat{y})| \leqslant \frac{C}{|\hat{y}|}.$$

Proof. We work near $\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},+}$ (the minus sign is similar), say in the annulus $B\big(\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},+}, \frac{1}{10}\big) \setminus B(\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},+}, 1/\mathfrak{p})$ and set

$$\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}(\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},+}+\hat{y}) = \hat{A}_{\mathfrak{p}}(\hat{y})e^{i\theta+i\hat{\varphi}_{\mathfrak{p}}(\hat{y})},$$

with $\hat{A}_{\mathfrak{p}}$ and $\hat{\varphi}_{\mathfrak{p}}$ real-valued and smooth in the annulus (θ is the polar angle centered at $\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},+}$). Then, we obtain the system

$$\begin{cases} \Delta\hat{A}_{\mathfrak{p}} - \hat{A}_{\mathfrak{p}}|\nabla\hat{\varphi}_{\mathfrak{p}}|^2 + \mathfrak{p}^2\hat{A}_{\mathfrak{p}}|V_1|^2(1-\hat{A}_{\mathfrak{p}}^2) - 2\hat{A}_{\mathfrak{p}}\dfrac{\partial_\theta\varphi}{r^2} - c_{\mathfrak{p}}\mathfrak{p}\hat{A}_{\mathfrak{p}}\partial_2\hat{\varphi}_{\mathfrak{p}} - c_{\mathfrak{p}}\mathfrak{p}\dfrac{\cos\theta}{r}\hat{A}_{\mathfrak{p}} = 0, \\ \hat{A}_{\mathfrak{p}}\Delta\hat{\varphi}_{\mathfrak{p}} + 2\nabla\hat{A}_{\mathfrak{p}}\cdot\nabla\hat{\varphi}_{\mathfrak{p}} + 2\dfrac{\partial_\theta\hat{A}_{\mathfrak{p}}}{r^2} + c_{\mathfrak{p}}\mathfrak{p}\partial_2\hat{A}_{\mathfrak{p}} = 0. \end{cases}$$

The second equation may be recast as

$$\nabla\cdot(\hat{A}_{\mathfrak{p}}^2\nabla\hat{\varphi}_{\mathfrak{p}}) + \frac{\partial_\theta\hat{A}_{\mathfrak{p}}^2}{r^2} = -\frac{c_{\mathfrak{p}}\mathfrak{p}}{2}\partial_2(\hat{A}_{\mathfrak{p}}^2-1). \tag{3-20}$$

Multiplying by $\hat{\varphi}_{\mathfrak{p}}$ and integrating over $B\big(0, \frac{3}{20}\big) \setminus B(0, R_0/\mathfrak{p})$, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{B(0,3/20)\setminus B(0,R_0/\mathfrak{p})} \hat{A}_{\mathfrak{p}}^2|\nabla\hat{\varphi}_{\mathfrak{p}}|^2\,d\hat{y} &= \int_{B(0,3/20)\setminus B(0,R_0/\mathfrak{p})} (1-\hat{A}_{\mathfrak{p}}^2)\frac{\partial_\theta\hat{\varphi}_{\mathfrak{p}}}{r^2} + \frac{c_{\mathfrak{p}}\mathfrak{p}}{2}(1-\hat{A}_{\mathfrak{p}}^2)\partial_2\hat{\varphi}_{\mathfrak{p}}\,d\hat{y} \\ &\quad + \int_{\partial B(0,3/20)} \hat{A}_{\mathfrak{p}}^2\frac{\partial\hat{\varphi}_{\mathfrak{p}}}{\partial\nu} + \frac{c_{\mathfrak{p}}\mathfrak{p}}{2}(\hat{A}_{\mathfrak{p}}^2-1)\hat{\varphi}_{\mathfrak{p}}\nu_2\,d\ell. \end{aligned}$$

By the Cauchy–Schwarz inequality, (3-3) and Step 1 of Section 3B3, we infer

$$\|\nabla\hat{\varphi}_{\mathfrak{p}}\|^2_{L^2(B(0,3/20)\setminus B(0,R_0/\mathfrak{p}))} \leqslant C(1+c_{\mathfrak{p}})\|\nabla\hat{\varphi}_{\mathfrak{p}}\|_{L^2(B(0,3/20)\setminus B(0,R_0/\mathfrak{p}))} + C,$$

where, for the contribution of the integral over $\partial B\big(0, \frac{3}{20}\big)$, we have used (3-16) and (3-15) (see Step 2 of Section 3B2). This implies

$$\|\nabla\hat{\varphi}_{\mathfrak{p}}\|_{L^2(B(0,3/20)\setminus B(0,R_0/\mathfrak{p}))} \leqslant C. \tag{3-21}$$

We fix $\hat{y} \in \mathbb{R}^2$ such that $2R_0/\mathfrak{p} \leqslant |\hat{y}| \leqslant \frac{3}{20}$. Then, since $|\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}| \geqslant \frac{1}{2}$ in the annulus $B\big(0, \frac{3}{20}\big) \setminus B(0, R_0/\mathfrak{p}) \supset B(\hat{y}, |\hat{y}|/2)$, we deduce

$$\int_{B(\hat{y},|\hat{y}|/2)} \hat{A}_{\mathfrak{p}}^2|\nabla\hat{\varphi}_{\mathfrak{p}} + \vec{e}_\theta/r|^2\,d\hat{x} \leqslant C\int_{B(\hat{y},|\hat{y}|/2)} |\nabla\hat{\varphi}_{\mathfrak{p}}|^2 + \frac{1}{r^2}\,d\hat{x} \leqslant C$$

by (3-21) and the fact that $r = |\hat{x}| \geqslant |\hat{y}|/2$. By Step 1 of Section 3B3, we then infer the upper bound (also shown in [35])

$$E_{1/\mathfrak{p}}(\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}, B(\hat{y}, |\hat{y}|/2)) \leqslant C. \tag{3-22}$$

We now make some rescaling and consider

$$v(X) := \hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}\left(\hat{y} + \frac{|\hat{y}|}{2} X\right)$$

in $B(0, 1)$ (v depends on $\hat{y}$ and $\mathfrak{p}$), which solves

$$\Delta v + i \frac{c_{\mathfrak{p}}}{\delta} \partial_2 v + \frac{1}{\delta^2} v(1 - |v|^2) = 0$$

in $B(0, 1)$, with $\delta := 2/(\mathfrak{p}|\hat{y}|)$. This equation is of the type (3-1) with "$\epsilon = \delta$" and "$\mathfrak{c} = c_{\mathfrak{p}}/\delta$". Let us check that the assumption $|\mathfrak{c}| \leqslant M_0 |\ln \epsilon|$ is satisfied with $M_0 = 1$. As a matter of fact, we have

$$\delta = \frac{2}{\mathfrak{p}|\hat{y}|} \in \left]\frac{40}{3\mathfrak{p}}, \frac{1}{2}\right];$$

thus

$$M_0 \delta |\ln \delta| \geqslant \frac{40}{3\mathfrak{p}} \ln 2 \geqslant c_{\mathfrak{p}} = \frac{2\pi}{\mathfrak{p}} + o(1)$$

by Step 2 of Section 3B4 (note $40(\ln 2)/3 \approx 9.24(1) > 2\pi$). Furthermore, the upper bound (3-22) reads now

$$E_\delta(v, B(0, 1)) \leqslant C.$$

It then follows from the proof of Step 7 (p. 48) of Theorem 1 in [8] that, for δ sufficiently small,

$$\|2\delta^{-2}(1 - |v|) - c_{\mathfrak{p}} \delta^{-1} \partial_2 \arg(v)\|_{\mathcal{C}^1(B(0,1/2))} \leqslant C, \qquad \|\nabla \arg(v)\|_{\mathcal{C}^1(B(0,1/2))} \leqslant C.$$

Therefore, by Step 2 of Section 3B3,

$$\big|1 - |v(0)|\big| + \big|\nabla |v|(0)\big| \leqslant C c_{\mathfrak{p}} \delta + C\delta^2 \leqslant \frac{C}{\mathfrak{p}^2 |\hat{y}|^2}, \qquad |\nabla \arg(v)(0)| \leqslant C,$$

and scaling this back yields the conclusion, at least for $\delta = 2/(\mathfrak{p}|\hat{y}|)$ sufficiently small, say $\mathfrak{p}|\hat{y}| \geqslant \delta_0/2$, but the estimate is easy to show if $\mathfrak{p}|\hat{y}| \leqslant \delta_0/2$. □

3D. ***Some remarks on the nonsymmetrical case.*** In the case where we do not assume the x_1-symmetry for $u_{\mathfrak{p}}$, the location of the vortices $\hat{y}_{\mathfrak{p},\pm}$ is more delicate. Indeed, we can no longer assume (3-14), that is,

$$(\hat{y}_{\mathfrak{p},-})_2 = (\hat{y}_{\mathfrak{p},+})_2 = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad -(\hat{y}_{\mathfrak{p},-})_1 = (\hat{y}_{\mathfrak{p},+})_1 \to \tfrac{1}{2\pi}.$$

Up to a translation, we may assume $\hat{y}_{\mathfrak{p},+} + \hat{y}_{\mathfrak{p},-} = 0$, and it remains true that $\hat{y}_{\mathfrak{p},+,1} - \hat{y}_{\mathfrak{p},-,1} \to \frac{1}{\pi}$, but we may have $|\hat{y}_{\mathfrak{p},+} - \hat{y}_{\mathfrak{p},-}| \gg 1$. By carefully following the proof in [43], one could show that

$$|\hat{y}_{\mathfrak{p},+} - \hat{y}_{\mathfrak{p},-}| \leqslant C.$$

Then, the location of the limiting vortices $\hat{y}_{\infty,\pm} = \lim_{\mathfrak{p}\to+\infty} \hat{y}_{\mathfrak{p},\pm}$ can be obtained through the use of the Hopf differential as in [6] (Chapter VII), and would lead as before to $\hat{y}_{\infty,\pm} = \left(\pm\frac{1}{2\pi}, 0\right)$. This is of course related to the fact that the only critical point of the action functional

$$\mathcal{F}(\hat{y}_{\infty,+},\hat{y}_{\infty,-}) := 2\pi\big(2\ln|\hat{y}_{\infty,+}-\hat{y}_{\infty,-}| - 2\pi[(\hat{y}_{\infty,+})_1-(\hat{y}_{\infty,-})_1]\big)$$

associated with the action of the Kirchhoff energy is (up to translation) $(\hat{y}_{\infty,+},\hat{y}_{\infty,-}) = \big(\frac{1}{2\pi},-\frac{1}{2\pi}\big)\in\mathbb{C}^2$.

Next, Step 1 of Section 3B4 becomes, for any $p\in[1,2[$, and in $W^{1,p}_{\mathrm{loc}}(\mathbb{R}^2)$,

$$\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}} \rightharpoonup \mathrm{e}^{i\Theta}\hat{u}_\infty.$$

The term Θ is somewhat the phase at infinity, even though we do not claim some uniformity at infinity in space. Next, for the local convergences, there are two phases $\beta_\pm\in\mathbb{R}$ such that

$$\hat{u}_{\mathfrak{p}}(\hat{z}_{\mathfrak{p},\pm}+\mathfrak{p}\,\cdot\,) \to \mathrm{e}^{i\beta_\pm}V_\pm \tag{3-23}$$

in $C^k_{\mathrm{loc}}(\mathbb{R}^2)$ for any $k\in\mathbb{N}$. We are then simply able to show that $\beta_\pm=\Theta$, but this is not enough for the uniqueness result. This follows from the arguments given in [44], as we explain.

We work for the $+$ sign. Integrating (3-20) over the disk $B(0,R)$ yields

$$\int_{\partial B(0,R)} \hat{A}^2_{\mathfrak{p}}\frac{\partial\hat{\varphi}_{\mathfrak{p}}}{\partial\nu}\,d\ell + c_{\mathfrak{p}}\mathfrak{p}\int_{\partial B(0,R)} \nu_2(\hat{A}^2_{\mathfrak{p}}-1)\,d\ell = 0.$$

We now consider the average

$$\beta_{\mathfrak{p}}(r) := \frac{1}{2\pi r}\int_{\partial B(0,r)}\hat{\varphi}_{\mathfrak{p}}\,d\ell,$$

which satisfies, for $1/\mathfrak{p}\leqslant r_0\leqslant r_1\leqslant\frac{3}{20}$,

$$\begin{aligned}\beta_{\mathfrak{p}}(r_0)-\beta_{\mathfrak{p}}(r_1) &= \int_{r_0}^{r_1}\partial_r\beta_{\mathfrak{p}}(r)\,dr = \int_{r_0}^{r_1}\frac{1}{2\pi r}\int_{\partial B(0,r)}\partial_r\hat{\varphi}_{\mathfrak{p}}\,d\ell\,dr\\ &= \int_{r_0}^{r_1}\frac{1}{2\pi r}\int_{\partial B(0,r)}(1-\hat{A}^2_{\mathfrak{p}})\partial_r\hat{\varphi}_{\mathfrak{p}}\,d\ell\,dr + c_{\mathfrak{p}}\mathfrak{p}\int_{r_0}^{r_1}\frac{1}{2\pi r}\int_{\partial B(0,r)}\nu_2(\hat{A}^2_{\mathfrak{p}}-1)\,d\ell\,dr.\end{aligned}$$

Therefore, by Step 5,

$$|\beta_{\mathfrak{p}}(r_0)-\beta_{\mathfrak{p}}(r_1)| \leqslant C\int_{r_0}^{r_1}\frac{dr}{\mathfrak{p}^2r^3} + C\int_{r_0}^{r_1}\frac{dr}{\mathfrak{p}^2r^2} \leqslant \frac{C}{(r_0\mathfrak{p})^2}+\frac{C}{\mathfrak{p}}.$$

We now fix $\eta\in\,]0,1]$. Taking $r_0=1/(\sqrt{\eta}\mathfrak{p})$ and $r_1=\frac{3}{20}$, we infer

$$|\beta_{\mathfrak{p}}(r_0)-\beta_{\mathfrak{p}}(r_1)| \leqslant C\eta+\frac{C}{\mathfrak{p}}.$$

Moreover, by (3-23), we have

$$\beta_{\mathfrak{p}}(r_0) = \beta_{\mathfrak{p}}(1/(\sqrt{\eta}\mathfrak{p})) \to \beta_+$$

as $\mathfrak{p}\to+\infty$, and by Step 1 of Section 3B4, we deduce

$$\beta_{\mathfrak{p}}(r_1)\to\Theta.$$

As a consequence,

$$|\beta_+-\Theta|\leqslant C\eta,$$

and the conclusion follows by letting $\eta\to 0$.

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