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Equations

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# Parabolic Approximations of Diffusive-Dispersive Equations

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## Abstract

We consider a lower-order approximation for a third-order diffusive-dispersive conservation law with nonlinear flux. It consists of a system of two second-order parabolic equations; a coupling parameter is also added.

If the flux has an inflection point it is well-known, on the one hand, that the diffusive-dispersive law admits traveling-wave solutions whose end states are also connected by undercompressive shock waves of the underlying hyperbolic conservation law. On the other hand, if the diffusive-dispersive regularization vanishes, the solutions of the corresponding initial-value problem converge to a weak solution of the hyperbolic conservation law. We show that both of these properties also hold for the lower-order approximation. Furthermore, when the coupling parameter tends to infinity, we prove that solutions of initial value problems for the approximation converge to a weak solution of the diffusive-dispersive law. The proofs rely on new a-priori energy estimates for higher-order derivatives and the technique of compensated compactness.

## 1 Introduction

We are interested in the following initial-value problem for a diffusive-dispersive conservation law:

$$\begin{aligned} u_t^\varepsilon + f(u^\varepsilon)_x &= \varepsilon u_{xx}^\varepsilon + \gamma \varepsilon^2 u_{xxx}^\varepsilon & \text{in } \Omega_T := \mathbb{R} \times (0, T), T > 0, \\ u^\varepsilon(\cdot, 0) &= u_0 & \text{in } \mathbb{R}. \end{aligned} \tag{1.1}$$

Here,  $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  denotes a smooth flux with  $f(0) = 0$ ,  $u_0 : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is the initial datum and  $\varepsilon, \gamma$  are positive real parameters.

The model (1.1) can be understood as a toy model to describe phase transition dynamics when viscous and capillary effects are taken into account. To see this, let us consider first the ideal case, i.e., the sharp interface limit  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$  where the diffusive-dispersive equation in (1.1) reduces to the hyperbolic conservation law

$$u_t + f(u)_x = 0. \tag{1.2}$$

Assume that the flux  $f$  has an inflection point; this happens, for instance, in the modeling of phase transitions [13], saturation fronts [26] and precursors in thin film flows [3]. In such a case, shock-wave solutions to (1.2) that connect end states  $u_-, u_+$  in different regions of convexity may be interpreted as phase boundaries; in particular, such waves can be undercompressive [11]. The crucial observation from [11, 13] is that these undercompressive shock waves possess a diffusive-dispersive profile, i.e., the equation (1.1) admits

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for some  $\gamma > 0$  smooth traveling-wave solutions that connect the same end states  $u_-$ ,  $u_+$ . Moreover, solutions of (1.1) converge for  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$  to a weak solution of the corresponding initial-value problem for (1.2), see [11, 22].

Reverting to the dissipative equation in (1.1), it is obvious that its analytical treatment and even more its numerical simulation gets intricate due to the appearance of the third-order term. Therefore we introduce in the present paper *lower-order approximations* of (1.1) that keep the property of allowing *traveling-wave solutions* associated with under-compressive waves of (1.2) and reduce to (1.2) in the sharp-interface limit  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ .

One possibility for lower-order approximations for (1.1) is the nonlocal equation

$$u_t^{\varepsilon,\alpha} + f(u^{\varepsilon,\alpha})_x = \varepsilon u_{xx}^{\varepsilon,\alpha} + \gamma \alpha (\mathcal{K}^{\varepsilon,\alpha} * u^{\varepsilon,\alpha} - u^{\varepsilon,\alpha})_x, \quad (1.3)$$

which depends on the *coupling parameter*  $\alpha > 1$ . In (1.3) the symbol “\*” denotes spatial convolution and  $\mathcal{K}^{\varepsilon,\alpha} : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is a kernel function that satisfies

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}} \mathcal{K}^{\varepsilon,\alpha}(x) dx = 1, \quad \mathcal{K}^{\varepsilon,\alpha}(x) = \mathcal{K}^{\varepsilon,\alpha}(-x) \quad (\alpha, \varepsilon > 0).$$

Under appropriate growth conditions on  $\mathcal{K}^{\varepsilon,\alpha}$ , the existence of traveling waves for (1.3) has been verified in [20]. For fixed  $\varepsilon > 0$ , formal asymptotics suggests that solutions  $u^{\varepsilon,\alpha}$  of (1.3) converge for  $\alpha \rightarrow \infty$  to solutions of (1.1). Though this has not been proven so far for arbitrary kernels  $\mathcal{K}^{\varepsilon,\alpha}$  it holds true indeed for the choice

$$\mathcal{K}^{\varepsilon,\alpha}(x) = \frac{\sqrt{\alpha}}{2\varepsilon} e^{-\frac{\sqrt{\alpha}}{\varepsilon}|x|}, \quad (1.4)$$

see [6]. In this case (1.3) is equivalently rewritten in the local parabolic-elliptic form

$$\begin{cases} u_t^{\varepsilon,\alpha} + f(u^{\varepsilon,\alpha})_x &= \varepsilon u_{xx}^{\varepsilon,\alpha} - \alpha(u^{\varepsilon,\alpha} - \lambda^{\varepsilon,\alpha})_x, \\ -\gamma \varepsilon^2 \lambda_{xx}^{\varepsilon,\alpha} &= \alpha(u^{\varepsilon,\alpha} - \lambda^{\varepsilon,\alpha}), \end{cases} \quad \text{in } \Omega_T. \quad (1.5)$$

In other words, the approximation consists of a second-order equation for  $u^{\varepsilon,\alpha} : \Omega_T \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  coupled with a linear elliptic equation for an additional unknown  $\lambda^{\varepsilon,\alpha} : \Omega_T \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ . The kernel (1.4) is then the Green function associated to (1.5)<sub>2</sub>. We note that (1.5)<sub>2</sub> is exactly the screened Poisson equation, which is widely used in mathematical physics and visualization sciences (see for instance [9, 12]).

Instead of purely static equations as (1.5)<sub>2</sub>, one may also think to select time dependent operators. The simplest choice in this context and indeed the main topic of this paper is the system

$$\begin{cases} u_t^{\varepsilon,\alpha} + f(u^{\varepsilon,\alpha})_x &= \varepsilon u_{xx}^{\varepsilon,\alpha} - \alpha(u^{\varepsilon,\alpha} - \lambda^{\varepsilon,\alpha})_x, \\ \beta \lambda_t^{\varepsilon,\alpha} - \gamma \varepsilon^2 \lambda_{xx}^{\varepsilon,\alpha} &= \alpha(u^{\varepsilon,\alpha} - \lambda^{\varepsilon,\alpha}), \end{cases} \quad \text{in } \Omega_T, \quad (1.6)$$

for  $0 < \beta \leq 1$ . We omitted in the functions  $u^{\varepsilon,\alpha}$ ,  $\lambda^{\varepsilon,\alpha}$  the dependence on  $\beta$  both for simplicity and because we shall see that  $\beta$  must be scaled with respect to  $\alpha$  and  $\varepsilon$  in most results. The latter issue can be intuitively motivated as follows. By (1.6)<sub>2</sub> we can guess that  $\lambda^{\varepsilon,\alpha}$  and  $u^{\varepsilon,\alpha}$  converge to the same limit as  $\alpha \rightarrow \infty$ . If we plug (1.6)<sub>2</sub> into (1.6)<sub>1</sub>, we see that a necessary condition to recover (1.1)<sub>1</sub> in the limit  $\alpha \rightarrow \infty$  is that

$$\beta = \beta(\alpha) \rightarrow 0 \text{ for } \alpha \rightarrow \infty. \quad (1.7)$$

While (1.5) requires a single initial condition for  $u^{\varepsilon,\alpha}$  we need two initial conditions for (1.6). We put

$$u^{\varepsilon,\alpha}(\cdot, 0) = \lambda^{\varepsilon,\alpha}(\cdot, 0) = u_0 \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R}. \quad (1.8)$$

The case  $\lambda^{\varepsilon,\alpha}(\cdot, 0) \neq u_0$ , with  $\lambda_0^{\varepsilon,\alpha} \rightarrow u_0$  for  $\alpha \rightarrow \infty$  or  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$  in some suitable norms, only leads to minor changes in the following.

As mentioned above, we are particularly interested in flux functions  $f$  that are neither concave nor convex. To avoid technicalities, we focus on two classes of flux functions: we assume that the flux function  $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  has bounded first and second derivatives or it coincides with the simple non-convex flux

$$f(u) = u^3. \quad (1.9)$$

In Section 2 we prove the existence of traveling waves to (1.6) for the cubic flux (1.9). There we prove the first important result of this paper: under the assumption (1.7), traveling waves exist for particular values of  $\gamma$ . The proof relies on geometric singular perturbation theory [8].

The rest of the paper is concerned with fluxes having bounded derivatives. In Section 3 we prove some fundamental energy estimates for the initial-value problem (1.6)-(1.8); they will be used in Section 4 to prove the wellposedness of the initial-value problem for classical solutions.

The technical Section 5 presents refined a-priori estimates on smooth solutions of (1.6). In these energy-type estimates the dependence on both the sharp-interface parameter  $\varepsilon$  and, in particular, the coupling parameter  $\alpha$  is carefully tracked. Such estimates provide us with the necessary compactness to study the limit  $\alpha \rightarrow \infty$  in Section 6, where Theorem 6.1 is the second main result of this paper. It shows that a (sub)sequence of solutions to (1.6)-(1.8) converges to a weak solution of the diffusive-dispersive problem (1.1). Again, the scaling of  $\beta$  with respect to the coupling parameter  $\alpha$  is crucial: we sharpen for fixed value of  $\varepsilon$  the asymptotic relation (1.7) to

$$\beta = \beta(\alpha) = \mathcal{O}(\alpha^{-1}) \text{ for } \alpha \rightarrow \infty. \quad (1.10)$$

We also obtain an explicit convergence rate with respect to the coupling parameter. Finally, the sharp interface limit  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$  is analyzed in Section 7, now using for fixed  $\alpha$  the scaling

$$\beta = \beta(\varepsilon) = \mathcal{O}(\varepsilon) \text{ for } \varepsilon \rightarrow 0. \quad (1.11)$$

The main result there is Theorem 7.1, which is proven by using the compensated compactness approach in the version presented in [16].

## 2 Undercompressive Shock Waves

In this section we prove that, for all  $\varepsilon > 0$ , the parabolic system (1.6) with  $f$  provided by (1.9) admits smooth traveling-wave solutions for  $\alpha$  sufficiently large and  $\beta$  sufficiently small; moreover, such traveling waves converge almost everywhere for  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$  to an *undercompressive* shock wave [15] of the homogeneous equation (1.2). Then, the parabolic system (1.6) can be seen as a singular perturbation of (1.1), for  $\alpha \gg 1$  and  $\beta \ll 1$ . We refer to [13, 11] for traveling-wave profiles of both Lax and undercompressive shock waves for the equation (1.1). More precisely, if

$$U(x, t) = \begin{cases} u_- & \text{if } x - st < 0, \\ u_+ & \text{if } x - st > 0, \end{cases}$$

is a shock wave for (1.2) and the flux function is given by (1.9), then  $s = u_-^2 + u_-u_+ + u_+^2$ . Undercompressive shock waves satisfying the condition  $f'(u_\pm) > s$  exist if, for instance,

$$-2u_- < u_+ < -\frac{u_-}{2} < 0. \quad (2.1)$$

Traveling solutions  $U^\varepsilon(x, t) = u\left(\frac{x-st}{\varepsilon}\right)$  of (1.1) are solutions to

$$\begin{cases} u' & = z, & u(\pm\infty) = u_\pm, \\ \gamma z' & = -z - su + f(u) + c, & z(\pm\infty) = 0, \end{cases} \quad (2.2)$$

for  $c := su_- - f(u_-) = su_+ - f(u_+)$ . There are three rest points  $(u, 0)$  for the flow in (2.2); they are  $u_+ < u_0 = -(u_+ + u_-) < u_-$ . If we denote  $p(u) := \frac{su - f(u) - c}{2\gamma}$ , then the eigenvalues at the rest points  $(u, 0) = (u_\pm, 0)$  are  $\lambda = [-1 \pm \sqrt{1 - 4\gamma p'(u)}]/(2\gamma)$  and  $u_\pm$  are both saddles if and only if  $p'(u_\pm) < 0$ . This condition is equivalent to (2.1). We write system (2.2) as

$$\begin{cases} u' &= z, & u(\pm\infty) &= u_\pm, \\ \gamma z' &= -z - p(u), & z(\pm\infty) &= 0, \\ \gamma' &= 0, & \gamma(0) &= l. \end{cases} \quad (2.3)$$

The sets  $\mathcal{M}_0^\pm = \{(u_\pm, 0, l) \mid l \in \mathbb{R}, l \neq 0\}$  are easily seen to be normally hyperbolic [14]. We rewrite (2.3) by introducing  $w := z + p(u)$ . We obtain

$$\begin{cases} u' &= w - p(u), & u(\pm\infty) &= u_\pm, \\ w' &= -\frac{w}{\gamma} + p'(u)(w - p(u)), & w(\pm\infty) &= 0, \\ \gamma' &= 0. \end{cases} \quad (2.4)$$

The transformed manifolds  $M_0^\pm = \{(u_\pm, 0, l) \mid l \in \mathbb{R}, l \neq 0\}$  of  $\mathcal{M}_0^\pm$  are still normally hyperbolic. Inspired by [13] we proved in [6] the following result.

**Theorem 2.1** *Consider the boundary-value problem (2.4) under assumptions (1.9). If*

$$-u_- < u_+ < -u_-/2 < 0, \quad (2.5)$$

*then there is a unique  $\bar{\gamma} > 0$  such that, up to shifts, problem (2.4) has a unique solution.*

*Moreover, the intersection of the unstable manifold  $W^u(u_-, \bar{\gamma})$  from  $(u_-, 0, \bar{\gamma}) \in M_0^-$  and the stable manifold  $W^s(u_+, \bar{\gamma})$  from  $(u_+, 0, \bar{\gamma}) \in M_0^+$  is transverse with respect to the flow of (2.4).*

We pass now to (1.6). Since  $\varepsilon > 0$  plays a minor role in this section and to avoid multiple upper indices, we write in the rest of this section  $u_\alpha$  and  $\lambda_\alpha$  instead of  $u^{\varepsilon, \alpha}$  and  $\lambda^{\varepsilon, \alpha}$ . A traveling-wave solution to (1.6) with speed  $s$  is a solution of the form

$$(U_\alpha(x, t), L_\alpha(x, t)) = \left( u_\alpha \left( \frac{x - st}{\varepsilon} \right), \lambda_\alpha \left( \frac{x - st}{\varepsilon} \right) \right)$$

satisfying  $(u_\alpha(\pm\infty), \lambda_\alpha(\pm\infty)) = (u_\pm, \lambda_\pm)$  and  $u'_\alpha(\pm\infty) = \lambda'_\alpha(\pm\infty) = 0$ . Then, denoting  $\beta = \varepsilon b$  to have the correct scaling in  $\varepsilon$ , the functions  $(u_\alpha, \lambda_\alpha)$  must solve the system

$$\begin{cases} u'_\alpha &= \alpha(u_\alpha - \lambda_\alpha) - p(u_\alpha), \\ -\gamma \lambda''_\alpha - sb \lambda'_\alpha &= \alpha(u_\alpha - \lambda_\alpha). \end{cases} \quad (2.6)$$

We need  $\lambda_\pm = u_\pm$  in order that  $(u_\pm, \lambda_\pm)$  are rest points of the flow in (2.6); in turn, the assumption  $u'_\alpha(\pm\infty) = 0$  implies  $c = -su_\pm + f(u_\pm)$ . Then, system (2.6) is completed by the boundary conditions

$$u_\alpha(\pm\infty) = \lambda_\alpha(\pm\infty) = u_\pm, \quad \lambda'_\alpha(\pm\infty) = 0. \quad (2.7)$$

We make the change of variables

$$w_\alpha := \alpha(u_\alpha - \lambda_\alpha).$$

Equation (2.6)<sub>1</sub> now reads  $u'_\alpha = w_\alpha - p_\alpha$ ; then, denoting  $v_\alpha = w'_\alpha$ , we compute  $\lambda'_\alpha = w_\alpha - p_\alpha - \frac{v_\alpha}{\alpha}$ . By (2.6)<sub>2</sub> we deduce

$$u''_\alpha = v_\alpha - p'_\alpha(w_\alpha - p_\alpha),$$

$$-\lambda''_\alpha = \frac{w_\alpha}{\gamma} + \frac{sb}{\gamma} \lambda'_\alpha = \frac{w_\alpha}{\gamma} + \frac{sb}{\gamma} (w_\alpha - p_\alpha) - \frac{sb}{\gamma \alpha} v_\alpha,$$

where we wrote  $p_\alpha = p(u_\alpha)$  for short. We deduce

$$\begin{aligned} w''_\alpha &= \alpha(u''_\alpha - \lambda''_\alpha) \\ &= \alpha \left( v_\alpha - p'_\alpha(w_\alpha - p_\alpha) + \frac{w_\alpha}{\gamma} + \frac{sb}{\gamma} (w_\alpha - p_\alpha) - \frac{sb}{\gamma \alpha} v_\alpha \right) \\ &= \frac{\alpha}{\gamma} \left( w_\alpha + (sb - \gamma p'_\alpha) (w_\alpha - p_\alpha) + \left( \gamma - \frac{sb}{\alpha} \right) v_\alpha \right). \end{aligned}$$

We denote

$$G(u, w, \gamma, v, \alpha, b) = \frac{1}{\gamma} \left( w + (sb - \gamma p'(u)) (w - p(u)) + \left( \gamma - \frac{sb}{\alpha} \right) v \right)$$

and notice that until now the parameter  $b$  played no essential role; in particular. We deduce that (2.6)–(2.7) is equivalent to

$$\begin{cases} u'_\alpha = w_\alpha - p(u_\alpha), & u_\alpha(\pm\infty) = u_\pm, \\ w'_\alpha = v_\alpha, & w_\alpha(\pm\infty) = 0, \\ \gamma'_\alpha = 0, \\ \frac{1}{\alpha} v'_\alpha = G(u_\alpha, w_\alpha, \gamma_\alpha, v_\alpha, \alpha, b), & v_\alpha(\pm\infty) = 0. \end{cases} \quad (2.8)$$

We remark that, differently from [6], the functional  $G$  depends not only on  $\beta$  (through  $b$ ) but, in particular, on  $\alpha$ , because of the presence of the term  $\lambda''_\alpha$  in (1.6)<sub>2</sub>. However, for  $\alpha \rightarrow \infty$  this dependence is not singular:

$$G(u, w, \gamma, v, \infty, b) = \frac{1}{\gamma} \left( w + (sb - \gamma p'(u)) (w - p(u)) + \gamma v \right).$$

In particular,  $G(u, w, \gamma, v, \infty, b) = 0$  is equivalent to

$$v = -\frac{w}{\gamma} + \left( p'(u) - \frac{sb}{\gamma} \right) (w - p(u)).$$

Now, we compare (2.8) with (2.4); we see that (2.4) is the reduced system for  $\alpha = \infty$  of (2.8) if and only if

$$\beta = \beta(\alpha) \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as } \alpha \rightarrow \infty. \quad (2.9)$$

We notice that the requirement (2.9) introduces no singular behavior in the functional  $G$  defined above. Therefore, under the conditions (2.9), system (2.8), which is written with respect to a slow-time scale, falls into the framework of the geometric singular perturbation theory for  $\alpha$  sufficiently large [8, 14]. We now state our final result.

**Theorem 2.2** *Consider the boundary-value problem (2.8) with  $f$  given by (1.9) and assume (2.5), (2.9).*

*Then, for  $\alpha \gg 1$  there is a unique  $\bar{\gamma}_\alpha > 0$  such that, up to shifts, problem (2.8) has a unique solution, with  $\gamma_\alpha = \bar{\gamma}_\alpha$ . Moreover, we have  $\bar{\gamma}_\infty = \bar{\gamma}$ .*

*Proof.* We rely on the formulation of the geometric singular perturbation theory provided in [8, Theorem 9.1]. A simplified statement can be found in [10, Proposition 3.2], even if in that proposition  $G$  is independent from  $\alpha$ ; however, the result in [8, Theorem 9.1], which allows a regular dependence on the vanishing parameter, applies straightforwardly to the framework provided in [10].

We just need to check that the zero-set  $G(u, w, \gamma, v, \infty, 0) = 0$  is indeed the graph  $\mathcal{C}_0$  of a smooth function  $h = h(u, w, \gamma)$  and that the condition  $G_v(u, w, \gamma, v, \infty, 0) \neq 0$  is

satisfied on  $\mathcal{C}_0$ . Both conditions are easily checked: since  $\gamma > 0$ , the implicit equation  $G(u, w, \gamma, v, \infty, 0) = 0$  is uniquely solved as

$$v = -\frac{w}{\gamma} + (s - f'(u))(w - p(u)) =: h(u, w, \gamma),$$

which defines a manifold  $\mathcal{C}_0$  on which  $G_v \equiv 1$ .  $\square$

### 3 Energy estimates

In this section we prove some energy-type estimates for the case of flux functions with bounded derivatives. We start by making an assumption about the existence of solutions to (1.6); indeed, we shall prove in Section 4 that such solutions do exist by using the estimates of this section. We denote by  $C_1^k(\Omega)$  the space of functions defined in  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^2$  having  $k$  continuous derivatives in  $x$  and one continuous derivative in  $t$ .

**Assumption 3.1** *Let  $L > 0$  be a constant such that  $f \in C^3(\mathbb{R})$  satisfies  $|f'(u)| + |f''(u)| \leq L$  and*

$$F(u) := \int_0^u f(w) dw \geq 0 \quad \text{for all } u \in \mathbb{R}. \quad (3.1)$$

The role of condition (3.1) is to ensure the non-negativity of certain energy terms, see (3.11). Figure 1 illustrates a possible choice of  $f(u)$  and the resulting function  $F(u)$ . In particular, since we assumed  $f(0) = 0$ , the function  $F$  satisfies

$$0 \leq F(u) \leq \frac{L}{2} u^2. \quad (3.2)$$

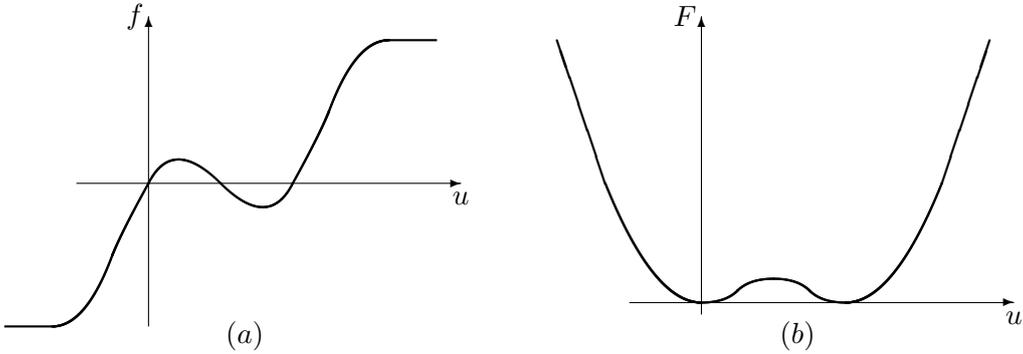


Figure 1: Example of a function  $f$  fulfilling Assumption 3.1, (a), and its associated double-well function  $F$ , (b).

We emphasize that Assumption 3.1 shall be fully exploited only from Section 5 on. As regards the current section, it only suffices that  $f \in C^1(\mathbb{R})$  satisfies  $|f'(u)| \leq L$  and (3.1).

**Assumption 3.2** *Let  $u_0 \in H^3(\mathbb{R})$  and  $T > 0$  be fixed. We assume that for every  $\varepsilon, \alpha, \beta > 0$  there exists a classical solution  $(u^{\varepsilon, \alpha}, \lambda^{\varepsilon, \alpha}) : \bar{\Omega}_T \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$  of (1.6)-(1.8) satisfying*

$$u^{\varepsilon, \alpha} \in C_1^2((0, T] \times \mathbb{R}) \cap L^\infty(0, T; H^3(\mathbb{R})). \quad (3.3)$$

We start by providing a representation formula of the function  $\lambda^{\varepsilon, \alpha}$  in terms of  $u^{\varepsilon, \alpha}$ .

**Lemma 3.3** *Let Assumptions 3.1 and 3.2 hold. Then the solution  $\lambda^{\varepsilon,\alpha}$  satisfies for  $(x, t) \in \bar{\Omega}_T$  the representation formula*

$$\lambda^{\varepsilon,\alpha}(x, t) = \int_0^t \int_{\mathbb{R}} K^{\varepsilon,\alpha}(x-y, t-s) u^{\varepsilon,\alpha}(y, s) dy + \frac{\beta}{\alpha} \int_{\mathbb{R}} K^{\varepsilon,\alpha}(x-y, t) u_0(y) dy, \quad (3.4)$$

where

$$K^{\varepsilon,\alpha}(x, t) = \frac{\alpha}{\beta} \sqrt{\frac{\beta}{4\pi\gamma\varepsilon^2 t}} e^{-\frac{\alpha}{\beta}t - \frac{\beta x^2}{4\gamma\varepsilon^2 t}} \quad (t > 0).$$

Furthermore, for  $t \in (0, T]$  and  $l = 0, 1, 2, 3$ , we have the estimates

$$\|\lambda^{\varepsilon,\alpha}\|_{L^\infty(0,t;L^2(\mathbb{R}))} \leq \|u^{\varepsilon,\alpha}\|_{L^\infty(0,t;L^2(\mathbb{R}))} + \|u_0\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})}, \quad (3.5)$$

$$\|\partial_x^l \lambda^{\varepsilon,\alpha}\|_{L^2(\Omega_t)} \leq \|\partial_x^l u^{\varepsilon,\alpha}\|_{L^2(\Omega_t)} + \sqrt{\frac{\beta}{2\alpha}} \|\partial_x^l u_0\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})}. \quad (3.6)$$

*Proof.* Consider in  $\bar{\Omega}_T$  the initial-value problem

$$\begin{cases} \lambda_t - \lambda_{xx} + \lambda = g, \\ \lambda(\cdot, 0) = u_0, \end{cases} \quad (3.7)$$

for  $g \in L^\infty(0, T; L^2(\mathbb{R}))$  and  $u_0 \in L^2(\mathbb{R})$ . We define the Bessel potential

$$B(x, t) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{\sqrt{4\pi t}} e^{-t - \frac{x^2}{4t}} & \text{if } t > 0, \\ 0 & \text{if } t \leq 0. \end{cases}$$

Arguing as in [7, Examples 1 and 2, pages 186-188, Remark page 51], we see that any bounded solution of the initial value problem 3.7 satisfies

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda(x, t) &= \int_0^t \int_{\mathbb{R}} B(x-y, t-s) g(y, s) dy ds + \int_{\mathbb{R}} B(x-y, t) u_0(y) dy \\ &= \int_0^t (B(t-s) * g(s))(x) ds + (B(t) * u_0)(x), \end{aligned}$$

where we denoted by “\*” the convolution with respect to the  $x$  variable. Here and below we often use a functional notation and then drop the dependence on the variable  $x$ .

The uniqueness follows by [7, Theorem 7, §2.3]. To find the representation formula for  $\lambda^{\varepsilon,\alpha}$  we divide the equation (1.6)<sub>2</sub> by  $\alpha$ , denote  $a = \beta/\alpha$ ,  $b = \gamma\varepsilon^2/\alpha$ , and then make the change of variables  $t' = t/a$ ,  $x' = x/\sqrt{b}$  to reduce to the equation in (3.7) with  $u^{\varepsilon,\alpha}$  replacing  $g$ . Then, the kernel  $B$  becomes

$$K^{\varepsilon,\alpha}(x, t) = \begin{cases} \frac{\alpha}{\beta} \sqrt{\frac{\beta}{4\pi\gamma\varepsilon^2 t}} e^{-\frac{\alpha}{\beta}t - \frac{\beta x^2}{4\gamma\varepsilon^2 t}} & \text{if } t > 0, \\ 0 & \text{if } t \leq 0, \end{cases}$$

and the solution is given by

$$\lambda^{\varepsilon,\alpha}(x, t) = \int_0^t (K^{\varepsilon,\alpha}(t-s) * u^{\varepsilon,\alpha}(s))(x) ds + \frac{\beta}{\alpha} (K^{\varepsilon,\alpha}(t) * u_0)(x), \quad \text{in } \bar{\Omega}_T. \quad (3.8)$$

This proves (3.4). To prove (3.5)–(3.6) we notice that for every  $t > 0$  we have

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}} K^{\varepsilon,\alpha}(x, t) dx = \frac{\alpha}{\beta} e^{-\frac{\alpha}{\beta}t} \quad (3.9)$$

and then  $\|K^{\varepsilon,\alpha}\|_{L^1(\mathbb{R}\times\mathbb{R}^+)} = 1$ . We first apply Minkowski's inequality to (3.8) and then Minkowski integral inequality [1, Theorem 2.9]; we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}\|\lambda^{\varepsilon,\alpha}(t)\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})} &\leq \int_0^t \|K^{\varepsilon,\alpha}(t-s) * u^{\varepsilon,\alpha}(s)\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})} ds + \frac{\beta}{\alpha} \|K^{\varepsilon,\alpha}(t) * u_0\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})} \\ &\leq \int_0^t \|K^{\varepsilon,\alpha}(t-s)\|_{L^1(\mathbb{R})} \|u^{\varepsilon,\alpha}(s)\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})} ds + \frac{\beta}{\alpha} \|K^{\varepsilon,\alpha}(t)\|_{L^1(\mathbb{R})} \|u_0\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})}.\end{aligned}$$

We fix any  $\tau \in (0, T]$ ; by (3.9) we deduce

$$\begin{aligned}\|\lambda^{\varepsilon,\alpha}\|_{L^\infty(0,\tau;L^2(\mathbb{R}))} &\leq \sup_{t \in [0,\tau]} \int_0^t \|K^{\varepsilon,\alpha}(t-s)\|_{L^1(\mathbb{R})} \|u^{\varepsilon,\alpha}(s)\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})} ds + \|u_0\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})} \\ &\leq \left(1 - e^{-\frac{\alpha}{\beta}\tau}\right) \|u^{\varepsilon,\alpha}\|_{L^\infty(0,\tau;L^2(\mathbb{R}))} + \|u_0\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})},\end{aligned}$$

whence (3.5). We now consider (3.6); it is clearly sufficient to prove this estimate in the case  $l = 0$ . By (3.8) it follows that

$$\|\lambda^{\varepsilon,\alpha}\|_{L^2(\Omega_t)} \leq \|U^{\varepsilon,\alpha}\|_{L^2(\Omega_t)} + \|U_0^{\varepsilon,\alpha}\|_{L^2(\Omega_t)},$$

where  $U^{\varepsilon,\alpha}$  and  $U_0^{\varepsilon,\alpha}$  denote the summands in (3.8). By Hölder inequality we have

$$\begin{aligned}&\int_{\mathbb{R}} \left( \int_0^t \int_{\mathbb{R}} K^{\varepsilon,\alpha}(t-s, x-\xi) u^{\varepsilon,\alpha}(s, \xi) d\xi ds \right)^2 dx \\ &\leq \int_{\mathbb{R}} \left( \int_0^t \int_{\mathbb{R}} K^{\varepsilon,\alpha}(t-s, x-\xi) d\xi ds \right) \cdot \left( \int_0^t \int_{\mathbb{R}} K^{\varepsilon,\alpha}(t-s, x-\xi) |u^{\varepsilon,\alpha}(s, \xi)|^2 d\xi ds \right) dx \\ &\leq \int_0^t \frac{\alpha}{\beta} e^{-\frac{\alpha}{\beta}(t-s)} \|u^{\varepsilon,\alpha}(s, \cdot)\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})}^2 ds.\end{aligned}$$

Now, we integrate in time to deduce

$$\begin{aligned}\|U^{\varepsilon,\alpha}\|_{L^2(\Omega_\tau)}^2 &\leq \int_0^\tau \int_0^t \frac{\alpha}{\beta} e^{-\frac{\alpha}{\beta}(t-s)} \|u^{\varepsilon,\alpha}(s, \cdot)\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})}^2 ds dt \\ &= \int_0^\tau \int_s^\tau \frac{\alpha}{\beta} e^{-\frac{\alpha}{\beta}(t-s)} \|u^{\varepsilon,\alpha}(s, \cdot)\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})}^2 dt ds \leq \|u^{\varepsilon,\alpha}\|_{L^2(\Omega_\tau)}^2.\end{aligned}$$

The estimate of  $\|U_0^{\varepsilon,\alpha}\|_{L^2(\Omega_\tau)}$  is proved by using Hölder inequality as above:

$$\int_0^\tau \int_{\mathbb{R}} \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}} K^{\varepsilon,\alpha}(t, x-\xi) u_0(\xi) d\xi \right)^2 dx dt \leq \frac{\alpha}{2\beta} \left(1 - e^{-\frac{2\alpha}{\beta}\tau}\right) \|u_0\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})}^2 \leq \frac{\alpha}{2\beta} \|u_0\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})}^2.$$

Then

$$\|U_0^{\varepsilon,\alpha}\|_{L^2(\Omega_\tau)} \leq \sqrt{\frac{\beta}{2\alpha}} \|u_0\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})}.$$

This proves (3.6).  $\square$

We point out that a much shorter proof of Lemma 3.3, which does not require a representation formula of  $\lambda^{\varepsilon,\alpha}$  in term of  $u^{\varepsilon,\alpha}$ , can be obtained by ‘‘energy methods’’. For instance, to obtain an estimate analogous to (3.6),  $l = 0$ , one multiplies (1.6)<sub>2</sub> by  $\lambda^{\varepsilon,\alpha}$ , integrates with respect to space and finally uses partial integration. However, this proof provides slightly worse constants and requires more regularity on  $\lambda^{\varepsilon,\alpha}$ .

An estimate of  $\|\lambda_t^{\varepsilon,\alpha}\|_{L^2(\Omega_t)}$  could be deduced by exploiting directly equation (1.6)<sub>2</sub> jointly with (3.6); we omit it since we shall prove in a better estimate in Corollary 3.7.

A natural energy for (1.1) is the van der Waals' type energy

$$E^\varepsilon[u] = \int_{\mathbb{R}} \left( F(u) + \gamma \frac{\varepsilon^2}{2} u_x^2 \right) dx. \quad (3.10)$$

The energy (3.10) is dissipated by any smooth solution  $u^\varepsilon$  of (1.1) in the sense that  $\frac{d}{dt} (E^\varepsilon[u^\varepsilon(\cdot, t)]) \leq 0$ , for  $t \in (0, T)$ . Another global  $\varepsilon$ -independent control on the evolution of the solution of (1.1) is given by the  $L^2$ -norm of  $u^\varepsilon$ .

The role of  $E^\varepsilon$  for the elliptic approximation (1.5) considered in [6] is taken by

$$\mathcal{E}^{\varepsilon, \alpha}[u, \lambda] = \int_{\mathbb{R}} \left( F(u) + \frac{\alpha}{2} (u - \lambda)^2 + \frac{\gamma \varepsilon^2}{2} \lambda_x^2 \right) dx.$$

We refer to [24, 25] for the variational analysis of  $\mathcal{E}^{\varepsilon, \alpha}$  and to [4, 18, 19, 21] for related functionals. Again, the  $L^2$ -norm of solutions to (1.5) is uniformly bounded, now with respect to  $\varepsilon$  and  $\alpha$  [6].

Now, we introduce a further generalization of the energy  $E^\varepsilon$  for the parabolic approximation (1.6). This is

$$E^{\varepsilon, \alpha}[u, \lambda] = \int_{\mathbb{R}} \left( F(u) + \frac{\alpha}{2} (u - \lambda)^2 + \frac{\varepsilon}{2} (\gamma \varepsilon + \beta) \lambda_x^2 \right) dx. \quad (3.11)$$

It formally collapses to  $\mathcal{E}^{\varepsilon, \alpha}$  setting  $\beta \equiv 0$ . We will show that both the energy  $E^{\varepsilon, \alpha}$  and the  $L^2$ -norm of the solution are bounded uniformly with respect to  $\varepsilon$  and  $\alpha > 1$  (see (3.16)). Most notably, in the current parabolic case none of these two estimates can be derived independently as in [6, Lemmas 3.2 and 3.3] for the elliptic approximation (see Corollary 3.6 below).

**Lemma 3.4** *Let Assumptions 3.1 and 3.2 hold. Then, for all  $t \in [0, T]$  we have the estimate*

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\mathbb{R}} (u^{\varepsilon, \alpha})^2 dx + \varepsilon \int_0^t \int_{\mathbb{R}} (u_x^{\varepsilon, \alpha})^2 dx dt \\ \leq \frac{2\beta^2}{\varepsilon} \int_0^t \int_{\mathbb{R}} (\lambda_t^{\varepsilon, \alpha})^2 dx dt + \int_{\mathbb{R}} (u_0)^2 dx + \frac{\beta \varepsilon}{2\alpha} \int_{\mathbb{R}} (u_{0,x})^2 dx. \end{aligned} \quad (3.12)$$

*Proof.* We drop the upper indices and write for simplicity  $(u, \lambda) = (u^{\varepsilon, \alpha}, \lambda^{\varepsilon, \alpha})$ . From the regularity assumption (3.3) and Morrey's estimate (see, e.g., [7, §5.6.2] or [5, Cor. VIII.8]), we deduce that  $|\partial_x^l u(x, t)| \rightarrow 0$  as  $|x| \rightarrow \infty$ , for every  $t \in (0, T]$  and  $l = 0, 1, 2$ . By multiplying (1.6)<sub>1</sub> by  $u$  and integrating with respect to  $x$  we find

$$\frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \int_{\mathbb{R}} u^2 dx + \varepsilon \int_{\mathbb{R}} (u_x)^2 dx = \alpha \int_{\mathbb{R}} (u - \lambda) \lambda_x dx,$$

or, in the time-integrated form,

$$\frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}} (u(\cdot, t))^2 dx + \varepsilon \int_0^t \int_{\mathbb{R}} (u_x)^2 dx dt = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}} u_0^2 dx + \alpha \int_0^t \int_{\mathbb{R}} (u - \lambda) \lambda_x dx dt.$$

Using (1.6)<sub>2</sub>, we obtain

$$\frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}} (u(\cdot, t))^2 dx + \varepsilon \int_0^t \int_{\mathbb{R}} (u_x)^2 dx dt = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}} u_0^2 dx + \beta \int_0^t \int_{\mathbb{R}} \lambda_x \lambda_t dx dt. \quad (3.13)$$

Here, we exploited the fact that  $\lambda_{xx}^{\varepsilon, \alpha} \rightarrow 0$  as  $|x| \rightarrow \infty$  because of Lemma 3.3 and then argued as above. By the help of the basic inequality

$$ab \leq \rho a^2 + \frac{b^2}{4\rho}, \quad (3.14)$$

which holds for every  $a, b, \rho > 0$  [7, (5) page 622] and estimate (3.6), we deduce

$$\begin{aligned} \beta \int_0^t \int_{\mathbb{R}} \lambda_x \lambda_t \, dx \, dt &\leq \rho \int_0^t \int_{\mathbb{R}} (\lambda_x)^2 \, dx \, dt + \frac{\beta^2}{4\rho} \int_0^t \int_{\mathbb{R}} (\lambda_t)^2 \, dx \, dt \\ &\leq 2\rho \int_0^t \int_{\mathbb{R}} (u_x)^2 \, dx \, dt + \frac{\beta^2}{4\rho} \int_0^t \int_{\mathbb{R}} (\lambda_t)^2 \, dx \, dt + \frac{\beta\rho}{\alpha} \int_{\mathbb{R}} (u_{0,x})^2 \, dx. \end{aligned}$$

Choosing  $\rho = \frac{\varepsilon}{4}$ , by (3.13) we obtain (3.12).  $\square$

Due to the uncontrolled first term on the right-hand side of (3.12), Lemma 3.4 does not yet provide a uniform estimate with respect to  $\varepsilon$  of the  $L^2$ -norm of  $u^{\varepsilon,\alpha}$ . This is achieved by requiring that  $\beta$  is small with respect to  $\varepsilon$ , as in the following result where we consider the evolution of the energy  $E^{\varepsilon,\alpha}$ .

**Lemma 3.5** *Let Assumptions 3.1 and 3.2 hold. Then, for all  $t \in [0, T]$  we have the estimate*

$$\begin{aligned} &\int_{\mathbb{R}} \left\{ F(u^{\varepsilon,\alpha}) + \frac{\alpha}{2} (u^{\varepsilon,\alpha} - \lambda^{\varepsilon,\alpha})^2 + \frac{\varepsilon}{2} (\gamma\varepsilon + \beta) (\lambda_x^{\varepsilon,\alpha})^2 \right\} dx + \\ &\quad + \int_0^t \int_{\mathbb{R}} \left\{ \varepsilon \left( (u_x^{\varepsilon,\alpha})^2 f'(u^{\varepsilon,\alpha}) + \alpha (u_x^{\varepsilon,\alpha} - \lambda_x^{\varepsilon,\alpha})^2 + \gamma\varepsilon^2 (\lambda_{xx}^{\varepsilon,\alpha})^2 \right) + \beta (\lambda_t^{\varepsilon,\alpha})^2 \right\} dx \, dt \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}} \left\{ F(u_0) + \frac{\varepsilon}{2} (\gamma\varepsilon + \beta) (u_{0,x})^2 \right\} dx. \end{aligned} \quad (3.15)$$

Moreover, for  $\beta < \frac{\varepsilon}{4L}$  we have the estimate

$$\begin{aligned} &E^{\varepsilon,\alpha}[u^{\varepsilon,\alpha}(\cdot, t), \lambda^{\varepsilon,\alpha}(\cdot, t)] - E^{\varepsilon,\alpha}[u_0, u_0] \\ &\leq L \|u_0\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})}^2 + \frac{L\beta\varepsilon}{2\alpha} \|u_{0,x}\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})}^2 - \frac{\beta}{2} \|\lambda_t^{\varepsilon,\alpha}\|_{L^2(\Omega_t)}^2 \\ &\quad - \varepsilon \left( \alpha \|u_x^{\varepsilon,\alpha} - \lambda_x^{\varepsilon,\alpha}\|_{L^2(\Omega_t)}^2 + \gamma\varepsilon^2 \|\lambda_{xx}^{\varepsilon,\alpha}\|_{L^2(\Omega_t)}^2 \right). \end{aligned} \quad (3.16)$$

*Proof.* As in Lemma 3.4 we write  $(u, \lambda) = (u^{\varepsilon,\alpha}, \lambda^{\varepsilon,\alpha})$ . We also recall the decay properties of  $|\partial_x^i u(x, t)|$  and  $|\partial_x^i \lambda(x, t)|$  for  $|x| \rightarrow \infty$ , for  $i = 0, 1, 2$  and  $t \in [0, T]$ , mentioned in Lemma 3.4; they are used below to justify integration by parts. We multiply (1.6)<sub>1</sub> by  $f(u) = F'(u)$ ; then we multiply again (1.6)<sub>1</sub> by  $\alpha(u - \lambda)$  and (1.6)<sub>2</sub> by  $\lambda_t$ . Finally, we integrate with respect to  $x$  and obtain

$$\frac{d}{dt} \int_{\mathbb{R}} F(u) \, dx + \int_{\mathbb{R}} f(u)_x f(u) \, dx = \varepsilon \int_{\mathbb{R}} u_{xx} f(u) \, dx - \alpha \int_{\mathbb{R}} (u - \lambda)_x f(u) \, dx, \quad (3.17)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha \int_{\mathbb{R}} u_t (u - \lambda) \, dx + \alpha \int_{\mathbb{R}} f(u)_x (u - \lambda) \, dx &= \varepsilon \alpha \int_{\mathbb{R}} u_{xx} (u - \lambda) \, dx \\ &\quad - \alpha^2 \int_{\mathbb{R}} (u - \lambda)_x (u - \lambda) \, dx, \end{aligned} \quad (3.18)$$

$$\beta \int_{\mathbb{R}} (\lambda_t)^2 \, dx - \gamma\varepsilon^2 \int_{\mathbb{R}} \lambda_{xx} \lambda_t \, dx = \alpha \int_{\mathbb{R}} (u - \lambda) \lambda_t \, dx. \quad (3.19)$$

We notice that

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\mathbb{R}} u_{xx} (u - \lambda) \, dx &= - \int_{\mathbb{R}} (u_x)^2 \, dx - \int_{\mathbb{R}} u \lambda_{xx} \, dx \\ &= - \int_{\mathbb{R}} (u_x)^2 \, dx + \int_{\mathbb{R}} (\lambda_x)^2 \, dx + \frac{\gamma\varepsilon^2}{\alpha} \int_{\mathbb{R}} (\lambda_{xx})^2 \, dx - \frac{\beta}{\alpha} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \lambda_{xx} \lambda_t \, dx. \end{aligned} \quad (3.20)$$

The second line above was obtained by plugging the expression of  $u$  deduced from (1.6)<sub>2</sub> into the first line. Summing up (3.17)–(3.19) and taking into account (3.20), we obtain

$$\frac{d}{dt} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \left\{ F(u) + \frac{\alpha}{2} (u - \lambda)^2 + \frac{\varepsilon}{2} (\varepsilon\gamma - \beta) (\lambda_x)^2 \right\} dx$$

$$+ \int_{\mathbb{R}} \left\{ \varepsilon (u_x)^2 f'(u) + \varepsilon \alpha (u_x)^2 + \beta (\lambda_t)^2 \right\} dx = \varepsilon \int_{\mathbb{R}} \left\{ \alpha (\lambda_x)^2 + \gamma \varepsilon^2 (\lambda_{xx})^2 \right\} dx. \quad (3.21)$$

Moreover, by (1.6)<sub>2</sub>, we observe that

$$\begin{aligned} -\gamma \varepsilon^2 \int_{\mathbb{R}} (\lambda_{xx})^2 dx &= \gamma \varepsilon^2 \int_{\mathbb{R}} \left\{ 2\lambda_x \lambda_{xxx} + (\lambda_{xx})^2 \right\} dx \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}} \left\{ -2\alpha \lambda_x u_x + 2\alpha (\lambda_x)^2 + 2\beta \lambda_{tx} \lambda_x + \gamma \varepsilon^2 (\lambda_{xx})^2 \right\} dx. \end{aligned}$$

Then,

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}} \left\{ \alpha (u_x)^2 - \alpha (\lambda_x)^2 - \gamma \varepsilon^2 (\lambda_{xx})^2 \right\} dx = \int_{\mathbb{R}} \left\{ \alpha (u_x - \lambda_x)^2 + 2\beta \lambda_{tx} \lambda_x + \gamma \varepsilon^2 (\lambda_{xx})^2 \right\} dx.$$

Plugging this expression into (3.21) we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \left\{ F(u) + \frac{\alpha}{2} (u - \lambda)^2 + \frac{\varepsilon}{2} (\gamma \varepsilon + \beta) (\lambda_x)^2 \right\} dx + \\ + \int_{\mathbb{R}} \left\{ \varepsilon \left( (u_x)^2 f'(u) + \alpha (u_x - \lambda_x)^2 + \gamma \varepsilon^2 (\lambda_{xx})^2 \right) + \beta (\lambda_t)^2 \right\} dx = 0. \end{aligned} \quad (3.22)$$

If we integrate with respect to  $t$  we obtain (3.15). To deduce (3.16) we simply use Lemma 3.4, the non-negativity of  $F$  and the assumption  $\beta < \frac{\varepsilon}{4L}$ .  $\square$

We observe that equality (3.15) cannot be fully exploited when deducing the inequality (3.16) since the sign of  $f'$  is not prescribed. Of course, if  $f$  is increasing and thus  $F$  is convex, the energy  $E^{\varepsilon, \alpha}$  is decreasing. We have however the following result.

**Corollary 3.6** *Let Assumptions 3.1 and 3.2 hold and assume  $\beta < \frac{\varepsilon}{4L}$ . Then, the following estimate holds:*

$$\|u^{\varepsilon, \alpha}(\cdot, t)\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})}^2 + \varepsilon \|u_x^{\varepsilon, \alpha}\|_{L^2(\Omega_t)}^2 \leq 2\|u_0\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})}^2 + \frac{\beta \varepsilon}{\alpha} \|u_{0,x}\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})}^2 + \frac{1}{L} E^{\varepsilon, \alpha}[u_0, u_0]. \quad (3.23)$$

*Proof.* Since the energy  $E^{\varepsilon, \alpha}$  is non-negative, by (3.16) in Lemma 3.5 we deduce

$$\frac{\beta}{2} \|\lambda_t^{\varepsilon, \alpha}\|_{L^2(\Omega_t)}^2 \leq E^{\varepsilon, \alpha}[u_0, u_0] + L\|u_0\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})}^2 + \frac{L\beta \varepsilon}{2\alpha} \|u_{0,x}\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})}^2.$$

We plug this estimate into (3.12) of Lemma 3.4 and obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \|u^{\varepsilon, \alpha}(\cdot, t)\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})}^2 + \varepsilon \|u_x^{\varepsilon, \alpha}\|_{L^2(\Omega_t)}^2 \leq \\ \left( 1 + \frac{4\beta L}{\varepsilon} \right) \|u_0\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})}^2 + \frac{\beta}{\alpha} \left( 2L\beta + \frac{\varepsilon}{2} \right) \|u_{0,x}\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})}^2 + \frac{4\beta}{\varepsilon} E^{\varepsilon, \alpha}[u_0, u_0]. \end{aligned} \quad (3.24)$$

Then, estimate (3.23) follows because  $\beta < \frac{\varepsilon}{4L}$ .  $\square$

Note that in the case of  $\beta = 0$ , (3.24) reduces to the estimate shown in the elliptic case in [6, Lemma 3.2]. In the next Corollary, we summarize the most important a-priori estimates for the subsequent analysis.

**Corollary 3.7** *Let Assumptions 3.1 and 3.2 hold and consider the initial energy*

$$E^{\varepsilon, \alpha}[u_0, u_0] = \int_{\mathbb{R}} \left( F(u_0) + \frac{\varepsilon}{2} (\gamma \varepsilon + \beta) u_{0,x}^2 \right).$$

Then,  $E^{\varepsilon,\alpha}[u_0, u_0]$  is uniformly bounded with respect to  $\varepsilon > 0$  and  $0 < \beta < \frac{\varepsilon}{4L}$  as

$$E^{\varepsilon,\alpha}[u_0, u_0] \leq \frac{L}{2} \|u_0\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})}^2 + \frac{\varepsilon}{2} (\gamma\varepsilon + \beta) \|u_0\|_{H^1(\mathbb{R})}^2. \quad (3.25)$$

Moreover, there is a constant  $C = C(L, \gamma) > 0$  such that

$$\begin{aligned} & \max \left\{ \varepsilon\alpha \|u_x^{\varepsilon,\alpha} - \lambda_x^{\varepsilon,\alpha}\|_{L^2(\Omega_t)}^2, \gamma\varepsilon^3 \|\lambda_{xx}^{\varepsilon,\alpha}\|_{L^2(\Omega_t)}^2, \beta \|\lambda_t^{\varepsilon,\alpha}\|_{L^2(\Omega_t)}^2 \right\} \\ & \leq C \left( \|u_0\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})}^2 + \varepsilon(\varepsilon + \beta) \|u_0\|_{H^1(\mathbb{R})}^2 \right), \end{aligned} \quad (3.26)$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} & \max \left\{ \|u^{\varepsilon,\alpha}\|_{L^\infty(0,t;L^2(\mathbb{R}))}^2, \varepsilon \|u_x^{\varepsilon,\alpha}\|_{L^2(\Omega_t)}^2 \right\} \\ & \leq C \left( \left(1 + \frac{\beta}{\varepsilon}\right) \|u_0\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})}^2 + \varepsilon\beta \|u_0\|_{H^1(\mathbb{R})}^2 \right). \end{aligned} \quad (3.27)$$

*Proof.* Estimate (3.25) simply follows by (3.2) while estimates (3.26) and (3.27) are consequence of (3.16) in Lemma 3.5 and Corollary 3.6, respectively.  $\square$

## 4 Wellposedness of Classical Solutions

In this section we prove that the initial-value problem (1.6)-(1.8) is well posed. By this we mean that, for any sufficiently smooth initial data  $u_0$ , problem (1.6)-(1.8) admits a unique classical solution that is globally defined in time.

Indeed, by slightly strengthening the assumptions on the initial data  $u_0$  in Assumption 3.2, we show the existence of a solution  $u^{\varepsilon,\alpha}$  as in (4.1) and therefore more regular of what was required in (3.3). The additional derivative in the variable  $x$  plays a crucial role in the following Section 5 and this is why we state Theorem 4.1 under this form. Clearly, the existence of a solution in  $u^{\varepsilon,\alpha} \in C_1^2(\Omega_T) \cap L^\infty(0, T; H^3(\mathbb{R}) \cap W^{3,\infty}(\mathbb{R}))$  for initial data  $u_0 \in H^3(\mathbb{R}) \cap W^{3,\infty}(\mathbb{R})$  is a by-product of the proof.

We stress that the requirement of Assumption 3.1 in the next result is made only for sake of simplicity: the weaker condition that  $f' \in C^3$  satisfies  $|f'(u)| \leq L$  is sufficient.

**Theorem 4.1 (Global existence)** *Let Assumption 3.1 hold and assume  $u_0 \in H^4(\mathbb{R}) \cap W^{4,\infty}(\mathbb{R})$ .*

*Then, for any  $\varepsilon, \alpha > 0$ ,  $0 < \beta < \frac{\varepsilon}{4L}$  there is a unique classical solution  $(u^{\varepsilon,\alpha}, \lambda^{\varepsilon,\alpha})$  of (1.6)-(1.8) defined in  $(0, +\infty) \times \mathbb{R}$ . Moreover, for any  $T > 0$  we have*

$$u^{\varepsilon,\alpha} \in C_1^3\left((0, T] \times \mathbb{R}\right) \cap L^\infty\left(0, T; H^4(\mathbb{R}) \cap W^{4,\infty}(\mathbb{R})\right). \quad (4.1)$$

*Proof.* Since  $\varepsilon$ ,  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are fixed in this proof, we drop the upper indices and write  $(u, \lambda)$  for  $(u^{\varepsilon,\alpha}, \lambda^{\varepsilon,\alpha})$ . We reformulate system (1.6) as

$$z_t - k(\varepsilon)z_{xx} + h(z)_x = g(z), \quad (4.2)$$

where  $z = (u, \lambda)^T$ ,  $z_0 = (u_0, u_0)^T$  and

$$k(\varepsilon) = \begin{pmatrix} \varepsilon & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{\gamma\varepsilon^2}{\beta} \end{pmatrix}, \quad h(z) = \begin{pmatrix} f(u) + \alpha(u - \lambda) \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad g(z) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ \frac{\alpha}{\beta}(u - \lambda) \end{pmatrix}.$$

The norm in the space  $\mathbb{R}_{u,\lambda}^2$  is defined as  $|z| = \max\{|u|, |\lambda|\}$ . The fundamental solution of the diagonal operator  $z_t - k(\varepsilon)z_{xx}$  is  $K = (K_1, K_2)$  with

$$K_i = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{\sqrt{4\pi d_i t}} e^{-\frac{x^2}{4d_i t}} & \text{if } t > 0, \\ 0 & \text{if } t \leq 0, \end{cases}$$

for  $d_1 = \varepsilon$  and  $d_2 = \gamma\varepsilon^2/\beta$ . To obtain (local in time) existence and uniqueness of solutions, we define the fixed-point mapping

$$\mathcal{L}z(t) = K(t) * z_0 - \int_0^t \partial_x K(t-s) * h(z(s)) ds + \int_0^t K(t-s) * g(z(s)) ds.$$

Since  $g$  is linear with respect to  $z$  and defining  $C_1 = 2\frac{\alpha}{\beta}$ , for  $j = 0, \dots, 4$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} \|\partial_x^j g(z)(t)\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{R})} &\leq C_1 \|\partial_x^j z(t)\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{R})}, \\ \|\partial_x^j g(z)(t)\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})} &\leq C_1 \|\partial_x^j z(t)\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})}. \end{aligned}$$

We fix  $T_0 > 0$  to be chosen sufficiently small later on. For  $t \in [0, T_0]$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} \|\mathcal{L}z(t)\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{R})} &\leq \|u_0\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{R})} + \left( C_1 T_0 + 2(L + \alpha) \int_0^t \|\partial_x K_1(t-s)\|_{L^1(\mathbb{R})} ds \right) \|z\|_{L^\infty(\Omega_{T_0})} \\ &\leq \|u_0\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{R})} + \left( C_1 T_0 + C_2 \sqrt{T_0} \right) \|z\|_{L^\infty(\Omega_{T_0})}, \end{aligned}$$

for  $C_2 = 4(L + \alpha)/\sqrt{\pi\varepsilon}$ . This mapping is contracting for  $T_0$  sufficiently small, yielding the existence and uniqueness of the solution in  $L^\infty(\Omega_{T_0})$ . Following the same steps as above, one can show that  $z \in L^\infty(0, T_0; L^2(\mathbb{R}))$ .

To prove that  $z \in L^\infty(0, T_0; H^4(\mathbb{R}) \cap W^{4,\infty}(\mathbb{R}))$ , we argue as above and in Section 3. First, we have

$$\|K(t) * u_0\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})}^2 \leq \|K_1(t) * u_0\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})}^2 + \|K_2(t) * u_0\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})}^2 \leq 2\|u_0\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})}^2.$$

Moreover

$$\begin{aligned} \left\| \int_0^t K_2(t-s) * \partial_x g(z(s)) ds \right\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})} &\leq t \cdot \|\partial_x g(z(s))\|_{L^\infty(0,t;L^2(\mathbb{R}))} \\ &\leq C_1 t \|z_x\|_{L^\infty(0,t;L^2(\mathbb{R}))}. \end{aligned}$$

At last,

$$\begin{aligned} \left\| \int_0^t \partial_x K_1(t-s) * \partial_x h(z(s)) ds \right\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})} &\leq \frac{2\sqrt{t}}{\sqrt{\pi\varepsilon}} (L + 2\alpha) \|z_x\|_{L^\infty(0,t;L^2(\mathbb{R}))} \\ &\leq C_2 \sqrt{t} \|z_x\|_{L^\infty(0,t;L^2(\mathbb{R}))}. \end{aligned}$$

As a consequence,

$$\|\partial_x \mathcal{L}z\|_{L^\infty(0,T_0;L^2(\mathbb{R}))} \leq \sqrt{2} \|u_0\|_{H^1(\mathbb{R})} + \left( C_1 T_0 + C_2 \sqrt{T_0} \right) \|\partial_x z\|_{L^\infty(0,T_0;L^2(\mathbb{R}))}.$$

Defining  $l = C_1 T_0 + C_2 \sqrt{T_0}$  and using a fixed point argument, we deduce

$$\|\partial_x z\|_{L^\infty(0,T_0;L^2(\mathbb{R}))} \leq \frac{T_0}{1-l} \|u_0\|_{H^1(\mathbb{R})},$$

for  $T_0$  sufficiently small to obtain  $l < 1$ . Now, we follow the same lines as [23, Lemma 6.2.4], with the above modifications to exploit the higher regularity of  $u_0$ . In particular, we use the  $L^\infty$  bound of  $u$  proved above to control the derivatives of  $f$ ; here we need that  $f \in C^3$ . Then, we can deduce the following bounds, for  $j = 1, \dots, 4$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \|\partial_x^j z\|_{L^\infty(\Omega_{T_0})} &\leq C(\|u_0\|_{W^{4,\infty}(\mathbb{R})}, \|u_0\|_{H^4(\mathbb{R})}) \\ \|\partial_x^j z\|_{L^\infty(0,T_0;L^2(\mathbb{R}))} &\leq C(\|u_0\|_{W^{4,\infty}(\mathbb{R})}, \|u_0\|_{H^4(\mathbb{R})}). \end{aligned}$$

To extend the solution up to time  $T$ , note that for any  $T > 0$  and  $0 < t \leq T$  we have by (3.5) and Corollary 3.6

$$\begin{aligned} \|z(\cdot, t)\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})} &\leq \|u(\cdot, t)\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})} + \|\lambda(\cdot, t)\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})} \\ &\leq C\|u_0\|_{H^1(\mathbb{R})}. \end{aligned}$$

The proof of [23, Theorem 6.2.7] is therefore still valid and yields the existence of classical solutions in  $L^\infty(0, T; H^4(\mathbb{R}) \cap W^{4,\infty}(\mathbb{R}))$  for all  $T > 0$ . Using Sobolev's embedding theorem for  $H^4(\mathbb{R})$  and equation (4.2), we also get  $z \in C_1^3([0, T]; \mathbb{R})$  for all  $T > 0$ .  $\square$

## 5 Uniform boundedness of classical solutions

The main result of this technical section is Lemma 5.1, which shows that the  $L^2$ -norms of the derivatives of  $u^{\varepsilon,\alpha}$  up to order 3 and the time derivative  $u_t^{\varepsilon,\alpha}$  are uniformly bounded with respect to  $\alpha$ . By Lemma 3.3 analogous bounds can be deduced for  $\lambda^\alpha$ . Furthermore, a uniform  $L^\infty$ -bound for  $u^{\varepsilon,\alpha}$  is given in (5.3). We point out that the latter can be easily proven by an embedding argument and requiring only  $u^{\varepsilon,\alpha} \in L^\infty(0, T; H^1(\mathbb{R}))$ ; however, this approach does not prove that the bound is independent of  $\alpha$ . Below, the assumption that  $u_0 \in H^4(\mathbb{R})$  and then the existence of solutions in  $C_1^3(\Omega_T) \cap L^\infty(0, T; H^4(\mathbb{R}) \cap W^{4,\infty}(\mathbb{R}))$  is needed to justify partial integrations in the proof. At last, notice the stronger scaling (1.10).

**Lemma 5.1 (Uniform boundedness for higher-order norms)** *Let (1.10) and the assumptions of Theorem 4.1 hold. Moreover, assume  $\beta < \frac{\varepsilon}{4L}$ .*

*Then there exist three continuous, monotone increasing functions  $\mathcal{C}_i(\varepsilon, \cdot) : [0, \infty) \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ ,  $i \in \{1, \dots, 3\}$ , which depend on  $\|u_0\|_{H^3(\mathbb{R})}$  but are independent of  $\alpha$  and such that*

$$\|u^{\varepsilon,\alpha}\|_{L^2(0,t;H^3(\mathbb{R}))} + \|u_t^{\varepsilon,\alpha}\|_{L^2(\Omega_t)} \leq \mathcal{C}_1(\varepsilon, t) \quad (t \in [0, \infty)), \quad (5.1)$$

$$\|u^{\varepsilon,\alpha}\|_{L^\infty(0,t;H^2(\mathbb{R}))} \leq \mathcal{C}_2(\varepsilon, t) \quad (t \in [0, \infty)), \quad (5.2)$$

$$\|u^{\varepsilon,\alpha}\|_{L^\infty(\Omega_t)} \leq \mathcal{C}_3(\varepsilon, t) \quad (t \in [0, \infty)). \quad (5.3)$$

*Furthermore, there exists a continuous, monotone increasing function  $\mathcal{C}_4(\varepsilon; \cdot) : [0, \infty) \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ , depending on  $\|u_0\|_{H^3(\mathbb{R})}$  but independent of  $\alpha$  such that the following estimate holds for all  $t \in [0, \infty)$ :*

$$\varepsilon\alpha\|u_x - \lambda_x\|_{L^2(0,t,H^2(\mathbb{R}))}^2 + \beta\|\lambda_{xt}\|_{L^2(0,t,H^2(\mathbb{R}))}^2 \leq \mathcal{C}_4(\varepsilon, t). \quad (5.4)$$

*Proof.* First, estimate (5.3) follows by (5.2) because of the embedding of  $H^2(\mathbb{R})$  into  $L^\infty(\mathbb{R})$ .

So we are left to prove (5.1), (5.2) and (5.4). We use again the notation  $(u, \lambda) = (u^{\varepsilon,\alpha}, \lambda^{\varepsilon,\alpha})$ . Remark that uniform estimates on  $\|u\|_{L^2(0,T;H^1(\mathbb{R}))}$  and  $\varepsilon\alpha\|u_x - \lambda_x\|_{L^2(\Omega_t)} + \beta\|\lambda_{xt}\|_{L^2(\Omega_t)}$  are already contained in Corollary 3.6 and Corollary 3.7. We divide the proof into four steps.

*Step 1: estimate of  $\|u_{xx}\|_{L^2(\Omega_t)}$ .* The main idea of the proof is to make use of the energy estimate in Lemma 3.5, which involves the energy functional  $E^{\varepsilon,\alpha}$ . We define  $v = u_x$  and  $\mu = \lambda_x$ . Differentiating (1.6) with respect to  $x$  we see that  $v$  and  $\mu$  must solve

$$\begin{cases} v_t + f(u)_{xx} = \varepsilon v_{xx} - \alpha(v - \mu)_x, \\ \beta\mu_t - \gamma\varepsilon^2\mu_{xx} = \alpha(v - \mu). \end{cases} \quad (5.5)$$

First, we multiply (1.6)<sub>2</sub> by  $\mu_t$  and then integrate with respect to  $x$ ; we find

$$\beta \int_{\mathbb{R}} \mu_t \lambda_t \, dx - \gamma \varepsilon^2 \int_{\mathbb{R}} \mu_t \lambda_{xx} \, dx = \alpha \int_{\mathbb{R}} \mu_t (u - \lambda) \, dx.$$

The first summand in the left side vanishes and by partial integration we deduce that

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}} \mu_t \mu_x \, dx = \frac{\alpha}{\gamma \varepsilon^2} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \lambda_t (u - \lambda)_x \, dx. \quad (5.6)$$

Second, we multiply (5.5)<sub>1</sub> by  $v$  and then integrate with respect to  $x$ . It follows that

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \int_{\mathbb{R}} v^2 \, dx + \varepsilon \int_{\mathbb{R}} (v_x)^2 \, dx &= - \int_{\mathbb{R}} f(u)_{xx} v \, dx + \alpha \int_{\mathbb{R}} \mu_x v \, dx \\ &\leq L \int_{\mathbb{R}} |v_x v| \, dx + \alpha \int_{\mathbb{R}} \mu_x (v - \mu) \, dx \\ &\leq L \rho_1 \int_{\mathbb{R}} (v_x)^2 \, dx + \frac{L}{4\rho_1} \int_{\mathbb{R}} v^2 \, dx + \beta \int_{\mathbb{R}} \mu_t \mu_x \, dx, \end{aligned}$$

by (3.14). If we choose  $\rho_1 = \frac{\varepsilon}{2L}$  and exploit identity (5.6) we deduce that

$$\frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \int_{\mathbb{R}} v^2 \, dx + \frac{\varepsilon}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}} (v_x)^2 \, dx \leq \frac{L^2}{2\varepsilon} \int_{\mathbb{R}} v^2 \, dx + \frac{\beta\alpha}{\gamma\varepsilon^2} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \lambda_t (u - \lambda)_x \, dx.$$

Now, it is time to apply 3.5 and its consequence Corollary 3.6. Integrating with respect to  $t$  and using once more (3.14) we deduce that for every  $t \in [0, +\infty)$

$$\begin{aligned} &\frac{1}{2} \|v(t)\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})}^2 + \frac{\varepsilon}{2} \|v_x\|_{L^2(\Omega_t)}^2 \\ &\leq \frac{1}{2} \|u_{0,x}\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})}^2 + \frac{L^2}{2\varepsilon} \|v\|_{L^2(\Omega_t)}^2 + \frac{\beta}{\gamma\varepsilon^2} \|\lambda_t\|_{L^2(\Omega_t)}^2 + \frac{\beta\alpha^2}{4\gamma\varepsilon^2} \|(u - \lambda)_x\|_{L^2(\Omega_t)}^2 \\ &\leq \frac{1}{2} \|u_{0,x}\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})}^2 \\ &\quad + \left( \frac{L}{2\varepsilon^2} + \frac{2}{\gamma\varepsilon^2} + \frac{\beta\alpha}{4\gamma\varepsilon^3} \right) \left( 2L \|u_0\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})}^2 + \frac{L\beta\varepsilon}{2\alpha} \|u_{0,x}\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})}^2 + E^{\varepsilon,\alpha}[u_0, u_0] \right). \quad (5.7) \end{aligned}$$

Due to the scaling (1.10), the right side is uniformly bounded with respect to  $\alpha$ .

*Step 2: estimates on  $\alpha \|v_x - \mu_x\|_{L^2(\Omega_t)}$  and  $\beta \|\mu_t\|_{L^2(\Omega_t)}$ .* We multiply (5.5)<sub>1</sub> by  $v$ , then (5.5)<sub>1</sub> by  $\alpha(v - \mu)$  and at last (5.5)<sub>2</sub> by  $\mu_t$ . Then integration with respect to  $x$  yields

$$\frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \int_{\mathbb{R}} v^2 \, dx + \varepsilon \int_{\mathbb{R}} (v_x)^2 \, dx + \int_{\mathbb{R}} f(u)_{xx} v \, dx = -\alpha \int_{\mathbb{R}} (v_x - \mu_x) v \, dx, \quad (5.8)$$

$$\alpha \int_{\mathbb{R}} (v - \mu) v_t \, dx + \alpha \int_{\mathbb{R}} f(u)_{xx} (v - \mu) \, dx = \varepsilon \alpha \int_{\mathbb{R}} v_{xx} (v - \mu) \, dx, \quad (5.9)$$

$$\beta \int_{\mathbb{R}} (\mu_t)^2 \, dx - \gamma \varepsilon^2 \int_{\mathbb{R}} \mu_{xx} \mu_t \, dx = \alpha \int_{\mathbb{R}} (v - \mu) \mu_t \, dx. \quad (5.10)$$

About the right hand side of (5.9) we notice that, by (5.5)<sub>2</sub>,

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha \int_{\mathbb{R}} v_{xx} (v - \mu) \, dx &= -\alpha \int_{\mathbb{R}} (v_x)^2 \, dx - \alpha \int_{\mathbb{R}} v \mu_{xx} \, dx \\ &= -\alpha \int_{\mathbb{R}} (v_x)^2 \, dx - \int_{\mathbb{R}} \mu_{xx} \left( \beta \mu_t - \gamma \varepsilon^2 \mu_{xx} + \alpha \mu \right) \, dx \\ &= \frac{\beta}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \int_{\mathbb{R}} (\mu_x)^2 \, dx - \alpha \int_{\mathbb{R}} (v_x)^2 \, dx + \alpha \int_{\mathbb{R}} (\mu_x)^2 \, dx + \gamma \varepsilon^2 \int_{\mathbb{R}} (\mu_{xx})^2 \, dx. \quad (5.11) \end{aligned}$$

Now, we sum (5.8)–(5.10) and take into account (5.11) to deduce

$$\begin{aligned}
& \frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \left( v^2 + \alpha(v - \mu)^2 + (\gamma\varepsilon^2 - \varepsilon\beta) (\mu_x)^2 \right) dx \\
& \quad + \varepsilon(1 + \alpha) \int_{\mathbb{R}} (v_x)^2 dx + \beta \int_{\mathbb{R}} (\mu_t)^2 dx + \int_{\mathbb{R}} f(u)_{xx} (v + \alpha(v - \mu)) dx \\
& = -\alpha \int_{\mathbb{R}} (v_x - \mu_x)v dx + \varepsilon \left( \alpha \int_{\mathbb{R}} (\mu_x)^2 dx + \gamma\varepsilon^2 \int_{\mathbb{R}} (\mu_{xx})^2 dx \right). \tag{5.12}
\end{aligned}$$

We differentiate (5.5)<sub>2</sub> with respect to  $x$  to deduce an expression for  $\gamma\varepsilon^2\mu_{xxx}$  and obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
-\gamma\varepsilon^2 \int_{\mathbb{R}} (\mu_{xx})^2 dx &= \gamma\varepsilon^2 \int_{\mathbb{R}} \left( 2\mu_x\mu_{xxx} + (\mu_{xx})^2 \right) dx \\
&= \beta \frac{d}{dt} \int_{\mathbb{R}} (\mu_x)^2 dx - 2\alpha \int_{\mathbb{R}} v_x\mu_x dx + 2\alpha \int_{\mathbb{R}} (\mu_x)^2 dx + \gamma\varepsilon^2 \int_{\mathbb{R}} (\mu_{xx})^2 dx.
\end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned}
& \int_{\mathbb{R}} \left( (1 + \alpha) (v_x)^2 - \alpha (\mu_x)^2 - \gamma\varepsilon^2 (\mu_{xx})^2 \right) dx \\
& = \beta \frac{d}{dt} \int_{\mathbb{R}} (\mu_x)^2 dx + \int_{\mathbb{R}} (v_x)^2 dx + \alpha \int_{\mathbb{R}} (v_x - \mu_x)^2 dx + \gamma\varepsilon^2 \int_{\mathbb{R}} (\mu_{xx})^2 dx.
\end{aligned}$$

We insert this identity into (5.12) and use  $\partial_x^i \lambda_0 = \partial_x^i u_0$  for all  $i = 0, \dots, 3$  to obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
& \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \left( v^2 + \alpha(v - \mu)^2 + (\gamma\varepsilon^2 + \varepsilon\beta) (\mu_x)^2 \right) dx \\
& \quad + \int_0^t \int_{\mathbb{R}} \left( \varepsilon \left( (v_x)^2 + \alpha(v_x - \mu_x)^2 + \gamma\varepsilon^2 (\mu_{xx})^2 \right) + \beta (\mu_t)^2 \right) dx ds \\
& = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \left( u_{0,x}^2 + (\gamma\varepsilon^2 + \varepsilon\beta) (u_{0,xx})^2 \right) dx + Q[u, v, \mu], \tag{5.13}
\end{aligned}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}
Q[u, v, \mu] &= - \int_0^t \int_{\mathbb{R}} f(u)_{xx} v dx ds - \int_0^t \int_{\mathbb{R}} f(u)_{xx} \alpha(v - \mu) dx ds \\
& \quad - \alpha \int_0^t \int_{\mathbb{R}} (v_x - \mu_x) v dx ds \\
& = I + II + III. \tag{5.14}
\end{aligned}$$

About  $I$  in (5.14), by (5.7), Corollary 3.6 and the bound  $|f'| \leq L$ , we have, for  $t \in [0, \infty)$ ,

$$\begin{aligned}
\left| \int_0^t \int_{\mathbb{R}} f(u)_{xx} v dx ds \right| &= \left| \int_0^t \int_{\mathbb{R}} f'(u) v_x v dx ds \right| \\
&\leq 2L \left( \int_0^t \int_{\mathbb{R}} (v_x)^2 dx ds + \int_0^t \int_{\mathbb{R}} v^2 dx ds \right) \\
&\leq \mathcal{C}_I(\varepsilon), \tag{5.15}
\end{aligned}$$

where  $\mathcal{C}_I$  is a constant independent of  $\alpha$ .

About  $II$ , by the bounds  $|f'|, |f''| \leq L$ , (5.5)<sub>2</sub> and (3.14), we have

$$\left| \int_0^t \int_{\mathbb{R}} \alpha(v - \mu) f(u)_{xx} dx ds \right| = \left| \int_0^t \int_{\mathbb{R}} \alpha(v - \mu) \left( f'(u) v_x + f''(u) v^2 \right) dx ds \right|$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \left| \int_0^t \int_{\mathbb{R}} (\beta \mu_t - \gamma \varepsilon^2 \mu_{xx}) (f'(u)v_x + f''(u)v^2) dx ds \right| \\
&\leq L \int_0^t \int_{\mathbb{R}} \beta |\mu_t| (|v_x| + v^2) + \gamma \varepsilon^2 |\mu_{xx}| (|v_x| + v^2) dx ds \\
&\leq 2L^2 (\beta + \gamma \varepsilon^2) \int_0^t \int_{\mathbb{R}} ((v_x)^2 + v^4) dx ds \\
&\quad + \frac{\beta}{4} \int_0^t \int_{\mathbb{R}} (\mu_t)^2 dx ds + \frac{\gamma \varepsilon^2}{4} \int_0^t \int_{\mathbb{R}} (\mu_{xx})^2 dx ds. \tag{5.16}
\end{aligned}$$

Concerning the summand  $\|v\|_{L^4(\Omega_t)}^4$  on the right-hand side, we note that by [2, (13)] we have

$$\|v\|_{L^4(\mathbb{R})}^4 \leq K_1 \left( \|v_x\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})}^2 + \|v\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})}^6 \right). \tag{5.17}$$

Now, by (5.16) and using (5.17), Corollary 3.6, (5.7), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
&\left| \int_0^t \int_{\mathbb{R}} \alpha(v - \mu) f(u)_{xx} dx ds \right| \\
&\leq \mathcal{C}_{II}(\varepsilon) \cdot (1 + t) + \frac{\beta}{4} \int_0^t \int_{\mathbb{R}} (\mu_t)^2 dx ds + \frac{\gamma \varepsilon^2}{4} \int_0^t \int_{\mathbb{R}} (\mu_{xx})^2 dx ds. \tag{5.18}
\end{aligned}$$

About *III* in (5.14), we notice that, by (3.14) and (5.7),

$$\begin{aligned}
&\left| \int_0^t \int_{\mathbb{R}} \alpha(v_x - \mu_x) v dx ds \right| = \left| \int_0^t \int_{\mathbb{R}} (\beta \mu_t - \gamma \varepsilon^2 \mu_{xx}) v_x dx ds \right| \\
&\leq (\beta + \gamma \varepsilon^2) \int_0^t \int_{\mathbb{R}} (v_x)^2 dx ds + \frac{\beta}{4} \int_0^t \int_{\mathbb{R}} (\mu_t)^2 dx ds + \frac{\gamma \varepsilon^2}{4} \int_0^t \int_{\mathbb{R}} (\mu_{xx})^2 dx ds \\
&\leq \mathcal{C}_{III}(\varepsilon) + \frac{\beta}{4} \int_0^t \int_{\mathbb{R}} (\mu_t)^2 dx ds + \frac{\gamma \varepsilon^2}{4} \int_0^t \int_{\mathbb{R}} (\mu_{xx})^2 dx ds. \tag{5.19}
\end{aligned}$$

Inserting (5.15), (5.18) and (5.19) in (5.13), we obtain

$$\varepsilon \alpha \|v_x - \mu_x\|_{L^2(\Omega_t)}^2 + \frac{\beta}{2} \|\mu_t\|_{L^2(\Omega_t)}^2 \leq \tilde{\mathcal{C}}(\varepsilon, t). \tag{5.20}$$

for some function  $\tilde{\mathcal{C}}$  affine linear in  $t$ .

*Step 3: estimate of  $\|u\|_{L^2(0,t;H^3(\mathbb{R}))}$ .* To derive this estimate, we need the assumption  $u \in H^4$ . We differentiate (5.5) with respect to  $x$  to obtain

$$\begin{cases} w_t + f(u)_{xxx} = \varepsilon w_{xx} - \alpha(w - \nu)_x, \\ \beta \nu_t - \gamma \varepsilon^2 \nu_{xx} = \alpha(w - \nu), \end{cases} \tag{5.21}$$

where we used the notation  $w = v_x = u_{xx}$  and  $\nu = \mu_x = \lambda_{xx}$ . Analogously to the deduction of (5.6) in Step 1, we multiply (5.5)<sub>2</sub> by  $\nu_t$  and integrate with respect to  $x$  and  $t$  to obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
\beta \int_0^t \int_{\mathbb{R}} \nu_t \nu_x dx ds &= \frac{\beta \alpha}{\gamma \varepsilon^2} \int_0^t \int_{\mathbb{R}} \mu_t (v - \mu)_x dx ds \\
&\leq \beta \int_0^t \int_{\mathbb{R}} (\mu_t)^2 dx ds + \frac{\beta \alpha^2}{4 \gamma^2 \varepsilon^4} \int_0^t \int_{\mathbb{R}} (v_x - \mu_x)^2 dx ds \\
&\leq \left( 2 + \frac{\beta \alpha}{4 \gamma^2 \varepsilon^3} \right) \tilde{\mathcal{C}}(\varepsilon, t) \tag{5.22}
\end{aligned}$$

by (5.20). Note that the scaling (1.10) ensures that  $\beta\alpha = \mathcal{O}(1)$  and then the term  $\frac{\beta\alpha}{4\gamma^2\varepsilon^3}$  does not depend on  $\alpha$  in a critical way.

Multiply now (5.21)<sub>1</sub> by  $w$  to obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \int_{\mathbb{R}} w^2 dx + \varepsilon \int_{\mathbb{R}} (w_x)^2 dx &= - \int_{\mathbb{R}} f(u)_{xxx} w dx + \alpha \int_{\mathbb{R}} (w - \nu) \nu_x dx \\ &\leq \int_{\mathbb{R}} (f''(u)v^2 + f'(u)v_x) w_x dx + \beta \int_{\mathbb{R}} \nu_t \nu_x dx \\ &\leq L \int_{\mathbb{R}} (|v^2| + |v_x|) |w_x| dx + \beta \int_{\mathbb{R}} \nu_t \nu_x dx \\ &\leq \frac{L^2}{\varepsilon} \left( \|v\|_{L^4(\mathbb{R})}^4 + \|v_x\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})}^2 \right) + \frac{\varepsilon}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}} (w_x)^2 dx + \beta \int_{\mathbb{R}} \nu_t \nu_x dx, \end{aligned} \quad (5.23)$$

where we used the bounds on  $f'$ ,  $f''$  and (3.14). Integrating in time and using (5.17), (5.7), Corollary 3.6 and (5.22) in (5.23), we obtain

$$\frac{1}{2} \|w(t)\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})}^2 + \frac{\varepsilon}{2} \|w_x\|_{L^2(\Omega_t)}^2 \leq \bar{C}(\varepsilon, t), \quad (5.24)$$

for some function  $\bar{C}$  affine linear in  $t$ .

Analogously to the derivation of (5.20) in Step 2, one can also show the estimate

$$\varepsilon\alpha \|w_x - \nu_x\|_{L^2(\Omega_t)} + \frac{\beta}{2} \|\nu_t\|_{L^2(\Omega_t)} \leq \hat{C}(\varepsilon, t),$$

where  $\hat{C}$  is affine linear in  $t$ .

*Step 4: estimate of  $\|u_t\|_{L^2(\Omega_t)}$ .* Squaring (1.6)<sub>1</sub> and integrating with respect to  $x$ , we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\mathbb{R}} (u_t)^2 dx &= \varepsilon^2 \int_{\mathbb{R}} (u_{xx})^2 dx + \int_{\mathbb{R}} (f'(u))^2 (u_x)^2 dx + \alpha^2 \int_{\mathbb{R}} (u_x - \lambda_x)^2 dx \\ &\quad - 2\varepsilon \int_{\mathbb{R}} f'(u) u_x u_{xx} dx + 2\alpha \int_{\mathbb{R}} f'(u) u_x (u_x - \lambda_x) dx \\ &\quad - 2\alpha \int_{\mathbb{R}} \varepsilon u_{xx} (u_x - \lambda_x) dx. \end{aligned}$$

This leads to

$$\begin{aligned} \|u_t\|_{L^2(\Omega_t)}^2 &\leq \varepsilon^2 \|u_{xx}\|_{L^2(\Omega_t)}^2 + \|f'(u)u_x\|_{L^2(\Omega_t)}^2 + \|\alpha(u - \lambda)_x\|_{L^2(\Omega_t)}^2 \\ &\quad + 2\varepsilon \|f'(u)u_x\|_{L^2(\Omega_t)} \|u_{xx}\|_{L^2(\Omega_t)} \\ &\quad + 2 \|f'(u)u_x\|_{L^2(\Omega_T)} \|\alpha(u - \lambda)_x\|_{L^2(\Omega_t)} \\ &\quad + 2\varepsilon \|u_{xx}\|_{L^2(\Omega_t)} \|\alpha(u - \lambda)_x\|_{L^2(\Omega_t)}. \end{aligned}$$

We need to prove that the term  $\|\alpha(u - \lambda)_x\|_{L^2(\Omega_t)}^2$  is uniformly bounded with respect to  $\alpha$  since this then also holds for the term  $\|\alpha(u - \lambda)_x\|_{L^2(\Omega_t)}$ . By (1.6)<sub>2</sub>, we have

$$\|\alpha(u - \lambda)_x\|_{L^2(\Omega_t)}^2 \leq 2\|\beta\lambda_{tx}\|_{L^2(\Omega_t)}^2 + 2\|\gamma\varepsilon^2\lambda_{xxx}\|_{L^2(\Omega_t)}^2.$$

The first summand on the right-hand side is  $2\|\beta\mu_t\|_{L^2(\Omega_t)}^2$ , which is bounded uniformly with respect to  $\alpha$  by (5.20). Using Lemma 3.3, the second summand is bounded by

$$4\gamma^2\varepsilon^4 \left( \|u_{xxx}\|_{L^2(\Omega_t)}^2 + \frac{\beta}{2\alpha} \|u_{0,xxx}\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})}^2 \right),$$

which in turn is bounded uniformly with respect to  $\alpha$  by (5.24). The uniform boundedness of  $\|u_t\|_{L^2(\Omega_t)}$  now follows from (5.7) and Corollary 3.7.  $\square$

## 6 Asymptotics for the Coupling Limit $\alpha \rightarrow \infty$

In this section we analyze the limit  $\alpha \rightarrow \infty$  of the system (1.6), for  $\varepsilon$  fixed, and prove that solutions of (1.6) weakly converge to a solution of the diffusive-dispersive conservation law (1.1). Moreover, we provide an estimate of the convergence rate. For simplicity, we denote the family of classical solutions to (1.6), (1.8) by  $\{(u^\alpha, \lambda^\alpha)\}$ , dropping the superscript index  $\varepsilon$ .

**Theorem 6.1** *Let (1.10) and the assumptions of Theorem 4.1 hold. Furthermore, let  $\varepsilon > 0$ ,  $0 < \beta < \frac{\varepsilon}{4L}$  and denote by  $\{(u^\alpha, \lambda^\alpha)\}_{\alpha > 0}$  the family of unique classical solutions to (1.6), (1.8), as provided by Theorem 4.1. At last, fix any  $T > 0$ .*

*Then there exists a subsequence of  $\{(u^\alpha, \lambda^\alpha)\}_{\alpha > 0}$ , still denoted by  $\{(u^\alpha, \lambda^\alpha)\}_{\alpha > 0}$ , and a function  $u \in H^1(\Omega_T) \cap L^2(0, T; H^3(\mathbb{R}))$  such that:*

(i) *we have*

$$\begin{aligned} u^\alpha &\rightharpoonup u \text{ in } H^1(\Omega_T) \cap L^2(0, T; H^3(\mathbb{R})) \text{ for } \alpha \rightarrow \infty, \\ \lambda^\alpha &\rightharpoonup u \text{ in } H^1(\Omega_T) \cap L^2(0, T; H^3(\mathbb{R})) \text{ for } \alpha \rightarrow \infty; \end{aligned}$$

(ii) *there exists a positive constant  $\mathcal{C}(\varepsilon, L, T)$ , depending on  $\|u_0\|_{H^3(\mathbb{R})}$  but not on  $\alpha$  such that*

$$\|u^\alpha - u\|_{L^2(0, T; H^1(\mathbb{R}))} + \|u^\alpha - u\|_{L^\infty(0, T; L^2(\mathbb{R}))} \leq \mathcal{C}(\varepsilon, L, T) \cdot \alpha^{-\frac{1}{2}}; \quad (6.1)$$

(iii)  *$u$  is a distributional solution of the initial value problem (1.1), (1.8), i.e.,*

$$\int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{R}} u \varphi_t + f(u) \varphi_x \, dx \, dt + \int_{\mathbb{R}} u_0 \varphi(0, \cdot) \, dx \, dt = \int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{R}} -\varepsilon u \varphi_{xx} + \gamma \varepsilon^2 u \varphi_{xxx} \, dx \, dt, \quad (6.2)$$

*for all  $\varphi \in C_0^\infty([0, T], \mathbb{R})$ .*

*Proof.*

(i) Due to Lemma 5.1, we know that the sequence  $\{u^\alpha\}_{\alpha > 0}$  is bounded uniformly with respect to  $\alpha$  in the reflexive space  $H^1(\Omega_T) \cap L^2(0, T; H^3(\mathbb{R}))$ . We can thus deduce the existence of a function  $u \in H^1(\Omega_T) \cap L^2(0, T; H^3(\mathbb{R}))$  and of a subsequence (still denoted by  $\{u^\alpha\}_{\alpha > 0}$ ) such that  $u^\alpha \rightharpoonup u$  in  $H^1(\Omega_T) \cap L^2(0, T; H^3(\mathbb{R}))$ , as  $\alpha \rightarrow \infty$ . This also implies  $\partial_t u^\alpha \rightharpoonup \partial_t u$  and  $\partial_x^j u^\alpha \rightharpoonup \partial_x^j u$  in  $L^2(\Omega_T)$ , for  $j = 0, \dots, 3$ .

Due to Lemma 3.3, also the sequence  $\{\lambda^\alpha\}_{\alpha > 0}$  is bounded and, analogously as above, we can deduce the existence of a function  $\lambda \in H^1(\Omega_T) \cap L^2(0, T; H^3(\mathbb{R}))$  and of a subsequence such that  $\lambda^\alpha \rightharpoonup \lambda$  in  $H^1(\Omega_T) \cap L^2(0, T; H^3(\mathbb{R}))$ .

To prove that  $\lambda = u$ , we observe that by (1.6)<sub>2</sub> we have, for all  $y \in H^1(\Omega_T) \cap L^2(0, T; H^3(\mathbb{R}))$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{R}} \lambda^\alpha y \, dx \, dt &= \int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{R}} (\lambda^\alpha - u^\alpha) y \, dx \, dt + \int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{R}} u^\alpha y \, dx \, dt \\ &= \int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{R}} \lambda_t^\alpha \left( \frac{\beta}{\alpha} y \right) \, dx \, dt - \int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{R}} \gamma \varepsilon^2 \lambda_{xx}^\alpha \left( \frac{1}{\alpha} y \right) \, dx \, dt + \int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{R}} u^\alpha y \, dx \, dt. \end{aligned}$$

By the scaling (1.10), the weak convergence of  $\lambda_t^\alpha$ ,  $\lambda_{xx}^\alpha$ ,  $u^\alpha$  and the strong convergence of  $\frac{\beta}{\alpha} y$ ,  $\frac{1}{\alpha} y$ , we thus obtain  $\lambda^\alpha \rightharpoonup u$  in  $H^1(\Omega_T) \cap L^2(0, T; H^3(\mathbb{R}))$  by the uniqueness of the weak limit.

(ii) First, we note that the sequence  $\{\sqrt{\beta} \lambda_{tx}^\alpha\}_{\alpha > 0}$  is bounded uniformly with respect to  $\alpha$  because of Lemma 5.1. By the weak convergence of  $\lambda^\alpha$  and its derivatives we deduce

$$\int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{R}} \alpha (u_x^\alpha - \lambda_x^\alpha) y \, dx \, dt = \int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{R}} \sqrt{\beta} \lambda_{tx}^\alpha (\sqrt{\beta} y) \, dx \, dt - \int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{R}} \gamma \varepsilon^2 \lambda_{xxx}^\alpha y \, dx \, dt$$

$$\rightarrow - \int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{R}} \gamma \varepsilon^2 u_{xxx} y \, dx \, dt. \quad (6.3)$$

for all  $y \in H^1(\Omega_T) \cap L^2(0, T; H^3(\mathbb{R}))$ . By (1.8) we have  $u^\alpha(0, \cdot) = u_0$ , which of course converges strongly to  $u_0$ . Due to the continuity in time of  $u^\alpha$  and  $u$ , we have  $u(0, \cdot) = u_0$  in  $L^2(\mathbb{R})$ . From the weak convergence of  $(u^\alpha)_{\alpha>0}$  and (6.3), we deduce that  $u$  fulfills

$$\int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{R}} \left( u_t + f(u)_x - \varepsilon u_{xx} - \gamma \varepsilon^2 u_{xxx} \right) y \, dx \, dt = 0, \quad (6.4)$$

for all  $y \in H^1(\Omega_T) \cap L^2(0, T; H^3(\mathbb{R}))$ . We define  $y^\alpha := u^\alpha - u$ . Since  $y^\alpha \in H^1(\Omega_T) \cap L^2(0, T; H^3(\mathbb{R}))$ , we can use it as a test function both in (6.4) and in the analogous expression for  $u^\alpha$ . Subtracting these two identities we find, by (3.14),

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}} (y^\alpha(T))^2 \, dx - \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}} (y^\alpha(0))^2 \, dx + \varepsilon \int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{R}} (y_x^\alpha)^2 \, dx \, dt \\ &= \int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{R}} (f(u^\alpha) - f(u)) y_x^\alpha \, dx \, dt - \int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{R}} \left( \alpha (u_x^\alpha - \lambda_x^\alpha) + \gamma \varepsilon^2 u_{xxx} \right) y^\alpha \, dx \, dt \\ &= \int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{R}} (f(u^\alpha) - f(u)) y_x^\alpha \, dx \, dt - \int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{R}} \left( \beta \lambda_{tx}^\alpha + \gamma \varepsilon^2 (\lambda_{xxx}^\alpha - u_{xxx}) \right) y^\alpha \, dx \, dt \\ &\leq \frac{L^2}{4\rho_1} \int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{R}} (y^\alpha)^2 \, dx \, dt + \rho_1 \int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{R}} (y_x^\alpha)^2 \, dx \, dt + 2\rho_2 \int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{R}} (y^\alpha)^2 \, dx \, dt \\ &\quad + \frac{\gamma^2 \varepsilon^4}{4\rho_2} \int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{R}} (\lambda_{xxx}^\alpha - u_{xxx}^\alpha)^2 \, dx \, dt - \frac{\gamma^2 \varepsilon^4}{4\rho_2} \int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{R}} y_{xxx}^\alpha y^\alpha \, dx \, dt \end{aligned}$$

Now, we choose  $\rho_1 = \frac{\varepsilon}{2}$  and  $\rho_2 = 1/2$ . By Lemma 5.1 and noting that  $y^\alpha(0) = 0$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}} (y^\alpha(T))^2 \, dx + \frac{\varepsilon}{2} \int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{R}} (y_x^\alpha)^2 \, dx \, dt \\ &\leq \left( \frac{L^2}{2\varepsilon} + 1 \right) \int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{R}} (y^\alpha)^2 \, dx \, dt + \frac{\beta^2}{2} \int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{R}} (\lambda_{tx}^\alpha)^2 \, dx \, dt \\ &\quad + \frac{\gamma^2 \varepsilon^4}{2} \int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{R}} (\lambda_{xxx}^\alpha - u_{xxx}^\alpha)^2 \, dx \, dt \\ &\leq \left( \frac{L^2}{2\varepsilon} + 1 \right) \int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{R}} (y^\alpha)^2 \, dx \, dt + \frac{1}{2} \left( \beta + \frac{\gamma^2 \varepsilon^3}{\alpha} \right) \mathcal{C}_4(\varepsilon, T). \quad (6.5) \end{aligned}$$

Therefore the following estimate holds true:

$$\|y^\alpha(T)\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})}^2 \leq \left( \beta + \frac{2\gamma^2 \varepsilon^3}{\alpha} \right) \mathcal{C}_4(\varepsilon, T) + \left( \frac{L^2}{\varepsilon} + 2 \right) \int_0^T \|y^\alpha(t)\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})}^2 \, dt.$$

Since  $\mathcal{C}_4(\varepsilon, T)$  is a constant, by Gronwall's inequality we obtain

$$\|y^\alpha(T)\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})}^2 \leq \frac{1}{2} \left( \beta + \frac{\gamma^2 \varepsilon^3}{\alpha} \right) \mathcal{C}_4(\varepsilon, T) e^{\left(\frac{L^2}{\varepsilon} + 2\right)T}. \quad (6.6)$$

Combining (6.5), (6.6) and (1.10) yields (6.1).

(iii) By the weak convergence of  $\lambda^\alpha$  and the scaling (1.10) we deduce  $\beta\lambda^\alpha \rightharpoonup 0$  in  $L^2(\Omega_T)$ . Any classical solution  $u^\alpha$  of (1.6), (1.8) fulfills

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{R}} u^\alpha \varphi_t + f(u^\alpha) \varphi_x \, dx \, dt + \int_{\mathbb{R}} u_0 \varphi \, dx \\ &= \int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{R}} \varepsilon u^\alpha \varphi_{xx} + \gamma \varepsilon^2 \lambda^\alpha \varphi_{xxx} + \beta \lambda^\alpha \varphi_{tx} \, dx \, dt, \end{aligned}$$

for all  $\varphi \in C_0^\infty([0, T]; \mathbb{R})$ . Since  $C_0^\infty([0, T], \mathbb{R}) \subset L^2(\Omega_T)$ , we obtain by weak convergence that

$$\int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{R}} u \varphi_t + f(u) \varphi_x \, dx \, dt + \int_{\mathbb{R}} u_0 \varphi \, dx = \int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{R}} \varepsilon u \varphi_{xx} + \gamma \varepsilon^2 u \varphi_{xxx} \, dx \, dt.$$

for all  $\varphi \in C_0^\infty([0, T]; \mathbb{R})$ , which proves (6.2). □

## 7 Asymptotics for the Sharp-Interface Limit $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$

In the previous section we studied the limit  $\alpha \rightarrow \infty$  of the system (1.6) for  $\varepsilon$  fixed. Here we consider the sharp-interface limit  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$  for fixed values of  $\alpha > 0$ .

For any initial datum  $u_0 \in L^2(\mathbb{R})$  there is a family  $u_0^\varepsilon \in H^4(\mathbb{R}) \cap W^{4,\infty}(\mathbb{R})$  of smooth approximations of  $u_0$  satisfying

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \|u_0 - u_0^\varepsilon\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})} &= 0, \\ \|u_0^\varepsilon\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})} + \varepsilon \|u_0^\varepsilon\|_{H^1(\mathbb{R})} &\leq K_0 \text{ for every } \varepsilon > 0, \end{aligned} \quad (7.1)$$

where  $K_0 = K_0(\|u_0\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})}) > 0$  is a constant independent of  $\varepsilon$ . From Theorem 4.1 we know that there is a family of classical solutions to (1.6) with initial datum  $u_0^\varepsilon$ . To keep notation short, we denote this family by  $\{(u^\varepsilon, \lambda^\varepsilon)\}_{\varepsilon > 0}$ , dropping now the index  $\alpha$ .

We prove below that if the coefficient  $\beta$  is suitably scaled with respect to  $\varepsilon$ , then the solutions  $\{u^\varepsilon\}$  of (1.6) with initial datum  $u_0^\varepsilon$  converge for  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$  to a weak solution  $u$  of the homogeneous equation (1.2); moreover,  $u(\cdot, 0) = u_0$  in a weak sense. More precisely, we have the following result.

**Theorem 7.1** *Assume that  $f \in C^3(\mathbb{R})$  satisfies  $|f'| < L$  for some constant  $L > 0$  and, moreover, that*

$$\text{meas}\{u \in \mathbb{R} : f''(u) = 0\} = 0. \quad (7.2)$$

*Let  $u_0 \in L^2(\mathbb{R})$  and consider  $u_0^\varepsilon \in H^4(\mathbb{R}) \cap W^{4,\infty}(\mathbb{R})$  satisfying (7.1). We choose  $\beta = \varepsilon \mathcal{O}(\alpha^{-1})$  be given such that*

$$\beta \leq \frac{\varepsilon}{4L}. \quad (7.3)$$

*Then, for a family  $\{(u^\varepsilon, \lambda^\varepsilon)\}_{\varepsilon > 0}$  of classical solutions of (1.6) with initial datum  $u_0^\varepsilon$ , there is a subsequence of  $\{(u^\varepsilon, \lambda^\varepsilon)\}_{\varepsilon > 0}$  still denoted by  $\{(u^\varepsilon, \lambda^\varepsilon)\}_{\varepsilon > 0}$ , and a function  $u \in L^p(\Omega_T)$ ,  $1 \leq p < 2$ , such that*

$$u^\varepsilon, \lambda^\varepsilon \rightarrow u \text{ in } L_{loc}^p(\Omega_T) \quad (1 \leq p < 2).$$

*Moreover,  $u$  is a weak solution to the initial value problem (1.2) with datum  $u_0 \in L^2(\mathbb{R})$ , i.e.,*

$$\int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{R}} u \varphi_t + f(u) \varphi_x \, dx \, dt + \int_{\mathbb{R}} u_0 \varphi(\cdot, 0) \, dx = 0,$$

*for all  $\varphi \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R} \times [0, T])$ .*

From Section 2 we know that the limit solution  $u$  can contain undercompressive waves; then, it may fail to be a Kruřkov solution.

The proof of Theorem 7.1 relies on the compensated compactness theory [17] in the  $L^p$ -framework [16, 22]. We recall that an *entropy pair*  $(\eta, q)$  for (1.2) is a pair of functions of class  $C^2(\mathbb{R})$  satisfying

$$\eta'(w)f'(w) = q'(w)$$

for every  $w \in \mathbb{R}$ . In the following, we consider entropies satisfying the condition

$$|\eta'(w)| + |\eta''(w)| \leq C_\eta, \quad (7.4)$$

for every  $w \in \mathbb{R}$ . The following compactness lemma will lead to the proof of Theorem 7.1. Its proof is similar to that of an analogous result in [20]; see also [6]. We denote by  $\mathcal{M}(Q)$  the set of Radon measures on some open set  $Q$ .

**Lemma 7.2** *Let the assumptions of Theorem 7.1 be valid and consider the family of classical solutions  $\{(u^\varepsilon, \lambda^\varepsilon)\}_{\varepsilon>0}$  of (1.6) with initial datum  $u_0^\varepsilon$  defined above. Then, for every open bounded set  $Q \subset \Omega_T$  there exist a compact set  $\mathcal{K} \subset W^{-1,2}(Q)$  and a bounded set  $\mathcal{B} \subset \mathcal{M}(Q)$  such that*

$$\eta(u^\varepsilon)_t + q(u^\varepsilon)_x \in \mathcal{K} + \mathcal{B},$$

for every entropy pair  $(\eta, q)$  satisfying (7.4).

*Proof.* We multiply (1.6) by  $\eta'(u^\varepsilon)$  and obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \eta(u^\varepsilon)_t + q(u^\varepsilon)_x &= \varepsilon \eta(u^\varepsilon)_{xx} - \varepsilon \eta''(u^\varepsilon)(u^\varepsilon_x)^2 - \alpha (\eta'(u^\varepsilon)(u^\varepsilon - \lambda^\varepsilon))_x + \alpha \eta''(u^\varepsilon) u^\varepsilon_x (u^\varepsilon - \lambda^\varepsilon) \\ &= A_1^\varepsilon + A_2^\varepsilon + A_3^\varepsilon + A_4^\varepsilon. \end{aligned}$$

In the sequel we use the notation  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$  both for the duality of  $H^{-1}(Q)$  and  $H_0^1(Q)$  as well as for the one between  $\mathcal{M}(Q)$  and  $C^0(Q)$ . We will prove that  $A_1^\varepsilon, A_3^\varepsilon \in \mathcal{K}$  and  $A_2^\varepsilon, A_4^\varepsilon \in \mathcal{B}$ . We notice that the estimates in Corollary 3.7 hold because of (7.3).

Let  $\varphi \in H_0^1(Q)$  and consider

$$|\langle A_1^\varepsilon, \varphi \rangle| \leq \varepsilon \int_Q |\eta'(u^\varepsilon) u^\varepsilon_x \varphi_x| \, dx \, dt \leq C_\eta \varepsilon \|u^\varepsilon_x\|_{L^2(Q)} \|\varphi_x\|_{L^2(Q)}.$$

By (3.27) in Corollary 3.7 we obtain

$$|\langle A_1^\varepsilon, \varphi \rangle| \leq C_\eta \sqrt{C} \sqrt{\varepsilon} \left( (1 + \beta \varepsilon^{-1}) \|u_0^\varepsilon\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})}^2 + \varepsilon \beta \|u_0^\varepsilon\|_{H^1(\mathbb{R})}^2 \right)^{1/2} \|\varphi\|_{H^1(Q)},$$

and then, by (7.3) and (7.1),

$$|\langle A_1^\varepsilon, \varphi \rangle| \leq C_\eta \sqrt{C} \sqrt{\varepsilon} \left( \left(1 + \frac{1}{4L}\right) \|u_0\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})}^2 + \frac{K_0^2}{4L} \right)^{1/2} \|\varphi\|_{H^1(Q)} \xrightarrow{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} 0.$$

We turn to  $A_3^\varepsilon$  and observe from equation (1.6)<sub>2</sub> that

$$\begin{aligned} |\langle A_3^\varepsilon, \varphi \rangle| &\leq \alpha \int_Q |\eta'(u^\varepsilon)(u^\varepsilon - \lambda^\varepsilon) \varphi_x| \, dx \, dt \\ &\leq C_\eta \int_Q |\beta \lambda_t^\varepsilon - \gamma \varepsilon^2 \lambda_{xx}^\varepsilon| |\varphi_x| \, dx \, dt \\ &\leq C_\eta \left( \beta \|\lambda_t^\varepsilon\|_{L^2(Q)} + \gamma \varepsilon^2 \|\lambda_{xx}^\varepsilon\|_{L^2(Q)} \right) \|\varphi\|_{H^1(Q)}. \end{aligned}$$

With Corollary 3.7 this leads to

$$|\langle A_3^\varepsilon, \varphi \rangle| \leq C_\eta (\sqrt{\beta} + \sqrt{\gamma \varepsilon}) \sqrt{C} \left( \|u_0^\varepsilon\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})}^2 + \varepsilon (\varepsilon + \beta) \|u_0^\varepsilon\|_{H^1(\mathbb{R})}^2 \right)^{1/2} \|\varphi\|_{H^1(Q)}.$$

Condition (7.3) and (7.1) ensure then  $|\langle A_3^\varepsilon, \varphi \rangle| \rightarrow 0$  for  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ .

It remains to analyze  $A_2^\varepsilon$  and  $A_4^\varepsilon$ . In view of (3.27) in Corollary 3.7 it is straightforward to verify for any  $\psi \in \mathcal{C}^0(Q)$

$$|\langle A_2^\varepsilon, \psi \rangle| \leq C_\eta C \left( (1 + \beta \varepsilon^{-1}) \|u_0^\varepsilon\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})}^2 + \varepsilon \beta \|u_0^\varepsilon\|_{H^1(\mathbb{R})}^2 \right) \|\psi\|_{C^0(Q)}.$$

Once again, condition (7.3) and (7.1) show that  $|\langle A_2^\varepsilon, \psi \rangle|$  is uniformly bounded with respect to  $\varepsilon$ . For the remaining term  $A_4^\varepsilon$  we have, for any  $\psi \in \mathcal{C}^0(Q)$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} |\langle A_4^\varepsilon, \psi \rangle| &\leq \alpha \int_Q |\eta''(u^\varepsilon) u_x^\varepsilon (u^\varepsilon - \lambda^\varepsilon)| \, dx \, dt \\ &\leq C_\eta \int_Q |\beta \lambda_t^\varepsilon + \gamma \varepsilon^2 \lambda_{xx}^\varepsilon| |u_x^\varepsilon| |\psi| \, dx \, dt \\ &\leq C_\eta \left( \beta \|\lambda_t^\varepsilon\|_{L^2(Q)} + \gamma \varepsilon^2 \|\lambda_{xx}^\varepsilon\|_{L^2(Q)} \right) \|u_x^\varepsilon\|_{L^2(Q)} \|\psi\|_{C^0(Q)}. \end{aligned}$$

Estimates (3.26) and (3.27) in Corollary 3.7 apply to bound  $|\langle A_4^\varepsilon, \psi \rangle|$  uniformly with respect to  $\varepsilon$ .  $\square$

With this compactness result we can finally prove Theorem 7.1.

*Proof of Theorem 7.1.* The family of norms  $\|u^\varepsilon\|_{L^2(\Omega_T)}$  is uniformly bounded, because of Corollary 3.6 and (7.1). By Lemma 7.2 and the results in [16, 17] we deduce that  $u^\varepsilon \rightarrow u$  in  $L_{loc}^p(\Omega_T)$ , for  $1 \leq p < 2$ . In particular, the Lipschitz bound on the flux and condition (7.2) are necessary to apply the results in [16].

In order to prove that the limit function  $u$  solves (1.2), consider any  $\varphi \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R} \times [0, T])$ ; then

$$\begin{aligned} &\int_{\Omega_T} (u^\varepsilon \varphi_t + f(u^\varepsilon) \varphi_x) \, dx \, dt + \int_{\mathbb{R}} u_0^\varepsilon \varphi(\cdot, 0) \, dx \\ &= -\varepsilon \int_{\Omega_T} u^\varepsilon \varphi_{xx} \, dx \, dt - \alpha \int_{\Omega_T} (u^\varepsilon - \lambda^\varepsilon) \varphi_x \, dx \, dt. \end{aligned}$$

We showed above that the sequence  $\{u^\varepsilon\}$  converges in  $L_{loc}^p(\Omega_T)$  for  $1 \leq p < 2$ ; therefore, and using (7.1), the left side of the identity above converges to

$$\int_{\Omega_T} (u \varphi_t + f(u) \varphi_x) \, dt \, dx + \int_{\mathbb{R}} u_0 \varphi(\cdot, 0) \, dx.$$

By the same reason, the first term on the right side vanishes in the limit. At last, by (1.6)<sub>2</sub>, the second term equals

$$-\int_{\Omega_T} \left( \beta \lambda_t^\varepsilon - \gamma \varepsilon^2 \lambda_{xx}^\varepsilon \right) \varphi_x \, dx \, dt.$$

This term vanishes in the limit  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$  due to (7.3) and the estimate (3.26) in Corollary 3.7.

The convergence  $\lambda^\varepsilon \rightarrow u$  is an immediate consequence of the parabolic equation (1.6)<sub>2</sub> for  $\lambda^\varepsilon$  and (3.26).  $\square$

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