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# Diffusion versus absorption in semilinear elliptic equations

**Andrey Shishkov**

*Institute of Applied Mathematics and Mechanics of NAS of Ukraine,  
R. Luxemburg str. 74, 83114 Donetsk, Ukraine*

**Laurent Véron**

*Laboratoire de Mathématiques et Physique Théorique, CNRS UMR 6083,  
Université François Rabelais, 37200 Tours, France*

## Abstract

We study the limit behaviour of a sequence of singular solutions of a nonlinear elliptic equation with a strongly degenerate absorption term at the boundary of the domain. We give sharp conditions on the level of degeneracy in order the pointwise singularity not to propagate along the boundary.

## 1 Introduction

Let  $\Omega$  be a bounded  $C^2$  domain in  $\mathbb{R}^N$ . If  $q > 1$  and  $H \in C(\Omega)$  is a positive function, it is well-known that there exists a maximal solution  $U$  to

$$-\Delta u + H(x)u^q = 0 \quad \text{in } \Omega. \quad (1.1)$$

Furthermore, if  $H(x) \leq \tilde{H}(\rho(x))$  where  $\tilde{H}$  is nonincreasing,  $\rho(x) = \text{dist}(x, \partial\Omega)$  and

$$\int_0^1 \sqrt{\tilde{H}(s)} ds < \infty, \quad (1.2)$$

then it is proved in [5] that  $U$  is a large solution in the sense that

$$\lim_{\rho(x) \rightarrow 0} U(x) = \infty. \quad (1.3)$$

If (1.2) holds, it is possible to construct a minimal large solution  $\underline{U}$ , and in many cases  $U = \underline{U}$  (see [5], [9]). Let  $K$  be the Poisson kernel in  $\Omega$  and  $a \in \partial\Omega$ . If

$$\int_{\Omega} H(x)K^q(x, a)\rho(x)dx < \infty \quad (1.4)$$

then for any  $k > 0$  there exists a unique weak solution  $u = u_{k,a}$  to

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta u + H(x)u^q = 0 & \text{in } \Omega \\ u = k\delta_a & \text{on } \partial\Omega \end{cases} \quad (1.5)$$

in the sense that  $u \in L^1(\Omega) \cap L^q_\rho(\Omega)$  and

$$\int_{\Omega} (-u\Delta\zeta + \zeta H(x)u^q) dx = -k \frac{\partial\zeta}{\partial n}(a) \quad (1.6)$$

for any  $\zeta \in W^{2,\infty}(\Omega) \cap W_0^{1,\infty}(\Omega)$  (see [2]). Furthermore, the mapping  $k \mapsto u_{k,a}$  is increasing. Since  $u_{k,a} \leq U$  it converges to some  $u_{\infty,a}$  which is a positive solution of (1.1) in  $\Omega$ . A natural question is to identify  $u_{\infty,a}$ . The following result is proved in [4]

**Theorem 0.** *Assume*

$$0 < H(x) \leq \exp(-\tau/\rho(x)) \quad \forall x \in \Omega \quad (1.7)$$

for some  $\tau > 0$ , then  $u_{\infty,a} = \underline{U}$ .

This result means that the pointwise boundary blow-up at  $a$  has propagated along the whole  $\partial\Omega$ . In this article we give conditions which prevents this phenomenon and we prove the following.

**Theorem 1.** *Let  $\Omega$  be a bounded domain in  $\mathbb{R}^N$  flat in the neighborhood of some boundary point  $a$ . Assume*

$$\liminf_{\rho(x) \rightarrow 0} \rho^\theta(x) \ln(H(x)) > -\infty \quad (1.8)$$

for some  $0 < \theta < 1$ . Then  $\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} u_{\infty,a}(x) = 0$  for any  $x_0 \in \partial\Omega \setminus \{a\}$ .

This means that the singularity remains localized at the point  $a$ . This theorem is a consequence of a much more general result in which the flatness condition of  $H$  near the boundary is expressed by mean of a Dini condition. This condition allows to replace (1.8) by

$$H(x) \geq h(\rho(x)) \quad \text{and} \quad \ln(1/h(\rho(x))) \in L^1(\Omega) \quad (1.9)$$

Contrary to the complete boundary blow-up phenomenon under assumption (1.7) which is obtained by constructing local subsolutions, the proof of Theorem1 is performed by local energy methods in the spirit of Saint-Venant principle. Similar results of propagations or confinement of singularities have been proved for parabolic equations of the type

$$\partial_t u - \Delta u + \exp(-\omega(t)/t)u^q = 0 \in \mathbb{R}_+^N \times (0, \infty) \quad (1.10)$$

( $q > 1$ ) in [3] and [7].

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## 2 The general result

Let  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}_+^N = \{(x_1, x') \in \mathbb{R}^N : x_1 > 0\}$  be a bounded domain with  $C^2$  boundary  $\partial\Omega$ , such that

$$\Gamma_\gamma : \{(0, x') : |x'| \leq 2\gamma\} \subset \partial\Omega, \quad (0, 2\gamma) \times \Gamma_\gamma \subset \Omega. \quad (2.1)$$

for some  $\gamma > 0$ . Let  $q > 1$  and  $H \in C(\Omega)$  be a nonnegative function satisfying (1.4). We consider the following boundary value problem:

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta u + H(x)u^q = 0 & \text{in } \Omega \\ u = \bar{K}_j \delta & \text{on } \partial\Omega, \end{cases} \quad (2.2)$$

where  $\delta = \delta_0$  is the Dirac measure at 0,  $\{\bar{K}_j\}$  is positive increasing sequence:  $\bar{K}_j \rightarrow \infty$  as  $j \rightarrow \infty$ . Then for arbitrary  $j \in \mathbb{N}$  problem (2.2) has a unique solution  $u_j(x)$  ([2][8]) and the sequence  $\{u_j\}$  is increasing. Furthermore, since there exists a maximal solution  $U$  of equation (2.2) which also satisfies  $\lim_{\rho(x) \rightarrow 0} U(x) \rightarrow \infty$ ,  $u_j$  is smaller than  $U$  for any  $j$ . Our aim is to find sharp conditions on  $H$ , guaranteeing that the limit solution  $u_\infty = \lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} u_j$  has a boundary singularity localized at  $\{0\}$  and satisfies  $\lim_{x \rightarrow y} u_\infty(x) = 0$  for all  $y \in \partial\Omega \setminus \{0\}$ . We shall assume that

$$H(x) \geq h(\rho(x)) \quad \forall x \in \Omega, \quad (2.3)$$

for some positive nondecreasing function  $h$  that we shall write under the form

$$h(s) = \exp\left(-\frac{\omega(s)}{s}\right) \quad \forall s \in (0, \gamma). \quad (2.4)$$

Our main result is the following.

**Theorem 2.** *Assume  $\omega$  is a nondecreasing continuous function satisfying the technical condition*

$$s^{\gamma_1} \leq \omega(s) \leq \omega_0 = \text{const} < \infty \quad \forall s \in (0, \gamma), \quad 0 < \gamma_1 < 1, \quad (2.5)$$

and the Dini condition,

$$\int_0^c \frac{\omega(s)}{s} ds < \infty, \quad (2.6)$$

and let  $h$  and  $H$  be subjects to (2.3) and (2.4). If  $u_j$  is the solution of problem (2.2), then  $u_\infty = \lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} u_j$  is a solution of (1.1) with a boundary singularity at 0 and which satisfies

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow y} u(x) = 0 \quad \forall y \in \partial\Omega \setminus \{0\}. \quad (2.7)$$

Since the solution  $u_j$  on (2.2) is a decreasing function of the potential  $H$ , we shall assume in the sequel that  $H(x) = h(\rho(x))$  for all  $x \in \Omega$ , thus the equation under consideration will be

$$-\Delta u + h(\rho(x))u^q = 0 \quad \text{in } \Omega, \quad (2.8)$$

and  $u_j$  denotes the solution subject to the boundary condition

$$u = \bar{K}_j \delta \quad \text{on } \partial\Omega. \quad (2.9)$$

## 2.1 Energy a priori estimates

The proof of Theorem 2 is based on some new variant of the local energy estimates method. For the study of the localized singular boundary regimes for the quasilinear second order parabolic equations energy method was first used in [6]. An adaptation of these methods to the study of the localization principle of initial singularities of singular solutions of parabolic equations with a strong absorption and a degenerate

$t$ -dependent potential was elaborated in [7]. Here we propose the "elliptic" version of the above mentioned result.

$$\begin{aligned}\Omega_s &:= \{x \in \Omega : \rho(x) > s\}, \quad s \in \mathbb{R}_+^1, \\ \Omega^s &:= \{x \in \Omega : 0 < \rho(x) < s\}, \quad s \in \mathbb{R}_+^1, \\ \Omega^s(\tau) &:= \Omega^s \cap \{x = (x_1, x') : |x'| > \tau\}, \quad \tau > 0, \quad 0 < s < \gamma.\end{aligned}$$

Because  $\partial\Omega$  is  $C^2$ , there exists  $\tilde{s} > 0$  such that, for any  $0 < s \leq \tilde{s}$ ,  $\partial\Omega^s \cap \Omega = \partial\Omega_s$  is  $C^2$ . Notice also that we can assume that  $\rho(x) = x_1$  for any  $x \in [0, 2\gamma] \times \Gamma_\gamma$ . If  $u$  is a solution of (2.8) we set

$$I(s) := \int_{\Omega_s} (|\nabla u|^2 + h(\rho(x))|u|^{q+1}) dx, \quad s > 0. \quad (2.10)$$

**Lemma 2.1.** *The function  $I$  satisfies*

$$I(s) \leq d_1 \left[ \int_0^s h(r)^{\frac{2}{q+3}} dr \right]^{-\frac{q+3}{q-1}} \quad \forall 0 < s \leq \tilde{s}, \quad (2.11)$$

where constant  $d_1$  does not depend  $u$ .

*Proof.* Multiplying equation (2.2) by  $u$  and integrating on  $\Omega_s$  ( $0 < s \leq \tilde{s}$ ), we get

$$I(s) = \int_{\partial\Omega_s} u \frac{\partial u}{\partial \bar{n}} d\sigma \leq \left( \int_{\partial\Omega_s} |\nabla u|^2 d\sigma \right)^{1/2} \left( \int_{\partial\Omega_s} |u|^2 d\sigma \right)^{1/2}. \quad (2.12)$$

By Hölder's inequality,

$$\left( \int_{\partial\Omega_s} |u|^2 dx \right)^{1/2} \leq (\text{mes } \partial\Omega_s)^{\frac{q-1}{2(q+1)}} h(s)^{-\frac{1}{q+1}} \left( \int_{\partial\Omega_s} h(\rho(x))|u|^{q+1} d\sigma \right)^{\frac{1}{q+1}}. \quad (2.13)$$

Substituting estimate (2.13) in (2.12) and using Young inequality we obtain

$$I(s) \leq c_1 h(s)^{-\frac{1}{q+1}} \left[ \int_{\partial\Omega_s} (|\nabla u|^2 + h(\rho(x))|u|^{q+1}) d\sigma \right]^{1 - \frac{q-1}{2(q+1)}}. \quad (2.14)$$

Because  $\partial\Omega$  is  $C^2$ ,

$$\frac{dI(s)}{ds} = - \int_{\partial\Omega_s} (|\nabla u|^2 + h(\rho(x))|u|^{q+1}) d\sigma. \quad (2.15)$$

Substituting this equality in (2.14) we derive that  $I$  satisfies the differential inequality

$$I(s) \leq c_1 h(s)^{-\frac{1}{q+1}} (-I'(s))^{1 - \frac{q-1}{2(q+2)}}.$$

Solving this inequality we obtain estimate (2.11).  $\square$

Let  $\tilde{u}_j$ ,  $j = 1, 2, \dots$ , be the solution of equation (2.8) subject to the regularized boundary condition:

$$\tilde{u}_j = \bar{K}_j \delta_j \quad \text{on } \partial\Omega, \quad (2.16)$$

where the  $\delta_j$  are  $C^1$ -smooth functions such that:

$$\begin{cases} \text{supp } \delta_j \subset \{x' \in \mathbb{R}^{N-1} : |x'| < j^{-1}\}, & 0 \leq \delta_j(x') \leq 2j^{N-1}, \\ \|\delta_j\|_{L^{q+1}(\mathbb{R}^{N-1})}^{q+1} \leq 2j^{q(N-1)}, & \|\nabla_{x'} \delta_j\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^{N-1})}^2 \leq 2j^{N+1}, \\ \|\delta_j\|_{L^1(\mathbb{R}^{N-1})} = 1 & \text{and } \delta_j(x') \rightarrow \delta(x) \text{ as } j \rightarrow \infty. \end{cases} \quad (2.17)$$

The next lemma provides a global energy estimate on  $\tilde{u}_j$ .

**Lemma 2.2.** *The solution  $\tilde{u}_j$  of problem (2.8), (2.16) satisfies*

$$\int_{\Omega} (|\nabla \tilde{u}_j|^2 + h(\rho(x))|\tilde{u}_j|^{q+1}) dx \leq K_j, \quad (2.18)$$

with  $K_j \leq c(\bar{K}_j^{q+1}\gamma j^{q(N-1)} + \bar{K}_j^2\gamma j^{N+1} + \bar{K}_j^2\gamma^{-1}j^{N-1})$ , where the constant  $c > 0$  does not depend on  $j$ .

*Proof.* Let us introduce a  $C^2$  cut-off function  $\zeta$  such that  $\zeta(r) = 1$  if  $r \leq 0$ ,  $\zeta(r) = 0$  if  $r \geq \gamma$  ( $\gamma$  is from condition (2.1)). Let us denote for simplicity  $\tilde{u}_j = u$ . If we multiply (2.2) by

$$v_j(x) = u(x) - \bar{K}_j \delta_j(x') \zeta(x_1)$$

and integrate on  $\Omega$ , we obtain for all  $j > j_0 = \gamma^{-1}$ , since  $v_j(x) = 0$  on  $\partial\Omega$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\Omega} (|\nabla u|^2 + h(\rho(x))|u|^{q+1}) dx &= \int_{\Omega} \bar{K}_j (\nabla u, \nabla(\delta_j(x') \zeta(x_1))) dx \\ &+ \int_{\Omega} h(\rho(x)) u^q \bar{K}_j \delta_j(x') \zeta(x_1) dx := A_1 + A_2. \end{aligned} \quad (2.19)$$

By Young's inequality and properties (2.17), we derive

$$\begin{aligned} |A_1| &\leq \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u|^2 dx + c_1 \bar{K}_j^2 (\gamma j^{N+1} + \gamma^{-1} j^{N-1}), \\ |A_2| &\leq \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega} h(\rho(x)) u^{q+1} dx + c_1 \bar{K}_j^{q+1} \gamma j^{q(N-1)}. \end{aligned} \quad (2.20)$$

Estimate (2.18) follows from (2.19), (2.20) with

$$K_j = g(\bar{K}_j) := 2c_1(\bar{K}_j^{q+1}\gamma j^{q(N-1)} + \bar{K}_j^2\gamma j^{N+1} + \bar{K}_j^2\gamma^{-1}j^{N-1}). \quad (2.21)$$

□

We introduce a family of cut-off functions  $\zeta_s$  with

$$\begin{cases} \zeta_s(r) = 1 & \text{if } r \leq s, & \zeta_s(r) = 0 & \text{if } r \geq 2s \\ \left| \frac{d}{dr} \zeta_s(r) \right| \leq c_2 s^{-1} & \forall s > 0, \end{cases} \quad (2.22)$$

and define the additional family of energy functions, for any solution of (2.8),

$$J(s, \tau) := \int_{\Omega^{2s}(\tau)} (|\nabla u|^2 + h(\rho(x))|u|^{q+1}) \zeta_s(\rho(x)) dx, \quad J(s) := J(s, 0). \quad (2.23)$$

We shall denote by  $I_j(s)$  and  $J_j(s, \tau)$  the energy functions  $I(s)$  and  $J(s, \tau)$  associated with the solution  $\tilde{u}_j(x)$ .

**Lemma 2.3.** *The following differential inequality holds:*

$$J_j(s, \tau) \leq d_2 s \left( -\frac{d}{d\tau} J_j(s, \tau) \right) + d_3 F(I_j(s), h(s), s) \quad \forall \tau \in (j^{-1}, 2\gamma), \quad \forall s \in (0, \gamma), \quad (2.24)$$

where the constants  $d_2, d_3$  do not depend on  $j$  and  $F(I, h, s)$  is defined by

$$F(I, h, s) := \frac{I^{1-\frac{q-1}{2(q+1)}}}{s^{\frac{q+3}{2(q+1)}} h^{\frac{1}{q+1}}} + \frac{I^{1-\frac{q-1}{q+1}}}{s^{\frac{2}{q+1}} h^{\frac{2}{q+1}}}. \quad (2.25)$$

*Proof.* We consider (2.2) satisfied by  $u = \tilde{u}_j$ , multiply the equation by  $\tilde{u}_j \zeta_s(\rho(x))$  and integrate on the domain  $\Omega^{2s}(\tau)$ ,  $2\gamma > \tau > j^{-1}$ . As result we have the following

$$\begin{aligned} J_j(s, \tau) &= \int_{\Omega^{2s}(\tau)} (|\nabla u|^2 + h(\rho(x))|u|^{q+1}) \zeta_s(\rho(x)) dx \\ &= \int_{\Gamma^{2s}(\tau)} u \frac{\partial u}{\partial n} \zeta_s(\rho(x)) d\sigma - \int_{\Omega^{2s}(\tau) \setminus \Omega^s(\tau)} (\nabla u, \nabla \zeta_s(\rho(x))) u dx \\ &:= R_1 + R_2, \end{aligned} \quad (2.26)$$

where  $\Gamma^{2s}(\tau) = \{\rho(x) < 2s, |x'| = \tau\}$ . Let us estimate the terms  $R_1, R_2$  from above.

$$|R_1| \leq \left( \int_{\Gamma^{2s}(\tau)} |\nabla u|^2 \zeta_s d\sigma \right)^{1/2} \left( \int_{\Gamma^{2s}(\tau)} u^2 \zeta_s d\sigma \right)^{1/2} := \left( R_1^{(1)} \right)^{1/2} \left( R_1^{(2)} \right)^{1/2}. \quad (2.27)$$

We decompose  $R_1^{(2)}$  as follows

$$R_1^{(2)} = \int_{\Gamma^{2s}(\tau) \setminus \Gamma^s(\tau)} u^2 \zeta_s d\sigma + \int_{\Gamma^s(\tau)} u^2 \zeta_s d\sigma := R_1^{(2,1)} + R_1^{(2,2)}.$$

In order to estimate  $R_1^{(2,1)}$ , we use a standard trace interpolation inequality (see e.g. [1]), and get

$$\begin{aligned} &\int_{|x'|=\tau} u(x_1, x')^2 d\sigma' \\ &\leq c_1 \left( \int_{\tau < |x'| < 2\gamma} |\nabla_{x'} u(x_1, x')|^2 dx' \right)^{1/2} \left( \int_{\tau < |x'| < 2\gamma} u(x_1, x')^2 dx' \right)^{1/2} \\ &\quad + c_2 \int_{\tau < |x'| < 2\gamma} u(x_1, x')^2 dx' \quad \forall \tau < \gamma, \quad \forall x_1 \in (s, 2s). \end{aligned}$$

Integrating the last inequality in  $x_1$  over  $(s, 2s)$ , we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} R_1^{(2,1)} &\leq c_1 \left( \int_{\Omega^{2s}(\tau) \setminus \Omega^s(\tau)} |\nabla u|^2 dx \right)^{1/2} \left( \int_{\Omega^{2s}(\tau) \setminus \Omega^s(\tau)} u^2 dx \right)^{1/2} \\ &\quad + c_2 s^{-1} \int_{\Omega^{2s}(\tau) \setminus \Omega^s(\tau)} u^2 dx \\ &:= c_1 \left( R_1^{(2,1,1)} \right)^{1/2} \left( R_1^{(2,1,2)} \right)^{1/2} + c_2 R_1^{(2,1,2)}. \end{aligned} \quad (2.28)$$

By Hölder's inequality,

$$\begin{aligned} R_1^{(2,1,2)} &\leq d_4 \left( \int_{\Omega^{2s}(\tau) \setminus \Omega^s(\tau)} u^{q+1} dx \right)^{\frac{2}{q+1}} (\text{mes}(\Omega^{2s}(\tau) \setminus \Omega^s(\tau)))^{\frac{q-1}{q+1}} \\ &\leq d_5 s^{\frac{q-1}{q+1}} h(s)^{-\frac{2}{q+1}} \left( \int_{\Omega^{2s}(\tau) \setminus \Omega^s(\tau)} h(\rho(x)) |u|^{q+1} dx \right)^{\frac{2}{q+1}}. \end{aligned} \quad (2.29)$$

Therefore it follows from (2.28) and (2.29),

$$\begin{aligned} R_1^{(2,1)} &\leq d_6 s^{\frac{q-1}{q+1}} h(s)^{-\frac{2}{q+1}} \left( \int_{\Omega^{2s}(\tau) \setminus \Omega^s(\tau)} h(\rho(x)) |u|^{q+1} dx \right)^{\frac{2}{q+1}} \\ &\quad + d_7 s^{\frac{q-1}{2(q+1)}} h(s)^{-\frac{1}{q+1}} \left( \int_{\Omega^{2s}(\tau) \setminus \Omega^s(\tau)} |\nabla u|^2 dx \right)^{1/2} \left( \int_{\Omega^{2s}(\tau) \setminus \Omega^s(\tau)} h(\rho(x)) |u|^{q+1} dx \right)^{\frac{1}{q+1}} \\ &\leq d_8 s^{\frac{q-1}{2(q+1)}} h(s)^{-\frac{1}{q+1}} \tilde{R}^{1-\frac{q-1}{2(q+1)}} + d_8 s^{-\frac{q-1}{q+1}} h(s)^{-\frac{2}{q+1}} \tilde{R}^{1-\frac{q-1}{q+1}}, \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\tilde{R} = \int_{\Omega^{2s}(\tau) \setminus \Omega^s(\tau)} (|\nabla u|^2 + h(\rho(x)) |u|^{q+1}) dx.$$

Using the definition of  $I_j(s)$  we derive

$$\begin{aligned} R_1^{(2,1)} &\leq d_8 s^{\frac{q-1}{2(q+1)}} h(s)^{-\frac{1}{q+1}} (I_j(s) - I_j(2s))^{1-\frac{q-1}{2(q+1)}} \\ &\quad + d_8 s^{-\frac{q-1}{q+1}} h(s)^{-\frac{2}{q+1}} (I_j(s) - I_j(2s))^{1-\frac{q-1}{q+1}}. \end{aligned} \quad (2.30)$$

Since  $u(0, x') = u_j(0, x') = 0 \forall x' : j^{-1} < |x'| < \gamma$ , we derive by Poincaré's inequality,

$$R_1^{(2,2)} = \int_{\Gamma^s(\tau)} u^2 d\sigma \leq d_9 s^2 \int_{\Gamma^s(\tau)} \left| \frac{\partial u}{\partial x_1} \right|^2 d\sigma \leq d_9 s^2 \int_{\Gamma^s(\tau)} |\nabla u|^2 d\sigma. \quad (2.31)$$

Plugging (2.30) and (2.31) into (2.27) and using Young's inequality leads to

$$\begin{aligned} |R_1| &\leq d_{10} \left( \int_{\Gamma^{2s}(\tau)} |\nabla u|^2 \zeta_s d\sigma \right)^{1/2} \left[ s^{\frac{q-1}{2(q+1)}} h(s)^{-\frac{1}{q+1}} (I_j(s) - I_j(2s))^{1-\frac{q-1}{2(q+1)}} \right. \\ &\quad \left. + s^{\frac{q-1}{q+1}} h(s)^{-\frac{2}{q+1}} (I_j(s) - I_j(2s))^{1-\frac{q-1}{q+1}} + s^2 \int_{\Gamma^s(\tau)} |\nabla u|^2 d\sigma \right]^{1/2} \\ &\leq d_{11} \left[ s \int_{\Gamma^{2s}(\tau)} |\nabla u|^2 \zeta_s d\sigma + s^{-1+\frac{q-1}{2(q+1)}} h(s)^{-\frac{1}{q+1}} (I_j(s) - I_j(2s))^{1-\frac{q-1}{2(q+1)}} \right. \\ &\quad \left. + s^{-1+\frac{q-1}{q+1}} h(s)^{-\frac{2}{q+1}} (I_j(s) - I_j(2s))^{1-\frac{q-1}{q+1}} \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (2.32)$$

The last terms to estimate is  $R_2$ . By Hölder's inequality and (2.22), we have,

$$\begin{aligned} |R_2| &\leq cs^{-1} \left( \int_{\Omega^{2s}(\tau) \setminus \Omega^s(\tau)} |\nabla u|^2 dx \right)^{1/2} \left( \int_{\Omega^{2s}(\tau) \setminus \Omega^s(\tau)} u^2 dx \right)^{1/2} \\ &:= cs^{-1} (R_2^{(1)})^{1/2} (R_2^{(2)})^{1/2}. \end{aligned} \quad (2.33)$$



From (2.28), the term  $R_2^{(2)}$  coincides with  $R_1^{(2,1,2)}$ ; thus  $R_2^{(2)}$  satisfies

$$R_2^{(2)} \leq d_5 s^{\frac{q-1}{q+1}} h(s)^{-\frac{2}{q+1}} \left( \int_{\Omega^{2s}(\tau) \setminus \Omega^s(\tau)} h(\rho(x)) |u|^{q+1} dx \right)^{\frac{2}{q+1}}. \quad (2.34)$$

using (2.34) and Young's inequality, we derive from (2.33),

$$|R_2| \leq c_1 s^{-(1-\frac{q-1}{2(q+1)})} h(s)^{-\frac{1}{q+1}} \left( \int_{\Omega^{2s}(\tau) \setminus \Omega^s(\tau)} (|\nabla u|^2 + h(\rho(x)) |u|^{q+1}) dx \right)^{1-\frac{q-1}{2(q+1)}}. \quad (2.35)$$

Thus, due to estimates (2.32) and (2.35), it follows from (2.26),

$$J_j(s, \tau) \leq cs \int_{\Gamma^{2s}(\tau)} |\nabla u|^2 \zeta_s d\sigma + c_1 s^{-\frac{q+3}{2(q+1)}} h(s)^{-\frac{1}{q+1}} (I_j(s) - I_j(2s))^{1-\frac{q-1}{2(q+1)}} \\ + c_2 s^{-\frac{2}{q+1}} h(s)^{-\frac{2}{q+1}} (I_j(s) - I_j(2s))^{1-\frac{q-1}{q+1}}. \quad (2.36)$$

It is easy to see that

$$\int_{\Gamma^{2s}(\tau)} (|\nabla u_j|^2 + h(\rho(x)) |u_j|^{q+1}) \zeta_s d\sigma \leq -c \frac{d}{d\tau} J_j(s, \tau), \quad (2.37)$$

where  $c$  does not depend on  $\tau, s, j$ . Substituting (2.37) into (2.36) we obtain (2.24).  $\square$

In order to estimate from above the function  $F(I_j(s), h(s), s)$  in the right-hand side of (2.24), we first prove the following technical result.

**Lemma 2.4.** *Let  $a > 0$  and  $\omega(s)$  be a nonnegative nondecreasing function satisfying the following condition:*

$$\mu(s) := \frac{s}{\omega(s)} \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as } s \rightarrow 0.$$

Then the following inequality holds:

$$\int_0^s \exp\left(-\frac{a\omega(t)}{t}\right) dt \geq \frac{s^2}{a\omega(s)(1 + \frac{2}{a}\mu(s))} \exp\left(-\frac{a\omega(s)}{s}\right). \quad (2.38)$$

*Proof.* Since  $\mu(0) = 0$ , an integration by parts yields to

$$\int_0^s t \exp\left(-\frac{a\omega(t)}{t}\right) dt = \frac{s^2}{2} \exp\left(-\frac{a\omega(s)}{s}\right) + \frac{a}{2} \int_0^s \exp\left(-\frac{a\omega(t)}{t}\right) (t\omega'(t) - \omega(t)) dt.$$

Due to the monotonicity of  $\omega(t)$ , inequality (2.38) follows from the last relation.  $\square$

Using Lemma 2.4 and identity (2.4), we obtain

$$\int_0^s h(r)^{\frac{2}{q+3}} dr \geq c_0 \frac{s^2}{\omega(s)} \exp\left(-\frac{2}{q+3} \frac{\omega(s)}{s}\right), \quad (2.39)$$

where  $c_0 > 0$  does not depend on  $j, s$ , and this transforms (2.11) into

$$I_j(s) \leq \frac{d_1}{c_0^{\frac{q+3}{q+1}}} \frac{\omega(s)^{\frac{q+3}{q-1}}}{s^{\frac{2(q+3)}{q-1}}} \exp\left(\frac{2}{(q-1)} \frac{\omega(s)}{s}\right) := C \frac{\omega(s)^{\frac{q+3}{q-1}}}{s^{\frac{2(q+3)}{q-1}}} h(s)^{-\frac{2}{q-1}}. \quad (2.40)$$

Substituting this estimate into (2.25) we derive

$$F(I_j(s), h(s), s) \leq C_1 h_0(s)^{-\frac{2}{q-1}} \left( \frac{\omega(s)^{\frac{(q+3)(q+3)}{2(q-1)(q+1)}}}{s^{\frac{(q+3)(3q+5)}{2(q+1)(q-1)}}} + \frac{\omega(s)^{\frac{2(q+3)}{(q+1)(q-1)}}}{s^{\frac{2(3q+5)}{(q+1)(q-1)}}} \right) \quad \forall s > 0, \forall j \in \mathbb{N}. \quad (2.41)$$

In turn, (2.4), assumption (2.5) jointly with (2.41) yields to

$$F(I_j(s), h(s), s) \leq C_2(\delta) h(s)^{-\frac{2}{q-1}-\delta} \quad \forall s > 0, \forall \delta > 0, \quad (2.42)$$

where  $C_2(\delta) \rightarrow \infty$  as  $\delta \rightarrow 0$ . Plugging this inequality into (2.24), we finally obtain

$$J_j(s, \tau) \leq d_2 s \left( -\frac{d}{d\tau} J_j(s, \tau) \right) + d_3 C_2(\delta) h(s)^{-\frac{2}{q-1}-\delta} \quad \forall \delta > 0, \forall s > 0, \forall \tau \in (j^{-1}, 2\gamma). \quad (2.43)$$

## 2.2 Proof of Theorem 2

Our proof will be based on the careful analysis of the vanishing properties of the energy functions  $J_j(s, \tau)$ , satisfying inequality (2.43). Notice that  $J_j(s, \tau)$  satisfies the following initial condition, which follows from (2.18), (2.21)

$$J_j(s, j^{-1}) \leq K_j = g(\bar{K}_j, j) \quad \forall j \in \mathbb{N}, \quad (2.44)$$

Let us fix  $j$  large enough. If  $0 < \delta_0 < 1$ , we shall define  $s_j$  by the identity

$$F_0(s_j) := d_3 C_2(\delta_0) h(s_j)^{-\frac{2}{q-1}-\delta_0} = K_j^\varepsilon, \quad (2.45)$$

where  $0 < \varepsilon < 1$  will be made explicit later on. Then it follows from (2.43), (2.44) that  $J_j(s_j, \tau)$  satisfies the following differential inequalities

$$\begin{cases} J_j(s_j, \tau) \leq d_2 s_j \left( -\frac{d}{d\tau} J_j(s_j, \tau) \right) + K_j^\varepsilon & \forall \tau > j^{-1}, \\ J_j(s_j, j^{-1}) \leq K_j. \end{cases} \quad (2.46)$$

Let us define now the value  $\tau_j$  by the identity

$$J_j(s_j, j^{-1} + \tau_j) = 2K_j^\varepsilon, \quad (2.47)$$

where  $\varepsilon$  has been introduced in (2.45). In order to find an upper estimate for  $\tau_j$ , we observe that

$$J_j(s_j, \tau) > 2K_j^\varepsilon \quad \forall \tau \in (j^{-1}, j^{-1} + \tau_j).$$

Therefore, (2.46) reads as

$$J_j(s_j, \tau) \leq 2d_2 s_j \left( -\frac{dJ_j(s_j, \tau)}{d\tau} \right) \quad \forall \tau \in (j^{-1}, j^{-1} + \tau_j). \quad (2.48)$$

Solving this differential inequality and taking into account the initial condition into (2.46), we obtain

$$J_j(s_j, \tau) \leq K_j \exp\left(-\frac{\tau - j^{-1}}{2d_2 s_j}\right) \quad \forall \tau \in (j^{-1}, j^{-1} + \tau_j). \quad (2.49)$$

By (2.47) and (2.49),

$$2K_j^\varepsilon \leq K_j \exp\left(-\frac{\tau_j}{2d_2 s_j}\right).$$

Consequently,  $\tau_j$  satisfies the following upper bound:

$$\tau_j \leq 2d_2s_j(-\ln 2 + (1 - \varepsilon) \ln K_j). \quad (2.50)$$

Next, we notice that

$$\int_{\Omega(j^{-1}+\tau_j)} (|\nabla u_j|^2 + h(\rho(s))|u_j|^{q+1}) dx \leq I_j(s_j) + J_j(s_j, j^{-1} + \tau_j). \quad (2.51)$$

with  $\Omega(\tau) := \{x : |x'| > \tau\}$ . From estimate (2.40), it follows

$$I_j(s_j) \leq C_3(\delta_0)h(s_j)^{-\frac{2}{q-1}-\delta_0}, \quad (2.52)$$

where  $\delta_0$  has been introduced in (2.45) and  $C_3(\delta_0)$  depends on various parameters of the problem, but not on  $j$ . Using now the definition (2.45) of  $s_j$  and (2.47) of  $\tau_j$ , we deduce, from (2.51) and (2.52),

$$\int_{\Omega(j^{-1}+\tau_j)} (|\nabla u_j|^2 + h(\rho(x))|u_j|^{q+1}) dx \leq (2 + \frac{C_3(\delta_0)}{d_3C_2(\delta_0)})K_j^\varepsilon. \quad (2.53)$$

Because of (2.21), we can fix the sequence  $\{\bar{K}_i\}$  such that

$$K_i = e^{e^i}, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, j, \dots \quad (2.54)$$

Actually,  $\bar{K}_i \approx e^{e^i/(q-1)}$ . We fix  $\varepsilon$  (see definition (2.45) in order the next inequality be satisfied for  $j$  large enough,

$$(2 + C_4)K_j^\varepsilon \leq K_{j-1}, \quad C_4 := \frac{C_3(\delta_0)}{d_3C_2(\delta_0)}. \quad (2.55)$$

Because of (2.54), (2.55) is equivalent to

$$\ln(2 + C_4) + \varepsilon \exp j \leq e^{-1} \exp j, \quad (2.56)$$

and it is sufficient to take

$$\varepsilon = (2e)^{-1},$$

in order condition (2.56) be satisfied for all  $j \geq j_0 = 1 + \ln 2 + \ln \ln(2 + C_4)$ . With such a choice of  $\varepsilon$  and  $K_j$ ,  $s_j$  is uniquely defined by identity (2.45). Therefore, from (2.53) and (2.55), it follows

$$\int_{\Omega(j^{-1}+\tau_j)} (|\nabla u_j|^2 + h(\rho(x))u_j^{q+1}) dx \leq K_{j-1}, \quad (2.57)$$

which will be the starting point for the second round of computations. From the first round, we can obtain sharper upper estimates of  $\tau_j, s_j$  defined by (2.45), (2.47). First, (2.45) gives,

$$d_3C_2 \exp\left(\left(\frac{2}{q-1} + \delta_0\right)\frac{\omega(s_j)}{s_j}\right) = K_j^\varepsilon \implies \frac{\varepsilon}{2} \ln K_j \leq \left(\frac{2}{q-1} + \delta_0\right)\frac{\omega(s_j)}{s_j} \leq \varepsilon \ln K_j$$

$$\forall j > j' = j'(C_2). \quad (2.58)$$

From (2.58), (2.5) and (2.54) we obtain,

$$s_j \leq 2\left(\delta_0 + \frac{2}{q-1}\right)\varepsilon^{-1}(\ln K_j)^{-1}\omega(s_j) \leq 2\left(\delta_0 + \frac{2}{q-1}\right)\omega_0 \exp(-j), \quad (2.59)$$

and, by the monotonicity of  $\omega(s)$ ,

$$\omega(s_j) \leq \omega(C_5 \exp(-j)), \quad C_5 = 2\left(\delta_0 + \frac{2}{q-1}\right)\omega_0. \quad (2.60)$$

As for  $\tau_j$ , we deduce from (2.50) and (2.58):

$$\tau_j \leq 2d_2(1-\varepsilon)s_j \ln K_j \leq C_6\omega(s_j), \quad C_6 := \frac{4d_2(1-\varepsilon)(\delta_0 + \frac{2}{q-1})}{\varepsilon}. \quad (2.61)$$

Substituting (2.60) into (2.61) we get:

$$\tau_j \leq C_6\omega(C_5 \exp(-j)). \quad (2.62)$$

Thus we can initiate the second circle of computations. We define  $s_{j-1}$  similarly to (2.45) by the identity

$$F_0(s_{j-1}) = d_3C_2(\delta_0)h(s_{j-1})^{-\frac{2}{q-1}-\delta_0} = K_{j-1}^\varepsilon, \quad (2.63)$$

with  $\varepsilon = 1/2e$ ). Then  $J_j(s_{j-1}, \tau)$  satisfies, instead of (2.46), the following differential inequality,

$$\begin{cases} J_j(s_{j-1}, \tau) \leq d_2s_{j-1}\left(-\frac{d}{d\tau}J_j(s_{j-1}, \tau)\right) + K_{j-1}^\varepsilon & \forall \tau > \tau_j, \\ J_j(s_{j-1}, j^{-1} + \tau_j) \leq K_{j-1}. \end{cases} \quad (2.64)$$

Observe that the initial value condition follows from estimate (2.57) resulting first round of computations. Next we define  $\tau_{j-1}$  by the following analog of (2.47)

$$J_j(s_{j-1}, j^{-1} + \tau_j + \tau_{j-1}) = 2K_{j-1}^\varepsilon. \quad (2.65)$$

Thus, we obtain the following analog of (2.48):

$$J_j(s_{j-1}, \tau) \leq 2d_2s_{j-1}\left(-\frac{d}{d\tau}J_j(s_{j-1}, \tau)\right) \quad \forall \tau \in (j^{-1} + \tau_j, j^{-1} + \tau_j + \tau_{j-1}). \quad (2.66)$$

Solving this inequality with the initial condition of (2.64), we obtain, in the same way as for (2.49),

$$J_j(s_{j-1}, \tau) \leq K_{j-1} \exp\left(-\frac{\tau - \tau_j - j^{-1}}{2d_2s_{j-1}}\right) \quad \forall \tau \in (j^{-1} + \tau_j, j^{-1} + \tau_j + \tau_{j-1}). \quad (2.67)$$

Definition (2.65) of  $\tau_{j-1}$  and estimate (2.67) lead to the following estimate of  $\tau_{j-1}$

$$\tau_{j-1} \leq 2d_2s_{j-1}(-\ln 2 + (1-\varepsilon)\ln K_{j-1}), \quad (2.68)$$

and finally, to the estimates on  $s_{j-1}$  and  $\tau_{j-1}$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} (i) \quad & s_{j-1} \leq C_5 \exp(-(j-1)) \\ (ii) \quad & \tau_{j-1} \leq C_6\omega(C_5 \exp(-j+1)). \end{aligned} \quad (2.69)$$

The final energy estimate, similar to (2.57) with index  $j - 1$  follows,

$$\int_{\Omega(j^{-1}+\tau_j+\tau_{j-1})} (|\nabla u_j|^2 + h(\rho(x))|u_j|^{q+1}) dx \leq K_{j-2}. \quad (2.70)$$

The described circles of computations can be repeated  $i$  times with a unique restriction on  $i$  already observed, namely  $j - i \geq j_0 = 1 + \ln 2 + \ln \ln(2 + C_4)$ . Thus, performing  $(j - j_0)$  times our computation, we obtain at end

$$\int_{\Omega(j^{-1}+\sum_{i=j_0}^j \tau_i)} (|\nabla u_j|^2 h(\rho(x))|u_j|^{q+1}) dx \leq K_{j_0}. \quad (2.71)$$

The key point in our construction is to prove that  $j^{-1} + \sum_{i=j_0}^j \tau_i$  remains uniformly bounded. It is clear from (2.69)-(ii) that, because of the monotonicity of  $\omega$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i=j_0}^j \tau_i &\leq C_6 \sum_{i=j_0}^j \omega(C_5 \exp(-i)) \\ &\leq C_6 \int_{j_0-1}^j \omega(C_5 \exp(-s)) ds \\ &\leq C_6 C_5^{-1} \int_{C_5 \exp(-j)}^{C_5 \exp(-j_0+1)} r^{-1} \omega(r) dr \leq C_7 \quad \forall j \in \mathbb{N}. \end{aligned} \quad (2.72)$$

The last estimate follows from condition (2.6). Moreover, from (2.6) follows that  $C_7 = C_7(j_0) \rightarrow 0$  as  $j_0 \rightarrow \infty$ . Therefore for arbitrary small  $\nu > 0$  we can find  $j_0 = j_0(\nu)$  such that

$$\int_{\Omega(\nu)} (|\nabla u_j|^2 + h(\rho(x))|u_j|^{q+1}) dx \leq K_{j_0(\nu)} \quad \forall j > j_0. \quad (2.73)$$

Validity of the statement of Theorem 2 follows from (2.73) by standard way. First of all (2.73) yields

$$\|u_j\|_{H^1(\Omega(\nu), \partial\Omega(\nu) \cap \Omega)} \leq c = c(\nu) \quad \forall j \in \mathbb{N}, \quad (2.74)$$

where for arbitrary set  $S \subset \partial\Omega$  by  $H^1(\Omega, S)$  we denote, as usually, the closure in the norm  $H^1(\Omega)$  of the set  $C^1(\Omega, S) := \{f \in C^1(\Omega) : f|_S = 0\}$ . Therefore for arbitrary  $\nu > 0$  limiting solution  $u(x)$  is weak limit of some subsequence  $\{u_i(x)\}$  in the space  $H^1(\Omega(\nu), \partial\Omega(\nu) \cap \Omega)$ . As result:

$$u \in H^1(\omega(\nu), \partial\Omega(\nu) \cap \Omega) \quad \forall \nu > 0, \quad (2.75)$$

thus,  $u$  satisfies boundary condition (2.7) in the weak sense. Next, since  $h(\rho(x)) \geq 0$ , each function  $u_j(x)$  is subsolution of Laplace equation:

$$\Delta u_j \geq 0 \quad \forall x \in \Omega, \quad \forall j \in \mathbb{N}. \quad (2.76)$$

Therefore due to well known inner a priory estimate (see, for example [1]):

$$\left( \sup_{\Omega(2\nu)} u_j \right)^2 \leq c_1(\nu) \int_{\Omega(\nu)} |u_j(x)|^2 dx \quad \forall \nu > 0, \quad \forall j \in \mathbb{N}, \quad (2.77)$$

where  $c_1 = c_1(\nu)$  does not depend on  $j \in \mathbb{N}$ . From (2.73) and (2.77) follows:

$$\sup_{\Omega(\nu)} u_j \leq c_2 = c_2(\nu) \quad \forall j \in \mathbb{N}, \forall \nu > 0. \quad (2.78)$$

Next, function  $u_j(x)$  is the solution of the boundary problem:

$$\Delta u_j = f_j(x) := h(\rho(x))u_j(x)^q \quad \text{in } \Omega(\nu) \quad (2.79)$$

$$u_j|_{\partial\Omega(\nu) \cap \Omega} = 0, \quad \forall j > j_0(\nu), \quad (2.80)$$

where, due to (2.78),

$$\|f_j\|_{L_p(\Omega(\nu))} \leq c_3(\nu) \quad \forall j \in \mathbb{N}, \forall p > 1. \quad (2.81)$$

Therefore due to classical local  $L_p$  a priori estimate (see, for example, [1]),

$$\|u_j\|_{W^{2,p}(\Omega(2\nu))} \leq c_4(\nu) \quad \forall j \in \mathbb{N}, \forall p > 1, \quad (2.82)$$

as consequence,

$$u \in C^{1,\lambda}(\overline{\Omega}(\nu)) \quad \forall \nu > 0. \quad (2.83)$$

Finally, it follows from to (2.75) and (2.83), that  $u$  satisfies the boundary condition (2.7) in a strong sense. □

### 2.3 Further extensions

**Problem 1.** Although the construction should be much more technical, it looks clear that local flatness condition on  $\partial\Omega$  near  $a$  must be of a technical aspect.

**Problem 2.** A related problem is the following. Let  $k > 0$ ,  $r > 0$  and  $u = u_k$  be the solution of

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta u + H(x)u^q = 0 & \text{in } \Omega \\ u = k\chi_{\Gamma_r(a)} & \text{on } \partial\Omega \end{cases} \quad (2.84)$$

where  $a \in \partial\Omega$  and  $\Gamma_r(a) = B_r(a) \cap \partial\Omega$ . Are conditions (2.5)(2.6) sufficient in order to guarantee that  $u_\infty := \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} u_k$  satisfies  $\lim_{x \rightarrow y} u_\infty(y) = 0$ , for all  $y \in \Omega \setminus \Gamma_r(a)$ .

**Problem 3.** Assume  $\Omega$  and  $\Omega'$  are two bounded  $C^2$  domains such that  $\partial\Omega$  and  $\partial\Omega'$  are tangent at some point  $a$ . Assume also that  $\overline{\Omega} \subset \Omega' \cup \{a\}$  and  $H \in C(\overline{\Omega}')$  is positive in  $\Omega$ , vanishes on  $\Omega' \setminus \overline{\Omega}$ . Under what condition on  $H$  and the tangency order of  $\partial\Omega$  and  $\partial\Omega'$ , is the solution  $u = u_{k,a}$  of

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta u + H(x)u^q = 0 & \text{in } \Omega' \\ u = k\delta_a & \text{on } \partial\Omega' \end{cases} \quad (2.85)$$

satisfy  $u_{\infty,a} := \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} u_{k,a}$  a solution in  $\Omega'$  ? has  $u_{\infty,a}$  zero limit on  $\partial\Omega' \setminus \{a\}$  ?

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