Nonlinear elliptic equations with variable exponents involving singular nonlinearity

Khelifi H.\(^1\), El Hadfi Y.\(^2\)

\(^1\)Department of Mathematics and Informatics, University of Algiers, Algiers, 2 Didouche Mourad Algiers Str., Algeria

\(^2\)Applied Mathematics Laboratory, Badji Mokhtar University, Annaba B.P. 12, Algeria

Laboratory LIPIM, National School of Applied Sciences Khouribga, Sultan Moulay Slimane University, Morocco

(Received 23 May 2021; Accepted 7 June 2021)

In this paper, we prove the existence and regularity of weak positive solutions for a class of nonlinear elliptic equations with a singular nonlinearity, lower order terms and \(L^1\) datum in the setting of Sobolev spaces with variable exponents. We will prove that the lower order term has some regularizing effects on the solutions. This work generalizes some results given in [1–3].

**Keywords:** Sobolev spaces with variable exponents, singular nonlinearity, elliptic equation.

**2010 MSC:** 35J70, 35J60, 35B65

**DOI:** 10.23939/mmc2021.04.705

1. Introduction

1.1. Introduction of our problem

Consider the nonlinear elliptic problem

\[
\begin{aligned}
-\text{div} \left( a(x)|\nabla u|^{p(x)-2}\nabla u \right) + b(x)u|u|^{r(x)-1} &= \frac{f}{u^{\gamma(x)}} \quad \text{in } \Omega, \\
u > 0 & \quad \text{in } \Omega, \\
u = 0 & \quad \text{on } \partial\Omega,
\end{aligned}
\]

where \(\Omega\) is a bounded open subset of \(\mathbb{R}^N\) (\(N \geq 2\)) with Lipschitz boundary \(\partial\Omega\), \(f\) is a positive (that is \(f(x) \geq 0\) and not zero a.e.) function in \(L^1(\Omega)\), and \(p, r: \Omega \to (0, +\infty), \gamma: \Omega \to (0, 1)\) are continuous functions and satisfying

\[
1 < p^- := \inf_{x \in \Omega} p(x) \leq p^+ := \sup_{x \in \Omega} p(x) < N, \\
p(x) - 1 < r(x), \\
0 < \gamma^- := \inf_{x \in \Omega} \gamma(x) \leq \gamma^+ := \sup_{x \in \Omega} \gamma(x) < 1, \quad \text{and} \quad |\nabla \gamma| \in L^\infty(\Omega)
\]

where \(a(x), b(x)\) are measurable functions verifying for some positive numbers \(\alpha, \beta, \mu, \nu\) the next conditions

\[
0 < \alpha \leq a(x) \leq \beta, \quad 0 < \mu \leq b(x) \leq \nu.
\]

Equations with variable exponents appear in various mathematical models. In some cases, they provide realistic models for the study of natural phenomena in electro-rheological fluids and important applications are related to image processing. We refer the reader to [4–6] and the references therein.
For constant-exponent cases (i.e., $p(x) = p$, $r(x) = r$ and $\gamma(x) = \gamma$), the existence and regularity of solutions to problem (1) are studied in [1,3,7,8]. They proved that the solution is in $W^{1,q}_0(\Omega)$ and $u^{r+\gamma}$ belongs to $L^1(\Omega)$, where $q = \frac{pr}{p+r-\gamma}$. The problem was also considered in [9], when $b(x) = 0$ and $\gamma$, $p$ was constants with $0 \leq \gamma < 1$, $f \in L^m(\Omega)$ ($m \geq 1$). The authors in [9] prove the existence and uniqueness results. If $p(x) = 2$ and $\gamma$, $r$ were constants, the problem (1) has been treated in [10].

In case without the lower-order term in (1) (i.e., $b(x) = 0$) and the exponent $p(x) \equiv p$, the problem (1) have been treated in [11], under the hypothesis $f \in L^m(\Omega)$ ($m \geq 1$). If $m = 1$ and $0 < \gamma^- \leq \gamma(x) \leq \gamma^+ < 1$ the authors proved that the solution belongs to $W^{1,q}_0(\Omega)$, where $q = \frac{N(p+\gamma^- - 1)}{N+\gamma^- - 1}$.

1.2. Preliminary work

For some preliminary results on Lebesgue and Sobolev spaces with variable exponent, we give the definition of $L^{p(\cdot)}(\Omega)$ only, for more details, see [12,13] or monographs [14,15]. For an open $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^N$, let $p : \Omega \to [1, +\infty)$ be a measurable function such that

$$1 < p^- = \text{ess inf } p, \quad p^+ = \text{ess sup } p < +\infty.$$  

Let define Lebesgue space with variable exponent $L^{p(\cdot)}(\Omega)$ to consist of all measurable functions $u : \Omega \to \mathbb{R}$ for which the convex modular

$$\rho_{p(\cdot)}(u) = \int_{\Omega} |u|^{p(x)} \, dx,$$  

is finite. The expression

$$\|u\|_{p(\cdot)} := \|u\|_{L^{p(\cdot)}(\Omega)} = \inf \left\{ \lambda > 0, \rho_{p(\cdot)} \left( \frac{u}{\lambda} \right) \leq 1 \right\}$$  

defines a norm in $L^{p(\cdot)}(\Omega)$, called the Luxemburg norm, and $(L^{p(\cdot)}(\Omega), \|u\|_{p(\cdot)})$ is uniformly convex Banach space. Its dual space is isomorphic to $L^{p'(\cdot)}(\Omega)$, where $\frac{1}{p(x)} + \frac{1}{p'(x)} = 1$. For all $u \in L^{p(\cdot)}(\Omega)$ and $v \in L^{p'(\cdot)}(\Omega)$, the Hölder type inequality

$$\left| \int_{\Omega} uv \, dx \right| \leq \left( \frac{1}{p^-} + \frac{1}{p^+} \right) \|u\|_{p(\cdot)} \|v\|_{p'(\cdot)} \leq 2 \|u\|_{p(\cdot)} \|v\|_{p'(\cdot)},$$  

holds true. Sobolev space is defined with variable exponent

$$W^{1,p(\cdot)}(\Omega) = \left\{ u \in L^{p(\cdot)}(\Omega) \text{ and } |\nabla u| \in L^{p(\cdot)}(\Omega) \right\},$$  

endowed with the norm

$$\|u\|_{1,p(\cdot)} = \|u\|_{W^{1,p(\cdot)}(\Omega)} = \|u\|_{p(\cdot)} + \|\nabla u\|_{p(\cdot)}.$$  

The space $(W^{1,p(\cdot)}(\Omega), \|u\|_{1,p(\cdot)})$ is reflexive Banach space. Next, we define also

$$W^{1,p(\cdot)}_0(\Omega) = \left\{ u \in W^{1,p(\cdot)}(\Omega), \ u = 0 \text{ on } \partial \Omega \right\},$$  

endowed with the norm $\|\cdot\|_{1,p(\cdot)}$.

The space $W^{1,p(\cdot)}_0(\Omega)$ is separable and reflexive provided that with $1 < p^- \leq p^+ < \infty$.

**Proposition 3** (Ref. [16, Poincaré inequality]). There exists a constant $C > 0$, such that

$$\|u\|_{p(\cdot)} \leq C \|\nabla u\|_{p(\cdot)}, \ \forall u \in W^{1,p(\cdot)}_0(\Omega).$$  

An important role in manipulating the generalized Lebesgue and Sobolev spaces is played by the modular $\rho_{p(\cdot)}(\Omega)$ of the space $L^{p(\cdot)}(\Omega)$. We have the following result
Proposition 4 (Ref. [14]). If \((u_n), u \in L^{p(\cdot)}(\Omega)\) and \(p^+ < +\infty\), then the following properties hold true:

\begin{enumerate}
  \item \[ \min \left( \rho_{p(\cdot)}(u) \frac{1}{p^+}, \rho_{p(\cdot)}(u) \frac{1}{p^-} \right) \leq \| u \|_{p(\cdot)} \leq \max \left( \rho_{p(\cdot)}(u) \frac{1}{p^+}, \rho_{p(\cdot)}(u) \frac{1}{p^-} \right), \]
  \item \[ \min \left( \| u \|_{p(\cdot)}^{p^-}, \| u \|_{p(\cdot)}^{p^+} \right) \leq \rho_{p(\cdot)}(u) \leq \max \left( \| u \|_{p(\cdot)}^{p^-}, \| u \|_{p(\cdot)}^{p^+} \right), \]
  \item \[ \| u \|_{p(\cdot)} \leq \rho_{p(\cdot)}(u) + 1, \]
\end{enumerate}

Next, we recall some embedding results regarding variable exponent Lebesgue–Sobolev spaces. If \(p, \theta: \Omega \to (1, +\infty)\) are Lipschitz continuous function satisfying (2) and \(p(x) \leq \theta(x) \leq p^*(x)\) for any \(x \in \Omega\), where \(p^*(x) = \frac{Np(x)}{N-p(x)}\), then there exists a compact embedding

\[ W^{1,p(\cdot)}(\Omega) \hookrightarrow L^{\theta(\cdot)}(\Omega) \hookrightarrow L^{\theta^-}(\Omega), \tag{6} \]

where \(\theta^- = \inf_{x \in \Omega} \theta(x)\).

1.3. Statement of main result

Definition 1. Let \(f \in L^1(\Omega)\). A function \(u \in W^{1,1}_0(\Omega)\) is a weak solution to problem (1), if

\[ u \geq c_\omega \text{ a.e. in } \omega, \quad u^r(x) \in L^1(\Omega), \]

and

\[ \int_\Omega a(x)|\nabla u|^{p(x)-2}\nabla u \cdot \nabla \varphi \, dx + \int_\Omega b(x)u^r(x)\varphi \, dx = \int_\Omega \frac{f\varphi}{u^r(x)} \, dx, \tag{7} \]

for every \(\varphi \in C_0^1(\Omega)\).

In this paper we will show the following result.

Theorem 1. Suppose that assumptions (2)–(4) hold. Let \(f \in L^1(\Omega), f \geq 0\) in \(\Omega\) and that \(f \not\equiv 0\) in \(\Omega\) i.e. \(f\) is a function which is strictly positive on every compactly contained subset of \(\Omega\). Assume that

\[ p(x) > 1 + \frac{1 - \gamma(x)}{r(x)}. \tag{8} \]

Then, the problem (1) has at least one weak solution \(u \in W^{1,q(\cdot)}_0(\Omega)\), with

\[ q(x) = \frac{p(x)}{1 + \frac{1 - \gamma(x)}{r(x)}}. \tag{9} \]

Moreover \(u^{\gamma(x)+\gamma(x)}\) belongs to \(L^1(\Omega)\).

Remark 1.

- The assumption (4) implies \(1 < q(\cdot) < p(\cdot)\).
- The assumption (3) implies \(q(\cdot) > p(\cdot) - 1\).

In order to prove this result, we will work by approximation, “truncating” the singular term \(\frac{1}{u^r(x)}\), so that it becomes not singular at the origin. We will get some a priori estimates on the solutions \(u_n\) of the approximating problems, which will allow us to pass to the limit and find a solution to problem (1).

2. Approximating problems

Hereafter, let denote by \(T_k\) the truncation function at the level \(k > 0\), defined by \(T_k(s) = \max\{-k, \min\{s, k\}\}\) for every \(s \in \mathbb{R}\).
Let \((f_n) (f_n > 0)\) be a sequence of bounded functions defined in \(\Omega\) which converges to \(f > 0\) in \(L^1(\Omega)\), and verifies the inequalities \(f_n \leq n\) and \(f_n \leq f\) for every \(n \geq 1\) (for example \(f_n = T_n(f)\)). Consider the following approximate equation

\[
\begin{cases}
-\text{div} \left( a(x)|\nabla u_n|^{p(x)-2}\nabla u_n \right) + b(x)u_n|u_n|^{r(x)-1} = \frac{f_n}{(u_n + \frac{1}{n})^{\gamma(x)}} \quad \text{in} \ \Omega, \\
u_n = 0
\end{cases}
\]

(10)

**Theorem 2.** Let \(f \in L^1(\Omega)\), and let \(r,p: \overline{\Omega} \to (1, +\infty), \gamma: \overline{\Omega} \to (0, 1)\) are continuous functions. Assume that (2) and (5) holds true. Then the problem (10) has a nonnegative solution \(u_n \in W_0^{1,p(\cdot)}(\Omega)\).

**Lemma 1 (Ref. [17]).** Suppose that the hypotheses of Theorem 2 are satisfied. Then there exists at least one solution \(u_n \in W_0^{1,p(\cdot)}(\Omega) \cap L^\infty(\Omega)\) to the problem (10) in the sense that\(^1\)

\[
\int_\Omega a(x)|\nabla u_n|^{p(x)-2}\nabla u_n \cdot \nabla \varphi + \int_\Omega b(x)u_n|u_n|^{r(x)-1}\varphi = \int_\Omega \frac{f_n}{(u_n + \frac{1}{n})^{\gamma(x)}} \varphi,
\]

(11)

for every \(\varphi \in W_0^{1,p(\cdot)}(\Omega) \cap L^\infty(\Omega)\).

**Proof.** This proof derived from Schauder–Tychonov fixed point Theorem (see, for example, [18, p. 581], [19, p. 298]). Let \(n\) in \(\mathbb{N}\) be fixed, let \(w\) be a function in \(L^{p(\cdot)}(\Omega)\), we know that the following non-singular problem

\[
\begin{cases}
-\text{div} \left( a(x)|\nabla w|^{p(x)-2}\nabla w \right) + b(x)|w|^{r(x)-1}w = \frac{f_n}{(|w| + \frac{1}{n})^{\gamma(x)}} \quad \text{in} \ \Omega, \\
w = 0
\end{cases}
\]

(12)

on \(\partial \Omega\).

Therefore, the Minty–Browder Theorem (see, e.g. [20]) implies that problem (12) has a unique solution \(w \in W_0^{1,p(\cdot)}(\Omega)\). Let us define a map

\[G: L^{p(\cdot)}(\Omega) \to L^{p(\cdot)}(\Omega)\]

and define \(w = G(v)\) to be the unique solution of (12). Taking \(w\) as test function,

\[\alpha \int_\Omega |\nabla w|^{p(x)} \leq \int_\Omega a(x)|\nabla w|^{p(x)-2}\nabla w \cdot \nabla w = \int_\Omega \frac{f_n w^{p(\cdot)}}{(|w| + \frac{1}{n})^{\gamma(\cdot)}} \leq n^{\gamma+1} \int_\Omega |w|^{p(\cdot)} \alpha \int_\Omega |\nabla w|^{p(x)} dx \leq \frac{C(\varepsilon)n^{\gamma+1}}{\alpha} + \varepsilon \int_\Omega |w|^{p(\cdot)} dx \leq \frac{C(\varepsilon)n^{\gamma+1}}{\alpha} + \varepsilon \int_\Omega |\nabla w|^{p(\cdot)} dx \leq \frac{C(\varepsilon)n^{\gamma+1}}{\alpha} + \varepsilon \int_\Omega |\nabla w|^{p(\cdot)} dx.
\]

Let choose \(\varepsilon = \frac{1}{2}\), then by Proposition 2, we obtain

\[\|\nabla w\|^{\rho(\cdot)} \leq \frac{Cn^{\gamma+1}}{\alpha},\]

where

\[\rho = \begin{cases}
p^+ & \text{if } \|\nabla w\|^{p(\cdot)} \geq 1, \\
p^- & \text{if } \|\nabla w\|^{p(\cdot)} \leq 1.
\end{cases}\]

Using the Poincaré inequality on the left hand side, we have

\[\int_{\Omega} f = \int_{\Omega} f dx.\]

Mathematical Modeling and Computing, Vol. 8, No. 4, pp. 705–715 (2021)
Suppose that the hypotheses of Theorem 2 are satisfied. Then the sequence \( u_n \) is increasing with respect to \( n \), \( u_n > 0 \) in \( \Omega \), and for every \( \omega \subset \subset \Omega \) there exists \( c_\omega > 0 \) (independent on \( n \)) such that
\[
u(x) \geq c_\omega > 0, \quad \forall x \in \Omega, \quad \forall n \in \mathbb{N}. \tag{14}\]
Moreover there exists the pointwise limit \( u \geq c_\omega \) of the sequence \( u_n \).

**Proof.** [Proof of the Lemma 2] Due to \( 0 \leq f_n \leq f_{n+1} \) and \( \gamma(x) > 0 \),
\[
-\text{div}(a(x)|\nabla u_n|^{p(x)-2}\nabla u_n) + b(x)u_n^{r(x)} = \frac{f_n}{(u_n + \frac{1}{n})^{\gamma(x)}} \leq \frac{f_{n+1}}{(u_n + \frac{1}{n+1})^{\gamma(x)}},
\]
So that
\[
-\text{div}(a(x)|\nabla u_n|^{p(x)-2}\nabla u_n) + \text{div}(a(x)|\nabla u_{n+1}|^{p(x)-2}\nabla u_{n+1}) + b(x)u_n^{r(x)} - b(x)u_{n+1}^{r(x)} \leq f_{n+1} \left[ \frac{(u_{n+1} + \frac{1}{n+1})^{\gamma(x)} - (u_n + \frac{1}{n+1})^{\gamma(x)}}{(u_n + \frac{1}{n+1})^{\gamma(x)}} \right]. \tag{15}\]
Let choose \( (u_n - u_{n+1})_+ = \max\{u_n - u_{n+1}, 0\} \) as test function in (15). In the left hand side we use (5) and the monotonicity of the \( p(x) \)-laplacian operator as well as the monotonicity of the function \( t \rightarrow |t|^{r(x)-1}t \). For the right hand, using the fact that \( \gamma(x) \geq 0 \) and \( f_{n+1} \geq 0 \), it follows
\[
\left[ (u_{n+1} + \frac{1}{n+1})^{\gamma(x)} - (u_n + \frac{1}{n+1})^{\gamma(x)} \right] (u_n - u_{n+1})_+ \leq 0. \tag{16}\]
By (16), one can get
\[
\alpha \int_{\Omega} |\nabla (u_n - u_{n+1})_+|^{p(x)} \leq 0,
\]
which implies that \( (u_n - u_{n+1})_+ = 0 \) a.e. in \( \Omega \), that is, \( u_n \leq u_{n+1} \) for every \( n \in \mathbb{N} \). Since the sequence \( (u_n) \) is increasing with respect to \( n \), we only need to prove that (14) holds for \( u_1 \). Due to Lemma 1, \( u_1 \in L^{\infty}(\Omega) \), i.e., there exists a constant \( c_0 \) (depending only on \( \Omega \) and \( N \)) such that \( ||u_1||_{L^{\infty}(\Omega)} \leq c ||f_1||_{L^{\infty}(\Omega)} \leq c_0 \), then
\[
-\text{div}(a(x)|\nabla u_1|^{p(x)-2}\nabla u_1) + b(x)u_1^{r(x)} = \frac{f_1}{(u_1 + 1)^{\gamma(x)}} \geq \frac{f_1}{(c_0 + 1)^{\gamma(x)}} \geq 0.
\]
Since \( \frac{f_1}{(c_0 + 1)^{\gamma(x)}} \) is not identically zero, the strong maximum principle implies that \( u_1 > 0 \) in \( \Omega \) (see [22]). Since \( u_n \geq u_1 \) for every \( n \in \mathbb{N} \), (14) holds for \( u_n \) (with the same constant \( c_\omega \) which is then independent on \( n \)).
only on the data of the problem, but not on nonnegative weak solution.

In the remainder of this section, we denote by $C_i, i = 1, 2, 3, \ldots$ various positive constants depending only on the data of the problem, but not on $n$.

**Lemma 3.** Let $k > 0$ be fixed. The sequence $(T_k(u_n))$, where $u_n$ is a solution to (13), is bounded in $W_0^{1,p(i)}(\Omega)$.

**Proof.** Taking $T_k(u_n)$ as a test function in (13), one can obtain

$$
\int_{\Omega} a(x) |\nabla u_n|^{p(x)-2} \nabla u_n \cdot \nabla T_k(u_n) + \int_{\Omega} b(x) u_n^{r(x)} T_k(u_n) = \int_{\Omega} \left( |u_n| + \frac{1}{n} \right)^{\gamma(x)} T_k(u_n).
$$

Using (5), $f_n \leq f$, $T_k(u_n) \neq 0$, and dropping the nonnegative order term,

$$
\int_{\Omega} |\nabla T_k(u_n)|^{p(x)} dx \leq \frac{k}{\alpha} \|f\|_{L^1(\Omega)}.
$$

As a consequence of Proposition 4 and (17), $T_k(u_n)$ is bounded in $W_0^{1,p(i)}(\Omega)$.

**Lemma 4.** Suppose that the hypotheses of Theorem 1 are satisfied. Then, the sequence $u_n$ is bounded in $W_0^{1,q(i)}(\Omega)$, where $q(\cdot)$ is given by (9). Moreover $(u_n^{r(x)+\gamma(x)})$ belongs to $L^1(\Omega)$.

**Proof.** Taking $\varphi(x, u) = (u_n + 1)^{\gamma(x)} - 1$, as test function in (13), by (4), (5), and the fact that for a.e. $x \in \Omega$

$$
\nabla \varphi(x, u) = \nabla \gamma(x)(u_n + 1)^{\gamma(x)} \ln(u_n + 1) + \gamma(x) \frac{\nabla u_n}{(u_n + 1)^{\gamma(x)}},
$$

we obtain

$$
\gamma^{-\alpha} \int_{\Omega} \frac{|\nabla u_n|^{p(x)}}{(1 + u_n)^{1-\gamma(x)}} + \mu \int_{\Omega} u_n^{p(x)} [(u_n + 1)^{\gamma(x)} - 1] \leq C_1 \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u_n|^{p(x)-1}(u_n + 1)^{\gamma(x)} \ln(u_n + 1) + \int_{\Omega} f \left[ (u_n + 1)^{\gamma(x)} - 1 \right].
$$

Using the fact that $|u_n|^{\theta(x)} \geq 2^{1-\theta} (1 + u_n)\theta(x) - 1$ (here $\theta(x) = r(x)$ and $\theta(x) = \gamma(x)$),

$$
\gamma^{-\alpha} \int_{\Omega} \frac{|\nabla u_n|^{p(x)}}{(1 + u_n)^{1-\gamma(x)}} + 2^{1-r^+} \mu \int_{\Omega} (u_n + 1)^{r(x)+\gamma(x)} \leq C_2 + \frac{1}{2^{1-\gamma^+}} \int_{\Omega} f + C_1 \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u_n|^{p(x)-1}(u_n + 1)^{\gamma(x)} \ln(u_n + 1). \quad (18)
$$

The last term in (18) can be estimated by application of Young’s inequality

$$
(1 + u_n)^{\gamma(x)} \ln(1 + u_n) u_n^{p(x)-1} = (1 + u_n)^{1-\frac{1-\gamma(x)}{p(x)}} \ln(1 + u_n) u_n^{p(x)-1} (1 + u_n)^{-\frac{(1-\gamma(x))(r(x)-1)}{p(x)}} \leq C_3 (1 + u_n)^{p(x)-(1-\gamma(x))} (\ln(1 + u_n))^p(x) + \varepsilon \frac{|\nabla u_n|^{p(x)}}{(u_n + 1)^{1-\gamma(x)}}. \quad (19)
$$

Let choose $\varepsilon = \frac{\gamma^{-\alpha}}{2C_1}$, then by (18) and (19) one can obtain

$$
\frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega} \frac{|\nabla u_n|^{p(x)}}{(1 + u_n)^{1-\gamma(x)}} + 2^{1-r^+} \mu \int_{\Omega} (u_n + 1)^{r(x)+\gamma(x)} \leq C_4 + C_5 \int_{\Omega} (u_n + 1)^{p(x)-(1-\gamma(x))} (\ln(u_n + 1))^p(x). \quad (20)
$$
The hypothesis (3) implies \((1 + t)^{p(x) - 1 - r(x) - c}(\ln(1 + t))^{p(x)}\) is bounded for all \(x \in \Omega\) and \(t \in \mathbb{R}^+\). By another application of Young’s inequality, the next is true
\[
(u_n + 1)^{p(x) - (1 - \gamma(x))}(\ln(u_n + 1))^{p(x)} = (u_n + 1)^{r(x) + \gamma(x) + c} (u_n + 1)^{p(x) - 1 - r(x) - c}(\ln(u_n + 1))^{p(x)} \leq \varepsilon (u_n + 1)^{r(x) + \gamma(x)} + C_6.
\]
(21)

Therefore, by (20), (21),
\[
\int_{\Omega} \frac{|\nabla u_n|^p}{(1 + u_n)^{1 - \gamma(x)}} + \int_{\Omega} (u_n + 1)^{r(x) + \gamma(x)} \leq C_7.
\]
(22)

Since \(r(x) \geq 0\) and \(\gamma(x) \geq 0\), then
\[
\int_{\Omega} u_n^{r(x)} \leq \int_{\Omega} (u_n + 1)^{r(x)} \leq \int_{\Omega} (u_n + 1)^{r(x) + \gamma(x)} \leq C_7.
\]
(23)

The inequality (23) implies that \((u_n^{r(x) + \gamma(x)})\) is bounded in \(L^1(\Omega)\). Let \(q(x) < p(x)\), using Young’s inequality and (22), it follows
\[
\int_{\Omega} |\nabla u_n|^{q(x)} = \int_{\Omega} \frac{|\nabla u_n|^q}{(u_n + 1)^{(1 - \gamma(x))q(x)} p(x)} \leq C_8 \int_{\Omega} \frac{|\nabla u_n|^p}{(u_n + 1)^{1 - \gamma(x)}} + C_9 \int_{\Omega} (u_n + 1)^{(1 - \gamma(x))q(x)} p(x) \leq C_{10} + C_9 \int_{\Omega} (u_n + 1)^{(1 - \gamma(x))q(x)} p(x) - q(x) = r(x).
\]
(24)

Set
\[
(1 - \gamma(x)) \frac{q(x)}{p(x) - q(x)} = r(x).
\]

Then this equality and (23)–(24) yield
\[
\int_{\Omega} |\nabla u_n|^{q(x)} \leq C_{11}.
\]
(25)

**Lemma 5.** Let \(u_n\) be a solution to problem (13). Then
\[
\int_{\{u_n > k\}} u_n^{r(x)} \leq \frac{1}{\mu k^{-\gamma}} \int_{\{u_n > k\}} f, \quad \forall k > 0, \quad \lim_{|E| \to 0} \int_E u_n^{r(x)} = 0,
\]
uniformly with respect to \(n\), for every measurable subset \(E \in \Omega\).

**Proof.** Let \(k > 0\) and \(\psi_j\) be a sequence of increasing, positive, uniformly bounded \(C^\infty(\Omega)\) functions, such that \(\psi_j(s) \to \chi_{\{s > k\}}\), as \(j \to +\infty\). Choosing \(\psi_j(u_n)\) in (13), using (5),
\[
\mu \int_{\Omega} u_n^{r(x)} \psi_j(u_n) \leq \int_{\Omega} \frac{f_n}{(u_n + \frac{1}{n})^{\gamma(x)}} \psi_j(u_n).
\]
Therefore, as \(j\) tends to infinity and that \(k^{-\gamma} \leq (k + \frac{1}{n})^{-\gamma} \leq (u_n + \frac{1}{n})^{-\gamma(x)}\) in the set \(\{u_n > k\}\),
\[
\int_{\{u_n > k\}} u_n^{r(x)} \leq \frac{1}{\mu k^{-\gamma}} \int_{\{u_n > k\}} f.
\]
(26)

By (26), for any measurable subset \(E\) in \(\Omega\), we have
\[
\int_{E} u_n^{r(x)} = \int_{E \cap \{u_n \leq k\}} u_n^{r(x)} + \int_{E \cap \{u_n > k\}} u_n^{r(x)} \leq k^r |E| + \frac{1}{\mu k^{-\gamma}} \int_{\{u_n > k\}} f.
\]
(27)
Since \( f \in L^1(\Omega) \), we may choose \( k = k_\varepsilon \) large enough such that

\[
\int_{\{u_n > k\}} f \leq \varepsilon. \tag{28}
\]

Therefore, the estimates (27)–(28) imply that

\[
\int_E u_n^{r(x)} \leq k_\varepsilon^{r_+} |E| + \frac{\varepsilon}{\mu k_\varepsilon^{r_-}},
\]

and lemma is thus proved.

**Lemma 6.** Let \( u_n \) be a solution to problem (13). Then

\[
\lim_{|E| \to 0} \int_E |\nabla u_n|^q(x) = 0, \quad \text{uniformly with respect to } n,
\]

for every measurable subset \( E \) in \( \Omega \) and \( q(\cdot) \) given by (9).

**Proof.** Let \( \varepsilon > 0 \), by Lemma 4, we may choose \( k = k_\varepsilon \) large enough such that

\[
\int_{E \cap \{u_n > k\}} |\nabla u_n|^q(x) \leq \varepsilon. \tag{30}
\]

From the estimate (17) and that \( q(x) < p(x) \), it comes

\[
\int_{E \cap \{u_n < k\}} |\nabla T_k(u_n)|^q(x) \leq \varepsilon. \tag{31}
\]

By (30) and (31), for any measurable subset \( E \) in \( \Omega \), we have

\[
\int_E |\nabla u_n|^q(x) = \int_{E \cap \{u_n < k\}} |\nabla u_n|^q(x) + \int_{E \cap \{u_n > k\}} |\nabla u_n|^q(x) \leq 2\varepsilon.
\]

As a result \( |\nabla u_n|^q(x) \) is equiintegrable in \( L^1(\Omega) \). Thus (29) is proved.

4. **Proof of the main theorem**

By Lemma 3, the sequence \( (u_n)_n \) is bounded in \( W_0^{1,q(\cdot)}(\Omega) \). Therefore, there exists a function \( u \in W_0^{1,q(\cdot)}(\Omega) \) such that (up to a subsequence)

\[
\begin{aligned}
& u_n \rightharpoonup u \quad \text{in } W_0^{1,q(\cdot)}(\Omega), \\
& u_n \to u \quad \text{a.e. in } \Omega.
\end{aligned} \tag{32}
\]

**Proposition 5.** If the sequence \( T_k(u_n) \) of the truncates of the solutions \( u_n \) of (13) is bounded in \( W_0^{1,p(\cdot)}(\Omega) \). Then

\[
T_k(u_n) \to T_k(u) \quad \text{strongly in } W_0^{1,p(\cdot)}(\Omega), \tag{33}
\]

as \( n \to \infty \), for every \( k > 0 \). In particular \( \nabla u_n \to \nabla u \) a.e. in \( \Omega \).

**Proof.** By Lemma 3 \( T_k(u_n) \) is bounded in \( W_0^{1,p(\cdot)}(\Omega) \), it weakly converges in this space to its pointwise limit \( T_k(u) \). Moreover, since \( f_n \geq 0 \) and \( u_n \geq 0 \) a.e., we have that

\[
-\text{div}(a(x)|\nabla u_n|^{p(x)-2}\nabla u_n) + b(x)u_n^{r(x)} \geq 0,
\]

for all \( n \in \mathbb{N} \) and \( k > 0 \).

Now we fix \( \phi \in C_0^1(\Omega) \) such that \( 0 \leq \phi \leq 1 \) on \( \Omega \) and such that \( \phi \equiv 1 \) on a fixed subset \( \omega \) of \( \Omega \). Then, thanks to the monotonicity of the \( p(x) \)-laplacian operator, (5), and that \( T_k(u_n) \geq T_k(u) \) (since \( u_n \to u \leq u_n \)), we can conclude that the following holds

Mathematical Modeling and Computing, Vol. 8, No. 4, pp. 705–715 (2021)
0 < \beta \int_{\Omega} \left( |\nabla T_k(u_n)|^{p(x)-2} \nabla T_k(u_n) - |\nabla T_k(u)|^{p(x)-2} \nabla T_k(u) \right) \cdot \nabla (T_k(u_n) - T_k(u)) + \nu \int_{\Omega} u_n^{r(x)}(T_k(u_n) - T_k(u))

= \beta \int_{\Omega} \left( |\nabla T_k(u_n)|^{p(x)-2} \nabla T_k(u_n) - |\nabla T_k(u)|^{p(x)-2} \nabla T_k(u) \right) \cdot \nabla (T_k(u_n) - T_k(u)) \phi + \nu \int_{\Omega} u_n^{r(x)}(T_k(u_n) - T_k(u)) \phi

= \beta \int_{\Omega} |\nabla T_k(u_n)|^{p(x)-2} \nabla T_k(u_n) \cdot \nabla \phi(T_k(u_n) - T_k(u)) - \beta \int_{\Omega} |\nabla T_k(u_n)|^{p(x)-2} \nabla T_k(u_n) \cdot \nabla \phi(T_k(u_n) - T_k(u)) \phi

+ \nu \int_{\Omega} u_n^{r(x)}(T_k(u_n) - T_k(u)) \phi

(34)

By Lemma 5, we obtain

\[ u_n^{r(x)} \rightarrow u^{r(x)} \quad \text{strongly in } L^1(\Omega). \]

Therefore, since \( T_k(u_n) \) strongly converges to \( T_k(u) \) in \( L^{p(.)}(\Omega) \) (Lemma 3),

\[ \int_{\Omega} u_n^{r(x)}(T_k(u_n) - T_k(u)) \phi \rightarrow 0, \quad \text{as } n \rightarrow \infty. \] (35)

It’s well known that \( |\nabla T_k(u)|^{p(x)-2} \nabla T_k(u) \in L^{p(.)}_{loc}(\Omega) \), and \( \nabla (T_k(u_n) - T_k(u)) \phi \) tends to zero weakly in \( L^p(\Omega) \), therefore one can get

\[ \int_{\Omega} |\nabla T_k(u)|^{p(x)-2} \nabla T_k(u) \cdot \nabla \phi(T_k(u_n) - T_k(u)) \phi \rightarrow 0, \quad \text{as } n \rightarrow \infty. \] (36)

\( \nabla \phi(T_k(u_n) - T_k(u)) \) strongly converges to zero in \( L^{p(.)}(\Omega) \). Thus

\[ \int_{\Omega} |\nabla T_k(u_n)|^{p(x)-2} \nabla T_k(u_n) \cdot \nabla \phi(T_k(u_n) - T_k(u)) \rightarrow 0, \quad \text{as } n \rightarrow \infty. \] (37)

From (34)–(37),

\[ \int_{\Omega} \left( |\nabla T_k(u_n)|^{p(x)-2} \nabla T_k(u_n) - |\nabla T_k(u)|^{p(x)-2} \nabla T_k(u) \right) \cdot \nabla (T_k(u_n) - T_k(u)) \rightarrow 0, \]

then \( T_k(u_n) \) strongly converges to \( T_k(u) \) in \( W^{1,p(.)}_{0}(\omega) \) for all \( k > 0 \), i.e., since \( \omega \) is arbitrary, that \( T_k(u_n) \) strongly converges to \( T_k(u) \) in \( W^{1,p(.)}_{0}(\Omega) \).

Choosing \( \phi \equiv 1 \) and repeating the same proof, we obtain that \( T_k(u_n) \) strongly converges to \( T_k(u) \) in \( W^{1,p(.)}_{0}(\Omega) \), then \( \nabla u_n \rightarrow \nabla u \) a.e. in \( \Omega \).

**Proof.** [Proof of the Theorem 1] It is easy to pass to the limit in the right hand side of problems (13). On the other hand, using Lemma 2,

\[ 0 \leq \left| \frac{f_n \varphi}{(u_n + \frac{1}{n})^{\gamma(x)}} \right| \leq \frac{\|\varphi\|_{\infty}}{c_{\omega}^{\gamma(x)}} f, \]

for every \( \varphi \in C^1_0(\Omega) \), using Lebesgue Theorem and (32), it follows that

\[ \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\Omega} \frac{f_n \varphi}{(u_n + \frac{1}{n})^{\gamma(x)}} = \int_{\Omega} \frac{f \varphi}{u^{\gamma(x)}}. \] (38)

By the same argument, we get

Mathematical Modeling and Computing, Vol. 8, No. 4, pp. 705–715 (2021)
\[
\lim_{n \to \infty} \int_{\Omega} b(x)u_n^{r(x)} \varphi = \int_{\Omega} u^{r(x)} \varphi.
\]

(39)

For the first term, by Proposition 5 we have that

\[ a(x)|\nabla u_n|^{p(x)} - 2 \nabla u_n \to a(x)|\nabla u|^{p(x)} - 2 \nabla u \quad \text{a.e. in } \Omega, \]

furthermore \( a(x)|\nabla u_n|^{p(x)} - 2 \nabla u_n \) is majorette by \( \beta|\nabla u_n|^{p(x)} - 1 \). Observe that \( p(x) - 1 < q(x) \), by Lemma 6 and Vitali’s Theorem, we have

\[
\lim_{n \to \infty} a(x)|\nabla u_n|^{p(x)} - 2 \nabla u_n \cdot \nabla \varphi = \int_{\Omega} a(x)|\nabla u|^{p(x)} - 2 \nabla u \cdot \nabla \varphi.
\]

(40)

Hence from (38)–(39) we can deduce (7).

\[\blacksquare\]

[1] Boccardo L., Croce G. The impact of a lower order term in a Dirichlet problem with a singular nonlinearity. Portugaliae Mathematica. 76 (3–4), 4075 (2019).

[2] Oliva F. Regularizing effect of absorption terms in singular problems. Journal of Mathematical Analysis and Applications. 472 (1), (2019).

[3] Sbai A., El Hadfi Y. Regularizing effect of absorption terms in singular and degenerate elliptic problems. arXiv preprint arXiv:2008.03597 (2020).

[4] Callegari A., Nashman A. A nonlinear singular boundary-value problem in the theory of pseudoplastic fluids. SIAM J. Appl. Math. 38, 275–281 (1980).

[5] Keller H. B., Chohen D. S. Some positive problems suggested by nonlinear heat generators. Indiana Univ. Math. J. 16 (12), 1361–1376 (1967).

[6] Ambrosetti A., Brézis H., Cerami G. Combined effects of concave and convex nonlinearities in some elliptic problems. J. Funct. Anal. 122 (2), 519–543 (1994).

[7] El Ouwardy M., El Hadfi Y., Ifzarne A. Existence and regularity results for a singular parabolic equations with degenerate coercivity. Discrete & Continuous Dynamical Systems – S. 1–25 (2021).

[8] Sbai A., El Hadfi Y. Degenerate elliptic problem with a singular nonlinearity. arXiv e-prints arXiv:2005.08383 (2020).

[9] Canino A., Sciunzi B., Trombetta A. Existence and uniqueness for \( p \)-Laplace equations involving singular nonlinearities. Nonlinear Differential Equations and Applications. 23, Article number: 8 (2016).

[10] De Cave L M., Oliva F. On the regularizing effect of some absorption and singular lower order terms in classical Dirichlet problem with \( L^1 \) data. Journal of Elliptic and Parabolic Equations. 2, 73–85 (2016).

[11] Chu Y., Gao R., Sun Y. Existence and regularity of solutions to a quasilinear elliptic problem involving variable sources. Boundary Value Problems. 2017, Article number: 1 (2017).

[12] Fan X., Zhao D. On the spaces \( L^{p(x)}(\Omega) \) and \( W^{m,p(x)}(\Omega) \). Journal of Mathematical Analysis and Applications. 263 (2), 424–446 (2001).

[13] Kovářík O., Rákosník J. On spaces \( L^{p(x)}(\Omega) \) and \( W^{k,p(x)}(\Omega) \). Czechoslovak Mathematical Journal. 41 (4), 592–618 (1991).

[14] Diening L., Harjulehto P., Hästö P., Ruzicka M. Lebesgue and Sobolev spaces with variable exponents. Lecture notes in mathematics. Heidelberg, Springer (2017).

[15] Růžička M. Electrorheological fluids: modeling and mathematical theory. Lecture notes in mathematics. Berlin, Springer-Verlag (2000).

[16] Carmona J., Martínez-Aparicio Pedro J., Rossi Julio D. A singular elliptic equation with natural growth in the gradient and a variable exponent. Nonlinear Differential Equations and Applications. 22 (6), 1935–1948 (2015).

[17] Fan X. Positive solution to \( p(x) \)-Laplacian Dirichlet problems with sign-changing non-linearities. Glasgow Mathematical Journal. 52 (3), 505–516 (2010).

[18] Papageorgiou N. S., Winkert P. Applied Nonlinear Functional Analysis. De Gruyter, Berlin (2018).

[19] Papageorgiou N. S., Rădulescu V. D., Repovš D. D. Nonlinear Analysis – Theory and Methods. Springer, Cham (2019).

Mathematical Modeling and Computing, Vol. 8, No. 4, pp. 705–715 (2021)
Нелінійні еліптичні рівняння зі змінними показниками, що включають сингулярну нелінійність

Хеліфі Г.1, Ель Гадіф Й.2

1 Кафедра математики та інформатики, Алжирський університет, Алжир, вул. Діду Мура Алжир, 2, Алжир
Лабораторія прикладної математики, Баджі Мохтарський університет, АннаБа В.Р. 12, Алжир
2 Лабораторія LIPIM, Національна школа прикладних наук Хоуріба, Султан Мулай Слиманський університет, Марокко

У статті доводиться існування та регулярність слабких додатних розв'язків для класу нелінійних еліптичних рівнянь із нелінійною сингулярністю, членами низького порядку та \( L^1 \) в задані просторів Соболєва зі змінними показниками. Доведено, що член низького порядку має деякий регулязуючий вплив на розв'язок. Ця робота узагальнює деякі результати, наведені в [1–3].

Ключові слова: простори Соболєва зі змінними показниками, сингулярна нелінійність, еліптичне рівняння.