

الحلول الكونية لمشكلة القطع الناقص الغير خطية
القوية في فضاءات ميزلاك - أورلكس - سبوليف

**Entropy Solutions for strong nonlinear
Elliptic problem in Musielak-Orlicz-
Sobolev spaces**

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الملخص

في هذه الورقة ، نبرهن وجود الحلول الكونية لبعض فئة مشكلة القطع الناقص القوية الغير خطية للنوع:

$$Au + g(x, u, \nabla u) = f \text{ in } \Omega$$

في فضاءات ميزلاك – أورلكس – سبوليف $W_0^1L_\varphi(\Omega)$ تحت شروط أن دالة المرافق

$$\Delta_2 \text{ لدالة ميزلاك } - \text{ أورلكس } \varphi(x, t) \text{ تحقق شرط } \Delta_2$$

نفرض أن الدالة $f \in L^1(\Omega)$ و $g(x, s, \xi)$ تحقق فقط بعض النمو الغير القياسي مع ما يتعلق $|\xi|$

الكلمات المفتاحية: فضاءات ميزلاك – أورلكس – سبوليف ، مشكلة القطع الناقص الغير خطية

، دالة القطع ، الحلول الكونية.





Abstract

In this paper, we prove the existence of entropy Solutions for some class of strong nonlinear elliptic problem of the type

$$-diva(x, u, \nabla u) + g(x, u, \nabla u) = f$$

In the Musielak–Orlicz–Sobolev spaces $W_0^1 L_\varphi(\Omega)$ under the assumption that $\psi(x, t)$, the conjugate function of the Munielak–Orlicz function $\varphi(x, t)$, satisfies the Δ_2 -condition,

we assume that $f \in L^1(\Omega)$ and $g(x, s, \xi)$ satisfies only some nonstandard growth with respect to $|\xi|$.

keywords: Musielak–Orlicz–Sobolev spaces, nonlinear elliptic problem, truncation function, entropy solutions.





1 Introduction

Let Ω be an open subset of \mathbb{R}^n . In this paper, we study the existence of solutions for strong nonlinear elliptic problems of the form:

$$Au + g(x, u, \nabla u) = f \quad \text{in } \Omega \quad (1.1)$$

where A is the Leray-Lions operator defined as:

$$A(u) = -\operatorname{div} a(x, u, \nabla u)$$

and $g(x, s, \xi)$ presents the nonlinearity of the problem (1.1).

A. Bensoussan, L. Boccardo and F. Murat [14] proved the existence of solutions for the Dirichlet problem of the form (1.1), where $g(x, s, \xi)$ satisfies :

$$\begin{aligned} |g(x, s, \xi)| &\leq b(|s|)(c(x) + |\xi|^p) && \text{(natural growth condition)} \\ g(x, s, \xi) \cdot s &\geq 0 && \text{(sign condition)} \end{aligned}$$

we refer also to [4, 5] for more details. A. Benkirane and A. Elmahi [10] have proved the existence theorem of the problem (1.1) in Orlicz-Sobolev-space $W^1L_M(\Omega)$, by assuming a sign condition and a natural growth condition on $g(x, s, \xi)$ of the form :

$$|g(x, s, \xi)| \leq b(|s|)(c(x) + M\left(\frac{|\xi|}{\lambda}\right)) \quad (M(\cdot) \text{ is an } N\text{-function})$$

The N -function $M(\cdot)$ is supposed to satisfy the Δ_2 -condition and the domain Ω of \mathbb{R}^n satisfying the segment property, in order to construct a complementary system $(W_0^1L_M(\Omega), W_0^1E_M(\Omega); W^{-1}L_{\overline{M}}(\Omega), W^{-1}E_{\overline{M}}(\Omega))$.

In [15], A. Elmahi and D. Meskine have proved the existence of solution for the problem (1.1) without assuming Δ_2 -condition on φ and its conjugate function. In [6, 8] were studies in Musielak-Orlicz-Sobolev Spaces

The purpose of this paper is to prove the existence of entropy solutions for the strong nonlinear elliptic problem, by assuming that the conjugate function of Musielak-Orlicz function $\varphi(x, t)$ satisfies Δ_2 -condition and using corollary 1 of [12] to construct a complementary system $(W_0^1L_\varphi(\Omega), W_0^1E_\varphi(\Omega); W^{-1}L_\psi(\Omega), W^{-1}E_\psi(\Omega))$ without consider that Ω verifies the segment property.

2 Preliminaries

In this section, we introduce some definitions and known facts about Musielak-Orlicz-Sobolev spaces. Standard reference is [19].

2.1 Musielak-Orlicz function

Let Ω be an open subset of \mathbb{R}^N ($N \geq 2$), and let $\varphi(x, t)$ be a real-valued function defined in $\Omega \times \mathbb{R}^+$ and satisfying the following conditions:

(a) $\varphi(x, \cdot)$ is an N -function, *i.e.* convex, nondecreasing, continuous, $\varphi(x, 0) = 0$, $\varphi(x, t) > 0$ for all $t > 0$, and :

$$\limsup_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{\varphi(x, t)}{t} = 0 \quad , \quad \liminf_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\varphi(x, t)}{t} = \infty$$

(b) $\varphi(\cdot, t)$ is a measurable function.

A function $\varphi(x, t)$ which satisfies conditions (a) and (b) is called a Musielak-Orlicz function.

For a Musielak-Orlicz function $\varphi(x, t)$ we set $\varphi_x(t) = \varphi(x, t)$ and let $\varphi_x^{-1}(t)$ the reciprocal function with respect to t of $\varphi_x(t)$, *i.e.*

$$\varphi_x^{-1}(\varphi(x, t)) = \varphi(x, \varphi_x^{-1}(t)) = t.$$

For any two Musielak-Orlicz functions $\varphi(x, t)$ and $\gamma(x, t)$, we introduce the following ordering:





(c) If there exists two positives constants c and T such that for almost everywhere $x \in \Omega$:

$$\varphi(x, t) \leq \gamma(x, ct) \quad \text{for } t \geq T,$$

we write $\varphi \prec \gamma$, and we say that γ dominate φ globally if $T = 0$, and near infinity if $T > 0$.

(d) For every positive constant c and almost everywhere $x \in \Omega$, if

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \left(\sup_{x \in \Omega} \frac{\varphi(x, ct)}{\gamma(x, t)} \right) = 0 \quad \text{or} \quad \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \left(\sup_{x \in \Omega} \frac{\varphi(x, ct)}{\gamma(x, t)} \right) = 0,$$

we write $\varphi \prec\prec \gamma$ at 0 or near ∞ respectively, and we say that φ increases essentially more slowly than γ at 0 or near ∞ respectively.

Let

$$\psi(x, s) = \sup_{t \geq 0} \{st - \varphi(x, t)\}$$

that is, $\psi(x, t)$ is the Musielak-Orlicz function complementary to (or conjugate) of $\varphi(x, t)$ in the sense of Young with respect to the variable s .

The Musielak-Orlicz function $\varphi(x, t)$ is said to satisfy the Δ_2 -condition if, there exists $k > 0$ and a nonnegative function $h(\cdot) \in L^1(\Omega)$, such that

$$\varphi(x, 2t) \leq k\varphi(x, t) + h(x) \quad \text{a.e. } x \in \Omega,$$

for large values of t , or for all values of t .

2.2 Musielak-Orlicz Lebesgue space

In the following, the measurability of a function $u : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ means the Lebesgue measurability. We define the functional

$$\varrho_{\varphi, \Omega}(u) = \int_{\Omega} \varphi(x, |u(x)|) dx$$

where $u : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a measurable function. The set

$$K_{\varphi}(\Omega) = \{u : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \text{ measurable} / \varrho_{\varphi, \Omega}(u) < +\infty\}$$

is called the Musielak-Orlicz class (the generalized Orlicz class). The Musielak-Orlicz space (the generalized Orlicz space) $L_{\varphi}(\Omega)$ is the vector space generated by $K_{\varphi}(\Omega)$, that is, $L_{\varphi}(\Omega)$ is the smallest linear space containing the set $K_{\varphi}(\Omega)$; equivalently

$$L_{\varphi}(\Omega) = \left\{ u : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \text{ measurable} / \varrho_{\varphi, \Omega}\left(\frac{|u(x)|}{\lambda}\right) < +\infty, \text{ for some } \lambda > 0 \right\}.$$

In the space $L_{\varphi}(\Omega)$, we define the following two norms:

$$\|u\|_{\varphi, \Omega} = \inf \left\{ \lambda > 0 / \int_{\Omega} \varphi(x, \frac{|u(x)|}{\lambda}) dx \leq 1 \right\},$$

which is called the Luxemburg norm, and the so-called Orlicz norm by:

$$\| \|u\| \|v\|_{\varphi, \Omega} = \sup_{\|v\|_{\psi} \leq 1} \int_{\Omega} |u(x)v(x)| dx,$$

where $\psi(x, t)$ is the Musielak-Orlicz function complementary (or conjugate) to $\varphi(x, t)$. These two norms are equivalent [19].

The closure in $L_{\varphi}(\Omega)$ of the bounded measurable functions with compact support in $\bar{\Omega}$ is denoted by $E_{\varphi}(\Omega)$. It is separable space and $E_{\psi}(\Omega)^* = L_{\varphi}(\Omega)$ [19].

We have $E_{\varphi}(\Omega) = K_{\varphi}(\Omega)$ if and only if $K_{\varphi}(\Omega) = L_{\varphi}(\Omega)$ if and only if φ has the Δ_2 -condition for large values of t , or for all values of t , according to whether Ω has finite measure or not.





2.3 Musielak-Orlicz-Sobolev space

We now turn to the Musielak-Orlicz-Sobolev space. $W^1L_\varphi(\Omega)$ (resp. $W^1E_\varphi(\Omega)$) is the space of all measurable functions u such that u and its distributional derivatives up to order 1 lie in $L_\varphi(\Omega)$ (resp. $E_\varphi(\Omega)$). Let $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_n)$ with nonnegative integers α_i , $|\alpha| = |\alpha_1| + |\alpha_2| + \dots + |\alpha_n|$ and $D^\alpha u$ denotes the distributional derivatives.

$$\bar{\varrho}_{\varphi,\Omega}(u) = \sum_{|\alpha| \leq 1} \varrho_{\varphi,\Omega}(D^\alpha u) \quad \text{and} \quad \|u\|_{1,\varphi,\Omega} = \inf\{\lambda > 0 : \bar{\varrho}_{\varphi,\Omega}\left(\frac{u}{\lambda}\right) \leq 1\}$$

for $u \in W^1L_\varphi(\Omega)$, these functionals are a convex modular and a norm on $W^1L_\varphi(\Omega)$, respectively, and the pair $(W^1L_\varphi(\Omega), \|u\|_{1,\varphi,\Omega})$ is a Banach space if φ satisfies the following condition [19]:

$$\text{there exists a constant } c > 0 \text{ such that } \inf_{x \in \Omega} \varphi(x, 1) \geq c.$$

The spaces $W^1L_\varphi(\Omega)$ and $W^1E_\varphi(\Omega)$ can be identified with subspaces of the product of $n + 1$ copies of $L_\varphi(\Omega)$. Denoting this product by ΠL_φ , we will use the weak topologies $\sigma(\Pi L_\varphi, \Pi E_\psi)$ and $\sigma(\Pi L_\varphi, \Pi L_\psi)$.

The space $W_0^1E_\varphi(\Omega)$ is defined as the (norm) closure of the Schwartz space $D(\Omega)$ in $W^1E_\varphi(\Omega)$, and the space $W_0^1L_\varphi(\Omega)$ as the $\sigma(\Pi L_\varphi, \Pi E_\psi)$ closure of $D(\Omega)$ in $W^1L_\varphi(\Omega)$. The following spaces of distribution will also be used :

$$W^{-1}L_\psi(\Omega) = \{f \in D'(\Omega); f = \sum_{|\alpha| \leq 1} (-1)^{|\alpha|} D^\alpha f_\alpha \text{ with } f_\alpha \in L_\psi(\Omega)\}$$

and

$$W^{-1}E_\psi(\Omega) = \{f \in D'(\Omega); f = \sum_{|\alpha| \leq 1} (-1)^{|\alpha|} D^\alpha f_\alpha \text{ with } f_\alpha \in E_\psi(\Omega)\}$$

If $\psi(x, t)$ has the Δ_2 -condition, then the space $D(\Omega)$ is dense in $W_0^1L_\varphi(\Omega)$ for the topology $\sigma(\Pi L_\varphi(\Omega), \Pi L_\psi(\Omega))$.

If $\psi(x, t)$ has the Δ_2 -condition, then the space $D(\Omega)$ is dense in $W_0^1L_\varphi(\Omega)$ for the topology $\sigma(\Pi L_\varphi, \Pi L_\psi)$ (see corollary 1 of [12]).

3 Essential assumptions

Let Ω be a bounded open subset of \mathbb{R}^N ($N \geq 2$), and $\varphi(x, t)$ be a Musielak-Orlicz function.

We set $\psi(x, t)$ the Musielak-Orlicz function complementary (or conjugate) to $\varphi(x, t)$, we assume here that $\psi(x, t)$ satisfying the Δ_2 -condition near infinity, then $L_\psi(\Omega) = E_\psi(\Omega)$.

Let $\gamma(x, t)$ be a Musielak-Orlicz function such that $\gamma \prec \prec \varphi$, and there exists a Orlicz function $M(t)$ such that

$$M(t) \leq \text{ess inf}_{x \in \Omega} \varphi(x, t) \quad \text{a.e. in } \Omega. \quad (3.1)$$

We consider a Leray-Lions operator $A : D(A) \subset W_0^1L^\varphi(\Omega) \rightarrow W^{-1}L^\psi(\Omega)$ (not defined everywhere) given by

$$A(u) = -\text{div } a(x, u, \nabla u)$$

where $a : \Omega \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^N \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a Carathéodory function (measurable with respect to x in Ω for every (s, ξ) in $\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^N$, and continuous with respect to (s, ξ) in $\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^N$ for almost every x in Ω) which satisfies the following conditions

$$|a(x, s, \xi)| \leq K(x) + k_1 \psi_x^{-1}(\gamma(x, k_2|s|)) + k_3 \psi_x^{-1}(\varphi(x, k_4|\xi|)), \quad (3.2)$$

$$(a(x, s, \xi) - a(x, s, \xi^*)) \cdot (\xi - \xi^*) > 0 \quad \text{for } \xi \neq \xi^*, \quad (3.3)$$

$$a(x, s, \xi) \cdot \xi \geq \alpha \cdot \varphi(x, \frac{|\xi|}{\lambda}), \quad (3.4)$$





for a.e. $x \in \Omega$ and all $(s, \xi) \in \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^N$, where $K(x)$ is a nonnegative function lying in $E_\psi(\Omega)$ and $\alpha, \lambda > 0$ and $k_1, k_2, k_3, k_4 \geq 0$.

The nonlinear terms $g(x, s, \xi)$ is a Carathéodory functions satisfying

$$|g(x, s, \xi)| \leq c(x) + b(|s|)\varphi(x, \frac{|\xi|}{\lambda}), \quad (3.5)$$

where $b(\cdot) : \mathbb{R}^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$ is a continuous and non-decreasing function such that $b(\cdot) \in L^1(\mathbb{R})$. The nonnegative function $c(x) \in L^1(\Omega)$ and $\lambda > 0$.

We consider the problem

$$-\operatorname{div} a(x, u, \nabla u) + g(x, u, \nabla u) = f \quad \text{in } \Omega, \quad (3.6)$$

with $f \in L^1(\Omega)$.

4 Some technical Lemmas

We present here some lemmas, which will be used later in order to prove the existence theorem:

Lemma 4.1 [8] Let Ω be an open subset of \mathbb{R}^N with finite measure. Let φ, ψ and γ be Musielak functions such that $\gamma \prec \prec \psi$, and let $f : \Omega \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a Carathéodory function such for a.e. $x \in \Omega$ and all $s \in \mathbb{R}$:

$$|f(x, s)| \leq c(x) + k_1 \psi_x^{-1}(\varphi(x, k_2|s|)) \quad (4.1)$$

Lemma 4.2 Let $(f_n), f \in L^1(\Omega)$ such that $f_n \geq 0$ a.e. in Ω and $f_n \rightarrow f$ a.e. in Ω , with

$$\int_{\Omega} f_n dx \rightarrow \int_{\Omega} f dx.$$

Then $f_n \rightarrow f$ strongly in $L^1(\Omega)$.

Lemma 4.3 Assuming that (3.2) – (3.4) holds, and let $(u_n)_n$ be a sequence in $W_0^1 L_\varphi(\Omega)$ such that

- (i) $u_n \rightharpoonup u$ weakly in $W_0^1 L_\varphi(\Omega)$ for $\sigma(\Pi L_\varphi(\Omega), \Pi E_\psi(\Omega))$,
- (ii) $(a(x, u_n, \nabla u_n))_n$ is bounded in $(L_\psi(\Omega))^N$,
- (iii) Let $\Omega_s = \{x \in \Omega, |\nabla u| \leq s\}$ and χ_s his characteristic function, with

$$\int_{\Omega} (a(x, u_n, \nabla u_n) - a(x, u_n, \nabla u \chi_s)) \cdot (\nabla u_n - \nabla u \chi_s) dx \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as } n, s \rightarrow \infty, \quad (4.2)$$

then $\varphi(x, |\nabla u_n|) \rightarrow \varphi(x, |\nabla u|)$ in $L^1(\Omega)$ for a subsequence.

Proof

Taking $s \geq r > 0$, we have:

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &\leq \int_{\Omega_r} (a(x, u_n, \nabla u_n) - a(x, u_n, \nabla u)) \cdot (\nabla u_n - \nabla u) dx \\ &\leq \int_{\Omega_s} (a(x, u_n, \nabla u_n) - a(x, u_n, \nabla u)) \cdot (\nabla u_n - \nabla u) dx \\ &= \int_{\Omega_s} (a(x, u_n, \nabla u_n) - a(x, u_n, \nabla u \chi_s)) \cdot (\nabla u_n - \nabla u \chi_s) dx \\ &\leq \int_{\Omega} (a(x, u_n, \nabla u_n) - a(x, u_n, \nabla u \chi_s)) \cdot (\nabla u_n - \nabla u \chi_s) dx. \end{aligned} \quad (4.3)$$





thanks to (4.2), we obtain

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\Omega_r} (a(x, u_n, \nabla u_n) - a(x, u_n, \nabla u)) \cdot (\nabla u_n - \nabla u) \, dx = 0. \quad (4.4)$$

Using the same argument as in (3.5), we claim that,

$$\nabla u_n \rightarrow \nabla u \quad \text{a.e. in } \Omega. \quad (4.5)$$

On the other hand, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\Omega} a(x, u_n, \nabla u_n) \cdot \nabla u_n \, dx &= \int_{\Omega} (a(x, u_n, \nabla u_n) - a(x, u_n, \nabla u \chi_s)) \cdot (\nabla u_n - \nabla u \chi_s) \, dx \\ &+ \int_{\Omega} a(x, u_n, \nabla u \chi_s) \cdot (\nabla u_n - \nabla u \chi_s) \, dx \\ &+ \int_{\Omega} a(x, u_n, \nabla u_n) \cdot \nabla u \chi_s \, dx. \end{aligned} \quad (4.6)$$

For the second term on the right hand side of (4.6), we have $L_{\psi}(\Omega) = E_{\psi}(\Omega)$, $a(x, u_n, \nabla u \chi_s) \rightarrow a(x, u, \nabla u \chi_s)$ in $(E_{\psi}(\Omega))^N$ for the modular convergence, and $\nabla u_n \rightarrow \nabla u$ in $(L_{\varphi}(\Omega))^N$ for $\sigma(\Pi L_{\varphi}(\Omega), \Pi E_{\psi}(\Omega))$, then

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{s, n \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\Omega} a(x, u_n, \nabla u \chi_s) \cdot (\nabla u_n - \nabla u \chi_s) \, dx &= \lim_{s \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\Omega} a(x, u, \nabla u \chi_s) \cdot (\nabla u - \nabla u \chi_s) \, dx \\ &= \lim_{s \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\Omega/\Omega_s} a(x, u, 0) \cdot \nabla u \, dx = 0. \end{aligned} \quad (4.7)$$

Concerning the last term on the right hand of (4.6), since $(a(x, u_n, \nabla u_n))_n$ is bounded in $(E_{\psi}(\Omega))^N$ and using (4.5), we obtain

$$a(x, u_n, \nabla u_n) \rightarrow a(x, u, \nabla u) \quad \text{weakly in } (E_{\psi}(\Omega))^N \quad \text{for } \sigma(\Pi E_{\psi}(\Omega), \Pi L_{\varphi}(\Omega)),$$

which implies that

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{s, n \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\Omega} a(x, u_n, \nabla u_n) \cdot \nabla u \chi_s \, dx &= \lim_{s \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\Omega} a(x, u, \nabla u) \cdot \nabla u \chi_s \, dx \\ &= \int_{\Omega} a(x, u, \nabla u) \cdot \nabla u \, dx. \end{aligned} \quad (4.8)$$

By combining (4.6) – (4.8) and thanks to (4.2), we conclude that

$$\int_{\Omega} a(x, u_n, \nabla u_n) \cdot \nabla u_n \, dx \rightarrow \int_{\Omega} a(x, u, \nabla u) \cdot \nabla u \, dx \quad \text{as } n \rightarrow \infty. \quad (4.9)$$

On the other hand, we have $\varphi(x, \frac{|\nabla u_n|}{\lambda}) \geq 0$ and $\varphi(x, \frac{|\nabla u_n|}{\lambda}) \rightarrow \varphi(x, \frac{|\nabla u|}{\lambda})$ a.e. in Ω . Using the Fatou's Lemma, we obtain

$$\int_{\Omega} \varphi(x, \frac{|\nabla u|}{\lambda}) \, dx \leq \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\Omega} \varphi(x, \frac{|\nabla u_n|}{\lambda}) \, dx. \quad (4.10)$$

Moreover, since $a(x, u_n, \nabla u_n) \cdot \nabla u_n - \alpha \varphi(x, \frac{|\nabla u_n|}{\lambda}) \geq 0$ and

$$a(x, u_n, \nabla u_n) \cdot \nabla u_n - \alpha \varphi(x, \frac{|\nabla u_n|}{\lambda}) \rightarrow a(x, u, \nabla u) \cdot \nabla u - \alpha \varphi(x, \frac{|\nabla u|}{\lambda}) \quad \text{a.e. in } \Omega,$$

In view of Fatou's Lemma, we get

$$\int_{\Omega} a(x, u, \nabla u) \cdot \nabla u - \alpha \varphi(x, \frac{|\nabla u|}{\lambda}) \, dx \leq \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\Omega} a(x, u_n, \nabla u_n) \cdot \nabla u_n - \alpha \varphi(x, \frac{|\nabla u_n|}{\lambda}) \, dx,$$





using (4.9), we obtain

$$\int_{\Omega} \varphi(x, \frac{|\nabla u|}{\lambda}) dx \geq \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\Omega} \varphi(x, \frac{|\nabla u_n|}{\lambda}) dx. \quad (4.11)$$

By combining (4.10) and (4.11), we deduce

$$\int_{\Omega} \varphi(x, \frac{|\nabla u_n|}{\lambda}) dx \rightarrow \int_{\Omega} \varphi(x, \frac{|\nabla u|}{\lambda}) dx \quad \text{as } n \rightarrow \infty, \quad (4.12)$$

Using the Lemma 4.2, we conclude that

$$\varphi(x, \frac{|\nabla u_n|}{\lambda}) \rightarrow \varphi(x, \frac{|\nabla u|}{\lambda}) \quad \text{in } L^1(\Omega), \quad (4.13)$$

which finishes our proof.

5 Main results

Let $k > 0$, we define the truncation function $T_k(\cdot) : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, by

$$T_k(s) = \begin{cases} s & \text{if } |s| \leq k, \\ k \frac{s}{|s|} & \text{if } |s| > k. \end{cases}$$

Definition 5.1 A measurable function u is called an entropy solution of the strongly nonlinear problem (3.6) if

$$T_k(u) \in W_0^1 L_{\varphi}(\Omega), \quad g(x, u, \nabla u) \in L^1(\Omega),$$

$$\int_{\Omega} a(x, u, \nabla u) \cdot \nabla T_k(u - \nu) dx + \int_{\Omega} g(x, u, \nabla u) T_k(u - \nu) dx = \int_{\Omega} f T_k(u - \nu) dx, \quad (5.1)$$

for any $\nu \in W_0^1 L_{\varphi}(\Omega) \cap L^{\infty}(\Omega)$,

Theorem 5.1 Assuming that (3.2) – (3.5) holds and $f \in L^1(\Omega)$, then the problem (3.6) has at least one entropy solution.

Proof of the Theorem 5.1.

Step 1 : Approximate problems.

Let $(f_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \in W^{-1} E_{\psi}(\Omega) \cap L^{\infty}(\Omega)$ be a sequence of smooth functions such that $f_n \rightarrow f$ in $L^1(\Omega)$ and $|f_n| \leq |f|$ (for example $f_n = T_n(f)$). We consider the approximate problem

$$-\text{div } a(x, u_n, \nabla u_n) + g_n(x, u_n, \nabla u_n) = f_n, \quad (5.2)$$

where

$$g_n(x, s, \xi) = \frac{g(x, s, \xi)}{1 + \frac{1}{n}|g(x, s, \xi)|} \quad \text{for } n \in \mathbb{N}^*.$$

Note that

$$|g_n(x, s, \xi)| \leq |g(x, s, \xi)| \quad \text{and} \quad |g_n(x, s, \xi)| \leq n.$$

Since $g_n(x, s, \xi)$ is bounded, there exists at least one weak solution $u_n \in W_0^1 L_{\varphi}(\Omega)$ of equation (5.2) (see. Theorem 5 of [12]).





Step 2 : A priori estimates.

We define

$$B(s) = \frac{1}{\alpha} \int_0^s b(|\tau|) d\tau.$$

Note that, since the function $b(\cdot)$ is integrable on \mathbb{R} , then $0 \leq B(\infty) := \frac{1}{\alpha} \int_0^{+\infty} b(|t|) dt$ is finite.

Thus, taking $T_k(u_n)e^{B(|u_n|)} \in W_0^1 L_\varphi(\Omega)$ as a test function in (5.2), we get

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{\Omega} a(x, u_n, \nabla u_n) \cdot \nabla T_k(u_n) e^{B(|u_n|)} dx + \frac{1}{\alpha} \int_{\Omega} a(x, u_n, \nabla u_n) \cdot \nabla u_n b(|u_n|) |T_k(u_n)| e^{B(|u_n|)} dx \\ & + \int_{\Omega} g_n(x, u_n, \nabla u_n) T_k(u_n) e^{B(|u_n|)} dx = \int_{\Omega} f_n T_k(u_n) e^{B(|u_n|)} dx, \end{aligned}$$

Thanks to (3.4) and (3.5), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & \alpha \int_{\{|u_n| \leq k\}} \varphi(x, \frac{|\nabla u_n|}{\lambda}) e^{B(|u_n|)} dx + \int_{\Omega} \varphi(x, \frac{|\nabla u_n|}{\lambda}) b(|u_n|) |T_k(u_n)| e^{B(|u_n|)} dx \\ & \leq \int_{\Omega} |c(x)| |T_k(u_n)| e^{B(|u_n|)} dx + \int_{\Omega} b(|u_n|) \varphi(x, \frac{|\nabla u_n|}{\lambda}) |T_k(u_n)| e^{B(|u_n|)} dx + \int_{\Omega} f_n T_k(u_n) e^{B(|u_n|)} dx, \end{aligned}$$

it follows that

$$\alpha \int_{\{|u_n| \leq k\}} \varphi(x, \frac{|\nabla u_n|}{\lambda}) e^{B(|u_n|)} dx \leq k e^{B(\infty)} \int_{\Omega} |c(x)| dx + k e^{B(\infty)} \int_{\Omega} |f(x)| dx.$$

Then, there exists a constant C_1 that does not depend on k and n such that

$$\int_{\Omega} \varphi(x, \frac{|\nabla T_k(u_n)|}{\lambda}) dx \leq k C_1. \tag{5.3}$$

Thus $(T_k(u_n))_n$ is bounded in $W_0^1 L_\varphi(\Omega)$, uniformly in n , then there exists a subsequence still denoted $(T_k(u_n))_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ and $v_k \in W_0^1 L_\varphi(\Omega)$ such that

$$T_k(u_n) \rightharpoonup v_k \text{ weakly in } W_0^1 L_\varphi(\Omega) \text{ for } \sigma(\Pi L_\varphi, \Pi E_\psi) = \sigma(\Pi L_\varphi, \Pi L_\psi) \tag{5.4}$$

then

$$T_k(u_n) \rightarrow v_k \text{ strongly in } E_\varphi(\Omega) \text{ and a.e in } \Omega. \tag{5.5}$$

Step 3 : Convergence in measure of u_n

Thanks to (3.1), we have

$$M(t) \leq \text{ess inf}_{x \in \Omega} \varphi(x, t) \quad \text{with} \quad \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{M(t)}{t} = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{M(t)}{t} = \infty.$$

Then, $\varphi(x, t)$ dominate $M(t)$ near infinity. By Lemma 5.7 of [16], there exists two positive constants C_2 and C_3 , and a function $q(\cdot) \in L^1(\Omega)$ such that

$$C_2 \int_{\Omega} M(|T_k(u_n)|) dx + \int_{\Omega} q(x) dx \leq \int_{\Omega} M(C_3 \frac{|\nabla T_k(u_n)|}{\lambda}) + q(x) dx \leq \int_{\Omega} \varphi(x, \frac{|\nabla T_k(u_n)|}{\lambda}) dx.$$

So, in virtue of (5.3), we obtain

$$\int_{\Omega} M(|T_k(u_n)|) dx \leq k C_4 \quad \text{for } k \geq 1. \tag{5.6}$$





Then, we deduce that,

$$\begin{aligned} M(k) \text{meas}\{|u_n| > k\} &= \int_{\{|u_n| > k\}} M(|T_k(u_n)|) dx \\ &\leq \int_{\Omega} M(|T_k(u_n)|) dx \\ &\leq kC_4. \end{aligned}$$

Hence,

$$\text{meas}\{|u_n| > k\} = \frac{kC_4}{M(k)} \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as } k \rightarrow +\infty. \quad (5.7)$$

For all $\delta > 0$, we have

$$\text{meas}\{|u_n - u_m| > \delta\} \leq \text{meas}\{|u_n| > k\} + \text{meas}\{|u_m| > k\} + \text{meas}\{|T_k(u_n) - T_k(u_m)| > \delta\}.$$

Let $\varepsilon > 0$, using (5.7) we may choose $k = k(\varepsilon)$ large enough such that

$$\text{meas}\{|u_n| > k\} \leq \frac{\varepsilon}{3} \quad \text{and} \quad \text{meas}\{|u_m| > k\} \leq \frac{\varepsilon}{3}. \quad (5.8)$$

Moreover, in view of (5.5) we have $T_k(u_n) \rightarrow v_k$ strongly in $E_\varphi(\Omega)$, then, we can assume that $(T_k(u_n))_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is a Cauchy sequence in measure. Thus,

$$\text{meas}\{|T_k(u_n) - T_k(u_m)| > \delta\} \leq \frac{\varepsilon}{3} \quad \text{for all } m, n \geq n_0(\delta, \varepsilon). \quad (5.9)$$

By combining (5.8) – (5.9), we conclude that

$$\forall \delta, \varepsilon > 0 \quad \text{there exists } n_0 = n_0(\delta, \varepsilon) \quad \text{such that} \quad \text{meas}\{|u_n - u_m| > \delta\} \leq \varepsilon \quad \forall n, m \geq n_0(\delta, \varepsilon),$$

it follows that $(u_n)_n$ is a Cauchy sequence in measure, then converges almost everywhere, for a subsequence, to some measurable function u . Consequently, we have

$$T_k(u_n) \rightharpoonup T_k(u) \quad \text{weakly in } W_0^1 L_\varphi(\Omega) \quad \text{for } \sigma(\Pi L_\varphi, \Pi E_\psi)$$

it follows that

$$T_k(u_n) \rightarrow T_k(u) \quad \text{strongly in } E_\varphi(\Omega). \quad (5.10)$$

Step 4 : Strong convergence of truncations.

In the sequel, we denote by $\varepsilon_i(n)$, $i = 1, 2, \dots$ various real-valued functions of real variables that converge to 0 as n tends to infinity.

For $h > k > 0$, we set

$$b_k := \max\{b(s) : |s| \leq k\}$$

Let $\phi_k(s) = s \exp(\gamma s^2)$ with $\gamma = (\frac{b_k}{\alpha})^2$, it's clear that

$$\phi_k'(s) - \frac{2b_k}{\alpha} |\phi_k(s)| \geq \frac{1}{2} \quad \forall s \in \mathbb{R}.$$

Taking $M = 4k + h$, we define

$$z_n := u_n - T_h(u_n) + T_k(u_n) - T_k(u) \quad \text{and} \quad \omega_n := T_{2k}(z_n).$$

Using $\phi_k(\omega_n) e^{B(|u_n|)} \in W_0^1 L_\varphi(\Omega)$ as a test function in (5.2), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} &\int_{\Omega} a(x, u_n, \nabla u_n) \cdot \nabla \omega_n \phi_k'(\omega_n) e^{B(|u_n|)} dx + \frac{1}{\alpha} \int_{\Omega} a(x, u_n, \nabla u_n) \cdot \nabla u_n \phi_k(\omega_n) b(|u_n|) \text{sign}(u_n) e^{B(|u_n|)} dx \\ &+ \int_{\Omega} H_n(x, u_n, \nabla u_n) \phi_k(\omega_n) e^{B(|u_n|)} dx = \int_{\Omega} f_n \phi_k(\omega_n) e^{B(|u_n|)} dx. \end{aligned}$$





Since $\phi_k(\omega_n)$ have the same sign as u_n on the set $\{|u_n| > k\}$, then

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{\alpha} \int_{\{|u_n| > k\}} a(x, u_n, \nabla u_n) \cdot \nabla u_n \phi_k(\omega_n) b(|u_n|) \text{sign}(u_n) e^{B(|u_n|)} dx \\ &= \frac{1}{\alpha} \int_{\{|u_n| > k\}} a(x, u_n, \nabla u_n) \cdot \nabla u_n b(|u_n|) |\phi_k(\omega_n)| e^{B(|u_n|)} dx \\ &\geq \int_{\{|u_n| > k\}} \varphi(x, \frac{|\nabla u_n|}{\lambda}) b(|u_n|) |\phi_k(\omega_n)| e^{B(|u_n|)} dx, \end{aligned}$$

Also, we have $\nabla \omega_n = 0$ on $\{|u_n| \geq M\}$ and using (3.5) we conclude that

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{\{|u_n| \leq M\}} a(x, T_M(u_n), \nabla T_M(u_n)) \cdot \nabla \omega_n \phi'_k(\omega_n) e^{B(|u_n|)} dx \\ & - \int_{\{|u_n| \leq k\}} a(x, T_k(u_n), \nabla T_k(u_n)) \cdot \nabla T_k(u_n) \frac{b(|u_n|)}{\alpha} |\phi_k(\omega_n)| e^{B(|u_n|)} dx \\ & - \int_{\{|u_n| \leq k\}} \varphi(x, \frac{|\nabla u_n|}{\lambda}) b(|u_n|) |\phi_k(\omega_n)| e^{B(|u_n|)} dx \\ & \leq e^{B(\infty)} \int_{\Omega} (|f_n(x)| + |c(x)|) |\phi_k(\omega_n)| dx. \end{aligned}$$

We have $\omega_n = T_k(u_n) - T_k(u)$ on $\{|u_n| \leq k\}$, we conclude that

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{\{|u_n| \leq k\}} a(x, T_k(u_n), \nabla T_k(u_n)) \cdot (\nabla T_k(u_n) - \nabla T_k(u)) \phi'_k(\omega_n) e^{B(|u_n|)} dx \\ & + \int_{\{k < |u_n| \leq M\}} a(x, T_M(u_n), \nabla T_M(u_n)) \cdot \nabla \omega_n \phi'_k(\omega_n) e^{B(|u_n|)} dx \\ & - \frac{2b_k}{\alpha} \int_{\Omega} a(x, T_k(u_n), \nabla T_k(u_n)) \cdot \nabla T_k(u_n) |\phi_k(\omega_n)| e^{B(|u_n|)} dx \\ & \leq e^{B(\infty)} \int_{\Omega} (|f_n(x)| + |c(x)|) |\phi_k(\omega_n)| dx. \end{aligned} \tag{5.11}$$

Concerning the second term on the left-hand side of (5.11), we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{\{k < |u_n| \leq M\}} a(x, T_M(u_n), \nabla T_M(u_n)) \cdot \nabla \omega_n \phi'_k(\omega_n) e^{B(|u_n|)} dx \\ &= \int_{\{k < |u_n| \leq M\} \cap \{|z_n| \leq 2k\}} a(x, T_M(u_n), \nabla T_M(u_n)) \cdot \nabla z_n \phi'_k(\omega_n) e^{B(|u_n|)} dx \\ &\geq -e^{B(\infty)} \phi'_k(2k) \int_{\{k < |u_n| \leq M\}} |a(x, T_M(u_n), \nabla T_M(u_n))| |\nabla T_k(u)| dx, \end{aligned}$$

We have $\nabla T_k(u) \in (L_\varphi(\Omega))^N$, and since $(|a(x, T_M(u_n), \nabla T_M(u_n))|)_n$ is bounded in $L_\psi(\Omega) = E_\psi(\Omega)$, there exists $\zeta \in E_\psi(\Omega)$ such that $|a(x, T_M(u_n), \nabla T_M(u_n))| \rightharpoonup \zeta$ weakly in $E_\psi(\Omega)$ for $\sigma(E_\psi(\Omega), L_\varphi(\Omega))$. Therefore,

$$\int_{\{k < |u_n| \leq M\}} |a(x, T_M(u_n), \nabla T_M(u_n))| |\nabla T_k(u)| dx \longrightarrow \int_{\{k < |u| \leq M\}} \zeta |\nabla T_k(u)| dx = 0. \tag{5.12}$$

It follows that

$$\int_{\{k < |u_n| \leq M\}} a(x, T_M(u_n), \nabla T_M(u_n)) \cdot \nabla \omega_n \phi'_k(\omega_n) e^{B(|u_n|)} dx \geq \varepsilon_1(n). \tag{5.13}$$

Then, using (5.11), we deduce that

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{\{|u_n| \leq k\}} a(x, T_k(u_n), \nabla T_k(u_n)) \cdot (\nabla T_k(u_n) - \nabla T_k(u)) \phi'_k(\omega_n) e^{B(|u_n|)} dx \\ & - \frac{2b_k}{\alpha} \int_{\Omega} a(x, T_k(u_n), \nabla T_k(u_n)) \cdot \nabla T_k(u_n) |\phi_k(\omega_n)| e^{B(|u_n|)} dx \\ & \leq e^{B(\infty)} \int_{\Omega} (|f_n(x)| + |c(x)|) |\phi_k(\omega_n)| dx + \varepsilon_2(n). \end{aligned} \tag{5.14}$$





Now, we will study each terms on the left-hand side of (5.14).

First estimate :

We define $\Omega_s = \{x \in \Omega : |\nabla T_k(u(x))| \leq s\}$ and denote by χ_s the characteristic function of Ω_s .
For the first term on the left-hand side of (5.14), we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{\{|u_n| \leq k\}} a(x, T_k(u_n), \nabla T_k(u_n)) \cdot (\nabla T_k(u_n) - \nabla T_k(u)) \phi'_k(\omega_n) e^{B(|u_n|)} dx \\ &= \int_{\Omega} a(x, T_k(u_n), \nabla T_k(u_n)) \cdot (\nabla T_k(u_n) - \nabla T_k(u)) \chi_s \phi'_k(\omega_n) e^{B(|u_n|)} dx \\ & \quad + \int_{\Omega} a(x, T_k(u_n), \nabla T_k(u_n)) \cdot (\nabla T_k(u) \chi_s - \nabla T_k(u)) \phi'_k(\omega_n) e^{B(|u_n|)} dx \\ & \quad + \int_{\{|u_n| > k\}} a(x, T_k(u_n), \nabla T_k(u_n)) \cdot \nabla T_k(u) \phi'_k(\omega_n) e^{B(|u_n|)} dx \\ &= \int_{\Omega} (a(x, T_k(u_n), \nabla T_k(u_n)) - a(x, T_k(u_n), \nabla T_k(u) \chi_s)) \cdot (\nabla T_k(u_n) - \nabla T_k(u) \chi_s) \phi'_k(\omega_n) e^{B(|u_n|)} dx \\ & \quad + \int_{\Omega} a(x, T_k(u_n), \nabla T_k(u) \chi_s) \cdot (\nabla T_k(u_n) - \nabla T_k(u) \chi_s) \phi'_k(\omega_n) e^{B(|u_n|)} dx \\ & \quad - \int_{\Omega \setminus \Omega_s} a(x, T_k(u_n), \nabla T_k(u_n)) \cdot \nabla T_k(u) \phi'_k(\omega_n) e^{B(|u_n|)} dx \\ & \quad + \int_{\{|u_n| > k\}} a(x, T_k(u_n), \nabla T_k(u_n)) \cdot \nabla T_k(u) \phi'_k(\omega_n) e^{B(|u_n|)} dx. \end{aligned} \tag{5.15}$$

For the second term on the right hand side of (5.15), we have $a(x, T_k(u_n), \nabla T_k(u) \chi_s) \rightarrow a(x, T_k(u), \nabla T_k(u) \chi_s)$ in $(E_\psi(\Omega))^N$, and since $\nabla T_k(u_n) \rightharpoonup \nabla T_k(u)$ weakly in $(L_\varphi(\Omega))^N$ for $\sigma(\Pi L_\varphi(\Omega), \Pi E_\psi(\Omega))$, then

$$\begin{aligned} & \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\Omega} a(x, T_k(u_n), \nabla T_k(u) \chi_s) \cdot (\nabla T_k(u_n) - \nabla T_k(u) \chi_s) \phi'_k(\omega_n) e^{B(|u_n|)} dx \\ &= \int_{\Omega} a(x, T_k(u), \nabla T_k(u) \chi_s) \cdot (\nabla T_k(u) - \nabla T_k(u) \chi_s) \phi'_k(T_{2k}(u - T_h(u))) e^{B(|u|)} dx \\ &= \int_{\Omega \setminus \Omega_s} a(x, T_k(u), 0) \cdot \nabla T_k(u) \phi'_k(T_{2k}(u - T_h(u))) e^{B(|u|)} dx. \end{aligned} \tag{5.16}$$

Concerning the third term on the right hand side of (5.15), since $(a(x, T_k(u_n), \nabla T_k(u_n)))_n$ is bounded in $(E_\psi(\Omega))^N$, there exists $\eta \in (E_\psi(\Omega))^N$ such that $a(x, T_k(u_n), \nabla T_k(u_n)) \rightharpoonup \eta$ weakly in $(E_\psi(\Omega))^N$ for $\sigma(\Pi E_\psi(\Omega), \Pi L_\varphi(\Omega))$, it follows that

$$\begin{aligned} & \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\Omega \setminus \Omega_s} a(x, T_k(u_n), \nabla T_k(u_n)) \cdot \nabla T_k(u) \phi'_k(\omega_n) e^{B(|u_n|)} dx \\ &= \int_{\Omega \setminus \Omega_s} \eta \cdot \nabla T_k(u) \phi'_k(T_{2k}(u - T_h(u))) e^{B(|u|)} dx. \end{aligned} \tag{5.17}$$

For the last term of (5.15), we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\{|u_n| > k\}} a(x, T_k(u_n), \nabla T_k(u_n)) \cdot \nabla T_k(u) \phi'_k(\omega_n) e^{B(|u_n|)} dx \\ &= \int_{\{|u| > k\}} \eta \cdot \nabla T_k(u) \phi'_k(T_{2k}(u - T_h(u))) e^{B(|u|)} dx = 0. \end{aligned} \tag{5.18}$$

By combining (5.16) – (5.18), we deduce that

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{\{|u_n| \leq k\}} a(x, T_k(u_n), \nabla T_k(u_n)) \cdot (\nabla T_k(u_n) - \nabla T_k(u)) \phi'_k(\omega_n) e^{B(|u_n|)} dx \\ &= \int_{\Omega} (a(x, T_k(u_n), \nabla T_k(u_n)) - a(x, T_k(u_n), \nabla T_k(u) \chi_s)) \cdot (\nabla T_k(u_n) - \nabla T_k(u) \chi_s) \phi'_k(\omega_n) e^{B(|u_n|)} dx \\ & \quad + \int_{\Omega \setminus \Omega_s} (a(x, T_k(u), 0) - \eta) \cdot \nabla T_k(u) \phi'_k(T_{2k}(u - T_h(u))) e^{B(|u|)} dx + \varepsilon_3(n) \end{aligned} \tag{5.19}$$





Second estimate :

For the second term on the right-hand side of (5.14), we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{2b_k}{\alpha} \int_{\Omega} a(x, T_k(u_n), \nabla T_k(u_n)) \cdot \nabla T_k(u_n) |\phi_k(\omega_n)| e^{B(|u_n|)} dx \\ &= \frac{2b_k}{\alpha} \int_{\Omega} (a(x, T_k(u_n), \nabla T_k(u_n)) - a(x, T_k(u_n), \nabla T_k(u)\chi_s)) \cdot (\nabla T_k(u_n) - \nabla T_k(u)\chi_s) |\phi_k(\omega_n)| e^{B(|u_n|)} dx \\ &+ \frac{2b_k}{\alpha} \int_{\Omega} a(x, T_k(u_n), \nabla T_k(u)\chi_s) \cdot (\nabla T_k(u_n) - \nabla T_k(u)\chi_s) |\phi_k(\omega_n)| e^{B(|u_n|)} dx \\ &+ \frac{2b_k}{\alpha} \int_{\Omega} a(x, T_k(u_n), \nabla T_k(u_n)) \cdot \nabla T_k(u)\chi_s |\phi_k(\omega_n)| e^{B(|u_n|)} dx. \end{aligned} \tag{5.20}$$

For the second term on the right-hand side of (5.20), we have $h > k > 0$, similarly to (5.16) we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\Omega} a(x, T_k(u_n), \nabla T_k(u)\chi_s) \cdot (\nabla T_k(u_n) - \nabla T_k(u)\chi_s) |\phi_k(\omega_n)| e^{B(|u_n|)} dx \\ &= \int_{\Omega} a(x, T_k(u), \nabla T_k(u)\chi_s) \cdot (\nabla T_k(u) - \nabla T_k(u)\chi_s) |\phi_k(T_{2k}(u - T_h(u)))| e^{B(|u|)} dx \\ &= \int_{\Omega \setminus \Omega_s} a(x, T_k(u), 0) \cdot \nabla T_k(u) |\phi_k(T_{2k}(u - T_h(u)))| e^{B(|u|)} dx = 0. \end{aligned} \tag{5.21}$$

Concerning the third term on the right-hand side of (5.20), we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\Omega} a(x, T_k(u_n), \nabla T_k(u_n)) \cdot \nabla T_k(u)\chi_s |\phi_k(\omega_n)| e^{B(|u_n|)} dx \\ &= \int_{\Omega} \eta \cdot \nabla T_k(u)\chi_s |\phi_k(T_{2k}(u - T_h(u)))| e^{B(|u|)} dx = 0. \end{aligned} \tag{5.22}$$

It follows that

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{2b_k}{\alpha} \int_{\Omega} a(x, T_k(u_n), \nabla T_k(u_n)) \cdot \nabla T_k(u_n) |\phi_k(\omega_n)| e^{B(|u_n|)} dx \\ &= \frac{2b_k}{\alpha} \int_{\Omega} (a(x, T_k(u_n), \nabla T_k(u_n)) - a(x, T_k(u_n), \nabla T_k(u)\chi_s)) \cdot (\nabla T_k(u_n) - \nabla T_k(u)\chi_s) |\phi_k(\omega_n)| e^{B(|u_n|)} dx \\ &+ \varepsilon_4(n). \end{aligned} \tag{5.23}$$

By combining (5.14), (5.19) and (5.23), we conclude that

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega} (a(x, T_k(u_n), \nabla T_k(u_n)) - a(x, T_k(u_n), \nabla T_k(u)\chi_s)) \cdot (\nabla T_k(u_n) - \nabla T_k(u)\chi_s) dx \\ &\leq \int_{\Omega} (a(x, T_k(u_n), \nabla T_k(u_n)) - a(x, T_k(u_n), \nabla T_k(u)\chi_s)) \cdot (\nabla T_k(u_n) - \nabla T_k(u)\chi_s) \\ &\quad \times (\phi'_k(\omega_n) - \frac{2b_k}{\alpha} |\phi_k(\omega_n)|) e^{B(|u_n|)} dx \\ &\leq \int_{\Omega \setminus \Omega_s} (a(x, T_k(u), 0) - \eta) \cdot \nabla T_k(u) \phi'_k(T_{2k}(u - T_h(u))) e^{B(|u|)} dx \\ &\quad + e^{B(\infty)} \int_{\Omega} (|f(x)| + |c(x)|) |\phi_k(T_{2k}(u - T_h(u)))| dx + \varepsilon_5(n). \end{aligned} \tag{5.24}$$

We have $|\phi_k(T_{2k}(u - T_h(u)))| \rightharpoonup 0$ weak- $*$ in $L^\infty(\Omega)$, then

$$\int_{\Omega} (|f(x)| + |c(x)|) |\phi_k(T_{2k}(u - T_h(u)))| dx \longrightarrow 0 \quad \text{as } h \rightarrow \infty,$$

and since $(a(x, T_k(u), 0) - \eta) \cdot \nabla T_k(u) \in L^1(\Omega)$, then

$$\int_{\Omega \setminus \Omega_s} (a(x, T_k(u), 0) - \eta) \cdot \nabla T_k(u) \phi'_k(T_{2k}(u - T_h(u))) e^{B(|u|)} dx \longrightarrow 0 \quad \text{as } s \rightarrow \infty.$$





Therefore, we conclude that

$$\lim_{n,s \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\Omega} (a(x, T_k(u_n), \nabla T_k(u_n)) - a(x, T_k(u_n), \nabla T_k(u) \chi_s)) \cdot (\nabla T_k(u_n) - \nabla T_k(u) \chi_s) dx = 0. \quad (5.25)$$

In view of Lemma 4.3, we deduce that

$$\nabla u_n \rightarrow \nabla u \quad \text{a.e. in } \Omega, \quad (5.26)$$

and

$$\varphi(x, \frac{|\nabla T_k(u_n)|}{\lambda}) \rightarrow \varphi(x, \frac{|\nabla T_k(u)|}{\lambda}) \quad \text{in } L^1(\Omega). \quad (5.27)$$

Step 4 : The equi-integrability of $g_n(x, u_n, \nabla u_n)$

In order to pass to the limit in the approximate problem, we shall show that

$$g_n(x, u_n, \nabla u_n) \rightarrow g(x, u, \nabla u) \quad \text{in } L^1(\Omega). \quad (5.28)$$

Thanks to Vitali's theorem, it suffices to prove that $g_n(x, u_n, \nabla u_n)$ is uniformly equi-integrable.

We set

$$\bar{B}(s) = \frac{2}{\alpha} \int_0^s b(|\tau|) d\tau.$$

By taking $T_1(u_n - T_h(u_n))e^{\bar{B}(|u_n|)}$ as a test function in (5.2), we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{\Omega} a(x, u_n, \nabla u_n) \cdot \nabla T_1(u_n - T_h(u_n))e^{\bar{B}(|u_n|)} dx \\ & + \frac{2}{\alpha} \int_{\Omega} a(x, u_n, \nabla u_n) \cdot \nabla u_n b(|u_n|) |T_1(u_n - T_h(u_n))| e^{\bar{B}(|u_n|)} dx \\ & + \int_{\Omega} g_n(x, u_n, \nabla u_n) T_1(u_n - T_h(u_n)) e^{\bar{B}(|u_n|)} dx \\ & = \int_{\Omega} f_n T_1(u_n - T_h(u_n)) e^{\bar{B}(|u_n|)} dx. \end{aligned}$$

According to (3.4) and (3.5), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & \alpha \int_{\{h \leq |u_n| < h+1\}} \varphi(x, \frac{|\nabla u_n|}{\lambda}) e^{\bar{B}(|u_n|)} dx + 2 \int_{\{h \leq |u_n|\}} \varphi(x, \frac{|\nabla u_n|}{\lambda}) b(|u_n|) |T_1(u_n - T_h(u_n))| e^{\bar{B}(|u_n|)} dx \\ & \leq \int_{\{h \leq |u_n|\}} (|f_n(x)| + |c(x)|) e^{\bar{B}(|u_n|)} dx + \int_{\{h \leq |u_n|\}} \varphi(x, \frac{|\nabla u_n|}{\lambda}) |T_1(u_n - T_h(u_n))| b(|u_n|) e^{\bar{B}(|u_n|)} dx, \end{aligned} \quad (5.29)$$

it follows that

$$\int_{\{h+1 \leq |u_n|\}} b(|u_n|) \varphi(x, \frac{|\nabla u_n|}{\lambda}) dx \leq e^{\bar{B}(\infty)} \int_{\{h \leq |u_n|\}} (|f(x)| + |c(x)|) dx.$$

Thus, for all $\eta > 0$, there exists $h(\eta) \geq 1$ such that

$$\int_{\{h(\eta) \leq |u_n|\}} b(|u_n|) \varphi(x, \frac{|\nabla u_n|}{\lambda}) dx \leq \frac{\eta}{2}. \quad (5.30)$$

On the other hand, we set

$$b_{h(\eta)} := \max\{b(s) : |s| \leq h(\eta)\}.$$

For any measurable subset $E \subseteq \Omega$, we have

$$\int_E b(|u_n|) \varphi(x, \frac{|\nabla u_n|}{\lambda}) dx \leq b_{h(\eta)} \int_E \varphi(x, \frac{|\nabla T_{h(\eta)}(u_n)|}{\lambda}) dx + \int_{\{h(\eta) \leq |u_n|\}} b(|u_n|) \varphi(x, \frac{|\nabla u_n|}{\lambda}) dx. \quad (5.31)$$





From (5.27), there exists $\delta(\eta) > 0$ such that, for any $\text{meas}(E) \leq \delta(\eta)$ we have

$$b_{h(\eta)} \int_E \varphi(x, \frac{|\nabla T_{h(\eta)}(u_n)|}{\lambda}) dx \leq \frac{\eta}{2}. \quad (5.32)$$

Finally, by combining (5.30), (5.31) and (5.32), one easily has

$$\int_E b(|u_n|) \varphi(x, \frac{|\nabla u_n|}{\lambda}) dx \leq \eta \quad \text{for all } \text{meas}(E) \leq \delta(\eta). \quad (5.33)$$

Using (5.12), we deduce that $(g_n(x, u_n, \nabla u_n))_n$ is equi-integrable, and since

$$g_n(x, u_n, \nabla u_n) \rightarrow g(x, u, \nabla u) \quad \text{a.e. in } \Omega,$$

we conclude (5.28).

Step 5 : Passage to the limit

Let $\nu \in W_0^1 L_\varphi(\Omega) \cap L^\infty(\Omega)$, taking $T_k(u_n - \nu)$ as a test function in (5.2), we get

$$\int_\Omega a(x, u_n, \nabla u_n) \cdot \nabla T_k(u_n - \nu) dx + \int_\Omega H_n(x, u_n, \nabla u_n) T_k(u_n - \nu) dx = \int_\Omega f_n T_k(u_n - \nu) dx. \quad (5.34)$$

Choosing $M = k + \|\nu\|_\infty$, if $|u_n| > M$ then $|u_n - \nu| \geq |u_n| - \|\nu\|_\infty > k$, therefore $\{|u_n - \nu| \leq k\} \subseteq \{|u_n| \leq M\}$. Firstly, we can write the first term on the left-hand side of the above relation as

$$\begin{aligned} \int_\Omega a(x, u_n, \nabla u_n) \cdot \nabla T_k(u_n - \nu) dx &= \int_\Omega a(x, T_M(u_n), \nabla T_M(u_n)) \cdot (\nabla T_M(u_n) - \nabla \nu) \chi_{\{|u_n - \nu| \leq k\}} dx \\ &= \int_\Omega (a(x, T_M(u_n), \nabla T_M(u_n)) - a(x, T_M(u_n), \nabla \nu)) \cdot (\nabla T_M(u_n) - \nabla \nu) \chi_{\{|u_n - \nu| \leq k\}} dx \\ &\quad + \int_\Omega a(x, T_M(u_n), \nabla \nu) \cdot (\nabla T_M(u_n) - \nabla \nu) \chi_{\{|u_n - \nu| \leq k\}} dx. \end{aligned} \quad (5.35)$$

We have

$$\begin{aligned} &(a(x, T_M(u_n), \nabla T_M(u_n)) - a(x, T_M(u_n), \nabla \nu)) \cdot (\nabla T_M(u_n) - \nabla \nu) \chi_{\{|u_n - \nu| \leq k\}} \\ &\rightarrow (a(x, T_M(u), \nabla T_M(u)) - a(x, T_M(u), \nabla \nu)) \cdot (\nabla T_M(u) - \nabla \nu) \chi_{\{|u - \nu| \leq k\}} \quad \text{a.e. in } \Omega. \end{aligned} \quad (5.36)$$

According to (3.3) and Fatou's lemma, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} &\liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_\Omega a(x, u_n, \nabla u_n) \cdot \nabla T_k(u_n - \nu) dx \\ &\geq \int_\Omega (a(x, T_M(u), \nabla T_M(u)) - a(x, T_M(u), \nabla \nu)) \cdot (\nabla T_M(u) - \nabla \nu) \chi_{\{|u - \nu| \leq k\}} dx \\ &\quad + \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_\Omega a(x, T_M(u_n), \nabla \nu) \cdot (\nabla T_M(u_n) - \nabla \nu) \chi_{\{|u_n - \nu| \leq k\}} dx. \end{aligned} \quad (5.37)$$

For the second term on the right-hand side of (5.37), we have $a(x, T_M(u_n), \nabla \nu) \rightarrow a(x, T_M(u), \nabla \nu)$ in $(E_\psi(\Omega))^N$, and $\nabla T_M(u_n) \rightharpoonup \nabla T_M(u)$ weakly in $(L_\varphi(\Omega))^N$ for $\sigma(\Pi L_\varphi(\Omega), \Pi E_\psi(\Omega))$, then

$$\begin{aligned} &\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_\Omega a(x, T_M(u_n), \nabla \nu) \cdot (\nabla T_M(u_n) - \nabla \nu) \chi_{\{|u_n - \nu| \leq k\}} dx \\ &= \int_\Omega a(x, T_M(u), \nabla \nu) \cdot (\nabla T_M(u) - \nabla \nu) \chi_{\{|u - \nu| \leq k\}} dx. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, we get

$$\begin{aligned} \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_\Omega a(x, u_n, \nabla u_n) \cdot \nabla T_k(u_n - \nu) dx &\geq \int_\Omega a(x, T_M(u), \nabla T_M(u)) \cdot (\nabla T_M(u) - \nabla \nu) \chi_{\{|u - \nu| \leq k\}} dx \\ &= \int_\Omega a(x, u, \nabla u) \cdot \nabla T_k(u - \nu) dx. \end{aligned}$$





On the other hand, being $T_k(u_n - \nu) \rightarrow T_k(u - \nu)$ weak- \star in $L^\infty(\Omega)$ and thanks to (5.28), we deduce that

$$\int_{\Omega} g_n(x, u_n, \nabla u_n) T_k(u_n - \nu) dx \rightarrow \int_{\Omega} g(x, u, \nabla u) T_k(u - \nu) dx \quad (5.38)$$

and

$$\int_{\Omega} f_n T_k(u_n - \nu) dx \rightarrow \int_{\Omega} f T_k(u - \nu) dx. \quad (5.39)$$

Hence, putting all the terms together, we conclude the proof of Theorem 5.1.

Example 5.1 Taking $\varphi(x, t) = |t|^{p(x)}$ for $1 < p(x) < \infty$. Let $f \in L^1(\Omega)$, we consider the following Carathéodory functions

$$a(x, u, \nabla u) = |\nabla u|^{p(x)-2} \nabla u \quad \text{and} \quad H(x, u, \nabla u) = e^{-|u|^2} |\nabla u|^{p(x)}.$$

It is clear that $a(x, u, \nabla u)$ and $g(x, u, \nabla u)$ verifies (3.2) – (3.4) and (3.5) respectively. In view of the Theorem 5.1, the problem

$$\begin{cases} -\operatorname{div}(|\nabla u|^{p(x)-2} \nabla u) + e^{-|u|^2} |\nabla u|^{p(x)} = f & \text{in } \Omega, \\ u = 0 & \text{on } \partial\Omega, \end{cases} \quad (5.40)$$

has at least one entropy solution, i.e.

$$T_k(u) \in W_0^{1,p(x)}(\Omega) \quad \text{and} \quad e^{-|u|^2} |\nabla u|^{p(x)} \in L^1(\Omega),$$

$$\int_{\Omega} |\nabla u|^{p(x)-2} \nabla u \cdot \nabla T_k(u_n - \nu) dx + \int_{\Omega} e^{-|u|^2} |\nabla u|^{p(x)} T_k(u_n - \nu) dx = \int_{\Omega} f T_k(u_n - \nu) dx, \quad (5.41)$$

for any $\nu \in W_0^{1,p(x)}(\Omega) \cap L^\infty(\Omega)$.

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