

Partial Differential Equations

Neumann problem for a quasilinear elliptic equation in a varying domain

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Abstract

We investigate the Neumann problem for a nonlinear elliptic operator of Leray–Lions type in $\Omega^{(s)} = \Omega \setminus F^{(s)}$, $s = 1, 2, \dots$, where Ω is a domain in \mathbf{R}^n ($n \geq 3$), $F^{(s)}$ is a closed set located in the neighborhood of a $(n - 1)$ -dimensional manifold Γ lying inside Ω . We study the asymptotic behavior of $u^{(s)}$ as $s \rightarrow \infty$, when the set $F^{(s)}$ tends to Γ . **To cite this article:** *M. Sango, C. R. Acad. Sci. Paris, Ser. I 342 (2006)*.

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Résumé

Problème de Neumann pour une équation elliptique non linéaire dans un domaine perforé. Nous étudions le problème de Neumann pour un opérateur elliptique de type Leray–Lions dans un domaine $\Omega^{(s)} = \Omega \setminus F^{(s)}$, $s = 1, 2, \dots$, où Ω est un ouvert dans \mathbf{R}^n ($n \geq 3$), $F^{(s)}$ est un ensemble fermé situé au voisinage d'une variété différentiable Γ de dimension $(n - 1)$ à l'intérieur de Ω . Nous étudions le comportement asymptotique de $u^{(s)}$ quand $F^{(s)}$ converge vers Γ dans un sens approprié. **Pour citer cet article :** *M. Sango, C. R. Acad. Sci. Paris, Ser. I 342 (2006)*.

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Soit Ω est un ouvert dans \mathbf{R}^n ($n \geq 3$), $F^{(s)}$, $s = 1, 2, \dots$, est un ensemble fermé situé au voisinage d'une variété Γ de dimension $(n - 1)$ à l'intérieur de Ω qui divise Ω en deux domaines disjoints Ω^+ et Ω^- . Dans le domaine perforé $\Omega^{(s)} = \Omega \setminus F^{(s)}$, nous étudions le problème aux limites

$$Au^{(s)} = - \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} \left(a_i \left(x, \frac{\partial u^{(s)}}{\partial x} \right) \right) = f, \quad \text{dans } \Omega^{(s)},$$

$$\frac{\partial u^{(s)}}{\partial \nu_A} =: \sum_{i=1}^n a_i \left(x, \frac{\partial u^{(s)}}{\partial x} \right) \cos(\nu, x_i) = 0, \quad \text{sur } \partial F^{(s)},$$

$$u^{(s)} = 0 \quad \text{sur } \partial \Omega,$$

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où ν est un vecteur normal à $\partial F^{(s)}$, f et A sont une fonction et un opérateur assujettis à des conditions définies dans la suite. Nous démontrons sous des hypothèses appropriées que lorsque $s \rightarrow \infty$, la suite $u^{(s)}$ de solutions du problème converge dans des topologies convenables vers une solution du problème de transmission

$$\begin{aligned}
 &-\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} \left(a_i \left(x, \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right) \right) = f, \quad \text{dans } \Omega \setminus \Gamma, \\
 &\left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial \nu_A} \right)_+ + \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial \nu_A} \right)_- = pc(x)|u_+ - u_-|^{p-2}(u_+ - u_-) \quad \text{sur } \Gamma, \\
 &u = 0 \quad \text{sur } \partial\Omega.
 \end{aligned}$$

Le paramètre p et la fonction c sont définis dans la suite.

1. Introduction

Let Ω be a bounded domain in \mathbf{R}^n ($n \geq 3$) with a sufficiently smooth boundary $\partial\Omega$. Let $F^{(s)}$ be a closed set in Ω depending on the parameter s running throughout the set of natural numbers. The main assumption on the set $F^{(s)}$ is that as $s \rightarrow \infty$, $F^{(s)}$ is located in an arbitrary small neighborhood of some smooth manifold Γ without boundary which lies inside Ω and partition Ω into two subdomains Ω^+ (the interior) and Ω^- (the exterior). In the domain $\Omega^{(s)} = \Omega \setminus F^{(s)}$ that we assume sufficiently smooth, we investigate the sequence of solutions $u^{(s)}$ of the boundary value problem

$$Au^{(s)} = -\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} \left(a_i \left(x, \frac{\partial u^{(s)}}{\partial x} \right) \right) = f, \quad \text{in } \Omega^{(s)}, \tag{1}$$

$$\frac{\partial u^{(s)}}{\partial \nu_A} =: \sum_{i=1}^n a_i \left(x, \frac{\partial u^{(s)}}{\partial x} \right) \cos(\nu, x_i) = 0, \quad \text{on } \partial F^{(s)}, \tag{2}$$

$$u^{(s)} = 0, \quad \text{on } \partial\Omega, \tag{3}$$

where ν is a normal vector to $\partial F^{(s)}$, f is a function defined and compactly supported inside Ω (the support of f does not intersect Γ), $A : W_p^1(\mathbf{R}^n) \rightarrow W_{p'}^1(\mathbf{R}^n)$ is a monotone operator satisfying appropriate conditions.

The aim of the present Note is to investigate the behavior of the sequence $u^{(s)}$ of solutions of the problem (1)–(3). Under more precise restrictions on the set $F^{(s)}$, we show that $u^{(s)}$ converges in suitable topologies to a solution of a limit problem that we derive explicitly.

The rise of interest in Neumann problems in complicated domains in the last two decades was generated by the work of Sanchez-Palencia [9] related to perforated plane structures; commonly known now as Neumann sieve. Related works can be found in [2–4,7]. The problem (1)–(3) was originally studied by Marchenko, Khruslov and their co-workers mainly in the linear case, i.e., when a_i is independent of u (see [5]). The present work is concerned with the nonlinear case. Unlike most of the papers mentioned in the previous paragraph, the perforated domain considered here has a rather general structure.

We shall use the following well-known Lebesgue and Sobolev spaces $L_p(\cdot)$, $W_p^1(\cdot)$, $\dot{W}_p^1(\cdot)$ ($p \geq 1$). We denote by $W_{p'}^{-1}(\cdot)$ the dual of $\dot{W}_p^1(\cdot)$ where p' is the Hölder conjugate of p , i.e., $p^{-1} + p'^{-1} = 1$. If ξ is a vector we denote its Euclidean norm by $|\xi|$. We denote by C all generic constants independent of s and depending only on the data.

We assume for simplicity that $2 \leq p < n - 1$ and that Eq. (1) is the Euler–Lagrange equation for the functional

$$I(v) = \int_{\Omega^{(s)}} \left[A_i \left(x, \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} \right) \frac{\partial v}{\partial x_i} - f v \right] dx,$$

where the functions $A_i(x, \xi)$, $\xi = (\xi_1, \dots, \xi_n)$ are Caratheodory and satisfy

- A. for all $x \in \Omega \setminus \Omega$, $t \in \mathbf{R}$ and $\xi \in \mathbf{R}^n$, $A_i(x, t\xi) = |t|^{p-2}t A_i(x, \xi)$,
- B. there exist two positive constants c_1 and c_2 such that for all $\xi, \eta \in \mathbf{R}^n$ with $\xi = (\xi_i)$, $\eta = (\eta_i)$, $i = 1, \dots, n$,

$$\sum_{i=1}^n (A_i(x, \xi) - A_i(x, \eta))(\xi_i - \eta_i) \geq c_1 |\xi - \eta|^p, \tag{4}$$

$$|A_i(x, \xi) - A_i(x, \eta)| \leq c_2 (|\xi|^{p-2} + |\eta|^{p-2}) |\xi - \eta|. \tag{5}$$

Therefore $a_i(x, \xi) = \sum_{k=1}^n \xi_k \partial A_k(x, \xi) / \partial \xi_i + A_i(x, \xi)$. Hence any minimizer of the functional I in $W_p^1(\Omega^{(s)}) \cap \overset{\circ}{W}_p^1(\Omega)$ which satisfies the boundary condition (2)–(3) is a weak solution of (1)–(3), the existence of which under the above conditions is well-known.

We introduce some notations. Let γ be an arbitrary open set on Γ and let $T(\gamma, \delta)$ be a layer of thickness 2δ centered around γ . We denote by γ_δ^\pm the bases of the layer $T(\gamma, \delta)$, i.e., the surfaces located at the different sides of γ at distance δ . We set $T(\gamma, \delta, s) = T(\gamma, \delta) \setminus F^{(s)}$. Let $W(\gamma, \delta, s) = \{v \in W_p^1(T(\gamma, \delta, s)) : v(x) = 1 \text{ on } \gamma_\delta^+, v(x) = 0 \text{ on } \gamma_\delta^-\}$. The main characteristic of influence of the sets $F^{(s)}$ is expressed in term of the following functions of sets

$$C_A(\gamma, \delta, s) = \inf_{\varphi^{(s)}} \int_{T(\gamma, \delta, s)} \sum_{i=1}^n A_i \left(x, \frac{\partial \varphi^{(s)}}{\partial x} \right) \frac{\partial \varphi^{(s)}}{\partial x_i} dx, \tag{6}$$

where infimum is taken over the functions $\varphi^{(s)} \in W(\gamma, \delta, s)$. These quantities are referred to as A -conductivity of the set $T(\gamma, \delta, s)$, following Mazya [6] where they are thoroughly investigated.

Setting $\phi(x) = u^{(s)}(x)$ in the variational formulation of problem (1)–(3) we get

$$\|u^{(s)}\|_{W_p^1(\Omega^{(s)})} \leq C. \tag{7}$$

We have $\Omega^{(s)} = \Omega^{(s)-} \cup \Omega^{(s)+} \cup \Gamma$, where $\Omega^{(s)\pm} = \Omega^{(s)} \cap \Omega^\pm$. Thus $u^{(s)} \in W_p^1(\Omega^{(s)+} \cup \Omega^{(s)-})$; i.e., that there exist the functions $u^{(s)\pm} \in W_p^1(\Omega^{(s)\pm})$ such that $u^{(s)} = (u^{(s)+}, u^{(s)-})$ and $\|u\|_{W_p^1(\Omega^{(s)+} \cup \Omega^{(s)-})} =: \|u\|_{W_p^1(\Omega^{(s)+})} + \|u\|_{W_p^1(\Omega^{(s)-})}$. Analogously $W_p^1(\Omega^+ \cup \Omega^-) =: W_p^1(\Omega^+) \times W_p^1(\Omega^-)$ with the norm $\|u\|_{W_p^1(\Omega^+ \cup \Omega^-)} =: \|u\|_{W_p^1(\Omega^+)} + \|u\|_{W_p^1(\Omega^-)}$.

We make the following hypothesis: The domains $\Omega^{(s)\pm}$ are such that for all s there exists a uniformly bounded extension operator from $W_p^1(\Omega^{(s)+} \cup \Omega^{(s)-})$ into $W_p^1(\Omega^+ \cup \Omega^-)$. In the sequel a function $u^{(s)}$ in $W_p^1(\Omega^{(s)+} \cup \Omega^{(s)-})$ and its extension in $W_p^1(\Omega^+ \cup \Omega^-)$ will be denoted by the same symbol.

2. Main result

The main result of this Note is:

Theorem 1. Assume that the above conditions on problem (1)–(3) are satisfied and $f \in W_{p'}^{-1}(\Omega \setminus \Gamma)$. As $s \rightarrow \infty$, we require that

- (a) the set $F^{(s)}$ lies in an arbitrary small neighborhood of the manifold $\Gamma \subset \Omega$,
- (b) for any portion $\gamma \in \Gamma$, there exist the limits

$$\lim_{\delta \rightarrow \infty} \underline{\lim}_{s \rightarrow \infty} C_A(\gamma, \delta, s) = \lim_{\delta \rightarrow \infty} \overline{\lim}_{s \rightarrow \infty} C_A(\gamma, \delta, s) = \int_\gamma c(x) d\Gamma, \tag{8}$$

where c is a nonnegative, measurable function on Γ .

Then the sequence of solutions $u^{(s)}$ of problem (1)–(3) converges weakly in $W_p^1(\Omega^+ \cup \Omega^-)$ and strongly in $W_q^1(\Omega^+ \cup \Omega^-)$, $1 < q < p$, to a function u which is a solution of the transmission problem

$$-\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} \left(a_i \left(x, \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right) \right) = f, \quad \text{in } \Omega \setminus \Gamma, \tag{9}$$

$$\left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial \nu_A} \right)_+ + \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial \nu_A} \right)_- = pc(x) |u_+ - u_-|^{p-2} (u_+ - u_-), \quad \text{on } \Gamma, \tag{10}$$

$$u = 0, \quad \text{on } \partial\Omega, \tag{11}$$

where the signs + and – indicate the boundary values of the function on the different sides of Γ , $(\frac{\partial u}{\partial \nu_A})_{\pm}$ is the derivative along the normal to Γ in the direction corresponding to \pm .

Let $T(\Gamma, \delta)$ be a layer of thickness 2δ centered around the manifold Γ . Let $T(\Gamma, \delta, s) = T(\Gamma, \delta) \setminus F^{(s)}$. We consider the functional

$$\Phi_{\delta}^{(s)}(\psi^{(s)}) = \int_{T(\Gamma, \delta, s)} \sum_{i=1}^n A_i \left(x, \frac{\partial \psi^{(s)}}{\partial x} \right) \frac{\partial \psi^{(s)}}{\partial x_i} dx,$$

over the set \tilde{W} of functions from $W_p^1(T(\Gamma, \delta, s))$ taking on the surfaces $\Gamma_{\delta}^+, \Gamma_{\delta}^-$ bounding the layer $T(\Gamma, \delta)$ the values of $u(x) \in W_p^1(\Omega^+ \cup \Omega^-)$. It is a well known fact that under the growth conditions on A_i , there exists at least a function $u^{(s)}$ minimizing $\Phi_{\delta}^{(s)}$, i.e.,

$$\Phi_{\delta}^{(s)}(u^{(s)}) = \inf_{\psi^{(s)} \in \tilde{W}} \Phi_{\delta}^{(s)}(\psi^{(s)}).$$

The following key result holds:

Theorem 2. Assume that the conditions of Theorem 1 are satisfied. Then for any function $u \in W_p^1(\Omega^+ \cup \Omega^-)$ the following relation holds

$$\lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \overline{\lim}_{s \rightarrow \infty} \Phi_{\delta}^{(s)}(u) = \lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \underline{\lim}_{s \rightarrow \infty} \Phi_{\delta}^{(s)}(u) = \int_{\Gamma} c |u^+ - u^-|^p d\Gamma.$$

This theorem gives an accurate behavior of the energy in the vicinity of the sets $F^{(s)}$ and is responsible for the appearance of the additional term in the transmission conditions.

3. Proof of Theorem 1

We give an idea of the proof of Theorem 1. From (7) and the existence of the extension assumed in the theorem it follows that $\|u^{(s)}\|_{W_p^1(\Omega^+ \cup \Omega^-)} \leq C$. Therefore a function $u \in W_p^1(\Omega^+ \cup \Omega^-)$ exists such that $u^{(s)}$ converges to u weakly in $W_p^1(\Omega^+ \cup \Omega^-)$. In fact following the arguments of Boccardo and Murat [1] we get a more precise convergence, namely $u^{(s)}$ strongly converges to u in $W_q^1(\Omega^+ \cup \Omega^-)$, $1 < q < p$. Let u^{\pm} be the restriction of u to Ω_{δ}^{\pm} . We show that u^{\pm} satisfies the relation

$$\int_{\Omega_{\delta}^{\pm}} \sum_{i=1}^n A_i \left(x, \frac{\partial u^{\pm}}{\partial x} \right) \frac{\partial \varphi}{\partial x_i} dx = \int_{\Omega_{\delta}^{\pm}} f \varphi dx, \quad \forall \varphi \in \dot{W}_p^1(\Omega_{\delta}^{\pm}).$$

Using this relation together with the conditions (4)–(5) on $A(x, \xi)$ and some appropriate estimates we get that

$$u^{(s)} \rightarrow u^{\pm}, \quad \text{strongly in } \dot{W}_p^1(\Omega_{\delta}^{\pm}). \tag{12}$$

Next we let $w \in \dot{W}_p^1(\Omega^+ \cup \Omega^-)$ be arbitrary and define the function $w_{\delta}^{(s)}$ by: $w_{\delta}^{(s)}(x) = w(x)$ if $x \in \Omega_{\delta}^{\pm}$ and $w_{\delta}^{(s)}(x) = w^{(s)}(x)$ if $x \in T(\Gamma, \delta)$, where $w^{(s)} \in W_p^1(\Omega^{(s)})$ and is a minimizer of $\Phi_{\delta}^{(s)}$ in $W_p^1(T(\Gamma, \delta, s))$. Let

$$J(w) = \int_{\Omega^+ \cup \Omega^-} \left[\sum_{i=1}^n A_i \left(x, \frac{\partial w}{\partial x} \right) \frac{\partial w}{\partial x_i} + f w \right] dx + \int_{\Gamma} c(x) |w^+ - w^-|^p d\Gamma, \tag{13}$$

be a functional on $\dot{W}_p^1(\Omega^+ \cup \Omega^-)$, the class of functions in $W_p^1(\Omega^+ \cup \Omega^-)$ which vanish on $\partial\Omega$. Under the conditions imposed on the functions $A_i(x, p)$, $(x, p) \in \mathbf{R}^{2n}$, any minimizer of the functional J in $\dot{W}_p^1(\Omega^+ \cup \Omega^-)$ is also a weak solution of problem (9)–(11). We prove that the function u minimizes J in $\dot{W}_p^1(\Omega^+ \cup \Omega^-)$. We have

$$I(w_\delta^{(s)}) = \int_{\Omega_\delta^+ \cup \Omega_\delta^-} \left[\sum_{i=1}^n A_i \left(x, \frac{\partial w}{\partial x} \right) \frac{\partial w}{\partial x_i} + fw \right] + \Phi_\delta^{(s)}(w).$$

By Theorem 2 we get

$$\lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \overline{\lim}_{s \rightarrow \infty} I(w_\delta^{(s)}) = J(w). \tag{14}$$

Next let $u_\delta^{(s)} \in \dot{W}_p^1(\Omega^+ \cup \Omega^-)$ be an extension of $u^{(s)}$ from $\Omega_\delta^+ \cup \Omega_\delta^-$ to $\Omega^+ \cup \Omega^-$ such that $u_\delta^{(s)} \rightarrow u$ strongly in $\dot{W}_p^1(\Omega^+ \cup \Omega^-)$ as $\delta \rightarrow 0, s \rightarrow \infty$. We have

$$I(u^{(s)}) = \int_{\Omega_\delta^+ \cup \Omega_\delta^-} \left[\sum_{i=1}^n A_i \left(x, \frac{\partial u_\delta^{(s)}}{\partial x} \right) \frac{\partial u_\delta^{(s)}}{\partial x_i} + fu_\delta^{(s)} \right] + \Phi_\delta^{(s)}(u_\delta^{(s)}).$$

By Theorem 2 and estimates involving (4), (5) and (12) we get

$$\lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \underline{\lim}_{s \rightarrow \infty} I(u^{(s)}) \geq J(u). \tag{15}$$

We have $I(u^{(s)}) \leq I(w_\delta^{(s)})$. Thus (14) and (15) imply that $J(u) \leq J(w)$. w being arbitrary we get that u minimizes J and therefore satisfies (9)–(11).

Next we give an example of a geometry for $F^{(s)}$ for which the function c in (8) can be explicitly computed. In \mathbf{R}^n , we consider for each s a layer $T^{(s)}$ of thickness $h^{(s)}$ bounded from one side by a sphere Γ and from the other side by another sphere $\Gamma^{(s)}$ parallel to Γ and at a distance $h^{(s)}$ from it. We remove from Γ s disjoint connected open sets $\sigma_i = \sigma_i^{(s)}$ of diameter $d_i^{(s)}$. The normals through the points $x \in \sigma_i$, cut some channels $T_i^{(s)}$ through $T^{(s)}$. Set $F^{(s)} = T^{(s)} \setminus \bigcup_{i=1}^s T_i^{(s)}$. Let Ω be smooth bounded domain in \mathbf{R}^n containing $\overline{T^{(s)}}$. In the region $\Omega^{(s)} = \Omega \setminus F^{(s)}$, we consider the boundary value problem

$$\Delta_p u^{(s)} = - \sum_{j=1}^n \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} \left(\left| \frac{\partial u^{(s)}}{\partial x} \right|^{p-2} \frac{\partial u^{(s)}}{\partial x_j} \right) = f, \quad x \in \Omega^{(s)}, \tag{16}$$

$$\frac{\partial u^{(s)}}{\partial \nu_{\Delta_p}} = 0, \quad \text{on } \partial F^{(s)}, \quad u = 0 \quad \text{on } \partial\Omega. \tag{17}$$

We denote by Ω^+ (Ω^-) the region interior (exterior) to Γ and by $\Omega^{(s)-}$ the set $\Omega^{(s)} \setminus \overline{\Omega^-}$. Through appropriate rescalings the arguments of [8, §4] related to the construction of extension operator for perforated domains of type I can be used to produce an extension from $W_p^1(\Omega^{(s)-})$ into $W_p^1(\Omega^-)$ uniformly bounded. Hence the required extension from $W_p^1(\Omega^{(s)+} \cup \Omega^{(s)-})$ into $W_p^1(\Omega^+ \cup \Omega^-)$ follows. Let γ be a portion of the surface Γ and $T(\gamma, \delta)$ be the layer with thickness 2δ centered around γ with bases γ_δ^\pm . We define the quantity

$$C_{\Delta_p}(\gamma, \delta, s) = \frac{1}{p} \inf_{w^{(s)}} \int_{T(\gamma, \delta, s)} \left| \frac{\partial w^{(s)}}{\partial x} \right|^p dx, \tag{18}$$

where $T(\gamma, \delta, s) = \overline{T(\gamma, \delta) \setminus \bigcup_{i=1}^s T_i^{(s)}}$, and the infimum is taken over the functions $w^{(s)} \in W(\gamma, \delta, s)$. We denote $\overline{T_i^{(s)}} \cap \Gamma$ and $\overline{T_i^{(s)}} \cap \Gamma^{(s)}$ by $\sigma_i^{(s)-}$ and $\sigma_i^{(s)+}$, respectively. Let $R_i^{(s)}$ be the distance between $\sigma_i^{(s)-}$ and $\bigcup_{i \neq j} \sigma_j^{(s)-}$ and assume $\max_i \{R_i^{(s)}, d_i^{(s)}\} < \delta$, for all s . We make the following assumptions:

$$\overline{\lim}_{s \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{\gamma(s)} \frac{[d_i^{(s)}]^{n-1}}{[h^{(s)} R_i^{(s)}]^p} \leq C_2; \quad \text{as } s \rightarrow \infty R_i^{(s)} = o(d_i^{(s)}) \rightarrow 0;$$

$$\overline{\lim}_{s \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{\gamma(s)} \text{mes}(\sigma_i^{(s)}) [h^{(s)}]^{1-p} = \int_{\gamma} c(x) \, d\Gamma, \quad (19)$$

where $c(x)$ is a nonnegative function on Γ , $\sum_{\gamma(s)}$ is the sum over all i for which $\sigma_i^{(s)}$ belong to $\gamma \subset \Gamma$ and C_i are positive constants. Then we have the following result

Theorem 3. *Let the conditions (19) be satisfied and $n > p + 1$, then the sequence of solutions $u^{(s)} \in W_p^1(\Omega^{(s)})$ of problem (16)–(17) converges weakly in $W_p^1(\Omega^+ \cup \Omega^-)$ to a function $u(x)$ which is a solution of the problem*

$$\Delta_p u = f, \quad \text{in } \Omega \setminus \Gamma, \quad (20)$$

$$\left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial \nu_{\Delta_p}} \right)_+ + \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial \nu_{\Delta_p}} \right)_- = p c(x) |u_+ - u_-|^{p-2} (u_+ - u_-) \quad \text{on } \Gamma, \quad u = 0 \quad \text{on } \partial\Omega, \quad (21)$$

where c is the function defined in (19).

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