

Partial Differential Equations

# Correlation between two quasilinear elliptic problems with a source term involving the function or its gradient

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## Abstract

Thanks to a change of unknown we compare two elliptic quasilinear problems with Dirichlet data in a bounded domain of  $\mathbb{R}^N$ . The first one, of the form  $-\Delta_p u = \beta(u)|\nabla u|^p + \lambda f(x)$ , where  $\beta$  is nonnegative, involves a gradient term with natural growth. The second one, of the form  $-\Delta_p v = \lambda f(x)(1 + g(v))^{p-1}$  where  $g$  is nondecreasing, presents a source term of order 0. The correlation gives new results of existence, nonexistence and multiplicity for the two problems. **To cite this article:** H.A. Hamid, M.F. Bidaut-Véron, *C. R. Acad. Sci. Paris, Ser. I 346 (2008)*.

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## Résumé

**Corrélation entre deux problèmes quasilineaires elliptiques avec terme de source relatif à la fonction ou à son gradient.** A l'aide d'un changement d'inconnue nous comparons deux problèmes elliptiques quasilineaires avec conditions de Dirichlet dans un domaine borné  $\Omega$  de  $\mathbb{R}^N$ . Le premier, de la forme  $-\Delta_p u = \beta(u)|\nabla u|^p + \lambda f(x)$ , où  $\beta$  est positif, comporte un terme de gradient à croissance critique. Le second, de la forme  $-\Delta_p v = \lambda f(x)(1 + g(v))^{p-1}$  où  $g$  est croissante, contient un terme de source d'ordre 0. La comparaison donne des résultats nouveaux d'existence, nonexistence et multiplicité pour les deux problèmes. **Pour citer cet article :** H.A. Hamid, M.F. Bidaut-Véron, *C. R. Acad. Sci. Paris, Ser. I 346 (2008)*.

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## Version française abrégée

Soit  $\Omega$  un domaine borné régulier de  $\mathbb{R}^N$  ( $N \geq 2$ ) et  $1 < p < N$ . Dans cette Note nous comparons deux problèmes quasilineaires. Le premier comporte un terme de source d'ordre 1 :

$$-\Delta_p u = \beta(u)|\nabla u|^p + \lambda f(x) \quad \text{dans } \Omega, \quad u = 0 \quad \text{sur } \partial\Omega, \quad (1)$$

où  $\beta \in C^0([0, L])$ ,  $L < \infty$ , à valeurs  $\geq 0$ ,  $\lambda > 0$  et  $f \in L^1(\Omega)$ ,  $f \geq 0$  p.p. dans  $\Omega$ . Le second problème comporte un terme de source d'ordre 0 :

$$-\Delta_p v = \lambda f(x)(1 + g(v))^{p-1} \quad \text{dans } \Omega, \quad v = 0 \quad \text{sur } \partial\Omega, \quad (2)$$

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où  $g \in C^1([0, \Lambda])$ ,  $\Lambda \leq \infty$ ,  $g(0) = 0$  et  $g$  est croissante.

Le changement d'inconnue

$$v(x) = \Psi(u(x)) = \int_0^{u(x)} e^{\gamma(\theta)/(p-1)} d\theta, \quad \text{où } \gamma(t) = \int_0^t \beta(\theta) d\theta,$$

conduit formellement du problème (1) au problème (2), et  $\beta$  et  $g$  sont liés par la relation  $\beta(u) = (p-1)g'(v)$ . En particulier  $\beta$  est croissant si et seulement si  $g$  est convexe. Le changement d'inconnue inverse formel, apparemment moins utilisé, est donné explicitement par

$$u(x) = H(v(x)) = \int_0^{v(x)} \frac{ds}{1+g(s)}.$$

Toutefois dans la transformation peuvent s'introduire des mesures. Notons  $M_b^+(\Omega)$  l'espace des mesures de Radon positives bornées sur  $\Omega$ , et  $M_s^+(\Omega)$  le sous-ensemble des mesures concentrées sur un ensemble de  $p$ -capacité 0. Nous établissons une correspondance précise entre les deux problèmes :

**Théorème 1.** *Soit  $u$  une solution renormalisée du problème*

$$-\Delta_p u = \beta(u)|\nabla u|^p + \lambda f(x) + \alpha_s \quad \text{dans } \Omega, \quad u = 0 \quad \text{sur } \partial\Omega, \quad (3)$$

où  $\alpha_s \in M_s^+(\Omega)$ , et  $0 \leq u(x) < L$  p.p. dans  $\Omega$ . Alors il existe  $\mu_s \in M_b^+(\Omega)$ , telle que  $v = \Psi(u)$  est solution atteignable du problème

$$-\Delta_p v = \lambda f(x)(1+g(v))^{p-1} + \mu_s \quad \text{dans } \Omega, \quad v = 0 \quad \text{sur } \partial\Omega. \quad (4)$$

Réciproquement soit  $v$  une solution renormalisée de (4), telle  $0 \leq v(x) < \Lambda$  p.p. dans  $\Omega$ , où  $\mu_s \in M_s^+(\Omega)$ . Alors il existe  $\alpha_s \in M_s^+(\Omega)$ , telle que  $u = H(v)$  est solution renormalisée de (3). De plus, si  $\mu_s = 0$ , alors  $\alpha_s = 0$ . Si  $L = \infty$  et  $\beta \in L^1((0, \infty))$ , alors  $\mu_s = e^{\gamma(\infty)}\alpha_s$ . Si  $L < \infty$ , ou  $L = \infty$  et  $\beta \notin L^1((0, \infty))$ , et  $\alpha_s \neq 0$  alors (3) n'a pas de solution. Si  $\Lambda < \infty$  et  $\mu_s \neq 0$ , alors (4) n'a pas de solution.

Dans le cas  $\beta$  constant, les résultats suivants généralisent ceux de [1] relatifs au cas  $p = 2$  :

**Théorème 2.** *On suppose que  $\beta(u) \equiv p-1$ , donc  $v = \Psi(u) = e^u - 1$  et  $g(v) = v$ , et que*

$$\lambda_1(f) = \inf \left\{ \left( \int_{\Omega} |\nabla w|^p dx \right) / \left( \int_{\Omega} f|w|^p dx \right) : w \in W_0^{1,p}(\Omega) \setminus \{0\} \right\} > 0.$$

Si  $\lambda > \lambda_1(f)$ , ou  $\lambda = \lambda_1(f)$  et  $f \in L^{N/p}(\Omega)$ , alors (1) et (2) n'ont pas de solution renormalisée.

Si  $0 < \lambda < \lambda_1(f)$  alors (2) a une solution unique  $v_0 \in W_0^{1,p}(\Omega)$ , et (1) a une solution unique  $u_0 \in W_0^{1,p}(\Omega)$  telle que  $e^{u_0} - 1 \in W_0^{1,p}(\Omega)$ . Si de plus  $f \in L^r(\Omega)$  avec  $r > N/p$ , alors  $u_0$  et  $v_0 \in L^\infty(\Omega)$ ; et pour toute mesure  $\mu_s \in M_s^+(\Omega)$ , (4) a une solution renormalisée  $v_s$ , et donc (1) a une infinité de solutions  $u_s = H(v_s) \in W_0^{1,p}(\Omega)$  moins régulières que  $u_0$ .

Le Théorème 1 et l'utilisation du problème (1) nous permettent de déduire un résultat important pour le problème (2), étendant un résultat classique de [2] dans le cas  $p = 2$  :

**Théorème 3.** *On suppose que  $\Lambda = \infty$ ,  $\lim_{s \rightarrow \infty} g(s)/s = \infty$ ,  $g$  est convexe à l'infini, et  $f \in L^r(\Omega)$  avec  $r > N/p$ . Alors il existe  $\lambda^* > 0$  tel que pour tout  $\lambda \in (0, \lambda^*)$  le problème (2) a une solution minimale bornée  $\underline{v}_\lambda$ , et pour tout  $\lambda > \lambda^*$  il n'a aucune solution renormalisée.*

Nous étudions aussi les propriétés de la fonction extrémale  $v^* = \sup_{\lambda \nearrow \lambda^*} \underline{v}_\lambda$  étendant certains résultats de [3,9,11]. Dans le cas où  $g$  est à croissance limitée par l'exposant de Sobolev, nous obtenons des résultats d'existence d'une seconde solution variationnelle, nouveaux même dans le cas  $p = 2$ , étendant ceux de [1] et de [5].

### 1. Introduction and main results

Let  $\Omega$  be a smooth bounded domain in  $\mathbb{R}^N$  ( $N \geq 2$ ) and  $1 < p < N$ . In this Note we compare two quasilinear problems. The first one presents a source gradient term with a natural growth:

$$-\Delta_p u = \beta(u)|\nabla u|^p + \lambda f(x) \quad \text{in } \Omega, \quad u = 0 \quad \text{on } \partial\Omega, \tag{1}$$

where  $\beta \in C^0([0, L])$ ,  $L \leq \infty$ , and  $\beta$  is nonnegative, and  $\lambda > 0$  is a given real, and  $f \in L^1(\Omega)$ ,  $f \geq 0$  a.e. in  $\Omega$ . Here  $\beta$  can have an asymptote at point  $L$ , and is not supposed to be nondecreasing.

The second problem involves a source term of order 0, with the same  $\lambda$  and  $f$ :

$$-\Delta_p v = \lambda f(x)(1 + g(v))^{p-1} \quad \text{in } \Omega, \quad v = 0 \quad \text{on } \partial\Omega, \tag{2}$$

where  $g \in C^1([0, \Lambda])$ ,  $\Lambda \leq \infty$ ,  $g(0) = 0$  and  $g$  is nondecreasing.

Problems of type (1) and (2) have been intensively studied the last twenty years. The main questions are existence, according to the regularity of  $f$  and the value of  $\lambda$ , regularity and multiplicity of the solutions, and the existence with possible measure data.

It is well known that the change of unknown in (1)

$$v(x) = \Psi(u(x)) = \int_0^{u(x)} e^{\gamma(\theta)/(p-1)} d\theta, \quad \text{where } \gamma(t) = \int_0^t \beta(\theta) d\theta,$$

leads formally to problem (2), where  $\Lambda = \Psi(L)$  and  $g$  is given by  $g(v) = e^{\gamma(u)/(p-1)} - 1$ . This is a way for studying problem (1) from the knowledge of problem (2). It is apparently less used the reverse correlation, even in case  $p = 2$ : for any function  $g$  nondecreasing on  $[0, \Lambda]$ , the substitution in (2)

$$u(x) = H(v(x)) = \int_0^{v(x)} \frac{ds}{1 + g(s)}$$

leads formally to problem (1), where  $\beta$  is defined on  $[0, L]$  with  $L = H(\Lambda)$ ; indeed  $H = \Psi^{-1}$ . And  $\beta$  is linked to  $g$  by relation  $\beta(u) = (p - 1)g'(v)$ . In particular  $\beta$  is nondecreasing if and only if  $g$  is convex; and  $L$  is finite if and only if  $1/(1 + g) \notin L^1(0, \Lambda)$ .

#### Some examples with $p = 2$ .

1.  $\beta(u) = 1$  and  $1 + g(v) = 1 + v$ .
2.  $\beta(u) = q/(1 + (1 - q)u)$ ,  $q \in (0, 1)$ , and  $1 + g(v) = (1 + v)^q$ .
3.  $\beta(u) = 1 + e^u$  and  $1 + g(v) = (1 + v)(1 + \ln(1 + v))$ .
4.  $\beta(u) = q/(1 - (q - 1)u)$ ,  $q > 1$  and  $1 + g(v) = (1 + v)^q$ .
5.  $\beta(u) = 1/(1 - u)$  and  $1 + g(v) = e^v$ .
6.  $\beta(u) = q/(1 - (q + 1)u)$ ,  $q > 0$  and  $1 + g(v) = 1/(1 - v)^q$ .

It had been observed in [6] that the correspondence between  $u$  and  $v$  is more complex, because some measures can appear, in particular in the equation in  $v$ . Our first main result is to make precise the link between the two problems. We denote by  $M_b(\Omega)$  the set of bounded Radon measures, and by  $M_s(\Omega)$  the subset of measures concentrated on a set of  $p$ -capacity 0. And  $M_b^+(\Omega)$  and  $M_s^+(\Omega)$  are the positive cones of  $M_b(\Omega)$ ,  $M_s(\Omega)$ , and  $M_0(\Omega)$  is the subset of measures absolutely continuous with respect to the  $p$ -capacity. Recall that  $M_b(\Omega) = M_0(\Omega) + M_s(\Omega)$ .

We recall one definition of renormalized solutions among four of them given in [4]. Let  $U$  be measurable and finite a.e. in  $\Omega$ , such that  $T_k(U)$  belongs to  $W_0^{1,p}(\Omega)$  for any  $k > 0$ . One still denotes by  $u$  the  $\text{cap}_p$ -quasi-continuous representative. Let  $\mu = \mu_0 + \mu_s^+ - \mu_s^- \in M_b(\Omega)$ . Then  $U$  is a renormalized solution of problem

$$-\Delta_p U = \mu \quad \text{in } \Omega, \quad U = 0 \quad \text{on } \partial\Omega, \tag{3}$$

if  $|\nabla U|^{p-1} \in L^\tau(\Omega)$ , for any  $\tau \in [1, N/(N - 1))$ , and for any  $k > 0$ , there exist  $\alpha_k, \beta_k \in M_0(\Omega) \cap M_b^+(\Omega)$ , concentrated on the sets  $\{U = k\}$  and  $\{U = -k\}$  respectively, converging in the narrow topology to  $\mu_s^+, \mu_s^-$  such that for any  $\psi \in W_0^{1,p}(\Omega) \cap L^\infty(\Omega)$ ,

$$\int_{\Omega} |\nabla T_k(U)|^{p-2} \nabla T_k(U) \cdot \nabla \psi \, dx = \int_{\{|U|<k\}} \psi \, d\mu_0 + \int_{\Omega} \psi \, d\alpha_k - \int_{\Omega} \psi \, d\beta_k.$$

**Theorem 1.1.** *Let  $u$  be any renormalized solution of problem*

$$-\Delta_p u = \beta(u)|\nabla u|^p + \lambda f(x) + \alpha_s \quad \text{in } \Omega, \quad u = 0 \quad \text{on } \partial\Omega, \tag{4}$$

where  $\alpha_s \in M_s^+(\Omega)$  and such that  $0 \leq u(x) < L$  a.e. in  $\Omega$ . Then there exists  $\mu_s \in M_b^+(\Omega)$ , such that  $v = \Psi(u)$  is a reachable solution of problem

$$-\Delta_p v = \lambda f(x)(1 + g(v))^{p-1} + \mu_s \quad \text{in } \Omega, \quad v = 0 \quad \text{on } \partial\Omega. \tag{5}$$

Conversely let  $v$  be any renormalized solution of (5), where  $\mu_s \in M_s^+(\Omega)$  and such that  $0 \leq v(x) < \Lambda$  a.e. in  $\Omega$ . Then there exists  $\alpha_s \in M_s^+(\Omega)$  such that  $u = H(v)$  is a renormalized solution of (4).

Moreover if  $\mu_s = 0$ , then  $\alpha_s = 0$ . If  $L = \infty$  and  $\beta \in L^1((0, \infty))$ , then  $\mu_s = e^{\gamma(\infty)}\alpha_s$ . If  $L < \infty$  or if  $L = \infty$  and  $\beta \notin L^1((0, \infty))$ , and  $\alpha_s \neq 0$ , then (4) has no solution. If  $\Lambda < \infty$ , and  $\mu_s \neq 0$ , then (5) has no solution.

This theorem extends in particular the results of [1] where  $p = 2$  and  $L = \infty$ . The nonexistence result when  $\beta \notin L^1((0, \infty))$ , and  $\alpha_s \neq 0$ , answers to an open question of [10].

First we apply to the case  $\beta$  constant, which means  $g$  linear.

**Theorem 1.2.** *Assume that  $\beta(u) \equiv p - 1$ , thus  $v = \Psi(u) = e^u - 1$  and  $g(v) = v$ . Suppose that*

$$\lambda_1(f) = \inf \left\{ \left( \int_{\Omega} |\nabla w|^p \, dx \right) / \left( \int_{\Omega} f|w|^p \, dx \right) : w \in W_0^{1,p}(\Omega) \setminus \{0\} \right\} > 0. \tag{6}$$

If  $\lambda > \lambda_1(f)$ , or  $\lambda = \lambda_1(f)$  and  $f \in L^{N/p}(\Omega)$ , then (1) and (2) admit no renormalized solution.

If  $0 < \lambda < \lambda_1(f)$  there exists a unique solution  $v_0 \in W_0^{1,p}(\Omega)$  to (2), thus a unique solution  $u_0 \in W_0^{1,p}(\Omega)$  to (1) such that  $e^{u_0} - 1 \in W_0^{1,p}(\Omega)$ . If  $f \in L^r(\Omega)$  with  $r > N/p$ , then  $u_0$  and  $v_0 \in L^\infty(\Omega)$ , and moreover for any measure  $\mu_s \in M_s^+(\Omega)$ , there exists a renormalized solution  $v_s$  of (5); then there exists an infinity of less regular solutions  $u_s = H(v_s) \in W_0^{1,p}(\Omega)$  of (1).

**Remark 1.3.** Under the assumption (6), most of these existence results extend to general  $g$  such that  $\Lambda = \infty$  and  $\limsup_{\tau \rightarrow \infty} g(\tau)/\tau < \infty$ . They extend to the case

$$\limsup_{\tau \rightarrow \infty} g(\tau)/\tau^q < \infty \quad \text{for some } q \in (1, N/(N - p)) \tag{7}$$

if moreover  $f \in L^r(\Omega)$  with  $qr' < N/(N - p)$ .

Next consider problem (2) with general  $g$ , and  $f \in L^r(\Omega)$  with  $r > N/p$ . It is easy to prove that for small  $\lambda > 0$  there exists a minimal solution  $\underline{v}_\lambda \in W_0^{1,p}(\Omega)$  such that  $\|\underline{v}_\lambda\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} < \Lambda$ . Our main result is an extension of a well known result of [2] for  $p = 2$ , and [3] for  $p > 1$ . It is noteworthy that *the proof uses problem (1)*:

**Theorem 1.4.** *Assume that  $\Lambda = \infty$ , and  $\lim_{s \rightarrow \infty} g(s)/s = \infty$ , and  $g$  is convex near infinity, and  $f \in L^r(\Omega)$  with  $r > N/p$ . There exists a real  $\lambda^* > 0$  such that:*

- (i) for  $\lambda \in (0, \lambda^*)$  problem (2) has a minimal bounded solution  $\underline{v}_\lambda$ ,
- (ii) for  $\lambda > \lambda^*$  there exists no renormalized solution.

When  $g$  is subcritical with respect to the Sobolev exponent  $p^* = Np/(N - p)$ , we obtain *new multiplicity results* for problem (2), even in the case  $p = 2$ , extending [1] and [5]:

**Theorem 1.5.** *Under the assumptions of Theorem 1.4, assume that*

$$\limsup_{\tau \rightarrow \infty} g^{p-1}(\tau)/\tau^Q < \infty \quad \text{for some } Q \in (1, p^* - 1), \tag{8}$$

and  $f \in L^r(\Omega)$  with  $(Q + 1)r' < p^*$ . Then there exists  $\lambda_0 > 0$  such that for any  $\lambda < \lambda_0$ , there exists at least two solutions  $v \in W_0^{1,p}(\Omega) \cap L^\infty(\Omega)$  of (2). Moreover if  $p = 2$ ,  $g$  is convex, or  $g$  satisfies the Ambrosetti–Rabinowitz growth condition and  $f \in L^\infty(\Omega)$ , the same result holds with  $\lambda_0 = \lambda^*$ .

Concerning the extremal solution, we get the following, extending some results of [3,11]:

**Theorem 1.6.** *Under the assumptions of Theorem 1.4, the extremal function  $v^* = \sup_{\lambda \nearrow \lambda^*} \underline{v}_\lambda$  is a renormalized solution of (2) with  $\lambda = \lambda^*$ . If  $N < p(1 + p')/(1 + p'/r)$  then  $v^* \in W_0^{1,p}(\Omega)$ . Moreover  $v^* \in L^\infty(\Omega)$  in any of the following conditions:*

- (i)  $N$  is arbitrary and (8) holds and  $(Q + 1)r' < p^*$ ,
- (ii)  $N$  is arbitrary and (7) holds and  $qr' < N/(N - p)$ ,
- (iii)  $N < pp'/(1 + 1/(p - 1)r)$ .

**Remark 1.7.** Using Theorems 1.1, 1.4 and 1.5, we deduce existence and nonexistence results for problem (1). In Theorem 1.1, function  $f$  can depend on  $u$  or  $v$ , which strongly extends the range of applications. For example, taking  $g(v) = v$ , and  $f = u^b$ ,  $b > 0$ , problem  $-\Delta_p u = (p - 1)|\nabla u|^p + \lambda u^b$  relative to  $u$  leads to  $-\Delta_p v = \lambda(1 + v)^{p-1} \ln^b(1 + v)$  relative to  $v$ . Then for small  $\lambda$  the problem in  $u$  has an infinity of solutions  $u \in W_0^{1,p}(\Omega)$ , two of them being bounded.

**Remark 1.8.** A part of our results is based on a growth assumption on  $g$ . Returning to problem (1), this condition is not always easy to verify. When  $L = \infty$ , all the “usual” functions  $\beta$ , even with a strong growth, satisfy  $\limsup_{\tau \rightarrow \infty} g(\tau)/\tau^q < \infty$  for any  $q > 0$ , see [1]. However using the converse correlation between  $g$  and  $\beta$ , we prove that the conjecture that this condition always holds is *wrong*: let  $F \in C^0([0, \infty))$  be any strictly convex function, with  $\lim_{s \rightarrow \infty} F(s) = \infty$ . Then there exists an increasing function  $\beta$  such that  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \beta(t) = \infty$  and the corresponding  $g$  satisfies  $\limsup_{\tau \rightarrow \infty} g(\tau)/F(\tau) = \infty$ .

## 2. Sketch of the main proofs

In some proofs we use a regularity lemma:

**Lemma 2.1.** *Let  $1 < p < N$ , and  $F \in L^m(\Omega)$ , and  $\bar{m} = Np/(Np - N + p)$  (thus  $1 < \bar{m} < N/p$ ). Let  $U$  be a renormalized solution of problem*

$$-\Delta_p U = F \quad \text{in } \Omega, \quad U = 0 \quad \text{on } \partial\Omega.$$

*If  $1 < m < N/p$ , then  $U^{(p-1)} \in L^k(\Omega)$ , with  $k = Nm/(N - pm)$ . If  $m = N/p$ , then  $U^{(p-1)} \in L^k(\Omega)$  for any  $k \geq 1$ . If  $m > N/p$ , then  $U \in L^\infty(\Omega)$ . If  $1 < m < \bar{m}$ , then  $|\nabla U|^{(p-1)} \in L^\tau(\Omega)$ , with  $\tau = Nm/(N - m)$ . If  $m \geq \bar{m}$ , then  $U \in W_0^{1,p}(\Omega)$ .*

**Proof of Theorem 1.1.** For  $p \neq 2$ , we cannot use approximations of the equations because of the nonuniqueness of the solutions of  $-\Delta_p U = \mu$  with  $\mu \in M_b^+(\Omega)$ . The main idea is to use the equations satisfied in the sense of distributions by the truncated functions  $T_K(u) = \min(K, u)$  and  $T_k(v) = \min(k, v)$  with  $k = \Psi(K)$ , using definition (ii) of renormalized solution given above:

$$-\Delta_p T_K(u) = \beta(T_K(u)) |\nabla T_K(u)|^p + \lambda f \chi_{\{u \leq K\}} + \alpha_K, \quad \text{in } \mathcal{D}'(\Omega),$$

$$-\Delta_p T_k(v) = \lambda f (1 + g(v))^{p-1} \chi_{\{v \leq k\}} + \mu_k, \quad \text{in } \mathcal{D}'(\Omega),$$

where  $\mu_k$  and  $\alpha_K$  are two measures concentrated on the same set:  $\{u = K\} = \{v = k\}$ , and explicitly related by  $\mu_k = (1 + g(k))^{p-1} \alpha_K$ , and respectively converging weakly\* to  $\mu_s$  and  $\alpha_s$ . The nonexistence results are consequences of some properties of renormalized solutions, also called Inverse Maximum Principle.  $\square$

**Proof of Theorem 1.2.** The nonexistence is first proved for (1), and then for (2) by Theorem 1.1. The existence is obtained by iteration and approximation, using [4]. Uniqueness follows from Picone's identity, adapted to renormalized solutions.  $\square$

**Proof of Theorem 1.4.** Formally, if  $v$  is a solution of (2) for some  $\lambda$ , and  $u = H(v)$ , then  $\bar{u} = (1 - \varepsilon)u$  is a supersolution of (1) relative to  $\bar{\lambda} = (1 - \varepsilon)^{p-1}\lambda$ , and  $\bar{v} = \Psi(\bar{u})$  is a supersolution of (2) relative to  $\bar{\lambda}$ ; then there exists a solution  $v_1 \leq \bar{v}$ . Using Theorem 1.1 we show that it is not formal, since actually *no measure appears*. In the (best) case  $H(\infty) < \infty$ ,  $\bar{v}$  is bounded, then also  $v_1$  is bounded. Otherwise a bootstrapp using Lemma 2.1 is needed for constructing a bounded solution.  $\square$

**Proof of Theorem 1.5.** The Euler function  $J_\lambda$  is well defined, and for small  $\lambda$  it has the geometry of Mountain Path near 0, but the Palais–Smale sequences may be unbounded. From [8], (2) has a second solution for almost any small  $\lambda$ , and then for a sequence  $\lambda_n \rightarrow \lambda$ , and we are lead to prove that the solutions  $v_{\lambda_n}$  relative to  $\lambda_n$  converge to a solution to (2) relative to  $\lambda$ . The usual estimates for the case  $p = 2$ , using an eigenfunction as test function, cannot be extended. We get an estimate of  $-\Delta_p v_{\lambda_n}$  in  $L^1(\Omega)$  in another way, using the convexity of  $g$ . The estimate of  $v_{\lambda_n}$  in  $W_0^{1,p}(\Omega)$  is obtained by contradiction. For larger  $\lambda$ , if  $p = 2$ ,  $J_\lambda$  has still the geometry of mountain path near  $\underline{v}_\lambda$ ; the question is open when  $p \neq 2$ . Under Ambrosetti–Rabinowitz condition we apply some results of [7].  $\square$

**Proof of Theorem 1.6.** The estimates come from Lemma 2.1 and well known regularity results for quasilinear equations, and from an extension of techniques of [9].  $\square$

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