

EXISTENCE OF A RENORMALISED SOLUTION FOR A CLASS OF NONLINEAR DEGENERATED PARABOLIC PROBLEM WITH UNBOUNDED NONLINEARITIES

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In this work, we study the existence of renormalized solutions for a class of nonlinear degenerated parabolic problem in the form

$$(0.1) \quad \frac{\partial b(x, u)}{\partial t} - \operatorname{div}(a(x, t, u, Du)) + \operatorname{div}(\phi(u)) = f \quad \text{in } Q,$$

where $b(x, u)$ is unbounded function on u , the Carathéodory function a satisfying the coercivity condition, the general growth condition and only the large monotonicity, the function ϕ is assumed to be continuous on \mathbb{R} and not belong to $(L^1_{loc}(Q))^N$. The data belongs to $L^1(Q)$.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Let Ω be a bounded open set of \mathbb{R}^N , p be a real number such that $2 < p < \infty$, $Q = \Omega \times]0, T[$ and $w = \{w_i(x), 0 \leq i \leq N\}$ be a vector of weight functions (*i.e.*, every component $w_i(x)$ is a measurable function which is positive *a.e.* in Ω) satisfying some integrability conditions. The objective of this paper is to study the following problem in the weighted Sobolev space:

$$(1.1) \quad \begin{aligned} \frac{\partial b(x, u)}{\partial t} - \operatorname{div}(a(x, t, u, Du)) + \operatorname{div}(\phi(u)) &= f \quad \text{in } Q, \\ b(x, u)(t = 0) &= b(x, u_0) \quad \text{in } \Omega \\ u &= 0 \quad \text{in } \partial\Omega \times]0, T[. \end{aligned}$$

The data f and $b(x, u_0)$ lie in $L^1(Q)$ and $L^1(\Omega)$, respectively. The functions ϕ is just assumed to be continuous of \mathbb{R} with values in \mathbb{R}^N . The operator $\operatorname{div}(a(x, t, u, Du))$ is a Leray-Lions operator which is coercive, and which grows like $|Du|^{p-1}$ with respect to $|Du|$, but which is not restricted by any growth

condition with respect to u and only the large monotonicity (see assumption (H_2)) and $b(x, u)$ is unbounded function on u .

Let us point out, the difficulties that arise in problem (1.1) are due to the following facts: the data f and u_0 only belong to L^1 , a satisfies the large monotonicity that is

$$[a(x, t, s, \xi) - a(x, t, s, \eta)](\xi - \eta) \geq 0 \quad \text{for all } (\xi, \eta) \in \mathbb{R}^N \times \mathbb{R}^N.$$

and the function $\phi(u)$ does not belong to $(L^1_{loc}(Q))^N$ (because the function ϕ is just assumed to be continuous on \mathbb{R}). To overcome this difficulty, we will apply Landes's technical (see [14, 24]) and the framework of renormalized solutions. This notion was introduced by Diperna and P.-L. Lions [20] in their study of the Boltzmann equation. This notion was then adapted to an elliptic version of (1.1) by L. Boccardo *et al.* [8] when the right hand side is in $W^{-1,p'}(\Omega)$, by J.-M. Rakotoson [27] when the right hand side is in $L^1(\Omega)$, and finally by G. Dal Maso, F. Murat, L. Orsina and A. Prignet [19] for the case of right hand side is general measure data.

For the parabolic equation (1.1) the existence of weak solution has been proved by J.-M. Rakotoson [26] with the strict monotonicity and a measure data, the existence and uniqueness of a renormalized solution has been proved by D. Blanchard and F. Murat [10] in the case where $a(x, t, u, Du)$ is independent of u , $\phi = 0$, $b(x, u) = u$, and by D. Blanchard, F. Murat and H. Redwane [11] with the large monotonicity on a .

For the degenerated parabolic equations the existence of weak solutions have been proved by L. Aharouch *et al.* [3] in the case where a is strictly monotone, $\phi = 0$, $b(x, u) = u$ and $f \in L^{p'}(0, T, W^{-1, p'}(\Omega, w^*))$. See also the existence of renormalized solution by Y. Akdim *et al.* [7] in the case where $a(x, t, u, Du)$ is independent of u and $\phi = 0$, $b(x, u) = u$.

Note that, this paper can be seen as a generalization of [3, 29] in weighted case and as a continuation of [7].

The plan of the paper is as follows. In Section 2 we give some preliminaries and the definition of weighted Sobolev spaces. In Section 3 we make precise all the assumptions on a , ϕ , f and u_0 . In Section 4 we give some technical results. In Section 5 we give the definition of a renormalized solution of (1.1) and we establish the existence of such a solution (Theorem 5.3). Section 6 is devoted to an example which illustrates our abstract result.

2. PRELIMINARIES

Let Ω be a bounded open set of \mathbb{R}^N , p be a real number such that $2 < p < \infty$ and $w = \{w_i(x), 0 \leq i \leq N\}$ be a vector of weight functions, *i.e.*, every

component $w_i(x)$ is a measurable function which is strictly positive *a.e.* in Ω . Further, we suppose in all our considerations that, there exists

$$(2.1) \quad r_0 > \max(N, p) \text{ such that } w_i^{\frac{-r_0}{r_0-p}} \in L^1_{\text{loc}}(\Omega),$$

$$(2.2) \quad w_i \in L^1_{\text{loc}}(\Omega),$$

$$(2.3) \quad w_i^{\frac{-1}{p-1}} \in L^1(\Omega),$$

for any $0 \leq i \leq N$. We denote by $W^{1,p}(\Omega, w)$ the space of all real-valued functions $u \in L^p(\Omega, w_0)$ such that the derivatives in the sense of distributions fulfill

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial x_i} \in L^p(\Omega, w_i) \quad \text{for } i = 1, \dots, N.$$

Which is a Banach space under the norm

$$(2.4) \quad \|u\|_{1,p,w} = \left[\int_{\Omega} |u(x)|^p w_0(x) \, dx + \sum_{i=1}^N \int_{\Omega} \left| \frac{\partial u(x)}{\partial x_i} \right|^p w_i(x) \, dx \right]^{1/p}.$$

The condition (2.2) implies that $C_0^\infty(\Omega)$ is a subspace of $W^{1,p}(\Omega, w)$ and consequently, we can introduce the subspace $V = W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, w)$ of $W^{1,p}(\Omega, w)$ as the closure of $C_0^\infty(\Omega)$ with respect to the norm (2.4). Moreover, condition (2.3) implies that $W^{1,p}(\Omega, w)$ as well as $W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, w)$ are reflexive Banach spaces.

We recall that the dual space of weighted Sobolev spaces $W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, w)$ is equivalent to $W^{-1,p'}(\Omega, w^*)$, where $w^* = \{w_i^* = w_i^{1-p'}, i = 0, \dots, N\}$ and where p' is the conjugate of p *i.e.* $p' = \frac{p}{p-1}$ (see [23]).

3. BASIC ASSUMPTIONS

Assumption (H1). For $2 \leq p < \infty$, we assume that the expression

$$(3.1) \quad \|u\|_V = \left(\sum_{i=1}^N \int_{\Omega} \left| \frac{\partial u(x)}{\partial x_i} \right|^p w_i(x) \, dx \right)^{1/p}$$

is a norm defined on V which equivalent to the norm (2.4), and there exist a weight function σ on Ω such that,

$$\sigma \in L^1(\Omega) \quad \text{and} \quad \sigma^{-1} \in L^1(\Omega).$$

We assume also the Hardy inequality,

$$(3.2) \quad \left(\int_{\Omega} |u(x)|^q \sigma \, dx \right)^{1/q} \leq c \left(\sum_{i=1}^N \int_{\Omega} \left| \frac{\partial u(x)}{\partial x_i} \right|^p w_i(x) \, dx \right)^{1/p},$$

holds for every $u \in V$ with a constant $c > 0$ independent of u , and moreover, the imbedding

$$(3.3) \quad W^{1, p}(\Omega, w) \hookrightarrow L^q(\Omega, \sigma),$$

expressed by the inequality (3.2) is compact. Note that $(V, \|\cdot\|_V)$ is a uniformly convex (and thus, reflexive) Banach space.

Remark 3.1. If we assume that $w_0(x) \equiv 1$ and in addition the integrability condition: There exists $\nu \in]\frac{N}{p}, +\infty[\cap]\frac{1}{p-1}, +\infty[$ such that

$$(3.4) \quad w_i^{-\nu} \in L^1(\Omega) \text{ and } w_i^{\frac{N}{N-1}} \in L^1_{loc}(\Omega) \text{ for all } i = 1, \dots, N.$$

Note that the assumptions (2.2) and (3.4) imply that,

$$(3.5) \quad \|u\| = \left(\sum_{i=1}^N \int_{\Omega} \left| \frac{\partial u}{\partial x_i} \right|^p w_i(x) dx \right)^{1/p},$$

is a norm defined on $W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, w)$ and its equivalent to (2.4) and that, the imbedding

$$(3.6) \quad W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, w) \hookrightarrow L^p(\Omega),$$

is compact for all $1 \leq q \leq p_1^*$ if $p \cdot \nu < N(\nu + 1)$ and for all $q \geq 1$ if $p \cdot \nu \geq N(\nu + 1)$ where $p_1 = \frac{p\nu}{\nu+1}$ and p_1^* is the Sobolev conjugate of p_1 (see [22], pp. 30–31).

Assumption (H2).

$$(3.7) \quad b : \Omega \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

is a Carathéodory function such that for every $x \in \Omega$, $b(x, \cdot)$ is a strictly increasing C^1 – function with $b(x, 0) = 0$.

Next, for any $k > 0$, there exist $\lambda_k > 0$ and functions $A_k \in L^1(\Omega)$ and $B_k \in L^p(\Omega)$ such that

$$(3.8) \quad \lambda_k \leq \frac{\partial b(x, s)}{\partial s} \leq A_k(x) \text{ and } \left| D_x \left(\frac{\partial b(x, s)}{\partial s} \right) \right| \leq B_k(x)$$

for almost every $x \in \Omega$, for every s such that $|s| \leq k$, we denote by $D_x \left(\frac{\partial b(x, s)}{\partial s} \right)$ the gradient of $\frac{\partial b(x, s)}{\partial s}$ defined in the sense of distributions.

For $i = 1, \dots, N$ and for any $k > 0$ there exist $\beta_k > 0$ and a function $C_k(x, t) \in L^{p'}(Q)$ such that,

$$(3.9) \quad |a_i(x, t, s, \xi)| \leq \beta_k w_i^{\frac{1}{p}}(x) [C_k(x, t) + \sum_{j=1}^N w_j^{\frac{1}{p}}(x) |\xi_j|^{p-1}],$$

for almost every $x \in \Omega$, for every s such that $|s| \leq k$ and $\xi \in \mathbb{R}^N$.

$$(3.10) \quad [a(x, t, s, \xi) - a(x, t, s, \eta)](\xi - \eta) \geq 0 \quad \text{for all } (\xi, \eta) \in \mathbb{R}^N \times \mathbb{R}^N,$$

$$(3.11) \quad a(x, t, s, \xi) \cdot \xi \geq \alpha \sum_{i=1}^N w_i |\xi_i|^p,$$

$$(3.12) \quad \phi : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^N \quad \text{is a continuous function,}$$

$$(3.13) \quad f \quad \text{is an element of } L^1(Q),$$

$$(3.14) \quad u_0 \text{ is measurable function defined on } \Omega \text{ such that } b(x, u_0) \in L^1(\Omega).$$

Where α is strictly positive constant. We recall that, for $k > 1$ and s in \mathbb{R} , the truncation is defined as,

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

4. SOME TECHNICAL RESULTS

Characterization of the time mollification of a function u . In order to deal with time derivative, we introduce a time mollification of a function u belonging to a some weighted Lebesgue space. Thus, we define for all $\mu \geq 0$ and all $(x, t) \in Q$,

$$u_\mu = \mu \int_{-\infty}^t \tilde{u}(x, s) \exp(\mu(s - t)) ds, \quad \text{where } \tilde{u}(x, s) = u(x, s) \chi_{(0, T)}(s).$$

PROPOSITION 4.1 ([3]).

1) If $u \in L^p(Q, w_i)$ then u_μ is measurable in Q and $\frac{\partial u_\mu}{\partial t} = \mu(u - u_\mu)$ and,

$$\|u_\mu\|_{L^p(Q, w_i)} \leq \|u\|_{L^p(Q, w_i)}.$$

2) If $u \in W_0^{1,p}(Q, w)$, then $u_\mu \rightarrow u$ in $W_0^{1,p}(Q, w)$ as $\mu \rightarrow \infty$.

3) If $u_n \rightarrow u$ in $W_0^{1,p}(Q, w)$, then $(u_n)_\mu \rightarrow u_\mu$ in $W_0^{1,p}(Q, w)$.

Some weighted embedding and compactness results. In this section, we establish some embedding and compactness results in weighted Sobolev spaces, some trace results, Aubin's and Simon's results [30].

Let $V = W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, w)$, $H = L^2(\Omega, \sigma)$ and let $V^* = W^{-1,p'}$, with $(2 \leq p < \infty)$.

Let $X = L^p(0, T; W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, w))$. The dual space of X is $X^* = L^{p'}(0, T, V^*)$ where $\frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{p'} = 1$ and denoting the space $W_p^1(0, T, V, H) = \{v \in X : v' \in X^*\}$ endowed with the norm

$$\|u\|_{W_p^1} = \|u\|_X + \|u'\|_{X^*},$$

which is a Banach space. Here u' stands for the generalized derivative of u , *i.e.*,

$$\int_0^T u'(t)\varphi(t)dt = - \int_0^T u(t)\varphi'(t)dt \text{ for all } \varphi \in C_0^\infty(0, T).$$

LEMMA 4.2 ([31]).

- 1) *The evolution triple $V \subseteq H \subseteq V^*$ is verified.*
- 2) *The imbedding $W_p^1(0, T, V, H) \subseteq C(0, T, H)$ is continuous.*
- 3) *The imbedding $W_p^1(0, T, V, H) \subseteq L^p(Q, \sigma)$ is compact.*

LEMMA 4.3 ([3]). *Let $g \in L^r(Q, \gamma)$ and let $g_n \in L^r(Q, \gamma)$, with $\|g_n\|_{L^r(Q, \gamma)} \leq C, 1 < r < \infty$. If $g_n(x) \rightarrow g(x)$ a.e. in Q , then $g_n \rightarrow g$ in $L^r(Q, \gamma)$.*

LEMMA 4.4 ([3]). *Assume that,*

$$\frac{\partial v_n}{\partial t} = \alpha_n + \beta_n \text{ in } D'(Q)$$

where α_n and β_n are bounded respectively in X^* and in $L^1(Q)$. If v_n is bounded in $L^p(0, T; W_0^{1, p}(\Omega, w))$, then $v_n \rightarrow v$ in $L_{loc}^p(Q, \sigma)$.

Further $v_n \rightarrow v$ strongly in $L^1(Q)$.

Definition 4.5. A monotone map $T : D(T) \rightarrow X^*$ is called maximal monotone if its graph

$$G(T) = \{(u, T(u)) \in X \times X^* \text{ for all } u \in D(T)\}$$

is not a proper subset of any monotone set in $X \times X^*$.

Let us consider the operator $\frac{\partial}{\partial t}$ which induces a linear map L from the subset $D(L) = \{v \in X : v' \in X^*, v(0) = 0\}$ of X into X^* by

$$\langle Lu, v \rangle_X = \int_0^T \langle u'(t), v(t) \rangle_V dt \text{ } u \in D(L), \text{ } v \in X.$$

LEMMA 4.6 ([31]). *L is a closed linear maximal monotone map.*

In our study we deal with mappings of the form $F = L + S$ where L is a given linear densely defined maximal monotone map from $D(L) \subset X$ to X^* and S is a bounded demicontinuous map of monotone type from X to X^* .

Definition 4.7. A mapping S is called pseudo-monotone with $u_n \rightharpoonup u, Lu_n \rightharpoonup Lu$ and $\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \langle S(u_n), u_n - u \rangle \leq 0$, that we have

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sup \langle S(u_n), u_n - u \rangle = 0 \text{ and } S(u_n) \rightharpoonup S(u) \text{ as } n \rightarrow \infty.$$

5. MAIN RESULTS

Consider the problem

$$\begin{aligned}
 & b(x, u_0) \in L^1(\Omega), \quad f \in L^1(Q) \\
 (5.1) \quad & \frac{\partial b(x, u)}{\partial t} - \operatorname{div}(a(x, t, u, Du)) + \operatorname{div}(\phi(u)) = f \quad \text{in } Q \\
 & u = 0 \quad \text{on } \partial\Omega \times]0, T[, \\
 & b(x, u(x, 0)) = b(x, u_0) \quad \text{on } \Omega
 \end{aligned}$$

Definition 5.1. Let $f \in L^1(Q)$ and $b(x, u_0) \in L^1(\Omega)$. A real-valued function u defined on $\Omega \times]0, T[$ is a renormalized solution of problem (5.1) if

$$\begin{aligned}
 (5.2) \quad & T_k(u) \in L^p(0, T; W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, w)) \quad \text{for all } (k \geq 0) \quad \text{and } b(x, u) \in L^\infty(0, T; L^1(\Omega));
 \end{aligned}$$

$$(5.3) \quad \int_{\{m \leq |u| \leq m+1\}} a(x, t, u, Du) Du \, dx dt \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as } m \rightarrow +\infty;$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 (5.4) \quad & \frac{\partial B_S(x, u)}{\partial t} - \operatorname{div}(S'(u)a(u, Du)) + S''(u)a(u, Du) Du \\
 & + \operatorname{div}(S'(u)\phi(u)) - S''(u)\phi(u) Du = f S'(u) \quad \text{in } D'(Q);
 \end{aligned}$$

for all functions $S \in W^{2,\infty}(\mathbb{R})$ which compact support in \mathbb{R} , where $B_S(x, z) = \int_0^z \frac{\partial b(x, r)}{\partial r} S'(r) dr$ and

$$(5.5) \quad B_S(x, u)(t=0) = B_S(x, u_0) \quad \text{in } \Omega.$$

Remark 5.2. Equation (5.4) is formally obtained through pointwise multiplication of equation (5.1) by $S'(u)$. However, while $a(u, Du)$ and $\phi(u)$ does not in general make sense in (5.1), all the terms in (5.4) have a meaning in $D'(Q)$.

Indeed, if M is such that $\operatorname{supp}(S') \subset [-M, M]$, the following identifications are made in (5.4):

- $S(u) \in L^\infty(Q)$ since S is a bounded function.
- $S'(u)a(u, Du)$ identifies with $S'(u)a(T_M(u), DT_M(u))$ a.e. in Q . Since $|T_M(u)| \leq M$ a.e. in Q , assumptions (3.9) imply that

$$|a_i(x, t, T_M(u), DT_M(u))| \leq \beta_M w_i^{\frac{1}{p}}(x) \left(C_M(x, t) + \sum_{j=1}^N w_j^{\frac{1}{p}}(x) \left| \frac{\partial T_M(u)}{\partial x_j} \right|^{p-1} \right).$$

We obtain that $S'(u)a(T_M(u), DT_M(u)) \in \prod_{i=1}^N L^{p'}(Q, w_i^*)$.

- $S''(u)a(u, Du) Du$ identifies with $S''(u)a(T_M(u), DT_M(u)) DT_M(u)$ we have $S''(u)a(T_M(u), DT_M(u)) DT_M(u) \in L^1(Q)$.

- $S''(u)\phi(u)Du$ and $S'(u)\phi(u)$ respectively identify with $S''(u)\phi(T_M(u))DT_M(u)$ and $S'(u)\phi(T_M(u))$. Due to the properties of S' and to (3.12), the functions S' , S'' and $\phi \circ T_M$ are bounded on \mathbb{R} so that (5.2) implies that $S'(u)\phi(T_M(u)) \in (L^\infty(Q))^N$, and $S''(u)\phi(T_M(u))DT_M(u) \in L^p(Q, w)$
- $S'(u)f$ belongs to $L^1(Q)$.

The above considerations show that equation (5.4) holds in $D'(Q)$ and that

$$\frac{\partial B_S(x, u)}{\partial t} \in L^{p'}(0, T; W^{-1, p'}(\Omega, w_i^*)) + L^1(Q).$$

Due to the properties of S and (5.4), $\frac{\partial S(u)}{\partial t} \in L^{p'}(0, T; W^{-1, p'}(\Omega, w_i^*)) + L^1(Q)$, which implies that $S(u) \in C^0([0, T]; L^1(\Omega))$ so that the initial condition (5.5) makes sense, since, due to the properties of S (increasing) and (3.8), we have

$$(5.6) \quad |B_S(x, r) - B_S(x, r')| \leq A_k(x) |S(r) - S(r')| \quad \text{for all } r, r' \in \mathbb{R}.$$

THEOREM 5.3. *Let $f \in L^1(Q)$ and $b(x, u_0) \in L^1(\Omega)$. Assume that (H1) and (H2) hold true. then, there exists at least a renormalized solution u of the problem (5.1) (in the sense of Definition 5.1).*

Remark 5.4. The statement of Theorem 5.3 generalized in weighted case the analogous in [29] and [7] (with $b(x, u) = u$).

Remark 5.5. Since, the function $\phi(u)$ does not belong to $(L^1_{loc}(Q))^N$. Then the problem (5.1) can have a renormalized solution, but not a weak solution.

Proof. Step 1: The approximate problem.

For $n > 0$, let us define the following approximation of b , a , ϕ , f and u_0 ;

$$(5.7) \quad b_n(x, r) = b(x, T_n(r)) + \frac{1}{n}r \quad \text{for } n > 0,$$

In view of (5.7), b_n is a Carathéodory function and satisfies (3.8), there exist $\lambda_n > 0$ and functions $A_n \in L^1(\Omega)$ and $B_n \in L^p(\Omega)$ such that

$$\lambda_n \leq \frac{\partial b_n(x, s)}{\partial s} \leq A_n(x) \quad \text{and} \quad \left| D_x \left(\frac{\partial b_n(x, s)}{\partial s} \right) \right| \leq B_n(x) \quad \text{a.e. in } \Omega, \quad s \in \mathbb{R}.$$

$$(5.8) \quad a_n(x, t, s, d) = a(x, t, T_n(s), d) \quad \text{a.e. in } Q, \quad \forall s \in \mathbb{R}, \quad \forall d \in \mathbb{R}^N,$$

In view of (5.8), a_n satisfy (3.11) and (3.9), there exists $C_n \in L^{p'}(Q)$ and $\beta_n > 0$ such that

$$(5.9) \quad |a_i^n(x, t, s, \xi)| \leq \beta_n w_i^{\frac{1}{p}}(x) [C_n(x, t) + \sum_{j=1}^N w_j^{\frac{1}{p'}}(x) |\xi_j|^{p-1}], \quad \text{for all } (s, \xi) \in \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^N,$$

(5.10) ϕ_n is a Lipschitz continuous bounded function from \mathbb{R} into \mathbb{R}^N , such that ϕ_n uniformly converges to ϕ on any compact subset of \mathbb{R} as n tends to $+\infty$,

(5.11) $f_n \in L^{p'}(Q)$ and $f_n \rightarrow f$ a.e. in Q and strongly in $L^1(Q)$ as $n \rightarrow +\infty$,

(5.12) $u_{0n} \in D(\Omega) : \|b_n(x, u_{0n})\|_{L^1} \leq \|b(x, u_0)\|_{L^1}$,
 $b_n(x, u_{0n}) \rightarrow b(x, u_0)$ a.e. in Ω and strongly in $L^1(\Omega)$.

Let us now consider the approximate problem:

$$(5.13) \quad \begin{aligned} \frac{\partial b_n(x, u_n)}{\partial t} - \operatorname{div}(a_n(x, t, u_n, Du_n)) + \operatorname{div}(\phi_n(u_n)) &= f_n \text{ in } D'(Q), \\ u_n &= 0 \text{ in } (0, T) \times \partial\Omega, \\ b_n(x, u_n(t=0)) &= b_n(x, u_{0n}) \text{ in } \Omega. \end{aligned}$$

As a consequence, proving existence of a weak solution $u_n \in L^p(0, T; W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, w))$ of (5.13) is an easy task (see e.g. [25, 28]).

Step 2: The estimates derived in this step rely on standard techniques for problems of type (5.13).

Using in (5.13) the test function $T_k(u_n)\chi_{(0,\tau)}$, we get, for every $\tau \in [0, T]$.

$$(5.14) \quad \begin{aligned} \left\langle \frac{\partial b_n(x, u_n)}{\partial t}, T_k(u_n)\chi_{(0,\tau)} \right\rangle + \int_{Q_\tau} a(x, t, T_k(u_n), DT_k(u_n)) DT_k(u_n) dx dt \\ + \int_{Q_\tau} \phi_n(u_n) DT_k(u_n) dx dt = \int_{Q_\tau} f_n T_k(u_n) dx dt, \end{aligned}$$

which implies that,

$$(5.15) \quad \begin{aligned} \int_{\Omega} B_k^n(x, u_n(\tau)) dx + \int_0^\tau \int_{\Omega} a(x, t, T_k(u_n), DT_k(u_n)) DT_k(u_n) dx dt \\ + \int_{Q_\tau} \phi_n(u_n) DT_k(u_n) dx dt = \int_{Q_\tau} f_n T_k(u_n) dx dt + \int_{\Omega} B_k^n(x, u_{0n}) dx, \end{aligned}$$

where $B_k^n(x, r) = \int_0^r T_k(s) \frac{\partial b_n(x, s)}{\partial s} ds$. The Lipschitz character of ϕ_n and Stokes' formula together with the boundary condition 2 of problem (5.13) give

$$(5.16) \quad \int_0^\tau \int_{\Omega} \phi_n(u_n) DT_k(u_n) dx dt = 0.$$

Due to the definition of B_k^n we have

$$(5.17) \quad 0 \leq \int_{\Omega} B_k^n(x, u_{0n}) dx \leq k \int_{\Omega} |b_n(x, u_{0n})| dx \leq k \|b(x, u_0)\|_{L^1(\Omega)}.$$

Using (5.16), (5.17) and $B_k^n(x, u_n) \geq 0$, it follows from (5.15) that

$$(5.18) \quad \int_0^T \int_{\Omega} a(x, t, T_k(u_n), DT_k(u_n))DT_k(u_n)dxdt \leq k(\|f_n\|_{L^1(Q)} + \|b_n(x, u_{0n})\|_{L^1(\Omega)}) \leq Ck,$$

Thanks to (3.11) we have

$$(5.19) \quad \alpha \int_Q \sum_{i=1}^N w_i(x) \left| \frac{\partial T_k(u_n)}{\partial x_i} \right|^p dxdt \leq Ck, \quad \forall k \geq 1.$$

We deduce from that above inequality (5.15) and (5.17) that

$$(5.20) \quad \int_{\Omega} B_k^n(x, u_n)dx \leq k(\|f\|_{L^1(Q)} + \|b(x, u_0)\|_{L^1(\Omega)}) \equiv Ck.$$

Then, $T_k(u_n)$ is bounded in $L^p(0, T; W_0^{1, p}(\Omega, w))$, $T_k(u_n) \rightharpoonup v_k$ in $L^p(0, T; W_0^{1, p}(\Omega, w))$, and by the compact imbedding (3.6) gives,

$$T_k(u_n) \rightarrow v_k \text{ strongly in } L^p(Q, \sigma) \text{ and a.e. in } Q.$$

Let $k > 0$ large enough and B_R be a ball of Ω , we have,

$$\begin{aligned} k \text{ meas}(\{|u_n| > k\} \cap B_R \times [0, T]) &= \int_0^T \int_{\{|u_n|>k\} \cap B_R} |T_k(u_n)| dxdt \\ &\leq \int_0^T \int_{B_R} |T_k(u_n)| dxdt \\ &\leq \left(\int_Q |T_k(u_n)|^p \sigma dxdt \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} \left(\int_0^T \int_{B_R} \sigma^{1-p'} dxdt \right)^{\frac{1}{p'}} \\ &\leq Tc_R \left(\int_Q \sum_{i=1}^N w_i(x) \left| \frac{\partial T_k(u_n)}{\partial x_i} \right|^p dxdt \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} \leq ck^{\frac{1}{p}}, \end{aligned}$$

which implies that,

$$\text{meas}(\{|u_n| > k\} \cap B_R \times [0, T]) \leq \frac{c_1}{k^{1-\frac{1}{p}}}, \quad \forall k \geq 1.$$

So, we have

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow +\infty} (\text{meas}(\{|u_n| > k\} \cap B_R \times [0, T])) = 0.$$

Now, we turn to prove the almost every convergence of u_n and $b_n(x, u_n)$. Consider now a function non decreasing $g_k \in C^2(\mathbb{R})$ such that $g_k(s) = s$ for $|s| \leq \frac{k}{2}$ and $g_k(s) = k$ for $|s| \geq k$. Multiplying the approximate equation by $g'_k(b_n(x, u_n))$, we get

$$(5.21) \quad \frac{\partial g_k(b_n(x, u_n))}{\partial t} - \text{div}(a(x, t, u_n, Du_n)g'_k(b_n(x, u_n)))$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& + a(x, t, u_n, Du_n)g_k''(b_n(x, u_n))D_x \left(\frac{\partial b_n(x, u_n)}{\partial s} \right) Du_n \\
& - \operatorname{div}(g_k'(b_n(x, u_n))\phi_n(u_n)) + g_k''(b_n(x, u_n))D_x \left(\frac{\partial b_n(x, u_n)}{\partial s} \right) \phi_n(u_n)Du_n \\
& \hspace{20em} = f_n g_k'(b_n(x, u_n))
\end{aligned}$$

in the sense of distributions, which implies that

$$(5.22) \quad g_k(b_n(x, u_n)) \text{ is bounded in } L^p(0, T; W_0^{1, p}(\Omega, w)),$$

and

$$(5.23) \quad \frac{\partial g_k(b_n(x, u_n))}{\partial t} \text{ is bounded in } X^* + L^1(Q),$$

independently of n as soon as $k < n$. Due to Definition (3.7) and (5.7) of b_n , it is clear that

$$\{|b_n(x, u_n)| \leq k\} \subset \{|u_n| \leq k^*\}$$

as soon as $k < n$ and k^* is a constant independent of n . As a first consequence we have

$$(5.24)$$

$$Dg_k(b_n(x, u_n)) = g_k'(x, b_n(u_n))D_x \left(\frac{\partial b_n(x, T_{k^*}(u_n))}{\partial s} \right) DT_{k^*}(u_n) \text{ a.e. in } Q$$

as soon as $k < n$. Secondly, the following estimate holds true

$$\left\| g_k'(b_n(x, u_n))D_x \left(\frac{\partial b_n(x, T_{k^*}(u_n))}{\partial s} \right) \right\|_{L^\infty(Q)} \leq \|g_k'\|_{L^\infty(Q)} \left(\max_{|r| \leq k^*} \left(D_x \left(\frac{\partial b_n(x, s)}{\partial s} \right) \right) + 1 \right).$$

As a consequence of (5.19), (5.24) we then obtain (5.22). To show that (5.23) holds true, due to (5.21) we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
(5.25) \quad & \frac{\partial g_k(b_n(x, u_n))}{\partial t} = \operatorname{div}(a(x, t, u_n, Du_n)g_k'(b_n(x, u_n))) \\
& - a(x, t, u_n, Du_n)g_k''(b_n(x, u_n))D_x \left(\frac{\partial b_n(x, u_n)}{\partial s} \right) + \operatorname{div}(g_k'(b_n(x, u_n))\phi_n(u_n)) \\
& - g_k''(b_n(x, u_n))D_x \left(\frac{\partial b_n(x, u_n)}{\partial s} \right) \phi_n(u_n)Du_n + f_n g_k'(b_n(x, u_n)).
\end{aligned}$$

Since $\operatorname{supp}g_k'$ and $\operatorname{supp}g_k''$ are both included in $[-k, k]$, u_n may be replaced by $T_{k^*}(u_n)$ in each of these terms. As a consequence, each term on the right-hand side of (5.25) is bounded either in $L^p(0, T; W^{-1, p'}(\Omega, w^*))$ or in $L^1(Q)$. Hence, lemma 4.4 allows us to conclude that $g_k(b_n(x, u_n))$ is compact in $L_{loc}^p(Q, \sigma)$.

Thus, for a subsequence, it also converges in measure and almost everywhere in Q , due to the choice of g_k , we conclude that for each k , the sequence $T_k(b_n(x, u_n))$ converges almost everywhere in Q (since we have, for every $\lambda > 0$),

$$\begin{aligned} & meas(\{|b_n(x, u_n) - b_m(x, u_m)| > \lambda\} \cap B_R \times [0, T]) \\ \leq & meas(\{|b_n(x, u_n)| > k\} \cap B_R \times [0, T]) + meas(\{|b_m(x, u_m)| > k\} \cap B_R \times [0, T]) \\ & + meas(\{|g_k(b_n(x, u_n)) - g_k(b_m(x, u_m))| > \lambda\}). \end{aligned}$$

Let $\varepsilon > 0$, then, there exist $k(\varepsilon) > 0$ such that,

$$\begin{aligned} meas(\{|b_n(x, u_n) - b_m(x, u_m)| > \lambda\} \cap B_R \times [0, T]) &\leq \varepsilon \\ &\text{for all } n, m \geq n_0(k(\varepsilon), \lambda, R). \end{aligned}$$

This proves that $(b_n(x, u_n))$ is a Cauchy sequence in measure in $B_R \times [0, T]$, thus converges almost everywhere to some measurable function v . Then for a subsequence denoted again u_n ,

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

and

$$(5.27) \quad b_n(x, u_n) \rightarrow b(x, u) \text{ a.e. in } Q,$$

we can deduce from (5.19) that,

$$(5.28) \quad T_k(u_n) \rightharpoonup T_k(u) \text{ weakly in } L^p(0, T; W_0^{1, p}(\Omega, w))$$

and then, the compact imbedding (3.3) gives,

$$T_k(u_n) \rightarrow T_k(u) \text{ strongly in } L^q(Q, \sigma) \text{ and a.e. in } Q.$$

Which implies, by using (3.9), for all $k > 0$ that there exists a function $h_k \in \prod_{i=1}^N L^{p'}(Q, w_i^*)$, such that

$$(5.29) \quad a(x, t, T_k(u_n), DT_k(u_n)) \rightharpoonup h_k \text{ weakly in } \prod_{i=1}^N L^{p'}(Q, w_i^*).$$

We now establish that $b(x, u)$ belongs to $L^\infty(0, T; L^1(\Omega))$. Using (5.26) and passing to the limit-inf in (5.20) as n tends to $+\infty$, we obtain that

$$\frac{1}{k} \int_{\Omega} B_k(x, u)(\tau) dx \leq [\|f\|_{L^1(Q)} + \|u_0\|_{L^1(\Omega)}] \equiv C,$$

for almost any τ in $(0, T)$. Due to the definition of $B_k(x, s)$ and the fact that $\frac{1}{k} B_k(x, u)$ converges pointwise to $b(x, u)$, as k tends to $+\infty$, shows that $b(x, u)$ belong to $L^\infty(0, T; L^1(\Omega))$.

Step 3: This step is devoted to introduce for $k \geq 0$ fixed a time regularization of the function $T_k(u)$ and to establish the following limits:

$$(5.30) \quad a(x, t, T_k(u_n), DT_k(u_n)) \rightharpoonup a(x, t, T_k(u), DT_k(u)) \text{ weakly in } \prod_{i=1}^N L^{p'}(Q, w_i^*),$$

as n tends to $+\infty$. This proof is devoted to introduce for $k \geq 0$ fixed, a time regularization of the function $T_k(u)$ in order to perform the monotonicity method.

Firstly, we prove the following lemma:

LEMMA 5.6.

$$(5.31) \quad \lim_{m \rightarrow +\infty} \lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} \int_{\{m \leq |u_n| \leq m+1\}} a(x, t, u_n, Du_n) Du_n dx dt = 0,$$

for any integer $m \geq 1$,

Proof. Taking $T_1(u_n - T_m(u_n))$ as a test function in (5.13), we obtain

$$(5.32) \quad \left\langle \frac{\partial b_n(x, u_n)}{\partial t}, T_1(u_n - T_m(u_n)) \right\rangle + \int_{\{m \leq |u_n| \leq m+1\}} a(u_n, Du_n) Du_n dx dt \\ + \int_Q \operatorname{div} \left[\int_0^{u_n} \phi(r) T_1'(r - T_m(r)) \right] dx dt = \int_Q f_n T_1(u_n - T_m(u_n)).$$

Using the fact that $\int_0^{u_n} \phi(r) T_1'(r - T_m(r)) dx dt \in L^p(0, T; W_0^{1, p}(\Omega, w))$ and Stokes' formula, we get

$$(5.33) \quad \int_{\Omega} B_n^m(x, u_n)(T) dx + \int_{\{m \leq |u_n| \leq m+1\}} a(u_n, Du_n) Du_n dx dt \\ \leq \int_Q |f_n T_1(u_n - T_m(u_n))| dx dt + \int_{\Omega} B_n^m(x, u_{0n}) dx,$$

where $B_n^m(r) = \int_0^r \frac{\partial b_n(x, s)}{\partial s} T_1(s - T_m(s)) ds$. In order to pass to the limit as n tends to $+\infty$ in (5.33), we use $B_n^m(x, u_n)(T) \geq 0$ and (5.11), (5.12), we obtain that

$$(5.34) \quad \lim_{m \rightarrow +\infty} \int_{\{m \leq |u_n| \leq m+1\}} a(u_n, Du_n) Du_n dx dt \\ \leq \int_{\{|u(x)| > m\}} |f| dx dt + \int_{\{|u_0(x)| > m\}} |b(x, u_0(x))| dx.$$

Finally, by (3.14), (3.13) and (5.34) we get

$$(5.35) \quad \lim_{m \rightarrow +\infty} \lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} \int_{\{m \leq |u_n| \leq m+1\}} a(u_n, Du_n) Du_n dx dt = 0.$$

The very definition of the sequence $(T_k(u))_\mu$ for $\mu > 0$ (and fixed k) we establish the following lemma.

LEMMA 5.7. *Let $k \geq 0$ be fixed. Let $(T_k(u))_\mu$ the mollification of $T_k(u)$. Let S be an increasing $C^\infty(\mathbb{R})$ -function such that $S(r) = r$ for $|r| \leq k$ and supp S' is compact. Then,*

$$(5.36) \quad \lim_{\mu \rightarrow +\infty} \lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} \int_0^T \left\langle \frac{\partial b_n(x, u_n)}{\partial t}, S'(u_n)(T_k(u_n) - (T_k(u))_\mu) \right\rangle dx dt \geq 0,$$

where $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ denotes the duality pairing between $L^1(\Omega) + W^{-1,p'}(\Omega, w^*)$ and $L^\infty(\Omega) \cap W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, w)$.

Proof. See H. Redwane [29].

We prove the following lemma, which is the key point in the monotonicity arguments.

LEMMA 5.8. *The subsequence of u_n satisfies for any $k \geq 0$*

$$(5.37) \quad \limsup_{n \rightarrow +\infty} \int_0^T \int_0^t \int_\Omega a(T_k(u_n), DT_k(u_n)) DT_k(u_n) dx ds dt \leq \int_0^T \int_0^t \int_\Omega h_k DT_k(u) dx ds dt,$$

where h_k is defined in (5.29).

Proof. In the following we adapt the above-mentioned method to problem (5.1) and we first introduce a sequence of increasing $C^\infty(\mathbb{R})$ -functions S_m such that

$$\begin{aligned} S_m(r) &= r \quad \text{if } |r| \leq m, \\ \text{supp} S'_m &\subset [-(m+1), m+1], \\ \|S''_m\|_{L^\infty} &\leq 1, \quad \text{for any } m \geq 1. \end{aligned}$$

We use the sequence $T_k(u)_\mu$ of approximations of $T_k(u)$, and plug the test function $S'_m(u_n)(T_k(u_n) - (T_k(u))_\mu)$ (for $n > 0$ and $\mu > 0$) in (5.13). Through setting, for fixed $k \leq 0$,

$$W_\mu^n = T_k(u_n) - (T_k(u))_\mu,$$

we obtain upon integration over $(0, t)$ and then over $(0, T)$:

$$(5.38) \quad \begin{aligned} & \int_0^T \int_0^t \left\langle \frac{\partial b_n(x, u_n)}{\partial t}, S'_m(u_n) W_\mu^n \right\rangle dt ds + \int_0^T \int_0^t \int_\Omega S'_m(u_n) a_n(u_n, Du_n) DW_\mu^n dx ds dt \\ & + \int_0^T \int_0^t \int_\Omega S''_m(u_n) a_n(u_n, Du_n) Du_n W_\mu^n dx ds dt - \int_0^T \int_0^t \int_\Omega S'_m(u_n) \phi_n(u_n) DW_\mu^n dx ds dt \\ & - \int_0^T \int_0^t \int_\Omega S''_m(u_n) \phi_n(u_n) Du_n W_\mu^n dx ds dt = \int_0^T \int_0^t \int_\Omega f_n S'_m(u_n) W_\mu^n dx ds dt. \end{aligned}$$

In the following we pass the limit in (5.38) as n tends to $+\infty$, then μ tends to $+\infty$ and then m tends to $+\infty$, the real number $k \geq 0$ being kept fixed. In order to perform this task we prove below the following results for fixed $k \geq 0$:

$$(5.39) \quad \liminf_{\mu \rightarrow +\infty} \lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} \int_0^T \int_0^t \left\langle \frac{\partial B_m^n(x, u_n)}{\partial t}, W_\mu^n \right\rangle dt ds \geq 0, \quad \text{for any } m \geq k,$$

$$(5.40) \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} \lim_{\mu \rightarrow +\infty} \int_0^T \int_0^t \int_\Omega S'_m(u_n) \phi_n(u_n) DW_\mu^n dx ds dt = 0, \quad \text{for any } m \geq 1,$$

(5.41)

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} \lim_{\mu \rightarrow +\infty} \int_0^T \int_0^t \int_{\Omega} S_m''(u_n) \phi_n(u_n) Du_n W_{\mu}^n dx ds dt = 0, \text{ for any } m \geq 1,$$

(5.42)

$$\lim_{m \rightarrow +\infty} \limsup_{\mu \rightarrow +\infty} \limsup_{n \rightarrow +\infty} \left| \int_0^T \int_0^t \int_{\Omega} S_m''(u_n) a(u_n, Du_n) Du_n W_{\mu}^n dx ds dt \right| = 0, \quad m \geq 1$$

(5.43)

$$\lim_{\mu \rightarrow +\infty} \lim_{m \rightarrow +\infty} \int_0^T \int_0^t \int_{\Omega} f_n S_m'(u_n) W_{\mu}^n dx ds dt = 0.$$

Proof of (5.39). The function S_m belongs to $C^{\infty}(\mathbb{R})$ and is increasing. We have for $m \geq k$, $S_m(r) = r$ for $|r| \leq k$ while $\text{supp} S_m'$ is compact. In view of the definition of W_{μ}^n , lemma 5.7 applies with $S = S_m$ for fixed $m \geq k$. As a consequence (5.39) holds true.

Proof of (5.40). In order to avoid repetitions in the proofs of (5.43), let us summarize the properties of W_{μ}^n . For fixed $\mu > 0$

$$W_{\mu}^n \rightharpoonup T_k(u) - (T_k(u))_{\mu} \text{ weakly in } L^p(0, T; W_0^{1, p}(\Omega, w)), \text{ as } n \rightarrow +\infty$$

$$\|W_{\mu}^n\|_{L^{\infty}(Q)} \leq 2k, \text{ for any } n > 0 \text{ and for any } \mu > 0$$

we deduce that for fixed $\mu > 0$

$W_{\mu}^n \rightarrow T_k(u) - (T_k(u))_{\mu}$ a.e. in Q and in $L^{\infty}(Q)$ weak-*, as $n \rightarrow +\infty$ one has $\text{supp} S_m'' \subset [-(m+1), -m] \cup [m, m+1]$ for any fixed $m \geq 1$, we have

$$(5.44) \quad S_m'(u_n) \phi_n(u_n) DW_{\mu}^n = S_m'(u_n) \phi_n(T_{m+1}(u_n)) DW_{\mu}^n \text{ a.e. in } Q,$$

since $\text{supp} S_m' \subset [-m-1, m+1]$. Since S_m' is smooth and bounded, (3.12), (5.10), and $u_n \rightarrow u$ a.e. in Q lead to

(5.45)

$S_m'(u_n) \phi_n(T_{m+1}(u_n)) \rightarrow S_m'(u) \phi(T_{m+1}(u))$ a.e. in Q and in $L^{\infty}(Q)$ weak-*, as n tends to $+\infty$. As a consequence of (5.47) and (5.45), we deduce that

$$(5.46) \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} \int_0^T \int_0^t \int_{\Omega} S_m'(u_n) \phi_n(u_n) DW_{\mu}^n dx ds dt =$$

$$= \lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} \int_0^T \int_0^t \int_{\Omega} S_m'(u_n) \phi(T_{m+1}(u)) (DT_k(u) - D(T_k(u))_{\mu}) dx ds dt,$$

for any $\mu > 0$. Passing to the limit as $\mu \rightarrow +\infty$ in (5.46) we conclude that (5.40) holds true.

Proof of (5.41). For fixed $m \geq 1$, and by the same arguments that those that lead to (5.47), we have

(5.47)

$$S_m''(u_n) \phi_n(u_n) Du_n W_{\mu}^n = S_m''(u_n) \phi_n(T_{m+1}(u_n)) DT_{m+1}(u_n) W_{\mu}^n \text{ a.e. in } Q.$$

From (3.12), $u_n \rightarrow u$ a.e. in Q and (5.28), it follows that for any $\mu > 0$

$$\begin{aligned} & \lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} \int_0^T \int_0^t \int_{\Omega} S''_m(u_n) \phi_n(u_n) Du_n W_{\mu}^n dx ds dt \\ &= \int_0^T \int_0^t \int_{\Omega} S''_m(u_n) \phi(T_{m+1}(u)) (DT_k(u) - D(T_k(u))_{\mu}) dx ds dt, \end{aligned}$$

for any $\mu > 0$. Passing to the limit as $\mu \rightarrow +\infty$ in (5.46) we conclude that (5.41) holds true.

Proof of (5.42). One has $\text{supp} S''_m \subset [-(m + 1), -m] \cup [m, m + 1]$ for any $m \geq 1$. As a consequence

$$\begin{aligned} & \left| \int_0^T \int_0^t \int_{\Omega} S''_m(u_n) a(u_n, Du_n) Du_n W_{\mu}^n dx ds dt \right| \\ & \leq T \|S''_m(u_n)\|_{L^{\infty}} \|W_{\mu}^n\|_{L^{\infty}} \int_{\{m \leq |u_n| \leq m+1\}} a(u_n, Du_n) Du_n dx dt, \end{aligned}$$

for any $m \geq 1$, any $\mu > 0$ and any $n \geq 1$. It is possible to obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & \limsup_{\mu \rightarrow +\infty} \limsup_{n \rightarrow +\infty} \left| \int_0^T \int_0^t \int_{\Omega} S''_m(u_n) a(u_n, Du_n) Du_n W_{\mu}^n dx ds dt \right| \\ & \leq C \limsup_{n \rightarrow +\infty} \int_{\{m \leq |u_n| \leq m+1\}} a(u_n, Du_n) Du_n dx dt, \end{aligned}$$

for any $m \geq 1$, where C is a constant independent of m .

Appealing now to (5.31) it possible to pass the limit as m tends to $+\infty$ to establish (5.42).

Proof of (5.43). Lebesgue's convergence theorem implies that for any $\mu > 0$ and any $m \geq 1$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} \int_0^T \int_0^t \int_{\Omega} f_n S'_m(u_n) W_{\mu}^n dx ds dt = \int_0^T \int_0^t \int_{\Omega} f S'_m(u) (T_k(u) - (T_k(u))_{\mu}) dx ds dt$$

Now, for fixed $m \geq 1$, using lemma 4.1 and passing to the limit as $\mu \rightarrow +\infty$ in the above equality to obtain (5.43).

We now turn back to the proof of lemma 5.8. Due to (5.39)–(5.42) and (5.43), we are in a position to pass the limit-sup when n tends to $+\infty$, then to the limit-sup when μ tends $+\infty$ and then to the limit as m tends to $+\infty$ in (5.38). We obtain by using the definition of W_{μ}^n that for any $k \geq 0$

$$\lim_{m \rightarrow +\infty} \limsup_{\mu \rightarrow +\infty} \limsup_{n \rightarrow +\infty} \int_0^T \int_0^t \int_{\Omega} S'_m(u_n) a_n(u_n, Du_n) (DT_k(u_n) - D(T_k(u))_{\mu}) dx ds dt \leq 0.$$

Since $S'_m(u_n)a_n(u_n, Du_n)DT_k(u_n) = a(u_n, Du_n)DT_k(u_n)$ for $k \leq n$ and $k \leq m$, the above inequality implies that for $k \leq m$

$$(5.48) \quad \begin{aligned} & \limsup_{n \rightarrow +\infty} \int_0^T \int_0^t \int_{\Omega} a_n(u_n, Du_n)DT_k(u_n) dx ds dt \\ & \leq \lim_{m \rightarrow +\infty} \limsup_{\mu \rightarrow +\infty} \limsup_{n \rightarrow +\infty} \int_0^T \int_0^t \int_{\Omega} S'_m(u_n)a_n(u_n, Du_n)D(T_k(u))_{\mu} dx ds dt. \end{aligned}$$

The right-hand side of (5.48) is computed as follows. We have for $n \geq m + 1$:

$$S'_m(u_n)a_n(u_n, Du_n) = S'_m(u_n)a(T_{m+1}(u_n), DT_{m+1}(u_n)) \quad a.e. \text{ in } Q.$$

Due to the weak convergence of $a(DT_{m+1}(u_n))$ it follows that for fixed $m \geq 1$

$$S'_m(u_n)a_n(u_n, Du_n) \rightharpoonup S'_m(u_n)h_{m+1} \quad \text{weakly in } \prod_{i=1}^N L^{p'}(Q, w_i^*),$$

when n tends to $+\infty$. The strong convergence of $(T_k(u))_{\mu}$ to $T_k(u)$ in $L^p(0, T; W_0^{1, p}(\Omega, w))$ as μ tends to $+\infty$, then we conclude that

$$(5.49) \quad \begin{aligned} & \lim_{\mu \rightarrow +\infty} \lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} \int_0^T \int_0^t \int_{\Omega} S'_m(u_n)a_n(u_n, Du_n)D(T_k(u))_{\mu} dx ds dt \\ & = \int_0^T \int_0^t \int_{\Omega} S'_m(u_n)h_{m+1}DT_k(u) dx ds dt, \end{aligned}$$

as soon as $k \leq m$, $S'_m(r) = 1$ for $|r| \leq m$. Now for $k \leq m$ we have,

$$a(T_{m+1}(u_n), DT_{m+1}(u_n))\chi_{\{|u_n| < k\}} = a(T_k(u_n), DT_k(u_n))\chi_{\{|u_n| < k\}} \quad a.e. \text{ in } Q,$$

which implies that, passing to the limit as $n \rightarrow +\infty$,

$$(5.50) \quad h_{m+1}\chi_{\{|u_n| < k\}} = h_k\chi_{\{|u_n| < k\}} \quad a.e. \text{ in } Q - \{|u| = k\} \text{ for } k \leq m.$$

As a consequence of (5.50) we have for $k \leq m$,

$$(5.51) \quad h_{m+1}DT_k(u) = h_kDT_k(u) \quad a.e. \text{ in } Q.$$

Recalling (5.48), (5.49), (5.51) we conclude that (5.37) holds true and the proof of Lemma 5.8 is complete.

In this Lemma we prove the following monotonicity estimate:

LEMMA 5.9. *The subsequence of u_n satisfies for any $k \geq 0$*

$$(5.52) \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} \int_0^T \int_0^t \int_{\Omega} [a(T_k(u_n), DT_k(u_n)) - a(T_k(u_n), DT_k(u))] [DT_k(u_n) - DT_k(u)] dx ds dt = 0.$$

Proof. Let $k \geq 0$ be fixed. The character (3.10) of $a(x, t, s, d)$ with respect to d implies that

(5.53)

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} \int_0^T \int_0^t \int_{\Omega} [a(T_k(u_n), DT_k(u_n)) - a(T_k(u_n), DT_k(u))] [DT_k(u_n) - DT_k(u)] dx ds dt \geq 0.$$

To pass to the limit-sup as n tends to $+\infty$ in (5.53) imply that

$$a(T_k(u_n), DT_k(u)) \rightarrow a(T_k(u), DT_k(u)) \quad a.e. \text{ in } Q,$$

and that,

$$|a_i(T_k(u_n), DT_k(u))| \leq \beta w_i^{\frac{1}{p}}(x) \left(C_k(x, t) + \sum_{j=1}^N w_j^{\frac{1}{p'}}(x) \left| \frac{\partial T_k(u)}{\partial x_j} \right|^{p-1} \right) \quad a.e. \text{ in } Q,$$

uniformly with respect to n . It follows that when n tends to $+\infty$

$$(5.54) \quad a(T_k(u_n), DT_k(u)) \rightarrow a(T_k(u), DT_k(u)) \quad \text{strongly in } \prod_{i=1}^N L^{p'}(Q, w_i^*).$$

Lemma 5.8, weak convergence of $DT_k(u_n)$, $a(T_k(u_n), DT_k(u_n))$ and (5.54) make it possible to pass to the limit-sup as $n \rightarrow +\infty$ in (5.53) and to obtain the result .

In this lemma we identify the weak limit h_k and we prove the weak- L^1 convergence of the “truncated” energy $a(T(u_n), DT_k(u_n))DT(u_n)$ as n tends to $+\infty$.

LEMMA 5.10. *For fixed $k \geq 0$, we have*

$$(5.55) \quad h_k = a(T(u), DT_k(u)) \quad a.e. \text{ in } Q,$$

(5.56)

$$a(T(u_n), DT_k(u_n))DT(u_n) \rightharpoonup a(T(u), DT_k(u))DT_k(u) \quad \text{weakly in } L^1(Q).$$

Proof. The proof is standard once we remark that for any $k \geq 0$, any $n > k$ and any $d \in \mathbb{R}^N$

$$a_n(T_k(u_n), d) = a(T_k(u_n), d) \quad a.e. \text{ in } Q$$

which together with weak convergence of $(T_k(u_n))$ and $a(DT_k(u_n))$ and (5.54) we obtain from (5.52)

(5.57)

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} \int_0^T \int_0^t \int_{\Omega} a(T_k(u_n), DT_k(u_n))DT_k(u_n) dx ds dt = \int_0^T \int_0^t \int_{\Omega} h_k DT_k(u) dx ds dt.$$

The usual Minty’s argument applies in view of weak convergence of $(T_k(u_n))$ and $a(DT_k(u_n))$ and (5.57). It follows that (5.55) hold true.

In order to prove (5.56), we observe that monotone character of a and (5.52) give that for any $k \geq 0$ and any $T' < T$

$$(5.58) \quad [a(T_k(u_n), DT_k(u_n)) - a(T_k(u), DT_k(u))][DT_k(u_n) - DT_k(u)] \rightarrow 0$$

strongly in $L^1((0, T') \times \Omega)$ as $n \rightarrow +\infty$.

Moreover, weak convergence of $(T_k(u_n))$ and $a(DT_k(u_n))$, (5.58), (5.54) and (5.55) imply that

$$a(T_k(u_n), DT_k(u_n))DT_k(u) \rightharpoonup a(T_k(u), DT_k(u))DT_k(u) \text{ weakly in } L^1(Q),$$

and

$$a(T_k(u_n), DT_k(u))DT_k(u) \rightarrow a(T_k(u_n), DT_k(u))DT_k(u) \text{ strongly in } L^1(Q)$$

as $n \rightarrow +\infty$.

Using the above convergence results in (5.58) shows that for any $k \geq 0$ and any $T' < T$

$$(5.59)$$

$$a(T_k(u_n), DT_k(u_n))DT_k(u_n) \rightharpoonup a(T_k(u), DT_k(u))DT_k(u) \text{ weakly in } L^1((0, T') \times \Omega),$$

as $n \rightarrow +\infty$.

At the possible expense of extending the functions $a(x, t, s, d)$, f on a time interval $(0, \bar{T})$ with $\bar{T} > T$ in such a way that assumptions with a and f hold true with \bar{T} in place of T , we can show that the convergence result (5.59) is still valid in $L^1(Q)$ -weak, namely that (5.56) holds true.

Step 4: In this step we prove that u satisfies (5.3).

LEMMA 5.11. *The limit u of the approximate solution u_n of (5.13) satisfies*

$$\lim_{m \rightarrow +\infty} \int_{\{m \leq |u| \leq m+1\}} a(u, Du) Du \, dx dt = 0.$$

Proof. To this end, observe that for any fixed $m \geq 0$ one has

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{\{m \leq |u_n| \leq m+1\}} a(u_n, Du_n) Du_n \, dx dt = \int_Q a(u_n, Du_n) (DT_{m+1}(u_n) - DT_m(u_n)) \, dx dt \\ & = \int_Q a(T_{m+1}(u_n), DT_{m+1}(u_n)) DT_{m+1}(u_n) \, dx dt - \int_Q a(T_m(u_n), DT_m(u_n)) DT_m(u_n) \, dx dt. \end{aligned}$$

According to (5.56), one is at liberty to pass to the limit as $n \rightarrow +\infty$ for

fixed $m \geq 0$ and to obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
 (5.60) \quad & \lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} \int_{\{m \leq |u_n| \leq m+1\}} a(u_n, Du_n) Du_n dx dt \\
 &= \int_Q a(T_{m+1}(u), DT_{m+1}(u)) DT_{m+1}(u) dx dt - \int_Q a(T_m(u), DT_m(u)) DT_m(u) dx dt \\
 &= \int_{\{m \leq |u_n| \leq m+1\}} a(u, Du) Du dx dt.
 \end{aligned}$$

Taking the limit as $m \rightarrow +\infty$ in (5.60) and using the estimate (5.31) show that u satisfies (5.3) and the proof of Lemma is complete.

Step 5: In this step, u is shown to satisfy (5.4) and (5.5). Let S be a function in $W^{1,\infty}(\mathbb{R})$ such that S has a compact support. Let M be a positive real number such that $\text{supp}(S') \subset [-M, M]$. Pointwise multiplication of the approximate equation (5.13) by $S'(u_n)$ leads to

$$\begin{aligned}
 (5.61) \quad & \frac{\partial B_S^n(x, u_n)}{\partial t} - \text{div}[S'(u_n)a(u_n, Du_n)] + S''(u_n)a(u_n, Du_n)Du_n \\
 &+ \text{div}(S'(u_n)\phi_n(u_n)) - S''(u_n)\phi_n(u_n)Du_n = fS'(u_n) \quad \text{in } D'(Q).
 \end{aligned}$$

It follows we pass to the limit as in (5.61) n tends to $+\infty$.

- Limit of $\frac{\partial B_S^n(x, u_n)}{\partial t}$. Since S is bounded and continuous, $u_n \rightarrow u$ a.e. in Q implies that $B_S^n(x, u_n)$ converges to $B_S(x, u)$ it a.e. in Q and L^∞ weak-*. Then $\frac{\partial B_S^n(x, u_n)}{\partial t}$ converges to $\frac{\partial B_S(x, u)}{\partial t}$ in $D'(Q)$ as n tends to $+\infty$.

- Limit of $-\text{div}[S'(u_n)a_n(u_n, Du_n)]$. Since $\text{supp}(S') \subset [-M, M]$, we have for $n \geq M$

$$S'(u_n)a_n(u_n, Du_n) = S'(u_n)a(T_M(u_n), DT_M(u_n)) \quad \text{a.e. in } Q.$$

The pointwise convergence of u_n to u and (5.55) as n tends to $+\infty$ and the bounded character of S' permit us to conclude that

$$(5.62) \quad S'(u_n)a_n(u_n, Du_n) \rightharpoonup S'(u)a(T_M(u), DT_M(u)) \quad \text{in } \prod_{i=1}^N L^{p'}(Q, w_i^*),$$

as n tends to $+\infty$. $S'(u)a(T_M(u), DT_M(u))$ has been denoted by $S'(u)a(u, Du)$ in equation (5.4).

- Limit of $S''(u_n)a(u_n, Du_n)Du_n$. As far as the 'energy' term

$$S''(u_n)a(u_n, Du_n)Du_n = S''(u_n)a(T_M(u_n), DT_M(u_n))DT_M(u_n) \quad \text{a.e. in } Q.$$

The pointwise convergence of $S'(u_n)$ to $S'(u)$ and (5.56) as n tends to $+\infty$ and the bounded character of S'' permit us to conclude that

$$(5.63) \quad S''(u_n)a_n(u_n, Du_n)Du_n \rightharpoonup S''(u)a(T_M(u), DT_M(u))DT_M(u) \text{ weakly in } L^1(Q).$$

Recall that

$$S''(u)a(T_M(u), DT_M(u))DT_M(u) = S''(u)a(u, Du)Du \text{ a.e. in } Q.$$

- Limit of $S'(u_n)\phi_n(u_n)$. Since $\text{supp}(S') \subset [-M, M]$, we have

$$S'(u_n)\phi_n(u_n) = S'(u)\phi_n(T_M(u)) \text{ a.e. in } Q.$$

As a consequence of (5.10) and $u_n \rightarrow u$ a.e. in Q , it follows that

$$S'(u_n)\phi_n(u_n) \rightarrow S'(u)\phi(T_M(u)) \text{ strongly in } \prod_{i=1}^N L^{p'}(Q, w_i^*),$$

as n tends to $+\infty$. The term $S'(u)\phi(T_M(u))$ is denoted by $S'(u)\phi(u)$.

- Limit of $S''(u_n)\phi_n(u_n)Du_n$. Since $S' \in W^{1,\infty}(\mathbb{R})$ with $\text{supp}(S') \subset [-M, M]$, we have

$$S''(u_n)\phi_n(u_n)Du_n = \phi_n(T_M(u_n))DS'(u_n) \text{ a.e. in } Q.$$

Moreover, $DS'(u_n)$ converges to $DS'(u)$ weakly in $L^p(Q, w)$ as n tends to $+\infty$, while $\phi_n(T_M(u_n))$ is uniformly bounded with respect to n and converges a.e. in Q to $\phi(T_M(u))$ as n tends to $+\infty$. Therefore

$$S''(u_n)\phi_n(u_n)Du_n \rightharpoonup \phi(T_M(u))DS'(u) \text{ weakly in } L^p(Q, w).$$

The term $\phi(T_M(u))DS'(u) = S''(u_n)\phi(u)Du$.

- Limit of $S'(u_n)f_n$. Due to (5.11) and $u_n \rightarrow u$ a.e. in Q , we have

$$S'(u_n)f_n \rightarrow S'(u)f \text{ strongly in } L^1(Q) \text{ as } n \rightarrow +\infty.$$

As a consequence of the above convergence result, we are in a position to pass to the limit as n tends to $+\infty$ in equation (5.61) and to conclude that u satisfies (5.4).

It remains to show that $B_S(x, u)$ satisfies the initial condition (5.5). To this end, firstly remark that, S being bounded, $B_S^n(x, u_n)$ is bounded in $L^\infty(Q)$. Secondly, (5.61) and the above considerations on the behavior of the terms of this equation show that $\frac{\partial B_S^n(x, u_n)}{\partial t}$ is bounded in $L^1(Q) + L^{p'}(0, T; W^{-1, p'}(\Omega, w^*))$. As a consequence, an Aubin's type lemma (see, e.g. [30]) implies that $B_S^n(x, u_n)$ lies in a compact set of $C^0([0, T], L^1(\Omega))$. It follows that on the one hand, $B_S^n(x, u_n)(t=0) = B_S^n(x, u_0^n)$ converges to $B_S(x, u)(t=0)$ strongly in $L^1(\Omega)$. On the other hand, the smoothness of S implies that

$$B_S(x, u)(t=0) = B_S(x, u_0) \text{ in } \Omega.$$

As a conclusion of step 1 to step 5, the proof of theorem 5.3 is complete. \square

Remark 5.12. We obtain the same result if the data is the forme $f - \text{div}(F)$, whitth $f \in L^1(\Omega)$ and $F \in \prod_{i=1}^N L^{p'}(\Omega, w_i^{1-p'})$.

Remark 5.13. Under the assumption of theorem 5.3, if we suppose that the seconde member are nonnegative, then we obtain a nonnegative solution. Indeed, if we take $T_k(u - T_h(u^+))\chi_{(0,\tau)}$ a test function in (5.1), we have

$$(5.64) \quad \int_{\Omega} B_k^h(x, u(\tau))dx + \int_0^{\tau} \int_{\Omega} a(x, t, u, Du)DT_k(u - T_h(u^+))dxdt + \int_{Q_{\tau}} \phi(u)DT_k(u - T_h(u^+))dxdt = \int_{Q_{\tau}} fT_k(u - T_h(u^+))dxdt + \int_{\Omega} B_k^h(x, u_0)dx,$$

where $B_k^h(x, r) = \int_0^r T_k(s - T_h(s^+))\frac{\partial b(x,s)}{\partial s}ds$. The Lipschitz character of ϕ and stokes' formula together with the boundary condition 2 of problem (5.1) give

$$(5.65) \quad \int_0^{\tau} \int_{\Omega} \phi(u)DT_k(u - T_h(u^+))dxdt = 0.$$

Using (5.65), and $B_k^h(x, u) \geq 0$, it follows that

$$(5.66) \quad \int_Q a(x, t, u, Du)DT_k(u - T_h(u^+))dxdt \leq \int_Q fT_k(u - T_h(u^+))dxdt + \int_{\Omega} B_k^h(x, u_0)dx,$$

we remark also, by using $f \geq 0$

$$\int_Q fT_k(u - T_h(u^+))dxdt \leq \int_{\{u \geq h\}} fT_k(u - T_h(u))dxdt.$$

On the other hand, thanks to (3.11), we conclude

$$(5.67) \quad \alpha \int_Q \sum_{i=1}^N w_i(x) \left| \frac{\partial T_k(u^-)}{\partial x_i} \right|^p dxdt \leq \int_{\{u \geq h\}} fT_k(u - T_h(u))dxdt + \int_{\Omega} B_k^h(x, u_0)dx.$$

Letting h tend to infinity, we can easily deduce

$$T_k(u^-) = 0, \quad \forall k > 0,$$

which implies that

$$u \geq 0.$$

6. EXAMPLE

Let us consider the following special case: $b(x, r) = Z(x)C(s)$ where $Z \in W^{1, p}(\Omega, w)$, $Z(x) \geq \alpha > 0$ and $C \in C^1(\mathbb{R})$ such that $\forall k > 0 : 0 < \lambda_k \equiv \inf_{|s| \leq k} C'(s)$ and $C(0) = 0$.

$$(6.1) \quad 0 < \lambda_k \leq \frac{\partial b(x, s)}{\partial s} \leq A_k(x) \quad \text{and} \quad \left| \nabla_x \left(\frac{\partial b(x, s)}{\partial s} \right) \right| \leq B_k(x)$$

$$\phi : r \in \mathbb{R} \rightarrow (\phi_i)_{i=1, \dots, N} \in \mathbb{R}^N,$$

where

$$\phi_i(r) = \exp(\alpha_i r) \quad i = 1, \dots, N, \quad \alpha_i \in \mathbb{R}$$

ϕ is a continuous function.

And

$$a_i(x, t, s, d) = w_i(x) |d_i|^{p-1} \operatorname{sgn}(d_i), \quad i = 1, \dots, N,$$

with $w_i(x)$ a weight function ($i = 1, \dots, N$).

For simplicity, we suppose that

$$w_i(x) = w(x) \quad \text{for } i = 1, \dots, N-1, \quad w_N(x) \equiv 0.$$

It is easy to show that the $a_i(x, t, s, d)$ are Carathéodory functions satisfying the growth condition (3.9) and the coercivity (3.11). On the other hand the monotonicity condition is verified. In fact,

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{i=1}^N (a_i(x, t, s, d) - a_i(x, t, s, d')) (d_i - d'_i) \\ &= w(x) \sum_{i=1}^{N-1} \left(|d_i|^{p-1} \operatorname{sgn}(d_i) - |d'_i|^{p-1} \operatorname{sgn}(d'_i) \right) (d_i - d'_i) \geq 0, \end{aligned}$$

for almost all $x \in \Omega$ and for all $d, d' \in \mathbb{R}^N$. This last inequality can not be strict, since for $d \neq d'$ with $d_N \neq d'_N$ and $d_i = d'_i$, $i = 1, \dots, N-1$, the corresponding expression is zero.

In particular, let us use special weight function, w , expressed in terms of the distance to the bounded $\partial\Omega$. Denote $d(x) = \operatorname{dist}(x, \partial\Omega)$ and set $w(x) = d^\lambda(x)$, such that

$$(6.2) \quad \lambda < \min \left(\frac{p}{N}, p-1 \right).$$

Remark 6.1. The condition (6.2) is sufficient to show the integrability condition (3.4). Finally, the hypotheses of Theorem 5.3 are satisfied. Therefore, for all $f \in L^1(Q)$, the following problem:

$$(6.3) \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} b(x, u) \in L^\infty([0, T]; L^1(\Omega)); \\ T_k(u) \in L^p(0, T; W_0^{1, p}(\Omega, w)), \\ \lim_{m \rightarrow +\infty} \int_{\{|m| \leq |u| \leq m+1\}} \sum_{i=1}^N w_i \left| \frac{\partial u}{\partial x_i} \right|^{p-1} \frac{\partial u}{\partial x_i} \operatorname{sgn} \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial x_i} \right) dx dt = 0; \\ B_S(x, r) = \int_0^r \frac{\partial b(x, \sigma)}{\partial \sigma} S'(\sigma) d\sigma, \\ - \int_Q B_S(x, u) \frac{\partial \varphi}{\partial t} dx dt + \int_Q S(u) \sum_{i=1}^N w_i \left| \frac{\partial u}{\partial x_i} \right|^{p-1} \operatorname{sgn} \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial x_i} \right) \frac{\partial \varphi}{\partial x_i} dx dt \\ + \int_Q S'(u) \sum_{i=1}^N w_i \left| \frac{\partial u}{\partial x_i} \right|^{p-1} \operatorname{sgn} \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial x_i} \right) \frac{\partial u}{\partial x_i} \varphi dx dt \\ + \int_Q \sum_{i=1}^N S(u) \exp(\alpha_i u) \frac{\partial \varphi}{\partial x_i} dx dt - \int_Q \sum_{i=1}^N S'(u) \exp(\alpha_i u) \frac{\partial u}{\partial x_i} \varphi dx dt \\ = \int_Q f S'(u) \varphi dx dt, \\ B_S(u)(t=0) = B_S(u_0) \text{ in } \Omega, \\ \forall \varphi \in C_0^\infty(Q) \text{ and } S \in W^{1, \infty}(\mathbb{R}) \text{ with } S' \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}), \end{array} \right.$$

has at least one renormalised solution.

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