

OPTIMAL CONTROL PROBLEMS GOVERNED BY AN ELLIPTIC DIFFERENTIAL EQUATION WITH CRITICAL EXPONENT

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Abstract: This work is concerned with analysis and optimal control of a semilinear elliptic partial differential equation involving critical exponent. Some necessary conditions for optimality are given.

Key words and phrases: Minimal positive solution, state constraint, finite codimensionality, Penalty functional.

1 INTRODUCTION

We discuss the optimal control problem for which the state is governed by a semilinear elliptic partial differential equation with a distributed control.

The system reads

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta y = y^p + u, & \text{in } \Omega \\ y|_{\partial\Omega} = 0. \end{cases} \quad (1.1)$$

Where $\Omega \subset R^N$ (with $N \geq 3$) is a bounded region with $\partial\Omega$ smooth. $p = \frac{N+2}{N-2}$ is the critical sobolev exponent.

The cost functional is given by

$$L(y, u) = G(y) + H(u) \quad (1.2)$$

We assume that

(H_L) G and $H: L^2(\Omega) \longrightarrow \bar{R} = (-\infty, +\infty]$ are proper, convex and lower semicontinuous.

In section 2 , we will see that there is a minimal positive solution $y(x; u) \in H_0^1(\Omega)$ for each $u \in B_r^+(0) \subset L^\infty(\Omega) \subset L^2(\Omega)$, where $B_r^+(0)$ is given by

$$B_r^+(0) = \{u \in L^\infty(\Omega) \mid \|u\|_\infty \leq r \text{ and } u(x) \geq 0, \text{ a.e. } x \in \Omega\} \quad (1.3)$$

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and $r > 0$ is a constant given in §2.

Note that here we define $y(x; 0) \equiv 0$. Thus we may consider $u \in B_r^+(0)$ as the control and $y(x; u)$, the minimal positive solution of (1.1) corresponding to the state.

We assume

(H_F) Let Y be a Banach space with strict convex dual Y^* , $F : H_0^1(\Omega) \rightarrow Y$ be continuously Frechet differentiable and $Q \subset Y$ be a closed and convex subset. Set

$$A = \{(y(x; u), u) \in L^2(\Omega) \times L^2(\Omega) \mid u \in B_r^+(0), y(x; u) \text{ is the} \\ \text{minimal positive solution of (1.1)} \\ \text{corresponding to } u \text{ and } y(x; 0) \equiv 0\}$$

A pair $(y, u) \in A$ is called a feasible pair.

$$A_{ad} = \{(y(x; u), u) \in A \mid F(y(x; u)) \subset Q\}$$

A pair $(y, u) \in A_{ad}$ is called an admissible pair.

Note that $F(y) \subset Q$ is a kind of state constraint which was given by X.Li and J.Yong(cf.[3]). For its applications, we refer readers to [2] and [3].

We formulate the optimal control problem as follows

$$(P) \quad \inf L(y, u) \quad \text{over all } (y, u) \in A_{ad}$$

We shall study the necessary conditions for the problem (P) in this paper.

2 THE MINIMAL POSITIVE SOLUTION

We first quote a result of [5] as follows.

Theorem A: For any $u \in H^{-1}(\Omega)$ with $\|u\|_{H^{-1}} \leq C_N S^{\frac{N}{2}}$, problem (2.1) possesses at least one positive solution y with $y \not\equiv 0$ in Ω . Where $C_N = \frac{4}{N-2}(\frac{N-2}{N+2})^{\frac{N+2}{4}}$ and S is the best sobolev constant for the embedding $H_0^1(\Omega) \rightarrow L^p(\Omega)$.

From Theorem A and the methods of monotone iteration we can prove the existence of minimal positive solution for problem (2.1).

Theorem 2.1 *Under the assumption of Theorem A, Problem (2.1) possesses a unique minimal positive solution $y \in C^\alpha(\Omega)$ for some $\alpha \in (0, 1)$ if $u \in L^\infty(\Omega)$.*

In the following we discuss some properties of the minimal positive solution of (1.1).

Lemma 2.1 *Let $y(x; u)$ be the minimal positive solution of (1.1), then the corresponding eigenvalue problem*

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta \varphi = \lambda p[y(x; u)]^{p-1} \varphi, & \text{in } \Omega \\ \varphi \in H_0^1(\Omega) \end{cases} \quad (2.1)$$

has the first eigenvalue $\lambda_1(u) > 1$ for all $u \in B_R^+(0)$ and the corresponding eigenfunction $\varphi_1 > 0$ in Ω .

Where

$$B_R^+ = \left\{ u \in H_0^{-1}(\Omega) \mid \|u\|_{H_0^1(\Omega)} \leq R, u \geq 0 \text{ in } \Omega \right\}$$

and $R < C_N S^{\frac{N}{2}}$.

Proof: By the standard argument we can prove that the minimum

$$\lambda_1 = \inf \left\{ \int_{\Omega} |\nabla v|^2 dx \mid v \in H_0^1(\Omega), \int_{\Omega} p y^{p-1}(x; u) v^2 dx = 1 \right\} \quad (2.2)$$

can be achieved by some function $\varphi_1 > 0$. Thus eigenvalue problem (2.2) has a solution (λ_1, φ_1) . Now we prove that $\lambda_1 > 1$.

Indeed, for any $u \in B_R^+(0)$, we can find a function $w \in H_0^{-1}(\Omega)$ with $\|w\|_{H_0^{-1}} \leq C_N S^{\frac{N}{2}}$, $w \geq u$, $w \not\equiv u$ a.e. in Ω such that problem (2.1) (corresponding to w) possesses a minimal positive solution $y(x; w)$. Let $y(x; u)$ be the solution of (2.1), we have

$$\lambda_1 \int_{\Omega} p y^{p-1}(x; u) \varphi_1 [y(x; w) - y(x; u)] dx \int_{\Omega} p y^{p-1}(x; u) \varphi_1 (y(x; w) - y(x; u)) dx \quad (2.3)$$

Which gives $\lambda_1 > 1$ for all $u \in B_R^+(0)$. This completes the proof.

Theorem 2.2 Assume $u \in B_R^+(0)$ and $y(x; u)$ be a minimal positive solution of (1.1) corresponding to u . Then for any $g(x) \in H_0^{-1}(\Omega)$, The problem

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta \omega = p y^{p-1}(x; u) \omega + g(x) \\ \omega \in H_0^1(\Omega) \end{cases} \quad (2.4)$$

has a unique solution ω satisfying

$$\|\omega\|_{H_0^1(\Omega)} \leq C \|g\|_{H_0^{-1}(\Omega)} \quad (2.5)$$

for some constant $C > 0$.

Proof: By a standard argument and Lemma 2.1, one can get the existence of the solution of the equation (2.4).

Now we are on the position to prove (2.5).

Let ω be the solution of (2.5). Multiplying (2.5) by ω and integrating by parts we have

$$\int_{\Omega} |\nabla \omega|^2 dx = \int_{\Omega} p y^{p-1}(x; u) \omega^2 dx + \int_{\Omega} g \omega dx.$$

Now Lemma 2.1 implies

$$\begin{aligned}
(1 - \frac{1}{\lambda_1}) \|\omega\|_{H_0^1(\Omega)}^2 &\leq C \|g\|_{H_0^{-1}(\Omega)} \|\omega\|_{H_0^1(\Omega)} \\
&\leq \epsilon \|\omega\|_{H_0^1(\Omega)}^2 + C_\epsilon \|g\|_{H_0^{-1}(\Omega)}^2.
\end{aligned}$$

From Lemma 2.1 we can choose ϵ small enough so that $(1 - \frac{1}{\lambda_1} - \epsilon) \geq \lambda_2 > 0$ for some constant $\lambda_2 > 0$.

Thus

$$\|\omega\|_{H_0^1(\Omega)} \leq \frac{C_\epsilon}{\lambda_2} \|g\|_{H_0^{-1}(\Omega)}$$

This gives (2.5) by taking $C = \frac{C_\epsilon}{\lambda_2}$.

The uniqueness of the solution for (2.4) comes from (2.5).

Corollary 2.1 *Let $u \in B_R^+(0)$ and $y(x; u)$ be the minimal solution of (1.1). Then $y(x, u)$ is continuous in $H_0^{-1}(\Omega)$ with respect to control function u .*

Proof: Define

$$\begin{aligned}
F : H_0^{-1}(\Omega) \times H_0^1(\Omega) &\rightarrow H_0^{-1}(\Omega) \quad \text{by} \\
F(u, y) &= \Delta y + y^p + u, \quad \text{for } (u, y) \in H_0^{-1}(\Omega) \times H_0^1(\Omega)
\end{aligned} \tag{2.6}$$

From Lemma 2.1 and Theorem 2.2, we know that

$$F_y(u, y)\omega = \Delta\omega + py^{p-1} + py^{p-1}(x; u)\omega$$

is an isomorphism of $H_0^1(\Omega)$ onto $H_0^{-1}(\Omega)$.

It follows from Implicit Function Theorem that the solution of $F(u, y) = 0$ near $(u, y(x; u))$ is given by a continuous curve.

Theorem 2.3 *Let $u, v \in B_R^+(0)$ and $y(x, u), y(x, v)$ be the minimal positive solution of (1.1) corresponding to u, v respectively. If $u \rightarrow v$ in $H_0^{-1}(\Omega)$ and $u - v$ doesn't change the sign. Then*

$$\|y(x; u) - y(x; v)\|_{H_0^1(\Omega)} \leq C \|u - v\|_{H_0^{-1}(\Omega)},$$

for $\|u - v\|_{H_0^{-1}(\Omega)}$ small enough.

Where C is a constant independent of u .

Proof: Without loss of generality, we may assume that $u \geq v$, a.e. in Ω . By Remark 2.1 and (1.1) we have

$$\begin{aligned}
&\int_{\Omega} |\nabla(y(x; u) - y(x; v))|^2 dx \\
&\leq p \int_{\Omega} y^{p-1}(x; u) (y(x; u) - y(x; v))^2 dx + \int_{\Omega} (u - v) (y(x; u) - y(x; v)) dx
\end{aligned}$$

By lemma 2.1, Holder's inequality and Young's inequality, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
&(1 - \frac{1}{\lambda_1(u)}) \int_{\Omega} |\nabla(y(x; u) - y(x; v))|^2 dx \\
&\leq \epsilon \|y(x; u) - y(x; v)\|_{H_0^1(\Omega)}^2 + C_\epsilon \|u - v\|_{H_0^{-1}(\Omega)}^2
\end{aligned}$$

for any $\epsilon > 0$. Where C_ϵ is a positive constant depending on ϵ .

Note that $\lambda_1(u)$ is the first eigenvalue for the problem (2.2) corresponding to $y(x; u)$. By corollary 2.1, as $u \rightarrow v$ in $H_0^{-1}(\Omega)$, $y(x; u) \rightarrow y(x; v)$ in $H_0^1(\Omega)$. Then by (2.3), $\lambda_1(u) \rightarrow \lambda_1(v)$.

Thus, as $\|u - v\|_{H_0^{-1}(\Omega)}$ small enough, we have

$$(1 - \frac{1}{\lambda_1(v)} - \epsilon_1 - \epsilon) \|y(x; u) - y(x; v)\|_{H_0^1(\Omega)} \leq C_\epsilon \|u - v\|_{H_0^{-1}(\Omega)}$$

for some $\epsilon_1 > 0$ with $1 - \frac{1}{\lambda_1(v)} - \epsilon_1 > 0$.

This completes the proof.

3 FINITE CODIMENSIONALITY

In this section, we will give some results relative to finite codimensionality of a set. For the detail, we refer readers to [3] and [6].

Lemma 3.1 *Let Q_1 and Q_2 be subsets of some Banach space X . Let Q_1 be finite codimensional in X . Then for any $\alpha \in R \setminus \{0\}$, $\beta \in R$,*

$$\alpha Q_1 - \beta Q_2 \equiv \{\alpha x_1 - \beta x_2 | x_1 \in Q_1, x_2 \in Q_2\}$$

is finite codimensional in X .

Lemma 3.2 *Let Q be finite codimensional in X . Let $\{f_n\}_{n \geq 1} \subset X^*$ with $|f_n| \geq \delta > 0$, $f_n \rightarrow f \in X^*$ in the weak-star topology, and*

$$\langle f_n, x \rangle \geq -\epsilon_n, \quad \forall x \in Q, \quad n \geq 1$$

when $\epsilon_n \rightarrow 0$. Then $f \neq 0$.

4 NECESSARY CONDITION FOR OPTIMALITY

In this section, we discuss the necessary conditions for (y^*, u^*) to be an optimal pair for (P) .

Our basic assumptions are given by (H_L) and (H_F) in §1.

Let (y^*, u^*) be optimal for the problem (P) .

Consider the variational systems of (1.1) as follows:

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta z = p y^{*(p-1)} z + (v - u^*)^+, & x \in \Omega \\ z|_{\partial\Omega} = 0 \end{cases} \quad (4.1)$$

and

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta z = p y^{*(p-1)} z + (v - u^*)^-, & x \in \Omega \\ z|_{\partial\Omega} = 0 \end{cases} \quad (4.2)$$

By Theorem 2.2, for each $v \in B_r^+(0)$, both (4.1) and (4.2) have a unique solution $z(\cdot; v^+)$ and $z(\cdot; v^-)$ in $H_0^1(\Omega)$.

Thus we may define

$$R^+ = \{z(\cdot; v^+) | v \in B_r^+(0), z(\cdot; v^+) \text{ is the solution of (4.1) corresponding to } v\}$$

$$R^- = \{z(\cdot; v^-) | v \in B_r^+(0), z(\cdot; v^-) \text{ is the solution of (4.2) corresponding to } v\}$$

Our another basic assumption which plays a key role in dealing with the state constraint is as follows:

(H_R) Both $F'(y^*)R^+ - Q$ and $F'(y^*)R^- - Q$ have finite codimensionality.

The following results is important for us to introduce our penalty functionals in the proof of our main Theorem 4.1.

Lemma 4.1 *Let H be a Hilbert space, $f : H \rightarrow \bar{R}$ be proper convex and lower semicontinuous. Suppose that ∂f (the subdifferential of f) is locally bounded at y^* . Then there exists a neighborhood $O(y^*)$ of y^* such that $f_\lambda(y) \rightarrow f(y)$ uniformly in $O(y^*)$, where f_λ is the regularization of f (cf. [4], [7]).*

Proof: It is trivial from [4] and [7].

Our main results on the necessary condition for (y^*, u^*) to be an optimal pair are as follows:

Theorem 4.1 *Let (y^*, u^*) be an optimal pair for P) and $(H_L), (H_F)$ and (H_R) hold. Assume that ∂G and ∂H , the subdifferentials of G and H are locally bounded at y^* and u^* (in $L^2(\Omega)$) respectively. Then there exists a triplet*

$$(\lambda, \psi, q) \in [-1, 0] \times H_0^1(\Omega) \times Y^*, \quad \text{such that } (\lambda, q) \neq 0,$$

$$\langle q, \eta - F(y^*) \rangle \leq 0, \quad \forall \eta \in Q. \quad (4.3)$$

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta \Psi = p y^{*(p-1)} \Psi + \lambda \alpha - [F'(y^*)]^* q & \text{in } \Omega \\ \Psi|_{\partial\Omega} = 0, \end{cases} \quad (4.4)$$

where $\alpha \in \partial G(y^*)$

and

$$\langle \Psi + \lambda \beta, v - u^* \rangle \leq 0 \quad \text{for any } v \in B_r^+(0) \quad (4.5)$$

Where $\beta \in \partial H(u^*)$.

In the case $N[F'(y^*)]^* = 0$ (i.e. $[F'(y^*)]^*$ is injective), $(\lambda, \psi) \neq 0$.

Proof: Without lose of generality, assume that

$$L(y^*, u^*) = G(y^*) + H(u^*) = 0.$$

Since ∂G and ∂H are locally bounded at y^* and u^* respectively, by lemma 4.1, we obtain that there exist neighborhoods $O(y^*)$ and $O(u^*)$ of y^* and u^* in $L^2(\Omega)$ respectively, such that

$$\begin{aligned} G(y) + H(u) &\geq G_\lambda(y) + H_\lambda(u) \rightarrow G(y) + H(u) \\ \text{as } \lambda &\rightarrow 0 \quad \text{uniformly in } y \in O(y^*) \quad \text{and } u \in O(u^*). \end{aligned}$$

Thus for each $\epsilon > 0$, there exists a $\delta(\epsilon) > 0$ ($\delta(\epsilon) \rightarrow 0$ as $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$), such that

$$G(y) + H(u) + \epsilon \geq G_{\delta(\epsilon)}(y) + H_{\delta(\epsilon)}(u) + \epsilon > G(y) + H(u) \quad (4.6)$$

for all $(y, u) \in O(y^*) \times O(u^*)$.

Let $U = (B_r^+(0), d)$ with $d(u, v) = \|u - v\|$, where the norm is taken in $L^2(\Omega)$. Then U is a metric space. Note that $B_r^+(0) \subset L^\infty(\Omega) \subset L^2(\Omega)$ and one can check easily that $B_r^+(0)$ is closed in $L^2(\Omega)$. Thus U is a complete metric space.

Now we define $L_\epsilon : U \rightarrow R$ by

$$L_\epsilon(u) = \{d_Q^2(F(y(u))) + [G_{\delta(\epsilon)}(y(u)) + H_{\delta(\epsilon)}(u) + \epsilon]^2\}^{\frac{1}{2}}.$$

Where $d_Q(w) = \inf\|w - z\|, z \in Q$ and $y \equiv y(x; u)$ is the unique minimal positive solution of (1.1) corresponding to u .

By Ekeland's variational principle, there exists a $u^\epsilon \in U$ for each $\epsilon > 0$ such that

$$d(u^*, u^\epsilon) \leq \sqrt{\epsilon}, \quad \text{i.e. : } \|u^* - u^\epsilon\| \leq \sqrt{\epsilon} \quad (4.7)$$

and

$$L_\epsilon(u) - L_\epsilon(u^\epsilon) \geq -\sqrt{\epsilon}d(u, u^\epsilon), \quad \forall u \in U. \quad (4.8)$$

Let $v \in U$, we define

$$u_\rho^\epsilon = u^\epsilon + \rho(v - u^\epsilon)^+. \quad (4.9)$$

It's clear that $u_\rho^\epsilon \in U$ and

$$u_\rho^\epsilon - u^\epsilon = \rho(v - u^\epsilon)^+ \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{in } L^\infty(\Omega) \quad \text{as } \rho \rightarrow 0^+.$$

Let $y_\rho^\epsilon \equiv y_\rho^\epsilon(\cdot; u_\rho^\epsilon)$ be the minimal positive solution of (1.1) corresponding to u_ρ^ϵ and $z_\rho^\epsilon \equiv \frac{y_\rho^\epsilon - y^\epsilon}{\rho}$.

Consider

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta z^\epsilon = p(y^\epsilon)^{p-1} z^\epsilon + (v - u^\epsilon)^+, & x \in \Omega \\ z^\epsilon|_{\partial\Omega} = 0. \end{cases} \quad (4.10)$$

We have

$$-\Delta(z^\epsilon - z_\rho^\epsilon) - p(y^\epsilon)^{p-1}(z^\epsilon - z_\rho^\epsilon) = (p(y^\epsilon)^{p-1} - a_\rho^\epsilon)z_\rho^\epsilon, \quad (4.11)$$

where $a_\rho^\epsilon = \int_0^1 p[y^\epsilon + t(y_\rho^\epsilon - y^\epsilon)]^{p-1} dt$.

Multiplying (4.11) by $(z^\epsilon - z_\rho^\epsilon)$ and interating on Ω , we obtain (note that both y^ϵ and y_ρ^ϵ are positive)

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_\Omega |\nabla(z^\epsilon - z_\rho^\epsilon)|^2 dx - \int_\Omega p(y^\epsilon)^{p-1} \cdot (z^\epsilon - z_\rho^\epsilon)^2 dx \\ &= \int_\Omega [p(y^\epsilon)^{p-1} - a_\rho^\epsilon] z_\rho^\epsilon \cdot (z_\rho^\epsilon - z^\epsilon) dx \\ &\leq \frac{C_\epsilon}{2} [\int_\Omega |y_\rho^\epsilon - y^\epsilon|^{\frac{N(p-1)}{2}} dx]^{\frac{4}{N}} \cdot \|z_\rho^\epsilon\|_{H_0^1}^2 + \frac{\epsilon}{2} \|z^\epsilon - z_\rho^\epsilon\|_{H_0^1}^2 \end{aligned}$$

for any $\epsilon > 0$.

By Lemma 2.1,

$$(1 - \frac{1}{\lambda_1} - \epsilon) \|z^\epsilon - z_\rho^\epsilon\|_{H_0^1}^2 \leq \frac{C_\epsilon}{2} [\int_\Omega |y_\rho^\epsilon - y^\epsilon|^{\frac{N(p-1)}{2}} dx]^{\frac{4}{N}} \cdot \|z_\rho^\epsilon\|_{H_0^1}^2.$$

Taking ϵ small enough s.t. $1 - \frac{1}{\lambda_1} - \epsilon \leq r > 0$, we have

$$\|z^\epsilon - z_\rho^\epsilon\|_{H_0^1}^2 \leq \frac{1}{r} \cdot \frac{C}{2} [\int_\Omega |y_\rho^\epsilon - y^\epsilon|^{\frac{N(p-1)}{2}} dx]^{\frac{4}{N}} \cdot \|z_\rho^\epsilon\|_{H_0^1}^2 \quad (4.12)$$

Since $p = \frac{N+2}{N-2}$ and $y_\rho^\epsilon \rightarrow y^\epsilon$ in $H_0^1(\Omega)$, we have

$$\left[\int_\Omega |y_\rho^\epsilon - y^\epsilon|^{\frac{N(p-1)}{2}} dx \right]^{\frac{4}{N}} \leq C_1 \cdot \|y_\rho^\epsilon - y^\epsilon\|_{H_0^1}^{\frac{4}{N-2}}$$

On the other hand, by Theorem 2.3,

$$\|z_\rho^\epsilon\|_{H_0^1} = \left\| \frac{y_\rho^\epsilon - y^\epsilon}{\rho} \right\|_{H_0^1} \leq \frac{C_2 \cdot \rho \|(v - u^\epsilon)^+\|_{L^2(\Omega)}}{\rho} \leq C_3$$

Thus (4.12) gives us

$$\|z^\epsilon - z_\rho^\epsilon\|_{H_0^1} \leq C_4 \cdot \|y_\rho^\epsilon - y^\epsilon\|_{H_0^1}^{\frac{2}{N-2}} \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as } \rho \rightarrow 0.$$

Thus we obtain

$$y_\rho^\epsilon = y^\epsilon + \rho z^\epsilon + \rho o(1) \quad \text{in } H_0^1(\Omega) \quad (4.13)$$

Next we estimate $G_{\delta(\epsilon)}(y_\rho^\epsilon) - G_{\delta(\epsilon)}(y^\epsilon)$ and $H_{\delta(\epsilon)}(u_\rho^\epsilon) - H_{\delta(\epsilon)}(u^\epsilon)$.

Clearly, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{G_{\delta(\epsilon)}(y_\rho^\epsilon) - G_{\delta(\epsilon)}(y^\epsilon)}{\rho} &= \langle \dot{G}_{\delta(\epsilon)}(y^\epsilon), z_\rho^\epsilon \rangle + \frac{1}{\rho} o(\|y_\rho^\epsilon - y^\epsilon\|_{L^2}) \\ &= \langle \dot{G}_{\delta(\epsilon)}(y^\epsilon), z_\rho^\epsilon \rangle + o(1), \quad \text{as } \rho \rightarrow 0 \end{aligned} \quad (4.14)$$

and

$$\frac{H_{\delta(\epsilon)}(u_\rho^\epsilon) - H_{\delta(\epsilon)}(u^\epsilon)}{\rho} = \langle \dot{H}_{\delta(\epsilon)}(u^\epsilon), (v - u^\epsilon)^+ \rangle + o(1), \quad \text{as } \rho \rightarrow 0 \quad (4.15)$$

We have

$$\frac{L_\epsilon(u_\rho^\epsilon) - L_\epsilon(u^\epsilon)}{\rho} \geq -\sqrt{\epsilon} \|(v - u^\epsilon)^+\|_{L^2} \geq -\sqrt{\epsilon} M. \quad (4.16)$$

It's clear that

$$L_\epsilon(u_\rho^\epsilon) = L_\epsilon(u^\epsilon) + o(1) \quad \text{in } L^2(\Omega) \quad \text{as } \rho \rightarrow 0^+. \quad (4.17)$$

One can check that $L_\epsilon(u^\epsilon) \neq 0$ for ϵ small enough.

So we have

$$\begin{aligned}
-\sqrt{\epsilon}M &\leq \frac{1}{L_\epsilon(u_\rho^\epsilon)+L_\epsilon(u^\epsilon)} \left\{ \frac{[G_{\delta(\epsilon)}(y_\rho^\epsilon)+H_{\delta(\epsilon)}(u_\rho^\epsilon)+\epsilon]^2}{\rho} \right. \\
&\quad \left. - \frac{[G_{\delta(\epsilon)}(y^\epsilon)+H_{\delta(\epsilon)}(u^\epsilon)+\epsilon]^2}{\rho} + \frac{d_Q^2(F(y_\rho^\epsilon))-d_Q^2(F(y^\epsilon))}{\rho} \right\} \\
&\rightarrow \frac{G_{\delta(\epsilon)}(y^\epsilon)+H_{\delta(\epsilon)}(u^\epsilon)+\epsilon}{L_\epsilon(u^\epsilon)} [\langle \dot{G}_{\delta(\epsilon)}(y^\epsilon), z^\epsilon \rangle + \langle \dot{H}_{\delta(\epsilon)}(u^\epsilon), (v-u^\epsilon)^+ \rangle] \\
&\quad + \langle \frac{d_Q(F(y^\epsilon))\xi^\epsilon}{L_\epsilon(u^\epsilon)}, F'(y^\epsilon)z^\epsilon \rangle,
\end{aligned} \tag{4.18}$$

Define

$$\lambda_0^\epsilon = \frac{G_{\delta(\epsilon)}(y^\epsilon) + H_{\delta(\epsilon)}(u^\epsilon) + \epsilon}{L_\epsilon(u^\epsilon)} \in [0, 1], \quad q^\epsilon = \frac{d_Q(F(y^\epsilon))\xi^\epsilon}{L_\epsilon(u^\epsilon)} \tag{4.19}$$

Then

$$-\sqrt{\epsilon}M \leq \lambda_0^\epsilon [\langle \dot{G}_{\delta(\epsilon)}(y^\epsilon), z^\epsilon \rangle + \langle \dot{H}_{\delta(\epsilon)}(u^\epsilon), (v-u^\epsilon)^+ \rangle] + \langle q^\epsilon, F'(y^\epsilon)z^\epsilon \rangle. \tag{4.20}$$

Since Y^* is strictly convex, we have

$$\|\lambda_0^\epsilon\|^2 + \|q^\epsilon\|_{Y^*}^2 = 1 \tag{4.21}$$

and

$$\langle q^\epsilon, \eta - F(y^\epsilon) \rangle \leq 0 \quad \forall \eta \in Q \tag{4.22}$$

In order to pass to the limits for $\epsilon \rightarrow 0^+$,

We first consider equation as follows:

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta z = p(y^*)^{p-1}z + (v-u^*)^+, & x \in \Omega \\ z|_{\partial\Omega} = 0 \end{cases} \tag{4.23}$$

which has a unique solution z in $H_0^1(\Omega)$, by Theorem 2.2.

By the similar arguments in (4.12) and (4.13), We have

$$z^\epsilon \rightarrow z \text{ in } H_0^1(\Omega). \tag{4.24}$$

Consider $\{\dot{G}_{\delta(\epsilon)}(y^\epsilon)\}_{\epsilon>0}$ and $\{\dot{H}_{\delta(\epsilon)}(u^\epsilon)\}_{\epsilon>0}$.

By a standard argument in [4], one can get easily that

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{G}_{\delta(\epsilon)}(y^\epsilon) &\rightarrow \alpha \in \partial G(y^*) \text{ weakly in } L^2(\Omega) \text{ and} \\ \dot{H}_{\delta(\epsilon)}(u^\epsilon) &\rightarrow \beta \in \partial H(u^*) \text{ weakly in } L^2(\Omega). \end{aligned} \tag{4.25}$$

Next, by the hypothese (H_F) , we have $F'(y^\epsilon) \rightarrow F'(y^*)$ in $L(H_0^1(\Omega); Y)$.

Thus (4.24) implies

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda_0^\epsilon [\langle \dot{G}_{\delta(\epsilon)}(y^\epsilon), z^\epsilon \rangle + \langle \dot{H}_{\delta(\epsilon)}(u^\epsilon), (v-u^\epsilon)^+ \rangle] + \\ \langle q^\epsilon, F'(y^*)z - \eta + F(y^*) \rangle \geq -\theta_\epsilon, \end{aligned} \tag{4.26}$$

$\forall v \in U$ and $\eta \in Q$, and $\theta_\epsilon \rightarrow 0$ uniformly on $v \in U$ as $\epsilon \rightarrow 0^+$.

Now since $F'(y^*)R^+ - Q$ is finite codimensional in Y , by Lemma 3.2 and (4.21), we can assume (relabelling if necessary) that $(\lambda_0^\epsilon, q^\epsilon) \rightarrow (\lambda_0, q) \neq 0$ weakly in $R \times Y^*$.

Thus, by taking the limits for $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$, we obtain

$$\lambda_0[\langle \alpha, z \rangle + \langle \beta, (v - u^*)^+ \rangle] + \langle q, F'(y^*)z - \eta + F(y^*) \rangle \geq 0 \quad (4.27)$$

for all $v \in U$ and $\eta \in Q$

Note that z depends on v .

After some simple calculations, we obtain

$$0 \geq \langle \Psi + \lambda\beta, (v - u^*)^+ \rangle, \quad \forall v \in U$$

Similarly, by taking consideration of $u_\rho^\epsilon = u^\epsilon + \rho(v - u^\epsilon)^-$, we obtain

$$0 \geq \langle \Psi + \lambda\beta, (v - u^*)^- \rangle, \quad \forall v \in U$$

Thus

$$\langle \Psi + \lambda\beta, v - u^* \rangle \leq 0, \quad v \in U$$

If $(\lambda, \Psi) = 0$, then by (4.4), we have $[F'(y^*)]^*q = 0$. Thus in the case where $N[F'(y^*)]^* = \{0\}$, we must have $(\lambda, \Psi) \neq 0$

This completes the proof.

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