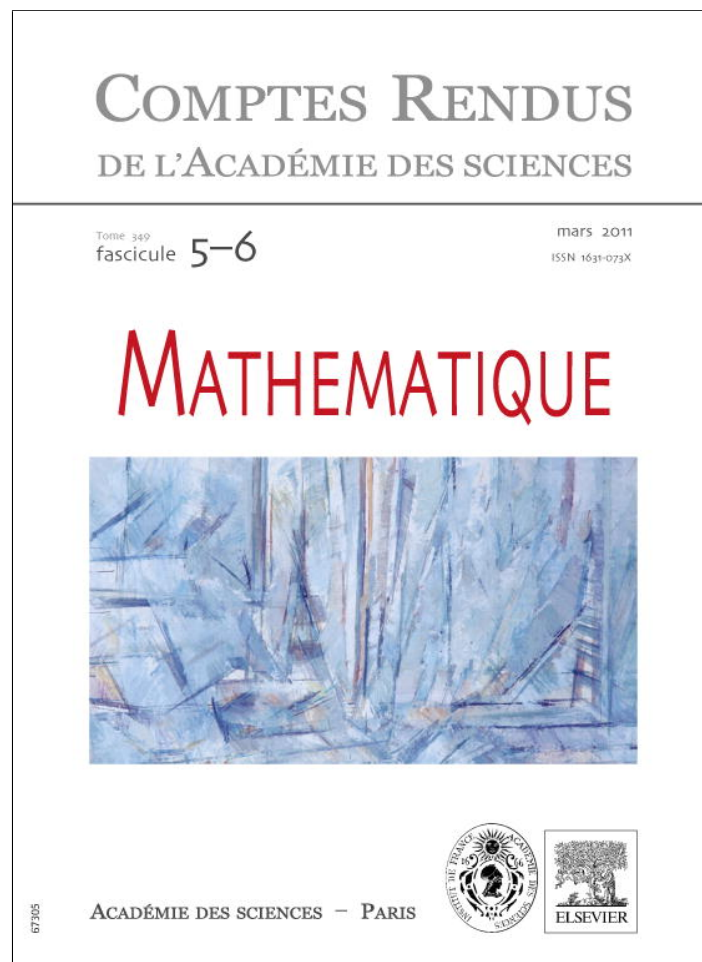


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Partial Differential Equations

Infinitely many solutions for a class of nonlinear eigenvalue problem in Orlicz–Sobolev spaces

Infinité de solutions pour une classe de problèmes non linéaires de valeurs propres dans les espaces d'Orlicz–Sobolev

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ABSTRACT

We study the Neumann problem $-\operatorname{div}(\alpha(|\nabla u|)\nabla u) + \alpha(|u|)u = \lambda f(x, u)$ in Ω , $\partial u/\partial \nu = 0$ on $\partial\Omega$, where Ω is a smooth bounded domain in \mathbb{R}^N , λ is a positive parameter, f is a continuous function, and α is a real-valued mapping defined on $(0, \infty)$. The main result in this Note establishes that for all λ in a prescribed open interval, this problem has infinitely many solutions that converge to zero in the Orlicz–Sobolev space $W^1L_\phi(\Omega)$.

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R É S U M É

On étudie le problème de Neumann $-\operatorname{div}(\alpha(|\nabla u|)\nabla u) + \alpha(|u|)u = \lambda f(x, u)$ dans Ω , $\partial u/\partial \nu = 0$ sur $\partial\Omega$, où Ω est un domaine borné régulier de \mathbb{R}^N , λ est un paramètre positif, f est une fonction continue et α est une application définie sur $(0, \infty)$. Le résultat principal de cette Note montre que pour tout λ dans un certain intervalle ouvert, ce problème admet une infinité de solutions qui convergent vers zéro dans l'espace d'Orlicz–Sobolev $W^1L_\phi(\Omega)$.

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Soit Ω un ouvert borné régulier de \mathbb{R}^N , $N \geq 3$. On suppose que $f : \bar{\Omega} \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ est une fonction continue, λ est un paramètre positif et $\alpha : (0, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ est une fonction telle que l'application $\phi : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ définie par $\phi(t) = \alpha(|t|)t$ si $t \neq 0$ et $\phi(0) = 0$, est un homéomorphisme impaire et croissant de \mathbb{R} .

Le but de cette Note est d'étudier le problème de Neumann

$$\begin{cases} -\operatorname{div}(\alpha(|\nabla u|)\nabla u) + \alpha(|u|)u = \lambda f(x, u) & \text{dans } \Omega, \\ \frac{\partial u}{\partial \nu} = 0 & \text{sur } \partial\Omega. \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

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On définit, pour tout $t \in \mathbb{R}$, $\Phi(t) = \int_0^t \phi(s) ds$. On suppose que les conditions suivantes soient satisfaites :

$$1 < \liminf_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{t\phi(t)}{\Phi(t)} \leq p^0 := \sup_{t > 0} \frac{t\phi(t)}{\Phi(t)} < \infty; \tag{\Phi_0}$$

$$N < p_0 := \inf_{t > 0} \frac{t\phi(t)}{\Phi(t)} < \liminf_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log(\Phi(t))}{\log(t)}. \tag{\Phi_1}$$

Soit $F(x, t) := \int_0^t f(x, s) ds$. On définit

$$A := \liminf_{\xi \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\int_{\Omega} \max_{|t| \leq \xi} F(x, t) dx}{\xi^{p_0}}, \quad B := \limsup_{\xi \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\int_{\Omega} F(x, \xi) dx}{\xi^{p_0}}.$$

Soit c la meilleure constante correspondant au prolongement compact de l'espace d'Orlicz-Sobolev $W^1 L_{\Phi}(\Omega)$ dans $C^0(\bar{\Omega})$.

Le résultat principal de cette Note est contenu dans la propriété suivante de multiplicité :

Théorème 0.1. *Soit Φ une fonction de Young qui satisfait les hypothèses (Φ_0) – (Φ_1) et soit $\varrho > 0$ tel que*

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\Phi(t)}{t^{p_0}} < \varrho. \tag{\Phi_{\varrho}}$$

De plus, on suppose que

$$\liminf_{\xi \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\int_{\Omega} \max_{|t| \leq \xi} F(x, t) dx}{\xi^{p_0}} < \frac{1}{(2c)^{p_0} \varrho |\Omega|} \limsup_{\xi \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\int_{\Omega} F(x, \xi) dx}{\xi^{p_0}}. \tag{h_0}$$

Alors, pour chaque λ dans l'intervalle

$$\left] \frac{\varrho |\Omega|}{B}, \frac{1}{(2c)^{p_0} A} \right[,$$

le problème (1) admet une suite de solutions qui converge vers zéro dans l'espace $W^1 L_{\Phi}(\Omega)$.

La preuve du Théorème 0.1 repose de manière cruciale sur un résultat de Bonanno et Molica Bisci (voir [2, Theorem 2.1]), qui étend le principe variationnel de Ricceri [8].

Let Ω be a bounded domain in \mathbb{R}^N ($N \geq 3$) with smooth boundary and let ν denote the outer unit normal to $\partial\Omega$. Assume $f : \bar{\Omega} \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a continuous function, λ is a positive parameter, and $\alpha : (0, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is such that the mapping $\phi : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ defined by

$$\phi(t) = \begin{cases} \alpha(|t|)t, & \text{for } t \neq 0, \\ 0, & \text{for } t = 0, \end{cases}$$

is an odd, strictly increasing homeomorphism from \mathbb{R} onto \mathbb{R} .

In this Note we study the Neumann boundary value problem

$$\begin{cases} -\operatorname{div}(\alpha(|\nabla u|)\nabla u) + \alpha(|u|)u = \lambda f(x, u) & \text{in } \Omega, \\ \frac{\partial u}{\partial \nu} = 0 & \text{on } \partial\Omega. \end{cases} \tag{2}$$

Set $\Phi(t) = \int_0^t \phi(s) ds$, $\Phi^*(t) = \int_0^t \phi^{-1}(s) ds$, for all $t \in \mathbb{R}$. We observe that Φ is a Young function, that is, $\Phi(0) = 0$, Φ is convex, and $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \Phi(t) = +\infty$. We assume that Φ satisfies the following hypotheses:

$$1 < \liminf_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{t\phi(t)}{\Phi(t)} \leq p^0 := \sup_{t > 0} \frac{t\phi(t)}{\Phi(t)} < \infty; \tag{\Phi_0}$$

$$N < p_0 := \inf_{t > 0} \frac{t\phi(t)}{\Phi(t)} < \liminf_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log(\Phi(t))}{\log(t)}. \tag{\Phi_1}$$

The Orlicz space $L_{\Phi}(\Omega)$ defined by Φ (see [1]) is the space of measurable functions $u : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ such that

$$\|u\|_{L_\Phi} := \sup \left\{ \int_{\Omega} u(x)v(x) dx; \int_{\Omega} \Phi^*(|v(x)|) dx \leq 1 \right\} < \infty.$$

Then $(L_\Phi(\Omega), \|\cdot\|_{L_\Phi})$ is a Banach space whose norm is equivalent with the Luxemburg norm

$$\|u\|_{\Phi} := \inf \left\{ k > 0; \int_{\Omega} \Phi\left(\frac{u(x)}{k}\right) dx \leq 1 \right\}.$$

We denote by $W^1L_\Phi(\Omega)$ the corresponding Orlicz–Sobolev space, defined by

$$W^1L_\Phi(\Omega) = \left\{ u \in L_\Phi(\Omega); \frac{\partial u}{\partial x_i} \in L_\Phi(\Omega), i = 1, \dots, N \right\}.$$

Hypothesis (Φ_0) is equivalent with the fact that Φ and Φ^* both satisfy the Δ_2 -condition (at infinity), see [1, p. 232]. In particular, both (Φ, Ω) and (Φ^*, Ω) are Δ -regular, see [1, p. 232]. Consequently, the spaces $L_\Phi(\Omega)$ and $W^1L_\Phi(\Omega)$ are separable, reflexive Banach spaces, see Adams [1, p. 241 and p. 247]. Let $c > 0$ denote the best constant corresponding to the compact embedding of $W^1L_\Phi(\Omega)$ into $C^0(\bar{\Omega})$.

Set $F(x, t) := \int_0^t f(x, s) ds$. We define

$$A := \liminf_{\xi \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\int_{\Omega} \max_{|t| \leq \xi} F(x, t) dx}{\xi^{p_0}}, \quad B := \limsup_{\xi \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\int_{\Omega} F(x, \xi) dx}{\xi^{p_0}}.$$

The main result in this Note is the following multiplicity property:

Theorem 0.1. Assume Φ is a Young function satisfying the conditions (Φ_0) – (Φ_1) and let ϱ be a positive constant such that

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\Phi(t)}{t^{p_0}} < \varrho. \tag{\Phi_\varrho}$$

Further, assume that

$$\liminf_{\xi \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\int_{\Omega} \max_{|t| \leq \xi} F(x, t) dx}{\xi^{p_0}} < \frac{1}{(2c)^{p_0} \varrho |\Omega|} \limsup_{\xi \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\int_{\Omega} F(x, \xi) dx}{\xi^{p_0}}. \tag{h_0}$$

Then, for every λ belonging to

$$\left] \frac{\varrho |\Omega|}{B}, \frac{1}{(2c)^{p_0} A} \right[,$$

problem (2) admits a sequence of pairwise distinct weak solutions which strongly converges to zero in $W^1L_\Phi(\Omega)$.

1. Proof of Theorem 0.1

Set $X := W^1L_\Phi(\Omega)$. We use in the proof the following auxiliary results (see [3,7]):

Lemma 1.1. The norms

$$\begin{aligned} \|u\|_{1,\Phi} &= \|\nabla u\|_{\Phi} + \|u\|_{\Phi}, \\ \|u\|_{2,\Phi} &= \max\{\|\nabla u\|_{\Phi}, \|u\|_{\Phi}\}, \\ \|u\| &= \inf \left\{ \mu > 0; \int_{\Omega} \left[\Phi\left(\frac{|u(x)|}{\mu}\right) + \Phi\left(\frac{|\nabla u(x)|}{\mu}\right) \right] dx \leq 1 \right\} \end{aligned}$$

are equivalent on X . More precisely, for every $u \in X$,

$$\|u\| \leq 2\|u\|_{2,\Phi} \leq 2\|u\|_{1,\Phi} \leq 4\|u\|.$$

Lemma 1.2. Let $u \in X$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\Omega} [\Phi(|u(x)|) + \Phi(|\nabla u(x)|)] dx &\geq \|u\|^{p_0}, \quad \text{if } \|u\| > 1; \\ \int_{\Omega} [\Phi(|u(x)|) + \Phi(|\nabla u(x)|)] dx &\geq \|u\|^{p_0}, \quad \text{if } \|u\| < 1. \end{aligned}$$

Lemma 1.3. Let $u \in X$ and assume that $\int_{\Omega} [\Phi(|u(x)|) + \Phi(|\nabla u(x)|)] dx \leq r$, for some $0 < r < 1$. Then $\|u\| < 1$.

Define the functionals $J, I : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ by

$$J(u) = \int_{\Omega} (\Phi(|\nabla u(x)|) + \Phi(|u(x)|)) dx \quad \text{and} \quad I(u) = \int_{\Omega} F(x, u(x)) dx,$$

where $F(x, \xi) := \int_0^{\xi} f(x, t) dt$ for every $(x, \xi) \in \bar{\Omega} \times \mathbb{R}$. Set $g_{\lambda}(u) := J(u) - \lambda I(u)$, for all $u \in X$. Similar arguments as those used in [6, Lemma 3.4] and [4, Lemma 2.1] imply that $J, I \in C^1(X, \mathbb{R})$ and for all $u, v \in X$,

$$\langle J'(u), v \rangle = \int_{\Omega} \alpha(|\nabla u(x)|) \nabla u(x) \cdot \nabla v(x) dx + \int_{\Omega} \alpha(|u(x)|) u(x) v(x) dx,$$

$$\langle I'(u), v \rangle = \int_{\Omega} f(x, u(x)) v(x) dx.$$

Moreover, since Φ is convex, it follows that J is a convex functional, hence J is sequentially weakly lower semi-continuous. Finally, we observe that J is coercive. Indeed, a straightforward computation shows that for any $u \in X$ with $\|u\| > 1$ we have $J(u) \geq \|u\|^{p_0}$. On the other hand, since X is compactly embedded into $C^0(\bar{\Omega})$, then the operator $I' : X \rightarrow X^*$ is compact. Consequently, the functional $I : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is sequentially weakly (upper) continuous, see Zeidler [9, Corollary 41.9].

Let $\{c_n\}$ be a sequence of real numbers such that $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} c_n = 0$ and

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\int_{\Omega} \max_{|t| \leq c_n} F(x, t) dx}{c_n^{p_0}} = A.$$

Set $r_n = (\frac{c_n}{2c})^{p_0}$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$. Thus, by Lemmas 1.2 and 1.3,

$$\left\{ v \in X : J(v) < r_n \right\} \subseteq \left\{ v \in X : \|v\| < \frac{c_n}{2c} \right\}.$$

Due to the compact embedding of X into $C(\bar{\Omega})$ combined with Lemma 1.1, we have

$$|v(x)| \leq \|v\|_{\infty} \leq c \|v\|_{1, \Phi} \leq 2c \|v\| \leq c_n, \quad \forall x \in \bar{\Omega}.$$

Hence

$$\left\{ v \in X : \|v\| < \frac{c_n}{2c} \right\} \subseteq \{v \in X : |v| \leq c_n\}.$$

We also observe that for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$,

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi(r_n) &= \inf_{J(u) < r_n} \frac{\sup_{J(v) < r_n} \int_{\Omega} F(x, v(x)) dx - \int_{\Omega} F(x, u(x)) dx}{r_n - J(u)} \leq \frac{\sup_{J(v) < r_n} \int_{\Omega} F(x, v(x)) dx}{r_n} \\ &\leq \frac{\int_{\Omega} \max_{|t| \leq c_n} F(x, t) dx}{r_n} = (2c)^{p_0} \frac{\int_{\Omega} \max_{|t| \leq c_n} F(x, t) dx}{c_n^{p_0}}. \end{aligned}$$

Next, we observe that our assumption (h_0) implies $A < +\infty$. Therefore

$$\delta \leq \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \varphi(r_n) \leq (2c)^{p_0} A < +\infty.$$

Now, take

$$\lambda \in \left] \frac{\varrho |\Omega|}{B}, \frac{1}{(2c)^{p_0} A} \right[.$$

We prove in what follows that 0, which is the unique global minimum of J , is not a local minimum of g_{λ} . For this purpose, let $\{\zeta_n\}$ be a sequence of positive numbers such that $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \zeta_n = 0$ and

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\int_{\Omega} F(x, \zeta_n) dx}{\zeta_n^{p_0}} = B. \tag{3}$$

Set $w_n(x) := \zeta_n$, for all $x \in \Omega$. Then $w_n \in X$, for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$. Hence

$$J(w_n) = \int_{\Omega} (\Phi(|\nabla w_n(x)|) + \Phi(|w_n(x)|)) dx = \int_{\Omega} \Phi(\zeta_n) dx = \Phi(\zeta_n)|\Omega|.$$

Moreover, by (Φ_ρ) and taking into account that $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} w_n = 0$, we deduce that there exist $\delta > 0$ and $\nu_0 \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $w_n \in]0, \delta[$ and $\Phi(w_n) < \rho w_n^{p_0}$, for every $n \geq \nu_0$.

We first assume that $B < +\infty$. Fix $\epsilon \in]\frac{\rho|\Omega|}{\lambda B}, 1[$. By (3), there exists ν_ϵ such that for all $n > \nu_\epsilon$, $\int_{\Omega} F(x, \zeta_n) dx > \epsilon B \zeta_n^{p_0}$. Thus, for all $n \geq \max\{\nu_0, \nu_\epsilon\}$,

$$g_\lambda(w_n) = J(w_n) - \lambda I(w_n) \leq \rho w_n^{p_0} |\Omega| - \lambda \epsilon B w_n^{p_0} = w_n^{p_0} (\rho |\Omega| - \lambda \epsilon B) < 0.$$

Next, we assume that $B = +\infty$. Fix $M > \frac{\rho|\Omega|}{\lambda}$. By (3), there exists ν_M such that for all $n > \nu_M$, $\int_{\Omega} F(x, \zeta_n) dx > M \zeta_n^{p_0}$. Moreover, for all $n \geq \max\{\nu_0, \nu_M\}$,

$$g_\lambda(w_n) = J(w_n) - \lambda I(w_n) \leq \rho w_n^{p_0} |\Omega| - \lambda M w_n^{p_0} = w_n^{p_0} (\rho |\Omega| - \lambda M) < 0.$$

It follows that in both cases, $g_\lambda(w_n) < 0$ for every n sufficiently large. Since $g_\lambda(0) = J(0) - \lambda I(0) = 0$, then 0 is not a local minimum of g_λ . Thus, owing that J has 0 as unique global minimum, Theorem 2.1 in [2] ensures the existence of a sequence $\{\nu_n\}$ of pairwise distinct critical points of the functional g_λ , such that $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} J(\nu_n) = 0$. By Lemma 1.2 we have $\|\nu_n\|^{p_0} \leq J(\nu_n)$ for every n sufficiently large. Then $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|\nu_n\| = 0$ and this completes the proof. \square

We illustrate this abstract existence result with the following example. Fix $p > N + 1$ and consider the mapping

$$\phi(t) = \frac{|t|^{p-2}}{\log(1 + |t|)} t \text{ for } t \neq 0, \text{ and } \phi(0) = 0.$$

By [5, p. 243] we deduce that

$$p_0 = p - 1 < p^0 = p = \liminf_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log(\Phi(t))}{\log(t)}.$$

Thus, conditions (Φ_0) and (Φ_1) are verified. Hypothesis (Φ_ρ) also holds, since

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{1}{t^{p-1}} \int_0^t \frac{s|s|^{p-2}}{\log(1 + |s|)} ds = \frac{1}{p-1}.$$

Let $g : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ be a continuous function and set $G(\xi) := \int_0^\xi g(t) dt$. Moreover, let $h : \bar{\Omega} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a continuous and positive function.

Applying Theorem 0.1 we obtain the following result:

Corollary 1.4. *Assume that*

$$\liminf_{\xi \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{G(\xi)}{\xi^p} = 0 \text{ and } \limsup_{\xi \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{G(\xi)}{\xi^{p-1}} = +\infty. \tag{h''_0}$$

Then, for all $\lambda > 0$, the Neumann problem

$$\begin{cases} -\operatorname{div}\left(\frac{|\nabla u|^{p-2}}{\log(1 + |\nabla u|)} \nabla u\right) + \frac{|u|^{p-2}}{\log(1 + |u|)} u = \lambda h(x)g(u) & \text{in } \Omega, \\ \frac{\partial u}{\partial \nu} = 0 & \text{on } \partial\Omega \end{cases} \tag{4}$$

admits a sequence of pairwise distinct weak solutions which strongly converges to zero in $W^1 L_\Phi(\Omega)$.

We refer to Bonanno, Molica Bisci, and Rădulescu [3] for detailed proofs, examples, and related results.

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