

BOUNDARY BEHAVIOR OF LARGE SOLUTIONS TO QUASILINEAR ELLIPTIC PROBLEMS WITH A NONLINEAR GRADIENT TERM

CHUNLIAN LIU AND ZUODONG YANG

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Abstract. In this paper, we study the boundary behavior of solutions to boundary blow-up elliptic problems

$$\begin{cases} \operatorname{div}(|\nabla u|^{m-2}\nabla u) \pm |\nabla u(x)|^{q(m-1)} = b(x)f(u), & x \in \Omega, \\ u > 0, & x \in \Omega, \\ u|_{\partial\Omega} = +\infty, \end{cases}$$

where Ω is a bounded domain with smooth boundary in \mathbb{R}^N , $m > 1$, $q > 0$, $b \in C^\alpha(\overline{\Omega})$, which is positive in Ω and may be vanishing on the boundary and rapidly varying near the boundary, and f is rapidly varying or normalized regularly varying at infinity.

1. Introduction

In this paper, we plan to investigate the exact asymptotic behavior of solutions near the boundary for the following problems

$$\begin{cases} \operatorname{div}(|\nabla u|^{m-2}\nabla u) \pm |\nabla u(x)|^{q(m-1)} = b(x)f(u), & x \in \Omega, \\ u > 0, & x \in \Omega, \\ u|_{\partial\Omega} = +\infty, \end{cases} \quad (P_\pm)$$

where the last condition means that $u(x) \rightarrow +\infty$ as $d(x) = \operatorname{dist}(x, \partial\Omega) \rightarrow 0$, and the solution is called “a large solution” or “an explosive solution”, Ω is a bounded domain with smooth boundary in \mathbb{R}^N ($N \geq 2$), $q > 0$, $m > 1$. The function b satisfies:

- (b₁) $b \in C^\alpha(\Omega)$ for some $\alpha \in (0, 1)$, is non-negative in Ω ;
- (b₂) there exists $k \in \Lambda$ such that

$$0 < b_1 := \liminf_{d(x) \rightarrow 0} \frac{b(x)}{k^m(d(x))K^{m-2}(d(x))} \leq b_2 := \limsup_{d(x) \rightarrow 0} \frac{b(x)}{k^m(d(x))K^{m-2}(d(x))} < \infty,$$

or

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(b₃) there exists $k \in \Lambda$ such that

$$0 < b_{1q} := \liminf_{d(x) \rightarrow 0} \frac{b(x)}{k^{q(m-1)}(d(x))} \leq b_{2q} := \limsup_{d(x) \rightarrow 0} \frac{b(x)}{k^{q(m-1)}(d(x))} < \infty,$$

where Λ denotes the set of all positive non-decreasing functions in $C^1(0, \delta_0)$ ($\delta_0 > 0$) which satisfy

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{K(t)}{k(t)} \right) := C_k \in [0, \infty), \quad K(t) = \int_0^t k(s) ds, \tag{1.1}$$

and f satisfies:

(f₁) $f \in C^1[0, +\infty)$, $f(0) = 0$, f is increasing on $[0, +\infty)$;

(f₂) $\int_1^\infty \frac{dv}{f^{\frac{1}{m-1}}(v)} < \infty$;

(f₃) there exists $C_f > 0$ such that

$$\lim_{s \rightarrow +\infty} f^{\frac{1}{m-1}-1}(s) f'(s) \int_s^\infty \frac{dv}{f^{\frac{1}{m-1}}(v)} = C_f.$$

We note that for each $k \in \Lambda$, we have $C_k \in [0, 1]$ and

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{K(t)}{k(t)} = 0, \quad \lim_{t \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{K(t)k'(t)}{k^2(t)} = 1 - \lim_{t \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{d}{dt} \frac{K(t)}{k(t)} = 1 - C_k. \tag{1.2}$$

In fact, from (1.1), we can see $\frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{K(t)}{k(t)} \right) = C_k + \alpha(t)$, where $\lim_{t \rightarrow 0^+} \alpha(t) = 0$, so

$$\frac{K(t)}{k(t)} = \int_0^t C_k dt + \int_0^t \alpha(t) dt = C_k t + \int_0^t \alpha(t) dt,$$

since $\lim_{t \rightarrow 0^+} \alpha(t) = 0$, so $\lim_{t \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{K(t)}{k(t)} = 0$.

For example, $k(t) = t^p$, $p > 0$ or $k(t) = e^{\sqrt{x}}/\sqrt{x}$ satisfies (1.1), we can conclude that they also satisfy (1.2).

The set Λ was first introduced by Cirstea and Rădulescu [3,4] in order to study the boundary behavior of solutions to the problem

$$\Delta \omega = b(x)f(\omega), \quad x \in \Omega, \quad \omega|_{\partial\Omega} = \infty.$$

Semilinear elliptic problems involving gradient term with boundary blow-up interested many authors. Namely Bandle and Giarrusso [1] developed existence and asymptotic behavior results for large solutions of

$$\Delta u + |\nabla u(x)|^a = f(u),$$

in a bounded domain. In the case $f(u) = p(x)u^\gamma$, $a > 0$, and $\gamma > \max(1, a)$, Lair and Wood [7-9] dealt with the above equation in bounded domain and the whole space, they

proved the existence of entire large solution under the condition $\int_0^\infty r \max_{|x|=r} p(x) dr < \infty$ when the domain is \mathbb{R}^N . Ghergu et al.[5] considered more general equation

$$\Delta u + q(x)|\nabla u(x)|^a = p(x)f(u),$$

where $0 \leq a \leq 2$, p and q are Hölder continuous functions on $(0, \infty)$. We note that the Keller-Osserman condition on f (see[2,16]) remains the key condition for the existence for their work. Ghergu and Radulescu [6] considered the following problem

$$\begin{cases} \Delta u + |\nabla u(x)| = p(x)f(u), & \text{in } \Omega, \\ u \geq 0, & \text{in } \Omega, \end{cases}$$

where Ω is either a smooth bounded domain or the whole space and f is a nondecreasing function satisfying $f \in C_{loc}^{0,\alpha}(0, \infty)$, $f(0) = 0$, $f > 0$, on $(0, \infty)$, and $\wedge = \sup_{x \geq 1} \frac{f(x)}{x} < \infty$. The authors studied the existence and nonexistence of large solutions under the assumption that

$$\int_0^\infty r(\max_{|x|=r} p(x) - \min_{|x|=r} p(x))\Psi(r)dr < +\infty,$$

where $\Psi(r) = \exp(\frac{\wedge}{N-2} \int_0^\infty r \min_{|x|=r} p(x)dr)$.

Faten Toumi [19] extended the above result to the following problem

$$\begin{cases} \Delta u + \lambda(|x|)|\nabla u(x)| = \varphi(x, u(x)), & \text{in } \mathbb{R}^N, \\ u \geq 0, \quad u \neq 0, \\ \lim_{|x| \rightarrow +\infty} u(x) = +\infty, \end{cases}$$

where $\lambda : [0, \infty) \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ is a continuous function and $\varphi : \mathbb{R}^N \times [0, \infty) \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ is measurable, continuous with respect to the second variable.

Quasilinear elliptic problems or such problems involving gradient terms with boundary blow-up interested many authors, see [10–12,14,20,21]

As far as the authors know, however, there are less results which contain the exact asymptotic behaviour of solutions near the boundary to problem (P_\pm) . In this paper, also applying Karamata regular variation theory (Karamata regular variation theory see [15–17,18]), perturbed method and constructing comparison functions, we show the asymptotic behaviour of solutions near the boundary to problem (P_\pm) .

Our main results are as follows:

THEOREM 1.1. *Let $q > 0$, b satisfies (b_1) f satisfies $(f_1), (f_2), (f_3)$ with $C_f \geq 1$ and the assumption that: (f_4) there exists $\Gamma_f \in [0, \infty)$ such that*

$$\lim_{s \rightarrow +\infty} f(s) \left[\int_s^\infty \frac{dv}{f^{\frac{1}{m-1}}(v)} \right]^{m-1} = \Gamma_f.$$

(i) *If $\Gamma_f > 0$, $q > m/(m - 1)$ and b satisfies (b_3) , then every solution u_+ of problem (P_+) satisfies*

$$\lim_{d(x) \rightarrow 0} \frac{u_+(x)}{\psi_1(K^q(d(x)))} = 1, \tag{1.4}$$

where K is in (1.1) with k defined in (b_3) and ψ_1 is uniquely determined by

$$\int_{\psi_1(t)}^{\infty} \frac{dv}{f^{\frac{1}{m-1}}(v)} = t, \quad t > 0; \tag{1.5}$$

(ii) if b satisfies (b_2) with $C_k > 0$ and $q \in (0, m/(m-1))$ and $\Gamma_f > 0$, then for every solution u_{\pm} of problem (P_{\pm})

$$\lim_{d(x) \rightarrow 0} \frac{u_{\pm}(x)}{\psi_1(K^2(d(x)))} = 1, \tag{1.6}$$

where K is in (1.1) with k defined in (b_2) and ψ_1 is uniquely determined by (1.5);

(iii) if $q = m/(m-1)$, b satisfies (b_2) , and $2 - (m-1)C_k - 2\Gamma_f^{1/(m-1)} > 0$, then for every solution u_- of problem (P_-)

$$\lim_{d(x) \rightarrow 0} \frac{u_-(x)}{\psi_1(K^2(d(x)))} = 1, \tag{1.7}$$

where K is in (1.1) with k defined in (b_2) and ψ_1 is uniquely determined by (1.5);

(iv) if $q = m/(m-1)$, b satisfies (b_2) , and $2 - (m-1)C_k + 2\Gamma_f^{1/(m-1)} > 0$, then every solution u_+ of problem (P_+)

$$\lim_{d(x) \rightarrow 0} \frac{u_+(x)}{\psi_1(K^2(d(x)))} = 1, \tag{1.8}$$

where K is in (1.1) with k defined in (b_2) and ψ_1 is uniquely determined by (1.5).

2. Preliminaries

In this section, we present some bases of the theory which comes from Senta [18], Preliminaries in Resnick [17], Introductions and the appendix in Maric [15].

DEFINITION 2.1. A positive measurable function f defined on $[a, +\infty)$, for some $a > 0$, is called *regularly varying at infinity* with index ρ , written as $f \in RV_{\rho}$, if for each $\xi > 0$ and some $\rho \in \mathbb{R}$,

$$\lim_{s \rightarrow \infty} \frac{f(\xi s)}{f(s)} = \xi^{\rho}. \tag{2.1}$$

For example, $f(s) = s^{\rho}$ is regularly varying at infinity. In particular, when $\rho = 0$, f is called *slowly varying at infinity*. Clearly, if $f \in RV_{\rho}$, then $L(s) := f(s)/s^{\rho}$ is slowly varying at infinity.

Some basic examples of slowly varying functions at infinity are:

- (1) every measure function on $[a, \infty)$ which has a positive limit at infinity;
- (2) $(\ln s)^{\beta}$ and $(\ln(\ln s))^{\beta}$, $\beta \in \mathbb{R}$;
- (3) $e^{(\ln s)^p}$, $0 < p < 1$.

DEFINITION 2.2. A positive measurable function f defined on $[a, +\infty)$, for some $a > 0$, is called *rapidly varying at infinity* if for each $p > 1$,

$$\lim_{s \rightarrow \infty} \frac{f(s)}{s^p} = \infty. \tag{2.2}$$

Clearly, if $f \in RV_\rho$, then $L(s) := f(s)/s^\rho$ is slowly varying at infinity. Some basic examples of rapidly varying functions at infinity are:

- (1) e^s and e^{e^s} ;
- (2) $e^{e^{(\ln s)^p}}$, e^{s^p} and $e^{e^{s^p}}$, $p > 0$;
- (3) $(\ln s)^\beta e^{s^p}$ and $s^\beta e^{s^p}$, $p > 0, \beta \in \mathbb{R}$;
- (4) $s^\beta e^{(\ln s)^p}$ and $(\ln s)^\beta e^{(\ln s)^p}$, $p > 1, \beta \in \mathbb{R}$.

We also see that a positive measurable function g defined on $(0, a)$ for some $a > 0$ is regularly varying at zero with index σ (written as $g \in RVZ_\sigma$) if $t \rightarrow g(1/t)$ belongs to $RV_{-\sigma}$, g is called *rapidly varying at zero* if $t \rightarrow g(1/t)$ is rapidly varying at infinity.

PROPOSITION 2.1. (Uniform convergence theorem) *If $f \in RV_\rho$, then (2.1) holds uniformly for $\xi \in [c_1, c_2]$ with $0 < c_1 < c_2$. Moreover, if $\rho < 0$, then uniform convergence holds on intervals of the form (a_1, ∞) with $a_1 > 0$; if $\rho > 0$, then uniform convergence holds on intervals $(a_1, \infty]$ provided f is bounded on $(a_1, \infty]$ for all $a_1 > 0$.*

PROPOSITION 2.2. (Representation theorem) *A function L is slowly varying at infinity if and only if it may be written in the form*

$$L(s) = \varphi(s) \exp\left(\int_{a_1}^s \frac{y(\tau)}{\tau} d\tau\right), \quad s \geq a_1, \tag{2.3}$$

for some $a_1 > a$, where the functions φ and y are measurable and for $s \rightarrow \infty, y(s) \rightarrow 0$, and $\varphi(s) \rightarrow c_0$, with $c_0 > 0$.

We call that

$$\hat{L}(s) = c_0 \exp\left(\int_{a_1}^s \frac{y(\tau)}{\tau} d\tau\right), \quad s \geq a_1, \tag{2.4}$$

is normalized slowly varying at infinity and

$$f(s) = c_0 s^\rho \hat{L}(s), \quad s \geq a_1, \tag{2.5}$$

is normalized regularly varying at infinity with index ρ (and written as $f \in NRV_\rho$).

Similarly, g is called *normalized regularly varying at zero* with index ρ , written as $g \in NRVZ_\rho$ if $t \rightarrow g(1/t)$ belongs to NRV_ρ . A function $f \in RV_\rho$ belongs to NRV_ρ if and only if

$$f \in C^1[a_1, \infty), \text{ for some } a_1 > 0, \text{ and } \lim_{s \rightarrow \infty} \frac{s f'(s)}{f(s)} = \rho. \tag{2.6}$$

PROPOSITION 2.3. *If functions L, L_1 are slowly varying at infinity, then*

- (i) L^σ for every $\sigma \in \mathbb{R}$, $c_1L + c_2L_1$ ($c_1 \geq 0, c_2 \geq 0$ with $c_1 + c_2 > 0$), $L \circ L_1$ (if $L_1(t) \rightarrow +\infty$ as $t \rightarrow +\infty$), are also slowly varying at infinity;
- (ii) for every $\theta > 0$ and $t \rightarrow +\infty$, $t^\theta L(t) \rightarrow +\infty$ and $t^{-\theta} L(t) \rightarrow 0$;
- (iii) for $\rho \in \mathbb{R}$ and $t \rightarrow +\infty$, $\frac{\ln(L(t))}{\ln t} \rightarrow 0$ and $\frac{\ln(t^\rho L(t))}{\ln t} \rightarrow \rho$.

PROPOSITION 2.4. (Asymptotic behavior) *If a function L is slowly varying at infinity, then for $a > 0$ and $t \rightarrow \infty$,*

- (i) $\int_a^t s^\beta L(s) ds \cong (\beta + 1)^{-1} t^{1+\beta} L(t)$, for $\beta > -1$;
- (ii) $\int_t^\infty s^\beta L(s) ds \cong (-\beta - 1)^{-1} t^{1+\beta} L(t)$, for $\beta < -1$.

PROPOSITION 2.5. (Asymptotic behavior) *If a function H is slowly varying at zero, then for $a > 0$ and $t \rightarrow 0^+$,*

- (i) $\int_a^t s^\beta H(s) ds \cong (\beta + 1)^{-1} t^{1+\beta} H(t)$, for $\beta > -1$;
- (ii) $\int_t^\infty s^\beta H(s) ds \cong (-\beta - 1)^{-1} t^{1+\beta} H(t)$, for $\beta < -1$.

LEMMA 2.1. *Let $k \in \Lambda$:*

- (i) if $C_k \in (0, 1)$, then $k \in NRVZ_{(1-C_k)/C_k}$;
- (ii) if $C_k = 1$, then k is normalized slowly varying at zero;
- (iii) if $C_k = 0$, then k is rapidly varying at zero.

Proof. By l'Hospital's rule and (1.1), we have

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{K(t)}{tk(t)} = \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{\frac{K(t)}{k(t)}}{t} = \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{K(t)}{k(t)} \right) = C_k; \tag{2.7}$$

(i)(ii) when $C_k > 0$, it follows by (1.2) that

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{tk'(t)}{k(t)} = \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{K(t)k'(t)}{k^2(t)} \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{tk(t)}{K(t)} = \frac{1 - C_k}{C_k}, \tag{2.8}$$

i.e., $k \in NRVZ_{(1-C_k)/C_k}$ for $C_k \in (0, 1)$ and k is normalized slowly varying at zero for $C_k = 1$;

(iii) when $C_k = 0$, for arbitrary $\gamma > 0$, it follows by (2.8) that $\lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{tk'(t)}{k(t)} = +\infty$ and there exists $t_{0\gamma}$ such that

$$\frac{k'(t)}{k(t)} > (\gamma + 1)t^{-1}, \quad \forall t \in (0, t_{0\gamma}]. \tag{2.9}$$

Integrating (2.9) from t to $t_{0\gamma}$, we obtain

$$\ln(k(t_{0\gamma})) - \ln(k(t)) > (\gamma + 1)(\ln t_{0\gamma} - \ln t), \quad \forall t \in (0, t_{0\gamma}],$$

i.e.,

$$0 < \frac{k(t)}{t^\gamma} < \frac{k(t_0\gamma)}{t_0^{\gamma+1}}t, \quad t \in (0, t_0\gamma].$$

Let $t \rightarrow 0$, we see by Definition 2.2 that k is rapidly varying at zero.

LEMMA 2.2. *If f satisfies (f_1) , (f_2) and (f_3) , then*

- (i) $C_f \in [1, +\infty)$;
- (ii) if (f_3) holds for $C_f > 1$, then $f \in NRV_{C_f/(C_f-1)}$;
- (iii) when $C_f = 1$, then f is rapidly varying at infinity.

Proof. (i) Let

$$J(s) = f^{\frac{1}{m-1}-1}(s)f'(s) \int_s^\infty \frac{dv}{f^{\frac{1}{m-1}}(v)}, \quad \forall s > 0.$$

Integrating $J(s)$ from $a(a > 0)$ to t and integrate by parts, we obtain

$$\int_a^t J(s)ds = f^{\frac{1}{m-1}}(t) \int_t^\infty \frac{dv}{f^{\frac{1}{m-1}}(v)} - f^{\frac{1}{m-1}}(a) \int_a^\infty \frac{dv}{f^{\frac{1}{m-1}}(v)} + t - a, \quad \forall t > a.$$

It follows from the l'Hospital's rule that

$$0 \leq \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{f^{\frac{1}{m-1}}(t) \int_t^\infty \frac{dv}{f^{\frac{1}{m-1}}(v)}}{t} = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{t} \int_a^t J(s)ds - 1 = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} J(t) - 1 = C_f - 1,$$

i.e., $C_f \geq 1$.

(ii) By (i), we see that

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{s \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{f(s)}{sf'(s)} &= \lim_{s \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{f^{\frac{1}{m-1}}(s) \int_s^\infty \frac{dv}{f^{\frac{1}{m-1}}(v)}}{sJ(s)} \\ &= \frac{1}{C_f} \lim_{s \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{f^{\frac{1}{m-1}}(s) \int_s^\infty \frac{dv}{f^{\frac{1}{m-1}}(v)}}{s} \\ &= \frac{C_f - 1}{C_f}, \end{aligned}$$

i.e., $f \in NRV_{C_f/(C_f-1)}$ for $C_f > 1$.

(iii) When $C_f = 1$, we see by the proof of (ii) that

$$\lim_{s \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{f(s)}{sf'(s)} = 0.$$

Consequently, for arbitrary $p > 1$, there exists $S_0 > 0$ such that

$$\frac{f'(s)}{f(s)} > (p + 1)s^{-1}, \quad \forall s \geq S_0,$$

Integrating the above inequality from S_0 to s , we obtain

$$\ln(f(s)) - \ln(f(S_0)) > (p + 1)(\ln s - \ln S_0), \quad \forall s \geq S_0,$$

letting $s \rightarrow +\infty$, we see by Definition 2.2 that f is rapidly varying at infinity.

LEMMA 2.3. *Let f satisfy (f_1) , (f_2) , (f_3) and let ψ_1 be the solution to the problem*

$$\int_{\psi_1(t)}^{\infty} \frac{ds}{f^{\frac{1}{m-1}}(s)} = t, \quad \forall t > 0.$$

Then:

(i) $-\psi_1'(t) = f^{\frac{1}{m-1}}(\psi_1(t))$, $\psi_1(t) > 0$, $t > 0$, $\psi_1(0) := \lim_{t \rightarrow 0^+} \psi_1(t) = +\infty$, and

$$\psi_1''(t) = \frac{1}{m-1} f^{\frac{2}{m-1}-1}(\psi_1(t)) f'(\psi_1(t)), \quad t > 0;$$

(ii) $\psi_1 \in NRVZ_{-(C_f-1)}$;

(iii) $-\psi_1' = f^{\frac{1}{m-1}} \circ \psi_1 \in NRVZ_{-C_f/(m-1)}$.

Proof. By the definition of ψ_1 and a direct calculation, we show that (i) holds.

(ii) It follows from the proof of Lemma 2.1 that

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{t\psi_1'(t)}{\psi_1(t)} = - \lim_{t \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{t f^{\frac{1}{m-1}}(\psi_1(t))}{\psi_1(t)} = - \lim_{s \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{f^{\frac{1}{m-1}}(s) \int_s^{\infty} \frac{dv}{f^{\frac{1}{m-1}}(v)}}{s} = -(C_f - 1), \tag{2.10}$$

i.e., $\psi_1 \in NRVZ_{-(C_f-1)}$.

(iii) (f_3) implies

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{t \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{t\psi_1''(t)}{\psi_1'(t)} &= - \lim_{t \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{t}{m-1} f^{\frac{1}{m-1}-1}(\psi_1(t)) f'(\psi_1(t)) \\ &= - \lim_{s \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{1}{m-1} f^{\frac{1}{m-1}-1}(s) f'(s) \int_s^{\infty} \frac{dv}{f^{\frac{1}{m-1}}(v)} \\ &= -C_f/(m-1). \end{aligned} \tag{2.11}$$

3. Proofs of the main results

LEMMA 3.1. (Weak comparison principle) *Let Ω be a bounded domain in \mathbb{R}^N ($N \geq 2$) with smooth boundary $\partial\Omega$ and $\varphi : (0, a) \rightarrow (0, a)$ be continuous and non-decreasing, let $u_1, u_2 \in W^{1,m}(\Omega)$ satisfy*

$$\int_{\Omega} |\nabla u_1|^{m-2} \nabla u_1 \nabla \psi dx + \int_{\Omega} \varphi u_1 \psi dx \leq \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u_2|^{m-2} \nabla u_2 \nabla \psi dx + \int_{\Omega} \varphi u_2 \psi dx,$$

For all non-negative $\psi \in W_0^{1,m}(\Omega)$. Then the inequality

$$u_1 \leq u_2, \quad \text{on } \partial\Omega,$$

implies that

$$u_1 \leq u_2, \quad \text{in } \Omega.$$

For any $\delta > 0$, we define

$$\Omega_\delta = \{x \in \Omega : 0 < d(x) < \delta\}.$$

Since Ω is smooth, there exists $\delta_0 > 0$ such that $d \in C^2(\Omega_{\delta_0})$ and

$$|\nabla d(x)| = 1, \quad \forall x \in \Omega_{\delta_0}.$$

PROOF OF THEOREM 1.1.

(i) $q > m/(m-1), m > 1$ and $\Gamma_f > 0$, let $\varepsilon \in (0, b_{1q}/4)$ and

$$\begin{aligned} \xi_{01} &= \left(\frac{b_{1q}}{q^q(m-1)\Gamma_f^{q-1}} \right)^{\frac{1}{m-1}}, & \xi_{02} &= \left(\frac{b_{2q}}{q^q(m-1)\Gamma_f^{q-1}} \right)^{\frac{1}{m-1}}; \\ \xi_1 &= \xi_{01} \left(1 - \frac{2\varepsilon}{b_{1q}} \right)^{\frac{1}{m-1}}, & \xi_2 &= \xi_{02} \left(1 + \frac{2\varepsilon}{b_{2q}} \right)^{\frac{1}{m-1}}. \end{aligned}$$

It follows that

$$\frac{\xi_{01}}{2^{1/(m-1)}} < \xi_1 < \xi_2 < 2^{1/(m-1)}\xi_{02}.$$

By $(b_1), (b_2), (1.2), (2.11)$ and (f_4) , we see that there is $\delta_\varepsilon \in (0, \delta_0/2)$ (which is corresponding to ε) sufficiently small that:

$$(b_{1q} - \varepsilon)k^q(d(x) - \rho) \leq (b_{1q} - \varepsilon)k^q(d(x)) < b(x), \quad x \in D_\rho^- = \Omega_{2\delta_\varepsilon}/\bar{\Omega}_\rho$$

and

$$b(x) < (b_{2q} + \varepsilon)k^q(d(x)) \leq (b_{2q} + \varepsilon)k^q(d(x) + \rho), \quad x \in D_\rho^+ = \Omega_{2\delta_\varepsilon - \rho},$$

where $\rho \in (0, \delta_\varepsilon)$.

For $i = 1, 2$,

$$\begin{aligned} &2(\xi_{02q})^{m-1} \left(\frac{K(t)}{k(t)} \right)^{(q-1)(m-1)-1} \\ &\times \left[q \left| \xi_i K^q(t) f^{\frac{1}{m-1}-1} \left(\psi_1(\xi_i K^q(t)) \right) f' \left(\psi_1(\xi_i K^q(t)) \right) \right| \right. \\ &\left. + \left| (q-1)(m-1) + \frac{(m-1)K(t)k'(t)}{k^2(t)} \right| + \frac{K(t)}{k(t)} |\Delta d(x)| \right] \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &+ 2(\xi_0 2q^q)^{m-1} \left| \left[(\xi_i K^q(t))^{m-1} f\left(\psi_1(\xi_i K^q(t))\right) \right]^{q-1} - \Gamma_f^{q-1} \right| \\
 &< \varepsilon, \quad \forall (x, t) \in \Omega_{2\delta_\varepsilon} \times (0, 2\delta_\varepsilon).
 \end{aligned}$$

Let

$$\begin{aligned}
 d_1(x) &= d(x) - \rho, \quad d_2(x) = d(x) + \rho, \\
 \bar{u}_\varepsilon &= \psi_1(\xi_1 K^q(d_1(x))), \quad x \in D_\rho^- \quad \text{and} \quad \underline{u}_\varepsilon = \psi_1(\xi_2 K^q(d_2(x))), \quad x \in D_\rho^+.
 \end{aligned}$$

By using

$$(\xi_1 q^q)^{m-1} \Gamma_f^{q-1} = b_{1q} - 2\varepsilon,$$

and by a direct calculation, it follows that, for $x \in D_\rho^-$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\operatorname{div}(|\nabla \bar{u}_\varepsilon|^{m-2} \nabla \bar{u}_\varepsilon) - b(x)f(\bar{u}_\varepsilon(x)) + |\bar{u}_\varepsilon(x)|^{q(m-1)} \\
 &= (m-1)(\psi'_1(\xi_1 K^q(d_1(x))))^{m-2} \psi''_1(\xi_1 K^q(d_1(x))) (\xi_1 q)^m K^{m(q-1)}(d_1(x)) k^m(d_1(x)) \\
 &+ (\psi'_1(\xi_1 K^q(d_1(x))))^{m-1} (\xi_1 q)^{m-1} (q-1)(m-1) K^{(q-1)(m-1)-1}(d_1(x)) k^m(d_1(x)) \\
 &+ (\psi'_1(\xi_1 K^q(d_1(x))))^{m-1} (\xi_1 q)^{m-1} K^{(q-1)(m-1)}(d_1(x)) (m-1) k^{m-2}(d_1(x)) k'(d_1(x)) \\
 &+ (\psi'_1(\xi_1 K^q(d_1(x))))^{m-1} (\xi_1 q)^{m-1} K^{(q-1)(m-1)}(d_1(x)) k^{m-1}(d_1(x)) \Delta(d_1(x)) \\
 &- b(x)f(\psi_1(\xi_1 K^q(d_1(x)))) + \left[\xi_1 K^q(d_1(x)) k(d_1(x)) \psi'_1(\xi_1 K^q(d_1(x))) \right]^{q(m-1)} \\
 &= (-1)^m f(\psi_1(\xi_1 K^q(d_1(x)))) k^{q(m-1)}(d_1(x)) \left\{ (\xi_1 q)^{m-1} \left(\frac{K(d_1(x))}{k(d_1(x))} \right)^{(q-1)(m-1)-1} \right. \\
 &\times \left[q \xi_i K^q(d_1(x)) f^{\frac{1}{m-1}-1} \left(\psi_1(\xi_i K^q(d_1(x))) \right) f' \left(\psi_1(\xi_i K^q(d_1(x))) \right) \right. \\
 &\quad \left. \left. - (q-1)(m-1) - \frac{(m-1)K(d_1(x))k'(d_1(x))}{k^2(d_1(x))} - \frac{K(d_1(x))}{k(d_1(x))} \Delta d(x) \right] \right. \\
 &\quad \left. - \left(\frac{b(x)}{K^{q(m-1)}(d_1(x))} - b_{1q} \right) - b_{1q} + (\xi_1 q^q)^{m-1} \Gamma_f^{q-1} \right. \\
 &\quad \left. + (\xi_1 q^q)^{m-1} \left[\left((\xi_1 K^q(t))^{m-1} f(\psi_1(\xi_i K^q(t))) \right)^{q-1} - \Gamma_f^{q-1} \right] \right\} \\
 &\leq 0,
 \end{aligned}$$

i.e., \bar{u}_ε is a supersolution of problem (P_+) in D_ρ^- .

In a similar way, for $x \in D_\rho^+$, we can show that $\underline{u}_\varepsilon$ is a subsolution of of problem (P_+) in D_ρ^+ .

Now let u_+ be an arbitrary solution of problem (P_+) and

$$C_1(\delta_\varepsilon) := \max_{d(x) \geq \delta_\varepsilon} u_+(x).$$

We see that

$$u_+ \leq C_1(\delta_\varepsilon) + \bar{u}_\varepsilon, \quad \text{on } \partial D_\rho^-.$$

Since ψ_1 is decreasing, see Lemma 2.3, and $\xi_{02} < \xi_2$, we have that

$$\underline{u}_\varepsilon \leq \psi_1(\xi_{02}K^q(2\delta_{2\varepsilon})) := C_2(\delta_\varepsilon),$$

whenever $d(x) = 2\delta_{2\varepsilon} - \rho$ and $\underline{u}_\varepsilon \leq u_+ + C_2(\delta_\varepsilon)$ on ∂D_ρ^+ .

It follows by (f_1) and Lemma 3.1 that

$$u_+ \leq C_1(\delta_\varepsilon) + \bar{u}_\varepsilon \text{ on } D_\rho^-, \quad \underline{u}_\varepsilon \leq u_+ + C_2(\delta_\varepsilon) \text{ on } D_\rho^+.$$

Hence by letting $\rho \rightarrow 0$, we have for $x \in D_\rho^- \cap D_\rho^+$,

$$1 - \frac{C_2(\delta_\varepsilon)}{\psi_1(\xi_2 K^q(d(x)))} \leq \frac{u_+(x)}{\psi_1(\xi_2 K^q(d(x)))}$$

and

$$\frac{u_+(x)}{\psi_1(\xi_1 K^q(d(x)))} \leq 1 + \frac{C_1(\delta_\varepsilon)}{\psi_1(\xi_1 K^q(d(x)))}.$$

Consequently,

$$1 \leq \liminf_{d(x) \rightarrow 0} \frac{u_+(x)}{\psi_1(\xi_2 K^q(d(x)))}$$

and

$$\limsup_{d(x) \rightarrow 0} \frac{u_+(x)}{\psi_1(\xi_1 K^q(d(x)))} \leq 1.$$

Thus by letting $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$, we obtain

$$1 \leq \liminf_{d(x) \rightarrow 0} \frac{u_+(x)}{\psi_1(\xi_{02} K^q(d(x)))}$$

and

$$\limsup_{d(x) \rightarrow 0} \frac{u_+(x)}{\psi_1(\xi_{01} K^q(d(x)))} \leq 1.$$

By Lemma 2.3 (ii) and Proposition 2.1, we have

$$\limsup_{d(x) \rightarrow 0} \frac{\psi_1(\xi_{02} K^q(d(x)))}{\psi_1(K^q(d(x)))} = \limsup_{d(x) \rightarrow 0} \frac{\psi_1(\xi_{01} K^q(d(x)))}{\psi_1(K^q(d(x)))} = 1.$$

Thus

$$\limsup_{d(x) \rightarrow 0} \frac{u_+(x)}{\psi_1(K^q(d(x)))} = 1.$$

(ii) When b satisfies (b_2) with $C_k > 0$, either $q \in (0, m/(m-1)), m > 1$ and $\Gamma_f > 0$.

Let $\varepsilon \in (0, b_1/4)$ and

$$\xi_{03} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{b_1}{2 - (m-1)(2 - C_k)} \right)^{\frac{1}{m-1}},$$

$$\begin{aligned} \xi_{04} &= \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{b_2}{2 - (m-1)(2 - C_k)} \right)^{\frac{1}{m-1}}, \\ (\xi_3)^{m-1} &= (\xi_{03})^{m-1} - \frac{\varepsilon}{2 - (m-1)(2 - C_k)}, \\ (\xi_4)^{m-1} &= (\xi_{04})^{m-1} + \frac{\varepsilon}{2 - (m-1)(2 - C_k)}. \end{aligned}$$

It follows that

$$\xi_{03} / \sqrt[m-1]{2} < \xi_3 < \xi_4 < \sqrt[m-1]{2} \xi_{04}.$$

By $(b_1), (b_2), (1.2), (2.11)$ and (f_4) , we see that there is $\delta_\varepsilon \in (0, \delta_0/2)$ (which is corresponding to ε) sufficiently small that:

$$\begin{aligned} (b_1 - \varepsilon)k^m(d(x) - \rho)K^{m-2}(d(x) - \rho) \\ \leq (b_1 - \varepsilon)k^m(d(x))K^{m-2}(d(x)) < b(x), \quad x \in D_\rho^- = \Omega_{2\delta_\varepsilon} / \bar{\Omega}_\rho, \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} b(x) < (b_2 + \varepsilon)k^m(d(x))K^{m-2}(d(x) - \rho) \\ \leq (b_2 + \varepsilon)k^m(d(x) + \rho)K^{m-2}(d(x) + \rho), \quad x \in D_\rho^+ = \Omega_{2\delta_\varepsilon - \rho}, \end{aligned}$$

where $\rho \in (0, \delta_\varepsilon)$.

For $i = 3, 4$,

$$\begin{aligned} 4(2\xi_{04})^{m-1} \left| \xi_i K^2(t) f^{\frac{1}{m-1}-1}(\psi_1(\xi_i K^2(t))) f'(\psi_1(\xi_i K^2(t))) - 1 \right| \\ + (m-1)(2\xi_{04})^{m-1} \left| \frac{K(t)k'(t)}{k^2(t)} - (1 - C_k) \right| + (2\xi_{04})^{m-1} \frac{K(t)}{k(t)} |\Delta d(x)| \\ + 2(2^q \xi_{04})^{m-1} \left| (\xi_i K^2(t))^{m-1} f(\psi_1(\xi_i K^2(t))) - \Gamma_f + \Gamma_f \right|^{q-1} \\ \times \left(\frac{K(t)}{k(t)} \right)^{1-(q-1)(m-1)} < \varepsilon, \quad \forall (x, t) \in \Omega_{2\delta_\varepsilon} \times (0, 2\delta_\varepsilon). \end{aligned}$$

Let

$$d_1(x) = d(x) - \rho, \quad d_2(x) = d(x) + \rho,$$

$$\bar{u}_\varepsilon = \psi_1(\xi_3 K^2(d_1(x))), \quad x \in D_\rho^- \quad \text{and} \quad \underline{u}_\varepsilon = \psi_1(\xi_4 K^2(d_2(x))) \quad x \in D_\rho^+.$$

By using

$$(2\xi_3)^{m-1} (2 - (m-1)(2 - C_k)) = b_1,$$

and by a direct calculation, it follows that, for $x \in D_\rho^-$,

$$\begin{aligned} \operatorname{div}(|\nabla \bar{u}_\varepsilon|^{m-2} \nabla \bar{u}_\varepsilon) - b(x) f(\bar{u}_\varepsilon(x)) \pm |\bar{u}_\varepsilon(x)|^{q(m-1)} \\ = (m-1) \left(\psi_1'(\xi_3 K^2(d_1(x))) \right)^{m-2} \psi_1'' \left(\xi_3 K^2(d_1(x)) \right) (2\xi_3)^m K^m(d_1(x)) k^m(d_1(x)) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & + \left(\psi_1'(\xi_3 K^2(d_1(x))) \right)^{m-1} (2\xi_3)^{m-1} (m-1) K^{m-2}(d_1(x)) k^m(d_1(x)) \\
 & + \left(\psi_1'(\xi_3 K^2(d_1(x))) \right)^{m-1} (2\xi_3)^{m-1} K^{m-1}(d_1(x)) (m-1) k^{m-2}(d_1(x)) k'(d_1(x)) \\
 & + \left(\psi_1'(\xi_3 K^2(d_1(x))) \right)^{m-1} (2\xi_3)^{m-1} K^{m-1}(d_1(x)) k^{m-1}(d_1(x)) \Delta(d_1(x)) \\
 & - b(x) f(\psi_1(\xi_3 K^2(d_1(x)))) \pm \left[2\xi_3 K(d_1(x)) k(d_1(x)) \psi_1'(\xi_3 K^2(d_1(x))) \right]^{q(m-1)} \\
 = & (-1)^m f(\psi_1(\xi_3 K^2(d_1(x)))) k^m(d_1(x)) K^{m-2}(d_1(x)) \\
 \times & \left\{ 2(2\xi_3)^{m-1} \left(\xi_3 K^2(d_1(x)) f^{\frac{1}{m-1}-1}(\psi_1(\xi_3 K^2(d_1(x)))) f'(\psi_1(\xi_3 K^2(d_1(x)))) - 1 \right) \right. \\
 & + 2(2\xi_3)^{m-1} - (m-1)(2\xi_3)^{m-1} \\
 & - (m-1)(2\xi_3)^{m-1} \left(\frac{k'(d_1(x)) K(d_1(x))}{k^2(d_1(x))} - (1 - C_k) \right) \\
 & - (m-1)(2\xi_3)^{m-1} (1 - C_k) - (2\xi_3)^{m-1} \frac{K(d_1(x))}{k(d_1(x))} \Delta d_1(x) \\
 & - \left(\frac{(-1)^m b(x)}{k^m(d_1(x)) K^{m-2}(d_1(x))} - b_1 \right) - b_1 \\
 & \left. \pm (2^q \xi_3)^{m-1} \left((\xi_3 K^2(d_1(x)))^{m-1} f(\psi_1(\xi_3 K^2(d_1(x)))) \right)^{q-1} \right\} \\
 \times & \left(\frac{K(d_1(x))}{k(d_1(x))} \right)^{1-(q-1)(m-1)} \Big\} \\
 \leq & 0,
 \end{aligned}$$

i.e., \bar{u}_ε is a supersolution of problem (P_\pm) in D_ρ^- .

In a similar way, for $x \in D_\rho^+$, we can show that $\underline{u}_\varepsilon$ is a subsolution of of problem (P_\pm) in D_ρ^+ .

The last part of the proof is the same as that of (i).

(iii) When $q = m/(m-1)$, b satisfies (b_2) and $2 - (m-1)C_k - 2\Gamma_f^{1/(m-1)} > 0$ for problem (P_-) .

Let $\varepsilon \in (0, b_1/4)$ and

$$\begin{aligned}
 \xi_{05} &= \frac{1}{2} {}^{m-1}\sqrt{\frac{b_1}{2 - (m-1)C_k - 2\Gamma_f^{1/(m-1)}}}, \\
 \xi_{06} &= \frac{1}{2} {}^{m-1}\sqrt{\frac{b_2}{2 - (m-1)C_k - 2\Gamma_f^{1/(m-1)}}}, \\
 \xi_5 &= \xi_{05} - \frac{2\varepsilon}{2 - (m-1)C_k - 2\Gamma_f^{1/(m-1)}},
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\xi_6 = \xi_{06} + \frac{2\varepsilon}{2 - (m - 1)C_k - 2\Gamma_f^{1/(m-1)}}.$$

It follows that

$$\xi_{05}/\sqrt[m-1]{2} < \xi_5 < \xi_6 < \sqrt[m-1]{2}\xi_{06}.$$

By $(b_1), (b_2), (1.2), (2.11)$ and (f_4) , we see that there is $\delta_\varepsilon \in (0, \delta_0/2)$ (which is corresponding to ε) sufficiently small that:

$$\begin{aligned} (b_1 - \varepsilon)k^m(d(x) - \rho)K^{m-2}(d(x) - \rho) \\ \leq (b_1 - \varepsilon)k^m(d(x))K^{m-2}(d(x)) < b(x), \quad x \in D_\rho^- = \Omega_{2\delta_\varepsilon}/\bar{\Omega}_\rho \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} b(x) < (b_2 + \varepsilon)k^m(d(x))K^{m-2}(d(x) - \rho) \\ \leq (b_2 + \varepsilon)k^m(d(x) + \rho)K^{m-2}(d(x) + \rho), \quad x \in D_\rho^+ = \Omega_{2\delta_\varepsilon-\rho}, \end{aligned}$$

where $\rho \in (0, \delta_\varepsilon)$.

And for $i = 5, 6$,

$$\begin{aligned} 4(2\xi_{06})^{m-1} \left| \xi_i K^2(t) f^{\frac{1}{m-1}-1}(\psi_1(\xi_i K^2(t))) f'(\psi_1(\xi_i K^2(t))) - 1 \right| \\ + (m-1)(2\xi_{06})^{m-1} \left| \frac{K(t)k'(t)}{k^2(t)} - (1 - C_k) \right| + (2\xi_{06})^{m-1} \frac{K(t)}{k(t)} |\Delta d(x)| \\ + 2(2\xi_{06})^{m-1} \left| \xi_i K^2(t) f^{\frac{1}{m-1}}(\psi_1(\xi_i K^2(t))) - \Gamma_f^{\frac{1}{m-1}} \right| \\ < \varepsilon, \quad \forall (x, t) \in \Omega_{2\delta_\varepsilon} \times (0, 2\delta_\varepsilon). \end{aligned}$$

Let

$$d_1(x) = d(x) - \rho, \quad d_2(x) = d(x) + \rho,$$

$$\bar{u}_\varepsilon = \psi_1(\xi_5 K^2(d_1(x))), \quad x \in D_\rho^- \quad \text{and} \quad \underline{u}_\varepsilon = \psi_1(\xi_6 K^2(d_2(x))) \quad x \in D_\rho^+.$$

By using

$$(2\xi_5)^{m-1} (2 - (m - 1)C_k - 2\Gamma_f^{\frac{1}{m-1}}) = b_1,$$

and by a direct calculation, it follows that, for $x \in D_\rho^-$,

$$\begin{aligned} \operatorname{div}(|\nabla \bar{u}_\varepsilon|^{m-2} \nabla \bar{u}_\varepsilon) - b(x)f(\bar{u}_\varepsilon(x)) - |\bar{u}_\varepsilon(x)|^m \\ = (m-1) \left(\psi_1'(\xi_5 K^2(d_1(x))) \right)^{m-2} \psi_1''(\xi_5 K^2(d_1(x))) (2\xi_5)^m K^m(d_1(x)) k^m(d_1(x)) \\ + \left(\psi_1'(\xi_5 K^2(d_1(x))) \right)^{m-1} (2\xi_5)^{m-1} (m-1) K^{m-2}(d_1(x)) k^m(d_1(x)) \\ + \left(\psi_1'(\xi_5 K^2(d_1(x))) \right)^{m-1} (2\xi_5)^{m-1} K^{m-1}(d_1(x)) (m-1) k^{m-2}(d_1(x)) k'(d_1(x)) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & + \left(\psi'_1(\xi_5 K^2(d_1(x))) \right)^{m-1} (2\xi_5)^{m-1} K^{m-1}(d_1(x)) k^{m-1}(d_1(x)) \Delta(d_1(x)) \\
 & - b(x) f(\psi_1(\xi_5 K^2(d_1(x)))) - \left[2\xi_5 K(d_1(x)) k(d_1(x)) \psi'_1(\xi_5 K^2(d_1(x))) \right]^m \\
 = & (-1)^m f(\psi_1(\xi_5 K^{m-2}(d_1(x)))) k^m(d_1(x)) K^{m-2}(d_1(x)) \\
 \times & \left\{ 2(2\xi_5)^{m-1} \left(\xi_5 K^2(d_1(x)) f^{\frac{1}{m-1}-1}(\psi_1(\xi_5 K^2(d_1(x)))) f'(\psi_1(\xi_5 K^2(d_1(x)))) - 1 \right) \right. \\
 & + 2(2\xi_5)^{m-1} - (m-1)(2\xi_5)^{m-1} \\
 & - (m-1)(2\xi_5)^{m-1} \left(\frac{k'(d_1(x))K(d_1(x))}{k^2(d_1(x))} - (1 - C_k) \right) \\
 & - (m-1)(2\xi_5)^{m-1} (1 - C_k) - (2\xi_5)^{m-1} \frac{K(d_1(x))}{k(d_1(x))} \Delta d_1(x) \\
 & - \left(\frac{(-1)^m b(x)}{k^m(d_1(x)) K^{m-2}(d_1(x))} - b_1 \right) \\
 & - b_1 - 2(2\xi_5)^{m-1} \left(\xi_5 K^2(d_1(x)) f^{\frac{1}{m-1}}(\psi_1(\xi_5 K^2(d_1(x)))) - \Gamma_f^{\frac{1}{m-1}} \right) \\
 & \left. - 2(2\xi_5)^{m-1} \Gamma_f^{\frac{1}{m-1}} \right\} \\
 \leq & 0,
 \end{aligned}$$

i.e., \bar{u}_ε is a supersolution of problem (P_-) in D_ρ^- .

In a similar way, for $x \in D_\rho^+$, we can show that $\underline{u}_\varepsilon$ is a subsolution of of problem (P_-) in D_ρ^+ . The last part of the proof is the same as that of (i).

(iv) When $q = m/(m-1)$ b satisfies (b_2) and $2 - (m-1)C_k + 2\Gamma_f^{1/(m-1)} > 0$ for problem (P_+) .

Let $\varepsilon \in (0, b_1/4)$ and

$$\begin{aligned}
 \xi_{07} &= \frac{1}{2} {}^{m-1}\sqrt{\frac{b_1}{2 - (m-1)C_k + 2\Gamma_f^{1/(m-1)}}}, \\
 \xi_{08} &= \frac{1}{2} {}^{m-1}\sqrt{\frac{b_2}{2 - (m-1)C_k + 2\Gamma_f^{1/(m-1)}}}, \\
 \xi_7 &= \xi_{07} - \frac{2\varepsilon}{2 - (m-1)C_k + 2\Gamma_f^{1/(m-1)}}, \\
 \xi_8 &= \xi_{08} + \frac{2\varepsilon}{2 - (m-1)C_k + 2\Gamma_f^{1/(m-1)}}.
 \end{aligned}$$

It follows that

$$\xi_{07}/{}^{m-1}\sqrt{2} < \xi_7 < \xi_8 < {}^{m-1}\sqrt{2}\xi_{08}.$$

By $(b_1), (b_2), (1.2), (2.11)$ and (f_4) , we see that there is $\delta_\varepsilon \in (0, \delta_0/2)$ (which is corresponding to ε) sufficiently small that:

$$(b_1 - \varepsilon)k^m(d(x) - \rho)K^{m-2}(d(x) - \rho) \leq (b_1 - \varepsilon)k^m(d(x))K^{m-2}(d(x)) < b(x), x \in D_\rho^-,$$

and

$$b(x) < (b_2 + \varepsilon)k^m(d(x))K^{m-2}(d(x) - \rho) \leq (b_2 + \varepsilon)k^m(d(x) + \rho)K^{m-2}(d(x) + \rho), x \in D_\rho^+,$$

where $D_\rho^- = \Omega_{2\delta_\varepsilon}/\bar{\Omega}_\rho$, $D_\rho^+ = \Omega_{2\delta_\varepsilon - \rho}$ and $\rho \in (0, \delta_\varepsilon)$.

And for $i = 7, 8$,

$$\begin{aligned} & 4(2\xi_{08})^{m-1} \left| \xi_i K^2(t) f^{\frac{1}{m-1}-1}(\psi_1(\xi_i K^2(t))) f'(\psi_1(\xi_i K^2(t))) - 1 \right| \\ & + (m-1)(2\xi_{08})^{m-1} \left| \frac{K(t)k'(t)}{k^2(t)} - (1 - C_k) \right| + (2\xi_{08})^{m-1} \frac{K(t)}{k(t)} |\Delta d(x)| \\ & + 2(2\xi_{08})^{m-1} \left| \xi_i K^2(t) f^{\frac{1}{m-1}-1}(\psi_1(\xi_i K^2(t))) - \Gamma_f^{\frac{1}{m-1}} \right| \\ & < \varepsilon, \quad \forall (x, t) \in \Omega_{2\delta_\varepsilon} \times (0, 2\delta_\varepsilon). \end{aligned}$$

Let $d_1(x) = d(x) - \rho$, $d_2(x) = d(x) + \rho$ and

$$\bar{u}_\varepsilon = \psi_1(\xi_7 K^2(d_1(x))), \quad x \in D_\rho^- \quad \text{and} \quad \underline{u}_\varepsilon = \psi_1(\xi_8 K^2(d_2(x))) \quad x \in D_\rho^+.$$

By using

$$(2\xi_7)^{m-1} (2 - (m-1)C_k + 2\Gamma_f^{\frac{1}{m-1}}) = b_1,$$

and by a direct calculation, it follows that, for $x \in D_\rho^-$,

$$\begin{aligned} & \operatorname{div}(|\nabla \bar{u}_\varepsilon|^{m-2} \nabla \bar{u}_\varepsilon) - b(x)f(\bar{u}_\varepsilon(x)) + |\bar{u}_\varepsilon(x)|^m \\ & = (m-1) \left(\psi_1'(\xi_7 K^2(d_1(x))) \right)^{m-2} \psi_1''(\xi_7 K^2(d_1(x))) (2\xi_7)^m K^m(d_1(x)) k^m(d_1(x)) \\ & + \left(\psi_1'(\xi_7 K^2(d_1(x))) \right)^{m-1} (2\xi_7)^{m-1} (m-1) K^{m-2}(d_1(x)) k^m(d_1(x)) \\ & + \left(\psi_1'(\xi_7 K^2(d_1(x))) \right)^{m-1} (2\xi_7)^{m-1} K^{m-1}(d_1(x)) (m-1) k^{m-2}(d_1(x)) k'(d_1(x)) \\ & + \left(\psi_1'(\xi_7 K^2(d_1(x))) \right)^{m-1} (2\xi_7)^{m-1} K^{m-1}(d_1(x)) k^{m-1}(d_1(x)) \Delta(d_1(x)) \\ & - b(x)f(\psi_1(\xi_7 K^2(d_1(x)))) - \left[2\xi_7 K(d_1(x)) k(d_1(x)) \psi_1'(\xi_7 K^2(d_1(x))) \right]^m \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= (-1)^m f(\psi_1(\xi_7 K^{m-2}(d_1(x)))) k^m(d_1(x)) K^{m-2}(d_1(x)) \\
 &\times \left\{ 2(2\xi_7)^{m-1} \left(\xi_7 K^2(d_1(x)) f^{\frac{1}{m-1}-1}(\psi_1(\xi_7 K^2(d_1(x)))) f'(\psi_1(\xi_7 K^2(d_1(x)))) - 1 \right) \right. \\
 &\quad + 2(2\xi_7)^{m-1} - (m-1)(2\xi_7)^{m-1} \\
 &\quad - (m-1)(2\xi_7)^{m-1} \left(\frac{k'(d_1(x))K(d_1(x))}{k^2(d_1(x))} - (1 - C_k) \right) \\
 &\quad - (m-1)(2\xi_7)^{m-1}(1 - C_k) - (2\xi_5)^{m-1} \frac{K(d_1(x))}{k(d_1(x))} \Delta d_1(x) \\
 &\quad - \left(\frac{(-1)^m b(x)}{k^m(d_1(x))K^{m-2}(d_1(x))} - b_1 \right) \\
 &\quad - b_1 + 2(2\xi_7)^{m-1} \left(\xi_7 K^2(d_1(x)) f^{\frac{1}{m-1}}(\psi_1(\xi_7 K^2(d_1(x)))) - \Gamma_f^{\frac{1}{m-1}} \right) \\
 &\quad \left. + 2(2\xi_7)^{m-1} \Gamma_f^{\frac{1}{m-1}} \right\} \\
 &\leq 0,
 \end{aligned}$$

i.e., \bar{u}_ϵ is a supersolution of problem (P_+) in D_ρ^- .

In a similar way, for $x \in D_\rho^+$, we can show that \underline{u}_ϵ is a subsolution of of problem (P_+) in D_ρ^+ . The last part of the proof is the same as that of (i).

The existence of solutions of Problem (P_\pm) is similar as that in references [12, 13].

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Chunlian Liu
College of Xinglin
Nantong University
Jiangsu Nantong 226008
China
e-mail: liusisi_step@163.com

Zuodong Yang
Institute of Mathematics
School of Mathematics Science
Nanjing Normal University
Jiangsu Nanjing 210023
China
School of Teacher Education
Nanjing Normal University, Jiangsu Nanjing 210097
China
e-mail: zdyang_jin@263.net