

# 椭圆型方程广义解Liouville型定理的一个注

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## 摘要

在 $E^n$ 考虑椭圆方程

$$\operatorname{div} \vec{A}(x, u, \nabla u) = B(x, u, \nabla u),$$

其中 $\vec{A}, B$ 满足如下的结构条件:

$$\begin{aligned} \xi \cdot A(x, u, \xi) &\geq |\xi|^p, & 1 < p < n, \\ |\vec{A}(x, u, \xi)| &\leq \kappa |\xi|^{p-1}, & \kappa \geq 1, \end{aligned}$$

$$|B(x, u, \xi)| \leq b(x) |\xi|^\gamma, b(x) \in L_\infty(E^n), p-1 \leq \gamma \leq p-1 + p/n.$$

本文证明如果广义整解 $u \in W_{p, \text{loc}}^1(E^n) \cap L_\alpha(E^n)$ , 其中

$$\begin{cases} \alpha > 0 \text{ 可以任意} & \text{当 } \gamma = p-1, \\ \alpha = n(\gamma+1-p)/(p-\gamma) & \text{当 } p-1 < \gamma \leq p-1 + \frac{p}{n}, \end{cases}$$

那么 $u \equiv 0$ .

## A Note on Liouville Type Theorem to Generalized Solutions of Elliptic Equations\*

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**Abstract** It is proved that if the generalized entire solution  $u$  of the equation (1) satisfies  $u \in W_{p,\text{loc}}^1(E^n) \cap L_\alpha(E^n)$  for an appropriate  $\alpha$ , it must be zero.

**Keywords** elliptic equation, entire solution, Liouville theorem

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Consider on the  $n$ -dimensional Euclidean space  $E^n$  the following elliptic equation:

$$\operatorname{div} \underline{A}(x, u, \nabla u) = B(x, u, \nabla u), \quad (1)$$

where  $\underline{A}(x, u, \xi)$  and  $B(x, u, \xi)$  are defined on  $E^n \times E^1 \times E^n$ , measurable with respect to  $x$  for fixed  $u$  and  $\xi$ , continuous with respect to  $u$  and  $\xi$  for fixed  $x$  and satisfying the structural conditions:

$$\begin{aligned} \xi \cdot \underline{A}(x, u, \xi) &\geq |\xi|^p, & 1 < p < n \\ |\underline{A}(x, u, \xi)| &\leq \kappa |\xi|^{p-1}, & \kappa \geq 1 \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

$$|B(x, u, \xi)| \leq b(x) |\xi|^\gamma, \quad b(x) \in L_\infty(E^n) \text{ and } p-1 \leq \gamma \leq p-1 + p/n$$

respectively. As usual we call  $u$  a generalized solution of (1) if for any  $B_r = \{|x| < r\}$ , there hold  $u \in W_p^1(B_r)$  and

$$\int_{B_r} \{\nabla v \underline{A}(x, u, \nabla u) + v B(x, u, \nabla u)\} dx = 0, \quad \forall v \in \mathring{W}_p^1(B_r) \quad (1)'$$

In the case  $\gamma = p-1$  and under the supplementary assumption

$$|b(x)| = O(|x|^{-1}) \text{ as } |x| \rightarrow \infty.$$

We see from Liang<sup>[1]</sup> that if the generalized entire solution  $u$  of (1) is bounded globally on  $E^n$ , then it must be a constant. The same result is proved by Yu-Liang in [2] for a

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one-sided bounded solution. In Yu-Liang [3], other type Liouville theorem is given, namely, if a generalized solution of (1) satisfies  $u \in L_\alpha(E^n)$  for an arbitrary  $\alpha > 0$ , then  $u$  must be trivial. The latter result was obtained early by T.Kilpeläinen in [4] for  $\underline{A}(x, u, \xi) = \underline{A}(x, \xi)$  and  $B(x, u, \xi) \equiv 0$  and

$$u \in W_{p,\text{loc}}^1(E^n) \cap L_{p^*}(E^n), p^* = np/(n-p), 1 < p < n.$$

Without any restriction on  $b(x)$  we now prove the following:

**Theorem** *Let the condition (2) be satisfied and  $u$  a generalized entire solution of (1). If  $u \in L_\alpha(R^n)$  with*

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha > 0 \text{ may be arbitrary} & \quad \text{as } \gamma = p - 1, \\ \alpha = n(\gamma + 1 - p)/(p - \gamma) & \quad \text{as } p - 1 < \gamma \leq p - 1 + p/n, \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

the  $u \equiv 0$ .

**Proof** Let  $k_0 > 0$  be arbitrary and  $\theta = \theta(k_0) > 0$  to be determined later. By the assumption on  $u$  we take  $R = R(k_0) > 1$  large enough that

$$\int_{B_{5r}/B_r} |u|^\alpha dx \leq \theta \text{ as } r \geq R. \quad (4)$$

Let  $r_0, r_1$  satisfying  $0 \leq r_1 < r_0 \leq r$  be arbitrary and  $\zeta(x) = \zeta(|x|)$  a piecewise linear continuous function of  $|x|$  satisfying

$$\zeta(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{as } |x| \leq 2r - r_0 \text{ or } |x| \geq 4r + r_0, \\ 1 & \text{as } 2r - r_1 \leq |x| \leq 4r + r_1. \end{cases}$$

Then  $|\nabla \zeta(x)| \leq (r_0 - r_1)^{-1}$ . Let  $k > 0$  and  $u^+ = \max(u, 0)$ . Take  $v = \zeta^p(u - k)^+ \in W_p^1(B_{5r})$  as a test function and insert it into (1)' (in which  $B_r$  is replaced by  $B_{5r}$ ) we get that

$$\int_{A(k, r_0)} \zeta^p |\nabla u|^p dx \leq C \int_{A(k, r_0)} \{(u - k) |\nabla \zeta| \zeta^{p-1} |\nabla u|^{p-1} + (u - k) \zeta^p |\nabla u|^\gamma\} dx, \quad (5)$$

where  $A(k, r_0) = (B_{4r+r_0}/B_{2r-r_0}) \cap \{u > k\}$  is the effective domain of the integrations and  $C$  is the constant depending only on  $n, p, \kappa$  and the norm of  $b(x)$  in  $L_\infty(E^n)$ . It follows from (5) by using the Young inequality that

$$\int_{A(k, r_0)} \zeta^p |\nabla u|^p dx \leq C \int_{A(k, r_0)} \left\{ \left| \frac{u - k}{r_0 - r_1} \right|^p + (u - k)^{\frac{p}{p-\gamma}} \right\} dx,$$

where the constant  $C$  is independent of  $k, r_0$  and  $r_1$  (the same is the following). From the above inequality and Sobolev imbedding theorem we get

$$\begin{aligned} \left( \int_{A(k, r_1)} |u - k|^{p^*} dx \right)^{p/p^*} & \leq C \int_{A(k, r_0)} |\nabla(\zeta(u - k)^+)|^p dx \\ & \leq C \int_{A(k, r_0)} \left\{ \left| \frac{u - k}{r_0 - r_1} \right|^p + (u - k)^{\frac{p}{p-\gamma}} \right\} dx. \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

We distinguish three cases. (i) The case  $p-1 < \gamma < p-1+p/n$ ; (ii) The case  $\gamma = p-1+p/n$ ; (iii) The case  $\gamma = p-1$ .

In the first case by the interpolation inequality we have

$$\int_{A(k,r_0)} |u-k|^{\frac{p}{p-\gamma}} dx \leq \left( \int_{A(k,r_0)} |u-k|^\alpha dx \right)^{\frac{1-\lambda}{\alpha} \frac{p}{p-\gamma}} \left( \int_{A(k,r_0)} |u-k|^{p^*} dx \right)^{\frac{\lambda}{p^*} \frac{p}{p-\gamma}}, \quad (7)$$

$$(p-\gamma)/p = (1-\lambda)/\alpha + \lambda/p^* \text{ i.e., } \lambda = (1/\alpha - 1 + \gamma/p)/(1/\alpha - 1/p^*).$$

The assumption  $\alpha = n(\gamma+1-p)/(p-\gamma)$  implies

$$\lambda = p-\gamma \text{ and } \frac{1-\lambda}{\alpha} \frac{p}{p-\gamma} = p/n.$$

Combining with (6), (7) and (4) yields

$$\begin{aligned} & \left( \int_{A(k,r_1)} (u-k)^{p^*} dx \right)^{p/p^*} \\ & \leq C \{ (\tau_0 - \tau_1)^{-p} \int_{A(k,r_0)} (u-k)^p dx + \theta^{p/n} \left( \int_{A(k,r_0)} (u-k)^{p^*} dx \right)^{p/p^*} \}. \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

If we take  $\theta$  such that  $C\theta^{p/n} \leq \frac{1}{2}$ , then, in virure of the arbitrariness of  $\tau_0, \tau_1$  we deduce from (8) (by the use of a lemma of Giaquinta-Giusti<sup>[5]</sup>) that

$$\left( \int_{A(k,r_1)} (u-k)^{p^*} dx \right)^{p/p^*} \leq C(\tau_0 - \tau_1)^{-p} \int_{A(k,r_0)} (u-k)^p dx, \quad \forall 0 \leq \tau_1 < \tau_0 \leq r. \quad (9)$$

If  $\alpha \geq p$ , it follows from (9) that

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{A(k,r_1)} (u-k)^\alpha dx & \leq |A(k,r_1)|^{1-\alpha/p^*} \left( \int_{A(k,r_1)} (u-k)^{p^*} dx \right)^{\alpha/p^*} \\ & \leq C|A(k,r_0)|^{\alpha/n} (\tau_0 - \tau_1)^{-\alpha} \int_{A(k,r_0)} (u-k)^\alpha dx. \end{aligned} \quad (10)$$

If  $0 < \alpha < p$ , by the interpolation inequality we get from (9) that

$$\begin{aligned} & \left( \int_{A(k,r_1)} (u-k)^{p^*} dx \right)^{p/p^*} \\ & \leq C(\tau_0 - \tau_1)^{-p} \left( \int_{A(k,r_0)} (u-k)^\alpha dx \right)^{p(1-\lambda_1)/\alpha} \left( \int_{A(k,r_0)} (u-k)^{p^*} dx \right)^{\lambda_1 p/p^*} \\ & \leq \frac{1}{2} \left( \int_{A(k,r_0)} (u-k)^{p^*} dx \right)^{p/p^*} + C(\tau_0 - \tau_1)^{-pn(\frac{1}{\alpha} - \frac{1}{p^*})} \left( \int_{A(k,r_0)} (u-k)^\alpha dx \right)^{\frac{p}{\alpha}}, \end{aligned} \quad (11)$$

where  $\lambda_1 = (1/\alpha - 1/p)/(1/\alpha - 1/p^*) \in (0, 1)$ .

For the same reason as above, the first term on the right hand side of (11) can be neglected, then, it follows

$$\int_{A(k,r_1)} (u-k)^\alpha dx \leq C[|A(k,r_0)|(\tau_0 - \tau_1)^{-n}]^{(1-\alpha/p^*)} \int_{A(k,r_0)} (u-k)^\alpha dx. \quad (10)'$$

We now prove that (10) and (10)' imply

$$\text{vrai}_{B_{4r}/B_{2r}} \max u \leq 2k_0, \quad (12)$$

respectively. For this take for  $m = 0, 1, 2, \dots$

$$k_m = 2k_0 - k_0/2^m, r_m = r/2^m \text{ and } J_m = \int_{A(k_m, r_m)} (u - k_m)^\alpha dx.$$

Replace  $k$  by  $k_{m+1}$ , and  $r_0, r_1$  by  $r_m, r_{m+1}$ , respectively, we have

$$\begin{aligned} J_{m+1} &\leq C \left( \int_{A(k_{m+1}, r_m)} \left| \frac{u - k_m}{k_{m+1} - k_m} \right|^\alpha dx \right)^{\alpha/n} \left( \frac{2^{m+1}}{r} \right)^\alpha J_m \\ &\leq C \left( \frac{2^{m+1}}{k_0} \right)^{\frac{\alpha^2}{n}} \left( \frac{2^{m+1}}{r} \right)^\alpha J_m^{1+\alpha/n}, \quad m = 0, 1, 2, \dots \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

(4) implies  $J_0 \leq \theta$ . Suppose we have proved

$$J_m \leq \delta^m \theta. \quad (14)$$

Then, combining (13) with (14), we obtain

$$J_{m+1} \leq J_m C 2^{\alpha(1+\alpha/n)} (\theta k_0^{-\alpha})^{\alpha/n} R^{-\alpha} (\delta^{\alpha/n} 2^{\alpha(1+\alpha/n)})^m.$$

Because of  $R \geq 1$ , if we take  $\theta = \theta(k_0) > 0$  satisfying

$$C 2^{\alpha(1+\alpha/n)} (\theta k_0^{-\alpha})^{\alpha/n} \leq \delta \text{ and } \delta^{\alpha/n} 2^{\alpha(1+\alpha/n)} = 1.$$

Then (14) holds also for  $m+1$ . By induction (14) holds for all positive integers. It follows that

$$0 = \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} J_m = \int_{A(2k_0, 0)} (u - 2k_0)^\alpha dx = \int_{B_{4r}/B_{2r}} |(u - 2k_0)^+|^\alpha dx,$$

and then (12) holds. By the weak maximum principle for generalized solutions of elliptic equations (see Yu-Liang<sup>[6]</sup>) we have

$$\text{vrai}_{B_{3r}} \max u^+ \leq \text{vrai}_{\partial B_{3r}} \max u^+ \leq \text{vrai}_{B_{4r}/B_{2r}} \max u^+ \leq 2k_0. \quad (15)$$

From the proof above we see that the results hold as  $r$  increases. Therefore (15) implies  $u^+ = 0$  on  $E^n$  owing to the arbitrariness of  $k_0$  and  $r$ . Similarly, we can prove  $(-u)^+ = 0$ . Thus, the conclusion of the theorem is true for the case of  $p-1 < \gamma < p-1 + p/n$ .

In the second case,  $\gamma = p-1 + p/n$ , we have

$$p^* = p/(p-\gamma) = n(\gamma+1-p)/(p-\gamma) = \alpha.$$

It follows from (6) that

$$\begin{aligned} \left( \int_{A(k, r_1)} (u - k)^\alpha dx \right)^{p/\alpha} &\leq C \{ (r_0 - r_1)^{-p} |A(k, r_0)|^{1-p/\alpha} \left( \int_{A(k, r_0)} (u - k)^\alpha dx \right)^{p/\alpha} \\ &\quad + \int_{A(k, r_0)} (u - k)^\alpha dx \}. \end{aligned} \quad (16)$$

Now, replacing (13) we have

$$\begin{aligned} J_{m+1}^{p/\alpha} &\leq C \left[ \left( \frac{2^{m+1}}{r} \right)^p \left( \int_{A(k_{m+1}, r_m)} \left| \frac{u - k_m}{k_{m+1} - k_m} \right|^\alpha dx \right)^{1-p/\alpha} J_m^{p/\alpha} + J_m \right] \\ &\leq C \left[ \left( \frac{2^{m+1}}{r} \right)^p \left( \frac{2^{m+1}}{k_0} \right)^{1-p/\alpha} + 1 \right] J_m, \quad m = 0, 1, 2, \dots \end{aligned} \quad (17)$$

On account of  $r \geq R \geq 1$ , from (17) we deduce again (12). The conclusion of the theorem is also true for  $\gamma = p - 1 + p/n$ .

Finally we consider the case  $\gamma = p - 1$ . Let  $\alpha \in (0, p)$ . It follows from (6)

$$\begin{aligned} &\left( \int_{A(k, r_1)} (u - k)^{p^*} dx \right)^{p/p^*} \\ &\leq C[(r_0 - r_1)^{-p} + 1] \left( \int_{A(k, r_0)} (u - k)^\alpha dx \right)^{(1-\lambda_1)p/\alpha} \left( \int_{A(k, r_0)} (u - k)^{p^*} dx \right)^{\lambda_1 p/p^*} \\ &\leq \frac{1}{2} \left( \int_{A(k, r_0)} (u - k)^{p^*} dx \right)^{p/p^*} + C[(r_0 - r_1)^{-1} \end{aligned} \quad (18)$$

$$+ 1]^{pn(1/\alpha - 1/p^*)} \left( \int_{A(k, r_0)} (u - k)^\alpha dx \right)^{p/\alpha}, \quad 0 \leq r_1 < r_0 \leq r, \quad (19)$$

where  $\lambda_1$  is the same as in (11). In virtue of the arbitrariness of  $r_0$  and  $r_1$  (18) implies

$$\begin{aligned} &\left( \int_{A(k, r_1)} (u - k)^{p^*} dx \right)^{p/p^*} \\ &\leq C[(r_0 - r_1)^{-1} + 1]^{pn(1/\alpha - 1/p^*)} \left( \int_{A(k, r_0)} (u - k)^\alpha dx \right)^{p/\alpha}, \quad 0 \leq r_1 < r_0 \leq r. \end{aligned}$$

Repeating the argument above we obtain (12) again. The conclusion of the theorem is also true for  $\gamma = p - 1$ . Q. E. D.

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