

## Blow-up Estimates for a Non-Newtonian Filtration Equation \*

YANG Zuo-dong<sup>1,2</sup>, LU Qi-shao<sup>1</sup>

- (1. Dept. of Appl. Math., Beijing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics, Beijing 100083, China;  
2. School of Math. & Comp. Sci., Nanjing Normal University, Jiangsu 210097, China)

**Abstract:** In this paper, blow-up estimates for a class of quasilinear reaction-diffusion equations(non-Newtonian filtration equations) in term of the nonexistence result for quasilinear ordinary differential equations are established to extends the result for semi-linear reaction-diffusion equations(Newtonian filtration equations).

**Key words:** blow up estimate; non-existence; quasilinear reaction-diffusion equation.

**Classification:** AMS(2000) 35K05,35K60/CLC number: O175.25

**Document code:** A      **Article ID:** 1000-341X(2003)01-0007-08

The purpose of this paper is to derive a bound for the rate of blow-up of solutions to the Non-Newtonian filtration equation

$$u_t = \operatorname{div}(|\nabla u|^{p-2} \nabla u) + u^m - u^{p-1}, \quad (1)$$

or

$$u_t = \operatorname{div}(|\nabla u|^{p-2} \nabla u) + u^m, \quad (1)'$$

where  $u \geq 0, m > p - 1, p \geq 2$ . The blow up rate estimates of positive radial solutions were established by Weissler in [1] for the (1) or (1)' with  $p = 2$ . In this paper, we get the same result for the (1) or (1)' with  $p \geq 2$ . Then, it extents and complement the result in [1].

This problem appears in the study of non-Newtonian fluids([2,3]) and nonlinear filtration theory ([4]). In the non-Newtonian fluids theory, the quantity  $p$  is a characteristic of the medium. Media with  $p > 2$  are called dilatant fluids and those with  $p < 2$  are called pseudoplastics. If  $p = 2$ , they are Newtonian fluids.

Let  $B(\rho)$  denote the open ball in  $\mathbf{R}^N$  of radius  $\rho$ , center at 0. Also, for  $T > 0$ , let  $\Gamma = \Gamma(\rho, T) = B(\rho) \times (0, T) \subset \mathbf{R}^{N+1}$ . A typical point in  $\Gamma$  is denoted by  $(x, t)$ , with  $x \in B(\rho)$  and  $t \in (0, T)$ .

---

\*Received date: 2000-02-28

**Foundation item:** Supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (10172011)

**Biography:** YANG Zuo-dong (1961- ), male, Ph.D..

**Theorem 1** Suppose for  $\rho > 0$  and  $T > 0$  the function  $u : \Gamma(\rho, T) \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$  satisfies:

- (a)  $u \in C^1(\Gamma)$  and  $u$  has continuous second order  $x$ -derivatives throughout  $\Gamma$ ;
- (b)  $u \geq 0$  and  $u_t \geq 0$  in  $\Gamma$ ;
- (c) for each  $t \in (0, T)$ ,  $u(\cdot, t)$  is radially symmetric and nonincreasing as a function  $r = |x|$ ;
- (d) for each  $t \in (0, T)$ ,  $u_t(\cdot, t)$  achieves its maximum at  $x = 0$ ;
- (e)  $u$  satisfies (1) or (1)' throughout  $\Gamma$ ;
- (f)  $u(0, t) \rightarrow \infty$  as  $t \rightarrow T$ .

Assume that  $N = 2, p \geq 2, m \geq 0$  or  $N > p, p \geq 2, p - 1 < m < \frac{N(p-1)+p}{N-p}$ . Then there exists a constant  $C > 0$  such that

$$u(x, t) \leq C(T - t)^{-1/(m-1)} \quad (2)$$

for all  $(x, t) \in \Gamma$ .

To prove the main Theorem 1, we give the following lemma

**Lemma 1** Let  $m > p - 1, p \geq 2$  and  $N > 2$ , and suppose  $N/p < (m + 1)/(m - p + 1)$  (that is  $m < \frac{N(p-1)+p}{N-p}$ ), then there does not exist a positive  $C^1$  function  $v(r) : [0, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$  with  $v'(0) = 0$  and

$$(|v'|^{p-2}v')' + \frac{N-1}{r}|v'|^{p-2}v' + v^m(r) = 0, \quad r > 0. \quad (3)$$

**Proof** Suppose there exists such a function  $v$ , then

$$(r^{N-1}\Phi_p(v'))' + r^{N-1}v^m(r) = 0,$$

and

$$r^{N-1}\Phi_p(v')(r) = - \int_0^r s^{N-1}v^m(s)ds. \quad (4)$$

where  $\Phi_p(v) = |v|^{p-2}v$ . We first dispense with the case  $N \leq p$ . Using (4), we see that if  $r \geq 1$ , then

$$v'(r) \leq -C^{1/(p-1)}r^{(1-N)/(p-1)}$$

for some  $C > 0$ . Integrating, we get

$$v(r) \leq v(1) + C^{1/(p-1)}(p-1)/(N-p)(r^{(p-N)/(p-1)} - 1).$$

and so  $v(r) \rightarrow -\infty$  as  $r \rightarrow \infty$ . This contradicts  $v(r) > 0$  and proves the lemma 1 for  $N \leq p$ .

Now suppose  $N > p$ . Formula (4) implies that  $v(r)$  is decreasing and therefore that

$$-r^{N-1}\Phi_p(v') = \int_0^r s^{N-1}v^m(s)ds \geq r^N v^m(r)/N,$$

or

$$v'(r) \leq -(1/N)^{1/(p-1)}r^{1/(p-1)}v^{m/(p-1)}(r).$$

This inequality is easily integrated to give

$$v^{(m-p+1)/(p-1)} \leq p/(m-p+1)N^{1/(p-1)}r^{-p/(p-1)}.$$

In particular,

$$\lim_{r \rightarrow +\infty} \sup r^{p/(m-p+1)} v(r) < +\infty. \quad (5)$$

At this point we use the hypothesis that  $N/p < (m+1)/(m-p+1)$ . This, along with (5) implies that

$$\int_0^{+\infty} r^{N-1} v^{m+1}(r) dr < +\infty. \quad (6)$$

We multiply (3) by  $r^{N-1} v(r)$  and use the identity

$$(r^{N-1} \Phi_p(v') v)' = (N-1) r^{N-2} \Phi_p(v') v + r^{N-1} (\Phi_p(v'))' v + r^{N-1} |v'|^p.$$

This gives

$$(r^{N-1} \Phi_p(v') v)' - r^{N-1} |v'|^p + r^{N-1} v^{m+1} = 0.$$

Integrating from 0 to  $r$  we get

$$-r^{N-1} \Phi_p(v') v(r) + \int_0^r s^{N-1} |v'(s)|^p ds = \int_0^r s^{N-1} v^{m+1}(s) ds. \quad (7)$$

Since  $v(r) > 0$  and  $v'(r) < 0$ , formulas (6) and (7) imply

$$\int_0^{+\infty} s^{N-1} |v'|^p ds \leq \int_0^{+\infty} s^{N-1} v^{m+1}(s) ds < +\infty. \quad (8)$$

We multiply (3) by  $r^N v'(r)$  and use the identities

$$\begin{aligned} (r^N |v'|^p)' &= N r^{N-1} |v'|^p + p r^N |v'|^{p-1} v'', \\ (r^N v^{m+p-1})' &= N r^{N-1} v^{m+p-1} + (m+p-1) r^N v^{m+p-2} v'. \end{aligned}$$

This gives

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dr} \left( r^N |v'|^p / p + \frac{r^N v^{m+p-1}}{m+p-1} \right) &= \frac{N}{(m+p-1)} r^{N-1} v^{m+p-1} + \\ &\frac{N}{p} r^{N-1} |v'|^p + r^N v^{m+p-2} v' + 1/(p-1) (-(N-1) r^{N-1} |v'|^p - r^N v^m v'). \end{aligned}$$

Integrating from 0 to  $x$  we get

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{r^N |v'|^p}{p} + \frac{r^N v^{m+p-1}(r)}{m+p-1} &= \frac{N}{(m+p-1)} \int_0^r s^{N-1} v^{m+p-1} ds + \\ &\left( \frac{N}{p} - \frac{N-1}{p-1} \right) \int_0^r s^{N-1} |v'|^p ds + \int_0^r s^N v^{m+p-2} v' ds - 1/(p-1) \int_0^r s^N v^m v' ds, \end{aligned}$$

then

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{r^N |v'|^p}{p} + \frac{r^N}{(p-1)(m+1)} v^{m+1}(r) \\ = \left( \frac{N}{p} - \frac{N-1}{p-1} \right) \int_0^r s^{N-1} |v'|^p ds + \frac{N}{(p-1)(m+1)} \int_0^r s^{N-1} v^{m+1}(s) ds. \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

Let  $h(r) = r^N |v'|^p / p + \frac{r^N}{(p-1)(m+1)} v^{m+1}(r)$ , by (8) and (9) we see  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} h(x) = l$  exists. Furthermore, again by virtue of (8), we have that  $\int_0^\infty t^{-1} h(t) ds < +\infty$ ; and so  $l = 0$ . Thus letting  $r \rightarrow +\infty$  in (9) yields

$$\frac{N}{(p-1)(m+1)} \int_0^{+\infty} s^{N-1} v^{m+1}(s) ds = \left( \frac{N-1}{p-1} - \frac{N}{p} \right) \int_0^{+\infty} s^{N-1} |v'|^p ds.$$

Finally, (6) and (8) together imply

$$N/p \geq (m+1)/(m-p+1).$$

This contradicts the hypothesis that  $N/p < (m+1)/(m-p+1)$ , and thereby proves the Lemma 1.

The proof of Theorem 1 is based upon modification of methods of Weissler [1] used to prove Theorem.

**Proof of the Theorem 1** We consider equation (1) (Eq.(1)' being similar). For  $0 < t < T$ , let  $\alpha(t) = u(0, t)^{(m-p+1)/p}$ ; then  $\alpha(t) \rightarrow \infty$  as  $t \rightarrow T$ . For  $t \in (0, T)$  and  $y \in B(\rho\alpha(t))$ , let

$$v(y, t) = \frac{u(y/\alpha(t), t)}{u(0, t)}.$$

Since  $0 \leq u(x, t) \leq u(0, t)$ , it follows that

$$0 \leq v(y, t) \leq 1. \quad (10)$$

Furthermore, a routine calculation shows that

$$\operatorname{div}(|\nabla v|^{p-2} \nabla v) + v^m(y, t) = \frac{[u_t(y/\alpha(t), t) + u^{p-1}(y/\alpha(t), t)]}{u^m(0, t)}.$$

Hypotheses (b) and (d) therefore imply that

$$0 \leq \operatorname{div}(|\nabla v|^{p-2} \nabla v) + v^m(y, t) \leq (u_t(0, t) + u^{p-1}(0, t))/u^m(0, t). \quad (11)$$

Since  $u(\cdot, t)$  is radially symmetric, the same is true for  $v(\cdot, t)$ ; and thus we may set

$$v(y, t) = w(r, t),$$

where  $|y| = r$  and  $0 \leq r < \rho\alpha(t)$ . Note that for each  $t \in (0, T)$ ,  $w(\cdot, t)$  is a  $C^1$  function on  $[0, \rho\alpha(t)]$  with  $w(0, t) = 1$  and  $w_r(0, t) = 0$ . Rewriting (10) and (11) in terms of  $w$ , we get

$$0 \leq w(r, t) \leq 1, \quad (12)$$

$$0 \leq (\Phi_p(w_r))_r + (N-1)/r \Phi_p(w_r) + w^m \leq \frac{u_t(0, t) + u^{p-1}(0, t)}{u^m(0, t)}, \quad (13)$$

where  $w_r$  the derivative of  $w$  with respect  $r$ . Furthermore,  $w_r \leq 0$  by hypothesis (c), and so (13) implies

$$(\Phi_p(w_r))_r w_r + (N-1)/r |w_r|^p + w^m w_r \leq 0,$$

which in turn says that

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial r}((p-1)/p|w_r|^p + w^{m+1}/(m+1)) \leq -(N-1)/r|w_r|^p \leq 0.$$

Integrating this last inequality from 0 to  $r$  shows that

$$(p-1)/p|w_r|^p + w^{m+1}/(m+1) \leq 1/(m+1),$$

and thus

$$|w_r(r, t)| \leq \left( \frac{p}{(p-1)(m+1)} \right)^{1/p}. \quad (14)$$

We now claim that

$$\liminf_{t \rightarrow T} \frac{u_t(0, t)}{u^m(0, t)} > 0. \quad (15)$$

We proceed by contradiction as in [1]. Suppose  $t_n$  is a sequence in  $(0, T)$  with  $t_n \rightarrow T$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$  and

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{u_t(0, t_n)}{u^m(0, t_n)} = 0. \quad (16)$$

By using the Ascoli-Alzela theorem, we know that there is a subsequence, which is still called  $t_n$ , and a function  $\bar{w} \in C([0, \infty))$  such that  $w(\cdot, t_n) \rightarrow \bar{w}$  uniformly on compact subsets of  $[0, \infty)$ . In particular, because of the properties of each  $w(\cdot, t_n)$ , we know that  $\bar{w} \geq 0$ ,  $\bar{w}(0) = 1$ , and  $\bar{w}$  is nonincreasing on  $[0, \infty)$ . Moreover, formula (14) implies that each  $w(\cdot, t_n)$  is Lipschitz with a Lipschitz constant of  $(\frac{p}{(p-1)(m+1)})^{1/p}$ . The same is therefore true of  $\bar{w}$ , and so  $\bar{w}$  is absolutely continuous on  $[0, \infty)$ . Next we consider  $w(\cdot, t_n)$  and  $\bar{w}$  as distributions on  $(0, \infty)$ . (Let  $w(r, t_n) = 0$  for  $r \geq \rho\alpha(t_n)$ .) Clearly,  $w(\cdot, t_n) \rightarrow \bar{w}$  in the sense of distributions; and hence

$$w_r(\cdot, t_n) \rightarrow \bar{w}_r, \quad (\Phi_p(w_r))_r(\cdot, t_n) \rightarrow (\Phi_p(\bar{w}_r))_r,$$

in the sense of distributions. Thus, formulas (13) and (16) imply that

$$(\Phi_p(\bar{w}_r))_r + (N-1)/r\Phi_p(\bar{w}_r) + \bar{w}^m = 0, \quad (17)$$

as distributions on  $(0, \infty)$ . This can be rewritten as

$$(r^{N-1}\Phi_p(\bar{w}_r))_r + r^{N-1}\bar{w}^m = 0. \quad (18)$$

Since  $\bar{w}$  is absolutely continuous, it follows immediately from (17) that  $\bar{w}$  is  $C^1$  on  $(0, \infty)$ . In particular, since  $\bar{w} \geq 0$ , the local existence and uniqueness of  $C^1$  solutions of (18) on  $(0, \infty)$  guarantee that  $\bar{w} > 0$  on  $(0, \infty)$ .

If  $N = 2, p > 2$ , we proceed as follows. From Eq (18), we infer that  $r\Phi_p(\bar{w}_r)$  are decreasing, and that there exist  $M < 0$  and  $r_0 > 0$  such that

$$r\Phi_p(\bar{w}_r) < M \quad \text{for } r \in (r_0, +\infty).$$

The last inequality implies that

$$\begin{aligned}\bar{w}(s) &> \bar{w}(s) - \bar{w}(t) > (-M)^{1/(p-1)} \int_s^t r^{-1/(p-1)} dr \\ &= (-M)^{1/(p-1)} (t^{(p-2)/(p-1)} - s^{(p-2)/(p-1)})\end{aligned}\quad (19)$$

for  $r_0 \leq s \leq t$ . Letting  $t \rightarrow +\infty$  in (19), we obtain a contradiction.

If  $N = 2, p = 2$ , a similar argument implies that

$$\bar{w}(s) > \bar{w}(s) - \bar{w}(t) > (-M)[\ln(t) - \ln(s)]$$

for  $r_0 \leq s \leq t$ . Letting  $t \rightarrow +\infty$  in last inequality, we obtain a contradiction.

In the case  $N > p$  we derive a contradiction as follows. Let  $0 < R < r$  and integrate (18) from  $R$  to  $r$ . This gives

$$r^{N-1} \Phi_p(\bar{w}_r)(r) - R^{N-1} \Phi_p(\bar{w}_r)(R) = - \int_R^r s^{N-1} \bar{w}^m(s) ds. \quad (20)$$

Since  $\bar{w}$  is continuous at 0, it follows that  $\lim_{R \rightarrow 0} R^{N-1} \bar{w}_r^{p-1}(R) = L$  exists. Note that  $L$  must in fact be zero. Indeed, if  $L \neq 0$ , then  $\bar{w}_r \leq 0$  would not be integrable near  $r = 0$  and then  $\bar{w}$  would not be continuous at  $r = 0$ . Thus, letting  $R \rightarrow 0$  in (20) gives

$$\Phi_p(\bar{w}_r)(r) = -r^{1-N} \int_0^r s^{N-1} \bar{w}^m(s) ds, \quad (21)$$

for all  $r > 0$ . Using (17) and (21), one can easily check that  $\bar{w} \in C^1[0, \infty)$  with  $\bar{w}_r(0) = 0$ . From Lemma 1, since

$$N/p < (m+1)/(m-p+1),$$

there is note positive  $C^1$  function on  $[0, \infty)$  with zero derivative at 0 which satisfies (18) for all  $r > 0$ . Thus  $\bar{w}$  cannot exist.

These contradictions show that formula (15) is indeed correct. Thus, there exists  $c > 0$  such that, for all  $t \in (0, T)$  close enough to  $T$ ,

$$\frac{u_t(0, t)}{u^m(0, t)} \geq c > 0.$$

This can be rewritten as

$$(u^{1-m}(0, t))_t \leq -(m-1)c. \quad (22)$$

Since  $\lim_{t \rightarrow T} u^{1-m}(0, t) = 0$ , integrating (22) from  $t$  to  $T$  yields

$$u^{1-m} \geq c_1(T-t) \quad (23)$$

for  $t$  close to  $T$ . Finally, hypotheses (b) and (c) in the theorem, along with formula (23), show that

$$u(x, t) \leq C(T-t)^{-1/(m-1)}$$

for all  $(x, t) \in \Gamma$ . This completes the proof of the theorem.

Finally, we give lower bounds for the blow-up rates.

**Theorem 2** Assume that the conditions (a)-(f) in Theorem 1 hold. Then there are positive constants  $c_2, \delta$  such that

$$u(0, t) \geq c_2(T - t)^{-1/(m-1)}$$

for  $t \in (\delta, T)$ .

**Proof** We consider equation (1) (Eq.(1)' being similar). From (1) and consider (c), we get

$$(p-1)(-u')^{p-2}u'' + (N-1)/r|u'|^{p-2}u' + u^m - u^{p-1} = u_t. \quad (24)$$

Since  $u'' \leq 0$  at  $r = 0$  with  $t \in (0, T)$ , we see from (24) that

$$u_t(0, t) \leq u^m(0, t) - u^{p-1}(0, t),$$

hence

$$\frac{u_t(0, t)}{u^m(0, t)} \leq 1 - \frac{1}{u^{m-p+1}} \leq 1. \quad (25)$$

Integrating (25) over  $(t, s) \subset (\delta, T)$  and letting  $s \rightarrow T$ , we get by condition (f) of Theorem 1

$$u(0, t) \geq c_2(T - t)^{-1/(m-1)}.$$

**Remark 1** Combining Theorem 1 and Theorem 2, we conclude that the blow-up rates of radial positive solutions of the (1) or (1)' under the conditions of the theorems are

$$u(0, t) = O((T - t)^{-1/(m-1)}),$$

as  $t$  tends to  $T$ .

## References:

- [1] WEISSLER F B. An  $L^\infty$  blow-up estimate for a nonlinear heat equation [J]. Comm. Pure Appl. Math., 1985, **38**: 291-295.
- [2] ASTRITA G, MARRUCCI G. Principles of Non-Newtonian Fluid Mechanics [M]. McGraw-Hill, 1974.
- [3] MARTINSON L K, PAVLOV K B. Unsteady shear flows of a conducting fluid with a rheological power law [J]. Magnit. Gidrodinamika, 1971, **2**: 50-58.
- [4] ESTEBAN J R, VAZQUEZ J L. On the equation of turbulent filtration in one-dimensional porous media [J]. Nonlinear Analysis, 1982, **10**: 1303-1325.
- [5] HARAUX A, WEISSLER F B. Non-uniqueness for a semilinear initial value problem [J]. Indiana Univ. Math. J., 1982, **31**: 167-189.
- [6] GIGA Y, KOHN R V. Asymptotically self-similar blow up of semilinear heat equations [J]. Comm. Pure Appl. Math., 1985, **38**: 297-319.
- [7] MITIDIERI E. A Rellich type identity and applications [J]. Comm. Partial Differential Equations, 1993, **18**: 125-171.
- [8] NI W M, SERRIN J. Nonexistence theorems for singular solutions of quasilinear partial differential equations [J]. Comm. Pure Appl. Math., 1986, **39**: 379-399.

- [9] GABRIELLA C, MITIDIERI E. *Blow-up estimates of positive solutions of a parabolic system* [J]. J. Differential Equations, 1994, 113: 265–271.
- [10] YANG Zuo-dong, LU Qi-shao. *Blow-up estimates for a non-Newtonian filtration system* [J]. Appl. Math. Mech., 2001, 22(3): 332–339. (in Chinese)
- [11] YANG Zuo-dong, LU Qi-shao. *Non-existence of positive radial solutions for a class of quasilinear elliptic system* [J]. Commun. Nonlinear Sci. Numer. Simul., 2000, 5(4): 184–187. (in Chinese)

## 一类非牛顿渗流方程爆破界的估计

杨作东<sup>1,2</sup>, 陆启韶<sup>1</sup>

(1. 北京航空航天大学应用数学系, 北京 100083;

2. 南京师范大学数学与计算机科学学院, 江苏 南京 210097)

**摘 要:** 本文利用拟线性常微分方程解的非存在性定理得到了一类拟线性反应扩散方程(非牛顿渗流方程)爆破界的估计, 从而推广了半线性反应扩散方程(牛顿渗流方程)相应结果.