

# 1D LOGISTIC REACTION AND $p$ -LAPLACIAN DIFFUSION AS $p$ GOES TO ONE

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ABSTRACT. This work discusses the existence of the limit as  $p$  goes to 1 of the nontrivial solutions to the one-dimensional problem:

$$\begin{cases} -(|u_x|^{p-2}u_x)_x = \lambda|u|^{p-2}u - |u|^{q-2}u & 0 < x < 1 \\ u(0) = u(1) = 0, \end{cases}$$

where  $\lambda$  is a positive parameter and the exponents  $p, q$  satisfy  $1 < p < q$ . We prove that solutions do converge to a limit function, which solves in a proper sense a Dirichlet problem involving the 1-Laplacian operator.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The logistic equation is a standard in nonlinear analysis, population dynamics and reacting-diffusing systems, among other fields ([5], [22], [13]). According to orthodoxy, the asymptotic density distribution  $u$  of a migrating species with intrinsic growth rate  $\lambda > 0$ , living in a habitat  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^N$  (a bounded domain) which is surrounded by a completely hostile medium, is governed by the problem:

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta_p u = \lambda|u|^{p-2}u - |u|^{q-2}u & x \in \Omega \\ u = 0 & x \in \partial\Omega. \end{cases} \quad (1.1)$$

The  $p$ -Laplacian operator  $\Delta_p u = \operatorname{div}(|\nabla u|^{p-2}u)$  acts as the diffusive mechanism describing the migration of  $u$  throughout  $\Omega$ . On the other hand, the power  $q$  term in the equation accounts for the population crowding effects. This means that the species is in competition against itself for the available resources. The exponents  $p, q$  are assumed to satisfy,

$$1 < p < q. \quad (1.2)$$

Let us review some few traits of (1.1). Existence of nontrivial solutions is only possible when  $\lambda > \lambda_1(-\Delta_p)$ , the first eigenvalue of  $-\Delta_p$ , while the best understood issues has to do with positive solutions. In fact, there exists a unique positive solution  $u_\lambda$ , bifurcating from zero at  $\lambda = \lambda_1$ , whose

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asymptotic profile as  $\lambda \rightarrow \infty$  has been studied in full detail (see [20], [17], [18], [14] for references dealing with the ‘genuine’ nonlinear diffusion case  $p \neq 2$ ). As a characteristic feature,

$$\|u_\lambda\|_\infty \leq \lambda^{\frac{1}{q-p}} \quad \text{and} \quad \lambda^{-\frac{1}{q-p}} u_\lambda \rightarrow 1 \quad \text{as} \quad \lambda \rightarrow \infty,$$

the last convergence being uniform in compact sets of  $\Omega$ . Moreover, while first estimate is strict in the case  $1 < p \leq 2$ , the complementary range  $p > 2$  enjoys especial phenomena. In fact, the region  $\{u_\lambda(x) = \lambda^{\frac{1}{q-p}}\}$  becomes nonempty and converges to  $\Omega$  as  $\lambda \rightarrow \infty$  ([20], [17] and Remark 2 below). On the other hand, by means of variational arguments it can be shown the existence of an arbitrarily large number of further nontrivial (two–signed) solutions to (1.1) when  $\lambda \rightarrow \infty$  (see [15] for this kind of results in a closely related problem).

In the present work, we are only concerned with the one–dimensional case:

$$\begin{cases} -(|u_x|^{p-2}u_x)_x = \lambda |u|^{p-2}u - |u|^{q-2}u & 0 < x < 1 \\ u(0) = u(1) = 0. \end{cases} \quad (1.3)$$

The emphasis is firstly focussed in studying the existence of the limits  $\bar{u}$  of its nontrivial solutions  $u$  as  $p \rightarrow 1$ . Secondly, in analyzing the rôle of these limits  $\bar{u}$  as solutions to the formal limit problem,

$$\begin{cases} -\left(\frac{u_x}{|u_x|}\right)_x = \lambda \frac{u}{|u|} - |u|^{q-2}u & 0 < x < 1 \\ u(0) = u(1) = 0. \end{cases} \quad (1.4)$$

According to results going back to [19] (see also [9], [12]), the structure of the nontrivial solutions set to (1.3) is essentially dictated by the eigenvalue problem,

$$\begin{cases} -(|u_x|^{p-2}u_x)_x = \lambda |u|^{p-2}u & 0 < x < 1 \\ u(0) = u(1) = 0. \end{cases} \quad (1.5)$$

More precisely, nontrivial solutions  $u$  are organized in symmetric curves (invariant with respect to  $u \rightarrow -u$ ). Each of these curves is associated to a fixed eigenvalue  $\lambda_n$  to (1.5). The  $n$ –th curve can be regarded as a deformation of the  $n$ –th eigenspace which bifurcates from  $u = 0$  at  $\lambda = \lambda_n$ . In this regard, the nonlinear diffusion case reproduces the patterns already observed in the linear diffusion case where  $p = 2$  and  $q$  satisfies (1.2) (see [7], [24] for pioneering results on the subject).

Our main results here state that a similar picture occurs when we deal with the nontrivial solutions to (1.4). Such solutions are required to satisfy a sort of energy condition providing us a uniqueness criterium. In addition,

they are characterized as the limit of solutions to (1.3) as  $p \rightarrow 1$ . We are able to show that solutions are also organized in explicitly computed curves. As in the case of problem (1.3) these curves emanate by bifurcation from zero, at the eigenvalues  $\bar{\lambda}_n = 2n$  to one-dimensional 1-Laplacian:

$$\begin{cases} -\left(\frac{u_x}{|u_x|}\right)_x = \lambda \frac{u}{|u|} & 0 < x < 1 \\ u(0) = u(1) = 0. \end{cases} \quad (1.6)$$

It should be mentioned that a detailed discussion on the nature and distribution of the eigenvalues to (1.6) was addressed in [6] and such results has been recently extended in several directions (see [8], [26] and references therein).

This work is distributed as follows. Section 2 presents a selfcontained analysis of problem (1.3). Proofs included there have been specially adapted to the purposes of this paper. Limits as  $p \rightarrow 1$  of the solutions to problems (1.3) and (1.5) are studied in Section 3 (Theorem 6). The concept of solution to (1.4) is introduced in Section 4. It belongs to the general theory developed in [2, 3] (see also [10]). The main features concerning the non-trivial solutions to (1.4) are stated in Theorem 8.

## 2. PRELIMINARY FACTS

In this section we are concerned with the problem (1.3) where it will be always assumed that exponents  $p, q$  satisfy (1.2). As we are interested in letting  $p$  go to 1, only the regime  $1 < p \leq 2$  should be analyzed in detail. However, as already mentioned, the complementary range  $p > 2$  enjoys especial phenomena. They are just reviewed at the end of the section (Remark 2).

For a weak solution  $u \in W_0^{1,p}(0, 1)$  to (1.3) it is understood that relation

$$\int_0^1 |u_x|^{p-2} u_x v_x = \lambda \int_0^1 u^{p-2} uv - \int_0^1 u^{q-2} uv \quad (2.1)$$

holds for every  $v \in W_0^{1,p}(0, 1)$ . Due to the fact that  $W_0^{1,p}(0, 1) \subset L^\infty(0, 1)$  it can be shown that weak solutions become genuine  $C^2$  solutions provided  $1 < p \leq 2$  ([18]). Thus, we are plainly referring to ‘solutions’ to (1.3) in the sequel.

For later use the next well-known result is stated. It summarizes the main features on the Dirichlet eigenvalues of the one-dimensional  $p$ -Laplacian. See for instance [11], [23], [19], [9] for background material on the subject.

**Theorem 1.** *The eigenvalue problem (1.5) satisfies the following properties.*

i) The full set of eigenvalues of (1.5) consists in the sequence  $\{\lambda_n\}$ :

$$\lambda_n = (nt_1(p))^p, \quad t_1(p) = \frac{2(p-1)^{\frac{1}{p}}}{p} \frac{\pi}{\sin \frac{\pi}{p}}, \quad n = 1, 2, \dots \quad (2.2)$$

ii) Every eigenvalue  $\lambda_n$  is simple, i. e. eigenfunctions associated to  $\lambda_n$  are a scalar multiple of a normalized eigenfunction  $u_n(x)$ .

iii)  $u_n$  vanishes exactly at the points  $x_k = \frac{k}{n}$ ,  $k = 0, \dots, n$ .

A corresponding “perturbed” version of the preceding result is the next one, of bifurcation–type nature. As pointed out in Section 1, there is a clear difference in the response of problem (1.3) depending on whether  $p > 2$  or  $1 < p \leq 2$ . Since we want to let  $p \rightarrow 1+$ , the latter case is the one that most concerns us in this work.

Some of the forthcoming assertions are essentially well–known (see [19]). Nevertheless, an independent self–contained proof is enclosed for our subsequent arguments.

**Theorem 2.** *Let  $0 < \lambda_1 < \lambda_2 < \dots$  be the sequence of eigenvalues to (1.5). Then, problem (1.3) in the regime  $1 < p \leq 2$ , satisfies the following properties.*

i) *Nontrivial solutions are only possible if  $\lambda > \lambda_1$ . Moreover, all solutions to (1.3) verify the estimate*

$$\|u\|_\infty < \lambda^{\frac{1}{q-p}}. \quad (2.3)$$

ii) *For every  $\lambda > \lambda_1$  there exists a unique positive solution  $u_\lambda^{(1)}$  satisfying*

$$\|u_\lambda^{(1)}\|_\infty \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } \lambda \rightarrow \lambda_1+ \quad \& \quad \lambda^{-\frac{1}{q-p}} \|u_\lambda^{(1)}\|_\infty \rightarrow 1 \text{ as } \lambda \rightarrow \infty. \quad (2.4)$$

iii) *For every  $\lambda > \lambda_n$ ,  $n \geq 2$ , aside of  $\pm u_\lambda^{(1)}$  there exist  $n - 1$  pairs  $\pm u_\lambda^{(k)}$ ,  $2 \leq k \leq n$ , of nontrivial solutions to (1.3) where  $u_\lambda^{(k)}$  is normalized so as  $(u_\lambda^{(k)})_x(0) > 0$ . In addition, for all  $2 \leq k \leq n$ ,*

$$\|u_\lambda^{(k)}\|_\infty \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } \lambda \rightarrow \lambda_k+ \quad \& \quad \lambda^{-\frac{1}{q-p}} \|u_\lambda^{(k)}\|_\infty \rightarrow 1 \text{ as } \lambda \rightarrow \infty. \quad (2.5)$$

*Moreover, for  $\lambda_n < \lambda \leq \lambda_{n+1}$  the unique nontrivial solutions to (1.3) are exactly  $\{\pm u_\lambda^{(k)}\}_{1 \leq k \leq n}$ .*

iv) *For every  $k$  and  $\lambda > \lambda_k$ , solution  $u_\lambda^{(k)}$  in the  $k$ –th branch vanishes exactly at  $x = \frac{l}{k}$ ,  $1 \leq l \leq k$ .*

*Proof.* Let us introduce the scaling

$$u(x) = \lambda^{\frac{1}{q-p}} v(t) \quad t = \lambda^{\frac{1}{p}} x.$$

Then problem (1.3) is transformed into the equivalent one,

$$\begin{cases} -(|v_t|^{p-2}v_t)_t = |v|^{p-2}v - |v|^{q-2}v, & 0 < t < \lambda^{\frac{1}{p}}, \\ v(0) = v(\lambda^{\frac{1}{p}}) = 0. \end{cases} \quad (2.6)$$

To analyze (2.6) we first discuss the initial value problem,

$$\begin{cases} -(|v_t|^{p-2}v_t)_t = |v|^{p-2}v - |v|^{q-2}v, & t > 0, \\ v(0) = \alpha, \quad v_t(0) = 0. \end{cases} \quad (2.7)$$

The existence and uniqueness of a maximal solution for this and a slightly larger class of problems have been considered in the literature (see [18], [25]). However, we can proceed here in a direct way. In fact, the function  $E(v, v_t)$  defined by

$$E(v, v_t) = \frac{1}{p'}|v_t|^p + V(v), \quad V(v) = \frac{1}{p}|v|^p - \frac{1}{q}|v|^q, \quad (2.8)$$

is conserved through the solutions to (2.7). To ascertain the response of problem (2.7) it is enough to assume that  $\alpha \geq 0$  since the equation is invariant with respect to the change  $v \rightarrow -v$ . According to the values of  $\alpha \geq 0$  and employing the fact that

$$E(v, v_t) = V(\alpha), \quad (2.9)$$

three cases are possible.

- a)  $\alpha = 1$  which implies  $v = 1$ . In this regard, the restriction  $1 < p \leq 2$  is crucial (see Remark 2 below).
- b)  $\alpha > 1$ . A unique solution  $v$  exists, it is increasing, satisfies  $V(v) < V(\alpha)$  and blows-up at  $t = \omega(\alpha)$ ,

$$\omega(\alpha) := \{p'\}^{-\frac{1}{p}} \int_{\alpha}^{\infty} \frac{ds}{(V(\alpha) - V(s))^{\frac{1}{p}}} < \infty.$$

- c)  $0 < \alpha < 1$ . Again, a unique solution  $v$  exists which decreases from  $\alpha$  to  $-\alpha$  when  $0 \leq t \leq T$ , vanishes at  $t = \frac{T}{2}$ , is symmetric with respect to  $t = T$  and becomes periodic with period  $2T$  where

$$T = T(\alpha) = 2\{p'\}^{-\frac{1}{p}} \int_0^{\alpha} \frac{ds}{(V(\alpha) - V(s))^{\frac{1}{p}}}. \quad (2.10)$$

Coming back to (2.6), let  $v$  be any of its nontrivial solutions. It can be assumed without loss of generality that it verifies  $v_t(0) > 0$ . Such solution must *necessarily* exhibit a first maximum at  $t = t_m > 0$  with value  $v(t_m) = \alpha$ . Since  $\tilde{v} = v(t - t_m)$  solves (2.7) then  $\alpha$  must satisfy:

$$0 < \alpha < 1.$$

This assertion means  $|v(t)| \leq \alpha < 1$  and so, changing the scale back,  $|u(x)| < \lambda^{\frac{1}{q-p}}$ , which proves estimate (2.3). Moreover, there must exist  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  such that

$$\lambda^{\frac{1}{p}} = nT(\alpha). \quad (2.11)$$

We now claim that  $T(\alpha)$  is increasing in  $(0, 1)$ ,  $\lim_{\alpha \rightarrow 0} T = t_1(p)$  where  $t_1(p)$  is the value introduced in (2.2) while  $\lim_{\alpha \rightarrow 1^-} T = \infty$ . Latter assertion is delayed to Lemma 3 below. To show the increasing character of  $T$ , we rather substitute the group  $\varphi_p(u) - \varphi_q(u)$  by  $\varphi_p(u)g(u)$  where  $g$  is a decreasing function in  $u > 0$ . Notation used means  $\varphi_r(u) = |u|^{r-2}u$  ( $r > 1$ ). Then,

$$T(\alpha) = 2\{p'\}^{-\frac{1}{p}} \int_0^1 \frac{ds}{\left(\int_s^1 \varphi_p(\tau)g(\alpha\tau) d\tau\right)^{\frac{1}{p}}},$$

whence the increasing variation becomes evident, so that  $T(0) < T(\alpha)$ . In our precise example,

$$T(\alpha) = 2\{p'\}^{-\frac{1}{p}} \int_0^1 \frac{ds}{\left(\int_s^1 \tau^{p-1}(1 - (\alpha\tau)^{q-p}) d\tau\right)^{\frac{1}{p}}}.$$

Setting  $\alpha = 0$ :

$$T(0) = 2(p-1)^{\frac{1}{p}} \int_0^1 \frac{ds}{(1-s^p)^{\frac{1}{p}}} = t_1(p).$$

Appealing to (2.11) and Theorem 1, we deduce

$$\lambda^{1/p} \geq T(\alpha) > T(0) = t_1(p) = \lambda_1^{1/p}.$$

Let us denote by  $v(t, \alpha)$  the solution to the equation in (2.6) satisfying  $v_t(0) > 0$  and  $\|v\|_\infty = \alpha$  with  $0 < \alpha < 1$ . It has been shown that if  $u$  solves (1.3) then necessarily  $\lambda > \lambda_1$ . In addition,  $u$  can be expressed in the form,

$$u(x) = \lambda^{\frac{1}{q-p}} v(\lambda^{\frac{1}{p}} x, \alpha)$$

where  $\alpha = \lambda^{-\frac{1}{q-p}} \|u\|_\infty$ ,  $\lambda$  and  $\alpha$  being coupled by equation (2.11). Notice that it follows from this fact that

$$\lambda > (nT(0))^p = \lambda_n,$$

$\lambda_n$  denoting the  $n$ -th eigenvalue of (1.5). On the other hand,

$$u\left(\frac{k}{n}\right) = \lambda^{\frac{1}{q-p}} v(kT(\alpha), \alpha) = 0 \quad 1 \leq k \leq n.$$

In conclusion, assertions of the theorem hold by defining

$$u_\lambda^{(n)}(x) = \lambda^{\frac{1}{q-p}} v(\lambda^{\frac{1}{p}} x, \alpha), \quad \lambda^{\frac{1}{p}} = nT(\alpha).$$

Relations (2.4), (2.5) follow from the limit behavior of  $T$  at  $\alpha = 0$  and  $\alpha = 1$ .  $\square$

*Remark 1.* Solutions  $\pm u_\lambda^{(n)}$  arise by bifurcation from zero at  $\lambda_n$  as  $\lambda$  increases.

**Lemma 3.** *The behavior of  $T(\alpha)$  as  $\alpha \rightarrow 1$  is dictated by:*

$$\lim_{\alpha \rightarrow 1^-} T(\alpha) = \begin{cases} \infty & 1 < p \leq 2, \\ 2\{p'\}^{-\frac{1}{p}} \int_0^1 \frac{ds}{(V(1) - V(s))^{\frac{1}{p}}} & p > 2. \end{cases}$$

*Proof.* By choosing  $\varepsilon > 0$  small enough,  $C_\pm := q - p \pm \varepsilon > 0$ , then we find

$$C_-(1-v) \leq v^{p-1} - v^{q-1} \leq C_+(1-v) \quad 1 - \delta \leq v \leq 1,$$

for certain  $0 < \delta < 1$ . Function  $T$  can be written as

$$T = 2\{p'\}^{-\frac{1}{p}} \left\{ \int_0^{1-\delta} + \int_{1-\delta}^\alpha \right\} \frac{ds}{(V(\alpha) - V(s))^{\frac{1}{p}}}.$$

In addition,

$$\left( \frac{2}{C_+} \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} J \leq \int_{1-\delta}^\alpha \frac{ds}{(V(\alpha) - V(s))^{\frac{1}{p}}} \leq \left( \frac{2}{C_-} \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} J,$$

where

$$J = \int_{1-\delta}^\alpha \frac{ds}{\left( \int_s^\alpha 2(1-v) dv \right)^{\frac{1}{p}}} = (1-\alpha)^{1-\frac{2}{p}} \int_1^{\frac{\delta}{1-\alpha}} \frac{dt}{(t^2-1)^{\frac{1}{p}}},$$

after performing the change  $s = 1 - (1-\alpha)t$ . It can be checked that  $J \rightarrow \infty$  as  $\alpha \rightarrow 1^-$  if  $1 < p \leq 2$  while

$$\lim_{\alpha \rightarrow 1^-} J = \frac{\delta^{1-\frac{2}{p}}}{1-\frac{2}{p}},$$

if  $p > 2$ . Therefore when  $p > 2$  we obtain

$$\overline{\lim}_{\alpha \rightarrow 1^-} T \leq 2\{p'\}^{-\frac{1}{p}} \int_0^{1-\delta} \frac{ds}{(V(1) - V(s))^{\frac{1}{p}}} + M\delta^{1-\frac{2}{p}},$$

$M$  being a constant. By letting  $\delta \rightarrow 0$  we conclude

$$\overline{\lim}_{\alpha \rightarrow 1^-} T \leq 2\{p'\}^{-\frac{1}{p}} \int_0^1 \frac{ds}{(V(1) - V(s))^{\frac{1}{p}}}.$$

A symmetric reasoning yields the complementary estimate.  $\square$

*Remark 2.* In the case  $p > 2$  the convergence of the integral  $T(1)$  referred to in Lemma 3 introduces strong differences regarding the regime  $1 < p \leq 2$ . The main point is that the initial value problem (2.7) exhibits, for  $\alpha \in \{-1, 1\}$ , infinitely many solutions in the strip  $-1 \leq v \leq 1$ . Just for completeness, a result describing the nature of the solutions to (1.3) is presented below. With a slightly different statement it is contained in [19]. We point out that an independent proof can be obtained with the same reasoning as in Theorem 2, complemented with the ideas in [16]. Nevertheless, precise details are omitted.

**Theorem 4.** *Assume that  $p > 2$ . Then problem (1.3) exhibits the following features.*

- i) *Nontrivial solutions  $u$  only exist if  $\lambda > \lambda_1$  while all of them fulfill  $\|u\|_\infty \leq \lambda^{\frac{1}{q-p}}$ . Moreover, a unique positive solution  $u_\lambda^{(1)}$  exists for all  $\lambda > \lambda_1$  satisfying,*

$$\|u_\lambda^{(1)}\|_\infty \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as } \lambda \rightarrow \lambda_1,$$

*while  $u_\lambda^{(1)} = \lambda^{\frac{1}{q-p}}$  in the whole interval  $\left[\frac{T(1)}{2}\lambda^{-\frac{1}{p}}, 1 - \frac{T(1)}{2}\lambda^{-\frac{1}{p}}\right]$  if  $\lambda > T(1)^p$ .*

- ii) *For  $\lambda > \lambda_n$ ,  $n \geq 2$ , two symmetric and ‘multivalued’ families  $\pm u_\lambda^{(n)}$  of solutions bifurcate from zero at  $\lambda = \lambda_n$ . More precisely,*
- a) *If  $\lambda_n < \lambda \leq (nT(1))^p$ , the family reduces to a single solution  $u = u_\lambda^{(n)}$  which satisfies  $(u_\lambda^{(n)})_x(0) > 0$ , vanishes at  $x = \frac{k}{n}$ ,  $1 \leq k \leq n-1$  and*

$$\|u_\lambda^{(n)}\|_\infty \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as } \lambda \rightarrow \lambda_n, \quad \lambda^{-\frac{1}{q-p}}\|u_\lambda^{(n)}\|_\infty \rightarrow 1 \quad \text{as } \lambda \rightarrow (nT(1))^p.$$

- b) *For every  $\lambda > (nT(1))^p$  and every family  $I_1, \dots, I_n$  of disjoint closed subintervals of  $(0, 1)$  (some of them possibly reduced to a single point) such that*

$$\text{dist}(\{0\}, I_1) = \text{dist}(\{1\}, I_n) = \frac{T(1)}{2}\lambda^{-\frac{1}{p}},$$

$$\text{dist}(I_{k-1}, I_k) = T(1)\lambda^{-\frac{1}{p}}, \quad \text{for } 2 \leq k \leq n,$$

*and*

$$|I_1| + \dots + |I_n| = 1 - nT(1)\lambda^{-\frac{1}{p}},$$

*there exists a unique solution  $u$  in the family  $u_\lambda^{(n)}$  such that  $u_x(0) > 0$  while for every  $k = 1, \dots, n$ ,  $u$  achieves the value  $(-1)^{k-1}\lambda^{\frac{1}{q-p}}$  in the whole interval  $I_k$ . Finally,  $u$  vanishes exactly at  $n-1$  points of  $(0, 1)$  the  $k-1$ -th of them,  $\xi_{k-1}$ , located midway between  $I_{k-1}$  and  $I_k$ .*

3. LIMIT PROFILES AS  $p \rightarrow 1$ 

It is assumed henceforth that  $1 < p \leq 2$  and we are going to study the limit as  $p \rightarrow 1$  of the solutions to (1.3) described in Theorem 2. A first auxiliary result is the following.

*Remark 3.* For  $1 < p < 2$  and  $0 < \alpha < 1$  let  $T(\alpha)$  be the integral defined in (2.10). Then,

$$\lim_{p \rightarrow 1^+} T(\alpha) = \frac{2}{1 - \alpha^{q-1}}.$$

*Proof.* After scaling the integral  $T(\alpha)$  can be written as

$$T(\alpha) = 2(p-1)^{\frac{1}{p}} \int_0^1 \frac{ds}{h(s)^{\frac{1}{p}} (1-s^p)^{\frac{1}{p}}},$$

where

$$h(s) = 1 - \alpha^{q-p} \frac{p}{q} \frac{1-s^q}{1-s^p}, \quad 0 \leq s < 1.$$

A more suitably expression for  $h$  is  $h(s) = 1 - \alpha^{q-p} g(u)$ , where  $u = s^{\frac{1}{p}}$  and

$$g(u) = \frac{p}{q} \frac{1-u^{\frac{q}{p}}}{1-u} \quad 0 \leq u < 1.$$

Function  $g$  is increasing,  $g(0) = \frac{p}{q}$  and  $\lim_{u \rightarrow 1^-} g(u) = 1$ . Thus,

$$\frac{T(0)}{\left(1 - \frac{p}{q} \alpha^{q-p}\right)^{\frac{1}{p}}} \leq T(\alpha) \leq \frac{T(0)}{(1 - \alpha^{q-p})^{\frac{1}{p}}}.$$

Since  $T(0) = t_1(p)$ ,  $t_1$  being the value given in (2.2), it can be shown by direct computation that  $\lim_{p \rightarrow 1} T(0) = 2$ . Thus,

$$\frac{2}{1 - \frac{1}{q} \alpha^{q-1}} \leq \underline{\lim}_{p \rightarrow 1^-} T(\alpha) \leq \overline{\lim}_{p \rightarrow 1^-} T(\alpha) \leq \frac{2}{1 - \alpha^{q-1}}. \quad (3.1)$$

We are next refining the lower estimate in (3.1). Given  $\varepsilon > 0$ , take  $p_\varepsilon > 1$  so that  $q - \frac{\varepsilon}{2} < \frac{q}{p_\varepsilon} < q$  and then using

$$\lim_{u \rightarrow 1} \frac{1 - u^{\frac{q}{p_\varepsilon}}}{1 - u} = \frac{q}{p_\varepsilon},$$

get  $0 < \eta < 1$  satisfying

$$q - \varepsilon < \frac{1 - u^{\frac{q}{p_\varepsilon}}}{1 - u}, \quad 1 - \eta < u < 1.$$

Observing that for all  $0 < u < 1$  the group  $\frac{1-u^{\frac{q}{p}}}{1-u}$  increases in value as  $p \rightarrow 1+$ , we infer that

$$q - \varepsilon < \frac{1-u^{\frac{q}{p}}}{1-u} < \frac{q}{p} < q, \quad 1 - \eta < u < 1, \quad 1 < p < p_\varepsilon.$$

Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} \underline{\lim}_{p \rightarrow 1+} T(\alpha) &= \underline{\lim}_{p \rightarrow 1+} 2(p-1)^{\frac{1}{p}} \int_{(1-\eta)^{\frac{1}{p}}}^1 \frac{ds}{h(s)^{\frac{1}{p}} (1-s^p)^{\frac{1}{p}}} \\ &\geq \lim_{p \rightarrow 1} \frac{2(p-1)^{\frac{1}{p}}}{\left\{1 - \frac{p(q-\varepsilon)}{q} \alpha^{q-p}\right\}^{\frac{1}{p}}} \int_{(1-\eta)^{\frac{1}{p}}}^1 \frac{ds}{(1-s^p)^{\frac{1}{p}}} \\ &= \lim_{p \rightarrow 1} \frac{2}{\left\{1 - \frac{p(q-\varepsilon)}{q} \alpha^{q-p}\right\}^{\frac{1}{p}}} \int_0^1 \frac{(p-1)^{\frac{1}{p}}}{(1-s^p)^{\frac{1}{p}}} ds = \frac{2}{1 - \frac{(q-\varepsilon)}{q} \alpha^{q-1}}. \end{aligned}$$

By taking limits as  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0+$  we finally achieve that

$$\underline{\lim}_{p \rightarrow 1+} T(\alpha) \geq \frac{2}{1 - \alpha^{q-1}}.$$

□

Our next result reviews the limit behavior of the eigenpairs to problem (1.5) as  $p \rightarrow 1$ . Interested reader is referred to [6], [26] for details (see also [8] for further developments in a convective variant of (1.5)).

**Theorem 5.** *Let  $(\lambda_n, u_n)$  be the  $n$ -th eigenpair to (1.5) where  $\lambda_n = \lambda_n(p)$  is given in (2.2) and let  $u_n = u_{n(p)}$  be its associated eigenfunction normalized according to  $u_{nx}(0) > 0$  and  $\sup u_n = 1$ . Then, the following properties are satisfied.*

i) *Limit values of  $\lambda_n$  are given by,*

$$\bar{\lambda}_n := \lim_{p \rightarrow 1} \lambda_n(p) = 2n, \quad n \in \mathbb{N}. \quad (3.2)$$

ii) *Limit profiles of eigenfunctions are,*

$$\bar{u}_n := \lim_{p \rightarrow 1} u_n = \sum_{k=1}^n (-1)^{k-1} \chi_k, \quad (3.3)$$

where  $\chi_k$  is the characteristic function of  $I_k = \left(\frac{k-1}{n}, \frac{k}{n}\right)$  and the sequences  $u_n$  and  $u_{nx}$  converge to  $\bar{u}_n$  and  $\bar{u}_{nx} = 0$ , respectively, uniformly on compact sets of  $(0, 1) \setminus \left\{\frac{1}{n}, \dots, \frac{n-1}{n}\right\}$ .

*Remark 4.* A description on the status of  $(\bar{\lambda}_n, \bar{u}_n)$  as the natural set of eigenpairs of the 1-Laplacian is contained in Section 4.

Main result of this section can already be stated.

**Theorem 6.** *Assume that  $1 < p < 2$  and let  $u_\lambda^{(n)}$  be the branch of solutions to (1.3), normalized as  $(u_\lambda^{(n)})_x(0) > 0$ , that bifurcates from zero at  $\lambda = \lambda_n$ . Then, for all  $\lambda > \bar{\lambda}_n$*

$$\bar{u}_\lambda^{(n)} := \lim_{p \rightarrow 1} u_\lambda^{(n)} = \sum_{k=1}^n (-1)^{k-1} (\lambda - 2n)^{\frac{1}{q-1}} \chi_k, \quad \lim_{p \rightarrow 1} \frac{du_\lambda^{(n)}}{dx} = 0, \quad (3.4)$$

where both limits hold uniformly on compact sets of  $(0, 1) \setminus \{\frac{1}{n}, \dots, \frac{n-1}{n}\}$  and  $\chi_k$  is the characteristic function of the interval  $\frac{k-1}{n} \leq x \leq \frac{k}{n}$ .

*Proof of Theorem 6.* Fix  $\lambda > \bar{\lambda}_n$ . Then  $\lambda > \lambda_n = \lambda_n(p)$  for  $p$  close enough to 1 and the corresponding solution  $u_\lambda^{(n)}$  can be expressed in the form,

$$u_\lambda^{(n)}(x) = \lambda^{\frac{1}{q-p}} v(t, \alpha), \quad t = \lambda^{\frac{1}{p}} x,$$

where  $v(\cdot, \alpha)$  is the solution to the equation in (2.6) such that  $v_t(0) > 0$ ,  $\|v\|_\infty = \alpha$  where  $\lambda^{\frac{1}{p}} = nT(\alpha)$ . Notice that  $v(\cdot, \alpha)$  also depends on  $p$ , but an explicit reference to this parameter has been omitted for short. By setting,

$$\bar{T}(\alpha) = \frac{2}{1 - \bar{\alpha}^{q-1}},$$

and doing  $p \rightarrow 1$  in  $\lambda^{\frac{1}{p}} = nT(\alpha)$  we get the relation  $\bar{\alpha} = (1 - \frac{2n}{\lambda})^{\frac{1}{q-1}}$  between  $\lambda$  and the amplitude  $\bar{\alpha}$  of  $\lim_{p \rightarrow 1} v(\cdot, \alpha)$ .

On the other hand the autonomous character of (2.7) implies that for every  $1 \leq k \leq n$ ,

$$v(t, \alpha) = (-1)^{k-1} v(t - (k-1)T(\alpha), \alpha), \quad (k-1)T(\alpha) \leq t \leq kT(\alpha).$$

Thus, the behavior as  $p \rightarrow 1+$  of  $v$  in the whole interval  $[0, nT(\alpha)]$  is dictated by the corresponding behavior in the interval  $[0, T(\alpha)]$ .

Let us show that  $v(t, \alpha) \rightarrow \bar{\alpha}$  as  $p \rightarrow 1+$  uniformly on compact sets of  $(0, \frac{\bar{T}(\bar{\alpha})}{2})$ . To this end, for  $\varepsilon > 0$  so small as  $0 < \bar{\alpha} - \varepsilon < \alpha$ , set  $t_\varepsilon \in (0, \frac{T(\alpha)}{2})$  the point where  $v(t, \alpha)$  achieves the value  $\bar{\alpha} - \varepsilon$ . Then,

$$t_\varepsilon = \{p'\}^{\frac{1}{p}} \int_0^{\bar{\alpha}-\varepsilon} \frac{ds}{(V(\alpha) - V(s))^{\frac{1}{p}}}.$$

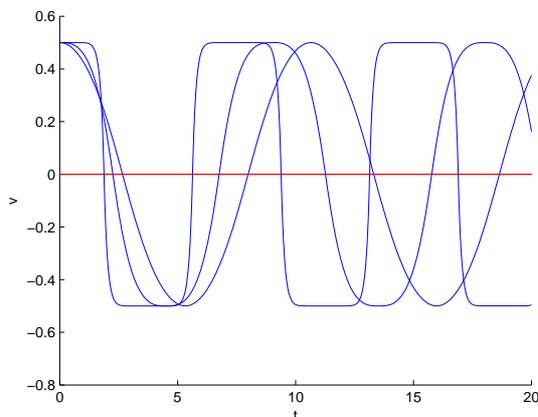


FIGURE 1

Hence  $t_\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$  as  $p \rightarrow 1+$ . The symmetry of the solution leads to the desired assertion in the whole interval  $[0, \bar{T}(\bar{\alpha})]$ . This shows (3.4). Second convergence in (3.4) is a consequence of the conservation of  $E$  in (2.9).  $\square$

Graphics of the solution to (2.7) are shown in Figure 1. Values chosen are  $q = 2.5$ ,  $\alpha = 0.5$ , together with  $p = 2$ ,  $p = 1.5$  and  $p = 1.1$ . The smaller  $p$ , the flatter the graphic.

#### 4. ANALYSIS OF THE LIMIT PROBLEM

In this section we are dealing with problem (1.4),

$$\begin{cases} -\left(\frac{u_x}{|u_x|}\right)_x = \lambda \frac{u}{|u|} - |u|^{q-2}u & 0 < x < 1 \\ u(0) = u(1) = 0, \end{cases}$$

which is the formal limit of (1.3) as  $p \rightarrow 1$ . The natural setting to study this problem is  $BV(0, 1)$ , the space of functions  $u \in L^1(0, 1)$  so that its distributional derivative  $u_x$  is a finite Radon measure. We point out that every  $u \in BV(0, 1)$  coincides a. e. with a function  $\tilde{u} \in L^\infty(0, 1)$  which is of bounded variation in the classical sense ([1]). Thus, by identifying  $u$  with  $\tilde{u}$ , it can be assumed that the set of discontinuities of  $u$  is at most denumerable and consists only of jump discontinuities. In particular  $u$  possesses finite side limits  $u(x\pm)$  at any  $x \in [0, 1]$ . It is also recalled that functions in  $W^{1,\infty}(0, 1)$  can be identified with Lipschitzian functions on  $[0, 1]$ .

After these remarks, the notion of solution to (1.4) (adapted from [2, 3]) is formulated as follows.

**Definition 7.** A function  $u \in BV(0, 1)$  defines a solution to (1.4) if there exist  $\mathbf{z} \in W^{1,\infty}(0, 1)$  and  $\beta \in L^\infty(0, 1)$  satisfying  $\|\mathbf{z}\|_\infty \leq 1$  and  $\|\beta\|_\infty \leq 1$  together with:

- 1)  $-\mathbf{z}_x = \lambda\beta - |u|^{q-2}u$  in  $\mathcal{D}'(0, 1)$ ,
- 2)  $(\mathbf{z}, u_x) = |u_x|$  as measures and  $\beta u = |u|$  a.e.,
- 3)  $\mathbf{z}(0) \in \text{sign}(u(0+))$  and  $-\mathbf{z}(1) \in \text{sign}(u(1-))$ .

*Remark 5.*

- 1) Condition  $\mathbf{z} \in W^{1,\infty}(0, 1)$  is coherent with the right hand side of equation in 1).
- 2) For  $v \in BV(0, 1)$  and  $\mathbf{z} \in W^{1,\infty}(0, 1)$ ,  $(\mathbf{z}, v_x)$  stands for the distribution,

$$\langle (\mathbf{z}, v_x), \varphi \rangle = - \int_0^1 v \varphi \mathbf{z}_x - \int_0^1 v \mathbf{z} \varphi_x, \quad \varphi \in C_0^\infty(0, 1). \quad (4.1)$$

Since  $\mathbf{z}$  is continuous, it can be shown by an approximation argument that  $(\mathbf{z}, v_x) = \mathbf{z}v_x$  as measures. A further reasoning leads to the Green formula,

$$\int_0^1 (\mathbf{z}, v_x) + \int_0^1 v \mathbf{z}_x = v \mathbf{z} \Big|_0^1 = v(1-)\mathbf{z}(1) - v(0+)\mathbf{z}(0), \quad (4.2)$$

the first term meaning  $\mathbf{z}v_x(0, 1)$ . Both (4.1) and (4.2) were introduced in [4] in a more general  $N$ -dimensional framework. Moreover, by using an arbitrary  $v \in B(0, 1)$  as a test function in equation 1) we achieve,

$$\int_0^1 (\mathbf{z}, v_x) - v \mathbf{z} \Big|_0^1 = \int_0^1 (\lambda\beta - |u|^{q-2}u)v. \quad (4.3)$$

- 3) Last requirement in Definition 7 is a weak form of the Dirichlet boundary condition. Terminology  $\mathbf{z} \in \text{sign } u$  means  $\mathbf{z} = \frac{u}{|u|}$  if  $u \neq 0$ ,  $\mathbf{z} \in [-1, 1]$  otherwise.

A further relevant subject to be reviewed is the eigenvalue problem (1.6) for the one dimensional 1-Laplacian. Namely,

$$\begin{cases} - \left( \frac{u_x}{|u_x|} \right)_x = \lambda \frac{u}{|u|} & 0 < x < 1 \\ u(0) = u(1) = 0. \end{cases}$$

In [6], a definition of the full set of eigenvalues to (1.6) was presented for the first time. They consist of the critical values of the ‘total variation’ functional, constrained under suitable restrictions. A main result in [6] states that the set of eigenpairs  $(\lambda, u) \in \mathbb{R} \times BV(0, 1)$  to (1.6) just coincides with the limits  $(\bar{\lambda}_n, \bar{u}_n)$  given in (3.2) and (3.3) (see Theorem 5 above). It is also shown in [6] that any eigenpair  $(\lambda, u)$  solves (1.6) in the sense of Definition 7 (see also [26], [8] for related problems).

The main statement of the section is the following result. It provides us a genuine extension of Theorem 2 to the 1-Laplacian setting.

**Theorem 8.** Let  $\bar{\lambda}_n = 2n$  be the sequence of eigenvalues of the 1–Laplacian. The structure of the set of nontrivial solutions to problem (1.4) can be described in the following terms.

i) Nontrivial solutions  $u \in BV(0, 1)$  are only possible if  $\lambda > \bar{\lambda}_1 = 2$ . Moreover, all solutions to (1.3) verify the estimate

$$\|u\|_\infty \leq \lambda^{\frac{1}{q-1}}. \quad (4.4)$$

ii) Limit family (3.4) obtained in Theorem 6,  $\bar{u}_\lambda^{(n)} = \sum_{k=1}^n (-1)^{k-1} (\lambda - 2n)^{\frac{1}{q-1}} \chi_k$ , define a branch of nontrivial solutions to (1.4) for  $\lambda > \bar{\lambda}_n$ . In addition,

$$\|\bar{u}_\lambda^{(n)}\|_\infty \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } \lambda \rightarrow \bar{\lambda}_n+ \quad \& \quad \lambda^{-\frac{1}{q-1}} \|\bar{u}_\lambda^{(n)}\|_\infty \rightarrow 1 \text{ as } \lambda \rightarrow \infty. \quad (4.5)$$

Moreover,  $\bar{u}_\lambda^{(n)}$  changes its sign at  $x = \frac{k}{n}$ ,  $1 \leq k \leq n-1$ .

iii) For  $\bar{\lambda}_n < \lambda \leq \bar{\lambda}_{n+1}$ ,

$$u = \pm \bar{u}_\lambda^{(m)}, \quad 1 \leq m \leq n,$$

are the unique nontrivial solutions to (1.4) satisfying the extra condition,

$$|u| = \text{constant}. \quad (4.6)$$

*Remark 6.* Some observations on the uniqueness requirement (4.6) are in order. As observed in the proof of Theorem 2, functional  $E_p(v, v_t)$  defined in (2.8), is conserved through the solutions to (1.3). By formally letting  $p \rightarrow 1$  we obtain  $E_p(v, v_t) \rightarrow |v| - \frac{1}{q}|v|^q$ . The latter quantity is conserved only when  $|v|$  keeps constant. That is why (4.6) seems reasonable and may be regarded as an energy condition.

A further reflection on condition (4.6). It is said that  $(\lambda, u) \in \mathbb{R} \times BV(0, 1)$ ,  $u \neq 0$ , is a weak eigenpair to (1.6) ([26], [8]) provided that  $u$  solves (1.6) in the sense of Definition 7, where  $-\mathbf{z}_x = \lambda \beta$  replaces the equation in 1). As already pointed out, the  $(\bar{\lambda}_n, \bar{u}_n)$ 's obtained in Theorem 5 define weak eigenpairs. However, it was discovered in [6] that *all* values  $\lambda \geq 2$  are weak eigenvalues. It is amazing that extra condition (4.6) discriminates the genuine ‘variational’ eigenvalues  $\bar{\lambda}_n = 2n$  from the remaining ‘artificial’ weak eigenvalues in  $[2, \infty)$ .

Finally, an example of a family of nontrivial solutions to (1.4) which does not satisfy condition (4.6) is presented in Remark 7 below.

*Proof of Theorem 8.* Let  $u$  be a nontrivial solution. By choosing  $v = u$  in (4.3), the variational characterization of  $\bar{\lambda}_1$  ([6]) leads to:

$$\bar{\lambda}_1 \int_0^1 |u| \leq \int_0^1 |u_x| + |u(0)| + |u(1)| < \lambda \int_0^1 |u|.$$

Thus, the existence of a nontrivial solution implies  $\lambda > \bar{\lambda}_1$ .

To prove (4.4) we set  $v = \max\{u - \lambda^{\frac{1}{q-1}}, 0\}$  as a test function. It can be shown that 2) also entails  $(\mathbf{z}, v_x) = |v_x|$  ([21, Proposition 2.7]). From equation (4.3) we arrive at:

$$\int_0^1 |v_x| \leq \lambda \int_0^1 (\beta - \varphi_q(\lambda^{-\frac{1}{q-1}} u)) v,$$

where  $\varphi_q(t) = |t|^{q-2}t$ . Therefore,  $v = 0$  and so  $u \leq \lambda^{\frac{1}{q-1}}$ . The complementary estimate  $u \geq -\lambda^{\frac{1}{q-p}}$  is obtained in a similar way and so (4.4) is shown.

We are next checking that  $u = \bar{u}_\lambda^{(n)}(x)$  defines a solution to (1.4). By choosing  $\beta = \sum_{k=1}^n (-1)^{k-1} \chi_k$  it is clear that  $\|\beta\|_\infty \leq 1$  and  $\beta \bar{u}_\lambda^{(n)} = |\bar{u}_\lambda^{(n)}|$ . The scalar field  $\mathbf{z}$  can be found by solving 1) separately on each interval  $[\frac{k-1}{n}, \frac{k}{n}]$  with the initial condition  $z = (-1)^{k-1}$  at  $x = \frac{k-1}{n}$ , and the restriction  $\|\mathbf{z}\|_\infty \leq 1$ . We arrive in this way at

$$\mathbf{z} = \sum_{k=1}^n (-1)^k 2n \left( x - \frac{2k-1}{2n} \right) \chi_k$$

and so  $\bar{u}_\lambda^{(n)}$ ,  $\beta$  and  $\mathbf{z}$  are linked by condition 1). Notice that  $\mathbf{z}(0) = 1 = \text{sign } u(0+)$  and  $\mathbf{z}(1) = (-1)^n = -\text{sign } u(1-)$  so the boundary conditions 3) are satisfied.

We are checking condition 2). For  $u = \bar{u}_\lambda^{(n)}$  and  $\varphi \in C_0^\infty(0, 1)$ , identity (4.1) implies

$$\begin{aligned} \langle (\mathbf{z}, u_x), \varphi \rangle &= - \int_0^1 u (\mathbf{z}\varphi)_x = - \sum_{k=1}^n (-1)^{k-1} (\lambda - 2n)^{\frac{1}{q-1}} \mathbf{z}\varphi \Big|_{x_{k-1}}^{x_k} \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} (-1)^k (\lambda - 2n)^{\frac{1}{q-1}} \mathbf{z}(x_k) \varphi(x_k) - \sum_{k=2}^n (-1)^k (\lambda - 2n)^{\frac{1}{q-1}} \mathbf{z}(x_{k-1}) \varphi(x_{k-1}) \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} 2(\lambda - 2n)^{\frac{1}{q-1}} \varphi(x_k) = \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} 2(\lambda - 2n)^{\frac{1}{q-1}} \langle \delta_{x_k}, \varphi \rangle = \langle |u|_x, \varphi \rangle, \end{aligned}$$

where  $x_k = \frac{k}{n}$ . In the last inequality,  $\delta_{x_0}$  stands for Dirac's delta located at  $x = x_0$ . Therefore,  $\bar{u}_\lambda^{(n)}$  defines a nontrivial solution to (1.4) for  $\lambda > \bar{\lambda}_n$ . Remaining properties in ii) are a consequence of the explicit expression of  $\bar{u}_\lambda^{(n)}$ .

We are next showing the *uniqueness* assertion iii). Thus, let  $u$  be a solution to problem (3.2) with constant modulus  $|u| = \xi$ . No generality is lost if we assume  $u(0+) = \xi > 0$ .

We claim that  $0 < \xi < \lambda^{\frac{1}{q-1}}$ . In fact, it follows from  $u(0+) = \xi$  that  $-\mathbf{z}_x = \lambda - \xi^{q-1}$ . Thus, conditions  $\mathbf{z}(0) = 1$  and  $|\mathbf{z}| \leq 1$  imply  $\xi^{q-1} \leq \lambda$ . Moreover, if  $\lambda = \xi^{q-1}$ , then  $\mathbf{z}_x = 0$  and consequently  $\mathbf{z}(x) = 1$ . Condition 2) in Definition 7 implies that  $u_x = |u_x|$ ,  $u$  is nondecreasing and so  $u(x) = \xi$  for all  $x \in (0, 1)$ . However, this solution is not possible because  $\mathbf{z}(1) = 1 \neq -1 = \text{sign}(-u(1-))$  and so the boundary condition is not satisfied at  $x = 1$ . Therefore, the claim follows.

Next observe that solutions with constant absolute value have only a finite number of changes of sign owing to belong to  $BV(0, 1)$ . Hence, two possibilities must be analyzed.

*a)  $u$  does not change its sign.* Problem  $-\mathbf{z}_x = \lambda - \xi^{q-1}$ ,  $\mathbf{z}(0) = 1$  has the solution  $\mathbf{z}(x) = -(\lambda - \xi^{q-1})x + 1$ . Assume that there exists  $x_0 < 1$  such that  $\mathbf{z}(x_0) = -1$ . Since  $\mathbf{z}$  is decreasing, we get  $\mathbf{z}(x) < -1$  for all  $x \in (x_0, 1)$  contradicting the condition  $|\mathbf{z}| \leq 1$ . On the other hand, the boundary condition at  $x = 1$  reads as  $\mathbf{z}(1) = -1$ . Hence,

$$-1 = -(\lambda - \xi^{q-1}) + 1$$

and this fact implies  $\lambda > 2$  and  $\xi = (\lambda - 2)^{\frac{1}{q-1}}$ , i. e.,  $u = \bar{u}_\lambda^{(1)}$ .

*b)  $u$  changes its sign  $m - 1$  times ( $m \geq 2$ ).* In this case we know that the solution  $u$  can be expressed as

$$u = \sum_{k=1}^m (-1)^{k-1} \xi \chi_{J_k},$$

for some intervals  $J_k = (x_{k-1}, x_k)$ , with  $x_0 = 0$  and  $x_m = 1$ . We are searching for the value of  $\xi$  and the endpoints  $x_k$ .

In the first interval  $J_1 = (0, x_1)$  the solution is positive and so  $-\mathbf{z}_x = \lambda - \xi^{q-1}$  holds and it implies

$$\mathbf{z}(x) = -(\lambda - \xi^{q-1})x + 1.$$

Notice that  $\mathbf{z}(\tilde{x}_1) = -1$  where  $\tilde{x}_1 = \frac{2}{\lambda - \xi^{q-1}}$ . Thus,  $|\mathbf{z}(x)| < 1$  for all  $x \in (0, \tilde{x}_1)$  and, as a consequence of condition  $(\mathbf{z}, u_x) = |u_x|$ , we get  $u = \xi$  in  $(0, \tilde{x}_1)$ . This means that  $\tilde{x}_1 \leq x_1$ . However it is not possible that  $\tilde{x}_1 < x_1$ , otherwise  $\mathbf{z} < -1$  in the interval  $(\tilde{x}_1, x_1)$  contradicting that  $|\mathbf{z}(x)| \leq 1$  for all  $0 \leq x \leq 1$ . Thus  $x_1 = \tilde{x}_1$  and from the very definition of  $x_1$ ,  $u$  jumps from  $\xi$  to  $-\xi$  at this point.

In the second interval  $J_2 = (x_1, x_2)$  the solution is negative and so the problem for  $\mathbf{z}$  becomes  $\mathbf{z}_x = \lambda - \xi^{q-1}$ ,  $\mathbf{z}(x_1) = -1$  whose solution is  $\mathbf{z}(x) = (\lambda - \xi^{q-1})x - 3$ . By a similar argument, we infer that  $u$  changes again its sign at  $x_2 = \frac{4}{\lambda - \xi^{q-1}}$ . Proceeding inductively, it is found that changes of sign

occur successively at  $x_k = \frac{2k}{\lambda - \xi^{q-1}}$ ,  $k = 1, \dots, m-1$ , being the length of the intervals  $|J_k| = \frac{2}{\lambda - \xi^{q-1}}$ . In particular,

$$\frac{2m}{\lambda - \xi^{q-1}} = 1.$$

Hence,  $\xi^{q-1} = \lambda - 2m$  and  $x_k = \frac{k}{m}$ ,  $k = 1, \dots, m-1$ . We both conclude that  $\lambda > 2m$  and  $u = \bar{u}_\lambda^{(m)}(x)$  hold, and so we are done.  $\square$

*Remark 7.* To illustrate the rôle of condition (4.6), we are showing that problem (1.4) exhibits further families of nontrivial solutions aside the ones referred to in Theorem 8. In fact, choose  $0 < \alpha < 1$  and set  $\lambda^*(\alpha) = \frac{2}{1 - \alpha^{q-1}}$ . Then,

$$u = \lambda^{\frac{1}{q-1}} \alpha \chi_{[0, \frac{\lambda^*}{\lambda}]}(x), \quad \lambda > \lambda^*(\alpha), \quad (4.7)$$

constitutes a family of nontrivial solutions having  $\lambda = \lambda^*(\alpha)$  as the onset critical value. Obviously, solutions in (4.7) do not satisfy (4.6). To check that conditions in Definition 7 are fulfilled it is enough with using,

$$\beta = \chi_{[0, \frac{\lambda^*}{\lambda}]}(x) \quad \text{and} \quad z = \begin{cases} 1 - 2\frac{\lambda}{\lambda^*}x & 0 \leq x \leq \frac{\lambda^*}{\lambda} \\ -1 & 0 \leq \frac{\lambda^*}{\lambda} \leq x \leq 1, \end{cases}$$

as the corresponding functions alluded to in the definition. Other further families, showing more complicated patterns, can be also found out. Of course, none of them satisfies (4.6).

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