

## Research Article

# Boundary Blow-Up Solutions to $p(x)$ -Laplacian Equations with Exponential Nonlinearities

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This paper investigates the  $p(x)$ -Laplacian equations with exponential nonlinearities  $-\Delta_{p(x)}u + e^{f(x,u)} = 0$  in  $\Omega$ ,  $u(x) \rightarrow +\infty$  as  $d(x, \partial\Omega) \rightarrow 0$ , where  $-\Delta_{p(x)}u = -\operatorname{div}(|\nabla u|^{p(x)-2}\nabla u)$  is called  $p(x)$ -Laplacian. The singularity of boundary blow-up solutions is discussed, and the existence of boundary blow-up solutions is given.

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## 1. Introduction

The study of differential equations and variational problems with nonstandard  $p(x)$ -growth conditions is a new and interesting topic. We refer to [1, 2], the background of these problems. Many results have been obtained on this kind of problems, for example, [1–15]. In this paper, we consider the  $p(x)$ -Laplacian equations with exponential nonlinearities

$$\begin{aligned} -\Delta_{p(x)}u + e^{f(x,u)} &= 0 \quad \text{in } \Omega, \\ u(x) &\rightarrow +\infty \quad \text{as } d(x, \partial\Omega) \rightarrow 0, \end{aligned} \tag{P}$$

where  $-\Delta_{p(x)}u = -\operatorname{div}(|\nabla u|^{p(x)-2}\nabla u)$ ,  $\Omega = B(0, R) \subset \mathbb{R}^N$  is a bounded radial domain ( $B(0, R) = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^N \mid |x| < R\}$ ). Our aim is to give the existence and asymptotic behavior of solutions for problem (P).

Throughout the paper, we assume that  $p(x)$  and  $f(x, u)$  satisfy that

(H<sub>1</sub>)  $p(x) \in C^1(\overline{\Omega})$  is radial and satisfies

$$1 < p^- \leq p^+ < +\infty, \quad \text{where } p^- = \inf_{\Omega} p(x), \quad p^+ = \sup_{\Omega} p(x); \tag{1.1}$$

(H<sub>2</sub>)  $f(x, u)$  is radial with respect to  $x$ ,  $f(x, \cdot)$  is increasing and  $f(x, 0) = 0$  for any  $x \in \Omega$ ;

(H<sub>3</sub>)  $f : \Omega \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is a continuous function and satisfies

$$|f(x, t)| \leq C_1 + C_2 |t|^{\gamma(x)}, \quad \forall (x, t) \in \Omega \times \mathbb{R}, \quad (1.2)$$

where  $C_1, C_2$  are positive constants,  $0 \leq \gamma \in C(\overline{\Omega})$ .

The operator  $-\Delta_{p(x)} u = -\operatorname{div}(|\nabla u|^{p(x)-2} \nabla u)$  is called  $p(x)$ -Laplacian. Especially, if  $p(x) \equiv p$  (a constant), (P) is the well-known  $p$ -Laplacian problem (see [16–18]).

Because of the nonhomogeneity of  $p(x)$ -Laplacian,  $p(x)$ -Laplacian problems are more complicated than those of  $p$ -Laplacian ones (see [6]); and another difficulty of this paper is that  $f(x, u)$  cannot be represented as  $h(x)f(u)$ .

## 2. Preliminary

In order to deal with  $p(x)$ -Laplacian problems, we need some theories on spaces  $L^{p(x)}(\Omega)$  and  $W^{1,p(x)}(\Omega)$ , and properties of  $p(x)$ -Laplacian, which we will use later (see [3, 7]). Let

$$L^{p(x)}(\Omega) = \left\{ u \mid u \text{ is a measurable real-valued function, } \int_{\Omega} |u(x)|^{p(x)} dx < \infty \right\}. \quad (2.1)$$

We can introduce the norm on  $L^{p(x)}(\Omega)$  by

$$\|u\|_{p(x)} = \inf \left\{ \lambda > 0 \mid \int_{\Omega} \left| \frac{u(x)}{\lambda} \right|^{p(x)} dx \leq 1 \right\}. \quad (2.2)$$

The space  $(L^{p(x)}(\Omega), \|\cdot\|_{p(x)})$  becomes a Banach space. We call it generalized Lebesgue space. The space  $(L^{p(x)}(\Omega), \|\cdot\|_{p(x)})$  is a separable, reflexive, and uniform convex Banach space (see [3, Theorems 1.10, 1.14]).

The space  $W^{1,p(x)}(\Omega)$  is defined by

$$W^{1,p(x)}(\Omega) = \{u \in L^{p(x)}(\Omega) \mid |\nabla u| \in L^{p(x)}(\Omega)\}, \quad (2.3)$$

and it can be equipped with the norm

$$\|u\| = \|u\|_{p(x)} + \|\nabla u\|_{p(x)}, \quad \forall u \in W^{1,p(x)}(\Omega). \quad (2.4)$$

$W_0^{1,p(x)}(\Omega)$  is the closure of  $C_0^\infty(\Omega)$  in  $W^{1,p(x)}(\Omega)$ .  $W^{1,p(x)}(\Omega)$  and  $W_0^{1,p(x)}(\Omega)$  are separable, reflexive, and uniform convex Banach spaces (see [3, Theorem 2.1]).

If  $u \in W_{\text{loc}}^{1,p(x)}(\Omega) \cap C(\Omega)$ ,  $u$  is called a solution of (P) if it satisfies

$$\int_Q |\nabla u|^{p(x)-2} \nabla u \nabla q dx + \int_Q f(x, u) q dx = 0, \quad \forall q \in W_0^{1,p(x)}(Q), \quad (2.5)$$

for any domain  $Q \Subset \Omega$ , and  $\max(k - u, 0) \in W_0^{1,p(x)}(\Omega)$  for any  $k \in \mathbb{N}^+$ .

Let  $W_{0,\text{loc}}^{1,p(x)}(\Omega) = \{u \mid \text{there exists an open domain } Q \Subset \Omega \text{ s.t. } u \in W_0^{1,p(x)}(Q)\}$ . For any  $u \in W_{\text{loc}}^{1,p(x)}(\Omega) \cap C(\Omega)$  and  $\varphi \in W_{0,\text{loc}}^{1,p(x)}(\Omega)$ , define  $A : W_{\text{loc}}^{1,p(x)}(\Omega) \cap C(\Omega) \rightarrow (W_{0,\text{loc}}^{1,p(x)}(\Omega))^*$  as  $\langle Au, \varphi \rangle = \int_{\Omega} (|\nabla u|^{p(x)-2} \nabla u \nabla \varphi + e^{f(x,u)} \varphi) dx$ .

**Lemma 2.1** (see [5, Theorem 3.1]). Let  $h \in W^{1,p(x)}(\Omega) \cap C(\Omega)$ ,  $X = h + W_{0,\text{loc}}^{1,p(x)}(\Omega) \cap C(\Omega)$ . Then,  $A : X \rightarrow (W_{0,\text{loc}}^{1,p(x)}(\Omega))^*$  is strictly monotone.

Let  $g \in (W_{0,\text{loc}}^{1,p(x)}(\Omega))^*$ , if  $\langle g, \varphi \rangle \geq 0$ , for all  $\varphi \in W_{0,\text{loc}}^{1,p(x)}(\Omega)$ ,  $\varphi \geq 0$  a.e. in  $\Omega$ , then denote  $g \geq 0$  in  $(W_{0,\text{loc}}^{1,p(x)}(\Omega))^*$ ; correspondingly, if  $-g \geq 0$  in  $(W_{0,\text{loc}}^{1,p(x)}(\Omega))^*$ , then denote  $g \leq 0$  in  $(W_{0,\text{loc}}^{1,p(x)}(\Omega))^*$ .

**Definition 2.2.** Let  $u \in W_{\text{loc}}^{1,p(x)}(\Omega) \cap C(\Omega)$ . If  $Au \geq 0$  ( $Au \leq 0$ ) in  $(W_{0,\text{loc}}^{1,p(x)}(\Omega))^*$ , then  $u$  is called a weak supersolution (weak subsolution) of (P).

Copying the proof of [9], we have the following lemma.

**Lemma 2.3** (comparison principle). Let  $u, v \in W_{\text{loc}}^{1,p(x)}(\Omega) \cap C(\Omega)$  satisfy  $Au - Av \geq 0$  in  $(W_{0,\text{loc}}^{1,p(x)}(\Omega))^*$ . Let  $\varphi(x) = \min\{u(x) - v(x), 0\}$ . If  $\varphi(x) \in W_{0,\text{loc}}^{1,p(x)}(\Omega)$  (i.e.,  $u \geq v$  on  $\partial\Omega$ ), then  $u \geq v$  a.e. in  $\Omega$ .

**Lemma 2.4** (see [4, Theorem 1.1]). Under the conditions  $(H_1)$  and  $(H_3)$ , if  $u \in W^{1,p(x)}(\Omega)$  is a bounded weak solution of  $-\Delta_{p(x)}u + e^{f(x,u)} = 0$  in  $\Omega$ , then  $u \in C_{\text{loc}}^{1,\vartheta}(\Omega)$ , where  $\vartheta \in (0, 1)$  is a constant.

### 3. Main results and proofs

If  $u$  is a radial solution of (P), then (P) can be transformed into

$$\begin{aligned} (r^{N-1}|u'|^{p(r)-2}u')' &= r^{N-1}e^{f(r,u)}, \quad r \in (0, R), \\ u(0) &= u_0, \quad u'(0) = 0, \quad u'(r) \geq 0 \quad \text{for } 0 < r < R. \end{aligned} \quad (3.1)$$

It means that  $u(r)$  is increasing.

**Theorem 3.1.** If there exists a constant  $\sigma \in [R/2, R)$  such that

$$f(r, u) \geq \alpha u^s \quad (\text{as } u \rightarrow +\infty) \text{ for } r \in [\sigma, R) \text{ uniformly,} \quad (3.2)$$

where  $\alpha$  and  $s$  are positive constants, then there exists a continuous function  $\Phi_1(x)$  which satisfies  $\Phi_1(x) \rightarrow +\infty$  (as  $d(x, \partial\Omega) \rightarrow 0$ ), and such that, if  $u$  is a weak solution of problem (P), then  $u(x) \leq \Phi_1(x)$ .

*Proof.* Let  $R_0 \in (\sigma, R)$ . Denote

$$\Theta(r, a, \lambda) = \int_r^{R_0} \left[ \frac{a(a \ln(R - R_0 - \lambda))^{-1}}{s(R - R_0 - \lambda)} \right]^{(p(R_0)-1)/(p(t)-1)} \left[ \frac{(R_0)^{N-1}}{t^{N-1}} \sin \varepsilon(t - \sigma) \right]^{1/(p(t)-1)} dt. \quad (3.3)$$

Define the function  $g(r, a)$  on  $[0, R)$  as

$$g(r, a) = \begin{cases} (a \ln(R - r))^{-1/s} + k, & R_0 \leq r < R, \\ k - \Theta(r, a, 0) + (a \ln(R - R_0))^{-1/s}, & \sigma < r < R_0, \\ k - \Theta(\sigma, a, 0) + (a \ln(R - R_0))^{-1/s}, & r \leq \sigma, \end{cases} \quad (3.4)$$

where  $a > (1/\alpha) \sup_{|x| \geq R_0} p(x)$  is a constant,  $R_0 \in (\sigma, R)$ , and  $R - R_0$  is small enough,  $\varepsilon = \pi/2(R_0 - \sigma)$  and  $k = ((2p^+/\alpha) \ln(R - R_0)^{-1})^{1/s} + \Theta(\sigma, 2a, 0)$ .

Obviously, for any positive constant  $a$ ,  $g(r, a) \in C^1[0, R)$ .

When  $R_0 < r < R$ , we have

$$(r^{N-1}|g'|^{p(r)-2}g')' = r^{N-1} \left(\frac{a^{1/s}}{s}\right)^{p(r)-1} \frac{p(r)-1}{(R-r)^{p(r)}} (\ln(R-r)^{-1})^{(1/s-1)(p(r)-1)} (1+\Pi(r)), \quad (3.5)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \Pi(r) = & \frac{(1/s-1)}{\ln(R-r)^{-1}} + \frac{[r^{N-1}(a^{1/s}/s)^{p(r)-1}]'}{r^{N-1}(a^{1/s}/s)^{p(r)-1}(p(r)-1)}(R-r) \\ & + \frac{-p'(r)\ln(R-r)}{(p(r)-1)}(R-r) + \frac{(1/s-1)p'(r)\ln\ln(R-r)^{-1}}{(p(r)-1)}(R-r). \end{aligned} \quad (3.6)$$

If  $(R - R_0)$  is small enough, it is easy to see  $|\Pi(r)| \leq 1/2$ ; from (3.5), we have

$$\begin{aligned} (r^{N-1}|g'|^{p(r)-2}g')' & \leq 2r^{N-1} \left(\frac{a^{1/s}}{s}\right)^{p(r)-1} (p(r)-1)(R-r)^{-p(r)} (\ln(R-r)^{-1})^{(1/s-1)(p(r)-1)} \\ & \leq r^{N-1} \left(\frac{1}{R-r}\right)^{\alpha a} = r^{N-1} e^{\alpha g^s} \leq r^{N-1} e^{f(r,g)}, \quad \forall r \in (R_0, R). \end{aligned} \quad (3.7)$$

Obviously, if  $R - R_0$  is small enough, then  $g \geq ((2p^+/\alpha) \ln(R - R_0)^{-1})^{1/s}$  is large enough, so we have

$$\begin{aligned} (r^{N-1}|g'|^{p(r)-2}g')' & = \varepsilon(R_0)^{N-1} \left[ \frac{a(a \ln(R - R_0)^{-1})^{1/s-1}}{s(R - R_0)} \right]^{(p(R_0)-1)} \cos(\varepsilon(r - \sigma)) \\ & \leq r^{N-1} e^{\alpha g^s} \leq r^{N-1} e^{f(r,g)}, \quad \sigma < r < R_0. \end{aligned} \quad (3.8)$$

Obviously,

$$(r^{N-1}|g'|^{p(r)-2}g')' = 0 \leq r^{N-1} e^{f(r,g)}, \quad 0 \leq r < \sigma. \quad (3.9)$$

Since  $g(|x|, a)$  is a  $C^1$  function on  $B(0, R)$ , if  $0 < R - R_0$  is small enough ( $R_0$  depends on  $R, p, s, \alpha$ ), from (3.7), (3.8), and (3.9), we can see that  $g(|x|, a)$  is a supersolution of (P).

Define the function  $g_m(r, a - \varepsilon)$  on  $[0, R - 1/m)$  as

$$g_m(r, a - \varepsilon) = \begin{cases} \left[ (a - \varepsilon) \ln \left( R - \frac{1}{m} - r \right)^{-1} \right]^{1/s} + k, & R_0 \leq r < R - \frac{1}{m}, \\ k - \Theta \left( r, a - \varepsilon, \frac{1}{m} \right) + \left[ (a - \varepsilon) \ln \left( R - \frac{1}{m} - R_0 \right)^{-1} \right]^{1/s}, & \sigma < r < R_0, \\ k - \Theta \left( \sigma, a - \varepsilon, \frac{1}{m} \right) + \left[ (a - \varepsilon) \ln \left( R - \frac{1}{m} - R_0 \right)^{-1} \right]^{1/s}, & r \leq \sigma, \end{cases} \quad (3.10)$$

where  $m$  is a big-enough integer such that  $0 < 1/m \leq (R - R_0)/2$ ,  $\varepsilon = \pi/2(R_0 - \sigma)$ ,  $0 < \varepsilon < 1$ , is a positive small constant such that  $\alpha(a - \varepsilon) > \sup_{|x| \geq R_0} p(x)$ .

Obviously,  $g_m(|x|, a - \varepsilon)$  is a supersolution of (P) on  $B(0, R - 1/m)$ . If  $u$  is a solution of (P), according to the comparison principle, we get that  $g_m(|x|, a - \varepsilon) \geq u(x)$  for any  $x \in B(0, R - 1/m)$ . For any  $x \in B(0, R - 1/m) \setminus B(0, R_0)$ , we have  $g_m(|x|, a - \varepsilon) \geq g_{m+1}(|x|, a - \varepsilon)$ . Thus,

$$u(x) \leq \lim_{m \rightarrow +\infty} g_m(|x|, a - \varepsilon), \quad \forall x \in B(0, R) \setminus B(0, R_0). \quad (3.11)$$

When  $d(x, \partial\Omega) > 0$  is small enough, we have

$$\lim_{m \rightarrow +\infty} g_m(|x|, a - \varepsilon) < (a \ln(R - r)^{-1})^{1/s} + k \leq g(|x|, a). \quad (3.12)$$

According to the comparison principle, we obtain that  $g(|x|, a) \geq u(x)$ , for all  $x \in B(0, R)$ , then  $\Phi_1(x) = g(|x|, a)$  is an upper control function of all of the solutions of (P). The proof is completed.  $\square$

**Theorem 3.2.** *If there exists a  $\sigma \in [R/2, R)$  such that*

$$f(r, u) \leq \beta u^s \quad (\text{as } u \rightarrow +\infty) \text{ for } r \in [\sigma, R) \text{ uniformly}, \quad (3.13)$$

where  $\beta$  and  $s$  are positive constants, then there exists a continuous function  $\Phi_2(x)$  which satisfies  $\Phi_2(x) \rightarrow +\infty$  (as  $d(x, \partial\Omega) \rightarrow 0$ ), and such that, if  $u(x)$  is a solution of problem (P), then  $u(x) \geq \Phi_2(x)$ .

*Proof.* Let  $z_1$  be a radial solution of

$$-\Delta_{p(x)} z_1(x) = -\mu \quad \text{in } \Omega_1 = B(0, \sigma), \quad z_1 = 0 \text{ on } \partial\Omega_1, \quad (3.14)$$

where  $\mu > 2$  is a positive constant. We denote  $z_1 = z_1(r) = z_1(|x|)$ , then  $z_1$  satisfies  $z_1(\sigma) = 0$ ,  $z_1'(0) = 0$ , and

$$z_1' = \left| \frac{r\mu}{N} \right|^{1/(p(r)-1)}, \quad z_1 = - \int_r^\sigma \left| \frac{r\mu}{N} \right|^{1/(p(r)-1)} dr. \quad (3.15)$$

Denote  $h_b(r, \delta)$  on  $[\sigma, R_0]$  as

$$\begin{aligned} h_b(r, \delta) = \int_r^{R_0} \left\{ \frac{(R_0)^{N-1}}{t^{N-1}} \frac{t - \sigma}{R_0 - \sigma} \left[ \frac{b(b \ln(R + \delta - R_0)^{-1})^{1/s-1}}{s(R + \delta - R_0)} \right]^{p(R_0)-1} \right. \\ \left. + \frac{(\sigma)^{N-1}}{t^{N-1}} \frac{R_0 - t}{R_0 - \sigma} \left[ \left| \frac{t\mu}{N} \right|^{1/(p(t)-1)} \right]^{p(\sigma)-1} \right\}^{1/(p(t)-1)} dt. \end{aligned} \quad (3.16)$$

It is easy to see that

$$-h_b'(\sigma, 0) = z_1'(\sigma) = \left| \frac{\sigma\mu}{N} \right|^{1/(p(\sigma)-1)}, \quad -h_b'(R_0, 0) = \frac{b(b \ln(R - R_0)^{-1})^{1/s-1}}{s(R - R_0)}. \quad (3.17)$$

Define the function  $v(r, b)$  on  $B(0, R)$  as

$$v(r, b) = \begin{cases} (b \ln(R-r))^{-1/s} - k^*, & R_0 \leq r < R, \\ (b \ln(R-R_0))^{-1/s} - k^* - h_b(r, 0), & \sigma < r < R_0, \\ -\int_r^\sigma \left| \frac{r\mu}{N} \right|^{1/(p(r)-1)} dr + (b \ln(R-R_0))^{-1/s} - k^* - h_b(\sigma, 0), & r \leq \sigma, \end{cases} \quad (3.18)$$

where  $b \in (0, (1/\beta)\inf_{|x| \geq R_0} p(x))$  is a constant,  $R_0 \in (\sigma, R)$ , and  $R - R_0$  is small enough, and  $k^* = ((2p^+/\beta) \ln 2(R - R_0))^{-1/s}$ .

Obviously, for any positive constant  $b$ ,  $v(r, b) \in C^1[0, R)$ .

Similar to the proof of Theorem 3.1, when  $R - R_0$  is small enough, we have

$$(r^{N-1}|v'|^{p(r)-2}v')' \geq r^{N-1}e^{f(r,v)}, \quad \forall r \in (R_0, R). \quad (3.19)$$

When  $R - R_0$  is small enough, for all  $r \in (\sigma, R_0)$ , since  $f(r, v) \leq 0$ , then

$$(r^{N-1}|v'|^{p(r)-2}v')' \geq \frac{1}{2} \frac{(R_0)^{N-1}}{R_0 - \sigma} \left[ \frac{b(b \ln(R - R_0))^{-1/s-1}}{s(R - R_0)} \right]^{p(R_0)-1} \geq r^{N-1}e^{f(r,v)}. \quad (3.20)$$

Obviously,

$$(r^{N-1}|v'|^{p(r)-2}v')' = r^{N-1}\mu \geq r^{N-1}e^{f(r,v)}, \quad \forall r \in (0, \sigma). \quad (3.21)$$

Combining (3.19), (3.20), and (3.21), we can see that  $v(r, a)$  is a subsolution of (P).

Define the function  $v_m(r, b + \epsilon)$  on  $B(0, R)$  as

$$v_m(r, b + \epsilon) = \begin{cases} \left[ (b + \epsilon) \ln \left( R + \frac{1}{m} - r \right)^{-1} \right]^{1/s} - k^*, & R_0 \leq r < R, \\ \left[ (b + \epsilon) \ln \left( R + \frac{1}{m} - R_0 \right)^{-1} \right]^{1/s} - k^* - h_{b+\epsilon} \left( r, \frac{1}{m} \right), & \sigma < r < R_0, \\ -\int_r^\sigma \left| \frac{\mu r}{N} \right|^{1/(p(r)-1)} dr + \left[ (b + \epsilon) \ln \left( R + \frac{1}{m} - R_0 \right)^{-1} \right]^{1/s} - k^* - h_{b+\epsilon} \left( \sigma, \frac{1}{m} \right), & r \leq \sigma, \end{cases} \quad (3.22)$$

where  $\epsilon$  is a small-enough positive constant such that  $(b + \epsilon) < (1/\beta)\inf_{|x| \geq R_0} p(x)$ .

We can see that  $v_m(r, b + \epsilon) \in C^1([0, R))$  is a subsolution of (P) on  $B(R_0, R)$ , according to the comparison principle, we get that  $v_m(|x|, b + \epsilon) \leq u(x)$  for any  $x \in B(0, R)$ . For any  $x \in B(0, R) \setminus B(0, R_0)$ , we have  $v_m(|x|, b + \epsilon) \leq v_{m+1}(|x|, b + \epsilon)$ . Thus,

$$u(x) \geq \lim_{m \rightarrow +\infty} v_m(|x|, b + \epsilon), \quad \forall x \in B(0, R) \setminus B(0, R_0). \quad (3.23)$$

When  $d(x, \partial\Omega)$  is small enough, we have

$$\lim_{m \rightarrow +\infty} v_m(|x|, b + \epsilon) > v(|x|, b). \quad (3.24)$$

From the comparison principle, we obtain  $v(|x|, b) \leq u(x)$ ,  $\forall x \in B(0, R)$ , then  $\Phi_2(x) = v(|x|, b)$  is a lower control function of all of the solutions of (P).  $\square$

**Theorem 3.3.** *If  $\inf_{x \in \Omega} p(x) > N$  and there exists a  $\sigma \in [R/2, R)$  such that*

$$f(r, u) \geq au^s \quad (\text{as } u \rightarrow +\infty) \text{ for } r \in [\sigma, R) \text{ uniformly,} \quad (3.25)$$

where  $a$  and  $s$  are positive constants, then (P) possesses a solution.

*Proof.* In order to deal with the existence of boundary blow-up solutions of (P), let us consider the problem

$$\begin{aligned} -\Delta_{p(x)} u + e^{f(x,u)} &= 0 \quad \text{in } \Omega, \\ u(x) &= j \quad \text{for } x \in \partial\Omega, \end{aligned} \quad (3.26)$$

where  $j = 1, 2, \dots$ . Since  $\inf_{x \in \Omega} p(x) > N$ , then  $W^{1,p(x)}(\Omega) \hookrightarrow C^\alpha(\bar{\Omega})$ , where  $\alpha \in (0, 1)$ . The relative functional of (3.26) is

$$\varphi(u) = \int_{\Omega} \frac{1}{p(x)} |\nabla u(x)|^{p(x)} dx + \int_{\Omega} F(x, u) dx, \quad (3.27)$$

where  $F(x, u) = \int_0^u e^{f(x,t)} dt$ . Since  $\varphi$  is coercive in  $X_j := j + W_0^{1,p(x)}(\Omega)$ , then  $\varphi$  possesses a nontrivial minimum point  $u_j$ , then problem (3.26) possesses a weak solution  $u_j$ . According to the comparison principle, we get  $u_j(x) \leq u_{j+1}(x)$  for any  $x \in \Omega$  and  $j = 1, 2, \dots$ . Since  $\Phi_1(x)$  defined in Theorem 3.1 is a supersolution, according to the comparison principle, we have  $u_j(x) \leq \Phi_1(x)$  on  $\Omega$  for all  $j = 1, 2, \dots$ . Since  $\Phi_1(x)$  is locally bounded, from Lemma 2.4, every weak solution of (P) is a locally  $C_{\text{loc}}^{1,\delta}$  function. Thus,  $\{u_j(x)\}$  possesses a subsequence (we still denote it by  $\{u_j(x)\}$ ), such that  $\lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} u_j = u$  is a solution of (P).  $\square$

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