

# EXISTENCE RESULTS FOR SEMILINEAR ELLIPTIC EQUATIONS WITH SMALL MEASURE DATA

**Nathalie GRENON**

*Faculté des Sciences de Bourges, rue Gaston Berger B.P. 4043, 18028 Bourges Cedex, France*

Received 13 June 2000, revised 5 March 2001

**ABSTRACT.** – We give a smallness condition on  $|m|$ , and  $\|f\|_q$  for the existence of a solution for the model problem:  $-\Delta_p u = f(x)|u|^\gamma + m\mu$  with  $u = 0$  on  $\partial\Omega$ , where  $\Omega$  is a bounded open set of  $\mathbb{R}^N$ ,  $f(x) \in L^q(\Omega)$ ,  $q \geq 1$ ,  $m \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $\mu$  is a Radon measure with bounded variation on  $\Omega$  such that  $|\mu|(\Omega) = 1$ . © 2002 Éditions scientifiques et médicales Elsevier SAS

**RÉSUMÉ.** – Nous donnons une condition suffisante sur  $|m|$ , et  $\|f\|_q$  pour l'existence de solution au problème modèle :  $-\Delta_p u = f(x)|u|^\gamma + m\mu$  avec  $u = 0$  sur  $\partial\Omega$ , où  $\Omega$  est un ouvert borné de  $\mathbb{R}^N$ ,  $f(x) \in L^q(\Omega)$ ,  $q \geq 1$ ,  $m \in \mathbb{R}$  et  $\mu$  est une mesure de Radon à variation bornée sur  $\Omega$  telle que  $|\mu|(\Omega) = 1$ . © 2002 Éditions scientifiques et médicales Elsevier SAS

## 1. Introduction and main results

The main goal of this paper is to prove, if the data are small enough, the existence of a solution for the model problem

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta_p u = f(x)|u|^\gamma + m\mu & \text{in } \Omega, \\ u = 0 & \text{on } \partial\Omega, \end{cases} \quad (1.1)$$

where  $N \geq 1$ ,  $\Omega$  is a bounded open subset of  $\mathbb{R}^N$ ,  $-\Delta_p$  is the so called  $p$ -Laplace operator,  $f(x) \in L^q(\Omega)$ ,  $q \geq 1$ ,  $\mu \in M_B(\Omega)$  (that is to say  $\mu$  is a Radon measure with bounded variation in  $\Omega$ ) such that  $|\mu|(\Omega) = 1$  and  $m \in \mathbb{R}$ .

In fact we study the more general problem

$$\begin{cases} -\operatorname{div}(a(x, Du)) = h(x, u) + m\mu & \text{in } \Omega, \\ u = 0 & \text{on } \partial\Omega, \end{cases} \quad (1.2)$$

where  $u \mapsto -\operatorname{div}(a(x, Du))$  is a monotone operator defined on  $W_0^{1,p}(\Omega)$  with values in  $W^{-1,p'}(\Omega)$ ,  $p > 1$ ,  $\frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{p'} = 1$ . We suppose more precisely that,

$$a : \Omega \times \mathbb{R}^N \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^N \quad \text{is a Caratheodory function,} \quad (1.3)$$

that is to say  $a(\cdot, \xi)$  is measurable on  $\Omega$  for every  $\xi$  in  $\mathbb{R}^N$ , and  $a(x, \cdot)$  is continuous on  $\mathbb{R}^N$  for almost every  $x$  in  $\Omega$ , that,

$$a(x, \xi)\xi \geq \alpha|\xi|^p, \quad (1.4)$$

for almost every  $x$  in  $\Omega$  and for every  $\xi$  in  $\mathbb{R}^N$ , where  $\alpha > 0$  is a constant, that,

$$|a(x, \xi)| \leq d(b(x) + |\xi|)^{p-1}, \quad (1.5)$$

for almost every  $x$  in  $\Omega$  and every  $\xi$  in  $\mathbb{R}^N$ , where  $d > 0$  is a constant and  $b$  is a nonnegative function in  $L^p(\Omega)$ , and that,

$$(a(x, \xi) - a(x, \xi'))(\xi - \xi') > 0, \quad (1.6)$$

for almost  $x$  in  $\Omega$ , and for every  $\xi, \xi'$  in  $\mathbb{R}^N$ ,  $\xi \neq \xi'$ . We also assume that,

$$h : \Omega \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \quad \text{is a Caratheodory function,} \quad (1.7)$$

that is to say  $h(\cdot, t)$  is measurable on  $\Omega$  for every  $t$  in  $\mathbb{R}$ , and  $h(x, \cdot)$  is continuous on  $\mathbb{R}$  for almost every  $x$  in  $\Omega$ , and that,

$$\begin{cases} |h(x, t)| \leq f(x)|t|^\gamma, \\ \text{for some } 1 \leq \gamma < +\infty \text{ and some } f \in L^q(\Omega), \\ \text{where } 1 \leq q \leq +\infty, \end{cases} \quad (1.8)$$

for almost every  $x$  in  $\Omega$  for every  $t$  in  $\mathbb{R}$ .

Observe that there is no sign assumption on  $h(x, t)$ , only the growth on  $t$  is considered.

We now recall some well known results about measures.

For every measure  $\mu \in M_B(\Omega)$  there exists a unique pair of measures  $(\mu_0, \mu_s)$  such that  $\mu = \mu_0 + \mu_s$  (see [5] and [10]) with  $\mu_0$  in  $M_0(\Omega)$  (that is to say the set of all measures in  $M_B(\Omega)$  which are absolutely continuous with respect to the  $p$ -capacity) and  $\mu_s$  in  $M_s(\Omega)$  (that is to say the set of all measures in  $M_B(\Omega)$  which are singular with the  $p$ -capacity). In other words,  $\mu_s$  is concentrated on a subset  $E$  of  $\Omega$  with zero  $p$ -capacity, and  $\mu_0$  does not charge the set of zero  $p$ -capacity. Moreover it is equivalent for a measure to be in  $M_0(\Omega)$  and to belong to  $L^1(\Omega) + W^{-1,p'}(\Omega)$ , that is to say every  $\mu_0$  can be written as  $\mu_0 = f - \operatorname{div} g$  with  $f \in L^1(\Omega)$  and  $g \in (L^{p'}(\Omega))^N$ . In short, every  $\mu \in M_B(\Omega)$  can be decomposed as follows,

$$\mu = f - \operatorname{div} g + \mu_s^+ - \mu_s^-$$

where  $f \in L^1(\Omega)$ ,  $g \in (L^{p'}(\Omega))^N$ ,  $\mu_s^+$ ,  $\mu_s^-$  (the positive part and negative part of  $\mu_s$ ) are two nonnegative measures in  $M_s(\Omega)$  which are concentrated on two disjoint subsets  $E^+$  and  $E^-$  of zero  $p$ -capacity. Recall also (see [3,7,8]) that if  $u$  is a measurable function defined on  $\Omega$ , which is finite almost everywhere, and satisfies  $T_k(u) \in W_0^{1,p}(\Omega)$  for every  $k > 0$  (where  $T_k(u)$  is the truncate at level  $k$ ), then there exists a measurable function  $v : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^N$  such that  $DT_k(u) = v\chi_{\{|u| \leq k\}}$  almost everywhere in  $\Omega$ , for every  $k > 0$ ,

which is unique up to almost everywhere equivalence. We define the gradient  $Du$  of  $u$  as this function  $v$ .

Let us recall the definition of a renormalized solution (see [7,8]).

DEFINITION 1.1. – *We suppose (1.3)–(1.6),  $p > 1$ ,  $\mu \in M_B(\Omega)$ . We say that  $u$  is a renormalized solution of*

$$\begin{cases} -\operatorname{div}(a(x, Du)) = \mu & \text{in } \Omega, \\ u = 0 & \text{on } \partial\Omega, \end{cases} \quad (1.9)$$

if,

- the function  $u$  is measurable and finite everywhere and  $T_k(u)$  belongs to  $W_0^{1,p}(\Omega)$  for every  $k > 0$ ,
- the gradient  $Du$  in the previous sense satisfies,

$$|Du|^{p-1} \in L^q(\Omega), \quad \forall q, 1 \leq q < \frac{N}{N-1},$$

- if  $w$  belongs to  $W_0^{1,p}(\Omega) \cap L^\infty(\Omega)$  and if there exists  $k > 0$  and  $w^{+\infty}, w^{-\infty} \in W^{1,r}(\Omega) \cap L^\infty(\Omega)$  with  $r > N$  such that,

$$w = w^{+\infty} \quad \text{a.e. on the set } \{u > k\},$$

$$w = w^{-\infty} \quad \text{a.e. on the set } \{u < -k\},$$

then,

$$\int_{\Omega} a(x, Du) Dw \, dx = \int_{\Omega} w \, d\mu_0 + \int_{\Omega} w^{+\infty} \, d\mu_s^+ - \int_{\Omega} w^{-\infty} \, d\mu_s^-. \quad (1.10)$$

In [8] the authors give equivalent definitions of renormalized solutions. When  $\mu \in M_0(\Omega)$ , this definition is equivalent to the definition of an entropy solution (see [3] and [5]).

Let us observe that when  $p > N$ , the renormalized solution is just a usual weak solution and belongs to some  $C^{0,\alpha}(\Omega)$ ; therefore the notion of renormalized solution is not really needed. This is also the case for example in the linear case where  $a(x, \xi) = A(x)\xi$  when the matrix  $A$  has smooth coefficients. However, when the coefficients are not smooth, a new notion is necessary even in the linear case in order to obtain both existence and uniqueness results (see [16]). Observe in particular that the test function  $w$  which is used in (1.10) actually depends on the solution  $u$  itself, and that in some sense  $u = +\infty$  on the set where  $\mu_s^+$  is concentrated, while  $u = -\infty$  on the set where  $\mu_s^-$  is concentrated since the action of  $\mu_s$  on the set where  $|u| \leq k$  does not appear in (1.10). For more comments on the notion of renormalized solutions, see [8]. These equations have been widely studied. Especially in [1,2,11], the authors give a sufficient and necessary condition for the existence of a solution of equations closed to (1.2) in the case  $p = 2$ , but their method doesn't extend to  $p \neq 2$ . See also [15] for the case of an

eigenvalue problem. Let us also quote [4] in which the authors give counter examples to the existence for the equation of the type (1.2). Quasilinear equations have been studied with more regular data in [9,12,14] for instance. In these papers existence results are obtained assuming that the data are small enough relatively to a convenient norm.

The main result of this paper is the following,

**THEOREM 1.1.** – *Assume (1.3)–(1.8), let  $m \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $\mu \in M_B(\Omega)$ , such that  $|\mu|(\Omega) = 1$ ,  $1 \leq \gamma < +\infty$ ,  $1 \leq q \leq +\infty$  with  $q \neq 1$  if  $N = p$  and  $\gamma q' < \frac{(p-1)N}{N-p}$  if  $N > p$ . Then there exists a renormalized solution of (1.2)*

(1) if  $1 \leq \gamma < p - 1$  (thus  $p > 2$ )

*with no additional condition on  $\|f\|_q, m$ ;*

(1) if  $\gamma \geq p - 1$  then the condition is

$$\|f\|_q |m|^{\frac{\gamma-p+1}{p-1}} \leq \frac{C}{|\Omega|^{\frac{1}{q'} + \frac{\gamma}{p-1}(-1 + \frac{p}{N})}} \tag{1.11}$$

for some constant  $C = C(N, p, \gamma)$ .

*Remarks.* –

- First observe that when  $p < N$ , there exists some  $q$  with  $1 \leq q \leq +\infty$  and some  $\gamma \geq 1$  such that  $\gamma q' < \frac{(p-1)N}{N-p}$  if and only if  $p > \frac{2N}{N+1}$ .

This is a restriction on the values of  $\gamma$  and  $q$ , which is natural. Indeed, in order to define a renormalized solution of (1.2), we need  $h(x, u)$  to belong to  $L^1(\Omega)$ . But even if  $h(x, u) \equiv 0$ , the renormalized solution  $u$  of (1.2) belongs to  $L^r(\Omega)$  for any  $r$ ,  $1 \leq r < \frac{(p-1)N}{N-p}$  and is not in general in  $L^{\frac{(p-1)N}{N-p}}(\Omega)$ . Consequently if  $\gamma q' \geq \frac{(p-1)N}{N-p}$  we shall not have  $h(x, u) \in L^1(\Omega)$ .

- If  $\gamma = p - 1$  condition (1.11) reads

$$\|f\|_q \leq C |\Omega|^{\frac{1}{q} - \frac{p}{N}}$$

with no condition on  $m$ . Actually, if  $u$  solves

$$-\Delta_p u = f(x)|u|^{p-1} + m\mu,$$

then for any  $c > 0$ ,  $v = cu$  solves

$$-\Delta_p v = f(x)|v|^{p-1} + c^{p-1}m\mu.$$

That is to say, if there is a solution for  $m$  and  $\mu$  given, then there is a solution for every  $|m|$ .

- If  $\mu \geq 0$  and  $h \geq 0$ , then a solution of (1.2) is nonnegative. Indeed, we can use  $w = -T_k(u^-)$  as test function in the equation satisfied by  $u$  and then (observe that  $\mu_s^- = 0$  and  $w^{+\infty} = 0$ )

$$-\int_{\Omega} a(x, Du)DT_k(u^-) dx = \int_{\Omega} h(x, u)(-T_k(u^-)) dx + \int_{\Omega} -T_k(u^-) d\mu_0 \leq 0,$$

from (1.4), we deduce that,

$$\alpha \|DT_k(u^-)\|_p \leq 0$$

for any  $k > 0$ , and then  $u^- = 0$ . It means that Theorem 1.1 gives conditions for the existence of a positive renormalized solution of

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta_p u = h(x, u) + \mu & \text{in } \Omega, \\ u = 0 & \text{on } \partial\Omega. \end{cases}$$

## 2. Estimates and preliminary lemmas

Recall the following estimates,

LEMMA 2.1. – We suppose (1.3)–(1.6),  $\mu \in M_B(\Omega)$ , such that  $|\mu|(\Omega) = 1$ ,  $m \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $p > 1$ . Let  $u$  be a renormalized solution of

$$\begin{cases} -\operatorname{div}(a(x, Du)) = m\mu & \text{in } \Omega, \\ u = 0 & \text{on } \partial\Omega \end{cases}$$

then the following estimate holds

$$\|u\|_r \leq C |\Omega|^{\frac{1}{r} + \frac{1}{p-1}(-1 + \frac{p}{N})} |m|^{\frac{1}{p-1}}, \tag{2.1}$$

for some positive constant  $C = C(N, p, r)$  and for any  $r \in [1, +\infty]$  if  $p > N$ ,  $r \in [1, +\infty)$  if  $p = N$ , and  $r \in [1, \frac{N(p-1)}{N-p})$  if  $p < N$ .

This estimate is proven in [13] for instance, where explicit value for  $C$  is explicitly given in a more general context. It can also be proven by symmetrization techniques (see [17]). We have to specify that in [13], the right-hand side is in  $L^1(\Omega)$ , but the proof extends to  $\mu \in M_B(\Omega)$  without difficulty.

COROLLARY 2.1. – Assume (1.3)–(1.8),  $1 \leq \gamma < +\infty$ ,  $1 \leq q \leq +\infty$ . If  $v \in L^{\gamma q'}(\Omega)$ ,  $m \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $\mu \in M_B(\Omega)$  such that  $|\mu|(\Omega) = 1$ , if  $q \neq 1$  when  $N = p$  and if  $\gamma q' < \frac{(p-1)N}{N-p}$  (thus  $p > \frac{2N}{N+1}$ ) when  $N > p$ , and if  $u$  is a renormalized solution of

$$\begin{cases} -\operatorname{div}(a(x, Du)) = h(x, v) + m\mu & \text{in } \Omega, \\ u = 0 & \text{on } \partial\Omega, \end{cases} \tag{2.2}$$

then,

$$\|u\|_{\gamma q'} \leq A + B \|v\|_{\gamma q'}^{\frac{\gamma}{p-1}}$$

where

$$A = C |\Omega|^{\frac{1}{\gamma q'} + \frac{1}{p-1}(-1 + \frac{p}{N})} |m|^{\frac{1}{p-1}}, \quad B = C |\Omega|^{\frac{1}{\gamma q'} + \frac{1}{p-1}(-1 + \frac{p}{N})} \|f\|_q^{\frac{1}{p-1}},$$

for some positive constant  $C = C(N, p, \gamma)$ .

*Proof.* – We have

$$(|h(x, v) + m\mu|(\Omega))^{\frac{1}{p-1}} \leq (\|h(x, v)\|_1 + |m|)^{\frac{1}{p-1}},$$

then from (1.8), and Hölder inequality,

$$(|h(x, v) + m\mu|(\Omega))^{\frac{1}{p-1}} \leq (\|v\|_{\gamma q'}^\gamma \|f\|_q + |m|)^{\frac{1}{p-1}}$$

and then,

- if  $\frac{1}{p-1} < 1$ ,

$$(|h(x, v) + m\mu|(\Omega))^{\frac{1}{p-1}} \leq \|f(x)\|_q^{\frac{1}{p-1}} \|v\|_{\gamma q'}^{\frac{\gamma}{p-1}} + |m|^{\frac{1}{p-1}},$$

- if  $\frac{1}{p-1} \geq 1$ ,

$$(|h(x, v) + m\mu|(\Omega))^{\frac{1}{p-1}} \leq 2^{\frac{2-p}{p-1}} \|f(x)\|_q^{\frac{1}{p-1}} \|v\|_{\gamma q'}^{\frac{\gamma}{p-1}} + 2^{\frac{2-p}{p-1}} |m|^{\frac{1}{p-1}}$$

and we get the corollary from (2.1) with  $r = \gamma q'$ .

We now study the function,  $\varphi: \mathbb{R}^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  defined by,

$$\varphi(X) = A + BX^{\frac{\gamma}{p-1}} - X,$$

where  $A, B \geq 0$ .

- If  $\gamma > p - 1$ , then,  $\varphi(0) = A \geq 0$  and  $\lim_{X \rightarrow +\infty} \varphi(X) = +\infty$ , moreover, by calculation of the derivative, we get that  $\varphi$  has a minimum at the point,

$$X_0 = \left( \frac{p-1}{B\gamma} \right)^{\frac{p-1}{\gamma-p+1}}$$

with

$$\varphi(X_0) = A + \frac{1}{\gamma^{\frac{\gamma}{\gamma-p+1}}} \frac{(p-1)^{\frac{p-1}{\gamma-p+1}}}{B^{\frac{p-1}{\gamma-p+1}}} (p-1-\gamma),$$

then  $\varphi$  has at least one root if and only if  $\varphi(X_0) \leq 0$  that is to say if,

$$AB^{\frac{p-1}{\gamma-p+1}} \leq \frac{1}{\gamma^{\frac{\gamma}{\gamma-p+1}}} (p-1)^{\frac{p-1}{\gamma-p+1}} (\gamma+1-p), \quad (2.3)$$

and  $\varphi$  has two roots if,

$$AB^{\frac{p-1}{\gamma-p+1}} < \frac{1}{\gamma^{\frac{\gamma}{\gamma-p+1}}} (p-1)^{\frac{p-1}{\gamma-p+1}} (\gamma+1-p).$$

- If  $\gamma = p - 1$ , then,

$$\varphi(X) = (B - 1)X + A,$$

then  $\varphi$  has a root if

$$B < 1, \quad \forall A \geq 0. \tag{2.4}$$

- If  $\gamma < p - 1$ , then,

$$\varphi(X) = A + BX^{\frac{\gamma}{p-1}} - X$$

and then,

$$\lim_{X \rightarrow +\infty} \varphi(X) = -\infty \quad \text{and} \quad \varphi(0) \geq 0,$$

then  $\varphi$  has a root for any  $A, B \geq 0$ .

We henceforth denote (when it exists),

$$Y: \text{ the smallest root of } \varphi. \tag{2.5}$$

### 3. Proof of Theorem 1.1

First observe that,

- if  $\gamma > p - 1$ , condition (2.3) is equivalent to

$$|\Omega|^{\frac{1}{q'} + \frac{\gamma}{p-1}(-1 + \frac{p}{N})} |m|^{\frac{\gamma-p+1}{p-1}} \|f(x)\|_q \leq C$$

for some constant  $C = C(N, p, \gamma)$ .

- if  $\gamma = p - 1$ , condition (2.4) is equivalent to

$$|\Omega|^{-\frac{1}{q'} + \frac{p}{N}} \|f(x)\|_q \leq C$$

for some constant  $C = C(N, p)$ , and we recognize the condition which appear in the second case of Theorem 1.1.

We set

$$h_n(s) = T_n(h(s)),$$

where  $T_n$  is the truncate at level  $n$ .

LEMMA 3.1. – *We suppose (1.3)–(1.8), let  $\mu \in M_B(\Omega) \cap W^{-1,p'}(\Omega)$ , such that  $|\mu|(\Omega) = 1$  and  $m \in \mathbb{R}$ , we suppose that  $Y$  defined by (2.5) exists, that is to say if the previous conditions are fulfilled. Then, for any  $\mu_n \in W^{-1,p'}(\Omega) \cap M_B(\Omega)$  such that  $|\mu_n|(\Omega) \leq m$  there exists a solution  $u \in W_0^{1,p}(\Omega)$  of the equation:*

$$\begin{cases} \int_{\Omega} a(x, Du) Dw \, dx = \int_{\Omega} h_n(x, u) w \, dx + \langle \mu_n, w \rangle \\ \forall w \in W_0^{1,p}(\Omega), \end{cases} \tag{3.1}$$

such that,

$$\|u\|_{\gamma q'} \leq Y,$$

where  $\gamma, q'$  satisfy the same conditions as in Corollary 2.1.

*Proof.* – We shall use Schauder Fixed Point Theorem.

Let  $v \in W_0^{1,p}(\Omega)$  then  $h_n(x, v) + \mu_n \in W^{-1,p'}(\Omega)$  and there exists a unique  $u \in W_0^{1,p}(\Omega)$ , such that,

$$\begin{cases} \int_{\Omega} a(x, Du) Dw \, dx = \int_{\Omega} h_n(x, v) w \, dx + \langle \mu_n, w \rangle \\ \forall w \in W_0^{1,p}(\Omega). \end{cases} \tag{3.2}$$

Moreover since  $|h_n(v)| \leq n$ , using  $u$  as test function we easily get

$$\|Du\|_p \leq C_n, \tag{3.3}$$

where  $C_n$  is a constant which depends on  $n$  but not on  $v$ .

Let  $v \in W_0^{1,p}(\Omega)$ , we henceforth set  $A_n(v) = u$  the solution of (3.2).

Let  $E = \{v \in W_0^{1,p}(\Omega) \cap L^{\gamma q'}(\Omega), \|Dv\|_p \leq C_n, \|v\|_{\gamma q'} \leq Y\}$ , then,

- $E$  is a closed convex subset of  $W_0^{1,p}(\Omega)$ .
- Observe that from definition of  $Y$ , if  $v \in E$  then

$$\|u\|_{\gamma} \leq A + B\|v\|_{\gamma}^{\frac{\gamma}{p-1}} \leq A + BY^{\frac{\gamma}{p-1}} = Y.$$

Moreover we have already seen that

$$\|Du\|_p \leq C_n$$

then,

$$A_n : E \rightarrow E.$$

- Suppose that  $(v_{\varepsilon})$  is a sequence in  $E$  such that  $v_{\varepsilon} \rightarrow v$  in  $W_0^{1,p}(\Omega)$  strong and let  $u_{\varepsilon} = A(v_{\varepsilon})$ . Since  $(v_{\varepsilon})$  is bounded in  $W_0^{1,p}(\Omega)$  there exists a subsequence still denoted  $(u_{\varepsilon})$  such that,

$$u_{\varepsilon} \rightarrow u \text{ } L^p(\Omega) \text{ strong, a.e. in } \Omega \text{ and } W_0^{1,p}(\Omega) \text{ weak.}$$

Using  $(u_{\varepsilon} - u)$  as test function in (3.2) we get,

$$\int_{\Omega} a(x, Du_{\varepsilon}) D(u_{\varepsilon} - u) \, dx = \int_{\Omega} h_n(v_{\varepsilon})(u_{\varepsilon} - u) \, dx + \langle \mu_n, u_{\varepsilon} - u \rangle.$$

We can easily see that the right-hand side tends to zero as  $\varepsilon$  tends to zero, then, since,



$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{\Omega} (a(x, Du_{\varepsilon}) - a(x, Du)) D(u_{\varepsilon} - u) \, dx \\ &= \int_{\Omega} a(x, Du_{\varepsilon}) D(u_{\varepsilon} - u) \, dx - \int_{\Omega} a(x, Du) D(u_{\varepsilon} - u) \, dx \end{aligned}$$

we have,

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \int_{\Omega} (a(x, Du_{\varepsilon}) - a(x, Du)) D(u_{\varepsilon} - u) \, dx = 0$$

from a lemma of [6] it implies that,

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \|D(u_{\varepsilon} - u)\|_p = 0.$$

This implies that we can pass to the limit in the equation satisfied by  $u_{\varepsilon}$ , and we get  $u = A(v)$ . Consequently the whole sequence  $(u_{\varepsilon})$  converges to  $u$  and finally it proves that  $A$  is continuous.

- With same arguments we can prove that  $A(E)$  is precompact. Indeed if  $(u_{\varepsilon})$  is a bounded sequence in  $A(E)$  then  $u_{\varepsilon} = A(v_{\varepsilon})$  with  $(v_{\varepsilon})$  or a subsequence is such that,

$$v_{\varepsilon} \rightarrow v \text{ a.e. in } \Omega \text{ and } L^p(\Omega) \text{ strong}$$

and we deduce like previously that,

$$u_{\varepsilon} \rightarrow u \text{ in } W_0^{1,p}(\Omega) \text{ strong.}$$

End of the proof of Theorem 1.1.

Let  $\mu \in M_B(\Omega)$  such that  $|\mu|(\Omega) = 1$  and  $m \in \mathbb{R}$ , then  $m\mu$  can be decomposed as,

$$m\mu = f - \operatorname{div} g + \lambda^+ - \lambda^-.$$

Let  $(\mu_n)$  a sequence of measures in  $M_B(\Omega)$  such that,

$$\mu_n = f_n - \operatorname{div} g + \lambda_n^{\oplus} - \lambda_n^{\ominus}$$

with,

$$f_n \in L^{p'}(\Omega) \text{ and } (f_n) \text{ converges to } f \text{ weakly in } L^1(\Omega), \tag{3.4}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda_n^{\oplus} \text{ is a sequence of nonnegative functions in } L^{p'}(\Omega) \text{ that} \\ \text{converges to } \mu_s^+ \text{ in the narrow topology of measures,} \end{aligned} \tag{3.5}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda_n^{\ominus} \text{ is a sequence of nonnegative functions in } L^{p'}(\Omega) \text{ that} \\ \text{converges to } \mu_s^- \text{ in the narrow topology of measures,} \end{aligned} \tag{3.6}$$

$$|\mu_n|(\Omega) \leq m, \quad (3.7)$$

then there exists a solution  $u_n$  of the corresponding Eq. (3.1) which satisfies

$$\|u_n\|_{\gamma q'} \leq Y.$$

Observe that in (3.1) the right-hand side is bounded in  $M_B(\Omega)$ , then it is proven in [8] that we can extract a subsequence which converges in measure and a.e. in  $\Omega$  to a measurable function  $u$  which is finite almost everywhere. Moreover since the right-hand side in (3.1) is bounded in  $M_B(\Omega)$ , from Lemma 2.1 we have, if  $q \neq 1$ , with a small  $\delta$

$$\|u_n\|_{\gamma q' + \delta} \leq C,$$

where  $C$  is a constant which does not depend on  $n$ . We deduce that  $(u_n^{\gamma q'})$  converges to  $(u^{\gamma q'})$  in  $L^1(\Omega)$  strong (see [3]). Moreover, we have,

$$\|f(x)|u_n|^\gamma - f(x)|u|^\gamma\|_{L^1(\Omega)} \leq \|f\|_q \left( \int_{\Omega} (|u_n|^\gamma - |u|^\gamma)^{q'} \right)^{1/q'} \quad (3.8)$$

but,  $(|u_n|^\gamma - |u|^\gamma)^{q'}$  tends to 0 a.e. in  $\Omega$  and,

$$(|u_n|^\gamma - |u|^\gamma)^{q'} \leq 2^{q'-1}|u_n|^{\gamma q'} + 2^{q'-1}|u|^{\gamma q'}.$$

The right-hand side converges in  $L^1(\Omega)$  strong. Then by Vitali Lemma and (3.8), we deduce that,

$$f(x)|u_n|^\gamma \text{ tends to } f(x)|u|^\gamma \text{ in } L^1(\Omega) \text{ strong.} \quad (3.9)$$

We assert again that  $h_n(x, u_n)$  converges a.e. in  $\Omega$  to  $h(x, u)$  and by (1.8) and (3.9), we deduce that  $h_n(x, u_n)$  converges to  $h(x, u)$  in  $L^1(\Omega)$  strong. The same conclusion holds when  $q = 1$ . So  $f_n + h_n(x, u_n)$  converges in  $L^1(\Omega)$  weak, and with the additional assumptions (3.5), (3.6) on  $\lambda_n^\ominus$  and  $\lambda_n^\oplus$  we can apply Theorem 3.2 of [8] and conclude that  $u$  is a renormalized solution of (3.1).

### Acknowledgement

The author thanks Francois Murat for fruitful discussions in Bourges.

### REFERENCES

- [1] Adams D.R., Pierre M., Capacitary strong type estimates in semilinear problems, Ann. Inst. Fourier, Grenoble 41 (1991) 117–135.
- [2] Baras P., Pierre M., Critère d'existence de solutions positives pour des équations semilinéaires non monotones, Ann. Inst. H. Poincaré, Analyse Non Linéaire 2 (1985) 185–212.
- [3] Benilan P., Boccardo L., Gallouët T., Gariépy R., Pierre M., Vazquez J.L., An  $L^1$  theory of existence uniqueness of nonlinear elliptic equations, Ann. Scuola Norm. Sup. Pisa Cl. Sci. 22 (1995) 241–273.

- [4] Brezis H., Cabré X., Some simple nonlinear PDE's without solutions, *Bollettino U.M.I.* 1-B (1998) 223–262.
- [5] Boccardo L., Gallouët T., Orsina L., Existence and uniqueness of entropy solutions for nonlinear elliptic equations with measure data, *Ann. Inst. H. Poincaré Anal. Non Linéaire* 13 (1996) 539–551.
- [6] Boccardo L., Murat F., Puel J.P., Existence of bounded solutions for nonlinear elliptic unilateral problem, *Ann. di Mat. Pura ed Appl.* 152 (1988) 183–196.
- [7] Dal Maso G., Murat F., Orsina L., Prignet A., Definition and existence of renormalized solutions of elliptic equations with general measure data, *C. R. Acad. Sci. Paris Série I* 325 (1997) 481–486.
- [8] Dal Maso G., Murat F., Orsina L., Prignet A., Renormalized solutions of elliptic equations with general measure data, *Ann. Scuol. Norm. Pisa* (4) XXVIII (1999) 741–808.
- [9] Ferone V., Murat F., Nonlinear problems having natural growth in the gradient: an existence result when the source term is small, to appear.
- [10] Fukushima M., Sato K., Taniguchi S., On the closable part of pre-Dirichlet forms and the fine support of the underlying measures, *Osaka J. Math.* 28 (1991) 517–535.
- [11] Kalton N.J., Verbitsky E., Nonlinear equations and weighted norm inequalities, *Trans. Amer. Math. Soc.* 351 (9) 3441–3497.
- [12] Grenon N., Existence and comparison results quasilinear elliptic equations with quadratic growth in the gradient, *J. Differential Equations*, to appear.
- [13] Grenon N.,  $L^r$  estimates for degenerate elliptic problems, *Pot. Anal.*, to appear.
- [14] Grenon-Isselkou N., Mossino J., Existence de solutions bornées pour certaines équations elliptiques quasilineaires, *C. R. Acad. Sci.* 321 (1995) 51–56.
- [15] Orsina L., Solvability of linear and semilinear eigenvalue problems with  $L^1$  data, *Rend. Sem. Mat. Univ. Padova* 90 (1993).
- [16] Stampacchia G., Le problème de Dirichlet pour les équations elliptiques du second ordre à coefficients discontinus, *Ann. Inst. Fourier (Grenoble)* 15 (1965) 189–258.
- [17] Talenti G., Linear elliptic P.D.E.'s: Level sets, rearrangements and a priori estimates of solutions, *Boll. U.M.I.* (6) 4-B (1985) 917–949.