



## On the Existence Results for a Class of Singular Elliptic System Involving Indefinite Weight Functions and Asymptotically Linear Growth Forcing Terms

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ABSTRACT: In this work, we study the existence of positive solutions to the singular system

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta_p u = \lambda a(x)f(v) - u^{-\alpha} & \text{in } \Omega, \\ -\Delta_p v = \lambda b(x)g(u) - v^{-\alpha} & \text{in } \Omega, \\ u = v = 0 & \text{on } \partial\Omega, \end{cases}$$

where  $\lambda$  is positive parameter,  $\Delta_p u = \operatorname{div}(|\nabla u|^{p-2}\nabla u)$ ,  $p > 1$ ,  $\Omega \subset R^n$  some for  $n > 1$ , is a bounded domain with smooth boundary  $\partial\Omega$ ,  $0 < \alpha < 1$ , and  $f, g : [0, \infty] \rightarrow R$  are continuous, nondecreasing functions which are asymptotically  $p$ -linear at  $\infty$ . We prove the existence of a positive solution for a certain range of  $\lambda$  using the method of sub-supersolutions.

Key Words: Infinite semipositone problems; Indefinite weight; Asymptotically linear growth forcing terms; Sub-supersolution method.

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### 1. Introduction

In this article, we mainly consider the existence of a positive solution of the following singular elliptic system

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta_p u = \lambda a(x)f(v) - u^{-\alpha} & \text{in } \Omega, \\ -\Delta_p v = \lambda b(x)g(u) - v^{-\alpha} & \text{in } \Omega, \\ u = v = 0 & \text{on } \partial\Omega, \end{cases} \quad (1.1)$$

where  $\lambda$  is a positive parameter,  $\Delta_p u = \operatorname{div}(|\nabla u|^{p-2}\nabla u)$ ,  $p > 1$ ,  $\Omega \subset R^n$  some for  $n > 1$ , is a bounded domain with smooth boundary  $\partial\Omega$ ,  $0 < \alpha < 1$ , and  $f, g : [0, \infty] \rightarrow R$  are continuous, nondecreasing functions which are asymptotically  $p$ -linear at  $\infty$ . We prove the existence of a positive solution for a certain range of  $\lambda$ .

We consider problem (1.1) under the following assumptions.

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(H<sub>1</sub>) There exist  $\sigma_1 > 0, k_1 > 0$  and  $s_1 > 1$  such that

$$f(s) \geq \sigma_1 s^{p-1} - k_1$$

for every  $s \in [0, s_1]$

and that there exist  $\sigma_2 > 0, k_2 > 0$  and  $s_2 > 1$  such that

$$g(s) \geq \sigma_2 s^{p-1} - k_2$$

for every  $s \in [0, s_2]$ ,

(H<sub>2</sub>) For all  $M > 0$ ,  $\lim_{s \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{f(M[g(s)]^{\frac{1}{p-1}})}{s^{p-1}} = \sigma$  for some  $\sigma > 0$ .

(H<sub>3</sub>)  $a, b : \overline{\Omega} \rightarrow (0, \infty)$  are continuous functions such that  $a_1 = \min_{x \in \overline{\Omega}} a(x)$ ,  $b_1 = \min_{x \in \overline{\Omega}} b(x)$ ,  $a_2 = \max_{x \in \overline{\Omega}} a(x)$  and  $b_2 = \max_{x \in \overline{\Omega}} b(x)$ .

(H<sub>4</sub>) There exists  $\tau \in \mathbb{R}$  such that for each  $M > 0$ ,  $f(Ms) \leq M^\tau f(s)$  for  $s \gg 1$ .

Let  $F(u) := \lambda a(x)f(u) - u^{-\alpha}$ . The case when  $F(0) < 0$  (and finite) is referred to in the literature as a semipositone problem. Finding a positive solution for a semipositone problem is well known to be challenging (see [2,5]). Here we consider the more challenging case when  $\lim_{u \rightarrow 0^+} F(u) = -\infty$ , which has received attention very recently and is referred to as an infinite semipositone problem. However, most of these studies have concentrated on the case when the nonlinear function satisfies a sublinear condition at  $\infty$  (see [6,7,9]). We refer to [15,16,17,18,19] for additional results on elliptic problems. The only paper to our knowledge dealing with an infinite semipositone problem with an asymptotically linear nonlinearity is [8], where the author is restricted to the case  $p = 2$ . Also here the existence of a positive solution is focused near  $\frac{\lambda_1}{\sigma}$ , where  $\lambda_1$  is the first eigenvalue of  $-\Delta$ . See also [1,11], where asymptotically linear nonlinearities have been discussed in the case of a nonsingular semipositone problem and an infinite positone problem. Motivated by the above papers, in this note, we are interested in the existence of positive solution for problem (1.1), where  $a, b$  are continuous functions in  $\overline{\Omega}$  and  $\lambda$  is a positive parameter. Our main goal is to improve the result introduced in [12], in which the authors study the existence of positive solutions for an infinite semipositone problem with the nonlinearity  $f$  being not dependent of  $x$ . We shall establish our existence result via the method of sub and supersolutions.

**Definition 1.1.** We say that  $(\psi_1, \psi_2)$  (resp.  $(z_1, z_2)$ ) in  $(W^{1,p}(\Omega) \cap C(\overline{\Omega}), W^{1,p}(\Omega) \cap C(\overline{\Omega}))$  are called a subsolution (resp. a supersolution) of (1.1), if  $\psi_i$  ( $i = 1, 2$ ) satisfy

$$\begin{cases} \int_{\Omega} |\nabla \psi_1(x)|^{p-2} \nabla \psi_1 \cdot \nabla w_1 dx \leq \int_{\Omega} (\lambda a(x)f(\psi_2) - \psi_1^{-\alpha}) w_1(x) dx \\ \int_{\Omega} |\nabla \psi_2(x)|^{p-2} \nabla \psi_2 \cdot \nabla w_2 dx \leq \int_{\Omega} (\lambda b(x)g(\psi_1) - \psi_2^{-\alpha}) w_2(x) dx \\ \psi_1, \psi_2 > 0 \\ \psi_1 = \psi_2 = 0 \end{cases} \begin{array}{l} \text{in } \Omega, \\ \text{on } \partial\Omega, \end{array} \quad (1.2)$$

$$\left( \begin{array}{l} \text{resp. } z_i \ (i = 1, 2) \text{ satisfy:} \\ \\ \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \int_{\Omega} |\nabla z_1|^{p-2} \nabla z_1 \cdot \nabla w_1(x) dx \geq \int_{\Omega} \left( \lambda a(x) f(z_2) - z_1^{-\alpha} \right) w_1(x) dx \\ \int_{\Omega} |\nabla z_2|^{p-2} \nabla z_2 \cdot \nabla w_2(x) dx \geq \int_{\Omega} \left( \lambda b(x) g(z_1) - z_2^{-\alpha} \right) w_2(x) dx \\ z_1, z_2 > 0 \\ z_1 = z_2 = 0 \end{array} \right. \end{array} \right. \begin{array}{l} \text{in } \Omega, \\ \text{on } \partial\Omega \end{array} \right) \quad (1.3)$$

for all non-negative test functions  $w_i (i = 1, 2) \in W$ , where  $W = \{\xi \in C_0^\infty(\Omega) : \xi \geq 0 \text{ in } \Omega\}$ .

The following lemma was established by Miyagaki in [14]:

**Lemma 1.1** (See [14]). *If there exist sub-supersolutions  $(\psi_1, \psi_2)$  and  $(z_1, z_2)$ , respectively, such that  $0 \leq \psi_i(x) \leq z_i(x)$  ( $i = 1, 2$ ) for all  $x \in \Omega$ , then (1.1) has a positive solution  $(u, v)$  such that  $\psi_1(x) \leq u(x) \leq z_1(x)$  and  $\psi_2(x) \leq v(x) \leq z_2(x)$  for all  $x \in \Omega$ .*

## 2. Main result

With the hypotheses introduced in previous section, the main result of this paper is given by the following theorem.

**Theorem 2.1.** *Assume the conditions  $(H_1) - (H_4)$  are satisfied. Then there exist positive constants  $s_0^*(\sigma, \Omega)$ ,  $J^*(\Omega)$ ,  $\lambda_*$ , and  $\lambda_{**} (> \lambda_*)$  such that if  $\min\{s_1, s_2\} \geq s_0^*$  and  $\frac{\min\{a_1, b_1\} \min\{\sigma_1, \sigma_2\}}{(\sigma)^{\frac{p-1}{p-1+\tau}}} \geq J^*$ , problem (1.1) has a positive solution for  $\lambda \in [\lambda_*, \lambda_{**}]$ .*

**Proof:** Let  $\mu_1$  is the principal eigenvalue of operator  $-\Delta_p$  with Dirichlet boundary condition. By anti-maximum principle (see [10]), there exists  $\xi = \xi(\Omega) > 0$  such that the solution  $z_\mu$  of

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta_p z - \mu |z|^{p-2} z = -1 & \text{in } \Omega, \\ z = 0 & \text{on } \partial\Omega \end{cases}$$

for  $\mu \in (\mu_1, \mu_1 + \xi)$  is positive in  $\Omega$  and is such that  $\frac{\partial z_\mu}{\partial \nu} < 0$  on  $\partial\Omega$ , where  $\nu$  is outward normal vector at  $\partial\Omega$ .

Since  $z_\mu > 0$  in  $\Omega$  and  $\frac{\partial z_\mu}{\partial \nu} < 0$  there exist  $m > 0$ ,  $A > 0$ , and  $\delta > 0$  be such that  $|\nabla z_\mu| \geq m$  in  $\overline{\Omega}_\delta$  and  $z_\mu \geq A$  in  $\Omega \setminus \overline{\Omega}_\delta$ , where  $\Omega_\delta = \{x \in \Omega : d(x, \partial\Omega) \leq \delta\}$ .

We first construct a supersolution for (1.1). Let

$$(z_1, z_2) = \left( M_\lambda e_p, [\lambda b_2 g(M_\lambda \|e_p\|_\infty)]^{\frac{1}{p-1}} e_p \right),$$

where  $M_\lambda \gg 1$  is a large positive constant and  $e_p$  is the unique positive solution of

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta_p e_p = 1 & \text{in } \Omega, \\ e_p = 0 & \text{on } \partial\Omega. \end{cases}$$

By the hypothesis  $(H_2)$ , we can choose  $M_\lambda \gg 1$  such that

$$\frac{2\sigma}{a_2} \geq \frac{f\left([b_2g(M_\lambda\|e_p\|_\infty)]^{\frac{1}{p-1}}\right)}{\left(M_\lambda\|e_p\|_\infty\right)^{p-1}}.$$

Then

$$-\Delta_p z_1 = M_\lambda^{p-1} \geq \frac{a_2 f\left([b_2g(M_\lambda\|e_p\|_\infty)]^{\frac{1}{p-1}}\right)}{2\sigma\|e_p\|_\infty^{p-1}}.$$

Now since  $\lambda \leq \frac{1}{\|e_p\|_\infty^{p-1}(2\sigma)^{\frac{p-1}{p-1+\tau}}} = \lambda_{**}$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} -\Delta_p z_1 &\geq \frac{\lambda^{\frac{p-1+\tau}{p-1}} a_2 \|e_p\|_\infty^{p-1+\tau} f\left([b_2g(M_\lambda\|e_p\|_\infty)]^{\frac{1}{p-1}}\right)}{\|e_p\|_\infty^{p-1}} \\ &\geq \lambda a_2 \lambda^{\frac{\tau}{p-1}} \|e_p\|_\infty^\tau f\left([b_2g(M_\lambda\|e_p\|_\infty)]^{\frac{1}{p-1}}\right). \end{aligned}$$

Note that  $(H_2)$  implies  $g(s) \rightarrow \infty$  as  $s \rightarrow \infty$ . Hence from  $(H_3)$  for  $M_\lambda \gg 1$  we get

$$\begin{aligned} -\Delta_p z_1 &\geq \lambda a_2 f\left(\lambda^{\frac{1}{p-1}} \|e_p\|_\infty [b_2g(M_\lambda\|e_p\|_\infty)]^{\frac{1}{p-1}}\right) \\ &= \lambda a_2 f\left(\|e_p\|_\infty [\lambda b_2g(M_\lambda\|e_p\|_\infty)]^{\frac{1}{p-1}}\right) \\ &\geq \lambda a_2 f(z_2) - \frac{1}{z_1^\alpha} \\ &\geq \lambda a(x) f(z_2) - \frac{1}{z_1^\alpha}. \end{aligned} \tag{2.1}$$

Also

$$-\Delta_p z_2 = \lambda b_2g(M_\lambda\|e_p\|_\infty) \geq \lambda b_2g(M_\lambda e_p) \geq \lambda b_2g(z_1) - \frac{1}{z_2^\alpha} \geq \lambda b(x)g(z_1) - \frac{1}{z_2^\alpha}. \tag{2.2}$$

Hence, from relations (2.1) and (2.2) we see that  $(z_1, z_2)$  is a supersolution of problem (1.1) when  $\lambda \leq \frac{1}{\|e_p\|_\infty^{p-1}(2\sigma)^{\frac{p-1}{p-1+\tau}}}$ .

Define

$$(\psi_1, \psi_2) := \left(k_0 z_\mu^{\frac{p}{p-1+\alpha}}, k_0 z_\mu^{\frac{p}{p-1+\alpha}}\right)$$

where  $k_0 > 0$  is such that

$$\frac{1}{k_0^{p-1+\alpha}} \left(1 + \frac{k k_0^\alpha z_\mu^{\frac{\alpha p}{p-1+\alpha}}}{\|e_p\|_\infty^{p-1} (2\sigma)^{\frac{p-1}{p-1+\tau}}}\right) \leq \min\{(x_1, x_2)\} \tag{2.3}$$

with  $k = \max\{k_1, k_2\}$  and  $(x_1, x_2) = \left( \left( \frac{m^p(1-\alpha)(p-1)p^{p-1}}{(p-1+\alpha)^p} \right), \left( \frac{p}{p-1+\alpha} \right)^{p-1} A \right)$ . Then

$$\nabla \psi_1 = k_0 \left( \frac{p}{p-1+\alpha} \right) z_\mu^{\frac{1-\alpha}{p-1+\alpha}} \nabla z_\mu$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} & -\Delta_p \psi_1 \\ &= -\operatorname{div}(|\nabla \psi_1|^{p-2} \nabla \psi_1) \\ &= -k_0^{p-1} \left( \frac{p}{p-1+\alpha} \right)^{p-1} \operatorname{div} \left( z_\mu^{\frac{(1-\alpha)(p-1)}{p-1+\alpha}} |\nabla z_\mu|^{p-2} \nabla z_\mu \right) \\ &= -k_0^{p-1} \left( \frac{p}{p-1+\alpha} \right)^{p-1} \left\{ \nabla [z_\mu^{\frac{(1-\alpha)(p-1)}{p-1+\alpha}}] \cdot |\nabla z_\mu|^{p-2} \nabla z_\mu + z_\mu^{\frac{(1-\alpha)(p-1)}{p-1+\alpha}} \Delta_p z_\mu \right\} \\ &= -k_0^{p-1} \left( \frac{p}{p-1+\alpha} \right)^{p-1} \left\{ \frac{(1-\alpha)(p-1)}{p-1+\alpha} z_\mu^{\frac{-\alpha p}{p-1+\alpha}} \cdot |\nabla z_\mu|^p + z_\mu^{\frac{(1-\alpha)(p-1)}{p-1+\alpha}} (1 - \mu z_\mu^{p-1}) \right\} \\ &= k_0^{p-1} \left( \frac{p}{p-1+\alpha} \right)^{p-1} \frac{\mu z_\mu^{\frac{p(p-1)}{p-1+\alpha}}}{\mu z_\mu^{\frac{p(p-1)}{p-1+\alpha}}} - k_0^{p-1} \left( \frac{p}{p-1+\alpha} \right)^{p-1} \frac{(1-\alpha)(p-1)}{z_\mu^{\frac{p-1+\alpha}{p-1+\alpha}}} - \\ & \quad \frac{k_0^{p-1} p^{p-1} (1-\alpha)(p-1) |\nabla z_\mu|^p}{(p-1+\alpha)^p z_\mu^{\frac{\alpha p}{p-1+\alpha}}}. \end{aligned} \tag{2.4}$$

Now we let  $s_0^*(\sigma, \Omega) = k_0 \|z_\mu^{\frac{p}{p-1+\alpha}}\|_\infty$ . If we can prove

$$-\Delta_p \psi_1 \leq \lambda a_1 \sigma_1 k_0^{p-1} z_\mu^{\frac{p(p-1)}{p-1+\alpha}} - \lambda k - \frac{1}{k_0^\alpha z_\mu^{\frac{\alpha p}{p-1+\alpha}}}, \tag{2.5}$$

then it implies from  $(H_1)$  that

$$-\Delta_p \psi_1 \leq \lambda a_1 f(\psi_2) - \frac{1}{\psi_1^\alpha} \leq \lambda a(x) f(\psi_2) - \frac{1}{\psi_1^\alpha}.$$

Let us prove (2.5) holds true. Let  $\lambda_* = \frac{\mu \left( \frac{p}{p-1+\alpha} \right)^{p-1}}{\min\{a_1, b_1\} \min(\sigma_1, \sigma_2)}$ . For  $\lambda \geq \lambda_*$ , we get

$$k_0^{p-1} \left( \frac{p}{p-1+\alpha} \right)^{p-1} \mu z_\mu^{\frac{p(p-1)}{p-1+\alpha}} \leq \lambda a_1 \sigma_1 k_0^{p-1} z_\mu^{\frac{p(p-1)}{p-1+\alpha}}, \tag{2.6}$$

$$k_0^{p-1} \left( \frac{p}{p-1+\alpha} \right)^{p-1} \mu z_\mu^{\frac{p(p-1)}{p-1+\alpha}} \leq \lambda b_1 \sigma_2 k_0^{p-1} z_\mu^{\frac{p(p-1)}{p-1+\alpha}}. \tag{2.7}$$

Also since  $\lambda \leq \lambda_{**} = \frac{1}{\|e_p\|_\infty^{p-1} (2\sigma)^{\frac{p-1}{p-1+\tau}}}$

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda k + \frac{1}{k_0^\alpha z_\mu^{\frac{\alpha p}{p-1+\alpha}}} &\leq \frac{1}{k_0^\alpha z_\mu^{\frac{\alpha p}{p-1+\alpha}}} + \frac{k}{\|e_p\|_\infty^{p-1} (2\sigma)^{\frac{p-1}{p-1+\tau}}} \\ &= \frac{k_0^{p-1}}{z_\mu^{\frac{\alpha p}{p-1+\alpha}}} \left[ \frac{1}{k_0^{p-1+\alpha}} \left( 1 + \frac{k k_0^\alpha z_\mu^{\frac{\alpha p}{p-1+\alpha}}}{\|e_p\|_\infty^{p-1} (2\sigma)^{\frac{p-1}{p-1+\tau}}} \right) \right]. \end{aligned} \tag{2.8}$$

Now in  $\Omega_\delta$ , we have  $|\nabla z_\mu| \geq m$ , and by (2.3)

$$\frac{1}{k_0^{p-1+\alpha}} \left( 1 + \frac{k k_0^\alpha z_\mu^{\frac{\alpha p}{p-1+\alpha}}}{\|e_p\|_\infty^{p-1} (2\sigma)^{\frac{p-1}{p-1+\tau}}} \right) \leq \frac{m^p (1-\alpha)(p-1)p^{p-1}}{(p-1+\alpha)^p}.$$

Hence,

$$\lambda k + \frac{1}{k_0^\alpha z_\mu^{\frac{\alpha p}{p-1+\alpha}}} \leq \frac{k_0^{p-1} p^{p-1} (1-\alpha)(p-1) |\nabla z_\mu|^p}{(p-1+\alpha)^p z_\mu^{\frac{\alpha p}{p-1+\alpha}}} \quad \text{in } \Omega_\delta. \quad (2.9)$$

From (2.6) and (2.9) it can be seen that (2.5) holds in  $\Omega_\delta$ . A similar argument shows that

$$-\Delta_p \psi_2 \leq \lambda b_1 g(\psi_1) - \frac{1}{\psi_2^\alpha} \leq \lambda b(x) g(\psi_1) - \frac{1}{\psi_2^\alpha}.$$

We will now prove (2.5) holds also in  $\Omega \setminus \Omega_\delta$ . Since  $z_\mu \geq A$  in  $\Omega \setminus \Omega_\delta$  and by (2.3) and (2.8) we get

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda k + \frac{1}{k_0^\alpha z_\mu^{\frac{\alpha p}{p-1+\alpha}}} &\leq \frac{k_0^{p-1}}{z_\mu^{\frac{\alpha p}{p-1+\alpha}}} \left( \frac{p}{p-1+\alpha} \right)^{p-1} z_\mu \\ &\leq k_0^{p-1} \left( \frac{p}{p-1+\alpha} \right)^{p-1} z_\mu^{\frac{(1-\alpha)(p-1)}{p-1+\alpha}} \quad \text{in } \Omega \setminus \Omega_\delta. \end{aligned} \quad (2.10)$$

From (2.6) and (2.10), (2.5) holds also in  $\Omega \setminus \overline{\Omega}_\delta$ .

Thus  $(\psi_1, \psi_2)$  is a positive subsolution of (1.1) if  $\lambda \in [\lambda_*, \lambda_{**}]$ . We can now choose  $M_\lambda \gg 1$  such that  $\psi_1 \leq z_1, \psi_2 \leq z_2$ . Let

$$J^*(\Omega) = 2^{\frac{p-1}{p-1+\tau}} \|e_p\|_\infty^{p-1} \mu \left( \frac{p}{p-1+\alpha} \right)^{p-1}.$$

If  $\frac{\min\{a_1, b_1\} \min\{\sigma_1, \sigma_2\}}{(2\sigma)^{\frac{p-1}{p-1+\tau}}} \geq J^*$  it is easy to see that  $\lambda_* \leq \lambda_{**}$  and for  $\lambda \in [\lambda_*, \lambda_{**}]$  we have a positive solution. This completes the proof of Theorem 2.1.  $\square$

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