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# ON THE LIMIT OF SOLUTIONS OF $u_t = \Delta u^m$ AS $m \to \infty$

Abstract. We consider the Cauchy problem

(1) 
$$u_t = \Delta u^m, \ u(0) = f \; .$$

wehere  $f \in L^1(\mathbb{R}^N)$ ,  $N \ge 1$  and  $f \ge 0$  a.e., and prove that as  $m \to \infty$ , the corresponding solutions  $u_m(t)$  converge in  $L^1$ , uniformly for t in a compact set in  $]0, \infty[$ , to the solution of a suitable limit problem.

We also show similar results for the Cauchy-Dirichlet and Cauchy-Neumann boundary value problems for (1) in bounded domains.

Key words and phrases. Porous medium equation, singular limit, mesa problem, asymptotic behavior.

Let  $f \in L^1(\mathbb{R}^N)$ ,  $f \ge 0$  be given and consider the problem

(1) 
$$u_t = \Delta u^m$$
 on  $]0, \infty[\times \mathbb{R}^N, u(0, .) = f$  on  $\mathbb{R}^N$ .

It is well known (see for instance [1]) that for any m > 1, there exists a unique "strong solution" of (1), that is a function u(t)(x) = u(t, x) satisfying

$$u \in \mathcal{C}\left(\left[0, \infty\left[, L^{1}(\mathbb{R}^{N})\right) \cap \mathcal{C}\left(\right]0, \infty\left[\times \mathbb{R}^{N}\right), u \geq 0 \text{ on } \right]0, \infty\left[\times \mathbb{R}^{N}, u(0, .) = f \text{ on } \mathbb{R}^{N}\right]\right)$$

for any  $\tau > 0, u \in L^{\infty}(]\tau, \infty[\times \mathbb{R}^N), \quad u_t, \Delta u^m \in L^{\infty}(]\tau, \infty[, L^1(\mathbb{R}^N))$  and

$$u_t = \Delta u^m$$
 a.e. on  $]0, \infty [\times \mathbb{R}^N$ .

We note  $u_m$  the solution of (1) and prove the following

**THEOREM 1.** As  $m \to \infty$ ,

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$$u_m(t) \to \underline{u} = f + \Delta \underline{w} \text{ in } L^1(\mathbb{R}^N)$$

uniformly for t in a compact set in  $]0, \infty[$ , where <u>w</u> is the solution of the variational inequality

(2) 
$$\underline{w} \in L^1(\mathbb{R}^N)$$
,  $\Delta \underline{w} \in L^1(\mathbb{R}^n)$ ,  $0 \leq f + \Delta \underline{w} \leq 1$ ,  $\underline{w} \geq 0$ ,  $\underline{w}(f + \Delta \underline{w} - 1) = 0$  a.e.

Existence and uniqueness of a solution w of (2) follows by the results in [3]: indeed the problem may be rewritten under the form

(3) 
$$\underline{u}, \underline{w} \in L^1(\mathbb{R}^N)^+, \underline{u} - \Delta \underline{w} = f \text{ in } \mathcal{D}(\mathbb{R}^N), \underline{u} \in \beta(\underline{w}) \text{ a.e. }$$

where  $\beta$  is the sign graph.

If  $\underline{w} \in W^{2,1}_{\text{loc}}(\mathbb{R}^N)$ , which is the case if N = 1 or  $f \in L^{1+\epsilon}_{\text{loc}}(\mathbb{R}^N)$  with some  $\epsilon > 0$ , then  $\Delta \underline{w} = 0$  a.e. on  $\{\underline{w} = 0\}$  so that

(4)  $\underline{u} = \chi_{\Sigma} + f \chi_{r^N \setminus \Sigma} \quad \text{with} \quad \Sigma = \mathrm{IR}^N \setminus \{\underline{w} > 0\} \; .$ 

The fact that for m large the solution of the porous medium equation develops "mesas" on the set of noncoincidence of the solution of the variational inequality (2), and tends to f on the complementary set, has been noticed in [8]. In [7], it has been proved that for f bounded and satisfying strong geometric assumptions,  $u_m(t) \rightarrow \underline{u}$  given by (4) in the weak-\* topology of  $L^{\infty}(\mathbb{R}^N)$  as  $m \rightarrow \infty$ , uniformly for t in a compact set in  $]0, \infty[$ . In [9], Theorem 1 has been proved in the cases N = 1 and  $N \geq 2$  with f radially symmetric.

We also consider equation (1) on a bounded open set  $\Omega$  in  $\mathbb{R}^N$  with Dirichlet or Neumann boundary conditions, and prove the results corresponding to Theorem 1; for the Cauchy-Dirichlet boundary value problem, such result has been shown in [9] in the case N = 1.

The paper is organized as follows:

- 1. Proof of Theorem 1.
- 2. The Cauchy-Dirichlet boundary value problem.
- 3. The Cauchy-Neumann boundary value problem.

## SECTION 1. Proof of Theorem 1

We first recall that the map  $f \to u_m(t)$  is a contraction in  $L^1(\mathbb{R}^N)$  for any m > 1 and  $t \ge 0$ ; a similar result holds for the map  $f \to \underline{u}$ . Therefore, as it was noticed in [9], it is enough to prove the Theorem assuming that f is bounded and compactly supported. Namely, we will assume throughout this Section that

(5) 
$$0 \le f \le M$$
 a.e. on  $\{|x| < R_0\}, f = 0$  a.e. on  $\{|x| > R_0\}$ .

By the maximum principle we have

(6) 
$$0 \le u_m(t) \le M$$
 a.e. for any  $t \ge 0$  and  $m > 1$ .

Fix now T > 0 and  $m_0 > 1$ . It follows from Lemma 2.1 in [9] that there exists R, depending on  $N, M, R_o, T$  and  $m_0$ , such that

(7) 
$$u_m(t) = 0 \text{ on } \{|x| > R\} \text{ for any } t \in [0, T] \text{ and } m \ge m_0$$
.

By the translation invariance and the  $L^1$ -contractivity of the maps  $f \to u_m(t)$ , we have that for any  $t \ge 0$  and m > 1

(8) 
$$\int |u_m(t,x+y) - u_m(t,x)| \, dx \leq \int |f(x+y) - f(x)| \, dx \quad \text{for any } y \in \mathrm{IR}^N \, .$$

Therefore, as in [9], it follows from (6)-(8) that

(9) 
$$\{u_m(t); t \in [0,T], m \ge m_0\}$$
 is precompact in  $L^1(\mathbb{R}^N)$ .

We now recall the following oneside estimate (see [1]) for the solution  $u = u_m$ of (1)

(10) 
$$u_t = \Delta u^m \ge -u/(m-1+2/N)t$$
 a.e.

Since  $\Delta u(t)^m \in L^1(\mathbb{R}^N)$  and  $\int \Delta u(t)^m = 0$  a.e. t > 0, one then has (11)

$$\begin{aligned} ||u_t(t)||_{L^1} &= ||\Delta u(t)^m||_{L^1} = 2||(\Delta u(t)^m)^-||_{L^1} \\ &\leq 2||u(t)||_{L^1} / \left(m - 1 + \frac{2}{N}\right) t \leq 2||f||_{L^1} / \left(m - 1 + \frac{2}{N}\right) t \quad \text{a.e. } t > 0. \end{aligned}$$

From (6), (7) and (10), it follows that

(12) 
$$(u_m(t,x))^m \le ME(x) / \left(m-1+\frac{2}{N}\right) t$$
 on ]0,  $T[\times \mathbb{R}^N$  for  $m \ge m_0$ .

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where  $E \in \mathcal{C}(\mathbb{R}^N)$  is the solution of

$$E = 0 \text{ on } \{ |x| \ge R \}, \ -\Delta E = 1 \text{ in } \mathcal{D}'(\{ |x| < R \}) \ .$$

In particular for  $0 < \tau < T$ , we have

(13) 
$$(u_m)^m \to 0$$
 uniformly on  $[\tau, T] \times \mathbb{R}^N$  as  $m \to \infty$ 

Thanks to (6) we have  $(u_m)^m \in \mathcal{C}([0, \infty[, L^1(\mathbb{R}^N)))$  and we may define, for t > 0 and m > 1

(14) 
$$w_m(t) = \int_0^t (u_m(s))^m ds \; .$$

which satisfies

(15) 
$$u_m(t) - \Delta w_m(t) = f \text{ in } \mathcal{D}'(\mathbb{R}^N) .$$

If for a subsequence  $m_k \to \infty$  we have  $u_{m_k}(1) \to \underline{u}$  in  $L^1(\mathbb{R}^N)$ , then by (11)

(16) 
$$u_{m_k}(t) \to \underline{u} \text{ in } L^1(\mathbb{R}^N) \text{ uniformly for } t \in [\tau, T]$$
.

whereas, by (7) and (15)

(17) 
$$w_{m_k}(1) \to \underline{w} \text{ in } L^1(\mathbb{R}^N) .$$

with

(18) 
$$\underline{u} - \Delta \underline{w} = f \text{ in } \mathcal{D}'(\mathbb{R}^N) , \quad \underline{w} \ge 0 \text{ a.e. on } \mathbb{R}^N$$

and using (13)

(19) 
$$0 \le \underline{u} \le 1 \text{ a.e. on } \mathbb{IR}^N.$$

We claim that

(20)  $\underline{w} = 0 \text{ a.e. on } \{\underline{u} < 1\}.$ 

This will end the proof the Theorem 1.

In order to prove (20), we first remark that according to (10), the map  $t \to t^{(n+1+\frac{2}{N})^{-1}}u(t)$  is nondecreasing so that

(21) 
$$u_m(t) \le t^{-1/(m-1+(\frac{2}{N}))} u_m(1)$$
 for any  $0 < t \le 1$ .

By (6)

$$(22) u_m(t)^m \le M u_m(t)^{m-1}$$

so that by the definition (14) of  $w_m(t)$  and (21)

(23) 
$$w_m(1) \leq M u_m(1)^{m-1} (1 + N(m-1)/2) .$$

Property (20) is now clear: we may assume  $u_{m_k}(1) \to \underline{u}$  a.e., such that, a.e.  $x \in \{\underline{u} < 1\}$  we will have for k large,  $u_{m_k}(1)(x) \leq \delta < 1$  and then, using (23),  $w_{m_k}(1)(x) \to 0$  as  $k \to \infty$ .

**REMARK 1.** Under assumption (5), we have justified the definition (14) of  $w_m(t)$ , and actually proved that

(24) 
$$w_m(t) \to \underline{w} \text{ in } W^{2,p}(\mathbb{R}^N) \text{ for any } 1 \le p < \infty, \text{ as } m \to \infty$$
.

uniformly for t in a compact set in ]0,  $\infty$ [.

Actually, according to (15), one has that for any  $f \in L^1(\mathbb{R}^N)$ ,  $w_m(t)$  is well defined and converges to  $\underline{w}$  in  $W_{\text{loc}}^{1,p}(\mathbb{R}^N)$  for any  $1 \le p < N/(N-1)$ .

### SECTION 2. The Cauchy-Dirichlet boundary value problem

In this section  $\Omega$  will be an open set in  $\mathbb{R}^N$  and  $f \in L^1(\Omega), f \ge 0$ . We consider now the problem

(25) 
$$u_t = \Delta u^m$$
 on  $]0, \infty[\times\Omega, u(0, .) = f$  on  $\Omega, u = 0$  on  $]0, \infty[\times\partial\Omega]$ 

For simplicity we will assume  $\Omega$  bounded with smooth boundary  $\partial \Omega$ , although the results which follow can be easily extended to a general open set  $\Omega$ .

Using for instance the results of [2], it follows that for m > 1 there exists a unique "strong solution" of (25) satisfying

$$u \in \mathcal{C}([0, \infty[, L^1(\Omega)) \cap \mathcal{C}(]0, \infty[\times\overline{\Omega}), u \ge 0 \text{ on }]0, \infty[\times\Omega, u = 0 \text{ on }]0, \infty[\times\partial\Omega, u(0, .) = f \text{ on } \Omega; \text{ for any } \tau > 0, u_t, \Delta u^m \in L^{\infty}(]\tau, \infty[, L^1(\Omega)) \text{ and}$$

$$u_t = \Delta u^m$$
 a.e. on  $]0, \infty[\times \Omega]$ .

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We shall denote by  $u_m$  the strong solution of (25).

On the other hand there is existence and uniqueness of a solution of the variational inequality

(26)  $\underline{w} \in W_0^{1,1}(\Omega), \ 0 \le f + \Delta \underline{w} \le 1 \text{ in } \mathcal{D}'(\Omega), \ \underline{w} \ge 0, \ \underline{w}(f + \Delta \underline{w} - 1) = 0 \text{ a.e. on } \Omega$ .

This follows by the result of [6].

We have the following

**THEOREM 2.** With the notations of this section, as  $m \to \infty$ 

$$u_m(t) \rightarrow \underline{u} = f + \Delta \underline{w} \ in \ L^1(\Omega)$$

uniformly for t in a compact set in  $]0,\infty[$ .

To show this we will adapt the proof of Section 1. Using the contraction property in  $L^1(\Omega)$  of the maps  $f \to u_m(t)$  and  $f \to \underline{u}$ , we may assume f bounded, namely  $0 \le f \le M$ , such that (6) still holds.

The oneside estimate (10), with the constant  $\left(m-1+\frac{2}{N}\right)$  there is no more true, but as it is proved in [4] for general homogeneous evolution equation, we have for  $u = u_m$ 

(27) 
$$u_t = \Delta u^m \ge -u/(m-1)t \text{ a.e.}.$$

and also

(28) 
$$||u_t(t)||_{L^1} = ||\Delta u(t)^m||_{L^1} \le 2||f||_{L^1}/(m-1)t$$
 a.e.  $t > 0$ .

From (27) and (6), we deduce

(29)  $(u_m(t, x))^m \leq M E(x)/(m-1)t$  on  $]0, T] \times \Omega$  for m > 1.

where E is now the solution of the Dirichlet problem on  $\Omega$ 

$$-\Delta E = 1$$
 on  $\Omega$ ,  $E = 0$  on  $\partial \Omega$ 

and it follows that for  $0 < \tau < T$ 

(30)  $(u_m)^m \to 0$  uniformly on  $[\tau, T] \times \Omega$  as  $m \to \infty$ .

We may define again  $w_m(t)$  by (14), and we have

(31) 
$$u_m(t) - \Delta w_m(t) = f \text{ on } \Omega, \ w_m(t) = 0 \text{ on } \partial \Omega.$$

If for a subsequence  $m_k \to \infty$  we have  $u_{m_k}(1) \to \underline{u}$  in  $L^1(\Omega)$ , then we will have by (30), (29) and (31)

$$0 \leq \underline{u} \leq 1$$
 a.e. on  $\Omega$   
 $u_{m_k}(t) \rightarrow \underline{u}$  in  $L^1(\Omega)$  uniformly for  $t \in [\tau, T]$   
 $w_{m_k}(1) \rightarrow \underline{w}$  in  $L^1(\Omega)$ 

where  $\underline{w} \ge 0$  is the solution of

$$\underline{u} - \Delta \underline{w} = f \text{ on } \Omega, \quad \underline{w} = 0 \text{ on } \partial \Omega.$$

The proof of (20) can be done as in Section 1, with slight modifications: according to (27), the map  $t \to t^{1/(m-1)}u(t)$  is nondecreasing, so that replacing (22) by  $u_m(t)^m \leq M^2 u_m(t)^{m-2}$ , we will have in place of (23)

(32) 
$$w_m(1) \leq M^2 u_m(1)^{m-2}(m-1)$$
.

which gives also (20) exactly in the same way.

In other words, according to these remarks, the proof of Theorem 2 reduces to showing that

(33) 
$$\{u_m(t); t \in [0, T], m \ge m_0\} \text{ is precompact in } L^1(\Omega) .$$

According to (6), it is actually enough to prove that

$$\{u_m(t); t \in [0, T], m \ge m_0\}$$
 is precompact in  $L^1_{loc}(\Omega)$ .

To prove this, fix  $\rho \in \mathcal{D}(\Omega)$ ,  $\rho \ge 0$ . Let  $u = u_m$ , and for  $y \in \mathbb{R}^N$  with  $\operatorname{supp}(\rho + y)$  contained in  $\Omega$ , let  $v(t, x) = \rho(x)|u(t, x + y) - u(t, x)|$ . By Kato's inequality, we have

$$v_t \leq \rho \Delta w$$
 in  $\mathcal{D}'(]0, \infty[\times \Omega)$  with  $w(t, x) = |u(t, x+y)^m - u(t, x)^m|$ 

and then integrating

$$\int \rho(x)|u(t, x+y) - u(t, x)| dx \leq \int \rho(x)|f(x+y) - f(x)| dx + R|y|$$

with

 $R = |y|^{-1} \int_0^t \int \Delta \rho(x) w(s, x) \, dx \, ds \leq ||\Delta \rho||_{L^{\infty}(\Omega)} || \text{ grad } u^m ||_{L^1(]0, t[\times \Omega)} .$ Therefore (33) will follow from

**LEMMA 1.** For T > 0 and  $m_0 > 1$ , there exists C such that  $\||\operatorname{grad} (u_m)^m\||_{L^1(]0, T[\times \Omega)} \leq C$  for  $m \geq m_0$ .

Proof of lemma 1.

Set 
$$u = u_m$$
. For any  $t \ge 0$ , let  $v(t)$  be the solution of  
 $-\Delta v(t) = u(t)$  on  $\Omega$ ,  $v(t) = 0$  on  $\partial \Omega$ .

We have

(34) 
$$v \in C^{1}(]0, \infty[\times\Omega), \quad v_{t} = -u^{m}$$

such that, taking integrating over ]0,  $T[\times\Omega$ , we obtain

$$\iint 2u^{m+1} = \iint 2v_t \Delta v = - \iint (|\operatorname{grad} v|^2)_t \le \int |\operatorname{grad} v(0)|^2$$

and then

$$(35) \qquad \qquad \qquad \int \int u^{m+1} \leq C \; .$$

Using now (27) we have that for any t > 0

$$(m-1)t\int |\operatorname{grad} u^m(t)|^2 \leq \int u^{m+1}(t) \leq ||u(t)||_{L^{m+1}} \left(\int u^{m+1}(t)\right)^{m/m+1}$$

Then using Holder and the fact that  $||u(t)||_{L^{m+1}} \leq ||f||_{L^{m+1}}$ , we deduce that

$$(m-1) \left( \iint |\operatorname{grad} u^{m}| \right)^{2} \leq \leq |\Omega| ||f||_{L^{m+1}} \left( \iint u^{m+1} \right)^{m/m+1} \left( \int dt/t^{(m+1)/(m+2)} \right)^{(m+2)/(m+1)}$$

and

$$\left(\iint |\text{grad } u^m|\right)^2 \le M|\Omega|^{(m+2)/(m+1)} T^{1/m+1} C^{m/m+1} (m+2)^{(m+2)/(m+1)} (m-1)^{-1}$$

whence the Lemma follows.

### SECTION 3. The Cauchy-Neumann boundary value problem

In this section we consider the problem

(36) 
$$u_t = \Delta u^m$$
 on  $]0, \infty [\times \Omega, u(0, .) = f$  on  $\Omega, \partial u^m / \partial n = 0$  on  $]0, \infty [\times \partial \Omega]$ .

where  $\Omega$  is a bounded connected open set with smooth boundary  $\partial\Omega$ , and  $f \in L^1(\Omega)$ ,  $f \ge 0$ . Using again the results of [2], for any m > 1 there exists a unique "strong solution" of (36) satisfying

$$\begin{split} & u \in \mathcal{C}([0, \infty[, L^{1}(\Omega)) \cap \mathcal{C}(]0, \infty[\times\overline{\Omega}), u \ge 0 \text{ on }]0, \infty[\times\Omega, u(0, .) = f \text{ on } \Omega, \\ & u_{t} \in L^{\infty}(]\tau, \infty[, L^{1}(\Omega)) \text{ for any } \tau > 0, u^{m} \in L^{\infty}_{\text{loc}}(]0, \infty[, W^{2.1}(\Omega)) \quad \text{and} \\ & u_{t} = \Delta u^{m} \text{ a.e. on }]0, \infty[\times\Omega, \partial u^{m}/\partial n = 0 \text{ a.e. on }]0, \infty[\times\partial\Omega. \end{split}$$

We denote now by  $u_m$  this solution of (36).

On the other hand, consider the variational inequality  
(37)  

$$\underline{w} \in W^{1,1}(\Omega), \ 0 \le f + \Delta \underline{w} \le 1 \text{ in } \mathcal{D}'(\Omega), \ \underline{w} \ge 0, \ \underline{w}(f + \Delta \underline{w} - 1) = 0 \text{ a.e. on } \Omega$$
  
and  $\int \rho \Delta \underline{w} = -\int \operatorname{grad} \rho \operatorname{grad} \underline{w}$  for any  $\rho \in \mathcal{C}^1(\overline{\Omega})$ .

According to the results in [5], (37) has a solution if and only if

(38) 
$$\int f = |\Omega|^{-1} \int f \le 1$$

Moreover,

if 
$$\int f < 1$$
, then the solution  $\underline{w}$  of (37) is unique  
if  $\int f = 1$ , for any solution  $\underline{w}$  of (37),  $f + \Delta \underline{w} = 1$  a.e. on  $\Omega$ .

We have

**THEOREM 3.** With the notations of this section,

- i) if  $\int f \ge 1$ , then  $u_m(t) \to \int f$  in  $L^1(\Omega)$  as  $m \to \infty$ , uniformly for t in a compact set in  $]0, \infty[$ .
- ii) if  $\int f < 1$ , then  $u_m(t) \to \underline{u} = f + \Delta \underline{w}$  in  $L^1(\Omega)$  as  $m \to \infty$ , uniformly for t in a compact set in  $]0, \infty[$ .

To prove this Theorem we may assume again that f is bounded and then that (6) holds. According to the results in [4], (27) and (28), still are true in this case. In particular, it is enough to prove that the conclusion is satisfied at t = 1: it will then hold uniformly for t in a compact set in ]0,  $\infty$ [.

We denote by G the Green operator in  $L^1(\Omega)$  associated to the Neumann problem for the Laplacian: for  $w \in L^1(\Omega)$ , v = Gw is the unique solution of the problem (39)

$$v \in W^{1,1}(\Omega), \quad \int v = 0, \quad \int \rho\left(w - \int w\right) = \int \operatorname{grad} \rho \operatorname{grad} v \text{ for any } \rho \in \mathcal{C}^1(\overline{\Omega}).$$

It is clear that G is a bounded (actually compact) linear operator from  $L^{1}(\Omega)$  into  $W^{1,1}(\Omega)$  (see [6]).

Finaly, we set  $I = \int f$ . We then have

(40) 
$$\int u_m(t) = I \quad \text{for any } m > 1, \quad t \ge 0 .$$

**Proof of part** i): case  $I \ge 1$ .

We note for simplicity  $u_m = u_m(1)$ ; using (40), we have  $\int |u_m - I| = 2 \int (I - u_m)_+$ , where  $r_+ = \sup(r, 0)$ , and then it is enough to prove that

(41) 
$$\int (I-u_m)_+ \to 0 \text{ as } m \to \infty .$$

Using (28), since  $(u_m)^m - \int (u_m)^m = G(-\Delta(U_m)^m)$ , we see that

(42) 
$$\varepsilon_m = |(u_m)^m - \int (u_m)^m| \to 0$$
 in  $W^{1,1}(\Omega)$  as  $m \to \infty$ .

Now, by convexity, we have

$$\int (u_m)^m \ge \left(\int u_m\right)^m = I^m \ge 1$$

so that

 $(u_m)^m \ge (1-\varepsilon_m)_+$ 

and

$$\varepsilon_m \geq I^m - (u_m)^m \geq m(u_m)^{m-1}(I-u_m)$$
.

Then

$$I - u_m \leq \varepsilon_m (1 - \varepsilon_m)_+^{1 - 1/m} m^{-1}$$

and, thanks to (42), (41) holds by Lebesgue dominated convergence theorem.

**Proof of part ii):** case I < 1.

We will prove

**LEMMA 2.** With the notations of this Section 3, if I < 1 then for T > 0 there exists C such that

 $||(u_m)^{m+1}||_{L^1(]0,T[\times\Omega)} \leq C \quad \text{for } m > 1$ .

Using Lemma 2, and repeating the proof of Lemma 1, one sees that for  $m_0 > 1$ , there exists C such that

 $\|\operatorname{grad}(u_m)^m\|_{L^1(]0,T[\times\Omega)} \leq C \quad \text{for } m \geq m_0$ 

and then (33) holds also in this case.

Another consequence of Lemma 2 is that

 $\liminf_{m\to\infty} (u_m)^{m+1} < \infty \quad \text{a.e. on } ]0, T[\times \Omega]$ 

which we will use instead of (30) to obtain, thanks to (28), that if for a subsequence  $m_k \to \infty$  we have  $u_{m_k}(1) \to \underline{u}$  in  $L^1(\Omega)$ , then we will have  $0 \leq \underline{u} \leq 1$  a.e. on  $\Omega$ .

The proof of Theorem 3 in this case will follow then exactly as that of Theorem 2. To end up, we give the

Proof of lemma 2.

Let  $u = u_m$ , v(t) = Gu(t). We have that

$$v_i(t) = \int u^m(t) - u^m(t), \quad u(t) = I - \Delta v(t)$$

and then

$$\int u^{m+1}(t) = \int u^m(t) \int u(t) - \int u(t)v_t(t) =$$
$$= I \int u^m(t) - I \int v_t(t) - \int \operatorname{grad} v_t(t) \operatorname{grad} v(t)$$

Using the convexity inequality  $(m+1)u^m \leq mu^{m+1} + 1$ , we obtain

$$(m+1-mI)\int\int u^{m+1} \leq IT + (m+1)\{I\int v(0) + 1/2\int |\text{grad } v(0)|^2\}$$

whence the result.

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