# Asymptotic behavior as $t \rightarrow \infty$ of solutions of quasi－linear heat equations 

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## 0．Introduction

We consider the large time behavior of weak solutions of the following initial－ boundary value problem：

$$
\text { (I) }\left\{\begin{array}{l}
u_{t}=\Delta \phi(u) \quad \text { in } \quad \Omega \times(0, \infty) \\
u(x, t)=0 \quad \text { on } \quad \partial \Omega \times(0, \infty) \\
u(x, 0)=u_{0}(x) \\
\text { in } \quad \Omega
\end{array}\right.
$$

Here，$\Omega \subset \mathbf{R}^{N}$ is a bounded domain with smooth boundary $\partial \Omega$ ．We assume that
（A1）$\phi \in C^{1}(\mathbf{R})$ and $\phi^{\prime}(r)>0$ if $r \neq 0$ ，
（A2）$u_{0} \in L^{2}(\Omega), u_{0} \not \equiv 0$ in $\Omega$ ．
If we set $k=\phi^{\prime}$ ，then we can rewrite the equation as

$$
u_{t}=\nabla \cdot(k(u) \nabla u) .
$$

We shall study the following two cases：
$1^{\circ}$（The degenerate case）When $k(0)=0$ ，the eqaution arises in gas flow through porous media．
$2^{\circ}$（The nondegenerate case）When $k(0)>0$ ，the eqaution arises in heat flow through solids．

In this article we intend to extend and make more precise some results of Kawanago [5]. We shall recall a definition of weak solutions of (I) by the nonlinear semigroup theory. We define operator $A: L^{1}(\Omega) \rightarrow L^{1}(\Omega)$ by

$$
A u=-\Delta \phi(u) \quad \text { for } \quad u \in D(A)
$$

with $D(A)=\left\{u \in L^{1}(\Omega) ; \phi(u) \in W_{0}^{1,1}(\Omega), \Delta \phi(u) \in L^{1}(\Omega)\right\}$. The operator $A$ is maccretive in $L^{1}(\Omega)$ under the condition (0.1). Therefore $A$ generates the contraction semigroup $S_{A}(t)$. Hence we can define a unique weak solution of (I) by $S_{A}(t) u_{0}$ for any $u_{0} \in \overline{D(A)}=L^{1}(\Omega)$.

In the proofs of our result we often compute formally. We remark that it is not difficult to make our formal proofs rigorous.

## Notation.

1. $\left\{\lambda_{\nu}\right\}_{\nu=1}^{\infty}\left(0<\lambda_{1}<\lambda_{2}<\cdots\right)$ are all distinct eigenvalues of $-\Delta$ with zero-Dirichlet condition.
2. $P_{j}$ is the orthogonal projection of the eigenspace of $\lambda_{j}$ and $R\left(P_{j}\right)$ is the eigenspace of $\lambda_{j}$ for $i \in \mathbf{N}$.
3. $(\cdot, \cdot)$ denotes the inner product in $L^{2}(\Omega)$.
4. $\|\cdot\|_{p}$ denotes the norm of $L^{p}(\Omega)$.
5. $f(t)=o(g(t))$ means that $\limsup \sup _{t \rightarrow \infty}|f(t) / g(t)|=0, f(t)=O(g(t))$ that $\limsup t_{t \rightarrow \infty}|f(t) / g(t)|<\infty$, and $f(t) \sim g(t)$ that $a<\liminf _{t \rightarrow \infty}|f(t) / g(t)| \leq$ $\limsup _{t \rightarrow \infty}|f(t) / g(t)|<b$ for some $a, b>0$.

## 1. The degenerate case

We state the large time behavior for solutions of (I) under the condition: $k(0)=0$ ( and also $k(0) \geq 0)$. When $\phi(r)=|r|^{m-1} r(m>1)$ and $u_{0} \geq 0$ in $\Omega$, Aronson and

Peletier [2] showed that

$$
\left\|(1+t)^{1 /(m-1)} u(t)-h\right\|_{\infty} \leq C(1+t)^{-1} \quad \text { for } \quad t \geq 0
$$

where $h(x)$ is the unique positive solution of the problem:

$$
\left\{\begin{array}{l}
\Delta\left(h^{m}\right)+1 /(m-1) h=0 \text { in } \Omega, \\
h(x)=0 \text { on } \partial \Omega
\end{array}\right.
$$

The corresponding results were obtained under milder assumption on $\phi$ :

$$
\begin{equation*}
0<\alpha<\phi(r) \phi^{\prime \prime}(r) /\left[\phi^{\prime}(r)\right]^{2} \leq 1 \tag{1.1}
\end{equation*}
$$

in some nonempty neighborhood of $r=0$ for some $\alpha \in(0,1)$,
by Bertsch and Peletier [3]. We remark that the solutions of equations they considered decay at most algebraically and does not depend on $\Omega$. We shall give some decay the decay order
results under a different assumption. And we shall show that there are some degenerate equations of which solutions decay exponentially and the decay order depends on $\Omega$ ( see Example following Theorem 1 ).

Theorem 1. Let (A1-2) be satisfied and $k(0) \geq 0$. We assume that $k(r)$ is nondecreasing (non-increasing) on ( $0, \varepsilon$ ) and that

$$
\begin{equation*}
\frac{\phi(r)}{r} \geq k(\alpha r) \quad\left(\text { resp. } \frac{\phi(r)}{r} \leq k(\alpha r)\right) \quad \text { for } \quad 0<r \leq \varepsilon \tag{1.2}
\end{equation*}
$$

for some $\alpha \in(0,1)$ and $\varepsilon>0$. Also assume that there exists $\omega \in R\left(P_{1}\right)$ such that $u_{0} \geq \omega>0$ (resp. $\left.u_{0} \leq \omega\right)$ in $\Omega$. Then, the weak solution $u$ of (I) satisties

$$
\begin{equation*}
\left(u(t), e_{1}\right) \sim y(t) \tag{1.3}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $e_{1}$ is an element of $R\left(P_{1}\right)$ such that $e_{1}>0$ in $\Omega$ and $\left\|e_{1}\right\|_{2}=1$. And $y(t)$ is any fixed positive solution of the ordinary equation: $y^{\prime}(t)=-\lambda_{1} \phi(y)$.

Remark. All examples of $\phi$ given in [3] satisfy the condition (1.2). Hence it seems that the condition (1.2) is substantially weaker than (1.1).

Sketch of proof of Theorem 1. We state only the case when $k(r)$ is nondecreasing on $(0, \varepsilon)$ because the other case when $k(r)$ is non-increasing is similar. the proof for
We denote by $y\left(t ; y_{0}\right)$ the solution of the ordinary equation: $y^{\prime}(t)=-\lambda_{1} \phi(y)$ with the initial value $y_{0}>0$. Then we can easily verify that $y(t ; a) \sim y(t ; b)$ for any $a, b \in(0, \infty)$. Therefore we have only to show that $\left(u(t), e_{1}\right) \sim y(t ; a)$ for any fixed $a \in(0, \infty)$. In what follows, we choose $\omega_{1} \in R\left(P_{1}\right)$ such that $\omega_{1}>0$ in $\Omega$ and $0<\left\|\omega_{1}\right\|_{\infty} \leq \alpha(<1)$. We divide the proof into two steps.

Step 1. We shall prove that

$$
\begin{equation*}
\left(u(t), e_{1}\right) \leq C y(t) \text { for } t \geq 0 \tag{1.4}
\end{equation*}
$$

for some $C \in(0, \infty)$. We already see in [5] that

$$
\begin{equation*}
\|u(t)\|_{\infty} \rightarrow 0 \quad \text { as } \quad t \rightarrow \infty \tag{1.5}
\end{equation*}
$$

( see [5, Proposition 4.1]). Therefore we may assume without loss of generality that $\|u(t)\|_{\infty} \leq \varepsilon$ for $t \geq 0$. By the convexity of $\phi$ and Jensen's inequality, we have

$$
\frac{d}{d t}\left(u(t), \omega_{1}\right)=-\lambda_{1} \int \phi(u) \omega_{1} d x \leq-\lambda_{1} \int \phi\left(u \omega_{1}\right) d x \leq-\lambda_{1}|\Omega| \phi\left(\frac{1}{|\Omega|}\left(u, \omega_{1}\right)\right)
$$

where we denote by $|\Omega|$ the Lebesque measure of $|\Omega|$. It follows that

$$
\frac{1}{|\Omega|}\left(u(t), \omega_{1}\right) \leq y\left(t ; \frac{1}{|\Omega|}\left(u_{0}, \omega_{1}\right)\right) .
$$

Hence we have proved (1.4).
Step 2. We shall prove that

$$
\begin{equation*}
\left(u, e_{1}\right) \geq C y(t) \text { for } t \geq 0 \tag{1.6}
\end{equation*}
$$

for some $C \in(0, \infty)$. We shall show that $z(x, t)=\omega_{1}(x) y(t ; a)(a>0)$ is a subsolution of (I). Indeed we obtain from (1.2) and the convexity of $\phi$ that

$$
\begin{equation*}
z_{t}-\Delta \phi(z) \leq-\lambda_{1} \omega_{1} y\left\{\frac{\phi(y)}{y}-k\left(\omega_{1} y\right)\right\} \leq-\lambda_{1} \omega_{1} y\left\{k(\alpha y)-k\left(\omega_{1} y\right)\right\} \leq 0 \tag{1.7}
\end{equation*}
$$

Hence $z(x, t)$ is a subsolution of (I). Moreover, we may choose $a \in(0, \infty)$ so small that

$$
\begin{equation*}
z(x, 0)=a \omega_{1}(x) \leq \omega(x) \leq u_{0}(x) \quad \text { in } \quad \Omega \tag{1.8}
\end{equation*}
$$

It follows from (1.7), (1.8) and the comparison principle that

$$
u(x, t) \geq z(x, t)=\omega_{1}(x) y(t)
$$

which implies (1.6).

Example. When $k(r)=\theta /(-\log r)^{\rho}$ for $0<r \leq \varepsilon(\theta, \rho \in(0, \infty)$ are constants), (1.2) holds. And $y(t)$ satisfies that

$$
y(t) \sim \exp \left\{-\left((\rho+1) \theta \lambda_{1} t\right)^{1 /(\rho+1)}\right\}
$$

Moreover, in this example the weak solution $u$ of (I) sutisties that

$$
\begin{equation*}
\frac{u(t)}{\left(u(t), e_{1}\right)} \underset{t \rightarrow \infty}{\rightarrow} e_{1} \quad \text { in } \quad L^{2}(\Omega) \tag{}
\end{equation*}
$$

when $N=1$.

Sketch of proof of $\left(^{*}\right)$ in the above example. We set $v=u(t)-\left(u, e_{1}\right) e_{1}$. It is sufficient to derive that $\|v(t)\|_{2}=o(y(t))$. In view of (1.5), we may assume that $\sup _{t \geq 0}\|u(t)\|_{\infty}$ is sufficiently small. We set $h(r)=\int_{0}^{r} \sqrt{k(s)} d s$. Then,

$$
\begin{aligned}
\frac{d}{d t} \int v^{2} & =-2 \int\left\{h(u)_{x}\right\}^{2}+2 \lambda_{1}\left(u, e_{1}\right)\left(\phi(u), e_{1}\right) \\
& =-2 \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \lambda_{j}\left(h(u), e_{j}\right)^{2}+2 \lambda_{1}\left(u, e_{1}\right)\left(\phi(u), e_{1}\right) \\
& \leq 2\left(\lambda_{2}-\lambda_{1}\right)\left(h(u), e_{1}\right)^{2}-2 \lambda_{2} \int h(u)^{2}+2 \lambda_{1}\left(u, e_{1}\right)\left(\phi(u), e_{1}\right)
\end{aligned}
$$

We set $g(r)=h(\sqrt{r})^{2}$. By Jensen's inequality,

$$
\frac{d}{d t} \int v^{2} \leq-2 \lambda_{2}|\Omega| g\left(\frac{1}{|\Omega|} \int u^{2}\right)+2\left(\lambda_{2}-\lambda_{1}\right)\left(h(u), e_{1}\right)^{2}+2 \lambda_{1}\left(u, e_{1}\right)\left(\phi(u), e_{1}\right)
$$

We may assume by rescaling that $|\Omega|=1$. We can easily verify that

$$
g(r) \geq 2^{\rho} \phi(r)\left\{1-\frac{C}{(-\log r)^{2}}\right\} \quad \text { for some } \quad C \in(0, \infty)
$$

It follows that

$$
\begin{align*}
& \frac{d}{d t} \int v^{2} \leq-\frac{2^{\rho+1} \theta \lambda_{2}}{\left(-\log \int u^{2}\right)^{\rho}}\left\{\int v^{2}+\left(u, e_{1}\right)^{2}\right\}+\frac{C}{\left(-\log \int u^{2}\right)^{\rho+2}} \int u^{2}  \tag{1.9}\\
&+2\left(\lambda_{2}-\lambda_{1}\right)\left(h(u), e_{1}\right)^{2}+2 \lambda_{1}\left(u, e_{1}\right)\left(\phi(u), e_{1}\right)
\end{align*}
$$

We can easily verify that

$$
\begin{equation*}
h(r) \leq \frac{\sqrt{\theta} r}{(-\log r)^{\rho / 2}} . \tag{1.10}
\end{equation*}
$$

We obtain from (1.10) that

$$
\begin{align*}
I & =-\frac{2^{\rho+1} \theta \lambda_{2}}{\left(-\log \int u^{2}\right)^{\rho}}\left(u, e_{1}\right)^{2}+2\left(\lambda_{2}-\lambda_{1}\right)\left(h(u), e_{1}\right)^{2}+2 \lambda_{1}\left(u, e_{1}\right)\left(\phi(u), e_{1}\right)  \tag{1.11}\\
& \leq 2 \theta\left(u, e_{1}\right)^{2}\left\{\frac{-\lambda_{2}}{\left(-\log \|u\|_{2}\right)^{\rho}}+\frac{\lambda_{2}-\lambda_{1}}{\left(-\log \|u\|_{\infty}\right)^{\rho}}+\frac{\lambda_{1}}{\left(-\log \|u\|_{\infty}\right)^{\rho}}\right\} \\
& =2 \theta \lambda_{2}\left(u, e_{1}\right)^{2}\left\{\frac{1}{\left(-\log \|u\|_{\infty}\right)^{\rho}}-\frac{1}{\left(-\log \|u\|_{2}\right)^{\rho}}\right\} .
\end{align*}
$$

On the other hand, it follows from [6, Lemma 3.3] that

$$
\begin{equation*}
\|\phi(u(t))\|_{\infty} \leq C\|\nabla \phi(u(t))\|_{2} \leq \sqrt{\frac{k\left(\left\|u\left(t-t_{0}\right)\right\|_{\infty}\right)}{2 t_{0}}}\left\|u\left(t-t_{0}\right)\right\|_{2} \quad \text { for } \quad t>t_{0} \tag{1.12}
\end{equation*}
$$

for any $t_{0} \in(0, \infty)$. By (1.12) and [5, (4.12)],

$$
\begin{equation*}
\|u(t)\|_{\infty} \leq C t^{\sigma} \exp \left\{-\left((\rho+1) \theta \lambda_{1} t\right)^{1 /(\rho+1)}\right\} \quad \text { for } \quad t \geq 0 \tag{1.13}
\end{equation*}
$$

for some $\sigma \in(0, \infty)$. It follows from (1.11), (1.13) and the mean value theorem that

$$
\begin{equation*}
I \leq \frac{C \log t}{t} y(t)^{2} \tag{1.14}
\end{equation*}
$$

In view of (1.9) and (1.14), we have

$$
\frac{d}{d t} \int v^{2} \leq-\frac{2 \theta \lambda_{2}}{\left((\rho+1) \theta \lambda_{1} t\right)^{\rho /(\rho+1)}+C} \int v^{2}+\frac{C \log t}{t} \exp \left\{-2\left((\rho+1) \theta \lambda_{1} t\right)^{1 /(\rho+1)}\right\}
$$

which implies that

$$
\|v\|_{2} \leq C t^{\varepsilon-1 /(2 \rho+2)} y(t) \text { for } t \geq 0
$$

for any small $\varepsilon \in(0,1)$.

## 2. The nondegenerate case

We consider the nondegenerate case. By rescaling, we can assume without loss of generality that $k(0)=1$.

We shall recall a result of [5].

Theorem 2. ([5]) Let (A1-2) be satisfied. We assume that

$$
\begin{equation*}
|k(r)-1| \leq \theta /(-\log |r|)^{\rho} \quad \text { for } \quad|r| \leq \varepsilon \tag{2.1}
\end{equation*}
$$

for some $\theta \in(0, \infty), \rho \in(1, \infty)$ and $\varepsilon \in(0,1)$. Let $u$ be the weak solution of (I). Then, there exists an eigenvector $\omega_{1} \in R\left(P_{1}\right)$ satisfying

$$
\begin{equation*}
e^{\lambda_{1} t} u(t) \underset{t \rightarrow \infty}{\rightarrow} \omega_{1} \quad \text { in } \quad H_{0}^{1}(\Omega) \tag{2.2}
\end{equation*}
$$

Moreover, $\omega_{1}>0$ in $\Omega$ if $u_{0} \geq 0$ in $\Omega$.

The condition (2.1) is a sufficient and an almost necessary condition for (2.2). Indeed if the graph of the heat conduction $k(r)$ is not 'mild' near $r=0$, then, by Theorem 2, the decay order of solutions of (I) is different from that of the linear case, i.e. $\phi(r) \equiv r$ (see Theorem 3 and Example following it). On the other hand, when the graph of $k(r)$ is 'mild' near $r=0$, we are interested in some delicate difference of large time behavior between the solutions of quasilinear equation and those of linear equation. In this case we shall study the behavior for solutions of quasilinear equations in detail by observing some first terms of the asymptotic expansion of the solutions (see Theorem 4 and Example 2 following it).

Theorem 3. Let (A1-2) be satisfied and $k(0)=1$. We assume that $k(r)$ is nondecreasing (resp. non-increasing) on $(0, \varepsilon)$ and that

$$
\begin{equation*}
\frac{\phi(r)}{r} \geq k(\alpha r) \quad\left(\text { resp. } \frac{\phi(r)}{r} \leq k(\alpha r)\right) \quad \text { for } \quad 0<r \leq \varepsilon \tag{2.3}
\end{equation*}
$$

for some $\varepsilon>0$ and $\alpha \in(0,1)$. Also assume that there exists $\omega \in R\left(P_{1}\right)$ such that $u_{0} \geq \omega>0$ (resp. $u_{0} \leq \omega$ ) in $\Omega$. Then, the weak solution $u$ of (I) satisties that

$$
\begin{equation*}
\frac{u(t)}{\left(u(t), e_{1}\right)} \underset{t \rightarrow \infty}{\rightarrow} e_{1} \quad \text { in } \quad L^{2}(\Omega) \tag{2.4}
\end{equation*}
$$

$$
\begin{equation*}
\left(u(t), e_{1}\right) \sim y(t), \tag{2.5}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $e_{1}$ is an element of $R\left(P_{1}\right)$ such that $e_{1}>0$ in $\Omega$ and $\left\|e_{1}\right\|_{L^{2}}=1$. And $y(t)$ is any fixed positive solution of the ordinary equation: $y^{\prime}(t)=-\lambda_{1} \phi(y)$.

Example. When $k(r)=1+\theta /(-\log r)^{\rho}$ for $0<r \leq \varepsilon(\theta \in \mathbf{R}$ and $\rho \in(0,1]$ are constants), (2.3) holds. In this case, we can verify that the decay order $y(t)$ satisfies that

$$
\begin{aligned}
\log y(t) & =-\lambda_{1} t-\frac{\theta\left(\lambda_{1} t\right)^{1-\rho}}{1-\rho}+o\left(t^{1-\rho}\right) \quad \text { if } \quad \rho \in(0,1) \\
y(t) & \sim(t+1)^{-\theta} e^{-\lambda_{1} t} \quad \text { if } \quad \rho=1
\end{aligned}
$$

Sketch of proof of Theorem 3. In view of Theorem 1, we have only to prove that

$$
\begin{equation*}
\left\|u(t)-\left(u, e_{1}\right) e_{1}\right\|_{2}=o(y(t)) \tag{2.6}
\end{equation*}
$$

We set $v=u(t)-\left(u, e_{1}\right) e_{1}$. We remark that $\left(v, e_{1}\right)=\left(\nabla v, \nabla e_{1}\right)=0$.

$$
\begin{align*}
\frac{d}{d t} \int v^{2} & =2 \int \nabla v \cdot k(u) \nabla u  \tag{2.7}\\
& =-2 \int k(u)|\nabla v|^{2}-2\left(u, e_{1}\right) \int\{k(u)-1\} \nabla v \cdot \nabla e_{1}
\end{align*}
$$

In view of (1.5), we may assume without loss of generality that $k(u(x, t)) \geq 1-\varepsilon$ for any $(x, t) \in \Omega \times[0, \infty)$, where $\varepsilon \in(0,1)$ is any small constant. Therefore, we have

$$
\begin{aligned}
\frac{d}{d t} \int v^{2} & \leq-2(1-\varepsilon)\|\nabla v\|_{2}^{2}+2\left(u, e_{1}\right)\|k(u)-1\|_{\infty}\|\nabla v\|_{2}\left\|\nabla e_{1}\right\|_{2} \\
& \leq-2(1-2 \varepsilon)\|\nabla v\|_{2}^{2}+C\|k(u)-1\|_{\infty}^{2}\left(u, e_{1}\right)^{2}
\end{aligned}
$$

It follows that

$$
\begin{aligned}
&\|v(t)\|_{2}^{2} \leq e^{-2(1-2 \varepsilon) \lambda_{2} t}\|v(0)\|_{2}^{2} \\
&+C e^{-2(1-2 \varepsilon) \lambda_{2} t} \int_{0}^{t} e^{2(1-2 \varepsilon) \lambda_{2} s}\|k(u(s))-1\|_{\infty}^{2}\left(u(s), e_{1}\right)^{2} d s
\end{aligned}
$$

On the other hand, we can easily verify that $y(t) \geq C e^{-\left(\lambda_{1}-\varepsilon\right) t}$ for $t \geq 0$. We can choose $\varepsilon$ so small that $\lambda_{1}-\varepsilon-2(1-2 \varepsilon) \lambda_{2}<0$. It follows from l'Hospital's theorem that

$$
\begin{aligned}
\limsup _{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\|v(t)\|_{2}^{2}}{y(t)^{2}} & \leq C \lim _{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\int_{0}^{t} e^{2(1-2 \varepsilon) \lambda_{2} s}\|k(u(s))-1\|_{\infty}^{2} y(s)^{2} d s}{e^{2(1-2 \varepsilon) \lambda_{2} t} y(t)^{2}} \\
& =C \lim _{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{e^{2(1-2 \varepsilon) \lambda_{2} t}\|k(u(t))-1\|_{\infty}^{2} y(t)^{2}}{\left\{e^{2(1-2 \varepsilon) \lambda_{2} t} y(t)^{2}\right\}^{\prime}} \\
& =C \lim _{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\|k(u(t))-1\|_{\infty}^{2}}{2(1-\varepsilon) \lambda_{2}-2 \lambda_{1} \phi(y) / y} \\
& =0 .
\end{aligned}
$$

Hence, we have $\|v(t)\|_{2}=o(y(t))$.
Next, we shall consider the large time behavior under the following condition on $\phi$ :

$$
\begin{equation*}
|k(r)-1| \leq a|r|^{\alpha} \quad \text { for } \quad|r| \leq \varepsilon \tag{A3}
\end{equation*}
$$

for some $a, \alpha, \varepsilon \in(0, \infty)$.
And we shall study the following more general form of equation:

$$
\text { (II) }\left\{\begin{array}{l}
u_{t}=\Delta \phi(u)-f(u) \text { in } \quad \Omega \times(0, \infty), \\
u(x, t)=0 \text { on } \partial \Omega \times(0, \infty), \\
u(x, 0)=u_{0}(x) \text { in } \Omega
\end{array}\right.
$$

Here, we assume that
(A4) $f: \mathbf{R} \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$ is a locally Lipschitz continuous function satisfying that $r f(r) \geq 0$
for $r \in \mathbf{R}$ and that there exist constants $b \geq 0$ and $p>1$ such that $|f(r)| \leq b|r|^{p}$ in some nonempty neighborhood of $r=0$,

We can not define weak solutions of (II) by the nonlinear semigroup theory since we does not assume that $f$ is monotone. Instead, we define weak solutions by the following:

Definition. A weak solution $u$ of (II) on $t \in(0, \infty)$ is a locally Hölder continuous function in $\Omega \times \mathbf{R}^{+}$with the properties:
(i) $u(x, t) \in L^{\infty}\left(\Omega \times \mathbf{R}^{+}\right)$,

$$
\begin{align*}
& \int_{\Omega}\left\{u_{0}(x) \eta(x, 0)-u(x, T) \eta(x, T)\right\} d x  \tag{ii}\\
& \quad+\int_{0}^{T} d t \int_{\Omega}\left\{u \eta_{t}+\phi(u) \Delta \eta-f(u) \eta\right\} d x=0
\end{align*}
$$

for any $T>0$ and for any $\eta \in C^{2}(\bar{\Omega} \times[0, T])$ such that $\eta(x, t)=0$ on $\partial \Omega \times[0, T]$.
Proposition 1. We assume (A1-4). Then (II) has a unique weak solution $u$.

Proof. For the uniqueness, see [1, Theorem 12 (i)]. For the existence, the proof is similar to that of [6, Proposition 1.1].

Theorem 4. ([7]) Let the conditions (A1-4) be satisfied. Let $u$ be the weak Then we have the following:
(i) There exist $m \in \mathbf{N}$ and a non-zero eigenvector $\omega_{m} \in R\left(P_{m}\right)$ satisfying

$$
e^{\lambda_{m} t} u(t) \underset{t \rightarrow \infty}{\rightarrow} \omega_{m} \quad \text { in } \quad H_{0}^{1}(\Omega)
$$

(ii) More precisely, let $\kappa=\min \{\alpha+1, p\}$ and $n=\max \left\{j \in \mathbf{N} ; \lambda_{j}<\kappa \lambda_{m}\right\}$ $(\geq m)$. Then, also for each $m<j \leq n$, there exists eigenvector $\omega_{j} \in R\left(P_{j}\right)$ satisfying

$$
u(t)-\sum_{j=m}^{n} e^{-\lambda_{j} t} \omega_{j}=\left\{\begin{array}{ll}
O\left(e^{-\kappa \lambda_{m} t}\right) & \text { if } \quad \kappa \lambda_{m}<\lambda_{n+1}  \tag{2.8}\\
O\left(t e^{-\kappa \lambda_{m} t}\right) & \text { if } \quad \kappa \lambda_{m}=\lambda_{n+1}
\end{array} \quad \text { in } H_{0}^{1}(\Omega)\right.
$$

We can derive Theorem 4 by combining the computations in [5] and those in [4]. Example 1. When $k(r)=1+e^{-1 /|r|}$ and $f \equiv 0$, we can easily obtain from Theorem 4 the following asymptotic expansion in $H_{0}^{1}(\Omega)$ :

$$
u(t)=\sum_{j=1}^{\infty} e^{-\lambda_{j} t} \omega_{j}
$$

where $\omega_{j} \in R\left(P_{j}\right)$ for $j \in N$.
This expansion is just the same form as the linear case: $k \equiv 1$. Example 1 is, however, an extreme and exceptional case. We shall study a typical example: $k(r)=$ $1+a|r|^{\alpha}+o\left(|r|^{\alpha}\right)$ and $f(r)=b|r|^{p-1} r+o\left(|r|^{p}\right)$, from which we see that the estimate (2.8) is optimal.

Example 2. We shall state the case: $k(r)=1+a|r|^{\alpha}+o\left(|r|^{\alpha}\right)$ and $f(r)=$ $b|r|^{p-1} r+o\left(|r|^{p}\right)(a, b>0$ are constants.) We use the same notations as in the statement of Theorem 4 and define $\chi_{j}(\alpha, p)(j \in \mathbf{N})$ by

$$
\chi_{j}(\alpha, p)= \begin{cases}a \lambda_{j} /(\alpha+1) & \text { if } \alpha+1<p \\ a \lambda_{j} /(\alpha+1)+b & \text { if } \alpha+1=p \\ b & \text { if } \alpha+1>p\end{cases}
$$

Then we have the following:
(i) Let $\kappa \lambda_{m}<\lambda_{n+1}$. Then,

$$
u(t)=\sum_{j=m}^{n} e^{-\lambda_{j} t} \omega_{j}+e^{-\kappa \lambda_{m} t} \nu_{1}+o\left(e^{-\kappa \lambda_{m} t}\right)
$$

in $L^{2}(\Omega)$, where

$$
\nu_{1}=\sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \frac{\chi_{j}(\alpha, p)}{\kappa \lambda_{m}-\lambda_{j}} P_{j}\left(\left|\omega_{m}\right|^{\kappa-1} \omega_{m}\right) \not \equiv 0 \quad \text { in } \quad \Omega
$$

(ii) Let $\kappa \lambda_{m}=\lambda_{n+1}$. Then,

$$
u(t)=\sum_{j=m}^{n} e^{-\lambda_{j} t} \omega_{j}+t e^{-\lambda_{n+1} t} \nu_{2}+o\left(t e^{-\lambda_{n+1} t}\right)
$$

in $L^{2}(\Omega)$, where

$$
\nu_{2}=-\chi_{n+1}(\alpha, p) P_{n+1}\left(\left|\omega_{m}\right|^{\kappa-1} \omega_{m}\right)
$$

Moreover, if $\nu_{2} \equiv 0$ in $\Omega$, then there also exists $\omega_{n+1} \in R\left(P_{n+1}\right)$ such that

$$
u(t)=\sum_{j=m}^{n+1} e^{-\lambda_{j} t} \omega_{j}+e^{-\lambda_{n+1} t} \nu_{3}+o\left(e^{-\lambda_{n+1} t}\right)
$$

in $L^{2}(\Omega)$, where

$$
\nu_{3}=\left(\sum_{j=1}^{n}+\sum_{j=n+2}^{\infty}\right) \frac{\chi_{j}(\alpha, p)}{\kappa \lambda_{m}-\lambda_{j}} P_{j}\left(\left|\omega_{m}\right|^{\kappa-1} \omega_{m}\right) \not \equiv 0 \quad \text { in } \quad \Omega
$$

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