

## EXISTENCE AND UNIQUENESS OF SOLUTIONS FOR A CLASS OF NONLINEAR DEGENERATE ELLIPTIC EQUATIONS

ALBO CARLOS CAVALHEIRO

*Department of Mathematics, State University of Londrina, Londrina - PR - Brazil,  
 86057-970*

Email Address: accava@gmail.com

ABSTRACT. In this paper we are interested in the existence of solutions for Dirichlet problem associated with the degenerate nonlinear elliptic equations

$$\begin{cases} -\operatorname{div}[\mathcal{A}(x, \nabla u) \omega_1 + \mathcal{B}(x, u, \nabla u) \omega_2] + \mathcal{H}(x, u, \nabla u) \omega_3 = f_0(x) - \sum_{j=1}^n D_j f_j(x) & \text{in } \Omega, \\ u(x) = 0 & \text{on } \partial\Omega, \end{cases}$$

in the setting of the weighted Sobolev spaces.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

In this paper we prove the existence of (weak) solutions in the weighted Sobolev space  $W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega_1)$  (see Definition 2.3) for the Dirichlet problem

$$(P) \begin{cases} Lu(x) = f_0(x) - \sum_{j=1}^n D_j f_j(x) & \text{in } \Omega, \\ u(x) = 0 & \text{on } \partial\Omega, \end{cases}$$

where  $L$  is the partial differential operator

$$(1.1) \quad Lu(x) = -\operatorname{div}[\mathcal{A}(x, \nabla u) \omega_1 + \mathcal{B}(x, u, \nabla u) \omega_2] + \mathcal{H}(x, u, \nabla u) \omega_3$$

where  $D_j = \partial/\partial x_j$ ,  $\Omega$  is a bounded open set in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $\omega_1$ ,  $\omega_2$  and  $\omega_3$  are three weight functions (which represent the degeneration or singularity in the equation (1.1)),  $1 < q, s < p < \infty$  and the functions  $\mathcal{A}_j : \Omega \times \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ,  $\mathcal{B}_j : \Omega \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  ( $j = 1, \dots, n$ ) and  $\mathcal{H} : \Omega \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  satisfying the following conditions:

- (H1)**  $x \mapsto \mathcal{A}_j(x, \xi)$  is measurable on  $\Omega$  for all  $\xi \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  
 $\xi \mapsto \mathcal{A}_j(x, \xi)$  is continuous on  $\mathbb{R}^n$  for almost all  $x \in \Omega$ .

---

*Keywords:* degenerate nonlinear elliptic equations, weighted Sobolev spaces.

**(H2)** There exists a constant  $\theta_1 > 0$  such that

$$\langle \mathcal{A}(x, \xi) - \mathcal{A}(x, \xi'), (\xi - \xi') \rangle \geq \theta_1 |\xi - \xi'|^p,$$

whenever  $\xi, \xi' \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $\xi \neq \xi'$ , and  $\mathcal{A}(x, \xi) = (\mathcal{A}_1(x, \xi), \dots, \mathcal{A}_n(x, \xi))$  (where  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$  denotes here the Euclidian scalar product in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ).

**(H3)**  $\langle \mathcal{A}(x, \xi), \xi \rangle \geq \lambda_1 |\xi|^p$ , where  $\lambda_1$  is a positive constant.

**(H4)**  $|\mathcal{A}(x, \xi)| \leq K_1(x) + h_1(x) |\xi|^{p/p'}$ , where  $K_1$  and  $h_1$  are nonnegative functions, with  $h_1 \in L^\infty(\Omega)$  and  $K_1 \in L^{p'}(\Omega, \omega_1)$  (with  $1/p + 1/p' = 1$ ).

**(H5)**  $x \mapsto \mathcal{B}_j(x, \eta, \xi)$  is measurable on  $\Omega$  for all  $(\eta, \xi) \in \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^n$ ,

$(\eta, \xi) \mapsto \mathcal{B}_j(x, \eta, \xi)$  is continuous on  $\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^n$  for almost all  $x \in \Omega$ .

**(H6)**  $\langle \mathcal{B}(x, \eta, \xi) - \mathcal{B}(x, \eta', \xi'), (\xi - \xi') \rangle > 0$ , whenever  $\xi, \xi' \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $\xi \neq \xi'$ , where  $\mathcal{B}(x, \eta, \xi) = (\mathcal{B}_1(x, \eta, \xi), \dots, \mathcal{B}_n(x, \eta, \xi))$ .

**(H7)**  $\langle \mathcal{B}(x, \eta, \xi), \xi \rangle \geq \lambda_2 |\xi|^q + \Lambda_2 |\eta|^q$ , where  $\lambda_2 > 0$  and  $\Lambda_2 \geq 0$  are constants.

**(H8)**  $|\mathcal{B}(x, \eta, \xi)| \leq K_2(x) + g_1(x) |\eta|^{q/q'} + g_2(x) |\xi|^{q/q'}$ , where  $K_2, g_1$  and  $g_2$  are nonnegative functions, with  $g_1$  and  $g_2 \in L^\infty(\Omega)$ , and  $K_2 \in L^{q'}(\Omega, \omega_2)$  (with  $1/q + 1/q' = 1$ ).

**(H9)**  $x \mapsto \mathcal{H}(x, \eta, \xi)$  is measurable on  $\Omega$  for all  $(\eta, \xi) \in \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^n$

$(\eta, \xi) \mapsto \mathcal{H}(x, \eta, \xi)$  is continuous on  $\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^n$  for almost all  $x \in \Omega$ .

**(H10)**  $[\mathcal{H}(x, \eta, \xi) - \mathcal{H}(x, \eta', \xi')](\eta - \eta') > 0$ , whenever  $\eta, \eta' \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $\eta \neq \eta'$ .

**(H11)**  $\mathcal{H}(x, \eta, \xi) \eta \geq \lambda_3 |\xi|^s + \Lambda_3 |\eta|^s$ , where  $\lambda_3$  and  $\Lambda_3$  are nonnegative constants.

**(H12)**  $|\mathcal{H}(x, \eta, \xi)| \leq K_3(x) + h_2(x) |\eta|^{s/s'} + h_3(x) |\xi|^{s/s'}$ , where  $K_3, h_2$  and  $h_3$  are nonnegative functions, with  $K_3 \in L^{s'}(\Omega, \omega_3)$  (with  $1/s + 1/s' = 1$ ),  $h_2$  and  $h_3 \in L^\infty(\Omega)$ .

Let  $\Omega$  be an open set in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . By the symbol  $\mathcal{W}(\Omega)$  we denote the set of all measurable a.e. in  $\Omega$  positive and finite functions  $\omega = \omega(x)$ ,  $x \in \Omega$ . Elements of  $\mathcal{W}(\Omega)$  will be called *weight functions*. Every weight  $\omega$  gives rise to a measure on the measurable subsets of  $\mathbb{R}^n$  through integration. This measure will be denoted by  $\mu$ . Thus,  $\mu(E) = \int_E \omega(x) dx$  for measurable sets  $E \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ .

In general, the Sobolev spaces  $W^{k,p}(\Omega)$  without weights occur as spaces of solutions for elliptic and parabolic partial differential equations. For degenerate partial differential equations, i.e., equations with various types of singularities in the coefficients, it is natural to look for solutions in weighted Sobolev spaces (see [2], [3], [4] and [7]). In various applications, we can meet boundary value problems for elliptic equations whose ellipticity is disturbed in the sense that some degeneration or singularity appears. There are several very concrete problems from practice which lead to such differential equations, e.g. from glaciology, non-Newtonian fluid mechanics, flows through porous media, differential geometry, celestial mechanics, climatology, petroleum extraction and reaction-diffusion problems (see some examples of applications of degenerate elliptic equations in [1] and [6]).

A class of weights, which is particularly well understood, is the class of  $A_p$ -weights (or Muckenhoupt class) that was introduced by B. Muckenhoupt (see [15]). These classes have

found many useful applications in harmonic analysis (see [17]). Another reason for studying  $A_p$ -weights is the fact that powers of distance to submanifolds of  $\mathbb{R}^n$  often belong to  $A_p$  (see [13]). There are, in fact, many interesting examples of weights (see [12] for  $p$ -admissible weights).

The following theorem will be proved in section 3.

**Theorem 1.1.** *Let  $1 < q, s < p < \infty$  and assume (H1)-(H12). If*

(i)  $\omega_1 \in A_p$ ,  $\omega_2$  and  $\omega_3 \in \mathcal{W}(\Omega)$ ,  $\frac{\omega_2}{\omega_1} \in L^{r_1}(\Omega, \omega_1)$  and  $\frac{\omega_3}{\omega_1} \in L^{r_2}(\Omega, \omega_1)$ , where  $r_1 = p/(p - q)$  and  $r_2 = p/(p - s)$ ;

(ii)  $f_0/\omega_2 \in L^{q'}(\Omega, \omega_2)$  and  $f_j/\omega_1 \in L^{p'}(\Omega, \omega_1)$  ( $j = 1, \dots, n$ ).

Then the problem (P) has a unique solution  $u \in W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega_1)$ . Moreover, we have

$$\|u\|_{W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega_1)} \leq C \left( C_{p,q} \|f_0/\omega_2\|_{L^{q'}(\Omega, \omega_2)} + \sum_{j=1}^n \|f_j/\omega_1\|_{L^{p'}(\Omega, \omega_1)} \right)^{1/(p-1)},$$

where  $C = [(C_\Omega^p + 1)/\lambda_1]^{1/(p-1)}$  ( $C_\Omega$  is the constant in Theorem 2.2 and  $C_{p,q}$  is the constant in Remark 3.2(i)).

## 2. DEFINITIONS AND BASIC RESULTS

Let  $\omega$  be a locally integrable nonnegative function in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  and assume that  $0 < \omega < \infty$  almost everywhere. We say that  $\omega$  belongs to the Muckenhoupt class  $A_p$ ,  $1 < p < \infty$ , or that  $\omega$  is an  $A_p$ -weight, if there is a constant  $C = C_{p,\omega}$  such that

$$\left( \frac{1}{|B|} \int_B \omega(x) dx \right) \left( \frac{1}{|B|} \int_B \omega^{1/(1-p)}(x) dx \right)^{p-1} \leq C,$$

for all balls  $B \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ , where  $|\cdot|$  denotes the  $n$ -dimensional Lebesgue measure in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . If  $1 < q \leq p$ , then  $A_q \subset A_p$  (see [10], [12] or [17] for more information about  $A_p$ -weights). The weight  $\omega$  satisfies the doubling condition if there exists a positive constant  $C$  such that

$$\mu(B(x; 2r)) \leq C \mu(B(x; r)),$$

for every ball  $B = B(x; r) \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ , where  $\mu(B) = \int_B \omega(x) dx$ . If  $\omega \in A_p$ , then  $\mu$  is doubling (see Corollary 15.7 in [12]).

As an example of  $A_p$ -weight, the function  $\omega(x) = |x|^\alpha$ ,  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , is in  $A_p$  if and only if  $-n < \alpha < n(p - 1)$  (see Corollary 4.4, Chapter IX in [17]).

If  $\omega \in A_p$ , then

$$\left( \frac{|E|}{|B|} \right)^p \leq C \frac{\mu(E)}{\mu(B)},$$

whenever  $B$  is a ball in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  and  $E$  is a measurable subset of  $B$  (see 15.5 *strong doubling property* in [12]). Therefore, if  $\mu(E) = 0$  then  $|E| = 0$ . The measure  $\mu$  and the Lebesgue measure  $|\cdot|$  are mutually absolutely continuous, i.e., they have the same zero sets ( $\mu(E) = 0$

if and only if  $|E| = 0$ ); so there is no need to specify the measure when using the ubiquitous expression almost everywhere and almost every, both abbreviated a.e..

**Definition 2.1.** Let  $\omega$  be a weight, and let  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  be open. For  $1 < p < \infty$  we define  $L^p(\Omega, \omega)$  as the set of measurable functions  $f$  on  $\Omega$  such that

$$\|f\|_{L^p(\Omega, \omega)} = \left( \int_{\Omega} |f|^p \omega \, dx \right)^{1/p} < \infty.$$

If  $\omega \in A_p$ ,  $1 < p < \infty$ , then  $\omega^{-1/(p-1)}$  is locally integrable and we have  $L^p(\Omega, \omega) \subset L^1_{\text{loc}}(\Omega)$  for every open set  $\Omega$  (see Remark 1.2.4 in [18]). It thus makes sense to talk about weak derivatives of functions in  $L^p(\Omega, \omega)$ .

**Definition 2.2.** Let  $\omega$  be a  $A_p$ -weight ( $1 < p < \infty$ ), and let  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  be a bounded open set. We define the weighted Sobolev space  $W^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega)$  as the set of functions  $u \in L^p(\Omega, \omega)$  with weak derivatives  $D_j u \in L^p(\Omega, \omega)$ . The norm of  $u$  in  $W^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega)$  is defined by

$$(2.1) \quad \|u\|_{W^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega)} = \left( \int_{\Omega} |u|^p \omega \, dx + \sum_{j=1}^n \int_{\Omega} |D_j u|^p \omega \, dx \right)^{1/p}.$$

If  $\omega \in A_p$ , then  $W^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega)$  is the closure of  $C^\infty(\Omega)$  with respect to the norm (2.1) (see Theorem 2.1.4 in [18]). The spaces  $W^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega)$  are Banach spaces.

The space  $W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega)$  is the closure of  $C_0^\infty(\Omega)$  with respect to the norm (2.1). Equipped with this norm,  $W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega)$  is a reflexive Banach space (see [14] for more information about the spaces  $W^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega)$ ). The dual of space  $W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega)$  is the space

$$\begin{aligned} & [W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega)]^* \\ & = \{T = f_0 - \text{div}(F), F = (f_1, \dots, f_n) : \frac{f_j}{\omega} \in L^{p'}(\Omega, \omega), j = 0, 1, \dots, n\}. \end{aligned}$$

It is evident that a weight function  $\omega$  which satisfies  $0 < c_1 \leq \omega(x) \leq c_2$  for  $x \in \Omega$  (where  $c_1$  and  $c_2$  are constants), give nothing new (the space  $W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega)$  is then identical with the classical Sobolev space  $W_0^{1,p}(\Omega)$ ). Consequently, we shall be interested above all in such weight functions  $\omega$  which either vanish somewhere in  $\bar{\Omega}$  or increase to infinity (or both).

In this paper we use the following results.

**Theorem 2.1.** *Let  $\omega \in A_p$ ,  $1 < p < \infty$ , and let  $\Omega$  be a bounded open set in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . If  $u_m \rightarrow u$  in  $L^p(\Omega, \omega)$  then there exist a subsequence  $\{u_{m_k}\}$  and a function  $\Phi \in L^p(\Omega, \omega)$  such that*

- (i)  $u_{m_k}(x) \rightarrow u(x)$ ,  $m_k \rightarrow \infty$  a.e. on  $\Omega$ ;
- (ii)  $|u_{m_k}(x)| \leq \Phi(x)$  a.e. on  $\Omega$ .

*Proof.* The proof of this theorem follows the lines of Theorem 2.8.1 in [9]. □

**Theorem 2.2.** *(The weighted Sobolev inequality) Let  $\Omega$  be an open bounded set in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  and  $\omega \in A_p$  ( $1 < p < \infty$ ). There exist constants  $C_\Omega$  and  $\delta$  positive such that for all  $u \in W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega)$*

and all  $k$  satisfying  $1 \leq k \leq n/(n-1) + \delta$ ,

$$(2.2) \quad \|u\|_{L^{kp}(\Omega, \omega)} \leq C_\Omega \|\nabla u\|_{L^p(\Omega, \omega)},$$

where  $C_\Omega$  depends only on  $n, p$ , the  $A_p$ -constant  $C(p, \omega)$  of  $\omega$  and the diameter of  $\Omega$ .

*Proof.* It suffices to prove the inequality for functions  $u \in C_0^\infty(\Omega)$  (see Theorem 1.3 in [8]). To extend the estimates (2.2) to arbitrary  $u \in W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega)$ , we let  $\{u_m\}$  be a sequence of  $C_0^\infty(\Omega)$  functions tending to  $u$  in  $W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega)$ . Applying the estimates (2.2) to differences  $u_{m_1} - u_{m_2}$ , we see that  $\{u_m\}$  will be a Cauchy sequence in  $L^{kp}(\Omega, \omega)$ . Consequently the limit function  $u$  will lie in the desired spaces and satisfy (2.2).  $\square$

**Definition 2.3.** We say that an element  $u \in W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega_1)$  is a (weak) solution of problem (P) if

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_\Omega \langle \mathcal{A}(x, \nabla u), \nabla \varphi \rangle \omega_1 dx + \int_\Omega \langle \mathcal{B}(x, u, \nabla u), \nabla \varphi \rangle \omega_2 dx + \int_\Omega \mathcal{H}(x, u, \nabla u) \varphi \omega_3 dx \\ &= \int_\Omega f_0 \varphi dx + \sum_{j=1}^n \int_\Omega f_j D_j \varphi dx, \end{aligned}$$

for all  $\varphi \in W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega_1)$ .

**Remark 2.3.** (i) If  $\frac{\omega_2}{\omega_1} \in L^{r_1}(\Omega, \omega_1)$  (where  $r_1 = p/(p-q)$ ,  $1 < q < p < \infty$ ) then

$$\|u\|_{L^q(\Omega, \omega_2)} \leq C_{p,q} \|u\|_{L^p(\Omega, \omega_1)},$$

where  $C_{p,q} = \|\omega_2/\omega_1\|_{L^{r_1}(\Omega, \omega_1)}^{1/q}$ . In fact, by Hölder's inequality we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \|u\|_{L^q(\Omega, \omega_2)}^q &= \int_\Omega |u|^q \omega_2 dx = \int_\Omega |u|^q \frac{\omega_2}{\omega_1} \omega_1 dx \\ &\leq \left( \int_\Omega |u|^{qp/q} \omega_1 dx \right)^{q/p} \left( \int_\Omega (\omega_2/\omega_1)^{p/(p-q)} \omega_1 dx \right)^{(p-q)/p} \\ &= \|u\|_{L^p(\Omega, \omega_1)}^q \|\omega_2/\omega_1\|_{L^{r_1}(\Omega, \omega_1)}. \end{aligned}$$

Hence,

$$\|u\|_{L^q(\Omega, \omega_2)} \leq C_{p,q} \|u\|_{L^p(\Omega, \omega_1)}.$$

(ii) Analogously, if  $\frac{\omega_3}{\omega_1} \in L^{r_2}(\Omega, \omega_1)$  (where  $r_2 = p/(p-s)$ ,  $1 < s < p < \infty$ ) then

$$\|u\|_{L^s(\Omega, \omega_3)} \leq C_{p,s} \|u\|_{L^p(\Omega, \omega_1)},$$

where  $C_{p,s} = \|\omega_3/\omega_1\|_{L^{r_2}(\Omega, \omega_1)}^{1/s}$ .

(iii) Since  $\omega_1 \in A_p$ , then by Theorem 2.2 (with  $k = 1$ ), we have

$$\begin{aligned} \|\nabla u\|_{L^p(\Omega, \omega_1)}^p &\leq \|u\|_{W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega_1)}^p \\ &= \int_\Omega |u|^p \omega_1 dx + \int_\Omega |\nabla u|^p \omega_1 dx \\ &\leq (C_\Omega^p + 1) \|\nabla u\|_{L^p(\Omega, \omega_1)}^p. \end{aligned}$$

Hence,

$$\|\nabla u\|_{L^p(\Omega, \omega_1)} \leq \|u\|_{W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega_1)} \leq (C_\Omega^p + 1)^{1/p} \|\nabla u\|_{L^p(\Omega, \omega_1)}.$$

### 3. PROOF OF THEOREM 1.1

The basic idea is to reduce the problem (P) to an operator equation  $Au = T$  and apply the theorem below.

**Theorem 3.1.** *Let  $A : X \rightarrow X^*$  be a monotone, coercive and hemicontinuous operator on the real, separable, reflexive Banach space  $X$ . Then the following assertions hold:*

- (a) *For each  $T \in X^*$  the equation  $Au = T$  has a solution  $u \in X$ ;*
- (b) *If the operator  $A$  is strictly monotone, then equation  $Au = T$  is uniquely solvable in  $X$ .*

*Proof.* See Theorem 26.A in [20]. □

To prove Theorem 1.1, we define  $\mathbf{B}, \mathbf{B}_1, \mathbf{B}_2, \mathbf{B}_3 : W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega_1) \times W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega_1) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  and  $\mathbf{T} : W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega_1) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  by

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{B}(u, \varphi) &= \mathbf{B}_1(u, \varphi) + \mathbf{B}_2(u, \varphi) + \mathbf{B}_3(u, \varphi), \\ \mathbf{B}_1(u, \varphi) &= \int_{\Omega} \langle \mathcal{A}(x, \nabla u), \nabla \varphi \rangle \omega_1 dx, \\ \mathbf{B}_2(u, \varphi) &= \int_{\Omega} \langle \mathcal{B}(x, u, \nabla u), \nabla \varphi \rangle \omega_2 dx, \\ \mathbf{B}_3(u, \varphi) &= \int_{\Omega} \mathcal{H}(x, u, \nabla u) \varphi \omega_3 dx \\ \mathbf{T}(\varphi) &= \int_{\Omega} f_0 \varphi dx + \sum_{j=1}^n \int_{\Omega} f_j D_j \varphi dx. \end{aligned}$$

Then  $u \in W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega_1)$  is a (weak) solution to problem (P) if

$$\mathbf{B}(u, \varphi) = \mathbf{B}_1(u, \varphi) + \mathbf{B}_2(u, \varphi) + \mathbf{B}_3(u, \varphi) = \mathbf{T}(\varphi),$$

for all  $\varphi \in W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega_1)$ .

**Step 1.** For  $j = 1, \dots, n$  we define the operator  $F_j : W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega_1) \rightarrow L^{p'}(\Omega, \omega_1)$  as

$$(F_j u)(x) = \mathcal{A}_j(x, \nabla u(x)).$$

We now show that the operator  $F_j$  is bounded and continuous.

(i) Using (H4) we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
\|F_j u\|_{L^{p'}(\Omega, \omega_1)}^{p'} &= \int_{\Omega} |F_j u(x)|^{p'} \omega_1 dx \\
&= \int_{\Omega} |\mathcal{A}_j(x, \nabla u)|^{p'} \omega_1 dx \\
&\leq \int_{\Omega} \left( K_1 + h_1 |\nabla u|^{p/p'} \right)^{p'} \omega_1 dx \\
&\leq C_p \int_{\Omega} \left[ (K_1^{p'} + h_1^{p'} |\nabla u|^p) \omega_1 \right] dx \\
&= C_p \left[ \int_{\Omega} K_1^{p'} \omega_1 dx + \int_{\Omega} h_1^{p'} |\nabla u|^p \omega_1 dx \right] \\
&\leq C_p \left( \|K_1\|_{L^{p'}(\Omega, \omega_1)}^{p'} + \|h_1\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)}^{p'} \|\nabla u\|_{L^p(\Omega, \omega_1)}^p \right) \\
(3.1) \quad &\leq C_p \left( \|K_1\|_{L^{p'}(\Omega, \omega_1)}^{p'} + \|h_1\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)}^{p'} \|u\|_{W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega_1)}^p \right),
\end{aligned}$$

where the constant  $C_p$  depends only on  $p$ . Therefore, in (3.1) we obtain

$$\|F_j u\|_{L^{p'}(\Omega, \omega_1)} \leq C_p^{1/p'} \left( \|K_1\|_{L^{p'}(\Omega, \omega_1)} + \|h_1\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} \|u\|_{W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega_1)}^{p/p'} \right).$$

(ii) Let  $u_m \rightarrow u$  in  $W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega_1)$  as  $m \rightarrow \infty$ . We need to show that  $F_j u_m \rightarrow F_j u$  in  $L^{p'}(\Omega, \omega_1)$ . We will apply the Lebesgue Dominated Convergence Theorem. If  $u_m \rightarrow u$  in  $W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega_1)$ , then  $|\nabla u_m| \rightarrow |\nabla u|$  in  $L^p(\Omega, \omega_1)$ . Using Theorem 2.1, there exist a subsequence  $\{u_{m_k}\}$  and a function  $\Phi_1 \in L^p(\Omega, \omega_1)$  such that

$$\begin{aligned}
u_{m_k}(x) &\rightarrow u(x) \text{ a.e. in } \Omega, \\
D_j u_{m_k}(x) &\rightarrow D_j u(x) \text{ a.e. in } \Omega, \\
|\nabla u_{m_k}(x)| &\leq \Phi_1(x) \text{ a.e. in } \Omega.
\end{aligned}$$

Next, applying (H4) we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
\|F_j u_{m_k} - F_j u\|_{L^{p'}(\Omega, \omega_1)}^{p'} &= \int_{\Omega} |F_j u_{m_k}(x) - F_j u(x)|^{p'} \omega_1 dx \\
&= \int_{\Omega} |\mathcal{A}_j(x, \nabla u_{m_k}) - \mathcal{A}_j(x, \nabla u)|^{p'} \omega_1 dx \\
&\leq C_p \int_{\Omega} \left( |\mathcal{A}_j(x, \nabla u_{m_k})|^{p'} + |\mathcal{A}_j(x, \nabla u)|^{p'} \right) \omega_1 dx \\
&\leq C_p \left[ \int_{\Omega} \left( K_1 + h_1 |\nabla u_{m_k}|^{p/p'} \right)^{p'} \omega_1 dx \right.
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& + \int_{\Omega} \left( K_1 + h_1 |\nabla u|^{p/p'} \right)^{p'} \omega_1 dx \Big] \\
& \leq 2 C_p \int_{\Omega} \left( K_1 + h_1 \Phi_1^{p/p'} \right)^{p'} \omega_1 dx \\
& \leq 2 C_p \left[ \int_{\Omega} K_1^{p'} \omega_1 dx + \int_{\Omega} h_1^{p'} \Phi_1^p \omega_1 dx \right] \\
& \leq 2 C_p \left[ \|K_1\|_{L^{p'}(\Omega, \omega_1)}^{p'} + \|h_1\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)}^{p'} \int_{\Omega} \Phi_1^p \omega_1 dx \right] \\
& = 2 C_p \left[ \|K_1\|_{L^{p'}(\Omega, \omega_1)}^{p'} + \|h_1\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)}^{p'} \|\Phi_1\|_{L^p(\Omega, \omega_1)}^p \right].
\end{aligned}$$

By condition (H1), we have

$$F_j u_{m_k}(x) = \mathcal{A}_j(x, \nabla u_{m_k}(x)) \rightarrow \mathcal{A}_j(x, \nabla u(x)) = F_j u(x),$$

as  $m_k \rightarrow +\infty$ . Therefore, by the Lebesgue Dominated Convergence Theorem, we obtain

$$\|F_j u_{m_k} - F_j u\|_{L^{p'}(\Omega, \omega_1)} \rightarrow 0,$$

that is,

$$F_j u_{m_k} \rightarrow F_j u \text{ in } L^{p'}(\Omega, \omega_1).$$

We conclude from the Convergence Principle in Banach spaces (see Proposition 10.13 in [19]) that

$$(3.2) \quad F_j u_m \rightarrow F_j u \text{ in } L^{p'}(\Omega, \omega_1).$$

**Step 2.** We define the operator  $G_j : W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega_1) \rightarrow L^{q'}(\Omega, \omega_2)$  by

$$(G_j u)(x) = \mathcal{B}_j(x, u(x), \nabla u(x)).$$

This operator is continuous and bounded. In fact,



(i) Using (H8) and Remark 2.3(i) we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \|G_j u\|_{L^{q'}(\Omega, \omega_2)}^{q'} \\
 &= \int_{\Omega} |G_j u(x)|^{q'} \omega_2 dx \\
 &= \int_{\Omega} |\mathcal{B}_j(x, u, \nabla u)|^{q'} \omega_2 dx \\
 &\leq \int_{\Omega} \left( K_2 + g_1 |u|^{q/q'} + g_2 |\nabla u|^{q/q'} \right)^{q'} \omega_2 dx \\
 &\leq C_q \int_{\Omega} \left[ (K_2^{q'} + g_1^{q'} |u|^q + g_2^{q'} |\nabla u|^q) \omega_2 \right] dx \\
 &= C_q \left[ \int_{\Omega} K_2^{q'} \omega_2 dx + \int_{\Omega} g_1^{q'} |u|^q \omega_2 dx + \int_{\Omega} g_2^{q'} |\nabla u|^q \omega_2 dx \right] \\
 &\leq C_q \left( \|K_2\|_{L^{q'}(\Omega, \omega_2)}^{q'} + \|g_1\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)}^{q'} \|u\|_{L^q(\Omega, \omega_2)}^q + \|g_2\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)}^{q'} \|\nabla u\|_{L^q(\Omega, \omega_2)}^q \right) \\
 &\leq C_q \left( \|K_2\|_{L^{q'}(\Omega, \omega_2)}^{q'} + \|g_1\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)}^{q'} C_{p,q}^q \|u\|_{L^p(\Omega, \omega_1)}^q \right. \\
 &\quad \left. + C_{p,q}^q \|g_2\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)}^{q'} \|\nabla u\|_{L^p(\Omega, \omega_1)}^q \right) \\
 (3.3) \quad &\leq C_q \left( \|K_2\|_{L^{q'}(\Omega, \omega_2)}^{q'} + C_{p,q}^q (\|g_1\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)}^{q'} + \|g_2\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)}^{q'}) \|u\|_{W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega_1)}^q \right),
 \end{aligned}$$

where the  $C_q$  depends only on  $q$ . Therefore, in (3.3), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \|G_j u\|_{L^{q'}(\Omega, \omega_2)} \\
 (3.4) \quad &\leq C_q^{1/q'} \left( \|K_2\|_{L^{q'}(\Omega, \omega_2)} + C_{p,q}^{q-1} (\|g_1\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} + \|g_2\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)}) \|u\|_{W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega_1)}^{q-1} \right).
 \end{aligned}$$

(ii) Let  $u_m \rightarrow u$  in  $W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega_1)$  as  $m \rightarrow \infty$ . We need to show that  $G_j u_m \rightarrow G_j u$  in  $L^{q'}(\Omega, \omega_2)$ . We will apply the Lebesgue Dominated Theorem. If  $u_m \rightarrow u$  in  $W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega_1)$ , then  $u_m \rightarrow u$  in  $L^p(\Omega, \omega_1)$  and  $|\nabla u_m| \rightarrow |\nabla u|$  in  $L^p(\Omega, \omega_1)$ . Using Theorem 2.1, there exist a subsequence  $\{u_{m_k}\}$  and functions  $\Phi_1, \Phi_2 \in L^p(\Omega, \omega_1)$  such that

$$\begin{aligned}
 & u_{m_k}(x) \rightarrow u(x) \text{ a.e. in } \Omega, \\
 & |u_{m_k}(x)| \leq \Phi_2(x) \text{ a.e. in } \Omega, \\
 & D_j u_{m_k}(x) \rightarrow D_j u(x) \text{ a.e. in } \Omega, \\
 & |\nabla u_{m_k}(x)| \leq \Phi_1(x) \text{ a.e. in } \Omega.
 \end{aligned}$$

Next, applying (H8) and Remark 2.3(i) we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
& \|G_j u_{m_k} - G_j u\|_{L^{q'}(\Omega, \omega_2)}^{q'} \\
&= \int_{\Omega} |G_j u_{m_k}(x) - G_j u(x)|^{q'} \omega_2 dx \\
&= \int_{\Omega} |\mathcal{B}_j(x, u_{m_k}, \nabla u_{m_k}) - \mathcal{B}_j(x, u, \nabla u)|^{q'} \omega_2 dx \\
&\leq C_q \int_{\Omega} \left( |\mathcal{B}_j(x, u_{m_k}, \nabla u_{m_k})|^{q'} + |\mathcal{B}_j(x, u, \nabla u)|^{q'} \right) \omega_2 dx \\
&\leq C_q \left[ \int_{\Omega} \left( K_2 + g_1 |u_{m_k}|^{q/q'} + g_2 |\nabla u_{m_k}|^{q/q'} \right)^{q'} \omega_2 dx \right. \\
&\quad \left. + \int_{\Omega} \left( K_2 + g_1 |u|^{q/q'} + g_2 |\nabla u|^{q/q'} \right)^{q'} \omega_2 dx \right] \\
&\leq 2 C_q \int_{\Omega} \left( K_2 + g_1 \Phi_2^{q/q'} + g_2 \Phi_1^{q/q'} \right)^{q'} \omega_2 dx \\
&\leq 2 C_q \left[ \int_{\Omega} K_2^{q'} \omega_2 dx + \int_{\Omega} g_1^{q'} \Phi_2^q \omega_2 dx + \int_{\Omega} g_2^{q'} \Phi_1^q \omega_2 dx \right] \\
&\leq 2 C_q \left[ \|K_2\|_{L^{q'}(\Omega, \omega_2)}^{q'} + \|g_1\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)}^{q'} \int_{\Omega} \Phi_2^q \omega_2 dx \right. \\
&\quad \left. + \|g_2\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)}^{q'} \int_{\Omega} \Phi_1^q \omega_2 dx \right] \\
&= 2 C_q \left[ \|K_2\|_{L^{q'}(\Omega, \omega_2)}^{q'} + \|g_1\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)}^{q'} \|\Phi_2\|_{L^q(\Omega, \omega_2)}^q \right. \\
&\quad \left. + \|g_2\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)}^{q'} \|\Phi_1\|_{L^q(\Omega, \omega_2)}^q \right] \\
&\leq 2 C_q \left[ \|K_2\|_{L^{q'}(\Omega, \omega_2)}^{q'} + C_{p,q}^q \|g_1\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)}^{q'} \|\Phi_2\|_{L^p(\Omega, \omega_1)}^q \right. \\
&\quad \left. + C_{p,q}^q \|g_2\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)}^{q'} \|\Phi_1\|_{L^p(\Omega, \omega_1)}^q \right].
\end{aligned}$$

By condition (H5), we have

$$G_j u_{m_k}(x) = \mathcal{B}_j(x, u_{m_k}(x), \nabla u_{m_k}(x)) \rightarrow \mathcal{B}_j(x, u(x), \nabla u(x)) = G_j u(x),$$

as  $m_k \rightarrow +\infty$ . Therefore, by the Lebesgue Dominated Convergence Theorem, we obtain

$$\|G_j u_{m_k} - G_j u\|_{L^{q'}(\Omega, \omega_2)} \rightarrow 0,$$

that is,

$$G_j u_{m_k} \rightarrow G_j u \text{ in } L^{q'}(\Omega, \omega_2).$$

We conclude from the Convergence Principle in Banach spaces (see Proposition 10.13 in [19]) that

$$(3.5) \quad G_j u_m \rightarrow G_j u \quad \text{in } L^{q'}(\Omega, \omega_2).$$

**Step 3.** We define the operator  $H : W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega_1) \rightarrow L^{s'}(\Omega, \omega_3)$  by

$$(Hu)(x) = \mathcal{H}(x, u(x), \nabla u(x)).$$

We also have that the operator  $H$  is continuous and bounded. In fact,

(i) Using (H12) and Remark 2.3(ii) we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
\|Hu\|_{L^{s'}(\Omega, \omega_3)}^{s'} &= \int_{\Omega} |Hu|^{s'} \omega_3 dx \\
&= \int_{\Omega} |\mathcal{H}(x, u, \nabla u)|^{s'} \omega_3 dx \\
&\leq \int_{\Omega} \left( K_3 + h_2 |u|^{s/s'} + h_3 |\nabla u|^{s/s'} \right)^{s'} \omega_3 dx \\
&\leq C_s \int_{\Omega} (K_3^{s'} + h_2^{s'} |u|^s + h_3^{s'} |\nabla u|^s) \omega_3 dx \\
&\leq C_s \left[ \int_{\Omega} K_3^{s'} \omega_3 dx + \|h_2\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)}^{s'} \int_{\Omega} |u|^s \omega_3 dx + \|h_3\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)}^{s'} \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u|^s \omega_3 dx \right] \\
&\leq C_s \left( \|K_3\|_{L^{s'}(\Omega, \omega_3)}^{s'} + \|h_2\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)}^{s'} C_{p,s}^s \|u\|_{L^p(\Omega, \omega_1)}^s + \|h_3\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)}^{s'} C_{p,s}^s \|\nabla u\|_{L^p(\Omega, \omega_1)}^s \right) \\
(3.6) \quad &\leq C_s \left( \|K_3\|_{L^{s'}(\Omega, \omega_3)}^{s'} + C_{p,s}^s (\|h_2\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)}^{s'} + \|h_3\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)}^{s'}) \|u\|_{W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega_1)}^s \right),
\end{aligned}$$

where the constant  $C_s$  depends only on  $s$ . Hence, in (3.6), we obtain

$$\|Hu\|_{L^{s'}(\Omega, \omega_3)} \leq C_s \left[ \|K_3\|_{L^{s'}(\Omega, \omega_3)} + C_{p,s}^{s-1} (\|h_2\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} + \|h_3\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)}) \|u\|_{W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega_1)}^{s-1} \right].$$

(ii) Applying (H12) and Remark 2.3(ii), by the same argument used in Step 1(ii), we obtain analogously, if  $u_m \rightarrow u$  in  $W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega_1)$  then

$$(3.7) \quad Hu_m \rightarrow Hu, \quad \text{in } L^{s'}(\Omega, \omega_3).$$

**Step 4.** Since  $\frac{f_0}{\omega_2} \in L^{q'}(\Omega, \omega_2)$  and  $\frac{f_j}{\omega_1} \in L^{p'}(\Omega, \omega_1)$  ( $j = 1, \dots, n$ ) then  $\mathbf{T} \in [W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega_1)]^*$ . Moreover, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
|\mathbf{T}(\varphi)| &\leq \int_{\Omega} |f_0| |\varphi| dx + \sum_{j=1}^n \int_{\Omega} |f_j| |D_j \varphi| dx \\
&= \int_{\Omega} \frac{|f_0|}{\omega_2} |\varphi| \omega_2 dx + \sum_{j=1}^n \int_{\Omega} \frac{|f_j|}{\omega_1} |D_j \varphi| \omega_1 dx \\
&\leq \|f_0/\omega_2\|_{L^{q'}(\Omega, \omega_2)} \|\varphi\|_{L^q(\Omega, \omega_2)} + \left( \sum_{j=1}^n \|f_j/\omega_1\|_{L^{p'}(\Omega, \omega_1)} \right) \|\nabla \varphi\|_{L^p(\Omega, \omega_1)} \\
&\leq \left( C_{p,q} \|f_0/\omega_2\|_{L^{q'}(\Omega, \omega_2)} + \sum_{j=1}^n \|f_j/\omega_1\|_{L^{p'}(\Omega, \omega_1)} \right) \|\varphi\|_{W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega_1)}.
\end{aligned}$$

Moreover, we also have

$$\begin{aligned}
|\mathbf{B}(u, \varphi)| &\leq |\mathbf{B}_1(u, \varphi)| + |\mathbf{B}_2(u, \varphi)| + |\mathbf{B}_3(u, \varphi)| \\
&\leq \int_{\Omega} |\mathcal{A}(x, \nabla u)| |\nabla \varphi| \omega_1 dx + \int_{\Omega} |\mathcal{B}(x, u, \nabla u)| |\nabla \varphi| \omega_2 dx \\
(3.8) \quad &+ \int_{\Omega} |\mathcal{H}(x, u, \nabla u)| \omega_3.
\end{aligned}$$

In (3.8) we have, by (H4),

$$\begin{aligned}
\int_{\Omega} |\mathcal{A}(x, \nabla u)| |\nabla \varphi| \omega_1 dx &\leq \int_{\Omega} \left( K_1 + h_1 |\nabla u|^{p/p'} \right) |\nabla \varphi| \omega_1 dx \\
&\leq \|K_1\|_{L^{p'}(\Omega, \omega_1)} \|\nabla \varphi\|_{L^p(\Omega, \omega_1)} + \|h_1\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} \|\nabla u\|_{L^p(\Omega, \omega_1)}^{p/p'} \|\nabla \varphi\|_{L^p(\Omega, \omega_1)} \\
&\leq \left( \|K_1\|_{L^{p'}(\Omega, \omega_1)} + \|h_1\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} \|u\|_{W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega_1)}^{p/p'} \right) \|\varphi\|_{W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega_1)},
\end{aligned}$$

and by (H8) and Remark 2.3(i)

$$\begin{aligned}
\int_{\Omega} |\mathcal{B}(x, u, \nabla u)| |\nabla \varphi| \omega_2 dx &\leq \int_{\Omega} \left( K_2 + g_1 |u|^{q/q'} + g_2 |\nabla u|^{q/q'} \right) |\nabla \varphi| \omega_2 dx \\
&\leq \|K_2\|_{L^{q'}(\Omega, \omega_2)} \|\nabla \varphi\|_{L^q(\Omega, \omega_2)} + \|g_1\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} \|u\|_{L^q(\Omega, \omega_2)}^{q/q'} \|\nabla \varphi\|_{L^q(\Omega, \omega_2)} \\
&+ \|g_2\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} \|\nabla u\|_{L^q(\Omega, \omega_2)}^{q/q'} \|\nabla \varphi\|_{L^q(\Omega, \omega_2)} \\
&\leq C_{p,q} \|K_2\|_{L^{q'}(\Omega, \omega_2)} \|\nabla \varphi\|_{L^p(\Omega, \omega_1)} + C_{p,q}^{q-1} \|g_1\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} \|u\|_{L^p(\Omega, \omega_1)}^{q-1} C_{p,q} \|\nabla \varphi\|_{L^p(\Omega, \omega_1)} \\
&+ \|g_2\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} C_{p,q}^{q-1} \|\nabla u\|_{L^p(\Omega, \omega_1)}^{q-1} C_{p,q} \|\nabla \varphi\|_{L^p(\Omega, \omega_1)} \\
&\leq \left[ C_{p,q} \|K_2\|_{L^{q'}(\Omega, \omega_2)} + \left( C_{p,q}^q \|g_1\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} + C_{p,q}^q \|g_2\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} \right) \|u\|_{W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega_1)}^{q-1} \right] \|\varphi\|_{W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega_1)},
\end{aligned}$$

and by (H12) and Remark 2.3(ii)

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \int_{\Omega} |\mathcal{H}(x, u, \nabla u)| |\varphi| \omega_3 dx \leq \int_{\Omega} \left( K_3 + h_2 |u|^{s/s'} + h_3 |\nabla u|^{s/s'} \right) |\varphi| \omega_3 dx \\
 & \leq \int_{\Omega} K_3 |\varphi| \omega_3 dx + \|h_2\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} \int_{\Omega} |u|^{s/s'} |\varphi| \omega_3 dx + \|h_3\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u|^{s/s'} |\varphi| \omega_3 dx \\
 & \leq \|K_3\|_{L^{s'}(\Omega, \omega_3)} \|\varphi\|_{L^s(\Omega, \omega_3)} + \|h_2\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} \|u\|_{L^s(\Omega, \omega_3)}^{s/s'} \|\varphi\|_{L^s(\Omega, \omega_3)} \\
 & \leq C_{p,s} \|K_3\|_{L^{s'}(\Omega)} \|\varphi\|_{L^p(\Omega, \omega_1)} + \|h_2\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} C_{p,s}^{s-1} \|u\|_{L^p(\Omega, \omega_1)}^{s-1} C_{p,s} \|\varphi\|_{L^p(\Omega, \omega_1)} \\
 & + \|h_3\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} C_{p,s}^{s-1} \|\nabla u\|_{L^p(\Omega, \omega_1)}^{s-1} C_{p,s} \|\varphi\|_{L^p(\Omega, \omega_1)} \\
 & \leq \left[ C_{p,s} \|K_3\|_{L^{s'}(\Omega, \omega_3)} + C_{p,s}^s (\|h_2\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} + \|h_3\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)}) \|u\|_{W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega_1)}^{s-1} \right] \|\varphi\|_{W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega_1)}.
 \end{aligned}$$

Hence, in (3.8) we obtain, for all  $u, \varphi \in W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega_1)$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & |\mathbf{B}(u, \varphi)| \\
 & \leq \left[ \|K_1\|_{L^{p'}(\Omega, \omega_1)} + \|h_1\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} \|u\|_{W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega_1)}^{p-1} + C_{p,q} \|K_2\|_{L^{q'}(\Omega, \omega_2)} \right. \\
 & + C_{p,q}^q (\|g_1\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} + \|g_2\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)}) \|u\|_{W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega_1)}^{q-1} + C_{p,s} \|K_3\|_{L^{s'}(\Omega, \omega_3)} \\
 & \left. + C_{p,s}^s (\|h_2\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} + \|h_3\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)}) \|u\|_{W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega_1)}^{s-1} \right] \|\varphi\|_{W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega_1)}.
 \end{aligned}$$

Since  $\mathbf{B}(u, \cdot)$  is linear, for each  $u \in W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega_1)$ , there exists a linear and continuous functional on  $W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega_1)$  denoted by  $Au$  such that  $(Au|\varphi) = \mathbf{B}(u, \varphi)$  for all  $u, \varphi \in W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega_1)$  (here  $(f|x)$  denotes the value of the linear functional  $f$  at the point  $x$ ). Moreover

$$\begin{aligned}
 \|Au\|_* & \leq \|K_1\|_{L^{p'}(\Omega, \omega_1)} + \|h_1\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} \|u\|_{W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega_1)}^{p-1} + C_{p,q} \|K_2\|_{L^{q'}(\Omega, \omega_2)} \\
 & + C_{p,q}^q (\|g_1\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} + \|g_2\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)}) \|u\|_{W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega_1)}^{q-1} \\
 & + C_{p,s} \|K_3\|_{L^{s'}(\Omega, \omega_3)} + C_{p,s}^s (\|h_2\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} + \|h_3\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)}) \|u\|_{W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega_1)}^{s-1}.
 \end{aligned}$$

where  $\|Au\|_* = \sup\{|(Au|\varphi)| = |B(u, \varphi)| : \varphi \in W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega_1), \|\varphi\|_{W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega_1)} = 1\}$  is the norm of the operator  $Au$ . Hence, we obtain the operator

$$\begin{aligned}
 A : \quad & W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega_1) \rightarrow [W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega_1)]^* \\
 & u \mapsto Au.
 \end{aligned}$$

Consequently, problem (P) is equivalent to the operator equation

$$Au = \mathbf{T}, \quad u \in W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega_1).$$

**Step 5.** Using (H2), (H6) and (H10), we obtain (for  $u_1, u_2 \in W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega_1)$ ,  $u_1 \neq u_2$ )

$$\begin{aligned}
(Au_1 - Au_2|u_1 - u_2) &= \mathbf{B}(u_1, u_1 - u_2) - \mathbf{B}(u_2, u_1 - u_2) \\
&= \int_{\Omega} \langle \mathcal{A}(x, \nabla u_1), \nabla(u_1 - u_2) \rangle \omega_1 dx + \int_{\Omega} \langle \mathcal{B}(x, u_1, \nabla u_1), \nabla(u_1 - u_2) \rangle \omega_2 dx \\
&\quad + \int_{\Omega} \mathcal{H}(x, u_1, \nabla u_1)(u_1 - u_2) \omega_3 dx \\
&\quad - \int_{\Omega} \langle \mathcal{A}(x, \nabla u_2), \nabla(u_1 - u_2) \rangle \omega_1 dx - \int_{\Omega} \langle \mathcal{B}(x, u_2, \nabla u_2), \nabla(u_1 - u_2) \rangle \omega_2 dx \\
&\quad - \int_{\Omega} \mathcal{H}(x, u_2, \nabla u_2)(u_1 - u_2) \omega_3 dx \\
&= \int_{\Omega} \langle \mathcal{A}(x, \nabla u_1) - \mathcal{A}(x, \nabla u_2), \nabla(u_1 - u_2) \rangle \omega_1 dx \\
&\quad + \int_{\Omega} \langle \mathcal{B}(x, u_1, \nabla u_1) - \mathcal{B}(x, u_2, \nabla u_2), \nabla(u_1 - u_2) \rangle \omega_2 dx \\
&\quad + \int_{\Omega} \left( \mathcal{H}(x, u_1, \nabla u_1) - \mathcal{H}(x, u_2, \nabla u_2) \right) (u_1 - u_2) \omega_3 dx \\
&\geq \theta_1 \int_{\Omega} |\nabla(u_1 - u_2)|^p \omega_1 dx \\
&> 0.
\end{aligned}$$

Therefore, the operator  $A$  is strictly monotone. Moreover, from (H3), (H7), (H11) and Remark 2.3(iii), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
(Au|u) &= \mathbf{B}(u, u) \\
&= \mathbf{B}_1(u, u) + \mathbf{B}_2(u, u) + \mathbf{B}_3(u, u) \\
&= \int_{\Omega} \langle \mathcal{A}(x, \nabla u), \nabla u \rangle \omega_1 dx + \int_{\Omega} \langle \mathcal{B}(x, u, \nabla u), \nabla u \rangle \omega_2 dx \\
&\quad + \int_{\Omega} \mathcal{H}(x, u, \nabla u) u \omega_3 dx \\
&\geq \lambda_1 \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u|^p \omega_1 dx + \lambda_2 \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u|^q \omega_2 dx + \Lambda_2 \int_{\Omega} |u|^q \omega_2 dx \\
&\quad + \lambda_3 \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u|^s \omega_3 dx + \Lambda_3 \int_{\Omega} |u|^s \omega_3 dx \\
&\geq \lambda_1 \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u|^p \omega_1 dx \\
&\geq \frac{\lambda_1}{(C_{\Omega}^p + 1)} \|u\|_{W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega_1)}^p.
\end{aligned}$$

Hence, since  $1 < q, s < p < \infty$ , we have

$$\frac{(Au|u)}{\|u\|_{W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega_1)}} \rightarrow +\infty, \text{ as } \|u\|_{W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega_1)} \rightarrow +\infty,$$

that is,  $A$  is coercive.

**Step 6.** We need to show that the operator  $A$  is continuous.

Let  $u_m \rightarrow u$  in  $X$  as  $m \rightarrow \infty$ . We have,

$$\begin{aligned}
& |\mathbf{B}_1(u_m, \varphi) - \mathbf{B}_1(u, \varphi)| \\
& \leq \sum_{j=1}^n \int_{\Omega} |\mathcal{A}_j(x, \nabla u_m) - \mathcal{A}_j(x, \nabla u)| |D_j \varphi| \omega_1 dx \\
& = \sum_{j=1}^n \int_{\Omega} |F_j u_m - F_j u| |D_j \varphi| \omega_1 dx \\
& \leq \left( \sum_{j=1}^n \|F_j u_m - F_j u\|_{L^{p'}(\Omega, \omega_1)} \right) \|\nabla \varphi\|_{L^p(\Omega, \omega_1)} \\
& \leq \left( \sum_{j=1}^n \|F_j u_m - F_j u\|_{L^{p'}(\Omega, \omega_1)} \right) \|\varphi\|_{W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega_1)},
\end{aligned}$$

and, by Remark 2.3(i),

$$\begin{aligned}
|\mathbf{B}_2(u_m, \varphi) - \mathbf{B}_2(u, \varphi)| & \leq \sum_{j=1}^n \int_{\Omega} |\mathcal{B}_j(x, u_m, \nabla u_m) - \mathcal{B}_j(x, u, \nabla u)| |D_j \varphi| \omega_2 dx \\
& = \sum_{j=1}^n \int_{\Omega} |G_j u_m - G_j u| |D_j \varphi| \omega_2 dx \\
& \leq \left( \sum_{j=1}^n \|G_j u_m - G_j u\|_{L^{q'}(\Omega, \omega_2)} \right) \|\nabla \varphi\|_{L^q(\Omega, \omega_2)} \\
& \leq C_{p,q} \left( \sum_{j=1}^n \|G_j u_m - G_j u\|_{L^{q'}(\Omega, \omega_2)} \right) \|\nabla \varphi\|_{L^p(\Omega, \omega_1)} \\
& \leq C_{p,q} \left( \sum_{j=1}^n \|G_j u_m - G_j u\|_{L^{q'}(\Omega, \omega_2)} \right) \|\varphi\|_{W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega_1)},
\end{aligned}$$

and by Remark 2.3(ii)

$$\begin{aligned}
|\mathbf{B}_3(u_m, \varphi) - \mathbf{B}_3(u, \varphi)| & \leq \int_{\Omega} |\mathcal{H}(x, u_m, \nabla u_m) - \mathcal{H}(x, u, \nabla u)| |\varphi| \omega_3 dx \\
& = \int_{\Omega} |Hu_m - Hu| |\varphi| \omega_3 dx \\
& \leq \|Hu_m - Hu\|_{L^{s'}(\Omega, \omega_3)} \|\varphi\|_{L^s(\Omega, \omega_3)} \\
& \leq C_{p,s} \|Hu_m - Hu\|_{L^{s'}(\Omega, \omega_3)} \|\varphi\|_{L^p(\Omega, \omega_1)} \\
& \leq C_{p,s} \|Hu_m - Hu\|_{L^{s'}(\Omega, \omega_3)} \|\varphi\|_{W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega_1)}
\end{aligned}$$

for all  $\varphi \in W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega_1)$ . Hence,

$$\begin{aligned}
& |\mathbf{B}(u_m, \varphi) - \mathbf{B}(u, \varphi)| \\
& \leq |\mathbf{B}_1(u_m, \varphi) - \mathbf{B}_1(u, \varphi)| + |\mathbf{B}_2(u_m, \varphi) - \mathbf{B}_2(u, \varphi)| + |\mathbf{B}_3(u_m, \varphi) - \mathbf{B}_3(u, \varphi)| \\
& \leq \left[ \sum_{j=1}^n \left( \|F_j u_m - F_j u\|_{L^{p'}(\Omega, \omega_1)} + C_{p,q} \|G_j u_m - G_j u\|_{L^{q'}(\Omega, \omega_2)} \right) \right. \\
& \quad \left. + C_{p,s} \|H u_m - H u\|_{L^{s'}(\Omega, \omega_3)} \right] \|\varphi\|_{W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega_1)}.
\end{aligned}$$

Then we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
\|A u_m - A u\|_* & \leq \sum_{j=1}^n \left( \|F_j u_m - F_j u\|_{L^{p'}(\Omega, \omega_1)} + C_{p,q} \|G_j u_m - G_j u\|_{L^{q'}(\Omega, \omega_2)} \right) \\
& \quad + C_{p,s} \|H u_m - H u\|_{L^{s'}(\Omega, \omega_3)}.
\end{aligned}$$

Hence, using (3.2), (3.5) and (3.7) we have  $\|A u_m - A u\|_* \rightarrow 0$  as  $m \rightarrow +\infty$ , that is,  $A$  is continuous and this implies that  $A$  is hemicontinuous.

Therefore, by Theorem 3.1, the operator equation  $Au = \mathbf{T}$  has a unique solution  $u \in W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega_1)$  and it is the unique solution for problem (P).

**Step 7.** Estimates for  $\|u\|_{W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega_1)}$ . In particular, by setting  $\varphi = u$  in Definition 2.3, we have

$$(3.9) \quad \mathbf{B}(u, u) = \mathbf{B}_1(u, u) + \mathbf{B}_2(u, u) + \mathbf{B}_3(u, u) = \mathbf{T}(u).$$

Hence, using (H3), (H7), (H11) and Remark 2.3(ii) we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
& \mathbf{B}_1(u, u) + \mathbf{B}_2(u, u) + \mathbf{B}_3(u, u) \\
& = \int_{\Omega} \langle \mathcal{A}(x, \nabla u), \nabla u \rangle \omega_1 dx + \int_{\Omega} \langle \mathbf{B}(x, u, \nabla u), \nabla u \rangle \omega_2 dx + \int_{\Omega} H(x, u, \nabla u) u \omega_3 dx \\
& \geq \lambda_1 \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u|^p \omega_1 dx + \lambda_2 \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u|^q \omega_2 dx + \Lambda_2 \int_{\Omega} |u|^q \omega_2 dx \\
& \quad + \lambda_3 \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u|^s \omega_3 dx + \Lambda_3 \int_{\Omega} |u|^s \omega_3 dx \\
& \geq \lambda_1 \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u|^p \omega_1 dx \\
(3.10) \quad & \geq \frac{\lambda_1}{(C_{\Omega}^p + 1)} \|u\|_{W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega_1)}^p,
\end{aligned}$$



and

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathbf{T}(u) &= \int_{\Omega} f_0 u \, dx + \sum_{j=1}^n \int_{\Omega} f_j D_j u \, dx \\
 &\leq \|f_0/\omega_2\|_{L^{q'}(\Omega, \omega_2)} \|u\|_{L^q(\Omega, \omega_2)} + \left( \sum_{j=1}^n \|f_j/\omega_1\|_{L^{p'}(\Omega, \omega_1)} \right) \|\nabla u\|_{L^p(\Omega, \omega_1)} \\
 &\leq \left( C_{p,q} \|f_0/\omega_2\|_{L^{q'}(\Omega, \omega_2)} + \sum_{j=1}^n \|f_j/\omega_1\|_{L^{p'}(\Omega, \omega_1)} \right) \|u\|_{W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega_1)} \\
 (3.11) \quad &= M \|u\|_{W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega_1)},
 \end{aligned}$$

where  $M = C_{p,q} \|f_0/\omega_2\|_{L^{q'}(\Omega, \omega_2)} + \sum_{j=1}^n \|f_j/\omega_1\|_{L^{p'}(\Omega, \omega_1)}$ . Hence in (3.9), using (3.10) and (3.11), we obtain

$$\frac{\lambda_1}{(C_{\Omega}^p + 1)} \|u\|_{W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega_1)}^p \leq M \|u\|_{W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega_1)}.$$

Therefore

$$\begin{aligned}
 \|u\|_{W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega_1)} &\leq \left( \frac{C_{\Omega}^p + 1}{\lambda_1} \right)^{1/(p-1)} M^{1/(p-1)} \\
 &= C \left( C_{p,q} \|f_0/\omega_2\|_{L^{q'}(\Omega, \omega_2)} + \sum_{j=1}^n \|f_j/\omega_1\|_{L^{p'}(\Omega, \omega_1)} \right)^{1/(p-1)},
 \end{aligned}$$

where  $C = ((C_{\Omega}^p + 1)/\lambda_1)^{1/(p-1)}$ .

**Example.** Let  $\Omega = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 : x^2 + y^2 < 1\}$ , the weight functions  $\omega_1(x, y) = (x^2 + y^2)^{-1/2}$ ,  $\omega_2(x, y) = (x^2 + y^2)^{-1/3}$ ,  $\omega_3(x, y) = (x^2 + y^2)^{-1}$  ( $\omega_1 \in A_4$ ,  $p = 4$ ,  $q = 3$  and  $s = 2$ ), and the function

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathcal{A} &: \Omega \times \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2 \\
 \mathcal{A}((x, y), \xi) &= h_1(x, y) |\xi|^2 \xi,
 \end{aligned}$$

where  $h_1(x, y) = 2e^{(x^2+y^2)}$ , and

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathcal{B} &: \Omega \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2 \\
 \mathcal{B}((x, y), \eta, \xi) &= g_2(x, y) |\xi| \xi,
 \end{aligned}$$

where  $g_2(x, y) = 2 + \cos(x^2 + y^2)$ , and

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathcal{H} &: \Omega \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \\
 \mathcal{H}((x, y), \eta, \xi) &= \eta h_2(x, y),
 \end{aligned}$$

where  $h_2(x, y) = 1 + \cos^2(xy)$ . Let us consider the partial differential operator

$$Lu(x, y) = -\operatorname{div}(\mathcal{A}((x, y), \nabla u) \omega_1(x, y) + \mathcal{B}((x, y), u, \nabla u) \omega_2(x, y)) + \mathcal{H}((x, y), u, \nabla u) \omega_3(x, y).$$

Therefore, by Theorem 1.1, the problem

$$(P) \begin{cases} Lu(x) = \frac{\cos(xy)}{(x^2 + y^2)} - \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( \frac{\sin(xy)}{(x^2 + y^2)} \right) - \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left( \frac{\sin(xy)}{(x^2 + y^2)} \right) & \text{in } \Omega, \\ u(x) = 0 & \text{on } \partial\Omega, \end{cases}$$

has a unique solution  $u \in W_0^{1,4}(\Omega, \omega_1)$ .

**Corollary 3.2.** *Assume  $1 < q < p < \infty$ . Let the assumptions of Theorem 1.1 be fulfilled and let  $\{f_{0m}\}$  and  $\{f_{jm}\}$  ( $j = 1, \dots, n$ ) be sequences of functions satisfying*

- (i)  $\frac{f_{0m}}{\omega_2} \rightarrow \frac{f_0}{\omega_2}$  in  $L^q(\Omega, \omega_2)$ ;  
(ii)  $\frac{f_{jm}}{\omega_1} \rightarrow \frac{f_j}{\omega_1}$  in  $L^p(\Omega, \omega_1)$  as  $m \rightarrow \infty$ .

If  $u_m \in W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega_1)$  is a solutions of the problem

$$(P_m) \begin{cases} Lu_m(x) = f_{0m}(x) - \sum_{j=1}^n D_j f_{jm}(x) & \text{in } \Omega, \\ u_m(x) = 0 & \text{on } \partial\Omega, \end{cases}$$

then  $u_m \rightarrow u$  in  $W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega_1)$  and  $u$  is a solution of problem (P).

*Proof.* We will split the demonstration in two steps.

**Step 1.** If  $u_1, u_2 \in W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega_1)$  are solutions of

$$(P1) \begin{cases} Lu_1(x) = f_0(x) - \sum_{j=1}^n D_j f_j(x) & \text{in } \Omega, \\ u_1(x) = 0 & \text{on } \partial\Omega, \end{cases}$$

$$(P2) \begin{cases} Lu_2(x) = \tilde{f}_0(x) - \sum_{j=1}^n D_j \tilde{f}_j(x) & \text{in } \Omega, \\ u_2(x) = 0 & \text{on } \partial\Omega, \end{cases}$$

then for all  $\varphi \in W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega_1)$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{\Omega} \langle \mathcal{A}(x, \nabla u_1), \nabla \varphi \rangle \omega_1 dx + \int_{\Omega} \langle \mathcal{B}(x, u_1, \nabla u_1), \nabla \varphi \rangle \omega_2 dx + \int_{\Omega} \mathcal{H}(x, u_1, \nabla u_1) \varphi \omega_3 dx \\ &= \int_{\Omega} f_0 \varphi dx + \sum_{j=1}^n \int_{\Omega} f_j D_j \varphi dx, \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{\Omega} \langle \mathcal{A}(x, \nabla u_2), \nabla \varphi \rangle \omega_1 dx + \int_{\Omega} \langle \mathcal{B}(x, u_2, \nabla u_2), \nabla \varphi \rangle \omega_2 dx + \int_{\Omega} \mathcal{H}(x, u_2, \nabla u_2) \varphi \omega_3 dx \\ &= \int_{\Omega} \tilde{f}_0 \varphi dx + \sum_{j=1}^n \int_{\Omega} \tilde{f}_j D_j \varphi dx. \end{aligned}$$

In particular for  $\varphi = u_1 - u_2$ , we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
& \int_{\Omega} \langle \mathcal{A}(x, \nabla u_1) - \mathcal{A}(x, \nabla u_2), \nabla(u_1 - u_2) \rangle \omega_1 dx \\
& + \int_{\Omega} \langle \mathcal{B}(x, u_1, \nabla u_1) - \mathcal{B}(x, u_2, \nabla u_2), \nabla(u_1 - u_2) \rangle \omega_2 dx \\
& \int_{\Omega} (\mathcal{H}(x, u_1, \nabla u_1) - \mathcal{H}(x, u_2, \nabla u_2))(u_1 - u_2) \omega_3 dx \\
(3.12) \quad & = \int_{\Omega} (f_0 - \tilde{f}_0)(u_1 - u_2) dx + \sum_{j=1}^n \int_{\Omega} (f_j - \tilde{f}_j) D_j(u_1 - u_2) dx.
\end{aligned}$$

In (3.12) we have

(i) By (H2) and Remark 2.3(iii)

$$\begin{aligned}
\int_{\Omega} \langle \mathcal{A}(x, \nabla u_1) - \mathcal{A}(x, \nabla u_2), \nabla(u_1 - u_2) \rangle \omega_1 dx & \geq \theta_1 \int_{\Omega} |\nabla(u_1 - u_2)|^p \omega_1 dx \\
& \geq \frac{\theta_1}{C_{\Omega}^p + 1} \|u_1 - u_2\|_{W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega_1)}^p.
\end{aligned}$$

(ii) By (H6) we have

$$\int_{\Omega} \mathcal{B}(x, u_1, \nabla u_1) - \mathcal{B}(x, u_2, \nabla u_2), \nabla(u_1 - u_2) \rangle \omega_2 dx \geq 0.$$

(iii) By (H10) we obtain

$$\int_{\Omega} (\mathcal{H}(x, u_1, \nabla u_1) - \mathcal{H}(x, u_2, \nabla u_2))(u_1 - u_2) \omega_3 dx \geq 0.$$

(iv) By Remark 2.3(i)

$$\begin{aligned}
& \left| \int_{\Omega} (f_0 - \tilde{f}_0)(u_1 - u_2) dx + \sum_{j=1}^n \int_{\Omega} (f_j - \tilde{f}_j) D_j(u_1 - u_2) dx \right| \\
& \leq \left( C_{p,q} \left\| \frac{f_0 - \tilde{f}_0}{\omega_2} \right\|_{L^{q'}(\Omega, \omega_2)} + \sum_{j=1}^n \left\| \frac{f_j - \tilde{f}_j}{\omega_1} \right\|_{L^{p'}(\Omega, \omega_1)} \right) \|u_1 - u_2\|_{W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega_1)}.
\end{aligned}$$

Therefore in (3.12) we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
& \|u_1 - u_2\|_{W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega_1)} \\
(3.13) \quad & \leq C \left[ C_{p,q} \left\| \frac{f_0 - \tilde{f}_0}{\omega_2} \right\|_{L^{q'}(\Omega, \omega_2)} + \sum_{j=1}^n \left\| \frac{f_j - \tilde{f}_j}{\omega_1} \right\|_{L^{p'}(\Omega, \omega_1)} \right]^{1/(p-1)},
\end{aligned}$$

where  $C = ((C_{\Omega}^p + 1)/\theta_1)^{1/(p-1)}$ .

**Step 2.** If  $u_m, u_s \in W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega_1)$  are solutions of  $(P_m)$  and  $(P_s)$  respectively, then by (3.13) we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \|u_m - u_s\|_{W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega_1)} \\ & \leq C \left[ C_{p,q} \left\| \frac{f_{0m} - f_{0s}}{\omega_2} \right\|_{L^{q'}(\Omega, \omega_2)} + \sum_{j=1}^n \left\| \frac{f_{jm} - f_{js}}{\omega_1} \right\|_{L^{p'}(\Omega, \omega_1)} \right]^{1/(p-1)}. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,  $\{u_m\}$  is a Cauchy sequence in  $W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega_1)$ . Hence, there exists  $u \in W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega_1)$  such that  $u_m \rightarrow u$  in  $W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega_1)$ . We have that  $u$  is a solution of problem  $(P)$ . In fact, since  $u_m$  is a solution of problem  $(P_m)$ , we obtain for all  $\varphi \in W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega_1)$

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{\Omega} \langle \mathcal{A}(x, \nabla u), \nabla \varphi \rangle \omega_1 dx + \int_{\Omega} \langle \mathcal{B}(x, u, \nabla u), \nabla \varphi \rangle \omega_2 dx + \int_{\Omega} \mathcal{H}(x, u, \nabla u) \varphi \omega_3 dx \\ & = \int_{\Omega} \langle \mathcal{A}(x, \nabla u) - \mathcal{A}(x, \nabla u_m), \nabla \varphi \rangle \omega_1 dx + \int_{\Omega} \langle \mathcal{B}(x, u, \nabla u) - \mathcal{B}(x, u_m, \nabla u_m), \nabla \varphi \rangle \omega_2 dx \\ & + \int_{\Omega} (\mathcal{H}(x, u, \nabla u) - \mathcal{H}(x, u_m, \nabla u_m)) \varphi \omega_3 dx \\ & + \int_{\Omega} \langle \mathcal{A}(x, \nabla u_m), \nabla \varphi \rangle \omega_1 dx + \int_{\Omega} \langle \mathcal{B}(x, u_m, \nabla u_m), \nabla \varphi \rangle \omega_2 dx \\ & + \int_{\Omega} \mathcal{H}(x, u_m, \nabla u_m) \varphi \omega_3 dx \\ & = \int_{\Omega} \langle \mathcal{A}(x, \nabla u) - \mathcal{A}(x, \nabla u_m), \nabla \varphi \rangle \omega_1 dx + \int_{\Omega} \langle \mathcal{B}(x, u, \nabla u) - \mathcal{B}(x, u_m, \nabla u_m), \nabla \varphi \rangle \omega_2 dx \\ & + \int_{\Omega} (\mathcal{H}(x, u, \nabla u) - \mathcal{H}(x, u_m, \nabla u_m)) \varphi \omega_3 dx \\ & + \int_{\Omega} (f_{0m} - f_0) \varphi dx + \sum_{j=1}^n (f_{jm} - f_j) D_j \varphi dx \\ (3.14) \quad & \int_{\Omega} f_0 \varphi dx + \sum_{j=1}^n \int_{\Omega} f_j D_j \varphi dx. \end{aligned}$$

In (3.14) we have

(i) By Step 1 and (3.2)

$$\left| \int_{\Omega} \langle \mathcal{A}(x, \nabla u) - \mathcal{A}(x, \nabla u_m), \nabla \varphi \rangle \omega_1 dx \right| \leq \sum_{j=1}^n \int_{\Omega} |\mathcal{A}_j(x, \nabla u) - \mathcal{A}_j(x, \nabla u_m)| |D_j \varphi| \omega_1 dx$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \sum_{j=1}^n \int_{\Omega} |F_j u - F_j u_m| |D_j \varphi| \omega_1 dx \\
&\leq \left( \sum_{j=1}^n \|F_j u - F_j u_m\|_{L^{p'}(\Omega, \omega_1)} \right) \|\ |\nabla \varphi|\|_{L^p(\Omega, \omega_1)} \\
&\leq \left( \sum_{j=1}^n \|F_j u - F_j u_m\|_{L^{p'}(\Omega, \omega_1)} \right) \|\varphi\|_{W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega_1)} \\
&\rightarrow 0 \text{ as } m \rightarrow \infty.
\end{aligned}$$

(ii) By Remark 2.3 (i), Step 2 and (3.5)

$$\begin{aligned}
&\left| \int_{\Omega} \langle \mathcal{B}(x, u, \nabla u) - \mathcal{B}(x, u_m, \nabla u_m), \nabla \varphi \rangle \omega_2 dx \right| \\
&\leq \sum_{j=1}^n \int_{\Omega} |\mathcal{B}_j(x, u, \nabla u) - \mathcal{B}_j(x, u_m, \nabla u_m)| |D_j \varphi| \omega_2 dx \\
&= \sum_{j=1}^n \int_{\Omega} |G_j u - G_j u_m| |D_j \varphi| \omega_2 dx \\
&\leq \left( \sum_{j=1}^n \|G_j u - G_j u_m\|_{L^{q'}(\Omega, \omega_2)} \right) \|\ |\nabla \varphi|\|_{L^q(\Omega, \omega_2)} \\
&\leq C_{p,q} \left( \sum_{j=1}^n \|G_j u - G_j u_m\|_{L^{q'}(\Omega, \omega_2)} \right) \|\ |\nabla \varphi|\|_{L^p(\Omega, \omega_1)} \\
&\leq C_{p,q} \left( \sum_{j=1}^n \|G_j u - G_j u_m\|_{L^{q'}(\Omega, \omega_2)} \right) \|\varphi\|_{W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega_1)} \\
&\rightarrow 0 \text{ as } m \rightarrow \infty.
\end{aligned}$$

(iii) By Remark 2.3(ii), Step 3 and (3.7)

$$\begin{aligned}
&\left| \int_{\Omega} (\mathcal{H}(x, u, \nabla u) - \mathcal{H}(x, u_m, \nabla u_m)) \varphi \omega_3 dx \right| \\
&\leq \int_{\Omega} |\mathcal{H}(x, u, \nabla u) - \mathcal{H}(x, u_m, \nabla u_m)| |\varphi| \omega_3 dx \\
&= \int_{\Omega} |Hu - Hu_m| |\varphi| \omega_3 dx \\
&\leq \|Hu - Hu_m\|_{L^{s'}(\Omega, \omega_3)} \|\varphi\|_{L^s(\Omega, \omega_3)} \\
&\leq C_{p,s} \|Hu - Hu_m\|_{L^{s'}(\Omega, \omega_3)} \|\varphi\|_{L^p(\Omega, \omega_1)} \\
&\leq C_{p,s} \|Hu - Hu_m\|_{L^{s'}(\Omega, \omega_3)} \|\varphi\|_{W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega_1)} \\
&\rightarrow 0 \text{ as } m \rightarrow \infty.
\end{aligned}$$

(iv) And

$$\begin{aligned} & \left| \int_{\Omega} (f_{0m} - f_0) \varphi \, dx + \sum_{j=1}^n (f_{jm} - f_m) D_j \varphi \, dx \right| \\ & \leq \left( C_{p,q} \left\| \frac{f_{0m} - f_0}{\omega_2} \right\|_{L^{q'}(\Omega, \omega_2)} + \sum_{j=1}^n \left\| \frac{f_{jm} - f_m}{\omega_1} \right\|_{L^{p'}(\Omega, \omega_1)} \right) \|\varphi\|_{W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega_1)} \\ & \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } m \rightarrow \infty. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore in (3.14) we obtain when  $m \rightarrow \infty$

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{\Omega} \langle \mathcal{A}(x, \nabla u), \nabla \varphi \rangle \omega_1 \, dx + \int_{\Omega} \langle \mathcal{B}(x, u, \nabla u), \nabla \varphi \rangle \omega_2 \, dx + \int_{\Omega} \mathcal{H}(x, u, \nabla u) \varphi \omega_3 \, dx \\ & = \int_{\Omega} f_0 \varphi \, dx + \sum_{j=1}^n \int_{\Omega} f_j D_j \varphi \, dx, \end{aligned}$$

for all  $\varphi \in W_0^{1,p}(\Omega, \omega_1)$ , i.e.,  $u$  is a solution of problem (P).  $\square$

#### REFERENCES

- [1] D. Bresch, J. Lemoine, F. Guillen-Gonzalez, *A note on a degenerate elliptic equation with applications for lake and seas*, Electron. J. Differential Equations, vol. 2004 (2004), No. 42, 1-13.
- [2] A.C.Cavalheiro, *Existence and uniqueness of solutions for some degenerate nonlinear Dirichlet problems*, J. Appl. Anal., 19 (2013), 41-54.
- [3] A.C.Cavalheiro, *Existence results for Dirichlet problems with degenerate  $p$ -Laplacian*, Opuscula Math., 33, no 3 (2013), 439-453.
- [4] A.C.Cavalheiro, *Topics on Degenerate Elliptic Equations*, Lambert Academic Publishing, Germany (2018).
- [5] M. Chipot, *Elliptic Equations: An Introductory Course*, Birkhäuser, Berlin (2009).
- [6] M. Colombo, *Flows of Non-Smooth Vector Fields and Degenerate Elliptic Equations: With Applications to the Vlasov-Poisson and Semigeostrophic Systems*, Publications on the Scuola Normale Superiore Pisa, 22, Pisa (2017).
- [7] P. Drábek, A. Kufner and F. Nicolosi, *Quasilinear Elliptic Equations with Degenerations and Singularities*, Walter de Gruyter, Berlin (1997)
- [8] E. Fabes, C. Kenig, R. Serapioni, *The local regularity of solutions of degenerate elliptic equations*, Comm. Partial Differential Equations 7 (1982), 77-116.
- [9] S. Fučík, O. John and A. Kufner, *Function Spaces*, Noordhoff International Publ., Leyden, (1977).
- [10] J. Garcia-Cuerva and J.L. Rubio de Francia, *Weighted Norm Inequalities and Related Topics*, North-Holland Mathematics Studies 116, (1985).
- [11] D.Gilbarg and N.S. Trudinger, *Elliptic Partial Equations of Second Order*, 2nd Ed., Springer, New York (1983).
- [12] J. Heinonen, T. Kilpeläinen and O. Martio, *Nonlinear Potential Theory of Degenerate Elliptic Equations*, Oxford Math. Monographs, Clarendon Press, (1993).
- [13] A. Kufner, *Weighted Sobolev Spaces*, John Wiley & Sons, Germany (1985).
- [14] A. Kufner and B. Opic, *How to define reasonably weighted Sobolev spaces*, Comment. Math. Univ. Carolin., 25 (1984), 537 - 554.

- [15] B. Muckenhoupt, *Weighted norm inequalities for the Hardy maximal function*, Trans. Amer. Math. Soc. 165 (1972), 207-226.
- [16] M. Talbi and N. Tsouli, *On the spectrum of the weighted  $p$ -Biharmonic operator with weight*, Mediterr. J.Math., 4 (2007), 73-86.
- [17] A. Torchinsky, *Real-Variable Methods in Harmonic Analysis*, Academic Press, San Diego, (1986).
- [18] B.O. Turesson, *Nonlinear Potential Theory and Weighted Sobolev Spaces*, Lecture Notes in Math., vol. 1736, Springer-Verlag, (2000).
- [19] E. Zeidler, *Nonlinear Functional Analysis and its Applications*, vol.I, Springer-Verlag, Berlin (1990).
- [20] E. Zeidler, *Nonlinear Functional Analysis and its Applications*, vol.II/B, Springer-Verlag, Berlin (1990).