

ENERGY DECAY OF SOLUTIONS  
OF A SEMILINEAR WAVE EQUATION

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**Abstract:** We consider the multi-dimensional semilinear wave equation

$$u_{tt} - \Delta u = -\alpha u_t + \nabla \Phi(x) \cdot \nabla u - \beta |u|^{p-2} u,$$

$\alpha, \beta > 0$ , associated with initial-boundary conditions. We first prove a local existence theorem for arbitrary initial data. We then show that this solution is global with an energy that decays exponentially to zero.

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**Key Words:** wave equation, local, global, equivalent energy, decay

1. Introduction

In [15], Pucci and Serrin studied the following problem

$$\begin{aligned} u_{tt} - \Delta u + Q(x, t, u, u_t) + f(x, u) &= 0, & x \in \Omega, & t > 0, \\ u(x, t) &= 0, & x \in \partial\Omega, & t \geq 0, \\ u(x, 0) = \phi(x), & u_t(x, 0) = \varphi(x), & x \in \Omega, & \end{aligned} \quad (1.1)$$

and proved that the energy of the solution is a Lyapunov function. Although, they did not discuss the issue of the decay rate, they did show that in general this energy goes to zero as  $t$  approaches infinity. They also considered an important special case which occurs when  $Q(x, t, u, u_t) = a(t)t^\alpha u_t$  and  $f(x, u) = V(x)u$  and showed that the behavior of the solutions depends crucially on the parameter  $\alpha$ . If  $|\alpha| \leq 1$ , then the rest field is asymptotically stable.

On the other hand, when  $\alpha < -1$  or  $\alpha > 1$ , there are solutions that do not approach zero or they approach nonzero functions  $\phi(x)$  as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ .

In [14], Nakao studied (1.1) in an abstract setting and established a theorem concerning the decay of the solution energy. His result shows that the energy decays exponentially for the linear damping case ( $Q(x, t, u, u_t) = au_t$ ) and it decays in the rate of  $t^{-2/m-2}$  when  $Q(x, t, u, u_t) = a|u_t|^{m-2}u_t$ ,  $m > 2$ .

In [7] and also in [16], the linear wave equation associated with a nonlinear feedback at the boundary has been considered. Precisely, the authors looked into the following problem

$$\begin{aligned} u_{tt} - \Delta u &= 0, & x \in \Omega, \quad t > 0, \\ \frac{\partial u}{\partial \nu}(x, t) &= -m(x) \cdot \nu(x) g(u_t), & x \in \Gamma_0, \quad t > 0, \\ u(x, t) &= 0, & x \in \Gamma_1, \quad t > 0, \\ u(x, 0) &= \phi(x), \quad u_t(x, 0) = \varphi(x), & x \in \Omega, \end{aligned}$$

where  $m(x) = x - x_0$ ,  $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $\Gamma_0 = \{x \in \partial\Omega : m(x) \cdot \nu(x) > 0\}$ , and  $\Gamma_1 = \partial\Omega \setminus \Gamma_0$ , with  $\Gamma_1 \neq \emptyset$ . They discussed the rate of decay of the energy of the solution and established, under certain growth conditions on  $g$ , a similar result to [14].

In this article, we deal with the energy decay of the solution for the initial boundary value problem

$$\begin{aligned} u_{tt} - \Delta u &= -\alpha u_t + \nabla \Phi(x) \cdot \nabla u - \beta |u|^{p-2} u, & x \in \Omega, \quad t > 0, \\ u(x, t) &= 0, & x \in \partial\Omega, \quad t > 0, \\ u(x, 0) &= \phi(x), \quad u_t(x, 0) = \varphi(x), & x \in \Omega, \end{aligned} \quad (1.2)$$

where  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are strictly positive constants,  $p > 2$ ,  $\Phi \in W^{1,\infty}(\Omega)$ , and  $\Omega$  is a bounded domain of  $\mathbb{R}^n$  with a smooth boundary  $\partial\Omega$ .

For  $\Phi = 0$  and  $\beta = 0$ , it is well known that the damping term  $\alpha u_t$  assures global existence for arbitrary initial data (see [4], [8]). If  $\Phi = 0$ ,  $\alpha = 0$  and  $\beta < 0$  then the source term  $-\beta |u|^{p-2} u$  causes finite time blow up of solutions with negative initial energy (see [2], [5], [9], [10]). The interaction between the damping term and the source term has been first considered by Levine [9], [10]. For  $\Phi = 0$ ,  $\alpha > 0$ , and  $\beta < 0$ , the author showed that solutions with negative initial energy blow up in finite time. This result has been extended to the situation where  $\Phi \neq 0$  by Messaoudi [13].

For  $\Phi$  small in  $L^\infty$  norm, (1.2) is a special case of (1.1). However, to my knowledge, no result concerning the energy decay of this problem has been discussed for arbitrary  $\Phi$  in  $W^{1,\infty}(\Omega)$ . To accomplish this goal, we use an argument close to the one presented by Aassila and Guesmia [1]. This argument is based on a theorem by Komornik [6], which we state as a lemma without proof. This work is divided into two parts. In part one, we establish

a local existence theorem. In part two, we show that this local solution is, in fact, global with energy that decays exponentially to zero.

## 2. Local Existence

First let us consider, for  $v$  given, the linear problem

$$\begin{aligned} u_{tt} - \Delta u &= -\alpha u_t + \nabla \Phi(x) \cdot \nabla u - \beta |v|^{p-2} v, & x \in \Omega, & t > 0, \\ u(x, t) &= 0, & x \in \partial\Omega, & t > 0, \\ u(x, 0) &= \phi(x), \quad u_t(x, 0) = \varphi(x), & x \in \Omega, & \end{aligned} \quad (2.1)$$

where  $u$  is the sought solution.

**Lemma 2.1.** *Assume that  $\Phi \in W^{1,\infty}(\Omega)$  and  $p > 2$  with*

$$p \leq 2 \frac{n-1}{n-2}, \quad (2.2)$$

if  $n \geq 3$ . Then given any  $v$  in  $C([0, T]; C_0^\infty(\Omega))$  and  $\phi, \varphi$  in  $C_0^\infty(\Omega)$ , the problem (2.1) has a unique solution

$$u \in W^{j,\infty}((0, T); H^j(\Omega) \cap H_0^1(\Omega)), \quad j = 0, 1, 2.. \quad (2.3)$$

This lemma is a direct result of Theorem 3.1, Chapter 1, [12]. It can also be established by using a classical energy argument (see [4] for instance).

**Lemma 2.2.** *Let the assumptions of Lemma 2.1 hold. Then given any  $\phi$  in  $H_0^1(\Omega)$ ,  $\varphi$  in  $L^2(\Omega)$ , and  $v$  in  $C([0, T]; H_0^1(\Omega))$ , the problem (2.1) has a unique solution*

$$u \in C([0, T]; H_0^1(\Omega)) \cap C^1([0, T]; L^2(\Omega)) \cap C^2([0, T]; H^{-1}(\Omega)). \quad (2.4)$$

Moreover, we have

$$\frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega} e^{\Phi(x)} [u_t^2 + |\nabla u|^2](x, t) dx + \int_0^t \int_{\Omega} e^{\Phi(x)} u_t^2(x, s) dx ds \quad (2.5)$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega} e^{\Phi(x)} [u_1^2 + |\nabla u_0|^2](x) dx + \beta \int_0^t \int_{\Omega} e^{\Phi(x)} |v|^{p-2} v u_t(x, s) dx ds,$$

$\forall t \in [0, T]$ .

*Proof.* We approximate  $\phi, \varphi$  by sequences  $(\phi^\mu), (\varphi^\mu) \subset C_0^\infty(\Omega)$ , and  $v$  by a sequence  $(v^\mu) \subset C([0, T]; C_0^\infty(\Omega))$ . We then consider the linear problem

$$\begin{aligned} u_t^\mu - \Delta u^\mu &= -\alpha u_t^\mu + \nabla \Phi(x) \cdot \nabla u^\mu - \beta |v^\mu|^{p-2} v^\mu, & x \in \Omega, & t > 0, \\ u^\mu(x, t) &= 0, & x \in \partial\Omega, & t > 0, \\ u^\mu(x, 0) &= \phi^\mu(x), \quad u_t^\mu(x, 0) = \varphi^\mu(x), & x \in \Omega. \end{aligned} \quad (2.6)$$

Lemma 2.1 guarantees the existence of a unique solution  $u^\mu$  satisfying (2.3). Now we proceed to show that the sequence of solutions  $(u^\mu)$  is Cauchy in

$$\mathbf{W} := C([0, T]; H_0^1(\Omega)) \cap C^1([0, T]; L^2(\Omega)), \quad (2.7)$$

equipped with the norm

$$\|w\|_{\mathbf{W}}^2 := \max \left\{ \int_{\Omega} [w_t^2 + |\nabla w|^2](x, t) dx, 0 \leq t \leq T \right\}.$$

For this aim, we set

$$U := u^\mu - u^\nu, \quad V := v^\mu - v^\nu.$$

It is straightforward to see that  $U$  satisfies

$$\begin{aligned} U_{tt} - \Delta U &= -\alpha U_t + \nabla \Phi(x) \cdot \nabla U - \beta |v^\mu|^{p-2} v^\mu + \beta |v^\nu|^{p-2} v^\nu, \\ U(x, t) &= 0, \quad x \in \partial\Omega, \quad t > 0, \end{aligned} \quad (2.8)$$

$$U(x, 0) = U_0(x) = \phi^\mu(x) - \phi^\nu(x), \quad U_t(x, 0) = U_1(x) = \varphi^\mu(x) - \varphi^\nu(x).$$

We multiply equation (2.8) by  $e^{\Phi(x)} U_t$  and integrate over  $\Omega \times (0, t)$  to get

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega} e^{\Phi(x)} [U_t^2 + |\nabla U|^2](x, t) dx + \alpha \int_0^t \int_{\Omega} e^{\Phi(x)} U_t^2(x, s) dx ds \\ = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega} e^{\Phi(x)} [U_1^2 + |\nabla U_0|^2](x) dx \\ - \beta \int_0^t \int_{\Omega} e^{\Phi(x)} [|v^\mu|^{p-2} v^\mu - |v^\nu|^{p-2} v^\nu] U_t(x, s) dx ds. \end{aligned} \quad (2.9)$$

This, in turns, yields

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega} [U_t^2 + |\nabla U|^2](x, t) dx + \alpha \int_0^t \int_{\Omega} U_t^2(x, s) dx ds \leq \frac{1}{2} \frac{A}{a} \int_{\Omega} [U_1^2 + |\nabla U_0|^2](x) dx \\ + \beta \frac{A}{a} \int_0^t \int_{\Omega} [|v^\mu|^{p-2} v^\mu - |v^\nu|^{p-2} v^\nu] U_t(x, s) dx ds, \end{aligned} \quad (2.10)$$

where  $a$  and  $A$  satisfy

$$a \leq e^{\Phi(x)} \leq A, \quad \forall x \in \Omega.$$

We then estimate the last term in (2.10) as follows

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\Omega} | [|v^{\mu}|^{p-2}v^{\mu} - |v^{\nu}|^{p-2}v^{\nu}]U_t(x, s) | dx \\ \leq C \|U_t\|_2 \|V\|_{2n/(n-2)} \left[ \|v^{\mu}\|_{n(p-2)}^{p-2} + \|v^{\nu}\|_{n(p-2)}^{p-2} \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (2.11)$$

The Sobolev embedding and condition (2.2) give

$$\begin{aligned} \|V\|_{2n/(n-2)} \leq C \|\nabla V\|_2, \quad \|v^{\mu}\|_{n(p-2)}^{p-2} + \|v^{\nu}\|_{n(p-2)}^{p-2} \\ \leq C \left[ \|\nabla v^{\mu}\|_2^{p-2} + \|\nabla v^{\nu}\|_2^{p-2} \right], \end{aligned}$$

where  $C$  is a constant depending on  $\Omega$  only. Therefore (2.11) takes the form

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\Omega} | [|v^{\mu}|^{p-2}v^{\mu} - |v^{\nu}|^{p-2}v^{\nu}]U_t(x, s) | dx \\ \leq C \|U_t\|_2 \|\nabla V\|_2 \left[ \|\nabla v^{\mu}\|_2^{p-2} + \|\nabla v^{\nu}\|_2^{p-2} \right]; \end{aligned}$$

hence (2.10) becomes

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega} [U_t^2 + |\nabla U|^2](x, t) dx \leq \frac{A}{2a} \int_{\Omega} [U_1^2 + |\nabla U_0|^2](x) dx \\ + \Gamma \int_0^t \|U_t(\dots, s)\|_2 \|\nabla V(\dots, s)\|_2 ds, \end{aligned}$$

where  $\Gamma$  is a generic positive constant depending on  $a, A, \Omega$ , and the radius of the ball in  $C([0, T]; H_0^1(\Omega))$  containing  $v^{\mu}$  and  $v^{\nu}$ . Young's inequality then guarantees

$$\|U\|_{\mathbf{W}}^2 \leq \Gamma \int_{\Omega} [U_1^2 + |\nabla U_0|^2](x) dx + \Gamma T \|V\|_{\mathbf{W}}^2.$$

Since  $(\phi^{\mu})$  is Cauchy in  $H_0^1(\Omega)$ ,  $(\varphi^{\mu})$  is Cauchy in  $L^2(\Omega)$ , and  $(v^{\mu})$  is Cauchy in  $C([0, T]; H_0^1(\Omega))$ , we conclude that  $(u^{\mu})$  is Cauchy in  $\mathbf{W}$ ; hence  $(u_t^{\mu})$  is Cauchy in  $L^2((\Omega) \times (0, t))$ . Therefore  $(u^{\mu})$  converges to a limit  $u$  in  $\mathbf{W}$ . We now show that this limit  $u$  is a weak solution of (2.1) in the sense of [11]. That is for each  $\theta$  in  $H_0^1(\Omega)$ , we must show that

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} \int_{\Omega} u_t(x, t) \theta dx + \int_{\Omega} \nabla u(x, t) \cdot \nabla \theta(x) dx = -\alpha \int_{\Omega} u_t(x, t) \theta(x) dx \\ + \int_{\Omega} \nabla \Phi(x) \cdot \nabla u(x, t) \theta(x) dx - \beta \int_{\Omega} |v|^{p-2} v(x, t) \theta(x) dx, \end{aligned} \quad (2.12)$$

for each  $t$  in  $[0, T]$ . To establish this, we multiply equation (2.6) by  $\theta$  and integrate over  $\Omega$ , so we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} \int_{\Omega} u_t^\mu(x, t) \theta dx &= - \int_{\Omega} \nabla u^\mu(x, t) \cdot \nabla \theta dx - \alpha \int_{\Omega} u_t^\mu(x, t) \theta(x) dx \\ &+ \int_{\Omega} \nabla \Phi(x) \cdot \nabla u^\mu(x, t) \theta(x) dx - \beta \int_{\Omega} |v^\mu|^{p-2} v^\mu(x, t) \theta(x) dx. \end{aligned} \quad (2.13)$$

As  $\mu \rightarrow \infty$ , we see that each term in the righthand side of (2.13) is in  $C([0, T])$ . We thus have  $\int_{\Omega} u_t(x, t) \theta dx \{= \lim \int_{\Omega} u_t^\mu(x, t) \theta dx\}$  is a  $C^1$  function on  $[0, T]$ , so (2.12) holds for each  $t$  in  $[0, T]$ . For the energy equality (2.5), we start from the energy equality for  $u^\mu$  and proceed in the same way to establish it for  $u$ . To prove uniqueness, we take  $v_1$  and  $v_2$  and let  $u_1$  and  $u_2$  be the corresponding solutions of (2.1). It is clear that  $U = u_1 - u_2$  satisfies

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega} e^{\Phi(x)} [U_t^2 + |\nabla U|^2](x, t) dx + \alpha \int_0^t \int_{\Omega} e^{\Phi(x)} U_t^2(x, s) dx ds \\ = -\beta \int_0^t \int_{\Omega} e^{\Phi(x)} [|v_1|^{p-2} v_1 - |v_2|^{p-2} v_2] U_t(x, s) dx ds. \end{aligned} \quad (2.14)$$

If  $v_1 = v_2$ , then (2.14) shows that  $U = 0$ , which implies uniqueness. This completes the proof.

**Remark 2.1.** This result, as well as the results below, hold if  $\Phi \in L^\infty(\Omega)$  with  $\nabla \Phi$  defined almost everywhere. In this case the limit  $u$  is a weak solution of (2.6) in the following sense

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} \int_{\Omega} e^{\Phi(x)} u_t(x, t) \theta dx + \int_{\Omega} e^{\Phi(x)} \nabla u(x, t) \cdot \nabla \theta dx \\ = -\alpha \int_{\Omega} e^{\Phi(x)} u_t(x, t) \theta(x) dx - \beta \int_{\Omega} e^{\Phi(x)} |v|^{p-2} v(x, t) \theta(x) dx, \end{aligned}$$

for each  $\theta$  in  $H_0^1(\Omega)$ .

**Theorem 2.3.** Assume that  $\Phi \in W^{1, \infty}(\Omega)$  and  $p > 2$ , satisfying (2.2) if  $n \geq 3$ . Assume further that

$$\phi \in H_0^1(\Omega), \quad \varphi \in L^2(\Omega).$$

Then (1.2) has a unique solution

$$u \in C([0, T]; H_0^1(\Omega)) \cap C^1([0, T]; L^2(\Omega)), \quad (2.15)$$

$T$  is small enough.

*Proof.* For  $M > 0$  large and  $T > 0$ , we define a class of functions  $Z(M, T)$  which consists of all functions  $w$  in  $\mathbf{W}$  satisfying the initial conditions of (1.2) and

$$\|w\|_{\mathbf{W}}^2 \leq M^2. \quad (2.16)$$

$Z(M, T)$  is nonempty if  $M$  is large enough. This follows from the trace theorem (see [11]). We also define the map  $f$  from  $Z(M, T)$  into  $\mathbf{W}$  by  $u := f(v)$ , where  $u$  is the unique solution of the linear problem (2.1). We would like to show, for  $M$  sufficiently large and  $T$  sufficiently small, that  $f$  is a contraction from  $Z(M, T)$  into itself. For this purpose, we use the energy equality (2.5), which yields

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{\Omega} [u_t^2 + |\nabla u|^2](x, t) dx + 2\alpha \int_0^t \int_{\Omega} u_t^2(x, s) dx ds \\ & \leq \frac{A}{a} \int_{\Omega} [u_1^2 + |\nabla u_0|^2](x) dx + \beta \frac{A}{a} \int_0^t \int_{\Omega} |v|^{p-1} |u_t|(x, s) dx ds, \quad \forall t \in [0, T] \\ & \leq \frac{A}{a} \int_{\Omega} [u_1^2 + |\nabla u_0|^2](x) dx + \beta C \frac{A}{a} \int_0^t \|u_t\|_2 \|\nabla v\|_2^{p-1}, \quad \forall t \in [0, T]. \end{aligned}$$

This leads to

$$\|u\|_{\mathbf{W}}^2 \leq C \int_{\Omega} [u_1^2 + |\nabla u_0|^2](x) dx + CM^{p-1} T \|u\|_{\mathbf{W}},$$

where  $C$  is independent of  $M$ . By choosing  $M$  large enough and  $T$  sufficiently small, (2.16) is satisfied; hence  $u \in Z(M, T)$ .

Next we verify that  $f$  is a contraction. To this end we set  $U = u_1 - u_2$  and  $V = v_1 - v_2$ , where  $u_1 = f(v_1)$  and  $u_2 = f(v_2)$ . It is straightforward to verify that  $U$  satisfies

$$U_{tt} - \Delta U = -\alpha U_t + \nabla \Phi(x) \cdot \nabla U - \beta |v_1|^{p-2} v_1 + \beta |v_2|^{p-2} v_2,$$

$$U(x, t) = 0, \quad x \in \partial\Omega, \quad t > 0, \quad (2.17)$$

$$U(x, 0) = U_t(x, 0) = 0, \quad x \in \Omega.$$

By multiplying equation (2.17) by  $e^{\Phi(x)} U_t$  and integrating over  $\Omega \times (0, t)$ , we arrive at

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\Omega} [U_t^2 + |\nabla U|^2](x, t) dx & \leq \frac{A}{a} \int_0^t \int_{\Omega} \left| |v_1|^{p-2} v_1 - |v_2|^{p-2} v_2 \right| |U_t|(x, s) dx ds \\ & \leq C \frac{A}{a} \int_0^t \|U_t\|_2 \|\nabla V\|_2 (\|\nabla v_1\|_2^{p-2} + \|\nabla v_2\|_2^{p-2})(\cdot, s) ds. \end{aligned}$$

Thus we have

$$\|U\|_{\mathbf{W}}^2 \leq \frac{A}{a} C T M^{p-2} \|V\|_{\mathbf{W}}^2. \quad (2.18)$$

By choosing  $T$  so small that  $CTM^{p-2}A/a < 1$ , (2.18) shows that  $f$  is a contraction. The contraction mapping theorem then guarantees the existence of a unique  $u$  satisfying  $u = f(u)$ . Obviously it is a solution of (1.2). The uniqueness of this solution follows from the energy inequality (2.17). The proof is completed.

**Remark 2.2.** Lemma 2.2 shows that  $u_{tt} \in C([0, T]; H^{-1}(\Omega))$ .

### 3. Global Existence and Energy Decay

In this section, we establish a global existence result and show that the energy of this global solution decays exponentially.

**Theorem 3.1.** *Suppose that the conditions of Theorem 2.3 hold. Then the solution (2.4) is global; i.e.,*

$$u \in C([0, \infty); H_0^1(\Omega)) \cap C^1([0, \infty); L^2(\Omega)). \quad (3.1)$$

*Proof.* To establish (3.1), it suffices to show that the solution (2.4) remains bounded, independently of  $T$ , in its space. So we have to prove that there exists a constant  $K$  independent of  $T$  such that

$$\|\nabla u(\cdot, t)\|_2^2 + \|u_t(\cdot, t)\|_2^2 \leq K, \quad \forall t \geq 0. \quad (3.2)$$

This is too trivial in our case. We only multiply equation (1.2) by  $e^{\Phi(x)}u_t$  and integrate over  $\Omega \times (0, t)$  to obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega} e^{\Phi(x)} [u_t^2 + |\nabla u|^2](x, t) dx + \frac{\beta}{p} \int_{\Omega} e^{\Phi(x)} |u(x, t)|^p \\ & \quad + \alpha \int_0^t \int_{\Omega} e^{\Phi(x)} |u_t(x, s)|^2 dx ds \\ & = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega} e^{\Phi(x)} [u_1^2 + |\nabla u_0|^2](x, t) dx + \frac{\beta}{p} \int_{\Omega} e^{\Phi(x)} |u_0(x, t)|^p, \quad \forall t \geq 0; \end{aligned}$$

which yields

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{\Omega} [u_t^2 + |\nabla u|^2](x, t) dx \\ & \leq \frac{A}{a} \left( \int_{\Omega} [u_1^2 + |\nabla u_0|^2](x, t) dx + \frac{2\beta}{p} \int_{\Omega} |u_0(x, t)|^p \right) = K, \quad \forall t \geq 0. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore (3.2) is established.



To prove the decay result, we make use of a theorem by Komornik [6], which we state as a lemma without proof.

**Lemma 3.2.** *Let  $E : \mathbb{R}^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$  be a nonincreasing function such that there exists a constant  $\gamma$ , for which*

$$\int_s^\infty E(t)dt \leq \gamma E(s), \quad \forall s \in \mathbb{R}^+. \quad (3.3)$$

Then

$$E(t) \leq E(0)e^{1-t/\gamma}, \quad \forall t \geq 0. \quad (3.4)$$

Next we define an 'equivalent' energy of the solution

$$E(t) := \int_\Omega e^{\Phi(x)} [u_t^2 + |\nabla u|^2](x, t) dx + \frac{2\beta}{p} \int_\Omega e^{\Phi(x)} |u(x, t)|^p dx. \quad (3.5)$$

A straightforward calculations show that a multiplication of equation (1.2) by  $e^{\Phi(x)}u_t$  and integration over  $\Omega$  leads to

$$E'(t) = -2\alpha \int_\Omega e^{\Phi(x)} u_t^2(x, t) dx, \quad (3.6)$$

for any regular solution of (1.2). This identity remains valid for solutions (3.1) by a simple density argument. Therefore  $E$  is a nonincreasing function.

**Theorem 3.3.** *Under the conditions Theorem 2.3, the solution (3.1) satisfies*

$$E(t) \leq E(0)e^{1-t/\gamma}, \quad \forall t \geq 0, \quad (3.7)$$

where

$$\gamma = 1 + \frac{2}{\alpha} + \frac{2AC}{a}. \quad (3.8)$$

Here  $C$  is a constant depending on  $\Omega$  only and  $A$  and  $a$  are the upper and lower bounds of  $e^{\Phi(x)}$ .

*Proof.* We multiply equation (1.2) by  $e^{\Phi(x)}u$  and integrate over  $\Omega$  to get

$$\begin{aligned} - \int_\Omega e^{\Phi(x)} u_t^2(x, t) dx + \int_\Omega e^{\Phi(x)} |\nabla u(x, t)|^2 dx + \beta \int_\Omega e^{\Phi(x)} |u(x, t)|^p dx \\ + \frac{d}{dt} \int_\Omega e^{\Phi(x)} uu_t(x, t) dx = -\alpha \int_\Omega e^{\Phi(x)} uu_t(x, t) dx, \end{aligned} \quad (3.9)$$

for any regular solution of (1.2). Again this identity remains valid for solutions (3.1) by a simple density argument. By combining (3.5) and (3.9), we arrive

at

$$E(t) \leq -\frac{\alpha}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \int_{\Omega} e^{\Phi(x)} u^2(x, t) dx - \frac{d}{dt} \int_{\Omega} e^{\Phi(x)} uu_t(x, t) dx + 2 \int_{\Omega} e^{\Phi(x)} u_t^2(x, t) dx - \beta \left(1 - \frac{2}{p}\right) \int_{\Omega} e^{\Phi(x)} |u(x, t)|^p dx,$$

which gives, by (3.6) and the condition  $p > 2$ ,

$$E(t) \leq -\frac{\alpha}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \int_{\Omega} e^{\Phi(x)} u^2(x, t) dx - \frac{d}{dt} \int_{\Omega} e^{\Phi(x)} uu_t(x, t) dx - \frac{1}{\alpha} E'(t). \quad (3.10)$$

We then integrate (3.10) over  $(S, T)$  to obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \int_S^T E(t) dt &\leq \frac{\alpha}{2} \int_{\Omega} e^{\Phi(x)} u^2(x, S) dx - \frac{\alpha}{2} \int_{\Omega} e^{\Phi(x)} u^2(x, T) dx \\ &\quad + \int_{\Omega} e^{\Phi(x)} uu_t(x, S) dx - \int_{\Omega} e^{\Phi(x)} uu_t(x, T) dx + \frac{2}{\alpha} (E(S) - E(T)) \\ &\leq \frac{\alpha}{2} \int_{\Omega} e^{\Phi(x)} u^2(x, S) dx + \frac{2}{\alpha} E(S) + \int_{\Omega} e^{\Phi(x)} uu_t(x, S) dx \\ &\quad - \int_{\Omega} e^{\Phi(x)} uu_t(x, T) dx, \quad 0 \leq S < T < \infty. \quad (3.11) \end{aligned}$$

We now estimate the righthand side of (3.11). By using Poincaré's inequality, we get

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\Omega} e^{\Phi(x)} u^2(x, S) dx &\leq A \int_{\Omega} u^2(x, S) dx \leq AC \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u(x, S)|^2 dx \\ &\leq \frac{AC}{a} \int_{\Omega} e^{\Phi(x)} |\nabla u(x, S)|^2 dx \leq \frac{AC}{a} E(S). \quad (3.12) \end{aligned}$$

Also by using Schwarz inequality we have

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \int_{\Omega} e^{\Phi(x)} uu_t(x, t) dx \right| &\leq \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega} e^{\Phi(x)} u^2(x, t) dx + \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega} e^{\Phi(x)} u_t^2(x, t) dx \\ &\leq \frac{1}{2} \left\{1 + \frac{AC}{a}\right\} E(t) \leq \frac{1}{2} \left\{1 + \frac{AC}{a}\right\} E(S), \quad S \leq t \leq T. \quad (3.13) \end{aligned}$$

Therefore by combining (3.11) - (3.13), we arrive at

$$\int_S^T E(t) dt \leq \gamma E(S), \quad \forall S < T,$$

where  $\gamma$  is defined in (3.8). By letting  $T$  go to infinity, (3.3) is verified; hence (3.7) follows and the proof of the theorem is completed.

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