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# Weak solutions for generalized p-Laplacian systems via Young measures

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ABSTRACT. We prove the existence of weak solutions to a generalized p-Laplacian systems in degenerate form. The techniques of Young measure for elliptic systems are used to prove the existence result. **2010 Mathematics Subject Classification.** Primary: 35J50, 35J57, 35D30, 28Axx.

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#### 1. Introduction

We study the existence of weak solutions  $u : \Omega \to \mathbb{R}^m$ ,  $m \in \mathbb{N}$ , to the following Dirichlet problem:

$$\begin{cases} -\operatorname{div}(\phi(Du - \Theta(u))) &= f \quad \text{in } \Omega, \\ u = 0 \quad \text{on } \partial\Omega, \end{cases}$$
(1.1)

with

$$\phi(A) = |A|^{p-2}A, \quad \forall A \in \mathbb{M}^{m \times n}.$$

Here  $\Omega$  is a bounded open domain in  $\mathbb{R}^n$   $(n \ge 2)$  and  $\mathbb{M}^{m \times n}$  is the set of  $m \times n$  real matrices with reduced  $\mathbb{R}^{mn}$  topology, that is, if  $A \in \mathbb{M}^{m \times n}$ , then |A| is the norm of A when regarded as a vector in  $\mathbb{R}^{mn}$ .  $\mathbb{M}^{m \times n}$  is endowed with the scalar product  $A : B = A_{ij}B_{ij}$  (with the usual summation convention). We assume that p is a real number such that  $p \in (1, \infty)$ . The source term f is supposed lying in  $W^{-1,p'}(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m)$  the dual space of  $W_0^{1,p}(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m)$  and  $\Theta : \mathbb{R}^m \to \mathbb{M}^{m \times n}$  is a continuous function satisfies

$$\Theta(0) = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad |\Theta(\xi) - \Theta(\eta)| \le c|\xi - \eta|$$
(1.2)

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for all  $\xi, \eta \in \mathbb{R}^m$ , where *c* is a positive constant related to the exponent *p* and the diameter of  $\Omega$  (diam( $\Omega$ )) by the following:

$$c < \frac{1}{\operatorname{diam}(\Omega)} \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{\frac{1}{p}}.$$

For several decades, there have been intensive research activities for equations, or systems, of *p*-Laplacian type. In [12], several examples of degenerate elliptic equations are presented. The author proved the existence of a weak solution by various methods. Dibenedetto and Manfredi [4] considered the following nonlinear elliptic system  $\operatorname{div}(|Du|^{p-2}Du) = \operatorname{div}(|F|^{p-2}D))$ , for  $F \in L^p_{loc}(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m)$  and proved the existence of local weak solution and some estimates of Du in  $[BMO_{loc}(\Omega)]^{Nm}$ . In [10], the authors proved a regularity result for the quasilinear equation  $\operatorname{div}((ADu.Du)^{\frac{(p-2)}{2}}ADu) = \operatorname{div}(|F|^{p-2}F)$ . They studied the regularity of *F* which reflected to the solutions under minimal assumptions on the coefficient matrix *A*. A collect of some very recent pointwise bounds for the gradient of solutions, and the solutions themselves, to the *p*-Laplace system with right hand side in divergence form were discussed in [3].

In view of [9], our system  $-\text{div}(|Du - \Theta(u)|^{p-2}(Du - \Theta(u))) = f$  is a nonlinear degenerate and singular elliptic system according to the cases p > 2 and 1 , respectively.

In the present paper, due to the term  $\Theta$  in Eq. (1.1), we don't have such Leray-Lions conditions and we can't use the main techniques as in [10]. Our aim here is to prove the existence of weak solutions by using the concept of Young measures as technical tool to describe the weak limits of a sequence of approximating solutions. This concept can be used when weak convergence does not behave as one desire with respect to nonlinear operators.

We say that  $u \in W_0^{1,p}(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m)$  is a weak solution to (1.1) if

$$\int_{\Omega} \phi(Du - \Theta(u)) : D\varphi dx := \int_{\Omega} |Du - \Theta(u)|^{p-2} (Du - \Theta(u)) : D\varphi dx$$
$$= \langle f, \varphi \rangle$$

holds for all  $\varphi \in W_0^{1,p}(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m)$ . Here  $\langle ., . \rangle$  denote the duality pairing between  $W^{-1,p'}(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m)$  and  $W_0^{1,p}(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m)$ . The main result of this paper is the following:

**Theorem 1.1.** Suppose that  $\Theta$  satisfies (1.2), then there exists at least one weak solution of the problem (1.1).

## 2. Preliminaries

Let  $\Omega$  be a bounded open in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $n \ge 2$ , with smooth boundary  $\partial\Omega$ . Let  $1 . Throughout this paper, we will use the following Poincaré's inequality (see [11, Lemma 2.2]), there exists a positive constant <math>\alpha = \text{diam}(\Omega)$  such that

$$\|v\|_{p} \leq \frac{\alpha}{2} \|Dv\|_{p}, \quad v \in W_{0}^{1,p}(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^{m}).$$
 (2.1)

The relation (2.1) and the Hölder inequality are central to establish the required estimates to prove the desired results.

We recall the following useful lemma:

**Lemma 2.1** ([1]). Let  $\xi, \eta \in \mathbb{R}^m$  and let 1 . We have

$$\frac{1}{p}|\xi|^p - \frac{1}{p}|\eta|^p \le |\xi|^{p-2}\xi.(\xi - \eta).$$

As mentioned in the introduction, we will use the concept of Young measure. Here, we give a brief review on Young measure and some properties needed in this paper.

By  $C_0(\mathbb{R}^m)$  we denote the closure of the space of continuous functions on  $\mathbb{R}^m$  with compact support with respect to the  $\|.\|_{\infty}$ -norm. Its dual space can be identified with  $\mathcal{M}(\mathbb{R}^m)$ , the space of signed Radon measures with finite mass. The related duality pairing is given by

$$\langle 
u, \varphi 
angle = \int_{\mathbb{R}^m} \varphi(\lambda) d 
u(\lambda)$$

Note that  $\langle \nu, id \rangle = \int_{\mathbb{R}^m} \lambda d\nu(\lambda)$ .

**Lemma 2.2.** [7, Theorem 1.5.2] Let  $\{z_j\}_{j\geq 1}$  be a bounded sequence in  $L^{\infty}(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m)$ . Then there exists a subsequence  $\{z_k\}_k \subset \{z_j\}_j$  and a Borel probability measure  $\nu_x$  on  $\mathbb{R}^m$  for a.e.  $x \in \Omega$ , such that for almost each  $\varphi \in C(\mathbb{R}^m)$  we have

$$\varphi(z_k) \rightharpoonup^* \overline{\varphi}$$
 weakly in  $L^{\infty}(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m)$ ,

where  $\overline{\varphi}(x) = \langle v_x, \varphi \rangle = \int_{\mathbb{R}^m} \varphi(\lambda) dv_x(\lambda)$  for a.e.  $x \in \Omega$ .

We call  $\{\nu_x\}_{x \in \Omega}$  the family of Young measures associated with the subsequence  $\{z_k\}_{k \ge 1}$ . The fundamental theorem on Young measure can be stated in the following lemma:

**Lemma 2.3.** [5] Let  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  be Lebesgue measurable (not necessarily bounded) and  $z_j : \Omega \to \mathbb{R}^m$ ,  $j = 1, ..., be a sequence of Lebesgue measurable functions. Then there exists a subsequence <math>z_k$  and a family  $\{v_x\}_{x\in\Omega}$  of non-negative Radon measures on  $\mathbb{R}^m$ , such that

- (i)  $\|\nu_x\|_{\mathcal{M}(\mathbb{R}^m)} := \int_{\mathbb{R}^m} d\nu_x \leq 1 \text{ for almost } x \in \Omega.$
- (ii)  $\varphi(z_k) \xrightarrow{\sim} \overline{\varphi}$  weakly\* in  $L^{\infty}(\Omega)$  for all  $\varphi \in C_0(\mathbb{R}^m)$ , where  $\overline{\varphi}(x) = \langle \nu_x, \varphi \rangle$  and  $C_0(\mathbb{R}^m) = \{\varphi \in C(\mathbb{R}^m) : \lim_{|z| \to \infty} |\varphi(z)| = 0\}.$
- (iii) If for all R > 0

$$\lim_{L\to\infty}\sup_{k}\left|\left\{x\in\Omega\cap B_{R}(0):\ |z_{k}(x)|\geq L\right\}\right|=0,$$
(2.2)

then  $||v_x|| = 1$  for almost every  $x \in \Omega$ , and for all measurable  $\Omega' \subset \Omega$  there holds  $\varphi(z_k) \rightharpoonup \overline{\varphi} = \langle v_x, \varphi \rangle$  weakly in  $L^1(\Omega')$  for continuous function  $\varphi$  provided the sequence  $\varphi(z_k)$  is weakly precompact in  $L^1(\Omega')$ .

# 3. Galerkin approximation and priori estimates

Let define  $T: W_0^{1,p}(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m) \to W^{-1,p'}(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m)$  in the following way

$$\langle T(u), \varphi \rangle = \int_{\Omega} \phi (Du - \Theta(u)) : D\varphi dx - \langle f, \varphi \rangle$$

Our problem (1.1)-(1.2) is then equivalent to find  $u \in W_0^{1,p}(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m)$  such that  $\langle T(u), \varphi \rangle = 0$  for all  $\varphi \in W_0^{1,p}(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m)$ .

Lemma 3.1. We have the following properties:

- (i)  $T: W_0^{1,p}(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m) \to W^{-1,p'}(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m)$  is linear, well defined and bounded.
- (ii) The restriction of T to a finite linear subspace of  $W_0^{1,p}(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m)$  is continuous.
- (iii) T is coercive.

*Proof.* (*i*) *T* is trivially linear. For arbitrary  $u \in W_0^{1,p}(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m)$ , by the Hölder's inequality, Poincaré's inequality and the Eq. (1.2), we have

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \langle T(u), \varphi \rangle \right| &= \left| \int_{\Omega} \phi(Du - \Theta(u)) : D\varphi dx - \langle f, \varphi \rangle \right| \\ &\leq \int_{\Omega} |Du - \Theta(u)|^{p-1} |D\varphi| dx + \|f\|_{-1,p'} \|\varphi\|_{1,p} \\ &\leq \left( \int_{\Omega} |Du - \Theta(u)|^{p} dx \right)^{\frac{1}{p'}} \|D\varphi\|_{p} + \|f\|_{-1,p'} \|\varphi\|_{1,p} \\ &\leq 2^{\frac{(p-1)^{2}}{p}} \left( \|Du\|_{p}^{p} + \|\Theta(u)\|_{p}^{p} \right)^{\frac{p-1}{p}} \|D\varphi\|_{p} + \|f\|_{-1,p'} \|\varphi\|_{1,p} \\ &\leq c' \|\varphi\|_{1,p} \end{aligned}$$

for some positive constant c'. In the above inequality we have used

$$|a+b|^p \le 2^{p-1}(|a|^p+|b|^p) \qquad (p>1).$$
(3.1)

It follows that *T* is well defined and bounded. (*ii*) Let *V* be a subspace of  $W_{0}^{1,p}(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m)$  with dim V = r and  $(e_i)_{i=1}^r$  a basis of *V*. Let  $(u_k = a_k^i e_i)$  be a sequence in V which converges to  $u = a^i e_i$  in V (with conventional summation). Then  $u_k \to u$  and  $Du_k \to Du$  almost everywhere for a subsequence still denoted by  $\{u_k\}$ . On the other hand,  $||u_k||_p$  and  $||Du_k||_p$  are bounded by a constant *C*. Indeed, since  $u_k \rightarrow u$  strongly in *V*,

$$\int_{\Omega} |u_k - u|^p dx \to 0$$
 and  $\int_{\Omega} |Du_k - Du|^p dx \to 0$ ,

then there exists a subsequence of  $\{u_k\}$  still denoted by  $\{u_k\}$  and  $g_1, g_2 \in L^1(\Omega)$  such that  $|u_k - u|^p \leq g_1$  and  $|Du_k - Du|^p \le g_2$ . According to (3.1), it follows that

$$|u_k|^p = |u_k - u + u|^p \le 2^{p-1} (|u_k - u|^p + |u|^p) \le 2^{p-1} (g_1 + |u|).$$

Similarly

$$|Du_k|^p \le 2^{p-1}(g_2 + |Du|^p).$$

By the continuity of the function  $\Theta$ , it follows that

$$\phi(Du_k - \Theta(u_k)) : D\varphi \to \phi(Du - \Theta(u)) : D\varphi$$
 almost everywhere.

Let  $\Omega' \subset \Omega$  be a measurable subset and  $\varphi \in W_0^{1,p}(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m)$ . As in the proof of the property (*i*), we obtain

$$\int_{\Omega'} |\phi(Du_k - \Theta(u_k)) : D\varphi| dx$$

$$\leq 2^{\frac{(p-1)^2}{p}} \left( \underbrace{\|Du_k\|_p^p}_{\leq C} + c^p \underbrace{\|u_k\|_p^p}_{\leq C} \right)^{\frac{p-1}{p}} \left( \int_{\Omega'} |D\varphi|^p dx \right)^{\frac{1}{p}}$$

Since  $\int_{\Omega'} |D\varphi|^p dx$  is arbitrary small if the measure of  $\Omega'$  is chosen small enough, then  $(\phi(Du_k - \Theta(u_k)) : D\varphi)$  is equiintegrable. Applying the Vitali Theorem, it follows that *T* is continuous.

(*iii*) We have

$$\langle T(u), u \rangle = \int_{\Omega} |Du - \Theta(u)|^{p-2} (Du - \Theta(u)) : Dudx - \langle f, u \rangle.$$
(3.2)

By Lemma 2.1, we have

$$|F|^{p-2}F:(F-G) \ge \frac{1}{p}|F|^p - \frac{1}{p}|G|^p$$

then by taking  $F = Du - \Theta(u)$  and  $G = -\Theta(u)$ , (F - G = Du), we obtain  $\Theta(u)|p-2(Du-\Theta(u))\cdot D$ 

$$\begin{split} |Du - \Theta(u)|^{p-2}(Du - \Theta(u)) &: Du \\ &= |Du - \Theta(u)|^{p-2}(Du - \Theta(u)) : (Du - \Theta(u) + \Theta(u)) \\ &\geq \frac{1}{p}|Du - \Theta(u)|^p - \frac{1}{p}|\Theta(u)|^p. \end{split}$$

By vertue of (3.2), we deduce that

$$\langle T(u), u \rangle \geq \frac{1}{p} \int_{\Omega} |Du - \Theta(u)|^p dx - \frac{1}{p} \int_{\Omega} |\Theta(u)|^p dx - ||f||_{-1,p'} ||u||_{1,p}.$$

We have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{2^{p-1}} |Du|^p &= \frac{1}{2^{p-1}} |Du - \Theta(u) + \Theta(u)|^p \\ &\leq \frac{1}{2^{p-1}} \left[ 2^{p-1} \left( |Du - \Theta(u)|^p + |\Theta(u)|^p \right) \right] \\ &= |Du - \Theta(u)|^p + |\Theta(u)|^p \end{aligned}$$

implies that

$$\begin{split} \langle T(u), u \rangle &\geq \frac{1}{p} \int_{\Omega} \left( \frac{1}{2^{p-1}} |Du|^{p} - |\Theta(u)|^{p} \right) dx - \frac{1}{p} \int_{\Omega} |\Theta(u)|^{p} dx - \|f\|_{-1,p'} \|u\|_{1,p} \\ &\geq \frac{1}{p2^{p-1}} \int_{\Omega} |Du|^{p} dx - \frac{2}{p} \int_{\Omega} |\Theta(u)|^{p} dx - \|f\|_{-1,p'} \|u\|_{1,p} \\ &\geq \frac{1}{p2^{p-1}} \int_{\Omega} |Du|^{p} dx - \frac{1}{p2^{p}} \int_{\Omega} |Du|^{p} dx - \|f\|_{-1,p'} \|u\|_{1,p} \\ &= \frac{1}{p2^{p}} \int_{\Omega} |Du|^{p} dx - \|f\|_{-1,p'} \|u\|_{1,p}. \end{split}$$

Consequently, *T* is coercive.

To prove Theorem 1.1, we will apply a Galerkin schema. Let  $V_1 \subset V_2 \subset ... \subset W_0^{1,p}(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m)$  be a sequence of finite dimensional subspaces with the property that  $\bigcup_{k\geq 1} V_k$  is dense in  $W_0^{1,p}(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m)$ . Note that the existence of  $(V_k)$  is guaranteed by the separability of  $W_0^{1,p}(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m)$ .

Now, we can construct the approximating solutions:

**Lemma 3.2.** (*i*) For all  $k \in \mathbb{N}$  there exists  $u_k \in V_k$  such that

$$\langle T(u_k), \varphi \rangle = 0 \quad \text{for all } \varphi \in V_k.$$
 (3.3)

(ii) There exists a constant R > 0 such that

$$\|u_k\|_{1,p} \le R \quad \text{for all } k \in \mathbb{N}. \tag{3.4}$$

*Proof.* (*i*) Let fix *k* and assume that dim  $V_k = r$ . For simplicity, we write  $\sum_{1 \le i \le r} a^i e_i = a^i e_i$  where  $(e_i)_{i=1}^r$  is a basis of  $V_k$ . Define the map

$$S: \mathbb{R}^r \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^r$$
$$(a^1, ..., a^r) \longrightarrow \left( \langle T(a^i e_i), e_j \rangle \right)_{i=1,...,r}$$

Remark that *S* is continuous by Lemma 3.1(ii). Let  $a \in \mathbb{R}^r$  and  $u = a^i e_i \in V_k$ , then  $||a||_{\mathbb{R}^r} \to \infty$  is equivalent to  $||u||_{1,p} \to \infty$  and

$$S(a).a = \langle T(u), u \rangle.$$

Hence, by Lemma 3.1(iii), we have

$$S(a).a \to \infty$$
 as  $||a||_{\mathbb{R}^r} \to \infty$ .

Thus, there exists R > 0 such that for all  $a \in \partial B_R(0) \subset \mathbb{R}^r$  we have S(a).a > 0. According to the usual topological arguments [13, Proposition 2.8], S(x) = 0 has a solution  $x \in B_R(0)$ . Hence, for all k there exists  $u_k \in V_k$  such that

$$\langle T(u_k), \varphi \rangle = 0$$
 for all  $\varphi \in V_k$ .

(*ii*) Since  $\langle T(u), u \rangle \to \infty$  as  $||u||_{1,p} \to \infty$ , it follows that there exists R > 0 with the property, that  $\langle T(u), u \rangle > 1$  whenever  $||u||_{1,p} > R$ . Consequently, for the sequence of Galerkin approximations  $u_k \in V_k$  which satisfy  $\langle T(u_k), u_k \rangle = 0$  by (3.3), we have the uniform bound

$$||u_k||_{1,p} \leq R$$
 for all  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ .

## 4. Passage to the limit

This section is devoted first to identify weak limits of gradient sequences by means of the Young measures and then we pass to the limit in the approximating equations. The sequence (or at least a subsequence) of the gradients  $Du_k$  generates a Young measure  $v_x$ . Now, we collect some facts about the Young measure  $v = \{v_x\}_x$  in the following lemma:

**Lemma 4.1.** Let  $(u_k)$  the sequence defined in Lemma 3.2. Then the Young measure  $v_x$  generated by  $Du_k$  in  $L^p(\Omega; \mathbb{M}^{m \times n})$  has the following properties:

- (i)  $v_x$  is a probability measure, i.e.  $\|v_x\|_{\mathcal{M}(\mathbb{M}^{m \times n})} = 1$  for almost every  $x \in \Omega$ .
- (ii) The weak L<sup>1</sup>-limit of  $Du_k$  is given by  $\langle v_x, id \rangle = \int_{\mathbb{M}^{m \times n}} \lambda dv_x(\lambda)$ .
- (iii)  $v_x$  satisfies  $\langle v_x, id \rangle = Du(x)$  for almost every  $x \in \Omega$ .

*Proof.* (*i*) Let  $\nu_x$  the Young measure generated by  $Du_k$  (see Lemma 2.2). Since  $(u_k)$  is bounded in  $W_0^{1,p}(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m)$  by (3.4), then there exists a constant  $C \ge 0$  such that for any R > 0,

$$C \ge \int_{\Omega} |Du_k|^p dx \ge \int_{\{x \in \Omega \cap B_R(0) : |Du_k| \ge L\}} |Du_k|^p dx$$
$$\ge L^p |\{x \in \Omega \cap B_R(0) : |Du_k| \ge L\}|$$

Hence

$$\sup_{k\in\mathbb{N}}|\{x\in\Omega\cap B_R(0): |Du_k|\geq L\}|\leq \frac{C}{L^p}\to 0 \quad \text{as } L\to\infty.$$

According to Lemma 2.2(iii), it follows that  $\|\nu_x\|_{\mathcal{M}(\mathbb{M}^{m \times n})} = 1$  for almost every  $x \in \Omega$ .

(*ii*) Since  $L^p(\Omega; M^{m \times n})$  is reflexive  $(p > 1 \text{ and } \mathbb{M}^{m \times n} \cong \mathbb{R}^{mn})$  and in view of (3.4), we deduce the existence of a subsequence (still denoted by  $Du_k$ ) weakly convergent in  $L^p(\Omega; \mathbb{M}^{m \times n})$ . Moreover, weakly convergent in  $L^1(\Omega; \mathbb{M}^{m \times n})$ . By taking  $\varphi$  as the identity mapping *I* in Lemma 2.2(iii), we have

$$Du_k 
ightarrow \langle v_x, id \rangle = \int_{\mathbb{M}^{m \times n}} \lambda dv_x(\lambda)$$
 weakly in  $L^1(\Omega; \mathbb{M}^{m \times n})$ .

(*iii*) By the equation (3.4), a subsequence of  $\{u_k\}$  converges weakly in  $W_0^{1,p}(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m)$  to an element denoted by u. Thus  $u_k \to u$  in  $L^p(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m)$  and  $Du_k \to Du$  in  $L^p(\Omega; \mathbb{M}^{m \times n})$  (for a subsequence). Owing to (*ii*), the uniquenesses of the limit implies that

$$\langle v_x, id \rangle = Du(x)$$
 for a.e.  $x \in \Omega$ .

Now, we have all ingredients to pass to the limit in the approximating equations and to prove Theorem 1.1. Let  $(u_k)$  be the sequence constructed in Lemma 3.2.

*Proof of Theorem* 1.1. Let start by proving that  $u_k \to u$  in measure. By (3.4), we have for a subsequence  $u_k \to u$  in  $L^p(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m)$ . Let  $E_{k,\epsilon} = \{x : |u_k(x) - u(x)| \ge \epsilon\}$ , then

$$\int_{\Omega} |u_k(x) - u(x)|^p dx \ge \int_{E_{k,\epsilon}} |u_k(x) - u(x)|^p dx \ge \epsilon^p |E_{k,\epsilon}|,$$

which implies

$$|E_{k,\epsilon}| \le rac{1}{\epsilon^p} \int_{\Omega} |u_k(x) - u(x)|^p dx \to 0 \quad ext{as } k \to \infty.$$

Therefore,  $u_k \rightarrow u$  in measure for  $k \rightarrow \infty$ , and we may infer that, after extraction of a suitable subsequence, if necessary,

 $u_k \rightarrow u$  almost everywhere for  $k \rightarrow \infty$ .

According to a weak limit defined in Lemma 4.1 and the continuity of  $\Theta$ , we can write

$$Du_k - \Theta(u_k) \rightharpoonup \int_{\mathbb{M}^{m \times n}} (\lambda - \Theta(u)) d\nu_x(\lambda)$$

$$= \int_{\mathbb{M}^{m \times n}} \lambda d\nu_x(\lambda) - \Theta(u) \underbrace{\int_{\mathbb{M}^{m \times n}} d\nu_x(\lambda)}_{:=1}$$
$$= Du - \Theta(u)$$

weakly in  $L^1(\Omega)$ , since  $(Du_k - \Theta(u_k))$  is equiintegrable by (1.2). Therefore

$$|Du_k - \Theta(u_k)|^{p-2}(Du_k - \Theta(u_k)) \rightharpoonup |Du - \Theta(u)|^{p-2}(Du - \Theta(u))$$

weakly in  $L^1(\Omega)$ . Since  $L^p(\Omega)$  is reflexive and  $\phi(Du_k - \Theta(u_k))$  is bounded (by (3.1)), the sequence  $\{\phi(Du_k - \Theta(u_k))\}$  converges in  $L^{p'}(\Omega)$ . Hence its weak  $L^{p'}$ -limit is also  $\phi(Du - \Theta(u))$ . We may infer that

$$\lim_{k\to\infty}\int_{\Omega}\phi(Du_k-\Theta(u_k)):D\varphi(x)dx=\int_{\Omega}\phi(Du-\Theta(u)):D\varphi(x)dx \ \forall \varphi\in \bigcup_{k\geq 1}V_k.$$

For any  $v \in W_0^{1,p}(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m)$ , since  $\bigcup_{k \ge 1} V_k$  is dense in  $W_0^{1,p}(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m)$ , there is a sequence  $\{v_k\} \subset \bigcup_{k \ge 1} V_k$  such that  $v_k \to v$  in  $W_0^{1,p}(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m)$  as  $k \to \infty$ . Since

$$\int_{\Omega} (\phi(Du_k - \Theta(u_k)) : Dv - \phi(Du - \Theta(u)) : Dv) dx \to 0 \quad \text{as } k \to \infty,$$

we have

$$\begin{aligned} \langle T(u_k), v_k \rangle - \langle T(u), v \rangle \\ &= \int_{\Omega} \left( \phi(Du_k - \Theta(u_k)) : Dv_k - \phi(Du - \Theta(u)) : Dv \right) dx - \langle f, v_k - v \rangle \\ &= \int_{\Omega} \left( \phi(Du_k - \Theta(u_k)) : (Dv_k - Dv) + \left( \phi(Du_k - \Theta(u_k)) - \phi(Du - \Theta(u)) \right) : Dv \right) dx \\ &- \langle f, v_k - v \rangle. \end{aligned}$$

The right hand side of the above equation tends to 0 as  $k \to \infty$ . By vertue of Lemma 3.2(i), it follows that  $\langle T(u), v \rangle = 0$  for all  $v \in W_0^{1,p}(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m)$ .

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