



# Existence of Renormalized Solutions for Some Strongly Parabolic Problems in Musielak-Orlicz-Sobolev Spaces

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**Abstract:** In this work, we prove an existence result of renormalized solutions in Musielak-Orlicz-Sobolev spaces for a class of nonlinear parabolic equations with two lower order terms and  $L^1$ -data.

**Keywords:** *parabolic problems, Musielak-Orlicz space, renormalized solutions.*

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## 1 Introduction

We consider the following nonlinear parabolic problem:

$$(\mathcal{P}) \begin{cases} \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} - \operatorname{div}(a(x, t, u, \nabla u) + \Phi(u)) + g(x, t, u, \nabla u) = f & \text{in } Q, \\ u = 0 & \text{on } \partial Q = \partial\Omega \times [0, T], \\ u(x, 0) = u_0 & \text{on } \Omega, \end{cases}$$

where  $A(u) = -\operatorname{div}(a(x, t, u, \nabla u))$  is an operator of Leray-Lions type, the lower order term  $\Phi \in C^0(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R}^N)$ ,  $g$  is a nonlinearity term which satisfies the growth and the sign condition and the data  $f$  belong to  $L^1(Q)$ . Under these assumptions the term  $\operatorname{div}(\Phi(u))$  may not exist in the distributions sense, since the function  $\Phi(u)$  does not belong to  $(L^1_{\text{loc}}(Q))^N$ .

In the setting of classical Sobolev spaces, the existence of a weak solution for the problem  $(\mathcal{P})$  has been proved in [10] in the case of  $\Phi \equiv g \equiv 0$ . It is well known that this weak solution is not unique in general (see [16] for a counter-example in the stationary case).

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In order to obtain well-posedness for this type of problems the notion of renormalized solution has been introduced by Lions and DiPerna [12] for the study of Boltzmann equation (see also Lions [13] for a few applications to fluid mechanics models). This notion was then adapted to the elliptic version by Boccardo et al. [11]. At the same time, the equivalent notion of entropy solutions has been developed independently by B enilan et al. [5] for the study of nonlinear elliptic problems.

The existence and uniqueness of a renormalized solution has been proved by D. Blanchard and F. Murat [8] in the case where  $a(x, t, s, \xi)$  is independent of  $s$ , with  $\Phi \equiv 0$  and  $g \equiv 0$ , by D. Blanchard, F. Murat and H. Redwane [9] with the large monotonicity on  $a$ . For measure data,  $u = b(x, u)$  and  $\Phi \equiv 0$ , the existence of renormalized solution for the problem  $(\mathcal{P})$  has been proved by Y. Akdim et al.[3] in the framework of weighted Sobolev space, by L. Aharouch, J. Bennouna and A. Touzani [1], and by A. Benkirane and J. Bennouna [6] in the Orlicz spaces and degenerated spaces.

In the Musielak framework, the existence of a weak solution for the problem  $(\mathcal{P})$  has been proved by M.L. Ahmed Oubeid, A. Benkirane and M. Sidi El Vally in [2] where  $\Phi \equiv 0$ , the existence of entropy solutions for the problem  $(\mathcal{P})$  has been studied by A. Talha, A. Benkirane and M.S.B. Elemine Vall in [19].

As an example of equations to which the present result can be applied, we give

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} - \operatorname{div} \left( \frac{m(x, |\nabla u|)}{|\nabla u|} \cdot \nabla u + u|u|^\sigma \right) + \frac{\operatorname{sign}(u)}{1+u^2} \varphi(x, |\nabla u|) = f \in L^1(Q),$$

where  $m$  is the derivative of  $\varphi$  with respect to  $t$ .

## 2 Preliminaries

### 2.1 Musielak-Orlicz-Sobolev spaces.

Let  $\Omega$  be an open set in  $\mathbb{R}^N$  and let  $\varphi$  be a real-valued function defined in  $\Omega \times \mathbb{R}_+$ , and satisfying the following conditions:

- a)  $\varphi(x, \cdot)$  is an N-function,
- b)  $\varphi(\cdot, t)$  is a measurable function.

The function  $\varphi$  is called a Musielak–Orlicz function. For a Musielak-orlicz function  $\varphi$  we put  $\varphi_x(t) = \varphi(x, t)$  and we associate its nonnegative reciprocal function  $\varphi_x^{-1}$ , with respect to  $t$  that is  $\varphi_x^{-1}(\varphi(x, t)) = \varphi(x, \varphi_x^{-1}(t)) = t$ . The Musielak-orlicz function  $\varphi$  is said to satisfy the  $\Delta_2$ -condition if for some  $k > 0$  and a non negative function  $h$  integrable in  $\Omega$ , we have

$$\varphi(x, 2t) \leq k\varphi(x, t) + h(x) \text{ for all } x \in \Omega \text{ and } t \geq 0. \quad (1)$$

When (1) holds only for  $t \geq t_0 > 0$ ; then  $\varphi$  is said to satisfy the  $\Delta_2$ -condition near infinity.

Let  $\varphi$  and  $\gamma$  be two Musielak-orlicz functions. We say that  $\gamma$  grows essentially less rapidly than  $\varphi$  at 0 (resp. near infinity), and we write  $\gamma \prec\prec \varphi$ , if for every positive constant  $c$  we have

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \left( \sup_{x \in \Omega} \frac{\gamma(x, ct)}{\varphi(x, t)} \right) = 0, \quad (\text{resp. } \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \left( \sup_{x \in \Omega} \frac{\gamma(x, ct)}{\varphi(x, t)} \right) = 0).$$

We define the functional  $\rho_{\varphi, \Omega}(u) = \int_{\Omega} \varphi(x, |u(x)|) dx$ , where  $u : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is a Lebesgue measurable function.

We define the Musielak-Orlicz space (the generalized Orlicz spaces) by

$$L_\varphi(\Omega) = \left\{ u : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \text{ measurable} / \rho_{\varphi,\Omega} \left( \frac{|u(x)|}{\lambda} \right) < +\infty, \text{ for some } \lambda > 0 \right\}.$$

For a Musielak-Orlicz function we put:  $\psi(x, s) = \sup_{t \geq 0} \{st - \varphi(x, t)\}$ .  $\psi$  is called the Musielak-Orlicz function complementary to  $\varphi$  in the sense of Young with respect to the variable  $s$ . In the space  $L_\varphi(\Omega)$  we define the following two norms:

$$\|u\|_{\varphi,\Omega} = \inf \left\{ \lambda > 0 / \int_{\Omega} \varphi \left( x, \frac{|u(x)|}{\lambda} \right) dx \leq 1 \right\},$$

which is called the Luxemburg norm and the so-called Orlicz norm by

$$\| |u| \|_{\varphi,\Omega} = \sup_{\|v\|_{\psi} \leq 1} \int_{\Omega} |u(x)v(x)| dx,$$

where  $\psi$  is the Musielak-Orlicz function complementary to  $\varphi$ . These two norms are equivalent [14]. The closure in  $L_\varphi(\Omega)$  of the bounded measurable functions with compact support in  $\bar{\Omega}$  is denoted by  $E_\varphi(\Omega)$ .

We say that a sequence of functions  $u_n \in L_\varphi(\Omega)$  is modular convergent to  $u \in L_\varphi(\Omega)$  if there exists a constant  $k > 0$  such that  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \rho_{\varphi,\Omega} \left( \frac{u_n - u}{k} \right) = 0$ .

For any fixed nonnegative integer  $m$  we define

$$W^m L_\varphi(\Omega) = \left\{ u \in L_\varphi(\Omega) : \forall |\alpha| \leq m, D^\alpha u \in L_\varphi(\Omega) \right\}$$

and

$$W^m E_\varphi(\Omega) = \left\{ u \in E_\varphi(\Omega) : \forall |\alpha| \leq m, D^\alpha u \in E_\varphi(\Omega) \right\},$$

where  $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n)$  with nonnegative integers  $\alpha_i$ ,  $|\alpha| = |\alpha_1| + \dots + |\alpha_n|$  and  $D^\alpha u$  denote the distributional derivatives. The space  $W^m L_\varphi(\Omega)$  is called the Musielak-Orlicz-Sobolev space. Let

$$\bar{\rho}_{\varphi,\Omega}(u) = \sum_{|\alpha| \leq m} \rho_{\varphi,\Omega} \left( D^\alpha u \right) \text{ and } \|u\|_{\varphi,\Omega}^m = \inf \left\{ \lambda > 0 : \bar{\rho}_{\varphi,\Omega} \left( \frac{u}{\lambda} \right) \leq 1 \right\}.$$

For  $u \in W^m L_\varphi(\Omega)$  these functionals are a convex modular and a norm on  $W^m L_\varphi(\Omega)$ , respectively, and the pair  $(W^m L_\varphi(\Omega), \| \cdot \|_{\varphi,\Omega}^m)$  is a Banach space if  $\varphi$  satisfies the following condition [14] :

$$\text{there exists a constant } c > 0 \text{ such that } \inf_{x \in \Omega} \varphi(x, 1) \geq c. \tag{2}$$

The space  $W^m L_\varphi(\Omega)$  will always be identified with a subspace of the product  $\prod_{|\alpha| \leq m} L_\varphi(\Omega) = \Pi L_\varphi$ , this subspace is  $\sigma(\Pi L_\varphi, \Pi E_\psi)$  closed. We denote by  $\mathcal{D}(\Omega)$  the space of infinitely smooth functions with compact support in  $\Omega$  and by  $\mathcal{D}(\bar{\Omega})$  the restriction of  $\mathcal{D}(\mathbb{R}^N)$  on  $\Omega$ . Let  $W_0^m L_\varphi(\Omega)$  be the  $\sigma(\Pi L_\varphi, \Pi E_\psi)$  closure of  $\mathcal{D}(\Omega)$  in  $W^m L_\varphi(\Omega)$ . Let  $W^m E_\varphi(\Omega)$  be the space of functions  $u$  such that  $u$  and its distribution derivatives up to order  $m$  lie in  $E_\varphi(\Omega)$ , and  $W_0^m E_\varphi(\Omega)$  is the (norm) closure of  $\mathcal{D}(\Omega)$  in  $W^m L_\varphi(\Omega)$ .

The following spaces of distributions will also be used:

$$W^{-m} L_\psi(\Omega) = \left\{ f \in \mathcal{D}'(\Omega); f = \sum_{|\alpha| \leq m} (-1)^{|\alpha|} D^\alpha f_\alpha \text{ with } f_\alpha \in L_\psi(\Omega) \right\}$$

and

$$W^{-m}E_\psi(\Omega) = \left\{ f \in \mathcal{D}'(\Omega); f = \sum_{|\alpha| \leq m} (-1)^{|\alpha|} D^\alpha f_\alpha \text{ with } f_\alpha \in E_\psi(\Omega) \right\}.$$

We say that a sequence of functions  $u_n \in W^m L_\varphi(\Omega)$  is modular convergent to  $u \in W^m L_\varphi(\Omega)$  if there exists a constant  $k > 0$  such that  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \bar{\rho}_{\varphi, \Omega} \left( \frac{u_n - u}{k} \right) = 0$ .

The inhomogeneous Musielak-Orlicz-Sobolev spaces of order 1 are defined as follows:

$$W^{1,x} L_\varphi(Q) = \left\{ u \in L_\varphi(Q) : \forall |\alpha| \leq 1 D_x^\alpha u \in L_\varphi(Q) \right\}$$

and

$$W^{1,x} E_\varphi(Q) = \left\{ u \in E_\varphi(Q) : \forall |\alpha| \leq 1 D_x^\alpha u \in E_\varphi(Q) \right\}.$$

The last space is a subspace of the first one, and both are Banach spaces under the norm  $\|u\| = \sum_{|\alpha| \leq m} \|D_x^\alpha u\|_{\varphi, Q}$ . We have the following complementary system

$$\begin{pmatrix} W_0^{1,x} L_\varphi(Q) & F \\ W_0^{1,x} E_\varphi(Q) & F_0 \end{pmatrix},$$

$F$  being the dual space of  $W_0^{1,x} E_\varphi(Q)$ . It is also, except for an isomorphism, the quotient of  $\Pi L_\psi$  by the polar set  $W_0^{1,x} E_\varphi(Q)^\perp$ , and will be denoted by  $F = W^{-1,x} L_\psi(Q)$  and it is shown that

$$W^{-1,x} L_\psi(Q) = \left\{ f = \sum_{|\alpha| \leq 1} D_x^\alpha f_\alpha : f_\alpha \in L_\psi(Q) \right\}.$$

This space will be equipped with the usual quotient norm  $\|f\| = \inf \sum_{|\alpha| \leq 1} \|f_\alpha\|_{\psi, Q}$ , where the inf is taken on all possible decompositions  $f = \sum_{|\alpha| \leq 1} D_x^\alpha f_\alpha$ ,  $f_\alpha \in L_\psi(Q)$ .

The space  $F_0$  is then given by

$$F_0 = \left\{ f = \sum_{|\alpha| \leq 1} D_x^\alpha f_\alpha : f_\alpha \in E_\psi(Q) \right\} = W^{-1,x} E_\psi(Q).$$

Let us give the following lemma which will be needed later.

**Lemma 2.1** [7]. *Let  $\Omega$  be a bounded Lipschitz domain in  $\mathbb{R}^N$  and let  $\varphi$  and  $\psi$  be two complementary Musielak-Orlicz functions which satisfy the following conditions:*

*i) There exists a constant  $c > 0$  such that  $\inf_{x \in \Omega} \varphi(x, 1) \geq c$ ,*

*ii) There exists a constant  $A > 0$  such that for all  $x, y \in \Omega$  with  $|x - y| \leq \frac{1}{2}$  we have*

$$\frac{\varphi(x, t)}{\varphi(y, t)} \leq t \left( \frac{A}{\log \left( \frac{1}{|x-y|} \right)} \right), \quad \forall t \geq 1. \quad (3)$$

*iii)*

$$\text{If } D \subset \Omega \text{ is a bounded measurable set, then } \int_D \varphi(x, 1) dx < \infty. \quad (4)$$

*iv) There exists a constant  $C > 0$  such that  $\psi(x, 1) \leq C$  a.e in  $\Omega$ .*

*Under these assumptions,  $\mathcal{D}(\Omega)$  is dense in  $L_\varphi(\Omega)$  with respect to the modular topology,  $\mathcal{D}(\Omega)$  is dense in  $W_0^1 L_\varphi(\Omega)$  for the modular convergence and  $\mathcal{D}(\bar{\Omega})$  is dense in  $W^1 L_\varphi(\Omega)$  for the modular convergence.*

Consequently, the action of a distribution  $S$  in  $W^{-1} L_\psi(\Omega)$  on an element  $u$  of  $W_0^1 L_\varphi(\Omega)$  is well defined. It will be denoted by  $\langle S, u \rangle$ .

**Lemma 2.2 (Poincaré inequality)** [18] *Let  $\varphi$  be a Musielak-Orlicz function which satisfies the assumptions of Lemma 2.1, suppose that  $\varphi(x, t)$  decreases with respect to one*

of coordinates of  $x$ . Then, there exists a constant  $c > 0$  depending only on  $\Omega$  such that

$$\int_{\Omega} \varphi(x, |u(x)|) \, dx \leq \int_{\Omega} \varphi(x, c|\nabla u(x)|) \, dx, \quad \forall u \in W_0^1 L_{\varphi}(\Omega). \tag{5}$$

### 3 Assumptions and Main Result

Let  $\Omega$  be a bounded open set on  $\mathbb{R}^N$  satisfying the segment property and  $T > 0$ , we denote  $Q = \Omega \times [0, T]$ , and let  $\varphi$  and  $\gamma$  be two Musielak-Orlicz functions such that  $\gamma \prec\prec \varphi$  and  $\varphi$  satisfies the conditions of Lemma 2.2. Let  $A : D(A) \subset W_0^{1,x} L_{\varphi}(Q) \rightarrow W^{-1,x} L_{\psi}(Q)$  be a mapping given by  $A(u) = -\operatorname{div}(a(x, t, u, \nabla u))$ , where  $a : a(x, t, s, \xi) : \Omega \times [0, t] \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^N \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^N$  is a Carathéodory function satisfying, for a.e  $(x, t) \in Q$  and for all  $s \in \mathbb{R}$  and all  $\xi, \xi' \in \mathbb{R}^N, \xi \neq \xi'$ ,

$$|a(x, t, s, \xi)| \leq \beta \left( c(x, t) + \psi_x^{-1} \varphi(x, \nu|\xi|) \right), \tag{6}$$

$$\left( a(x, t, s, \xi) - a(x, t, s, \xi') \right) (\xi - \xi') > 0, \tag{7}$$

$$a(x, t, s, \xi) \cdot \xi \geq \alpha \varphi(x, |\xi|), \tag{8}$$

where  $c(x, t)$  is a positive function,  $c(x, t) \in E_{\psi}(Q)$  and  $\beta, \nu, \alpha \in \mathbb{R}_+^*$ .

Let  $g : \Omega \times [0, t] \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^N \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^N$  be a Caratheodory function satisfying for a.e.  $(x, t) \in \Omega \times [0, t]$  and  $\forall s \in \mathbb{R}, \xi \in \mathbb{R}^N$ ,

$$|g(x, t, s, \xi)| \leq b(|s|)(c_2(x, t) + \varphi(x, |\xi|)), \tag{9}$$

$$g(x, t, s, \xi) s \geq 0, \tag{10}$$

where  $c_2(x, t) \in L^1(Q)$  and  $b : \mathbb{R}^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$  is a continuous and nondecreasing function. Furthermore, let

$$\Phi \in C^0(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R}^N), \tag{11}$$

$$f \in L^1(Q) \text{ and } u_0 \text{ is an element of } L^1(Q). \tag{12}$$

For  $\ell > 0$  we define the truncation at height  $\ell$ :  $T_{\ell} : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  by

$$T_{\ell}(s) = \begin{cases} s & \text{if } |s| \leq \ell, \\ \ell \frac{s}{|s|} & \text{if } |s| > \ell. \end{cases} \tag{13}$$

The definition of a renormalized solution for problem  $(\mathcal{P})$  can be stated as follows.

**Definition 3.1** A measurable function  $u$  defined on  $Q$  is a renormalized solution of Problem  $(\mathcal{P})$  if

$$T_{\ell}(u) \in W_0^{1,x} L_{\varphi}(Q), \tag{14}$$

$$\int_{\{(x,t) \in Q; m \leq |u(x,t)| \leq m+1\}} a(x, t, u, \nabla u) \cdot \nabla u \, dx dt \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } m \rightarrow \infty, \tag{15}$$

and if, for every function  $S$  in  $W^{2,\infty}(\mathbb{R})$  which is piecewise  $C^1$  and such that  $S'$  has a compact support, we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{\partial S(u)}{\partial t} - \operatorname{div} (a(x, t, u, \nabla u) S'(u)) + S''(u) a(x, t, u, \nabla u) \cdot \nabla u \\ & - \operatorname{div} (\Phi(u) S'(u)) + S''(u) \Phi(u) \cdot \nabla u + g(x, t, u, \nabla u) S'(u) = f S'(u) \quad \text{in } \mathcal{D}'(Q), \end{aligned}$$

$$S(u)(t = 0) = S(u_0) \text{ in } \Omega. \tag{16}$$

We will prove the following existence theorem.

**Theorem 3.1** *Assume that (6) to (11) hold true. Then, there exists a renormalized solution  $u$  of problem  $(\mathcal{P})$  in the sense of Definition 3.1.*

**Proof.** The proof of Theorem 3.1 is divided into five steps.

**Step 1: Approximate problem.** Let consider us the following approximate problem

$$(\mathcal{P}_n) \begin{cases} \frac{\partial u_n}{\partial t} - \operatorname{div} \left( a(x, t, u_n, \nabla u_n) + \Phi_n(u_n) \right) + g_n(x, t, u_n, \nabla u_n) = f_n & \text{in } \mathcal{D}'(Q), \\ u_n = 0 & \text{on } \partial\Omega \times (0, T), \\ u_n(t=0) = u_{0n} & \text{on } \Omega, \end{cases}$$

where  $(f_n) \in L^1(Q)$  is a sequence of smooth functions such that  $f_n f_n \rightarrow f$  in  $L^1(Q)$ ,  $\Phi_n(s) = \Phi(T_n(s))$  and  $g_n(x, t, s, \xi) = T_n(g(x, t, s, \xi))$ . Note that  $g_n(x, t, s, \xi) \geq 0$ ,  $|g_n(x, t, s, \xi)| \leq |g(x, t, s, \xi)|$  and  $|g_n(x, t, s, \xi)| \leq n$ . Since  $\Phi$  is continuous, we have  $\Phi(T_n(s)) \leq c_n$ , then the problem  $(\mathcal{P}_n)$  has at least one solution  $u_n \in W_0^{1,x} L_\varphi(Q)$  (see e.g. [2]).

**Step 2: A priori estimates.** We take  $T_\ell(u_n)\chi_{(0,\tau)}$  as a test function in  $(\mathcal{P}_n)$ , we get for every  $\tau \in (0, T)$

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{\Omega} \widehat{T}_\ell(u_n(\tau)) \, dx + \int_{Q_\tau} a(x, t, T_\ell(u_n), \nabla T_\ell(u_n)) \cdot \nabla T_\ell(u_n) \, dxdt + \int_{Q_\tau} \Phi_n(u_n) \cdot \nabla T_\ell(u_n) \, dxdt \\ &= \int_{Q_\tau} f_n T_\ell(u_n) \, dxdt - \int_{Q_\tau} g_n(x, t, u_n, \nabla u_n) T_\ell(u_n) \, dxdt + \int_{\Omega} \widehat{T}_\ell(u_{0n}) \, dx, \end{aligned} \quad (17)$$

where

$$\widehat{T}_\ell(s) = \int_0^s T_\ell(\sigma) \, d\sigma = \begin{cases} \frac{s^2}{2}, & \text{if } |s| \leq \ell, \\ \ell|s| - \frac{s^2}{2}, & \text{if } |s| > \ell. \end{cases} \quad (18)$$

The Lipschitz character of  $\Phi_n$  and the Stokes formula together with the boundary condition  $u_n = 0$  on  $(0, T) \times \partial\Omega$  make it possible to obtain

$$\int_{Q_\tau} \Phi_n(u_n) \cdot \nabla T_\ell(u_n) \, dxdt = 0. \quad (19)$$

Due to the definition of  $\widehat{T}_\ell$  and (12) we have

$$0 \leq \int_{\Omega} \widehat{T}_\ell(u_{0n}) \, dx \leq \ell \int_{\Omega} |u_{0n}| \, dx \leq \ell \|u_0\|_{L^1(\Omega)}. \quad (20)$$

Using the same argument as in [15], we can see that

$$\int_Q g_n(x, t, u_n, \nabla u_n) \, dxdt \leq C_g. \quad (21)$$

Here and below  $C_i$  denotes positive constants not depending on  $n$  and  $\ell$ . By using (12), (19), (20), (21) we can deduce from (17) that

$$\int_{\Omega} \widehat{T}_\ell(u_n(\tau)) \, dx + \int_{Q_\tau} a(x, t, T_\ell(u_n), \nabla T_\ell(u_n)) \cdot \nabla T_\ell(u_n) \, dxdt \leq \ell C_0. \quad (22)$$

By using (22), (7) and the fact that  $\widehat{T}_\ell(u_n) \geq 0$ , we deduce that

$$\int_{Q_\tau} \varphi(x, |\nabla T_\ell(u_n)|) \, dxdt \leq \frac{1}{\alpha} \int_{Q_\tau} a(x, t, T_\ell(u_n), \nabla T_\ell(u_n)) \cdot \nabla T_\ell(u_n) \, dxdt \leq \ell C_1, \quad (23)$$

we deduce from the above inequality (22) that

$$\int_{\Omega} \widehat{T}_\ell(u_n(\tau)) \, dx \leq \ell C_0, \text{ for almost any } \tau \text{ in } (0, T). \quad (24)$$

On the other hand, thanks to Lemma 2.2, there exists a constant  $\lambda > 0$  depending only on  $\Omega$  such that

$$\int_{Q_\tau} \varphi(x, |v|) \, dxdt \leq \int_{Q_\tau} \varphi(x, \lambda |\nabla v|) \, dxdt, \quad \forall v \in W_0^1 L_\varphi(\Omega). \quad (25)$$

Taking  $v = \frac{T_\ell(u_n)}{\lambda}$  in (25) and using (23), one has

$$\int_{Q_\tau} \varphi(x, \frac{|T_\ell(u_n)|}{\lambda}) \, dxdt \leq \ell C_1. \quad (26)$$

Then we deduce by using (26), that

$$\begin{aligned} \text{meas}\{|u_n| > \ell\} &\leq \frac{1}{\inf_{x \in \Omega} \varphi(x, \frac{\ell}{\lambda})} \int_{Q_\tau} \varphi(x, \frac{1}{\lambda} |T_\ell(u_n)|) \, dxdt \\ &\leq \frac{C_1 \ell}{\inf_{x \in \Omega} \varphi(x, \frac{\ell}{\lambda})} \quad \forall n, \quad \forall \ell \geq 0. \end{aligned} \quad (27)$$

By using the definition of  $\varphi$ , we can deduce

$$\lim_{\ell \rightarrow \infty} (\text{meas}\{(x, t) \in Q_\tau : |u_n| > \ell\}) = 0 \quad (28)$$

uniformly with respect to  $n$ . Moreover, we have from (26) that  $T_\ell(u_n)$  is bounded in  $W_0^{1,x} L_\varphi(Q)$  for every  $\ell > 0$ . Consider now in  $C^2(\mathbb{R})$  a nondecreasing function  $\zeta_\ell(s) = s$  for  $|s| \leq \frac{\ell}{2}$  and  $\zeta_\ell(s) = \ell \text{ sign}(s)$ . Multiplying the approximating equation by  $\zeta'_\ell(u_n)$ , we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial(\zeta_\ell(u_n))}{\partial t} &= \text{div}(a(x, t, u_n, \nabla u_n) \zeta'_\ell(u_n)) - \zeta''_\ell(u_n) a(x, t, u_n, \nabla u_n) \cdot \nabla u_n \\ &+ \text{div}(\Phi_n(u_n) \zeta'_\ell(u_n)) - \zeta''_\ell(u_n) \Phi_n(u_n) \cdot \nabla u_n - g_n(x, t, u_n, \nabla u_n) \zeta'_\ell(u_n) + f_n \zeta'_\ell(u_n) \end{aligned}$$

in the sense of distributions. Thanks to (26) and the fact that  $\zeta'_\ell$  has a compact support,  $\zeta'_\ell(u_n)$  is bounded in  $W_0^{1,x} L_\varphi(Q)$  while its time derivative  $\frac{\partial(\zeta_\ell(u_n))}{\partial t}$  is bounded in  $W_0^{-1,x} L_\varphi(Q) + L^1(Q)$ , hence Corollary 4.5 of [2] allows us to conclude that  $\zeta_\ell(u_n)$  is compact in  $L^1(Q)$ . Due to the choice of  $\zeta_\ell$ , we conclude that for each  $\ell$ , the sequence  $T_\ell(u_n)$  converges almost everywhere in  $Q$ . Therefore, following [8,9,15], we can see that there exists a measurable function  $u \in L^\infty(0, T; L^1(\Omega))$  such that for every  $\ell > 0$  and a subsequence, not relabeled,

$$u_n \rightarrow u \text{ a. e. in } Q, \quad (29)$$

and

$$T_\ell(u_n) \rightharpoonup T_\ell(u) \text{ weakly in } W_0^{1,x}L_\varphi(Q) \text{ for } \sigma(\Pi L_\varphi, \Pi E_\psi), \quad (30)$$

strongly in  $L^1(Q)$  and a. e. in  $Q$ .

Now we shall to prove the boundness of  $(a(x, t, T_\ell(u_n), \nabla T_\ell(u_n)))_n$  in  $(L_\psi(Q))^N$ . Let  $\phi \in (E_\varphi(Q))^N$  with  $\|\phi\|_{\varphi, Q} = 1$ . In view of the monotonicity of a one easily has,

$$\int_Q [a(x, t, T_\ell(u_n), \nabla T_\ell(u_n)) - a(x, t, T_\ell(u_n), \phi)] [\nabla T_\ell(u_n) - \phi] \, dxdt \geq 0, \quad (31)$$

which gives

$$\begin{aligned} \int_Q a(x, t, T_\ell(u_n), \nabla T_\ell(u_n)) \cdot \phi \, dxdt &\leq \int_Q a(x, t, T_\ell(u_n), \nabla T_\ell(u_n)) \cdot \nabla T_\ell(u_n) \, dxdt \\ &+ \int_Q a(x, t, T_\ell(u_n), \phi) \cdot [\nabla T_\ell(u_n) - \phi] \, dxdt. \end{aligned} \quad (32)$$

Using (6) and (23), we easily see that

$$\int_Q a(x, t, T_\ell(u_n), \nabla T_\ell(u_n)) \cdot \phi \, dxdt \leq C_3. \quad (33)$$

And so, we conclude that  $(a(x, t, T_\ell(u_n), \nabla T_\ell(u_n)))_n$  is a bounded sequence in  $(L_\psi(Q))^N$ . Now, we prove that

$$\lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\{m \leq |u_n| \leq m+1\}} a(x, t, u_n, \nabla u_n) \cdot \nabla u_n \, dxdt = 0. \quad (34)$$

Using in  $(\mathcal{P}_n)$  the test function  $v = T_1(u_n - T_m(u_n))$ , we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \left\langle \frac{\partial u_n}{\partial t}, v \right\rangle + \int_{\{m \leq u_n \leq m+1\}} a(x, t, u_n, \nabla u_n) \cdot \nabla u_n \, dxdt + \int_Q g_n(x, t, u_n, \nabla u_n) v \, dxdt \\ + \int_Q \operatorname{div} \left[ \int_0^{u_n} \Phi_n(r) T_1'(u_n - T_m(u_n)) dr \right] \, dxdt = \int_Q f_n v \, dxdt. \end{aligned} \quad (35)$$

By using  $\int_0^{u_n} \Phi_n(r) T_1'(u_n - T_m(u_n)) dr \in W_0^{1,x}L_\varphi(Q)$  and the Stokes formula, we get

$$\begin{aligned} \int_\Omega U_n^m(u_n(T)) \, dx + \int_{\{m \leq u_n \leq m+1\}} a(x, t, u_n, \nabla u_n) \cdot \nabla u_n \, dxdt \\ \leq \int_Q (|f_n + g_n(x, t, u_n, \nabla u_n)| |T_1(u_n - T_m(u_n))|) \, dxdt + \int_\Omega U_n^m(x, u_{0n}) \, dx, \end{aligned} \quad (36)$$

where  $U_n^m(r) = \int_0^{u_n} \frac{\partial u_n}{\partial t} T_1(s - T_m(s)) ds$ . In order to pass to the limit as  $n$  tends to  $+\infty$  in (36), we use  $U_n^m(u_n(T)) \geq 0$ , (12) and (21), we obtain that

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\{m \leq u_n \leq m+1\}} a(x, t, u_n, \nabla u_n) \cdot \nabla u_n \, dxdt \\ \leq \int_{\{|u_n| > m\}} (|f| + C_g) \, dxdt + \int_{\{|u_0| > m\}} |u_0| \, dx. \end{aligned} \quad (37)$$



Finally, by(12) and (37) we obtain (34).

**Step 3: Almost everywhere convergence of the gradients.** Fix  $\ell > 0$  and let  $\phi(s) = s \exp(\delta s^2), \delta > 0$ . It is well known that when  $\delta \geq (\frac{b(\ell)}{2\alpha})^2$  one has

$$\phi'(s) - \frac{b(\ell)}{\alpha}|\phi(s)| \geq \frac{1}{2} \text{ for all } s \in \mathbb{R}. \tag{38}$$

Let  $v_j \in \mathcal{D}(Q)$  be a sequence which converges to  $u$  for the modular convergence in  $W_0^{1,x}L_\varphi(Q)$  and let  $\omega_i \in \mathcal{D}(Q)$  be a sequence which converges strongly to  $u_0$  in  $L^2(\Omega)$ . Set  $\omega_{i,j}^\mu = T_\ell(v_j)_\mu + \exp(-\mu t)T_\ell(\omega_i)$ , where  $T_\ell(v_j)_\mu$  is the mollification with respect to time of  $T_\ell(v_j)$ . Note that  $\omega_{i,j}^\mu$  is a smooth function having the following properties:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}(\omega_{i,j}^\mu) = \mu(T_\ell(v_j) - \omega_{i,j}^\mu), \omega_{i,j}^\mu(0) = T_\ell(\omega_i), |\omega_{i,j}^\mu| \leq \ell, \tag{39}$$

$$\omega_{i,j}^\mu \rightarrow T_\ell(u)_\mu + \exp(-\mu t)T_\ell(\omega_i) \text{ in } W_0^{1,x}L_\varphi(Q) \tag{40}$$

for the modular convergence as  $j \rightarrow \infty$ ,

$$T_\ell(u)_\mu + \exp(-\mu t)T_\ell(\omega_i) \rightarrow T_\ell(u) \text{ in } W_0^{1,x}L_\varphi(Q) \tag{41}$$

for the modular convergence as  $\mu \rightarrow \infty$ . Let now the function  $\rho_m$  on  $\mathbb{R}$  with  $m \geq \ell$  be defined by

$$\rho_m(s) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } |s| \leq m, \\ m + 1 - |s|, & \text{if } m \leq |s| \leq m + 1, \\ 0, & \text{if } |s| \geq m + 1. \end{cases} \tag{42}$$

We set  $\theta_{i,j}^{\mu,n} = T_\ell(u_n) - \omega_{i,j}^\mu$ . Using the admissible test function  $Z_{i,j,n}^{\mu,m} = \phi(\theta_{i,j}^{\mu,n})\rho_m(u_n)$  as test function in  $(\mathcal{P}_n)$  and since  $g_n(x, t, u_n, \nabla u_n)\phi(\theta_{i,j}^{\mu,n})\rho_m(u_n) \geq 0$  on  $\{|u_n| > \ell\}$ , we arrive at

$$\begin{aligned} & \left\langle \frac{\partial u_n}{\partial t}, Z_{i,j,n}^{\mu,m} \right\rangle + \int_Q a(x, t, u_n, \nabla u_n) \cdot (\nabla T_\ell(u_n) - \nabla \omega_{i,j}^\mu) \phi'(\theta_{i,j}^{\mu,n}) \rho_m(u_n) \, dxdt \\ & + \int_{\{m \leq |u_n| \leq m+1\}} a(x, t, u_n, \nabla u_n) \cdot \nabla u_n \phi(\theta_{i,j}^{\mu,n}) \rho'_m(u_n) \, dxdt \\ & + \int_{\{m \leq |u_n| \leq m+1\}} \Phi_n(u_n) \cdot \nabla u_n \phi(\theta_{i,j}^{\mu,n}) \rho'_m(u_n) \, dxdt \\ & + \int_Q \Phi_n(u_n) \cdot (\nabla T_\ell(u_n) - \nabla \omega_{i,j}^\mu) \phi'(\theta_{i,j}^{\mu,n}) \rho_m(u_n) \, dxdt \\ & + \int_{\{|u_n| \leq \ell\}} g_n(x, t, u_n, \nabla u_n) \phi(\theta_{i,j}^{\mu,n}) \rho_m(u_n) \, dxdt \leq \int_Q f_n Z_{i,j,n}^{\mu,m} \, dxdt. \end{aligned} \tag{43}$$

Denote by  $\epsilon(n, j, \mu, i)$  any quantity such that  $\lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \lim_{\mu \rightarrow \infty} \lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \epsilon(n, j, \mu, i) = 0$ .

The very definition of the sequence  $\omega_{i,j}^\mu$  makes it possible to establish the following lemma.

**Lemma 3.1** (cf.[2]) *Let  $Z_{i,j,n}^{\mu,m} = \phi(\theta_{i,j}^{\mu,n})\rho_m(u_n)$ , we have for any  $\ell \geq 0$*

$$\left\langle \frac{\partial u_n}{\partial t}, Z_{i,j,n}^{\mu,m} \right\rangle \geq \epsilon(n, j, i). \tag{44}$$

Concerning the right-hand of (43), by the almost everywhere convergence of  $u_n$ , we have  $\phi(T_\ell(u_n) - \omega_{i,j}^\mu)\rho_m(u_n) \rightharpoonup \phi(T_\ell(u) - \omega_{i,j}^\mu)\rho_m(u)$  weakly-\* in  $L^\infty(Q)$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ , and then

$$\int_Q f_n \phi(T_\ell(u_n) - \omega_{i,j}^\mu)\rho_m(u_n) \, dxdt \rightarrow \int_Q f \phi(T_\ell(u) - \omega_{i,j}^\mu)\rho_m(u) \, dxdt,$$

so that  $\phi(T_\ell(u) - \omega_{i,j}^\mu)\rho_m(u) \rightharpoonup \phi(T_\ell(u) - T_\ell(u)_\mu - \exp(-\mu t)T_\ell(w_i))\rho_m(u)$  weakly star in  $L^\infty(Q)$  as  $j \rightarrow \infty$ , and finally,

$$\phi(T_\ell(u) - T_\ell(u)_\mu - \exp(-\mu t)T_\ell(w_i))\rho_m(u) \rightarrow 0 \text{ weakly star as } \mu \rightarrow \infty.$$

Then, we deduce that

$$\langle f_n, \phi(T_\ell(u_n) - \omega_{i,j}^\mu)\rho_m(u_n) \rangle = \epsilon(n, j, \mu). \quad (45)$$

Similarly, Lebesgue's convergence theorem shows that

$$\Phi_n(u_n)\rho_m(u_n) \rightarrow \Phi(u)\rho_m(u) \text{ strongly in } (E_\psi(Q)^N) \text{ as } n \rightarrow \infty,$$

and

$$\Phi_n(u_n)\chi_{\{m \leq |u_n| \leq m+1\}}\phi'(T_\ell(u_n) - \omega_{i,j}^\mu) \rightarrow \Phi(u)\chi_{\{m \leq u \leq m+1\}}\phi'(T_\ell(u) - \omega_{i,j}^\mu)$$

strongly in  $(E_\psi(Q)^N)$ . Then by virtue of  $\nabla T_\ell(u_n) \rightharpoonup \nabla T_\ell(u)$  weakly star in  $(L_\varphi(Q)^N)$ , and  $\nabla u_n \chi_{\{m \leq |u_n| \leq m+1\}} = \nabla T_{m+1}(u_n)\chi_{\{m \leq |u_n| \leq m+1\}}$  a. e. in  $Q$ , one has

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_Q \Phi_n(u_n) \cdot (\nabla T_\ell(u_n) - \nabla \omega_{i,j}^\mu)\phi'(T_\ell(u_n) - \omega_{i,j}^\mu)\rho_m(u_n) \, dxdt \\ & \rightarrow \int_Q \Phi(u)\nabla(\nabla T_\ell(u) - \nabla \omega_{i,j}^\mu)\phi'(T_\ell(u) - \omega_{i,j}^\mu)\rho_m(u) \, dxdt \end{aligned}$$

as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ , and

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{\{m \leq |u_n| \leq m+1\}} \Phi_n(u_n)\phi(T_\ell(u_n) - \omega_{i,j}^\mu)\nabla u_n \rho'_m(u_n) \, dxdt \\ & \rightarrow \int_{\{m \leq |u_n| \leq m+1\}} \Phi(u)\phi(T_\ell(u) - \omega_{i,j}^\mu)\nabla u \rho'_m(u) \, dxdt \end{aligned}$$

as  $n \rightarrow +\infty$ . Thus, by using the modular convergence of  $\omega_{i,j}^\mu$  as  $j \rightarrow +\infty$  and letting  $\mu$  tend to infinity, we get

$$\int_Q \Phi_n(u_n) \cdot (\nabla T_\ell(u_n) - \nabla \omega_{i,j}^\mu)\phi'(\theta_{i,j}^{\mu,n})\rho_m(u_n) \, dxdt = \epsilon(n, j, \mu) \quad (46)$$

and

$$\int_{\{m \leq |u_n| \leq m+1\}} \Phi_n(u_n) \cdot \nabla u_n \phi(\theta_{i,j}^{\mu,n})\rho'_m(u_n) \, dxdt = \epsilon(n, j, \mu). \quad (47)$$

Concerning the third term of the right-hand side of (43) we obtain that

$$\begin{aligned} & \left| \int_{\{m \leq |u_n| \leq m+1\}} a(x, t, u_n, \nabla u_n) \cdot \nabla u_n \phi(\theta_{n,j}^{\mu,i})\rho'_m(u_n) \, dxdt \right| \\ & \leq \phi(2k) \int_{\{m \leq |u_n| \leq m+1\}} a(x, t, u_n, \nabla u_n) \cdot \nabla u_n \, dxdt. \end{aligned}$$

Then by (34) we deduce that

$$\left| \int_Q a(x, t, u_n, \nabla u_n) \cdot \nabla u_n \phi(\theta_{n,j}^{\mu,i}) \rho'_m(u_n) \, dxdt \right| \leq \epsilon(n, \mu, m). \tag{48}$$

Using the same technics as in the proof of Proposition 5.6 in [4], we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_Q \left( a(x, t, T_k(u_n), \nabla T_k(u_n)) - a(x, t, T_k(u), \nabla T_k(u) \chi^s) \right) \\ & \times \left( \nabla T_k(u_n) - \nabla T_k(u) \chi^s \right) \, dxdt \leq \epsilon(n, j, \mu, i, s, m). \end{aligned} \tag{49}$$

To pass to the limit in (49) as  $n, j, m, s$  tend to infinity, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & \lim_{s \rightarrow \infty} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_Q \left( a(x, t, T_k(u_n), \nabla T_k(u_n)) - a(x, t, T_k(u), \nabla T_k(u) \chi^s) \right) \\ & \times \left( \nabla T_k(u_n) - \nabla T_k(u) \chi^s \right) \, dxdt = 0. \end{aligned} \tag{50}$$

And thus, as in the elliptic case (see [18]), there exists a subsequence also denoted by  $u_n$  such that

$$\nabla u_n \rightarrow \nabla u \text{ a.e. in } Q. \tag{51}$$

Then, for all  $k > 0$ , one has

$$\begin{aligned} & a(x, t, T_k(u_n), \nabla T_k(u_n)) \rightharpoonup a(x, t, T_k(u), \nabla T_k(u)) \\ & \text{weakly star in } (L_\psi(Q))^N \text{ for } \sigma(\Pi L_\psi, \Pi E_\varphi). \end{aligned} \tag{52}$$

**Step 4: In this step we prove that  $u$  satisfies (15).** According to (50), one can pass to the limit as  $n$  tends to  $+\infty$  for fixed  $m \geq 0$  to obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\{m \leq |u_n| \leq m+1\}} a(x, t, u_n, \nabla u_n) \nabla u_n \, dxdt \\ & = \int_Q a(x, t, T_{m+1}(u), \nabla T_{m+1}(u)) \nabla T_{m+1}(u) \, dxdt \\ & \quad - \int_Q a(x, t, T_m(u), \nabla T_m(u)) \nabla T_m(u) \, dxdt \\ & = \int_{\{m \leq |u| \leq m+1\}} a(x, t, u, \nabla u) \cdot \nabla u \, dxdt. \end{aligned} \tag{53}$$

Taking the limit as  $m \rightarrow +\infty$  in (53) and using the estimate (34) show that  $u$  satisfies (15). Following the same technique as that used in [2], and by using (29), (50) and Vitali's theorem, we have

$$g_n(x, t, u_n, \nabla u_n) \rightarrow g(x, t, u, \nabla u) \text{ strongly in } L^1(Q). \tag{54}$$

**Step 5 : Passing to the limit.** Let  $S$  be a function in  $W^{2,\infty}(\mathbb{R})$  such that  $S'$  has a compact support. Let  $K$  be a positive real number such that  $\text{supp}(S') \subset [-K, K]$ . Pointwise multiplication of the approximate equation  $(P_n)$  by  $S'(u_n)$  leads to

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial S(u_n)}{\partial t} &- \text{div}\left(a(x, t, u_n, \nabla u_n)S'(u_n)\right) + S''(u_n)a(x, t, u_n, \nabla u_n) \cdot \nabla u_n \\ &- \text{div}\left(S'(u_n)\Phi(u_n)\right) + S''(u_n)\Phi(u_n) \cdot \nabla u_n \\ &+ g_n(x, t, u_n, \nabla u_n)S'(u_n) \\ &= f_n S'(u_n). \end{aligned} \quad (55)$$

In what follows we pass to the limit as  $n$  tends to  $+\infty$  in each term of (55).

- Since  $S$  is bounded and continuous, then the fact that  $u_n \rightarrow u$  a.e. in  $Q$ , implies that  $S(u_n)$  converges to  $S(u)$  a.e. in  $Q$  and  $L^\infty$  weakly-\*. Consequently,

$$\frac{\partial S(u_n)}{\partial t} \rightarrow \frac{\partial S(u)}{\partial t} \quad \text{in } \mathcal{D}'(Q) \text{ as } n \text{ tends to } +\infty.$$

- Since  $\text{supp}(S') \subset [-K, K]$ , we have for  $n \geq K$ ,

$$a(x, t, u_n, \nabla u_n)S'(u_n) = a(x, t, T_K(u_n), \nabla T_K(u_n))S'(u_n) \quad \text{a.e. in } Q.$$

The pointwise convergence of  $u_n$  to  $u$  and (52) as  $n$  tends to  $\infty$  and the bounded character of  $S'$  permit us to conclude that

$$a(x, t, T_K(u_n), \nabla T_K(u_n))S'(u_n) \rightarrow a(x, t, T_K(u), \nabla T_K(u))S'(u) \quad \text{weakly star in } (L_\psi(Q))^N \quad (56)$$

as  $n$  tends to infinity.

- Regarding the 'energy' term, we have for  $n \geq K$

$$S''(u_n)a(x, t, u_n, \nabla u_n) \cdot \nabla u_n = S''(u_n)a(x, t, T_K(u_n), \nabla T_K(u_n)) \cdot \nabla T_K(u_n) \quad \text{a.e. in } Q.$$

The pointwise convergence of  $S'(u_n) \rightarrow S'(u)$  and (52) as  $n$  tends to  $+\infty$  and the bounded character of  $S''$  permit us to conclude that

$$S''(u_n)a(x, t, u_n, \nabla u_n) \cdot \nabla u_n \rightarrow S''(u)a(x, t, T_K(u), \nabla T_K(u)) \cdot \nabla T_K(u) \quad \text{weakly star in } L^1(Q). \quad (57)$$

Recall that  $S''(u)a(x, t, T_K(u), \nabla T_K(u)) \cdot \nabla T_K(u) = S''(u)a(x, t, u, \nabla u) \cdot \nabla u$  a.e. in  $Q$ .

- Since  $\text{supp}(S') \subset [-K, K]$ , we have

$$S'(u_n)\Phi_n(u_n) = S'(u_n)\Phi_n(T_K(u_n)) \quad \text{a.e. in } Q. \quad (58)$$

As a consequence of (11) and (29), it follows that

$$S'(u_n)\Phi_n(u_n) \rightarrow S'(u)\Phi(T_K(u)) \quad \text{a.e. in } (E_\varphi(Q))^N, \quad (59)$$

we have  $\nabla S''(u_n)$  converges to  $\nabla S''(u)$  weakly in  $(L_\varphi(Q))^N$  as  $n$  tends to  $+\infty$ , while  $\Phi_n(T_K(u_n))$  is uniformly bounded with respect to  $n$  and converges a. e. in  $Q$  to  $\Phi(T_K(u))$  as  $n$  tends to  $+\infty$ . Therefore

$$S''(u_n)\Phi_n(u_n)\nabla u_n \rightarrow S''(u)\Phi(u)\nabla u \quad \text{weakly in } L_\varphi(Q), \quad (60)$$

- Since  $\text{supp}S' \subset [-K, K]$  and from (54), we have

$$S'(u_n)g_n(x, t, u_n, \nabla u_n) \longrightarrow g(x, t, u, \nabla u)S'(u) \quad \text{strongly in } L^1(Q). \tag{61}$$

- Due to  $f_n \longrightarrow f$  in  $L^1(Q)$  and the fact that  $u_n \longrightarrow u$  a.e. in  $Q$ , we have

$$S'(u_n)f_n \longrightarrow S'(u)f \quad \text{strongly in } L^1(Q). \tag{62}$$

As a consequence of the above convergence results, we are in a position to pass to the limit as  $n$  tends to  $+\infty$  in equation (55) and to conclude that

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial S(u)}{\partial t} &- \operatorname{div}\left(a(x, t, u, \nabla u)S'(u)\right) + S''(u)a(x, t, u, \nabla u) \cdot \nabla u \\ &- \operatorname{div}\left(S'(u)\Phi(u)\right) + S''(u)\Phi(u) \cdot \nabla u \\ &+ g(x, t, u, \nabla u)S'(u) \\ &= fS'(u). \end{aligned} \tag{63}$$

It remains to show that  $S(u)$  satisfies the initial condition.

To this end, firstly note that,  $S$  being bounded,  $S(u_n)$  is bounded in  $L^\infty(Q)$ . Secondly, (55) and the above considerations on the behavior of the terms of this equation show that  $\frac{\partial S(u_n)}{\partial t}$  is bounded in  $L^1(Q) + V^*$ . As a consequence, an Aubin’s type lemma (see, e.g, [17]) implies that  $S(u_n)$  lies in a compact set of  $C^0([0, T], L^1(\Omega))$ . It follows that, on the one hand,  $S(u_n)(t = 0) = S(u_{0n})$  converges to  $S(u)(t = 0)$  strongly in  $L^1(\Omega)$ .

On the other hand, the smoothness of  $S$  implies that

$$S(u)(t = 0) = S(u_0) \quad \text{in } \Omega.$$

As a conclusion of step 1 to step 6, the proof of Theorem 3.1 is complete.

**Example 3.1** Let  $\Omega$  be a bounded Lipschitz domain of  $\mathbb{R}^N$  and  $T > 0$ , we denote by  $Q = \Omega \times [0, T]$ , and let  $\varphi$  and  $\psi$  be two complementary Musielak functions. Moreover, we assume that  $\varphi(x, t)$  decreases with respect to one of coordinates of  $x$  (for example,  $\varphi(x, t) = |t|^{p(x)}\log(1 + t^3)$ ,  $p(x) = e^{-x_1^2+x_2^2+\dots+x_N^2}$ ). We set

$$a(x, t, s, \zeta) = (3 + \cos^2(\varphi(x, s)))\psi_x^{-1}(\varphi(x, |\zeta|))\frac{\zeta}{|\zeta|},$$

$$g(x, t, s, \zeta) = \frac{\varphi(x, |\zeta|)}{1+s^2}, \quad \Phi(s) = (|s|^{r_1-1}s, \dots, |s|^{r_N-1}s), \quad 1 \leq r_1, \dots, r_N < \infty.$$

It is easy to show that  $a(x, t, s, \zeta)$  is the Caratheodory function satisfying the growth condition (6), the coercivity (8) and the monotonicity condition, while the Caratheodory function  $g(x, t, s, \zeta)$  satisfies the condition (9) and (10), Finally, the hypotheses of Theorem 3.1 are satisfied. Therefore, the following problem

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\{(x,t) \in Q; m \leq |u(x,t)| \leq m+1\}} a(x, t, u, \nabla u) \cdot \nabla u \quad dxdt = 0, \\ \frac{\partial S(u)}{\partial t} - \operatorname{div}\left(a(x, t, u, \nabla u)S'(u)\right) + S''(u)a(x, t, u, \nabla u) \cdot \nabla u \\ - \operatorname{div}\left(S'(u)\Phi(u)\right) + S''(u)\Phi(u) \cdot \nabla u + g(x, t, u, \nabla u)S'(u) = fS'(u), \\ S(u)(t = 0) = S(u_0) \text{ in } \Omega, \\ \text{for every function } S \text{ in } W^{2,\infty}(\mathbb{R}) \text{ and such that } S' \text{ has a compact support in } \mathbb{R} \end{array} \right. \tag{64}$$

has at least one renormalised solution for any  $f \in L^1(Q)$ .

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