

## $L_q$ ESTIMATION ON THE LEAST ENERGY SOLUTIONS

DAE HYEON PAKH AND SANG DON PARK

### 1. Introduction

Let us consider the Neumann problem for a quasilinear equation

$$(I_\varepsilon) \quad \begin{cases} \varepsilon^m \operatorname{div}(|\nabla u|^{m-2} \nabla u) - u|u|^{m-2} + f(u) = 0 & \text{in } \Omega \\ \frac{\partial u}{\partial \nu} = 0 & \text{on } \partial\Omega. \end{cases}$$

where  $1 < m < N$ ,  $N \geq 2$ ,  $\varepsilon > 0$ ,  $\Omega$  is a smooth bounded domain in  $\mathbf{R}^N$  and  $\nu$  is the unit outer normal vector to  $\partial\Omega$ . Moreover  $f$  is in  $C^2(\mathbf{R})$  and satisfies the following conditions:

- ( $f_1$ )  $f(t) = 0$  for  $t \leq 0$
- ( $f_2$ )  $f(t)/t^{m-1} \uparrow +\infty$  as  $t \rightarrow +\infty$
- ( $f_3$ )  $f(t) = o(t^{m-1})$  at  $0^+$  and  $f(t) = O(t^{p-1})$  at  $+\infty$ , where  $m < p < \frac{mN}{N-m}$
- ( $f_4$ ) there exists  $\theta \in (0, \frac{1}{m})$  such that  $F(t) = \int_0^t f(s) ds \leq \theta t f(t)$

In this paper, we study the asymptotic  $L_q$  behavior of the mountain pass solutions, as  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ , which are critical points of the functional  $J_\varepsilon$  defined on  $W^{1,m}(\Omega)$  by

$$(1.1) \quad J_\varepsilon(v) = \frac{1}{m} \int_\Omega \varepsilon^m |\nabla v|^m + |v|^m dx - \int_\Omega F(v) dx$$

In relation to  $J_\varepsilon$ , a critical value is determined by

$$(1.2) \quad c_\varepsilon = \inf_{g \in \Gamma} \sup_{0 \leq t \leq 1} J_\varepsilon(g(t)),$$

Received March 21, 1994.

1991 AMS Subject Classification: 35A15.

Key words and phrases: least energy solution, mountain pass method, sobolev imbedding.

where  $\Gamma = \{g \in C([0, 1], W^{1,m}(\Omega)) \mid g(0) = 0 \text{ and } g(1) = e\}$  and  $e$  is a nontrivial and nonnegative element in  $W^{1,m}(\Omega)$  such that  $J_\epsilon(e) \leq 0$ .

In the case  $m = 2$ , this model is reduced to a semilinear problem which is deeply studied by C.H. LIN, W.M.-NI and I. TAKAGI,[6, 7]. They also showed that the peak point of the mountain pass solution corresponding to sufficiently small  $\epsilon$  is located at the boundary point whose mean curvature is maximal. We discuss the existence of the mountain pass solution of  $(I_\epsilon)$  in section 2 and estimate the growth of internal energy

$$E_\epsilon(v) = \int_\Omega \epsilon^m |\nabla v|^m + |v|^m dx.$$

and show the  $L_q$ -behavior of the solutions in terms of  $\epsilon$  in section 3.

## 2. Existence of positive solution of $(I_\epsilon)$

We first verify the constant  $c_\epsilon$  is a positive critical value of  $J_\epsilon$ , whose corresponding critical point is called a mountain pass solution or a least energy solution.

LEMMA 2.1.  $c_\epsilon$  in (1.2) is a positive critical value of  $J_\epsilon$  defined in (1.1)

*Proof.* Since  $J_\epsilon$  is  $C^1$  functional, it suffices to show that  $J_\epsilon$  satisfies all hypotheses of Mountain Pass lemma, [8, Theorem 2.2]. Let  $\{u_j\} \subset W^{1,m}(\Omega)$  be a Palais Smale sequence, that is, there is a positive constant  $a_1$  satisfying  $|J_\epsilon(u_j)| < a_1$  and  $DJ_\epsilon(u_j) \rightarrow 0$ . Then we obtain by  $(f_4)$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} a_1 + o(1)\|u_j\|_{W^{1,m}} &\geq J_\epsilon(u_j) - \theta \langle DJ_\epsilon(u_j), u_j \rangle \\ &= \left(\frac{1}{m} - \theta\right) \int_\Omega \epsilon^m |\nabla u_j|^m + |u_j|^m dx \\ &\quad + \int_\Omega (\theta u_j f(u_j) - F(u_j)) dx \\ &\geq \left(\frac{1}{m} - \theta\right) \int_\Omega \epsilon^m |\nabla u_j|^m + |u_j|^m dx \end{aligned}$$

Hence  $\{u_j\}$  is bounded in  $W^{1,m}(\Omega)$ . So there is a subsequence, again denoted by  $\{u_j\}$ , and a point  $u \in W^{1,m}(\Omega)$  such that  $u_j \rightarrow u$ , weakly in  $W^{1,m}(\Omega)$ . To show that  $u_j \rightarrow u$  in  $W^{1,m}(\Omega)$ , we first assume  $m \geq 2$  and set  $h(u) = -u|u|^{m-2} + f(u)$ . Since  $m$ -Laplacian is strongly monotone (see e.g., [3, Lemma 4.10], we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 & a_2 \varepsilon^m \|\nabla u_j - \nabla u\|_{L^m}^m \\
 & \leq \varepsilon^m \int_{\Omega} (|\nabla u_j|^{m-2} \nabla u_j - |\nabla u|^{m-2} \nabla u)(\nabla u_j - \nabla u) \, dx \\
 (2.1) \quad & = \langle DJ_{\varepsilon}(u), u_j - u \rangle + \langle DJ_{\varepsilon}(u_j), u_j - u \rangle \\
 & \quad + \int_{\Omega} (h(u_j) - h(u))(u_j - u) \, dx.
 \end{aligned}$$

Applying  $(f_3)$ , Hölder’s inequality and Sobolev imbedding theorem, we can show that the right side of (2.1) tends to 0 as  $j \rightarrow \infty$ . For the case  $1 < m < 2$ , let  $H_j(x) = (|\nabla u_j|^{m-2} \nabla u_j - |\nabla u|^{m-2} \nabla u)(\nabla u_j - \nabla u)$ . Due to  $u_j \rightarrow u$  weakly and [3, Lemma 4.10],  $\int_{\Omega} H_j \, dx \rightarrow 0$  and

$$(|\nabla u_j - \nabla u|^2) \leq H_j(x)(|\nabla u_j| + |\nabla u|)^{2-m}.$$

Hence we have, from Hölder’s inequality,

$$\int_{\Omega} |\nabla u_j - \nabla u|^m \, dx \leq \left( \int_{\Omega} H_j \, dx \right)^{\frac{m}{2}} \left( \int_{\Omega} (|\nabla u_j| + |\nabla u|)^m \, dx \right)^{\frac{2-m}{2}},$$

which shows  $\|\nabla u_j - \nabla u\| \rightarrow 0$ . Since  $u_j \rightarrow u$  in  $L_m(\Omega)$ ,  $u_j \rightarrow u$  in  $W^{1,m}(\Omega)$ . This shows Palais Smale condition. Finally by  $(f_3)$ , there is  $a_3 > 0$ ,

$$\int_{\Omega} F(u) \, dx \leq \theta \int_{\Omega} |u|^m \, dx + a_3 \int_{\Omega} |u|^p \, dx$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
 J_{\varepsilon}(u) &= \frac{1}{m} \|u\|_{W^{1,m}}^m - \int_{\Omega} F(u) \, dx \\
 &\geq \left( \frac{1}{m} - \theta \right) \|u\|_{W^{1,m}}^m - a_3 \|u\|_{W^{1,m}}^p > 0
 \end{aligned}$$

for sufficiently small  $\|u\|_{W^{1,m}}$ . Hence by the mountain pass lemma, [8, Theorem 2.2],  $c_{\varepsilon}$  in (1.2) is a positive critical value.  $\square$

We now call the critical point  $u_{\varepsilon}$  corresponding to  $c_{\varepsilon}$  by the least energy solution. To show the reason, we need the following lemma

LEMMA 2.2. *Let  $v \in W^{1,m}(\Omega)$  and  $v \neq 0$  and define*

$$(2.2) \quad h_d(t) = t^{m-1} \int_{\Omega} d|\nabla v|^m + |v|^m dx - \int_{\Omega} v f(tv) dx ,$$

where  $d$  is a positive constant, then there exists unique  $\lambda > 0$  satisfying  $h_d(\lambda) = 0$  such that  $h(t) > 0$  for  $0 < t < \lambda$  and  $h_d(t) < 0$  for  $t > \lambda$ .

*Proof.* Clearly  $h_d(t)$  is continuous and

$$\frac{h_d(t)}{t^{m-1}} = \int_{\Omega} d|\nabla v|^m + |v|^m dx - \int_{\Omega} |v|^m \frac{f(tv)}{|tv|^{m-1}} dx.$$

Noting that the last integral is strictly increasing in  $t$  by  $(f_2)$  and taking  $(f_3)$  into account, it is easy to check the assertion.  $\square$

THEOREM 2.3. *Let  $e$  be non trivial such that  $J_{\epsilon}(e) = 0$  and let  $c_{\epsilon}$  be a critical value corresponding to  $e$ , which is determined by Mountain Pass lemma. Then  $c_{\epsilon}$  is characterized by*

$$(2.3) \quad c_{\epsilon} = \inf \left\{ \sup_{t \geq 0} J_{\epsilon}(tv) \mid v \in W^{1,m}(\Omega), v \neq 0 \text{ and } v \geq 0 \right\}.$$

*Proof.* Let  $u_{\epsilon}$  be a critical point corresponding to  $c_{\epsilon}$ . Then by Lemma 2.2, with  $d = \epsilon^m$  in (2.2),

$$c_{\epsilon} = \sup_{t \geq 0} J_{\epsilon}(tu_{\epsilon})$$

Hence

$$c_{\epsilon} \geq \inf \left\{ \sup_{t \geq 0} J_{\epsilon}(tv) \mid v \in W^{1,m}(\Omega), v \neq 0 \text{ and } v \geq 0 \right\}.$$

Now suppose that there exists nontrivial and nonnegative  $\tilde{v}$  with  $J_{\epsilon}(\tilde{v}) = 0$  such that

$$c_{\epsilon} > \sup_{t \geq 0} J_{\epsilon}(t\tilde{v}).$$

By Lemma 2.2, there exists  $\tilde{t} > 0$  such that  $\tilde{e} = \tilde{t}\tilde{v}$  satisfies  $J_{\epsilon}(\tilde{e}) = 0$ . Let  $V = \{ae + b\tilde{e} \mid a, b \in \mathbf{R}\}$  and  $V^+ = \{ae + b\tilde{e} \mid a, b \in \mathbf{R}^+\}$ . Let us choose a ball  $B_R$  with  $R \geq \max\{\|e\|_{W^{1,m}(\Omega)}, \|\tilde{e}\|_{W^{1,m}(\Omega)}\}$  such that on  $\partial B_R \cap V^+$ ,  $J_{\epsilon} \leq 0$ . Let  $\gamma$  be a path consisting of line segments  $0$  to  $R\tilde{e}/\|\tilde{e}\|$  and the arc  $\partial B_R \cap V^+$  and the line segment  $R\tilde{e}/\|\tilde{e}\|$  to  $e$ . Clearly  $\gamma \in \Gamma$  and it is easy to see that  $c_{\epsilon} > \sup_{v \in \gamma} J_{\epsilon}(v)$ . But it is against the definition of  $c_{\epsilon}$ .  $\square$

REMARK. Theorem 2.3 shows that  $c_\epsilon$  is independent on the choice of  $\epsilon$ . Moreover, it is the least energy in the sense that if  $v$  is another solution then  $J_\epsilon(v) \geq c_\epsilon (= J_\epsilon(u_\epsilon))$ .

### 3. The asymptotic behavior of the least energy solution

We now define an (internal) energy functional by

$$E_\epsilon(v) = \int_\Omega \epsilon^m |\nabla v|^m + |v|^m dx.$$

Note that if  $u$  is a critical point of  $J_\epsilon$ ,  $u$  satisfies the following relation, which easily comes from  $\langle DJ_\epsilon(u), u \rangle = 0$ .

$$E_\epsilon(u) = \int_\Omega u f(u) dx.$$

THEOREM 3.1. Let  $u_\epsilon$  be a least energy solution to  $(I_\epsilon)$ . Then there exist positive constants  $b_1$  and  $b_2$  such that for all sufficiently small  $\epsilon > 0$ ,

$$b_1 \epsilon^N < E_\epsilon(u_\epsilon) < b_2 \epsilon^N.$$

*Proof.* Let  $v$  be a critical point of  $J_\epsilon$ . Set  $\Omega_\epsilon = \{x \mid \epsilon x \in \Omega\}$  and define  $w(x)$  by  $v(x) = w(\epsilon^{-1}x)$ . Then for any  $q$  with  $m \leq q < \frac{mN}{N-m}$ , applying the Sobolev imbedding theorem,

$$\begin{aligned} (\epsilon^{-N} E_\epsilon(v))^{\frac{1}{m}} &= \left( \int_{\Omega_\epsilon} |\nabla w|^m + w^m dx \right)^{\frac{1}{m}} \\ &\geq b_q \left( \int_{\Omega_\epsilon} |w|^q dx \right)^{\frac{1}{q}} \\ &= b_q \left( \epsilon^{-N} \int_\Omega |v|^q dx \right)^{\frac{1}{q}} \end{aligned}$$

Hence

$$(3.1) \quad \epsilon^{-N} \int_\Omega |v|^q dx \leq b_q^{-q} (\epsilon^{-N} E_\epsilon(v))^{\frac{q}{m}}$$

On the other hand by  $(f_3)$ , there exists  $\alpha > 0$  such that

$$\begin{aligned}
 \varepsilon^{-N} E_\varepsilon(v) &= \varepsilon^{-N} \int_{\Omega} v f(v) dx \\
 (3.2) \qquad \qquad &\leq o(1)\varepsilon^{-N} \int_{\Omega} v^m dx + \alpha\varepsilon^{-N} \int_{\Omega} v^q dx
 \end{aligned}$$

by (3.1) and (3.2) it is easily seen that

$$(\varepsilon^{-N} E_\varepsilon(v))^{q/m-1} \geq b_q^q / \alpha(1 - o(1)b_m^{-m}).$$

Since  $\frac{q}{m} - 1 > 0$  and  $b_m, b_q$  depend on only  $q, m, N$  and the cone property of  $\Omega$ , (see e.g., [1, Lemma 5.14 ]), the left inequality holds. On the other hand, from  $(f_4)$ ,

$$\begin{aligned}
 J_\varepsilon(u_\varepsilon) &\geq \left(\frac{1}{m} - \theta\right) \int_{\Omega} u_\varepsilon f(u_\varepsilon) dx \\
 &= \left(\frac{1}{m} - \theta\right) E_\varepsilon(u_\varepsilon).
 \end{aligned}$$

Hence

$$(3.3) \qquad E_\varepsilon(u_\varepsilon) \leq \left(\frac{1}{m} - \theta\right)^{-1} J_\varepsilon(u_\varepsilon).$$

Now we may assume  $0 \in \Omega$  without loss of generality. Set  $\Omega_\varepsilon = \{x : \varepsilon x \in \Omega\}$ . Then for all  $\varepsilon$  sufficiently small, the unit ball  $B_1 \subset \Omega_\varepsilon$ . Now choose a particular function  $\psi$  given by

$$\psi(x) = \begin{cases} 1 - |x| & \text{for } |x| \leq 1 \\ 0 & \text{for } |x| > 1 \end{cases}$$

Clearly by Lemma 2.2, there exists  $\lambda \geq 0$  independent of  $\varepsilon$  such that

$$\int_{\Omega_\varepsilon} |\lambda \nabla \psi|^m + |\lambda \psi|^m dx = \int_{\Omega_\varepsilon} f(\lambda \psi) \lambda \psi dx.$$

Let  $v_\varepsilon(x) = \lambda \psi(\varepsilon^{-1}x)$ . Then  $\text{Supp}(v_\varepsilon) \subset \Omega$ ,  $E_\varepsilon(v_\varepsilon) = \int_{\Omega} f(v_\varepsilon)v_\varepsilon dx$  and for  $b = \int_{\mathbf{R}^N} |\lambda \nabla \psi|^m + |\lambda \psi|^m dx$ ,

$$(3.4) \qquad E_\varepsilon(v_\varepsilon) = \varepsilon^N \left( \int_{\Omega_\varepsilon} |\lambda \nabla \psi|^m + |\lambda \psi|^m dx \right) \leq b\varepsilon^N.$$

On the other hand,

$$(3.5) \quad J_\varepsilon(u_\varepsilon) \leq \sup_{t>0} J_\varepsilon(tv_\varepsilon) = J_\varepsilon(v_\varepsilon) \leq \frac{1}{m} E_\varepsilon(v_\varepsilon).$$

Hence from (3.3), (3.4) and (3.5), we obtain the right inequality of (3.1), with  $b_2 = \frac{1}{m}(\frac{1}{m} - \theta)^{-1}b$ .  $\square$

**PROPOSITION 3.2.** *Let  $u_\varepsilon$  be a least energy solution corresponding to  $c_\varepsilon$  defined by (1.2). Then  $u_\varepsilon$  is positive.*

*Proof.* Suppose to the contrary that  $|\{x : u_\varepsilon \leq 0\}| > 0$ . Then  $u_\varepsilon$  is changing sign solution i.e.,  $|\{x : u_\varepsilon > 0\}| > 0$  since  $u_\varepsilon^+ \equiv 0$  yields absurdity that  $0 < E_\varepsilon(u_\varepsilon) = \int_\Omega u_\varepsilon^+ f(u_\varepsilon^+) dx = 0$ . Clearly for all  $t > 0$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} J_\varepsilon(tu_\varepsilon^+) &< J_\varepsilon(tu_\varepsilon) \\ &\leq \sup_{t>0} J_\varepsilon(tu_\varepsilon) \\ &= J_\varepsilon(u_\varepsilon) = c_\varepsilon. \end{aligned}$$

Hence by Theorem 2.3, there comes out a contradiction ;

$$c_\varepsilon \leq \sup_{0 \leq t} J_\varepsilon(tu_\varepsilon^+) < c_\varepsilon.$$

Hence  $u_\varepsilon$  is nonnegative. Now by the regularity result in [5, 9],  $u_\varepsilon$  is  $C^{1,\alpha}$  and it is easy to see that  $u_\varepsilon > 0$  using the extended version of Hopf boundary point lemma, which can be seen in [4, 10].  $\square$

**COROLLARY 3.3.** *For all sufficiently small  $\varepsilon$ , each least energy solution is not constant*

*Proof.* If  $\lambda$  is a constant solution,  $\lambda$  satisfy

$$\lambda^{m-1} = f(\lambda).$$

By  $(f_2)$  and  $(f_3)$ , such  $\lambda$  is unique. Then for all small  $\varepsilon > 0$ , we have

$$E_\varepsilon(u_\varepsilon) = \lambda|\Omega| > b_2\varepsilon^N.$$

But it is against theorem 3.1.  $\square$

**THEOREM 3.4.** *Let  $u_\epsilon$  be a least energy solution to  $(I_\epsilon)$ . Then there exist positive constants  $c_q, C_q$  and  $C_\infty$  independent on  $\epsilon$  such that for  $q \geq m$*

$$(3.6) \quad c_q \epsilon^N \leq \int_{\Omega} |u_\epsilon|^q dx \leq C_q \epsilon^N$$

$$(3.7) \quad \|u\|_\infty \leq C_\infty.$$

*Proof.* We write  $u_\epsilon$  by  $u$  for simplicity. Now we apply the idea of Brezis and Kato which can be seen in [2]. Recall that each solution  $u$  of  $(I_\epsilon)$  satisfy

$$\int_{\Omega} \epsilon^m |\nabla u|^{m-2} \nabla u \nabla v + \int_{\Omega} u^{m-1} v = \int_{\Omega} f(u) v dx$$

for all  $v \in W^{1,m}(\Omega)$ . Now choose a sequence  $(\ell_j)_{j \geq 0}$  satisfying

$$\begin{cases} \ell_0 = 1 \\ (\ell_j - 1)m = (\frac{mN}{N-m})\ell_{j-1} - p & j = 1, 2, \dots \end{cases}$$

First take  $v = u^{(\ell_1-1)m+1}$ . Then we obtain

$$(3.8) \quad \int_{\Omega} u^{\ell_1 m} dx + \epsilon^m \frac{(\ell_1 - 1)m + 1}{\ell_1^m} \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u^{\ell_1}|^m dx = \int_{\Omega} u^{(\ell_1-1)m+1} f(u) dx.$$

And by  $(f_3)$ , there exists a positive constant  $c = c(f)$  such that

$$(3.9) \quad \int_{\Omega} u^{(\ell_1-1)m+1} f(u) dx \leq o(1) \int_{\Omega} u^{\ell_1 m} dx + c \int_{\Omega} u^{j_0 m^*} dx.$$

By (3.8) and (3.9), we have

$$\int_{\Omega} \epsilon^m |\nabla u^{\ell_1}|^m + u^{\ell_1 m} dx \leq c \ell_1^m \int_{\Omega} u^{m^*} dx.$$

This shows  $u^{\ell_1} \in W^{1,m}$  by virtue of Sobolev imbedding theorem. Repeat this process (substituting  $u^{(\ell_j-1)m+1}$  for  $v$ ) successively for the sequence  $(\ell_j)_{j \geq 1}$  to obtain

$$(3.10) \quad \int_{\Omega} \epsilon^m |\nabla u^{\ell_j}|^m + u^{\ell_j m} dx \leq c \ell_j^m \int_{\Omega} u^{m^* \ell_{j-1}} dx.$$



This shows  $u^{\ell_j} \in W^{1,m}(\Omega)$  and hence  $L_{m^* \ell_j}(\Omega)$  for all  $\ell_j$ .

Now we can give the proof of (3.7). Apply Sobolev imbedding theorem to the left hand side of (3.10), then there exists  $\tilde{c}$  such that

$$(3.11) \quad \varepsilon^m \left( \int_{\Omega} u^{(\frac{mN}{N-m})\ell_j} dx \right)^{\frac{N-m}{N}} \leq \tilde{c} \int_{\Omega} \varepsilon^m |\nabla u^{\ell_j}|^m + u^{\ell_j m} dx.$$

Let  $I_j = \int_{\Omega} u^{\ell_j m^*} dx$  and  $\alpha = \frac{N}{n-m}$ . Then (3.10) and (3.11) yields

$$(3.12) \quad I_j \leq (c^* \varepsilon^{-m} \ell_j^m I_{j-1})^\alpha \quad j = 1, 2, \dots.$$

Now by Theorem 3.1 and Sobolev imbedding theorem, we have

$$(3.13) \quad I_0 = \int_{\Omega} u^{m^*} dx \leq c_0 \varepsilon^N$$

From (3.12) and (3.13),

$$\begin{aligned} I_1 &\leq (c^* c_0 \varepsilon^{-m} \ell_1 I_0)^\alpha \\ &\leq c_1 \ell_1^{m\alpha} \varepsilon^N, \quad c_1 = (c^* c_0)^\alpha. \end{aligned}$$

Inductive process shows

$$(3.14) \quad I_j \leq \left( c_j \ell_j^{m\alpha} \ell_{j-1}^{m\alpha^2} \dots \ell_1^{m\alpha^j} \right) \varepsilon^N, \quad j = 0, 1, 2, \dots,$$

where  $c_j = c_0^{\alpha^j} c^* \sum_{k=1}^{k=j} \alpha^k$ . Clearly there exist positive constants  $a, A$  with  $a < 1 < A$  such that

$$(3.15) \quad a\alpha^j \leq \ell_j \leq A\alpha^j.$$

From (3.14) and (3.15), simple calculation shows

$$\|u\|_{L_{t_j m^*}} = I_j^{\frac{1}{t_j m^*}} \leq C \varepsilon^{\frac{N}{t_j m^*}} A^{\frac{1}{a} \frac{N-m}{m}} \left( \frac{N}{N-m} \right)^{\frac{N(N-m)}{am^2}}$$

where  $C = \left( (\max(1, c^*))^{\frac{N}{m}} c_0 \right)^{\frac{1}{am^*}}$ . By letting  $j \rightarrow \infty$ , we can find

(3.7) with  $C_\infty = CA^{\frac{1}{a} \frac{N-m}{m}} \left( \frac{N}{N-m} \right)^{\frac{N(N-m)}{am^2}}$ . Now it remains to show

(3.6). To see the right inequality of (3.6), note that  $\int_{\Omega} u^m dx \leq C\varepsilon^N$  by (3.1) and from (3.14),

$$\int_{\Omega} u^{\ell_j m^*} dx \leq C_j \varepsilon^N \quad j = 0, 1, 2, \dots,$$

where  $C_0 = c_0$  and  $C_j = c_j \ell_j^{m\alpha} \ell_{j-1}^{m\alpha^2} \dots \ell_1^{m\alpha^j}$ . Then standard  $L_q$  interpolation yields the result. Finally for the left inequality, apply  $(f_3)$  and Theorem 3.4 to the equation:

$$E_{\varepsilon}(u) = \int_{\Omega} u f(u) dx.$$

Then we easily obtain the inequality for  $q = p$ . Now for  $m \leq q \leq p$ , we have from (3.7)

$$c_p \varepsilon^N \leq \int_{\Omega} u^p dx = \int_{\Omega} u^{p-q} u^q dx \leq C_{\infty}^{p-q} \int_{\Omega} u^q dx.$$

Finally for  $q > p$  write  $p = (1 - \lambda)m + \lambda q$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} c_p \varepsilon^N &\leq \int_{\Omega} u^p dx = \int_{\Omega} u^{(1-\lambda)m + \lambda q} dx \\ &\leq \left( \int_{\Omega} u^m dx \right)^{1-\lambda} \left( \int_{\Omega} u^q dx \right)^{\lambda} \\ &\leq c_m^{1-\lambda} \varepsilon^{N(1-\lambda)} \left( \int_{\Omega} u^q dx \right)^{\lambda}. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore we obtain

$$\int_{\Omega} u^q dx \geq c_m^{1-1/\lambda} c_q^{1/\lambda} \varepsilon^N.$$

This completes the proof.  $\square$

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT. The first author is partly supported by KO SEF, GARC, BSRI and YSU Grant '95. The second author is partly supported by KRF.

## References

1. R. A. Adams, *Sobolev spaces*, Academic Press, 1975.
2. H. Brezis, T. Kato, *Remarks on the Schrödinger operator with singular complex potential*, J. Math. Pures et Appl. **58** (1979), 137-151.
3. J. I. Díaz, *Nonlinear partial differential equation and free boundaries I*, Pitman Advanced Publishing Program, 1985.
4. M. Guedda, L. Veron, *Quasilinear equations involving critical Sobolev exponents*, Nonlinear Analysis, Theory and Methods.
5. Gray M Liberman, *Boundary regularity for solutions of degenerate elliptic equations*, Nonlinear Analysis, Theory and Methods and Appl. **12-11** (1988), 1203-1219.
6. C. H. Lin, W. M-Ni, I. Takagi, *Large amplitude stationary solutions to a chemotaxis system*, J. Diff. Eq. **72** (1988), 1-27.
7. W. M-Ni, I. Takagi, *On the shape of least energy solutions to a semilinear Neumann problem*, Comm. Pure Appl. Math. **XLIV** (1991), 819-851.
8. Paul H. Rabinowitz, *Minimax methods in critical point theory with applications to differential equations*, AMS **65**.
9. P. Torksdorf, *Regularity for more general class of quasilinear elliptic equation*, J. Diff. Eq. **51** (1984), 126-150.
10. J. L. Vázquez, *A strong maximum principle for some quasilinear elliptic equations*, Appl. Math. Optim. **12** (1984), 191-202.

Department of Mathematics  
Yonsei University  
Seoul 120-749, Korea