

# Some studies on the regularity of solutions to degenerate or singular equations with gradient terms

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PDE Coffee Chat Organized by Dr.Alvis Zahl(Rutgers University, USA)

Online, April 4, 2026

## 1 Introduction

## 2 Main results

- Part I: Degenerate normalized  $p$ -Laplacian equation
- Part II: Degenerate/Singular fully nonlinear non-local equations

## 3 Some applications—dead core problems

- Fully nonlinear degenerate parabolic equation

## 4 Future directions

## 1 Introduction

## 2 Main results

- Part I: Degenerate normalized  $p$ -Laplacian equation
- Part II: Degenerate/Singular fully nonlinear non-local equations

## 3 Some applications—dead core problems

- Fully nonlinear degenerate parabolic equation

## 4 Future directions

# Fully nonlinear elliptic equations

## Theorem (Krylov~Safonov, 1980)

Let  $u \in C(B_1)$  be a viscosity solution to

$$F(D^2u) = 0 \text{ in } B_1$$

with  $F(\cdot)$  uniformly  $(\lambda, \Lambda)$ -elliptic in the sense that

$$\mathcal{P}_{\lambda, \Lambda}^-(N) \leq F(M + N) - F(M) \leq \mathcal{P}_{\lambda, \Lambda}^+(N) \quad M, N \in \text{Sym}(n).$$

Then  $\|u\|_{C^{1, \alpha_0}(B_{1/2})} \lesssim \|u\|_{L^\infty(B_1)}$  for some  $\alpha_0 \in (0, 1)$ .

Fully nonlinear equation has been studied by many leading mathematicians.

► Caffarelli, Trudinger, Savin, Silvestre, Teixeira, Figalli, Kriventsov, Xu-Jia Wang, Hongjie Dong, Hui Yu, Lan Tang, . . . . .

# Degenerate or Singular fully nonlinear elliptic equations

Consider continuous viscosity solutions to

$$|Du|^\gamma F(D^2u) = f \quad \text{in } B_1 \quad (1)$$

with  $\gamma \in (-1, \infty)$  and  $f \in C(B_1) \cap L^\infty(B_1)$ .

**Theorem (Birindelli~Demengel, J. Differential Equations., 2010)**

As  $\gamma \in (-1, 0)$ , then  $u \in C_{\text{loc}}^{1,\alpha}(B_1)$  for some  $\alpha \in (0, 1)$ .  $\iff$  **Fixed point methods.**

## Question

As  $0 < \gamma < \infty$ , how regular is the viscosity solution to (1) ?

# Two heuristic examples

## Example

The function  $u(x) = |x|^{1+\alpha}$  satisfies

$$|\nabla u|^\gamma \Delta u = C(n, \alpha, \gamma) |x|^{(1+\alpha)(1+\gamma)-(2+\gamma)},$$

where  $C(n, \alpha, \gamma) = (1 + \alpha)^{1+\gamma} (n + \alpha - 1)$ . Let  $\alpha = \frac{1}{1+\gamma}$ , then

$$|\nabla u|^\gamma \Delta u \equiv \text{constant}.$$

$\Rightarrow$  The solution  $u$  of

$$|Du|^\gamma F(D^2u) = f \quad \text{in } B_1$$

cannot be more regular than  $C^{1,\alpha}$ , even for  $f \equiv \text{constant}$  and  $F = \Delta$ .

## Example

For any given  $\theta := (1 + \alpha)(1 + \gamma) - (2 + \gamma) > \gamma$ , the function  $u(x) = |x_n|^{2 + \frac{\theta - \gamma}{1 + \gamma}}$  is exactly  $C^{2, \frac{\theta - \gamma}{1 + \gamma}}$  at the origin (a critical point for  $u$ ), and satisfies

$$|\nabla u|^\gamma \Delta u = f(x),$$

where

$$f(x) = C(n, \alpha, \gamma) |x_n|^{\gamma + \frac{\gamma(\theta - \gamma)}{1 + \gamma} + \frac{\theta - \gamma}{1 + \gamma}} = C(n, \alpha, \gamma) |x_n|^\theta \leq C(n, \alpha, \gamma) |x|^\theta.$$

$\Rightarrow$  The solution  $u$  can obtain higher regularity at some meaningful points if the Hölder exponent of  $f$  is larger than the degenerate rate  $\gamma$ .

## Theorem (Imbert~Silvestre, **Adv. in Math.**, 2013)

As  $0 < \gamma < \infty$ , then the solution to

$$|Du|^\gamma F(D^2u) = f \quad \text{in } B_1$$

is locally  $C^{1,\alpha}$ , for some  $0 < \alpha \leq \frac{1}{1+\gamma}$ .  $\Leftrightarrow$  **Geometric tangential methods & Improvement of flatness lemma.**

## Theorem (Imbert~Silvestre, *Adv. in Math.*, 2013)

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is locally  $C^{1,\alpha}$ , for some  $0 < \alpha \leq \frac{1}{1+\gamma}$ .  $\iff$  Geometric tangential methods & Improvement of flatness lemma.

## Theorem (Nascimento, *J. Funct. Anal.*, 2025)

Let  $u \in C(B_1)$  be a viscosity solution to

$$|Du|^\gamma F(D^2u) = f \quad \text{in } B_1,$$

where

- $f$  is  $C^{0,\theta}$  at 0,  $f(0) = 0$  and  $\theta > \gamma$ ;
- 0 is a local extrema for  $u$ .

Then  $u \in C^{2,\alpha}(0)$  for  $\alpha = \frac{\theta-\gamma}{1+\gamma}$ .  $\iff$  Flatness estimate & Scaling techniques & Iterative argument.

# Optimal regularity

Theorem (Araújo~Ricarte~Teixeira, **Calc. Var. & PDE.**, 2015)

As  $0 < \gamma < \infty$ , then the solution to

$$|Du|^\gamma F(D^2u) = f \quad \text{in } B_1$$

is locally  $C^{1,\alpha}$ , for

$$\alpha = \min \left\{ \alpha_0^-, \frac{1}{1+\gamma} \right\}. \quad \leftrightarrow \text{Approximation method.}$$

In other words, if  $\frac{1}{1+\gamma} < \alpha_0$ , the solutions are  $C^{1,\alpha}(B_{1/2})$  with  $\alpha = \frac{1}{1+\gamma}$ ; if, alternatively,  $\alpha_0 \leq \frac{1}{1+\gamma}$ , then solutions are  $C^{1,\alpha}(B_{1/2})$  for every  $\alpha < \alpha_0$ .

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## Remark

If  $F$  is also concave, then  $u$  is locally in  $C^{1, \frac{1}{1+\gamma}}$  and this regularity is optimal.

# Variable exponent degeneracies/singularities

Theorem (Bronzi~Pimentel~Rampasso~Teixeira, *J. Funct. Anal.*, 2020)

Let  $u \in C(B_1)$  be a viscosity solution to

$$|\nabla u|^{\gamma(x)} F(D^2 u) = f \quad \text{in } B_1,$$

where

- $F(\cdot)$  is a  $(\lambda, \Lambda)$ -uniformly elliptic operator;
- $f \in C(B_1) \cap L^\infty(B_1)$ ;
- $-1 < \inf_{x \in B_1} \gamma(x) \leq \gamma(\cdot) \in C(B_1)$ .

Then  $u \in C_{\text{loc}}^{1,\alpha}(B_1)$  for

$$\alpha = \min \left\{ \alpha_0^-, \frac{1}{1 + \|\gamma^+\|_\infty + \|\gamma^-\|_\infty} \right\}. \quad \Leftrightarrow \text{Approximation method.}$$

# Double Phase type degeneracies

Theorem (De. Filippis, *Proc. Roy. Soc. Edinburgh Math.*, 2021)

Let  $u \in C(B_1)$  be a viscosity solution to

$$(|Du|^p + a(x)|Du|^q)F(D^2u) = f \text{ in } B_1,$$

where

- $F(\cdot)$  is a  $(\lambda, \Lambda)$ -uniformly elliptic operator;
- $f \in C(B_1) \cap L^\infty(B_1)$ ;
- $0 \leq a(\cdot) \in C(B_1)$  and  $0 \leq p \leq q < \infty$ .

Then  $u \in C_{\text{loc}}^{1,\alpha}(B_1)$  for some  $0 < \alpha \leq \frac{1}{1+p}$ .  $\iff$  Geometric tangential methods & Improvement of flatness lemma.

# Further investigation

## Works on the global $C^{1,\alpha}$ regularity and Sobolev regularity

- Dirichlet boundary value problem  
Birindelli~Demengel, **ESAIM Control Optim. Calc. Var.**, 2014;  
Araújo~Sirakov, **J. Math. Pures Appl.**, 2024;  
Baasandorj~Byun~Lee, **Math. Z.**, 2024;  
W.~Jiang, Preprint., 2026.
- Neumann boundary value problem  
Banerjee~Verm, **Potential Anal.**, 2022;
- Oblique boundary value problem  
Byun~Kim~Oh, **Calc. Var. & PDE.**, 2025.
- $W^{2,\delta}$  estimate  
Byun~Kim~Oh, **J. Funct. Anal.**, 2025.

# Free transmission problems

## Theorem (Jesus, **Calc. Var.& PDE.**, 2022)

- Let  $u \in C(B_1)$  be a viscosity solution to

$$|Du|^{\beta(x,u,Du)} F(D^2u) = f \quad \text{in } B_1,$$

where  $F(\cdot)$  is a uniformly elliptic operator,  $f \in C(B_1) \cap L^\infty(B_1)$  and  $0 < \beta_m \leq \beta(\cdot) \leq \beta_M < \infty$ . Then  $u \in C_{\text{loc}}^{1,\alpha}(B_1)$ , where

$$\alpha = \min \left\{ \alpha_0^-, \frac{1}{1 + \beta_M} \right\}.$$

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$$\alpha = \min \left\{ \alpha_0^-, \frac{1}{1 + \beta_M} \right\}.$$

**Remark.** Previous strategy cannot be applied directly to this model.

- (Optimal pointwise regularity) Let  $u \in C(B_1)$  be a viscosity solution to

$$-|Du|^{\beta(x,u,Du)} F(D^2u) = f(x) \text{ in } B_1,$$

where  $\beta(x, u, Du) = \sum_{i=0}^N \beta_i(x) \chi_{G_i(u, Du)}(x)$ ,  $\{G_i(u, Du)\}_{i=1}^N$  are disjoint sets in  $B_1$ ,  $G_0(u, Du) := B_1 \setminus \cup_{i=1}^N G_i$ ,  $\beta_m \leq \beta_i(\cdot) \leq \beta_M$ ,  $i = 0, 1, \dots, N$ , and  $f \in C(B_1) \cap L^\infty(B_1)$ . Assume also  $\{\beta_i(x)\}_{i=0}^N$  have modulus of continuity  $\omega$  satisfying

$$\limsup_{t \rightarrow 0} \ln(t^{-1})\omega(t) = 0.$$

Then for every  $x_0 \in B_{1/2}$ , it holds  $u$  is  $C^{1,\alpha}(x_0)$ , and

$$\|u\|_{C^{1,\alpha}(x_0)} \leq C(\|u\|_{L^\infty(B_1)} + \|f\|_{L^\infty(B_1)}),$$

where

$$\alpha = \min_{i=0,1,\dots,N} \left\{ \alpha_0^-, \frac{1}{1 + \beta_i(x_0)} \right\}. \quad \longleftrightarrow \text{Approximation method.}$$

# A classical model

Theorem (Huaroto~Pimentel~Rampasso~Świech, **Ann. PDE.**, 2024)

Suppose  $N = 2$ ,  $G_1(u, Du) = \{u > 0\}$ ,  $G_2(u, Du) = \{u < 0\}$ , and  $G_0(u, Du) = \{u = 0\}$ . Additionally,  $\beta_0 = 0$ ,  $\beta_1$  and  $\beta_2$  are constants, i.e.,

$$\begin{cases} |Du|^{\beta_1} F(D^2 u) = f & \text{in } B_1 \cap \{u > 0\} \\ |Du|^{\beta_2} F(D^2 u) = f & \text{in } B_1 \cap \{u < 0\}. \end{cases} \quad (\text{FTP})$$

Then  $u \in C_{\text{loc}}^{1,\alpha}(B_1)$ , and  $\alpha = \min\{\alpha_0^-, \frac{1}{1+\max(\beta_1, \beta_2)}\}$ .

Very recently, Pimentel~Sousa([arXiv:2506.02595.](https://arxiv.org/abs/2506.02595), 2025) propose finite difference methods for **(FTP)** and prove the convergence of the schemes.

## Question

For the general degenerate normalized  $p$ -Laplacian equation,

$$- \{ |Du|^{\alpha(x,u)} + a(x) |Du|^{\beta(x,u)} \} \Delta_p^N u = f(x) \text{ in } B_1, \quad (\mathbf{G-DNP})$$

where  $0 \leq a(x) \in C(B_1)$ ,  $0 < a_1 \leq \alpha(x, u) \leq \beta(x, u) \leq a_2 < \infty$ ,  
 $1 < p < \infty$  and

$$\Delta_p^N u := \Delta u + (p-2) |Du|^{-2} \langle D^2 u Du, Du \rangle.$$

1. Can we obtain the  $C^{1,\alpha}$  regularity of the solution?
2. If the degenerate rates  $\alpha(x, u)$  and  $\beta(x, u)$  are varied over the domain, does the regularity of solutions also depend on the partition of domains?

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2. If the degenerate rates  $\alpha(x, u)$  and  $\beta(x, u)$  are varied over the domain, does the regularity of solutions also depend on the partition of domains?

## Two difficulties

- The scaling process is more tricky;
- Although such the operator  $\Delta_p^N$  has a uniformly elliptic structure, previous strategy cannot be applied directly since the discontinuity at the set  $\{Du = 0\}$ .

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# Part I: Degenerate normalized $p$ -Laplacian equation

## Theorem 1 (W. Yin & Jiang, **Potential Anal.**, 2025)

Let  $u \in C(B_1)$  be a viscosity solution to (**G-DNP**), then there exists  $\alpha' = \alpha'(p, n, a_1, a_2) \in (0, \frac{1}{1+a_2}]$  such that for any ball  $B \Subset B_1$ , we have  $u \in C^{1,\alpha'}(B)$  with the estimate

$$\|u\|_{C^{1,\alpha'}(B)} \lesssim (\|u\|_{L^\infty(B_1)} + \max\{\|f\|_{L^\infty(B_1)}, \|f\|_{L^\infty(B_1)}^{\frac{1}{1+a_1}}, \|f\|_{L^\infty(B_1)}^{\frac{1}{1+a_2}}\}).$$

**Remark 1.** We only need to assume the positive lower and upper bounds of  $\alpha(x, u)$  and  $\beta(x, u)$ . No continuity requirements of  $\alpha(x, u)$  and  $\beta(x, u)$  are needed.

**Remark 2.** The method here does not work for singular equation.

# Proof of Theorem 1

**Step 1:** We consider the existence of viscosity solutions to a Dirichlet problem associated with the anisotropic free transmission problems

$$\begin{cases} - \left\{ |Du|^{a_1 \chi_{\{u>0\}} + a_2 \chi_{\{u<0\}}} + a(x) \chi_{\{u>0\}} |Du|^{a_1} \right. \\ \quad \left. + a(x) \chi_{\{u<0\}} |Du|^{a_2} \right\} \Delta_p^N u = f(x) & \text{in } B_1 \\ u = g & \text{on } \partial B_1, \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

where  $a_1, a_2$  are nonnegative constants,  $0 \leq a(x) \in C(B_1)$ ,  $f(x) \in C(B_1) \cap L^\infty(B_1)$  and  $g \in C(\partial B_1)$ .

► Perron's method and fixed point argument  $\Rightarrow$  existence of viscosity solution to (2);

► Viscosity solution  $u \in C(B_1)$  of (2) turns out to be a viscosity sub-solution and viscosity super-solution to

$$\min_{i=0,1,2} \{ -|Du|^{a_i} \Delta_p^N u \} = \|f\|_{L^\infty(B_1)} \quad (3)$$

and

$$\max_{i=0,1,2} \{ -|Du|^{a_i} \Delta_p^N u \} = -\|f\|_{L^\infty(B_1)}, \quad (4)$$

respectively, where  $a_0 = 0$ .

**Step 2:** Based on these two viscosity inequalities (3) and (4), we want to show  $u \in C_{\text{loc}}^{1,\alpha'}(B_1)$  for some  $\alpha' \in (0, 1)$  and  $\forall B \Subset B_1$ ,

$$\|u\|_{C^{1,\alpha'}(B)} \lesssim \left( \|u\|_{L^\infty(B_1)} + \max\{\|f\|_{L^\infty(B_1)}, \|f\|_{L^\infty(B_1)}^{\frac{1}{1+a_1}}, \|f\|_{L^\infty(B_1)}^{\frac{1}{1+a_2}}\} \right).$$

### [Geometric tangential methods&Improvement of flatness lemma]

**Step 2.1:** For this purpose, we first show that Hölder regularity of solution  $u$  for perturbed equation

$$\min \left\{ -\Delta_{p,\xi}^N u, -|Du + \xi|^{a_1} \Delta_{p,\xi}^N u, -|Du + \xi|^{a_2} \Delta_{p,\xi}^N u \right\} = \|f\|_{L^\infty(B_1)} \quad (5)$$

and

$$\max \left\{ -\Delta_{p,\xi}^N u, -|Du + \xi|^{a_1} \Delta_{p,\xi}^N u, -|Du + \xi|^{a_2} \Delta_{p,\xi}^N u \right\} = -\|f\|_{L^\infty(B_1)}, \quad (6)$$

where  $\xi$  is an arbitrary vector in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  and

$$\Delta_{p,\xi}^N u = \Delta u + (p-2) \left\langle D^2 u \frac{Du + \xi}{|Du + \xi|}, \frac{Du + \xi}{|Du + \xi|} \right\rangle, \quad 1 < p < \infty.$$

- ▶ Whenever  $|\xi|$  is large, Ishii-Lions method  $\Rightarrow u \in C_{\text{loc}}^{0,1}(B_1)$ ;
- ▶ Whenever  $|\xi|$  is small, the result of [Imbert~Silvestre, **J. Eur. Math. Soc.**, 2016]  $\Rightarrow u \in C_{\text{loc}}^{0,\beta}(B_1)$  for some  $\beta \in (0, 1)$ .

## Step 2.2:

### Improvement of flatness lemma

Suppose  $u$  is a viscosity sub-solution to (5) and  $u$  is viscosity super-solution to (6). Then there exists  $0 < \rho < 1$  and  $\delta > 0$ , depending only on  $p, n$  and  $a_2$ , such that if  $\|u\|_{L^\infty(B_1)} \leq 1/2$  and  $\|f\|_{L^\infty(B_1)} \leq \delta$ , the inequality

$$\text{osc}_{B_\rho} (u - \vec{q} \cdot x) \leq \frac{1}{2}\rho$$

holds for some  $\vec{q} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ .

**Remark.** For its proof, cutting lemma, the compactness of solution and  $C_{\text{loc}}^{1,\beta_1}$  regularity for homogeneous normalized  $p$ -Laplacian equation are essential.

$$-|Du|^{a_1} \Delta_p^N u = 0 \text{ in } B_1 \Rightarrow \Delta_p^N u = 0 \text{ in } B_1.$$

**Lemma 4.3** *Let  $v$  be a viscosity solution of*

$$-\Delta v - (p-2) \left\langle D^2 v \frac{Dv + \xi}{|Dv + \xi|}, \frac{Dv + \xi}{|Dv + \xi|} \right\rangle = 0 \text{ in } B_1, \quad \xi \in \mathbb{R}^n,$$

with  $\|v\|_{L^\infty(B_1)} \leq \frac{1}{2}$ . For all  $0 \leq r \leq \frac{1}{2}$ , there exists constants  $C_0 = C_0(p, n) > 0$  and  $\beta_1 = \beta_1(p, n) > 0$  such that

$$\|v\|_{C^{1, \beta_1}(B_r)} \leq C_0.$$

Figure 1:  $C_{\text{loc}}^{1, \beta_1}$  regularity for homogeneous normalized  $p$ -Laplacian equation

**Step 2.3:** Standard iteration  $\Rightarrow u \in C_{\text{loc}}^{1, \alpha'}(B_1)$

**Step 3:** The definition of viscosity solution  $\Rightarrow$  the solution to **(G-DNP)** fulfills these two viscosity inequalities (3) and (4).

## Theorem 2 (W.~Yin~Jiang, **Potential Anal.**, 2025)

Let  $u \in C(B_1)$  be a bounded viscosity solution to (**G-DNP**), where

- $\Omega_i(u) \subset B_1, i = 1, 2, \dots, M$  be disjoint sets, and  $\Omega_0(u) := B_1 \setminus \cup_{i=1}^M \Omega_i$ ;

- 

$$\alpha(x, u) = \sum_{i=0}^M \alpha_i(x) \chi_{\Omega_i(u)}, \quad \beta(x, u) = \sum_{i=0}^M \beta_i(x) \chi_{\Omega_i(u)}$$

- there is a non-decreasing function  $\omega : [0, +\infty) \rightarrow [0, +\infty)$  such that

$$|\alpha_i(x) - \alpha_i(y)| + |\beta_i(x) - \beta_i(y)| \leq \omega(|x - y|), \quad i = 0, 1, \dots, M$$

and  $\omega$  satisfies the balancing condition

$$\limsup_{t \rightarrow 0} \omega(t) \ln(t^{-1}) = 0.$$

Then for every  $x_0 \in B_{1/2}$ , we have that  $u$  is  $C^{1,\tau}(x_0)$ , and

$$\|u\|_{C^{1,\tau}(x_0)} \lesssim \left(1 + \|u\|_{L^\infty(B_1)} + \|f\|_{L^\infty(B_1)}^\gamma\right),$$

where

$$\tau = \min_{i=0,1,\dots,M} \left\{ \widehat{\beta}_0^-, \frac{1}{1 + \alpha_i(x_0)} \right\}, \quad \gamma = \frac{1}{1 + \min_{i=0,1,\dots,M} \inf_{B_1} \alpha_i(x)}.$$

**Remark 3.**  $\widehat{\beta}_0$  is the nearly optimal Hölder exponent to the gradient for solutions of the normalized  $p$ -harmonic function.

**Remark 4.** Our argument is based on a new improved oscillation-type estimate combined with a localized analysis, which is totally different from the approach adopted by Jesus.

# Proof of Theorem 2

## Step 1: Reduction of the problem

Suppose  $u$  is a viscosity solution to (**G-DNP**), then  $u$  is a viscosity sub-solution to

$$\min_{i=0,1,\dots,M} \left\{ - \left( |Du|^{\alpha_i(x)} + a(x)|Du|^{\beta_i(x)} \right) \Delta_p^N u \right\} = \|f\|_{L^\infty(B_1)} \quad (7)$$

and is also a viscosity super-solution to

$$\max_{i=0,1,\dots,M} \left\{ - \left( |Du|^{\alpha_i(x)} + a(x)|Du|^{\beta_i(x)} \right) \Delta_p^N u \right\} = -\|f\|_{L^\infty(B_1)}. \quad (8)$$

A simple scaling reduces the proof of the problem to the case that

$$\|u\|_{L^\infty(B_1)} \leq 1 \quad \text{and} \quad \|f\|_{L^\infty(B_1)} \leq \delta$$

for some positive constant  $\delta$  to be determined.

## Step 2: Approximation

### Proposition 1

Assume (7)–(8) hold. For given  $0 < \epsilon < 1$ , there exists  $\delta > 0$ , depending only on  $n, p, a_1, a_2$ , such that if  $\|u\|_{L^\infty(B_1)} \leq 1$  with  $\|f\|_{L^\infty(B_1)} \leq \delta$ , then there exists a function  $v$  satisfying

$$-\Delta_p^N v = 0 \quad \text{in } B_r \quad (0 < r < 1)$$

in the viscosity sense, and

$$\|u - v\|_{L^\infty(B_r)} \leq \epsilon \quad \text{and} \quad \|Du - Dv\|_{L^\infty(B_r)} \leq \epsilon.$$

### Step 3: Improved oscillation-type estimate

#### Proposition 2

Under the assumptions in Proposition 1, and for every  $0 < \tau' < \widehat{\beta}_0$ , then there exists universal constant  $0 < \rho \ll 1$  such that

$$\sup_{B_\rho(0)} |u(x) - u(0)| \leq \rho^{1+\tau'} + |\mathbf{D}u(0)|\rho.$$

By iterating the oscillation estimate above, we obtain

$$\sup_{B_{\rho^k}(0)} |u(x) - u(0)| \leq \rho^{k(1+\tau_k)} + |\mathbf{D}u(0)| \sum_{i=0}^{k-1} \rho^{k+i\tau_k} \quad (9)$$

for a non-decreasing sequence  $\{\tau_k\}$ .

## Step 4: Localized analysis

► Whenever  $|Du(0)|$  is small, by using improved oscillation-type estimate (9) in Proposition 2, we obtain that  $u$  is  $C^{1,\tau}(0)$ , where

$$\tau = \min_{i=0,1,\dots,M} \left\{ \widehat{\beta}_0^-, \frac{1}{1 + \alpha_i(0)} \right\}.$$

Recall that  $\widehat{\beta}_0$  is the nearly optimal Hölder exponent to the gradient for solutions of  $-\Delta_p^N u = 0$ . (Attouchi~Parviainen~Ruosteenoja, **J. Math. Pures Appl.**, 2017)

► Whenever  $|Du(0)|$  is large, then the equation becomes non-degenerate and classical estimate (Caffarelli's regularity theory) can apply.

## Part II: Degenerate/Singular fully nonlinear non-local equations

Consider

$$-|Du|^\gamma \mathcal{I}_\sigma(u, x) = f(x) \text{ in } B_1,$$

where  $\gamma > 0, \sigma \in (0, 2)$ , and  $\mathcal{I}_\sigma$  is a fully nonlinear elliptic integro-differential operator

$$\mathcal{I}_\sigma(u, x) = \inf_i \sup_j \left[ P.V. \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} (u(y) - u(x)) K_{ij}(x - y) dy \right], \quad (10)$$

with a two-parameter family of symmetric kernels  $\{K_{ij}\} \subseteq \mathcal{K}_0$  and  $\mathcal{K}_0$  denotes the family of symmetric kernels  $K : \mathbb{R}^n \setminus \{0\} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$  satisfying

$$\lambda \frac{C_{n,\sigma}}{|x|^{n+\sigma}} \leq K(x) \leq \Lambda \frac{C_{n,\sigma}}{|x|^{n+\sigma}},$$

for the order  $\sigma$  and certain constants  $0 < \lambda \leq \Lambda < \infty$ . Note that (10) is well defined for function  $u \in C^{1,1}(B_\delta(x)) \cap L_\sigma^1(\mathbb{R}^n)$  for some  $\delta > 0$ , where

$$\|u\|_{L_\sigma^1(\mathbb{R}^n)} := \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \frac{|u(x)|}{1 + |x|^{n+\sigma}} dx < +\infty.$$

## Theorem (Prazeres~Topp, J. Differential Equations., 2021)

- If  $\sigma \in (0, 1)$ , then  $u \in C_{\text{loc}}^{\sigma}(B_1)$ ;
- If  $\sigma = 1$ , then  $u \in C_{\text{loc}}^{\alpha}(B_1)$  for every  $\alpha \in (0, 1)$ ;
- If  $\sigma \in (1, 2)$ , then  $u \in C_{\text{loc}}^{0,1}(B_1)$ .

The above result results can be obtained by adjusting the auxiliary functions and using Ishii-Lion's method.

**Question:** How to improve regularity from  $C^{0,1}$  to  $C^{1,\alpha}$ ?

**Key difficulty : Cutting lemma is not valid.**

$$-|Du|^{\gamma} \mathcal{I}_{\sigma}(u, x) = 0 \text{ in } B_1 \not\Rightarrow \mathcal{I}_{\sigma}(u, x) = 0 \text{ in } B_1.$$

# Counter-example

## Example

We consider

$$u(x) = \begin{cases} x + 1, & \text{if } x \leq -1, \\ 0, & \text{if } -1 < x < 1, \\ x - 1, & \text{if } x \geq 1, \end{cases}$$

then straightforward computations yield

$$-|u_x|^\gamma \Delta^{\frac{\sigma}{2}} u = 0 \quad \text{in } (-1, 1), \quad \sigma \in (1, 2).$$

Since  $\Delta^{\frac{\sigma}{2}} u(x) \rightarrow -\infty$ ,  $x \rightarrow -1^+$  and  $\Delta^{\frac{\sigma}{2}} u(x) \rightarrow +\infty$ ,  $x \rightarrow 1^-$ , hence

$$-\Delta^{\frac{\sigma}{2}} u(x) \neq 0 \quad \text{in } (-1, 1).$$

## Additional condition

**(AC):** There exists a modulus of continuity  $\omega$  and  $\{k_{ij}\}_{i,j} \subseteq (\lambda, \Lambda)$  such that

$$|K_{ij}(x)| |x|^{n+\sigma} - k_{ij}| \leq \omega(|x|) \text{ for all } i, j \text{ and } |x| \leq 1.$$

Here we provide an explanation.

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{I}_\sigma(u, x) &= \inf_i \sup_j P.V. \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} (u(y) - u(x)) K_{ij}(x - y) dy \\ &\sim \inf_i \sup_j k_{ij} P.V. \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \frac{u(y) - u(x)}{|x - y|^{n+\sigma}} C_{n,\sigma} dy \quad (\text{by (AC)}) \\ &= \inf_i \sup_j k_{ij} \Delta^{\frac{\sigma}{2}} u \rightarrow \inf_i \sup_j k_{ij} \text{Tr}(D^2 u) \quad (\text{as } \sigma \rightarrow 2^-). \end{aligned}$$

$\Rightarrow$

$$-|Du|^\gamma \inf_i \sup_j k_{ij} \text{Tr}(D^2 u) = 0 \text{ in } B_1 \Rightarrow \inf_i \sup_j k_{ij} \text{Tr}(D^2 u) = 0 \text{ in } B_1.$$

## Theorem (Prazeres~Topp, J. Differential Equations., 2021)

Suppose the condition **(AC)** also holds, then there exists  $\sigma_0 \in (1, 2)$  close enough to 2 such that for  $\sigma_0 < \sigma < 2$  every bounded viscosity solution  $u$  is in  $C^{1,\alpha}$  for

$$\alpha = \min \left\{ \alpha_0^-, \frac{\sigma - 1}{1 + \gamma} \right\},$$

and

$$\|u\|_{C^{1,\alpha}(B_{1/2})} \leq C \left( \|u\|_{L^\infty(B_1)} + \|u\|_{L^1_\sigma(\mathbb{R}^n)} + \|f\|_{L^\infty(B_1)}^{\frac{\sigma-1}{1+\gamma}} \right).$$

**Remark.** The constant  $C$  that appears in the estimate above is uniform in  $\sigma$ , which means that it does not blow up as  $\sigma$  approaches 2.

We consider a series of regularity results for solutions to the double-phase degenerate or singular fully nonlinear integro-differential equation of the form

$$- (\sigma_1(|Du|) + a(x)\sigma_2(|Du|))\mathcal{I}_\sigma(u, x) = f(x) \quad \text{in } B_1, \quad \text{(DPE)}$$

We first present a list of appropriate assumptions on  $\sigma$ ,  $u$ ,  $f$ ,  $a$  and  $\sigma_i$ ,  $i = 1, 2$ .

**(A1) (order of the operator).**  $\sigma \in (1, 2)$ .

**(A2) (growth condition at infinity).**  $u \in L_\sigma^1(\mathbb{R}^n)$ .

**(A3) (regularity of source term).**  $f \in L^\infty(B_1) \cap C^0(B_1)$ .

**(A4) (nonnegativity and regularity of  $a(x)$ ).**  $0 \leq a(x) \in C^0(B_1)$ .

**(A5) (convergence of the operator).** Let  $\{K_{ij}\}$  be a collection of kernels of in  $\mathcal{K}_0$ . There exists a modulus of continuity  $\omega$  and  $\{k_{ij}\} \in [\lambda, \Lambda]$  satisfying

$$|K_{ij}(x)|x|^{n+\sigma} - k_{ij}| \leq \omega(|x|) \quad \text{for all } i, j \text{ and } |x| \leq 1.$$

**(A6) (monotonicity of  $\sigma_i, i = 1, 2$ ).**

- **(A6a) (degenerate case).**  $\sigma_i : \mathbb{R}_+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+, i = 1, 2$ , are continuous and monotone increasing with

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \sigma_i(t) = 0, \quad i = 1, 2.$$

- **(A6b) (singular case).**  $\sigma_i : \mathbb{R}_+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+, i = 1, 2$ , are continuous and monotone decreasing with

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \sigma_i(t) = c_0 > 0, \quad i = 1, 2.$$

Furthermore, in both cases, we assume

$$\sigma_1(t) \geq \sigma_2(t), \quad t \in [0, 1],$$

and, in particular,

$$\sigma_1(1) \geq \sigma_2(1) \geq 1.$$

**(A7) (Dini continuity of the inverse of  $\sigma_2$ ).** The function  $\sigma_2$  admits an inverse  $\sigma_2^{-1}$  that is Dini continuous, i.e.,

$$\int_0^1 \frac{\sigma_2^{-1}(t)}{t} dt < \infty.$$

**(A8) (Non-collapsing of  $\sigma_1 + a(\cdot)\sigma_2$ ).**  $\sigma_1 + a(\cdot)\sigma_2 \in \Sigma$ , where  $\Sigma$  is a set of non-collapsing moduli of continuity.

A set  $\Sigma$  of moduli of continuity is said to be non-collapsing if for all sequences  $(f_k)_{k \in \mathbb{N}} \subset \Sigma$ , and all sequences of  $(a_k)_{k \in \mathbb{N}} \subset (0, \infty)$ , we have

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow +\infty} f_k(a_k) = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \lim_{k \rightarrow +\infty} a_k = 0.$$

## Theorem 1 (W.~Jiang, Commun. Contemp. Math., 2025)

### [Borderline regularity in the degenerate case]

Let  $u \in C^0(\overline{B_1})$  be a bounded viscosity solution to **(DPE)**, assume **(A1)–(A5)**, **(A6a)** and **(A7)** hold. Then there exists  $\sigma_0 \in (1, 2)$  sufficiently close to 2 such that if  $\sigma \in (\sigma_0, 2)$ , then  $u \in C_{loc}^1(B_1)$ . Moreover, there exists a modulus of continuity  $\omega : \mathbb{R}_0^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_0^+$  depending only on  $n, \sigma, \sigma_1, \sigma_2, \|u\|_{L^\infty(B_1)}, \|f\|_{L^\infty(B_1)}$  such that

$$|Du(x) - Du(y)| \leq \omega(|x - y|),$$

for every  $x, y \in B_{1/4}$ . In particular, if  $\sigma_i^{-1} (i = 1, 2)$  behave like Hölder continuous functions near the origin, then the solutions are locally  $C^{1,\alpha}$ , for some  $0 < \alpha < 1$ .

**Remark 1.** Note that it suffices to require  $\sigma_2^{-1}$  to be a Dini-continuous modulus of continuity, without similar assumption on  $\sigma_1^{-1}$ . Indeed,  $\sigma_1^{-1}$  is automatically Dini-continuous since  $\sigma_2^{-1}$  is Dini-continuous and  $\sigma_1 \geq \sigma_2$ .

**Remark 2.** Theorem 1 embraces the main result of (Andrade~Pellegrino~Pimentel~Teixeira, **Adv. Math.**, 2022).

**Remark 3.** the main difficulty is that the degenerate term  $\sigma_1 + a(\cdot)\sigma_2$  lacks of *non-collapsing* property. To handle such a challenge, we need to establish a new *shored up*-continuous module sequence  $(\sigma_1^n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ .

## Definition

A sequence of moduli of continuity  $(\sigma_1^k)_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$  is said to be shored-up if there exists a sequence of positive numbers  $(c_k)_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$  such that  $c_k \rightarrow 0$  satisfying  $\inf_k \sigma_1^k(c_k) > 0$  for every  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ .

## Lemma

If a sequence of moduli of continuity  $(\sigma_1^k)_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$  is shored-up, then  $\Gamma := \cup_{k \in \mathbb{N}} \{\sigma_1^k\}$  is non-collapsing.

We consider higher regularity of solutions for

$$-(|Du|^{\tilde{p}} + a(x)|Du|^q)\mathcal{I}_\sigma(u, x) = f(x) \text{ in } B_1, \quad (11)$$

where  $0 < \tilde{p} \leq q < \infty$ , and  $\tilde{p} < \sigma - 1$ . Here we give source term  $f$  a stronger assumption than **(A3)**, namely, **(A3a)**: suppose that  $f(0) = 0$  and for some  $K > 0$  and  $\gamma \in (\tilde{p} + 2 - \sigma, 1)$ , there holds  $|f(x)| \leq K|x|^\gamma$ .

**Theorem 2 (W.~Jiang, Commun. Contemp. Math., 2025)**

**[Higher regularity in the degenerate case]**

Let  $u \in C^0(\overline{B}_1)$  be a bounded viscosity solution to (11), assume **(A1)**, **(A2)**, **(A3a)**, **(A4)** and **(A5)** hold. Assume in addition that 0 is a local extrema for  $u$ . Then, there exists  $\sigma_0 \in (1, 2)$  sufficiently close to 2 such that if  $\sigma \in (\sigma_0, 2)$ , then  $u \in C^{2,\alpha}(0)$  and

$$|u(x) - u(0)| \leq C|x|^{2+\alpha},$$

for any  $x \in B_{1/10}(0)$ , where  $\alpha = \frac{\gamma + \sigma - 2 - \tilde{p}}{1 + \tilde{p}} \in (0, 1)$ , and  $C = C(n, \gamma, \sigma, \tilde{p}, \lambda, \Lambda) > 0$  is a positive constant.

**Remark 4.** Observing the constant  $C$  in Theorem 2 will not blow up as  $\sigma \rightarrow 2$ . Hence, Theorem 2 could be considered as an extension of (Nascimento, **J. Funct. Anal.**, 2025).

**Theorem 3 (W.~Jiang, Commun. Contemp. Math., 2025)**

**$[C^{1,\beta_0}$  regularity in the singular case]**

Let  $u \in C^0(\overline{B_1})$  be a bounded approximated viscosity solution to (DPE), assume **(A1)**, **(A2)**, **(A3)**, **(A4)** and **(A6b)** hold. Then  $u \in C_{\text{loc}}^{1,\beta_0}(B_1)$ . Moreover, there exists  $C > 0$  depending only on  $n, \lambda, \Lambda, \|f\|_{L^\infty(B_1)}$  and  $\|u\|_{L^\infty(B_1)}$  such that

$$|Du(x) - Du(y)| \leq C|x - y|^{\beta_0},$$

for some  $\beta_0 \in (0, 1)$  and every  $x, y \in B_{1/2}$ .

**Remark 5.** The condition **(A6b)** also contains some important examples, for instance,

$$\sigma_1(t) = \frac{\ln^\beta(1+t) + 1}{t}, \quad \sigma_2(t) = \frac{\ln^\beta(1+t)}{t}, \quad 0 < \beta \leq 1.$$

and

$$\sigma_1(t) = \frac{(e^t - 1)^\beta + 1}{t}, \quad \sigma_2(t) = \frac{(e^t - 1)^\beta}{t}, \quad 0 < \beta \leq 1 - \frac{1}{e}.$$

**Remark 6.** In the singular case, the difficulty starts with the notion of viscosity solution. Indeed, the definition considered in the local case seems not to be suitable in our scenario, because whenever  $x_0 \in \{Du = 0\}$ , we have that  $u \equiv c$  in  $B_{r(x_0)}(x_0)$ , which implies that  $F(D^2u) = 0$  in  $B_{r(x_0)}(x_0)$  and hence one could say that  $0 \leq f(x_0)$  (in the case of supersolutions).

On the other hand, in the nonlocal case, we still need to consider the quantity

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^n \setminus B_{r(x_0)}(x_0)} (u(x_0) - u(y)) K(y) dy,$$

which depends on  $r(x_0)$  and may not vanish. To overcome this, we use the notion of approximated viscosity solution, which coincides with the usual notion of viscosity solution over the set  $\{Du \neq 0\}$ .

# Outline

## 1 Introduction

## 2 Main results

- Part I: Degenerate normalized  $p$ -Laplacian equation
- Part II: Degenerate/Singular fully nonlinear non-local equations

## 3 Some applications—dead core problems

- Fully nonlinear degenerate parabolic equation

## 4 Future directions

# Parabolic dead-core problems

We study geometric regularity estimates for degenerate fully nonlinear parabolic equations of the form

$$|Du|^p F(D^2u) - u_t = \lambda_0(x, t) u^\mu \chi_{\{u>0\}}(x, t) \quad \text{in } Q_T := Q \times (0, T),$$

**(DCP)**

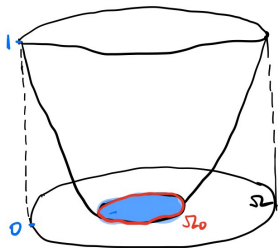
where

- $0 \leq p < \infty$ ,  $0 < \mu < 1$ ,  $T > 0$ , and  $Q \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  is a bounded smooth domain;
- $0 < \mathcal{M}_1 \leq \lambda_0(x, t) \leq \mathcal{M}_2 < \infty$ .

The operator  $F : \text{Sym}(n) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  satisfies the following structural conditions:

- (F1)**  $F$  is uniformly elliptic with  $F(O_n) = 0$ ;
- (F2)**  $F$  is convex or concave;
- (F3)**  $F \in C^{1,\kappa}$  for some  $\kappa \in (0, 1]$ .

# Dead-core phenomenon



$\Omega_0$ : dead-core domain.

Classical Model

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta u(x) + \lambda_0(x) u_T^q(x) = 0 & \text{in } \Omega, \\ u(x) = 1 & \text{on } \partial\Omega. \end{cases}$$

$$0 < q < 1 \quad \& \quad \lambda_0 > 0.$$

$u$ : 化学试剂 (气体) 的密度;

$\lambda_0$ : 蒂勒模数, 控制反应速率与扩散-对流速率的比值.

## Theorem 1 (da Silva~Jiang~W., arXiv:2512.08196., 2025)

### [Improved regularity along the free boundary]

Suppose that  $F$  satisfies **(F1)**, **(F2)** and **(F3)**. Let  $u$  be a nonnegative and bounded viscosity solution to **(DCP)**, so that  $\partial_t u \geq 0$  and  $K \Subset Q_T$  a compact set. Then there exists a constant  $C_0 > 0$ , depending only on  $n, \lambda, \Lambda, \mathcal{M}_1, \mathcal{M}_2, p, \mu$  and  $\text{dist}(K, \partial_{par} Q_T)$  such that for all  $(x_0, t_0) \in \partial\{u > 0\} \cap K$ ,

$$u(x, t) \leq C_0 \|u\|_{L^\infty(Q_T)} \text{dist}_p((x, t), (x_0, t_0))^{\frac{2+p}{1+p-\mu}},$$

for all  $(x, t)$  sufficiently close to  $(x_0, t_0)$ , where

$$\text{dist}_p((x, t), (x_0, t_0)) = |x - x_0| + |t - t_0|^{\frac{1}{\theta}}, \quad \text{and} \quad \theta = \frac{(2+p)(1-\mu)}{1+p-\mu}.$$

**Remark 1.** The proof of Theorem 1 involves the construction of a delicate barrier function defined by

$$\Phi(x, t) = \mathcal{C} \left( \mathcal{A}|x|^{\frac{2+p}{1+p}} + \mathcal{B}t^{\frac{1+p-\mu}{(1+p)(1-\mu)}} \right)^{\frac{1+p}{1+p-\mu}},$$

for universal constants  $\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B} > 0$ , together with an application of a comparison principle. We remark that the condition  $0 < \mu < 1$  is essential to prevent the barrier function  $\Phi(x, t)$  from blowing up as  $t \rightarrow 0^+$ .

**Remark 2.** The solutions to **(DCP)** have a refined point-wise behaviour as follows:

$$\sup_{Q_r(x_0, t_0)} u(x, t) \lesssim r^{\frac{2+p}{1+p-\mu}}$$

along the free boundary. Theorem 1 unveils that the solutions are

expected to be  $C \left[ \frac{2+p}{1+p-\mu} \right]_{\theta}$  at the free boundary points, where

$$\theta := \theta(p, \mu) := \frac{(2+p)(1-\mu)}{1+p-\mu} = 1 + \frac{1-\mu(p+1)}{p+1-\mu} \leq 2.$$

We point out that for  $p \geq 0$ :

$$\theta(p, \mu) := \frac{(2+p)(1-\mu)}{1+p-\mu} > 0 \Leftrightarrow \mu < 1,$$

which validates that assumption  $0 < \mu < 1$  is very necessary. From [Lee~Lian~Yun~Zhang, **Preprint**, 2025], we obtain  $C^{1,1/(1+p)}$  spatial regularity. Then we can observe that for  $0 \leq p < \infty$ ,  $0 < \mu < 1$ ,

$$\frac{2+p}{1+p-\mu} > 1 + \frac{1}{1+p} \Leftrightarrow \mu > 0.$$

Thus, we derive better regularity estimates along  $\partial\{u > 0\} \cap Q_T$  than the regularity available currently([Lee~Lian~Yun~Zhang, **Preprint**, 2025], [Lee~Lee~Yun, **J. Math. Pures Appl.**, 2024]).

**Remark 3.** The method here does not work for  $-1 < p < 0$ .

## Theorem 2 (da Silva~Jiang~W., arXiv:2512.08196., 2025)

### [Non-degeneracy]

Suppose  $F$  satisfies **(F1)**. Let  $u$  be a viscosity solution to **(DCP)**. Then for every  $(x_0, t_0) \in \{\underline{u} > 0\}$  and  $Q_r(x_0, t_0) \Subset Q_T$ , there holds

$$\sup_{\partial_{par} Q_r^-(x_0, t_0)} u(x, t) \geq C_0^* r^{\frac{2+p}{1+p-\mu}}$$

for a positive constant  $C_0^* = C_0^*(n, \lambda, \Lambda, \mathcal{M}_1, \mathcal{M}_2, p, \mu)$ .

## Corollary 1

Suppose that  $F$  satisfies **(F1)**, **(F2)** and **(F3)**. Let  $u$  be a nonnegative, bounded viscosity solution to **(DCP)** and  $Q' \Subset Q_T$ . For given  $(x_0, t_0) \in \{u > 0\} \cap Q'$ , there exist universal constants  $C^* > 0$  and  $C_* > 0$  such that

$$C_* \text{dist}_p((x_0, t_0), \partial\{u > 0\})^{\frac{2+p}{1+p-\mu}} \leq u(x_0, t_0) \leq C^* \text{dist}_p((x_0, t_0), \partial\{u > 0\})^{\frac{2+p}{1+p-\mu}}$$

## Corollary 2

### [Positive Lebesgue density of $\{u > 0\}$ ]

Suppose that  $F$  satisfies **(F1)**, **(F2)** and **(F3)**. Let  $u$  be the viscosity solution to **(DCP)**. Then, there exists a positive constant

$\zeta = \zeta(n, \lambda, \Lambda, \mathcal{M}_2, \|u\|_{L^\infty(Q_1)})$  such that for all  $(x_0, t_0) \in \overline{\{u > 0\}}$  and  $0 < r < 1$  such that  $Q_r(x_0, t_0) \subset Q_{1/2}$ , the inclusion

$$Q_{\zeta r}(\tilde{x}, \tilde{t}) \subset Q_r(x_0, t_0) \cap \{u > 0\}$$

holds for some  $(\tilde{x}, \tilde{t}) \in Q_r^-(x_0, t_0)$ .

We observe that Corollary 2 guarantees that the free boundary cannot have Lebesgue points. In other words,  $\mathcal{L}^{n+1}(\partial\{u > 0\} \cap K) = 0$  for any compact set  $K \subset Q_1$ .

### Definition (Porous set)

A set  $E \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  is said to be *porous* with porosity constant  $0 < \delta \leq 1$  if there exists  $R > 0$  such that, for each  $x_0 \in E$  and  $0 < r < R$ , there exists a point  $y_0$  satisfying

$$B_{\delta r}(y_0) \subset B_r(x_0) \setminus E.$$

We observe that a porous set has Hausdorff dimension at most  $n - c_0 \delta^n$ , where  $c_0 = c_0(n) > 0$ .

### Corollary 3

#### [Porosity of $t$ -level free boundaries]

Suppose that  $F$  satisfies **(F1)**, **(F2)** and **(F3)**. Let  $u$  be a viscosity solution to **(DCP)**. For every compact set  $K \Subset Q_1$ , one has

$$H^{n-\varepsilon}(\partial\{u > 0\} \cap K \cap \{t = t_0\}) < \infty, \text{ for some constant } \varepsilon > 0.$$

## Theorem 3

### [Gradient decay]

Suppose that  $F$  satisfies **(F1)**, **(F2)**, **(F3)** and  $0 < \mu \leq \frac{1}{1+p}$  also holds. Let  $u$  be a continuous viscosity solution to **(DCP)**. For any  $(z, s) \in \{u > 0\} \cap Q_{1/2}$ , there holds

$$|Du(z, s)| \leq C \operatorname{dist}_p((z, s), \partial\{u > 0\})^{\frac{1+\mu}{1+p-\mu}},$$

where  $C > 0$  is a universal constant.

## Theorem 4

### [Liouville-type result]

Suppose that  $F$  satisfies **(F1)**, **(F2)** and **(F3)**. Let  $u$  be an entire viscosity solution to

$$|Du|^p F(D^2u) - \partial_t u = \lambda_0(x, t) u^\mu \chi_{\{u>0\}}(x, t)$$

with  $u(0, 0) = 0$  and  $\lambda_0$  as before. If  $u(x, t) = o\left(\max\{|x|, |t|^{\frac{1}{\theta}}\}^{\frac{2+p}{1+p-\mu}}\right)$  as  $\max\{|x|, |t|^{\frac{1}{\theta}}\} \rightarrow \infty$ , then

$$u \equiv 0 \text{ in } \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}.$$

**Question:** How to establish Hausdorff measure estimates of the free boundary?

## More results on dead-core problems

- Fully nonlinear elliptic equation  
Teixeira, **Math. Ann.**, 2016;
- Fully nonlinear elliptic system  
Araújo~Teymurazyan, **J. Funct. Anal.**, 2024;
- Degenerate or Singular fully nonlinear elliptic systems  
W.~Jiang, **arXiv:2502.10099.**, 2025.
- Infinity Laplacian equation  
Araújo~Leitão~Teixeira, **J. Funct. Anal.**, 2016.
- Grad-Mercier equation  
Caffarelli~Farahão~Restrepo, **arXiv:2504.12548.**, 2025.

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## 4 Future directions

► Consider Neumann/Oblique boundary value problem for degenerate fully nonlinear non-local equations, how to establish their sharp boundary  $C^{1,\alpha}$  regularity?

[Araújo~dos Prazeres~Topp, **arXiv:2306.15452.**, 2023.]

- Feldman~Huang, Regularity theory of a gradient degenerate Neumann problem, **JMPA.**, 2026.
- Feldman~Huang, Homogenization of a vertical oscillating Neumann condition, **ARMA.**, to appear.

► Consider the obstacle problem for degenerate fully nonlinear elliptic equation, how to establish the regularity of the free boundary?

[da Silva~Vivas, **Rev. Mat. Iberoam.**, 2021.]

- Ki-Ahm Lee, *Obstacle problems for the fully nonlinear elliptic operators*. Thesis (Ph.D.)–New York University. 1998. 53 pp.

Thanks for your attention.