# TWO-SIDED ESTIMATES FOR POSITIVE SOLUTIONS OF SUPERLINEAR ELLIPTIC BOUNDARY VALUE PROBLEMS 

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#### Abstract

We give two-sided estimates for positive solutions of the superlinear elliptic problem $-\Delta u=a(x)|u|^{p-1} u$ with zero Dirichlet boundary condition in a bounded Lipschitz domain. Our result improves the wellknown a priori $L^{\infty}$-estimate and provides information about the boundary decay rate of solutions.


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## 1. Introduction

Let $\Omega$ be a bounded Lipschitz domain in $\mathbb{R}^{n}(n \geq 3)$. We investigate the boundary behaviour of positive weak solutions of the superlinear elliptic boundary value problem

$$
\left\{\begin{align*}
-\Delta u & =a(x)|u|^{p-1} u & & \text { in } \Omega,  \tag{1.1}\\
u & =0 & & \text { on } \partial \Omega,
\end{align*}\right.
$$

where $p>1$ and $a(x)$ is a nonnegative function in $L^{\infty}(\Omega) \backslash\{0\}$. A weak solution of (1.1), or simply a solution of (1.1), is a function $u \in W_{0}^{1,2}(\Omega)$ satisfying $|u|^{p-1} u \in$ $\left(W_{0}^{1,2}(\Omega)\right)^{*}$ and

$$
\int_{\Omega} \nabla u(x) \cdot \nabla \phi(x) d x=\int_{\Omega} a(x)|u(x)|^{p-1} u(x) \phi(x) d x \quad \text { for all } \phi \in W_{0}^{1,2}(\Omega) .
$$

First, let us recall some results concerning a priori estimates for this problem. The well-known result due to Brezis-Turner [4] states that all positive weak solutions of (1.1) are bounded in $L^{\infty}(\Omega)$ when $\partial \Omega$ is smooth and $1<p<p_{\mathrm{BT}}:=(n+1) /(n-1)$ (see also [13, Section 11]). Later, the validity of this statement for $1<p<p_{\mathrm{S}}:=$ $(n+2) /(n-2)$ was shown by Gidas-Spruck [6] and de Figueiredo-Lions-Nussbaum [5] under some additional assumptions on $a(x)$. For bounded Lipschitz domains, the a priori $L^{\infty}$-estimate was obtained by McKenna-Reichel [12] who introduced a new

[^0]critical exponent corresponding to the Brezis-Turner exponent $p_{\mathrm{BT}}$ (see Remark 1.2). They actually discussed positive 'very' weak solutions and the optimality of the range of $p$. Note that these results show that every positive (very) weak solution has a continuous representative that belongs to $C^{1}(\Omega)$. If $\Omega$ has a $C^{2}$-boundary, $a(x) \equiv 1$ and $1<p<p_{\mathrm{S}}$, then it is known that every positive (very) weak solution $u$ of (1.1) belongs to $C^{2}(\bar{\Omega})$, that is, $u$ and its first and second partial derivatives on $\Omega$ have continuous extensions to $\bar{\Omega}$, and therefore, by the mean value theorem,
\[

$$
\begin{equation*}
u(x) \leq C \delta_{\Omega}(x) \quad \text { for all } x \in \Omega \tag{1.2}
\end{equation*}
$$

\]

where $\delta_{\Omega}(x)$ stands for the distance from a point $x$ to the boundary $\partial \Omega$. Note here that the constant $C$ may depend on $u$ itself because a priori bounds of $\|\nabla u\|_{\infty}$ are unknown. We can see its actual dependence from a result of Bidaut-Véron and Vivier [2], where it is shown that (1.2) holds with a constant $C$ depending only on $p, n$ and $\Omega$ if we restrict the range of $p$ to $1<p<p_{\mathrm{BT}}$. However, a lower estimate and an alternative upper estimate in a nonsmooth domain are unknown. We are interested in studying how positive continuous solutions of (1.1) behave near $\partial \Omega$. By developing the a priori $L^{\infty}$-estimate, we give two-sided estimates, including information about the boundary decay rate of solutions. Let $x_{0} \in \Omega$ be fixed and let

$$
g_{\Omega}(x):=\min \left\{G_{\Omega}\left(x, x_{0}\right), 1\right\}
$$

where $G_{\Omega}$ is the (Dirichlet) Green's function on $\Omega$ for the Laplacian. Our main result is the following theorem.

Theorem 1.1. Let $\Omega$ be a bounded Lipschitz domain in $\mathbb{R}^{n}(n \geq 3)$, let a(x) be a nonnegative function in $L^{\infty}(\Omega) \backslash\{0\}$, let $p>1$ and let $M>0$. Then there exists $C=C\left(p,\|a\|_{\infty}, M, n, \Omega\right)>1$ such that, for any positive continuous solution of (1.1) with $\|u\|_{\infty} \leq M$,

$$
\frac{1}{C} g_{\Omega}(x) \leq u(x) \leq C g_{\Omega}(x) \quad \text { for all } x \in \Omega
$$

Moreover, the ratio $u / g_{\Omega}$ can be extended continuously up to $\partial \Omega$.
Remark 1.2. As stated above, McKenna-Reichel [12] showed the existence of a priori bounds for all positive very weak solutions of (1.1) when $\Omega$ is a bounded Lipschitz domain and

$$
1<p<\frac{n+\alpha_{\Omega}}{n+\alpha_{\Omega}-2}
$$

where

$$
\begin{equation*}
\alpha_{\Omega}:=\inf \left\{\alpha>0: \inf _{x \in \Omega} \frac{g_{\Omega}(x)}{\delta_{\Omega}(x)^{\alpha}}>0\right\} . \tag{1.3}
\end{equation*}
$$

Therefore, for such $p$, the conclusion of Theorem 1.1 holds for all positive continuous solutions of (1.1).

Remark 1.3. Theorem 1.1 shows that every positive continuous solution $u$ of (1.1) vanishes continuously on $\partial \Omega$ with the same speed as $g_{\Omega}$. This suggests that $u \in C^{1}(\bar{\Omega})$ does not always hold, unlike in the case of smooth domains. Namely, the gradient of $u$ is not necessarily continuous up to $\partial \Omega$. For example, let $\omega$ be an open connected subset of the unit sphere in $\mathbb{R}^{n}$ that is strictly bigger than a unit hemisphere and assume that $\Omega \cap B=\left\{x \in \mathbb{R}^{n} \backslash\{0\}: x /\|x\| \in \omega\right\} \cap B$, where $B$ is some ball centred at the origin in $\mathbb{R}^{n}$. Then $g_{\Omega}(x)$ vanishes more slowly than $\delta_{\Omega}(x)$ as $x \rightarrow 0$ nontangentially. Therefore we see from the mean value theorem that $\|\nabla u\|$ blows up at the origin.

Using an estimate in [7, pages 37-38], we can obtain the following gradient estimate from Theorem 1.1.

Corollary 1.4. The assumptions are the same as in Theorem 1.1. Then there exists $C=C\left(p,\|a\|_{\infty}, M, n, \Omega\right)>0$ such that, for any positive solution $u \in C^{2}(\Omega)$ of (1.1) with $\|u\|_{\infty} \leq M$,

$$
\|\nabla u(x)\| \leq C \frac{g_{\Omega}(x)}{\delta_{\Omega}(x)} \quad \text { for all } x \in \Omega .
$$

If $\Omega$ has a $C^{1,1}$-boundary, then $g_{\Omega}$ is comparable to the distance function $\delta_{\Omega}$ and the ratio $g_{\Omega} / \delta_{\Omega}$ has a positive and finite nontangential limit at each boundary point. Theorem 1.1 and a priori estimates obtained by Gidas-Spruck [6] and McKennaReichel [12] yield the following corollary.

Corollary 1.5. Let $\Omega$ be a bounded $C^{1,1}$-domain in $\mathbb{R}^{n}(n \geq 3)$ and let $a(x)$ be a nonnegative function in $L^{\infty}(\bar{\Omega}) \backslash\{0\}$. Assume either:
(a) $1<p<p_{\mathrm{S}}$ and $a(x)$ is a continuous function on $\bar{\Omega}$ with $\min _{\bar{\Omega}} a>0$; or
(b) $1<p<p_{\mathrm{BT}}$.

Then there exists $C=C(p, a(x), n, \Omega)>1$ such that, for any positive solution $u \in C^{1}(\Omega)$ of (1.1),

$$
\frac{1}{C} \delta_{\Omega}(x) \leq u(x) \leq C \delta_{\Omega}(x) \quad \text { for all } x \in \Omega
$$

Moreover, the ratio $u / \delta_{\Omega}$ can be extended continuously up to $\partial \Omega$.
In Section 3, we give a proof of Theorem 1.1 based on the integral representation of (1.1), careful estimates of the Green's function and iteration arguments.

## 2. Preliminaries

In the rest of this paper, we suppose that $\Omega$ is a bounded Lipschitz domain in $\mathbb{R}^{n}$ $(n \geq 3)$. As in the previous section, we use the symbol $C$ to denote an absolute positive constant whose value may vary at each occurrence. Writing $C(a, b, \ldots)$ means that the constant $C$ may depend on the parameters $a, b, \ldots$ In particular, $C(\Omega)$ means that $C$ depends on Lipschitz constants of functions defining $\partial \Omega$, the diameter of $\Omega$ and $\delta_{\Omega}\left(x_{0}\right)$, where $x_{0}$ is a fixed point in $\Omega$. Also, for two positive functions $f$ and $g$, we write $f \lesssim g$ if $f(x) \leq C g(x)$ for some positive constant $C$ independent of $x$. If $f \lesssim g$ and $g \lesssim f$,
then we write $f \approx g$. A constant appearing in this relation is called a constant of comparison. We recall some estimates for the Green's function $G_{\Omega}(x, y)$. As stated in [8], there exists $C=C(\Omega)>1$ such that, for any pair of points $x, y \in \Omega$, the set

$$
\mathcal{B}(x, y):=\left\{b \in \Omega: \frac{1}{C} \max \{\|x-b\|,\|y-b\|\} \leq\|x-y\| \leq C \delta_{\Omega}(b)\right\}
$$

is nonempty. The following estimate can be found in $[3,8]$.
Lemma 2.1. For all $x, y \in \Omega$ and $b \in \mathcal{B}(x, y)$,

$$
G_{\Omega}(x, y) \approx \frac{g_{\Omega}(x) g_{\Omega}(y)}{g_{\Omega}(b)^{2}}\|x-y\|^{2-n}
$$

where the constant of comparison depends only on $n$ and $\Omega$.
To estimate the Green's function, the following well-known facts are useful.
Lemma 2.2. There exist positive constants $\alpha, \beta$ and $C$, depending only on $n$ and $\Omega$, with the following properties:
(1) $\beta \leq 1 \leq \alpha$;
(2) for all $x \in \Omega$,

$$
\frac{1}{C} \delta_{\Omega}(x)^{\alpha} \leq g_{\Omega}(x) \leq C \delta_{\Omega}(x)^{\beta} ;
$$

(3) for each $x, y \in \Omega$ and $b \in \mathcal{B}(x, y)$,

$$
\max \left\{g_{\Omega}(x), g_{\Omega}(y)\right\} \leq C g_{\Omega}(b)
$$

(4) for each $x, y \in \Omega$ and $b \in \mathcal{B}(x, y)$,

$$
g_{\Omega}(x) \leq C\left(\frac{\delta_{\Omega}(x)}{\|x-y\|}\right)^{\beta} g_{\Omega}(b)
$$

Proof. The existence of $\alpha$ and $\beta$ satisfying (1) and (2) was proved by Maeda-Suzuki [11]. Statement (3) follows from the Carleson estimate (see [10, Lemma 4.4]) and the Harnack inequality for harmonic functions (see the argument below). Also, (4) can be proved easily by the use of [10, Lemmas 4.1 and 4.4]. For the reader's convenience, we sketch a proof of (4). Let $x, y \in \Omega$ and let $b \in \mathcal{B}(x, y)$. Take $\xi \in \partial \Omega$ with $\|x-\xi\|=\delta_{\Omega}(x)$. If $\delta_{\Omega}(x) \geq r_{0}$, then $\delta_{\Omega}(b) \geq \delta_{\Omega}(x)-\|x-b\| \geq \delta_{\Omega}(x)-C \delta_{\Omega}(b)$, and so $\delta_{\Omega}(b) \gtrsim r_{0}$. Therefore $g_{\Omega}(x) \approx g_{\Omega}(b)$ by the Harnack inequality. Since $\Omega$ is bounded, we can obtain (4) in this case. Consider the case $\delta_{\Omega}(x)<r_{0}$. If $\|x-y\| \leq \delta_{\Omega}(x)$, then the Harnack inequality yields $g_{\Omega}(x) \approx g_{\Omega}(b)$, and so the conclusion follows. If $\|x-y\|>\delta_{\Omega}(x)$, then by [10, Lemmas 4.1 and 4.4],

$$
g_{\Omega}(x) \lesssim\left(\frac{\delta_{\Omega}(x)}{\|x-y\|}\right)^{\beta} g_{\Omega}\left(\xi_{\|x-y\|}\right),
$$

where $\xi_{\|x-y\|}$ is a nontangential point in $\Omega \cap \partial B(\xi,\|x-y\|)$. Since

$$
\left\|\xi_{\|x-y\|}-b\right\| \leq\left\|\xi_{\|x-y\|}-\xi\right\|+\|\xi-x\|+\|x-b\| \lesssim\|x-y\| \lesssim \min \left\{\delta_{\Omega}\left(\xi_{\|x-y\|}\right), \delta_{\Omega}(b)\right\},
$$

it follows from the Harnack inequality that $g_{\Omega}\left(\xi_{\|x-y\|}\right) \approx g_{\Omega}(b)$. Thus (4) is proved.

Note that, from Lemmas 2.1 and 2.2(3),

$$
\begin{equation*}
G_{\Omega}(x, y) \lesssim \frac{g_{\Omega}(x)}{g_{\Omega}(b)}\|x-y\|^{2-n} \tag{2.1}
\end{equation*}
$$

for all $x, y \in \Omega$ and $b \in \mathcal{B}(x, y)$. This will be used frequently in the next section.

## 3. Proof of Theorem 1.1

In the argument below, let $u$ be a positive continuous solution of (1.1) with $\|u\|_{\infty} \leq M$. Note that $u$ has the representation

$$
\begin{equation*}
u(x)=\int_{\Omega} G_{\Omega}(x, y) a(y) u(y)^{p} d y \quad \text { for all } x \in \Omega \tag{3.1}
\end{equation*}
$$

In Section 3.1, we give a proof of the upper estimate $u(x) \lesssim g_{\Omega}(x)$ considering two cases $\alpha<2$ and $\alpha \geq 2$ separately, where $\alpha$ is as in Lemma 2.2. The case $\alpha<2$ follows easily from a simple estimation of the right-hand side in (3.1), but the other case needs iteration arguments to improve the estimates because $\int_{\Omega} G_{\Omega}(x, y) d y$ vanishes slowly at some boundary point. In Section 3.2, we give a proof of the lower estimate $g_{\Omega}(x) \lesssim u(x)$ by the use of the Harnack inequality for (1.1) and the uniform lower boundedness of $u\left(x_{0}\right)$. In Section 3.3, we prove that the ratio $u / g_{\Omega}$ has a continuous extension to $\bar{\Omega}$.

### 3.1. Upper estimate.

3.1.1. The case $\alpha<2$. Let $x \in \Omega$. By (2.1) and Lemma 2.2(2),

$$
G_{\Omega}(x, y) \lesssim g_{\Omega}(x)\|x-y\|^{2-n-\alpha} \quad \text { for all } y \in \Omega .
$$

Using (3.1),

$$
u(x) \leq\|a\|_{\infty} M^{p} \int_{\Omega} G_{\Omega}(x, y) d y \lesssim \frac{\|a\|_{\infty} M^{p}}{2-\alpha} g_{\Omega}(x) .
$$

3.1.2. The case $\alpha \geq 2$. For simplicity, we write

$$
p_{k}:=\sum_{j=0}^{k} p^{j}
$$

Let $N$ be the smallest nonnegative integer such that $\alpha<2 p_{N}$. Then $N \geq 1$. We claim that, for each $k \in\{0, \ldots, N-1\}$,

$$
\begin{equation*}
u(x) \leq C g_{\Omega}(x)^{2 p_{k} / \alpha} \quad \text { for all } x \in \Omega, \tag{3.2}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $C$ depends only on $\|a\|_{\infty}, M, p, n$ and $\Omega$. We prove this by induction. Let $x \in \Omega$. It is easy to see that

$$
\begin{equation*}
\int_{B\left(x, \delta_{\Omega}(x) / 2\right)} G_{\Omega}(x, y) d y \lesssim \delta_{\Omega}(x)^{2} \lesssim g_{\Omega}(x)^{2 / \alpha} \tag{3.3}
\end{equation*}
$$

To estimate the integral over $\Omega \backslash B\left(x, \delta_{\Omega}(x) / 2\right)$, we take $\gamma_{0}$ with

$$
\frac{\alpha-2}{\alpha}<\gamma_{0}<\frac{\alpha-2}{\alpha-\beta} .
$$

Note that $0<\gamma_{0}<1$. Then, by (2.1) and Lemma 2.2(2),(4), for all $y \in \Omega \backslash B\left(x, \delta_{\Omega}(x) / 2\right)$ and $b \in \mathcal{B}(x, y)$,

$$
\begin{aligned}
G_{\Omega}(x, y) & \lesssim\left(\frac{g_{\Omega}(x)}{g_{\Omega}(b)}\right)^{\gamma_{0}}\left(\frac{g_{\Omega}(x)}{g_{\Omega}(b)}\right)^{1-\gamma_{0}}\|x-y\|^{2-n} \\
& \lesssim\left(\frac{\delta_{\Omega}(x)}{\|x-y\|}\right)^{\beta \gamma_{0}}\left(\frac{g_{\Omega}(x)}{\|x-y\|^{\alpha}}\right)^{1-\gamma_{0}}\|x-y\|^{2-n} \\
& \lesssim \delta_{\Omega}(x)^{\beta \gamma_{0}} g_{\Omega}(x)^{1-\gamma_{0}}\|x-y\|^{2-n+(\alpha-\beta) \gamma_{0}-\alpha} .
\end{aligned}
$$

By the choice of $\gamma_{0}$, this yields

$$
\begin{equation*}
\int_{\Omega \backslash B\left(x, \delta_{\Omega}(x) / 2\right)} G_{\Omega}(x, y) d y \lesssim \delta_{\Omega}(x)^{2+\alpha\left(\gamma_{0}-1\right)} g_{\Omega}(x)^{1-\gamma_{0}} \lesssim g_{\Omega}(x)^{2 / \alpha} \tag{3.4}
\end{equation*}
$$

It follows from (3.1), (3.3) and (3.4) that $u(x) \lesssim\|a\|_{\infty} M^{p} g_{\Omega}(x)^{2 / \alpha}$, which implies that (3.2) holds for $k=0$. Next, we assume that (3.2) holds for some $k \in\{0, \ldots, N-2\}$. Then, for all $x \in \Omega$,

$$
\begin{equation*}
\int_{B\left(x, \delta_{\Omega}(x) / 2\right)} G_{\Omega}(x, y) u(y)^{p} d y \lesssim g_{\Omega}(x)^{2\left(p_{k+1}-1\right) / \alpha} \delta_{\Omega}(x)^{2} \lesssim g_{\Omega}(x)^{2 p_{k+1} / \alpha}, \tag{3.5}
\end{equation*}
$$

where, in the first inequality, we used the Harnack inequality: $g_{\Omega}(y) \lesssim g_{\Omega}(x)$ for all $y \in B\left(x, \delta_{\Omega}(x) / 2\right)$. Take $\gamma_{k}$ with

$$
\frac{\alpha-2 p_{k+1}}{\alpha}<\gamma_{k}<\min \left\{\frac{\alpha-2\left(p_{k+1}-1\right)}{\alpha}, \frac{\alpha-2 p_{k+1}}{\alpha-\beta}\right\} .
$$

Since

$$
\begin{aligned}
G_{\Omega}(x, y) g_{\Omega}(y)^{2\left(p_{k+1}-1\right) / \alpha} & \lesssim\left(\frac{g_{\Omega}(x)}{g_{\Omega}(b)}\right)^{\gamma_{k}} \frac{g_{\Omega}(x)^{1-\gamma_{k}}}{g_{\Omega}(b)^{1-\gamma_{k}-2\left(p_{k+1}-1\right) / \alpha}}\|x-y\|^{2-n} \\
& \lesssim \delta_{\Omega}(x)^{\beta \gamma_{k}} g_{\Omega}(x)^{1-\gamma_{k}}\|x-y\|^{2-n-\beta \gamma_{k}-\left(1-\gamma_{k}\right) \alpha+2\left(p_{k+1}-1\right)}
\end{aligned}
$$

by (2.1) and Lemma 2.2, it follows from the choice of $\gamma_{k}$ that

$$
\begin{equation*}
\int_{\Omega \backslash B\left(x, \delta_{\Omega}(x) / 2\right)} G_{\Omega}(x, y) u(y)^{p} d y \lesssim \delta_{\Omega}(x)^{\left(\gamma_{k}-1\right) \alpha+2 p_{k+1}} g_{\Omega}(x)^{1-\gamma_{k}} \lesssim g_{\Omega}(x)^{2 p_{k+1} / \alpha} \tag{3.6}
\end{equation*}
$$

Therefore we obtain from (3.1), (3.5) and (3.6) that $u(x) \lesssim g_{\Omega}(x)^{2 p_{k+1} / \alpha}$ for all $x \in \Omega$. Thus (3.2) holds.

Let us apply (3.2) with $k=N-1$ to show $u(x) \lesssim g_{\Omega}(x)$. Let $x \in \Omega$. Note that, for all $y \in \Omega$ and $b \in \mathcal{B}(x, y)$,

$$
G_{\Omega}(x, y) g_{\Omega}(y)^{2\left(p_{N}-1\right) / \alpha} \lesssim \frac{g_{\Omega}(x)}{g_{\Omega}(b)^{1-2\left(p_{N}-1\right) / \alpha}}\|x-y\|^{2-n} .
$$

If $1-2\left(p_{N}-1\right) / \alpha \leq 0$, then

$$
\int_{\Omega} G_{\Omega}(x, y) u(y)^{p} d y \lesssim g_{\Omega}(x) .
$$

If $1-2\left(p_{N}-1\right) / \alpha>0$, then

$$
\int_{\Omega} G_{\Omega}(x, y) u(y)^{p} d y \lesssim g_{\Omega}(x) \int_{\Omega}\|x-y\|^{-n-\alpha+2 p_{N}} d y \lesssim g_{\Omega}(x)
$$

by our choice of $N$. Hence $u(x) \lesssim g_{\Omega}(x)$ in all cases. This completes the proof of the upper estimate.
3.2. Lower estimate. In a previous paper [9, Section 5], we proved the Harnack inequality for positive classical solutions of the Lane-Emden equation $-\Delta v=|v|^{p-1} v$ with $1<p<(n+2) /(n-2)$, but the argument given there is applicable to a positive continuous function $v$ on $\Omega$ with a distributional Laplacian that satisfies $0 \leq-\Delta v \leq$ $C \delta_{\Omega}(x)^{-2} v$ in $\Omega$. Since the distributional Laplacian of our object $u$ satisfies $0 \leq-\Delta u=$ $a(x) u^{p} \leq\|a\|_{\infty} M^{p-1} u$ in $\Omega$, we can obtain the following Harnack inequality.

Lemma 3.1. There exists $\kappa=\kappa\left(\|a\|_{\infty}, M, p, n\right) \in(0,1)$ such that

$$
u(x) \leq 2 u(y)
$$

for any pair of points $x, y \in \Omega$ satisfying $\|x-y\| \leq \kappa \min \left\{\delta_{\Omega}(x), \delta_{\Omega}(y)\right\}$.
To guarantee that all solutions take their maximum values apart from the boundary, we need the following lemma.

Lemma 3.2. There exists $C=C\left(\|a\|_{\infty}, M, p, n, \Omega\right)>0$ such that

$$
u(x) \leq C u\left(x_{0}\right) \quad \text { for all } x \in \Omega .
$$

Proof. From the discussion in the previous subsection, we see that there exists $\gamma>0$ such that, for all $x \in \Omega$,

$$
u(x)=\int_{\Omega} G_{\Omega}(x, y) a(y) u(y)^{p} d y \lesssim M^{p-1}\|a\|_{\infty}\|u\|_{\infty} g(x)^{\gamma} .
$$

Therefore, we find $\delta=\delta\left(\|a\|_{\infty}, M, p, n, \Omega\right)>0$ such that $u(x) \leq\|u\|_{\infty} / 2$ for all $x \in \Omega$ satisfying $\delta_{\Omega}(x) \leq \delta$. This implies that $u$ attains its maximum at some point $x_{1} \in \Omega$ with $\delta_{\Omega}\left(x_{1}\right) \geq \delta$. By Lemma 3.1, $u(x) \leq u\left(x_{1}\right) \leqq u\left(x_{0}\right)$ for all $x \in \Omega$, as required.

Let us show that $g_{\Omega}(x) \lesssim u(x)$ for all $x \in \Omega$. Let $E:=\left\{x \in \Omega: G_{\Omega}\left(x, x_{0}\right) \geq 1\right\}$. Then $E$ is compact in $\Omega$. By Lemma 3.1, we have $g_{\Omega}(x)=1$ and $u\left(x_{0}\right) \lesssim u(x)$ for all $x \in E$, and so

$$
g_{\Omega}(x) u\left(x_{0}\right) \lesssim u(x) \quad \text { on } E .
$$

By the minimum principle for superharmonic functions, we see that this inequality holds on the whole of $\Omega$. Therefore it suffices to show that

$$
\begin{equation*}
u\left(x_{0}\right) \geq C>0 \tag{3.7}
\end{equation*}
$$

Since

$$
\sup _{x \in \Omega} \int_{\Omega} G_{\Omega}(x, y) d y \leq C(n, \operatorname{diam} \Omega),
$$

we have $\|u\|_{\infty} \leq C\|a\|_{\infty}\|u\|_{\infty}^{p}$. This, together with Lemma 3.2, yields

$$
\left(C\|a\|_{\infty}\right)^{-1 /(p-1)} \leq\|u\|_{\infty} \lesssim u\left(x_{0}\right),
$$

which gives (3.7). Thus the lower estimate is proved.
3.3. Continuous extension. Let $\xi \in \partial \Omega$. Note that

$$
\lim _{x \rightarrow \xi} \frac{G_{\Omega}(x, y)}{G_{\Omega}\left(x, x_{0}\right)}=M_{\Omega}(y, \xi),
$$

since the Martin boundary of a bounded Lipschitz domain is identical to the Euclidean boundary (see [1]). By the upper estimate $u(x) \lesssim g_{\Omega}(x)$, (2.1) and Lemma 2.2,

$$
\frac{G_{\Omega}(x, y)}{G_{\Omega}\left(x, x_{0}\right)} a(y) u(y)^{p} \lesssim g_{\Omega}(y)^{p-1}\|x-y\|^{2-n} \lesssim\|x-y\|^{2-n}
$$

for all $x, y \in \Omega$. It follows from a version of Lebesgue's dominated convergence theorem that

$$
\lim _{x \rightarrow \xi} \frac{u(x)}{g_{\Omega}(x)}=\lim _{x \rightarrow \xi} \int_{\Omega} \frac{G_{\Omega}(x, y)}{G_{\Omega}\left(x, x_{0}\right)} a(y) u(y)^{p} d y=\int_{\Omega} M_{\Omega}(y, \xi) a(y) u(y)^{p} d y .
$$

Hence $u / g_{\Omega}$ has a continuous extension to $\bar{\Omega}$. This completes the proof of Theorem 1.1.
Remark 3.3. If $\alpha_{\Omega}$ defined by (1.3) is greater than 2, then $\int_{\Omega} M_{\Omega}(x, \xi) d x$ may diverge for some $\xi \in \partial \Omega$. Therefore we need the upper estimate $u(x) \lesssim g_{\Omega}(x)$ to show the existence of boundary limits of $u / g_{\Omega}$.

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