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Asymptotic behavior for a fourth-order parabolic equation modeling thin film growth *

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Abstract. The main goal of this work is to study a fourth-order parabolic equation with nonstandard growth conditions. For non-positive initial energy $J(u_0) \leq 0$, by using the concavity method, we establish that weak solutions blow up in finite time. On the other hand, we also derive the blow-up time estimate and the asymptotic behavior of weak solutions.

Keywords: fourth-order parabolic equation, nonstandard growth condition, asymptotic behavior

2010 Mathematics subject classification: Primary 35K58; 35K35; 35B40

1 Introduction

In this paper, we study the blow-up phenomenon of weak solutions to the following fourth-order parabolic equation which reads as follows,

$$\begin{cases} u_t + \Delta^2 u = u^{p(x)}, & (x,t) \in \Omega \times (0,T), \\ u = \Delta u = 0, & (x,t) \in \partial \Omega \times (0,T), \\ u(x,0) = u_0(x), & x \in \Omega, \end{cases}$$
(1.1)

where $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ is a bounded domain with smooth boundary, $u_0 \in H_0^2(\Omega)$ and $u_0 \neq 0$. The term $\Delta^2 u$ describes the capillarity-driven surface diffusion. we assume that the function $p(x) : \Omega \mapsto (1, +\infty)$ satisfies that

$$1 < p^{-} \triangleq \inf_{x \in \Omega} p(x) \le p(x) \le p^{+} \triangleq \sup_{x \in \Omega} p(x) < +\infty,$$

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