

## Lindelöf theorems for monotone Sobolev functions on uniform domains

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**ABSTRACT.** This paper deals with Lindelöf type theorems for monotone Sobolev functions on a uniform domain.

### 1. Introduction

A continuous function  $u$  on an open set  $D$  in the  $n$ -dimensional Euclidean space  $\mathbf{R}^n$ ,  $n \geq 2$ , is called monotone in the sense of Lebesgue (see [6]) if the equalities

$$\max_{\bar{G}} u = \max_{\partial G} u \quad \text{and} \quad \min_{\bar{G}} u = \min_{\partial G} u$$

hold whenever  $G$  is a domain with compact closure  $\bar{G} \subset D$ . If  $u$  is a monotone Sobolev function on  $D$  and  $p > n - 1$ , then

$$(1.1) \quad |u(x) - u(x')| \leq C(n, p)r^{1-n/p} \left( \int_{B(z, r)} |\nabla u(y)|^p dy \right)^{1/p}$$

whenever  $x, x' \in B(z, r/2)$  with  $B(z, r) \subset D$ , where  $B(z, r)$  is the open ball centered at  $z$  with radius  $r$  and  $C(n, p)$  is a positive constant depending only on  $n$  and  $p$  (see [11, Chapter 8] and [13, Section 16]). Using this inequality (1.1), we proved Lindelöf theorems for monotone Sobolev functions on the half space of  $\mathbf{R}^n$  in [1]. For related results, see Koskela-Manfredi-Villamor [5], Manfredi-Villamor [7, 8] and Mizuta [10]. In this paper we will generalize this result to a uniform domain in a metric space.

Let  $X$  be a metric space with a metric  $d$  and  $\mu$  be a Borel measure on  $X$  which is positive and finite on balls. We denote by  $B(x, r)$  the open ball centered at  $x \in X$  with radius  $r > 0$  and set  $\lambda B = B(x, \lambda r)$  for each ball  $B = B(x, r)$  and  $\lambda > 0$ . A domain  $D$  in  $X$  with  $\partial D \neq \emptyset$  is a uniform domain if there exists a constant  $A \geq 1$  such that each pair of points  $x, y \in D$  can be joined by a curve  $\gamma$  in  $D$  for which

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$$(1.2) \quad \ell(\gamma) \leq Ad(x, y),$$

$$(1.3) \quad \delta_D(z) \geq A^{-1} \min\{\ell(\gamma(x, z)), \ell(\gamma(y, z))\} \quad \text{for all } z \in \gamma,$$

where  $\ell(\gamma)$ ,  $\delta_D(z)$  and  $\gamma(x, z)$  denote the length of  $\gamma$ , the distance from  $z$  to  $\partial D$  and the subarc of  $\gamma$  connecting  $x$  and  $z$ , respectively (see [9] and [12]). Here a curve means simple curve.

Our first aim in this paper is to deal with Lindelöf type theorems for functions  $u$  on a uniform domain  $D$  for which there exist a nonnegative Borel function  $g \in L^p_{loc}(D; \mu)$ ,  $p > 1$ , constants  $M > 0$  and  $0 < \lambda \leq 1$  such that

$$(1.4) \quad |u(x) - u(x')| \leq Mr \left( \int_{B(z, r)} g(y)^p d\mu(y) \right)^{1/p}$$

whenever  $x, x' \in B(z, \lambda r)$  with  $B(z, r) \subset D$  and

$$(1.5) \quad \int_D g(y)^p \delta_D(y)^\alpha d\mu(y) < \infty$$

for some real number  $\alpha$ . Here we used the standard notation

$$u_F = \int_F u d\mu = \frac{1}{\mu(F)} \int_F u d\mu$$

for a measurable set  $F$  with  $0 < \mu(F) < \infty$ . For this purpose we assume that there exists a constant  $C_1 \geq 1$  such that

$$(1.6) \quad \mu(2B) \leq C_1 \mu(B)$$

for all balls  $B$ . We further assume that there exist constants  $Q \geq 1$  and  $C_2 > 0$  such that

$$(1.7) \quad \frac{\mu(B)}{\mu(B_0)} \geq C_2 \left( \frac{\text{diam } B}{\text{diam } B_0} \right)^Q$$

for all balls  $B$  and  $B_0$  with  $B \subset B_0$ . For  $\xi \in \partial D$  and  $a > 1$ , consider the set

$$\Gamma_D(\xi; a) = \{x \in D : d(x, \xi) < a\delta_D(x)\}.$$

A function  $u$  defined on  $D$  is said to have a nontangential limit  $L$  at  $\xi \in \partial D$  if for every  $a > 1$ ,  $\lim_{z \rightarrow \xi, z \in \Gamma_D(\xi; a)} u(z) = L$ . The main result of this paper is the following theorem.

**THEOREM 1.** *Let  $D$  be a uniform domain in  $X$ . Let  $u$  be a function on  $D$  with  $g \geq 0$  satisfying (1.4) and (1.5). Suppose  $p > Q + \alpha - 1$  and set*

$$E = \left\{ \xi \in \partial D : \limsup_{r \rightarrow 0} \frac{r^{p-\alpha}}{\mu(B(\xi, r))} \int_{B(\xi, r) \cap D} g(y)^p \delta_D(y)^\alpha d\mu(y) > 0 \right\}.$$

If  $\xi \in \partial D \setminus E$  and there exists a curve  $\gamma$  in  $D$  tending to  $\xi$  along which  $u$  has a finite limit  $L$ , then  $u$  has a nontangential limit  $L$  at  $\xi$ .

REMARK 1. If  $g$  satisfies (1.5), then  $\mathcal{H}^{Q+\alpha-p}(E) = 0$ , where  $\mathcal{H}^s$  denotes the  $s$ -dimensional Hausdorff measure.

COROLLARY 1. Let  $u$  be a monotone Sobolev function on a uniform domain  $D$  in  $\mathbf{R}^n$  satisfying

$$\int_D |\nabla u(y)|^p \delta_D(y)^\alpha dy < \infty,$$

where  $p > \max\{n-1, n-1+\alpha\}$ . Set

$$E' = \left\{ \xi \in \partial D : \limsup_{r \rightarrow 0} r^{p-\alpha-n} \int_{B(\xi, r) \cap D} |\nabla u(y)|^p \delta_D(y)^\alpha dy > 0 \right\}.$$

If  $\xi \in \partial D \setminus E'$  and there exists a curve  $\gamma$  in  $D$  tending to  $\xi$  along which  $u$  has a finite limit  $L$ , then  $u$  has a nontangential limit  $L$  at  $\xi$ .

## 2. Proof of Theorem 1

Throughout this paper, let  $M$  denote various constants independent of the variables in question.

For a proof of Theorem 1, we need the following Lemmas.

LEMMA 1. Let  $D$  be a uniform domain. Then, for each  $\xi \in \partial D$ , there exists a curve  $\gamma_\xi$  in  $D$  ending at  $\xi$  such that

$$(2.1) \quad \delta_D(z) \geq A_1^{-1} \ell(\gamma_\xi(\xi, z)) \quad \text{for all } z \in \gamma_\xi,$$

where  $A_1 = 2^5 A^3$ .

PROOF. Fix  $\xi \in \partial D$ . For each  $j$  sufficiently large (say  $j \geq j_0$ ), take a point  $w_j \in D \cap \partial B(\xi, 2^{-j})$ . Further, take a curve  $\gamma_j$  in  $D$  joining  $w_{j-1}$  and  $w_{j+1}$  satisfying (1.2) and (1.3), and take a point  $z_j \in \gamma_j \cap \partial B(\xi, 2^{-j})$ . Since  $\ell(\gamma_j(w_{j+1}, z_j)) \geq 2^{-j-1}$  and  $\ell(\gamma_j(w_{j-1}, z_j)) \geq 2^{-j}$ , we have by (1.3)

$$\delta_D(z_j) \geq A^{-1} 2^{-j-1}.$$

Let  $\hat{\gamma}_j$  be a curve in  $D$  joining  $z_j$  and  $z_{j+1}$  satisfying (1.2) and (1.3). Then  $\ell(\hat{\gamma}_j) \leq A 2^{-j+1}$  and  $\delta_D(z) \geq A^{-2} 2^{-j-3}$  for all  $z \in \hat{\gamma}_j$ . Set

$$\hat{\gamma}_\xi = \hat{\gamma}_{j_0} + \hat{\gamma}_{j_0+1} + \hat{\gamma}_{j_0+2} + \cdots$$

Then it is not difficult to construct a simple curve  $\gamma_\xi$  from  $\hat{\gamma}_\xi$  satisfying (2.1) with  $A_1 = 2^5 A^3$ .  $\square$

For each  $\tau \in \mathbf{R}$ , consider the function

$$\kappa_\tau(r_1, r_2) = \left( \int_{r_1}^{r_2} t^{(1-\tau-Q)/(p-1)} dt \right)^{1-1/p}$$

for  $0 \leq r_1 < r_2$ .

LEMMA 2 (cf. [2, Lemma 3]). *Let  $u$  be a function on  $D$  with  $g \geq 0$  satisfying (1.4) and  $\tau \in \mathbf{R}$ . Then*

$$|u(x) - u(y)| \leq M\kappa_\tau(\delta_D(x), 8A \max_{z \in \gamma} \delta_D(z)) \left( \frac{r^Q}{\mu(B(w, r))} \int_{\mathcal{B}(\gamma)} g(z)^p \delta_D(z)^\tau d\mu(z) \right)^{1/p}$$

whenever  $x$  and  $y$  can be joined by a rectifiable curve  $\gamma$  in  $D$  such that

$$(2.2) \quad \delta_D(z) \geq A^{-1} \ell(\gamma(x, z)) \quad \text{for all } z \in \gamma$$

and  $\mathcal{B}(\gamma) = \bigcup_{z \in \gamma} B(z, \delta_D(z)/2) \subset B(w, r)$ , where  $M$  is a positive constant independent of  $x, y, \gamma$  and  $B(w, r)$ .

PROOF. Let  $\gamma$  be a curve in  $D$  joining  $x$  and  $y$  satisfying (2.2) and  $\mathcal{B}(\gamma) \subset B(w, r)$ . We can take a finite chain of balls  $B_0, B_1, \dots, B_N$  with the following properties:

- (i)  $B_j = B(z_j, \delta_D(z_j)/2)$  with  $z_j \in \gamma$ ,  $z_0 = x$  and  $y \in \lambda B_N$ ;
- (ii)  $\lambda B_j \cap \lambda B_{j+1} \neq \emptyset$  for all  $0 \leq j < N$ ;
- (iii) For small  $t > 0$ , the number of  $z_j$  such that  $t < \delta_D(z_j) \leq 2t$  is bounded by  $(2A + \lambda)/\lambda$ ;
- (iv)  $\sum_j \chi_{B_j} \leq C_3$ , where  $C_3$  is a positive constant depending only on  $C_1$  and  $\lambda$ ;

see [1, Proof of Theorem 1] and [2, Lemma 2.2].

Pick  $x_{j+1} \in \lambda B_j \cap \lambda B_{j+1}$  for  $0 \leq j < N$ : set  $x_0 = x$  and  $x_{N+1} = y$ . By (1.4), we see that

$$|u(x_j) - u(x_{j+1})| \leq M\delta_D(z_j) \left( \int_{B_j} g(z)^p d\mu(z) \right)^{1/p}$$

for  $0 \leq j \leq N$ . Then we have by (1.7), Hölder's inequality and (iv)

$$\begin{aligned} & |u(x) - u(y)| \\ & \leq M\mu(B(w, r))^{-1/p} \sum_{j=0}^N \delta_D(z_j)^{1-\tau/p} \left( \frac{\mu(B(w, r))}{\mu(B_j)} \right)^{1/p} \left( \int_{B_j} g(z)^p \delta_D(z)^\tau d\mu(z) \right)^{1/p} \\ & \leq M\mu(B(w, r))^{-1/p} \sum_{j=0}^N \delta_D(z_j)^{1-\tau/p} \left( \frac{r}{\delta_D(z_j)} \right)^{Q/p} \left( \int_{B_j} g(z)^p \delta_D(z)^\tau d\mu(z) \right)^{1/p} \\ & \leq Mr^{Q/p} \mu(B(w, r))^{-1/p} \left( \sum_{j=0}^N \delta_D(z_j)^{(p-\tau-Q)/(p-1)} \right)^{1-1/p} \left( \int_{\mathcal{B}(\gamma)} g(z)^p \delta_D(z)^\tau d\mu(z) \right)^{1/p}. \end{aligned}$$

Further, since  $(2A)^{-1}\delta_D(x) \leq \delta_D(z_j) \leq \max_{z \in \gamma} \delta_D(z)$ , we see from (iii) that

$$\sum_{j=0}^N \delta_D(z_j)^{(p-\tau-Q)/(p-1)} \leq M \left( \kappa_\tau \left( \delta_D(x), 8A \max_{z \in \gamma} \delta_D(z) \right) \right)^{p/(p-1)}.$$

Thus the proof is completed.  $\square$

A sequence  $\{x_j\}$  is called regular at  $\xi$  if  $x_j \rightarrow \xi$  and

$$d(\xi, x_{j+1}) \leq d(\xi, x_j) \leq cd(\xi, x_{j+1})$$

for some constant  $c > 1$ .

LEMMA 3 (cf. [1, Lemma 1]). *Let  $u, g, D$  and  $E$  be as in Theorem 1. Suppose there exists a regular sequence  $\{x_j\}$  at  $\xi \in \partial D \setminus E$  such that  $x_j \in \gamma_\xi$  and  $\lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} u(x_j) = L$ , where  $\gamma_\xi$  is as in Lemma 1. Then  $u$  has a nontangential limit  $L$  at  $\xi$ .*

PROOF. Set  $r_j = d(\xi, x_j)$ . Since  $\{x_j\}$  is regular at  $\xi$ , there exists a constant  $c > 1$  such that  $r_{j+1} \leq r_j \leq cr_{j+1}$ . Fix  $x \in \Gamma_D(\xi; a) \cap B(\xi, r_1)$ . Then there exists an integer  $j$  such that  $r_j \leq d(\xi, x) < r_{j-1}$ . Let  $\gamma$  be a curve in  $D$  joining  $x$  and  $x_j$  with (1.2) and (1.3), and take  $y \in \gamma$  such that  $\ell(\gamma(x, y)) = \ell(\gamma(x_j, y))$ ; Set  $\gamma_1 = \gamma(x, y)$  and  $\gamma_2 = \gamma(x_j, y)$ . Then  $\gamma_i$  satisfies (2.2) for  $i = 1, 2$  and  $d(\xi, z) \leq c_1 r_j$  for all  $z \in \gamma$ , where  $c_1 = (c+1)A + 1$ . Since  $\delta_D(x) \geq a^{-1}r_j$ ,  $\delta_D(x_j) \geq A_1^{-1}r_j$  and  $\mathcal{B}(\gamma_i) \subset B(\xi, 2c_1 r_j) \cap D$ , we see from Lemma 2 with  $\tau = \alpha$  that

$$\begin{aligned} |u(x) - u(x_j)| &\leq |u(x) - u(y)| + |u(y) - u(x_j)| \\ &\leq M\kappa_\alpha(a^{-1}r_j, 8Ac_1r_j) \left( \frac{(2c_1r_j)^Q}{\mu(B(\xi, 2c_1r_j))} \int_{\mathcal{B}(\gamma_1)} g(z)^p \delta_D(z)^\alpha d\mu(z) \right)^{1/p} \\ &\quad + M\kappa_\alpha(A_1^{-1}r_j, 8Ac_1r_j) \left( \frac{(2c_1r_j)^Q}{\mu(B(\xi, 2c_1r_j))} \int_{\mathcal{B}(\gamma_2)} g(z)^p \delta_D(z)^\alpha d\mu(z) \right)^{1/p} \\ &\leq M \left( \frac{r_j^{p-\alpha}}{\mu(B(\xi, 2c_1r_j))} \int_{B(\xi, 2c_1r_j) \cap D} g(z)^p \delta_D(z)^\alpha d\mu(z) \right)^{1/p}. \end{aligned}$$

Since  $\xi \notin E$ , this implies that  $u$  has a nontangential limit  $L$  at  $\xi$ .  $\square$

Now we can prove Theorem 1.

PROOF OF THEOREM 1. Suppose  $u(z)$  tends to  $L$  as  $z \rightarrow \xi$  along  $\gamma$ . Let  $\gamma_\xi$  be as in Lemma 1. For  $r > 0$  sufficiently small, take  $x_1(r) \in \gamma \cap \partial B(\xi, r)$  and

$x_2(r) \in \gamma_\xi \cap \partial B(\xi, r)$ . Then  $x_1(r)$  and  $x_2(r)$  can be connected by a curve  $\gamma_0$  in  $D$  with (1.2) and (1.3). Set  $\gamma_1 = \gamma_0(x_1(r), y(r))$  and  $\gamma_2 = \gamma_0(x_2(r), y(r))$  with a point  $y(r) \in \gamma_0$  such that  $\ell(\gamma_1) = \ell(\gamma_2)$ . Then

$$\delta_D(z) \geq A^{-1} \ell(\gamma_i(x_i(r), z)) \quad \text{for all } z \in \gamma_i, \quad i = 1, 2.$$

Note that  $\delta_D(x_2(r)) \geq A_1^{-1}r$ ,  $d(\xi, z) \leq c_2r$  for all  $z \in \gamma_0$  and

$$|r - d(\xi, z)| \leq d(z, x_1(r)) \leq c_2\delta_D(z)$$

for all  $z \in \mathcal{B}(\gamma_1)$ , where  $c_2 = 2A + 1$ . By Lemma 2 with  $\tau = \alpha$ , we see that

$$\begin{aligned} |u(x_2(r)) - u(y(r))| &\leq M\kappa_\alpha(A_1^{-1}r, 8Ac_2r) \left( \frac{(2c_2r)^Q}{\mu(B(\xi, 2c_2r))} \int_{\mathcal{B}(\gamma_2)} g(z)^p \delta_D(z)^\alpha d\mu \right)^{1/p} \\ &\leq M \left( \frac{r^{p-\alpha}}{\mu(B(\xi, 2c_2r))} \int_{B(\xi, 2c_2r) \cap D} g(z)^p \delta_D(z)^\alpha d\mu \right)^{1/p}. \end{aligned}$$

Since  $p > Q + \alpha - 1$  by our assumption, there exists  $\beta > 0$  such that  $Q + \alpha - p < \beta < 1$ . We have by Lemma 2 with  $\tau = \alpha - \beta$

$$\begin{aligned} |u(x_1(r)) - u(y(r))| &\leq M\kappa_{\alpha-\beta}(0, 8Ac_2r) \left( \frac{(2c_2r)^Q}{\mu(B(\xi, 2c_2r))} \int_{\mathcal{B}(\gamma_1)} g(z)^p \delta_D(z)^{\alpha-\beta} d\mu(z) \right)^{1/p} \\ &\leq M \left( \frac{r^{p-\alpha+\beta}}{\mu(B(\xi, 2c_2r))} \int_{B(\xi, c_2r) \cap D} g(z)^p \delta_D(z)^\alpha |r - d(\xi, z)|^{-\beta} d\mu(z) \right)^{1/p}. \end{aligned}$$

Hence we have

$$(2.3) \quad |u(x_1(r)) - u(x_2(r))|^p \leq M \frac{r^{p-\alpha+\beta}}{\mu(B(\xi, 2c_2r))} \int_{B(\xi, 2c_2r) \cap D} g(z)^p \delta_D(z)^\alpha |r - d(\xi, z)|^{-\beta} d\mu(z).$$

Moreover, since  $0 < \beta < 1$ , we see that

$$(2.4) \quad \int_{2^{-j-1}}^{2^{-j}} |r - d(\xi, z)|^{-\beta} dr \leq M2^{-j(1-\beta)}.$$

Hence it follows from (2.3) and (2.4) that

$$\begin{aligned}
& \inf_{2^{-j-1} \leq r \leq 2^{-j}} |u(x_1(r)) - u(x_2(r))|^p \\
& \leq M \int_{2^{-j-1}}^{2^{-j}} \left( \frac{r^{p-\alpha+\beta}}{\mu(B(\xi, 2c_2r))} \int_{B(\xi, 2c_2r) \cap D} g(z)^p \delta_D(z)^\alpha |r - d(\xi, z)|^{-\beta} d\mu(z) \right) \frac{dr}{r} \\
& \leq M \frac{2^{-j(p-\alpha+\beta-1)}}{\mu(B(\xi, c_22^{-j}))} \int_{B(\xi, c_22^{-j+1}) \cap D} g(z)^p \delta_D(z)^\alpha \left( \int_{2^{-j-1}}^{2^{-j}} |r - d(\xi, z)|^{-\beta} dr \right) d\mu(z) \\
& \leq M \frac{2^{-j(p-\alpha)}}{\mu(B(\xi, c_22^{-j}))} \int_{B(\xi, c_22^{-j+1}) \cap D} g(z)^p \delta_D(z)^\alpha d\mu(z).
\end{aligned}$$

Since  $\xi \notin E$ , we can find a sequence  $\{r_j\}$  such that  $2^{-j-1} < r_j \leq 2^{-j}$  and

$$\lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} u(x_2(r_j)) = L.$$

Thus  $u$  has a nontangential limit  $L$  at  $\xi$  by Lemma 3.  $\square$

### 3. $A_q$ weights

Let  $w$  be a Muckenhoupt  $A_q$  weight, that is, a nonnegative measurable functions on  $\mathbf{R}^n$  satisfying

$$(3.1) \quad \sup \left( \int_B w(x) dx \right) \left( \int_B w(x)^{1/(1-q)} dx \right)^{q-1} < \infty,$$

where the supremum is taken over all balls  $B$  in  $\mathbf{R}^n$  (see [4]). Let  $u$  be a monotone function on a uniform domain  $D$  in  $\mathbf{R}^n$  in the sense of Lebesgue which satisfies

$$(3.2) \quad \int_D |\nabla u(x)|^p w(x) dx < \infty.$$

Suppose  $1 \leq q < p/(n-1)$ . Since  $p_1 = p/q > n-1$ , then

$$|u(x) - u(x')| \leq Mr^{1-p_1/n} \left( \int_{B(z,r)} |\nabla u(y)|^{p_1} dy \right)^{1/p_1}$$

whenever  $x, x' \in B(z, r/2)$  with  $B(z, r) \subset D$ .

Hence we derive the following extension of a result by Manfredi-Villamor [8] to a uniform domain (see also [1]).

**COROLLARY 2.** *Let  $1 \leq q < p/(n-1)$  and  $w$  be a Muckenhoupt  $A_q$  weight. Suppose  $u$  is a monotone function on a uniform domain  $D$  in  $\mathbf{R}^n$  satisfying (3.2). Set*

$$E_1 = \left\{ \xi \in \partial D : \limsup_{r \rightarrow 0} \frac{r^p}{w(B(\xi, r))} \int_{B(\xi, r) \cap D} |\nabla u(y)|^p w(y) dy > 0 \right\},$$

where  $w(B(\xi, r)) = \int_{B(\xi, r)} w(y) dy$ . If  $\xi \in \partial D \setminus E_1$  and there exists a curve  $\gamma$  in  $D$  tending to  $\xi$  along which  $u$  has a finite limit  $L$ , then  $u$  has a nontangential limit  $L$  at  $\xi$ .

PROOF. Set

$$E_2 = \left\{ \xi \in \partial D : \limsup_{r \rightarrow 0} r^{p_1 - n} \int_{B(\xi, r) \cap D} |\nabla u(y)|^{p_1} dy > 0 \right\},$$

where  $p_1 = p/q$ . Using Hölder inequality and (3.1), we see that  $E_2 \subset E_1$ . Thus Corollary 2 follows from Theorem 1 with  $p$  and  $\mu$  replaced by  $p_1$  and the  $n$ -dimensional Lebesgue measure.  $\square$

#### 4. Generalizations of Lindelöf theorems

In this section, we give a generalization of Theorem 1 in case  $X = \mathbf{R}^n$ . Let  $m$  be an integer such that  $1 \leq m < n$ . We say that  $\Gamma$  is an  $m$ -approach set at  $\xi$  with  $\lambda_1 > 1$  and  $\lambda_2 > 0$ , if there exist a sequence of positive numbers  $\{r_j\}$  tending to zero and a sequence of contraction maps  $P_j$  from  $\mathbf{R}^n$  to  $\mathbf{R}^m$  such that  $r_{j+1} \leq r_j \leq \lambda_1 r_{j+1}$  and

$$(4.1) \quad \mathcal{H}^m(P_j(\Gamma \cap (B(\xi, r_j) \setminus B(\xi, r_{j+1})))) \geq \lambda_2 r_j^m.$$

THEOREM 2. Let  $D$  be a uniform domain in  $\mathbf{R}^n$ . Let  $u$  be a function on  $D$  with  $g \geq 0$  satisfying (1.4) and (1.5). Suppose  $p > Q + \alpha - m$  and set

$$E = \left\{ \xi \in \partial D : \limsup_{r \rightarrow 0} \frac{r^{p-\alpha}}{\mu(B(\xi, r))} \int_{B(\xi, r) \cap D} g(y)^p \delta_D(y)^\alpha d\mu(y) > 0 \right\}.$$

If  $\xi \in \partial D \setminus E$  and there exists an  $m$ -approach set  $\Gamma \subset D$  at  $\xi$  along which  $u$  has a finite limit  $L$  at  $\xi$ , then  $u$  has a nontangential limit  $L$  at  $\xi$ .

PROOF. Let  $r_j, P_j, \lambda_1$  and  $\lambda_2$  be retained from the definition of  $m$ -approach set  $\Gamma$  at  $\xi$ , and set

$$G_j = \Gamma \cap (B(\xi, r_j) \setminus B(\xi, r_{j+1})).$$

For  $\omega \in P_j(G_j)$ , take  $x_1(\omega) \in G_j$  and set  $r = |\xi - x_1(\omega)|$ . Let  $\gamma_\xi$  be as in Lemma 1 and take  $x_2(\omega) \in \gamma_\xi \cap \partial B(\xi, r)$ . By our assumption, we can take  $\beta > 0$  such that  $Q + \alpha - p < \beta < m$ . Since  $|P_j(z) - \omega| \leq |z - x_1(\omega)|$ , in view of the estimate (2.3) in the proof of Theorem 1, we obtain



$$\begin{aligned} & |u(x_1(\omega)) - u(x_2(\omega))|^p \\ & \leq M \frac{r^{p-\alpha+\beta}}{\mu(B(\xi, 2c_2r))} \int_{B(\xi, 2c_2r) \cap D} g(z)^p \delta_D(z)^\alpha |P_j(z) - \omega|^{-\beta} d\mu(z). \end{aligned}$$

Further, since  $P_j(G_j) \subset B(P_j(\xi), r_j) (\subset \mathbf{R}^m)$  and  $0 < \beta < m$ , we see that

$$\int_{P_j(G_j)} |P_j(z) - \omega|^{-\beta} d\mathcal{H}^m(\omega) \leq \int_{B(P_j(\xi), r_j)} |P_j(z) - \omega|^{-\beta} d\mathcal{H}^m(\omega) \leq M r_j^{m-\beta}.$$

Hence we have by (4.1)

$$\inf_{\omega \in P_j(G_j)} |u(x_1(\omega)) - u(x_2(\omega))|^p \leq M \frac{r_j^{p-\alpha}}{\mu(B(\xi, 2c_2\lambda_1^{-1}r_j))} \int_{B(\xi, 2c_2r_j) \cap D} g(z)^p \delta_D(z)^\alpha d\mu(z).$$

From  $\xi \notin E$ , we can find a sequence  $\{\omega_j\}$  such that  $\omega_j \in P_j(G_j)$  and

$$\lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} u(x_2(\omega_j)) = L.$$

Since  $\{x_2(\omega_j)\}$  is regular at  $\xi$ , we can show that  $u$  has a nontangential limit  $L$  at  $\xi$  by Lemma 3.  $\square$

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