



RESEARCH ARTICLE

On a weighted anisotropic eigenvalue problem

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Abstract

In this paper, we deal with a weighted eigenvalue problem for the anisotropic (p, q) -Laplacian with Dirichlet boundary conditions. We study the main properties of the first eigenvalue and a reverse Hölder type inequality for the corresponding eigenfunctions.

1. Introduction

Let $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$, $n \geq 2$, be an open, bounded, and connected set and let p, q be such that $1 < p$, and $1 < q < p^*$, where $p^* = np/(n - p)$ if $p < n$ and $p^* = \infty$ if $p \geq n$. In this paper, we study the following variational problem:

$$\lambda_{p,q}^H(\Omega) = \inf_{\substack{u \in W_0^{1,p}(\Omega), \\ u \neq 0}} \frac{\int_{\Omega} H(\nabla u)^p dx}{\left(\int_{\Omega} m|u|^q dx \right)^{\frac{p}{q}}}, \quad (1.1)$$

where $m \in L^\infty(\Omega)$ is a positive function and $H : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow [0, +\infty]$ is a $C^1(\mathbb{R}^n \setminus \{0\})$ convex and positively 1-homogeneous function (see Section 2 for more details).

Obviously, $\lambda_{p,q}^H(\Omega)$ depends also on m , but to simplify the notation we will omit its dependence.

The Euler–Lagrange equation associated with the minimization problem (1.1) is the following weighted eigenvalue problem for the anisotropic (p, q) -Laplace operator with Dirichlet boundary condition:

$$\begin{cases} -\mathcal{L}_p(u) = \lambda m(x) \|u\|_{q,m}^{p-q} |u|^{q-2} u & \text{in } \Omega \\ u = 0 & \text{on } \partial\Omega, \end{cases} \quad (1.2)$$

where $\|u\|_{q,m} = \|u\|_{L^q(\Omega,m)}$ is the weighted Lebesgue norm of u and \mathcal{L}_p is the so-called anisotropic p -Laplacian operator defined as follows:

$$\mathcal{L}_p(u) = \operatorname{div}(H(\nabla u)^{p-1} H_\xi(\nabla u)). \quad (1.3)$$

We stress that when $p = q$ and $m(x) \equiv 1$, (1.1) is the first eigenvalue $\lambda_p^H(\Omega)$ of the anisotropic p -Laplacian, and it has been studied by many authors (see for instance [9, 19] and the references therein). In particular, in [9], it is proved that $\lambda_p^H(\Omega)$ is simple for any p , the corresponding eigenfunctions have a sign, and that a suitable Faber–Krahn inequality holds.

When $H = \mathcal{E}$ is the usual Euclidean norm, $\mathcal{L}_p(u)$ is the well-known p -Laplace operator and the eigenvalue problem (1.2) reduces to the following:

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta_p u = \lambda \|u\|_{q,m}^{p-q} |u|^{q-2} u & \text{in } \Omega \\ u = 0 & \text{on } \partial\Omega. \end{cases} \tag{1.4}$$

The spectrum of (1.4) and the first eigenvalue $\lambda_{p,q}^{\mathcal{E}}(\Omega)$, when $p \neq q$ and $m \equiv 1$, have been studied for instance in the case $p = 2$ in [11], for any p in [25, 26, 34, 35] and in [20] where the authors study also the weighted case. It is known that $\lambda_{p,q}^{\mathcal{E}}(\Omega)$ is not simple, in general, for any $1 < q < p^*$. Indeed in [27], the authors prove the simplicity for any $1 < q \leq p$, while for $p < q < p^*$, $\lambda_{p,q}^{\mathcal{E}}(\Omega)$ could not be necessary simple. This fact has been observed for instance in [11], in the case $p = 2$, and for any p in [32] and [29], where the authors prove that for every fixed $p < q < p^*$ the simplicity fails if Ω is a sufficiently thin spherical shell.

In this paper, we study the main properties of $\lambda_{p,q}^H(\Omega)$ and of the corresponding eigenfunctions. In particular, our aim is to prove a reverse Hölder inequality for them.

In the Euclidean case, if $p = q = 2$ and $m \equiv 1$, in [15, 16], Chiti proves the following inequality for the first eigenfunctions v corresponding to the first Dirichlet eigenvalue of the Laplace operator $\lambda_2^{\mathcal{E}}(\Omega) \equiv \lambda(\Omega)$:

$$\|v\|_{L^r(\Omega)} \leq C(r, s, n, \lambda(\Omega)) \|v\|_{L^s(\Omega)}, \quad 0 < s < r, \tag{1.5}$$

and the equality case is achieved if and only if Ω is a ball and $v = v^\sharp$, where the symbol “ \sharp ” denotes the Schwarz symmetral of a function (see [30]). In [3], the authors prove (1.5) for the first eigenfunctions of the p -Laplacian. Moreover, in [1], the authors extend the result to the weighted case, and the inequality reads as follows:

$$\|v\|_{L^r(\Omega,m)} \leq C(p, r, s, n, \lambda_p^{\mathcal{E}}(\Omega)) \|v\|_{L^s(\Omega,m)}, \quad 0 < s < r. \tag{1.6}$$

The equality sign holds if and only if Ω is a ball, $v = v^\sharp$ and $m = m^\sharp$, modulo translation. In the general case $p \neq q$, in the Euclidean case, a Chiti type inequality is proved in the case $m \equiv 1$ in [14] and [13] when $p = 2$ and for any p , respectively. More precisely in [13], the authors prove the following inequality:

$$\|v\|_{L^r(\Omega)} \leq C(p, q, r, n, \lambda_{p,q}^{\mathcal{E}}(\Omega)) \|v\|_{L^q(\Omega)}, \quad q < r. \tag{1.7}$$

Even in this case, the equality sign holds if and only if Ω is a ball and $v = v^\sharp$, modulo translation. The goal of this paper is to prove a Chiti type inequality in the spirit of (1.6) and (1.7) for the first eigenfunctions of the general weighted eigenvalue problem (1.2). We recall that, when $p = q$ and $m \equiv 1$, the result in the anisotropic setting has been proved in [9]. Our main theorem is the following.

Theorem 1.1. *Let $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ be an open, bounded, and connected set. Let $1 < q \leq p$, and let u be an eigenfunction corresponding to the first eigenvalue (1.1). Then the following statements hold*

i) *There exists a constant $C = C(p, q, r, n, \lambda_{p,q}^H(\Omega))$ such that*

$$\|u\|_{L^r(\Omega,m)} \leq C \|u\|_{L^q(\Omega,m)}, \quad q \leq r; \tag{1.8}$$

ii) *There exists a constant $C = C(p, q, r, n, \lambda_{p,q}^H(\Omega))$ such that*

$$\|u\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} \leq C \|u\|_{L^r(\Omega,m)} \quad 1 \leq r < \infty. \tag{1.9}$$

The equality cases hold if and only if Ω is a Wulff shape and u and m coincide, that is, in Ω with their convex symmetrization, modulo translation.

We stress that this result gives, in particular, a Chiti type inequality for the eigenfunctions corresponding to the first weighted eigenvalue of the anisotropic p -Laplacian and extend (1.7) to the weighted case.

The proof is based on symmetrization techniques and a comparison between the eigenfunctions corresponding to the first eigenvalue (1.1) and the first eigenfunctions of a suitable symmetrical eigenvalue problem.

The structure of the paper is the following. In Section 2, we fix some notation, recall some basic properties of the Finsler norms, and give a brief overview about convex symmetrization. In Section 3, we study the main properties of $\lambda_{p,q}^H(\Omega)$ and a Faber–Krahn type inequality. In the last section, we prove Theorem 1.1 by using symmetrization arguments.

2. Notations and preliminaries

Throughout this article, $|\cdot|$ denotes the Euclidean norm in \mathbb{R}^n , while \cdot is the standard Euclidean scalar product for $n \geq 2$. Moreover, we denote by $|\Omega|$ the Lebesgue measure of $\Omega \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$, by B_R the Euclidean ball centered at the origin with radius R and by ω_n the measure of the unit ball.

Let $E \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ be a bounded, open set and $\Omega \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ be a measurable set. We recall now the definition of the perimeter of Ω in E in the sense of De Giorgi, that is,

$$P(\Omega; E) = \sup \left\{ \int_{\Omega} \operatorname{div} \varphi \, dx : \varphi \in C_c^\infty(E; \mathbb{R}^n), \|\varphi\|_\infty \leq 1 \right\}.$$

The perimeter of Ω in \mathbb{R}^n will be denoted by $P(\Omega)$ and, if $P(\Omega) < \infty$, we say that Ω is a set of finite perimeter. Some results relative to the sets of finite perimeter are contained, for instance, in [31]. Moreover, if Ω has Lipschitz boundary, we have that

$$P(\Omega) = \mathcal{H}^{n-1}(\partial\Omega).$$

2.1. The anisotropic norm

Let $H : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow [0, +\infty[$, $n \geq 2$, be a $C^1(\mathbb{R}^n \setminus \{0\})$ convex function which is positively 1-homogeneous, that is,

$$H(t\xi) = |t|H(\xi) \quad \forall \xi \in \mathbb{R}^n, \forall t \in \mathbb{R}. \tag{2.1}$$

Moreover, let $0 < \gamma \leq \delta$ be positive constants such that

$$\gamma|\xi| \leq H(\xi) \leq \delta|\xi|. \tag{2.2}$$

These properties guarantee that H is a norm in \mathbb{R}^n . Indeed by (2.2), we have that $H(\xi) = 0$ if and only if $\xi = 0$. It is homogeneous by (2.1) and the triangular inequality is a consequence of the convexity of the function H : if $\xi, \eta \in \mathbb{R}^n$, then

$$\frac{H(x+y)}{2} = H\left(\frac{x}{2} + \frac{y}{2}\right) \leq \frac{H(x)}{2} + \frac{H(y)}{2}.$$

Because of (2.1), we can assume that the set

$$K = \{\xi \in \mathbb{R}^n : H(\xi) \leq 1\}$$

is such that $|K| = \omega_n$, where ω_n is the measure of the unit sphere in \mathbb{R}^n . We can define the support function of K as:

$$H^\circ(x) = \sup_{\xi \in K} \langle x, \xi \rangle, \tag{2.3}$$

where $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ denotes the scalar product in \mathbb{R}^n . $H^\circ : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow [0, +\infty]$ is a convex, homogeneous function in the sense of (2.1). Moreover, H and H° are polar to each other, in the sense that

$$H^\circ(x) = \sup_{\xi \neq 0} \frac{\langle x, \xi \rangle}{H(\xi)}$$

and

$$H(x) = \sup_{\xi \neq 0} \frac{\langle x, \xi \rangle}{H^\circ(\xi)}.$$

H is the support function of the set:

$$K^\circ = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : H^\circ(x) \leq 1\}.$$

The set $\mathcal{W} = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : H^\circ(x) < 1\}$ is the so-called Wulff shape centered at the origin. We set $k_n = |\mathcal{W}|$. More generally, we will denote by $\mathcal{W}_R(x_0)$ the Wulff shape centered in $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$ the set $R\mathcal{W} + x_0$, and $\mathcal{W}_R(0) = \mathcal{W}_R$.

The following properties hold for H and H° :

$$H_\xi(\xi) \cdot \xi = H(\xi), \quad H^\circ_\xi(\xi) \cdot \xi = H^\circ(\xi), \tag{2.4}$$

$$H(H^\circ_\xi(\xi)) = H^\circ(H_\xi(\xi)) = 1 \quad \forall \xi \in \mathbb{R}^n \setminus \{0\}, \tag{2.5}$$

$$H^\circ(\xi)H_\xi(H^\circ_\xi(\xi)) = H(\xi)H^\circ_\xi(H_\xi(\xi)) = \xi \quad \forall \xi \in \mathbb{R}^n \setminus \{0\}. \tag{2.6}$$

An example of an anisotropic norm that satisfies the above-mentioned properties is the following. Let $r \in (1, +\infty)$ and let us consider

$$H(\xi) = \left(\sum_{i=1}^n |\xi_i|^r \right)^{\frac{1}{r}},$$

known in literature also as r -norm. With this choice, the highly nonlinear operator $\mathcal{L}_p(u)$, defined in (1.3), becomes

$$\mathcal{L}_p(u) = \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{\partial}{\partial x_k} \left(\left(\sum_{i=1}^n \left| \frac{\partial u}{\partial x_i} \right|^r \right)^{\frac{p-r}{r}} \left| \frac{\partial u}{\partial x_k} \right|^{r-2} \frac{\partial u}{\partial x_k} \right).$$

We stress that for $r = p$, $\mathcal{L}_p(u)$ is the so called pseudo- p -Laplace operator. Examples of non-smooth anisotropic norm can be found in [8] and references therein, where the authors consider a crystalline anisotropy and the associated Wulff shape is a polyhedron.

If $E \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ is an open, bounded set with Lipschitz boundary and Ω is an open subset of \mathbb{R}^n , we can give a generalized definition of perimeter of Ω with respect to the anisotropic norm as follows (see for instance [6]):

$$P_H(\Omega, E) = \int_{\partial^* \Omega \cap E} H(v) d\mathcal{H}^{n-1},$$

where $\partial^* \Omega$ is the reduced boundary of Ω (for the definition see [21]), v is its Euclidean outer normal, and \mathcal{H}^{n-1} is the $(n - 1)$ -dimensional Hausdorff measure in \mathbb{R}^n . Clearly, if E is open, bounded and Lipschitz, then the outer unit normal exists almost everywhere and

$$P_H(E, \mathbb{R}^n) := P_H(E) = \int_{\partial E} H(v) d\mathcal{H}^{n-1}. \tag{2.7}$$

By (2.2), we have that

$$\gamma P(E) \leq P_H(E) \leq \delta P(E).$$

In [5], it is shown that if $u \in W^{1,1}(\Omega)$, then for, that is, $t > 0$

$$-\frac{d}{dt} \int_{\{u>t\}} H(\nabla u) dx = P_H(\{u > t\}, \Omega) = \int_{\partial^* \{u>t\} \cap \Omega} \frac{H(\nabla u)}{|\nabla u|} d\mathcal{H}^{n-1}. \tag{2.8}$$

Moreover, an isoperimetric inequality for the anisotropic perimeter holds (for instance see [2, 12, 18, 23, 24])

$$P_H(E) \geq nk_n^{\frac{1}{n}} |E|^{1-\frac{1}{n}}. \tag{2.9}$$

2.2. Convex symmetrization

Let $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ be an open, bounded, and connected set. Let $f: \Omega \rightarrow [0, +\infty]$ be a measurable function. The decreasing rearrangement f^* of f is defined as follows:

$$f^*(s) = \inf\{t \geq 0 : \mu(t) < s\} \quad s \in [0, |\Omega|],$$

where

$$\mu(t) = |\{x \in \Omega : |f(x)| > t\}|,$$

is the distribution function of f . We recall that the Schwarz symmetrand of f is a radially spherically function defined as follows:

$$f^\sharp(x) = f^*(\omega_n |x|^n) \quad x \in \Omega^\sharp.$$

where Ω^\sharp is the ball centered at the origin such that $|\Omega^\sharp| = |\Omega|$. The convex symmetrization f^* of f , instead, is a function symmetric with respect to H° defined as follows:

$$f^*(x) = f^*(k_n(H^\circ(x))^n) \quad x \in \Omega^*,$$

where Ω^* is a Wulff shape centered at the origin and such that $|\Omega^*| = |\Omega|$ (see [2]). We stress that both f^* and f^\sharp are defined by means the decreasing rearrangement f^* , but they have different symmetry. In particular, it is well known that the functions f, f^*, f^\sharp , and f^* are equimeasurable, that is,

$$|\{f > t\}| = |\{f^\sharp > t\}| = |\{f^* > t\}| = |\{f^* > t\}| \quad t \geq 0.$$

As a consequence, if $f \in L^p(\Omega), p \geq 1$, then

$$\|f\|_{L^p(\Omega)} = \|f^\sharp\|_{L^p(\Omega^\sharp)} = \|f^*\|_{L^p([0,|\Omega|])} = \|f^*\|_{L^p(\Omega^*)}. \tag{2.10}$$

Regarding the norm of the gradient, a generalized version of the well-known Pólya–Szegő inequality holds and it states (see for instance [2])

Theorem 2.1. (Pólya–Szegő principle). *If $w \in W_0^{1,p}(\Omega)$ for $p \geq 1$, then we have that*

$$\int_{\Omega} H(\nabla u)^p \, dx \geq \int_{\Omega^*} H(\nabla u^*)^p \, dx.$$

where Ω^* is the Wulff Shape such that $|\Omega^*| = |\Omega|$.

For the sake of completeness, we will state the result concerning the equality case of the Pólya–Szegő inequality, whose proof is contained in [22] for the generic anisotropic case and in [38] for the Euclidean case.

Theorem 2.2. *Let u be a non-negative function in $W^{1,p}(\mathbb{R}^n)$, for $1 < p < +\infty$, such that*

$$|\{|\nabla u^*| = 0\} \cap \{0 < u^* < \text{ess sup } u\}| = 0.$$

Then

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} H(\nabla u)^p \, dx = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} H(\nabla u^*)^p \, dx$$

if and only if $u = u^*$ a.e. in \mathbb{R}^n , up to translations.

Obviously, Theorem 2.2 can holds true in the case of a $W_0^{1,p}(\Omega)$ function.

We conclude this section by recalling some known properties about rearrangements that we will use in the proof of the main theorem. The following result is the well-known Hardy–Littlewood inequality (see [30]):

$$\int_{\Omega} |f(x)g(x)| \, dx \leq \int_0^{|\Omega|} f^*(s)g^*(s) \, ds. \tag{2.11}$$

So, if we consider g as the characteristic function of the set $\{x \in \Omega : u(x) > t\}$, for some measurable function $u : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and $t \geq 0$, then we get

$$\int_{\{u>t\}} f(x) \, dx \leq \int_0^{\mu(t)} f^*(s) \, ds, \tag{2.12}$$

where, again, $\mu(t)$ is the distribution function of u . Finally, we recall the definition of dominated rearrangements (see for instance [4] and [17]).

Definition 2.3. Let $f, g \in L^1(\Omega)$ be nonnegative functions. We say that g is dominated by f and write $g < f$ if the following two statements hold

- (i) $\int_0^s g^*(t) \, dt \leq \int_0^s f^*(t) \, dt;$
- (ii) $\int_0^{|\Omega|} g^*(t) \, dt = \int_0^{|\Omega|} f^*(t) \, dt.$

In [4], the authors prove the following result:

Proposition 2.4. Let f, g, h be positive and such that $hf, hg \in L^1(\Omega)$. Let F be a convex, nonnegative function such that $F(0) = 0$. If $hg < hf$ Then

$$\int_0^{|\Omega|} h^* F(g^*) \, dt \leq \int_0^{|\Omega|} h^* F(f^*) \, dt.$$

Moreover, if F is strictly convex, the equality holds if and only if $f^* \equiv g^*$, that is, in $[0, |\Omega|]$.

3. The (p,q)-anisotropic Laplacian

In this section, we study the main properties of (1.1) and the corresponding minimizers. Let $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$, $n \geq 2$ be an open, bounded, and connected set. Let $m \in L^\infty(\Omega)$ be a positive function and p, q be such that $1 < p < \infty$ and $1 < q < p^*$, where $p^* = np/(n - p)$, if $p < n$, and $p^* = \infty$, if $p \geq n$. A function $v \in W_0^{1,p}(\Omega)$ is a weak solution to the problem (1.2) corresponding to λ if

$$\int_\Omega (H(\nabla v))^{p-1} H_\xi(\nabla v) \cdot \nabla \varphi \, dx = \lambda \|v\|_{q,m}^{p-q} \int_\Omega m(x) |v|^{q-2} v \varphi \, dx, \tag{3.1}$$

for every $\varphi \in W_0^{1,p}(\Omega)$. By standard argument of calculus of variations, it is not difficult to prove the following result:

Theorem 3.1. Let $n \geq 2$ and $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$, be an open, bounded set and let p, q and m be as above. Then $\lambda_{p,q}^H(\Omega)$, defined in (1.1), is strictly positive and actually a minimum. Moreover, any minimizer is a weak solution to the problem (1.2), with $\lambda = \lambda_{p,q}^H(\Omega)$, and has constant sign on every connected component.

As regard the simplicity, we have

Theorem 3.2. Let $n \geq 2$ and $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$, be an open, bounded, and connected set and let p and m be as above and let $1 < q \leq p$. Then $\lambda_{p,q}^H(\Omega)$ is simple, that is, there exists a unique corresponding eigenfunction up to multiplicative constants.

The proof of the previous result is contained in [29], where the authors consider a more general class of quasilinear operators. We stress that this result was already proved when $H = \mathcal{E}$ and $m \equiv 1$ in the paper [28] and in the case of a positive and essentially bounded weight in [33]. Finally, we have the following:

Theorem 3.3. *Let $n \geq 2$ and let $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ be an open, bounded, and connected set. Let p and m be as above and let $1 < q \leq p$. Any nonnegative function $v \in W_0^{1,p}(\Omega)$, which is a weak solution to the problem (1.2), for some $\lambda > 0$, is a first eigenfunction, that is $\lambda = \lambda_{p,q}^H(\Omega)$.*

Proof. The proof is similar to the one contained in [10, Theorem 5.1], and it follows standard arguments and a general Picone inequality. For the reader convenience and sake of completeness, we write the main steps. Let v be a non-negative weak solution to the problem (1.2) corresponding to λ . By the strong maximum principle, we have that $v > 0$ in Ω . Let u be the first positive eigenfunction corresponding to $\lambda_{p,q}^H(\Omega)$ such that

$$\|u\|_{L^q(\Omega,m)} = \|v\|_{L^q(\Omega,m)}. \tag{3.2}$$

Then,

$$\int_{\Omega} (H(\nabla u))^p dx = \lambda_{p,q}^H(\Omega) \left(\int_{\Omega} m(x) u^q dx \right)^{\frac{p}{q}}. \tag{3.3}$$

Being v a weak positive solution to (1.2) corresponding to λ , we can chose $\varphi = \frac{u^q}{v^{q-1}}$ as test function in (3.1) obtaining

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\Omega} ((H(\nabla v))^{p-1} H_{\xi}(\nabla v) \cdot \nabla \left(\frac{u^q}{v^{q-1}} \right)) dx &= \lambda \|m^{\frac{1}{q}} v\|_q^{p-q} \int_{\Omega} m(x) u^q dx \\ &= \lambda \left(\int_{\Omega} m(x) u^q dx \right)^{\frac{p}{q}}, \end{aligned} \tag{3.4}$$

where last equality follows by (3.2). In the left-hand side, we can apply the general Picone inequality (see Proposition 2.9 in [10]) and we have

$$\int_{\Omega} (H(\nabla v))^q (H(\nabla u))^{p-q} dx \geq \lambda \left(\int_{\Omega} m(x) u^q dx \right)^{\frac{p}{q}}.$$

By the Hölder inequality, the normalization (3.2) and (3.3) we get that $\lambda_{p,q}^H(\Omega) \geq \lambda$, that implies $u = v$. □

3.1. The case $\Omega = \mathcal{W}_R$

In this subsection, we study the problem (1.2) when Ω is a Wulff shape. In this case, the eigenfunctions inherit some symmetry properties. Let be $\Omega = \mathcal{W}_R$ and let $m \in L^\infty(\mathcal{W}_R)$ be a positive function such that $m(x) = m^*(x)$. Then problem (1.2) becomes

$$\begin{cases} -\mathcal{L}_p(v) = \lambda m^*(x) \|v\|_{q,m^*}^{p-q} |v|^{q-2} v & \text{in } \mathcal{W}_R \\ v = 0 & \text{on } \partial \mathcal{W}_R. \end{cases} \tag{3.5}$$

The following result holds

Proposition 3.4. *Let $1 < p < \infty$ and $1 < q \leq p$. Let $v \in C^1(\overline{\Omega}) \cap C^{1,\alpha}(\Omega)$ be a first positive eigenfunction to the problem (3.5). Then there exists a decreasing function $\rho(r)$, $r \in [0, R]$, such that $\rho \in C^\infty((0, R)) \cap C^1([0, R])$, $\rho'(0) = 0$, and $v(x) = \rho(H^o(x))$.*

Proof. By the simplicity, we can assume that $\|v\|_{L^q(\mathcal{W}_R, m^*)} = 1$. Let B_R be the ball centered at the origin with radius $R > 0$, and let us consider the weighted p-Laplace eigenvalue problem in B_R :

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta_p z = \lambda \tilde{m}(|x|) \|z\|_{L^q(\mathcal{W}_R, \tilde{m})}^{p-q} |z|^{q-2} z & \text{in } B_R \\ z = 0 & \text{on } \partial B_R, \end{cases} \tag{3.6}$$

where $\tilde{m}(r) = m^*(k_n r^n)$, $0 \leq r \leq R$. Let z be the positive eigenfunction corresponding to the first eigenvalue $\lambda_{p,q}^\varepsilon(B_R)$ to the problem (3.6), such that $\|z\|_{L^q(B_R, \tilde{m})} = \|v\|_{L^q(\mathcal{W}_R, m^*)} = 1$. Then uniqueness guarantees that z is radially symmetric, which means that there exists a positive one-dimensional function $\rho_p : r \in [0, R] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$ such that $z(x) = \rho_p(|x|)$, and ρ_p solves the following problem:

$$\begin{cases} -(p-1)|\rho'_p|^{p-2} \rho''_p + \frac{n-1}{r} |\rho'_p|^{p-1} = \lambda_{p,q}^\varepsilon(B_R) \tilde{m} |\rho_p|^{q-2} \rho_p, & r \in (0, R) \\ \rho'_p(0) = \rho_p(R) = 0. \end{cases} \tag{3.7}$$

In particular, integrating equation (3.7), it is possible to see that ρ'_p is zero only when $r = 0$ and consequently that ρ_p is strictly decreasing in $[0, R]$. Now we can come back to the anisotropy. Indeed if we consider $w = \rho_p(H^\circ(x))$, then using properties (2.4)-(2.6) and the regularity of H , by construction, we obtain that $w(x)$ is a solution to problem (3.5), which is positive and radial with respect to the anisotropic norm. The simplicity and Theorem 3.3 imply that $v = w$, and this concludes the proof. \square

Remark 3.5. We stress that the proof of the previous result shows that the first eigenvalue $\lambda_{p,q}^H(\mathcal{W}_R)$ coincides with the first eigenvalue of problem (3.6).

3.2. A Faber–Krahn type inequality

Theorem 3.6. Let $\Omega \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $n \geq 2$, be an open, bounded, and connected set and let $1 < q \leq p$. Then

$$\lambda_{p,q}^H(\Omega) \geq \lambda_{p,q}^H(\Omega^*), \tag{3.8}$$

where Ω^* is the Wulff shape such that $|\Omega^*| = |\Omega|$. The equality case holds if and only if $\Omega = \Omega^*$ and $m = m^*$, that is, in Ω , up to translations, where m^* is the convex symmetrization of m .

Proof. We argue as in [9]. We observe that $\lambda_{p,q}^H(\Omega^*)$ has the following variational characterization:

$$\lambda_{p,q}^H(\Omega^*) = \inf_{\substack{w \in W_0^{1,p}(\Omega^*), \\ w \neq 0}} \frac{\int_{\Omega^*} H(\nabla w)^p dx}{\left(\int_{\Omega^*} m^* |w|^q dx \right)^{\frac{p}{q}}}. \tag{3.9}$$

The Faber–Krahn inequality is a straightforward application of the Pólya–Szegő principle and the Hardy–Littlewood inequality. Indeed if u is a positive eigenfunction corresponding to $\lambda_{p,q}^H(\Omega)$, then

$$\lambda_{p,q}^H(\Omega) = \frac{\int_{\Omega} H(\nabla u)^p dx}{\left(\int_{\Omega} m u^q dx \right)^{\frac{p}{q}}} \geq \frac{\int_{\Omega^*} H(\nabla u^*)^p dx}{\left(\int_{\Omega^*} m^* (u^*)^q dx \right)^{\frac{p}{q}}} \geq \lambda_{p,q}^H(\Omega^*). \tag{3.10}$$

Let us now consider the equality case. From (3.10), Pólya–Szegő principle and Hardy–Littlewood inequality, we get

$$1 \leq \frac{\int_{\Omega} H(\nabla u)^p dx}{\int_{\Omega^*} H(\nabla u^*)^p dx} = \frac{\left(\int_{\Omega^*} m^* (u^*)^q dx \right)^{\frac{p}{q}}}{\left(\int_{\Omega} m u^q dx \right)^{\frac{p}{q}}} \leq 1.$$

It follows that

$$\int_{\Omega} H(\nabla u)^p \, dx = \int_{\Omega^*} H(\nabla u^*)^p \, dx, \tag{3.11}$$

and

$$\left(\int_{\Omega} m u^q \, dx \right)^{\frac{p}{q}} = \left(\int_{\Omega^*} m^*(u^*)^q \, dx \right)^{\frac{p}{q}}. \tag{3.12}$$

The thesis follows from (3.11), Theorem 2.2 and (3.12). □

4. A Chiti type inequality

In this section, we prove a reverse Hölder inequality for the eigenfunctions corresponding to $\lambda_{p,q}^H(\Omega)$. We first prove the following proposition as in the spirit of the Talenti result contained in [37] (see also [1–3, 7, 36]).

Proposition 4.1. *Let $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$, $n \geq 2$, be an open, bounded, and connected set, $1 < q \leq p$, and let $m \in L^\infty(\Omega)$ be a positive function. Let u be a positive eigenfunction corresponding to $\lambda_{p,q}^H(\Omega)$. Then we have that*

$$(-u^{*'}(s))^{p-1} \leq n^{-p} k_n^{-\frac{p}{n}} \lambda_{p,q}^H(\Omega) \|u\|_{q,m}^{p-q} \int_0^s m^* u^*(r)^{q-1} \, dr, \quad s \in [0, |\Omega|]. \tag{4.1}$$

In particular, the equality case holds if and only if $\Omega = \Omega^*$ and $m = m^*$, that is, in Ω , up to translations, where m^* is the convex symmetrization of m .

Proof. We argue exactly as in the proof of [9, Lemma 3.6]. Let u be a weak solution to the problem (1.2) corresponding to the first eigenvalue $\lambda_{p,q}^H(\Omega)$, that is,

$$\begin{cases} -\mathcal{L}_p(u) = \lambda_{p,q}^H(\Omega) m \|u\|_{q,m}^{p-q} u^{q-1} & \text{in } \Omega \\ u = 0 & \text{on } \partial\Omega. \end{cases}$$

Let $t, h > 0$ and let us choose as a test function in (3.1) the following function in $W_0^{1,p}(\Omega)$:

$$\varphi_h = \begin{cases} 0 & u \leq t \\ u - t & t < u \leq t + h \\ h & u > t + h. \end{cases}$$

By standard arguments, we have

$$-\frac{d}{dt} \int_{\{u>t\}} H(\nabla u)^p \, d\mathcal{H}^{n-1} = \lambda_{p,q}^H(\Omega) \|u\|_{q,m}^{p-q} \int_{\{u>t\}} m u^{q-1} \, dx. \tag{4.2}$$

Recalling that the anisotropic perimeter can be written as follows:

$$-\frac{d}{dt} \int_{\{u>t\}} H(\nabla u) \, d\mathcal{H}^{n-1} = P_H(\{u > t\}),$$

by Hölder inequality, we get

$$P_H(\{u > t\}) \leq \left(-\frac{d}{dt} \int_{\{u>t\}} H(\nabla u)^p \, d\mathcal{H}^{n-1} \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} (-\mu'(t))^{1-\frac{1}{p}}.$$

Therefore, the isoperimetric inequality (2.9) gives

$$(-\mu'(t))^{1-p} \left(-\frac{d}{dt} \int_{\{u>t\}} H(\nabla u)^p \, d\mathcal{H}^{n-1} \right) \geq n^p k_n^{\frac{p}{n}} \mu(t)^{p-\frac{p}{n}}$$

Since $\mu'(t) = \frac{1}{u^{*'}(\mu(t))}$ and (4.2) holds true, we have

$$(-u^{*'}(\mu(t)))^{p-1} \leq n^{-p} k_n^{-\frac{p}{n}} \lambda_{p,q}^H(\Omega) \|u\|_{q,m}^{p-q} \mu(t)^{\frac{p}{n}-p} \int_{\{u>t\}} m(x) u^{q-1} d\mathcal{H}^{n-1}.$$

Using (2.12) and calling $s = \mu(t)$, we have

$$(-u^{*'}(s))^{p-1} \leq n^{-p} k_n^{-\frac{p}{n}} \lambda_{p,q}^H(\Omega) \|u\|_{q,m}^{p-q} s^{\frac{p}{n}-p} \int_0^s m^*(u^*)^{q-1} dr.$$

An application of the Hardy–Littlewood inequality gives the desired result. □

The main tool we use in order to prove Theorem 1.1 is a suitable comparison result between u and an eigenfunction z of a suitable eigenvalue problem. More precisely, let Ω_λ^* be the Wulff shape centered at the origin such that $\lambda_{p,q}^H(\Omega)$ is the first eigenvalue to the following symmetric problem:

$$\begin{cases} -\mathcal{L}_p(z) = \mu m^* \|z\|_{q,m^*}^{p-q} z^{q-1} & \text{in } \Omega_\lambda^* \\ z = 0 & \text{on } \partial\Omega_\lambda^*, \end{cases} \tag{4.3}$$

We stress that the Faber–Krahn inequality (3.8) implies that

$$|\Omega| \geq |\Omega_\lambda^*|, \tag{4.4}$$

and hence m^* is well defined in Ω_λ^* .

Let z be a positive eigenfunction for the problem (4.3) corresponding to the first eigenvalue $\lambda_{p,q}^H(\Omega)$, and we observe that repeating the same argument as before, by Proposition 3.4, for any $1 < q \leq p$ we have

$$(-z^{*'}(s))^{p-1} = n^{-p} k_n^{-\frac{p}{n}} \lambda_{p,q}^H(\Omega) \|z^*\|_{q,m^*}^{p-q} \int_0^s m^* z^*(r)^{q-1} dr. \tag{4.5}$$

The following proposition gives a comparison result between the eigenfunctions u and z when they are normalized with respect to the L^∞ norm.

Proposition 4.2. *Let $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$, $n \geq 2$, be an open, bounded, and connected set, $1 < q \leq p$ and let $m \in L^\infty(\Omega)$ be a positive function. Let u be a positive solution to the problem (1.2) corresponding to $\lambda_{p,q}^H(\Omega)$ and let z be a positive eigenfunction to the problem (4.3) corresponding to $\lambda_{p,q}^H(\Omega)$ such that*

$$\|u\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} = \|z\|_{L^\infty(\Omega_\lambda^*)}$$

Then

$$u^*(s) \geq z^*(s), \quad \forall s \in [0, |\Omega_\lambda^*|],$$

where u^* and z^* are, respectively, the decreasing rearrangements of u and z . The equality case holds if and only if $\Omega = \Omega_\lambda^*$ and $m = m^*$, that is, in Ω , up to translations, where m^* is the convex symmetrization of m .

Proof. First of all we stress that, if $|\Omega| = |\Omega_\lambda^*|$, then there is nothing to prove, since Faber–Krahn inequality implies that $u^*(s) = z^*(s)$.

Moreover, we have $u^*(|\Omega_\lambda^*|) > z^*(|\Omega_\lambda^*|) = 0$. Then, the following definition is well posed:

$$s_0 = \inf\{s \in [0, |\Omega_\lambda^*|] : u^*(t) \geq z^*(t), \forall t \in [s, |\Omega_\lambda^*|]\}.$$

By definition, $u^*(s_0) = z^*(s_0)$, and we want to prove that $s_0 = 0$. We proceed by contradiction supposing that $s_0 > 0$. Then under this assumption, u^* and z^* coincide in 0 and s_0 and we have

$$\begin{cases} u^*(s) < z^*(s) & s \in (0, s_0) \\ u^*(s) \geq z^*(s) & s \in (s_0, |\Omega_\lambda^*|). \end{cases} \tag{4.6}$$

By (4.1), (4.5), and (4.6), we have that

$$-u^{*'}(t) \leq -z^{*'}(t), \quad \text{for every } t \in (0, s_0).$$

Integrating between $(0, s)$, with $s \in (0, s_0)$, being $u^*(0) = z^*(0)$, we get

$$u^*(s) \geq z^*(s), \quad \forall s \in (0, s_0),$$

which is in contradiction with the definition of s_0 . Hence, $s_0 = 0$, and the proof is completed. \square

As an immediately consequence of the previous result, we get the following scale-invariant inequality for any $r > 0$:

$$\frac{\|u\|_{L^r(\Omega, m)}}{\|u\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)}} \geq \frac{\|z\|_{L^r(\Omega_\lambda^*, m^*)}}{\|z\|_{L^\infty(\Omega_\lambda^*)}}. \tag{4.7}$$

When the functions u and z are normalized with respect to the weighted L^r -norm, we get the following comparison result.

Theorem 4.3. *Let $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ be an open, bounded, and connected set, $1 < q \leq p$ and let $m \in L^\infty(\Omega)$ be a positive function. Let u be a positive solution to the problem (1.2) corresponding to $\lambda_{p,q}^H(\Omega)$ and let z be a positive eigenfunction to the problem (4.3) corresponding to $\lambda_{p,q}^H(\Omega)$ such that*

$$\int_{\Omega} m u^q dx = \int_{\Omega_\lambda^*} m^* z^q dx. \tag{4.8}$$

Then we have

$$\int_0^s m^* (u^*)^r dt \leq \int_0^s m^* (z^*)^r dt, \quad s \in [0, |\Omega_\lambda^*|], \quad q \leq r \tag{4.9}$$

where u^* , m^* , and z^* are, respectively, the decreasing rearrangements of u , m , and z , and m^* is the convex symmetrization of m . The equality case holds if and only if $\Omega = \Omega^*$, $z = u = u^*$, and $m = m^*$, that is, Ω , up to translations.

Proof. If $|\Omega| = |\Omega_\lambda^*|$, the conclusion is trivial. Let be $|\Omega| > |\Omega_\lambda^*|$, since u and z verify (4.8), by (4.7) it holds that

$$u^*(0) = \|u\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} \leq \|z\|_{L^\infty(\Omega_\lambda^*)} = z^*(0),$$

If $u^*(0) = z^*(0)$, then Proposition 4.2 and the normalization (4.8) imply that $u^*(s) = z^*(s)$ for every $s \in [0, |\Omega_\lambda^*|]$ and than the claim follows trivially.

Let $u^*(0) < z^*(0)$. Since $u^*(|\Omega_\lambda^*|) > z^*(|\Omega_\lambda^*|)$, we can consider

$$s_0 = \sup\{s \in (0, |\Omega_\lambda^*|) : u^*(t) \leq z^*(t) \text{ for } t \in [0, s]\}.$$

Obviously, $0 < s_0 < |\Omega_\lambda^*|$, $u^*(s_0) = z^*(s_0)$ and $u^* \leq z^*$ in $[0, s_0]$. We want to show that $u^* > z^*$ in $[s_0, |\Omega_\lambda^*|]$. Indeed, if we suppose by contradiction that there exists $s_1 > s_0$ such that $u^*(s_1) = z^*(s_1)$ and $u^*(s) > z^*(s)$ for $s \in (s_0, s_1)$, we can construct the following function:

$$w^*(s) = \begin{cases} z^*(s) & s \in [0, s_0] \cup [s_1, |\Omega_\lambda^*|] \\ u^*(s) & s \in [s_0, s_1]. \end{cases}$$

It is straightforward to check that

$$\int_{\Omega} H(\nabla w)^p dx = n^p k_n^p \int_{\Omega} (-w^{*'}(k_n H^\circ(x)^n))^p H^\circ(x)^{p(n-1)} dx.$$

Applying Coarea Formula and considering the change of variables $s = k_n t^n$, we get

$$\int_{\Omega} H(\nabla w)^p dx = n^p k_n^{\frac{p}{n}} \int_0^{|\Omega_\lambda^*|} s^{p-\frac{p}{n}} (-w^{*'}(t))^p dt.$$

Thanks to the normalization (4.8) and the definition of w , we have that

$$\|u\|_{L^q(\Omega, m)} = \|z\|_{L^q(\Omega_\lambda^*, m^*)} \leq \|w\|_{L^q(\Omega_\lambda^*, m^*)},$$

then by (4.1) and (4.5), we have that

$$(-w^{*'}(s))^{p-1} \leq n^{-p} k_n^{-\frac{p}{n}} \lambda_{p,q}^H(\Omega) \|w^*\|_{q, m^*}^{p-q} s^{\frac{p}{n}-p} \int_0^s m^*(r)(w^*)^{q-1}(r) dr. \tag{4.10}$$

Multiplying (4.10) by $-w'$, rearranging the terms and integrating between 0 and $|\Omega_\lambda^*|$, we get

$$\begin{aligned} n^p k_n^{\frac{p}{n}} \int_0^{|\Omega_\lambda^*|} s^{p-\frac{p}{n}} (-w^{*'}(s))^p ds &\leq \\ &\leq \lambda_{p,q}^H(\Omega) \|w^*\|_{q, m^*}^{p-q} \int_0^{|\Omega_\lambda^*|} (-w^{*'}(s)) \int_0^s m^*(r)(w^*)^{q-1}(r) dr ds. \end{aligned}$$

An integration by parts allows us to conclude that

$$\frac{\int_{\Omega_\lambda^*} H(\nabla w)^p dx}{\left(\int_{\Omega_\lambda^*} m^* w^q dx\right)^{\frac{p}{q}}} = \frac{n^p k_n^{\frac{p}{n}} \int_0^{|\Omega_\lambda^*|} s^{p-\frac{p}{n}} (-w'(s))^p ds}{\left(\int_0^{|\Omega_\lambda^*|} m^*(s)(w^*)^q(s) ds\right)^{\frac{p}{q}}} \leq \lambda_{p,q}^H(\Omega) = \lambda_{p,q}^H(\Omega_\lambda^*).$$

By the minimality and the simplicity of $\lambda_{p,q}^H$, and the definition of w^* , it must be $w^*(s) = z^*(s)$ for every $s \in [0, |\Omega_\lambda^*|]$, but this is a contradiction since in (s_0, s_1) we have that $u^*(s) > z^*(s)$. In this way, we have proved that there exists a unique point s_0 where u^* and z^* can cross each other, and such that

$$\begin{cases} u^*(s) \leq z^*(s) & s \in [0, s_0] \\ u^*(s) \geq z^*(s) & s \in [s_0, |\Omega_\lambda^*|]. \end{cases} \tag{4.11}$$

If we extend z^* to be zero in $[|\Omega_\lambda^*|, |\Omega|]$, by (4.8) and (4.11) then we have that for every $s \in [0, |\Omega|]$

$$\int_0^s m^*(t)(u^*(t))^q dt \leq \int_0^s m^*(t)(z^*(t))^q dt. \tag{4.12}$$

Indeed (4.11) implies that the function:

$$G(s) = \int_0^s m^*(t)((z^*)^q - (u^*)^q) dt, \quad s \in [0, |\Omega|]$$

has a maximum in s_0 and cannot be negative in any point. This proves (4.12). Finally, inequality (4.9) follows easily by (4.12) by using Proposition 2.4 being $m^*(u^*)^q < m^*z^q$. \square

Proof of Theorem 1.1. The proof of statement i) follows directly from (4.8) and (4.9), indeed we have

$$\left(\int_{\Omega} m u^r dx\right)^{\frac{1}{r}} \leq \left(\int_{\Omega_\lambda^*} m^* z^r dx\right)^{\frac{1}{r}} = \frac{\left(\int_{\Omega_\lambda^*} m^* z^r dx\right)^{\frac{1}{r}}}{\left(\int_{\Omega_\lambda^*} m^* z^q dx\right)^{\frac{1}{q}}} \left(\int_{\Omega} m u^q dx\right)^{\frac{1}{q}}.$$

Therefore, we have

$$\|u\|_{L^r(\Omega, m)} \leq C \|u\|_{L^q(\Omega, m)}, \quad q \leq r < +\infty;$$

with

$$C = \frac{\|z\|_{L^r(\Omega_\lambda^*, m^*)}}{\|z\|_{L^q(\Omega_\lambda^*, m^*)}}.$$

The proof of statement ii) follows immediately by Proposition 4.2 with $C = \frac{\|z\|_\infty}{\|z\|_{L^r(\Omega^*, m^*)}}$ and the theorem is completely proved. \square

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