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C. Y. Chan (chan@louisiana.edu), Department of Mathematics, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Lafayette, LA 70504-1010, and **Haiyan Tian*** (hxt4077@louisiana.edu), Department of Mathematics, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Lafayette, LA 70504-1010. *Blow-up of solutions for degenerate parabolic problems due to local and nonlocal nonlinear sources.*

Let q and m be any real numbers such that $q \geq 0$ and $m > 1$, and $T \leq \infty$. This article studies the following degenerate semilinear parabolic initial-boundary value problem:

$$\begin{aligned}x^q u_t(x, t) - u_{xx}(x, t) &= a^{m(q-1)+2} \delta(x-b) f(u(x, t)) U^m(t) \text{ for } 0 < x < 1, 0 < t < T, \\u(x, 0) &= \psi(x) \text{ for } 0 \leq x \leq 1, \\u(0, t) = u(1, t) &= 0 \text{ for } 0 < t < T,\end{aligned}$$

where f and ψ are given functions, and

$$U(t) = \int_0^1 x^q |u(x, t)| dx.$$

Existence, uniqueness and blow-up of a solution are discussed. (Received September 23, 2000)