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27455. *Uniqueness of positive radial solutions for a class of semipositone problems on the exterior
of a ball.*

We study positive radial solutions to: $-\Delta u = \lambda K(|x|)f(u)$; $x \in \Omega_e$, where $\lambda > 0$ is a parameter, $\Omega_e = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^N : |x| > r_0, r_0 > 0, N > 2\}$, Δ is the Laplacian operator, $K \in C([r_0, \infty), (0, \infty))$ satisfies $K(r) \leq \frac{1}{r^{N+\mu}}$; $\mu > 0$ for $r \gg 1$ and $f \in C^2([0, \infty), \mathbb{R})$ is a concave increasing function satisfying $\lim_{s \rightarrow \infty} \frac{f(s)}{s} = 0$ and $f(0) < 0$ (semipositone). We are interested in solutions u such that $u \rightarrow 0$ as $|x| \rightarrow \infty$ and satisfy the nonlinear boundary condition $\frac{\partial u}{\partial \eta} + \tilde{c}(u)u = 0$ if $|x| = r_0$ where $\frac{\partial}{\partial \eta}$ is the outward normal derivative and $\tilde{c} \in C([0, \infty), (0, \infty))$ is an increasing function. We will establish the uniqueness of positive radial solutions for large values of the parameter λ . (Received February 16, 2015)