# Periodic solutions of Euler-Lagrange equations with "sublinear nonlinearity" in an Orlicz-Sobolev space setting

Sonia Acinas \*
Instituto de Matemática Aplicada San Luis (CONICET-UNSL)
(5700) San Luis, Argentina
Universidad Nacional de La Pampa
(6300) Santa Rosa, La Pampa, Argentina
sonia.acinas@gmail.com

Fernando D. Mazzone †

Dpto. de Matemática, Facultad de Ciencias Exactas, Físico-Químicas y Naturales
Universidad Nacional de Río Cuarto
(5800) Río Cuarto, Córdoba, Argentina,
fmazzone@exa.unrc.edu.ar

#### Abstract

In this paper we....

### 1 Introduction

This paper is concerned with the existence of periodic solutions of the problem

$$\begin{cases} \frac{d}{dt}D_{y}\mathcal{L}(t,\boldsymbol{u}(t),\dot{\boldsymbol{u}}(t)) = D_{\boldsymbol{x}}\mathcal{L}(t,\boldsymbol{u}(t),\dot{\boldsymbol{u}}(t)) & \text{a.e. } t \in (0,T) \\ \boldsymbol{u}(0) - \boldsymbol{u}(T) = \dot{\boldsymbol{u}}(0) - \dot{\boldsymbol{u}}(T) = 0 \end{cases}$$
(1)

2010 AMS Subject Classification. Primary: . Secondary: .

Keywords and phrases. .

<sup>\*</sup>SECyT-UNRC, UNSL and CONICET

<sup>†</sup>SECyT-UNRC and CONICET

where T>0,  $\boldsymbol{u}:[0,T]\to\mathbb{R}^d$  is absolutely continuous and the Lagrangian  $\mathcal{L}:[0,T]\times\mathbb{R}^d\times\mathbb{R}^d\to\mathbb{R}$  is a Carathéodory function satisfying the conditions

$$|\mathcal{L}(t, \boldsymbol{x}, \boldsymbol{y})| \leq a(|\boldsymbol{x}|) \left(b(t) + \Phi\left(\frac{|\boldsymbol{y}|}{\lambda} + f(t)\right)\right),$$
 (2)

$$|D_{\boldsymbol{x}}\mathcal{L}(t,\boldsymbol{x},\boldsymbol{y})| \leq a(|\boldsymbol{x}|)\left(b(t) + \Phi\left(\frac{|\boldsymbol{y}|}{\lambda} + f(t)\right)\right),$$
 (3)

$$|D_{\boldsymbol{y}}\mathcal{L}(t,\boldsymbol{x},\boldsymbol{y})| \leq a(|\boldsymbol{x}|)\left(c(t) + \varphi\left(\frac{|\boldsymbol{y}|}{\lambda} + f(t)\right)\right).$$
 (4)

In these inequalities we assume that  $a \in C(\mathbb{R}^+, \mathbb{R}^+)$ ,  $\lambda > 0$ ,  $\Phi$  is an N-function (see section Preliminaries for definitions),  $\varphi$  is the right continuous derivative of  $\Phi$ . The non negative functions b,c and f satisfy that  $b \in L^1_1([0,T])$ ,  $c \in L^\Psi_1([0,T])$  and  $f \in E^\Phi_1([0,T])$ , where the Banach spaces  $L^1_1([0,T])$ ,  $L^\Psi_1([0,T])$  and  $E^\Phi_1([0,T])$  will be defined later.

It is well known that problem (1) comes from a variational one, that is, a solution of (1) is a critical point of the *action integral* 

$$I(\boldsymbol{u}) = \int_0^T \mathcal{L}(t, \boldsymbol{u}(t), \dot{\boldsymbol{u}}(t)) dt.$$
 (5)

# 2 Preliminaries

For reader convenience, we give a short introduction to Orlicz and Orlicz-Sobolev spaces of vector valued functions and a list of results that we will use throughout the article. Classic references for Orlicz spaces of real valued functions are [1, 2, 3]. For Orlicz spaces of vector valued functions, see [4] and the references therein.

Hereafter we denote by  $\mathbb{R}^+$  the set of all non negative real numbers. A function  $\Phi: \mathbb{R}^+ \to \mathbb{R}^+$  is called an *N-function* if  $\Phi$  is given by

$$\Phi(t) = \int_0^t \varphi(\tau) \ d\tau, \quad \text{for } t \ge 0,$$

where  $\varphi: \mathbb{R}^+ \to \mathbb{R}^+$  is a right continuous non decreasing function satisfying  $\varphi(0) = 0$ ,  $\varphi(t) > 0$  for t > 0 and  $\lim_{t \to \infty} \varphi(t) = +\infty$ .

Given a function  $\varphi$  as above, we consider the so-called right inverse function  $\psi$  of  $\varphi$  which is defined by  $\psi(s) = \sup_{\varphi(t) \leqslant s} t$ . The function  $\psi$  satisfies the same properties as the function  $\varphi$ , therefore we have an N-function  $\Psi$  such that  $\Psi' = \psi$ . The function  $\Psi$  is called the *complementary function* of  $\Phi$ .

We say that  $\Phi$  satisfies the  $\Delta_2$ -condition, denoted by  $\Phi \in \Delta_2$ , if there exist constants K > 0 and  $t_0 \ge 0$  such that

$$\Phi(2t) \leqslant K\Phi(t) \tag{6}$$

for every  $t \ge t_0$ . If  $t_0 = 0$ , we say that  $\Phi$  satisfies the  $\Delta_2$ -condition globally ( $\Phi \in \Delta_2$  globally).

Let d be a positive integer. We denote by  $\mathcal{M}_d := \mathcal{M}_d([0,T])$  the set of all measurable functions defined on [0,T] with values on  $\mathbb{R}^d$  and we write  $\boldsymbol{u}=(u_1,\ldots,u_d)$  for  $\boldsymbol{u}\in\mathcal{M}_d$ . In this paper we adopt the convention that bold symbols denote points in  $\mathbb{R}^d$ .

Given an N-function  $\Phi$  we define the modular function  $\rho_{\Phi}: \mathcal{M}_d \to \mathbb{R}^+ \cup \{+\infty\}$ by

$$\rho_{\Phi}(\boldsymbol{u}) := \int_0^T \Phi(|\boldsymbol{u}|) \ dt.$$

Here  $|\cdot|$  is the euclidean norm of  $\mathbb{R}^d$ . The Orlicz class  $C_d^\Phi=C_d^\Phi([0,T])$  is given by

$$C_d^{\Phi} := \{ \boldsymbol{u} \in \mathcal{M}_d | \rho_{\Phi}(\boldsymbol{u}) < \infty \}. \tag{7}$$

The Orlicz space  $L_d^\Phi=L_d^\Phi([0,T])$  is the linear hull of  $C_d^\Phi;$  equivalently,

$$L_d^{\Phi} := \{ \boldsymbol{u} \in \mathcal{M}_d | \exists \lambda > 0 : \rho_{\Phi}(\lambda \boldsymbol{u}) < \infty \}.$$
 (8)

The Orlicz space  $L_d^\Phi$  equipped with the  $\mathit{Orlicz}$   $\mathit{norm}$ 

$$\|oldsymbol{u}\|_{L^\Phi} := \sup \left\{ \int_0^T oldsymbol{u} \cdot oldsymbol{v} \; dt ig| 
ho_\Psi(oldsymbol{v}) \leqslant 1 
ight\},$$

is a Banach space. By  $u \cdot v$  we denote the usual dot product in  $\mathbb{R}^d$  between u and v. The following alternative expression for the norm, known as Amemiya norm, will be useful (see [2, Thm. 10.5] and [5]). For every  $u \in L^{\Phi}$ ,

$$\|\mathbf{u}\|_{L^{\Phi}} = \inf_{k>0} \frac{1}{k} \{1 + \rho_{\Phi}(k\mathbf{u})\}.$$
 (9)

The subspace  $E_d^\Phi=E_d^\Phi([0,T])$  is defined as the closure in  $L_d^\Phi$  of the subspace  $L_d^\infty$  of all  $\mathbb{R}^d$ -valued essentially bounded functions. It is shown that  $E_d^\Phi$  is the only one maximal subspace contained in the Orlicz class  $C_d^\Phi$ , i.e.  $u\in E_d^\Phi$  if and only if  $\rho_{\Phi}(\lambda \boldsymbol{u}) < \infty$  for any  $\lambda > 0$ .

A generalized version of Hölder's inequality holds in Orlicz spaces (see [2, Th. 9.3]). Namely, if  $u \in L_d^{\Phi}$  and  $v \in L_d^{\Psi}$  then  $u \cdot v \in L_1^1$  and

$$\int_0^T \boldsymbol{v} \cdot \boldsymbol{u} \, dt \leqslant \|\boldsymbol{u}\|_{L^{\Phi}} \|\boldsymbol{v}\|_{L^{\Psi}}. \tag{10}$$

If X and Y are Banach spaces such that  $Y \subset X^*$ , we denote by  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle : Y \times X \to \mathbb{R}$ the bilinear pairing map given by  $\langle x^*, x \rangle = x^*(x)$ . Hölder's inequality shows that  $L_d^\Psi \subset \left[L_d^\Phi\right]^*$ , where the pairing  $\langle {m v}, {m u} \rangle$  is defined by

$$\langle \boldsymbol{v}, \boldsymbol{u} \rangle = \int_0^T \boldsymbol{v} \cdot \boldsymbol{u} \, dt \tag{11}$$

with  $u \in L_d^{\Phi}$  and  $v \in L_d^{\Psi}$ . Unless  $\Phi \in \Delta_2$ , the relation  $L_d^{\Psi} = \left[L_d^{\Phi}\right]^*$  will not hold. In general, it is true that  $\left[E_d^\Phi\right]^*=L_d^\Psi.$  Like in [2], we will consider the subset  $\Pi(E_d^\Phi,r)$  of  $L_d^\Phi$  given by

$$\Pi(E_d^\Phi,r) := \{ \boldsymbol{u} \in L_d^\Phi | d(\boldsymbol{u},E_d^\Phi) < r \}.$$

This set is related to the Orlicz class  $C_d^{\Phi}$  by means of inclusions, namely,

$$\Pi(E_d^{\Phi}, r) \subset rC_d^{\Phi} \subset \overline{\Pi(E_d^{\Phi}, r)}$$
(12)

for any positive r. If  $\Phi \in \Delta_2$ , then the sets  $L_d^\Phi, E_d^\Phi, \Pi(E_d^\Phi, r)$  and  $C_d^\Phi$  are equal. We define the *Sobolev-Orlicz space*  $W^1L_d^\Phi$  (see [1]) by

$$W^1L_d^{\Phi} := \{ \boldsymbol{u} | \boldsymbol{u} \text{ is absolutely continuous and } \boldsymbol{\dot{u}} \in L_d^{\Phi} \}.$$

 $W^1L_d^\Phi$  is a Banach space when equipped with the norm

$$\|m{u}\|_{W^1L^\Phi} = \|m{u}\|_{L^\Phi} + \|m{\dot{u}}\|_{L^\Phi}.$$

For a function  $\boldsymbol{u} \in L^1_d([0,T])$ , we write  $\boldsymbol{u} = \overline{\boldsymbol{u}} + \widetilde{\boldsymbol{u}}$  where  $\overline{\boldsymbol{u}} = \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T \boldsymbol{u}(t) \ dt$  and  $\widetilde{\boldsymbol{u}} = \boldsymbol{u} - \overline{\boldsymbol{u}}$ .

As usual, if  $(X,\|\cdot\|_X)$  is a Banach space and  $(Y,\|\cdot\|_Y)$  is a subspace of X, we write  $Y\hookrightarrow X$  and we say that Y is embedded in X when the restricted identity map  $i_Y:Y\to X$  is bounded. That is, there exists C>0 such that for any  $y\in Y$  we have  $\|y\|_X\leqslant C\|y\|_Y$ . With this notation, Hölder's inequality states that  $L_d^\Psi\hookrightarrow \left[L_d^\Phi\right]^*$ ; and, it is easy to see that for every N-function  $\Phi$  we have that  $L_d^\infty\hookrightarrow L_d^\Phi\hookrightarrow L_d^\Phi$ . Recall that a function  $w:\mathbb{R}^+\to\mathbb{R}^+$  is called a  $modulus\ of\ continuity$  if w is a

Recall that a function  $w: \mathbb{R}^+ \to \mathbb{R}^+$  is called a *modulus of continuity* if w is a continuous increasing function which satisfies w(0)=0. For example, it can be easily shown that  $w(s)=s\Phi^{-1}(1/s)$  is a modulus of continuity for every N-function  $\Phi$ . We say that  $\boldsymbol{u}:[0,T]\to\mathbb{R}^d$  has modulus of continuity w when there exists a constant C>0 such that

$$|\boldsymbol{u}(t) - \boldsymbol{u}(s)| \leqslant Cw(|t - s|). \tag{13}$$

We denote by  $C^w([0,T],\mathbb{R}^d)$  the space of w-Hölder continuous functions. This is the space of all functions satisfying (13) for some C>0 and it is a Banach space with norm

$$\| \boldsymbol{u} \|_{C^w([0,T],\mathbb{R}^d)} := \| \boldsymbol{u} \|_{L^\infty} + \sup_{t \neq s} \frac{|\boldsymbol{u}(t) - \boldsymbol{u}(s)|}{w(|t-s|)}.$$

An important aspect of the theory of Sobolev spaces is related to embedding theorems. There is an extensive literature on this question in the Orlicz-Sobolev space setting, see for example [6, 7, 8, 9, 10]. The next simple lemma is essentially known and we will use it systematically. For the sake of completeness, we include a brief proof of it.

**Lemma 2.1.** Let  $w(s) := s\Phi^{-1}(1/s)$ . Then, the following statements hold:

1.  $W^1L^{\Phi} \hookrightarrow C^w([0,T],\mathbb{R}^d)$  and for every  $\boldsymbol{u} \in W^1L^{\Phi}$ 

$$|\boldsymbol{u}(t) - \boldsymbol{u}(s)| \leqslant ||\dot{\boldsymbol{u}}||_{L^{\Phi}} w(|t - s|), \tag{14}$$

$$\|\boldsymbol{u}\|_{L^{\infty}} \leqslant \Phi^{-1}\left(\frac{1}{T}\right) \max\{1, T\} \|\boldsymbol{u}\|_{W^{1}L^{\Phi}}$$
(15)

2. For every  $u \in W^1L^\Phi$  we have  $\widetilde{u} \in L^\infty_d$  and

$$\|\widetilde{\boldsymbol{u}}\|_{L^{\infty}} \leqslant T\Phi^{-1}\left(\frac{1}{T}\right)\|\dot{\boldsymbol{u}}\|_{L^{\Phi}}$$
 (Sobolev's inequality). (16)

The next result is analogous to some lemmata in  $W^1L_d^p$ , see [11].

**Lemma 2.2.** If 
$$\|u\|_{W^1L^{\Phi}} \to \infty$$
, then  $(|\overline{u}| + \|\dot{u}\|_{L^{\Phi}}) \to \infty$ .

Proof. We have

$$\|\boldsymbol{u}\|_{L^{\Phi}} = \|\overline{\boldsymbol{u}} + \tilde{\boldsymbol{u}}\|_{L^{\Phi}} \leqslant \|\overline{\boldsymbol{u}}\|_{L^{\Phi}} + \|\tilde{\boldsymbol{u}}\|_{L^{\Phi}} = |\overline{\boldsymbol{u}}| \|1\|_{L^{\Phi}} + \|\tilde{\boldsymbol{u}}\|_{L^{\Phi}}$$

We know that Holder's inequality implies that  $L_d^\infty \hookrightarrow L_d^\Phi$ , that is, there exists C>0 such that for any  $\tilde{\boldsymbol{u}}\in L_d^\infty$  we have

$$\|\tilde{\boldsymbol{u}}\|_{L^{\Phi}} \leqslant C \|\tilde{\boldsymbol{u}}\|_{L^{\infty}}$$

and, applying Sobolev's inequality to the previous formula, we get

$$\|\tilde{\boldsymbol{u}}\|_{L^{\Phi}} \leqslant C \|\dot{\boldsymbol{u}}\|_{L^{\Phi}}$$

# La desigualdad anterior sería del tipo Wirtinger's que no tenemos enunciada en ningún lado.

Therefore,

$$\|\boldsymbol{u}\|_{L^{\Phi}} \leqslant C(|\overline{\boldsymbol{u}}| + \|\dot{\boldsymbol{u}}\|_{L^{\Phi}}) \tag{17}$$

As  $\| \boldsymbol{u} \|_{W^1 L^{\Phi}} = \| \boldsymbol{u} \|_{L^{\Phi}} + \| \boldsymbol{\dot{u}} \|_{L^{\Phi}}$ , then

$$\|\boldsymbol{u}\|_{W^1L^{\Phi}}\leqslant C(|\overline{\boldsymbol{u}}|+\|\dot{\boldsymbol{u}}\|_{L^{\Phi}})$$

and by hypothesis  $\|u\|_{W^1L^\Phi} \to \infty$ , then  $|\overline{u}| + \|\dot{u}\|_{L^\Phi} \to \infty$ .

#### Esta definición va así o requiere modificaciones/adaptaciones???

**Definition 2.3.** We say that a function  $\mathcal{L}: [0,T] \times \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d \to \mathbb{R}$  is a Carathéodory function if for fixed  $(\boldsymbol{x},\boldsymbol{y})$  the map  $t \mapsto \mathcal{L}(t,\boldsymbol{x},\boldsymbol{y})$  is measurable and for fixed t the map  $(\boldsymbol{x},\boldsymbol{y}) \mapsto \mathcal{L}(t,\boldsymbol{x},\boldsymbol{y})$  is continuously differentiable for almost everywhere  $t \in [0,T]$ .

In [12] we proved the next results.

**Theorem 2.4.** Let  $\mathcal{L}$  be a Carathéodory function satisfying (2), (3) and (4). Then the following statements hold:

- 1. The action integral given by (5) is finitely defined on  $\mathcal{E}_d^{\Phi}(\lambda) := W^1 L_d^{\Phi} \cap \{ \boldsymbol{u} | \boldsymbol{\dot{u}} \in \Pi(E_d^{\Phi}, \lambda) \}.$
- 2. The function I is Gâteaux differentiable on  $\mathcal{E}_d^{\Phi}(\lambda)$  and its derivative I' is demicontinuous from  $\mathcal{E}_d^{\Phi}(\lambda)$  into  $\left[W^1L_d^{\Phi}\right]^*$ . Moreover, I' is given by the following expression

$$\langle I'(\boldsymbol{u}), \boldsymbol{v} \rangle = \int_0^T \left\{ D_{\boldsymbol{x}} \mathcal{L}(t, \boldsymbol{u}, \dot{\boldsymbol{u}}) \cdot \boldsymbol{v} + D_{\boldsymbol{y}} \mathcal{L}(t, \boldsymbol{u}, \dot{\boldsymbol{u}}) \cdot \dot{\boldsymbol{v}} \right\} dt.$$
(18)

3. If  $\Psi \in \Delta_2$  then I' is continuous from  $\mathcal{E}_d^{\Phi}(\lambda)$  into  $\left[W^1L_d^{\Phi}\right]^*$  when both spaces are equipped with the strong topology.

In [12] we derived the Euler-Lagrange equations associated to critical points of action integrals on the subspace of T-periodic functions. We denote by  $W^1L_T^{\Phi}$  the subspace of  $W^1L_d^{\Phi}$  containing all T-periodic functions. As usual, when Y is a subspace of the Banach space X, we denote by  $Y^{\perp}$  the *annihilator subspace* of  $X^*$ , i.e. the subspace that consists of all bounded linear functions which are identically zero on Y.

We recall that a function  $f: \mathbb{R}^d \to \mathbb{R}$  is called *strictly convex* if  $f\left(\frac{x+y}{2}\right) < \frac{1}{2}\left(f\left(x\right) + f\left(y\right)\right)$  for  $x \neq y$ . It is well known that if f is a strictly convex and differentiable function, then  $D_x f: \mathbb{R}^d \to \mathbb{R}^d$  is a one-to-one map (see, e.g. [13, Thm. 12.17]).

**Theorem 2.5.** Let  $u \in \mathcal{E}_d^{\Phi}(\lambda)$  be a T-periodic function. The following statements are equivalent:

- 1.  $I'(\boldsymbol{u}) \in (W^1 L_T^{\Phi})^{\perp}$ .
- 2.  $D_{\boldsymbol{y}}\mathcal{L}(t, \boldsymbol{u}(t), \dot{\boldsymbol{u}}(t))$  is an absolutely continuous function and  $\boldsymbol{u}$  solves the following boundary value problem

$$\begin{cases} \frac{d}{dt}D_{y}\mathcal{L}(t,\boldsymbol{u}(t),\dot{\boldsymbol{u}}(t)) = D_{\boldsymbol{x}}\mathcal{L}(t,\boldsymbol{u}(t),\dot{\boldsymbol{u}}(t)) & a.e.\ t \in (0,T) \\ \boldsymbol{u}(0) - \boldsymbol{u}(T) = D_{\boldsymbol{y}}\mathcal{L}(0,\boldsymbol{u}(0),\dot{\boldsymbol{u}}(0)) - D_{\boldsymbol{y}}\mathcal{L}(T,\boldsymbol{u}(T),\dot{\boldsymbol{u}}(T)) = 0. \end{cases}$$
(19)

Moreover if  $D_{\boldsymbol{y}}\mathcal{L}(t,x,y)$  is T-periodic with respect to the variable t and strictly convex with respect to  $\boldsymbol{y}$ , then  $D_{\boldsymbol{y}}\mathcal{L}(0,\boldsymbol{u}(0),\dot{\boldsymbol{u}}(0)) - D_{\boldsymbol{y}}\mathcal{L}(T,\boldsymbol{u}(T),\dot{\boldsymbol{u}}(T)) = 0$  is equivalent to  $\dot{\boldsymbol{u}}(0) = \dot{\boldsymbol{u}}(T)$ .

#### DECIR ALGO DE LOS ÍNDICES ACÁ O EN LA INTRO...????

Por acá aparecía la NOTACIÓN DE  $J_{C,\nu}$ , que usamos en alguna demostración más adelante. Me parece que no es necesaria, sólo hay que corregir la prueba donde se la usaba!!!!

**Lemma 2.6.** Let  $\Phi$  and  $\Psi$  be complementary N-functions. Then:

- 1.  $\|\mathbf{u}\|_{L^{\Phi}} = O(\rho_{\Phi}(\mathbf{u})).$
- 2. If  $\Psi \in \Delta_2$  globally, then there exists a constant  $\alpha_{\Phi} > 1$  such that, for any  $0 < \mu < \alpha_{\Phi}$ ,

$$\|\boldsymbol{u}\|_{L^{\Phi}}^{\mu} = o\left(\rho_{\Phi}\left(\boldsymbol{u}\right)\right). \tag{20}$$

*Reciprocally, if* (20) *holds for*  $\mu > 1$  *then*  $\Psi \in \Delta_2$ .

Based on [14] we say that F satisfies the condition (A) if  $F(t, \boldsymbol{x})$  is a Carathéodory function and F is continuously differentiable with respect to  $\boldsymbol{x}$ . Moreover, the next inequality holds

$$|F(t, \boldsymbol{x})| + |D_{\boldsymbol{x}}F(t, \boldsymbol{x})| \leq a(|\boldsymbol{x}|)b_0(t), \quad \text{for a.e. } t \in [0, T], \forall \boldsymbol{x} \in \mathbb{R}^d.$$

# 3 Lagrangians with sublinear nonlinearity

We define the following functionals  $J_{C,\mu}:L^{\Phi}\to(-\infty,+\infty]$  and  $H_{C,\sigma}:\mathbb{R}^n\to\mathbb{R}$ , with  $C,\nu,\sigma>0$ , by

$$J_{C,\nu}(\boldsymbol{u}) := \rho_{\Phi}(\boldsymbol{u}) - C \|\boldsymbol{u}\|_{L^{\Phi}}^{\nu}, \tag{22}$$

and

$$H_{C,\sigma}(\boldsymbol{x}) = \int_0^T F(t, \boldsymbol{x}) dt - C|\boldsymbol{x}|^{\sigma}$$
(23)

respectively.

Like in [12] we consider Lagrangians  $\mathcal{L}$  which are lower bounded as follows

$$\mathcal{L}(t, \boldsymbol{x}, \boldsymbol{y}) \ge \alpha_0 \Phi\left(\frac{|\boldsymbol{y}|}{\Lambda}\right) + F(t, \boldsymbol{x}).$$
 (24)

Now, we have another result about coercivity of I assuming some conditions on the  $\nabla F$ .

**Theorem 3.1.** Let  $\mathcal{L}$  be a lagrangian function satisfying (2), (3), (4), (24) and F satisfies condition (A). We assume the following conditions:

- 1.  $\Psi \in \Delta_2$ .
- 2. There exist non negative functions  $b_1, b_2 \in L_1^1$  and a constant  $1 < \mu < \alpha_{\Phi}$  such that for any  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^d$  and a.e.  $t \in [0, T]$

$$|\nabla F(t, \mathbf{x})| \le b_1(t)|\mathbf{x}|^{\mu - 1} + b_2(t).$$
 (25)

3. There exists a real positive number  $\sigma$  such that  $\sigma > (\mu - 1)\beta_{\Psi}$  and

$$|\boldsymbol{x}|^{\sigma} = o\left(\int_{0}^{T} F(t, \boldsymbol{x}) dt\right) \quad as \quad |\boldsymbol{x}| \to \infty.$$
 (26)

Then the action integral I is coercive.

*Proof.* By the decomposition  $u = \overline{u} + \tilde{u}$ , Mean Value Theorem, Cauchy-Schwarz inequality and (25), we have

$$\left| \int_{0}^{T} F(t, \boldsymbol{u}) - F(t, \overline{\boldsymbol{u}}) dt \right| = \left| \int_{0}^{T} \int_{0}^{1} \nabla F(t, \overline{\boldsymbol{u}} + s \tilde{\boldsymbol{u}}(t)) \cdot \tilde{\boldsymbol{u}}(t) ds dt \right|$$

$$\leq \int_{0}^{T} \int_{0}^{1} b_{1}(t) |\overline{\boldsymbol{u}} + s \tilde{\boldsymbol{u}}(t)|^{\mu - 1} |\tilde{\boldsymbol{u}}(t)| ds dt + \int_{0}^{T} \int_{0}^{1} b_{2}(t) |\tilde{\boldsymbol{u}}(t)| ds dt$$

$$= I_{1} + I_{2}.$$
(27)

On the one hand, by Hölder's inequality and Sobolev's inequality, we estimate  $I_2$  as follows

$$I_2 \leqslant \|b_2\|_{L^1} \|\tilde{\boldsymbol{u}}\|_{L^\infty} \leqslant C_1 \|\dot{\boldsymbol{u}}\|_{L^\Phi}.$$
 (28)

where  $C_1 = C_1(\|b_2\|_{L^1}, T)$ . On the other hand, as  $s \in [0, 1]$ , we have

$$|\overline{\boldsymbol{u}} + s\tilde{\boldsymbol{u}}(t)|^{\mu-1} \leqslant C(\mu)(|\overline{\boldsymbol{u}}|^{\mu-1} + ||\tilde{\boldsymbol{u}}||_{L^{\infty}}^{\mu-1}). \tag{29}$$

where  $C(\mu) = 2^{\mu-2}$ , for  $\mu \ge 2$  and  $C(\mu) = 1$ , for  $1 < \mu < 2$ . Now, inequality (29), Hölder's inequality and Sobolev's inequality imply that

$$I_{1} \leqslant C(\mu) \left( |\overline{\boldsymbol{u}}|^{\mu-1} \int_{0}^{T} b_{1}(t) |\tilde{\boldsymbol{u}}(t)| dt + ||\tilde{\boldsymbol{u}}||_{L^{\infty}}^{\mu-1} \int_{0}^{T} b_{1}(t) |\tilde{\boldsymbol{u}}(t)| dt \right)$$

$$\leqslant C(\mu) \left\{ |\overline{\boldsymbol{u}}|^{\mu-1} ||b_{1}||_{L^{1}} ||\tilde{\boldsymbol{u}}||_{L^{\infty}} + ||b_{1}||_{L^{1}} ||\tilde{\boldsymbol{u}}||_{L^{\infty}}^{\mu} \right\}$$

$$\leqslant C_{2} \left\{ |\overline{\boldsymbol{u}}|^{\mu-1} ||\dot{\boldsymbol{u}}||_{L^{\Phi}} + ||\dot{\boldsymbol{u}}||_{L^{\Phi}}^{\mu} \right\},$$

$$(30)$$

where  $C_2=C_2(\mu,T,\|b_1\|_{L^1})$ . Let  $\mu'$  be a positive constant such that  $1<\mu\leqslant\mu'<\alpha_\Phi$ . Next, using Young's inequality with conjugate exponents  $\mu'$  and  $\frac{\mu'}{\mu'-1}$  we get

$$|\overline{\boldsymbol{u}}|^{\mu-1} \|\dot{\boldsymbol{u}}\|_{L^{\Phi}} \leqslant \frac{(\mu'-1)}{\mu'} |\overline{\boldsymbol{u}}|^{\sigma} + \frac{1}{\mu'} \|\dot{\boldsymbol{u}}\|_{L^{\Phi}}^{\mu'}$$
 (31)

where  $\sigma = \frac{(\mu-1)\mu'}{\mu'-1}$ . We note that  $\sigma$  is an arbitrary positive constant bigger than  $(\mu-1)b_{\Psi}$ .

From (30),(31), (28) and the inequality  $x^{r_1} \leqslant x^{r_2} + 1$ , for any  $x \ge 0$  and  $r_1 \leqslant r_2$  we have

$$I_{1} + I_{2} \leqslant C_{3} \left\{ |\overline{\boldsymbol{u}}|^{\sigma} + ||\dot{\boldsymbol{u}}||_{L^{\Phi}}^{\mu'} + ||\dot{\boldsymbol{u}}||_{L^{\Phi}}^{\mu} + ||\dot{\boldsymbol{u}}||_{L^{\Phi}} \right\}$$

$$\leqslant C_{3} \left\{ |\overline{\boldsymbol{u}}|^{\sigma} + ||\dot{\boldsymbol{u}}||_{L^{\Phi}}^{\mu'} + 1 \right\}$$
(32)

with  $C_3 = C_3(\mu, T, ||b_1||_{L^1}, \mu')$ . In the subsequent estimates, we use the decomposition  $u = \overline{u} + \tilde{u}$ , (24), (27), (32) and we get

$$I(\boldsymbol{u}) \geq \alpha_{0} \rho_{\Phi} \left(\frac{\dot{\boldsymbol{u}}}{\Lambda}\right) + \int_{0}^{T} F(t, \boldsymbol{u}) dt$$

$$= \alpha_{0} \rho_{\Phi} \left(\frac{\dot{\boldsymbol{u}}}{\Lambda}\right) + \int_{0}^{T} \left[F(t, \boldsymbol{u}) - F(t, \overline{\boldsymbol{u}})\right] dt + \int_{0}^{T} F(t, \overline{\boldsymbol{u}}) dt$$

$$\geq \alpha_{0} \rho_{\Phi} \left(\frac{\dot{\boldsymbol{u}}}{\Lambda}\right) - C_{3} \|\dot{\boldsymbol{u}}\|_{L^{\Phi}}^{\mu'} + \int_{0}^{T} F(t, \overline{\boldsymbol{u}}) dt - C_{3} |\overline{\boldsymbol{u}}|^{\sigma} - C_{3}$$

$$= \alpha_{0} J_{C_{4}, \mu'} \left(\frac{\dot{\boldsymbol{u}}}{\Lambda}\right) + H_{C_{3}, \sigma}(\overline{\boldsymbol{u}}) - C_{3},$$
(33)

where  $C_4 = \Lambda^{\mu'} C_3 / \alpha_0$ .

Let  $u_n$  be a sequence in  $\mathcal{E}_d^{\Phi}(\lambda)$  with  $\|u_n\|_{W^1L^{\Phi}} \to \infty$  and we have to prove that  $I(u_n) \to \infty$ .

On the contrary, suppose that for a subsequence, still denoted by  $u_n$ ,  $I(u_n)$  is upper bounded, that is, there exists M>0 such that  $|I(u_n)|\leqslant M$ . As  $\|u_n\|_{W^1L^\Phi}\to\infty$ , from Lemma 2.2, we have  $|\overline{u}_n|+\|\dot{u}_n\|_{L^\Phi}\to\infty$ . Then, there exists subsequence of the subsequence  $\{u_n\}$ , still denoted by  $u_n$ , which is not bounded. Then,  $\overline{u}_n\to\infty$  or  $\|\dot{u}_n\|_{L^\Phi}\to\infty$ . Now, as the functionals  $J_{C,\mu'(\dot{u}_n)}$  and  $\gamma(\overline{u})$  are coercive, then  $J_{C,\mu'(\dot{u}_n)}\to\infty$  or  $\gamma(\overline{u}_n)\to\infty$ . By (21), the functional  $\gamma(\overline{u}_n)$  is lower bounded and  $J_{C,\mu'(\dot{u}_n)}$  is also lower bounded on a bounded set because the modular  $\rho_\Phi\left(\frac{u}{\Lambda}\right)$  is always bigger than zero. Therefore,  $I(u_n)\to\infty$  as  $\|u_n\|_{W^1L^\Phi}\to\infty$  which contradits the initial assumption on the behavior of  $I(u_n)$ .

REVISAR LA PRUEBA ANTERIOR Y MEJORAR LA ESCRITURA, y adaptar quitando J si fuera el caso!!!!

# 4 Limit case $\mu = \alpha_{\Phi}$

In [] coercivity was obtained even in the limit case  $\mu=1$  and  $\mu=p$  assuming additional conditions on ... This was possible because in  $L^p$  spaces, the norm and the modular coincides, that is,  $\|\cdot\|_p^p=O(\int_0^T|\cdot|^p\,dt)$ . In Orlicz spaces,  $\|\cdot\|_{L^\Phi}^\mu$  can be upper controlled by a modular provided that  $\mu<\alpha_\Phi$  for any N-function  $\Phi$ . But, the limit case does not hold for any  $\Phi$ , i.e. in general  $\|\cdot\|_{L^\Phi}^{\alpha_\Phi}=O(\int_0^T\Phi(|u|)\,dt)$  is false as can be seen as follows.

Let  $\Phi, \Psi \in \Delta_2$ , then the next inequality  $\Phi(tu) \ge t^{\alpha_{\Phi}} \Phi(u)$  for any u > 0 and for any  $t \ge 1$  is false.

In fact, let 
$$\Phi(u) = \begin{cases} \frac{p-1}{p} u^p & u \leqslant e \\ \frac{u^p}{\log u} - \frac{e^p}{p} & u > e \end{cases}$$

**Theorem 4.1.** If  $p \ge \frac{1+\sqrt{2}}{2}$ , then  $\Phi$  is an N-function.

Proof. We have

$$\Phi'(u) = \begin{cases} (p-1)u^{p-1} =: \varphi_1(u) & u < e \\ \frac{u^{p-1}}{\log u} (p - \frac{1}{\log u}) := \varphi_2(u) & u > e \end{cases}$$

and  $\Phi$  is differentiable at e because  $\varphi_1(e) = \varphi_2(e) = (p-1)e^{p-1}$ .

Tendríamos que ver que  $\varphi_1, \varphi_2$  son crecientes y que  $\varphi_2 \to \infty$  cuando  $u \to \infty$ ???? o basta con ver que  $\varphi_2$  es creciente????

 $\varphi_1$  is an increasing function provided that p>1 and  $\varphi_1(u)\to 0$  as  $u\to 0$ . In addition,  $\varphi_2(u)\to \infty$  as  $u\to \infty$  provided that p>1. And

$$0 < \varphi_2'(u) = \frac{u^{p-2}}{\log u} \left( p^2 - p - \frac{2p}{\log u} + \frac{1}{\log u} + \frac{2}{\log^2 u} \right)$$

on  $[e, \infty)$  if and only if

$$\left(p^2 - p - \frac{2p}{\log u} + \frac{1}{\log u} + \frac{2}{\log^2 u}\right) > 0.$$

If we take  $\alpha := \frac{1}{\log u}$ , then we need

$$2\alpha^2 + (1-2p)\alpha + (p^2 - p) \ge 0$$

which is true if and only if  $p \notin (\frac{1-\sqrt{2}}{2}, \frac{1+\sqrt{2}}{2})$ . Therefore,  $\varphi_2$  is an icreasing function when  $p \geq \frac{1+\sqrt{2}}{2}$ .

**Theorem 4.2.** There exists a constant C > 0 such that

$$\Phi(tu) \leqslant ct^p \Phi(u) \quad t \ge 1, u > 0. \tag{34}$$

For every  $\varepsilon > 0$  there exists a constant  $C = C(\varepsilon, p)$  such that

$$\Phi(tu) \ge Ct^{p-\varepsilon}\Phi(u) \ t \ge 1, u > 0. \tag{35}$$

Proof. Resumir la prueba

Remark 4.3. The inequality

$$\Phi(tu) > Ct^p\Phi(u)$$

is false for every C because for every  $u \ge e$  we have

$$\lim_{t \to \infty} \frac{\Phi(tu)}{t^p \Phi(u)} = 0$$

Theorem 4.4.  $\alpha_{\Phi} = \beta_{\Phi} = p$ 

Proof. Resumir la prueba.

Now, we are able to see that

$$\rho_{\Phi}(u) = \int_{0}^{T} \Phi(|u|) \, dx \ge C \|u\|_{L^{\Phi}}^{\alpha_{\Phi}} = C \|u\|_{L^{\Phi}}^{p}$$

is false.

If we take  $u\equiv t>0$ , then  $\|u\|_{L^\Phi}^p=C_1t^p$  where  $C_1=\|1\|_{L^\Phi}$  and  $\int_0^T\Phi(|u|)\,dx=C_2\Phi(t)$  with  $C_2=T$ . Then, if  $\rho_\Phi(u)\geq C\|u\|_{L^\Phi}^p$  were true, then  $\Phi(t)\geq Ct^p$  were also true but this last inequality is false.

# Acknowledgments

The authors are partially supported by a UNRC grant number 18/C417. The first author is partially supported by a UNSL grant number 22/F223.

No sé por qué pero parece que funciona...., en realidad quité el .bib... Y recién ahora me doy cuenta que las referencias se ordenan de acuerdo al orden de mención/aparición....

# References

- [1] R. Adams, J. Fournier, Sobolev spaces, Elsevier/Academic Press, Amsterdam, 2003.
- [2] M. A. Krasnosel'skiĭ, J. B. Rutickiĭ, Convex functions and Orlicz spaces, P. Noordhoff Ltd., Groningen, 1961.
- [3] M. M. Rao, Z. D. Ren, Theory of Orlicz spaces, Vol. 146, Marcel Dekker, Inc., New York, 1991.
- [4] G. Schappacher, A notion of Orlicz spaces for vector valued functions, Appl. Math. 50 (4) (2005) 355–386.
- [5] H. Hudzik, L. Maligranda, Amemiya norm equals Orlicz norm in general, Indag. Math. (N.S.) 11 (4) (2000) 573–585.
- [6] A. Cianchi, A fully anisotropic Sobolev inequality, Pacific J. Math. 196 (2) (2000) 283–295.
- [7] A. Cianchi, Some results in the theory of Orlicz spaces and applications to variational problems, in: Nonlinear analysis, function spaces and applications, Vol. 6 (Prague, 1998), Acad. Sci. Czech Repub., Prague, 1999, pp. 50–92.
- [8] N. Clavero, Optimal Sobolev embeddings and Function Spaces, http://www.maia.ub.edu/~soria/sobolev1.pdf, last accessed: 2014-12-22. (2011).
- [9] D. Edmunds, R. Kerman, L. Pick, Optimal Sobolev imbeddings involving rearrangement-invariant quasinorms, J. Funct. Anal. 170 (2) (2000) 307–355.
- [10] R. Kerman, L. Pick, Optimal Sobolev imbeddings, Forum Math. 18 (4) (2006) 535–570.
- [11] B. Xu, C.-L. Tang, Some existence results on periodic solutions of ordinary *p*-Laplacian systems, J. Math. Anal. Appl. 333 (2) (2007) 1228–1236.
- [12] S. Acinas, L. Buri, G. Giubergia, F. Mazzone, E. Schwindt, Some existence results on periodic solutions of Euler-Lagrange equations in an Orlicz-Sobolev space setting, Nonlinear Analysis, TMA.(to appear).
- [13] R. T. Rockafellar, R. Wets, Variational analysis, Springer-Verlag, Berlin, 1998.
- [14] J. Mawhin, M. Willem, Critical point theory and Hamiltonian systems, Springer-Verlag, New York, 1989.