

# Morse theory and nonlinear Schrödinger equations

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# Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Morse theory, multiple solutions</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Critical groups under SPR</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Multiple solutions for resonant problem</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Stationary Schrödinger equations</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Schrödinger-Poisson systems</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Quasilinear Schrödinger equations</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>QSE: <math>\infty</math> solutions in <math>\mathbb{R}^N</math></b>	<b>22</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>QSE: <math>\infty</math> solutions in bdd <math>\Omega</math></b>	<b>32</b>

# 1. Morse theory, multiple solutions

**Def1** (Critical groups, Chang(1993), Mawhin & Willem(1989), Chap 8). Let  $f \in C^1(X)$ ,  $u$  be isolated critical point with  $f(u) = c$ ,  $f_c = \{f \leq c\}$ . Then

$$C_q(f, u) = H_q(f_c, f_c \setminus u, \mathbb{Q}), \quad q \in \mathbb{N} = \{0, 1, \dots\}$$

If  $f$  satisfies Cerami (C) and  $\inf_{\mathcal{K}} f > -\infty$ , then

$$C_q(f, \infty) = H_q(X, f_\alpha), \quad \text{here } \alpha < \inf_{\mathcal{K}} f. \quad \text{Bartsch \& Li(1997)}$$

**Thm1** (Morse inequalities). If  $f \in C^1(X)$  satisfies (C) and  $\#\mathcal{K} < \infty$ , then

$$\sum_{q=0}^{\infty} (-1)^q M_q = \sum_{q=0}^{\infty} (-1)^q \beta_q,$$

where  $M_q = \sum_{u \in \mathcal{K}} \dim C_q(f, u)$ ,  $\beta_q = \dim C_q(f, \infty)$ .

$$M_q - M_{q-1} + \dots + (-1)^q M_0 \geq \beta_q - \beta_{q-1} + \dots + (-1)^q \beta_0, \quad q \in \mathbb{N}.$$

**Exm1.** (1) If  $u$  is a local maximizer of  $f : \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , then  $C_q(f, u) = \delta_{qm}\mathbb{Q}$ .

(2) If  $u$  is a local minimizer of  $f : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , then  $C_q(f, u) = \delta_{q0}\mathbb{Q}$ .

(3) If  $X$  is Hilbert and  $f \in C^2(X)$ ,  $u$  is non-degenerate critical point of  $f$  with Morse index  $k$ , Morse lemma yields

$$C_q(f, u) = \delta_{qk}\mathbb{Q}. \quad \text{that is, } \dim C_q(f, u) = \delta_{qk}.$$

Therefore, critical groups are generalization of Morse index.

**Exm2.** Perera(2003) constructed eigenvalues  $\{\lambda_i\}_{i=1}^{\infty}$  for the  $p$ -Laplacian such that, if  $\lambda \in (\lambda_k, \lambda_{k+1}) \setminus \sigma_p$ , then  $C_k(I, 0) \neq 0$ , where  $I : W_0^{1,p} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ,

$$I(u) = \frac{1}{p} \int_{\Omega} (|\nabla u|^p - \lambda |u|^p) \quad -\operatorname{div} (|\nabla u|^{p-2} \nabla u) = \lambda |u|^{p-2} u.$$

In Perera(2003) this result is applied to solve

$$-\operatorname{div} (|\nabla u|^{p-2} \nabla u) = f(x, u) \quad \text{in } W_0^{1,p}(\Omega), \quad \lim_{|t| \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x, t)t}{|t|^p} = \lambda.$$

If  $p = 2$  then 0 is non-degenerate and  $C_q(I, 0) = \delta_{qk}\mathbb{Q}$ .

**Pro1.** If  $f \in C^1(X)$  satisfies (C),  $\exists \rho > 0$  and  $\|v\| > \rho$  s.t.

$$\inf_{\|u\|=\rho} f(u) > f(0) \geq f(v),$$

then  $f$  has critical point  $u$ ,  $C_1(f, u) \neq 0$ . (in appls,  $C_q(f, u) = \delta_{q,1}\mathbb{Q}$ )

**Pro2** (Liu(1989), Thm 2.1). Suppose  $f \in C^1(X, \mathbb{R})$  has a **local linking** at 0 wrt decomposition  $X = Y \oplus Z$ , i.e.,  $\exists \varepsilon > 0$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} f(u) &\leq 0 && \text{for } u \in Y \cap B_\varepsilon, \\ f(u) &> 0 && \text{for } u \in (Z \setminus \{0\}) \cap B_\varepsilon, \end{aligned}$$

$B_\varepsilon = \{u \in X \mid \|u\| \leq \varepsilon\}$ . If  $\ell = \dim Y < \infty$ , then  $C_\ell(f, 0) \neq 0$ .

**Pro3** (Bartsch & Li(1997), Prop 3.8). Let  $f \in C^1(X, \mathbb{R})$ , sats (C). Assume  $X = X^- \oplus X^+$ ,  $\ell = \dim X^- < \infty$ . If  $f$  is bounded from below on  $X^+$  and

$$f(u) \rightarrow -\infty \text{ as } \|u\| \rightarrow \infty, u \in X^-,$$

then  $C_\ell(f, \infty) \neq 0$ . (loc link at infinity)

**Exm3** (Liu & Li(2003a)). If  $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is **anti-coercive**,  $C_q(f, \infty) = \delta_{q,n}\mathbb{Q}$ .

**Pro4** (Bartsch & Li(1997), Prop 3.6). If  $f \in C^1(X, \mathbb{R})$ ,  $(C)$ , for some  $\ell \in \mathbb{N}$ ,

(1) if  $C_\ell(f, \infty) \neq 0$ , then  $f$  has a cri point  $u$  s.t.  $C_\ell(f, u) \neq 0$ .

(2) if  $C_\ell(f, 0) \neq C_\ell(f, \infty)$ , then  $f$  has a nonzero cri point.

**Thm2** (Poincare-Hopf). Let  $X$  be Hilbert,  $f \in C^2(X)$  has an isolated critical point  $u$ ,  $\nabla f = 1_X - K$  being  $K : X \rightarrow X$  compact, then

$$\text{ind}(\nabla f, u) = \deg(\nabla f, B_\varepsilon(u), 0) = \sum_{q=0}^{\infty} (-1)^q \dim C_q(f, u).$$

**Rek1.** Critical group is better for describing local behavior.

## 2. Critical groups under SPR

$(E_{\pm})$  Let  $X = X^- \oplus X^+$  be a Hilbert space,  $f \in C^1(X)$ ,  $\kappa > 0$  s.t.

$$\pm \langle \nabla f(v + w_1) - \nabla f(v + w_2), w_1 - w_2 \rangle \geq \kappa \|w_1 - w_2\|^2,$$

where  $v \in X^-$  and  $w_{1,2} \in X^+$ . | some sort of monotonicity for  $\nabla f(v + \cdot)$ . |

**Thm3** (Castro(1982)). Under  $(E_+)$  or  $(E_-)$ , there is  $\psi : X^- \rightarrow X^+$  s.t

$$\varphi : X^- \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, \quad \varphi(v) = f(v + \psi(v))$$

is  $C^1$ . Moreover,  $v$  is a critical point of  $\varphi$  iff  $v + \psi(v)$  is a critical point of  $f$ . |

**Rek2.** Liu(2008), Cor 2.2 showed that

$$\nabla f = 1_X - \text{Compact} \implies \nabla \varphi = 1_{X^-} - \text{Compact}. |$$

**Thm4** (Liu & Li(2003a)). In case  $(E_+)$ , if  $f$  sats (PS),  $\inf_{\mathcal{X}} f > -\infty$ , | then

$$C_q(f, \infty) \cong C_q(\varphi, \infty), \quad q \in \mathbb{N}. |$$

Moreover, if  $k = \dim X^- < \infty$  and  $C_k(f, \infty) \neq 0$  (see Pro3), | then

$$\dim C_q(f, \infty) = \delta_{qk}. \quad (1)$$

**Rek3.** To have (1), we prove: If  $\varphi : \mathbb{R}^k \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  sats (PS), then

$$C_k(\varphi, \infty) \neq 0 \implies C_q(\varphi, \infty) \cong \delta_{qk} \mathbb{Q}, \quad q \in \mathbb{N}. \quad \text{Liu \& Li(2003a), Lem 2.1}$$

For  $b < \inf_{\mathcal{X}} \varphi$ , we need  $C = \{\varphi \geq b\}$  to be connected. It suffices to apply the following to  $-\varphi$ .

**Pro5.** If  $\psi \in C^1(X)$  sats (C),  $b > \sup_{\mathcal{X}} \psi$ , then  $\psi_b = \{\psi \leq b\}$  connected.

**Pf.**  $\psi_b$  is a strong deformation retract of  $X$ ,  $\exists \eta : X \rightarrow \psi_b$  s.t.  $\eta|_{\psi_b} = 1_{\psi_b}$ . For  $a_{\pm} \in \psi_b$ ,  $\exists \gamma : [-1, 1] \rightarrow X$  s.t.  $\gamma(\pm 1) = a_{\pm}$ . Now  $\eta \circ \gamma : [-1, 1] \rightarrow \psi_b$  is a curve in  $\psi_b$  connecting  $a_{\pm}$ .

Since  $C$  closed connected,  $C_k(\varphi, \infty) = H_k(\mathbb{R}^k, \mathbb{R}^k \setminus C) \neq 0$ ,  $C$  is compact,  $\varphi$  bdd. from. above thus anti-coercive Li(1986). Now apply Exm3.

**Thm5** (Liu & Li(2003a)). In case  $(E_-)$ , if  $f$  satisfies (PS),  $\inf_{\mathcal{X}} f > -\infty$  and  $j = \dim X^+ < \infty$ , then

$$C_q(f, \infty) \cong C_{q-j}(\varphi, \infty), \quad q \in \mathbb{N}. \quad (2)$$

Moreover, if  $C_j(f, \infty) \neq 0$ , then  $\dim C_q(f, \infty) = \delta_{qj}$ .

**Rek4.** The shift of index in (2) is due to Künneth formula.



**Thm6** (Liu(2007)). In case  $(E_+)$ , if  $u$  is a critical point of  $f$  and  $v = P_X - u$ , then  $C_q(f, u) \cong C_q(\varphi, v)$ ,  $q \in \mathbb{N}$ .

**Thm7** (Li & Liu(2013)). In case  $(E_-)$ , if  $u$  is a critical point of  $f$  and  $v = P_X - u$ ,  $\varphi$  satisfies (PS),  $j = \dim X^+ < \infty$ , then

$$C_q(f, u) \cong C_{q-j}(\varphi, v), \quad q \in \mathbb{N}. \quad \text{K\"unneth again!}$$

**Rek5.** Based on Thm4,

- \* Alexander Duality Theorem,

- \* Homotopy Invariance Theorem of Li, Perera & Su.(2001),

Liu(2009) proposed a universal method for computing  $C_*(f, \infty)$  for  $f$  arising in elliptic resonant problems.

### 3. Multiple solutions for resonant problem

Let  $\lambda_1 < \lambda_2 \leq \lambda_3 \leq \dots$  be eigenvalues of  $(-\Delta, H_0^1(\Omega))$ . Consider

$$-\Delta u = p(u), \quad u \in H_0^1(\Omega). \quad (3)$$

(p<sub>1</sub>)  $p \in C^1(\mathbb{R})$ ,  $p(0) = 0$ ,  $p'(0) < \lambda_1 < p_\infty = \lambda_m$ , where

$$p_\infty = \lim_{|t| \rightarrow \infty} \frac{p(t)}{t}. \quad (\text{asy lin, has solutions if cross eigenvalue})$$

(p<sub>2</sub>) for some  $\gamma \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $p'(t) \leq \gamma < \lambda_{m+1}$ .

**Rek6.** If  $p_\infty \in (\lambda_m, \lambda_{m+1})$ , [Castro & Cossio\(1994\)](#) obtained 4 nontrivial solutions for (3). [Li & Zhang\(1999\)](#) extended to  $p_\infty = \lambda_m$  provided

(p<sub>3</sub>)  $\exists \alpha \in [0, 1)$ ,  $c > 0$  s.t.  $|p(t) - \lambda_m t| \leq c(1 + |t|^\alpha)$ ,

$$\frac{1}{|t|^{2\alpha}} \left( P(t) - \frac{1}{2} \lambda_m t^2 \right) \rightarrow +\infty, \quad \text{as } |t| \rightarrow \infty.$$

**Thm8** (Liu(2007)). Assume  $(p_1), (p_2)$

$(p_4)$   $P(t) - \frac{1}{2}\lambda_m t^2 \rightarrow +\infty$  as  $|t| \rightarrow \infty$ , much weaker than  $(p_3)$

then (3) has 4 nontrivial solutions.

Solutions of (3) are critical points of  $f : H_0^1(\Omega) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ,

$$f(u) = \frac{1}{2} \int |\nabla u|^2 - \int P(u).$$

**Rek7.** (1) In Castro & Cossio(1994), Li & Zhang(1999),  $f$  satisfies (PS), while under our conditions,  $f$  may not satisfy (PS).

(2) Condition  $(p_2)$  enables us to reduce  $f$  to the subspace

$$X^- = \text{span} \{ \phi_1, \dots, \phi_m \}$$

and consider  $\varphi : X^- \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ . It turns out that  $\varphi$  is anti-coercive:

$$\varphi(v) \rightarrow -\infty \quad \text{as } \|v\| \rightarrow \infty$$

under  $(p_4)$ , noting  $\dim X^- < \infty$ . For  $\dim X^- = \infty$ , see Liu(2008).

**Pf.** It is known that  $u = 0$  is loc. min. of  $f$ . Thus

$$\dim C_q(f, 0) = \delta_{q0}.$$

It is also known that  $f_{\pm}$  satisfy (PS), therefore we can obtain two solutions  $u_{\pm}$  via Mountain Pass Theorem such that

$$\dim C_q(f, u_{\pm}) = \delta_{q1}.$$

By Thm 6, ( $v_{\pm} = P_{X^-} u_{\pm}$ )

$$\dim C_q(\varphi, 0) = \dim C_q(f, 0) = \delta_{q0},$$

$$\dim C_q(\varphi, v_{\pm}) = \dim C_q(f, u_{\pm}) = \delta_{q1}.$$

Since  $\varphi$  is anti-coercive,  $\varphi$  has a global max  $v \in X^-$ , with

$$\dim C_q(\varphi, v) = \delta_{qm}.$$

We also know that  $\beta_q = \dim C_q(\varphi, \infty) = \delta_{qm}$ , see Exm 3.

If 0,  $v_{\pm}$  and  $v$  were the only critical points of  $\varphi$ , then

$$M_0 = 1, \quad M_1 = 2, \quad M_m = 1, \quad M_q = 0 \text{ for } q \neq 0, 1, m.$$

The Morse relation  $\sum (-1)^q M_q = \sum (-1)^q \beta_q$

becomes  $1 - 2 + (-1)^m = (-1)^m$ , a contradiction.

## 4. Stationary Schrödinger equations

Looking for standing waves  $\psi(t, x) = e^{-i\omega t}u(x)$  for NSE

$$i\psi_t = -\Delta\psi + U(x)\psi - \tilde{g}(|\psi|)\psi$$

leads to

$$-\Delta u + V(x)u = g(u), \quad u \in H^1(\mathbb{R}^N). \quad (4)$$

Similar Schrödinger type equations require solving

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta u + V(x) + \phi u = g(u) & \text{in } \mathbb{R}^3, \\ -\Delta \phi = u^2 & \text{in } \mathbb{R}^3, \end{cases} \quad (5)$$

and

$$-\Delta u + V(x)u - u\Delta(u^2) = g(u), \quad u \in H^1(\mathbb{R}^N). \quad (6)$$

(4), (5), (6) are called **Schrödinger equations**, **Schrödinger-Poisson systems** and **quasilinear Schrödinger equations**. Here

$$V(x) = U(x) - \omega, \quad g(u) = \tilde{g}(|u|)u.$$

**From now on, all integrals are over  $\mathbb{R}^N$ .**

Most studies on (4) in the last decades require

$$\inf_{\mathbb{R}^N} V > 0, \quad \text{so that} \quad \mathcal{B}(u) = \frac{1}{2} \int (|\nabla u|^2 + V(x)u^2)$$

is positive definite. Then,  $u = 0$  is loc min of

$$\Phi(u) = \frac{1}{2} \int (|\nabla u|^2 + V(x)u^2) - \int G(u), \quad \int G(u) = o(\|u\|^2) \text{ as } u \rightarrow 0.$$

and MPT applies. The same is true for Eqs (5) and (6).

**Prb1.** If  $\omega \gg 1$ ,  $\mathcal{B}$  is indefinite ( $V = U - \omega$ ), MPT is no longer applicable. We will focus on this situation.

For (4), the most interesting situation is

(V)  $V \in C(\mathbb{R}^N)$  is  $\mathbb{Z}^N$ -per, 0 lies in a spectral gap of  $-\Delta + V$ .

Then both  $\pm$ -spaces of  $\mathcal{B}$  are infinite dim, strongly indefinite.

Kryszewski & Szulkin (1998) obtain nonzero solution, provided  $g$  satisfies

(g<sub>0</sub>)  $g$  is subcritical,  $g(t) = o(t)$  as  $t \rightarrow 0$ ,

(g<sub>1</sub>)  $\exists \mu > 2$  s.t.  $0 < \mu G(t) \leq tg(t)$  for  $t \neq 0$ .  $\Rightarrow |G(t)| \geq c_1 |t|^\mu - c_2$  suplin

Superlinear functions like

$$g(t) = t \log(1 + |t|)$$

violates  $(g_1)$ . Without  $(g_1)$  unable to get bddness of  $(PS)$  seqs.!

Szulkin & Weth(2009) solved (4) via Pankov manifold, replacing  $(g_1)$  by

$(g_2)$   $t \mapsto \frac{g(t)}{|t|}$  is strictly increasing on  $(-\infty, 0)$  and  $(0, \infty)$ ,

$$\lim_{|t| \rightarrow \infty} \frac{G(t)}{t^2} = +\infty. \quad (7)$$

**Thm9** (Liu(2012)). Assume  $(V)$ ,  $(g_0)$ , (7) and

$(g'_2)$   $t \mapsto \frac{g(t)}{|t|}$  is increasing on  $(-\infty, 0)$  and  $(0, \infty)$ ,

then (4) has a ground state solution.!

**Pf.** For  $N = \{u \in X^+ \mid \|u\| = \rho\}$ ,  $M = \{u \in X^- \oplus \mathbb{R}^+ h \mid \|u\| \leq R\}$ ,

$$\inf_N \Phi > \sup_{\partial M} \Phi,$$

Using Li & Szulkin(2002) to get  $(C)_c$  sequence, then show its bdd.

## 5. Schrödinger-Poisson systems

To solve the S-P system

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta u + V(x) + \phi u = g(u), \\ -\Delta \phi = u^2, \end{cases} \quad (u, \phi) \in H^1(\mathbb{R}^3) \times D^{1,2}(\mathbb{R}^3), \quad (8)$$

by [Benci & Fortunato\(1998\)](#), it suffices to find critical pt of  $\Phi : H^1 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ,

$$\Phi(u) = \frac{1}{2} \int (|\nabla u|^2 + V(x)u^2) + \frac{1}{4} \int \phi_u u^2 - \int G(u),$$

where  $\phi_u$  is solution of  $-\Delta \phi = u^2$ . If  $\inf_{\mathbb{R}^N} V > 0$ , there are many results. If  $\inf_{\mathbb{R}^N} V < 0$ , due to the term involving  $\phi_u$ ,  $\Phi$  **does not** have a linking

$$\inf_N \Phi > \sup_{\partial M} \Phi, \quad \text{we no longer have } \Phi \leq 0 \text{ on } X^-$$

where

$$N = \{u \in X^+ \mid \|u\| = \rho\},$$
$$M = \{u \in X^- \oplus \mathbb{R}^+ h \mid \|u\| \leq R\}.$$

Thus, unlike (4), we **can not get solution via linking theorem!**



**Thm10** (Chen & Liu(2015)). Assume  $(V_0)$   $V \in C(\mathbb{R}^3)$ ,  $\lim_{|x| \rightarrow \infty} V(x) = +\infty$ .

$(g_0)$   $g$  is subcritical,  $g(t) = o(t)$  as  $t \rightarrow 0$ .

$(g_1)$   $\exists b > 0$  s.t.  $4G(t) \leq tg(t) + bt^2$ ,  $\lim_{|t| \rightarrow \infty} \frac{g(t)}{t^3} = +\infty$ .

If 0 is not eigen value of  $-\Delta u + V(x)u = \lambda u$ , then (8) has a nonzero solution.

**Pf.** Ingredients of the proof ( $\ell = \dim X^-$ ):

(1)  $(V_0)$  allows working on subspace  $X \subset H^1(\mathbb{R}^3)$ , s.t.  $X \hookrightarrow L^2(\mathbb{R}^3)$  **comptly**.

(2)  $(g_0)$  and  $\left| \frac{1}{4} \int \phi_u u^2 \right| \leq c \|u\|^4$  give  $C_q(\Phi, 0) = \delta_{q,0} \mathbb{Q}?$

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi(u) &= \frac{1}{2} \int (|\nabla u|^2 + V(x)u^2) + \frac{1}{4} \int \phi_u u^2 - \int G(u) \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \int (|\nabla u|^2 + V(x)u^2) + o(\|u\|^2), \quad \text{as } u \rightarrow 0. \end{aligned}$$

So  $\Phi$  has a loc link at 0 w.r.p. to  $X = X^- \oplus X^+$ .  $C_\ell(\Phi, 0) \neq 0$  (see **Pro2**).

(3) Since  $C_q(\Phi, \infty) = 0$  for all  $q$ , **Pro4** yields a critical point  $u \neq 0$ .

**Rek8.** Based on Pohozaev identity (need  $V \in C^1$ ) and Ruiz(2006)

$$\int |u|^3 \leq \frac{1}{2} \int (|\nabla u|^2 + \phi_u u^2),$$

Liu & Mosconi(2020) studied the case that  $g(t) \approx |t|^{\mu-2} t$  and obtained

- \* two nontrivial solutions if  $\mu \in (2, 3)$ ,
- \* one nontrivial solution if  $\mu \in (3, 4]$ .

**Rek9.** Motivated by Liu & Mosconi(2020), Jiang & Liu(2022) got two non-trivial solutions for

$$-\left(1 + \int |\nabla u|^2\right) \Delta u + V(x) = g(u), \quad u \in H^1(\mathbb{R}^3),$$

where

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{g(t)}{t} = 0, \quad \lim_{|t| \rightarrow \infty} \frac{g(t)}{t^2} = 0;$$

and for some  $\gamma > 1$ ,  $V(x) \geq \alpha |x|^\gamma$  for  $|x| \gg 1$ , so that  $X \hookrightarrow L^{3/2}$  and

$$c \int |u|^3 \leq \left( \int |\nabla u|^2 \right)^2 + \|u\|^2.$$

## 6. Quasilinear Schrödinger equations

The quasilinear Schrödinger equation

$$-\Delta u + V(x)u - u\Delta(u^2) = g(u), \quad \text{in } H^1(\mathbb{R}^N). \quad (9)$$

is the Euler-Lagrange eqn for

$$J(u) = \frac{1}{2} \int (1 + 2u^2) |\nabla u|^2 + \frac{1}{2} \int V(x)u^2 - \int G(u),$$

but  $J$  could not be defined on all of  $H^1(\mathbb{R}^N)$ .

Liu et al.(2003), Colin & Jeanjean(2004) introduced transformation  $f$  (11) s.t. if  $v \in H^1(\mathbb{R}^N)$  is critical for  $\Phi : H^1 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ,

$$\Phi(v) = \frac{1}{2} \int (|\nabla v|^2 + V(x)f^2(v)) - \int G(f(v)),$$

then  $u = f(v)$  is solution for (9).

Since then many results appear,

\* all require  $v = 0$  is loc min for  $\Phi$  (e.g.,  $\inf_{\mathbb{R}^N} V > 0$ ),

Then MPT applies.

We consider the case that  $v = 0$  fails to be a loc min of  $\Phi$ .

Unlike in semilinear problems (4), the **principle part** of  $\Phi$ ,

$$Q(v) = \frac{1}{2} \int (|\nabla v|^2 + V(x)f^2(v))$$

is **not a quadratic form** on  $v$ , linking theorem is not applicable: We don't know how to decompose space.

Our crucial observation is that  **$\Phi$  still has a loc link at  $v = 0$** .

**Thm11** (Liu & Zhou(2018)). Assume

$$(V) \quad V \in C(\mathbb{R}^3), \quad \lim_{|x| \rightarrow \infty} V(x) = +\infty.$$

$$(g_0) \quad g \in C(\mathbb{R}^N), \quad g(t) = o(t) \text{ as } t \rightarrow 0, \quad \exists p \in (4, 2 \cdot 2^*), \\ |g(t)| \leq C(|t| + |t|^{p-1}).$$

$$(g_1) \quad \exists \mu > 4, \text{ s.t. } 0 < \mu G(t) \leq tg(t) \text{ for } t \neq 0. \quad (\text{roughly } g(t) \approx |t|^{\mu-2} t)$$

If 0 is not eigenvalue for  $-\Delta u + V(x)u = \lambda u$ , then (9) has a nontrivial solution.

**Pf.** The idea is similar to Thm 10. We only verify local linking here.

Because  $f''$  is bounded,  $f(0) = 0$ ,  $f'(0) = 1$ , we have  $Q \in C^2(X)$ ,  $Q'(0) = 0$ ,

$$\langle Q''(0)\phi, \psi \rangle = \int (\nabla\phi \cdot \nabla\psi + V(x)\phi\psi). \quad Q(v) = \frac{1}{2} \int (|\nabla v|^2 + V(x)f^2(v))$$

Hence by [Taylor](#), as  $\|v\| \rightarrow 0$ ,

$$Q(v) = Q(0) + Q'(0)v + \frac{1}{2} \langle Q''(0)v, v \rangle + o(\|v\|^2)$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \int (|\nabla v|^2 + V(x)v^2) + o(\|v\|^2)$$

$$\Phi(v) = Q(v) - \int G(f(v)) = Q(v) + o(\|v\|^2)$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \int (|\nabla v|^2 + V(x)v^2) + o(\|v\|^2)$$

Thus  $\Phi$  as a loc link w.r.p.  $X = X^- \oplus X^+$  and  $C_\ell(\Phi, 0) \neq 0$ .

**Rek10.** [Yin & Liu\(2023\)](#) got related results for

$$-\Delta u + V(x)u - \frac{u}{2\sqrt{1+u^2}} \Delta \sqrt{1+u^2} = g(u), \quad u \in H^1(\mathbb{R}^N),$$

where  $0 \leq 4G(t) \leq tg(t)$ , thus  $g(t) = t^3 \ln(1 + |t|)$  is allowed.

[Thm11](#)

## 7. QSE: $\infty$ solutions in $\mathbb{R}^N$

Let  $1 < q < 2 < s < \infty$ , consider

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta u - u\Delta(u^2) = k(x)|u|^{q-2}u - h(x)|u|^{s-2}u, \\ u \in D^{1,2}(\mathbb{R}^N). \end{cases} \quad (10)$$

As the last section, we should find critical points of

$$\Phi(v) = J(f(v)) = \frac{1}{2} \int |\nabla v|^2 - \frac{1}{q} \int k |f(v)|^q + \frac{1}{s} \int h |f(v)|^s.$$

Elliptic problems involving **concave and convex** terms

- \* great attention since **Ambrosetti et al.(1994)** and **Bartsch & Willem(1995)** on semilinear problems on bounded domain.
- \* relatively less for quasilinear Schrödinger equations, **do Ó & Severo(2009)** is the **first** in this direction (**Santos & Santos Júnior(2019)** more recent).

These and most papers on quasilinear Schrödinger equations require

$$|g(x, u)| \leq C(1 + |u|^{2^*-1}), \quad (\text{under critical})$$

here  $2^* = 2N/(N-2)$ . We allow **supercritical**.

For supercritical problems (Figueiredo et al.(2015), Liu(2016)),

- \* modify  $g(x, u)$  subcritically for  $|u|$  large,|
- \* get solutions for the problem obtained via variational methods,|
- \* solutions of truncated problem have small  $L^\infty$ -norm, thus are solutions of the original problem. |

Our approach (motivated by Liu & Li(2003b)) does not require truncation and  $L^\infty$ -estimate, geometric properties of  $f$  play essential role. Let|

$$p_0 = \frac{2N}{2N - p(N - 2)}, \quad p' = \frac{p}{p - 1}. |$$

**Thm12** (Liu & Yin(2023)). Assume

(k)  $k \in L^{q_0}(\mathbb{R}^N) \cap L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^N)$ ,  $k \geq 0$ ,  $k \not\equiv 0$ ,|

(h)  $h \in L^1(\mathbb{R}^N) \cap L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^N)$ ,  $h \geq 0$ ,

then then (10) has solutions  $u_n$  s.t.  $J(u_n) < 0$  and  $J(u_n) \rightarrow 0$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ .

**Thm13** (Liu & Yin(2023)). Assume  $(k)$  and  $(h)$ , then (10) has a nonegative solution  $u$  s.t.  $J(u) < 0$ .

**Rek11.** Thm 13 is closely related to Miyagaki & Moreira(2015), where for  $4 \leq q < s < \infty$ , problem

$$-\Delta u - \Delta(u^2) = \lambda u + k(x)|u|^{q-2}u - h(x)|u|^{s-2}u, \quad u \in H_0^1(\Omega)$$

on a bounded domain  $\Omega$  is considered.

Following Colin & Jeanjean(2004), Liu et al.(2003), let  $f$  be the odd function defined by

$$f'(t) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + 2f^2(t)}}, \quad f(0) = 0 \quad (11)$$

on  $[0, +\infty)$ .

**Pro6.** The function  $f$  possesses the following properties:

- (1)  $f \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R})$  is strictly increasing, therefore is invertible.
- (2)  $|f(t)| \leq |t|$ ,  $f'(0) = 1$ ,  $|f'(t)| \leq 1$  for all  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ .



$$(3) \quad |f(t)f'(t)| \leq 1, \quad |f(t)| \leq 2^{1/4} |t|^{1/2}.$$

(4) There exists a positive constant  $\mu$  such that

$$|f(t)| \geq \mu |t| \quad \text{for } |t| \leq 1, \quad |f(t)| \geq \mu |t|^{1/2} \quad \text{for } |t| \geq 1. \quad (12)$$

(5) For all  $t \in \mathbb{R}$  we have  $f^2(t) \geq f(t)f'(t)t \geq \frac{1}{2}f^2(t)$ .<sup>|</sup>

Let  $E$  be the completion of  $C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}^N)$  under the norm

$$\begin{aligned} \|v\| &= \|v\|_D + |h^{2/s}v|_{s/2} \\ &= \left( \int |\nabla v|^2 \right)^{1/2} + \left( \int h |v|^{s/2} \right)^{2/s}, \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

where  $\|\cdot\|_D$  and  $|\cdot|_p$  are the standard  $D^{1,2}$ -norm and  $L^p$ -norm ( $p \in [1, \infty]$ ).<sup>|</sup>

**Lem1.** If  $v \in E$  and  $\phi \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}^N)$ , then

$$\xi = \frac{\phi}{f'(v)} = \sqrt{1 + 2f^2(v)}\phi \quad (14)$$

belongs to  $E$ .

Under our assumptions on  $k$  and  $h$ , the functional  $\Phi : E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

$$\Phi(v) = J(f(v)) = \frac{1}{2} \int |\nabla v|^2 - \frac{1}{q} \int k |f(v)|^q + \frac{1}{s} \int h |f(v)|^s$$

is  $C^1$ . If  $\Phi'(v) = 0$ , by [Lem1](#) for  $\phi \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}^N)$  we have  $\xi = \phi/f'(v) \in E$ , hence  $\langle \Phi'(v), \xi \rangle = 0$ . Let  $u = f(v)$ , we have

$$0 = \left. \frac{d}{dt} \right|_{t=0} J(u + t\phi), \quad u \text{ is a weak solution of the problem (10).}$$

**Pro7.** Suppose  $s \geq 4$ . If  $v \in E$  is a critical point of  $\Phi$ , then  $\Phi(v) \leq 0$ . [Thm12](#)

**Lem2.**  $\Phi : E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is coercive.

**Pf.** Let  $\ell$  be the norm of  $D^{1,2} \hookrightarrow L^{2^*}$ ,

$$\|v_n\| = \|v_n\|_D + |h^{2/s} v_n|_{s/2} \rightarrow +\infty.$$

If  $\|v_n\|_D \rightarrow \infty$ , noting  $q < 2$  we easily have

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi(v_n) &= \frac{1}{2} \int |\nabla v_n|^2 - \frac{1}{q} \int k |v_n|^q + \frac{1}{s} \int h |f(v_n)|^s \\ &\geq \frac{1}{2} \|v_n\|_D^2 - \frac{1}{q} \ell^q |k|_{q_0} \|v_n\|_D^q \rightarrow +\infty, \end{aligned}$$

If  $\|v_n\|_D \ll \infty$ , using (12) and  $h \in L^1$  we get

$$\begin{aligned} \int h |f(v_n)|^s &= \int_{|v_n| \leq 1} h |f(v_n)|^s + \int_{|v_n| > 1} h |f(v_n)|^s \\ &\geq \mu \int_{|v_n| > 1} h |v_n|^{s/2} = \mu \int h |v_n|^{2/s} - \mu \int_{|v_n| \leq 1} h |v_n|^{2/s} \\ &\geq \mu \int h |v_n|^{2/s} - \mu \|h\|_1 \rightarrow +\infty. \end{aligned}$$

Thus

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi(v_n) &\geq \frac{1}{2} \|v_n\|_D^2 - \frac{1}{q} \ell^q |k|_{q_0} \|v_n\|_D^q \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{s} \int h |f(v_n)|^s \rightarrow +\infty. \end{aligned}$$

**Lem3.** Given  $a \in \mathbb{R}$ , the function  $\eta : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ,  $\eta(t) = |f(t)|^s$ , is convex. Hence for  $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R}$  we have

$$|f(\alpha)|^s \leq |f(\beta)|^s + s |f(\alpha)|^{s-2} f(\alpha) f'(\alpha) (\alpha - \beta). \quad (15)$$

**Lem4.**  $\Phi$  satisfies the Palais-Smale condition.

**Pf.** Any (PS) sequence  $\{v_n\} \subset E$  is bounded. Up to a subsequence

$$v_n \rightarrow v \text{ in } D^{1,2}(\mathbb{R}^N), \quad h^{2/s} v_n \rightarrow h^{2/s} v \text{ in } L^{s/2}(\mathbb{R}^N). \quad (16)$$

By [Ó\(1997\)](#),  $\psi : D^{1,2}(\mathbb{R}^N) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ,

$$\psi(v) = \int k |v|^q \text{ is weakly continuous, } \int k |v_n - v|^q \rightarrow 0. \quad (17)$$

Is  $E$  reflexive? We could not get  $v_n \rightarrow v$  in  $E$  and deduce

$$\langle \Phi'(v), v_n - v \rangle \rightarrow 0. \quad (18)$$

By Hölder and (17),

$$\int k |f(v)|^{q-2} f(v) f'(v) (v_n - v) \rightarrow 0. \quad (19)$$

By  $h^{1-2/s} |f(v)|^{s-2} f(v) f'(v) \in L^{(s/2)'}(\mathbb{R}^N)$ ,  $h^{2/s} v_n \rightarrow h^{2/s} v$  in  $L^{s/2}(\mathbb{R}^N)$  we get

$$\int h |f(v)|^{s-2} f(v) f'(v) (v_n - v) \rightarrow 0. \quad (20)$$

Claim (18) follows from (20), (16) and (19).

We also have

$$\int k (|f(v_n)|^{q-2} f(v_n) f'(v_n) - |f(v)|^{q-2} f(v) f'(v)) (v_n - v) \rightarrow 0, \quad (21)$$

$$H_n := \int h (|f(v_n)|^{s-2} f(v_n) f'(v_n) - |f(v)|^{s-2} f(v) f'(v)) (v_n - v) \geq 0$$

because  $t \mapsto s |f(t)|^{s-2} f(t) f'(t)$  is **increasing**. By (18) and (21),

$$\begin{aligned} o(1) &= \langle \Phi'(v_n) - \Phi'(v), v_n - v \rangle \\ &= \int |\nabla(v_n - v)|^2 \\ &\quad - \int k (|f(v_n)|^{q-2} f(v_n) f'(v_n) - |f(v)|^{q-2} f(v) f'(v)) (v_n - v) \\ &\quad + \int h (|f(v_n)|^{s-2} f(v_n) f'(v_n) - |f(v)|^{s-2} f(v) f'(v)) (v_n - v) \\ &= \int |\nabla(v_n - v)|^2 + H_n + o(1). \end{aligned} \quad (22)$$

Consequently, noting  $H_n \geq 0$  we deduce

$$v_n \rightarrow v \quad \text{in } D^{1,2}(\mathbb{R}^N), \quad H_n \rightarrow 0. \quad (23)$$

Since  $H_n \rightarrow 0$ , from (20) we have

$$\int h |f(v_n)|^{s-2} f(v_n) f'(v_n) (v_n - v) \rightarrow 0.$$

Replacing  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  in (15) with  $v_n$  and  $v$  respectively, we get

$$\begin{aligned} \overline{\lim}_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int h |f(v_n)|^s &\leq \int h |f(v)|^s + s \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int h |f(v_n)|^{s-2} f(v_n) f'(v_n) (v_n - v) \\ &= \int h |f(v)|^s \leq \underline{\lim}_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int h |f(v_n)|^s. \end{aligned}$$

Hence

$$\int h |f(v_n)|^s \rightarrow \int h |f(v)|^s. \quad (24)$$

Now, by the growth of  $f$  (see (12)),

$$h |v_n|^{s/2} \leq h + \frac{1}{\mu^s} h |f(v_n)|^s$$

and  $h |v_n|^{s/2} \rightarrow h |v|^{s/2}$  a.e. in  $\mathbb{R}^N$ , by Pro8 and (24) we get

$$\int h |v_n|^{s/2} \rightarrow \int h |v|^{s/2}, \quad \text{i.e., } h^{2/s} v_n|_{s/2} \rightarrow h^{2/s} v|_{s/2}.$$

But  $h^{2/s} v_n \rightarrow h^{2/s} v$  in  $L^{s/2}(\mathbb{R}^N)$ , we deduce  $h^{2/s} v_n \rightarrow h^{2/s} v$  in  $L^{s/2}(\mathbb{R}^N)$ .

Combining this with (23) we get

$$\|v_n - v\| = \|v_n - v\|_D + |h^{2/s} v_n - h^{2/s} v|_{s/2} \rightarrow 0.$$

**Pro8.** Let  $f_n, g_n : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be measurable functions over the measurable set  $\Omega$ ,  $f_n \rightarrow f$  a.e. in  $\Omega$ ,  $g_n \rightarrow g$  a.e. in  $\Omega$ ,  $|f_n| \leq g_n$ . Then

$$\int_{\Omega} |f_n - f| \rightarrow 0$$

provided  $\int_{\Omega} g_n \rightarrow \int_{\Omega} g$  and  $\int_{\Omega} g < +\infty$ .

**Rek12.** When  $g_n \equiv g$  for all  $n$ , Pro8 reduces to the usual Lebesgue dominating theorem.

**Pro9 (Wang(2001), Lemma 2.4).** Let  $E$  be a Banach space and  $\Phi \in C^1(E, \mathbb{R})$  be an even coercive functional satisfying the (PS) and  $\Phi(0) = 0$ . If for any  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , there is an  $n$ -dimensional subspace  $X_n$  and  $\rho_n > 0$  such that

$$\sup_{X_n \cap S_{\rho_n}} \Phi < 0,$$

where  $S_r = \{u \in E \mid \|u\| = r\}$ , then  $\Phi$  has a sequence of critical values  $c_n \uparrow 0$ .

## 8. QSE: $\infty$ solutions in bdd $\Omega$

He & Wu(2020) studied the following elliptic boundary value problem

$$-\Delta u + V(x)u = f(x, u), \quad u \in H_0^1(\Omega)$$

with indefinite linear part  $-\Delta + V$ , where

(1)  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^N$  is bounded;

(2) the odd nonlinearity  $f : \Omega \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is sublinear at zero:

$$\lim_{|t| \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{t^2} \int_0^t f(x, s) ds = +\infty.$$

Using truncating technique and Liu-Wang's variant of Clark's theorem Liu & Wang(2015), Theorem 1.1, they obtained a sequence of solutions converging to zero in  $H_0^1(\Omega)$ .

Motivated by He & Wu(2020), we consider Kirchhoff equation on bdd  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^N$ ,

$$-\left(1 + \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u|^2\right) \Delta u + V(x)u = f(x, u), \quad u \in H_0^1(\Omega). \quad (25)$$

Assume

Rem9



(V)  $V \in C(\Omega)$  is bounded;

(f<sub>1</sub>)  $f \in C(\Omega \times \mathbb{R})$  is subcritical, that is

$$\lim_{|t| \rightarrow \infty} \frac{f(x, t)t}{|t|^{2^*}} = 0, \quad \text{where } 2^* = \frac{2N}{N-2} \text{ is the critical exponent;}$$

(f<sub>2</sub>)  $f(x, \cdot)$  is odd for all  $x \in \Omega$ ,  $f(x, 0) = 0$ , and is sublinear at zero:

$$\lim_{|t| \rightarrow 0} \frac{F(x, t)}{t^2} = +\infty, \quad \text{where } F(x, t) = \int_0^t f(x, s) ds. \quad (26)$$

**Thm14.** Suppose (V), (f<sub>1</sub>) and (f<sub>2</sub>) hold, then the problem (25) possesses a sequence of nontrivial solutions converging to zero.

BVPs of the form (25) are related to the Kirchhoff wave equation

$$\psi_{tt} - \left( a + b \int_{\Omega} |\nabla \psi|^2 \right) \Delta \psi = g(x, \psi). \quad (\text{vibrating string, changing length})$$

Variational approach is developed to solve (25) in Alves et al.(2005), Perera & Zhang(2006), Sun & Liu(2012).

Cheng et al.(2012) considered the case  $V(x) = 0$  and

$$f(x, t) = \alpha(x) |t|^{q-2} t + g(x, t), \quad (27)$$

where  $q \in (1, 2)$ ,  $N \leq 3$  (they need  $H_0^1 \hookrightarrow L^{r>4}$ ),

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{g(x, t)}{t} = 0, \quad \lim_{|t| \rightarrow \infty} \frac{g(x, t)t}{t^4} = +\infty.$$

Furtado & Zanata(2017) also considered (25) with  $V(x) = 0$  and  $f$  as in (27); but they only imposed local conditions to  $g(x, t)$  for  $|t|$  small. Here we consider indefinite case. For Schrödinger-Poisson system on a bounded smooth domain  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^3$

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta u + V(x)u + \phi u = f(x, u) & \text{in } \Omega, \\ -\Delta \phi = u^2 & \text{in } \Omega, \\ u = \phi = 0 & \text{on } \partial\Omega, \end{cases} \quad (28)$$

we have similar result.

**Thm15.** Suppose  $(V)$ ,  $(f_1)$  and  $(f_2)$  hold, then the problem (28) possesses a sequence of nontrivial solutions  $(u_n, \phi_n) \rightarrow (0, 0)$  in  $H_0^1(\Omega) \times H_0^1(\Omega)$ .

Weak solutions of (25) are critical points of the  $C^1$ -functional  $\Phi : H_0^1(\Omega) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ,

$$\Phi(u) = \frac{1}{2} \int (|\nabla u|^2 + V(x)u) + \frac{1}{4} \left( \int |\nabla u|^2 \right)^2 - \int F(u), \quad \int = \int_{\Omega}. \quad (29)$$

Let  $E^{\pm}, E^0$  be the  $\pm$  and null spaces of the quadratic form. For  $u \in E := H_0^1(\Omega)$ ,  $u^{\pm}$  and  $u^0$  are orthogonal projections on  $E^{\pm}$  and  $E^0$ . There is an equivalent norm  $\|\cdot\|$  on  $E$  s.t.

$$\Phi(u) = \frac{1}{2} (\|u^+\|^2 - \|u^-\|^2) + \frac{1}{4} \left( \int |\nabla u|^2 \right)^2 - \int F(u). \quad (30)$$

We denote by  $(\cdot, \cdot)$  the corresponding inner product. ECHO is on. We need the following variant of the Clark's theorem.

**Thm16** (Liu & Wang(2015), Theorem 1.1). Let  $E$  is Banach space,  $\Phi \in C^1(E, \mathbb{R})$  be even and coercive, satisfying  $(PS)_{c \leq 0}$  and  $\Phi(0) = 0$ . If for any  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ , there is a  $k$ -dimensional subspace  $X_k$  and  $\rho_k > 0$  such that

$$\sup_{X_k \cap S_{\rho_k}} \Phi < 0, \quad (31)$$

where  $S_r = \{u \in E \mid \|u\| = r\}$ , then  $\Phi$  has critical points  $u_k \neq 0$  such that  $\Phi(u_k) \leq 0$ ,  $u_k \rightarrow 0$ . (Compare Pro9)

To verify  $(PS)_{c \leq 0}$  we need

**Lem5.** If  $u_n \rightarrow u$  in  $E$ , then

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left[ \left( \int |\nabla u_n|^2 \right) \int \nabla u_n \cdot \nabla (u_n - u) - \left( \int |\nabla u|^2 \right) \int \nabla u \cdot \nabla (u_n - u) \right] \geq 0. \quad (32)$$

**Pf of Thm 14.** Let  $\phi : [0, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a decreasing,  $|\phi'(t)| \leq 2$ ,

$$\phi(t) = 1 \quad \text{for } t \in [0, 1], \quad \phi(t) = 0 \quad \text{for } t \geq 2.$$

Consider truncated functional  $I : E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ,  $I(u) = \Phi(u)$  if  $\|u\| \leq 1$ , see (30)

$$I(u) = \frac{1}{2} \|u\|^2 - \frac{1}{2} \left( \|u^*\|^2 + 2 \int F(u) \right) \phi(\|u\|^2) + \frac{1}{4} \left( \int |\nabla u|^2 \right)^2, \quad (33)$$

where  $u^* = u^- + u^0 \in E^- \oplus E^0$ .  $\|u^+\|^2 - \|u^-\|^2 = \|u\|^2 - \|u^*\|^2$ . Obviously  $I$  is even. If  $\|u\| \geq 2$ , then  $\phi(\|u\|^2) = 0$ . Hence

$$\begin{aligned} I(u) &= \frac{1}{2} \|u\|^2 + \frac{1}{4} \left( \int |\nabla u|^2 \right)^2 \\ &\geq \frac{1}{2} \|u\|^2 \rightarrow +\infty, \quad \text{as } \|u\| \rightarrow \infty. \end{aligned} \quad (I \text{ is coercive})$$

To verify  $(PS)_{c \leq 0}$ , let  $\{u_n\} \subset E$  be such that

$$I(u_n) \rightarrow c \leq 0, \quad I'(u_n) \rightarrow 0.$$

Then  $\{u_n\}$  is bounded in  $E$  and we assume that  $u_n \rightarrow u$  in  $E$ . Then

$$-\left(\|u_n^*\|^2 + 2 \int F(u_n)\right) \phi(\|u_n\|^2) = 2I(u_n) - \|u_n\|^2 - \frac{1}{2} \left(\int |\nabla u_n|^2\right)^2 \leq 0.$$

Hence

$$\|u_n^*\|^2 + 2 \int F(u_n) \geq 0. \quad (34)$$

Because  $\phi'(\|u_n\|^2) \leq 0$  and

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (u_n, u_n - u) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|u_n\|^2 - \|u\|^2 \geq 0,$$

up to a further subsequence we may assume

$$\left(\|u_n^*\|^2 + 2 \int F(u_n)\right) \phi'(\|u_n\|^2) (u_n, u_n - u) \rightarrow \alpha \leq 0, \quad (35)$$

note since  $\{u_n\}$  bdd, the coefficient of  $(u_n, u_n - u)$  is bounded. By [Lem 5](#),

we may assume

$$\left( \int |\nabla u_n|^2 \right) \int \nabla u_n \cdot \nabla (u_n - u) - \left( \int |\nabla u|^2 \right) \int \nabla u \cdot \nabla (u_n - u) \longrightarrow \beta \geq 0. \quad (36)$$

By subcritical assumption  $(f_1)$  and compact embedding  $E \hookrightarrow L^2(\Omega)$ ,

$$\int f(u_n)(u_n - u) \rightarrow 0, \quad \int f(u)(u_n - u) \rightarrow 0. \quad (37)$$

Since  $\dim(E^- \oplus E^0) < \infty$ ,  $u_n^* \rightarrow u^*$ , so

$$(u_n^*, u_n^* - u^*) \rightarrow 0, \quad (u^*, u_n^* - u^*) \rightarrow 0. \quad (38)$$

We deduce from (35), (36), (37) and (38) that

$$\begin{aligned} \|u_n - u\|^2 &= \langle I'(u_n) - I'(u), u_n - u \rangle + 6 \text{ terms} \\ &= [o(1) + \alpha - \beta] \rightarrow (\alpha - \beta) \leq 0. \end{aligned} \quad (39)$$

It follows that  $u_n \rightarrow u$  in  $E$  and  $I$  satisfies  $(PS)_{c \leq 0}$  for  $c \leq 0$ . For  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ , let  $X_k$  be  $k$ -dim subspace of  $E$ . Using  $(f_2)$ , we can find  $\rho_k > 0$  s.t.

$$\sup_{X_k \cap S_{\rho_k}} I < 0.$$

By Thm 16,  $I$  has a sequence of critical points  $\{u_k\}$  such that  $u_k \rightarrow 0$  in  $E$ .

**Pf of Thm 15.** Given  $u \in H_0^1(\Omega)$ , let  $\phi_u \in H_0^1(\Omega)$  be solution of  $-\Delta\phi = u^2$ . To verify  $(PS)_{c \leq 0}$  we need analogue of Lem5.

**Lem6.** If  $u_n \rightarrow u$  in  $E = H_0^1(\Omega)$ , then

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( \int \phi_{u_n} u_n (u_n - u) - \int \phi_u u (u_n - u) \right) = 0. \quad (40)$$

**Pf.**  $\phi_u$  is obtained by applying Riesz lemma to  $\ell_u : v \mapsto \int u^2 v$  on  $E$ . Thus

$$\begin{aligned} \|\phi_u\| = \|\ell_u\| &= \sup_{\|v\|=1} \left| \int u^2 v \right| \\ &\leq \sup_{\|v\|=1} (|u^2|_3 |v|_{3/2}) = |u|_6^2 \sup_{\|v\|=1} |v|_{3/2} \leq C \|u\|^2. \end{aligned} \quad (41)$$

Since  $\{u_n\}$  is bdd,  $\{\phi_{u_n}\}$  is also bdd in  $H_0^1(\Omega)$ . But  $E \hookrightarrow L^{12/5}(\Omega)$  is compact, may assume  $u_n \rightarrow u$  in  $L^{12/5}(\Omega)$ . By Hölder,

$$\left| \int \phi_{u_n} u_n (u_n - u) \right| \leq |\phi_{u_n}|_6 |u_n|_{12/5} |u_n - u|_{12/5} \rightarrow 0,$$

Similarly, the second integral in (40) vanishes as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ .

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