

# Morse theory and nonlinear Schrödinger equations

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# 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

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

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In Perera(2003) this result is applied to solve

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



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

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

$B_\varepsilon = \{u \in X \mid \|u\| \leq \varepsilon\}$ . 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**,  $C_q(f, \infty) = \delta_{q,n}\mathbb{Q}$ .

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**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  $\alpha_{\pm} \in \psi_b$ ,  $\exists \gamma : [-1, 1] \rightarrow X$  s.t.  $\gamma(\pm 1) = \alpha_{\pm}$ . Now  $\eta \circ \gamma : [-1, 1] \rightarrow \psi_b$  is a curve in  $\psi_b$  connecting  $\alpha_{\pm}$ .

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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.

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- \* 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

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The Morse relation

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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To solve the S-P system

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

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

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

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Since then many results appear,

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

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

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  $\Phi$ ,

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

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

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**Pf.** The idea is similar to Thm10. We only verify local linking here.

Because  $f''$  is bounded,  $f(0) = 0$ ,  $f'(0) = 1$ , we have  $Q \in C^2(X)$ ,  $Q'(0) = 0$ ,  
 $\langle Q''(0)\phi, \psi \rangle = \int (\nabla\phi \cdot \nabla\psi + V(x)\phi\psi)$ .  $Q(v) = \frac{1}{2} \int (|\nabla v|^2 + V(x)f^2(v))$

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**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

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

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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**.

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(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.  $J(u) < 0$ .

**Thm13** (Liu & Yin(2023)). Assume  $(k)$  and  $(h)$ , then (10) has a nonnegative 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

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

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

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

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

(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  $f^2(t) \geq f(t)f'(t)t \geq \frac{1}{2}f^2(t).$

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

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

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**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  $\Phi : E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

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

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**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

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

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

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Consequently, noting  $H_n \geq 0$  we deduce

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

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

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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  $L^{s/2}(\mathbb{R}^N)$ .

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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

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

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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

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

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**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.

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

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



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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  $H_0^1 \hookrightarrow L^{r>4}$ ),

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**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  $\Phi : H_0^1(\Omega) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ,

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

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**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  $\Phi(0) = 0$ .

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**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

$$\sup_{X_k \cap S_{\rho_k}} \Phi < 0,$$

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.

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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)

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

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

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**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  $L^{12/5}(\Omega)$ .

**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,

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

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**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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