### 第十六届全国非线性泛函分析会议

# 鞍点约化下的临界群及变系数椭圆共振 问题

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# 1. SPR and critical groups

Let u be an isolated critical point of  $f \in C^1(X, R)$ , f(u) = c.

$$C_q(f,u) = H_q(f_c,f_c \setminus u), \qquad C_q(f,\infty) = H_q(X,f_\alpha)$$

are the critical groups of f, see [Cha93,BL97].

**Exm-1**. (1) 
$$u$$
 is loc. min.  $\implies C_q(f, u) = \delta_{q,0} \mathcal{G}$ .

- (2) u is loc. max.  $\implies C_q(f, u) = \delta_{q, \dim X} \mathcal{G}$ .
- (3) *u* nondegenerate, ind $(f, u) = \mu \implies C_a(f, u) = \delta_{a,u} \mathcal{G}$ .

#### Pro-1 (Morse inequality). Let

$$M_q = \sum_{f'(u)=0} \operatorname{rank} C_q(f,u), \qquad \beta_q = \operatorname{rank} C_q(f,\infty).$$

Then 
$$\sum_{q=0}^{\infty} M_q t^q = \sum_{q=0}^{\infty} \beta_q t^q + (1+t)Q(t).$$

[Cha93] K.-c. Chang, Infinite-dimensional Morse theory and ..., 1993.

[BL97] T. Bartsch, S. Li, Nonlinear Anal., 28(1997) 419-441.

**Pro-2**.  $X = X^- \oplus X^+$ ,  $f \in C^1(X, R)$ ,  $\kappa > 0$ ,  $\nu \in X^-$ ,  $w_{1,2} \in X^+$ :  $\pm \langle \nabla f(v + w_1) - \nabla f(v + w_2), w_1 - w_2 \rangle \ge \kappa \|w_1 - w_2\|^2$ .  $(E_{\pm})$ Then  $\exists \psi : X^- \to X^+$ ,

- (1) if  $(E_+)$  then  $\varphi(v) \triangleq f(v + \psi(v)) = \min_{w \in X^+} f(v + w)$ .
- (2) if  $(E_-)$  then  $\varphi(v) \triangleq f(v + \psi(v)) = \max f(v + w)$ .

Moreover,  $\varphi \in C^1(X, R)$ ,  $\nu$  critical for  $\varphi$  $v + \psi(v)$  critical for f..  $\Leftrightarrow$ 

**Rek-1**. In most applications min  $\{\dim X^-, \dim X^+\} < \infty$ .

**Pob-1**. What is the relation between the critical groups of f and  $\varphi$ ?

## **Thm-1** ([LL03]). In the setting of Pro2,

- (1) in case  $(E_+)$  we have  $C_q(f, \infty) \cong C_q(\varphi, \infty)$ .
- (2) in case  $(E_{-})$  with  $\ell = \dim X^{+} < \infty$ , then  $C_{q}(f, \infty) \cong C_{q-\ell}(\varphi, \infty)$ .

**Thm-2** ([Liu07]). In Pro2, 
$$(E_+)$$
,  $C_q(f, v + \psi(v)) \cong C_q(\varphi, v)$ .

Since  $\psi$  is bounded if  $\nabla f$  is ([Liu08, Lem 2.1]),

$$\nabla \varphi(\nu) = P_{-} \nabla f(\nu + \psi(\nu)),$$

if  $\nabla f = \mathbf{1}_X - K$  with  $K : X \to X$  compact, then  $\nabla \varphi = \mathbf{1}_{X^-} - Q$ .

The L-S index

$$\operatorname{ind}(\nabla f, \nu + \psi(\nu))$$
 and  $\operatorname{ind}(\nabla \varphi, \nu)$ . make sense

[LL03] S. Liu, S. Li, Commun. Contemp. Math., 5(2003) 761–773.

[Liu07] S. Liu, J. Math. Anal. Appl., 336(2007) 498–505.

[Liu08] S. Liu, Proc. Roy. Soc. Edinburgh Sect. A, 138(2008) 1281–1289.

**Cor-1** ([LM85]). 
$$E_+$$
: ind( $\nabla \varphi$ ,  $\nu$ ) = ind( $\nabla f$ ,  $\nu + \psi(\nu)$ )..

Pf. By Poincaré-Hopf, 
$$= \operatorname{ind}(\nabla f, v + \psi(v)).$$
$$\operatorname{ind}(\nabla \varphi, v) = \sum_{q=0}^{\infty} (-1)^q \operatorname{rank} C_q(\varphi, v) = \sum_{q=0}^{\infty} (-1)^q \operatorname{rank} C_q(f, v + \psi(v))$$

The dual of Thm2 for the case  $(E_{-})$  remains open until recently.

**Thm-3**. In Pro2 with case  $(E_-)$ , if  $\ell = \dim X^+ < \infty$ , then  $C_{\alpha}(f, \bar{\nu} + \psi(\bar{\nu})) \cong C_{\alpha-\ell}(\varphi, \bar{\nu})$ . (1)

$$C_q(f, \bar{\nu} + \psi(\bar{\nu})) \cong C_{q-\ell}(\varphi, \bar{\nu}).. \tag{1}$$

$$\mathsf{Cor-2}. \ (E_-) \Rightarrow \mathsf{ind}(\nabla \varphi, \nu) = (-1)^{\ell} \mathsf{ind}(\nabla f, \nu + \psi(\nu)).$$

Cor-2.  $(E_-) \Rightarrow \operatorname{Ind}(\nabla \varphi, V) = (-1)^x \operatorname{Ind}(\nabla f, V + \psi(V)).$ 

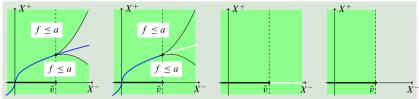
**Pf of Thm3**. Assume  $\varphi(\bar{v}) = f(\bar{v} + \psi(\bar{v})) = a$ . Note that

**Rek-2**. It follows from (1) that  $C_q(f, \bar{v} + \psi(\bar{v})) = 0$  for  $q < \ell$ ..

$$\varphi(v) = f(v + \psi(v)) = \alpha. \text{ Note that}$$

$$\varphi(v) = f(v + \psi(v)) = \max_{w \in X^+} f(v + w).$$

[LM85] A. C. Lazer, P. J. McKenna, J. Math. Anal. Appl., 107(1985) 371–395.



if  $\varphi(v) \le \alpha$ , then for any  $w \in X^+$  we have  $f(v + w) \le \alpha$ . Thus

$$f_\alpha = (\varphi_\alpha \times X^+) \cup \{(v,w)| f(v+w) \leq \alpha, \varphi(v) > \alpha\}.$$

It has been shown in the proof of Thm1 that

$$f_{\alpha} \simeq A \triangleq (\varphi_{\alpha} \times X^{+}) \cup \{ (v, w) | \varphi(v) > \alpha, w \neq \psi(v) \}$$
  
 
$$\simeq (\varphi_{\alpha} \times X^{+}) \cup ((X^{-} \setminus \varphi_{\alpha}) \times S) \triangleq B,$$

where  $S = \{w \in X^+ | w \neq 0\}$ . Define  $H : [0, 1] \times B \rightarrow B$ ,

$$H(t,(v,w)) = \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} (v,w), & \text{if } (v,w) \in \varphi_\alpha \times X^+, \\ ((1-t)v+t\bar{v},w), & \text{if } (v,w) \in (X^- \backslash \varphi_\alpha) \times S.. \end{array} \right.$$

 $H(1, \cdot)$  is a homotopy equivalance between B and  $\varphi_a \times X^+$ . We can deform  $f_a$  to  $\varphi_a \times X^+$ , with  $(\bar{\nu}, \psi(\bar{\nu}))$  to  $(\bar{\nu}, 0)$ .

Noting that 
$$(\varphi_a \times X^+) \setminus (\bar{v}, 0) = (\varphi_a \times S) \cup ((\varphi_a \setminus v) \times X^+)$$
, we have  $(f_a, f_a \setminus (\bar{v}, \psi(\bar{v}))) \simeq (\varphi_a \times X^+, (\varphi_a \times X^+) \setminus (\bar{v}, 0))$ .
$$= (\varphi_a \times X^+, (\varphi_a \times S) \cup ((\varphi_a \setminus v) \times X^+))$$

$$= (\varphi_a, \varphi_a \setminus \bar{v}) \times (X^+, S)$$
.

Passing to homology and apply Künneth,

Passing to nomology and apply kunneth, 
$$C_*(f, \bar{v} + \psi(\bar{v})) = H_*(f_a, f_a \setminus (\bar{v}, \psi(\bar{v})))$$

$$\cong H_*((\varphi_a, \varphi_a \setminus \bar{v}) \times (X^+, S)).$$

$$= H_*(\varphi_a, \varphi_a \setminus \bar{v}) \otimes H_*(X^+, S) = H_{*-\ell}(\varphi_a, \varphi_a \setminus \bar{v}) = C_{*-\ell}(\varphi, \bar{v})..$$

**Pro-3** ([Liu08, Cor 2.2]). In Pro2, if  $\nabla f: X \to X$  is bounded and  $\exists K: X \to X$  compact such that  $\nabla f = \mathbf{1}_X - K$ , then  $\nabla \varphi = \mathbf{1}_{(X^-)} - Q$ for some compact  $Q: X^- \rightarrow X^-$ .

[Liu08] S. Liu, Proc. Roy. Soc. Edinburgh Sect. A, 138(2008) 1281–1289.

**Thm-4** ([LS01, Thm 2.1]). Let  $f \in C^1(X, \mathbb{R})$  satisfy (*PS*), bounded from below. If  $C_{\ell}(f, \mathbf{0}) \neq 0$  for some  $\ell \neq 0$ , then f has three critical points. homological 3 Cr.Pts.Thm.

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## 2. Applications of SPR

SPR was introduced by [Ama79], and used by many people. [Cha93,Lon90] used SPR for periodic solutions of HS:

$$-J\dot{z}=H'(t,z)$$

in the case  $|H''(t,z)| \leq C$ .

Strongly indefinite functional reduces to finite dim function.

In [Liu09], an approach for computing  $C_*(f, \infty)$  via SPR (Thm1), Alexander dual theorem, is developed.

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[Ama79] H. Amann, Math. Z., 169(1979) 127–166.
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[Cha93] K.-c. Chang, Infinite-dimensional Morse theory and ..., 1993.

[Lon90] Y. M. Long, Sci. China Ser. A, 33(1990) 1409–1419.

[Liu09] S. Liu, Nonlinear Anal., 70(2009) 1965–1974.

### Elliptic BVP: 0 is loc min ( $\rho_0 < \lambda_1$ )

Notations 
$$\lim_{|t| \to 0} \frac{p(x,t)}{t} = p_0$$
,  $\lim_{|t| \to \infty} \frac{p(x,t)}{t} = p_\infty$ , 
$$-\Delta u = p(x,u), \quad u \in H_0^1(\Omega). \tag{2}$$

$$f(u) = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u|^2 dx - \int_{\Omega} P(x, u) dx.$$

**Thm-5** ([CC94]).  $p \in C^1(\mathbb{R})$ ,  $p_0 < \lambda_1$ ,  $p'(t) \le \gamma < \lambda_{m+1}$ . If  $p_\infty \in (\lambda_m, \lambda_{m+1})$ , then (2) has 5 solutions.

[CC94] A. Castro, J. Cossio, SIAM J. Math. Anal., 25(1994) 1554–1561.

**Thm-6** ([LZ99]).  $p \in C^1(\mathbb{R}), p_0 < \lambda_1, p'(t) \le \gamma < \lambda_{m+1}$ . If  $p_{\infty} = \lambda_m$ ,

$$(p_{3}) \exists \alpha \in [0, 1), |p(t) - \lambda_{m} t| \leq C(1 + |t|^{\alpha}),$$

$$\lim_{|t| \to \infty} \frac{1}{|t|^{2\alpha}} \left( P(t) - \frac{1}{2} \lambda_{m} t^{2} \right) = +\infty,$$

then (2) has 5 solutions...

**Thm-7** ([Liu07]). 
$$p \in C^1(\mathbb{R}), p_0 < \lambda_1, p'(t) \le \gamma < \lambda_{m+1}$$
. If  $p_{\infty} = \lambda_m$ ,

$$\lim_{|t|\to\infty}\left(P(t)-\frac{1}{2}\lambda_mt^2\right)=+\infty,$$

then (2) has 5 solutions.

[LZ99] S. Li, Z. Zhang, Discrete Contin. Dynam. Systems, 5(1999) 489–493.[Liu07] S. Liu, J. Math. Anal. Appl., 336(2007) 498–505.

## **2.2.** Elliptic BVP: 0 is not loc min $(p_0 > \lambda_1)$

Assume f has a local linking at  $\mathbf{0}$ .

Thm-8 ([LW98]). 
$$p \in C^{1}(\Omega \times \mathbb{R})$$
,  
 $(p_{3}^{-}) \exists \alpha \in [0, 1), |p(x, t) - \lambda_{m}t| \leq C(1 + |t|^{\alpha}).$  (so  $p_{\infty} = \lambda_{m}$ )  

$$\lim_{|t| \to \infty} |t|^{-2\alpha} (2P(x, t) - \lambda_{m}t^{2}) = -\infty,$$

 $\partial_t p(x,t) \ge \gamma > \lambda_{m-1}$ , then (2) has 3 solutions.

used to control ind(f, u), and compute  $C_*(f, u)$ .

Thm-9 ([LTW00]). 
$$p \in C(\Omega \times \mathbb{R})$$
,  $\exists \beta < \lambda_{m+1}$ , (2) has 3 sols if  $\frac{p(x,t) - p(x,s)}{t-s} \le \beta$ ,  $\lim_{|t| \to \infty} \left(2P(x,t) - \lambda_m t^2\right) = +\infty$ .

[LW98] S. Li, M. Willem, NoDEA, 5(1998) 479–490. [LTW00] S. Liu, C. Tang, X. Wu, J. Math. Anal. Appl., 249(2000) 289–299.

Thm-10 ([Liu08]). 
$$p \in C(\Omega \times \mathbb{R})$$
,  $\exists \beta > \lambda_{m-1}$ , (2) has 3 sols if  $\left| \frac{p(x,t)}{t} \right| \le \Lambda$ ,  $\frac{p(x,t) - p(x,s)}{t-s} \ge \beta$ ,  $\lim_{|t| \to \infty} \left( 2P(x,t) - \lambda_m t^2 \right) = -\infty$ .

- (1) In Thm 9, since dim  $X^- < \infty$ , [LTW00] first observed that although f not (PS), the reduced  $\varphi$  anti-coercive...
- (2) In Thm 10,

$$X^{-} = \bigoplus_{i \geq m} \ker(-\Delta - \lambda_i).$$

Since dim  $X^- = \infty$ , it is difficult to prove  $\varphi$  coercive.. To overcome we proved a non vanishing lemma (Lem2)...

(3) Thm9, Thm10 rely on the fact that if f has a local linking at 0, so has  $\varphi$ 

NOT TRUE if  $p_0$  and  $p_{\infty}$  depend on x.

[Liu08] S. Liu, Proc. Roy. Soc. Edinburgh Sect. A, 138(2008) 1281–1289. [LTW00] S. Liu, C. Tang, X. Wu, J. Math. Anal. Appl., 249(2000) 289–299.

(a) for constant case, decompose at 0 and  $\infty$  W.R.T.

$$-\Delta u = \lambda u, \qquad u \in H_0^1(\Omega).$$

(b) for variable case, at 0 and  $\infty$  decomp W.R.T.

$$-\Delta u = \lambda p_0(x)u$$
 and  $-\Delta u = \lambda p_\infty(x)u$ .

There is a twist!

Local linking of f does not descend to  $\varphi$ .

We need Thm3.

# 3. Variable coefficients problems

Consider

$$-\Delta u = p(x, u), \qquad u \in H_0^1(\Omega). \tag{3}$$

Assume  $p \in C(\Omega \times \mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R})$ ,

$$|p(x,t)| \le \Lambda |t| \,. \tag{4}$$

Set  $\mathscr{C} = C(\bar{\Omega})$ . The for  $p \in \mathscr{C}$ ,

$$-\Delta u = \lambda p(x)u, \qquad u \in H_0^1(\Omega) \tag{5}$$

has eigenvalues  $-\infty < \lambda_1(p) < \lambda_2(p) < \cdots$ . Assume  $\exists p_0 \in \mathscr{C}$ ,

$$G(x,t) \triangleq P(x,t) - \frac{1}{2}p_0(x)t^2 = o(t^2),$$
 as  $|t| \to 0$ .

If  $\lambda_k(p_0) = 1$ , assume further

$$(P_0^{\pm}) \ \exists \delta > 0, \ \pm G(x, t) > 0 \text{ for } 0 < |t| \le \delta.$$
 (local linking)

$$(P_{\infty}^{\pm}) \exists p_{\infty} \in \mathscr{C}, \lambda_m(p_{\infty}) = 1, \lim_{|t| \to \infty} \left( P(x, t) - \frac{1}{2} p_{\infty}(x) t^2 \right) = \pm \infty.$$

**Rek-3.** If 
$$\lim_{|t|\to\infty}\frac{p(x,t)}{t}=p_\infty(x)$$
,  $\forall i,\ 1\neq\lambda_i(p_\infty)$ , no  $(P_\pm^\infty)$ .

Denote  $\lambda_i^0 = \lambda_i(p_0)$ ,  $\lambda_i^\infty = \lambda_i(p_\infty)$ ,

$$d_n^0 = \sum_{i=1}^n \ker(-\Delta - \lambda_i^0 p_0), \qquad d_n^\infty = \sum_{i=1}^n \ker(-\Delta - \lambda_i^\infty p_\infty).$$

For  $a, b \in C(\bar{\Omega})$ ,  $a \leq b$  if  $a \leq b$  and a < b on  $\tilde{\Omega} \subset \Omega$ ,  $|\tilde{\Omega}| > 0$ .

**Thm-11**. Assume (4),  $(P_{\infty}^+)$ . If  $\exists \beta \leq \lambda_{m+1}^{\infty} p_{\infty}$  s.t.

$$(p(x,t)-p(x,s))(t-s) \le \beta(x)(t-s)^2,$$

then (3) has two nontrivial solutions in one of

- (1)  $(P_0^+)$ ,  $d_k^0 \neq d_m^\infty$ ,
- (2)  $(P_0^-)$ ,  $d_{k-1}^0 \neq d_{\infty}^{\infty}$ .

**Thm-12**. Assume (4),  $(P_{\infty}^{-})$ . If  $\exists \beta \succeq \lambda_{m-1}^{\infty} p_{\infty}$  s.t.

$$(p(x,t)-p(x,s))(t-s)\geq \beta(x)(t-s)^2,$$

then (3) has two nontrivial solutions in one of

- $(1) \ (P_0^+), \, d_k^0 \neq d_{m-1}^\infty,$
- (2)  $(P_0^-)$ ,  $d_{k-1}^0 \neq d_{m-1}^\infty$ .
- **Rek-4**. (1) Thm11 is easier than Thm12: the reduced functional is finite dim.
  - (2) In Thm11, instead of (4), it suffices to assume subcritical growth.

### 4. Proof of Thm 12

We find critical points of  $f: H_0^1(\Omega) \to \mathbb{R}$ ,

$$f(u) = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u|^2 \, dx - \int_{\Omega} P(x, u) dx.$$

**Lem-1**. 
$$(P_0^+) \Longrightarrow C_{d_k^0}(f, \mathbf{0}) \neq 0$$
.  $(P_0^-) \Longrightarrow C_{d_{k-1}^0}(f, \mathbf{0}) \neq 0$ ..

**Pf**. For  $(P_0^-)$ , set  $V_0 = \ker(-\Delta - \lambda_k^0 p_0)$ ,

$$V_{-} = \bigoplus_{i < k} \ker(-\Delta - \lambda_i^0 p_0), \qquad V_{+} = \overline{\bigoplus_{i > k} \ker(-\Delta - \lambda_i^0 p_0)}.$$

Then dim  $V_- = d_{k-1}^0$ . We can show that for ||u|| small  $f(u) \le 0$ ,  $u \in V_-$ , f(u) > 0,  $u \in V_0 \oplus V_+ \setminus \mathbf{0}$ . (local linking) The desired result will then follow from [Liu89].

[Liu89] J. Q. Liu, Systems Sci. Math. Sci., 2(1989) 32–39.

$$X^{-} = \overline{\bigoplus_{i \geq m} \ker(-\Delta - \lambda_{i}^{\infty} p_{\infty})}, \qquad X^{+} = \bigoplus_{i < m} \ker(-\Delta - \lambda_{i}^{\infty} p_{\infty}).$$

 $\beta \succeq \lambda_{m-1}^{\infty} p_{\infty}$  implies

$$-\langle \nabla f(\nu+w_1) - \nabla f(\nu+w_2), \, w_1-w_2 \rangle \geq \kappa \|w_1-w_2\|.$$

Applying Pro 2, we obtain a reduced  $\varphi \in C^1(X^-, \mathbb{R})$ . Coercive?.

**Pob-2**. For  $||v_n|| \to \infty$ , since dim  $X^- = \infty$ , the weak limit of  $\|v_n\|^{-1}v_n$  may be the zero element in  $X^-$ ,  $(P_{\infty}^-)$  not apply.

As [Liu08], we consider  $f_1 = f|_{X^-}$ . Then  $f_1 \in C^1(X^-, \mathbb{R})$ .

**Lem-2** (NVL). Let  $\{v_n\} \subset X^-$  such that  $f_1(v_n) \leq c$  and  $\|v_n\| \to c$  $\infty$ . Set  $v_n^0 = ||v_n||^{-1} v_n$ . Then up to sub,  $v_n^0 \to v^0 \neq \mathbf{0}$ ..

**Pf** (In [Liu08],  $\nabla f_1(v_n) \rightarrow 0$ ). Up to sub,  $v_n^0 \rightarrow v^0$  in  $X^-$ , and  $v_n^0 \to v^0$  in  $L^2(\Omega)$ .

[Liu08] S. Liu, Proc. Roy. Soc. Edinburgh Sect. A, 138(2008) 1281–1289.

By (4),  $|2P(x,t)| \le \Lambda |t|^2$ ,

$$2c \ge 2f_1(v_n) = \int_{\Omega} |\nabla v_n|^2 \, dx - \int_{\Omega} 2P(x, v_n) dx.$$
  
 
$$\ge \int_{\Omega} |\nabla v_n|^2 \, dx - \Lambda \int_{\Omega} |v_n|^2 \, dx = ||v_n||^2 - \Lambda |v_n|_2^2 \, .$$

Div by  $\|v_n\|^2$  yields  $2c\|v_n\|^{-2} \ge 1 - \Lambda |v_n|^2$ , we get  $|v^0|_2^2 \ge \Lambda^{-1}$ .

**Lem-3**.  $f_1$  is coercive and bounded from below.

Pf. Assume for contradiction

$$f_1(v_n) \le c, \qquad ||v_n|| \to \infty.$$
 (6)

Let  $v_n^0 = ||v_n||^{-1} v_n$ , by Lem2, up to sub  $v_n^0 \to v^0 \neq \mathbf{0}$ . Let

$$\Theta = \left\{ x \in \Omega | \ \nu^0(x) \neq 0 \right\},\,$$

then  $|\Theta| > 0$ . For  $x \in \Theta$  we have  $|v_n(x)| = ||v_n|| |v_n^0(x)| \to \infty$ .

By  $(P_{\infty}^{-})$  and Fatou,

$$\int_{\Theta} \left( \frac{1}{2} p_{\infty}(x) v_n^2 - P(x, v_n) \right) dx \to +\infty, \quad \text{as } n \to \infty.$$

 $(P_{\infty}^{-})$  implies  $\exists M > 0$  such that

$$\frac{1}{2}p_{\infty}(x)t^2 - P(x,t) \ge -M, \qquad (x,t) \in \Omega \times \mathbb{R}.$$

Therefore 
$$f_1(v_n) = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega} |\nabla v_n|^2 dx - \int_{\Omega} P(x, v_n) dx$$
  

$$\geq \int_{\Omega} \left( \frac{1}{2} p_{\infty}(x) v_n^2 - P(x, v_n) \right) dx.$$

$$= \left( \int_{\Theta} + \int_{\Omega \setminus \Theta} \right) \left( \frac{1}{2} p_{\infty}(x) v_n^2 - P(x, v_n) \right) dx$$

$$\geq \int_{\Theta} \left( \frac{1}{2} p_{\infty}(x) v_n^2 - P(x, v_n) \right) dx - M |\Omega \setminus \Theta| \to +\infty.$$

**Rek-5**. In [Liu08], old NVL (Lem 2) is used to show  $f_1$  (PS), then obtain coerciveness of  $f_1$  via [Li86].

The new approach does not use derivative information and much simpler..

**Lem-4**. In Thm12,  $\varphi$  is coercive, bounded from below, (PS)...

**Pf**. From the coerciveness of  $f_1$  and

$$\varphi(v) = \max_{w \in X^+} f(v+w) \ge f(v) = f_1(v),$$

 $\varphi$  is also coercive and b.f.b.. In particular, any (PS) sequence of  $\varphi$  is bounded. By Pro 3,  $\nabla \varphi = \mathbf{1} - \text{comp. So } \varphi$  satisfies (PS).

**Pf of Thm12**. We prove the case (i). By Lem4,  $\varphi$  satisfies the (*PS*) condition, and bounded from below. Note that

$$\ell = \dim X^+ = d_{m-1}^{\infty},$$

by Thm3 and Lem1 we obtain

$$C_{d_k^0 - d_{m-1}^{\infty}}(\varphi, \mathbf{0}) \cong C_{d_k^0}(f, \mathbf{0}) \neq 0.$$
 (7)

Now, if  $d_k^0 \neq d_{m-1}^{\infty}$ , the result follows from Thm4..

**Rek-6**. (1) Seems to be the first real application of Thm4.

(2) In our paper, actually we study elliptic systems.

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta u = F_u(x, u, v), & \text{in } \Omega, \\ -\Delta v = F_v(x, u, v), & \text{in } \Omega, \\ u = v = 0, & \text{on } \partial \Omega, \end{cases}$$

Our results improve those of [FdP].

[FdP] M. F. Furtado, F. O. V. de Paiva, Bull. Aust. Math. Soc, (in press).

# Thank you!

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