

# Existence of Weak Solutions for Elliptic Nonlinear System in $\mathbb{R}^N$

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**Abstract** We study the nonuniformly elliptic, nonlinear system 
$$\begin{cases} -\operatorname{div}(h_1(x)\nabla u) = f(x, u, v) & \text{in } \mathbb{R}^N \\ -\operatorname{div}(h_2(x)\nabla v) = g(x, u, v) & \text{in } \mathbb{R}^N \end{cases}$$
 Under growth and regularity conditions on the nonlinearities  $f$  and  $g$ , we obtain weak solutions in a subspace of the Sobolev space  $H^1(\mathbb{R}^N, \mathbb{R}^2)$  by applying a variant of the Mountain Pass Theorem.

**Keywords:** nonuniformly elliptic, nonlinear systems, mountain pass theorem, weakly continuously differentiable functional

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## 1. Introduction

We study the nonuniformly elliptic, nonlinear system

$$\begin{cases} -\operatorname{div}(h_1(x)\nabla u) = f(x, u, v) & \text{in } \mathbb{R}^N \\ -\operatorname{div}(h_2(x)\nabla v) = g(x, u, v) & \text{in } \mathbb{R}^N \end{cases}$$

where  $N \geq 3, h_i \in L^1_{loc}(\mathbb{R}^N), h_i(x) \geq 1, i = 1, 2$ .

System (1.1), There, under appropriate growth and regularity conditions on the functions  $f(x, u, v)$  and  $g(x, u, v)$ , the weak solutions are exactly the critical points of a functional defined on a Hilbert space of functions  $u, v$  in  $H^1(\mathbb{R}^N)$ . In the scalar case, the problem

$$-\operatorname{div}(|x|^\alpha \nabla u) + b(x)u = f(x, u) \text{ in } \mathbb{R}^N$$

with  $N \geq 3$  and  $\alpha \in (0, 2)$ , has been studied by Mihailescu and Radulescu [12]. In this situation, the authors overcome the lack of compactness of the problem by using the Caffarelli-Kohn-Nirenberg inequality

In this paper, we consider (1.1) which may be a nonuniformly elliptic system. We shall reduce (1.1) to a uniformly elliptic system by using appropriate weighted Sobolev spaces. Then applying a variant of the Mountain pass theorem in [9], we prove the existence of weak solutions of system (1.1) in a subspace of  $H^1(\mathbb{R}^N, \mathbb{R}^2)$ .

To prove our main results, we introduce the following some hypotheses:

(H.1) There exists a function  $F(x, w) \in C^1(\mathbb{R}^N \times \mathbb{R}^2, \mathbb{R})$  such that 
$$\frac{\partial F}{\partial u}(x, w) = f(x, w), \frac{\partial F}{\partial v}(x, w) = g(x, w), \text{ for all } x \in \mathbb{R}^N, w = (u, v) \in \mathbb{R}^2 \quad (H.2)$$

$$f(x, w), g(x, w) \in C^1(\mathbb{R}^N \times \mathbb{R}^2, \mathbb{R}),$$

$$f(x, 0, 0) = g(x, 0, 0) = 0,$$

for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}^N$ , there exists a positive constant  $\alpha$  such that

$$|\nabla f(x, w)| + |\nabla g(x, w)| \leq \alpha |w|^{p-1}$$

for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}^N, w = (u, v) \in \mathbb{R}^2$ .

(H.3) There exists a constant  $\beta > 2$  such that

$$0 < \beta F(x, w) < wF(x, w)$$

for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}^N, w \in \mathbb{R}^2 \setminus \{(0, 0)\}$ .

Let  $H^1(\mathbb{R}^N, \mathbb{R}^2)$  be the usual Sobolev space under the norm

$$\|w\| = \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} (|\nabla u|^2 + |\nabla v|^2 + |u|^2 + |v|^2) dx,$$

$$w = (u, v) \in H^1(\mathbb{R}^N, \mathbb{R}^2)$$

Consider the subspace

$$E = \left\{ (u, v) \in H^1(\mathbb{R}^N, \mathbb{R}^2) : \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} (|\nabla u|^2 + |\nabla v|^2) dx < \infty \right\}$$

Then  $E$  is a Hilbert space with the norm

$$\|w\|_E^2 = \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} (|\nabla u|^2 + |\nabla v|^2) dx$$

It is clear that

$$\|w\|_E \geq \gamma \|w\|_{H^1(\mathbb{R}^N, \mathbb{R}^2)}, \forall w \in E, \gamma > 0.$$

and the embeddings  $E \hookrightarrow H^1(\mathbb{R}^N, \mathbb{R}^2) \hookrightarrow L^q(\mathbb{R}^N, \mathbb{R}^2), 2 \leq q \leq 2^*$  are continuous.

moreover, the embedding  $E \hookrightarrow L^2(\mathbb{R}^N, \mathbb{R}^2)$  is compact (see [8]). we now introduce the space

$$H = \left\{ (u, v) \in E : \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} (h_1(x)|\nabla u|^2 + h_2(x)|\nabla v|^2) dx < \infty \right\}$$

endowed with the norm

$$\|w\|_H^2 = \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} (h_1(x)|\nabla u|^2 + h_2(x)|\nabla v|^2) dx$$

### 1.1. Remark

Since  $h_1(x) \geq 1, h_2(x) \geq 1$  for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}^N$  we have  $\|w\|_E \leq \|w\|_H$  with  $\forall w \in H$  and  $C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}^N, \mathbb{R}^2) \subset H$ .

### 1.2. Proposition

The set  $H$  is a Hilbert space with the inner product

$$\langle w_1, w_2 \rangle = \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} (h_1(x)\nabla u_1\nabla u_2 + h_2(x)\nabla v_1\nabla v_2) dx$$

for all  $w_1 = (u_1, u_2), w_2 = (v_1, v_2) \in H$ .

**Proof.** It suffices to check that any Cauchy sequences  $\{\omega_m\}$  in  $H$  converges to  $\omega \in H$ . Indeed, let  $\{\omega_m\} = \{(u_m, v_m)\}$  be a Cauchy sequence in  $H$ . Then

$$\lim_{m, k \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} \left( h_1(x)|\nabla u_m - \nabla u_k|^2 + h_2(x)|\nabla v_m - \nabla v_k|^2 \right) dx = 0$$

and  $\{\|\omega_m\|_H\}$  is bounded. Moreover, by Remark 1.1,  $\{\omega_m\}$  is also a Cauchy sequence in  $E$ . Hence the sequence  $\{\omega_m\}$  converges to  $\omega = (u, v) \in E$ ; i.e.,

$$\lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} (h_1(x)|\nabla u_m - \nabla u|^2 + h_2(x)|\nabla v_m - \nabla v|^2) dx = 0$$

It follows that  $\{\nabla \omega_m = (\nabla u_m, \nabla v_m)\}$  converges to  $\nabla \omega = (\nabla u, \nabla v)$  and  $\{\omega_m\}$  converges to  $\omega$  in  $L^2(\mathbb{R}^N, \mathbb{R}^2)$ . Therefore  $\{\nabla \omega_m(x)\}$  converges to  $\{\nabla \omega(x)\}$  and  $\{\omega_m(x)\}$  converges to  $\omega(x)$  for almost everywhere  $x \in \mathbb{R}^N$ . Applying Fatou's lemma we get

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} (h_1(x)|\nabla u|^2 + h_2(x)|\nabla v|^2) dx \leq \liminf_{m \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} (h_1(x)|\nabla u_m|^2 + h_2(x)|\nabla v_m|^2) dx < \infty$$

Hence  $\omega = (u, v) \in H$ . Applying again Fatou's lemma

$$0 \leq \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} (h_1(x)|\nabla u_m - \nabla u|^2 + h_2(x)|\nabla v_m - \nabla v|^2) dx \leq \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \left[ \liminf_{k \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} \left( h_1(x)|\nabla u_m - \nabla u_k|^2 + h_2(x)|\nabla v_m - \nabla v_k|^2 \right) dx \right] = 0$$

We conclude that  $\{\omega_m(x)\}$  converges to  $\omega = (u, v)$  in  $H$ .

### 1.3. Definition

We say that  $\omega = (u, v) \in H$  is a weak solution of system (1.1) if

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} (h_1(x)\nabla u\nabla \phi + h_2(x)\nabla v\nabla \psi) dx - \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} (f(x, u, v)\phi + g(x, u, v)\psi) dx = 0$$

for all  $\phi = (\phi, \psi) \in H$ .

Our main result is stated as follows.

### 1.4. Theorem

Let (H.1) and (H.3) are satisfied, the system (1.1) has at least one non-trivial weak solution in  $H$ .

This theorem will be proved by using variational techniques based on a variant of the Mountain pass theorem in [9]. Let us define the functional  $J : H \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  given by

$$J(w) = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} (h_1(x)|\nabla u|^2 + h_2(x)|\nabla v|^2) dx - \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} F(x, u, v) dx = T(w) - P(w)$$

for  $w = (u, v) \in H$ ,

where

$$T(w) = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} (h_1(x)|\nabla u|^2 + h_2(x)|\nabla v|^2) dx$$

$$P(w) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} F(x, u, v) dx$$

## 2. Existence of weak solutions

In general, due to  $h(x) \in L^1_{loc}(\mathbb{R}^N)$ , the functional  $J$  may be not belong to  $C^1(H)$ , (in this work, we do not completely care whether the functional  $J$  belongs to  $C^1(H)$  or not). This means that we cannot apply directly the Mountain pass theorem by Ambrosetti-Rabinowitz (see [4]), we recall the following concept of weakly continuous differentiability. Our approach is based on a weak version of the Mountain pass theorem by Duc (see [9]).

### 2.1. Definition

Let  $J$  be a functional from a Banach space  $Y$  into  $\mathbb{R}$ . We say that  $J$  is weakly continuously differentiable on

$Y$  if and only if the following conditions are satisfied (i)  $J$  is continuous on  $Y$ . (ii) For any  $u \in Y$ , there exists a linear map  $DJ(u)$  from  $Y$  into  $\mathbb{R}$  such that  $\lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{J(u+tv) - J(u)}{t} = \langle DJ(u), v \rangle, v \in Y$ . (iii) For any  $v \in Y$ , the map  $u \mapsto \langle DJ(u), v \rangle$ ,  $v$  is continuous on  $Y$ .

We denote by  $C_w^1(Y)$  the set of weakly continuously differentiable functionals on  $Y$ . It is clear that  $C^1(Y) \subset C_w^1(Y)$ , where  $C^1(Y)$  is the set of all continuously Frechet differentiable functionals on  $Y$ . The following proposition concerns the smoothness of the functional  $J$

**2.2. Proposition**

Under the assumptions of Theorem 1.4, the functional  $J(w), w \in H$  given by (1.3) is weakly continuously differentiable on  $H$  and

$$\langle DJ(w), \varphi \rangle = \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} (h_1(x) \nabla u \nabla \phi + h_2(x) \nabla v \nabla \psi) dx - \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} (f(x, u, v) \phi + g(x, u, v) \psi) dx$$

for all  $w = (u, v), \varphi = (\phi, \psi) \in H$ .

**Proof.** By conditions (H1) -- (H3) and the embedding  $H \hookrightarrow E$  is continuous, it can be shown (cf. [15], Theorem A.VI) that the functional  $P$  is well-defined and of class  $C^1(H)$ . Moreover, we have

$$\langle DP(w), \varphi \rangle = \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} (f(x, u, v) \phi + g(x, u, v) \psi) dx$$

for all  $w = (u, v), \varphi = (\phi, \psi) \in H$ .

Next, we prove that  $T$  is continuous on  $H$ . Let  $\{\omega_m\}$  be a sequence converging to  $w$  in  $H$ , where  $\omega_m = (u_m, v_m), m = 1, 2, \dots, \omega = (u, v)$  Then

$$\lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} (h_1(x) |\nabla u_m - \nabla u|^2 + h_2(x) |\nabla v_m - \nabla v|^2) dx = 0$$

and  $\{\|\omega_m\|_H\}$  is bounded. Observe further that

$$\begin{aligned} & \left| \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} (h_1(x) |\nabla u_m|^2) dx - \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} h_1(x) |\nabla u|^2 dx \right| \\ &= \left| \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} h_1(x) (|\nabla u_m|^2 - |\nabla u|^2) dx \right| \\ &\leq \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} h_1(x) \left| |\nabla u_m|^2 - |\nabla u|^2 \right| dx \\ &\leq \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} h_1(x) |\nabla u_m - \nabla u| |\nabla u_m| dx \\ &\quad + \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} h_1(x) |\nabla u_m - \nabla u| |\nabla u| dx \\ &\leq \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} h_1(x) |\nabla u_m - \nabla u|^2 dx \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} h_1(x) |\nabla u_m|^2 dx \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \\ &\quad + \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} h_1(x) |\nabla u_m - \nabla u|^2 dx \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} h_1(x) |\nabla u|^2 dx \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \\ &\leq (\|\omega_m\|_H + \|\omega\|_H) \|\omega_m - \omega\|_H. \end{aligned}$$

Similarly, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & \left| \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} (h_2(x) |\nabla v_m|^2) dx - \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} h_2(x) |\nabla v|^2 dx \right| \\ &\leq (\|\omega_m\|_H + \|\omega\|_H) \|\omega_m - \omega\|_H \end{aligned}$$

From the above inequalities, we obtain

$$|T(\omega_m) - T(\omega)| \leq 2(\|\omega_m\|_H + \|\omega\|_H) \|\omega_m - \omega\|_H \rightarrow 0$$

as  $m \rightarrow \infty$ .

Thus  $T$  is continuous on  $H$ . Next we prove that for all  $w = (u, v), \varphi = (\phi, \psi) \in H$ .

$$\langle DJ(w), \varphi \rangle = \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} (h_1(x) \nabla u \nabla \phi + h_2(x) \nabla v \nabla \psi) dx$$

Indeed, for any,  $w = (u, v), \varphi = (\phi, \psi) \in H$ , any  $t \in (-1, 1) \setminus \{0\}$  and  $x \in \mathbb{R}^N$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \left| \frac{h_1(x) |\nabla u + t \nabla \phi|^2 - h_1(x) |\nabla u|^2}{t} \right| \\ &= \left| 2 \int_0^1 h_1(x) (\nabla u + st \nabla \phi) \nabla \phi ds \right| \\ &\leq 2h_1(x) (|\nabla u| + |\nabla \phi|) |\nabla \phi| \\ &\leq h_1(x) |\nabla u|^2 + 3h_1(x) |\nabla \phi|^2. \end{aligned}$$

Since

$$\begin{aligned} & h_1(x) |\nabla u|^2 \in L^1(\mathbb{R}^N), h_1(x) |\nabla \phi|^2 \in L^1(\mathbb{R}^N), \\ & g(x) = h_1(x) |\nabla u|^2 + 3h_1(x) |\nabla \phi|^2 \in L^1(\mathbb{R}^N). \end{aligned}$$

Applying Lebesgue's Dominated convergence theorem we get

$$\begin{aligned} & \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} \frac{h_1(x) |\nabla u + t \nabla \phi|^2 - h_1(x) |\nabla u|^2}{t} dx \\ &= 2 \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} h_1(x) \nabla u \nabla \phi dx \end{aligned}$$

Similarly, we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} \frac{h_2(x) |\nabla v + t \nabla \psi|^2 - h_2(x) |\nabla v|^2}{t} dx \\ &= 2 \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} h_2(x) \nabla v \nabla \psi dx \end{aligned}$$

Combining (2.2) - (2.3), we deduce that

$$\begin{aligned} \langle DT(w), \varphi \rangle &= \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{T(w + t\varphi) - T(w)}{t} \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} (h_1(x) \nabla u \nabla \phi + h_2(x) \nabla v \nabla \psi) dx \end{aligned}$$

Thus  $T$  is weakly differentiable on  $H$ .

Let  $\varphi = (\phi, \psi) \in H$  be fixed. We now prove that the map  $w \mapsto \langle DT(w), \varphi \rangle$  is continuous on  $H$ . Let  $\{\omega_m\}$  be a sequence converging to  $\omega$  in  $H$ . We have

$$\begin{aligned} & |\langle DT(\omega_m), \varphi \rangle - \langle DT(\omega), \varphi \rangle| \\ &\leq \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} h_1(x) |\nabla u_m - \nabla u| |\nabla \phi| dx \\ &\quad + \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} h_2(x) |\nabla v_m - \nabla v| |\nabla \psi| dx \end{aligned}$$

It follows by applying Cauchy's inequality that

$$\begin{aligned} & \left| \langle DT(\omega_m), \varphi \rangle - \langle DT(\omega), \varphi \rangle \right| \\ & \leq 2 \|\varphi\|_H \|\omega_m - \omega\|_H \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } m \rightarrow \infty. \end{aligned}$$

Thus the map  $w \mapsto \langle DT(w), \varphi \rangle$ , is continuous on  $H$  and we conclude that functional  $T$  is weakly continuously differentiable on  $H$ . Finally,  $J$  is weakly continuously differentiable on  $H$ .

**2.3. Remark**

From Proposition 2.2 we observe that the weak solutions of system (1.1) correspond to the critical points of the functional  $J(w), w \in H$  given by (1.3) Thus our idea is to apply a variant of the Mountain pass theorem in [9] for obtaining non-trivial critical points of  $J$  and thus they are also the non-trivial weak solutions of system (1.1).

**2.4. Proposition**

The functional  $J(w), w \in H$  given by (1.3) satisfies the Palais-Smale condition.

Proof Let  $\{\omega_m\} = \{(u_m, v_m)\}$  be a sequence in  $H$  such that

$$\lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} J(\omega_m) = c, \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \|DJ(\omega_m)\|_{H^*} = 0$$

First, we prove that  $\{\omega_m\}$  is bounded in  $H$ . We assume by contradiction that  $\{\omega_m\}$  is not bounded in  $H$ . Then there exists a subsequence  $\{\omega_{m_j}\}$  of  $\{\omega_m\}$  such that  $\|\omega_{m_j}\|_H \rightarrow \infty$  as  $j \rightarrow \infty$ . By assumption (H.3) it follows that

$$\begin{aligned} J(\omega_{m_j}) - \frac{1}{\mu} \langle DJ(\omega_{m_j}), \omega_{m_j} \rangle &= \left( \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{\mu} \right) \|\omega_{m_j}\|_H^2 \\ &+ \left( \frac{1}{\mu} \langle DP(\omega_{m_j}), \omega_{m_j} \rangle - P(\omega_{m_j}) \right) \geq \gamma \|\omega_{m_j}\|_H^2 \end{aligned}$$

where  $\gamma = \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{\mu}$ . This yields

$$\begin{aligned} J(\omega_{m_j}) &\geq \gamma \|\omega_{m_j}\|_H^2 + \frac{1}{\mu} \langle DJ(\omega_{m_j}), \omega_{m_j} \rangle \\ &\geq \gamma \|\omega_{m_j}\|_H^2 - \frac{1}{\mu} \|DJ(\omega_{m_j})\|_{H^*} \|\omega_{m_j}\|_H \\ &= \|\omega_{m_j}\|_H \left( \gamma \|\omega_{m_j}\|_H - \frac{1}{\mu} \|DJ(\omega_{m_j})\|_{H^*} \right) \end{aligned}$$

Letting  $j \rightarrow \infty$ , since  $\|\omega_{m_j}\|_H \rightarrow \infty, \|DJ(\omega_{m_j})\|_{H^*} \rightarrow 0$ , we deduce that  $J(\omega_{m_j}) \rightarrow \infty$ , which is a contradiction. Hence  $\{\omega_m\}$  is bounded in  $H$ .

Since  $H$  is a Hilbert space and  $\{\omega_m\}$  is bounded in  $H$ , there exists a subsequence  $\{\omega_{m_k}\}$  of  $\{\omega_m\}$  weakly converging to  $\omega$  in  $H$ . Moreover, since the embedding  $H \hookrightarrow E$  is continuous,  $\{\omega_{m_k}\}$  is weakly convergent to  $\omega$  in  $E$ . We shall prove that

$$T(\omega) \leq \liminf_{j \rightarrow \infty} T(\omega_{m_k})$$

since  $\{\omega_{m_k}\}$  converges weakly to  $\omega$  in  $E$ ; i.e.,

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} [(\nabla u_{m_k} - \nabla u) \nabla \phi + (\nabla v_{m_k} - \nabla v) \nabla \psi] dx = 0$$

for all  $\varphi = (\phi, \psi) \in E$ , this implies that  $\{\nabla \omega_{m_k}\}$  converges weakly to  $\nabla \omega$  in  $L^1(\Omega, \mathbb{R}^2)$ .

Applying [[16], Theorem 1.6], we obtain

$$T(\omega) \leq \liminf_{j \rightarrow \infty} T(\omega_{m_k})$$

Thus (2.8) is proved. We now prove that

$$\begin{aligned} & \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \langle DP(\omega_{m_k}), \omega_{m_k} - \omega \rangle \\ &= \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} \nabla F(x, \omega_{m_k}) \cdot (\omega_{m_k} - \omega) dx = 0 \end{aligned}$$

Indeed, by (H.2), we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \left| \nabla F(x, \omega_{m_k}) \cdot (\omega_{m_k} - \omega) \right| \\ &= \left| f(x, \omega_{m_k}) \cdot (u_{m_k} - u) + g(x, \omega_{m_k}) \cdot (v_{m_k} - v) \right| \\ &\leq \left| \nabla f(x, \theta_1 \omega_{m_k}) \right| \|\omega_{m_k}\| \|u_{m_k} - u\| \\ &\quad + \left| \nabla g(x, \theta_2 \omega_{m_k}) \right| \|\omega_{m_k}\| \|v_{m_k} - v\| \\ &\leq A_1 \|\omega_{m_k}\|^p \|u_{m_k} - u\| + A_2 \|\omega_{m_k}\|^p \|v_{m_k} - v\| \\ &\leq A_3 \|\omega_{m_k}\|^p \|\omega_{m_k} - \omega\|, 0 < \theta_1, \theta_2 < 1 \end{aligned}$$

where  $A_i (i = 1, 2, 3)$  are positive constants.

Set  $2^* = \frac{2N}{N-2}, p_1 = \frac{2^*}{p-1}, p_2 = p_3 = \frac{2p_1}{p_1-1}$ . We have

$$p_1 > 1, 2 < p_2, p_3 < 2^* \text{ and } \frac{1}{p_1} + \frac{1}{p_2} + \frac{1}{p_3} = 1$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} & \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} \nabla F(x, \omega_{m_k}) \cdot (\omega_{m_k} - \omega) dx \\ &\leq A_3 \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} \|\omega_{m_k}\|^{p-1} \|\omega_{m_k} - \omega\| \|\omega_{m_k}\| dx \\ &\leq A_3 \|\omega_{m_k}\|_{L^{2^*}}^{p-1} \|\omega_{m_k} - \omega\|_{L^{p_2}} \|\omega_{m_k}\|_{L^{p_3}} \end{aligned}$$

On the other hand, using the continuous embeddings  $H \hookrightarrow E \hookrightarrow L^q(\mathbb{R}^N), 2 \leq q \leq 2^*$  together with the interpolation inequality (where  $\frac{1}{p_2} = \frac{\delta}{2} + \frac{1-\delta}{2^*}$ ), it follows that

$$\|\omega_{m_k} - \omega\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^N)} \leq \|\omega_{m_k} - \omega\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^N)}^\delta \cdot \|\omega_{m_k} - \omega\|_{L^2}^{1-\delta}$$

Since the embedding  $E \hookrightarrow L^2(\mathbb{R}^N)$  is compact we have

$$\|\omega_{m_k} - \omega\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^N)} \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as } k \rightarrow \infty. \quad \text{Hence}$$

$$\|\omega_{m_k} - \omega\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^N)} \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } k \rightarrow \infty \text{ and (2.10) is proved.}$$

On the other hand, by (2.10) and (2.1) it follows

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \langle DT(\omega_{m_k}), \omega_{m_k} - \omega \rangle = 0$$

Hence, by the convex property of the functional  $T$  we deduce that

$$\begin{aligned} T(\omega) - \limsup_{k \rightarrow \infty} T(\omega_{m_k}) &= \liminf_{k \rightarrow \infty} [T(\omega) - T(\omega_{m_k})] \\ &\geq \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \langle DT(\omega_{m_k}), \omega_{m_k} - \omega \rangle = 0 \end{aligned}$$

Relations (2.8) and (2.11) imply

$$T(\omega) = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} T(\omega_{m_k})$$

Finally, we prove that  $\{\omega_{m_k}\}$  converges strongly to  $\omega$  in  $H$ . Indeed, we assume by contradiction  $\{\omega_{m_k}\}$  that is not strongly convergent to  $\omega$  in  $H$ . Then there exist a constant  $\varepsilon > 0$  and a subsequence  $\{\omega_{m_{k_j}}\}$  of  $\{\omega_{m_k}\}$  such that  $\|\omega_{m_{k_j}} - \omega\|_H \geq \varepsilon > 0$  for any  $j = 1, 2, 3, \dots$ . Hence

$$\begin{aligned} &\frac{1}{2}T(\omega_{m_{k_j}}) + \frac{1}{2}T(\omega) - T\left(\frac{\omega_{m_{k_j}} + \omega}{2}\right) \\ &= \frac{1}{4}\|\omega_{m_{k_j}} - \omega\|_H^2 \geq \frac{1}{4}\varepsilon^2 \end{aligned}$$

With the same arguments as in the proof of (2.8), and remark that the sequence  $\left(\frac{\omega_{m_{k_j}} + \omega}{2}\right)$  converges weakly to  $\omega$  in  $E$ , we have

$$T(\omega) \leq \liminf_{j \rightarrow \infty} T\left(\frac{\omega_{m_{k_j}} + \omega}{2}\right)$$

Hence letting  $j \rightarrow 1$ , from (2.13) and (2.14) we infer that

$$T(\omega) - \liminf_{j \rightarrow \infty} T\left(\frac{\omega_{m_{k_j}} + \omega}{2}\right) \geq \frac{1}{4}\varepsilon^2 \quad (2.16)$$

Relations (2.15) and (2.16) imply  $0 \geq \frac{1}{4}\varepsilon^2 > 0$ , which is a contradiction. Therefore, we conclude that  $\{\omega_{m_k}\}$  converges strongly to  $\omega$  in  $H$  and  $J$  satisfies the Palais-Smale condition on  $H$ .

To apply the Mountain pass theorem we shall prove the following proposition which shows that the functional  $J$  has the Mountain pass geometry.

### 2.5. Proposition

(i) There exist  $\alpha > 0$  and  $r > 0$  such that  $J(w) \geq \alpha$ , for all  $w \in H$  with  $\|w\|_H = r$ . (ii) There exists  $w_0 \in H$  such that  $\|w_0\|_H > r$  and  $J(w_0) < r$ .

Proof. (i) From (H.3), it is easy to see that

$$F(x, z) \geq \min_{|s|=1} F(x, s) \cdot |z|^\mu > 0 \quad \forall x \in \mathbb{R}^N$$

$$\text{and } |z| \geq 1, z \in \mathbb{R}^2.$$

$$0 < F(x, z) \leq \max_{|s|=1} F(x, s) \cdot |z|^\mu \quad \forall x \in \mathbb{R}^N \text{ and } 0 < |z| \leq 1.$$

where  $\max_{|s|=1} F(x, s) \leq C$  in view of (H.2). It follows from (2.18) that

$$\lim_{|z| \rightarrow \infty} \frac{F(x, z)}{|z|^2} = 0.$$

uniformly for  $x \in \mathbb{R}^N$ .

By using the embeddings  $H \hookrightarrow E \hookrightarrow L^2(\mathbb{R}^N, \mathbb{R}^2)$ , with simple calculations we infer from (2.19) that  $\inf_{\|w\|_H=r} J(w) = \alpha > 0$  for  $r > 0$  small enough. This implies (i).

(ii) By (2.17), for each compact set  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^N$  there exists  $\eta = \eta(\Omega)$  such that

$$F(x, z) \geq \eta \cdot |z|^\mu \quad \text{for all } x \in \Omega, |z| > 1.$$

Let  $0 \neq \varphi = (\phi, \psi) \in C^1(\mathbb{R}^N, \mathbb{R}^2)$  having compact support, for  $t > 0$ , large enough from (2.20) we have

$$\begin{aligned} J(t\varphi) &= \frac{1}{2}t^2 \|\varphi\|_H^2 - \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} F(x, t\varphi) dx \\ &\leq \frac{1}{2}t^2 \|\varphi\|_H^2 - t^\mu \eta \int_{\Omega} |\varphi|^\mu dx. \end{aligned}$$

where  $\eta = \eta(\Omega)$ ,  $\Omega = (\text{sup } \phi \cup \text{sup } \psi)$ . Then (2.21) and  $\mu > 2$  imply (ii).

Proof of Theorem 1.4. It is clear that  $J(0) = 0$ . Furthermore, the acceptable set

$$G = \{\gamma \in C([0, 1], H) : \gamma(0) = 0, \gamma(1) = w_0\}$$

where  $w_0$  is given in Proposition (2.5) is not empty (it is easy to see that the function  $\gamma(t) = tw_0 \in G$ , by Proposition and Propositions (2.2) - (2.5), all assumptions of the Mountain pass theorem introduced in [8] are satisfied. Therefore there exists  $w^* \in H$  such that

$$0 < \alpha \leq J(w^*) = \inf \left\{ \max J(\gamma([0,1])) : \gamma \in G \right\}$$

and  $\langle DJ(w^*), \varphi \rangle = 0$  for all  $\varphi \in H$ , i.e.,  $w^*$  is a weak solution of system (1.1). The solution  $w^*$  is a non-trivial solution by  $J(w^*) \geq \alpha > 0$ . The proof is complete.

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