

# Solvability of Quasilinear Euler-Lagrange Equations

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**Abstract**—In this paper we deal with the solvability of quasilinear Euler-Lagrange equation

$$-\operatorname{div}((a(x)+|u|^\gamma)|\nabla u|^{p-2}\nabla u) + \frac{\gamma}{p}|u|^{\gamma-2}u|\nabla u|^p = \lambda|u|^{\theta-2}u + |u|^{q-2}u \quad \text{in } \Omega$$

with zero Dirichlet boundary condition, under the assumption  $1 < \theta < p < q < \frac{p^*}{p}(\gamma + p)$  and  $\gamma > 1$ . We concern with the existence of multiplicity solutions for the above equation in employing the critical point methods. Moreover, we obtain the trivial solution of such equation when  $\Omega$  is a smooth star-shaped domain in  $R^N$ .

**Keywords:** Euler-Lagrange equation; Weak solution; Truncated function; Nonsmooth critical point theory

## 1 Introduction

In this paper we study the following equation.

$$-\operatorname{div}((a(x)+|u|^\gamma)|\nabla u|^{p-2}\nabla u) + \frac{\gamma}{p}|u|^{\gamma-2}u|\nabla u|^p = \lambda|u|^{\theta-2}u + |u|^{q-2}u \quad \text{in } \Omega \quad (1.1)$$

with zero Dirichlet boundary condition.

$$u = 0 \quad \text{on } \partial\Omega. \quad (1.2)$$

In this case, the corresponding functional to the quasilinear Euler-Lagrange equation  $J$  is

$$J(u) = \frac{1}{p} \int_{\Omega} (a(x)+|u|^\gamma)|\nabla u|^p - \frac{\lambda}{\theta} \int_{\Omega} |u|^\theta - \frac{1}{q} \int_{\Omega} |u|^q \quad (1.3)$$

where  $\gamma > 1$ ,  $\Omega$  is a bounded, open subset of  $R^N$  with  $N > 2$ ,  $1 < p < N$  and  $a(x)$  is a measurable function such that for two constants  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$

$$0 < \alpha \leq a(x) \leq \beta \quad \text{a.e. } x \in \Omega. \quad (1.4)$$

We notice that the functional  $J$  is not Gâteaux differentiable in  $W_0^1(\Omega)$  but is only differentiable through the direction of  $W_0^{1,p}(\Omega) \cap L^\infty(\Omega)$ .

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The main difficulty of this work is due to the term  $|u|^\gamma$  in which the functional  $J$  is well defined in  $W_0^{1,p}(\Omega) \cap L^\infty(\Omega)$ , if we impose an additional condition on  $\gamma$ , namely,  $\gamma + p < p^*$ . We point out that our approach has been studied in [1], including  $L^\infty(\Omega)$  a priori estimates. We apply the Theorem 2.8 in [3] to establish the existence of multiplicity critical points under hypotheses  $0 < \lambda < \tilde{\lambda}_0$  and  $1 < \theta < p < q < \frac{p^*}{p}(\gamma + p)$  for  $\gamma > 1$  in which such critical points  $u_{\bar{m},\bar{n}}$  of  $J_{\bar{m},\bar{n}}$  for  $\bar{m}, \bar{n}$  large enough are solutions of (1.1)-(1.2) without passing to the limit on  $m$  and  $n$ . Moreover, no such solution when  $\lambda > \tilde{\lambda}_0$  and  $\Omega$  is star-shaped for  $1 < \theta < p < q < \frac{p^*}{p}(\gamma + p)$  and  $\gamma > 1$ . We notice that the multiplicity results for  $p$ -Laplacian with critical growth of concave-convex functions has been intensively studied. Recently, the existence of multiplicity of bounded weak solutions for the quasilinear singular Euler-Lagrange equation with natural growth with  $p = N$  has been investigated by Quincy Steven Nkombo (see [10]). Finally, the novelty of this paper is that we study the existence of multiplicity bounded weak solutions for quasilinear Euler-Lagrange equation with  $1 < p < N$ .

**Notation:** in the rest of this work we make use of the following notation.  $L^p(\Omega)$ ,  $1 \leq p \leq \infty$ , denote Lebesgue spaces. The usual norm in  $L^p(\Omega)$  is denoted by  $\|\cdot\|_p$ .  $W_0^{k,p}(\Omega)$  denote Sobolev spaces; the norm in  $W_0^{1,p}(\Omega)$  is denoted by  $\|\cdot\|_p$ .  $C_0, C_1, C_2, C_3, \dots$  denote (possibly different) positive constants.

## 2. The case $0 < \lambda < \tilde{\lambda}_0$

**Definition 2.1** A measurable function  $u$  is called a weak solution to the equation (1.1)-(1.2), if  $u \in W_0^{1,p}(\Omega)$  such that  $|u|^{\gamma-2}u|\nabla u|^p \in L^1(\Omega)$  and

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{\Omega} (a(x)+|u|^\gamma)|\nabla u|^{p-2}\nabla u \nabla v \\ & + \frac{\gamma}{p} \int_{\Omega} |u|^{\gamma-2}u|\nabla u|^p v \\ & = \lambda \int_{\Omega} |u|^{\theta-2}uv + \int_{\Omega} |u|^{q-2}uv \end{aligned}$$

holds for every  $v \in W_0^{1,p}(\Omega) \cap L^\infty(\Omega)$ .

The main result of this paper is focus on the existence of multiplicity bounded weak solutions to the equation (1.1)-(1.2). For that the result is given by the following

theorem.

**Theorem 2.1** Suppose that  $\gamma$  satisfies the condition  $\gamma + p < p^*$ . Moreover, there exists  $\tilde{\lambda}_0$  such that

$$1 < \theta < p < q < \frac{p^*}{p}(\gamma + p); \quad 0 < \lambda < \tilde{\lambda}_0. \quad (2.2)$$

Then, there exist infinitely many weak solutions for the problem (1.1)-(1.2).

*Proof.* We use the theorem 2.8 in [3] in order to prove the existence of multiplicity weak solutions to the problem (1.1)-(1.2). So that we divide this proof into several steps.

• **Step 1:** A truncated function

If  $m$  is positive integer, we consider the truncated function at level  $m$ ,  $T_m(t)$  is given

$$T_m(t) = \begin{cases} -m - \frac{1}{2} & \text{if } t \leq -m - 1 \\ (m + 1)t + \frac{t^2 + m^2}{2} & \text{if } -m - 1 \leq t \leq -m \\ t & \text{if } -m \leq t \leq m \\ (m + 1)t - \frac{t^2 + m^2}{2} & \text{if } m \leq t \leq m + 1 \\ m + \frac{1}{2} & \text{if } t \geq m + 1 \end{cases} \quad (2.3)$$

which is introduced in [1].

Assuming that  $q_0$  and  $q_1$  are two numbers such that  $1 < q_0 < \theta < p < q_1 < q$  and the truncated function  $f_{n,\lambda}(t)$  is defined by

$$f_{n,\lambda}(t) = \lambda h_n(t) + g_n(t),$$

where

$$h_n(t) = \begin{cases} \frac{|t|^\theta}{\theta} & \text{if } |t| < n, \\ n^\theta \left( \frac{1}{\theta} - \frac{1}{q_0} \right) + n^{\theta - q_0} \frac{|t|^{q_0}}{q_0} & \text{if } |t| \geq n. \end{cases} \quad (2.4)$$

$$g_n(t) = \begin{cases} \frac{|t|^q}{q} & \text{if } |t| < n \\ n^q \left( \frac{1}{q} - \frac{1}{q_1} \right) + n^{q - q_1} \frac{|t|^{q_1}}{q_1} & \text{if } |t| \geq n. \end{cases} \quad (2.5)$$

By observing the definition of  $h_n(t)$  and  $g_n(t)$ , we deduce the following inequalities

$$0 \leq h_n(t) \leq \frac{n^{\theta - q_0}}{q_0} |t|^{q_0} \quad \text{and} \quad 0 \leq h_n(t) \leq \frac{|t|^\theta}{\theta}. \quad (2.6)$$

$$0 \leq g_n(t) \leq \frac{n^{q - q_1}}{q_1} |t|^{q_1} \quad \text{and} \quad 0 \leq g_n(t) \leq \frac{|t|^q}{q}. \quad (2.7)$$

Consequently, we infer that the estimate of the function  $f_{n,\lambda}(t)$  as follows

$$0 \leq f_{n,\lambda}(t) \leq \frac{\lambda n^{\theta - q_0}}{q_0} |t|^{q_0} + \frac{n^{q - q_1}}{q_1} |t|^{q_1}. \quad (2.8)$$

Let us consider the truncated functional,

$$J_{m,n}(u) = \frac{1}{p} \int_{\Omega} (a(x) + |T_m(u)|^\gamma) |\nabla u|^p - \int_{\Omega} f_{n,\lambda}(u) \quad (2.9)$$

for  $u \in W_0^{1,p}(\Omega)$ .

Which is clearly well defined for  $q_0 < q_1 < p^*$ .

• **Step 2:** Geometry of truncated function

Let  $r$  a positive real constant such that

$$B_r = \{u \in W_0^{1,p}(\Omega) / \|u\|_p \leq r\}.$$

The fact that,  $a(x) + |T_m(u)|^\gamma \geq \alpha$  and integrating inequality (2.8) on  $\Omega$ , we get

$$\int_{\Omega} f_{n,\lambda}(u) \leq \lambda C_0 n^{\theta - q_0} \|u\|_p^{q_0} + C_1 n^{q - q_1} \|u\|_p^{q_1} \quad (2.10)$$

where  $C_0$  and  $C_1$  are nonnegative constants.

Combining (2.10) with the hypothesis,

$a(x) + |T_m(u)|^\gamma \geq \alpha$ , we obtain the following result

$$J_{m,n}(u) \geq \frac{\alpha}{p} \|u\|_p^p - \lambda C_0 n^{\theta - q_0} \|u\|_p^{q_0} - C_1 n^{q - q_1} \|u\|_p^{q_1}.$$

Thereby, there exist nonnegative constants  $r_{n,\lambda}$ ,  $\bar{r}_{n,\lambda}$  and  $\tilde{\lambda}_0$  such that

$$J_{m,n}(u) > 0 \quad \text{in } B_{r_{n,\lambda}} \quad \text{and} \quad J_{m,n}(u) \geq \bar{r}_{n,\lambda} \quad \text{in } \partial B_{r_{n,\lambda}}$$

for all  $0 < \lambda < \tilde{\lambda}_0$ .

• **Step 3:** Compactness of the truncated function.

Let  $\{w_k\}$  be a sequence in  $W_0^{1,p}(\Omega) \cap L^\infty(\Omega)$  satisfying, for every  $n \in N$  the following conditions

$$J_{m,n}(w_k) \leq C_1.$$

$$\|w_k\|_\infty \leq 2b_k.$$

$$\langle J'_{m,n}(w_k), w \rangle \leq \varepsilon_k \left( \frac{\|w\|_\infty}{b_k} + \|w\|_p \right).$$

$\forall w \in W_0^{1,p}(\Omega) \cap L^\infty(\Omega)$ .

Where  $C_1$  is a nonnegative constant,  $\{b_k\} \subset R^+ - \{0\}$  is a nonnegative sequence and  $\{\varepsilon_k\} \subset R^+ - \{0\}$  is a sequence converging to zero.

Suppose that

$$\tilde{g}(\lambda, t) = \frac{\frac{1}{p + \gamma} + f_{n,\lambda}(t)}{t f'_{n,\lambda}(t)}.$$

And

$$g_0(\lambda) = \max_{t \in R} \tilde{g}(\lambda, t).$$

Where  $\lambda > 0$  and  $t > 0$ .

Let  $\varepsilon > 0$ , be given and choose  $t_0 > 0$  such that

$$\max_{t \in R} \tilde{g}(\lambda, t) \leq \tilde{g}(\lambda, t_0) + \varepsilon.$$

Clearly  $\tilde{g}(\lambda, t_0)$  is an increasing and continuous function with respect to  $\lambda$  and there exists  $\tilde{\lambda}_0$  a nonnegative number  $0 < \tilde{\lambda}_0 < \infty$  and such that

$$\tilde{g}(\tilde{\lambda}_0, t_0) \leq \frac{1}{p + \gamma}, \quad \text{for all } 0 < \lambda < \tilde{\lambda}_0.$$

Therefore

$$\max_{t \in R} \tilde{g}(\lambda, t) \leq \tilde{g}(\lambda, t_0) + \varepsilon \leq \tilde{g}(\tilde{\lambda}_0, t_0) + \varepsilon.$$

Which leads to

$$\max_{t \in R} \tilde{g}(\lambda, t) \leq \frac{1}{p + \gamma} + \varepsilon, \quad \text{for all } 0 < \lambda < \tilde{\lambda}_0.$$

Then it is easily verified by induction that

$$\frac{f_{n,\lambda}(t)}{t f'_{n,\lambda}(t)} < g_0(\lambda) < \frac{1}{p + \gamma}, \quad \text{for all } 0 < \lambda < \tilde{\lambda}_0.$$

After straightforward calculation of the term

$$J_{m,n}(w_k) - g_0(\lambda) \langle J'_{m,n}(w_k), w_k \rangle$$

yields

$$\begin{aligned} & \left( \frac{1}{p} - g_0(\lambda) \right) \int_{\Omega} a(x) |\nabla w_k|^p \\ & + \int_{\Omega} \left( \frac{1}{p} - g_0(\lambda) - \frac{\gamma}{p} g_0(\lambda) w_k \frac{T'_m(w_k)}{T_m(w_k)} \right) \\ & \quad \times |T_m(w_k)|^{\gamma} |\nabla w_k|^p \\ & + \int_{\Omega} (g_0(\lambda) w_k f'_{n,\lambda}(w_k) - f_{n,\lambda}(w_k)) \\ & \leq C_1 + \varepsilon_k \left( \frac{\|w_k\|_{\infty}}{b_k} + \|w_k\|_p \right). \end{aligned}$$

Notice that all the left-hand side terms are positives. Indeed, the first one is nonnegative due to consequence of the definition of  $g_0(\lambda)$ , namely,  $\frac{f_{n,\lambda}(t)}{t f'_{n,\lambda}(t)} < g_0(\lambda) < \frac{1}{p + \gamma}$ . For the second term, it is enough to use the assumption,  $0 \leq \frac{t T'_m(t)}{T_m(t)} \leq 1$ , and that  $g_0(\lambda) < \frac{1}{p + \gamma}$ . The positiveness of the third term is easily verified in using the definition of  $g_0(\lambda)$ . Therefore, we can conclude that the sequence  $\{w_k\}$  is bounded in  $W_0^{1,p}(\Omega)$  for every  $p$  such that  $1 < p < N$ . So that the sequence  $\{w_k\}$  admit a subsequence that we still denote  $\{w_k\}$ , which converges to a function  $w$  □

• **Step 4:** Existence of critical points of the truncated function.

We point out that the main idea of this proof is in [4], for that we adapt the arguments of Theorem 2.8 in [3] in order to prove the existence of multiplicity critical points of  $J_{m,n}$ .

Let  $H_k$  be a  $k$ -dimensional subspace of  $W_0^{1,p}(\Omega)$  as we take  $w_k \in H_k$ , the norm of  $w_k$ ,  $\|w_k\|_p$  is finite.

We set

$$\Sigma = \{C \subset W_0^{1,p}(\Omega) / 0 \in C, C = -C\}.$$

For  $C \in \Sigma$  the  $Z_2$ -genus of  $C$  is denoted by  $\gamma(C)$ .

According to the step 2 and step 3, the assumptions  $(I_1)$  and  $(I_3)$  of Theorem 2.3 hold true (see [3]).

Moreover, letting

$$A_{m,n} = B_{r_{n,\lambda}} \cup \{J_{m,n} \geq 0\}.$$

We can clearly assert that  $H_k \cap A_{m,n}$  is bounded for all  $n \in N$ , the assumption  $(I_5)$  Theorem 2.3 is complete.

Next we set

$$\Gamma^* = \{h \in C(W_0^{1,p}(\Omega), W_0^{1,p}(\Omega)) : h \text{ is an odd homeomorphism } h(0) = 0 \text{ and } h(B_1) \subset A_{m,n}\}.$$

And

And

$$\Gamma_k = \{K \in \Sigma : \gamma(K \cap h(\partial B_1)) \geq k \quad \forall h \in \Gamma^*\}.$$

And then

$$S_k = \inf_{K \in \Gamma_k} \max_{w \in K} J_{m,n}(w).$$

So that we can state that lemma 2.7 in [3] holds. We then choose

$$h(w) = r_{n,\lambda} w$$

where  $r_{n,\lambda}$  a nonnegative real which has been defined in the step 2 and  $h$  belongs to  $\Gamma^*$ . Consequently, we infer that  $K \cap B_{r_{n,\lambda}} \neq \emptyset$  for all  $K \in \Gamma_k$ . Since  $J_{m,n}$  is bounded from below on  $\partial B_{r_{n,\lambda}}$ , then

$$S_k = \inf_{K \in \Gamma_k} \max_{w \in K} J_{m,n}(w) \geq a_{n,\lambda} > 0.$$

Since all assumptions of Theorem 2.8 in [3] are satisfied, thus there exist infinitely many critical points of  $J_{m,n}$ . Hence, the Dirichlet problem (2.11)-(1.2) possesses infinitely many nontrivial weak solutions □

• **Step 5:** Uniformly  $L^\infty$  - estimates

Consider the following equation

$$\begin{aligned} & -\operatorname{div}\{(a(x) + |T_m(w_{m,n})|^{\gamma}) |\nabla w_{m,n}|^{p-2} \nabla w_{m,n}\} \\ & + \frac{\gamma}{p} \frac{T'_m(w_{m,n})}{T_m(w_{m,n})} |T_m(w_{m,n})|^{\gamma} |\nabla w_{m,n}|^p \\ & = f'_{n,\lambda}(w_{m,n}). \end{aligned} \tag{2.11}$$

Assuming that either  $w_{m,n} = u_{m,n}$  or  $w_{m,n} = u_{m,n}^0$  or  $\dots$  or  $w_{m,n} = u_{m,n}^k$  or  $\dots$  solution of (2.11)-(1.2).

Setting that  $T_m(w_{m,n}) = w_{m,n}$  and  $v = |w_{m,n}|^b w_{m,n}$  as a test function, then we have

$$\begin{aligned} & (b + 1) \int_{\Omega} (a(x) + |w_{m,n}|^{\gamma}) |\nabla w_{m,n}|^p |w_{m,n}|^b \\ & + \frac{\gamma}{p} \int_{\Omega} |w_{m,n}|^{b+\gamma} |\nabla w_{m,n}|^p \\ & \leq (\lambda + 1) n^{\theta - q_0 + q - q_1} \int_{\Omega} |w_{m,n}|^{b+q}. \end{aligned} \tag{2.12}$$

Dropping the positive terms on the left hand side of (2.12), we get

$$\begin{aligned} & (b + 1) \int_{\Omega} a(x) |w_{m,n}|^b |\nabla w_{m,n}|^p \\ & \leq (\lambda + 1) n^{\theta - q_0 + q - q_1} \int_{\Omega} |w_{m,n}|^{b+q}. \end{aligned} \tag{2.13}$$

On the other hand, we obtain the following result after using the sobolev inequality

$$C_2^p \left( \int_{\Omega} |w_{m,n}|^{\frac{b+p}{p} p^*} \right)^{\frac{p}{p^*}} \leq \frac{(b+p)^p}{p^p} \times \int_{\Omega} |w_{m,n}|^b |\nabla w_{m,n}|^p.$$

Therefore

$$C_2^p \left( \int_{\Omega} |w_{m,n}|^{\frac{b+p}{p} p^*} \right)^{\frac{p}{p^*}} \leq \frac{(b+p)^p}{p^p} \frac{1}{\alpha} \int_{\Omega} a(x) |w_{m,n}|^b |\nabla w_{m,n}|^p. \quad (2.14)$$

Combining (2.13) with (2.14), we have

$$\left( \int_{\Omega} |w_{m,n}|^{\frac{b+p}{p} p^*} \right)^{\frac{p}{p^*}} \leq \left( \frac{(b+p)^p (\lambda+1)}{\alpha (pC_2)^p (b+1)} \right) \times n^{\theta-q_0+q-q_1} \int_{\Omega} |w_{m,n}|^{b+q}.$$

It follows that

$$|w_{m,n}|^{\frac{b+q}{\frac{b+p}{p} p^*}} \leq \left( \frac{(b+p)^p (\lambda+1)}{\alpha (pC_2)^p (b+1)} \right) n^{\theta-q_0+q-q_1} |w_{m,n}|^{\frac{b+q}{b+q}}.$$

Let  $r = b + q$ , then

$$|w_{m,n}|^{\frac{r-q+p}{p} p^*} \leq \left( \frac{(r-q+p)^p (\lambda+1)}{\alpha (pC_2)^p (r-q+1)} \right)^{\frac{1}{r-q+p}} \times n^{\frac{\theta-q_0+q-q_1}{r-q+p}} |w_{m,n}|^{\frac{r}{r-q+p}}.$$

Notice that  $w_{m,n}$  belongs to  $W_0^{1,p}(\Omega)$  and so to  $L^{p^*}(\Omega)$ , we can choose  $r = r_0 = p^* - q$  to deduce that  $w_{m,n}$  belongs to  $L^{\frac{r_0+p-q}{p} p^*}(\Omega)$ , we can then choose  $r = r_1 = \frac{r_0-q+p}{p} p^*$  to obtain  $w_{m,n}$  belongs to  $L^{\frac{r_1+p-q}{p} p^*}(\Omega)$ . Iterating this process and defining by induction  $r_k$  as

$$\begin{cases} r_0 = p^* - q \\ r_k = r_{k-1} \frac{p^*}{p} + \frac{p^*}{p} (p - q). \end{cases} \quad (2.15)$$

We infer that  $w_{m,n}$  belongs to  $L^{r_k}(\Omega)$  with

$$|w_{m,n}|_{r_k} \leq \left( \frac{(r_k - q + p)^p (\lambda + 1)}{\alpha (pC_2)^p (r_k - q + 1)} \right)^{\frac{1}{r_k - q + p}} \times n^{\frac{\theta - q_0 + q - q_1}{r_k - q + p}} |w_{m,n}|^{\frac{p^*}{p} \frac{r_k - 1}{r_k}}.$$

Therefore

$$|w_{m,n}|_{r_k} \leq \dots \leq C_3 |w_{m,n}|_{p^*}^{\left(\frac{p^*}{p}\right)^k \frac{p^* - q}{r_k}} \leq C_4.$$

Because of

$\int_{\Omega} a(x) |\nabla w_{m,n}|^p$  is bounded with respect to  $m$  and  $n$ . Since  $\frac{p^*}{p} > 1$ , it is enough to show that  $r_k$  is increasing sequence which diverges to infinity, thus, if it is such that

$\frac{r_k + p - q}{p} p^* \geq \frac{N}{2}$  an adaptation to the quasilinear case of the proof of a result of Stampacchia (see [5]) implies that there exists  $M_n > 0$  such that

$$|w_{m,n}|_{\infty} \leq M_n.$$

Let  $m_n$  be an integer such that  $m_n \geq \max(M_n + p, \bar{t})$ , if we define  $w_n \stackrel{def}{=} w_{\bar{m},n}$ , namely, either  $w_n = u_n^0 \stackrel{def}{=} u_{\bar{m},n}^0$  or  $w_n = u_n^1 \stackrel{def}{=} u_{\bar{m},n}^1$  or  $\dots$  or  $w_n = u_n^k \stackrel{def}{=} u_{\bar{m},n}^k$  or  $w_n = \dots \stackrel{def}{=} \dots$ . Then  $T_{m_n}(w_n) = w_n$  and  $T'_{m_n}(w_n) = 1$ , consequently, the equation which is satisfied by  $w_n$  is

$$-\operatorname{div}((a(x) + |w_n|^{\gamma}) |\nabla w_n|^{p-2} \nabla w_n) + \frac{\gamma}{p} |w_n|^{\gamma-2} w_n |\nabla w_n|^p = f'_{n,\lambda}(w_n) \quad (2.16)$$

with zero Dirichlet boundary condition.

Notice that by the assumption  $q < \frac{p^*}{p}(p + \gamma)$ , then  $w_n$  is bounded in  $L^q(\Omega)$  using this fact, we are going to show that  $w_n$  is uniformly bounded in  $L^{\infty}(\Omega)$ .

Let  $b > 0$  as before, and choose  $v = |w_n|^b w_n$  as a test function in the equation (2.16)-(1.2) satisfied  $w_n$ .

The fact that  $f'_{n,\lambda}(t) \leq (\lambda + 1) |t|^{q+b-1}$  and we drop two nonnegative terms, and then we obtain

$$(b+1) \int_{\Omega} a(x) |w_n|^{b+\gamma} |\nabla w_n|^p \leq (\lambda+1) \int_{\Omega} |w_n|^{q+b}.$$

However, we get another inequality when we apply the sobolev inequality to  $w_n^{b+\gamma+p}$ , we then have

$$C_5^p \left( \int_{\Omega} |w_n|^{\frac{\gamma+b+p}{p} p^*} \right)^{\frac{p}{p^*}} \leq \left( \frac{\gamma+b+p}{p} \right)^p \int_{\Omega} |w_n|^{b+\gamma} |\nabla w_n|^p.$$

Thus

$$\left( \int_{\Omega} |w_n|^{\frac{\gamma+b+p}{p} p^*} \right)^{\frac{p}{p^*}} \leq \frac{(\gamma+b+p)^p (\lambda+1)}{(pC_5)^p (b+1)} \int_{\Omega} |w_n|^{b+q}.$$

Where  $w_n$  belongs to  $L^{\frac{\gamma+r-q+p}{p} p^*}(\Omega)$  provided that  $w_n$  belongs to  $L^r(\Omega)$  with  $b = r - q$ , yields

$$|w_n|^{\frac{\gamma+b+p}{p} p^*} \leq \left( \frac{(\gamma+b+p)^p (\lambda+1)}{(pC_5)^p (b+1)} \right)^{\frac{p^*}{p}} |w_n|^{\frac{r}{\gamma+r-q+p}}.$$

Because of  $\frac{p}{b+\gamma+p} \leq p^*$ .

Arguing as before, if we consider the sequence  $r_k$  as follows

$$\begin{cases} r_0 = \frac{p^*}{p} (\gamma + p) \\ r_k = r_{k-1} \frac{p^*}{p} + \frac{p^*}{p} (\gamma + p - q). \end{cases} \quad (2.17)$$

Thus  $w_{m,n}$  belongs to  $L^{r_k}(\Omega)$  for every  $k$  and so

$$|w_n|_{r_k} \leq \left( \frac{(\gamma + r_{k-1} - q + p)^p (\lambda + 1)}{(pC_5)^p (r_{k-1} - q + 1)} \right)^{\frac{p^*}{p}} |w_n|^{\frac{p^*}{p} \frac{r_k - 1}{r_k}}.$$

It follows that

$$|w_n|_{r_k} \leq \dots \leq C_6 |w_n|_{\frac{(\frac{p^*}{p})^{k+1} \frac{\gamma+p}{r_k}}{p^* (\gamma+p)}} \leq C_7.$$

The fact that

$$\int_{\Omega} |w_n|^\gamma |\nabla w_n|^p \text{ is bounded with respect to } n.$$

And  $w_n \in L^{\frac{p^*}{p}(\gamma+p)}(\Omega)$ , clearly the sequence  $\{r_k\}$  is increasing and unbounded for  $\frac{p^*}{p} > 1$ . So that in a finite number of steps we conclude that

$$\lambda |w_n|^{\theta-2} w_n + |w_n|^{q-2} w_n$$

is bounded in  $L^r$  with  $r > \frac{N}{2}$ . Using again an adaptation of the proof theorem 2.1 in [5] yields that there exists a nonnegative constant  $C'_0 > 0$ , such that

$$|w_n|_\infty \leq C'_0, \quad \forall n \geq \max(\bar{t}, \bar{n}).$$

In other words, we obtain

$$|u_n^0|_\infty \leq C'_1, \quad |u_n^1|_\infty \leq C'_2, \dots, |u_n^k|_\infty \leq C'_k \dots \dots \dots$$

$$\forall n \geq \max(\bar{t}, \bar{n}). \quad \square$$

**• Step 6: Conclusion**

Finally, if  $\forall n \geq \max(C'_0, \bar{t}, \bar{n})$  then

$$f'_{n,\lambda}(w_n) = \lambda |w_n|^{\theta-2} w_n + |w_n|^{q-2} w_n$$

and so  $w \stackrel{def}{=} w_{\bar{n}}$ . In other words, either

$$w \stackrel{def}{=} u^0 \stackrel{def}{=} u_{\bar{n}}^0 \quad \text{or} \quad w \stackrel{def}{=} u^1 \stackrel{def}{=} u_{\bar{n}}^1 \quad \text{or} \dots \text{or}$$

$$w \stackrel{def}{=} u^k \stackrel{def}{=} u_{\bar{n}}^k \quad \text{or} \dots \dots \dots$$

Hence, we can conclude that the problem (1.1)-(1.2) has an infinitely many positive bounded weak solutions.  $\square$

**3. The case  $\lambda > \tilde{\lambda}_0$**

We complete the study of the equation (1.1)-(1.2) by showing that such equation does not have nontrivial solution. In order to prove this fact, we assume that  $\Omega$  is star-shaped, ie,  $x \cdot \nu > 0$  on  $\partial\Omega$ . Where  $\nu$  is outward normal to  $\partial\Omega$ . For that we use the idea of [9] in the next proposition.

**Proposition 3.1** If  $\Omega$  is a smooth star-shaped in  $R^N$  containing 0, then  $u \equiv 0$  is the unique  $H^2(\Omega) \cap H^1_0(\Omega)$  nonnegative solution of (1.1)-(1.2).

*Proof.* Let  $u$  belongs to  $H^2(\Omega) \cap H^1_0(\Omega)$  be a nonnegative solution of (1.1). The divergence of the vector field  $(a(x) + |u|^\gamma) |\nabla u|^{p-2} \nabla u(x \nabla u)$  can be written as follows

$$\text{div} \{ (a(x) + |u|^\gamma) |\nabla u|^{p-2} \nabla u(x \nabla u) \}$$

$$= (x \nabla u) \text{div} \{ (a(x) + |u|^\gamma) |\nabla u|^{p-2} \nabla u \}$$

$$+ (a(x) + |u|^\gamma) |\nabla u|^{p-2} \nabla u \cdot \nabla (x \nabla u).$$

Since

$$\nabla u \cdot \nabla (x \nabla u) = |\nabla u|^2 + \frac{1}{2} (x \nabla (|\nabla u|^2)).$$

And

$$\frac{1}{2} (a(x) + |u|^\gamma) |\nabla u|^{p-2} (x \nabla (|\nabla u|^2))$$

$$= \frac{1}{p} (a(x) + |u|^\gamma) (x \nabla (|\nabla u|^p)).$$

Consequently,

$$\text{div} \{ (a(x) + |u|^\gamma) |\nabla u|^{p-2} \nabla u(x \nabla u) \}$$

$$= (x \nabla u) \text{div} \{ (a(x) + |u|^\gamma) |\nabla u|^{p-2} \nabla u \}$$

$$+ (a(x) + |u|^\gamma) |\nabla u|^p$$

$$+ \frac{1}{p} (a(x) + |u|^\gamma) (x \nabla (|\nabla u|^p)). \quad (3.2)$$

Multiplying the equation (1.1) by  $x \nabla u$ , yields

$$(x \nabla u) \text{div} \{ (a(x) + |u|^\gamma) |\nabla u|^{p-2} \nabla u \}$$

$$= \frac{\gamma}{p} |u|^{\gamma-2} u |\nabla u|^p (x \nabla u)$$

$$- \lambda |u|^{\theta-2} u(x \nabla u) - |u|^{q-2} u(x \nabla u). \quad (3.3)$$

Replacing (3.3) into (3.2), we have

$$\text{div} \{ (a(x) + |u|^\gamma) |\nabla u|^{p-2} \nabla u(x \nabla u) \}$$

$$= \frac{\gamma}{p} |u|^{\gamma-2} u |\nabla u|^p (x \nabla u)$$

$$- \lambda |u|^{\theta-2} u(x \nabla u) - |u|^{q-2} u(x \nabla u)$$

$$+ (a(x) + |u|^\gamma) |\nabla u|^p$$

$$+ \frac{1}{p} (a(x) + |u|^\gamma) (x \nabla (|\nabla u|^p)). \quad (3.4)$$

On the other hand, applying Gauss formula to the vector field  $(a(x) + |u|^\gamma) |\nabla u|^{p-2} \nabla u(x \nabla u)$ , we obtain

$$\int_{\Omega} \text{div} \{ (a(x) + |u|^\gamma) |\nabla u|^{p-2} \nabla u(x \nabla u) \}$$

$$= \int_{\partial\Omega} (a(x) + |u|^\gamma) |\nabla u|^p (x \cdot \nu) d\sigma. \quad (3.5)$$

Combining (3.4) with (3.5), we get

$$-\frac{\gamma N}{p} \int_{\Omega} |u|^\gamma |\nabla u|^p - \lambda \int_{\partial\Omega} |u|^\theta (x \cdot \nu) d\sigma$$

$$- \int_{\partial\Omega} |u|^q (x \cdot \nu) d\sigma + \left(1 - \frac{N}{p}\right) \int_{\Omega} (a(x) + |u|^\gamma) |\nabla u|^p$$

$$= \int_{\partial\Omega} (a(x) + |u|^\gamma) |\nabla u|^p (x \cdot \nu) d\sigma.$$

The fact that  $p < N$  and  $x \cdot \nu > 0$  on  $\partial\Omega$ .

Therefore  $u \equiv 0$ .  $\square$

### Acknowledgment

I would like to thank the considerable assistance I have received from Professor Fengquan Li for comments that greatly improve the manuscript. Moreover, I thank Professor Christian Tathy for his encouragement as well.

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