# Weak solutions for a system of quasilinear elliptic equations

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#### Abstract

A system of quasilinear elliptic equations on an unbounded domain is considered. The existence of a sequence of radially symmetric weak solutions is proved via variational methods.

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## 1. Introduction

We consider the following problem

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta_p u + |u|^{p-2} u = \lambda \alpha_1(x) f_1(v) & \text{in } \mathbb{R}^N, \\ -\Delta_q v + |v|^{q-2} v = \lambda \alpha_2(x) f_2(u) & \text{in } \mathbb{R}^N, \\ u, v \in W^{1,p}(\mathbb{R}^N), \end{cases}$$
(1)

where p, q > N > 1. We assume that  $f_1, f_2 : \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$  are continuous functions,  $\alpha_1(x), \alpha_2(x) \in L^1(\mathbb{R}^N) \cap L^{\infty}(\mathbb{R}^N)$  are nonnegative (not identically zero) radially symmetric maps, and  $\lambda$  is a real parameter. Also  $\Delta_p u := \operatorname{div}(|\nabla u|^{p-2}\nabla u)$  denotes the *p*-Laplacian operator.

Partial differential equations's is used to model a wide variety of physically significant problems arising in every different areas such as physics, engineering and other applied disciplines (see [7, 11, 12, 18, 25, 26, 28–31, 34–45]). Sobolev spaces play an important role in the theory of partial differential equations as well as Orlicz-Morrey space and  $\dot{B}_{\infty,\infty}^{-1}$ space (see [2, 8–10, 32–34]). Laplace equation is the prototype for linear elliptic equations. This equation has a non-linear counterpart, the so-called *p*-Laplace equation (see [1, 6, 13, 14, 19, 21–24, 48]).

Here, by inspiration of [20], we prove the existence of a sequence of radially symmetric weak solutions for (1) in the unbounded domain  $\mathbb{R}^N$ . The solution of (1) belongs to the product space

$$W^{1,(p,q)}(\mathbb{R}^N) = W^{1,p}(\mathbb{R}^N) \times W^{1,q}(\mathbb{R}^N)$$

equipped with the norm  $||(u, v)||_{(p,q)} = ||u||_p + ||u||_q$ .

**Definition 1.1.** For fixed  $\lambda_1$  and  $\lambda_2$ ,  $((u, v) : \mathbb{R}^{\mathbb{N}} \to \mathbb{R}$  is said to be a weak solution of (1), if  $(u, v) \in W^{1,(p,q)}(\mathbb{R}^N)$  and for every  $(z, w) \in W^{1,(p,q)}(\mathbb{R}^N)$ 

$$-\int_{\mathbb{R}^{N}} |\nabla u(x)|^{p-2} \nabla u(x) \cdot \nabla z(x) dx - \int_{\mathbb{R}^{N}} |\nabla u(x)|^{q-2} \nabla u(x) \cdot \nabla w(x) dx + \int_{\mathbb{R}^{N}} |u(x)|^{p-2} u(x) z(x) dx + \int_{\mathbb{R}^{N}} |v(x)|^{q-2} v(x) w(x) dx \\ -\lambda_{1} \int_{\mathbb{R}^{N}} \alpha_{1}(x) f_{1}(v(x)) z(x) dx - \lambda_{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^{N}} \alpha_{2}(x) f_{2}(u(x)) w(x) dx = 0,$$

where

$$\|(u,v)\|_{W^{1,(p,q)}(\mathbb{R}^N)} := \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} |\nabla u(x)|^p dx + \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} |u(x)|^p dx\right) + \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} |\nabla v(x)|^q dx + \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} |v(x)|^q dx\right)$$

Note that the critical points of an energy functional are exactly the weak solutions of (1). Morrey's theorem, implies the continuous embedding

$$W^{1,(p,q)}(\mathbb{R}^{\mathbb{N}}) \hookrightarrow L^{\infty}(\mathbb{R}^{\mathbb{N}}) \times L^{\infty}(\mathbb{R}^{\mathbb{N}}),$$
(2)

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which says that there exists c (depends on p, q, N), such that

$$\|(u,v)\|_{\infty} \le c \|(u,v)\|_{W^{1,(p,q)}(\mathbb{R}^N)},$$

for every  $(u,v) \in W^{1,p}(\mathbb{R}^{\mathbb{N}}) \times W^{1,q}(\mathbb{R}^{\mathbb{N}})$ , where  $||(u,v)||_{\infty} := \max\{||u||_{\infty}, ||v||_{\infty}\}$ . Since in the low-dimensional case, every function  $(u,v) \in W^{1,(p,q)}(\mathbb{R}^N)$  admits a continuous representation (see [4, p.166]). In the sequel we will replace (u,v) by this element. We need the following notations (see [5] or [17] for more details):

- (I) O(N) stands for the orthogonal group of  $\mathbb{R}^N$ .
- (II) B(0,s) denotes the open N-dimensional ball of center zero, radius s > 0 and standard Lebesgue measure, meas(B(0,s)).

(III)  $\|\alpha\|_{B(0,\frac{s}{2})} := \int_{B(0,\frac{s}{2})} \alpha(x) dx.$ 

#### **Definition 1.2.**

- A function  $h : \mathbb{R}^N \to \mathbb{R}$  is radially symmetric if h(gx) = h(x), for every  $g \in O(N)$  and  $x \in \mathbb{R}^N$ .
- Let G be a topological group. A continuous map  $\xi : G \times X \to X : (g, x) \to \xi(g, u) := gu$ , is called the action of G on the Banach space  $(X, \|.\|_X)$  if

1u = u, (gm)u = g(mu),  $u \mapsto gu$  is linear.

- The action is said to be isometric if  $||gu||_X = ||u||_X$ , for every  $g \in G$ .
- The space of G-invariant points is defined by

$$Fix(G) := \{ u \in X : gu = u, for all g \in G \}.$$

• A map  $m: X \to \mathbb{R}$  is said to be *G*-invariant if mog = m for every  $g \in G$ .

The following theorem is important to study the critical point of the functional (see [27]).

**Theorem 1.1.** Assume that the action of the topological group G on the Banach space X is isometric. If  $J \in C^1(X : \mathbb{R})$  is G-invariant and if u is a critical point of J restricted to Fix(G), then u is a critical point of J.

The action of the group O(N) on  $W^{1,p}(\mathbb{R}^N)$  can be defined by  $(gu)(x) := u(g^{-1}x)$ , for every  $g \in W^{1,p}(\mathbb{R}^N)$  and  $x \in \mathbb{R}^N$ . A computation shows that this group acts linearly and isometrically, which means ||u|| = ||gu||, for every  $g \in O(N)$  and  $u \in W^{1,p}(\mathbb{R}^N)$ .

**Definition 1.3.** The subspace of radially symmetric functions of  $W_r^{1,(p,q)}(\mathbb{R}^N)$  is defined by

$$\begin{split} X &:= \quad W^{1,(p,q)}_r(\mathbb{R}^N) \\ &:= \quad \{(u,v) \in W^{1,(p,q)}(\mathbb{R}^N) : (g_1u,g_2v) = (u,v), \text{ for all } (g_1,g_2) \in O(N) \times O(N)\}, \end{split}$$

and endowed by the norm

$$\|(u,v)\|_{W^{1,(p,q)}_{a}(\mathbb{R}^{N})} := \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^{N}} |\nabla u(x)|^{p} dx + \int_{\mathbb{R}^{N}} |u(x)|^{p} dx\right) + \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^{N}} |\nabla v(x)|^{q} dx + \int_{\mathbb{R}^{N}} |v(x)|^{q} dx\right)$$

In what follows:  $||(u, v)||_r$  denotes  $||(u, v)||_{W_r^{1,(p,q)}(\mathbb{R}^N)}$ . The following crucial embedding result due to Kristály and principally based on a Strauss-type estimation (see [46]) (also see [15, Theorem 3.1], [16] and [47] for related subjects).

**Theorem 1.2.** The embedding  $W_r^{1,p}(\mathbb{R}^N) \hookrightarrow L^{\infty}(\mathbb{R}^N)$ , is compact whenever  $2 \leq N .$ 

Here we consider the following functionals:

- $F_i(\xi) := \int_0^{\xi} f_i(t) dt$  for every  $\xi \in \mathbb{R}$ .
- $\Phi(u,v) := \frac{\|u\|_r^p}{p} + \frac{\|v\|_r^q}{q}$  for every  $(u,v) \in X$ .
- $\Psi(u,v) := \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} \alpha_1 F_1(v(x)) dx + \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} \alpha_2 F_2(u(x)) dx$ , for every  $(u,v) \in X$ .
- $I_{\lambda}(u,v) := \Phi(u,v) \lambda \Psi(u,v)$  for every  $(u,v) \in X$ .

By standard arguments [5], we can show that  $\Phi$  is Gâteaux differentiable, coercive and sequentially weakly lower semicontinuous whose derivative at the point  $(u, v) \in X$  is the functional  $\Phi'(u, v) \in X^*$  given by

$$\Phi'(u,v)(z,w) = -\left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} |\nabla u|^{p-2} \nabla u \cdot \nabla z dx + \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} |u|^{p-2} u z dx\right) + \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} |\nabla v|^{q-2} \nabla v \cdot \nabla w dx + \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} |v|^{q-2} v w dx\right) + \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} |\nabla v|^{q-2} \nabla v \cdot \nabla w dx + \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} |v|^{q-2} v w dx\right) + \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} |\nabla v|^{q-2} \nabla v \cdot \nabla w dx + \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} |v|^{q-2} v w dx\right) + \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} |\nabla v|^{q-2} \nabla v \cdot \nabla w dx + \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} |v|^{q-2} v w dx\right) + \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} |\nabla v|^{q-2} \nabla v \cdot \nabla w dx + \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} |v|^{q-2} v w dx\right) + \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} |\nabla v|^{q-2} \nabla v \cdot \nabla w dx + \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} |v|^{q-2} v w dx\right) + \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} |\nabla v|^{q-2} \nabla v \cdot \nabla w dx + \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} |v|^{q-2} v w dx\right) + \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} |\nabla v|^{q-2} \nabla v \cdot \nabla w dx + \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} |v|^{q-2} v w dx\right) + \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} |\nabla v|^{q-2} \nabla v \cdot \nabla w dx + \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} |v|^{q-2} v w dx\right) + \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} |\nabla v|^{q-2} \nabla v \cdot \nabla w dx + \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} |v|^{q-2} v w dx\right) + \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} |\nabla v|^{q-2} \nabla v \cdot \nabla w dx + \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} |v|^{q-2} v w dx\right) + \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} |\nabla v|^{q-2} \nabla v \cdot \nabla w dx + \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} |v|^{q-2} v w dx\right) + \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} |\nabla v|^{q-2} \nabla v \cdot \nabla w dx\right) + \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} |\nabla v|^{q-2} \nabla v \cdot \nabla w dx\right) + \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} |\nabla v|^{q-2} \nabla v \cdot \nabla w dx\right) + \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} |\nabla v|^{q-2} \nabla v \cdot \nabla w dx\right) + \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} |\nabla v|^{q-2} \nabla v \cdot \nabla w dx\right) + \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} |\nabla v|^{q-2} \nabla v \cdot \nabla w dx\right) + \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} |\nabla v|^{q-2} \nabla v \cdot \nabla w dx\right) + \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} |\nabla v|^{q-2} \nabla v \cdot \nabla w dx\right) + \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} |\nabla v|^{q-2} \nabla v \cdot \nabla w dx\right) + \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} |\nabla v|^{q-2} \nabla v \cdot \nabla w dx\right) + \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} |\nabla v|^{q-2} \nabla v \cdot \nabla w dx\right) + \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} |\nabla v|^{q-2} \nabla v \cdot \nabla v dx\right) + \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} |\nabla v|^{q-2} \nabla v \cdot \nabla v dx\right) + \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} |\nabla v|^{q-2} \nabla v \cdot \nabla v dx\right) + \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} |\nabla v|^{q-2} \nabla v \cdot \nabla v dx\right) + \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} |\nabla v|^{q-2} \nabla v d$$

for every  $(z, w) \in X$ . Also standard arguments show that the functional  $\Psi_i$  are well defined, sequentially weakly upper semicontinuous and Gâteaux differentiable whose Gâteaux derivative at the point  $(u, v) \in X$  and for every  $(z, w) \in X$  is given by

$$\Psi'(u,v)(z,w) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} \alpha_1(x) f_1(u(x)) dx + \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} \alpha_2(x) f_2(v(x)) dx.$$

### 2. Weak solutions

First, we recall the following theorem [3, Theorem 2.1].

**Theorem 2.1.** Let X be a reflexive real Banach space, let  $\Phi, \Psi : X \to \mathbb{R}$  be two Gâteaux differentiable functionals such that  $\Phi$  is sequentially weakly lower semicontinuous, strongly continuous and coercive, and  $\Psi$  is sequentially weakly upper semicontinuous. For every  $r > \inf_X \Phi$ , set

$$\begin{split} \varphi(r) &:= \inf_{\Phi(u) < r} \frac{\sup_{\Phi(v) < r} \Psi(v) - \Psi(u)}{r - \Phi(u)}, \\ \gamma &:= \liminf_{r \to +\infty} \varphi(r), \quad \textit{and} \quad \delta := \liminf_{r \to (\inf_X \Phi)^+} \varphi(r). \end{split}$$

Then the following properties hold:

- (a) for every  $r > \inf_X \Phi$  and every  $\lambda \in ]0, \frac{1}{\varphi(r)}[$ , the restriction of the functional  $I_\lambda := \Phi \lambda \Psi$  to  $\Phi^{-1}(] \infty, r[)$  admits a global minimum, which is a critical point (local minimum) of  $I_\lambda$  in X.
- (b) if  $\gamma < +\infty$ , then for each  $\lambda \in ]0, \frac{1}{2}[$ , the following alternative holds either,
  - (b<sub>1</sub>)  $I_{\lambda}$  possesses a global minimum, or
  - (b<sub>2</sub>) there is a sequence  $\{u_n\}$  of critical points (local minima) of  $I_{\lambda}$  such that  $\lim_{n \to +\infty} \Phi(u_n) = +\infty$ .
- (c) if  $\delta < +\infty$ , then for each  $\lambda \in ]0, \frac{1}{\delta}[$ , the following alternative holds either:
  - (c<sub>1</sub>) there is a global minimum of  $\Phi$  which is a local minimum of  $I_{\lambda}$ . or,
  - (c<sub>2</sub>) there is a sequence  $\{u_n\}$  of pairwise distinct critical points (local minima) of  $I_{\lambda}$  which weakly converges to a global minimum of  $\Phi$ , with  $\lim_{n \to +\infty} \Phi(u_n) = \inf_{u \in X} \Phi(u)$ .

For fixed D > 0, set

$$n(D) := meas(B(0,D)) = D^N \frac{\pi^{\frac{N}{2}}}{\Gamma(1+\frac{N}{2})}$$

where  $\Gamma$  is the Gamma function defined by  $\Gamma(t) := \int_0^{+\infty} z^{t-1} e^{-z} dz$  for all t > 0. Moreover,

$$\Omega := \max\left\{\frac{m(D)\left(\frac{\sigma(N,p)}{D^{p}} + g(p,N)\right)}{p\lambda B_{1}\|\alpha_{2}\|_{B(0,\frac{D}{2})}}, \frac{m(D)\left(\frac{\sigma(N,q)}{D^{q}} + g(q,N)\right)}{q\lambda B_{2}\|\alpha_{1}\|_{B(0,\frac{D}{2})}}\right\} > 0,$$
(3)

where  $\sigma(N,p) := 2^{p-N}(2^N-1)$ ,  $c = \frac{2p}{2-N}$ ,  $m_1, m_0$  are upper and lower bounds for M(t) in (1) and

$$g(p,N) := \frac{1 + 2^{N+p} N \int_{\frac{1}{2}}^{1} t^{N-1} (1-t)^p dt}{2^N}$$

Assume  $\|\cdot\|_1$  denotes the norm of  $L^1(\Omega)$  and  $F(\xi) := F_1(\xi) + F_2(\xi)$ .

**Theorem 2.2.** Let  $f_i : \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$  be two continuous and radially symmetric functions. Set

$$\begin{array}{lll} A := & \liminf_{\substack{(\xi_1,\xi_2) \to +\infty}} \frac{\max_{\substack{t_1 \leq \xi_1}} F_2(t_1)}{|\xi_1|^p} + \frac{\max_{\substack{t_2 \geq \xi_2}} F_1(t_2)}{|\xi_2|^q}, \\ B_1 := & \limsup_{\xi_2 \to +\infty} \frac{F_1(\xi_2)}{|\xi_2|^p}, \ \textit{and} \ B_2 := \limsup_{\xi_1 \to +\infty} \frac{F_2(\xi_1)}{|\xi_1|^q} \end{array}$$

where  $B := B_1 + B_2$ ,  $\xi = (\xi_1, \xi_2)$ . If  $\inf_{(\xi_1, \xi_2) \ge 0} F_2(\xi_1) + F_1(\xi_2) = 0$  and  $A < \Omega m_0 B$ , where  $\Omega$  is given by (3), for every

$$\lambda \in \Lambda := \left]\Omega, \frac{1}{\left(pc_1^p \|\alpha_2\|_1 + qc_2^q \|\alpha_1\|_1\right)A}\right[,$$

there exists an unbounded sequence of radially symmetric weak solutions for (1) in X.

*Proof.* For fixed  $\lambda \in \Lambda$ , we consider  $\Phi$ ,  $\Psi$  and  $I_{\lambda}$  as in the last section. Knowing that  $\Phi$  and  $\Psi$  satisfy the regularity assumptions in Theorem 2.1. In order to study the critical points of  $I_{\lambda}$  in X, we show that  $\lambda < \frac{1}{\gamma} < +\infty$ , where  $\gamma = \liminf_{r \to +\infty} \phi(r)$ . Let  $\{t_n\}$  be a sequence of positive numbers such that  $\lim_{n \to \infty} t_n = +\infty$ ,

$$r_{1n} := rac{t_{1n}^p}{pc_1^p}$$
 and  $r_{2n} := rac{t_{2n}^q}{qc_2^q}$ 

for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Set  $r_n = \min\{r_{n1}, r_{n2}\}$ . Considering Theorem 1.2 (by relation (2)), a computation shows that

$$\Phi^{-1}(] - \infty, r_n[) = \{(z, w) \in X : \Phi(z, w) < r_n\} \\ = \{(z, w) \in X : \frac{\|z\|_r^p}{p} + \frac{\|w\|_r^q}{q} < r_n\} \\ \subset \{(z, w) \in X; \|(z, w)\|_\infty < t_n\},$$
(4)

where  $t_n = \min\{t_{n1}, t_{n2}\}$ . Since  $\Phi(0, 0) = \Psi(0, 0) = 0$ , by a computation one can show

$$\varphi(r_n) = \inf_{\Phi(u,v) < r_n} \frac{(\sup_{\Phi(z,w) < r_n} \Psi(z,w)) - \Psi(u,v)}{r_n - \Phi(u,v)}$$
  
$$\leq (pc_1^p \|\alpha_2\|_1 + qc_2^q \|\alpha_1\|_1) A.$$

Hence

$$\gamma \leq \liminf_{n \to +\infty} \varphi(r_n) \leq (pc_1^p \|\alpha_2\|_1 + qc_2^q \|\alpha_1\|_1) A < +\infty$$

Now, we show that  $I_{\lambda}$  is unbounded from below. Let  $\{d_{1n}\}$  and  $\{d_{2n}\}$  be two sequences of positive numbers such that  $\lim_{n \to +\infty} d_{1n} = \lim_{n \to +\infty} d_{2n} = +\infty$  and

$$B_1 = \lim_{n \to +\infty} \frac{F_1(d_{2n})}{d_{2n}^q}, \ B_2 = \lim_{n \to +\infty} \frac{F_2(d_{1n})}{d_{1n}^p}$$
(5)

Define  $\{(H_{1n}, H_{2n})\} \in X$  by

$$H_{in}(x) := \begin{cases} 0 & \mathbb{R}^{\mathbb{N}} \setminus B(0, D) \\ d_{in} & B(0, \frac{D}{2}) \\ \frac{2d_{in}}{D} (D - |x|) & B(0, D) \setminus B(0, \frac{D}{2}), \end{cases}$$

for every  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and i = 1, 2. By a similar argument and computations in [5, P.1017] one can show that

$$\begin{aligned} \|H_{2n}\|_{r}^{q} &= \ d_{2n}^{q}m(D)\left(\frac{\sigma(N,p)}{D^{q}} + g(q,N)\right), \text{ and} \\ \|H_{1n}\|_{r}^{p} &= \ d_{1n}^{p}m(D)\left(\frac{\sigma(N,p)}{D^{p}} + g(p,N)\right). \end{aligned}$$

Condition (i), implies

$$\begin{split} \int_{\mathbb{R}^{\mathbb{N}}} \alpha_1(x) F_1(H_{2n}(x)) dx &\geq \quad \int_{B(0,\frac{D}{2})} \alpha_1(x) F_1(d_{2n}) dx = F_1(d_{2n}) \|\alpha_1\|_{B(0,\frac{D}{2})}, \text{ and} \\ \int_{\mathbb{R}^{\mathbb{N}}} \alpha_2(x) F_2(H_{1n}(x)) dx &\geq \quad \int_{B(0,\frac{D}{2})} \alpha_2(x) F_2(d_{1n}) dx = F_2(d_{1n}) \|\alpha_2\|_{B(0,\frac{D}{2})}, \end{split}$$

for every  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Then

$$\begin{split} I_{\lambda}(H_{1n}, H_{2n}) &= \Phi(H_{1n}, H_{2n}) - \lambda \Psi(H_{1n}, H_{2n}) \\ &= \frac{\|H_{1n}\|_{r}^{p}}{p} + \frac{\|H_{2n}\|_{r}^{q}}{q} - \lambda \int_{\mathbb{R}^{N}} \alpha_{1}(x) F_{1}(H_{2n}(x)) dx - \lambda \int_{\mathbb{R}^{N}} \alpha_{2}(x) F_{2}(H_{1n}(x)) dx \\ &\leq \frac{d_{1n}^{p} m(D) \left(\frac{\sigma(N, p)}{D^{P}} + g(p, N)\right)}{p} + \frac{d_{2n}^{q} m(D) \left(\frac{\sigma(N, q)}{D^{q}} + g(q, N)\right)}{q} \\ &- \lambda \left(F_{1}(d_{2n}) \|\alpha_{1}\|_{B(0, \frac{D}{2})} + F_{2}(d_{1n}) \|\alpha_{2}\|_{B(0, \frac{D}{2})}.\right) \end{split}$$

If  $B < +\infty$  ( $B_1, B_2 < +\infty$ ), the conditions (5) implies that

there exists  $N_1$  such that for all  $n \ge N_1$  we have  $F_1(d_{2n}) > \varepsilon B_1 d_{2n}^p$ , and there exists  $N_2$  such that for all  $n \ge N_2$  we have  $F_2(d_{1n}) > \varepsilon B_2 d_{1n}^q$ .

Then for every  $n \ge N_{\varepsilon} := \max\{N_1, N_2\},\$ 

$$\begin{aligned} H_{\lambda}(H_{1n}, H_{2n}) &\leq \quad \frac{d_{1n}^{p} m(D) \left(\frac{\sigma(N, p)}{D^{P}} + g(p, N)\right)}{p} + \frac{d_{2n}^{q} m(D) \left(\frac{\sigma(N, q)}{D^{q}} + g(q, N)\right)}{q} \\ &\quad -\lambda \varepsilon \left(d_{1n}^{p} B_{2} \| \alpha_{1} \|_{B(0, \frac{D}{2})} + d_{2n}^{q} B_{2} \| \alpha_{1} \|_{B(0, \frac{D}{2})} \right) \\ &= \quad d_{1n}^{p} \left(\frac{m(D) \left(\frac{\sigma(N, p)}{D^{P}} + g(p, N)\right)}{p} - \lambda \varepsilon B_{1} \| \alpha_{2} \|_{B(0, \frac{D}{2})} \right) \\ &\quad + d_{2n}^{q} \left(\frac{m(D) \left(\frac{\sigma(N, q)}{D^{q}} + g(q, N)\right)}{q} - \lambda \varepsilon B_{2} \| \alpha_{1} \|_{B(0, \frac{D}{2})} \right) \end{aligned}$$

If we set

$$\Omega := \max\left\{\frac{m(D)\left(\frac{\sigma(N,p)}{D^{p}} + g(p,N)\right)}{p\lambda B_{1}\|\alpha_{2}\|_{B(0,\frac{D}{2})}}, \frac{m(D)\left(\frac{\sigma(N,q)}{D^{q}} + g(q,N)\right)}{q\lambda B_{2}\|\alpha_{1}\|_{B(0,\frac{D}{2})}}\right\},$$

then for  $\varepsilon \in (\Omega, 1)$  one can get

 $\lim_{n \to +\infty} I_{\lambda}(H_{1n}, H_{2n}) = -\infty.$ 

If at least one of the  $B_1$  or  $B_2$  are  $+\infty$ . Let  $B_1 = +\infty$ , and consider  $M_1 > \Omega$ , then by (5) there exists  $N_{M_1}$  such that for every  $n > N_{M_1}$ , we have  $F_1(d_{1n}) > M_1 d_{1n}^p$ . Moreover, for every  $n > N_{M_1}$ 

$$I_{\lambda}(H_{1n}, H_{2n}) \leq \frac{d_{1n}^{p} m(D) \left(\frac{\sigma(N, p)}{D^{P}} + g(p, N)\right)}{p} + \frac{d_{2n}^{q} m(D) \left(\frac{\sigma(N, q)}{D^{q}} + g(q, N)\right)}{q} \\ -\lambda \left(d_{1n}^{p} M_{1} \| \alpha_{2} \|_{B(0, \frac{D}{2})} + d_{2n}^{q} M_{1} \| \alpha_{1} \|_{B(0, \frac{D}{2})} \right) \\ = d_{1n}^{p} \left(\frac{m(D) \left(\frac{\sigma(N, p)}{D^{P}} + g(p, N)\right)}{p} - \lambda M_{1} \| \alpha_{2} \|_{B(0, \frac{D}{2})}\right) \\ + d_{2n}^{q} \left(\frac{m(D) \left(\frac{\sigma(N, q)}{D^{q}} + g(q, N)\right)}{q} - \lambda M_{1} \| \alpha_{1} \|_{B(0, \frac{D}{2})}\right) \right)$$

This implies that  $\lim_{n\to+\infty} I_{\lambda}(H_{1n}, H_{2n}) = -\infty$ .

Now, Theorem 2.1 (b) implies, the functional  $I_{\lambda}$  admits an unbounded sequence  $\{u_n\} \subset X$  of critical points. Considering Theorem 1.1, these critical points are also critical points for the smooth and O(N)-invariant functional  $I_{\lambda} : W^{1,p}(\mathbb{R}^N) \to \mathbb{R}$ . Therefore, there is a sequence of radially symmetric weak solutions for the problem (1), which are unbounded in  $W^{1,p}(\mathbb{R}^N)$ .

Here we prove our second result which says that under different conditions the problem (1) has a sequence of weak solutions, which converges weakly to zero.

**Theorem 2.3.** Let  $f_i : \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$  be two continuous and radially symmetric functions. Set

$$\begin{aligned} A' &:= \lim_{\substack{(\xi_1,\xi_2) \to 0^+}} \lim_{\substack{t_1 \leq \xi_1 \\ |\xi_1|^p}} F_2^{(t_1)} + \frac{\lim_{\substack{t_2 \leq \xi_2 \\ |\xi_2|^q}}}{|\xi_2|^q}, \\ B'_1 &:= \lim_{\substack{\xi_2 \to 0^+}} \sup_{\substack{\xi_2 \to 0^+}} \frac{F_1(\xi_2)}{|\xi_2|^p}, \text{ and } B'_2 &:= \limsup_{\substack{\xi_1 \to 0^+}} \frac{F_2(\xi_1)}{|\xi_1|^q}, \end{aligned}$$

where  $B' := B'_1 + B'_2$ ,  $\xi = (\xi_1, \xi_2)$ . If  $\inf_{(\xi_1, \xi_2) > 0} F_2(\xi_1) + F_1(\xi_2) = 0$  and  $A' < \Omega m_0 B'$ , where  $\Omega$  is given by (3), for every

$$\lambda \in \Lambda' := \left] \Omega, \frac{1}{(pc_1^p \|\alpha_2\|_1 + qc_2^q \|\alpha_1\|_1) A'} \right[,$$

there exists an unbounded sequence of radially symmetric weak solutions for (1) in X.

*Proof.* For fixed  $\lambda \in \Lambda'$ , we consider  $\Phi$ ,  $\Psi$  and  $I_{\lambda}$  as in Section 2. Knowing that  $\Phi$  and  $\Psi$  satisfy the regularity assumptions in Theorem (2.1), we show that  $\lambda < \frac{1}{\delta}$ . We know that  $\inf_X \Phi = 0$ . Set  $\delta := \liminf_{r \to 0^+} \varphi(r)$ . A computation similar to the one in the Theorem 2.2 implies  $\delta < \infty$  and if  $\lambda \in \Lambda'$  then  $\lambda < \frac{1}{\delta}$ . A compaction (similar in the Theorem 2.2) shows that  $I_{\lambda}(H_{1n}, H_{2n}) < 0$  for *n* large enough and thus zero is not a local minimum of  $I_{\lambda}$ . Therefore, there exists a sequence  $\{u_n\} \subset X$ of critical points of  $I_{\lambda}$  which converges weakly to zero in X as  $\lim_{n \to +\infty} \Phi(u_n) = 0$ . Again, considering Theorem 1.1, these critical points are also critical points for the smooth and O(N)-invariant functional  $I_{\lambda} : W^{1,p}(\mathbb{R}^N) \to \mathbb{R}$ . Therefore, there is a sequence of radially symmetric weak solutions for the problem (1), which converges weakly to zero in  $W^{1,p}(\mathbb{R}^N)$ .  $\Box$ 

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