

ON THE EXISTENCE OF SOLUTIONS FOR SCHRÖDINGER-MAXWELL SYSTEMS IN $\mathbb{R}^3$

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ABSTRACT. In this paper we discuss the existence of solutions for the following Schrödinger-Maxwell systems

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta\psi + \lambda\psi + b(x)\phi\psi = a(x)|\psi|^{p-1}\psi & \text{in } \mathbb{R}^3, \\ -\Delta\phi = 4\pi b(x)\psi^2 & \text{in } \mathbb{R}^3. \end{cases}$$

Under suitable assumptions on $a(x)$ and $b(x)$, we establish existence results by variational methods.

1. Introduction and main results. In recent years, the following Schrödinger-Maxwell system has been widely considered

$$(1.1) \quad \begin{cases} -\varepsilon^2\Delta\psi + V(x)\psi + b(x)\phi\psi = a(x)|\psi|^{p-1}\psi & \text{in } \mathbb{R}^3, \\ -\Delta\phi = 4\pi b(x)\psi^2 & \text{in } \mathbb{R}^3. \end{cases}$$

This system arises in quantum mechanics and can be used to describe the standing waves of a classical Schrödinger equation interacting with an unknown electromagnetic field [10, 12, 13].

In recent years, a number of papers have contributed to investigating the existence of solutions of (1.1) and the concentration phenomena of these solutions as $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$. As we know, if $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$, the laws of quantum mechanics must reduce to those of classical mechanics, and this describes the transition between quantum mechanics and classical mechanics. D'Aprile and Wei [14], Ruiz [21], Ianni [16], Ianni and Vaira [17, 18] studied the semiclassical limit and constructed a family of radial bound states concentrated around a sphere. For other results concerning the semiclassical limit for a single Schrödinger equation, we refer readers to [1, 11, 15, 26] and the references therein.

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If $\varepsilon = V(x) = b(x) = 1$, Benci and Fortunato [10] obtained the existence of infinitely many solutions of an eigenvalue problem in a bounded domain with $a(x)|u|^{p-1}u$ replaced by 0. D'Aprile and Mugnai [13] studied the existence of radially symmetric solitary waves with $3 \leq p < 5$ and obtained the solutions as mountain-pass critical points for the associated energy functional. Ruiz [20] and Ambrosetti and Ruiz [7] considered

$$(1.2) \quad \begin{cases} -\Delta\psi + \psi + \mu\phi\psi = |\psi|^{p-1}\psi & \text{in } R^3, \\ -\Delta\phi = 4\pi\psi^2 & \text{in } R^3. \end{cases}$$

By working in the radial functions subspace of $H^1(\mathbf{R}^3)$, they were able to obtain the existence and multiplicity results of (1.2) depending upon the parameter p and $\mu > 0$.

If the potential $V(x)$ is not a constant, many authors considered the following case

$$(1.3) \quad \begin{cases} -\Delta\psi + V(x)\psi + \phi\psi = f(\psi) & \text{in } R^3, \\ -\Delta\phi = 4\pi\psi^2 & \text{in } R^3. \end{cases}$$

Since $V(x)$ might not be radial, authors cannot work in the radial function space. In [27], by assuming the non-radial potential $V(x)$ satisfying $V_\infty = \lim_{|x| \rightarrow \infty} V(x) \geq V(x)$ and bounded from below by a positive constant, Wang and Zhou considered problem (1.3) with asymptotically linear nonlinearities. Later, Azzollini and Pomponio [8] studied the existence of ground state solutions of (1.3) with $f(u) = |u|^{p-1}u$, $3 < p < 5$ and they also obtained existence results for the critical growth case by concentration compactness arguments.

Inspired by recent works [2, 3, 9], the aim of this paper is to discuss the existence of solutions for the following Schrödinger-Maxwell systems, $\lambda > 0$,

$$(1.4) \quad \begin{cases} -\Delta\psi + \lambda\psi + b(x)\phi\psi = a(x)|\psi|^{p-1}\psi & \text{in } R^3, \\ -\Delta\phi = 4\pi b(x)\psi^2 & \text{in } R^3. \end{cases}$$

As we know, it is quite difficult to verify the (P.S) condition when we want to apply critical point theory. Different from the methods used in [8, 13, 20, 27], we will not use the critical point theory to establish existence results. Instead, we will apply the perturbation method

developed by Ambrosetti and Badiale in [2, 3] to show the existence of solutions of (1.4). In [2, 3], Ambrosetti and Badiale established an abstract theory to reduce a class of perturbation problems to a finite-dimensional one by some careful observations on the unperturbed problems and the Lyapunov-Schmit reduction procedure. This method has also been applied to many different problems, see [2, 3, 4, 5, 9] for example. Let $\lambda = \varepsilon^2$. The main results of the paper are the following two theorems.

Theorem 1.1. *Assume $1 < p < 3$ and a positive constant A exist such that $a(x), b(x)$ satisfy:*

(a₁) *$a(x) - A$ is continuous, bounded and $a(x) - A \in L^1(\mathbf{R}^3)$ with $\int_{\mathbf{R}^3} (a(x) - A) \neq 0$;*

(b₁) *$b(x)$ is continuous, bounded and $b(x) \in L^{6/5}(\mathbf{R}^3)$.*

Then for any ε small, a solution $(\phi_\varepsilon, \psi_\varepsilon)$ exists in $D^{1,2}(\mathbf{R}^3) \times H^1(\mathbf{R}^3)$ for problem (1.4). Moreover, if $1 < p < 7/3$, then $(\phi_\varepsilon, \psi_\varepsilon) \rightarrow 0$ as $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$.

Theorem 1.2. *Assume that $1 < p < 3$ and (b₁) hold, instead of (a₁). We assume*

(a₂) *$a - A$ is continuous and $L \neq 0$ and $0 < \gamma < 3$ exist such that $|x|^\gamma (a(x) - A) \rightarrow L$ as $|x| \rightarrow \infty$.*

Then, for any ε small, a solution $(\phi_\varepsilon, \psi_\varepsilon)$ exists in $D^{1,2}(\mathbf{R}^3) \times H^1(\mathbf{R}^3)$ for problem (1.4). Moreover, if $1 < p < 7/3$, then $(\phi_\varepsilon, \psi_\varepsilon) \rightarrow 0$ as $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$.

Remark 1.3. These two results are related to the problem of bifurcating from the essential spectrum of the Laplace operator in the whole space. Ambrosetti and Badiale have studied this kind of problem in [3] for a one-dimensional differential equation. Later, some of those results were generalized to higher dimensions by Badiale and Pomponio in [9] under the affect of local nonlinear terms.

Throughout this paper, we denote the norm of $H^1(\mathbf{R}^3)$ by

$$\|u\| = \left(\int_{\mathbf{R}^3} (|\nabla u|^2 + u^2) \, dx \right)^{1/2},$$

the norm of $D^{1,2}(\mathbf{R}^3)$ by

$$\|u\|_D = \left(\int_{\mathbf{R}^3} |\nabla u|^2 dx \right)^{1/2}$$

and by $|\cdot|_s$ we denote the usual L^s -norm; C and C_i stand for different positive constants.

The paper is organized as follows. In Section 1, we recall some recent results about Schrödinger-Maxwell systems. In Section 2, we outline the abstract critical point theory for perturbed functionals. In Section 3, we prove Theorems 1.1 and 1.2.

2. The abstract theorem. To prove the main results, we need the following known propositions.

Proposition 2.1 [19] (Hardy-Littlewood-Sobolev inequality). *Let $p, r > 1$ and $0 < \mu < 3$ with $1/p + \mu/3 + 1/r = 2$. Let $f \in L^p(\mathbf{R}^3)$ and $h \in L^r(\mathbf{R}^3)$. A sharp constant $C(p, r)$ exists, independent of f, h , such that*

$$(2.1) \quad \int_{\mathbf{R}^3 \times \mathbf{R}^3} \frac{f(x)h(y)}{|x-y|^\mu} \leq C(p, r)|f|_p|h|_r.$$

Proposition 2.2. *For any positive constant A , consider the following problem*

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta u + u = Au^p, \\ u > 0 \end{cases} \quad u \in H^{1,2}(\mathbf{R}^3).$$

There is a unique positive radial solution U , which satisfies the following decay property:

$$\lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} U(r)re^r = C > 0, \quad \lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{U'(r)}{U(r)} = -1, \quad r = |x|,$$

$C > 0$ is a constant. The function U is a critical point of the C^2 functional $I_0 : H^1(\mathbf{R}^3) \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$ defined by

$$I_0(u) = \frac{1}{2}\|u\|^2 - \frac{A}{p+1} \int_{\mathbf{R}^3} |u|^{p+1} dx.$$

Moreover, I_0 possesses a three-dimensional manifold of critical points

$$Z = \{z_\theta = U(x + \theta), \theta \in \mathbf{R}^3\}.$$

Set

$$Q(u) := I_0''(U)[u, u] = \int_{\mathbf{R}^3} [|\nabla u|^2 + u^2 - pAU^{p-1}u^2] dx$$

and denote $X = \text{span} \{(\partial U / \partial x_i), 1 \leq i \leq 3\}$. We have

- (1) $Q(U) = (1 - p)A \int_{\mathbf{R}^3} U^{p+1} dx < 0$,
- (2) $\text{Ker } Q = X$,
- (3) $Q(w) \geq C\|w\|^2$, for all $w \in (\mathbf{R}U \oplus X)^\perp$.

In the following we outline the abstract theorem of a variational method to study critical points of perturbed functionals. Let E be a real Hilbert space. We will consider the perturbed functional defined on it of the form

$$(2.2) \quad I_\varepsilon(u) = I_0(u) + G(\varepsilon, u)$$

where $I_0 : E \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$ and $G : \mathbf{R} \times E \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$. We need the following hypotheses and assume that

- (1) I_0 and G are C^2 with respect to u ;
- (2) G is continuous in (ε, u) and $G(0, u) = 0$ for all u ;
- (3) $G'(\varepsilon, u)$ and $G''(\varepsilon, u)$ are continuous maps from $\mathbf{R} \times E \rightarrow E$ and $L(E, E)$ respectively, $L(E, E)$ is the space of linear continuous operators from E to E .

(4) There is a d -dimensional C^2 manifold Z , $d \geq 1$, consisting of critical points of I_0 , such that a Z will be called a critical manifold of I_0 .

(5) Let $T_\theta Z$ denote the tangent space to Z at z_θ ; the manifold Z is non-degenerate in the following sense:

$$\text{Ker}(I_0''(z)) = T_\theta Z \text{ and } I_0''(z_\theta) \text{ is an index-0}$$

Fredholm operator for any $z_\theta \in Z$.

(6) An $\alpha > 0$ and a continuous function $\Gamma : Z \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$ exist such that

$$\Gamma(z) = \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{G(\varepsilon, z)}{\varepsilon^\alpha}$$

and

$$G'(\varepsilon, z) = o(\varepsilon^{\alpha/2}).$$

In [2, 3] the following abstract theorem is proved.

Theorem 2.3. *Suppose assumptions (1)–(6) are satisfied, and $\delta > 0$ and $z^* \in Z$ exist such that*

$$(2.3) \quad \text{either } \min_{\|z-z^*\|=\delta} \Gamma(z) > \Gamma(z^*) \text{ or } \max_{\|z-z^*\|=\delta} \Gamma(z) < \Gamma(z^*).$$

Then, for any ε small, u_ε exists which is a critical point of I_ε .

3. Proof of the main results. In this section we will apply the abstract tools of the previous section to prove Theorem 1.1.

Applying the Lax-Milgram theorem, we know that for every $\psi \in H^1(\mathbf{R}^3)$, a unique $\phi_\psi \in D^{1,2}(\mathbf{R}^3)$ exists such that

$$(3.1) \quad -\Delta \phi_\psi = 4\pi b(x)\psi^2$$

and ϕ_u can be expressed by

$$\phi_\psi(x) = \int_{\mathbf{R}^3} \frac{b(y)\psi^2(y)}{|x-y|}.$$

Thus, problem (1.4) is equivalent to the following one:

$$(3.2) \quad -\Delta \psi + \lambda \psi + b(x) \left(\int \frac{b(y)|\psi|^2}{|x-y|} \right) \psi = a(x)|\psi|^{p-1}\psi.$$

Set

$$\begin{cases} \lambda = \varepsilon^2, \\ \psi(x) = \varepsilon^{2/(p-1)} u(\varepsilon x). \end{cases}$$

We have

$$(3.3) \quad -\Delta u + u + \varepsilon^{4(2-p)/p-1} b\left(\frac{x}{\varepsilon}\right) \left(\int \frac{b(y/\varepsilon)|u(y)|^2}{|x-y|} \right) u(x) = a\left(\frac{x}{\varepsilon}\right) |u|^{p-1} u.$$

It can be proved that $\psi(x) = \varepsilon^{2/(p-1)}u(\varepsilon x) \in H^1(\mathbf{R}^3)$ is a solution of system (1.4) if and only if $u \in H^1(\mathbf{R}^3)$ is a critical point of the functional $I_\varepsilon : H^1(\mathbf{R}^3) \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$ defined as

$$I_\varepsilon(u) = \frac{1}{2}\|u\|^2 + \frac{\varepsilon^{4(2-p)/p-1}}{4} \int_{\mathbf{R}^3 \times \mathbf{R}^3} \frac{b(x/\varepsilon)u^2(x)b(y/\varepsilon)u^2(y)}{|x-y|} \\ - \frac{1}{p+1} \int_{\mathbf{R}^3} a\left(\frac{x}{\varepsilon}\right)|u|^{p+1}.$$

Set

$$I_0(u) = \frac{1}{2}\|u\|^2 - \frac{A}{p+1} \int_{\mathbf{R}^3} |u|^{p+1}.$$

Then $I_\varepsilon(u)$ can be rewritten as

$$(3.4) \quad \begin{aligned} I_\varepsilon(u) &= I_0(u) \\ &+ \frac{1}{4}\varepsilon^{4(2-p)/p-1} \int_{\mathbf{R}^3 \times \mathbf{R}^3} \frac{b(x/\varepsilon)u^2(x)b(y/\varepsilon)u^2(y)}{|x-y|} \\ &+ \frac{1}{p+1} \int_{\mathbf{R}^3} \left(A - a\left(\frac{x}{\varepsilon}\right) \right) |u|^{p+1}. \end{aligned}$$

Define

$$\begin{aligned} \widetilde{G}(\varepsilon, u) &= \frac{1}{p+1} \int_{\mathbf{R}^3} \left[A - a\left(\frac{x}{\varepsilon}\right) \right] |u|^{p+1} \\ &+ \frac{1}{4}\varepsilon^{4(2-p)/p-1} \int_{\mathbf{R}^3 \times \mathbf{R}^3} \frac{b(x/\varepsilon)u^2(x)b(y/\varepsilon)u^2(y)}{|x-y|} \\ &= \widetilde{G}_1(\varepsilon, u) + \widetilde{G}_2(\varepsilon, u), \end{aligned}$$

and, for $i = 1, 2$,

$$G_i(\varepsilon, u) = \begin{cases} \widetilde{G}_i(\varepsilon, u) & \text{if } \varepsilon \neq 0, \\ 0 & \text{if } \varepsilon = 0. \end{cases}$$

3.1. Proof of Theorem 1.1.

Lemma 3.1. *Under assumptions (a_1) and (b_1) , G is continuous in (ε, u) .*

Proof. From the proof of the lemma in [9], we know G_1 is continuous in $(\varepsilon, u) \in \mathbf{R} \times H^1(\mathbf{R}^3)$, and hence we only need to prove that G_2 is continuous in (ε, u) .

If $(\varepsilon, u) \rightarrow (\varepsilon_0, u_0)$, with $\varepsilon_0 \neq 0$, then we can verify that

$$\begin{aligned}
& 4|G_2(\varepsilon, u) - G_2(\varepsilon_0, u_0)| \\
&= \left| \varepsilon^{4(2-p)/p-1} \int_{\mathbf{R}^3 \times \mathbf{R}^3} \frac{b(x/\varepsilon)u^2(x)b(y/\varepsilon)u^2(y)}{|x-y|} \right. \\
&\quad \left. - \varepsilon_0^{4(2-p)/p-1} \int_{\mathbf{R}^3 \times \mathbf{R}^3} \frac{b(x/\varepsilon_0)u_0^2(x)b(y/\varepsilon_0)u_0^2(y)}{|x-y|} \right| \\
&\leq |\varepsilon|^{4(2-p)/p-1} \\
&\quad \times \left| \int_{\mathbf{R}^3 \times \mathbf{R}^3} \frac{b(x/\varepsilon)u^2(x)b(y/\varepsilon)u^2(y) - b(x/\varepsilon_0)u_0^2(x)b(y/\varepsilon_0)u_0^2(y)}{|x-y|} \right| \\
&\quad + |\varepsilon^{4(2-p)/p-1} - \varepsilon_0^{4(2-p)/p-1}| \left| \int_{\mathbf{R}^3 \times \mathbf{R}^3} \frac{b(x/\varepsilon_0)u_0^2(x)b(y/\varepsilon_0)u_0^2(y)}{|x-y|} \right| \\
&:= |\varepsilon|^{4(2-p)/p-1} I_1 + I_2.
\end{aligned}$$

It is obvious that $I_2 \rightarrow 0$, as $\varepsilon \rightarrow \varepsilon_0$. Also, we know that

$$\begin{aligned}
I_1 &\leq \left| \int_{\mathbf{R}^3 \times \mathbf{R}^3} \frac{[b(x/\varepsilon) - b(x/\varepsilon_0)]u^2(x)b(y/\varepsilon)u^2(y)}{|x-y|} \right| \\
&\quad + \left| \int_{\mathbf{R}^3 \times \mathbf{R}^3} \frac{b(x/\varepsilon_0)(u^2(x) - u_0^2(x))b(y/\varepsilon)u^2(y)}{|x-y|} \right| \\
&\quad + \left| \int_{\mathbf{R}^3 \times \mathbf{R}^3} \frac{b(x/\varepsilon_0)u_0^2(x)(b(y/\varepsilon) - b(y/\varepsilon_0))u^2(y)}{|x-y|} \right| \\
&\quad + \left| \int_{\mathbf{R}^3 \times \mathbf{R}^3} \frac{b(x/\varepsilon_0)u_0^2(x)b(y/\varepsilon_0)(u^2(y) - u_0^2(y))}{|x-y|} \right| \\
&:= \Pi_1 + \Pi_2 + \Pi_3 + \Pi_4.
\end{aligned}$$

Estimating the first term Π_1 , by the Hardy-Littlewood-Sobolev inequality, we know that

$$\begin{aligned}
\Pi_1 &= \left| \int_{\mathbf{R}^3 \times \mathbf{R}^3} \frac{[b(x/\varepsilon) - b(x/\varepsilon_0)]u^2(x)b(y/\varepsilon)u^2(y)}{|x-y|} \right| \\
&\leq \left(\int_{\mathbf{R}^3} \left| b\left(\frac{x}{\varepsilon}\right) - b\left(\frac{x}{\varepsilon_0}\right) \right|^{6/5} u^{12/5} \right)^{5/6} \left(\int_{\mathbf{R}^3} \left| b\left(\frac{y}{\varepsilon}\right) \right|^{6/5} u^{12/5} \right)^{5/6}.
\end{aligned}$$

Since $b(x)$ is bounded and continuous, $u \rightarrow u_0$, the dominated convergence theorem implies that

$$\Pi_1 \longrightarrow 0, \quad \text{as } \varepsilon \rightarrow \varepsilon_0.$$

Similarly, we can deduce that Π_2, Π_3, Π_4 vanish, as $\varepsilon \rightarrow \varepsilon_0$. Hence, $|G_2(\varepsilon, u) - G_2(\varepsilon_0, u_0)| \rightarrow 0$ as $(\varepsilon, u) \rightarrow (\varepsilon_0, u_0)$.

If $(\varepsilon, u) \rightarrow (0, u_0)$, by definition, $G_2(0, u) = 0$. Applying both the Hardy-Littlewood-Sobolev and Hölder inequalities, we get

$$\begin{aligned} 4|G_2(\varepsilon, u)| &\leq |\varepsilon|^{4(2-p)/p-1} \int_{\mathbf{R}^3 \times \mathbf{R}^3} \left| \frac{b(x/\varepsilon)u^2(x)b(y/\varepsilon)u^2(y)}{|x-y|} \right| \\ &\leq |\varepsilon|^{4(2-p)/p-1} \left(\int_{\mathbf{R}^3} \left| b\left(\frac{x}{\varepsilon}\right)u^2(x) \right|^{6/5} \right)^{5/3} \\ &\leq |\varepsilon|^{4(2-p)/p-1} \left(\int_{\mathbf{R}^3} \left| b\left(\frac{x}{\varepsilon}\right) \right|^2 \right) \left(\int_{\mathbf{R}^3} |u|^6 \right)^{2/3} \\ &= |\varepsilon|^{5-p/p-1} \int_{\mathbf{R}^3} |b(x)|^2 \left(\int_{\mathbf{R}^3} |u|^6 \right)^{2/3}. \end{aligned}$$

We changed the variables $y = x/\varepsilon$ in the last step, since $1 < p < 3$, $G_2(\varepsilon, u) \rightarrow 0$, as $(\varepsilon, u) \rightarrow (0, u)$. Hence, $G = G_1 + G_2$ is continuous, and the lemma is proved. $\square$

Lemma 3.2. *Under assumptions (a_1) and (b_1) , G' and G'' are continuous in (ε, u) .*

Proof. G'_1 and G''_1 are continuous in (ε, u) , see [9] for details. Here we only prove that G'_2 and G''_2 are continuous in (ε, u) .

If $(\varepsilon, u) \rightarrow (\varepsilon_0, u_0)$ with $\varepsilon_0 \neq 0$, then

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \|G'_2(\varepsilon, u) - G'_2(\varepsilon_0, u_0)\| \\
 &= \sup_{\|v\|=1} \left\{ \left| \varepsilon^{4(2-p)/p-1} \int_{\mathbf{R}^3 \times \mathbf{R}^3} \frac{b(x/\varepsilon)u^2(x)b(y/\varepsilon)u(y)v(y)}{|x-y|} \right. \right. \\
 &\quad \left. \left. - \varepsilon_0^{4(2-p)/p-1} \int_{\mathbf{R}^3 \times \mathbf{R}^3} \frac{b(x/\varepsilon_0)u_0^2(x)b(y/\varepsilon_0)u_0(y)v(y)}{|x-y|} \right| \right\} \\
 &\leq \sup_{\|v\|=1} \left\{ |\varepsilon|^{4(2-p)/p-1} \right. \\
 &\quad \times \int_{\mathbf{R}^3 \times \mathbf{R}^3} \frac{b(x/\varepsilon)u^2(x)b(y/\varepsilon)u(y)v(y) - b(x/\varepsilon_0)u_0^2(x)b(y/\varepsilon_0)u_0(y)v(y)}{|x-y|} \\
 &\quad \left. + \left| \varepsilon^{4(2-p)/p-1} - \varepsilon_0^{4(2-p)/p-1} \right| \left| \int_{\mathbf{R}^3 \times \mathbf{R}^3} \frac{b(x/\varepsilon_0)u_0^2(x)b(y/\varepsilon_0)u_0(y)v(y)}{|x-y|} \right| \right\} \\
 &:= |\varepsilon|^{4(2-p)/p-1} \sup_{\|v\|=1} I_1 + \sup_{\|v\|=1} I_2.
 \end{aligned}$$

Estimating the second term, by the Hardy-Littlewood-Sobolev inequality, we know that

$$\begin{aligned}
 \sup_{\|v\|=1} I_2 &\leq \left| \varepsilon^{4(2-p)/p-1} - \varepsilon_0^{4(2-p)/p-1} \right| \\
 &\quad \times \left(\int_{\mathbf{R}^3} \left| b\left(\frac{x}{\varepsilon_0}\right) u_0^2(x) \right|^{6/5} \right)^{5/6} \\
 &\quad \times \left(\int_{\mathbf{R}^3} \left| b\left(\frac{y}{\varepsilon_0}\right) u_0(y) v(y) \right|^{6/5} \right)^{5/6} \\
 &\leq \left| \varepsilon^{4(2-p)/p-1} - \varepsilon_0^{4(2-p)/p-1} \right| \\
 &\quad \left(\int_{\mathbf{R}^3} \left| b\left(\frac{x}{\varepsilon_0}\right) \right|^2 \right) \left(\int_{\mathbf{R}^3} |u_0|^6 \right)^{1/2} \left(\int |v|^6 \right)^{1/6} \\
 &\leq C_0 \left| \varepsilon^{4(2-p)/p-1} - \varepsilon_0^{4(2-p)/p-1} \right|.
 \end{aligned}$$

Thus, $\sup_{\|v\|=1} I_2 \rightarrow 0$ as $\varepsilon \rightarrow \varepsilon_0$. Estimating the first term I_1 , we

know that

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \sup_{\|v\|=1} I_1 \\
 &= \left\{ \left| \int_{\mathbf{R}^3 \times \mathbf{R}^3} \frac{b(x/\varepsilon)u^2(x)b(y/\varepsilon)u(y)v(y) - b(x/\varepsilon_0)u_0^2(x)b(y/\varepsilon_0)u(y)v(y)}{|x-y|} \right| \right\} \\
 &\leq \left| \int_{\mathbf{R}^3 \times \mathbf{R}^3} \frac{b(x/\varepsilon) - b(x/\varepsilon_0)u^2(x)b(y/\varepsilon)u(y)v(y)}{|x-y|} \right| \\
 &\quad + \left| \int_{\mathbf{R}^3 \times \mathbf{R}^3} \frac{b(x/\varepsilon_0)(u^2(x) - u_0^2(x))b(y/\varepsilon)u(y)v(y)}{|x-y|} \right| \\
 &\quad + \left| \int_{\mathbf{R}^3 \times \mathbf{R}^3} \frac{b(x/\varepsilon_0)u_0^2(x)(b(y/\varepsilon) - b(y/\varepsilon_0))u(y)v(y)}{|x-y|} \right| \\
 &\quad + \left| \int_{\mathbf{R}^3 \times \mathbf{R}^3} \frac{b(x/\varepsilon_0)u_0^2(x)b(y/\varepsilon_0)(u(y)v(y) - u_0(y)v(y))}{|x-y|} \right| \\
 &:= A_1 + A_2 + A_3 + A_4.
 \end{aligned}$$

As in Lemma 3.1, by the Hardy-Littlewood-Sobolev inequality, we can prove that $A_i \rightarrow 0$, as $\varepsilon \rightarrow \varepsilon_0$, $i = 1, 2, 3, 4$. Therefore, $\|G'_2(\varepsilon, u) - G'_2(\varepsilon_0, u_0)\| \rightarrow 0$ as $(\varepsilon, u) \rightarrow (\varepsilon_0, u_0)$.

If $\varepsilon_0 = 0$, by the definition of G_2 , we know that $\|G'_2(0, u_0)\| = 0$. Hence,

$$\begin{aligned}
 \|G'_2(\varepsilon, u)\| &= \sup_{\|v\|=1} \left| \varepsilon^{4(2-p)/p-1} \int_{\mathbf{R}^3 \times \mathbf{R}^3} \frac{b(x/\varepsilon)u^2(x)b(y/\varepsilon)u(y)v(y)}{|x-y|} \right| \\
 &\leq \sup_{\|v\|=1} \left\{ |\varepsilon^{4(2-p)/p-1}| \left(\int_{\mathbf{R}^3} \left| b\left(\frac{x}{\varepsilon}\right) \right|^2 \right) \right. \\
 &\quad \left. \times \left(\int_{\mathbf{R}^3} |u|^6 \right)^{1/2} \left(\int_{\mathbf{R}^3} |v|^6 \right)^{1/6} \right\}.
 \end{aligned}$$

By a change of variables, we know that

$$\|G'_2(\varepsilon, u)\| \leq C|\varepsilon|^{5-p/p-1}|b|_2^2|u|_6^3;$$

thus, $\|G'_2(\varepsilon, u)\| \rightarrow 0$, as $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$. From the above arguments, we know that $G' = G'_1 + G'_2$ is continuous (ε, u) .

In the following we prove that G'' is continuous in (ε, u) . As we know

$$\begin{aligned} G_2''(\varepsilon, u)[w, v] &= \varepsilon^{4(2-p)/p-1} \\ &\quad \times \int_{\mathbf{R}^3 \times \mathbf{R}^3} \frac{b(x/\varepsilon)u^2(x)b(y/\varepsilon)w(y)v(y)}{|x-y|} \\ &\quad + \frac{2b(x/\varepsilon)u(x)w(x)b(y/\varepsilon)u(y)v(y)}{|x-y|}. \end{aligned}$$

If $(\varepsilon, u) \rightarrow (\varepsilon_0, u_0)$ with $\varepsilon_0 \neq 0$, then

$$\begin{aligned} \|G_2''(\varepsilon, u) - G_2''(\varepsilon_0, u_0)\| &= \sup_{\|w\|=\|v\|=1} |G_2''(\varepsilon, u)(w, v) - G_2''(\varepsilon_0, u_0)(w, v)| \\ &= \sup_{\|w\|=\|v\|=1} \left| \varepsilon^{4(2-p)/p-1} \right. \\ &\quad \times \int_{\mathbf{R}^3 \times \mathbf{R}^3} \frac{b(x/\varepsilon)u^2(x)b(y/\varepsilon)w(y)v(y)}{|x-y|} \\ &\quad + \frac{2b(x/\varepsilon)u(x)w(x)b(y/\varepsilon)u(y)v(y)}{|x-y|} \\ &\quad - \varepsilon_0^{4(2-p)/p-1} \\ &\quad \times \int_{\mathbf{R}^3 \times \mathbf{R}^3} \frac{b(x/\varepsilon_0)u_0^2(x)b(y/\varepsilon_0)w(y)v(y)}{|x-y|} \\ &\quad \left. + \frac{2b(x/\varepsilon_0)u_0(x)w(x)b(y/\varepsilon_0)u_0(y)v(y)}{|x-y|} \right| \\ &\leq I_1 + I_2, \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} I_1 &:= \left| \varepsilon^{4(2-p)/p-1} \int_{\mathbf{R}^3 \times \mathbf{R}^3} \frac{b(x/\varepsilon)u^2(x)b(y/\varepsilon)w(y)v(y)}{|x-y|} \right. \\ &\quad \left. - \varepsilon_0^{4(2-p)/p-1} \int_{\mathbf{R}^3 \times \mathbf{R}^3} \frac{b(x/\varepsilon_0)u_0^2(x)b(y/\varepsilon_0)w(y)v(y)}{|x-y|} \right| \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} I_2 &:= \left| \varepsilon^{4(2-p)/p-1} \int_{\mathbf{R}^3 \times \mathbf{R}^3} \frac{b(x/\varepsilon)u(x)w(x)b(y/\varepsilon)u(y)v(y)}{|x-y|} \right. \\ &\quad \left. - \varepsilon_0^{4(2-p)/p-1} \int_{\mathbf{R}^3 \times \mathbf{R}^3} \frac{b(x/\varepsilon_0)u_0(x)w(x)b(y/\varepsilon_0)u_0(y)v(y)}{|x-y|} \right|. \end{aligned}$$

We only estimate I_1 ; I_2 can be estimated in a similar way. Indeed,

$$\begin{aligned} I_1 \leq & \left| \varepsilon^{4(2-p)/p-1} - \varepsilon_0^{4(2-p)/p-1} \right| \left| \int_{\mathbf{R}^3 \times \mathbf{R}^3} \frac{b(x/\varepsilon)u^2(x)b(y/\varepsilon)w(y)v(y)}{|x-y|} \right| \\ & + |\varepsilon_0|^{4(2-p)/p-1} \\ & \times \left| \int_{\mathbf{R}^3 \times \mathbf{R}^3} \frac{b(x/\varepsilon)u^2(x)b(y/\varepsilon)w(y)v(y)}{|x-y|} \right. \\ & \quad \left. - \frac{b(x/\varepsilon_0)u_0^2(x)b(y/\varepsilon_0)w(y)v(y)}{|x-y|} \right|. \end{aligned}$$

Similar to the proof in Lemma 3.1, we know $I_1 \rightarrow 0$ as $\varepsilon \rightarrow \varepsilon_0$. Thus, we know $\|G_2''(\varepsilon, u) - G_2''(\varepsilon_0, u_0)\| \rightarrow 0$ as $(\varepsilon, u) \rightarrow (\varepsilon_0, u_0)$.

If $(\varepsilon, u) \rightarrow (0, u_0)$, then from the definition of G_2 , we know that

$$\begin{aligned} \|G_2''(\varepsilon, u)\| &= \sup_{\|w\|=\|v\|=1} |G_2''(\varepsilon, u)[w, v]| \\ &= \sup_{\|w\|=\|v\|=1} \left\{ |\varepsilon|^{4(2-p)/p-1} \right. \\ &\quad \times \left| \int_{\mathbf{R}^3 \times \mathbf{R}^3} \frac{b(x/\varepsilon)b(y/\varepsilon)u^2(x)w(y)v(y)}{|x-y|} \right| \\ &\quad \left. + 2|\varepsilon|^{4(2-p)/p-1} \right. \\ &\quad \times \left. \left| \int_{\mathbf{R}^3 \times \mathbf{R}^3} \frac{2b(x/\varepsilon)u(x)w(x)b(y/\varepsilon)u(y)v(y)}{|x-y|} \right| \right\} := I_1 + I_2. \end{aligned}$$

By the Hardy-Littlewood-Sobolev inequality again, we know that

$$\begin{aligned} I_1 &\leq |\varepsilon|^{4(2-p)/p-1} \left(\int_{\mathbf{R}^3} \left| b\left(\frac{x}{\varepsilon}\right) w(x) v(x) \right|^{6/5} \right)^{5/6} \\ &\quad \times \left(\int_{\mathbf{R}^3} \left| b\left(\frac{x}{\varepsilon}\right) u^2(x) \right|^{6/5} \right)^{5/6} \\ &\leq |\varepsilon|^{5-p/p-1} |b|_2^2 |u|_6^2 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} I_2 &\leq 2|\varepsilon|^{4(2-p)/p-1} \left(\int_{\mathbf{R}^3} |b(x/\varepsilon)u(x)w(x)|^{6/5} \right)^{5/6} \\ &\quad \times \left(\int_{\mathbf{R}^3} \left| b\left(\frac{x}{\varepsilon}\right) u(x) v(x) \right|^{6/5} \right)^{5/6} \\ &\leq 2|\varepsilon|^{5-p/p-1} |b|_2^2 |u|_6^2. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$\|G_2''(\varepsilon, u)\| \longrightarrow 0 \quad \text{as } \varepsilon \rightarrow 0.$$

From the above arguments, we know that G'' is continuous in (ε, u) , and the proof is complete. $\square$

Lemma 3.3. *Assume (a_1) and (b_1) are satisfied. Define*

$$(3.5) \quad \Gamma(\theta) = -\frac{1}{p+1} U^{p+1}(\theta) \int_{\mathbf{R}^3} (a(x) - A).$$

Then

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{G(\varepsilon, z_\theta)}{\varepsilon^3} = \Gamma(\theta)$$

and

$$G'(\varepsilon, z_\theta) = o(\varepsilon^{3/2}).$$

Proof. By a change of variables, we know that

$$\begin{aligned} G_1(\varepsilon, z_\theta) &= -\frac{1}{p+1} \int_{\mathbf{R}^3} \left(a\left(\frac{x}{\varepsilon}\right) - A \right) U^{p+1}(x + \theta) \\ &= -\frac{\varepsilon^3}{p+1} \int_{\mathbf{R}^3} (a(x) - A) U^{p+1}(\varepsilon x + \theta). \end{aligned}$$

Since $a(x)$ is continuous and bounded, the dominated convergence theorem implies that

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{G_1(\varepsilon, z_\theta)}{\varepsilon^3} = \Gamma(\theta).$$

On the other hand, by a change of variables we know that

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \frac{G_1(\varepsilon, z_\theta)}{\varepsilon^3} \right| &= \left| \frac{1}{4} \varepsilon^{[4(2-p)/p-1]-3} \int_{\mathbf{R}^3 \times \mathbf{R}^3} \frac{b(x/\varepsilon) z_\theta^2(x) b(y/\varepsilon) z_\theta^2(y)}{|x-y|} \right| \\ &\leq \frac{1}{4} |\varepsilon|^{[4(2-p)/p-1]-3} \left(\int_{\mathbf{R}^3} \left| b\left(\frac{x}{\varepsilon}\right) z_\theta^2 \right|^{6/5} \right)^{5/3} \\ &\leq C_0 |\varepsilon|^{[6-2p/p-1]} \left(\int_{\mathbf{R}^3} |b(x)|^{6/5} \right)^{5/3} \longrightarrow 0 \quad \text{as } \varepsilon \rightarrow 0, \end{aligned}$$

since $1 < p < 3$, $b(x) \in L^{6/5}(R^3)$. Thus, we obtain

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{G(\varepsilon, z_\theta)}{\varepsilon^3} = \Gamma(\theta).$$

Now we are ready to prove

$$G'(\varepsilon, z_\theta) = o(\varepsilon^{3/2}).$$

From the proof of [9], we first know

$$G'_1(\varepsilon, z_\theta) = o(\varepsilon^{3/2}).$$

Also, since z is bounded, it is easy to check that

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\|G'_2(\varepsilon, z_\theta)\|}{|\varepsilon|^{3/2}} &= |\varepsilon|^{[4(2-p)/p-1]-3/2} \sup_{\|v\|=1} |(G'_2(\varepsilon, z_\theta), v)| \\ &= |\varepsilon|^{[4(2-p)/p-1]-3/2} \\ &\quad \times \sup_{\|v\|=1} \left| \int_{\mathbf{R}^3 \times \mathbf{R}^3} \frac{b(x/\varepsilon)z_\theta^2(x)b(y/\varepsilon)z_\theta(y)v(y)}{|x-y|} \right| \\ &\leq |\varepsilon|^{[4(2-p)/p-1]-3/2} \sup_{\|v\|=1} \left| \left(\int_{\mathbf{R}^3} \left| b\left(\frac{x}{\varepsilon}\right)z_\theta^2 \right|^{6/5} \right)^{5/6} \right. \\ &\quad \times \left. \left(\int_{\mathbf{R}^3} \left| b\left(\frac{x}{\varepsilon}\right)z_\theta v(x) \right|^{6/5} \right)^{5/6} \right| \\ &\leq C_0 |\varepsilon|^{[4(2-p)/p-1]-3/2} \sup_{\|v\|=1} \left| \left(\int_{\mathbf{R}^3} \left| b\left(\frac{x}{\varepsilon}\right) \right|^{6/5} \right)^{5/6} \right. \\ &\quad \times \left. \left(\int_{\mathbf{R}^3} \left| b\left(\frac{x}{\varepsilon}\right)v(x) \right|^{6/5} \right)^{5/6} \right|. \end{aligned}$$

Moreover, recall that $b(x) \in L^{6/5}$ and is bounded, so it belongs to any q for $q \geq 6/5$. Using the Hölder inequality, we get

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\|G'_2(\varepsilon, z_\theta)\|}{|\varepsilon|^{3/2}} &\leq C_0 |\varepsilon|^{[4(2-p)/p-1]-3/2+5/2+2} \\ &\quad \times \sup_{\|v\|=1} \left| \left(\int_{\mathbf{R}^3} |b(x)|^{6/5} \right)^{5/6} \left(\int_{\mathbf{R}^3} |b(x)|^{3/2} \right)^{2/3} \right. \\ &\quad \times \left. \left(\int_{\mathbf{R}^3} |v(x)|^6 \right)^{1/6} \right| \\ &\leq C_1 |\varepsilon|^{5-p/p-1}, \end{aligned}$$

since $1 < p < 3$. We have

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{G'_2(\varepsilon, z_\theta)}{\varepsilon^{3/2}} = 0.$$

From the above arguments, we know

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{G'(\varepsilon, z_\theta)}{\varepsilon^{3/2}} = 0,$$

and the proof is completed. $\square$

Completion of the proof of Theorem 1.1.

Proof. By the exponential decay property of proposition U , it is easy to check that I''_0 is a compact perturbation of the identity map, and so it is an index-0 Fredholm operator. By Proposition 2.2, we know that Z is a non degenerate three-dimensional critical manifold. From Lemmas 3.1 to 3.3, we know all the assumptions of Theorem 2.3 are satisfied. U has a strict (global) maximum at $x = 0$. So Γ has a strict (global) maximum or minimum at $\theta = 0$ depending upon the sign of $\int_{\mathbf{R}^3}(a(x) - A)$. By the abstract theorem, we know the existence of a family of solutions $\{(\varepsilon, u_\varepsilon)\} \subset \mathbf{R} \times H^1(\mathbf{R}^3)$. If $1 < p < 7/3$, it is easy to check that $(\phi_\varepsilon, \psi_\varepsilon) \rightarrow 0$ as $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$. $\square$

Remark 3.4. The hypothesis $\int_{\mathbf{R}^3}(a(x) - A) \neq 0$ is used to apply Theorem 2.3 and has already been used in [2, 9]. If $\int_{\mathbf{R}^3}(a(x) - A)$ is identically zero, we cannot conclude that critical points of I_ε exist.

In the next part we prove Theorem 1.2.

3.2. Proof of Theorem 1.2.

Lemma 3.5. *Assume that (a_2) and (b_1) are satisfied. Then G , G' and G'' are continuous in (ε, u) .*

Proof. Keeping the exponential decay property of U in mind, the continuity of G_1 , G'_1 and G''_1 in (ε, u) can be proved similarly as in [9].

We can also repeat the proof in Lemma 3.1 to know the continuity of G_2 , etc. Thus, the lemma is concluded. $\square$

Lemma 3.6. *Assume (a_2) and (b_1) are satisfied. Define*

$$(3.6) \quad \Gamma(\theta) = -\frac{L}{p+1} \int_{\mathbf{R}^3} |x|^{-\gamma} U^{p+1}(x+\theta).$$

Then, for all $\theta \in R^N$, we have

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{G(\varepsilon, z_\theta)}{\varepsilon^\gamma} = \Gamma(\theta), \quad \lim_{|\theta| \rightarrow \infty} \Gamma(\theta) = 0$$

and

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{G'(\varepsilon, z_\theta)}{\varepsilon}^{\gamma/2} = 0.$$

Proof. As we know,

$$G_1(\varepsilon, z_\theta) = -\frac{\varepsilon^\gamma}{p+1} \int_{\mathbf{R}^3} \left(a\left(\frac{x}{\varepsilon}\right) - A \right) \frac{|x|^\gamma U^{p+1}(x+\theta)}{\varepsilon^\gamma |x|^\gamma}.$$

By assumption (a_2) and the decay property of U ,

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{G_1(\varepsilon, z_\theta)}{\varepsilon^\gamma} = \Gamma(\theta).$$

Moreover, by the boundedness of z and the Hardy-Littlewood-Sobolev inequality, we know that

$$\begin{aligned} G_2(\varepsilon, z_\theta) &= \frac{1}{4} \varepsilon^{4(2-p)/p-1} \int_{\mathbf{R}^3 \times \mathbf{R}^3} \frac{b(x/\varepsilon) z_\theta^2(x) b(y/\varepsilon) z_\theta^2(y)}{|x-y|} \\ &\leq \frac{1}{4} \varepsilon^{4(2-p)/p-1} \left(\int_{\mathbf{R}^3} \left| b\left(\frac{x}{\varepsilon}\right) z_\theta^2 \right|^{6/5} \right)^{5/3} \\ &\leq C_0 \varepsilon^{3+p/p-1} \left(\int_{\mathbf{R}^3} |b(x)|^{6/5} \right)^{5/3}. \end{aligned}$$

Since $3 + p/p - 1 > 3 > \gamma$, therefore

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{G_2(\varepsilon, z_\theta)}{\varepsilon^\gamma} = 0;$$

thus, we know

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{G(\varepsilon, z_\theta)}{\varepsilon^\gamma} = \Gamma(\theta).$$

To study the property of $G'(\varepsilon, z_\theta)$, since $\gamma < 3$ and U exponentially decays at infinity, from the proof in [9], we know that

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{G'_1(\varepsilon, z_\theta)}{\varepsilon^{\gamma/2}} = 0.$$

On the other hand, from the proof of Lemma 3.2, we have

$$\|G'_2(\varepsilon, z_\theta)\| \leq C_0 |\varepsilon|^{[5-p/p-1]+3/2}.$$

Since $\gamma < 3$ and $1 < p < 3$, we get

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{G'_2(\varepsilon, z_\theta)}{\varepsilon^{\gamma/2}} = 0.$$

From the above arguments, we know that

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{G'(\varepsilon, z_\theta)}{\varepsilon^{\gamma/2}} = 0. \quad \square$$

Completion of the proof of Theorem 1.2.

Proof. From Lemmas 3.5 and 3.6, we know that all of the assumptions of Theorem 2.3 are satisfied. Since $\lim_{|\theta| \rightarrow \infty} \Gamma(\theta) = 0$ and $\Gamma(0) \neq 0$, we know that there is an $R > 0$ such that either

$$\min_{|\theta|=R} \Gamma(\theta) > \Gamma(0) \quad \text{or} \quad \max_{|\theta|=R} \Gamma(\theta) < \Gamma(0).$$

By the abstract Theorem 2.3, we know the existence of the family of solutions $\{(\varepsilon, u_\varepsilon)\} \subset \mathbf{R} \times H^1(\mathbf{R}^3)$. If $1 < p < 7/3$, it is easy to check that $(\phi_\varepsilon, \psi_\varepsilon) \rightarrow 0$ as $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$. $\square$

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