



Research article

# Existence of infinitely many normalized radial solutions for a class of quasilinear Schrödinger-Poisson equations in $\mathbb{R}^3$

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**Abstract:** In this paper, we study the existence of infinitely many normalized radial solutions for the following quasilinear Schrödinger-Poisson equations:

$$-\Delta u - \lambda u + (|x|^{-1} * |u|^2)u - \Delta(u^2)u - |u|^{p-2}u = 0, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^3,$$

where  $p \in (\frac{10}{3}, 6)$ ,  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ . Firstly, the quasilinear equations are transformed into semilinear equations by making an appropriate change of variables, whose associated variational functionals are well defined in  $H_r^1(\mathbb{R}^3)$ . Secondly, by constructing auxiliary functional and combining pohožaev identity, we prove that under constraints, the energy functionals related to the equation have bounded Palais-Smale sequences on each level set. Finally, it is obtained that there are infinitely many normalized radial solutions for this kind of quasilinear Schrödinger-Poisson equations.

**Keywords:** mountain pass geometry; pohožaev identity; normalized radial solutions

**Mathematics Subject Classification:** 35A15, 35B38, 49J35

## 1. Introduction and main results

In this paper, the following quasilinear Schrödinger-Poisson equations varying with time  $t$  are considered

$$i\partial_t \varphi + \Delta \varphi - (|x|^{-1} * |\varphi|^2)\varphi + k[\Delta \rho(|\varphi|^2)]\rho'(|\varphi|^2)\varphi + |\varphi|^{p-2}\varphi = 0, \quad (t, x) \in \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^3, \quad \text{E(i)}$$

where  $\varphi = \varphi(x, t)$  is the wave function,  $k$  is a positive constant,  $\rho$  is a real function. Here we focus on the case  $k = 1$ ,  $\rho(s) = s$ . This class of Schrödinger type equations with a repulsive nonlocal Coulombic potential is obtained by approximation of the Hartree-Fock equation which has been used to describe a quantum mechanical system of many particles, more physical meanings can be found in references [1–4] and its references.

We are interested in whether the equations  $E(i)$  have solutions in the following form

$$\varphi = \varphi(x, t) = e^{-i\lambda t} u(x),$$

where  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$  is the frequency of occurrence of  $u(x)$ . After standing wave transformation  $\varphi = \varphi(x, t) = e^{-i\lambda t} u(x)$ , the following steady-state equation is obtained

$$-\Delta u - \lambda u + (|x|^{-1} * |u|^2)u - \Delta(u^2)u - |u|^{p-2}u = 0, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^3. \quad (1.1)$$

Therefore, if  $e^{-i\lambda t} u(x)$  is the standing wave solution of equation  $E(i)$ , if and only if  $u(x)$  is the solution of Eq (1.1). At this time, there are two research methods for finding the solution of Eq (1.1), one of them is to treat  $\lambda$  as a fixed parameter and the another is to treat  $\lambda$  as a Lagrange multiplier. When  $\lambda$  is regarded as a fixed parameter, the solution of Eq (1.1) can be obtained by finding the critical point of the following functional

$$J_\lambda(u) = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} (1 + 2u^2)|\nabla u|^2 dx - \frac{\lambda}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} u^2 dx + \frac{1}{4} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \frac{|u(x)|^2 |u(y)|^2}{|x-y|} dy dx - \frac{1}{p} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |u|^p dx. \quad (1.2)$$

When  $\lambda$  is a Lagrange multiplier, its value range is unknown, and the study of this situation will be more interesting. Therefore, in this paper, we regard  $\lambda$  as a Lagrange multiplier. After giving the mass  $\int_{\mathbb{R}^3} u^2 dx = c$  in advance, we study the solution of Eq (1.1) satisfying  $\|u\|_2^2 = c$ . So, the solution of Eq (1.1) satisfying this condition can be obtained by the critical point of the following functional  $K(u)$  under constraint  $S_c$

$$K(u) = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} (1 + 2u^2)|\nabla u|^2 dx + \frac{1}{4} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \frac{|u(x)|^2 |u(y)|^2}{|x-y|} dy dx - \frac{1}{p} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |u|^p dx, \quad (1.3)$$

where

$$S_c = \{u \in H^1(\mathbb{R}^3) : \|u\|_2^2 = c\}.$$

In this case, the parameter  $\lambda$  cannot be fixed but instead appears as a Lagrange multiplier, if  $u \in S_c$  is a minimizer of problem

$$\delta(c) := \inf_{u \in S_c} K(u),$$

then there exists  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$  such that  $K'(u) = \lambda u$ , namely,  $(u, \lambda)$  is the solution of Eq (1.1) and satisfies  $\|u\|_2^2 = c$ . Since in literature there are no results available for the quasilinear Schrödinger-Poisson equation studied in this paper, we can only provide references for similar problems.

In [5–9], many authors studied Schrödinger-Poisson equations similar to the following

$$i\psi_t + \Delta\psi + V(x, t)\psi + f(\psi) = 0, \quad (t, x) \in \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^3,$$

where  $f \in C(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R})$ ,  $V(x, t)$  is the potential function, the unknown function  $\psi = \psi(x, t) : \mathbb{R}^3 \times [0, T] \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  is the wave function. The existence and nonexistence of normalized solutions of the general Schrödinger-Poisson equation were established, depending strongly on the value of  $p \in (2, 6)$  and of the parameter  $c > 0$ . That is, it is precisely proved that when  $p \in (2, 3)$  and  $c > 0$  are sufficiently small, the energy functional corresponding to Schrödinger-Poisson equation has a global minimum solution on  $S_c$ . When  $p \in (3, \frac{10}{3})$ , there exists a  $c_0 > 0$  such that a solution exists if and only if  $c \geq c_0$ .

When  $p \in (\frac{10}{3}, 6)$ , since the energy functional corresponding to Schrödinger-Poisson equations have no lower bound on  $S_c$ , it is impossible to find the global minimum solution on  $S_c$ . But in [10], the authors proved that for any  $C > 0$  is small enough, the following Schrödinger-Poisson equations

$$-\Delta u - \lambda u + (|x|^{-1} * |u|^2)u - |u|^{p-2}u = 0, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^3$$

has an energy minimum solution on  $S_c$ . However, in [11], considering that  $H_r^1(\mathbb{R}^3)$  is compact embedded in  $L^q(\mathbb{R}^3)$  ( $q \in (2, 6)$ ), the author proved that the above equation has infinitely many normalized radial solutions when  $p \in (\frac{10}{3}, 6)$  and  $c > 0$  is sufficiently small.

In [12–14], different authors studied quasilinear Schrödinger-Poisson equations similar to the following

$$-\Delta u + V(x)u - \Delta(u^2)u = f(u), \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^N,$$

where  $f \in C(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R})$ ,  $V(x)$  is the potential function. Firstly, the quasilinear equation is transformed into a semilinear equation by using a change of variables, by conditionally limiting  $f$ , the existence results of positive solutions, ground state solutions and bound state solutions of the above equations were established by various analysis methods. For example, in [12], the authors studied the following quasilinear Schrödinger-Poisson equations

$$-\Delta u + V(x)u - \Delta(u^2)u = h(u), \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^N, \quad (1.4)$$

where  $V \in C(\mathbb{R}^N, \mathbb{R})$ ,  $h \in C(\mathbb{R}^+, \mathbb{R})$ , is Hölder continuous and satisfy

(V<sub>0</sub>) there exists  $V_0 > 0$  such that  $V(x) \geq V_0 > 0$ .

(V<sub>1</sub>)  $\lim_{|x| \rightarrow \infty} V(x) = V(\infty)$  and  $V(x) \leq V(\infty)$ .

(h<sub>0</sub>)  $\lim_{s \rightarrow 0} \frac{h(s)}{s} = 0$ .

(h<sub>1</sub>) for any  $s \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $C > 0$ , there exist  $p < \frac{3N+2}{N-2}$  (when  $N = 1, 2$ ,  $p < \infty$ ) such that  $|h(s)| \leq C(1 + |s|^p)$ .

If one of the following conditions hold, then Eq (1.4) has a positive nontrivial solution:

(h<sub>2</sub>) There exists  $\mu > 4$ , such that, for any  $s > 0$ ,  $0 < \mu H(s) \leq h(s)s$  hold, where  $H(s) = \int_0^s h(t)dt$ .

(h<sub>3</sub>) For any  $s > 0$ ,  $0 < 4H(s) \leq h(s)s$  hold and when  $N \geq 4$ ,  $p < \frac{3N+4}{N}$  ( $N = 3$ ,  $p \leq 5$ ), where  $H(s) = \int_0^s h(t)dt$ .

Therefore, we are curious that does the quasilinear Schrödinger-Poisson equation like (1.1) has similar results as those in the above literature under some conditions. Compared with [5–9], we study the existence of infinitely many normalized radial solutions of Schrödinger-Poisson equation with quasilinear term. To our knowledge, there are very few results in this direction in the existing literature. Moreover, compared with references [12–14], in this paper, we establish the existence results of infinitely many normalized radial solutions for this kind of equation, this can be regarded as the supplement and generalization of quasilinear Schrödinger-Poisson equations in this research direction of gauge solution.

Our result is as follows.

**Theorem 1.1.** Assume that  $p \in (\frac{10}{3}, 6)$ . There exists  $c_0 > 0$  sufficient small such that for any  $c \in (0, c_0]$ , (1.1) admits an unbounded sequence of distinct pairs of radial solutions  $(\pm u_n, \lambda_n) \in S_c \times \mathbb{R}^-$  with  $\|u_n\|_2^2 = c$  and  $\lambda_n < 0$  for each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , and such that

$$-\Delta u_n - \lambda_n u_n + (|x|^{-1} * |u_n|^2)u_n - \Delta(u_n^2)u_n - |u_n|^{p-2}u_n = 0.$$

**Remark 1.1.** Firstly, when  $p \in (\frac{10}{3}, 6)$ , the energy functionals  $K(u)$  corresponding to Eq (1.1) have no lower bounds on  $S_c$ , which will result in the absence of global minimum solution. Secondly, it can be easily checked that the functionals  $K(u)$ , restricted to  $S_c$ , do not satisfy the Palais-Smale condition.

**Remark 1.2.** Firstly, due to the existence of quasilinear term, the energy functionals corresponding to Eq (1.1) are not well defined in  $H_r^1(\mathbb{R}^3)$ , hence, the usual variational method can not be used directly. In order to overcome this difficulty, we have two methods: one is to re-establish an appropriate variational framework so that the energy functional corresponding to Eq (1.1) have a good definition, the another is to convert Eq (1.1) into semi-linear equations through a change of variables, and then we can use a general variational method to study it. In this paper, we select second method. Secondly, because of the existence of the nonlocal term  $|x|^{-1} * |u|^2$ , this will make the proof more complex.

**Definition 1.1.** For given  $c > 0$ , we say that  $I(u)$  possesses a mountain pass geometry on  $S_c$  if there exists  $\rho_c > 0$  such that

$$\gamma(c) = \inf_{g \in \Gamma_c} \max_{\tau \in [0,1]} I(g(\tau)) > \max_{g \in \Gamma_c} \max\{I(g(0)), I(g(1))\},$$

where  $I : H^1(\mathbb{R}^3) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ,  $\Gamma_c = \{g \in C([0, 1], S_c) : \|\nabla g(0)\|_2^2 \leq \rho_c, I(g(1)) < 0\}$ ,  $S_c = \{u \in H^1(\mathbb{R}^3) : \|u\|_2^2 = c\}$ .

## 2. Preliminaries and proof of Theorem 1.1

In the following, we will introduce some notations.

(1)  $H^1(\mathbb{R}^3) = \{u \in L^2(\mathbb{R}^3) : \nabla u \in L^2(\mathbb{R}^3)\}$ .

(2)  $H_r^1(\mathbb{R}^3) = \{u \in H^1(\mathbb{R}^3) : u(x) = u(|x|)\}$ .

(3)  $\|u\| = \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |\nabla u|^2 + u^2 dx \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}, \forall u \in H_r^1(\mathbb{R}^3)$ .

(4)  $\|u\|_s = \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |u|^s dx \right)^{\frac{1}{s}}, \forall s \in [1, +\infty)$ .

(5)  $\langle u, v \rangle_{H_r^1} = \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \nabla u \nabla v + uv dx$ .

(6)  $c, c_i, C, C_i$  denote various positive constants.

From the above description, we know that the energy functional  $J_\lambda : H^1(\mathbb{R}^3) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  associated with problem (1.1) by  $J_\lambda(u)$ , where  $J_\lambda(u)$  is given in (1.2).

Then such solutions of Eq (1.1) satisfying condition  $\|u\|_2^2 = c$  and  $u(x) = u(|x|)$  can be obtained by looking for critical points of the functionals  $K$  limited to  $S'_c = \{u \in H_r^1(\mathbb{R}^3) : \|u\|_2^2 = c\}$ , where  $K(u)$  is given in (1.3),  $H_r^1(\mathbb{R}^3)$  is the space composed of the radial function of  $H^1(\mathbb{R}^3)$ , and the embedding  $H_r^1(\mathbb{R}^3) \hookrightarrow L^q(\mathbb{R}^3)$  is compact for  $q \in (2, 6)$ .

In order to prove our results, we first do a appropriate change of variables,  $\forall u, v \in H_r^1(\mathbb{R}^3)$ ,  $v := f^{-1}(u)$ ,  $f$  satisfies the following conditions:

(f<sub>1</sub>)  $f$  is uniquely defined, smooth and invertible;

(f<sub>2</sub>)  $f'(t) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1+2f^2(t)}}, t \in [0, +\infty)$ ;

(f<sub>3</sub>)  $f(0) = 0$  and  $f(t) = -f(-t), t \in (-\infty, 0]$ .

In addition, we summarize some properties of  $f$  which have been proved in [12–14].

(f<sub>4</sub>)  $|f(t)| \leq |t|, \forall t \in \mathbb{R}$ ;

( $f_5$ ) there exists a positive constant  $C$  such that

$$|f(t)| \geq \begin{cases} C|t|, & |t| \leq 1, \\ C|t|^{\frac{1}{2}}, & |t| \geq 1. \end{cases}$$

By making a change of variables, we get the following functional

$$I_\lambda(v) = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |\nabla v|^2 dx - \frac{\lambda}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} f^2(v) dx + \frac{1}{4} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \frac{|f(v(x))|^2 |f(v(y))|^2}{|x-y|} dy dx - \frac{1}{p} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |f(v)|^p dx.$$

It can be seen that functional  $I_\lambda$  is well defined in  $H_r^1(\mathbb{R}^3)$  and the corresponding equation is

$$-\Delta v - \lambda f(v)f'(v) + (|x|^{-1} * |f(v)|^2) f(v)f'(v) - |f(v)|^p f(v)f'(v) = 0. \quad (2.1)$$

Then such solutions of Eq (1.1) satisfying condition  $\|u\|_2^2 = c$  and  $u(x) = u(|x|)$  can be obtained by looking for critical points of the following functional  $F$  under the corresponding constraints

$$F(v) = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |\nabla v|^2 dx + \frac{1}{4} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \frac{|f(v(x))|^2 |f(v(y))|^2}{|x-y|} dy dx - \frac{1}{p} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |f(v)|^p dx.$$

The corresponding constraint condition is

$$S_r(c) = \{v \in H_r^1(\mathbb{R}^3) : \|f(v)\|_2^2 = c, c > 0\}.$$

Then, if  $u \in S'_c$  is the solution of Eq (1.1), if and only if  $v \in S_r(c)$  is the solution of Eq (2.1). Moreover we define, for short, the following quantities

$$\begin{aligned} A(v) &:= \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |\nabla v|^2 dx, & B(v) &:= \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \frac{|f(v(x))|^2 |f(v(y))|^2}{|x-y|} dy dx, \\ C(v) &:= \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |f(v)|^p dx, & D(v) &:= \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} f^2(v) dx. \end{aligned}$$

We first establish some preliminary results. Let  $\{V_n\} \subset H_r^1(\mathbb{R}^3)$  be a strictly increasing sequence of finite-dimensional linear subspaces in  $H_r^1(\mathbb{R}^3)$ , such that  $\bigcup_n V_n$  is dense in  $H_r^1(\mathbb{R}^3)$ . We denote by  $V_n^\perp$  the orthogonal space of  $V_n$  in  $H_r^1(\mathbb{R}^3)$ . Then we have

**Lemma 2.1.** (See [5, Lemma 2.1]) Assume that  $p \in (2, 6)$ . Then there holds

$$\mu_n := \inf_{v \in V_{n-1}^\perp} \frac{\int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |\nabla v|^2 + |v|^2 dx}{\left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |v|^p dx\right)^{\frac{2}{p}}} = \inf_{v \in V_{n-1}^\perp} \frac{\|v\|^2}{\|v\|_p^2} \rightarrow \infty, \quad n \rightarrow \infty.$$

Now for  $c > 0$  fixed and for each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , we define

$$\rho_n := L^{-\frac{2}{p-2}} \mu_n^{\frac{p}{p-2}}, \quad L = \max_{x>0} \frac{(x^2 + c)^{\frac{p}{2}}}{x^p + c^{\frac{p}{2}}},$$

and

$$B_n := \{v \in V_{n-1}^\perp \cap S_r(c) : \|\nabla f(v)\|_2^2 = \rho_n\}. \quad (2.2)$$

We also define

$$b_n := \inf_{v \in B_n} F(v). \quad (2.3)$$

**Lemma 2.2.** For every  $p \in (2, 6)$ , we have  $b_n \rightarrow \infty$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ . Particularly, there exists  $n_0 \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $b_n \geq 1$  for all  $n \geq n_0$ ,  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

*Proof.* For any  $v \in B_n$ , we have that

$$\begin{aligned} F(v) &= \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |\nabla v|^2 dx + \frac{1}{4} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \frac{|f(v(x))|^2 |f(v(y))|^2}{|x-y|} dy dx - \frac{1}{p} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |f(v)|^p dx \\ &\geq \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |\nabla v|^2 dx - \frac{1}{p} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |f(v)|^p dx \\ &\geq \frac{1}{2} \|\nabla v\|_2^2 - \frac{1}{p\mu_n^{\frac{p}{2}}} (\|\nabla f(v)\|_2^2 + c)^{\frac{p}{2}} \\ &\geq \frac{1}{2} \|\nabla v\|_2^2 - \frac{L}{p\mu_n^{\frac{p}{2}}} (\|\nabla f(v)\|_2^p + c^{\frac{p}{2}}) = \frac{p-2}{2p} \rho_n - \frac{L}{p\mu_n^{\frac{p}{2}}} c^{\frac{p}{2}}. \end{aligned}$$

From this estimation and Lemma 2.1, it follows since  $p > 2$ , that  $b_n \rightarrow +\infty$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ . Now, considering the sequence  $V_n \in H_r^1(\mathbb{R}^3)$  only from an  $n_0 \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $b_n \geq 1$  for any  $n \geq n_0$  it concludes the proof of the lemma.  $\square$

Next we start to set up our min-max scheme. First we introduce the map  $\kappa : H := H_r^1(\mathbb{R}^3) \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow H_r^1(\mathbb{R}^3)$  by

$$\kappa(v, \theta)(x) = e^{\frac{3\theta}{2}} v(e^\theta x), \quad v \in H_r^1(\mathbb{R}^3), \quad \theta \in \mathbb{R}, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^3, \quad (2.4)$$

where  $H$  is a Banach space equipped with the product norm  $\|(v, \theta)\|_H = (\|v\|^2 + |\theta|^2)^{\frac{1}{2}}$ . Observe that for any given  $v \in S_r(c)$ , we have  $\kappa(v, \theta) \rightarrow H_r^1(\mathbb{R}^3)$  for all  $\theta \in \mathbb{R}$ . Also from [8, Lemma 2.1], we know that

$$\begin{cases} A(\kappa(v, \theta)) \rightarrow 0, & F(\kappa(v, \theta)) \rightarrow 0, & \theta \rightarrow -\infty, \\ A(\kappa(v, \theta)) \rightarrow +\infty, & F(\kappa(v, \theta)) \rightarrow -\infty, & \theta \rightarrow +\infty. \end{cases} \quad (2.5)$$

Thus, using the fact that  $V_n$  is finite dimensional, we deduce that for each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , there exists an  $\theta_n > 0$ , such that

$$\bar{g}_n : [0, 1] \times (S_r(c) \cap V_n) \rightarrow S_r(c), \quad \bar{g}_n(t, v) = \kappa(v, (2t-1)\theta_n), \quad (2.6)$$

satisfies

$$\begin{cases} A(\bar{g}_n(0, v)) < \rho_n, & A(\bar{g}_n(1, v)) > \rho_n, \\ F(\bar{g}_n(0, v)) < b_n, & F(\bar{g}_n(1, v)) < b_n. \end{cases} \quad (2.7)$$

Now we define

$$\Gamma_n := \left\{ g : [0, 1] \times (S_r(c) \cap V_n) \rightarrow S_r(c) \mid g \text{ is continuous, odd in } v \text{ and such that } \forall v : g(0, v) = \bar{g}_n(0, v), \quad g(1, v) = \bar{g}_n(1, v) \right\}.$$

Clearly  $\bar{g}_n \in \Gamma_n$ . Let

$$f(v^t(x)) = t^{\frac{3}{2}} f[v(tx)], \quad \forall t > 0, \quad v \in H_r^1(\mathbb{R}^3),$$

where  $v^t(x) = t^{\frac{3}{2}}v(tx)$ , then  $\|f(v^t)\|_2^2 = \|f(v)\|_2^2$ , and so, for any  $v \in S_r(c)$ ,  $t > 0$ , we have  $v^t \in S_r(c)$ , and take into account

$$F(v^t) = \frac{t^2}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |\nabla v|^2 dx + \frac{t}{4} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \frac{|f(v(x))|^2 |f(v(y))|^2}{|x-y|} dy dx - \frac{t^{\frac{3p-6}{p}}}{p} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |f(v)|^p dx,$$

let

$$\begin{aligned} Q(v) := \frac{\partial F(v^t)}{\partial t} \Big|_{t=1} &= \|\nabla v\|_2^2 + \frac{1}{4} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \frac{|f(v(x))|^2 |f(v(y))|^2}{|x-y|} dy dx \\ &\quad - \frac{3(p-2)}{2p} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |f(v)|^p dx = A(v) + \frac{1}{4} B(v) - \frac{3(p-2)}{2p} C(v). \end{aligned}$$

Now we give the key intersection result, due to [15].

**Lemma 2.3.** For each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,

$$\gamma_n(c) := \inf_{g \in \Gamma_n} \max_{t \in [0,1], v \in S_r(c) \cap V_n} F(t, v) \geq b_n. \quad (2.8)$$

*Proof.* The point is to show that for each  $g \in \Gamma_n$  there exists a pair  $(t, v) \in [0, 1] \times (S_r(c) \cap V_n)$ , such that  $g(t, v) \in B_n$  with  $B_n$  defined in (2.2). but this proof is completely similar to the proof of Lemma 2.3 in [15], and this proof is omitted here.  $\square$

According to Lemma 2.3 and (2.7), we derive that,  $F$  satisfies mountain pass geometry, that is, for any  $g \in \Gamma_n$ , we have

$$\gamma_n(c) \geq b_n > \max\left\{ \max_{v \in S_r(c) \cap V_n} F(g(0, v)), \max_{v \in S_r(c) \cap V_n} F(g(1, v)) \right\}.$$

Next, we shall prove that the sequence  $\{\gamma_n(c)\}$  is indeed a sequence of critical values for  $F$  restricted to  $S_r(c)$ . To this purpose, we first show that there exists a bounded Palais-Smale sequence at each level  $\{\gamma_n(c)\}$ . From now on, we fix an arbitrary  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , then the following lemma can be obtained.

**Lemma 2.4.** For any fixed  $c > 0$ , there exists a sequence  $\{v_k\} \subset S_r(c)$  satisfying

$$\begin{cases} F(v_k) \rightarrow \gamma_n(c), \\ F'|_{S_r(c)(v_k)} \rightarrow 0, \quad k \rightarrow \infty, \\ Q(v_k) \rightarrow 0, \end{cases} \quad (2.9)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} Q(v) &= \|\nabla v\|_2^2 + \frac{1}{4} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \frac{|f(v(x))|^2 |f(v(y))|^2}{|x-y|} dy dx \\ &\quad - \frac{3(p-2)}{2p} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |f(v)|^p dx = A(v) + \frac{1}{4} B(v) - \frac{3(p-2)}{2p} C(v). \end{aligned}$$

In particular  $\{v_k\} \subset S_r(c)$  is bounded.

To find such a Palais-Smale sequence, we consider the following auxiliary functional

$$\tilde{F} : S_r(c) \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, (v, \theta) \mapsto F(\kappa(v, \theta)), \quad (2.10)$$

where  $\kappa(v, \theta)$  is given in (2.4), it is checked easily that  $Q(v) = \frac{\partial F(\kappa(v, \theta))}{\partial \theta} |_{\theta=0}$ , set

$$\tilde{\Gamma}_n := \left\{ \tilde{g} : [0, 1] \times (S_r(c) \cap V_n) \rightarrow S_r(c) \times \mathbb{R} \mid \tilde{g} \text{ is continuous, odd in } v, \text{ and such that } k \circ \tilde{g} \in \Gamma_n \right\}.$$

Clearly, for any  $g \in \Gamma_n$ ,  $\tilde{g} := (g, 0) \in \tilde{\Gamma}_n$ .

Define

$$\tilde{\gamma}_n(c) := \inf_{\tilde{g} \in \tilde{\Gamma}_n} \max_{t \in [0, 1], v \in S_r(c) \cap V_n} \tilde{F}(\tilde{g}(t, v)).$$

According to [10, 16, 17], it is checked easily that  $F$  and  $\tilde{F}$  have the same mountain pass geometry and  $\tilde{\gamma}_n(c) = \gamma_n(c)$ .

Following [18], we recall that for any  $c > 0$ ,  $S_r(c)$  is a submanifold of  $H_r^1(\mathbb{R}^3)$  with codimension 1 and the tangent space at  $S_r(c)$  is defined as

$$T_{u_0} = \left\{ v \in H_r^1(\mathbb{R}^3) : \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} u_0 v dx = 0 \right\}.$$

The norm of the derivative of the  $C^1$  restriction functional  $F|_{S_r(c)}$  is defined by

$$\|F'|_{S_r(c)}(u_0)\| = \sup_{v \in T_{u_0}, \|v\|=1} \langle F'(u_0), v \rangle.$$

Similarly, the tangent space at  $(u_0, \theta_0) \in S_r(c) \times \mathbb{R}$  is given as

$$\tilde{T}_{u_0, \theta_0} = \left\{ (z_1, z_2) \in H : \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} u_0 z_1 dx = 0 \right\}.$$

The norm of the derivative of the  $C^1$  restriction functional  $\tilde{F}|_{S_r(c) \times \mathbb{R}}$  is defined by

$$\|\tilde{F}'|_{S_r(c) \times \mathbb{R}}(u_0, \theta_0)\| = \sup_{(z_1, z_2) \in \tilde{T}_{(u_0, \theta_0)}, \|(z_1, z_2)\|_H=1} \langle \tilde{F}'|_{S_r(c) \times \mathbb{R}}(u_0, \theta_0), (z_1, z_2) \rangle.$$

As in [19, Lemma 2.3], we have the following lemma, which was established by using Ekeland's variational principle.

**Lemma 2.5.** *For any  $\varepsilon > 0$ , if  $\tilde{g}_0 \in \tilde{\Gamma}_n$  satisfies*

$$\max_{v \in S_r(c) \cap V_n} \tilde{F}(\tilde{g}_0(t, v)) \leq \tilde{\gamma}_n(c) + \varepsilon.$$

Then there exists a pair of  $(v_0, \theta_0) \in S_r(c) \times \mathbb{R}$  such that:

- (i)  $\tilde{F}(v_0, \theta_0) \in [\tilde{\gamma}_n(c) - \varepsilon, \tilde{\gamma}_n(c) + \varepsilon]$ ;
- (ii)  $\min_{t \in [0, 1], v \in S_r(c) \cap V_n} \|(v_0, \theta_0) - \tilde{g}_k(t, v)\|_H \leq \sqrt{\varepsilon}$ ;
- (iii)  $\|\tilde{F}'|_{S_r(c) \times \mathbb{R}}(v_0, \theta_0)\| \leq 2\sqrt{\varepsilon}$ , i.e.,

$$|\langle \tilde{F}'|_{S_r(c) \times \mathbb{R}}(v_0, \theta_0), z \rangle_{H^* \times H}| \leq 2\sqrt{\varepsilon} \|z\|_H, \quad \forall z \in \tilde{T}_{(v_0, \theta_0)}.$$

Next, we will give the proof of Lemma 2.4.



*Proof.* From the definition of  $\gamma_n(c)$ , we know that for each  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ , there exists an  $g_k \in \Gamma_n$  such that

$$\max_{t \in [0,1], v \in S_r(c) \cap V_n} F(g_k(t, v)) \leq \gamma_n(c) + \frac{1}{k}.$$

Since  $\tilde{\gamma}_n(c) = \gamma_n(c)$ ,  $\tilde{g}_k = (g_k, 0) \in \tilde{\Gamma}_n$  satisfy

$$\max_{t \in [0,1], v \in S_r(c) \cap V_n} \tilde{F}(\tilde{g}_k(t, v)) \leq \tilde{\gamma}_n(c) + \frac{1}{k}.$$

Thus applying Lemma 2.5, we obtain a sequence  $\{v_k, \theta_k\} \subset S_r(c) \times \mathbb{R}$  such that:

- (i)  $\tilde{F}(v_k, \theta_k) \in [\gamma_n(c) - \frac{1}{k}, \gamma_n(c) + \frac{1}{k}]$ ;
- (ii)  $\min_{t \in [0,1], v \in S_r(c) \cap V_n} \|(v_k, \theta_k) - (g_k(t, v), 0)\|_H \leq \frac{1}{\sqrt{k}}$ ;
- (iii)  $\|\tilde{F}'|_{S_r(c) \times \mathbb{R}}(v_k, \theta_k)\| \leq 2\sqrt{k}$ , that is

$$\langle \tilde{F}'|_{S_r(c) \times \mathbb{R}}(v_k, \theta_k), z \rangle_{H^* \times H} \leq 2\sqrt{k}\|z\|_H, \quad \forall z \in \tilde{T}_{(v_k, \theta_k)}.$$

For each  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ , let  $u_k = \kappa(v_k, \theta_k)$ . We shall prove that  $u_k \in S_r(c)$  satisfies (2.9). Indeed, firstly, from (i) we have that  $F(u_k) \rightarrow \gamma_n(c)$  ( $k \rightarrow \infty$ ), since  $F(u_k) = F(\kappa(v_k, \theta_k)) = \tilde{F}(v_k, \theta_k)$ . Secondly, note that

$$Q(u_k) = A(u_k) + \frac{1}{4}B(u_k) - \frac{3(p-2)}{2p}C(u_k) = \langle \tilde{F}'(v_k, \theta_k), (0, 1) \rangle_{H^* \times H},$$

and  $(0, 1) \in \tilde{T}_{(v_k, \theta_k)}$ . Thus (iii) yields  $Q(u_k) \rightarrow 0$  ( $k \rightarrow \infty$ ). Finally, to verify that  $F'|_{S_r(c)(u_k)} \rightarrow 0$  ( $k \rightarrow \infty$ ), it suffices to prove for  $k \in \mathbb{N}$  sufficiently large, that

$$\langle F'(u_k), \omega \rangle_{(H_r^1)^* \times H_r^1} \leq \frac{4}{\sqrt{k}}\|\omega\|, \quad \forall \omega \in T_{u_k}. \quad (2.11)$$

To this end, we note that, for  $\omega \in T_{u_k}$ , setting  $\tilde{\omega} = \kappa(\omega, -\theta_k)$ ,  $v'_k = f(v_k)$ , one has

$$\begin{aligned} & \langle F'(u_k), \omega \rangle_{(H_r^1)^* \times H_r^1} \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \nabla u_k \nabla \omega dx + \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \frac{|f(u_k(x))|^2 f(u_k(y)) \omega(y)}{|x-y|} dy dx \\ & \quad - \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |f(u_k)|^{p-2} f(u_k) \omega dx \\ &= e^{2\theta_k} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \nabla v_k \nabla \tilde{\omega} dx + e^{\theta_k} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \frac{|v'_k(x)|^2 v'_k(y) \tilde{\omega}(y)}{|x-y|} dy dx \\ & \quad - e^{\frac{3(p-2)\theta_k}{2}} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |v'_k|^{p-2} v'_k \tilde{\omega} dx \\ &= e^{2\theta_k} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \nabla v_k \nabla \tilde{\omega} dx + e^{\theta_k} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \frac{|f(v_k(x))|^2 f(v_k(y)) \tilde{\omega}(y)}{|x-y|} dy dx \\ & \quad - e^{\frac{3(p-2)\theta_k}{2}} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |f(v_k)|^{p-2} f(v_k) \tilde{\omega} dx \\ &= \langle \tilde{F}'(v_k, \theta_k), (\tilde{\omega}, 0) \rangle_{H^* \times H}. \end{aligned} \quad (2.12)$$

If  $(\bar{\omega}, 0) \in \tilde{T}_{(v_k, \theta_k)}$  and  $\|(\bar{\omega}, 0)\|_H^2 \leq 4\|\omega\|^2$  and  $k \in \mathbb{N}$  is sufficiently large, then (iii) implies (2.11). To verify these conditions, observe that  $(\bar{\omega}, 0) \in \tilde{T}_{(v_k, \theta_k)} \Leftrightarrow \omega \in T_{u_k}$ . Also from (ii) it follows that

$$|\theta_k| = |\theta_k - 0| \leq \min_{t \in [0, 1], v \in S_r(c) \cap V_n} \|(u_k, \theta_k) - (g_k(t, v), 0)\|_H \leq \frac{1}{\sqrt{k}},$$

by which we deduce that

$$\|(\bar{\omega}, 0)\|_H^2 = \|\bar{\omega}\|^2 = \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |\omega(x)|^2 dx + e^{-2\theta_k} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |\nabla \omega(x)|^2 dx \leq 2\|\omega\|^2$$

holds for  $k \in \mathbb{N}$  large enough. At this point, (2.11) has been verified. To end the proof of the lemma it remains to show that  $\{u_k\} \in S_r(c)$  is bounded. But one notes that for any  $v \in H^1(\mathbb{R}^3)$ , there holds that

$$F(v) - \frac{2}{3(p-2)}Q(v) = \frac{3p-10}{6(p-2)}A(v) + \frac{3p-2}{12(p-2)}B(v). \quad (2.13)$$

Thus we have

$$\gamma_n(c) + o_k(1) = F(u_k) - \frac{2}{3(p-2)}Q(u_k) = \frac{3p-10}{6(p-2)}A(u_k) + \frac{3p-2}{12(p-2)}B(u_k). \quad (2.14)$$

Since  $p \in (\frac{10}{3}, 6)$  it follows immediately from (2.14) that  $\{u_k\} \in S_r(c)$  is bounded in  $H^1(\mathbb{R}^3)$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 2.6.** Assume that  $(f_1)$ – $(f_4)$  hold and  $v$  is a weak solution of (2.1). Then  $Q(v) = 0$ . Furthermore, there exists a constant  $c_0 > 0$  depending on  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$  such that if  $\|f(v)\|_2^2 \leq c_0$  sufficiently small, then  $\lambda < 0$ .

*Proof.* Let  $v$  be a weak solution of (2.1), the following Pohožaev-type identity holds

$$\frac{1}{2}\|\nabla v\|_2^2 + \frac{5}{4} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \frac{|f(v(x))|^2 |f(v(y))|^2}{|x-y|} dy dx - \frac{3}{p} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |f(v)|^p dx = \frac{3\lambda}{2} \|f(v)\|_2^2. \quad (2.15)$$

By multiplying (1.1) by  $u$  and integrating. After a change of variables, we obtain the following identity

$$\|\nabla v\|_2^2 + \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \frac{|f(v(x))|^2 |f(v(y))|^2}{|x-y|} dy dx - \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |f(v)|^p dx = \lambda \|f(v)\|_2^2. \quad (2.16)$$

By multiplying (2.16) by  $\frac{3}{2}$  and minus (2.15), we obtain

$$\|\nabla v\|_2^2 + \frac{1}{4} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \frac{|f(v(x))|^2 |f(v(y))|^2}{|x-y|} dy dx - \frac{3(p-2)}{2p} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |f(v)|^p dx = 0. \quad (2.17)$$

From the above equation  $Q(v) = 0$ . By multiplying (2.16) by  $\frac{3}{p}$  and minus (2.15), we obtain

$$\frac{p-6}{2p-6}A(v) + \frac{5p-12}{2(3p-6)}B(v) = \lambda D(v). \quad (2.18)$$

On the one hand, by  $(f_4)$ , Hardy-Littlewood-Sobolev inequality and Gagliardo-Nirenberg inequality, we have

$$B(v) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \frac{|f(v(x))|^2 |f(v(y))|^2}{|x-y|} dy dx \leq C\|f(v)\|_{\frac{12}{5}}^4 \leq C\|v\|_{\frac{12}{5}}^4 \leq \tilde{C}\|\nabla v\|_2^3 \|v\|_2. \quad (2.19)$$

On the other hand, by  $(f_4)$ , (2.17) and Gagliardo-Nirenberg inequality, we derive that, there exists a  $C(p) > 0$  such that

$$\begin{aligned} \|\nabla v\|_2^2 - C(p)\|\nabla v\|_2^{\frac{3(p-2)}{2}}\|v\|_2^{\frac{6-p}{2}} &\leq \|\nabla v\|_2^2 - \frac{3(p-2)}{2p}\|v\|_p^p \\ &\leq \|\nabla v\|_2^2 - \frac{3(p-2)}{2p}\|f(v)\|_p^p \\ &= -\frac{1}{4}\int_{\mathbb{R}^3}\int_{\mathbb{R}^3}\frac{|f(v(x))|^2|f(v(y))|^2}{|x-y|}dydx \leq 0, \end{aligned}$$

implies

$$\|\nabla v\|_2^{\frac{10-3p}{2}} \leq C(p)\|v\|_2^{\frac{6-p}{2}}. \quad (2.20)$$

Due to  $p \in (\frac{10}{3}, 6)$ , then  $\frac{10-3p}{2} < 0$ . Note that (2.20) tells us that, for any solution  $v$  of (2.1) with small  $L^2$ -norm,  $\|\nabla v\|_2$  must be large. By the property of  $f$ , it is easy to see that  $f$  is monotonically increasing on  $(-\infty, +\infty)$ . By this time, we just taking  $\|f(v)\|_2^2 = c$  is small enough so as to  $|v| < 1$ , then by  $(f_5)$ , (2.18) and (2.19), we derive that, there exist  $C > 0$  and  $\tilde{C}(p) > 0$  such that

$$\lambda C^2\|v\|_2^2 \leq \lambda\|f(v)\|_2^2 \leq \frac{p-6}{2p-6}\|\nabla v\|_2^2 + \tilde{C}(p)\|\nabla v\|_2^3\|v\|_2. \quad (2.21)$$

It follows from (2.20) that when  $\|\nabla v\|_2$  is sufficiently small, the left-hand side of (2.21) is negative, that is,  $\lambda C^2\|v\|_2^2 < 0$  ( $\|\nabla v\|_2 \rightarrow 0$ ). Therefore, there exists a constant  $c_0 > 0$  depending on  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ , such that a solution  $v$  of (2.1), if satisfies  $\|f(v)\|_2^2 \leq c_0$  sufficiently small, then  $\lambda < 0$ .  $\square$

Similar to [8, 16, 17], we have the following proposition.

**Proposition 2.1.** *Let  $\{v_k\} \subset S_r(c)$  be the Palais-Smale sequence obtained in Lemma 2.4. Then there exist  $\lambda_n \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $v_n \in H_r^1(\mathbb{R}^3)$ , such that, up to a subsequence,*

- (i)  $v_k \rightharpoonup v_n$  in  $H_r^1(\mathbb{R}^3)$ ,
- (ii)  $-\Delta v_k - \lambda_n f(v_k)f'(v_k) + (|x|^{-1} * |f(v_k)|^2)f(v_k)f'(v_k) - |f(v_k)|^{p-2}f(v_k)f'(v_k) \rightarrow 0$ , in  $H_r^{-1}(\mathbb{R}^3)$ ,
- (iii)  $-\Delta v_n - \lambda_n f(v_n)f'(v_n) + (|x|^{-1} * |f(v_n)|^2)f(v_n)f'(v_n) - |f(v_n)|^{p-2}f(v_n)f'(v_n) = 0$ , in  $H_r^{-1}(\mathbb{R}^3)$ .

Moreover, if  $\lambda_n < 0$ , then we have

$$v_k \rightarrow v_n \quad (k \rightarrow \infty), \quad \text{in } H_r^1(\mathbb{R}^3).$$

In particular,  $\|f(v_n)\|_2^2 = c$ ,  $F(v_n) = \gamma_n(c)$  and  $F'(v_n) = \lambda_n v_n$  in  $H_r^{-1}(\mathbb{R}^3)$ .

*Proof.* Since  $\{v_k\} \subset S_r(c)$  is bounded, up to a subsequence, there exists a  $v_n \in H_r^1(\mathbb{R}^3)$ , such that

$$\begin{cases} v_k \rightharpoonup v_n & \text{in } H^1(\mathbb{R}^3); \\ v_k \rightarrow v_n & \text{in } L^p(\mathbb{R}^3) (\forall p \in (2, 6)); \\ v_k \rightarrow v_n \text{ a.e.} & \text{in } \mathbb{R}^3. \end{cases}$$

Now let's prove that  $v_n \neq 0$ . Suppose  $v_n = 0$ , then by the strong convergence of  $v_k \rightarrow v_n$  in  $L^p(\mathbb{R}^3)$ , it follows that  $C(v_k) \rightarrow 0$ . Taking into account that  $Q(v_k) \rightarrow 0$ , it then implies that  $A(v_k) \rightarrow 0$  and  $B(v_k) \rightarrow 0$ . Thus  $F(v_k) \rightarrow 0$  and this contradicts the fact that  $\gamma_n(c) \geq b_n \geq 1$ . Thus (i) holds.

The proofs of (ii) and (iii) can be found in [10, Proposition 4.1]. Now using (ii), (iii) and the convergence  $C(v_k) \rightarrow C(v_n)$ , it follows that

$$A(v_k) - \lambda_n D(v_k) + B(v_k) \rightarrow A(v_n) - \lambda_n D(v_n) + B(v_n) (k \rightarrow \infty).$$

If  $\lambda_n < 0$ , then we conclude from the weak convergence of  $v_k \rightharpoonup v_n$  in  $H_r^1(\mathbb{R}^3)$ , that

$$A(v_k) \rightarrow A(v_n), \quad -\lambda_n D(v_k) \rightarrow \lambda_n D(v_n), \quad B(v_k) \rightarrow B(v_n) (k \rightarrow \infty).$$

Thus  $v_k \rightarrow v_n (k \rightarrow \infty)$  in  $H_r^1(\mathbb{R}^3)$ , and in particular,  $\|f(v_n)\|_2^2 = c$ ,  $F(v_n) = \gamma_n(c)$  and  $F'(v_n) = \lambda_n v_n$  in  $H_r^{-1}(\mathbb{R}^3)$ .  $\square$

Next, we will give the proof of Theorem 1.1.

*Proof.* We recall that in Lemma 2.6, it has been proved that if  $(v, \lambda) \in S_r(c) \times \mathbb{R}$  solves (2.1), then it only need  $\lambda < 0$  provided  $c > 0$  is sufficiently small. Thus by Lemma 2.4 and Proposition 2.1, when  $c > 0$  is small enough, for each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , we obtain a couple solution  $(v_n, \lambda_n) \in H_r^1(\mathbb{R}^3) \times \mathbb{R}^-$  solving (2.1) with  $\|f(v_n)\|_2^2 = c$  and  $F(v_n) = \gamma_n(c)$ . Note from Lemmas 2.2 and 2.3, we have  $\gamma_n(c) \rightarrow \infty (n \rightarrow \infty)$  and then we deduce that the sequence of solutions  $\{(v_n, \lambda_n)\}$  is unbounded. In conclusion, it is proved that there are infinitely many normalized radial solutions to Eq (2.1), that is, there are infinitely many normalized radial solutions for Eq (1.1) and such that

$$-\Delta u_n - \lambda_n u_n + (|x|^{-1} * |u_n|^2)u_n - \Delta(u_n^2)u_n - |u_n|^{p-2}u_n = 0.$$

At this point, the proof of the theorem is completed. As the paper is about an elliptic PDE with a non-local term in the equation, for readers interested in non-local problems, there should also be a reference to recent articles about elliptic PDEs with non-local boundary conditions, e.g., [20].  $\square$

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## Conflict of interest

All authors declare no conflicts of interest in this paper.

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