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# Multiple solutions for p-Laplacian type equations

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#### Abstract

In this paper we establish the existence of three weak solutions of an equation which involves a general elliptic operator in divergence form (in particular, a *p*-Laplacian operator), while the nonlinearity has a (p-1)-sublinear growth at infinity. This result completes some recent papers, where mountain pass type solutions were obtained providing the nonlinear term via a (p-1)-superlinear growth at infinity (fulfilling an Ambrosetti–Rabinowitz type condition). In our case, an abstract critical point result is applied, proved by G. Bonanno [G. Bonanno, Some remarks on a three critical points theorem, Nonlinear Analysis 54 (2003) 651–665].

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## 1. Introduction

Various particular forms of the problem involving elliptic operators in divergence form

$$\begin{cases} -\operatorname{div}(a(x, \nabla u)) = f(x, u) & \text{in } \Omega, \\ u = 0 & \text{on } \partial \Omega \end{cases}$$
(P)

have been studied in the recent years. Here,  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^N$  is a bounded open domain,  $N \ge 2$ , while the nonlinearities  $a : \Omega \times \mathbb{R}^N \to \mathbb{R}^N$  and  $f : \Omega \times \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$  fulfill certain structural conditions. The simplest case occurs when  $a(x, s) = |s|^{p-2}s$ ,  $p \ge 2$ ; thus (P) reduces to a problem which involves the usual *p*-Laplacian operator  $\Delta_p(\cdot) = \operatorname{div}(|\nabla(\cdot)|^{p-2}\nabla(\cdot))$ .

Recently, De Nápoli and Mariani [4] studied problem (P) when the potential a satisfies a set of assumptions, see H(a) below, which includes the p-Laplacian and also other important cases, such as the generalized prescribed mean

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curvature operator. Duc and Vu [3] extended the result of [4], considering problem (P) in the 'nonuniform' case, for when the potential *a* fulfills

$$|a(x,\xi)| \le c_0(h_0(x) + h_1(x)|\xi|^{p-1}), \quad \forall (x,\xi) \in \Omega \times \mathbb{R}^N,$$

with  $h_0 \in L^{p/(p-1)}(\Omega)$ ,  $h_1 \in L^1_{loc}(\Omega)$ ,  $c_0 > 0$ . In both papers [3,4], the nonlinear term  $f : \Omega \times \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$  verifies the Ambrosetti–Rabinowitz type condition: defining  $F(x, s) = \int_0^s f(x, t) dt$ , there exist  $s_0 > 0$  and  $\theta > p$  such that

$$0 < \theta F(x, s) \le sf(x, s), \quad \forall x \in \Omega, s \in \mathbb{R}, |s| \ge s_0.$$
(AR)

By (AR), one can deduce that

$$|f(x,s)| \ge c|s|^{\theta-1}, \quad \forall x \in \Omega, s \in \mathbb{R}, |s| \ge s_0,$$
(AR')

i.e., f is (p-1)-superlinear at infinity.

The purpose of this paper is to handle the counterpart of the above case, i.e., when f is (p-1)-sublinear at infinity. For the sake of simplicity, we assume in the sequel that f is autonomous, i.e., f(x, s) = f(s). We consider the condition

(f<sub>1</sub>) 
$$\lim_{|s| \to +\infty} \frac{f(s)}{|s|^{p-1}} = 0.$$

If  $f(s) = \lambda(\arctan s)^2$ , with  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$  fixed (thus f clearly fulfills (f<sub>1</sub>)), while a(x, s) = s (thus in (P) there appears the standard Laplacian operator  $\Delta u = \text{div}\nabla u$ ), an easy computation shows that (P) possesses only the zero solution, whenever  $|\lambda| < \pi^{-1}c_2^{-2}$ , where  $c_2 > 0$  is the best Sobolev constant of the embedding  $H_0^1(\Omega) \hookrightarrow L^2(\Omega)$ . Therefore, it is more appropriate to investigate, instead of (P), the following eigenvalue problem:

$$\begin{cases} -\operatorname{div}(a(x, \nabla u)) = \lambda f(u) & \text{in } \Omega, \\ u = 0 & \text{on } \partial \Omega. \end{cases}$$
(P<sub>\lambda</sub>)

In the next section we will state our main result (Theorem 2.1) which guarantees the existence of at least *three* weak solutions of  $(P_{\lambda})$  for certain  $\lambda > 0$ . Our result completes in a natural way not only the papers of Duc and Vu [3], and De Nápoli and Mariani [4] (superlinear nonlinearities), but also some earlier works in the sublinear context (where a(x, s) = s). For instance, Brézis and Oswald [2] studied problem (P<sub> $\lambda$ </sub>) when the behaviour of f(s)/s is suitably controlled at infinity, obtaining an existence and uniqueness result via the minimization technique and maximum principle. Lin [5] exploited a sub-super-solution argument, applying the sweeping principle of Serrin in order to obtain existence, uniqueness, and asymptotical properties of the solutions of (P<sub> $\lambda$ </sub>) when f(s) behaves like  $s^q$  (0 < q < 1) with s large.

The proof of our main result (Theorem 2.1) is based on a recent abstract critical point theorem proved by Bonanno [1] which is an extension of the famous result of Ricceri [6,7]. In the next section we give the precise statement of Theorem 2.1, Section 3 contains auxiliary results, while in Section 4 we will give the proof of Theorem 2.1.

# 2. Main result

In the sequel, let p > 1 and  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^N$  be a bounded open domain, where  $N \ge 2$ . Now, we recall the same assumptions as in [4], concerning the potential  $a: \Omega \times \mathbb{R}^N \to \mathbb{R}^N$ .

H(a): Let  $A: \overline{\Omega} \times \mathbb{R}^N \to \mathbb{R}$ ,  $A = A(x,\xi)$  be a continuous function in  $\overline{\Omega} \times \mathbb{R}^N$ , with continuous derivative with respect to  $\xi$ , a = DA = A', and suppose that the following conditions hold:

- (a)  $A(x, 0) = 0, \forall x \in \Omega$ .
- (b) *a* satisfies the growth condition

$$|a(x,\xi)| \le c_1(1+|\xi|^{p-1}), \quad \forall x \in \Omega, \xi \in \mathbb{R}^N$$
for some constant  $c_1 > 0.$ 

$$(1)$$

(c) A is p-uniformly convex: There exists a constant k > 0, such that

$$A\left(x,\frac{\xi+\eta}{2}\right) \le \frac{1}{2}A(x,\xi) + \frac{1}{2}A(x,\eta) - k|\xi-\eta|^p, \quad \forall x \in \Omega, \xi, \eta \in \mathbb{R}^N$$

(d) A is p-subhomogeneous:

$$0 \le a(x,\xi) \cdot \xi \le pA(x,\xi), \quad \forall x \in \Omega, \xi \in \mathbb{R}^N.$$
<sup>(2)</sup>

(e) A satisfies the ellipticity condition: There exists a constant C > 0 such that

$$A(x,\xi) \ge C|\xi|^p, \quad \forall x \in \Omega, \xi \in \mathbb{R}^N.$$
(3)

**Remark 2.1.** Let  $p \ge 2$ . If  $A(x, s) = \frac{1}{p}|s|^p$ , then  $a(x, s) = |s|^{p-2}s$  and one obtains the usual *p*-Laplacian. If  $A(x, s) = \frac{1}{p}[(1 + s^2)^{\frac{p}{2}} - 1]$ , then we obtain the generalized mean curvature operator  $\operatorname{div}((1 + |\nabla u|^2)^{\frac{p-2}{2}}\nabla u)$ . For another specific choice of *a*, see [4].

Let  $f : \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$  be a function which, besides (f<sub>1</sub>), satisfies the following conditions:

(f<sub>2</sub>) 
$$\lim_{s \to 0} \frac{f(s)}{|s|^{p-1}} = 0.$$

(f<sub>3</sub>) There exists  $s_0 \in \mathbb{R}$  such that  $F(s_0) > 0$ , where  $F(s) = \int_0^s f(t) dt$ .

Our main result is the following:

**Theorem 2.1.** Let  $a : \Omega \times \mathbb{R}^N \to \mathbb{R}^N$  be a potential which fulfills the hypothesis H(a), and let  $f : \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$  be a continuous function which satisfies (f<sub>1</sub>), (f<sub>2</sub>) and (f<sub>3</sub>). Then, there exist an open interval  $\Lambda \subset (0, +\infty)$  and a constant  $\mu > 0$  such that for every  $\lambda \in \Lambda$  problem (P<sub> $\lambda$ </sub>) has at least three distinct weak solutions in  $W_0^{1,p}(\Omega)$ , whose  $W_0^{1,p}(\Omega)$ -norms are less than  $\mu$ .

## 3. Preliminaries

We assume that the assumptions of Theorem 2.1 are verified. The norm of the space  $L^p(\Omega)$  will be denoted by  $\|\cdot\|_p$ . The Sobolev space  $W_0^{1,p}(\Omega)$  is endowed with the usual norm  $\|u\| = (\int_{\Omega} |\nabla u|^p dx)^{1/p}$ . Since the embedding  $W_0^{1,p}(\Omega) \hookrightarrow L^q(\Omega)$   $(q \in [1, p^*))$  is compact, let  $c_q > 0$  be the best Sobolev constant, i.e.  $\|u\|_q \le c_q \|u\|$  for every  $u \in W_0^{1,p}(\Omega)$ , and  $c_q = \gamma_q^{-1}$ , with  $\gamma_q = \inf\{\|u\| : \|u\|_q = 1\}$ . Above,  $p^*$  denotes the usual Sobolev critical exponent.

We introduce the energy functional  $\mathcal{E}_{\lambda} : W_0^{1,p}(\Omega) \to \mathbb{R}$  given by  $\mathcal{E}_{\lambda}(u) = \mathcal{A}(u) - \lambda \mathcal{F}(u)$ , where

$$\mathcal{A}(u) = \int_{\Omega} A(x, \nabla u(x)) dx$$
 and  $\mathcal{F}(u) = \int_{\Omega} F(u(x)) dx$ .

It is easy to see that the functional  $\mathcal{E}_{\lambda}$  is of class  $\mathcal{C}^1$  and its derivative is given by

$$\langle \mathcal{E}'_{\lambda}(u), \varphi \rangle = \int_{\Omega} a(x, \nabla u(x)) \nabla \varphi(x) \mathrm{d}x - \lambda \int_{\Omega} f(u(x)) \varphi(x) \mathrm{d}x.$$

Here,  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$  denotes the duality pairing between  $W_0^{1,p}(\Omega)$  and its dual  $W^{-1,p'}(\Omega)$ , 1/p + 1/p' = 1. Moreover, the critical points of the functional  $\mathcal{E}_{\lambda}$  are exactly the weak solutions of problem  $(P_{\lambda})$ .

**Remark 3.1.** Due to hypothesis H(a), a simple calculation shows that the functional  $\mathcal{A}$  is locally uniformly convex. Moreover,  $\mathcal{A}' : W_0^{1,p}(\Omega) \to W^{-1,p'}(\Omega)$  verifies the  $(S_+)$  condition, i.e., for every sequence  $\{u_n\} \subset W_0^{1,p}(\Omega)$  such that  $u_n \to u$  weakly and  $\limsup_{n\to\infty} \langle \mathcal{A}'(u_n), u_n - u \rangle \leq 0$ , we have  $u_n \to u$  strongly; see Proposition 2.1 in [4].

**Lemma 3.1.** For every  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ , the functional  $\mathcal{E}_{\lambda} : W_0^{1,p}(\Omega) \to \mathbb{R}$  is sequentially weakly lower semicontinuous.

**Proof.** The functional  $\mathcal{A}$  being locally uniformly convex is weakly lower semicontinuous. On the other hand, condition  $(f_1)$  implies the existence of a constant c > 0 such that  $|f(s)| \leq c(1 + |s|^{p-1})$  for every  $s \in \mathbb{R}$ . Since the embedding  $W_0^{1,p}(\Omega) \hookrightarrow L^p(\Omega)$  is compact, one can deduce in a standard way that  $\mathcal{F}$  is sequentially weakly continuous.  $\Box$ 

**Lemma 3.2.** For every  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ , the functional  $\mathcal{E}_{\lambda}$  is coercive and satisfies the Palais–Smale condition.

**Proof.** Let us fix  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ , arbitrary. By  $(f_1)$  there exists  $\delta = \delta(\lambda)$  such that

$$|f(s)| \le pCc_p^{-p}(1+|\lambda|)^{-1}|s|^{p-1}$$
 for every  $|s| \ge \delta$ .

(Here, C is from H(a)(e).) Integrating the above inequality we have

$$|F(s)| \le Cc_p^{-p}(1+|\lambda|)^{-1}|s|^p + \max_{|t|\le\delta} |f(t)||s|, \quad \forall s \in \mathbb{R}.$$

Thus, for every  $u \in W_0^{1,p}(\Omega)$  we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{E}_{\lambda}(u) &\geq \mathcal{A}(u) - |\lambda| |\mathcal{F}(u)| \\ &\geq C \|u\|^p - C \frac{|\lambda|}{(1+|\lambda|)} \|u\|^p - c_p |\lambda| (\nu(\Omega))^{\frac{1}{p'}} \|u\| \max_{|t| \leq \delta} |f(t)| \end{aligned}$$

where  $\nu(\Omega)$  denotes the Lebesgue measure of  $\Omega$ . Since p > 1,  $\mathcal{E}_{\lambda}(u) \to +\infty$  whenever  $||u|| \to +\infty$ . Hence  $\mathcal{E}_{\lambda}$  is coercive.

Now, let  $\{u_n\} \subset W_0^{1,p}(\Omega)$  be a sequence such that  $\{\mathcal{E}_{\lambda}(u_n)\}$  is bounded and  $\|\mathcal{E}'_{\lambda}(u_n)\|_{W^{-1,p'}} \to 0$ . Since  $\mathcal{E}_{\lambda}$  is coercive, it follows that the sequence  $\{u_n\}$  is bounded in  $W_0^{1,p}(\Omega)$ . Up to a subsequence,  $u_n \to u$  weakly in  $W_0^{1,p}(\Omega)$  and  $u_n \to u$  strongly in  $L^p(\Omega)$ . From  $\mathcal{E}_{\lambda} = \mathcal{A} - \lambda \mathcal{F}$  we get

$$\langle \mathcal{A}'(u_n), u_n - u \rangle = \langle \mathcal{E}'_{\lambda}(u_n), u_n - u \rangle + \lambda \int_{\Omega} f(u_n(x))(u_n(x) - u(x)) \mathrm{d}x.$$
<sup>(4)</sup>

Since  $\|\mathcal{E}'_{\lambda}(u_n)\|_{W^{-1,p'}} \to 0$  and  $\{u_n - u\}$  is bounded in  $W_0^{1,p}(\Omega)$ , by the inequality  $|\langle \mathcal{E}'_{\lambda}(u_n), u_n - u\rangle| \leq \|\mathcal{E}'_{\lambda}(u_n)\|_{W^{-1,p'}}\|u_n - u\|$  it follows that

$$\langle \mathcal{E}'_{\lambda}(u_n), u_n - u \rangle \to 0.$$

As before,  $(f_1)$  implies the existence of a constant c > 0 such that  $|f(s)| \le c(1 + |s|^{p-1})$  for every  $s \in \mathbb{R}$ . Therefore

$$\begin{split} \int_{\Omega} |f(u_n(x))| |u_n(x) - u(x)| \mathrm{d}x &\leq c \int_{\Omega} |u_n(x) - u(x)| \mathrm{d}x + c \int_{\Omega} |(u_n(x))|^{p-1} |u_n(x) - u(x)| \mathrm{d}x \\ &\leq c((v(\Omega))^{\frac{1}{p'}} + \|u_n\|_p^{p-1}) \|u_n - u\|_p. \end{split}$$

Since  $u_n \to u$  strongly in  $L^p(\Omega)$ , we get

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \int_{\Omega} |f(u_n(x))| |u_n(x) - u(x)| \mathrm{d}x = 0.$$

In conclusion, relation (4) implies

$$\limsup_{n\to\infty} \langle \mathcal{A}'(u_n), u_n - u \rangle \leq 0.$$

But the operator  $\mathcal{A}'$  has the  $(S_+)$  property; therefore we have  $u_n \to u$  strongly in  $W_0^{1,p}(\Omega)$ .  $\Box$ 

Lemma 3.3. The following property holds:

$$\lim_{\rho \to 0^+} \frac{\sup\{\mathcal{F}(u) : \mathcal{A}(u) < \rho\}}{\rho} = 0.$$

**Proof.** Due to (f<sub>2</sub>), for an arbitrary small  $\varepsilon > 0$ , there exists  $\delta > 0$  such that

 $|f(s)| \le \varepsilon p c_p^{-p} |s|^{p-1}$  for every  $|s| \le \delta$ .

Combining the above inequality with

$$|f(s)| \le c(1+|s|^{p-1})$$
 for every  $s \in \mathbb{R}$ ,

we obtain

$$|F(s)| \le \varepsilon c_p^{-p} |s|^p + K(\delta) |s|^q$$
 for every  $s \in \mathbb{R}$ ,

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where  $q \in (p, p^*)$  is fixed, and  $K(\delta) > 0$  does not depend on s. For  $\rho > 0$ , define the sets

$$S^1_{\rho} = \{ u \in W^{1,p}_0(\Omega) : \mathcal{A}(u) < \rho \}$$

and

$$S_{\rho}^{2} = \{ u \in W_{0}^{1,p}(\Omega) : C \| u \|^{p} < \rho \}$$

By H(a)(e) it follows that  $S^1_{\rho} \subset S^2_{\rho}$ . From (5) we obtain

$$\mathcal{F}(u) \le \varepsilon \|u\|^p + K(\delta) c_q^q \|u\|^q.$$
(6)

Since  $0 \in S_{\rho}^{1}$  (due to H(a)(a)), and  $\mathcal{F}(0) = 0$ , one has  $0 \leq \sup_{u \in S_{\rho}^{1}} \mathcal{F}(u)$ . On the other hand, if  $u \in S_{\rho}^{2}$ , then  $||u|| \leq C^{-\frac{1}{p}} \rho^{\frac{1}{p}}$ , and using (6) we get

$$0 \leq \frac{\sup_{u \in S^1_{\rho}} \mathcal{F}(u)}{\rho} \leq \frac{\sup_{u \in S^2_{\rho}} \mathcal{F}(u)}{\rho} \leq \varepsilon C^{-1} + K(\delta) c_q^q C^{-\frac{q}{p}} \rho^{\frac{q}{p}-1}$$

Because  $\varepsilon > 0$  is arbitrary and  $\rho \to 0^+$ , we get the desired result.  $\Box$ 

## 4. Proof of Theorem 2.1

The main ingredient for the proof of Theorem 2.1 is a recent critical point result due to Bonanno [1] which it is actually a refinement of a result of Ricceri [6,7]. For completeness, we recall the result from [1].

**Theorem B** ([1, Theorem 2.1]). Let X be a separable and reflexive real Banach space, and let  $\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{F} : X \to \mathbb{R}$  be two continuously Gâteaux differentiable functionals. Assume that there exists  $x_0 \in X$  such that  $\mathcal{A}(x_0) = \mathcal{F}(x_0) = 0$  and  $\mathcal{A}(x) \ge 0$  for every  $x \in X$  and that there exists  $x_1 \in X, \rho > 0$  such that

(i) 
$$\rho < \mathcal{A}(x_1);$$
  
(ii)  $\sup_{\mathcal{A}(x) < \rho} \mathcal{F}(x) < \rho \frac{\mathcal{F}(x_1)}{\mathcal{A}(x_1)}.$ 

Further, put

$$\overline{a} = \frac{\zeta \rho}{\rho \frac{\mathcal{F}(x_1)}{\mathcal{A}(x_1)} - \sup_{\mathcal{A}(x) < \rho} \mathcal{F}(x)},$$

with  $\zeta > 1$ , and assume that the functional  $\mathcal{A} - \lambda \mathcal{F}$  is sequentially weakly lower semicontinuous, satisfies the Palais–Smale condition and

(iii)  $\lim_{\|x\|\to+\infty} (\mathcal{A}(x) - \lambda \mathcal{F}(x)) = +\infty$ , for every  $\lambda \in [0, \overline{a}]$ .

Then, there exist an open interval  $\Lambda \subset [0, \overline{a}]$  and a number  $\mu > 0$  such that for each  $\lambda \in \Lambda$ , the equation  $\mathcal{A}'(x) - \lambda \mathcal{F}'(x) = 0$  admits at least three solutions in X having norm less than  $\mu$ .

**Proof of Theorem 2.1.** Let  $s_0 \in \mathbb{R}$  be from  $(f_3)$ , i.e.,  $F(s_0) > 0$ . Fix an element  $x_0 \in \Omega$ . Choose  $R_0 > 0$  in such a way that

$$\{x \in \mathbb{R}^N : |x - x_0| \le R_0\} \subseteq \Omega,$$

where  $|\cdot|$  denotes the usual euclidean norm in  $\mathbb{R}^N$ . Let us denote by  $B_N(x_0, r)$  the *N*-dimensional closed euclidean ball with center  $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^N$  and radius r > 0.

For  $\sigma \in (0, 1)$  define

$$u_{\sigma}(x) = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } x \in \mathbb{R}^{N} \setminus B_{N}(x_{0}, R_{0}); \\ s_{0}, & \text{if } x \in B_{N}(x_{0}, \sigma R_{0}); \\ \frac{s_{0}}{R_{0}(1-\sigma)}(R_{0}-|x-x_{0}|), & \text{if } x \in B_{N}(x_{0}, R_{0}) \setminus B_{N}(x_{0}, \sigma R_{0}). \end{cases}$$
(7)

It is clear that  $u_{\sigma} \in W_0^{1,p}(\Omega)$ . Moreover, we have

$$|u_{\sigma}(x)| \le |s_0|$$
 for each  $x \in \mathbb{R}^N$ ,

and

$$\|u_{\sigma}\|^{p} = \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u_{\sigma}|^{p} = \frac{|s_{0}|^{p}(1-\sigma^{N})}{(1-\sigma)^{p}} R_{0}^{N-p} \omega_{N} > 0,$$
(8)

where  $\omega_N$  is the volume of  $B_N(0, 1)$ . Using the definition of  $u_\sigma$  we obtain

$$\mathcal{F}(u_{\sigma}) \ge [F(s_0)\sigma^N - \max_{|t| \le |s_0|} |F(t)|(1-\sigma^N)]R_0^N\omega_N.$$
(9)

For  $\sigma$  close enough to 1, the right-hand side of the last inequality becomes strictly positive; let  $\sigma_0$  be such a number. On account of Lemma 3.3, we may choose  $\rho_0 \in (0, 1)$  such that

$$\rho_0 < C \|u_{\sigma_0}\|^p \quad (\leq \mathcal{A}(u_{\sigma_0}))$$

and

$$\frac{\sup\{\mathcal{F}(u): \mathcal{A}(u) < \rho_0\}}{\rho_0} < \frac{[F(s_0)\sigma_0^N - \max_{|t| \le |s_0|} |F(t)|(1 - \sigma_0^N)]R_0^N \omega_N}{2\mathcal{A}(u_{\sigma_0})}.$$
(10)

In Theorem B we choose  $x_1 = u_{\sigma_0}$  and  $x_0 = 0$  and observe that the hypotheses (i) and (ii) are satisfied. We define

$$\overline{a} = \frac{1+\rho_0}{\frac{\mathcal{F}(u_{\sigma_0})}{\mathcal{A}(u_{\sigma_0})} - \frac{\sup\{\mathcal{F}(u):\mathcal{A}(u) < \rho_0\}}{\rho_0}}.$$
(11)

Taking into account Lemmas 3.1 and 3.2, all the assumptions of Theorem B are verified.

Thus there exist an open interval  $\Lambda \subset [0, \overline{a}]$  and a number  $\mu > 0$  such that for each  $\lambda \in \Lambda$ , the equation  $\mathcal{E}'_{\lambda}(u) = \mathcal{A}'(u) - \lambda \mathcal{F}'(u) = 0$  admits at least three solutions in  $W_0^{1,p}(\Omega)$  having  $W_0^{1,p}(\Omega)$ -norms less than  $\mu$ . This concludes the proof.  $\Box$ 

**Remark 4.1.** A natural question arises when the interval  $\Lambda$  is obtained in Theorem 2.1: can we estimate it? In order to give such an estimation, let us fix  $s_0$ ,  $R_0$ , and  $\sigma_0$  as before. Due to (9) and (10), we have

$$\frac{\sup\{\mathcal{F}(u):\mathcal{A}(u)<\rho_0\}}{\rho_0}<\frac{\mathcal{F}(u_{\sigma_0})}{2\mathcal{A}(u_{\sigma_0})}$$

Thus, according to (11) and  $\rho_0 < 1$ , one has  $\overline{a} < \frac{4\mathcal{A}(u_{\sigma_0})}{\mathcal{F}(u_{\sigma_0})}$ . Using H(a) (a), (b), we have

$$\mathcal{A}(u_{\sigma_0}) \le c_1(\max(\Omega)^{1-1/p} \|u_{\sigma_0}\| + \|u_{\sigma_0}\|^p).$$

In conclusion, invoking now (8) and (9), we have

$$\Lambda \subset [0,\overline{a}] \subset \left[0, \frac{4c_1(\operatorname{meas}(\Omega)^{1-1/p}C(s_0,\sigma_0)R_0^{N/p-N-1}\omega_N^{1/p-1} + C(s_0,\sigma_0)^p R_0^{-p})}{F(s_0)\sigma_0^N - \max_{|t| \le |s_0|} |F(t)|(1-\sigma_0^N)}\right],$$

where

$$C(s_0, \sigma_0) = \frac{|s_0|(1 - \sigma_0^N)^{1/p}}{1 - \sigma_0}$$

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