



Coupled and Uncoupled Sign-changing Spikes of Singularly Perturbed Elliptic Systems

Mayra Soares - Unam

(In collaboration with Prof. Mónica Clapp - Unam)

December 16, 2021

Seminário de EDPs (IMECC) - Unicamp

1. Introduction
2. Theoretical Background
3. The Limit System
4. The Asymptotic Behavior of Minimizers

Introduction

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- We study the **existence and asymptotic behavior** of *semi-positive* solutions, i. e. having **positive and sign-changing components** to the singularly perturbed system of elliptic equations

$$\begin{cases} -\varepsilon^2 \Delta u_i + u_i = \mu_i |u_i|^{p-2} u_i + \sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq i}}^{\ell} \lambda_{ij} \beta_{ij} |u_j|^{\alpha_{ij}} |u_i|^{\beta_{ij}-2} u_i, \\ u_i \in H_0^1(\Omega), \quad u_i \neq 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, \ell, \end{cases} \quad (\mathcal{S}_{\Omega, \varepsilon})$$

- $\varepsilon > 0$ is a small parameter, Ω is a bounded smooth domain in $\mathbb{R}^N$,
- **$N \geq 4$, $\mu_i > 0$, $\lambda_{ij} = \lambda_{ji} < 0$, $\alpha_{ij}, \beta_{ij} > 1$, $\alpha_{ij} = \beta_{ji}$,**

$$\alpha_{ij} + \beta_{ij} = p \in (2, 2^*),$$

and $2^* := \frac{2N}{N-2}$ is the critical Sobolev exponent.

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(2): the limit profile is **a solution of the uncoupled system**, i.e., after rescaling and translation, the limit profile of the i -th component is a positive or a nonradial sign-changing solution to the equation

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Physical Motivation

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- We consider the case in which the interaction between particles in **the same state is attractive** ($\mu_i > 0$) and the interaction between particles in **any two different states is repulsive** ($\lambda_{ij} < 0$).

Main References

- ▶ **Lin and Wei (2005)** (for $N = 2, 3$)
 - Described the behavior of **positive least energy solutions** for the system $(\mathcal{S}_{\Omega, \varepsilon})$ with cubic nonlinearity ($\alpha_{ij} = \beta_{ij} = 2$) as $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$;

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- ▶ **Bartsch and Willem (1993)** (for $N = 4$ and $N \geq 6$)
- ▶ **Lorca and Ubilla (2004)** (for $N = 5$)
- ▶ **Clapp and Srikanth (2016)** (for $N \geq 4$)
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-  (4) - Lorca, Sebastián; Ubilla, Pedro: Symmetric and nonsymmetric solutions for an elliptic equation on $\mathbb{R}^N$. Nonlinear Anal. 58 (2004), no. 7-8, 961-968.
-  (5) - Clapp, Mónica; Srikanth, P. N.: Entire nodal solutions of a semilinear elliptic equation and their effect on concentration phenomena. J. Math. Anal. Appl. 437 (2016), no. 1, 485-497.

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-  (7) - Sirakov, Boyan: Least energy solitary waves for a system of nonlinear Schrödinger equations in $\mathbb{R}^n$. Comm. Math. Phys. 271 (2007), no. 1, 199-221.
-  (8) - Sato, Yohei; Wang, Zhi-Qiang: On the least energy sign-changing solutions for a nonlinear elliptic system. Discrete Contin. Dyn. Syst. 35 (2015), no. 5, 2151-2164.

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Theorem (1) - (Multiplicity of Semi-Positive Solutions)

Let **$N = 4$ or $N \geq 6$** . For any given $0 \leq m \leq \ell$, the system $(\mathcal{S}_{\infty,\ell})$ has a solution $\mathbf{w} = (w_1, \dots, w_\ell)$ whose first m components **$w_1, \dots, w_m$ are positive** and whose last $\ell - m$ components **$w_{m+1}, \dots, w_\ell$ are nonradial and change sign**. Furthermore, $\mathbf{w}$ satisfies

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$$\begin{cases} w_i(z_1, z_2, x) = w_i(e^{i\vartheta} z_1, e^{i\vartheta} z_2, gx) & \text{for all } \vartheta \in [0, 2\pi), g \in O(N-4), i = 1, \dots, \ell, \\ w_i(z_1, z_2, x) = w_i(z_2, z_1, x) & \text{if } i = 1, \dots, m, \\ w_i(z_1, z_2, x) = -w_i(z_2, z_1, x) & \text{if } i = m+1, \dots, \ell, \end{cases} \quad (1.1)$$

for all $(z_1, z_2, x) \in \mathbb{C} \times \mathbb{C} \times \mathbb{R}^{N-4} \equiv \mathbb{R}^N$, and it has a **least energy** among all nontrivial solutions with these symmetry properties.

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- It is **impossible** to derive a similar result for **$N = 5$** ;

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Theorem (2) - (Existence/Nonexistence of a Least Energy Solution)

Let $\ell \geq 2$. System $(S_{\infty, \ell})$ has a least energy solution satisfying (1.1) **if and only if** $\text{Fix}(G) := \{x \in \mathbb{R}^N : gx = x \ \forall \ g \in G\} = \{0\}$.

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- ▶ For **$N = 5$** **there is no** such a subgroup G of symmetries satisfying $\text{Fix}(G) = \{0\}$.

About the singularly perturbed system $(\mathcal{S}_{\Omega,\varepsilon})$

- Set $\|u\|_\varepsilon^2 := \frac{1}{\varepsilon^N} \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} [\varepsilon^2 |\nabla u|^2 + u^2]$ and $\|u\| := \|u\|_1$ for $\varepsilon > 0$ and $u \in H^1(\mathbb{R}^N)$, we obtain **two different** asymptotic behaviors as $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$:

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Theorem (3) - (Coupled Spikes Solutions)

Let **$N = 4$ or $N \geq 6$** , and $\Omega = B_1(0)$. Then, for any given $0 \leq m \leq \ell$ and any sequence (ε_k) of positive numbers converging to zero, there exists solution $\hat{\mathbf{u}}_k = (\hat{u}_{1k}, \dots, \hat{u}_{\ell k})$ to the system $(S_{\Omega,\varepsilon_k})$ whose **first m components are positive** and whose **last $\ell - m$ components are nonradial and change sign**, with the following limit profile:

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There exists a solution $\mathbf{w} = (w_1, \dots, w_\ell)$ to the system $(S_{\infty,\ell})$ such that, after passing to a subsequence, $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \|\hat{u}_{ik} - w_i(\varepsilon_k^{-1} \cdot)\|_{\varepsilon_k} = 0$ for all $i = 1, \dots, \ell$.

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The first m components of $\mathbf{w}$ are positive, its last $\ell - m$ components are nonradial and change sign, and $\mathbf{w}$ satisfies (1.1). Therefore,

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i=1}^{\ell} \|\hat{u}_{ik}\|_{\varepsilon_k}^2 = \sum_{i=1}^{\ell} \|w_i\|^2 =: \hat{\mathbf{c}}_m.$$

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Furthermore, $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i=1}^{\ell} \|u_{ik}\|_{\varepsilon_k}^2 = \sum_{i=1}^{\ell} \|v_i\|^2 =: c_m$, satisfies $c_m < \hat{c}_m$, with $\hat{c}_m$ as in Theorem 3, if $\mathbf{N} \geq 6$. (1.2)

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They **concentrate at points that are far from each other** and from the boundary of the ball;
- ▶ The solutions given by Theorem 3 behave as in the attractive case $\lambda_{ij} > 0$: **all components concentrate at the origin**;
- ▶ The **sign of the interaction coefficient** λ_{ij} **is not determinant in the segregation behavior** of higher energy solutions;
- ▶ Since they have **higher energy**, they enjoy **more symmetries** than those given by Theorem 4.

- These are the **first examples in the literature** that show this kind of **asymptotic behavior** for the elliptic system $(\mathcal{S}_{\Omega,\varepsilon})$;

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 - ▶ If the space of fixed points is **trivial**, all components will necessarily concentrate at the **origin**;
 - ▶ If the fixed-point space has **positive dimension**, all components will **move far away** from each other;

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 - ▶ If the fixed-point space has **positive dimension**, all components will **move far away** from each other;
- ▶ For **$N = 3$ there are no symmetries** with the properties required to produce nonradial sign-changing solutions;

Theoretical Background

A Suitable Subgroup of Symmetries

- Let G be a **closed subgroup of $O(N)$** , denote by $\mathbf{Gx} := \{\mathbf{gx} : \mathbf{g} \in \mathbf{G}\}$ the G -orbit of $x \in \mathbb{R}^N$;

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- ▶ Let $\phi : G \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_2 := \{-1, 1\}$ be a **continuous homomorphism** of groups with the following property:
(A₁) **If ϕ is surjective, then there exists $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^N$ such that $K^\phi x_0 \neq Gx_0$ where $K^\phi := \ker \phi$.**

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- ▶ Let Θ be an open subset of $\mathbb{R}^N$ which is **G -invariant**. A function $u : \Theta \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is ϕ -equivariant if $\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{gx}) = \phi(\mathbf{g})\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}) \ \forall \mathbf{g} \in \mathbf{G}, \ \mathbf{x} \in \Theta$;

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Relevant Examples

- (i) Let Γ be the group generated by $\{e^{i\vartheta} : \vartheta \in [0, 2\pi)\} \cup \{\tau\}$ acting on $\mathbb{R}^N$ by

$$e^{i\vartheta}(z_1, z_2, x) = (e^{i\vartheta}z_1, e^{i\vartheta}z_2, x) \quad \text{and} \quad \tau(z_1, z_2, x) = (z_2, z_1, x)$$

for all $(z_1, z_2, x) \in \mathbb{C} \times \mathbb{C} \times \mathbb{R}^{N-4} \equiv \mathbb{R}^N$ and $\phi : \Gamma \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_2$ be the homomorphism given by $\phi(e^{i\vartheta}) := 1$ and $\phi(\tau) := -1$.

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$$K^\phi x_0 = \{(e^{i\vartheta}, 0, 0) : \vartheta \in [0, 2\pi)\} \quad \text{and}$$

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(ii) Let $\mathbf{G} := \mathbf{\Gamma} \times \mathbf{O}(\mathbf{N} - 4)$ with $\mathbf{\Gamma}$ as in (i) and $g \in O(N - 4)$ acting as

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and, for $x_0 = (1, 0, 0) \in \mathbb{C} \times \mathbb{C} \times \mathbb{R}^{N-4}$, one has

$$K^\phi x_0 = \{(e^{i\vartheta}, 0, 0) : \vartheta \in [0, 2\pi)\} \quad \text{and}$$

$Gx_0 = \{(e^{i\vartheta}, 0, 0) : \vartheta \in [0, 2\pi)\} \cup \{(0, e^{i\vartheta}, 0) : \vartheta \in [0, 2\pi)\}$,
so $(\mathbf{A}_1)$ is satisfied.

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$$\begin{cases} -\varepsilon^2 \Delta u_i + u_i = \mu_i |u_i|^{p-2} u_i + \sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq i}}^{\ell} \lambda_{ij} \beta_{ij} |u_j|^{\alpha_{ij}} |u_i|^{\beta_{ij}-2} u_i, \\ u_i \in H_0^1(\Theta)^{\phi_i}, \quad u_i \neq 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, \ell, \end{cases} \quad (\mathcal{S}_{\Theta, \varepsilon}^{\phi})$$

with $\varepsilon > 0$, $\mu_i > 0$, $\lambda_{ij} = \lambda_{ji} < 0$, $\alpha_{ij}, \beta_{ij} > 1$, $\alpha_{ij} = \beta_{ji}$ and $\alpha_{ij} + \beta_{ij} = p \in (2, 2^*)$.

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- Set $\mathcal{H}^{\ell}(\Theta) := H_0^1(\Theta)^{\phi_1} \times \dots \times H_0^1(\Theta)^{\phi_{\ell}}$, and denote an element in $\mathcal{H}^{\ell}(\Theta)$ by $\mathbf{u} = (u_1, \dots, u_{\ell})$. For each $\varepsilon > 0$ we define the equivalent norms

$$\|\mathbf{u}\|_{\ell, \varepsilon} := \left(\sum_{i=1}^{\ell} \|u_i\|_{\varepsilon}^2 \right)^{1/2}, \text{ where } \|u_i\|_{\varepsilon}^2 := \frac{1}{\varepsilon^N} \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} \left[\varepsilon^2 |\nabla u_i|^2 + u_i^2 \right].$$

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- Consider the functional $\mathcal{J}_\varepsilon^\ell : \mathcal{H}^\ell(\Theta) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ given by

$$\mathcal{J}_\varepsilon^\ell(\mathbf{u}) := \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{\ell} \|u_i\|_\varepsilon^2 - \frac{1}{p} \sum_{i=1}^{\ell} \frac{1}{\varepsilon^N} \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} \mu_i |u_i|^p - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\substack{i,j=1 \\ j \neq i}}^{\ell} \frac{1}{\varepsilon^N} \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} \lambda_{ij} |u_j|^{\alpha_{ij}} |u_i|^{\beta_{ij}},$$

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- Since $\lambda_{ij} = \lambda_{ji}$, $\beta_{ij} = \alpha_{ji}$ and $\alpha_{ij} + \beta_{ij} = p$, its partial derivatives are

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_i \mathcal{J}_\varepsilon^\ell(\mathbf{u})v &= \frac{1}{\varepsilon^N} \left[\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} (\varepsilon^2 \nabla u_i \cdot \nabla v + u_i v) \right. \\ &\quad \left. - \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} \mu_i |u_i|^{p-2} u_i v - \sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq i}}^{\ell} \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} \lambda_{ij} \beta_{ij} |u_j|^{\alpha_{ij}} |u_i|^{\beta_{ij}-2} u_i v \right], \quad (2.1) \end{aligned}$$

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for $v \in H_0^1(\Theta)^{\phi_i}$ and $i = 1, \dots, \ell$.

- By the **principle of symmetric criticality**, the solutions to system $(\mathcal{S}_{\Theta, \varepsilon}^\phi)$ are the critical points of $\mathcal{J}_\varepsilon^\ell$ whose components u_i are nontrivial.

The Nehari-Type Set

- All solutions belong to the Nehari-type set

$$\mathcal{N}_\varepsilon^\ell(\Theta) := \left\{ \mathbf{u} \in \mathcal{H}^\ell(\Theta) : u_i \neq 0, \partial_i \mathcal{J}_\varepsilon^\ell(\mathbf{u}) u_i = 0, \forall i = 1, \dots, \ell \right\}.$$

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- Note that

$$\partial_i \mathcal{J}_\varepsilon^\ell(\mathbf{u}) u_i = \|u_i\|_\varepsilon^2 - \frac{1}{\varepsilon^N} \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} \mu_i |u_i|^p - \sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq i}}^{\ell} \frac{1}{\varepsilon^N} \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} \lambda_{ij} \beta_{ij} |u_j|^{\alpha_{ij}} |u_i|^{\beta_{ij}}. \quad (2.2)$$

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- Define

$$c_\varepsilon^\ell(\Theta) := \inf_{\mathbf{u} \in \mathcal{N}_\varepsilon^\ell(\Theta)} \mathcal{J}_\varepsilon^\ell(\mathbf{u}).$$

- From (2.1), if $\mathbf{u} = (u_1, u_2, \dots, u_\ell) \in \mathcal{N}_\varepsilon^\ell(\Theta)$ one sees that

$$\mathcal{J}_\varepsilon^\ell(\mathbf{u}) = \frac{p-2}{2p} \sum_{i=1}^{\ell} \|u_i\|_\varepsilon^2 = \frac{p-2}{2p} \|\mathbf{u}\|_{\ell, \varepsilon}^2. \quad (2.3)$$

The Existence of a Least Energy Solution

- A solution to the system $(\mathcal{S}_{\Theta, \varepsilon}^{\phi})$ such that $\mathcal{J}_{\varepsilon}^{\ell}(\mathbf{u}) = \mathbf{c}_{\varepsilon}^{\ell}(\Theta)$ is called a **least energy solution** to $(\mathcal{S}_{\Theta, \varepsilon}^{\phi})$.

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Theorem (5) - (Existence of minimizers)

*If Θ is a bounded G -invariant domain in $\mathbb{R}^N$, then, for each $\varepsilon > 0$, system $(\mathcal{S}_{\Theta,\varepsilon}^\phi)$ has a **least energy solution**.*

The Limit System

Establishing the Nehari Levels

- Let ϕ_i and G satisfy $(\mathbf{A}_1)$ and also the following property:
 $(\mathbf{A}_2)$ **For every $x \in \mathbb{R}^N$, the G -orbit of x is either infinite, or $Gx = \{x\}$.**

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- ▶ The limit system under the ϕ_i -equivariant component functions is

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta u_i + u_i = \mu_i |u_i|^{p-2} u_i + \sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq i}}^{\ell} \lambda_{ij} \beta_{ij} |u_j|^{\alpha_{ij}} |u_i|^{\beta_{ij}-2} u_i, \\ u_i \in H^1(\mathbb{R}^N)^{\phi_i}, \quad u_i \neq 0, \quad 1 < i \leq \ell. \end{cases} \quad (\mathcal{S}_{\infty, \ell}^{\phi})$$

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- For each $i = 1, \dots, \ell$, consider the problem

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta u + u = \mu_i |u|^{p-2} u, \\ u \in H^1(\mathbb{R}^N)^{\phi_i}, \quad u \neq 0. \end{cases} \quad (\mathcal{P}_i^{\phi_i})$$

Establishing the Nehari Levels

- Its solutions are the critical points of $J_i : H^1(\mathbb{R}^N)^{\phi_i} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ given by $J_i(u) := \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} (|\nabla u|^2 + u^2) - \frac{1}{p} \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} |u|^p$, and belong to the Nehari manifold $\mathcal{N}_i := \{u \in H^1(\mathbb{R}^N)^{\phi_i} : u \neq 0, J'_i(u)u = 0\}$. We set

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- Concerning to the fundamental role of the *G-fixed-point space*

$$\text{Fix}(G) := \{x \in \mathbb{R}^N : gx = x \text{ for all } g \in G\}$$

we prove the following results.

The Comparison of the Nehari Levels

Proposition (6) - (Comparing the Nehari Levels)

The following statements hold true:

$$(i) \ c_{\infty}^{\ell} \geq \sum_{i=1}^{\ell} c_i.$$

$$(ii) \text{ If } \text{Fix}(G) \text{ has } \text{positive dimension}, \text{ then } c_{\infty}^{\ell} = \sum_{i=1}^{\ell} c_i.$$

$$(iii) \text{ If } \ell \geq 2 \text{ and } c_{\infty}^{\ell} = \sum_{i=1}^{\ell} c_i, \text{ then } c_{\infty}^{\ell} \text{ is NOT attained.}$$

Behavior of the Minimizing Sequence of System $(S_{\infty,\ell}^\phi)$

Theorem (7) - (The Minimizing Sequences of System $(S_{\infty,\ell}^\phi)$)

Let $\ell \geq 2$ and $\mathbf{u}_k = (u_{1k}, \dots, u_{\ell k}) \in \mathcal{N}_\infty^\ell$ be such that $\mathcal{J}_\infty^\ell(\mathbf{u}_k) \rightarrow \mathbf{c}_\infty^\ell$.

(I) If $\text{Fix}(\mathbf{G}) = \{\mathbf{0}\}$, then there exists a **least energy solution** $\mathbf{w} = (w_1, \dots, w_\ell)$ to the system $(S_{\infty,\ell}^\phi)$ such that, after passing to a subsequence, $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \|u_{ik} - w_i\| = 0$ for all $i = 1, \dots, \ell$, and

$c_\infty^\ell > \sum_{i=1}^{\ell} c_i$. Moreover, if $u_{ik} \geq 0$ for all $k \in \mathbb{N}$, then $w_i \geq 0$.

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(II) If $\dim(\text{Fix}(G)) > 0$, then, for each $i = 1, \dots, \ell$, there exist (ξ_{ik}) in $\text{Fix}(G)$ and a **least energy solution** v_i to the problem $(\mathcal{P}_i^{\phi_i})$ such that, after passing to a subsequence, $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} |\xi_{ik} - \xi_{jk}| = \infty$ if $i \neq j$,

$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \|u_{ik} - v_i(\cdot - \xi_{ik})\| = 0$ for all $i, j = 1, \dots, \ell$, and $c_\infty^\ell = \sum_{i=1}^{\ell} c_i$.

Moreover, if $u_{ik} \geq 0$ for all $k \in \mathbb{N}$, then $v_i \geq 0$.

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- ▷ The group $\mathbf{G} := \mathbf{\Gamma} \times \mathbf{O}(\mathbf{N} - 4)$ introduced in Example (ii) satisfies $(\mathbf{A}_2)$ if either $\mathbf{N} = 4$ or $\mathbf{N} \geq 6$, and $\text{Fix}(G) = \{0\}$;

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The Asymptotic Behavior of Minimizers

The Limit Profile of the Least Energy Solutions

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$$\text{and } \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} c_\varepsilon^\ell(\Omega) = c_\infty^\ell.$$

Moreover, $w_i \geq 0$ if $u_{ik} \geq 0$ for all $k \in \mathbb{N}$.

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- ▷ Let $\xi_{ik} := \zeta_{ik} + \varepsilon_k \vartheta_i$, so that $v_i(y) := \tilde{v}_i(y + \vartheta_i)$ is radial if $i = 1, \dots, m$ and it satisfies (1.2) if $i = m+1, \dots, \ell$;
- ▷ As $\varepsilon_k \rightarrow 0$, we have that $\xi_{ik} \in B_1(0)$ for k large enough. From the corresponding statements for ζ_{ik} and $\tilde{v}_i$ one derives the remaining conclusions involving the component functions;
- ▷ The inequality $\mathbf{c}_m < \hat{\mathbf{c}}_m$ follows immediately from Proposition 6.

□

**Thank You For Your
Attention!**