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of lagrangian systems**

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## Existence of $T$ -Periodic Solutions for a Class of Lagrangian Systems.

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### 1. Introduction.

In this paper it will be discussed the existence of  $T$ -periodic solutions  $q = q(t)$  of the Lagrangian system of ordinary differential equations:

$$(1.1) \quad \frac{d}{dt} \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{\xi}}(q, \dot{q}, t) - \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial q}(q, \dot{q}, t) = 0 \quad q \in C^2(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R}^N)$$

where  $\mathcal{L}$  denotes the Lagrangian function

$$(1.2) \quad \mathcal{L}(q, \xi, t) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j=1}^N a_{ij}(q) \xi_i \xi_j - V(q, t), \quad q, \xi \in \mathbb{R}^N, \quad t \in \mathbb{R}$$

the  $a_{ij}$ 's ( $i, j = 1, \dots, N$ ) being  $C^1$  real functions on  $\mathbb{R}^N$  and  $V(q, t)$  a real function on  $\mathbb{R}^{N+1}$ ,  $T$ -periodic in the  $t$  variable.

That problem has been widely studied mostly when the coefficients  $a_{ij}$  are constant; in this case (1.1) reduces to,

$$(1.3) \quad \ddot{x} + \nabla U(x, t) = 0.$$

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Problem (1.3) has been extensively studied when  $U$  is unbounded (see e.g. [2], [4], [13]), and in the case when  $U$  is bounded it has been studied e.g. in [5], [7], [8], [9], [10], [11].

In the general case when the  $a_{ij}$ 's are nonconstant, a discussion on problem (1.1) can be found in [6], [3], [14], although the last two ones are in a Hamiltonian setting.

The present note is devoted to the study of problem (1.1) when  $V$  is subquadratic at infinity, i.e.

$$\frac{V(q)}{|q|^2} \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as } |q| \rightarrow \infty.$$

In this analysis, variational methods will be used, that is the  $T$ -periodic solutions of (1.1) are looked for as critical points of the action functional:

$$(1.4) \quad f(q) = \int_0^T \mathcal{L}(q, \dot{q}, t) dt$$

where  $q$  belongs to the Sobolev space of the  $T$ -periodic functions.

This paper is organized as follows:

a) Section 2 contains definitions and preliminary notations.

b) Section 3 is devoted to the study of problem (1.1) in the autonomous case, i.e.

$$V = V(q).$$

In such a case  $f$  is invariant under the action of the group  $S^1$  (namely the time translations).

With reference to problem (1.1), the existence of multiple solutions of sufficiently large prescribed  $T$ -period will be established, under the assumption that  $V(q) \rightarrow +\infty$  as  $|q| \rightarrow +\infty$ , and the symmetry property of  $f$  will be used.

Analogous results have been obtained in [14] under more restrictive assumptions.

Moreover when the  $a_{ij}$ 's are constant, the results obtained in section 3 are a variant of those obtained by Benci in [2].

c) Section 4 deals with problem (1.1) when  $V$  is a  $T$ -periodic time-dependent bounded potential. The main theorem establishes the existence of at least one nontrivial  $T$ -periodic solution.

It must be pointed out that, when the potential is bounded, (1.4) does not satisfy the Palais-Smale condition globally.

An analogous situation occurs in [6] where, however,  $a_{ij}$  and  $V$  are assumed even.

d) In Section 5 problem (1.1) with an additional  $T$ -periodic « forcing » term is examined. The existence of at least one solution of the same period is then established.

## 2. Notations and preliminaries.

Some notations which will be used in the following sections, are now stated:

1)  $|\cdot|$  denotes the Euclidean norm of  $\mathbb{R}^N$  and  $(\cdot|\cdot)$  its usual inner product;

2) if  $1 < p < \infty$ , the space

$$L^p = L^p(S^1, \mathbb{R}^N) = \left\{ q: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^N: q \text{ } 2\pi\text{-periodic, } \int_0^{2\pi} |q(t)|^p < \infty \right\}$$

is meant to be endowed with the usual  $L^p$  norm, here denoted by  $|\cdot|_p$ , while  $L^\infty = L^\infty(S^1, \mathbb{R}^N)$  indicates the space of the essentially bounded  $2\pi$ -periodic  $\mathbb{R}^N$  valued functions, endowed with the usual norm  $|\cdot|_\infty$ .

3)  $H^1 = H^1(S^1, \mathbb{R}^N)$  represents the Sobolev space obtained by the closure of the  $C^\infty$   $2\pi$ -periodic  $\mathbb{R}^N$  valued functions  $q = q(t)$ , endowed with the norm

$$\|q\| = \left[ \int_0^{2\pi} (|\dot{q}|^2 + |q|^2) dt \right]^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

4)  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$  indicates the duality between  $H^1$  and  $H^{-1}$ ;

5)  $B_R$  indicates the closed  $H^1$ -ball of radius  $R$  centered at the origin, while  $\partial B_R$  denotes its boundary;

6) if  $f$  is a  $C^1$  functional on  $H^1$ ,  $f'(q)$  denotes the Frechét derivative at  $q \in H^1$ .

Some shortened matrix notations are now further established for the functions  $a_{ij}$  ( $i, j = 1, \dots, N$ )

$$(2.1) \quad a(q) = \{a_{ij}(q)\} \quad i, j = 1, \dots, N$$

$$(2.2) \quad a'(q)v = \{(\nabla a_{ij}(q)|v)\} \quad i, j = 1, \dots, N.$$

In all the theorems which will be set in the following sections, it is assumed that the  $a_{ij}$ 's satisfy:

$$(2.3) \quad \text{there exists } \mu > 0 \text{ such that } (a(q)\xi|\xi) \geq \mu|\xi|^2 \\ \text{for each } q \in \mathbb{R}^N, \quad \xi \in \mathbb{R}^N.$$

Moreover, given a Hilbert space  $H$  and a functional  $f \in C^1(H, \mathbb{R})$ ,  $f$  is said to satisfy the Palais-Smale condition, here recalled in its weaker version, iff:

(P.S.) Any sequence  $\{q_n\}$  in  $H$  such that  $\{f(q_n)\}$  is bounded and  $\|f'(q_n)\|_{q_n} \rightarrow 0$ , possesses a convergent subsequence in  $H$ .

### 3. Multiple free oscillations.

In this section it is examined the existence of multiple  $T$ -periodic solutions of problem (1.1), in the autonomous case.

Here the  $C^1$  functional on  $H^1$  defined in (1.4), becomes, changing the variable  $t$  in  $(2\pi t)/T$ :

$$(3.1) \quad f(q) = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^{2\pi} (a(q)\dot{q}|\dot{q}) dt - \omega^2 \int_0^{2\pi} V(q) dt$$

where  $\omega = T/2\pi$ .

Then the research of the  $T$ -periodic solutions of (1.1) is reduced to the research of the critical points of (3.1) in  $H^1$ .

The main result of this section is the following:

**THEOREM 3.1.** *Assume condition (2.3) holds and moreover:*

(3.2)  *$V$  is subquadratic at infinity, that is there exists  $\alpha \in ]0, 2[$  and  $R \in \mathbb{R}_+$  such that*

$$(\nabla V(q)|q) - \alpha V(q) \leq 0 \quad \text{for any } q \in \mathbb{R}^N, \quad |q| > R;$$

(3.3) *there exists  $\beta \in ]0, 2 - \alpha[$  such that*

$$a'(q)q + \beta a(q) \quad \text{is positive semidefinite;}$$

(3.4)  $V(q) \rightarrow +\infty$  as  $|q| \rightarrow +\infty$ ;

(3.5)  $V(0) = 0$  is the minimum of  $V$  and  $V'(q) \neq 0$  for any  $q \neq 0$ ;

(3.6)  $a_{ij}$  and  $V$  are twice differentiable at the origin and  $V''(0)$  has all positive eigenvalues.

For any  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $k \neq 0$ , let  $T(k) = 2\pi[(k^2 + 1)\nu/\lambda]^{\frac{1}{2}}$ , where  $\nu$  is the largest eigenvalue of  $\{a_{ij}(0)\}$ ,  $\lambda$  the first eigenvalue of the Hessian matrix  $V''(0)$ . Then for any  $T > T(k)$ , problem (1.1) possesses at least  $kN$   $T$ -periodic distinct <sup>(1)</sup> solutions.

Before proving this theorem a  $S^1$  version of a result contained in [1] needs to be recalled and a preliminar lemma must be stated too.

**THEOREM 3.2.** *Let  $H$  be a real Hilbert space on which a unitary representation  $G$  of the  $S^1$  group acts. Suppose that  $f \in C^1(H, \mathbb{R})$  verifies the following assumptions:*

(3.7)  *$f$  is invariant under the action of  $G$ ;*

(3.8)  *$f$  satisfies the (P.S.) condition;*

(3.9) *there exist two closed subspaces  $V$  and  $W$  of  $H$  with  $\text{codim } W < \infty$  and there exist two real constants  $c_0 > c_\infty$  and  $\rho \in \mathbb{R}_+$  such that*

i)  $f(q) < c_0 < f(0)$  for each  $q \in \partial B_\rho \cap V$ ;

ii)  $f(q) \geq c_\infty$  for each  $q \in W$ ;

(3.10)  $f(q) > c_0$  for each  $q \in \text{Fix}(S^1)$  such that  $f'(q) = 0$ .

<sup>(1)</sup>  $q_1(t)$  and  $q_2(t)$  will be said distinct iff  $q_1$  cannot be obtained by  $q_2$  by a time translation.

Then there exist at least

$$\frac{1}{2}(\dim V - \text{codim } W)$$

orbits of critical points with critical values in  $[c_\infty, c_0]$ .

PROOF. The claim follows from theorem 2.4 of [1], by suitable modifications contained in Theorem 1.4 of [3].

LEMMA 3.3. Suppose that (2.3), (3.2), (3.3) and (3.4) hold. Then  $f$  verifies the (P.S.) condition.

PROOF. - Let  $\{q_n\}$  be a sequence of  $H^1$  such that:

$$(3.11) \quad \{f(q_n)\} \text{ is bounded}$$

$$(3.12) \quad \|f'(q_n)\| \|q_n\| \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as } n \rightarrow \infty.$$

Those statements imply that there exist two real constants  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  such that:

$$(3.13) \quad \omega^2 \int_0^{2\pi} V(q_n) dt \leq M_1 + \frac{1}{2} \int_0^{2\pi} (a(q_n) \dot{q}_n | \dot{q}_n) dt$$

and

$$(3.14) \quad \langle f'(q_n), q_n \rangle = \int_0^{2\pi} (a(q_n) \dot{q}_n | \dot{q}_n) dt + \frac{1}{2} \int_0^{2\pi} (a'(q_n) q_n \dot{q}_n | \dot{q}_n) dt - \\ - \omega^2 \int_0^{2\pi} (\nabla V(q_n) | q_n) dt \leq M_2.$$

By (3.2), (3.13) and (3.14) it follows that

$$\int_0^{2\pi} (a(q_n) \dot{q}_n | \dot{q}_n) dt + \frac{1}{2} \int_0^{2\pi} (a'(q_n) q_n \dot{q}_n | \dot{q}_n) dt \leq \alpha M_1 + M_2 + \frac{\alpha}{2} \int_0^{2\pi} (a(q_n) \dot{q}_n | \dot{q}_n) dt$$

and hence, by (3.3)

$$(3.15) \quad \alpha M_1 + M_2 \geq \frac{2 - \alpha}{2} \int_0^{2\pi} (a(q_n) \dot{q}_n | \dot{q}_n) dt + \frac{1}{2} \int_0^{2\pi} (a'(q_n) q_n \dot{q}_n | \dot{q}_n) dt \geq \\ \geq \frac{2 - \alpha - \beta}{2} \int_0^{2\pi} (a(q_n) \dot{q}_n | \dot{q}_n) dt.$$

Now (2.3) and (3.15) imply that

$$\int_0^{2\pi} |\dot{q}_n|^2 dt \text{ is bounded,}$$

and, by (3.13),

$$\int_0^{2\pi} V(q_n) dt \text{ is bounded, too.}$$

The last two conditions, in addition with (3.4), imply that

$$(3.16) \quad \|q_n\| \text{ is bounded.}$$

Consider, now, the decomposition

$$(3.17) \quad H^1 = H^+ \oplus \mathbb{R}^N$$

where

$$(3.18) \quad H^+ = \left\{ q \in H^1 \mid \int_0^{2\pi} q dt = 0 \right\}.$$

Then, for each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$

$$q_n = q_n^+ + q_n^0 \quad \text{where } q_n^+ \in H^+, \quad q_n^0 \in \mathbb{R}^N$$

and, by (3.16)

$$\|q_n^+\| \text{ is bounded.}$$

Arguing as in the proof of lemma 1.8 of [6] a subsequence of  $\{q_n^+\}$ , strongly convergent in  $H^1$ , can be found; whence  $\{q_n\}$  itself has a  $H^1$  strongly convergent subsequence.

**PROOF OF THEOREM 3.1.** Consider the following subspaces of  $H^1$ :

$$W = \bigoplus_{n \geq 1} M_{\lambda_n}$$

$$W_k = \bigoplus_{n \leq k} M_{\lambda_n} \quad k \in \mathbb{N}, \quad k \neq 0$$



where  $M_{\lambda_n}$  denotes the eigenspace corresponding to the eigenvalue  $\lambda_n$  of the operator  $q \rightarrow -\ddot{q}$  in  $H^1$ .

To reach the claim it is enough to show that for any fixed  $k \in \mathbf{N}$ ,  $k \neq 0$ , there exist  $c_\infty < c_0 < 0$  and  $\varrho \in \mathbf{R}_+$  such that

$$(3.19) \quad f(q) \geq c_\infty \quad \text{for each } q \in W$$

$$(3.20) \quad f(q) \leq c_0 \quad \text{for each } q \in W_k, \quad \|q\| = \varrho$$

and

$$(3.21) \quad f(q) > c_0 \quad \text{for any } q \in \mathbf{R}^N \text{ s.t. } f'(q) = 0.$$

In order to do so, first remark that, by virtue of (3.2), there exists a real constant  $c_1 \in \mathbf{R}_+$  such that

$$(3.22) \quad V(q) < c_1 |q|^\alpha \quad \text{if } |q| \geq R.$$

Then, let  $q$  be in  $W$ ; by (2.3) and (3.22),  $c_2 \in \mathbf{R}$  and  $c_\infty \in \mathbf{R}$  exist such that

$$(3.23) \quad f(q) \geq \frac{\mu}{2} |\dot{q}|_2^2 - \omega^2 c_1 |q|_2^\alpha \geq \lambda_1 \frac{\mu}{2} |q|_2^2 - \omega^2 c_2 |q|_2^\alpha \geq c_\infty.$$

Now, let  $q$  be in  $W_k$ ; using the Taylor expansion of  $f$ , it follows that

$$(3.24) \quad f(q) = \frac{1}{2} \left\{ \int_0^{2\pi} (a(0) \dot{q} | \dot{q}) dt - \omega^2 \int_0^{2\pi} (V''(0) q | q) dt \right\} + \\ + o(\|q\|^2) \leq \frac{1}{2} (\nu |\dot{q}|_2^2 - \omega^2 \lambda |q|_2^2) + o(\|q\|^2)$$

where  $\nu$  is the largest eigenvalue of  $\{a_{ij}(0)\}$  and  $\lambda$  the first eigenvalue of  $V''(0)$ .

Taking

$$\omega^2 > \nu / \lambda (k^2 + 1)$$

and  $\varrho \in \mathbf{R}_+$  small enough, a  $c_0 \in \mathbf{R}_-$ ,  $c_0 > c_\infty$ , can be found, such that

$$(3.25) \quad f(q) \leq c_0 \quad \text{for any } q \in W_k, \quad \|q\| = \varrho.$$

Furthermore, by virtue of (3.5),  $q = 0$  is the only element of  $\mathbf{R}^N$  such that  $f'(q) = 0$  and  $f(0) = 0 > c_0$ . Hence (3.21) holds.

The functional  $f$  has been proved to satisfy (3.19), (3.20), (3.21) and the (P.S.) condition, then theorem 3.2 holds and thus  $f$  has at least

$$\frac{1}{2}(\dim W_k - \text{codim } W) = kN$$

orbits of critical points.

#### 4. The case of a bounded potential.

The object of the present section is to look for the  $T$ -periodic solutions of problem (1.1) in the case of a bounded time-dependent potential. The action functional related to this problem is

$$(4.1) \quad f(q) = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^{2\pi} (a(q)\dot{q}|\dot{q}) dt - \omega^2 \int_0^{2\pi} V(q, t) dt.$$

**THEOREM 4.1.** *Suppose the condition (2.3) holds in addition to the following further hypotheses:*

(4.2)  $V$  is  $T$ -periodic in the variable  $t$ ;

(4.3) there exists  $c \in \mathbf{R}$  such that

$$\lim_{|q| \rightarrow \infty} V(q, t) = c \quad \text{uniformly with respect to } t;$$

(4.4)  $V(q, t) < c$ , for any  $q \in \mathbf{R}^N$ ,  $t \in \mathbf{R}$ ;

(4.5)  $\lim_{|q| \rightarrow \infty} V'(q, t) = 0$ , uniformly with respect to  $t$ ;

(4.6)  $\lim_{|q| \rightarrow \infty} a'_{ij}(q) = 0$  for any  $i, j = 1, \dots, N$ .

*Then there exists at least one  $T$ -periodic solution of problem (1.1).*

Before proving the theorem a remark and a preliminar lemma need to be stated.

REMARK 4.2. The (P.S.) condition cannot be satisfied by  $f$  at the level  $c_0 = -2\pi\omega^2c$  because some divergent sequences of  $\mathbb{R}^N$  elements verify (3.11) and (3.12), by virtue of (4.3) and (4.5).

LEMMA 4.3. *Suppose the hypothesis of theorem 4.1 hold; then the (P.S.) condition is satisfied by  $f$  in  $\mathbb{R} - \{c_0\}$ .*

PROOF. Let  $c'$  be in  $\mathbb{R}$ ,  $c' \neq c_0$ , and  $\{q_n\}$  be a sequence in  $H^1$  such that

$$(4.7) \quad f(q_n) \rightarrow c' \quad \text{as } n \rightarrow \infty$$

and

$$(4.8) \quad \|f'(q_n)\| \|q_n\| \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as } n \rightarrow \infty.$$

By (2.3), (4.4) and (4.7), it follows that

$$\{\dot{q}_n\} \text{ is bounded.}$$

Arguing by contradiction, suppose that  $\|q_n\|$  is not bounded; then, as  $L^\infty \hookrightarrow L^2$ ,  $\{q_n|_\infty\}$  has to be unbounded too, and thus, by (4.5) and (4.8):

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_0^{2\pi} \left( a(q_n) + \frac{1}{2} a'(q_n) q_n^+ \right) \dot{q}_n | \dot{q}_n \, dt = 0.$$

Hence, by (4.6),

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_0^{2\pi} a(q_n) \dot{q}_n | \dot{q}_n \, dt = 0.$$

In view of (4.3), this implies that  $f(q_n) \rightarrow c_0$ , in contradiction with (4.7).

Because of its boundedness,  $\{\|q_n\|\}$  has then a weakly convergent subsequence. Arguing as in lemma 3.3, that convergence can be proved to be strong in  $H^1$ .

PROOF OF THEOREM 4.1. Here it will be used the Rabinowitz saddle point theorem (see theorem 1.2 of [12]).

Consider the decomposition

$$H^1 = H^+ \oplus \mathbb{R}^N$$

where  $H^+$  is as in (3.18); the first step to reach the claim is to establish that there exists  $R^* \in \mathbb{R}^+$  such that

$$(4.9) \quad \sup_{\partial(B_{R^*} \cap \mathbb{R}^N)} f \leq \inf_{H^+} f.$$

Let  $q$  be in  $H^+$ ; then

$$f(q) \geq \frac{\mu}{2} \frac{1}{\lambda_1 + 1} \|q\|^2 - \omega^2 \int_0^{2\pi} V(q, t) dt.$$

Taking  $K \in \mathbb{R}_+$ , in view of (4.4), there exists  $\eta \in \mathbb{R}_+$ ,  $\eta \neq 0$ , such that

$$-V(q) \geq -c + \eta \quad \text{if } \|q\| \leq K$$

and then

$$f(q) \geq c_0 + 2\pi\eta\omega^2 \quad \text{if } \|q\| \leq K,$$

where  $c_0 = -2\pi\omega^2 c$ .

Moreover, if  $\|q\| \geq K$

$$f(q) \geq \frac{\mu}{2} \frac{1}{\lambda_1 + 1} K^2 + c_0$$

and hence, gathering the last two statements, the existence of  $\varepsilon \in \mathbb{R}_+$  such that

$$(4.10) \quad f(q) \geq c_0 + \varepsilon \quad \text{for each } q \in H^+$$

has been showed.

Furthermore, by (4.3) there exists  $R^* \in \mathbb{R}_+$  such that  $q \in \mathbb{R}^N$ ,  $\|q\| \geq R^*$  implies

$$V(q, t) > c - \varepsilon/(2\pi\omega^2) \quad \text{for each } t \in \mathbb{R}$$

and thus

$$(4.11) \quad f(q) < c_0 + \varepsilon \quad \text{for each } q \in \mathbb{R}^N, \quad \|q\| = R^*$$

which, jointly with (4.10), implies (4.9).

The second step of this proof consists in showing that

$$(4.12) \quad c_0 < \inf_{H^+} f$$

so that (P.S.) condition holds in  $[\inf_{H^+} f, +\infty[$ , (see remark 4.2 and lemma 4.3).

Let  $\varrho$  be in  $\mathbb{R}_+$  large enough; since (4.4) holds, there exists  $\eta_1 \in \mathbb{R}_+$  such that  $|q|_\infty \leq \varrho$  implies that

$$-\omega^2 \int_0^{2\pi} V(q, t) dt > c_0 + \eta_1$$

and whence

$$(4.13) \quad f(q) \geq c_0 + \eta_1 \quad \text{for any } q \in H^+, \quad |q|_\infty \leq \varrho.$$

Let  $q$  be in  $H^+$  with  $|q|_\infty \geq \varrho$ . Then, by the imbedding  $H^1 \hookrightarrow C^0$ , there exists  $k \in \mathbb{R}_+$  such that

$$|\dot{q}|_2 \geq k\varrho$$

and then  $\eta_2 \in \mathbb{R}_+$ ,  $\eta_2 = \mu\varrho k/2$ , exists such that

$$(4.14) \quad f(q) \geq \eta_2 + c_0 \quad \text{for any } q \in H^+, \quad |q|_\infty > \varrho.$$

By (4.13) and (4.14), taking  $\eta \in \mathbb{R}_+$ ,  $\eta = \min\{\eta_1, \eta_2\}$ , it follows that

$$f(q) \geq c_0 + \eta \quad \text{for any } q \in H^+$$

which implies (4.12).

Then the functional  $f$  satisfies (4.9) and the (P.S.) condition in  $[\inf_{H^+} f, +\infty[$ , so the hypotheses of the Rabinowitz saddle point theorem are verified and hence there exists at least one critical value  $c^*$  such that

$$c^* \geq \inf_{H^+} f$$

to which a nontrivial solution of problem (1.1) corresponds.

## 5. Forced oscillations.

This section is devoted to the study of the forced Lagrangian system

$$(5.1) \quad \frac{d}{dt} \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{\xi}}(q, \dot{q}) - \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial q}(q, \dot{q}) = g(t)$$

where  $g \in L^2(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R}^N)$  is a  $T$ -periodic forcing term.

The existence of at least one  $T$ -periodic solution of (5.1) will be established.

The action functional related to this problem is

$$(5.2) \quad f(q) = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^{2\pi} (a(q)\dot{q}|\dot{q}) dt - \omega^2 \int_0^{2\pi} V(q) dt - \omega^2 \int_0^{2\pi} (g|q) dt .$$

**THEOREM 5.1.** *Assume that (2.3), (3.2), (3.3) and (3.4) hold. Then problem (5.1) admits at least one nontrivial solution.*

**PROOF.** Arguing as in the proof of lemma 3.3, it is easy to show that the functional  $f$  satisfies the (P.S.) condition.

Then, consider  $H^1$  decomposed as in (3.17); in order to reach the claim, it is enough to show that there exists  $R^* \in \mathbb{R}_+$  such that

$$(5.3) \quad \sup_{\partial(B_{R^*} \cap \mathbb{R}^N)} f < \inf_{H^+} f .$$

Let  $q$  be in  $H^+$ . By (3.22) and (2.3), there exist two real constants  $c_2$  and  $c_3$  such that

$$(5.4) \quad f(q) \geq \lambda_1 \mu / 2 |q|_2^2 - c_2 \omega^2 |q|_2^\alpha - \omega^2 |g|_2 |q|_2 \geq c_3$$

Let  $R^*$  be a positive real number and  $q \in \partial(B_{R^*} \cap \mathbb{R}^N)$ . Then there exists  $c_4 \in \mathbb{R}$  such that

$$(5.5) \quad f(q) \leq -c_4 - \omega^2 R^* |g|_2 .$$

Choosing  $R^*$  large enough, (5.4) and (5.5) imply (5.3).

Since  $f$  satisfies (5.3) and (P.S.) condition, the Rabinowitz saddle point theorem holds (see [12]) and then at least one nontrivial solution of problem (5.1) exists.

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