

# On Maximum Principle and Existence of Solutions for Nonlinear Cooperative Systems on $\mathbb{R}^N$

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**ABSTRACT:** In this work we give necessary and sufficient conditions for having a maximum principle for cooperative elliptic systems involving p- Laplacian operator on the whole  $\mathbb{R}^N$ . This principle is then to yield solvability for the considered cooperative elliptic system by an approximation method.

**KEYWORDS:** Maximum Principle, p- Laplacian Operator, Elliptic System, Eigen Function, Approximation method.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

This work is concerned with the general nonlinear cooperative elliptic system

$$\begin{aligned} -\Delta_p u &= a m(x) |u|^{p-2} u + b m_1(x) h(u, v) + f && \text{in } \mathbb{R}^N \\ -\Delta_q v &= d n(x) |v|^{q-2} v + c n_1(x) k(u, v) + g && \text{in } \mathbb{R}^N \\ u(x) \rightarrow 0, v(x) &\rightarrow 0 && \text{as } |x| \rightarrow +\infty \end{aligned} \tag{1.1}$$

Here  $\Delta_p u := \operatorname{div}(|\nabla u|^{p-2} \nabla u)$ ,  $1 < p < +\infty$ , is the P- Laplacian operator.

The parameters a, b, c, d are nonnegative real parameter. The functions h, k:  $\mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  are continuous and have some properties like the weight functions m, m<sub>1</sub>, n, n<sub>1</sub> which will be specified later. The aim of this work is to construct a Maximum Principle with inverse positivity assumptions which means that if f, g are nonnegative functions almost everywhere in  $\mathbb{R}^N$ , then any solution (u, v) of (1.1) obey  $u \geq 0; v \geq 0$  a.e in  $\mathbb{R}^N$ .

It is well known that the maximum principle plays an important role in the theory on nonlinear equations. For instance it is used to access existence results of solutions for linear and nonlinear differential equations. [1-15]. Many works have been devoted to the study of linear and nonlinear elliptic system on a bounded or an unbounded domain of  $\mathbb{R}^N$  [1-8].

Most of the work deals with Maximum Principle for a certain class of functions h and k. This work deals with a more general class of functions h, k. For specific interest for our purposes is the work in [7] where a study of problems such as (1.1) was carried out in case of  $\mathbb{R}^N$  in the presence of the weights m, m<sub>1</sub>, n, n<sub>1</sub> with the particular case  $h(s,t) = |s|^\alpha |t|^\beta t$  and  $k(s,t) = |s|^\alpha |t|^\beta s$ ,  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are some nonnegative real parameter in  $\mathbb{R}^N$ . Clearly, our work extends the work [7] first by considering a problem with weights and next by dealing with a more general class of function h, k in the of whole of  $\mathbb{R}^N$ . For instance this result can apply for the case.

$$h(s, t) = \begin{cases} |\sin s|^\alpha |\arctan t|^\beta t & \text{for } t \geq 0, s \in \mathbb{R} \\ |s|^\alpha |t|^\beta t & \text{for } t \leq 0, s \in \mathbb{R} \end{cases}$$

$$k(s, t) = \begin{cases} |\sin s|^\alpha s |\arctan t|^\beta & \text{for } s \geq 0, t \in \mathbb{R} \\ |s|^\alpha s |t|^\beta & \text{for } s \leq 0, t \in \mathbb{R} \end{cases}$$

which is not taking into account in [7].

The remainder of the work is organized as follows: In Preliminary Section 2 we specify the required assumptions on the data of our considered problem and we briefly give some known results relative to the principal positive eigenvalue



of the  $p$ - Laplacian operator. In section 3, the Maximum principle for (1.1) is given and is shown to be proven full enough to yield existence results of solution for (1.1) in Section 4 by using a approximation method.

**II. PRELIMINARIES**

Throughout this work assume that,  $1 < p, q < n$  and

**(B1)**  $\alpha, \beta \geq 0; b, c \geq 0$  and  $\frac{\alpha+1}{p} + \frac{\beta+1}{p} = 1;$

**(B2)**  $f \geq 0, f \in L^{(p^*)'}(\mathbb{R}^N); g \geq 0, g \in L^{(q^*)'}(\mathbb{R}^N)$  with  $\frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{p'} = \frac{1}{q} + \frac{1}{q'} = 1;$

**(B3)**  $m, m_1, n, n_1$  are smooth weights such that  $m, n > 0, m \in L_{loc}^\infty(\mathbb{R}^N) \cap L^{N/p}(\mathbb{R}^N), n \in L_{loc}^\infty(\mathbb{R}^N) \cap L^{N/q}(\mathbb{R}^N)$ , and  $0 < m_1, n_1 \leq m^{(\alpha+1)/p} n^{(\beta+1)/q}$ . Here  $p^* = \frac{Np}{N-p}, q^* = \frac{Nq}{N-q}$  denote the critical Sobolev exponents of  $p$  and  $q$  respectively;  $p'$  is the Holder conjugate of  $p$ .

**(B4)** The functions  $h$  and  $k$  satisfy the sign conditions:

$$\left. \begin{aligned} & t.h(s, t) \geq 0, \quad s.k(s, t) \geq 0 \text{ for } (s,t) \in \mathbb{R}^2 \text{ and there exist } \Gamma > 0 \text{ such that} \\ & h(s, -t) \leq -h(s, t) \quad \text{for } t \geq 0, s \in \mathbb{R} \\ & h(s, t) = \Gamma^{\alpha+\beta+2-q} |s|^\alpha |t|^\beta \quad \text{for } t \leq 0, s \in \mathbb{R} \\ & k(-s, t) \leq -k(s, t) \quad \text{for } s \geq 0, t \in \mathbb{R} \\ & k(s, t) = \Gamma^{\alpha+\beta+2-q} |s|^\alpha |t|^\beta \quad \text{for } s \leq 0, t \in \mathbb{R} \end{aligned} \right\}$$

We denote by  $W_0^{1,p}(\mathbb{R}^N)$  (with  $1 < p < N$ ) the completion of  $C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}^N)$  with respect to the norm

$$\|u\|_{W_0^{1,p}(\mathbb{R}^N)} = \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} |\nabla u|^p \right)^{\frac{1}{p}}. \quad W_0^{1,p}(\mathbb{R}^N) \text{ is a reflexive Banach space and it can be shown [8] that}$$

$W_0^{1,p}(\mathbb{R}^N) = \{ u \in L^{p^*}(\mathbb{R}^N) : \nabla u \in (L^p(\mathbb{R}^N))^N \}$ . Here and henceforth the Lebesgue norm in  $L^p(\mathbb{R}^N)$  will be denoted by  $\|\cdot\|_p$  and the usual norm of  $W_0^{1,p}(\mathbb{R}^N)$  by  $\|\cdot\|$ . The positive and negative part of a function  $u$  are defined respective as  $u^+ = \max\{u, 0\}$  and  $u^- := \max\{-u, 0\}$ . Equalities (and inequalities) between two functions must be understood a.e. ( $\mathbb{R}^N$ )

Consider the eigenvalue problem with weight  $g$ . For a given  $g \in L^{N/p}(\mathbb{R}^N) \cap L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^N)$ ,  $g(x)$  a.e in  $\mathbb{R}^N$  it was known that the eigenvalue problem.

$$\left. \begin{aligned} -\Delta_p u &= \lambda_g(x) |\nabla u|^{p-2} u && \text{in } \mathbb{R}^N \\ u(x) &\rightarrow 0, \text{ as } |x| \rightarrow +\infty && \text{in } \mathbb{R}^N \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (2.1)$$

admits an unique positive first eigen value  $\lambda_1(g, p)$  with a nonnegative eigenfunction. Moreover, this eigenvalue is isolated, simple and as a consequence of its variational characterization one has

$\lambda_1(g, p) \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} g(x) |u|^p \leq \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} |\nabla u|^p \quad \forall u \in W_0^{1,p}(\mathbb{R}^N)$ . Now we denote by  $\Phi$  (respectively  $\Psi$ ) the positive eigenfunction associated with  $\lambda_1(n, p)$  (respectively  $\lambda_1(n, q)$ ) normalized by  $\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} m(x) |\Phi|^p = 1$

(resp  $\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} n(x) |\Psi|^q = 1$ ). The functions  $\Phi$  and  $\Psi$  belong to  $C^{1,\alpha}(\mathbb{R}^N)$  and by the weak maximum principle,

$$\frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial \nu} < 0 \text{ and } \frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial \nu} < 0 \text{ on } \mathbb{R}^N \text{ where } \nu \text{ is the unit exterior normal.}$$

**III. MAXIMUM PRINCIPLE**

We assume that  $1 < p, q < N$  and also that hypothesis (B<sub>3</sub>) is satisfied. We begin by consider the problem

$$\left. \begin{aligned} -\Delta_p u &= \mu m(x) |u|^{p-2} u + h(x) && \text{in } \mathbb{R}^N \\ u(x) &\rightarrow 0, && \text{as } |x| \rightarrow +\infty \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (3.1)$$

The following result was proved in [9, 10]

**Proposition 2.1** (1) Let  $h \in L^{(p^*)'}(\mathbb{R}^N)$ . if  $\mu < \lambda_1(m, p)$  then (3.1) admits a solution in  $D^{1,p}(\mathbb{R}^N)$

(2) let  $h \in L^{(p^*)}'(\mathbb{R}^N)$  with  $h \geq 0$  a.e in  $\mathbb{R}^N$  and  $h \neq 0$ .

(a) if  $\mu \in [0, \lambda_1(m, p)[$ , then any solution  $u$  of (3.1) is positive in  $\mathbb{R}^N$ .

(b) if  $= \lambda_1(m, p)$ , then (3.1) has no solution.

(c) if  $\mu > \lambda_1(m, p)$ , then (3.1) has no positive solution.

Using [12,13] one also has the following regularity result.

**Proposition 2.2.** For all  $r > 0$ , any solution  $u$  of [2.1] belongs to  $C^{1,\gamma}(B_r)$ , where  $\gamma = \gamma(r) \in ]0,1[$  and  $B_r$  is the ball of radius  $r$  centred at the origin.

$$\text{Let } a_1(r) := \inf_{B_r} k_1(x) \quad \text{and} \quad a_2(r) := \sup_{B_r} k_2(x) \tag{3.2}$$

$$\text{where } k_1(x) := \left[ \frac{n_1(x)}{n(x)} \right]^{\frac{\beta+1}{q}} \left[ \frac{\Phi(x)^p}{\Psi(x)^q} \right]^{\frac{\alpha+1}{p} \frac{\beta+1}{q}} ; \quad k_2(x) := \left[ \frac{m(x)}{m_1(x)} \right]^{\frac{\alpha+1}{q}} \left[ \frac{\Phi(x)^p}{\Psi(x)^q} \right]^{\frac{\alpha+1}{p} \frac{\beta+1}{q}} .$$

We denote by  $a_{1\infty} = \lim_{r \rightarrow +\infty} a_1(r)$  and  $a_{2\infty} = \lim_{r \rightarrow +\infty} a_2(r)$ .

$$\text{Let set } \Theta = \frac{a_{1\infty}}{a_{2\infty}} . \tag{3.3}$$

The following inequalities can easily be proved

$$\Theta = \frac{a_1(r)}{a_2(r)} \text{ for all } r > 0 \text{ and } 0 \leq \Theta \leq 1 \tag{3.4}$$

We now turn to our first main result

A Maximum Principle holds for the system (1.1) if  $f \geq 0$  and  $g \geq 0$  implies  $u \geq 0$  and  $v \geq 0$  a.e in  $\mathbb{R}^N$ .

By a solution  $(u, v)$  of (1.1), we mean a weak solution i.e.,  $(u, v) \in W_0^{1,p}(\mathbb{R}^N) \times W_0^{1,q}(\mathbb{R}^N)$  such that

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} |\nabla u|^{p-2} \nabla u \cdot \nabla w = \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} [am(x)|u|^{p-2} uw + bm_1(x)h(u,v)w + fw] \tag{3.5}$$

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} |\nabla v|^{q-2} \nabla v \cdot \nabla z = \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} [dn(x)|v|^{q-2} vz + cn_1(x)k(u,v)z + gz]$$

$$\text{for all } (w, z) \in W_0^{1,p}(\mathbb{R}^N) \times W_0^{1,q}(\mathbb{R}^N) .$$

Note that by assumptions **(B1) – (B4)**, the integrals in (3.5) are well – defined. Regularity results from [12,13], weak solution  $(u,v)$  belong to  $C^1(\mathbb{R}^N) \times C^1(\mathbb{R}^N)$ . It is also known, that a weak solution of (1.1) decays to zero at infinity. [9, 14] Now ready to state the validity of the Maximum Principle for (1.1)

**Theorem 3.1**

Assume **(B1) – (B4)**. Then the Maximum Principle holds for (1.1) if

**(C1)**  $\lambda_1(m, p) > a$ ,

**(C2)**  $\lambda_1(n, q) > d$ ,

**(C3)**  $\lambda_1(m, p) - a^{(\alpha+1)/p} \lambda_1(n, q) - d^{(\beta+1)/q} > b^{(\alpha+1)/p} c^{(\beta+1)/q}$

Conversely if the Maximum Principle holds, then Conditions **(C1) – (C4)** are satisfied, where

**(C4)**  $(\lambda_1(m, p) - a^{(\alpha+1)/p} \lambda_1(n, q) - d^{(\beta+1)/q}) > \Phi b^{(\alpha+1)/p} c^{(\beta+1)/q}$

**Proof:** The proof is partly adapted from [1, 6]

**Necessity Part:**

Assume that the Maximum Principle holds for system (1.1)

If  $\lambda_1(m, p) \leq a$  then the functions  $f : (a - \lambda_1(m, p)) m(x) \Phi^{p-1}$  and  $g : = 0$  are nonnegative, however  $(-\Phi, 0)$  satisfies (1.1), which contradicts the Maximum Principle. Similarly, if  $\lambda_1(n, q) \leq d$  then  $f : = 0$  and  $g : = (d - \lambda_1(n, q)) n(x) \Psi^{q-1}$  are nonnegative functions and  $(0, -\Psi)$  satisfies (1.1), which is a contradiction with the Maximum Principle.

Now, assume that  $\lambda_1(m, p) > a, \lambda_1(n, q) > d$ , and that **(C4)** does not hold; that is,

$$(C4') \lambda_1(m, p) - a)^{(\alpha+1)/p} \lambda_1(n, q) - d)^{(\beta+1)/q} < \Theta b^{(\alpha+1)/p} c^{(\beta+1)/p}$$

$$\text{Set } A = \left(\frac{\lambda_1(m,p)-a}{b}\right)^{(\alpha+1)/p} \quad B = \left(\frac{\lambda_1(n,q)-d}{c}\right)^{(\beta+1)/q}$$

Then by (C4')  $AB \leq \Theta$  which implies

$$\left. \begin{aligned} A \Theta_2 \leq \frac{\Theta_1}{B}, \text{ where } \Theta_1 = \inf_{R^N} k_1(x), \\ \Theta_2 = \sup_{R^N} k_2(x) \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (3.6)$$

Hence there exists  $\xi \in R_+^*$  such that  $A a_{2\infty} \leq \xi \leq (1/B) a_{1\infty}$ .

Let  $c_1, c_2$  be two positive real numbers such that  $\xi = \left(\frac{c_2^q \Gamma^q}{c_1^p \Gamma^p}\right)^{\frac{\alpha+1}{p} \frac{\beta+1}{q}}$

Using (3.6), (B1) and the above expression of  $\xi$  we have

$$[\lambda_1(m, p) - a] m(x) [c_1 \Phi(x)]^{p-1} \leq \Gamma^{\alpha+\beta+2-p} b m_1(x) [c_1 \Phi(x)]^\alpha [c_2 \Psi(x)]^{\beta+1} \quad \text{for all } x \in R^N \text{ and}$$

$$[\lambda_1(n, q) - d] n(x) [c_2 \Psi(x)]^{q-1} \leq \Gamma^{\alpha+\beta+2-q} c n_1(x) [c_1 \Phi(x)]^{\alpha+1} [c_2 \Psi(x)]^\beta \quad \text{for all } x \in R^N$$

Furthermore, using the inequalities in **(B4)**, we obtain

$$-[\lambda_1(m, p) - a] m(x) [c_1 \Phi(x)]^{p-1} - b m_1(x) h(-c_1 \Phi, -c_2 \Psi) \geq 0 \quad \text{for all } x \in R^N \text{ and}$$

$$-[\lambda_1(n, q) - d] n(x) [c_2 \Psi(x)]^{q-1} - c n_1(x) k(-c_1 \Phi, -c_2 \Psi) \geq 0 \quad \text{for all } x \in R^N$$

$$\text{Hence } 0 \leq -[\lambda_1(m, p) - a] m(x) [c_1 \Phi(x)]^{p-1} - b m_1(x) h(-c_1 \Phi, -c_2 \Psi) = f, \quad \text{for all } x \in R^N.$$

$$0 \leq -[\lambda_1(n, q) - d] n(x) [c_2 \Psi(x)]^{q-1} - c n_1(x) k(-c_1 \Phi, -c_2 \Psi) = g, \quad \text{for all } x \in R^N.$$

are nonnegative functions and  $(-c_1 \Phi, -c_2 \Psi)$  is a solution of (1.1). This is a contradiction with the Maximum Principle.

**Sufficiency Part :**

Assume that the conditions **(C1) – (C3)** are satisfied.

So for  $f \geq 0, g \geq 0$ , suppose that there exists a solution  $(u, v)$  of system (1.1).

Multiplying the first equation in (1.1) by  $u^-$  and the second on by  $v^-$  and integrating over  $R^N$  we have,

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} |\nabla u^-|^p = a \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} m(x) |u^-|^p - b \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} m_1(x) h(u, v) u^- - \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} f u^-$$

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} |\nabla v^-|^q = d \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} n(x) |v^-|^q - c \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} n_1(x) k(u, v) v^- - \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} g v^-$$

Then, using the sign conditions in **(B4)**, we obtain

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} |\nabla u^-|^p \leq a \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} m(x) |u^-|^p + b \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} m_1(x) h(u, -v^-) u^-$$

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} |\nabla v^-|^q \leq d \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} n(x) |v^-|^q - c \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} n_1(x) k(-u^-, v^-) v^-$$

The following results are derived by using the sign conditions in **(B4)**,

$h(u, -v^-) u^- = -\Gamma^{\alpha+\beta+2-p} (u^-)^{\alpha+1} (v^-)^{\beta+1}$ , and  $k(-u^-, v^-) v^- = -\Gamma^{\alpha+\beta+2-p} (u^-)^{-\alpha+1} (v^-)^{\beta+1}$  hence

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} |\nabla u^-|^p \leq a \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} m(x) |u^-|^p + b \Gamma^{\alpha+\beta+2-p} \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} m_1(x) (u^-)^{\alpha+1} (v^-)^{\beta+1}$$

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} |\nabla v^-|^q \leq d \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} n(x) |v^-|^q + c \Gamma^{\alpha+\beta+2-q} \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} n_1(x) (u^-)^{\alpha+1} (v^-)^{\beta+1}$$

Combining the variational characterization of  $\lambda_1(m, p)$  and  $\lambda_1(n, q)$  with the Holder inequality and assumption **(B3)**, we have

$$\lambda_1(m, p) - a) \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} m(x) |u^-|^p \leq b \Gamma^{\alpha+\beta+2-p} \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} m(x) |u^-|^p \right)^{(\alpha+1)/q} \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} n(x) |v^-|^q \right)^{(\beta+1)/p}$$

$$(\lambda_1(n, q) - d) \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} n(x) |v^-|^q \leq c \Gamma^{\alpha+\beta+2-q} \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} m(x) |u^-|^p \right)^{(\alpha+1)/q} \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} n(x) |v^-|^q \right)^{(\beta+1)/p}$$

which implies

$$\left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} m(x) |u^-|^p \right)^{(\alpha+1)/p} [(\lambda_1(m, p) - a) \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} m(x) |u^-|^p \right)^{(\beta+1)/q} - b \Gamma^{\alpha+\beta+2-p} \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} n(x) |v^-|^q \right)^{(\beta+1)/q}] \leq 0$$

$$\left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} n(x) |v^-|^q \right)^{(\beta+1)/q} [(\lambda_1(n, q) - d) \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} n(x) |v^-|^q \right)^{(\alpha+1)/p} - c \Gamma^{\alpha+\beta+2-q} \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} m(x) |u^-|^p \right)^{(\alpha+1)/p}] \leq 0 \quad (3.7)$$

Let us show that  $u^- = v^- = 0$

If  $\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} m(x) |u^-|^p = 0$  or  $\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} n(x) |v^-|^q = 0$  then, using the fact that  $m > 0, n > 0$ , and (3.7) we obtain  $u^- = v^- = 0$ , which implies that the Maximum Principle holds.

- If  $\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} m(x) |u^-|^p \neq 0$  and  $\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} n(x) |v^-|^q \neq 0$ , then we have

$$\lambda_1(m, p) - a) \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} m(x) |u^-|^p \right)^{(\beta+1)/q} \leq b \Gamma^{\alpha+\beta+2-p} \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} n(x) |v^-|^q \right)^{(\beta+1)/q}$$

$$\lambda_1(n, q) - d) \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} n(x) |v^-|^q \right)^{(\alpha+1)/p} \leq c \Gamma^{\alpha+\beta+2-q} \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} m(x) |u^-|^p \right)^{(\alpha+1)/p}$$

which implies

$$(\lambda_1(m, p) - a)^{(\alpha+1)/p} \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} m(x) |u^-|^p \right)^{\frac{\alpha+1}{p} \frac{\beta+1}{q}} \leq -b^{(\alpha+1)/p} \Gamma^{\alpha+\beta+2-p} \frac{(\alpha+1)/p}{q} \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} n(x) |v^-|^q \right)^{\frac{\alpha+1}{p} \frac{\beta+1}{q}}$$

$$(\lambda_1(n, q) - d)^{(\beta+1)/q} \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} n(x) |v|^{-q} \right)^{\frac{\alpha+1}{p} \frac{\beta+1}{q}} \leq -c^{(\beta+1)/q} \Gamma^{\alpha+\beta+2-q} (\beta+1)/q \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} m(x) |u|^{-p} \right)^{\frac{\alpha+1}{p} \frac{\beta+1}{q}}$$

Multiplying the two inequalities above and using the fact that

$$(\alpha+\beta+2-p) \frac{\alpha+1}{p} + (\alpha+\beta+2-q) \frac{\beta+1}{q} = (\alpha+\beta+2) \left( \frac{\alpha+1}{p} + \frac{\beta+1}{q} \right) - (\alpha+1) - (\beta+1) = 0 \quad (3.8)$$

one has  $(\lambda_1(m, p) - a)^{\frac{\alpha+1}{p}} (\lambda_1(n, q) - d) \times \left( \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} m(x) |u|^{-p} \right) \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} n(x) |v|^{-q} \right) \right)^{\frac{\alpha+1}{p} \frac{\beta+1}{q}}$

$$\leq b^{\frac{\alpha+1}{p}} c^{\frac{\beta+1}{q}} \left( \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} m(x) |u|^{-p} \right) \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} n(x) |v|^{-q} \right) \right)^{\frac{\alpha+1}{p} \frac{\beta+1}{q}}$$

and then  $\left( (\lambda_1(m, p) - a)^{\frac{\alpha+1}{p}} (\lambda_1(n, q) - d)^{\frac{\beta+1}{q}} - b^{\frac{\alpha+1}{p}} c^{\frac{\beta+1}{q}} \right) \times \left( \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} m(x) |u|^{-p} \right) \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} n(x) |v|^{-q} \right) \right)^{\frac{\alpha+1}{p} \frac{\beta+1}{q}} \leq 0$

Since  $(C_1) - (C_3)$  are satisfied and  $m, n > 0$  the inequality above is not possible. Consequently  $u^- = v^- = 0$  and the Maximum Principle holds.  $\square$

When  $p = q$  and  $m = n$ , the number  $\theta$  is equal to 1 and as a consequence of theorem 3.1, we have the following result.

**Corollary 3.2**

Consider the cooperative system (1.1) with  $p = q > 1$  and  $m = n$ . Then the Maximum Principle holds if and only if  $(C_1) - (C_3)$  are satisfied.

**IV. EXISTENCE OF SOLUTIONS**

In this section we prove that, under some conditions, system (1.1) admits atleast one solution.

**Theorem 4.1**

Assume  $(B_1), (B_2), (C_1), (C_2), (C_3)$  are satisfied. Then for  $f \in L^{p^*}(\mathbb{R}^N)$  and  $g \in L^{q^*}(\mathbb{R}^N)$ , system (1.1) admits atleast one solution in  $W_0^{1,p}(\mathbb{R}^N) \times W_0^{1,q}(\mathbb{R}^N)$ .

The proof will be given in several steps and is partly adapted from [1,6,15]. To prove this theorem it requires the lemmas state below.

We choose  $r > 0$  such that  $a + r > 0$  and  $d + r > 0$

Hence (1.1) reads as follows

$$\left. \begin{aligned} -\Delta_p u + r m(x) |u|^{p-2} u &= (a+r) m(x) |u|^{p-2} u + b n_1(x) h(u, v) + f \text{ in } \mathbb{R}^N \\ -\Delta_q v + r n(x) |v|^{q-2} v &= c n_1 k(u, v) + (d+r) n(x) |v|^{q-2} v + g \text{ in } \mathbb{R}^N \\ u(x) \rightarrow 0, v(x) \rightarrow 0 &\text{ as } |x| \rightarrow \infty \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (4.1)$$

For  $0 < \epsilon < 1$ , now consider the system

$$\left. \begin{aligned} -\Delta_p u_\epsilon + r m(x) |u_\epsilon|^{p-2} u_\epsilon &= \hat{h}(x, u_\epsilon, v_\epsilon) + f \text{ in } \mathbb{R}^N \\ -\Delta_q v_\epsilon + r n(x) |v_\epsilon|^{q-2} v_\epsilon &= \hat{k}(x, u_\epsilon, v_\epsilon) + g \text{ in } \mathbb{R}^N \\ u_\epsilon \rightarrow v_\epsilon \rightarrow 0 &\text{ as } |x| \rightarrow \infty \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (4.2)$$

where  $\hat{h}(x, s, t) = (a+r)m(x) |s|^{p-2} s (1 + \epsilon^{1/p} |s|^{p-1})^{-1} + b m_1(x) h(s, t) (1 + \epsilon |h(s, t)|)^{-1}$ ,

$\hat{k}(x, s, t) = (d+r) n(x) |t|^{q-2} t (1 + \epsilon^{1/q} |t|^{q-1})^{-1} + c n_1(x) k(s, t) (1 + \epsilon |k(s, t)|)^{-1}$

**Lemma 4.2**

Under the hypothesis of theorem (3.1) System (4.2) has a solution in  $W_0^{1,p}(\mathbb{R}^N) \times W_0^{1,q}(\mathbb{R}^N)$ .

**Proof :**

Let  $\epsilon > 0$  be fixed .Construction of sub – solution and super – solution for system

$$\left. \begin{aligned} -\Delta_p u + r m(x) |u|^{p-2} v &= \hat{h}(x, u, v) + f \text{ in } \mathbb{R}^N \\ -\Delta_q v + r m(x) |v|^{q-2} v &= \hat{k}(x, u, v) + g \text{ in } \mathbb{R}^N \\ u(x) \rightarrow 0, v(x) &\rightarrow 0 \text{ as } |x| \rightarrow \infty \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (4.3)$$

From **(B3)**, the functions  $\hat{h}$  and  $\hat{k}$  are bounded ; that is, there exists a positive constant M such that

$$|\hat{h}(x, u, v)| < M, \quad |\hat{k}(x, u, v)| < M \quad \forall (u, v) \in W_0^{1,p}(\mathbb{R}^N) \times W_0^{1,q}(\mathbb{R}^N).$$

Let  $u^0 \in W_0^{1,p}(\mathbb{R}^N)$  (respectively  $v^0 \in W_0^{1,q}(\mathbb{R}^N)$ ) be a solution of

$$-\Delta_p u^0 + r m(x) |u^0|^{p-2} u^0 = M + f \text{ (respectively } -\Delta_p v^0 + r m(x) |v^0|^{q-2} v^0 = M + g)$$

It was known that  $u_0, u^0, v_0, v^0$  are exists, moreover we have

$$\begin{aligned} -\Delta_p u_0 + r m(x) |u_0|^{p-2} u_0 - \hat{h}(x, u_0, v) - f &\leq 0 & \forall v \in [v_0, v^0] \\ -\Delta_p u^0 + r m(x) |u^0|^{p-2} u^0 - \hat{h}(x, u^0, v) - f &\geq 0 & \forall v \in [v_0, v^0] \\ -\Delta_q v_0 + r m(x) |v_0|^{q-2} v_0 - \hat{k}(x, u, v_0) - g &\leq 0 & \forall u \in [u_0, u^0] \\ -\Delta_q v^0 + r m(x) |v^0|^{q-2} v^0 - \hat{k}(x, u, v^0) - g &\geq 0 & \forall u \in [u_0, u^0] \end{aligned}$$

So  $(u_0, u^0)$  and  $(v_0, v^0)$  are sub – super solutions of (4.3)

Let  $K = [u_0, u^0] \times [v_0, v^0]$  and let  $T : (u, v) \rightarrow (w, z)$  the operator such that

$$\left. \begin{aligned} -\Delta_q w + r m(x) |w|^{q-2} w &= \hat{h}(x, u, v) + f & \text{in } \mathbb{R}^N \\ -\Delta_p z + r m(x) |z|^{p-2} z &= \hat{k}(x, u, v) + g & \text{in } \mathbb{R}^N \\ w(x) \rightarrow 0, z(x) &\rightarrow 0 \text{ as } |x| \rightarrow +\infty \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (4.4)$$

• Let us prove that  $T(K) \subset K$ . If  $(u, v) \in K$ , then

$$(-\Delta_p w - \Delta_p \xi^0) + r m(x) (|w|^{p-2} w - |\xi^0|^{p-2} \xi^0) = [\hat{h}(x, u, v) - M] \quad (4.5)$$

Taking  $(w - \xi^0)^+$  as test function in (4.5), we have

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} (|\nabla w|^{p-2} \nabla w - |\nabla \xi^0|^{p-2} \nabla \xi^0) \nabla (w - \xi^0)^+ + r \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} m(x) (|w|^{p-2} w - |\xi^0|^{p-2} \xi^0) (w - \xi^0)^+ \\ = \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} [h(x, u, v) - M] (w - \xi^0)^+ \leq 0. \end{aligned}$$

Since the weight m is positive, by the monotonicity of the functions  $s \rightarrow |s|^{p-2}$  and that of the p–Laplacian, we deduce that the last integral equal zero and the  $(w - \xi^0)^+ = 0$ . That is  $w \leq \xi^0$ . Similarly we obtain  $\xi^0 \leq w$  by taking  $(w - \xi^0)^-$  as test function in (4, 5). So we have  $\xi_0 \leq w \leq \xi^0$  and  $\eta_0 \leq z \leq \eta^0$  and the step is complete.

• To show that T is completely continuous we need the following lemma.

**Lemma 4.3**

If  $(u_n, v_n) \rightarrow (u, v)$  in  $L^{p^*}(\mathbb{R}^N) \times L^{q^*}(\mathbb{R}^N)$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$  then

$$\begin{aligned} (1) X_n = m(x) \frac{|u_n|^{p-2} u_n}{1 + \epsilon^{1/p} |u_n|^{p-1}} \text{ Converges to } X = m(x) \frac{|u|^{p-2} u}{1 + \epsilon^{1/p} |u|^{p-1}} \text{ in } L^{p^*}(\mathbb{R}^N) \text{ as } n \rightarrow \infty. \text{ where } p^* = \frac{pN}{N(p-1)+p} \quad (2) \\ Y_n = m_1(x) \frac{h(u_n, v_n)}{1 + \epsilon |h(u_n, v_n)|} \text{ Converges to } Y = m_1(x) \frac{h(u, v)}{1 + \epsilon |h(u, v)|} \text{ in } L^{q^*}(\mathbb{R}^N) \text{ as } n \rightarrow \infty. \end{aligned}$$

**Proof :**

$$\left. \begin{aligned} &\text{Since } u_n \rightarrow u \text{ in } L^{p^*}(\mathbb{R}^N), \text{ there exist a subsequence still denoted } (u_n) \text{ such that} \\ &\left. \begin{aligned} &u_n(x) \rightarrow u(x) \text{ a.e. on } \mathbb{R}^N \\ &|u_n(x)| \leq \eta(x) \text{ a.e. on } \mathbb{R}^N \text{ with } \eta \in L^{p^*}(\mathbb{R}^N) \end{aligned} \right\} \end{aligned} \quad (4.6)$$

Let  $X_n = m(x) \frac{|u_n|^{p-2} u_n}{1 + \epsilon^{1/p} |u_n|^{p-1}}$  Then  $X_n(x) \rightarrow X(x) = m(x) \frac{|u(x)|^{p-2} u(x)}{1 + \epsilon^{1/p} |u(x)|^{p-1}}$  a.e. on  $\mathbb{R}^N$ ,

$|X_n| \leq \|m\|_\infty |u_n|^{p-1} \leq \|m\|_\infty |\eta|^{p-1}$  in  $L^{p^*}(\mathbb{R}^N)$  Thus, from Lebesgue's dominated convergence theorem one has  $X_n \rightarrow X = m(x) \frac{|u|^{p-2} u}{1 + \epsilon^{1/p} |u|^{p-1}}$  in  $L^{p^*}(\mathbb{R}^N)$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ . So (1) is proved.

Moreover, since  $v_n \rightarrow v$  in  $L^{q^*}(\mathbb{R}^N)$  there exists a subsequences still denoted  $(v_n)$  such that  $v_n(x) \rightarrow v(x)$  a.e. on  $\mathbb{R}^N$ ,  $v_n(x) \leq \xi(x)$  a.e on  $\mathbb{R}$  with  $\xi \in L^{q^*}(\mathbb{R}^N)$  (4.7)

Using (B4), one has  $|Y_n| \leq \|m_1\|_\infty |(u_n, v_n)| \leq \Gamma^{\alpha+\beta+2-p} \|m_1\|_\infty |\eta|^\alpha |\xi|^{\beta+1}$  in  $L^{p^*}(\mathbb{R}^N)$ , since  $\frac{\alpha}{p} + \frac{\beta+1}{p} = \frac{1}{p}$

Let  $Y_n = m_1(x) \frac{h(u_n, v_n)}{1 + \epsilon |h(u_n, v_n)|}$  Then  $Y_n(x) \rightarrow Y(x) = m_1(x) \frac{h(u(x), v(x))}{1 + \epsilon |h(u(x), v(x))|}$  a.e. in  $\mathbb{R}^N$ , as  $n \rightarrow \infty$

So, we can apply the Lebesgue's dominated convergence theorem and then we obtain

$Y_n(x) \rightarrow Y(x) = m_1(x) \frac{h(u(x), v(x))}{1 + \epsilon |h(u(x), v(x))|}$  in  $L^{p^*}(\mathbb{R}^N)$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$

**Remark 4.4**

We can similarly prove that, as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ ,

$n(x) |v_n|^{q-2} v_n (1 + \epsilon^{1/q} |v_n|^{q-1})^{-1} \rightarrow n(x) |v|^{q-2} v (1 + \epsilon^{1/q} |v|^{q-1})^{-1}$  in  $L^{q^*}(\mathbb{R}^N)$ ,

$n_1(x) k(u_n, v_n) (1 + \epsilon |k(u_n, v_n)|)^{-1} \rightarrow n_1(x) k(u, v) (1 + \epsilon |k(u, v)|)^{-1}$  in  $L^{q^*}(\mathbb{R}^N)$

To complete the continuity of T. Let us consider a sequence  $(u_n, v_n)$  such that  $(u_n, v_n) \rightarrow (u, v)$  in  $L^{p^*}(\mathbb{R}^N) \times L^{q^*}(\mathbb{R}^N)$ , as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ . We will prove that  $(w_n, z_n) = T(u_n, v_n) \rightarrow (w, z) = T(u, v)$ .

Note that  $(w_n, z_n) = T(u_n, v_n)$  if and only if

$$\begin{aligned} &(-\Delta_p w_n + r m(x) |w_n|^{p-2} w_n) - (-\Delta_p w + r m(x) |w|^{p-2} w) = \hat{h}(x, u_n, v_n) - \hat{h}(x, u, v) \\ &= (a+r) \left[ m(x) \left( \frac{|u_n|^{p-2} u_n}{1 + \epsilon^{1/p} |u_n|^{p-1}} - \frac{|u|^{p-2} u}{1 + \epsilon^{1/p} |u|^{p-1}} \right) + b m_1(x) \left( \frac{h(u_n, v_n)}{1 + \epsilon |h(u_n, v_n)|} - \frac{h(u, v)}{1 + \epsilon |h(u, v)|} \right) \right] \end{aligned} \quad (4.8)$$

$$= (a+r) (X_n - X) + b (Y_n - Y)$$

Multiplying by  $(w_n - w)$  and integrating over  $\mathbb{R}^N$  one has

$$\begin{aligned} &\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} (|\nabla w_n|^{p-2} \nabla w_n - |\nabla w|^{p-2} \nabla w) \nabla (w_n - w) + r \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} m(x) (|w_n|^{p-2} w_n - |w|^{p-2} w) (w_n - w) \\ &= (a+r) \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} (X_n - X) (w_n - w) + b \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} (Y_n - Y) (w_n - w) \\ &\leq (a+r) (\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} m |X_n - X|^p)^{\frac{1}{p}} (\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} |w_n - w|^p)^{\frac{1}{p}} + b (\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} |Y_n - Y|^p)^{\frac{1}{p}} (\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} |w_n - w|^p)^{\frac{1}{p}} \end{aligned}$$

Combining lemma 4.3 and the inequality

$$\|x-y\|^p \leq c \left( \|x\|^{p-2} x - \|y\|^{p-2} y (x-y) \right)^{s/2} \left( \|x\|^p + \|y\|^p \right)^{1-s/2} \quad (4.9)$$

where  $x, y \in \mathbb{R}^N$ ,  $c=c(p) > 0$  and  $s=2$  if  $p \geq 2$ ,  $s=p$  if  $1 < p < 2$ ,

We can conclude that  $w_n \rightarrow w$  in  $W_0^{1,p}(\mathbb{R}^N)$  when  $n \rightarrow \infty$ . Similarly we show that  $z_n \rightarrow z$  in  $W_0^{1,q}(\mathbb{R}^N)$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$  and then, the continuity of T is proved.

- Compactness of the operator T.

Suppose  $(u_n, v_n)$  a bounded sequence in  $W_0^{1,p}(\mathbb{R}^N) \times W_0^{1,q}(\mathbb{R}^N)$  and let  $(w_n, z_n) = T(u_n, v_n)$ .

Multiplying the first equality in the definition of T by  $w_n$  and integrating by parts on  $\mathbb{R}^N$ , we notice the boundness of  $w_n$  in  $W_0^{1,p}(\mathbb{R}^N)$  and then we use the compact imbedding of  $W_0^{1,p}(\mathbb{R}^N)$  in  $L^p(\mathbb{R}^N)$ , to conclude.

The same argument is valid with  $(z_n)$  in  $L^q(\mathbb{R}^N)$ . Thus T is completely continuous. Since the set K is convex, bounded and closed in  $L^p(\mathbb{R}^N) \times L^q(\mathbb{R}^N)$ , the Schauder's fixed point theorem, yields existence of a fixed point for T and accordingly the existence of solution of system (4.2). Hence the lemma 4.2.

**Proof of Theorem 4.1:** The proof will be given in three steps.

**Step : 1**

First to prove that  $(u_\epsilon, v_\epsilon)$  is bounded in  $W_0^{1,p}(\mathbb{R}^N) \times W_0^{1,q}(\mathbb{R}^N)$ . indeed assume that

$$\|u_\epsilon\| \rightarrow \infty \text{ or } \|v_\epsilon\| \rightarrow \infty \text{ as } \epsilon \rightarrow 0. \text{ Let } t_\epsilon = \max\{\|u_\epsilon\|; \|v_\epsilon\|\}, w_\epsilon = \frac{u_\epsilon}{t_\epsilon^{1/p}}, z_\epsilon = \frac{v_\epsilon}{t_\epsilon^{1/q}}$$

We have  $\|w_\epsilon\| \leq 1$  and  $\|z_\epsilon\| \leq 1$  with either  $\|w_\epsilon\| \leq 1$  or  $\|z_\epsilon\| = 1$ .

Dividing the first equation in (4.2) by  $(t_\epsilon)^{1/q'}$  we obtain

$$-\Delta_p w_\epsilon + r m(x) |w_\epsilon|^{p-2} w_\epsilon = (a+r) m(x) |w_\epsilon|^{p-2} w_\epsilon (1 + \epsilon^{1/p} |u_\epsilon|^{p-1})^{-1} + t_\epsilon^{-1/p'} b m_1(x) h(t_\epsilon^{1/p} w_\epsilon, t_\epsilon^{1/q} z_\epsilon) \quad (1+)$$

$$\epsilon |h(u_\epsilon, v_\epsilon)|^{-1} + t_\epsilon^{-1/p'} f.$$

Similarly dividing the second equation in (4.2) by  $(t_\epsilon)^{1/q'}$  we obtain

$$-\Delta_q z_\epsilon + n(x) |z_\epsilon|^{q-2} z_\epsilon = (d+r) n(x) |z_\epsilon|^{q-2} z_\epsilon (1 + \epsilon^{1/p} |u_\epsilon|^{p-1})^{-1} + t_\epsilon^{-1/q'} c n_1(x) k(t_\epsilon^{1/p} w_\epsilon, t_\epsilon^{1/q} z_\epsilon) \quad (1+)$$

$$\epsilon |k(u_\epsilon, v_\epsilon)|^{-1} + t_\epsilon^{-1/q'} g.$$

Testing the first equation in the above system by  $w_\epsilon$  and using (B4), we obtain

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} |\nabla w_\epsilon|^p \leq a \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} m(x) |w_\epsilon|^p + b \Gamma^{\alpha+\beta+2-p} \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} m(x) \frac{\alpha+1}{p} |w_\epsilon|^{\alpha+1} n(x)^{\beta+1/q} |z_\epsilon|^{\beta+1} + t_\epsilon^{-1/p'} \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} |f| |w_\epsilon|.$$

which, by the Holder inequality, implies

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} |\nabla w_\epsilon|^p \leq a \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} m |w_\epsilon|^p + b \Gamma^{\alpha+\beta+2-p} (\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} m |w_\epsilon|^p)^{\alpha+1/p} (\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} n |z_\epsilon|^q)^{\beta+1/q} + t_\epsilon^{-1/p'} \|f\| (p^*)' \|z_\epsilon\| p^*$$

Using the variational characterization of  $\lambda_1(m, p)$  and the imbedding of  $W_0^{1,p}(\mathbb{R}^N)$  in  $L^p(\mathbb{R}^N)$ . one has

$$\|w_\epsilon\|^p \leq \frac{a}{\lambda_1(m,p)} \|w_\epsilon\|^p + b \Gamma^{\alpha+\beta+2-p} \frac{\|w_\epsilon\|^{\alpha+1}}{\lambda_1(m,p)^{p/\alpha+1}} \frac{\|z_\epsilon\|^{\beta+1}}{\lambda_1(n,p)^{\beta+1/q}} + c(p, N) t_\epsilon^{-1/p'} \|f\| (p^*)' \|z_\epsilon\| p^*,$$

where  $c(p, N)$  is the imbedding constant. So, one gets

$$(\lambda_1(m, p) - a) \frac{(\|w_\epsilon\|^p)^{\beta+1/q}}{\lambda_1(m,p)} \leq \frac{b \Gamma^{\alpha+\beta+2-p} (\|z_\epsilon\|^q)^{\beta+1/q}}{\lambda_1(m,p)^{p/\alpha+1} \lambda_1(n,p)^{\beta+1/q}} + (t_\epsilon)^{-1/p'} (\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} |f|^p)^{1/p'} (\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} |\nabla w_\epsilon|^p)^{\alpha/p} \quad (4.10)$$

and accordingly

$$(\lambda_1(m, p) - a)^{\alpha+1/q} \frac{(\limsup \|w_\epsilon\|^p)^{\alpha+1/p} \frac{\beta+1}{q}}{\lambda_1(m,p)^{\frac{\alpha+1}{p}}}} \leq b \frac{\Gamma^{\alpha+\beta+2-p} \frac{(\alpha+1)}{p} (\limsup \|z_\epsilon\|^p)^{\alpha+1/p} \frac{\beta+1}{q}}{\lambda_1(m,p)^{\frac{(\alpha+1)^2}{p}} \lambda_1(n,p)^{\frac{\alpha+1}{p} \frac{\beta+1}{q}}} \quad (4.11)$$

In a similar way, it can be obtain

$$(\lambda_1(n, q) - d)^{\beta+1/q} \frac{(\limsup \|z_\epsilon\|^p)^{\alpha+1/p} \frac{\beta+1}{q}}{\lambda_1(n,q)^{\beta+1/q}} \leq c \frac{\beta+1}{q} \frac{\Gamma^{(\alpha+\beta+2-p)} \frac{\alpha+1}{p} (\limsup \|w_\epsilon\|^p)^{\alpha+1/p} \frac{\beta+1}{q}}{\lambda_1(n,q)^{\frac{(\beta+1)^2}{q}} \lambda_1(m,p)^{\frac{\alpha+1}{p} \frac{\beta+1}{q}}} \quad (4.12)$$

Multiplying term by term the expressions in (4.11) and (4.12), and using (3.8) we obtain

$$[(\lambda_1(m, p) - a)^{\frac{\alpha+1}{p}} (\lambda_1(n, q) - d)^{\beta+1/q} - b \frac{\alpha+1}{p} c^{\beta+1/q}] \times \frac{(\limsup \|w_\epsilon\|^p)^{\alpha+1/p} \frac{\beta+1}{q}}{\lambda_1(m,p)^{\frac{\alpha+1}{p}}} \frac{(\limsup \|z_\epsilon\|^p)^{\beta+1/q}}{\lambda_1(n,p)^{\beta+1/q}} \leq 0.$$

Since conditions  $(C_1) - (C_3)$  hold, one has  $\limsup \|w_\epsilon\|^p = \limsup \|z_\epsilon\|^p = 0$

This yields a contradiction since  $\|w_\epsilon\| = 1$  or  $\|z_\epsilon\| = 1$ , and consequently  $(u_\epsilon, v_\epsilon)$  is bounded in  $W_0^{1,q}(\Omega) \times W_0^{1,q}(\Omega)$ .

**Step 2.**  $(\frac{1}{\epsilon^{1/p}} u_\epsilon; \frac{1}{\epsilon^{1/q}} v_\epsilon)$  converges strongly in  $W_0^{1,p}(\mathbb{R}^N) \times W_0^{1,q}(\mathbb{R}^N)$ . when  $\epsilon$  approaches 0. It is obvious due to the boundness of  $(u_\epsilon, v_\epsilon)$  in  $W_0^{1,p}(\mathbb{R}^N) \times W_0^{1,q}(\mathbb{R}^N)$ .

**Step 3.** Let us prove that  $(u_\epsilon, v_\epsilon)$  converges strongly in  $W_0^{1,p}(\Omega) \times W_0^{1,q}(\Omega)$  when  $\epsilon$  approaches 0. Since  $(u_\epsilon, v_\epsilon)$  is bounded in  $W_0^{1,p}(\mathbb{R}^N) \times W_0^{1,q}(\mathbb{R}^N)$  we can extract a subsequence still denoted.  $(u_\epsilon, v_\epsilon)$  which converges weakly to  $(u_0, v_0)$  in  $L^p(m, \mathbb{R}^N) \times L^q(n, \mathbb{R}^N)$  and strongly in  $L(\mathbb{R}^N) \times L(\mathbb{R}^N)$  when  $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$ .

As  $u_\epsilon \rightarrow u_0$  in  $L^p(\mathbb{R}^N)$ ,  $v_\epsilon \rightarrow v_0$  in  $L^q(\mathbb{R}^N)$  when  $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$  then there exists a function  $\eta \in L^p(\mathbb{R}^N)$ ,  $\zeta \in L^q(\mathbb{R}^N)$  such that,  $u_\epsilon(x) \rightarrow v_0(x)$  a.e as  $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$  and  $|u_\epsilon| \leq \eta$  in  $L^{p^*}(\mathbb{R}^N)$ .  $v_\epsilon(x) \rightarrow v_0(x)$  a.e as  $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$  and  $|v_\epsilon| \leq \zeta$  in  $L^{q^*}(\mathbb{R}^N)$ . Hence we have  $\| |u_\epsilon|^{p-2} u_\epsilon (1 + |\epsilon^{1/p} u_\epsilon|^{p-1})^{-1} \| \leq \| |u_\epsilon|^{p-1} \| \leq \eta^{p-1}$  in  $L^{p^*}(\mathbb{R}^N)$

$$\| |v_\epsilon|^{q-2} v_\epsilon (1 + |\epsilon^{1/q} v_\epsilon|^{q-1})^{-1} \| \leq \| |v_\epsilon|^{q-1} \| \leq \zeta^{q-1} \text{ in } L^{q^*}(\mathbb{R}^N)$$

Since  $(\epsilon^{1/p} u_\epsilon) \rightarrow 0$ ,  $(\epsilon^{1/q} v_\epsilon) \rightarrow 0$  a.e in  $\mathbb{R}^N$  when  $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$ , one can deduce that,

$$\begin{aligned} |u_\epsilon(x)|^{p-2} u_\epsilon(x) (1 + |\epsilon^{1/p} u_\epsilon(x)|^{p-1})^{-1} &\rightarrow |u_0(x)|^{p-2} u_0(x), \\ |v_\epsilon(x)|^{q-2} v_\epsilon(x) (1 + |\epsilon^{1/q} v_\epsilon(x)|^{q-1})^{-1} &\rightarrow |v_0(x)|^{q-2} v_0(x), \quad \text{a.e. in } \mathbb{R}^N \text{ as } \epsilon \rightarrow 0. \end{aligned}$$

Applying the dominated convergence theorem we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} |u_\epsilon|^{p-2} u_\epsilon (1 + |\epsilon^{1/p} u_\epsilon|^{p-1})^{-1} &\rightarrow |u_0|^{p-2} u_0 \\ |v_\epsilon|^{q-2} v_\epsilon (1 + |\epsilon^{1/q} v_\epsilon|^{q-1})^{-1} &\rightarrow |v_0|^{q-2} v_0 \text{ in } L^{p^*}(\mathbb{R}^N) \text{ as } \epsilon \rightarrow 0. \end{aligned}$$

Similarly we have  $\frac{|h(u_\epsilon, v_\epsilon)|}{1 + |h(u_\epsilon, v_\epsilon)|} \leq \Gamma^{\alpha+\beta+2-p} |\eta|^\alpha |\zeta|^{\beta+1}$  in  $L^{p'}(\mathbb{R}^N)$  since  $\frac{\alpha}{p} + \frac{\beta+1}{q} = \frac{1}{p'}$ ,

$$\frac{|k(u_\epsilon, v_\epsilon)|}{1 + |k(u_\epsilon, v_\epsilon)|} \leq \Gamma^{\alpha+\beta+2-q} |\eta|^{\alpha+1} |\zeta|^{\beta+1} \text{ in } L^q(\mathbb{R}^N) \text{ since } \frac{\alpha+1}{p} + \frac{\beta}{q} = \frac{1}{q} \quad \text{and}$$

$$\frac{h(u_\epsilon(x), v_\epsilon(x))}{1 + |h(u_\epsilon(x), v_\epsilon(x))|} \rightarrow h(u_0(x), v_0(x)) \quad \text{a.e as } \epsilon \rightarrow 0,$$

$$\frac{k(u_\epsilon(x), v_\epsilon(x))}{1 + |k(u_\epsilon(x), v_\epsilon(x))|} \rightarrow k(u_0(x), v_0(x)) \quad \text{a.e as } \epsilon \rightarrow 0,$$

Again using the dominated convergence theorem we have

$$\frac{h(u_\epsilon, v_\epsilon)}{1 + |h(u_\epsilon, v_\epsilon)|} \rightarrow h(u_0, v_0) \text{ in } L^{p'}(\mathbb{R}^N) \text{ a.e as } \epsilon \rightarrow 0,$$

$$\frac{k(u_\epsilon, v_\epsilon)}{1 + |k(u_\epsilon, v_\epsilon)|} \rightarrow k(u_0, v_0) \text{ in } L^q(\mathbb{R}^N) \text{ a.e as } \epsilon \rightarrow 0.$$

Now, we conclude the strong convergence of  $(u_\epsilon, v_\epsilon)$  in  $W_0^{1,p}(\mathbb{R}^N) \times W_0^{1,q}(\mathbb{R}^N)$  by applying (4.9).

Finally, using a classical result in nonlinear analysis, we obtain

$$-\Delta_p u_0 + r m(x) |u_0|^{p-2} u_0 = (a+r) m(x) |u_0|^{p-2} u_0 = b m_1(x) h(u_0, v_0) + f \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R}^N$$

$$-\Delta_q v_0 + r n(x) |v_0|^{q-2} v_0 = (d+r) n(x) |v_0|^{q-2} v_0 = c n_1(x) k(u_0, v_0) + g \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R}^N$$

$$u_0(x) \rightarrow 0, v_0(x) \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } |x| \rightarrow +\infty$$

which can be written again as

$$-\Delta_p u_0 + a m(x) |u_0|^{p-2} u_0 + b m_1(x) h(u_0 + v_0) + f \text{ in } \mathbb{R}^N$$

$$-\Delta_q v_0 = d n(x) |v_0|^{q-2} v_0 + c n_1(x) k(u_0 + v_0) + g \text{ in } \mathbb{R}^N$$

$$u_0(x) \rightarrow 0, v_0(x) \rightarrow 0, \text{ as } |x| \rightarrow +\infty$$

This completes the proof □

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