

## ON THE EXISTENCE OF POSITIVE WEAK SOLUTIONS FOR A CLASS OF CHEMICALLY REACTING SYSTEMS WITH SIGN-CHANGING WEIGHTS

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### Abstract

We study the existence of positive weak solutions for a class of nonlinear systems

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta_p u = \lambda a(x) \left( f(v) - \frac{1}{u^\alpha} \right), & x \in \Omega, \\ -\Delta_q v = \lambda b(x) \left( g(u) - \frac{1}{v^\beta} \right), & x \in \Omega, \\ u = v = 0, & x \in \partial\Omega, \end{cases}$$

where  $\Delta_s z = \operatorname{div}(|z|^{s-2} \nabla z)$ ,  $s > 1$ ,  $\lambda$  is a positive parameter and  $\Omega$  is a bounded domain with smooth boundary,  $\alpha, \beta \in (0, 1)$ . Here  $a(x)$  and  $b(x)$  are  $C^1$  sign-changing functions that maybe negative near the boundary and  $f, g$  are  $C^1$  nondecreasing functions such that  $f, g : (0, \infty) \rightarrow (0, \infty)$ ;  $f(s) > 0$ ,  $g(s) > 0$  for  $s > 0$  and  $\lim_{s \rightarrow \infty} \frac{f(Mg(s)^{\frac{1}{q-1}})}{s^{p-1}} = 0$ . We discuss the existence of positive weak solutions when  $f, g, a(x)$  and  $b(x)$  satisfy certain additional conditions. We use the method of sub-supersolution to establish our results.

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## 1 Introduction

In this paper, we consider the existence of positive solutions for the nonlinear system

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta_p u = \lambda a(x) \left( f(v) - \frac{1}{u^\alpha} \right), & x \in \Omega, \\ -\Delta_q v = \lambda b(x) \left( g(u) - \frac{1}{v^\beta} \right), & x \in \Omega, \\ u = v = 0, & x \in \partial\Omega, \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

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where  $\Delta_s z = \operatorname{div}(|z|^{s-2} \nabla z)$ ,  $s > 1$ ,  $\lambda$  is a positive parameter and  $\Omega$  is a bounded domain with smooth boundary,  $\alpha, \beta \in (0, 1)$ . Here  $a(x)$  and  $b(x)$  are  $C^1$  sign-changing functions that maybe negative near the boundary and  $f, g$  are  $C^1$  non-decreasing functions such that  $f, g : (0, \infty) \rightarrow (0, \infty)$ ;  $f(s) > 0, g(s) > 0$  for  $s > 0$ .

Systems of singular equations like (1) are the stationary counterpart of general evolutionary problems of the form

$$\begin{cases} u_t = \eta \Delta_p u + \lambda \left( f(v) - \frac{1}{u^\alpha} \right), & x \in \Omega, \\ v_t = \delta \Delta_q v + \lambda \left( g(u) - \frac{1}{v^\beta} \right), & x \in \Omega, \\ u = v = 0, & x \in \partial\Omega, \end{cases}$$

where  $\eta$  and  $\delta$  are positive parameters. This system is motivated by an interesting application in chemically reacting systems, where  $u$  represents the density of an activator chemical substance and  $v$  is an inhibitor. The slow diffusion of  $u$  and the fast diffusion of  $v$  is translated into the fact that  $\eta$  is small and  $\delta$  is large ( see [1] ).

Also, systems of the form (1) arise in several context in biology and engineering. It provides a simple model to describe, for instance, the interaction of two diffusing biological species.  $u, v$  represent the densities of two species. See [6] for more results on the physical models involving more general elliptic problems.

Recently, such infinite problems have been studied in [3, 4, 5]. Also in [5], the authors have studied the existence results for system (1) in the case  $a \equiv 1, b \equiv 1$ . Here we focus on further extending the study in [4] to system (1). In fact, we study the existence of positive solution to the system (1) with sign-changing weight functions  $a(x), b(x)$ . Due to these weight functions, the extensions are challenging and nontrivial. Our approach is based on the method of sub-super solutions (see [7]).

To precisely state our existence result we consider the eigenvalue problem

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta_r \phi = \lambda |\phi|^{r-2} \phi, & x \in \Omega, \\ \phi = 0, & x \in \partial\Omega. \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

Let  $\phi_{1,r}$  be the eigenfunction corresponding to the first eigenvalue  $\lambda_{1,r}$  of (2) such that  $\phi_{1,r}(x) > 0$  in  $\Omega$ , and  $\|\phi_{1,r}\|_\infty = 1$  for  $r = p, q$  ( see [2].) Let  $m, \mu, \delta > 0$  be such that

$$\mu \leq \phi_{1,r} \leq 1, \quad x \in \Omega - \overline{\Omega_\delta}, \quad (3)$$

$$(1 - \frac{sr}{r-1+s})|\nabla\phi_{1,r}|^r \geq m, \quad x \in \overline{\Omega_\delta}, \quad (4)$$

for  $r = p, q$ , and  $s = \alpha, \beta$ , where  $\overline{\Omega_\delta} := \{x \in \Omega \mid d(x, \partial\Omega) \leq \delta\}$ . This is possible since  $|\nabla\phi_{1,r}| \neq 0$  on  $\partial\Omega$  while  $\phi_{1,r} = 0$  on  $\partial\Omega$  for  $r = p, q$ . We will also consider the unique solution  $e_r \in W_0^{1,r}(\Omega)$  (for  $r = p, q$ ) of the boundary value problem

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta_r e_r = 1, & x \in \Omega, \\ e_r = 0, & x \in \partial\Omega, \end{cases}$$

to discuss our existence result, it is known that  $e_r > 0$  in  $\Omega$  and  $\frac{\partial e_r}{\partial n} < 0$  on  $\partial\Omega$ .

Here we assume that the weight functions  $a(x)$  and  $b(x)$  take negative values in  $\overline{\Omega_\delta}$ , but require  $a(x)$  and  $b(x)$  be strictly positive in  $\Omega - \overline{\Omega_\delta}$ . To be precise we assume that there exist positive constants  $a_0, a_1, b_0$  and  $b_1$  such that  $a(x) \geq -a_0, b(x) \geq -b_0$  on  $\overline{\Omega_\delta}$  and  $a(x) \geq a_1, b(x) \geq b_1$  on  $\Omega - \overline{\Omega_\delta}$ .

## 2 Existence result

In this section, we shall establish our existence result by constructing a positive weak subsolution  $(\psi_1, \psi_2) \in W^{1,p}(\Omega) \cap C(\overline{\Omega}) \times W^{1,q}(\Omega) \cap C(\overline{\Omega})$  and a supersolution  $(z_1, z_2) \in W^{1,p}(\Omega) \cap C(\overline{\Omega}) \times W^{1,q}(\Omega) \cap C(\overline{\Omega})$  of (1) such that  $\psi_i \leq z_i$  for  $i = 1, 2$ . That is,  $\psi_i, z_i$  satisfies  $(\psi_1, \psi_2) = (0, 0) = (z_1, z_2)$  on  $\partial\Omega$ , and

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\Omega} |\nabla\psi_1|^{p-2} \nabla\psi_1 \nabla\xi dx &\leq \lambda \int_{\Omega} a(x) [f(\psi_2) - \frac{1}{\psi_1^\alpha}] \xi dx, \\ \int_{\Omega} |\nabla\psi_2|^{q-2} \nabla\psi_2 \nabla\xi dx &\leq \lambda \int_{\Omega} b(x) [g(\psi_1) - \frac{1}{\psi_2^\beta}] \xi dx, \\ \int_{\Omega} |\nabla z_1|^{p-2} \nabla z_1 \nabla\xi dx &\geq \lambda \int_{\Omega} a(x) [f(z_2) - \frac{1}{z_1^\alpha}] \xi dx, \\ \int_{\Omega} |\nabla z_2|^{q-2} \nabla z_2 \nabla\xi dx &\geq \lambda \int_{\Omega} b(x) [g(z_1) - \frac{1}{z_2^\beta}] \xi dx, \end{aligned}$$

for all  $\xi \in W := \{\zeta \in C_0^\infty(\Omega) : \zeta \geq 0 \text{ in } \Omega\}$ . Then the following result holds :

**Lemma 2.1** (see [7]) Suppose there exist sub and super-solutions  $(\psi_1, \psi_2)$  and  $(z_1, z_2)$  respectively of (1) such that  $(\psi_1, \psi_2) \leq (z_1, z_2)$ . Then (1) has solution  $(u, v)$  such that  $(u, v) \in [(\psi_1, \psi_2), (z_1, z_2)]$ .

To state our results precisely we introduce the following hypotheses:

**(H1)**  $f, g : [0, \infty) \rightarrow [0, \infty)$  are  $C^1$  nondecreasing functions such that  $f(s), g(s) > 0$  for  $s > 0$ , and  $\lim_{s \rightarrow \infty} g(s) = \infty$ .

(H2)  $\lim_{s \rightarrow \infty} \frac{f(Mg(s)^{\frac{1}{q-1}})}{s^{p-1}} = 0$ , for all  $M > 0$ .

(H3) Suppose that there exists  $\epsilon > 0$  such that :

- (i)  $f\left(\frac{\mu(q-1+\beta)}{q}\epsilon^{\frac{1}{q-1}}\right) > \left(\frac{p}{(p-1+\alpha)\mu\epsilon^{\frac{1}{p-1}}}\right)^\alpha$ ,
- (ii)  $g\left(\frac{\mu(p-1+\alpha)}{p}\epsilon^{\frac{1}{p-1}}\right) > \left(\frac{q}{(q-1+\beta)\mu\epsilon^{\frac{1}{q-1}}}\right)^\beta$ ,
- (iii)  $\frac{1}{m}f(\epsilon^{\frac{1}{q-1}}) \leq \min\left\{\frac{p^\alpha}{\epsilon^{\frac{\alpha}{p-1}}(p-1+\alpha)^\alpha\lambda_{1,p}}, \frac{Na_1}{a_0\lambda_{1,p}}, \frac{b_0q^\beta}{a_0\epsilon^{\frac{\beta}{q-1}}(q-1+\beta)^\beta\lambda_{1,q}}, \frac{Mb_1}{a_0\lambda_{1,q}}\right\}$ ,
- (iv)  $\frac{1}{m}g(\epsilon^{\frac{1}{p-1}}) \leq \min\left\{\frac{q^\beta}{\epsilon^{\frac{\beta}{q-1}}(q-1+\beta)^\beta\lambda_{1,q}}, \frac{Na_1}{b_0\lambda_{1,p}}, \frac{a_0p^\alpha}{b_0\epsilon^{\frac{\alpha}{p-1}}(p-1+\alpha)^\alpha\lambda_{1,q}}, \frac{Mb_1}{b_0\lambda_{1,q}}\right\}$ ,

where

$$N = f\left(\frac{\mu(q-1+\beta)}{q}\epsilon^{\frac{1}{q-1}}\right) - \left(\frac{p}{(p-1+\alpha)\mu\epsilon^{\frac{1}{p-1}}}\right)^\alpha,$$

and

$$M = g\left(\frac{\mu(p-1+\alpha)}{p}\epsilon^{\frac{1}{p-1}}\right) - \left(\frac{q}{(q-1+\beta)\mu\epsilon^{\frac{1}{q-1}}}\right)^\beta.$$

We are now ready to give our existence result .

**Theorem 2.2.** Let (H1)-(H3) hold. Then there exists a positive solution of (1) for every  $\lambda \in [\lambda_*(\epsilon), \lambda^*(\epsilon)]$ , where

$$\lambda^* = \min\left\{\frac{m\epsilon}{a_0f(\epsilon^{\frac{1}{q-1}})}, \frac{m\epsilon}{b_0g(\epsilon^{\frac{1}{p-1}})}\right\},$$

and

$$\lambda_* = \max\left\{\frac{\lambda_{1,p}\left(\frac{p-1+\alpha}{p}\right)^\alpha\epsilon^{\frac{p-1+\alpha}{p-1}}}{a_0}, \frac{\lambda_{1,p}\epsilon}{Na_1}, \frac{\lambda_{1,q}\left(\frac{q-1+\beta}{q}\right)^\beta\epsilon^{\frac{q-1+\beta}{q-1}}}{b_0}, \frac{\lambda_{1,q}\epsilon}{Mb_1}\right\}.$$

**Remark 2.3.** Note that (H3) implies  $\lambda_* < \lambda^*$ .

**Example 2.4.** Let  $f(s) = e^{\frac{s}{s+1}}$ ,  $g(s) = e^s$ . Here  $f(s)$ ,  $g(s) > 0$  for  $s > 0$ ,  $f$ ,  $g$  are non-decreasing functions and

$$\lim_{s \rightarrow \infty} \frac{f(Mg(s)^{\frac{1}{q-1}})}{s^{p-1}} = 0,$$

for all  $M > 0$ , and  $\lim_{s \rightarrow \infty} g(s) = \infty$ . We can choose  $\epsilon > 0$  so small that  $f, g$  satisfy (H3).

*Proof. of Theorem 2.2* We shall verify that

$$(\psi_1, \psi_2) = \left( \frac{p-1+\alpha}{p} \epsilon^{\frac{1}{p-1}} \phi_{1,p}^{\frac{p}{p-1+\alpha}}, \frac{q-1+\beta}{q} \epsilon^{\frac{1}{q-1}} \phi_{1,q}^{\frac{q}{q-1+\beta}} \right),$$

is a sub-solution of (1). Let  $w \in W$ . Then a calculation shows that

$$\nabla \psi_1 = \epsilon^{\frac{1}{p-1}} \nabla \phi_{1,p} \phi_{1,p}^{\frac{1-\alpha}{p-1+\alpha}},$$

and we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{\Omega} |\nabla \psi_1|^{p-2} \nabla \psi_1 \cdot \nabla w \, dx = \epsilon \int_{\Omega} \phi_{1,p}^{1-\frac{\alpha p}{p-1+\alpha}} |\nabla \phi_{1,p}|^{p-2} \nabla \phi_{1,p} \nabla w \, dx \\ &= \epsilon \int_{\Omega} |\nabla \phi_{1,p}|^{p-2} \nabla \phi_{1,p} \left\{ \nabla (\phi_{1,p}^{1-\frac{\alpha p}{p-1+\alpha}} w) - w \nabla (\phi_{1,p}^{1-\frac{\alpha p}{p-1+\alpha}}) \right\} \, dx \\ &= \epsilon \left\{ \int_{\Omega} [\lambda_{1,p} \phi_{1,p}^{p-\frac{\alpha p}{p-1+\alpha}} - |\nabla \phi_{1,p}|^{p-2} \nabla \phi_{1,p} \nabla (\phi_{1,p}^{1-\frac{\alpha p}{p-1+\alpha}})] w \, dx \right\} \\ &= \epsilon \left\{ \int_{\Omega} [\lambda_{1,p} \phi_{1,p}^{p-\frac{\alpha p}{p-1+\alpha}} - |\nabla \phi_{1,p}|^p (1 - \frac{\alpha p}{p-1+\alpha}) \phi_{1,p}^{-\frac{\alpha p}{p-1+\alpha}}] w \, dx \right\} \\ &= \epsilon \phi_{1,p}^{-\frac{\alpha p}{p-1+\alpha}} \left\{ \int_{\Omega} [\lambda_{1,p} \phi_{1,p}^p - |\nabla \phi_{1,p}|^p (1 - \frac{\alpha p}{p-1+\alpha})] w \, dx \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

Similarly

$$\int_{\Omega} |\nabla \psi_2|^{q-2} \nabla \psi_2 \cdot \nabla w \, dx = \epsilon \phi_{1,q}^{-\frac{\beta q}{q-1+\beta}} \left\{ \int_{\Omega} [\lambda_{1,q} \phi_{1,q}^q - |\nabla \phi_{1,q}|^q (1 - \frac{\beta q}{q-1+\beta})] w \, dx \right\}.$$

First we consider the case when  $x \in \overline{\Omega}_\delta$ . We have

$$(1 - \frac{sr}{r-1+s}) |\nabla \phi_{1,r}|^r \geq m.$$

Then

$$-\epsilon (1 - \frac{\alpha p}{p-1+\alpha}) |\nabla \phi_{1,p}|^p \phi_{1,p}^{-\frac{\alpha p}{p-1+\alpha}} \leq -m\epsilon.$$

Since  $\lambda \leq \lambda^*$  then

$$\lambda \leq \frac{m\epsilon}{a_0 f(\epsilon^{\frac{1}{q-1}})}.$$

Hence

$$\begin{aligned} -\epsilon (1 - \frac{\alpha p}{p-1+\alpha}) |\nabla \phi_{1,p}|^p \phi_{1,p}^{-\frac{\alpha p}{p-1+\alpha}} &\leq -\lambda a_0 f(\epsilon^{\frac{1}{q-1}}) \\ &\leq -\lambda a_0 f\left(\frac{q-1+\beta}{q} \epsilon^{\frac{1}{q-1}} \phi_{1,q}^{\frac{q}{q-1+\beta}}\right) \quad (5) \\ &= -\lambda a_0 f(\psi_2). \end{aligned}$$

Also since  $\lambda_* \leq \lambda$ , then

$$\frac{\lambda_{1,p} \left(\frac{p-1+\alpha}{p}\right)^\alpha \epsilon^{\frac{p-1+\alpha}{p-1}}}{a_0} \leq \lambda.$$

Therefore

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda_{1,p} \phi_{1,p}^{p-\frac{\alpha p}{p-1+\alpha}} \epsilon &\leq \lambda_{1,p} \epsilon \phi_{1,p}^{-\frac{\alpha p}{p-1+\alpha}} \\ &\leq \frac{\lambda a_0}{\left(\frac{p-1+\alpha}{p}\right) \epsilon^{\frac{1}{p-1}} \phi_{1,p}^{\frac{p}{p-1+\alpha}} \alpha} \\ &= \frac{\lambda a_0}{\psi_1^\alpha}. \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

Combining (5) and (6) we see that

$$\begin{aligned} &\epsilon \left[ \lambda_{1,p} \phi_{1,p}^{p-\frac{\alpha p}{p-1+\alpha}} - \left(1 - \frac{\alpha p}{p-1+\alpha}\right) |\nabla \phi_{1,p}|^p \phi_{1,p}^{-\frac{\alpha p}{p-1+\alpha}} \right] \\ &= \lambda_{1,p} \phi_{1,p}^{p-\frac{\alpha p}{p-1+\alpha}} \epsilon - \epsilon \left(1 - \frac{\alpha p}{p-1+\alpha}\right) |\nabla \phi_{1,p}|^p \phi_{1,p}^{-\frac{\alpha p}{p-1+\alpha}} \\ &\leq \frac{\lambda a_0}{\psi_1^\alpha} - \lambda a_0 f(\psi_2) \\ &\leq \lambda a(x) \left[ f(\psi_2) - \frac{1}{\psi_1^\alpha} \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

On the other hand on  $\Omega - \overline{\Omega_\delta}$  we have  $\mu \leq \phi_{1,p}^{\frac{p}{p-1+\alpha}} \leq 1$ , for  $\mu > 0$ , and therefore for  $\lambda \geq \lambda_*$ , we have  $\frac{\lambda_{1,p} \epsilon}{Na_1} \leq \lambda$ . Hence

$$\begin{aligned} &\epsilon \left[ \lambda_{1,p} \phi_{1,p}^{p-\frac{\alpha p}{p-1+\alpha}} - |\nabla \phi_{1,p}|^p \left(1 - \frac{\alpha p}{p-1+\alpha}\right) \phi_{1,p}^{-\frac{\alpha p}{p-1+\alpha}} \right] \\ &\leq \epsilon \lambda_{1,p} \phi_{1,p}^{p-\frac{\alpha p}{p-1+\alpha}} \\ &\leq \epsilon \lambda_{1,p} \\ &\leq \lambda N a_1 \\ &= \lambda a_1 \left[ f\left(\frac{\mu(q-1+\beta)}{q} \epsilon^{\frac{1}{q-1}}\right) - \left(\frac{p}{(p-1+\alpha)\mu \epsilon^{\frac{1}{p-1}}}\right)^\alpha \right] \\ &\leq \lambda a_1 \left[ f(\psi_2) - \frac{1}{\psi_1^\alpha} \right] \\ &\leq \lambda a(x) \left[ f(\psi_2) - \frac{1}{\psi_1^\alpha} \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

Combining (7) and (8) on  $\Omega$ , for  $\lambda \in [\lambda_*(\epsilon), \lambda^*(\epsilon)]$ , we see that

$$\epsilon \left[ \lambda_{1,p} \phi_{1,p}^{p-\frac{\alpha p}{p-1+\alpha}} - |\nabla \phi_{1,p}|^p \left(1 - \frac{\alpha p}{p-1+\alpha}\right) \phi_{1,p}^{-\frac{\alpha p}{p-1+\alpha}} \right] \leq \lambda a(x) \left[ f(\psi_2) - \frac{1}{\psi_1^\alpha} \right].$$

Similarly for  $\lambda \in [\lambda_*, \lambda^*]$  we get

$$\epsilon[\lambda_{1,q} \phi_{1,q}^{q-\frac{\beta q}{q-1+\beta}} - |\nabla \phi_{1,q}|^q (1 - \frac{\beta q}{q-1+\beta}) \phi_{1,q}^{-\frac{\beta q}{q-1+\beta}}] \leq \lambda b(x)[g(\psi_1) - \frac{1}{\psi_2^\beta}].$$

Hence

$$\int_{\Omega} |\nabla \psi_1|^{p-2} \nabla \psi_1 \nabla w dx \leq \lambda \int_{\Omega} a(x)[f(\psi_2) - \frac{1}{\psi_1^\alpha}] w dx$$

and

$$\int_{\Omega} |\nabla \psi_2|^{q-2} \nabla \psi_2 \nabla w dx \leq \lambda \int_{\Omega} b(x)[g(\psi_1) - \frac{1}{\psi_2^\beta}] w dx,$$

i.e.,  $(\psi_1, \psi_2)$  is a sub-solution of (1) for  $\lambda \in [\lambda_*, \lambda^*]$ .

Now we construct a supersolution  $(z_1, z_2) \geq (\psi_1, \psi_2)$ . We will prove there exists  $c \gg 1$  such that

$$(z_1, z_2) = (c e_p(x), [\lambda \|b\|_{\infty} g(c \|e_p\|_{\infty})]^{\frac{1}{q-1}} e_q(x)),$$

is a supersolution of (1). A calculation shows that

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\Omega} |\nabla z_1|^{p-2} \nabla z_1 \nabla w dx &= c^{p-1} \int_{\Omega} |\nabla e_p|^{p-2} \nabla e_p \nabla w dx \\ &= c^{p-1} \int_{\Omega} w dx, \end{aligned}$$

by (H2) we know that, for  $c \gg 1$ ,

$$\frac{1}{\lambda \|a\|_{\infty}} \geq \frac{f\left([\lambda \|b\|_{\infty} g(c \|e_p\|_{\infty})]^{\frac{1}{q-1}} \|e_q\|_{\infty}\right)}{c^{p-1}}.$$

Hence

$$\begin{aligned} c^{p-1} &\geq \lambda \|a\|_{\infty} f\left([\lambda \|b\|_{\infty} g(c \|e_p\|_{\infty})]^{\frac{1}{q-1}} \|e_q\|_{\infty}\right) \\ &\geq \lambda \|a\|_{\infty} f\left([\lambda \|b\|_{\infty} g(c \|e_p\|_{\infty})]^{\frac{1}{q-1}} e_q(x)\right) \\ &= \lambda a(x) f(z_2) \\ &\geq \lambda a(x) \left[f(z_2) - \frac{1}{z_1^\alpha}\right]. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore

$$\int_{\Omega} |\nabla z_1|^{p-2} \nabla z_1 \nabla w dx \geq \lambda \int_{\Omega} a(x) \left[f(z_2) - \frac{1}{z_1^\alpha}\right] w dx.$$

Also

$$\begin{aligned}
 \int_{\Omega} |\nabla z_2|^{q-2} \nabla z_2 \nabla w dx &= \lambda \|b\|_{\infty} g(c \|e_p\|_{\infty}) \int_{\Omega} w dx \\
 &\geq \lambda \int_{\Omega} b(x) g(c e_p(x)) w dx \\
 &= \lambda \int_{\Omega} b(x) g(z_1) w dx \\
 &\geq \lambda \int_{\Omega} b(x) \left[ g(z_1) - \frac{1}{z_2^{\beta}} \right] w dx,
 \end{aligned}$$

i.e.,  $(z_1, z_2)$  is a supersolution of (1) with  $z_i \geq \psi_i$  for  $c$  large,  $i = 1, 2$ . ( This is possible since  $|\nabla e_r| \neq 0; \partial\Omega$  for  $r = p, q$ ). Thus, there exists a positive solution  $(u, v)$  of (1) such that  $(\psi_1, \psi_2) \leq (u, v) \leq (z_1, z_2)$  and Theorem 2.2 is proven.  $\square$

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