Abstract: The present study is concerned with the following Schrödinger-Poisson system involving critical nonlocal term

\[
\begin{align*}
-\Delta u + V(x)u - l(x)\phi |u|^3 u &= \eta K(x)f(u), \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R}^3, \\
-\Delta \phi &= l(x)|u|^5, \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R}^3,
\end{align*}
\]  

(1.1)

where the potential \(V(x)\) and \(K(x)\) are positive continuous functions that vanish at infinity, and \(l(x)\) is bounded, nonnegative continuous function. Under some simple assumptions on \(V, K, l\) and \(f\), we prove that the problem (1.1) has a non-trivial solution.

Keywords: Schrödinger-Poisson system, variational methods, critical nonlocal term, vanishing potential

MSC: 35B09, 35J20

1 Introduction and main results

The aim of this paper is to investigate the existence of non-trivial solutions for the following Schrödinger-Poisson system involving critical nonlocal term and potential vanishing at infinity

\[
\begin{align*}
-\Delta u + V(x)u - l(x)\phi |u|^3 u &= \eta K(x)f(u), \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R}^3, \\
-\Delta \phi &= l(x)|u|^5, \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R}^3,
\end{align*}
\]  

(1.1)

where \(V, K \in C(\mathbb{R}^3, \mathbb{R}), f \in C(\mathbb{R}^3 \times \mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R}), l(x)\) is bounded, nonnegative continuous function, and \(V, K\) are nonnegative functions which can be vanishing at infinity. \(\eta > 0\) is a parameter and \(2^* := 6\) is the critical Sobolev exponent. Similar problems have been widely investigated, and it is well known that they have a strong physical meaning, because they appear in quantum mechanics models and in semiconductor theory. In particular, systems like (1.1) have been introduced in [1] as a model describing solitary waves, for nonlinear stationary equations of Schrödinger type interacting with an electrostatic field, and are usually known as Schrödinger-Poisson systems. Indeed, in (1.1) the first equation is a nonlinear stationary Schrödinger equation that is coupled with a Poisson equation, to be satisfied by \(\phi\), meaning that the potential is determined by the charge of the wave function. For more details, we refer the readers to [2–5] and the references therein.

In recent years, with the aid of variational methods, there has been increasing attention to problems like (1.1) on the existence and non-existence of positive solutions, positive ground states, multiple solutions, sign-changing solutions and so on. see for instance [6–21], and the references therein. In fact, the most of the
above results focused on the subcritical nonlocal term. However, the system (1.1) with critical nonlocal term has only been studied in [22–25].

In [22], A. Azzollini and P. d’Avenia firstly studied the following Schrödinger-Poisson system with critical nonlocal term

\[
\begin{align*}
-\triangle u &= \mu u + p|u|^3 u = f(x, u), \quad x \in B_R, \\
-\triangle \phi &= p|u|^5, \quad x \in B_R, \\
\phi = 0, & \quad \text{on } \partial B_R.
\end{align*}
\] (1.2)

They proved that the existence and nonexistence results for system (1.1) depend on the value of \( \lambda \).

In [23], Liu studied the following Schrödinger-Poisson system with critical nonlocal term

\[
\begin{align*}
-\triangle u + V(x)u - K(x)|u|^3 u &= f(x, u), \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R}^3, \\
-\triangle \phi &= K(x)|u|^5, \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R}^3.
\end{align*}
\] (1.4)

Under the condition \( V(x), K(x) \) are asymptotically periodic, the author proved the system (1.4) has at least a positive solution by the mountain pass theorem and the concentration-compactness principle.

In [25], F. Li, Y. Li and J. Shi proved

\[
\begin{align*}
-\triangle u + bu - \phi|u|^3 u &= f(u), \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R}^3, \\
\phi &= 0, \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R}^3,
\end{align*}
\] (1.3)

possesses at least one positive radially symmetric solution when \( b > 0 \) is a constant. To the best of our knowledge, there seems to be little progress on the existence of nontrivial solution for Schrödinger-Poisson systems involving critical nonlocal term and potential vanishing at infinity.

By the motivation of above work, in our article, we establish the existence of non-trivial solution for problem (1.1) with critical nonlocal term and potential vanishing at infinity. Firstly the critical growth causes a lack of compactness, and it is much more difficult to obtain the existence of non-trivial solutions. Secondly since \( V(x) \) is potential vanishing at infinity, which makes our studies more interesting. At last, we obtain a non-trivial solution by using the mountain pass theorem without \((PS)\) condition.

Below, we assume that the pair \((V, K)\) of continuous functions \( V, K : \mathbb{R}^3 \to \mathbb{R} \) belongs to \( \mathcal{X} \). Throughout the paper, \((V, K) \in \mathcal{X}\) means that

\( (VK_1) \): \( V(x), K(x) > 0 \) for all \( x \in \mathbb{R}^3 \) and \( K \in L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^3) \).

\( (VK_2) \): If \( \{A_n\}_n \subset \mathbb{R}^3 \) is a sequence of Borel sets such that the Lebesgue measure \( \text{meas}(A_n) \leq R \), for all \( n \in \mathbb{N} \) and some \( R > 0 \), then

\[
\lim_{R \to +\infty} \int_{A_n \cap B_R(0)} K(x)dx = 0, \quad \text{uniformly in } n \in \mathbb{N}.
\]

Furthermore, one of the below conditions occurs:

\( (VK_3) \): \( V / K \in L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^3) \) or

\( (VK_4) \): there exists \( p_0 \in (2, 6) \) such that

\[
\frac{K(x)}{V(x)}^{\frac{1}{p_0}} \to 0 \quad \text{as } |x| \to +\infty.
\]

The hypotheses \((VK_1) - (VK_4)\) on functions \( V \) and \( K \) were first introduced in [26] and characterized problem (1.1) as zero mass. Problems of zero mass have been studied by many authors, see for example, [27–32] and references therein.

Finally, we assume the following growth conditions at the origin and at the infinity for the continuous function \( f : \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R} \):

\( (f_1) \): \( \lim_{t \to 0} \frac{f(t)}{t} = 0\), if \((VK_3)\) holds; or \( \lim_{t \to 0} \frac{f(t)}{t^{p_0}} < \infty\), if \((VK_4)\) holds.

\( (f_2) \): \( f \) has a "quasicritical growth", namely, \( \lim_{t \to +\infty} \frac{f(t)}{t} = 0 \).

\( (f_3) \): There exists a \( \theta \in (2, 2') \) such that

\[
0 \leq \theta F(t) \leq tf(t) \quad \text{for all } t \in \mathbb{R},
\]

where \( F(u) = \int_0^u f(s)ds \).
Furthermore, we make the following hypotheses on the function \( l(x) \).

\( (I_1) \) There exists \( x_0 \), such that
\[
 l(x_0) = \sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}^3} l(x).
\]

\( (I_2) \) For \( x \) close to \( x_0 \) we have
\[
 l(x) = l(x_0) + O(|x - x_0|), \quad \text{as} \; x \to x_0.
\]

Now we state our main results as follows.

**Theorem 1.1.** Suppose that \( (V, K) \in \mathcal{K} \), and \( f \) satisfies \( (f_1), (f_2), (f_3) \), \( l(x) \) satisfies \( (I_1) - (I_2) \).

\( (i) \) If \( \theta \in (1, 3) \), for sufficiently large \( \eta > 0 \), then system (1.1) has at least one non-trivial solution.

\( (ii) \) If \( \theta \in (3, 5) \), for any \( \eta > 0 \), then system (1.1) has at least one non-trivial solution.

**Notation.** In this paper we make use of the following notations: \( C \) will denote various positive constants; the strong (respectively weak) convergence is denoted by \( \rightarrow \) (respectively \( \rightharpoonup \) ); \( o(1) \) denotes \( o(1) \to 0 \) as \( n \to \infty \), \( B_0(0) \) denotes a ball centered at the origin with radius \( \rho > 0 \).

The remainder of this paper is organized as follows. In Section 2, some preliminary results are presented. In Section 3, we give the proof of our main results.

## 2 Variational setting and preliminaries

Let us consider the space
\[
 E = \left\{ u \in D^{1,2}(\mathbb{R}^3) : \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} V(x)|u|^2 \, dx < +\infty \right\}
\]
endowed with the norm
\[
 \|u\|^2_E = \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |\nabla u|^2 \, dx + \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} V(x)|u|^2 \, dx.
\]

Recall that a weak solution of problem (1.1) is a function \( u \in E \) such that
\[
 \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \nabla u \nabla \varphi \, dx + \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} V(x)u \varphi \, dx - \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} l(x)\phi |u|^4 \varphi \, dx - \eta \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} K(x)f(u) \varphi \, dx = 0,
\]
for all \( \varphi \in E \).

Then, the weak solutions of (1.1) are the critical points of the energy functional defined on \( E \) by
\[
 J(u) := \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} (|\nabla u|^2 + V(x)|u|^2) \, dx - \frac{1}{10} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} l(x)\phi u |u|^4 \, dx - \eta \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} K(x)f(u) \, dx,
\]
where \( F(u) = \int_0^u f(s) \, ds \). More precisely, \( J \in C^1(E, \mathbb{R}) \) and its differential \( J' : E \to E' \) is defined as
\[
 (J'(u), v) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} (|\nabla u| \nabla v + V(x)uv) \, dx - \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} l(x)\phi u |u|^4 v \, dx - \eta \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} K(x)f(u)v \, dx,
\]
for all \( v \in E \), where \( E' \) is the dual space of \( E \).

We define the Lebesgue space \( L^p_K(\mathbb{R}^3) \) composed by all measurable functions \( u : \mathbb{R}^N \to \mathbb{R} \) such that
\[
 L^p_K(\mathbb{R}^3) = \left\{ u : \mathbb{R}^3 \to \mathbb{R} | u \text{ is measurable and } \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} K(x)|u|^p \, dx < +\infty \right\}
\]
endowed with norm
\[ \|u\|_{L^p_x(R^3)} := \left( \int_{R^3} K(x)|u|^p \, dx \right)^{\frac{1}{p}}, \]
and we will state, without proof, two important results of Alves and Souto (see [[26], Lemmas 2.1 and 2.2]).

**Proposition 2.1.** Assume \((V, K) \in \mathcal{K}\) holds, \(E\) is compactly embedded in \(L^p_k(R^N)\) for every \(p \in (2, 6)\). If \((VK_4)\) holds, \(E\) is compactly embedded in \(L^p_k(R^N)\).

**Proposition 2.2.** Suppose that \(f\) satisfies \((f_1)\) and \((f_2)\) and \((V, K) \in \mathcal{K}\), Let \(\{v_n\}\) be such that \(v_n \rightharpoonup v\) in \(E\). Then,
\[ \int_{R^3} K(x)f(v_n)dx \rightharpoonup \int_{R^3} K(x)f(v)dx \tag{2.4} \]
and
\[ \int_{R^3} K(x)f(v_n)v_n dx \rightharpoonup \int_{R^3} K(x)f(v)v dx. \tag{2.5} \]

**Lemma 2.3** [25, Lemma 2.1] For every \(u \in L^6(R^3)\), there exists a unique \(\phi_u \in D^{1, 2}(R^3)\) which is the solution of
\[ -\triangle \phi = |u|^5, \quad \text{in } R^3, \]
here \(\phi_u\) can be expressed by the from
\[ \phi_u(x) = \int_{R^3} \frac{|u(y)|^5}{|x-y|} \, dy. \]
Moreover,
(i) \(\|\phi_u\|_{D^{1, 2}(R^3)} = \int_{R^3} \phi_u|u|^5\);
(ii) \(\phi_u(x) > 0\) for \(x \in R^3\);
(iii) for any \(\theta > 0\), \(\phi_{u_\theta} = \theta^2(\phi_u)_\theta\), where \(u_\theta(\cdot) = u(\cdot/\theta)\);
(iv) for any \(\theta > 0\), \(\phi_{t_\theta} = t^5\phi_u\);
(v) for any \(u \in L^6(R^3)\),
\[ \|\phi_u\|_{D^{1, 2}(R^3)} \leq S^{-\frac{1}{2}}|u|^5, \quad \int_{R^3} \phi_u|u|^5 \leq S^{-1}|u|^6, \]
where \(S\) is defined in (1.6);
(vi) if \(u_n \rightharpoonup u\) in \(L^6(R^3)\) and \(u_n \to u\) a.e in \(R^3\) as \(n \to \infty\), then \(\phi_{u_n} \to \phi_u\) in \(D^{1, 2}(R^3)\).

**Lemma 2.4.** [25, Lemma 2.3] If \(u_n \rightharpoonup u\) in \(L^6(R^3)\), a.e in \(R^3\), then as \(n \to \infty\),
\[ |u_n|^5 - |u_n - u|^5 - |u|^5 \to 0 \quad \text{in } L^5(R^3), \]
\[ \phi_{u_n} - \phi_{u_n - u} - \phi_u \to 0, \quad \text{in } D^{1, 2}(R^3), \]
\[ \int_{R^3} \phi_{u_n}|u_n|^5 dx - \int_{R^3} \phi_{u_n - u}|u_n - u|^5 dx - \int_{R^3} \phi_u|u|^5 dx \to 0, \]
and
\[ |u_n|^3u_n - |u_n - u|(u_n - u) - |u|^3u \to 0, \quad \text{in } D^{1, 2}(R^3). \]

### 3 Proof of Theorem 1.1

To prove Lemma 3.2, we need the following results.

**Lemma 3.1.** Suppose that \((V, K) \in \mathcal{K}\) hold. Then for \(p \in [2, 6]\), there is \(C > 0\) such that
\[ \|u\|_{L^p_k(R^3)} \leq C\|u\|_E, \quad \forall u \in E. \]
Proof. First we suppose that $(VK_2)$ holds. The proof is trivial if $p = 2$ or 6. Now we prove that the embedding is true for $p \in (2, 6)$ under the assumption $(VK_3)$. For fixed $p \in (2, 6)$, define $m = \frac{(6-p)_0}{4}$, and hence $p = 2m + (1 - m)6$. So we have that

$$
\int_{\mathbb{R}^3} K(x)|u|^p \, dx = \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |u|^{2m}|u|^{(1-m)6} \, dx
$$

$$
\leq \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |K(x)|^\frac{1}{p} |u|^2 \, dx \right)^m \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |u|^6 \, dx \right)^{1-m}
$$

$$
\leq \left( \sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}^3} \frac{|K(x)|}{|V(x)|^m} \right) \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} V(x)|u|^2 \, dx \right)^m \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |\nabla u|^2 \, dx \right)^{1-m}
$$

$$
\leq C \left( \sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}^3} \frac{|K(x)|}{|V(x)|^m} \right) \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} (|\nabla u|^2 + V(x)|u|^2) \, dx \right) \frac{m}{m+3}
$$

Since $K(x) \in L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^3)$ and $K/V \in L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^3)$, we have that

$$
||u||_{L^p(E)} \leq C||u||_E, \text{ for } p \in (2, 6).
$$

Next, we suppose that $(VK_4)$ holds. Using the same argument as above, we define $m_0 = \frac{(6-p_0)_0}{4}$, and hence $p_0 = 2m_0 + (1 - m_0)6$ so that we have

$$
\int_{\mathbb{R}^3} K(x)|u|^{p_0} \, dx = \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} K(x)|u|^{2m_0}|u|^{(1-m_0)6} \, dx
$$

$$
\leq \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |K(x)|^\frac{1}{p_0} |u|^2 \, dx \right)^{m_0} \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |u|^6 \, dx \right)^{1-m_0}
$$

$$
\leq \left( \sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}^3} \frac{|K(x)|}{|V(x)|^{m_0}} \right) \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} V(x)|u|^2 \, dx \right)^{m_0} \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |u|^6 \, dx \right)^{1-m_0}
$$

$$
\leq C \left( \sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}^3} \frac{|K(x)|}{|V(x)|^{m_0}} \right) \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} (|\nabla u|^2 + V(x)|u|^2) \, dx \right) \frac{m_0}{m_0+2}
$$

From $(VK_3)$ we deduce that $\frac{|K(x)|}{|V(x)|^{m_0}} \in L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^3)$. It follows from the above inequality that

$$
||u||_{L^{p_0}(E)} \leq C||u||_E.
$$

we complete the proof. \qed

The functional $J$ satisfies the mountain pass geometry.

Lemma 3.2. The functional $J$ satisfies the following conditions:

(i) There exist $\rho$ and $\alpha > 0$ such that $J(u) \geq \alpha$ with $||u||_E = \rho$. 

(ii) There exists \( e \in B_{\rho}(0) \) with \( J(e) < 0 \).

**Proof.** (i) Now, we distinguish two case.

Case 1. We suppose that \((VK_3)\) is true. For any \( \varepsilon > 0 \), it follows from \((f_1)\) and \((f_2)\) that there exists \( C_\varepsilon > 0 \) such that
\[
F(u) \leq \frac{\varepsilon}{2} |u|^2 + C_\varepsilon |u|^6, \quad \text{for all } u \in E.
\]
Thus, by (3.1) and Lemma 3.1, we get that
\[
\int_{\mathbb{R}^3} K(x)F(u)dx \leq \frac{\varepsilon}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} K(x)|u|^2dx + C_\varepsilon \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} K(x)|u|^6dx
\leq \frac{\varepsilon}{2} |u|_E^2 + C_\varepsilon |u|_E^6.
\]
Hence, in view of Lemma 2.3, we obtain
\[
J(u) = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |\nabla u|^2 + V(x)|u|^2dx - \frac{1}{10} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} l(x)\phi_u|u|^5dx - \eta \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} K(x)F(u)dx
\geq \frac{1}{2} |u|_E^2 - C||u||^{10}_E - \frac{\varepsilon}{2} |u|_E^2 - C_\varepsilon |u|_E^6
\geq \left(\frac{1 - \varepsilon}{2}\right)|u|_E^2 - C||u||^{10}_E - C_\varepsilon |u|_E^6.
\]
So, taking \( \varepsilon = \frac{1}{2} \), there exists enough small \( ||u||_E = \rho \), such that \( J(u) \geq \alpha \).

Case 2. We suppose that \((VK_a)\) holds. By \((f_1)\) and \((f_2)\), there exist \( C'_\varepsilon > 0 \) and \( C''_\varepsilon > 0 \) such that
\[
F(u) \leq C'_\varepsilon |u|^{p_0} + C''_\varepsilon |u|^6, \quad \text{for all } u \in E.
\]
Therefore
\[
J(u) = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |\nabla u|^2 + V(x)|u|^2dx - \frac{1}{10} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} l(x)\phi_u|u|^5dx - \eta \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} K(x)F(u)dx
\geq \frac{1}{2} |u|_E^2 - C||u||^{10}_E - C_\varepsilon |u|_E^6 - C||u||^{p_0}_E.
\]
The same as Case 1, we can take \( ||u||_E = \rho \) such that \( J(u) \geq \alpha \).

(ii) For every \( t > 0 \) we obtain
\[
J(tu) = \frac{t^2}{2} ||u||_E^2 - \frac{t^{10}}{10} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} K(x)\phi_u|u|^5dx - \eta \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} K(x)F(tu)dx.
\]
From \((f_3)\), we obtain \( J(tu) \to -\infty \) as \( t \to +\infty \), so it is satisfies (ii). We complete the proof. \( \square \)

As a consequence of Lemma 3.2, we can find a \((PS)\) sequence of the functional \( J(u) \) at the level
\[
c := \inf_{\gamma \in J} \max_{t \in [0,1]} J(\gamma(t)) > 0,
\]
where the set of paths is defined as
\[
J := \{ \gamma \in C([0,1], H^4(\mathbb{R}^3)) : \gamma(0) = 0, J(\gamma(1)) < 0 \}.
\]

**Lemma 3.3.** Let \( \{u_n\} \) be a \((PS)_c\) sequence for \( J \). Then \( \{u_n\} \) is bounded in \( E \).

**Proof.** Let \( \{u_n\} \subset E \) be a \((PS)_c\) sequence for \( J \), that is
\[
J(u_n) \to c \quad \text{and} \quad J'(u_n) \to 0 \quad \text{as} \quad n \to +\infty.
\]
We now consider Lemma 3.4 and for \( \bar{u} \) two, which implies that \( \{ u_n \} \) is bounded in \( E \).

Because of the appearance of the critical nonlocal term, we have to estimate the Mountain-pass value given by (3.2) carefully. To do it, we choose the extremal function \( U_\varepsilon(x) = \frac{(1-e^2)^\frac{1}{2}}{(e^2+|x-x_0|^2)^\frac{1}{2}} \) to solve \(-\Delta u = u^5 \) in \( \mathbb{R}^3 \). Let \( \varphi \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}^3) \) be a cut-off function verifying that \( 0 \leq \varphi(x) \leq 1 \) for all \( x \in \mathbb{R}^3 \), \( \text{supp} \varphi \subset B_2(x_0) \), and \( \varphi(x) \equiv 1 \) on \( B_1(x_0) \). Set \( V_\varepsilon = \varphi U_\varepsilon \), then thanks to the asymptotic estimates from [8], we have

\[
|\nabla V_\varepsilon\|^2 = S^\frac{1}{2} + O(\varepsilon), \quad |V_\varepsilon|_6^2 = S^\frac{1}{2} + O(\varepsilon)
\]

and for \( s \in [2, 6) \)

\[
|V_\varepsilon|^\frac{s}{2} = \begin{cases}
O(\varepsilon^\frac{s}{2}), & \text{if } s \in [2, 3), \\
O(\varepsilon^\frac{s}{2}|\log\varepsilon|), & \text{if } s = 3, \\
O(\varepsilon^\frac{s}{2}), & \text{if } s \in (3, 6),
\end{cases}
\]

where \( S \) denotes the best constant for the embedding \( D^{1,2}(\mathbb{R}^3) \hookrightarrow L^6(\mathbb{R}^3) \), namely,

\[
S := \inf_{u \in D^{1,2}(\mathbb{R}^3)} \left\{ \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |\nabla u|^2 dx, \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |u|^6 dx = 1 \right\}.
\]

We define

\[
V_{\text{max}} := \max_{x \in B_{2\varepsilon}(x_0)} V(x)
\]

and

\[
K_{\text{min}} := \min_{x \in B_{2\varepsilon}(x_0)} K(x).
\]

By the assumption (l2) we also have

\[
l(x_0) \int_{B_{2\varepsilon}(x_0)} \phi |u|^5 dx \leq \int_{B_{2\varepsilon}(x_0)} l(x) \phi |u|^5 dx.
\]

**Lemma 3.4.** Suppose that \( (V, K) \in \mathcal{X}, (f_3) - (f_3) \) hold, and \( l(x) \) satisfies \( (l_1) - (l_2) \). Then, there exists a \( u_0 \in E \setminus \{0\} \) such that

\[
0 < \sup_{t \neq 0} l(tu_0) < \frac{2}{\pi} S^\frac{1}{2} |l(x)|_{L^1(B_2)}^{-1}.
\]

**Proof.** We now consider

\[
I(tv_\varepsilon) = \frac{t^2}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \left( |\nabla v_\varepsilon|^2 + V(x)|v_\varepsilon|^2 \right) dx - \frac{t^{10}}{10} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} l(x) \phi v_\varepsilon |v_\varepsilon|^5 dx - \eta \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} K(x)f(tv_\varepsilon) v_\varepsilon dx.
\]

By Lemma 3.1, we know that, there exists \( t_\varepsilon > 0 \) such that \( \sup_{t \neq 0} I(tv_\varepsilon) > 0 \) is attained and \( \lim_{t \to -\infty} I(tv_\varepsilon) = -\infty \) for any \( \varepsilon > 0 \).

We suppose that there exists \( \varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2 \) such that \( \varepsilon_1 < t \varepsilon < \varepsilon_2 \) for small enough \( \varepsilon > 0 \). In fact, \( J(t_\varepsilon v_\varepsilon) = \sup_{t \neq 0} J(tv_\varepsilon) \), and hence \( df(tv_\varepsilon)/dt|_{t=t_\varepsilon} = 0 \), we obtain that

\[
t_\varepsilon \int_{B_{2\varepsilon}(x_0)} \left( |\nabla v_\varepsilon|^2 + V(x)|v_\varepsilon|^2 \right) dx - \eta \int_{B_{2\varepsilon}(x_0)} K(x)f(t_\varepsilon v_\varepsilon) v_\varepsilon dx - t_\varepsilon^{10} \int_{B_{2\varepsilon}(x_0)} l(x) \phi v_\varepsilon |v_\varepsilon|^5 dx = 0. \tag{3.3}
\]
Next, we suppose that \( t_\varepsilon \to +\infty \) as \( \varepsilon \to 0^+ \) does not hold. By (3.3)

\[
 t_\varepsilon \int_{B_\varepsilon(x_0)} (|\nabla v_\varepsilon|^2 + V(x)|v_\varepsilon|^2)dx \geq \frac{\eta}{10} \int_{B_\varepsilon(x_0)} l(x)|\nabla v_\varepsilon|^5dx,
\]

which is a contradiction when \( t_\varepsilon \to +\infty \).

Similarly, we suppose that there is a sequence \( \tilde{t}_\varepsilon \to 0 \) as \( \varepsilon \to 0^+ \). Firstly, if \((VK_3)\) holds, from \((f_1)\) and \((f_2)\), for all \( \delta > 0 \) there exists \( C_\delta > 0 \) such that

\[
\int_{\mathbb{R}^3} K(x)f(\varepsilon t_\varepsilon v_\varepsilon)v_\varepsilon dx \leq \delta \tilde{t}_\varepsilon \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} K(x)|v_\varepsilon|^2 dx + C_\delta (\varepsilon t_\varepsilon)^5 \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} K(x)|v_\varepsilon|^6 dx
\]

Choosing \( \delta = \frac{1}{\tilde{t}_\varepsilon} \), it follows from (3.3) that

\[
\frac{\tilde{t}_\varepsilon}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} (|\nabla v_\varepsilon|^2 + V(x)|v_\varepsilon|^2)dx \leq C_\delta (\varepsilon t_\varepsilon)^5 \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} K(x)|v_\varepsilon|^5 dx + C_\delta \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} l(x)\phi_{v_\varepsilon}|v_\varepsilon|^5 dx.
\]

Next, we suppose that \((VK_4)\) holds. By \((f_1)\), \((f_2)\), there is a constant \( \overline{C} > 0 \), such that

\[
\int_{\mathbb{R}^3} K(x)f(\varepsilon t_\varepsilon v_\varepsilon) dx \leq \tilde{t}_\varepsilon^{p_0-1} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} K(x)|v_\varepsilon|^{p_0} dx + \overline{C}(\varepsilon t_\varepsilon)^5 \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} K(x)|v_\varepsilon|^6 dx.
\]

It again follows from (3.3) that

\[
\tilde{t}_\varepsilon \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} (|\nabla v_\varepsilon|^2 + V(x)|v_\varepsilon|^2)dx + (\varepsilon t_\varepsilon)^5 \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} K(x)|v_\varepsilon|^6 dx + \tilde{t}_\varepsilon \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} l(x)\phi_{v_\varepsilon}|v_\varepsilon|^5 dx.
\]

We arrive at a contradiction because \( p_0 > 2 \). So we complete the proof.

Since \( 0 < \varrho_1 < t_\varepsilon < \varrho_2 < \infty \), together with the definitions of \( V_{\text{max}} \) and \( K_{\text{min}} \), we have

\[
J(tv_\varepsilon) = \frac{t^2}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} (|\nabla v_\varepsilon|^2 + V(x)|v_\varepsilon|^2)dx - \frac{10}{10} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} l(x)\phi_{v_\varepsilon}|v_\varepsilon|^5 dx - \eta \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} K(x)F(tv_\varepsilon)dx
\]

\[
\leq \frac{t^2}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} (|\nabla v_\varepsilon|^2 + V(x)|v_\varepsilon|^2)dx - \frac{10}{10} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} l(x)\phi_{v_\varepsilon}|v_\varepsilon|^5 dx - \eta \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} K(x)F(tv_\varepsilon)dx
\]

\[
\leq \frac{t^2}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |\nabla v_\varepsilon|^2 dx + \frac{t^2}{2} V_{\text{max}}(x) \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |v_\varepsilon|^2 dx - \frac{10}{10} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} l(x)\phi_{v_\varepsilon}|v_\varepsilon|^5 dx - \eta K_{\text{min}}(x)\int_{\mathbb{R}^3} F(tv_\varepsilon)dx.
\]

We define

\[
h(t) := \frac{t^2}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |\nabla v_\varepsilon|^2 dx - \frac{10}{10} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} l(x)\phi_{v_\varepsilon}|v_\varepsilon|^5 dx.
\]

By some elementary calculations, we obtain

\[
\max_{t \in [0, T]} h(t) = \frac{4(\varepsilon t \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |\nabla v_\varepsilon|^2 dx)^{\frac{3}{2}}}{5(\frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} l(x)\phi_{v_\varepsilon}|v_\varepsilon|^5 dx)^{\frac{3}{2}}} = \frac{2}{5} (\varepsilon t \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |\nabla v_\varepsilon|^2 dx)^{\frac{3}{2}}.
\]

The Poisson equation \( -\Delta \phi_{v_\varepsilon} = |v_\varepsilon|^5 \) and Cauchy’s inequality give

\[
\int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |v_\varepsilon|^6 dx = \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \nabla \phi_{v_\varepsilon} \nabla v_\varepsilon dx
\]
This implies that

\[
\int_{\mathbb{R}^3} l(x) \phi_{v_\varepsilon}|v_\varepsilon|^5 \, dx \geq 2|l(x)|_\infty \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} l(x)|v_\varepsilon|^6 \, dx - |l(x)|_\infty^2 \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |\nabla v_\varepsilon|^2 \, dx
\]

\[
= |l(x)|_\infty^2 S^2 + O(\varepsilon).
\]

As a consequence of the above fact, one has

\[
\max_{t \leq 0} h(t) \leq \frac{2}{5} \left( \frac{(S^2 + O(\varepsilon))^2}{(|l(x)|_\infty S^2 + O(\varepsilon))^2} \right) = \frac{2}{5} |l(x)|_\infty S^2 + O(\varepsilon).
\]

On the other hand, from (f3), we obtain that \( F(s) \geq Cs^\theta \), for \( s > 0 \). Hence,

\[
\int_{B_{2h}(x_0)} F(t_v v_\varepsilon) \, dx \geq \int_{B_{2h}(x_0)} (t_v v_\varepsilon)^6 \, dx \geq C_1 \int_{B_{2h}(x_0)} (v_\varepsilon)^6 \, dx = \begin{cases} C_1 \varepsilon_\theta \log \varepsilon, & \text{if } \theta \in [1, 2), \\ C_1 \varepsilon_\theta \varepsilon^{-\theta}, & \text{if } \theta = 2, \\ C_1 \varepsilon_\theta \varepsilon^{-\frac{\theta+1}{2}}, & \text{if } \theta \in (2, 5). \end{cases}
\]

We have \( \max_{t \geq 0} f(t_v v_\varepsilon) = f(t_v v_\varepsilon) \) at the beginning, that is,

\[
\max_{t \geq 0} f(t_v v_\varepsilon) = \frac{t_v^2}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |\nabla v_\varepsilon|^2 + V(x)|v_\varepsilon|^2 \, dx - \frac{t_v^{10}}{10} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} l(x) \phi_{v_\varepsilon}|v_\varepsilon|^5 \, dx - \eta \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} K(x) F(t_v v_\varepsilon) \, dx
\]

\[
\leq h(t_v) + \frac{V_{\max}}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |v_\varepsilon|^2 \, dx - \eta \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} K(x) F(t_v v_\varepsilon) \, dx
\]

\[
\leq \frac{2}{5} |l(x)|_\infty S^2 + CO(\varepsilon) - \eta \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} K(x) F(t_v v_\varepsilon) \, dx.
\]

Using (3.4), we have

\[
CO(\varepsilon) - \eta \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} K(x) F(t_v v_\varepsilon) \, dx \leq CO(\varepsilon) - \begin{cases} C\eta \varepsilon_\theta \log \varepsilon, & \text{if } \theta \in [1, 2), \\ C\eta \varepsilon_\theta \varepsilon^{-\theta}, & \text{if } \theta = 2, \\ C\eta \varepsilon_\theta \varepsilon^{-\frac{\theta+1}{2}}, & \text{if } \theta \in (2, 5). \end{cases}
\]

If \( (1, 2) \) and \( \eta = \varepsilon^{-\frac{1}{2}} \), then \( \frac{1}{2} < \frac{\theta+1}{2} - \frac{1}{2} < 1 \) and hence for small enough \( \varepsilon > 0 \)

\[
CO(\varepsilon) - \eta \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} K(x) F(t_v v_\varepsilon) \, dx \leq CO(\varepsilon) - C\eta \varepsilon^{-\frac{1}{2}} \log \varepsilon < 0,
\]

when \( \eta > 0 \) is enough large.

If \( \theta = 2 \) and \( \eta = \varepsilon^{-\frac{1}{2}} \), then for small enough \( \varepsilon > 0 \)

\[
CO(\varepsilon) - \eta \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} K(x) F(t_v v_\varepsilon) \, dx \leq CO(\varepsilon) - C\eta \varepsilon^{-\frac{1}{2}} \varepsilon^{-\frac{1}{2}} \log \varepsilon |\log \varepsilon| < 0,
\]

when \( \eta > 0 \) is enough large.

If \( \theta \in (2, 3) \) and \( \eta = \varepsilon^{-\frac{1}{2}} \), then \( \frac{1}{2} < \frac{\theta+1}{2} - \frac{1}{2} < 1 \) and hence for small enough \( \varepsilon > 0 \)

\[
CO(\varepsilon) - \eta \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} K(x) F(t_v v_\varepsilon) \, dx \leq CO(\varepsilon) - C\eta \varepsilon^{-\frac{1}{2}} \varepsilon^{-\frac{1}{2}} \log \varepsilon |\log \varepsilon| < 0,
\]

when \( \eta > 0 \) is enough large.
when \( \eta > 0 \) is enough large.
If \( \theta \in (3, 5) \) then \( 0 \leq \frac{5-\theta}{2} < 1 \) and for small enough \( \epsilon > 0 \)
\[
CO(\epsilon) - \eta \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} K(x)F(tv_\epsilon)dx \leq CO(\epsilon) - C\eta \theta^\frac{5}{6} \log(\epsilon^\frac{1}{2}) < 0,
\]
for any \( \eta > 0 \).
Consequently, we show that for \( \theta \in (3, 5) \) with any \( \eta > 0 \), or \( \theta \in (1, 3) \) with enough large \( \eta > 0 \)
\[
CO(\epsilon) - \eta \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} K(x)F(tv_\epsilon)dx < 0.
\]
So, we can obtain that \( \sup_{t \to 0} J(tv_\epsilon) < \frac{1}{2} S \| |(l(x)|^\frac{1}{2} \|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^3)} \|^2. \]

**Proof of Theorem 1.1**

Proof. From Lemma 3.3, we know that \( u_n \rightarrow u \) in \( E \). Up to a subsequence, we have
\[
u_n \rightarrow u \quad \text{in } E,
\]
\[
u_n \rightarrow u \quad \text{in } L^r_{loc}(\mathbb{R}^3), \quad \text{for } r \in [2, 6),
\]
\[
u_n \rightarrow u \quad \text{a.e in } \mathbb{R}^3.
\]
(3.5)
By (2.1) – (2.3), we get
\[
J(u_n) = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |(\nabla u_n|^2 + V(x)|u_n|^2)dx - \eta \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} K(x)F(u_n)dx - \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} l(x)\phi_{u_n}|u_n|^5dx
\]
\[
= c + o(1)
\]
and
\[
(J'(u_n), u_n) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |(\nabla u_n|^2 + V(x)|u_n|^2)dx - \eta \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} K(x)F(u_n)dx - \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} l(x)\phi_{u_n}|u_n|^5dx
\]
\[
= o(1).
\]
Assuming \( v_n = u_n - u \), in view of (3.5), Proposition 2.2, Lemma 2.4 and the Brézis-Lieb Lemma [33, 34],
\[
f(u_n) = f(u) + \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |(\nabla v_n|^2 + V(x)|v_n|^2)dx - \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} l(x)\phi_{v_n}|v_n|^5dx
\]
(3.6)
and
\[
(J'(u_n), u_n) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |(\nabla u_n|^2 + V(x)|u_n|^2)dx - \eta \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} K(x)f(u_n)u_n dx - \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} l(x)\phi_{u_n}|u_n|^5dx
\]
\[
= \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |\nabla u|^2 + V(x)|u|^2 dx - \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} l(x)\phi_u|u|^5dx - \eta \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} K(x)f(u)udx
\]
\[
+ \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |(\nabla v_n|^2 + V(x)|v_n|^2)dx - \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} l(x)\phi_{v_n}|v_n|^5dx + o_n(1).
\]
(3.7)
Since \( J'(u_n) \rightarrow 0 \) as \( n \rightarrow +\infty \) and by (3.5) again, we get
\[
(J'(u_n), u) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |(\nabla u|^2 + V(x)u^2)dx - \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} l(x)\phi_u|u|^5dx - \eta \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} K(x)f(u)udx.
\]
From (3.7) and (3.8), we obtain
\[
\int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |\nabla v_n|^2 \, dx + \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} V(x) |v_n|^2 \, dx - \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} l(x)\phi_{v_n} |v_n|^5 \, dx \to 0 \quad \text{as } n \to +\infty
\] (3.9)
and
\[
J(u) = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} (|\nabla u|^2 + V(x)|u|^2) \, dx - \frac{1}{10} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} l(x)\phi_u |u|^5 \, dx - \frac{1}{10} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} K(x)F(u) \, dx
\]
\[
= \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} K(x)f(u)u \, dx - \frac{1}{10} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} K(x)F(u) \, dx + \frac{2}{5} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} l(x)\phi_u |u|^5 \, dx
\] (3.10)
\[
\geq 0.
\]
Without loss of generality we can suppose that
\[
\int_{\mathbb{R}^3} (|\nabla v_n|^2 + V(x)|v_n|^2) \, dx \to l \quad \text{as } n \to \infty
\] (3.11)
and from (3.9)
\[
\int_{\mathbb{R}^3} l(x)\phi_{v_n} |v_n|^5 \, dx \to l \quad \text{as } n \to \infty.
\] (3.12)
By estimate
\[
\int_{\mathbb{R}^3} l(x)\phi_{v_n} |v_n|^5 \, dx \leq \frac{|l(x)|_{\infty}^2 |v_n|^{10}_6}{S} \leq \frac{|l(x)|_{\infty}^2 |v_n|^{10}_6}{S^6}.
\] (3.13)
Combining (3.10) – (3.13), which implies \( l \leq \frac{|l(x)|_{\infty}^2 |v_n|^{10}_6}{S^6} \). Therefore, either \( l = 0 \) or \( l \geq |l(x)|_{\infty}^{-\frac{1}{2}} S^2 \).

If \( l > 0 \), we have \( l \geq |l(x)|_{\infty}^{-\frac{1}{2}} S^2 \). Taking the limit in (3.6) as \( n \to +\infty \), and using (3.10), we obtain \( c_0 \geq \frac{2}{5} |l(x)|_{\infty}^{-\frac{1}{2}} S^2 \). On the other hand, from (3.2) and Lemma 3.4, we obtain \( c_0 \leq \frac{2}{5} |l(x)|_{\infty}^{-\frac{1}{2}} S \). We get a contradiction. This shows that \( l = 0 \). Thus
\[
J(u) = c > 0 \quad \text{and} \quad J'(u) = 0,
\]
i.e. \( u \) is a non-trivial solution of (1.1). We complete the proof. \( \square \)

Acknowledgements: The authors thank the referees for valuable comments and suggestions which improved the presentation of this manuscript. This work is partially supported by the Fundamental Research Funds for the National Natural Science Foundation of China 11671403 and Guizhou University of Finance and Economics of 2018YJ20.

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