

# Nonlinear elliptic equations involving critical Sobolev exponent on compact riemannian manifolds in presence of symmetries.

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## Abstract

In this paper, we study a nonlinear elliptic equation with critical exponent, invariant under the action of a subgroup  $G$  of the isometry group of a compact riemannian manifold. We obtain some existence results of positive solutions of this equation, and under some assumptions on  $G$ , we show that we can solve this equation for supercritical exponents.

## 1 Introduction

1.1. Let  $(M, g)$  be a compact, smooth riemannian  $n$ -manifold,  $n \geq 3$ . Let also  $q \in (1; \frac{n+2}{n-2})$  real, and  $a$ ,  $f$  and  $h$  be three smooth functions on  $M$ . In a previous paper, Djadli [15], we were concerned with the existence of smooth, positive solutions  $u$  to the equation

$$(E) \quad \Delta_g u + au = fu^{\frac{n+2}{n-2}} + hu^q$$

The goal here is to study the same problem, but in presence of symmetries. More precisely, we set  $Isom_g(M)$  the isometry group of  $M$  for the metric  $g$ , and  $G$  a subgroup of  $Isom_g(M)$ . We assume in the rest of the article that  $a$ ,  $f$  and  $h$  are three smooth  $G$ -invariant functions. The goal here is to study the existence of smooth, positive,  $G$ -invariant solutions to  $(E)$ .

1.2. Let us now present the framework. We denote by  $C_G^\infty(M)$  the set of smooth,  $G$ -invariant functions on  $M$ , that is

$$C_G^\infty(M) = \{u \in C^\infty(M), \forall \sigma \in G \quad u \circ \sigma = u\}$$

where  $C^\infty(M)$  is the set of smooth functions defined on  $M$ . We will have to consider the Sobolev space  $H_{1,G}^2(M)$ , the completion of  $C_G^\infty(M)$  with respect to the norm

$$\|u\|_{H_{1,G}^2(M)} = \left( \int_M |\nabla u|^2 dv(g) \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} + \left( \int_M |u|^2 dv(g) \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

1.3. The point here is that the presence of symmetries allows one to improve some well known results concerning the best constant in the Sobolev embedding and the Rellich-Kondrakov theorem. More precisely, if one assume that  $G$  has at least one orbit of finite cardinality, Hebey and Vaugon proved (see [27]), that it is possible to improve the value of the best constant in the Sobolev embedding  $H_{1,G}(M) \hookrightarrow L^{\frac{2n}{n-2}}(M)$  (its value has been obtained by Aubin [2]). The result is the following

**Theorem A.** *Let  $(M, g)$  be a compact riemannian  $n$ -manifold,  $n \geq 3$ , and let  $G$  be a subgroup of the isometry group of  $(M, g)$ ,  $Isom_g(M)$ , having at least one point of finite orbit. We set  $k = \min_{x \in M} Card O_G(x)$ . Then  $\exists B \in \mathbb{R}_+^*$  such that for all  $u \in H_{1,G}(M)$*

$$\left( \int_M |u|^{\frac{2n}{n-2}} dv(g) \right)^{\frac{n-2}{n}} \leq \frac{K(n, 2)^2}{k^{\frac{2}{n}}} \int_M |\nabla u|^2 dv(g) + B \int_M u^2 dv(g)$$

where  $K(n, 2) = \sqrt{\frac{4}{n(n-2)\omega_n^{\frac{2}{n}}}}$  ( $\omega_n$  being the volume of the standard  $n$ -sphere of  $\mathbb{R}^{n+1}$ ) is the best constant in the Sobolev embedding  $H_1(\mathbb{R}^n) \hookrightarrow L^{\frac{2n}{n-2}}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ .

1.4. Besides, if we now assume that all the orbits under the action of  $G$  are infinite, Hebey and Vaugon (see [27]) have proved that it is possible to improve the "exponent" of the embedding. More precisely, we have the following theorem

**Theorem B.** *Let  $(M, g)$  be a smooth, compact, riemannian  $n$ -manifold,  $G$  a subgroup of the isometry group of  $(M, g)$ ,  $Isom_g(M)$ , and  $r \geq 1$*

a real number. We assume that  $\forall x \in M \text{ Card}O_G(x) = +\infty$ . Let  $k = \min_{x \in M} \dim O_{G_0}(x)$  where  $G_0$  denotes the connected component of the identity in  $\bar{G}$  (the closure of  $G$  in  $\text{Isom}_g(M)$ ). Then, if

- $n - k \leq r$  :  $\forall s \geq 1 \quad H_{1,G}^r(M) \subset L^s(M)$  with compact embedding
- $n - k > r$  :  $\forall 1 \leq s \leq \frac{(n-k)r}{n-k-r} \quad H_{1,G}^r(M) \subset L^s(M)$  with compact embedding if  $1 \leq s < \frac{(n-k)r}{n-k-r}$

Note that  $\frac{nr}{n-r} < \frac{(n-k)r}{n-k-r}$ . Roughly speaking, we can say that we can increase the value of the critical Sobolev exponent when considering  $H_{1,G}(M)$  with  $G$  such that all the orbits under the action of  $G$  are infinite.

## 2 Statements of the results

2.1. Following this distinction, this work will be divided in two sections.

### 2.1 The finite case

In this part, we assume that there exists at least one point of finite orbit under the action of  $G$ . First, we prove the following lemma (a kind of generic existence lemma)

**Lemma 2.2.** *Let  $(M, g)$  be a compact, smooth riemannian  $n$ -manifold,  $n \geq 3$ . We set  $\text{Isom}_g(M)$  the isometry group of  $M$  with respect to the metric  $g$ , and let  $G$  be a subgroup of  $\text{Isom}_g(M)$  having at least one orbit of finite cardinality. We set  $p = \frac{n+2}{n-2}$  and let  $q \in (1, p)$ , and  $f, a, h$  be three  $G$ -invariant smooth functions on  $M$ . We assume that  $f$  is positive and that the operator  $\Delta + a$  is coercive in  $H_{1,G}(M)$ . For  $v \in H_{1,G}(M)$ , we define*

$$\Psi(v) = \int \left\{ \frac{1}{2} |\nabla v|^2 + \frac{1}{2} av^2 - \frac{f}{p+1} |v|^{p+1} - \frac{h}{q+1} |v|^{q+1} \right\}$$

and we set  $K(n, 2)$  the best constant in the Sobolev imbedding :  $H_1(M) \hookrightarrow L^{p+1}(M)$  and  $k = \inf_{x \in M} \text{Card}O_G(x)$  where  $O_G(x)$  is the orbit of  $x$  under the action of  $G$ . If there exist  $v_0 \in H_{1,G}(M)$ ,  $v_0 \geq 0$  sur  $M$ ,  $v_0 \not\equiv$

0 such that

$$(\star) \quad \sup_{t \geq 0} \Psi(tv_0) < \frac{k}{nK(n, 2)^n (\sup_M f)^{\frac{n-2}{2}}}$$

then the problem

$$\begin{cases} \Delta_g u + au = fu^{\frac{n+2}{n-2}} + hu^q \\ u \in C^\infty(M) \quad , \quad u > 0 \quad \text{on } M \end{cases}$$

admits a  $G$ -invariant solution.

According to this lemma, the problem reduces to the the existence of some test function  $v_0$  satisfying the condition  $(\star)$ . Here, we will use, as in Djadli [15], two kinds of test functions : local ones (the symmetrisation of the test functions introduced by Aubin [4]) and the test function identically equal to 1 (which is of course  $G$ -invariant). Using local test functions, we prove

**Proposition 2.3.** *Let  $(M, g)$  be a compact, smooth, riemannian  $n$ -manifold,  $n \geq 4$ , and  $G$  a subgroup of the isometry group of  $(M, g)$  having at least one orbit of finite cardinality. We consider  $a$ ,  $f$  and  $h$  three smooth  $G$ -invariant functions with  $f > 0$  on  $M$ , and  $q \in (1; \frac{n+2}{n-2})$ . Let  $\max f$ , be the set where  $f$  attains its maximum and we assume that  $\exists P_0 \in \max f$  such that  $\text{Card}O_G(P_0) = \min_{x \in M} \text{Card}O_G(x)$ . We also assume that  $\Delta_g + a$  is coercive on  $H_{1,G}(M)$  and that*

$$\max_{\{P \in \max f \text{ such that } \text{Card}O_G(P) = \min_{x \in M} \text{Card}O_G(x)\}} h(P) > 0$$

Then the following problem

$$\begin{cases} \Delta_g u + au = fu^{\frac{n+2}{n-2}} + hu^q \\ u \in C^\infty(M) \quad , \quad u > 0 \quad \text{on } M \end{cases}$$

possesses a  $G$ -invariant solution.

2.4. One can also deal with the case where

$$\max_{\{P \in \max f \text{ such that } \text{Card}O_G(P) = \min_{x \in M} \text{Card}O_G(x)\}} h(P) = 0$$

Pushing further the expansions for the test functions, we can prove the following proposition

**Proposition 2.5.** *Let  $(M, g)$  be a compact, smooth, riemannian  $n$ -manifold,  $n \geq 4$ , and  $G$  a subgroup of the isometry group of  $(M, g)$  having at least one orbit of finite cardinality. We consider  $a, f$  and  $h$  three smooth  $G$ -invariant functions with  $f > 0$  on  $M$ , and  $q \in (1, \frac{n+2}{n-2})$ . Let  $\max f$ , be the set where  $f$  attains its maximum and we assume that  $\Delta_g + a$  is coercive on  $H_{1,G}(M)$ . We also assume that  $\exists P_0 \in \max f$  such that*

- (i)  $CardO_G(P_0) = \min_{x \in M} CardO_G(x)$
- (ii)  $h(P_0) = 0$
- (iii)  $\begin{cases} \frac{2Scal_g(P_0)}{n-4} - \frac{8(n-1)a(P_0)}{(n-2)(n-4)} > \frac{\Delta_g f(P_0)}{f(P_0)} & \text{if } n \geq 5 \\ \frac{a(P_0) - \frac{Scal_g(P_0)}{8}}{8} < 0 & \text{if } n = 4 \end{cases}$

Then the following problem

$$\begin{cases} \Delta_g u + au = fu^{\frac{n+2}{n-2}} + hu^q \\ u \in C^\infty(M) \quad , \quad u > 0 \quad \text{on } M \end{cases}$$

possesses a  $G$ -invariant solution.

Using the test function equal to 1, we prove the following

**Proposition 2.6** *Let  $(M, g)$  be a compact, smooth, riemannian  $n$ -manifold,  $n \geq 3$ , and  $G$  a subgroup of the isometry group of  $(M, g)$  having at least one orbit of finite cardinality. We consider  $a, f$  and  $h$  three smooth  $G$ -invariant functions with  $f > 0$  on  $M$ , and  $q \in (1, \frac{n+2}{n-2})$ . We assume that  $\Delta_g + a$  is coercive on  $H_{1,G}(M)$  and that*

$$\left( \frac{\int f}{\sup_{x \in M} f} \right)^{\frac{n-2}{2}} > \frac{(K(n, 2))^n}{k} \left( \int a \right)^{\frac{n}{2}}$$

Then there exists  $\varepsilon \in \mathbb{R}_+^*$  such that for all  $h \in C_G^\infty(M)$  satisfying

$$\left| \int h \right| < \varepsilon$$

the following problem

$$\begin{cases} \Delta_g u + au = fu^{\frac{n+2}{n-2}} + hu^q \\ u \in C^\infty(M) \quad , \quad u > 0 \quad \text{on } M \end{cases}$$

possesses a  $G$ -invariant solution.

## 2.2 The infinite case

In this part, we assume that all the orbits under the action of  $G$  are infinite. Using theorem B of Hebey and Vaugon, we distinguish two cases, leading to the following proposition and the following lemma.

**Proposition 2.7.** *Let  $(M, g)$  be a smooth, compact, riemannian  $n$ -manifold,  $n \geq 3$ . Let  $Isom_g(M)$  be the isometry group of  $(M, g)$ , and let  $G$  be a subgroup of  $Isom_g(M)$  such that*

$$\forall x \in M \quad CardO_G(x) = +\infty$$

We set  $k = \min_{x \in M} dimO_{G_0}(x)$  where  $G_0$  denotes the connected component of the identity in  $\tilde{G}$  (the closure of  $G$  in  $Isom_g(M)$ ), and we set also

$$\begin{aligned} p^* &= \frac{n-k+2}{n-k-2} && \text{if } k < n-2 \\ p^* &= +\infty && \text{if } k \geq n-2 \end{aligned}$$

Let  $p \in (1; p^*)$ ,  $q$  be a real number,  $1 < q < p$ , and  $f, a, h$  be three smooth  $G$ -invariant functions. We assume that  $f$  is positive on  $M$  and that  $\Delta_g + a$  is coercive on  $H_{1,G}(M)$ . Then the problem

$$\begin{cases} \Delta_g u + au = fu^p + hu^q \\ u \in C^\infty(M) \quad u > 0 \quad \text{on } M \end{cases}$$

possesses a  $G$ -invariant solution.

**2.8.** This theorem gives immediately the existence of a solution because here  $p$  is supposed to be subcritical for the embedding of  $H_{1,G}(M) \hookrightarrow L^{p^*}(M)$ . If we assume now that there is a critical exponent (i.e. in the

case  $k < n - 2$ ) and that  $p$  is equal to this critical exponent, we have the following lemma (similar to lemma 2.2).

**Lemma 2.9.** *Let  $(M, g)$  be a smooth, compact, riemannian  $n$ -manifold,  $n \geq 3$ . Let  $Isom_g(M)$  be the isometry group of  $(M, g)$ , and let  $G$  be a subgroup of  $Isom_g(M)$  such that*

$$\forall x \in M \quad CardO_G(x) = +\infty$$

We set  $k = \min_{x \in M} dimO_{G_0}(x)$  where  $G_0$  denotes the connected component of the identity in  $\bar{G}$  (the closure of  $G$  in  $Isom_g(M)$ ), and we assume that  $k < n - 2$ . Let  $q \in (1; \frac{n-k+2}{n-k-2})$  and  $f, a,$  and  $h$  be three smooth  $G$ -invariant functions. We assume that  $f$  is positive on  $M$  and that  $\Delta_g + a$  is coercive on  $H_{1,G}(M)$ . For all  $v \in H_{1,G}(M)$ , let

$$\Psi(v) = \int \left\{ \frac{1}{2} |\nabla v|^2 + \frac{1}{2} av^2 - \frac{f}{p+1} |v|^{p+1} - \frac{h}{q+1} |v|^{q+1} \right\}$$

where  $p = \frac{n-k+2}{n-k-2}$ . We denote by  $\bar{K}$  the best constant in the Sobolev embedding

$$H_{1,G}(M) \hookrightarrow L^{\frac{2(n-k)}{n-k-2}}(M)$$

(see theorem B). Then, if there exists  $v_0 \in H_{1,G}(M)$ ,  $v_0 \geq 0$  on  $M$ ,  $v_0 \not\equiv 0$  such that

$$(\star\star) \quad \sup_{t \geq 0} \Psi(tv_0) < \frac{1}{(n-k)\bar{K}^{n-k}(\sup_M f)^{\frac{n-k-2}{2}}}$$

the problem  $\mathcal{P}_{SC}$  :

$$\begin{cases} \Delta_g u + au = fu^{\frac{n-k+2}{n-k-2}} + hu^q \\ u \in C^\infty(M), \quad u > 0 \quad \text{on } M \end{cases}$$

possesses a  $G$ -invariant solution.

**2.10.** Once again, using this theorem, the problem reduces to find a test function  $v_0$  satisfying the condition  $(\star\star)$ . Here, using the function identically equal to 1, we prove

**Proposition 2.11.** *Let  $(M, g)$  be a smooth, compact, riemannian  $n$ -manifold,  $n \geq 3$ . Let  $Isom_g(M)$  be the isometry group of  $(M, g)$ , and let  $G$  be a subgroup of  $Isom_g(M)$  such that*

$$\forall x \in M \quad CardO_G(x) = +\infty$$

We set  $k = \min_{x \in M} \dim O_{G_0}(x)$  where  $G_0$  denotes the connected component of the identity in  $\bar{G}$  (the closure of  $G$  in  $\text{Isom}_g(M)$ ), and we assume that  $k < n - 2$ . Let  $q \in (1; \frac{n-k+2}{n-k-2})$  and  $f, a,$  and  $h$  be three smooth  $G$ -invariant functions. We assume that  $f$  is positive on  $M$ , that  $\Delta_g + a$  is coercive on  $H_{1,G}(M)$  and that

$$\left( \frac{\int f}{\sup_{x \in M} f} \right)^{\frac{n-k-2}{2}} > (\bar{K}(n, 2))^{n-k} \left( \int a \right)^{\frac{n-k}{2}}$$

Then there exists  $\varepsilon \in \mathbb{R}_+^*$  such that for all  $h \in C^\infty(M)$ ,  $G$ -invariant, satisfying

$$\left| \int h \right| < \varepsilon$$

the problem

$$\begin{cases} \Delta_g u + au = fu^{\frac{n+k+2}{n-k-2}} + hu^q \\ u \in C^\infty(M) \quad u > 0 \quad \text{on } M \end{cases}$$

possesses a  $G$ -invariant solution.

### 3 The finite case - Proofs of lemma 2.2 and propositions 2.3-2.6

**3.1. Proof of lemma 2.2:** The proof of the generic existence lemma 2.2 relies on the following variant of the mountain-pass lemma of Ambrosetti and Rabinowitz [1], as used in the reference article of Brézis-Nirenberg [10].

**Mountain pass lemma.** Let  $\Phi$  be a  $C^1$  function on a Banach space  $E$ . Suppose that there exists a neighborhood  $U$  of  $0$  in  $E$ ,  $v \in E \setminus U$ , and a constant  $\rho$  such that

$$\Phi(0) < \rho, \quad \Phi(v) < \rho, \quad \Phi(u) \geq \rho \quad \text{for all } u \in \partial U$$

Set

$$c = \inf_{P \in \mathcal{P}} \max_{w \in P} \Phi(w)$$

where  $\mathcal{P}$  denotes the class of continuous paths joining  $0$  to  $v$ . Then there exists a sequence  $(u_j)$  in  $E$  such that  $\Phi(u_j) \rightarrow c$  and  $\Phi'(u_j) \rightarrow 0$  in  $E^*$ .



With such a lemma, the proof of lemma 2.2 proceeds as follows. As one will see, only minor modifications with respect to what has been done in Brézis-Nirenberg [10] are needed. First we set

$$g : M \times \mathbf{R} \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$$

$$(x, t) \rightarrow g(x, t) = -a(x)t + h(x)|t|^q$$

and for  $s \in \mathbf{R}^+$ , we set

$$G(x, s) = \int_0^s g(x, t)dt$$

with the convention that  $G(x, s) = 0$  if  $s \leq 0$ . Let  $\mu$  be large enough so that for all  $x \in M$  and all  $t \in \mathbf{R}_+^*$

$$g(x, t) + f(x)t^p + \mu t \geq 0$$

This implies that  $\mu > a(x)$  for all  $x$  in  $M$ . For  $\varphi \in H_{1,G}(M)$ , we define

$$J(\varphi) = \int \left\{ \frac{1}{2} |\nabla \varphi|^2 + \frac{1}{2} \mu \varphi^2 - \frac{1}{p+1} f(\varphi^+)^{p+1} - G(\cdot, \varphi^+) - \frac{1}{2} \mu (\varphi^+)^2 \right\}$$

Clearly  $J$  is  $C^1$  on  $H_{1,G}(M)$  and its differential is given by

$$J'_\varphi \cdot \varphi = \int \left\{ \nabla^i \psi \nabla_i \varphi + \mu \psi \varphi - f(\psi^+)^p \varphi + a \psi^+ \varphi - h(\psi^+)^q \varphi - \mu (\psi^+) \varphi \right\}$$

Since  $p > q$  and  $M$  is compact, one gets that for all  $\varepsilon > 0$  there exists  $C_\varepsilon$  such that for all  $\varphi \geq 0$

$$h\varphi^q \leq \varepsilon \varphi + C_\varepsilon \varphi^p$$

Then

$$G(\cdot, \varphi^+) \leq -\frac{1}{2} a(\varphi^+)^2 + \frac{1}{2} \varepsilon (\varphi^+)^2 + \frac{C_\varepsilon}{p+1} (\varphi^+)^{p+1}$$

and it follows that for all  $\varphi \in H_{1,G}(M)$

$$J(\varphi) \geq \int \left\{ \frac{1}{2} |\nabla \varphi|^2 + \frac{1}{2} a(\varphi^+)^2 + \frac{1}{2} \mu (\varphi^+)^2 - \frac{1}{2} \varepsilon (\varphi^+)^2 - \frac{C_\varepsilon}{p+1} (\varphi^+)^{p+1} - \frac{1}{p+1} f(\varphi^+)^{p+1} \right\}$$

$$\geq \int \left\{ \frac{1}{2} |\nabla \varphi|^2 + \frac{1}{2} a(\varphi^+)^2 \right\}$$

$$- \int \left\{ \frac{1}{2} \varepsilon (\varphi^+)^2 + \frac{C_\varepsilon}{p+1} (\varphi^+)^{p+1} + \frac{1}{p+1} f(\varphi^+)^{p+1} \right\}$$

since  $\mu \geq a$ . Furthermore, by using the coercivity of  $\Delta_g + a$ , we have for  $\varepsilon$  small

$$J(\varphi) \geq k\|\varphi\|_{H_{1,G}}^2 - C \int (\varphi^+)^{p+1}$$

where  $k > 0$  and  $C > 0$  are positive constants. Then, using the Sobolev embedding theorem

$$\begin{aligned} J(\varphi) &\geq k\|\varphi\|_{H_{1,G}}^2 - C'\|\varphi\|_{p+1}^{p+1} \\ &\geq k\|\varphi\|_{H_{1,G}}^2 - C''\|\varphi\|_{H_{1,G}}^{p+1} \end{aligned}$$

where  $C'' > 0$ . Letting  $U = B_0(r)$  in  $H_{1,G}(M)$ , one then has that for  $r$  small enough, there exists  $\rho > 0$  such that for all  $u \in \partial U$ ,  $J(u) > \rho$ . In addition  $J(0) = 0 < \rho$ , while for  $t \geq 0$  and  $\varphi \in H_{1,G}(M)$ ,  $\varphi \geq 0$ ,  $\varphi \neq 0$ ,

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} J(t\varphi) = -\infty$$

(since  $f$  is positive on  $M$  and  $p > q$ ). This proves that the assumptions of the mountain pass lemma are satisfied with  $v = t\varphi$  for  $t$  large. As a consequence there exists  $(u_j) \in (H_{1,G}(M))^{\mathbf{N}}$  such that

$$\begin{aligned} J(u_j) &\rightarrow c \\ J'_{u_j} &\rightarrow 0 \text{ strongly in } (H_{1,G}(M))' \end{aligned}$$

where

$$c = \inf_{P \in \mathcal{P}} \max_{w \in P} \Phi(w) \geq \rho,$$

and  $\mathcal{P}$  denotes the class of continuous path joining 0 to  $v$ . Furthermore, taking  $\varphi = v_0$  (given by lemma 2.2), and according to the assumptions of this lemma, one can assume that

$$c < \frac{k}{nK(n, 2)^n (\max_M f)^{\frac{n-2}{2}}}$$

Now we claim that  $(u_j)$  is a bounded sequence in  $H_{1,G}(M)$ . According to the mountain pass lemma we get that

$$\int \left\{ \frac{1}{2} |\nabla u_j|^2 + \frac{1}{2} \mu u_j^2 - \frac{1}{p+1} f(u_j^+)^{p+1} - G(\cdot, u_j^+) - \frac{1}{2} \mu (u_j^+)^2 \right\} = c + o(1) \tag{3.1}$$

and that  $\|J'_{u_j}\|_{H'_1} \rightarrow 0$ . Since  $|J'_{u_j} \cdot u_j| \leq \|J'_{u_j}\|_{H'_1} \cdot \|u_j\|_{H_{1,G}}$ , and applying  $J'_{u_j}$  to  $u_j$ , we obtain

$$\int \left\{ |\nabla u_j|^2 + \mu u_j^2 - f(u_j^+)^{p+1} - g(\cdot, u_j^+) u_j - \mu (u_j^+)^2 \right\} = \|u_j\|_{H_{1,G}} o(1) \quad (3.2)$$

Taking (3.1) -  $\frac{1}{2}$ (3.2), one then gets that

$$\begin{aligned} \int \left\{ \frac{1}{2} f(u_j^+)^{p+1} - \frac{1}{p+1} f(u_j^+)^{p+1} - G(\cdot, u_j^+) + \frac{1}{2} g(\cdot, u_j^+) u_j \right\} \\ = c + o(1) + \|u_j\|_{H_{1,G}} o(1) \end{aligned}$$

so that

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{n} \int f(u_j^+)^{p+1} &= \int \left\{ G(\cdot, u_j^+) - \frac{1}{2} g(\cdot, u_j^+) u_j \right\} + c + o(1) + \|u_j\|_{H_{1,G}} o(1) \\ &= \frac{1-q}{2(1+q)} \int h(u_j^+)^{q+1} + c + o(1) + \|u_j\|_{H_{1,G}} o(1) \end{aligned}$$

Since  $f > 0$  on  $M$ , there exists  $C > 0$  such that

$$\frac{C}{n} \int (u_j^+)^{p+1} \leq \frac{q-1}{2(q+1)} \int |h|(u_j^+)^{q+1} + c + o(1) + \|u_j\|_{H_{1,G}} o(1)$$

But  $p+1 > q+1$ . Hence, there exists  $C'_\varepsilon > 0$  such that for all nonnegative  $t$ ,  $t^{q+1} \leq \varepsilon t^{p+1} + C'_\varepsilon$ . Then

$$\frac{C}{n} \int (u_j^+)^{p+1} - \frac{(q-1)\varepsilon}{2(q+1)} \sup_{x \in M} |h(x)| \int (u_j^+)^{p+1} \leq \text{Constant} + \|u_j\|_{H_{1,G}} o(1)$$

and

$$\left( \frac{C}{n} - \frac{(q-1)\varepsilon}{2(q+1)} \sup_{x \in M} |h| \right) \int (u_j^+)^{p+1} \leq \text{Constant} + \|u_j\|_{H_{1,G}} o(1)$$

But for  $\varepsilon$  small enough

$$\frac{C}{n} - \frac{(q-1)\varepsilon}{2(q+1)} \sup_{x \in M} |h| > 0$$

Hence,

$$\int (u_j^+)^{p+1} \leq \text{Constant} + C_j \|u_j\|_{H_{1,G}}$$

with  $\lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} C_j = 0$ . Now according to (3.1)

$$\int \left\{ \frac{1}{2} |\nabla u_j|^2 + \frac{1}{2} \mu u_j^2 \right\} = \int \left\{ \frac{1}{p+1} f(u_j^+)^{p+1} + G(\cdot, u_j^+) + \frac{1}{2} \mu (u_j^+)^2 \right\} + c + o(1)$$

and clearly

$$\frac{1}{2} \inf(1, \mu) \|u_j\|_{H_{1,G}}^2 \leq \text{Constant} \int (u_j^+)^{p+1} \leq \text{Constant} + \|u_j\|_{H_{1,G}}^2 o(1)$$

Finally

$$\|u_j\|_{H_{1,G}} \leq \text{Constant}$$

where the constant involved in this inequality is independent of  $j$ . The sequence  $(u_j)_{j \in \mathbf{N}}$  is then bounded in  $H_{1,G}(M)$ , and this proves the claim. By classical arguments, we can now extract a subsequence, still denoted by  $(u_j)$ , so that (for a certain  $u$  in  $H_{1,G}(M)$ )

$$\begin{cases} u_j \rightharpoonup u & \text{weakly in } H_{1,G}(M) \\ u_j \rightarrow u & \text{strongly in } L^r(M) \text{ for all given } r < p+1 \\ u_j \rightarrow u & \text{a.e. on } M \end{cases}$$

Note here that

$$(u_j^+)^p \rightarrow (u^+)^p \quad \text{a.e. on } M$$

while

$$\int ((u_j^+)^p)^{\frac{p+1}{p}} = \int (u_j^+)^{p+1} \leq C$$

By a classical result of integration, one then gets that  $(u_j^+)^p \rightarrow (u^+)^p$  weakly in  $L^{p+1}(M)$ . In addition,  $g(x, u_j^+) \rightarrow g(x, u^+)$  weakly in  $L^{p+1}(M)$  since  $(u_j)$  converges strongly in  $L^q(M)$ . Taking the limit for  $j \rightarrow +\infty$  in the following equality

$$\int_M \left\{ \nabla_i u_j \nabla^i \varphi + \mu u_j \varphi - f(u_j^+)^p \varphi - g(\cdot, u_j^+) \varphi - \frac{1}{2} \mu u_j^+ \varphi \right\} = J'_{u_j} \cdot \varphi$$

we get that for all  $\varphi \in H_{1,G}(M)$ ,

$$\int_M \left\{ \nabla_i u \nabla^i \varphi + \mu u \varphi - f(u^+)^p \varphi - g(\cdot, u^+) \varphi - \mu u^+ \varphi \right\} = 0$$

According to the Hopf maximum principle,  $u \geq 0$  on  $M$ .

**3.2.** Now, to use the classical results of regularity, we must prove that  $u$  satisfies this equation weakly in  $H_1(M)$ . In this aim, we consider  $v \in H_1(M)$  and we set  $\bar{G}$  the closure of  $G$  in  $Isom_g$ . Then  $u \circ \sigma = u$  a.e. on  $M$ . We denote by  $d\sigma$  the Haar measure on  $\bar{G}$  and we set

$$\bar{v}(x) = \int_{\bar{G}} v(\sigma(x))d\sigma$$

for all  $x \in M$ . One can easily see that  $\bar{v}$  is  $G$ -invariant. It follows that

$$\int_M \left\{ \nabla_i u \nabla^i \bar{v} + au\bar{v} - fu^p\bar{v} - hu^q\bar{v} \right\} dv(g) = 0$$

since  $\bar{v}$  is  $G$ -invariant. Hence

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= \int_M \left\{ \nabla_i u \nabla^i \left( \frac{1}{\int_{\bar{G}} d\sigma} \int_{\bar{G}} v(\sigma(x))d\sigma \right) + au \left( \frac{1}{\int_{\bar{G}} d\sigma} \int_{\bar{G}} v(\sigma(x))d\sigma \right) \right. \\ &\quad \left. - fu^p \left( \frac{1}{\int_{\bar{G}} d\sigma} \int_{\bar{G}} v(\sigma(x))d\sigma \right) - hu^q \left( \frac{1}{\int_{\bar{G}} d\sigma} \int_{\bar{G}} v(\sigma(x))d\sigma \right) \right\} dv(g) \\ &= \frac{1}{\int_{\bar{G}} d\sigma} \int_M \left\{ \nabla_i u \nabla^i \left( \int_{\bar{G}} v(\sigma(x))d\sigma \right) + au \left( \int_{\bar{G}} v(\sigma(x))d\sigma \right) \right. \\ &\quad \left. - fu^p \left( \int_{\bar{G}} v(\sigma(x))d\sigma \right) - hu^q \left( \int_{\bar{G}} v(\sigma(x))d\sigma \right) \right\} dv(g) \end{aligned}$$

But

$$\nabla^i \left( \int_{\bar{G}} v(\sigma(x))d\sigma \right) = \int_{\bar{G}} \nabla^i v(\sigma(x))d\sigma$$

Henceforth

$$\begin{aligned} \int_M \int_{\bar{G}} \{ \nabla_i u \nabla^i (v(\sigma(x))) + au(v(\sigma(x))) - fu^p(v(\sigma(x))) \\ - hu^q(v(\sigma(x))) \} d\sigma dv(g) = 0 \end{aligned}$$

Thanks to the Fubini's theorem, we get

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\bar{G}} \int_M \{ \nabla_i u \nabla^i (v(\sigma(x))) + au(v(\sigma(x))) - fu^p(v(\sigma(x))) \\ - hu^q(v(\sigma(x))) \} dv(g)d\sigma = 0 \end{aligned}$$

But the integral on  $M$  doesn't depend on  $\sigma \in \bar{G}$  since  $a, f, h$  and  $u$  are  $G$ -invariant; then we have

$$\int_M \{ \nabla_i u \nabla^i v + auv - fu^p v - hu^q v \} dv(g) = 0$$

for all  $v \in H_1(M)$ . Hence,  $u$  is a weak solution in  $H_1(M)$  of the equation

$$\Delta u + au = fu^p + hu^q$$

Now, by classical regularity theorems,  $u$  is  $C^\infty$  on  $M$  and, as we said,  $u$  is a non-negative solution of the equation

$$\Delta_g u = fu^p - g(\cdot, u)$$

Once again, by the maximum principle, either  $u \equiv 0$ , either  $u > 0$  on  $M$ . Moreover, by construction,  $u$  is  $G$ -invariant.

Let us now prove that  $u \not\equiv 0$ .

For this aim, we use the following assumption of lemma 2.2 :  $\exists v_0 \in H_{1,G}(M)$ ,  $v_0 \not\equiv 0$  such that

$$\sup_{t \geq 0} \Psi(tv_0) < \frac{k}{nK(n, 2)^n (\sup f)^{\frac{n-2}{2}}}$$

(we recall that  $k = \inf_{x \in M} \text{Card} O_G(x)$  where  $O_G(x)$  is the orbit of  $x$  under the action of  $G$ ). First note that

$$\sup_{t \geq 0} J(tv_0) < \frac{k}{nK(n, 2)^n (\sup f)^{\frac{n-2}{2}}}$$

since  $v_0 \geq 0$ . Then

$$c < \frac{k}{nK(n, 2)^n (\sup f)^{\frac{n-2}{2}}}$$

where

$$c = \lim_{j \rightarrow +\infty} J(u_j)$$

Independently, assume that  $u \equiv 0$ . It follows that

$$\int g(\cdot, u_j^+) u_j^+ = \int \{ -a(u_j^+)^2 + h(u_j^+)^{q+1} \}$$

and then, since  $u \equiv 0$  and  $u_j \rightarrow u$  strongly in  $L^q(M)$  :

$$\int g(\cdot, u_j^+) u_j^+ \rightarrow 0$$

Similarly

$$\int G(\cdot, u_j^+) \rightarrow 0$$

Up to a subsequence, we can assume that  $\int |\nabla u_j|^2 \rightarrow l$  since  $(u_j)$  is bounded in  $H_{1,G}(M)$  and  $u_j \rightarrow 0$  in  $L^2(M)$ . Taking the limit in (3.2), we get

$$\int f(u_j^+)^{p+1} \rightarrow l$$

and according to (3.1) :

$$\frac{1}{2}l - \frac{1}{p+1}l = c$$

that is

$$\frac{1}{n}l = c$$

Besides, thanks to theorem A, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \|f^{\frac{1}{p+1}} u_j^+\|_{p+1}^2 &\leq (\sup f)^{\frac{2}{p+1}} \|u_j\|_{p+1}^2 \\ &\leq \frac{K(n,2)^2}{k^{\frac{2}{n}}} \|u_j\|_{H_{1,G}}^2 (\sup f)^{\frac{2}{p+1}} + \text{Constant} \|u_j\|_2^2 \end{aligned}$$

and taking the limit, since  $\|u_j\|_2 \rightarrow 0$ , we get

$$\frac{K(n,2)^2}{k^{\frac{2}{n}}} l \geq \frac{1}{(\sup f)^{\frac{2}{p+1}}} l^{\frac{2}{p+1}}$$

that is

$$\frac{K(n,2)^2}{k^{\frac{2}{n}}} l^{\frac{2}{n}} \geq \frac{1}{(\sup f)^{\frac{2}{p+1}}}$$

Hence

$$c \geq \frac{k}{nK(n,2)^n (\sup f)^{\frac{n-2}{2}}}$$

which is a contradiction. This ends the proof. ■

According to lemma 2.2, the problem reduces to the existence of some test function  $v_0$  in  $H_{1,G}(M)$ , satisfying the condition  $(\star)$ . Let us now construct such a test function. Let  $P \in M$  where  $f$  achieves its maximum. We assume that

$$\text{Card}O_G(P) = \inf_{x \in M} \text{Card}O_G(x)$$

in other words, we assume that  $P$  is a point of minimal orbit. We set

$$O_G(P) = \{P_1, \dots, P_k\}$$

For each  $P_i$  we consider  $\psi_m^i$  defined by

$$\begin{aligned} \psi_m^i(Q) &= \left( \frac{1}{m} + \frac{1 - \cos \alpha r}{\alpha^2} \right)^{1 - \frac{n}{2}} - \left( \frac{1}{m} + \frac{1 - \cos \alpha \delta}{\alpha^2} \right)^{1 - \frac{n}{2}} \quad \forall Q \in \bar{B}_{P_i}(\delta) \\ \psi_m^i(Q) &= 0 \quad \forall Q \in M \setminus \bar{B}_{P_i}(\delta) \end{aligned}$$

where  $r = d(P_i, Q)$ ,  $\text{Scal}_g(P_i) = n(n-1)\alpha^2$ ,  $\psi_m^i$  with compact support in  $\bar{B}_{P_i}(\delta)$ , and where  $\delta$  is fixed such that  $|\alpha|\delta \leq \pi$ , less than the injectivity radius of  $M$  and such that  $B_{P_i}(2\delta) \cap B_{P_j}(2\delta) = \emptyset$  for all  $i \neq j$ .

We set

$$\psi_m = \sum_{i=1}^k \psi_m^i$$

Clearly  $\psi_m$  is  $G$ -invariant. One easily checks that for all  $t \in \mathbb{R}^+$  :

$$\Psi\left(t \frac{\psi_m}{\|\psi_m\|_{p+1}}\right) = \sum_{i=1}^k \Psi\left(t \frac{\psi_m^i}{\|\psi_m\|_{p+1}}\right)$$

But

$$\|\psi_m\|_{p+1} = k \times \|\psi_m^i\|_{p+1}$$

for all  $i \in \{1, \dots, k\}$ . Then

$$\Psi\left(t \frac{\psi_m}{\|\psi_m\|_{p+1}}\right) = \sum_{i=1}^k \Psi\left(t \frac{\psi_m^i}{k \|\psi_m^i\|_{p+1}}\right) = k \Psi\left(t \frac{\psi_m^1}{k \|\psi_m^1\|_{p+1}}\right)$$

that is

$$\Psi\left(t \frac{\psi_m}{\|\psi_m\|_{p+1}}\right) = \frac{t^2}{2} \frac{1}{k} \int |\nabla \left( \frac{\psi_m^1}{\|\psi_m^1\|_{p+1}} \right)|^2 + \frac{t^2}{2} \frac{1}{k} \int_M a \left( \frac{\psi_m^1}{\|\psi_m^1\|_{p+1}} \right)^2$$



$$-\frac{t^{p+1}}{p+1} \frac{1}{k^p} \int_M f \left( \frac{\psi_m^1}{\|\psi_m^1\|_{p+1}} \right)^{p+1} - \frac{t^{q+1}}{q+1} \frac{1}{k^q} \int_M h \left( \frac{\psi_m^1}{\|\psi_m^1\|_{p+1}} \right)^{q+1}$$

Thanks to what we said previously and the computations of Djadli [15], we can give the expansion of  $\Psi(t \frac{\psi_m}{\|\psi_m\|_{p+1}})$  for  $n \geq 5$

$$\begin{aligned} \Psi\left(t \frac{\psi_m}{\|\psi_m\|_{p+1}}\right) &= \frac{1}{K(n, 2)^2} \frac{1}{k} \frac{t^2}{2} - \frac{1}{p+1} \frac{1}{k^p} f(P) t^{p+1} - \frac{1}{m} \left( \frac{Scal_g(P) t^2}{n(n-4)K(n, 2)^2} \frac{1}{k} \right. \\ &\quad \left. - \frac{4(n-1)a(P)t^2}{n(n-2)(n-4)K(n, 2)^2} \frac{1}{k} - \frac{\Delta f(P)t^{p+1}}{2n} \frac{1}{k^p} \right) \\ &\quad - C'_1 h(P) m^l t^{q+1} \frac{1}{k^q} + o\left(\frac{1}{m}\right) g_1(t) \end{aligned}$$

where

$$g_1 \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^+) \quad g_1(0) = 0$$

$C'_1 > 0$  is a constant independent of  $m$

$$l = \frac{(n-2)(q-1)}{4} - 1 \quad l \in (-1; 0)$$

In the case  $n = 4$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \Psi\left(t \frac{\psi_m}{\|\psi_m\|_{p+1}}\right) &= \frac{1}{K(n, 2)^2} \frac{1}{k} \frac{t^2}{2} - \frac{1}{p+1} f(P) \frac{1}{k^p} t^{p+1} + \\ &\quad + \frac{\log m}{m} \frac{1}{k} \left( \frac{a(P)}{2} - \frac{(n-2)^2 Scal_g(P)}{16(n-1)} \right) C_1 t^2 \\ &\quad - C'_1 h(P) m^l t^{q+1} \frac{1}{k^q} + O\left(\frac{1}{k}\right) g_2(t) \end{aligned}$$

where

$$g_2 \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^+) \quad g_2(0) = 0$$

$C_1 > 0, C'_1 > 0$  are two constant independent of  $m$

$$l = \frac{(n-2)(q-1)}{4} - 1 \quad l \in (-1; 0)$$

**3.3.** Before proving propositions 2.3-2.6, we prove the following technical lemma, useful in the proof of propositions 2.3 and 2.5.

**Lemma 3.4.** *Let  $1 < q < p = \frac{n+2}{n-2}$  and  $A > 0$ ,  $B > 0$  be given real numbers. For  $m \in \mathbf{N}^*$ , let also  $A(m)$ ,  $B(m)$  and  $C(m)$  be real numbers such that  $A(m) \rightarrow A$ ,  $B(m) \rightarrow B$  and  $C(m) \rightarrow 0$  as  $m \rightarrow +\infty$ . We define*

$$F(t, m) = A(m)t^2 - B(m)t^{p+1} - C(m)t^{q+1}$$

*Then, for  $m$  large, one has that there exists  $t_m$  such that*

$$F(t_m, m) = \max_{t \geq 0} F(t, m)$$

*with the additionnal property that if  $t_0 = \left(\frac{2A}{(p+1)B}\right)^{\frac{1}{p-1}}$ , then  $t_m \rightarrow t_0$  as  $m \rightarrow +\infty$ . Furthermore, if  $A(m) = A + O(m^s)$ ,  $B(m) = B + O(m^s)$  and  $C = O(m^s)$ , for some  $s < 0$ , then  $t_m = t_0 + O(m^s)$ .*

**Proof of lemma 3.4:** For  $m$  large enough such that  $B(m) > 0$ , one has that

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} F(t, m) = -\infty$$

As a consequence, there exists  $t_m > 0$  such that

$$F(t_m, m) = \max_{t \geq 0} F(t, m)$$

Furthermore, one clearly has that there exists  $T > 0$ , independent of  $m$ , such that for  $m$  large enough,  $t_m < T$ . In the same order of idea, one clearly checks that there exists  $\varepsilon > 0$ , independent of  $m$ , such that for  $m$  large enough,  $t_m \geq \varepsilon$ . Suppose now that a subsequence  $(t_{m_i})$  of  $(t_m)$  converges to some  $\tilde{t}$ . Then we have

$$\lim_{i \rightarrow +\infty} F(t_{m_i}, m_i) = 0$$

so that

$$2A\tilde{t} = (p+1)B\tilde{t}^p$$

Hence,  $\tilde{t} = t_0$ , where  $t_0$  is defined in the statement of the lemma. Clearly, this proves that  $t_m \rightarrow t_0$  as  $m \rightarrow +\infty$ . On what concerns the second part of the lemma, let us now write that  $t_m = t_0 + \theta_m$  with  $\theta_m \rightarrow 0$  as  $m \rightarrow +\infty$ . Since  $F(t_m, m) = 0$  for all  $m$ , one has that

$$\begin{aligned} 2(A + O(m^s)) &= (p+1)(B + O(m^s))t_0^{p-1} \left(1 + \frac{\theta_m}{t_0}\right) \\ &\quad + (q+1)O(m^s)(t_0 + \theta_m)^{q-1} \end{aligned}$$

Hence,

$$2A + O(m^s) = (p + 1)Bt_0^{p-1} \left(1 + \frac{\theta_m}{t_0}\right)^{p-1}$$

and since  $2A = (p + 1)Bt_0^{p-1}$ , and

$$\left(1 + \frac{\theta_m}{t_0}\right)^{p-1} = 1 + \frac{p-1}{t_0}\theta_m + O(\theta_m)$$

one gets that  $\theta_m = O(m^s)$ . This ends the proof of the lemma. ■

**3.5. Proof of Proposition 2.3:** We assume that  $n \geq 4$  and that

$$\max_{\{P \in \text{Max} f \text{ such that } \text{Card}O_G(P) = \min_{x \in M} \text{Card}O_G(x)\}} h(P) > 0$$

In other words, we assume that there exists  $P \in \text{max} f$  such that  $h(P) > 0$  with  $P$  of minimal orbit. We choose such a point to construct the  $\psi_m$ 's, and we set

$$\Psi\left(t \frac{\psi_m}{\|\psi_m\|_{p+1}}\right) = F(t, m) = A(m)t^2 - B(m)t^{p+1} - C(m)t^{q+1}$$

There,

$$\begin{aligned} A(m) &= \frac{1}{2} \int \{|\nabla\left(\frac{\psi_m}{\|\psi_m\|_{p+1}}\right)|^2 + a(x)\left(\frac{\psi_m}{\|\psi_m\|_{p+1}}\right)^2\} > 0 \\ B(m) &= \frac{1}{p+1} \int f.\left(\frac{\psi_m}{\|\psi_m\|_{p+1}}\right)^{p+1} > 0 \\ C(m) &= \int h.\left(\frac{\psi_m}{\|\psi_m\|_{p+1}}\right)^{q+1} \end{aligned}$$

and (see Djadli [15])

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{m \rightarrow +\infty} A(m) &= \frac{1}{2K(n,2)^2} = A > 0 \\ \lim_{m \rightarrow +\infty} B(m) &= \frac{1}{p+1} f(P) = B > 0 \\ \lim_{m \rightarrow +\infty} C(m) &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

Let  $t_m$  and  $t_0$  be as in lemma 3.4. According to the above estimates,

$$\Psi\left(t_m \frac{\psi_m}{\|\psi_m\|_{p+1}}\right) = \frac{1}{K(\tau, 2)^2} \frac{1}{k} \frac{t_m^2}{2} - \frac{1}{p+1} \frac{1}{k^p} f(P)t_m^{p+1} - C'_1 h(P)m^l \frac{1}{k^q} t_m^{q+1} + o(m^l)$$

with  $C'_1 > 0$  and  $h(P) > 0$ . One can then write for  $m$  large

$$\begin{aligned} \Psi\left(t_m \frac{\psi_m}{\|\psi_m\|_{p+1}}\right) &< \frac{1}{K(n, 2)^2} \frac{1}{k} \frac{t_m^2}{2} - \frac{1}{p+1} \frac{1}{k^p} f(P) t_m^{p+1} \\ &\leq \frac{1}{K(n, 2)^2} \frac{1}{k} \frac{t_0^2}{2} - \frac{1}{p+1} \frac{1}{k^p} f(P) t_0^{p+1} \end{aligned}$$

As a consequence

$$\Psi\left(t_m \frac{\psi_m}{\|\psi_m\|_{p+1}}\right) < \frac{k}{nK(n, 2)^n (\sup f)^{\frac{n-2}{2}}}$$

and condition  $(\star)$  of lemma 2.2 is verified. This ends the proof of proposition 2.3. ■

**3.6. Proof of Proposition 2.5:** First we assume that  $n \geq 5$  and that

$$\max_{\{P \in \text{Max} f \text{ such that } \text{Card} O_G(P) = \min_{x \in M} \text{Card} O_G(x)\}} h(P) = 0$$

Let  $P$  be some point of  $\text{max} f$  of minimal orbit for which  $h(P) = 0$ . According to the above expansions, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \Psi\left(t \frac{\psi_m}{\|\psi_m\|_{p+1}}\right) &= \frac{1}{K(n, 2)^2} \frac{1}{k} \frac{t^2}{2} - \frac{1}{p+1} \frac{1}{k^p} f(P) t^{p+1} - \frac{1}{m} \left( \frac{\text{Scal}_g(P) t^2}{n(n-4)K(n, 2)^2} \frac{1}{k} \right. \\ &\quad \left. - \frac{4(n-1)a(P)t^2}{n(n-2)(n-4)K(n, 2)^2} \frac{1}{k} - \frac{\Delta_g f(P) t^{p+1}}{2n} \frac{1}{k^p} \right) + o\left(\frac{1}{m}\right) \end{aligned}$$

By lemma 3.4, one can write  $t_m = t_0 + \varepsilon(\frac{1}{m})$  with  $\varepsilon(\frac{1}{m}) = O(\frac{1}{m})$ . Hence

$$\begin{aligned} \Psi\left(t_m \frac{\psi_m}{\|\psi_m\|_{p+1}}\right) &= \frac{1}{K(n, 2)^2} \frac{1}{k} \frac{t_m^2}{2} \\ &\quad - \frac{1}{p+1} \frac{1}{k^p} f(P) t_m^{p+1} - \frac{1}{m} \left( \frac{\text{Scal}_g(P) (t_0 + O(\frac{1}{m}))^2}{n(n-4)K(n, 2)^2} \frac{1}{k} \right. \\ &\quad \left. - \frac{4(n-1)a(P)(t_0 + O(\frac{1}{m}))^2}{n(n-2)(n-4)K(n, 2)^2} \frac{1}{k} - \frac{\Delta_g f(P) (t_0 + O(\frac{1}{m}))^{p+1}}{2n} \frac{1}{k^p} \right) + o\left(\frac{1}{m}\right) \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \Psi\left(t_m \frac{\psi_m}{\|\psi_m\|_{p+1}}\right) &= \frac{1}{K(n, 2)^2} \frac{1}{k} \frac{t_m^2}{2} \\ &\quad - \frac{1}{p+1} \frac{1}{k^p} f(P) t_m^{p+1} - \frac{1}{m} \left( \frac{Scal_g(P) t_0^2}{n(n-4)K(n, 2)^2} \frac{1}{k} \right. \\ &\quad \left. - \frac{4(n-1)a(P)t_0^2}{n(n-2)(n-4)K(n, 2)^2} \frac{1}{k} - \frac{\Delta_g f(P) t_0^{p+1}}{2n} \frac{1}{k^p} \right) + o\left(\frac{1}{m}\right) \end{aligned}$$

Now assume that

$$\frac{Scal_g(P)t_0^2}{n(n-4)K(n, 2)^2} - \frac{4(n-1)a(P)t_0^2}{n(n-2)(n-4)K(n, 2)^2} - \frac{\Delta_g f(P)t_0^{p+1}}{2n} \frac{1}{k^{p-1}} > 0$$

that is

$$\frac{2Scal_g(P)}{n-4} - \frac{8(n-1)a(P)}{(n-2)(n-4)} > \frac{\Delta_g f(P)}{f(P)}$$

Then, for  $m$  large,

$$\begin{aligned} \Psi\left(t_m \frac{\psi_m}{\|\psi_m\|_{p+1}}\right) &< \frac{1}{K(n, 2)^2} \frac{1}{k} \frac{t_m^2}{2} - \frac{1}{p+1} \frac{1}{k^p} f(P) t_m^{p+1} \\ &\leq \frac{1}{K(n, 2)^2} \frac{1}{k} \frac{t_0^2}{2} - \frac{1}{p+1} \frac{1}{k^p} f(P) t_0^{p+1} \end{aligned}$$

so that, for  $m$  large,

$$\Psi\left(t_m \frac{\psi_m}{\|\psi_m\|_{p+1}}\right) < \frac{1}{nK(n, 2)^n (\sup f)^{\frac{n-2}{2}}}$$

This is condition  $(\star)$  of lemma 2.2. In the case  $n = 4$ , the arguments to obtain such an inequality are similar to those just developed. This ends the proof of proposition 2.5. ■

**3.7. Proof of Proposition 2.6:** As a test function, we use here the constant function 1. For a fixed  $t \geq 0$ , if we note  $C_t \equiv t$ , we can write

$$\Psi(C_t) = \frac{t^2}{2} \int a - \frac{t^{p+1}}{p+1} \int f - \frac{t^{q+1}}{q+1} \int h$$

We set

$$\tilde{A} = \int a, \quad \tilde{B} = \int f, \quad \tilde{C} = \int h$$

Then

$$\Psi(C_t) = \frac{t^2}{2} \tilde{A} - \frac{t^{p+1}}{p+1} \tilde{B} - \frac{t^{q+1}}{q+1} \tilde{C}$$

One clearly has

$$\Psi(C_t) \leq \frac{\tilde{A}}{2} t^2 - \frac{\tilde{B}}{p+1} t^{p+1} + \frac{|\tilde{C}|}{q+1} t^{q+1}$$

Setting

$$F(t) = \frac{\tilde{A}}{2} t^2 - \frac{\tilde{B}}{p+1} t^{p+1} + \frac{|\tilde{C}|}{q+1} t^{q+1}$$

we compute

$$F'(t) = \tilde{A}t - \tilde{B}t^p + |\tilde{C}|t^q$$

Hence, if  $2\tilde{A} \leq \tilde{B}t^{p-1}$  and  $2|\tilde{C}|t^{q-1} \leq \tilde{B}t^{p-1}$  we will have  $F'(t) \leq 0$ . That is, if

$$t \geq \left(\frac{2\tilde{A}}{\tilde{B}}\right)^{\frac{1}{p-1}} \quad \text{and} \quad t \geq \left(\frac{2|\tilde{C}|}{\tilde{B}}\right)^{\frac{1}{p-q}}$$

then  $F'(t) \leq 0$ . We set

$$T' = \max\left(\left(\frac{2\tilde{A}}{\tilde{B}}\right)^{\frac{1}{p-1}}, \left(\frac{2|\tilde{C}|}{\tilde{B}}\right)^{\frac{1}{p-q}}\right)$$

One has that  $F$  is decreasing in  $[T'; +\infty[$  and that its maximum is attained in  $]0; T']$ . Now let  $t'_0$  be such that

$$\Psi(C_{t'_0}) = \sup_{t \geq 0} \Psi(C_t)$$

One has easily

$$\begin{aligned} F(t'_0) &= \frac{\tilde{A}}{2} t'^2_0 - \frac{\tilde{B}}{p+1} t'^{p+1}_0 + \frac{|\tilde{C}|}{q+1} t'^{q+1}_0 \\ &\leq \frac{1}{n} \frac{\tilde{A}^{\frac{p+1}{p-1}}}{\tilde{B}^{\frac{2}{p-1}}} + \frac{|\tilde{C}|}{q+1} T'^{q+1} \end{aligned}$$

Assume that

$$\frac{1}{nK(n, 2)^n(\sup f)^{\frac{n-2}{2}}} - \frac{1}{n} \frac{\tilde{A}^{\frac{q+1}{p-1}}}{\tilde{B}^{\frac{2}{p-1}}} > 0$$

that is

$$\left(\frac{\int f}{\sup f}\right)^{\frac{n-2}{2}} > K(n, 2)^n \left(\int a\right)^{\frac{n}{2}}$$

Assume also that

$$\frac{|\tilde{C}|}{q+1} T'^{q+1} < \frac{1}{nK(n, 2)^n(\sup f)^{\frac{n-2}{2}}} - \frac{1}{n} \frac{\tilde{A}^{\frac{q+1}{p-1}}}{\tilde{B}^{\frac{2}{p-1}}}$$

that is

$$|\tilde{C}| < \frac{q+1}{nK(n, 2)^n \tilde{B}^{\frac{n-2}{2}} (\sup f)^{\frac{n-2}{2}}} \left\{ \tilde{B}^{\frac{n-2}{2}} - \tilde{A}^{\frac{n}{2}} K(n, 2)^n (\sup f)^{\frac{n-2}{2}} \right\} \times \frac{1}{T'^{q+1}}$$

One clearly gets

$$|\tilde{C}| < \frac{(q+1)\tilde{B}^{\frac{q+1}{p-1}}}{nK(n, 2)^n \tilde{B}^{\frac{n-2}{2}} (\sup f)^{\frac{n-2}{2}} (2\tilde{A})^{\frac{q+1}{p-1}}} \left\{ \tilde{B}^{\frac{n-2}{2}} - \tilde{A}^{\frac{n}{2}} K(n, 2)^n (\sup f)^{\frac{n-2}{2}} \right\}$$

in the case where  $T' = \left(\frac{2\tilde{A}}{\tilde{B}}\right)^{\frac{1}{p-1}}$  and

$$|\tilde{C}| < \left( \frac{(q+1)\tilde{B}^{\frac{q+1}{p-1} - \frac{n-2}{2}}}{nK(n, 2)^n (\sup f)^{\frac{n-2}{2}} 2^{\frac{q+1}{p-1}}} \left\{ \tilde{B}^{\frac{n-2}{2}} - \tilde{A}^{\frac{n}{2}} K(n, 2)^n (\sup f)^{\frac{n-2}{2}} \right\} \right)^{\frac{p-1}{p}}$$

in the case where  $T' = \left(\frac{2|\tilde{C}|}{\tilde{B}}\right)^{\frac{1}{p-q}}$ . This ends the proof of the proposition. ■

**Remark 3.8.**  $\varepsilon$  in the previous proposition, depends on the dimension of the manifold, of  $G$ , of  $\int_M a$ , of  $\int_M f$ , of  $\max_M f$  and of  $q$ . More precisely if

$$C_1 = \frac{k(q+1) \left(\int_M f\right)^{\frac{q+1}{p-1} - \frac{n-2}{2}}}{nK(n, 2)^n (\sup f)^{\frac{n-2}{2}} \left(2\int_M a\right)^{\frac{q+1}{p-1}}} \left\{ \left(\int_M f\right)^{\frac{n-2}{2}} - \left(\int_M a\right)^{\frac{n}{2}} \frac{K(n, 2)^n}{k} (\sup f)^{\frac{n-2}{2}} \right\}$$

$$C_2 = \left( \frac{k(q+1) \left( \int_M f \right)^{\frac{q+1}{p-q} - \frac{n-2}{2}}}{nK(n,2)^n (\sup f)^{\frac{n-2}{2}} 2^{\frac{q+1}{p-q}}} \right)^{\frac{p-q}{p+1}} \left\{ \left( \int_M f \right)^{\frac{n-2}{2}} - \left( \int_M a \right)^{\frac{n}{2}} \frac{K(n,2)^n}{k} (\sup f)^{\frac{n-2}{2}} \right\}$$

then we can take  $\varepsilon = \min \{C_1, C_2\}$ .

#### 4 The infinite case - Proofs of lemma 2.9 and proposition 2.7 and 2.11

In this section, we assume that

$$\forall x \in M \quad \text{Card}O_G(x) = +\infty$$

**Proof of proposition 2.7.** The first part of the proof (to prove that there exists a positive, smooth solution of the equation), is similar to that of lemma 2.2. We omit it.

Let us now prove that  $u \neq 0$ . Setting  $v_j = u_j - u$ , we have

$$\int_M |\nabla u_j|^2 = \int_M |\nabla u|^2 + \int_M |\nabla v_j|^2 + o(1)$$

and

$$\int_M (u_j^+)^{p+1} = \int_M u^{p+1} + \int_M (v_j^+)^{p+1} + o(1)$$

since the embedding  $H_{1,G}(M) \hookrightarrow L^{p+1}(M)$  is compact. Then according to (3.1) and (3.2), since  $u_j \rightarrow u$  strongly in  $L^r(M)$  for all  $2 \leq r \leq p+1$  :

$$J(u) + \int_M \left\{ \frac{1}{2} |\nabla v_j|^2 \right\} = c + o(1)$$

and

$$\int_M \left\{ |\nabla u|^2 + au^2 - fu^{p+1} - hu^{q+1} \right\} + \int_M \left\{ |\nabla v_j|^2 \right\} = o(1)$$

It follows that

$$\int_M |\nabla v_j|^2 = o(1)$$



and consequently

$$J(u) = c$$

But  $c > 0$ . Then  $u \not\equiv 0$  and  $u > 0$  on  $M$ . This ends the proof of the proposition. ■

**4.1. Proof of lemma 2.9:** The proof is the same that the proof of lemma 2.2. Of course, instead of using theorem A, we use theorem B. ■

**4.2. Proof of proposition 2.11:** The proof is similar to that of proposition 2.6. We omit it. ■

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