

**HOMOCLINIC SOLUTIONS FOR A CLASS  
OF AUTONOMOUS SECOND ORDER  
HAMILTONIAN SYSTEMS  
WITH A SUPERQUADRATIC POTENTIAL**

JOANNA JANCZEWSKA

---

ABSTRACT. We will prove the existence of a nontrivial homoclinic solution for an autonomous second order Hamiltonian system  $\ddot{q} + \nabla V(q) = 0$ , where  $q \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , a potential  $V: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is of the form  $V(q) = -K(q) + W(q)$ ,  $K$  and  $W$  are  $C^1$ -maps,  $K$  satisfies the pinching condition,  $W$  grows at a superquadratic rate, as  $|q| \rightarrow \infty$  and  $W(q) = o(|q|^2)$ , as  $|q| \rightarrow 0$ . A homoclinic solution will be obtained as a weak limit in the Sobolev space  $W^{1,2}(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R}^n)$  of a sequence of almost critical points of the corresponding action functional. Before passing to a weak limit with a sequence of almost critical points each element of this sequence has to be appropriately shifted.

### 1. Introduction

This paper concerns the existence of homoclinic solutions for a certain class of autonomous second order Hamiltonian systems. Let us consider

$$(1.1) \quad \ddot{q} + \nabla V(q) = 0,$$

where  $q \in \mathbb{R}^n$  and a potential  $V: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  satisfies the following conditions:

$$(H_1) \quad V(q) = -K(q) + W(q), \text{ where } K, W: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \text{ are } C^1\text{-maps,}$$

---

2010 *Mathematics Subject Classification.* 37J45, 58E05, 34C37, 70H05.

*Key words and phrases.* Action functional, Hamiltonian system, homoclinic solution, general minimax principle, superquadratic potential.

The author is supported by the Polish Ministry of Sciences and Higher Education (grant no. N N201 394037).

(H<sub>2</sub>) there are constants  $b_1, b_2 > 0$  such that for all  $q \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,

$$b_1|q|^2 \leq K(q) \leq b_2|q|^2,$$

(H<sub>3</sub>)  $(q, \nabla K(q)) \leq 2K(q)$  for all  $q \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,

(H<sub>4</sub>)  $2K(q) - (q, \nabla K(q)) = o(|q|^2)$ , as  $|q| \rightarrow 0$ ,

(H<sub>5</sub>)  $\nabla K$  is Lipschitzian in a neighbourhood of  $0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,

(H<sub>6</sub>)  $\nabla W(q) = o(|q|)$ , as  $|q| \rightarrow 0$ ,

(H<sub>7</sub>) there is a constant  $\mu > 2$  such that for every  $q \in \mathbb{R}^n \setminus \{0\}$ ,

$$0 < \mu W(q) \leq (q, \nabla W(q)).$$

Here and subsequently,  $(\cdot, \cdot): \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  denotes the standard inner product in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  and  $|\cdot|: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow [0, \infty)$  is the induced norm.

Note that if  $K: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is a  $C^2$ -map satisfying (H<sub>2</sub>), then (H<sub>4</sub>) takes place. Let us also remark that (H<sub>6</sub>) and (H<sub>7</sub>) imply

$$(1.2) \quad W(q) = o(|q|^2), \quad \text{as } |q| \rightarrow 0.$$

Moreover, from (H<sub>7</sub>) it follows that for  $q \neq 0$  a map given by

$$(0, \infty) \ni \zeta \mapsto W(\zeta^{-1}q)\zeta^\mu$$

is nonincreasing. Hence the following inequalities hold

$$(1.3) \quad W(q) \leq W\left(\frac{q}{|q|}\right)|q|^\mu \quad \text{if } 0 < |q| \leq 1,$$

$$(1.4) \quad W(q) \geq W\left(\frac{q}{|q|}\right)|q|^\mu \quad \text{if } |q| \geq 1.$$

By (H<sub>2</sub>) and (1.4) we get that a potential  $V$  grows at a superquadratic rate, as  $|q| \rightarrow \infty$ , i.e.

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

Many mathematicians have written about Hamiltonian systems with a superquadratic potential, for example: V. Coti Zelati, I. Ekeland and E. Séré in [4], H. Hofer and K. Wysocki in [7], V. Coti Zelati and P. Rabinowitz in [5], P. Rabinowitz and K. Tanaka in [14], W. Omana and M. Willem in [11]. Our assumptions on the potential  $V$  are natural, since one can immediately produce a lot of examples.

It is easily seen that  $q \equiv 0$  is a solution of (1.1). In this work we are interested in the existence of nontrivial homoclinic solutions of (1.1) that emanate from 0 and terminate at 0, i.e.  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \pm\infty} q(t) = q(\pm\infty) = 0$ .

The existence of homoclinic orbits for first and second order Hamiltonian systems has been studied by many authors and the literature on this subject is vast (see [1], [2], [6], [8], [9], [12], [15]), but many questions are still open (see

the survey [13] by P. Rabinowitz). Finding homoclinic solutions in Hamiltonian systems can be quite difficult. In the last 20 years, a great progress was made by applying variational methods (see the survey [3] by T. Bartsch and A. Szulkin). For instance, the authors of [4] studied a class of first order Hamiltonian systems using a dual variational transformation and the Mountain Pass Theorem to prove the existence of two distinct homoclinic solutions. P. Rabinowitz in [12] examined a family of second order Hamiltonian systems applying the Mountain Pass Theorem to get a sequence of subharmonic solutions and suitable estimates to pass to a nontrivial limit which occurred to be a nontrivial homoclinic solution (see also [2], [8], [9]).

The theorem which we shall prove is as follows.

**THEOREM 1.1.** *If the assumptions (H<sub>1</sub>)–(H<sub>7</sub>) are satisfied then the Hamiltonian system (1.1) possesses a nontrivial homoclinic solution  $q_0 \in W^{1,2}(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R}^n)$  such that  $\dot{q}_0(\pm\infty) = 0$ .*

This result is proved in Section 2 by studying the corresponding to (1.1) action functional  $I: W^{1,2}(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R}^n) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ . Similarly to [14], by a general minimax principle (see Theorem 2.3) we obtain a sequence of almost critical points. However, its weak limit has not to be nontrivial. In order to get a nontrivial homoclinic orbit before passing to a weak limit with a sequence of almost critical points each element of this sequence has to be appropriately shifted.

## 2. Proof of Theorem 1.1

The proof of Theorem 1.1 will be divided into a sequence of lemmas. Let  $E$  be the Sobolev space  $W^{1,2}(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R}^n)$  with the standard norm

$$\|q\|_E := \left( \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (|q(t)|^2 + |\dot{q}(t)|^2) dt \right)^{1/2}.$$

We first recall two elementary inequalities concerning functions in  $E$ .

**FACT 2.1.** *If  $q: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  is a continuous mapping such that  $\dot{q} \in L^2_{\text{loc}}(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R}^n)$ , then for every  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ ,*

$$(2.1) \quad |q(t)| \leq \sqrt{2} \left( \int_{t-1/2}^{t+1/2} (|q(s)|^2 + |\dot{q}(s)|^2) ds \right)^{1/2}.$$

The proof of Fact 2.1 can be found in [8]. (See Fact 2.8, p. 385.)

**FACT 2.2.** *For each  $q \in E$ ,*

$$(2.2) \quad \|q\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R}^n)} \leq \sqrt{2} \|q\|_E.$$

Fact 2.2 is a direct consequence of the inequality (2.1).

Let  $I: E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be given by

$$I(q) := \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \left[ \frac{1}{2} |\dot{q}(t)|^2 - V(q(t)) \right] dt.$$

By (H<sub>5</sub>)–(H<sub>6</sub>) it is obvious that  $I \in C^1(E, \mathbb{R})$ . Moreover,

$$I'(q)w = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} [(\dot{q}(t), \dot{w}(t)) - (\nabla V(q(t)), w(t))] dt$$

for all  $q, w \in E$  and any critical point of  $I$  on  $E$  is a classical solution of (1.1) with  $q(\pm\infty) = 0$ , as is easy to verify. In order to prove Theorem 1.1, we apply a general minimax principle. Let us remind it.

**THEOREM 2.3** (see Theorem 4.3 in [10]). *Let  $K$  be a compact metric space,  $K_0 \subset K$  a closed subset,  $X$  a Banach space and  $\chi \in C(K_0, X)$ . Let  $\mathcal{M}$  be a complete metric space given by*

$$\mathcal{M} := \{g \in C(K, X) : g(s) = \chi(s) \text{ if } s \in K_0\}$$

with the usual distance. Let  $\varphi \in C^1(X, \mathbb{R})$  and let us define

$$c = \inf_{g \in \mathcal{M}} \max_{s \in K} \varphi(g(s)), \quad c_1 = \max_{\chi(K_0)} \varphi.$$

If  $c > c_1$  then for each  $\varepsilon > 0$  and for each  $h \in \mathcal{M}$  such that

$$\max_{s \in K} \varphi(h(s)) \leq c + \varepsilon$$

there exists  $v \in X$  such that

$$c - \varepsilon \leq \varphi(v) \leq \max_{s \in K} \varphi(h(s)), \quad \text{dist}(v, h(K)) \leq \varepsilon^{1/2}, \quad \|\varphi'(v)\|_{X^*} \leq \varepsilon^{1/2}.$$

Set  $\bar{b}_1 := \min\{1, 2b_1\}$ ,  $\bar{b}_2 := \max\{1, 2b_2\}$ , where  $b_1, b_2$  are the constants of the pinching condition (H<sub>2</sub>). By definition,  $\bar{b}_1 \leq 1 \leq \bar{b}_2$ . From (H<sub>2</sub>) we have

$$(2.3) \quad I(q) \geq \frac{1}{2} \bar{b}_1 \|q\|_E^2 - \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} W(q(t)) dt$$

for every  $q \in E$ . By (1.2), (2.2) and (2.3), we conclude that there are constants  $\alpha, \varrho > 0$  such that

$$(2.4) \quad I(q) \geq \alpha, \quad \text{if } \|q\|_E = \varrho.$$

Take  $\nu \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R}^n)$  such that  $|\nu(t)| = 1$  for  $|t| \leq 1$  and  $\nu(t) = 0$  for  $|t| \geq 2$ . Set

$$m := \inf\{W(q) : |q| = 1\}.$$

From (1.4), for every  $\xi \in \mathbb{R}$  such that  $|\xi| \geq 1$ , we have

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} W(\xi\nu(t)) dt \geq \int_{-1}^1 W(\xi\nu(t)) dt \geq \int_{-1}^1 W\left(\frac{\xi\nu(t)}{|\xi\nu(t)|}\right) |\xi\nu(t)|^\mu dt \geq 2m|\xi|^\mu.$$

Combining this with (H<sub>2</sub>) we obtain

$$I(\xi\nu) \leq \frac{1}{2}\bar{b}_2\xi^2\|\nu\|_E^2 - 2m|\xi|^\mu.$$

Since  $m > 0$  and  $\mu > 2$ , for  $|\xi|$  sufficiently large,  $I(\xi\nu) < 0$ . Consequently, there exists  $Q \in E$  such that

$$(2.5) \quad \|Q\|_E > \varrho \quad \text{and} \quad I(Q) < 0 = I(0).$$

From now on, let

$$(2.6) \quad \mathcal{M} := \{g \in C([0, 1], E) : g(0) = 0 \text{ and } g(1) = Q\}$$

and

$$(2.7) \quad c := \inf_{g \in \mathcal{M}} \max_{s \in [0, 1]} I(g(s)).$$

By (2.4)–(2.7), we get  $c \geq \alpha > 0$ .

Applying Theorem 2.3 we conclude that the following lemma holds.

LEMMA 2.4. *There exists a sequence  $\{q_k\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$  in  $E$  such that*

$$(2.8) \quad I(q_k) \rightarrow c \quad \text{and} \quad I'(q_k) \rightarrow 0, \quad \text{as } k \rightarrow \infty.$$

LEMMA 2.5. *The sequence  $\{q_k\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$  given by (2.8) is bounded in  $E$ .*

PROOF. By (2.8), for large  $k$ ,

$$(2.9) \quad \|I'(q_k)\|_{E^*} < 2 \quad \text{and} \quad |I(q_k) - c| < 1.$$

Applying (H<sub>3</sub>) and (H<sub>7</sub>) we obtain

$$(2.10) \quad I(q_k) - \frac{1}{2}I'(q_k)q_k \geq \left(\frac{\mu}{2} - 1\right) \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} W(q_k(t)) dt$$

for  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ . Combining (2.10) with (2.9) we receive

$$c + 1 + \|q_k\|_E \geq \left(\frac{\mu}{2} - 1\right) \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} W(q_k(t)) dt$$

for large  $k$ , and hence

$$(2.11) \quad \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} W(q_k(t)) dt \leq \frac{2}{\mu - 2}(c + 1 + \|q_k\|_E).$$

By the use of (H<sub>2</sub>), (H<sub>3</sub>) and (H<sub>7</sub>), we get

$$(2.12) \quad I'(q_k)q_k \leq \bar{b}_2\|q_k\|_E^2 - \mu \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} W(q_k(t)) dt$$

for  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ . From (2.3) and (2.12) it follows that

$$(2.13) \quad \frac{1}{\bar{b}_1}I(q_k) - \frac{1}{\mu\bar{b}_2}I'(q_k)q_k \geq \left(\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{\mu}\right)\|q_k\|_E^2 - \left(\frac{1}{\bar{b}_1} - \frac{1}{\bar{b}_2}\right) \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} W(q_k(t)) dt$$

for  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ . By (2.9) and (2.13), for large  $k$ ,

$$(2.14) \quad \frac{1}{\bar{b}_1}(c+1) + \|q_k\|_E \geq \left(\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{\mu}\right) \|q_k\|_E^2 - \left(\frac{1}{\bar{b}_1} - \frac{1}{\bar{b}_2}\right) \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} W(q_k(t)) dt.$$

Finally, from (2.11) and (2.14), for large  $k$ ,

$$(2.15) \quad \left(\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{\mu}\right) \|q_k\|_E^2 \leq \frac{1}{\bar{b}_1}(c+1) + \|q_k\|_E + \frac{2}{\mu-2} \left(\frac{1}{\bar{b}_1} - \frac{1}{\bar{b}_2}\right) (c+1 + \|q_k\|_E).$$

Since  $\mu > 2$ , (2.15) shows that  $\{q_k\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$  is bounded in  $E$ .  $\square$

For each  $k \in \mathbb{N}$  there is  $\tau_k \in \mathbb{R}$  such that a map  $q_{\tau_k}: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  given by

$$q_{\tau_k}(t) := q_k(t + \tau_k),$$

where  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ , achieves a maximum at  $0 \in \mathbb{R}$ , i.e.

$$(2.16) \quad \max\{|q_{\tau_k}(t)|: t \in \mathbb{R}\} = |q_{\tau_k}(0)|.$$

Then  $q_{\tau_k} \in E$  and it is easy to check that  $\|q_{\tau_k}\|_E = \|q_k\|_E$ ,  $I(q_{\tau_k}) = I(q_k)$  and  $\|I'(q_{\tau_k})\|_{E^*} = \|I'(q_k)\|_{E^*}$ . In consequence, by Lemma 2.4,

$$(2.17) \quad I(q_{\tau_k}) \rightarrow c \quad \text{and} \quad I'(q_{\tau_k}) \rightarrow 0,$$

as  $k \rightarrow \infty$ , and by Lemma 2.5, the sequence  $\{q_{\tau_k}\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$  is bounded in  $E$ . Since  $E$  is a reflexive Banach space,  $\{q_{\tau_k}\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$  possesses a weakly convergent subsequence in  $E$ .

Let  $q_0$  denote a weak limit of a weakly convergent subsequence of  $\{q_{\tau_k}\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$ . Without loss of generality, we will write

$$(2.18) \quad q_{\tau_k} \rightharpoonup q_0 \quad \text{in } E,$$

as  $k \rightarrow \infty$ , which implies  $q_{\tau_k} \rightarrow q_0$  in  $L_{\text{loc}}^\infty(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R}^n)$ , as  $k \rightarrow \infty$ .

LEMMA 2.6.  $q_0$  given by (2.18) is a homoclinic solution of (1.1).

PROOF. Since  $q_0 \in E$ , we see that  $q_0(t) \rightarrow 0$ , as  $t \rightarrow \pm\infty$ , by Fact 2.1. Therefore, it is sufficient to show that  $I'(q_0) = 0$ . Fix  $w \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R}^n)$  and assume that for some  $A > 0$ ,  $\text{supp}(w) \subset [-A, A]$ . We have

$$I'(q_{\tau_k})w = \int_{-A}^A [(\dot{q}_{\tau_k}(t), \dot{w}(t)) - (\nabla V(q_{\tau_k}(t)), w(t))] dt$$

for each  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ . From (2.17) it follows that  $I'(q_{\tau_k})w \rightarrow 0$ , as  $k \rightarrow \infty$ . On the other hand,

$$\int_{-A}^A (\dot{q}_{\tau_k}(t), \dot{w}(t)) dt \rightarrow \int_{-A}^A (\dot{q}_0(t), \dot{w}(t)) dt,$$

as  $k \rightarrow \infty$ , by (2.18), and

$$\int_{-A}^A (\nabla V(q_{\tau_k}(t)), w(t)) dt \rightarrow \int_{-A}^A (\nabla V(q_0(t)), w(t)) dt,$$

as  $k \rightarrow \infty$ , because  $q_{\tau_k} \rightarrow q_0$  uniformly on  $[-A, A]$ . Thus  $I'(q_{\tau_k})w \rightarrow I'(q_0)w$ , as  $k \rightarrow \infty$ , and, in consequence,  $I'(q_0)w = 0$ . Since  $C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R}^n)$  is dense in  $E$ , we get  $I'(q_0) = 0$ .  $\square$

LEMMA 2.7. *Let  $q_0$  be given by (2.18). Then  $\dot{q}_0(t) \rightarrow 0$ , as  $t \rightarrow \pm\infty$ .*

PROOF. From Fact 2.1, we obtain

$$|\dot{q}_0(t)|^2 \leq 2 \int_{t-1/2}^{t+1/2} |\ddot{q}_0(s)|^2 ds + 2 \int_{t-1/2}^{t+1/2} (|q_0(s)|^2 + |\dot{q}_0(s)|^2) ds.$$

For this reason, it suffices to notice that

$$\int_r^{r+1} |\ddot{q}_0(s)|^2 ds \rightarrow 0,$$

as  $r \rightarrow \pm\infty$ . Since  $q_0$  satisfies (1.1), we have

$$\int_r^{r+1} |\ddot{q}_0(s)|^2 ds = \int_r^{r+1} |\nabla V(q_0(s))|^2 ds.$$

Take  $\varepsilon > 0$ . By (H<sub>5</sub>) and (H<sub>6</sub>), there is  $\eta > 0$  such that for  $|q| < \eta$ ,  $|\nabla V(q)| < \varepsilon$ . Moreover, there is  $\delta > 0$  such that, if  $|s| > \delta$ , then  $|q_0(s)| < \eta$ . Hence, if  $|r| > \delta + 1$ , then

$$\int_r^{r+1} |\nabla V(q_0(s))|^2 ds < \varepsilon^2,$$

which completes the proof.  $\square$

To finish the proof of Theorem 1.1, we have to show that  $q_0 \neq 0$ .

On the contrary, suppose that  $q_0 \equiv 0$ . Consequently, we have  $q_{\tau_k}(0) \rightarrow 0$ , as  $k \rightarrow \infty$ . From (2.16) it follows that  $q_{\tau_k} \rightarrow 0$  uniformly on  $\mathbb{R}$ , as  $k \rightarrow \infty$ . By (2.17) and the boundedness of  $\{q_{\tau_k}\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$  in  $E$ , we get  $2I(q_{\tau_k}) - I'(q_{\tau_k})q_{\tau_k} \rightarrow 2c > 0$ , as  $k \rightarrow \infty$ . On the other hand, by (H<sub>4</sub>), (H<sub>6</sub>) and (1.2),

$$\begin{aligned} 2I(q_{\tau_k}) - I'(q_{\tau_k})q_{\tau_k} &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} [(\nabla V(q_{\tau_k}(t)), q_{\tau_k}(t)) - 2V(q_{\tau_k}(t))] dt \\ &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} [2K(q_{\tau_k}(t)) - (\nabla K(q_{\tau_k}(t)), q_{\tau_k}(t))] dt \\ &\quad + \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} [(\nabla W(q_{\tau_k}(t)), q_{\tau_k}(t)) - 2W(q_{\tau_k}(t))] dt \rightarrow 0, \end{aligned}$$

as  $k \rightarrow \infty$ . Indeed. Take  $\varepsilon > 0$ . From (H<sub>4</sub>), (H<sub>6</sub>) and (1.2), we deduce that there is  $\delta > 0$  such that if  $|q| < \delta$ , then  $|2K(q) - (\nabla K(q), q)| \leq \varepsilon|q|^2$ ,  $|\nabla W(q)| \leq \varepsilon|q|$  and  $|W(q)| \leq \varepsilon|q|^2$ . Since  $q_{\tau_k} \rightarrow 0$  uniformly on  $\mathbb{R}$ , there is  $k_0 \in \mathbb{N}$  such that for  $k > k_0$  and for  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $|q_{\tau_k}(t)| < \delta$ . Hence  $|2I(q_{\tau_k}) - I'(q_{\tau_k})q_{\tau_k}| \leq 4\varepsilon\|q_{\tau_k}\|_E^2$  for  $k > k_0$ , which contradicts (2.17).

## REFERENCES

- [1] A. AMBROSETTI AND V. COTI ZELATI, *Multiple homoclinic orbits for a class of conservative systems*, Rend. Sem. Mat. Univ. Padova **89** (1993), 177–194.
- [2] F. ANTONACCI AND P. MAGRONE, *Second order nonautonomous systems with symmetric potential changing sign*, Rend. Mat. Appl. (7) **18** (1998), 367–379.
- [3] T. BARTSCH AND A. SZULKIN, *Hamiltonian Systems: Periodic and Homoclinic Solutions by Variational Methods*, Handbook of Differential Equations – Ordinary Differential Equations, vol. II, Elsevier B. V., Amsterdam, 2005, pp. 77–146.
- [4] V. COTI ZELATI, I. EKELAND AND E. SÉRÉ, *A variational approach to homoclinic orbits in Hamiltonian systems*, Math. Ann. **288** (1990), 133–160.
- [5] V. COTI ZELATI AND P. H. RABINOWITZ, *Homoclinic orbits for second order Hamiltonian systems possessing superquadratic potentials*, J. Amer. Math. Soc. **4** (1991), 693–727.
- [6] Y. DING AND S. J. LI, *Homoclinic orbits for first order Hamiltonian systems*, J. Math. Anal. Appl. **189** (1995), 585–601.
- [7] H. HOFER AND K. WYSOCKI, *First order elliptic systems and the existence of homoclinic orbits in Hamiltonian systems*, Math. Ann. **228** (1990), 483–503.
- [8] M. IZYDOREK AND J. JANCZEWSKA, *Homoclinic solutions for a class of the second order Hamiltonian systems*, J. Differential Equations **219** (2005), 375–389.
- [9] ———, *Homoclinic solutions for nonautonomous second order Hamiltonian systems with a coercive potential*, J. Math. Anal. Appl. **335** (2007), 1119–1127.
- [10] J. MAWHIN AND M. WILLEM, *Critical Point Theory and Hamiltonian Systems*, Appl. Math. Sci., vol. 74, Springer–Verlag, New York, 1989.
- [11] W. OMANA AND M. WILLEM, *Homoclinic orbits for a class of Hamiltonian systems*, Differential Integral Equations **5** (1992), 1115–1120.
- [12] P. H. RABINOWITZ, *Homoclinic orbits for a class of Hamiltonian systems*, Proc. Roy. Soc. Edinburgh Sect. A **114** (1990), 33–38.
- [13] ———, *Variational methods for Hamiltonian systems*, Handbook of Dynamical Systems, vol. 1 A, Elsevier, Amsterdam, 2002, pp. 1091–1127.
- [14] P. H. RABINOWITZ AND K. TANAKA, *Some results on connecting orbits for a class of Hamiltonian systems*, Math. Z. **206** (1991), 473–499.
- [15] E. SÉRÉ, *Existence of infinitely many homoclinic orbits in Hamiltonian systems*, Math. Z. **209** (1992), 27–42.

*Manuscript received March 13, 2009*

JOANNA JANCZEWSKA  
 Faculty of Technical Physics and Applied Mathematics  
 Gdańsk University of Technology  
 ul. Narutowicza 11/12  
 80-233 Gdańsk, POLAND  
 and  
 Institute of Mathematics  
 Polish Academy of Sciences  
 ul. Śniadeckich 8  
 00-956 Warsaw, POLAND

*E-mail address:* janczewska@mifgate.pg.gda.pl, j.janczewska@impan.pl