

# Removable Singularities for Anisotropic Elliptic Equations

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**Abstract** We study a class of quasi-linear elliptic equations with model representative  $\sum_{i=1}^n (|u_{x_i}|^{p_i-2} u_{x_i})_{x_i} = 0$ , which solutions have singularities on a smooth manifold. We establish the condition for removability of singularity on a manifold for solutions of such equations.

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## 1 Introduction and Main Result

In this paper we study solutions to quasi-linear equations in the divergence form

$$-\operatorname{div} \mathbf{A}(x, \nabla u) = a_0(x, \nabla u), \quad x \in \Omega \setminus \Gamma, \quad (1.1)$$

where  $\Omega$  is a domain in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $n \geq 3$  and  $\Gamma \subset \Omega$  is a manifold of dimension  $1 \leq s \leq n - 2$ .

Throughout the paper we suppose that the functions  $\mathbf{A} : \Omega \times \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  and  $a_0 : \Omega \times \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  are such that  $\mathbf{A}(\cdot, \xi)$ ,  $a_0(\cdot, \xi)$  are Lebesgue measurable for all  $\xi \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , and  $\mathbf{A}(x, \cdot)$ ,  $a_0(x, \cdot)$  are continuous for almost all  $x \in \Omega$ ,  $\mathbf{A} = (a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n)$ .

We also assume that the following structure conditions are satisfied:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{A}(x, \xi) \xi &\geq \nu_1 \sum_{i=1}^n |\xi_i|^{p_i}, \\ |a_i(x, \xi)| &\leq \nu_2 \left( \sum_{j=1}^n |\xi_j|^{p_j} \right)^{1 - \frac{1}{p_i}}, \quad i = \overline{1, n} \\ |a_0(x, \xi)| &\leq \nu_2 \left( \left( \sum_{i=1}^n |\xi_i|^{p_i} \right)^{1 - \frac{1}{\alpha}} + 1 \right), \end{aligned} \quad (1.2)$$

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where  $\nu_1, \nu_2$  are positive constants and

$$1 < p_1 \leq \dots \leq p_{n-s}, \quad \frac{1}{\alpha} = \frac{1}{n-s} \sum_{i=1}^{n-s} \frac{1}{p_i}, \tag{1.3}$$

$$\alpha \leq p_{n-s+1} \leq \dots \leq p_n, \quad \frac{1}{\beta} = \frac{1}{s} \sum_{i=n-s+1}^n \frac{1}{p_i}, \quad \frac{1}{p} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{p_i}, \tag{1.4}$$

$$\tilde{p} = \max(p_{n-s}, p_n) < \min\left(\frac{(n-1)p}{n-p}, \frac{n-s-1}{n-s-\alpha}\alpha\right), \quad \alpha < n-s. \tag{1.5}$$

It is well known that the necessary and sufficient conditions for the harmonic function  $u$  to have a removable singularity at  $x_0$  is  $u(x) = o(|x - x_0|^{2-n})$  as  $x \rightarrow x_0$ . Until recently such a precise result for quasi-linear equations was known only for positive solutions since the celebrated paper by Serrin [14], under relevant assumptions on the coefficients in terms of  $L^q$ -spaces (see [18] for the survey of the relevant results). For the sign changing solutions Serrin’s result is expressed in terms of  $L^q$ -conditions on the coefficients, and for removability of isolated singularities and singularities on the manifolds it leads to a more restrictive condition. A model example of the isotropic Eq. (1.1) is the following equation involving  $p$ -Laplacian

$$-\Delta_p u = gu|u|^{p-2} + f \quad \text{in } \Omega \setminus \Gamma, \quad p > 1. \tag{1.6}$$

For  $g, f \in L^q(\Omega)$ ,  $q > \frac{n}{p}$  Serrin’s condition [13, 14] on removability of singularities on manifold  $\Gamma$  with dimension  $s$  reduces to

$$u(x) = O((d(x, \Gamma))^{-\frac{n-p-s}{p-1}+\delta}), \quad \delta > 0, \quad p < n-s, \tag{1.7}$$

where  $d(x, \Gamma)$  is the distance from point  $x$  to the manifold  $\Gamma$ . Further analysis of sufficient conditions for removability of singularities of solutions has been made by many authors for different classes of nonlinear elliptic and parabolic equations (c.f., e.g [18] and references therein). The precise condition for the removability of singularity on the manifold  $\Gamma$  for Eq. (1.6) with  $g, f \in L^q(\Omega)$ ,  $q > \frac{n}{p}$  (and more general quasi-linear equations) has the form

$$u(x) = o((d(x, \Gamma))^{-\frac{n-p-s}{p-1}}), \quad 1 < p < n-s, \tag{1.8}$$

which has been proved in [15]. In the case of an isolated singularity ( $s = 0$ ) an analogous result was obtained in [12].

Equations of the form

$$-\sum_{i=1}^n (|u_{x_i}|^{p_i-2} u_{x_i})_{x_i} = gu|u|^{p-2} + f \tag{1.9}$$

have not been much studied.

Examples constructed by Giaquinta [4] and Marcellini [9] show that Eq.(1.9) may have unbounded solutions if  $p_i s$  are too far apart. Local boundedness of solutions to Eq. (1.9) has been obtained in [3, 6] under the condition

$$1 < p_1 \leq \dots \leq p_n \leq \frac{np}{n-p}, \quad p < n. \tag{1.10}$$

This condition is sharp as there are unbounded solutions to Eq. (1.9) if condition Eq.(1.10) is violated (cf. [3, 6]). Local boundedness of the gradient of a solution to Eq. (1.9) was obtained in [8, 10] under condition Eq. (1.10) and sufficient smoothness of the coefficients.

It is worth nothing that the explicit fundamental solution to Eq. (1.9) is unknown. Therefore until recently it has not been clear how a precise condition for the removability of an isolated singularity of a solution to Eq. (1.9) can be stated. This question was successfully answered in [11], where it was proved that a singularity at the point  $\{x_0\}$  is removable if  $g, f \in L^q(\Omega)$ ,  $q > \frac{n}{p}$ , and

$$\operatorname{ess\,sup}_{D(R) \setminus D(r)} |u(x)| = o(r^{-\frac{n-p}{p-1}}), \quad p < n, \tag{1.11}$$

where  $R$  is some fixed number and

$$D(r) = \left\{ x \in \Omega : \sum_{i=1}^n |x_i - x_i^{(0)}|^{a_i} \leq r \right\}, \tag{1.12}$$

$$a_i = \frac{p_i(p-1)}{p(n-1) - p_i(n-p)}, \quad i = 1, \dots, n, \tag{1.13}$$

$$1 < p_1 \leq \dots \leq p_n < \frac{n-1}{n-p}p. \tag{1.14}$$

Existence of the positive fundamental solution to equation Eq. (1.9) was proved in [2] under condition Eq. (1.14).

We are interested here in pointwise conditions on solutions to guarantee that the singularity on  $\Gamma$  is removable, that is, the solution can be extended to  $\Omega$ . Before formulating the main results, let us remind the reader the definition of a weak solution to Eq. (1.1). Let  $\Gamma$  be a manifold of class  $C^1$  without boundary of dimension  $s$  contained in  $\Omega$ . Without loss of generality assume that  $\Gamma \subset \{x_1 = x_2 = \dots = x_{n-s} = 0\}$ . We say that  $u$  is a weak solution to Eq. (1.1) in  $\Omega \setminus \Gamma$  if for an arbitrary function  $\psi \in C^1(\Omega)$ , vanishing in a neighborhood of  $\Gamma$ , we have the inclusion  $u\psi \in W^{1,p_1,\dots,p_n}(\Omega)$  and the integral identity

$$\int_{\Omega} \{ \mathbf{A}(x, \nabla u) \nabla(\varphi\psi) - a_0(x, \nabla u) \varphi\psi \} dx = 0 \tag{1.15}$$

holds for any  $\varphi \in \overset{\circ}{W}^{1,p_1,\dots,p_n}(\Omega)$ .

We say that a solution  $u(x)$  of Eq. (1.1) has a removable singularity on the manifold  $\Gamma$  if  $u(x)$  can be extended to  $\Gamma$  so that the extension  $\tilde{u}(x)$  of  $u(x)$  satisfies Eq. (1.1) in  $\Omega$  and  $u(x) \in W^{1,p_1,\dots,p_n}(\Omega)$ .

Let

$$\begin{aligned} b_i &:= \frac{p_i(\alpha-1)}{\alpha(n-s-1) - p_i(n-s-\alpha)}, \quad i = 1, \dots, n, \\ x' &= (x_1, \dots, x_{n-s}), \quad x'' = (x_{n-s+1}, \dots, x_n), \\ \rho(x') &:= \left( \sum_{i=1}^{n-s} |x_i|^{\frac{b_i}{b_1}} \right)^{b_1}, \quad \rho(x'') := \left( \sum_{i=n-s+1}^n |x_i|^{\frac{b_i}{b_1}} \right)^{b_1}. \end{aligned} \tag{1.16}$$

For  $R_0, H_0 > 0$  set

$$\begin{aligned} D(R_0, H_0) &= \{x : \rho(x') < R_0, \rho(x'') < H_0\}, \\ D_1(R_0) &= \{x' : \rho(x') < R_0\}, \quad D_2(H_0) = \{x'' : \rho(x'') < H_0\}. \end{aligned}$$

We can assume that  $R_0, H_0$  are sufficiently small such that

$$D(R_0, H_0) \subset \Omega, \quad \Gamma \subset D\left(R_0, \frac{H_0}{2}\right) \cap \{x' = 0\}.$$

Next we define the number  $M(r)$  characterizing local behaviour of the solution  $u$  in the neighborhood of the manifold  $\Gamma$ .

$$M(r) := \text{ess sup}\{|u(x)| : x \in D(R_0, H_0) \setminus D(r, H_0)\}.$$

The regularity result from [3, 6] yields that  $M(r) < \infty$  for  $r > 0$ . Now we are ready to formulate our main result.

**Theorem 1.1** *Let  $u$  be a weak solution to Eq. (1.1) in  $\Omega \setminus \Gamma$ . Let conditions Eq. (1.2)–(1.5) be fulfilled. Assume also that*

$$\lim_{r \rightarrow 0} r^{\frac{n-s-\alpha}{\alpha-1}} M(r) = 0, \quad 1 \leq s \leq n - 2. \tag{1.17}$$

*Then a singularity of  $u(x)$  on  $\Gamma$  is removable.*

*Remark 1.1* In the critical case  $\alpha = n - s$  the condition of removability on the manifold  $\Gamma$  takes the form

$$\lim_{r \rightarrow 0} m(r) |\ln r|^{-1} = 0 \quad (\text{cf. [11]}),$$

where  $m(r) = \text{ess sup}\{|u(x)| : x \in \tilde{D}(R_0, H_0) \setminus \tilde{D}(r, H_0)\}$ ,  $\tilde{D}(R_0, H_0) = \{x : d(x') < R_0, d(x'') < H_0\}$ ,  $d(x') = (\sum_{i=1}^{n-s} |x_i|^{\frac{p_i}{n}})^{\frac{p_1}{n}}$ ,  $d(x'') = (\sum_{i=n-s+1}^n |x_i|^{\frac{p_i}{n}})^{\frac{p_1}{n}}$ .

The result analogous to Theorem 1.1 can be proved for this case with respective changes in Lemmas 2.1–2.4 (see Section 2). We will not pursue this issue here.

The main step in proving Theorem 1.1 is the following result.

**Theorem 1.2** *Let the conditions of Theorem 1.1 be fulfilled. Then there exist positive constants  $K_0, c$  depending only on  $v_1, v_2, s, n, p_1, \dots, p_n, R_0, H_0$  such that*

$$M(r) \leq K_0 r^{-\frac{n-s-\alpha}{\alpha-1} + c}, \quad r > 0. \tag{1.18}$$

We Point out that our approach continues the studies of I. V. Skrypnik [16, 17] on point-wise estimates of nonlinear capacity potentials. The rest of the paper contains the proof of the above theorems.

## 2 Proof of Theorem 1.2

### 2.1 Auxiliary propositions

The following lemmas will be used in the sequel. The first one is the well-known embedding lemma (see [1]).

**Lemma 2.1** *Let  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $n \geq 2$  be a bounded domain,  $v \in \mathring{W}^{1,1}(\Omega)$  and*

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \int_{\Omega} |v|^{\alpha_i} \left| \frac{\partial v}{\partial x_i} \right|^{p_i} dx < \infty, \quad \alpha_i \geq 0, \quad p_i \geq 1.$$

If  $1 < p < n$ , then  $v \in L^q(\Omega)$ ,  $q = \frac{np}{n-p}(1 + \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\alpha_i}{p_i})$  and the following inequality holds

$$\|v\|_{L^q(\Omega)} \leq K_1 \prod_{i=1}^n \left( \int_{\Omega} |v|^{\alpha_i} \left| \frac{\partial v}{\partial x_i} \right|^{p_i} dx \right)^{\frac{1}{np_i(1 + \frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{\alpha_k}{p_k})}}, \tag{2.1}$$

where the constant  $K_1$  depends only on  $n, \alpha_i, p_i, i = 1, \dots, n$ .

The next lemma is an immediate consequence of Lemma 2.1.

**Lemma 2.2** Let  $v \in \overset{\circ}{W}^{1,1}(\Omega)$  and

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \int_{\Omega} |v|^{-\alpha_i} \left| \frac{\partial v}{\partial x_i} \right|^{p_i} dx < \infty, \quad 0 \leq \alpha_i < p_i, \quad p_i \geq 1. \tag{2.2}$$

If  $1 < p < n$ , then  $v \in L^q(\Omega)$ ,  $q = \frac{np}{n-p}(1 - \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\alpha_i}{p_i})$  and the following inequality holds

$$\|v\|_{L^q(\Omega)} \leq K_2 \prod_{i=1}^n \left( \int_{\Omega} |v|^{-\alpha_i} \left| \frac{\partial v}{\partial x_i} \right|^{p_i} dx \right)^{\frac{1}{np_i(1 - \frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{\alpha_k}{p_k})}}, \tag{2.3}$$

with positive constant  $K_2$  depending only on  $n, \alpha_i, p_i, i = 1, \dots, n$ .

In what follows we will frequently use the following lemma [7, Chapter II, Lemma 4.7].

**Lemma 2.3** Let  $\{y_j\}$  be a sequence of non-negative numbers such that for any  $j = 0, 1, 2, \dots$  the inequality

$$y_{j+1} \leq C b^j y_j^{1+\varepsilon} \tag{2.4}$$

holds with positive constants  $\varepsilon, C > 0, b > 1$ . Then the following estimate is true

$$y_j \leq C^{\frac{(1+\varepsilon)^j - 1}{\varepsilon}} b^{\frac{(1+\varepsilon)^j - 1}{\varepsilon^2}} y_0^{(1+\varepsilon)^j}. \tag{2.5}$$

Particularly, if  $y_0 \leq C^{-\frac{1}{\varepsilon}} b^{-\frac{1}{\varepsilon^2}}$ , then  $\lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} y_j = 0$ .

### 2.2 Integral estimates for the gradient of solutions

Let  $\tau \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^1)$  be such that  $\tau(t) = 0$  for  $t \leq 1$ ,  $\tau(t) = 1$  for  $t \geq 2$ ,  $0 \leq \tau(t) \leq 1$ ,  $0 \leq \frac{d\tau(t)}{dt} \leq 2, t \in \mathbb{R}^1$ .

Fix a point  $|\xi''| \leq \frac{H_0}{2}$ , for  $r > 0, h > 0$  set

$$\psi_r(x') = \tau(r^{-1}\rho(x')), \quad \zeta_h(x'') = 1 - \tau(h^{-1}\rho(x'' - \xi'')).$$

For  $0 < r \leq R_0$  set

$$u_r = (u - M(r))_+, \quad E(r) = \{x \in D(R_0, H_0) : u(x) > M(r)\}.$$

By the known parameters we understand the numbers  $v_1, v_2, n, s, p_1, \dots, p_n, R_0, H_0, m$ , where  $m$  is a fixed positive number such that  $m \geq 1 + \tilde{p}$ . In what follows  $\gamma$  stands for a generic constant that depends on known parameters only and may vary from line to line.

**Lemma 2.4** *Let the conditions of Theorem 1.2 be fulfilled. Then there exists a positive constant  $c_1$  depending on the known parameters only such that the inequalities*

$$0 < r < \rho \leq R_0, \quad 0 < h \leq \frac{H_0}{2}, \quad \rho \leq h \tag{2.6}$$

imply that

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \int_{E(\rho)} |u_{x_i}|^{p_i} \psi_r^m \zeta_h^m dx \leq c_1 M(r) h^{a_s} (\mu(r) + 1) \tag{2.7}$$

where  $a_s = s(1 + \frac{n-s-1}{\alpha-1}(\frac{\alpha}{\beta} - 1))$ ,  $\mu(r) = \sum_{i=1}^{n-s} (r^{\frac{n-s-\alpha}{\alpha-1}} M(r))^{p_i-1}$ .

*Proof* Without loss assume that  $\lim_{r \rightarrow 0} M(r) = \infty$  and suppose that  $R_0$  satisfies the additional condition  $M(R_0) \geq 1$ . Testing Eq. (1.15) by  $\varphi = u_\rho \psi_r^{m-1} \zeta_h^m$ ,  $\psi = \psi_r$  and using conditions Eq. (1.2) we have

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i=1}^n \int_{E(\rho)} |u_{x_i}|^{p_i} \psi_r^m \zeta_h^m dx &\leq \gamma \sum_{i=1}^{n-s} \int_{E(\rho)} \left( \sum_{j=1}^n |u_{x_j}|^{p_j} \right)^{1-\frac{1}{p_i}} u_\rho \left| \frac{\partial \psi_r}{\partial x_i} \right| \psi_r^{m-1} \zeta_h^m dx \\ &+ \gamma \sum_{i=n-s+1}^n \int_{E(\rho)} \left( \sum_{j=1}^n |u_{x_j}|^{p_j} \right)^{1-\frac{1}{p_i}} u_\rho \left| \frac{\partial \zeta_h}{\partial x_i} \right| \psi_r^m \zeta_h^{m-1} dx \\ &+ \gamma \int_{E(\rho)} \left( \left( \sum_{j=1}^n |u_{x_j}|^{p_j} \right)^{1-\frac{1}{\alpha}} + 1 \right) u_\rho \psi_r^m \zeta_h^m dx. \end{aligned}$$

From this using Young’s inequality we get

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i=1}^n \int_{E(\rho)} |u_{x_i}|^{p_i} \psi_r^m \zeta_h^m dx &\leq \gamma \sum_{i=1}^{n-s} \int_{E(\rho) \cap K(r)} u_\rho^{p_i} \left| \frac{\partial \psi_r}{\partial x_i} \right|^{p_i} \zeta_h^m dx \\ &+ \gamma \sum_{i=n-s+1}^n \int_{E(\rho)} u_\rho^{p_i} \left| \frac{\partial \zeta_h}{\partial x_i} \right|^{p_i} \psi_r^m dx \\ &+ \gamma \int_{E(\rho)} u_\rho^\alpha \psi_r^m \zeta_h^m dx + \gamma \int_{E(\rho)} \psi_r^m \zeta_h^m dx, \end{aligned} \tag{2.8}$$

where  $K(r) = \{x' : r < \rho(x') < 2r\}$ .

Using the definition of  $M(r)$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i=1}^{n-s} \int_{E(\rho) \cap K(r)} u_\rho^{p_i} \left| \frac{\partial \psi_r}{\partial x_i} \right|^{p_i} \zeta_h^m dx &\leq \gamma r^{n-s-\alpha} h^{a_s} \sum_{i=1}^{n-s} M^{p_i}(r) r^{-\frac{n-s-\alpha}{\alpha-1}(\alpha-p_i)} \\ &= \gamma M(r) h^{a_s} \sum_{i=1}^{n-s} (r^{\frac{n-s-\alpha}{\alpha-1}} M(r))^{p_i-1}. \end{aligned} \tag{2.9}$$

Using condition Eq. (1.17) and inclusion  $E(\rho) \subset D(\rho, H_0)$  we deduce

$$\sum_{i=n-s+1}^n \int_{E(\rho)} u_\rho^{p_i} \left| \frac{\partial \xi_h}{\partial x_i} \right|^{p_i} \psi_r^m dx \leq \gamma M(r) h^{a_s - \alpha} \sum_{i=n-s+1}^n h^{-\frac{n-s-\alpha}{\alpha-1}(\alpha-p_i)} \times \int_{r \leq \rho(x') \leq \rho} \rho^{-\frac{n-s-\alpha}{\alpha-1}(p_i-1)}(x') dx'.$$

Let introduce new independent variables

$$x_i := y_i^{\frac{\delta}{b_i}} \text{sign } y_i, \quad y_i = 1, \dots, n, \quad \delta = 2 \max_{1 \leq i \leq n-s} (1, b_i),$$

then after simple computation we get

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{r \leq \rho(x') \leq \rho} \rho^{-\frac{n-s-\alpha}{\alpha-1}(p_i-1)}(x') dx' &\leq \gamma \int_{r \leq |y'|^\delta \leq \rho} \left( \sum_{i=1}^{n-s} |y_i|^\delta \right)^{-\frac{n-s-\alpha}{\alpha-1}(p_i-1)} \prod_{i=1}^{n-s} |y_i|^{\frac{\delta}{b_i}-1} dy' \\ &\leq \gamma \int_0^{\rho^{\frac{1}{\delta}}} |y'|^{-\delta \frac{(n-s-\alpha)(p_i-1)}{\alpha-1} + \delta(n-s)-1} d|y'| \\ &\leq \gamma \rho^{n-s-\frac{n-s-\alpha}{\alpha-1}(p_i-1)}. \end{aligned} \tag{2.10}$$

Therefore, using Eq. (1.5) we get

$$\sum_{i=n-s+1}^n \int_{E(\rho)} u_\rho^{p_i} \left| \frac{\partial \xi_h}{\partial x_i} \right|^{p_i} \psi_r^m dx \leq \gamma M(r) h^{a_s} \sum_{i=n-s+1}^n \left( \frac{\rho}{h} \right)^{\alpha + \frac{n-s-\alpha}{\alpha-1}(\alpha-p_i)} \leq \gamma M(r) h^{a_s}. \tag{2.11}$$

Similarly

$$\int_{E(\rho)} u_\rho^\alpha \psi_r^m \zeta_h^m dx \leq \gamma M(r) h^{a_s} \int_{r \leq \rho(x') \leq \rho} \rho^{-n+s+\alpha}(x') dx' \leq \gamma M(r) h^{a_s} \rho^\alpha. \tag{2.12}$$

The last term in the right-hand side of Eq. (2.8) we estimate using the inclusion  $E(\rho) \subset D(\rho, H_0)$ . Thus collecting Eq. (2.8)–(2.12) we arrive at the required Eq. (2.7).  $\square$

For  $0 < \theta\rho < \rho \leq R_0$  set

$$E(\theta\rho, \rho) = \{x \in E(\rho) : u(x) < M(\theta\rho)\}, \quad u^{(\theta\rho)}(x) = \min\{u_\rho(x), M(\theta\rho) - M(\rho)\}.$$

**Lemma 2.5** *Let the conditions of Theorem 1.2 be fulfilled. Then there exists a positive constant  $c_2$  depending on the known parameters only such that the inequalities*

$$\theta \in (0, 1), \quad 0 < \lambda < \min\left(1, \frac{\alpha(\alpha-1)}{n-s-\alpha}\right), \quad 0 < r < \frac{\theta\rho}{2} < \rho \leq R_0, \quad \rho \leq h$$

imply that

$$\begin{aligned}
 \sum_{i=1}^n \int_{E(\theta\rho, \rho)} u_\rho^{\lambda-1} |u_{x_i}|^{p_i} \psi_r^m \zeta_h^m dx &\leq c_2 (M(\theta\rho) - M(\rho))^{\frac{\lambda p_n}{p_n-1}} \sum_{i=1}^n \\
 &\times \int_{E(\theta\rho)} u_\rho^{-1-\frac{\lambda}{p_n-1}} |u_{x_i}|^{p_i} \psi_r^m \zeta_h^m dx \\
 &+ c_2 \sum_{i=n-s+1}^n \int_{E(\rho)} u_\rho^{p_i-1+\lambda} \left| \frac{\partial \zeta_h}{\partial x_i} \right|^{p_i} \psi_r^m dx \\
 &+ c_2 \int_{E(\rho)} u_\rho^{\alpha-1+\lambda} \psi_r^m \zeta_h^m dx \\
 &+ c_2 (\theta\rho)^{-\frac{\lambda(n-s-\alpha)}{\alpha-1}} \rho^{n-s} h^{a_s} + c_2 \mu_1(r) (\theta\rho)^{-\frac{\lambda(n-s-\alpha)}{\alpha-1}} h^{a_s},
 \end{aligned} \tag{2.13}$$

where  $\mu_1(r) = \sum_{i=1}^{n-s} (r^{\frac{n-s-\alpha}{\alpha-1}} M(r))^{1-\frac{1}{p_i}}$ , and  $a_s$  was defined in Lemma 2.4.

*Proof* Test Eq. (1.15) by  $\varphi = (u^{(\theta\rho)})^\lambda \psi_r^{m-1} \zeta_h^m$ ,  $\psi = \psi_r$ . Using Eq. (1.2) we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 \sum_{i=1}^n \int_{E(\theta\rho, \rho)} u_\rho^{\lambda-1} |u_{x_i}|^{p_i} \psi_r^m \zeta_h^m dx &\leq \gamma \sum_{i=1}^{n-s} \int_{E(\rho) \cap K(r)} \left( \sum_{j=1}^n |u_{x_j}|^{p_j} \right)^{1-\frac{1}{p_i}} (u^{(\theta\rho)})^\lambda \left| \frac{\partial \psi_r}{\partial x_i} \right| \psi_r^{m-1} \zeta_h^m dx \\
 &+ \gamma \sum_{i=n-s+1}^n \int_{E(\rho)} \left( \sum_{j=1}^n |u_{x_j}|^{p_j} \right)^{1-\frac{1}{p_i}} (u^{(\theta\rho)})^\lambda \left| \frac{\partial \zeta_h}{\partial x_i} \right| \psi_r^m \zeta_h^{m-1} dx \\
 &+ \gamma \int_{E(\rho)} \left( \left( \sum_{j=1}^n |u_{x_j}|^{p_j} \right)^{1-\frac{1}{\alpha}} + 1 \right) (u^{(\theta\rho)})^\lambda \psi_r^m \zeta_h^m dx = I_1 + I_2 + I_3.
 \end{aligned} \tag{2.14}$$

First we estimate  $I_1$ . By the Hölder inequality, Eq. (1.17) and Lemma 2.4 we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
 I_1 &\leq \gamma M^\lambda(\theta\rho) \sum_{i=1}^{n-s} \left( \sum_{j=1}^n \int_{E(\rho)} |u_{x_j}|^{p_j} \psi_r^m \zeta_h^m dx \right)^{1-\frac{1}{p_i}} \left( \int_{E(\rho)} \left| \frac{\partial \psi_r}{\partial x_i} \right|^{p_i} \zeta_h^m dx \right)^{\frac{1}{p_i}} \\
 &\leq \gamma (\theta\rho)^{-\frac{\lambda(n-s-\alpha)}{\alpha-1}} h^{a_s} \sum_{i=1}^{n-s} (r^{\frac{n-s-\alpha}{\alpha-1}} M(r) (1 + \mu(r)))^{1-\frac{1}{p_i}} \leq \gamma (\theta\rho)^{-\frac{\lambda(n-s-\alpha)}{\alpha-1}} h^{a_s} \mu_1(r).
 \end{aligned} \tag{2.15}$$

To estimate  $I_2$  we decompose  $E(\rho)$  as  $E(\rho) = E(\theta\rho, \rho) \cup E(\theta\rho)$ . By the Young inequality and using the evident inequality  $u_\rho^{-1} \leq (M(\theta\rho) - M(\rho))^{-1}$  for  $x \in E(\theta\rho)$ , we have



$$\begin{aligned}
 I_2 - \frac{1}{4} \sum_{i=1}^n \int_{E(\theta\rho, \rho)} u_\rho^{\lambda-1} |u_{x_i}|^{p_i} \psi_r^m \zeta_h^m dx &\leq \gamma \sum_{i=n-s+1}^n \int_{E(\theta\rho, \rho)} u_\rho^{p_i-1+\lambda} \left| \frac{\partial \zeta_h}{\partial x_i} \right|^{p_i} \psi_r^m dx \\
 &+ \gamma \sum_{i=n-s+1}^n (M(\theta\rho) - M(\rho))^{\frac{\lambda p_i}{p_i-1}} \\
 &\times \int_{E(\theta\rho)} u_\rho^{-1-\frac{\lambda}{p_i-1}} |u_{x_i}|^{p_i} \psi_r^m \zeta_h^m dx \\
 &+ \gamma \sum_{i=n-s+1}^n \int_{E(\theta\rho)} u_\rho^{p_i-1+\lambda} \left| \frac{\partial \zeta_h}{\partial x_i} \right|^{p_i} \psi_r^n dx \\
 &\leq \gamma (M(\theta\rho) - M(\rho))^{\frac{\lambda p_n}{p_n-1}} \sum_{i=1}^n \\
 &\times \int_{E(\theta\rho)} u_\rho^{-1-\frac{\lambda}{p_n-1}} |u_{x_i}|^{p_i} \psi_r^m \zeta_h^m dx \\
 &+ \gamma \sum_{i=n-s+1}^n \int_{E(\rho)} u_\rho^{p_i-1+\lambda} \left| \frac{\partial \zeta_h}{\partial x_i} \right|^{p_i} \psi_r^m dx.
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{2.16}$$

Similarly to Eq. (2.16) we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 I_3 \leq \frac{1}{4} \sum_{i=1}^n \int_{E(\theta\rho, \rho)} u_\rho^{\lambda-1} |u_{x_i}|^{p_i} \psi_r^m \zeta_h^m dx &+ \gamma (M(\theta\rho) - M(\rho))^{\frac{\lambda p_n}{p_n-1}} \sum_{i=1}^n \\
 &\times \int_{E(\theta\rho)} u_\rho^{-1-\frac{\lambda}{p_n-1}} |u_{x_i}|^{p_i} \psi_r^m \zeta_h^m dx \\
 &+ \gamma \int_{E(\rho)} u_\rho^{\alpha-1+\lambda} \psi_r^m \zeta_h^m dx \\
 &+ \gamma (\theta\rho)^{-\frac{\lambda(n-s-\alpha)}{\alpha-1}} \rho^{n-s} h^{\alpha s}.
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{2.17}$$

Collecting Eq. (2.14)–(2.17) we arrive at the required Eq. (2.13). □

**Lemma 2.6** *Let the conditions of Lemma 2.5 be fulfilled. Then there exists a positive number  $c_3$  depending on the known parameters only such that*

$$\begin{aligned}
 \sum_{i=1}^n \int_{E(\theta\rho)} u_\rho^{-1-\frac{\lambda}{p_n-1}} |u_{x_i}|^{p_i} \psi_r^m \zeta_h^m dx &\leq c_3 (M(\theta\rho) - M(\rho))^{-\frac{\lambda p_n}{p_n-1}} \sum_{i=n-s+1}^n \\
 &\times \int_{E(\rho)} u_\rho^{p_i-1+\lambda} \left| \frac{\partial \zeta_h}{\partial x_i} \right|^{p_i} \psi_r^m dx \\
 &+ c_3 (M(\theta\rho) - M(\rho))^{-\frac{\lambda p_n}{p_n-1}} \int_{E(\rho)} u_\rho^{\alpha-1+\lambda} \psi_r^m \zeta_h^m dx \\
 &+ c_3 (M(\theta\rho) - M(\rho))^{-\frac{\lambda}{p_n-1}} \mu_1(r) + c_3 (M(\theta\rho) \\
 &- M(\rho))^{-\frac{\lambda}{p_n-1}} \rho^{n-s} h^{\alpha s},
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{2.18}$$

where  $\mu_1(s)$  was defined in Lemma 2.5.

*Proof* Test Eq. (1.15) by

$$\varphi = \left[ (M(\theta\rho) - M(\rho))^{-\frac{\lambda}{pn-1}} - \max^{-\frac{\lambda}{pn-1}}(u_\rho, M(\theta\rho) - M(\rho)) \right] \psi_r^{m-1} \zeta_h^m, \quad \psi = \psi_r,$$

using Eq. (1.2) and the Young inequality we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{i=1}^n \int_{E(\theta\rho)} u_\rho^{-1-\frac{\lambda}{pn-1}} |u_{x_i}|^{p_i} \psi_r^m \zeta_h^m dx \\ & \leq \gamma (M(\theta\rho) - M(\rho))^{-\frac{\lambda}{pn-1}} \sum_{i=1}^{n-s} \int_{E(\rho) \cap K(r)} \left( \sum_{j=1}^n |u_{x_j}|^{p_j} \right)^{1-\frac{1}{p_i}} \left| \frac{\partial \psi_r}{\partial x_i} \right| \psi_r^{m-1} \zeta_h^m dx \\ & + \gamma \sum_{i=n-s+1}^n (M(\theta\rho) - M(\rho))^{-\frac{\lambda p_i}{pn-1}} \int_{E(\theta\rho)} u_\rho^{\frac{\lambda(p_i-1)}{pn-1} + p_i - 1} \left| \frac{\partial \zeta_h}{\partial x_i} \right|^{p_i} \psi_r^m dx \\ & + \gamma (M(\theta\rho) - M(\rho))^{-\frac{\lambda\alpha}{pn-1}} \int_{E(\theta\rho)} u_\rho^{\frac{\lambda(\alpha-1)}{pn-1} + \alpha - 1} \psi_r^m \zeta_h^m dx + \gamma (M(\theta\rho) - M(\rho))^{-\frac{\lambda}{pn-1}} \\ & \quad \times \int_{E(\theta\rho)} \psi_r^m \zeta_h^m dx. \end{aligned} \tag{2.19}$$

The first term in the right-hand side of Eq. (2.19) has been estimated in Eq. (2.15), therefore we arrive at the required Eq. (2.18).  $\square$

Combining Lemmas 2.5, 2.6 we get

**Theorem 2.1** *Let the conditions of Theorem 1.2 be fulfilled. Then there exists a positive constant  $c_4$  depending on the known parameters only such that the inequalities  $0 < \theta < 1$ ,  $0 < \lambda < \min(1, \frac{\alpha(\alpha-1)}{n-s-\alpha})$ ,  $0 < r < \frac{\theta\rho}{2} < \rho \leq R_0$ ,  $\rho \leq h$  imply that*

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \int_{E(\theta\rho, \rho)} u_\rho^{\lambda-1} |u_{x_i}|^{p_i} \psi_r^m \zeta_h^m dx \leq c_4 \sum_{i=n-s+1}^n \int_{E(\rho)} u_\rho^{p_i-1+\lambda} \left| \frac{\partial \zeta_h}{\partial x_i} \right|^{p_i} \psi_r^m dx \tag{2.20}$$

$$+ c_4 \int_{E(\rho)} u_\rho^{\alpha-1+\lambda} \psi_r^m \zeta_h^m dx + c_4 G(r, \rho, h), \tag{2.21}$$

$$\tag{2.22}$$

where  $G(r, \rho, h) = (\theta\rho)^{-\frac{\lambda(n-s-\alpha)}{\alpha-1}} \rho^{n-s} h^{\alpha s} + (\theta\rho)^{-\frac{\lambda(n-s-\alpha)}{\alpha-1}} h^{\alpha s} \mu_1(r)$ .

### 2.3 Integral estimates of solutions

Let

$$\frac{n-s}{n-s-(pn-\alpha)\frac{n-s-\alpha}{\alpha-1}} < q < \frac{n-s}{n-s-\alpha}, \tag{2.23}$$

set

$$I(\rho, h) = \rho^{(n-s)\frac{q-1}{q}} \int_{D_2(H_0)} dx'' \left( \int_{D_1(R_0)} (u_\rho^{\alpha-1+\lambda} \psi_r^m \zeta_h^m)^q dx' \right)^{\frac{1}{q}}. \tag{2.24}$$

**Lemma 2.7** *Let the conditions of Theorem 1.2 be fulfilled and  $0 < \lambda < \min(1, \frac{\alpha(\alpha-1)}{n-s-\alpha}, \frac{\alpha(n-s-1)}{n-s-\alpha} - p_n)$ . Then there exists a positive constant  $c_5$  depending on the known parameters only such that*

$$I(\rho, h) \leq 2^{\alpha-1+\lambda} \theta^{-(n-s)\frac{q-1}{q}} I(\theta\rho, h) + c_5 \left(\frac{\rho}{h}\right)^{\alpha - \frac{n-s-\alpha}{\alpha-1} (p_n - \alpha)} I(\rho, 2h) + c_5 G_1(r, \rho, h), \tag{2.25}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} G_1(r, \rho, h) = & (\theta\rho)^{-\frac{\lambda(n-s-\alpha)}{\alpha-1}} \rho^{n-s+\alpha} h^{a_s} \\ & + (\theta\rho)^{-\frac{\lambda(n-s-\alpha)}{\alpha-1}} \rho^\alpha h^{a_s} \left( \sum_{i=n-s+1}^n (r^{\frac{n-s-\alpha}{\alpha-1}} M(r))^{p_i-1} + \sum_{i=n-s+1}^n (r^{\frac{n-s-\alpha}{\alpha-1}} M(r))^{1-\frac{1}{p_i}} \right) \\ & + \rho^\alpha h^{a_s - \frac{\alpha(n-s-1)}{\alpha-1}} \sum_{i=n-s+1}^n h^{\frac{h-s-\alpha}{\alpha-1} p_i} (r^{\frac{n-s-\alpha}{\alpha-1}} M(r))^{p_i-1+\lambda} \\ & + \rho^\alpha h^{a_s} (r^{\frac{n-s-\alpha}{\alpha-1}} M(r))^{\alpha-1+\lambda}. \end{aligned}$$

*Proof* Let  $\chi(E(\theta\rho, \rho))$ ,  $\chi(E(\theta\rho))$  denote the characteristic functions of the sets  $E(\theta\rho, \rho)$ ,  $E(\theta\rho)$  respectively. We will estimate  $I(\rho, h)$  using the inequality

$$\begin{aligned} u_\rho^{\alpha-1+\lambda} & \leq u_\rho^{\alpha-1+\lambda} \chi(E(\theta\rho, \rho)) + 2^{\alpha-1+\lambda} (u_{\theta\rho}^{\alpha-1+\lambda} + (M(\theta\rho) - M(\rho))^{\alpha-1+\lambda}) \chi(E(\theta\rho)) \\ & \leq 2^{\alpha-1+\lambda} u_{\theta\rho}^{\alpha-1+\lambda} \chi(E(\theta\rho)) + 2^{\alpha-1+\lambda} (u_{\theta\rho}^{\alpha-1+\lambda})^{\alpha-1+\lambda}, \quad x \in E(\rho). \end{aligned}$$

Thus

$$I(\rho, h) \leq 2^{\alpha-1+\lambda} \theta^{-(n-s)\frac{q-1}{q}} I(\theta\rho, h) + \gamma \rho^{(n-s)\frac{q-1}{q}} I_4, \tag{2.26}$$

where

$$I_4 = \int_{D_2(H_0)} dx'' \left( \int_{D_1(R_0)} ((u(\theta\rho))^{\alpha-1+\lambda} \psi_r^m \zeta_h^m)^q dx' \right)^{\frac{1}{q}}. \tag{2.27}$$

Using the Hölder inequality and Lemma 2.2 with  $\alpha_1 = \dots = \alpha_{n-s} = 1 - \lambda$ , and choosing  $m$  from the condition  $m \frac{p_1-1+\lambda}{\alpha-1+\lambda} - \tilde{p} \geq 1$ , we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} I_4 & \leq \gamma \rho^{-(n-s)\frac{q-1}{q} + \alpha} \int_{D_2(H_0)} dx'' \left( \int_{D_1(R_0)} ((u(\theta\rho))^{\alpha-1+\lambda} \psi_r^m \zeta_h^m)^{\frac{n-s}{n-s-\alpha}} dx' \right)^{\frac{n-s-\alpha}{n-s}} \\ & \leq \gamma \rho^{-(n-s)\frac{q-1}{q} + \alpha} \sum_{i=1}^{n-s} \int_{E(\theta\rho, \rho)} u_\rho^{\lambda-1} |u_{x_i}|^{p_i} \psi_r^m \frac{p_1-1+\lambda}{\alpha-1+\lambda} \zeta_h^m \frac{p_1-1+\lambda}{\alpha-1+\lambda} dx \\ & \quad + \gamma \rho^{-(n-s)\frac{q-1}{q} + \alpha} \sum_{i=1}^{n-s} \int_{E(\rho)} (u(\theta\rho))^{p_i-1+\lambda} \left| \frac{\partial \psi_r}{\partial x_i} \right|^{p_i} \zeta_h^m \frac{p_1-1+\lambda}{\alpha-1+\lambda} dx. \end{aligned}$$

By Theorem 2.1

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{i=1}^{n-s} \int_{E(\theta\rho, \rho)} u_\rho^{\lambda-1} |u_{x_i}|^{p_i} \psi_r^m \frac{\rho_{1-1+\lambda}}{\alpha-1+\lambda} \zeta_h^m \frac{\rho_{1-1+\lambda}}{\alpha-1+\lambda} dx \\ & \leq \gamma \sum_{i=n-s+1}^n \int_{E(\rho)} u_\rho^{p_i-1+\lambda} \left| \frac{\partial \zeta_h}{\partial x_i} \right|^{p_i} \psi_r^m \frac{\rho_{1-1+\lambda}}{\alpha-1+\lambda} dx + \gamma \int_{E(\rho)} u_\rho^{\alpha-1+\lambda} \psi_r^m \frac{\rho_{1-1+\lambda}}{\alpha-1+\lambda} \zeta_h^m \frac{\rho_{1-1+\lambda}}{\alpha-1+\lambda} dx \\ & + \gamma G(r, \rho, h). \end{aligned}$$

From this and from the fact that  $\{\zeta_h \neq 0\} \subseteq \{\zeta_{2h} = 1\}$  we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} I_4 & \leq \gamma \rho^{-(n-s)\frac{q-1}{q} + \alpha} \sum_{i=1}^{n-s} \int_{E(\rho)} (u(\theta\rho))^{p_i-1+\lambda} \left| \frac{\partial \psi_r}{\partial x_i} \right|^{p_i} \zeta_h dx + \gamma \rho^{-(n-s)\frac{q-1}{q} + \alpha} \sum_{i=n-s+1}^n \\ & \times \int_{E(\rho)} u_\rho^{p_i-1+\lambda} \left| \frac{\partial \zeta_h}{\partial x_i} \right|^{p_i} \psi_r \zeta_{2h}^m dx \\ & + \gamma \rho^{-(n-s)\frac{q-1}{q} + \alpha} \int_{E(\rho)} u^{\alpha-1+\lambda} \psi_r \zeta_{2h}^m dx + \gamma \rho^{-(n-s)\frac{q-1}{q} + \alpha} G(r, \rho, h). \end{aligned} \tag{2.28}$$

Similarly to Eq. (2.9) we have

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n-s} \int_{E(\rho)} (u(\theta\rho))^{p_i-1+\lambda} \left| \frac{\partial \psi_r}{\partial x_i} \right|^{p_i} \zeta_h dx \leq \gamma (\theta\rho)^{-\frac{\lambda(n-s-\alpha)}{\alpha-1}} h^{\alpha_s} \sum_{i=1}^{n-s} (r^{\frac{n-s-\alpha}{\alpha-1}} M(r))^{p_i-1}. \tag{2.29}$$

Using Eq. (1.17) and the Hölder inequality we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{i=n-s+1}^n \int_{E(\rho)} u^{p_i-1+\lambda} \left| \frac{\partial \zeta_h}{\partial x_i} \right|^{p_i} \psi_r^m \zeta_{2h}^m dx \\ & \leq \gamma h^{\alpha_s - \alpha \frac{n-s-1}{\alpha-1}} \sum_{i=n-s+1}^n h^{\frac{n-s-\alpha}{\alpha-1} p_i} (r^{\frac{n-s-\alpha}{\alpha-1}} M(r))^{p_i-1+\lambda} r^{\frac{n-s-1}{\alpha-1} \alpha - \frac{n-s-\alpha}{\alpha-1} (p_n+\lambda)} \\ & + \gamma \sum_{i=n-s+1}^n \int_{E(\rho) \setminus K(r)} \rho^{-\frac{n-s-\alpha}{\alpha-1} (p_i-\alpha)} (x') u_\rho^{\alpha-1+\lambda} \left| \frac{\partial \zeta_h}{\partial x_i} \right|^{p_i} \psi_r^m \zeta_{2h}^m dx \\ & \leq \gamma h^{\alpha_s - \alpha \frac{n-s-1}{\alpha-1}} \sum_{i=n-s+1}^n h^{\frac{n-s-\alpha}{\alpha-1} p_i} (r^{\frac{n-s-\alpha}{\alpha-1}} M(r))^{p_i-1+\lambda} \\ & + \gamma I(\rho, 2h) \sum_{i=n-s+1}^n h^{-\alpha - \frac{n-s-\alpha}{\alpha-1} (\alpha-p_i)} \rho^{-\frac{n-s-\alpha}{\alpha-1} (p_i-\alpha)} \\ & \leq \gamma h^{\alpha_s - \alpha \frac{n-s-1}{\alpha-1}} \sum_{i=n-s+1}^n h^{\frac{n-s-\alpha}{\alpha-1} p_i} (r^{\frac{n-s-\alpha}{\alpha-1}} M(r))^{p_i-1+\lambda} + \gamma \rho^{-\alpha} \left( \frac{\rho}{h} \right)^{\alpha - \frac{n-s-\alpha}{\alpha-1} (p_n-\alpha)} I(\rho, 2h). \end{aligned} \tag{2.30}$$

Similarly to Eq. (2.30) we have

$$\int_{E(\rho)} u_\rho^{\alpha-1+\lambda} \psi_r^m \zeta_{2h}^m dx \leq \gamma h^{a_s} (r^{\frac{n-s-\alpha}{\alpha-1}} M(r))^{\alpha-1+\lambda} + \gamma \rho^{(n-s)\frac{q-1}{q}} I(\rho, 2h). \tag{2.31}$$

Combining estimates Eq. (2.26)–(2.31) we arrive at the required Eq. (2.25). □

We choose  $\lambda$  such that

$$0 < \lambda < \min \left( 1, \frac{\alpha(n-s-1)}{n-s-\alpha} - p_n, \frac{\alpha-1}{n-s-\alpha} \left( \alpha - (n-s) \frac{q-1}{q} \right) \right). \tag{2.32}$$

**Theorem 2.2** *Let the conditions of Theorem 1.2 be fulfilled. Then there exist positive numbers  $c_6, c_7$  depending on the known parameters only such that the inequalities*

$$0 < r < 2\rho \leq R_0, \quad \rho \leq c_6 h \tag{2.33}$$

imply that

$$I(\rho, h) \leq c_7 h^{n+a_s-s} \rho^{\alpha-\frac{\lambda(n-s-\alpha)}{\alpha-1}} + c_7 h^{a_s} \rho^{n-s+\alpha-\frac{\lambda(n-s-\alpha)}{\alpha-1}} + c_7 G_2(r, \rho, h), \tag{2.34}$$

where

$$G_2(r, \rho, h) = \rho^{\alpha-\frac{\lambda(n-s-\alpha)}{\alpha-1}} h^{a_s} \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^{n-s} (r^{\frac{n-s-\alpha}{\alpha-1}} M(r))^{p_i-1} + \sum_{i=1}^{n-s} (r^{\frac{n-s-\alpha}{\alpha-1}} M(r))^{1-\frac{1}{p_i}} \right. \\ \left. + \sum_{i=n-s+1}^n h^{-\alpha\frac{n-s-1}{\alpha-1} + \frac{n-s-\alpha}{\alpha-1} p_i} (r^{\frac{n-s-\alpha}{\alpha-1}} M(r))^{p_i-1+\lambda} + (r^{\frac{n-s-\alpha}{\alpha-1}} M(r))^{\alpha-1+\lambda} \right\}.$$

*Proof* Let  $A = 2^{\alpha-1+\lambda} \theta^{-(n-s)\frac{q-1}{q}}$ ,  $B = c_5 c_6^{\alpha-\frac{n-s-\alpha}{\alpha-1}(p_n-\alpha)}$  and choose integers  $N_1, N_2$  such that

$$2r < \rho \theta^{N_1} \leq \frac{2r}{\theta}, \quad \frac{H_0}{2} < 2^{N_2} h \leq H_0. \tag{2.35}$$

Thus the inequality Eq. (2.25) can be rewritten in the form

$$I(\rho, h) \leq AI(\theta\rho, h) + BI(\rho, 2h) + \gamma G_1(r, \rho, h).$$

From this we deduce

$$I(\rho, h) \leq (2A)^{N_1} \sum_{j=0}^{N_2-1} (2B)^j I(2r, 2^j h) + (2B)^{N_2} \sum_{l=0}^{N_1-1} (2A)^l I(\theta^l \rho, H_0) \\ + \sum_{l=0}^{N_1-1} \sum_{j=0}^{N_2-1} A^l B^j G_1(r, \theta^l \rho, 2^j h). \tag{2.36}$$

Let us estimate the terms in the right-hand side of Eq. (2.36). By Eq. (1.17) we have

$$I(2r, 2^j h) \leq \gamma (2^j h)^{a_s} M^{\alpha-1+\lambda}(r) r^{n-s} \leq \gamma (2^j h)^{a_s} r^{\alpha-\frac{\lambda(n-s-\alpha)}{\alpha-1}} (r^{\frac{n-s-\alpha}{\alpha-1}} M(r))^{\alpha-1+\lambda},$$

choose  $c_6 < 1$  such that

$$2^{a_s+1} B = 2^{a_s+1} c_5 c_6^{\alpha - \frac{n-s-\alpha}{\alpha-1} (p_n-\alpha)} \leq \frac{1}{2}, \tag{2.37}$$

hence Eq. (2.37) yields

$$(2A)^{N_1} \sum_{j=0}^{N_2-1} (2B)^j I(2r, 2^j h) \leq \gamma (2A)^{N_1} h^{a_s} r^{\alpha - \frac{\lambda(n-s-\alpha)}{\alpha-1}} (r^{\frac{n-s-\alpha}{\alpha-1}} M(r))^{\alpha-1+\lambda}. \tag{2.38}$$

By Eq. (2.35) we have

$$(2A)^{N_1} \leq \gamma \left(\frac{\rho}{r}\right)^{(n-s)\frac{q-1}{q} + \frac{\alpha+\lambda}{\log_2 \frac{1}{\theta}}},$$

choosing  $\theta \in (0, 1)$  from the condition

$$\frac{\alpha + \lambda}{\log_2 \frac{1}{\theta}} \leq \alpha - (n - s) \frac{q - 1}{q} - \frac{\lambda(n - s - \alpha)}{\alpha - 1}, \tag{2.39}$$

we conclude from Eq. (2.38) that

$$(2A)^{N_1} \sum_{j=0}^{N_2-1} (2B)^j I(2r, 2^j h) \leq \gamma h^{a_s} \rho^{\alpha - \frac{\lambda(n-s-\alpha)}{\alpha-1}} (r^{\frac{n-s-\alpha}{\alpha-1}} M(r))^{\alpha-1+\lambda}. \tag{2.40}$$

Using Eq. (1.17) we have

$$\begin{aligned} I(\theta^l \rho, H_0) &\leq \gamma (\theta^l \rho)^{(n-s)\frac{q-1}{q}} \int_{D_2(H_0)} dx'' \left( \int_{\rho(x') \leq \theta^l \rho} \rho^{-\frac{n-s-\alpha}{\alpha-1}(\alpha-1+\lambda)q} (x') dx' \right)^{\frac{1}{q}} \\ &\leq \gamma (\theta^l \rho)^{\alpha - \frac{\lambda(n-s-\alpha)}{\alpha-1}}. \end{aligned}$$

The last inequality ensures that

$$\begin{aligned} (2B)^{N_2} \sum_{l=0}^{N_1-1} (2A)^l I(\theta^l \rho, H_0) &\leq \gamma (2B)^{N_2} \rho^{\alpha - \frac{\lambda(n-s-\alpha)}{\alpha-1}} \\ &\quad \times \sum_{l=0}^{N_1-1} 2^{(\alpha+\lambda)l} \theta^{l(\alpha - (n-s)\frac{q-1}{q} - \frac{\lambda(n-s-\alpha)}{\alpha-1})}. \end{aligned} \tag{2.41}$$

Choosing  $\theta, c_6$  small enough so that

$$\frac{\alpha + \lambda + 1}{\log_2 \frac{1}{\theta}} \leq \alpha - (n - s) \frac{q - 1}{q} - \frac{\lambda(n - s - \alpha)}{\alpha - 1}, \tag{2.42}$$

$$2B = 2c_5 c_6^{\alpha - \frac{n-s-\alpha}{\alpha-1} (p_n-\alpha)} \leq 2^{-n-a_s+s}, \tag{2.43}$$

we conclude from Eq. (2.41) that

$$(2B)^{N_2} \sum_{l=0}^{N_1-1} (2A)^l I(\theta^l \rho, H_0) \leq \gamma h^{n+a_s-s} \rho^{\alpha - \frac{\lambda(n-s-\alpha)}{\alpha-1}}. \tag{2.44}$$

Finally from the condition Eq. (1.17) we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 A^l B^j G_1(r, \theta^l h, 2^j h) &\leq \gamma A^l B^j (2^j h)^{\alpha_s} (\theta^l \rho)^\alpha \left\{ (\theta^l \rho)^{n-s-\frac{\lambda(n-s-\alpha)}{\alpha-1}} \right. \\
 &\quad \left. + (\theta^l \rho)^{-\frac{\lambda(n-s-\alpha)}{\alpha-1}} \left( \sum_{i=1}^{n-s} (r^{\frac{n-s-\alpha}{\alpha-1}} M(r))^{p_i-1} + \sum_{i=1}^{n-s} (r^{\frac{n-s-\alpha}{\alpha-1}} M(r))^{1-\frac{1}{p_i}} \right) \right. \\
 &\quad \left. + \sum_{i=n-s+1}^n (2^j h)^{-\frac{\alpha(n-s-1)}{\alpha-1} + \frac{n-s-\alpha}{\alpha-1} p_i} (r^{\frac{n-s-\alpha}{\alpha-1}} M(r))^{p_i-1+\lambda} + (r^{\frac{n-s-\alpha}{\alpha-1}} M(r))^{\alpha-1+\lambda} \right\}. \tag{2.45}
 \end{aligned}$$

First, choose  $c_6$  from the condition

$$2^{\alpha_s} B = 2^{\alpha_s} c_5 c_6^{\alpha - \frac{n-s-\alpha}{\alpha-1} (p_n-1)} \leq 2^{\alpha \frac{n-s-1}{\alpha-1} - \frac{n-s-\alpha}{\alpha-1} p_n-1}, \tag{2.46}$$

next choose  $\theta$  from the condition

$$2^{\alpha+\lambda} \theta^{\alpha-(n-s)} \frac{q-1}{q} \left\{ \theta^{n-s-\frac{\lambda(n-s-\alpha)}{\alpha-1}} + \theta^{-\frac{\lambda(n-s-\alpha)}{\alpha-1}} + 1 \right\} \leq \frac{1}{2}, \tag{2.47}$$

we conclude from Eq. (2.45) that

$$\sum_{l=0}^{N_1-1} \sum_{j=0}^{N_2-1} A^l B^j G_1(r, \theta^l h, 2^j h) \leq \gamma G_2(r, \rho, h) + \gamma h^{\alpha_s} \rho^{n-s+\alpha-\frac{\lambda(n-s-\alpha)}{\alpha-1}}. \tag{2.48}$$

Combining estimates Eq. (2.36)–(2.48) we arrive at the required Eq. (2.34). □

### 2.4 Pointwise estimates of solutions

Fix  $\rho > 0$ , for  $j = 1, 2, \dots, J = \lceil \frac{\ln \frac{R_0}{\theta}}{\ln \frac{\rho}{\theta}} \rceil + 1$  set  $\rho_j = R_0 \theta^j$ . Let  $x_0$  be an arbitrary point in  $D(R_0, H_0) \setminus D(\rho_j, H_0)$ . For  $l = 0, 1, 2, \dots$  set  $R_l = (1-\theta)\rho_j(1-\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2^{l+1}})$ ,  $\bar{R}_l = \frac{1}{2}(R_l + R_{l+1})$ ,  $B_{R_l}(x_0) = \{x : \rho(x' - x'_0) \leq R_l, \rho(x'' - x''_0) \leq c_6^{-1} R_l\}$ ,  $k_l = 2k_0 - \frac{k_0}{2^l}$ ,  $A_{k,R} = \{x \in B_R(x_0) : u_{\rho_{j-1}} \geq k\}$ , here  $\theta, c_6$  were defined in Theorem 2.2,  $k_0$  is a positive number depending on the known parameters only, which will be specified later.

Let  $\xi_l \in C_0^\infty(B_{\bar{R}_l})$  be such that  $\xi_l \equiv 1$  for  $x \in B_{R_{l+1}}(x_0)$ ,  $|\frac{\partial \xi_l}{\partial x_i}| \leq \gamma 2^l \rho_j^{-\frac{\alpha}{p_i} - \frac{n-s-\alpha}{\alpha-1} (\frac{\alpha}{p_i}-1)}$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, n$ .

Testing Eq. (1.15) by  $\varphi = (u_{\rho_{j-1}} - k_{l+1})^{\lambda} \xi_l^{m-1}$ ,  $\psi = \xi_l$ , using Eq. (1.2) and the Young inequality we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\sum_{i=1}^n \int_{A_{k_{l+1}, \bar{R}_l}} (u_{\rho_{j-1}} - k_{l+1})^{\lambda-1} |u_{x_i}|^{p_i} \xi_l^m dx \leq \gamma 2^{\gamma l} \sum_{i=1}^n \rho^{-\alpha - \frac{n-s-\alpha}{\alpha-1} (\alpha-p_i)} \\
 &\quad \times \int_{A_{k_{l+1}, \bar{R}_l}} (u_{\rho_{j-1}} - k_{l+1})^{p_i-1+\lambda} dx \\
 &\quad + \gamma \int_{A_{k_{l+1}, \bar{R}_l}} (u_{\rho_{j-1}} - k_{l+1})^{\alpha-1+\lambda} dx + \gamma |A_{k_{l+1}, \bar{R}_l}|. \tag{2.49}
 \end{aligned}$$

Using Eq. (1.17) we conclude from Eq. (2.49) that

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \int_{A_{k_{l+1}, \bar{R}_l}} (u_{\rho_{j-1}} - k_{l+1})^{\lambda-1} |u_{x_i}|^{p_i} \xi_l^m dx \leq \gamma 2^{\gamma l} \rho_j^{s-n-\frac{\lambda(n-s-\alpha)}{\alpha-1}} |A_{k_{l+1}, \bar{R}_l}|. \tag{2.50}$$

Using Eq. (1.5), the Hölder inequality and Lemma 2.2 with  $\alpha_1 = \dots = \alpha_n = 1 - \lambda$ , we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{A_{k_{l+1}, R_{l+1}}} (u_{\rho_{j-1}} - k_{l+1})^{\alpha-1+\lambda} dx &\leq \int_{A_{k_{l+1}, \bar{R}_l}} (u_{\rho_{j-1}} - k_{l+1})^{\alpha-1+\lambda} \xi_l^{m(\alpha-1+\lambda)} dx \\ &\leq \gamma \left( \int_{A_{k_{l+1}, \bar{R}_l}} ((u_{\rho_{j-1}} - k_{l+1}) \xi_l^m)^{\frac{(\rho-1+\lambda)n}{n-p}} dx \right)^{\frac{(\alpha-1+\lambda)(n-p)}{(\rho-1+\lambda)n}} |A_{k_{l+1}, \bar{R}_l}|^{1-\frac{(\alpha-1+\lambda)(n-p)}{(\rho-1+\lambda)n}} \\ &\leq \gamma \left( \sum_{i=1}^n \int_{A_{k_{l+1}, \bar{R}_l}} (u_{\rho_{j-1}} - k_{l+1})^{\lambda-1} \xi_l^{m(\lambda-1)} \left| \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} ((u_{\rho_{j-1}} - k_{l+1}) \xi_l^m) \right|^{p_i} dx \right)^{\frac{\alpha-1+\lambda}{\rho-1+\lambda}} |A_{k_{l+1}, \bar{R}_l}|^{1-\frac{(\alpha-1+\lambda)(n-p)}{(\rho-1+\lambda)n}} \\ &\leq \gamma 2^{\gamma l} \rho_j^{(s-n-\frac{\lambda(n-s-\alpha)}{\alpha-1})\frac{\alpha-1+\lambda}{\rho-1+\lambda}} |A_{k_{l+1}, \bar{R}_l}|^{1+\frac{\alpha-1+\lambda}{\rho-1+\lambda} \frac{p}{n}}. \end{aligned} \tag{2.51}$$

Using the evident inequality

$$|A_{k_{l+1}, \bar{R}_l}| \leq 2^{l(\alpha-1+\lambda)} k_0^{-(\alpha-1+\lambda)} \int_{A_{k_l, R_l}} (u_{\rho_{j-1}} - k_l)^{\alpha-1+\lambda} dx$$

and setting  $y_l = \int_{A_{k_l, R_l}} (u_{\rho_{j-1}} - k_l)^{\alpha-1+\lambda} dx$  we obtain

$$y_{l+1} \leq \gamma 2^{\gamma l} \rho_j^{(s-n-\frac{\lambda(n-s-\alpha)}{\alpha-1})\frac{\alpha-1+\lambda}{\rho-1+\lambda}} k_0^{-(\alpha-1+\lambda)(1+\frac{\alpha-1+\lambda}{\rho-1+\lambda} \frac{p}{n})} y_l^{1+\frac{\alpha-1+\lambda}{\rho-1+\lambda} \frac{p}{n}}, \quad l = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

Due to Lemma 2.3 this inequality implies that  $y_l \rightarrow 0$  as  $l \rightarrow \infty$  if  $k_0$  satisfies the following condition

$$y_0 = \gamma \rho^{-(s-n-\frac{\lambda(n-s-\alpha)}{\alpha-1})\frac{n}{p}} k_0^{(\alpha-1+\lambda)(\frac{n}{p}\frac{\rho-1+\lambda}{\alpha-1+\lambda} + 1)}.$$

From this we obtain that

$$(\text{ess sup}\{u_{\rho_{j-1}}(x) : x \in B_{\frac{1-\theta}{2}\rho_j}(x_0)\})^{\alpha-1+\lambda+\frac{n}{p}(p-1+\lambda)} \leq \gamma \rho_j^{(s-n-\frac{\lambda(n-s-\alpha)}{\alpha-1})\frac{n}{p}} \int_{E(\rho_{j-1})} u_{\rho_{j-1}}^{\alpha-1+\lambda} dx. \tag{2.52}$$

Since  $x_0$  is an arbitrary point in  $D(R_0, H_0) \setminus D(\rho_j, H_0)$ , from Eq. (2.52) it follows

$$(M(\rho_j) - M(\rho_{j-1}))^{\alpha-1+\lambda+\frac{n}{p}(p-1+\lambda)} \leq \gamma \rho_j^{(s-n-\frac{\lambda(n-s-\alpha)}{\alpha-1})\frac{n}{p}} \int_{E(\rho_{j-1})} u_{\rho_{j-1}}^{\alpha-1+\lambda} dx.$$

Using Theorem 2.2 with  $\rho = \rho_{j-1}$ ,  $h = c_6^{-1} \rho_{j-1}$  and the Hölder inequality we obtain

$$(M(\rho_j) - M(\rho_{j-1}))^{\alpha-1+\lambda+\frac{n}{p}(p-1+\lambda)} \leq \gamma \rho_j^{(s-n-\frac{\lambda(n-s-\alpha)}{\alpha-1})\frac{n}{p}} \{ \rho_j^{a_s+n-s+\alpha-\frac{\lambda(n-s-\alpha)}{\alpha-1}} + G_2(r, \rho_{j-1}, c_6^{-1} \rho_{j-1}) \}. \tag{2.53}$$



Passing in Eq. (2.53) to the limit  $r \rightarrow 0$ , by Eq. (1.17) we obtain

$$(M(\rho_j) - M(\rho_{j-1}))^{\alpha-1+\lambda+\frac{n}{p}(p-1+\lambda)} \leq \gamma \rho_j^{n+\alpha-\frac{\lambda(n-s-\alpha)}{\alpha-1}+(s-n-\frac{\lambda(n-s-\alpha)}{\alpha-1})\frac{n}{p}}. \tag{2.54}$$

In order to complete the proof of Theorem 1.2 we sum up Eq. (2.54) with respect to  $j$  from 1 to  $J$

$$M(\rho) \leq M(\rho_J) \leq M(R_0) + \gamma \rho_J^{-\frac{n-s-\alpha}{\alpha-1}+c} \leq M(R_0) + \gamma \rho^{-\frac{n-s-\alpha}{\alpha-1}+c} \tag{2.55}$$

where  $c = \frac{\frac{\alpha}{p}(n-s-1)-n+s+\alpha+(n-s-1)(n-1-\frac{n-p\alpha}{p})}{(\alpha-1)(\alpha+1+\lambda+\frac{n}{p}(p-1+\lambda))} > 0$  by Eq. (1.5).

From this the required Eq. (1.18) follows, which proves Theorem 1.2.

### 3 Proof of Theorem 1.1

#### 3.1 Boundedness of the solutions

For  $j = 0, 1, 2, \dots$  set  $\rho_j = R_0(1 - \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2^{j+1}})$ ,  $\bar{\rho}_j = \frac{1}{2}(\rho_j + \rho_{j+1})$ ,  $h_j = H_0(1 - \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{2^{j+2}})$ ,  $\bar{h}_j = \frac{1}{2}(h_j + h_{j+1})$ ,  $k_j = 2k_0 - \frac{k_0}{2^j}$ ,  $A_{k_j, \rho_j, h_j} = \{x \in D(\rho_j, h_j) : u \geq k_j\}$ , where  $k_0$  is a positive number depending on the known parameters only, which will be specified later. Let  $\varphi_j(x') \in C_0^\infty(D_1(\bar{\rho}_j))$  be such that  $\varphi_j(x') \equiv 1$  for  $x' \in D_1(\rho_{j+1})$ ,  $|\frac{\partial \varphi_j(x')}{\partial x_i}| \leq \gamma 2^j$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, n-s$ ;  $\zeta_j(x'') \in C_0^\infty(D_2(\bar{h}_j))$  be such that  $\zeta_j(x'') \equiv 1$  for  $x'' \in D_2(h_{j+1})$ ,  $|\frac{\partial \zeta_j(x'')}{\partial x_i}| \leq \gamma 2^j$ ,  $i = n-s+1, \dots, n$ . Set  $\xi_j(x) = \varphi_j(x')\zeta_j(x'')$ . Test (1.15) by  $\varphi(u - k_{j+1})_+^\varepsilon \xi_j^m \psi_r^{m-1}$ ,  $\psi = \psi_r$ , where  $\varepsilon$  depending on the known parameters only is small enough to be determined later. Using Eq. (1.2) and the Young inequality we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{i=1}^n \int_{A_{k_{j+1}, \bar{\rho}_j, \bar{h}_j}} (u - k_{j+1})^{\varepsilon-1} |u_{x_i}|^{p_i} \xi_j^m \psi_r^m dx \leq \gamma \sum_{i=k_{j+1}, \bar{\rho}_j, \bar{h}_j}^{n-s} \int (u - k_{j+1})^{p_i-1+\varepsilon} \left| \frac{\partial \psi_r}{\partial x_i} \right|^{p_i} \xi_j^m dx \\ & + \gamma 2^{j\gamma} \sum_{i=A_{k_{j+1}, \bar{\rho}_j, \bar{h}_j}}^n \int (u - k_{j+1})^{p_i-1+\varepsilon} \psi_r^m \xi_j^{m-\bar{p}} dx + \gamma \int_{A_{k_{j+1}, \bar{\rho}_j, \bar{h}_j}} (u - k_{j+1})^{\alpha-1+\varepsilon} \psi_r^m \xi_j^m dx + \gamma |A_{k_{j+1}, \bar{\rho}_j, \bar{h}_j}|. \end{aligned} \tag{3.1}$$

Let us estimate the first term in the right-hand side of Eq. (3.1). By Theorem 1.2 we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{i=1}^{n-s} \int_{A_{k_{j+1}, \bar{\rho}_j, \bar{h}_j}} (u - k_{j+1})^{p_i-1+\varepsilon} \left| \frac{\partial \psi_r}{\partial x_i} \right|^{p_i} \xi_j^m dx \\ & \leq \gamma \sum_{i=1}^{n-s} r^{n-s-\alpha-\frac{n-s-\alpha}{\alpha-1}(\alpha-p_i)} M^{p_i-1+\varepsilon}(r) \leq \gamma \sum_{i=1}^{n-s} r^{c(p_i-1+\varepsilon)-\varepsilon\frac{n-s-\alpha}{\alpha-1}} \leq \gamma r^{c(p_1-1)-\varepsilon\frac{n-s-\alpha}{\alpha-1}}, \end{aligned} \tag{3.2}$$

where  $c > 0$  was defined in Eq. (2.55). Choosing  $\varepsilon > 0$  small enough so that

$$\varepsilon = \frac{1}{2} \min \left( 1, \frac{c(p_1 - 1)(\alpha - 1)}{n - s - \alpha} \right) \tag{3.3}$$

and passing to the limit  $r \rightarrow 0$ , by Eq. (3.1), Eq. (3.2) we obtain

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \int_{A_{k_{j+1}, \bar{\rho}_j, \bar{h}_j}} (u - k_{j+1})^{\varepsilon-1} |u_{x_i}|^{p_i} \xi_j^m dx \leq \gamma 2^{j\gamma} \sum_{i=1}^n \int_{A_{k_{j+1}, \bar{\rho}_j, \bar{h}_j}} (u - k_{j+1})^{p_i-1+\varepsilon} \xi_j^{m-\bar{p}} dx$$

$$+ \gamma \int_{A_{k_{j+1}, \bar{\rho}_j, \bar{h}_j}} (u - k_{j+1})^{\alpha-1+\varepsilon} \xi_j^m dx + \gamma |A_{k_{j+1}, \bar{\rho}_j, \bar{h}_j}|. \tag{3.4}$$

Choose  $q > 1$  such that

$$\frac{\bar{p} - 1 + \varepsilon}{\alpha - 1 + \varepsilon} < q < \min \left\{ \frac{(p - 1 + \varepsilon)n}{(\alpha - 1 + \varepsilon)(n - p)}, \frac{n - s}{n - s - \alpha} \right\}, \tag{3.5}$$

using the Young inequality from Eq. (3.4), Eq. (3.5) we obtain

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \int_{A_{k_{j+1}, \bar{\rho}_j, \bar{h}_j}} (u - k_{j+1})^{\varepsilon-1} |u_{x_i}|^{p_i} \xi_j^m dx \leq \gamma 2^{j\gamma} \left( \int_{A_{k_{j+1}, \bar{\rho}_j, \bar{h}_j}} (u - k_j)^{(\alpha-1+\varepsilon)q} dx + |A_{k_{j+1}, \bar{\rho}_j, \bar{h}_j}| \right). \tag{3.6}$$

Similarly to Eq. (2.51) we have

$$\int_{A_{k_{j+1}, \rho_{j+1}, h_{j+1}}} (u - k_{j+1})^{(\alpha-1+\varepsilon)q} dx$$

$$\leq \gamma 2^{j\gamma} \left( \int_{A_{k_j, \rho_j, h_j}} (u - k_j)^{(\alpha-1+\varepsilon)q} dx + |A_{k_{j+1}, \bar{\rho}_j, \bar{h}_j}| \right)^{\frac{(\alpha-1+\varepsilon)q}{p-1+\varepsilon}} |A_{k_{j+1}, \bar{\rho}_j, \bar{h}_j}|^{1 - \frac{(\alpha-1+\varepsilon)q(n-p)}{(p-1+\varepsilon)n}}. \tag{3.7}$$

Using the evident inequality

$$|A_{k_{j+1}, \bar{\rho}_j, \bar{h}_j}| \leq 2^{j(\alpha-1+\varepsilon)q} k_0^{-(\alpha-1+\varepsilon)} \int_{A_{k_j, \rho_j, h_j}} (u - k_j)^{(\alpha-1+\varepsilon)q} dx$$

and setting  $y_j = \int_{A_{k_j, \rho_j, h_j}} (u - k_j)^{(\alpha-1+\varepsilon)q} dx$  we obtain

$$y_{j+1} \leq \gamma 2^{j\gamma} \left( k_0^{1 - \frac{(\alpha-1+\varepsilon)q(n-p)}{(p-1+\varepsilon)n}} + k_0^{1 + \frac{(\alpha-1+\varepsilon)pq}{(p-1+\varepsilon)n}} \right)^{-(\alpha-1+\varepsilon)q} y_j^{1 + \frac{(\alpha-1+\varepsilon)pq}{(p-1+\varepsilon)n}}, \quad j = 0, 1, 2, \dots \tag{3.8}$$

Due to Lemma 2.3 this inequality implies that  $y_j \rightarrow 0$  as  $j \rightarrow \infty$  if  $k_0$  satisfies the following condition

$$y_0 = \gamma k_0^{\frac{(p-1+\varepsilon)n}{p}} \left( k_0^{(\alpha-1+\varepsilon)q} + k_0^{-(\alpha-1+\varepsilon)q} \frac{n-p}{n} \right). \tag{3.9}$$

From Eq. (3.9) we get

$$\text{ess sup} \left\{ |u(x)| : x \in D \left( \frac{R_0}{2}, \frac{3H_0}{4} \right) \right\} \leq \gamma + \gamma \left( \int_{D(R_0, H_0)} |u|^{(\alpha-1+\varepsilon)q} dx \right)^{\frac{1}{(p-1+\varepsilon)\frac{n}{p} - (\alpha-1+\varepsilon)q\frac{n-p}{p}}}, \tag{3.10}$$

this completes the proof of the boundedness of  $u$  in the whole of  $D(\frac{R_0}{4}, \frac{3H_0}{4})$ .

### 3.2 End of the proof of Theorem 1.1

Let  $K$  be a compact subset of domain  $\Omega$ . Let  $\eta \in C_0^\infty(\Omega)$  be such that  $\eta(x)E\varphi \equiv 1$  for  $x \in K$ .

Testing Eq. (1.15) by  $\varphi = u\eta^m\psi_r^{m-1}$ ,  $\psi = \psi_r$  using Eq. (1.2) the Young inequality, the boundedness of  $u$  and passing to the limit  $r \rightarrow 0$  we get

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \int_K \left| \frac{\partial u}{\partial x_i} \right|^{p_i} dx \leq \gamma. \quad (3.11)$$

Let  $\varphi \in \overset{\circ}{W}^{1,\bar{p}}(\Omega)$ . Test Eq. (1.15) by  $\varphi\psi_r$ , using Eq. (3.11) and the boundedness of the solution we pass to the limit  $r \rightarrow 0$ . So we obtain the required integral identity with an arbitrary  $\varphi \in \overset{\circ}{W}^{1,\bar{p}}(\Omega)$  and  $\psi \equiv 1$ . Thus Theorem 1.1 is proved.

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