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## On a non-existence result involving the fractional $p$ -Laplacian

**Abstract.** We consider a nonlocal problem involving the fractional  $p$ -Laplacian operator in bounded smooth domains. A non-existence result is obtained via a comparison process. This result extends those done for the fractional Laplacian.

**Keywords.** Non-existence, weak solution, fractional  $p$ -Laplacian.

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### 1 - Introduction

Let  $N \geq 1$  be an integer and let  $\Omega$  be a bounded domain of  $\mathbb{R}^N$ . Consider the following nonlinear problem

$$(E_p^s) \quad \begin{cases} (-\Delta)_p^s u = f(x, u) & \text{in } \Omega, \\ u = 0 & \text{in } \mathbb{R}^N \setminus \Omega. \end{cases}$$

The nonlinear operator  $(-\Delta)_p^s$  with  $p > 1$  and  $s \in (0, 1)$  is the fractional  $p$ -Laplacian operator which is defined for any  $x \in \mathbb{R}^N$  by

$$(1) \quad (-\Delta)_p^s u(x) = 2 \lim_{\varepsilon \searrow 0} \int_{\mathbb{R}^N \setminus B_\varepsilon(x)} \frac{|u(x) - u(y)|^{p-2}}{|x - y|^{N+sp}} (u(x) - u(y)) dy.$$

where  $B_\varepsilon(x)$  denotes the open ball of radius  $\varepsilon > 0$  and center  $x$ . System like  $(E_p^s)$  can be met in the field of game theory; see [2] for a complete framework of the subject. When  $s = 1$ , the fractional  $p$ -Laplacian becomes the well-known  $p$ -Laplacian op-

erator. When  $p = 2$ ,  $(-\Delta)_p^s$  is reduced to be the linear operator  $(-\Delta)^s$  usually called the fractional Laplacian and we obtain a semilinear problem which has been widely studied mainly to show non-existence results for nonlinear elliptic problems. In [15], X. Ros-Oton and J. Serra proved that  $(E_p^s)$  admits no positive and bounded solution if  $f$  is such that

$$(2) \quad \frac{N-2s}{2N}uf(u) \geq \int_0^u f(t)dt, \quad \forall u \in \mathbb{R}.$$

This result is obtained by using a version of the Pohozaev identity for the fractional Laplace problem. Indeed, for  $s = 1$ ,  $p = 2$ , one retrieves the well-known non-existence condition like (2) established by S. I. Pohozaev in his pionner paper [14]. So, X. Ros-Oton and J. Serra generalized the results of [14] giving the fractional version of this identity. As an application of their work, they stated non-existence results for problem  $(E_p^s)$  with supercritical nonlinearities  $f$  in star-shaped domains  $\Omega$ . The results of [15] are developed in a full paper [18]. More recently, these authors extended their results showing in [17] the non-existence of nontrivial bounded solutions to some nonlinear problems in the form

$$(3) \quad \begin{cases} Lu &= f(u) & \text{in } \Omega, \\ u &= 0 & \text{in } \mathbb{R}^N \setminus \Omega, \end{cases}$$

where  $L$  denotes a nonlocal operator in star-shaped domains  $\Omega$ . An operator is nonlocal in the sense that one needs the value of a function in all  $\Omega$  and not only in a neighbourhood of a point, to determine the effect of the operator on it. X. Cabré and Y. Sire interested in [1], in the existence, variational properties and asymptotic behaviour of particular solutions to  $(E_p^s)$  with  $p = 2$ . Nonlinear eigenvalues problems have been analyzed by A. Iannizzotto et al. in [10], showing the existence of eigenvalues. They established the existence of non-trivial weak solutions to  $(E_p^s)$  with  $f = \lambda|u|^{p-2}u$ , so demonstrating the existence of fractional eigenvalues  $\lambda$ . Then using Morse theory, they proved the existence of non-zero solutions in the  $p$ -superlinear case  $f$ . M. D'Elia and M. Gunzburger studied in [3] discretization methods for the nonlocal operator  $L$ , the fractional Laplacian operator being a special case of  $L$ . The main contribution of their paper is the demonstration of the convergence of the nonlocal operator  $L$  to the fractional Laplacian  $(-\Delta)^s$  on bounded domains, under certain conditions. In [9], the eigenvalues of nonlocal operators, of which the fractional  $p$ -Laplacian operator is a particular case, were exploiting considering the weak solutions  $u$  to the nonlocal problem. Paper [16] is devoted to the Pohozaev identity for the fractional Laplacian  $(-\Delta)^s$  with  $s > 1$ . This paper extends the results of [18] and give as application, a continuation property for the fractional eigenfunctions. We can

also mention [11] in which R. Ignat presents some Pohozaev identities for an elliptic equation.

When  $p > 1$ , the study of existence of solutions to fractional  $p$ -Laplacian problems with weight was the object of [12]. Indeed, this paper is concerned with the existence of solutions to

$$\begin{cases} (-\Delta)_p^s u = \varphi(x)f(u) & \text{in } \mathbb{R}^N, \\ u \geq 0, & u \neq 0. \end{cases}$$

In [6] A. Di Castro et al. investigated regularity results for nonlocal problem (3) with non-homogeneous Dirichlet condition, which can be reduced to problem  $(E_p^s)$  in some cases. R. Ferreira and M. Pérez-Llanos went further with limit problems for fractional  $p$ -Laplacian. They described in [8] the behaviour of solutions to  $(E_p^s)$ , as  $p \rightarrow \infty$ . A crucial paper for the theory of fractional Sobolev spaces  $W^{s,p}$ ,  $s \in (0, 1)$ , is [7], where the authors look the role of these spaces in the trace theory.

The present work aims to prove non-existence of nontrivial solutions for non-linear problem  $(E_p^s)$  in the case  $p > 1$  and  $s \in (0, 1)$ .

Let  $\Omega$  be a regular bounded open set of  $\mathbb{R}^N$ . Recall that

$$C^{0,\alpha}(\overline{\Omega}) = \left\{ u \in C(\overline{\Omega}); \sup_{\substack{x,y \in \Omega \\ x \neq y}} \frac{|u(x) - u(y)|}{|x - y|^\alpha} < \infty \right\},$$

$$C^{m,\alpha}(\overline{\Omega}) = \{u \in C^m(\overline{\Omega}), D^\beta u \in C^{0,\alpha}(\overline{\Omega}), \forall \beta \text{ with } |\beta| = m\},$$

$$\text{where } D^\beta u = \frac{\partial^{|\beta|} u}{\partial x_1^{\beta_1} \dots \partial x_N^{\beta_N}} = \frac{\partial^{\beta_1 + \dots + \beta_N} u}{\partial x_1^{\beta_1} \dots \partial x_N^{\beta_N}}.$$

Let  $\beta$  be a strictly positive real,  $k$  is the greater integer such that  $k < \beta$ .  $[\cdot]_{C^{k,\beta-k}(\Omega)}$  designates the seminorm on the space  $C^{k,\beta-k}(\Omega)$ ,

$$[u]_{C^{k,\beta-k}(\Omega)} = \sup_{x,y \in \Omega, x \neq y} \frac{|D^k u(x) - D^k u(y)|}{|x - y|^{\beta-k}}.$$

The main result of this paper is as follows.

**Theorem 1.1.** *Consider  $\Omega$  an open  $C^{1,1}$  bounded set of  $\mathbb{R}^N$ .  $\delta(x) = \text{dist}(x, \partial\Omega)$ . Let  $f$  be a locally Lipschitz function satisfying to*

$$(4) \quad \frac{N-sp}{Np} f(u)u \geq \int_0^u f(t)dt, \text{ for all } u \in \mathbb{R}.$$

Assume that  $u$  is a  $W^{s,p}(\mathbb{R}^N)$  function which vanishes in  $\mathbb{R}^N \setminus \Omega$ , and such that  $u$  is of class  $C^{0,1}(\Omega)$  and

$$[u]_{C^{0,1}(\{x \in \Omega; \delta(x) \geq \rho\})} \leq C\rho^{s-1}, \text{ for all } \rho \in (0, 1),$$

then problem

$$(5) \quad \begin{cases} (-\Delta)_p^s u = f(u) & \text{in } \Omega, \\ u = 0 & \text{in } \mathbb{R}^N \setminus \Omega \end{cases}$$

admits no positive bounded solution. Moreover, if the inequality in (4) is strict, then problem (5) admits no nontrivial bounded solution.

**Corollary 1.1.** Assume that the hypotheses of Theorem 1.1 hold. If  $\alpha \geq \frac{N(p-1)+sp}{N-sp}$ , then problem

$$(6) \quad \begin{cases} (-\Delta)_p^s u = u|u|^{\alpha-1} & \text{in } \Omega, \\ u = 0 & \text{in } \mathbb{R}^N \setminus \Omega \end{cases}$$

admits no positive bounded solution. Moreover, if  $\alpha > \frac{N(p-1)+sp}{N-sp}$ , then problem (6) admits no nontrivial bounded solution.

The paper is organized as follows. In Section 2, we give the weak formulation to problem  $(E_p^s)$ . Section 3 is devoted to the proof of the main result.

## 2 - Weak formulation

Let  $\Omega$  be an open set of  $\mathbb{R}^N$ , star-shaped with respect to the origin of  $\mathbb{R}^N$  and let  $W^{s,p}(\mathbb{R}^N)$  be the fractional Sobolev space defined by

$$W^{s,p}(\mathbb{R}^N) = \left\{ u \in L^p(\mathbb{R}^N) : u \text{ measurable, } \frac{|u(x) - u(y)|}{|x - y|^{\frac{N}{p} + s}} \in L^p(\mathbb{R}^{2N}) \right\}$$

endowed with the natural norm

$$\|u\|_{W^{s,p}(\mathbb{R}^N)} = \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} |u|^p dx + \int_{\mathbb{R}^{2N}} \frac{|u(x) - u(y)|^p}{|x - y|^{N+sp}} dx dy \right)^{\frac{1}{p}}.$$

Consider the Gagliardo (semi-)norm of all measurable function  $u : \mathbb{R}^N \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ :

$$[u]_{W^{s,p}(\mathbb{R}^N)} = \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^{2N}} \frac{|u(x) - u(y)|^p}{|x - y|^{N+sp}} dx dy \right)^{\frac{1}{p}}.$$

See [7] for more details on the above notations. Now following [10], define the set

$$X(\Omega) = \{u \in W^{s,p}(\mathbb{R}^N) : u(x) = 0 \text{ a.e. in } \mathbb{R}^N \setminus \Omega\},$$

which can be renormed by setting  $\|\cdot\| = [\cdot]_{W^{s,p}(\mathbb{R}^N)}$ . The dual space of  $(X(\Omega), \|\cdot\|)$  is denoted by  $(X(\Omega)^*, \|\cdot\|_*)$ . Define for all  $u, v \in X(\Omega)$ , the nonlinear operator  $\mathcal{A} : X(\Omega) \rightarrow X(\Omega)^*$ , by:

$$(7) \quad \langle \mathcal{A}(u), v \rangle = \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} \frac{|u(x) - u(y)|^{p-2} (u(x) - u(y))(v(x) - v(y))}{|x - y|^{N+sp}} dx dy$$

where here and in the rest of the paper, the notation  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$  designates the duality brackets between the spaces  $X(\Omega)^*$  and  $X(\Omega)$ .

If  $u$  is smooth enough, this definition coincides with that of the fractional  $p$ -Laplacian (1). A (weak) solution of problem  $(E_p^s)$  is a function  $u \in X(\Omega)$  such that for any  $v \in X(\Omega)$ ,

$$\langle \mathcal{A}(u), v \rangle = \int_{\Omega} f(x, u) v dx.$$

### 3 - Proof of the main result

Let  $u$  be a function in  $X(\Omega)$ . Following [18], define in  $\mathbb{R}^N$  the function:

$$u_{\lambda}(x) = u(\lambda x).$$

Since  $u \equiv 0$  in  $\mathbb{R}^N \setminus \Omega$ ,  $\Omega$  is star-shaped then for  $\lambda > 1$ , it follows that  $u_{\lambda} \equiv 0$  in  $\mathbb{R}^N \setminus \Omega$ . It follows that  $\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} (-\Delta_p)^s u(x) u_{\lambda}(x) dx = \int_{\Omega} (-\Delta_p)^s u(x) u_{\lambda}(x) dx$  and so,

$$\frac{d}{d\lambda} \Big|_{\lambda=1^+} \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} u_{\lambda}(x) (-\Delta_p)^s u(x) dx = \frac{d}{d\lambda} \Big|_{\lambda=1^+} \int_{\Omega} u_{\lambda}(x) (-\Delta_p)^s u(x) dx$$

where  $\frac{d}{d\lambda} \Big|_{\lambda=1^+}$  is the derivative at  $\lambda = 1$ . We set  $g(x) = (-\Delta_p)^s u(x)$  and taking account to the assumptions on  $u$  and  $f$ , we refer us to the proof of Proposition 1.6, page

10 in [18] and so, we argue similarly. Hence, the following identity holds

$$\int_{\Omega} (x \cdot \nabla u) \mathcal{A}(u) dx = \frac{d}{d\lambda} \Big|_{\lambda=1^+} \int_{\Omega} (-\Delta_p)^s u(x) u_{\lambda}(x) dx.$$

Then, we deduce

$$\int_{\Omega} (x \cdot \nabla u) \mathcal{A}(u) dx = \frac{d}{d\lambda} \Big|_{\lambda=1^+} \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} (-\Delta_p)^s u(x) u_{\lambda}(x) dx.$$

Consequently, using (7) with  $v = u_{\lambda}$ , and making the changes of variables  $z = \lambda^{\frac{1}{p}}x$  and  $\omega = \lambda^{\frac{1}{p}}y$ , we obtain

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} (-\Delta_p)^s u(x) u_{\lambda}(x) dx = \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} \frac{|u(x) - u(y)|^{p-2} (u(x) - u(y))}{|x - y|^{N+sp}} (u(\lambda x) - u(\lambda y)) dx dy.$$

More precisely, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \mathcal{A}(u), u_{\lambda} \rangle &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^{2N}} \frac{|u(\lambda^{-\frac{1}{p}}z) - u(\lambda^{-\frac{1}{p}}\omega)|^{p-2}}{|\lambda^{-\frac{1}{p}}z - \lambda^{-\frac{1}{p}}\omega|^{N+sp}} (u(\lambda^{-\frac{1}{p}}z) - u(\lambda^{-\frac{1}{p}}\omega)) \\ &\quad \times (u(\lambda^{\frac{p-1}{p}}z) - u(\lambda^{\frac{p-1}{p}}\omega)) \lambda^{-\frac{2N}{p}} dz d\omega \\ &= \lambda^{\frac{sp-N}{p}} \int_{\mathbb{R}^{2N}} \frac{|u(\lambda^{-\frac{1}{p}}z) - u(\lambda^{-\frac{1}{p}}\omega)|^{p-2}}{|z - \omega|^{N+sp}} (u(\lambda^{-\frac{1}{p}}z) - u(\lambda^{-\frac{1}{p}}\omega)) \\ &\quad \times (u(\lambda^{\frac{p-1}{p}}z) - u(\lambda^{\frac{p-1}{p}}\omega)) dz d\omega \\ &= \lambda^{\frac{sp-N}{p}} \int_{\mathbb{R}^{2N}} \left( \frac{|u(\lambda^{-\frac{1}{p}}z) - u(\lambda^{-\frac{1}{p}}\omega)|}{|\lambda^{-\frac{1}{p}}z - \lambda^{-\frac{1}{p}}\omega|^{\frac{N+sp}{p}}} \right)^{p-2} \frac{u(\lambda^{-\frac{1}{p}}z) - u(\lambda^{-\frac{1}{p}}\omega)}{|\lambda^{-\frac{1}{p}}z - \lambda^{-\frac{1}{p}}\omega|^{\frac{N+sp}{p}}} \\ &\quad \times \frac{u(\lambda^{\frac{p-1}{p}}z) - u(\lambda^{\frac{p-1}{p}}\omega)}{|\lambda^{\frac{p-1}{p}}z - \lambda^{\frac{p-1}{p}}\omega|^{\frac{N+sp}{p}}} dz dw \end{aligned}$$

because we have remarked that  $\lambda^{-\frac{p-2}{p} \frac{N+sp}{p}} \lambda^{-\frac{1}{p} \frac{N+sp}{p}} \lambda^{\frac{p-1}{p} \frac{N+sp}{p}} = 1$  and  $|z - \omega|^{\frac{N+sp}{p}(p-2) + \frac{N+sp}{p} + \frac{N+sp}{p}} = |z - \omega|^{N+sp}$ .

Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} (8) \quad \int_{\Omega} (x \cdot \nabla u) \mathcal{A}(u) dx &= \frac{sp-N}{p} \int_{\mathbb{R}^{2N}} \left( \frac{|u(z) - u(\omega)|}{|z - \omega|^{\frac{N+sp}{p}}} \right)^{p-2} \frac{u(z) - u(\omega)}{|z - \omega|^{\frac{N+sp}{p}}} \\ &\quad \times \frac{u(z) - u(\omega)}{|z - \omega|^{\frac{N+sp}{p}}} dz dw + \frac{d}{d\lambda} \Big|_{\lambda=1^+} I_{\lambda}, \end{aligned}$$

where

$$I_\lambda = \int_{\mathbb{R}^{2N}} \left( \frac{|u(\lambda^{-\frac{1}{p}}z) - u(\lambda^{-\frac{1}{p}}\omega)|}{|\lambda^{-\frac{1}{p}}z - \lambda^{-\frac{1}{p}}\omega|^{\frac{N+sp}{p}}} \right)^{p-2} \frac{u(\lambda^{-\frac{1}{p}}z) - u(\lambda^{-\frac{1}{p}}\omega)}{|\lambda^{-\frac{1}{p}}z - \lambda^{-\frac{1}{p}}\omega|^{\frac{N+sp}{p}}} \times \frac{u(\lambda^{\frac{p-1}{p}}z) - u(\lambda^{\frac{p-1}{p}}\omega)}{|\lambda^{\frac{p-1}{p}}z - \lambda^{\frac{p-1}{p}}\omega|^{\frac{N+sp}{p}}} dzd\omega.$$

Then we can write

$$(9) \quad \int_{\Omega} (x \cdot \nabla u) \mathcal{A}(u) dx - \frac{sp - N}{p} \int_{\mathbb{R}^{2N}} \frac{|u(x) - u(y)|^p}{|x - y|^{N+sp}} dx dy = \frac{d}{d\lambda} \Big|_{\lambda=1^+} I_\lambda.$$

We have:

$$\frac{d}{d\lambda} \Big|_{\lambda=1^+} I_\lambda = \lim_{\lambda \rightarrow 1^+} \frac{I_\lambda - I_1}{\lambda - 1},$$

where  $I_1 = \int_{\mathbb{R}^{2N}} \frac{|u(x) - u(y)|^p}{|x - y|^{N+sp}} dx dy$ . Let us study the sign of  $\frac{d}{d\lambda} \Big|_{\lambda=1^+} I_\lambda$ . In view of the

Cauchy-Schwarz inequality, we can write:

$$I_\lambda \leq \int_{\mathbb{R}^{2N}} \left( \frac{|u(\lambda^{-\frac{1}{p}}z) - u(\lambda^{-\frac{1}{p}}\omega)|}{|\lambda^{-\frac{1}{p}}z - \lambda^{-\frac{1}{p}}\omega|^{\frac{N+sp}{p}}} \right)^{p-1} \frac{|u(\lambda^{\frac{p-1}{p}}z) - u(\lambda^{\frac{p-1}{p}}\omega)|}{|\lambda^{\frac{p-1}{p}}z - \lambda^{\frac{p-1}{p}}\omega|^{\frac{N+sp}{p}}} dzd\omega.$$

Set  $\phi_\lambda(z, \omega) = \frac{u(\lambda^{-\frac{1}{p}}z) - u(\lambda^{-\frac{1}{p}}\omega)}{|\lambda^{-\frac{1}{p}}z - \lambda^{-\frac{1}{p}}\omega|^{\frac{N+sp}{p}}}$ , then

$$I_\lambda \leq \int_{\mathbb{R}^{2N}} |\phi_\lambda(z, \omega)|^{p-1} |\phi_\lambda(\lambda z, \lambda \omega)| dzd\omega.$$

But applying Hölder's inequality for each  $\lambda > 1$  we get:

$$(10) \quad I_\lambda \leq \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^{2N}} |\phi_\lambda(z, \omega)|^p dzd\omega \right)^{\frac{p-1}{p}} \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^{2N}} |\phi_\lambda(\lambda z, \lambda \omega)|^p dzd\omega \right)^{\frac{1}{p}}$$

since  $\phi_\lambda(\cdot, \cdot) \in L^p$  (then  $|\phi_\lambda(\cdot, \cdot)|^{p-1} \in L^{\frac{p}{p-1}}$ ) and  $\phi_\lambda(\lambda(\cdot, \cdot)) \in L^p$ . On the one hand, making the changes of variables  $x = \lambda^{-\frac{1}{p}}z$  and  $y = \lambda^{-\frac{1}{p}}\omega$ , it follows that:

$$\begin{aligned} \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^{2N}} |\phi_\lambda(z, \omega)|^p dzd\omega \right)^{\frac{p-1}{p}} &= \left( \lambda^{\frac{2N}{p}} \int_{\mathbb{R}^{2N}} \frac{|u(x) - u(y)|^p}{|x - y|^{N+sp}} dx dy \right)^{\frac{p-1}{p}} \\ &= \lambda^{\frac{2N}{p} \frac{p-1}{p}} \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^{2N}} \frac{|u(x) - u(y)|^p}{|x - y|^{N+sp}} dx dy \right)^{\frac{p-1}{p}}. \end{aligned}$$

On the other hand, making the changes of variables  $X = \lambda^{\frac{p-1}{p}} z$  and  $Y = \lambda^{\frac{p-1}{p}} \omega$ , we get:

$$\begin{aligned} \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^{2N}} |\phi_\lambda(\lambda z, \lambda \omega)|^p dz d\omega \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} &= \left( \lambda^{-2N\frac{p-1}{p}} \int_{\mathbb{R}^{2N}} \frac{|u(X) - u(Y)|^p}{|X - Y|^{N+sp}} dXdY \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} \\ &= \lambda^{-\frac{2N}{p} \frac{p-1}{p}} \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^{2N}} \frac{|u(X) - u(Y)|^p}{|X - Y|^{N+sp}} dXdY \right)^{\frac{1}{p}}. \end{aligned}$$

Coming back to (10), we deduce that:

$$I_\lambda \leq \int_{\mathbb{R}^{2N}} \frac{|u(x) - u(y)|^p}{|x - y|^{N+sp}} dx dy = I_1.$$

Consequently, the quantity  $\frac{I_\lambda - I_1}{\lambda - 1}$  is negative since  $\lambda > 1$  and then,  $\frac{d}{d\lambda} \Big|_{\lambda=1^+} I_\lambda$  is negative too. Since  $u$  is a solution of (5), the identity holds

$$(11) \quad \int_{\Omega} (x \cdot \nabla u) \mathcal{A}(u) dx = \int_{\Omega} (x \cdot \nabla u) f(u) dx = -N \int_{\Omega} F(u) dx$$

where  $F(t) = \int_0^t f(\xi) d\xi$ . And finally, it follows from (9) that:

$$-N \int_{\Omega} F(u) dx - \frac{sp - N}{p} \int_{\Omega} f(u) u dx \leq 0,$$

from which we conclude that:

$$(12) \quad \int_{\Omega} N \left( \frac{N - sp}{Np} f(u) u - \int_0^u f(\xi) d\xi \right) dx \leq 0.$$

Now setting  $f(u) = u|u|^{q-1}$  in (12) yields

$$\int_{\Omega} \left( \frac{N - sp}{Np} - \frac{1}{q+1} \right) |u|^{q+1} dx \leq 0,$$

which completes the proof of Theorem 1.1 □



Now consider that  $f(x, u)$  instead of  $f(u)$ . The following result holds

**Corollary 3.1.** *Consider  $\Omega$  an open bounded set of  $\mathbb{R}^N$  of class  $C^{1,1}$ . Let  $f$  a function of class  $C_{\text{loc}}^{0,1}(\overline{\Omega} \times \mathbb{R})$ . Assume that  $u$  is a  $W^{s,p}(\mathbb{R}^N)$  function which vanishes in  $\mathbb{R}^N \setminus \Omega$  and  $u$  of class  $C^{0,1}(\Omega)$ .*

*Then if the domain  $\Omega$  is star-shaped, and the condition holds*

$$(13) \quad \frac{N-sp}{p}f(x, t)u \geq NF(x, t) + x \cdot F_x(x, t), \text{ for all } x \in \Omega \text{ and } t \in \mathbb{R},$$

*then problem  $(E_p^s)$  admits no positive bounded solution. Moreover, if the inequality (13) is strict, then problem  $(E_p^s)$  admits no nontrivial bounded solution.*

**Proof.** Considering  $f(x, u)$  instead of  $f(u)$ , then (11) can be rewritten in the form:

$$\int_{\Omega} (x \cdot \nabla u) \mathcal{A}(u) dx = \int_{\Omega} (x \cdot \nabla u) f(x, u) dx = -N \int_{\Omega} F(x, u) dx - \int_{\Omega} x \cdot F_x(x, u) dx.$$

Consequently (9) is equivalent to

$$N \int_{\Omega} F(x, u) dx + \int_{\Omega} x \cdot F_x(x, u) dx + \frac{sp-N}{p} \int_{\Omega} f(x, u) u dx \geq 0,$$

where  $F(x, u) = \int_0^u f(x, \xi) d\xi$ . □

Our study shows that the well-known classical non-existence results (see for instance [4, 5, 13]) can be interpreted as a limiting case of the diffusion fractional. Moreover, they extend for a non-linear fractional system those obtained by X. Ros-Oton and J. Serra in [18] for a linear fractional operator. However, the tools used in [18] seem fail if we consider the nonlinear case in perspective to the establishing of a typical Pohozaev identity taking account the nonlinearity of the fractional  $p$ -Laplacian operator. This open question is actually investigated by the authors and it will be presented in a next paper. An another open problem is the following: Is it possible to obtain without regularity assumption a non-existence result of any solution belonging in  $X(\Omega) \cap L^\infty(\Omega)$ ?

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