

## BOUNDARY BLOW-UP SOLUTIONS OF ELLIPTIC EQUATIONS INVOLVING REGIONAL FRACTIONAL LAPLACIAN\*

HUYUAN CHEN<sup>†</sup> AND HICHEM HAJAJEJ<sup>‡</sup>

**Abstract.** In this paper, we study existence of boundary blow-up solutions for elliptic equations involving regional fractional Laplacian:

$$\begin{aligned} (-\Delta)_{\Omega}^{\alpha} u + f(u) &= 0 && \text{in } \Omega, \\ u &= +\infty && \text{on } \partial\Omega, \end{aligned} \tag{0.1}$$

where  $\Omega$  is a bounded open domain in  $\mathbb{R}^N$  ( $N \geq 2$ ) with  $C^2$  boundary  $\partial\Omega$ ,  $\alpha \in (0, 1)$  and the operator  $(-\Delta)_{\Omega}^{\alpha}$  is the regional fractional Laplacian. When  $f$  is a nondecreasing continuous function satisfying  $f(0) \geq 0$  and some additional conditions, we address the existence and nonexistence of solutions for problem (0.1). Moreover, we further analyze the asymptotic behavior of solutions to problem (0.1).

**Keywords.** Regional Fractional Laplacian; Boundary blow-up solution; Asymptotic behavior.

**AMS subject classifications.** 35J61; 35B44; 35B40.

### 1. Introduction

The usual Laplacian operator may be thought as a macroscopic manifestation of the Brownian motion, as known from the Fokker-Planck equation for a stochastic differential equation with a Brownian motion (a Gaussian process), whereas the fractional Laplacian operator  $(-\Delta)^{\alpha}$  is associated with a  $2\alpha$ -stable Lévy motion (a non-Gaussian process)  $I_t^{2\alpha}$ ,  $\alpha \in (0, 1)$ , (see [10] for a discussion about this microscopic-macroscopic relation). Given a bounded open domain  $\Omega$  in  $\mathbb{R}^N$ , the regional fractional Laplacians defined in  $\Omega$  are generators of the reflected symmetric  $2\alpha$ -stable processes, see [8, 9, 12]. Motivated by numerous applications related to (0.1) and by the great mathematical interest in solving (0.1), we tackle this rich PDE problem in this paper.

Let  $\Omega$  be a bounded open domain in  $\mathbb{R}^N$  ( $N \geq 2$ ) with  $C^2$  boundary  $\partial\Omega$ ,  $\rho(x) = \text{dist}(x, \mathbb{R}^N \setminus \Omega)$  and  $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a nondecreasing, locally Lipschitz continuous function satisfying  $f(0) \geq 0$ . We are concerned with the existence of boundary blow-up solutions for elliptic equations involving regional fractional Laplacian

$$\begin{aligned} (-\Delta)_{\Omega}^{\alpha} u + f(u) &= 0 && \text{in } \Omega, \\ u &= +\infty && \text{on } \partial\Omega, \end{aligned} \tag{1.1}$$

where  $\alpha \in (0, 1)$  and  $(-\Delta)_{\Omega}^{\alpha}$  is the regional fractional Laplacian defined by

$$(-\Delta)_{\Omega}^{\alpha} u(x) = P.V. \int_{\Omega} \frac{u(x) - u(y)}{|x - y|^{N+2\alpha}} dy, \quad x \in \Omega.$$

Here *P.V.* denotes the principal value of the integral, that for notational simplicity we omit in what follows.

---

\*Received: June 2, 2018; Accepted (in revised form): February 24, 2019. Communicated by Weizhu Bao.

<sup>†</sup>Department of Mathematics, Jiangxi Normal University, Nanchang, Jiangxi 330022, P.R. China ([chenhuyuan@yeah.net](mailto:chenhuyuan@yeah.net)).

<sup>‡</sup>California State University, Los Angeles, 5151 University Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90032-8530, USA ([hichem.hajajej@gmail.com](mailto:hichem.hajajej@gmail.com)).

When  $\alpha = 1$ , in the seminal works by Keller [13] and Osserman [16], the authors studied the boundary blow-up solutions for the nonlinear reaction diffusion equation

$$\begin{aligned} -\Delta u + f(u) &= 0 && \text{in } \Omega, \\ u &= +\infty && \text{on } \partial\Omega. \end{aligned} \tag{1.2}$$

They independently proved that this equation admits a solution if and only if  $f$  is a nondecreasing positive function satisfying the Keller-Osserman criterion, that is,

$$\int_1^{+\infty} \frac{ds}{\sqrt{\int_0^s f(t)dt}} < +\infty. \tag{1.3}$$

From then on, boundary blow-up problem (1.2) has been extended by numerous mathematicians in various ways: weakening the assumptions on the domain, generalizing the differential operator and the nonlinear term for equations and systems. Moreover, the qualitative properties of boundary blow-up solutions, such as asymptotic behavior, uniqueness and symmetry results, attract a great attention, see the references [1–3, 11, 14, 15].

In a recent work, Chen-Felmer-Quaas [5] considered an analog of (1.2) where the Laplacian is replaced by the fractional Laplacian

$$\begin{aligned} (-\Delta)^\alpha u + f(u) &= 0 && \text{in } \Omega, \\ u &= 0 && \text{in } \mathbb{R}^N \setminus \Omega, \\ \lim_{x \in \Omega, x \rightarrow \partial\Omega} u(x) &= +\infty, \end{aligned} \tag{1.4}$$

where the fractional Laplacian operator  $(-\Delta)^\alpha$  is defined as

$$(-\Delta)^\alpha u(x) = P.V. \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} \frac{u(x) - u(y)}{|x - y|^{N+2\alpha}} dy.$$

They studied the existence, uniqueness and non-existence of boundary blow-up solutions by Perron’s method when  $f(s) = s^p$  with  $p > 1$ . Later on, the authors and Wang in [7] studied the boundary blow-up solutions of (1.4) which is derived by measure-type data when  $f$  is a continuous and increasing function satisfying

$$\int_1^\infty f(s) s^{-1 - \frac{1+\alpha}{1-\alpha}} ds < +\infty. \tag{1.5}$$

We obtained a sequence of boundary blow-up solutions of (1.4), which have the asymptotic behavior  $\text{dist}(x, \partial\Omega)^{\alpha-1}$  as  $x \rightarrow \partial\Omega$ . In particular, when  $f(s) \leq c_1 s^q$  for  $s \geq 0$ , where  $q \leq 2\alpha + 1$  and  $c_1 > 0$ , this sequence of solutions blow up every where in  $\Omega$ .

For a regular function  $u$  such that  $u = 0$  in  $\mathbb{R}^N \setminus \bar{\Omega}$ , we remark that

$$(-\Delta)^\alpha_\Omega u(x) = (-\Delta)^\alpha u(x) - u(x)\phi(x), \quad \forall x \in \Omega,$$

where

$$\phi(x) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^N \setminus \Omega} \frac{1}{|x - y|^{N+2\alpha}} dy.$$

From the connections between the fractional Laplacian and the regional fractional Laplacian, we observe that the boundary blow-up solution of (1.4) provides a sub-solution for (1.1), then we have following proposition.

PROPOSITION 1.1. *Assume that  $\alpha \in (0,1)$  and  $f$  is a nondecreasing function satisfying  $f(0) \geq 0$  and locally Lipschitz continuous in  $\mathbb{R}$ .*

(i) *If  $f(s) \leq c_1 s^q$  for  $s \geq 0$ , where  $q \leq 2\alpha + 1$  and  $c_1 > 0$ , then problem (1.1) has no solution  $u$  satisfying*

$$\lim_{\rho(x) \rightarrow 0^+} u(x)\rho(x)^{1-\alpha} = +\infty. \tag{1.6}$$

(ii) *If*

$$c_2 s^p \leq f(s) \leq c_3 s^q \quad \text{for } s \geq 1, \tag{1.7}$$

where  $2\alpha + 1 < p \leq q \leq \frac{1+\alpha}{1-\alpha}$  and  $c_2, c_3 > 0$ , then problem (1.1) has a solution  $u$  satisfying

$$c_4 \rho(x)^{-\frac{2\alpha}{q-1}} \leq u(x) \leq c_5 \rho(x)^{-\frac{2\alpha}{p-1}}, \quad \forall x \in \Omega, \tag{1.8}$$

where  $c_5 \geq c_4 > 0$ .

We notice that Proposition 1.1 can not cover the case where  $f(s) \geq s^p$  with  $p \geq \frac{1+\alpha}{1-\alpha}$ . Our purpose in this note is to solve more general cases. To this end, we first introduce an important proposition on the regional fractional elliptic problem with finite boundary data.

PROPOSITION 1.2. *Let  $\alpha \in (\frac{1}{2}, 1)$ ,  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $g \in C^1(\bar{\Omega})$  and  $f$  be a locally Lipschitz continuous and nondecreasing function.*

*Then problem*

$$\begin{aligned} (-\Delta)_\Omega^\alpha u + f(u) &= g && \text{in } \Omega, \\ u &= n && \text{on } \partial\Omega \end{aligned} \tag{1.9}$$

*admits a unique solution  $u_n$  such that*

$$-c_6 (\|g_-\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} + f(n)) \rho^{2\alpha-1} \leq u_n - n \leq c_6 \|g_+\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} \rho^{2\alpha-1} \quad \text{in } \Omega, \tag{1.10}$$

where  $g_\pm = \max\{\pm g, 0\}$  and  $c_6 > 0$  is independent of  $n$ ,  $f$  and  $g$ .

Moreover, if  $g \geq 0$  and  $f(0) \geq 0$ , then  $u_n$  is positive.

The derivation of the solution of (1.9) makes use of the Green’s function of the regional fractional Laplacian and Perron’s method. The authors in [8] showed that for  $\alpha \in (\frac{1}{2}, 1)$ , the Green’s function of the regional fractional provides boundary decay estimate, while for  $\alpha \in (0, \frac{1}{2}]$ , the Green’s function of the regional fractional behaves very different, without any boundary decaying, thus it is even hard to obtain a solution for (1.9).

We call a solution  $u_m$  of (1.1) as the minimal solution if for any solution  $v$  of (1.1), we have that

$$v \geq u_m \quad \text{in } \Omega.$$

As normal, the minimal boundary blow-up solution with  $\alpha \in (\frac{1}{2}, 1)$  is approached by the solutions of (1.9) by taking  $n \rightarrow +\infty$ .

THEOREM 1.1. *Assume that  $\alpha \in (\frac{1}{2}, 1)$  and  $f$  is a nondecreasing continuous function satisfying  $f(0) \geq 0$ . Furthermore,*

(i) If  $f(s) \geq c_7 s^p$  for  $s \geq 0$ , where  $p > 1 + 2\alpha$  and  $c_7 > 0$ , then problem (1.1) possesses the minimal boundary blow-up solution  $u_m$ .

Assume more that  $f(s) \leq c_8 s^q$  for  $s \geq 1$ , where  $q \geq p$  and  $c_8 > 0$ , then  $u_m$  has asymptotic behavior near the boundary as

$$c_9 \rho(x)^{-\frac{2\alpha-1}{q-1}} \leq u_m(x) \leq c_{10} \rho(x)^{-\frac{2\alpha}{p-1}}, \tag{1.11}$$

where  $c_{10} \geq c_9 > 0$ .

(ii) If  $f(s) \leq c_{11} s^q$  for  $s \geq 0$ , where  $c_{11} > 0$  and

$$q \leq 1 + 2\alpha \quad \text{and} \quad q < \frac{\alpha}{1-\alpha}, \tag{1.12}$$

then problem (1.1) has no solution.

Compared to Proposition 1.1, we notice that (i) when  $\alpha \in (\frac{1}{2}, 1)$ , we improve the existence for the case that  $f(s) \geq c_7 s^p$  for  $s \geq 0$  and  $p > 1 + 2\alpha$  in Theorem 1.1; (ii) if  $\alpha > \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}$  for  $f(s) = s^p$  with  $p \leq 1 + 2\alpha$ , problem (1.1) has any solution.

The lower bound in (1.11) is derived by the inequality (1.10) and the upper bound in (1.11) is obtained by constructing a suitable super-solution for problem (1.1).

This paper is organized as follows. Section §2 is devoted to present some preliminaries on the definition of viscosity solution, comparison principle, stability theorem, regularity results and to make use of solutions of corresponding problem with the fractional Laplacian to prove Proposition 1.1. In Section §3, we first prove the existence of solutions to problem (1.9), asymptotic behavior and then prove Theorem 1.1.

### 2. Preliminary

The purpose of this section is to introduce some preliminaries. We start it by defining the notion of viscosity solution, inspired by the definition of viscosity sense for nonlocal problem in [4].

#### 2.1. Viscosity solution.

DEFINITION 2.1. We say that a continuous function  $u \in L^1(\Omega)$  is a viscosity super-solution (sub-solution) of

$$\begin{aligned} (-\Delta)_\Omega^\alpha u + f(u) &= g & \text{in } \Omega, \\ u &= h & \text{on } \partial\Omega, \end{aligned} \tag{2.1}$$

if  $u \geq h$  (resp.  $u \leq h$ ) on  $\partial\Omega$  and for every point  $x_0 \in \Omega$  and some neighborhood  $V$  of  $x_0$  with  $\bar{V} \subset \Omega$  and for any  $\varphi \in C^2(\bar{V})$  such that  $u(x_0) = \varphi(x_0)$  and  $x_0$  is the minimum (resp. maximum) point of  $u - \varphi$  in  $V$ , let

$$\tilde{u} = \begin{cases} \varphi & \text{in } V, \\ u & \text{in } \Omega \setminus V, \end{cases}$$

we have

$$(-\Delta)_\Omega^\alpha \tilde{u}(x_0) + f(u(x_0)) \geq g(x_0) \quad (\text{resp. } (-\Delta)_\Omega^\alpha \tilde{u}(x_0) + f(u(x_0)) \leq g(x_0)).$$

We say that  $u$  is a viscosity solution of (2.1) if it is a viscosity super-solution and also a viscosity sub-solution of (2.1).

Now we introduce the comparison principle.

**THEOREM 2.1.** *Assume that the functions  $g:\Omega\rightarrow\mathbb{R}$ ,  $h:\partial\Omega\rightarrow\mathbb{R}$  are continuous and  $f:\mathbb{R}\rightarrow\mathbb{R}$  is nondecreasing. Let  $u$  and  $v$  be a viscosity super-solution and sub-solution of (2.1), respectively. If*

$$v \leq u \quad \text{on} \quad \partial\Omega,$$

then

$$v \leq u \quad \text{in} \quad \Omega. \tag{2.2}$$

*Proof.* Let us define  $w = u - v$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} (-\Delta)_{\Omega}^{\alpha} w &\geq f(v) - f(u) && \text{in} \quad \Omega, \\ w &\geq 0 && \text{on} \quad \partial\Omega. \end{aligned} \tag{2.3}$$

If (2.2) fails, then there exists  $x_0 \in \Omega$  such that

$$w(x_0) = u(x_0) - v(x_0) = \min_{x \in \Omega} w(x) < 0,$$

by the fact that  $f$  is nondecreasing, we have that  $f(v(x_0)) - f(u(x_0)) \geq 0$  and then in the viscosity sense,

$$(-\Delta)_{\Omega}^{\alpha} w(x_0) \geq 0. \tag{2.4}$$

Since  $w$  is a viscosity super-solution  $x_0$  is the minimum point in  $\Omega$  and  $w \geq 0$  on  $\partial\Omega$ , then we can take a small neighborhood  $V_0$  of  $x_0$  such that  $\tilde{w} = w(x_0)$  in  $V_0$ , From (2.4), we have that

$$(-\Delta)_{\Omega}^{\alpha} \tilde{w}(x_0) \geq 0.$$

But

$$(-\Delta)_{\Omega}^{\alpha} \tilde{w}(x_0) = \int_{\Omega \setminus V_0} \frac{w(x_0) - w(y)}{|x_0 - y|^{N+2\alpha}} dy < 0,$$

which is impossible. □

For a regular function  $w$  such that  $w = 0$  in  $\mathbb{R}^N \setminus \bar{\Omega}$ , we observe that

$$(-\Delta)_{\Omega}^{\alpha} w(x) = (-\Delta)^{\alpha} w(x) - w(x)\phi(x), \quad \forall x \in \Omega, \tag{2.5}$$

where

$$\phi(x) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^N \setminus \Omega} \frac{1}{|x - y|^{N+2\alpha}} dy. \tag{2.6}$$

**LEMMA 2.1.** *Let  $\phi$  be defined in (2.6) and  $\rho(x) = \text{dist}(x, \partial\Omega)$ , then  $\phi \in C_{\text{loc}}^{0,1}(\Omega)$  and*

$$\frac{1}{c_{12}} \rho(x)^{-2\alpha} \leq \phi(x) \leq c_{12} \rho(x)^{-2\alpha}, \quad x \in \Omega, \tag{2.7}$$

for some  $c_{12} > 0$ .

*Proof.* For  $x_1, x_2 \in \Omega$  and any  $z \in \mathbb{R}^N \setminus \Omega$ , we have that

$$|z - x_1| \geq \rho(x_1) + \rho(z), \quad |z - x_2| \geq \rho(x_2) + \rho(z)$$

and

$$||z - x_1|^{N+2\alpha} - |z - x_2|^{N+2\alpha}| \leq c_{13}|x_1 - x_2|(|z - x_1|^{N+2\alpha-1} + |z - x_2|^{N+2\alpha-1}),$$

for some  $c_9 > 0$  independent of  $x_1$  and  $x_2$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} |\phi(x_1) - \phi(x_2)| &\leq \int_{\mathbb{R}^N \setminus \Omega} \frac{||z - x_2|^{N+2\alpha} - |z - x_1|^{N+2\alpha}|}{|z - x_1|^{N+2\alpha}|z - x_2|^{N+2\alpha}} dz \\ &\leq c_{13}|x_1 - x_2| \left[ \int_{\mathbb{R}^N \setminus \Omega} \frac{dz}{|z - x_1||z - x_2|^{N+2\alpha}} + \int_{\mathbb{R}^N \setminus \Omega} \frac{dz}{|z - x_1|^{N+2\alpha}|z - x_2|} \right]. \end{aligned}$$

By direct computation, we have that

$$\begin{aligned} &\int_{\mathbb{R}^N \setminus \Omega} \frac{1}{|z - x_1||z - x_2|^{N+2\alpha}} dz \\ &\leq \int_{\mathbb{R}^N \setminus B_{\rho(x_1)}(x_1)} \frac{1}{|z - x_1|^{N+2\alpha+1}} dz + \int_{\mathbb{R}^N \setminus B_{\rho(x_2)}(x_2)} \frac{1}{|z - x_2|^{N+2\alpha+1}} dz \\ &\leq c_{14}[\rho(x_1)^{-1-2\alpha} + \rho(x_2)^{-1-2\alpha}] \end{aligned}$$

and similarly to obtain that

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^N \setminus \Omega} \frac{1}{|z - x_1|^{N+2\alpha}|z - x_2|} dz \leq c_{14}[\rho(x_1)^{-1-2\alpha} + \rho(x_2)^{-1-2\alpha}],$$

where  $c_{14} > 0$  is independent of  $x_1, x_2$ . Then

$$|\phi(x_1) - \phi(x_2)| \leq c_{13}c_{14}[\rho(x_1)^{-1-2\alpha} + \rho(x_2)^{-1-2\alpha}]|x_1 - x_2|,$$

that is,  $\phi$  is  $C^{0,1}$  locally in  $\Omega$ .

Now we prove (2.7). Without loss of generality, we may assume that  $0 \in \partial\Omega$ , the inside pointing normal vector at 0 is  $e_N = (0, \dots, 0, 1) \in \mathbb{R}^N$  and let  $s \in (0, \frac{1}{4})$  such that  $\mathbb{R}^N \setminus \Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^N \setminus B_s(se_N)$  and for  $c > 0$ , we denote the cone

$$A_c = \{y = (y', y_N) \in \mathbb{R}^N : y_N \leq s - c|y'|\}.$$

We observe that there is  $c_{15} > 0$  such that

$$[A_{c_{15}} \cap (B_1(se_N) \setminus B_{2s}(se_N))] \subset \mathbb{R}^N \setminus \Omega.$$

By the definition of  $\phi$ , we have that

$$\phi(se_N) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^N \setminus \Omega} \frac{1}{|se_N - y|^{N+2\alpha}} dy \leq \int_{\mathbb{R}^N \setminus B_s(se_N)} \frac{1}{|se_N - y|^{N+2\alpha}} dy \leq c_{16}s^{-2\alpha}$$

for some  $c_{16} > 0$ . On the other hand, we have that

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^N \setminus \Omega} \frac{1}{|se_N - y|^{N+2\alpha}} dy \geq \int_{A_{c_{15}} \cap (B_1(se_N) \setminus B_{2s}(se_N))} \frac{1}{|se_N - y|^{N+2\alpha}} dy \geq c_{17}s^{-2\alpha},$$

for some  $c_{17} \in (0,1)$ . The proof ends. □

The next theorem gives the stability property for viscosity solutions in our setting.

**THEOREM 2.2.** *Assume that the function  $g:\Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is continuous,  $f:\mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is non-decreasing and  $f(0) \geq 0$ . Let  $\{u_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  be a sequence of functions in  $C^1(\Omega)$ , uniformly bounded in  $L^1(\Omega)$ ,  $g_n$  and  $g$  be continuous in  $\Omega$  such that*

$$\begin{aligned} &(-\Delta)_{\Omega}^{\alpha} u_n + f(u_n) \geq g_n \text{ (resp. } (-\Delta)_{\Omega}^{\alpha} u_n + f(u_n) \leq g_n) \text{ in } \Omega \text{ in the viscosity sense,} \\ &u_n \rightarrow u \text{ locally uniformly in } \Omega, \\ &u_n \rightarrow u \text{ in } L^1(\Omega), \\ &h_n \rightarrow h \text{ locally uniformly in } \Omega. \end{aligned}$$

Then  $(-\Delta)_{\Omega}^{\alpha} u + f(u) \geq g$  (resp.  $(-\Delta)_{\Omega}^{\alpha} u + f(u) \leq g$ ) in  $\Omega$  in the viscosity sense.

*Proof.* We define  $\tilde{u}_n = u_n$  in  $\Omega$ ,  $\tilde{u}_n = 0$  in  $\mathbb{R}^N \setminus \bar{\Omega}$  and  $\tilde{u} = u$  in  $\Omega$ ,  $\tilde{u} = 0$  in  $\mathbb{R}^N \setminus \bar{\Omega}$ , then

$$(-\Delta)_{\Omega}^{\alpha} u_n(x) = (-\Delta)^{\alpha} \tilde{u}_n(x) - u_n(x)\phi(x), \quad x \in \Omega.$$

where  $\phi$  is defined as (2.6). By Lemma 2.1,  $\phi \in C_{loc}^{0,1}(\Omega)$  and  $\phi(x) \leq c_8 \rho(x)^{-2\alpha}$ ,  $x \in \Omega$ . Then we apply [5, Theorem 2.4] to obtain that  $(-\Delta)^{\alpha} \tilde{u} + f(\tilde{u}) \geq g + \phi \tilde{u}$  (resp.  $(-\Delta)^{\alpha} \tilde{u} + f(\tilde{u}) \leq g + \phi \tilde{u}$ ) in  $\Omega$  in the viscosity sense, which implies  $(-\Delta)_{\Omega}^{\alpha} u + f(u) \geq g$  (resp.  $(-\Delta)_{\Omega}^{\alpha} u + f(u) \leq g$ ) in  $\Omega$  in the viscosity sense. □

Next we have an interior regularity result. For simplicity, we denote by  $C^t$  the space  $C^{t_0, t-t_0}$  for  $t \in (t_0, t_0 + 1)$ ,  $t_0$  is a positive integer.

**PROPOSITION 2.1.** *Assume that  $\alpha \in (\frac{1}{2}, 1)$ ,  $g \in C_{loc}^{\theta}(\Omega)$  with  $\theta > 0$ ,  $w \in C_{loc}^{2\alpha+\epsilon}(\Omega) \cap L^1(\Omega)$ , with  $\epsilon > 0$  and  $2\alpha + \epsilon$  not being an integer, is a solution of*

$$(-\Delta)_{\Omega}^{\alpha} w = g \text{ in } \Omega. \tag{2.8}$$

Let  $\mathcal{O}_1, \mathcal{O}_2$  be open  $C^2$  sets such that

$$\bar{\mathcal{O}}_1 \subset \mathcal{O}_2 \subset \bar{\mathcal{O}}_2 \subset \Omega.$$

Then

(i) for any  $\gamma \in (0, 2\alpha)$  not an integer, there exists  $c_{18} > 0$  such that

$$\|w\|_{C^{\gamma}(\mathcal{O}_1)} \leq c_{18} [\|w\|_{L^{\infty}(\mathcal{O}_2)} + \|w\|_{L^1(\Omega)} + \|g\|_{L^{\infty}(\mathcal{O}_2)}]; \tag{2.9}$$

(ii) for any  $\epsilon' \in (0, \min\{\theta, \epsilon\})$ ,  $2\alpha + \epsilon'$  not an integer, there exists  $c_{19} > 0$  such that

$$\|w\|_{C^{2\alpha+\epsilon'}(\mathcal{O}_1)} \leq c_{19} [\|w\|_{L^{\infty}(\mathcal{O}_2)} + \|w\|_{L^1(\Omega)} + \|g\|_{C^{\theta}(\mathcal{O}_2)}]. \tag{2.10}$$

*Proof.* Let  $\tilde{w} = w$  in  $\Omega$ ,  $\tilde{w} = 0$  in  $\mathbb{R}^N \setminus \bar{\Omega}$ , we have that

$$(-\Delta)^{\alpha} \tilde{w}(x) = (-\Delta)_{\Omega}^{\alpha} w(x) + w(x)\phi(x), \quad \forall x \in \Omega,$$

where  $\phi$  is defined as (2.6). It follows by Lemma 2.1,  $\phi \in C_{loc}^{0,1}(\Omega)$ . Combining with (2.8), we have that

$$(-\Delta)^{\alpha} \tilde{w}(x) = g(x) + w(x)\phi(x), \quad \forall x \in \Omega.$$

By [6, Lemma 3.1], for any  $\gamma \in (0, 2\alpha)$ , we have that

$$\|w\|_{C^{\gamma}(\mathcal{O}_1)} \leq c_{20} [\|w\|_{L^{\infty}(\mathcal{O}_2)} + \|w\|_{L^1(\Omega)} + \|g + w\phi\|_{L^{\infty}(\mathcal{O}_2)}]$$

$$\leq c_{21} [\|w\|_{L^\infty(\mathcal{O}_2)} + \|w\|_{L^1(\Omega)} + \|g\|_{L^\infty(\mathcal{O}_2)}]$$

and by [17, Lemma 2.10], for any  $\epsilon' \in (0, \min\{\theta, \epsilon\})$ , we have that

$$\begin{aligned} \|w\|_{C^{2\alpha+\epsilon'}(\mathcal{O}_1)} &\leq c_{22} [\|w\|_{C^{\epsilon'}(\mathcal{O}_2)} + \|g + w\phi\|_{C^{\epsilon'}(\mathcal{O}_2)}] \\ &\leq c_{23} [\|w\|_{L^\infty(\mathcal{O}_2)} + \|w\|_{L^1(\Omega)} + \|g\|_{C^{\epsilon'}(\mathcal{O}_2)}], \end{aligned}$$

where  $c_{22}, c_{23} > 0$ . This ends the proof. □

**2.2. Proof of Proposition 1.1.** Basically, the existence for boundary blow-up problem is usually resorted to the Perron’s method. In this subsection, we extend the Perron’s method to the problem involving regional fractional Laplacian.

To this end, we first introduce the existence of boundary blow-up solution of fractional elliptic problem with locally Lipschitz continuous nonlinearity  $f$ , precisely,

$$\begin{cases} (-\Delta)^\alpha u(x) + f(u) = g, & x \in \Omega, \\ u(x) = 0, & x \in \bar{\Omega}^c, \\ \lim_{x \in \Omega, x \rightarrow \partial\Omega} u(x) = +\infty. \end{cases} \tag{2.11}$$

**THEOREM 2.3.** *Assume that  $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is nondecreasing,  $C_{loc}^\gamma$  and  $f(0) = 0$ , the function  $g : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is a  $C_{loc}^\gamma$  in  $\Omega$ . Suppose that there are super-solution  $\bar{U}$  and sub-solution  $\underline{U}$  of (2.11) such that  $\bar{U}$  and  $\underline{U}$  are  $C^2$  locally in  $\Omega$ , bounded in  $L^1(\mathbb{R}^N, \frac{dy}{1+|y|^{N+2\alpha}})$  and*

$$\bar{U} \geq \underline{U} \text{ in } \Omega, \quad \liminf_{x \in \Omega, x \rightarrow \partial\Omega} \underline{U}(x) = +\infty, \quad \bar{U} = \underline{U} = 0 \text{ in } \bar{\Omega}^c.$$

Then there exists at least one solution  $u$  of (2.11) in the viscosity sense and

$$\underline{U} \leq u \leq \bar{U} \text{ in } \Omega.$$

Additionally, suppose that  $g \geq 0$  in  $\Omega$ , then  $u > 0$  in  $\Omega$ .

*Proof.* We follow the proof of [5, Theorem 2.6] replacing  $|u|^{p-1}u$  by  $f(u)$ .

**THEOREM 2.4.** *Let  $\Omega$  be an open bounded  $C^2$  domain and  $p > 0$ . Suppose that there are super-solution  $\bar{U}$  and sub-solution  $\underline{U}$  of (1.1) such that  $\bar{U}$  and  $\underline{U}$  are  $C^2$  locally in  $\Omega$ ,*

$$\bar{U} \geq \underline{U} \text{ in } \Omega, \quad \liminf_{x \in \Omega, x \rightarrow \partial\Omega} \underline{U}(x) = +\infty.$$

Then there exists at least one solution  $u$  of (1.1) in the viscosity sense and

$$\underline{U} \leq u \leq \bar{U} \text{ in } \Omega. \tag{2.12}$$

*Proof.* From (2.5), to search the solution of (1.1) is equivalent to finding out the solution of the fractional problem

$$\begin{aligned} (-\Delta)^\alpha u + f(u) &= \phi u && \text{in } \Omega, \\ u &= 0 && \text{in } \mathbb{R}^N \setminus \Omega, \\ \lim_{x \in \Omega, x \rightarrow \partial\Omega} u(x) &= +\infty, \end{aligned} \tag{2.13}$$



where  $\phi$  is given by (2.6). Make zero extensions of  $\bar{U}$  and  $\underline{U}$  in  $\mathbb{R}^N \setminus \Omega$  and still denote them by  $\bar{U}$  and  $\underline{U}$  respectively, then  $\bar{U}$  and  $\underline{U}$  are the super and sub-solutions of (2.13). Now we apply Theorem 2.3 to obtain the existence of solution to (2.13).

From Lemma 2.1,  $\phi$  is  $C^{0,1}$  locally in  $\Omega$ , so is  $\phi\underline{U}$ , then by Theorem 2.3, we obtain that problem (2.13) replaced  $\phi u$  by  $\phi\underline{U}$  admits a solution  $u_1$  satisfying (2.12). By regularity results in [17], we have that

$$\|u_1\|_{C^{2\alpha+\gamma}(\Omega)} \leq c_{24}\|\bar{U}\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)}$$

for some  $\gamma \in (0, 1)$ .

Inductively, by Theorem 2.3, we obtain that problem (2.13) replaced  $\phi u$  by  $\phi u_{n-1}$  has a solution  $u_n$  such that

$$u_{n-1} \leq u_n \leq \bar{U} \quad \text{in } \Omega. \tag{2.14}$$

Applying stability theorem [5, Theorem 2.4] and regularity result in [17], we obtain that the limit of  $\{u_n\}_n$  is a solution of (2.13).  $\square$

For  $t_0 > 0$  small,  $A_{t_0} = \{x \in \Omega : \rho(x) < t_0\}$  is  $C^2$  and let us define

$$V_\tau(x) = \begin{cases} \rho(x)^\tau, & x \in A_{t_0}, \\ l(x), & x \in \Omega \setminus A_{t_0}, \\ 0, & x \in \Omega^c, \end{cases} \tag{2.15}$$

where  $\tau \in (-1, 0)$  and the function  $l$  is positive such that  $V_\tau$  is  $C^2$  in  $\Omega$ .

*Proof. (Proof of Proposition 1.1.)* (i) Now we prove the nonexistence when  $q \leq 1 + 2\alpha$ . From Theorem 1.1 and Theorem 1.2 in [7], the semilinear fractional problem

$$\begin{aligned} (-\Delta)^\alpha u + c_1 u^q &= 0 & \text{in } \Omega, \\ u &= 0 & \text{in } \mathbb{R}^N \setminus \Omega, \\ \lim_{x \in \Omega, x \rightarrow \partial\Omega} u(x) &= +\infty \end{aligned} \tag{2.16}$$

admits a sequence of solutions  $\{v_k\}_k$  satisfying that the mapping  $k \mapsto v_k$  is increasing,

$$v_k(x) \leq c_{25}k\rho(x)^{\alpha-1}, \quad \forall x \in \Omega$$

and

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} v_k(x) = \infty, \quad \forall x \in \Omega, \tag{2.17}$$

where  $c_{25} > 0$ .

We observe that  $v_k$  is a sub-solution of (1.1) for any  $k$ .

If (1.1) has a solution  $u$  satisfying (1.6), then by the comparison principle, for any  $k$ , there holds that

$$v_k(x) \leq u(x), \quad \forall x \in \Omega.$$

Then it is impossible that  $u$  is a solution of (1.1) by (2.17).

(ii) When  $q \in (1 + 2\alpha, \frac{1+\alpha}{1-\alpha})$ , it infers from [5] that there exists a solution  $v_q$  of (2.16) replacing  $c_1$  by  $c_3$  from the assumption (1.7) such that

$$\frac{1}{c_{26}}\rho(x)^{-\frac{2\alpha}{q-1}} \leq v_q(x) \leq c_{26}\rho(x)^{-\frac{2\alpha}{q-1}}, \quad \forall x \in \Omega. \tag{2.18}$$

where  $c_{26} > 0$ . By (1.7),  $v_p$  is a sub-solution of

$$\begin{aligned} (-\Delta)^\alpha u + f(u) &= u\phi && \text{in } \Omega, \\ u &= 0 && \text{in } \mathbb{R}^N \setminus \Omega, \end{aligned} \tag{2.19}$$

$$\lim_{x \in \Omega, x \rightarrow \partial\Omega} u(x) = +\infty.$$

So  $v_p$  is a sub-solution of (1.1).

We next construct a suitable super-solution of (1.1). From [5, Proposition 3.1], we know that the function  $V_\tau$  with  $\tau = -\frac{2\alpha}{p-1} \in (-1, 0)$  satisfies

$$(-\Delta)^\alpha V_\tau(x) \geq c_\tau \rho(x)^{\tau-2\alpha}, \quad \forall x \in \Omega,$$

where  $V_\tau$  is given by (2.15).

We consider  $\lambda V_\tau$  with  $\lambda > 0$ . We observe that

$$\begin{aligned} (-\Delta)^\alpha_\Omega(\lambda V_\tau) + f(\lambda V_\tau) &= (-\Delta)^\alpha(\lambda V_\tau) + f(\lambda V_\tau) - \lambda\phi V_\tau \\ &\geq c_\tau \lambda \rho(x)^{\tau-2\alpha} + c_2 c_{26}^{-p} \lambda^p \rho(x)^{-\frac{2\alpha p}{p-1}} - c_{27} \lambda \rho(x)^{\tau-2\alpha} \\ &\geq [c_2 c_{26}^{-p} \lambda^{p-1} - |c_\tau| - c_{27}] \lambda \rho(x)^{\tau-2\alpha} \\ &\geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

if  $\lambda > 0$  sufficiently big. By Theorem 2.4, it deduces that (1.1) has a solution  $u$  such that

$$v_q \leq u \leq \lambda V_\tau \quad \text{in } \Omega,$$

which implies (1.8). □

### 3. Boundary blow-up solutions

In this section, we introduce the boundary blow-up solutions for  $\alpha \in (\frac{1}{2}, 1)$ . We first show the results for the existence. To this end, let us denote  $G_{\Omega, \alpha}$  by the Green kernel of  $(-\Delta)^\alpha_\Omega$  in  $\Omega \times \Omega$  and  $\mathbb{G}_{\Omega, \alpha}[\cdot]$  by the Green operator defined as

$$\mathbb{G}_{\Omega, \alpha}[g](x) = \int_\Omega G_{\Omega, \alpha}(x, y)g(y)dy.$$

PROPOSITION 3.1. *Assume that  $\alpha \in (\frac{1}{2}, 1)$ ,  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $g \in C^\theta(\bar{\Omega})$  with  $\theta > 0$ , then*

$$\begin{aligned} (-\Delta)^\alpha_\Omega w &= g && \text{in } \Omega, \\ w &= n && \text{on } \partial\Omega \end{aligned} \tag{3.1}$$

admits a unique solution  $w_n$  such that

$$-\mathbb{G}_{\Omega, \alpha}[g_-] \leq w_n - n \leq \mathbb{G}_{\Omega, \alpha}[g_+] \quad \text{in } \Omega, \tag{3.2}$$

where  $g_\pm = \max\{\pm g, 0\}$ .

*Proof. (Existence.)* Since  $\mathbb{G}_{\Omega, \alpha}[g]$  is a solution of

$$(-\Delta)^\alpha_\Omega w = g \quad \text{in } \Omega,$$

From [8], there exists  $c_{28} > 0$  such that for any  $(x, y) \in \Omega \times \Omega$  with  $x \neq y$ ,

$$G_{\Omega, \alpha}(x, y) \leq c_{28} \min \left\{ \frac{1}{|x - y|^{N-2\alpha}}, \frac{\rho(x)^{2\alpha-1} \rho(y)^{2\alpha-1}}{|x - y|^{N-2+2\alpha}} \right\}. \tag{3.3}$$

For  $x \in \Omega$ , we have that

$$\begin{aligned} |\mathbb{G}_{\Omega,\alpha}[g](x)| &\leq c_{28} \int_{\Omega} \frac{\rho(x)^{2\alpha-1} \rho(y)^{2\alpha-1}}{|x-y|^{N-2+2\alpha}} |g(y)| dy \\ &\leq c_{28} \rho(x)^{2\alpha-1} \|g\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} \int_{\Omega} \frac{\rho(y)^{2\alpha-1}}{|x-y|^{N-2+2\alpha}} dy \\ &\leq c_{29} \|g\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} \rho(x)^{2\alpha-1}, \end{aligned}$$

where  $c_{29} > 0$ . Therefore,  $\mathbb{G}_{\Omega,\alpha}[g]$  is a solution of

$$\begin{aligned} (-\Delta)_{\Omega}^{\alpha} w &= g && \text{in } \Omega, \\ w &= 0 && \text{on } \partial\Omega. \end{aligned} \tag{3.4}$$

and  $n + \mathbb{G}_{\Omega,\alpha}[g]$  is obviously a solution of (3.1).

*Uniqueness.* Let  $v$  be another solution of (3.1), we observe that  $w - v$  is a solution of

$$\begin{aligned} (-\Delta)_{\Omega}^{\alpha} u &= 0 && \text{in } \Omega, \\ u &= 0 && \text{on } \partial\Omega. \end{aligned}$$

Then it follows by maximum principle that  $w - v \equiv 0$  in  $\Omega$ .

Finally, since  $\mathbb{G}_{\Omega,\alpha}[g_+]$  is a super-solution of (3.4) and  $-\mathbb{G}_{\Omega,\alpha}[g_-]$  is a sub-solution of (3.4), then (3.2) follows.  $\square$

We remark that the existence of solution to (3.1) could be extended to general boundary data. Precisely, let  $\xi : \partial\Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a boundary trace of a  $C^2(\bar{\Omega})$  function  $\tilde{\xi}$ , i.e.

$$\xi = \tilde{\xi} \quad \text{on } \partial\Omega.$$

For  $\alpha \in (\frac{1}{2}, 1)$ , problem

$$\begin{aligned} (-\Delta)_{\Omega}^{\alpha} w &= 0 && \text{in } \Omega, \\ w &= \xi && \text{on } \partial\Omega \end{aligned} \tag{3.5}$$

admits a unique solution

$$w_{\xi} = \tilde{\xi} - \mathbb{G}_{\Omega,\alpha}[(-\Delta)_{\Omega}^{\alpha} \tilde{\xi}] \quad \text{in } \Omega. \tag{3.6}$$

We observe that  $\mathbb{G}_{\Omega,\alpha}[(-\Delta)_{\Omega}^{\alpha} \tilde{\xi}]$  decays at the rate  $\rho^{2\alpha-1}$  and  $w_{\xi}$  is independent of the choice of  $\tilde{\xi}$ . In fact, let  $\tilde{\xi}_1 \in C^2(\bar{\Omega})$  have the trace  $\xi$  and the corresponding solution  $v_{\xi}$ , then  $w := w_{\xi} - v_{\xi}$  is a solution of

$$\begin{aligned} (-\Delta)_{\Omega}^{\alpha} w &= 0 && \text{in } \Omega, \\ w &= 0 && \text{on } \partial\Omega, \end{aligned}$$

which implies by strong maximum principle that

$$w \equiv 0.$$

In the particular case that  $\xi = n$ , we have that  $\tilde{\xi} = n$  in  $\Omega$  and

$$\mathbb{G}_{\Omega,\alpha}[(-\Delta)_{\Omega}^{\alpha} \tilde{\xi}] = 0 \quad \text{in } \Omega.$$

This part is devoted to study the existence of solution of (1.9). To this end, we first introduce the following lemma.

LEMMA 3.1. *Let  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $b \geq 0$  and  $g \in C^1(\bar{\Omega})$ , then*

$$\begin{aligned} (-\Delta)_{\Omega}^{\alpha} u + bu &= g && \text{in } \Omega, \\ u &= n && \text{on } \partial\Omega \end{aligned} \tag{3.7}$$

admits a unique solution.

*Proof.* We observe that  $n + \mathbb{G}_{\Omega, \alpha}[g_+]$  and  $n - \mathbb{G}_{\Omega, \alpha}[g_-]$  are super and sub-solutions of (3.7) respectively. We make an extension of  $n + \mathbb{G}_{\Omega, \alpha}[g_+]$  and  $n - \mathbb{G}_{\Omega, \alpha}[g_-]$  by  $n$  in  $\mathbb{R}^N \setminus \Omega$  and still denote  $n + \mathbb{G}_{\Omega, \alpha}[g_+]$  and  $n - \mathbb{G}_{\Omega, \alpha}[g_-]$ . Let  $\Omega_t := \{x \in \Omega : \rho(x) > t\}$  for  $t \geq 0$  and then there exists  $t_0 > 0$  such that  $\Omega_t$  is  $C^2$  for any  $t \in [0, t_0]$ , since  $\Omega$  is  $C^2$ .

By Perron’s method, there exists a unique solution  $w_t$  of

$$\begin{aligned} (-\Delta)^{\alpha} u + (b + \phi)u &= g - bn && \text{in } \Omega_t, \\ u &= n - \mathbb{G}_{\Omega, \alpha}[g_-] && \text{in } \mathbb{R}^N \setminus \Omega_t, \end{aligned}$$

where  $\phi$  is defined as (2.6). Since  $t \in (0, t_0)$ ,  $\phi$  is positive and  $\phi \in C_{loc}^{0,1}(\Omega_t)$ , then  $w_t$  is a solution of

$$\begin{aligned} (-\Delta)_{\Omega}^{\alpha} u + bu &= g + bn && \text{in } \Omega_t, \\ u &= n - \mathbb{G}_{\Omega, \alpha}[g_-] && \text{in } \Omega \setminus \Omega_t \end{aligned}$$

and by Theorem 2.1, we derive that

$$n - \mathbb{G}_{\Omega, \alpha}[g_-] \leq w_t \leq w_{t'} \leq n + \mathbb{G}_{\Omega, \alpha}[g_+] \quad \text{for } 0 < t' < t < t_0.$$

By Proposition 2.1 and Theorem 2.2, the limit of  $w_t$  as  $t \rightarrow 0$  is a classical solution of (3.7). □

*Proof. (Proof of Proposition 1.2.) Existence.* Let us define

$$w_+(x) = \int_{\Omega} G_{\Omega, \alpha}(x, y)g_+(y)dy \quad \text{and} \quad w_-(x) = \int_{\Omega} G_{\Omega, \alpha}(x, y)g_-(y)dy.$$

By (3.3), there exists  $c_{30} > 0$  such that

$$0 \leq w_+(x) \leq c_{30} \|g\|_{L^{\infty}(\Omega)} \rho(x)^{2\alpha-1}, \quad x \in \Omega$$

and for  $x \in \Omega$ ,

$$0 \leq w_-(x) + f(n) \int_{\Omega} G_{\Omega, \alpha}(x, y)ndy \leq c_{30} (\|g_-\|_{L^{\infty}(\Omega)} + f(n)) \rho(x)^{2\alpha-1}.$$

Let

$$\bar{w}(x) = n - w_-(x) - f(n) \int_{\Omega} G_{\Omega, \alpha}(x, y)ndy$$

and

$$b_1 = \max\{n + \|w_+\|_{L^{\infty}(\Omega)}, \|\bar{w}\|_{L^{\infty}(\Omega)}\},$$

then  $\varphi(s) := (\|f'\|_{L^\infty([-b_1, b_1])} + b_1)s - f(s)$  is increasing in  $[-b_1, b_1]$ . It follows by Lemma 3.1 that there exists a unique solution  $v_m$  of

$$\begin{aligned} (-\Delta)_\Omega^\alpha v_m + b_2 v_m &= b_2 v_{m-1} - f(v_{m-1}) + g && \text{in } \Omega, \\ v_m &= n && \text{on } \partial\Omega, \end{aligned} \tag{3.8}$$

where  $b_2 = \|f'\|_{L^\infty([-b_1, b_1])} + b_1$ ,  $m \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $v_0 = -b_1$ . We observe that  $\{v_m\}$  is a increasing sequence and uniformly bounded in  $\Omega$ . Therefore, the limit of  $\{v_m\}$  as  $m \rightarrow \infty$  satisfies (1.9).

To prove (1.10). By direct computation, we have that

$$(-\Delta)_\Omega^\alpha (n + w_+(x)) + f(n + w_+(x)) \geq g_+(x) + f(n) \geq g(x), \quad x \in \Omega$$

and

$$(-\Delta)_\Omega^\alpha \bar{w}(x) + f(\bar{w}(x)) \leq -g_-(x) - f(n) + f(n) \leq g(x), \quad x \in \Omega$$

thus  $n + w_+$  and  $n - w_- - n \int_\Omega G_{\Omega, \alpha}(x, y) n dy$  are the super-solution and sub-solution of (1.9), respectively. It infers (1.10) by Theorem 2.1.  $\square$

LEMMA 3.2. Let  $\tau \in (-1, 0)$  and  $V_\tau$  be defined in (2.15), then

$$|(-\Delta)_\Omega^\alpha V_\tau(x)| \leq c_{31} \rho(x)^{\tau-2\alpha}, \quad \forall x \in \Omega, \tag{3.9}$$

where  $c_{31} > 0$ .

Proof. We denote  $\tilde{V}_\tau = V_\tau$  in  $\Omega$  and  $\tilde{V}_\tau = 0$  in  $\mathbb{R}^N \setminus \Omega$ , from [5, Proposition 3.2], there exists  $c_{32} > 1$  such that

$$|(-\Delta)^\alpha \tilde{V}_\tau(x)| \leq c_{32} \rho(x)^{\tau-2\alpha}, \quad \forall x \in \Omega. \tag{3.10}$$

We observe that

$$(-\Delta)_\Omega^\alpha V_\tau(x) = (-\Delta)^\alpha \tilde{V}_\tau(x) - V_\tau(x) \phi(x),$$

where  $\phi$  is defined as (2.6) and by Lemma 2.1, we have that

$$\phi(x) \leq c_{12} \rho(x)^{-2\alpha}, \quad \forall x \in \Omega.$$

Together with (3.10), we have that

$$\begin{aligned} |(-\Delta)_\Omega^\alpha V_\tau(x)| &\leq |(-\Delta)^\alpha \tilde{V}_\tau(x)| + c_{12} V_\tau(x) \rho(x)^{-2\alpha} \\ &\leq c_{33} \rho(x)^{\tau-2\alpha}, \quad \forall x \in \Omega. \end{aligned}$$

The proof ends.  $\square$

Proof. (Proof of Theorem 1.1(i).) From Proposition 1.2 with  $g \equiv 0$ , there exists a unique positive solution  $u_n$  of

$$\begin{aligned} (-\Delta)_\Omega^\alpha u + h(u) &= 0 && \text{in } \Omega, \\ u &= n && \text{on } \partial\Omega \end{aligned} \tag{3.11}$$

and

$$n - n^p \rho(x)^{\alpha-1} \leq u_n(x) \leq n, \quad \forall x \in \Omega.$$

By Theorem 2.1, for any  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,

$$u_n \leq u_{n+1} \quad \text{in } \Omega.$$

From lemma 3.2, there exists  $\lambda > 0$  such that  $\lambda V_{-\frac{2\alpha}{p-1}}$  is a super-solution of (3.11), where  $-\frac{2\alpha}{p-1} \in (-1, 0)$  for  $p > 1 + 2\alpha$ . It follows by Theorem 2.1, that for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,

$$u_n \leq \lambda V_{-\frac{2\alpha}{p-1}} \quad \text{in } \Omega.$$

Then the limit of  $\{u_n\}$  exists in  $\Omega$ , denoted by  $u_\infty$ . Moreover, we have that  $u_n$  has uniform bound in  $L^\infty$  locally in  $\Omega$ , and then by regular result, we infer that  $u_n$  has uniform bound in  $C^{2\alpha+\theta}$  locally in  $\Omega$ . By Theorem 2.2,  $u_\infty$  is a viscosity solution of (1.1).

*Lower bound.* From Proposition 1.2, we have that

$$u_n \geq n - c_{34}n^q \rho^{2\alpha-1} \quad \text{in } \Omega,$$

then for  $n$  big, let  $r = (\lambda n)^{-\frac{q-1}{2\alpha-1}}$ , where  $\lambda = (2^{2\alpha}c_{34})^{\frac{1}{q-1}}$  chosen later, then for  $x \in \Omega_r \setminus \Omega_{2r}$ , we have that

$$\begin{aligned} u_n(x) &\geq \frac{1}{\lambda} r^{-\frac{2\alpha-1}{q-1}} - c_{34} \frac{1}{\lambda^p} r^{-\frac{2\alpha-1}{q-1}p} (2r)^{2\alpha-1} \\ &\geq \frac{1}{\lambda} \left(1 - \frac{2^{2\alpha-1}c_{34}}{\lambda^{q-1}}\right) r^{-\frac{2\alpha-1}{q-1}} \\ &\geq \frac{1}{2\lambda} \rho(x)^{-\frac{2\alpha-1}{q-1}}. \end{aligned}$$

where  $\lambda$  is independent of  $n$ . For any  $x \in \Omega \setminus \Omega_{r_0}$ , there exists  $n$  such that

$$u_\infty(x) \geq u_n(x) \geq \frac{1}{2\lambda} \rho(x)^{-\frac{2\alpha-1}{q-1}}.$$

We notice that the solution  $u_\infty$  is the minimal solution of (1.1), since for any boundary blow-up solution  $u$ , we may imply by comparison principle that  $u \geq u_n$  in  $\Omega$ , which infers that  $u_\infty \leq u$  in  $\Omega$ . The proof ends.  $\square$

Now we give the proof for the nonexistence part of Theorem 1.1.

*Proof. (Proof of Theorem 1.1 (ii).)* If  $q \leq 1$ , we observe that for  $n > 1$ ,

$$u_n \geq nu_1 \quad \text{in } \Omega,$$

which implies that (1.1) has no solution.

In what follows, we assume that  $q > 1$ . By contradiction, we may assume that there exists a solution  $u$  of (1.1) when  $f(s) \leq c_{11}s^q$  for  $s \geq 0$  and  $q$  satisfying (1.12). By Theorem 2.1, we have that

$$u_n \leq u \quad \text{in } \Omega.$$

From Proposition 1.2, we have that

$$u_n \geq n - c_{34}n^q \rho^{2\alpha-1} \quad \text{in } \Omega.$$

Then for  $n$  big, let  $r_n = (\lambda n)^{-\frac{q-1}{2\alpha-1}}$ , where  $\lambda = (2^{2\alpha} c_{34})^{\frac{1}{q-1}}$  chosen later, then for  $x \in \Omega_{r_n} \setminus \Omega_{2r_n}$ , we have that

$$u_n(x) \geq \frac{1}{\lambda} r_n^{-\frac{2\alpha-1}{q-1}} - \frac{c_{34}}{\lambda^p} r_n^{-\frac{2\alpha-1}{q-1} p} (2r_n)^{2\alpha-1} \geq \frac{1}{2\lambda} \rho(x)^{-\frac{2\alpha-1}{q-1}}.$$

For any  $x \in \Omega \setminus \Omega_{r_0}$ , there exists  $n$  such that

$$u(x) \geq u_n(x) \geq \frac{1}{2\lambda} \rho(x)^{-\frac{2\alpha-1}{q-1}}. \tag{3.12}$$

When  $1 < q \leq 2\alpha$ , we have that  $\rho^{-\frac{2\alpha-1}{q-1}}$  is not in  $L^1(\Omega)$ , then it follows from (3.12) for any  $x \in \Omega$  and any  $\epsilon > 0$

$$\begin{aligned} (-\Delta)_{\Omega, \epsilon}^\alpha u(x) &\leq - \int_{\Omega \setminus B_\epsilon(0)} \frac{u_n(y) - u(x)}{|x - y|^{N+2\alpha}} dy \\ &\leq -\epsilon^{-N-2\alpha} \left[ \int_{\Omega} u_n(y) dy - u(x) |\Omega| \right] \\ &\rightarrow -\infty \quad \text{as } n \rightarrow \infty, \end{aligned}$$

which is impossible.

From (1.12), we have that  $-\frac{2\alpha-1}{q-1} < \alpha - 1$ , then it follows from (3.12) that

$$\lim_{\rho(x) \rightarrow 0^+} u(x) \rho^{1-\alpha}(x) = +\infty, \tag{3.13}$$

which contradicts Proposition 1.1 (i). □

**Acknowledgements.** H. Chen is supported by NSFC (No:11726614, 11661045), by the Jiangxi Provincial Natural Science Foundation, No: 20161ACB20007, and by Doctoral Research Foundation of Jiangxi Normal University.

REFERENCES

- [1] S. Alarcón, J. García-Melián, and A. Quaas, *Keller-Osserman type conditions for some elliptic problems with gradient terms*, J. Diff. Eqs., **252:886–914**, 2012. [1](#)
- [2] C. Bandle and M. Marcus, *Large solutions of semilinear elliptic equations: Existence, uniqueness and asymptotic behaviour*, J. Anal. Math., **58:9–24**, 1992. [1](#)
- [3] C. Bandle and M. Marcus, *Asymptotic behaviour of solutions and derivatives for semilinear elliptic problems with blow-up on the boundary*, Ann. Inst. H. Poincaré Anal. Non Linéaire, **12:155–171**, 1995. [1](#)
- [4] L. Caffarelli and L. Silvestre, *Regularity theory for fully nonlinear integro-differential equations*, Comm. Pure Appl. Math., **62:597–638**, 2009. [2](#)
- [5] H. Chen, P. Felmer, and A. Quaas, *Large solution to elliptic equations involving fractional Laplacian*, Ann. Inst. H. Poincaré Anal. Non Linéaire, **32:1199–1228**, 2015. [1](#), [2.1](#), [2.2](#), [2.2](#), [2.2](#), [2.2](#), [3](#)
- [6] H. Chen and L. Véron, *Weakly and strongly singular solutions of semilinear fractional elliptic equations*, Asym. Anal., **88:165–184**, 2014. [2.1](#)
- [7] H. Chen, H. Hajajej, and Y. Wang, *Boundary blow-up solutions to fractional elliptic equations in a measure framework*, Discrete Contin. Dyn. Sys., **36:1881–1903**, 2016. [1](#), [2.2](#)
- [8] Z. Chen and P. Kim, *Green function estimate for censored stable processes*, Probab. Theory Related Fields, **124:595–610**, 2002. [1](#), [1](#), [3](#)
- [9] Z. Chen, P. Kim, and R. Song, *Two-sided heat kernel estimates for censored stable-like processes*, Probab. Theory Related Fields, **146:361–399**, 2010. [1](#)
- [10] J. Duan, *An Introduction to Stochastic Dynamics*, Cambridge University Press, New York, 2015. [1](#)

- [11] P. Felmer and A. Quaas, *Boundary blow-up solutions for fractional elliptic equations*, *Asym. Anal.*, [78:123–144, 2012.](#) [1](#)
- [12] Q. Guan and Z. Ma, *Reflected symmetric  $\alpha$ -stable processes and regional fractional Laplacian*, *Probab. Theory Related Fields*, [134:649–694, 2006.](#) [1](#)
- [13] J.B. Keller, *On solutions of  $\Delta u = f(u)$* , *Comm. Pure Appl. Math.*, [10:503–510, 1957.](#) [1](#)
- [14] M. Marcus and L. Véron, *Uniqueness and asymptotic behavior of solutions with boundary blow-up for a class of nonlinear elliptic equations*, *Ann. Inst. H. Poincaré Anal. Non Linéaire*, [14:237–274, 1997.](#) [1](#)
- [15] M. Marcus and L. Véron, *Existence and uniqueness results for large solutions of general nonlinear elliptic equation*, *J. Evol. Eqs.*, [3:637–652, 2003.](#) [1](#)
- [16] R. Osserman, *On the inequality  $\Delta u = f(u)$* , *Pac. J. Math.*, [7:1641–1647, 1957.](#) [1](#)
- [17] X. Ros-Oton and J. Serra, *The Dirichlet problem for the fractional Laplacian: regularity up to the boundary*, *J. Math. Pures Appl.*, [101:275–302, 2014.](#) [2.1](#), [2.2](#), [2.2](#)