

Critical Hardy inequality on the half-space via the harmonic transplantation

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A joint work with Prof. Futoshi Takahashi (Osaka Metropolitan University).

Plan of my talk

- §1 Introduction
 - The subcritical Hardy inequality ($1 < p < N$)
 - The critical Hardy inequality ($p = N$)
- §2 Main results
 - Thm 1 (The improved subcritical Hardy inequality on \mathbb{R}_+^N)
 - Thm 2 (The critical Hardy inequality on \mathbb{R}_+^N)
- §3 Harmonic transplantation and its applications
 - The limit of the subcritical Hardy inequality as $p \nearrow N$
(- The limit of the Sobolev inequality as $N \nearrow \infty$)
- §4 Proof of Thm1
 - Difficulty (Explicit form of Green's function on \mathbb{R}_+^N)

§1.1 The subcritical Hardy inequality

Let Ω be a domain in \mathbb{R}^N , $a \in \Omega$ and $\dot{W}_0^{1,p}(\Omega) := \overline{C_c^\infty(\Omega)}^{\|\nabla \cdot\|_{L^p(\Omega)}}$.

The subcritical Hardy inequality ($1 < p < N$)

$$\left(\frac{N-p}{p}\right)^p \int_{\Omega} \frac{|u|^p}{|x-a|^p} dx \leq \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u|^p dx \quad (\forall u \in \dot{W}_0^{1,p}(\Omega))$$

Facts

- The constant $\left(\frac{N-p}{p}\right)^p$ is optimal.
- $\left(\frac{N-p}{p}\right)^p = \inf_{0 \neq u \in \dot{W}_0^{1,p}(\Omega)} \frac{\int_{\Omega} |\nabla u|^p dx}{\int_{\Omega} \frac{|u|^p}{|x-a|^p} dx}$ is not attained for any domain Ω .
- Let $a = O$. $|x|^{-\frac{N-p}{p}} \notin \dot{W}_0^{1,p}$ is “the virtual minimizer”.
($|x|^{-\frac{N-p}{p}}$ is a **distributional** sol. to the Euler-Lagrange equation.)

§1.2 The critical Hardy inequality

Let Ω be a **bounded** domain in \mathbb{R}^N , $a = O \in \Omega$ and $R = \sup_{x \in \Omega} |x|$.

The critical Hardy inequality ($p = N$)

$$\left(\frac{N-1}{N}\right)^N \int_{\Omega} \frac{|u|^N}{|x|^N \left(\log \frac{R}{|x|}\right)^N} dx \leq \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u|^N dx \quad (\forall u \in \dot{W}_0^{1,N}(\Omega))$$

Facts (Adimurthi-Sandeep, '02, D'Ambrosio-Dipierro, '14, Ioku-Ishiwata, '15)

- The constant $\left(\frac{N-1}{N}\right)^N$ is optimal.
- The optimal constant $\left(\frac{N-1}{N}\right)^N$ is not attained for any domain Ω .
- $\left(\log \frac{R}{|x|}\right)^{\frac{N-1}{N}} \notin \dot{W}_0^{1,N}$ is “the virtual minimizer”.
($\left(\log \frac{R}{|x|}\right)^{\frac{N-1}{N}}$ is a **distributional** sol. to the E-L equation.)

Q. What happens when Ω is **unbounded**?
Especially when Ω is **the half-space** \mathbb{R}_+^N .

Remark (The critical Hardy type inequality on $\dot{W}_0^{1,N}(\mathbb{R}^N)$)

There is **no** weight function $g > 0$ such that the inequality

$$C \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} |u|^q g(x) dx \right)^{\frac{N}{q}} \leq \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} |\nabla u|^N dx$$

holds for any $u \in C_{c,\text{rad}}^1(\mathbb{R}^N)$ for some $C > 0$.

Let $z = (x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^{N-1} \times (0, \infty) = \mathbb{R}_+^N$ and set
 $a = (0, \dots, 0, 1) \in \mathbb{R}_+^N$.

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 $a = (0, \dots, 0, 1) \in \mathbb{R}_+^N$.

§2 Main results

Thm 1 (The improved subcritical Hardy inequality on \mathbb{R}_+^N)

Let $2 \leq p < N$. Then the improved subcritical Hardy inequality

$$\left(\frac{N-p}{p}\right)^p \int_{\mathbb{R}_+^N} \frac{V_p(x,y)^{\frac{p}{2}}}{(|x|^2 + (1-y)^2)^{\frac{p}{2}}} |u(x,y)|^p dx dy \leq \int_{\mathbb{R}_+^N} |\nabla u(x,y)|^p dx dy$$

holds for any $u \in \dot{W}_0^{1,p}(\mathbb{R}_+^N)$ (of the form $u(x,y) = u(U_p(x,y))$), where

$$X = \frac{|x|^2 + (1-y)^2}{|x|^2 + (1+y)^2} \in [0, 1),$$

$$V_p(x,y) = \frac{1 + X^{\frac{N-1}{p-1}} - 2X^{\frac{N-p}{2(p-1)}} (|x|^2 + (1+y)^2)^{-1} (|x|^2 + y^2 - 1)}{\left[1 - X^{\frac{N-p}{2(p-1)}}\right]^2} \geq 1.$$

The constant $\left(\frac{N-p}{p}\right)^p$ is optimal and is not attained.

Remark Actually, symmetric condition w.r.t. U_p is not essentially needed by using the result (D'Ambrosio-Dipierro, '14) and Lemma 1 later. However, in this talk, we will use the harmonic transplantation method under the symmetric condition.

Remark We can take a limit of the improved subcritical Hardy inequality as $p \nearrow N$ as follows. (Note that $1 - X^\varepsilon \sim \varepsilon \log \frac{1}{X}$ as $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$)

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \left(\frac{N-p}{p} \right)^p \frac{V_p(x, y)^{\frac{p}{2}}}{(|x|^2 + (1-y)^2)^{\frac{p}{2}}} \\
 & \sim \left(\frac{N-p}{p} \right)^p \frac{\left\{ 1 + X - 2(|x|^2 + (y+1)^2)^{-1} (|x|^2 + y^2 - 1) \right\}^{\frac{N}{2}}}{(|x|^2 + (1-y)^2)^{\frac{N}{2}} \left[\frac{N-p}{2(p-1)} \log \frac{1}{X} \right]^p} \\
 & \sim \left(\frac{N-1}{N} \right)^N \frac{1}{(|x|^2 + (1-y)^2)^{\frac{N}{2}} \left(\frac{|x|^2 + (1+y)^2}{4} \right)^{\frac{N}{2}} \left(\log \sqrt{\frac{|x|^2 + (1+y)^2}{|x|^2 + (1-y)^2}} \right)^N} \quad (p \nearrow N).
 \end{aligned}$$

Thm 2 (The critical Hardy inequality on \mathbb{R}_+^N)

Let $N \geq 2$. Then the critical Hardy inequality

$$\left(\frac{N-1}{N}\right)^N \int_{\mathbb{R}_+^N} \frac{|u(x,y)|^N dx dy}{(|x|^2 + (1-y)^2)^{\frac{N}{2}} \left(\frac{|x|^2 + (1+y)^2}{4}\right)^{\frac{N}{2}} \left(\log \sqrt{\frac{|x|^2 + (1+y)^2}{|x|^2 + (1-y)^2}}\right)^N} \leq \int_{\mathbb{R}_+^N} |\nabla u(x,y)|^N dx dy$$

holds for any $u \in \dot{W}_0^{1,N}(\mathbb{R}_+^N)$. The constant $\left(\frac{N-1}{N}\right)^N$ is optimal and is not attained.

Remark (The behavior of the potential function)

$$V_N(x,y) := \frac{1}{(|x|^2 + (1-y)^2) \left(\frac{|x|^2 + (1+y)^2}{4}\right) \left(\log \sqrt{\frac{|x|^2 + (1+y)^2}{|x|^2 + (1-y)^2}}\right)^2}$$

$$V_N(x,y)^{\frac{N}{2}} \sim (|x|^2 + (1-y)^2)^{-\frac{N}{2}} \left(\log \frac{2}{\sqrt{|x|^2 + (1-y)^2}}\right)^{-N} \quad ((x,y) \rightarrow (0,1))$$

$$V_N(x,y)^{\frac{N}{2}} \sim y^{-N} \left(|x|^2 + (y-1)^2 \rightarrow \infty \text{ or } y \rightarrow 0\right)$$

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§3.1 Harmonic transplantation

Let $B \subset \mathbb{R}^N$ be the unit ball, $\Omega (\subset \mathbb{R}^N)$ be a domain, $a \in \Omega$, $N \geq 2$, $1 < p \leq N$ and $G = G_{\Omega,a}$ be a sol. of

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta_p G_{\Omega,a} = \delta_a & \text{in } \Omega, \\ G_{\Omega,a} = 0 & \text{on } \partial\Omega, \end{cases} \quad \text{where } \Delta_p u = \operatorname{div}(|\nabla u|^{p-2} \nabla u).$$

For a **radial** function v on B , define the function u on Ω as follows.

Harmonic transplantation (Ref. Hersch, 1969)

$$(H.T.) \quad u(y) = v(|x|), \text{ where } G_{\Omega,a}(y) = G_{B,O}(|x|).$$

(Cf. The Riemann mapping theorem)

Proposition (Preservation of $\|\nabla(\cdot)\|_p$)

$$\text{It holds that } \|\nabla u\|_{L^p(\Omega)} = \|\nabla v\|_{L^p(B)}.$$

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§3.2 Several applications of (H.T.)

Harmonic transplantation (Again)

$$(H.T.) \quad u(y) = v(|x|), \text{ where } G_{\Omega,a}(y) = G_{B,O}(|x|).$$

Domains or operators or dimensions of two Green's functions $G_{\Omega,a}$ are different from each other.

Harmonic transplantation (Generalization of (H.T.))

$$(H.T.) \quad u(y) = v(x) (= w(|z|)), \text{ where } G_{\Omega_1,a_1}(y) = \tilde{G}_{\Omega_2,a_2}(x) (= G_{B,O}(|z|)).$$

Ref. (Classification of various transformations) Moser, 1971, [Flucher, 1992, Csató-Roy, 2015], Bandle-Brilland-Flucher, 1998, Zographopoulos, 2010, Horiuchi-Kumlin, 2012, S.-Takahashi, 2017 (Equivalence of the subcritical and the critical Sobolev spaces), Ioku, 2019 (§3.3, $p \nearrow N$), S., 2020 (§3.4, $N \nearrow \infty$) etc.

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§4 Proof of Thm 1

We want to apply (H.T.) on \mathbb{R}_+^N in the same way as §3.3 on B .

Difficulty of Thm 1 (Δ_p is nonlinear operator)

Let $1 < p < N$. Green's function on \mathbb{R}_+^N :

$$G_{\mathbb{R}_+^N, (0,1)}(x, y) = \frac{p-1}{N-p} |\mathbb{S}^{N-1}|^{-\frac{1}{p-1}} \left[(|x|^2 + (1-y)^2)^{-\frac{N-p}{2(p-1)}} - \psi_p(x, y) \right]$$

Although $\psi_2(x, y) = (|x|^2 + (1+y)^2)^{-\frac{N-2}{2}}$, we do not know the explicit form of $\psi_p \in L_{loc}^\infty(\mathbb{R}_+^N)$ in general.

(★) Modified (H.T.)

$u(z) = v(\tilde{z})$, where $G_{\mathbb{R}^N, O}(\tilde{z}) = U_p(z) (\neq G_{\mathbb{R}_+^N, (0,1)}(z) \text{ if } p \neq 2)$

$$:= \frac{p-1}{N-p} |\mathbb{S}^{N-1}|^{-\frac{1}{p-1}} \left[(|x|^2 + (1-y)^2)^{-\frac{N-p}{2(p-1)}} - (|x|^2 + (1+y)^2)^{-\frac{N-p}{2(p-1)}} \right]$$

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$$-\Delta_p U_p = \frac{(N-p)(p-2)}{(p-1)^2 \omega_{N-1}^{\frac{2}{p-1}}} |\nabla U_p|^{p-4} U_p \left[|x|^2 + (y-1)^2 \right]^{-\frac{N-p}{2(p-1)}-1} \left[|x|^2 + (y+1)^2 \right]^{-\frac{N-p}{2(p-1)}-1} \\ \times \left[N-p + (N+p-2) \frac{(|x|^2 + y^2 - 1)^2}{\{|x|^2 + (y-1)^2\}\{|x|^2 + (y+1)^2\}} \right].$$

Lemma 1 (Superharmonicity of U_p)

If $p \geq 2$, then $-\Delta_p U_p \geq 0$ in $\mathbb{R}_+^N \setminus \{(0, 1)\}$.

Lemma 2 (1-dim. weighted Hardy ineq.)

Let $p \geq 2$. Then, for any radial function $v \in C_c^1(\mathbb{R}^N)$, the inequality

$$\left(\frac{N-p}{p} \right)^p \int_0^\infty |v(t)|^p t^{N-1-p} F_p(G_{\mathbb{R}^N, O}(t)) dt \leq \int_0^\infty |v'(t)|^p t^{N-1} F_p(G_{\mathbb{R}^N, O}(t)) dt$$

holds, where $F_p(s) = \int_{\{U_p > s\}} (-\Delta_p U_p) dz \geq 0$.

§4 Proof of Thm 1

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{\mathbb{R}_+^N} |\nabla u(x, y)|^p dx dy \\ & \stackrel{(\star)}{=} \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} |\nabla v|^p d\tilde{z} + |\mathbb{S}^{N-1}| \int_0^\infty |v'|^p t^{N-1} F_p(G_{\mathbb{R}^N, O}(t)) dt \\ & > \left(\frac{N-p}{p}\right)^p \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} \frac{|v|^p}{|\tilde{z}|^p} d\tilde{z} \quad (\because \text{Lemma 2 \& Hardy ineq. on } \mathbb{R}^N) \\ & \quad + \left(\frac{N-p}{p}\right)^p |\mathbb{S}^{N-1}| \int_0^\infty |v|^p t^{N-1-p} F_p(G_{\mathbb{R}^N, O}(t)) dt \\ & \stackrel{(\star)}{=} \left(\frac{N-p}{p}\right)^p \int_{\mathbb{R}_+^N} \frac{|u(x, y)|^p}{(|x|^2 + (1-y)^2)^{\frac{p}{2}}} V_p(x, y)^{\frac{p}{2}} dx dy \end{aligned}$$

Thank you very much for your kind attention!

§3 Möbius transformation

Definition (Möbius transformation)

Let $O(N)$ be the orthogonal group in dimension N . Set

$$T_b(z) = z + b \quad (\text{translation}),$$

$$S_\lambda(z) = \lambda z \quad (\text{scaling}),$$

$$R(z) = Rz \quad (\text{rotation}),$$

$$J(z) = z^* = \frac{z}{|z|^2} \quad (\text{reflection})$$

for $b \in \mathbb{R}^N$, $\lambda > 0$, $R \in O(N)$. A Möbius transformation $M : \mathbb{R}^N \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^N$ is a finite composition of T_b , S_λ , R and J .

$$(M.T.) \quad (M^\# f)(z) = |\det M'(z)|^{\frac{N-p}{Np}} f(M(z)), \quad z \in \mathbb{R}^N.$$

§3 Property of (M.T.)

$$(M.T.) \quad (M^\# f)(z) = |\det M'(z)|^{\frac{N-p}{Np}} f(M(z)), \quad z \in \mathbb{R}^N.$$

Remark

$$(T_b^\# f)(z) = f(z + b),$$

$$(S_\lambda^\# f)(z) = \lambda^{\frac{N-p}{p}} f(\lambda z),$$

$$(R^\# f)(z) = f(Rz),$$

$$(J^\# f)(z) = |z|^{\frac{2}{p}(p-N)} f\left(\frac{z}{|z|^2}\right).$$

Proposition 2 (Preservation of $\|\nabla(\cdot)\|_p$)

For any $f \in C_c^1(\mathbb{R}^N \setminus \{0\})$,

$$\|\nabla(M^\# f)\|_{L^p(\mathbb{R}^N)} = \|\nabla f\|_{L^p(\mathbb{R}^N)}. \quad (\text{only when } p = 2, N \text{ if } M \text{ includes } J)$$

§3 Difference between (M.T.) and (H.T.)

$$p = N \text{ and } \Omega = B_R \subset \mathbb{R}^N$$

(H.T.) $u(|y|) = v(|x|)$, where $G_{B_R, O}(|y|) = G_{B, O}(|x|)$,
namely, $\log \frac{R}{|y|} = \log \frac{1}{|x|}$.

(M.T.) $(M^\# f)(y) = f(x)$, where $x = M(y) = \frac{y}{R}$.

$$p < N \text{ and } \Omega = B_R \subset \mathbb{R}^N$$

(H.T.) $u(|y|) = v(|x|)$, where $G_{B_R, O}(|y|) = G_{B, O}(|x|)$,
namely, $|y|^{-\frac{N-p}{p-1}} - R^{-\frac{N-p}{p-1}} = |x|^{-\frac{N-p}{p-1}} - 1$.

(M.T.) $(M^\# f)(y) = R^{-\frac{N-p}{p}} f(x)$, where $x = M(y) = \frac{y}{R}$.

§3.4 Infinite dimensional form of the Sobolev inequality : $N \nearrow \infty$

Since $\Gamma(t) \sim \sqrt{2\pi} t^{t-\frac{1}{2}} e^{-t}$ ($t \rightarrow \infty$) and $|\mathbb{S}^{N-1}| = \frac{N\pi^{\frac{N}{2}}}{\Gamma(1 + \frac{N}{2})}$, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 S_{N,p} & \left(\frac{|\mathbb{S}^{m-1}|}{|\mathbb{S}^{N-1}|} \right)^{\frac{p}{N}} \left(\frac{m-p}{N-p} \right)^{p-\frac{p}{N}} \\
 & = \pi^{\frac{p}{2}} N \left(\frac{N-p}{p-1} \right)^{p-1} \left(\frac{\Gamma(\frac{N}{p}) \Gamma(\frac{N}{p'} + 1)}{\Gamma(N) \Gamma(1 + \frac{N}{2})} \right)^{\frac{p}{N}} \left(\frac{m\pi^{\frac{m}{2}} \Gamma(1 + \frac{N}{2})}{N\pi^{\frac{N}{2}} \Gamma(1 + \frac{m}{2})} \right)^{\frac{p}{N}} \left(\frac{m-p}{N-p} \right)^{p-\frac{p}{N}} \\
 & \sim \frac{(m-p)^p}{(p-1)^{p-1}} \left(\frac{\left(\frac{N}{p}\right)^{\frac{N}{p}-\frac{1}{2}} e^{-\frac{N}{p}} \left(\frac{N}{p'} + 1\right)^{\frac{N}{p'}+1-\frac{1}{2}} e^{-\frac{N}{p'}-1}}{N^{N-\frac{1}{2}} e^{-N}} \right)^{\frac{p}{N}} \\
 & \sim \frac{(m-p)^p}{(p-1)^{p-1}} \cdot \frac{1}{N^p} \cdot \frac{N}{p} \left(\frac{p-1}{p} N + 1 \right)^{p-1} \sim \left(\frac{m-p}{p} \right)^p \quad (N \nearrow \infty).
 \end{aligned}$$

§3.5 Equivalence of the subcritical and the critical Sobolev spaces

Let $1 < p = N < m$. Consider

$$\text{(H.T.) } u(|x|) = v(|y|), \text{ where } G_{\mathbb{R}^m, O}(|x|) = G_{B, O}(|y|), \quad B \subset \mathbb{R}^N$$

$$\text{(}m\text{-dim. Hardy ineq.) } \left(\frac{m-p}{p}\right)^p \int_{\mathbb{R}^m} \frac{|u|^p}{|x|^p} dx \leq \int_{\mathbb{R}^m} |\nabla u|^p dx$$

||

$$\text{(Critical Hardy ineq.) } \left(\frac{N-1}{N}\right)^N \int_B \frac{|v|^N}{|y|^N \left(\log \frac{1}{|y|}\right)^N} dy \leq \int_B |\nabla v|^N dy$$

Remark We can rewrite (H.T.) as follows.

$$\left(\frac{p-1}{m-p}\right)^{\frac{p-1}{p}} |\mathbb{S}^{m-1}|^{-\frac{1}{p}} |x|^{-\frac{m-p}{p}} = |\mathbb{S}^{N-1}|^{-\frac{1}{N}} \left(\log \frac{1}{|y|}\right)^{\frac{N-1}{N}} \quad \text{(Virtual minimizers)}$$

§4.2 Proof of Thm 2

Let $p = N$ and $\Omega = \mathbb{R}_+^N$. Consider (H.T.) :

$$\begin{aligned}u(z) = v(\tilde{z}), \text{ where } |\mathbb{S}^{N-1}|^{-\frac{1}{N-1}} \log \sqrt{\frac{|x|^2 + (1+y)^2}{|x|^2 + (1-y)^2}} &= G_{\mathbb{R}_+^N, (0,1)}(z) \\ &= G_{B, O}(\tilde{z})\end{aligned}$$

which coincides with the Möbius transformation \mathbf{B} :

$$(\tilde{x}, \tilde{y}) = \mathbf{B}(x, y) = \left(\frac{2x, 1 - |x|^2 - y^2}{(1+y)^2 + |x|^2} \right), \quad z = (x, y) \in \mathbb{R}_+^N, \quad \tilde{z} = (\tilde{x}, \tilde{y}) \in B,$$

$$\mathbf{B}(z) = R \circ J \circ T_{(0,1)} \circ S_2 \circ J \circ T_{(0,-1)}(z), \text{ where } R = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & & & \\ & \ddots & & \\ & & 1 & \\ & & & -1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

§4.2 Proof of Thm 2

$$|\mathbf{B}(z)| = \frac{|x|^2 + (1-y)^2}{|x|^2 + (1+y)^2}, \quad \det \mathbf{B}'(z) = - \left\{ \frac{2}{(1+y)^2 + |x|^2} \right\}^N.$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_B \frac{|v(\tilde{x}, \tilde{y})|^N}{\{|\tilde{x}|^2 + |\tilde{y}|^2\}^{\frac{N}{2}} \left(\log \frac{1}{\sqrt{|\tilde{x}|^2 + |\tilde{y}|^2}} \right)^N} d\tilde{x} d\tilde{y} \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}_+^N} \frac{|u(x, y)|^N}{|\mathbf{B}(x, y)|^{\frac{N}{2}} \left(\log \frac{1}{|\mathbf{B}(x, y)|} \right)^N} |\det \mathbf{B}'(x, y)| dx dy \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}_+^N} \frac{|u(x, y)|^N}{\{|x|^2 + (1-y)^2\}^{\frac{N}{2}} \left\{ \frac{|x|^2 + (1+y)^2}{4} \right\}^{\frac{N}{2}} \left(\log \sqrt{\frac{|x|^2 + (1+y)^2}{|x|^2 + (1-y)^2}} \right)^N} dx dy. \end{aligned}$$

§4.2 Proof of Thm 2

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \text{(Critical Hardy ineq. on } B) & \left(\frac{N-1}{N}\right)^N \int_B \frac{|v|^N}{|\tilde{z}|^N \left(\log \frac{1}{|\tilde{z}|}\right)^N} d\tilde{z} \leq \int_B |\nabla v|^N d\tilde{z} & \\
 & \parallel & \downarrow \parallel \text{(Proposition 2)} \\
 \left(\frac{N-1}{N}\right)^N \int_{\mathbb{R}_+^N} \frac{|u(x,y)|^N dx dy}{(|x|^2 + (1-y)^2)^{\frac{N}{2}} \left(\frac{|x|^2 + (1+y)^2}{4}\right)^{\frac{N}{2}} \left(\log \sqrt{\frac{|x|^2 + (1+y)^2}{|x|^2 + (1-y)^2}}\right)^N} & \leq & \int_{\mathbb{R}_+^N} |\nabla u(x,y)|^N dx dy
 \end{array}$$