



**HAL**  
open science

## Quasilinear and Hessian Lane-Emden type systems with measure data

Marie-Françoise Véron, Quoc-Hung Nguyen, Laurent Véron

► **To cite this version:**

Marie-Françoise Véron, Quoc-Hung Nguyen, Laurent Véron. Quasilinear and Hessian Lane-Emden type systems with measure data. 2017. hal-01525487v1

**HAL Id: hal-01525487**

**<https://hal.science/hal-01525487v1>**

Preprint submitted on 21 May 2017 (v1), last revised 15 Dec 2018 (v3)

**HAL** is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers.

L'archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire **HAL**, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d'enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.

# Quasilinear and Hessian Lane-Emden type systems with measure data

Marie-Françoise Bidaut-Véron\*  
Quoc-Hung Nguyen<sup>†</sup>  
Laurent Véron<sup>‡</sup>

## Contents

1	Introduction and Main results	1
2	Estimates on potentials	6
3	Quasilinear Dirichlet problems	16
4	$p$ -superharmonic functions and quasilinear equations in $\mathbb{R}^N$	17
5	Hessian equations	19
6	Further results	22

## Abstract

We study nonlinear systems of the form  $-\Delta_p u = v^{q_1} + \mu$ ,  $-\Delta_p v = u^{q_2} + \eta$  and  $F_k[-u] = v^{s_1} + \mu$ ,  $F_k[-v] = u^{s_2} + \eta$  in a bounded domain  $\Omega$  or in  $\mathbb{R}^N$  where  $\mu$  and  $\eta$  are nonnegative Radon measures,  $\Delta_p$  and  $F_k$  are respectively the  $p$ -Laplacian and the  $k$ -Hessian operators and  $q_1, q_2, s_1$  and  $s_2$  positive numbers. We give necessary and sufficient conditions for existence expressed in terms of Riesz or Bessel capacities. 2010

*Mathematics Subject Classification.* 35J70, 35J60, 45G15, 31C15.

*Key words:*  $p$ -Laplacian,  $k$ -Hessian, Bessel and Riesz capacities, measures, maximal functions.

## 1 Introduction and Main results

Let  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^N$  be either a bounded domain or the whole  $\mathbb{R}^N$ ,  $p > 1$  and  $k \in \{1, 2, \dots, N\}$ . We denote by

$$\Delta_p u := \operatorname{div} (|\nabla u|^{p-2} \nabla u)$$

the  $p$ -Laplace operator and by

$$F_k[u] = \sum_{1 \leq j_1 < j_2 < \dots < j_k \leq N} \lambda_{j_1} \lambda_{j_2} \dots \lambda_{j_k}$$

---

\*E-mail address: veronmf@univ-tours.fr, Laboratoire de Mathématiques et Physique Théorique, Université François Rabelais, Tours, France

<sup>†</sup>E-mail address: quochung.nguyen@sns.it, Scuola Normale Superiore, Centro Ennio de Giorgi, Piazza dei Cavalieri 3, I-56100 Pisa, Italy.

<sup>‡</sup>E-mail address: Laurent.Veron@lmpt.univ-tours.fr, Laboratoire de Mathématiques et Physique Théorique, Université François Rabelais, Tours, France

the  $k$ -Hessian operator where  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_N$  are the eigenvalues of the Hessian matrix  $D^2u$ . In the work [23], Phuc and Verbitsky obtained necessary and sufficient conditions for existence of nonnegative solutions to the following equations

$$\begin{aligned} -\Delta_p u &= u^q + \mu && \text{in } \Omega, \\ u &= 0 && \text{on } \partial\Omega, \end{aligned} \quad (1.1)$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} F_k[-u] &= u^q + \mu && \text{in } \Omega, \\ u &= 0 && \text{on } \partial\Omega. \end{aligned} \quad (1.2)$$

Their conditions involve the continuity of the measures with respect to Bessel or Riesz capacities and Wolff potentials estimates. For example, if  $\Omega$  is bounded and  $\mu$  has compact support in  $\Omega$ , they proved that it is equivalent to solve (1.1), or to have

$$\mu(E) \leq c_1 \text{Cap}_{\mathbf{G}_p, \frac{q}{q+1-p}}(E) \quad \text{for all compact set } E \subset \Omega, \quad (1.3)$$

for some constant  $c_1 > 0$  where  $\text{Cap}_{\mathbf{G}_p, \frac{q}{q+1-p}}$  is a Bessel capacity, or to have

$$\int_B (\mathbf{W}_{1,p}^R[\mu_B](x))^q dx \leq c_2 \mu(B) \quad \text{for all ball } B \text{ s.t. } B \cap \text{supp}\mu \neq \emptyset, \quad (1.4)$$

for some constant  $c_2 > 0$ , where  $R = 2 \text{diam}(\Omega)$  and  $\mathbf{W}_{1,p}^R[\mu_B]$  denotes the  $R$ -truncated Wolff potential of the measure  $\mu_B = \chi_B \mu$ . Concerning the  $k$ -Hessian operator in a bounded  $(k-1)$ -convex domain  $\Omega$ , they proved that if  $\mu$  has compact support, the problem (1.2) with  $q > k$  admits a nonnegative solution if and only if

$$\mu(E) \leq c_3 \text{Cap}_{\mathbf{G}_{2k}, \frac{q}{q-k}}(E) \quad \text{for all compact set } E \subset \Omega, \quad (1.5)$$

for some  $c_3$ . In turn this condition is equivalent to

$$\int_B \left[ \mathbf{W}_{\frac{2k}{k+1}, k+1}^R[\mu_B(x)] \right]^q dx \leq c_4 \mu(B) \quad \text{for all ball } B \text{ s.t. } B \cap \text{supp}\mu \neq \emptyset. \quad (1.6)$$

for some  $c_4 > 0$ . The results concerning the linear case  $p = 2$  and  $k = 1$ , can be found in [2, 3, 31].

The natural counterpart of equation (1.1) and (1.2) for systems:

$$\begin{aligned} -\Delta_p u &= v^{q_1} + \mu && \text{in } \Omega \\ -\Delta_p v &= u^{q_2} + \eta && \text{in } \Omega \\ u &= v = 0 && \text{on } \partial\Omega, \end{aligned} \quad (1.7)$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} F_k[-u] &= v^{s_1} + \mu && \text{in } \Omega \\ F_k[-v] &= u^{s_2} + \eta && \text{in } \Omega \\ u &= v = 0 && \text{on } \partial\Omega, \end{aligned} \quad (1.8)$$

where  $q_1, q_2 > p-1, s_1, s_2 > k$  and  $\mu, \eta$  are Radon measures. If  $\Omega = \mathbb{R}^N$ , we consider the same equations, except that the boundary conditions are replaced by  $\inf_{\mathbb{R}^N} u = \inf_{\mathbb{R}^N} v = 0$  and our statements involve the Riesz potentials and their associated capacities  $\text{Cap}_{I_{\alpha, \beta}}$ . Our main results are the following.

**Theorem A** *Let  $1 < p < N, q_1, q_2 > 0$  and  $q_2 q_1 > (p-1)^2$ . Let  $\mu, \eta$  be nonnegative Radon measures in  $\mathbb{R}^N$ . If the following system*

$$\begin{aligned} -\Delta_p u &= v^{q_1} + \mu && \text{in } \mathbb{R}^N \\ -\Delta_p v &= u^{q_2} + \eta && \text{in } \mathbb{R}^N \end{aligned} \quad (1.9)$$

admits a nonnegative  $p$ -superharmonic solution  $(u, v)$  then there exists a positive constant  $c_5$  depending on  $N, p, q_1, q_2$  such that

$$\eta(E) + \int_E (\mathbf{W}_{1,p}[\mu](x))^{q_2} dx \leq c_5 \text{Cap}_{\mathbf{I}_{\frac{p(q_1+p-1)}{q_1}, \frac{q_1 q_2}{q_1 q_2 - (p-1)^2}}}(E) \quad \text{for all Borel sets } E. \quad (1.10)$$

Conversely, if  $\mu$  and  $\eta$  are bounded, there exists  $c_6 > 0$  depending on  $N, p, q_1, q_2$  such that if  $0 < q_1 < \frac{N(p-1)}{N-p}$  and (1.10) holds with  $c_5$  replaced by  $c_6$ , then (1.9) admits a nonnegative  $p$ -superharmonic solution  $(u, v)$  satisfying

$$v \leq c_8 \mathbf{W}_{1,p}[\omega], \quad u \leq c_9 \mathbf{W}_{1,p}[(\mathbf{W}_{1,p}[\omega])^{q_1}] + c_7 \mathbf{W}_{1,p}[\mu] \quad (1.11)$$

in  $\mathbb{R}^N$  for some  $c_7, c_8, c_9 > 0$  where  $d\omega = (\mathbf{W}_{1,p}[\mu])^{q_2} dx + d\eta$ .

We notice that the left-hand side in (1.10) is not symmetric in  $\eta$  and  $\mu$  and the capacity in the right-hand side is not symmetric in  $q_1$  and  $q_2$ . Hence the following symmetrized inequality holds

$$\mu(E) + \int_E (\mathbf{W}_{1,p}[\eta](x))^{q_1} dx \leq c'_5 \text{Cap}_{\mathbf{I}_{\frac{p(q_2+p-1)}{q_2}, \frac{q_1 q_2}{q_1 q_2 - (p-1)^2}}}(E) \quad \text{for all Borel sets } E. \quad (1.12)$$

It is known that

$$\text{Cap}_{\mathbf{I}_{\alpha,\beta}}(K) = 0 \quad \forall K \text{ compact,}$$

if  $\alpha\beta \geq N$ , the first part of above implies the following Liouville theorem, obtained by another method in [9, Th 5.3-(i)]

**Corollary B** Assume that

$$\frac{p(q_1 q_2 + (p-1) \max\{q_1, q_2\})}{q_1 q_2 - (p-1)^2} \geq N.$$

Any nonnegative  $p$ -superharmonic solution  $(u, v)$  of inequalities

$$\begin{aligned} -\Delta_p u &\geq v^{q_1} && \text{in } \mathbb{R}^N \\ -\Delta_p v &\geq u^{q_2} && \text{in } \mathbb{R}^N, \end{aligned} \quad (1.13)$$

is trivial, i.e.  $u = v = 0$ .

When  $\Omega$  is bounded domain, we have a similar result in which we denote by  $d$  the distance function to the boundary  $x \mapsto d(x) = \text{dist}(x, \partial\Omega)$ .

**Theorem C** Let  $1 < p < N$ ,  $q_1, q_2 > 0$  and  $q_2 q_1 > (p-1)^2$ . Let  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^N$  be a bounded domain and  $\mu, \eta$  nonnegative Radon measures in  $\Omega$ . If the following problem

$$\begin{aligned} -\Delta_p u &= v^{q_1} + \mu && \text{in } \Omega \\ -\Delta_p v &= u^{q_2} + \eta && \text{in } \Omega \\ u &= v = 0 && \text{on } \partial\Omega, \end{aligned} \quad (1.14)$$

admits a nonnegative renormalized solution  $(u, v)$ , then then for any compact set  $K \subset \Omega$ , there exists a positive constant  $c_{10}$  depending on  $N, p, q_1, q_2$  and  $\text{dist}(K, \partial\Omega)$  such that

$$\eta(E) + \int_E \left( \mathbf{W}_{1,p}^{\frac{d(x)}{4}}[\mu](x) \right)^{q_2} dx \leq c_{10} \text{Cap}_{\mathbf{G}_{\frac{p(q_1+p-1)}{q_1}, \frac{q_1 q_2}{q_1 q_2 - (p-1)^2}}}(E) \quad \text{for all Borel sets } E \subset K. \quad (1.15)$$

Conversely, if  $\mu$  and  $\eta$  are bounded and there exists  $c_{11} > 0$  depending on  $N, p, q_1, q_2$  and  $R = 2\text{diam}(\Omega)$  such that if  $0 < q_1 < \frac{N(p-1)}{N-p}$  and

$$\eta(K) + \int_K (\mathbf{W}_{1,p}^{2R}[\mu])^{q_2} dx \leq c_{11} \text{Cap}_{\mathbf{G}_{\frac{p(q_1+p-1)}{q_1}, \frac{q_1 q_2}{q_1 q_2 - (p-1)^2}}}(K) \quad (1.16)$$

for all compact set  $K \subset \Omega$ , then (1.14) admits a nonnegative renormalized solution  $(u, v)$  satisfying

$$v \leq c_{13} \mathbf{W}_{1,p}^R[\omega], \quad u \leq c_{14} \mathbf{W}_{1,p}^R[(\mathbf{W}_{1,p}^R[\omega])^{q_1}] + c_{12} \mathbf{W}_{1,p}^R[\mu] \quad (1.17)$$

in  $\Omega$ , where  $d\omega = (\mathbf{W}_{1,p}^R[\mu])^{q_2} dx + d\eta$ .

It is known that

$$\text{Cap}_{\mathbf{G}_{\alpha,\beta}}(\{x_0\}) > 0$$

if and only if  $\alpha\beta > N$ . Thus, as an application in a partially subcritical case we have,

**Corollary D** *Let the assumptions on  $p, q_1, q_2, \Omega$  and  $R$  of Theorem C be satisfied,  $x_0 \in \Omega$ ,  $a > 0$  and  $\mu$  be a nonnegative Radon measures in  $\Omega$ . If the following problem*

$$\begin{aligned} -\Delta_p u &= v^{q_1} + \mu && \text{in } \Omega \\ -\Delta_p v &= u^{q_2} + a\delta_{x_0} && \text{in } \Omega \\ u = v &= 0 && \text{on } \partial\Omega, \end{aligned} \quad (1.18)$$

admits a nonnegative renormalized solution  $(u, v)$ , then there exist positive constants  $c_{15} = c_{15}(N, p, q_1, q_2, d(x_0))$  and for any compact subset  $K$  of  $\Omega$ ,  $c_{16} = c_{16}(N, p, q_1, q_2, \text{dist}(K, \partial\Omega))$ , such that

$$\begin{aligned} (i) \quad & N < \frac{pq_2(q_1 + p - 1)}{q_1q_2 - (p - 1)^2}, \\ (ii) \quad & a \leq c_{15} \\ (iii) \quad & \int_K (\mathbf{W}_{1,p}^{2R}[\mu])^{q_2} dx \leq c_{16}. \end{aligned} \quad (1.19)$$

Conversely, assuming that  $\mu$  is bounded, there exist positive constants  $c_{17} = c_{17}(N, p, q_1, q_2, d(x_0))$ ,  $c_{18} = c_{18}(N, p, q_1, q_2)$  such that if  $0 < q_1 < \frac{N(p-1)}{N-p}$  and (1.19) holds with  $c_{15}$  and  $c_{16}$  replaced respectively by  $c_{17}$  and  $c_{18}$  there exists a nonnegative renormalized solution  $(u, v)$  of (1.18) satisfying

$$v \leq c_{21} W_{1,p}^R[\omega], \quad u \leq c_{22} \mathbf{W}_{1,p}^R[(W_{1,p}^R[\omega])^{q_1}] + c_{20} \mathbf{W}_{1,p}^R[\mu] \quad (1.20)$$

in  $\Omega$ , where

$$W_{1,p}^R[\omega] = \mathbf{W}_{1,p}^R \left[ (\mathbf{W}_{1,p}^R[\mu])^{q_2} \right] + a^{\frac{1}{p-1}} \left( |x - x_0|^{-\frac{N-p}{p-1}} - R^{-\frac{N-p}{p-1}} \right)_+.$$

Concerning the  $k$ -Hessian operator we recall some notions introduced by Trudinger and Wang [27, 28, 29], and we follow their notations. For  $k = 1, \dots, N$  and  $u \in C^2(\Omega)$  the  $k$ -Hessian operator  $F_k$  is defined by

$$F_k[u] = S_k(\lambda(D^2u)),$$

where  $\lambda(D^2u) = \lambda = (\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_N)$  denotes the eigenvalues of the Hessian matrix of second partial derivatives  $D^2u$  and  $S_k$  is the  $k$ -th elementary symmetric polynomial that is

$$S_k(\lambda) = \sum_{1 \leq i_1 < \dots < i_k \leq N} \lambda_{i_1} \dots \lambda_{i_k}.$$

Since  $D^2u$  is symmetric, it is clear that

$$F_k[u] = [D^2u]_k,$$

where we denote by  $[A]_k$  the sum of the  $k$ -th principal minors of a matrix  $A = (a_{ij})$ . In order that there exists a smooth  $k$ -admissible function which vanishes on  $\partial\Omega$ , the boundary  $\partial\Omega$  must satisfy a uniformly  $(k-1)$ -convex condition, that is

$$S_{k-1}(\kappa) \geq c_0 > 0 \text{ on } \partial\Omega,$$

for some positive constant  $c_0$ , where  $\kappa = (\kappa_1, \kappa_2, \dots, \kappa_{n-1})$  denote the principal curvatures of  $\partial\Omega$  with respect to its inner normal. We also denote by  $\Phi^k(\Omega)$  the class of upper-semicontinuous functions  $\Omega \rightarrow [-\infty, \infty)$  which are  $k$ -convex, or subharmonic in the Perron sense (see Definition 5.1). In this paper we prove the following theorem (in which expression  $\mathbb{E}[q]$  is the largest integer less or equal to  $q$ )

**Theorem E** *Let  $2k < N, s_1, s_2 > 0, s_1 s_2 > k^2$ . Let  $\Omega$  be a bounded uniformly  $(k-1)$ -convex domain in  $\mathbb{R}^N$  with diameter  $R$ . Let  $\mu = \mu_1 + f, \eta = \eta_1 + g$  be a nonnegative Radon measures where  $\mu_1, \eta_1$  has compact support in  $\Omega$  and  $f, g \in L^1(\Omega)$  for some  $l > \frac{N}{2k}$ . — for simplicity I want to state the theorem  $u = v = 0$  If then the following problem*

$$\begin{aligned} F_k[-u] &= v^{s_1} + \mu && \text{in } \Omega \\ F_k[-v] &= u^{s_2} + \eta && \text{in } \Omega \\ u &= v = 0 && \text{on } \partial\Omega, \end{aligned} \quad (1.21)$$

admits a nonnegative solutions  $(u, v)$ , continuous near  $\partial\Omega$ , with  $-u$  and  $-v$  elements of  $\Phi^k(\Omega)$ , then for any compact set  $K \subset \Omega$ , there exists a positive constant  $c_{23}$  depending on  $N, k, s_1, s_2$  and  $\text{dist}(K, \partial\Omega)$  such that there holds

$$\eta(E) + \int_E \left( \mathbf{W}_{\frac{2k}{k+1}, k+1}^{\frac{d(x)}{4}}[\mu](x) \right)^{s_2} dx \leq c_{23} \text{Cap}_{\mathbf{G}_{\frac{2k(s_1+k)}{s_1}, \frac{s_1 s_2}{s_1 s_2 - k^2}}} (E) \quad \forall E \subset K, E \text{ Borel.} \quad (1.22)$$

Conversely,, if  $\mu$  and  $\eta$  are bounded, there exist a positive constant  $c_{24}$  depending on  $N, k, s_1, s_2$  and  $\text{diam}(\Omega)$  such that, if  $k \leq s_1 < \frac{Nk}{N-2k}$ , and

$$\eta(K) + \int_K \left( \mathbf{W}_{\frac{2k}{k+1}, k+1}^{2R}[\mu] \right)^{s_2} dx \leq c_{24} \text{Cap}_{\mathbf{G}_{\frac{2k(s_1+k)}{s_1}, \frac{s_1 s_2}{s_1 s_2 - k^2}}} (K) \quad (1.23)$$

for all Borel set  $K \subset \Omega$ , then (1.21) admits a nonnegative solution  $(u, v)$ , continuous near  $\partial\Omega$ , with  $-u, -v \in \Phi^k(\Omega)$  satisfying

$$v \leq c_{28} \mathbf{W}_{\frac{2k}{k+1}, k+1}^R[\omega], \quad u \leq c_{29} \mathbf{W}_{\frac{2k}{k+1}, k+1}^R \left[ \left( \mathbf{W}_{\frac{2k}{k+1}, k+1}^R[\omega] \right)^{s_1} \right] + c_{27} \mathbf{W}_{\frac{2k}{k+1}, k+1}^R[\mu] \quad (1.24)$$

in  $\Omega$  for some constants  $c_j$  ( $j = 27, 28, 29$ ) depending on  $N, k, s_1, s_2$ , and  $\text{diam}(\Omega)$ .

If  $\Omega$  is replaced by the whole space we prove,

**Theorem F** *Let  $2k < N, s_1, s_2 > 0, s_1 s_2 > k^2$ . Let  $\mu, \eta$  be a nonnegative Radon measures in  $\mathbb{R}^N$ . If the following problem*

$$\begin{aligned} F_k[-u] &= v^{s_1} + \mu && \text{in } \mathbb{R}^N \\ F_k[-v] &= u^{s_2} + \eta && \text{in } \mathbb{R}^N, \end{aligned} \quad (1.25)$$

admits a nonnegative solutions  $(u, v)$  with  $-u$  and  $-v$  belonging to  $\Phi^k(\mathbb{R}^N)$ , then there exists a positive constant  $c_{30}$  depending on  $N, k, s_1, s_2$  such that there holds

$$\eta(E) + \int_E \left( \mathbf{W}_{\frac{2k}{k+1}, k+1}[\mu](x) \right)^{s_2} dx \leq c_{30} \text{Cap}_{\mathbf{G}_{\frac{2k(s_1+k)}{s_1}, \frac{s_1 s_2}{s_1 s_2 - k^2}}} (E) \quad \forall E \text{ Borel.} \quad (1.26)$$

Conversely,, if  $\mu$  and  $\eta$  are bounded, there exists positive constant  $c_{31}$  depending on  $N, k, s_1, s_2$  such that, if  $0 < s_1 < \frac{Nk}{N-2k}$  and (1.26) holds with  $c_{31}$  instead of  $c_{30}$  then (1.25) admits a nonnegative solutions  $(u, v)$  with  $-u$  and  $-v$  in  $\Phi^k(\mathbb{R}^N)$  satisfying

$$v \leq c_{33} \mathbf{W}_{\frac{2k}{k+1}, k+1}[\omega], \quad u \leq c_{34} \mathbf{W}_{\frac{2k}{k+1}, k+1} \left[ \left( \mathbf{W}_{\frac{2k}{k+1}, k+1}[\omega] \right)^{s_1} \right] + c_{32} \mathbf{W}_{\frac{2k}{k+1}, k+1}[\mu] \quad (1.27)$$

in  $\mathbb{R}^N$ , where the  $c_j$  ( $j = 32, 33, 34$ ) depend on  $N, k, s_1, s_2$ .

As in p-Laplace case, we have a Liouville property for Hessian systems.

**Corollary G** *Assume that*

$$\frac{2k(s_2s_1 + k \max\{s_1, s_2\})}{s_1s_2 - k^2} \geq N. \quad (1.28)$$

*Any nonnegative solution  $(u, v)$  of inequalities*

$$\begin{aligned} F_k[-u] &\geq v^{s_1} && \text{in } \mathbb{R}^N, \\ F_k[-v] &\geq u^{s_2} && \text{in } \mathbb{R}^N, \end{aligned} \quad (1.29)$$

*with  $-u$  and  $-v$  in  $\Phi^k(\mathbb{R}^N)$  is trivial.*

## 2 Estimates on potentials

Throughout this article  $c_j$ ,  $j=1,2,\dots$ , denote structural positive constants and  $c_N$  is the volume of the unit ball in  $\mathbb{R}^N$ . The following inequality will be used several times in the sequel.

**Lemma 2.1** *Let  $\kappa, \gamma, \theta \in \mathbb{R}$ , such that  $\kappa, \gamma > 0$ . Let  $h : (0, \infty) \rightarrow (0, \infty)$  be nondecreasing. Then,*

$$\int_0^R t^\kappa \left( \int_t^R h(r)r^\theta \frac{dr}{r} \right)^\gamma \frac{dt}{t} \leq c_{35} \int_0^{2R} t^{\kappa+\theta\gamma} h^\gamma(t) \frac{dt}{t} \quad \forall R \in (0, \infty], \quad (2.1)$$

*for some  $c_{35} > 0$  depending on  $\kappa, \gamma, \theta$ .*

**Proof.** *Case 1:  $\gamma \leq 1$ .* Since there holds

$$\left( \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} a_j \right)^\gamma \leq \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} a_j^\gamma \quad \forall a_j \geq 0,$$

we derive

$$\begin{aligned} \left( \int_t^R h(r)r^\theta \frac{dr}{r} \right)^\gamma &\leq c_{\gamma,\theta} \left( \sum_{j=0}^{j_0} h(2^{\frac{j+1}{4}}t)(2^{\frac{j}{4}}t)^\theta \right)^\gamma \\ &\leq c_{\gamma,\theta} \sum_{j=0}^{j_0} \left( h^\gamma(2^{\frac{j+1}{4}}t) \right) (2^{\frac{j}{4}}t)^{\theta\gamma} \\ &\leq c_{\gamma,\theta} \int_t^{2R} h^\gamma(r)r^{\theta\gamma} \frac{dr}{r} \end{aligned}$$

where  $c_{\gamma,\theta} = 2^{\frac{\gamma}{4}} \max\{1, 2^{-\frac{\gamma\theta}{4}}\}$  and  $2^{\frac{j_0}{4}}t < R \leq 2^{\frac{j_0+1}{4}}t$  if  $R < \infty$  and  $j_0 = \infty$  if  $R = \infty$ . By Fubini's theorem,

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^R t^\kappa \left( \int_t^R h(r)r^\theta \frac{dr}{r} \right)^\gamma \frac{dt}{t} &\leq c_{\gamma,\theta} \int_0^R t^\kappa \int_t^{2R} h^\gamma(r)r^{\theta\gamma} \frac{dr}{r} \frac{dt}{t} \\ &\leq \frac{c_{\gamma,\theta}}{\kappa} \int_0^{2R} t^{\kappa+\theta\gamma} h^\gamma(t) \frac{dt}{t}. \end{aligned}$$

which is (2.1).

Case 2:  $\gamma > 1$  Since

$$\left( \int_t^R h(r) r^\theta \frac{dr}{r} \right)^\gamma \leq \left( \int_t^R r^{-\frac{\gamma}{\gamma-1}} \frac{dr}{r} \right)^{\gamma-1} \int_t^R h^\gamma(r) r^{\gamma(1+\theta)} \frac{dr}{r},$$

we derive by Fubini's theorem

$$\int_0^R t^\kappa \left( \int_t^R h(r) r^\theta \frac{dr}{r} \right)^\gamma \frac{dt}{t} \leq c_{\gamma, \kappa} \int_0^{2R} t^{\kappa+\theta\gamma} h^\gamma(t) \frac{dt}{t},$$

which completes the proof.  $\square$

We recall that if  $\alpha > 0$ ,  $1 < \beta < \frac{N}{\alpha}$  and  $\mu \in \mathfrak{M}^+(\mathbb{R}^N)$ , the set of positive Radon measures in  $\mathbb{R}^N$ , the Wolff potential of  $\mu$  is defined by

$$\mathbf{W}_{\alpha, \beta}[\mu](x) = \int_0^\infty \left( \frac{\mu(B_r(x))}{r^{N-\alpha\beta}} \right)^{\frac{1}{\beta-1}} \frac{dr}{r}, \quad (2.2)$$

and if  $R > 0$ , the  $R$ -truncated Wolff potential of  $\mu$  is

$$\mathbf{W}_{\alpha, \beta}^R[\mu](x) = \int_0^R \left( \frac{\mu(B_r(x))}{r^{N-\alpha\beta}} \right)^{\frac{1}{\beta-1}} \frac{dr}{r}. \quad (2.3)$$

If  $\mu$  is a Radon measure on a Borel set  $G$ , its Wolff potential (or truncated Wolff potential) is the potential of its extension by 0 in  $G^c$ . We start with the following composition estimate on Wolff potentials.

**Lemma 2.2** *Let  $1 < \beta < N/\alpha$ . Then for any  $q > 0$  and  $\mu \in \mathfrak{M}^+(\mathbb{R}^N)$  we have*

$$\mathbf{W}_{\frac{\alpha\beta(q+\beta-1)}{q+(\beta-1)^2}, \frac{(\beta-1)^2}{q}+1}[\mu] \leq c_{36} \mathbf{W}_{\alpha, \beta} [(\mathbf{W}_{\alpha, \beta}[\mu])^q], \quad (2.4)$$

in  $\mathbb{R}^N$  for some  $c_{36} > 0$  depending on  $\alpha, \beta, N, q$ . Moreover, if  $0 < q < \frac{N(\beta-1)}{N-\alpha\beta}$ , there holds

$$\mathbf{W}_{\alpha, \beta} [(\mathbf{W}_{\alpha, \beta}[\mu])^q](x) \leq c_{37} \mathbf{W}_{\frac{\alpha\beta(q+\beta-1)}{q+(\beta-1)^2}, \frac{(\beta-1)^2}{q}+1}[\mu], \quad (2.5)$$

in  $\mathbb{R}^N$ , where  $c_{37} > 0$  depends on  $\alpha, \beta, N, q$ .

**Proof.** For any  $x \in \mathbb{R}^N$ , using the fact that  $y \in B_t(x) \implies B_t(x) \subset B_{2t}(y)$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{W}_{\alpha, \beta} [(\mathbf{W}_{\alpha, \beta}[\mu])^q](x) &= \int_0^\infty \left( \frac{1}{t^{N-\alpha\beta}} \int_{B_t(x)} \left( \int_0^\infty \left( \frac{\mu(B_r(y))}{r^{N-\alpha\beta}} \right)^{\frac{1}{\beta-1}} \frac{dr}{r} \right)^q dy \right)^{\frac{1}{\beta-1}} \frac{dt}{t} \\ &\geq c_{38} \int_0^\infty \left( \frac{1}{t^{N-\alpha\beta}} \int_{B_t(x)} \left( \frac{\mu(B_{2t}(y))}{t^{N-\alpha\beta}} \right)^{\frac{q}{\beta-1}} dy \right)^{\frac{1}{\beta-1}} \frac{dt}{t} \\ &\geq c_{36} \int_0^\infty \left( t^{\frac{\alpha\beta(\beta-1)}{q}} \frac{\mu(B_t(x))}{t^{N-\alpha\beta}} \right)^{\frac{q}{(\beta-1)^2}} \frac{dt}{t} \\ &= c_{36} \mathbf{W}_{\frac{\alpha\beta(q+\beta-1)}{q+(\beta-1)^2}, \frac{(\beta-1)^2}{q}+1}[\mu](x). \end{aligned}$$

where  $c_{38} = c_{38}(\alpha, \beta, N, q) > 0$ , which proves (2.4).

In order to prove (2.4) we recall the following estimate on Wolff potentials [7]

$$\|\mathbf{W}_{\alpha, \beta}[\omega]\|_{L^{\frac{(\beta-1)N}{N-\alpha\beta}, \infty}} \leq c_{39} (\omega(\mathbb{R}^N))^{\frac{1}{\beta-1}} \quad \forall \omega \in \mathfrak{M}_b^+(\mathbb{R}^N), \quad (2.6)$$



where  $L^{\frac{(p-1)N}{N-\alpha\beta}, \infty}$  denotes the weak- $L^{\frac{(p-1)N}{N-\alpha\beta}}$  space. In particular, since  $0 < q < \frac{N(\beta-1)}{N-\alpha\beta}$ ,

$$\int_{B_r(x)} (\mathbf{W}_{\alpha,\beta}[\omega])^q dy \leq c_{40} r^N \left( \frac{\omega(\mathbb{R}^N)}{r^{N-\alpha\beta}} \right)^{\frac{q}{\beta-1}} \quad \forall x \in \mathbb{R}^N, \forall r > 0. \quad (2.7)$$

Applying this inequality to  $\omega = \chi_{B_{2r}(x)}\mu$  yields

$$\int_{B_r(x)} (\mathbf{W}_{\alpha,\beta}^r[\mu])^q dy \leq c_{40} r^N \left( \frac{\mu(B_{2r}(x))}{r^{N-\alpha\beta}} \right)^{\frac{q}{\beta-1}} \quad \forall x \in \mathbb{R}^N, \forall r > 0. \quad (2.8)$$

We claim that

$$\begin{aligned} I &:= \int_0^\infty \left( \frac{1}{t^{N-\alpha\beta}} \int_{B_t(x)} \left( \int_t^\infty \left( \frac{\mu(B_r(y))}{r^{N-\alpha\beta}} \right)^{\frac{1}{\beta-1}} \frac{dr}{r} \right)^q dy \right)^{\frac{1}{\beta-1}} \frac{dt}{t} \\ &\leq c_{37} \mathbf{W}_{\frac{\alpha\beta(q+\beta-1)}{q+(\beta-1)^2}, \frac{(\beta-1)^2}{q}+1}[\mu](x). \end{aligned} \quad (2.9)$$

Since  $B_r(y) \subset B_{2r}(x)$  for any  $y \in B_t(x), r \geq t$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{B_t(x)} \left( \int_t^\infty \left( \frac{\mu(B_r(y))}{r^{N-\alpha\beta}} \right)^{\frac{1}{\beta-1}} \frac{dr}{r} \right)^q dy &\leq \int_{B_t(x)} \left( \int_t^\infty \left( \frac{\mu(B_{2r}(x))}{r^{N-\alpha\beta}} \right)^{\frac{1}{\beta-1}} \frac{dr}{r} \right)^q dy \\ &\leq c_N t^N \left( \int_t^\infty \left( \frac{\mu(B_{2r}(x))}{r^{N-\alpha\beta}} \right)^{\frac{1}{\beta-1}} \frac{dr}{r} \right)^q. \end{aligned}$$

Hence,

$$I \leq c_N^{\frac{1}{\beta-1}} \int_0^\infty t^{\frac{\alpha\beta}{\beta-1}} \left( \int_t^\infty \left( \frac{\mu(B_{2r}(x))}{r^{N-\alpha\beta}} \right)^{\frac{1}{\beta-1}} \frac{dr}{r} \right)^{\frac{q}{\beta-1}} \frac{dt}{t}.$$

Using Lemma 2.1, we infer

$$I \leq c_{37} \int_0^\infty r^{\frac{\alpha\beta}{\beta-1}} \left( \frac{\mu(B_r(x))}{r^{N-\alpha\beta}} \right)^{\frac{q}{(\beta-1)^2}} \frac{dr}{r} = c_{37} \mathbf{W}_{\frac{\alpha\beta(q+\beta-1)}{q+(\beta-1)^2}, \frac{(\beta-1)^2}{q}+1}[\mu](x),$$

which completes the proof.  $\square$

The following is a version of Lemma 2.2 for truncated Wolff potentials,

**Lemma 2.3** *Let  $1 < \beta < N/\alpha$  and  $q > 0$ . If  $\delta \in (0, 1)$  there holds for any  $\mu \in \mathfrak{M}^+(\mathbb{R}^N)$*

$$\mathbf{W}_{\frac{\alpha\beta(q+\beta-1)}{q+(\beta-1)^2}, \frac{(\beta-1)^2}{q}+1}^{\frac{\delta d}{2}}[\mu](x) \leq c_{42} \mathbf{W}_{\alpha,\beta}^{\delta d} \left[ \left( \mathbf{W}_{\alpha,\beta}^{\delta d(\cdot)}[\mu] \right)^q \right](x), \quad (2.10)$$

in  $\Omega$ . Moreover, if  $0 < q < \frac{N(\beta-1)}{N-\alpha\beta}$ , there holds for any  $\mu \in \mathfrak{M}^+(\mathbb{R}^N)$ ,

$$\mathbf{W}_{\alpha,\beta}^R \left[ \left( \mathbf{W}_{\alpha,\beta}^R[\mu] \right)^q \right](x) \leq c_{43} \mathbf{W}_{\frac{\alpha\beta(q+\beta-1)}{q+(\beta-1)^2}, \frac{(\beta-1)^2}{q}+1}^{4R}[\mu](x), \quad (2.11)$$

in  $\mathbb{R}^N$ .

**Proof.** For any  $x \in \Omega$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} &\mathbf{W}_{\alpha,\beta}^{\delta d(x)} \left[ \left( \mathbf{W}_{\alpha,\beta}^{\delta d(\cdot)}[\mu](\cdot) \right)^q \right](x) \\ &= \int_0^{\delta d(x)} \left( \frac{1}{t^{N-\alpha\beta}} \int_{B_t(x)} \left( \int_0^{\delta d(y)} \left( \frac{\mu(B_r(y))}{r^{N-\alpha\beta}} \right)^{\frac{1}{\beta-1}} \frac{dr}{r} \right)^q dy \right)^{\frac{1}{\beta-1}} \frac{dt}{t}. \end{aligned}$$

Since  $\delta d(y) \geq \frac{7\delta}{8}d(x)$  for all  $y \in B_{\frac{t}{8}}(x)$ ,  $0 < t < \delta d(x)$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{B_t(x)} \left( \int_0^{\delta d(y)} \left( \frac{\mu(B_r(y))}{r^{N-\alpha\beta}} \right)^{\frac{1}{\beta-1}} \frac{dr}{r} \right)^q dy &\geq \int_{B_{t/8}(x)} \left( \int_0^{\frac{7\delta}{8}d(x)} \left( \frac{\mu(B_r(y))}{r^{N-\alpha\beta}} \right)^{\frac{1}{\beta-1}} \frac{dr}{r} \right)^q dy \\ &\geq c_{44} (\delta d(x))^{-\frac{q(N-\alpha\beta)}{\beta-1}} \int_{B_{t/8}(x)} \left( \frac{\mu(B_{\frac{3t}{4}}(y))}{t^{N-\alpha\beta}} \right)^{\frac{q}{\beta-1}} dy \\ &\geq c_{44} (\delta d(x))^{-\frac{q(N-\alpha\beta)}{\beta-1}} \int_{B_{t/8}(x)} \left( \frac{\mu(B_{\frac{3t}{4}-\frac{t}{8}}(y))}{t^{N-\alpha\beta}} \right)^{\frac{q}{\beta-1}} dy \\ &\geq c_{45} (\delta d(x))^{-\frac{q(N-\alpha\beta)}{\beta-1}} t^N \left( \frac{\mu(B_{\frac{t}{2}}(x))}{t^{N-\alpha\beta}} \right)^{\frac{q}{\beta-1}}. \end{aligned}$$

Hence

$$\mathbf{W}_{\alpha,\beta}^{\delta d(x)} \left[ \left( \mathbf{W}_{\alpha,\beta}^{\delta d(\cdot)} [\mu](\cdot) \right)^q \right] (x) \geq c_{46} (\delta d(x))^{-\frac{q(N-\alpha\beta)}{(\beta-1)^2}} \left( \int_0^{\delta d(x)} t^{\alpha\beta} \left( \frac{\mu(B_{\frac{t}{2}}(x))}{t^{N-\alpha\beta}} \right)^{\frac{q}{\beta-1}} \frac{dt}{t} \right)^{\frac{1}{\beta-1}},$$

which implies (2.10).

Because of (2.8), it is enough to show that there holds

$$\int_0^R \left( \frac{1}{t^{N-\alpha\beta}} \int_{B_t(x)} \left( \int_t^R \left( \frac{\mu(B_r(y))}{r^{N-\alpha\beta}} \right)^{\frac{1}{\beta-1}} \frac{dr}{r} \right)^q dy \right)^{\frac{1}{\beta-1}} \frac{dt}{t} \leq c_{47} \mathbf{W}_{\frac{\alpha\beta(q+\beta-1)}{q+(\beta-1)^2}, \frac{(\beta-1)^2}{q}+1}^{4R} [\mu](x), \quad (2.12)$$

in order to prove (2.11). Since  $B_\rho(y) \subset B_{2\rho}(x)$  for any  $y \in B_r(x)$ ,  $\rho \geq r$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{B_t(x)} \left( \int_t^R \left( \frac{\mu(B_r(y))}{r^{N-\alpha\beta}} \right)^{\frac{1}{\beta-1}} \frac{dr}{r} \right)^q dy &\leq \int_{B_t(x)} \left( \int_t^R \left( \frac{\mu(B_{2r}(x))}{r^{N-\alpha\beta}} \right)^{\frac{1}{\beta-1}} \frac{dr}{r} \right)^q dy \\ &\leq c_N t^N \left( \int_t^R \left( \frac{\mu(B_{2r}(x))}{r^{N-\alpha\beta}} \right)^{\frac{1}{\beta-1}} \frac{dr}{r} \right)^q. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^R \left( \frac{1}{t^{N-\alpha\beta}} \int_{B_t(x)} \left( \int_t^R \left( \frac{\mu(B_r(y))}{r^{N-\alpha\beta}} \right)^{\frac{1}{\beta-1}} \frac{dr}{r} \right)^q dy \right)^{\frac{1}{\beta-1}} \frac{dt}{t} \\ \leq c_N \int_0^R \left( t^{\alpha\beta} \left( \int_t^R \left( \frac{\mu(B_{2r}(x))}{r^{N-\alpha\beta}} \right)^{\frac{1}{\beta-1}} \frac{dr}{r} \right)^q \right)^{\frac{1}{\beta-1}} \frac{dt}{t}. \end{aligned}$$

We infer (2.12) by Lemma 2.1, which completes the proof.  $\square$

The next two propositions link Wolff potentials of a measure with Riesz capacities (in the case of whole space) and truncated Wolff potentials with Bessel capacities (in the bounded domain case). Their proof can be found in [23, 24] (and [8] with a different method).

**Proposition 2.4** *Let  $1 < \beta < N/\alpha$ ,  $q > \beta - 1$ ,  $\nu \in \mathfrak{M}^+(\mathbb{R}^N)$ . Then, the following statements are equivalent:*

(a) *The inequality*

$$\nu(K) \leq c_{48} \text{Cap}_{\mathbf{I}_{\alpha,\beta}, \frac{q}{q-\beta+1}}(K) \quad (2.13)$$

holds for any compact set  $K \subset \mathbb{R}^N$ , for some  $c_{48} > 0$ .

(b) The inequality

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} (\mathbf{W}_{\alpha,\beta}[\chi_{B_t(x)}\nu](y))^q dy \leq c_{49}\nu(B_t(x)) \quad (2.14)$$

holds for any ball  $B_t(x) \subset \mathbb{R}^N$ , for some  $c_{49} > 0$ .

(c) The inequality

$$\mathbf{W}_{\alpha,\beta} [(\mathbf{W}_{\alpha,\beta}[\nu])^q] \leq c_{50} \mathbf{W}_{\alpha,\beta}[\nu] < \infty \text{ a.e in } \mathbb{R}^N \quad (2.15)$$

holds for some  $c_{50} > 0$ .

**Proposition 2.5** Let  $1 < \beta < N/\alpha$ ,  $q > \beta - 1$ ,  $R > 0$  and  $\nu \in \mathfrak{M}_b^+(B_R(x_0))$  for some  $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^N$ . Then, the following statements are equivalent:

(a) The inequality

$$\nu(K) \leq c_{51} \text{Cap}_{\mathbf{G}_{\alpha,\beta}, \frac{q}{q-\beta+1}}(K) \quad (2.16)$$

holds for any compact set  $K \subset \mathbb{R}^N$ , for some  $c_{51} = c_{51}(R) > 0$ .

(b) The inequality

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} (\mathbf{W}_{\alpha,\beta}^{4R}[\chi_{B_t(x)}\nu](y))^q dy \leq c_{52}\nu(B_t(x)) \quad (2.17)$$

holds for any ball  $B_t(x) \subset \mathbb{R}^N$ , for some  $c_{52} = c_{52}(R) > 0$ .

(c) The inequality

$$\mathbf{W}_{\alpha,\beta}^{4R} [(\mathbf{W}_{\alpha,\beta}^{4R}[\nu])^q] \leq c_{53} \mathbf{W}_{\alpha,\beta}^{4R}[\nu] \text{ a.e in } B_{2R}(x_0) \quad (2.18)$$

holds for some  $c_{53} = c_{53}(R) > 0$ .

In the following statement we show how to give capacity estimates on combination of measures.

**Proposition 2.6** Let  $\eta, \mu$  be in  $\mathfrak{M}^+(\mathbb{R}^N)$ . Assume that  $0 < q < \frac{N(\beta-1)}{N-\alpha\beta}$  and  $qs > (\beta-1)^2$ .

(i) If there holds

$$\eta(K) + \int_K (\mathbf{W}_{\alpha,\beta}[\mu])^s dx \leq \text{Cap}_{\mathbf{I}_{\frac{\alpha\beta(q+\beta-1)}{q}, \frac{qs}{qs-(\beta-1)^2}}}(K) \quad (2.19)$$

for any compact set  $K \subset \mathbb{R}^N$ , then

$$\mathbf{W}_{\alpha,\beta} [(\mathbf{W}_{\alpha,\beta}[(\mathbf{W}_{\alpha,\beta}[\omega])^q])^s] \leq c_{54} \mathbf{W}_{\alpha,\beta}[\omega] < \infty \text{ a.e in } \mathbb{R}^N, \quad (2.20)$$

where  $\omega = (\mathbf{W}_{\alpha,\beta}[\mu])^s + \eta$ .

(ii) If there holds

$$\eta(K) + \int_K (\mathbf{W}_{\alpha,\beta}^{2R}[\mu])^s dx \leq \text{Cap}_{\mathbf{G}_{\frac{\alpha\beta(q+\beta-1)}{q}, \frac{qs}{qs-(\beta-1)^2}}}(K) \quad (2.21)$$

for any compact set  $K \subset \mathbb{R}^N$ , then

$$\mathbf{W}_{\alpha,\beta}^{2R} [(\mathbf{W}_{\alpha,\beta}^{2R} [(\mathbf{W}_{\alpha,\beta}^{2R}[\omega])^q])^s] \leq c_{55} \mathbf{W}_{\alpha,\beta}^{2R}[\omega] < \infty \text{ a.e in } B_R(x_0), \quad (2.22)$$

where  $\omega = \chi_{B_R(x_0)} (\mathbf{W}_{\alpha,\beta}^{2R}[\mu])^s + \chi_{B_R(x_0)} \eta$ .

**Proof.** *Statement (i):* We assume that (2.19) holds. Put  $\omega = (\mathbf{W}_{\alpha,\beta}[\mu])^s + \eta$  and apply (2.19) to  $K = \overline{B}_{2\rho}(x)$ . Since by homogeneity

$$\text{Cap}_{\mathbf{I}_{\frac{\alpha\beta(q+\beta-1)}{q}, \frac{qs}{qs-(\beta-1)^2}}}(\overline{B}_{2\rho}(x)) = \rho^{N - \frac{\alpha\beta(q+\beta-1)s}{qs-(\beta-1)^2}} \text{Cap}_{\mathbf{I}_{\frac{\alpha\beta(q+\beta-1)}{q}, \frac{qs}{qs-(\beta-1)^2}}}(\overline{B}_2(0)),$$

we derive from (2.19)

$$\omega(B_\rho(x)) \leq c_{55} \rho^{N - \frac{\alpha\beta(q+\beta-1)s}{qs-(\beta-1)^2}} \quad \forall \rho > 0,$$

which is equivalent to

$$\rho^{\frac{\alpha\beta}{\beta-1}} \left( \frac{\omega(B_\rho(x))}{\rho^{N - \frac{\alpha\beta(q+\beta-1)}{q}}} \right)^{\frac{qs}{(\beta-1)^3}} \leq c_{56} \left( \frac{\omega(B_\rho(x))}{\rho^{N - \alpha\beta}} \right)^{\frac{1}{\beta-1}} \quad \forall \rho > 0. \quad (2.23)$$

We apply Proposition 2.4 to  $\nu = \omega$  with  $(\alpha, \beta, q) = \left( \frac{\alpha\beta(q+\beta-1)}{q+(\beta-1)^2}, \frac{(\beta-1)^2}{q} + 1, s \right)$ , (2.19) implies

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} \left( \mathbf{W}_{\frac{\alpha\beta(q+\beta-1)}{q+(\beta-1)^2}, \frac{(\beta-1)^2}{q} + 1} [\chi_{B_t(x)} \omega] \right)^s dy \leq c_{57} \omega(B_t(x)). \quad (2.24)$$

By Lemma 2.2, (2.20) is equivalent to

$$\mathbf{W}_{\alpha,\beta} \left[ \left( \mathbf{W}_{\frac{\alpha\beta(q+\beta-1)}{q+(\beta-1)^2}, \frac{(\beta-1)^2}{q} + 1} [\omega] \right)^s \right] \leq c_{58} \mathbf{W}_{\alpha,\beta}[\omega] < \infty \text{ a.e. } \mathbb{R}^N \quad (2.25)$$

Therefore, it is enough to show that (2.23) and (2.24) imply (2.25). In fact, since for  $t > 0$

$$\int_{B_t(x)} \left( \mathbf{W}_{\frac{\alpha\beta(q+\beta-1)}{q+(\beta-1)^2}, \frac{(\beta-1)^2}{q} + 1} [\omega](y) \right)^s dy = \int_{B_t(x)} \left( \mathbf{W}_{\frac{\alpha\beta(q+\beta-1)}{q+(\beta-1)^2}, \frac{(\beta-1)^2}{q} + 1} [\chi_{B_{2t}(x)} \omega](y) \right)^s dy,$$

we apply (2.24) and obtain

$$\int_{B_t(x)} \left( \mathbf{W}_{\frac{\alpha\beta(q+\beta-1)}{q+(\beta-1)^2}, \frac{(\beta-1)^2}{q} + 1} [\omega](y) \right)^s dy \leq c_{57} \omega(B_{2t}(x)).$$

So, it is enough to show that

$$I := \int_0^\infty \left( \frac{1}{t^{N-\alpha\beta}} \int_{B_t(x)} \left( \int_t^\infty \left( \frac{\omega(B_r(y))}{r^{N - \frac{\alpha\beta(q+\beta-1)}{q}}} \right)^{\frac{q}{(\beta-1)^2}} \frac{dr}{r} \right)^s dy \right)^{\frac{1}{\beta-1}} \frac{dt}{t} \leq c_{58} \mathbf{W}_{\alpha,\beta}[\omega](x). \quad (2.26)$$

Since  $B_r(y) \subset B_{2r}(x)$  for any  $y \in B_t(x), r \geq t$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} I &\leq c_N \int_0^\infty \left( t^{\alpha\beta} \left( \int_t^\infty \left( \frac{\omega(B_{2r}(x))}{r^{N - \frac{\alpha\beta(q+\beta-1)}{q}}} \right)^{\frac{q}{(\beta-1)^2}} \frac{dr}{r} \right)^s \right)^{\frac{1}{\beta-1}} \frac{dt}{t} \\ &= c_N \int_0^\infty t^{\frac{\alpha\beta}{\beta-1}} \left( \int_t^\infty \left( \frac{\omega(B_{2r}(x))}{r^{N - \frac{\alpha\beta(q+\beta-1)}{q}}} \right)^{\frac{q}{(\beta-1)^2}} \frac{dr}{r} \right)^{\frac{s}{\beta-1}} \frac{dt}{t} \end{aligned}$$

It follows from Lemma 2.1 and (2.23) that

$$I \leq c_{59} \int_0^\infty t^{\frac{\alpha\beta}{\beta-1}} \left( \frac{\omega(B_{2t}(x))}{t^{N - \frac{\alpha\beta(q+\beta-1)}{q}}} \right)^{\frac{qs}{(\beta-1)^3}} \frac{dt}{t} \leq c_{56} c_{59} \int_0^\infty \left( \frac{\omega(B_{2t}(x))}{t^{N - \alpha\beta}} \right)^{\frac{1}{\beta-1}} \frac{dt}{t},$$

which is (2.26).

*Statement (ii):* We assume that (2.21) holds. Put  $d\omega = \chi_\Omega (\mathbf{W}_{\alpha,\beta}[\mu])^s + \chi_\Omega \eta$ , then

$$\omega(B_\rho(x)) \leq c_{60} \rho^{N - \frac{\alpha\beta(q+\beta-1)s}{qs - (\beta-1)^2}} \quad \forall 0 < \rho < 2R.$$

As in the proof of statement (i), the above inequality is equivalent to

$$\rho^{\frac{\alpha\beta}{\beta-1}} \left( \frac{\omega(B_\rho(x))}{\rho^{N - \frac{\alpha\beta(q+\beta-1)}{q}}} \right)^{\frac{qs}{(\beta-1)^3}} \leq c_{61} \left( \frac{\omega(B_\rho(x))}{\rho^{N - \alpha\beta}} \right)^{\frac{1}{\beta-1}} \quad \forall 0 < \rho < 2R. \quad (2.27)$$

Applying Proposition 2.5 with  $\nu = \omega$  and  $(\alpha, \beta, q) = \left( \frac{\alpha\beta(q+\beta-1)}{q+(\beta-1)^2}, \frac{(\beta-1)^2}{q} + 1, s \right)$ ,

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} \left( \mathbf{W}_{\frac{\alpha\beta(q+\beta-1)}{q+(\beta-1)^2}, \frac{(\beta-1)^2}{q} + 1}^{4R} [\chi_{B_t(x)} \omega] \right)^s dy \leq c_{62} \omega(B_t(x)). \quad (2.28)$$

By Lemma 2.3, (2.22) is equivalent to

$$\mathbf{W}_{\alpha,\beta}^{4R} \left[ \left( \mathbf{W}_{\frac{\alpha\beta(q+\beta-1)}{q+(\beta-1)^2}, \frac{(\beta-1)^2}{q} + 1}^{4R} [\omega] \right)^s \right] \leq c_{63} \mathbf{W}_{\alpha,\beta}^{4R} [\omega] \quad \text{a.e in } B_R(x_0). \quad (2.29)$$

Therefore, it is enough to show that (2.27) and (2.28) imply (2.29). In fact, since

$$\int_{B_t(x)} \left( \mathbf{W}_{\frac{\alpha\beta(q+\beta-1)}{q+(\beta-1)^2}, \frac{(\beta-1)^2}{q} + 1}^t [\omega](y) \right)^s dy = \int_{B_t(x)} \left( \mathbf{W}_{\frac{\alpha\beta(q+\beta-1)}{q+(\beta-1)^2}, \frac{(\beta-1)^2}{q} + 1}^t [\chi_{B_{2t}(x)} \omega](y) \right)^s dy$$

for all  $0 < t < 4R$  thus applying (2.28), we obtain

$$\int_{B_t(x)} \left( \mathbf{W}_{\frac{\alpha\beta(q+\beta-1)}{q+(\beta-1)^2}, \frac{(\beta-1)^2}{q} + 1}^t [\omega](y) \right)^s dy \leq c_{64} \omega(B_{2t}(x)).$$

So, it is enough to show that for any  $x \in B_R(x_0)$

$$II := \int_0^{4R} \left( \frac{1}{t^{N-\alpha\beta}} \int_{B_t(x)} \left( \int_t^{4R} \left( \frac{\omega(B_r(y))}{r^{N - \frac{\alpha\beta(q+\beta-1)}{q}}} \right)^{\frac{q}{(\beta-1)^2}} \frac{dr}{r} \right)^s dy \right)^{\frac{1}{\beta-1}} \frac{dt}{t} \leq c_{65} \mathbf{W}_{\alpha,\beta}^{4R} [\omega](x). \quad (2.30)$$

Since  $B_r(y) \subset B_{2r}(x)$  for any  $y \in B_t(x), r \geq t$ , we have

$$II \leq c_N \int_0^{4R} t^{\frac{\alpha\beta}{\beta-1}} \left( \int_t^{4R} \left( \frac{\omega(B_{2r}(x))}{r^{N - \frac{\alpha\beta(q+\beta-1)}{q}}} \right)^{\frac{q}{(\beta-1)^2}} \frac{dr}{r} \right)^{\frac{s}{\beta-1}} \frac{dt}{t}.$$

Combining this with Lemma 2.1 and (2.27) yields

$$II \leq c_{66} \mathbf{W}_{\alpha,\beta}^{16R} [\omega](x).$$

Therefore, (2.29) follows since  $\mathbf{W}_{\alpha,\beta}^{16R} [\omega] \leq c_{67} \mathbf{W}_{\alpha,\beta}^{4R} [\omega]$  in  $B_R(x_0)$ .  $\square$

**Proposition 2.7** *Let  $\eta, \mu$  be in  $\mathfrak{M}^+(\mathbb{R}^N)$ . Assume that  $0 < q < \frac{N(\beta-1)}{N-\alpha\beta}$  and  $qs > (\beta-1)^2$ . Let  $(u_m, v_m)$  be nonnegative measurable functions in  $\mathbb{R}^N$  such that for all  $m \geq 0$*

$$u_{m+1} \leq c^* \mathbf{W}_{\alpha,\beta} [v_m^q + \mu], \quad v_{m+1} \leq c^* \mathbf{W}_{\alpha,\beta} [u_m^s + \eta] \quad \text{a.e. in } \mathbb{R}^N$$

for some  $c^* > 0$  and  $(u_0, v_0) = 0$ . Then, there exists a constant  $M^* > 0$  depending only on  $N, \alpha, \beta, q, s, c^*$  such that if  $d\omega = (\mathbf{W}_{\alpha, \beta}[\mu])^s dx + d\eta$  satisfies

$$\omega(K) \leq M^* \text{Cap}_{\frac{\alpha\beta(q+\beta-1)}{q}, \frac{qs}{qs-(\beta-1)^2}}(K), \quad (2.31)$$

for any compact set  $K \subset \mathbb{R}^N$ , then

$$v_m \leq c_{69} \mathbf{W}_{\alpha, \beta}[\omega], \quad u_m \leq c_{70} \mathbf{W}_{\alpha, \beta}[(\mathbf{W}_{\alpha, \beta}[\omega])^q] + c_{68} \mathbf{W}_{\alpha, \beta}[\mu] \quad \forall m \geq 0 \quad (2.32)$$

for some constants  $c_{68}, c_{69}, c_{70}$  depending only on  $N, \alpha, \beta, q, s$  and  $c^*$ .

**Proof.** By Proposition 2.6, (2.31) implies

$$\mathbf{W}_{\alpha, \beta} [(\mathbf{W}_{\alpha, \beta} [(\mathbf{W}_{\alpha, \beta}[\omega])^q])^s] \leq c_{71} M^{\frac{qs}{(\beta-1)^3}} \mathbf{W}_{\alpha, \beta}[\omega] < \infty \quad \text{a.e in } \mathbb{R}^N. \quad (2.33)$$

We set

$$\begin{aligned} c_{68} &= c^* 2^{\frac{1}{\beta-1}}, \\ c_{69} &= c^* 2^{1+\frac{1}{\beta-1}} (c_{68}^s 2^{s-1} + 1)^{\frac{1}{\beta-1}}, \\ c_{70} &= c^* 2^{\frac{1}{\beta-1}} c_{69}^{\frac{q}{\beta-1}}, \end{aligned}$$

and choose  $M^* > 0$  such that

$$c^* 2^{\frac{1}{\beta-1}} (c_{70}^s 2^{s-1})^{\frac{1}{\beta-1}} c_{71} M^* \frac{qs}{(\beta-1)^3} = \frac{c_{69}}{2}.$$

We claim that

$$v_m \leq c_{69} \mathbf{W}_{\alpha, \beta}[\omega], \quad u_m \leq c_{70} \mathbf{W}_{\alpha, \beta}[(\mathbf{W}_{\alpha, \beta}[\omega])^q] + c_{68} \mathbf{W}_{\alpha, \beta}[\mu] \quad \forall m \geq 0. \quad (2.34)$$

Clearly, by definition of  $c_{68}, c_{69}, c_{70}$ , we have (2.34) for  $m = 0, 1$ . Next we assume that (2.34) holds for all  $m \leq l$  for some  $l \in \mathbb{N}_+^*$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} u_{l+1} &\leq c^* \mathbf{W}_{\alpha, \beta}[v_l^q + \mu] \\ &\leq c^* 2^{\frac{1}{\beta-1}} c_{69}^{\frac{q}{\beta-1}} \mathbf{W}_{\alpha, \beta}[(\mathbf{W}_{\alpha, \beta}[\omega])^q] + c^* 2^{\frac{1}{\beta-1}} \mathbf{W}_{\alpha, \beta}[\mu] \\ &= c_{70} \mathbf{W}_{\alpha, \beta}[(\mathbf{W}_{\alpha, \beta}[\omega])^q] + c_{68} \mathbf{W}_{\alpha, \beta}[\mu] \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} v_{l+1} &\leq c^* \mathbf{W}_{\alpha, \beta}[(c_{70} \mathbf{W}_{\alpha, \beta}[(\mathbf{W}_{\alpha, \beta}[\omega])^q] + c_{68} \mathbf{W}_{\alpha, \beta}[\mu])^s + \eta] \\ &\leq c^* \mathbf{W}_{\alpha, \beta}[c_{70}^s 2^{s-1} (\mathbf{W}_{\alpha, \beta}[(\mathbf{W}_{\alpha, \beta}[\omega])^q])^s + c_{68}^s 2^{s-1} (\mathbf{W}_{\alpha, \beta}[\mu])^s + \eta] \\ &\leq c^* 2^{\frac{1}{\beta-1}} (c_{70}^s 2^{s-1})^{\frac{1}{\beta-1}} \mathbf{W}_{\alpha, \beta}[(\mathbf{W}_{\alpha, \beta}[(\mathbf{W}_{\alpha, \beta}[\omega])^q])^s] \\ &\quad + c^* 2^{\frac{1}{\beta-1}} (c_{68}^s 2^{s-1} + 1)^{\frac{1}{\beta-1}} \mathbf{W}_{\alpha, \beta}[(\mathbf{W}_{\alpha, \beta}[\mu])^s + \eta] \\ &\leq c^* 2^{\frac{1}{\beta-1}} (c_{70}^s 2^{s-1})^{\frac{1}{\beta-1}} c_{71} M^* \frac{qs}{(\beta-1)^3} \mathbf{W}_{\alpha, \beta}[\omega] + c^* 2^{\frac{1}{\beta-1}} (c_{68}^s 2^{s-1} + 1)^{\frac{1}{\beta-1}} \mathbf{W}_{\alpha, \beta}[\omega] \\ &= \frac{c_{69}}{2} \mathbf{W}_{\alpha, \beta}[\omega] + \frac{c_{69}}{2} \mathbf{W}_{\alpha, \beta}[\omega] \\ &= c_{69} \mathbf{W}_{\alpha, \beta}[\omega]. \end{aligned}$$

Thus, (2.34) is true for  $m = l + 1$ . Hence, (2.34) is true for all  $l \geq 0$ .  $\square$

The next result is an adaptation of Proposition 2.7 to truncated Wolff potentials.

**Proposition 2.8** Let  $\eta, \mu$  be in  $\mathfrak{M}_b^+(B_R(x_0))$ . Assume that  $0 < q < \frac{N(\beta-1)}{N-\alpha\beta}$  and  $qs > (\beta-1)^2$ . Let  $(u_m, v_m)$  be nonnegative measurable functions in  $\mathbb{R}^N$  such that for all  $m \geq 0$

$$u_{m+1} \leq c_* \mathbf{W}_{\alpha,\beta}^R[\chi_{B_R(x_0)} v_m^q + \mu], \quad v_{m+1} \leq c_* \mathbf{W}_{\alpha,\beta}^R[\chi_{B_R(x_0)} u_m^s + \eta] \quad \text{a.e. in } B_R(x_0)$$

and  $(u_0, v_0) = 0$ . If we set  $d\omega = \left(\mathbf{W}_{\alpha,\beta}^{2R}[\mu]\right)^s dx + d\eta$ , there exists a constant  $M_* > 0$  depending only on  $N, \alpha, \beta, q, s, R$  and  $c_*$  such that if

$$\omega(K) \leq M_* \text{Cap}_{\mathbf{G}_{\frac{\alpha\beta(q+\beta-1)}{q}, \frac{qs}{qs-(\beta-1)^2}}}(K) \quad (2.35)$$

for any compact set  $K \subset \mathbb{R}^N$ , then

$$v_m \leq c_{73} \mathbf{W}_{\alpha,\beta}^{2R}[\omega], \quad u_m \leq c_{74} \mathbf{W}_{\alpha,\beta}^{2R}[(\mathbf{W}_{\alpha,\beta}^{2R}[\omega])^q] + c_{72} \mathbf{W}_{\alpha,\beta}^{2R}[\mu] \quad \forall k \geq 0 \quad (2.36)$$

in  $B_R(x_0)$  for some constants  $c_{72}, c_{73}, c_{74}$  depending only on  $N, \alpha, \beta, q, s, R$  and  $c_*$ .

**Proof.** The proof is similar to the one of Proposition 2.7 and we omit the details.  $\square$

**Proposition 2.9** Let  $1 < \beta < N/\alpha$  and  $q, s > 0$  such that  $qs > (\beta-1)^2$ .

(i) Assume that  $\eta$  and  $\mu$  belong to  $\mathfrak{M}_b^+(\mathbb{R}^N)$  and  $(u, v)$  are nonnegative measurable functions satisfying

$$\begin{cases} \mathbf{W}_{\alpha,\beta}[v^q] + \mathbf{W}_{\alpha,\beta}[\mu] \leq c_{75} u, \\ \mathbf{W}_{\alpha,\beta}[u^s] + \mathbf{W}_{\alpha,\beta}[\eta] \leq c_{75} v \end{cases} \quad \text{a.e. in } \mathbb{R}^N, \quad (2.37)$$

for some  $c_{75} > 0$ . Then there exists a constant  $c_{76} > 0$  depending only on  $N, \alpha, \beta, q, s$  and  $c_{75}$  such that

$$\eta(K) + \int_K (\mathbf{W}_{\alpha,\beta}[\mu](x))^s dx \leq c_{76} \text{Cap}_{\mathbf{I}_{\frac{\alpha\beta(q+\beta-1)}{q}, \frac{qs}{qs-(\beta-1)^2}}}(K), \quad (2.38)$$

for any compact set  $K \subset \mathbb{R}^N$ .

(ii) Assume that  $\eta$  and  $\mu$  belong to  $\mathfrak{M}_b^+(\Omega)$  and  $(u, v)$  are nonnegative functions satisfying

$$\begin{cases} \mathbf{W}_{\alpha,\beta}^{\delta d(\cdot)}[v^q] + \mathbf{W}_{\alpha,\beta}^{\delta d}[\mu] \leq c_{77} u, \\ \mathbf{W}_{\alpha,\beta}^{\delta d(\cdot)}[u^s] + \mathbf{W}_{\alpha,\beta}^{\delta d}[\eta] \leq c_{77} v \end{cases} \quad \text{a.e. in } \Omega, \quad (2.39)$$

for some  $c_{77} > 0$ . Then for any  $\Omega' \subset\subset \Omega$ , there exists a constant  $c_{78} > 0$  depending only on  $n, \alpha, \beta, q, s, c_{77}$  and  $\text{dist}(\Omega', \partial\Omega)$  such that

$$\eta(K) + \int_K \left(\mathbf{W}_{\alpha,\beta}^{\delta d(x)}[\mu](x)\right)^s dx \leq c_{78} \text{Cap}_{\mathbf{G}_{\frac{\alpha\beta(q+\beta-1)}{q}, \frac{qs}{qs-(\beta-1)^2}}}(K), \quad (2.40)$$

for any compact set  $K \subset \Omega'$ .

**Proof.** (i): Set  $\omega = u^s + \eta$ , then

$$\omega \geq u^s \geq (\mathbf{W}_{\alpha,\beta}[v^q])^s \geq c_{79} (\mathbf{W}_{\alpha,\beta}[(\mathbf{W}_{\alpha,\beta}[\omega])^q])^s.$$

By (2.4) in Lemma 2.2, we get

$$\omega \geq c_{80} \left( \mathbf{W}_{\frac{\alpha\beta(q+\beta-1)}{q+(\beta-1)^2}, \frac{(\beta-1)^2}{q} + 1}[\omega] \right)^s$$

which implies

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} \left( \mathbf{W}_{\frac{\alpha\beta(q+\beta-1)}{q+(\beta-1)^2}, \frac{(\beta-1)^2}{q} + 1} [\chi_{B_t(x)} \omega] \right)^s dy \leq c_{81} \omega(B_t(x)) \quad \forall x \in \mathbb{R}^N, \forall t > 0.$$

Applying Proposition 2.4 to  $\mu = \omega$  with  $(\alpha, \beta, q) = \left( \frac{\alpha\beta(q+\beta-1)}{q+(\beta-1)^2}, \frac{(\beta-1)^2}{q} + 1, s \right)$ , we get (2.38).

(ii) We define  $\omega$  as above and we have

$$\omega \geq u^s \geq (\mathbf{W}_{\alpha, \beta}^{\delta d} [v^q])^s \geq c_{82} \left( \mathbf{W}_{\alpha, \beta}^{\delta d} \left[ \left( \mathbf{W}_{\alpha, \beta}^{\delta d(\cdot)} [\omega] \right)^q \right] \right)^s \quad \text{a.e. in } \Omega,$$

which leads to

$$\omega \geq c_{83} \left( \mathbf{W}_{\frac{\alpha\beta(q+\beta-1)}{q+(\beta-1)^2}, \frac{(\beta-1)^2}{q} + 1}^{\frac{\delta}{2} d} [\omega] \right)^s \quad \text{a.e. in } \Omega,$$

by inequality (2.10) in Lemma 2.3. Let  $M_\omega$  denote the centered Hardy-Littlewood maximal function which is defined for any  $f \in L^1_{loc}(\mathbb{R}^N, d\omega)$  by

$$M_\omega f(x) = \sup_{t>0} \frac{1}{\omega(B_t(x))} \int_{B_t(x)} |f| d\omega.$$

Let  $K \subset \Omega$  be compact. Set  $r_K = \text{dist}(K, \partial\Omega)$  and  $\Omega_K = \{x \in \Omega : d(x, K) < r_K/2\}$ . Then, for any Borel set  $E \subset K$ ,

$$c_{84} \int_{\Omega} (M_\omega \chi_E)^{\frac{sq}{(\beta-1)^2}} \left( \mathbf{W}_{\frac{\alpha\beta(q+\beta-1)}{q+(\beta-1)^2}, \frac{(\beta-1)^2}{q} + 1}^{\frac{\delta}{2} d(x)} [\omega] \right)^s dx \leq \int_{\Omega} (M_\omega \chi_E)^{\frac{sq}{(\beta-1)^2}} d\omega.$$

Since  $M_\omega$  is a bounded linear map on  $L^p(\mathbb{R}^N, d\omega)$  for any  $p > 1$  and

$$(M_\omega \chi_E)^{\frac{sq}{(\beta-1)^2}} \left( \mathbf{W}_{\frac{\alpha\beta(q+\beta-1)}{q+(\beta-1)^2}, \frac{(\beta-1)^2}{q} + 1}^{\frac{\delta}{2} d(x)} [\omega] \right)^s \geq \int_0^{\frac{\delta}{2} d(x)} \left( \frac{\omega(B_t(x) \cap E)}{\omega(B_t(x))} \frac{\omega(B_t(x))}{t^{N - \frac{\alpha\beta(q+\beta-1)}{q}}} \right)^{\frac{sq}{(\beta-1)^2}} \frac{dt}{t}$$

we derive

$$\int_{\Omega} \left( \mathbf{W}_{\frac{\alpha\beta(q+\beta-1)}{q+(\beta-1)^2}, \frac{(\beta-1)^2}{q} + 1}^{\frac{\delta}{2} d(x)} [\omega_E] \right)^s dx \leq c_{85} \omega(E),$$

where  $\omega_E = \chi_E \omega$ . Note that if  $x \in \Omega$  and  $d(x) \leq r_K/8$ , then  $B_t(x) \subset \Omega \setminus \Omega_K$  for all  $t \in (0, \frac{\delta d(x)}{2})$ ; indeed, for all  $y \in B_t(x)$

$$d(y, \partial\Omega) \leq d(x, \partial\Omega) + |x - y| < (1 + \delta)d(x, \partial\Omega) < \frac{1}{4}r_K,$$

thus

$$d(y, K) \geq d(K, \partial\Omega) - d(y, \partial\Omega) > \frac{3}{4}r_K > \frac{1}{2}r_K,$$

which implies  $y \notin \Omega_K$ . We deduce that

$$\mathbf{W}_{\frac{\alpha\beta(q+\beta-1)}{q+(\beta-1)^2}, \frac{(\beta-1)^2}{q} + 1}^{\frac{\delta}{2} d(x, \partial\Omega)} [\omega_E](x) \geq \mathbf{W}_{\frac{\alpha\beta(q+\beta-1)}{q+(\beta-1)^2}, \frac{(\beta-1)^2}{q} + 1}^{\frac{\delta}{16} r_K} [\omega_E](x) \quad \forall x \in \Omega,$$

and

$$\mathbf{W}_{\frac{\alpha\beta(q+\beta-1)}{q+(\beta-1)^2}, \frac{(\beta-1)^2}{q} + 1}^{\frac{\delta}{16} r_K} [\omega_E](x) = 0 \quad \forall x \in \Omega^c.$$

Hence we obtain

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} \left( \mathbf{W}_{\frac{\alpha\beta(q+\beta-1)}{q+(\beta-1)^2}, \frac{(\beta-1)^2}{q} + 1}^{\frac{\delta}{16} r_K} [\omega_E] \right)^s dx \leq c_{85} \omega(E) \quad \forall E \subset K, E \text{ Borel.} \quad (2.41)$$

Applying Proposition 2.5 with  $\mu = \chi_{K \cap B_{2^{-6}\delta r_K}(x)} \omega$  we get (2.40), which completes the proof.

□



### 3 Quasilinear Dirichlet problems

Let  $\Omega$  be a bounded domain in  $\mathbb{R}^N$ . If  $\mu \in \mathfrak{M}_b(\Omega)$ , we denote by  $\mu^+$  and  $\mu^-$  respectively its positive and negative parts in the Jordan decomposition. We denote by  $\mathfrak{M}_0(\Omega)$  the space of measures in  $\Omega$  which are absolutely continuous with respect to the  $c_{1,p}^\Omega$ -capacity defined on a compact set  $K \subset \Omega$  by

$$c_{1,p}^\Omega(K) = \inf \left\{ \int_{\Omega} |\nabla \varphi|^p dx : \varphi \geq \chi_K, \varphi \in C_c^\infty(\Omega) \right\}.$$

We also denote  $\mathfrak{M}_s(\Omega)$  the space of measures in  $\Omega$  with support on a set of zero  $c_{1,p}^\Omega$ -capacity. Classically, any  $\mu \in \mathfrak{M}_b(\Omega)$  can be written in a unique way under the form  $\mu = \mu_0 + \mu_s$  where  $\mu_0 \in \mathfrak{M}_0(\Omega) \cap \mathfrak{M}_b(\Omega)$  and  $\mu_s \in \mathfrak{M}_s(\Omega) \cap \mathfrak{M}_b(\Omega)$ . It is well known that any  $\mu_0 \in \mathfrak{M}_0(\Omega) \cap \mathfrak{M}_b(\Omega)$  can be written under the form  $\mu_0 = f - \operatorname{div} g$  where  $f \in L^1(\Omega)$  and  $g \in L^{p'}(\Omega, \mathbb{R}^N)$ .

For  $k > 0$  and  $s \in \mathbb{R}$  we set  $T_k(s) = \max\{\min\{s, k\}, -k\}$ . If  $u$  is a measurable function defined in  $\Omega$ , finite a.e. and such that  $T_k(u) \in W_{loc}^{1,p}(\Omega)$  for any  $k > 0$ , there exists a measurable function  $v : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^N$  such that  $\nabla T_k(u) = \chi_{\{|u| \leq k\}} v$  a.e. in  $\Omega$  and for all  $k > 0$ . We define the gradient a.e.  $\nabla u$  of  $u$  by  $v = \nabla u$ . We recall the definition of a renormalized solution given in [12].

**Definition 3.1** *Let  $\mu = \mu_0 + \mu_s \in \mathfrak{M}_b(\Omega)$ . A measurable function  $u$  defined in  $\Omega$  and finite a.e. is called a renormalized solution of*

$$\begin{aligned} -\Delta_p u &= \mu && \text{in } \Omega \\ u &= 0 && \text{on } \partial\Omega, \end{aligned} \quad (3.1)$$

if  $T_k(u) \in W_0^{1,p}(\Omega)$  for any  $k > 0$ ,  $|\nabla u|^{p-1} \in L^r(\Omega)$  for any  $0 < r < \frac{N}{N-1}$ , and  $u$  has the property that for any  $k > 0$  there exist  $\lambda_k^+$  and  $\lambda_k^-$  belonging to  $\mathfrak{M}_b^+ \cap \mathfrak{M}_0(\Omega)$ , respectively concentrated on the sets  $u = k$  and  $u = -k$ , with the property that  $\mu_k^+ \rightharpoonup \mu_s^+$ ,  $\mu_k^- \rightharpoonup \mu_s^-$  in the narrow topology of measures and such that

$$\int_{\{|u| < k\}} |\nabla u|^{p-2} \nabla u \cdot \nabla \varphi dx = \int_{\{|u| < k\}} \varphi d\mu_0 + \int_{\Omega} \varphi d\lambda_k^+ - \int_{\Omega} \varphi d\lambda_k^-,$$

for every  $\varphi \in W_0^{1,p}(\Omega) \cap L^\infty(\Omega)$ .

**Remark 3.2** *We recall that if  $u$  is a renormalized solution to problem (3.1), then  $\frac{|\nabla u|^p}{(|u|+1)^r} \in L^1(\Omega)$  for all  $r > 1$ . Furthermore,  $u \geq 0$  a.e. in  $\Omega$  if  $\mu \in \mathfrak{M}_b^+(\Omega)$ .*

The following general stability result has been proved in [12, Th 4.1].

**Theorem 3.3** *Let  $\mu = \mu_0 + \mu_s^+ - \mu_s^-$ , with  $\mu_0 = F - \operatorname{div} g \in \mathfrak{M}_0(\Omega)$  and  $\mu_s^+, \mu_s^-$  belonging to  $\mathfrak{M}_s^+(\Omega)$ . Let  $\mu_n = F_n - \operatorname{div} g_n + \rho_n - \eta_n$  with  $F_n \in L^1(\Omega)$ ,  $g_n \in (L^{p'}(\Omega))^N$  and  $\rho_n, \eta_n$  belonging to  $\mathfrak{M}_b^+(\Omega)$ . Assume that  $\{F_n\}$  converges to  $F$  weakly in  $L^1(\Omega)$ ,  $\{g_n\}$  converges to  $g$  strongly in  $(L^{p'}(\Omega))^N$  and  $(\operatorname{div} g_n)$  is bounded in  $\mathfrak{M}_b(\Omega)$ ; assume also that  $\{\rho_n\}$  converges to  $\mu_s^+$  and  $\{\eta_n\}$  to  $\mu_s^-$  in the narrow topology. If  $\{u_n\}$  is a sequence of renormalized solutions of (3.1) with data  $\mu_n$ , then, up to a subsequence, it converges a.e. in  $\Omega$  to a renormalized solution  $u$  of problem (3.1). Furthermore,  $T_k(u_n)$  converges to  $T_k(u)$  in  $W_0^{1,p}(\Omega)$  for any  $k > 0$ .*

We also recall the following estimate [23, Th 2.1].

**Proposition 3.4** *Let  $\Omega$  be a bounded domain of  $\mathbb{R}^N$ . Then there exists a constant  $C > 0$ , depending on  $p$  and  $N$  such that if  $\mu \in \mathfrak{M}_b^+(\Omega)$  and  $u$  is a nonnegative renormalized solution of problem (3.1) with data  $\mu$ , there holds*

$$\frac{1}{c_{s6}} \mathbf{W}_{1,p}^{\frac{d(x, \partial\Omega)}{3}}[\mu](x) \leq u(x) \leq c_{s6} \mathbf{W}_{1,p}^{2 \operatorname{diam}(\Omega)}[\mu](x) \quad \text{a.e. in } \Omega. \quad (3.2)$$

**Proof of Theorem C.** *The condition is necessary.* Assume that (1.14) admits a nonnegative renormalized solutions  $(u, v)$ . By Proposition 3.4 there holds

$$\begin{aligned} u(x) &\geq c_{87} \mathbf{W}_{1,p}^{\frac{d(x,\partial\Omega)}{3}} [v^{q_1} + \mu](x), \\ v(x) &\geq c_{87} \mathbf{W}_{1,p}^{\frac{d(x,\partial\Omega)}{3}} [u^{q_2} + \mu](x) \quad \text{a.e. in } \Omega. \end{aligned}$$

Hence, we infer (1.15) from Proposition 2.9-(ii).

*Sufficient conditions.* Let  $\{(u_m, v_m)\}_{m \in \mathbb{N}}$  be a sequence of nonnegative renormalized solutions of the following problems for  $m \in \mathbb{N}$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} -\Delta_p u_{m+1} &= v_m^{q_1} + \mu && \text{in } \Omega, \\ -\Delta_p v_{m+1} &= u_m^{q_2} + \eta && \text{in } \Omega, \\ u_{m+1} &= v_{m+1} = 0 && \text{on } \partial\Omega, \end{aligned} \tag{3.3}$$

with initial condition  $(u_0, v_0) = 0$ . The sequences  $\{u_m\}$  and  $\{v_m\}$  can be constructed in such a way that they are nondecreasing (see e.g. [24]). By Proposition 3.4 we have

$$\begin{aligned} u_{m+1} &\leq c_{86} \mathbf{W}_{1,p}^R [v_m^{q_1} + \mu](x) \\ v_{m+1} &\leq c_{86} \mathbf{W}_{1,p}^R [u_m^{q_2} + \eta](x) \quad \text{a.e. in } \Omega, \end{aligned}$$

where  $R = 2 \operatorname{diam}(\Omega)$ . Thus, by Proposition 2.8 there exists a constant  $M_* > 0$  depending only on  $N, p, q_1, q_2, R$  such that if

$$\omega(K) \leq M_* \operatorname{Cap}_{\mathbf{G}_{\frac{p(q_1+p-1)}{q_1}, \frac{q_1 q_2}{q_1 q_2 - (p-1)^2}}}(K) \tag{3.4}$$

for any compact set  $K \subset \mathbb{R}^N$  with  $d\omega = (\mathbf{W}_{1,p}^R[\mu])^{q_2} dx + d\eta$  then

$$v_m \leq c_{73} \mathbf{W}_{1,p}^R[\omega], \quad u_m \leq c_{74} \mathbf{W}_{1,p}^R[(\mathbf{W}_{1,p}^R[\omega])^{q_1}] + c_{72} \mathbf{W}_{1,p}^R[\mu] \quad \forall k \geq 0 \tag{3.5}$$

in  $\Omega$  and

$$\mathbf{W}_{1,p}^R[\omega] \in L^{q_2}(\Omega), \quad \mathbf{W}_{1,p}^R[(\mathbf{W}_{1,p}^R[\omega])^{q_1}] + \mathbf{W}_{1,p}^R[\mu] \in L^{q_1}(\Omega). \tag{3.6}$$

This implies that  $\{u_m\}, \{v_m\}_{m \in \mathbb{N}}$  are well defined and nondecreasing. Thus  $\{(u_m, v_m)\}$  converges a.e in  $\Omega$  to some functions  $(u, v)$  which satisfies (1.17) in  $\Omega$ . Furthermore, we deduce from (3.6) and the monotone convergence theorem that  $u_m^{q_1} \rightarrow u^{q_1}, v_m^{q_2} \rightarrow v^{q_2}$  in  $L^1(\Omega)$ . Finally, by Theorem 3.3 we infer that  $u$  is a renormalized solution of (1.14).  $\square$

## 4 p-superharmonic functions and quasilinear equations in $\mathbb{R}^N$

We recall some definitions and properties of  $p$ -superharmonic functions.

**Definition 4.1** *A function  $u$  is said to be  $p$ -harmonic in  $\mathbb{R}^N$  if  $u \in W_{loc}^{1,p}(\mathbb{R}^N)$  and  $-\Delta_p u = 0$  in  $\mathcal{D}'(\mathbb{R}^N)$ ; it is always  $C^1$ . A function  $u$  is called a  $p$ -supersolution in  $\mathbb{R}^N$  if  $u \in W_{loc}^{1,p}(\mathbb{R}^N)$  and  $-\Delta_p u \geq 0$  in  $\mathcal{D}'(\mathbb{R}^N)$ .*

**Definition 4.2** *A lower semicontinuous (l.s.c) function  $u : \mathbb{R}^N \rightarrow (-\infty, \infty]$  is called  $p$ -super-harmonic if  $u$  is not identically infinite and if, for all open  $D \subset \subset \mathbb{R}^N$  and all  $v \in C(\bar{D})$ ,  $p$ -harmonic in  $D$ ,  $v \leq u$  on  $\partial D$  implies  $v \leq u$  in  $D$ .*

Let  $u$  be a  $p$ -superharmonic in  $\mathbb{R}^N$ . It is well known that  $u \wedge k := \min\{u, k\} \in W_{loc}^{1,p}(\mathbb{R}^N)$  is a  $p$ -supersolution for all  $k > 0$  and  $u < \infty$  a.e in  $\mathbb{R}^N$ , thus,  $u$  has a gradient (see the previous section). We also have  $|\nabla u|^{p-1} \in L_{loc}^q(\mathbb{R}^N)$ ,  $\frac{|\nabla u|^p}{(|u|+1)^r} \in L_{loc}^1(\mathbb{R}^N)$  and  $u \in L_{loc}^s(\mathbb{R}^N)$  for  $1 \leq q < \frac{N}{N-1}$  and  $r > 1$ ,  $1 \leq s < \frac{N(p-1)}{N-p}$  (see [16, Theorem 7.46]). Thus for any  $0 \leq \varphi \in C_c^1(\Omega)$ , by the dominated convergence theorem,

$$\langle -\Delta_p u, \varphi \rangle = \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} |\nabla u|^{p-2} \nabla u \cdot \nabla \varphi dx = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} |\nabla(u \wedge k)|^{p-2} \nabla(u \wedge k) \cdot \nabla \varphi \geq 0.$$

Hence, by the Riesz Representation Theorem, there is a nonnegative Radon measure denoted by  $\mu[u]$ , called Riesz measure, such that  $-\Delta_p u = \mu[u]$  in  $\mathcal{D}'(\mathbb{R}^N)$ .

The following weak convergence result for Riesz measures proved in [30] will be used to obtain the existence of  $p$ -superharmonic solutions to quasilinear equations.

**Proposition 4.3** *Suppose that  $\{u_n\}$  is a sequence of nonnegative  $p$ -superharmonic functions in  $\mathbb{R}^N$  that converges a.e to a  $p$ -superharmonic function  $u$ . Then the sequence of measures  $\{\mu[u_n]\}$  converges to  $\mu[u]$  in the weak sense of measures.*

The proof of the next result can be found in in [23]

**Proposition 4.4** *Let  $\mu$  be a measure in  $\mathfrak{M}^+(\mathbb{R}^N)$ . Suppose that  $\mathbf{W}_{1,p}[\mu] < \infty$  a.e. Then there exists a nonnegative  $p$ -superharmonic function  $u$  in  $\mathbb{R}^N$  such that  $-\Delta_p u = \mu$  in  $\mathcal{D}'(\mathbb{R}^N)$ ,  $\inf_{\mathbb{R}^N} u = 0$  and*

$$\frac{1}{c_{86}} \mathbf{W}_{1,p}[\mu](x) \leq u(x) \leq c_{86} \mathbf{W}_{1,p}[\mu](x), \quad (4.1)$$

for almost all  $x$  in  $\mathbb{R}^N$ , where the constant  $c_{86}$  is the one of Proposition 3.4. Furthermore any  $p$ -superharmonic function  $u$  in  $\mathbb{R}^N$ , such that  $\inf_{\mathbb{R}^N} u = 0$  satisfies (4.1) with  $\mu = -\Delta_p u$ .

**Proof of Theorem A.** *The condition is necessary.* Assume that (1.14) admits a nonnegative  $p$ -superharmonic functions  $(u, v)$ . By Proposition 4.4 there holds

$$\begin{aligned} u(x) &\geq c_{87} \mathbf{W}_{1,p}[v^{q_1} + \mu](x), \\ v(x) &\geq c_{87} \mathbf{W}_{1,p}[u^{q_2} + \eta](x) \quad \text{for almost all } x \in \Omega. \end{aligned}$$

Hence, we derive (1.10) from Proposition 2.9-(i).

*The condition is sufficient.* Let  $\{(u_m, v_m)\}_{m \in \mathbb{N}}$  be a sequence of nonnegative  $p$ -superharmonic solutions of the following problems for  $m \in \mathbb{N}$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} -\Delta_p u_{m+1} &= v_m^{q_1} + \mu && \text{in } \mathbb{R}^N \\ -\Delta_p v_{m+1} &= u_m^{q_2} + \eta && \text{in } \mathbb{R}^N \\ \inf_{\mathbb{R}^N} u_{m+1} &= \inf_{\mathbb{R}^N} v_{m+1} = 0, \end{aligned} \quad (4.2)$$

with  $(u_0, v_0) = 0$ . As in the proof of Theorem C we can assume that  $\{u_m\}$  and  $\{v_m\}$  are nondecreasing. By Proposition 4.4 we have

$$\begin{aligned} u_{m+1} &\leq c_{86} \mathbf{W}_{1,p}[v_m^{q_1} + \mu](x) \\ v_{m+1} &\leq c_{86} \mathbf{W}_{1,p}[u_m^{q_2} + \eta](x) \quad \forall x \in \Omega \end{aligned}$$

Thus, by Proposition 2.7 there exists a constant  $c > 0$  depending only on  $N, p, q_1, q_2$  such that if

$$\omega(K) \leq M^* \text{Cap}_{\mathbf{I}_{\frac{p(q_1+p-1)}{q_1}, \frac{q_1 q_2}{q_1 q_2 - (p-1)^2}}}(K) \quad (4.3)$$

for any compact set  $K \subset \mathbb{R}^N$  with  $d\omega = (\mathbf{W}_{1,p}[\mu])^{q_2} dx + d\eta$  then

$$v_m \leq c_{69} \mathbf{W}_{1,p}[\omega], \quad u_m \leq c_{70} \mathbf{W}_{1,p}[(\mathbf{W}_{1,p}[\omega])^{q_1}] + c_{68} \mathbf{W}_{1,p}[\mu] \quad \forall k \geq 0 \quad (4.4)$$

in  $\Omega$  and

$$\mathbf{W}_{1,p}[\omega] \in L_{loc}^{q_2}(\mathbb{R}^N), \quad \mathbf{W}_{1,p}[(\mathbf{W}_{1,p}[\omega])^{q_1}] + \mathbf{W}_{1,p}[\mu] \in L_{loc}^{q_1}(\mathbb{R}^N). \quad (4.5)$$

This implies that  $\{u_m\}, \{v_m\}$  are well defined and nondecreasing. Thus  $\{(u_m, v_m)\}$  converges a.e in  $\mathbb{R}^N$  to some functions  $(u, v)$  which satisfies (1.17) in  $\mathbb{R}^N$ . Furthermore, we infer from (3.6) and the monotone convergence theorem that  $u_m^{q_1} \rightarrow u^{q_1}, v_m^{q_2} \rightarrow v^{q_2}$  in  $L_{loc}^1(\mathbb{R}^N)$ . By Proposition 4.3 we derive that  $(u, v)$  are nonnegative  $p$ -superharmonic solutions of (1.9).  $\square$

## 5 Hessian equations

In this section  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^N$  is either a bounded domain with a  $C^2$  boundary or the whole  $\mathbb{R}^N$ . For  $k = 1, \dots, N$  and  $u \in C^2(\Omega)$  the  $k$ -hessian operator  $F_k$  is defined by

$$F_k[u] = S_k(\lambda(D^2u)),$$

where  $\lambda(D^2u) = \lambda = (\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_N)$  denotes the eigenvalues of the Hessian matrix of second partial derivative  $D^2u$  and  $S_k$  is the  $k$ -th elementary symmetric polynomial that is

$$S_k(\lambda) = \sum_{1 \leq i_1 < \dots < i_k \leq N} \lambda_{i_1} \dots \lambda_{i_k}.$$

We can see that

$$F_k[u] = [D^2u]_k,$$

where for a matrix  $A = (a_{ij})$ ,  $[A]_k$  denotes the sum of the  $k$ -th principal minors. We assume that  $\partial\Omega$  is uniformly  $(k-1)$ -convex, that is

$$S_{k-1}(\kappa) \geq c_0 > 0 \text{ on } \partial\Omega,$$

for some positive constant  $c_0$ , where  $\kappa = (\kappa_1, \kappa_2, \dots, \kappa_{n-1})$  denote the principal curvatures of  $\partial\Omega$  with respect to its inner normal.

**Definition 5.1** *An upper-semicontinuous function  $u : \Omega \rightarrow [-\infty, \infty)$  is  $k$ -convex ( $k$ -subharmonic) if, for every open set  $\Omega' \subset \bar{\Omega}' \subset \Omega$  and for every function  $v \in C^2(\Omega') \cap C(\bar{\Omega}')$  satisfying  $F_k[v] \leq 0$  in  $\Omega'$ , the following implication is true*

$$u \leq v \text{ on } \partial\Omega' \implies u \leq v \text{ in } \Omega'.$$

We denote by  $\Phi^k(\Omega)$  the class of all  $k$ -subharmonic functions in  $\Omega$  which are not identically equal to  $-\infty$ .

The following weak convergence result for  $k$ -Hessian operators proved in [28] is fundamental in our study.

**Proposition 5.2** *Let  $\Omega$  be either a bounded uniformly  $(k-1)$ -convex in  $\mathbb{R}^N$  or the whole  $\mathbb{R}^N$ . For each  $u \in \Phi^k(\Omega)$ , there exists a nonnegative Radon measure  $\mu_k[u]$  in  $\Omega$  such that*

**1**  $\mu_k[u] = F_k[u]$  for  $u \in C^2(\Omega)$ .

**2** If  $\{u_n\}$  is a sequence of  $k$ -convex functions which converges a.e to  $u$ , then  $\mu_k[u_n] \rightharpoonup \mu_k[u]$  in the weak sense of measures.

As in the case of quasilinear equations with measure data, precise estimates of solutions of  $k$ -Hessian equations with measures data are expressed in terms of Wolff potentials. The next results are proved in [28, 20, 23].

**Theorem 5.3** *Let  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^N$  be a bounded  $C^2$ , uniformly  $(k-1)$ -convex domain. Let  $\mu$  be a nonnegative Radon measure in  $\Omega$  which can be decomposed under the form*

$$\mu = \mu_1 + f,$$

where  $\mu_1$  is a measure with compact support in  $\Omega$  and  $f \in L^q(\Omega)$  for some  $q > \frac{N}{2k}$  if  $k \leq \frac{N}{2}$ , or  $p = 1$  if  $k > \frac{N}{2}$ . Then there exists a nonnegative function  $u$  in  $\Omega$  such that  $-u \in \Phi^k(\Omega)$ , continuous near  $\partial\Omega$  and  $u$  is a solution of the problem

$$\begin{aligned} F_k[-u] &= \mu && \text{in } \Omega, \\ u &= 0 && \text{on } \partial\Omega. \end{aligned}$$

Furthermore, any nonnegative function  $u$  such that  $-u \in \Phi^k(\Omega)$  which is continuous near  $\partial\Omega$  and is a solution of above equation, satisfies

$$\frac{1}{c_{ss}} \mathbf{W}_{\frac{2k}{k+1}, k+1}^{\frac{d(x, \partial\Omega)}{s}}[\mu] \leq u(x) \leq c_{ss} \mathbf{W}_{\frac{2k}{k+1}, k+1}^{2diam\Omega}[\mu](x), \quad (5.1)$$

where  $c_{ss}$  is a positive constant independent of  $x, u$  and  $\Omega$ .

**Theorem 5.4** *Let  $\mu$  be a measure in  $\mathfrak{M}^+(\mathbb{R}^N)$  and  $2k < N$ . Suppose that  $\mathbf{W}_{\frac{2k}{k+1}, k+1}[\mu] < \infty$  a.e. Then there exists  $u$ ,  $-u \in \Phi^k(\mathbb{R}^N)$  such that  $\inf_{\mathbb{R}^N} u = 0$  and  $F_k[-u] = \mu$  in  $\mathbb{R}^N$  and*

$$\frac{1}{c_{ss}} \mathbf{W}_{\frac{2k}{k+1}, k+1}[\mu](x) \leq u(x) \leq c_{ss} \mathbf{W}_{\frac{2k}{k+1}, k+1}[\mu](x), \quad (5.2)$$

for all  $x$  in  $\mathbb{R}^N$ . Furthermore, if  $u$  is a nonnegative function such that  $\inf_{\mathbb{R}^N} u = 0$  and  $-u \in \Phi^k(\mathbb{R}^N)$ , then (5.2) holds with  $\mu = F_k[-u]$ .

**Proof of Theorem E.** *The condition is necessary.* Assume that (1.21) admits a nonnegative solution  $(u, v)$ , continuous near  $\partial\Omega$ , such that  $-u, -v \in \Phi^k(\Omega)$  and  $u^{s_2}, v^{s_1} \in L^1(\Omega)$ . Then by Theorem 5.3 we have

$$\begin{aligned} u(x) &\geq \frac{1}{c_{ss}} \mathbf{W}_{\frac{2k}{k+1}, k+1}^{\frac{d(x, \partial\Omega)}{s}}[v^{s_1} + \mu](x) \\ v(x) &\geq \frac{1}{c_{ss}} \mathbf{W}_{\frac{2k}{k+1}, k+1}^{\frac{d(x, \partial\Omega)}{s}}[u^{s_2} + \eta](x) \quad \text{for almost all } x \in \Omega. \end{aligned}$$

Using the part 2 of Proposition 2.9, we conclude that (1.22) holds.

*The condition is sufficient.* We define a sequence of nonnegative functions  $u_m, v_m$ , continuous near  $\partial\Omega$  and such that  $-u_m, -v_m \in \Phi^k(\Omega)$ , by the following iterative scheme for  $m \geq 0$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} F_k[-u_{m+1}] &= v_m^{s_1} + \mu && \text{in } \Omega, \\ F_k[-v_{m+1}] &= u_m^{s_2} + \eta && \text{in } \Omega, \\ u_{m+1} &= v_{m+1} = 0 && \text{on } \partial\Omega. \end{aligned} \quad (5.3)$$

Clearly, we can assume that  $\{u_m\}$  is nondecreasing as in [24]. By Theorem 5.3 we have

$$\begin{aligned} u_{m+1} &\leq c_{ss} \mathbf{W}_{\frac{2k}{k+1}, k+1}^R[v_m^{s_1} + \mu], \\ v_{m+1} &\leq c_{ss} \mathbf{W}_{\frac{2k}{k+1}, k+1}^R[u_m^{s_2} + \eta] \quad \text{in } \Omega \end{aligned} \quad (5.4)$$

where  $R = 2diam(\Omega)$ .

Then, by Proposition 2.8, there exists a constant  $M_* > 0$  depending only on  $N, p, q_1, q_2, R$  such that if

$$\omega(K) \leq M_* \text{Cap}_{\mathbf{G}_{\frac{2k(s_1+k)}{s_1}, \frac{s_1 s_2}{s_1 s_2 - k^2}}}(K)$$

for any compact set  $K \subset \mathbb{R}^N$  with  $d\omega = \left( \mathbf{W}_{\frac{2k}{k+1}, k+1}^R \mu \right)^{s_2} dx + d\eta$  then

$$v_m \leq c_{73} \mathbf{W}_{\frac{2k}{k+1}, k+1}^R[\omega], \quad u_m \leq c_{74} \mathbf{W}_{\frac{2k}{k+1}, k+1}^R \left[ \left( \mathbf{W}_{\frac{2k}{k+1}, k+1}^R[\omega] \right)^{s_1} \right] + c_{72} \mathbf{W}_{\frac{2k}{k+1}, k+1}^R[\mu] \quad \forall m \geq 0$$

in  $\Omega$  for some positive constants  $c_{72}, c_{73}$  and  $c_{74}$  depending only on  $N, k, s_1, s_2, R$ . Note that we can write

$$v_m^{s_1} + \mu = \left( \mu_1 + \chi_{\Omega_\delta} v_m^{s_1} \right) + \left( (1 - \chi_{\Omega_\delta}) v_m^{s_1} + f \right),$$

and

$$u_m^{s_2} + \eta = \left( \eta_1 + \chi_{\Omega_\delta} u_m^{s_2} \right) + \left( (1 - \chi_{\Omega_\delta}) u_m^{s_2} + g \right),$$

where  $\Omega_\delta = \{x \in \Omega : d(x, \partial\Omega) > \delta\}$  and  $\delta > 0$  is small enough and since  $u_m$  is continuous near  $\partial\Omega$ , then  $v_m^{s_1} + \mu, u_m^{s_2} + \eta$  satisfy the assumptions of the data in Theorem 5.3. Therefore the sequence  $\{u_m\}$  is well defined and nondecreasing. Thus,  $\{u_m\}$  converges a.e in  $\Omega$  to some function  $u$  which satisfies (1.24) in  $\Omega$ . Furthermore, by the monotone convergence theorem there holds  $v_m^{s_1} \rightarrow v, u_m^{s_2} \rightarrow u$  in  $L^1(\Omega)$ . Finally, by Proposition 5.2, we infer that (1.21) admits a nonnegative solutions  $u, v$ , continuous near  $\partial\Omega$ , with  $-u, -v \in \Phi^k(\Omega)$  satisfying (1.24).  $\square$

**Proof of Theorem F.** *The condition is necessary.* Assume that (1.21) admits nonnegative solution  $(u, v)$ , such that  $-u, -v \in \Phi^k(\mathbb{R}^N)$  and  $u^{s_2}, v^{s_1} \in L_{loc}^1(\mathbb{R}^N)$ . Then by Theorem 5.3 we have

$$\begin{aligned} u(x) &\geq \frac{1}{c_{88}} \mathbf{W}_{\frac{2k}{k+1}, k+1}^R [v^{s_1} + \mu](x) \\ v(x) &\geq \frac{1}{c_{88}} \mathbf{W}_{\frac{2k}{k+1}, k+1}^R [u^{s_2} + \eta](x) \quad \text{for almost all } x \in \mathbb{R}^N. \end{aligned}$$

Using Proposition 2.9-(ii), we conclude that (1.22) holds.

*The condition is sufficient.* We defined a sequence of nonnegative functions  $u_m, v_m$ , continuous near  $\partial\Omega$  and such that  $-u_m, -v_m \in \Phi^k(\Omega)$ , by the following iterative scheme for  $m \geq 0$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} F_k[-u_{m+1}] &= v_m^{s_1} + \mu && \text{in } \mathbb{R}^N, \\ F_k[-v_{m+1}] &= u_m^{s_2} + \eta && \text{in } \mathbb{R}^N, \\ \inf_{\mathbb{R}^N} u_{m+1} &= \inf_{\mathbb{R}^N} v_{m+1} = 0. \end{aligned}$$

As in the previous proofs  $\{u_m\}$  is nondecreasing. By Theorem 5.3 we have

$$\begin{aligned} u_{m+1} &\leq c_{88} \mathbf{W}_{\frac{2k}{k+1}, k+1}^R [v_m^{s_1} + \mu], \\ v_{m+1} &\leq c_{88} \mathbf{W}_{\frac{2k}{k+1}, k+1}^R [u_m^{s_2} + \mu] \quad \text{a.e. in } \mathbb{R}^N. \end{aligned}$$

Then, by Proposition 2.7, there exists a constant  $M^* > 0$  depending only on  $N, p, q_1, q_2, R$  such that if

$$\omega(K) \leq M^* \text{Cap}_{\mathbf{I}_{\frac{2k(s_1+k)}{s_1}, \frac{s_1 s_2}{s_1 s_2 - k^2}}}(K)$$

for any compact set  $K \subset \mathbb{R}^N$  with  $d\omega = \left( \mathbf{W}_{\frac{2k}{k+1}, k+1}^R \mu \right)^{s_2} dx + d\eta$ , then

$$v_m \leq c_{69} \mathbf{W}_{\frac{2k}{k+1}, k+1}^R[\omega], \quad u_m \leq c_{70} \mathbf{W}_{\frac{2k}{k+1}, k+1}^R \left[ \left( \mathbf{W}_{\frac{2k}{k+1}, k+1}^R[\omega] \right)^{s_1} \right] + c_{68} \mathbf{W}_{\frac{2k}{k+1}, k+1}^R[\mu] \quad \forall m \geq 0$$

in  $\Omega$  where  $c_{68}, c_{69}$  and  $c_{70}$  depend on  $N, k, s_1, s_2, R$ . Therefore the sequence  $\{u_m\}$  is well defined and nondecreasing. Thus,  $\{u_m\}$  converges a.e in  $\Omega$  to some function  $u$  for which (1.27) is satisfied in  $\mathbb{R}^N$ . Furthermore, by the monotone convergence theorem we have  $v_m^{s_1} \rightarrow v, u_m^{s_2} \rightarrow u$  in  $L_{loc}^1(\mathbb{R}^N)$ . Finally, by Proposition 5.2, we obtain that (1.21) admits a nonnegative solutions  $u, v$  with  $-u, -v \in \Phi^k(\mathbb{R}^N)$  satisfying (1.27).  $\square$

## 6 Further results

The method exposed in the previous sections, can be applied to types of problems. We give below an example for a semilinear system in  $\mathbb{R}_+^N = \{x = (x', x_N), x' \in \mathbb{R}^{N-1}, x_N > 0\}$ .

$$\begin{aligned} -\Delta u &= v^{q_1} && \text{in } \mathbb{R}_+^N \\ -\Delta v &= u^{q_2} && \text{in } \mathbb{R}_+^N \\ u &= \sigma_1, v = \sigma_2 && \text{in } \mathbb{R}^{N-1}, \end{aligned} \quad (6.1)$$

where we have identified  $\partial\mathbb{R}_+^N$  and  $\mathbb{R}^{N-1}$ . We denote by  $\mathbf{P}$  (resp.  $\mathbf{G}$ ) the Poisson kernel in  $\mathbb{R}_+^N$  (resp the Green kernel in  $\mathbb{R}^N$ ). The Poisson potential and the Green potential,  $\mathbf{P}[\cdot]$  and  $\mathbf{G}[\cdot]$ , associated to  $-\Delta$  are defined respectively by

$$\mathbf{P}[\sigma](y) = \int_{\partial\mathbb{R}_+^N} P(y, z) d\sigma(z), \quad G[f](y) = \int_{\mathbb{R}_+^N} \mathbf{G}(y, x) f(x) dx,$$

see [21]. We set  $\rho(x) = x_N$ , and define the capacity  $\text{Cap}_{\alpha, s}^\rho$  by

$$\text{Cap}_{\alpha, s}^\rho(K) = \inf \left\{ \int_{\mathbb{R}_+^N} f^s \rho dx : f \geq 0, \mathbf{I}_\alpha[f\rho\chi_{\mathbb{R}_+^N}] \geq \chi_K \right\},$$

for all Borel set  $K \subset \mathbb{R}^N$ , where  $\mathbf{I}_\alpha$  is the Riesz kernel of order  $\alpha$  in  $\mathbb{R}^N$ .

**Theorem 6.1** *Let  $1 \leq q_1 < \frac{N}{N-1}$ ,  $q_1 q_2 > 1$ . If there exists a constant  $\tilde{c} > 0$  such that if*

$$\begin{aligned} \int_K \rho(x) (\mathbf{P}[\sigma_1](x))^{q_2} dx &\leq \tilde{c} \text{Cap}_{\frac{q_1+2}{q_1}, \frac{q_1 q_2}{q_1 q_2 - 1}}^\rho(K) \\ \sigma_2(G) &\leq \tilde{c} \text{Cap}_{I_{\frac{2(q_2+1)}{q_1 q_2}, \frac{q_1 q_2}{q_1 q_2 - 1}}} (G), \end{aligned} \quad (6.2)$$

for all Borel sets  $K \subset \mathbb{R}_+^N$  and  $G \subset \mathbb{R}^{N-1}$ , then the problem (6.1) admits a solution.

All solutions in above theorem are understood in the usual very weak sense:  $u \in L_{loc}^1(\mathbb{R}_+^N \cap B)$ ,  $u^{q_2}, v^{q_1} \in L_\rho^1(\mathbb{R}_+^N \cap B)$  for any ball  $B$  and

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\mathbb{R}_+^N} u(-\Delta\xi) dx &= \int_{\mathbb{R}_+^N} v^{q_1} \xi dx - \int_{\partial\mathbb{R}_+^N} \frac{\partial\xi}{\partial n} d\sigma_1, \\ \int_{\mathbb{R}_+^N} v(-\Delta\xi) dx &= \int_{\mathbb{R}_+^N} u^{q_2} \xi dx - \int_{\partial\mathbb{R}_+^N} \frac{\partial\xi}{\partial n} d\sigma_2, \end{aligned}$$

for any  $\xi \in C^2(\overline{\mathbb{R}_+^N}) \cap C_c(\mathbb{R}^N)$  with  $\xi = 0$  on  $\partial\mathbb{R}_+^N$ . It is well-known that such a solution  $u$  satisfies

$$u = \mathbf{G}[v^{q_1}] + \mathbf{P}[\sigma_1], \quad v = \mathbf{G}[u^{q_2}] + \mathbf{P}[\sigma_2] \quad \text{a.e. in } \mathbb{R}_+^N.$$

To prove theorem we need the following a basic estimate

**Lemma 6.2** *Assume that  $0 < q_1 < \frac{N}{N-1}$ . Then for any  $\omega \in \mathfrak{M}_b^+(\mathbb{R}^N)$ ,*

$$\mathbf{I}_2[(\mathbf{I}_1[\omega])^{q_1}] \leq c_{89} \mathbf{W}_{\frac{q_1+2}{q_1+1}, \frac{q_1+1}{q_1}}[\omega] \quad \text{a.e. in } \mathbb{R}^N, \quad (6.3)$$

where  $c_{89} > 0$  depends on  $q_1, q_2$  and  $N$ .

**Proof.** The proof of Lemma 6.2 is similar to the one of Lemma 2.2 and details are omitted. Note that if  $\omega \in \mathfrak{M}_b(\overline{\mathbb{R}_+^N})$  it is extended by 0 in  $\mathbb{R}_-^N$ .  $\square$

**Remark 6.3** The condition  $0 < q_1 < \frac{N}{N-1}$  is necessary and sufficient condition for  $(\mathbf{I}_1[\omega])^{q_1} \in L^1_{loc}(\mathbb{R}^N)$  for any  $\omega \in \mathfrak{M}_b^+(\mathbb{R}^N)$ .

**Theorem 6.4** Let  $q_1 \geq 1$ ,  $q_1 q_2 > 1$  and  $\omega \in \mathfrak{M}_b(\overline{\mathbb{R}^N_+})$ . If

$$\omega(K) \leq c_{90} \text{Cap}_{\frac{q_1+2}{q_1}, \frac{q_1 q_2}{q_1 q_2 - 1}}^\rho(K) \quad \forall K \subset \overline{\mathbb{R}^N_+}, K \text{ Borel,}$$

for some  $c_{90} > 0$ , then

$$\mathbf{I}_1 \left[ \left( \mathbf{W}_{\frac{q_1+2}{q_1+1}, \frac{q_1+1}{q_1}}[\omega] \right)^{q_2} \rho \chi_{\mathbb{R}^N_+} \right] \leq c_{91} \mathbf{I}_1[\omega] \quad \text{a.e. in } \mathbb{R}^N_+. \quad (6.4)$$

**Proof.** *Step 1.* For any compact  $K \subset \left\{ x \in \mathbb{R}^N_+ : \mathbf{I}_{\frac{q_1+2}{q_1}}[f \rho \chi_{\mathbb{R}^N_+}](x) > \lambda \right\}$ , we have

$$\omega(K) \leq c_{90} \text{Cap}_{\frac{q_1+2}{q_1}, \frac{q_1 q_2}{q_1 q_2 - 1}}^\rho(K) \leq c_{90} \lambda^{-\frac{q_1 q_2}{q_1 q_2 - 1}} \int_{\mathbb{R}^N_+} f^{\frac{q_1 q_2}{q_1 q_2 - 1}} \rho dx$$

by assumption and the definition of the capacity. Hence,

$$\lambda^{\frac{q_1 q_2}{q_1 q_2 - 1}} \omega \left( \left\{ \mathbf{I}_{\frac{q_1+2}{q_1}}[f \rho \chi_{\mathbb{R}^N_+}] > \lambda \right\} \right) \leq c_{90} \int_{\mathbb{R}^N_+} f^{\frac{q_1 q_2}{q_1 q_2 - 1}} \rho dx \quad \forall \lambda > 0.$$

This implies an estimate in Lorentz space,

$$\| \mathbf{I}_{\frac{q_1+2}{q_1}}[f \rho \chi_{\mathbb{R}^N_+}] \|_{L^{\frac{q_1 q_2}{q_1 q_2 - 1}, \infty}(\mathbb{R}^N, d\omega)} \leq \| f \|_{L^{\frac{q_1 q_2}{q_1 q_2 - 1}}(\mathbb{R}^N, \chi_{\mathbb{R}^N_+} \rho dx)} \quad \forall f \geq 0. \quad (6.5)$$

*Step 2.* Since, for any  $g \in C_c(\mathbb{R}^N_+)$ ,

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^N_+} \mathbf{I}_{\frac{q_1+2}{q_1}}[g\omega] f \rho dx = \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} \mathbf{I}_{\frac{q_1+2}{q_1}}[f \rho \chi_{\mathbb{R}^N_+}] g d\omega,$$

we derive, using duality between  $L^{p,1}$  and  $L^{p',\infty}$ , Holder's inequality therein and (6.5), that

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\mathbb{R}^N_+} \mathbf{I}_{\frac{q_1+2}{q_1}}[g\omega] f \rho dx &\leq \| \mathbf{I}_{\frac{q_1+2}{q_1}}[f \rho \chi_{\mathbb{R}^N_+}] \|_{L^{\frac{q_1 q_2}{q_1 q_2 - 1}, \infty}(\mathbb{R}^N, d\omega)} \| g \|_{L^{q_1 q_2, 1}(\mathbb{R}^N, d\omega)} \\ &\leq \| f \|_{L^{\frac{q_1 q_2}{q_1 q_2 - 1}}(\mathbb{R}^N, \chi_{\mathbb{R}^N_+} \rho dx)} \| g \|_{L^{q_1 q_2, 1}(\mathbb{R}^N, d\omega)} \quad \forall f, g \geq 0. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$\| \mathbf{I}_{\frac{q_1+2}{q_1}}[g\omega] \|_{L^{q_1 q_2}(\mathbb{R}^N, \chi_{\mathbb{R}^N_+} \rho dx)} \leq \| g \|_{L^{q_1 q_2, 1}(\mathbb{R}^N, d\omega)}. \quad (6.6)$$

*Step 3.* Taking  $g = \chi_{B_t(x)}$  and since for  $q_1 \geq 1$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{W}_{\frac{q_1+2}{q_1+1}, \frac{q_1+1}{q_1}}[\nu](x) &= \int_0^\infty \left( \frac{\nu(B_\rho(x))}{\rho^{N-\frac{q_1+2}{q_1}}} \right)^{q_1} dx \\ &\leq c_{89} \left( \int_0^\infty \frac{\nu(B_\rho(x))}{\rho^{N-\frac{q_1+2}{q_1}}} dx \right)^{q_1} \\ &= c_{89} \left( \mathbf{I}_{\frac{q_1+2}{q_1}}[\nu](x) \right)^{q_1} \quad \forall \nu \in \mathfrak{M}_b^+(\mathbb{R}^N), \quad \forall x \in \mathbb{R}^N, \end{aligned}$$



we derive that for almost all  $x \in \mathbb{R}_+^N$ ,

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}_+^N} \left( \mathbf{W}_{\frac{q_1+2}{q_1+1}, \frac{q_1+1}{q_1}} [\chi_{B_t(x)} \omega] \right)^{q_2} \rho dy \leq c_{90} \omega(B_t(x)),$$

from (6.6), which implies

$$\omega(B_t(x)) \leq c_{91} \frac{t^{(N-\frac{q_1+2}{q_1})-\frac{q_1 q_2}{q_1 q_2-1}}}{\left( \int_{B_{2t}(x)} \chi_{\mathbb{R}_+^N} \rho dy \right)^{\frac{1}{q_1 q_2-1}}} \leq c_{92} \frac{t^{n-\frac{q_1+2}{q_1}-\frac{q_1 q_2}{q_1 q_2-1}}}{(\max\{x_n, t\})^{\frac{1}{q_1 q_2-1}}}, \quad (6.7)$$

since  $\int_{B_r(x)} \chi_{\mathbb{R}_+^N} \rho dy \asymp r^N \max\{x_N, r\}$  for any  $x \in \mathbb{R}_+^N, r > 0$  where the symbol  $\asymp$  is defined by

$$A \asymp B \iff \frac{1}{c} B \leq A \leq cB \quad \text{for some constant } c > 0.$$

It implies also

$$\int_{B_t(x)} \left( \mathbf{W}_{\frac{q_1+2}{q_1+1}, \frac{q_1+1}{q_1}}^t [\omega] \right)^{q_2} \chi_{\mathbb{R}_+^N} \rho dy \leq c_{90} \omega(B_{2t}(x)), \quad (6.8)$$

from which follows

$$\int_0^\infty \frac{1}{t^N} \int_{B_t(x)} \left( \mathbf{W}_{\frac{q_1+2}{q_1+1}, \frac{q_1+1}{q_1}}^t [\omega] \right)^{q_2} \chi_{\mathbb{R}_+^N} \rho dy dt \leq c_{93} \mathbf{I}_1[\omega](x).$$

Therefore, if the following inequality holds

$$\int_0^\infty \frac{1}{t^N} \int_{B_t(x)} \left( \int_t^\infty \left( \frac{\omega(B_r(y))}{r^{N-\frac{q_1+2}{q_1}}} \right)^{q_1} \frac{dr}{r} \right)^{q_2} \chi_{\mathbb{R}_+^N} \rho dy dt \leq c_{93} \mathbf{I}_1[\omega](x), \quad (6.9)$$

it will imply (6.4).

*Step 4.* We claim that (6.9) holds. Since  $B_r(y) \in B_{2r}(x), y \in B_t(x), r \geq t$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_0^\infty \frac{1}{t^N} \int_{B_t(x)} \left( \int_t^\infty \left( \frac{\omega(B_r(y))}{r^{N-\frac{q_1+2}{q_1}}} \right)^{q_1} \frac{dr}{r} \right)^{q_2} \chi_{\mathbb{R}_+^N} \rho dy dt \\ & \leq \int_0^\infty \frac{1}{t^N} \int_{B_t(x)} \chi_{\mathbb{R}_+^N} \rho dy \left( \int_t^\infty \left( \frac{\omega(B_{2r}(x))}{r^{N-\frac{q_1+2}{q_1}}} \right)^{q_1} \frac{dr}{r} \right)^{q_2} dt \\ & \asymp \int_0^\infty \max\{x_n, t\} \left( \int_t^\infty \left( \frac{\omega(B_{2r}(x))}{r^{N-\frac{q_1+2}{q_1}}} \right)^{q_1} \frac{dr}{r} \right)^{q_2} dt. \end{aligned}$$

By integration by part,

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_0^\infty \frac{1}{t^N} \int_{B_t(x)} \left( \int_t^\infty \left( \frac{\omega(B_r(y))}{r^{N-\frac{q_1+2}{q_1}}} \right)^{q_1} \frac{dr}{r} \right)^{q_2} \chi_{\mathbb{R}_+^N} \rho dy dt \\ & = q_2 \int_0^\infty \int_0^t \max\{x_N, s\} ds \left( \int_t^\infty \left( \frac{\omega(B_{2r}(x))}{r^{N-\frac{q_1+2}{q_1}}} \right)^{q_1} \frac{dr}{r} \right)^{q_2-1} \left( \frac{\omega(B_{2t}(x))}{t^{N-\frac{q_1+2}{q_1}}} \right)^{q_1} \frac{dt}{t} \\ & = q_2 \int_0^\infty \int_0^t \max\{x_N, s\} ds \left( \int_t^\infty \left( \frac{\omega(B_{2r}(x))}{r^{N-\frac{q_1+2}{q_1}}} \right)^{q_1} \frac{dr}{r} \right)^{q_2-1} \left( \frac{\omega(B_{2t}(x))}{t^{N-\frac{q_1+2}{q_1}}} \right)^{q_1-1} \frac{2}{t^{\frac{2}{q_1}}} \frac{\omega(B_{2t}(x))}{t^{N-1}} \frac{dt}{t} \end{aligned}$$

We have

$$\int_0^t \max\{x_N, s\} ds \asymp t \max\{x_N, t\},$$

$$\begin{aligned} \left( \int_t^\infty \left( \frac{\omega(B_{2r}(x))}{r^{N-\frac{q_1+2}{q_1}}} \right)^{q_1} \frac{dr}{r} \right)^{q_2-1} &\leq c_{94} \left( \int_t^\infty \left( \frac{r^{-\frac{q_1+2}{q_1(q_1q_2-1)}}}{(\max\{x_N, r\})^{\frac{1}{q_1q_2-1}}} \right)^{q_1} \frac{dr}{r} \right)^{q_2-1} \\ &\asymp t^{-\frac{(q_1+2)(q_2-1)}{q_1q_2-1}} (\max\{x_N, t\})^{-\frac{q_1(q_1-1)}{q_1q_2-1}}, \end{aligned}$$

by (6.7) and

$$\begin{aligned} \left( \frac{\omega(B_{2t}(x))}{t^{N-\frac{q_1+2}{q_1}}} \right)^{q_1-1} t^{\frac{2}{q_1}} &\leq c_{95} \left( \frac{t^{-\frac{q_1+2}{q_1(q_1q_2-1)}}}{(\max\{x_N, t\})^{\frac{1}{q_1q_2-1}}} \right)^{q_2-1} t^{\frac{2}{q_1}} \\ &= c_{95} t^{-\frac{(q_1+2)(q_1-1)}{q_1(q_1q_2-1)} + \frac{2}{q_1}} (\max\{x_N, t\})^{-\frac{q_1-1}{q_1q_2-1}} \end{aligned}$$

Thus,

$$\int_0^t \max\{x_N, s\} ds \left( \int_t^\infty \left( \frac{\omega(B_{2r}(x))}{r^{N-\frac{q_1+2}{q_1}}} \right)^{q_1} \frac{dr}{r} \right)^{q_2-1} \left( \frac{\omega(B_{2t}(x))}{t^{N-\frac{q_1+2}{q_1}}} \right)^{q_1-1} t^{2/q_1} \leq c_{96}$$

and we obtain (6.9).  $\square$

**Lemma 6.5** *Let  $\alpha > 0$ ,  $s > 1$  such that  $\alpha + \frac{2}{s'} < N - 1$  where  $s' = \frac{s}{s-1}$ . For all  $\eta \in \mathfrak{M}^+(\mathbb{R}^{N-1})$ , there holds*

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} (\mathbf{I}_\alpha[\eta \otimes \delta_{\{x_N=0\}}])^{s'} x_N dx \asymp \int_{\mathbb{R}^{N-1}} \left( \int_0^\infty \frac{\eta(B'_t(x'))}{t^{N-1-\alpha-\frac{2}{s'}}} \frac{dt}{t} \right)^{s'} dx', \quad (6.10)$$

where  $I_\beta$  is the Riesz potential of order  $\beta$  in  $\mathbb{R}^{N-1}$ . As a consequence, we have

$$\text{Cap}_{\alpha,s}^p(E \times \{x_N = 0\}) \asymp \text{Cap}_{I_{\alpha+2/s'-1},s}(E) \quad \forall E \subset \mathbb{R}^{N-1}, E \text{ Borel}. \quad (6.11)$$

**Proof.** We have

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} (\mathbf{I}_\alpha[\eta \otimes \delta_{\{x_N=0\}}])^{s'} x_N dx &\geq \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} \left( \int_{2x_N}^{4x_N} \frac{(\eta \otimes \delta_{\{x_N=0\}})(B_r(x))}{r^{N-\alpha}} \frac{dr}{r} \right)^{s'} x_N dx \\ &\geq c_{97} \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} \left( \frac{\eta(B'_{x_N}(x'))}{x_N^{N-\alpha}} \right)^{s'} x_N dx \\ &\geq c_{98} \int_{\mathbb{R}^{N-1}} \left( \sup_{t>0} \frac{\eta(B'_t(x'))}{t^{N-1-\alpha-\frac{2}{s'}}} \right)^{s'} dx'. \end{aligned} \quad (6.12)$$

By using Lemma 2.1 we derive

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} (\mathbf{I}_\alpha[\eta \otimes \delta_{\{x_N=0\}}])^{s'} x_N dx &\leq \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} \left( \int_{x_N}^\infty \frac{\eta(B'_r(x'))}{r^{N-\alpha}} \frac{dr}{r} \right)^{s'} dx_N dx' \\ &\leq c_{99} \int_{\mathbb{R}^{N-1}} \int_0^\infty \left( \frac{\eta(B'_t(x'))}{t^{N-1-\alpha-\frac{2}{s'}}} \right)^{s'} \frac{dt}{t} dx'. \end{aligned} \quad (6.13)$$

On the other hand, by [23, Proposition 5.1], there holds

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\mathbb{R}^{N-1}} \left( \sup_{t>0} \frac{\eta(B'_t(x'))}{t^{N-1-\alpha-\frac{2}{s'}}} \right) dx' &\asymp \int_{\mathbb{R}^{N-1}} \int_0^\infty \left( \frac{\eta(B'_t(x'))}{t^{N-1-\alpha-\frac{2}{s'}}} \right)^{s'} \frac{dt}{t} dx' \\ &\asymp \int_{\mathbb{R}^{N-1}} \left( \int_0^\infty \frac{\eta(B'_t(x'))}{t^{N-1-\alpha-\frac{2}{s'}}} dt \right)^{s'} dx'. \end{aligned} \quad (6.14)$$

Combining (6.12), (6.13) and (6.14) we obtain (6.10). Moreover, we derive (6.11) from (6.10) and [1, Theorem 2.5.1], which ends the proof.  $\square$

**Proof of Theorem 6.1** The following estimates are classical

$$\mathbf{G}(x, y) \asymp \frac{x_N y_N}{|x - y|^{N-2} \max\{|x - y|, x_N, y_N\}^2} \leq c_{100} \frac{y_N}{|x - y|^{N-1}} \quad (6.15)$$

$$\mathbf{P}(x, z) = c_{101} \frac{x_N}{|x - z|^N} \leq c_{101} \frac{1}{|x - z|^{N-1}} \quad (6.16)$$

Thus,

$$\mathbf{G}[(\mathbf{P}[\sigma_1])^{q_2}] + \mathbf{P}[\sigma_2] \leq c_{102} \mathbf{I}_1[\omega] \quad (6.17)$$

where  $\omega(x) = \rho(\mathbf{P}[\sigma_1])^{q_2} + \sigma_2$  in  $\mathbb{R}^N$ . Therefore, we infer that if

$$\mathbf{I}_1 \left[ (\mathbf{I}_2[(\mathbf{I}_1[\omega])^{q_1}]^{q_2} \chi_{\mathbb{R}_+^N} \rho) \right] \leq c_{103} \mathbf{I}_1[\omega] \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R}_+^N \quad (6.18)$$

for some  $c_{103} > 0$  small enough, then (6.1) admits a positive solution  $(u, v)$ . On the other hand, we deduce (6.18) from Lemma 6.2 and Theorem 6.4. The proof is complete.  $\square$

**Remark 6.6** *The system*

$$\begin{aligned} -\Delta u &= v^{q_1} + \epsilon_1 \mu && \text{in } \Omega \\ -\Delta v &= u^{q_2} + \epsilon_2 \eta && \text{in } \Omega \\ u &= \epsilon_3 \sigma_1, v = \epsilon_4 \sigma_2 && \text{in } \partial\Omega, \end{aligned} \quad (6.19)$$

where  $d(\cdot)\mu, d(\cdot)\lambda$  belong to  $\mathfrak{M}_b^+(\Omega)$ ,  $\sigma_1, \sigma_2$  to  $\mathfrak{M}^+(\partial\Omega)$  and the  $\epsilon_j$  are positive numbers, is analyzed in [10, Th 4.6]. Therein it is proved that if

$$\int_{\Omega} (\mathbf{G}[\mu] + \mathbf{P}[\lambda])^{\max\{q_1, q_2\}} d(x) dx < \infty, \quad (6.20)$$

which is equivalent to a capacity estimate, and

$$\min \left\{ q_2 \frac{q_1 + 1}{q_2 + 1}, q_1 \frac{q_2 + 1}{q_1 + 1} \right\} < \frac{N + 1}{N - 1}, \quad (6.21)$$

and if the  $\epsilon_j$  are small enough, then (6.19) admits a positive solution. Now condition (6.21) is a subcriticality assumption (for at least one of the two exponents  $q_j$ ) since there is no condition on the boundary measures.

## References

- [1] D. R. Adams, L.I. Heberg, *Function Spaces and Potential Theory*, Grundlehren der Mathematischen Wissenschaften **31**, Springer-Verlag (1999).
- [2] D.R. Adams, M. Pierre, *Capacity strong type estimates in semilinear problems*, Ann. Inst. Fourier (Grenoble) **41** (1991), 117-135.

- [3] P. Baras, M. Pierre, *Critère d'existence des solutions positives pour des équations semi-linéaires non monotones*, Ann. Inst. H. Poincaré, Anal. Non Lin. **3** (1985), 185-212.
- [4] M. F. Bidaut-Véron, *Local and global behavior of solutions of quasilinear equations of Emden-Fowler type*, Arch. Ration. Mech. Anal. **107** (1989), 293-324.
- [5] M. F. Bidaut-Véron, *Necessary conditions of existence for an elliptic equation with source term and measure data involving  $p$ -Laplacian*, in: Proc. 2001 Luminy Conf. on Quasilinear Elliptic and Parabolic Equations and Systems, Electron. J. Differ. Equ. Conf. **8** (2002), 23-34.
- [6] M. F. Bidaut-Véron, *Removable singularities and existence for a quasilinear equation with absorption or source term and measure data*, Adv. Nonlinear Stud. **3** (2003), 25-63.
- [7] M. F. Bidaut-Véron, Q.-H. Nguyen, L. Véron, *Quasilinear Lane-Emden equations with absorption and measure data*, J. Math. Pures Appl. **102** (2014), 315337.
- [8] M.F. Bidaut-Véron, Q.-H. Nguyen, L. Véron; *Quasilinear elliptic equations with source mixed term and measure data*, preprint.
- [9] M. F. Bidaut-Véron, S. Pohozaev, *Nonexistence results and estimates for some nonlinear elliptic problems*, J. Anal. Math. **84** (2001), 1-49.
- [10] M. F. Bidaut-Véron, C. Yarur, *Semilinear elliptic equations and systems with measure data: existence and a priori estimates*, Adv. Diff. Equ. **7** (2002), 257-296.
- [11] I. Birindelli, F. Demengel, *Some Liouville theorems for the  $p$ -Laplacian*, in: Proc. 2001 Luminy Conf. on Quasilinear Elliptic and Parabolic Equations and Systems, Electron. J. Differ. Equ. Conf. **8** (2002), 35-46.
- [12] G. Dal Maso, F. Murat, L. Orsina, A. Prignet, *Renormalized solutions of elliptic equations with general measure data*, Ann. Sc. Norm. Sup. Pisa **28** (1999), 741-808.
- [13] R. Fefferman, *Strong differentiation with respect to measure*, Amer. J. Math., **103** (1981), 33-40.
- [14] F. Ferrari, B. Franchi, I. Verbitsky, *Hessian inequality and the fractional Laplacian*, J. Reine Angew. Math. **667** (2012), 133-148.
- [15] N. Grenon. *Existence results for semilinear elliptic equations with small measure data.*, Ann. Inst. H. Poincaré, Anal. Non Lin. **19** (2002), 1-11.
- [16] J. Heinonen, T. Kilpelainen, O. Martio, *Nonlinear potential theory of degenerate elliptic equations*. Unabridged republication of the 1993 original. Dover Publications, Inc., Mineola, NY, 2006. xii+404 pp.
- [17] T. Kilpelainen, J. Malý, *Degenerate elliptic equation with measure data and nonlinear potentials*, Ann. Sc. Norm. Super. Pisa, Cl. Sci. **19** (1992), 591-613.
- [18] T. Kilpelainen, J. Malý, *The Wiener test and potential estimates for quasilinear elliptic equations*, Acta Math. **172** (1994), 137-161.
- [19] P. Honzik, B. Jaye, *On the good- $\lambda$  inequality for nonlinear potentials*, Proc. Amer. Math. Soc. **140** (2012), 4167-4180.
- [20] D. Labutin, *Potential estimates for a class of fully nonlinear elliptic equations*, Duke Math. J. **111**, 1-49, (2002).
- [21] M. Marcus, L. Véron, *Nonlinear second order elliptic equations involving measures*. De Gruyter Series in Nonlinear Analysis and Applications **21**. De Gruyter, Berlin (2014).

- [22] M. M. Rao, Z. D. Ren, *Theory of Orlicz Spaces*, Textbooks in Pure and Applied Mathematics (1991).
- [23] N. C. Phuc, I. E. Verbitsky, *Quasilinear and Hessian equations of Lane-Emden type*, Ann. Math. **168**, 859-914 (2008).
- [24] N. C. Phuc, I. E. Verbitsky, *Singular quasilinear and Hessian equation and inequalities*, J. Funct. Anal. **256** (2009), 1875-1906.
- [25] Y. Richard, L. Véron, *Isotropic singularities of solutions of nonlinear elliptic inequalities*, Ann. I.H.P. Anal. Non Lin. **6** (1989), 37-72.
- [26] J. Serrin, H. Zou, *Cauchy-Liouville and universal boundedness theorems for quasilinear elliptic equations and inequalities*, Acta Math. **189** (2002) 79-142.
- [27] N. S. Trudinger and X.J. Wang, *Hessian measures*, Topological Methods in Nonlinear Analysis **10** (1997), 225-239.
- [28] N. S. Trudinger, X.J. Wang, *Hessian measures II*, Annals of Mathematics **150** (1999), 579-604.
- [29] N. S. Trudinger, X. J. Wang, *Hessian measures III*, Journal of Functional Analysis **193** (2002), 1-23.
- [30] N. S. Trudinger, X. J. Wang, *On the weak continuity of elliptic operators and applications to potential theory*, Amer. J. Math. **124** (2002), 369-410.
- [31] L. Véron, *Elliptic equations involving measures*, in Stationary Partial Differential Equations, Handbook of Equations **vol. I**, Elsevier B.V., pp. 593-712 (2004).