Two-bubble nodal solutions for slightly subcritical Fractional Laplacian *

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Abstract In this paper, we consider the existence of nodal solutions with two bubbles to the slightly subcritical problem with the fractional Laplacian

\[
\begin{cases}
(-\Delta)^s u = |u|^{p-1-\varepsilon} u & \text{in } \Omega, \\
u = 0 & \text{on } \partial\Omega,
\end{cases}
\]

where \(\Omega\) is a smooth bounded domain in \(\mathbb{R}^N\), \(N > 2s, 0 < s < 1, p = \frac{N+2s}{N-2s}\) and \(\varepsilon > 0\) is a small parameter, which can be seen as a nonlocal analog of the results of Bartsch, Micheletti and Pistoia (2006) [1].

Keywords Fractional Laplacian, Nodal solutions, Slightly subcritical problem, Lyapunov-Schmidt reduction

1 Introduction

This paper is devoted to the problem involving Fractional Laplacian

\[
\begin{cases}
(-\Delta)^s u = |u|^{p-1-\varepsilon} u & \text{in } \Omega, \\
u = 0 & \text{on } \partial\Omega,
\end{cases}
\] (1.1)

where \(\Omega\) is a smooth bounded domain in \(\mathbb{R}^N\), \(N > 2s, 0 < s < 1, p = \frac{N+2s}{N-2s}\) and \(\varepsilon > 0\) is a small parameter, \((-\Delta)^s\) stands for the fractional Laplacian operator.

The fractional Laplacian appears in physics, biological modeling, probability and mathematical finance, which is a nonlocal operator. Therefore it is difficult to handle and has attracted much attention in recent years. Importantly, Caffarelli, Silvestre [2] developed an extension method to transform the non-local problem into a local one, which helps to study the fractional Laplacian by purely local arguments. By using their extension, many authors studied the existence of solutions to problem \((-\Delta)^s u = f(u)\) with \(f : \mathbb{R}^N \to \mathbb{R}\). For example, when \(s = \frac{1}{2}\), Cabré and Tan [3] and Tan [4] established the existence of positive solutions for nonlinear equations having subcritical growth.

Then it is interesting to study the blow-up phenomenon of solutions to (1.1) as \(\varepsilon \to 0^+\). For positive solutions, Chio, Kim and Lee [5] established the asymptotic behavior of least energy solutions and the existence of multiple bubbling solutions. Rois and Luis [6] generalized the work of Chio, Kim and Lee [5],

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and took into account both subcritical and supercritical case. These papers are however not concerned
with the nodal solutions involving the Fractional Laplacian.

If \( s = 1 \), problem (1.1) was extensively studied about the blow-up phenomenon of positive and nodal
solutions. It was proved in [7, 8, 9] that as \( \varepsilon \) goes to zero, positive solution \( u \) to problem (1.1) blows up
and concentrates at a critical point of the Robin’s function. Rey [10] considered the positive solutions
with double blow-up and showed that the two concentration points \( \sigma_1^* \) and \( \sigma_2^* \) must be such that \((\sigma_1^*, \sigma_2^*)\)
is a critical point of the function

\[
\Phi(\sigma_1, \sigma_2) = H^{+}(\sigma_1, \sigma_1)H^{+}(\sigma_2, \sigma_2) - G(\sigma_1, \sigma_2), \quad (\sigma_1, \sigma_2) \in \Omega \times \Omega
\]

and satisfies \( \Phi(\sigma_1^*, \sigma_2^*) \geq 0 \). Here \( G \) is the Green’s function of the Dirichlet Laplacian and \( H \) is its regular
part. See also [11] for the existence of positive solutions with multiple bubbles. In a convex domain, it
proved in [12] that no positive solutions have multiple bubbles for problem (1.1). On the other hand,
nodal solutions with multiple-bubbles also exist for the problem (1.1) with \( s = 1 \) in a general smooth
bounded domain \( \Omega \). As the parameter \( \varepsilon \) goes to zero, Bartsch, Micheletti and Pistoia [1] proved the
existence of nodal solutions which blow up positively at a point \( \sigma_1^* \in \Omega \) and blow up negatively at a point
\( \sigma_2^* \in \Omega \), with \( \sigma_1^* \neq \sigma_2^* \). In [13] Ben Ayed, Mehdi and Pacella classified the nodal solutions according to
the concentration speeds of the positive and negative part. Bartsch, D’Aprile and Pistoia in [14] studied
the existence of nodal solutions with four bubbles in a smooth bounded domain \( \Omega \). When \( \Omega \) is a ball,
they also proved the nodal with three bubbles in [15].

In this paper, we are interested in the existence of nodal solutions which blow-up and concentrate at
two different points of the domain \( \Omega \).

In order to state our result, we introduce some well known notations. Let \( G \) be the Green’s function
of \((-\Delta)^s \) in \( \Omega \) with Dirichlet boundary conditions, that is, \( G \) satisfies

\[
\begin{cases}
(-\Delta)^s G(\cdot, y) = \delta_y & \text{in } \Omega, \\
G(\cdot, y) = 0 & \text{on } \partial\Omega,
\end{cases}
\]

where \( \delta_y \) denotes the Dirac mass at the point \( y \). The regular part of \( G \) is given by

\[
H(x, y) = \frac{c_{N,s}}{|x - y|^{N-2s}} - G(x, y) \quad \text{where} \quad c_{N,s} = \frac{2^{1-2s}\Gamma(\frac{N-2s}{2})}{2\pi^{\frac{N}{2}}\Gamma(s)}.
\]

The diagonal \( H(x, x) \) is usually called the Robin’s function of the domain \( \Omega \).

Now we can state the main result. Let us consider the function \( \varphi : \Omega \times \Omega \to \mathbb{R} \) defined by

\[
\varphi(\sigma_1, \sigma_2) = H^{+}(\sigma_1, \sigma_1)H^{+}(\sigma_2, \sigma_2) + G(\sigma_1, \sigma_2),
\]

which will play a crucial role in our analysis.

**Theorem 1.1.** Suppose that \( 0 < s < 1 \) and \( N > 2s \), then there exists a small number \( \varepsilon_0 > 0 \) such that
for \( 0 < \varepsilon < \varepsilon_0 \), problem (1.1) has a pair of solutions \( u_\varepsilon \) and \(-u_\varepsilon \). As \( \varepsilon \) goes to zero, \( u_\varepsilon \) blows up positively
at a point \( \sigma_1^* \in \Omega \) and negatively at a point \( \sigma_2^* \in \Omega \), where \( \varphi(\sigma_1^*, \sigma_2^*) = \min_{\Omega \times \Omega} \varphi \).

The proof of Theorem 1.1 is motivated the result of Bartsch, Micheletti and Pistoia [1] on the local
problem, based on a Lyapunov-Schmidt reduction scheme. The main point is to find critical points of the
finite dimensional reduced functional corresponding to critical points of the energy function of problem (1.1). The reduced functional is given in terms of the Green’s and Robin’s functions. In subcritical case, the role of Green’s and Robin’s functions in the concentration phenomena associated to the critical exponent has already been considered in several works, see [7, 8, 9, 5] and [10, 11]. The proofs here borrow ideas of the above mentioned works.

This paper is organized as follows. In section 2, we present some definitions and the basic properties of the fractional Laplacian in bounded domains and in the whole $\mathbb{R}^N$. Section 3 is devoted to developing the analytical tools toward the main results. Moreover, nodal solutions are constructed by the Lyapunov-Schmidt reduction method. Finally, in the Appendix, some necessary estimates for the construction of the nodal solutions are exhibited.

2 Preliminary

In this section we review some basic definitions and properties of the fractional Laplacian. We refer to [16, 3, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21] for the details.

Let $\Omega$ be a smooth bounded domain in $\mathbb{R}^N$. We define $(-\Delta)^s$ through the spectral decomposition using the powers of the eigenvalues of the Laplacian operator $-\Delta$ in $\Omega$. Let $\{\lambda_i, \phi_i\}_{i=1}^{\infty}$ denote the eigenvalues and eigenfunctions of $-\Delta$ in $\Omega$ with zero Dirichlet boundary condition,

$$\begin{cases}
-\Delta \phi_i = \lambda_i \phi_i & \text{in } \Omega, \\
\phi_i = 0 & \text{on } \partial \Omega.
\end{cases} \quad (2.1)$$

The fractional Laplacian is well defined in the fractional Sobolev space $H^s_0(\Omega)$,

$$H^s_0(\Omega) := \left\{ u = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} a_i \phi_i \in L^2(\Omega) : \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} a_i^2 \lambda_i^s < \infty \right\},$$

which is a Hilbert space whose inner product is defined by

$$\left\langle \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} a_i \phi_i, \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} b_i \phi_i \right\rangle_{H^s_0(\Omega)} = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} a_i b_i \lambda_i^s.$$

Moreover, we define fractional Laplacian $(-\Delta)^s : H^s_0(\Omega) \to H^s_0(\Omega)$ as:

$$(-\Delta)^s \left( \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} a_i \phi_i \right) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} a_i \lambda_i^s \phi_i.$$

Note that by the above definitions, we have the following expression for the inner product:

$$\langle u, v \rangle_{H^s_0(\Omega)} = \int_{\Omega} (-\Delta)^s u (-\Delta)^s v = \int_{\Omega} (-\Delta)^s uv, \quad u, v \in H^s_0(\Omega). \quad (2.2)$$

We will recall an equivalent definition based on an extension problem introduced by Caffarelli and Silvestre [2]. For the sake of simplicity, we denote $\Omega \times (0, \infty)$ by $\mathcal{C}$ and its lateral boundary $\partial \Omega \times (0, \infty)$ by $\partial \mathcal{C}$, where $\Omega$ is either a smooth bounded domain or $\mathbb{R}^N$. If $\Omega$ is a smooth bounded domain, the function space $H^s_{0,L}(\mathcal{C})$ is defined as the completion of

$$C^\infty_{c,L}(\mathcal{C}) := \left\{ U \in C^\infty(\mathcal{C}) : U = 0 \text{ on } \partial_L \mathcal{C} \right\}.$$
with respect to the norm
\[ \| U \|_{C} = \left( \frac{1}{k_s} \int_{C} t^{1-2s} |\nabla U|^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}, \] (2.3)
where \( t > 0 \) represents the last variable in \( \mathbb{R}^{N+1} \) and \( k_s \) is a normalization constant (see [21, 5]). This is a Hilbert space endowed with the following inner product
\[ (U, V)_C = \frac{1}{k_s} \int_{C} t^{1-2s} \nabla U \cdot \nabla V \] for all \( U, V \in H^s_{0,L}(C) \).

Moreover, in the entire space, we define \( \mathcal{D}^s(\mathbb{R}^{N+1}) \) as the completion of \( C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}^{N+1}) \) with respect to the norm \( \| U \|_{\mathbb{R}^{N+1}} \) (defined as in (2.3) by putting \( C = \mathbb{R}^{N+1} \)). We know that if \( \Omega \) is a smooth bounded domain, then
\[ H^s_0(\Omega) = \left\{ u = \text{tr}|_{\Omega \times \{0\}} U : U \in H^s_{0,L}(C) \right\}. \] (2.4)

It also holds that
\[ \| U(\cdot, 0) \|_{H^s(\mathbb{R}^N)} \leq C \| U \|_{\mathbb{R}^{N+1}} \]
for some \( C > 0 \) independent of \( U \in \mathcal{D}^s(\mathbb{R}^{N+1}) \).

Now we consider the harmonic extension problem. For some given functions \( u \in H^s_0(\Omega), U \in H^s_{0,L}(C) \) solves the equation
\[ \begin{cases} \text{div} \left( t^{1-2s} \nabla U \right) = 0 & \text{in } C, \\ U = 0 & \text{on } \partial L C, \\ U(x, 0) = u(x) & \text{on } \Omega \times \{0\} \end{cases} \] (2.5)
as a unique solution. The relevance of the extension function \( U \) is that it is related to the fractional Laplacian of the original function \( u \) through the formula
\[ -\frac{1}{k_s} \lim_{t \to 0^+} t^{1-2s} \frac{\partial U}{\partial t}(x, t) = (-\Delta)^s u(x), \] (2.6)
where \( k_s > 0 \) depends on \( N \) and \( s \) (see [2] and [17] for the entire and bounded domain case, respectively).

By the above extension, the problem (1.1) is transformed into its equivalence problem
\[ \begin{cases} \text{div} \left( t^{1-2s} \nabla U \right) = 0 & \text{in } C, \\ U = 0 & \text{on } \partial L C, \\ -\frac{1}{k_s} \lim_{t \to 0^+} t^{1-2s} \frac{\partial U}{\partial t}(x, t) = |U|^{p-1-s} U & \text{on } \Omega \times \{0\} \end{cases} \] (2.7)

In a completely analogous extension procedure, the Green’s function \( G \) of the fractional Laplacian \((-\Delta)^s \) defined in (1.3) can be regarded as the trace of the solution \( G_C(z, y) \) \((z = (x, t) \in C, y \in \Omega) \) for the following extended Dirichlet-Neumann problem
\[ \begin{cases} \text{div} \left( t^{1-2s} \nabla G_C(\cdot, y) \right) = 0 & \text{in } C, \\ G_C(\cdot, y) = 0 & \text{on } \partial L C, \\ -\frac{1}{k_s} \lim_{t \to 0^+} t^{1-2s} \frac{\partial G_C(\cdot, y)}{\partial t} = \delta_y & \text{on } \Omega \times \{0\}. \end{cases} \] (2.8)
Moreover, if a function $U$ satisfies
\[
\begin{aligned}
&\text{div}(t^{1-2s}\nabla U) = 0 \quad \text{in } \mathcal{C}, \\
&U = 0 \quad \text{on } \partial \mathcal{L}, \\
&-\frac{1}{k_s} \lim_{t \to 0^+} t^{1-2s} \frac{\partial U(t, \cdot)}{\partial t} = g(x) \quad \text{on } \Omega \times \{0\},
\end{aligned}
\]  
(2.9)
then we have the following expression
\[
U(z) = \int_{\Omega} G_{\mathcal{C}}(z, y) g(y) dy = \int_{\Omega} G_{\mathcal{C}}(z, y) (-\Delta)^s u(y) dy \quad \text{for all } z \in \mathcal{C},
\]
where $u = \text{tr}|_{\Omega \times \{0\}} U$.

Green's function $G_{\mathcal{C}}$ can be partitioned to the singular part and the regular part on $\mathcal{C}$. For the singular part of the Green's function $G_{\mathcal{C}}$, it can be given by
\[
G_{\mathcal{C}}(z, y) = \int_{\Omega} G_{\mathcal{C}}(z, y) g(y) dy = \int_{\Omega} G_{\mathcal{C}}(z, y) (-\Delta)^s u(y) dy
\]
for all $z \in \mathcal{C}$, where $u = \text{tr}|_{\Omega \times \{0\}} U$.

Next we present the Sharp Sobolev and trace inequalities (see [5, 22]). Given any $\lambda > 0$ and $\xi \in \mathbb{R}^N$, here
\[
w_{\lambda, \xi}(x) = a_{N, s} \left( \frac{\lambda}{\lambda^2 + |x - \xi|^2} \right)^{\frac{N-2s}{2}}
\]
is an explicit family of solutions to
\[
(-\Delta)^s u = u^p \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R}^N,
\]
(2.13)
where $a_{N, s} > 0$ (see [23, 24, 25] for details). Then the sharp Sobolev inequality from [22] is the following:
\[
\left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} |u|^{p+1} dx \right)^{\frac{1}{p+1}} \leq S_{N, s} \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} |(-\Delta)^s u|^2 dx \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}.
\]
(2.14)
The equality is attained if and only if $u(x) = cw_{\lambda, \xi}(x)$ for any $c > 0$, $\lambda > 0$ and $\xi \in \mathbb{R}^N$, where
\[
S_{N, s} = 2^{-s} \pi^{-s/2} \left[ \frac{\Gamma(N/2)}{\Gamma(N/2)} \right]^\frac{1}{2} \left[ \frac{\Gamma(N)}{\Gamma(N/2)} \right]^\frac{s}{2}.
\]
Now let $W_{\lambda,\xi} \in \mathcal{D}'(\mathbb{R}^{N+1})$ be the $s$-harmonic extension of $w_{\lambda,\xi}$ satisfying
\[
\begin{align*}
\text{div}(t^{1-2s}\nabla W_{\lambda,\xi}(x,t)) &= 0 \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R}^{N+1}, \\
W_{\lambda,\xi}(x,0) &= w_{\lambda,\xi}(x) \quad \text{for } x \in \mathbb{R}^N.
\end{align*}
\]
(2.15)
It implies that the Sobolev trace inequality
\[
\left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} |U(x,0)|^{p+1} \, dx \right)^{1/(p+1)} \leq \frac{S_{N,s}}{\sqrt{k_s}} \left( \int_0^{\infty} \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} t^{1-2s} |\nabla U(x,t)|^2 \, dx \, dt \right)^{1/2}
\]
(2.16)
gets the equality if and only if $U(x,t) = cW_{\lambda,\xi}(x,t)$ for any $c > 0$, $\lambda > 0$ and $\xi \in \mathbb{R}^N$, where $k_s > 0$ is given in (2.6) (see [29]).

### 3 The finite dimensional reduction

In this section we are devoted to proving Theorem 1.1 by applying the Lyapunov-Schmidt reduction method. Similar methods are used in [1, 10, 11, 30].

Let $\Omega$ be a smooth bounded domain in $\mathbb{R}^N$. Set
\[
\Omega_\varepsilon = \varepsilon^{-\frac{1}{2s}} \Omega = \{ \varepsilon^{-\frac{1}{2s}} x : \ x \in \Omega \},
\]
(3.1)
then the changing variables
\[
v(x) = \varepsilon^{\frac{N-2s}{2s}} u(\varepsilon^{-\frac{1}{2s}} x) \quad \text{for } x \in \Omega_\varepsilon
\]
(3.2)
transforms equation (1.1) into
\[
\begin{align*}
(\Delta)^s v &= |v|^{p-1-\varepsilon} v \quad \text{in } \Omega_\varepsilon, \\
v &= 0 \quad \text{on } \partial \Omega_\varepsilon.
\end{align*}
\]
(3.3)
It follows that $u(x)$ is a solution to (1.1) if and only if $v(x) = \varepsilon^{-\frac{N-2s}{2s}} u(\varepsilon^{-\frac{1}{2s}} x)$ is a solution of equation (3.3). In the proof of Theorem 1.1, solutions to (3.3) are close related to the following dilated equation
\[
\begin{align*}
\text{div}(t^{1-2s}\nabla V) &= 0 \quad \text{in } \mathcal{C}_\varepsilon, \\
V &= 0 \quad \text{on } \partial \mathcal{C}_\varepsilon, \\
\left. -\frac{1}{k_s} \lim_{t \to 0^+} t^{1-2s} \frac{\partial V}{\partial t} \right|_{\Omega_\varepsilon \times \{0\}} &= |V|^{p-1-\varepsilon} V \quad \text{on } \Omega_\varepsilon \times \{0\}.
\end{align*}
\]
(3.4)
It is easy to know that if $V$ is the solution of (3.4), then $U(x) = \varepsilon^{-\frac{N-2s}{2s}} V(\varepsilon^{-\frac{1}{2s}} x)$ solve the problem (2.7). To look for the solutions that satisfy the equation (2.7), it suffices to apply the Lyapunov-Schmidt reduction method to the extended problem (3.4). Moreover, it is easy to know that the harmonic extension $V$ of function $v$ satisfies the problem
\[
\begin{align*}
\text{div}(t^{1-2s}\nabla V) &= 0 \quad \text{in } \mathcal{C}_\varepsilon, \\
V &= 0 \quad \text{on } \partial \mathcal{C}_\varepsilon, \\
V(x,0) &= v(x) \quad \text{on } \Omega_\varepsilon \times \{0\},
\end{align*}
\]
(3.5)
where \( \mathcal{C}_\varepsilon = \varepsilon^{-\frac{1}{2\kappa}}(x, t) : (x, t) \in \mathcal{C} \).

Let us recall the functions \( w_{\lambda, \xi} \) and \( W_{\lambda, \xi} \) defined in (2.12) and (2.15). By the result of [31], it is known that the kernel of the operator \( (-\Delta)^s - p w_{\lambda, \xi}^{p-1} \) is spanned by the functions

\[
\frac{\partial w_{\lambda, \xi}}{\partial \xi_1}, \ldots, \frac{\partial w_{\lambda, \xi}}{\partial \xi_N} \text{ and } \frac{\partial w_{\lambda, \xi}}{\partial \lambda},
\]

namely they satisfy the equation

\[
(-\Delta)^s \phi = p w_{\lambda, \xi}^{p-1} \phi \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R}^N,
\]

where \( \xi = (\xi_1, \ldots, \xi_N) \) in \( \mathbb{R}^N \). We also have that all bounded solutions of the extended problem of (3.7)

\[
\begin{cases}
\text{div}(t^{1-2s} \nabla \Phi) = 0 & \text{in } \mathbb{R}^{N+1}, \\
-\frac{1}{\kappa_s} \lim_{t \to 0^+} t^{1-2s} \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial t} = p w_{\lambda, \xi}^{p-1} \Phi & \text{on } \mathbb{R}^N \times \{0\}
\end{cases}
\]

consist of the linear combinations of the functions

\[
\frac{\partial W_{\lambda, \xi}}{\partial \xi_1}, \ldots, \frac{\partial W_{\lambda, \xi}}{\partial \xi_N} \text{ and } \frac{\partial W_{\lambda, \xi}}{\partial \lambda}.
\]

In order to construct the multi-bubble nodal solutions of (2.7), for \( \eta \in (0, 1) \), we define the admissible set

\[
\mathcal{O}_\eta = \{(\lambda, \sigma) := ((\lambda_1, \ldots, \lambda_k), (\sigma_1, \ldots, \sigma_k)) \in \mathbb{R}^k_+ \times \Omega^k, \quad \sigma_i = (\sigma^1_i, ..., \sigma^N_i),
\]

\[
\text{dist}(\sigma_i, \partial \Omega) > \eta, \quad \eta < \lambda_i < \frac{1}{\eta}, \quad |\sigma_i - \sigma_j| > \eta, \quad i \neq j, \quad i, j = 1, \ldots, k\}.
\]

It is useful to rewrite problem (1.1) in a different setting. To this end, let us introduce the following operator.

**Definition 3.1.** Let the map

\[
i^*_\varepsilon : L^{\frac{2N}{N+2s}}(\Omega_\varepsilon) \to H^s_{0, L}(\mathcal{C}_\varepsilon)
\]

be the adjoint operator of the Sobolev trace embedding

\[
i_\varepsilon : H^s_{0, L}(\mathcal{C}_\varepsilon) \to L^{\frac{2N}{N+2s}}(\Omega_\varepsilon)
\]

defined by the

\[
i_\varepsilon(V) = tr|_{\mathcal{C}_\varepsilon \times \{0\}}(V) \quad \text{for } V \in H^s_{0, L}(\mathcal{C}_\varepsilon),
\]

which comes from the inequality (2.16), that is, for some \( v \in L^{\frac{2N}{N+2s}}(\Omega_\varepsilon) \) and \( Z \in H^s_{0, L}(\mathcal{C}_\varepsilon) \),

\[
i^*_\varepsilon(v) = Z
\]

if and only if

\[
\begin{cases}
div(t^{1-2s} \nabla Z) = 0 & \text{in } \mathcal{C}_\varepsilon, \\
Z = 0 & \text{on } \partial_t \mathcal{C}_\varepsilon, \\
-\frac{1}{\kappa_s} \lim_{t \to 0^+} t^{1-2s} \frac{\partial Z}{\partial t} = v & \text{on } \Omega_\varepsilon \times \{0\}.
\end{cases}
\]
By the definition of the operator $i^*_\varepsilon$, solving problem (3.4) is equivalent to find a solution of the fixed point problem

$$V = k i^*_\varepsilon (f_\varepsilon (i_\varepsilon (V))), \quad V \in H^s_{0,L}(C_\varepsilon),$$  \hspace{1cm} (3.12)

where $f_\varepsilon(s) = |s|^{p-1-\varepsilon} s$. Notice that from (2.4) we have $i_\varepsilon : H^s_{0,L}(C_\varepsilon) \to H^s_0(\Omega_\varepsilon) \subset L^{2^{*}_s}(\Omega_\varepsilon)$ and so $(-\Delta)^s(i_\varepsilon(U))$ makes sense.

We look for solutions of (3.3) of the form

$$v = \sum_{i=1}^k a_i P_\varepsilon w_{\lambda_i,\delta_i} + \phi_\varepsilon,$$

for $k \geq 1$ a fixed integer and $a_1, \ldots, a_k \in \{\pm 1\}$ fixed, where $\phi_\varepsilon$ is a lower order term and $P_\varepsilon : H^s(\mathbb{R}^N) \to H^s_0(\Omega_\varepsilon)$ is the projection defined by the equation

$$\begin{cases}
(-\Delta)^s P_\varepsilon w_i = (-\Delta)^s w_i & \text{in } \Omega_\varepsilon, \\
P_\varepsilon w_i = 0 & \text{on } \partial \Omega_\varepsilon,
\end{cases}$$

where $w_i = w_{\lambda_i,\delta_i}$, $\delta_i = \varepsilon^{-\frac{1}{2^{*}_s}} \sigma_\varepsilon \in \Omega_\varepsilon$.

Let us introduce some notations. For $\xi = (\xi^1, \ldots, \xi^N) \in \mathbb{R}^N$ and $j = 1, 2, \ldots, N$, we define the functions

$$\Psi^0_{\lambda,\xi} = \frac{\partial W_{\lambda,\xi}}{\partial \lambda}, \quad \Psi^j_{\lambda,\xi} = \frac{\partial W_{\lambda,\xi}}{\partial \xi^j}, \quad \psi^0_{\lambda,\xi} = \frac{\partial w_{\lambda,\xi}}{\partial \lambda}, \quad \psi^j_{\lambda,\xi} = \frac{\partial w_{\lambda,\xi}}{\partial \xi^j}$$  \hspace{1cm} (3.13)

and

$$P_\varepsilon W_{\lambda,\xi} = i^*_\varepsilon (w^\delta_{\lambda,\xi}), \quad P_\varepsilon \Psi^j_{\lambda,\xi} = i^*_\varepsilon (w^\lambda_{\lambda,\xi} \psi^j_{\lambda,\xi}), \quad j = 0, 1, \ldots, N.$$  \hspace{1cm} (3.14)

Moreover, we let the functions $P_\varepsilon w_{\lambda,\xi}$ and $P_\varepsilon \psi^j_{\lambda,\xi}$ be

$$P_\varepsilon w_{\lambda,\xi} = i_\varepsilon (P_\varepsilon W_{\lambda,\xi}), \quad P_\varepsilon \psi^j_{\lambda,\xi} = i_\varepsilon (P_\varepsilon \Psi^j_{\lambda,\xi}), \quad j = 0, 1, \ldots, N$$  \hspace{1cm} (3.15)

which satisfy the equations $(-\Delta)^s u = w^\delta_{\lambda,\xi}$ and $(-\Delta)^s u = P_\varepsilon w^\lambda_{\lambda,\xi} \psi^j_{\lambda,\xi}$ in $\Omega_\varepsilon$, respectively. For the sake of simplicity, we denote

$$W_i = W_{\lambda_i,\delta_i}, \quad P_\varepsilon W_i = P_\varepsilon W_{\lambda_i,\delta_i}, \quad \Psi^i_i = \Psi^j_{\lambda_i,\delta_i}, \quad P_\varepsilon \Psi^j_i = P_\varepsilon \Psi^j_{\lambda_i,\delta_i}, \quad i = 1, 2, \ldots, k, \quad j = 0, 1, \ldots, N.$$  \hspace{1cm} (3.16)

for $\delta_i = \varepsilon^{-\frac{1}{2^{*}_s}} \sigma_\varepsilon \in \Omega_\varepsilon$ and $(\lambda, \sigma) \in \mathcal{O}_\eta$. Similarly, we denote

$$P_\varepsilon w_i = P_\varepsilon w_{\lambda_i,\delta_i}, \quad P_\varepsilon \psi^j_i = P_\varepsilon \psi^j_{\lambda_i,\delta_i}, \quad i = 1, 2, \ldots, k, \quad j = 0, 1, \ldots, N.$$  \hspace{1cm} (3.17)

Set the space

$$K_{\lambda,\sigma}^\varepsilon = \{ u \in H^s_{0,L}(C_\varepsilon) : (u, P_\varepsilon \psi^j_i)_{C_\varepsilon} = 0, \quad i = 1, 2, \ldots, k, \quad j = 0, 1, \ldots, N \},$$  \hspace{1cm} (3.19)

where $\varepsilon > 0$ and $(\lambda, \sigma) \in \mathcal{O}_\eta$. We also need the following orthogonal projections

$$\Pi_{\lambda,\sigma}^\varepsilon : H^s_{0,L}(C_\varepsilon) \to K_{\lambda,\sigma}^\varepsilon.$$  \hspace{1cm} (3.20)

Now if we let the linear operator $L^\varepsilon_{\lambda,\sigma} : K_{\lambda,\sigma}^\varepsilon \to K_{\lambda,\sigma}^\varepsilon$ be defined by

$$L^\varepsilon_{\lambda,\sigma}(\Phi) = \Phi - \Pi_{\lambda,\sigma}^\varepsilon i^*_\varepsilon \left[ \int_0^1 \sum_{i=1}^k a_i (P_\varepsilon w_{\lambda_i,\delta_i}) \cdot i_\varepsilon(\Phi) \right],$$  \hspace{1cm} (3.21)

then we can give an a-priori estimate for $\Phi \in K_{\lambda,\sigma}^\varepsilon$. 

8
Lemma 3.2. For any $\eta > 0$ there exists sufficiently small $\varepsilon > 0$ and a constant $C = C(N, \eta)$ such that, for every $(\lambda, \sigma) \in O_{\eta}$, the operator $L_{\lambda, \sigma}^\varepsilon$ satisfies

$$\|L_{\lambda, \sigma}^\varepsilon(\Phi)\|_{C_2} \geq C\|\Phi\|_{C_2} \quad \forall \Phi \in K_{\lambda, \sigma}^\varepsilon.$$  \hspace{1cm} (3.21)

**Proof.** We omit it since it is similarly to Lemma 5.1 in [5]. \hfill \Box

Proposition 3.3. The inverse $(L_{\lambda, \sigma}^\varepsilon)^{-1}$ of $L_{\lambda, \sigma}^\varepsilon : K_{\lambda, \sigma}^\varepsilon \to K_{\lambda, \sigma}^\varepsilon$ exists for any $\varepsilon > 0$ small and $(\lambda, \sigma) \in O_{\eta}$. Besides, if $\varepsilon$ is small enough, its operator norm is uniformly bounded in $\varepsilon$ and $(\lambda, \sigma) \in O_{\eta}$.

**Proof.** The proof is similarly to Proposition 5.2 in [5] and thus is omitted here. \hfill \Box

Proposition 3.4. For any sufficiently small $\eta > 0$, there exist $\varepsilon_0 > 0$ and a constant $C > 0$ such that for any $\varepsilon \in (0, \varepsilon_0)$ and any $(\lambda, \sigma) \in O_{\eta}$, there exists a unique solution $\Phi_{\lambda, \sigma}^\varepsilon \in K_{\lambda, \sigma}^\varepsilon$ satisfying

$$\Pi_{\lambda, \sigma}^\varepsilon \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^k a_i P_{\varepsilon} W_i + \Phi_{\lambda, \sigma}^\varepsilon - i\varepsilon \right\} f(e) \left( \sum_{i=1}^k a_i P_{\varepsilon} w_i + i\varepsilon(\Phi_{\lambda, \sigma}^\varepsilon) \right) = 0,$$ \hspace{1cm} (3.22)

and

$$\|\Phi_{\lambda, \sigma}^\varepsilon\|_{C_2} \leq \begin{cases} C\varepsilon^{\frac{N}{N-2\alpha}} & \text{if } N > 6s, \\ C(\varepsilon + \varepsilon |\ln \varepsilon|) & \text{if } N = 6s, \\ C\varepsilon & \text{if } 2s < N < 6s, \end{cases}$$ \hspace{1cm} (3.23)

where $\alpha_0 = \frac{1}{N-2\alpha}$. Furthermore, the map $\Phi_{\lambda, \sigma}^\varepsilon : O_{\eta} \to K_{\lambda, \sigma}^\varepsilon$ is $C^1(O_{\eta})$.

**Proof.** First of all we point out that $\Phi_{\lambda, \sigma}^\varepsilon$ is a solution of equation (3.22) if and only if $\Phi_{\lambda, \sigma}^\varepsilon$ is a fixed point of operator $T_{\lambda, \sigma}^\varepsilon : K_{\lambda, \sigma}^\varepsilon \to K_{\lambda, \sigma}^\varepsilon$ defined by

$$T_{\lambda, \sigma}^\varepsilon(\Phi) = (L_{\lambda, \sigma}^\varepsilon)^{-1} N(\Phi) \quad \text{for } \Phi \in K_{\lambda, \sigma}^\varepsilon,$$

where

$$N(\Phi) = \Pi_{\lambda, \sigma}^\varepsilon \left\{ f(e) \left( \sum_{i=1}^k a_i P_{\varepsilon} w_i + i\varepsilon(\Phi) \right) - \sum_{i=1}^k a_i f_0(w_i) - f'_0 \left( \sum_{i=1}^k a_i P_{\varepsilon} w_i \right) i\varepsilon(\Phi) \right\}.$$ 

The claim will follow by showing that $T_{\lambda, \sigma}^\varepsilon$ is a contraction mapping on $K_{\lambda, \sigma}^\varepsilon := \{ \Phi \in K_{\lambda, \sigma}^\varepsilon :$
Φ satisfies (3.23)). By Lemma 3.2, Lemma A.5 and (A.15) in Lemma A.7, we get

$$\|T_{\lambda, \sigma}^n(\Phi)\|_{C_\varepsilon} \leq C \left\| f_\varepsilon \left( \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i P_{\varepsilon} w_i + i_\varepsilon(\Phi) \right) - \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i f_0(w_i) - f_0 \left( \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i P_{\varepsilon} w_i \right) \right\|_{L^\infty(\Omega_\varepsilon)}$$

$$\leq C \left\| f_\varepsilon \left( \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i P_{\varepsilon} w_i + i_\varepsilon(\Phi) \right) - f_\varepsilon \left( \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i P_{\varepsilon} w_i \right) \right\|_{L^\frac{N+1}{N}(\Omega_\varepsilon)}$$

$$+ C \left\| f_\varepsilon' \left( \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i P_{\varepsilon} w_i \right) - f_0' \left( \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i P_{\varepsilon} w_i \right) \right\|_{L^\frac{N+1}{2N}(\Omega_\varepsilon)}$$

$$+ C \left\| f_0 \left( \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i P_{\varepsilon} w_i \right) - \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i f_0(w_i) \right\|_{L^\frac{N}{N+1}(\Omega_\varepsilon)}.$$  (3.24)

It is easy to see that

$$\left\| f_\varepsilon \left( \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i P_{\varepsilon} w_i + i_\varepsilon(\Phi) \right) - f_\varepsilon \left( \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i P_{\varepsilon} w_i \right) - f_\varepsilon' \left( \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i P_{\varepsilon} w_i \right) i_\varepsilon(\Phi) \right\|_{L^\frac{N+1}{N}(\Omega_\varepsilon)}$$

$$\leq C \| i_\varepsilon(\Phi) \|_{L^\infty(\Omega_\varepsilon)}^{\min(2, p)}$$

$$\leq C \| \Phi \|_{C_\varepsilon}^{\min(2, p)}.$$  (3.25)

and by (A.16) of Lemma A.7 that

$$\left\| f_\varepsilon' \left( \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i P_{\varepsilon} w_i \right) - f_0' \left( \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i P_{\varepsilon} w_i \right) \right\|_{L^\frac{N+1}{2N}(\Omega_\varepsilon)}$$

$$\leq \left\| f_\varepsilon' \left( \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i P_{\varepsilon} w_i \right) - f_0' \left( \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i P_{\varepsilon} w_i \right) \right\|_{L^\frac{N}{N+1}(\Omega_\varepsilon)}$$

$$\leq C \varepsilon | \ln \varepsilon | \| \Phi \|_{C_\varepsilon}.$$  (3.26)

By using Lemma A.5, (3.24), (3.25) and (3.26), we deduce that if \( \Phi_{\lambda, \sigma}^n \) satisfies (3.23), that is, \( \Phi_{\lambda, \sigma}^n \leq C_1(\varepsilon + \gamma(\varepsilon)) \), then there exists \( C_1 > 0 \) such that \( \| T_{\lambda, \sigma}^n(\Phi) \|_{C_\varepsilon} \leq C_1(\varepsilon + \gamma(\varepsilon)) \). Arguing as in the previous
Now we introduce the function \( T_{\lambda, \sigma} \) and we can prove that if \( \Phi_1 \) and \( \Phi_2 \) satisfy (3.23) then

\[
\| T_{\lambda, \sigma}^{-1}(\Phi_1) - T_{\lambda, \sigma}^{-1}(\Phi_2) \|_{C^s} \\
= \| (L_{\lambda, \sigma}^\varepsilon)^{-1}(N_{\varepsilon}(\Phi_1)) - (L_{\lambda, \sigma}^\varepsilon)^{-1}(N_{\varepsilon}(\Phi_2)) \|_{C^s} \\
= \| (L_{\lambda, \sigma}^\varepsilon)^{-1} \Pi_{\lambda, \sigma}^\varepsilon [f_\varepsilon \left( \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i \mathcal{P}_c w_i + i_\varepsilon(\Phi_1) \right) - f_\varepsilon \left( \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i \mathcal{P}_c w_i + i_\varepsilon(\Phi_2) \right) ] - f_\varepsilon' \left( \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i \mathcal{P}_c w_i \right) (i_\varepsilon(\Phi_1) - i_\varepsilon(\Phi_2)) \|_{C^s} \\
\leq C_2 \| f_\varepsilon \left( \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i \mathcal{P}_c w_i + i_\varepsilon(\Phi_1) \right) - f_\varepsilon \left( \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i \mathcal{P}_c w_i + i_\varepsilon(\Phi_2) \right) \\
- f_\varepsilon' \left( \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i \mathcal{P}_c w_i \right) (i_\varepsilon(\Phi_1) - i_\varepsilon(\Phi_2)) \|_{L^{\frac{2N}{N+2s}}(\Omega_\varepsilon)} + C_2 \| f_\varepsilon' \left( \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i \mathcal{P}_c w_i + i_\varepsilon(\Phi_2) \right) - f_\varepsilon' \left( \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i \mathcal{P}_c w_i \right) (i_\varepsilon(\Phi_1) - i_\varepsilon(\Phi_2)) \|_{L^{\frac{2N}{N+2s}}(\Omega_\varepsilon)} \\
+ C_2 \| f_\varepsilon' \left( \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i \mathcal{P}_c w_i \right) - f\varepsilon' \left( \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i \mathcal{P}_c w_i \right) (i_\varepsilon(\Phi_1) - i_\varepsilon(\Phi_2)) \|_{L^{\frac{2N}{N+2s}}(\Omega_\varepsilon)} \\
\leq L \| \Phi_1 - \Phi_2 \|_{C^s} 
\]

for some \( L \in (0, 1) \). The remaining parts are obtained by standard arguments, see [30].

It is easy to know that for any fixed \( \varepsilon > 0 \), \( V \in H_{0, L}(\Omega_\varepsilon) \) is a weak solution to (3.4) if and only if it is a critical point of the energy functional \( E_\varepsilon : H_{0,L}(C_\varepsilon) \to \mathbb{R} \) defined by

\[
E_\varepsilon(V) = \frac{1}{2\kappa_2} \int_{C_\varepsilon} t^{1-2s} |\nabla V|^2 dx dt - \int_{\Omega_\varepsilon \times [0]} F_\varepsilon(i_\varepsilon(V)) dx dt, \tag{3.27}
\]

where \( F_\varepsilon(t) = \int_0^t f_\varepsilon(s) ds \). Notice that \( E_\varepsilon(V) \) is a \( C^1 \)-functional and

\[
E_\varepsilon'(V) \Phi = \frac{1}{\kappa_2} \int_{C_\varepsilon} t^{1-2s} \nabla V \cdot \nabla \Phi dx dt - \int_{\Omega_\varepsilon \times [0]} f_\varepsilon(i_\varepsilon(V)) i_\varepsilon(\Phi) dx dt \quad \text{for any} \quad \Phi \in H_{0,L}(C_\varepsilon). \tag{3.28}
\]

Now we introduce the function

\[
I_\varepsilon(\lambda, \sigma) = E_\varepsilon \left( \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i \mathcal{P}_c w_i + \Phi_{\lambda, \sigma}^\varepsilon \right) \tag{3.29}
\]

for \( (\lambda, \sigma) = ((\lambda_1, ..., \lambda_k), (\sigma_1, ..., \sigma_k)) \in \mathcal{O}_\eta \).

Let \( \sigma_0 = \frac{1}{N-2s} \) here and in the sequel. Arguing as Proposition 5.4 in [5] and Lemma 2.6 in [6], we can obtain the following result.

**Proposition 3.5.** (1) Suppose \( \varepsilon > 0 \) is sufficiently small. If \( (\lambda, \sigma) \) is a critical point of the function \( I_\varepsilon(\lambda, \sigma) \), then the function \( V = \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i \mathcal{P}_c w_i + \Phi_{\lambda, \sigma}^\varepsilon \) is a solution to (3.4). Hence the changing variables

\[
U(z) = \varepsilon^{-\frac{1}{2-2s}} V_\varepsilon(\varepsilon^{-\frac{1}{2-2s}} z) \quad \text{is the solution of (2.7) for} \quad z \in C.
\]

(2) For \( \varepsilon \to 0 \), there holds

\[
I_\varepsilon(\lambda, \sigma) = \frac{k \sigma_0}{N} - \frac{c \varepsilon \sigma_0}{(p+1)^2} + \frac{1}{2} \varepsilon \mathcal{Y}_k(\lambda, \sigma) + \frac{c}{p+1} \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} w^{p+1} \log w dx + o(\varepsilon) \tag{3.30}
\]
in $C^1$-uniformly with respect to $(\lambda, \sigma) \in \mathcal{O}_T$. Here

$$
\Upsilon_k(\lambda, \sigma) = c_0^2 \left( \sum_{i=1}^{k} \lambda_i^{N-2s} H(\sigma_i, \sigma_i) - \sum_{i,j=1, i \neq j}^{k} a_{ij} G(\sigma_i, \sigma_j)(\lambda_i \lambda_j) \right)
$$

$$
= c_0 (N - 2s) \log(\lambda_1 \cdots \lambda_k),
$$

(3.31)

where $w := w_{1,0}$.

**Proof.** We first prove (1). Setting \( V = \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i P_\varepsilon W_i \) for the sake of simplicity. Applying \( I'_\varepsilon(\lambda, \sigma) = 0 \), (3.22) and (3.23), we get

$$
\frac{\partial I_\varepsilon}{\partial \theta} = E'_\varepsilon(\nabla + \Phi_z \lambda, \sigma), \left( \frac{\partial \nabla}{\partial \theta} + \frac{\partial \Phi_\varepsilon \lambda, \sigma}{\partial \theta} \right)
$$

$$
= \left( V + \Phi_\varepsilon \lambda, \sigma - \iota_\varepsilon f(\nabla + \iota_\varepsilon (\Phi_\varepsilon \lambda, \sigma)), \frac{\partial V}{\partial \theta} + \frac{\partial \Phi_\varepsilon}{\partial \theta} \right) c_\varepsilon
$$

$$
= \sum_{h=1}^{k} \sum_{l=0}^{N} c_{hl} \left( P_\varepsilon \Psi_\varepsilon, \frac{\partial V}{\partial \theta} + \frac{\partial \Phi_\varepsilon}{\partial \theta} \right) c_\varepsilon
$$

$$
= \sum_{h=1}^{k} \sum_{l=0}^{N} c_{hl} \left[ \left( P_\varepsilon \Psi_\varepsilon, \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i P_\varepsilon \frac{\partial W_i}{\partial \theta} \right) c_\varepsilon - \left( P_\varepsilon \frac{\partial \Phi_\varepsilon}{\partial \theta}, \Phi_\varepsilon \lambda, \sigma \right) c_\varepsilon \right]
$$

$$
= 0,
$$

where $\theta$ is one of $\lambda_i$ and $\sigma_j$ with $i = 1, 2, ..., k$ and $j = 1, ..., N$, $c_{hl} \in \mathbb{R}$. We also can conclude that $c_{hl} = 0$ for all $h$ and $l$, which implies that the function $V$ is a solution of the equation (3.4), and hence $U(x)$ is a solution to (2.7) for $\varepsilon > 0$ sufficiently small.

Now we give the proof of (2). Using (3.23), we can obtain that

$$
I_\varepsilon(\lambda, \sigma) = E_\varepsilon \left( \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i P_\varepsilon W_i + \Phi_\varepsilon \lambda, \sigma \right) = E_\varepsilon \left( \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i P_\varepsilon W_i \right) + o(\varepsilon)
$$

$$
= \frac{1}{2k} \int_{C_\varepsilon} t^{1-2s} \left| \nabla \left( \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i P_\varepsilon W_i \right) \right|^2 \, dx \, dt - \frac{1}{p + 1 - \varepsilon} \int_{\Omega \times \{0\}} \left| \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i P_\varepsilon W_i \right|^{p+1-\varepsilon} \, dx + o(\varepsilon).
$$

We decompose

$$
E_\varepsilon \left( \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i P_\varepsilon W_i \right) = E_0 \left( \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i P_\varepsilon W_i \right) + \left[ E_\varepsilon \left( \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i P_\varepsilon W_i \right) - E_0 \left( \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i P_\varepsilon W_i \right) \right],
$$

(3.34)

so it suffice to estimate the above two terms. It is easy to see that

$$
E_0 \left( \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i P_\varepsilon W_i \right) = \frac{1}{2k} \int_{C_\varepsilon} t^{1-2s} \left| \nabla \left( \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i P_\varepsilon W_i \right) \right|^2 \, dx \, dt - \frac{1}{p + 1} \int_{\Omega \times \{0\}} \left| \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i P_\varepsilon W_i \right|^{p+1} \, dx.
$$

(3.35)
Setting $B_i = B_N(\sigma_i, \eta/2)$, where $\eta$ is defined in (3.10), applying Lemma A.1 and Lemma A.2, we can deduce that

$$
\int_{\Omega_i^c} w_i P_i z_i w_i dx = \int_{\Omega_i} w_i^{p+1} dx + \int_{\Omega_i} w_i^p (P_i z_i - w_i) dx
$$

$$
= c_0 - \varepsilon c_1 \lambda_i^{N-2s} \int_{\Omega_i} w_i^p H(\varepsilon^{\alpha_0} x, \sigma_i) dx + o(\varepsilon)
$$

$$
= c_0 - \varepsilon c_1^2 \lambda_i^{N-2s} H(\sigma_i, \sigma_i) + o(\varepsilon),
$$

$$
\int_{\Omega_i} w_i^p P_i z_i w_i dx = \int_{\Omega_i} w_i^p P_i z_i w_i dx + o(\varepsilon)
$$

$$
= \int_{\Omega_i} \varepsilon c_1 \lambda_i^{N-2s} w_i^p G(\varepsilon^{\alpha_0} x, \sigma_i) dx + o(\varepsilon)
$$

$$
= \varepsilon c_1^2 (\lambda_i \lambda_h)^{N-2s} G(\sigma_i, \sigma_h) + o(\varepsilon),
$$

for $i, h = 1, 2, \ldots, k$ and $i \neq h$, where $G$ and $H$ are the functions defined in (1.3) and (1.4), $c_0$ and $c_1$ are defined in (3.32) and (3.33), respectively. Integrating by parts and then the estimates obtained above yield that

$$
\frac{1}{2k_s} \int_{\mathbb{C}_s} t^{1-2s} \left| \nabla \left( \sum_{i=1}^k a_i P_i W_i \right) \right|^2 dt
$$

$$
= \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^k \int_{\Omega_i} w_i^p P_i z_i w_i dx + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i, h=1, i \neq h}^k a_i a_h \int_{\Omega_i} w_i^p P_i z_i w_i dx
$$

$$
= \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^k [c_0 - \varepsilon c_1^2 \lambda_i^{N-2s} H(\sigma_i, \sigma_i) + o(\varepsilon)] + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i, h=1, i \neq h}^k \varepsilon a_i a_h c_1^2 (\lambda_i \lambda_h)^{N-2s} G(\sigma_i, \sigma_h) + o(\varepsilon)
$$

$$
= \frac{k c_0}{2} - \frac{c_1^2 \varepsilon}{2} \left[ \sum_{i=1}^k \lambda_i^{N-2s} H(\sigma_i, \sigma_i) - \sum_{i, h=1, i \neq h}^k a_i a_h (\lambda_i \lambda_h)^{N-2s} G(\sigma_i, \sigma_h) \right] + o(\varepsilon). \quad (3.36)
$$

On the other hand, we see that

$$
\int_{\Omega_i} |a_i P_i z_i|^{p+1} dx = \int_{\Omega_i} |P_i z_i|^{p+1} dx = c_0 - \varepsilon (p + 1) c_1^2 \lambda_i^{N-2s} H(\sigma_i, \sigma_i) + o(\varepsilon), \quad (3.37)
$$

$$
\int_{\Omega_i} \left( \sum_{i=1}^k a_i P_i z_i \right)^{p+1} dx - \sum_{i=1}^k |a_i P_i z_i|^{p+1} dx
$$

$$
= \varepsilon c_1^2 (p + 1) \sum_{i, h=1, i \neq h}^k a_i a_h (\lambda_i \lambda_h)^{N-2s} G(\sigma_i, \sigma_h) + o(\varepsilon). \quad (3.38)
$$

From the estimates obtained in the previous paragraph, we can conclude that

$$
E_0 \left( \sum_{i=1}^k a_i P_i z_i \right) = \frac{k c_0}{N} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^k \lambda_i^{N-2s} H(\sigma_i, \sigma_i)
$$

$$
- \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i, h=1, i \neq h}^k a_i a_h G(\sigma_i, \sigma_h) (\lambda_i \lambda_h)^{N-2s} + o(\varepsilon). \quad (3.39)
$$
As we have seen, it has
\[
\int_{\Omega} \left| \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i \mathcal{P}_i w_i \right|^{p+1} \, dx = kc_0 + o(1), \tag{3.40}
\]
\[
\int_{\Omega} \left| \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i \mathcal{P}_i W_i \right|^{p+1} \log \left| \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i \mathcal{P}_i W_i \right| \, dx = -\frac{c_0(N - 2s)}{2} \log(\lambda_1 \cdots \lambda_k) + k \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} w^{p+1} \log w \, dx + o(1). \tag{3.41}
\]

The second equality (3.41) can be computed as Lemma 2.6 in [6], Lemma 6.2 [32] and [33]. Moreover, by using Taylor’s expansion, (3.40) and (3.41), we can conclude that
\[
E_\varepsilon \left( \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i \mathcal{P}_i W_i \right) = E_0 \left( \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i \mathcal{P}_i W_i \right)
= \frac{1}{p + 1} \int_{\Omega} \left| \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i \mathcal{P}_i W_i \right|^{p+1} \, dx - \frac{1}{p + 1 - \varepsilon} \int_{\Omega} \left| \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i \mathcal{P}_i W_i \right|^{p+1-\varepsilon} \, dx
= -\frac{\varepsilon}{(p + 1)^2} \int_{\Omega} \left| \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i \mathcal{P}_i W_i \right|^{p+1} \, dx + \frac{\varepsilon}{p + 1} \int_{\Omega} \left| \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i \mathcal{P}_i W_i \right|^{p+1} \log \left| \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i \mathcal{P}_i W_i \right| \, dx + o(\varepsilon)
= -\frac{\varepsilon k c_0}{(p + 1)^2} + \frac{\varepsilon k c_0(N - 2s)}{2(p + 1)} \log(\lambda_1 \cdots \lambda_k) + o(\varepsilon). \tag{3.42}
\]
Then by (3.35) and (3.42), the proof is complete. □

Now we consider the case \( k = 2 \) and suppose \( a_1 = 1 \) and \( a_2 = -1 \). We introduce the set
\[
\Lambda := \{ (\lambda, \sigma) = (\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \sigma_1, \sigma_2) : \lambda_1 > 0, \lambda_2 > 0, \sigma_1 \in \Omega, \sigma_2 \in \Omega \text{ and } \sigma_1 \neq \sigma_2 \} \tag{3.43}
\]
and the function \( \Upsilon_2 : \Lambda \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \) defined by
\[
\Upsilon_2(\lambda, \sigma) = c_0^2 \left[ H(\sigma_1, \sigma_2|\lambda_1|^{N-2s} + H(\sigma_2, \sigma_2|\lambda_2|^{N-2s}) + 2G(\sigma_1, \sigma_2)\lambda_1^{\frac{N-2s}{2}} \lambda_2^{\frac{N-2s}{2}} \right] - \frac{c_0(N - 2s)}{p + 1} \log(\lambda_1 \lambda_2). \tag{3.44}
\]

**Lemma 3.6.** If \((\lambda^*, \sigma^*)\) is a critical point of \( \Upsilon_2 \), then \( \sigma^* \) is a critical point of \( \varphi \). If \((\lambda^*, \sigma^*)\) is a minimal point of \( \Upsilon_2 \), then \( \sigma^* \) is a minimal point of \( \varphi \).

**Proof.** The proof is similarly to Lemma 3.2 in [1] and thus is omitted here. □

**Proof of Theorem 1.1.** Similarly as Theorem 1.1 of [1], the above lemmas and propositions give the result. □

## A Appendix

In this section, we collect some technical lemmas from [5] and give some basic estimations needed. By using the definition of \( w_{\lambda, \xi}, \psi_{\lambda, \xi}^j, \mathcal{P}_e w_{\lambda, \xi} \) and \( \mathcal{P}_e \psi_{\lambda, \delta}^j \) (for \( i = 1, \ldots, k \) and \( j = 1, \ldots, N \)), we get
\[
\psi_{\lambda, \delta}^{0}(x) = \frac{\partial w_{\lambda, \delta}}{\partial \lambda}(x)
= a_N \frac{(N - 2s)}{2} \lambda^{\frac{N-2s}{2}} \frac{|x - \sigma|^2 - \lambda^2}{(\lambda^2 + |x - \sigma|^2)^{\frac{N-2s}{2}}} \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^N, \tag{A.1}
\]
\[\psi_{i,\alpha}^j(x) = \frac{\partial w_{\lambda,\sigma}}{\partial \sigma_j}(x)\]

\[= -\alpha_{N,s}(N - 2s)\lambda^{\frac{1}{2} - \frac{2s}{N}} \frac{x_i - \sigma_j}{(\lambda^2 + |x - \sigma|^2)^{\frac{1}{2} - \frac{2s}{N}}} \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^N.\]  

(A.2)

In particular it holds

\[\mathcal{P}_\varepsilon w_{i,\alpha}^j(x) = \varepsilon^{-\frac{(N-2s)\alpha_0}{2}} \mathcal{P}_\varepsilon w_{\lambda,\sigma,\varepsilon} - a_0 \left( \frac{x}{\varepsilon} \right) \quad x \in \Omega,\]

(A.3)

\[\mathcal{P}_\varepsilon \psi_{i,\alpha}^j(x) = \varepsilon^{-\frac{(N-2s+2)\alpha_0}{2}} \mathcal{P}_\varepsilon \psi_{i,\lambda,\sigma,\varepsilon}^j(a_0) \quad x \in \Omega.\]  

(A.4)

The first four lemmas are from Lemma C.1-C.4 in [5].

**Lemma A.1.** Let \(\lambda > 0\) and \(\sigma = (\sigma^1, ..., \sigma^N) \in \Omega\). For any \(x \in \Omega_\varepsilon\), there hold

\[\mathcal{P}_\varepsilon w_{\lambda,\sigma,\varepsilon} - a_0(x) = w_{\lambda,\sigma,\varepsilon} - a_0(x) - c_1 \lambda^{\frac{N}{2} - \frac{2s}{N}} H(\varepsilon a_0, x, \sigma) \varepsilon^{(N-2s)\alpha_0} + o(\varepsilon^{(N-2s)\alpha_0}),\]

\[\mathcal{P}_\varepsilon \psi_{i,\lambda,\sigma,\varepsilon}^j(x) = \psi_{i,\lambda,\sigma,\varepsilon}^j(x) - c_1 \lambda^{\frac{N}{2} - \frac{2s}{N}} H(\varepsilon a_0, x, \sigma) \varepsilon^{(N-2s+1)\alpha_0} + o(\varepsilon^{(N-2s+1)\alpha_0}),\]

\[\mathcal{P}_\varepsilon \psi_{0,\lambda,\sigma,\varepsilon}^j(x) = \psi_{0,\lambda,\sigma,\varepsilon}^j(x) - c_1 \lambda^{\frac{1}{2} - \frac{2s}{N}} H(\varepsilon a_0, x, \sigma) \varepsilon^{(N-2s)\alpha_0} + o(\varepsilon^{(N-2s)\alpha_0}),\]

where \(c_1\) is defined in (3.33). As \(\varepsilon \to 0\), \(a \to 0\) uniformly in \(x \in \Omega_\varepsilon\) and \(\sigma \in \Omega\) provided \(\text{dist}(\sigma, \partial \Omega) > \bar{C}\) for some constant \(\bar{C} > 0\).

**Lemma A.2.** Let \(\lambda > 0\) and \(\sigma = (\sigma^1, ..., \sigma^N) \in \Omega\), there hold

\[\mathcal{P}_\varepsilon w_{\lambda,\sigma,\varepsilon}^i(x) = c_1 \lambda^{\frac{N}{2} - \frac{2s}{N}} G(\varepsilon a_0, x, \sigma) \varepsilon^{(N-2s)\alpha_0} + o(\varepsilon^{(N-2s)\alpha_0}),\]

\[\mathcal{P}_\varepsilon \psi_{i,\lambda,\sigma,\varepsilon}^j(x) = c_1 \lambda^{\frac{N}{2} - \frac{2s}{N}} \frac{\partial G}{\partial \sigma}(\varepsilon a_0, x, \sigma) \varepsilon^{(N-2s+1)\alpha_0} + o(\varepsilon^{(N-2s+1)\alpha_0}),\]

\[\mathcal{P}_\varepsilon \psi_{0,\lambda,\sigma,\varepsilon}^i(x) = c_1 \lambda^{\frac{1}{2} - \frac{2s}{N}} \frac{\partial G}{\partial \sigma}(\varepsilon a_0, x, \sigma) \varepsilon^{(N-2s)\alpha_0} + o(\varepsilon^{(N-2s)\alpha_0}),\]

where \(c_1 > 0\) is the constant defined in (3.33). As \(\varepsilon \to 0\), \(a \to 0\) uniformly in \(x \in \Omega_\varepsilon\) and \(\sigma \in \Omega\) provided \(\sigma - \varepsilon a_0 x > C\) and \(\text{dist}(\partial \Omega, \varepsilon a_0 x) > C\) for fixed \(C > 0\).

**Lemma A.3.** For any \(\varepsilon > 0\), \(i = 1, ..., k\) and \(j = 1, ..., N\), there exists \(C > 0\) such that

\[\|\mathcal{P}_\varepsilon w_1\|_{L^{2N/(N-2)}(\Omega_\varepsilon)} \leq \|w_1\|_{L^{2N/(N-2)}(\Omega_\varepsilon)} \leq C,\]

(A.5)

\[\|\mathcal{P}_\varepsilon \psi_i^j\|_{L^{2N/(N-2)}(\Omega_\varepsilon)} \leq C.\]

(A.6)

Moreover, we have

\[\|\mathcal{P}_\varepsilon \psi_i^j\|_{L^{2N/(N-2)}(\Omega_\varepsilon)} \leq C,\]

(A.7)

\[\|\mathcal{P}_\varepsilon w_i\|_{L^{2N/(N-2)}(\Omega_\varepsilon)} \leq \begin{cases} C & \text{if } N > 6s, \\ C \varepsilon^{-\frac{(6-N)\alpha_0}{2}} \log \varepsilon & \text{if } N \leq 6s \end{cases} \]

(A.8)

and

\[\|\mathcal{P}_\varepsilon \psi_i^j\|_{L^{2N/(N-2)}(\Omega_\varepsilon)} \leq \begin{cases} C & \text{if } N > 6s, \\ C \varepsilon^{-\frac{(6-N)\alpha_0}{2}} \log \varepsilon & \text{if } N \leq 6s. \end{cases} \]

(A.9)
Lemma A.4. For \( i = 1, \ldots, k \) and \( j = 1, \ldots, N \), we have
\[
\| \mathcal{P}_\varepsilon \psi^i_0 - \psi^i_0 \|_{L^{2N/27}(\Omega_\varepsilon)} \leq C\varepsilon^{\alpha_0 - 2s/3}. \tag{A.10}
\]
and
\[
\| \mathcal{P}_\varepsilon \psi^0_i - \psi^0_i \|_{L^{2N/27}(\Omega_\varepsilon)} \leq C\varepsilon^{\alpha_0 - 2s/3}. \tag{A.11}
\]

Similarly to Lemma A.2 in [1], Lemma A.3 in [30] and Lemma C.5 in [5], we obtain the following Lemma.

Lemma A.5. For any \( \eta > 0 \) and for any \( \varepsilon_0 > 0 \) there exists \( C > 0 \) such that for any \((\lambda, \sigma) \in \mathcal{O}_\eta\) and \( \varepsilon \in (0, \varepsilon_0) \) we have
\[
\left\| f_0 \left( \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i \mathcal{P}_\varepsilon w_i \right) - \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i f_0(w_i) \right\|_{L^{2N/27}(\Omega_\varepsilon)} \leq \begin{cases} C\varepsilon^{Ns/2 + \alpha_0} & \text{if } N > 6s, \\ C(\varepsilon + \varepsilon^{(N-2s)\alpha_0} |\ln \varepsilon|) & \text{if } N = 6s, \\ C\varepsilon^{(N-2s)\alpha_0} & \text{if } N < 6s, \end{cases} \tag{A.12}
\]
\[
\left\| f_0' \left( \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i \mathcal{P}_\varepsilon w_i \right) - \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i f_0'(w_i) \right\|_{L^{2N/27}(\Omega_\varepsilon)} \leq C\varepsilon^{2s\alpha_0}. \tag{A.13}
\]

**Proof.** We just prove the first inequality by using Lemma A.1 in [32]. The proof of (A.13) is similar. Since \((\lambda, \sigma) \in \mathcal{O}_\eta\) it holds \( |\sigma_i - \sigma_j| > \eta \) for any \( i \neq j (i, j = 1, \ldots, k) \). We have
\[
\left\| f_0 \left( \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i \mathcal{P}_\varepsilon w_i \right) - \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i f_0(w_i) \right\|_{L^{2N/27}(\Omega_\varepsilon)}
\]
\[
= \int_{\Omega_\varepsilon} \left\| \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i \mathcal{P}_\varepsilon w_i(y) - \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i w_i^\varepsilon(y) \right\|_{L^{2N/27}(\Omega_\varepsilon)} \, dy \quad \text{(set } x = \varepsilon^\alpha y) \]
\[
= \int_{\Omega} \left\| \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i \mathcal{P}_\varepsilon w_{\lambda_i, \varepsilon^{\alpha_0}, \sigma_i} - \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i w_{\lambda_i, \varepsilon^{\alpha_0}, \sigma_i}^\varepsilon \right\|_{L^{2N/27}(\Omega_\varepsilon)} \, dx
\]
\[
= \sum_{j=1}^{k} \int_{B(\sigma_j, \eta/2)} \left\| \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i \mathcal{P}_\varepsilon w_{\lambda_i, \varepsilon^{\alpha_0}, \sigma_i} - \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i w_{\lambda_i, \varepsilon^{\alpha_0}, \sigma_i}^\varepsilon \right\|_{L^{2N/27}(\Omega_\varepsilon)} \, dx
\]
\[
+ \int_{\Omega \cup B(\sigma_j, \eta/2)} \left\| \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i \mathcal{P}_\varepsilon w_{\lambda_i, \varepsilon^{\alpha_0}, \sigma_i} - \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i w_{\lambda_i, \varepsilon^{\alpha_0}, \sigma_i}^\varepsilon \right\|_{L^{2N/27}(\Omega_\varepsilon)} \, dx.
\]
Firstly,
\[ \int_{\Omega} \left( \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i P \eta_{n_{\alpha},\sigma_i}(x) \right)^{p-1} \left( \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i P \eta_{n_{\alpha},\sigma_i}(x) \right) \left( \sum_{i=1}^{k} w_{\lambda_{i} \varepsilon^{n_{\alpha}},\sigma_i}(x) \right) dx \]
\[ \leq C \sum_{i=1}^{k} \int_{\Omega} \left( \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i P \eta_{n_{\alpha},\sigma_i}(x) \right)^{p-1} \left( \sum_{i=1}^{k} w_{\lambda_{i} \varepsilon^{n_{\alpha}},\sigma_i}(x) \right) dx \]
\[ \leq C \sum_{i=1}^{k} (\lambda_{i} \varepsilon^{n_{\alpha}})^N \]
\[ \leq C \varepsilon^{N \alpha_{0}}. \]

Secondly,
\[ \int_{B(\sigma_{j},\eta/2)} \left( \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i P \eta_{n_{\alpha},\sigma_i}(x) \right)^{p-1} \left( \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i P \eta_{n_{\alpha},\sigma_i}(x) \right) \left( \sum_{i=1}^{k} w_{\lambda_{i} \varepsilon^{n_{\alpha}},\sigma_i}(x) \right) dx \]
\[ \leq C \int_{B(\sigma_{j},\eta/2)} \left( \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i P \eta_{n_{\alpha},\sigma_i}(x) \right)^{p-1} \left( \sum_{i=1}^{k} w_{\lambda_{i} \varepsilon^{n_{\alpha}},\sigma_i}(x) \right) dx \]
\[ + C \sum_{i=1, i \neq j}^{k} \int_{B(\sigma_{j},\eta/2)} \left( \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i P \eta_{n_{\alpha},\sigma_i}(x) \right)^{p-1} \left( \sum_{i=1}^{k} w_{\lambda_{i} \varepsilon^{n_{\alpha}},\sigma_i}(x) \right) dx \]
\[ \leq C \int_{B(\sigma_{j},\eta/2)} \left( \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i P \eta_{n_{\alpha},\sigma_i}(x) \right)^{p-1} \left( \sum_{i=1}^{k} w_{\lambda_{i} \varepsilon^{n_{\alpha}},\sigma_i}(x) \right) dx + C \varepsilon^{N \alpha_{0}}. \]

It is easy to see that
\[ \sum_{i=1, i \neq j}^{k} \int_{B(\sigma_{j},\eta/2)} \left( \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i P \eta_{n_{\alpha},\sigma_i}(x) \right)^{p-1} \left( \sum_{i=1}^{k} w_{\lambda_{i} \varepsilon^{n_{\alpha}},\sigma_i}(x) \right) dx \]
\[ \leq C \sum_{i=1, i \neq j}^{k} \int_{B(\sigma_{j},\eta/2)} \left( \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i P \eta_{n_{\alpha},\sigma_i}(x) \right)^{p-1} \left( \sum_{i=1}^{k} w_{\lambda_{i} \varepsilon^{n_{\alpha}},\sigma_i}(x) \right) dx \]
\[ \leq C \varepsilon^{N \alpha_{0}}. \]

For \( N > 6s \), by using Lemma A.1 and the mean value theorem, we get that
\[ \int_{B(\sigma_{j},\eta/2)} \left( \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i P \eta_{n_{\alpha},\sigma_i}(x) \right)^{p-1} \left( \sum_{i=1}^{k} w_{\lambda_{i} \varepsilon^{n_{\alpha}},\sigma_i}(x) \right) dx \]
\[ = p \int_{B(\sigma_{j},\eta/2)} \left( \sum_{i=1}^{k} P \eta_{n_{\alpha},\sigma_i}(x) \right)^{p-1} \left( \sum_{i=1}^{k} w_{\lambda_{i} \varepsilon^{n_{\alpha}},\sigma_i}(x) \right) dx \]
\[ \leq C \varepsilon^{N \alpha_{0}}. \]

Therefore if \( N > 6s \), we have
\[ \left\| f_0 \left( \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i P \eta_{n_{\alpha},\sigma_i}(x) \right) - \left\| f_0 \left( \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i P \eta_{n_{\alpha},\sigma_i}(x) \right) \right\| \right\| \leq C \varepsilon^{N \alpha_{0}}. \]
Moreover, if $N = 6s$, we have
\[
\int_{B(\sigma_j, \eta/2)} \left| \mathcal{P}_\varepsilon w_{\lambda_j \varepsilon^{\alpha_0}, \sigma_j}^p (x) - w_{\lambda_j \varepsilon^{\alpha_0}, \sigma_j}^p (x) \right|^{\frac{2N}{N+2s}} \, dx
\]
\[
eq p \int_{B(\sigma_j, \eta/2)} \left( |w_{\lambda_j \varepsilon^{\alpha_0}, \sigma_j}^p + \theta(x) (\mathcal{P}_\varepsilon w_{\lambda_j \varepsilon^{\alpha_0}, \sigma_j}^p (x) - w_{\lambda_j \varepsilon^{\alpha_0}, \sigma_j}^p (x)) |^{p-1} \right) \cdot
\]
\[
\times |(\mathcal{P}_\varepsilon w_{\lambda_j \varepsilon^{\alpha_0}, \sigma_j}^p (x) - w_{\lambda_j \varepsilon^{\alpha_0}, \sigma_j}^p (x)) |^{\frac{2N}{N+2s}} \, dx
\]
\[
\leq C \int_{B(\sigma_j, \eta/2)} \left( \frac{\lambda_j \varepsilon^{\alpha_0}}{(\lambda_j \varepsilon^{\alpha_0})^2 + |x - \sigma_j|^2} \right)^{\frac{4N}{N+2s}} \varepsilon^{\frac{N(N-2s)}{N+2s}} \, dx
\]
\[
= C \int_{0}^{\frac{N}{2s}} \left( \frac{1}{1 + \rho^2} \right)^{\frac{4N}{N+2s}} \varepsilon^{\frac{N(N-2s)}{N+2s}} + N - \frac{4N}{N+2s} \rho^{-1} \, d\rho
\]
\[
\leq C \varepsilon^{\frac{2N}{N+2s}} \ln \varepsilon.
\]

On the other hand, if $2s < N < 6s$, using the substitution $x - \sigma_j = \lambda_j \varepsilon^{\alpha_0} z$, we get
\[
\int_{B(\sigma_j, \eta/2)} \left| \mathcal{P}_\varepsilon w_{\lambda_j \varepsilon^{\alpha_0}, \sigma_j}^p (x) - w_{\lambda_j \varepsilon^{\alpha_0}, \sigma_j}^p (x) \right|^{\frac{2N}{N+2s}} \, dx
\]
\[
\leq C \varepsilon^{\frac{2N}{N+2s}} \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} \frac{1}{(1 + z^2)^{\frac{N+2s}{2}}} \, dz
\]
\[
\leq C \varepsilon^{\frac{2N}{N+2s}}.
\]

Lemma A.6. For any $\eta > 0$ and $\varepsilon_0 > 0$, there exists $C > 0$ such that for any $(\lambda, \sigma) \in \mathcal{O}_\eta$ and for any $\varepsilon \in (0, \varepsilon_0)$ we have for $h = 1, \ldots, k$ and $j = 0, 1, \ldots, N$
\[
\left\| \left[ f_0' \left( \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i \mathcal{P}_\varepsilon w_i \right) - \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i f_0'(w_i) \right] \mathcal{P}_\varepsilon \psi_h^j \right\|_{L^{\frac{2N}{N+2s}}(\Omega)} \leq C \varepsilon^{\frac{2N}{N+2s}}. \tag{A.14}
\]

Proof. Since $(\lambda, \sigma) \in \mathcal{O}_\eta$ it holds $|\sigma_i - \sigma_j| > \eta$ for any $i \neq j (i, j = 1, \ldots, k)$, by using Lemma A.4 and Lemma A.5, we have
\[
\int_{\Omega} \left( f_0' \left( \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i \mathcal{P}_\varepsilon w_i \right) - \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i f_0'(w_i) \right) \left. \left| \mathcal{P}_\varepsilon \psi_h^j \right| \right|_{L^{\frac{2N}{N+2s}}(\Omega)} \, dx
\]
\[
\leq \int_{\Omega} \left( f_0' \left( \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i \mathcal{P}_\varepsilon w_i \right) - \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i f_0'(w_i) \right) \left. \left| \mathcal{P}_\varepsilon \psi_h^j - \psi_h^j \right| \right|_{L^{\frac{2N}{N+2s}}(\Omega)} \, dx
\]
\[
+ \int_{\Omega} \left( f_0' \left( \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i \mathcal{P}_\varepsilon w_i \right) - \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i f_0'(w_i) \right) \left. \left| \mathcal{P}_\varepsilon \psi_h^j \right| \right|_{L^{\frac{2N}{N+2s}}(\Omega)} \, dx
\]
\[
\leq \left\| f_0' \left( \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i \mathcal{P}_\varepsilon w_i \right) - \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i f_0'(w_i) \right\|_{L^{\frac{2N}{N+2s}}(\Omega)} \left\| \mathcal{P}_\varepsilon \psi_h^j - \psi_h^j \right\|_{L^{\frac{2N}{N+2s}}(\Omega)} + \int_{\Omega} \left( f_0' \left( \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i \mathcal{P}_\varepsilon w_i \right) - \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i f_0'(w_i) \right) \left. \left| \mathcal{P}_\varepsilon \psi_h^j \right| \right|_{L^{\frac{2N}{N+2s}}(\Omega)} \, dx.
\]
Lemma A.7. For any $\eta > 0$ and $\varepsilon_0 > 0$ there exists $C > 0$ such that for any $(\lambda, \sigma) \in \mathcal{O}_\eta$ and for any $\varepsilon \in (0, \varepsilon_0)$ we have
\[
\left\| \varepsilon \left( \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i \mathcal{P}_\varepsilon w_i \right) - \varepsilon_0 \left( \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i \mathcal{P}_0 w_i \right) \right\|_{L^{\infty} \left( \Omega_\varepsilon \right)} \leq C \varepsilon |\ln \varepsilon|.
\]
Proof. Let us prove (A.15). The proof of (A.16) is similar. Since \((\lambda, \sigma) \in O_\eta\) it holds \(|\sigma_i - \sigma_j| > \eta\) for any \(i \neq j (i, j = 1, \ldots, k)\). We have

\[
\|f'_{\varepsilon} \left( \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i \mathcal{P}_\varepsilon w_i \right) - f_0' \left( \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i \mathcal{P}_\varepsilon w_i \right) \|_{L^\infty(\Omega_\eta)} \leq C \varepsilon |\ln \varepsilon|,
\]

(A.16)

Firstly, we have

\[
\|f'_{\varepsilon} \left( \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i \mathcal{P}_\varepsilon w_i \right) - f_0' \left( \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i \mathcal{P}_\varepsilon w_i \right) \|_{L^\infty(\Omega_\eta)}
= \int_{\Omega_\eta} \left| \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i \mathcal{P}_\varepsilon w_i \right|^{p-\varepsilon} \ln \left| \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i \mathcal{P}_\varepsilon w_i \right| \, dx
= \int_{\Omega_\eta} \varepsilon \left| \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i \mathcal{P}_\varepsilon w_i \right|^{p-\varepsilon} \ln \left| \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i \mathcal{P}_\varepsilon w_i \right| \, dx \quad \text{(set } y = \varepsilon^{\alpha_0}x)\]

\[
= \varepsilon \frac{2^N}{N+1} \int_{\Omega} \left| \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i \mathcal{P}_\varepsilon w_{\lambda_i^{\alpha_0}, \sigma_i} \right|^{p-\varepsilon} \ln \left| \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i \mathcal{P}_\varepsilon w_{\lambda_i^{\alpha_0}, \sigma_i} \right| \, dy
= \varepsilon \frac{2^N}{N+1} \int_{\Omega} \left| \sum_{j=1}^{k} \int_{B(\sigma_j, \eta/2)} \left| \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i \mathcal{P}_\varepsilon w_{\lambda_i^{\alpha_0}, \sigma_i} \right|^{p-\varepsilon} \ln \left| \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i \mathcal{P}_\varepsilon w_{\lambda_i^{\alpha_0}, \sigma_i} \right| \, dy \right| \, dy
+ \int_{\Omega} \left| \sum_{j=1}^{k} \int_{B(\sigma_j, \eta/2)} \left| \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i \mathcal{P}_\varepsilon w_{\lambda_i^{\alpha_0}, \sigma_i} \right|^{p-\varepsilon} \ln \left| \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i \mathcal{P}_\varepsilon w_{\lambda_i^{\alpha_0}, \sigma_i} \right| \, dy \right| \, dy\]

Firstly, we have

\[
\int_{\Omega} \left| \sum_{j=1}^{k} \int_{B(\sigma_j, \eta/2)} \left| \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i \mathcal{P}_\varepsilon w_{\lambda_i^{\alpha_0}, \sigma_i} \right|^{p-\varepsilon} \ln \left| \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i \mathcal{P}_\varepsilon w_{\lambda_i^{\alpha_0}, \sigma_i} \right| \, dy \right| \, dy
\leq C \varepsilon \frac{2^N}{N+1} \sum_{i=1}^{k} \left( \lambda_i^{\alpha_0} \right)^{\frac{N-2}{2}(p-\varepsilon)} \frac{2^N}{N+1} \ln \left( \varepsilon \left( \sum_{i=1}^{k} \lambda_i^{\alpha_0} \right)^{\frac{N-2}{2}} \right) \frac{2^N}{N+1}
\leq C |\ln \varepsilon| \frac{2^N}{N+1}.
\]
Moreover, using the substitution $x - \sigma_i = \lambda_i \varepsilon^{\alpha_0} z$, we get

$$\int_{B(\sigma_j, \eta/2)} \varepsilon^{N/(p-\alpha_0)+1} \left| \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i \mathcal{P}_w \lambda_i \varepsilon^{\alpha_0} \sigma_i \right|^{p-\alpha_0} \ln \left( \varepsilon \frac{(N-2s)\alpha_0}{2} \right) \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i \mathcal{P}_w \lambda_i \varepsilon^{\alpha_0} \sigma_i \right|^{\frac{2N}{p-\alpha_0}} dy$$

$$\leq C \sum_{i=1}^{k} \int_{B(\sigma_j, \eta/2)} \varepsilon^{2N/(p-\alpha_0)+1} \left| w \lambda_i \varepsilon^{\alpha_0} \sigma_i \right|^{2N/(p-\alpha_0)} \ln \left( \varepsilon \frac{(N-2s)\alpha_0}{2} \right) \sum_{i=1}^{k} a_i \mathcal{P}_w w \lambda_i \varepsilon^{\alpha_0} \sigma_i \right|^{\frac{2N}{p-\alpha_0}} dy$$

$$\leq C \sum_{i=1}^{k} \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} \varepsilon^{2N/(p-\alpha_0)+1} \left( \lambda_i \varepsilon^{\alpha_0} \right)^{N-2s} \frac{N-2s}{N+2s} \left( \frac{1}{1 + z^2} \right) \left( \frac{N-2s}{N+2s} \right)^{p-\alpha_0} \left( \frac{N-2s}{2s} \right)$$

$$\times \left| \lambda_i \varepsilon^{\alpha_0} \right|^{\frac{N-2s}{N+2s}} + \sum_{j=1, i \neq j}^{k} \left( \lambda_j \varepsilon^{\alpha_0} \right)^{2s} + \left( \lambda_i \varepsilon^{\alpha_0} \right)^{2s}$$

$$\leq C \varepsilon \ln \varepsilon \left| \frac{2N}{p-\alpha_0} \right|.$$

\[\square\]

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